Agenda Item 6c Policy & Outreach Update

Presented by: Brittany Covich

Legislative Update



Bills we will watch:

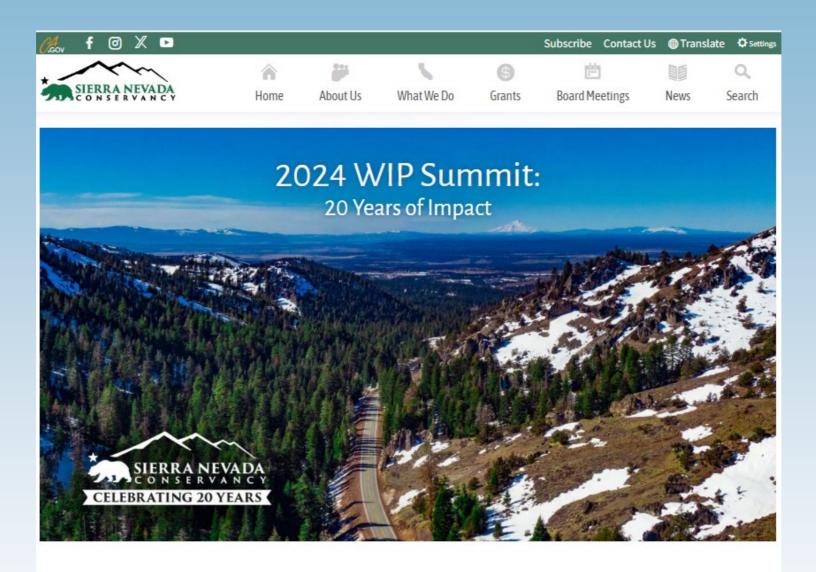
- Bond bills: AB 1567 (Garcia) & SB 867
- AB 2465 (Gipson)
- AB 1284 (Ramos)
- SB 1101 (Limón)
- CEQA & administrative bills

Important dates:

- May 24: Last day for each house to pass bills
- June 15: Budget bill must pass
- June 27: Last day for legislative measure to qualify for Nov. ballot
- July 3: Summer recess



2024 WIP Summit



March 8, 2024

9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

California Natural Resources Building, Auditorium 715 P Street, Sacramento

RSVP

The Summit will be broadcast live on this page.

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy's <u>Watershed Improvement</u>

<u>Program (WIP)</u> Summit connects California policymakers to Sierra-Cascade issues that resonate across the state.

This year's Summit marks the 20th Anniversary of the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) and will showcase the many accomplishments, people, projects, collaborations, and events that have shaped the SNC and the Sierra-Cascade over the past two decades.

Our Governing Board meeting is the day before and also open to the public. <u>Learn more</u>.

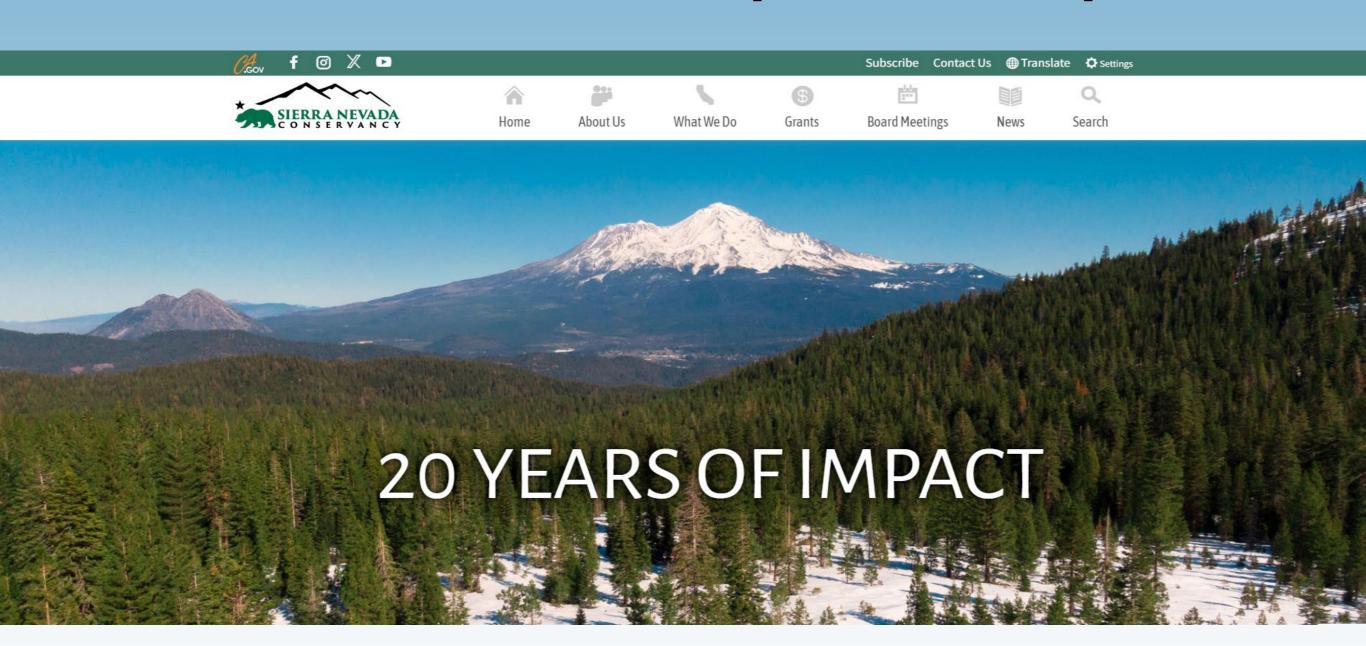
20 Years of Impact Brief



In 20 years, SNC has:

- Funded 589 projects
- Treated 155k forested acres, supported planning on 850k acres more
- Helped conserve 84k acres,70% = working landscapes
- Returned 1400 acres to tribes
- Construction of 120 miles of trails, planning for 740 miles more
- Engaged in 35+ collaboratives
- Supported 210 grantees!

20 Years of Impact Report



Digital Magazine: 20 Years of Impact - coming soon!

Quotes from Partners 1

"We greatly appreciate the seed funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy to launch the Sierra Corps Forestry Fellowship Program! This funding helped us in the first two foundational years of the program, that allowed us to then receive a multi-year grant from CAL FIRE. The program is currently thriving with 16 Fellows serving multiple tribes, non-profits, and agencies across the Sierra."

- Jenny Hatch, Sierra Nevada Alliance

Quotes from Partners 2

"SNC has been the difference-maker in some of our forest conservation and restoration projects, most recently coming in as a critical partner to complete the funding for the 11,000-acre Trinity Headwaters Working Forest project, which helps secure critical source watersheds and create an enormous block of connected, protected lands. An outstanding, nimble state entity!"

Paul Mason, Pacific Forest Trust

Quotes from Partners 3

"The Sierra Nevada Conservancy has elevated the myriad benefits the Sierra provides to the entire state of California. This increased recognition of the region and importance of continued state investment has shifted the conversation from 'where is the Sierra' to 'what can we do'? As The Sierra Fund - it has helped us pivot our non-profit primary focus from basic education about the need to invest in the region and focus on innovative solutions and how to increase the pace and scale of restoring resiliency to our ecosystems and communities. We are beyond grateful for this state agency's myriad accomplishments and centerpost role supporting our region."

Joan Clayburgh, The Sierra Fund



Questions?

Agenda Item 7 Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program Update

Presented by: Alex Vance and Sarah Campe

Round 3 Goals

- Collaboratives and entities throughout the Region develop the capacity to engage in landscapescale activities and/or com prehensive communityprotection projects
- Every planning area has a robust pipeline of priority projects
- Build the capacity of tribes via implementation of a pilot program.



Round 3 Funding Components

- Capacity-building Subgrants
- Project Pipeline Development Subgrants
- Tribal Capacity Building Pilot
- Regional Support and Planning Responsibilities



Themes from Assessments



- Everyone collaborates in own way
- Administrative obstacles
- No 'one size fits all' approach to agency partnerships
- Increased energy and effort towards tribal partnerships
- Increased need and interest related to monitoring
- Staffing challenges: candidates and housing
- General appreciation for the assessment process



SNC's Regional Support and Planning Responsibilities

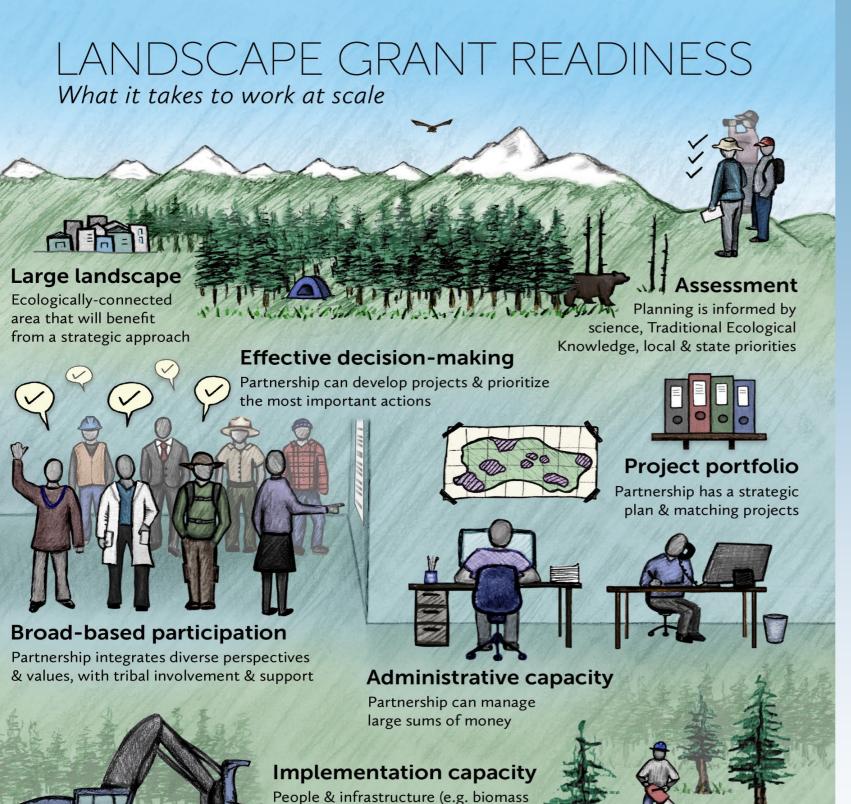
- Develop and administer the subgrant program
- Support the subgrant organizations
- Oversee Regional communication
- Track and package program statistics and provide progress reports
- Data stewardship
- Regional Priority Plan (RPP) development

Regional Priority Plan

- What is it?
- SNC's "plan for the Plan"
- How we can use a Regional Priority Plan (RPP)

What is a Regional Priority Plan? (RPP)

- A Department of Conservation deliverable required of RFFCP block grantees
- A Plan to identify the work needed at a landscape or watershed scale – to address public safety, forest health, and wildfire risk



SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY

utilization) to get the work done

RRP RRP

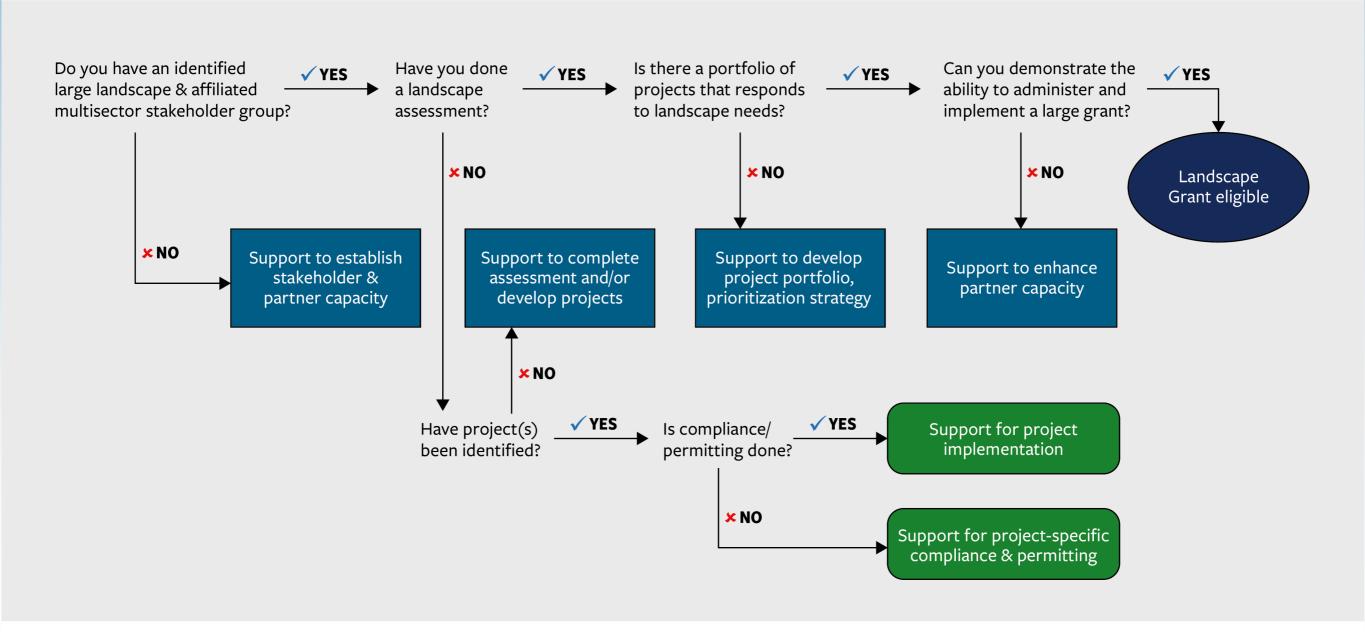
- Where are our partners "ready" for large-scale investment?
- Where are there gaps in capacity?

What is "Readiness"?

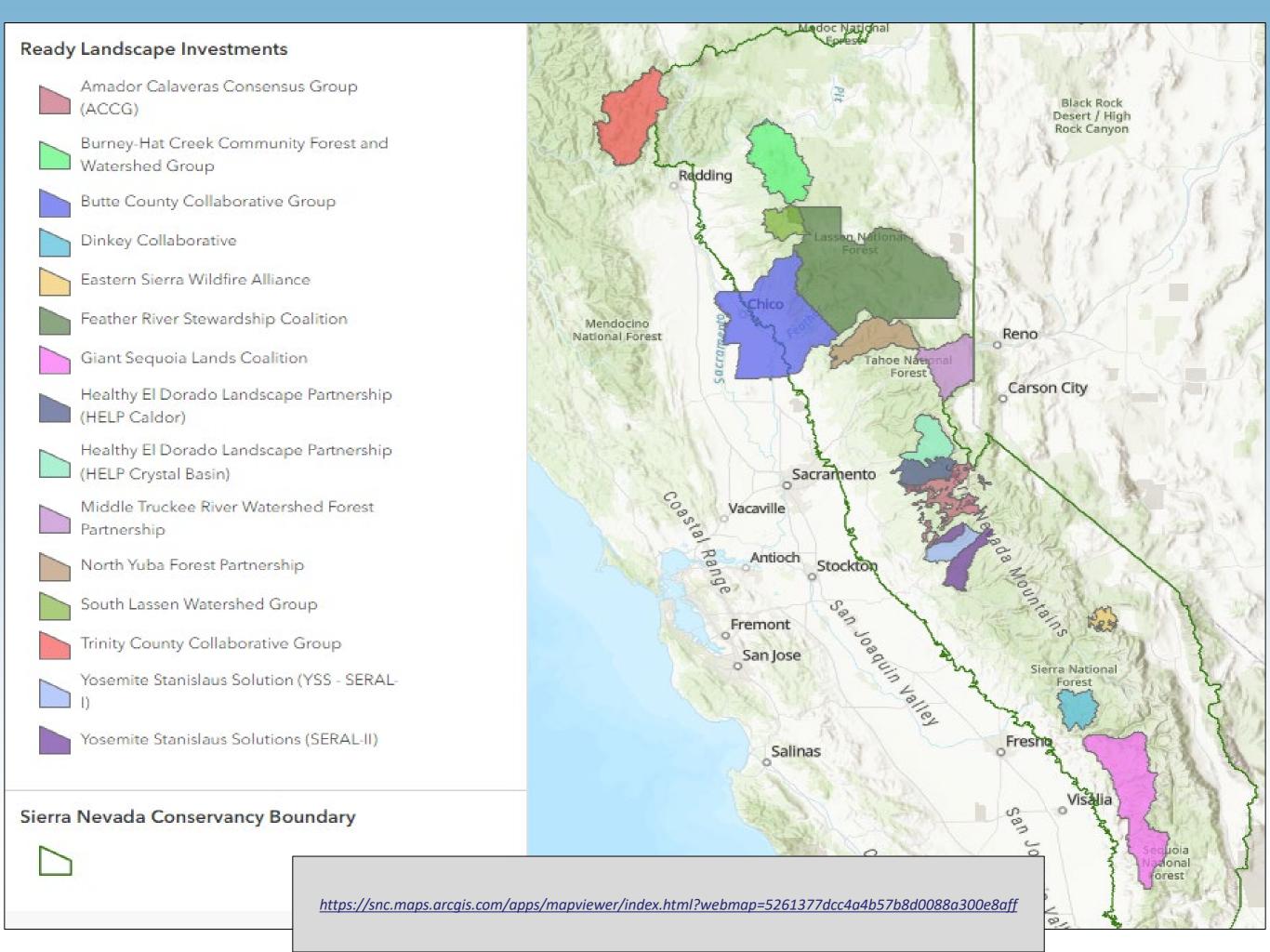
- Delineated landscape
- Effective governance, prioritization, & decisionmaking processes
- Broad-based participation
- Robust Tribal engagement
- Landscape assessment, monitoring, and evaluation plans
- 5 to 10-year project portfolio
- Adequate implementation capacity
- Good administrative capacity

