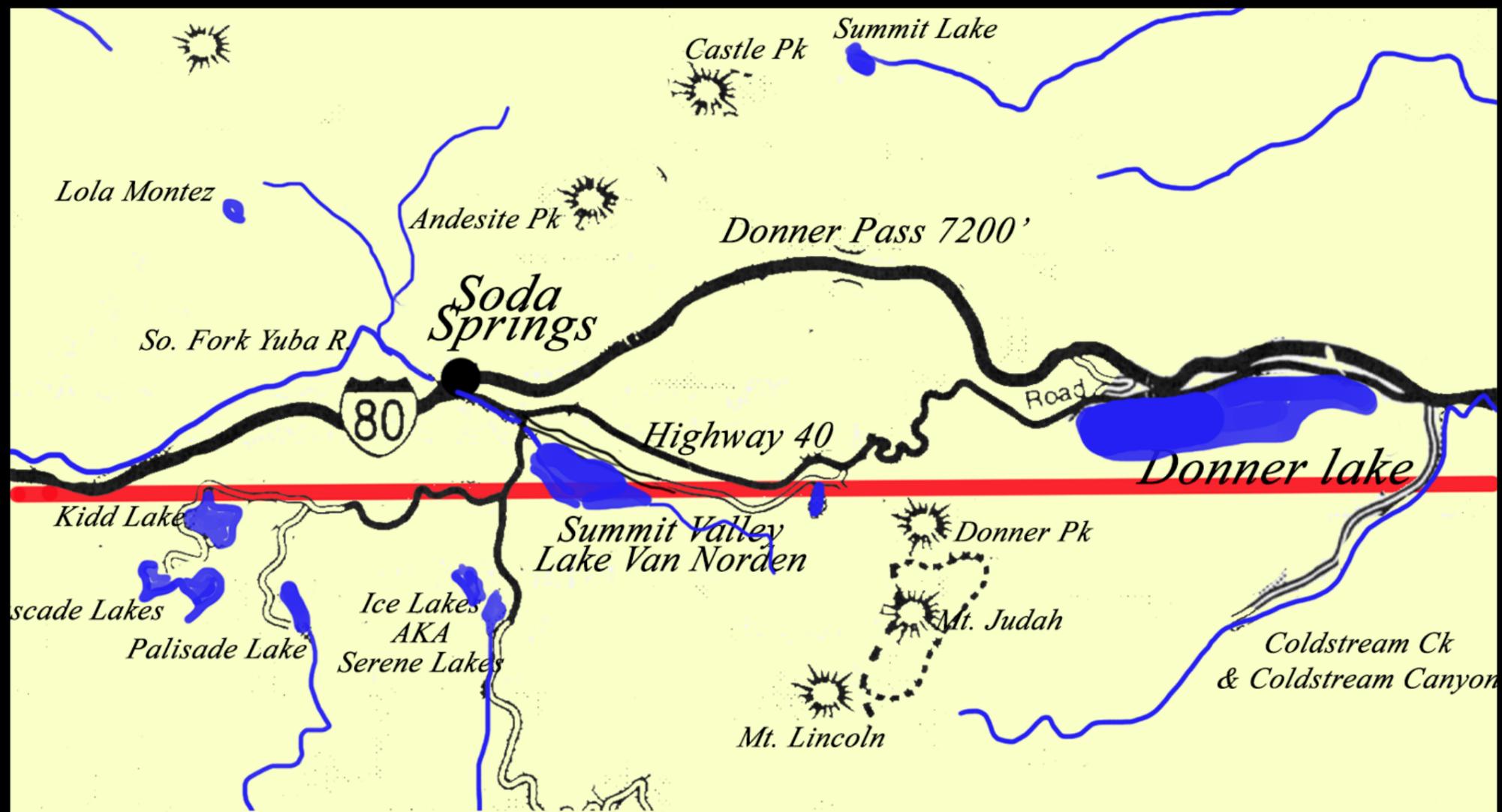


# How Did We Get Here?



DSA hosting a meeting about Donner Summit



# Donner Summit Area



# Summit Summit - 2006



## Summit Economic Revitalization

You will remember from our last issue that a Community Prosperity Summit was held at Sugar Bowl in November. It was presented by the Sierra Business Council and Sierra Watch, and sponsored by DSAA and SLPOA. If you want to reread the summary you can find it in our January newsletter which is on our website. Apparently it was more popular than I'd reported. I'd counted fifty people or so but the sign in sheets indicated that almost 90 people participated in at least part of the day long activities. The group was very varied with people representing all different outlooks and worked well together engaging in thoughtful dialogue and planning.

