



TRUCKEE RIVER CURRENTS

SUMMER 2016

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE WATERSHED?

Working to align people and projects to restore and protect the watershed

Tributaries Assessment

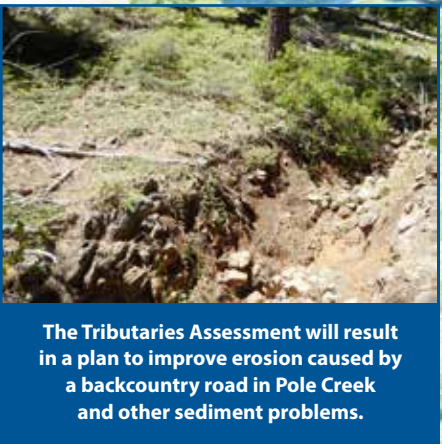
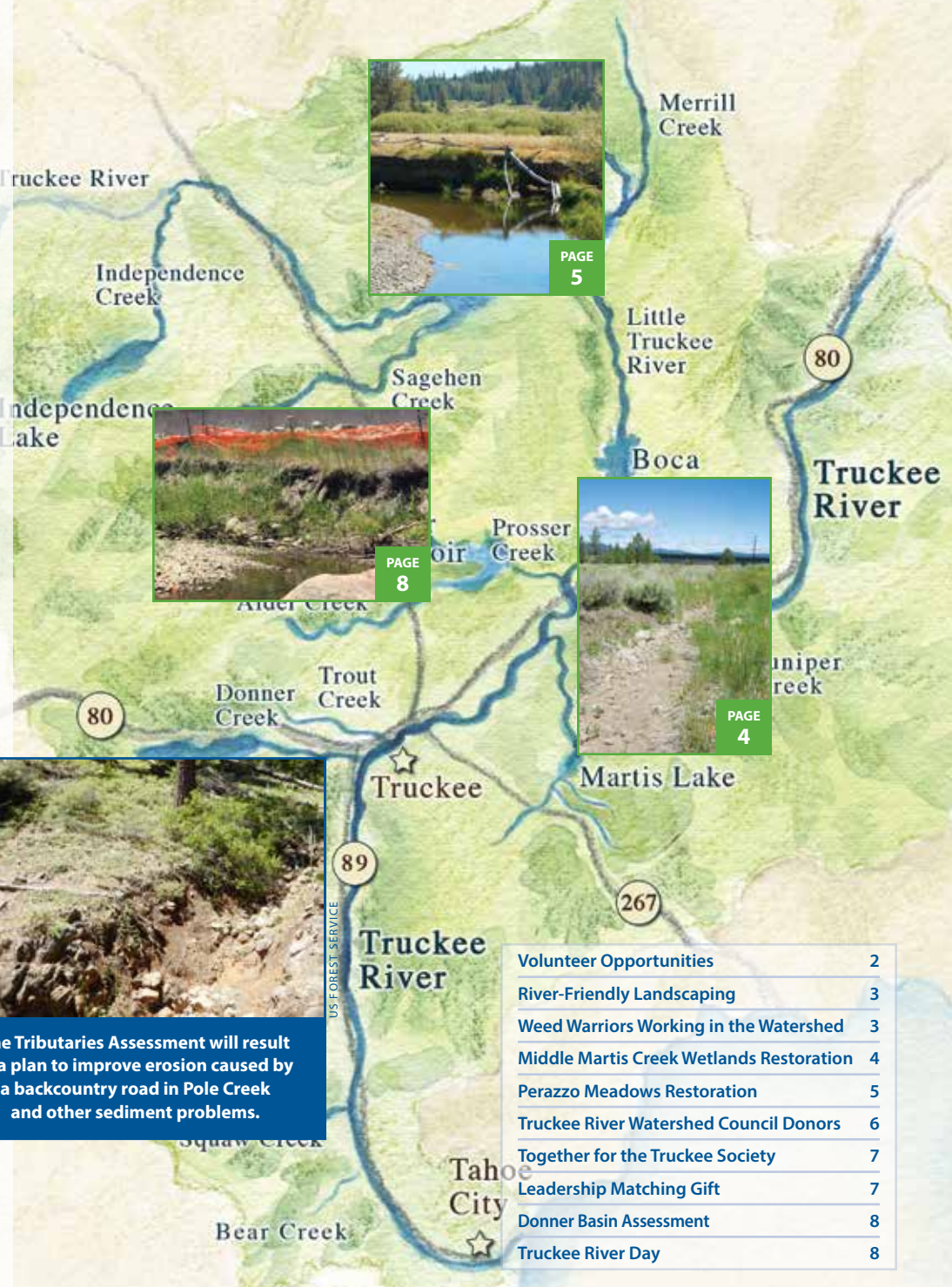
The Truckee River Watershed Council, in partnership with the US Forest Service, is working on the Truckee River Tributaries Watershed Assessment. The project focuses on the basins of Cabin, Deep, Pole, Silver, Deer, and Bear Creeks, Granite Flat and Silver Creek campgrounds, and Prosser Creek below the dam. Combined, these areas contribute a high sediment load into the Truckee River. The goal is to identify major sediment sources and create a plan to correct the problems.

