



Yuba Water Agency: Watershed Resilience Through Partnerships

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Overview:

- Yuba Water's Mission
- Need for forest management
- Our Innovative Watershed Resilience Program
 - Forest Resilience Bonds (PPP)
 - North Yuba Forest Partnership (FRA)
 - Yuba County Collaborations (SRA)



Yuba Water Agency's mission areas



Flood Risk Reduction



Sustainable Water Supply
(raw water only)



Hydropower Generation

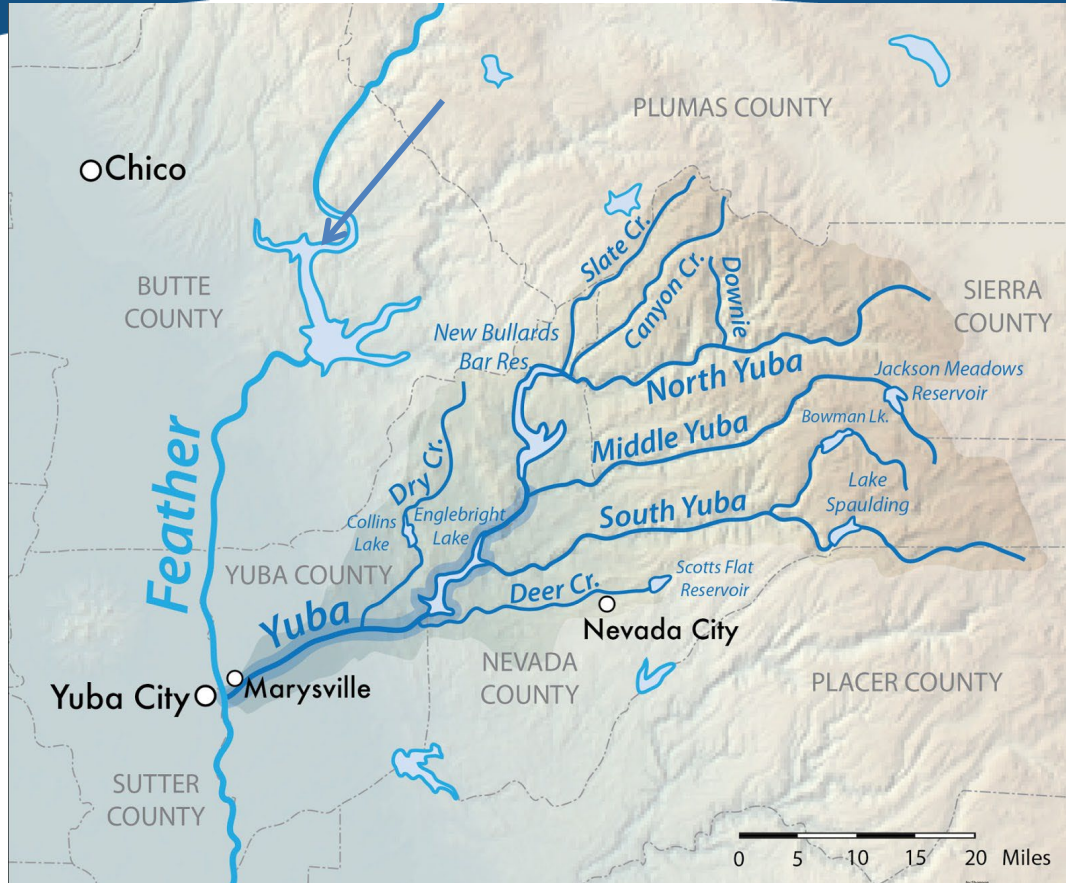


Fisheries Protection
and Enhancement

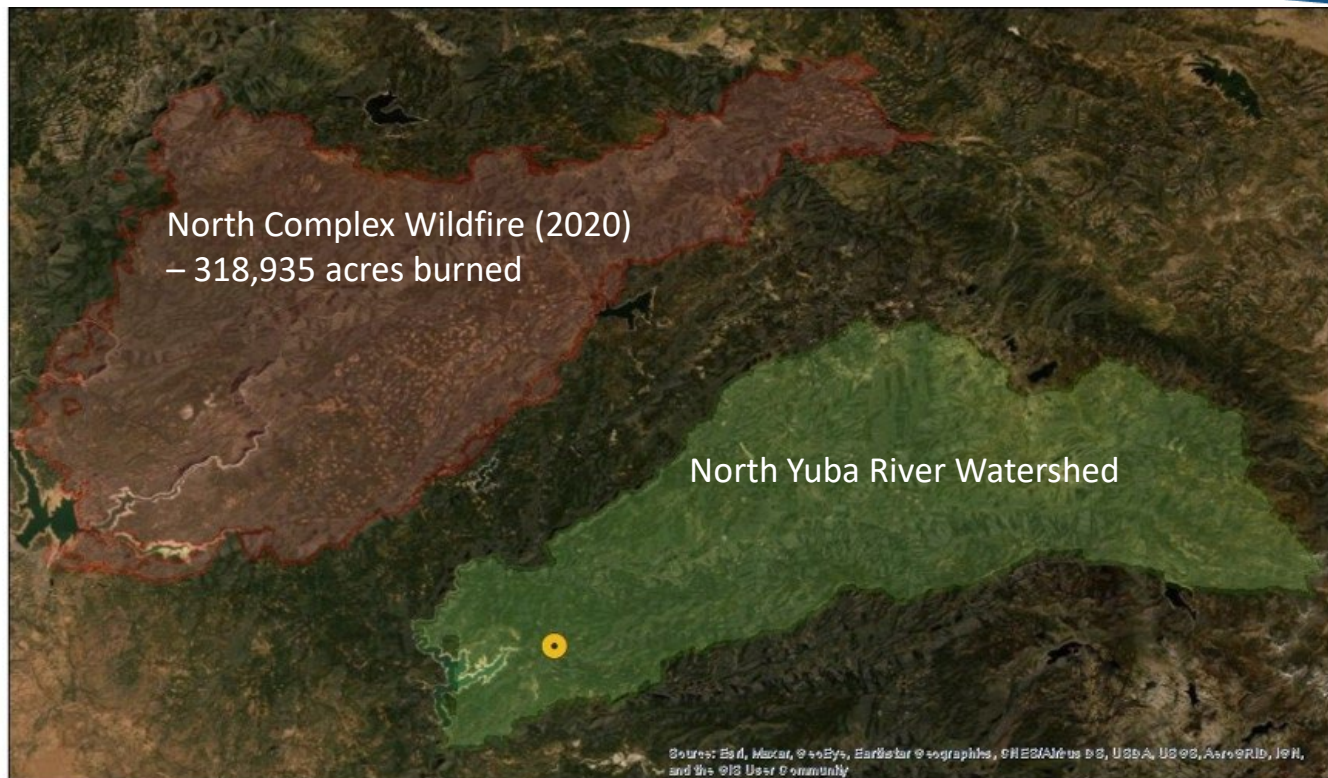


Recreation at New
Bullards Bar

The Yuba River watershed



Why do we need to engage in forest restoration?



Legend

0 5 10 Miles



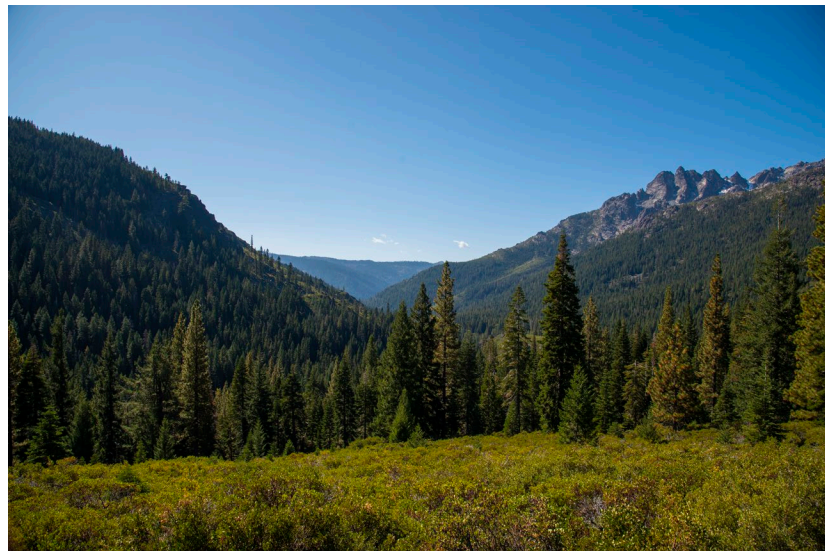
Yuba Water's Watershed Resilience Program

