

News Advisory



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Major Expansion for Donner Lake State Historic Park Preserves Historic Immigrant Trail

TRUCKEE, CA – The California State Park that pays homage to the Donner Party has now nearly tripled in size with a land acquisition of nearly 2,000 acres. Added to the historic park is a place called Shallenberger Ridge, the scenic backdrop to Donner Lake that is seen by tens of thousands of travelers as they pass Donner Lake along the Interstate 80 corridor.

This acquisition preserves remnants of the historic Immigrant Gap Trail, the route used by the Donner Party and other pioneers in wagon trains as they crossed the Sierra. It also preserves wildlife habitat and corridors for rare and endangered species. The land remains today much the same as it appeared when the Donner Party passed through the area in 1846-47.

California State Parks, the Trust for Public Land (TPL), and the Truckee-Donner Land Trust will join Placer County Supervisor Rex Bloomfield and others to celebrate the purchase and protection of this rugged skyline.

When: 12:45 p.m. -- Saturday, July 26, 2003 (10-minute walk to site)
1 p.m. -- Lunch catered by Dragonfly restaurant
2 p.m. -- Dedication ceremony
2:30 p.m. -- Tours of property

Where: Donner Memorial State Park. Take I-80 to the Donner Pass exit. Follow the signs west to the park.

Who: Rex Bloomfield, Placer County Supervisor
John Knott, Superintendent, California State Parks
The Truckee Donner Land Trust
The Trust for Public Land
Local community members and friends of conservation

Additional contact: Mary Menees, The Trust for Public Land -- (415) 495-5660 X375