Mountain Counties
WATER RESOURCES ASSOCIATION

HEADWATERS IN PERIL
FEDERAL LEGISLATION, FEDERAL FUNDING, CONSTRAINTS

May 30, 2018

EDUCATION – ADVOCACY - LEADERSHIP

Jim Branham
Executive Officer

Sierra Nevada Conservancy

www.youtube.com/watch?v=S9A3sNYPlXc

SIERRA NEVADA
CONSERVANCY

How We Got Here and How It Could Have Been Prevented

Mountain Counties Water Resources Association
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Jim Branham, Executive Officer
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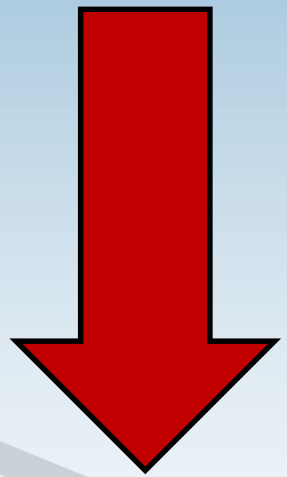
The Diagnosis: Sierra Nevada in Peril

- Many Sierra forests are overgrown and unhealthy.
- Severe wildfire and tree mortality are at unprecedented levels.
- Sierra meadows and streams are in need of restoration.
- Many of our communities continue to face economic and social challenges.



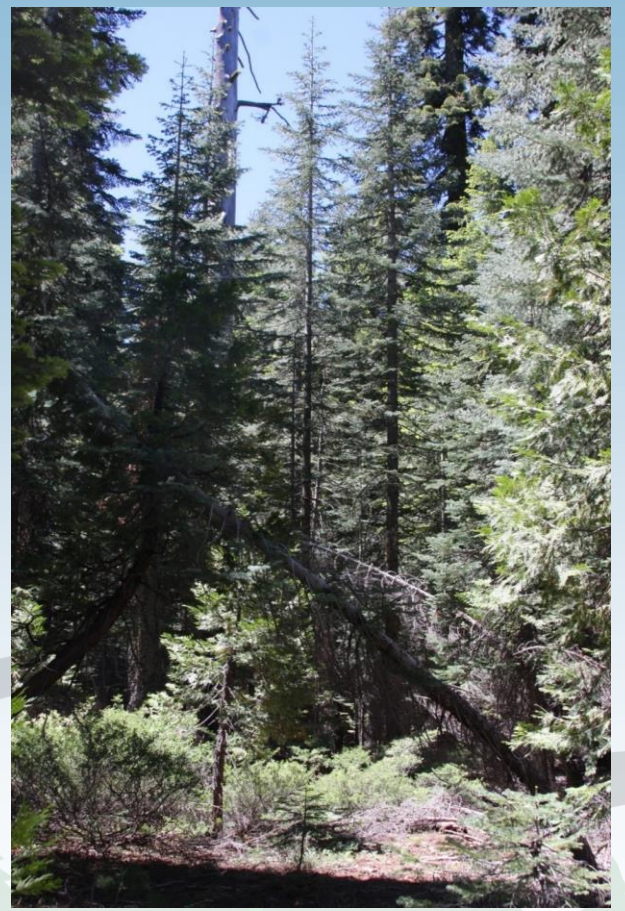
And the Forecast Is…

- Climate change projections suggest that the future will hold **more precipitation in the form of rain and less as snow** for the Sierra.
- Sierra Nevada **snowpack may diminish by 48 percent** by 2100 compared to 1981-2000 levels. *(UCLA Center for Climate Science)*
- Increasing temperatures will result in longer and more severe fire seasons.

We Know How We Got Here

Overgrown forests are the result of a number of factors:

- Decades of excluding fire from the landscape
- Conflict over management and regulatory complexity/cost
- Inadequate Restoration Activity
  - ✓ Thinning and harvesting
  - ✓ Prescribed and Managed Fire
- Legacy management practices created less resilient forests