Yuba Water created the Watershed Resilience Program in 2018 to **reduce risk of catastrophic wildfire, protect local communities and safeguard water supply**

- Objective to build collaborative projects within Yuba County and North Yuba River watershed that support these goals

In 2020 we created the Yuba Water Community Impact Grant Program to **invest \$10 million per year in projects that further Yuba Water's missions and programs** (including the Watershed Resilience Program)

- To date we have invested \$26 M in Watershed Resilience projects, which have leveraged \$182 M in external funding





It started with piloting a financing tool...



2018: Yuba Water agreed to partner with Blue Forest, private, state and federal partners for 15,000-acre Yuba I Project Forest Resilience Bond (first ever)

- Yuba Water contributes \$1.5 M (over 5 yrs) to leverage \$3 M in financing
- Completed in 2023!

2019: North Yuba Forest Partnership MOU signed by nine organizations to collaborate for 275,000 acre North Yuba River Watershed Restoration

- Created working committees to direct, plan, fund, implement, monitor and communicate our progress (all committees meet monthly)

2021: The North Yuba Landscape EIS was completed and ROD 1 released

2022: Yuba 2 Project was funded via second Forest Resilience Bond for 26,000 acre project

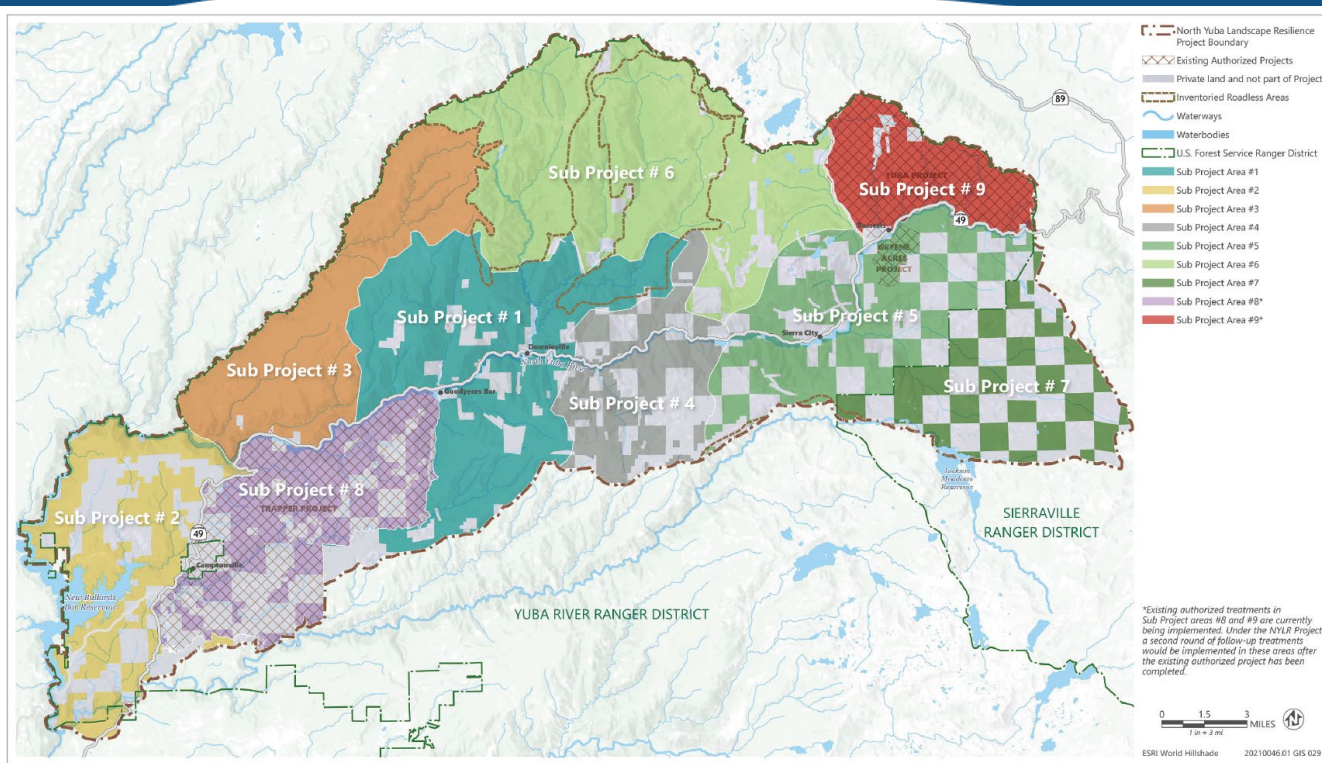
- Yuba Water contributes \$6 M (over 10 yrs) to leverage \$18 M in financing