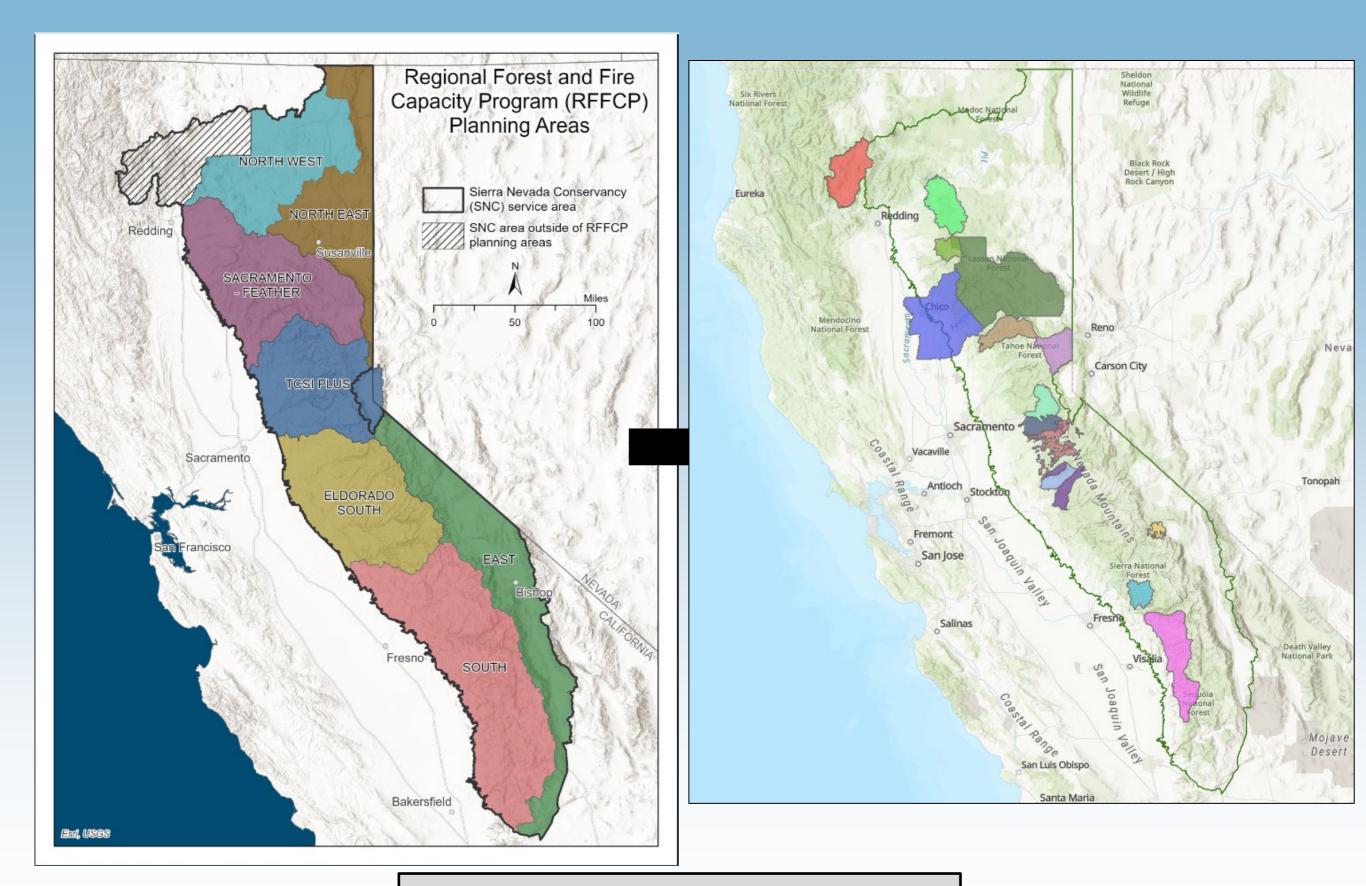
RFFCP and other SNC Programs

Pathways to a Landscape Grant

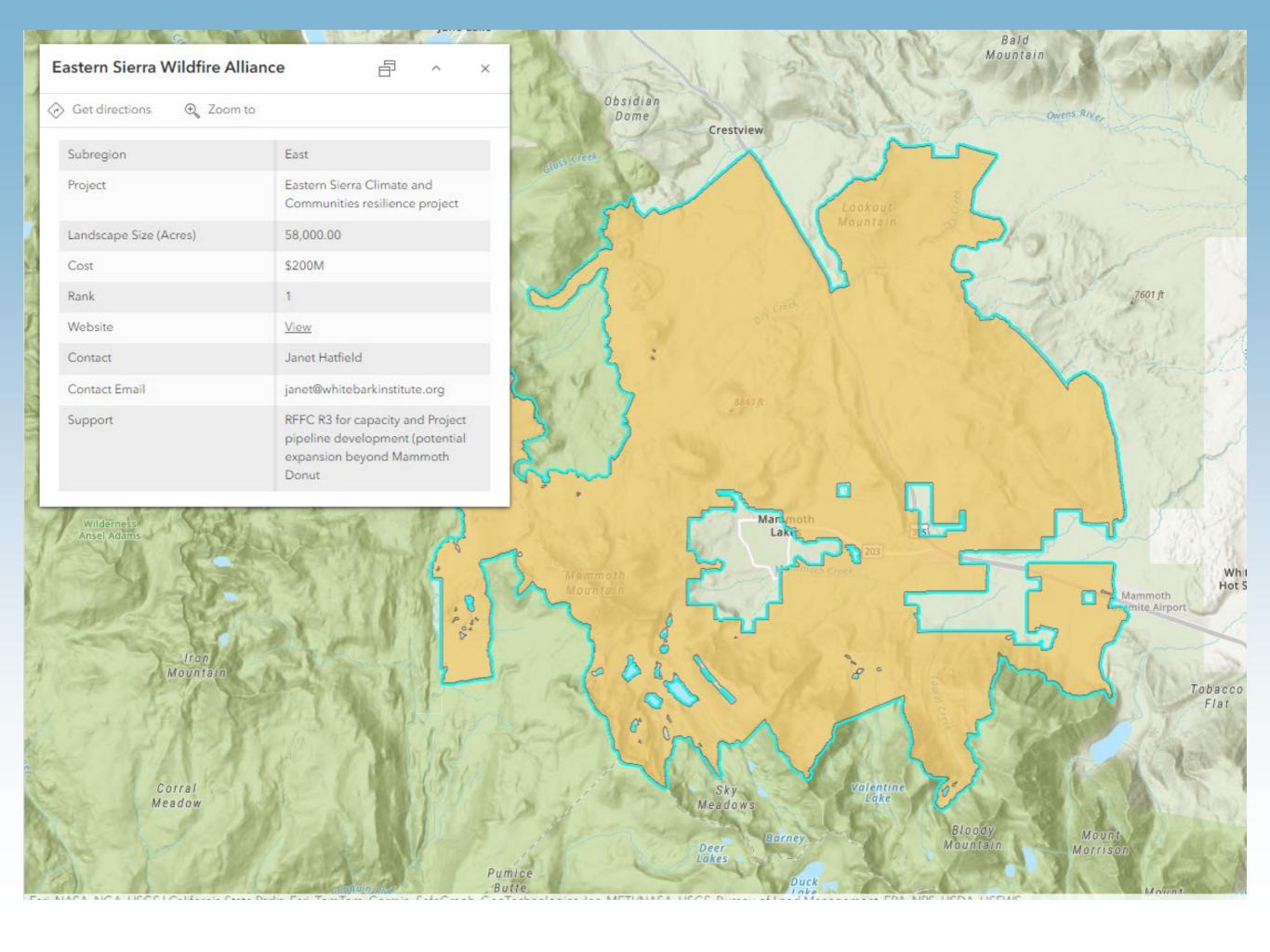








What is "landscape" scale?



What do we do with an RPP?

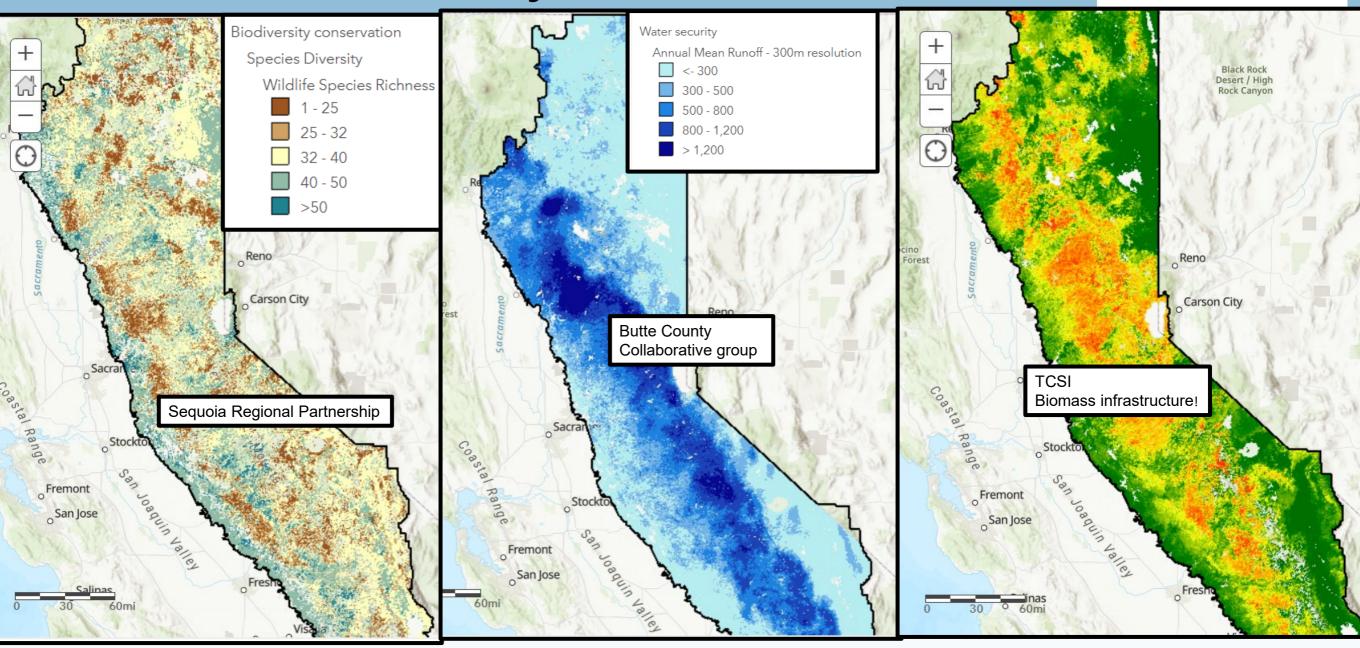
Tailored support

Collaborative Group	No Name Forest Partnership
Project	Somewhere in the Sierra
Spatial data	Through Contractor X
Focus	Forest Health, community protection
Landscape Assessment	http:LinktoLandscapeAssessment
Status: planning, implementation	P, I
Compliance approach	Small project NEPA
5-10 year project pipeline	http:LinktoProjectWebsite
Acres	300,000
Cost	\$150M
Monitoring plan?	N
Governance Structure	MOU
Broad based participation	Working on additional outreach
Robust Tribal engagement	N
Adequate grant admin capacity?	Υ
Adequate Implementation capacity?	Υ
Adequate work force	Υ

Needs

- Capacity support for stakeholder/tribal engagement
- Funding for planning and implementation
- Funding for monitoring plan development

Integrate Landscape Characteristics & Play Matchmaker

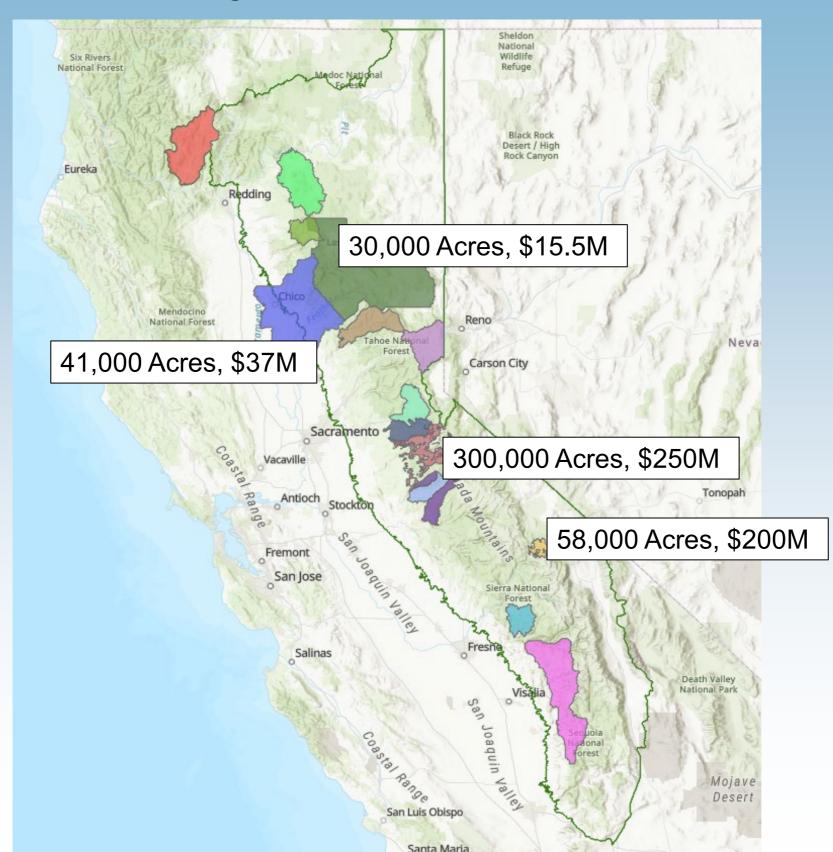


WCB?

DWR?

Biomass infrastructure?

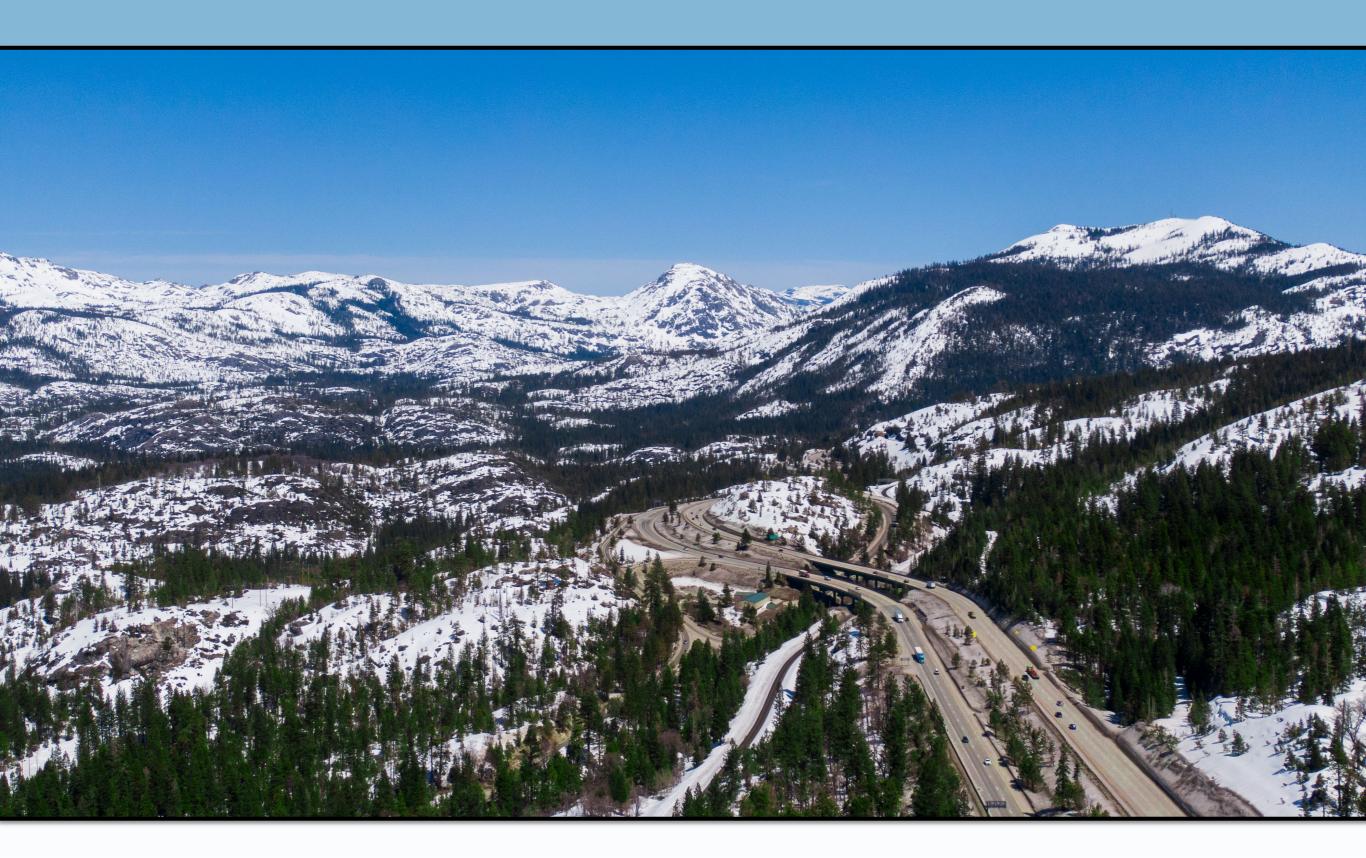
Quantify acres and costs*



*Numbers shown here are for illustration only and do not reflect actual project costs

Gap analysis





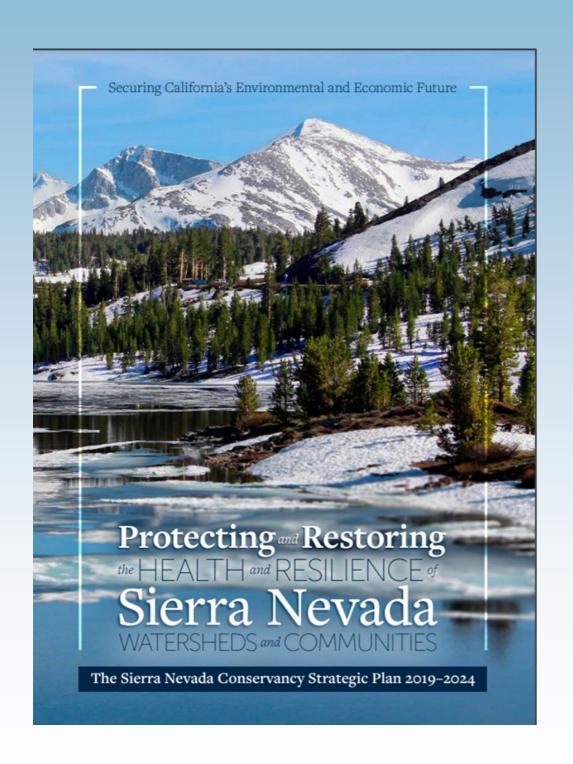
Thank you!

