



## One Water and Stewardship Committee

Update on proposed agreements with the Plumas Community Protection I Forest Resilience Bond LLC, North Feather I Forest Resilience Bond LLC, and Upper Butte Creek I Forest Resilience Bond LLC to establish watershed partnerships and forest health pilot investigations in the Northern Sierra Nevada; each agreement will not exceed \$200,000 per year for a maximum of two years

Item 9-2

August 19, 2024

## Item 9-2

### Update on Proposed Watershed Agreements

#### Subject

Update on proposed agreements with the Plumas Community Protection I Forest Resilience Bond LLC, North Feather I Forest Resilience Bond LLC, and Upper Butte Creek I Forest Resilience Bond LLC to establish watershed partnerships and forest health pilot investigations in the Northern Sierra Nevada; each agreement will not exceed \$200,000 per year for a maximum of two years.

#### Purpose

The proposed watershed agreements would help Metropolitan assess the potential benefits and value of investments in watershed health through pilot investigations, while advancing the relevant science and building relationships within the watersheds.

#### Next Steps

Staff will return to the One Water and Stewardship Committee in September with an Action letter and oral report.

# Overview

- Three proposed Pilot Investigations at a maximum of \$200,000 each in FY's 2024/25 and 2025/26
  - Upper Butte Creek I Forest Resilience Bond LLC
  - North Feather I Forest Resilience Bond LLC
  - Plumas Community Protection I Forest Resilience Bond LLC
- Funding would come from approved Bay-Delta science budget
- Objectives are to evaluate potential benefits to Metropolitan, advance science, and develop watershed partnerships

