Creek Crossing Signage

The Creek Crossing Signage Project, an effort to identify Placer's streams and rivers, involves placing blue-and-white metal signs with streams' names, a uniform logo, "No Littering No Dumping," and where appropriate, "Salmon Habitat" on them, throughout the unincorporated area of the County.

With over 1000 miles of rivers and streams flowing through Placer County, most residents would be hard pressed to name and locate many of them.



Now, Placer County's waterways will receive the recognition they deserve.

By knowing the names of the streams we drive across every day in our communities, citizens of, and visitors to, Placer County will gain a sense of ownership and protectiveness. Signage will also help educate the public about their role in water quality and protection of critical fisheries habitat.

The logo used for the creek crossing signs was designed by a local graphic designer. Signs are fabricated by County staff and installed by County crews. The sign template has also been made available at no cost to other jurisdictions that may wish to start a similar program utilizing the creek sign logo. The City of Roseville is installing creek crossing signs using the oak leaf logo and color scheme.

South and West County Watersheds

With partial funding through a California Bay-Delta Authority (CALFED) grant, 53 crossings in the western and southern portions of the county were signed in 2005. The small creeks may only have one or two signs at road crossings while some of the larger creeks have up to six at major road crossings.

Signage has been installed along the following creeks:

- Antelope Creek (Penryn)
- Auburn Ravine (Auburn/Ophir)
- Bear River (North Auburn)
- Coon Creek (Garden Bar)
- Doty Ravine (Garden Bar)
- Dry Creek (West Roseville)
- Linda Creek (Granite Bay)
- Markham Ravine (Lincoln)
- Miners Ravine (Granite Bay/Penryn)
- Secret Ravine (Penryn)
- Yankee Slough (Sheridan)



East County Watersheds

Placer County was awarded \$15,000 in <u>Sierra Nevada Conservancy</u> Proposition 84 funding to assist with the expansion of the signage program countywide. The County's contribution is \$7,400 for a total project cost of \$22,400.

A total of eighty signs will be placed at 40 different creek crossings stretching from Auburn to Squaw and Martis Valleys near Lake Tahoe.

While not as heavily populated as the urbanized areas of western Placer County, the east county sees millions of visitors on a year-round basis biking, camping, snow skiing, snow boarding, horseback riding, fishing, water recreating, ice-skating, and hunting in the Sierras. The Truckee River system in particular is internationally renowned for its recreational trout fishery.

Signage is planned along the following creeks:

- Bear Creek (Alpine Meadows)
- Bear River (Colfax)
- Blue Canyon Creek (Blue Canyon)
- Canyon Creek (Gold Run)
- Devil's Canyon (Foresthill)
- Indian Creek (Iowa Hill)
- Little Bear River (Alta)
- West Martis Creek (Martis Valley)
- North Fork American River (Auburn)
- Owl Creek (Foresthill)
- South Yuba River (Cisco Grove)
- Squaw Creek (Squaw Valley)
- Todd Creek (Foresthill)
- Truckee River (Tahoe-area)
- Wooley Creek (Meadow Vista)



Signs installed at the above crossings will have the same layout as signs in the south and west County, but will feature a cottonwood leaf rather than an oak leaf.

Residents' increased stream and watershed awareness will assist local cities and Placer County meet their collective goals of restoring and protecting water quality and fisheries habitat. On a daily basis, Placer County deals with erosion issues that cause sedimentation in our streams, rivers, and for many, ultimately the harbors and estuaries of San Francisco Bay.

At all levels of government there has been an increased push towards the protection and restoration of riparian and aquatic habitats (including anadromous and native resident species), protecting watershed integrity, improving water quality, improving wildlife habitat, and improving the ecological functioning of the watersheds. The creek signage program furthers these goals and as further development occurs, the impact on our natural resources is given a higher level of consideration.