Questions?

Agenda Item 8 Draft 2024-2029 Strategic Plan Update

Presented by: Julie Alvis

Five-Year Planning



Current Plan runs through June 2024
New Plan will span July 2024 to June 2029
Audience: Board and SNC Staff

The Current Five Regional Goals:

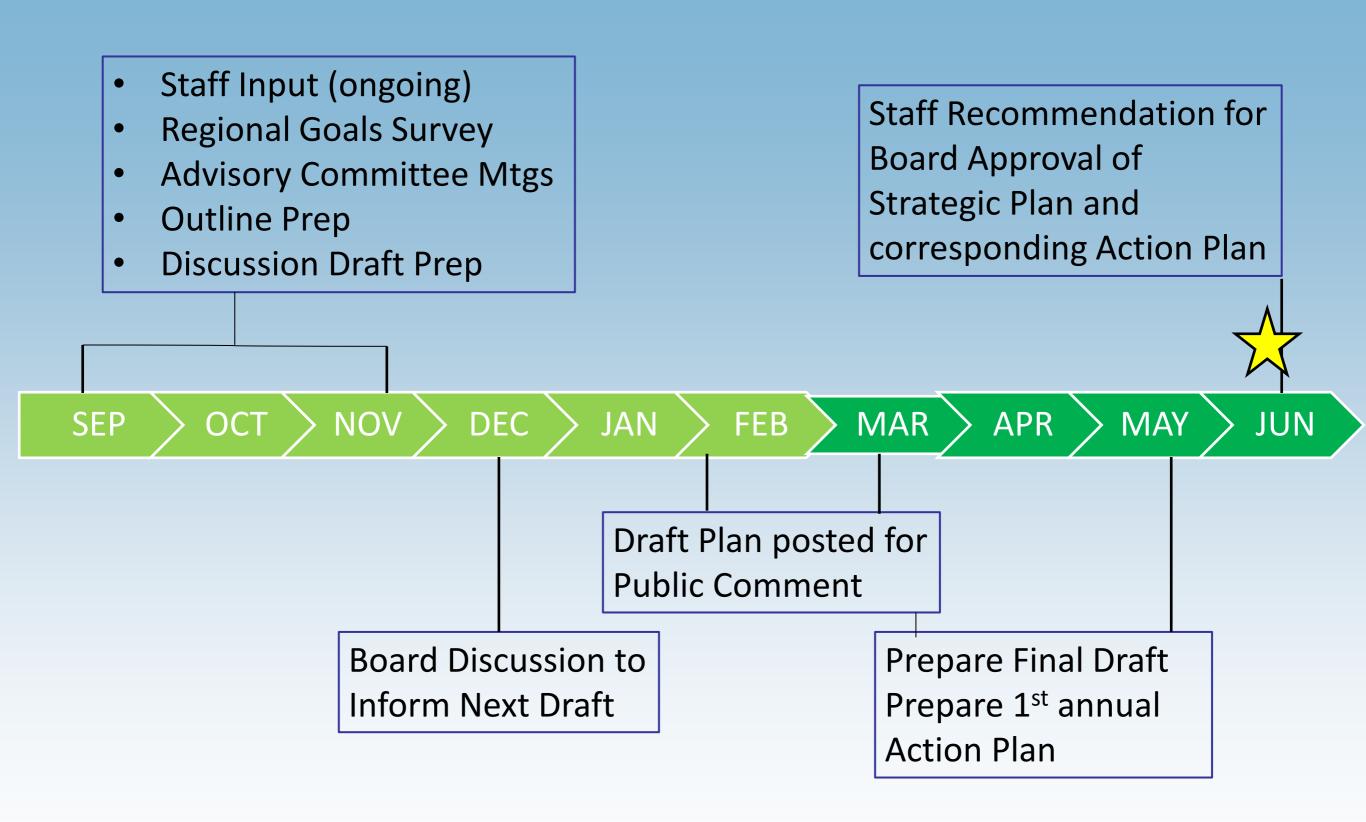
- Healthy Watersheds & Forests
- Resilient Sierra Nevada Communities
- Vibrant Recreation & Tourism
- Strategic Lands Conserved
- Impactful Regional Identity

Draft Strategic Plan

PLAN AUDIENCE: SNC Staff and Board

Today's focus:

- Status update on revisions and progress to date
- Outline next steps, and
- Provide an opportunity for in-person public comment



Plan Development Timeline

Outline Overview

- Purpose and Audience
- Our Charge mission, authorities, governance context
- Regional & Funding context setting
- Regional Goals Focus for our work in the Region; foundational to the Watershed Improvement Program; within SNC authorities.
- How we work in the Region to Advance our Regional Goals:
 - SNC Strategy for supporting the Region, sets broad actions we will take over the Plan's timeline. Efforts detailed in annual Action Plans.
 - Organizational Goals Internal focus on staff and agency excellence.
- Tracking and Reporting Progress

Revisions Overview

- Incorporated Boardmember input from December Meeting throughout document.
- Further developed Organizational Goals section.
- Renamed "Strategic Land Conservation" and "Vibrant Recreation and Tourism" to better describe, and more accurately reflect, the broader work we do to support these Regional goals.
- Further developed Tracking & Reporting section and added progress measurements for each Regional goal.

Public Comment Process

- Opened a public comment process on 2/2/24 via Sierra Spotlight post, social media shares, tribal notification process, and through staff networking.
- Public comment process open through today.
- Staff will review comments received and incorporate, as appropriate, into final draft Strategic Plan.
- June Board Meeting: Staff will report back on public comments and themes received, and how addressed, in final draft document recommended for approval.

Thank you!

Agenda Item 10

Wildfire Recovery & Forest Resilience Directed Grant Program Award Recommendations

March 7, 2024

Presented by:
Andy Fristensky
Field Operations & Grants Division Chief

Wildfire Recovery & Forest Resilience Directed Grant Program

- In December 2021, the Board approved the Wildfire Recovery and Forest Resilience Grant Guidelines.
- The program prioritizes planning and implementation of forest health projects that promote wildfire recovery and forest resilience and support the goals of California's Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan and the Sierra Nevada Watershed Improvement Program.
- Focal areas include:
 - Multi-benefit projects
 - Landscape-scale projects
 - High-impact projects
 - Wildfire recovery
 - Regional Forest and Fire Capacity projects

Funding Sources

California Budget Acts of 2020 - 2023

- In the 2020 through 2022 budget cycles, the SNC was appropriated \$83 million in General Fund for wildfire and forest resilience priorities, with \$78,850,000 dedicated to local assistance.
- The California Budget Act of 2023 appropriated an additional \$37 million in General Fund for wildfire and forest resilience priorities, with \$35,150,000 dedicated to local assistance.
- The Governor's Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force identifies these priorities in California's Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan: A Comprehensive Strategy.

2020-2022 Grant Cycles

- The SNC administered one cycle of the Immediate Action Wildfire and Forest Resilience Directed Grant Program for the 2020 appropriation, and two cycles of the Wildfire Recovery and Forest Resilience Directed Grant Program for the 2021 and 2022 appropriations.
- The SNC received just under \$152 million in requests over those three cycles.
- The SNC Board awarded the full \$78,850,000 to 58
 projects for planning and treatment on about 640,000
 acres across the SNC service area.

2023 (Current) Grant Cycle

- Solicitation for proposals in April 2023.
- By mid-June, the SNC received 51 concept proposals requesting just under \$94 million.
- Members of the Evaluation Team, including a technical expert and SNC Area Representatives, conducted site visits to the proposed implementation project sites. Feedback was provided by staff on all proposed projects.
- By late September, the SNC received 43 project proposals requesting over \$72 million.

2023 (Current) Grant Cycle - Continued

- Proposals received were evaluated based on the scoring criteria published in the Guidelines.
- Notifications of projects under consideration were sent to the appropriate water agencies, county planning departments, and SNC Boardmembers.
- Notifications of projects considered for recommendation were sent to the appropriate tribal representatives.

Current Status

From this cycle, staff will recommend:

- 21 projects,
- totaling \$35,106,096,
- for completion of planning and assessments on over 445,000 acres, treatment on over 10,500 acres, and support of three biomass and wood utilization facilities.

This will expend the full amount of funding appropriated to the SNC for wildfire and forest resilience priorities under the California Budget Act of 2023.

Current Status - Continued

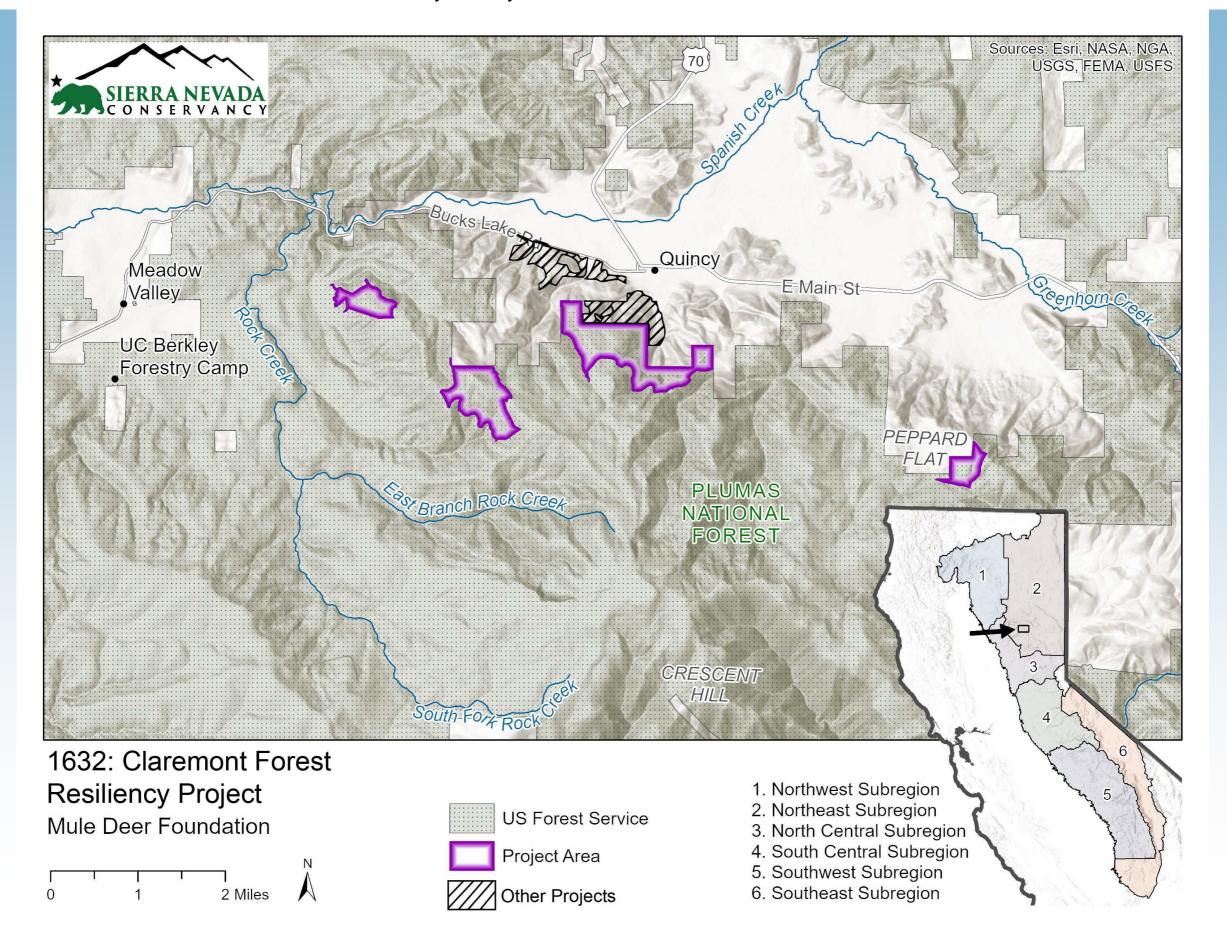
Of the 21 projects to be recommended to the Board,

- 16 projects,
- totaling \$27,507,948,

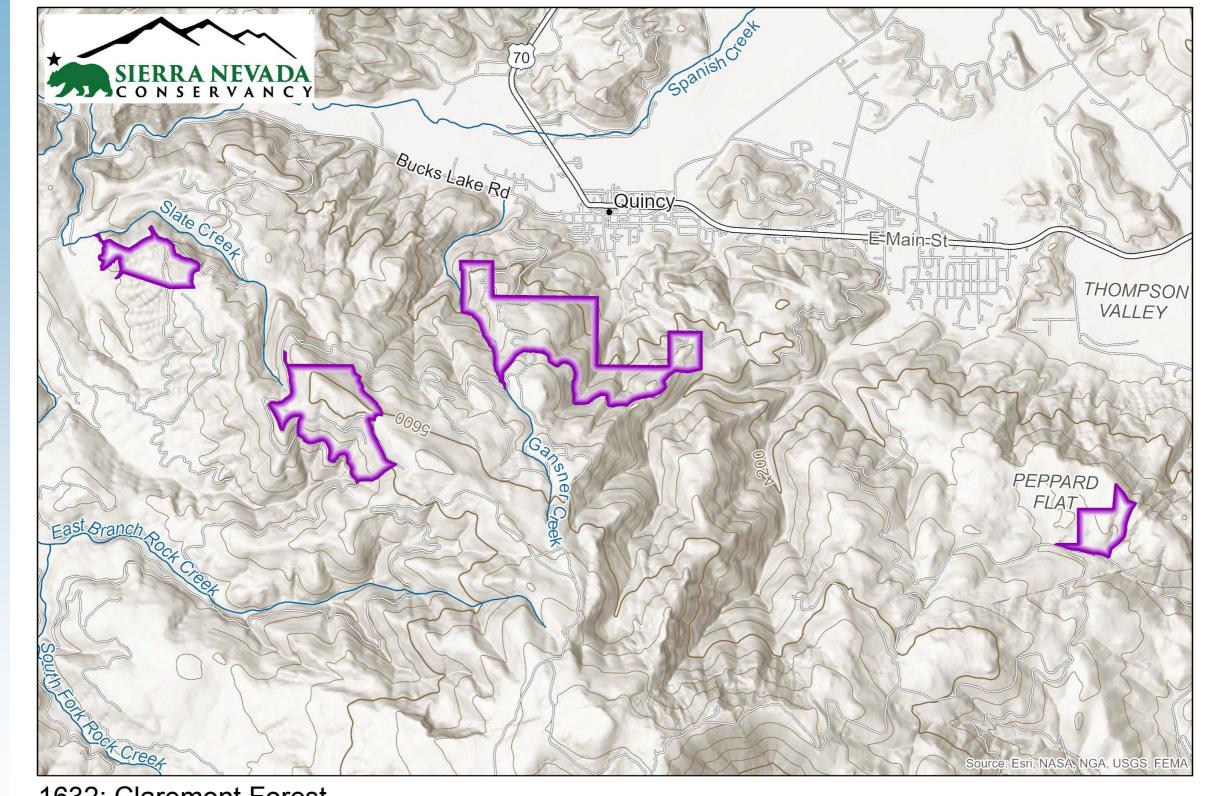
have completed due diligence and are being presented at this March 2024 Board Meeting.

The remaining five projects from the 2023 grant cycle, totaling \$7,598,148 are anticipated to be recommended at the June 2024 Board Meeting.

