

# FIRE AND WATER IN THE SIERRA



**Idaho Water Users Association**  
**August 17, 2021**

# Placer County Water Agency

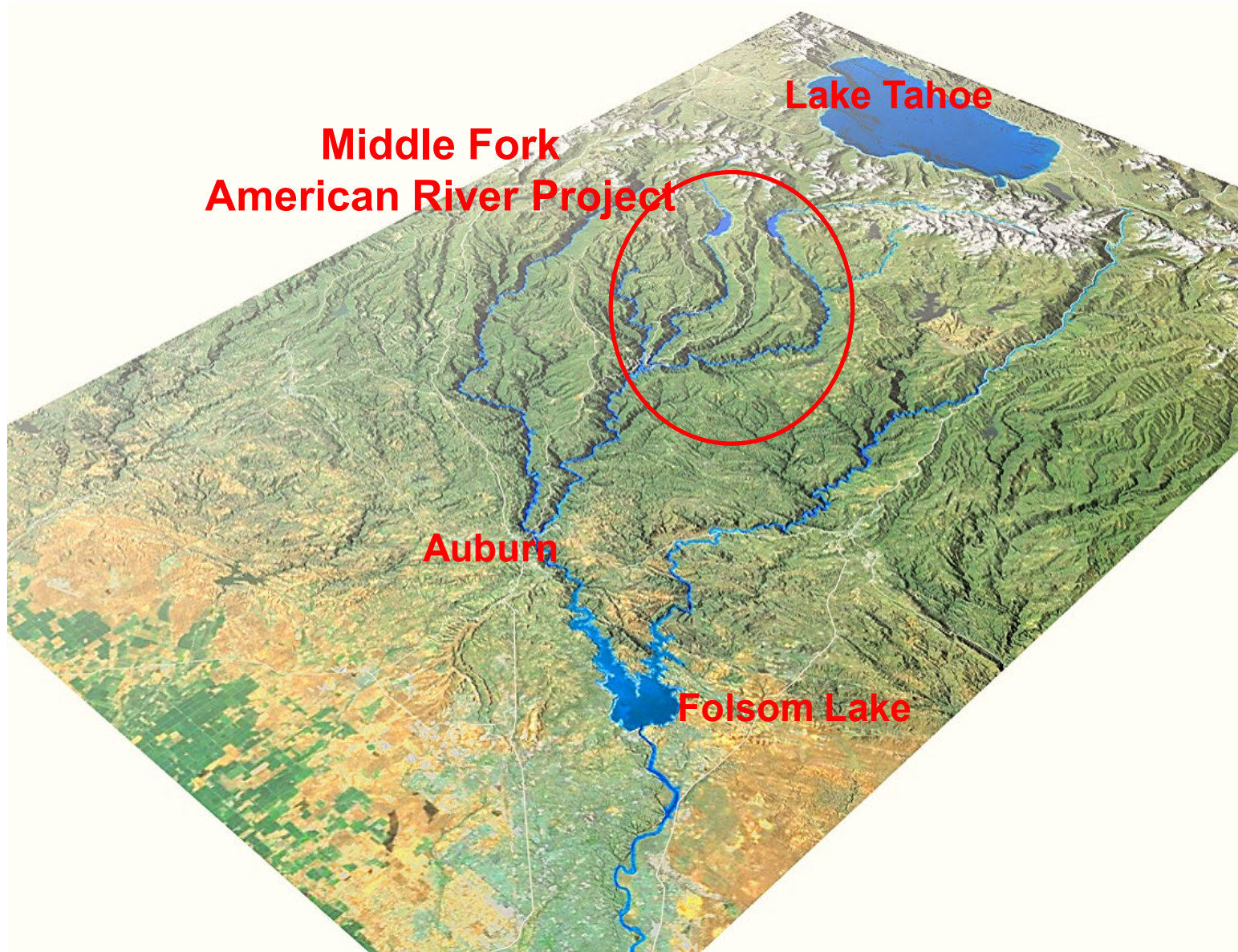
**WATER**

**POWER**

**STEWARDSHIP**





