

22nd Annual Truckee River Day

Thank you to the many volunteers who turned out for Truckee River Day!

Glenshire Trail

Like so many of our local trails, the Glenshire Trail is very popular and is starting to cause some problems for the nearby pond and the sensitive habitats near the trail. On Truckee River Day, the Glenshire Devonshire Residents Association led a project to rebuild portions of the eroding and damaged trail.

Group Leaders: Jim Schmidt, Dan Warren

Volunteers: 25



DAN WARREN

Glenshire Trail



Sagehen Creek Trail

ROBIE LITCHFIELD



Sagehen Creek Trail

Sagehen Creek Trail

The Sagehen Creek Trail is very popular—especially for wildflowers. But the trail is not appropriately located or built. Sections run along the tops of the creek banks and are falling into the creek degrading water quality and riparian habitat. With help from the U.S. Forest Service, volunteers from the Sodergren Group and others began trail maintenance.

Group Leaders: Robie Litchfield, Karri Smith

Volunteers: 15

Our overview of Truckee River Day projects continues on pages 4 and 5.

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Volunteer to Change the Future

Anyone can help preserve our mountain home—from a toddler who pulls invasive weeds to a senior who re-landscapes their yard. We can all be part of the solution.

Join a River Talk (and get the dirt on the Truckee). Like us, you love our river. And like us, you find it one of the most breathtaking places on earth to hike, fish, swim or simply ogle. But behind her natural beauty, the Truckee holds some disturbing secrets.

Come learn about The Truckee's troubled past—and why the watershed is the key to its future.

- Get a 'virtual tour' of restoration projects
- Meet fellow river-lovers
- Become part of the solution

Call Brenda at 530.550.8760, 5#

Become a Weed Warrior. Nurture native plants and the wildlife that depend on them. Help prevent and control invasive weeds in the Truckee River watershed. Non-native weeds can invade anywhere. Neighborhoods. Meadows. Wilderness. There are nearly 60 non-native invasive plant species in the Truckee River watershed. Call Matt at 530.550.8760, 6#

River-Friendly Landscaping. One ton. That's how much sediment and sludge runs off the average property in the Truckee area each year—degrading water quality, suffocating habitats and eroding riverbanks. Call us today to get a free site evaluation of your yard. Call Eben at 530.550.8760, 7#

Adopt-A-Stream. Participate in important biology and chemistry monitoring through our popular Adopt-A-Stream program. There are several ways to practice watershed science. We train and equip you.



BRENDA GILBERT

Three simple steps to volunteer with the TRWC

STEP 1

Sign up for our 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!

Be a biologist:

- Collect aquatic organisms
- Learn field collection techniques and habitat assessment skills
- Learn about aquatic insects
- Identify benthic macroinvertebrates (BMIs)

Call Beth at 530.550.8760, 1#

Be a chemist:

- Monitor water temperature
- Measure conductivity
- Assess chemical pH readings
- Evaluate dissolved oxygen
- Measure turbidity
- Collect nutrient samples

Call Eben at 530.550.8760, 7#

Weed Warriors: Taking the Fight to Invasive Species in a Big Way

Non-native invasive plants seem to enjoy our watershed as much as we do. More than 60 of these species are found in our wetlands, streams, and forests. Invasive species displace our native plants and reduce habitat quality for wildlife. They also inhibit recreation, increase the wildfire fuel load, and clog our rivers and streams.

Our Weed Warriors are on it and have been for years. This multi-faceted program completes large scale treatments, builds capacity to manage invasive species within local organizations and hosts rewarding volunteer opportunities.

Thank you to the many people who participated in this battle against non-native invasive plants at our Weed Walk in Tahoe Donner and the Weed Pulls at Donner Memorial State Park and the Boca Town Site. Weed Walk volunteers learned to spot 12 invasive species and native look-alikes such as spotted knapweed and bull and Anderson thistles. Weed Pull volunteers removed nearly 6,000 musk and bull thistle plants to protect and enhance much loved natural areas.



MATT FREITAS



Acres of musk thistle crowd out native plants near the Truckee River.

To bolster the volunteer efforts, we worked with several partners and landowners to treat 800 acres of noxious weed infestations. We completed weed surveys on more than 5,000 acres to prioritize treatments for 2018 and 2019.

