

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

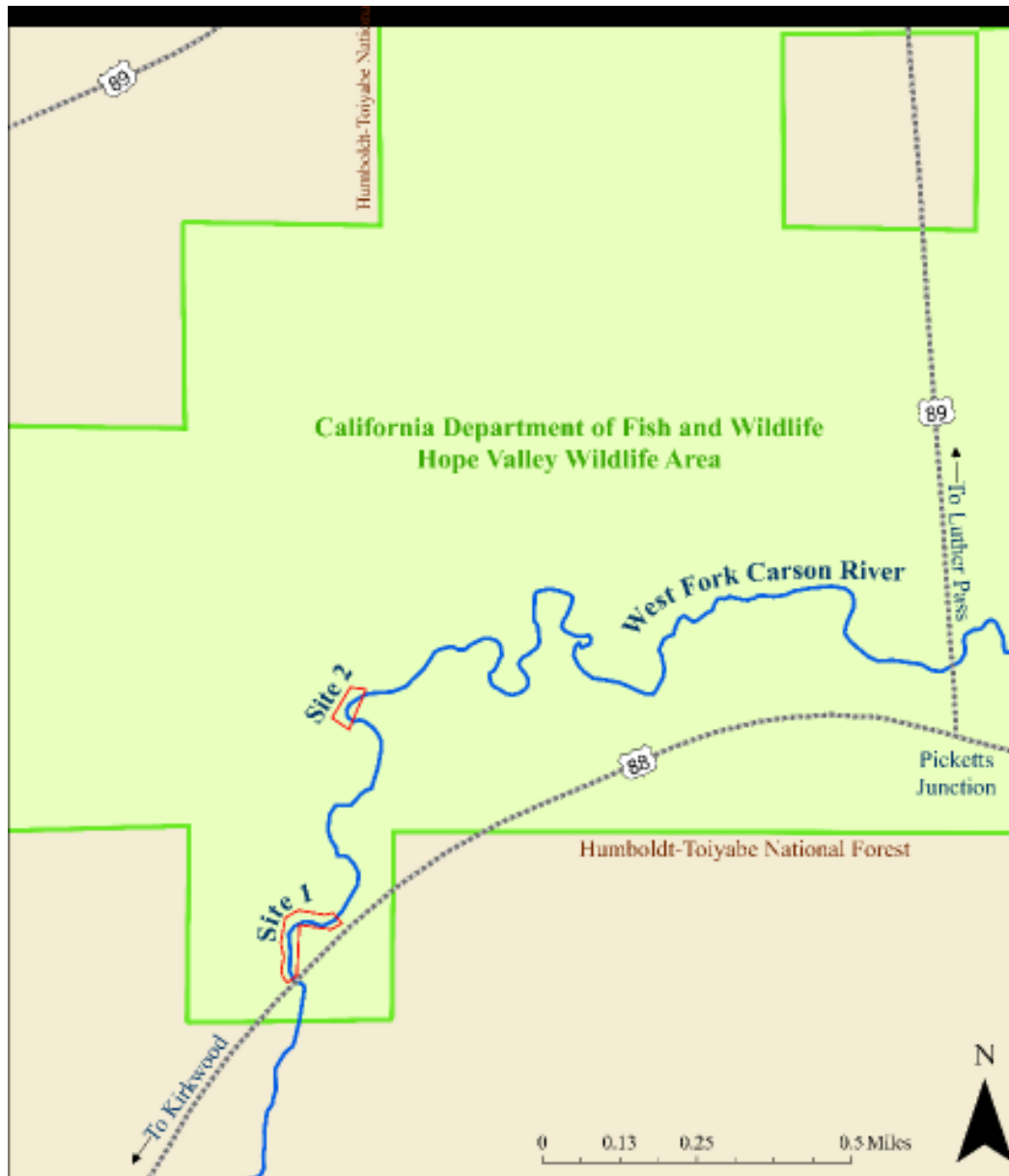
Location: West Fork Carson River, Alpine County

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 priorities for this quarter were to provide data collections as specified in the Monitoring Plan (water quality), have the California Rapid Assessment Method (CRAM) post-project survey completed, continue project outreach to keep community residents and visitors apprised, continue to work on finalizing Water Quality Objectives Reports, and continue formulating a plan for adaptive management projects with input from the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). AWG contracted C.S. Ecological

Surveys and Assessments to complete the CRAM post project survey. The survey was completed on August 6, 2024, and will be uploaded to EcoAtlas.

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



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.