

Agritourism- Miller Moth Ranch

Our family consists of 7 individuals who have an emotional interest in all aspects of the property. We are committed to sustainable and holistic management styles. We have been charged with a responsibility not only to the financial stability of the operation, but more importantly the management of the environment as it relates to the wildlife, plants, soil, and water quality. Our philosophy is to protect the property through responsible stewardship and delivery to our children and grandchildren healthier than it was received.



This report will look at 6 specific areas benefiting from a continued agricultural use of the property. Many of those benefits come from the items created through management practices. Other benefits result from the implementation of a practice and the benefits created for the general public and the environment.

1. Agricultural

Livestock
Hay /Grain
Honey Production

1a. Livestock

Livestock production on the property consist of a cow calf operation and meat goat production. Calves are born in September and sold in May or fed out until October. Meat goat herd kids in April and are sold in November as a finished product.



Practice:
15 miles of fence and multiple watering systems have been constructed to allow for year round rotational grazing. This helps prevent soil erosion, wildlife conflicts, and impacts on plant species. Livestock supplements and feeding areas are rotated to decrease impact and travel locations.



1b. Farming

500 to 1,000 acres per year is farmed. We produce grain and hay. The seed grain varieties are barley, wheat, oats and safflower. Livestock hay consists of both Forage Hay and Barley Hay produced in square and round bales.

Practice:
Farming is done through a no-till or minimum till practice to reduce soil erosion. We use filter strips when needed and limit hilltop and severe side-hill cultivating. Much of the marginal ground is managed through the CRP. Pest control monitoring is done to determine if there is a viable need for



chemical pest control.



1 c. Honey Production

Honey is produced in the spring bloom located in the Pollinator Conservation Reserve Program. Primary source of nectar comes from Owl's Clover, Purple Vetch, Lupin, and Fiddle-neck. Fall honey is produced from Blue Curl that grows in harvested fields. The upper ranch produces honey in the coastal sage and chaparral bloom that takes place in higher altitudes.



Practice:

Approximately 360 acres has been placed in the Pollinator CRP. The property is managed to promote pollinator species and their habitat

2. Community

- Educational School Outreach**
- Ag Seminars and Field Studies**
- Ag Tourism**
- Almond Springs Event Center**
- Hunting Expeditions**
- County Road Corridor**
- Young Farmers**
- Community Diversity – Generational Family Farm**

2a. Educational School Outreach

Owners donate their time and property resources to present at Ag to School events annually. Bring aspects of the property into the local classroom. Units taught include Owls and their relationship with the farm , poultry production and the parts of an egg , goat production covering tools, feed and care. These units are done for 3rd and 4th graders at Bauer Speck Elementary on their annual local Ag Day.



2b. Ag Tourism



Annually on the ranch we provide several free tours to students and adults through the goat kidding process. Over the month of kidding touring groups have the opportunity to watch live births, handle livestock and care for newly born kids. Groups included school classes, farm bureau tours, families, youth organizations and local Adult Ed programs.



Native American artifacts and fossil beds are located on the property and are shared with guests on visits. The fossil beds contain whale bones, and sand-dollars, shark teeth, oyster, clam and scallops.



2c. Ag Seminars and Field

Studies

We host NRCS seminars on wildlife management, perennial grasses and EQIP programs. NRCS teams have done perennial grass projects to promote current species and develop new varieties on the property.



2d. Almond Springs

Historic Almond Springs is the location of the original settlement on the property. It was originally used as a camp for workers caring for 5,000 acres of almonds planted in 1910 on the property. The area included a church, school, and work quarters. We have taken many of those historic buildings, and using reclaimed materials, retrofitted the buildings to their original charm. The venue is used for public weddings and other social events on the farm. People travel 2 miles into the property through a scenic corridor and experience the farm and the historic structures of Almond Springs. The venue is also equipped with two rustic cabins for overnight guests to enjoy. Almond Springs has provided an opportunity to protect the history of the property for both future generations and the public to enjoy.



2f. Young Farmers



Young farmers are in short supply in American agriculture. The average age of the farmer is rising with a shortage of young farmers to replace the position. Garrett Roth, 27 years and Carly Roth, 24 years of age, are actively involved in the property operations. Garrett works full time on the property and Carly manages Almond Springs and the goat operation.

They are young farmers who are actively engaged in the operation with full intentions to continue in that capacity.

2H. Community Diversity – Generational Family Farm

Family farms bring life to our communities through pioneering history, community involvement, historic knowledge and a stewardship of the property that is generational with a sense of preservation. We are a fifth generation family farm taking great pride in the historical value created over the past 100 years. It is a benefit to the community to surround itself with active family farms.



As development grows outward in our communities the tentacles of growth stretch to new areas. The easement would stop the progression and benefit neighboring family farms who would have otherwise been negatively affected by the growth and their inability or desire to continue operating.

