

TRUCKEE DONNER LAND TRUST

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



Fall/Winter Newsletter
Volume 38 ❖ November, 2010

Once again, announcing two new acquisitions

*3,000 acres, including Webber Lake &
Lacey Meadows soon to be protected,
page four*

*After half a century, conservationists succeed
in protecting Independence Lake,
page six*



A GOOD DAY FISHING ON LAND TRUST

– an excerpt from
California Fly Fisher

John walked up one side of the creek, I walked up the other. The stream was so small that we had to hopscotch each other to get enough room to fish. Off in the distance, I could hear the faint hum of traffic on the road, but the feeling within the canyon was primal, with tangled growth and deadfalls giving the impression that we were the first people to traverse it in years, maybe decades. And perhaps we were. I flicked a cast to the head of a pool, and the rise to the fly was so measured, so assured in its confidence, it was as if the 10-inch brookie that subsequently came to hand had no fear of any predators.

One of the notable aspects of the creek was that we were fishing a section that ran through property purchased by a land trust. Previously, it had been a parcel closed to the public, but the genius of land trusts is that they raise money to buy environmentally important property, which they usually then open to the broader community, sometimes with conditions. It's the sort of conservation activity that people of all partisan stripes can agree is a good thing.



Lake of the Woods; the last phase of a 7,500-acre conservation easement in the Little Truckee River watershed.

I was reminded of this as our local land protectors, the Truckee Donner Land Trust, celebrated its twentieth year several days before this issue of *California Fly Fisher* went to press. The happy crowd numbered in the hundreds, and local politicians, conservative and liberal, spoke words of congratulation and support that, for once, came from the heart. Land is a commodity in short supply, Perry Norris, the land trust's executive director, told us, and if you want to keep it from being developed, you had better buy it, and you had better buy it as soon as possible, because it is only going to get more expensive.

If you fish an area on a regular basis, find out if a land trust is operating there. Learn their objectives and the properties they have saved. Visit those lands. Fish them, if fishing is an option. And give your support.

Richard Anderson
Publisher and Editor

Re-printed with permission from the California Fly Fisher October Issue



Webber Lake and Lacey Meadows. For comparison, Waddle Ranch would fit inside of the Meadow.

20TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

It was just two days before our big 20th Anniversary party and the Board and staff were wrapping up weeks of planning and preparation. But Mother Nature had something else in mind; our perfect August weather was about to take a dramatic change with a 20-degree drop in temperatures, icy winds, rain, and even snow at higher elevations. West End Beach at Donner Lake was now out of the question. Luck was on our side when our friends at Sugar Bowl Ski Resort came through by donating their Mt. Judah Lodge for the venue!

Nevada County Supervisor, Ted Owens, kicked off the festivities by welcoming attendees as they enjoyed appetizing food, beverages, and photographs of the Land Trust's many acquisitions. The speaker program included founding and former Board members reminiscing about significant early projects such as Schallenberger Ridge, Dave Sutton of The Trust for Public Land applauding the Martis Valley and Perazzo Meadows acquisitions, Becky Morgan, who promised her family's continued support for conservation, Jennifer Montgomery, Placer County Supervisor, and final remarks from Perry Norris, the Land Trust's Executive Director and driving force for the past 10 years.

It was evident from the beaming smiles on everyone's faces and the emotionally charged atmosphere that

the past 20 years had been a remarkable journey resulting in the protection and stewardship of truly iconic, important lands that will be enjoyed for generations to come.

Again, a very special thanks to Sugar Bowl and their wonderful staff who made this amazing celebration possible.

To date, the Land Trust has protected over 23,000 acres, ensuring continued recreational access for future generations. We are determined to protect another 24,500 acres in the coming years with a value of over \$70 million. We hope to see you all at our 40th Anniversary celebration as well!

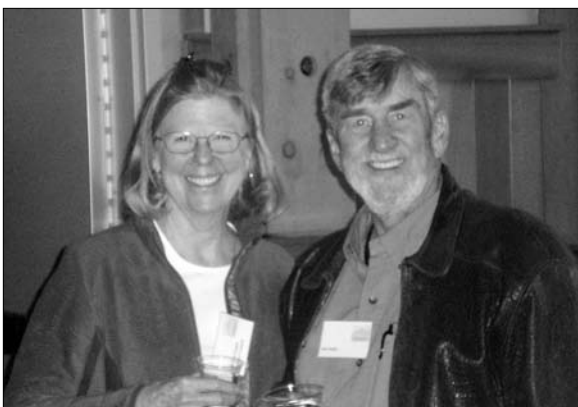
Thank you to our friends at Sugar Bowl Ski Resort!



Over 200 guests listened attentively as a variety of speakers passionately spoke about the Land Trust's 20-year legacy.

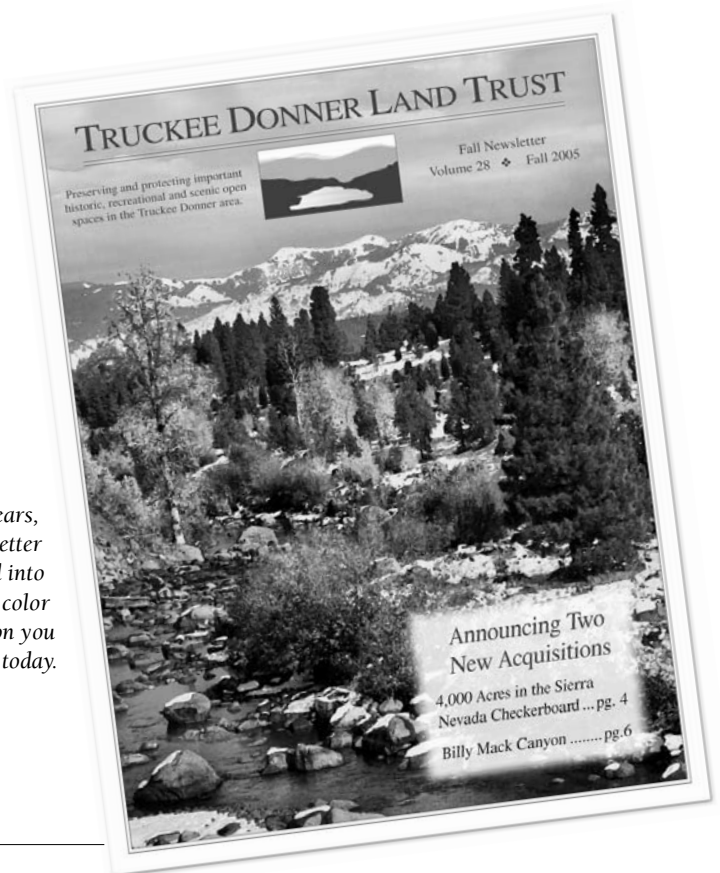


Guests were treated to information and visual displays that highlighted the Land Trust's 20-year conservation story.



