**The ForesthillBridge,California**

The second highest bridge in the world upon its opening in 1973, the Auburn-Foresthill bridge is still among the 5 highest bridges in the United States. Although it is no longer even among the 65 highest bridges in the world, the 730 foot (223 mtr) high green giant still has the distinction of being the world’s highest cantilever bridge.

Ironically, the Auburn Foresthill bridge was built to cross a reservoir that never ended up being constructed! In the early 1970s, foundation work began on the 685 foot (209 meter) high Auburn dam east of Sacramento, California on the East Fork of the American River. Due to the huge reservoir that was expected to form behind it, engineers decided to reroute traffic across a tall bridge over the lake’s wide North Fork. After 3 years of construction, the huge cantilever span was opened in May of 1973. The dam, however, was permanently halted due to a series of unforeseen seismic studies, excessive cost overruns and other political and environmental concerns. While the bridge has become very useful to the small mountain communities in and around Foresthill, it ultimately would never have been financed without the planned reservoir. One casualty of the dam’s cancellation was an amazing cable stayed bridge that was planned for a site near Ruck-A-Chucky rapids that would have crossed the river several miles upstream from the Auburn-Foresthill bridge. Curving a full 180 degrees as it crossed the reservoir, the entire roadway would have been supported by a massive web of cable stays terminating into the mountainside. The complete lack of any towers or pier supports would have made it one of the most photogenic cable stayed bridges in the world. Hopefully the unique design will someday be used for a real bridge.

For more about this bridge click this link

<http://highestbridges.com/wiki/index.php%3Ftitle%3DAuburn-Foresthill_Bridge>