

TRUCKEE DONNER LAND TRUST

Preserving and protecting important historic, recreational and scenic open spaces in the greater Truckee region.



Fall/Winter Newsletter
Volume 36 ❖ November, 2009



Announcing three new acquisitions

*Cold Stream Meadow &
the Mt. Lola Trail, page four*

Pierce Meadows, page six

Billy Mack Canyon, page eight

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

As I prepare to complete my service on the Board of our Land Trust, I wish to take this moment to thank some of the people who have made the past six years such a rewarding experience.

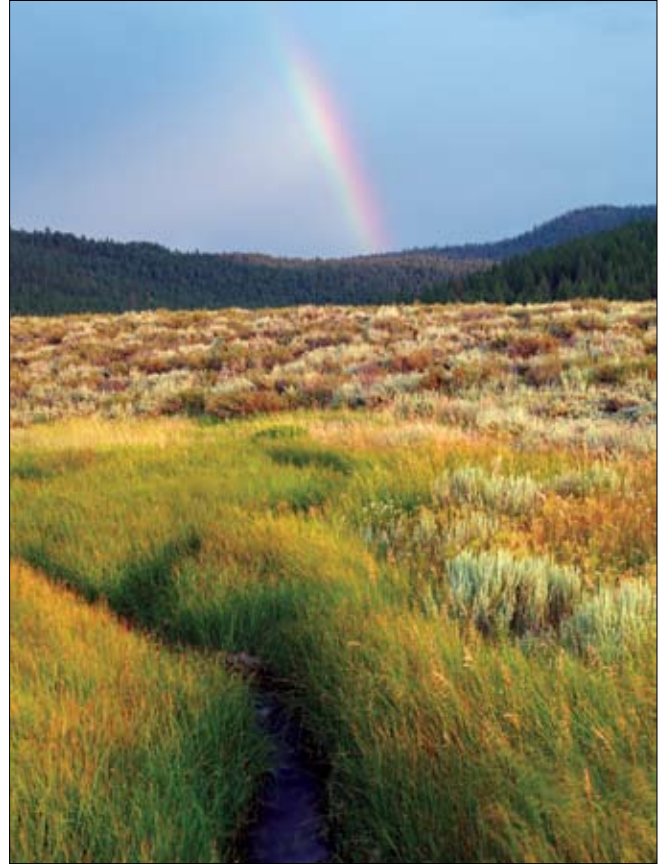
I have appreciated the opportunity to observe firsthand what this organization can achieve when members like you, our professional staff, our conservation partners, and the Board work in unison toward the achievement of our conservation goals.

During this time, we have participated in the protection of nearly 13,000 acres at a total cost of approximately \$40 million. Even more impressive, however, is the fact that we are actively involved in more than \$50 million of additional, spectacular conservation projects, some of which will be closing before the end of this year.

Clearly, there are significant goals and challenges ahead, and the highest achievements of this organization are yet to be reached. But we can take some pleasure looking back at our substantial achievements to date.

None of the Land Trust's work could be accomplished without our professional staff, led by Perry Norris. We are blessed to have a person with such charisma, connections to the conservation community, and a commitment to the preservation of open space.

Our staff's efforts would be for naught, however, if we did not have the support of our many conservation partners in areas of government, public interest and private foundations. The keen foresight of these entities has been essential to the execution of our mission and the ultimate protection of important wildlife, recreational



The East Fork of Martis Creek flows through Waddle Ranch Preserve, acquired by the Land Trust in 2007. Nearly \$2 million is being spent on restoration and forestry management. Photo courtesy of ElizabethCarmel.com

and scenic values. Their steadfast support, even through the recent economic crisis, speaks volumes about the relationships we have forged through years of cooperation, and the potential that our continued partnership holds for the future.

Finally, this organization owes its very existence to the support provided by this community, from the founders who had the vision to see the need for, and to create, the Land Trust 19 years ago, the past and present Board members who have donated their time and resources to the Land Trust's mission, and each of you, who have provided years of unflinching support for the advancement of a conservation ethic that seeks to preserve that which is special about the Sierra. Thank you for letting me play a small role in your great successes.

Warm regards,

*Martin Bern
Board President*



The Land Trust is under contract to purchase over 1,300 acres on the eastern flank of Devil's Peak that includes over two miles of Palisade Creek Trail. Photo courtesy of Anne Chadwick.

DLRT UPDATE

Donner Lake Rim Trail Finishes Another Section

2009 was another successful trail building season on the Donner Lake Rim Trail. Over 200 volunteers worked over 1,500 hours and opened a new section of the trail.

This new section traverses the southwestern face of Donner Ridge, and offers sweeping views of Negro Canyon and the Sierra Crest, from Mt. Lola to Tinker Knob. It connects the Drifter Hut terminus of the Rim Trail with the Glacier Way Trail terminus at the "picnic table," and replaces steep dirt roads with single-track trail built with more gentle gradients. The route travels through mostly open country with a few very old Jeffrey pines along the route that offer a spot for a shady stop.

This new trail was a challenge to build. The route traverses three large scree slopes, which required

extensive excavation and leveling. The parts of the trail that are not on a scree slope travel through dense chaparral and required the backbreaking task of removing roots from the trail almost constantly.

Please enjoy a hike, horseback ride, or mountain bike spin on the new trail!

The new section, when made into a loop with the Tahoe Donner roads that were previously used for the Rim Trail, makes for a relatively level three-mile walk with magnificent views.