You can make a difference by reporting invasive species to the Weed Warriors. These data are crucial to our treatment programs. Start by downloading a weed identification book from our website. You'll feel empowered knowing you did your part

Thank you to our partners the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, California Department of Parks and Recreation, Tahoe Donner Association, Teichert Aggregates, and the U.S. Forest Service.

Thank you to our funders including the donors of the Truckee River Watershed Council, The Martis Fund (a collaborative Martis Camp landowners, DMB/Highlands Group, Mountain Area Preservation, and Sierra Watch) and the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (Proposition 1 Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014).

For more information, contact Matt at 530.550.8760, 4#

Truckee River Day

Continued from page 1

First 4 Mile Restoration

The stream banks and meadows along the Truckee River between Tahoe City and River Ranch are being loved to death. The banks in this reach receive thousands of users annually. To decrease the impact of such heavy use, in 2016 TRWC and Tahoe City Public Utility District restored eight sites. This year, volunteers planted and seeded to boost plant establishment in the restored sites.

Group Leaders: Amy Cornelius, Eben Swain

Volunteers: 10

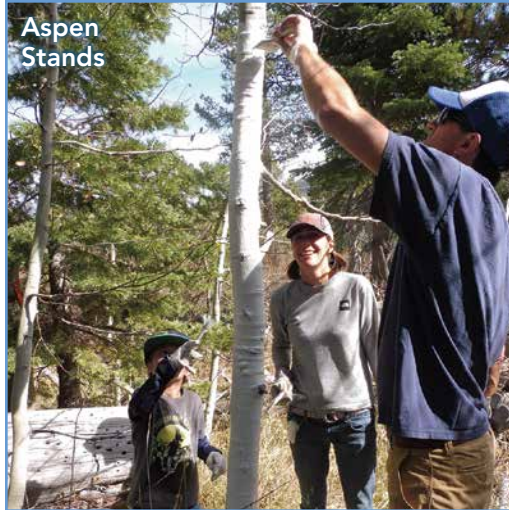


First 4 Mile

EBEN SWAIN

Aspen Stand Protection

Aspen stands were once widespread throughout the Truckee River watershed. Many bird species build nests in aspen trunks. However beaver will down the trees to use in their dams, destroying the stands. To protect stands in the



Aspen Stands

TODD RAWLINSON

Bear Creek basin (Alpine Meadows), the U.S. Forest Service helped volunteers apply a special coating to the aspen trunks to deter the beaver.

Group Leaders: Johni Brokaw, Todd Rawlinson, Kathy Whitlow

Volunteers: 45

Waddle Ranch Preserve Sugar Pine Planting

Sugar pines were once widespread throughout the Truckee River watershed. Their populations have been severely reduced due to logging starting as early as the 1800s. TRWC,



Waddle Ranch

KARYN ERICKSON

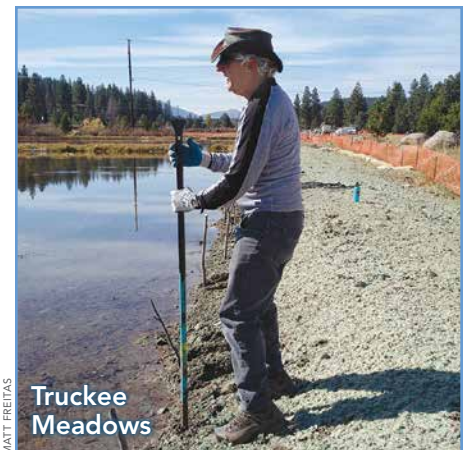
the Sugar Pine Foundation, the Truckee Donner Land Trust, and the Truckee Tahoe Airport District partnered this year to plant several hundred seedlings to help re-establish these pines on the Waddle Ranch Preserve.

Group Leaders: Karyn Erickson, Brenda Gilbert, Frances McAninch, Maria Mircheva

Volunteers: 40

Truckee Meadows Restoration

Over this past summer, in the heart of Truckee near the Truckee River Regional Park, TRWC partnered with the Truckee



MATT FREITAS

Truckee Meadows

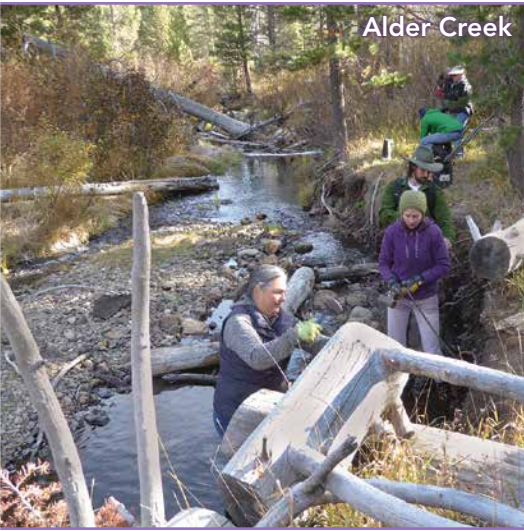
Donner Public Utility District, Truckee Tahoe Airport District, the Town of Truckee, and others to re-connect and restore over 20 acres of fragmented wetlands. On Truckee River Day, volunteers helped with riparian plant establishment by seeding, mulching, and staking willows.

