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Sierra Nevada

Essential Investments in the Sierra Nevada

With California voters' strong support for ballot measures to fund conservation, our state has invested wisely in protecting our land, water and parks. These essential investments have strengthened California's economy by enhancing our environment, attracting tourists and creating jobs.

In the Sierra Nevada, these investments are protecting some of California's most prized mountains, rivers and wildlife. They are helping create places for people to go skiing in the winter and whitewater rafting in the summer, and they are helping protect one of California's primary freshwater sources.

Although we have made great improvements, there is still much to be

done. The future of all of California — from its wide diversity of plants and animals to the wide diversity of people who live here — depends on these essential investments in the land, water and parks that make the Golden State the unique and promising place we all cherish. Among the noteworthy investments in the Sierra Nevada are:

SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY

Financed with public and private investments, the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) is the state's largest conservancy, encompassing more than 25 million acres from the Oregon border to Kern County. It provides strategic direction, funding and assistance to local projects that enhance the environmental, economic and social well-being of the Sierra Nevada — one of the most significant natural and biologically diverse regions in the world. Proposition 84 made it possible for the SNC to fund a wide range of projects since its creation in 2004. These projects have protected natural resources, increased opportunities for tourism and recreation, reduced the risk of wildfire and other natural disasters and much more.

TUOLUMNE RIVER

The headwaters of the Tuolumne River begin at 13,000 feet in Yosemite National Park in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. As the river travels 150 miles to the San Joaquin River, it carves out canyons that provide 27 miles of whitewater for rafters and kayakers. The state has invested millions of dollars from Propositions 40 and 50 to make the river and its surrounding area accessible and enjoyable for Californians. The river also provides irrigation water for Central Valley farms, flood control and drinking water for rural communities in the San Joaquin Valley, hydroelectricity for the San Francisco Bay Area along with boating, swimming, fishing and water skiing at Millerton Lake and Lake Don Pedro.



Owens River Headwaters (Inyo County & the Sierra Nevada Conservancy)
Photo: Tupper Ansel Blake



Tuolumne River
Photo: Resources Legacy Fund

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DONNER MEMORIAL STATE PARK

Located in the town of Truckee, the Donner Memorial State Park is a major recreation center where visitors can hike, camp, fish and boat in the summer and cross-country ski and snowshoe in the winter. Visitors are welcome year-round at the Emigrant Trail Museum and the Pioneer Monument, built to commemorate those who came to California from the east in the mid-1800's. In 2004, the park received more than \$3 million for the construction of a new museum and visitors center from Proposition 40.

SOUTH FORK KERN RIVER VALLEY

Conservation efforts preserved nearly 3,000 acres of some of California's finest riparian forest in the South Fork Kern River Valley in Western Kern County. This unique ecology contains some of the last unspoiled examples of Cottonwood-Willow riparian forest in the state and more than 240 species of birds and animal life. Nearly \$2.4 million from Propositions 40 and 50 attracted an almost equal amount of federal and private funding to preserve the land.

WADDLE RANCH

Called the heart of the Martis Valley, east of Truckee, this 1,462-acre ranch was once slated for a 1,200-home development. Public and private investments purchased the property, protecting forever the most biologically diverse property in the Martis Valley. Nearly \$5 million from Proposition 50, along with other public and private investments, financed the purchase. Waddle Ranch is adjacent to the Martis Creek Lake National Recreation Area and hosts hiking trails and other recreational opportunities, wildlife corridors, important wetlands for migrating birds and a critical freshwater aquifer.

TURNER CREEK RANCH PROJECT

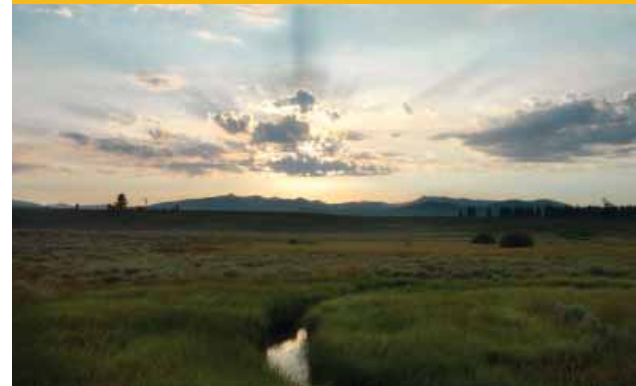
The Turner Creek Ranch is 725 acres of working forest and ranch land nestled along the edge of the beautiful Sierra Valley in Sierra County. The Turner Family has owned and ranched there for more than 150 years. More than \$4 million from Proposition 50 purchased a conservation easement, ensuring this land will remain a working ranch and continue to provide valuable wildlife habitat for more than 250 wildlife species, including the bald eagle and willow flycatcher.



Donner Memorial State Park (Truckee)
Photo: Truckee Donner Land Trust



South Fork Kern River Valley (Kern County)
Photo: Alison Sheehey



Waddle Ranch (Nevada County)
Photo: © www.elizabethcarmel.com

CONSERVING CALIFORNIA

A public education program about our essential investments in land, water and parks presented by Audubon California, California Council of Land Trusts, Ocean Conservancy, The Nature Conservancy and WiLDCOAST.

For more information, please visit our website:
www.conservingcalifornia.org

