

Donner statue on list to be upgraded



The Donner statue in Truckee may be refurbished. Photo/Sierra State Parks Foundation

The Sierra State Parks Foundation is looking at refurbishing the historic Donner Pioneer Monument.

The Donner Pioneer Monument, a designated California Historic Landmark, was dedicated on June 6, 1918, at Donner Memorial State Park in honor of the pioneer families who crossed the Sierra Divide in search for a better life. The monument was an effort conceived by local community representatives who formed the Donner Monument Committee including a contribution from the Legislature and finally achieved by the Native Sons of the Golden West in 1918.

A study in 2006 suggested the general condition of the pedestal base, pedestal and sculpture are in poor condition.

The parks foundation has commissioned an updated assessment report as the first phase of an ambitious project to restore the monument. Partnering with the Native Sons of the Golden West and California State Parks, plans include the restoration

of the monument base and bronze sculpture, sustainable landscaping, and the creation of an outdoor group pavilion to host education and community events.