



Joint One Water and Adaptation Committee
and Subcommittee on Imported Water

Bay-Delta Watershed Projects Update

Item 5a

September 23, 2025

Item 5a Update on Watershed Activities

Subject

Update on Watershed Activities

Purpose

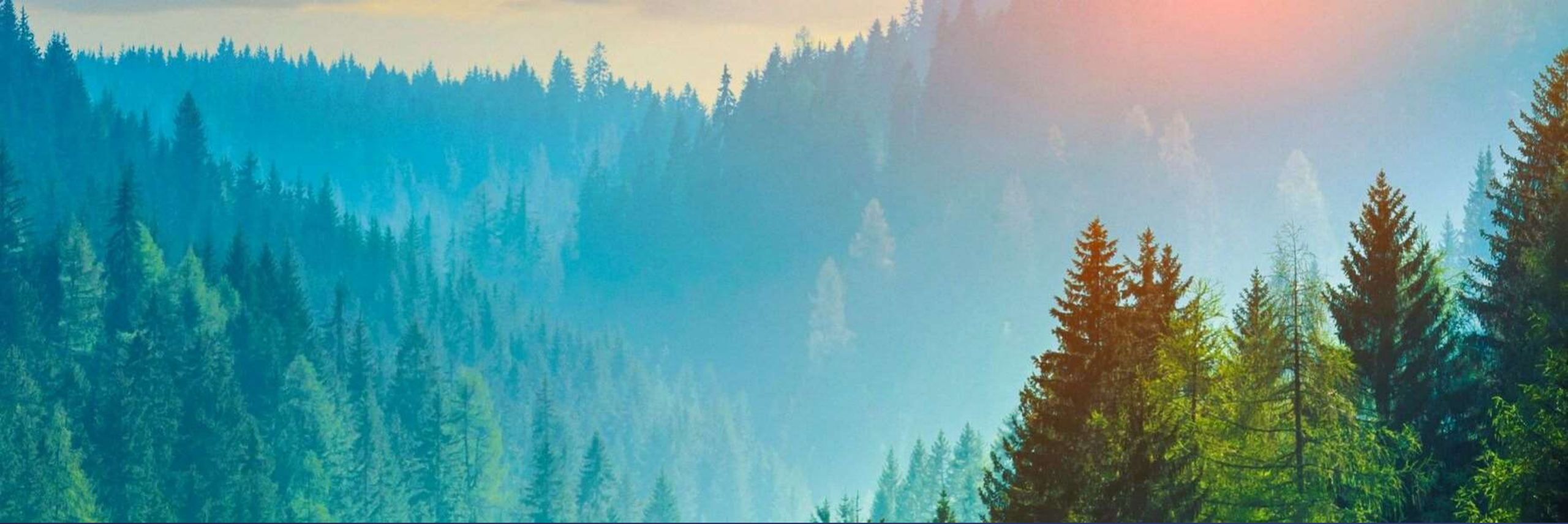
Update on Metropolitan's upper watershed related activities

Next Steps

Continue with ongoing pilot investigations and efforts to build relationships and collaborative capacity in Northern Sierra watersheds

Presentation Overview

- Forest Resilience Bond Pilot Investigations
- Collaboration, & Relationship Building
 - Watershed Framework Test Drive
 - Upper Feather River Watershed Site Visits
- Next Steps



Forest Resilience Bond Pilot Investigations

Watershed Agreements

- Three 2-year agreements at a maximum of \$200,000 each in FY's 2024/25 and 2025/26
 - Board approved September 2024
- Metropolitan's leadership played a key role
 - Catalyzed two Forest Resilience Bonds with a third anticipated in 2026
 - Brought in other partners including PG&E & DWR
 - Helped leverage state & federal funding
 - Accelerated work in critical watersheds for the State Water Project

