



COUNTY OF MENDOCINO

Board of Supervisors

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CLERK OF THE BOARD

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July 11, 2023

Dereck Wilson
District Manager
Bureau of Land Management
Northern California District
2550 Riverside Drive
Susanville, CA 96130

Dear Mr. Wilson:

The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors strongly supports the potential acquisition of the Folsom Ranch (Ranch). This project sounds like an exciting partnership between the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), The Conservation Fund, the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Golden State Land Conservancy, and the Mendocino Land Trust.

Folsom Ranch's vast size, over 7,000-acres, and adjacency to existing BLM and other conserved lands provides a tremendous conservation and recreational opportunity for Mendocino County. The Ranch contains significant natural resources including mixed conifer forests, oak woodlands, valleys and meadows, agricultural lands, and about 3/4 mile of Wild and Scenic Eel River frontage as well as frontage along Tomki Creek. This project supports a once-in-a-generation conservation opportunity to permanently protect thousands of acres of important lands for multiple benefits, including climate change resilience, potential collaboration with Tribes, and enhanced outdoor recreation.

Folsom Ranch is adjacent to portions of BLM's 6,500-acre English Ridge lands currently proposed as designated Wilderness Area. The proposed English Ridge Wilderness area is covered with an ancient forests of Douglas fir, live and black oak, ponderosa pine, sugar pine, tan oak, and other species. The Wild and Scenic Eel River bisects the western portion of English Ridge from south to north, in fact, the river provides the only current legal public access to the area because it is surrounded by private land. In 2011, the Department of the Interior released a report highlighting BLM lands around the nation that ought to be designated as wilderness by Congress which included English Ridge among what it called these "crown jewels" of the BLM's potential wilderness portfolio. Adding the 7,000-acre Folsom Ranch to BLM's English Ridge properties would significantly enhance the natural resource protection of the region and provide potential access to one of BLM's "crown jewels".

Folsom Ranch offers a landscape of great agricultural, ecological, and recreational significance. As the Board of Supervisors of Mendocino County, we strongly support the acquisition of the Folsom Ranch. Please feel free to contact us with any questions about support for the project at (707) 463-4221 or bos@mendocinocounty.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Glenn McGourty".

Glenn McGourty, Chair
Mendocino County Board of Supervisors

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