10a. 1632 Claremont Forest Resiliency Project (1) Mule Deer Foundation • \$ 1,787,000

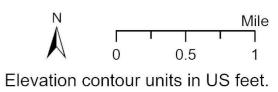


10a. 1632 Claremont Forest Resiliency Project (2) Mule Deer Foundation ● \$ 1,787,000

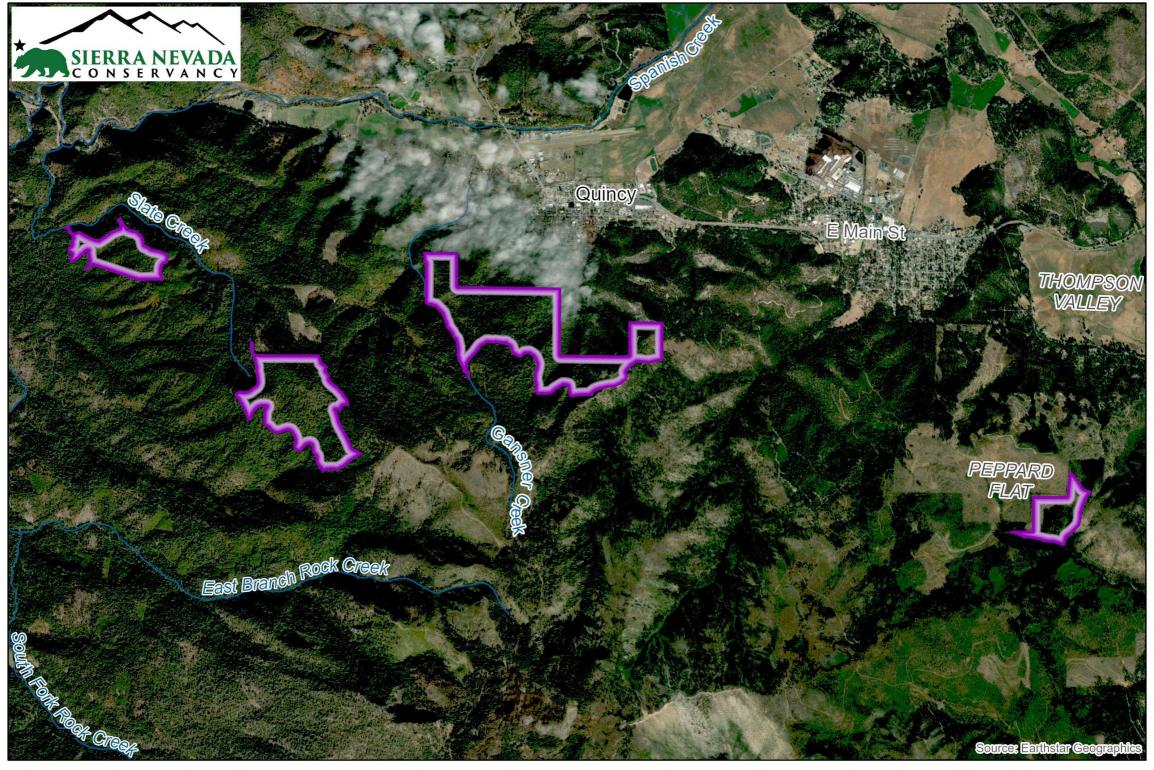


1632: Claremont Forest Resiliency Project
Mule Deer Foundation



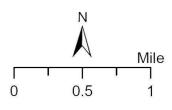


10a. 1632 Claremont Forest Resiliency Project (3) Mule Deer Foundation • \$ 1,787,000

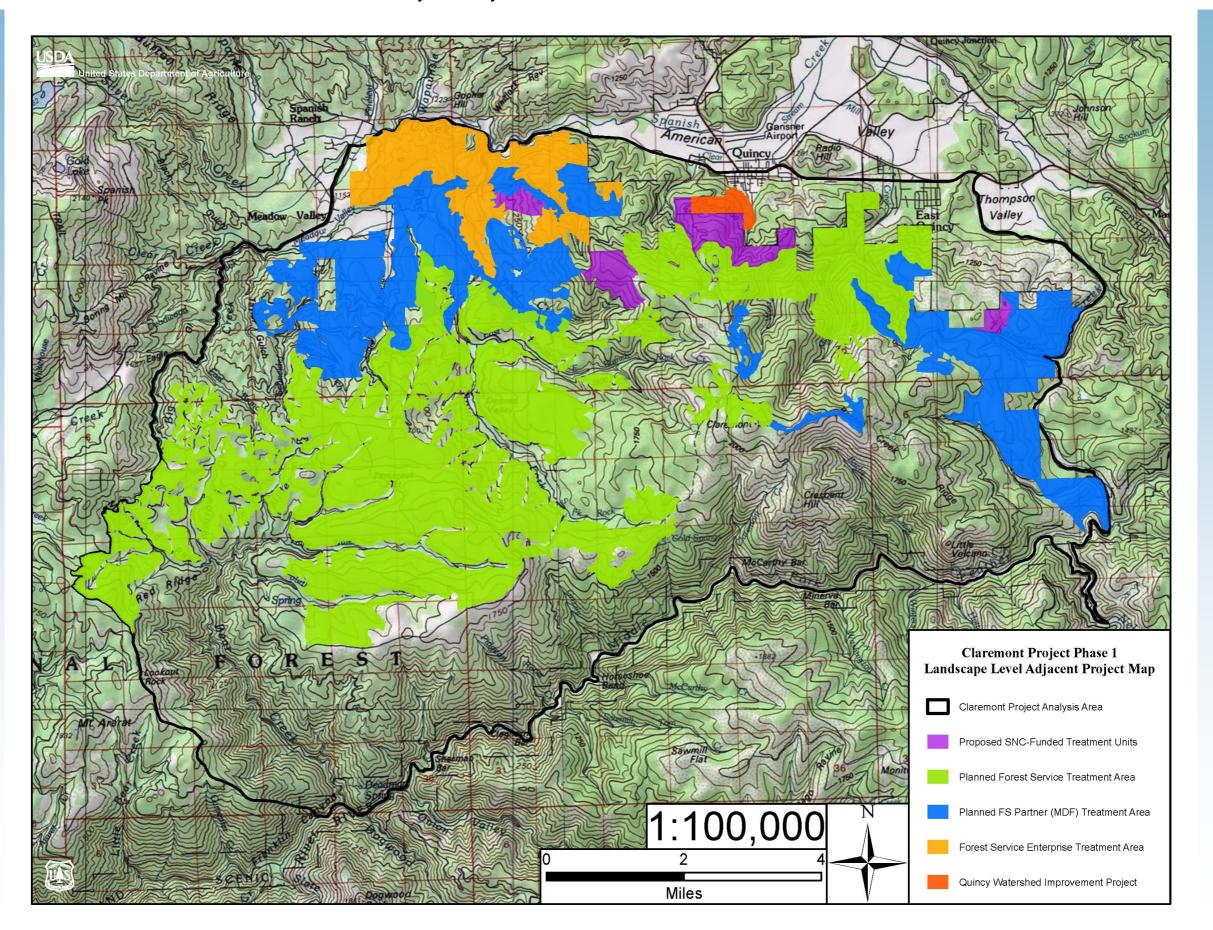


1632: Claremont Forest Resiliency Project
Mule Deer Foundation



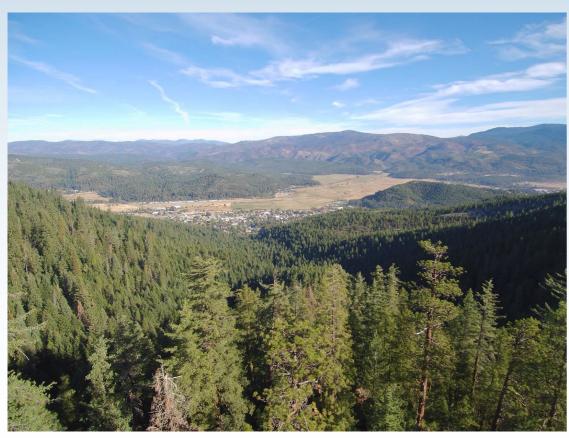


10a. 1632 Claremont Forest Resiliency Project (4) Mule Deer Foundation • \$ 1,787,000



10a. 1632 Claremont Forest Resiliency Project (5) Mule Deer Foundation • \$ 1,787,000





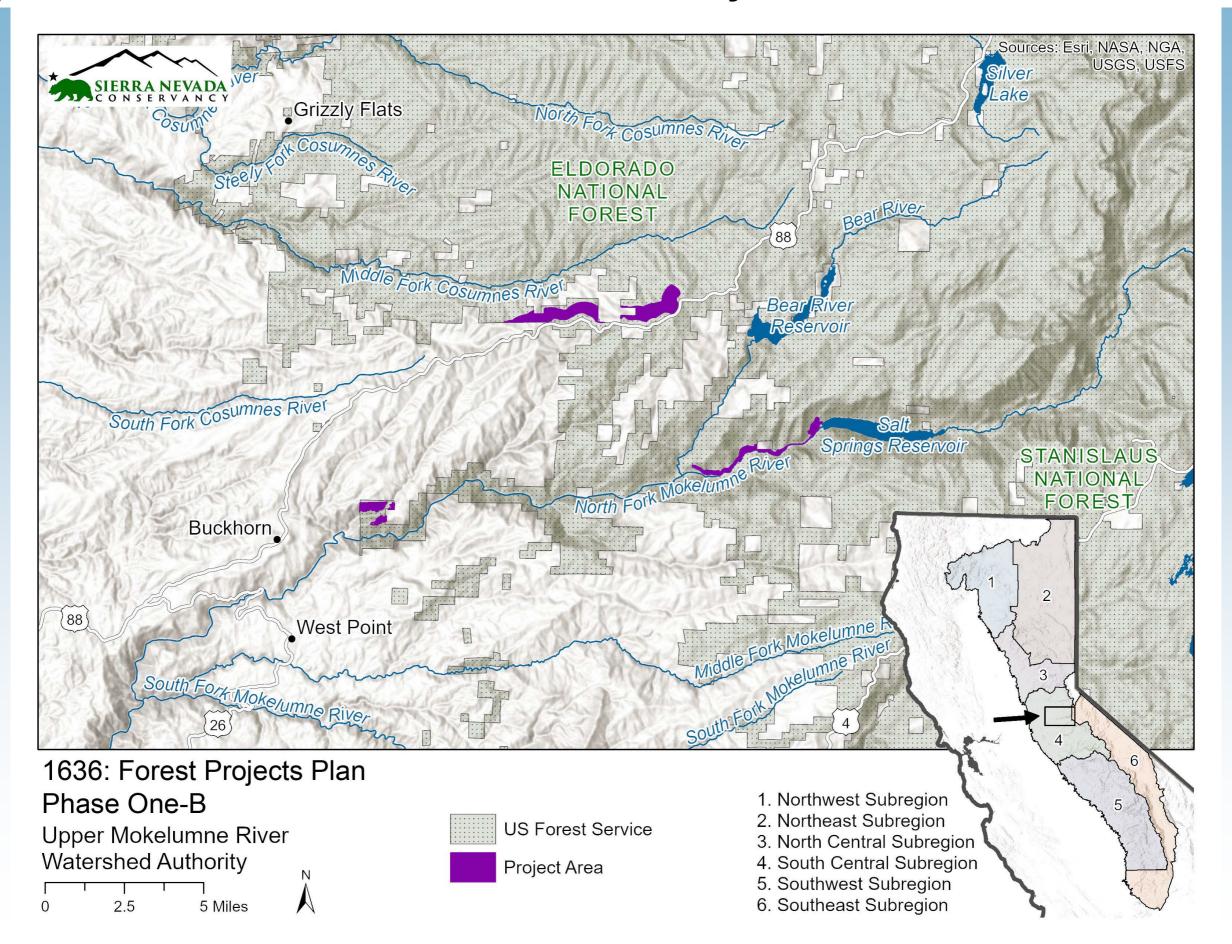


Recommendation 10a

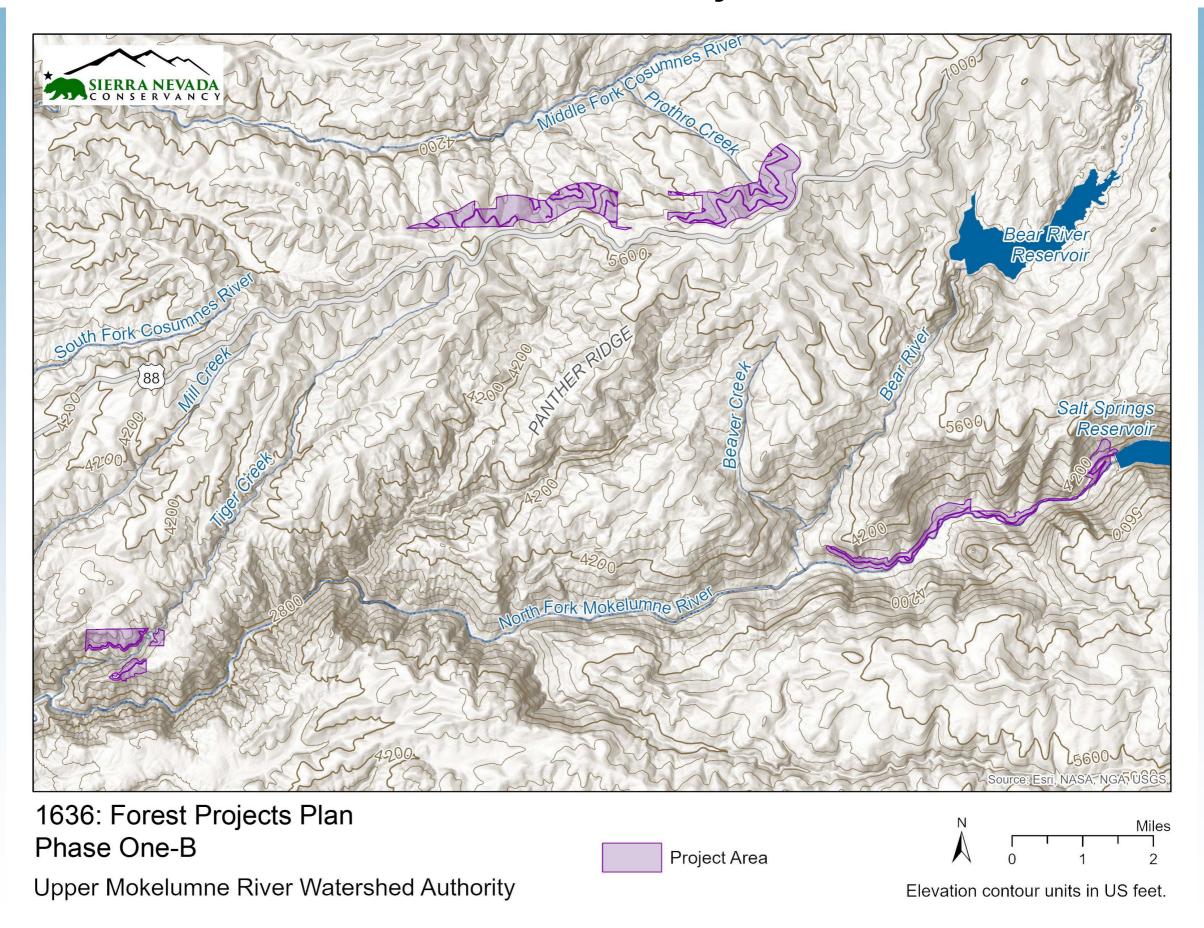
Staff recommends the Board:

- Authorize the Executive Officer to file a Notice of Exemption for the Claremont Forest Resiliency Project (#1632).
- Authorize a grant award in the amount of \$1,787,000 to the Mule Deer Foundation.
- Authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation.

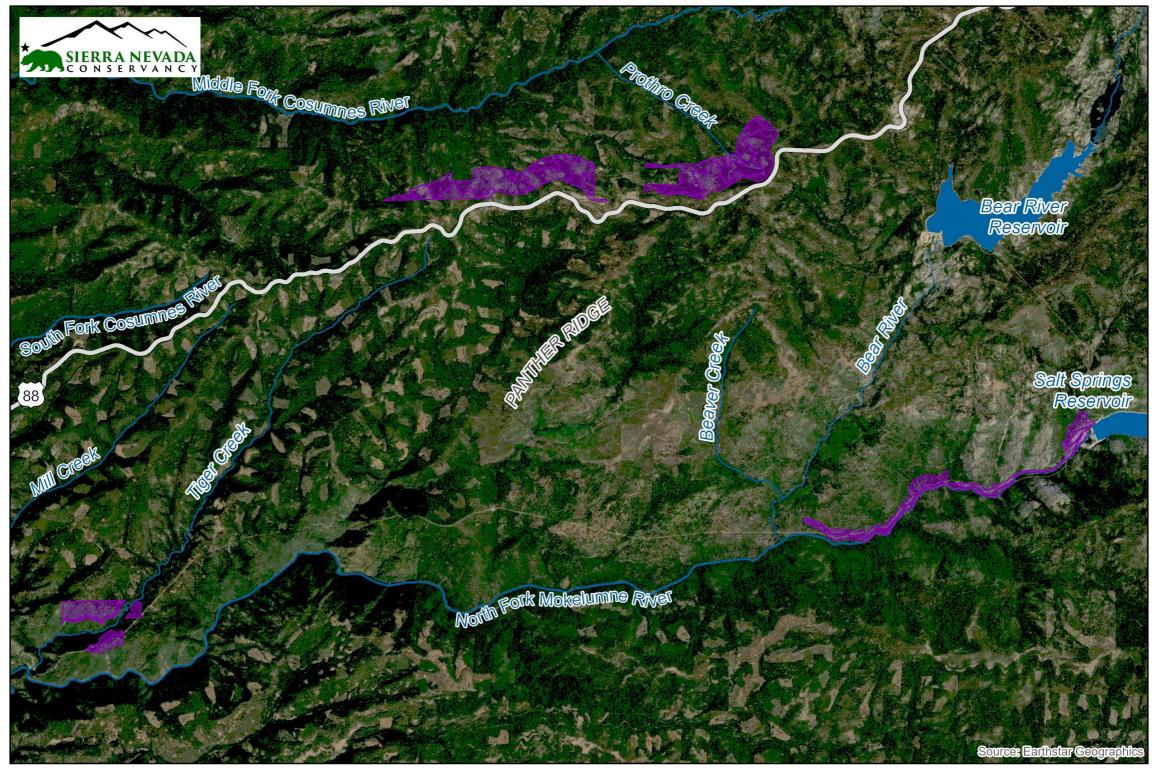
10b. 1636 Forest Projects Plan Phase One-B (1) Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority ● \$ 4,739,056



10b. 1636 Forest Projects Plan Phase One-B (2) Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority ● \$ 4,739,056



10b. 1636 Forest Projects Plan Phase One-B (3) Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority ● \$ 4,739,056