In 2010 the Land Trust will take a break from construction on the Donner Lake Rim Trail, and will be planning and designing the route across Schallenberger Ridge. We



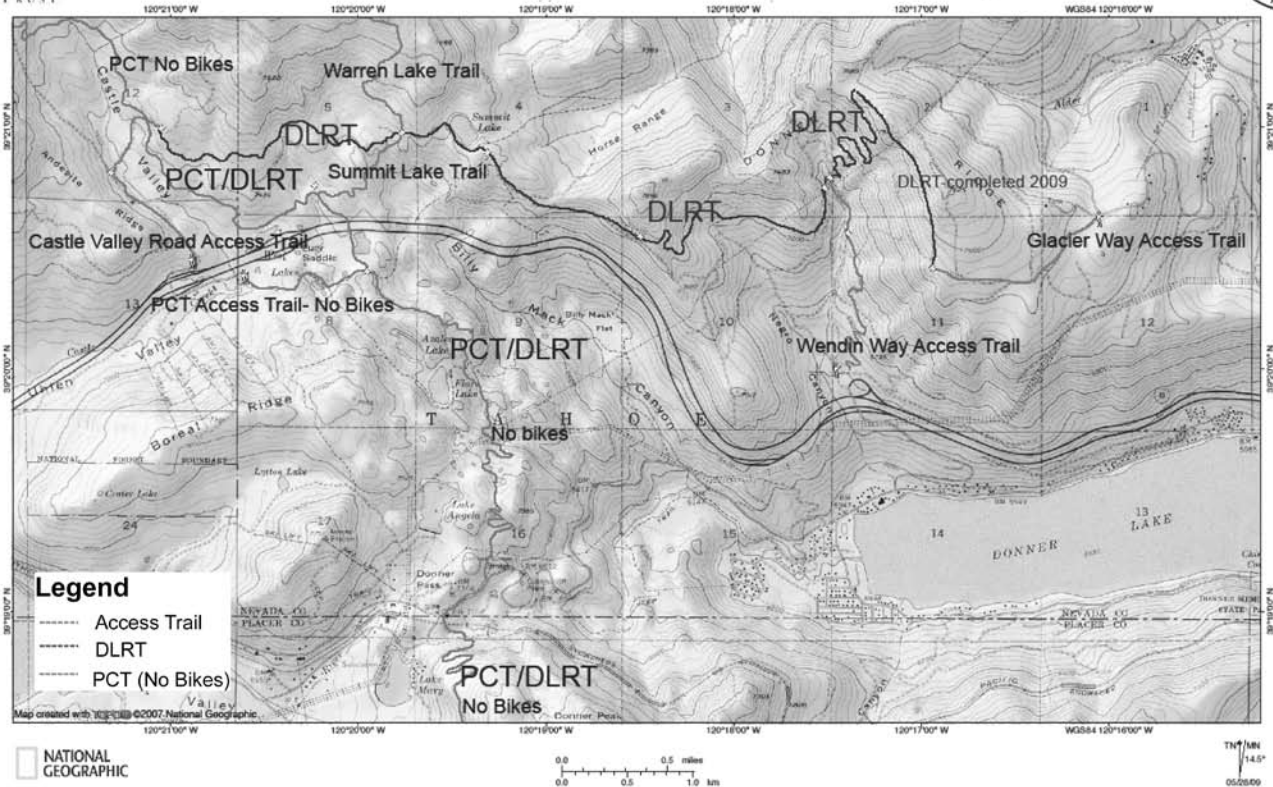
The new section of the Donner Lake Rim Trail running from Glacier Way Trailhead in Tahoe Donner to Drifter Hut. This section traversed three scree slopes requiring hours of difficult and technical work.

will move construction efforts into building a new trail at Waddle Ranch Preserve.

Finally, the Land Trust staff welcomes longtime member Bill Person as our new volunteer trail coordinator. Bill will be one of our crew leaders, and will be scheduling the trail days as well.



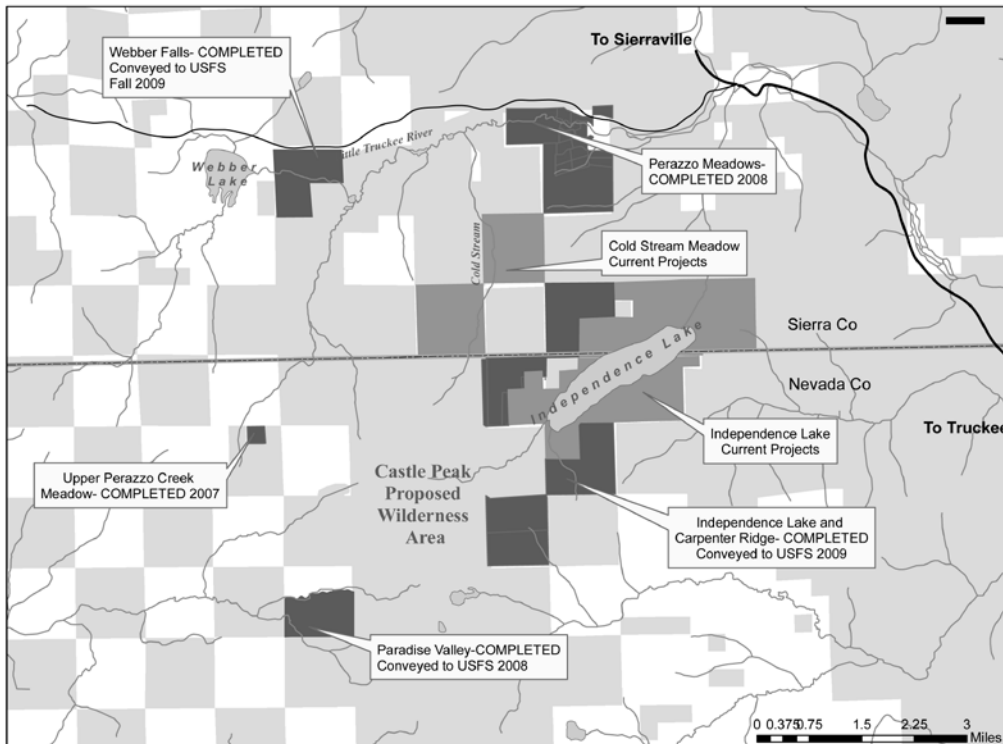
Donner Lake Rim Trail Area Map



NEWLY

COLD STREAM MEADOW & THE MT. LOLA TRAIL NOW PROTECTED

Checkerboard Projects- Completed and Current 2009



Sources: Sierra Co, Nevada Co, USGS, CA DFG, DLT

Map Created by: Truckee Donner Land Trust 10/09

goshawks, songbirds and the endangered willow flycatcher. Large mammals, including a recently spotted wolverine, forage in the area, and a Land Trust staff member recently spotted a pine marten on the property.

It is a popular recreation area, where hikers come to summit the 9,148-foot Mt. Lola — the highest peak in Nevada County and one of the highest in the northern Sierra Nevada. The protected land will include two miles of the trail that hikers use to reach the peak of Mt. Lola, and take in the majestic views of Castle Peak, the Carson Range, the Sierra Buttes, Mt. Lassen, the Coast Range, and several Great Basin ranges.

