

TRUCKEE DONNER LAND TRUST

The Truckee Donner Land Trust preserves and protects scenic, historic and recreational lands with high natural resource values in the Truckee Donner region.



Fall/Winter Newsletter
Volume 42 ❖ November 2012

Announcing two historic and remarkable acquisitions

Webber Lake/Lacey Meadows; page two

Royal Gorge on Donner Summit; page four

WEBBER LAKE &



Lacey Creek travels several miles through the property. Photo by Sam Okamoto from Drunken Monkey.

In November, the Truckee Donner Land Trust closed on one of its most important projects to date: 3,000 acres of beautiful mountain lands including Webber Lake and Lacey Meadows. The acquisition from the late Clifton Johnson and his widow Barbara, long time ranchers, was the

result of four years of steadfast negotiations. The purchase price for the property is \$8 million.

The property is nearly without equal in terms of habitat and resource values. Pine marten, fishers and even the elusive wolverine have been spotted on the property. Lacey Meadows,

one of the best-functioning sub-alpine meadows in the Northern Sierra, form the headwaters of the Little Truckee River, the largest sub-basin in the Truckee River Watershed.

“No one in the conservation community thought this acquisition would happen. The Johnsons were protective of their land and suspicious of tree huggers,” explains Lands Committee Chair, Tom Van Berkem. “At the end of the day, the Johnson’s vision for the property was perfectly aligned with the Land Trust – they want it to stay just as it is.”

Despite receiving more lucrative offers, the Johnsons agreed to sell their land for \$750,000 below appraised value.

“The Johnsons were environmentalists before it became a household word,” said Perry Norris, the Land Trust’s Executive Director. “They, their caretakers, Ken and Joan Bretthauer, and generations of visitors to Webber Lake have been remarkable stewards.” The Johnson Family has owned the property since the late 1800s.

Once the snow melts next year, the Land Trust will create a new trailhead, install interpretive and directional signage, and ready the property for the public’s enjoyment. Access will be off of the Jackson Meadows Rd. or USFS Rd. 07.

The Johnsons were environmentalists before it became a household word. They, their caretakers, Ken and Joan Bretthauer, and generations of visitors to Webber Lake have been remarkable stewards.

– Perry Norris, Executive Director

Webber Lake and Lacey Meadows from Webber Peak. Photo by Geoff Griffin.



LACEY MEADOWS

“The wildflower displays in Lacey Meadows, starting in late June, are among the best in the Sierra,” said John Svahn, the Land Trust’s Stewardship Director. Lupine, larkspur, elephant heads, alpine buttercups, monkshood, and leopard lilies are all commonly viewed.

The property provides a diversity of habitat for many plants and animals, and has long been on the State Department of Fish and Game’s radar for providing critical habitat for rare and sensitive species. When Land Trust staff met with Fish and Game biologists, prepared with research of existing studies of the Webber Lake region, the biologists politely smiled and then produced a body of research; work that dwarfed ours!

It included maps of habitat and potential occurrence of Pacific fisher, recorded sightings of the wolverine and American Marten, studies on the top-tier habitat for the endangered willow flycatcher, possible great grey owl occurrences, and even the occurrence of Webber’s ivesia, a plant in the rose family endemic to the region. In addition to rare species, there are regular sightings of mammals such as black bear, mule deer, mountain lion, and birds such as sandhill crane,



A lightning strike at the south end of the property. Photo by Joan Bretthauer.

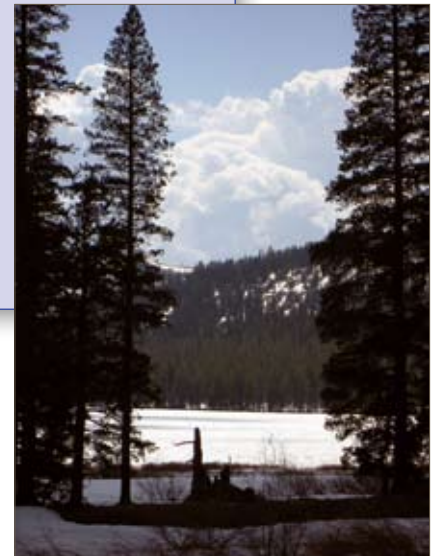
Funding for the project came from the following:

- ✦ California Resources Agency
- ✦ California Wildlife Conservation Board
- ✦ Sierra Nevada Conservancy
- ✦ State Department of Natural Resources
- ✦ Northern Sierra Partnership
- ✦ and scores of individuals

bald eagle, numerous species of other raptors, and numerous neotropical migrants.

