December 2018



We each feel so incredibly fortunate to have the opportunity to work in Alpine County. Golden fall was breathtaking, but there aren't even words for winter's beauty. As the year winds down, we'd like to thank this warm community for welcoming us to this amazing place. We are grateful for your help and your support, and we are excited for all we can do together for Alpine County's watersheds in 2019.

A big thank you to everyone who has already made a year-end donation to support our restoration, education, and research efforts! Read on for details on what we've been doing and what we have planned for the new year. If you have not yet done so, please help AWG continue to protect the rivers, meadows, and forests in Alpine County by making your donation today. You can also support AWG every time you shop at Amazon by using AmazonSmile.

DONATE

Getting Things Done in 2018



In 2018, Alpine Watershed Group hosted 261 volunteers who contributed over 950 hours of work on restoration and monitoring projects as well as at education and outreach events. Nearly half of these volunteers helped to make April's Earth Day and September's Creek Day both wildly productive and fun. Spread throughout the year, monitoring projects were also a big draw, with 75 dedicated folks carrying out quarterly ambient monitoring plus photo monitoring projects—collecting valuable baseline data so we can better understand the health of our watersheds. Our small staff's capacity to lead volunteers, teach local students, and table at events was greatly increased thanks to a very special sort of volunteer—our AmeriCorps members. Part of AmeriCorps service is keeping detailed records, through which we know that AWG AmeriCorps efforts increased the watershed awareness of 206 folks this past year!

This year AWG wrapped up the Markleevillage Fuels Reduction Project, decreasing the fire fuel load on 234 acres around Markleeville. We also led a Technical Advisory Committee to work toward final plans for restoration of another reach in Hope Valley. We successfully restarted our Restoration and Monitoring Committee. Our tremendous volunteers and dedicated board members empowered our new staff to smoothly get up to speed, thanks to the incredible foundation built by our staff who moved on this year.

Diamond Valley School Presentation

On November 15, Outreach and Education Coordinator Shauna Langan had the wonderful opportunity to present to the 5th-8th graders at Diamond Valley School about plastics in our waterways. The students are working on National Geographic's GeoChallenge, coming up with ways to get rid of the amount of trash which flows into rivers and, in most cases, the ocean. During this talk, Shauna was particularly impressed by the thoughtful questions that the students asked. Her goal was not so much to present as to engage the students in a conversation by posing questions and making comments related to the topic. Shauna looks forward to the opportunity to explore more about watersheds inside and outside of the classroom throughout this school year.

The Buzz from the Restoration & Monitoring Committee



Marina Vance, our recently "graduated" AmeriCorps member, did a super job of assembling an incredibly knowledgeable group of people for our Restoration and Monitoring Committee. The committee has hydrologists, a State Water Board staff member, past AWG watershed coordinators, and well-informed citizens. In December our newly reformed committee had its second meeting. We took a careful look at the current ambient river monitoring program with the goal of increasing our data's quality and meaningfulness. In 2019 we will continue our discussion on adding more sites, collecting data more frequently, and updating our equipment. We are looking forward to strengthening our monitoring program and to sharing analyses of our data with our community.



Just Around the Corner – 2019 Projects

- Hope Valley Restoration & Aquatic Habitat Enhancement Project – construction anticipated to begin in summer 2019
- Faith Valley & Forestdale Meadow – community members will be invited to learn about the site assessment and discuss this American Rivers project

- Grover Hot Springs State Park – interpretive signage will be installed along the new ADA accessible trail
- Pharmaceuticals and Personal Care Products (PPCPs) – Year Two Monitoring
- Upper Carson River Watershed – AWG will embark on a 2-year planning effort to build partnerships, collect data, and prioritize watershed issues to develop restoration plans
- Earth Day in April and Creek Day in September – details in future newsletters

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Thank You, Bill Johnson!



On behalf of AWG and Friends of Hope Valley, AWG Board Members Zach Wood and Dan Kaffer recently presented former AWG Board Member Bill Johnson with a plaque in recognition of his outstanding conservation work. We are so grateful for all of your help, Bill. Thank you!

Bill's contributions include:

- hydrology project management and consultation on the East Fork Carson River Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) and Markleeville Creek restoration projects
- donation of hundreds of hours of professional hydrology services on past and future projects in Hope Valley and across Alpine County's watersheds
- acting as a true project "closer" and going beyond the normal duties of a nonprofit board member

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WANDER YOUR WATERSHED

Try the Other Side (of Alpine County)

Over the crest of the Sierra Nevada on Highway 88 is the small community of Kirkwood. The Kirkwood Cross Country and Snowshoe Center offers 60 kilometers of machine-groomed trails. Trails circle around Kirkwood Meadow crossing Kirkwood Creek several times. Other trails follow Caples Creek, climbing up and down various challenging terrain. Both creeks flow into the American River, one of the five rivers with headwaters in Alpine County. The most scenic trails go to the top of the trail to Coyote Pass, which affords incredible views of the western slopes, Desolation Wilderness, and Carson Pass.



Upcoming Events

Alpine Biomass Collaborative (ABC)
Tuesday, January 8, 2019, 6-8 p.m.
Turtle Rock Park
ABC, along with many organizations in the community, will be looking at maps and discussing areas in Alpine County that are a priority for fuels reduction and forest health projects. **Note: AWG is participating in this meeting in lieu of hosting our usual bi-monthly group meeting.**

Alpine Trails Association (ATA)
Saturday, January 26, 2019, 9 a.m.
Alpine County Library in Markleeville
ATA's quarterly meeting will include a discussion of trail building and maintenance plans for 2019. A huge thank you to the ATA volunteers who contributed 1,200 hours of labor in 2018 to enhance Alpine County's wondrous trail system!



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