



Fuelbreak Collaboration Across Landscapes

“Addressing areas where MSP is not the objective”

and

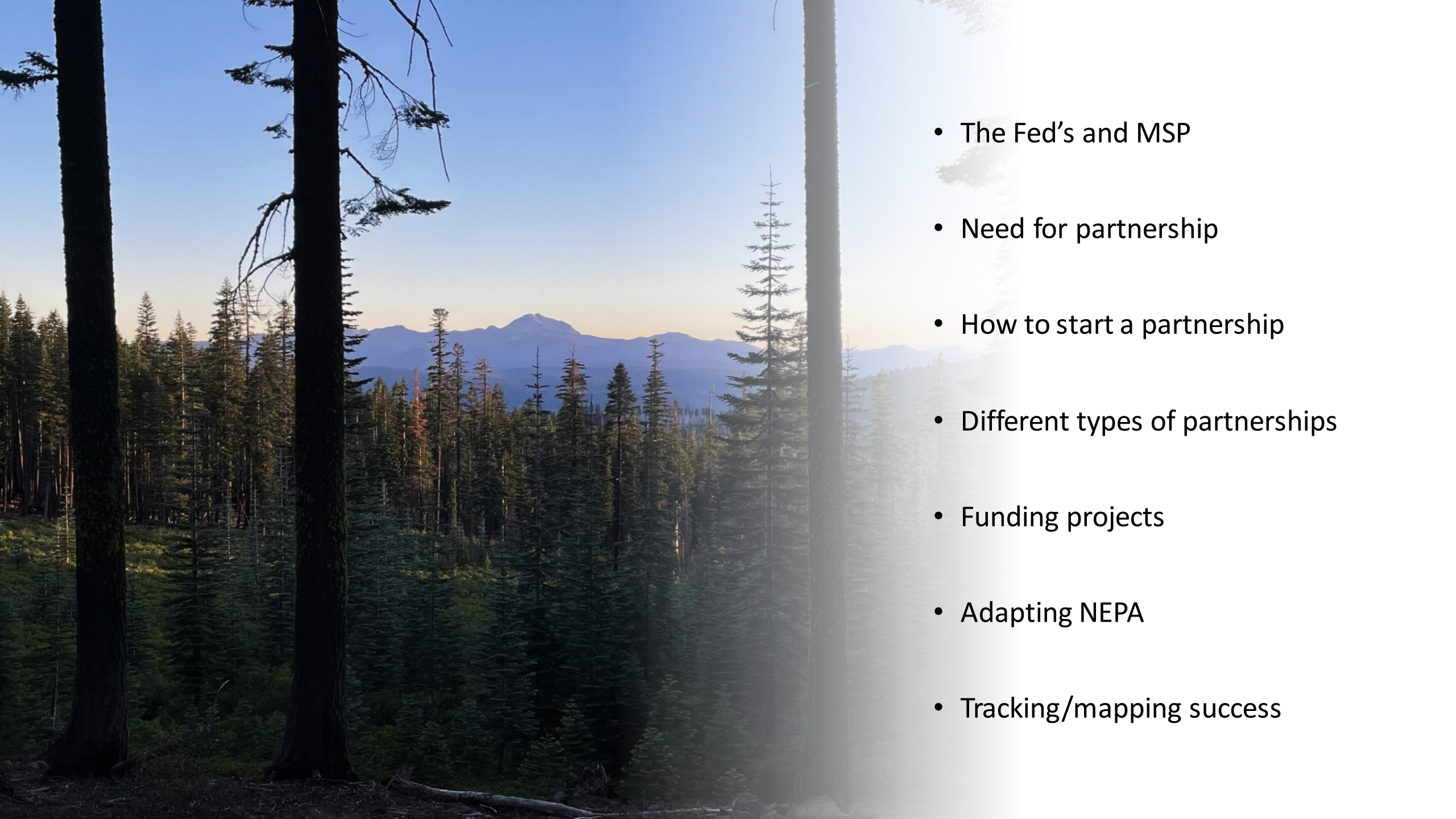
“Networking and collaboration planning with all landowners for future integrated fuelbreak projects”

Cameron Musser RPF #3197, Butte County RCD

A scenic landscape photograph showing a valley with a lake in the distance. In the foreground, there is a prominent, dark, charred tree trunk. The valley is filled with a mix of green and brown trees, suggesting a forest recovering from a fire. The sky is blue with some wispy clouds and a few white contrails.

Helping the Federal Government Collaborate on Their Landscapes

Cameron Musser #3197, Butte County RCD



- The Fed's and MSP
- Need for partnership
- How to start a partnership
- Different types of partnerships
- Funding projects
- Adapting NEPA
- Tracking/mapping success