Per the Johnson’s wishes, the Land Trust will continue the lease to Webber Lake Ranch Resort through 2016. Long term, the Land Trust envisions a large public campground with drive-in access, similar to what already occurs at the resort. “We want Webber Lake to continue to be a place where families can go to catch big fish,” Svahn said. “We think visitors from far and wide will travel to Sierra County to fish Webber Lake.”

In partnership with the Truckee River Watershed Council, the Land Trust undertook an assessment of Lacey Meadows this past summer to help guide future management.



Webber Lake has been a fishing destination for over a century. Photo by Janet Zipser Zipkin.



Bald eagles feasting on a frozen Webber Lake. Photo by Joan Bretthauer.

The wildflower displays in Lacey Meadows, starting in late June, are among the best in the Sierra.

– John Svahn, Stewardship Director

ROYAL GORGE

Almost There!

The 3000-acre acquisition of North America's largest cross-country ski area on Donner Summit, Royal Gorge, is in the final leg of a very ambitious fundraising campaign. Though not yet completed, the finish line is in sight and hundreds of supporters, local businesses, Nordic skiers, and conservation partners couldn't be happier.

Charged with raising \$13.5 million dollars in four and a half months in order to secure one of the Sierra's most iconic alpine landscapes, the campaign team is feeling confident that the goal will be reached by the December 2012 deadline.

"When first faced with the challenge of raising the \$13.5 million in such a short time, I have to be honest, I was doubtful," said Perry Norris, Executive Director of the Truckee Donner Land Trust.

Background

In 2005, two developers purchased Royal Gorge and proposed to build a 950-unit subdivision. The proposal was met with strong opposition. Today, these same groups that opposed the development are working together to permanently protect the 3,000 acres.

The Truckee Donner Land Trust and The Trust for Public Land, working together as part of the Northern Sierra Partnership, are leading the campaign to conserve Royal Gorge. Along with local groups, the team is working through the various steps involved in pulling a deal of this magnitude together, each bringing their own special expertise to the table.

"The collaborative spirit and skill set of the Northern Sierra Partnership as well as the incredible support from local groups such as Serene Lakes home owners, Sugar Bowl and Sugar Bowl home owners has been tremendous. I have never seen so many groups come together for a single cause in such a short



Lodgepole pine in winter. Photo by Anne Chadwick.



Hikers on USFS land bordering the property near Palisade Peak.

CAMPAIGN UPDATE:

amount of time before. It is the hard work and tenacity of so many people that is getting us to the December 20 finish line,” said Lucy Blake, President of the Northern Sierra Partnership.

Next Steps to the Finish Line

Once the \$13.5 million is secured and the receiver paid on December 20, the Truckee Donner Land Trust will begin developing a recreation management and stewardship plan based on community feedback and environmental experts. Additionally, Royal Gorge Ski Area will be open this winter, operated by Sugar Bowl Ski Corporation.

“It is important for people to know that the deal is not done yet,” Norris said. “We are very thankful for the donations we have received to date but we still need to raise an additional \$2 million before December 20. I really encourage everyone to push themselves on this one — it is worth it.”



Looking towards the headwaters of the North Fork of the American River from Rowton Peak. For the first time in decades, you can enjoy this view next summer without trespassing. Photo by David Galson.

From where we stand today, I realize I underestimated the incredible passion and commitment that people are willing to make in order to save an iconic piece of property. Van Norden Meadow, Royal Gorge, and Donner Summit — these places have a huge fan base and it has been amazing to see people step up to the plate to support their protection.

– Perry Norris, Executive Director

Creative fundraising along Old 40, thanks to our friends at Serene Lakes.



Lake Van Norden and Castle Peak. Photo by Geoff Griffin.



Marveling at an Indian grinding rock near Van Norden Meadow. Photo by Geoff Griffin.

