

# We All Work Hard To Protect Our Passions Across the Watershed

BY THE NUMBERS

## 29TH ANNUAL TRUCKEE RIVER DAY

**9** Project Sites

**38** Group Leaders

**300** Volunteers

**7** Landowners

**The 29th Annual Truckee River Day** was a resounding success! We were thrilled to welcome both returning and new volunteers to our watershed restoration efforts. Over 300 dedicated individuals joined us on a beautiful October morning to tackle nine projects across the Truckee River watershed. Led by our exceptional Group Leaders, volunteers rolled up their sleeves and put their skills to work. In Lower Lacey Meadow, they constructed willow debris jams and willow wattles to filter and slow water flow and stabilize the streambanks. At the Truckee River Wildlife Area located off I-80 across from Boca, volunteers improved a trail, making it more accessible while protecting delicate vegetation. Each project required unique skills and hard work, and our fantastic volunteers delivered. By working together, with shovels, loppers, rakes and buckets, we made significant strides in protecting this beloved watershed. Read on for other successes on Truckee River Day.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE	
Protect Your Passions By Volunteering!	2
Truckee River Day	3
TRWC Donors	6
Together for the Truckee	7
Reflections on 2024 and New Beginnings for 2025	8

CONTACT US

Phone  
530.550.8760

Mailing Address  
P.O. Box 8568  
Truckee, CA 96162

Street Address  
10418 Donner Pass Road  
Truckee, CA

info@truckeeriverwc.org  
truckeeriverwc.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Richard Anderson

Chris Askin, Treasurer

Jake Hudson

Steve Kitson

Tony Lashbrook

Michael Park

Jose Rivero, Secretary

Joanne Roubique, Chair

Gerry Salontai

Nancy Wallis, Vice Chair

Jasmine Watts

STAFF

Beth Christman  
Senior Director of Restoration

Sumner Cornacchia  
Intern

Sue Drake  
Development Director

Tiffanee Hutton  
Director of Restoration

Pam Jahnke  
Director of Finance & Operations

Michele Prestowitz  
Executive Director

Eben Swain  
Director of Restoration

Lisa Wallace  
Executive Director Emeritus

**OUR MISSION** is to bring the community "together for the Truckee" to protect, enhance and restore the Truckee River watershed.

Donated photos are credited.  
All others are owned by TRWC.

## Protect Your Passions by Volunteering!

*Your help can make the difference in protecting the place we love*

### Attend a River Talk

The Truckee River watershed holds many natural gems that drew us to this marvelous place! 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, and how you can help create a resilient future for our watershed. Hear about restoration projects and meet and connect with fellow nature lovers.

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



Look up in the trees while you're exploring our beautiful watershed—you might be lucky enough to spot a Great Horned Owl!

### Adopt-A-Stream

Become a watershed scientist! Participate in important water quality monitoring next summer through our Adopt-A-Stream program. We train and equip you with the necessary skills to get out into the watershed with friends, family, or some other nature-minded individuals and contribute valuable data toward the protection of our watershed.

Contact Michele Prestowitz at 530.550.8760 x4 or mpresowitz@truckeeriverwc.org

### How Can I Help Protect Our Watershed?

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

**SUBSCRIBE TO OUR NEWSLETTER**  
Visit [truckeeriverwc.org/subscribe](http://truckeeriverwc.org/subscribe) to receive our weekly e-newsletter and stay up to date with upcoming watershed events.

**FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA**  
Facebook: @TruckeeRiverWatershedCouncil  
Instagram: @trwcnews

### Become an Ambassador

Connect others to us by hosting 8-10 of your friends, neighbors or co-workers for a River Talk. We will provide the presentation.

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

### Truckee River Day 2025

Get connected and be a part of the solution by working with family, friends, and our community to help restore our mountain home. You can help seed and plant native vegetation, protect sensitive areas, and create resilience to buffer drought, flood, and wildfire.

Contact Eben Swain at 530.550.8760 x7 or eswain@truckeeriverwc.org



Adopt-A-Stream volunteer collects a water sample to be tested for various watershed health parameters.

# 29th Annual Truckee River Day

We work together to protect our passions in the watershed!

TRWC staff, Board members, Group Leaders, and volunteers come together every year to complete restoration projects across our watershed and make an impact on the health of the Truckee River.



