



HOPE VALLEY AQUATIC HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECT

WHAT?

Restoration work in Hope Valley is a priority for Alpine Watershed Group (AWG). The Hope Valley Restoration and Aquatic Habitat Enhancement Project is a piece in the bigger puzzle of reconnecting the West Fork Carson River with its floodplain. Working toward the goal of a more functional river channel, this project complements work by American Rivers downstream in 2015 and upstream in 2016. The proposed project will stabilize approximately 450 feet of eroding banks on California Department of Fish and Wildlife land. The planning phase is funded by the State Water Resources Control Board.

WHERE?

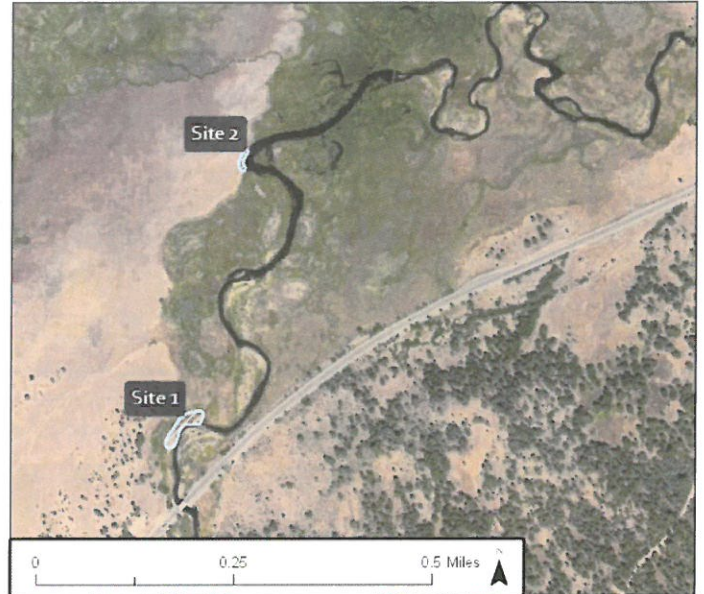
The project area consists of two meanders in lower Hope Valley. Site 1 is the first meander approximately 300 feet downstream of the Highway 88 bridge. Site 2 is approximately 0.5 miles farther downstream at the log crib/2015 American Rivers restoration site.

HOW?

Site 1 restoration techniques will mimic an abandoned oxbow feature by creating a trench behind the failing bank and filling it with live sod blocks, willow stakes, and live shrubs. In the interim the vegetation will serve as good habitat for birds and amphibians, and eventually it will provide vital fish habitat when the erosion pushes back that far. At Site 2, updates are needed to divert stream energy from scouring behind the 2015 American Rivers project, a log crib structure. A basic approach of installing slash (conifer and willow cuttings) at the ends of this reach will add the stability needed.

WHY?

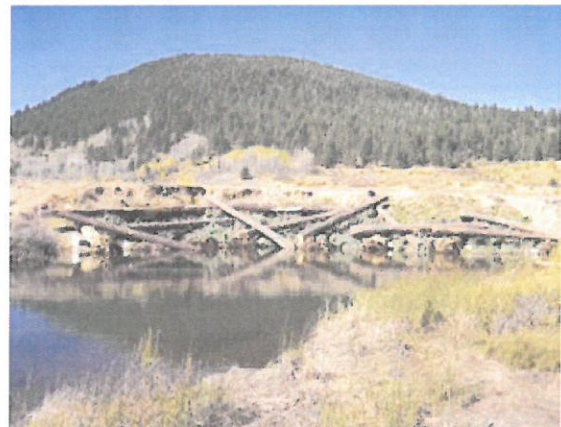
The project will reduce erosion and sedimentation and provide shading in the West Fork Carson River. This will result in improved water quality and aquatic habitat. By reestablishing a functional floodplain and meadow system, the project will also help to mitigate the potential long-term impacts of climate change.



Map depicts approximate locations of restoration sites



Site 1



Site 2: 2015 American Rivers restoration site

LEARN MORE: ALPINEWATERSHEDGROUP.ORG/RESTORATION

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HISTORY OF HOPE VALLEY

Hope Valley is a gem of Alpine County, California. The meadow was used for thousands of years by the Washoe Tribe for gathering food and materials as well as trading with other tribes. In the 1800s, Hope Valley became the crossroads for traveling pioneers who were seeking gold and silver. Eventually, settlers used the meadow as grazing land for their cattle. In recent history, Hope Valley has become a premiere destination for outdoor recreation. This area is well known for its popular fly fishing reaches, hiking trails, and cross country skiing tracts. Thanks to the hard work of local organizations such as Friends of Hope Valley, most of the land has been transferred into public ownership, resulting in the protection of this beautiful valley.



ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

The West Fork of the Carson River meanders through Hope Valley as illustrated in the photograph above. However, due to the high usage of the meadow over centuries, the stream banks and aquatic habitat have been degraded. The West Fork of the Carson River is listed as an impaired water body in California's Clean Water Act 303(d) list. This portion of the river is impaired due to sedimentation, total dissolved solids (TDS), turbidity, and fecal coliforms. Ongoing restoration projects in Hope Valley mitigate this historical damage.

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