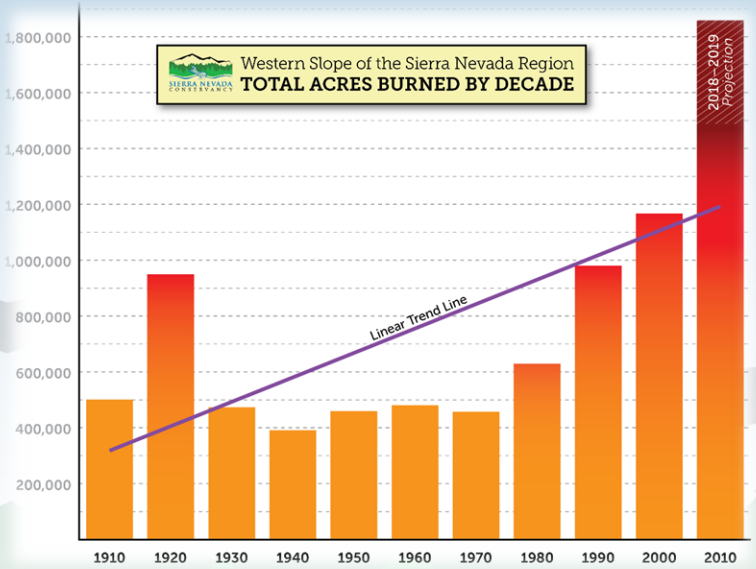
The Result: Unprecedented Tree Mortality

- The tree mortality that has occurred in the Sierra Nevada is unprecedented.

- Despite substantial effort by state, federal, local, and private entities, **99% of the dead trees remain on the landscape.**

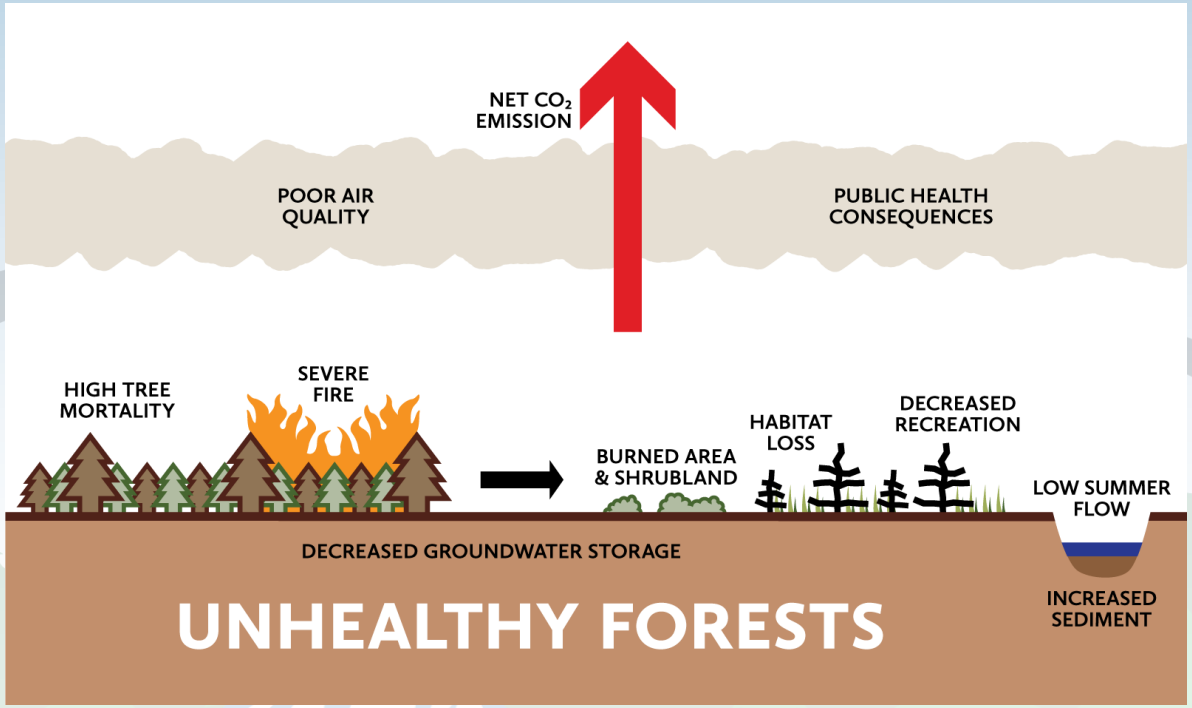
The Result:
More Large, Severe Wildfire

- This decade has already set the record for acres burned in the recorded history of Sierra Nevada.
- The percentage of high severity fire is steadily increasing.



The Result:

- More air pollution
- Less carbon stored – more GHG emissions
- Less stable water supply
- Reduced recreation
- Diminished habitat



We Know What To Do --
Restore Resilience and Health

Failing to act carries far greater risk than taking the right actions now.

