

MARKLEEVILLE CREEK RESTORATION PROJECT

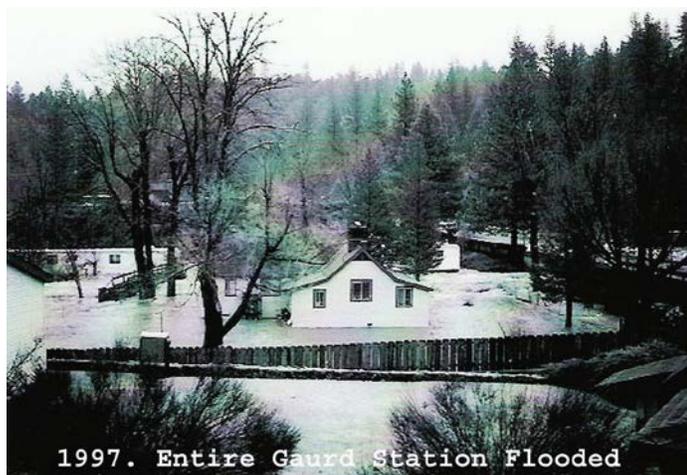
OVERVIEW

MAY 2012

The Alpine Watershed Group (AWG), in partnership with Alpine County, is leading the planning and design phases of a stream and floodplain restoration project on the former site of the U.S. Forest Service Guard Station in downtown Markleeville. Approximately five acres at the site have been identified for possible enhancement (see photo at right).

The site has been subjected to significant and repeated flooding over the years despite a floodwall system. In part due to the long history of flooding, the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) relocated their facility to Turtle Rock Park in June 2010, creating an opportunity for the re-establishment of natural stream processes and functions at the site.

(Photos at right and below) The floodwall was first constructed in the 1930s but was modified and expanded over subsequent decades as flood problems reoccurred. The major flooding event of January 1997 (bottom photo) destabilized the river bank at the downstream end of the site, threatening the Markleeville Public Utility District (MPUD) main sewer line and access road to the sewage treatment ponds that serve the community.



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) has identified two overarching project goals:

- Restore the site's natural stream channel and floodplain form and function
- Provide community enhancements that benefit local residents and tourism values.



(Photo at left) The design team is exploring options with MPUD that could relocate the aging sewer lines out of the floodplain and improve/relocate the lift station.

(Continued on next page)

MARKLEEVILLE CREEK RESTORATION PROJECT



PROJECT DESCRIPTION (CONTINUED)

(Photo at left) The project intends to restore the low lying portion of the property to a riparian area by removal of the floodwall, relocation of utilities, grading to reshape natural contours, and re-vegetation.

Other important features in various parts of the site may include elements of public access for recreation and interpretation, such as walking paths, signage, picnicking and possibly parking.

PLANNING AND PARTNERSHIPS

The Markleeville Creek Restoration project has been identified as a priority restoration project for the Upper Carson River Watershed in three planning and assessment documents – the Upper Carson River Watershed Stream Corridor Condition Assessment (2004), the Carson River Watershed Adaptive Stewardship Plan (2007) and the Carson River Watershed Floodplain Management Plan (2008). The project has also been incorporated into the Tahoe Sierra Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (Tahoe Sierra IRWMP). Over the past several years, AWG and project partners have obtained grant funding for several project components:

- initial planning and design (completed May 2007)
- final planning and design (initiated January 2012)
- water quality and aquatic habitat monitoring with volunteer support (ongoing since 2006.)

AWG has been working with its TAC that represents

various community interests and regulatory agencies. In particular, AWG is working closely with the USFS, Alpine County, and MPUD seeking joint opportunities that would be beneficial for all. The USFS is preparing to transfer ownership of the land as stated in a Memorandum of Understanding between the USFS and Alpine County. In March 2011 the Alpine County Board of Supervisors reached consensus to support the restoration of the land. Alpine County has submitted a Federal Townsite Act application to acquire the land at fair market value for the purpose of restoration. Alpine County is providing planning support, will be the lead agency for environmental review (CEQA compliance), and will oversee construction and management as the eventual landowner. The MPUD is coordinating with restoration designers in the assessment of the sewer system conditions, constraints, and opportunities. AWG, in collaboration with MPUD, is exploring funding options for implementation, including needed sewer system improvements.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT



AWG and our project partners encourage community involvement in the Markleeville Creek Restoration project. We will hold community meetings about the project during 2012-2013 and discuss the project at upcoming board meetings (i.e., MPUD, AWG, and County Board of Supervisors). Please look for meeting notices so you can let us know about your ideas, desires, priorities, and concerns. If you have questions or need additional information please contact AWG's Senior Watershed Coordinator, Sarah Green (at 530-694-2327 or watershed@alpinecountyca.gov). Visit our website at: http://www.alpinecountyca.gov/watershed_group.