

Designing Solutions to Solve Complex Problems

Coldstream Canyon

Coldstream Canyon, located just west of the Town of Truckee, is beloved by recreational users for its access to backpacking, mountain biking, and bird watching. Not only does Coldstream Canyon provide stunning views and an abundance of recreation opportunities, but it also contains important waterways in our watershed! Cold Creek is a key tributary of the Truckee River within Coldstream Canyon in Donner Memorial State Park.

Coldstream Canyon has a long history of human disturbance including logging, railroad construction, gravel mining, stream realignment, and urbanization. Coldstream Canyon is a major contributor of excess sediment in the Truckee River watershed, ranging from 380 to 2,253 tons annually above natural conditions. The extent of streambank erosion and channel degradation is so severe in Cold Creek that small-scale interventions cannot provide a sustainable solution and degradation and habitat loss will continue.

We realized we need an intensive effort to fix it! In 2018, we began planning a restoration project along Cold Creek to reduce erosion, reconnect the floodplain, and enhance vegetation. Construction will happen this summer. Some outcomes from this project will be restoring natural hydrologic function to a one-mile reach of



Heavy sediment deposits are currently impacting the floodplain and riparian vegetation in Coldstream Canyon. The creek is channelized and cannot spread out over the banks into surrounding areas.



Rock material being delivered in preparation for project implementation. Creative solutions by project directors help find materials appropriate for the scale of long-term solutions needed.

Example of desired conditions at Coldstream. This site in Blackwood Canyon demonstrates abundant riparian vegetation/habitat and a fully connected stream channel with the adjacent floodplain.



stream, reducing sediment loads into the stream, enhancing over 20 acres of stream channel/floodplain connectivity, creating 2.3 acres of new floodplain, enhancing 30 acres of riparian vegetation, and improving wildlife habitat! This project will restore the beauty, health, and function of this much-loved area.

It takes a dedicated team to do what we do. Thank you to our partners: California State Parks, Sierra Pacific Industries, and Union Pacific Railroad.

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

For more information on the Coldstream Canyon Restoration Project, reach out to Eben Swain: eswain@truckeeriverwc.org

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Our mission is to bring the community "together for the Truckee" to protect, enhance and restore the Truckee River watershed.

Volunteer to Help Protect Your Passions

Everyone can be a part of restoring what we love!

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 one-hour presentation 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 8–10 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

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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Sandhill Cranes are starting to nest in the meadows around the Middle Truckee River Watershed!

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 Michele Prestowitz at 530.550.8760 x4
or mprestowitz@truckeeriverwc.org

Truckee River Day, October 20

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 Eben Swain at 530.550.8760 x7
or eswain@truckeeriverwc.org



Volunteers at Truckee River Day! Bank stabilization along Washeshu Creek.

Truckee River Heroes: Adopt-A-Stream

Bringing out the watershed scientist in all of us

You've seen the work that we do restoring the streams, meadows, and wetlands throughout our watershed! But have you ever wondered if you could be a part of the action? With its start in 1999, our Adopt-A-Stream program included volunteers to participate in water quality monitoring and collect valuable data for the health of the watershed. The Truckee River is listed as impaired for excessive sediment under the Clean Water Act. Continuing to monitor the health of the watershed over time is crucial in getting positive change made. In short, your help can directly protect our passions across the Truckee River!

Volunteers fan out across various locations in the Middle Truckee River watershed and take measurements of water temperature, conductivity, pH, dissolved oxygen, turbidity, and nutrients. This data is analyzed to assess the condition of the Truckee River ecosystem and to screen for water quality problems typically associated with common land use practices.

In May, volunteers participated in Snapshot Day, the one day each year when the water quality of the entire Tahoe-Truckee watershed is measured simultaneously providing a "snapshot" of the water quality of the region. Following Snapshot Day, volunteers have gone out in June and July to do more water quality testing at sites including Donner Creek, Bear Creek, Prosser Creek, Trout Creek, and many more! You can catch our last Adopt-A-Stream monitoring dates this coming September 12th, 13th, or 14th!

For more information regarding the Adopt-A-Stream program, or if you would like to join us for one of our September dates, you can reach out to Michele Prestowitz: mprestowitz@truckeeriverwc.org

