

24th Annual Truckee River Day

2019 was one of our most successful Truckee River Days with over 500 volunteers. Thank you to everyone who came out, and all the community support that made this possible!

Donner Camp

An existing turnpike of a popular trail that passed through wetlands was flooding every year, harming the trail and contributing sediment downstream. Truckee River Day volunteers built a new boardwalk across the wetlands, allowing the stream below to flow freely.



Donner Camp

FAERTHEN FELIX

Perazzo Meadows

In 2019 we completed the final phase of a 10 year restoration project in Perazzo Meadows restoring hundreds of acres of alpine meadow. Truckee River Day volunteers helped with the restoration—installing check dams, planting willows, and planting trees that helped improve native vegetation and habitat.

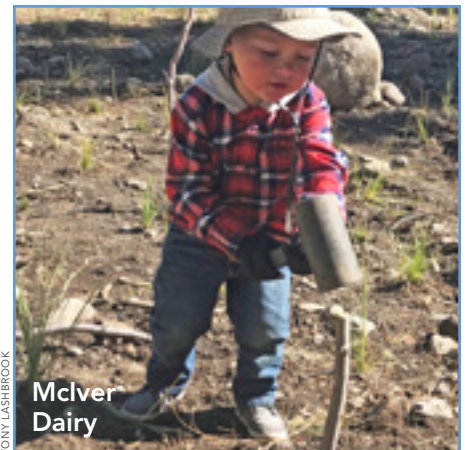


Perazzo Meadows

CATHY HOWARD

Mclver Dairy

In 2019, we completed the Mclver Dairy Meadow restoration project, reducing sediment that flows downstream into the Truckee River by up to 2 tons. Truckee River Day volunteers planted native meadow vegetation as part of this meadow restoration.



Mclver Dairy

TONY LASHBROOK

Sagehen Basin

The Donner Ridge Fire of 1960 burned the forests in the Sagehen basin. After the fire, the forest did not completely recover. Truckee River Day volunteers planted a mix of native pine trees in the Sagehen Forest to help re-establish these trees.



Sagehen Basin

AMINA HUGHES

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

We believe a more sustainable tomorrow starts with the watershed. Our goal is to restore the resiliency of our environment—so nature and humanity can thrive together for generations.

Get Involved to Change the Future

Everyone can help preserve our mountain environment—from a toddler who plants willows to a senior who hosts a River Talk. We can all be part of the solution.

How Can I Help?

We are so glad you asked!

Here are is our current wish list:

- 20 Ambassadors over the next 12 months
- 20 Adopt-A-Stream Team Leaders
- 20 new Truckee River Day Group Leaders for Truckee River Day 2020

Become an Ambassador. Invite 10 of your friends to a one-hour informational River Talk. Guests learn how we bring the community “Together for the Truckee” to help protect, enhance and restore the Truckee River watershed. You provide the space with 10 guests and TRWC provides the presentation.

- Learn about our restoration projects and volunteer opportunities
- Connect with fellow river-lovers

Call Sue at 530.550.8760 5#

Become 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 preventing native plants from doing their good work.

Call Matt at 530.550.8760 6#

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.

Be a biologist:

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

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#



MATT FREITAS



FAERTHEN FELIX

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 25th Annual Truckee River Day will be Sunday, October 18th, 2020.

We need 20 new Truckee River Day Group Leaders in 2020 to facilitate activities in the field on our project sites (age 18 and up, no experience needed). To volunteer, call Michele 530.550.8760 4#

Thank you 2019 Group Leaders

- | | | |
|------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Barry Baba | Jake Hudson | David Shaw |
| Peter Bockhurst | Amina Hughes | Erin Smith |
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Thank You, Truckee Donner Chamber of Commerce

This year the Truckee River Watershed Council, nominated by our peers, was awarded the Truckee Business Stewardship Award for "conducting its business in a way that creates 'shared value'... They strive to create solutions to business through partnerships and collaborations. They contribute and care for the community and care for the environment."



Want our beautiful Lupines to **stay?**

Then please **stay** on the trail.

Now that the meadow is recovering, wildflowers, like the Lupine, are coming back. Keep them—and all our precious meadow—life—safe. **Keep on the trail. Keep pets on leash.**

Martis Wildlife Area Restoration

To learn more, get out your phone and go to: www.meadowsforever.org



Summer Project Successes

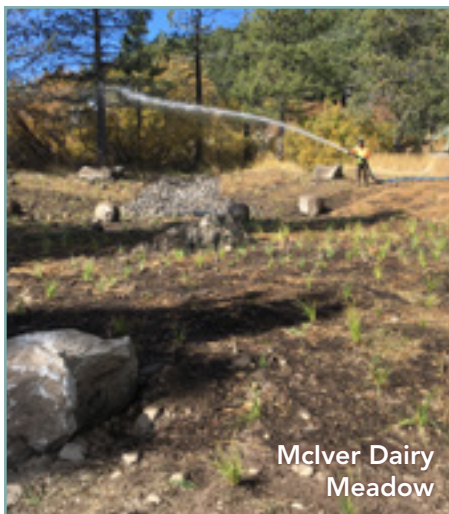
In 2019, we restored in total over 150 acres of meadow and wetland habitat, over two miles of stream, re-established native plant species, revived wildlife habitats, and mitigated drought, fire, and flood. Read on to find out how this was accomplished.

