



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President
Pat Malberg
Treasurer
Alisha Lee
Secretary
Sara Taillon
Board Members
Carrie Hoyt
John Kirrene
Ron Kolbe
Nancy Latimer
Tamara Lieberman
Rebecca Meyerholz
Daniel Wexler

Media Release
May 14, 2009

Contact:
Pat Malberg:
(916) 645-8789

**DONNER SUMMIT GROUPS UNITE BEHIND COMMON
VISION**

Soda Springs, CA – Conservation non-profits, homeowners associations, and civic organizations released a joint document today, outlining a vision for the Donner Summit region.

In the three-page “An Economic and Conservation Vision for Donner Summit”, eight organizations commit to twelve principles, each designed to shape a healthy future for the region. Those principles were developed in a series of meetings, conferences, and surveys held on the Summit over the past three years.

The document is designed to provide a “framework for planning decisions that affect the region.”

“We want to ensure that land-use, conservation, and development decisions respect the region’s values and invest in existing communities,” said Pat Malberg, President of the Donner Summit Area Association.

One of the great iconic landscapes of the American West, Donner Summit is appreciated by hikers, botanists, skiers, and historians. But the region's future is uncertain.

“Our shared vision demonstrates overwhelming support to invest in the irreplaceable resources of Donner Summit,” said Peter Van Zant, Field Director of Sierra Watch.

Interest in shaping the future of Donner Summit extends well beyond local communities. According to the vision statement, it's a region of “local, state, and global” significance.

At the crest of the Sierra, Donner Summit forms the headwaters of three different river systems. Downstream water users in the Truckee, American, and Yuba River systems, all have a stake in the health of the region.

“For those of us committed to the South Yuba River, Donner Summit is where it all begins,” said Jason Rainey, Executive Director of South Yuba River Citizens League. “We're proud to stand with our allies and look forward to preserving the delicate ecology of the South Yuba headwaters.”

“This vision is a starting point for bringing people together to preserve the unique natural, cultural and historical features of Donner Summit for future generations.” said Kaitlin Backlund, Executive Director of the Mountain Area Preservation Foundation.

Representatives of Donner Summit Area Association, North Fork American River Alliance, Mountain Area Preservation Association, The Palisades, Sierra Club, Sierra Watch, Serene Lakes Property Owners Association, and South Yuba River Citizens League signed on to the document. It's available at www.donnertsummitareaassociation.org.

###