

Outdoor Sports

The Reno-Sparks area is home to a multitude of outdoor sports opportunities that can give individuals and teams access to the beautiful landscapes that characterize the region. The Truckee Meadows have often been a great place for athletes to train owing to the elevation, top-notch amenities, and wide-open access to public lands. The region also experiences all four seasons, though most outdoor recreation opportunities fall into the two main categories of warm-weather (summer) or cold-weather (winter) activities. The two sections below mimic this seasonal dichotomy and present information about outdoor sports and recreation activities according to their primary season.

Winter Sports:

Due to the proximity to Lake Tahoe and the Sierra Nevada the Truckee Meadows Region is known as a winter sports destination. Snow sport activities include skiing, snowboarding, snowmobiling, snowshoeing, sledding, and cross-country skiing. And while each of these can be enjoyed at local resorts and businesses, expert level snow sport enthusiasts can also backcountry ski and snowboard throughout the region. Locals have the benefit of walking out their backdoor into a winter wonderland, and many tourists also frequent this area to participate which is a boost to our economy. Sustainably managing our snow sport destinations is important not only for future generations to use, but also to ensure the flora, fauna and overall environmental health of these areas is respected and maintained. The environmental areas of concern in relation to ski resorts and snow sports are loss of biodiversity and habitat, CO2 emissions, waste management, and water management. Striking a balance between enjoying and preserving the snowy landscape and wildlife is an important aspect of responsible management of our natural resources.

(Callout box) Health/community benefits of snow sports: Enhances cardiovascular health, balance building, skiing is known for strengthening lesser used muscles, helps to beat the winter blues by getting outside and soaking up the sun, ability to connect with nature.

Lake Tahoe has one of the highest densities of ski resorts in the world, residents and vacationers alike have several mountains to choose from in the area, but our local mountain within the Truckee Meadows Service Area (TMSA), is Mount Rose Ski Tahoe This is a designated resort service area (RSA), and is a ski resort with a long history of recreation. Mount Rose Ski Tahoe is located in the Toiyabe National Forest, it has the highest base elevation of a Tahoe region ski area, at about 8,260 ft with the summit at 9,700 ft. There are 66 runs, and the resort area is 1,200 acres, which gives plenty of room for our local snow sport fans to explore. To protect, preserve, but also enjoy our Truckee Meadows, TMRPA's Regional Plan recognizes that certain areas within our region are unique and require different management strategies. Our RSA policy RF 1 – Establishment of TMSA and Regional Land Designations allows for the development of a resort destination in settings with significant natural amenities. These areas have specific requirements and management approaches where the primary attraction is generally recreational facilities or activities for locals and tourists alike to appreciate.

(Small callout box on side of text below) Sustainable Skier Tips: Bring a collapsible water bottle, bring snacks in reusable containers, support sustainable brands, maximize gear life, shop local, carpool or take the bus, try uphill skiing (also called skinning), offset your carbon emissions, pack in and pack out, get involved.

As winter destinations are developed or expanded, a commitment to collaboration and sustainable development is crucial. We want to support the many benefits of snow sports to our community, while also protecting our Truckee Meadows lands and wildlife. Over 200 U.S. ski areas have signed on to National Ski Areas Association's Sustainable Slopes program. Mt. Rose Ski Tahoe and Heavenly in south Lake Tahoe are a part of this. The Sustainable Slopes program was founded in 2000, and is a way for ski areas to commit to sustainable practices across their operations. These ski areas demonstrate their commitment to sustainability in 10 areas: Climate change action and advocacy, energy efficiency, waste management, transportation and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, sustainable education and outreach, supply chain efficiency, water management, environmentally thoughtful design and construction, and forest health and habitat.

(Callout box) Sustainable Ski Resort Qualities and Opportunities for Our Local Resorts:

#1: Power ski lifts on renewable energy

#2: Switch to snow pump technology with a lower carbon footprint and install low-energy equipment

#3: Use snow groomers powered by renewable energy

#4: Encourage and support sustainable travel for skiers

#5: Create a sustainability program that encompasses every sustainability challenge within the resort, (i.e. paper straws, recycling programs, reforestation projects) (Green Business Bureau)

Currently, the Forest Service and Mt. Rose Ski Tahoe staff are also working together on the Mt. Rose Ski Tahoe's Atoma Area Expansion Project, which will improve the quality of the ski area's winter sport offerings on National Forest System (NFS) lands, while also minimizing environmental and human impacts and protecting Forest Service lands and species. (USDA). Other nearby ski resorts such as Northstar and Heavenly, are managed by Vail Resorts, and in 2017 they updated their sustainability goals and committed to:

- Zero Net Emissions by 2030
- Zero Waste to Landfill by 2030
- Zero Operating Impact on Forests and Habitat

(Callout box) Our trail network development, connectivity and maintenance are all important for not just summer use, but for winter too! Winter sports in the Truckee Meadows can serve all ages and skill levels all while getting incredible views. One example of this is the snowshoe trek to Chickadee Ridge that is just outside of the Mount Rose Wilderness Area in the Mount Rose Meadows. Chickadee Ridge is known for the friendly resident birds that live in the trees along a ridgeline that hop into your hand for birdseed, a one-of-a-kind way to connect with and appreciate nature.