TRUCKEE DONNER LAND TRUST, THE NORTHERN SIERRA PARTNERSHIP, AND AQUATIC HABITAT

The freshwater ecosystems of California contain one of the largest number of salmonid species (trout, salmon and char) in the world. Of these species, several have a native range occurring only in the Sierra Nevada and Great Basin. The Paiute Trout (*Oncorhynchus clarki seleniris*), McCloud redband trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss stonei*), and the Lahontan cutthroat trout (LCT) (*Oncorhynchus clarki henshawi*) are endemic to the geographic area in which the Northern Sierra Partnership works.

In addition to these endemic fish, the Partnership's geographical working area is home to native rainbow trout, (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), mountain whitefish (*Prosopium williamsoni*), native non-game fishes, and a robust non-indigenous recreational trout fishery. The Partnership's work in protecting lands and maintaining environmentally-sustainable growth and natural resources extraction helps sustain these native and sport fisheries by protecting intact habitat, restoring



Most of the Truckee River Basin was once home to giant Lahontan cutthroat trout like this one, released back into Independence Lake last year. Photo courtesy of The Nature Conservancy.

impacted habitat, and protecting the source water for fisheries downstream.

One of the Truckee Donner Land Trust's and its partner's primary focus is the preservation of vast natural landscapes, many of which contain excellent fishing opportunities, or were even protected specifically because of native fish populations.

Recently, Independence Lake Preserve has been focusing on the protection of the native population of Lahontan cutthroat trout. Independence Lake has the only native population of lacustrine (lake dwelling) LCT left in California; the sole other population lives in a small lake in northern Nevada. Other waters in both states contain LCT, but these populations have been re-introduced. The Independence Lake Preserve fish grow amazingly

large and are excellent sport on light tackle. Although the population is currently small, around 150 spawning fish, the protection of the lake and its watershed, coupled with improved management, create an opportunity to substantially increase the numbers of fish, and improve the fishery. One of the goals of the Independence Lake Preserve project is to increase the number of spawning fish five-fold, and to create a unique and vibrant sport fishery with a focus on native fish and non-motorized recreation.

Other excellent sport fisheries protected by the Northern Sierra Partnership include portions of the Truckee and Little Truckee Rivers, Indian Creek, Red Clover Creek, and portions of the Middle Fork Yuba River. Other land protection efforts include streams identified as an excellent habitat for the reintroduction of the LCT.



Large trout can live in small streams.

The geographical area in which the Partnership works contains the headwaters for the Feather, Yuba, Truckee, American, and Carson Rivers. Protecting properties in the headwater areas allows for the protection of source water for fisheries downstream.

With California's weather pattern producing almost all of the precipitation in the winter months, a key to healthy viable fisheries is keeping water in the higher elevations longer by naturally attenuating the spring runoff of snowmelt. This allows the natural release of cool water into the system year-round. Preservation and restoration of wet meadows is critical to this natural function. In addition to positively affecting the local trout fisheries, conserving land in the upper watersheds of these rivers helps with the protection of anadromous fish stocks in the lower rivers by allowing the meadows to act as a natural reservoir, releasing water more slowly into foothill reservoirs. This allows the reservoirs to better release flows in the seasons to which the anadromous fish are adapted.

After a property is acquired by members of the Northern Sierra Partnership, the focus turns to stewardship and restoration needs. Although many of the properties appear to be pristine, many years of legacy impacts exist, particularly to the watercourses. Meadows were often dewatered for irrigation, and riparian areas were logged and grazed heavily. The result is reduced fish habitat because of less overhead cover for the fish, warmer water temperatures, and spawning areas that have become covered with fine sediment.

Government agencies and other non-profits are readily working with the Northern Sierra Partnership to restore these meadows and waterways. An ongoing restoration project on the Little Truckee River in Perazzo Meadows has a focus on increasing fish habitat. Although the river appears to have great habitat, electrofishing on this stretch of the river turned up relatively few salmonids, less than 10 fish over eight inches

are encouraged by the creation of new habitat in the meadows and feel that the population of salmonids will increase rapidly, in both size and numbers.