In late January, the Sierra Business Council's Steve Frisch reported formally on the results and provided a written summary report. The meeting at the Donner Trail School was hosted by DSAA. The report and other economic revitalization information can be found on the DSAA website. A few more than thirty people attended this meeting and they represented all parts of the Summit from Cisco to Sugar Bowl. Placer County and Nevada County planning departments were also represented.



Pat Malberg, DSAA president pictured here right, opened the meeting with a fine introduction. Then Steve Frisch, also pictured here at left below, took over and reported the results. There were a few big things the participants in November believed:

- Protect and maintain the natural resources that make the Old 40 corridor valuable: Ski area, rivers, trails, access to recreation
- Maintain the character - "funkiness" and don't move to "glitz"
- Any development needs to respect the character of the Summit
- We need to develop a sustainable year round economy. There has been a gradual deterioration of the economy over decades. Traditional commercial development is not valued, rather development that takes into account and preserves the natural resources and character. For example there would be no large scale lodgings or retail developments.
- We value the historic resources

The next part of Steve's report covered community planning p identified needs:

- Gateways to the Summit - how do people know when they are in the Summit?
- The lock of the Summit infrastructure needs to be improved
- There should be regular and special activities to connect people
- Summit's natural resources and history such as tours, races, activities, etc.
- Special events will attract visitors and help support the local economy
- Microbusinesses and tele-commuting can help make the Summit more vibrant
- We should be able to leverage the train using both its location and history
- Community center for public gatherings and to give a sense of community
- Core social services such as child care so people don't have to travel to other communities

Finally, what should be a long term plan for an economic revitalization?

