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## NORTHERN SIERRA PARTNERSHIP

**JUNE 2014**

Dear Friends,

Oh the joys of summer in the Sierra! Meadows bejeweled with dazzling wildflowers, rivers and creeks swollen with snowmelt, great towers of cumulus clouds looming over the mountains in late afternoon, the raucous calls of Clark's Nutcrackers, the pungent scent of Jeffrey pine. The Sierra offers up her seemingly endless delights without reservation.

On July 5th, we hope you'll join us for a day of outdoor adventure and fun in one of the loveliest places in the northern Sierra Nevada -- Perazzo Meadows. At our **3rd Annual NSP Celebration and Picnic** you'll have a chance to explore the little known beauties of the Little Truckee River watershed with others who share your passion for our region. The details of the event and how to buy your tickets are listed below.

This month, we'd also like to call your attention to some research recently completed by our partner, **The Nature Conservancy (TNC)**. Working with a host of other public and private partners, TNC investigated the relationship between forest management, fire and water quality in the Mokelumne River watershed. Among their many interesting findings: the economic benefits of forest

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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Saturday, June 21st** Tour De Manure Bike Ride | Sierra Valley | Sierraville Volunteer Fire House

**Saturday, July 5th** 3rd Annual NSP Celebration &

management activities undertaken to reduce the threat of high intensity wildfire can exceed the cost of those activities by three or more times. Read more below.

Finally, hats off to our partner, [Feather River Land Trust \(FRLT\)](#), for securing a spectacular outdoor classroom for the Loyalton schools, the latest addition to FRLT's award-winning Learning Landscapes Initiative. Students and teachers, from 1st grade to high school are already out there on the land, gaining knowledge and inspiration from the complexities of our natural systems.

I hope to see you on July 5th!

For the Sierra,



Lucy Blake  
President

[Northern Sierra Partnership](#)

[Picnic | Perazzo Meadows | Northern Sierra Partnership](#)

**Saturday, July 12th**  
[Volunteer Trailbuilding Day | Greater Truckee | Truckee Donner Land Trust](#)

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## Sierra Forest Fuel Treatments Make Economic Sense

High-severity wildfire activity in California has increased significantly in recent years, posing a serious threat to people and places. Our partner, [The Nature Conservancy](#), along with the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, and the U.S. Forest Service, recently completed a study investigating the economic benefit of investing in increased forest management to reduce the risk of these wildfires. Using the upper Mokelumne River watershed as a representative case, they found that the economic benefits of fuel treatments are 2-3 times the cost.



The economic costs associated with wildfires can be staggering. The 2013 Rim Fire in the central Sierra Nevada burned nearly 257,000 acres and cost an estimated \$127 million, excluding the impact of the fire on property values and environmental services like carbon sequestration. Wildfires also pose a threat to our water supply. In 2002 a fire in Colorado burned 138,000 acres and deposited more than one million cubic yards of sediment into the Strontia Springs Reservoir, which is the primary drinking water source for the city of Denver, at a growing cost that now exceeds \$150 million.

This study found that forest management could significantly reduce fire severity. In the model scenario used, fuel treatments reduced the acreage of high-intensity wildfires by almost 75%. Along with avoided costs of wildfires, fuel treatment programs also have the added benefit of creating jobs in these rural areas. They estimated the creation of 35-45 jobs related to fuel treatment and 7-10 biomass-to-energy jobs over a 10-year period.

It is clear that it makes economic sense to invest in forest management in the upper Mokelumne watershed. Though it would be an increased cost now, the long term savings far exceed the costs. This study has implications not only for the management of the Mokelumne watershed but also for all western forests. For more details on the report, please [view an electronic copy here](#).

## Securing an outdoor classroom for every child in Loyalton



The **Feather River Land Trust** (FRLT) recently completed a conservation easement on the 142-acre Chadwick property in Sierra Valley, securing permanent access to an important working ranch in the small Sierra Valley community of Loyalton. This property also features important wildlife habitat, scenic open space, and an outdoor classroom for local schools.

Loyalton Elementary and Loyalton High schools are located just across the

street from this property, which will provide the ideal space for an outdoor classroom. Staff and students from the schools are eager to integrate outdoor learning on the site into their program. FRLT's school-based K-12 Learning Landscapes Initiatives program will highlight agriculture and local food production as well as stream and meadow restoration and ecology.

This project was made possible through the generous support of the landowner, Anne Chadwick, the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, Northern Sierra Partnership, Hind Foundation, and Gimbel Foundation, with generous support for preliminary conservation work from the Mellam Family Foundation, Firedoll Foundation, Morgan Family Foundation and FRLT members.

This represents an important victory for conservation in the Feather River watershed. This easement ensures that this working landscape remains intact, providing habitat to wildlife and waterfowl, forage for a beef cattle operation, and an outdoor classroom for children in the community of Loyalton.

## Annual Celebration & Picnic at Perazzo Meadows on July 5th!

Join the Northern Sierra Partnership and our five partner organizations as we celebrate



another year of conservation victories in the northern Sierra Nevada. The event will be held at beautiful Perazzo Meadows, in the heart of the Little Truckee River watershed, just north of the town of Truckee. Bring your friends and family—this is an event for all ages and abilities!



There will be guided activities for attendees to join, followed by a catered picnic lunch and bluegrass music at the Perazzo Meadows picnic grounds. At lunch, we will be giving away some great outdoor apparel thanks to Patagonia.

**BUY TICKETS**

## Activities

- Hike in Lacey Meadows**
- Birds & Wildflowers in Lacey Meadows**
- Interpretive walk in Perazzo Meadows**
- Tour of Independence Lake**
- Mountain Bike Tour**
- Historic Tour of Henness Pass**

Please be sure to buy your tickets before they run out! More information on the event can be found [on our event website](#).



Photo credits (top to bottom): Hikers at Lake of the Woods in the American River watershed ©Rich Reid Photography | North Fork of the Mokelumne River ©Katheryn Evatt | Loyalton students at the new Learning Landscapes outdoor classroom on the Chadwick property ©Feather River Land Trust | Hikers in Perazzo Meadows ©Rich Reid Photography

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