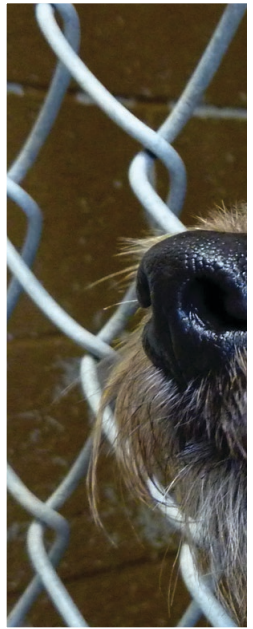


Your gift can contribute to fund low-cost spay and neuter clinics, which help to lower the population of homeless dogs and cats.



ENVIRONMENT AND ANIMAL WELFARE IN OUR COMMUNITY

BY JANET ZIPSER ZIPKIN | **TAHOE DONNER GIVING FUND COMMITTEE**

This is the fourth and final article in the Tahoe Donner Giving Fund series about how our local nonprofits contribute to the health and welfare of our community.

IMAGINE

Imagine the Sierra with overgrown forests, diseased trees, grey air, muddy lakes filled with algae and trickles of creeks too shallow from silt to support fish life. Now look closely and see what decades of logging, highway construction, cattle grazing and bad land management have in fact done to our environment.

How do we get back to green forests, crystal fresh air, clear blue alpine lakes and rapidly flowing streams teeming with fish? How do we keep our wild and domesticated animals healthy?

HERE'S HOW

We can support the numerous local non-profit organizations that are dedicated to preserving forest health, limiting air pollution, restoring creeks, streams and lakes and protecting our native fish and fauna. In the past couple of decades, these organizations have built trails and bikeways; completed more than 60 river restoration projects; prevented over 81 tons of sediment from reaching our streams; advocated for the preservation of habitat, open space and the region's character; saved nearly 3,000 animals (including every single homeless dog and cat in our community) and opened 33,000 acres of land for public recreation.

At a time when Truckee's resident population can balloon from 16,103 to over 35,000 on a summer weekend, we all benefit from their focus on improving our community's environmental impact while providing recreational opportunities, safety for our pets and open space for our enjoyment.

WHAT'S NEXT

There is considerable work yet to be done and these non-profits have ambitious "to do" lists. Fifty large-scale watershed projects are on the drawing board over the next decade to address drought, flooding and altered habitat triggered by climate change and our increasing population.

Eighteen thousand acres of headwater meadows and montane forests still need to be preserved as open space. This land is essential for habitat protection and regional water supply as well as protecting Truckee's viewsheds, character, and recreation opportunities.

New trail construction is needed to link neighborhoods in our community and provide safer, non-motorized opportunity for commute and play. One trail in the works will ultimately be 116 miles long!



The Truckee River is a precious natural resource. Your tax-deductible donation to the Tahoe Donner Giving Fund can help protect it.



New parks in the Downtown Truckee corridor are being built to provide public green space while promoting education on the local creek ecosystem.

And for our pets, 2,000 low cost spay/neuter surgeries will be performed and an additional 3,000 homeless dogs and cats will need to be rescued.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

There are so many ways to help restore our environment and prevent further damage. Some are physical—join a trail crew, remove invasive weeds; some are scientific—monitor water quality, count aquatic insects; some are for love—adopt a pet, teach kindness to animals; some are educational—attend a guided bird watch, learn about the ecosystem; and some are political—share your voice at community meetings or join a board of a non-profit organization that supports your passion for conservation, Truckee heritage or animal welfare.

Whether you actively volunteer or you come to Truckee simply for the all too rare vacation, you can still contribute by making a gift to the Tahoe Donner Giving Fund (TDGF). Working through the expertise of the Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation, TDGF will apply your tax-deductible donation to grants for the non-profits that work so hard to keep our environment and animals healthy. Tahoe Donner property owners have terrific potential to do great things for our community. Find out how at tahoedonner.com/giving-fund.

WITH APPRECIATION TO THE FOLLOWING FOR SHARING THEIR ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND GOALS FOR THIS ARTICLE:

- Stephanie Nistler**, Executive Director, Humane Society of Truckee-Tahoe
- Perry Norris**, Executive Director, Truckee Donner Land Trust
- Allison Pedley**, Executive Director, Truckee Trails Foundation
- Janet Phillips**, President, Tahoe-Pyramid Bikeway
- Ursula Riina**, Development Director, Mountain Area Preservation
- Lisa Wallace**, Executive Director, Truckee River Watershed Council

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