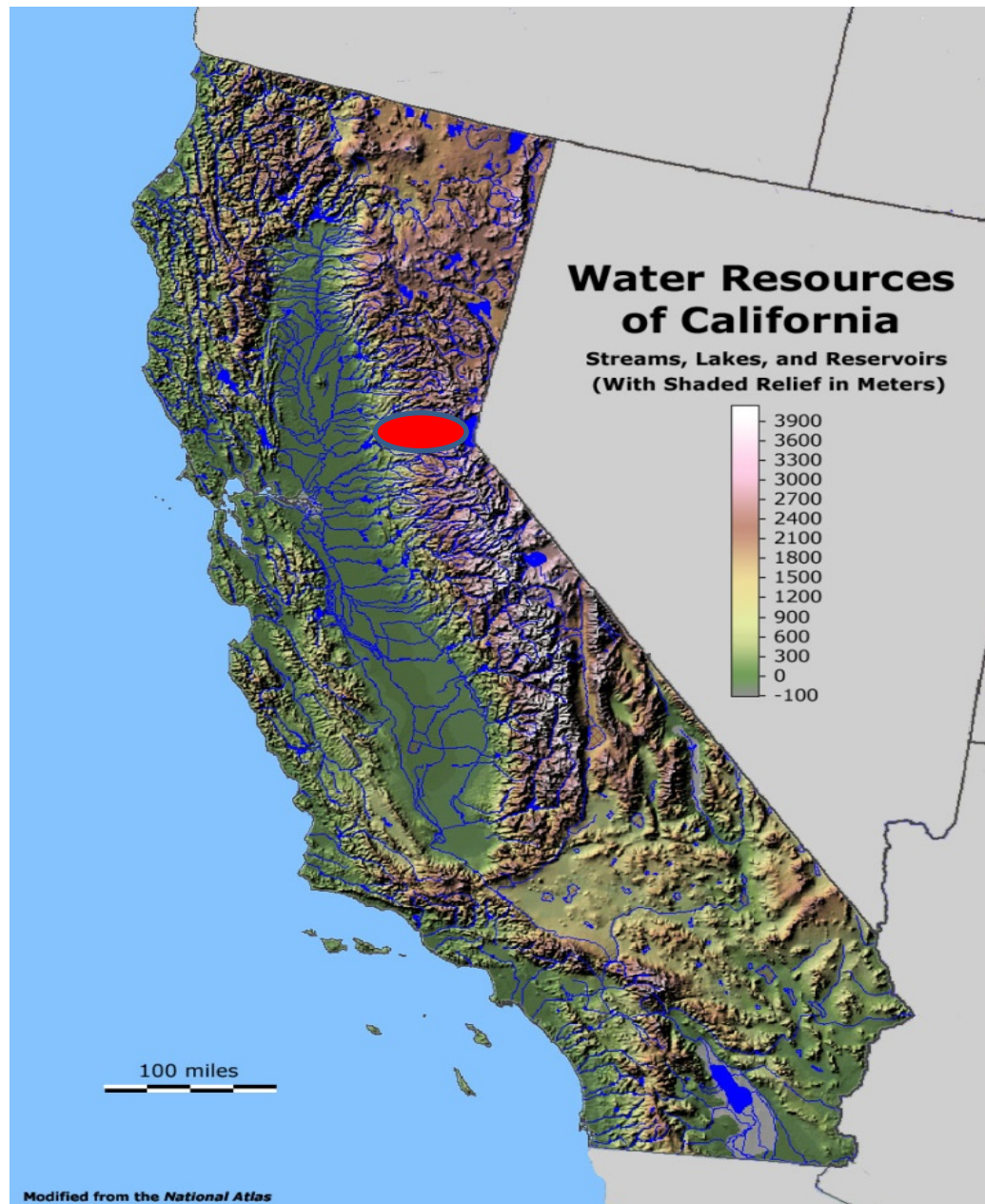


**Middle Fork  
American River Project**

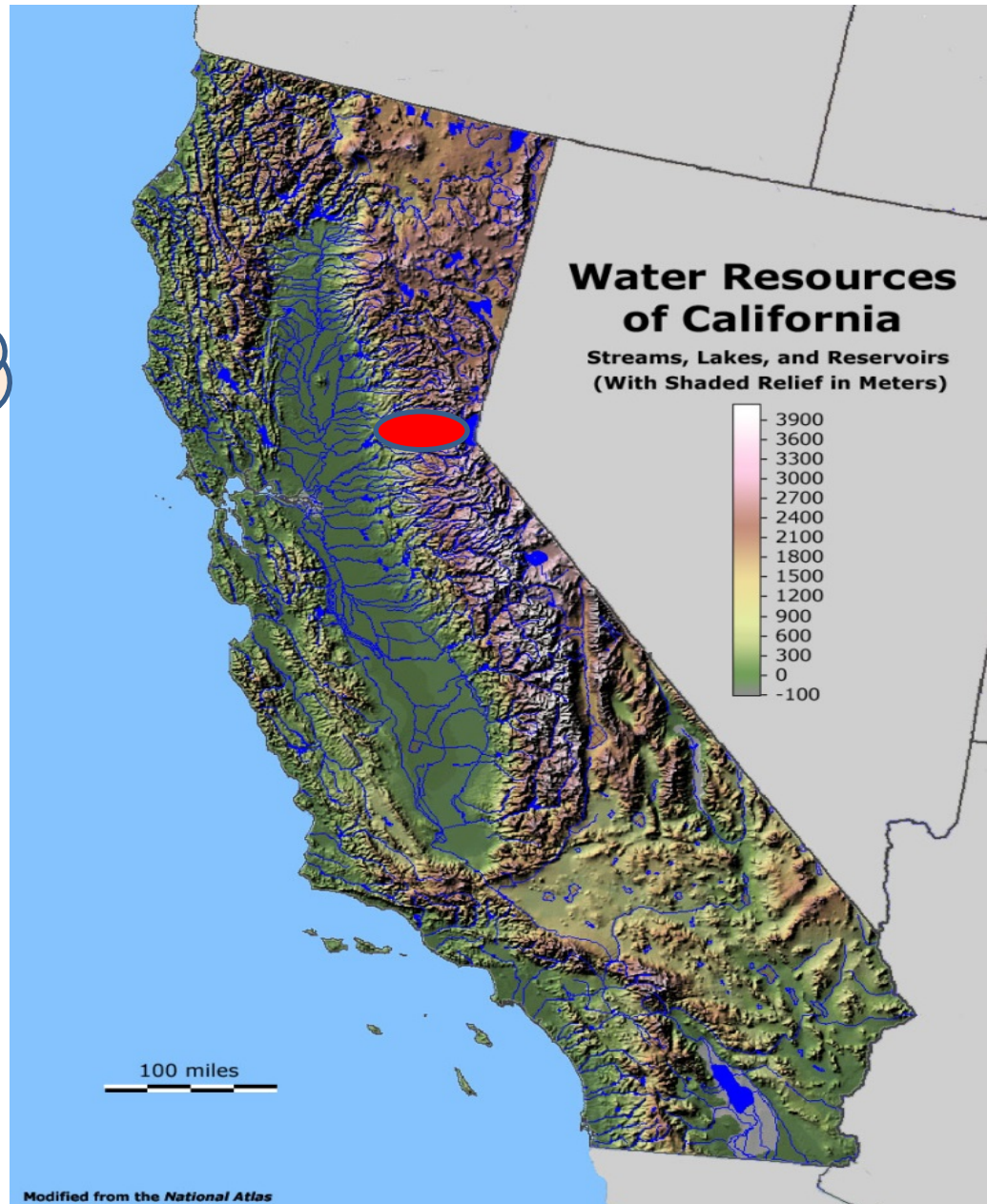
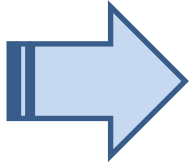
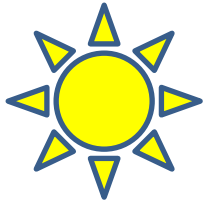
**Lake Tahoe**

