

TRUCKEE DONNER LAND TRUST

Preserving and protecting important historic, recreational and scenic open spaces in the Truckee Donner area.



Fall Newsletter
Volume 28 ❖ Fall 2005

Announcing Two New Acquisitions

*4,000 Acres in the Sierra
Nevada Checkerboard ... pg. 4*

Billy Mack Canyon pg.6



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

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

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FRONT COVER PHOTO:

First snow of the year. The Carson Range in the distance.

Cover Image courtesy of
www.CarmelStudios.com.

“Enjoy Every Breath; Feel Every Snowflake.”

One of the things we really value is hearing from you, our members and what we consider the heart and soul of The Truckee Donner Land Trust. All 1,400 of you.

And none of our correspondence has been as inspirational or as much appreciated as the notes we've received from Marion V. Treganza, 88 years young, of Pacific Grove, California. Marion joined the Land Trust in 1995. Her notes are written on a manual typewriter and one includes an illustration of her dog. They are so inspiring that I keep them framed on my office wall. With Marion's permission, they are worth reprinting here:



hit that altitude again...I would almost risk it but there are others that need me yet; so would you please breathe it for me?

Enjoy every breath; feel every snowflake.

My heart is up there; and always will be.

*Best always,
Marion*

Marion is a true inspiration; her love for the Sierra reminds me of John Muir; I used to think that the Land Trust's job was "to buy mountains for kids," as my son Louis said. But it is also for those who were before us, who are comforted by knowing that the mountains are simply "still out there," wild as they remember.

In this newsletter we're please to announce three new acquisitions:

- ✓ 4,000 acres that includes 1,400 acres in the Truckee River Corridor, 2,000 acres surrounding Independence Lake and a full section on the western flank of Snow Mountain.
- ✓ 189 acres in Billy Mack Canyon
- ✓ A conservation easement on 52 acres in Billy Mack Canyon, adjoining the parcel the Land Trust is acquiring in fee.

The total cost of these projects is \$6.3 million.

Warm regards,

Perry Norris
Executive Director

8/18/04

Dear Perry,

If I had it I would just buy it all and give it to you for safe keeping...to build, on it would be a nightmare of horror. Keep at it...you will ultimately get it all - God and I are really counting on you. "I am 88-dodderly but wide awake - I KNOW you will get it all!"

*Best Always,
Marion*

12/22/04

Dear Perry,

I wrote on my check - so that you know I am still here with you at 88 - don't let one foot of that God-given beauty get away from you - enjoy it every day for me and all my beloved animals.

I type only with my middle finger of my LEFT HAND - Stroke & arthritis - but you get my heartfelt message!

You WILL buy it all! Think POSITIVE: LIKE OLD me!

*Best always,
Marion*

1/6/05

Dear Perry,

I do not remember what I wrote to you; but here I am again. The goal that you seek is possible. At 88 years, ANYTHING is possible!

You have to think POSITIVE - and keep on doing so. If you knew how much I miss the sight of God's mtns - the smell of it. But I dare not attempt to

Campaign Updates & Land Trust News

Sierra Checkerboard

Confidential negotiations continue for the purchase of several important properties in the Sierra Checkerboard. The Land Trust, in partnership with The Trust for Public Land, is working to preserve over 6,000 acres in the northern Checkerboard. See page 4.

Truckee River Corridor Project

We are excited to announce completing several acquisitions, near Floriston and in Gray Creek Canyon. Total acreage is over 1,600.

Billy Mack Canyon

We are in escrow for 190 acres in Billy Mack Canyon near Donner Lake. This property, previously closed to the public, affords an array of recreational opportunities at Truckee's doorstep. See page 6.

Sierra College Conservation Easement

In terms of geographic size, Truckee is the ninth largest municipality in California, so protecting scenic vistas and greenbelts within the Town is critical to our community's character. We recently signed a conservation easement to protect McIver Hill (aka Hippie Hill). See page 12.

Campaign for Martis Valley

The Land Trust will receive millions of dollars for land preservation in the Martis Valley as a result of settlements between developers and advocacy groups.

We plan to use these funds to help protect the Valley's rich biological resources and recreational open space.

Donner Lake Rim Trail

It was a great season for the DLRT! Our volunteers are the lifeblood of the summer trail-building season. We would like to thank all those who volunteered for the 2005 season. See story and photos page 9.

Welcome New Staff

The Land Trust completed a reorganization with recent appointments of Stan Wingate as Associate Director, Kellie Wright as Development Director, and Sara Taddo as Land

Conservation Director. Perry Norris, Executive Director commented, "we have assembled an amazing array of talent and have the capacity at a staff level to realize our grandest ambitions."

