

# Bringing the Community Together for the Truckee River

*Thank you for being part of the solution!*

Since 2016, we restored 1,156 acres of meadows and forests along with 55 miles of streams and dirt roads and we've treated 5,017 acres of invasive weeds. Each project requires a unique team managed by one of our restoration staff who facilitate partnerships with landowners. Teams can include hydrologists, engineers, and botanists to get the science right.

We recently celebrated our 27th annual Truckee River Day where volunteers worked by planting native species, enhancing fish habitat and improving trails. Our Group Leaders help ensure volunteers have the resources they need and make sure that YOU know your individual actions make a difference. 2022 was one of our most successful Truckee River Days and we are happy to share some highlights. Your personal restoration work helped make our mountain ecosystem more resilient to drought, fire, and flood. THANK YOU for all that you do! TOGETHER we can create a resilient watershed.



OLAF CARMEL

BY THE NUMBERS

## 27th Annual Truckee River Day

11 Project Sites

9 Landowners

350 Volunteers

27 Group Leaders

14 TRWC Staff & Board Members

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

How to Get Involved	2
Fix the Truckee and Keep it Wild	3
More About Truckee River Day	4
TRWC Donors	6
Together for the Truckee	7
More About the Truckee	8

## Coldstream Wetlands and Ponds

**Group Leaders:** Jeannette Halderman, Gilbert Mendoza, Michelle Peruzzi, Eben Swain

In partnership with California State Parks, volunteers planted sod, willows, and native seed to improve native vegetation and reduce erosion.

*Donated photos are credited. All others are owned by Truckee River Watershed Council.*



KEVIN DRAKE

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*Our mission is to bring the community 'Together for the Truckee'—to protect, enhance, and restore the Truckee River Watershed.*

## Get Involved to Create a Resilient Future

Your individual actions matter. Be a part of the solution.

### How Do I Get Involved?

**SUBSCRIBE** to our weekly e-newsletter to stay up to date with events.

**FIND A PROGRAM OR EVENT** you're interested in and RSVP to the staff member.

**WISH LIST FOR 2023**  
20 new Truckee River Day Group Leaders

20 Adopt-A-Stream Team Leaders

25 Ambassadors to Host a River Talk

**Become an Ambassador.** Connect us to people who care about meadows, forests, and streams in our mountain home! Invite 10 of your friends to a River Talk.

Call Sue at 530.550.8760 5#

**Attend a River Talk.** The Truckee River watershed is a place full of beautiful meadows, streams, and forests that we all care about. Join us for a 30-minute presentation (virtual or in-person) about past impacts to the Truckee River watershed, what we are doing to restore it, why it's important to protect it, and how you can help us create a resilient watershed

- Hear about our restoration projects and get updates on our work
- Meet and connect with fellow nature-lovers

Call Sue at 530.550.8760 5#

**Come to Truckee River Day.** Save the Date for next year: October 15 and connect at the source. Work alongside family, friends, and your community to help restore our mountain home.

Call Michele at 530.550.8760 4#

**Adopt-A-Stream.** Participate in important chemistry monitoring through our Adopt-A-Stream program. We train and equip you to practice watershed science.

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

Call Eben at 530.550.8760 7#



### Giving With Greater Impact

There are many ways you can be a supporter of TRWC's work:

1. Make a charitable gift through a Donor Adviser Fund (DAF). Learn how DAFs work by scanning/pointing your phone camera at the QR Code.
2. For IRA owners aged 70½ and above, you may gift your required minimum distribution to your favorite non-profit without incurring federal income tax on the withdrawal.
3. By making a gift of appreciated securities, you may be able to deduct the current value of the gifted securities while avoiding the taxation of capital gains.

Ask your tax professional how these strategies may work for you.





# Fix the Truckee River and Keep it Wild

## A Legendary River

Imagine the Truckee River 50 years from now—winding through rugged canyons and pine forests. A glittering, clear cold river alive with wildlife—trout, beaver, bear, and dragonflies. The Truckee River inspires the imagination. We identify with its wild nature. We enter into its history to become part of its ancient story.

In your mind's eye you see this wild river winding its way through a rugged, pine studded canyon—a brilliant, blue-bird blue sky overhead.

You see the river glittering below you from the mountaintop you reached putting one foot before the other on a rocky trail.

Maybe you're a fly fisherman floating a line through sparkling, cold water—waiting for a strike.

Or you feel a refreshing spray on your face and your heart quicken as your river raft plunges among granite boulders.

You sense the forest, alive with wildlife—deer, bear, birds, and bobcat.

You're transported back in time. Urban sights and sounds fade from thought. You feel the appeal of the river. To keep it wild. An authentic legend.

And you want to **believe this one river will be wild forever**. But it is fragile and needs our help.

The Truckee River underpins a complex system of dams and reservoirs. Ever since the age of westward expansion, this region has given up its natural resources. The result?

- Riverbanks are literally falling in. The Truckee River is polluted by sediment.
- Sediment chokes the tiny creatures who form the basis of the food web and congests riverbed gravel making it impossible for trout to spawn.
- Native plants—forming habitat for wild creatures—must compete with invasive weeds.

Small changes in precipitation, ambient temperature, or managed stream flows could result in a cascade of degradation.



The main-stem of the Truckee River polluted by sediment at the confluence of the Little Truckee River near the California-Nevada state line.

*If we do not act,  
the Truckee River  
will lose its ability to  
regain balance.*

It is our mission to bring our community together to protect, enhance and restore our watershed. Because of the work we do, water in the Truckee River watershed is cleaner, fish and bird populations in some areas have stabilized, and meadows are wetter longer into the season. We have a vision and plan for 14 sites along the Truckee River—to fix the Truckee River and keep it wild. (continued on page 8)



## How Does My Gift Make a Difference?

Every dollar donated to the Truckee River Watershed Council matters. When you donate to TRWC, your gift doesn't just help us keep the lights on—it is leveraged 10:1 in grants which fund our restoration projects. Each project first requires fundraising for building a partnership, planning, permitting, and engineering design well before dirt can be moved or vegetation can be planted. Your \$50 donation grows to \$500 through grants! Interested in giving? Visit our website: [www.truckeeriverwc.org/donate](http://www.truckeeriverwc.org/donate)

# 27th Annual Truckee River Day

## Martis Wildlife Area

**Group Leaders:** Brian Hastings, Jake Hudson, Chummy Prestowitz, Bill Wendin

In partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Northstar Community Service District we improved trail drainage and instream structures to support meadow restoration.

## Johnson Canyon

**Group Leaders:** Jeff Glazner, Daniel Joannes

In partnership with the Truckee Donner Land Trust, volunteers planted aspen trees to support diverse habitat at a popular trailhead.

Martis Wildlife Area



STEVE WOO



STEVE WOO

Johnson Canyon



JOSE RIVERO

## Perazzo Meadows

**Group Leaders:** Peter Kulchawik, Jonathan Owens, Dave Shaw, Cindy Steel

In partnership with the Truckee Donner Land Trust, volunteers built willow structures to improve riparian habitat. This native vegetation can flourish with restored meadow hydrology.

## Sardine Meadow

**Group Leaders:** Beth Christman, Jim Herzman, Catherine Schnurrenberger

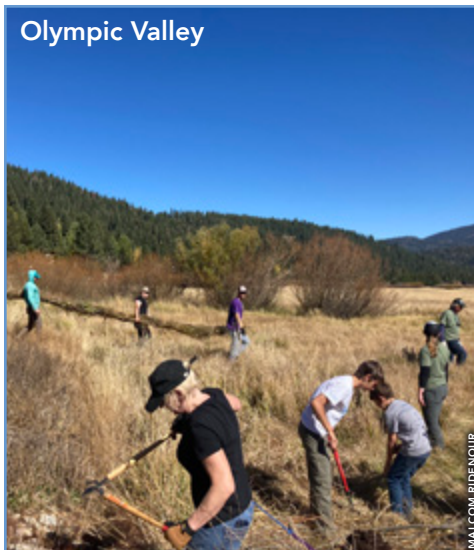
In partnership with Trust for Public Land, volunteers spread seed to improve vegetation in one of the largest most stunning meadows in the Northern Sierra.

## Olympic Valley

**Group Leaders:** Teresa Garrison, Becky Hansen, Ed Heneveld, Susan Lisagor, Kat Smollen

In partnership with Friends of Squaw Creek, and Trout Unlimited, Resort and Squaw Creek, Olympic Valley Stables, volunteers improved and maintained willow dams along Squaw Creek to help stabilize eroding streambanks.

Olympic Valley



MALCOM RIDENOUR



MALCOM RIDENOUR





Donner Lake Lagoon

NICOLE BENTER

RUSSELL BURTON

## Donner Lake Lagoon

**Group Leaders:** Lindsay Benjamin-Britton, Erin Gaare, Courtney Rowe

In partnership with California State Parks, volunteers spread native seed and mulch and planted willows to help protect the streambank.

## Tahoe Donner

**Group Leaders:** John Groom, Ben Gwerdner, Tony Lashbrook, Benjamin Levine, Lesley Loveland

In partnership with Tahoe Donner Association, volunteers planted Jeffrey and Sugar Pines in Tahoe Donner to help prevent erosion.



Boca Meadows

KATIE BIGGERS

Many hands  
make  
light work

## Sawtooth

**Group Leaders:** Emily Enoch, Tressa Gibbard, Maria Mircheva, Leora Sapir

In partnership with the U.S. Forest Service – Tahoe National Forest and Sugar Pine Foundation, volunteers planted a diverse mix of native pine trees to improve forest resiliency.

Thank you to our Truckee River Day funders: Donors to the Truckee River Watershed Council, Base Camp for a Big Life via Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation, and Truckee Tahoe Airport District.

## Boca Meadows

**Group Leaders:** America Ayala, Michelle Deslauries, Amina Hughes, Mary Meagher, Heather Schwartz, Suzi Urie

In partnership with the U.S. Forest Service, volunteers spread native seed, mulch, and slash on a recently completed meadow restoration project.

## Prosser Hill Meadow

**Group Leaders:** Liz Merchant-Wells, Karen Sessler, Fred Zabell, Sam Zabell

In partnership with the U.S. Forest Service – Tahoe National Forest, volunteers spread native seed, mulch, and slash to help protect a recently restored meadow.



Prosser Hill Meadow

SAM ZABELL

SUE DRAKE

## We thank the following donors who made contributions since November 2020. They provide resources to fund solutions to protect, enhance, and restore the Truckee River watershed.

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



## Thank you members of the Together for the Truckee Society.

Your multi-year generosity has shaped the Truckee River Watershed Council's work and inspires meaningful changes in our community and watershed. Thank you for your support.

