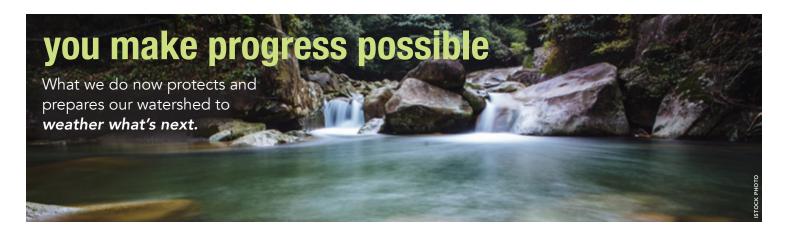


# TRUCKEE RIVER CURRENTS



# Restoring Resiliency through Managed Recreation

### Donner Lake Lagoon

In the summer of 2020, Donner Lake Memorial State Park saw a 200% increase in recreation, resulting in rapid shoreline degradation. We were losing our banks, trees, lush vegetation, and wildlife habitat—and fast. With our partners at California State Parks, we got to work on fixing it.

Donner Lake Lagoon is a unique backwater wetland supporting wildlife, particularly osprey and bald eagle, and is an important nursery and cover habitat for juvenile fish and invertebrates. It is a favorite for recreation, wildlife viewing and appreciating our local natural and cultural resources. However, spikes in recreation and overuse began to threaten this ecosystem. Non-motorized

Bank stabilization using natural granite revetments and live willow plantings to prevent erosion and capture sediment.

boat users were accessing the water from a steep and unstable slope. As the banks continued to erode, access became challenging, particularly for users with disabilities, for the elderly, and for young children.

We began planning this restoration and recreational enhancement project in early 2021, and in 2022, stabilized 300 feet of streambank and 1.5 acres of floodplain. We addressed erosion by planting willows, native seed, California Wild Rose and Jeffery Pine. We built a watercraft unloading and staging area, directed trail access, a stable and user-friendly boat launch, and an area designated for beach-goers. Three shade pavilions with picnic tables will be installed this summer to finalize our vision. This project will support sustainable recreation. And

it will and protect and restore this beautiful place for our community and for all users, including the finned, winged and four-legged.

It takes a dedicated team to do what we do. Thank you to our partner – California State Parks

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



Courtney Rowe of DSMP and her daughter, Juniper, work to restore Donner Lake Lagoon on Truckee River Day (2022).

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### **GETTING CONNECTED**

Visit truckeeriverwc.org/subscribe to subscribe to our weekly e-newsletter, and follow us on social media to stay up to date with upcoming events:





### **Volunteer: Making Progress Possible Together**

To make lasting changes, we need all hands (and boots) on deck

### Join a River Talk

The Truckee River Watershed is a place full of beautiful meadows, streams, and forests that we love. Join us for a 45-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 future for our community and our watershed. Hear about restoration projects and meet and connect with fellow nature-lovers.

Contact Sue at 530.550.8760 x5 or sdrake@truckeeriverwc.org.

### Become an Ambassador

Connect others to us by inviting 10 of your friends, neighbors or co-workers to a River Talk. We will provide the presentation.

Contact Sue at 530.550.8760 x5 or sdrake@truckeeriverwc.org.



Getting to know our neighbors

### Adopt-A-Stream

Participate in important chemistry monitoring through our Adopt-A-Stream program. We train and equip you to practice watershed science and contribute valuable data toward the protection of our watershed. This is a great opportunity for individuals or the whole family.

Contact Eben at 530.550.8760, 7# or eswain@truckeeriverwc.org

RIGHT: Adopt-a-Stream volunteers conduct water quality analyses, providing important metrics for instream habitat health.

### **How Do I Volunteer?**

FIND A PROGRAM OR EVENT
If you're interested, please contact
the staff member listed here.

SUBSCRIBE TO OUR NEWSLETTER Visit truckeeriverwc.org/subscribe to receive our weekly e-newsletter and stay up to date with upcoming watershed events.

**FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA** 

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### Truckee River Day, October 15

Get connected and be a part of the solution by working with family, friends, and our community to help repair our mountain home. As one of our more than 400 annual volunteers, you will help restore selected sites, seed and plant native vegetation, protect sensitive areas, and create resiliency to buffer drought, flood, and wildfire.