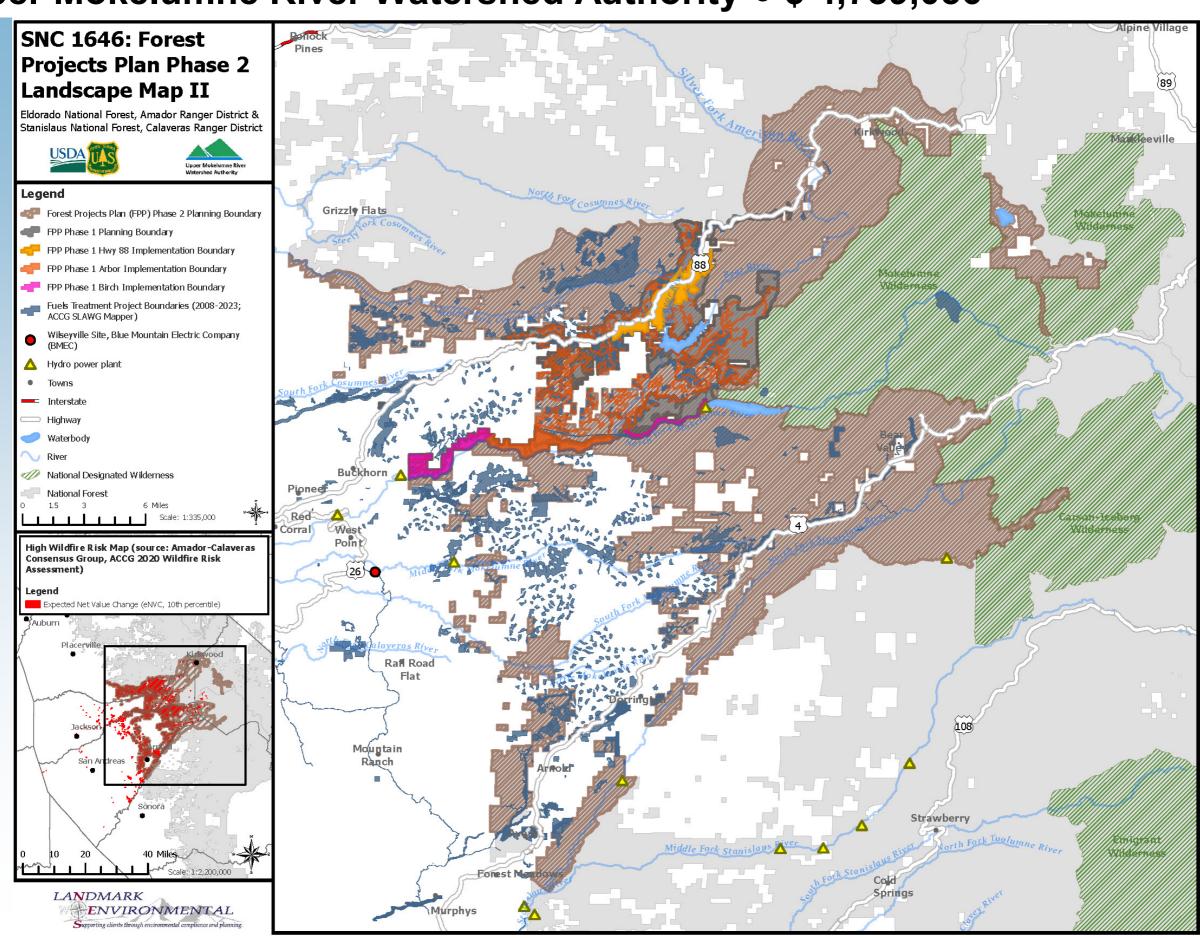
1636: Forest Projects Plan Phase One-B

Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority

Project Area



10b. 1636 Forest Projects Plan Phase One-B (4) Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority ● \$ 4,739,056



10b. 1636 Forest Projects Plan Phase One-B (5) Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority ● \$ 4,739,056













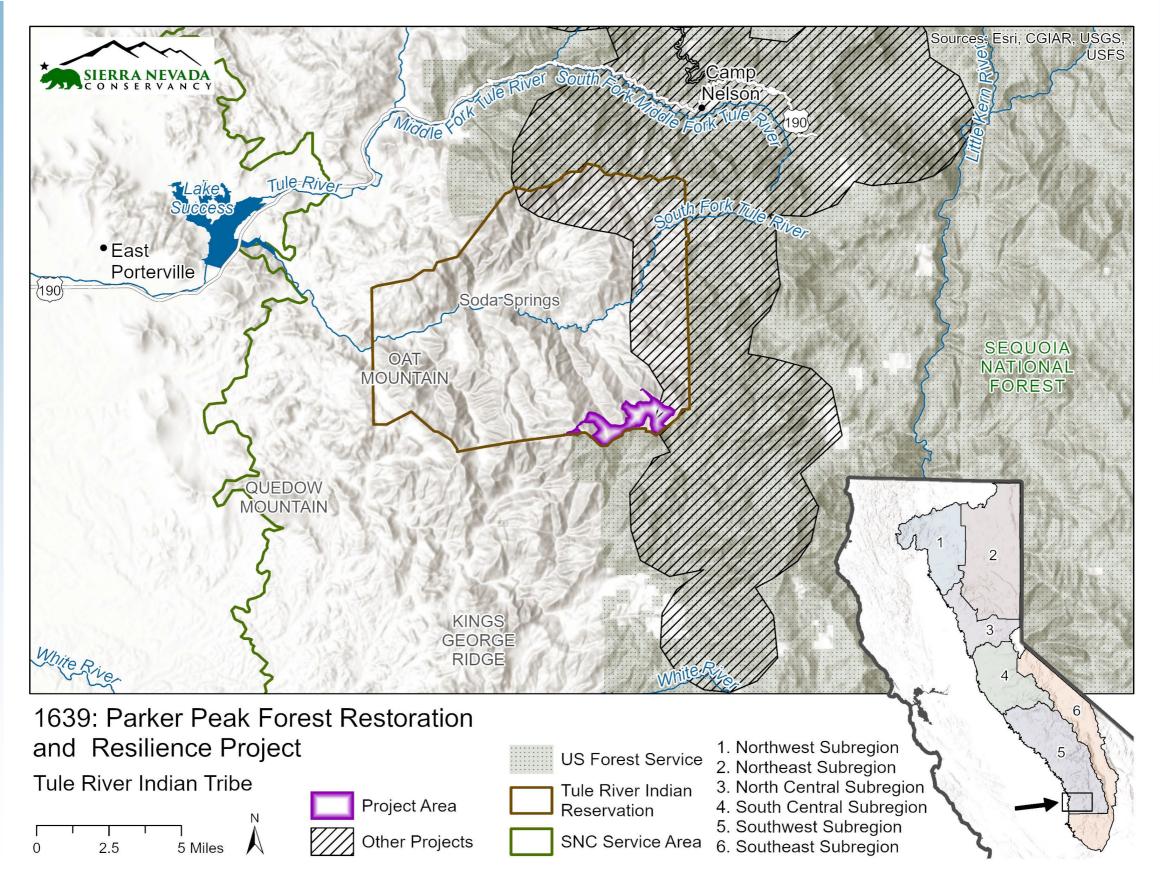
Recommendation 10b

Staff recommends the Board:

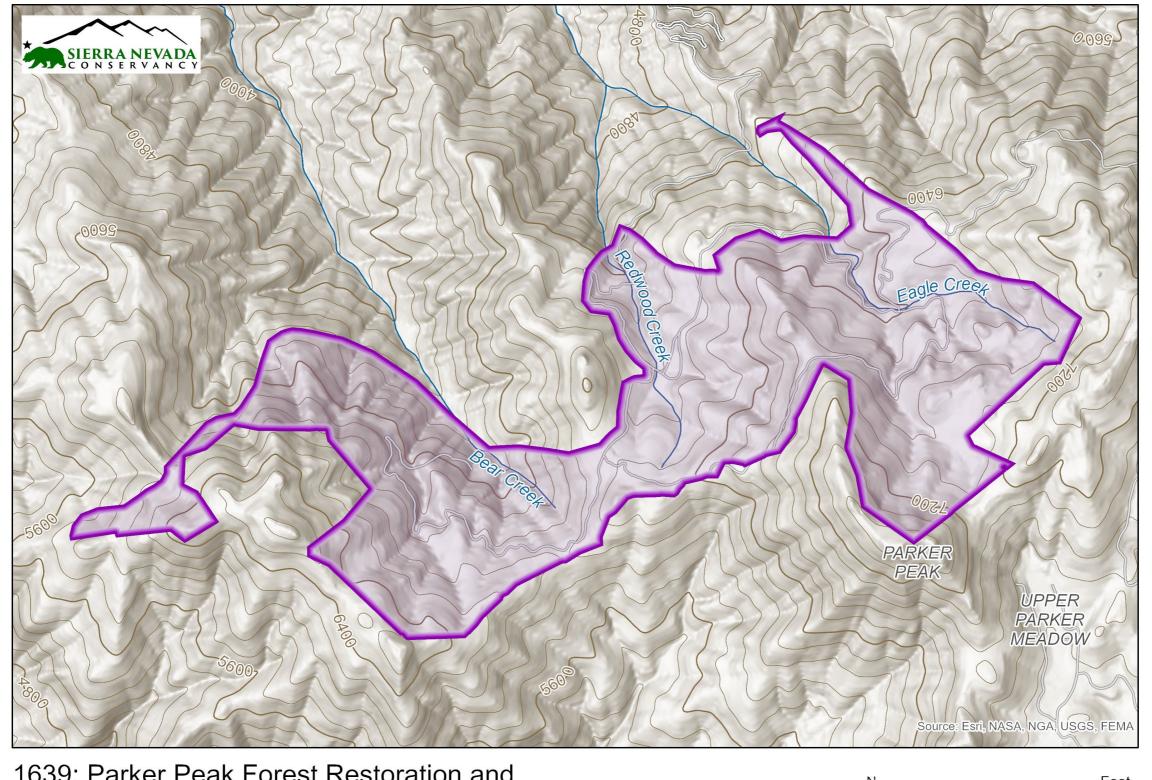
- Authorize the Executive Officer to file a Notice of Exemption for the Forest Projects Plan Phase One-B (#1636).
- Authorize a grant award in the amount of \$4,739,056 to the Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority.
- Authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation.

10c. 1639 Parker Peak Forest Restoration and Resilience Project (1)

Tule River Indian Tribe ● \$1,709,130

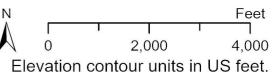


10c. 1639 Parker Peak Forest Restoration and Resilience Project (2)
Tule River Indian Tribe • \$1,709,130



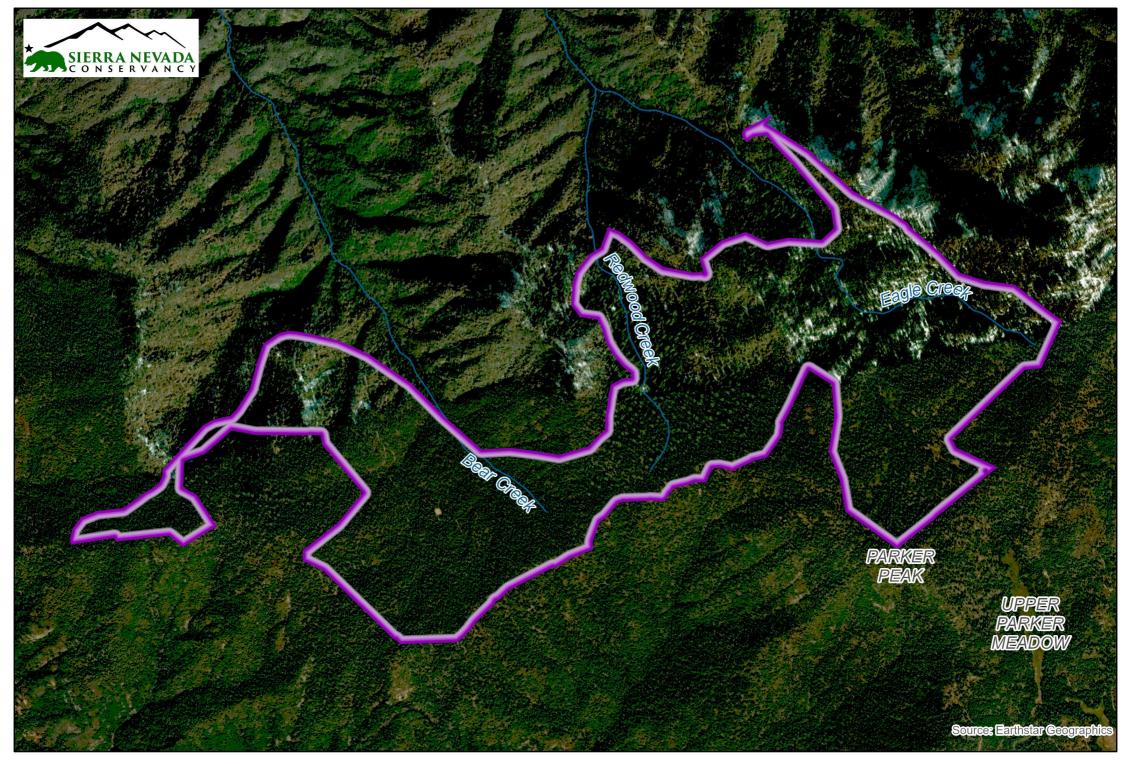
1639: Parker Peak Forest Restoration and Resilience Project
Tule River Indian Tribe





10c. 1639 Parker Peak Forest Restoration and Resilience Project (3)

Tule River Indian Tribe • \$1,709,130



1639: Parker Peak Forest Restoration and Resilience Project
Tule River Indian Tribe



10c. 1639 Parker Peak Forest Restoration and Resilience Project (4)

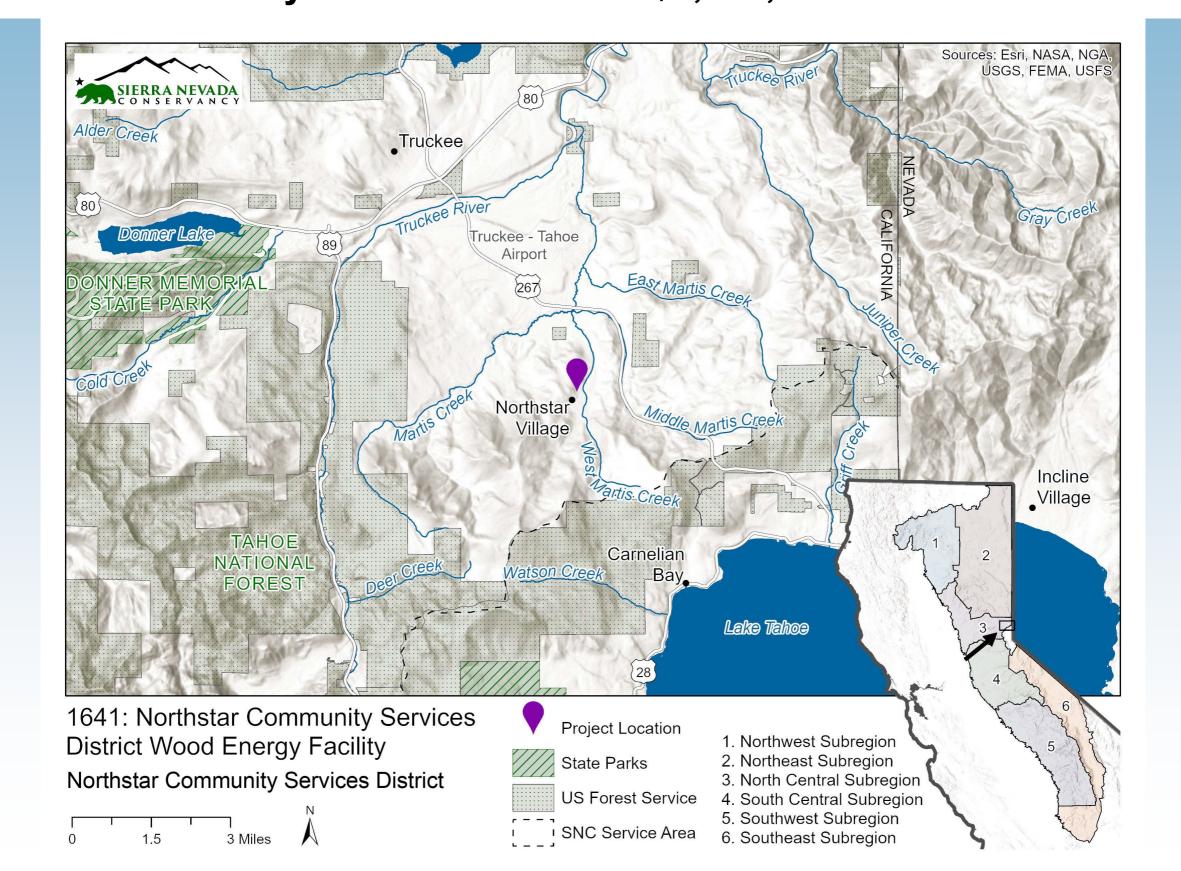


Recommendation 10c

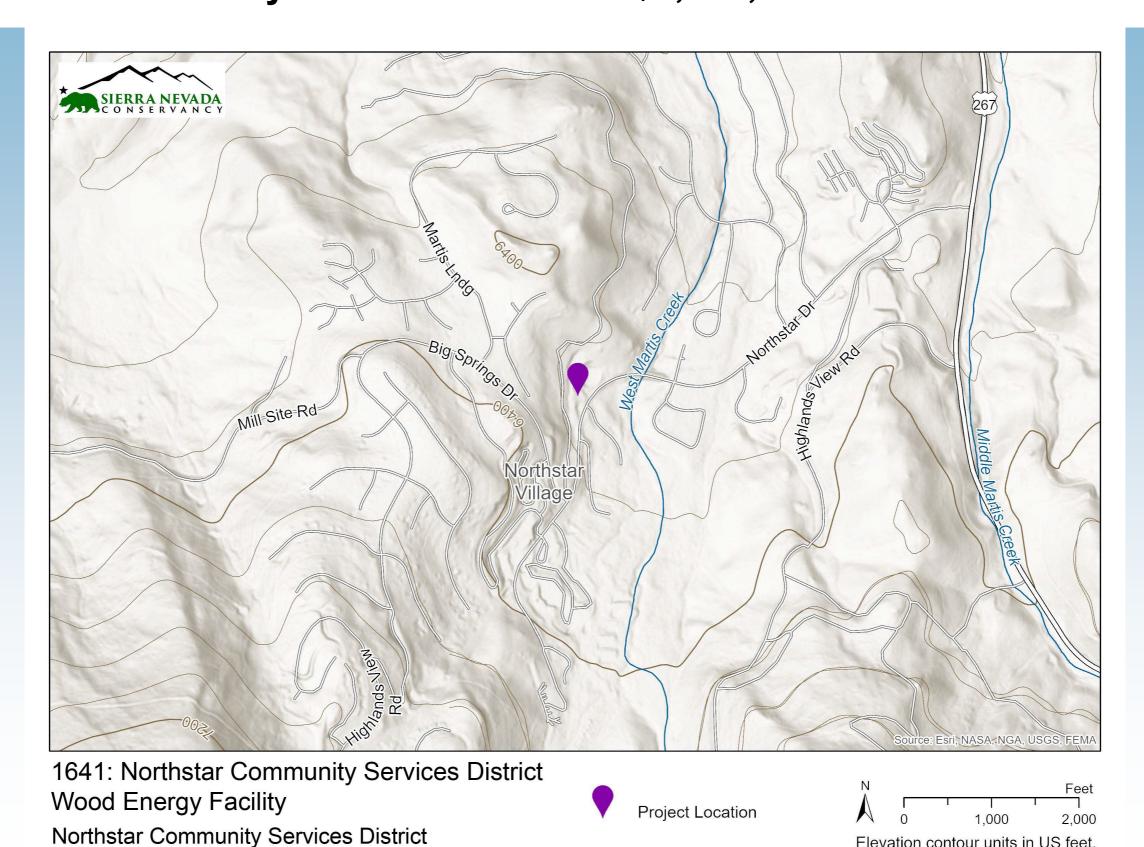
Staff recommends the Board:

- Authorize the Executive Officer to file a Notice of Exemption for the Parker Peak Forest Restoration and Resilience Project (#1639).
- Authorize a grant award in the amount of \$1,709,130 to the Tule River Indian Tribe.
- Authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation.

10d. 1641 Northstar Community Services District Wood Energy Facility (1) Northstar Community Services District • \$1,000,000

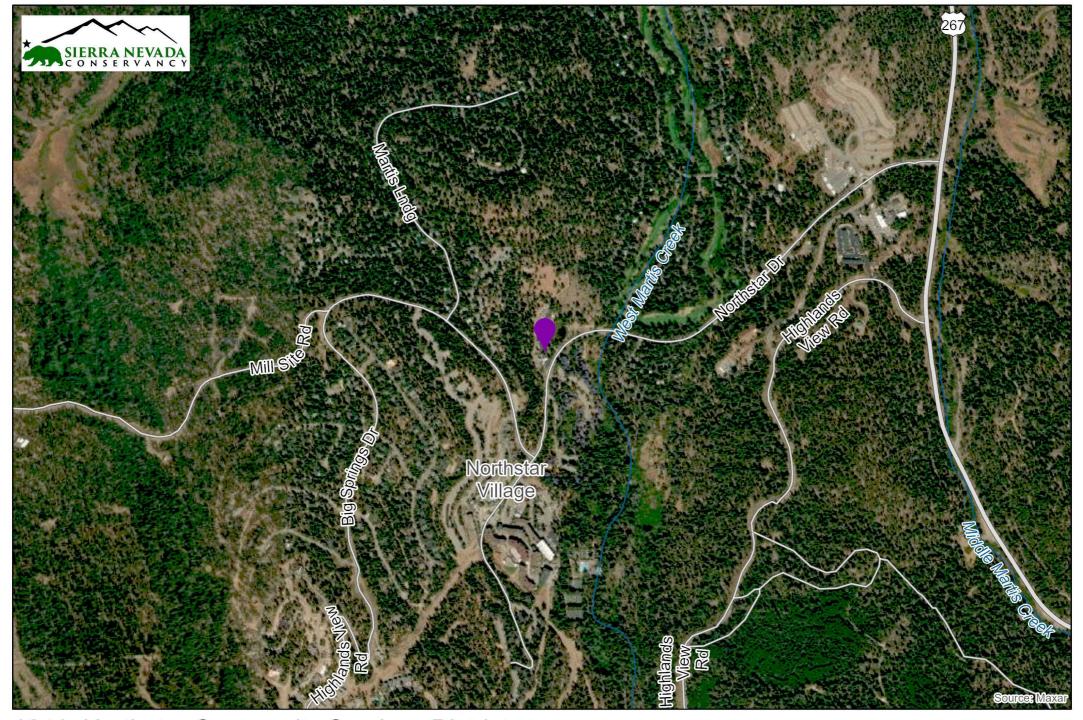


10d. 1641 Northstar Community Services District **Wood Energy Facility (2) Northstar Community Services District • \$1,000,000**



Elevation contour units in US feet.

10d. 1641 Northstar Community Services District Wood Energy Facility (3) Northstar Community Services District ● \$1,000,000



Project Location

2,000

1641: Northstar Community Services District Wood Energy Facility Northstar Community Services District

10d. 1641 Northstar Community Services District Wood Energy Facility (4)

Northstar Community Services District • \$1,000,000







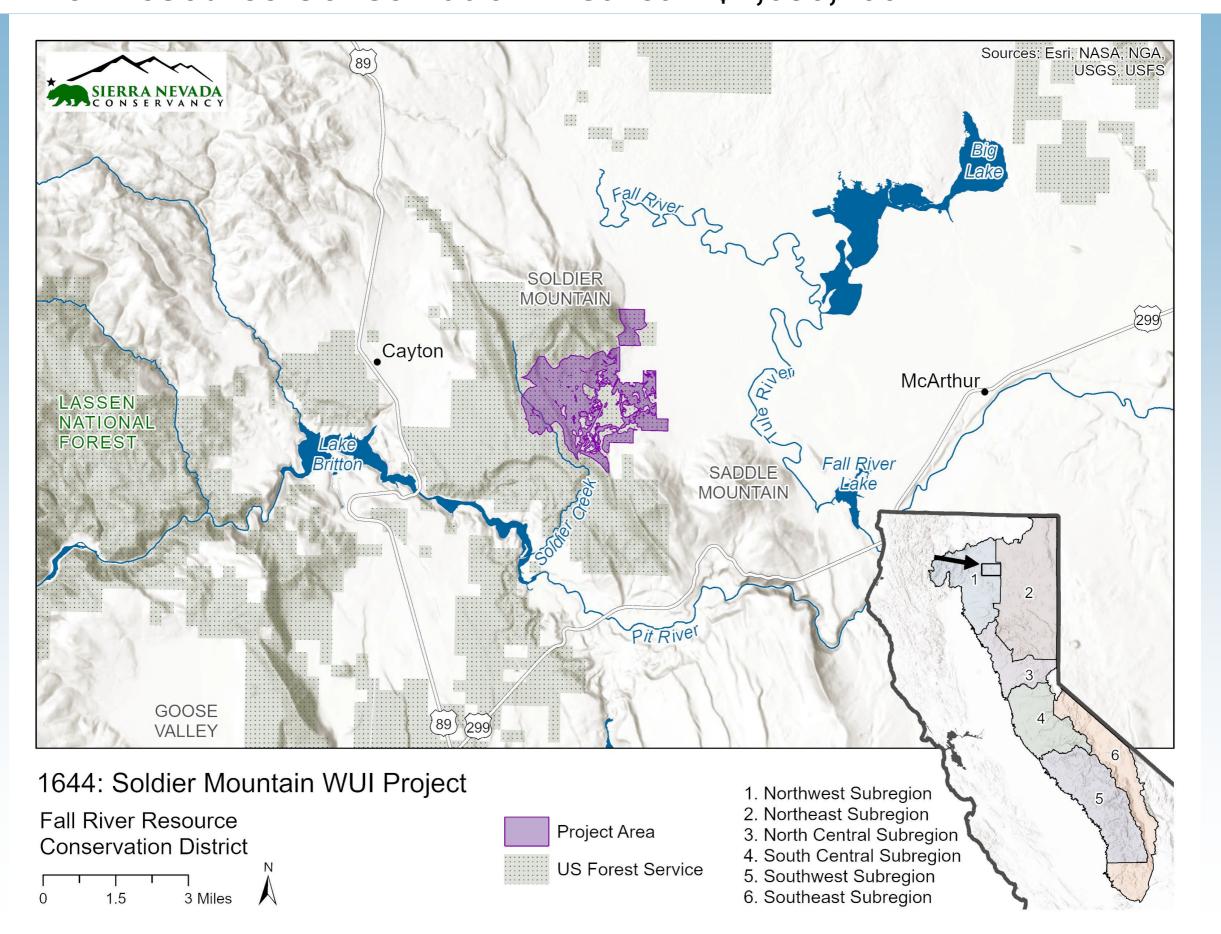


Recommendation 10d

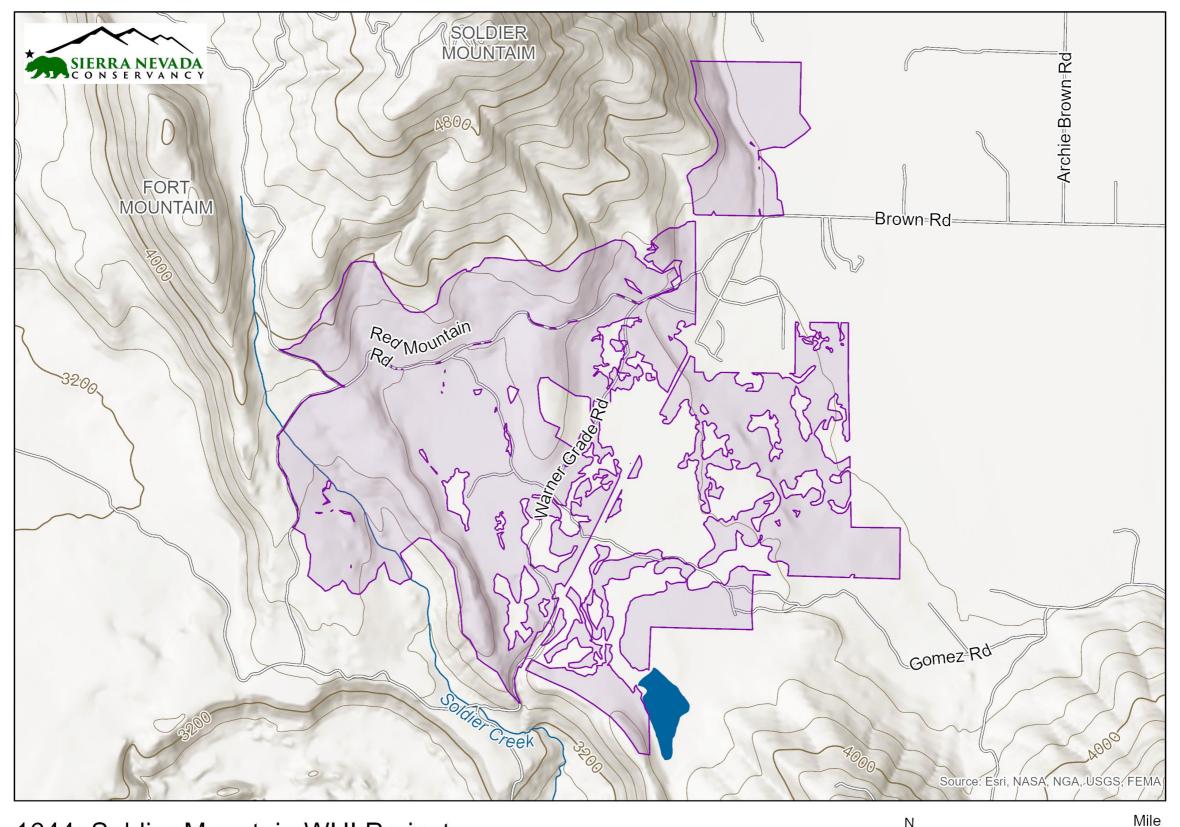
Staff recommends the Board:

- Certify that it reviewed and considered the information in the Mitigated Negative Declaration and Addendum, and if the Board concurs with the Mitigated Negative Declaration and Addendum, authorize the Executive Officer to file a Notice of Determination as a responsible agency for the Northstar Community Services District Wood Energy Facility project (#1641).
- Authorize a grant award in the amount of \$1,000,000 to the Northstar Community Services District.
- Authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation.

10e. 1644 Soldier Mountain WUI Project (1) Fall River Resource Conservation District • \$1,686,100



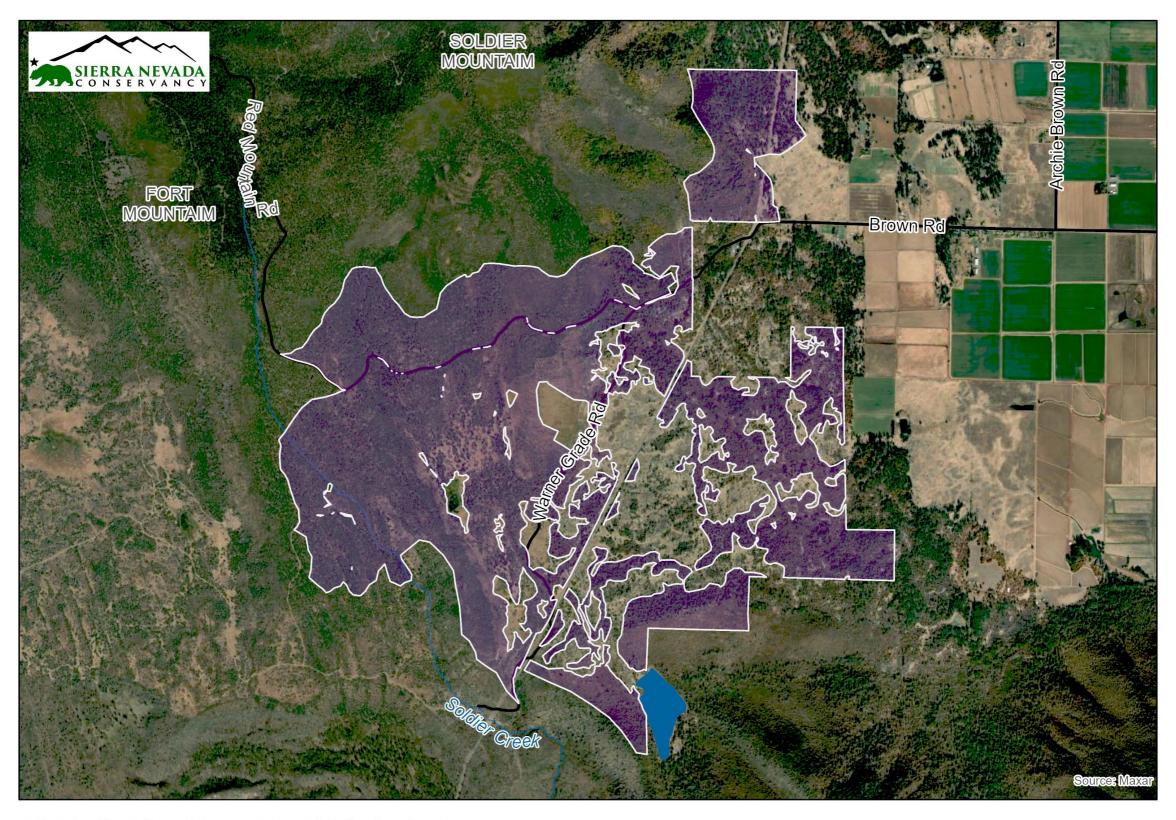
10e. 1644 Soldier Mountain WUI Project (2) Fall River Resource Conservation District ● \$1,686,100