Group Leaders: Matt Freitas, Lorenzo Worster

Volunteers: 20

Alder Creek

The U.S. Forest Service and Truckee Trails Foundation have been working on the Commemorative Overland Emigrant Trail along Alder Creek to improve water quality and riparian habitat. On Truckee River Day, two groups of volunteers helped with seeding and mulching to reduce erosion, improve habitat, and limit the impacts from trail users.



Alder Creek

GREG ZIRBEL



Middle Martis

and wetlands. This year on Truckee River Day, volunteers worked to spread seed and mulch to help stabilize the restored meadow and wetland habitat.

Group Leaders: Beth Christman, Amy Horne, Erin Smith

Volunteers: 40

Squaw Creek

Squaw Creek has been altered and modified by historic and modern land uses. Reaches of the creek are over-widened and riparian habitat has declined. On Truckee River Day, volunteers built and installed willow structures to revive the creek and its meadow. Volunteers from the Friends of Squaw Creek and Trout Unlimited supported and worked at this site.



Squaw Creek

KINCADE STIREK

Group Leaders: Marilyn & Steve Disbrow, Sharon Falvey, John Groom, Jeannette Halderman, Drew Jack, Peter Kulchawik, Allison Pedley, Karen Sessler, Andrea Slotke, Guy Smith, Jessica Thompson, Susi Urie, Bill Wendin, Fred Zabell

Volunteers: 65

Middle Martis Wetlands Restoration

In 2016, TRWC and our partners including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Truckee Donner Land Trust, and Truckee Tahoe Airport District restored Middle Martis Creek and its associated 50 acres of meadows

Group Leaders: Jeff Glazner, Ed Heneveld, Jim Herzman, Jake Hudson, Dave Lass, Sam Sedillo, David Shaw, Kat Smollen, Kincaide Striek

Volunteers: 100

Tahoe Donner Tree Planting

Sugar pines were once widespread throughout the Truckee River watershed. However, their populations have been severely reduced due to logging starting as early as the 1800s. TRWC, the Sugar Pine Foundation, and Tahoe Donner Association partnered to plant several hundred seedlings. Along with others, volunteers from the Friends of Tahoe Donner Trails participated at this site.

Group Leaders: John Eaton, Ben Gwerder, Bill Houdyschell, Benjamin Levine, Leora Sapir

Volunteers: 20



Tahoe Donner

LEORA SAPIR

Thank you to the donors of the Truckee River Watershed Council, Northstar California, Patagonia, Schwemm Family Foundation, Truckee Donner Chamber of Commerce, and Truckee Tahoe Airport for their support of Truckee River Day.

For more information on Truckee River Day, contact Michele at 530.550.8760, 4#



Ecological Restoration, an Unprecedented Opportunity for Nature and People

Though TRWC did not attend, we were interested to learn that at the World Conference on Ecological Restoration (September 2017), participants repeatedly emphasized that only by guaranteeing the integrity of science and incorporating all stakeholders can restoration succeed in conserving biodiversity, addressing climate change and improving human well-being around the world. And the time for doing so, all agreed, is now.

George Gann of the Society for Ecological Restoration, noted that "If done effectively and sustainably, with a focus on real outcomes over metrics, ecological restoration will greatly aid in protecting biodiversity, improving human health and well-being, increasing food and water security, delivering goods, services and economic prosperity, and providing critical contributions to both climate change mitigation and adaptation."

To learn more, visit www.tinyurl.com/eco-restoration

STEFAN MCCLEOD PHOTOGRAPHY

These donors pledged a minimum of \$1,000 a year for five years toward our long-term sustainability. 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

Martis Fund
Squaw Valley Alpine Meadows
Gail and Rick Stephens
Tahoe Mountain Resorts Foundation
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If we missed or misidentified you or your organization, please let us know: 530.550.8760, 5#

TOGETHER FOR THE TRUCKEE

We thank the following donors who made contributions since November 2016. They provide resources to fund solutions to protect, enhance and restore the Truckee River watershed. Together we are making a difference.