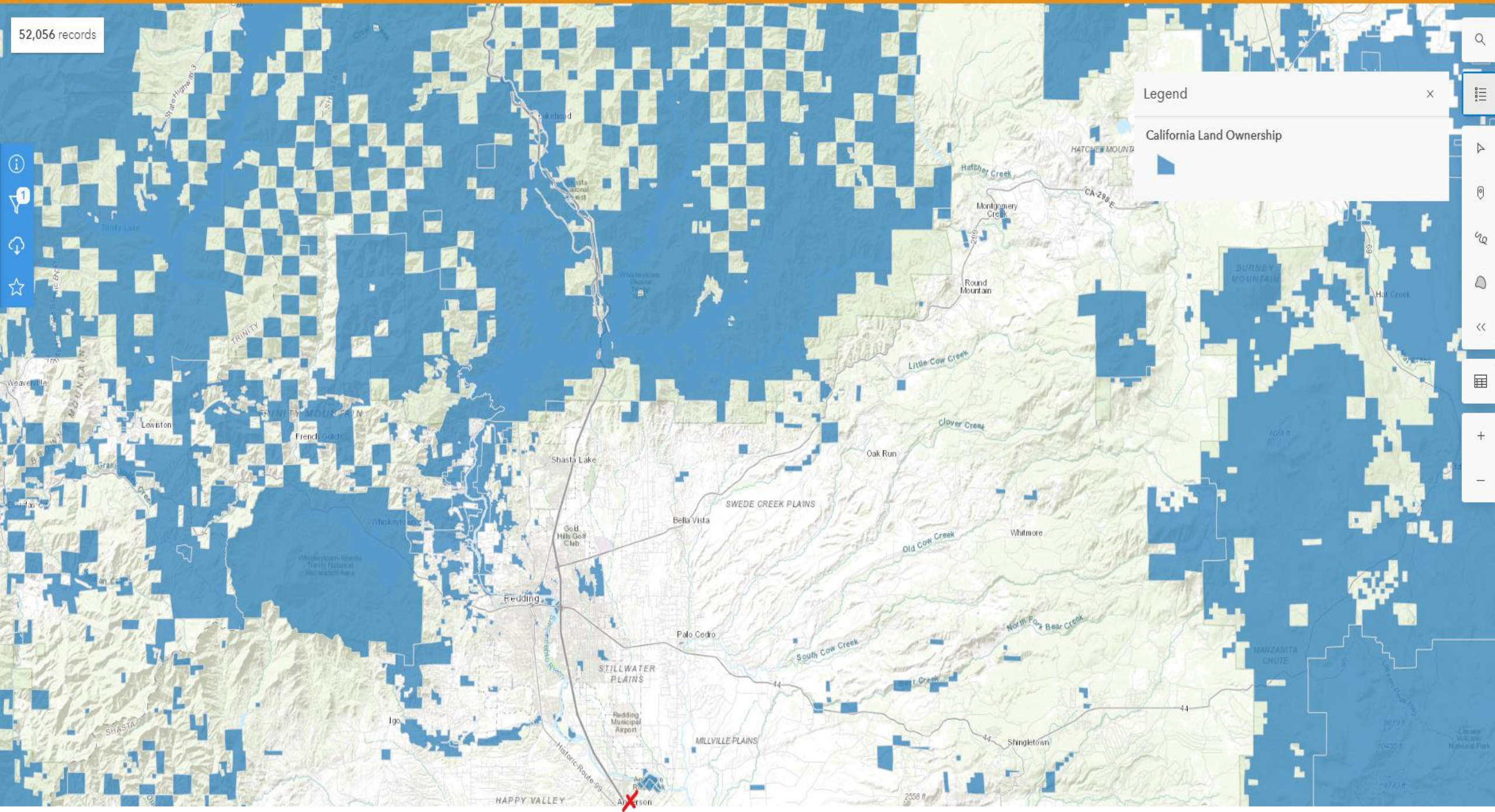
Pacific Southwest

National Forests & Other Federal Lands



- 33 Million acres of forested land in California
- 60% is Publicly/Federally owned
- 40% is Privately owned

52,056 records



Legend [Close]

California Land Ownership

- [Blue Square]

Map navigation controls:

- Information icon (i)
- Home icon (house)
- Refresh icon (circular arrow)
- Star icon (star)
- Search icon (magnifying glass)
- Layers icon (list)
- Scale icon (ruler)
- Zoom in (+)
- Zoom out (-)

Map navigation controls:

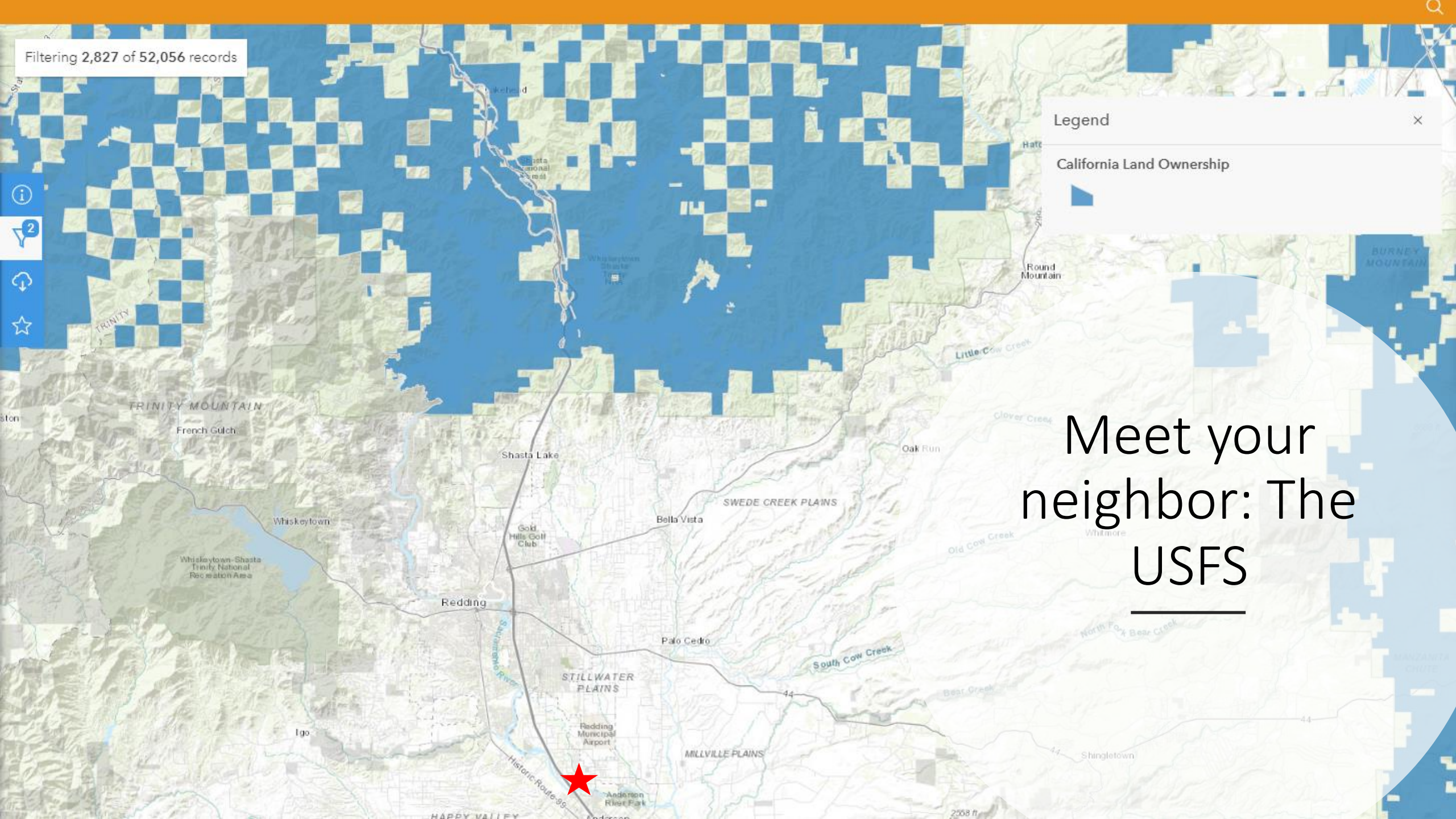
- Search icon (magnifying glass)
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- Layers icon (list)
- Zoom in (+)
- Zoom out (-)

