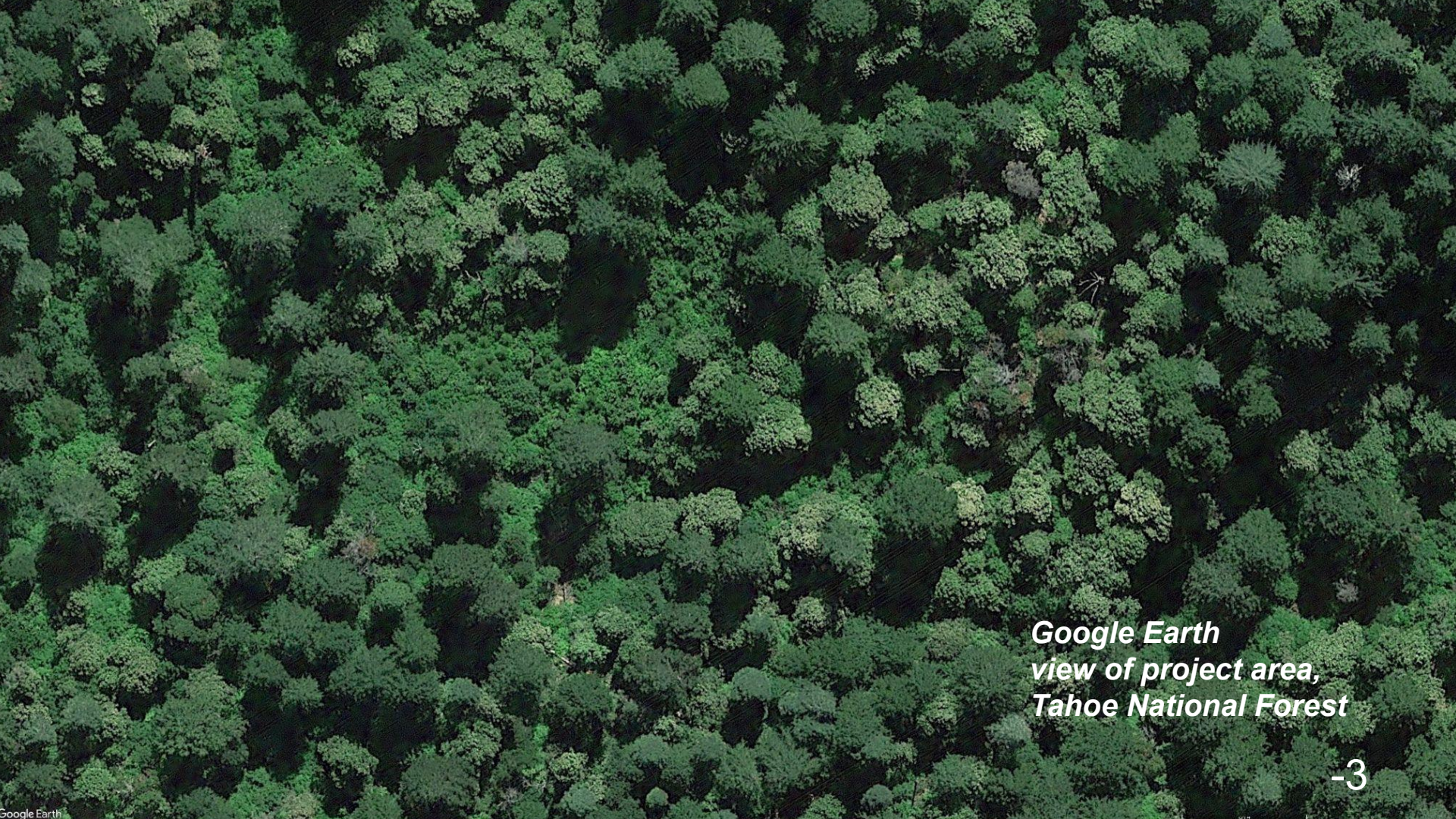




North Yuba Landscape "Resilience" Project Impacts

A Visual Presentation
(Sierra Forest Action! supplementary comments)



Google Earth
view of project area,
Tahoe National Forest

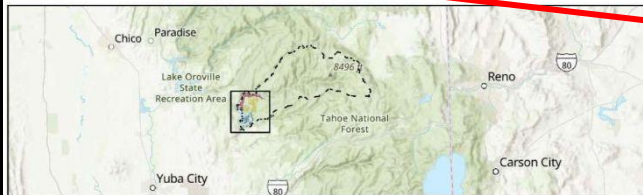
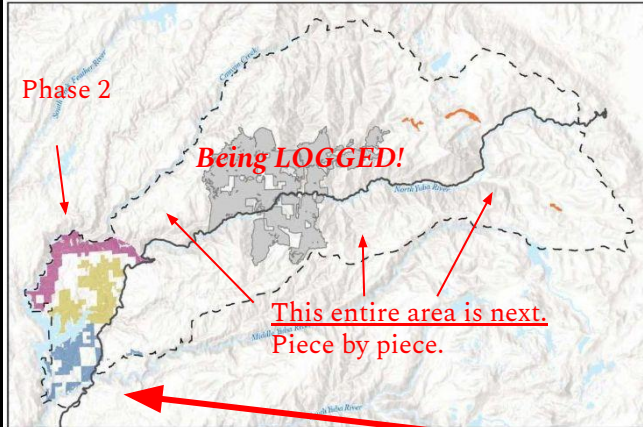
North Yuba Landscape Resilience Project



Tahoe National Forest
Yuba River Ranger District

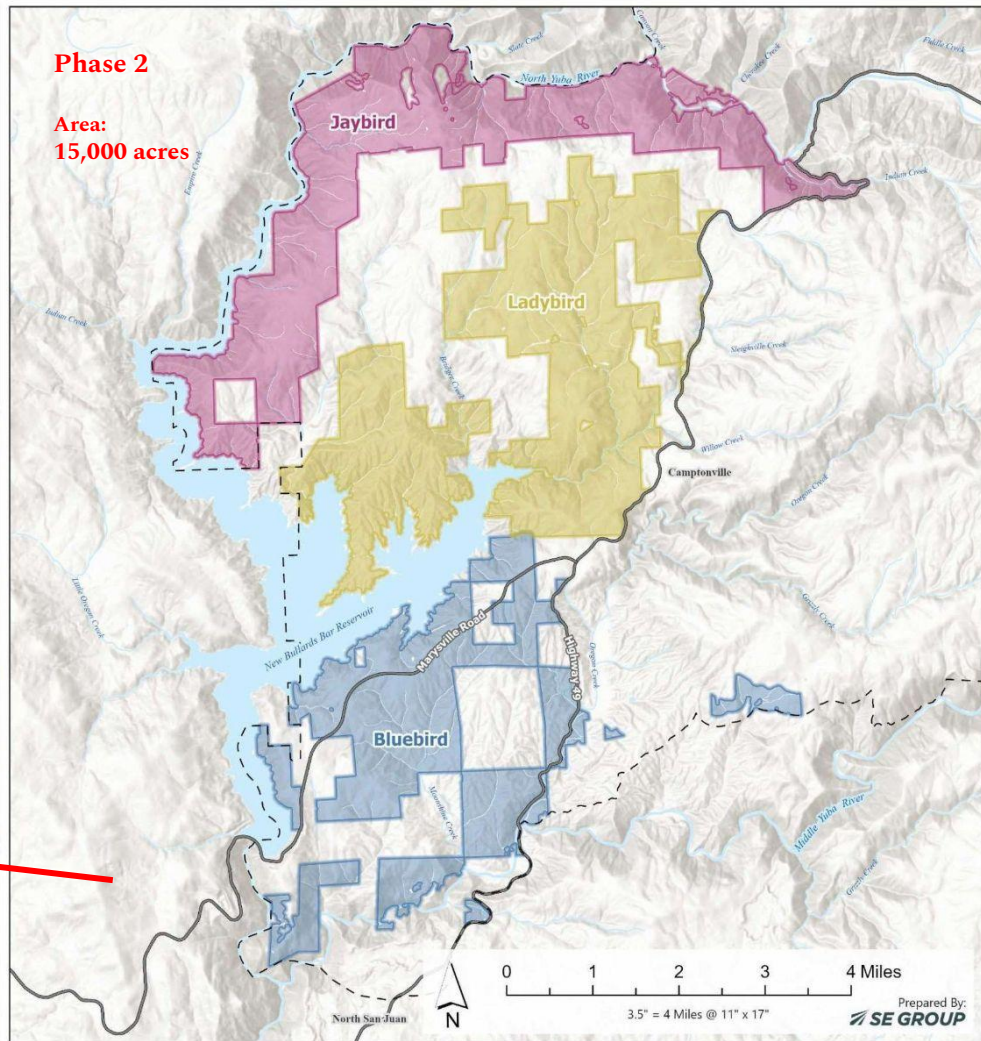
Project Areas Boundaries: **Total Area: 275,000 acres!**

- Jaybird
- Ladybird
- Bluebird
- Meadow, Fen, and Aspen Stand Treatments Outside Sub-project # 2
- Treatments Previously Approved in ROD 1
- North Yuba Landscape Resilience Project Boundary



Phase 2

Area:
15,000 acres



A photograph of a dense forest. In the foreground, a large, fallen log lies horizontally across the frame, partially covered in snow. The log is dark brown and textured. To the left of the log, a tall, thin tree trunk stands vertically, also covered in moss or lichen. The background is filled with a thick canopy of green trees, with some yellow leaves visible in the upper right. The overall scene is a lush, green forest with a prominent fallen log and a tall tree trunk in the foreground.

Values AT RISK:





Tanoak

Douglas
Fir

Bigleaf Maple

Sugar Pine

Pacific
Dogwood

snow

*Photo taken in Plumas NF
but forest composition
Is analogous to TNF*




Tanoak

Sugar Pines

Douglas Fir

Google Earth
view of project area,
Tahoe National Forest

What is happening?