Quality, not just quantity, is at the forefront of the Truckee Donner Land Trust's strategy to protect the undeveloped lands in the Truckee River watershed. And the Land Trust's latest acquisition along Cold Stream Creek — includes hundreds of acres of wet meadows, habitat for the endangered willow flycatcher and a popular recreation trail — protects a unique Northern Sierra landscape that cannot be summed up by simply listing the area's acreage.

By any measure, the 1,320-acre parcel north of Truckee is a gem. It is a wealth of wildlife habitat — home to owls,



Staff from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy enjoy lunch at Cold Stream Meadow. The Conservancy played an important role in the acquisition as did The Northern Sierra Partnership.

ACQUIRED

And it is also rich in plants and trees. Coldstream Meadow, a pristine 300-acre wet alpine meadow on the property, is cloaked in native grasses, large-old growth red fir, lodgepole and aspen.



Cold Stream Meadow has an astonishing number of wild flowers, with over 25 different kinds identified. Here, fireweed and larkspur pictured.

But beyond all of its intrinsic conservation value, the Cold Stream Creek property acquisition will link important prior purchases by the Land Trust and the Trust for Public Land, resulting in more than six miles of continuous public ownership beginning on Carpenter Ridge, including Independence Lake, extending over Mt. Lola and across Perazzo Meadows. The two Cold Stream sections, in conjunction with other conservation efforts completed and underway in the Little Truckee River watershed will result in the protection of more than 17,000 acres

The new purchase brings with it new possibilities. The United States Forest Service has identified Cold Stream Creek as an ideal spot to reintroduce the native Lahontan cutthroat trout. And the area is within the northern reaches of the proposed

17,889-acre Castle Peak Wilderness Area. Following acquisition, the California Wilderness Coalition will be proposing the property be included in the Wilderness Area. The Wilderness Area will be a boon for Truckee's recreation-driven economy.



Cold Stream is a major tributary to the Little Truckee River. It also supports a healthy population of brook trout.

The two Cold Stream sections, in conjunction with other conservation efforts completed and underway in the Little Truckee River watershed will result in the protection of more than 17,000 acres.



Land Trust supporters atop Mt. Lola, the highest point in Nevada County at 9,148'.

NEWLY

PIERCE MEADOWS IN THE SIERRA NEVADA CHECKERBOARD

In September, the Truckee Donner Land Trust acquired 160 acres on the western slope of the Sierra Nevada northwest of Cisco Grove. While a relatively small acquisition, the purchase is especially important because it will protect a 65-acre wet meadow system called Pierce Meadows that feeds into the South Yuba River. Following the Land Trust's purchase, the property was handed over to the United States Forest Service for management.

"Pierce Meadow is very biologically diverse, supporting uncommon meadow species such as western pond turtle and American marten," said Fran Herbst of Tahoe National Forest. "It also provides

connectivity for late successional associated wildlife species in the checkerboard land ownership."

The meadow system, located at the south side of the property, is where three meadows that feed into the larger Pierce Meadows converge. The Pierce Meadows system filters sediment and cleanses runoff before it flows into the southern tributaries of the South Yuba River, upstream of Lake Spaulding. The South Yuba River is a federally designated Wild and Scenic River.

The property is comprised of four, 40-acre parcels. Current zoning would have allowed for a residence and assorted out-buildings to be built on each parcel. The Land Trust's recent purchase and transfer of the land

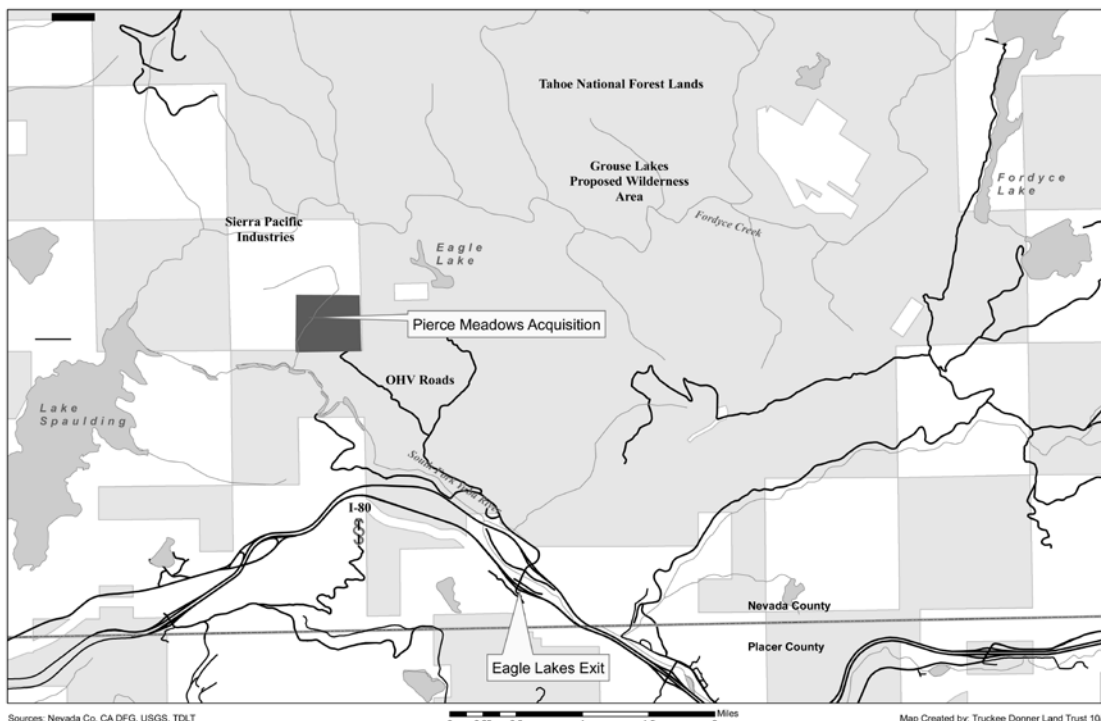
to the Forest Service permanently eliminates this possibility. Residential development within a National Forest, sometimes called rural sprawl, creates substantial management issues for the Forest Service.