BETH CHRISTMAN

## Stormwater Stenciling

**GROUP LEADER:**

Drew Jack

In partnership with the Town of Truckee, volunteers marked storm drains to support stormwater management which protects water quality for our community and prevents sediment and other pollutants from entering our rivers and streams.



MICHAEL PARK

**Stormwater Stenciling:** A tag we can get behind! A volunteer marks a stormwater drain.

## Coldstream Canyon

**GROUP LEADERS:**

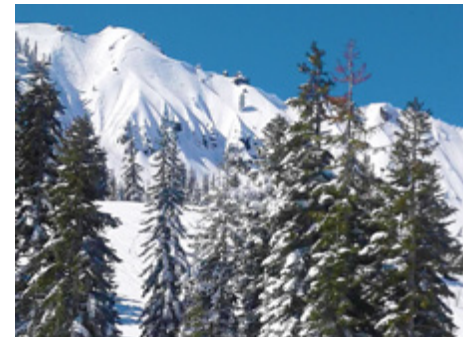
Alison Bermant, Kevin Drake, Jeff Glazner, Jeannette Halderman, Gina & Xavier Leigh

In partnership with California State Parks, volunteers spread native seed and mulch, and installed willow stakes and fascines to stabilize stream banks and support a recently completed stream restoration project.



JEANNETTE HALDERMAN

**Coldstream Canyon:** Buckets? Check. Sun protection? Check. Smiles? Check! Volunteers have some fun while moving material at Coldstream.



## How Does My Gift Make a Difference?

Every dollar donated to the Truckee River Watershed Council matters. When you donate, your gift doesn't just help us keep the lights on—it is leveraged 5 to 10 times in grants which fund implementation of our restoration projects. Each project requires building a partnership, planning, permitting, and engineering design 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)

## 29th Annual Truckee River Day

### Truckee River Wildlife Area – Boca Unit

**Group Leaders:** Sumner Cornacchia, Erin Gaare, Heather Schwartz

In partnership with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, volunteers improved an existing trail at a recently completed floodplain restoration project to manage access and protect the surrounding vegetation and floodplain—and planted willow stakes to protect streambanks



SUMNER CORNACCHIA



SUMNER CORNACCHIA

**Truckee River Wildlife Area – Boca Unit:** Volunteers haul dirt and move rocks to improve a trail that runs along a sensitive restoration site near the river.

### Tahoe Donner

**Group Leaders:** Ben Gwerder, Elizabeth Jens, Benjamin Levine, Chummy Prestowitz, Erin Smith

In partnership with the Tahoe Donner Association, volunteers planted a variety of native pines in Tahoe Donner to prevent erosion and increase species diversity.



JOHN JEWETT

**Lower Hoke Valley:** Hardworking volunteers rake in seeds to increase meadow vegetation.

### Lower Hoke Valley

**Group Leaders:** Jim Herzman, Jonathon Owens, Todd Rawlinson, Catherine Schnurrenberger, Nancy Wallis, Mike Witherspoon

In partnership with the U.S. Forest Service, volunteers installed willow wattles for erosion control, spread native seeds to increase the density and diversity of wetland vegetation, and mulched the soil surface for protection through the winter.



SARAH GREEN

**Sagehen:** Can you dig it? Volunteers dig holes to plant sugar pine seedlings—adding needed diversity to our forests.

### Sagehen

**Group Leaders:** Alice Enochs, Emily Enochs, Sarah Green, Maria Mircheva

In partnership with the Sugar Pine Foundation and the U.S. Forest Service, volunteers planted sugar pine trees to improve forest diversity and resiliency.



**Donner Lagoon: Swing**—but don't miss! Volunteers pound in willow stakes to reinforce the streambank. A Group Leader and volunteer take willow cuttings to be used for planting and making willow wattles.

## Donner Lagoon

**Group Leaders:** Tiffanee Hutton, Courtney Rowe, Lorenzo Worster

In partnership with California State Parks, volunteers spread native seeds and mulch to re-establish riparian plants and prevent erosion of nutrient-rich topsoil. They planted willows and built willow wattles to protect and reinforce the streambank.

## Truckee Springs

**Group Leaders:** Jesse Cassidy, Teresa Garrison, Daniel Joannes, Leora Sapir, Bill Wendin

In partnership with the Truckee Donner Land Trust, volunteers planted willows to protect streambanks and enhance habitat in select areas throughout the Truckee Springs property.

## Lower Lacey Meadow

**Group Leaders:** Peter Kulchawik, Susan Lisagor, Fred & Karen Zabell

In partnership with the Truckee Donner Land Trust, volunteers installed willow wattles and spread native seeds and mulch to increase wildlife habitat for native species at a recently completed meadow restoration.



**Lower Lacey Meadow:** It takes all of us to get the work done! Volunteers come together to collect willow cuttings and make debris jams and willow wattles.

**Thank you to our funders who make all this work possible:** Donors of Truckee River Watershed Council, Truckee Chamber of Commerce, Town of Truckee, Truckee Tahoe Community Foundation, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, California State Water Resources Control Board, California Wildlife Conservation Board, Community Foundation of Northern Nevada-Truckee River Fund, and The Martis Fund.

## 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 x5

### \$1,000 – \$9,999

Anonymous (3)  
Ann and Bruce Ajari  
Anderson Fund Foundation  
Patty Lomanto and Bob Bell  
Christopher Chua  
Kristi Denton and Tom Cohen  
Nancy and Don Davis  
Maria and Mark Denzler  
Amanda and Rick Dill  
Elizabeth and John Eaton  
Patrick Flora  
James Hodder  
Marc Lamb  
Susan Ellis and Mark Linton  
Dana and David Loury Foundation  
Christney and Bill McGlashan  
Jim Mitchell  
Phelan Family Giving Fund  
RDH Foundation  
Schaaf & Wheeler  
Southwest Gas Corporation  
Susan Burt and David Schneider  
Gretchen and Tom Selfridge  
Silver Sage Center for Family Medicine  
Lisa and Ken Smith  
Tahoe Oral Surgery and Implant Center  
Talonvest Captial on behalf of Scott Crist and Crist Property Company  
Keri and Griff Tully  
Rosemary and Larry Ward  
Trinkie Watson  
Lynne and Ken Weakley  
Susan Williams

### \$500 – \$999

Alison Bermant, Attorney at Law  
Carole Sesko and Richard Anderson  
Ann and Chris Askin

Jeannie Burrows  
Jen Callaway  
Paula and John Cherry  
Rick Fatzinger and Ramon Conteras  
Irene Fredericks  
Sandy and Peter Golze  
Keri and Michael Harvey  
Dot Ingels and Family  
Meghan and John Jewett  
Joan and Russ Jones  
Andie and Scott Keith  
Kristin Krone  
Daniel Kwong  
Lift Truckee  
Carol and Craig Lundin  
Violet Nakayama and Alan Muth  
MWA Inc.  
Outsight  
Steven Poncelet  
Dana and Jose Rivero  
Annie Rosenfeld  
Alix Rosenthal  
Laura and Mike Ryan  
Heather and John Svahn  
Jan and Dennis Switick  
Tahoe Marina Lakefront Homeowners  
Brita Tryggvi and Art Takaki  
Susan Williams  
Lisa and Doug Wright

### \$100 – \$499

Anonymous (8)  
Lorin and Peter A'Costa  
Tanya Africa  
Gina and Kern Barta  
Jennifer Jennings and Michael Bledsoe  
Jennifer and Ben Bloomfield  
Blue Sky Flat Water  
Lynn and Jim Booth  
Chris Burnham  
Carmen Carr  
Lisa Cevolani  
Anne Chadwick  
Patty Chin  
Dorothy and Don Christman  
Joan Clayburgh  
Dianne and Brent Collinson  
Carole and Dwight Davenport  
Marilynn Davies  
Gary Deis  
Mary Hetherington and Tom Deurlou  
Kathy and John Echols  
Karyn and John Ellis