Filtering 2,827 of 52,056 records

Legend

California Land Ownership

Meet your
neighbor: The
USFS





United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest Service

Pacific Southwest
Region

R5-MB-046

January 2004



Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment

Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement

Record of Decision



Forests with a future

Plan to *not* Manage for Maximum Production

- 1974: “The National Forest Management Act requires the Secretary of Agriculture to evaluate forest lands, develop a management program based on **multiple-use, sustained-yield principles**, and implement a resource management plan for each unit of the National Forest System.”
- 1990-2000: Timber Wars/Public Litigation/Restructuring of FS
- 1994: Northwest Forest Plan cover 19.5 million ac.
- 2001: Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment (SNFPA) covers 11.5 million ac.
- 2004: SNFPA Record of Decision
- Plans to be reviewed every 15-20 years

Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment

- Timber management direction = enhance and protect old-growth
- Calls for protections of California spotted owl and Northern goshawk
- Establishes riparian buffer protections
- Sets diameter, basal area, and canopy limits

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Mechanical Thinning Treatments

6. For all mechanical thinning treatments, design projects to retain all live conifers 30 inches dbh or larger. Exceptions are allowed to meet needs for equipment operability.
7. For mechanical thinning treatments in mature forest habitat (CWHR types 4M, 4D, 5M, 5D, and 6) outside WUI defense zones:
 - Design projects to retain at least 40 percent of the existing basal area. The retained basal area should generally be comprised of the largest trees.
 - Where available, design projects to retain 5 percent or more of the total treatment area in lower layers composed of trees 6 to 24 inches dbh within the treatment unit.
 - Design projects to avoid reducing pre-existing canopy cover by more than 30 percent within the treatment unit. Percent is measured in absolute terms (for example, canopy cover at 80 percent should not be reduced below 50 percent.)
 - Within treatment units, at a minimum, the intent is to provide for an effective fuels treatment. Where existing vegetative conditions are at or near 40 percent canopy cover, projects are to be designed remove the material necessary to meet fire and fuels objectives.
 - **Within California spotted owl Home Range Core Areas:** Where existing vegetative conditions permit, design projects to retain at least 50 percent canopy cover averaged within the treatment unit. Exceptions are allowed in limited situations where additional trees must be



Katie Low @lowseverityfire · Mar 30, 2022



The first introduction paragraph in most papers about forest/fire ecology and management in the western US summarized in 4 photos:



15

209

960



Essential California: The U.S. Forest Service's morale crisis



The USAJOBS logo is displayed on a dark blue background. The word "USAJOBS" is written in large, bold, red letters with a white outline. Below the logo is a graphic of two interlocking puzzle pieces: one is white with a red and white American flag pattern, and the other is plain white. To the right of the puzzle pieces, the text "SHAPE AMERICA'S FUTURE" is written in white, with the tagline "Find your fit in the Federal Government" underneath it in a smaller font.

Members of a hotshot crew fight the McFarland fire in Northern California last year. (Chris Mariano)

BY MARISA GERBER | STAFF WRITER

JUNE 17, 2022 6:30 AM PT

MOST READ

WHAT ARE OUR SHARED PRIORITIES?



#3

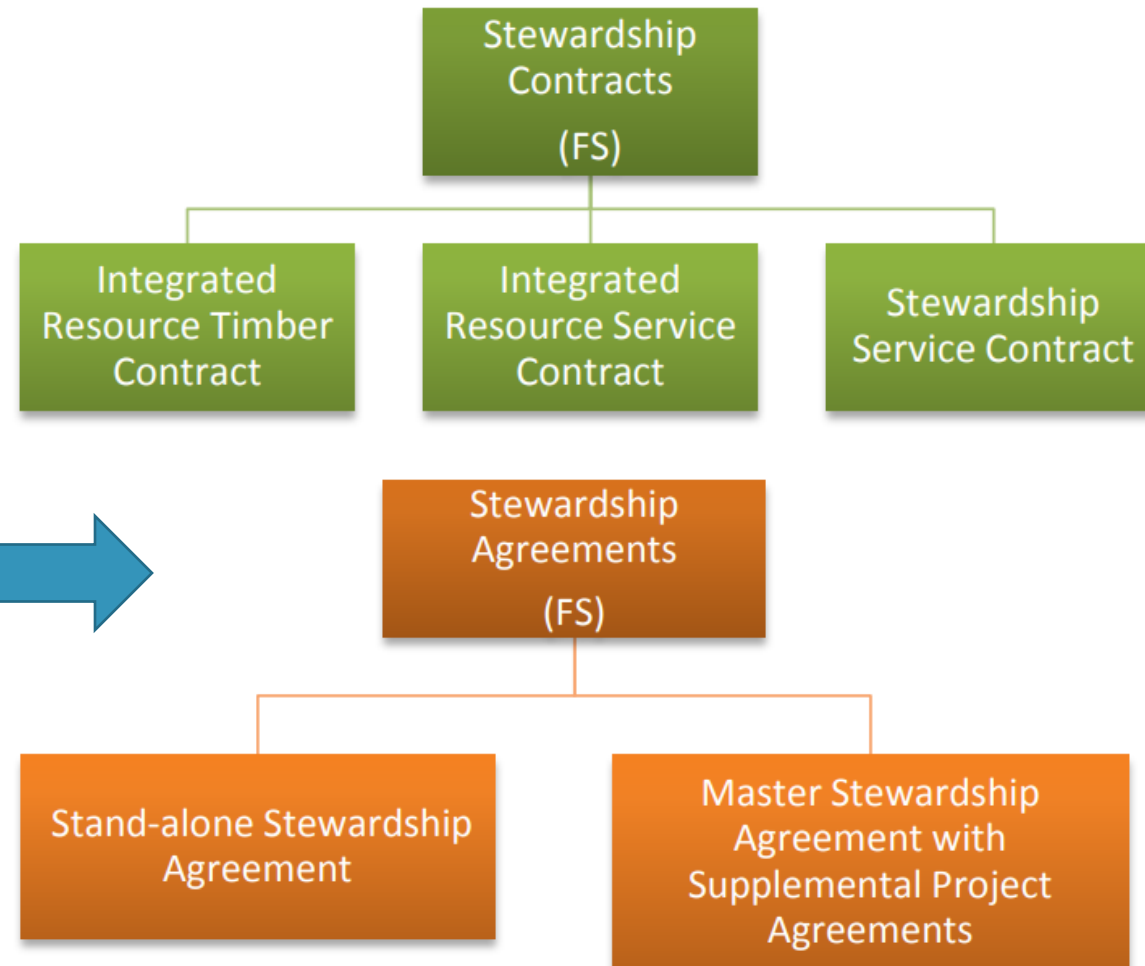
JOINT PRIORITY SETTING



How to Start a Partnership

- National Forest or Region-dependent
- Contact Partnership Coordinators, motivated individuals, or contractors (!)
- Listen to Forests' needs
- Identify how Forests develop their Schedule of Work and how to get at Project Initiation Letter
- Start small and prove success.
- Offer NEPA services up front.