2022/2023: North Yuba Landscape was selected to receive \$130 million in new federal funding under Forest Service's Wildfire Crisis strategy

Yuba Water's investments in the innovative FRBs led to the NYFP, enabling us to be well placed to receive and utilize unprecedented federal funding

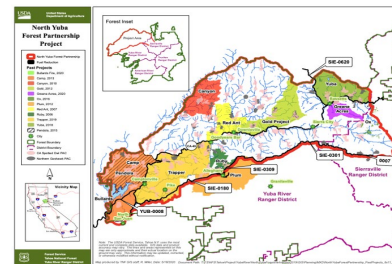


North Yuba Landscape Resilience Project EIS



Sources: Data downloaded from Forest Service in 2021 and Vibrant Planet in 2022.

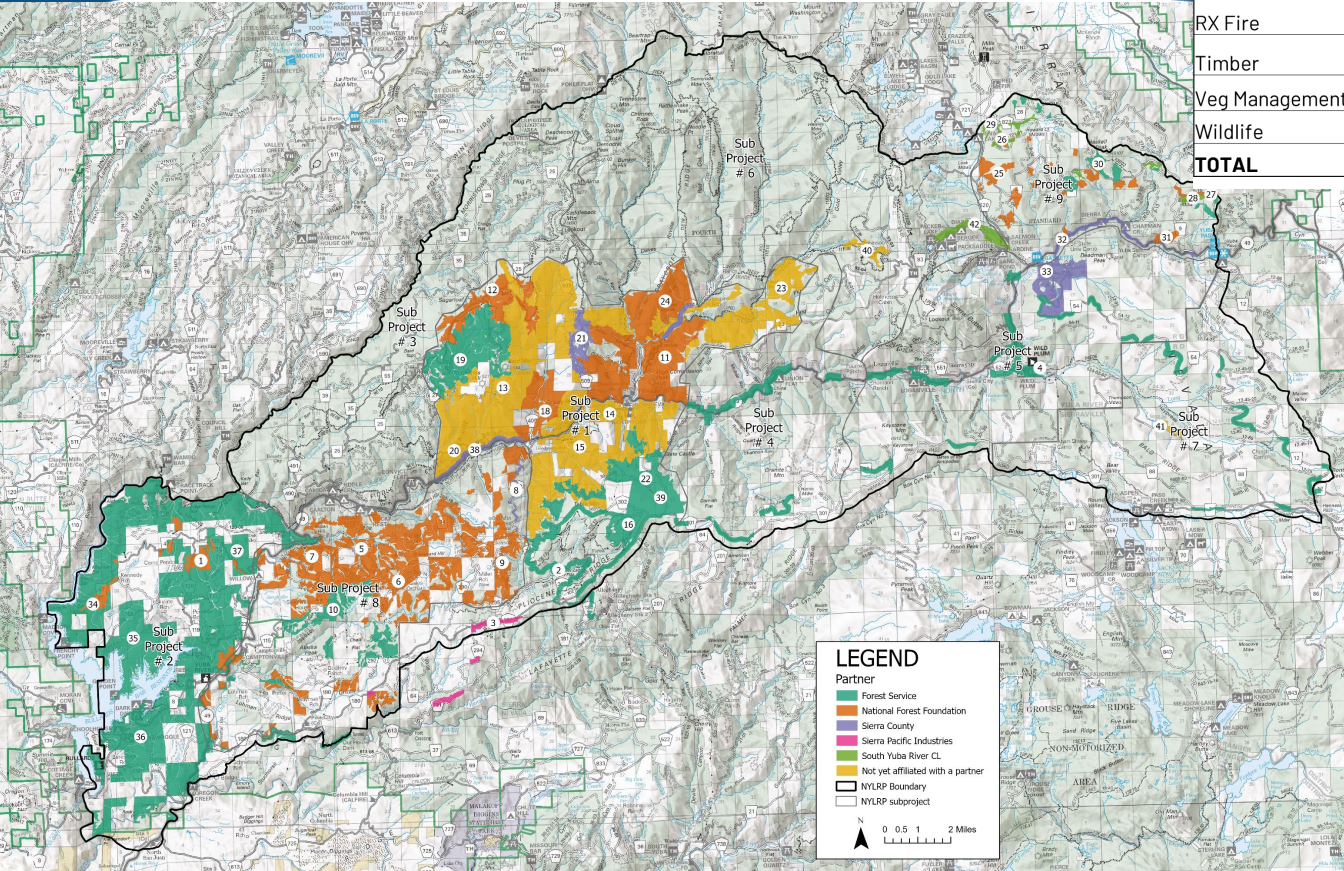
- NYFP collaborated on the scoping of the EIS and on the strategic project sequencing
- Working together to increase the pace and scale of implementation to restore the entire watershed