## Update on Proposed Watershed Agreements



# Watersheds Provide Valuable Ecosystem Services



**Water  
Quality**



**Water  
Supply**



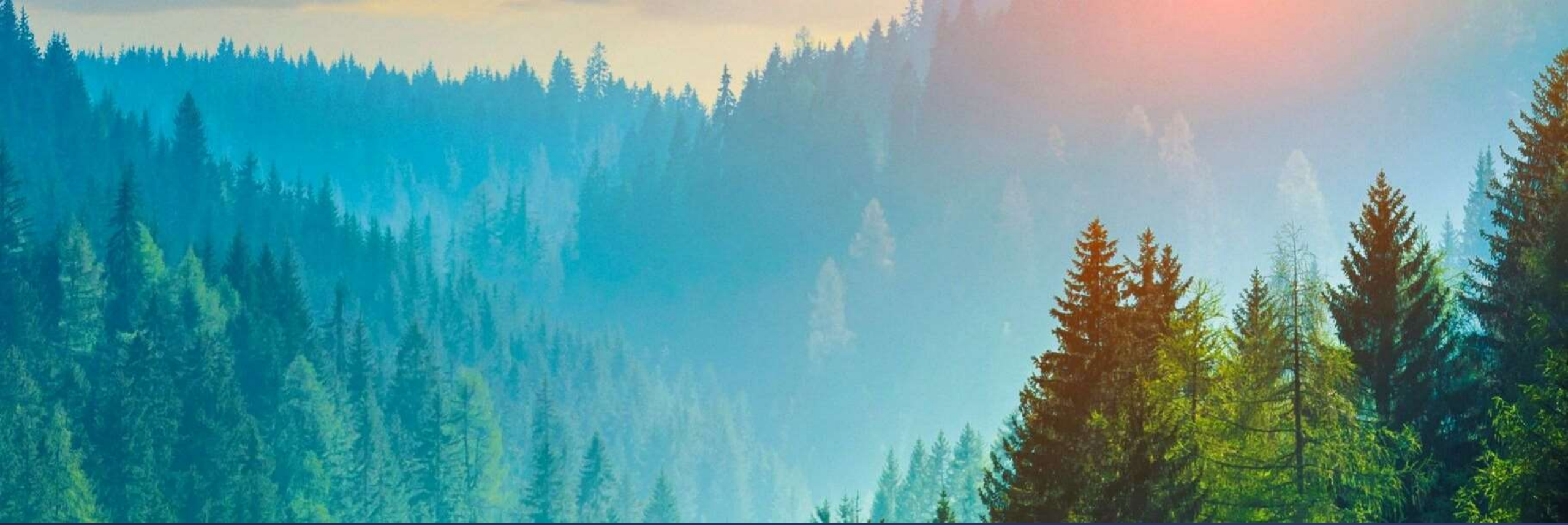
**Fire  
Protection**



**Carbon  
Security**



**Habitat &  
Biodiversity**

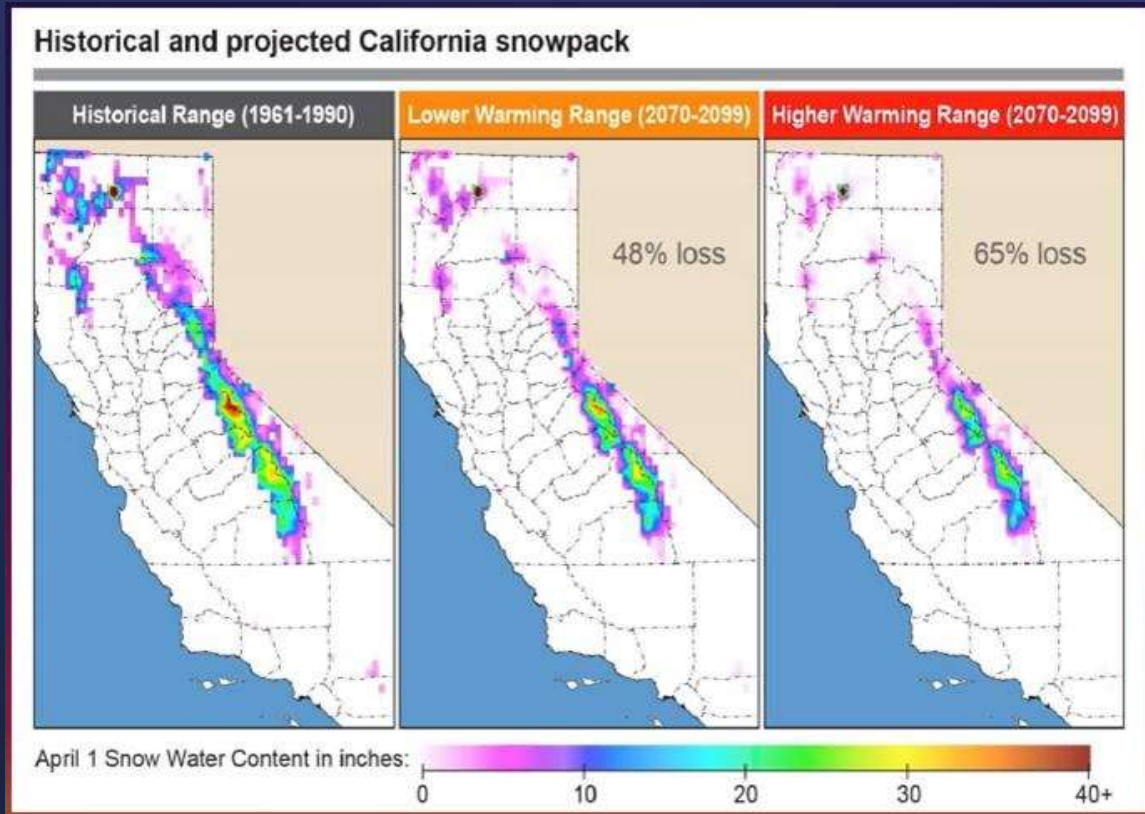


# Background

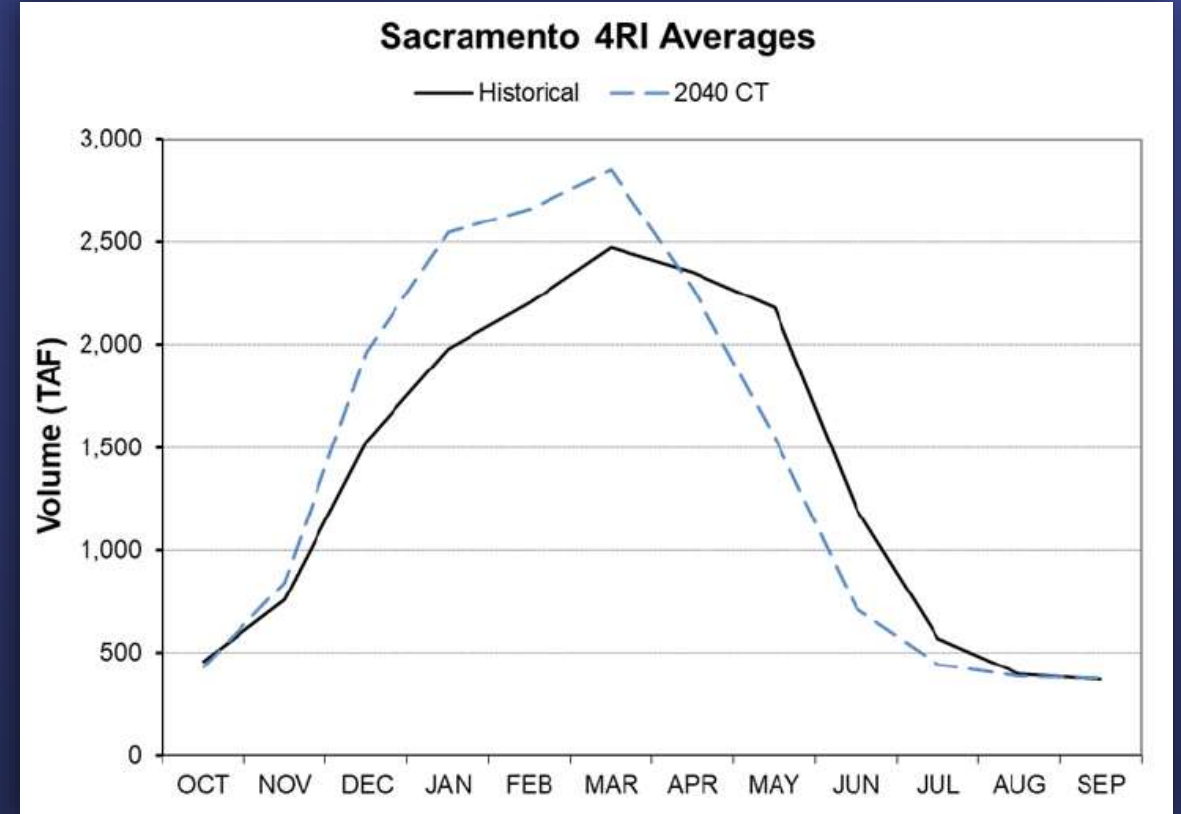


# Modeling California's Water Supply

Significant Changes in Snowpack and Runoff Timing and Quantity are Projected

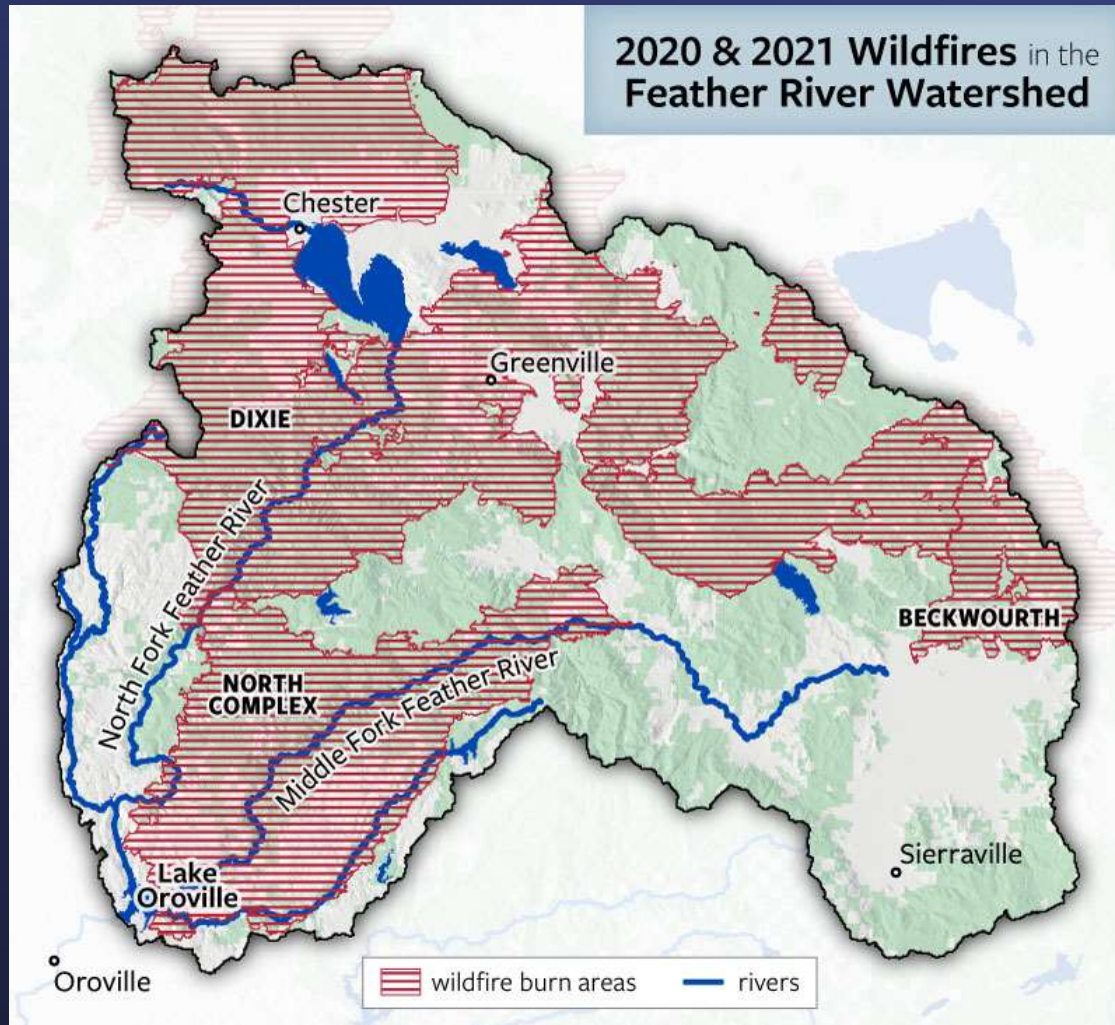


Source: CA Department of Water Resources



Source: Delta Conveyance Project EIR

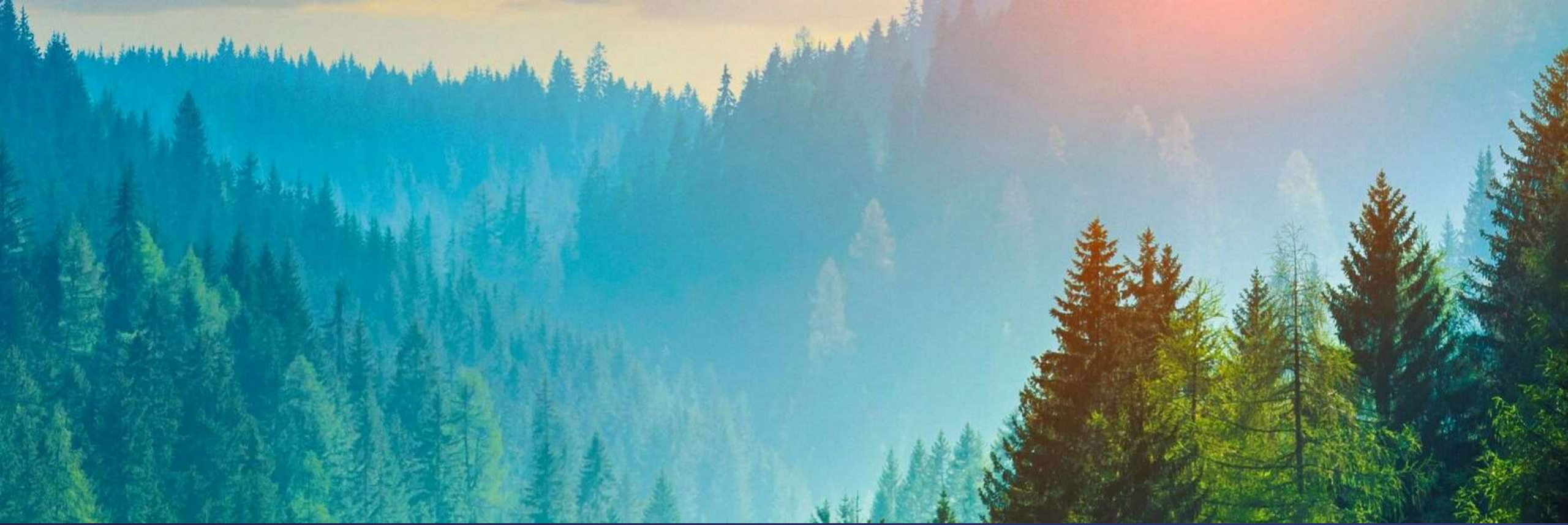
# Feather River Watershed Forest Health



Source: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

- The frequency, size, and severity of wildfire in California has increased
  - Past fire suppression practices have led to dense forests with high fuel loads
  - Severe heat and drought resulting from climate change have increased aridity of forest fuels





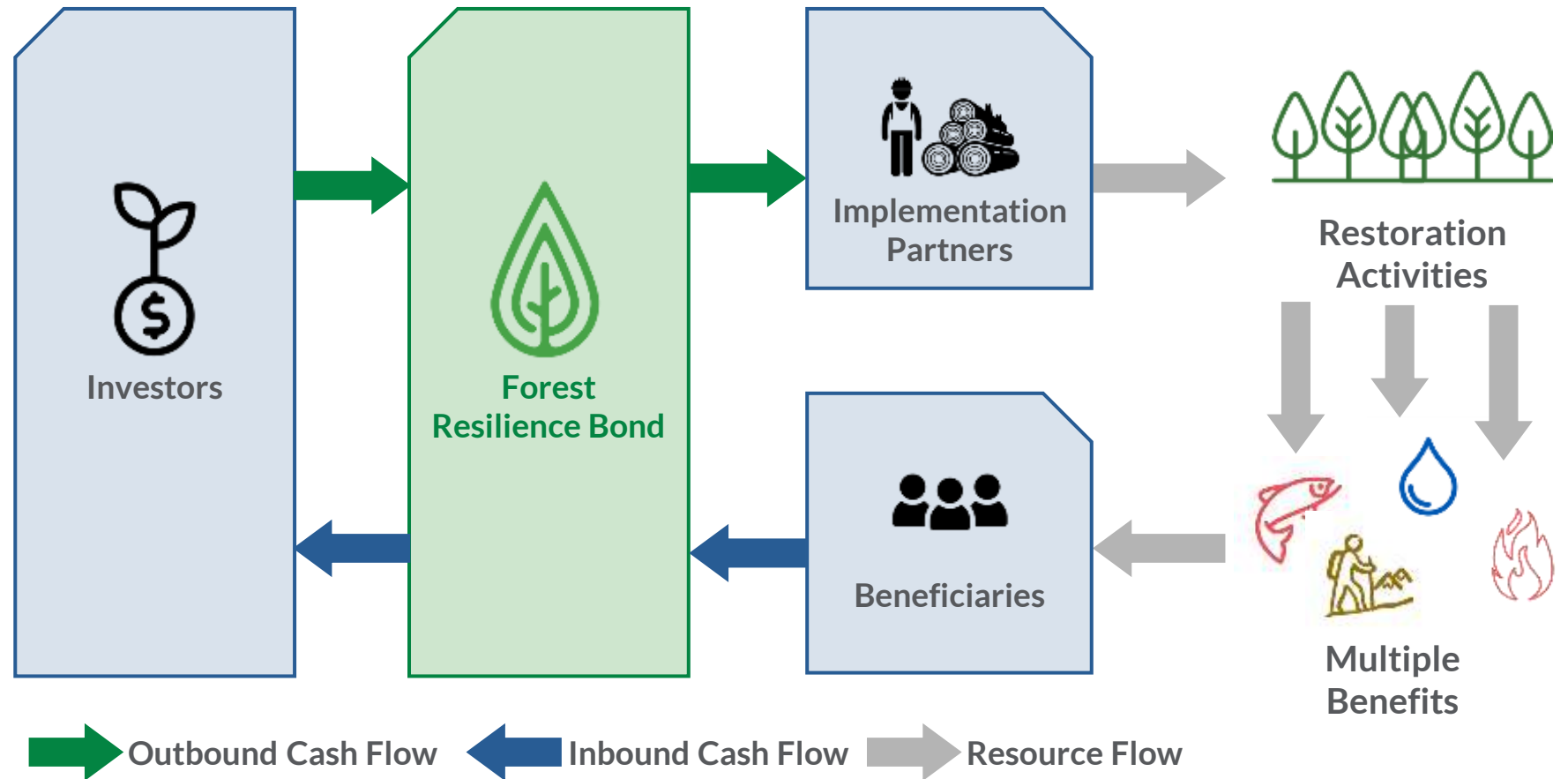
# Proposed Watershed Agreements



# Blue Forest



## Forest Resilience Bond



# Upper Butte Creek I Forest Resilience Bond

Full Project  
20,000 acres

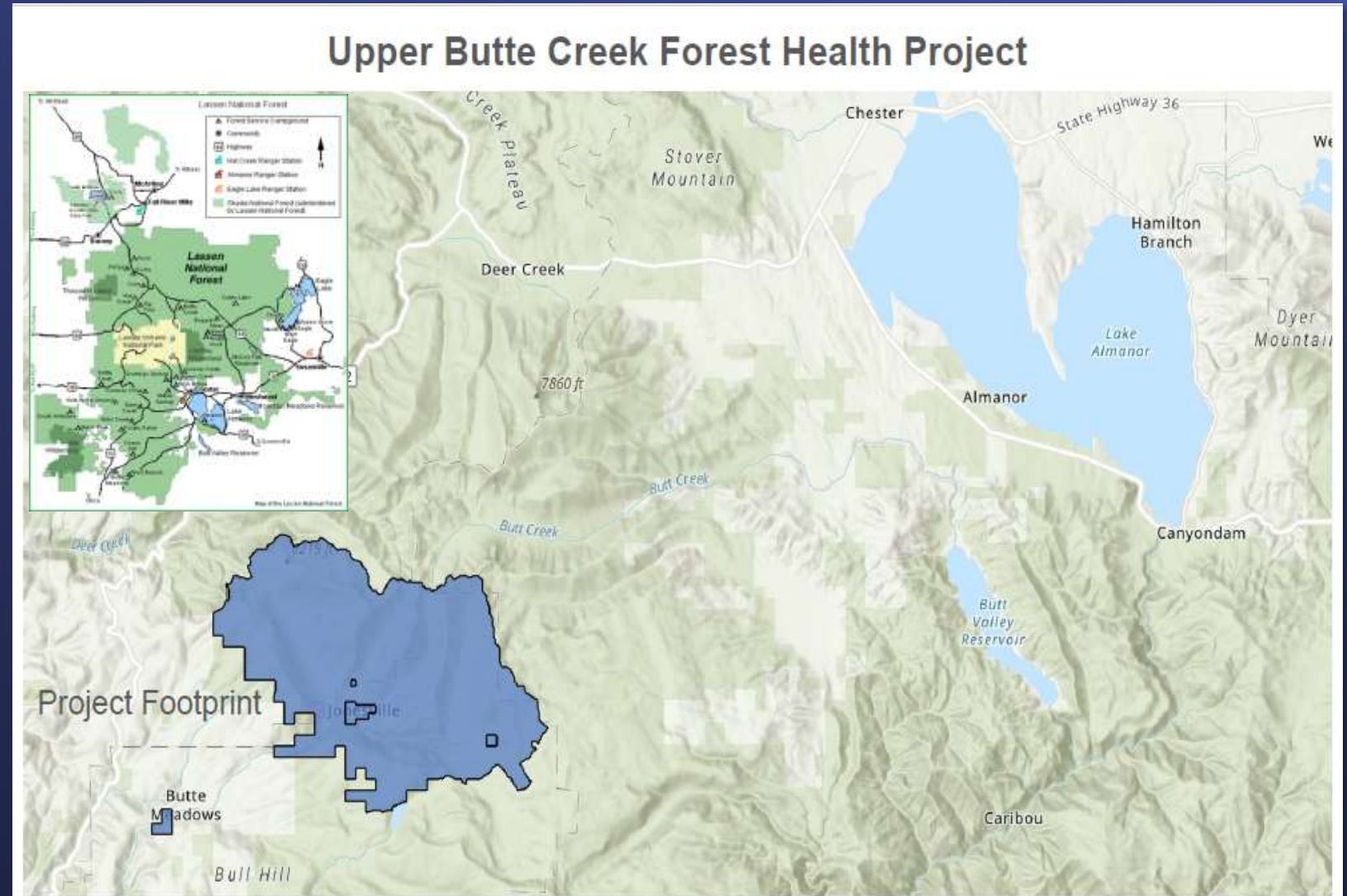
Initial FRB  
~\$5 million

Potential FRB  
Partners

CalFire, NFWF,  
Wildlife Conservation  
Board, Sierra Nevada  
Conservancy

Local Partners

Lassen NF, South  