3. Wildlife

Predators
Large Game
Rodents
Condors
Owls
Birds of Prey
Migratory
Beneficial Insects
Reptiles

Introduction :

The property ecosystem contains a vast variety of both migratory and local species. We cannot list all the species who benefit from the easement. We will list the most visible and leave out the 10 million microscopic organisms found in a tablespoon of soil.



watering.

Activities:

We have developed over 20 miles of water lines with multiple water facilities including ground level troughs self designed to specifically benefit the wildlife. The ground level troughs allow the smallest of



creatures to access water safely. Livestock watering facilities are equipped with wildlife ramps to allow for escape and bird



3a. Predators

- | | |
|----------------|---------|
| Mountain Lions | Possum |
| Bob Cat | Skunk |
| Badger | Raccoon |
| Red Fox | Weasel |
| Grey Fox | Coyote |



3b. Large Game

- Tule Elk
- Black tail Deer
- Wild Hog



Practice:

New fencing has been equipped with wildlife crossing areas for the Tule Elk. Fence braces are lowered to create a safe area for the animal to jump. Annual food plots are planted specifically for the

deer, elk and wild hogs consisting of barley, wheat and safflower. Standing grain is left in strips on field borders for wildlife.

3c. Rodents

- | | |
|----------------|--------------|
| Kangaroo Mouse | Brush Rabbit |
| Oak Pack Rat | Cottontail |
| Chipmunk | Jack Rabbit |
| Squirrel | |

Practice:
Great progress has been made increasing the rabbit population. Ground level troughs, food plots, reforestation of coyote bush and field buffers along all creek edges have helped the rabbit population to dramatically increase.



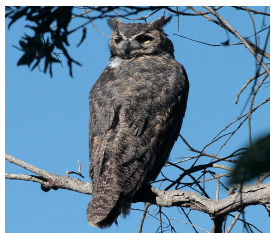
3d. California Condors

Practice:
During fall California Condors migrate to the property. Two to 8 condors will arrive at a time, feeding on a carcass in the open grasslands. We discard lost livestock and off fall from processed game on points for these majestic birds to feed.



3e. Owls

- Barn Owls
- Great Horn Owls
- Burrow Owls



Practice:
Owl population has consistently increased in part to the development of nesting boxes. Guest at Almond Springs Venue can view. Guests can view evening aerial owl activity at dusk as they leave to feed.

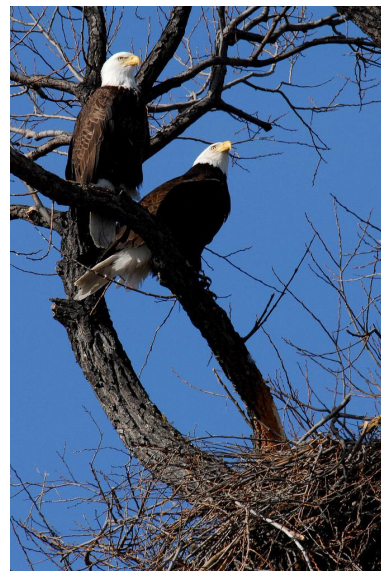


3f. Birds of Prey / Local

- Bald Eagle
- Golden Eagle
- Sparrow Hawk
- Red Tail Hawk
- Marsh Hawk



- Yellow Billed Magpie
- Blue Jay
- Mockingbird
- Red Wing Blackbird
- Multiple Finch Varieties
- Woodpecker
- Lewiston Fly Catcher



3g. Migratory Birds

- | | | |
|------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Ringneck Dove | Hummingbirds | Mallard Duck |
| Band Tail Pigeon | Killdeer | Grey Cranes |

Practice:
Food plots, field borders, and wildlife troughs enhance all migratory species. Two cranes arrive each year to hunt gophers and thin gold fish from livestock troughs. We continue to stock the trough.



3h. Local Game Birds

- California Valley Quail
- Wild Turkey
- Ringneck Dove
- Crow and Raven

Practice:
Quail, turkey and dove all nest on the ground. Farm fields in the CRP are not pastured during the bird nesting season of April and May. Tree limbs and other debris is left on the ground to allow the grass to grow entangled in the limbs to create nesting habitats.



3i Beneficial Insects

Honey Bee

Practice:

Approximately 360 acres are in the Pollinator Conservation Reserve Program. This property is not farmed or pastured, preserving a location for pollinator species. Over the past 6 years we have seen a increase in the wild bee hives. In a two mile corridor 23 new hives have been documented where none had

existed. This increase is do to water development every ½ mile and the abundant food supply. Plant species in the preserve include fiddleneck, owls clover, lupin, and purple vetch during the spring . Blue Curl blooms in fall and Coyote Bush blooms December through March.



