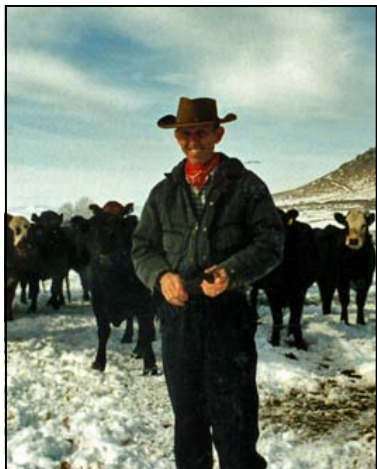


Passion for the Land



A Collaborative Project to help rural residents share stories about preserving community heritage while protecting agricultural lands & natural resources for future generations

Preserving for the Future by George Goodwin



You know you're in a special place when you can sit on your back porch looking across the beautiful valley of acres and acres of farm land, see cattle grazing, the hills you hunted in, and the streams you fished in as a boy. Now 80 years later I am blessed to see my children, grand children, and great grand children enjoy the things that have meant so much in my life.

My grandparents came from Switzerland back in the 1800's and settled here in the Sierra Valley. They originally operated a dairy and grew hay for their animals. I was raised in Southern California but I spent as much time as possible with my grandparents and other relatives in the Sierra Valley. What a joy as a child, raised in the city to participate in ranch life; milking cow, riding

horses, hunting, fishing, even drinking fresh cold water from a spring. It was a wonderful experience. I want all of our family and friends to be able to enjoy these things they do not have in the city.

After my marriage and having six children, we were blessed 22 years ago to purchase property originally owned by some of our relatives. Our 7000 acre cattle ranch is a family owned operation, managed by my daughter, son in law, and their family. All six of our families love being in this valley. Enjoying the sight of deer and bear, all kinds of duck and geese, and many other beautiful creatures that are part of the wildlife here. Even the smell of sage brush and pine trees has its own unique aroma.

We are thankful that the majority of the local population appreciates this area enough to protect it from residential development and sprawl. We know for all of this to be protected, government officials need to put in place land use policies that enforce strong restrictions, prohibiting zone changes that allow agriculture to be changed to residential. Once this land is changed this unique beauty and way of life can never again be enjoyed or put back to its original use. It would be an awful loss to all of us.

This rare beautiful country should be saved, for future generations to appreciate and enjoy as much as we do today.



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[youtube.com/PassionForTheLand](https://www.youtube.com/PassionForTheLand)