Lassen Watershed  
Group, Butte County  
RCD





# North Feather I Forest Resilience Bond

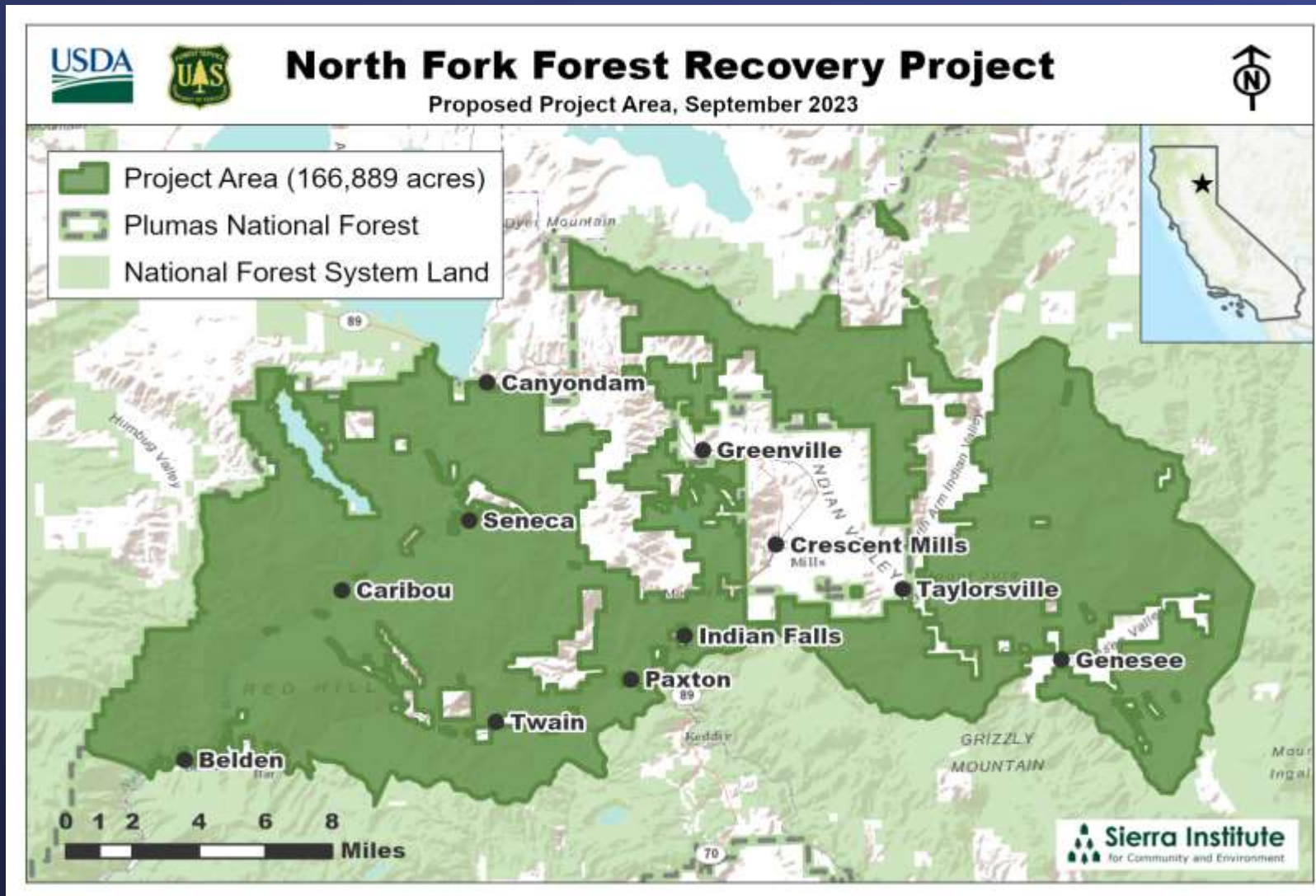
Full Project  
167,000 acres

Initial FRB  
~\$3.5 million

Potential FRB  
Partners

Plumas NF, CalFire,  
Sierra Institute,  
PG&E, DWR

Local Partners  
Sierra Institute,  
Plumas NF



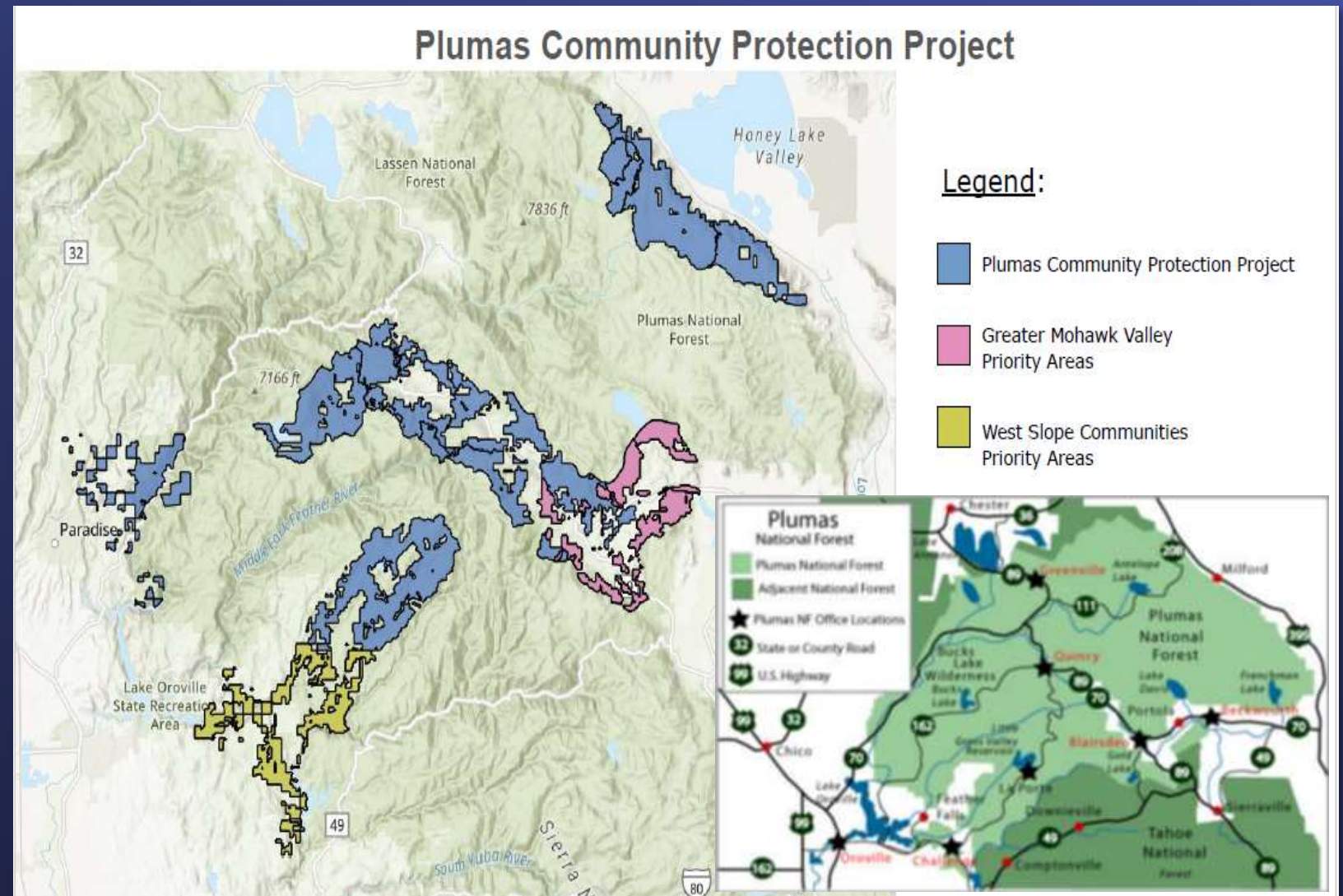
Full Project  
240,000 acres

Initial FRB  
Up to 39,000 acres

Potential FRB  
Partners  
PG&E, DWR

Local Partners  
National Forest  
Foundation, Feather  
River RCD, Mule  
Deer Foundation,  
Plumas NF

# Plumas Community Protection I FRB





# Key Takeaways

- Improvements in watershed health could help
  - protect water supply, quality, and aquatic ecosystems
  - lessen some impacts of climate change longer-term
- Pilot investigations would help assess the potential benefits and value
- Participation would help build relationships and advance supporting science
- Investments would help larger projects proceed at a faster pace

## Update on Proposed Watershed Agreements

# Next Steps

- September One Water and Stewardship action letter and oral report
- Future updates on progress and Pilot Investigation findings

Update on  
Proposed  
Watershed  
Agreements