- Industrial logging threatens 15,000 acres of mesic Old-Growth Forest near Bullards Bar Reservoir
- This is "Phase 2" of the North Yuba Landscape "Resilience" Project (NYLRP).
- In total, **275,000 acres** of the **Tahoe National Forest** are threatened by the NYLRP Project
- This is part of a massive **"Smokescreen"** by the US Forest Service, timber industry, and political allies!
- 27,000 acres around the community of Downieville may already be undergoing **active logging!**
-  Dense old forests packed with mature trees (prime **California Spotted Owl** and **Northern Goshawk** habitats) are being targeted for their commercial timber value under the guise of **"fuel reduction"**
- **Science does not support logging as a solution to fire prevention!**
- Learn the **facts** on **"thinning"**, **prescribed fire**, and so called **"overgrown forests"** (**science linked!**)

Logging "Treatment" Types and Acreages:

- 14,796 acres of various forms of mechanical "thinning" (logging) (unsupported by [science](#))
- 15,556 acres of secondary prescribed fire as a follow-up "treatment" (also unsupported by [science](#))
- Only 743 acres of stand-alone prescribed fire (supported by science, effective if done responsibly)
- 17 acres of meadow and fen "treatments" (likely destructive)
- These extensive "treatments" (industrial mechanized logging) degrade and destroy forest ecosystems and natural ecological processes.
- *Beware the Orwellian language used:*

A spoonful of greenwashing makes the 'chainsaw medicine' go down

Logging "Treatment" Types and Acreages:

- 1- to 3-acre "openings" (clearcuts) will be created.
- This will fragment wildlife habitat and ruin habitat complexity.
- "Treatment" methods include understory burning, hand thinning, mastication (destruction of native understory shrubs/plants), ground-based mechanical "thinning", and helicopter logging.
- The vast scale of "treatments" (**over 15,000 acres**) poses a significant threat to intact forest ecosystems.
- Successful implementation would clear the way for the remaining phases of North Yuba Landscape "Resilience" Project - the 275,000 acre total.

Impacts to Old-Growth and large trees:

- The Forest Service appears to justify cutting large trees by claiming a lack of data on Old-Growth, which is a concerning excuse!
- The lack of explicit protections for Old-Growth trees is concerning, as these trees are critical for wildlife habitat and carbon sequestration. The undermining of existing protections should raise enormous red flags!
- The Forest Service's approach of writing off areas as non-Old-Growth **due to absence of data** is scientifically unsound and extremely damaging.

...

World's 2nd tallest Sugar Pine

Height:
267.4 ft (81.50m)

DBH:
7.7 ft (2.35m)

Photo Credit:
Michael Taylor
Discoverer



World's 2nd tallest Sugar Pine

Height:
267.4 ft (81.50m)

DBH:
7.7 ft (2.35m)

Photo Credit:
Michael Taylor
Discoverer





77.5m Sugar Pine

60 ft

Yet another TALL
record-class SUGAR PINE
threatened by this project!

As seen in Google Earth



Yet another TALL
record-class SUGAR PINE
threatened by this project!

As seen in Google Earth

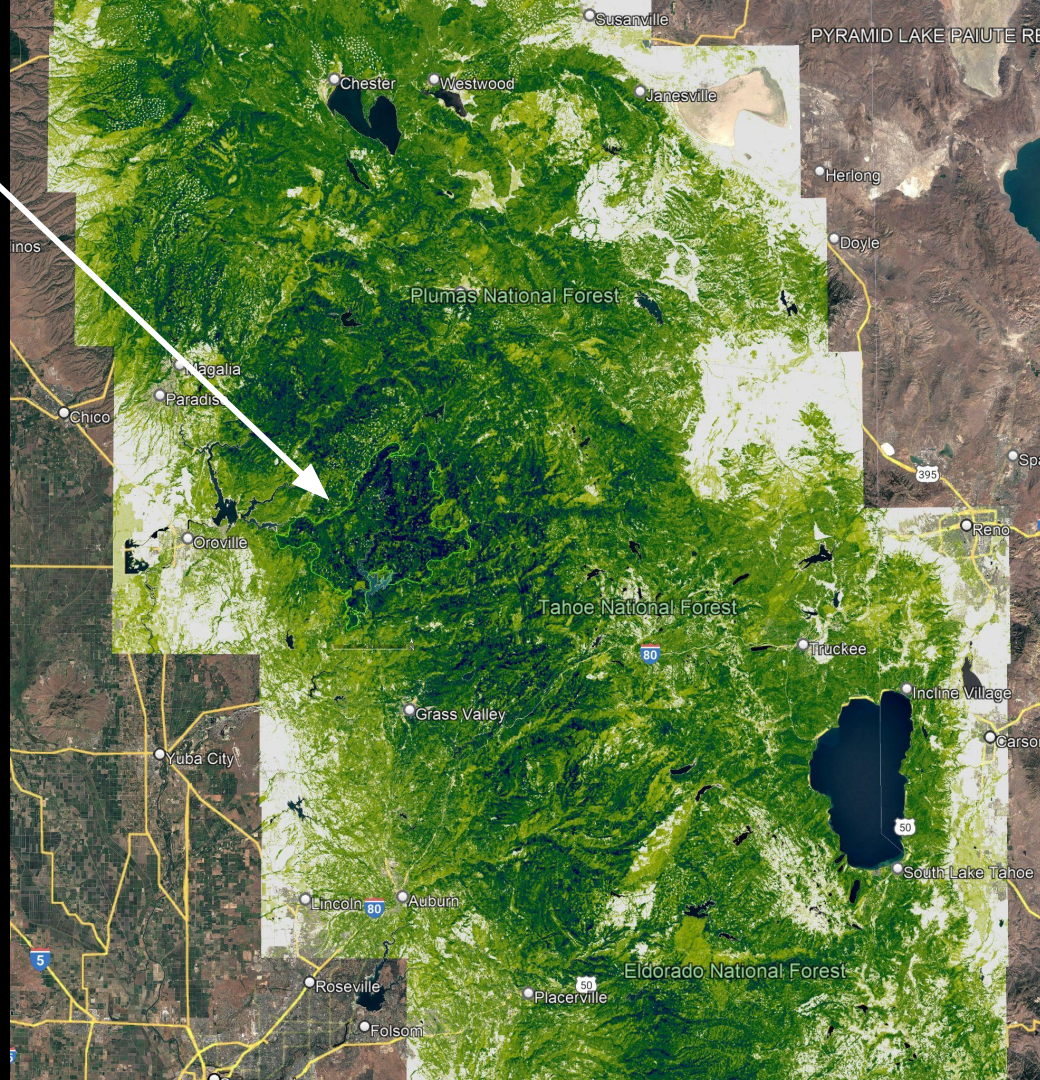
The microclimate **HERE**
is like nowhere else
in the Sierra Nevada!

Map of Average
Canopy Height
in the Northern Sierra Nevada

- Dark blue areas indicate
Old-Growth

This microclimate supports the tallest, grandest,
and most expansive Old-Growth Forests
left anywhere in the Sierras
as evidenced by this LiDAR Data.
(Approximately 80 sq miles of MOG forest
across 3 counties!)

12



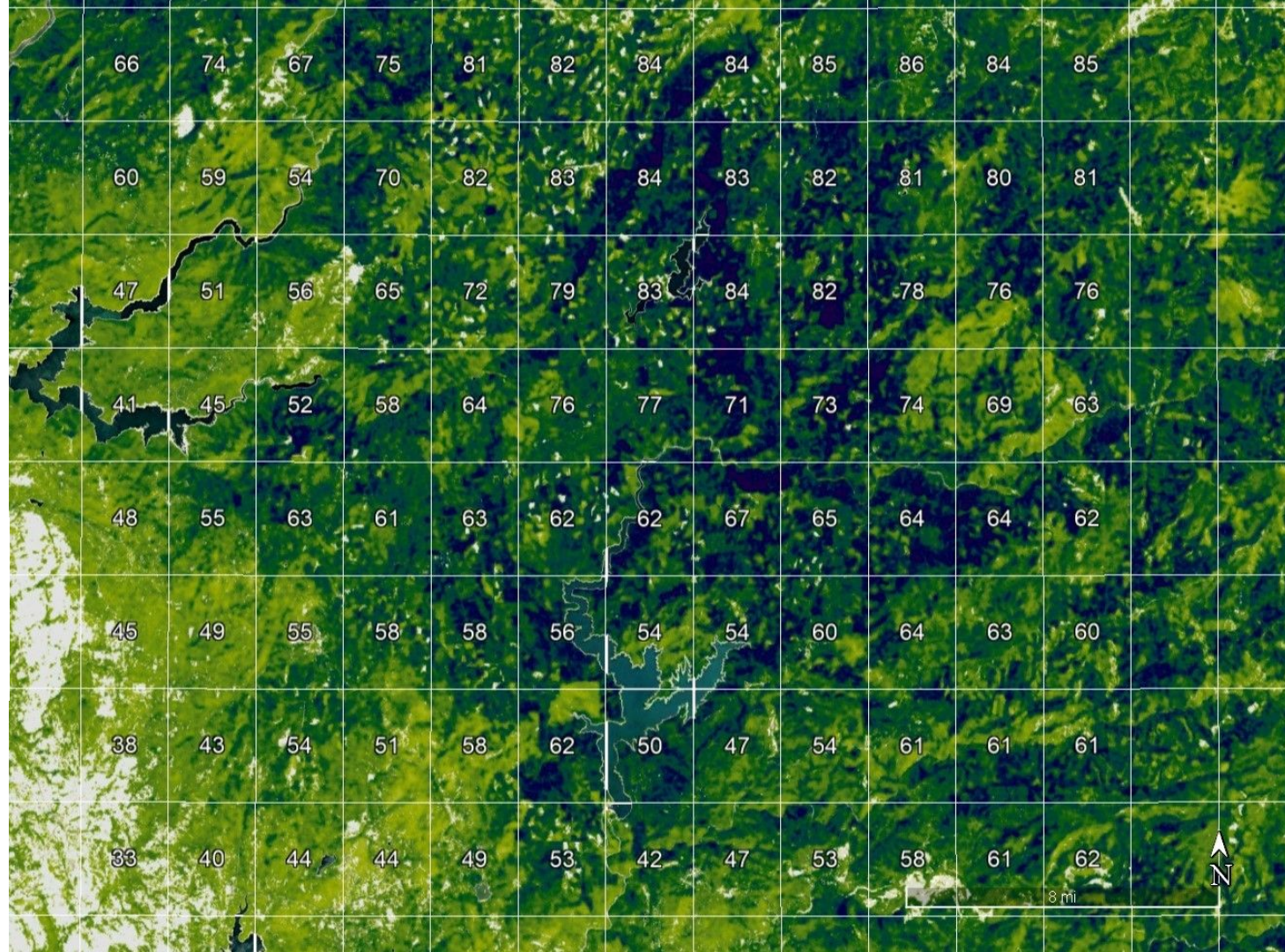
Map of Mesic Microclimate

Average Annual
Precipitation
(in inches)