NYFP IMPLEMENTATION

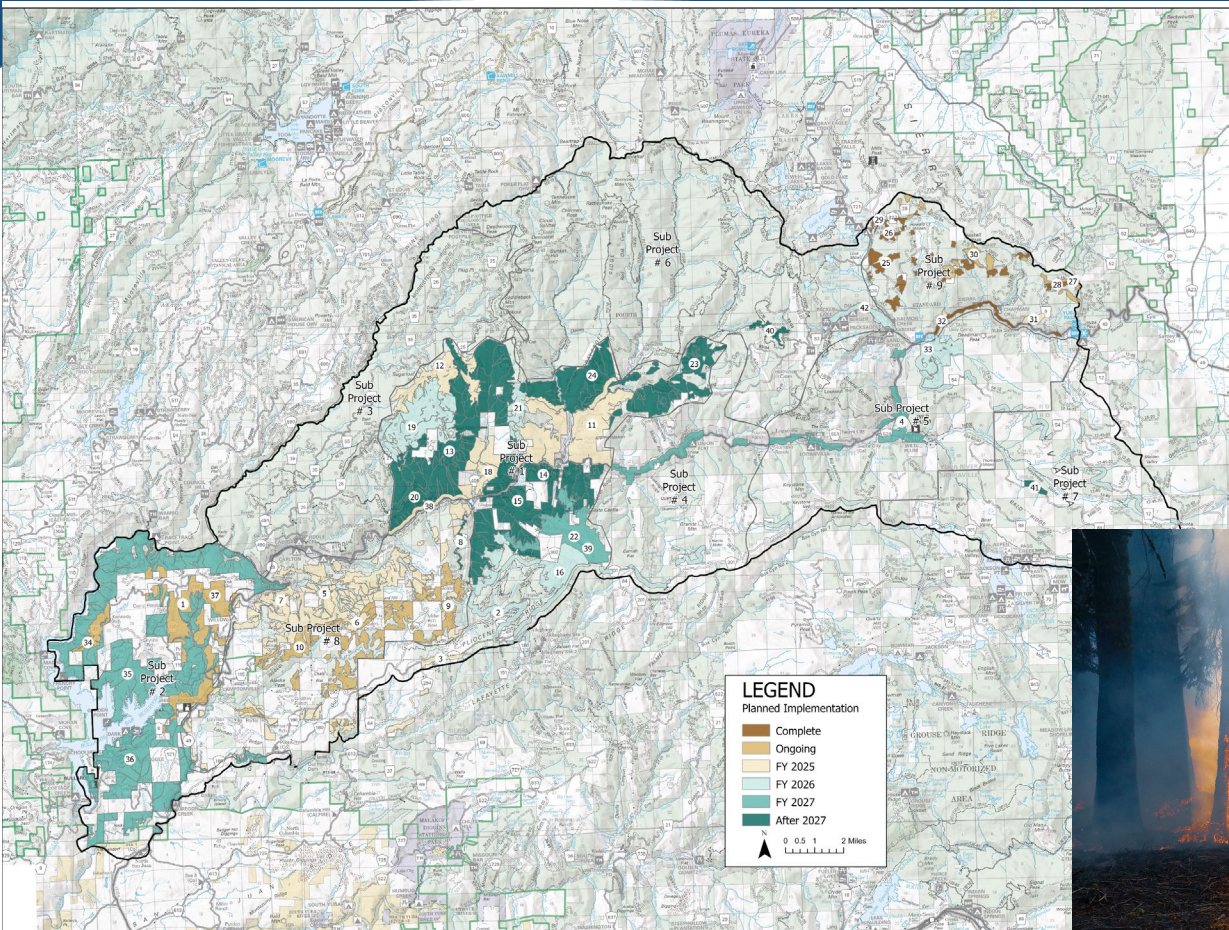
Planned Treatments by partner

ACTIVITY TYPE	PLANNED (UOM)	FUNDED (UOM)
Hydro Restoration	229	11
Invasive Veg	229	111
Prep	102,389	37,900
RX Fire	69,338	17,324
Timber	30,507	13,013
Veg Management	93,213	31,659
Wildlife	229	195
TOTAL	296,132	100,212



NYFP IMPLEMENTATION

Progress by Year



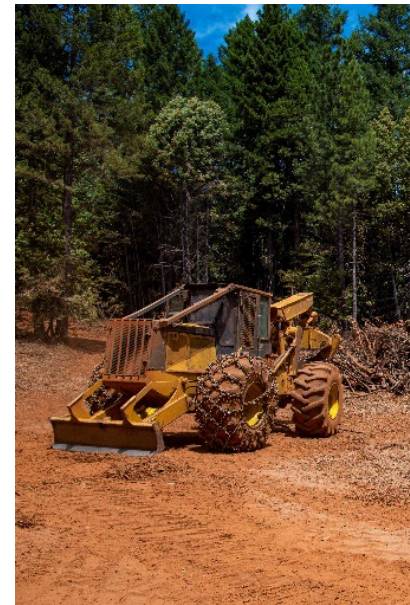
Fiscal Year (Oct-Sep)	Treatment Completed (acres)	Prep and Layout (acres)
FY19	1,971	Not Tracked
FY20	2,903	Not Tracked
FY21	1,288	Not Tracked
FY22	508	1,388
FY23	1,478	4,498
FY24	3,838	7,000
FY25	1,935	Ongoing
TOTAL	13,920	12,886



Yuba County Collaborations

CCP Biomass Utilization Infrastructure

- 5 MW biomass plant and Forest Biomass and Business Center
- Yuba Water provided planning grants and strategic support over the last several years;
- August 2024 Yuba Water committed to supporting implementation financing with a \$7M grant and \$8.3 M low interest loan



Yuba Watershed Protection and Firesafe Council

- Role: Public Outreach, education and projects in the WUI
- YWA provides Annual support for Executive Director and cost share for new fire prevention grants



Yuba County Cal Fire Forest Health Grants:

2019 Yuba Foothills FH grant awarded Yuba Water and partners \$4.5 M for forest health and fire risk reduction treatments on 5,400 acres in the Yuba County foothills