Forest
Resilience
Bond
Pilot 
Investigations

Three Pilot Investigations

Wildfire Risk Reduction



Watershed Health Restoration

Upper Butte Creek I FRB

Aquatic species habitat protection

Status: anticipated launch in 2026

Pilot area: 1,000-1,500 acres

Scale potential: 20,000 acres

North Feather I FRB

Post-fire restoration and landscape resilience

Status: launched

Pilot area: 1,500 acres

Scale potential: 167,000 acres

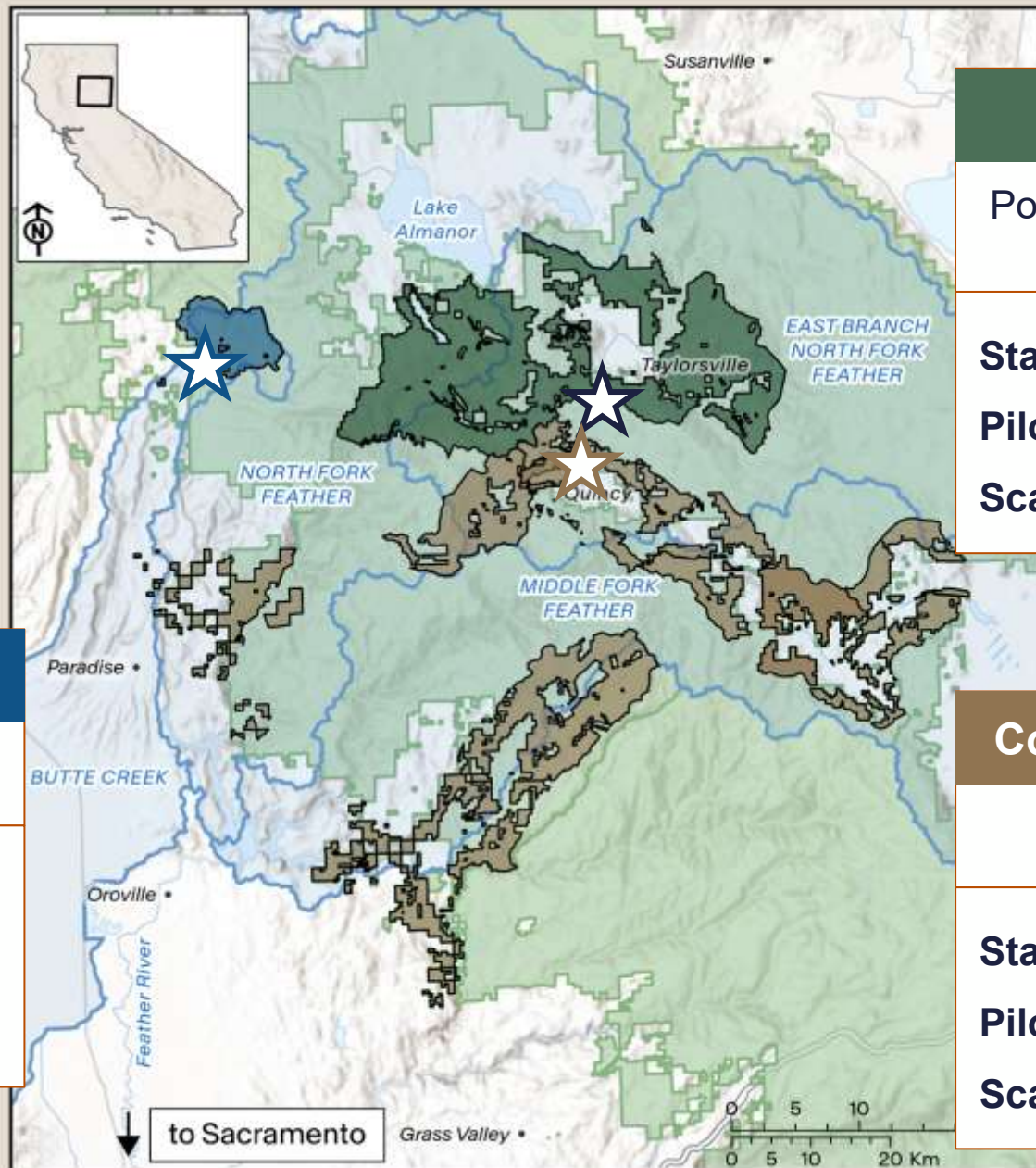
Community Protection I FRB

Community protection

Status: launched

Pilot area: 5,000 acres

