



TRUCKEE ▲ DONNER
LAND TRUST

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Conservation Groups add another 300 Acres to Donner Memorial State Park

**Park expansion will improve public access, protect wildlife habitat,
and preserve water quality in Truckee River**

TRUCKEE, CA -- The Trust for Public Land (TPL) and Truckee Donner Land Trust announced today the addition of more than 300 acres to Donner Memorial State Park. The 300-acres are comprised of six separate parcels and will expand recreational opportunities, preserve wildlife habitat, and help protect Donner Lake and the Truckee River watershed.

The continued expansion of Donner Memorial State Park has been accomplished through a longstanding partnership between TPL, the Truckee Donner Land Trust, and California State Parks. In 2003, 1,923 acres above Donner Lake were added to the Park more than its size and protecting three important tributaries to Donner Lake. That acquisition included Schallenberger Ridge and Lakeview Canyon, the scenic backdrop to Donner Lake.

“Placer County is one of California’s fastest growing counties, we must act now to protect its precious natural resources. These acquisitions will buffer

Donner Memorial State Park from nearby development and ensure that area residents and visitors always have a place to enjoy nature close at hand,” said Reed Holderman, Executive Director, The Trust for Public Land-California.

“This conveyance is another chapter in a 20-year effort to protect important recreational, historic and scenic open spaces at Truckee’s doorstep,” said Perry Norris, Executive Director of the Truckee Donner Land Trust. “Our work is not done. There are other chapters yet to be written in protecting the entire Coldstream watershed.”

The Land Trust began acquiring parcels in Coldstream Valley in the early 90’s while still an all-volunteer organization with no staff.

The newly protected properties lie south of Donner Lake in Emigrant Canyon, a tributary to Cold Creek in Coldstream Valley, and on the south side of Schallenbeger Ridge. That rises directly above Donner Lake. The Truckee Watershed Council recently completed a study of the Coldstream watershed and concluded its protection and restoration plays an important role in maintaining the integrity of the Truckee River.

The properties also provide habitat for wildlife such as bobcats and deer, and their addition to Donner Memorial State Park ensures the wildlife movement corridor will remain intact. The properties are now safe from any threat of development in the booming Truckee region.

Walter Hewlett donated to the Land Trust the largest of the six parcels, 155-acres in Emigrant Canyon near Horsehoe Bend. In 1986, Hewlett purchased 530-acres in the Coldstream Valley that were included in Donner Memorial State Park, effectively blocking a proposed ski area that at the time would

have been larger than Squaw Valley, Heavenly and Alpine Meadows combined.

The Trust for Public Land is a national nonprofit land conservation organization dedicated to conserving land for people. TPL has protected more land in the Sierra Nevada than any other nonprofit organization. To date, TPL has acquired more than 50,000 acres, with a fair market value in excess of \$55 million. Nationwide, TPL has protected more than 2 million acres. For more information, please visit www.tpl.org.

The Truckee Donner Land Trust is a nonprofit organization that works to preserve and protect important historic, recreational and scenic open spaces in the greater Truckee region. The Land Trust was founded in 1990 when the picturesque and historical Coldstream Valley next to Donner Lake was about to be lost to logging. A small group of passionate hikers joined together, raised \$150,000, and purchased 160 acres in the Valley. Since then, TDLT has protected over 11,000 acres. For more information, please visit <http://www.tdlandtrust.org>.