+

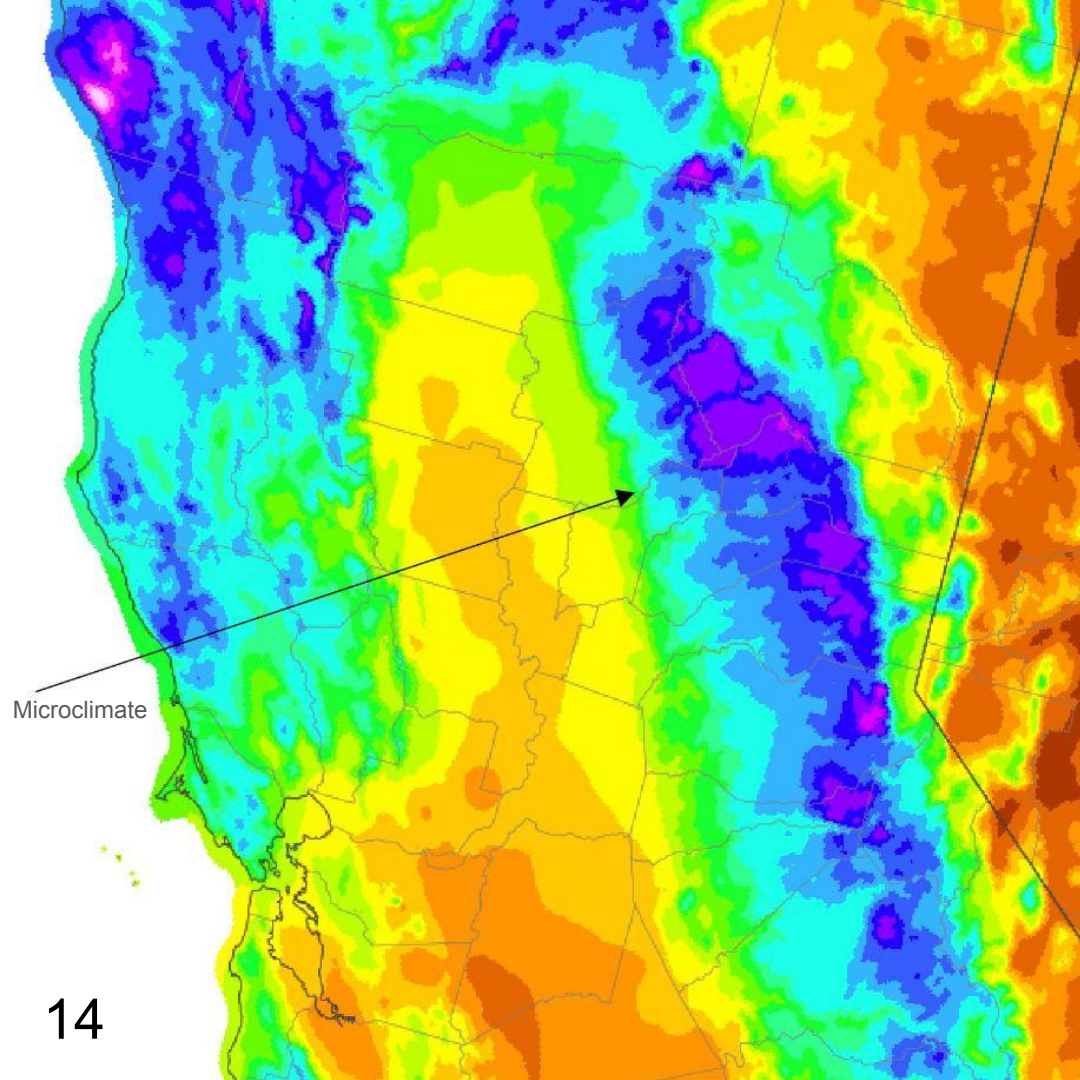
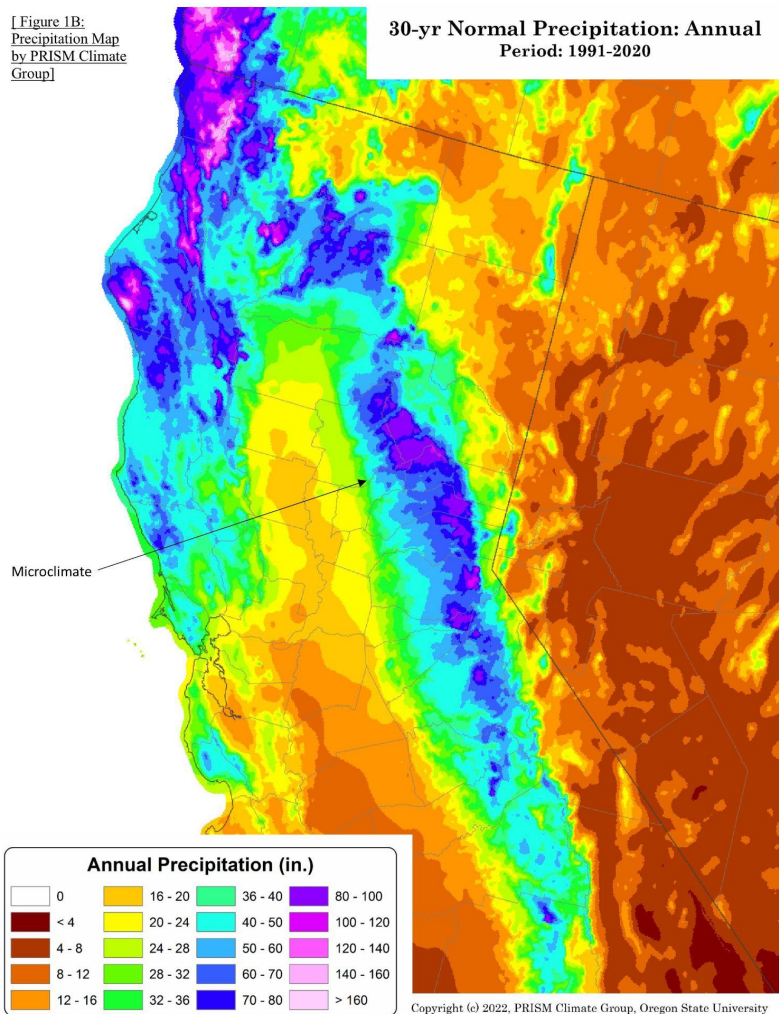
Average
Canopy Height
- dark blue areas
indicate
Old-Growth