1. McIver Dairy Meadow

McIver Dairy Meadow used to be a vibrant functioning wetland, but over time due to development, grazing, and recreation, the meadow became degraded. When the Truckee River Watershed Council's water quality monitoring estimated 2 tons of sediment were being contributed from this site annually to the Truckee River, it was clear something had to be done.

How was the meadow restored?

- Wetland soils were unearthed from under previously deposited artificial fill, allowing native meadow plants like sedges and rushes to return.
- A second pond outlet was created, in addition to a wetland bench, promoting dispersed surface water flow across the meadow surface.
- A vegetated swale was constructed to capture runoff and road abrasives before entering the meadow, which reduces sediment and other pollutants that run downstream.



McIver Dairy Meadow

MATT FREITAS

Restoration workers helped revegetate the meadow with native plants.

- A failed culvert was replaced and rock protection was installed, again reducing the amount of sediment the stream picks up while flowing through the area.
- Erosion on historical structures was decreased by restoring the stream channel along their foundations.
- Non-native invasive species were controlled and native species were planted to help revegetation.

What will be the results?

- Improved habitat
- Improved water quality
- Re-watered dry portions of meadow
- Protected the foundation of a historic dairy barn
- Prevented continued erosion

It takes a dedicated team to do what we do. Thank you to our partner the Town of Truckee and California Department of Transportation.

Thank you to the funders who are making this work possible—the donors of the Truckee River Watershed Council, Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board, Our Truckee River Legacy Foundation, Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation, Town of Truckee, and the Community Foundation of Western Nevada Truckee River Fund.

2. Perazzo Meadows

Perazzo Meadows is arguably one of the most breathtaking stretches of the Truckee watershed. That is until closer inspection revealed degradation from extensive modification beginning in the late 1800s, followed by logging, road construction and dairy farming in the early 1900s.

The restoration efforts began in 2009, and now in 2019, the final construction phase is complete.



RORY BALLARD

Perazzo Meadows

During the restoration, volunteers along with partners U.S. Forest Service and Truckee Trout Unlimited, helped rescue fish in Perazzo that would have otherwise been stranded.

How was the meadow restored?

- The main channel, which had become incised, was filled with meadow soils. This re-watered the historic remnant stream channels, allowing the meadow to return.
- Grading was also used to mimic the natural slopes of the area.
- The site that provided the meadow soils to fill the channel had previously been excavated at some point in history. This site was then re-graded to match the surrounding area, and revegetated, leaving it better than we found it.

What will be the results?

- 50 acres of meadow restored
- Water quality improvement
- Fish and wildlife habitat improved

It takes a dedicated team to do what we do. Thank you to our partners the U.S. Forest Service and Truckee Donner Land Trust.

Thank you to the funders who are making this work possible—the donors of the Truckee River Watershed Council, Bella Vista Foundation, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and California Wildlife Conservation Board.

HOW DOES MY GIFT MAKE A DIFFERENCE?



Every donation to the Truckee River Watershed Council is invaluable, but did you know when you donate to TRWC, your gift doesn't just help us keep our lights on—it can be leveraged in grant applications to fund our projects. Your \$100 donation grows to \$10,000 through grants! Interested in giving? Visit our website truckeeriverwc.org or scan the code with your smartphone QR code scanner app.

3. Martis Wildlife Area

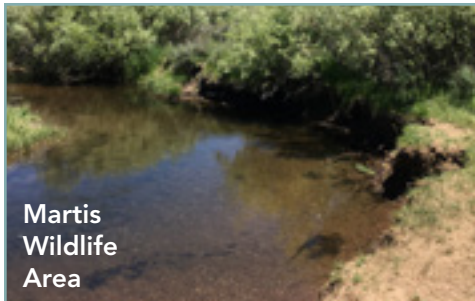
In Martis Wildlife Area, decades of misuse from mining, grazing, logging and development has degraded the meadow's ability to perform its natural hydrological function. Which is exactly why this past summer was the time for a major restoration project.

How was the meadow restored?

- Banks were graded to allow the stream to better reach and water the surrounding meadow floodplain.
- Woody trunks and natural debris were placed in the stream, mimicking the natural process of a downed tree and helping the water in the stream spread out across the surface of the meadow.
- Historic remnant channels were reconnected to the main channels, again allowing the water to better spread across the meadow.
- Banks were stabilized with vegetation and natural woody structures to reduce ongoing erosion.
- Multiple failed culverts were removed, and replaced with a new creek crossing that allows the tributary flowing underneath to spread out, re-watering the meadow.