Merle and Michael Fajans  
Jessica Ferguson  
Laura and Ken Ferree  
Philip Forsberg in memory of Michael Sodergren  
Gallery 5830  
Teresa and Greg Garrison  
Elizabeth Gardner and Jay Gill  
Sara and Bill Goerke  
Anne Graham  
Michael Griesmer  
Barbara and Geoff Griffin  
Marcia and Charles Growdon  
Joella Gustafson  
Missy and Jason Hajduk-Dorworth  
Tom Harvey in honor of Michael Harvey  
Denise and George Hastings  
Joanna Howes  
Lauren and Jake Hudson  
Kaitlin Backlund and Ron Hunter  
Cora Lee and WL Jenkins  
Anna and Sven Klovstad  
Deirdre Henderson and Marc Koplik  
Cheryl and Grady Kromer  
Joan and Bill Kreamer  
Michelle and Peter Kulchawik  
Trisha Ruby and Dan LaPlante  
Linda and Gilbert Larish  
Chilton Lee  
Susan Levitsky  
Brenda Major  
Kathy and Jerry Manifold  
Lynn and Donald McKechnie  
Kathy and Tom McLaughlin  
Michael K. Miller Insurance Services  
Ken Minton  
Jennifer and Michael O'Brien  
Rory O'Farrell  
David Olson  
Paula Polley Copywriting  
Marianne and Jim Porter  
Sarah Murphy and Johnny Ramos  
Susannah Redman  
Linda and Brook Russon  
Deb Ryan  
Gretchen Corbin and KC Seymour  
Charlene and Dan Simmons  
Lydia and Jim Stang  
Cindy Steele  
Jody and Bill Sterling  
Carla and Thomas Stokes  
Suzanne and Shaun Sullivan

Eben Swain  
Keith Taylor  
Steve Teshara  
Mary Alice and Bill Thauvette  
Colombe and Blake Tresan  
Susi and Gene Urie  
Linda and David VanderJagt  
Margaret Ann and Ken Wallace  
Nancy and Owens Wallis  
Nancy and Steve Wasserman  
Mary Lou and Gene Welch  
Deborah and Larry Young  
Karen Sessler and Fred Zabell  
Kathleen and John Zemaitis

### \$0 – \$99

Anonymous (2)  
Jeff Alpert  
Beth Anderson  
Mary Ellen and Stefan Benier  
Nicole Szczech and Alex Blennerhassett  
Leealyn and George Brandt  
Jane and Michael Bridges  
Jean and Greg Brooks  
Hedi Burkhardt  
Joan and Dale Bush  
Patricia and Paul Cardoza  
Paige Derdowski and Kelley Carroll  
Andrew Crisp  
Gayle Dana  
Niki Dessauz-Kompaniez  
Betsy and Larry Ford  
Anne and Dan Goeschl  
Sarah Green  
Kathe and Rich Gresham  
Sonja Harris  
Sarah Hoyle  
Loui and David Janecky  
Denise and Peter Kraatz  
Max Krewson  
Taylor Leatherman  
Petronila Esther Mandeno  
Barbara and Gerald Meral  
Julie and Steve Mikulic  
Jane and Mark Miller  
Erin Murphy in honor of Lucetta Swift  
Lynn and Bill Newhall  
Joy and James Phoenix  
Kevin Starr  
Melissa Swink  
Tahoe Exclusive Vacation Rentals  
Sarah Trebilcock  
Knute Anscomb and Peter Werbel  
Jacqui Zink

# DONORS

**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.

**PRESERVE THE WATERSHED – \$10,000 A YEAR FOR 5 YEARS**

- Laird Norton Family Foundation
- Northstar California/Vail Resorts EpicPromise
- Gail and Rick Stephens
- SWF Immersion Foundation
- Tahoe Mountain Resorts Foundation

**PROTECT THE RIVER – \$5,000 A YEAR FOR 5 YEARS**

- Anonymous (2)
- Kelly and Marvin Blough
- Dagny and John Borcich in memory of Stephen F Martin
- Nancy and Henry DeNero
- Julia Gold
- Granite Peak Management
- Jeri and Jeff Johnson
- Jones Corda Construction
- Joan and Russ Jones
- Marc Lamb
- Mountain Hardware and Sports
- Palisades Tahoe
- Shirley and Thomas Phelan
- Sierra Mountain Mortgage, Inc.
- Lisa and Ken Smith
- Teichert/Stonebridge Properties/Triangle Restoration
- Lynne and Ken Weakley
- Bill Wendin
- Diane and Bill Zuentd