Types of stewardship with the Forest Service:





Concow Resilience Project

MSA with Plumas & Lassen National Forests

- Initiated post Camp Fire
- Sierra Nevada Conservancy funded Butte County RCD \$64,000 for planning (surveys and NEPA)
- 3 years later, BCRCDC awarded \$2.2 million from SNC for implementation
- Entered into a Stand-alone agreement with Pacific Southwest Research Station
- CALFIRE gave Plumas NF \$450,000 of CCI funds, which we use through a SPA



Koncow Band of Maidu



SIERRA NEVADA
CONSERVANCY

Pacific Southwest Research Station

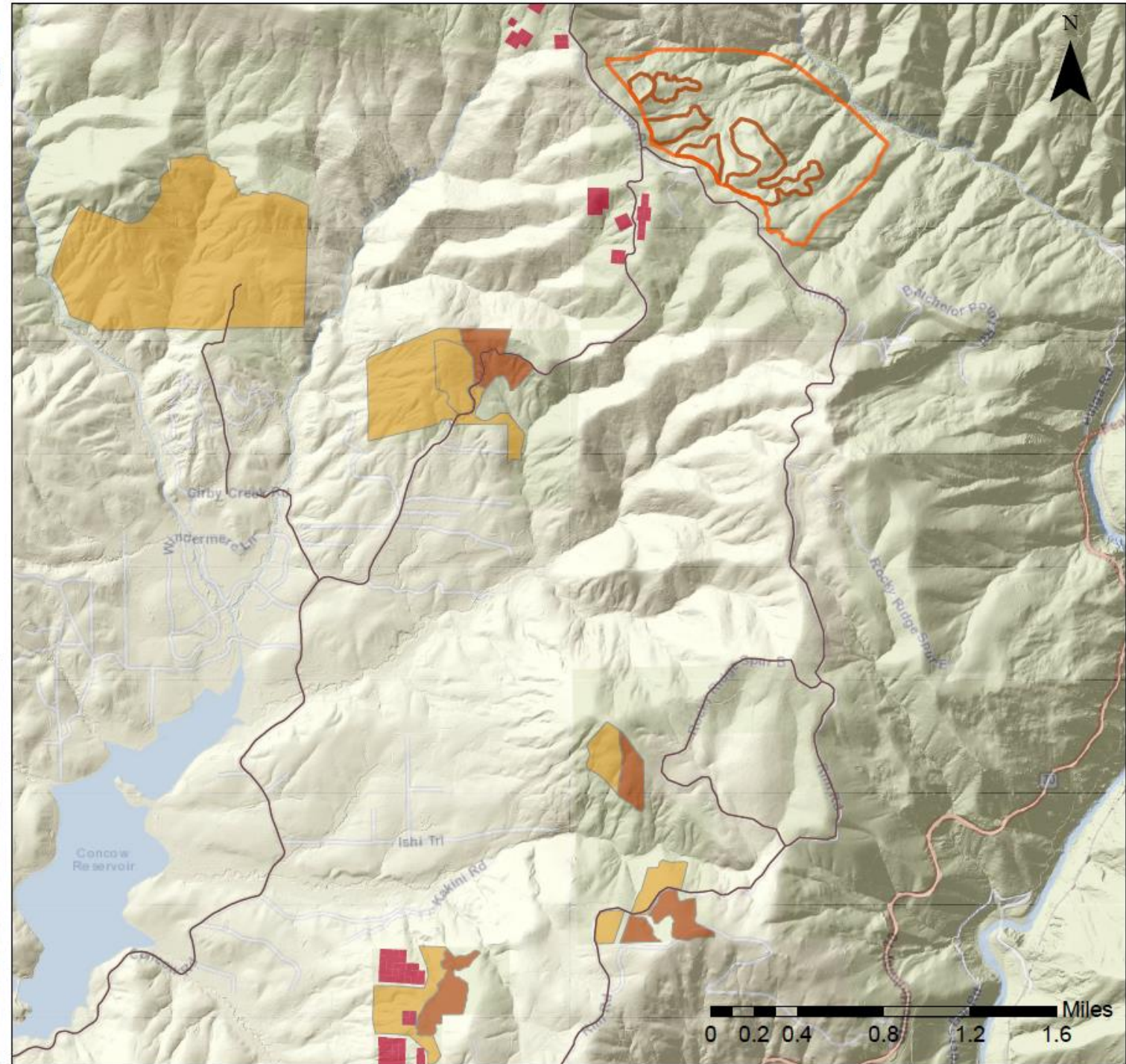




Butte County RCD Concow Resilience Project



- Roads
- ▭ Pyrosilv Unit Boundary
- ▭ Founder Stand Units 20221113
- ▭ Oak-Pine Savannah
- ▭ Oak/HrdWd release
- ▭ PSWRS Plots





Oak Pine Savannah



Pyrosilviculture
Founder Stand

Upper Butte Creek Forest Health Project

MSA with Plumas & Lassen
National Forests



United States Department of Agriculture
Forest Service

Upper Butte Creek Forest Health Project Purpose and Need and Proposed Action

Lassen National Forest, Almanor Ranger District,
Butte, Tehama, and Plumas Counties, California

