

Truckee Donner Land Trust



SUMMER 2017

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Dear Friends

As the snow recedes from an abundant winter, the Land Trust is taking stock of lands entrusted to our care. From our humble beginnings in 1990 protecting 160 acres in Emigrant Canyon, the Land Trust's portfolio has grown to 35,000 acres. We are overwhelmed by that progress that your support has allowed us to achieve. That success is accompanied by strategic questions around our stewardship plans and budget not only for the year to come, but for a literal eternity. By definition, conservation has no end date, so we must plan to care for these properties well beyond our lifetimes.

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We rely on the fact that for nearly 30 years, our loyal supporters — those of you reading this yearly report — have generously donated to make possible the preservation of many important natural landscapes; but also the funds it takes every year to ensure the health of our forests and the development of trails, bridges, and other improvements that will let generations enjoy these lands.

Many, many thanks for that financial support. To continue our track record of protecting and caring for tens of thousands of acres of land into the future, we must remain relevant to you, our current supporters, and also attract new conservation-minded donors who have a special place



Jeff, Laura & kids

in their hearts for the Truckee Donner area. Whether you were born and raised here, made a retreat for your family vacations, or found a place for your adrenaline-fueled fun, we need your continued support to ensure we can perform the work you have entrusted us to do. And there is nothing the Board and staff find more gratifying than folks enjoying the land we all preserved. Please visit our website where you'll find recommended outings and maps.

The future for conservation in our region is bright. We are all stakeholders and share the responsibility for ensuring that the Truckee Donner region continues to hold the spirit that first drew us to the Sierra. Truckee Donner Land Trust is steadfastly committed to our mission of preserving land through new marquee acquisitions while providing public access with new and exciting trails. There is no shortage of work, and a recovering economy creates even greater urgency. Your Land Trust Board and staff is happy to hear from you: please contact us with your feedback and thoughts.

Warm regards,

Jeff Brown

About the cover: This inspiring image of Carpenter Valley was captured by Sam Okamoto

SUPPORTING THE TRUCKEE DONNER LAND TRUST

Planned Giving

You helped protect and preserve the land under our feet: fantastic hiking and views of the stunning peaks at Donner Summit and around Donner Lake, bird watching in Carpenter Valley, strolling with your canine companion at Waddle Ranch Preserve, fishing at Webber Lake and the Little Truckee. We thank you for ensuring these special places are available to all.

When you include the Land Trust in your will or estate plans, you leave a legacy for future generations, ensuring they will be able to enjoy the lands we cherish today. A planned gift — depending on your situation — may reduce your income taxes, reduce or eliminate capital gains taxes, reduce your gift or estate tax, provide income to you and your loved ones, and help support the Land Trust's efforts to protect our mountain home.

If you have honored the Land Trust with a legacy gift, please let us know so we can acknowledge your generosity and welcome you to our Forever Wild Society. We have established this group to honor donors who provide a future legacy for land protection in our area.

Leaving a bequest is simple and gives you the opportunity to make a significant difference. To make a bequest, consult with your tax or legal advisor, and please contact Land Trust Director of Philanthropy, Kathy Englar.

Monthly Giving

Many people find it easier to make a smaller contribution each month, thereby increasing their total support without financial difficulty. By providing reliable funding and helping with our planning, monthly givers help us protect more land. Visit the Land Trust website to sign up.

Matching Gifts

Would you like to see your gifts to Truckee Donner Land Trust doubled? Corporate matching gift programs offer an easy way. Industry research indicates that only one in ten eligible donors takes advantage of corporate matching programs, leaving upwards of \$5 billion of potential matching donations unclaimed.

Many companies match their employees' charitable gifts, often up to many thousands of dollars per year per employee. Apple, Chevron, Google, Hewlett Packard, Intel, Intuit, PG&E, Salesforce, and UBS are among the many philanthropic companies who have matched donors' gifts to the Land Trust recently. Check the CharityNavigator.org website to see if your company will match your donation.

Thank you for considering this simple and effective way to support Truckee Donner Land Trust.

Stock Giving

Gifts of long-term appreciated stock and mutual fund shares are an easy way to make a lasting contribution. Benefits include: income tax saving, capital gain tax savings, and providing crucial support to the Land Trust. Visit the Land Trust website for information on how to deliver stock donations to the Land Trust's broker.



Black Wall acquired in 2015 is one of the region's most spectacular and popular climbing destinations. Photo credit: Anne Chadwick

Webber Lake to open this summer

The Land Trust's focus is to maintain the legacy of Webber Lake as a great place for families to camp, enjoy the outdoors and, of course, catch fish.

Webber Lake will be open to the public for camping and day use this summer. In 2012, the Truckee Donner Land Trust purchased the property from long-time owners, Cliff and Barbara Johnson who made Webber Lake a family legacy.

"Clif used to say, 'I was an environmentalist before it became fashionable.' And it's true. The Johnsons were incredible stewards of their property," said John Svahn, the Land Trust's Associate Director.

The Land Trust hopes for around 40 campsites to be open by the beginning of August. Sites will temporarily be at the north end of the lake while the west end, and permanent location of the campground, is being restored. Sites are available for tents, RVs, and trailers and will include a fire ring, picnic table, and bear box. Hook-ups are not available. Reservations for camping can be made on the Land Trust's website, tdlandtrust.org.

Day use, boat launching, and picnicking will also be available as well as hiking through Lacey Meadow.

The Land Trust's focus is to maintain the legacy of Webber Lake as a great place for families to camp, enjoy the outdoors and, of course, catch fish. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife will stock the lake this summer. Boats, including motors, are welcome, but there is a 5 mph speed limit.

Main access to the lake and the trailhead will be off Jackson Meadows Road. Besides all the lake has to offer, hiking and biking along the historic Lacey Meadows Trail is enjoyable and

fairly easy, making a pass by the old Johnson Family homestead at the southern end of the meadow is well worthwhile. Beginning when the snow melts, the wildflower displays are extraordinary.

The richness of Webber Lake and Lacey Meadow from a historical, recreational, and natural resource perspective is hard to overstate. Lacey Meadow, at nearly 1,500 acres, is one of the finest examples of a sub-alpine meadow in the entire Northern Sierra. For a number of birds and mammals, many threatened or endangered, the meadow provides critical habitat.

