



Northern Foothills Partnership
Conservation through Collaboration



**Bear Yuba
 LAND TRUST**
 Formerly Nevada County Land Trust



**PLACER-LAND
 TRUST**
 National Wildlands Forever



**THE
 TRUST
 for
 PUBLIC
 LAND**



photo courtesy of Bear Yuba Land Trust

Garden Bar Preserve

When Bear Yuba Land Trust entered into an agreement to acquire 652 acres on the Bear River. This pristine landscape, called Garden Bar Preserve, is contiguous to 992 acres across the river which is protected with a conservation easement held by Placer Land Trust.

This acquisition also connects with conservation easements on nearby private properties held by Bear Yuba Land Trust. It means there will be a permanently protected and connected landscape of more than 3,000 acres. The goal is to improve wildlife corridors thereby enhancing migration and circulation between the Bear River and Spenceville region. This area is under intensive development pressure.

Garden Bar Preserve has a number of natural and scenic conservation values, recreation, and historically significant features. It encompasses the Emigrant Trail “Garden Bar” crossing of the Bear River for pioneers traveling over Donner Pass into central California. Also there is evidence of important Native American archeological sites.

Public River Access

The proposed public access offers diverse groups access to an important Bear River area – the only access to the river in Nevada County that is not on restricted private property. It includes hiking trails and equestrian trails, nature viewing and study, picnic areas, and historical and archeological study and tours.

Garden Bar at Risk

Because of the ongoing improvement of transportation corridors and its close proximity to growing population areas of Auburn and Sacramento, this region is under development pressure. Within 20 years, as planned road projects are completed, this preserve will be 20 minutes from downtown Roseville.

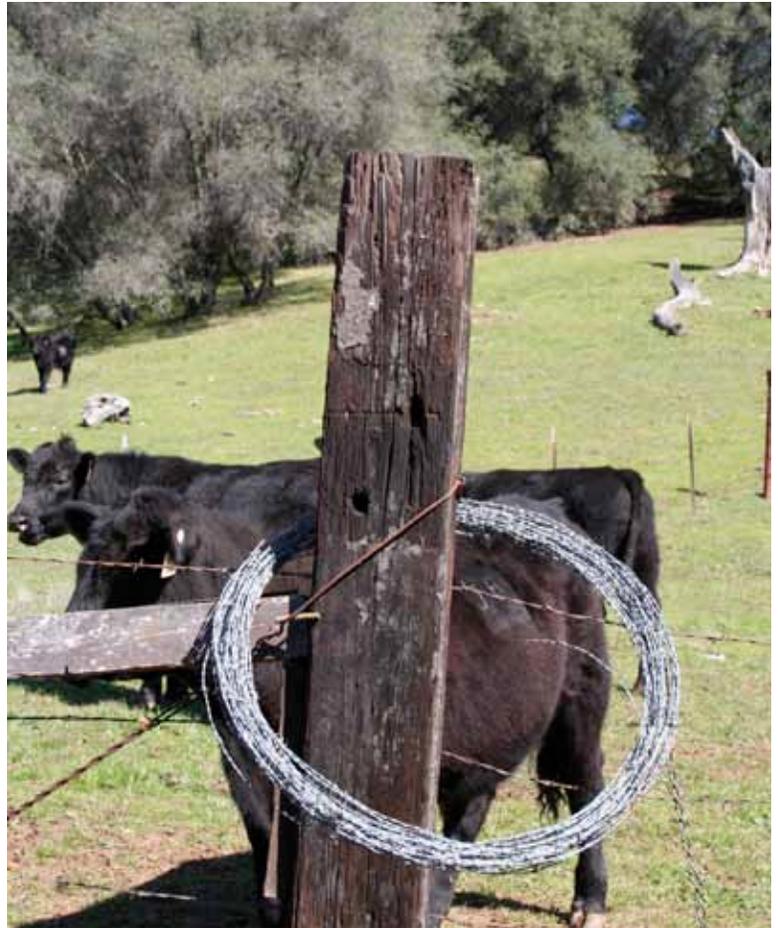


photo courtesy of Bear Yuba Land Trust

¹ Conservation Assessment for the Yuba River Watershed Foothills, Mark White, PhD, Conservation Biology Institute, October 2008

Bear River Watershed Protection Fund

Fortunately, awareness and action to protect space have never been greater. Acquisition funding will come from public sources. Governmental agencies want to insure that landscape purchases have the support of the local community. To this end, Bear Yuba Land Trust and Placer Land Trust have established the Bear River Watershed Protection Fund to acquire this landscape and additional easements and fee properties in the watershed on both sides of the river.



Conservation Resources

Garden Bar Preserve in southern Nevada County is within the Spenceville Conservation Area Protection Plan (CAPP).

The site has a two-mile stretch of riverfront and includes two miles of ephemeral and perennial drainages, all flowing toward the Bear River.

The intact, healthy, oak woodland serves beneficial ecological functions like reducing soil erosion and sustaining water quality. This riparian zone provides habitat for a wide range of species while also filtering excessive nutrients and other pollutants before the water reaches the stream.

photos courtesy of Bear Yuba Land Trust

Northern Foothills Partnership

Alyse Weyman
Sierra Nevada AmeriCorps Partnership,
Outreach Coordinator
530-272-5994 x 211 or alyse@northernfoothills.org

Placer Land Trust

Jeff Darlington
Executive Director
530-887-9222 or jeff@northernfoothills.org

Bear Yuba Land Trust

Marty Coleman-Hunt
Executive Director
530-272-5994 x3 or marty@northernfoothills.org

Trust for Public Land

Markley Bavinger
Project Manager
415-800-5305 or markley@northernfoothills.org