The science is clear in terms of the benefits of healthy, resilient forests. This can be achieved by:

- Ecologically sound thinning and timber harvest.
- Prescribed and managed fire.
- Appropriate reforestation.

The Sierra Nevada Watershed Improvement Program

- **Restore** the health and resilience of forests, streams, meadows, and communities.
- **Address** tree mortality issue.
- **Reduce** the risk and consequences of large, damaging wildfires.

Investment

Increasing investment in watershed restoration is an “all of the above” effort:

- Federal – fixed fire borrowing, provide more efficient tools for USFS
- State – Significant bond funding, GGRF now aimed at forest health
- Local – Water agencies, local governments as partners in more projects
- Private – Starting to see private capital

Policy & Process

Progress is Being Made to address policy and process impediments.

- Increased use of fire as a restoration tool dependent on addressing AQ and liability issues
- NEPA, CEQA, and ESA process reforms geared to large landscapes
- Review of existing USFS policies and processes

Infrastructure

Lack of Wood and Biomass Processing Infrastructure and inadequate workforce are major constraints to increasing the pace and scale of restoration.

- Maintain what we have – mills, biomass…
- Legislature has recognized importance of biomass facilities – SB 1122 and SB 859
- Need to develop diversified products – CLT as example and incentivize capital investment
- Workforce development

“Failure is not fatal, but
failure to change might be.”

John Wooden

www.RESTORETHESIERRA.org

Dan Tomascheski
Vice President

Sierra Pacific Industries

SIERRA PACIFIC INDUSTRIES
Growing Forests For Our Future

Castle Crags
SPI Redding District Timberland in Foreground

Mountain Counties Water Resources Association

Sierra Pacific Industries

Dan Tomascheski

May 30th 2018

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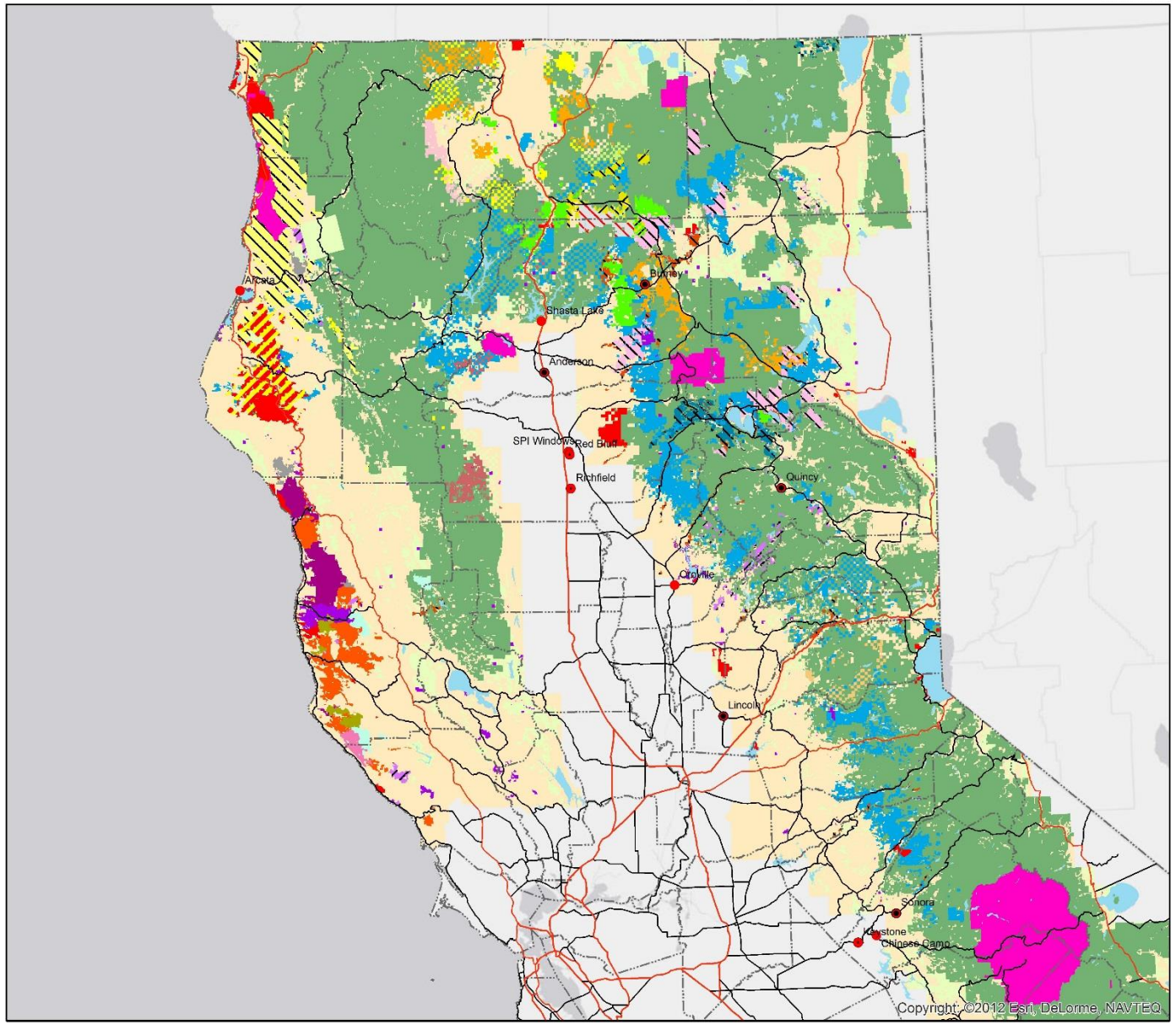
Sierra Pacific Industries
California Forestland Ownership



