

2014 Nature Grant Cycle Recipients

- **Conservation Science Partners**, a new local scientific collective established to meet the analytical and research needs of diverse stakeholders in conservation projects, was awarded \$10,000 to build innovative conservation capacity in our region. Their global scale model of applying scientific understanding to respond to growing environmental challenges will be leveraged for regional scale projects that do not have the in-house capacity needed to obtain or analyze scientific information and produce actionable outcomes.
- **Gateway Mountain Center** was partially funded (and would have easily been fully funded if more funding had been available) for its impressive Van Norden meadow research being done in conjunction with UC Davis. GMC is bringing together renowned experts as well as hundreds of high achieving at risk students from all over the country for this project. Starting this school year, they are also making this learning opportunity available to local high school students, who will conduct the innovative data collection methods throughout the winter and shoulder seasons.
- **Nevada Tahoe Conservation District** was funded \$6,000 for its groundbreaking approach to move the Tahoe Yellow Cress conservation effort forward with a precedent setting safe harbor agreement for private landowners around Lake Tahoe. This endangered plant only grows along the shores of Lake Tahoe, and private landowners manage a majority of its potential habitat, but most have been hesitant to participate in the conservation strategy due to regulatory concerns. All affiliated agencies are on board and over 1,300 lakefront homeowners have been contacted.
- **Truckee Donner Land Trust** received \$22,500 for costs associated with accepting the donation of a pivotal tract in Phase One of the long awaited Downtown Truckee River Revitalization campaign.
- **Truckee River Watershed Council** was funded \$25,000 for its highly visible in-town wetland restoration project, a commendable collaborative project with private landowners and public agencies which will reduce erosion and improve water quality and habitat by reconnecting the wetlands to the Truckee River.
- **The Sugar Pine Foundation**, a regional favorite, was awarded \$5,000 for their Sugar Pine monitoring and outreach programs to continue to conserve Lake Tahoe's treasured Sugar Pine trees and to support their water preservation program which has been especially important during this extended drought.
- **Sierra Watershed Education Partnerships (SWEP)** received \$3,500 to fund their Fish Habitat Programming which lost state funding this year. SWEP promotes environmental stewardship by connecting students to their community and local environment through comprehensive watershed education programs like the fish habitat education program.
- **Tahoe Bear Project**, the research project of a PhD candidate, received \$5,000 for their important, impartial and UC Berkeley sanctioned research on bear/human interaction.
- **The Tahoe Fund** was awarded \$13,000 to help build an exciting and important new bike trail in Incline Village that will greatly affect traffic, parking, and the experience of both visitors and locals in Tahoe. The Tahoe Fund must raise \$750,000 to release over \$12.5 million in public funding.
- **Tahoe National Forest** was funded \$5,000 for the process of surveying and permitting a recently acquired piece of land that will finally complete the popular Hole in the Ground trail into a loop.
- **The Tahoe-Pyramid Bikeway** project received \$10,000 for the Farad to Puny Dip section of trail. Progress on this bike path has been absolutely amazing, and we are happy to help fund on behalf of the California side. After this section, only four miles out of 116 will be left to complete the bikeway.
- **The Nature Conservancy** was funded \$5,000 to support their commendable efforts to preserve Independence Lake.