



TRUCKEE RIVER CURRENTS

PUBLISHED BY THE TRUCKEE RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL

SUMMER 2012

SAVE THE DATE! Truckee River Day October 14, 2012



CATHY HOWARD

Learn what's happening in the watershed all year long! Visit truckeeriverwc.org for program and project information, or to subscribe to our weekly e-news and blog.

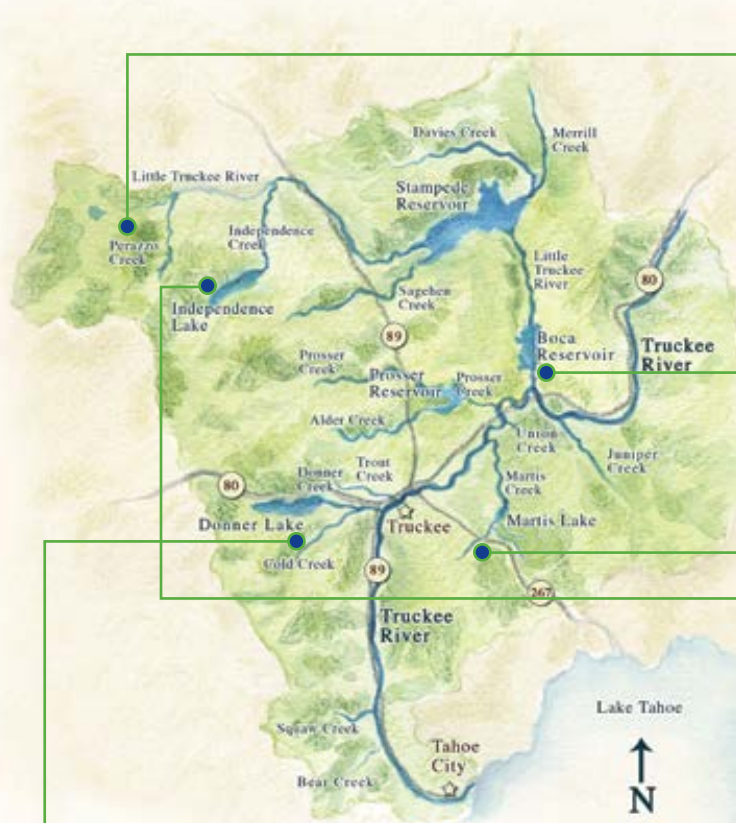
Volunteer for the Truckee	P2
River-Friendly Landscaping	P3
Lifecycle of a Project	P4
Independence Lake Restoration	P5
Weed Warriors in the Watershed	P6
Donors	P7
Martis Creek Dam Initiative	P8

NOTES & QUOTES

But man is a part of nature, and his war against nature is inevitably a war against himself.

~ Rachel Carson

TRUCKEE RIVER PROJECT UPDATES



PERAZZO MEADOWS

After restoration of phases 1 and 2 were completed, vegetation, surface water and ground water monitoring are continuing so that we can use the data to finalize the restoration design of the remaining sites.

NEAR BOCA RESERVOIR

Weed Warriors have been working with the U.S. Forest Service – Truckee Ranger District to help control invasive Musk Thistle infestations.

INDEPENDENCE LAKE

TRWC and project partners will begin implementing the restoration and protection plan for the Lahontan cutthroat trout population at Independence lake in 2012. Read more on page 5.

MARTIS CREEK WATERSHED

We are using the watershed assessment completed in 2012 to prioritize additional restoration projects.

THROUGHOUT THE WATERSHED

Adopt a Stream volunteers have been monitoring chemical and physical characteristics as well as aquatic insects and other organisms in over 20 stream locations in the watershed.

COLDSTREAM CANYON

Construction began in mid-August on the Coldstream Canyon Floodplain Restoration Project. TRWC is working with project partners to reduce pollution from sediment by:

- Re-grading stream banks to sustainable slopes along 1,035 feet of stream channel
- Increasing existing riparian habitat from approximately 1.5 acres to 2.3 acres
- Improving hydrologic function through the project reach to restore natural processes and reduce risk of future downstream erosion.
- Creating 0.8 acres of floodplain in the currently incised channel
- Removing 4,995 tons of fine sediment from eroding stream banks, which translates to an annual load reduction of 200 tons over 20 years