**Auburn**

**Folsom Lake**





















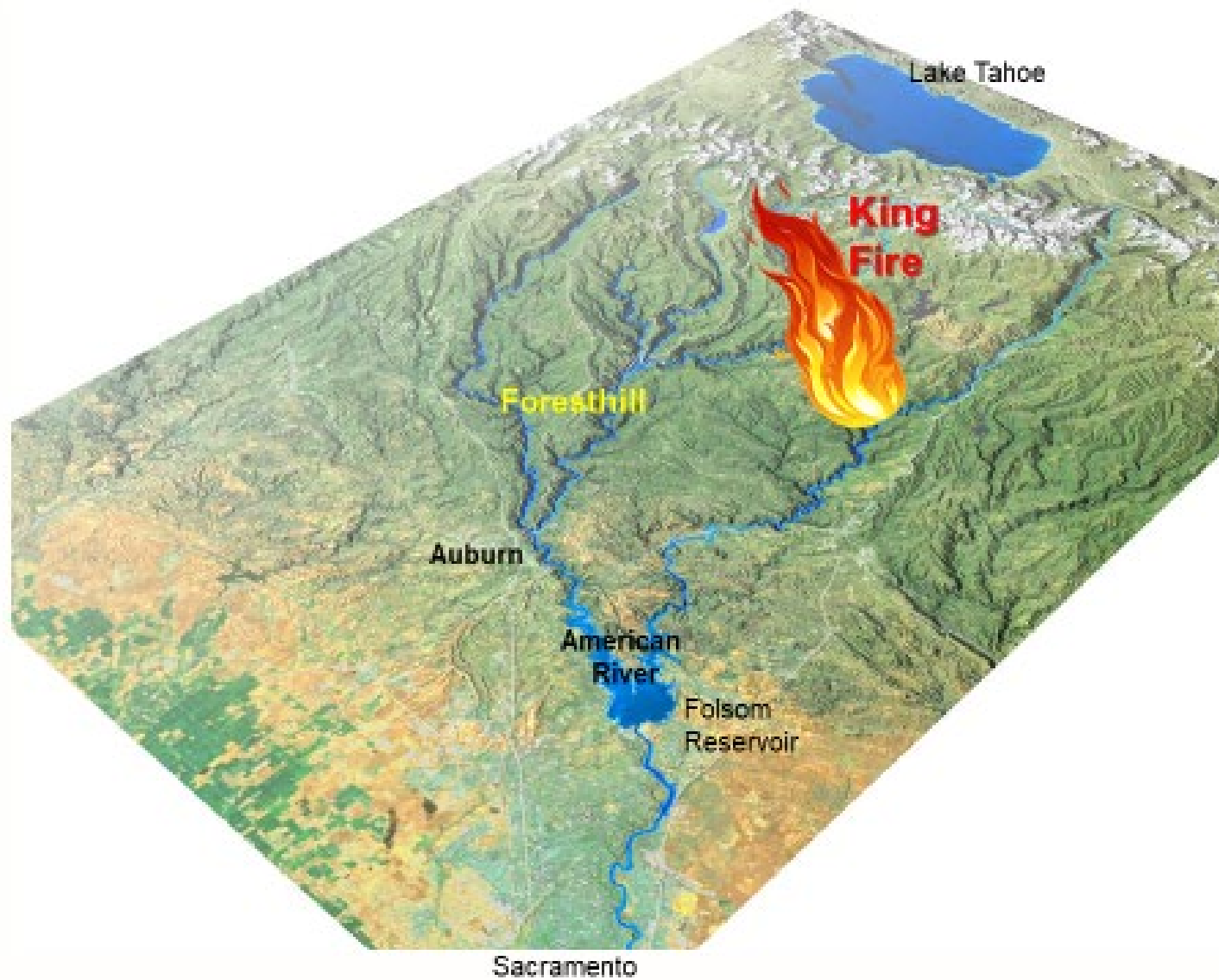
# The Headwaters Storage Portfolio: Snow, Soil, Lakes