The seller, a longstanding conservationist, wanted to ensure the property was also protected from illegal off-road vehicle use. Prior to selling the property to the Land Trust, the owners had several roads accessing the property obliterated. The Land Trust and Forest Service also signed a Memorandum of Understanding that outlines future management of the property by the Forest Service.

"The work the Truckee Donner Land Trust has done to close the old roads through the property will provide the Forest Service with a mechanism for protecting the meadow from OHV use," Herbst noted.

The property will make an outstanding and badly needed buffer to the proposed Grouse Ridge Wilderness Area, an area of high-elevation granite speckled with lakes that sits above Lake Spaulding.

The area surrounding Grouse Ridge, including Pierce Meadows, is part of the "Sierra Nevada Checkerboard," a landscape of alternating square-mile sections of



Sources: Nevada Co, CA DFG, USGS, TDLT

Map Created by: Truckee Donner Land Trust 10/09

ACQUIRED



There are four separate wet meadows at Pierce Meadows. The meadows remain wet even in late summer.

public and private land. This ownership pattern dates back to 1863. Unable to finance the new transcontinental railroad in cash, President Abraham Lincoln granted every other square mile in the Sierra within a certain distance of the railroad to the

Central Pacific Railroad. Over time these properties changed hands from the railroad to large logging companies. More recently these lands are becoming sought-after for vacation homes. Many of these square miles can be subdivided and built upon.

Concerns over wildlife habitat and migration corridors, future public access and recreation opportunities, and the ability to prevent and fight wildfires in the Sierra, have made protecting the checkerboard from rural sprawl a top priority for the Truckee Donner Land Trust and The Northern Sierra Partnership.



The granite walls on the property give it an appearance of a mini Yosemite Valley.

Road Decommissioning at Pierce Meadows



Road before decommissioning



During decommissioning



After decommissioning

Many thanks to Integrated Environmental Restoration Services for a job well done.

NEWLY

THE LAND TRUST'S WORK CONTINUES IN BILLY MACK CANYON

For more than five years, the Truckee Donner Land Trust has been piecing together land purchases on the granite-studded flanks of the Sierra Crest between Donner Lake and Donner Summit. Recently, the Land Trust added a 55-acre stretch of stream-fed canyon just north of Old

Highway 40 to that growing mass of protected land.

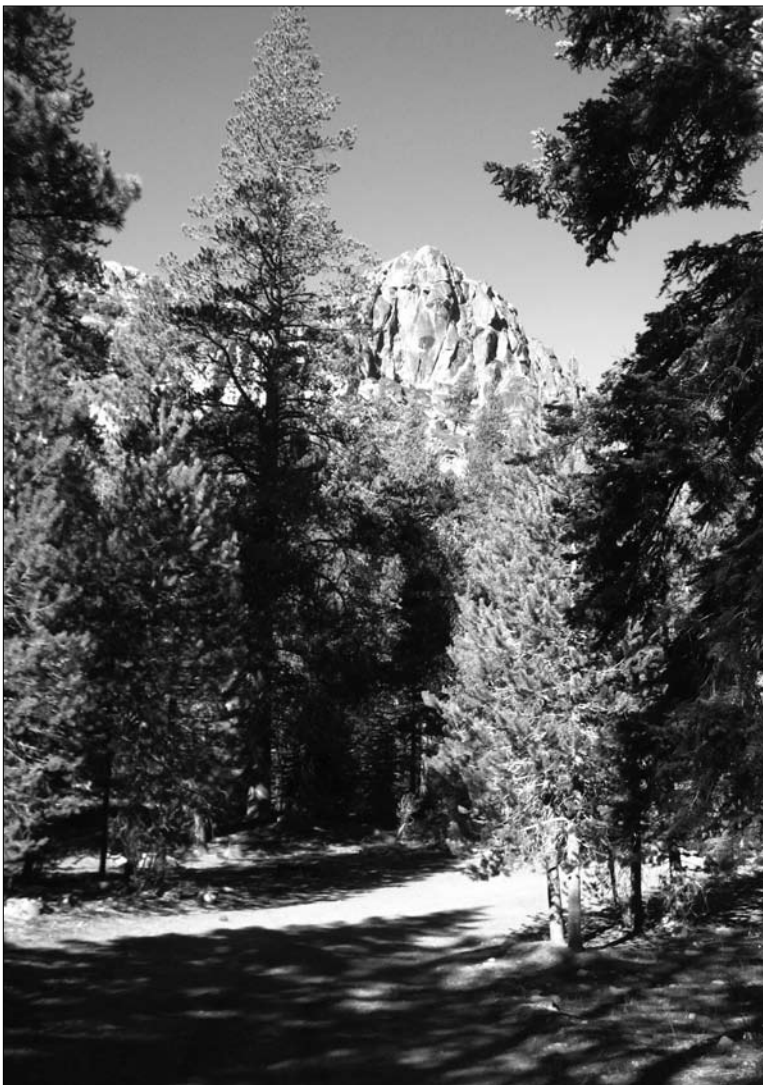
The lower portion of Billy Mack Canyon is narrow and gorge-like, guiding Frog Creek as it rushes from its origin on the steep, eastern slopes of Castle Peak to the west end of Donner Lake. Willows and native grasses

blanket the banks of the creek, creating a cooling canopy that makes the creek an excellent environment for trout and other native fish species.

The steep canyon harbors large pine and fir trees, making it prime habitat for goshawk, fox, pine marten, and black bears. Billy Mack Canyon is a natural habitat linkage between the peaks of the Sierra Crest to the west and Donner Lake and the Truckee River watershed to the east.

The Land Trust plans on constructing a new trailhead in the canyon, allowing hikers to access the rugged canyon and hike along Frog Creek as they head west to a connection with the world-famous Pacific Crest Trail.

The Truckee Donner Land Trust views this recent acquisition as the third phase of a much larger project aimed at protecting the tributaries of Donner Lake and the rich, mostly undeveloped habitat between Donner Lake and Donner Summit. Although there are still two properties on the "must buy" list in Billy Mack Canyon, the Land Trust is nearing its goal of preserving the entire canyon. This property, when combined with the conservation easement on Billy Mack Flat, and the two parcels the Land Trust already owns, totals over 450 acres, protected and open for the public to enjoy. The Land Trust is working to add these properties to Donner Memorial State Park.



