



TRUCKEE RIVER CURRENTS

WINTER 2014

Many Hands Are Needed to Restore Our Watershed *We had more than 450 volunteers at our 19th annual Truckee River Day!*

TRUCKEE RIVER MILFOIL REMOVAL

Leaders: Nicole Cartwright, Deborah Urich, Kathy Whitlow
Volunteers: 45

There is a significant population of Eurasian milfoil in the Truckee River, starting just below Lake Tahoe. Eurasian milfoil outcompetes native plants and affects the aquatic ecosystem. In partnership with the Tahoe Resource Conservation District, a group of volunteers from our Green Bucks partners, PlumpJack Squaw Valley Inn and Tahoe Mountain Resorts Lodging, assisted with this effort.

TRUCKEE RIVER MILFOIL REMOVAL



CATHY HOWARD

DONNER LAKE BOAT RAMP EROSION CONTROL

Leaders: Jamie Adams, Shana Behan, Shelley Harris, Jake Hudson, Jim Schmidt
Volunteers: 25

The land next to the Donner Lake Boat Ramp at the west end of the lake has severely eroded. Volunteers cleaned up the area, planted native plants, mulched the site, and rocked some areas for erosion control.

DONNER LAKE BOAT RAMP EROSION CONTROL



PHOENIX ANTHONY

JOHNSON CANYON RESTORATION

Leaders: Sara Taddo Jones, Mike Wolf
Volunteers: 10

Johnson Canyon is a key tributary to Donner Lake. The watershed is steep and naturally erosive with a long history of land use, including logging and grazing. Volunteers mulched, revegetated, and worked on decommissioning a trail in an area where a restoration project took place this past summer. (See page 3 for more details.)

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

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COORDINATING COMMITTEE

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Chair, Truckee River Basin Water Group

John Eaton
Vice Chair, Truckee River Basin Water Group

David Lass
Chair, Projects and Assessments Committee

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Chair, Watershed Issues Forum

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3 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.



A volunteer plants vegetation at the Coldstream
Ponds restoration site

Become an Ambassador

One of the best ways you can help us is by spreading the word. We're looking for individuals who can 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.

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

Join Adopt-A-Stream

Chemical, Physical, and Habitat Monitoring

Join Adopt-A-Stream and commit to monitoring a stream four times a year, May through September. We provide training and equipment.

To join a team or adopt a stream, call Erin at 530-550-8760 x7.

Biological Aquatic Monitoring

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 lab sessions twice a month each winter.

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

River-Friendly Landscaping

River-Friendly Landscaping helps homeowners improve water quality by reducing sediment flowing from our yards into the creeks and streams.

Call Erin today to schedule a FREE site evaluation: 530-550-8760 x7.

Become a Weed Warrior

Weed Warriors prevent and control invasive weeds in the Truckee River watershed.

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

A LITTLE GIFT GOES A LONG WAY!

Launched by the Tahoe Fund and the Truckee River Watershed Council, Green Bucks is a dollar donation program that allows guests to help raise funds for the local environment.

Please Support These Businesses That Support Our Environment:

Big Blue Adventure LLC

Blue Angel Café

Drunken Monkey

Edgewood Tahoe

FiftyFifty Brewing Company

Homewood Mountain Ski Resort

Lake Tahoe Resort Hotel

Lake Tahoe Visitors Authority

Lakeside Inn

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Truckee Tahoe Airport District

West Shore Inn & Café



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



Together Creating a Legacy



green bucks
a little gift goes a long way



400

Erosion control treatments

597

Site evaluations

100

Tons of sediment reduced per year

62

Yards are river-friendly

- Reduction of 100 tons of sediment per year will improve water quality in our watershed.
- Creation of wildlife habitat will provide shelter and a diversity of plant species to foster wildlife.
- Removal and prevention of invasive weeds will allow native vegetation to flourish.
- Conservation of water by planting native, drought tolerant plant species will make yards more resilient during droughts.
- Integration of Defensible Space practices will protect against fire.

Funding for River-Friendly Landscaping has been provided in full or in part through an agreement with 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 Erin Casey at 530-55-8760 x7.

Project Update: Johnson Canyon

Johnson Canyon is a key tributary to Donner Lake. It has been impacted by waves of human use—from grazing to the construction of Interstate 80 to logging to wildfires. These historical land uses added to water quality problems within the larger Truckee River drainage. During rain or snow events, massive amounts of sediment eroded from Johnson Canyon into Donner Lake via Gregory Creek.

The Truckee River Watershed Council, in partnership with the Truckee Donner Land Trust, completed restoration work in Johnson Canyon in August of this year.

The restoration work took place in the eastern half of the watershed. The project reconnected natural drainage patterns to reduce erosion, improve water quality, restore habitat, and provide recreational access.