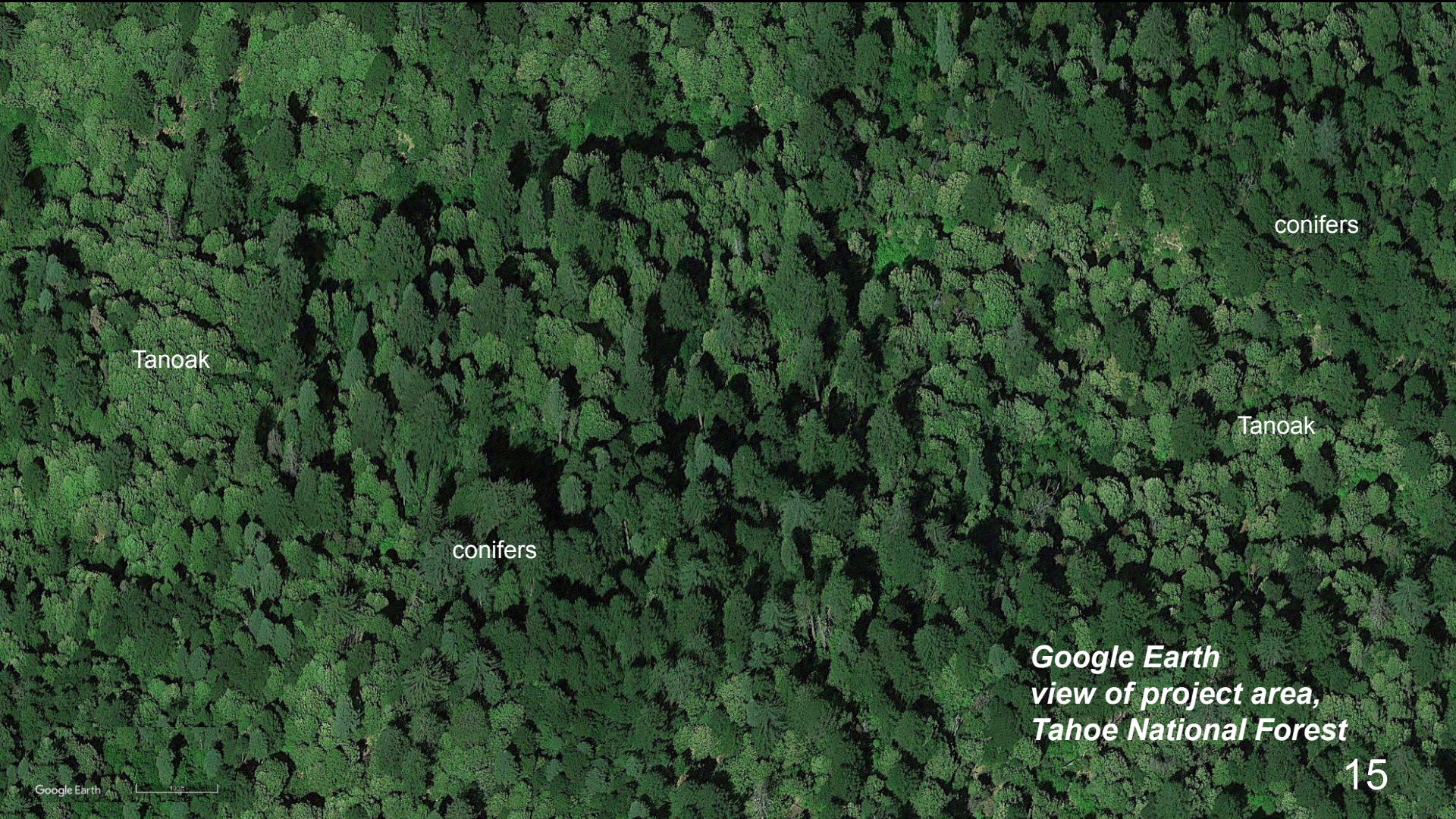
13



[Figure 1B:
Precipitation Map
by PRISM Climate
Group]

**30-yr Normal Precipitation: Annual
Period: 1991-2020**





conifers

Tanoak

Tanoak

conifers

Google Earth
view of project area,
Tahoe National Forest

Tanoak, a defining species of this unique ecosystem provides habitat for many bird species, especially warblers like this **Nashville Warbler**

Photo taken in Plumas NF
but species are analogous to TNF

Habitat not merely fuel.

What will happen to
THEM...

when THIS is gone?

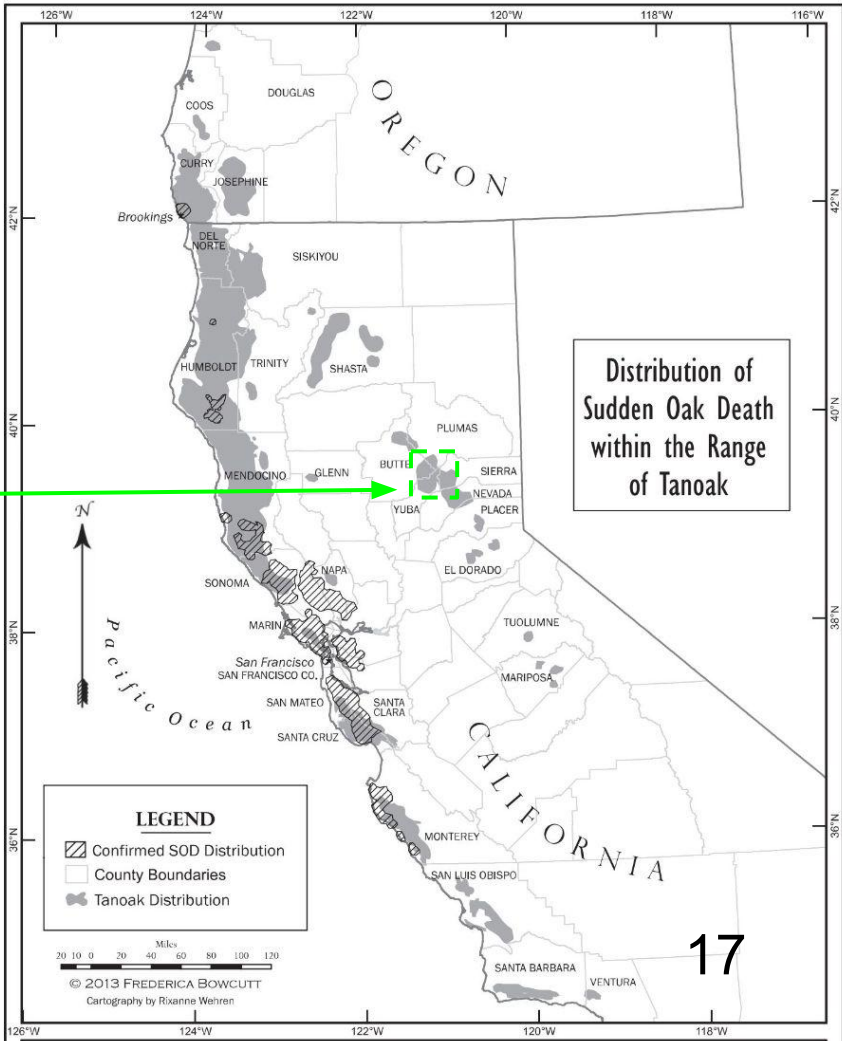
Sudden Oak Death and a Pathogen Refugia hotspot:

- This localized **microclimate** region in the Northern Sierra Nevada could serve as the **last anti-pathogen refugia hotspot** for **Tanoak**, a species **being decimated by sudden oak death across its primary range** on the **Coast** of California and Southern Oregon.
- This area may be the only place outside of coastal and coastal-adjacent areas where Tanoak **consistently attains its full potential as mature trees**. While there are other localities, none of them can support tree-form Tanoaks in most cases.
- This microclimate within the Sierra Nevada could potentially be the **only significant refuge** for mature Tanoak trees to survive and thrive while their **coastal counterparts are being completely wiped out**.
- Provided the sudden oak death pathogen does not spread to the Sierra Nevada, the area's isolated nature makes it a **prime candidate** to **sanctuary** the last survivors.
- **Logging would ruin this last refuge** beyond repair by:
 - **Removing the microclimate** that supports Tanoak growth, especially the mature tree form.
 - **Decimating Tanoak** populations
 - **Increasing the risk of pathogen introduction** or spread through **increased human activity** and **equipment movement** in the area.
- “Sudden oak death disease may **increase fuel loads** and **alter fire regimes** in areas of heavy infection” according to [USES](#)

FIGURE 2.—Distribution of sudden oak death, caused by *Phytophthora ramorum*, in relationship to tanoak distribution. Data sources: California and Oregon distribution as of February 20, 2012 came from Geospatial Innovation Facility (2012); a few additional sites were added from U.C. Berkeley Forest Pathology and Mycology Laboratory (2012). Oregon sudden oak death distribution as of March 14, 2012 came from the Oregon Department of Agriculture (2012). The tanoak distribution data for California came from Griffin and Critchfield (1976). Tanoak distribution data for Oregon came from the Oregon Flora Project (2012).

Source: USFWS - [Download Link](#)

Sudden Oak Death and a Anti-Pathogen Refugia Hotspot



DATA SOURCES: Data on California and Oregon sudden oak death distribution as of February 20, 2012 came from <http://www.oakmapper.org/pdf/California.pdf> [accessed October 30, 2012]. A few additional sites were added from www.sodmap.org [accessed December 6, 2012]. Oregon sudden oak death distribution as of March 14, 2012 came from http://www.oregon.gov/ODA/CID/PLANT_HEALTH/Publishing/Images/lg/sodquar2012.jpg [accessed November 29, 2012]. The tanoak distribution data for California came from Griffin and Critchfield, *The distribution of forest trees in California*, 73. Tanoak distribution data for Oregon came from the Oregon Plant Atlas, www.oregonflora.org/atlas.php [accessed November 26, 2012].



This area provides some of the best remaining habitat for the California Spotted Owl with 13 Protected Activity Centers (PACS) within the project area.
This means there is likely at least enough habitat to sustain 13 nesting pairs!

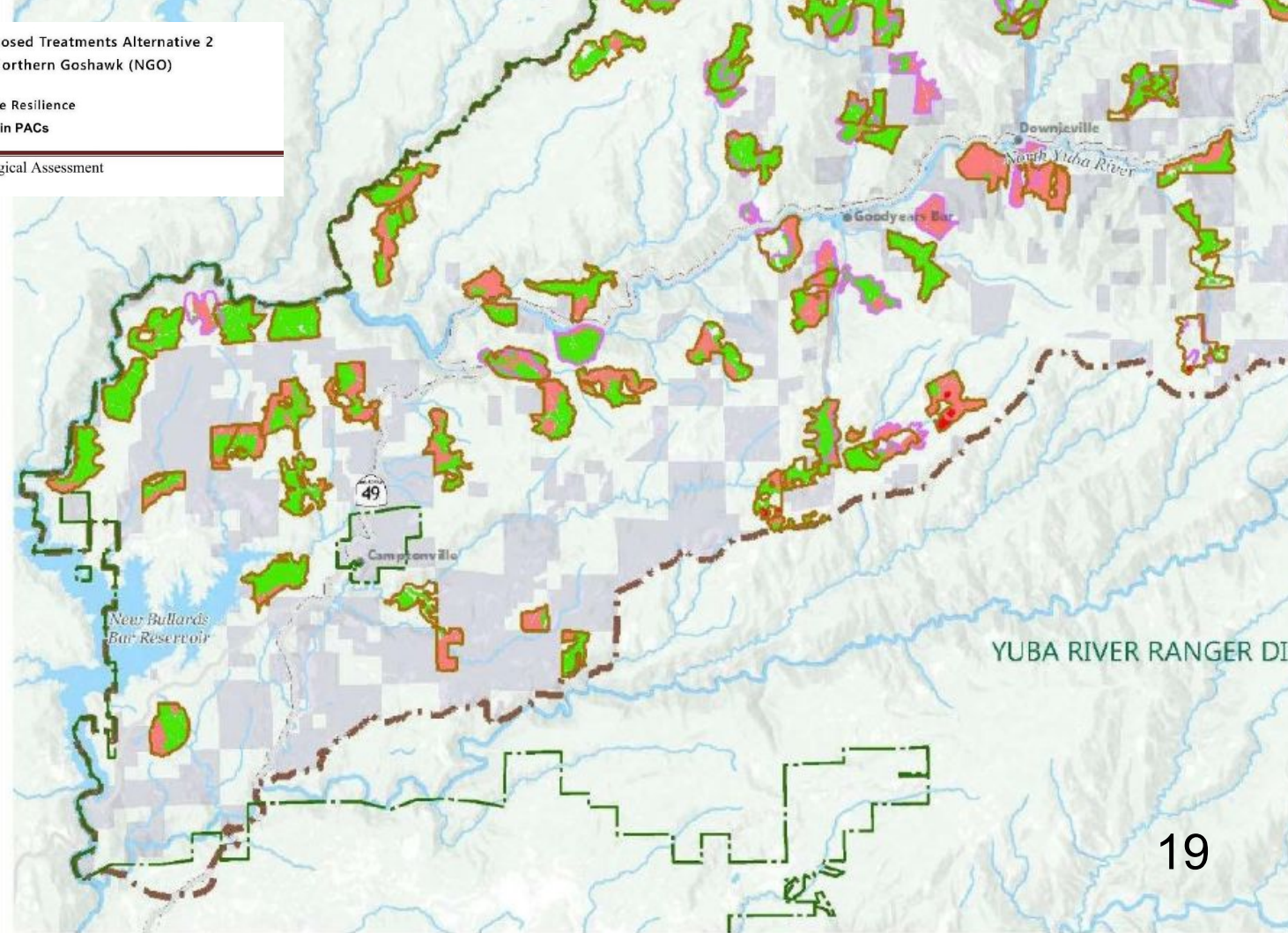
Photos taken in Plumas National Forest by Feather River Action! but CSO occurs in TNF project area.

