

A COLLABORATIVE PROJECT OF



CREATED & DIRECTED BY  
*jesikah maria ross*  
jmross@ucdavis.edu

# restore restory

A PEOPLE'S HISTORY OF THE CACHE CREEK NATURE PRESERVE

AUDIO TOUR INTERVIEW WITH  
*Marshall McKay*

STOP 6:  
*The Barn*





## Stop 6: The Barn

**What can we learn from the history of this place we're in now from a Native American perspective?**

What I hope we can learn from this place from a Native American perspective is how valuable the land is. I think we sometimes in society overlook the value of land and the connection that we have to land. This is something that I've felt here in this place for a long time and I'm hoping that through the restoration of this property other people will feel the significance of the land also. Mixed with the animals and the birds and the trees and the plants here we can find a sense of place that we can call home.

**People say the preserve offers a really good model when it comes to involvement in both physical and cultural restoration. I'm wondering if you would agree and if so, how is it a model of tribal involvement in physical and cultural restoration?**

I believe the preserve is a model for all to appreciate because it has taken elements of society that normally don't cooperate, it's taken industry, it's taken tribes, it's taken higher learning institutions, it's combined neighbors and adversaries and advocates all together to create a place that we can all call ours and that's important to making good neighbors and creating strong relationships.

**Why do you feel it's important for tribes to be involved in local restoration efforts like this one at the preserve?**

I feel it's important for tribes to get involved with local preserves like this one for two reasons. One, there's an inherent knowledge that we have about the land before it needed to be in the preserve and two, that there's a historical value that we can put into the restoration to develop authenticity.

**So thinking back, we've talked about a lot when it comes to the preserve. And the moon is really getting up high in the sky. I'm wondering, just thinking about it all, what do you appreciate most about this place?**

I appreciate mostly – the thing I appreciate most about this preserve; it gave the Wintun a voice. It gave the Wintun people a chance to have a cooperative effort in a development that normally we didn't have before and I think it's become appreciated from the outside that we were here to provide that service.

**I've asked you a billion and three questions. I'm wondering if there's any aspect of being here or Wintun history or a particular thing that I haven't asked you that you'd like to be part of this, to be recorded. Or maybe I should say, is there anything else you'd like to say?**

You know, I appreciate the opportunity to be here and be with you and talk about this particular development because it has been something that the tribe worked with Jan Lowry and the forces that be, with Tiechert and it's just been part of our existence for the past decade or two decades and it's nice to be able to talk about it and put the perspective of the Wintun people into this because that's what we intended it to be in the beginning was a cooperative operation where there's two sides of understanding and it wasn't just this corporation paying back some mitigation for mining. It wasn't going to be some kind of tribal lesson.

*The Barn, continued (p.2 of 2)*

It was developed so people could understand one another in our own community and appreciate one another and coming from opposite ends of the spectrum really and having something come to fruition like this is just absolutely wonderful and it makes me very proud to be part of it.

**That's so great. I remembered there was one question I forgot to ask so I'll ask it and then I truly will let you go. Do you remember the first time you came to this place and what brought you here?**

I'm trying to remember the first time I came here and what the purpose was and I actually came here once the restoration was started and I came with a family member because we were coming out to talk about planting sedge root and we were kind of negative about it because I thought well, we'll never get it to grow here. I don't even know what they're going to do. Isn't it a toxic pond? Blah, blah, blah. When I got here I saw the potential then that we looked at today and it's truly a miracle I think that this kind of project could happen and we could be talking about it today.

**Great. Is there anything else you'd like to say that I haven't asked you?**

No.

**Thanks so much, Marshall.**