

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

Organization: Alpine Watershed Group

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.

Geology and historic land use, primarily high grazing levels, have created unstable streambanks, increased incision and downcutting, and less viable aquatic habitat. In 2015, a stream bank restoration was completed along the West Fork of the Carson River within lower Hope Valley. In 2016, a second major restoration was completed further upstream. Both projects were planned and implemented by American Rivers, a national nonprofit organization with a California Headwaters program. This project will address the land between the two recently restored areas of the river, leveraging greater ecological benefit and larger areas of connection of

stream to meadow floodplain.



Log crib structure at American River Stream Bank Project Site

Hope Valley Stream Bank Stabilization Project