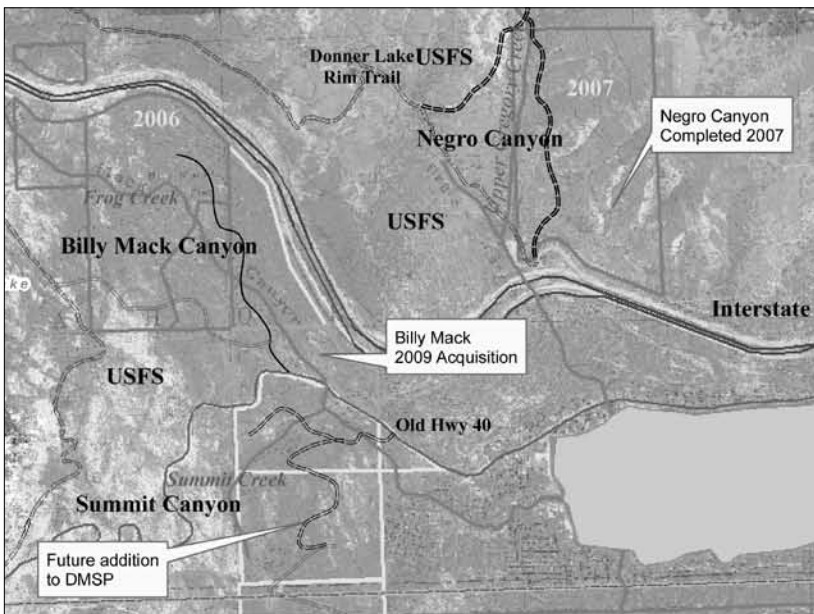
Looking up towards Donner Summit and Blackwall.

ACQUIRED



Billy Mack Canyon is a scenic treasure at Truckee's doorstep.

Once combined with previous acquisitions on Schallenberger Ridge and in Coldstream Canyon, Donner Memorial State Park will then encircle almost two-thirds of Donner Lake.



Enjoying Billy Mack Canyon

Billy Mack Canyon's meadows, forest and cliffs provide year round fun for hikers, rock climbers, skiers and snowshoers. Climbers armed with a topo map (and some local knowledge) can access Babylon Wall and The Perch, crags with a number of routes. Hikers can travel the road into a beautiful canyon and meadow, and can scramble up to scenic vistas of Truckee and Donner Lake. In the winter, skiers and snowshoers can travel through the forest on a fairly level trek. Lastly, backcountry skiers can challenge themselves on the short-but-steep chutes known as Area 52. If traveling in the winter, please take necessary precautions if venturing off of the road, as you will be in avalanche terrain.

Billy Mack Canyon can be accessed from above, via the Pacific Crest Trail, or from below, via Old Highway 40. For the Pacific Crest Trail access, please park at the trailhead on the south side of Interstate 80. Follow the PCT south for about two miles, where the PCT is crossed by the powerlines. From here several rough trails head down to the property. Please note that most left turns before the powerlines lead to steep terrain with many cliffs. If accessing the property from Old Highway 40, park at the first gate on the right side of the road, (if proceeding uphill). It is an ornamental, as well as functional gate, with designs in the metalwork. From here, travel up the dirt road onto the property. The meadow is about a mile up the road.

Please note that you cannot park on the sides of Highway 40 in the winter. The parking issue will be fixed in the coming years as the Land Trust builds the new trailhead on the north side of the highway.

STEWARDSHIP



Gray Creek

These remote and beautiful properties are in the process of being conveyed to the California Department of Fish and Game.

Perazzo Meadows

This year we spent many hours on the newly-acquired Perazzo Meadows property designing the new kiosk and interpretive trail signs, working with our neighbors monitoring use on the property, and working with our partners at the Truckee River Watershed Council and Forest Service on the Little Truckee River restoration project.



Pine Forest

We are happy to report that the Fire Safe Council of Nevada County awarded the Tahoe Donner Association a grant to thin forest fuels on part of this property. Thinning will occur in the summer of 2010.

OF OUR LANDS

Old Greenwood

Annual monitoring is a tough job sometimes. Anyone up for a hike or bike ride on the Old Greenwood trails?



Wintercreek

This beautiful wetland in the heart of Truckee reminds us of the special natural areas that draw us to the mountains. In 2009 on Truckee Day, the Truckee Donner Land Trust staff removed trash and other debris from this wetland. We also will be installing a new sign on the property in the near future.

Billy Mack Canyon

We have been working with the property owners on their lodging business, and planning a new future home and trailhead for the Donner Lake Rim Trail.



WADDLE RANCH PRESERVE

STEWARDSHIP



Jim and Becky Morgan of the Morgan Family Foundation with Perry Norris of the Land Trust and Dave Sutton of The Trust for Public Land at the boulder and plaque commemorating the dedication of Waddle Ranch Preserve. The Morgan Family Foundation was instrumental in acquiring the property.

The past year has been a busy one out at Waddle Ranch Preserve. The property was conveyed to our partners at the Truckee Tahoe Airport District, and has been the site of some very intensive stewardship efforts. The airport district's Board of Directors authorized three quarters of a million dollars for forestry to make the property more fire-safe and healthy, through selective thinning. Often this process may appear damaging to the area, but it really does promote the growth of healthy trees, and creates better wildlife habitat.

In addition to this, Waddle Ranch Preserve was selected as the location for a Supplemental Environmental Process through the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Board. Our partners at the Truckee River Watershed Council and Integrated Environmental Restoration Services will be

monitoring the health of the watershed, and making the roadways less erosive and less disruptive to the watercourses.

In addition to the stewardship efforts for fire safety and environmental health, the Truckee Donner Land Trust has been at work readying the property for recreation opportunities. The parking area at the northwest trailhead is finished, complete with kiosks containing a map, history of the property, and a thank you to our donors. Also, please enjoy the new picnic area in Beacon Meadow. This is the site of the dedication plaque and boulder, and will be the location of the trailhead for the loop trail around Beacon Hill. Construction of this trail will begin in 2010.

If you were on the property this summer, you may have met Dylan Farnsworth, the Land Trust's intern and Waddle Ranch Preserve Ranger. Dylan was onsite to catalog the many birds, plants and mammals that call the property home, and to help visitors with the regulations and directions.