Long time Land Trust members, Kathleen Eagan and Jim Duffy, enjoy the big celebration.

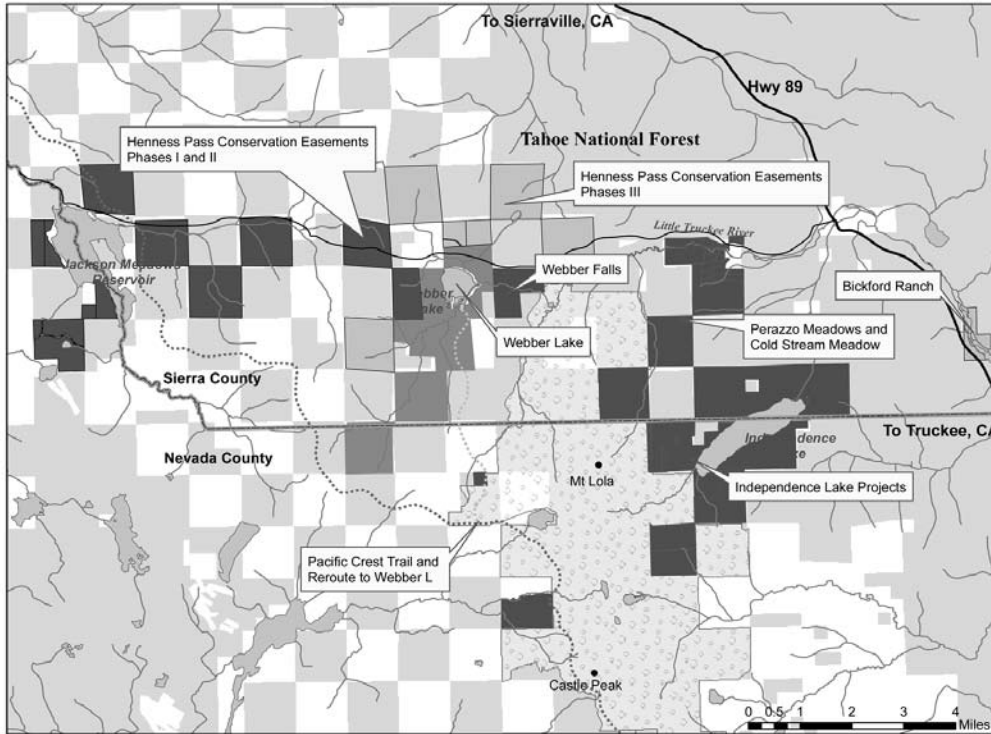
Over the years, our newsletter has evolved into the pleasing color version you enjoy today.



SOON TO BE

THE CAMPAIGN FOR WEBBER LAKE & LACEY MEADOWS

Northern Sierra Checkerboard Projects- Completed and Current 2010



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

Map Created by: Truckee Donner Land Trust- Fall 2010

Webber Lake and Lacey Meadows are part of a 17,000 + acre conservation effort in the Little Truckee River watershed.

The Truckee Donner Land Trust, in partnership with The Trust for Public Land, is under contract to acquire in fee 3,000 acres in the Little Truckee River watershed known as Webber Lake and Lacey Meadows.

“From a biological, historical and recreational perspective, this may be the most important acquisition the Land Trust has pursued,” said David Brown, Chair of the Land Trust’s Lands Committee.

Lacey Meadows and Upper Lacey Meadow, located upstream of Webber Lake, comprise an astonishing 1,900 acres of the property. The meadows are one

of the best examples of a highly functioning meadow system in the Northern Sierra Nevada eco region. The landscape has been targeted by The Nature Conservancy as a “Portfolio Site” because of the critical habitat it provides for biodiversity in the Northern Sierra Nevada.

Lacey Meadows supports many native birds and is particularly important during the spring nesting season. The high water table and extensive willow shrubs, rushes and sedges provide excellent nesting habitat for Western willow flycatcher, neotropical migrants such as yellow warbler, and numerous waterfowl such as the green-winged teal. Mountain yellow-legged frogs have been sited in the area and numerous other wildlife occur such as bald eagle, mule deer from



The Webber Lake region hosts an astonishing number of birds and mammals. Here, bald eagles feed on the frozen lake.

PROTECTED

the Truckee-Loyalton deer herd, mountain lion, and black bear. The California Department of Fish and Game also identified a number of rare mammals on the property including pine marten, Pacific fisher, Sierra red fox and the now famous wolverine.

Moreover, given Lacey Meadow's size, healthy condition and hydrologic regime, it retains a large quantity of spring runoff, releasing clean cold water back into the watercourse throughout the summer, which in turn sustains high quality aquatic habitat in the Little Truckee River. The meadow is truly spectacular, teeming with camas lilies, asters, shooting stars, elephant heads, and larkspur.

Webber Lake is a 260-acre natural lake that forms the headwaters of the Little Truckee River. It has been a private recreational destination for campers, anglers, and summertime Sierra enthusiasts for nearly 150 years and is the original site for sport fishing in the Sierra Nevada. Webber Lake was also a stopover on the historic Henness Pass Road; the only remaining hotel along this once popular trans Sierra route, dating from 1863, still stands on the property.

