



One Water and Stewardship Committee

Update on Watershed Activities

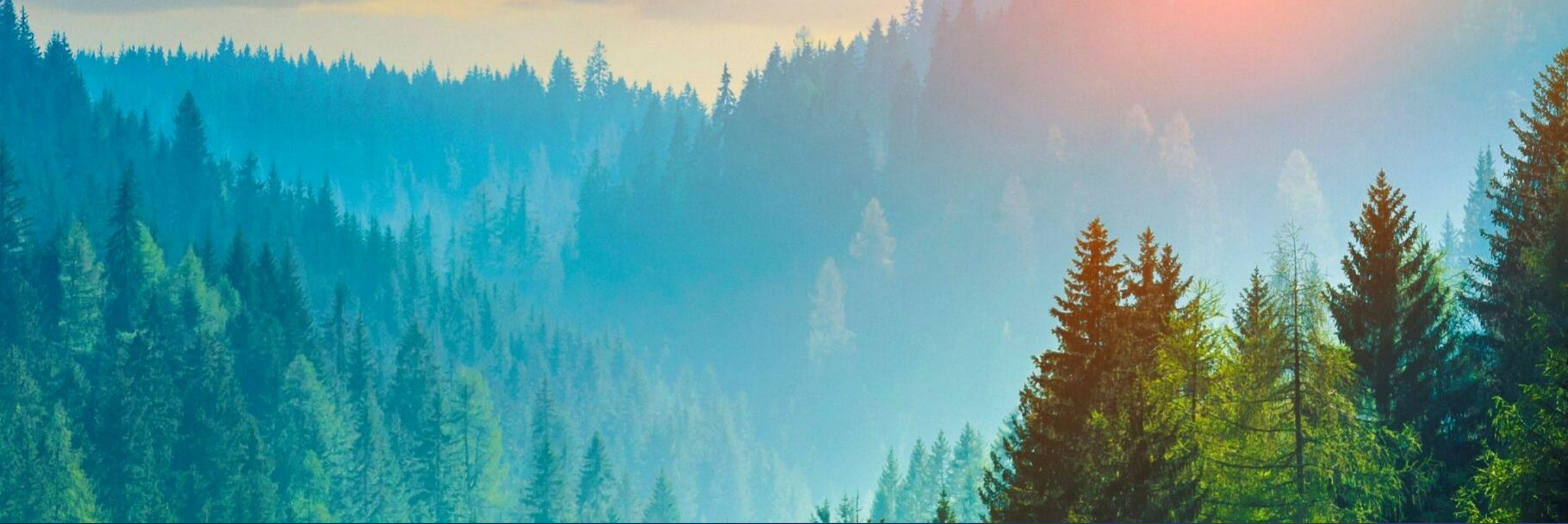
Item 7b

March 14, 2023

Update on Watershed Activities

Overview

- Background
- Current Activities
 - Watershed Framework
 - Plumas Watershed Forum
- Developing Opportunities
 - Northern California Pilot Investigations
 - Southern California Risk Reduction
- Next Steps