Over the winter, the Land Trust staff will be designing more signage and completing the Waddle Ranch Preserve Master Plan for Placer County.



The two new kiosks at the Northwest Access Trailhead tell of Waddle Ranch Preserve's history and recognizes the broad based community support for this important conservation effort.



Stan Wingate at Waddle Ranch Preserve.

THANK YOU STAN!

After nearly five years as the Land Trust's Associate Director, Stan Wingate is moving on. Stan's contributions towards our financial reporting and forecasting, stewardship and the Donner Lake Rim Trail will be remembered. Stan also played a pivotal role in arranging the financing for the \$23.5 million Waddle Ranch Preserve acquisition.

The Land Trust's Board and staff wish Stan the very best in his new pursuits, as well as another belt buckle to add to his collection from the Western States 100-mile endurance run.

NORTH TAHOE PLEIN AIR

September 9-13, 2009

Many thanks to our
Local Art Community

Celebrating the beauty of the Truckee Donner area, 37 well-known artists from California and Nevada gathered for three days to paint at locations throughout the Martis Valley and North Lake Tahoe. In its third year, North Tahoe Plein Air benefits the Truckee Donner Land Trust, North Tahoe Arts and the Community Fund of North Lake Tahoe.



One of the 37 artists to participate in North Tahoe Plein Air puts the finishing touches to a masterpiece at the Northstar reception.

THE NEW SIERRA NEVADA LICENSE PLATE

Order Your License to Protect the Places You Love

All proceeds from Sierra license plates will benefit the Sierra Nevada Conservancy. The Sierra Nevada Conservancy is dedicated to protecting and restoring 25 million acres of the Sierra Nevada - more than a quarter of California!

Sign up NOW to help the Conservancy's efforts to:

- Support environmental preservation and restoration
- Assist regional economies and provide increased opportunities for tourism
- Enhance and maintain working landscapes
- Support regional and local organizations in their efforts to protect the Places You Love

Order Now at: www.sierralicenseplate.org



6TH ANNUAL TRAILS & VISTAS

*Terra Caeli
September 12-13, 2009*

For the third year in a row, Trails & Vistas performed to a sold out show. Terra Caeli promised to take you to a place where Earth meets sky and art intersects with the landscape. The event did not disappoint the more than 700 in attendance, including



Chief Red Hawk plays a Native American flute while dancers from Inner Rhythms perform.

children and seniors, who walked the three-mile trail, meandering through aspen groves, towering pines and verdant meadows. The event featured 30 collaborating artists, musicians and equine performances that put on seemingly effortless performances in a variety of elements. It was another remarkable event.

Each year Trails & Vistas selects a venue that showcases a Truckee Donner Land Trust acquisition. Along with presenting interesting and engaging performances, organizers hope to instill in each hiker the importance of environmental stewardship and to inspire people to get involved in saving open space in our area.

Please join us for next year's event on September 11 & 12, 2010. For more information visit www.trailsandvistas.com.



Acclaimed performer Agelelika plays a handmade tamboura.

A special thank you to the tireless Land Trust volunteers.

Leave A Legacy of Open Space for Future Generations

*Do You Want to Help Continue Our Work,
But Can't Right Now?*

*The land under our feet ... hiking Schallenberger Ridge,
skiing Coldstream Canyon, or enjoying the stunning views of the
surrounding peaks from the Donner Lake Rim Trail.*

*When you include the Land Trust in your will or estate plans, called a
charitable bequest, you leave a legacy to future generations by ensuring
that they will be able to enjoy the beautiful lands we cherish today.*

*This type of gift works well for people who believe in the Land Trust's
cause but can't part with money today. A planned gift can offer flexibility
and estate tax advantages, and continues to support the Land Trust's efforts
to protect the Truckee Donner area's most important treasures.*

*Leaving a bequest is simple and gives you the opportunity to make a
significant difference. To make a charitable bequest, consult your tax or
legal advisor to learn more about how this opportunity can benefit you.*

*Consider including the Land Trust in your will or estate plan
and leave a legacy that your children and grandchildren can
experience under their feet forever.*

*To find out more about leaving a legacy, contact Kellie Wright
at 530-582-4711 or kellie@tdlandtrust.org.*

THANK YOU 2009 HIKE LEADERS

Some of the Land Trust's most treasured acquisitions, and some of the Northern Sierra's most scenic landscapes, are best seen on foot. So Land Trust members laced up their hiking boots this summer and hit the trail to get an intimate tour of forests, meadows, ranches and creeks on hikes guided and organized by the Truckee Donner Land Trust.

A huge thanks to our hike leaders and volunteers: Paula Messano and the Bickford family; Land Trust Board members Janet Zipser Zipkin, Bill Thauvette and David Brown, and Stewardship Director, John Svahn.

WAYS TO GIVE

**Donner Lake Rim Trail,
Adopt-A-Quarter-Mile:**

Consider a \$1,000 contribution to adopt a quarter mile along the Rim Trail. This is a great way to memorialize your family's enjoyment of trails. Adopters are recognized at a nearby trailhead.

**Donner Lake Rim Trail,
Adopt-a-Bridge:**

Consider a \$10,000 contribution to adopt a bridge along the Rim Trail. Adopters receive a permanent plaque at the bridge unveiled at a dedication ceremony.

Memorial Gifts & Honorary Memberships:

Honor the memory of a friend or loved one who treasured the open spaces and wild lands of our area. Or give a gift membership for birthdays, Christmas, weddings or other special occasions.

Monthly Giving:

Many people find it easier to make a smaller contribution each month, thereby increasing their total support without financial difficulty. The Land Trust can charge your credit card each month in an amount you specify.

Gifts of Stock:

Gifts of long-term appreciated stock and mutual fund shares are an easy way to make a lasting contribution with specific benefits. Consult your tax or legal advisor to learn more about how this opportunity can benefit you.

Planned Giving:

When you include the Land Trust in your will or estate plans, called a charitable bequest, you leave a legacy to future generations by ensuring that they will be able to enjoy the beautiful lands we cherish today. Consult your tax or legal advisor to learn more about how this opportunity can benefit you.

In-Kind Gifts:

Donations of goods or services can also be tax-deductible.

