

# Alpine Watershed Group

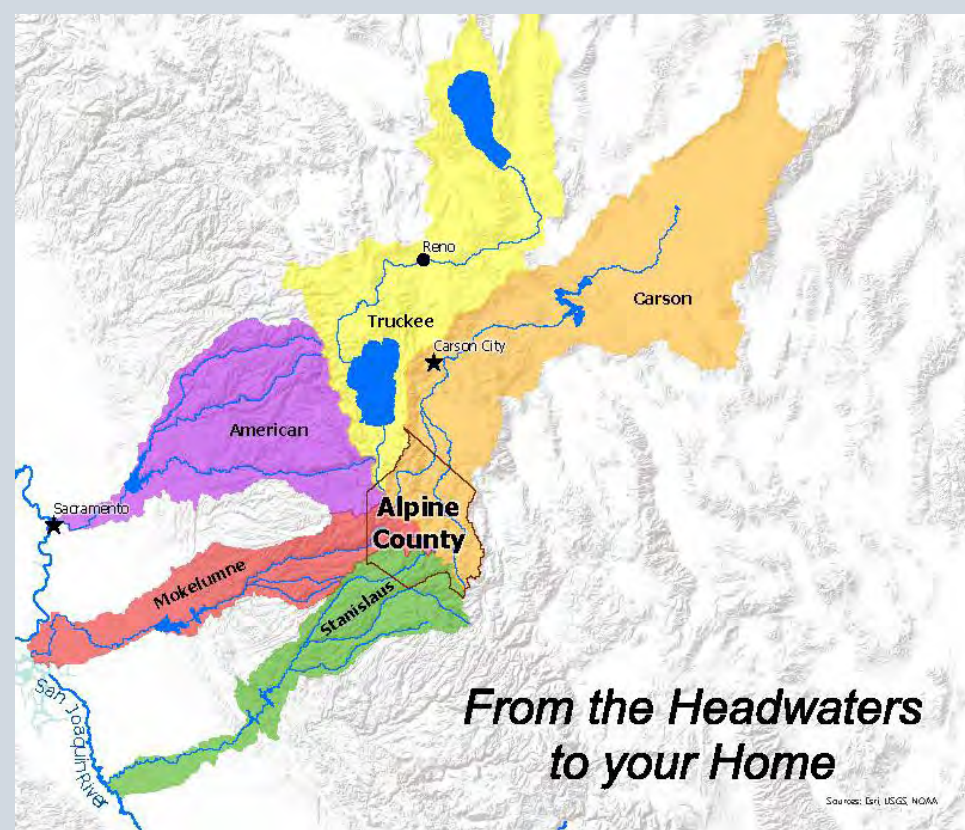


*PROTECTING THE HEADWATERS OF THE CALIFORNIA ALPS*

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

TU Sagebrush Chapter Meeting — September 12, 2023

# Headwaters of 5 Watersheds



## Programs

- Monitoring
- Restoration
- Community Outreach & Education





# Staff

Kimra McAfee  
Executive Director

Rachel Kieffer  
Headwaters Coordinator

Wes Mosley  
Forest Health Coordinator

*Sept. 2023–Aug. 2024:*  
Two California Climate  
Action Corps Fellows  
(AmeriCorps Program)

## Mission

*Alpine Watershed Group protects, conserves, and restores the watersheds of Alpine County by promoting sustainable community and science-based collaborative solutions.*

## Vision

*We envision a community that values and acts to protect, conserve, and celebrate the healthy, resilient watersheds of Alpine County.*



# Ongoing Programs & Projects

## Monitoring

- River monitoring program\*
- Harmful Algal Bloom monitoring\*
- Post-fire
  - Common Stand Exams
  - Early Detection and Rapid Response
- 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

