

# TRUCKEE RIVER CURRENTS

# 23rd Annual Truckee River Day

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

# **Truckee Meadows**

In 2018 TRWC completed the Truckee Meadows Restoration project restoring 20 acres of wetlands in the heart of Truckee. Truckee River Day volunteers planted 200 willows to provide habitat for wildlife and protect wet soils around the pond. Within the next few years these fast-growing willows will provide a protective border along the water's edge.

Group Leaders: Amy Horne, Peter Kulchawik, Tony Lashbrook, Lorenzo Worster

Volunteers: 40





# **Squaw Creek and Meadow**

Historic and modern land uses have altered Squaw Creek, resulting in the loss of riparian habitat and creek function. Truckee River Day volunteers built and installed vegetated "jams" to spread water flow and encourage sediment deposition, which help revive the creek and its meadow

Group Leaders: Dave Lass, Robie Litchfield, Jim Schmidt, David Shaw, Erin Smith, Randy Westmoreland

Volunteers: 70

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

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

# 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.

Become an Ambassador and introduce 10 friends to the Truckee River Watershed

**Council.** Bring your guests to a River Talk, a one-hour program about the Truckee and the watershed that supports it. Participants will hear about our projects and programs, will be asked for feedback, but will not be asked for a financial contribution.

Call Brenda at 530.550.8760, 5#

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. Homeowners who implement erosion control recommendations and/or convert lawns can receive up to \$3,000 in rebates (while funds last). Call Eben at 530.550.8760, 7#

# **Get involved!**

Stay informed. Sign up for our weekly e-newsletter.
Email info@truckeeriverwc.

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

**Adopt-A-Stream.** It starts with the watershed and monitoring is a critical step! 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.

- 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#



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

Call Eben at 530.550.8760, 7#

Be a Weed Warrior. Help prevent and control invasive weeds in the Truckee River watershed. Non-native weeds can invade anywhere. Neighborhoods. Meadows. Wilderness. In fact, there are over 2,800 infestations of nearly 60 non-native invasive plant species in the Truckee River watershed. Call Matt at 530.550.8760, 6#



# Truckee River Day Group Leaders Are River Heroes

Group Leaders are the backbone of Truckee River Day. They help us organize and inspire volunteers to complete restoration projects throughout the Truckee River watershed.

The 24th annual Truckee River Day will be Sunday, October 20th, 2019.

We need 50 Truckee River Day Group Leaders in 2019 (age 18 and up, no experience needed). To volunteer, call Michele 530.550.8760, 4#

### **THANK YOU 2018 GROUP LEADERS**

Jeff Glazner

David Shaw Dan Warren

# Adopt-A-Stream

# Love science? Help us monitor water quality in the watershed.

For almost 20 years, Adopt-A-Stream volunteers have collected water quality data from the Truckee River and its 25 tributaries. This vital physical, chemical, and biological data helps us monitor the health of the Truckee River and the watershed that feeds it. Become a watershed scientist for a day or a season. We train and equip you.

### Be a biologist:

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

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#

Thank you to the donors of the Truckee River Watershed Council and to the Martis Fund, a collaborative program of the developers of the Martis Camp community and its members, Mountain Area Preservation (MAP), and Sierra Watch.



# **Truckee River Day**

Continued from page 1

## Lower Alder Creek

Our partner, the U.S. Forest
Service, along with Truckee Trails
Foundation has been upgrading
the Commemorative Overland
Emigrant Trail to improve water
quality and riparian habitat. Truckee
River Day volunteers spread mulch
and seed and fortified sections
of the trail to reduce erosion,
improve habitat, and add resilience
to trail use

