

## 30 Years and Still Counting

*This counts on all of us. We count on you.  
And you can count on us.*



### BY THE NUMBERS

### 30TH ANNUAL TRUCKEE RIVER DAY

### ADOPT-A-STREAM

**30** Group Leaders   
 **9** Project Sites   
 **8** Partners   
 **50** Volunteers   
 **4** Sampling Periods   
 **23** Sampling Sites   
 **350** Volunteers

**THIS FALL MARKS 30 YEARS** since the Truckee River Watershed Council came together to protect, enhance, and restore the Middle Truckee River watershed. We couldn't do it without you!

We are thrilled to have welcomed both new and returning volunteers to our watershed restoration efforts this year. Over 350 volunteers joined us at the 30th Annual Truckee River Day, working on nine restoration projects throughout our watershed. Guided by skilled Group Leaders, volunteers pounded hundreds of willow stakes into the ground, spread bucketfuls of native seed, repaired protective fences, planted thousands of native pines, and pulled invasive weeds. This work leaves a meaningful mark on our landscapes and our future.

In our Adopt-A-Stream program, over 50 volunteer watershed stewards collected water quality data at 23 streams and rivers throughout the season. These efforts build on over a decade of water quality monitoring data, helping us keep a pulse on our watershed's health.

The connection to the Middle Truckee River watershed flows deep in the folks that live, play, and work in our region. We are fortunate to be able to count on our community to show up—to roll up their sleeves and lace up their boots in support of our mission to protect our watershed. As we celebrate this 30-year milestone, one thing is clear: our impact depends on all of us. We count on you, and you can count on us. For water storing meadows, fire resilient forests, clean clear streams, and the evidence-based science that guides our work.

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

Donated photos are credited.  
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## Can The Watershed Count on You to Volunteer?

*Your time, curiosity, and action help protect 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 restoration work is underway, why our watershed needs protecting, and how you can help create a resilient future. Hear stories about restoration, science, and community, and meet fellow nature lovers.

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

### Become an Ambassador

Already been to a River Talk? Share what inspired you by inviting 8-10 of your friends, neighbors or co-workers to a River Talk. You provide the audience; we provide the presentation.

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



River otters are just one of the many animals that call our watershed home!

### Adopt-A-Stream

Become a watershed scientist! Through our Adopt-A-Stream program, we'll train and equip you to monitor water quality in local streams, collecting data that contributes to long-term protection of our watershed. It's a great way to connect with nature, meet others and make a lasting impact.

Contact Rachel Robin at 530.550.8760 x2  
or rrobin@truckeeriverwc.org

## How Can I Help Protect Our Watershed?

**FIND A PROGRAM OR EVENT**  
Reach out to 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**

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### Truckee River Day 2026

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 volunteers work throughout our watershed, including some popular rafting sections of the Truckee River near the outlet of Lake Tahoe!



# 2025 Adopt-A-Stream



## Another year of successful water quality monitoring

Thank you to all 2025 Adopt-A-Stream volunteers! Volunteers were hard at work at nearly 25 sites throughout the Middle Truckee River Watershed. Volunteers measured water temperature, conductivity, pH, dissolved oxygen, turbidity, and nutrients in our rivers and streams four times this summer!

All this data helps track trends in the physical and chemical characteristics of our streams over time. This builds on over a decade of data collection. It allows us to identify what's working, where we can do more, and make science-based decisions to protect and improve watershed health.

Special thanks to our Adopt-A-Stream team leaders. These seasoned volunteer stewards mentor new participants and ensure that we collect accurate, reliable data!

Volunteers do on-site chemistry to measure the amount of dissolved oxygen in our creeks. High levels of dissolved oxygen support healthy fish and the aquatic bugs they eat!

## How Does My Gift Make a Difference?

Every dollar donated to the Truckee River Watershed Council matters. When you donate, you're not just helping us keep the lights on – it is leveraged 5-10x in grants which fund large-scale restoration projects. Before any shovel hits the ground, each project requires planning, partnerships, permitting, and engineering. Your \$50 donation grows to \$500 through grants bringing real, measurable change to the watershed we all depend on! This work counts on us. Want to help? Visit our website: [truckeeriverwc.org/donate](http://truckeeriverwc.org/donate)



Martis Wildlife Area 2019



Martis Wildlife Area 2023

BOTH PHOTOS: BALANCE HYDROLOGICS



# 30th Annual Truckee River Day: This counts on all of us

## Stormwater Stenciling

*Group Leader: Drew Jack*

In partnership with the Town of Truckee, volunteers marked storm drains to remind people that anything entering a storm drain flows directly to our local waterways, often carrying sediment, oil, and other pollutants.

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



**Upper Lacey Meadow:** Volunteers construct willow wattles in upper lacey meadow to help slow runoff so spring flows can seep into the soil, keeping the meadow wet for longer in the summer.



## Upper Lacey Meadow

*Group Leaders: Beth Christman, Jim Herzman, Fred and Karen Zabell, Peter Kulchawik, Mary Meagher*

In partnership with the Truckee Donner Land Trust, volunteers spread native seed and mulch and installed willow wattles on a recently completed meadow restoration project.



TRWC staff and Board, Group Leaders and volunteers come together every year to restore what we all love.

## Sardine Meadows

*Group Leaders: Michelle Deslauriers, Kaci Spooner, Vanessa Stevens*

In partnership with the US Forest Service, volunteers repaired and installed fencing to protect an existing fen and surrounding sensitive habitat.



**Sardine Meadows:** Fen-tastic volunteers helped put up a fence to protect a fen, a type of sensitive wetland, from being trampled by cattle.