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

Phone: 530-550-8760
Fax: 530-725-4407

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 8568
Truckee, CA 96162

Physical Address:
10418 Donner Pass Road, Suite B
Truckee, CA
info@truckeeriverwc.org
www.truckeeriverwc.org

COORDINATING COMMITTEE

- John Eaton**
Co-Chair, Truckee River Basin Water Group
- Robie Litchfield**
Chair, Truckee River Day Steering Committee
- Joanne Roubique**
Chair, Watershed Issues Forum
- Laurie Soule**
Co-Chair, Truckee River Basin Water Group
- Sara Taddo Jones**
Chair, Projects and Assessments Committee
- Kathy Welch**
Chair, Weed Warriors Steering Committee
- Jacqui Zink**
Vice-Chair, Projects and Assessments Committee

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Organizations are for identification purposes only

- Jeff Brown**
UC Berkeley, Sagehen Creek Field Station
- Gayle Dana, Secretary**
Desert Research Institute
- Marilyn Disbrow**
- John Eaton**
Mountain Area Preservation Foundation
- Dave Giacomini, Vice Chair**
Sierra Mountain Mortgage
- Jake Hudson, Chair**
Holdrege & Kull
- Lauren OBrien**
Shift - Strategic Business Consulting Services
- Michael Park**
- Jody Poe**
Media Recruiters
- Deb Ryan, Treasurer**
Holdrege & Kull
- Gail Stephens**
Happily retired

STAFF

- Erin Casey**
Conservation Assistant
- Beth Christman**
Director of Restoration Programs
- Jeannette Halderman**
Program Manager
- Courtney Hart**
Conservation Assistant
- Phoebe Landre**
Conservation Assistant
- Jane Lufkin**
Conservation Assistant
- Andy Otto**
Director of Land Use Compatibility
- Michele Prestowitz**
Development Manager
- Robin Short**
Conservation Assistant
- Lisa Wallace**
Executive Director
- Kathy Whitlow**
Operations Manager

Everyone Can Help the Truckee River!

*Do you love the river?
Are you looking for
something more that you
can do? There are many
ways to help the Watershed
Council protect, enhance,
and restore the Truckee
River watershed.*



GLENN WHITLOW

**Kathy Whitlow and Jane Lufkin
volunteering at the Truckee
Thursdays booth**



STEFAN MCLEOD

**Kerensa Kruse taking water
samples at Pole Creek**

Become an Ambassador

The best way you can help us right now is by spreading the word. We are looking for individuals who can invite at least 10 people to a River Talk to learn more about our watershed. Host a River Talk at your home or in your office, or invite friends and colleagues to our office. The River Talk is a one-hour virtual tour of a few of our projects. We will not ask for a financial contribution, but we will welcome comments and feedback.

To become an Ambassador, call Michele at (530) 550-8760 x4.

Become a Weed Warrior

The Weed Warriors prevent and control invasive weeds in the Truckee River watershed. We focus on the identification, reporting, containment, and eradication of invasive weeds. Weed Warriors search the watershed for infestations, report them to headquarters, and then dispatch a brigade of other warriors to remove or otherwise eradicate the invaders.

To become a Weed Warrior, contact Jeannette at (530) 550-8760 x6.

Join Adopt A Stream Aquatic Monitors

Collect and identify benthic macroinvertebrates (aquatic bugs and organisms) from local streams. The types of bugs found in a stream are strong indicators of water quality. Volunteers participate in field sampling events each summer and twice monthly lab sessions each winter.

To volunteer, call Beth at (530) 550-8760 x1.

Adopt A Stream

Adopt a stream in your neighborhood and commit to help with monitoring four times a year, May through September. We train the teams and provide all the equipment and supplies. It takes two to three hours to complete each monitoring session.

To join a team or adopt a stream, call Andy at (530) 550-8760 x3.

Become a Table Captain

Host a table at our annual fundraising event, The River Breakfast. It is free, and there is no requirement to donate. Each Table Captain agrees to fill a table of ten people by personally inviting friends, family, and acquaintances. You do not have to ask for contributions, rather it is up to us to inspire people at this one-hour event.

To become a Table Captain, call Michele at (530) 550-8760 x4.

Protect the Truckee with River-Friendly Landscaping

Now in our second year, the River-Friendly Landscaping program is in full bloom. Over 260 homeowners in the Truckee River watershed have taken advantage of this free program to have their homes evaluated for potential soil erosion sources. More than 35 families have taken actions we've recommended to remedy these erosion problems.