**Group Leaders:** Beth Christman, John Eaton, Allison Pedley, Todd Rawlinson

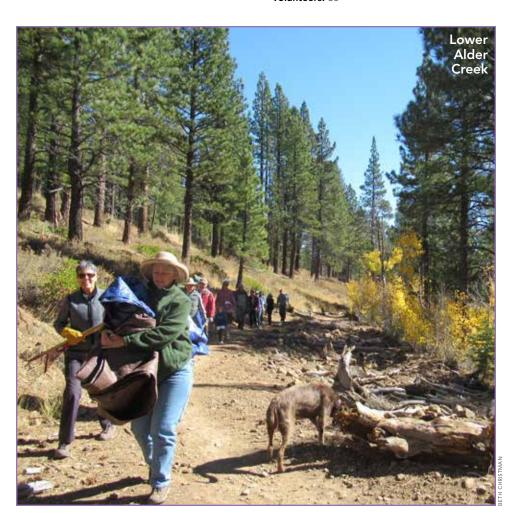
Volunteers: 25

## **Tahoe Donner**

Logging and disease have severely reduced Sugar Pine and other native pine populations over the last 150 years in the Truckee River watershed. The Sugar Pine Foundation and Tahoe Donner Association loved the help of Truckee River Day volunteers who planted several hundred Sugar Pine and Jeffrey Pine seedlings on an exposed mountainside in Tahoe Donner.

**Group Leaders:** : Ben Gwerder, Bill Houdyschell, Amina Hughes, Benjamin Levine

Volunteers: 60





# **Squaw Creek Meadow**

Over this past summer, in the heart of Volunteers helped restore a meadow used for parking during the 1960 Olympics near Squaw Creek. Volunteers harvested native plants from the surrounding area, transplanted them, and removed trenches in the degraded meadow.

**Group Leaders:** Jeannette Halderman, Ed Heneveld, Kat Smolen, Bill Wendin

Volunteers: 40



# Sagehen Forest

The Donner Ridge Fire of 1960 burned the forests in the Sagehen basin. After the fire, Sugar Pines did not recover. TRWC volunteers with support from the Sugar Pine Foundation and the U.S. Forest Service planted hundreds of Sugar Pine seedlings to help re-establish these pines.

**Group Leaders:** Maria Mircheva, Lindsay Ryan, Leora Sapir, Keith Tom, Kathy Whitlow, Fred Zabelll

Volunteers: 65

# Giving with Greater Impact

Examples of tax-efficient giving strategies:

- 1. Donate long-term appreciated securities
- Create a donor-advised fund for charitable giving
- 3. Charitable gifts may reduce your Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT)
- 4 Align charitable giving with rebalancing your portfolio
- 5. Charitable contributions deductions can be carried forward for up to five years
- Offset income from a traditional IRA – Roth IRA conversion with charitable gifts

One more thing to consider:

When IRA owners reach age 70½ they must start taking Required Minimum Distributions (RMD) from their IRA accounts. These distributions add to the IRA owner's tax liability and are taxed as Ordinary Income. However, recent updates to the tax code allow the RMD to be donated directly to qualified charitable organizations. This is called a Qualified Charitable Donation (QCD). This strategy benefits the donor and the charitable organization.

Adapted from Fidelity Charitable, www.fidelitycharitable.org. NOTE: TRWC does not give tax advice. Consult your tax professional.

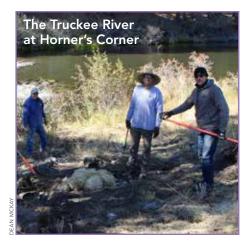
# The Truckee River at Horner's Corner

Trout Unlimited (TU) recently completed a fish habitat enhancement project on the Truckee River. Volunteers from TU, the San Francisco Fly Casting Club, and Tahoe Truckee Fly Fishers joined other Truckee River Day volunteers to mulch and seed a decommissioned road and construct a foot trail to reduce erosion and protect the water quality of the Truckee River.

**Group Leaders:** Brenda Gilbert, Jeff Glazner, Jim Herzman, Larry Heywood, Allison Holmes, Jake Hudson, Sam Sedillo, Jessica Thompson

Volunteers: 80





# Johnson Canyon

Logging and road construction over the past 150 years degraded wildlife habitat in Johnson Canyon and caused sediment to flow into Gregory Creek, a tributary to Donner Lake. As part of a larger TRWC restoration project, volunteers helped decommission old logging skid trails by planting native vegetation and spreading mulch and slash.

Group Leaders: Eben Swain, Dan Warren

Volunteers: 20

Thank you to the donors of the Truckee River Watershed Council, Northstar California, Schwemm Family Foundation, Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation, Town of Truckee, Truckee Chamber of Commerce, Truckee SAVE THE DATE

24th Annual Truckee River Day

SUNDAY, OCT. 20, 2019

Tahoe Airport District, and Vail EpicPromise for funding Truckee River Day.