3j. Reptiles

Rattlesnake
Bull Snake
King Snake



Horned Toad
multiple frog species
Blue Belly Lizard

4.

Vegetation / Botanical

Perennials

Tress

Shrubs

4a. Perennials

Curly Dock
Squirrel Tail
Blue Wild rye
Slender Wheatgrass
California Brome



Practice:

The Conservation Reserve Program has allowed large areas of perennial grasses to establish substantial colonies. We no longer farm the rocky points where the perennials flourish. Occasionally pasturing the colonies at the end of their cycle is beneficial to the colonization and new growth.

We have been very successful with a non native species called Perla Grass a cousin to the Harding Grass found on the Pacific Coast. Colonies have been established in heavier soils with great success. The Perla Grass has been an incredible asset for bird nesting, rabbit habitat and feed.



4b. Trees

Valley Oak	Blue Oak	Digger Pine	Manzanita	Poplar
Scrub Oak	White Oak	Cottonwood	Willow	Black Walnut
Juniper	Live Oak	Almond		

Practice:

Reforestation of farm ground out of production has been a continual challenge. By allowing for a 30 foot creek set back, controlled placement of cultivated fire breaks and cattle pasture timing, great progress has been made. In a two mile corridor from the shop facilities to the barn facilities we have hundreds of new oaks self propagated. The trees range from 20 years old to new seedlings.



4c. Shrubs

Black Sage Chaparral



Coyote Bush Elderberry
Toyon

Practice:

Along with the oak trees we have created large colonies of the native Coyote Bush. It acts as great shelter in the open grasslands, deer and elk browse it heavy and it blooms in the winter for the honey bee.

5. Environmental

Environmental

5a. Environmental

We are 25 miles from Paso Robles. The environmental impact of an additional 216 residential 10 acre parcels will have negative impact do to transportation. The impacts can be seen in the possible fuel consumption based on a 5 minute drive from town vs. a 25 minute drive to this location. If fully developed an estimated half million gallons of fuel could be consumed per year for the additional 20 mile drive. The effect would be just as dramatic on emissions created, tire replacement, car replacement, maintenance, and road repair. If the property is left in agriculture production you would see little to no change from the impact of transportation. A substantial benefit to the environment.



6. Support Programs

EQIP

WHIP

Estrella Basin Conservation Stewardship Program

CRP – with allowed Grazing

CRP – Honey bee pollinator program

Williamson Act

Monterey Ag Land Trust Easements

PLM

6a. EQIP – Environmental Quality Incentive Program

EQIP through the NRCS helps ranchers fund environmental protection projects. EQIP has helped in the development of over 20 miles of water systems for livestock and wildlife and 15 miles of fence for rotational grazing. We converted 3 diesel generators on well pumps to full solar systems. Eliminating hundreds of gallons of fuel used per year.



6b. WHIP – Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program

WHIP through the NRCS helps ranchers with wildlife sensitive issues. Wildlife troughs and escape ramps were created with help from WHIP intensives.



6c. Estrella Basin Conservation Stewardship Program.



We were one of the first property owners to be selected to participate in the Estrella Project. This project was designed to reward ranchers for current sustainable practices that helped protect the Estrella Water Basin that discharges into the Monterey Bay. Through this program we began to create filter strips, field borders and a more managed approach to rotational grazing. We continue those practices and others do to the applications gained in the program.

6d. CRP - Conservation Reserve Program

Producers enrolled in CRP plant or maintain long-term, resource-conservation covers to control soil erosion, improve water and air quality and enhance wildlife habitat. We have approximate ½ of the marginal farm ground on the property in the CRP. We rotationally graze, plant food plots for wildlife and establish trees and shrubs through reforestation on the CRP.



6e. Pollinator CRP

Allows producers to create honey bee populations by establishing a zone left solely for pollinators. Cattle grazing and farming is not allowed. We allowed and encouraged to plant and enhance pollinator species.

6f. Williamson Act

Reduces county property taxes for agricultural producers producing agricultural commodities. After concluding the easements we will apply for the property not in the Williamson Act to be enrolled.

6g. Ag Land Trust Easements

Limits through easement the properties ability to develop the property for single family homes and keeps the property in agriculture indefinitely. We have completed 8 easements eliminating 157 parcels. Our goal is to enter the remaining 59 parcels in the subdivision; completing the process of limiting the properties usage to agricultural and eliminating 216 residential units.



6h. PLM – Private Land Managements

PLM allows the opportunity for the owner to work with local Fish and Game biologist to formulate a yearly wildlife enhancement plan. Items developed on our plan include food plots, water structures, fence crossings for elk, owl boxes, agriculture tours and education, water spring development, solar wells, enhanced bee colonies reforesting fields, monitoring with wildlife cameras, limiti cattle pasturing during bird nesting season and perennial grass habitats. All practices listed have been incorporated into our management of the property.