Volunteer:

The Land Trust is looking for volunteers to assist at events and build trail on the Rim Trail and at Waddle Ranch Preserve. Or if you have a special skill, please let us know!

For more information contact Kellie Wright at 530-582-4711 or kellie@tdlandtrust.org.



Looking for that perfect gift for someone who seems to have everything?

Give the gift of open space for all occasions.

An honorary gift is a thoughtful way to show your friends and family how much you care about them and the environment.

Call the Land Trust at 530-582-4711 for more information.



Thank you to the following Business Partners

- Alpine Mounting Systems – Tahoe Posters
- American Hiking Society
- Arbor Home Mortgage, Inc.
- Ascend Business Consulting
- Cabona's
- Castle Peak Snow Removal & Vacation Rentals
- Cedar House Sport Hotel
- Robert Colpitts, DDS
- Concerned Property Owners of Tahoe Donner Conservation & Preservation Counsel
- Cottonwood Restaurant
- DMB/Highlands Group, LLC
- Donner Lake Property Owners Association
- Donner Memorial State Park
- Donner Truckee Veterinary Hospital
- Downing Law Firm
- Dragonfly
- East West Partners
- The Estates Group - Tom Pillsbury
- Gabbart & Woods Structural Engineers
- Heat-Tech of Truckee
- Home Concepts
- Jackass Ridge
- Kelly Brothers Painting, Inc.
- Law Offices of Michael Graham
- Law Offices of Porter Simon
- Los Gatos Construction Co., Inc.
- Lost Trail Lodge
- Martis Valley Associates - Anne Dain Goeschl
- Maui Vacation Rentals
- North Tahoe Arts
- North Tahoe Plein Air
- Offroute.com
- Pacific Crest Grill and Bar of America
- Pianeta Ristorante
- Pinnacle Real Estate - Jeff Hamilton
- Plumas Bank - Shelly Wright
- REI, Inc.
- Ryan Group Architects
- Sierra Club
- Sierra Mountain Mortgage
- Silver Sage Center for Family Medicine
- The Sohagi Law Group
- Sorensen's Resort
- State Farm Insurance - Tahoe City
- Streamline Consulting Group
- Tahoe Sierra Eye & Optical
- Mark Tanner Construction, Inc.
- Tony Hardy Construction, Inc.
- Trails and Vistas
- Truckee River Associates
- Truckee Tahoe Airport
- Truckee-Tahoe Lumber
- US Army Corps of Engineers –Martis Creek Lake
- Dennis E. Zirbel, Architect

For more information about our Business Partner program, please call Kellie Wright at 530-582-4711.

CONSERVATION EASEMENTS HELD BY THE LAND TRUST: MONITORING REPORT

DMB/Highlands

Conservation Easement

The conservation easement within the Martis Camp resort development offers recreation enthusiasts a beautiful multi-use, non-motorized trail as well ski runs



DMB Highlands, Martis Camp

on the backside of Northstar. The owners of the property have taken great care to selectively thin the trees for fire safety and forest health. The first phase of the easement is in place, and totals 166 acres of forest containing mostly sugar and Jeffrey pines, and the birds and mammals typically found in the mixed conifer forests of the area.

Jackass Ridge

Sandwiched between Highway 89 South and Coldstream Valley, Jackass Ridge forms the southern viewshed for many points in Truckee. The conservation easement on 35 acres of this ridge protects this view. Land Trust Board and staff also join the property owners for an annual cleanup on the conservation easement.



Jackass Ridge

Warming Hut

The owners of this property and Donner Ski Ranch are in the process of refurbishing the Warming Hut, an important piece of California's skiing history built by the Sierra Club, for use by ski area patrons. The Land Trust monitors the 23-acre property, located west of the ski area's backside, for forest health and wildlife habitat.



Warming Hut

Truckee River Canyon

This 93-acre conservation easement is located on both sides of the Truckee River between Farad and the Nevada state line. The easement is in place to protect and restore sensitive riparian habitat. On Truckee River Day, Sara Taddo Jones and many other volunteers placed boulders and drain gravel on the property to keep vehicles from driving on the sensitive areas, and to help curb erosion.



Truckee River Canyon

EASEMENTS (CONT.)

Ponderosa Golf Course Easement

Built by volunteers in the early 1960s who were looking for a recreation spot to relax from their jobs building Interstate 80, this 53-acre golf course is also a beautiful greenbelt in the heart of Truckee and is home to many small mammals and birds. Canada geese and deer use this open space as they migrate through the area. Lastly, this conservation easement will be the new home of a multi-use trail eventually connecting downtown Truckee with the Martis Valley.



Ponderosa Golf Course

THANK YOU DYLAN!

The Land Trust would like to thank Dylan Farnsworth for his hard work and dedication this summer as the ranger at Waddle Ranch Preserve. Dylan was out on the property most days, greeting visitors, telling them of the history of Waddle Ranch, the rules on the property, and what they can expect to see as far as plants and wildlife. His daily log of plants and animals seen is invaluable for future rangers, and for Land Trust documentation. In addition, he helped monitor, and offered a valued opinion, on forest health and the ongoing forest thinning efforts. Dylan also helped design and install some of the new signs and kiosks on the property.



Dylan Farnsworth with a Lahontan cutthroat trout at Pyramid Lake.

His work with the Truckee Donner Land Trust rounds out a seasonal work schedule that includes positions with the U.C. Berkeley Adventure Risk Challenge (ARC) program, an environmental education and leadership program for youth, and the North American Ski Training Center (NASTC).

Thanks Dylan!