Stan Wingate comes to the Land Trust from his previous position as Controller at Truckee-based Kromer Investments, Inc. He now fills the Associate Director position with the departure of (the remarkable!) Tanya Africa. Stan's responsibilities include financial aspects of the Land Trust's operations, information technology and strategic planning.

Kellie Wright takes on the full-time position of Development



The Land Trust welcomes new staff members (from left) Kellie Wright, Sara Taddo and Stan Wingate.

Director after having successfully served the Land Trust as halftime Outreach Coordinator. Her new position combines her previous responsibilities with overall responsibility for development of membership, donors and business partnerships.

Sara Taddo comes to the Land Trust from her previous position as Project Planner at Sugar Bowl Ski Resort. Her responsibilities as Land Conservation Director include land stewardship, environmental assessment of potential acquisitions, formulation of conservation projects, and pursuing public funding for acquisitions.



Carpenter Ridge above a frozen Independence Lake.

Land Trust Set to Close on 4,000-Acres

By the end of the year, the Truckee Donner Land Trust and its steadfast partner, The Trust for Public Land, will close on 2,000 acres surrounding Independence Lake and 640 acres in the North Fork of the American River drainage that includes parts of Snow Mountain. This is the final phase of a project involving nearly 4,000 acres. The other properties, acquired in June, included 1,400 acres in the Truckee River Watershed.

Costs of the acquisitions are over \$5,000,000 with funding coming from the Proposition 40 River

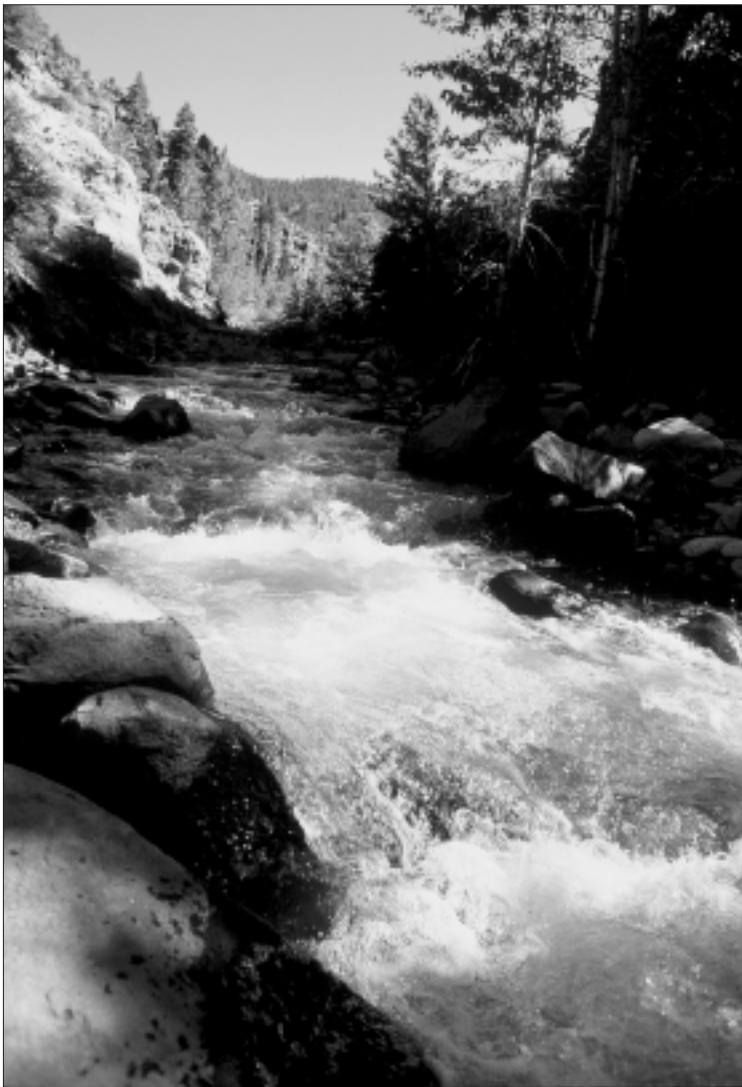
Parkway grants, administered by the State Resources Agency and Preserving Wild California, a program of Resources Legacy Foundation Fund.

Fran Herbst, Director of Acquisitions for Tahoe National Forest, sent a telling email of the importance of these lands:

“Saturday, Larry Gruver and I finished the inspections of all the Independence Lake parcels; I want to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for the gift



Future conservationists enjoy Independence Lake. Photo by Kris Norris.



Gray Creek rushes to its confluence with the Truckee River. Photo by Larry Prosser.

of these lands to all Americans. Larry and I have both worked on this forest for many years but saw some of the most spectacular country we have ever seen on the Tahoe National Forest. And that's saying a lot. We can't tell you how much we appreciate this. One view almost made me cry...but I was too busy laughing. Thanks so much.”