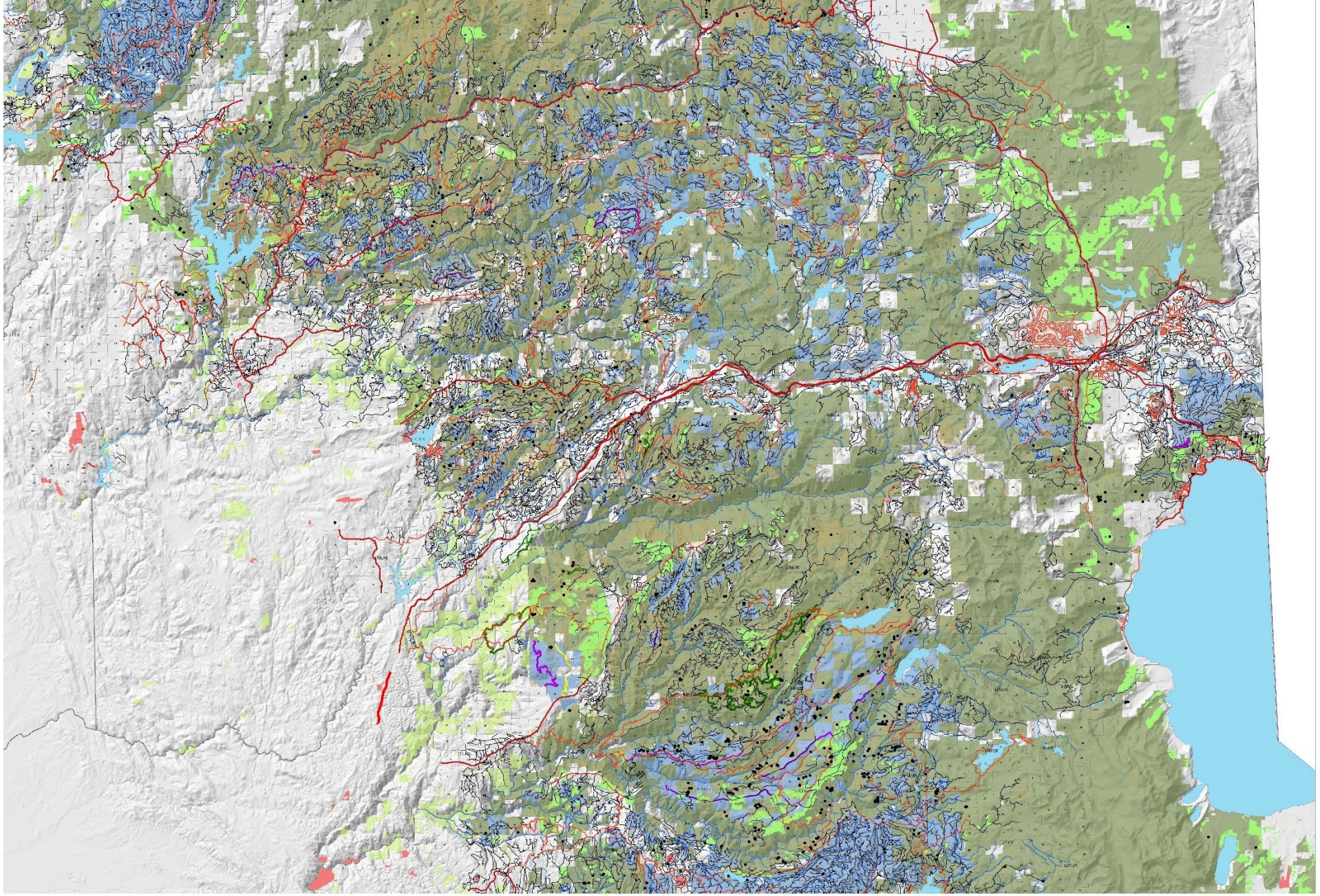
0 20 40 Miles

Owner

- Boaty & Associates
- Barnum Timber
- Bascom Pacific
- Coastal Forestlands
- Collins Pine
- Crane Mills
- Fruit Growers Supply
- Green Diamond Resources
- Gualala Redwoods
- Hawthorne Timber
- Hearst Corporation
- Humboldt Redwood
- John Hancock
- Mendocino Redwood
- Michigan California Timber
- Pacific Gas + Electric
- Roseburg Resources
- Sierra Pacific Industries
- Siller Brothers
- Simons West Forests
- Soper
- The Campbell Group
- The Conservation Fund
- Timbervest Partners
- Other private
- State of California
- State Park
- Forest Service
- Bureau of Land Management
- National Park

- SAWMILL
- SAWGEN
- REMAN

6/2013



Tahoe District

Fuelbreak Status 2018

OFFICIAL USE ONLY
NOT FOR PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

SPI USFS BLM

CSO Activity Center USFS HQNRF Habitat

SPI DFPZ
- Existing
- Planned
- Proposed

USFS Treatment
- Fuel Break
- Right of Way Clearance
