



Sierra Valley wetlands. Photo courtesy of Jim Gaither.

The Maddalena Property

Preserving an Ecologically Critical Landscape

Situated at the headwaters of the Middle Fork of the Feather River, the Sierra Valley contains the largest freshwater wetland and marsh habitat in the entire Sierra Nevada and supports a host of bird species of special concern, including sandhill cranes and white-faced ibis. The Maddalena Property is the only private property in the Sierra Valley where the public has direct access the wetland ecosystem for walking, nature photography, and bird watching. The Feather River Land Trust welcomes you to come out and enjoy the extraordinary wildlife and vistas of the Sierra Valley.

Conservation of the Maddalena Property

In 2003, Feather River Land Trust (FRLT) partnered with The Nature Conservancy and the Sierra Business Council to acquire its first property, a 575-acre parcel in the heart

of the Sierra Valley owned by rancher Tony Maddalena. Tony continues to lease part of the land for cattle grazing, and feels the transaction was “a win for us, and a win for FRLT. I know the Land Trust is going to take care of it.”

FRLT’s Maddalena Property has become a successful example of managing land for sustainable agriculture, wildlife, education and low-impact recreation. The property is a birder’s paradise. Its wetlands support more than 100 bird species, including sandhill cranes, bald eagles, white-faced ibis and an impressive variety of waterfowl and raptor species.

Stewardship and Recreation

Since taking ownership of the property, FRLT has made investments to improve its ecological condition and provide opportunities for public recreation.

Maddalena Preserve Fast Facts

Location:

NSP’s region extends from south of Lake Tahoe to Lassen Volcanic Park; the Sierra Valley is located 25 miles north of the town of Truckee in the northern Sierra



Size:

120,000-acre valley
575-acre property

What you will see:

Working ranches, expansive wetlands, and a wide variety of birds and water fowl

What you can do:

Canoeing, bird watching, and hiking

Restoration measures such as fencing, reducing livestock numbers, and adjusting the season of use, have proven remarkably successful; at least eight wetland-associated bird species not present at the time of acquisition now breed on the property.

One of the key goals of the Partnership's work in the Sierra Valley is to enhance the local ranching economy by making the Sierra

Valley a prized destination for nature-based tourism. That work has already begun on the Maddalena Property with increasing numbers of visitors – especially birders – coming to the property every year. Open to the public year-round, the property has a wonderful new wildlife viewing platform and interpretive trail, the result of an ongoing partnership with the Audubon Society. No dogs please.

Northern Sierra Partnership Strategic Objectives

Conserve the sweeping natural landscapes that define our region.

Restore the ecological vitality of our forests, meadows and rivers, and the landscape's resilience to natural disturbances like fire and flood.

Expand opportunities to enjoy our region's extraordinary natural assets through recreation, sustainable tourism, and environmental education.

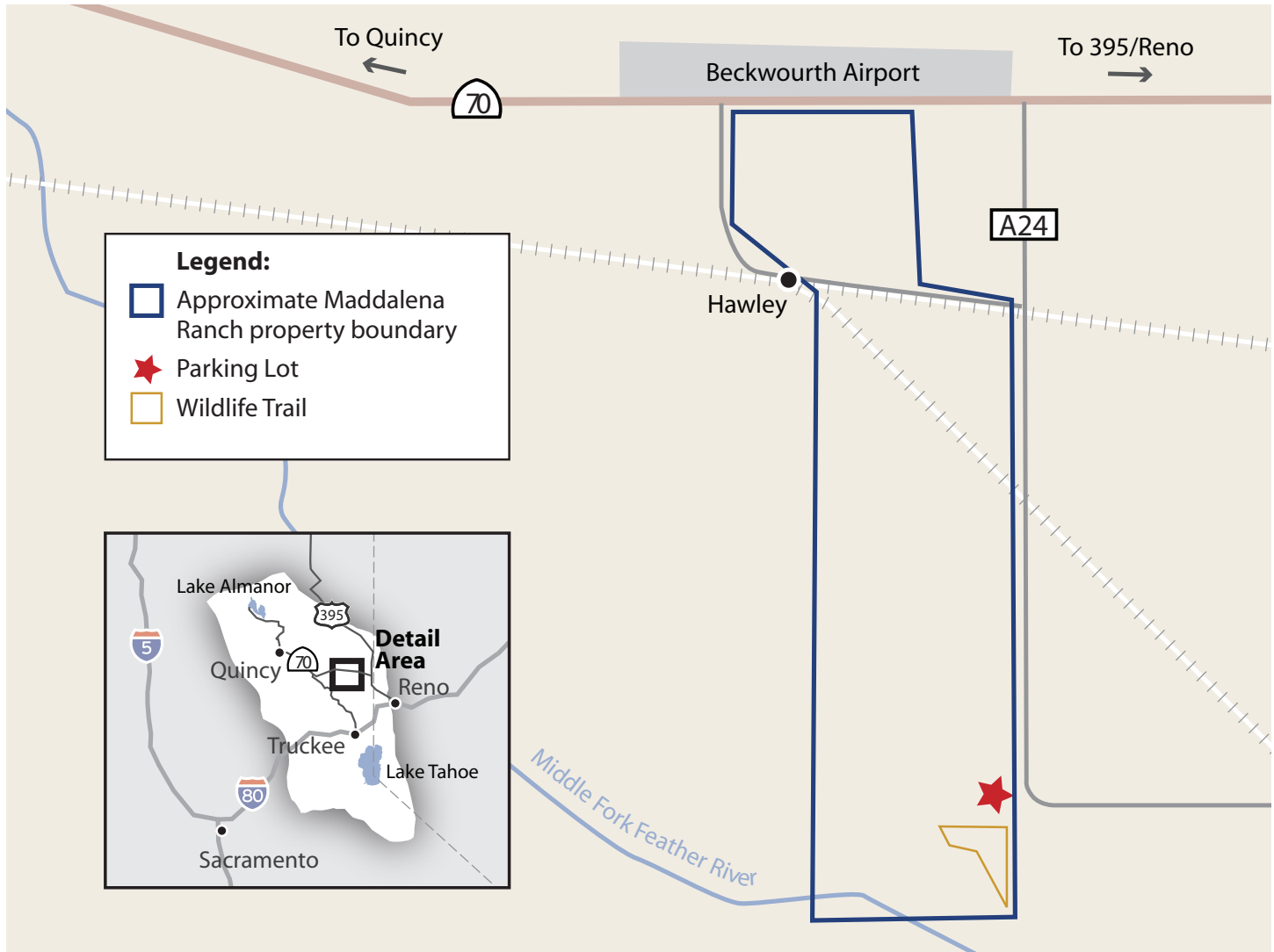
Support the growth of vibrant rural communities that sustain—and are sustained by—the healthy natural landscapes that surround them.

The Northern Sierra Partnership (NSP) is a collaborative initiative to conserve, restore, and enhance the magnificent natural landscape of the northern Sierra Nevada, and build the foundation for sustainable rural prosperity.



Ranch in Sierra Valley. Photo courtesy of Richard Daun.

Sierra Valley's Maddalena Property - Map & Directions



Directions from Quincy

Head East on Highway 70

Proceed through Beckwourth

Approximately 1.75 miles past Beckwourth turn right (south) on A24 (across from airport runway)

Drive approximately 1.75 miles south on A-24 to a wooden corral on the right side of the road

Park in the big dirt pullout