

Alpine Watershed Group



PROTECTING THE HEADWATERS OF THE CALIFORNIA ALPS

*Mission: To protect, conserve, and restore the watersheds of
Alpine County by promoting sustainable community and
science-based collaborative solutions*

Master Gardeners — May 10, 2023



Currently hiring:
Forest Health Coordinator

September 2023–August 2024:
Two California Climate Action Corps
Fellows (AmeriCorps Program)

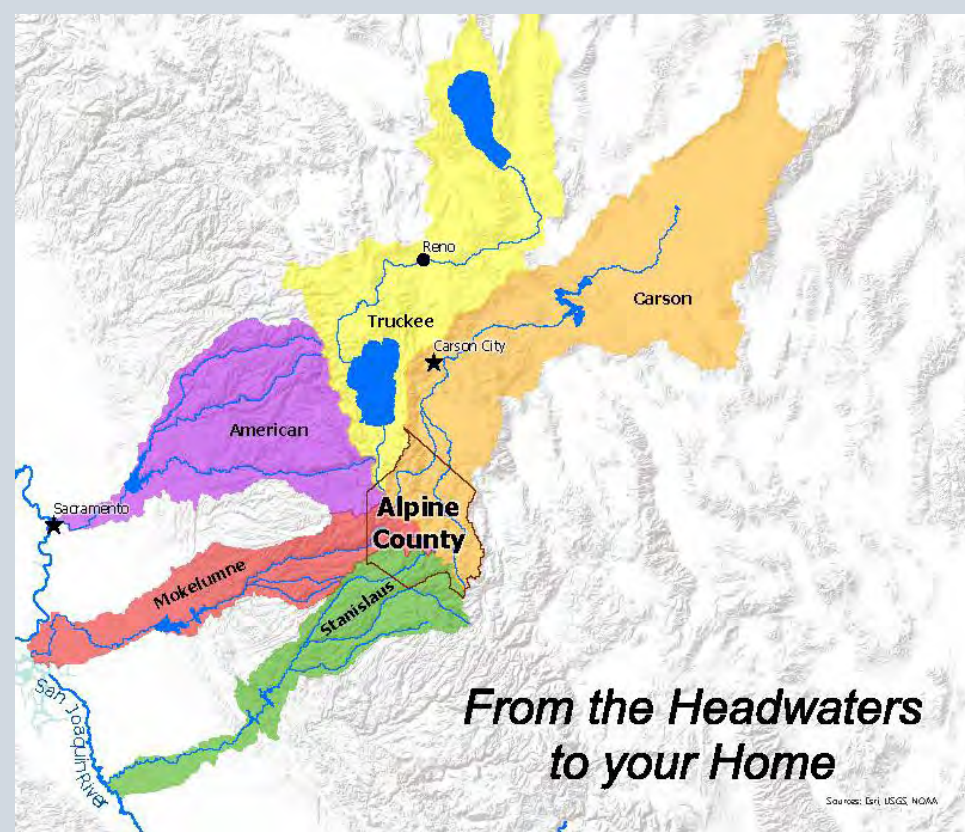
Staff

Kimra McAfee
Executive Director

Rachel Kieffer
Headwaters Coordinator



Headwaters of 5 Watersheds



Programs

- Monitoring
- Restoration
- Community Outreach & Education





May
2020



May
2023





What makes AWG so awesome? OUR VOLUNTEERS



What would make AWG more awesome? More volunteers!

Coordinating volunteers takes staff time, which requires funding.

2022 Volunteer Work

Event	Number of Volunteers	Volunteer Hours
River Monitors	20	84
April Tree Planting	47	211.5
May Tree Planting	65	260
Harmful Algal Bloom Monitoring	3	12
Death Ride	16	45
Markleeville Creek Day	52	156
Adopt-A-Highway Event	4	8 (second event in Creek Day hours)
Hope Valley Project Maintenance	3	6 (second event in Creek Day hours)
Total	210	782.5

Ongoing Programs

Monitoring

- River monitoring program*
- Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) monitoring*
- Post-fire at Grover Hot Springs State Park
- Aspen regeneration