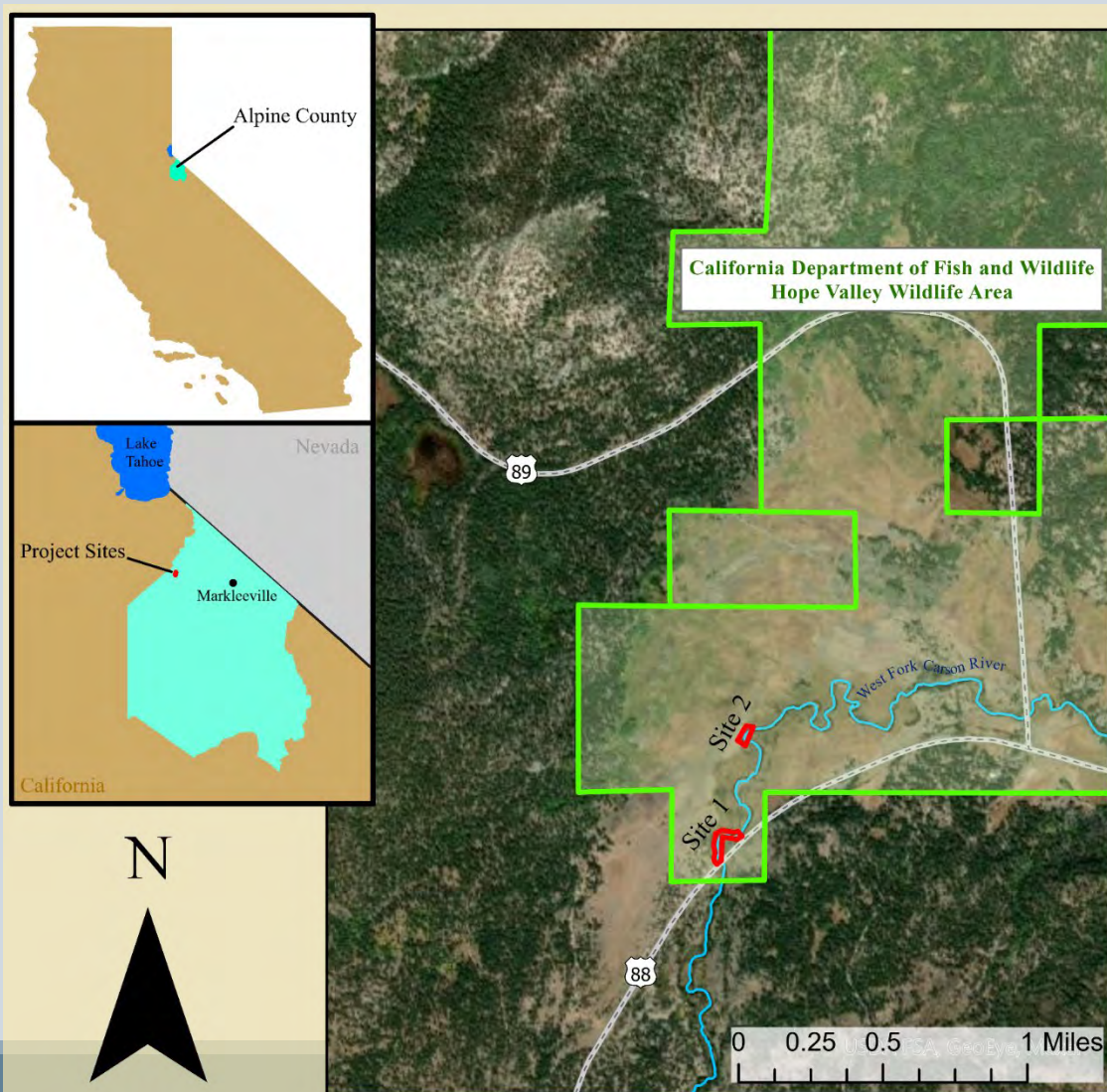


# River Monitors

- 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)