The Independence Lake and Snow Mountain properties will eventually be conveyed to the USFS while the State of California will eventually hold title to The Truckee River Watershed parcels.

*I want to thank
you from the
bottom of our
hearts for the gift
of these lands to
all Americans.*

*– Fran Herbst, Director of Acquisitions
for Tahoe National Forest*



View from Snow Mountain. The acquisition spans the meadow in the foreground to the steep ridgeline in the distance.

All of the properties are a part of the larger "Sierra Checkerboard." This is a several thousand-acre mosaic of public and private ownership, resembling, of course, a checkerboard. This ownership pattern dates back to the construction of the transcontinental railroad in the 1860's. As an incentive to build this dangerous and expensive railroad, the Federal government offered to grant the railroad companies every other square mile of land

along the route, reserving the rest to become National Forest. If these private parcels are not acquired for protection and proper management much of the forest land in our corner of the Sierra will convert to rural sprawl over the next 10 to 20 years. This will decimate habitat and recreation opportunities, increase congestion, facilitate the spread of disease among flora and fauna, and further complicate fire management.



View from Snow Mountain with the North Fork of the American River in the distance.



A frozen Independence Lake looking east.

Billy Mack Canyon: New Acquisition at Truckee's Doorstep



View from Billy Mack Canyon looking east over Donner Lake. The property contains numerous large granite scarps.

The Truckee Donner Land Trust Announces the Acquisition of 189 Acres in Billy Mack Canyon on Donner Summit.

The Land Trust has long eyed this scenic Canyon that lies between I-80 and Old Highway 40 because of its extensive recreational opportunities, heretofore closed to the public.

“From the board’s perspective, this opportunity was compelling. Taking action to acquire the Billy Mack Canyon property was simply being responsive to our mission.” said Scott Ryan, the Land Trust’s board president.

The property’s western edge borders United States Forest Service Land and the Pacific Crest Trail. The Land Trust and USFS eventually hope to create a trailhead off of Old Highway 40 that would link to the PCT. This would offer access to Flora and Azalea Lakes, popular summer-time destinations. The property also offers extensive opportunities for rock climbing.

Billy Mack Canyon provides extensive habitat for the endangered Willow Flycatcher, as well as Northern Goshawk and Peregrine Falcon. On a recent hike of the property, fox, Northern Goshawk and beavers were spotted. Also discovered were old growth Jeffrey Pine between five feet and six in diameter.

The Land Trust is also negotiating a conservation easement on a 52-acre adjoining parcel that includes Billy Mack Flat, a stunning Meadow and wetland mostly unknown to even long time locals. The easement would allow for the construction of a trail to Billy Mack Flat and public access.

Many thanks to Nevada Citizen's Bank and Sierra Mountain Mortgage for their support.

The acquisition and easement are parts of a larger multi-million dollar campaign for open space and trails in the Truckee area that the Land Trust is pursuing. The Billy Mack Lands are also in the immediate vicinity of other land Trust projects including Blackwall and Negro Canyon.

This acquisition follows a string of successes for the Land Trust in 2005. Earlier this year, the Land Trust signed a conservation easement with Sierra College for Hippie Hill and the Land Trust will be closing on nearly 4,000 in the Sierra Checkerboard and Truckee River Canyon by year-end.

Altogether, the Land Trust has now protected over 11,000 acres in the Truckee Donner region.



The acquisition includes a small alpine tarn.



Billy Mack Canyon provides critical habitat for Goshawks, spotted on a recent inspection of the Canyon.

Taking action to acquire Billy Mack Canyon property was simply being responsive to our mission.

- Scott Ryan, Board President, Truckee Donner Land Trust

Buck for Open Space Program a Success

We launched the "Buck for Open Space and Trails" program last year partnering with three local businesses. We are very happy to report that eleven businesses are now participating.

FAQs

What is the "Buck for Open Space" program?

It's a partnership of community-minded local businesses who provide a way for their customers to support open space and trails in Truckee by adding \$1 to their bill at checkout.

How will the funds be used?

Funds are split between the Land Trust and the Truckee Trails Foundation (TTF) to protect open space and expand trail systems in the Truckee region.

You know the urgency of our work as well as we do. TTF and the Land Trust are in a race against the unrelenting pace of growth in our region, which is spilling over into some of our most treasured natural areas and recreational lands. But with the support of our neighbors and partners, we can protect what we love, forever, before it's too late.

The following businesses are helping keep the Truckee Donner region a great place to live and visit by participating in the "Buck for Open Space" program.