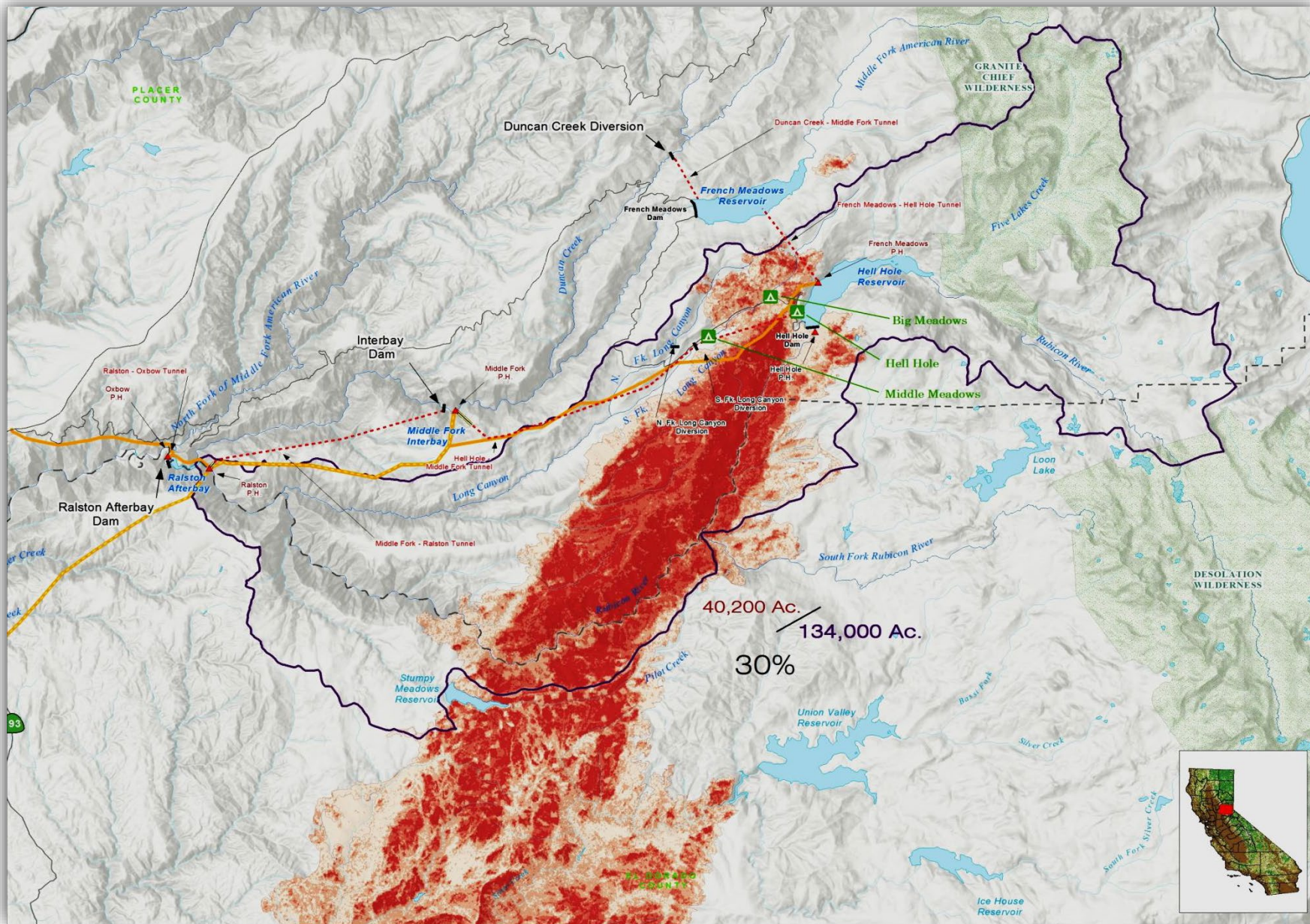


# The Headwaters' Most Pressing Management Challenge















































# First Winter After Fire





# Second Winter After Fire





# Third Winter After Fire











Rubicon River at Ralston Powerhouse looking