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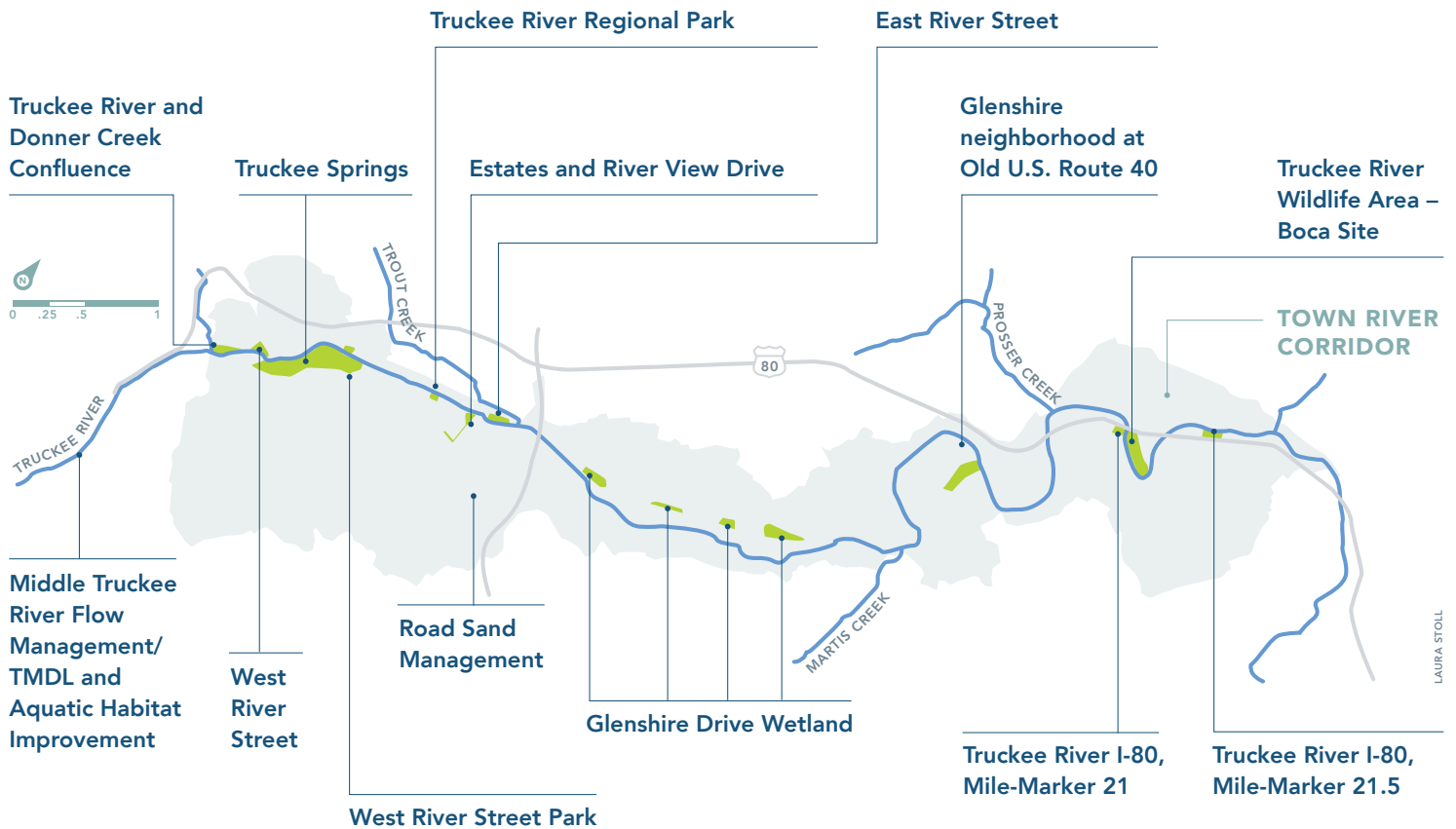
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To become a member and pledge your support, or if we missed or misidentified you or your organization, please call Sue at 530.550.8760 5#

# Fix the Truckee River and Keep it Wild

## Restoration Project Sites

**foriver**  
TRUCKEE RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL



(continued from page 3)

These projects are designed to work with our changing climate, buffering the effects of drought, fire, and flood cycles. Collectively, this work will improve water quality, recover wetland and riparian habitat for fish and wildlife, and support recreation.

We're underway with two of the 14 sites. In 2022, with your help, we completed 100% design on the Truckee Wildlife Area-Boca site and have secured \$1.2M in state grant funding for on-the-ground implementation in 2023. The Donner Creek Confluence site is at 100% design and will also be implemented in 2023. We have 12 sites remaining in need of restoration.

We are raising \$500,000 over the next 5 years to develop these projects. That funding will be leveraged with \$5Million in public funding through state and federal grants for implementation.

*It takes a dedicated team to do what we do. Thank you to all the public agencies with land along the Truckee River.*

*Thank you to the funders who are making this work possible—the donors of the Truckee River Watershed Council, California Wildlife Conservation Board, Community Foundation of Northern Nevada – Truckee River Fund, and the Truckee River Legacy Foundation.*