Background

Revised Bay-Delta Policies – October 2022

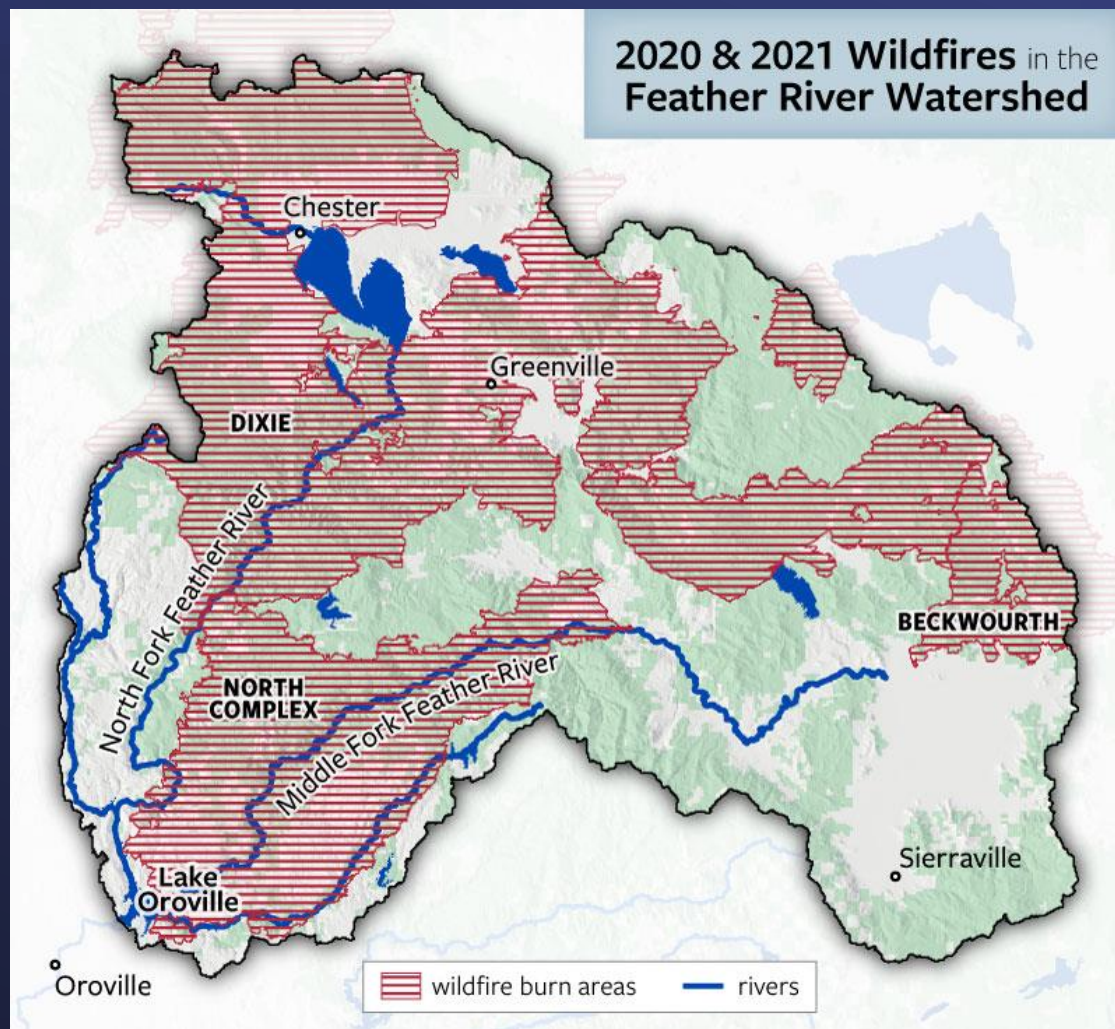
Bay-Delta Policy Objectives

- Promote a Sustainable Bay-Delta within Metropolitan’s One Water Approach
- Support Statewide and Regional Actions that Further the Coequal Goals Established in the Delta Reform Act
- Address the Risks Associated with Climate Change