downstream: Dec. 31, 2008

































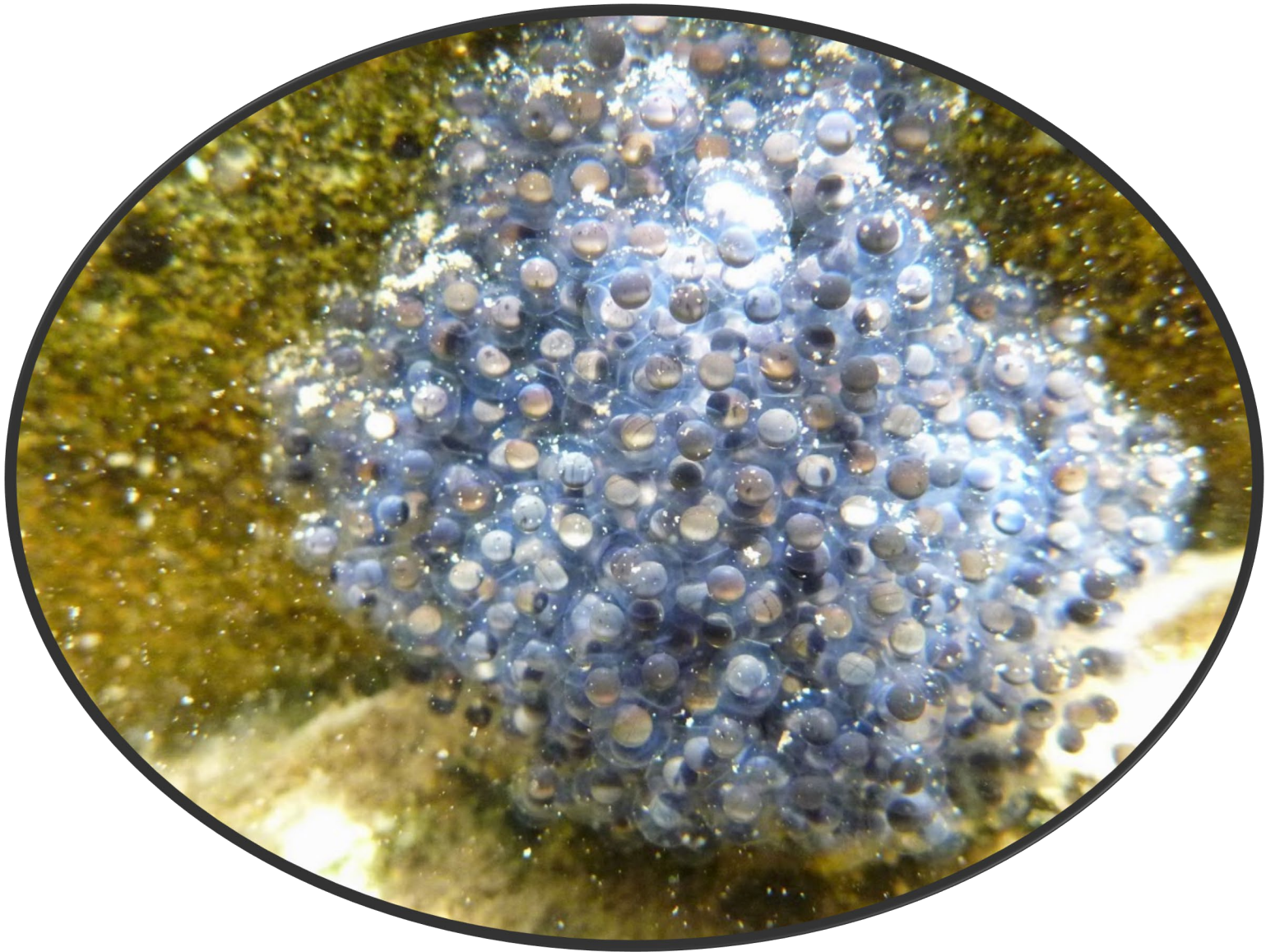






















## Long Term Costs to People of Placer...

### Sediment

\$3M to \$5M per dredging operation, plus lost energy revenue  
Unknown number of dredge operations