These areas have numerous backcountry roads for forest management, fire suppression, or recreation. Data analysis and field work have already identified numerous road segments and road-stream crossings causing problems. Preliminary results show that the Bear, Cabin, Pole, and Prosser Creek areas have the most problems.

The Tributaries Assessment will be completed in spring 2017. After completion, next steps will be to seek funding in coordination with the Forest Service to implement the restoration.

Thank you to the donors of the Truckee River Watershed Council and the State Water Resources Control Board and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under the Federal Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program (Clean Water Act Section 319).

For more information contact Michele Prestowitz at 530-5550-8760, x4.



The Tributaries Assessment will result in a plan to improve erosion caused by a backcountry road in Pole Creek and other sediment problems.

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Truckee River Watershed Council
Collaborative solutions to protect, enhance and restore the Truckee River Watershed

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Printed in part with funding designated by grantors for community outreach.

Aligning people and projects to restore and protect the watershed

Join us in taking back The Truckee River's meadows, creeks, streams and ponds. Home to the bugs, fish, birds and...humans.

Our work helps bring them all back—all with commitment from people like you.

Become a Weed Warrior and help prevent and control invasive weeds in the Truckee River watershed. Call Audrey at 530-550-8760 x3.

Adopt-A-Stream—it starts with the watershed and monitoring is a critical step!

Chemical, Physical, and Habitat Monitoring takes place four times a year, May through September. Training and equipment is provided. To join a team or adopt a stream, call Eben at 530-550-8760 x7.

Biological Aquatic Monitors collect aquatic bugs and organisms from local streams during the summer and identify collected benthic macroinvertebrates during winter lab sessions. Call Beth at 530-550-8760 x1.

TRWC Ambassadors spread the word about our work. We're looking for people to invite 10 people to a River Talk to learn more about our watershed. The River Talk is a one-hour virtual tour of a few of our projects. Call Brenda at 530-550-8760 x5.

River-Friendly Landscaping helps homeowners improve water quality by reducing erosion from our yards into the creeks and streams. Call us today to get a free site evaluation of your yard. Call Eben at 530-550-8760 x7.

Three simple steps to volunteer with the TRWC

STEP 1 Sign up for our E-newsletter, *Truckee River Currents*.

STEP 2 Find a program you're interested in and RSVP to the staff member.

STEP 3 Mark your calendar and join us!



JEANNETTE HALDERMAN

Volunteers pull weeds at the Glenshire Bridge.



BETH CHRISTMAN

Adopt-A-Stream volunteer Reenie McMains measures canopy cover at Cold Creek.

The Truckee River's EPA Rating? Polluted.



Improvements on even one yard can make a difference. An average of one ton of soil may be lost per year, per yard. This sediment is a major source of pollution in our area streams and the Truckee River. Area homeowners are taking back the area's meadows, creeks, streams and ponds.

Through River-Friendly Landscaping, significant water quality improvements are being made, one property at a time; and so far homeowners had reduced over 140 tons of sediment into the Truckee River per year.

Get a free site evaluation to identify erosion sources on your property. A \$1,500 rebate is available. Contact Eben at 530-550-8760 x7.

Thank you to the donors of the Truckee River Watershed Council and to State of California through the Department of Water Resources and State Water Resources control Board, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under the Federal Non-point Source Pollution Control Program (Clean Water Act Section 319).



ERIN CASEY

Before: Bare dirt on the sloping lot of this Tahoe Donner home caused erosion.



After: The homeowners have installed a permeable walkway, mulch, gravel, and vegetation to protect the previously bare soil. Water from the roof and uphill sources now stays on the property, soaking into the ground.

DONNY TRIPLAT/NATIVE LANDSCAPES



SUSI URIE/USFS

East Zone Botanist and volunteer Weed Warrior Suzi Urie works to eradicate Musk Thistle near Boca Dam.

Weed Warriors: Early Detection, Rapid Response

The Weed Warriors have been busy this summer coordinating volunteer weed pulls and educating the community about invasive weeds threatening the Truckee River watershed.

