

Donner Summit Area Association.

Steve Frisch, President of Sierra Business Council, provided a background of the Donner Summit and its History. Steve Frisch explained the intent of the Summit Summit is to build on the vision that the community articulated in the first two Summits. The agenda today will be focused on the Donner Summit Public Use Trails and Recreation Facilities Plan and the types of issues addressed in that Plan and how the community can participate in that process.

Cindy Gustafson, Placer County Supervisor, spoke about Donner Summit and Placer County's commitment to preserving and protecting natural resources and working with Nevada County.

Hardy Bullock, Nevada County Supervisor, spoke about his passion for Donner Summit and the area. He spoke about how to preserve the character of the community and also create a vibrant community between businesses, residents, visitors and international tourists. It is important to protect the natural splendor and outdoor recreation opportunities in the community as well as the economic vitality going forward. He spoke about several infrastructure projects happening in the area.

Bill Oudegeest, Donner Summit Association, presented a brief history of the Donner Summit Association and the Summit. A number of initiatives were implemented to improve the area and connect communities. He discussed the history of several grants and projects completed and thanked their partners.

Steve Frisch introduced the Land Stewardship Panel. Jonathan Cook Fisher, District Ranger for the Truckee Ranger District; Katie Mansfield, Trails and Wilderness Program Director for the Truckee and Sierraville Ranger Districts; Andy Fisher, Placer County Parks Division; Kaitlin Hopkins, Administrative Analyst for Placer County Executive Office; Trisha Tillotson, Nevada County Community Agency Director; Hardy Bullock, Nevada County Supervisor.

Jonathan Cook Fisher shared a presentation from the Truckee Ranger District. The Forest is currently closed to the public due to fire danger. Donner Summit is getting a lot of attention from the Truckee Ranger District. Several projects are moving forward and will require partners. The Castle Valley Trailhead is under-used and they hope to receive grant money to complete some projects to make the area more visible and useable. Pine to Mines Trail is a long multi day use trail. Over Snow Vehicle Plan Update is currently in the final consultation with the State. They hope to implement it this winter. Several other trails projects were presented. They would like a trail system that is well supported and utilized. Tubing Park Expansion at Sugar Bowl should be open this winter. The snow park situation off Hwy 80 was presented. Staffing may be short this winter, they are working with the State and the Town of Truckee.

Steve Frisch introduced John Svahn, Co-Executive Director of the Truckee-Donner Land Trust, and Kevin Starr, TDLT Land Manager and Stewardship Director who presented a brief history of the Land Trust and the Warming Hut System the TDLT is working on. The TDLT focuses on Stewardship; Forestry, Restoration and Recreation. Presentation of several Trails within the system. The TDLT is constructing Huts and Frog Lakes. Modular Huts are being brought in where skiing or hiking visitors can stay and sleep. They hope to open the Huts this winter.

Steve Frisch introduced Andy Fisher, Placer County Parks Division. He presented the Memorial Overland Emigrant Trail Project. The focus area of the trail is to re-create a Memorial Section of the trail from Donner Memorial State Park to Soda Springs. Placer County continues the planning process for funding and building the Memorial Section. Placer County's goal is to complete the trail to Kingvale. The Placer County Draft Park and Trail Master Plan is available

online for public comment. Placer County is also investing in restrooms and dumpsters for Donner Summit.

Steve Frisch introduced Kaitlin Hopkins, Administrative Analyst for Placer County Executive Office. She discussed the grant process for Placer County. The application release date is August 31, 2021. She presented the grant application timeline. She highlighted grants previously awarded to Donner Summit.

Steve Frisch introduced Trisha Tillotson, Nevada County Community Agency Director. Trisha Tillotson presented two projects on Donner Summit. The Donner Pass Road project is a collaborative effort with several agencies and organizations. The project is a road rehab project and will widen the shoulders from the Soda Springs exit to the Truckee town limit. There will be bike lanes on the west side and the uphill sections of the east side. There will pull outs and enhanced parking areas. The project is expected to be complete this year. There have been labor shortages. The second project is the Soda Springs Bridge at the South Yuba River. Construction is expected to be complete this year, including sidewalks.

Steve Frisch introduced Hardy Bullock, Nevada County Supervisor. Supervisor Bullock provided an update on the Recreation Coalition. The group convenes monthly and works to facilitate communication to the public. They are looking at increasing parking violation fees on Donner Summit. Supervisor Bullock and Nevada County Supervisor Heidi Hall are working to create a Trails and Open Space Ad-Hoc Committee to understand the changing dynamic in the region, the type of visitor and trails use occurring and how that is changing the economy to support the new uses and outdoor recreation. He discussed the use of ARPA funding for recreation infrastructure. He discussed the work being done on the Pines to Mines Trail and the various entities involved with the project and multi-uses involved.

