



KERN RIVER VALLEY HERITAGE FOUNDATION

*Protecting the natural, scenic, agricultural & historic lands of the Kern River Valley
through stewardship, restoration and education*

\$790,000+ for Hot Springs Valley Acquisition

Great news! The Kern River Valley Heritage Foundation (KRVHF) was notified by the California Natural Resources Agency of awards totaling \$650,000 for the purpose of fee title acquisition of the 189 acre Hot Springs Valley Wetlands Project property (HSVW) bordering the edge of community of Lake Isabella between CA Hwy 178 and Lake Isabella Blvd across from Kern Valley Plaza shopping center. The project is being implemented in partnership with The Trust for Public Land.

With the previously approved \$100,000 Audubon Wimberly grant and over \$40,000 in grassroots donations representing 538 private individuals and organizations to date, over \$790,000 has been raised since October 2015. "We still have a ways to go to reach our initial budget of \$900,000 for acquisition and the start of getting the property ready for public visitation, but we're getting close!" exclaimed KRVHF President Tom Anderson.

"These awards would not have succeeded without the amazing, broad-based support of the Kern River Valley community and many of the agencies which serve the KRVHF," said KRVHF BOD member Bob Barnes. "Audubon and the California Department of Natural Resources review teams said more than once that they were impressed with the level of community participation and support. Big time thanks goes to grassroots donors to date, plus Audubon (state office, Kern River Preserve, and many individual chapters including Bakersfield-based Kern Audubon Society and Ridgecrest-based Kerncrest Audubon Society), Bureau of Land Management, California Department of Fish & Wildlife, California Department of Natural Resources, Farmers Insurance Group, Kern County Department of Parks & Recreation, Keepers of the Kern, Kern Community Foundation, Kern River Paiute Council, Kern River Conservancy, Kern River Courier, Kern River Valley Chamber of Commerce, Kern River Valley Community Fund, Kern River Valley Heritage Foundation Board of Directors, Kern River Valley Revitalization, Kern Valley Exchange Club, Kern Valley Indian Community, Kern Valley Sun, Kernville Chamber of Commerce, R J Smith Construction, Rotary Club of the Kern River Valley, Sierra Nevada Conservancy, Southern Sierra Conservancy, Southern Sierra Research Station, State Assembly Member Devon Mathis, State Senator Jean Fuller, The Arthur and Sidney R. Barnes Family Foundation, The Trust for Public Land, True Value Hardware (Lake Isabella & Mtn Mesa), Tulare Basin Wildlife Partners, UC Cooperative Extension, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and no doubt others not mentioned due to my many senior moments."

KRVHF encourages further help to "seal the deal" and receive on site signage recognition. Readers may join the hundreds of grassroots donors to date by sending a \$10 or more tax-deductible donation per name recognition (including on behalf of and in memory of) to KRVHF, PO Box 1249, Lake Isabella, CA 93240 or use the Donate page on the KRVHF website (www.krvhf.org). Larger donations are welcome, as are up-to-\$X pledges. Those requiring more clarification to help in decision making, email bbarnes@lightspeed.net and ask to communicate with your choice of either Tom Anderson or Bob Barnes (760-382-1260).

Anticipated benefits of acquisition include habitat conservation & enhancement, interpretation, open space available for flood water flow, and public visitation. As the Kern River Valley community recovers from the devastating effects of the Cedar Fire, Erskine Fire, and Havilah Fire, an additional goal is for the Hot Springs Valley Wetlands to be an important addition to the KRV in the form of flat, easily walkable parkland close to businesses, residents, schools, and out-of-valley visitors.