- The Weed Warriors sponsored several Weed Walks and workshops focusing on identification of native and invasive thistles, late-bloomers and other invasive species threatening our watershed.
- Through our outreach efforts, we've invited the community to participate in the Weed Warriors weed identification and reporting efforts. You can help by using the Report a Weed section on truckeeriverwc.org. For those of you who enjoy trails and recreation areas in the watershed, you can download an app for your smartphone to identify and report invasives from the field.

Thank you to the donors of the Truckee River Watershed Council and to The Martis Fund, California Department of Food and Agriculture and CallIPC.

For more information contact Audrey Jamison at (530) 5550-8760, x3.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE WATERSHED?

Middle Martis Creek Wetlands Restoration



TRUCKEE RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL

Restoration will reduce flood velocities, preventing further erosion near the Middle Martis Channel.



BETH CHRISTMAN

Fill was placed in the channel during reservoir construction, causing downstream erosion. The fill will be removed to prevent future erosion.

In the early 1800's, Middle Martis Creek spread over several channels in Martis Valley. But when Highway 267 was built, Middle Martis Creek was confined to a single channel on the south side of the highway. Confining the creek caused significant problems:

- Extreme erosion and loss of habitat and water quality in the streams
- Degradation of 40-plus acres of meadow and wetland habitat
- Flooding onto Highway 267
- Erosion of trails and access roads

To fix these problems, the Truckee River Watershed Council has been leading a collaboration with Caltrans, Northstar at Tahoe, Northstar Community Services District, Truckee Donner Land Trust, Truckee Tahoe Airport District, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Construction will be completed in October 2016. The work will restore creek flows to the north side of Highway 267, while maintaining enough flow on the south side to support existing wetlands and riparian areas.

When completed, the project will:

- Restore the historic wetlands on the north of Highway 267
- Improve water quality by reducing excessive sedimentation
- Preserve existing wetlands and riparian areas on south of Highway 267
- Eliminate of erosion across the Waddle Ranch access road
- Protect existing infrastructure of Highway 267, Sawmill Flat Road, Northstar golf course

The Watershed Council is the lead in coordinating the project and our partners. Project partners are Caltrans, Northstar at Tahoe, Northstar Community Services District, Truckee Donner Land Trust, Truckee Tahoe Airport District, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Thank you to the donors of the Truckee River Watershed Council, and to American Rivers, The Martis Fund, Northstar California, Northstar CSD, Overall Family Foundation, Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation, Truckee Tahoe Airport District, Truckee River Fund, and the State of California via Department of Fish and Wildlife and Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board.

For more information contact Beth at 530-550-8760 x1.

Perazzo Meadow Restoration

Perazzo Meadows is in the northern part of the Truckee River watershed in between Sierraville and the Town of Truckee. The meadows are ranked by state and national agencies as some of most valuable habitat in the Sierra Nevada. The Truckee River Watershed Council has formed a partnership to protect and restore Perazzo Meadows with landowners and stakeholders including the Truckee Donner Land Trust, U.S. Forest Service, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Sierra County, Sierra County Resource Conservation District, Sierra Valley Mutual Water Company, and several others.

The Perazzo Meadows system was modified during the gold rush and immigration of the late 1800s and 1900s. Significant changes to Perazzo Creek and the Little Truckee River most likely began during this time frame. The water was concentrated into a smaller area and sped up, causing erosion throughout the meadow, and drying out vegetation.

*Working to align people
and projects to restore and
protect the watershed*

If the streams were on their natural courses, they would overtop its banks every year or two, inundating the meadow which waters the vegetation and filters out sediment more effectively. Now it takes a 10-year flood event to overtop the eroded banks. This also means the streams get too warm for many fish species.

Phases 1 and 2 of the restoration were completed in 2010. Working closely with landowners and stakeholders, we are starting the design of Phase 3 of the restoration.

Thank you to the donors of the Truckee River Watershed Council and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for funding this portion of the project.

For more information contact Beth Christman at (530) 5550-8760, x1.



J. DVORSKY

The stream banks in Perazzo meadows are unstable and eroding the meadow system.



BETH CHRISTMAN

Since being moved off their original courses in the early 1990s, the streams are too wide and too shallow, degrading fish habitat and water quality.

Donors to the Truckee River Watershed Council

We thank the following donors who made contributions since July 2015. They provide resources to find solutions to protect, enhance and restore the Truckee River watershed. Together we are making a difference. (Please see page 6 for members of the Together for the Truckee Society.)

