



*Preserving California's Ranches*



## **Rangeland Trust Mission Statement**

**To conserve the open space, natural habitat and stewardship provided by California's ranches.**

***[www.rangelandtrust.org](http://www.rangelandtrust.org)***

California Rangeland Trust  
currently holds 173,000 acres  
of conservation easements



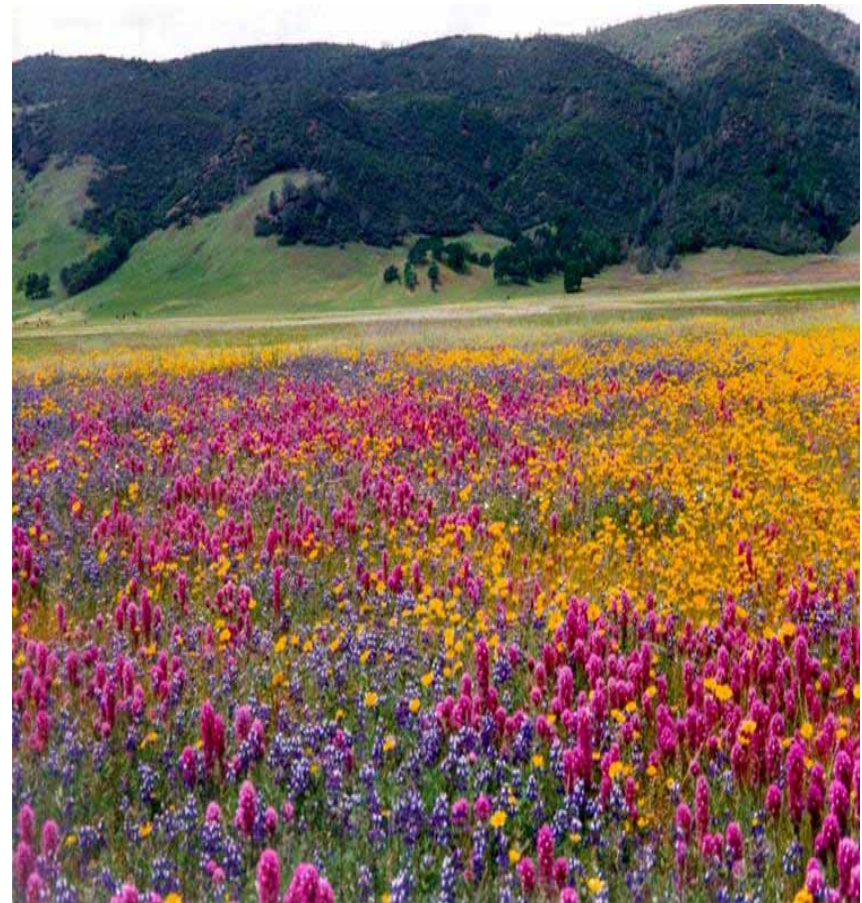
# Choosing the Right Land Trust



- Not a rogue land trust
  - Who is on the Board?
  - Does it hold open Board meetings?
  - Support for organization derived from public?
- Member California Council of Land Trusts and/or Land Trust Alliance
- Local presence
- Operating capacity

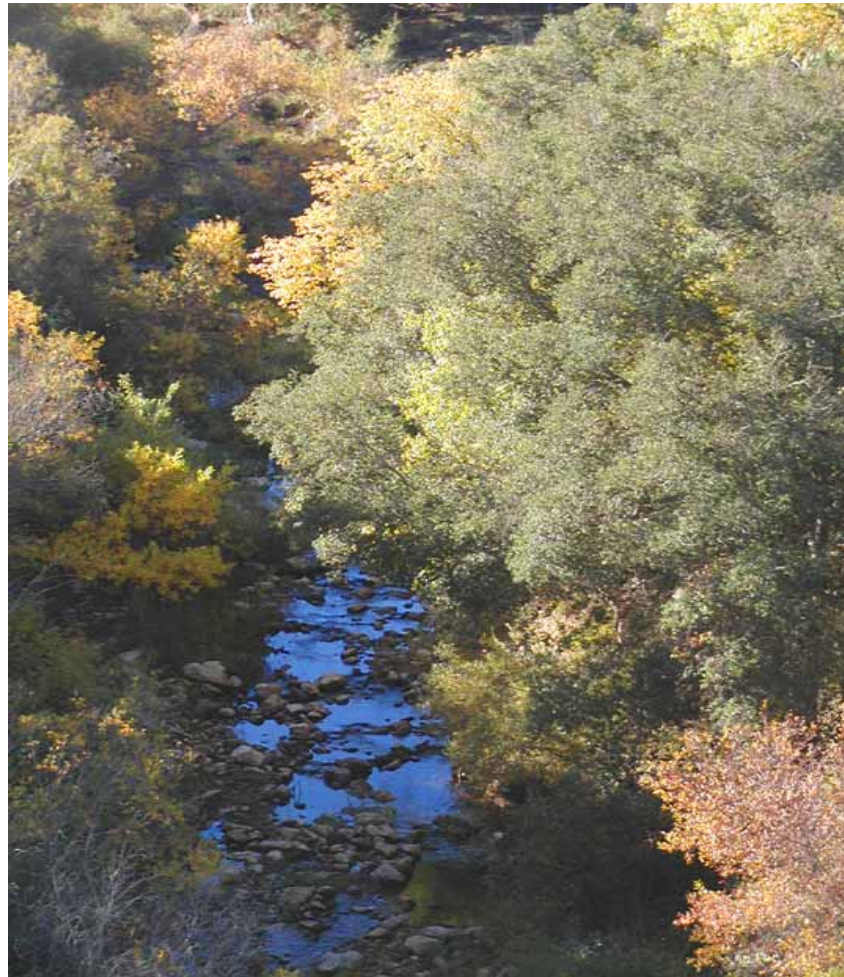
# Issues Land Trust Must Consider

- Does easement meet group's mission statement
- Annual monitoring responsibilities
  - **Involve land trust early in the process**
- Monitoring endowment
- Reimbursement of transaction costs



Bear Valley, Colusa County

**Every easement is unique because  
every parcel of land is unique**



# Rights Typically Retained by the Landowner

- Homesites
- Future uses
- Additional structures
- Water rights



# Benefits to Public

- Preserves open space
- Protection of watershed
- Conservation of species
- Maintaining view shed
- Preserving California's western heritage



# What Happens After Easement Recorded?

- Land with an easement can still be sold or transferred by will or by gift
- May or may not include public access
- Annual monitoring to confirm compliance
- Easement holder has the right to make sure the terms of the easement are upheld
- Easement does not prevent condemnation

***“Conservation means harmony between men and land. When land does well for its owner, the owner does well by his land; when both end up better by reason of their partnership, we have conservation. When one or the other grows poorer, we do not.”***

Aldo Leopold  
The Farmer as Conservationist  
1939