We must be able to provide for both the present and future needs of our community, as well as take active steps to protect the climate and environment. Support collaboration and coordination to ensure development and maintenance of winter trails and sporting areas is thoughtfully managed for users and the landscape. To keep snow sport sites both usable and sustainable, other places have installed low-energy snowmaking equipment, adopted green standards for building and construction, planted or restored forest impacted by the resort and partnered with Eco-Products on restaurant supplies, (Nat Geo). Resorts should be encouraged to use renewable/low-energy equipment.

Summer Sports:

Our Region is rich in opportunities to get outside and soak up the sun. In the warmer part of the year, locals and tourists alike can start by heading to the Truckee River. Truckee River recreational uses include: fishing, kayaking, whitewater rafting, waterskiing/wakeboarding, biking, walking, camping, hiking, picnicking, birdwatching and swimming. Check out TMWA's *Truckee River Recreation Map* below which shows some of the areas and uses. **(INSERT GRAPHIC)** In addition to the natural landscape and activities the river already provides, there are also public spaces and parks along it, such as the Truckee River Whitewater Park in Reno. The park is located at Wingfield Park in downtown Reno and features Class 2 and 3 rapids accessible to kayaks, canoes, rafts, and inner tubes. The park also serves as a venue for local events and concerts, with the Truckee River serving as the ultimate backdrop.

(Callout box, credit USDA?) "Annually, outdoor recreation generates \$887 billion in consumer spending, 7.6 million American jobs, \$65.3 billion in federal tax revenue, and \$59.2 billion in state and local tax revenue, according to Outdoor Industry Association statistics. Recreation on national forests and grassland help businesses and communities directly or indirectly connected to recreation; provide economic stability and jobs for local communities; and serve as a quiet place of respite everyone, especially suburban and urban city dwellers. These lands are intimately tied to the mental, physical, and social health of Americans. Eighty percent of our populations lives in cities and a technology focused American population, including children, is losing touch with the contributions of public lands to the basic resources that affect their lives. Everyone is welcome. And everyone can benefit from time spent outdoors." (USDA)

Each of the outlets and lakes along the Truckee River provides a multitude of recreating opportunities, from hiking around Donner Lake, to camping at Boca, to fishing at Pyramid it is clear the Truckee River is part of the outdoor-loving culture of Northern Nevada and California. The Truckee relies on snow that falls in the Sierra Nevada during the winter months as well as natural run-off, combined with releases of water from Lake Tahoe and other reservoirs, during the summer months. This helps to maintain flows that support water consumption needs, provide fish and other aquatic habitat, and recreation. The Nevada Department of Wildlife manages approximately 40 miles of fisheries between the California State line and Pyramid Lake Indian Reservation. The river is one of the most heavily fished waters in the state, supporting between 60,000 and 100,000 angler days per year. NDOW stocks a total of 105,000 trout per year. 70,000 of those are native Lahontan cutthroat trout and the rest are non-native Rainbow trout. The Truckee also boasts a healthy, self-sustaining non-native Brown trout population. The riparian areas along the river are teeming with wildlife, the surrounding flora and fauna doesn't just excite birdwatchers but all who are able to witness it. Ensuring the river is healthy and sustainably managed is important for both current residents and for future generations to enjoy.

The great outdoors is always at our fingertips in the Truckee Meadows. To name a few more activities from what was previously discussed, we also have horseback riding, golfing, ATVing, and countless hiking and camping areas. One example of a unique location that hosts a number of these activities is the Hungry Valley Recreational Area, also known as Moon Rocks. It is a large open area with a variety of tracks, trails, and camp areas in a high desert setting. This extensive trail system is owned by the Nevada Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and is available for free riding, rock crawling, ATVing and more. The terrain consists of large unique boulder formations and narrow canyons with sandy washes. The Moon Rocks area gets its name from the large rock formations near the main staging and camping area and is a tourist attraction drawing visitors from across the country.

(Cool different formatting) How Does the BLM Manage Public Land for Outdoor Activities?

The BLM promotes multiple-use on public lands, consistent with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA). To manage public lands, the BLM prepares land-use plans, also known as resource management plans (RMPs), which are strategies for keeping public landscapes healthy and productive for multiple-use. As these are prepared, the BLM invites and values local voices and diverse views; respects the ties that native and traditional communities have to the land; and develops partnerships that bring successful resource stewardship. As a result, the BLM has a robust history of ensuring opportunities for commercial, recreational, and conservation activities on public lands. The BLM manages 245 million acres of public lands and 700 million acres of mineral estate. These public lands and subsurface mineral estate acres are vital to the lives and livelihoods of communities and families.

(Cool different formatting) What part does the USDA Forest Service play?

The USDA Forest Service also plays an integral part in managing our land, they manage over 193 million acres nationally. In addition, the Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA) was enacted in 2020 and continues to provide new opportunities for the USDA Forest Service to deliver benefits to communities through major investments in infrastructure, recreation facilities, public lands access, and land and water conservation. The GAOA has two components, the first is the establishment of the National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund (LRF) and it is funded for five years to address the maintenance backlog for five land management agencies: the USDA Forest Service, National Parks Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Indian Education. The second component is permanent full funding of the Land and Water Conservation fund (LWCF) which provides for federal land acquisition and Forest Legacy grants to states under existing programs. This investment makes it possible for us to enjoy our great outdoors!

Relevant Agencies:

- Mt. Rose Ski Resort
- BLM
- USDA Forest Service
- United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)
- Vail Resorts (secondary, not within jurisdiction but still close by/used heavily by residents and tourists)

Relevant Data:

- **RSA**
- **DCA**
- **Reservoirs**
- **Lakes**
- **Truckee River**