Protected Activity Centers (PAC) - Proposed Treatments Alternative 2
California Spotted Owl (CSO) & Northern Goshawk (NGO)

North Yuba Landscape Resilience

Figure 7. Map of Estimated Treatment Locations in PACs

North Yuba Landscape Resilience Project Wildlife Biological Assessment



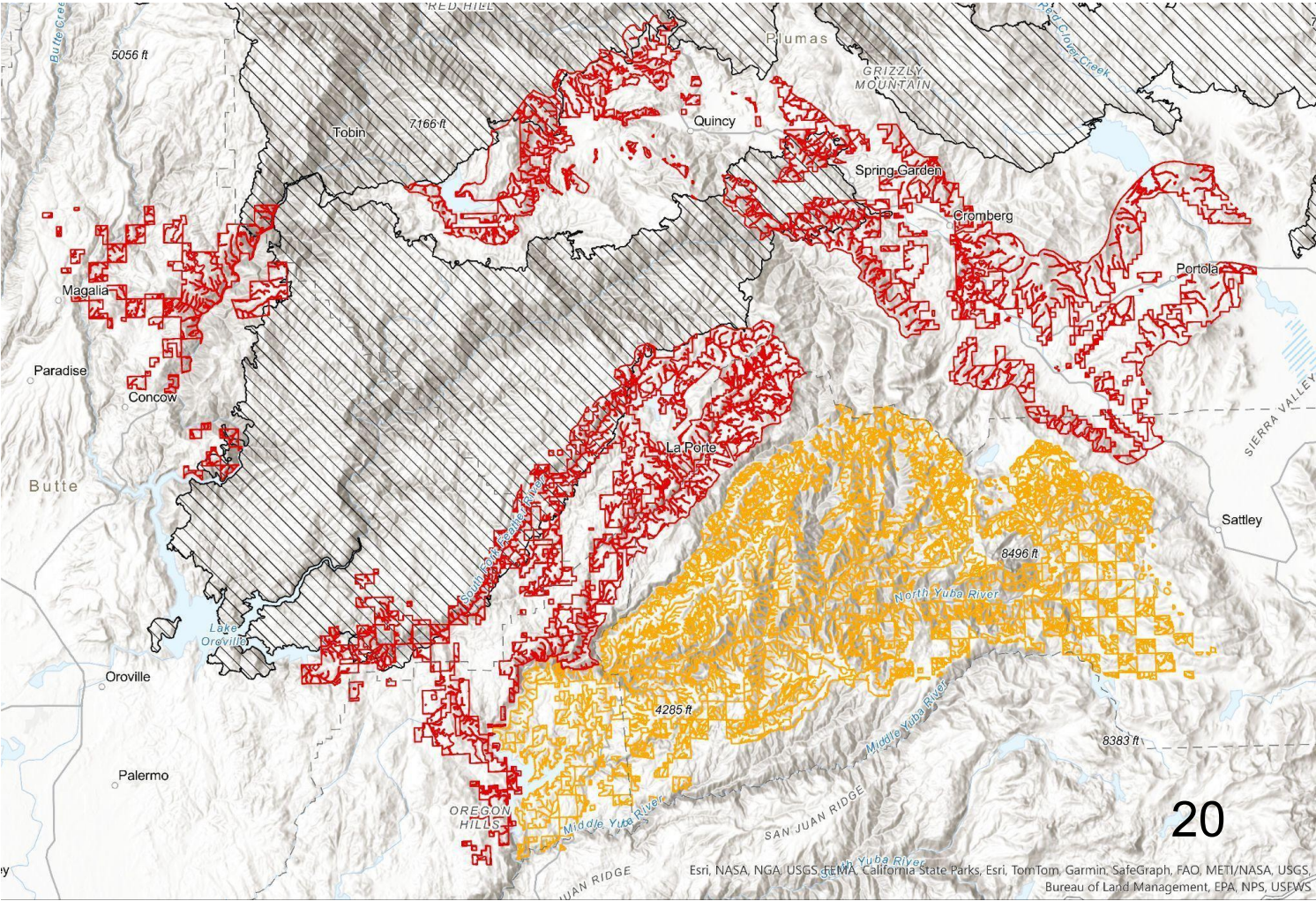
**PNF CPP + TNF NYLRP:
Cumulative Impacts**

Timber Sales

- CPP Project (PNF)
- NYLRP Project (TNF)

Recent Fires

- ▨ North Complex Fire, Dixie Fire ect



PNF CPP + TNF NYLRP: Old-Growth Forests

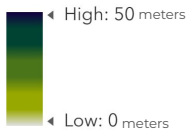
Timber Sales

- CPP Project (PNF)
- NYLRP Project (TNF)

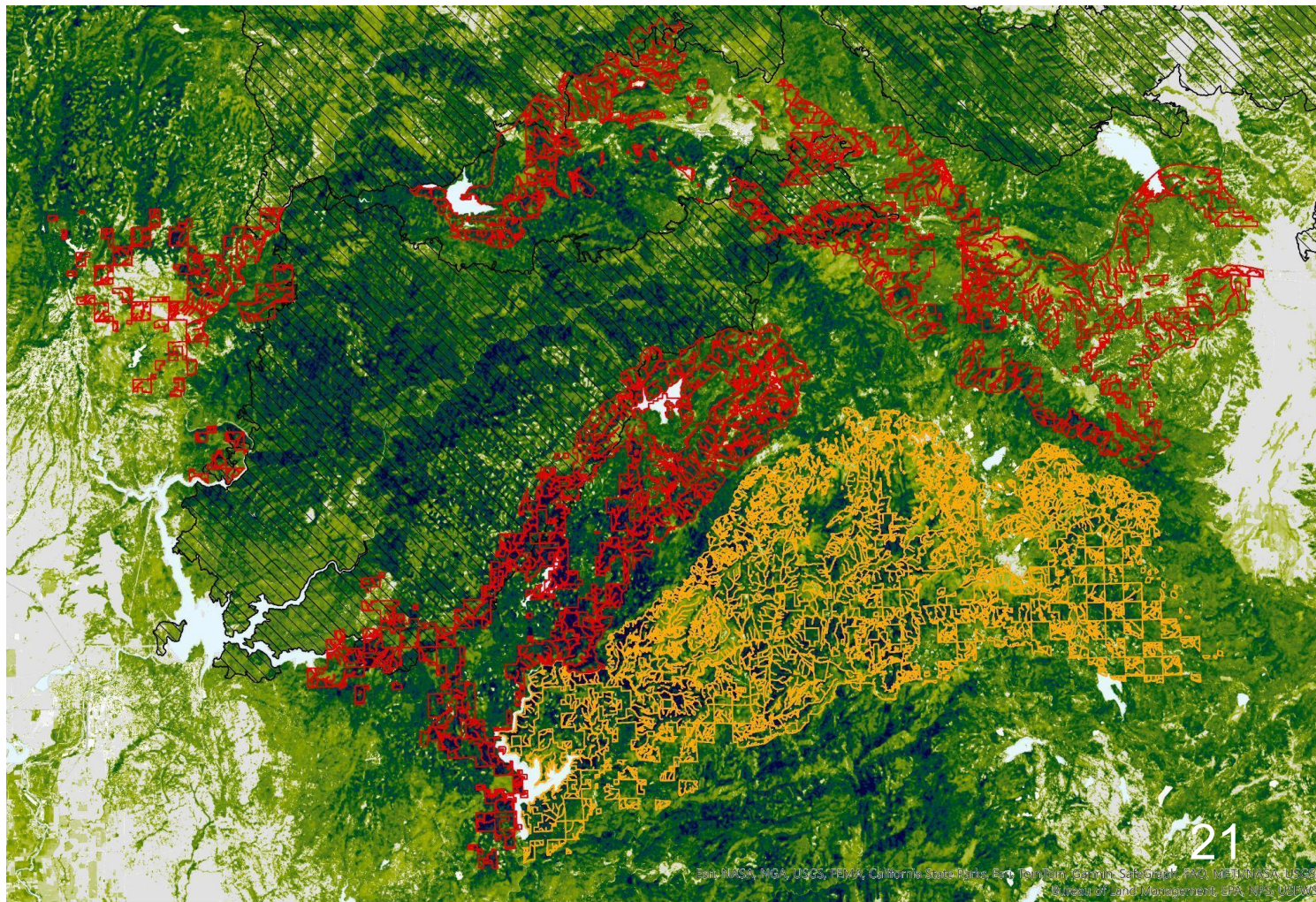
Recent Fires

- ▨ North Complex Fire, Dixie Fire ect

Global Canopy Height 2020



2020 Global vegetation height in 10m resolution.
Produced by EcoVision Lab in the ETH Zurich
Department of Civil, Environmental and Geomatic
Engineering.