This acquisition augments a strong conservation effort in the Little Truckee River watershed, including Upper Perazzo Creek (2007), Perazzo Meadows (2008), Cold Stream Meadow (2009), Independence Lake (2010), the Henness Pass/SPI conservation easement (2010-2012) and Lower Carpenter Valley (2016-2017.) These projects, with the addition of Webber Lake, total nearly 17,000 acres in the heart of the Sierra Nevada Checkerboard.

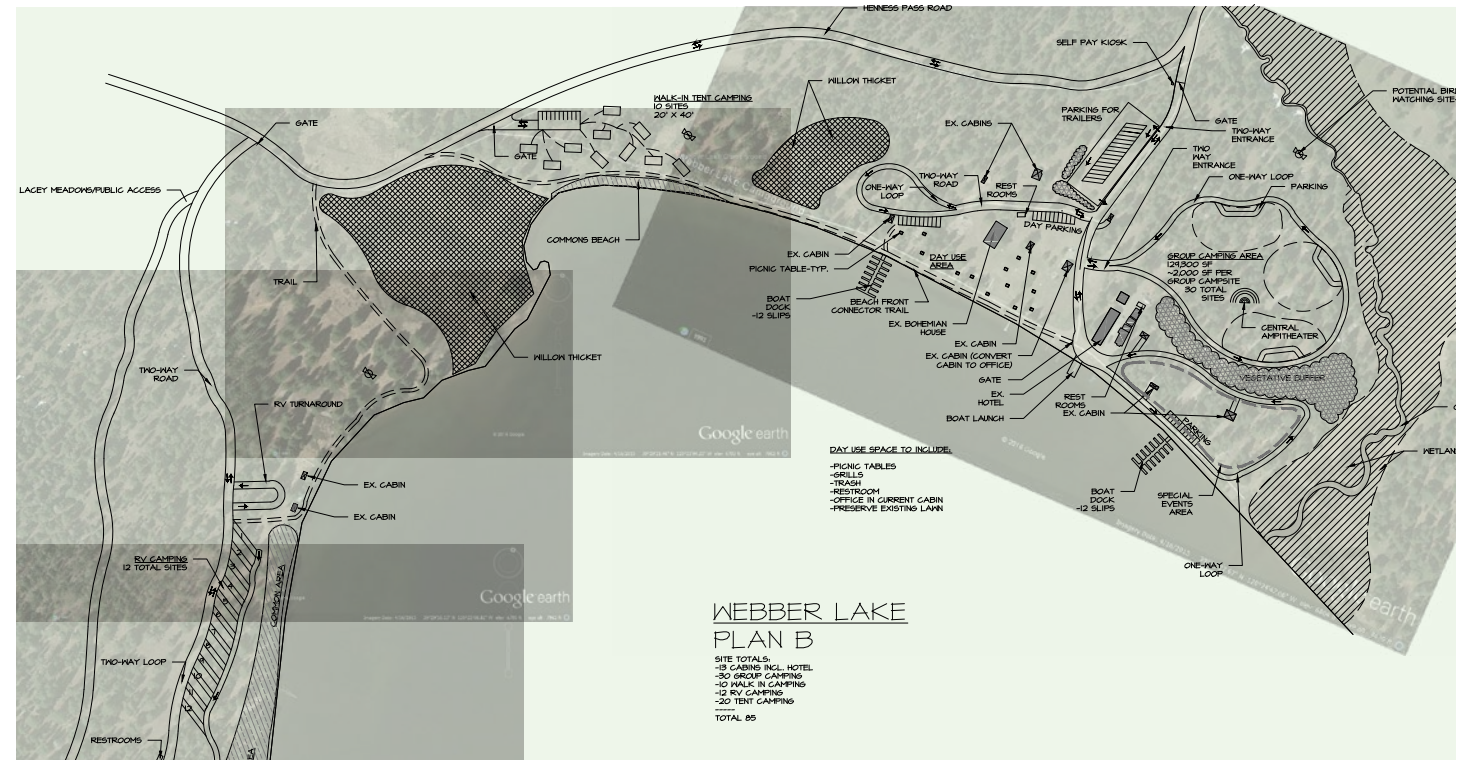
The Webber Lake acquisition was made possible through the generous support of our donors and funding from a number of State agencies, including the Wildlife Conservation Board, the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, and the Natural Resources Agency. The Trust for Public Land, The Nature Conservancy and The Northern Sierra Partnership also partnered with the Land Trust on the acquisition.



Far left: The Webber Lake Hotel constructed in 1863, one of Northern California's oldest buildings.

Left: Webber Lake at sunset. Photo credit: Sam Okamoto

Below: Plans for Webber Lake campground and day use.



How to get to Webber Lake

From Truckee: Proceed north on Highway 89 N (Exit 188 B from Interstate 80) for 14 miles to Little Truckee Summit. Make a left on the paved road to Jackson Meadows Reservoir. In eight miles turn left and follow signs to Webber Lake.

How to make a reservation

To make reservations for the campground or lake house please go to: www.tdlandtrust.org/webber-lakelacey-meadows and click on campground reservations.

A Brief History of Webber Lake and Lacey Meadows

LEE ADAMS

Sierra County Supervisor

The Webber Lake we know today looks very much like the unspoiled lake first seen by Dr. David Gould Webber in 1852. A native of New York, Dr. Webber migrated to Downieville during the gold rush and settled there in 1849 after living in both Canada and Chicago. He was licensed as a medical doctor at age 24.

Webber was a man with varied interests including geology, botany, horse-breeding, and lumbering, and it was a grove of rare red-silver fir that brought him to hire a guide to take him into the area. It was on this first trip that his unscrupulous guide posted the property as claimed for himself and only after Dr. Webber increased his guide fee from \$10 to \$80 did his guide abandon his claim and Dr. Webber was able to claim the property, including the unnamed lake.

This claim that would allow this property to remain in private ownership has much to do with the lake we know today. While Dr. Webber continued to live in Downieville, he was well known through-

out Sierra County. He was awarded the contract to build Sierra County's first courthouse in 1853, a structure that would serve until its destruction by fire in 1947. He also was awarded numerous contracts to build public roads and bridges throughout the county.

