THE PACIFIC FOREST TRUST

Our Private Forests are Our Public Treasures.

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The Future is Now For the Turner Creek Ranch

Truckee, CA-- For more than 150 years, the Turner Family has owned 725 acres of working forest and ranch land nestled along the edge of the high, wide and beautiful Sierra Valley, headwaters of the Middle Fork of the Feather River. The Turners have raised their families there, worked the land and remained an important part of the Sierra Valley's agricultural community. However, like many of their neighbors they started feeling the pressure of encroaching conversion in the rapidly growing region. Developers came calling in hopes of turning this property into a subdivision of an additional 80 ranchettes.

That is when the Turner family decided to ensure a different future for the ranch and their Sierra Valley community. They partnered with the Pacific Forest Trust (PFT) to secure a sustainable future by crafting a practical conservation easement for this working ranch. The California State Resource Agency's Sierra Cascade Conservation Grant program awarded PFT a $4 million grant for the acquisition of a conservation easement from the Turners. In addition, the family generously donated of a portion of the conservation easement purchase price, enabling PFT to make the purchase below market value. The Sierra Business Council also contributed funds to help cover the project development costs. Now the ranch's historic use for cattle grazing, hay production and timber harvesting will be protected for generations to come.

"This Ranch is my family's history and the legacy I will leave for my children and grandchildren," said Russell Turner. "I am grateful for my partnership with the Pacific Forest Trust, which

(more)

has allowed me to protect my ranch and, with it, the key to preserving my family's way of life here in the Sierras."

"Programs that allow us to maintain productive ranch lands while protecting open space are critical to California's future," said Secretary for Resources Mike Chrisman, a fourth generation California rancher. "We owe it to this generation and the generations who will follow us to protect and preserve our lands and our traditions as responsible stewards of our state's precious natural resources."

Turner Creek Ranch is one of three ranches PFT has helped families protect along the southwest edge of the Sierra Valley, creating a conservation corridor of over 2,700 acres of scenic working landscapes where the valley rises to the mountains. The region supports half of all the plant species found in the state and is home to more than 400 species of mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians. Protecting the ecosystems of the Sierra Nevada is dependent on recognizing the importance of connections - the historical connection between people and this landscape and the landscape connections between public and private lands.

"PFT is delighted to work with Russell, and other families like the Turners, whose land stewardship is key to maintaining the integrity of the Sierras, watersheds, and productive forests," added PFT president Laurie Wayburn. The Pacific Forest Trust is committed to working with these dedicated landowners to ensure the protection and productivity of this extraordinary natural and cultural landscape.

About The Pacific Forest Trust
The Pacific Forest Trust (PFT) is the leading non-profit organization dedicated to protecting America's working forests for all their public benefits and is a leading advocate for the climate benefits of forests. To learn more about the Pacific Forest Trust, please visit **www.PacificForest.org**

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