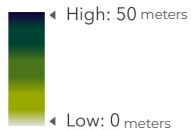


PNF CPP + TNF NYLRP: Old-Growth Forests

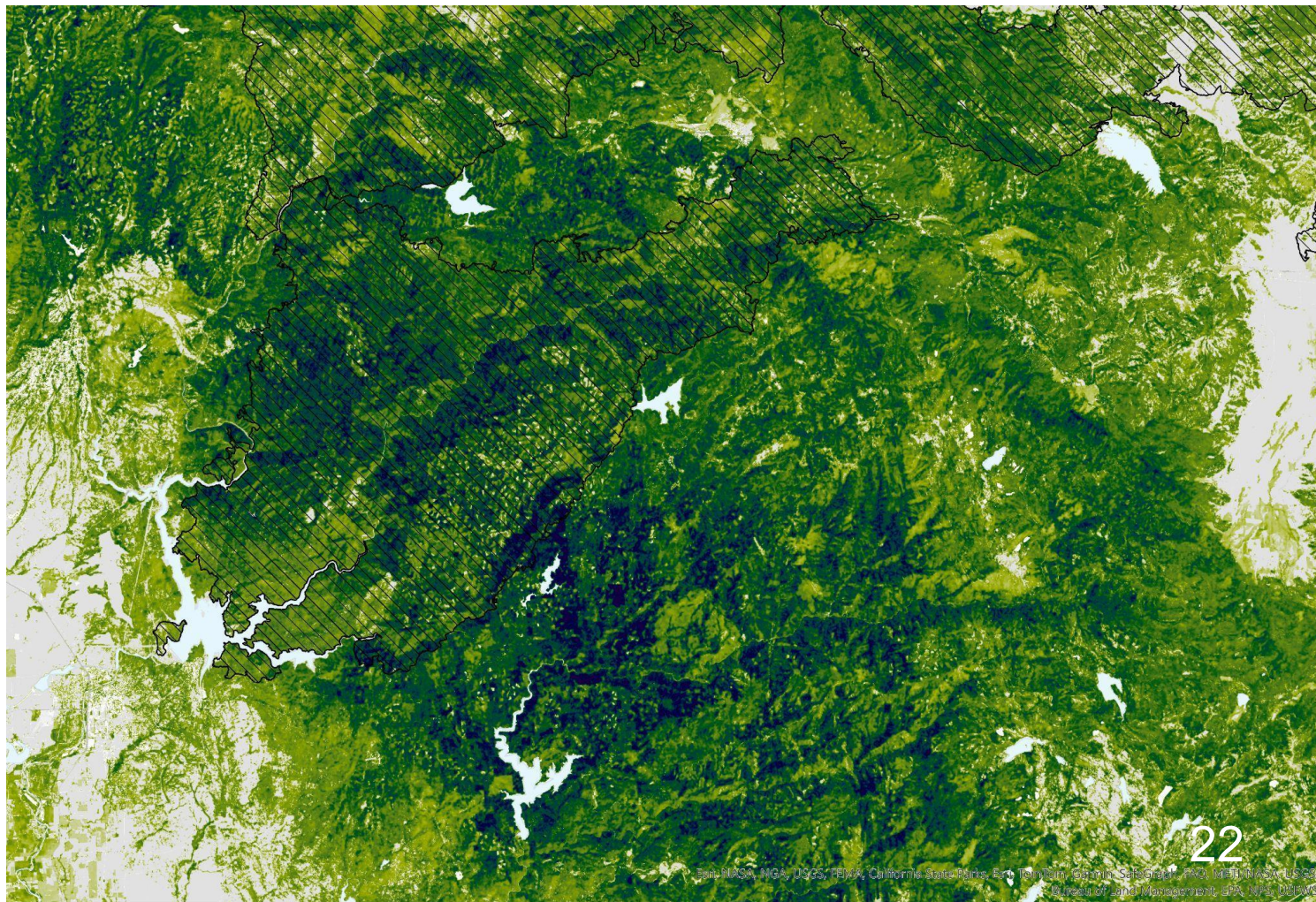
Recent Fires

 North Complex Fire,
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PNF CPP + TNF NYLRP: Old-Growth Forests

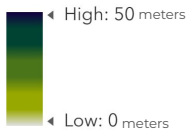
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- NYLRP Project (TNF)

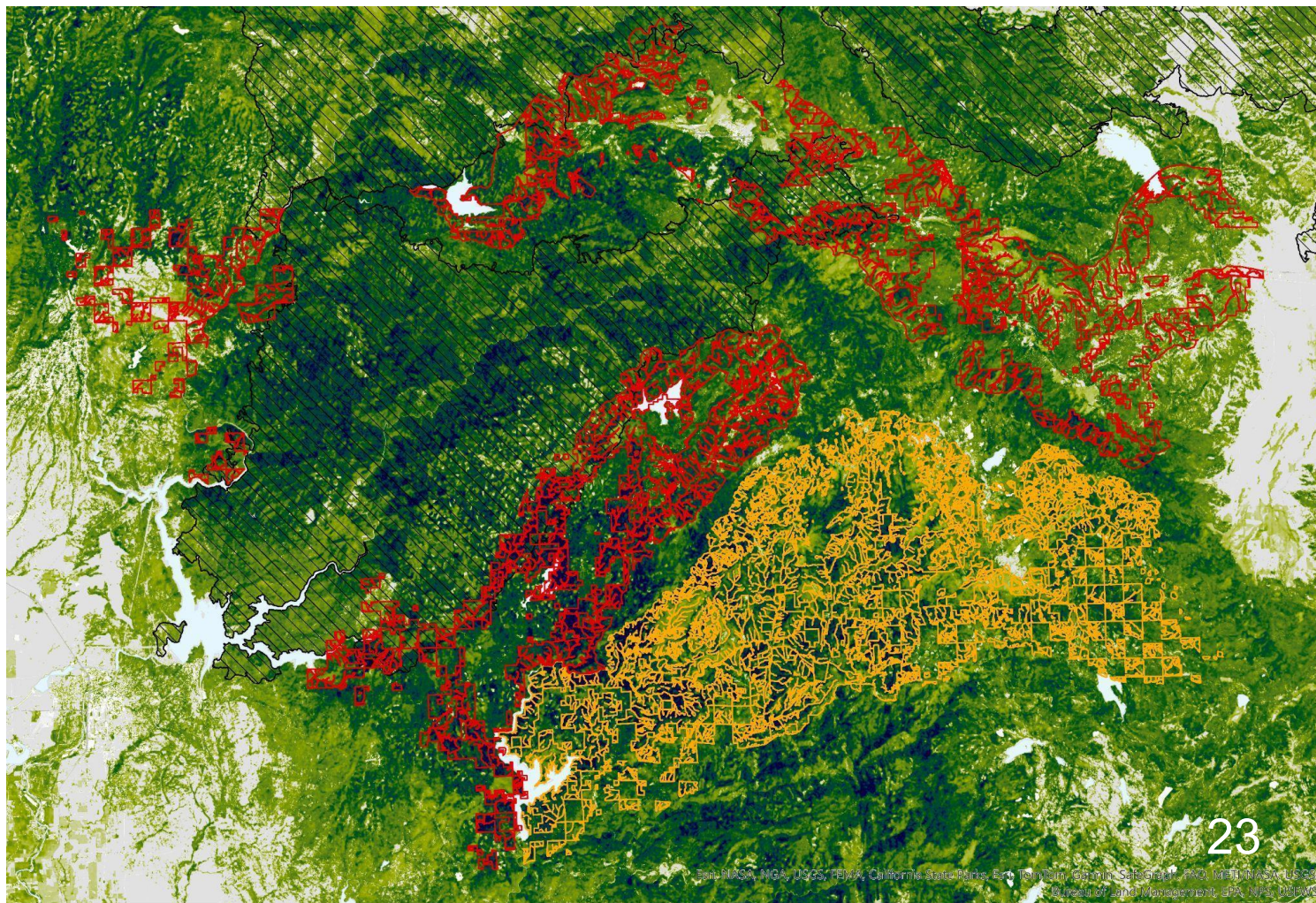
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PNF CPP + TNF NYLRP: Population Centers

Timber Sales

- CPP Project (PNF)
- NYLRP Project (TNF)

