

# Fighting for the Future of Our Forests

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*A presentation for the Mountain Counties Water Association*



# How did we get here?

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1.

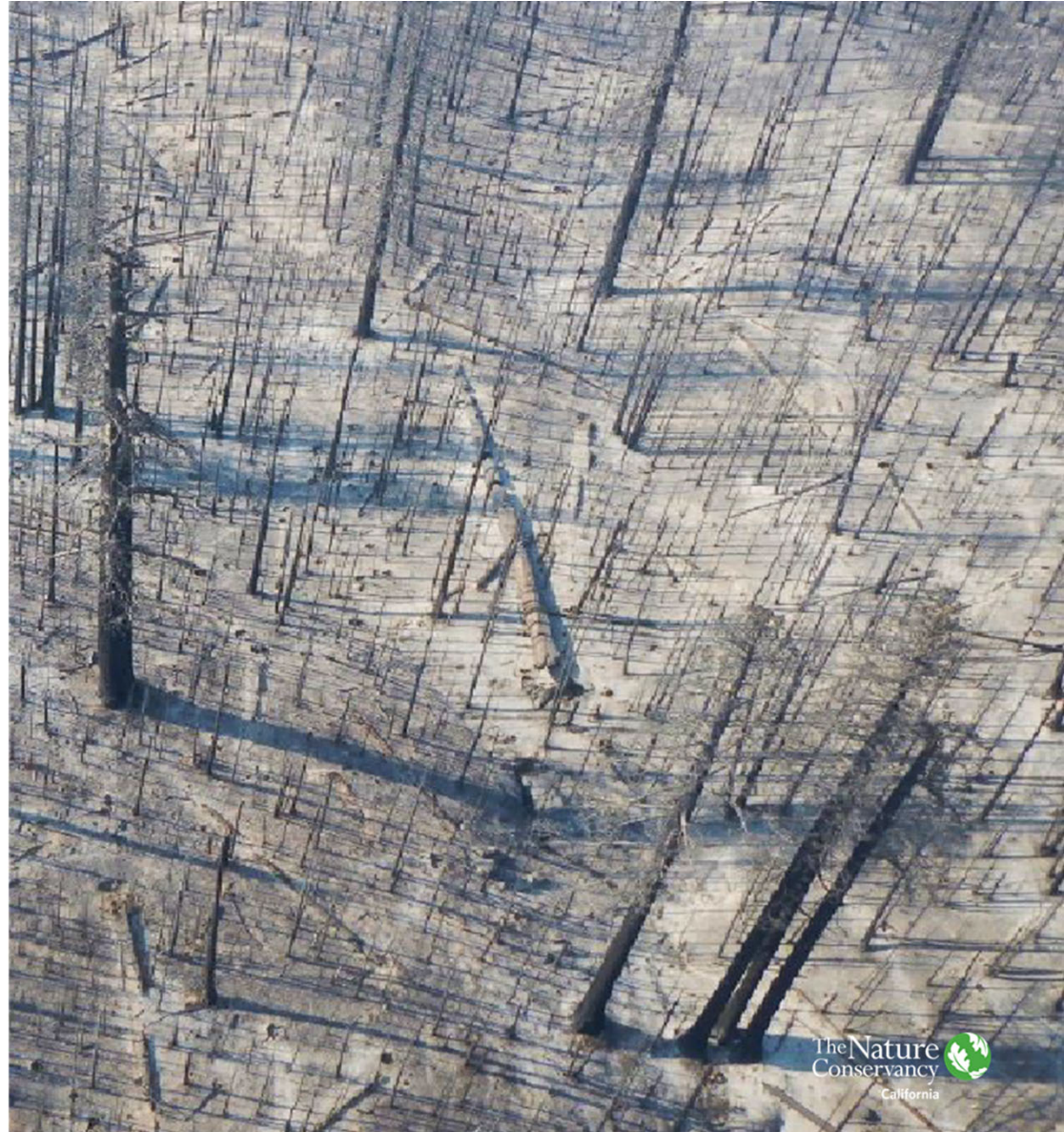
Fire has played a central role in California's forests for millennia

2.

The region has seen a >100-year history of fire suppression and the logging of large, fire-resistant trees

3.