The result is an improvement for water quality, wildlife, and recreation!

Thank you to the donors of the Truckee River Watershed Council, California Department of Water Resources, Bella Vista Foundation, Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation, and the Community Foundation of Western Nevada Truckee River Fund.

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



BETH CHRISTMAN

A highly erosive site (top) was addressed during project construction, and is now filled in with soil and seeded with native vegetation (bottom).

TRUCKEE RIVER DAY

Continued from page 1

ALDER CREEK TREE PROTECTION

Leaders: John Brokaw, Ashly Kula

Volunteers: 50

Alder Creek provides important riparian habitat for wildlife, including beavers. To protect selected stands of aspens from beavers, volunteers painted the tree trunks with a mixture including sand. This discourages beavers from eating the painted trees while still leaving plenty of food.

TAHOE DONNER TREE PLANTING

Leaders: Bill Houdyschell and Tahoe Donner Forestry Staff

Volunteers: 15

Restoration work was completed in the greenbelt of Tahoe Donner near Donner Ridge, in an area that burned several years ago. Tahoe Donner has been working to restore the landscape. Volunteers planted conifer trees to help promote reforestation.

MARTIS VALLEY BOARDWALK INSTALLATION

Leaders: Jim Herzman, Tamara Anderson

Volunteers: 5

The trails that run through Martis Valley go through several wet meadows. In partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Northstar Community Services District, TRWC installed a series of boardwalks to prevent damage to these sensitive habitats. Volunteers helped to maintain and repair one of these boardwalks.

WADDLE RANCH HABITAT PROTECTION

Leaders: Karyn Erickson, Kevin Starr

Volunteers: 15

The eastern side of Martis Valley is home to meadows, springs, creeks, and other native habitat. In order to manage recreation, volunteers cleared brush on a trail that will provide recreational access without damaging natural resources.

PROSSER CREEK SPAWNING RESTORATION



CHRIS BARTKOWSKI

ALDER CREEK TREE PROTECTION



BRIAN HASTINGS

PROSSER CREEK SPAWNING RESTORATION

Leaders: David Lass, Robie Litchfield, Karen Sessler, Dan Sayler, Sarah Trebilcock, Fred Zabell, Sam Zabell

Volunteers: 55

Prosser Creek is an important spawning area for fish in the Truckee River watershed. However, Prosser Dam blocks the movement of critical material such as spawning gravel. Volunteers, including many from Trout Unlimited, placed appropriately sized gravels in the streambed to improve habitat for fish. Volunteers from the Sodegren Memorial group planted willows, performed erosion control, and consolidated user-created trails.

DONNER LAKE BOAT RAMP EROSION CONTROL



PHOENIX ANTHONY

LAKESIDE CAMPGROUND EROSION CONTROL

Leaders: John Eaton, Sue Lowder, Kim Nolan, Michele Prestowitz, Paul Smith, Kathy Tallant, Susi Urie, Bill Wendin

Volunteers: 160

The Lakeside Campground at Prosser Lake is immediately next to the water. Volunteers helped revegetation on closed off areas by raking seeds and mulch, scattering seeds, and mulching areas. High school students from Truckee High and the Squaw Valley Academy participated at this site.

DONNER CAMP – PROSSER CONNECTOR REVEGETATION

Leaders: Brian Hastings, Dan Warren

Volunteers: 10

A trail segment between the Donner Camp and the Prosser Lakeview neighborhood was re-routed by the U.S. Forest Service and Truckee Trails Foundation. The abandoned trail segment ran right next to Alder Creek and was causing erosion problems. Volunteers closed the old trail by planting willows, seeding and mulching.



DONNER LAKE BOAT RAMP EROSION CONTROL

PHOENIX ANTHONY

MARTIS VALLEY MILFOIL SURVEYS



JEFF GLAZNER

MARTIS VALLEY MILFOIL SURVEYS

Leaders: Erin Casey, Jeff Glazner, Jeannette Halderman, Eben Swain

Volunteers: 15

Eurasian milfoil is a harmful, invasive aquatic plant that is becoming established in the Truckee River and other tributaries in the watershed. To effectively get rid of this species, we need to gain an understanding of where populations are located and how widespread they are. Volunteers surveyed several reaches of Martis Creek and mapped milfoil populations.

MARTIS WILDLIFE AREA TRAIL

Leaders: Phoenix Anthony, Leora Sapi, Jacqui Zink

Volunteers: 20

Martis Wildlife Area is a very popular walking area, especially the user-created Martis Creek Trail. Problems arose because this trail was not properly located or built. Starting in 2004, volunteers have worked to re-route the trail away from the fragile creek banks. In 2014, volunteers performed maintenance on both the new and old trails.