Dr. Webber relocated to the Sacramento Valley in 1854 to raise horses, but in 1859 returned to the Sierra Valley where he raised sheep, goats, and cattle at a ranch four miles outside of Loyalton. In 1862, he established a drug store in the valley, as well.

In 1860, change came to his beloved Webber Lake property, when he built the Webber Lake Hotel, a structure that stands to this day. While a widower who lost his only biological son to an early death, Dr. Webber adopted a number of children for whom Webber Lake was home.

Dr. Webber continued to winter in the Sierra Valley and operated the hotel seasonally until 1877.

The Webber Lake Hotel survives to

this day, one of the Sierra's first recreational resorts and one of many stage stops on the historic Henness Pass Road. It is the only remaining hotel along this historic route.

By the mid 1880s, Webber Lake Ranch was operated by Jack Woodward, an area dairyman. Webber Lake was the site of an 1884 murder. Woodward was shot and killed by a disgruntled employee, nineteen year old James O'Neill. Although O'Neill claimed at trial that the shooting was an accident as the two argued over wages owed, a Sierra County jury disagreed and convicted O'Neill of first-degree murder. O'Neill was executed in Downieville in November, 1885, the only person hanged on the gallows that survive today in Downieville as a state historic landmark. In the 1990s, Webber Lake caretaker Doug Garton recovered a civil war era handgun (still in its rotten leather holster) from an abandoned well at Webber Lake. One can only wonder if this was the murder weapon urgently hidden by O'Neill in



Barbara & Clif Johnson



1884. This gun today is on display at the Downieville Museum.

Before the turn of the century, William Henry Johnson purchased Lacey Meadows to provide summer grazing for his sheep that wintered on his ranch near Roseville. Johnson bought the property sight unseen from Joseph Perazzo because, "Joe knew good dirt." Clif Johnson took over the ranch from his father, later acquiring adjacent Webber Lake. Until well into the 1970s, Clif and his wife, Barbara, spent most of their summers at Lacey Meadows. For at least sixty years, the Johnsons leased Webber Lake for a private fishing camp.

Despite receiving more lucrative offers, the Johnsons' sold the property to the Truckee Donner Land Trust and The Trust for Public Land in 2012. The Johnsons love and care for the land should be inspiring to all who visit.



Above right: Webber Lake is a family fishing destination, photo circa 1960s.
Above: Camping at Webber Lake, circa 1920s.
Photos courtesy of Webber Lake Ranch.



Carpenter Valley

The Truckee Donner Land Trust will wrap-up the Campaign for Carpenter Valley on July 15th. Nearly \$5 million has been raised from private sources and state and federal agencies have pledged another \$5 million, putting the Land Trust and its partners, The Nature Conservancy and the Northern Sierra Partnership, within striking distance of its \$10.3 million goal.

But we need your help. Please consider a gift to help us get to the finish line.

The Carpenter Valley acquisition is 1,320 acres just north of Truckee's Town boundary and Tahoe Donner. It includes over two thirds of the Valley comprised of a pristine meadow, healthy stands of willows, and two miles of the North Fork of Prosser Creek.

More specifically, Carpenter Valley contains a variety of habitat types and is a top priority for biodiversity conservation in the Sierra Nevada. The entire Valley, thanks to conservation-minded private landowners to the west and the

previous owners, provides an extremely large, complex mixture of high quality Sierran habitat. It includes wet meadow, fresh water emergent wetland, riverine, and fen habitat types, as well as red fir, lodgepole pine, and mixed-conifer forest. It supports wildlife species including black bear, mountain lion, bobcat, coyote, and various bird species and is summer range for the Loyaltan-Truckee deer herd. Several special-status species are likely found in Carpenter Valley including willow flycatcher, wolverine, mountain yellow-legged frog, and Pacific fisher.

If the Land Trust and its partners had not acquired the 600 acres in the lower meadow, it could easily have been subdivided into seven estate parcels. The impacts from development would be devastating to the meadow and rich habitat the lower meadow provides.

"The Land Trust has done bigger deals in terms of 'bucks and acres,' but very few as important from a bio-diversity and ecological perspective. The resource

values are unique, highly functioning and near pristine," said John Svahn, the Land Trust's Associate Director.

Given its size, healthy geomorphic condition, and hydrologic regime, Carpenter Valley retains a large quantity of runoff from the Sierra Crest. During the summer, the meadow feeds Prosser Creek with clean, cold water, that in turn sustains high quality aquatic habitat in Prosser Creek and the Truckee River. It is, in short, an example of how a sub-alpine Sierra meadow should work. Federal and state officials have identified the North Fork of Prosser Creek that bisects the meadow as ideal for the recovery of native Lahontan cutthroat trout. These federally threatened fish have been documented in the creek as recently as the late 80s and may still be present.

The protection of this property is a key part of a larger conservation effort in the middle Truckee River basin. This basin includes the Little Truckee River and Prosser Creek, two of the largest

tributaries to the Truckee River. The Nature Conservancy, Northern Sierra Partnership, The Trust for Public Land, and the Land Trust have protected over 17,000 acres in the watershed.

Thanks to Auerbach Engineering, new trails are being planned. While the Land Trust readies the property for the public's enjoyment, it will offer frequent docent lead hikes starting in July (see page 14). Because of Lower Carpenter Valley's extraordinary natural resources, public enjoyment of the property needs to be carefully managed.

"The Land Trust is working with The Nature Conservancy to ensure public enjoyment of Lower Carpenter Valley is compatible with protecting its significant conservation values," Svahn added.

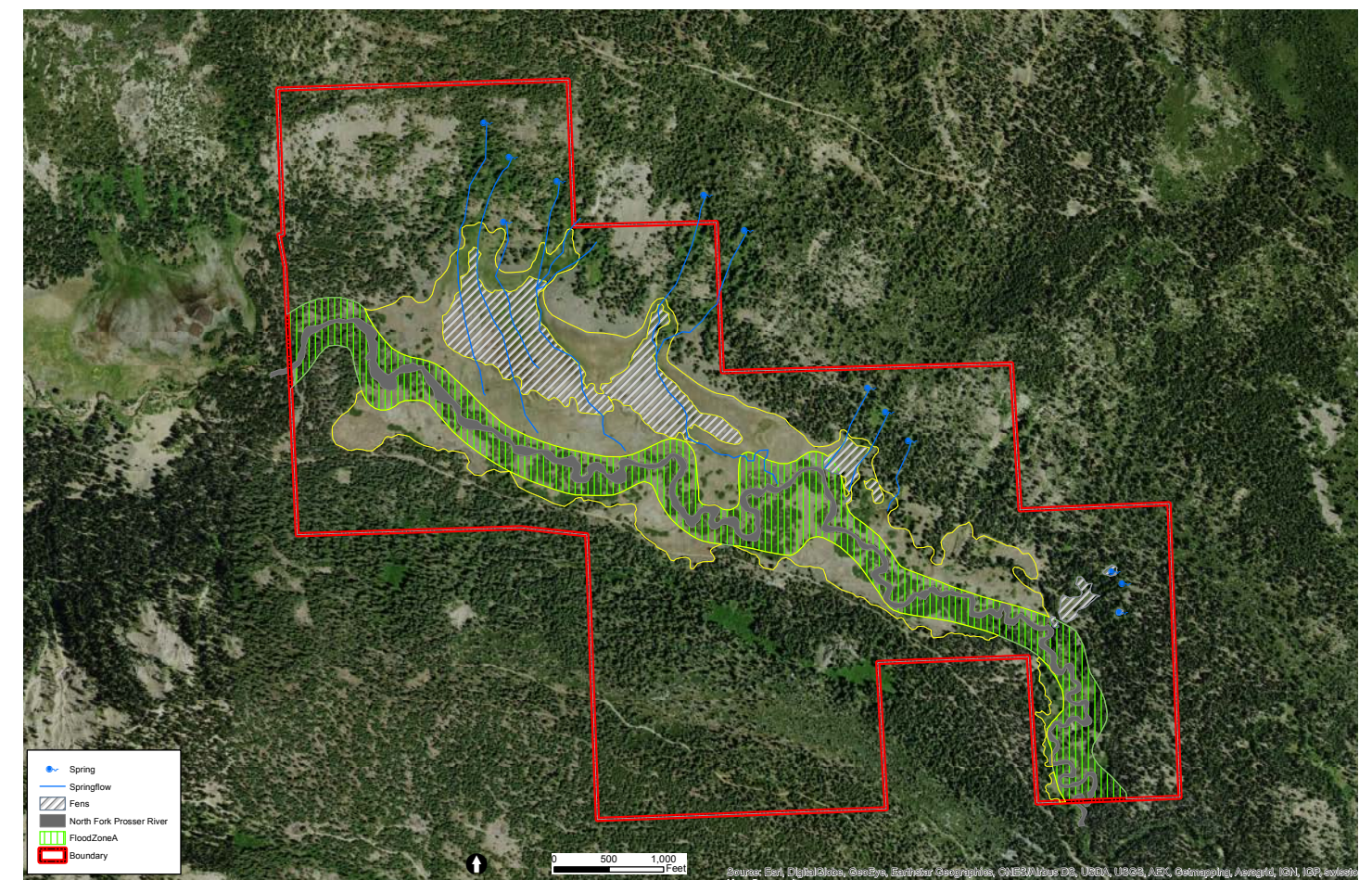
The first phase of the acquisition closed over a year ago. The Land Trust purchased 620 acres that included Crabtree Canyon, recorded a conservation easement on the property, and resold it to Tahoe Donner Association for inclusion in their summer and winter trail system.

Clarifying ownership in Carpenter Valley

Part of Carpenter Valley remains in private ownership. The Land Trust will own approximately 63% of the meadow that comprises the Valley's floor that is the conservation prize. A lateral moraine neatly divides Land Trust and private ownership. For good relations with the Land Trust's neighbors, it is important to respect their right to privacy and not trespass onto property to the west. Signs mark the property boundaries.

Left: Photo Credit, Elizabeth Carmel, The Carmel Gallery

Map: Lower Carpenter Valley has areas providing critical and rare habitat including fens, springs, riparian areas and willow forests. The map depicts sensitive and special resource areas. Map courtesy of The Nature Conservancy.



Restoring Van Norden Meadow



Bad meadow



Good meadow

Van Norden Meadow is one of the most important subalpine meadows in the Northern Sierra and the headwaters of the South Yuba River. As part of the Royal Gorge acquisition, the Van Norden Meadow was purchased in 2012 and saved from development by the Truckee Donner Land Trust, multiple local conservation groups, and thousands of local community members who supported the campaign and raised funds to save this property.

The meadow, while picturesque, is impaired by historic uses including roads, a dam, the railroad, numerous non-functioning culverts, and grazing. These impairments to the natural flow of water increase the stream's velocity, causing erosion and channelization. Snow melt in a properly functioning meadow spills onto the meadow, seeps into the ground forming a vast underground reservoir that supports meadow habitat. In its current condition, sediment laden run off rushes unimpeded downhill in the incised channels, drying the meadow out.

The South Yuba River Citizen's League (SYRCL), in partnership with the US Forest Service, Tahoe National Forest (USFS), and other partners proposes to restore 485 acres of meadow habitat in Van Norden meadow. The restoration will involve removing or filling the incised channels allowing water to slow and flood the meadow more often. It also involves conducting key scientific studies to address specific uncertainties about how meadow restoration actions impact meadow hydrology, ecology, biology, and the vulnerability of meadows to climate change. The project partners have been monitoring Van Norden meadow since 2008 and anticipate that long-term baseline data will lead to greater understanding of specific uncertainties surrounding the response of meadow hydrology, headwater streamflow, vegetation and wildlife communities, and

climatic vulnerability to meadow restoration actions aimed at restoring ecosystem function.

The restoration project at Van Norden Meadow will target many of the priorities listed by the state of California, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Business Plan, and California's Water Action Plan, including (1) achieving the protection and restoration of important mountain meadow ecosystems, (2) improving stream flow and drought preparedness, and (3) managing headwaters for multiple benefits. Once implemented, this project will result in improved meadow habitat and ecological function, improved hydrologic function, improved water quality and increased summer base flows, increased carbon storage, and the improvement of the overall resiliency of the headwaters of the South Yuba River to changing climatic conditions. The project will also lead to greater scientific understanding of meadow processes which can be applied to meadows and headwater streams across the Sierra region.

The proposed remedies for this project include filling sections of the South Yuba River and Castle Creek to reconnect the meadow floodplain to the streams and increasing the groundwater levels within the meadow. Willow and sedge planting will occur in areas where native plant recruitment is desired. In addition, invasive species removal will occur for reed canary grass and encroaching conifers will be removed along the meadow edges.

Project Partners: US Forest Service, Tahoe National Forest, Truckee Donner Land Trust, UC Davis Center for Watershed Sciences, Balance Hydrologics, Stantec, Point Blue, and Gateway Mountain Center.

Royal Gorge stewardship and trails

Managing the 3,000-acre Royal Gorge Property has been a high priority for the Truckee Donner Land Trust since closing in 2012. The Land Trust has invested heavily in forest fuels management, constructing new trails, restoring Van Norden Meadow, bringing the dam at Van Norden Meadow into compliance, and promoting recreational use that is compatible with the resources.

The property was previously managed for timber production which created unsafe forest conditions and an unnatural composition of tree species. To remedy this, thinning areas of forest along the wildland-urban interface (WUI) is underway around the Serene Lakes subdivision. Forestry work focuses on removing dense areas of small lodgepole pines and firs, and promoting growth of mature red fir and western white pine. Forestry operations will be ongoing; management of the WUI will continue and selective management of adjacent forest areas for wildlife habitat will begin. Management of the forest for habitat will focus on protection of mature trees from disease and promotion of late-seral conditions.

In December 2016, the Land Trust augmented the thinning by allowing the local Boy Scout Troop to harvest Christmas Trees from the property. The partnership was a win-win; the trees

were mostly harvested from an area to be thinned in the future, and the Boy Scouts were able to stock their Christmas tree lot with beautiful firs for their annual fundraiser.

The Land Trust is excited to announce the completion of the Walter and Esther Hewlett Royal Gorge Rim Trail. The trail is nearly fourteen miles in length, travels the perimeter of the property, and has truly stunning views of the Royal Gorge and the high peaks of the Granite Chief Wilderness. It is open to hiking, running, mountain biking, and equestrian use. A map of the property and the trail can be found at tdlandtrust.org/royal-gorge.

The Land Trust's goal is to promote recreation compatible with protection of a property's conservation values. Another consideration is impacts on nearby communities. In addition to opening properties for use by the public, the Land Trust hosts events. These events make protected lands available to people who otherwise might not visit them and generates a modest amount for the property's management budget. These include a half-marathon at Waddle Ranch Preserve, Trails and Vistas' Plein Air painting at Lacey Meadows, rock climbing and backcountry skiing instruction by local guide services, ski races, and trail-running events at Royal



Top: A trail sign for the 13-mile Walter and Esther Hewlett Royal Gorge Rim Trail.
Above: Local Scout Troop 267 takes a break while adding finishing touches to the Hewlett Royal Gorge Rim Trail.

Gorge. Two running events at Royal Gorge, Ragnar and the Castle Peak 100, are fast becoming anchors to local racing schedules.

To further manage the Royal Gorge property harmoniously with adjacent lands, the Land Trust and partners Sugar Bowl/Royal Gorge, the Donner Summit Area Association, SLOPA, Placer and Nevada Counties, and the U.S. Forest Service. A master trails planning process is in its infancy with the goal of promoting sustainable recreation over various land ownership in the Donner Summit region. Priorities will be trail access, parking, signage, winter access, and bolstering the local economy.

More good, dirty fun

In the Land Trust's World HQ is a whiteboard listing a full and ambitious season of trail building commencing just as soon as the snow melts. Here's a sampling:

Perazzo Meadows Trail The finishing touches will be put on this two mile meandering trail along the Little Truckee River. Park at the Perazzo picnic area off Henness Pass Rd. and combine the new trail as a nice start for a hike up Mt. Lola. Please visit tdlandtrust.org/perazzo-meadows for more information.

Elizabethtown Meadows Trail A new trail linking Waddle Ranch Preserve with the Northstar Drive/State Route 267 intersection will be completed this summer. The trail traverses the Elizabethtown Meadows property, traveling through several beautiful meadows and mature pine forests. The route showcases summer wildflowers and fall color, with fantastic views of the Sierra Crest. The new trail also connects with several different trail networks and is fast becoming a favorite with trail runners. tdlandtrust.org/elizabethtown-meadows

With this exceedingly snowy winter, trails have taken a beating and the maintenance "to do" list is long. This includes reconstructing tread in washed out areas, removing deadfall, clearing drains, and removing rocks. A list of trail maintenance and construction days is located on the next page. To volunteer for trail maintenance contact: **Kevin Starr** kevin@tdlandtrust.org

Donner Lake Rim Trail The Donner Lake Rim Trail (DRLT) is a 23-mile multi-use trail circumnavigating the mountains and ridges surrounding Donner Lake. Currently nine miles of the have been constructed and are available for public use. After a break to focus on Royal Gorge, Martis Valley and Webber Lake, Land Trust staff are excited to be working on the Rim Trail again. The trail will be a shared alignment with Nevada County's Pines to Mines Trail connecting Truckee with Nevada City, and Placer County's Emigrant Trail connecting Donner Memorial State Park with Cisco Grove and permitting and construction is underway. Look for new sections of the trail north of Interstate 80 to be completed this year. The Rim trail across Schallenberger Ridge is in the works! tdlandtrust.org/dlrt

Carpenter Valley Trails and the Royal Gorge Rim Trail

Please see pages 8, 9 and 12 to learn more about the trail planning in Carpenter Valley and the new Royal Gorge Rim Trail.

I have two doctors,
my left leg and my right.

G.M. TREVELYAN



Top: The scenic Donner Lake Rim Trail
Middle: A new bridge in the Martis Valley.
Bottom: Buffing out a new trail in the Martis Valley.

Hike with us

Join the Land Trust on a docent-led hike to Lower Carpenter Valley and other hikes on protected lands. Carpenter Valley is an easy five mile walk with gorgeous displays of wildflowers in one of the Northern Sierra's most spectacular meadows. To register please visit tdlandtrust.org/plan-your-visit.

Or give back by joining staff and volunteers in maintaining portions of the Land Trust's 32-mile trail network. To register for trail work days, please contact Kevin Starr at kevin@tdlandtrust.org.

*Photo credit ©Tom Lippert
Castle and Basin Peaks with Euer Valley and Carpenter Valley in the foreground.*



Docent Hikes & Trail Days 2017 Schedule

TRAIL WORK DAYS

- June 17
- July 29
- August 19
- September 23

CARPENTER VALLEY HIKES

- June 27
- July 5, 8, 10, 15, 22, 24, 28, 30
- August 4, 7, 12, 18, 20, 26, 28
- September 1, 10, 16, 24
- October 2, 13, 21, 29

POINT MARIAH HIKE *5.2 miles, moderate*

July 16

LACEY MEADOWS HIKE *6 miles, easy*

August 19

MT LOLA HIKE *12 miles, strenuous*

September 8

Thank you to our donors

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Estate of Ed Henney

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- Kenneth and Megan Wright
- Bill and Diane Zuendt

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 Sierra County Historical Society
 Sierra Nevada Conservancy
 Sierra Tinker Belles Garden Club
 Sierra Watch
 South Yuba River Citizens League
 Sugar Bowl/Royal Gorge Ski Resort
 Tahoe Area Mountain Biking Association
 Tahoe Donner Association

Tahoe Donner Cross County Ski Resort
 Tahoe Donner Giving Fund
 Tahoe Donner Hiking Club
 Tahoe Donner Trails Club
 Tahoe Institute for Natural Science
 Tahoe Pyramid Bikeways
 Tahoe Rim Trail Association
 Tahoe Trail Trekkers
 Tahoe Trampers
 Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation
 The Access Fund
 The David and Lucile Packard Foundation
 The Flora Family Foundation
 The Nature Conservancy
 The Trust for Public Land
 The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation
 Town of Truckee
 Trails & Vistas
 Trout Unlimited
 Truckee Chamber of Commerce
 Truckee River Ranch
 Truckee River Watershed Council
 Truckee Rotary
 Truckee Tahoe Airport District
 Truckee Trails Foundation
 Truckee-Donner Historical Society

InKind

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 David Galson
 DMB Highlands Group
 Don and Pat Malberg
 Gateway Mountain Center
 Law Office of Tom Archer

Mountain Hardware & Sports
 Northstar California Resort
 Patagonia
 Paul Hastings LLP
 REI
 Richard Rose
 Sugar Bowl

The Carmel Gallery
 The Mountain Forge, Inc.
 The Pour House
 Touchstone
 Viole Skis and Snowboards



*Dan, Dana and Campbell Goddard
 Photo courtesy of Dan Goddard*

A shout out to our supporter Dan Goddard

Dan Goddard, loyal Truckee Donner Land Trust supporter, is a craftsman and contractor. He also makes the Land Trust's kiosks, trail signs and gates. So impressive is his work, that State Parks and local ski resorts have also asked for Dan's help.

Dan grew-up in quintessential New England, in the Berkshires. His father is a craftsman as well. Out of high school, he enlisted in the Marine Corps, although given his truly free spirit, you might never have guessed it. He moved to Truckee in 1993, smitten by the mountains.

"I like walking out my front door and seeing the mountains everyday," he said.

Dan's work is wonderfully creative and reflects the alpine environment. "I shoot for an organic blend of materials, combined with steel and metals," he explains.

Dan's a fan of the Land Trust. "I am extremely grateful for the Land Trust's work and being such a big part of the community in so many different ways,"

When not backcountry skiing, hiking or rock climbing, Dan spends time with his wife, Dana, and their young son, Campbell. Dan is owner/worker-bee of DG Construction, specializing in custom homes, remodels and additions.

Welcome to the board

The Land Trust is pleased to announce four new Board members to guide the Land Trust's work: **Aparna Reddy, Jim Winterberger, Dan Simmons & Paco Lindsay.**

The Land Trust is excited to welcome **Aparna Reddy** to our Board. She joined the Porter Simon law firm in Truckee last fall as an associate attorney concentrating on general business, business formation, employment, and real estate matters. A Reno native, she began her career in the Bay Area working as in-house counsel for a variety of public and private companies.



"Aparna Reddy brings tremendous education and experience that dovetails nicely with the Land Trust's mission," said Anne Chadwick, chair of board development. "It helps that she's an avid mountain biker, skier, and paddle boarder who loves being in the mountains. Her heart is in the mountains." After graduating from Wooster High School, she completed her B.S. in plant biology at U.C. Davis and while working in a lab one summer she learned of opportunities to work in science and the law. She

then decided to go to law school and chose Santa Clara University School of Law where she received a J.D. and her M.B.A. from Santa Clara University.

"**Jim Winterberger** is perhaps the most effective small business owner in Truckee. His leadership and vision for our region will be paramount in guiding the organization as we delve into new acquisitions and land management endeavors. Jim has covered nearly every mile of the region by bike or ski and adds an athlete's mentality to our board," said Jeff Brown of the Land Trust's new Board member, Jim Winterberger.

After graduating from the University of Vermont, Jim was lured to Tahoe by snow-covered mountains and pristine alpine lakes. Jim joins the Board with great enthusiasm and passion for protecting



beautiful open spaces with high recreational value and environmental significance. Jim is the Founder and President of Tahoe Getaways, a property management firm in Truckee. He also chairs the Truckee Business Improvement District and is a member of the Truckee Downtown Merchants Association and the North Lake Tahoe Resort Association. When not working, Jim can be found suffering up single track, coaching skiing, and exploring the backcountry with his wife and three young kids.

The Land Trust is delighted to welcome **Daniel Simmons** to our Board of Directors. A retired faculty member and professor emeritus at UC Davis School of Law, Dan is a sought after tax specialist who brings critical domain expertise to the Land Trust. In his words, "There's very little we can do in today's society that doesn't have tax implications," and that includes land preservation. And he also brings the passion: Simmons is president of Far West Masters Ski Racing Association and competitive alpine racer affiliated with Squaw Valley Masters ski team.

"I am excited and honored by this opportunity to contribute to the success of Truckee Donner Land Trust," stated Simmons emphatically. "The Land Trust's Carpenter Valley acquisition is incredibly meaningful to me personally because of its proximity to my home in Tahoe



Donner. I felt I had to get involved to make sure the Land Trust continues its momentum."

Dan and his wife Charlene spend their time in both Davis and Truckee, but as passionate skiers, they are not fair-weather visitors to Truckee where they spend a great deal of their time. You can find them on the slopes in the winter and the hiking and biking trails in the summer.

Paco Lindsay arrived in Truckee in 1974 and immediately saw Truckee as his home. Being from Iowa, he was enamored with the beauty of the Northern Sierra, uniqueness of Truckee, and the mountainous terrain. Holding various year-round jobs, including at the infamous Flop House and as a cook in the Passage, Paco began his own summer business, Paco's Truckee River Bicycle, out of his garage. With his interest in Nordic skiing, the bike shop became a Truckee institution, Paco's Truckee Bike and Ski.

Paco brings a wealth of experience in finance, trail building and advocacy to the Land Trust board.

As a member of the Truckee Trails Foundation Board of Directors, Paco helped pass Measures R and V, a bond measure focused on road repair and



maintenance (and bicycle lanes), and construction and maintenance of Truckee's Trail Network. He also advocates tirelessly for the protection of open spaces and connectivity in the local earthen trail network. Perhaps most notably, he is one of the lucky Truckee characters to have an omelet named after him at the Squeeze Inn.

Recently retired from his bike shop, Paco spends time with his wife Carol and gets in lots of miles on his road bike. Welcome Paco!



The Truckee Donner region is surrounded by 875,000 acres of United States Forest Service lands, managed by the Tahoe National Forest, one of the Land Trust's most important partners.

Over the past 15 years, "The Tahoe" has been blessed to have a succession of remarkable and visionary leaders, Steve Eubanks, Tom Quinn, and today's Supervisor, Eli Elano. The public is also fortunate also to have committed, community-minded and passionate District Rangers, Joanne Roubique in Truckee, and Quentin Youngblood in Sierraville.

"At every level I have worked with, Forest Service personnel have been professional, hardworking and exceptionally dedicated to the land and public service," said John Svahn, the Land Trust's Associate Director.

Unfortunately, and especially in the Truckee Donner region, public lands here are a checkerboard of alternating public and private square-mile sections of land. This debacle is the result of land grants going back to 1863 and the construction of the transcontinental railroad. "Filling in the checkerboard to create a sensible land management regime and improve wildlife corridors is a priority for the USFS and the Land Trust," said Fran Herbst of the USFS.

The Land Trust works closely with the USFS, often behind the scenes to broker deals on the USFS's behalf, such as 419 acres at the entrance to Castle Valley recently added to Tahoe National Forest. In other cases, the Land Trust acquires and outright donates land to the USFS.

"Our best success in stewarding the Tahoe National Forest comes when we work with partners. The Truckee Donner Land Trust is a shining example of this. TDLT plays a critical role in conserving lands within and around the Tahoe National Forest through their ability to act quickly and nimbly when the need arises. In addition to their decades of securing lands for the public, the Land Trust has built numerous trails on and around the Forest and every year they host hundreds of hours of volunteer trail maintenance," said Forest Supervisor Eli Elano. "Not only does the Forest Service share common goals with Truckee Donner Land Trust, we really enjoy working with the people."

An Insider's Guide to Finding Wildflowers and Birdwatching

Finding wildflowers in the Truckee / Tahoe area sometimes involves detective work, so we asked Land Trust Board member and Sierra wildflower and bird enthusiast Geoff Griffin to share his secrets.

Photo credit (all): Geoff Griffin

Thanks to ample precipitation this winter, naturalists are forecasting a spectacular wildflower season, starting soon in the lower elevations in Truckee and lasting through Labor Day in the north and east-facing areas of the Sierra Crest.

Sagehen Creek is well known locally as a bellwether site for wildflowers because of its southern exposure and relatively low elevation. From a small parking area off Highway 89 about 7 miles north of Interstate 80, a trail heads gently downstream along the creek for about 2 miles, traverses a small meadow, and then crosses the creek to a very large meadow on the south side of the creek. Numerous species of early season wildflowers can be found along the trail shortly



Wildflowers in Sherwood Forest (1 of 2)



Wildflowers in Sherwood Forest (2 of 2)



Beckwith Violet, Sagehen Creek

after the snow has melted. Check out the big meadow on the south side of the creek where it enters Stampede Reservoir for huge blooms of Camas. Along the trail and in the meadows, when conditions are good, it's easy to find 40+ species of wildflowers. The birds love it, too, so be on the lookout.

The **Sherwood Forest side of Alpine Meadows** gets lots of sun making it a great location for early and mid-season wildflowers. Parking is available at a small paved area at the upper end of Courcheval Rd and along the road near the base of the



Meadows Penstemon in Van Norden Meadow



Albin Meadow Penstemon in Van Norden Meadow

Van Norden Meadow One area of the meadow has a different soil structure than the rest of the meadow and dries out earlier resulting in early-season wildflowers. This spot is about a half mile north of Castle Creek and a few hundred yards into the meadow from Old County Road; it's easily recognizable by some fairly large rocks. When conditions are right, there is a huge area of Meadow Penstemon, including an unusual albino variety. With this year's snow, late May/early June will be too early for wildflowers at Donner Summit, but this particular area will dry much more quickly than the rest of the meadow. Later in the season be sure to check out the meadow area just east of the old sheep pen for a great display of Camas and other wet-meadow wildflowers. You'll find parking along the side of Old County Road, a good dirt road, shortly after it crosses Castle Creek. Access Old County Road through a large dirt parking area shortly after you cross the railroad tracks on Soda Springs Road and follow about half a mile to Castle Creek.

Elizabethtown Meadow For the shortest drive to wildflowers and easiest access to lunch in Truckee or Northstar afterwards, check out the Land Trust's new Elizabethtown Trail which is accessible from the traffic light at 267 and Northstar Drive. Plenty of parking is available near the roundabout just off 267. The upper part (eastern side) of the meadow is drier and wildflowers often appear early in the season. There is a small spring near the north end of the meadow that holds interesting wildflowers. If you have time for a jog or a hike, continue on this new trail to Waddle Ranch Preserve.

Lacey Meadows A must visit spot in your search for wildflowers and birds is the Land Trust's Lacey Meadow Trail. Wear boots, though — it's easy to get your feet wet early in the wildflower season. The area along the far eastern edge of the lower meadow consists largely of volcanic soil which drains quickly once the runoff starts; expect to see 40-50 species of wildflowers. Marsh Marigolds are prolific early in the season along some of the feeder creeks. Birding is generally excellent along the meadow fringes and in the willows along Lacey Creek. Over 100 species have been recorded for Lacey Meadows, including rare/threatened species, such as the Willow Flycatcher.



Steer's Head, Lacey Meadows



Seep-spring Monkeyflowers in Shirley Canyon

Shirley Canyon is one of the premier wildflower areas in the Truckee/Tahoe area during the entire summer. Follow the Granite Chief trail (trailhead is near the Olympic Valley Inn registration office) for about a half mile until it veers away from the creek. From here is an excellent “use” trail that continues up the north side of the creek. In the early summer carpets of Seep-spring Monkeyflower surround the open granite areas. There are also numerous unusual species, such as California Skullcap.



Large Leaf Lupine, Little Truckee River, Perazzo Meadow

Perazzo Meadows In 2008, the Land Trust acquired nearly 900 acres of pristine wet meadow and montane forest along the Little Truckee River. There are two picnic areas and a use trail that provides access to the river as well to the riverside meadows that host beautiful displays of wildflowers in the summer. In addition, the Little Truckee River corridor hosts numerous species of both resident and migrating birds, including some endangered and threatened species. From Interstate 80 in Truckee, drive north on Highway 89 approximately 17 miles to Jackson Meadows Road and turn left. Follow Jackson

Meadows Road about 1.5 miles to a left turn marked “Independence Lake Road. Turn left onto this graded dirt road, cross the bridge over the Little Truckee River, and proceed to the first right turn (0.8 mi from Jackson Meadows Rd). This unsigned road is Henness Pass Road, one of the most popular routes across the Sierra during the mid 1800s. In about 2 miles, Henness Pass Road drops down a short hill and crosses a small meadow. Parking for the Land Trust property is on the right about 300 yards past the end of the meadow.

Cold Stream Meadow — Mt. Lola Trail In 2010, the Land Trust acquired a beautiful meadow and surrounding forest that the Mt Lola trail passes through. From the trailhead just off Henness Pass Road, the Mount Lola trail climbs 2.8 miles to reach Cold Stream Meadow., which is just over a half mile long and about a quarter mile wide. From mid-July



Wildflowers in Cold Stream Meadow

to mid-August, there is an abundance of wildflowers in the meadow and numerous birds around the fringes. The Mt. Lola trail follows the west side of the meadow and then begins its climb to the summit of Mt. Lola (elevation 9,149’). To get to the trailhead, follow Highway 89 north approximately 17 miles and turn left onto Jackson Meadows Road. Drive about 1.5 miles to a left turn marked “Independence Lake Road.” Turn left onto this graded dirt road, cross the bridge over the Little Truckee River, and proceed to the first right turn (0.8 mi from Jackson Meadows Rd). In just over 3 miles, the Mt Lola trailhead parking area is on the left (watch carefully for the sign because it is partially unreadable).

Welcome Kathy Englar

Our experienced and committed staff, board, and partners have built a 27-year history of getting things done and I jumped at the chance to join the team and make a difference in land preservation around Truckee.

KATHY ENGLAR



Photo credit: Anne Chadwick

Director of Philanthropy, Kathy Englar, enjoyed a successful Silicon Valley career — and a ski team parent’s high mileage lifestyle — for many years but was looking for more meaning in her professional life, specifically for the opportunity to contribute to environmental preservation. She found it with Truckee Donner Land Trust last year and now lives full time in Truckee, where she hikes or skis daily and is a member of Truckee’s masters swim team.

A high five for Geoff Griffin

For six years, Geoff Griffin has provided careful guidance and leadership to the Land Trust Board of Directors. Geoff served as Chair of the Finance Committee where he put in place internal controls and a new investment strategy. Geoff also served on the audit committee. Besides his financial acumen, Geoff is a well studied naturalist. More than once, Land Trust staff went to Geoff to help identify a wildflower or a bird’s whistle. His photographs have graced many of the Land Trust’s newsletters, this edition no exception.

“During Geoff’s board tenure, the organization took quantum strides both in terms of land acquisition and organizational capacity. Geoff has played a critical role in this progress. Without Geoff’s participation, TDLT may not be in a position to handle multiple high-profile acquisitions simultaneously. The organization is fortunate for Geoff’s involvement,” Jeff Brown, the Land Trust’s Board President, said.

Geoff has been involved in the greater Lake Tahoe area since the late 1970s. He and his wife, Barbara, live in Tahoe City. Geoff enjoyed a long international career in management consulting in advising financial services organizations, technology companies, and payments associations. An avid cross-country skier, Geoff also has served on the Boards of the Far West Nordic Ski Education Association and Auburn Ski Club.

The Land Trust thanks Geoff for his many contributions and service.

Geoff Griffin



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About this image

Elizabeth Carmel, owner of The Carmel Gallery in Truckee and Calistoga with her husband and fellow celebrated photographer Olof, believes that “experiencing the Earth’s beauty has the power to help nourish and unify us, both on a personal and global level.” Her dazzling image “Evening Sun, High Sierra” was taken in Lower Carpenter Valley. Elizabeth has generously donated this image, hand-mounted on canvas and ready for display, to the Campaign for Carpenter Valley and is making it available to a generous supporter via a virtual silent auction. Valued at \$980, we’re opening the bidding at \$500 (shipping or delivery to be arranged separately). To place your bid, contact Kathy Englar at the Land Trust, kathy@tdlandtrust.org. Bidding remains open until July 15.