

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

December 8, 2004

Nevada County Land Trust

Contact: Cheryl L. Belcher, Executive Director, (530) 272-5994

Or: Dave Carter, (530) 265-NEWS

## Land Trust Preserves 440-Acre Ranch

GRASS VALLEY -- A 440-acre ranch near the South Yuba River will be preserved under an agricultural conservation easement recorded this month by the Nevada County Land Trust.

The easement was donated by landowner Mary Trabucco, who resides out of the area. The land is adjacent to already conserved land owned by family members Anna and Bill Trabucco.

Cheryl Belcher, executive director of the Land Trust, said the easement brings to more than 5600 the number of acres now being protected by Land Trust conservation easements.

In signing the agreement, Land Trust President Andy Cassano remarked, "This is my favorite type of project -- conserving working ranches and farms."

The newly-acquired agricultural conservation easement is a cow/calf ranch operation on 440 acres of grasslands, ponderosa pines and oak woodlands.

The land borders the South Yuba River State Park upstream from Bridgeport and offers expansive views of the Yuba River canyon, the Sutter Buttes and Sierra Buttes.

The property has historically been used as agricultural land with irrigation and soils suitable for farming and grazing. Belcher said Mrs. Trabucco's primary purpose in putting the easement on her land is to assure the open space and natural balance of the ecosystem will be conserved and maintained forever.

The easement allows for a variety of possible agricultural uses to support the economic viability of the property over time.

A conservation easement is a permanent agreement in which the property owner voluntarily gives up specified development rights. The easement is recorded and runs with the deed.

"In our foothills community, agricultural easements provide multiple community benefits," Belcher said. "Some of these are food production, scenic vistas, protection of woodlands and wildlife habitat. We all extend our thanks to Mrs. Trabucco for her generosity in donating this easement."

The Trabucco property will not be open to the public but the owner will allow the Land Trust to lead a public tour of the property next year. Call the Land Trust office to be added to the mailing list for the tour.

The 800-member strong Nevada County Land Trust works to conserve open space and to develop parks and trails for Nevada County residents. For information and membership, call the Land Trust's Grass Valley office at (530) 272-5994.