Land conservation that protects California's native salmonid fisheries is important as a legacy to our past. These fisheries fed Native Americans through millennia (the name of some of the Great Basin Paiute tribes means fish-eaters); fed the pioneers traveling across



Nevada County Supervisor-Elect, Richard Anderson, having good luck fishing a small stream running through a recent Land Trust acquisition.

long. The restoration project will create much needed reductions in stream temperatures, stabilize slumping banks, and will increase the overhead cover through an innovative method known as 'Plug and Pond.' With this method, the stream is actually dammed in several places, diverting the water into the meadow system again, and allowing the water to seep back into the watercourse at a slower rate. U.S. Forest Service biologists

the interior west to California; supported many generations of commercial fisherman, and have inspired the fly fishing community to mobilize support for conservation of this fishery. Protecting land that sustains current fisheries, both native and non-indigenous, is important to the future of land conservation as well. More than one conservationist's love for open spaces came early in life, with a fishing rod in hand.

STEWARDSHIP

Even in a year with several important land acquisitions, the Land Trust is busy managing its lands to enhance natural resource values and recreation. This includes completing much-needed forestry work to reduce wild-fire fuels while improving wildlife habitat, managing the watercraft fleet at Independence Lake, constructing and maintaining trails, installing new signage, and completing our annual property monitoring of nearly 15,000 acres. We are pleased to announce that our lands look better than ever and the public is enjoying them in greater numbers than ever.



New signage at Donner Summit Canyon.



Enjoy Independence Lake Preserve in a kayak, pontoon, or motorboat (but don't bring your own – the Land Trust provides them). Or hike along the lake's shore.



Before and after: Thanks to a generous grant from The Martis Fund and the Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation, the Land Trust completed needed forest fuels management at Elizabethtown Meadows along SR 267. The result: A healthier, more fire-safe forest. When a forest has too many trees per acre, all of the trees become stressed due to competition for water. In essence, removing smaller unhealthy trees removes some of the “straws from the drinking glass,” allowing the remaining

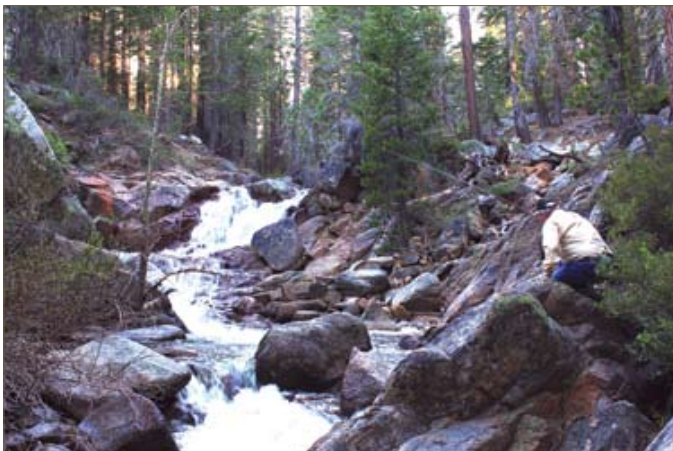


trees to thrive. Some of the standing dead trees and deadfall were removed as well, with careful planning to ensure not removing known wildlife habitat trees. Thanks also to our great partners at the Truckee Tahoe Airport.

O F O U R L A N D S



Before and after: Bicyclists and automobiles zoom down Old Hwy 40 from Donner Summit. Trees were removed to increase the sightlines for vehicles pulling out from the Donner Summit Canyon trailhead onto Donner Pass Road.



It is a tough job but someone has to do it. Nevada County Supervisor-Elect, Richard Anderson, helping Land Trust staff "monitor" a creek running through a property owned and managed by the Land Trust.



Members of the Wild Cherries Triathlon Team take a break from helping to maintain the Donner Lake Rim Trail. Land Trust volunteers, totaling over 200, completed maintenance of 20 miles of trails and completed a new trail on Waddle Ranch Preserve. Wahoo!

Independence Lake Preserve Update

Significant progress has been made managing Independence Lake's fisheries and forests. Two projects critical for the Lahontan cutthroat trout restoration were completed this year. These included the construction of a barrier to block non-native fish from reaching the Lake, and stabilizing the banks of the spawning stream to enhance habitat and spawning gravels. In addition, significant thinning of forest fuels on the northeast side of the Lake was also completed. The summer of 2012 was also a huge success for visitor numbers. On the July 8th weekend more than 100 people visited the Lake. To accommodate increasing use, the Land Trust hosted three volunteer interns. The interns assisted in managing the boat fleet, greeting visitors, and helping out with various tasks aimed at improving the visitor experience.

WAYS TO GIVE

There are many ways to support the Truckee Donner Land Trust. Here are a few unique programs we offer that you may not be aware of.