**Coldstream Canyon:** Volunteers pound rebar into the base of rock structures to plant willow stakes. These willows will increase habitat and slow down powerful flows in Cold Creek.



## Coldstream Canyon

*Group Leaders: Kevin Drake, Jeff Glazner, Max Goldman, Jeannette Halderman, Jake Hudson, Rob Miller, Rachel Robin*

In partnership with California State Parks, volunteers spread native seed, thinned dense lodgepole thickets, and planted willow stakes to support a recently completed stream restoration project.



**Euer Valley:** Volunteers help button up last summer's construction by planting willow stakes and spreading native seeds.

**Farad:** Volunteers of all ages pounded in willow stakes and spread native seed to enhance sustainable access to the Truckee River.



## Euer Valley

**Group Leaders:** Karyn Erickson, John Groom, Benjamine Lavine, Gina & Xavier Leigh, Leslie Loveland, Jonathan Owens, Dave Shaw

In partnership with the Tahoe Donner Association, volunteers spread native seed and mulch and installed willow stakes and fascines on a recently completed restoration project. This enhances riparian habitat and helps stabilize the restoration project for the winter.

## Farad

**Group Leaders:** Tiffanee Hutton, Daniel Joannes, Bill Wendin

In partnership with the Truckee Donner Land Trust, volunteers planted willows and spread native seed to enhance habitat and sustainable recreation access to the Truckee River.

## Olympic Valley

**Group Leaders:** Dan Johnson, Susan Lisagor, Kat Smolen, Jeff Sorfleet, Patty Tumenas

In partnership with the Olympic Valley Watershed Alliance, Placer County, and Trout Unlimited, volunteers removed the invasive weed, spotted knapweed, from the Olympic Valley meadow and the banks of WaSheShu Creek to help restore native plant communities and riparian habitat.

## Sagehen

**Group Leaders:** Teresa Garrison, Sarah Green, Leora Sapir, Heather Schwartz, Erin Smith

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

## Tahoe Donner

**Group Leaders:** Tamara Anderson, Ben Gwerder, Amy Horne, Chummy Prestowitz, Lindsay Ryan, Lorenzo Worster

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



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

**Tahoe Donner:** By the time this young volunteer can grow a moustache of his own, the seedlings planted on Truckee River Day will be well on their way to creating a diverse, fire-resilient forest

Thank you to our funders who make all this work possible: Donors of Truckee River Watershed Council, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, California Department of Water Resources, California State Water Resources Control Board, California Wildlife Conservation Board, Community Foundation of Northern Nevada-Truckee River Fund, National Forest Foundation, Nevada County Community Development Agency, Point Blue Conservation Science, Sierra Nevada Conservancy, Town of Truckee, Truckee Tahoe Community Foundation, The Martis Fund, and the U.S. Forest Service – Tahoe National Forest.

## We thank the following donors

who have contributed since November 2024. 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

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\* Donors have helped sustain TRWC for 10 or more years. Thank You.

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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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*If we missed or misidentified you or your organization, please let us know: 530.550.8760, x5*

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**TOGETHER FOR THE TRUCKEE**



## Euer Valley Update

We've been hard at work in Euer Valley over the last few months. Crews installed grade-control structures to stabilize South Fork Prosser Creek, repaired degraded streambanks, improved 1.5 miles of eroding roads, and built a 150-foot bridge and boardwalk at Cowboy Crossing. Truckee River Day volunteers helped button up the project site for winter, installing willow stakes and spreading native seeds.

This landscape still shows the impacts of logging and cattle grazing that reduced the ecosystem quality and function of this landscape. Our restoration efforts are reversing that damage, protecting valuable habitat and re-creating a landscape more resilient to future floods and droughts.

The benefits of our work flow beyond the project site. Restoring Euer Valley prevents excess sediment from traveling downstream to Prosser Creek and Prosser Reservoir. This protects water quality and fish spawning habitat for miles downstream.

We're proud of what's been accomplished and excited for what's next. Stay tuned for Phase 2 of restoration slated to begin Summer 2026.

*It takes a dedicated team to do what we do. Thank you to our partner, the Tahoe Donner Association, for collaborating on this important project.*



Rock weirs in the South Fork of Prosser Creek will prevent the stream from cutting deeper into the meadow surface, reducing erosion and sediment inputs during floods and big winters.

*Thank you to the funders who are making this work possible, the donors of the Truckee River Watershed Council, the California Wildlife Conservation Board, State Water Resources Control Board, Sierra Nevada Conservancy, Point Blue Conservation Science, Truckee River Fund at the Community Foundation of Northern Nevada, and the Nevada County Outdoor Visitor Safety 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 70½ and older, you may gift your RMD to TRWC without incurring federal income tax on the withdrawal.
- Make a gift of appreciated securities and you may be able to deduct its current value while avoiding the taxation of capital gains.



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

***Is TRWC included in your estate plan? Let us know!***

## A Word from Our Executive Director

In our 30th year, I'm proud of what we've accomplished together—and energized by the work ahead.

Thanks to the strong foundation built over decades of dedication from staff, volunteers, donors, and partners,

TRWC is advancing more restoration than ever before. In 2025, we restored streams and meadows, continued critical forest health projects, and expanded long-term monitoring and planning.

The Truckee River watershed continues to count on all of us—and we're rising to the challenge. With climate pressures increasing, our commitment remains steady: rooted in science, driven by collaboration, and fueled by love for this place.

Thank you for being part of this work. In 2026, you can count on us to go further.

With gratitude,  
Michele Prestowitz, Executive Director