- Included Plumas NF, Private Timber Companies, Boy Scouts and Yuba Water
- One of first project to utilize California Vegetation Treatment Program (CalVTP) for CEQA
- **Completed in 2024 and treated just over 6000 acres**

2023 New Bullards Bar FH grant awarded Yuba Water and partners \$7 M to treat an additional 5,300 acres in the same region

- Includes the same partners with the addition of the Bear Yuba Land Trust, National Forest Foundation and Tahoe National Forest (*counts as cost share for new direct federal funding for the NYFP)
- **Increasing pace and scale through innovative CEQA covering all 175,000 forested acres in Yuba County**

Pre-Treatment

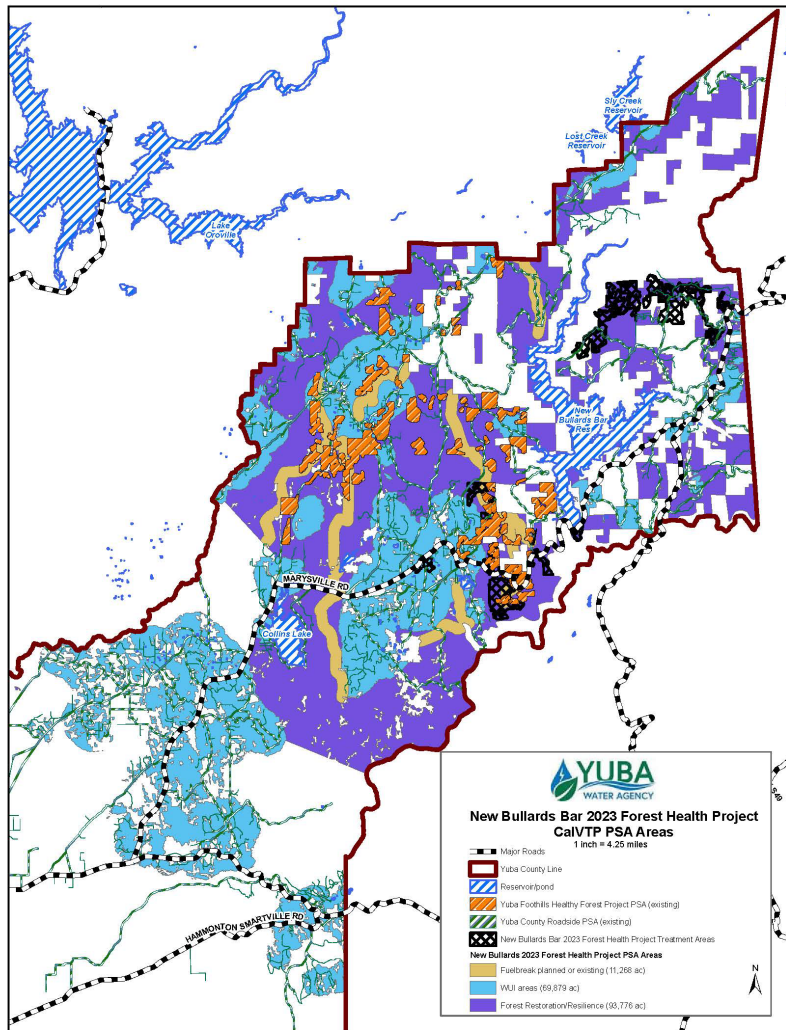


Post-Treatment



Cal VTP Project Specific Analysis (PSA)

- Replaces Project-level PSAs in the county
- Analyzed all fuel reduction treatments and mitigations of all forested acres in upper Yuba County
- Provides CEQA coverage for new forest health and fire prevention projects led by other partners with only pre-treatment surveys being required and a notice of determination (NOD) for consistency with this PSA



Watershed Resilience Program

Successes to Date:



Invested ~\$26 M to date to leverage more than \$182 M in external funds



Collaborating with 19 partners (and counting)



Supporting 14 projects (and counting) in Yuba County and the upper watershed



More than 25,000 acres treated so far



Innovative planning including a NEPA EIS for all 210,000 acres of North Yuba watershed and CEQA via Cal VTP for all 175,000 forested acres in Yuba County





Questions?

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