Lookout Circle

As a Lookout Circle donor, you join generous individuals who support the Land Trust with an annual gift of \$2,500 or more pledged for three to five years. Lookout Circle donors contribute 60 percent of the annual funds to the Land Trust and help ensure the protection of thousands of acres of historic, scenic and recreational open spaces. The Lookout Circle takes its inspiration from its definition: a strategic act of observing or keeping watch. The common interest in and commitment to land protection and preservation among the Lookout Circle donors has allowed the Land Trust to play a big role in preserving over 28,000 acres so far.

Forever Wild Society

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 threatened lands. If you have thought about leaving the Land Trust a legacy gift, let us know so we can acknowledge your generosity and welcome you to our Forever Wild Society.



Western tanager. Photo by Will Richardson, Tahoe Institute of Natural Science.

Twice the Impact - Does Your Employer Match Gifts?

Many companies will double the value of their employees' gifts to non-profit organizations. Check with your company to see if they offer a matching gift program, and help the Land Trust obtain vital funds to do its work.

All contributions are tax-deductible. Consult your tax advisor for details. Contact Kellie Wright at our office to answer any questions you may have, 530-582-4711 or at kellie@tdlandtrust.org.



Aspen onion. Photo by Geoff Griffin.

Have you renewed your 2012 membership?

Help protect more of the open spaces you value. Call 530-582-4711 to give by phone or make a secure donation online by visiting our website at www.tdlandtrust.org.

WELCOME JEFF BROWN AND THANK YOU TO OUR INTERNS

The Land Trust is pleased to welcome its newest Board member, Jeff Brown. Jeff and his wife Laura have lived in Truckee since 1995 after Jeff graduated from U.C. Davis. They enjoy raising their three children Owen, Anya and Wesley in a small mountain town. Through a long career in the ski resort and real estate development business, Jeff has had the opportunity to introduce many families to the wonderful lifestyle available in the Sierra. A two-time Ironman, Jeff can be found running the trails throughout the region in the summer and skiing off the beaten path in the winter.

Thank you to our Interns

This past summer, the Land Trust hosted three interns who acted as rangers on our properties and carried out numerous stewardship duties. These duties included everything from greeting visitors at Independence Lake Preserve and operating the boat concession, to leading trail crews, helping with forestry, installing signage, and maintaining a presence on even our most remote properties. Thanks and best wishes to you all!

Alex Hamilton

Alex grew up in Truckee and was back on his summer break from studies at Bates College in Maine. Alex worked at Independence Lake Preserve, managing the boat fleet. He also



Alex Hamilton

helped monitor Land Trust properties and easements in the Upper Little Truckee River region.

Jacob Zolynsky

Jacob hails from Michigan where he is completing his studies at Central Michigan University. Although he is heading back east this winter, we expect him back in Truckee soon thanks to his passion for the mountain lifestyle and love of the Sierra. Jacob was our ranger at Waddle Ranch Preserve and Donner Summit Canyon.



Jake Zolynsky



Owen, Wesley, Laura, Anya and Jeff Brown.

Maggie Mroczkowski

Maggie is a self-proclaimed river-rat working at Patagonia in Reno. Patagonia allows employees to take several months leave from their job to work for non-profits engaged in conservation, environmental education, and land stewardship. Maggie's wealth of experience working on boats and guiding people on whitewater tours served the visitors to Independence Lake Preserve well.



Maggie Mroczkowski

If you are interested in interning for the Truckee Donner Land Trust, please contact John Svahn, at john@talandtrust.org, 530-582-4711.

THANK YOU TO SOME SPECIAL SUPPORTERS

Summer Dining for Charity Programs Support the Land Trust

Once again, the Land Trust was a grateful beneficiary when local restaurants offered a portion of their diners' total food bills on specific evenings set aside for dining for charity. Diners were able to enjoy great food with friends at two popular eateries - River Ranch Lodge & Restaurant and Sugar Bowl's Lake Mary Cabin - and help the Land Trust. Thanks to these partners for their continued support.

Thanks to our 2012 Summer Hike Leaders

We added new outings this past summer and lassoed some Land Trust supporters with some extra knowledge to help lead a special bird watching outing, a historical trek up Donner Summit Canyon, and a biological tour at Royal Gorge. Thanks to Ted Beedy, John Cobourn, and Nevada County Supervisor Ted Owens for leading these hikes and lending us their expertise. And thank you to our dedicated Board and Committee members who are always great hike leaders: David Brown, Bill Goerke, Geoff Griffin, and Janet Zipser Zipkin.



