



September 10, 2010

Jim Branham  
Executive Officer  
Sierra Nevada Conservancy  
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205  
Auburn, CA 95603

RE: Support for Bufford Ranch Easement

Dear Mr. Branham:

The California Rangeland Conservation Coalition (Rangeland Coalition) is proud to support our partner's, California Rangeland Trust, efforts to acquire funding to place a conservation easement on the Bufford Ranch in Kern County.

The Rangeland Coalition is an unprecedented group of California ranchers, researchers, environmentalists and local, state and federal agencies. Together, we are working to preserve private working landscapes, support the long-term viability of the ranching industry and to protect and enhance California rangeland for protected and common species.

The Bufford Ranch is home to a working cattle operation in the Kern River Valley. The ranch is made up of blue oak woodlands and a diverse set of plants and wildlife, including habitat for several sensitive species. The California Rangeland Trust's Bufford Ranch Easement Project exemplifies the founding principles of our partnership, outlined within the California Rangeland Resolution. The conservation easement will be voluntarily placed on a working ranch that is within the Rangeland Coalition focus area. This easement will simultaneously preserve habitat for hundreds of different species, natural resources and a stewardship ethic.

The Rangeland Coalition respectfully supports Sierra Nevada Conservancy awarding a grant to the California Rangeland Trust to acquire a conservation easement on the Bufford Ranch. This project is important to furthering the goals of the Rangeland Coalition and we look forward to showcasing the easement on the Bufford Ranch as a conservation success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tracy K. Schohr".

Tracy K. Schohr  
Rangeland Conservation Director  
California Cattlemen's Association

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pelayo".

Pelayo Alvarez  
Conservation Program Director  
Defenders of Wildlife