Bay-Delta Policy Framework

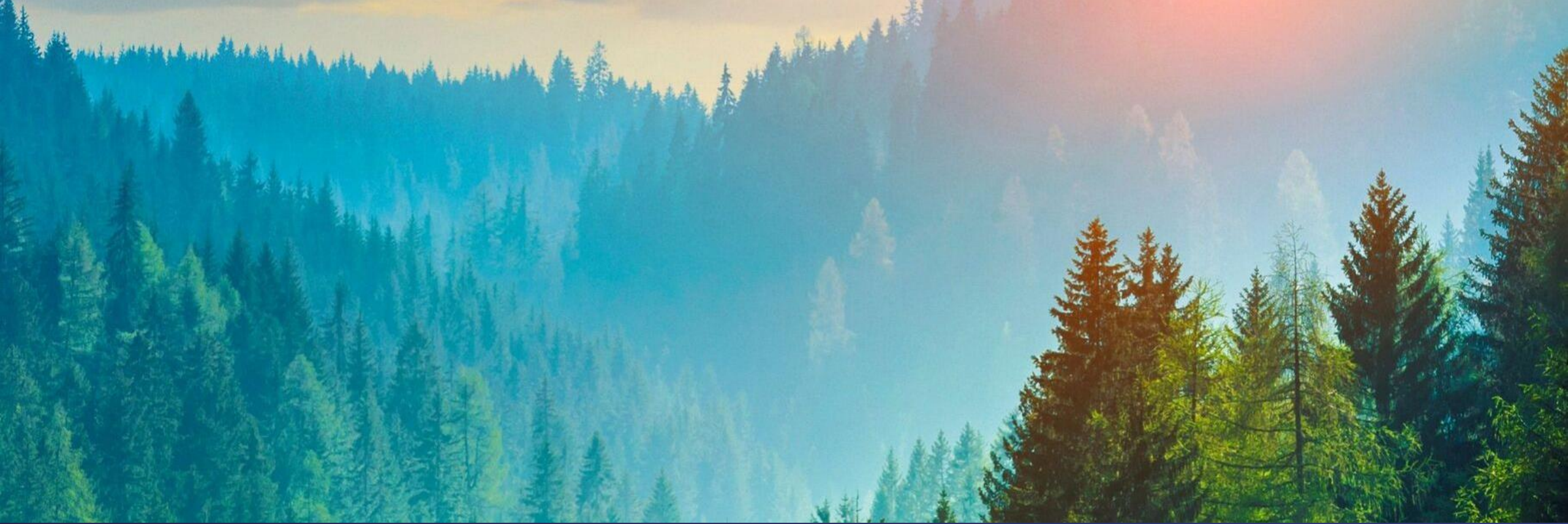
Science and Watershed Management	Water Supply Reliability and Resilience	Partnerships and Cost-Effective Investments
Protect and restore aquatic species and habitats based on best available science	Protect water supply reliability and quality while reducing reliance consistent with the Delta Reform Act	Maintain and pursue cost-effective financial investments
Partner in watershed-wide approaches to develop comprehensive solutions	Invest in actions that provide seismic and climate resiliency	Foster broad and inclusive engagement of Delta interests and beneficiaries
Advance responsible stewardship of Metropolitan’s Delta islands	Seek flexible operations, water management actions, and infrastructure solutions	Promote innovative and multi-benefit initiatives

Feather River Watershed Overview



Sierra Nevada Conservancy

- Climate change is increasing the frequency, size, and severity of wildfires in California
 - Fire and debris flows can impact infrastructure and operations
 - Sedimentation is a risk to water quality and aquatic habitats
 - Burned areas contribute to flashier runoff



Current Activities

Watershed Framework

- Framework vision is to build relationships and develop the capacity for systems thinking and action at watershed scales
 - Spur broad-scale coordination and collaboration across jurisdictions and sectors
 - Develop a common understanding of the watershed system, including vulnerabilities and vulnerable communities
- Metropolitan executive management provided input during the development process
- Upcoming staff involvement in Feather River Watershed test drive