Scale potential: 225,000 acres



North Feather I Forest Resilience Bond

Launched: December 2024

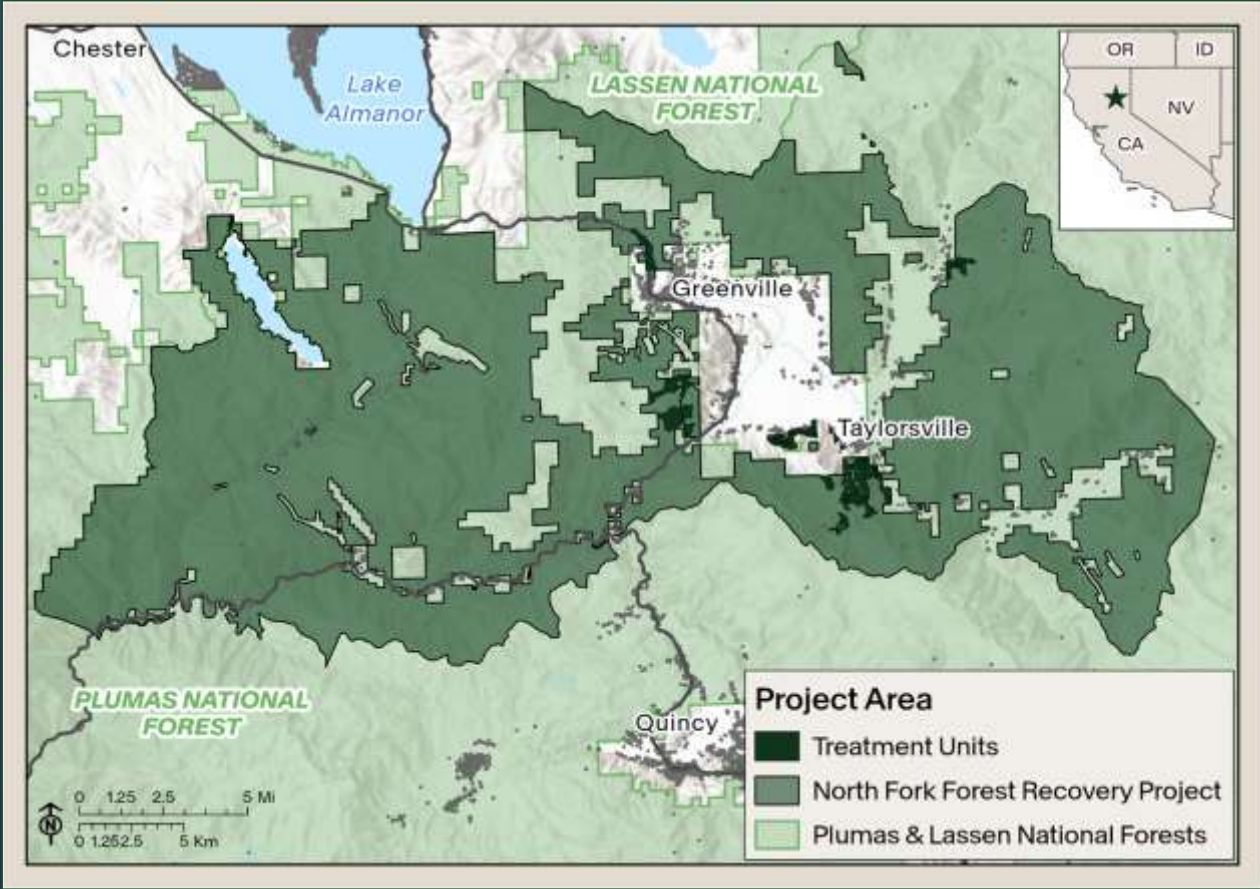
Location: Feather River watershed, Plumas NF

Project Focus: Wildfire risk reduction, post-fire recovery, community protection

Funding Secured for Pilot: \$6.75 million

Project Partners	Sierra Institute, USFS, Greenville Rancheria
Funding Partners	CAL FIRE, Metropolitan, PG&E, CA DWR, Sierra Nevada Conservancy, USFS

¹ Water year (October 1st - September 30th)
² Planned acreage estimate, subject to change during implementation