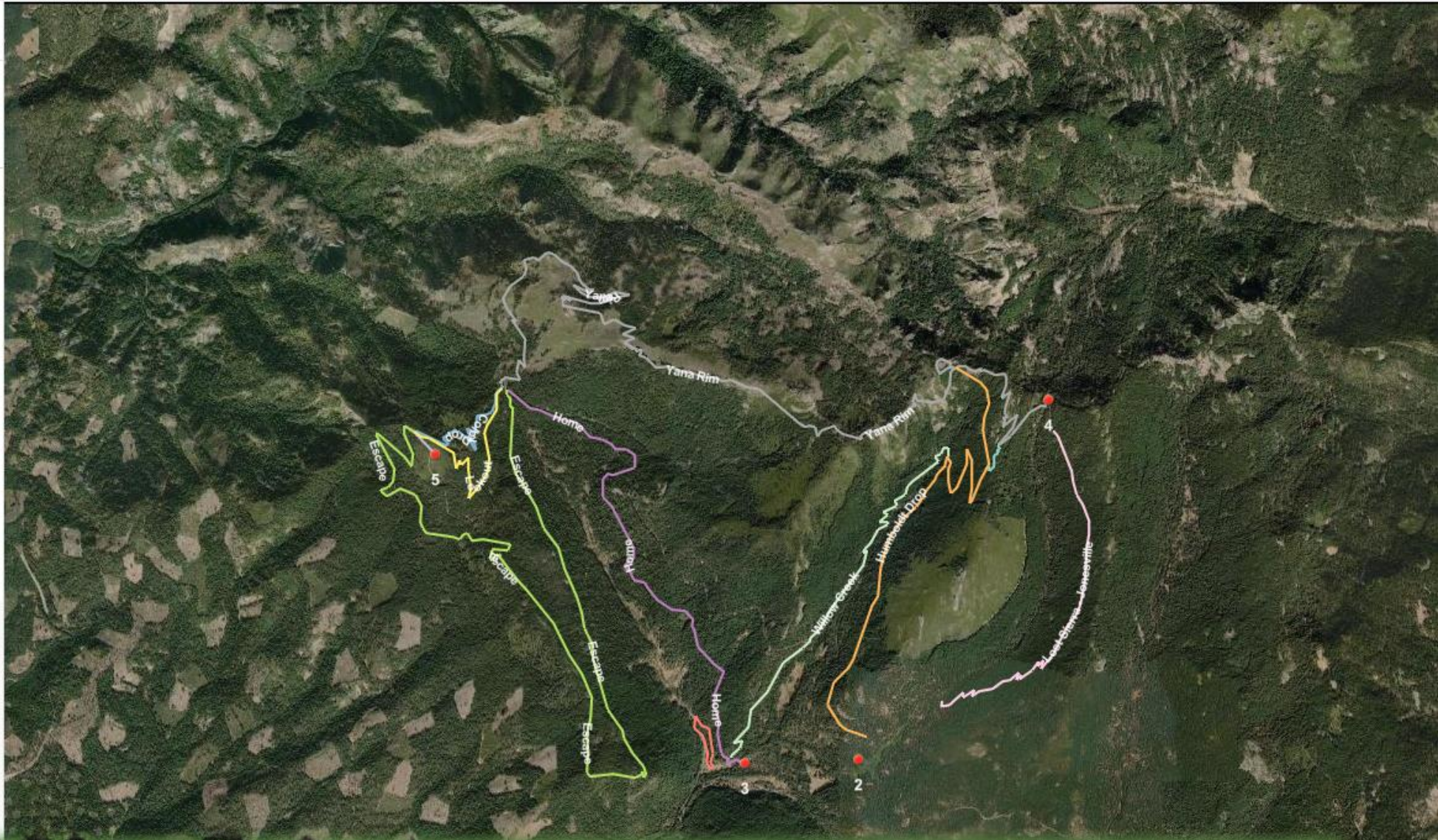


POI_Mar16



UpdatedTrails_Mar16

- Barbara Mann Educational Trail
- Colby Drop
- Escape
- Home
- Humboldt Drop
- Lookout
- Lookout Access
- Lost Sierra - Jonesville
- Robbers Roost
- Willow Creek
- Other



COLBY MOUNTAIN

PROJECT



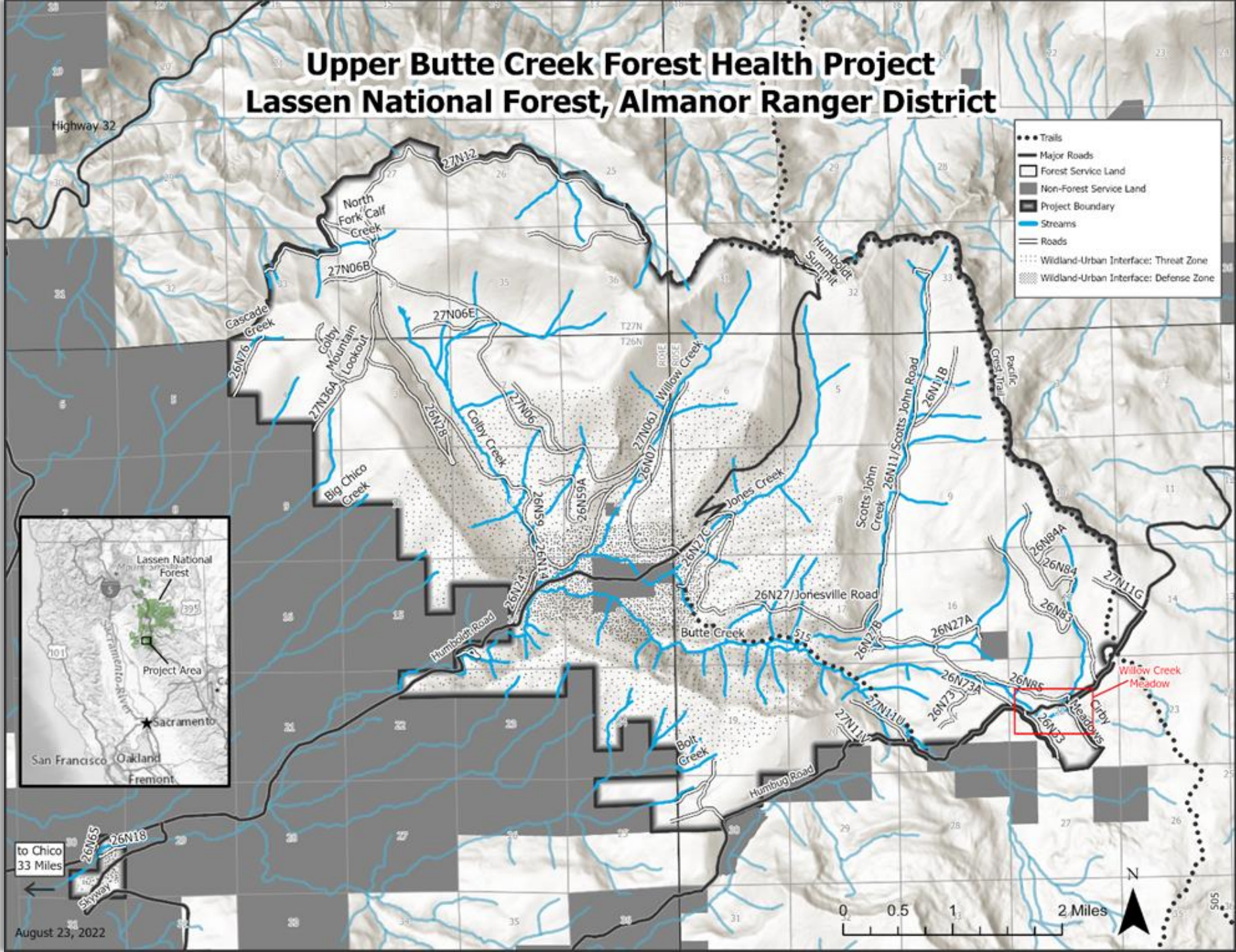
RESOURCE
CONSERVATION DISTRICT
OF BUTTE COUNTY