Recent Fires

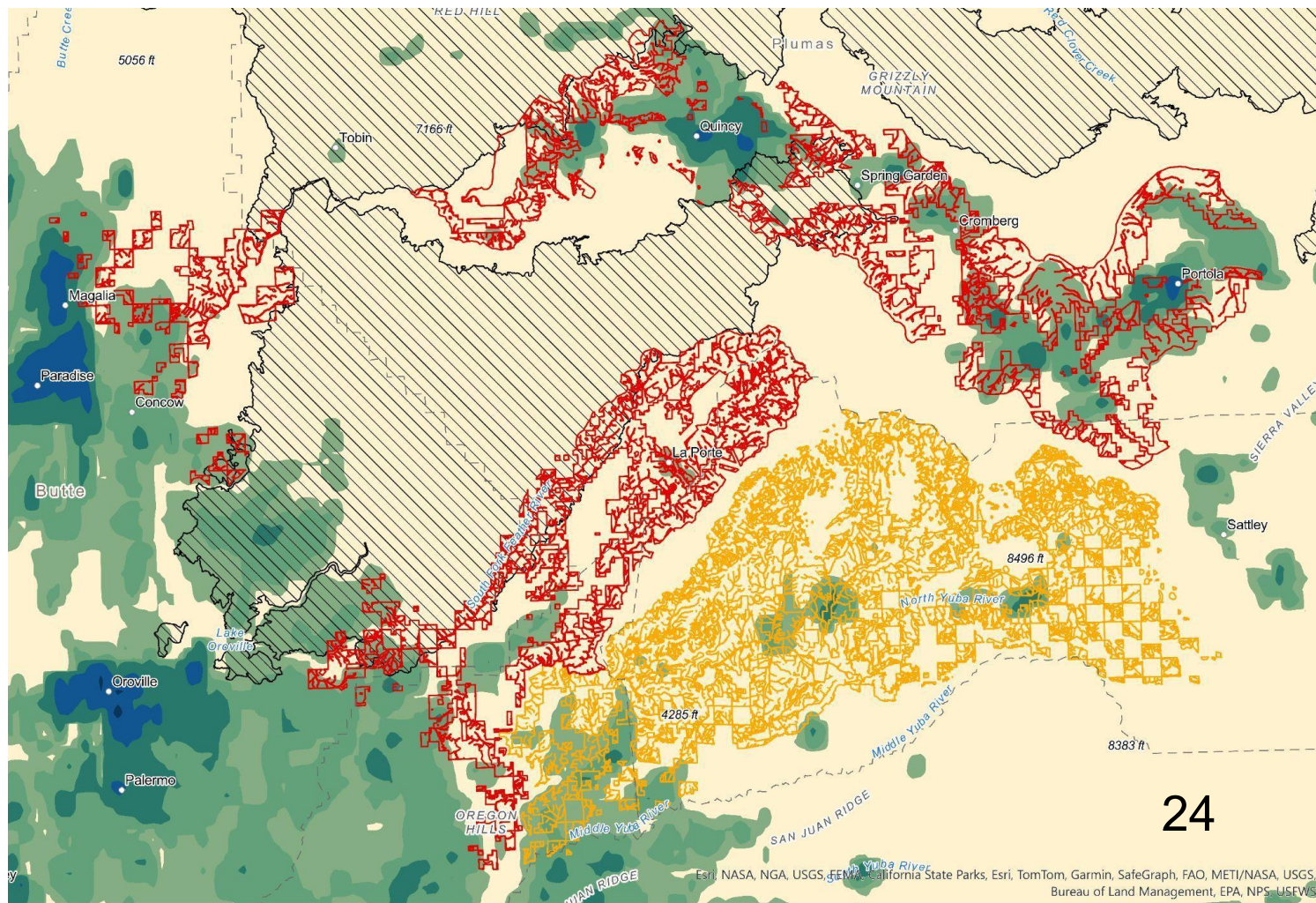
- North Complex Fire, Dixie Fire ect

Population Density

Persons per sq km

- 0 - 1
- 1 - 5
- 5 - 25
- 25 - 250
- 250 - 1,000
- 1,000 - 602,380,375

Gridded Population of the World, Version 4 (GPWv4):
Population Count Adjusted to Match 2015 Revision
of UN WPP Country Totals, Revision 11



PNF CPP + TNF NYLRP: Population Centers

(Inset of Microclimate
Region)

Timber Sales

- CPP Project (PNF)
- NYLRP Project (TNF)

Recent Fires

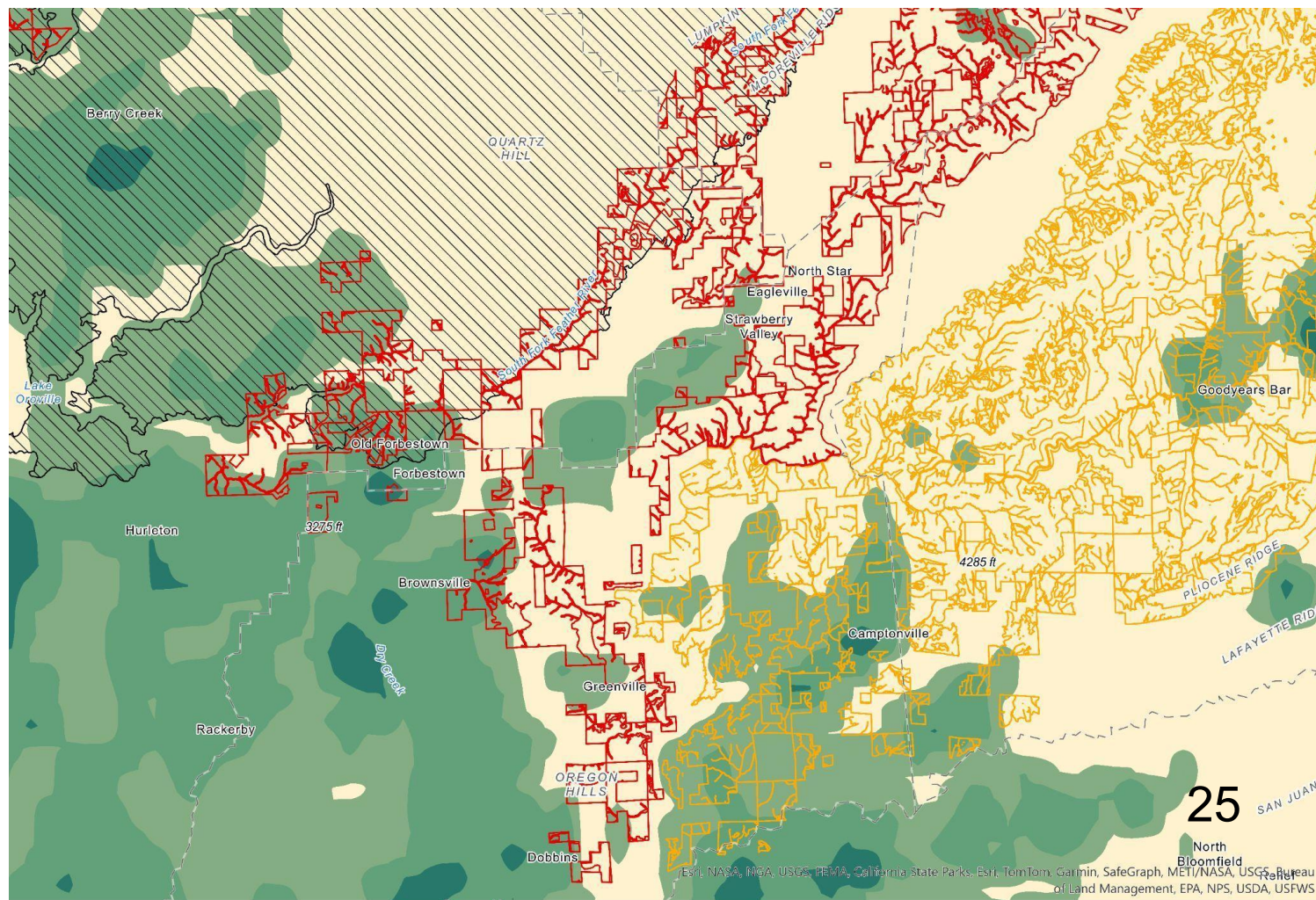
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PNF CPP + TNF NYLRP: Old-Growth Forests

(Inset of Microclimate
Region)

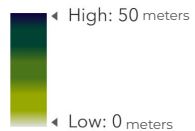
Timber Sales

- CPP Project (PNF)
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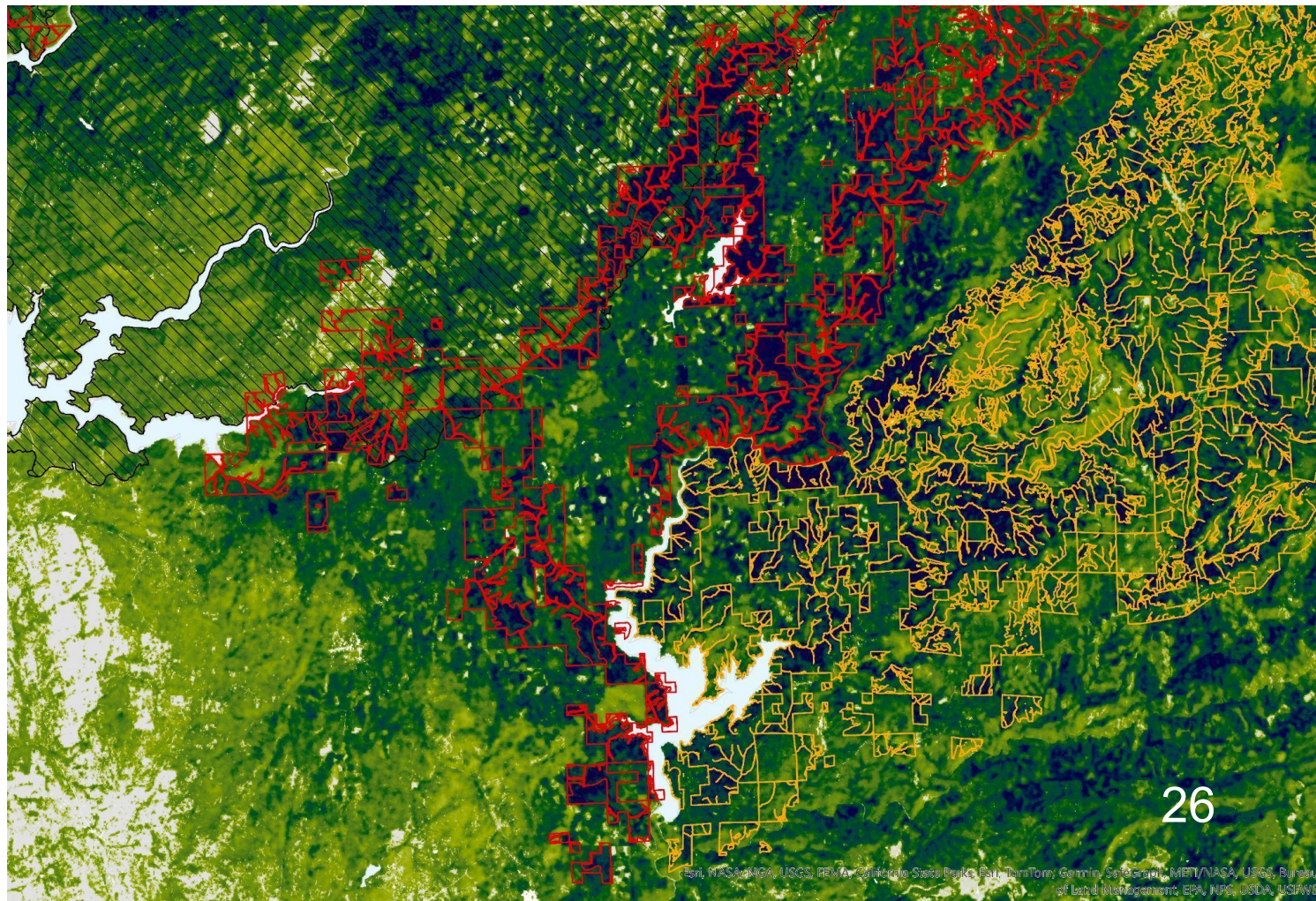
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Dixie Fire ect

