



A 'now or never' restoration for the Martis Wildlife Area

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One of the most popular spots in Truckee-Tahoe, the Martis Wildlife Area, is poised for a major restoration this summer. Locals and visitors alike are drawn to the area's big sky beauty, wildlife viewing and easy access. But decades of misuse and the ravages of climate change have left this meadow precariously close to becoming a desert.

The Truckee River Watershed Council (TRWC)—a Truckee-based non-profit known for successfully restoring meadows, creeks and riverbanks—has partnered with the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) to restore the Martis Wildlife Area. Additionally, Northstar Community Services District and Northstar California Resort are supporting the project by providing site access.

Plans for this far-reaching, climate-change-resistant undertaking began as far back as 2016. The damaging effects of eroding stream banks and changing plant communities have been carefully monitored, determining that a lack of immediate action could have irreversible impact. The goal is to keep the meadow a meadow.

The restoration project, due to begin Monday, July 1, 2019, will:

- restore 70 acres of meadow
- repair 2 miles of stream
- reconnect the streams with their floodplains

The results of this restoration will:

- reduce erosion and sedimentation
- restore wildlife habitats
- reinstate native wildflowers and grasses
- reverse the degradation processes

Here's what Lisa Wallace, Executive Director of TRWC, told us: "We are excited to finally have this opportunity to restore this beloved part of our mountain home. It's happening just in the nick of time. And we hope it will demonstrate what's possible throughout the entire watershed."

The project is scheduled to start this summer in July and be completed by mid-

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October. During construction some trails and parking lots will be rerouted or closed. Please look for and respect all signage at the sites.

For more information on maps, trails and closures please visit:
www.northstarcsd.org/tompkins-memorial-trail

For more information about the restoration project visit: www.meadowsforever.org

Additional contributors and funders supporting the Martis Wildlife Area restoration project include TRWC donors, California Department of Fish and Wildlife via Prop 1, The Martis Fund, Bella Vista Foundation, and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.

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