RESOURCE
CONSERVATION DISTRICT
OF BUTTE COUNTY



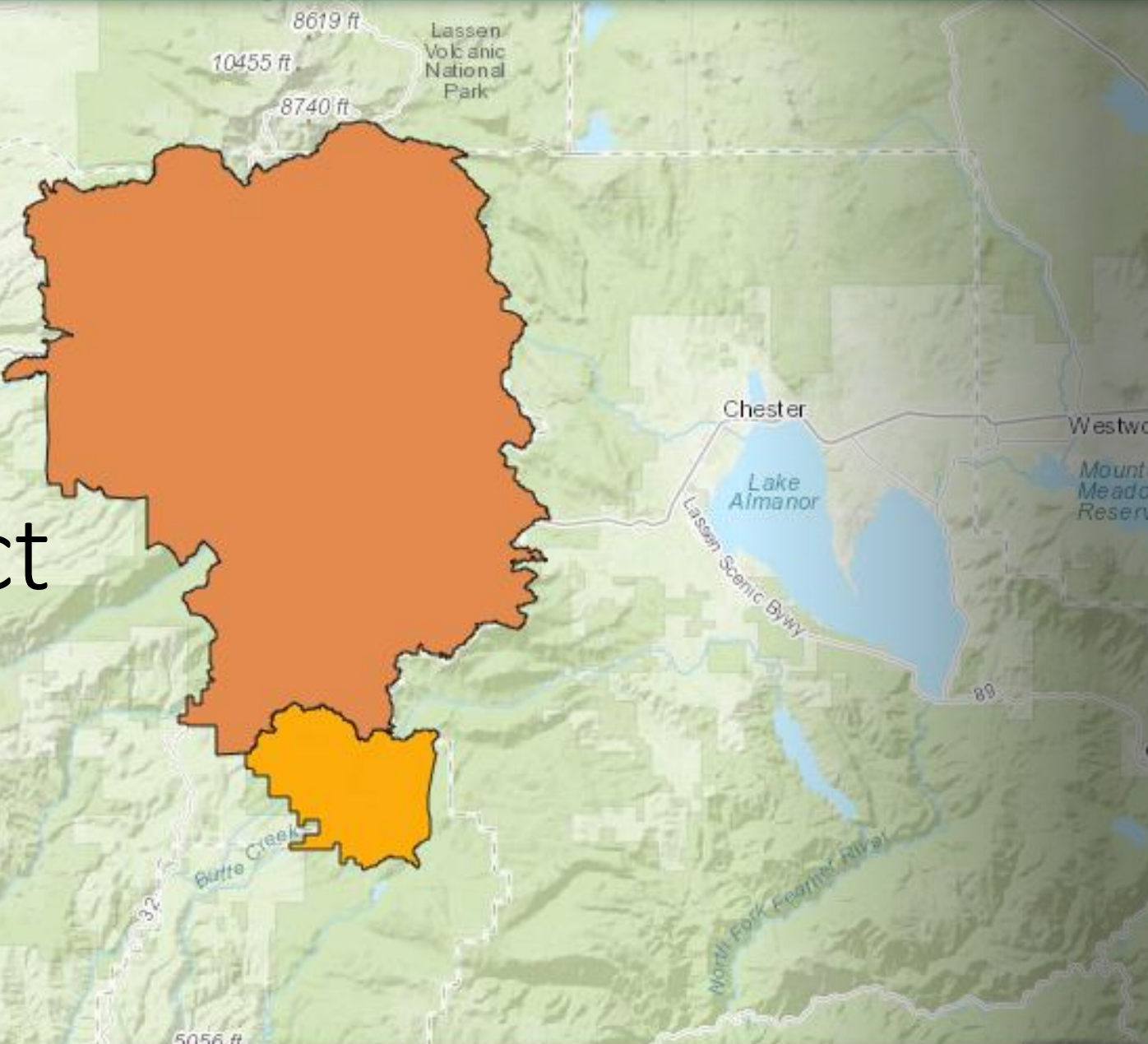
Upper Butte Creek Forest Health Project Lassen National Forest, Almanor Ranger District





Find address or place

West Lassen Headwaters Landscape Restoration Project

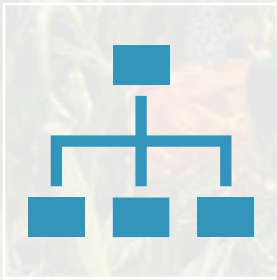


-121.628 40.241 Degrees

Legend



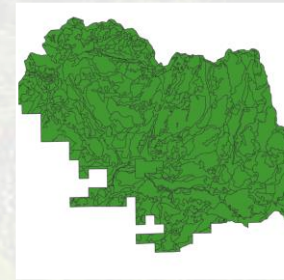
Adapting NEPA using Conditions-Based Management



Conditions-Based Management:
broad proposed action with a system of management practices whose implementation depend on the on-the-ground conditions.