### Logs

\$600k per winter/spring season  
Unknown number of seasons

### Aquatics

Studying reproductive success  
Wholesale loss of habitat could drive listing





Water Quality

Infrastructure

Soil Nutrients and Water Holding Capacity

Forest Regeneration and Habitat Diversity

Long-Term Watershed Hydrology, Reliability and  
Productivity

***Costs of High-Severity Headwater Forest Fires***





# What's the REAL Long Term Cost of Large Severe Headwater Fires?



# What We Can Do

## Watershed Vegetation Management





# What We Can Do

## Scientifically Optimize Management





# What We Can Do

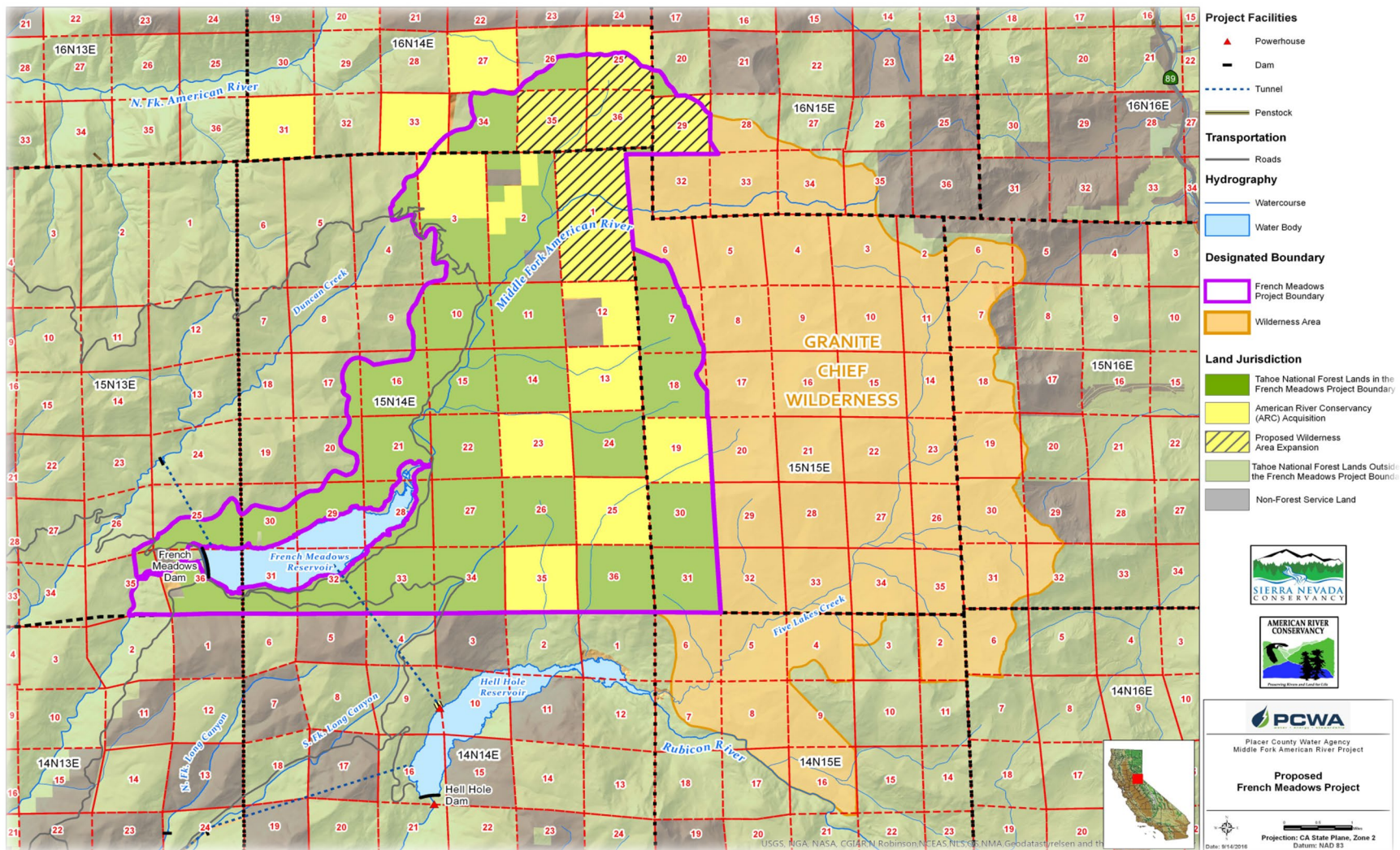
## Educate





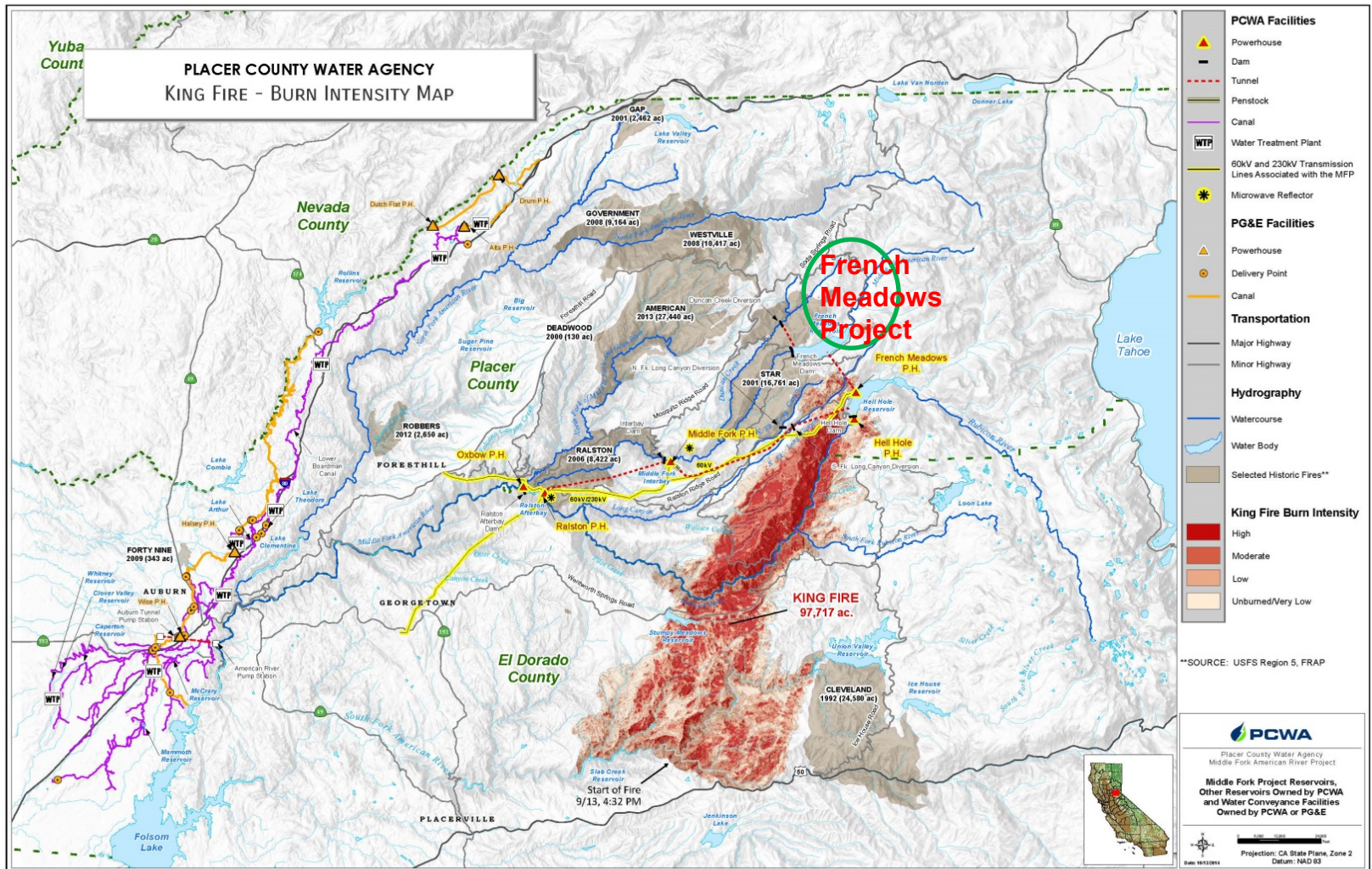
# What We Can Do

## Partner and Invest





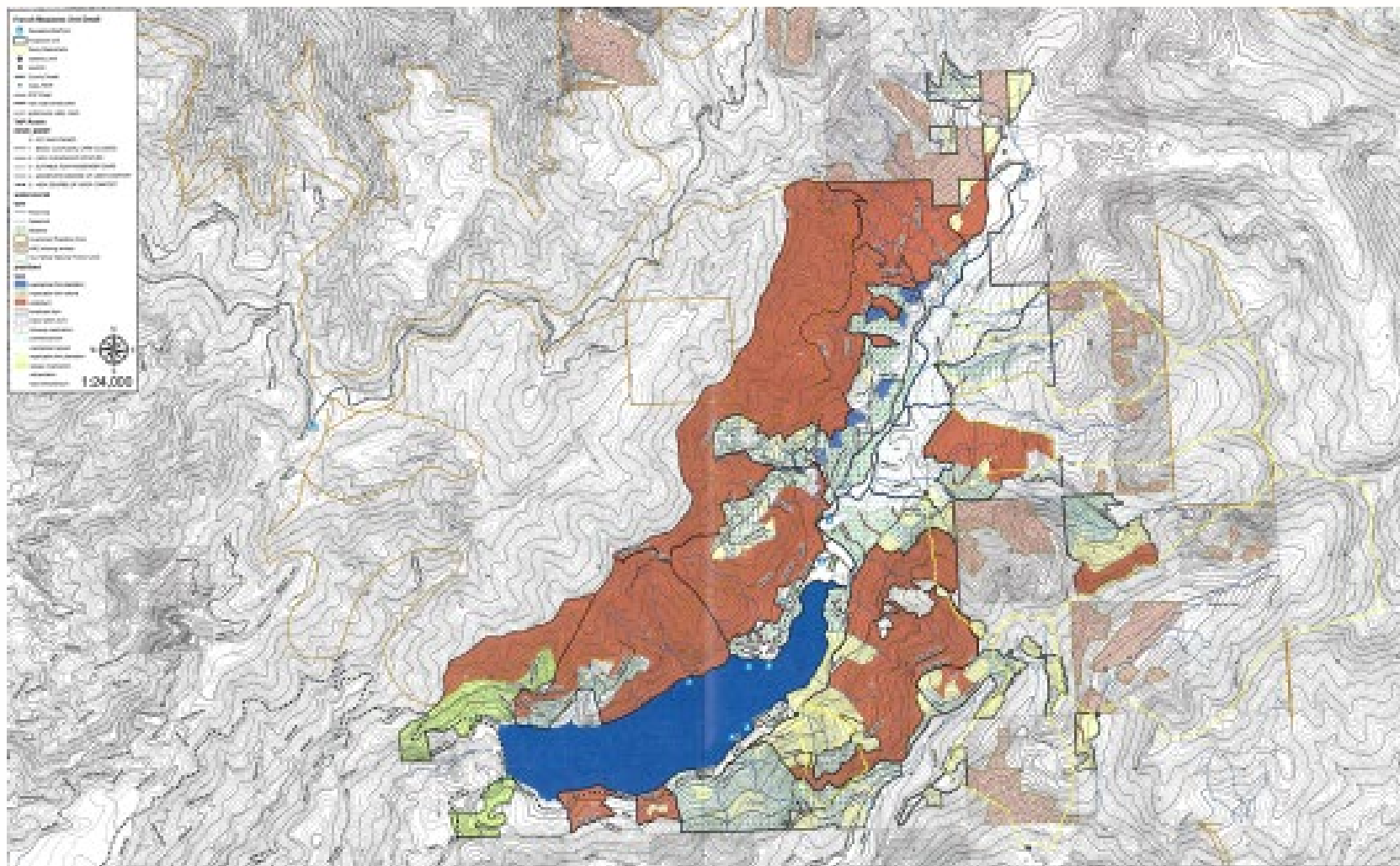
# FIRE HISTORY





# French Meadows Project

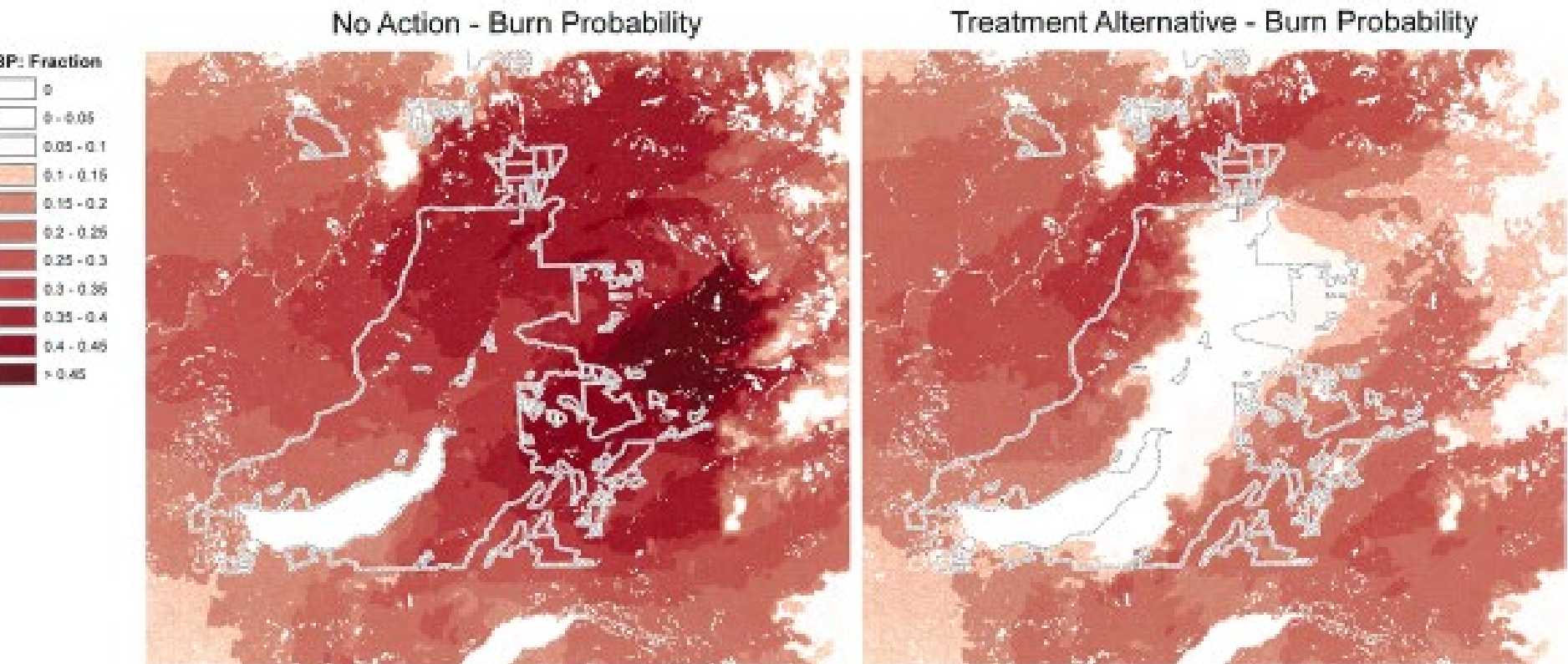
## Ecologically-based, Landscape-scale Fuels Management





# French Meadows Project

## Fire Modelling

















# French Meadows Project

**Tahoe National Forest, Placer County  
The Nature Conservancy,  
Placer County Water Agency,  
American River Conservancy,  
University of California Merced**







## Placer County Water Agency

Andy Fecko, General Manager  
[afecko@pcwa.net](mailto:afecko@pcwa.net)

Marie Davis, Consultant  
[mdavis@pcwa.net](mailto:mdavis@pcwa.net)