The seldom visited view from Snow Mountain north to Castle Peak.

The Land Trust Wins the Sierra Lighthouse Award

The Land Trust is honored to have received the Sierra Nevada Alliance's "Sierra Lighthouse Award" last fall. The award goes to an organization which is a beacon of hope in the Range of Light – a group which has achieved impressive conservation victories, is a statewide leader, and offers successful strategies for other Sierra groups to follow.

Generous Grant Funding

We would like to thank the following foundations for supporting the Land Trust with recent grant funding:

California Trails and Greenway Foundation
Emigrant Trails Greenway Trust
Lahontan Community Foundation
The Martis Fund
Mellam Family Foundation
Morgan Family Foundation
Northern Sierra Partnership
Patagonia
REI
Resources Legacy Fund
Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation
Vail Resorts Echo



A hearty group of hikers, including the Land Trust's President, Bill Thauvette (far right.) Photo by Janet Zipser Zipkin.

BUSINESS PARTNER PROFILE

Sugar Bowl

Dating back to the resort's pioneering beginnings in 1939, Sugar Bowl is steeped in skiing history. And decades later it is still offering some of the finest skiing and riding in the region. Sugar Bowl now embarks upon another chapter in its history, returning another Donner Summit icon, Royal Gorge Cross Country Ski Resort, to its former glory.

Royal Gorge offers more than 160km of groomed skating, striding and snowshoeing trails, making it the largest cross country ski resort in North America.

Working closely with the Truckee Donner Land Trust, the Trust for Public Land, the Northern Sierra Partnership, and numerous other organizations, Sugar Bowl is helping to raise the \$13.5 million needed to purchase the Royal Gorge lands, a 355-acre parcel above Donner Lake, and insure for the property's future management.

Rob Kautz, Sugar Bowl's CEO, understands the challenges ahead, but also recognizes the immense benefits involved. "Royal Gorge is a brand that cross country enthusiasts across the globe readily recognize," Kautz explained. "It plays a big role in revitalizing Donner Summit's struggling economy."

Kautz was also delighted to see the property conserved forever. "We're proud to work with the Land Trust and its partners in keeping this remarkable landscape the treasure it is, today and tomorrow," Kautz said.

Visit Sugarbowl.com and Royalgorge.com for further information including operational updates and dual-resort season pass information.



Starting as a pro patroller decades ago and now General Manager, Rob Kautz has always lead with vision and a penchant for unparalleled customer service. Rob was the driving force behind Sugar Bowl's decision to partner with the Land Trust and operate Royal Gorge, the largest Nordic ski area in North America. Photo courtesy of Sugar Bowl.

Mystery Musical Experience Fundraiser a Success

Our gratitude to the Donner Summit Area Association, the Donner Summit Historical Society, Sugar Bowl, and Donner Ski Ranch for hosting a special fundraising event to benefit The Campaign to Conserve Royal Gorge. A number of local restaurants also participated.

The event was held on Donner Summit with hikers visiting a mystery spot to hear live music by Rootstock Percussion, San Francisco Bay Area musicians Christopher Rowe, Daniel Kennedy, and musicians from the Sacramento Philharmonic Orchestra.

The concert was followed by a wine and hors d'oeuvres reception at Sugar Bowl's Lake Mary Cabin, featuring restaurant sponsors Moody's, Dragonfly, Sugar Bowl, Cottonwood, and The Summit Restaurant. Wines were offered by the Pour House, Dave Lose, and Soda Springs General Store.

Trails and Vistas

- another sell out event -

More than 700 attendees experienced original performances of dance, singing, music and storytelling last September during art hikes at Donner Ski Ranch.

All 24 scheduled art hikes sold out and subsequent field trips allowed for 300 third grade students to experience nature walks. Next year will be Trails and Vistas' 10th anniversary celebration; an event you surely won't want to miss!

Become a Member with this Matching Opportunity

Any new membership in 2012 will be matched dollar for dollar up to \$25,000 by a grant from the Morgan Family Foundation. This matching opportunity applies to unrestricted donations received by December 31, 2012. Your partnership is important to us. Please join now to take advantage of this opportunity to double the impact of your giving.