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| Alpine Mounting/
www.TahoePosters.com | Jackass Ridge |
| Cabonas Clothing | Pacific Crest
Restaurant |
| Cottonwood | Pianeta Ristorante |
| Donner Truckee
Veterinary Hospital | West End
Bistro |
| Dragonfly
Inn at Truckee | Best Western Truckee
Tahoe Inn |

Why should I contribute?

Truckee's natural areas, scenic vistas, great hiking, biking, skiing and climbing are what keep locals here and visitors coming back for more. But Truckee is growing and the wild open spaces we cherish are disappearing at an alarming rate.

The dollar contribution will directly assist the Land Trust and the Trails Foundation in protecting natural areas and expanding trails in the Truckee Donner region.

How can I get more information?

Call or email. Or stop by. The Land Trust office is in the Old Tonini House at 10069 West River Street.

Thank you very much for your support!

The 2nd Annual Trails and Vistas: “Wind Over Stone” A Great Success!



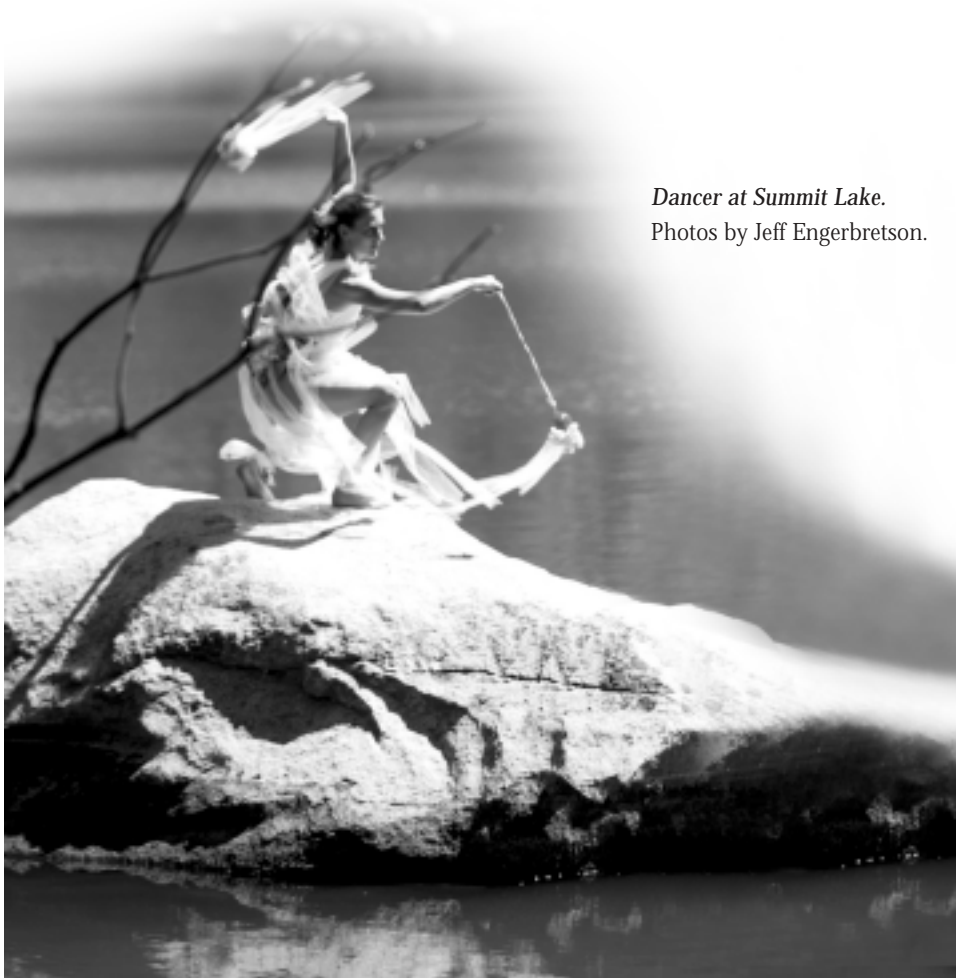
One of ten art sites along the trail.

Over 350 people enjoyed an art walk to Summit Lake to celebrate the environment August 28 at the 2nd Annual Trails and Vistas: Wind Over Stone.

This year's event was co-sponsored by the Truckee Donner Land Trust, InnerRhythms Dance Theatre, and Arts for the Schools. The event included performances by many local and national artists.

Participants hiked four miles on the Donner Lake Rim Trail to Summit Lake to enjoy more than ten art sites including moving art installations, poetry readings, dancing, Taiko drumming, an enormous ice sculpture from Bano's Iceworks, and various musicians along the way, including a harp in the meadow.