2024-2025¹:
562 acres implemented

2025-2026¹:
546 acres planned²

Plumas Community Protection I Forest Resilience Bond

Launched: September 2025

Location: Feather River watershed, Plumas NF

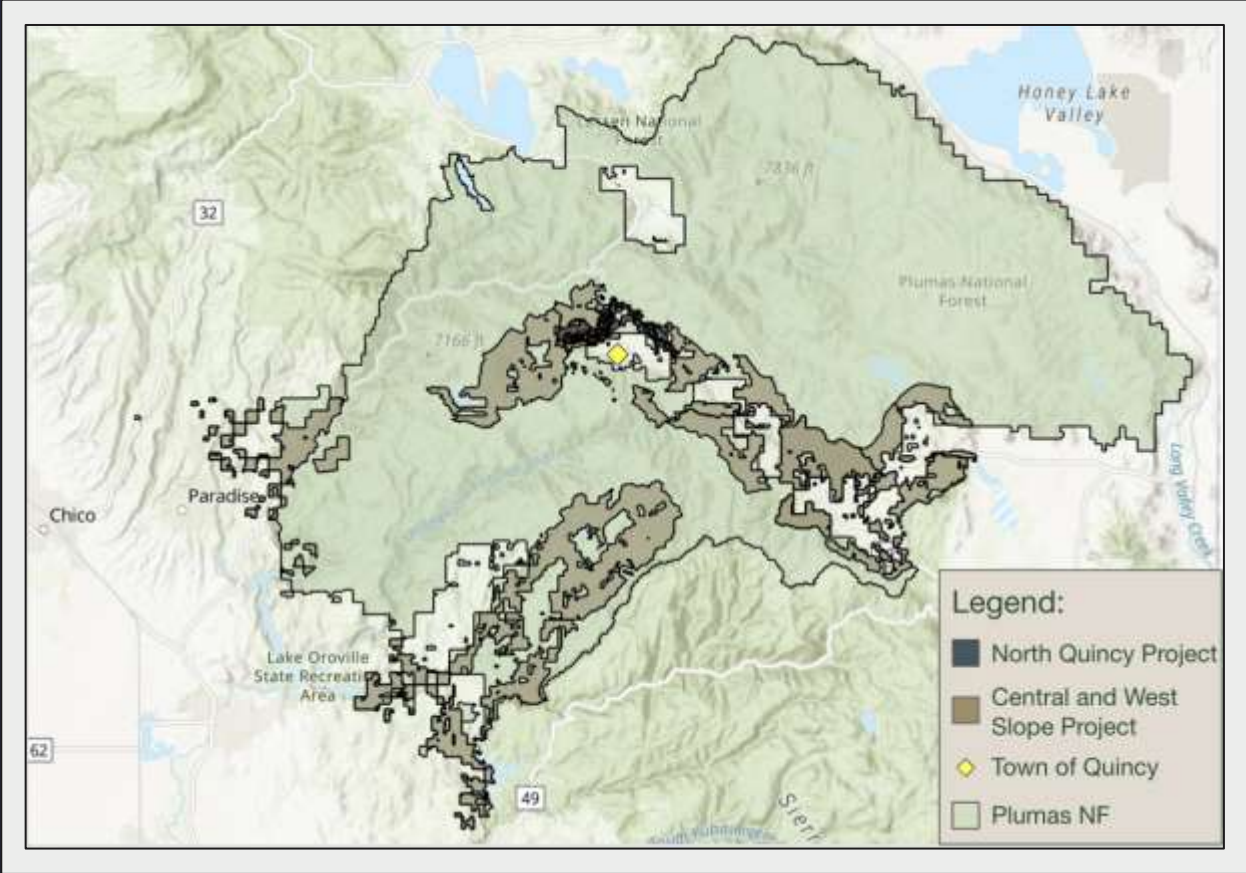
Project Focus: Wildfire risk reduction, ecosystem and community protection

Funding Secured for Pilot: \$12.5 million

Project Partners	National Forest Foundation, USFS
Funding Partners	USFS, Metropolitan, PG&E

¹ Water year (October 1st - September 30th)

² Planned acreage estimate, subject to change during implementation



2024-2025 ¹ : Pre-launch	2025-2026 ¹ : 2,165 acres planned ²
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Upper Butte Creek I Forest Resilience Bond

