

2019 Docent Program Hike Information

The primary focus of the hiking program this year is for hikers to acquire some information about the particular property and the checkerboard in general, identify some trees, and experience the beauty of nature.

Besides the information we have provided below, the Land Trust website has additional information under “Plan Your Visit” and “2018 Hiking Series” about each hike. Please feel free to use it to supplement the information that we have provided. In the Appendix, we have included the information that we prepared for last year’s docent program in case you would like to use it.

During the hike, you can cover some of the following information. Please DO NOT use all of it—that will be too much talking. You can do it at rest stops, at the turn around point (if applicable) and while walking. Use your judgement as to the interest of the group— and select the information that you think fits best. You may find that some people just want to hike and experience the area in their own way. You may choose to gauge people’s interest and preferred timing at the beginning of the hike and divide into groups.

The source material is from Land Trust and Northern Sierra Partnership websites and additional specific sources identified below.

Checkerboard

The “Sierra Nevada Checkerboard” is a mosaic spanning several thousand acres of land in public and private ownership, which resembles a checkerboard. This ownership pattern dates to the construction of the transcontinental railroad in the 1860s. As an incentive to build this dangerous and expensive railroad, the federal government offered railroad companies every other square mile of land along the route, reserving the rest to become National Forest. The square miles given to the railroad were sold to private owners to finance the railroad.

These private parcels of forestland could be converted to rural sprawl over the next 10 to 20 years, increasing congestion, decimating wildlife, and complicating fire management.

“Closing” this Checkerboard is a Land Trust priority

Property Information

Following is some information about each property, including information about the Land Trust’s involvement and some general information.

Please be familiar with this information so that you can give a less than 5-minute overview of the information sometime during the hike.