Water
Solutions
Network

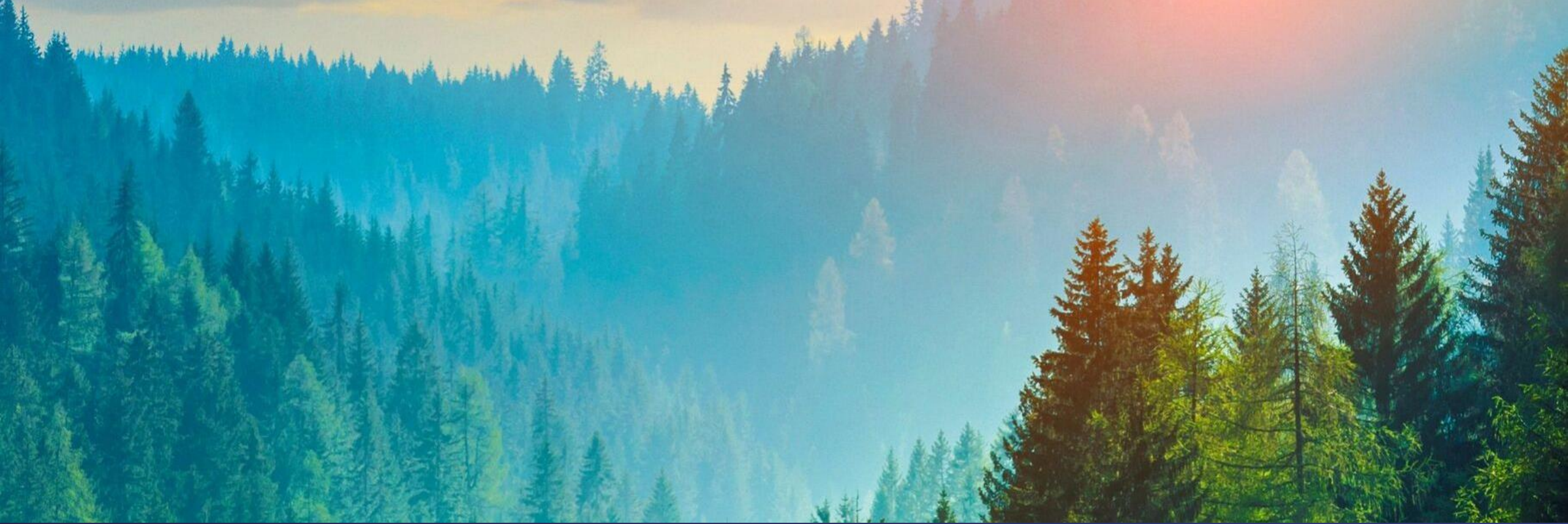


Plumas Watershed Forum



Monterey Settlement Agreement Funding

- DWR providing \$4 million over FYs 2021-2024
- Forum participants are Plumas County FCWCD, DWR, and SWC
- Watershed Forum goals are to improve:
 - Water retention for baseflow in streams
 - Water quality and streambank protection
 - Upland vegetation management
 - Groundwater retention and storage in major aquifers
- RFP issued in January, closed March 10, 2023
 - Projects will begin construction spring 2024