\$1,000 – \$2,500

Chris Beckstead and Richard Chew
Habitat Restoration Sciences,
a Dudek Company
Mary E. Reilly and James Krieg
Laura McCreary
John Weaver
Louise and Dick Wiesner

Carmen Carr
Jamie Casey
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Joan and Dale Bush
Paige Derdowski and Kelley Carroll
Beth Christman

If we missed or misidentified you or your organization, please let us know: 530-550-8760 x5.



These donors pledged a minimum of \$1,000 a year for five years toward the long-term sustainability of the Truckee River Watershed Council. They're members of the Together for the Truckee Society. We deeply appreciate their confidence in our restoration and protection projects.

Preserve the Watershed – \$10,000 a year for 5 years

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| The Martis Fund | Tahoe Mountain Resorts |
| Northstar California / Vail Resorts | Environmental Fund |
| Gail and Rick Stephens | Cathy and Tom Van Berkem |

Protect the River – \$5,000 a year for 5 years

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| San Francisco Fly Casting Club | Sierra Mountain Mortgage |
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Restore a Stream – \$1,000 a year for 5 years

- | | |
|---|--|
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| Lauren Schaake and Jake Hudson | Truckee River Winery |
| Hydro Restoration | Truckee-Tahoe Lumber Co. |
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| Jax at the Tracks | The Lisa Wallace Family |
| Jane and Ron Jenny | Ward-Young Architecture & Planning |
| Jones Corda Construction | Trinkie Watson |
| Glennis and John Jones | Kathy and David Welch |
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| Melissa Kaime | Charles and Janet Zipkin |
| Susan and Steve Kitson | Diane and Bill Zuentd |



All in!
Leadership Matching Gift

These donors demonstrated their extraordinary commitment to the TRWC with their early and generous contributions totaling \$39,000 of our 2016 River Breakfast goal of \$100,000.

- Coachland RV Park
- Leslie and Andy Price
- Marti and Michael Park
- Gail and Rick Stephens
- Tahoe Mountain Resorts Foundation
- Cathy and Tom Van Berkem
- Chuck and Janet Zipkin

Donors are listed in alphabetical order.

PLANNED GIVING

Consider planned giving to create a natural legacy protecting the Truckee River watershed for the next generation. It's in your nature and ours! For more information, call Brenda at 530-550-8760 x5.



STEFAN MCLEOD PHOTOGRAPHY

If we missed or misidentified you or your organization, please let us know: 530-550-8760 x5.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE WATERSHED?

Donner Basin Assessment



MICHELE PRESTOWITZ

The Donner Basin Assessment identifies several opportunities to improve water quality and habitat, including severe bank erosion on Donner Creek along highway 89.

Donner Lake and its tributaries are a beloved part of our region. Including Johnson, Billy Mack, Summit, and Lakeview Canyons upstream, and Donner and Cold Creeks downstream, it has a 150-year history of disturbances. How does this impact ecological health? And people relying on our watershed for water supply and recreation?

This spring, we completed the Donner Basin Assessment to find some answers. We studied the natural characteristics, disturbances, and condition today. And we identified over 70 restoration, protection and management opportunities. Some reinforce existing programs, like aquatic invasive species inspections. Others are new, like restoration along Donner Creek.

Now we are working with stakeholders on our top priority projects. We're looking for funding to get the work done. It will take some time but we are committed to improving Donner Basin!

Thank you to the donors of the Truckee River Watershed Council, the Laird Norton Family Foundation, and Truckee River Fund at the Community Foundation of Western Nevada.

For more information contact Michele Prestowitz at (530) 5550-8760, x4.

21st Annual Truckee River Day

Truckee River Day was born when Alice Berg, Jim Plehn and Sarah Trebilcock organized the "first annual" in 1996. When 300 hundred people showed up, the founders realized they had touched a passion with locals and visitors alike. Every October since, 400 to 600 volunteers have worked at 10 to 12 restoration sites each year.

The projects achieve tangible results, inspiring long-time community members to stay involved and recruit new community members to participate. Hundreds of projects have been completed over the past 20 years—from Squaw Creek to Donner Creek to Gray Creek to Perazzo Meadows.

Join us in taking back our meadows, creeks, streams and ponds. Home to the bugs, fish, birds and... humans. Our work helps bring them all back—all with commitment from people like you.

You in?

Thank you to the donors of the Truckee River Watershed Council, EpicPromise and Northstar California and, and the Truckee Donner Chamber of Commerce for support of Truckee River Day.

For more information on Truckee River Day, please visit truckeeriverwc.org or call Michele at 530-550-8760 x4.

All in. Are you?

STEFAN MCLEOD



Sunday, October 16, 2016

**A day of river, meadow, and wetland restoration
Projects: 9 a.m. | River Fair: 3 p.m.**

www.truckeeriverwc.org