



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

February 23, 2021

Smith River, CA

#RezRanchLandBack

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**TOLOWA DEE-NI' NATION ACTIVELY SEEKS ANCESTRAL LANDS**

As the original inhabitants and stewards of the Smith River Plain and Estuary the Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation has been presented with a quintessential opportunity to return a critical portion of our unceded ancestral territory back under the rightful ownership and management of the Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation.. Reservation Ranch is located on the lower Smith River, and lies in the heart of the original 40,000 acre Smith River Indian Reservation of 1862. This land was secured by our ancestors through negotiations with California State Representatives who signed a Peace Treaty in 1855; however, neither the 1855 Treaty nor the 1862 Reservation were upheld, forcing our people to relocate from their homes and sacred place of Genesis. The property is currently for sale by the long-standing owners and is the subject of regulatory oversight for alleged extensive and egregious California Coastal Act, California State Water Resources Control Board, and National Marine Fisheries Services violations resulting from current and past land management activities.

The Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation is actively seeking support, allies and comments to assist in the reclamation of this sacred land for the purposes of restoring the natural habitat and diverse ecosystems, resulting in the protection and perpetuation of natural and cultural resources. Please visit our StoryMap (linked below) to learn more about the historical and cultural significance of this land and the extensive environmental issues that must be rectified. To express your support please contact the Nation via email: [stewardship@tolowa.com](mailto:stewardship@tolowa.com); or in writing: 140 Rowdy Creek Rd. Smith River, CA 95567.

<https://www.tolowa-nsn.gov/reservationranch/>