TAX NEWS

For Those 70 1/2 Years of Age or Older

Don't miss this unique opportunity to make a tax-free gift from your IRA. You can make a gift to the Land Trust now until December 31, 2009, by transferring a gift from your IRA directly to us. *Please consult your tax advisor to learn more about how this tax-saving opportunity can benefit you.*

Thank you to the following In-Kind Business Partners

- Kathy Bender
- Capital Beverage Co.
- Carmel Gallery Downtown Truckee - Elizabeth & Olof Carmel
- Anne Chadwick Photography
- Best Western Truckee Tahoe Inn
- Clair Tappaan Lodge
- Dan Goddard Construction
- Illustrations by Lissa G. Dodds
- Dragonfly
- Earthworks Incorporated
- Florian's Fine Wines & Specialty Foods
- Geocadd Aerial Surveys
- Hall Tree Truckee
- Hartley Appraisal Services
- Holdrege & Kull
- Integrated Environmental Restoration Services
- The Mountain Forge, Inc.
- Mountain Hardware & Sports
- Northstar-at-Tahoe
- Paco's Truckee Bike and Ski
- Patagonia
- Pooh Corner
- The Pour House
- Puma Springs Vineyards
- Squaw Valley USA
- Sugar Bowl
- Sugar Bowl Academy
- Teichert
- TIP Printing & Graphics, Inc.
- Town & Country Storage
- Town of Truckee
- Truckee-Tahoe Mortuary
- Scott Wall Forestry

MEMBER PROFILE

Barbara Grasseschi & Tony Crabb

Longtime Truckee Donner Land Trust supporters Tony Crabb and Barbara Grasseschi have owned a home in Tahoe Donner since 1994, where they enjoy hiking and kayaking in the summer and skiing in the winter. They have one son and one granddaughter.

When away from the mountains, Tony and Barbara live in the Sonoma wine country and own Puma Springs Vineyards. They have a large menagerie of animals that include: goats, a llama, chickens and ducks. In winter, sheep roam the vineyard.

Tony and Barbara first learned of the Land Trust when they worked with the late Matt Rusanoff, a Land Trust board member, to design their new home.

"Matt was an amazing person and spoke very highly of the Land Trust's work; we were excited to learn how the Land Trust could quickly acquire

vital open spaces around Truckee while providing public access and new trails," Barbara said.



Stalwart Land Trust supporters and conservationists, Barbara Grasseschi and Tony Crabb, in Bhutan.

Tony and Barbara are especially impressed with the amount of community support and the energy of the Land Trust's small staff. When the Land Trust made the transition from an all-volunteer organization to a professionally staffed Land Trust, the couple provided much needed operational support.

Since then, they have seen that early involvement blossom. "The Land Trust is moving on many fronts and is so successful in saving critical habitat and recreational open space," Barbara added.

For more information about Puma Springs Vineyard please visit www.pumasprings.com.

Buck for Open Space Partners

Donate \$1 Today

Preserving open space in the greater Truckee Donner region is simply good business. The Land Trust would like to thank the following conservation-minded businesses and their customers and encourage you to give them your business.

Best Western Truckee Tahoe Inn
Robert Colpitts, DDS
Cottonwood Restaurant
Donner Truckee Veterinary Hospital
Dragonfly
Heat-Tech of Truckee
Kelly Brothers Painting, Inc.
Sierra Pet Clinic
SnowTech

SAVE THE DATE

THE CARMEL GALLERY HOLIDAY BOOK LAUNCH PARTY

*Saturday, December 5, 2009
4:00-6:30 PM*

Please join Elizabeth & Olof Carmel for a fun book launch event at The Carmel Gallery in Downtown Truckee. Signed copies of Elizabeth's new book, *THE CHANGING RANGE OF LIGHT* will be available for purchase, with a portion of the proceeds of every sale to benefit the Truckee Donner Land Trust's conservation efforts. Wine tasting by Truckee River Winery and hors d'oeuvres by Dragonfly will be served.

The new book of photography by Elizabeth Carmel focuses on climate change issues in the Lake Tahoe and the Sierra Nevada.

For more information call the Gallery at 530-582-0557, or visit www.TheCarmelGallery.com.

A YEAR OF GREAT CONSERVATION WORK



Perazzo Meadows

This stunning near-1,000-acre meadow includes two miles of the Little Truckee River. Look for a new picnic area and trail to access the river from Henness Pass Rd. next year.



Gray Creek

After a seven year period involving five separate transactions, the Land Trust is conveying 1,343 acres to California Department of Fish and Game to manage as wildlife habitat.



Billy Mack Canyon

We just completed our fourth acquisition in this canyon at Truckee's doorstep. See article pages 8 and 9.



Pierce Meadows

Pierce Meadows. See article pages 6 and 7.



Cold Stream Meadow

With the acquisition of Cold Stream Meadow, the Land Trust and The Northern Sierra Partnership are in a position to protect more than 17,000 acres in the Little Truckee River watershed. See article pages 4 and 5.



Burnt Meadow

This 400-acre meadow that includes parts of North Creek is now owned and managed by the United States Forest Service for the public to enjoy. The property is located just west of Basin Peak and the Pacific Crest Trail.

The Truckee Donner Land Trust was founded in 1990 in order to preserve and protect important historic, recreational and scenic open spaces in the greater Truckee region.

Tel. 530-582-4711
Fax 530-582-5528
email: info@tdlandtrust.org
website: www.tdlandtrust.org

The Truckee Donner Land Trust is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization. All donations to the Land Trust may be tax-deductible under the Internal Revenue Service Code.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Martin D. Bern, *President*
J. Thomas Van Berkem,
Vice President
William Thauvette, *Treasurer*
Jeff Hamilton, *Secretary*
Gina Biondi
W. David Brown
Chris Fellows
William Goerke
Janet Zipser Zipkin

ADVISORS

Gene Bowles
John Cobourn
Kathleen Eagan
Greg Faulkner
Bob Fink
Penny Fink
Ralph Hunt
Judy Mayorga
William McGlashan
Stephanie Olivieri
James L. Porter, Jr.
Craig Ritchey

STAFF

Perry Norris, *Executive Director*
Kellie Wright, *Development Director*
John Svahn, *Stewardship Director*
Carol Herrington, *Membership Services Coordinator*

COVER PHOTO:

Moonrise over the ridge between Castle Peak and Basin Peak. Horse Peak, as it is locally called, is to the right. Photo courtesy of Janet Zipser Zipkin.



TRUCKEE ❖ DONNER
LAND TRUST

P.O. Box 8816
Truckee, CA 96162

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
TRUCKEE, CA
PERMIT #138

Have you renewed
your 2009 membership?
Help protect more of the
open spaces you value. Call
530-582-4711 to give
by phone.



The Land Trust, in partnership with The Trust for Public Land, has more than 1,300 acres east of Devil's Peak, and on Donner Summit, currently under contract. We expect to close in March, 2010. Photo of Devils Peak courtesy of Anne Chadwick.



This newsletter is printed on recycled paper using soy ink.