**RESTORE A STREAM – \$1,000 A YEAR FOR 5 YEARS**

- Anonymous (3)
- Alleivy Employer Solutions
- Carole Sesko and Richard Anderson
- Gale Rankin and Vicente Bonnard
- Juliet Bradley
- Carmen Carr
- Marie and Jim Colbert
- Theresa and Richard Crocker
- Nancy D'Amico
- Dickson Realty
- Amanda and Rick Dill
- Sue and Kevin Drake
- Kathleen Eagan and Jim Duffy
- Elizabeth and John Eaton
- Vivian and Bruce Euzent
- Mark Girard in memory of Mark Girard Jr.
- Habitat Restoration Sciences, a Dudek Company
- Suzy and Greg Hill
- Homewood Mountain Resorts
- Margaret Lewicki and Ernie Grossman
- Greg Hovorka
- Lauren and Jake Hudson
- Marsha and Jeff Jellin
- Jane and Ron Jenny
- Melissa Kaime
- Loran Killar
- Adrienne and Sheldon Kimber
- Susan and Steve Kitson
- Mary and James Koons
- Jan and Tony Lashbrook
- Carol and Bill Leimbach
- Janet and David Lowell
- Nancy and John Morgan
- Mendy and Larry Oliver
- Marti and Michael Park
- Tina and Andy Peek
- Mary E. Reilly
- Kristina and Eric Riemer
- Bonnie and Keith Riley
- Joanne Roubique

TOGETHER FOR THE TRUCKEE

**Thank you to these Grantors for supporting our work.**

- Bella Vista Foundation
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife
- California Department of Water Resources
- California Lahontan Region Water Quality Control Board
- California Natural Resources Agency
- California Sierra Nevada Conservancy
- California Wildlife Conservation Board
- Laird Norton Family Foundation
- The Martis Fund
- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- Nevada County
- Peek Family Charitable Foundation
- SWF Immersion Foundation
- Tahoe Mountain Resorts 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

GRANTORS

- Carol and Michael Sabarese
- Sue Sage
- Cindy and Gerry Salontai
- San Fransisco Fly Casting Club
- Silver Sage Center for Family Medicine
- Sue and John Sorensen
- Wendy Sumner
- Tahoe Truckee Flyfishers
- Taylor Builders, LLC
- Suzanne and Charlie Thornton
- Truckee Tahoe Lumber Co.
- Carol Patterson and Peg Van Camp
- Erin and Val Videgain
- Lisa Wallace and Family
- Nancy and Owens Wallis
- Rosemary and Larry Ward
- Ward-Young Architecture & Planning
- Sally and Rob Weston
- Colleen and Paul Wilford on behalf of Rob Gaffney and all things nature

# Reflections on 2024 and New Beginnings for 2025

*Michele Prestowitz, Executive Director and Lisa Wallace, Executive Director Emeritus*

As we wrap up a year of progress, we're pleased to share this message together. Under Lisa's leadership, our team achieved key milestones in line with our strategic goals. Driven by our focus on increasing the pace and scale of restoration in our watershed, our team secured funding for 5,000 acres of restoration projects, solidified key collaborations, and brought on new staff to get the work done. We saw projects come to life in the construction phase, and dedicated time to rigorous assessment and design to build the pipeline for ongoing work. 2024 was our biggest year yet!

Here's a look at our shared successes this past year:

**ASSESSMENT:** We evaluated critical areas like the Pole Creek watershed and groundwater dependent ecosystems, are enhancing monitoring of water quality of our surface waters, and are developing data modeling to support meadows of the Sierra.

**DESIGN:** It takes two to four years to design and plan a project before it gets to construction. This year we had a lot of projects in design—Boca Forest and Meadow, Donner Lake Northshore, Hobart Forest and Meadow, Independence Forest and Meadow, Little Truckee River Tributaries, Euer Valley, and Sayles Forest and Meadow Restorations.

**CONSTRUCTION:** The most visible successes of 2024—we completed 150 acres and several miles of streams restoration. These on-the-ground projects included sites in Coldstream



Our recently completed restoration project in Coldstream Canyon is one of our most intensive efforts—utilizing many engineering and biological techniques to reduce erosion, reconnect the floodplain, and enhance vegetation.

Canyon, Donner Creek, Hoke Lower Meadow (near Boca Reservoir), and Lacey Lower Meadow (near Webber Lake).

Now, with Michele stepping from her previous position as a Project Director into her new role as Executive Director, we're ready to carry our momentum forward. The collective passion of our staff, partners, and supporters has made all the difference—and with Michele at the helm, the organization is in a strong position to continue its impactful work in 2025. Thank you for reading this newsletter and joining in the work to restore, protect and enhance the Truckee River watershed!



## Giving 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.