Discussion regarding Way-Finding and new technologies. Supervisor Bullock commented on how social media posts can increase visitors to a specific area. Discussion regarding posting information regarding stewardship. John Svahn commented regarding the Trails Plans and using social media data to know where there are needs and what those needs are.

Discussion regarding Parking Enforcement. There is a challenge because of the County line. Trisha Tillotson commented that the County is currently reviewing parking fines throughout Nevada County, Donner Summit included. It is part of a larger parking review in Nevada County. Discussion regarding enforcement improvement, signage and way finding. Cindy Gustafson, Placer County Supervisor commented that Placer County is also looking at increasing fines as well as the concept of parking ordinances that allow Code Enforcement Officers to issue citations in an effort to save time for law enforcement. Greg Dallas, Sugar Bowl Resort, commented on the results of an experiment they conducted last year putting up temporary signage indicating Tow Away Zone. The messaging on the signage seemed to make a difference.

Discussion regarding speeding and graffiti. How can law enforcement be supported? Cindy Gustafson, Placer County Supervisor commented that these issues have increased throughout her District, not just on the Summit. They are working with CHP and increasing signage. As more infrastructure improvements are completed parking may increase, alleviating the problems somewhat.

Discussion regarding eBike use on trails. This is a point of discussion in the Pines to Mines trails development. Katie Mansfield, Trails and Wilderness Program Director for the Truckee and Sierraville Ranger Districts commented that they recently had a decision on the Forest with the East Zone Connectivity Project that opened up certain trails on the District for eBikes. There are not currently trails on the Summit open to eBikes. The discussion with the Pines to Mines Trail is

still open. Question regarding the difference in impact to the trails of eBike vs. mountain bike. Have studies been done?

Discussion regarding speed bumps in Serene Lakes or another temporary traffic control measures. Cindy Gustafson, Placer County Supervisor commented that Placer County's current policy is that a community desiring a temporary traffic control measure is required to help fund them. Installation of speed bumps also impacts first responders and snow removal. This is an issue in many communities.

Peak Visitation Discussion regarding changing demographics and recreational use patterns in addition to the increased use during the Covid-19 crisis. Chris Parker, Donner Summit Association, provided a presentation of the Draft Donner Summit Public Use, Trails and Recreation Facilities Plan (the "Plan") was in response to the generosity of the Counties providing funding for various projects. The Donner Summit Association received grants for projects and needed to prioritize the projects and the Plan provides guidance for project planning. The Plan is a draft, the next iteration will take Peak Visitation into consideration. They are seeking feedback now. Input is requested creating an inventory of trails and physical assets.

Jeffrey Thorsby, Nevada County Senior Management Analyst, and Colleen Dalton, Visit Truckee Tahoe, provided information regarding the Peak Visitation issues. Jeffrey highlighted areas of focus in Nevada County District 5 and challenges created by increased visitation. They include parking, public safety, fire safety and environmental impacts. The CCC was created to address these issues. Colleen Dalton highlighted changes needed with the impacts of increased tourism. Tourism is the main economic driver in the area. Discussion regarding balancing the needs and impacts of Environment and Community with the Tourism Economy. She highlighted areas being worked on and collaborators on the projects. She presented the Community Roadmap to Sustainability and Tourism Management.

Alecia Whiteman, South Yuba River Citizens League, and Rachel Huchison, US Forest Service, provided an update on the progress of the Van Norden meadow or Summit Valley Restoration Project. Restoration of issues such as channel erosion, lowering of groundwater and loss of vegetation, loss of carbon and loss of late season baseflow/aquatic habitat. Meadow Restoration will help to reverse these damaging issues. Alecia presented the project timeline through 2026. Rachel presented a graphic of the project and highlighted some of the work being planned and conducted. The project will utilize and repurpose materials already on site, reducing the project's carbon footprint and budget. Rachel presented information regarding the Van Norden Meadow Recreation plan which includes two improved parking areas and two restroom facilities. Trail alignment and connectivity will also be improved.

Discussion regarding a need for a second exit from the Serene Lakes neighborhood and adding Emergency Access Concerns to the Plan.

Discussion regarding the location of trails in Van Norden meadow and how many are needed, in an effort to reduce the impact. The trail placement is designed to preserve archeological resources in the meadow. Some alignment may be feasible, design is still being evaluated.

Discussion regarding utilizing parking used in winter for gig-worker housing or camping in the summer. These issues and opportunities are being explored. Question regarding planned capital contribution in the Soda Springs area.

Steven Frisch provided a summary of the meeting presentations and discussions. This meeting is the beginning, not the end, of the work that needs to be planned and completed. Feedback to the Donner Summit Association on the Plan is needed and appreciated. Pat Mahlberg thanked the attendees for their presentations and input and invited input on the Plan.