What will be the results?

- 70 acres of wet meadow
- 2 miles of streams
- habitats for fish, birds and mammals
- revegetation of native wetland and riparian species



Martis Wildlife Area



Before (left): Erosion had caused the stream to become incised, disconnecting it from the meadow. After (right): Grading and revegetation work stabilizes the bank and re-waters the meadow.

It takes a dedicated team to do what we do. Thank you to our partners the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Northstar California Resort, and the Northstar Community Services District.

Thank you to the funders who are making this work possible—the donors of the Truckee River Watershed Council, Bella Vista Foundation, California Department of Fish and Wildlife via Prop 1, The Martis Fund, and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.

4. Dry Creek Meadow

Next to Dry Creek in Russel Valley, just north of the town of Truckee, lies a meadow that may appear beautiful, but is disconnected from its floodplain due to 150 years of logging, grazing, and development.

When a meadow is dried out like this, sagebrush replaces grasses, sedges, and willows. And with less absorbency there's a greater threat of drought, wildfire, and flooding. That's why the benefits of the Dry Creek Restoration Project, led by Beth Christman, are multi-faceted—encompassing wildlife habitat improvement, fire hazard prevention, and forest health in addition to water quality improvement.

How was the meadow restored?

- The main channel, which had eroded and become incised, was graded and reconnected to the meadow. This allows flows to access historic remnant



BETH CHRISTMAN

Dry Creek Meadow

Sod was salvaged and re-planted, revegetating and stabilizing the soil.

stream channels, spreading out across the meadow.

- Any topsoil and sod that was disturbed during this process was salvaged, and later used to re-vegetate and stabilize the fill and surrounding meadow.
- The area was also then revegetated with native meadow plants.
- The drainage of the channel was reconstructed and re-shaped to restore its natural path.
- At the lower end of the creek, the channel was stabilized to reduce erosion and sediment carried downstream.

What will be the results?

- Restored 30 acres of meadow and 700 feet of stream
- Restored floodplain function
- Improved water quality
- Improved resilience to climate change, including resistance to drought, fire, and flood

It takes a dedicated team to do what we do. Thank you to our partners the U.S. Forest Service and others.

Thank you to the funders who are making this work possible—the donors of the Truckee River Watershed Council, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and the Truckee River Fund of the Community Foundation of Western Nevada.

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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Thank you to these granting agencies for supporting our work.

Thank you members of the Together for the Truckee Society.

Your multi-year support helps us develop restoration projects and manage our prevention programs.

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24th Annual TRD

Continued from page 1



Tahoe Donner

ANNIE ROSENFELD



Squaw Creek

JAN SWITICK

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. Truckee River Day volunteers, planted a mix of native Jeffrey pine and sugar pine seedlings in Tahoe Donner.

Dry Creek

In 2019, we completed the Dry Creek Meadow restoration project restoring 30 acres of meadow and 700' of stream. Truckee River Day Volunteers, including some local residents, planted native willows and helped with revegetation near this newly restored area in Russel Valley.

Squaw Creek

Historic and modern land uses have altered Squaw Creek resulting in the loss of riparian habitat and creek function. Truckee River Day volunteers helped build willow wattles and installed them along Squaw Creek to help stabilize eroding streambanks.

Martis Wildlife Area

In 2019, we completed the Martis Wildlife Area restoration project, restoring 70 acres of meadow and 2 miles of stream. Truckee River Day volunteers placed slash and woody debris in log jams and installed willow poles at Lookout and

Middle Martis Creeks, and built check dams and spread seed and mulch to help restore heavily impacted areas along Mainstem Martis Creek as part of this meadow restoration.

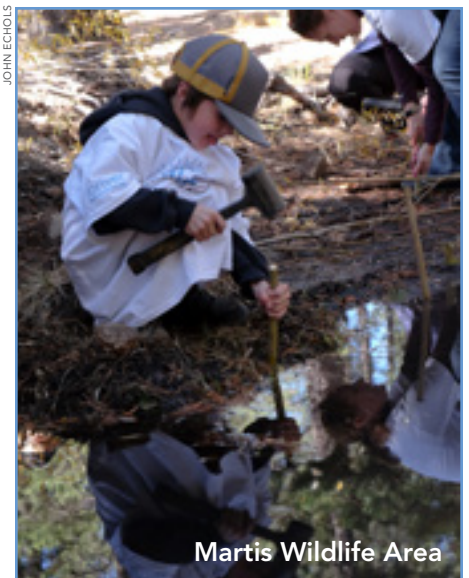
Thank you to the funders who made Truckee River Day possible—the donors of the Truckee River Watershed Council, Northstar California, National Forest Foundation, Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation, Truckee Chamber of Commerce, and Vail EpicPromise.

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



Dry Creek

KEN GERZEL



Martis Wildlife Area

JOHN ECHOLS