



# NFWF

## Walker Basin Restoration Program

Public Announcement – June 21, 2016

### **Flying M Ranch Acquired**

Yerington, Nevada

The Walker Basin Restoration Program (WBRP), under the direction of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), has completed the purchase of the Nevada-portion of the Flying M Ranch along the East Walker River. WBRP acquires land, water and related interests from willing sellers in the Walker River Basin to restore and maintain Walker Lake while protecting agricultural and watershed interests. The property is located directly upstream from the Rafter 7 Ranch, which WBRP purchased in 2013.

The Walker Basin Conservancy (WBC), a local non-profit established in 2014 to oversee WBRP's on-the-ground operations, will manage all aspects of the property. The WBC anticipates putting grazing leases out to bid sometime during fall 2016.

In addition to managing this and other recent acquisitions, the WBC continues to be actively engaged in a variety of long-term planning and implementation projects throughout the Walker River Basin focused on overall land management and revegetation, along with a variety of conservation and stewardship initiatives.

WBRP is assessing the long-term options for acquired East Walker properties that will protect key habitats while offering public access opportunities. Currently, public access in the East Walker corridor is available at the Rafter 7 Ranch. For more information on public access, and any future access-related updates, please visit WBRP's website at <http://www.walkerprogram.org/rafter7>.

WBRP estimates that it has now acquired up to 40 percent of the water needed to restore Walker Lake to a long-term average of 10,000 ppm total dissolved solids (TDS), levels similar to those that existed in the year 2000. The water associated with Flying M is conservatively estimated in this calculation to account for unknowns associated with future instream change approvals.

The Flying M Ranch includes the following real property assets:

- 4,875 acres of land along the East Walker River riparian corridor in Nevada;
- 2,264 acres of uplands in Nevada which serve primarily as "base acres" for the associated grazing permits;
- 27.47 cubic feet per second (cfs) of decreed water rights;

- 554 acre-feet (AF) of supplemental storage rights;
- 2,911 AF of New Land storage rights;
- 2837 AF of supplemental groundwater rights; and,
- 160 AF of primary groundwater rights.

The ranch will continue with historic operations during a transitional period. The property also includes nearly 8 miles of the Walker River corridor, as well as the Bodie and Rough creek tributaries that feed into the East Walker River.

For additional information please Ashley Downing, Walker Basin Restoration Program Manager, at [Ashley.Downing@nfwf.org](mailto:Ashley.Downing@nfwf.org) or (775)372-6558.