- Fuel Reduction

Cal Fire Treatment
- Fuel Break
- Right of Way Clearance
- Fuel Reduction

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Trees Creek
Forest Route 5N02

Rock Creek Sonde and ISCO Station

Continuous water quality monitoring – Pre fire and Post fire

6712
ISCO

YSI Water Quality Sonde

The Ponderosa Fire

2014 King Fire overlook, Stumpy Meadows Reservoir

Post- Fire Turbidity

Sediment Fences constructed to capture runoff from measured drainage areas

Two Post Harvest Ground Treatments
Contour Tilling (Ripping) or None

Harvest Salvage + Ground Contour Tilling

Harvest Salvage + No Ground Treatment

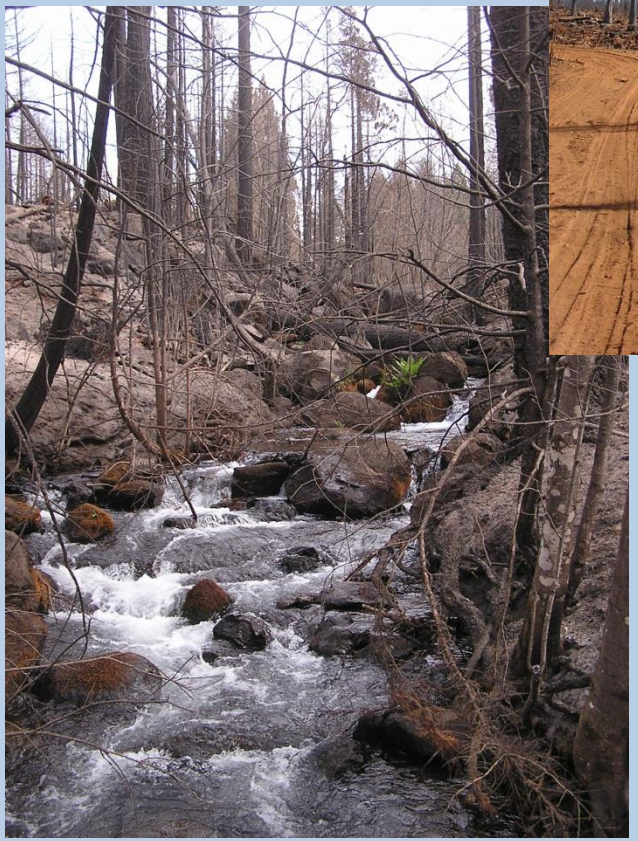
plus contour tilling


4
4


ACE
HARDWARE EXPRESS

Moving Forward-Best Management Practices

Focus on Disconnecting Upland Areas From Watercourse Regions



Ponderosa Fire – Looking Forward

Committed to replanting entire burn area — 3-years

24 Years after replanting on private land we can have a healthy forest