The property is also a key part of a larger conservation effort in the Little Truckee River Watershed. The Nature Conservancy, The Trust for Public Land and the Truckee Donner Land Trust are in the process of protecting over 17,000 acres in the watershed. Other protected properties include: Webber Falls, immediately downstream from Webber Lake; Perazzo Meadows; Independence Lake; Cold Stream Meadow and several thousand acres the Land Trust holds under conservation easements along the Jackson Meadows Road. All of these

properties have significant and unique conservation values, but when assembled are truly a grand slam for conservation.

Longer term, conservation groups are envisioning a master plan for the entire upper Little Truckee River headwaters to facilitate public use while conserving the area's natural resources. Lacey Meadows is a key piece to this landscape conservation vision.

The Land Trust is under contract to purchase the property for \$8 million - a "bargain sale". The sellers, Clif and Barbara Johnson, have owned parts of the property for nearly 100 years. For generations, the Johnson family had been sheep ranchers in the foothills, using the meadows at Webber Lake for summer grazing.

"The Johnson's have an extraordinary connection to the landscape and were concerned about its ultimate disposition. They've turned down more lucrative offers in order to work with conservationists to see that Webber Lake and Lacey Meadows are protected forever," said Perry Norris of the Land Trust. "One of the most special parts of the



The Webber Lake Hotel still stands on the property. Built in 1860, it is one of Northern California's oldest structures.

transaction was getting to know the Johnson's and hear their stories."

Once acquired, Lacey Meadows and Upper Lacey Meadow will be open to the public via a new trailhead off of the Meadow Lake Road. One of the agreements with the Johnson's is that the Land Trust will continue the lease for the private fishing camp for five years. After being private for more than a century, Webber Lake, with extensive restoration, will be open to the public in 2017.



Looking south across Webber Lake, Independence Lake is behind the ridgeline to the left.

NEWLY

INDEPENDENCE LAKE

Independence Lake's wild character, blue and frequently white-capped waters are matched only by the amazing biodiversity the Lake supports.

It is hard to imagine anything else like it "for sale" in the American West. But after 50 years of being on and off the market, Independence Lake is now protected, recently purchased by conservationists. Hallelujah!

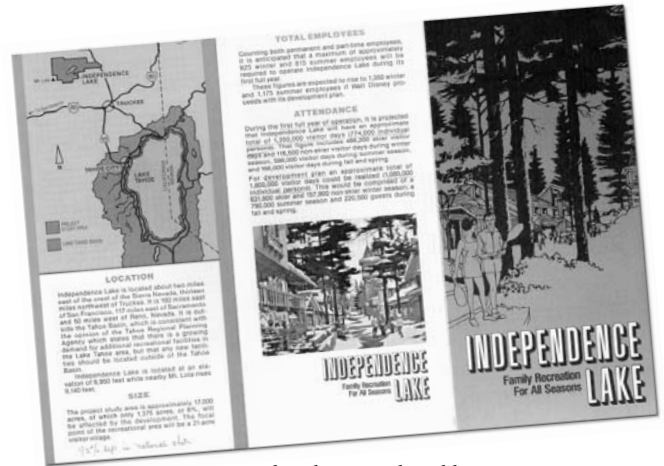
Independence Lake is 15 miles north of Truckee off Highway 89. For decades, conservationists have worked to protect this pristine lake from development. In April 2010, the Lake was purchased from Nevada Energy for \$15 million. It is very gratifying to write the last chapter for a Lake that generations have struggled to protect.

The Lake lies at 7,000 feet and is 2.5 miles long by .5 miles wide, strikingly similar in size and shape to Donner Lake. With the newly acquired 2,325 acres, and 1,810 acres the Land Trust

acquired in 2006, the entire Independence Lake watershed is now protected. Chalk-up another victory for conservation in the Northern Sierra.

The project augments completed and current projects in the Little Truckee River watershed including Cold Stream Meadow, Perazzo Meadows, Webber Falls, and Webber Lake (see article pages 4 and 5.) In addition, the Land Trust, in partnership with The Trust for Public Land, recently closed on a 4,500 acre conservation easement in the region. Altogether more than 17,000 acres will be protected.

Independence Lake supports California's last wild and self-sustaining population of the federally threatened Lahontan cutthroat trout. Wild and self-sustaining populations of Lahontan cutthroat trout have declined by 99 percent relative to their historic range. While hatchery-produced Lahontan cutthroat trout are being re-



A brochure produced by Disney Corporation markets an all season resort.

introduced to many waters, Independence Lake supports a wild strain that was never extirpated. It also hosts other native fish assemblages of the Truckee River watershed, many of which are threatened species. It is the most pristine and wild lake of its size in the Northern Sierra.

It is really amazing that Independence Lake and its fisheries were not lost to development. In the 1970's, Independence Lake was the focus of one of the biggest land use battles in the West. Disney Corporation had set its sights on building a mega-modern ski resort and complex on the ridges and bowls encircling the Lake. Disney executives figured they had discovered in the backwater of rural Nevada and Sierra Counties something akin to what the industrialist Walter Paepcke had found wandering about in Pitkin County, Colorado when he stumbled upon Aspen Valley. Disney had plans for a four-lane highway from the current turn-off to Sagehen Field Station on Highway 89 to Independence Lake. Mt. Lola, Carpenter Peak and other peaks were to be connected via gondolas and



Independence Lake is strikingly similar to Donner Lake in shape and size.

ACQUIRED



Joe Donnelly, son of the Wildlife Conservation Board's Executive Director, John Donnelly, at the Independence Lake Dedication.

chairlifts. Independence Lake itself would be ringed with marinas, piers and docks leading to vacation homes and estates. Plans included a golf course, equestrian center, hotel, condos, hundreds of miles of roads, parking for 2,500 vehicles, and hundreds of thousands of square feet of commercial development to accommodate visitors to the new resort.

Locals from Truckee and Sierraville bitterly fought the proposed development. They believed it spelled doom for their small town and rural way of life. (The battle with Disney is well told in Truckee author Joanne Meschery's *In a High Place*.) Disney eventually abandoned their efforts but this was one of California's major land use battles in the 1970s. Had conservationists lost, Truckee and the region would be very different today.

The Lake was again threatened by development in 2002 when the property was nearly sold to a Silicon Valley icon.

Any development would surely diminish the pristine resources currently at Independence Lake and deny public access. The \$22 million proposed purchase fell through when the buyer learned Reno and Sparks retained the Lake's water rights.

The Land Trust and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) now jointly manage the property and are busy readying the property for significant public use. The recreational amenities at the Lake were in serious disrepair. The campgrounds are heavily impacted and unsightly. The vault toilets are literally falling down and leaching into the ground water. To the public, signs, fencing and gates were unwelcoming and intimidating. Trails were nonexistent despite the Lake's close proximity to the popular Mt. Lola and Pacific Crest Trails. The Land Trust and TNC are planning to completely redo these recreational amenities. Plans include construction of a new walk-in campground, day use area, interpretative signage and kiosks, and a trailhead and trail connecting westward to the Mt. Lola Trail.



Independence Lake has been a recreational destination for 150 years.

Getting to Independence Lake

The road to Independence Lake is very scenic, passing over the Little Truckee River, fording a small creek, and traveling through beautiful forests along the way. A two-wheel drive can handle the road, but it is rough in places. An automobile with higher-than-average clearance can make the trip, but a truck or an SUV is a better choice. It is also a great bicycle ride from the parking lot at Highway 89.

From Truckee, proceed north on Highway 89 for about 15 miles until you reach a left turn for Jackson Meadows Reservoir. Proceed on this road (USFS 07). The first left turn is for Independence Lake Road (Sierra County road 350), occurring within the first two miles. Take this road, cross the Little Truckee River, and proceed through the intersection with Henness Pass Road to a split in the road where a sign reads "Independence Lake 3" (not a typo) with a right-facing arrow. Bear right and cross the creek at the shallow ford. Proceed on this road for three miles until you reach a fork with a directional sign with instructions to bear right to the parking area. The parking area is roughly a half-mile past this intersection.

Please read the posted signage to comply with day use restrictions and to learn more about the area.

STEWARDSHIP AT PERAZZO MEADOWS

Stewardship efforts at Perazzo Meadows, acquired by the Land Trust in 2008, focused this summer on two separate but very important aspects: river restoration and public access.

With our partners, the United States Forest Service and the Truckee River Watershed Council, the Land Trust's ongoing efforts to restore the Little Truckee River are making great headway. The restoration process, called "plug and pond," re-routes

the river back into its historic streambed from which it had been diverted early in the last century for cattle grazing. The end result will be a series of pools and ponds in the springtime that attenuate spring runoff and create a narrower but deeper watercourse for the river, which in turn keeps the water cooler. This will result in better stream and riparian habitat



As the snow melts, man made "plugs" back the water up, re-watering the meadow and forming seasonal "ponds". This system mimics a more historic hydrologic process and improves the quality and quantity of riparian habitat.

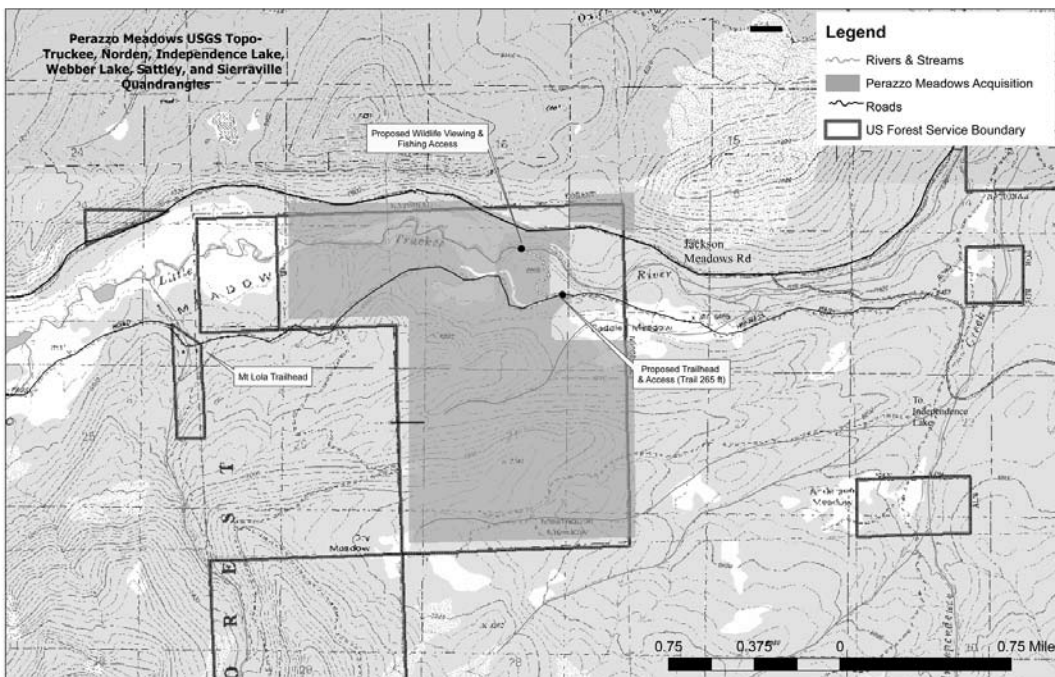


A new kiosk at Perazzo Meadows.

to improve the fishery, wildflower growth, and to provide more nesting habitat for birds. This project began in 2009 and will continue through 2011.

Also during summer, the Land Trust put the finishing touches on the new day use area that provides much-needed access to the Little Truckee River. Three picnic sites are located on scenic bluffs above the river and are now linked by a trail with interpretive signs describing native trees. This area can be accessed by a short walk or ride from the new parking area and kiosk, just off of Henness Pass Road. The new picnic area is on the way to Independence Lake, Webber Falls, and the Mt. Lola

trail and is the perfect spot to celebrate a great day in the Northern Sierra.



The new picnic area at Perazzo Meadows.

STEWARDSHIP AT WADDLE RANCH PRESERVE

Stewardship at Waddle Ranch Preserve, acquired by the Land Trust in 2007, continues to focus on thinning trees for improved forest health and enhancing the visitor's enjoyment of this 1,482-acre property. Our partner, the Truckee Tahoe Airport District, completed a series of forestry projects that included cutting trees and chipping the understory and saplings. The thinning will reduce the strain and competition on remaining trees, allowing them to grow healthier. The chipped materials, which converted standing fuels into a less-dangerous form, will help retain soil moisture and will return nutrients to the soil as they decompose. The areas of the forest treated last year provide a good example of a healthy and functioning forest.

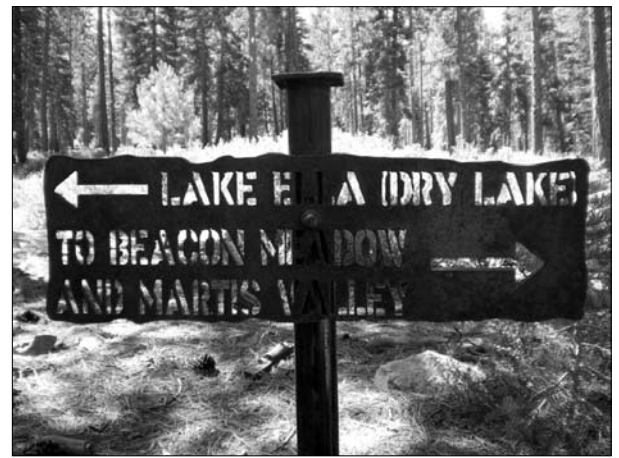
The Land Trust also spent the summer promoting and enhancing recreation opportunities on Waddle Ranch Preserve. Staff and volunteers installed eight new directional signs directing trail users to Lake Ella (Dry Lake) and the Beacon Meadow picnic area. A new kiosk was erected at Lake Ella, and next spring the

accompanying sign will list birds commonly seen at the lake.

Waddle Ranch Preserve has a new trail! Volunteers from the Land Trust and the Truckee Trails Foundation worked twice weekly all summer to build a new trail connecting Beacon Meadow and Matt's Trail, the access trail from Martis Dam (named in honor of Land Trust Board member Matt Rusanoff who died in 2007). This new trail travels through a beautiful mixed conifer forest and offers some very nice views of Truckee and the Sierra Crest. Picnic tables have been installed along the trail at major viewpoints. This trail, when combined with Matt's Trail and Sawmill Road Trail, will provide a nice loop hike from the Northwest trailhead.



A group of hearty hikers prepare to depart from the new trailhead.



Our signage is reminiscent of trail signs in Yosemite National Park.



More than 150 volunteers helped build the new Beacon Loop Trail.

Volunteers from the Land Trust and the Truckee Trails Foundation worked twice weekly all summer to build a new trail connecting Beacon Meadow and Matt's Trail, the access trail from Martis Dam (named in honor of Land Trust Board member Matt Rusanoff who died in 2007).

STEWARDSHIP



Billy Mack Canyon Creek

Columbine in bloom in the foreground alongside Billy Mack Canyon Creek. Future stewardship plans for the canyon include the construction of a new trail accessing higher terrain surrounding the meadow.

Cold Stream

Accessed by a challenging hike, bicycle, or horseback ride on the Mt. Lola Trail, these remote properties put on a colorful show of wildflowers in the summer and changing leaves in the autumn.



Bucknam Tract

Land Trust staff and volunteers have been scouting the best alignment for a new section of the Donner Lake Rim Trail, which will traverse the property. In addition, our partners, the Tahoe Donner Association, have been thinning an overstocked forest to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire.

OF OUR LANDS

Mobile Monitoring

The monitoring of Land Trust properties is best done on foot or by bicycle. A “work bike” is the perfect tool for the job.



John Checks the Creek

John Svahn, the Land Trust Stewardship Director, observes the diesel spill in Bill Mack Canyon Creek last spring. A quick response and the subsequent cleanup resulted in a clean bill of health for the watershed. Recent “monitoring” showed that the resident trout were healthy and feisty.

BUSINESS PARTNER PROFILE



Lisa Toutant and her husband, Conrad Snover, skiing in Truckee's backcountry.

Ascend

The Land Trust is fortunate to count Ascend, a customer experience and marketing consulting firm, as a committed business partner. This certified Woman Owned Business is headed by Lisa Toutant, whose team works with large and small companies across all industries to implement marketing strategies with an emphasis on the customer experience. Ascend has worked with diverse clients such as Sun Microsystems, eHow, JMA Partners, and Visa.

After living in Truckee nine years, Toutant and her

husband, Conrad Snover, still wake each morning to appreciate the amazing beauty of the Sierra. They feel

honored to be able to bicycle, run, and backpack their way through our beautiful area and want to ensure it is never lost.

“We want to preserve, and when necessary, restore the Truckee/Tahoe Basin to its most natural state, and we are grateful for the Land Trust and the work they do to support this area,” said Toutant. *“We look forward to continuing to support the Truckee Donner Land Trust.”*

Corporate stewardship is important to Toutant, and the Land Trust is privileged to be included among her firm's many other causes and commitments to the Truckee community. For more information about Ascend, please visit www.thinkascend.com.

ALL GIFTS MATTER

Time and time again we hear the question from donors, “In light of million dollar acquisitions, what does my yearly \$35 donation really do for the Land Trust?” Whatever the size of your gift, it is very important to us. Your gift, combined with another 1,400 donations we receive each year, adds up to cover the operational expenses necessary for the Land Trust to pursue its mission. Yes, big gifts are critical too (and are very appreciated), but smaller donations are vital and show a broad base of community support. There is tremendous power in numbers.

Smaller gifts are the Land Trust's bread and butter, providing a sustainable and dependable base of support and enabling the Land Trust to do its work. Smaller gifts also help cover expenses like appraisals and mapping that many large grants do not cover.

You might even be surprised to know that IRS regulations prohibit nonprofits from getting too much support from major donors. All non-profits must demonstrate “public support”, a somewhat complicated ratio of large to small donors set by the IRS. Smaller donations permit us to accept more donations from our major supporters without putting our percentage of public support into a level unacceptable to the IRS.

The Land Trust Board also wants you to know that it is very proud of running a lean ship. The Land Trust is committed to using every one of our donor's dollars wisely and effectively.

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 REI

- The Land Trust received a \$10,000 grant from REI
- for programs that engage individuals, families
- and communities as volunteers caring for outdoor
- spaces. Awards like this are crucial in helping the
- Land Trust with its robust
- stewardship programs such as
- land monitoring, trailbuilding,
- installation of signage, and
- picnic area and campground
- maintenance.



WAYS TO GIVE

Gift Memberships:

Give a gift membership for birthdays, holidays, weddings, anniversaries, graduations or other special occasions. We'll send a gift membership certificate to the intended recipient and a donation receipt to you.

Memorial & Honorary Gifts:

Give tribute to friends or loved ones with an "In Memory of" or "In Honor of" donation. We'll send a beautiful photo certificate to the recipient and a receipt to you.

Stock Gifts:

Gifts of long-term appreciated stock and mutual fund shares are an easy way to make a lasting contribution. Consult your tax advisor for details.

Gifts of Appreciated Assets:

Gifts of appreciated securities or real estate offer a tax-efficient way to make a meaningful contribution to the Land Trust. These gifts may also help you reduce your income and capital gains taxes. Consult your tax advisor for details.

Donner Lake Rim Trail

Adopt-A-Quarter-Mile:

Contribute \$1,000 or more to adopt a portion of the Donner Lake Rim Trail and we'll recognize your gift at one of the trailheads.

This is a great way to create a legacy that benefits the entire community.

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 to be unveiled at a dedication ceremony.

Planned Giving:

Leave a legacy and help us protect open spaces for future generations by including the Land Trust in your will or other estate plans. To make a charitable bequest, consult with your legal advisor or call 530-582-4711.

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, at the office, or build trails on the Rim Trail and at Waddle Ranch Preserve. Or, if you have a special skill, please let us know!

For more information contact the Land Trust at 530-582-4711.



Cold Stream, acquired by the Land Trust in 2009.

Thank You Business Partners

American Hiking Society
 Arbor Home Mortgage, Inc.
 Ascend Business Consulting
 Cabona's
 Castle Peak Snow Removal & Vacation Rentals
 Cedar House Sport Hotel
 Chase International - Trinkie Watson
 Robert Colpitts, DDS
 Concerned Property Owners of Tahoe Donner
 Conservation & Preservation Counsel
 Cottonwood Restaurant
 DMB/Highlands Group, LLC
 Donner Lake Property Owners Association
 Donner Lake Woods Homeowners Assoc.
 Donner Memorial State Park
 Downing Law Firm
 Dragonfly
 East West Partners
 The Estates Group - Tom Pillsbury
 First Descent, LLC
 Gabbart & Woods Structural Engineers
 Tony Hardy Construction, Inc.
 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
 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
 Print Art/Sierra Mail
 REI, Inc.
 Rotary Club of Truckee
 Ryan Group Architects
 Sagehen Creek Field Station
 Sierra Club
 Sierra Mountain Mortgage
 Silver Sage Center for Family Medicine
 The Sohagi Law Group
 SnowTech
 Sorensen's Resort
 State Farm Insurance - Tahoe City
 Streamline Consulting Group
 Summit Medical Services, Inc.
 Sugar Bowl Ski Resort
 Mark Tanner Construction, Inc.
 Trails & Vistas
 Truckee River Associates
 Truckee Tahoe Airport
 Truckee-Tahoe Lumber
 Tyler Financial, Inc.
 The Villager Nursery
 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.

THANK YOU 2010 HIKE LEADERS



A group on Mt. Lola's summit, 9,148'.

Many members enjoyed our popular 2010 Summer Hikes which ranged from leisurely to strenuous and which always highlighted an abundance of wildflowers, wildlife and stunning Sierra vistas. A big thanks to our hike leaders and sweeps: Janet Zipser Zipkin, Board Vice President; David Brown, Lands Chair and Board member; William Thauvette, Board Treasurer; Bill Goerke, Board member; Perry Norris, Executive Director; and Sara Taddo Jones, the Land Trust's former Conservation Director. We'd also like to extend a special thanks to Squaw Valley USA for providing tram tickets and an in-kind shuttle for the Sugar Bowl to Squaw Valley hike.

Look for our 2011 Summer Hike dates next spring and plan to join us, make new friends and explore the Truckee Donner region with our passionate and energetic Board and staff.

NORTH TAHOE PLEIN AIR

Many thanks to our Local Art Community

In its fourth year, the North Tahoe Plein Air event benefits the Land Trust, North Tahoe Arts and the Community Foundation Fund of North Lake Tahoe. Well-known artists from California, Nevada and Colorado were selected to paint on location throughout North Lake Tahoe.

A special thank you to the Tahoe Mountain Resort Foundation and the Northstar-at-Tahoe™ Resort.



Best in Show:
Thunderstorm in Truckee
by Randall Stauss.



2nd Honorable Mention:
Boats in Waiting
by Philip Gandiole

Announcing the Forever Wild Society Planned Giving Program

*Leave a legacy of open space
for future generations*

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

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 thought about leaving the Land Trust a legacy gift, please let us know so we can acknowledge your generosity and so we can 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, or contact Kellie Wright at 530-582-4711.

Sample Bequest Language:

I give and bequeath _____ (amount, percent of estate or description of property) to the Truckee Donner Land Trust for its general purposes and use at the discretion of its Board of Directors.

7TH ANNUAL TRAILS & VISTAS

“If Dreams were Clouds”

Trails & Vistas is a local non-profit organization whose mission is to create experiences of art in nature that inspire environmental awareness. Now in its 7th year, the annual fall event is a unique collaboration between the Truckee Donner Land Trust, InnerRhythms Dance Theater, Arts For The Schools, and KidZone Museum. This year Trails & Vistas attracted more than 700 hikers.

The 2010 event traveled up the Shirley Canyon Trail at Squaw Valley. Shirley Canyon's vistas and rock formations were a perfect venue for Trails & Vistas 2010. Thank you to all the volunteers and hikers. A special thank you to the tireless Land Trust volunteers, Squaw Valley USA and The Richardson House.



Aerial dancer, Allison Meetze, displays strength and grace with silk hoop dancing. Photo by Susan Zweigle.

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS

From spring through fall, the Land Trust's Stewardship Director, John Svahn, is busy organizing trail crews and managing volunteers for numerous stewardship projects on Land Trust lands. The Land Trust's stewardship and trails programs depend on scores of dedicated volunteers. Here are a few we'd especially like to thank:



Drew Duerlington

Drew Duerlington, Waddle Ranch Preserve Ranger

Several times a week Drew volunteered his time at Waddle Ranch Preserve greeting visitors, answering questions about ongoing forestry and new trails, and monitoring the property. Drew also led several trail crews this summer and installed signage. Thanks Drew!



Shane Lopez

Shane Lopez, AmeriCorps Intern

Shane worked for the Land Trust once a week from spring through fall, installing signs, kiosks, and picnic tables at Perazzo Meadows and Independence Lake. Shane also helped develop a better sign plan for the Donner Lake Rim Trail and inventoried potential maintenance projects on the trails. Thanks Shane!

Bill Person, Trail Crew Leader

Bill Person's trail building and crew leading expertise has been a boon for the Land Trust. Bill is the volunteer crew leader for Good Dirty Fun, a trail building and maintenance program brought about by a partnership between the Land Trust and the Truckee Trails Foundation. Bill's smile and enthusiasm for trails made trail days



Bill Person

that much more fun for volunteers while leading numerous crews and keeping a perfect safety record. Thanks Bill!

Rachel St. Pierre, Mailing Help

A very special thanks to Rachel St. Pierre for her tireless volunteer hours helping us with our mailings. Thank you Rachel!

Thanks to all our tireless volunteers. We simply couldn't do the work we do without your great help!

Thank You In-Kind Donors

Alpine Mounting & Tahoe Poster
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Kathy Bender

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Mary Ellen Bickford
Capital Beverage Co.

California State Parks – Richard Adams
Carmel Gallery Downtown Truckee –
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Scott Wall Forestry
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DONNER LAKE RIM TRAIL UPDATE

When completed, the Donner Lake Rim Trail (DRLT) will include 23 miles encircling the ridges above Donner Lake. Hikers, mountain bikers and equestrians can enjoy stunning views of Donner Lake, Mount Rose and the Pacific Crest on the nearly 16 miles now completed, most of which was built by volunteers.

The Land Trust staff focused this year on trail maintenance and planning. Partnering with the Truckee Trails Foundation, more than 10 miles of maintenance was completed. Several sections of the DRLT in upper Negro Canyon were completely rebuilt due to last year's heavy winter snows.

Staff and volunteers have also begun scouting a new and crucial section of the trail across the Bucknam Tract above Donner Lake



A recently completed section of the Donner Lake Rim Trail now connects to the popular Hole in the Ground Trail pictured here.

and north of I-80. In partnership with the Town of Truckee and the Tahoe Donner Association, the Land Trust acquired this 240-acre parcel this year. Trail construction will begin in 2012.

You can support the building of the DRLT by adopting a section of trail or volunteering to build a section.

THANK YOU TO THE TEICHERT FOUNDATION

The Land Trust Executive Director, Perry Norris, recently accepted a \$5,000 donation from Fred Teichert for work on the Beacon Loop Trail at Waddle Ranch Preserve. The Teichert Foundation has been a generous supporter of Land Trust trailbuilding and maintenance work, providing grants for work on the Donner Lake Rim Trail and now, Beacon Loop.

John Svahn, the Land Trust's Stewardship Director, coordinates and manages hundreds of volunteers every year as they build and maintain trails for hikers, bikers and equestrians to enjoy.

Thanks to Fred Teichert and the Teichert Foundation for their continued loyal support.



From left, Perry Norris, Fred Teichert and John Svahn.

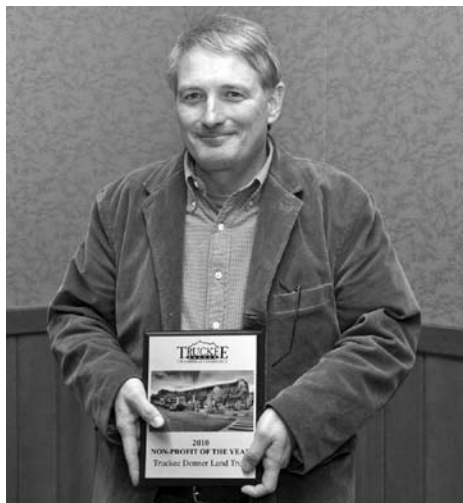
ANNOUNCING THE LOOKOUT CIRCLE

The Lookout Circle takes its inspiration from its definition - a strategic act of observing or keeping watch. Support from Lookout Circle donors is essential to the continued success of the Land Trust which to date has protected more than 23,000 acres.

As a Lookout Circle donor, you join other generous and concerned folks who support the Land Trust with an annual gift of \$2,500 or more, pledged for a period of three to five years. Lookout Circle donors contribute 60 percent of operating funds needed to ensure the protection of thousands of acres of important lands such as Waddle Ranch Preserve and Perazzo Meadows.



Photo by Elizabeth Carmel, www.TheCarmelGallery.com.



Land Trust Executive Director, Perry Norris.
Photo by Rob Retting, Sierra Nevada Ad Partners (SNAP).

TRUCKEE DONNER LAND TRUST WINS NON-PROFIT OF THE YEAR

The Truckee Donner Land Trust recently took home the Non-Profit Organization of the Year Award at the Truckee Donner Chamber of Commerce Annual Awards dinner.

The event recognizes nominees in the categories of Large and Small Businesses of the Year; Volunteer of the Year and Non-Profit Organization of the Year. Nominees are chosen by their peers based on the important contributions made over the past year and for making Truckee a great place to live and work.

Held at the Ritz Carlton, Highlands, in Truckee, Land Trust staff were honored to share the room with the communities' best and brightest and to have been nominated with many esteemed non-profits that work in the Truckee community.

Thanks to our members and supporters who help make us the best Land Trust we can be!

Thank You to Our Buck for Open Space Partners. The buck they donate goes a long way.

Preserving open space in the greater Truckee Donner region is simply good business. Many thanks to the following conservation-minded businesses and their customers for their donations. Show your appreciation by giving them your business:

- Robert Colpitts, DDS
- Cottonwood Restaurant
- Donner Truckee Veterinary Hospital
- Dragonfly Restaurant & Sushi Bar
- Full Belly Deli
- Heat-Tech of Truckee
- SnowTech

TREAT YOURSELF TO A NIGHT OUT AND HELP THE LAND TRUST CONSERVE LAND



Dine at River Ranch on December 9th and help the Land Trust save land.

River Ranch Restaurant will donate 30 percent of your total food bill to the Land Trust with their generous “Dining for the Community” program. Make reservations for December 9 and enjoy dinner at one of the area’s most popular and scenic restaurants. This is a wonderful opportunity to help the Land Trust celebrate 20 years of conservation over a great meal with friends and family.

Please make your reservations at least a day in advance, and be sure to tell the reservationist you are dining for the Truckee Donner Land Trust.

**Thursday, December 9, 2010
6:00 to 9:00 p.m.**

**River Ranch – Hwy 89 at Alpine Meadows Road
Reservations: 530-583-4264**

CHECK OUT THE LAND TRUST’S NEW WEBSITE

The Land Trust Board and staff were thrilled to have received a generous grant from the Truckee Tahoe Community Foundation (www.ttcf.net) so we could revamp our website. We worked with local design firm SmallPond Marketing and Design to create a website that is easier to navigate, allows for making online donations, provides visitors with timely information and updates, and highlights the stunning landscapes that make up the Truckee Donner region. Be sure to take a look: www.tdlandtrust.org.



A grant from the Truckee Tahoe Community Foundation made our new website possible. Dick George, right, presents the check to Land Trust Board President, Tom Van Berkem.

A special thanks to the following photographers who kindly provided many of the spectacular photographs for the site: The Carmel Gallery - Elizabeth & Olof Carmel, Anne Chadwick, Chuck Zipkin and Janet Zipser Zipkin. And, a special thanks to SmallPond Marketing and Design for providing additional in-kind website work.

The Land Trust’s new website features maps and online donation tools.



A Few Things We Need

Our old Suburban is about to expire so we are putting out the call for a vehicle donation to carry trail crews, signage and equipment. We are looking for a well-running, reliable 8-seater rig in the Land Cruiser, Suburban or Ford Expedition family. If you have a vehicle to donate, please contact John at john@tdlandtrust.org or 530-582-4711.

We are also looking for locking, 4-drawer, vertical file cabinets. Please contact K.V. at kv@tdlandtrust.org or 530-582-4711.

WHAT A YEAR FOR CONSERVATION!



Bucknam Tract

Two hundred and forty acres above Donner Lake were acquired through a team effort involving the Land Trust, the Town of Truckee and the Tahoe Donner Association.

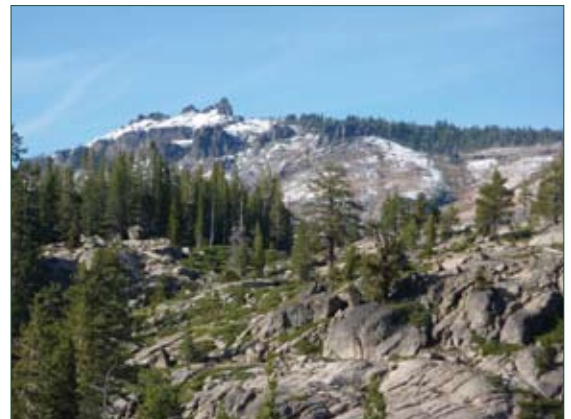
Heness Pass Conservation Easement

The Land Trust recorded the first two phases, 4,400 acres, of a conservation easement in the Little Truckee River watershed. Ultimately, over 7,500 acres will be protected. This is the first conservation easement that Sierra Pacific Industries, the largest private landowner in California, has agreed to. The photo is from what the Land Trust now calls “Morgan Point”, in honor of Jim and Becky Morgan.



Devil’s Peak

The Land Trust acquired and conveyed to the United States Forest Service nearly 1,000 acres below Devils Peak near Donner Summit.



Billy Mack Canyon

The Land Trust completed its fourth acquisition in the Canyon, an important tributary to Donner Lake.



Independence Lake

A refuge for fish native to the Northern Sierra including the Lahontan cutthroat trout, Independence Lake is now protected. Coupled with acquisitions the Land Trust completed in 2006, over 4,100 acres surrounding the Lake have been conserved.

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
info@tdlandtrust.org
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.

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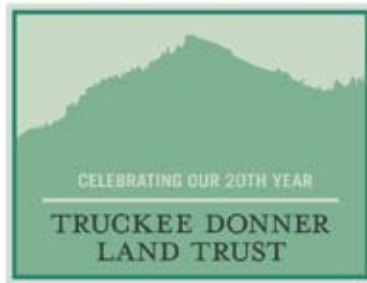
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COVER PHOTO:

Independence Lake. Photo: Mike Connor.



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Have you renewed your membership?
Help protect more of the open spaces you value.
Call 530-582-4711 to give by phone or online at www.tdlandtrust.org.



Independence Lake on a rare calm day. Once threatened by a massive resort development, the Lake is now protected forever.



This newsletter is printed on recycled paper using soy ink.