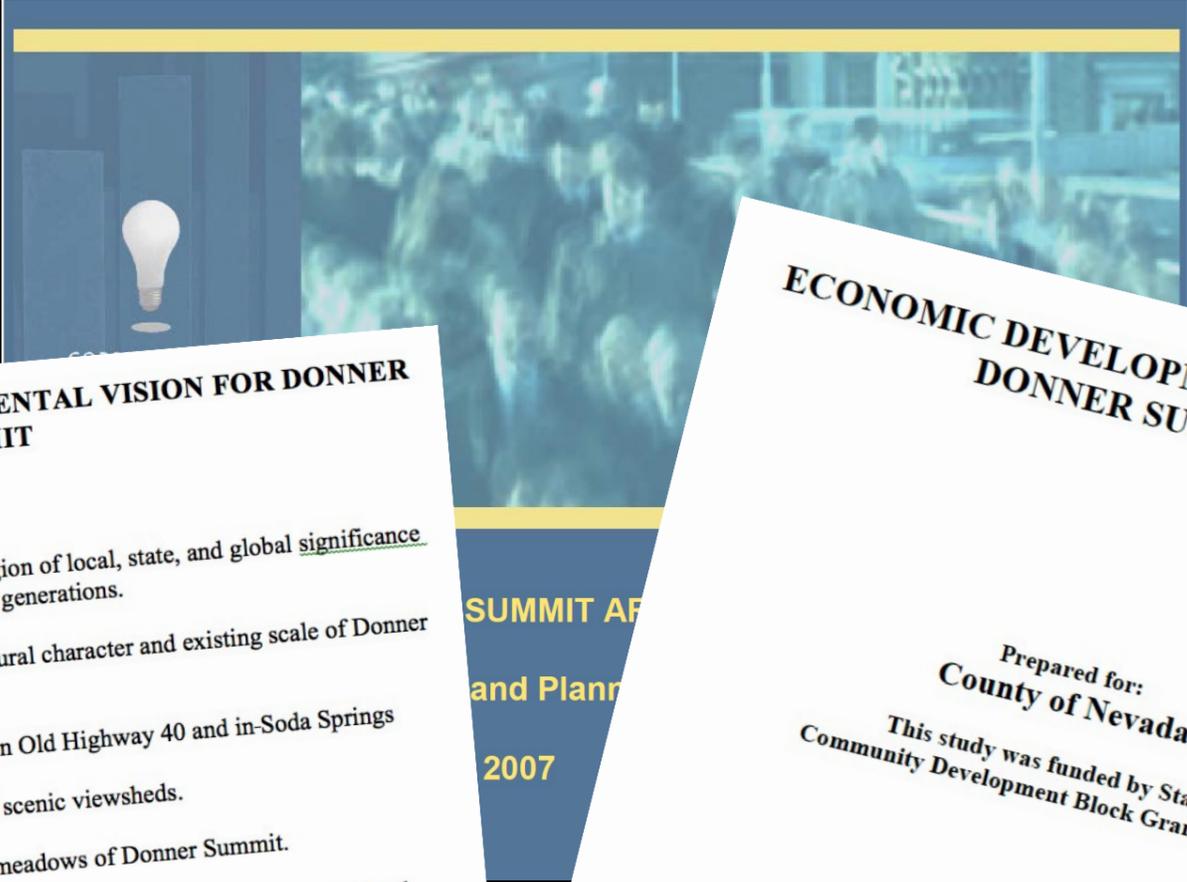
- Activities
- More businesses
- Host large events to capitalize on the Summit
- Use the current road highway rest stop to tour the area
- Encourage remote businesses
- Utilize the Summit's natural resources
- Attractions
- Gateway infrastructure

Steve said there is a lot of "will" among Summit residents. Preparatory interviews of local business owners prior to the Summit showed a great interest from Nevada County representatives. Ted Owens of Nevada County said:

We have little in the way of resources however. A lot of people are not commercial enterprises to support the people of the Summit from continuing its downhill slide.

## AN ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL VISION FOR DONNER SUMMIT

1. Recognize Donner Summit as a region of local, state, and global significance which must be protected for future generations.
2. Respect and maintain the rugged rural character and existing scale of Donner Summit communities
3. Focus commercial development on Old Highway 40 and in Soda Springs
4. Preserve natural open spaces and scenic viewsheds.
5. Protect the lakes, wetlands, and meadows of Donner Summit.
6. Protect and improve the health of the North Fork American and the South Yuba River Watersheds.
7. Sustain and enhance the health and viability of our forests.
8. Maintain and improve regional air quality and limit greenhouse gas emissions.
9. Protect and enhance the region's present and future biological diversity
10. Invest in conservation to protect the region from the impacts of climate change.
11. Preserve, protect and enhance the region's cultural and historical resources.
12. Maintain quality of and access to passive recreation on the Summit where it is consistent with the well being of the environment.



## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STUDY FOR DONNER SUMMIT

Prepared for:  
County of Nevada

This study was funded by State  
Community Development Block Grants Funds

June 2004

Prepared by:

**Pacific Group**  
318 Lansdale Avenue, Suite C  
Millbrae, CA 94030  
650-552-9488

in association with  
**Synthesis Design Group**



# SODA SPRINGS AREA PLAN COMMUNITY MEETING

**When:**  
Tuesday, December 2, 2014  
5:00 to 7:00 pm

**Location:**  
Clair Tappaan Lodge  
19940 Donner Pass Road  
Norden, CA. 95724  
(530) 426-3632  
\*\*\*Parking is available on the south side  
of Donner Pass Road

**Topic:**  
Historical, Recreational and  
Natural Resources

*For more information please contact:*

Nevada County  
Planning Department  
Larkyn Feiler, Associate Planner  
(530) 265-1254  
larkyn.feiler@co.nevada.ca.us  
www.mynevadacounty.com



The public process to develop the "Soda Springs Area Plan" is currently underway. This Plan will establish goals and development policies unique to the Soda Springs Area, with emphasis placed on the historic U.S. Highway 40 commercial corridor in Soda Springs. Active community participation in the development of the Soda Springs Area Plan genuinely reflects the community's vision. Please join us!