Contact Michele at 530.550.8760 x4 or mprestowitz@truckeeriverwc.org



# Taking Deeper DIPS into Watershed Stewardship

Opportunities and collaboration with the Donner Lake Interagency Partnership for Stewardship (DIPS)

Donner Lake is a beautiful remnant of ancient glaciers in Truckee and is one of the most culturally and historically significant places in California. The native Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California occupied and traded in the area for more than 10,000 years, but their origin story puts them in the area since the beginning of time. This

puts them in the area since the beginning of time. This area is the passageway of the Emigrant Trail, the Donner Party camp, the first transcontinental railroad, the first transcontinental telephone line, Chinese migration, and today it is an important place of refuge and recreation to residents, wildlife and visitors of the greater Truckee-Tahoe region. Surprisingly, however, there have been no large scale collaborative efforts to understand, monitor and restore the health of Donner Lake—until now.

In 2020, a team of nine dedicated agencies came together to form the Donner Lake Interagency Partnership for Stewardship (DIPS), facilitated by the Truckee River Watershed Council. We have developed the Donner Lake Stewardship Plan to protect and enhance the long-term ecological and economic health of Donner Lake. The Donner Lake stewardship journey continues by sharing the data that is available, and working with a research team at the University of Nevada, Reno to begin annual ecological studies to guide ongoing decision-making, and developing a framework for ongoing action and monitoring. Findings are documented annually in our State of Donner Lake (SODL) report.



Key topics of the 2022 SODL report include water quality, water supply and use, ecological health, economy and development, transportation, safety and parking, recreational use, trash and solid waste, cultural resources, and riparian and wetland impacts. DIPS aims to protect, enhance and restore the health of the Donner Lake community through science-based knowledge and coordinated, collaborative action.





Courtney
Rowe of
California
State Parks
speaks with
the community
at the 2022
DIPS Open
House.

It takes a dedicated team to do what we do. Thank you to our partners – California Department of Parks and Recreation, Tahoe Donner Association, Town of Truckee, Truckee Donner Land Trust, Truckee Donner Public Utility District, Truckee Donner Recreation and Parks District, Truckee Meadows Water Authority, Truckee Sanitary District.

Thank you to the funders who are making this work possible, the donors of the Truckee River Watershed Council, Town of Truckee, Truckee Donner Land Trust, Truckee Sanitary District, and the Truckee River Fund.

# **Lacey Upper Meadow**

### Untaming a threatened headwater habitat

Lacey Meadows are part of a beautiful landscape situated in the headwaters of the Little Truckee River. The meadows boast colorful spring displays of lupine, larkspur, Alpine Buttercups and Leopard Lilies while providing sanctuary to threatened and endangered species like the Pine Marten, the Greater Sandhill Crane and the Willow Flycatcher among others. However, due to historic agricultural diversions, gravel dams, grazing and other human impacts, we have already lost over 25% of Upper Lacey meadow.

With the help of our partners, the Truckee Donner Land Trust and the U.S. Forest Service, we are breaking ground this summer on phase one of restoration. We will be restoring 3,500 feet of natural, dynamic stream channel which will once again be suitable to support fish, wildlife, and meadow and stream hydrology while taking back over 25 acres of meadow area we have lost. Through reconnecting the historic channels to prevent erosion, spread and slow flows, reconstructing riffles to provide complexity and fish spawning habitat, and restoring



Example of restored meadow hydrology accomplished during our project in Perazzo Meadows.





A degraded portion of Lacey Creek shows how impaired hydrology can drain and erode a meadow, resulting in loss of the meadow ecosystem.

wetland plants, water will once again meander through the entire meadow and spread across its natural floodplain. Restoring Lacey Creek will prevent erosion, feed the ecosystem and create resiliency so that the flora and fauna of this special place can thrive for years to come.

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

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

# Making a Difference

Did you know that when you donate to TRWC, your gift is what makes all of our restoration work possible? Every donation to the Truckee River Watershed Council helps. Each project first requires funds for building partnerships, planning, permitting, and engineering design well before dirt can be moved or vegetation can be planted. Your \$100 donation is leveraged to \$10,000 through state and federal grants. Interested in giving? Please visit truckeeriverwc.org



Explorer's Gentian (Gentiana calycosa) spotted by Pole Creek, a subwatershed of the Truckee River basin

# The Middle Truckee River Watershed Forest Partnership (MTRWFP)

Coming together to create a brighter, more resilient future for our watershed

The Middle Truckee River Watershed covers over 315,000 acres of beautiful and wild high-country landscape, rich in natural resources—forests, alpine lakes, streams, meadows, wildlife and an abundance of recreational opportunities. But weather extremes are becoming a reality due to our changing climate, causing longer, more intense droughts, flood events, heavy storms and severe wildfire events, creating uncertainty for our mountain home. Protecting a watershed of this scale and complexity takes time and multiple perspectives to get the science and solutions right. There was a clear need for collaborative action, so in 2022, five determined organizations took the initiative to come together and form a solution: the Middle Truckee River Watershed Forest Partnership.

