

Markleeville Creek Floodplain Restoration Project

Alpine Watershed Group (AWG) has partnered with Alpine County to design, construct, and maintain a restoration project on a section of Markleeville Creek in Markleeville, CA.

Project Goals

- Restore the natural stream channel and floodplain functions to enhance fish and wildlife habitat, treat stormwater runoff, and reduce flood impacts
- Provide public access and recreation features including walking trails and parking

Project Description

Markleeville Creek is a major tributary to the East Fork of the Carson River. The Markleeville Creek Floodplain Restoration Project is intended to re-establish the natural meandering form and functionality of Markleeville Creek at the site of the former Forest Service Markleeville Guard Station. The project will re-create the natural floodplain and riparian streamside habitat by removing the old bridge abutments, floodwalls, and artificial fill material; improving instream habitat with bioengineered habitat; and revegetating the site with native species. In addition to addressing the environmental restoration improvements, the project will also enhance public access with a new parking area and an ADA-accessible trail to a creek overlook.

Other Projects in the Area

- Caltrans replaced the bridge over Markleeville Creek in 2024. The floodplain restoration project revegetation will provide the mitigation required for this project.
- Markleeville Public Utility District (MPUD) constructed the Markleeville Sewer Pump Station Relocation and Improvements Project in 2025. This included decommissioning the sewer manholes on the west side of the creek that were located in the floodplain.

Funding Sources

2007 CA Department of Water Resources Urban Streams Restoration Program for preliminary design

2012 Sierra Nevada Conservancy for 95% design for restoration project and 90% for sewer project

2014 California Natural Resources Agency River Parkways for county to acquire property from USFS

2020 CA Department of Water Resources Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Implementation Grant for final floodplain restoration project design and some implementation components (Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014)

2025 Two Caltrans cooperative agreements with Alpine County: one for removal of the old bridge abutments; and the other for the rest of construction and project monitoring, to satisfy Caltrans' permit requirements to mitigate for tree removals that were part of the Markleeville bridge replacement project