\$1,000 – \$5,000

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Restoring Truckee's Urban Meadows—We're on it!

Timeline



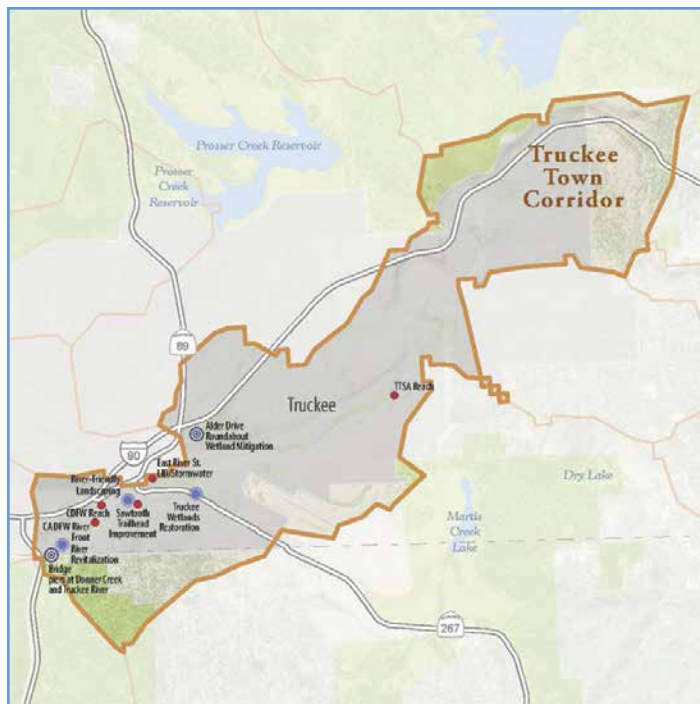
For more than 20 years, the Truckee River Watershed Council (TRWC) has led restoration projects to reverse land-use impacts and restore function to our wetlands and streams. Year by year, meadow by meadow, stream by stream we work to restore, protect and enhance the Truckee River watershed.

Did you know there is a historic wetland in the heart of Truckee? The area near the Truckee River Regional Park was once a large, vibrant wetland—now replaced by roads, a parking lot, and other development. But remnants of these wetlands persisted along Brockway Road—they were fragmented and disconnected and they needed our help.

The Truckee Meadows Restoration Project was designed to enhance and restore the wetlands. TRWC and several public landowner partners worked together to bring back historic wetlands, improving function on the remnant pockets, and reducing erosion and sedimentation to the Truckee River.

The project is located on Brockway Road, between the Truckee River Regional Park and the Ponderosa Golf Course. We restored the hydrologic processes and topography of the meadow—filling-in artificial ditches to restore flow to the meadow and reconfiguring the irrigation pond to support both the wetlands and the golf course. But the project didn't stop there. We enhanced the seasonal drainage from the meadows to the Truckee River floodplain to reduce erosion and improve water quality.

- Completed
- Partially completed
- Not yet started
- Sub-basin boundary
- Protected land
- Incorporated boundary



TRUCKEE'S URBAN MEADOWS FAST FACTS

Location: Town of Truckee, from Truckee River Regional Park north to the Truckee River

Scale: Approximately 20 acres of meadow and wetlands

Schedule: Aug. 2017 – Nov. 2019

Project Cost: \$1,500,000
100% funded

We have one more area to restore in summer 2018. After that, the project will have:

- Improved 13 acres of meadow habitat
- Restored 1.5 acres of wetlands
- Slowed down water during high flows
- Reduced erosion and sedimentation to the Truckee River

The Watershed Council leads this important coordinated effort in partnership with Tahoe-Truckee Sanitation Agency, Town of Truckee, Truckee Donner Land Trust, Truckee Donner Public Utilities District, Truckee-Donner Recreation and Parks District, Truckee Sanitary District, and the Truckee Tahoe Airport District.

All the project partners provided funding. Additional funding is from the donors of the Truckee River Watershed Council, the California Departments of Conservation and Fish & Wildlife, the Community Foundation of Western Nevada's Truckee River Fund, Lahontan Community Foundation, and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

For more information, contact Matt Freitas at 530.550.8760, 6#