Trail leaders guided the groups of hikers who also heard about the wildlife, history, and the environment as they appreciated the stunning views from the trail. We look forward to next summer's Trails & Vistas.



Dancer at Summit Lake.
Photos by Jeff Engerbretson.



*Thank you to
our dedicated
volunteers,
hike leaders
and sponsors.*

Creative Director: Nancy Lopez

Choreographers: Elizabeth Archer, Sheri Woods Green

Silverleaf Studio

Jeff Engerbretson

Diana & Jeff Hill

Elizabeth & John Eaton

Kate & Wendell Ulberg

Noelle & John Hetz

Reina Markheim

Andrea Batie

Joanne Haddy

Tom Archer

Rachael Hartsbough

Polly Ryan

Robbin Harbottle

Robbin Redmond

Diana & Gary Wright

Cesar Lopez

Terry & Ken Yagura

Sponsors & Donors

Arts for the Schools,
InnerRhythms Dance Theatre,
Sierra Sun, Moonshine Ink,
Nevada Arts Council, Tahoe
Donner Association, East West
Partners, Washoe Steakhouse,
North Lake Resort Association,
Arlen and Barbara Tieken,
Stephen and Tamara Lieberman,
Big Wave Burritos and Wraps,
Cliff Bar, Capital Beverage,
Gateway Deli, Trader Joes,
VIA inc., Albertsons,
Moody's Restaurant.



Progress Continues on the Donner Lake Rim Trail

The Land Trust began working on the Donner Lake Rim Trail in 1996. Since then we've focused our efforts on increasing visibility and making it easier to access and use the trail.

We completed our first major segment of trail last year from Tahoe Donner to Summit Lake where hikers, bikers and equestrians can enjoy a beautiful trail while continuing along the Pacific Crest Trail to Mount Judah. We will begin construction of the bike trail in this section in 2006.

This season we are pleased to announce that, with the help of California State Parks and the California Conservation Corps, we built two new bridge structures in wet Alder seeps in central Negro Canyon.

We are still looking for sponsors to help cover the cost of these

bridges. Please call Kellie Wright at 530-582-4711 if you're interested.

We are also excited to report that we constructed our first kiosk at the base of the Canyon. This provides information for trail users in the Canyon, as well as acknowledgement to the many supporters of the trail – we couldn't do it without you!

Susan Sheffield, Rim Trail Coordinator, has been hard at work identifying new routes and also working on maintenance and reroute projects to buff out trail. Susan was excited to get the chance to host the Eagle Scouts from Reno, a large family reunion, local businesses, bike groups from the Bay area, Porter • Simon, the American Hiking Society Volunteer Vacation and a Land Trust Board day.

The many volunteers who came out this summer deserve special thanks for taking on some of the hardest work, from jack hammering to bridge construction in Negro Canyon. We hope you will all come back to help next year.



Granite busters on the Donner Lake Rim Trail.

We rely on services from supportive businesses and our many stalwart volunteers, who offer time, expertise, and passion for the Donner Lake Rim Trail. Thank you to our wonderful Rim Trail volunteers and businesses.

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Dan Andrews | Susan Hellyer | David Phife |
| Karimi Arao | William, Paul, David and Ryan Hollman | Missy Pieri |
| Neela Babu | Ashley Howden | Jerry and Mary Jane Rockwell |
| Andrew, Paul and Denis Barsalou | Kathy Huck | Amber Schildman |
| Brian Beemer | Kent and Darlene Jackson | Bill Schmelzer |
| Julim and Heidi Bradley | Barney Jones | Adrian Schneider |
| David Bridges | Brian Jones | Tim Silva |
| Mary, Mike, Dennis and Ben Brooks | Mary Junkin | Jim Simon |
| Sarah Brooks | Patty, Guy and Kevin Kelley | Bill Simpson |
| Paige Derdowski and Kelley Carroll | Steve Kilbuck | Candace Snyder |
| Chris, Jeff, John and Carolyn Clark | Bree and Kevin Klotter | Keith Snyder |
| Molly Cromwell | Stephanie La Carrubba | Todd Snyder |
| Pete Cuttitta | Rich Lehrmann | John and Sue Sorensen |
| Gordon Cutts | Debbie Lewis | Cathy Christensen and Bill Sparks |
| Vicki Day | Stephen and Tamara Lieberman | Jeremy and John Stevens |
| Kyle Dazey | Jennifer Little | Warren Stewart |
| Andy Demetras | Ralph Lufkin | John and Bonnie Sturtz |
| Rod Dexter | Bonnie Luke | Paul Sweeney |
| Sandra Dillard | Mindy Masek | Sara Taddo |
| Judy Dowdy | Michael Masek | Andrew and Jeanette Terry |
| Fernando Duenas | Zoe Meneley-Gilbert | Mike Thalhamer |
| Pamela Everett | Kathleen Miller | William Thauvette |
| Ray and Carole Fitzgibbon | Jon and Becky Money | Nick, Kit and Steve Urbani |
| Fred Fukasawa | Stan Murphy | Megan, Tom and Jan Westervelt |
| Bob Griffis | Masahiko Nakanori | Steve Winchester |
| Steve Gross | Jana Gill and Walter Nevis | Karen Witt and Stanley Wingate |
| Sandy and Bill Haley | Susan Ngo | Cody Wollitz |
| Keith and Diana Harriman | Colby, Tom, Jeannie and Tyler Nichols | Ginger Zhang |
| Craig Heaton | Susann Novalis | |



The Land Trust would not be able to accomplish our goals on the Rim Trail without the incredible financial support of foundations. Thank you to the following foundations for your support in funding projects on the Rim Trail.

- Alpine Winter Foundation
- Lahontan Community Foundation
- Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation
- Teichert Foundation
- Rotary Club of Truckee
- Truckee Sunrise Rotary Club



Volunteers installing one of the two new bridges in Negro Canyon along the Donner Rim Trail. To sign up for the 2006 season, call or email the Land Trust.



Busby Family in the great outdoors.

We moved here for the open space, friendly people, and sense of community.

– Sue and Cliff Busby, Land Trust Business Partners

Business Partner Profile

Los Gatos Construction Co., Castle Peak Vacation Rentals, Castle Peak Snow Removal

Sue and Cliff Busby bought land in Serene Lakes in 1996 to build what they thought was going to be their second home. They developed a great

fondness for the area and instead made a decision to move in full time to raise their kids. “We moved here for the open space, friendly people, and sense of community”.

Cliff and Sue are both active in the outdoors and the community. You can find them skiing at Sugar Bowl or watching their two girls, Breanne and Haley, play sports at Truckee High.

They are also active in the Serene Lakes community. In the past, they volunteered to host Serene Lakes Days and served on the homeowners’ Board. “Part of our responsibilities as

human beings is to give something back to the community”.

Sue and Cliff own three successful businesses and decided to become Business Partners in 2002.

They support the Land Trust because “The Land Trust has a group of very good people working very hard for some of the things that we think are important. We also get to see the results of their work right here in our own backyard.” We would like to thank the Busby’s for their support.

Business Partners provide us with the reliable funding that we need to pursue large-scale projects, like the Donner Memorial State Park expansion and Truckee River Corridor Project.

To find out more about joining, please call Kellie Wright at 530-582-4711.

We also get to see the results of their (the Land Trust) work right here in our own backyard.

– Sue and Cliff Busby

Thank You Business Partners

- | | |
|--|--|
| Andrea’s Tahoe Rentals | MWA, Inc. |
| Cabonas Clothing | Parr Goldman & Byrne |
| Castle Peak Vacation Rentals | Plumas Bank |
| Chase International/
Trinkie Watson | Ryan Group Architects |
| Coldstream Press | Sierra Mountain Mortgage |
| Doc Gelso Construction Inc. | Sierra Sports &
Physical Therapy |
| DL Design | Squaw Valley Ski
Corporation |
| DMB Highlands Group, LLC | State Farm Insurance |
| East West Partners | Sugar Bowl Ski Resort |
| Faulkner Architects | Tahoe Resort Properties |
| Geocadd Aerial Surveys | Carla Stokes |
| Hartley Appraisal Services | TIP, Inc. |
| Jackass Ridge | Truckee River Associates |
| Law Office of Porter • Simon | Truckee-Tahoe Lumber/
Home Concepts |
| Los Gatos Construction Co., | |
| Mountain Hardware & Sports | |

There are Many Ways to Support the Land Trust

The Truckee Donner Land Trust's work is more urgent than ever. With massive growth and development on the horizon, we see a closing window of opportunity for protecting our region's most important recreational and scenic open spaces. In addition to your annual membership, there are a variety of ways to support our work.

Donner Lake Rim Trail Adopt-A-Quarter-Mile

Enjoy the stunning views of Donner Lake, Mount Rose or Castle Peak on your own portion of the Donner Lake Rim Trail. Contribute \$1,000 or more to the Rim Trail and we'll recognize your gift on a plaque at one of the trailheads. This is a great way to create a legacy that will benefit the entire community.

Memorial Gifts & Honorary Memberships

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

Monthly Giving

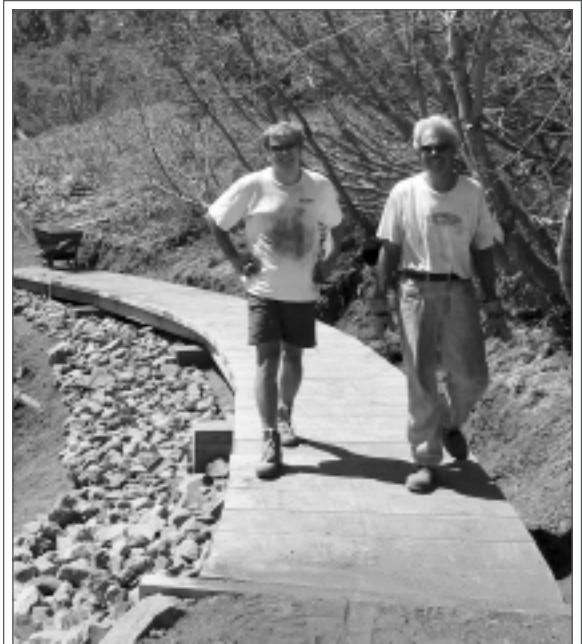
Many people find it easier to make a smaller contribution each month, thereby increasing their total support without financial difficulty. By providing reliable funding and helping with our planning, monthly givers help us protect more land. We can charge your credit card in an amount you specify each month or send you a monthly reminder.

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 to reduce your income and capital gains taxes.

Planned Giving

Leave a legacy and help us protect open spaces for future generations by including the Truckee Donner Land Trust in your will or other estate plans. Estate gifts can reduce your income taxes, reduce or eliminate capital gain taxes, reduce your gift or estate tax, provide income to you and your loved ones, and help support our efforts to protect our area's treasures.



Your generous donations enable The Land Trust to build bridges like this one on the Donner Rim Trail. Please call Kellie Wright at 530-582-4711 for sponsorship information.

Volunteer

We value your time and expertise!

We are looking for volunteers to help with reception and office duties or to assist at events. See our website or call for our scheduled trail building dates or to schedule your own day with 6 or more individuals. Or if you have a special skill, please let us know!

Please call Kellie Wright at (530) 582-4711 for more information on any of these programs.

Volunteer Profile:

Wayne Astrup



Wayne Astrup

The Land Trust is delighted to welcome Wayne Astrup as one of our newest and most dedicated volunteers.

Wayne grew up in Truckee and works for his father's company, Kern's Backhoe while his mother works at Alder Creek Middle School. When construction season slows and winter arrives, you can find Wayne snowplowing driveways in Northstar.

Wayne's interest in the area started as a young child, but as he grew older his love of the area deepened. We look forward to protecting the places Wayne loves.

The Truckee Donner Land Trust is lucky to have such a valued and hard-working person as a team member.

Thank you, Wayne!

A Day on the Donner Lake Rim Trail



Local teens help out on the Donner Lake Rim Trail.

remove trash so it does not end up in the creek and in Donner Lake basin. The kids also learned about trail building techniques for minimizing erosion, wildlife habitat issues, and how watersheds work to provide water for humans and animals. The day ended with a fun hike along the Rim Trail.

With the Boys and Girls Club, North Lake Tahoe - October 19, 2005

Thanks in part to a generous grant from the Teichert Foundation, The Boys and Girls Club and the Land Trust partnered on the Donner lake

Rim Trail for a fun afternoon in Negro Canon. The kids, ages 11-13, provided an important community service by removing a massive amount of trash from the Canyon. Upper Gregory Creek runs down the Canon to Donner Lake through the trailhead area, so it's important to



Volunteers from the Boys and Girls Club of North Lake Tahoe keep Negro Canyon green.



McIver Hill, between Interstate 80, Highway 89 and West River Street, is outlined above in this aerial photo of the historic downtown corridor in Truckee. Aerial photo by Sandy Williamson of Geocadd Surveys.

Sierra College/ McIver Hill Conservation Easement

Your support helped the Land Trust negotiate an agreement to protect McIver Hill in downtown Truckee. This landmark ridge line, wedged between I-80, Highway 89, West River Street and the roundabout will be home to the new Sierra College campus and a new publicly accessible trail system-instead of commercial buildings, condos and a hotel.

The easement achieves three important conservation objectives. It protects the scenic qualities of this Truckee landmark, requires the College to make their best effort to comply with applicable sections of the Town's Development Code and provides an easement for public access and trails across the property.

We are looking forward to a long and important partnership with the College.

A Few Words About Our Work

What is baseline documentation?

The Land Trust Alliance, a national umbrella organization representing more than 1,500 land trusts across America, created a set of protocols and guidelines for land trusts called *Standards and Practices*. *Standards and Practices*, ensures the public sound, legal and ethical transactions and operations by their local land trusts. Truckee Donner Land Trust's Board of Directors adopted *Standards and Practices* in 1998.

