



# BUILDING RESILIENCE *in the* SIERRA NEVADA

The Sierra Nevada Watershed Improvement Program (WIP) is a large-scale restoration program designed to restore the health of California's primary watershed and create resilient Sierra Nevada communities. Launched in 2015 and signed into law in 2018, the WIP is led by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy and is implemented through a strong network of partners from a wide range of state and federal agencies, local governments, tribal organizations, and various private and nonprofit entities.

The Sierra Nevada Region continues to face growing challenges from **declining forest and watershed health**, **wildfire risk**, and a **changing climate**. The magnitude of these challenges requires a program that can truly increase the pace and scale of restoration at a landscape level.

## MEETING TODAY'S FOREST AND WATERSHED HEALTH CHALLENGES HEAD-ON

### THE WIP'S HOLISTIC MISSION LINKS TOGETHER:

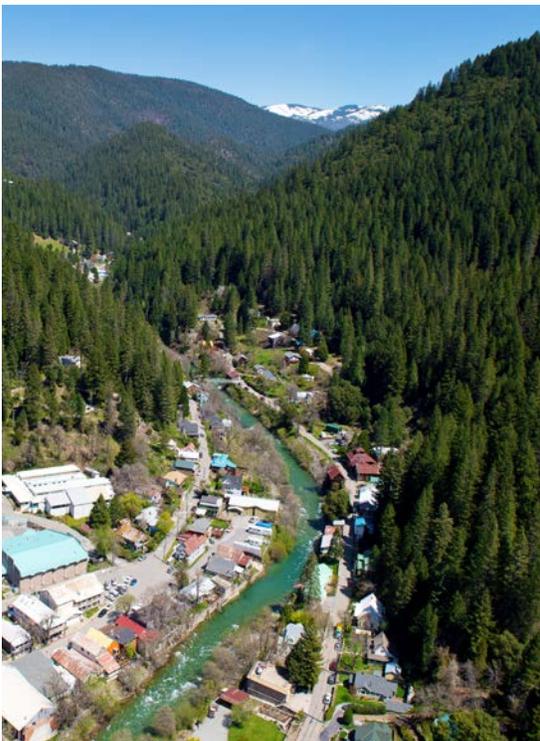
-  Forest and watershed health
-  Community resilience
-  Recreation and tourism infrastructure
-  Land conservation

### THE WIP EXPEDITES WORK ON THE GROUND BY:

-  Increasing and coordinating investment
-  Resolving policy-related constraints
-  Expanding infrastructure and capacity

## THIS WILL HELP CALIFORNIA ACHIEVE NUMEROUS GOALS

- ✓ Reduce the risks and consequences of large, damaging **WILDFIRES**
- ✓ Reduce **GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS**
- ✓ Improve and protect **AIR QUALITY**
- ✓ Protect **WATER QUANTITY** and quality
- ✓ Improve and protect wildlife **HABITAT**
- ✓ Protect communities and **PUBLIC SAFETY**
- ✓ Expand **JOB OPPORTUNITIES** in rural communities





# A NEW WAY OF DOING BUSINESS

In numerous state studies and plans, the WIP has been recognized as a model program for focusing resources at the most difficult and dangerous problems, and for **BREAKING DOWN** organizational, political, and bureaucratic **BARRIERS**. For example:

- ✓ The **Tahoe-Central Sierra Initiative (TCSI)**, the WIP's first landscape-scale pilot project, launched in 2016. The TCSI brings together public and private partners to test innovative investment and governance tools across the Central Sierra Nevada and Lake Tahoe areas.
- ✓ The SNC initiated and is leading the **Sierra Nevada Strategic Investment Plan**, working with other state agencies to strategically and holistically utilize existing and new funds in the Sierra Nevada Region.
- ✓ The SNC's **WIP grant program** has awarded over \$68 million in Proposition 84 and Proposition 1 funds and is now beginning to award grants through Proposition 68 for on-the-ground projects.
- ✓ WIP partners informed the development of and advocated for the **passage of SB 901**, which allocates additional funding for forest health and fire prevention work, and lifts policy constraints on certain prescribed fire, thinning, and fuel reduction projects.
- ✓ The SNC's WIP grant program supported the development of several small-scale **biomass energy facilities** in the Sierra Nevada, including California's first building constructed using cross-laminated timber.
- ✓ The SNC was provided a \$1 million appropriation in 2018–19 from the Timber Regulation and Forest Restoration Fund to support the development of wood and biomass utilization **infrastructure**.

## THE WIP MODEL

Assess the Need



Develop Partnerships  
and Resources



Address Policy  
Constraints



Secure Funding and  
Investments



Design and Field Test  
New Ways of Doing Business



Tell the Story



GROWING IMPACTS IN THE REGION REQUIRE **INCREASED SUPPORT FOR THE WIP.**

[SIERRANEVADA.CA.GOV/WIP](http://SIERRANEVADA.CA.GOV/WIP)