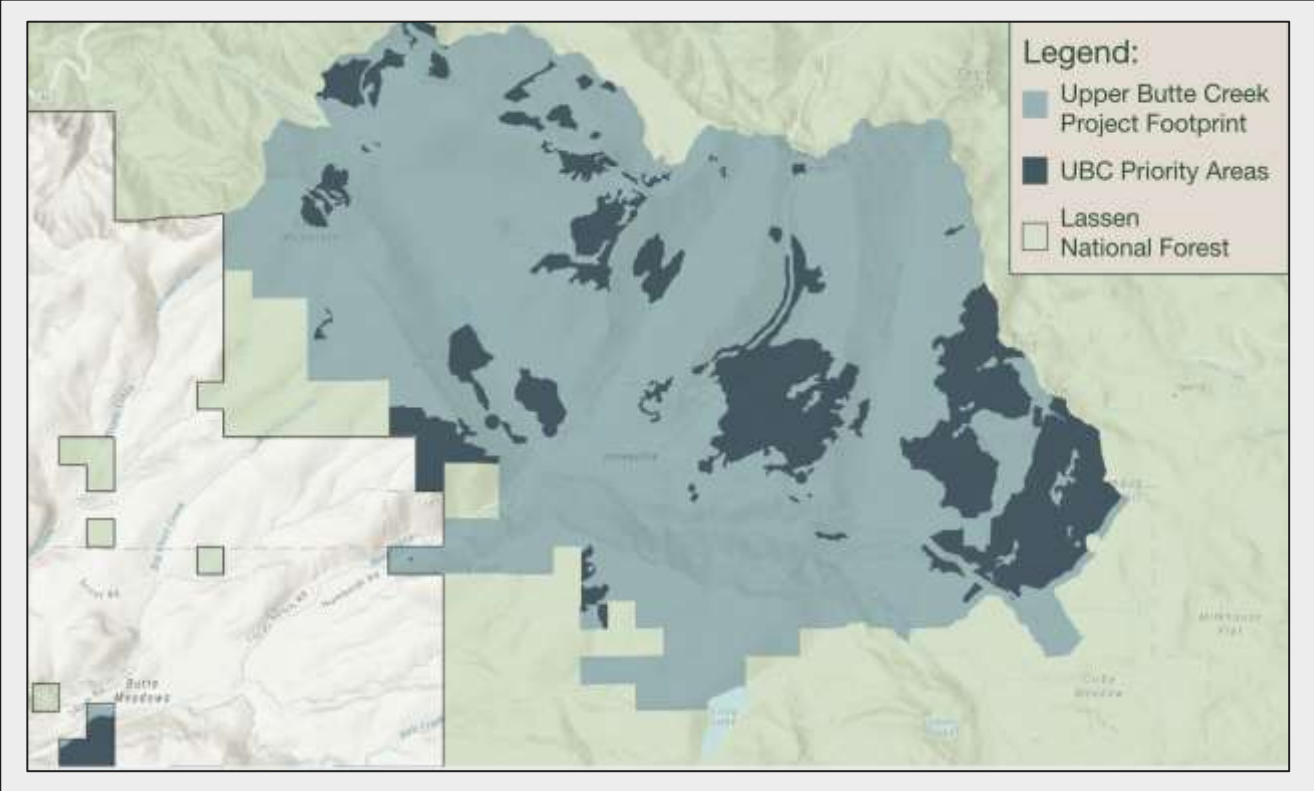
Anticipated Launch: 2026

Location: Feather River watershed, Lassen NF

Project Focus: Wildfire risk reduction, aquatic habitat restoration, community protection

Funding Secured for Pilot: \$3.4 million

Project Partners	USFS, Implementation Partner (TBD)
Funding Partners	National Fish & Wildlife Foundation, USFS, Metropolitan



2024-2025 ¹ : Pre-launch	2025-2026 ¹ : ~1,200 acres planned ^{2,3}
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¹ Water year (October 1st - September 30th)
² Planned acreage estimate, subject to change during implementation
³ Preliminary feasibility contingent on NEPA