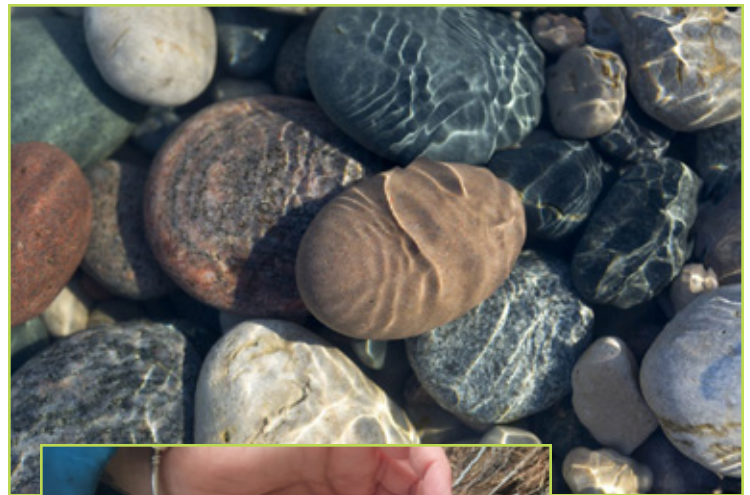
It takes a dedicated team to do what we do. Thank you to our Adopt-A-Stream volunteers!

Thank you to the funders who are making this work possible, the donors of the Truckee River Watershed Council!



GREG BERNSTEIN

Adopt-A-Stream lets scientists of all ages have a chance to contribute to our watershed.



A volunteer uses a titration kit to determine the amount of dissolved oxygen in a sample of water.



Scan this QR Code with your phone to watch some Adopt-A-Stream water quality testing in action!

Donner Creek

Restoring habitat and protecting local communities

Donner Creek has been repeatedly modified since the mid-1800s for grazing, the construction of the Central Pacific Railroad, Interstate 80 and Highway 89, and more recently, for development of our homes and businesses. The formerly meandering, sprawling, Donner Creek was straightened, confined, redirected and disconnected from its natural floodplain. We can't get it back to the way it once was, but what can we do?

Donner Creek is one of the largest contributors of excessive sediment to the Truckee River. Four sites were identified that have the greatest potential for restoration. These sites include heavily eroded streambanks, limited riparian habitat, high sediment transport, and stormwater runoff. Not only do these factors negatively impact watershed health, but they can lead to instability of the surrounding land that houses residential and commercial infrastructure and roads.

We knew that the conditions of this important stretch of watershed needed to be addressed based on years of

On our First Four Miles project, root wads, boulders, and natural vegetation were used as natural barricades to protect the bank. The Donner Creek project will utilize similar natural features to stabilize degraded streambanks.



Severe erosion on the right bank, fine sediment loading, and poor habitat quality are present at a site along Donner Creek.

monitoring and the Donner Basin Assessment. So, in 2017 we started designing a restoration project across those four sites along Donner Creek. The restoration, happening this summer, will incorporate the surrounding natural ecosystem and native vegetation to enhance riparian and in-stream habitat, stabilize severely degraded streambanks, and reduce erosion and pollutants entering the creek from stormwater runoff. Our design is based on restoring natural processes to promote ecosystem recovery and increase resilience for the uncertainty of a changing climate. We are looking forward to restoring a vital element of the Truckee community!

It takes a dedicated team to do what we do. Thank you to our partners: California Department of Transportation, Newport Pacific/Cirus Development, Sierra Joint Community College District, Tahoe Truckee Unified School District, Town of Truckee, Truckee Donner Land Trust, and Truckee Donner Public Utility District.

Thank you to the funders who are making this work possible: The donors of the Truckee River Watershed Council, the California Department of Water Resources, Community Foundation of Northern Nevada – Truckee River Fund.

For more information on the Donner Creek Restoration Project, reach out to Michele Prestowitz: mprestowitz@truckeeriverwc.org

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

Teaming Up to Restore Our Forests

The Middle Truckee River Watershed Forest Partnership (MTRWFP)

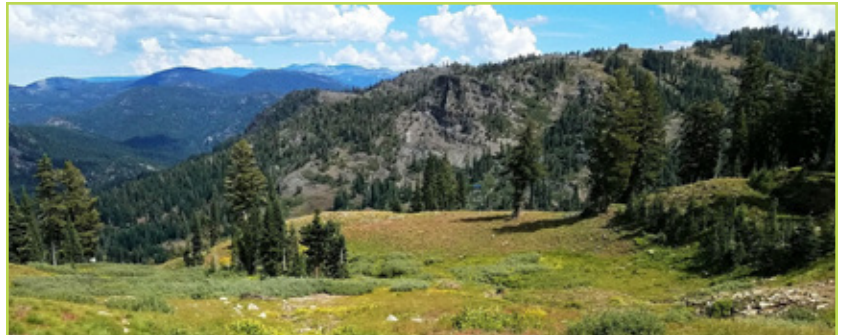


Our forests, rivers, streams, lakes, and meadows are part of what makes the Middle Truckee River watershed so special. The watershed provides an important habitat for the abundance of flora and fauna, as well as beautiful nature and exciting recreation for our communities. And as many in the area have experienced, changing climate and emerging weather extremes create uncertainty. In just the past few years, we have witnessed the destruction from the nearby Dixie, Caldor and Mosquito fires. We need to get ahead of the looming threat of a severe wildfire in our part of the forest, whose aftermath could mean the devastation of our watershed.