Restoration

- Hope Valley Restoration and Aquatic Enhancement Project
- Faith Valley Meadow Restoration Project
- Musser and Jarvis Watershed*
- Tree planting in burned areas*
- Markleeville Creek Restoration Project

* Indicates volunteer program

Ongoing Projects

Community Work Days

- Markleeville Creek Day – September 23
 - Install erosion control (e.g., willow stakes)
 - Invasive species removal
 - Trash cleanup
- Adopt-A-Highway Cleanups – TBD
- Tree Planting – TBD



Outreach

- Tabling Events (Eagles and Agriculture, Earth Day, Death Ride)
- Forest Health Community Work Group
- West Fork Carson Vision Project

Previous Education Programs

- Trout in the Classroom
- Rivers and Ranches
- Classroom lessons and activities



River Monitors

- 8 sites in Upper Carson River watershed
- March, June, August, and September
- Trained to collect:
 - water temperature
 - dissolved oxygen
 - pH
 - conductivity
 - turbidity
- 19 years of data
 - AWG Annual Water Quality Objectives Report
 - California Environmental Data Exchange Network (CEDEN)



Harmful Algal Bloom Monitoring Red Lake

- Partnership with Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board
- May through November (weather dependent), starting in 2019



Surface scum

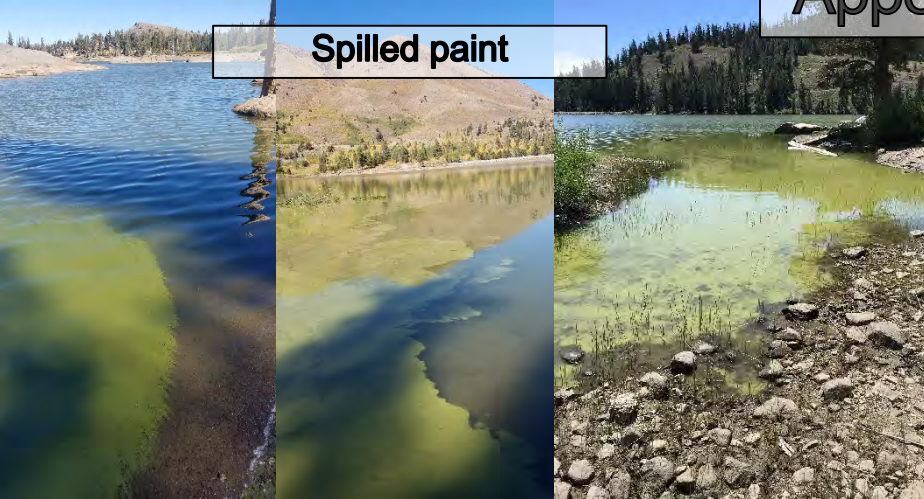


Spilled paint



HAB Visual
Appearances

Spilled paint

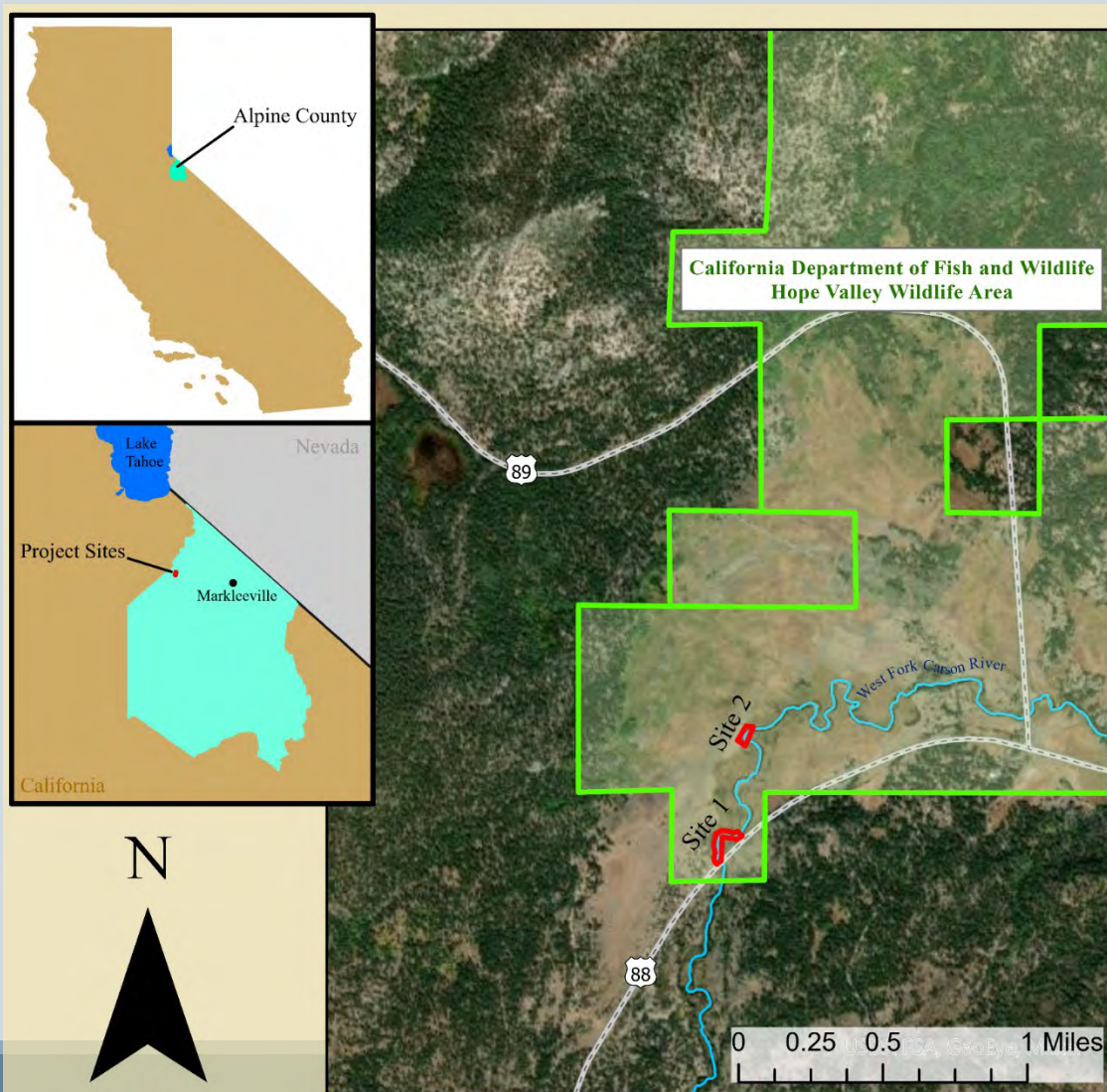


Discolored pea-green
colored water



State Water Board's California Harmful Algal Blooms Portal
<https://mywaterquality.ca.gov/habs/index.html>