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**PNF CPP + TNF NYLRP:
Old-Growth Forests**
(Inset of Microclimate
Region)

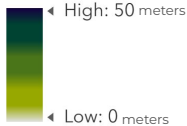
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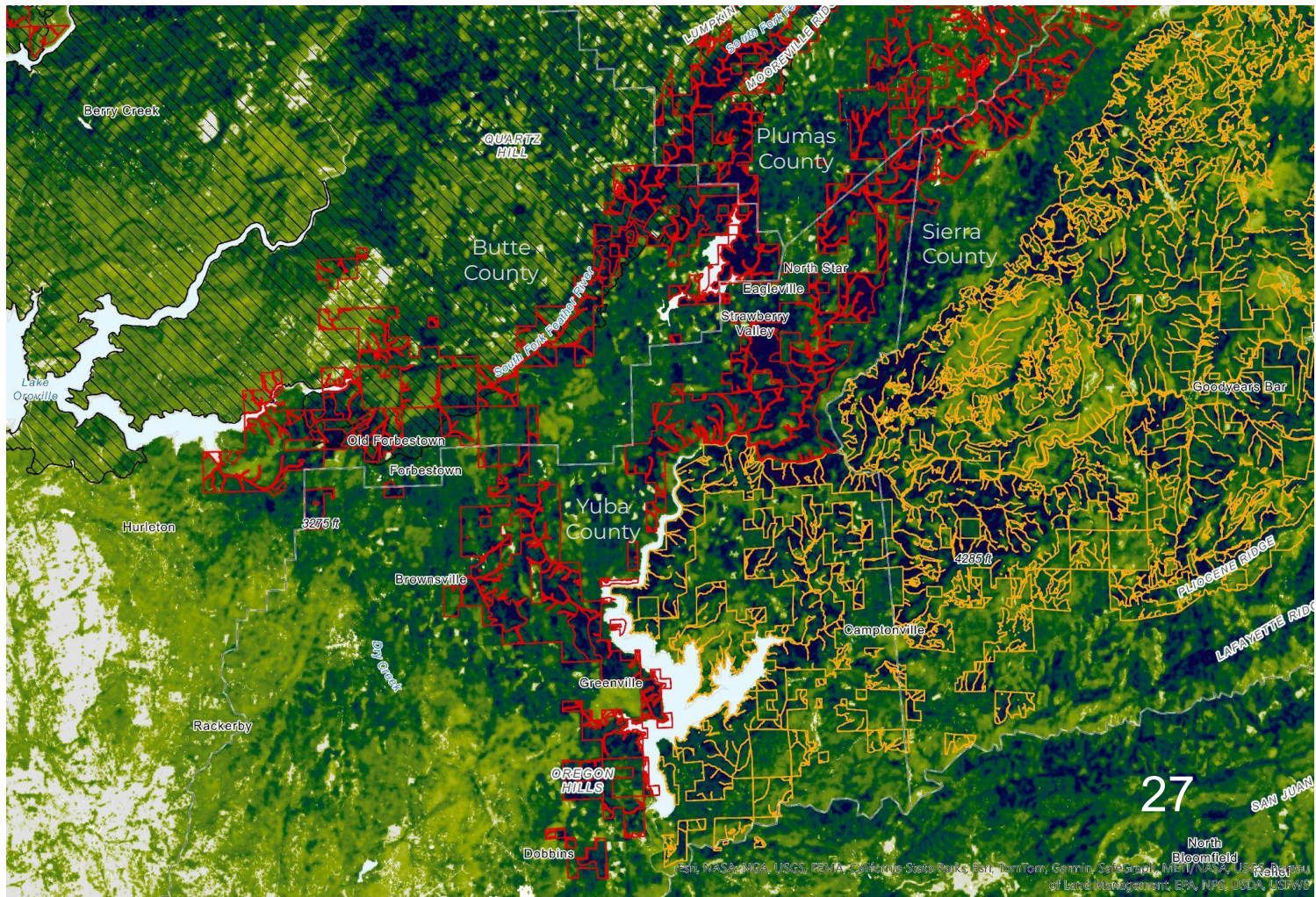
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Department of Civil, Environmental and Geomatic
Engineering.







conifers

Tanoak + other
hardwoods

conifers

conifers

Tanoak + other
hardwoods

Google Earth
view of project area,
Tahoe National Forest

An aerial photograph of a dense, lush green forest, likely a tropical rainforest, with a high density of trees and foliage. The text is overlaid on the center of the image.

Your agency wants to turn
THIS

A photograph of a massive pile of cut logs and branches, likely from a forest fire or logging operation. Two people are standing in front of the pile for scale. The text "into THIS!" is overlaid in red on a black background.

into THIS!

Photo by McKinleigh Lair of Blue Forest



Photo by McKinleigh Lair of Blue Forest

A large pile of logging slash (logs and branches) in a forest, with two people standing in front for scale.

Circa 2024: Logging Slash piled up from the “Yuba II” Project near Camptonville

Photo credit: McKinleigh Lair of Blue Forest

Source here: [LINK](#)

Photo by McKinleigh Lair of Blue Forest

A large pile of cut logs and branches in a forest. Two men are standing in front of the pile for scale. The pile is composed of many cut logs and branches, some with bark and some without, creating a dense, tangled mass. The background shows a forest of tall evergreen trees under a clear sky.

Well this looks flammable...

Photo by McKinleigh Lair of Blue Forest

A photograph of a massive pile of cut logs and branches, likely from a forest thinning operation. The pile is composed of numerous logs of varying sizes, some with bark still on, and a large amount of dry, tangled brush and smaller branches. Two men are standing in the foreground, to the left of the center, providing a sense of scale. The man on the left is wearing a blue plaid shirt, dark pants, and a baseball cap. The man on the right is wearing a dark jacket and blue jeans. The background shows a forest of tall, thin evergreen trees under a clear sky. A black banner with yellow text is overlaid across the middle of the image.

IS THIS FIRE PREVENTION?

Photo by McKinleigh Lair of Blue Forest

A photograph of a massive pile of cut logs and branches in a forest. Two men are standing in front of the pile for scale. The pile is composed of many large logs and a lot of smaller branches and debris. The background shows tall evergreen trees.

OR JUST PLAIN GREED!

Photo by McKinleigh Lair of Blue Forest

A photograph of a massive pile of slash, consisting of cut logs and branches, in a forest. Two people are standing in front of the pile for scale. The pile is composed of many logs of varying sizes, some with bark still on, and a large amount of dry, tangled branches and debris. The background shows tall evergreen trees under a clear sky.

***BTW these slash piles
seldom get cleaned up...***

Photo by McKinleigh Lair of Blue Forest

An aerial photograph of a dense, green forest. The forest is composed of many small, rounded tree canopies. In the bottom right corner, there is a rectangular area that has been cleared, showing a brown, textured ground. The text "Why it matters:" is centered in the middle of the image.

Why it matters:

38

Before

38

Google Earth



1000 ft

After

39

Google Earth



1000 ft

THIS IS PROBABLY

THE BEST CASE SCENARIO

ALL ACROSS THE ENTIRE PROJECT AREA

If this project is implemented!

IT'S PROBABLY GOING TO BE WORSE!

This looks analogous to the LOSS that will result from the implementation of this project

We challenge you to prove us wrong! Justify your reasoning if you think the canopy cover loss, etc won't be worse than this.

41

Coordinates:

39.5719666511, -121.074460637

In Plumas National Forest
*but we're concerned that Tahoe NF
will be just as bad or worse!*

42

AND...

42

Google Earth

Image © 2025 Airbus

400 ft



Before

43

Google Earth

Image © 2025 Airbus

400 ft



After

44



SPOILER: IT GETS WAY WORSE!!!

Coordinates:

39.760656367, -120.882066821

In Plumas National Forest
*but we're concerned that Tahoe NF will be
similarly bad*

45

Before

Before

DON'T LET THIS BE ANOTHER AFTER!

PLEASE!

**Sincerely,
Joshua French
Director, Sierra Forest Action!**
sierraforestaction@gmail.com



PS: As an aside, (we exempt the following statement from any official consideration but we feel we must say it anyway):

Open Invitation to USFS staff: We and partner organizations are here to discuss things if you are questioning your agency's approach or just want to discuss differing forest policy perspectives. We are open to hearing your perspective. Zero personal judgement and we will keep your information completely confidential - we sincerely promise! We oppose policies not people. Please do the right thing. The future of your children and grandchildren depends on it! At the end of the day we all just want what's best for our forests and communities.

Here's a secure way to send our partner organization a message:
<https://featherriveraction.org/do-you-work-for-the-forest-service-want-to-become-a-whistleblower/>