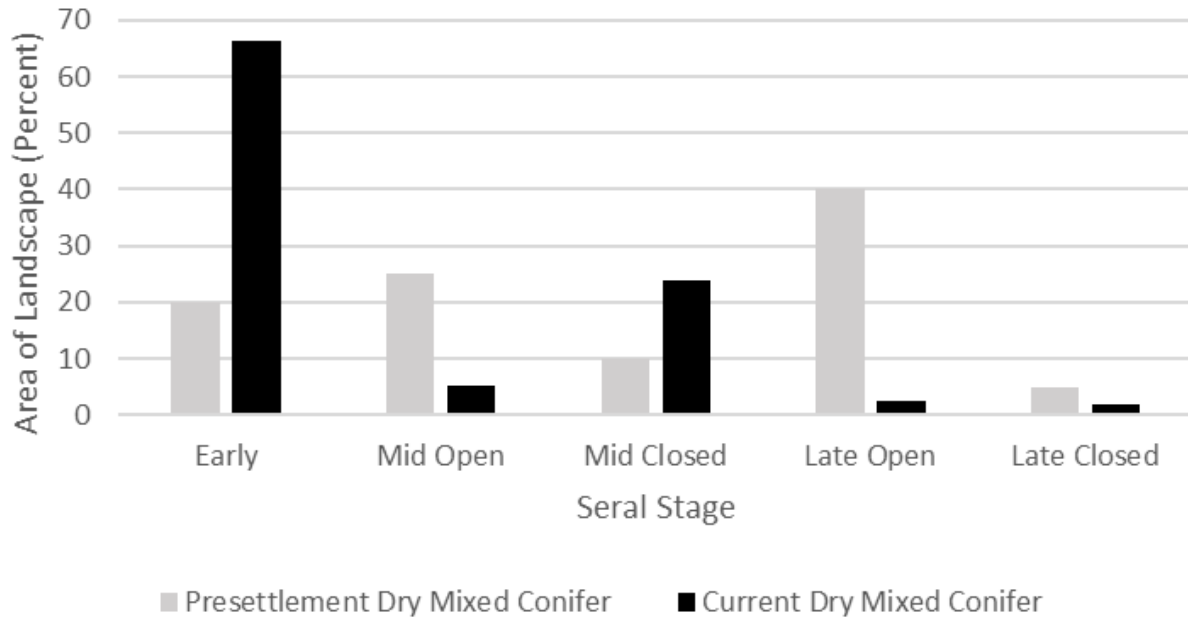


Uses mid-scale and site-specific data on current conditions to propose a variety of appropriate treatments to move toward desired conditions

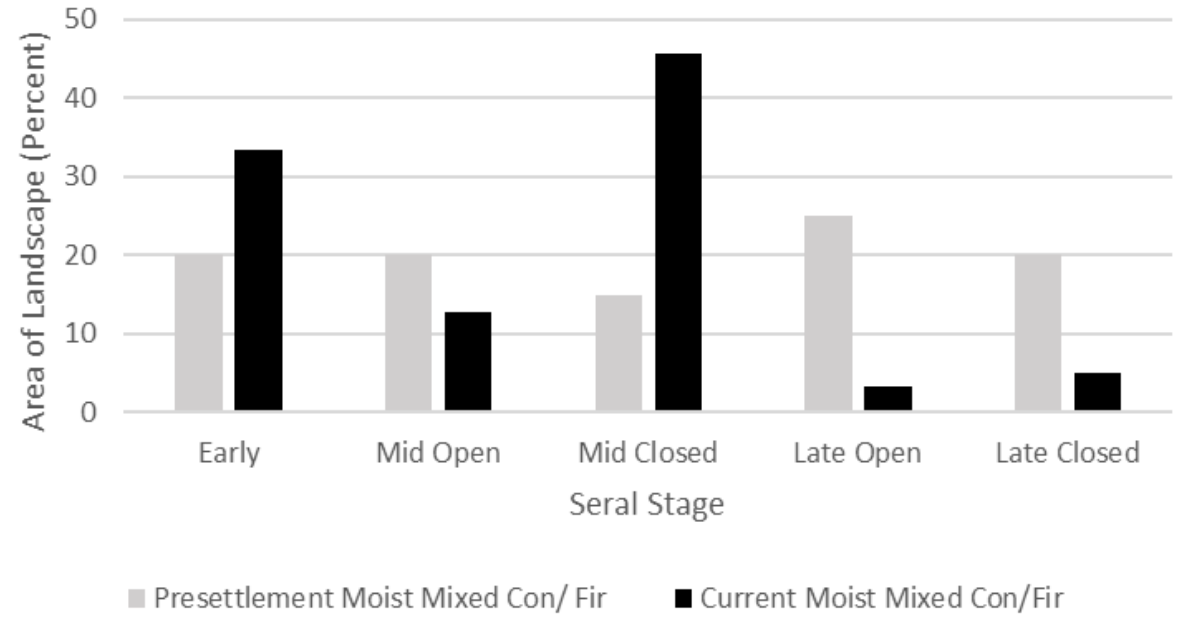


- Avoids lengthy process of surveying and implementation planning for *entire project area*
- Avoids changed conditions before agency is ready to implement
- A good tool for post-wildfire management

Dry Mixed Conifer



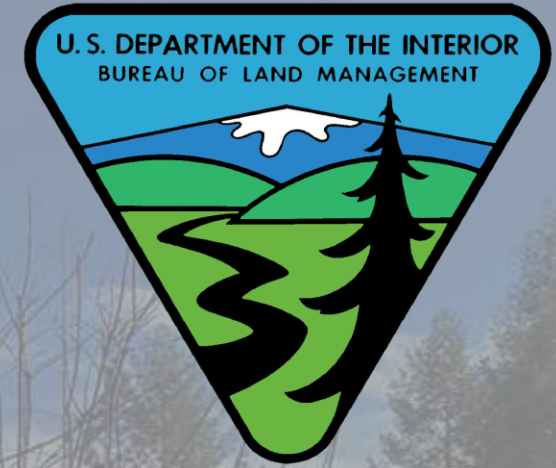
Moist Mixed Con/Fir



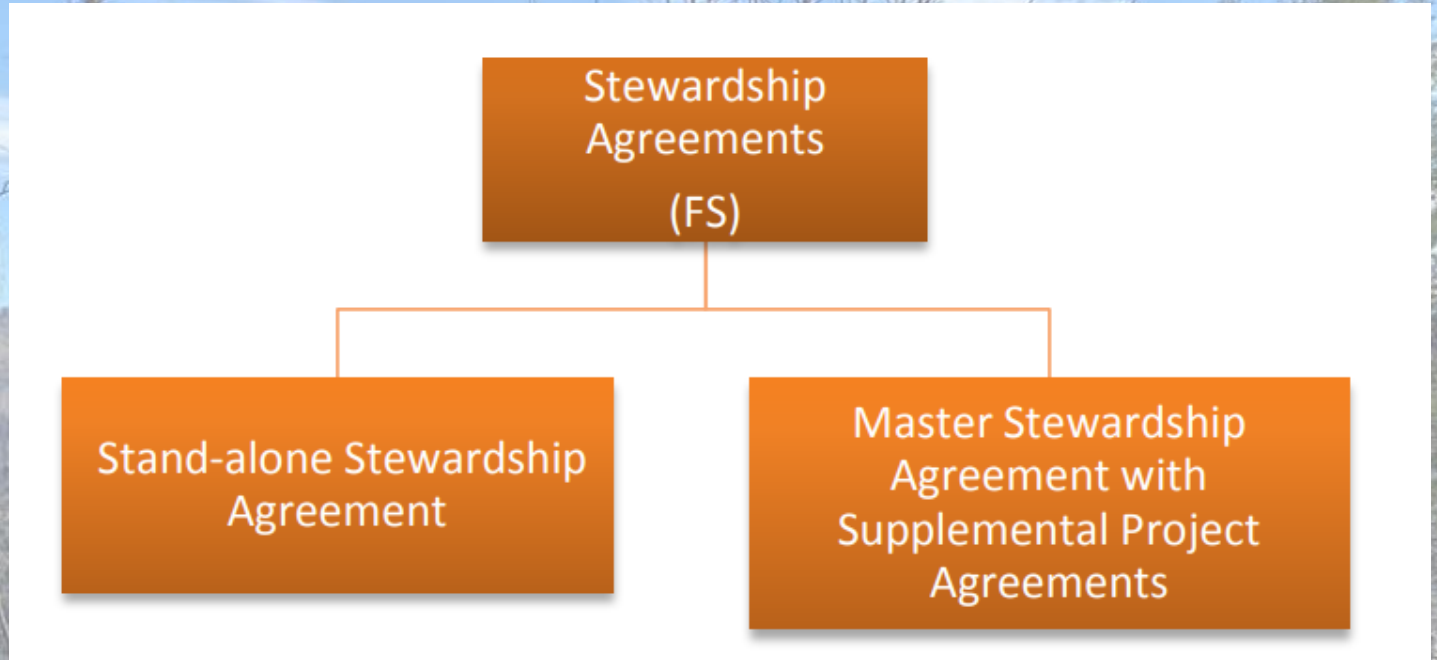
Source for presettlement data: Safford and Stevens 2017 (dry forests), Meyers and North 2019 (moist forests). Source for current conditions: Field & GIS data collected 2022 by LNF and BCRC.