## Soda Springs Area Plan

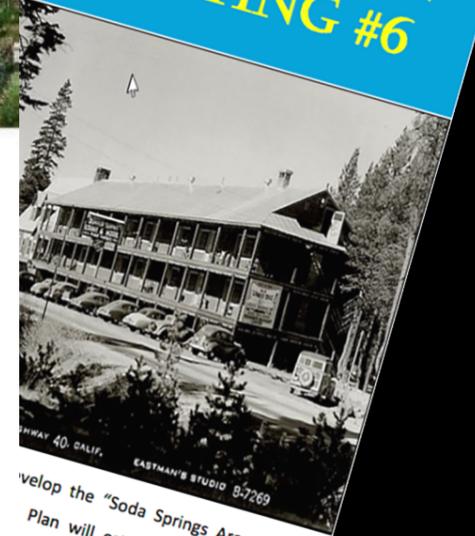
July 2016



Prepared by:  
Nevada County Planning Department  
in coordination with the  
Donner Summit Area Association



# SODA SPRINGS AREA PLAN COMMUNITY MEETING #6



The "Soda Springs Area Plan" is currently underway. This Plan will establish goals and development policies unique to the Soda Springs Area, with emphasis placed on the historic U.S. Highway 40 commercial corridor in Soda Springs. Active community participation in the development of the Soda Springs Area Plan genuinely reflects the community's vision. Please join us!



# DSA & Predecessors' Accomplishments

Annual Community Cleanups

July 3 Community Picnics

Area Plan Meetings

All Summit Survey 2007

Summit Summits I & II

Fire & Fire Prevention Seminar

Soda Springs Redevelopment Project



# DSA & Predecessors' Accomplishments

Community Prosperity Summit

Business Survey prior to Prosperity Summit

Conservation Assessment &

Planning Principles Seminar

Climate Change Workshop



# DSA & Predecessors' Accomplishments

## Economic & Conservation Vision for Donner Summit

Zoning changes for Soda Springs

Community meeting re: RV park

Economic Guiding Principles drawn up



# DSA & Predecessors' Accomplishments

Concert in the Tunnel

Meetings w/ski areas re: parking

Rural Design Workshop applic.

Residents' survey 2016

Construction of Donner Summit Hub  
& Dedication



And Then.....

# The Grants



# Welcome – Donner Summit Historic Gateway – 2016/2017

## Our First Grant

Phase I      \$6,000

Phase II     \$68,099



# Our Second and Third Grants

Visitors' Center Feasibility Study: \$29,629

Design Component: \$115,000

## Donner Summit Visitor Center Feasibility Study





# DONNER SUMMIT

PUBLIC USE, TRAILS AND RECREATION  
FACILITIES PLAN

*July 2021*



# Grant # 5 \$107,511





Grant # 6  
\$87,690

Grant # 7  
\$136,882





Grant #6 \$87,690

Grant # 7 \$136,882



Grant Funds Total: \$550,811

Matching funds req'd: \$55,000

Funds have leveraged hundreds of hours of  
volunteer and professional work

Grant Funds have leveraged almost \$150,000  
in Contributions toward grant work projects



# Many thanks to our partners:

Placer County

Nevada County

Sugar Bowl Resort

Donner Summit Historical Society

Serene Lakes Property Owners Association

Truckee Donner Land Trust

Soda Springs Mountain Resort

Boreal Mountain Resort

Nancy O Glass Gallery

United States Forest Service

Pacific Crest Trail Association

Donner Ski Ranch

Sierra Business Council

Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation





## Link to Recreation Plan

<https://donnersummit.squarespace.com/projects-information/2021/8/12/summit-summit-iii>