Hope Valley Restoration & Aquatic Habitat Enhancement Project



Project Goals

- Help reduce erosion
- Improve water quality
- Enhance aquatic habitat

Hope Valley Restoration & Aquatic Habitat Enhancement Project

Project Site 1



Project Site 2



Hope Valley Restoration & Aquatic Habitat Enhancement Project – Site 1



Hope Valley Restoration & Aquatic Habitat Enhancement Project



Markleeville Creek Restoration Project



US Forest Service
Markleeville Guard Station

1930s – Floodwall built





1997

Markleeville Creek Restoration Project



Project Goals

- Relocate sewer infrastructure out of the floodplain
- Restore the natural stream channel and floodplain
- Provide public access and recreation features



Markleeville Creek Restoration Project



Heritage Park in April 2023



Gratitude for 2022 Funding

- Individual & Organization Contributions
- Grantors:
 - Alpine County Health & Human Services
 - American Rivers
 - Bently Foundation
 - California Alpine Club Foundation
 - California Department of Water Resources
 - The Campbell Foundation
 - Carson Water Subconservancy District
 - National Fish & Wildlife Foundation
 - National Forest Foundation
 - Sierra Nevada Conservancy
 - The Strong Foundation for Environmental Values
 - Trout Unlimited – Sagebrush Chapter

How do I get involved?

- Sign up for our newsletter at www.alpinewatershedgroup.org
- Follow us on Facebook and Instagram, subscribe to YouTube channel
- Markleeville Creek Day 2023 – Saturday, September 23, 9 a.m.





Questions?

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