For more information on Truckee River Day, contact Michele at 530.55.8760, 4#



# Thank you members of the Together for the Truckee Society. Your multi-year support helps us develop

### PRESERVE THE WATERSHED - \$10,000 A YEAR FOR 5 YEARS

**Laird Norton Family Foundation** Northstar California/Vail Epic Promise

**Squaw Valley Alpine Meadows Gail and Rick Stephens** 

**Tahoe Mountain Resorts Foundation** Cathy and Tom Van Berkem

### PROTECT THE RIVER - \$5,000 A YEAR FOR 5 YEARS

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# We thank the following donors who made contributions since November 2017. They provide resources to fund solutions to protect, enhance and restore the Truckee River watershed. Together we are making a difference.

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If we missed or misidentified you or your organization, please let us know: 530.550.8760, 5#

# **Johnson Canyon West Restoration**

#### **Timeline**

Watershed Assessment	Design	Implemention	Monitoring
2016	2017	2018 – 2019	Ongoing

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, habitat by habitat, stream by stream we work to restore, protect and enhance the Truckee River watershed.

Did you know the Truckee-Loyalton deer herd relies on habitat in Johnson Canyon just north of Donner Lake for foraging, fawning, and protection from predators? Johnson Canyon was once forested and abundant with freshwater, native vegetation and wildlife. However, logging for Comstock silver mining in the early 1900s and construction of Interstate 80 in the 1960's compacted soils, degraded riparian areas, and impaired water quality.

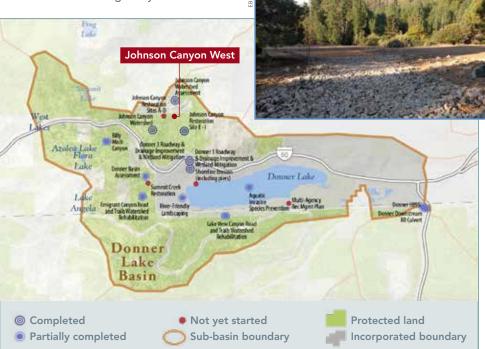
In 2016, TRWC completed an assessment of Donner Basin which identified Johnson Canyon as a "high" hazard zone for erosion. Gregory Creek flows out of Johnson Canyon into Donner Lake carrying sediment with it. This put Johnson Canyon on our list of 50 priority restoration projects.

In 2017 TRWC designed the Johnson Canyon Restoration Project in partnership with the Truckee Donner Land Trust, the land owner.

### Restoration goals:

 Restore natural function to forest and meadows, improving resiliency to drought, flood and fire events

 Bring back wildlife habitat, increasing sustainability of the resident and migratory wildlife  Capture runoff from I 80 and reduce erosion into Gregory Creek, protecting the clarity of Donner Lake



# TRUCKEE'S URBAN MEADOWS FAST FACTS

**Location:** 6 miles west of Truckee, three separate project sites located from the base of Billy Mack Road to the ridgeline. The largest site is directly across from Windin Way Trailhead

Scale: Approximately 3 acres restored to enhance habitat and water quality
Schedule: Aug. 2017 – Nov. 2019
Project Cost: \$500,000 100% funded

In 2018 we removed tons—70 dump truck loads—of fill, concrete, and asphalt degrading Gregory Creek and its riparian zone. To improve stormwater infiltration, reduce erosion and improve water quality we restored nearly three acres of soils that had been heavily compacted by logging and construction activities. To provide cover and forage for wildlife, Truckee River Day volunteers replanted the project site with native plants and a seed mix to reestablish habitat.

Restoration efforts will continue in 2019. Upon completion, we will have:

- Removed 70 dump truck loads of concrete and asphalt
- Improved drainage along a onemile stretch of Billy Mack Road
- Improved 4 acres habitat, creating forage and refuge for wildlife
- Increased soil infiltration of 15,000 square feet, capturing and slowing run-off
- Reduced erosion and sedimentation into Gregory Creek, protecting the clarity of Donner Lake

Partners: CalTrans, Truckee Donner Land Trust, Truckee River Watershed Council, U.S. Forest Service – Tahoe National Forest

Funders: Donors of the Truckee River Watershed Council, California Natural Resources Agency, U. S. Forest Service, National Forest Foundation, Truckee River Fund

For more information, contact Eben Swain at 530-550-8760, 7#