BOCA TOWNSITE EROSION CONTROL

Leaders: Mike Cartmill, Morgan Goodwin, Garrett McCullough, Rachel McCullough

Volunteers: 35

This summer, a fire took place near Boca Reservoir starting from the historic Boca Townsite. The area is fairly steep and vulnerable to erosion. In partnership with the U.S. Forest Service, volunteers seeded the project area with native seeds, and mulched with pine needles to control erosion and prevent weeds from moving into the area. This will help improve water quality.

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

For more information on our Truckee River Day projects, contact Beth Christman at 530-550-8760 x1.

PROSSER CREEK SPAWNING RESTORATION



ROBIE LITCHEFIELD

Donors to the Truckee River Watershed Council

We thank the following donors who made contributions since November 2013. They provide resources to find solutions to protect, enhance and restore the Truckee River watershed. Together we are making a difference. (Please see page 7 for pledges to the Together for the Truckee Society.)

\$1,000 – \$2,500

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Chris Beckstead and Richard Chew
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a Dudek company
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Wiesner Nature Endowment Fund

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Up to \$99

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Kathy and Glenn Whitlow

If we missed or misidentified you or your organization, please let us know: 530-550-8760 x4.



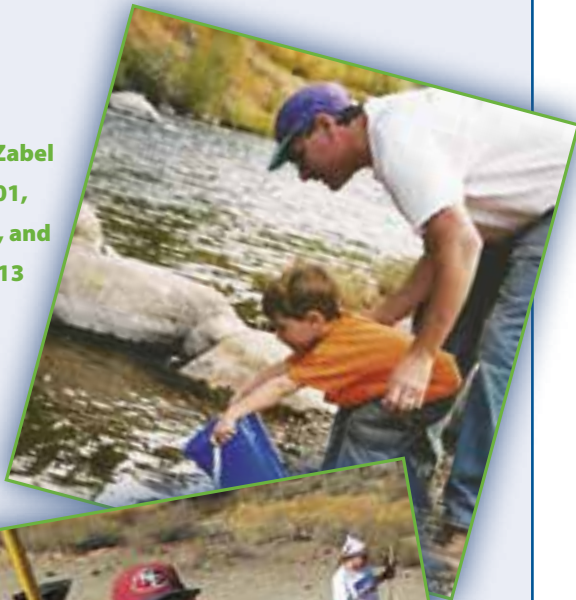
Truckee River Watershed Council
CELEBRATING 20 YEARS

The TRWC's 20th Anniversary Year Is Approaching!

2015 is our 20th Anniversary and we'd like to spotlight volunteers who have grown up with us...

Do you have pictures of anyone "growing up" with the TRWC? We'd love to see them and hear your stories! Please contact Phoenix at panthony@truckeeriverwc.org.

Sam Zabel
2001,
2006, and
2013



The donors below 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.

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

Anonymous
Epic Promise/ Northstar California
Tahoe Mountain Resorts
Environmental Fund
The Martis Fund
Cathy and Tom Van Berkem

Interior Design by Julie Johnson-Holland
Jones Corda Construction
Glennis and John Jones
Joan and Russ Jones
Lisa and Michael Krueger
Lahontan Golf Club
Barbara and Ed Larson
Carol and Bill Leimbach

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

San Francisco Fly Casting Club
Sierra Mountain Mortgage
Squaw Valley and Alpine Meadows

Margaret Lewicki and Ernie Grossman
Robie and Dean Litchfield
Christney and Bill McGlashan
Don McLaughlin
Mountain Hardware and Sports
NSM Construction
Lauren OBrien and Steven Poncelet

Restore a Stream – \$1,000 a year for 5 years

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If we missed or misidentified you or your organization, please let us know: 530-550-8760 x7.

Truckee Wetlands Restoration Project

The Truckee Wetlands Restoration Project will reconnect historical wetlands. The project starts from the general area of Cottonwood Restaurant on Old Brockway Road, moves east and north toward the old Town of Truckee Corporation Yard, and ends at the Truckee River.

The wetlands within this fragmented complex are not fully functioning. They are degraded; the streams were moved off their original alignment, culverts were poorly installed, storm water runoff and erosion have not been addressed, and buildings, roads and parking lots were incorrectly sited.

The Truckee River Watershed Council began a partnership with willing land managers and property owners to restore and reclaim these wetlands.

The diagram shows the conceptual design for the first phase of the project. In addition to restoring the wetland's soils, plants, surface and ground water connections, the project will include a walking path and interpretive signs.



Truckee Wetlands Concept Plan

Thank you to the following funders: donors of the Truckee River Watershed Council, the Community Foundation of Western Truckee River Fund, the Town of Truckee, the Truckee Donner PUD, and California Resources Agency.

For more information, contact Jeannette Halderman at 530-550-8760 x6.

A SPECIAL THANKS

Thank you to these public agencies for providing grants or cost sharing on restoration projects:

