

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY**

**Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant Program Safe Drinking Water,
Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Act of
2006 (Proposition 84)**

Applicant: TRUCKEE DONNER LAND TRUST
Project Title: WEBBER LAKE AND LACEY MEADOW ACQUISITION
Subregion: NORTH CENTRAL
County: SIERRA AND NEVADA
SNC Funding: \$1,000,000.00
Total Project Cost: \$8,000,000.00
Application Number: 325
Final Score: 91.6

PROJECT SCOPE

The Truckee Donner Land Trust (TDLT), in partnership with The Trust for Public Land, will acquire in fee title 8 parcels of approximately 3,000 acres in the Little Truckee Watershed known as Lacey Meadows and Webber Lake. Lacey Meadows is 1900 acres of the proposed acquisition that comprises one of the largest meadow complexes in the Northern Sierra Nevada eco-region. Webber Lake is a 250 acre natural lake that forms the headwaters of the Little Truckee River. The lake has historically been a private recreation site. Under a new master plan for the entire upper Little Truckee River headwaters, this project will contribute to Proposition 84 goals through protection of the headwaters of the Little Truckee Basin; restore responsible public use; and conservation of natural resources. This acquisition is a key piece of the larger 17,000 acre watershed conservation project by the TDLT and many partners and SNC investment leverages \$7 million in additional funding.

A.P.N.: 14-090-08, 14-110-03, 14-110-11, 14-110-12, 14-110-13, 15-150-02, 14-150-04, 15-130-05

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Acquisition of 8 parcels in fee title	October 31, 2011
Six Month Progress Report	September 30, 2011
Final Report	December 30, 2011
Copies of recorded acquisition documents	December 30, 2011

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Acquisition Cost	\$1,000,000.
GRAND TOTAL	\$1,000,000

PROJECT SUPPORT LETTERS

- U.S. Forest Service - Tahoe National Forest
- Trout Unlimited
- The Trust for Public Land
- Truckee Trails Foundation
- Truckee River Watershed Council

PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

- Linear Feet of Stream Bank Protected or Restored
- Acres of Land Conserved

PROJECT SUMMARY

County: Sierra County (one of eight parcels located in Nevada County)

Applicant: Truckee Donner Land Trust

Project Title: Webber Lake and Lacey Meadows Acquisition

PROJECT GOAL

The objective of the proposed project is for The Truckee Donner Land Trust (the Land Trust) to acquire in fee 8 parcels totaling 2,994.8 acres in the Little Truckee River watershed. The goal of this acquisition is to protect significant wildlife and wet-meadow hydrological conservation values, protect source water in the Little Truckee basin, and allow for continued conservation-based management of the property. This project contributes to the Proposition 84 goals by working to protect the principal headwaters of the Little Truckee Basin (the largest sub-basin in the Truckee River), with its 260-acre Webber Lake and its surrounding 1,900 acres of wet meadows.

The project addresses the SNC programmatic goal to protect, conserve, and restore the Region's physical, cultural, archaeological, historical, and living resources. Specifically, Webber Lake is an incredible physical, historical, and living resource. Not only is Webber Lake an essential environmental resource as the principal headwater of the Little Truckee River, the lake holds rich regional and historical significance. The property has had extensive use for the past 160 years – first as a popular stage stop during the gold rush era, then as a fishing and recreation resort, and finally as a ranch for summertime sheep grazing. Located on the historic Henness Pass Road that was built in 1849 as one of the first routes between Nevada and California, the 1860 Webber Lake Hotel is still standing today, largely unchanged from the day it was built. This project will protect the lake, its history, and the abundant Lacey Meadows system located upstream that serves as a critical habitat for biodiversity in the Sierra Nevada.

PROJECT SCOPE

A \$1 million grant from the SNC will serve as a match for additional funding requests, and will allow the Truckee Donner Land Trust to purchase in fee the 2,994.8-acre Webber Lake and Lacey Meadows property from the Johnson Family Trust, a willing seller. The Truckee Donner Land Trust is under contract to purchase the property for a bargain sale of \$8 million.

Partners in this project include the California Wildlife Conservation Board, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and the Northern Sierra Partnership, consisting of The Trust for Public Land, The Nature Conservancy, Feather River Land Trust, and Sierra Business Council. The NSP, in fact, has identified the Webber Lake/Lacey Meadows Complex as a very high priority area for conservation.

The Webber Lake and Lacey Meadows property is a key part of a larger conservation effort in the Little Truckee River watershed. The Nature Conservancy, The Trust for Public Land and the Land Trust are in the process of protecting over 17,000 acres in the watershed, including Webber

Falls, Perazzo Meadow, Independence Lake, Cold Stream Meadow, and the Henness Pass Working Forest Conservation Easement. The acquisition of the Webber Lake/Lacey Meadows complex also supports the long-term conservation vision of a master plan for the entire upper Little Truckee River headwaters to facilitate public use while conserving the area's natural resources.

LETTERS OF SUPPORT

Letters of support included within this application come from the USFS Tahoe National Forest, Trout Unlimited, The Trust for Public Land, the Truckee Trails Foundation, and the Truckee River Watershed Council.

SNC PROJECT DELIVERABLES AND SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Site Appraisal	Completed 2009
Option Agreement with Willing Seller	Completed 2009
Matching Grant Requests	WCB Proposal Submitted
California Wildlife Conservation Board \$ 4,000,000.00	Date Response Expected: May 2011 ✓
Northern Sierra Partnership \$ 1,000,000.00	NSP Proposal Submitted: November, 2009
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Sierra Meadows Program \$1,000,000.00	Date Response Expected NSP and NFW: January – May 2011
Private Fundraising \$1,000,000.00	Fundraising in process: September 2010 – August 2011
Final deposit of \$100,000.00 due to seller	April 2011
Project Deliverable: TDLT to acquire in fee 2,994.8 acres in the Little Truckee River Watershed at the estimated cost of \$8 million.	October 2001
Close of escrow	October 2011
Submission of Final Report	December 2011, or two months after close of escrow

SNC PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Acquisition cost	\$1,000,000
SNC GRANT TOTAL	\$1,000,000.00