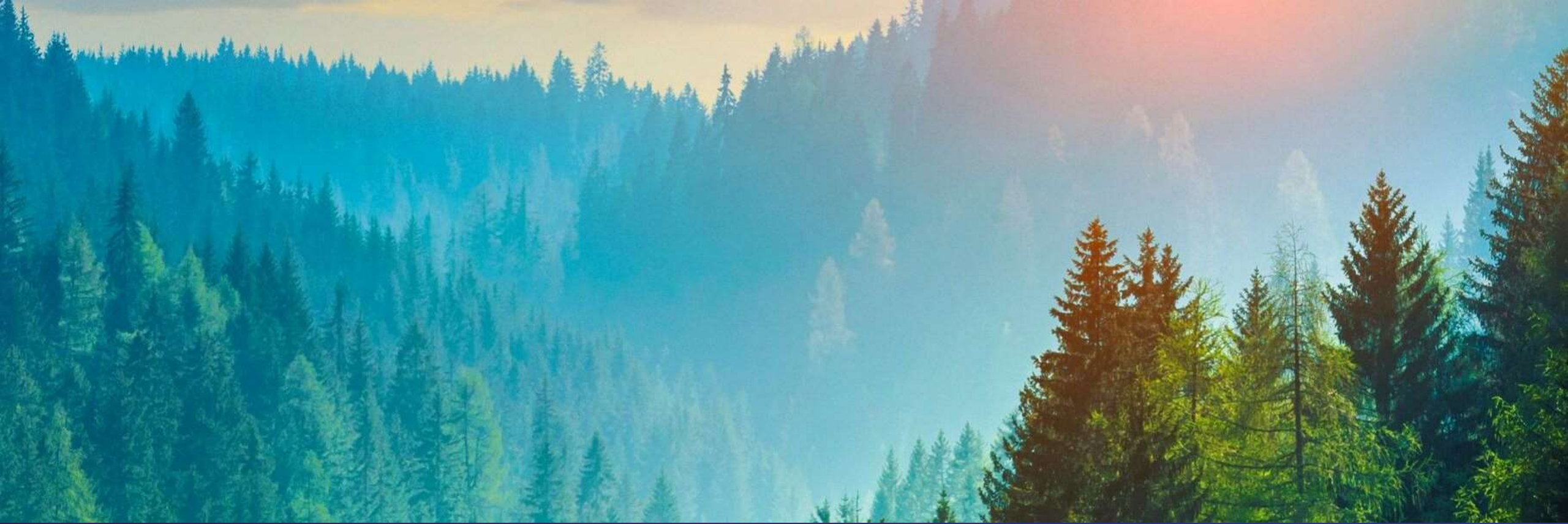
Forecasted Ecosystem Benefits (WY 2025-2026)¹

	North Feather I FRB	Community Protection I FRB	Upper Butte Creek I FRB ³
 Estimated acres ²	546	2,165	~1,200
 Water volume	242 AF	1,032 AF	~525 AF
 Flame length reduction	39%	79%	~75%
 Rate of spread reduction	45%	84%	~82%

¹ Water year (October 1st - September 30th)

² Planned acreage estimate, subject to change during implementation

³ Preliminary commitment contingent on NEPA



Collaboration & Relationship Building

Watershed Framework Test Drive

- Vision – build relationships & capacity for watershed scale actions
 - Spur broad-scale coordination & collaboration across jurisdictions & sectors
 - Develop a common understanding of the watershed
 - Support water supply resilience & strengthen watershed communities
- Metropolitan executive management provided input during the development process
- Staff & Board involved in Feather River Watershed Test Drive

Watershed
Solutions
Network





June 11, 2025

North Feather River FRB Site Visit

Photos Courtesy of Blue Forest

June 12, 2025

WSN Framework Test Drive & Sierra Valley Tour



Photos Courtesy of
Watershed Solutions Network



Next Steps

- Pilot Investigation Benefits and Business Case Evaluations
 - Annual Restoration Report
- Internal Watershed Program Development
- Upcoming Site Visits and Tours
 - October 2025: North Feather River Site Visit
 - November 2025: Ortega/Shepherd Romey Special SWP Inspection Trip
 - January 2026: Upper Feather Leaders Tour in SoCal