Good Neighbor Agreements with BLM

- The BCRCDC utilizes GNA's to perform forest, rangeland, and watershed restoration work
- Pre-authorized restoration services
- Construction, reconstruction, repair, and other works involving buildings, public works, and non-NFS roads are not permitted.
- Does not include designated wilderness areas or wilderness study areas.



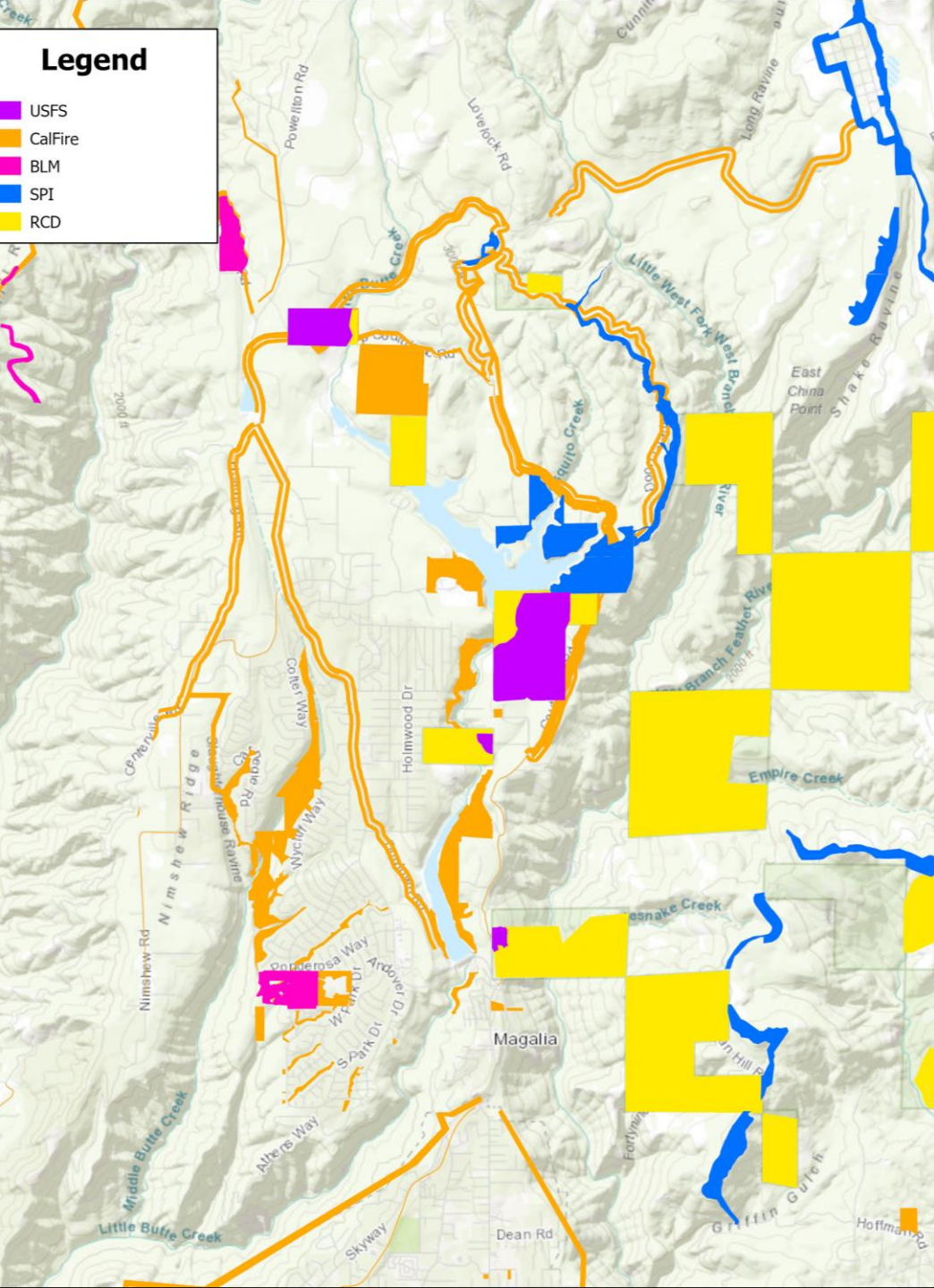
GNA Structure Options



GNA acres in Butte County

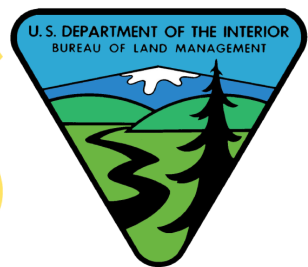
- Upper Ridge Nature Preserve – 120 acres complete
- Coutolenc Park – 127 acres underway
- Lumpkin Road – 120 acres – planned for this Spring
- 12,322-acre NEPA coverage planned for the Doe Mill Recreation Area by the end of the GNA.
- CALFIRE hired RCD for cross-boundary NEPA planning so they could work on BLM






esri
 ArcGIS Online

Tracking success with County-Wide Mapping Collaborative





Takeaways

- Cross-boundary work will most likely mean doing the work as a partner
- Government is still made up of individuals, support them.
- Better data management and transfer will make collaboration easier.
- Buy FS timber sales!!!