Our partners includes the National Forest Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, Truckee Meadows Water Authority, and the U.S. Forest Service – Tahoe National Forest. "Our science demonstrates there is a high likelihood of intense wildfire in the area without the important work this partnership intends to tackle," states Mickey Hazelwood, Conservation Director for The Nature Conservancy in Nevada. John Enloe, Director of Natural Resources at Truckee Meadows Water Authority adds, "It's essential that we collaborate with our upstream partners

High country meadow on the Tahoe National Forest





Prescribed burns closely supervised by resource management professionals reduce the amount of overstocked debris on the forest floor in order to reduce future wildfire severity.

to protect our watershed, increase the region's resilience to wildfires and mitigate potential water quality impacts that can result from wildfires." We have identified 60,000 acres of high priority forest and habitat restoration needs using ecologically-based landscape modeling and forest assessments of our watershed, and have already begun the work and planning on half of those identified sites.

The goals of MTRWFP are to improve and restore forest health and resilience, reduce risk of high-severity wildfire, protect our communities from wildfire impacts, to protect and secure water resources, and to identify and address resource gaps to achieve project and partnership objectives. Together, we can achieve long-term resilience of the natural beauty, resources, communities and recreational opportunities of the Middle Truckee River Watershed.

## Learm more: truckeeforests.org

It takes a dedicated team to do what we do: Thank you to our partners – the National Forest Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, Truckee Meadows Water Authority and the U.S. Forest Service – Tahoe National Forest.

Thank you to the funders who are making this work possible: Truckee River Watershed Council donors, the Martis Fund, and the Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation.



### We thank the following donors

November 2022. Together, they provide the resources Truckee River watershed.

To become a donor or if we missed or misidentified you or your organization, please call to let us know: 530.550.8760 x 5#

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Liz Sheppard

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# 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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ш

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

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California Natural Resources Agency

California Sierra Nevada Conservancy

California Wildlife Conservation Board

Laird Norton Family Foundation

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Rosemary and Larry Ward

Ward-Young Architecture & Planning

Colleen and Paul Wilford

Mike Witherspoon

Barbie and William Witmer

# Continuing Our Work in Coldstream Canyon

### A major tributary of the Truckee River in jeopardy

In Coldstream Canyon, Cold Creek has a mile of stream in heavy disrepair due to over a century of railroad construction, logging and road development. There are areas where high flow velocities have eroded streambanks and degraded riparian habitat. This degradation has contributed excess sediment pollution in downstream water bodies, including the Truckee River.

The Truckee River Watershed Council and our partner California State Parks are working closely with a trusted team

of engineers and geomorphologists to examine opportunities to restore degraded sections of Cold Creek, a tributary to the Truckee River. Our design plans include restoring pre-disturbance hydrology, stabilizing actively eroding streambanks, creating riverine and floodplain terraces to reduce flow velocities and allow water to spread across the newly created floodplain, capturing and storing sediment while supporting aquatic and wetland plants and wildlife as they once did. We will install large woody debris jams and boulders to improve hydrologic function while creating cover for juvenile fish and cold pools as refuge for aquatic life during dry seasons. Increased groundwater levels will help support the growth of riparian vegetation, such as willows, aspen and cottonwood and eventually creating shade and wildlife habitat that are necessary for a functioning ecosystem. Our efforts will repair 1 mile of stream, 33 acres of riparian habitat and significantly reduce the transfer of harmful sediment and other pollutants to downstream waterbodies.

We are currently in the design phase of this portion of the Coldstream Canyon Restoration Project and construction is scheduled to begin in 2024.



Railway tunnel channelization has resulted in high velocity flows and extreme erosion of streambanks downstream.

It takes a dedicated team to do what we do. Thank you to our partner – California State Parks.

Thank you to the funders who are making this work possible – the donors of the Truckee River Watershed Council, the California Wildlife Conservation Board, the California State Water Resource Control Board, the Martis Fund, and the Truckee River Fund.

# Ways to Give with Greater Impact

- Make a charitable gift through a Donor Adviser Fund (DAF). Learn how DAFs work by scanning/pointing your phone camera at the QR Code.
- 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.
- 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.