Please note: Restricted gifts to projects do not qualify for the Morgan Family Foundation's matching opportunity.

THANK YOU TO OUR BUSINESS PARTNERS

Business Partners make a commitment to donate annually, providing the Land Trust with reliable annual funding needed to pursue large-scale projects.

Adventures Cross Country
 Adventure Maps, Inc
 The Backcountry
 Bronwen Jewelry
 Cabona's
 Carmel Gallery/www.
 TheCarmelGallery.com
 Castle Peak Snow Removal &
 Vacation Rentals
 Anne Chadwick Photography
 Chase International – Trinkie
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 Cottonwood Restaurant
 Dan Goddard Construction
 Dave's Ski Shop
 DMB/Highlands Group, LLC
 Donner Lake Property Owners
 Association
 Donner Lake Woods Homeowners
 Association
 Donner Summit Area Association
 Dragonfly
 Earthworks Inc.
 East West Partners
 First Descent, LLC
 Floyd Construction, Inc
 Gabbart & Woods
 David Galson Photography
 GLA Realty Advisors
 Tony Hardy Construction, Inc.
 Heat-Tech of Truckee

Holdrege and Kull
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 Sam Okamoto/Drunken Monkey
 Orbitaldesignlab.com
 Paco's Truckee Bike & Ski
 Patagonia
 Plumas Bank – Shelly Wright
 Pooh Corner
 Print Art/Sierra Mail
 REI, Inc.
 The Richardson House
 River Ranch Lodge & Restaurant
 Ryan Group Architects
 Sagehen Creek Field Station
 San Francisco Fly Casting Club
 Save Van Norden Meadow

SCO Planning Engineering, Inc.
 Serene Lakes Property Owners
 Association
 Sierra Cascade Land Trust Council
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 Medicine
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 Tahoe Oral Surgery and Implant
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 Tahoe Trail Trekkers
 Tahoe Truckee Sierra Disposal Co.
 Mark Tanner Construction, Inc.
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 Trailscape.net
 Tributary Whitewater Tours
 Truckee Overhead Door
 Truckee River Associates
 Truckee Tahoe Airport District
 Truckee-Tahoe Lumber
 Tyler Financial, Inc.
 Vail Resorts
 The Villager Nursery
 Vision Design
 WeKnow80.com
 West End Snow Clearing
 Dennis E. Zirbel, Architect



A hearty trail crew at Waddle Ranch Preserve looking forward to appetizers and beer at The Cottonwood.

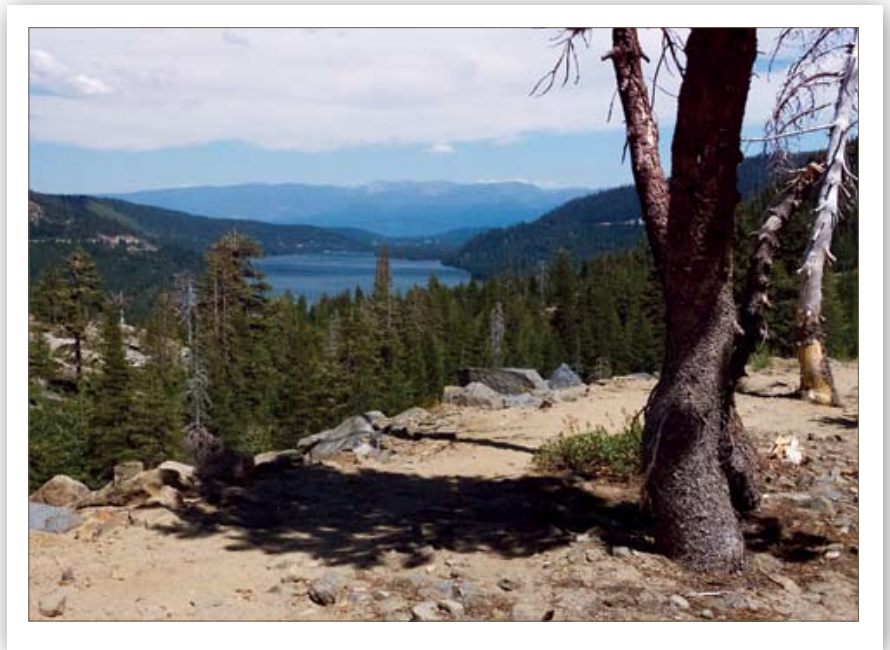
*For more information
 about our Business Partner
 program, please contact
 Kellie Wright at
 530-582-4711,
kellie@tdlandtrust.org.*

DONNER SUMMIT CANYON - HISTORY, VISTAS AND TRAILS. OH MY!

After the Land Trust acquired Donner Summit Canyon in 2010, the “No Trespassing” signs came down and the property became open for the public to enjoy.

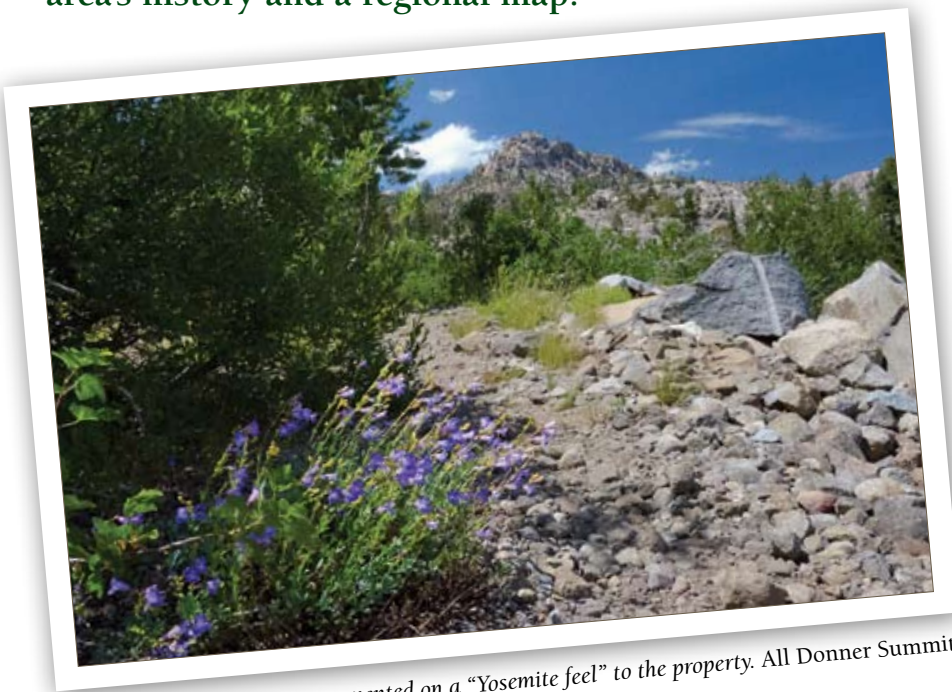
This past summer saw a great increase in the number of delighted visitors who came to explore the gateway to our region’s fascinating history. Hikers can walk in the footsteps of Native Americans or railroad workers who used the old Dutch Flat Donner Lake Wagon Road, see petroglyphs and faded advertisements for Donner Lake establishments long gone, and view the same vistas of those who shaped California’s early history.

The grandeur of the property is just as exciting as its sense of history. The landscape contains the confluence of Billy Mack Canyon Creek and Summit Creek, a beaver pond, aspen groves, large granite outcroppings, and dramatic views of the Sierra Crest.



Looking east towards Donner Lake and the Carson Range.

New kiosks were installed at the trailhead off Old Hwy 40. The kiosks provide information on the area’s history and a regional map.



Visitors have commented on a “Yosemite feel” to the property. All Donner Summit Canyon photos by Anne Chadwick.



Along the Old Lincoln Highway, an important part of California’s history.

Getting there: Head west on Donner Pass Road - Old Hwy 40 along Donner Lake. Go past South Shore Drive and up Old Hwy 40. Turn left about 400 feet before the winter closure gate into the parking area. Kiosks will be visible in the parking area.



The Truckee Donner Land Trust was founded in 1990 to preserve and protect scenic, historic and recreational lands with high natural resource values in the greater Truckee Donner region.

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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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Dave Mandrella, *Independence Lake Preserve Marina Manager*

COVER PHOTO:

View from the top of Mt. Disney, Royal Gorge and Van Norden Meadow. Photo by George Lamson.



P.O. Box 8816
Truckee, CA 96162

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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Fall at Lacey Meadow. Photo by Sam Okamoto from Drunken Monkey.



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