1644: Soldier Mountain WUI Project Fall River Resource Conservation District



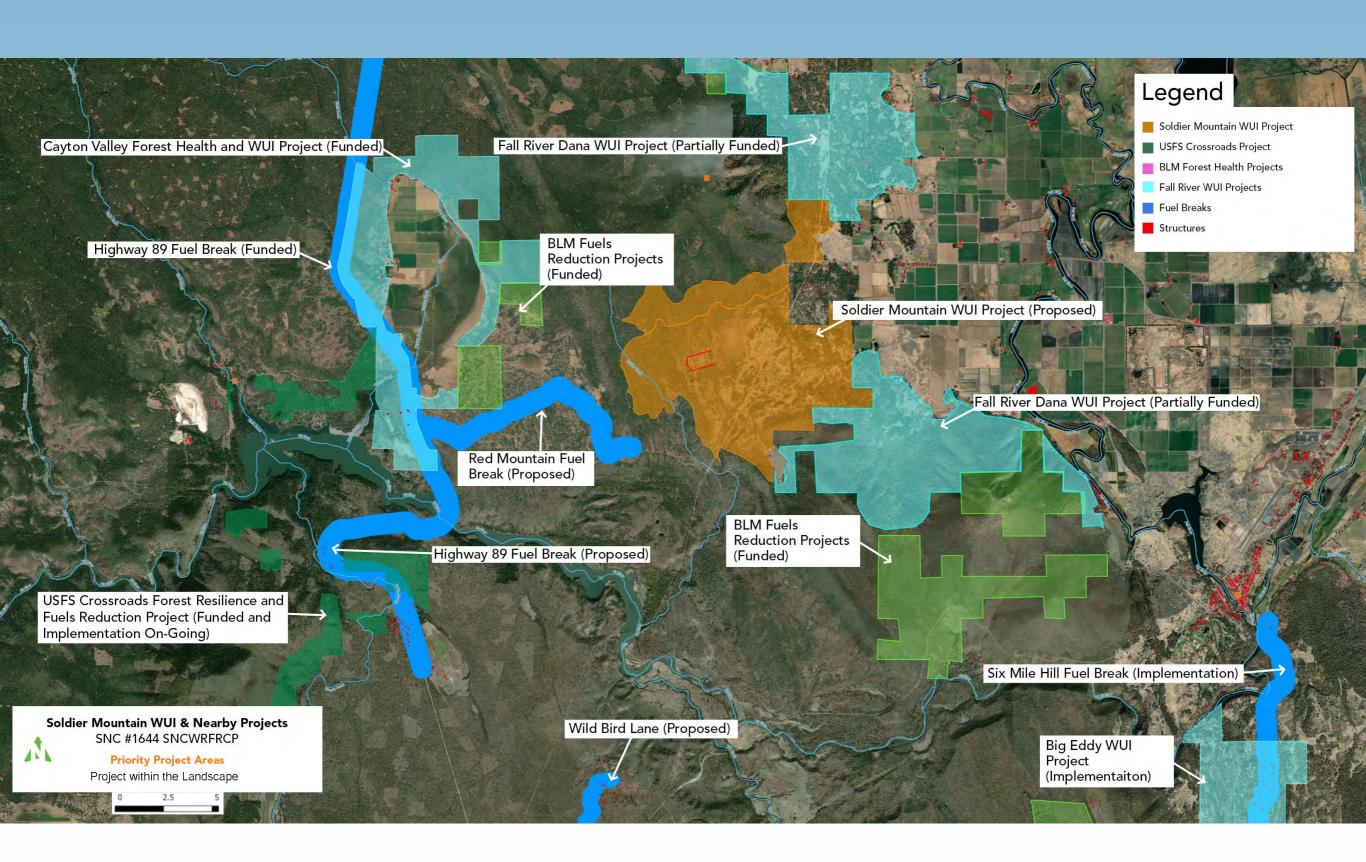
10e. 1644 Soldier Mountain WUI Project (3) Fall River Resource Conservation District ● \$1,686,100



1644: Soldier Mountain WUI Project Fall River Resource Conservation District



10e. 1644 Soldier Mountain WUI Project (4) Fall River Resource Conservation District ● \$1,686,100



10e. 1644 Soldier Mountain WUI Project (5) Fall River Resource Conservation District • \$1,686,100





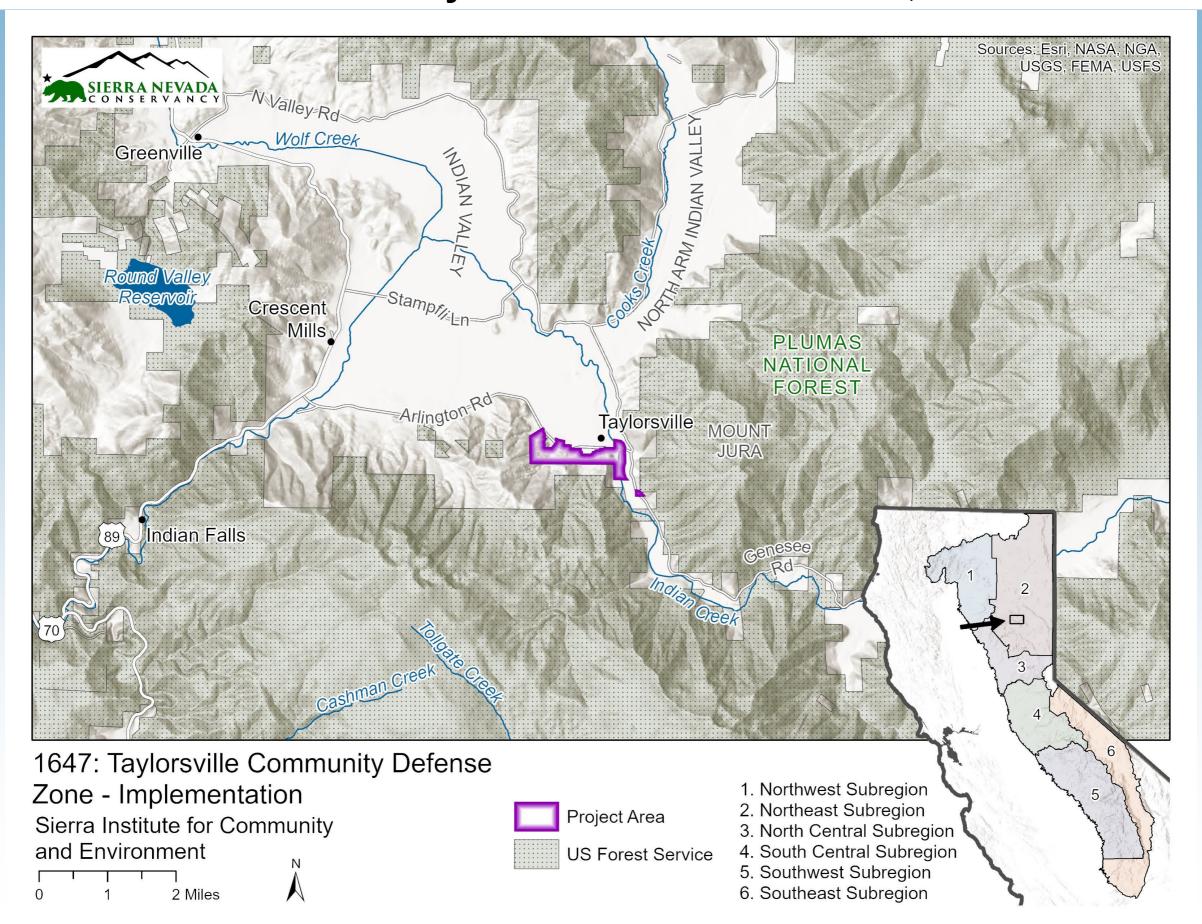




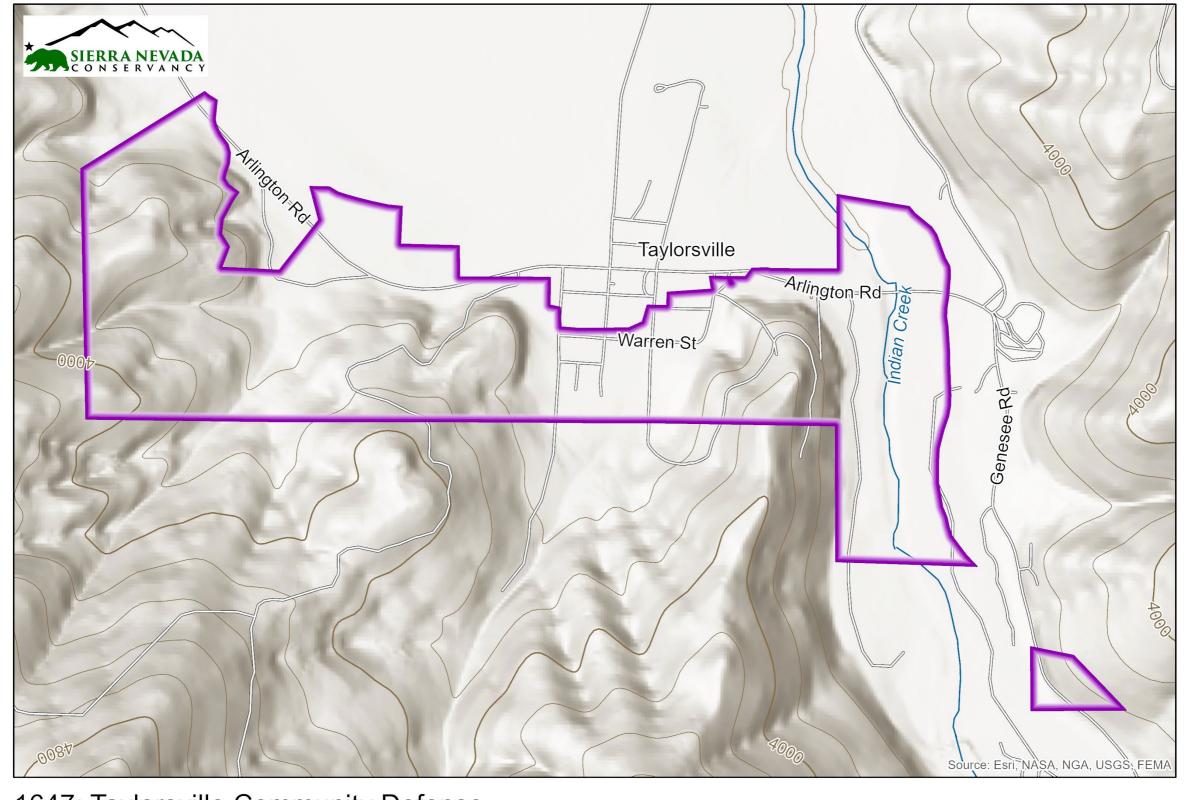
Recommendation 10e

- Authorize the Executive Officer to file a Notice of Exemption for the Soldier Mountain WUI Project (#1644).
- Authorize a grant award in the amount of \$1,686,100 to the Fall River Resource Conservation District.
- Authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation.

10f. 1647 Taylorsville Community Defense Zone Implementation (1) Sierra Institute for Community and Environment ● \$751,665

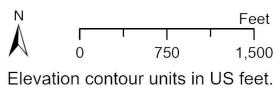


10f. 1647 Taylorsville Community Defense Zone Implementation (2) Sierra Institute for Community and Environment • \$751,665

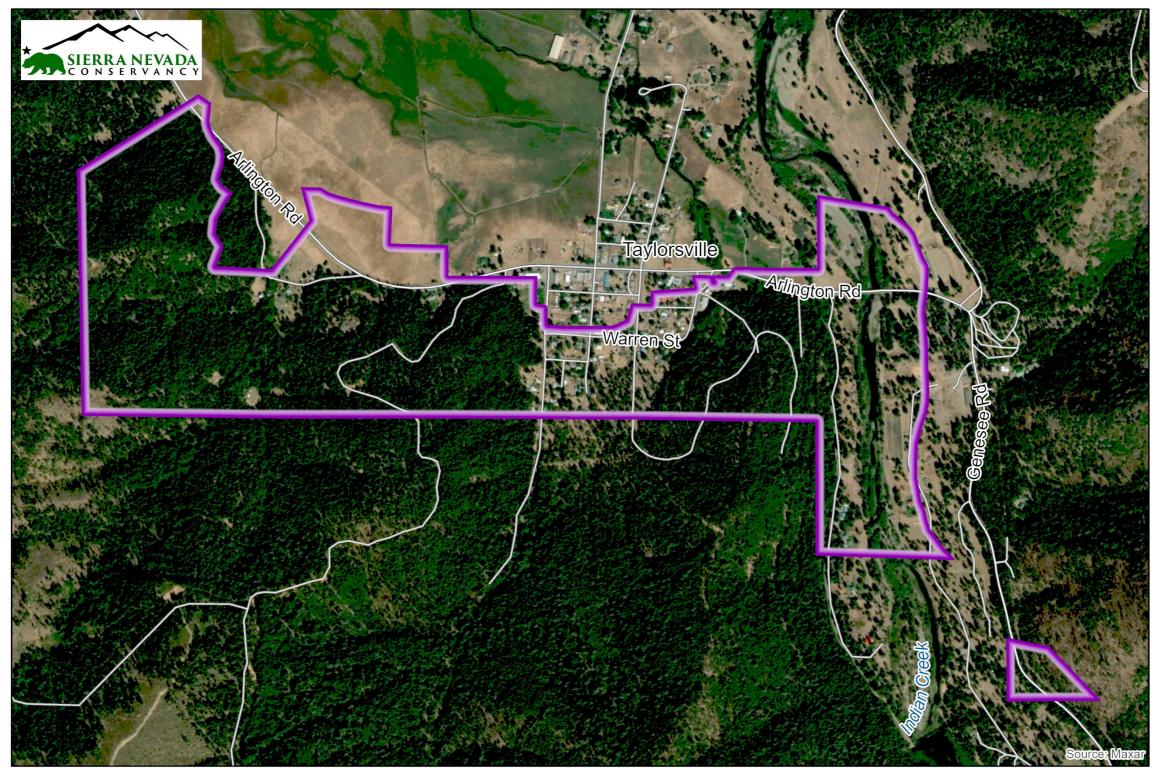


1647: Taylorsville Community Defense Zone - Implementation
Sierra Institute for Community and Environment



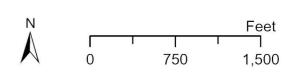


10f. 1647 Taylorsville Community Defense Zone Implementation (3) Sierra Institute for Community and Environment ● \$751,665



1647: Taylorsville Community DefenseZone - ImplementationSierra Institute for Community and Environment





10f. 1647 Taylorsville Community Defense Zone Implementation (4) Sierra Institute for Community and Environment ● \$751,665





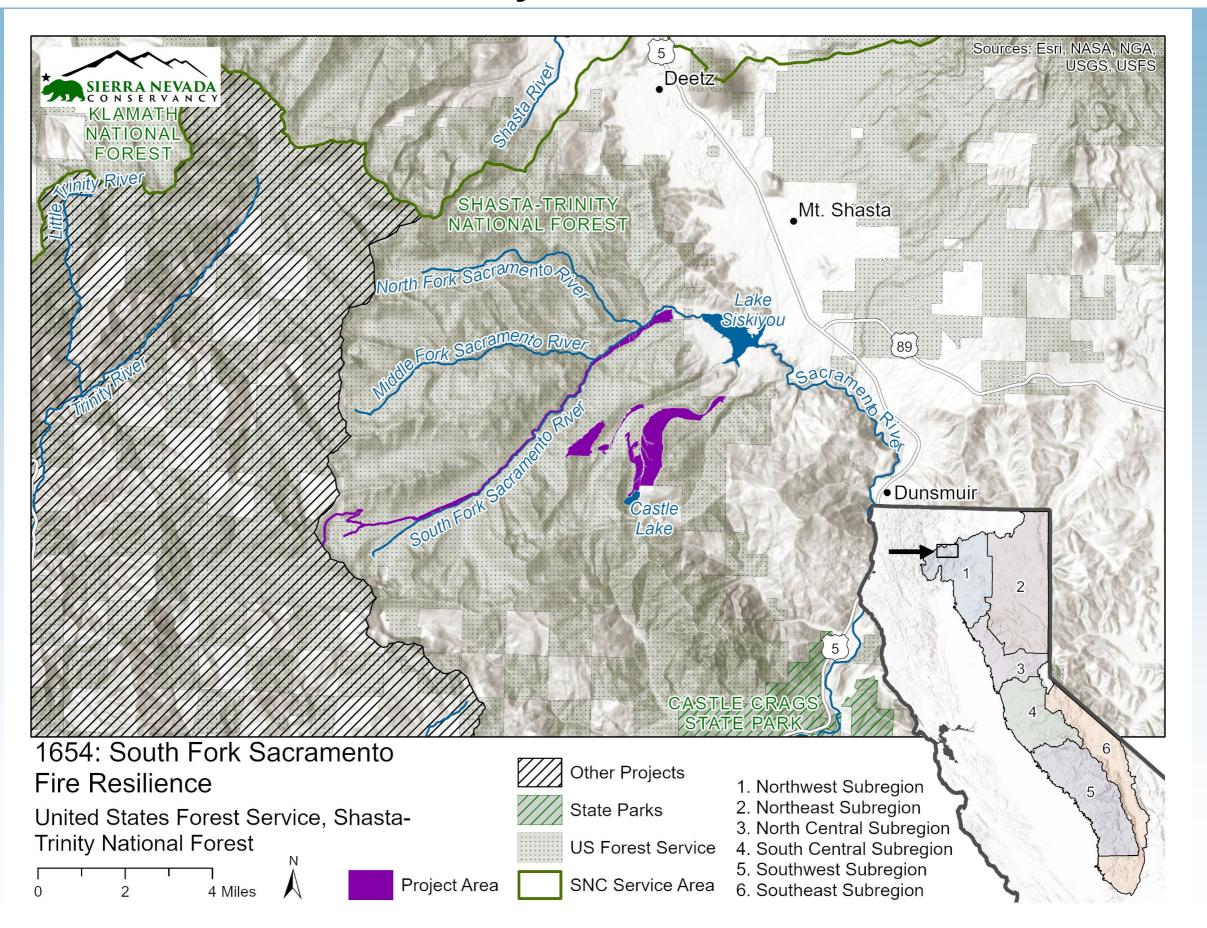




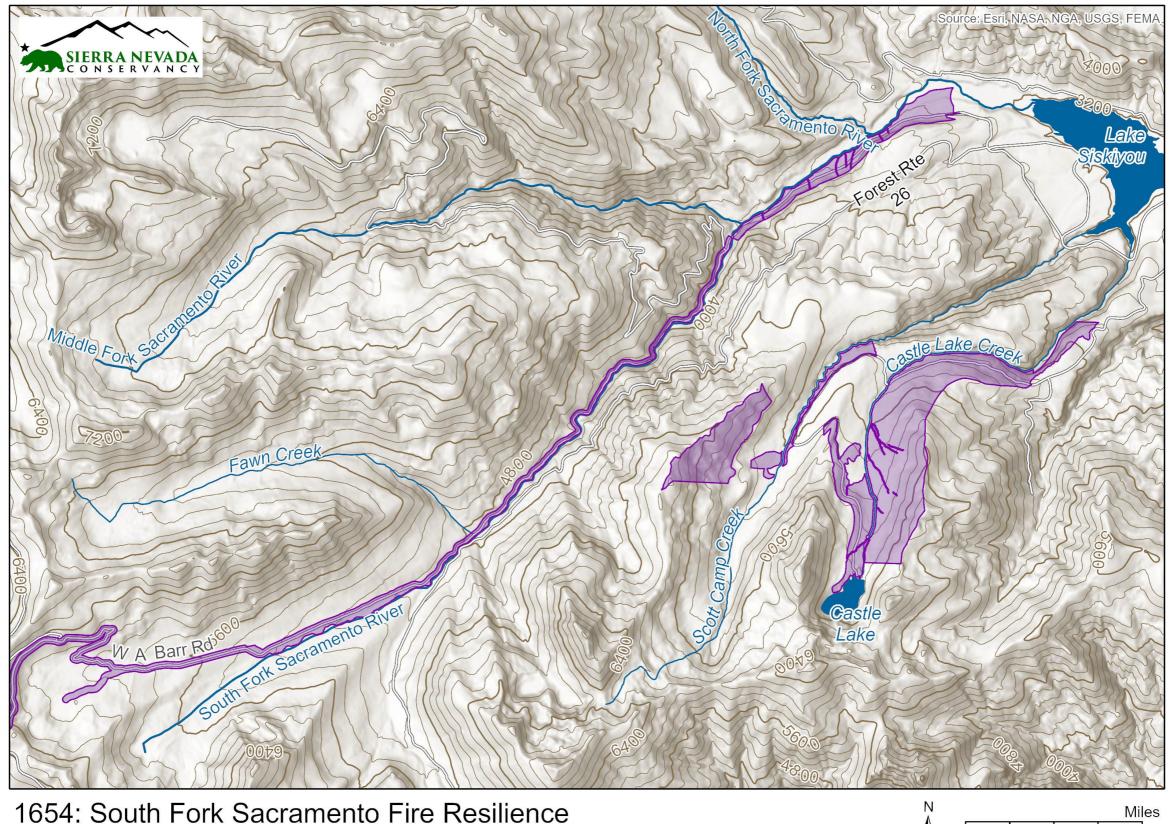
Recommendation 10f

- Authorize the Executive Officer to file a Notice of Exemption for the *Taylorsville Community Defense* Zone Implementation (#1647).
- Authorize a grant award in the amount of \$751,665 to the Sierra Institute for Community and Environment.
- Authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation.