Why are we so concerned with soil erosion from our yards? An estimated 1.2 tons of soil can move off a residential property in a year. Simple soil erosion abatement measures can make a marked difference in the amount of sediment flowing from our yards into the creeks and streams in our watershed.

The River-Friendly Landscape program is a combined effort of the Truckee River Watershed Council and the Sierra Nevada Alliance. All California properties within the Truckee River watershed are eligible for a FREE site evaluation and potential rebates. (Properties in the Lake Tahoe Basin are excluded due to the mandatory program in effect there.)

Program Director Andy Otto suggests, "It's a different way of looking at your house and property. Many of us have evaluated aesthetics and energy aspects, but not that many homeowners have tried to determine where they have soil erosion issues... this program aims to help work on that."

Currently there is a \$400 rebate to help off-set the costs of installing these erosion control measures. The site evaluations are free and can usually be completed within ten days. Our Conservation Assistants then work with the homeowner to determine how best to implement the recommended measures and process the rebate, if eligibility requirements are met.

Call Andy Otto today to schedule your FREE site evaluation: (530) 550-8760 x 3.

Funding for this project comes from the State Water Resources Control Board.

**Rebates are available.
Call (530) 550-8760
ext. 3 to set up your
FREE site evaluation.**



STEFAN MCLEOD PHOTOGRAPHY

What Is a Watershed?

Watersheds are nature's boundaries. A watershed is the geographic area of all land that water flows across, under and through on its way to a particular body of water. No matter where we are, we all live in one. (We are in the Truckee River watershed.)

On the edge of a watershed are the landscape's ridgelines, mountains, and hills. If a raindrop falls on the east side of the Continental Divide, it may end up in the Mississippi River. But if it falls just a foot to the west, it travels a different path entirely—one that leads towards the Pacific Ocean. (The Sierra Crest is one of our ridgelines; the Truckee River terminates in Pyramid Lake.)

Everything we do impacts our watershed. Land and water uses from any part of the watershed—such as polluted run-off from highways, trails, yards, forests, ranches, and towns—eventually affect the health of the whole watershed. Each one of us can make a difference within our own watershed. The Truckee River Watershed Council works in the Middle Truckee River watershed: the 35-mile stretch of river that runs from Tahoe City to the California/Nevada state line, and all the tributaries that feed into this stretch of the river.

THE LIFECYCLE OF A PROJECT

PROJECT SCOPING

The first step in any restoration project is to identify the problem and what may be done to address it.

INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

In this phase, the problem and actions needed to address it are further defined. On-the-ground work begins; data and information are collected so that the issue is further defined and understood.

DESIGN

The design phase outlines what will be done to address the issue. Project designs are extremely detailed and create the map for completing the project.

PERMITS

Working with the appropriate local, state and/or federal agencies, we obtain permission needed to begin work.

CONSTRUCTION

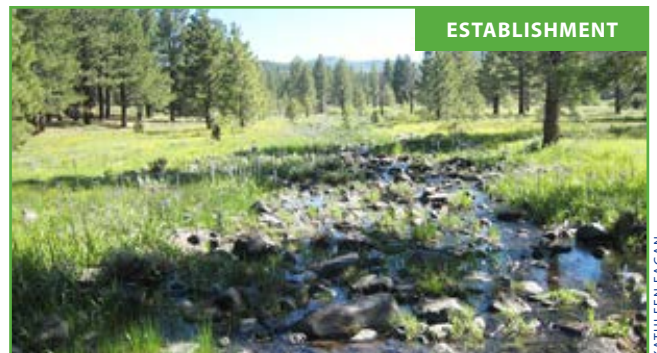
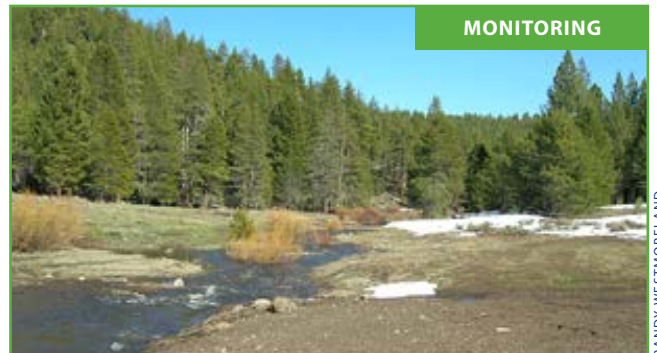
In this phase, the work is completed according to the project design.

MONITORING

Monitoring is an important part of the process as environmental conditions are constantly changing. If problems are identified, adaptive management measures may be implemented.

ESTABLISHMENT

During this phase, the restoration work is completed to the point where ongoing protection or assistance such as fencing or irrigation is no longer needed. At this point, revegetation and other success criteria have been met and the site is allowed to develop naturally.



In the Construction Phase: Independence Lake

The Truckee River Watershed Council is part of a team working to restore the Lahontan cutthroat trout (LCT) population of Independence Lake. Independence Lake holds the last wild lake population of LCT in California. Protecting these special fish is a very high priority for us.

The number of native trout in Independence Lake was historically as high as 1,000 breeding adults. Since intensive monitoring began in 1997, the population has been as low as 24 breeding adults, prompting the U.S. Geologic Survey to estimate the population would go extinct by 2030 without intervention.

The restoration and protection plan for LCT includes:

- Habitat restoration
- Aquatic invasive species prevention
- Recreation management
- Non-native fish removal

In 2012, two important projects will take place: restoration of an area of the spawning stream and construction of a barrier to prevent colonization of the lake by non-native fish.

Restoration of the spawning stream at Upper Independence Creek involves repairing a severely eroded bank (see photo). The fish weir put in place by the CA Department of Fish & Game to harvest LCT eggs from Independence Lake was permanently damaged in a flood in the 80's. The damaged remnants of the weir create constriction in the stream and concentration of flow on the stream bank, leading to extreme erosion. This summer, we are removing the weir, creating additional floodplain, grading the steep bank, and revegetating the site to prevent future degradation of the spawning stream and eliminate a significant erosion source.

Preventing the colonization of Independence Lake by additional non-native fish is critical to the protection of the native trout population. Rainbow and brown trout hybridize with and prey on LCT. These trout species are present below Independence Lake and can potentially pass into Independence Lake through

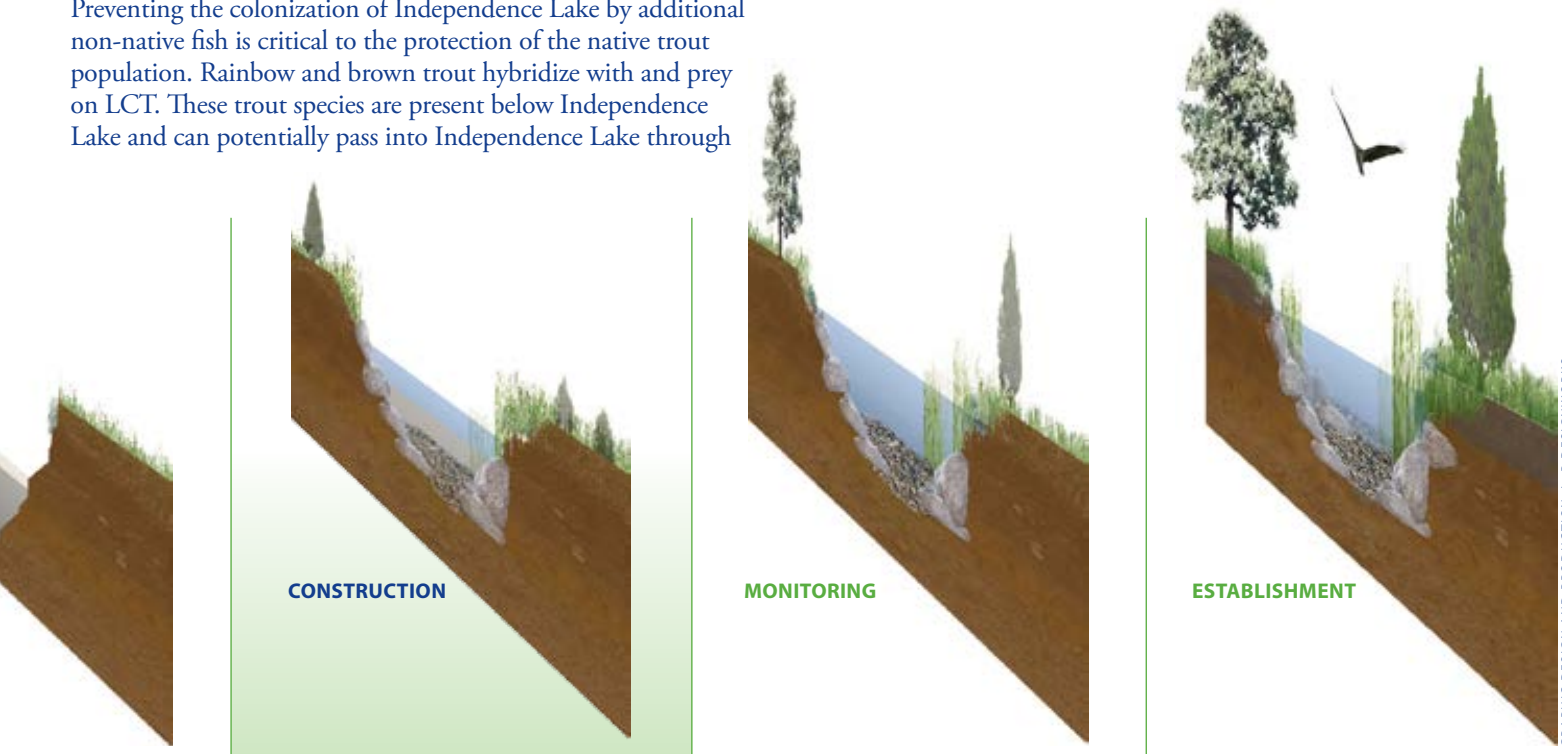
the spillway channel at high flows. A barrier will be constructed in the channel to prevent these non-native species from entering the lake.

The Watershed Council's involvement includes securing grant funding, preparing environmental permits, completing CEQA, and construction supervision. Funding for these projects has come from the California Department of Fish & Game, National Fish & Wildlife Foundation, Patagonia, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, and The Nature Conservancy. Additional partners include the Truckee Donner Land Trust, U.S. Forest Service – Tahoe National Forest, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and U.S. Geologic Survey.



BETH CHRISTMAN

This eroding bank on Upper Independence Creek is being restored and an old fish weir is being removed.



GRAPHIC DESIGN AND PRODUCTION: L+P DESIGNWORKS

Weed Warriors Working in the Watershed

The Weed Warriors have been busy this summer coordinating volunteer weed pulls and educating the community about invasive weeds threatening the Truckee River watershed. Over 50 volunteers pulled weeds at Boca Reservoir this past June and July. This is more than 100 hours treating infestations and removing weeds in the 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. Over 40 people have enjoyed these events.
- 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 all of the volunteers in who participated in the Weed Warrior events, for their interest, enthusiasm, and labor to help protect, enhance, and restore the Truckee River watershed.

Funding for these events was provided by The Martis Fund and the National Forest Foundation.

Clockwise from upper right: Spotted Knapweed, Dyers Woad, Musk Thistle, Bull Thistle



BRECKENRIDGE



KATHY WELCH



UNICE



SUSI URIE

Truckee River Day

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14

A day of river, meadow and wetland restoration.

Projects start at 9 a.m. or 11 a.m.
The River Fair begins at 3 p.m.

Registration is required at truckeeriverwc.org

Scan the QR code for more info



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



PHOTO: CATHY HOWARD

Truckee River Day Celebrates Our Love for the Watershed

Truckee River Day was born when Alice Berg, Jim Plehn, and Sarah Trebilcock organized the "first annual" in 1996. When 400 hundred people showed up, the founders realized they had touched a passion with locals and visitors alike. Every October since then, 400 to 600 volunteers have worked at 10 to 12 restoration sites each year. Projects have been completed from Squaw Creek to Donner Creek to Gray Creek to Perazzo Meadows. Volunteers restored many 1997 flood sites and replanted many acres after the 2001 Martis Fire.

The projects achieve tangible results. They inspire long-time community members to stay involved and recruit new community members to participate. Many of the creeks, meadows, and wetlands of the watershed are within a landscape that includes the people who live, work and play here. Understanding the interdependence of land and water inspires all of us to become stewards of the watershed.

Join the Truckee River Watershed Council for the 17th Annual Truckee River Day and River Fair on October 14th. A full morning of river, meadow, and wetland restoration projects will be followed by a river fair in the afternoon with activities for the whole family.



The donors below made a long-term commitment to the Truckee River watershed. They are members of the Together for the Truckee Society. We deeply appreciate their confidence in our restoration and protection projects.

Protect the Watershed – \$10,000 a year for 5 years
The Martis Fund

Protect the River – \$5,000 a year for 5 years
Anonymous
Shelley and Michael Perry
San Francisco Fly Casting Club
Squaw Valley and Alpine Meadows
Cathy and Tom Van Berkem

Restore a Stream – \$1,000 a year for 5 years
Anonymous
Balance Hydrologics, Inc.
Julie Bradley
Faerthen Felix and Jeff Brown
Cabona's
Georgine Casella
Betsy Cole
The Richard and Theresa Crocker Fund
Marilyn and Steve Disbrow
DMB Highlands Group
Kathleen Eagan and Jim Duffy
Elizabeth and John Eaton
Alison and Desmond Elder
Dinny Evans
Lesa and Greg Faulkner
Penny and Bob Fink
Karolyn and Dick Gander
Nancy and Max Gisko

Colleen and David Haig
Daphne Palmer and Laurence Heifetz
Pam and Tom Hobday
Debbie and Michael Hogan
Julia and Scott Hover-Smoot
Lauren Schaake and Jake Hudson
Integrated Environmental Restoration Services
Glennis and John Jones
Joan and Russ Jones
Lisa and Michael Krueger
Kris Kuyper
Lahontan Golf Club
Barbara and Ed Larson
Robie and Dean Litchfield
Martis Camp Club
Patrick McEnany
Christy and Bill McGlashan
Don McLaughlin
Mountain Hardware and Sports
Marti and Michael Park

Lauren OBrien and Steve Poncelet
Melody and Donald Rebeck
Kathryn Rohlf
Joanne Roubique
Chris Ryman
Michael Sabarese Fund
Shaw Family Farm
Sierra Mountain Mortgage
Sue and John Sorensen
Jody and Bill Sterling
Tahoe Oral Surgery and Implant Center
Tahoe Truckee Fly Fishers
Teichert/Stonebridge Properties
Kristi and Chris Thompson
Truckee River Winery
Truckee Tahoe Lumber Company
Lisa Wallace and Family
Ward Young Architects
Trinkie Watson
Kathy and David Welch Fund
Diane and Bill Zuendt

Donors to the Truckee River Watershed Council

We thank the donors below who made contributions since November 2011. They provided resources to find solutions to protect, enhance and restore the Truckee River Watershed. Together we are making a difference.

<p>\$2,500+ Georgine Casella The Herbst Foundation, Inc. Saveri & Saveri, Inc.</p> <p>\$1,000-\$2,500 Margaret Lewicki and Ernie Grossman Eileen and Al Massi Jim Morrison Mike Staudenmayer Debra Duffer and J Holley Taylor Janet and Charles Zipkin</p> <p>\$500-\$999 Dagny and John Borcich Sandy Casey Chris Beckstead and Richard Chew Jeff Cobain Barbara Green Judith Stevens and Martin Greenstein Interflow Hydrology, Inc. Kayley Jones Margaret Paine Carolyn Pretzer Laura and Mike Ryan Kelley and Eric Sandel SCO Planning & Engineering Inc. Suzanne and Harry Smith Jeanette and Andrew Terry Matt Tucker Lynne and Ken Weakley Helen Wolfe</p> <p>\$100-\$499 Alisa and Luca Adriani Gina and Kern Barta Paquita Bath Judie and Bill Beaty Chris Beck Gary Boxeth</p>	<p>Linda and David Brown Julie Bryant Nancy Buechner Kimmie and Hardy Bullock Hedi Burkhardt Susan Burt Pat Callahan Dr. Christina Campbell Carmen Carr Colleen and Art Chapman Mary Ellen Clifford Lori Carpenter and Clay Cooper Paul Cushing Dwight Davenport Warren Davis Pat Davison Pam Raynak and Hal Dawson Patty and John Dean Nancy and Henry DeNero Theresa May and Geno Duggan Ann McBride and Mike Dunsford Pamela and John Eisele John Ellis Amy Horne and David Fenimore Dave Ferrari Philip Forsberg Freshtracks Communications Michael Geary Jeff Glazner Rolf Godon Hartline Construction Kelly Heapy Samantha and Allen Highfield Randy Hill Bill Houdyschell Randy House Judy Howes Kaitlin Backlund and Ron Hunter Nancy and Jerry Ives Jones Corda Construction Kelly Biological Consulting Dorine and Steve Kohn</p>	<p>Sandy Korth Susan Levitsky Laurel and Tom Lippert John and Beence Loomis Judy Mayorga Phyllis and Rick McConn Lynn and Donald McKechnie Brian McRae Laura and Guy Mohun Meredith and Charles Moore Barbara and Eddie Mozen Ed Morgan Linda and Peter Morris Lynda S Nelson Seana Doherty and Perry Norris Nancy and Bill Palmer Wil Paul Les Pedersen Leisa and Tim Peterson Karen Williams and Frank Pisciotta Michele and Chummy Prestowitz Sara and Ted Owens Dennis Pagones Dave Post Eve and Bill Quesnel Nancy Richards Steve Riess Elaine and Eric Ring Wendy and Bill Rudolph San Francisco Fly Casting Club in memory of Justin Clark Norma and Tom Seltz Hanni and Werner Schuster Stefan Schuster Brooke Chabot and David Shaw Georgia and Gary Shrader Kitsy and Darrell Smith Cindy and David Stanley Edmund Sullivan Stacy Taylor Jim Telling</p>	<p>Alyssa Thomas Jeremy Thomas David Tirman Judy and Tim Tweedie Clare Walton Bill Wendin Bridget and Mark Wright</p> <p>Up to \$99 Candy Blesse Jamie Brimer Sue and Craig Bower Jean and Greg Brooks Val Kelly and Buffalo Cano Hale and Don Carr Tina and Bob Cassidy J.P. Clark, Jr. Lorraine Comanor Patricia Dale Gayle L. Dana Don Dorward in memory of Justin Clark Kathleen Eagan and Jim Duffy Kathy and John Echols Allison Pedley and Scott Elliott Mary and Norval Fairman Doug Flynn Stephanie and William Frederick Kathleen Gauthier Maggie and Dick Ginn Marcia and Charles Growdon Madelaine and Steven Gunders Catherine and Jason Hansford Brian Hastings Ellie and Donald Hyatt Helen and Roy Johnson Tamara and Stephen Lieberman Lynne McRae Barbara and Gerald Meral Hayes Parzybok Ann Penfield Dick Penniman The Pour House</p>	<p>Andy Rost Cathy and Larry Stewart Karen Stuart Lucetta Swift Mary Alice and William Thauvette Justine and Philip Threshie Anna Toso Sarah Trebilcock Pat and Hank Verissimo Tracy S. Visser Margaret Ann and Ken Wallace Peter Werbel Kathy and Glenn Whitlow Beverly Whittier Nancy Wilkins Jacqui Zink</p> <p>GRANTS Bella Vista Foundation California State Water Resources Control Board Lahontan Community Foundation The Martis Fund National Fish and Wildlife Foundation National Forest Foundation Patagonia, Inc. Sierra Nevada Alliance Tahoe Mountain Resorts Environmental Fund Tahoe Resource Conservation District Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation The Nature Conservancy Truckee Donner Chamber of Commerce Truckee River Fund of the Community Foundation of Western Nevada USFS Tahoe National Forest Vail Resorts Echo</p>
--	---	--	--	--

If we missed or misidentified you or your organization, please call and let us know. Our phone number is 530-550-8760.



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

P.O. Box 8568
 Truckee, CA 96162

PRSR STD
 U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
 PERMIT 71
 TRUCKEE, CA

Martis Creek Dam Solutions Initiative

The future of Martis Creek Dam poses unique opportunities to the Truckee River watershed.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has stated the dam poses a catastrophic risk of failure. The Corps is pursuing a detailed evaluation of the dam, downstream dangers, and alternative solutions. Alternatives for Martis Creek Dam range from reconstruction to removal.

The Martis Creek Dam Solutions Initiative is to help the communities of Reno, Sparks, and Truckee better understand the evaluation and the alternatives. We are bringing local voices and national expertise to facilitate the best possible outcome for Martis Creek and the entire Truckee River watershed.

Watch for public meetings in Truckee and Reno/Sparks this fall.

Funding for this initiative comes from the Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation and Patagonia, Inc.



To learn more, please visit www.martisdamsolutions.org

SPONSORS:



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

