

An overlooked alpine lake nestled in the Sierra

By Jill Oberly, Reno Gazette-Journal

There could have been ski lifts carved out of the mountainside, and crisscrossing trails leading the way down to a European-style village nestled on the edge of a clear blue mountain lake.

A picture of ski resort perfection.

Instead, reality is a different kind of perfection. Crisp, cold water laps against a rocky shore. And on a recent weekend hike, there is not a soul in sight.

Only 10 miles from Truckee, Calif., Independence Lake feels as if it is worlds away. The alpine lake has remained relatively untouched and unknown.

A partnership between NV Energy and The Nature Conservancy was formed to make sure it stays that way.

“When you see it from the air, it is hard to believe that it is only 10 miles from Truckee and Interstate 80. It is so close but relatively unknown,” said Jeff Ceccarelli, senior vice president of energy supply at NV Energy.

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