An important part of *Standards and Practices* is conducting "Baseline Documentation" for properties a land trust owns in fee or holds under conservation easement.

Baseline documentation is done as soon as land is acquired to certify the original condition of the land at the time of acquisition or closing. This is separate from the initial due diligence that is also carried out before any land is acquired, such as title reports and inspections. Baseline documentation is an on-the-ground report of a property's integrity, land condition, existing features, and habitat type(s). Baseline documentation gives the land trust a starting point for developing stewardship and management plans. Truckee Donner Land Trust conducts a review of baseline documentation for all of its properties at least twice a year.



Carpenter Ridge viewed from Prosser Creek.

Leave a Legacy of Open Space

*The Land Under Our Feet...
Hiking Schallenberger Ridge,
Skiing Coldstream Canyon,
Or simply enjoying the stunning views
of the surrounding peaks from the
Donner Lake Rim Trail.*

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

*Please call the Land Trust
(530-582-4711) to find out more
about planned giving.*

Give the Gift of Open Space for the Holidays

Please call
Kellie Wright at
530-582-4711 for more
information on this
unique gift idea.

B I O L O G I C A L

Sierra Nevada Checkerboard -

The Sierra Nevada "Checkerboard" is a legacy of the Federal government's 19th century land grants of alternate square miles to the transcontinental railroad companies. This pattern fragments habitat and could lead to the loss of some of our area's great recreational assets. The Land Trust, in partnership with The Trust for Public Land, is working to preserve over 6,000 acres of the checkerboard in the next few years.



Milk Lake is just one of many alpine lakes in the Sierra Nevada Checkerboard.



Looking south towards Schallenberger Ridge from Billy Mack Canyon.

Billy Mack Canyon -

Billy Mack Canyon is incredibly rich in recreational, mammal habitat, water quality, and open space resources. See featured article page 4.

Truckee River Corridor and Gray Creek -

The Land Trust announced the acquisitions of 1,800 acres in the Truckee River Watershed. The acquisitions, near Floriston and in Gray Creek, are the first phase of a larger 4,000-acre conservation effort in the Truckee Donner area. These lands host large mammal habitat and bountiful fisheries with diverse aquatic species.



Gray Creek gushes down Gray Creek Canyon enroute to the Truckee River. Photo by Larry Prosser.



A trail will be constructed in 2006 across The Old Greenwood property, an important part of Truckee's Master Trail Plan.

Old Greenwood -

We recently closed escrow on this 260 acre parcel that is a crucial link to Truckee's Trail System. The Old Greenwood parcel is a rich and healthy forest that has great recreational opportunities. The trails across the property will be completed by the fall of 2006.

Pine Forest -

Stewardship plans are underway for this magnificent 130 acre parcel adjacent to Alder Creek. Pine Forest is a wide-open conifer forest that hosts healthy Old Growth Sugar Pines.



Pine Forest is home to old growth Sugar Pines.

I M P O R T A N C E



Winter Creek provides an urban habitat for Mule deer and coyotes.

Winter Creek -

We are happy to own and manage this functioning wetland right in the heart of Town. This urban habitat setting is valuable for preserving open space and foraging ground for species such as Mule deer and Coyotes.

Donner Memorial State Park -

With the Trust for Public Land, we acquired more than 2,000 acres including Schallenberger Ridge, tripling the size of the Donner Memorial State Park and extending public lands from Truckee to Donner Summit. In the coming year, we will be conveying an additional 350 acres in Coldstream Canyon and on Schallenberger Ridge. Coupled with the 2,000 acres already conveyed, we are making headway on our long-term goal of protecting the entire Coldstream watershed.



View of Donner Lake and Schallenberger Ridge from Donner Summit.



Mule deer are just one of the species affected by inappropriate development.
William Leonard – Cal Academy

Negro Canyon -

Keeping this canyon open and undeveloped assures the protection of the migratory corridor for the Truckee-Loyalton deer herd and access to the Donner Lake Rim Trail.

Conservation Easements -

The Land Trust holds almost 160 acres in conservation easements in and around the Town of Truckee. These parcels are protected from development, and contain diverse habitat settings such as riparian corridors, wetlands, and open scenery within the town limits. There are 60 acres of land protected by conservation easements at Northstar-at-Tahoe and over 50 acres along Jackass Ridge. In addition, the Land Trust will close escrow on the 73 acre conservation easement on the Sierra College Campus formerly known as McIver Hill (aka Hippie Hill.)



Northstar-at-Tahoe's conservation easement protects sensitive riparian corridors.

