

## Hope Valley Restoration and Aquatic Habitat Enhancement Project – Phases II & III

Organization: Alpine Watershed Group (AWG)

Project Period: October 2019 – December 2024

Amount: \$360,911.81

Location: West Fork Carson River, Alpine County

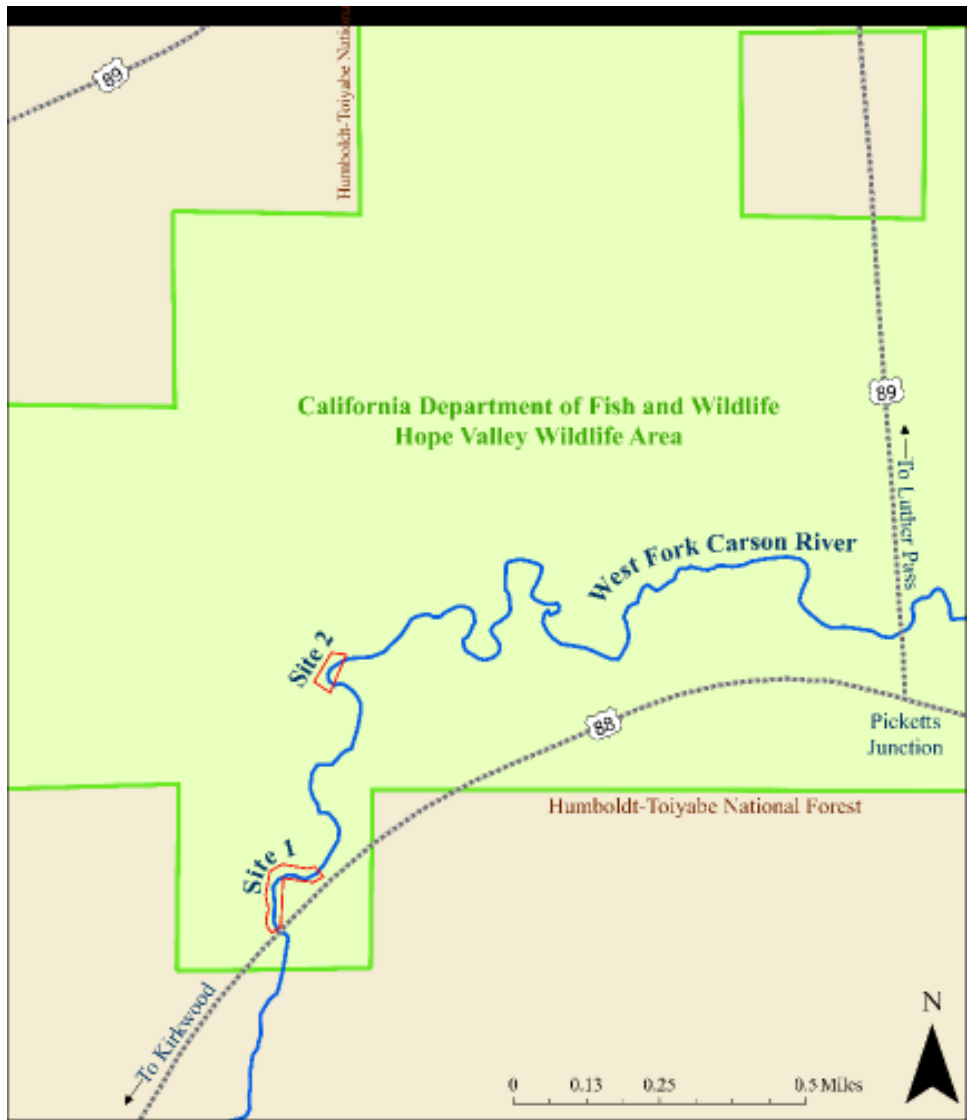
Project Description: This project will stabilize approximately 450 feet of eroding banks along the West Fork Carson River in lower Hope Valley and will help improve aquatic habitat within two specific reaches. Partners for this project are landowner California Department of Fish and Wildlife, American Rivers, Carson Water Subconservancy District, Friends of Hope Valley, Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board, US Forest Service, and the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California. At Project Site 1, a trench will be constructed behind the failing bank and filled with live sod blocks, willow stakes, and live shrub transplants, mimicking an abandoned oxbow feature. The river will continue eroding the failing bank, and in the meantime the willows and sod in the trench will have time to establish and serve as good habitat for birds and amphibians, eventually becoming vital fish habitat when the erosion pushes back that far. At Project Site 2, 6-8” conifer and willow cutting slash will be woven in between 10’-long slash anchor logs. These updates to the 2015 project will provide additional stability to divert stream energy from scouring behind the current log crib structure. At both project sites, erosion and sedimentation will be reduced, and stream shading will be increased.

Progress: The Alpine Watershed Group and the design consultant oversaw the completion of project construction in October 2020. They have since completed their first year of post-construction monitoring at the 2 project sites. Willow growth, sod growth, and access route recovery has been successful within the first year. Their monitoring data will be presented in the 2021 annual monitoring report that will be completed at the end of the year. Throughout the project, AWG has been continually providing public outreach through newsletters, signage, outreach cards, virtual public presentations, and youtube videos ([construction time-lapse video](#); [drone footage video](#))

### [2020 Annual Monitoring Report](#)

AWG created a [project webpage](#) and has created monthly newsletters:

- [January 2021 Newsletter](#)
- [March 2021 Newsletter](#)
- [September 2021 Newsletter](#)



**Map of project area. Project Site 1 is the first meander approx. 300 feet downstream of the Highway 88 bridge, and Project Site 2 is approx. half a river mile further downstream at the log crib/2015 American Rivers restoration site.**



**Project Site 1 before (above) and after construction (below) - restoration technique mimics an abandoned oxbow feature. A bench was created behind the failing bank and filled with live sod blocks, willow stakes, and live willow shrubs.**



**Project Site 2 before (above) and after construction (below) - updates were needed to divert stream energy from scouring behind the 2015 log crib structure so slash was installed at the ends of reach to add stability.**