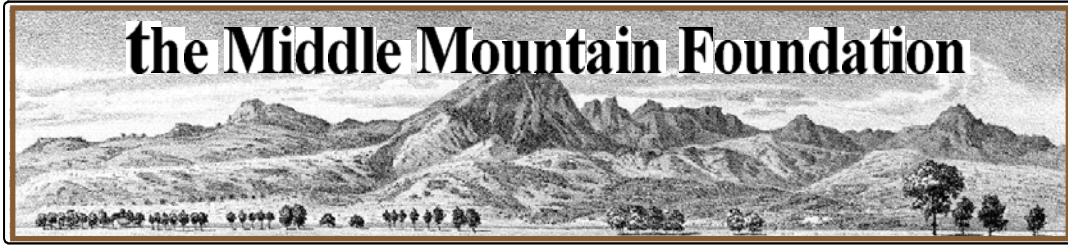


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The Sutter Buttes Regional Land Trust

Our Mission:
The Middle Mountain Foundation works to protect the land and natural resources of the Sutter Buttes and the surrounding region for present and future generations.

Fact Sheet for Messick Agricultural Land Protection Agreement

Who entered into the land protection agreement?

This land protection agreement was entered into by Jon and Amy Messick and the Middle Mountain Foundation. Jon Messick is a fifth generation farmer in Yuba and Sutter counties. The Middle Mountain Foundation is a non-profit land trust formed in 1989 whose current mission is to protect the land and natural resources of the Sutter Buttes and the surrounding region for present and future generations.

What is an agricultural land protection agreement?

A land protection agreement is a voluntary legal agreement a landowner makes to restrict the amount and type of future development and use of his or her property. The landowner maintains the title to the property, but transfers certain property rights, such as the right to subdivide, to a nonprofit conservation organization such as the Middle Mountain Foundation.

Where is the agricultural land protection agreement property located?

The property is located off Walnut Avenue, Marysville in Yuba County.

When was the land protection agreement finalized?

The land protection agreement was finalized in spring of 2006.

How many acres are included in the agricultural land protection agreement?

The property consists of 30.64 net acres of agricultural land including a pond and wildlife habitat area.

Why is this important?

This sixty acre piece of prime agricultural land is zoned Rural Residential 5 and could have been split into twelve 5 acre lots. Instead, Mr. Messick chose to contact the Middle Mountain Foundation to see if we could help him permanently protect approximately thirty acres of his property from development in the future. The remaining thirty acres are being developed into twelve smaller residential lots ranging in size from 1.30 to 3.43 acres. Mr. Messick paid the Middle Mountain Foundation \$15,000 to provide a baseline analysis of the property and for monitoring and enforcing the land protection agreement into perpetuity.

Why is protection of agricultural land important?

As development pressures increase in the local area, some of the best farmland in the United States is being permanently developed. The Middle Mountain Foundation recognizes the importance of protecting what is left of this valuable resource. We offer an alternative to developing farmland. We believe that offering farmers and ranchers a choice will give them the opportunity to voluntarily protect some or all of their property from development.