

Dry Creek Meadow & Stream Restoration

Organization: Truckee River Watershed Council

Project Period: August 2019 – March 2021

Amount: \$80,696.94

Location: Dry Creek Meadow, Nevada County

Project Description: The Dry Creek Meadow and Stream Restoration project will restore and enhance 30 acres of mountain meadow habitat, 3,900 feet of perennial stream, and 500 feet of intermittent and ephemeral streams in an important headwater system. The Sierra Nevada meadows are a threatened habitat type, with an estimated 60-70% of all meadows impacted through past and present human use. Dry Creek watershed has experienced substantial human impacts, which have altered meadow and stream function. Restoration has been completed at two sites and this project will address degradation at four separate meadow and stream locations within the watershed. This project is a collaboration between the Truckee river Watershed Council, US Forest Service, and a private landowner, using \$360,000 of already secured leveraging funds.

Project Objectives:

1. Elevate groundwater table by filling 3,000 feet of incised channels, thereby restoring meadow hydrology;
2. Restore hydrologic function by moving streams out of current incised gully and into 4,400 feet of natural perennial and seasonal meadow channels;
3. Improve water quality and degraded aquatic habitat through decreasing erosion along 3,000 feet of current modified stream channel;
4. Provide resilience to climate change through improved meadow function and vegetation across 30 acres;
5. Reconnect natural drainages and meadows through removing 650 feet of dirt roads;
6. Improve ability of system to respond to dry periods by improving late season stream flow



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