# 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

Site 1 and Site 2 as of August 2023



Site 1 is at 75% vegetation cover as of July 2023



Site 2 had some extensive damage due to high flows

# Markleeville Creek Restoration Project



US Forest Service  
Markleeville Guard Station

1930s – Floodwall built





1997

# Markleeville Creek Restoration Project



Heritage Park in April 2023



# 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



# Harmful Algal Bloom Monitoring Red Lake

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



Surface scum

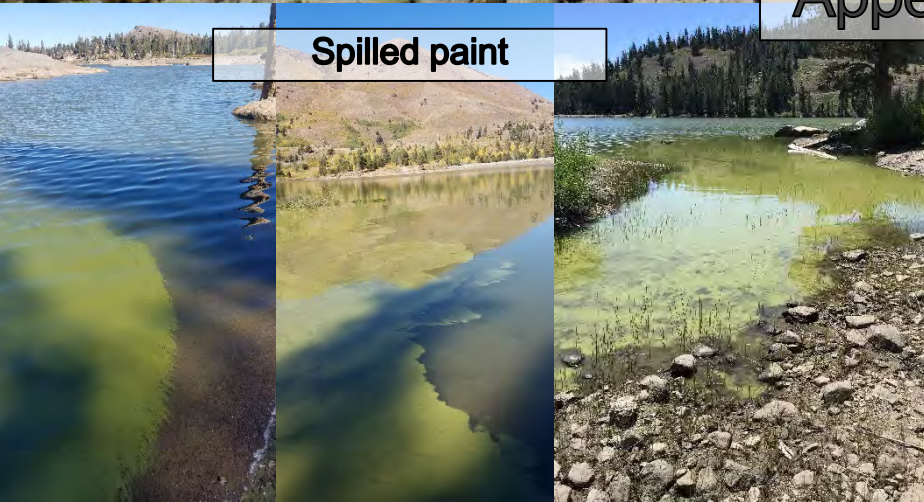


Spilled paint



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>





# Ongoing Projects

## Community Work Days

- Creek Day – September 23
  - Install erosion control (e.g., willow stakes)
  - Invasive species removal
  - Trash cleanup
- Adopt-A-Highway Cleanups – TBD
- Tree Planting – October 21



## Outreach

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

## Education Programs

- Snapshot Day
- Trout in the Classroom (Previous)
- Rivers and Ranches (Previous)



# New Projects

## West Fork Carson Prioritization Project

- State Water Board – \$250,000
- CWSD – \$83,350 (required 25% match)

## East Fork Carson Hot Springs

- Technical support from National Park Service Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program



## Forest Health Community Working Group

- Engaging our community to progress forest resilience
- Community field trips held on July 19 and August 26, 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)
<b>Total</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>782.5</b>

# Community Recognition

Carson Water Subconservancy  
District presented Alpine  
Watershed Group with the

*2022 Andy Aldax Award*

US Forest Service presented Alpine  
Watershed Group with the

*Forest Service 2022  
Volunteers Program*

*Citizen Stewardship and  
Partnerships Award*



# 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?

Creek Day 2023 – Saturday, September 23, 8:30 a.m.

Part of Great Sierra River Cleanup, National Public Lands Day, and the first annual Alpine County Washoe Mountain Gathering.

## MARKLEEVILLE CREEK DAY



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

\*Weather and air quality dependent

### PROJECTS INCLUDE:

- ★ Creek and Highway Cleanups
- ★ Building Beaver Dam Analogs
- ★ Willow Stake Installation
- ★ Vegetation Management

### REMEMBER!

Bring a water bottle and sun protection, and wear long sleeves, long pants, and closed-toed shoes

### Meet at Turtle Rock Park

17300 State Route 89  
Markleeville, CA 96120

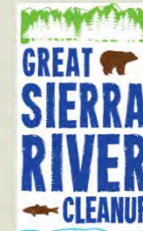
8:30 - 11:30 a.m.

SNACKS AND REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED

To RSVP, visit [alpinewatershedgroup.org](http://alpinewatershedgroup.org) and click on RSVP

Please RSVP for headcount and waiver

### THANK YOU TO OUR CREEK DAY SPONSORS!



Refreshments Provided By



[www.alpinewatershedgroup.org/creek-day](http://www.alpinewatershedgroup.org/creek-day) (530) 694-2327





# Other ways to get involved

- Sign up for our newsletter at [www.alpinewatershedgroup.org](http://www.alpinewatershedgroup.org)
- Follow us on Facebook and Instagram, subscribe to YouTube channel
- **Tree Planting** – Saturday, October 21





# QUESTIONS?

Headwaters Coordinator Rachel Kieffer – [avg.rachel@gmail.com](mailto:avg.rachel@gmail.com)

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