Our war with wildfire was largely successful, but the past is catching up with us, and colliding disastrously with climate change





Why should we intervene?

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**60 %**

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California's  
Water Supply

**30 %**

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Above-ground  
Carbon Sink

**50 %**

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Of Native Plants  
and Iconic Species

**\$7.8 B**

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Travel /  
Recreation  
Revenue





**\$3.3 B**

Earnings supporting 52,000 jobs

**Sierra Marten**

*(Martes caurina Sierra)*



Source: Max Whittaker



# Treating the Right Acres: Tahoe Central Sierra Initiative

- U.S. Forest Service
- Sierra Nevada Conservancy
- California Tahoe Conservancy
- CAL FIRE
- American River Conservancy
- The Nature Conservancy
- National Forest Foundation
- Cal Forests
- University of California
- Sierra Institute



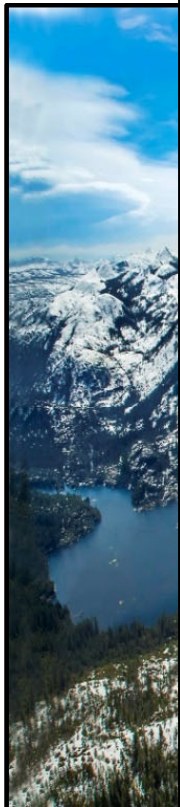




# French Meadows Project

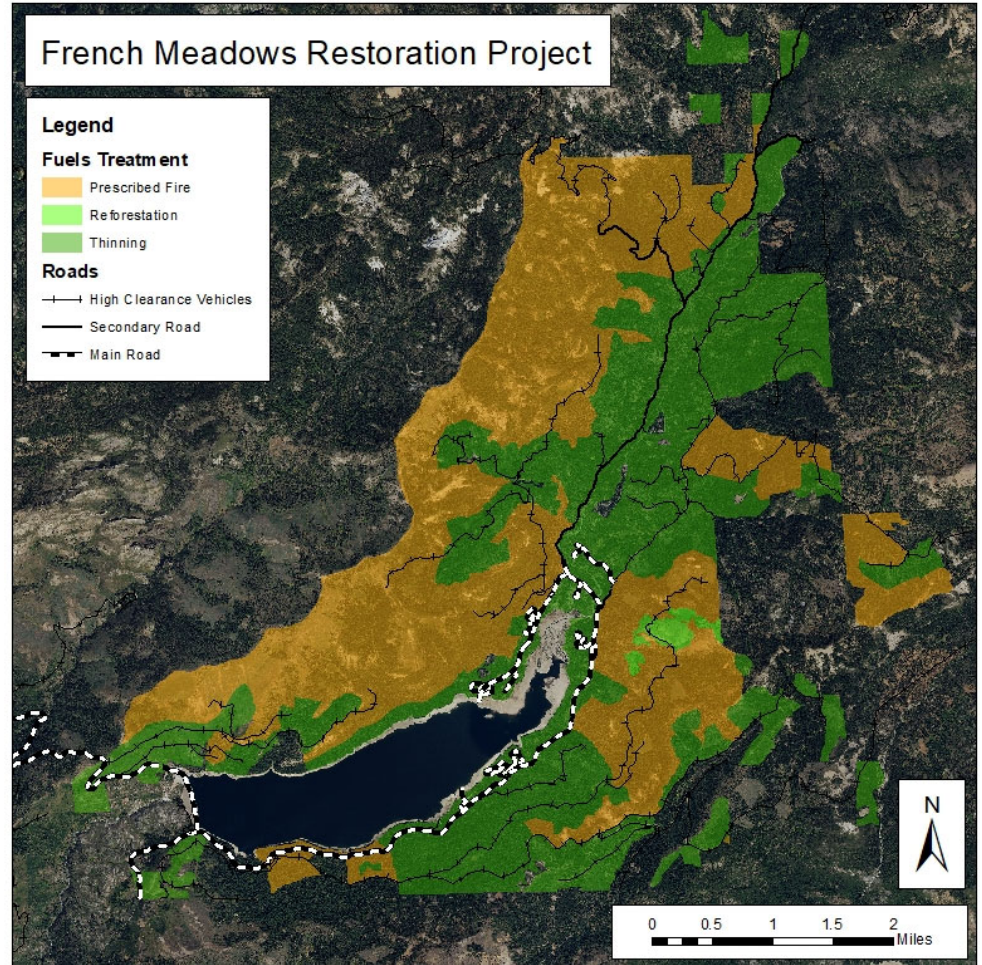




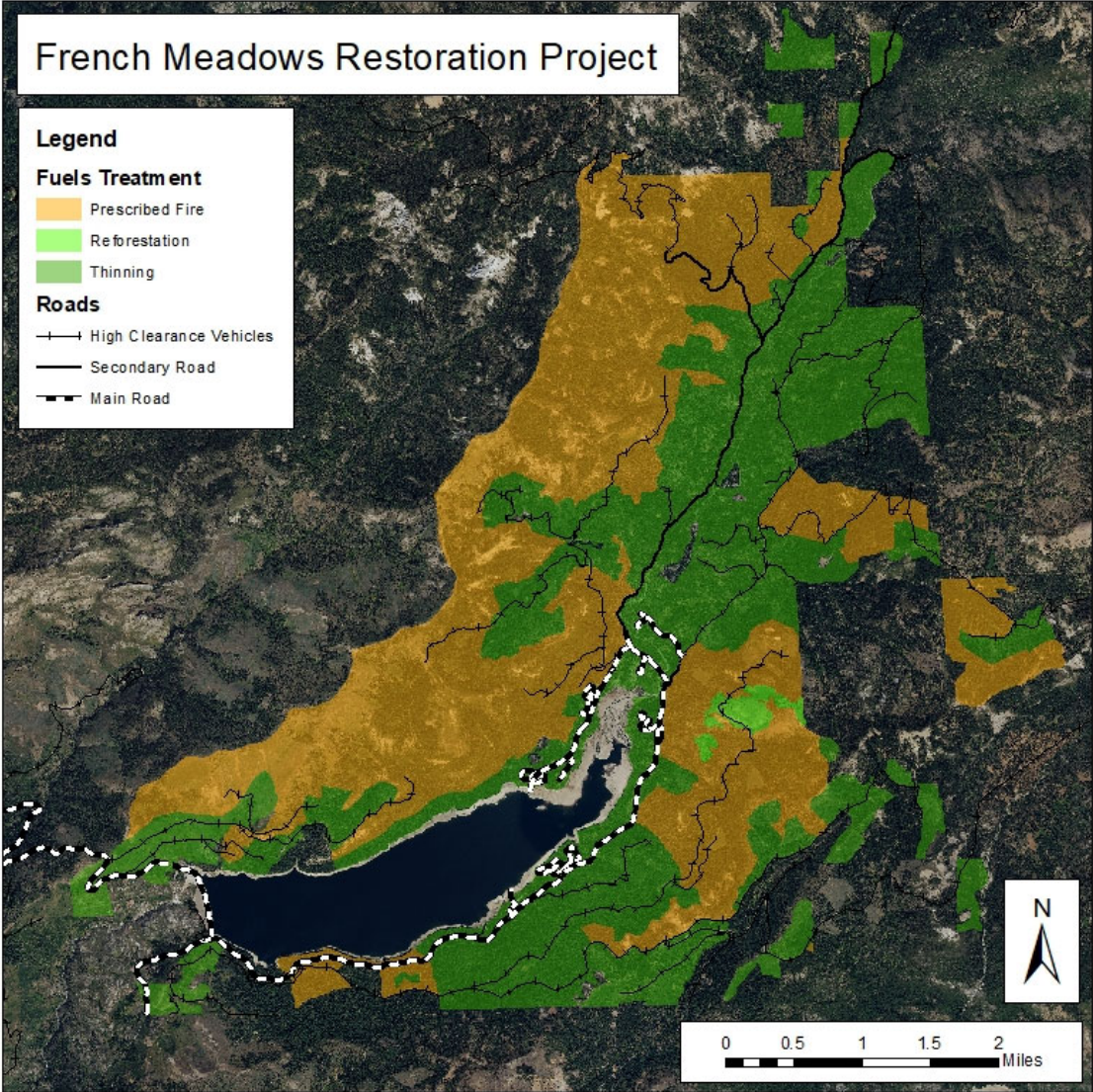




# Ecological thinning and burning











**ECOLOGICAL THINNING**







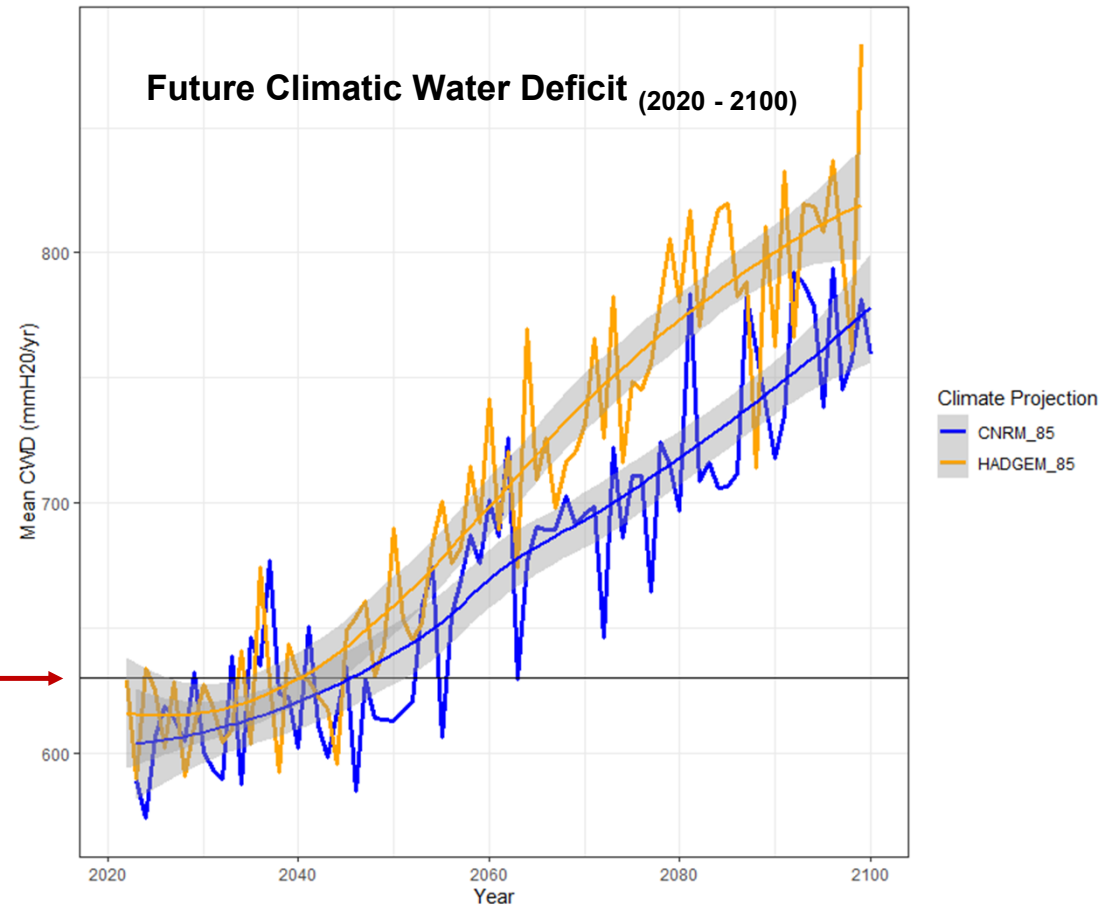
**PRESCRIBED FIRE**



**MANAGED WILDFIRE**



# We must prepare for warmer forests and more bark beetles



**Climatic Water Deficit (CWD) at which bark beetle outbreaks occur (630 mmH<sub>2</sub>O/yr.)**





Urgency: We have a limited window of time to make our choice

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**ESTABLISH A NEW PUBLIC FUNDING BASELINE**



**JUMP START CALIFORNIA'S RESTORATION ECONOMY**



**MAINSTREAM "GOOD FIRE"**



**BUILD REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION CAPACITY**

# Thank You

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The Nature  
Conservancy 