



NFWF

PRESS RELEASE



**Walker Basin
Restoration Program**

NFWF Closes on Newest Acquisition

June 13, 2014 - Yerington, Nevada

NFWF Submitted

The Walker Basin Restoration Program (Program) acquired the majority of the Pinenut Ranch Cattle Company and Sutter Ranch Corporation properties in Smith Valley on June 9, 2014.

This was a land and water acquisition from willing sellers of the Pinenut Ranch Cattle Company and Sutter Ranch Corporation includes approximately 14 cubic feet per second of decree rights, 190 acre feet (AF) of supplemental storage rights, and 173 AF of New Land storage rights. This is the largest water acquisition for the Program to-date. The property also includes more than 900 acres of land, including over three miles of the West Walker River corridor and a significant amount of native vegetation. The seller retained 90 acres of land including his homestead.

The landowner, David Traitel, stated, "This property means a lot to me and my family. I have wanted to ensure that it is protected from future development and that the conservation values I have are maintained into the future. I have been working with NFWF for a number of years to figure out how to make this happen, and I could not be happier with the outcome. In addition, I will be a neighbor to the property and get to see the conservation efforts in action, while knowing this is all part of restoring Walker Lake."

The Program will soon begin the legal process of changing the acquired water for instream use to benefit of the Walker River and Walker Lake. In the meantime, the river corridor and riparian habitat will be protected, and the remaining lands will be farmed and grazed in the near term. A revegetation plan will be developed this year and implemented in future years. The revegetation plan will focus on restoring native habitat and preventing dust and weed issues on lands that are no longer in agricultural use.

The Program plans to open portions of this property and the Rafter 7 Ranch on the East Walker River to public access in 2015. The ranches will be open for a variety of recreational activities.

For additional information please contact Joy Morris, Walker Basin Restoration Program Manager, at 775.673.7421 or joy.morris@nfwf.org, or see the Program website at www.walkerbasin.org.