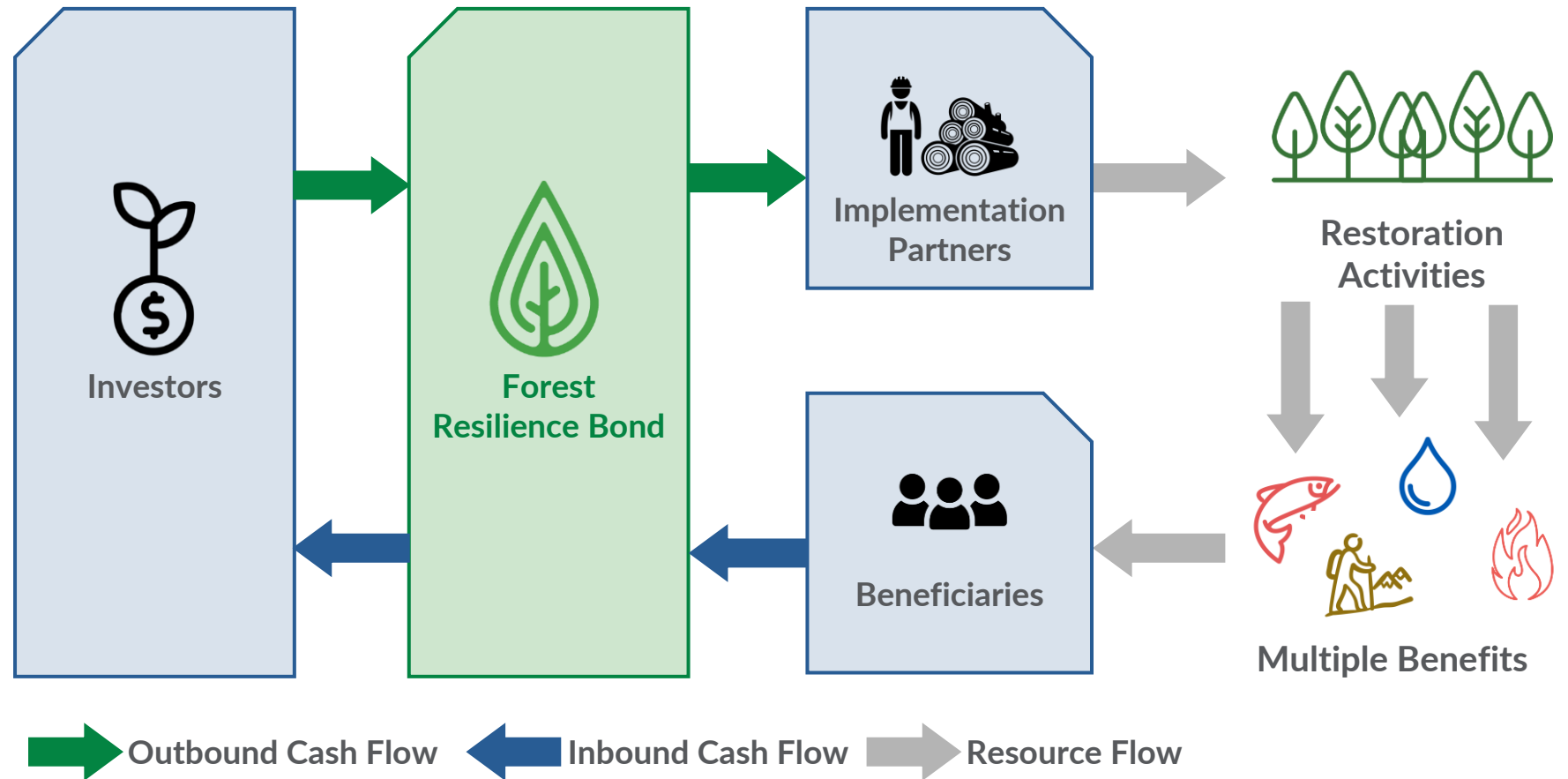


Developing Opportunities

Blue Forest Conservation



Forest Resilience Bond



Blue Forest Conservation



Northern California Pilot Investigations

- Currently evaluating three Northern California forest resiliency proposals to identify potential benefits
- Objectives are to advance science, evaluate proof of concept, and develop watershed partnerships
- Initial funding would come from existing Bay-Delta science budget



Water
Quality



Water Flow
Rates



Fire
Protection



Carbon
Security



Habitat &
Biodiversity

Northern California Pilot Investigations

Blue Forest Conservation



Lassen

South Lassen

South Lassen Water



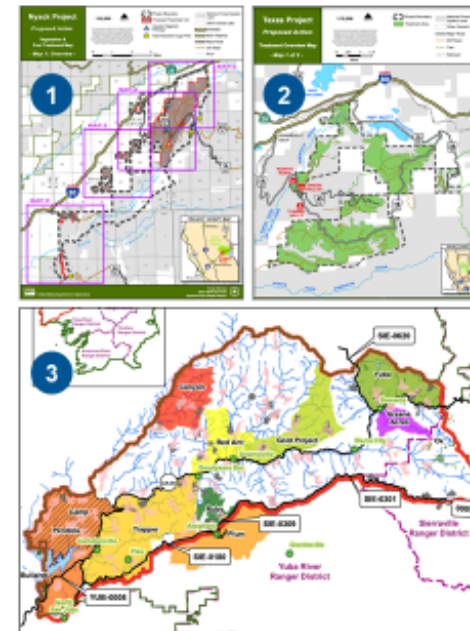
Plumas

Community Protection



Tahoe National Forest

Nyack, Texas Veg, Yuba Projects



Projects Overview

- (1) Nyack: 3,500 acres of fire risk reduction and fuels, WUI, proximity to infrastructure and community, support from and work with SNC
- (2) Texas Vegetation Management: 8,400 acres of fuels reduction and vegetation restoration, NEPA permitting will be completed Feb of 2023, candidate for expedited work.
- (3) Yuba FRBs: 210k acre planning area, phasing through multiple seasons with various partners, including Yuba Water Agency

