

# The Marshall Ranch

*“From Time Immemorial”*

November 11, 2021

Humboldt County Planning and Building Department  
Attention: John Ford and Joshua Dorris  
3015 H Street  
Eureka, CA 95501

Re: Marshall Ranch Streamflow Enhancement Project  
Record Number: PLN-2019-15661

Dear Members of the Humboldt County Planning and Building Department,

In the fall of 2016, Jay Stallman and Joel Monschke of Stillwater Sciences contacted us at the Marshall Ranch to present a watershed conservation opportunity that could potentially slow or alter the rapid decline of salmonid populations in Redwood Creek. According to the National Marine Fisheries and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, there is a point of no return for the survival of these animals that has been called *“the vortex of extinction.”* This term refers to Salmonid populations whose annual reproduction rate falls below their annual rate of attrition. Salmonid populations on a number of tributaries of the South Fork Eel River including Redwood Creek, currently teeter on the edge of this vortex.

The Marshall Family and their ancestors have endured numerous threats to their heritage and sustenance on this land through generations spanning back to time immemorial. Their Wailaki, Yurok and Pomo native ancestors endured unimaginable hardships during the Indian wars of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and every generation since has taken its turn to preserve a remnant of the larger part of their ancestral land that has been lost.

The current generation of the Marshall family has now secured and protected their portion of that ancestral land through the sale of a conservation easement to the California Rangeland Trust. This easement has been unanimously approved of by the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors and was funded by CDFW, California Department of Conservation (DOC) and CalFire.

The negotiated terms of this conservation easement reflect the core conservation values of the Marshall family. These terms include:

- The restriction of all forms of cannabis production on the ranch in perpetuity. This language was inserted at the insistence of the Marshall Family based on their desire to protect the conservation values of both lands and watersheds from the deleterious effects of cannabis land development and production.
- Extinguishing all sub-division rights. This eliminated an estimated 712 potential future development sites and has the direct benefit of limiting carbon emissions, water diversions, road developments and building developments.
- Limiting all non-cannabis agricultural development on the ranch to encompass less than 5% of the property. This includes vineyards, orchards and row crops.

- Establishing a Forest Management Plan that exceeds current restrictions of the California Forest Practice Rules.
- Establishing a Grazing Management Plan that balances conservation and livestock management.
- Restrictions on water diversions, water storage and work done in or near riparian corridors. These restrictions are at levels beyond current state restrictions.

In addition, the Marshall family has been blessed with both agency and conservation partners who had the foresight to incorporate language that would allow for innovative projects such as the Marshall Ranch Streamflow Enhancement Project into the complex Marshall Ranch Conservation Easement. This language was crafted to neither hinder nor mandate, but to allow for the proposal and implementation of projects that would specifically enhance stream flow to the watersheds that the Marshall family and agencies now steward in partnership.

During that time of easement language development, the Marshall family bore a significant financial burden for its legal and consulting team to extend the negotiating time frame in order to develop and shepherd this language into the easement during the three years of negotiations between the Marshall team, land trust and funding partners. The burden of yesterday has now given way to the joys of the current opportunity before us, as well as other opportunities yet to be discovered and designed that will help to restore the resources that we all share and depend on.

As recognized historic stakeholders in the Redwood Creek watershed, we are proud of the efforts of all of our partners to vigorously pursue restoring and enhancing our ancestral lands and watersheds and believe in the potential of this project to bring health to the precious resources that have been impaired to such a degree that they are unrecognizable in comparison to their former glory.

The Marshall Family has been involved in every strategic aspect of this project including the most recent design modifications. We are committed to an orderly process of design and oversight that will cause the Marshall Ranch Flow Enhancement project to succeed or fail based on the merits and evidence of science. Through our own work and experience we have come to possess a well-reasoned confidence in the engineering capabilities of Joel Monschke of Stillwater Sciences, the project management of Dana Stolzman of Salmonid Restoration Federation as well as the participation and oversight of our agency partners.

On behalf of the Marshall Ranch, LLC and the Marshall Family, we strongly support continuing to move this project forward to 100% design completion, oversight and implementation.

Please consider the Marshall Ranch, LLC with its Marshall family members as strategic partners in the difficult but beneficial work of conservation in the region.

Our very best,

Pastor David Sanchez, GM  
The Marshall Ranch, LLC

Elizabeth Marshall Maybee, Owner  
The Marshall Ranch, LLC