



PRESS RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Rafter 7 Ranch Open for Public Access**

Yerington, Nevada – June 22, 2015 - The Walker Basin Conservancy (WBC) is pleased to announce that a large portion of the Rafter 7 Ranch is now open for public access. Visitors can enjoy this well-preserved section of the East Walker River for recreational activities such as hiking, fishing, and wildlife viewing.

Rafter 7 Ranch is privately owned by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), and was purchased in 2013 as part of the Walker Basin Restoration Program (Program). The primary purpose of the acquisition is to transfer most of the ranch's water rights instream to Walker Lake; however, the unique attributes of the property allow for additional conservation and enjoyment of the riparian corridor.

Public access on the ranch is managed by the WBC, which was established by NFWF to manage on-the-ground operations associated with the Program. Portions of the property will remain restricted from public access as it is still an active ranch with cattle grazing and a variety of revegetation efforts in progress. Visitors should know that areas of the ranch available for public enjoyment may change over time due to adjustments in land management practices.

"The opening of a portion of the Rafter 7 Ranch for public use presents a very unique opportunity for people to enjoy up to 11 miles of the East Walker River that has not previously been available to the general public," said Elmer Bull, WBC Executive Director. "In today's world, where public access has been increasingly limited on many properties, the Rafter 7 opening represents a welcome reversal of that trend and demonstrates the Program's ongoing commitment to the community. We hope the public takes advantage of the opportunity to enjoy one of the most well-preserved stretches of riverine habitat within the Walker Basin."

The Rafter 7 Ranch is open from dawn to dusk daily. There are three locations for parking at the ranch and a kiosk is located at the north parking lot with maps and handouts. No camping, hunting, or use of firearms will be allowed on the property.

Due to the remote location of the ranch, new visitors are strongly encouraged to visit the WBC office located at 1 Hwy 95A East in Yerington to view maps, learn about visitation rules, and gain additional information about the ranch before traveling to the property. Additional information is also available at [www.walkerbasin.org/rafter7](http://www.walkerbasin.org/rafter7).

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