Including controlled burns as part of the solution is one element among many for managing a healthy forest. Infrastructure, habitat, wildlife, hydrology and species diversity are important considerations in developing a comprehensive plan for restoration.

In 2022, we teamed up with US Forest Service Tahoe National Forest, the National Forest Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, and Truckee Meadows Water Authority to form a team committed to acting towards the health of our forest. The Middle Truckee River Watershed Forest Partnership (MTRWFP) was established, and together we identified and prioritized 23 projects comprising 60,000 acres in the Middle Truckee watershed that will significantly benefit from forest health treatments and habitat restoration.



The Alpine Meadows Forest Health Project contains critical infrastructure and significant recreation including private residences, commercial development, trails, and rock-climbing destinations. Forest restoration, fuels reduction, and habitat enhancement will increase public safety and restore forest health to this area.

As of this year, six of those projects are in planning, five projects are being implemented, and one project has completed implementation. There is still much work to be done, but we are excited to share that progress is being made. To get updated information on the progress of our projects, check out the MTRWFP website, truckeeforests.org. From this website you can find a project map with the status of each of the projects, a general overview of project information, and a project updates page where you can find frequent updates regarding relevant trail/ road closures and other safety information.



The forests in the Middle Truckee River watershed struggle from a lack of diversity of tree species and overcrowding. These issues can lead to increased disease and the risk of severe wildfire.

Learn 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: The donors of the Truckee River Watershed Council, California Wildlife Conservation Board, California Sierra Nevada Conservancy, The Martis Fund, National Forest Foundation, and the Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation.

We thank the following donors

who have contributed since November 2023. Together, they provide the resources to fund solutions to protect, enhance and restore the 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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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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Thank you to these granting agencies for supporting our work.

- Bella Vista Foundation
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- California Department of Water Resources
- California Lahontan Region Water Quality Control Board
- California Natural Resources Agency
- California Sierra Nevada Conservancy
- California Wildlife Conservation Board
- The Martis Fund
- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- Nevada County
- Peek Family Charitable Foundation
- Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation
- Town of Truckee
- Truckee Donner Land Trust
- Truckee River Fund of the Community Foundation of Northern Nevada
- Truckee Sanitary District
- Truckee Tahoe Trout Fund
- Truckee Tourism Business Improvement District
- U.S. Forest Service
- Visit Truckee Tahoe

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- Sally and Rob Weston
- Colleen and Paul Wilford on behalf of Rob Gaffney

FOR THE TRUCKEE

TOGETHER

Rivers and Meadows and Forests, Oh My!

Incorporating forest health into large-scale watershed restoration

In 2021, we conducted a Forest Health Assessment to identify areas in the Middle Truckee River watershed where forest health treatments could have the greatest benefit for improving overall watershed health and reducing wildfire risk. The Forest Health Assessment identified 20 prioritized forest health projects.

Then, in 2022, through our participation in the Middle Truckee River Watershed Forest Partnership (MTRWFP) we have the opportunity to lead three of the forest health restoration projects. Each of these projects includes a forest health and meadow restoration component, tying in the important relationship between the health of our forests and the health of meadows and streams in our watershed!

The three restoration projects that TRWC is leading:

- **The Boca Project:** 2,500 acres located near Boca Reservoir. Tree health in the watershed has declined due to high stand density, drought, insects, and disease. Road networks have



Boca Forest Health and Meadow Habitat Restoration Project. A dirt road bi-sects flow of water from one side to the other, decreasing connectivity of the habitat and the hydrology that keeps meadows and forests connected.



Sayles Forest Health and Meadow Habitat Restoration Project. Sagebrush is encroaching on once wet areas ultimately leading to a dry and degraded landscape. Native wetland and meadow plant species are disappearing. This project will restore these wet areas along with increasing the health of the forest.

disrupted the natural water flow across the adjacent meadow.

- **The Hobart Project:** 2,500 acres located near Prosser Reservoir. In addition to logging and railroad development impacts, the 1960 Donner Ridge Fire burned a considerable area, leaving homogeneous (non-variable) tree stand conditions.

- **The Sayles Project:** 3,000 acres located in Sierra County just north of Stampede Reservoir and east of Highway 89N. Large meadow complexes are found in the project site, providing the opportunity to significantly enhance high-quality habitat conditions, while at the same time, reducing the potential wildfire severity.

We are excited to get these projects moving forward to restore the health of our watershed and increase the resiliency of our forest!

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: The donors of the Truckee River Watershed Council, California Wildlife Conservation Board, California Sierra Nevada Conservancy, The Martis Fund, National Forest Foundation, and the Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation.

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 70½ and older, you may gift your RMD 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 about these strategies.