Potential Project Benefits

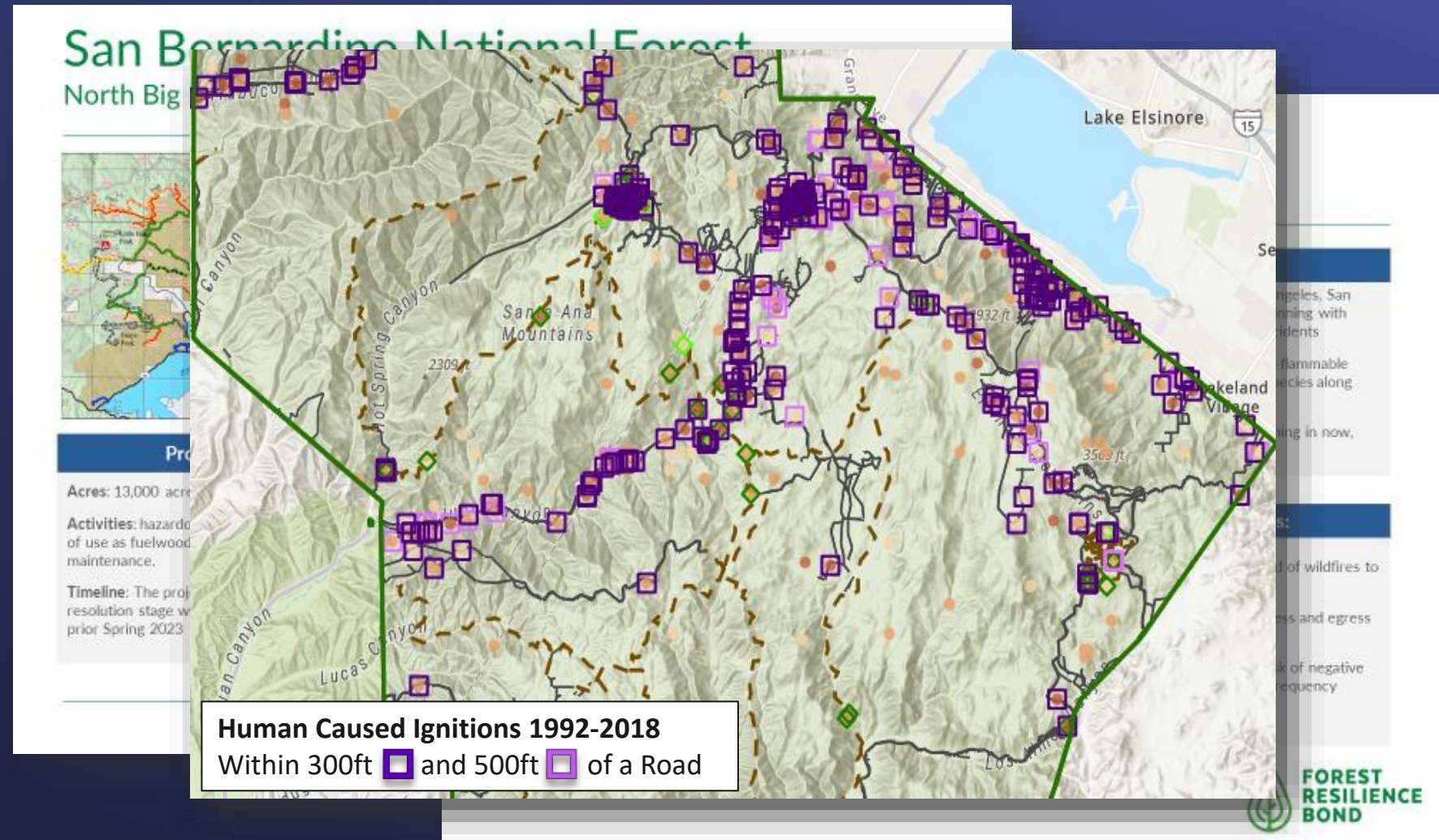
- Community Protection:** a high-visibility area with a lot of public attention and major community resilience component to all three projects
- Water Benefit:** Tahoe National Forest encompasses the Yuba Watershed which supplies water discussed in the Yuba Accord
- Biodiversity Protection:** reduced risk of high-severity wildfires impacting downstream fish habitat, treatment of invasives, restoration of meadows and aspen habitat



Blue Forest Conservation



Potential Southern California Opportunities



Next Steps

- Committee input
- Future updates on watershed activities
 - Watershed Framework Test Drive
 - Northern California Pilot Investigations
- Facilitation of potential Southern California partnerships

Update on
Watershed
Activities

