

# California Rangeland Trust 2010 Year in Review

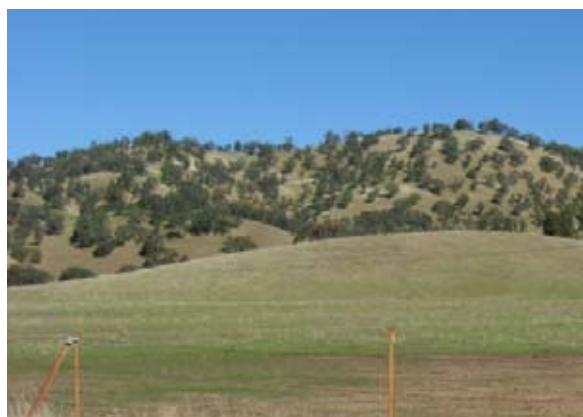


*The California Rangeland Trust is committed to keeping family ranches thriving in our great state. Sound science, real estate and business expertise – combined with ranching leadership and our dedicated staff and supporters make this important work possible. Below are just a few of the highlights from the past year. We think you'll agree that we make every dollar of your support go further than ever. We hope you'll continue your support this year, so that together, we can continue to save the ranching way of life in California.*



**Deer Valley Ranch.** In December of 2009 we received our largest donation ever, the 12,500 acre Deer Valley Ranch amassed by California inventor Stan Avery in southern Monterey County. Our members' support has enabled us to maintain the ranch's original excellent stewardship while we search for a conservation buyer. This incredibly generous gift will provide long term support to the Rangeland Trust while assuring that a great cattle operation will remain forever, supporting families, Tule elk, kit fox, deer and migratory songbirds.

Staff Photo



**Running Deer Ranch.** In May, we placed a 1,275-acre conservation easement on one of the oldest continuously operating cattle ranches in the state, the Running Deer Ranch. Owned by John and Judy Ahmann of Napa County, the easement was made possible through a partnership between the California Department of Conservation, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP) and the Napa Land Trust.

Staff Photo



**Sierra Valley.** The Rangeland Trust continues to focus on the spectacular Sierra Valley region. Over the past year, our Sierra Valley conservation unit has been hard at work to protect several ranches in this fast-growing region. Although work on funding the projects continues, the Rangeland Trust anticipates closing on three projects over the next 12 months that will account for an additional 7,000 acres of conserved rangeland.

Photo Courtesy of Jim Cunningham



**James Irvine Award.** Last spring, California Rangeland Trust’s CEO, Nita Vail, became the first rancher to receive the prestigious James Irvine 2010 Leadership award for her “collaborative, effective approach to the long-term protection of California’s ranch lands.” The award supports the work of individuals who are advancing innovative and effective solutions to significant state issues. The award also included a substantial financial contribution to the outstanding work of each recipient’s organization, including the Rangeland Trust.

Left Photo Courtesy of Ed Kashi

Right Photo Courtesy of Marshall Leaman, Talking Eyes Media



**Policy and Collaboration.** In mid-April, Nita Vail represented the rangeland conservation community which has worked in partnership to support the Williamson Act, that is essential to the future of our agricultural heritage in California. Nita, along with a very select group of industry leaders, also participated in the White House Conference on the America’s Great Outdoors initiative to promote the importance of working lands to national conservation efforts. Additionally, in the Bay Area, we are working with a host of partners to protect ranches in important watersheds.

Staff Photo



**Events and Outreach.** The Rangeland Trust enjoys gathering like-minded souls who care about the future of ranching in California. This past year we hosted “A Western Affair” in June at the beautiful Wente Vineyards in the Bay Area and also an evening dinner at Hotel Vitale in San Francisco last January, where Chef Paul Arenstam prepared wonderful Hearst Ranch beef. We partnered with the Cow Palace’s Grand National Rodeo and Horse Show and one of California’s best university rangeland professors to conduct a survey designed to help us communicate more effectively with this important audience.

Staff Photo

## *Our Mission*

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

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