10g. 1654 South Fork Sacramento Fire Resilience (1) U.S. Forest Service, Shasta-Trinity National Forest ● \$3,628,600



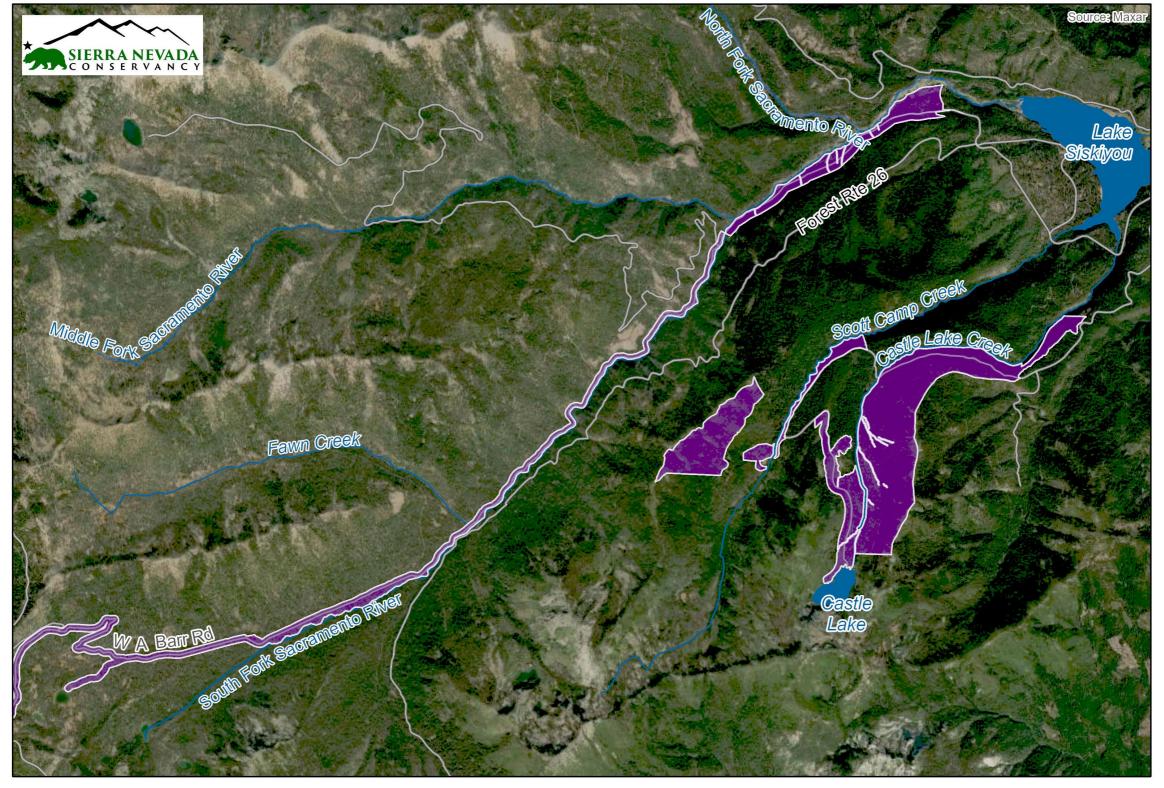
10g. 1654 South Fork Sacramento Fire Resilience (2) U.S. Forest Service, Shasta-Trinity National Forest ● \$3,628,600



1654: South Fork Sacramento Fire Resilience United States Forest Service, Shasta-Trinity National Forest



10g. 1654 South Fork Sacramento Fire Resilience (3) U.S. Forest Service, Shasta-Trinity National Forest ● \$3,628,600

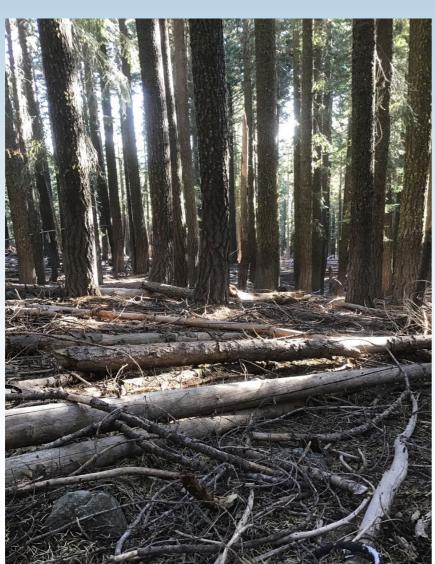


1654: South Fork Sacramento Fire Resilience United States Forest Service, Shasta-Trinity National Forest



10g. 1654 South Fork Sacramento Fire Resilience (4) U.S. Forest Service, Shasta-Trinity National Forest ● \$3,628,600





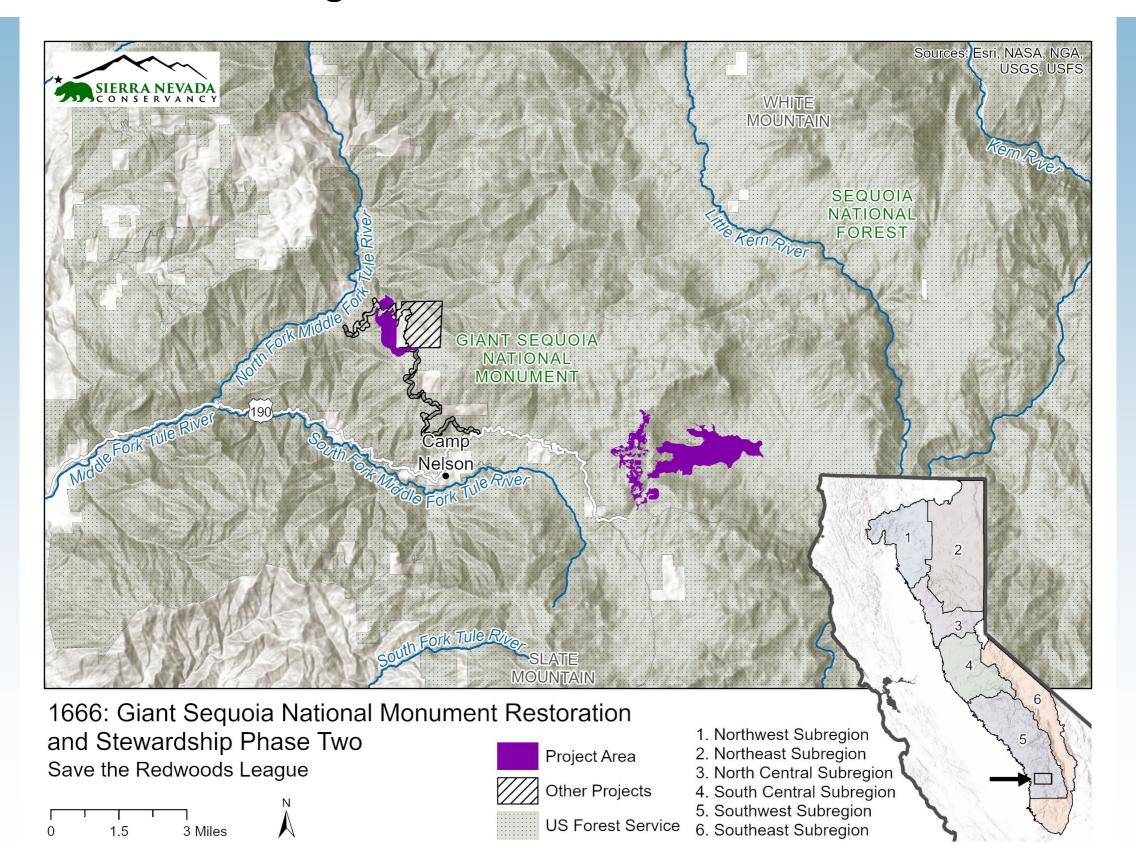




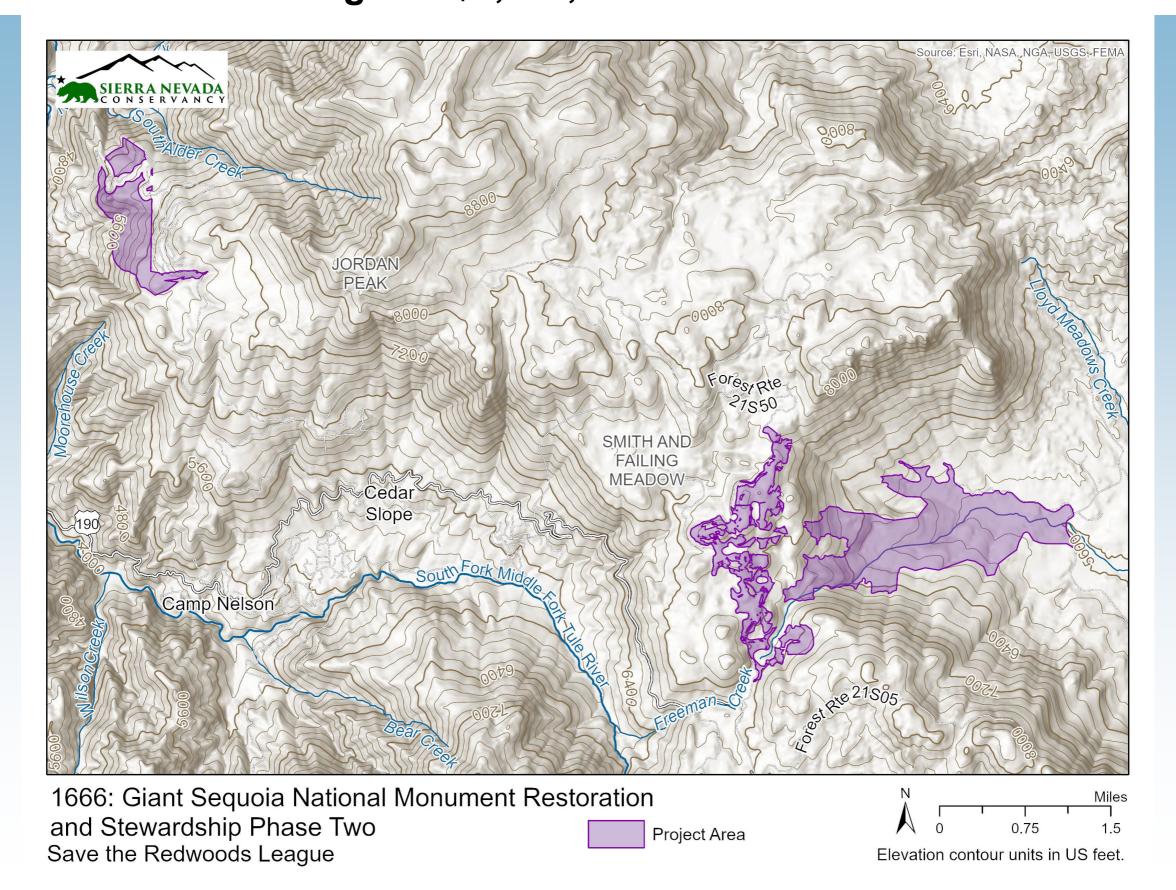
Recommendation 10g

- Authorize the Executive Officer to file a Notice of Exemption for the South Fork Sacramento Fire Resilience (#1654).
- Authorize a grant award in the amount of \$3,628,600 to the United States Forest Service, Shasta-Trinity National Forest.
- Authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation.

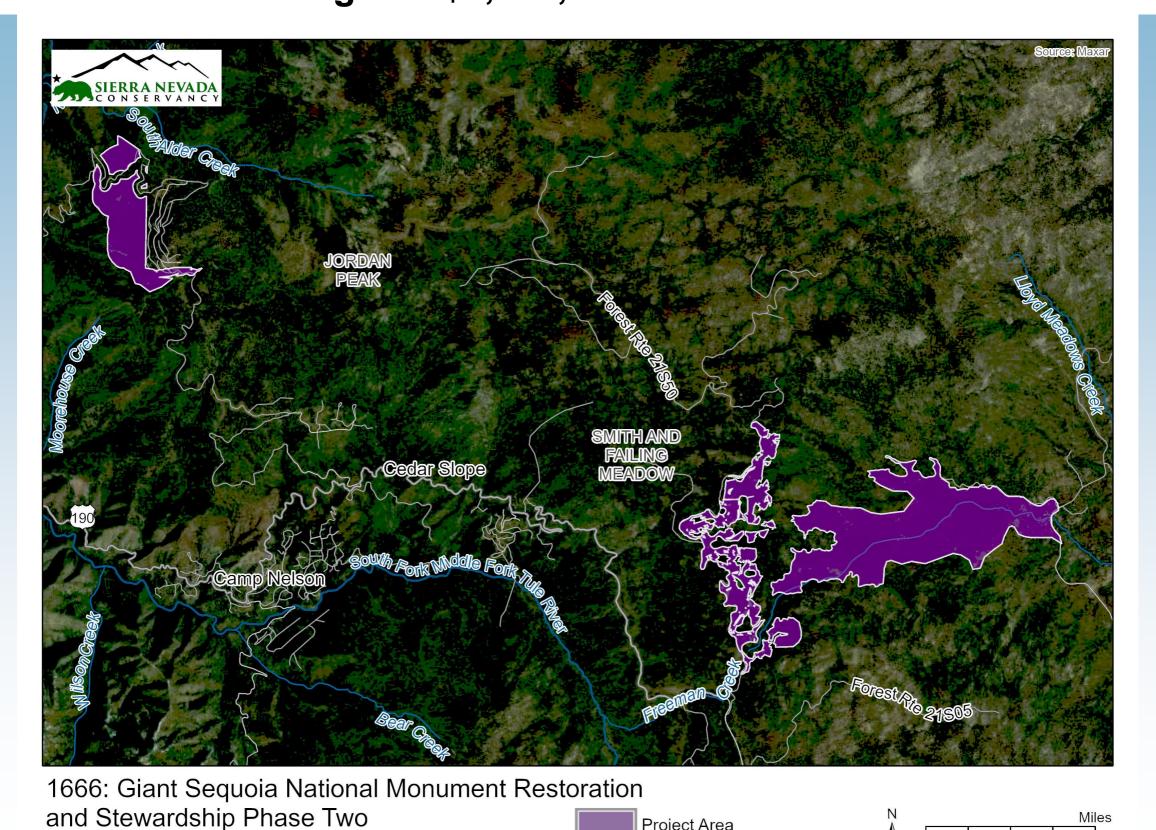
10h. 1666 Giant Sequoia National Monument Restoration and Stewardship Phase Two (1) Save the Redwoods League • \$2,225,300



10h. 1666 Giant Sequoia National Monument Restoration and Stewardship Phase Two (2) Save the Redwoods League • \$2,225,300



10h. 1666 Giant Sequoia National Monument Restoration and **Stewardship Phase Two (3)** Save the Redwoods League ● \$2,225,300



Save the Redwoods League

Project Area

10h. 1666 Giant Sequoia National Monument Restoration and Stewardship Phase Two (4)
Save the Redwoods League • \$2,225,300



Recommendation 10h

- Authorize the Executive Officer to file a Notice of Exemption for the Giant Sequoia National Monument Restoration and Stewardship Phase Two (#1666).
- Authorize a grant award in the amount of \$2,225,300 to the Save the Redwoods League.
- Authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation.