

# Rural Communities and Forests: Building Resiliency in a Changing Climate

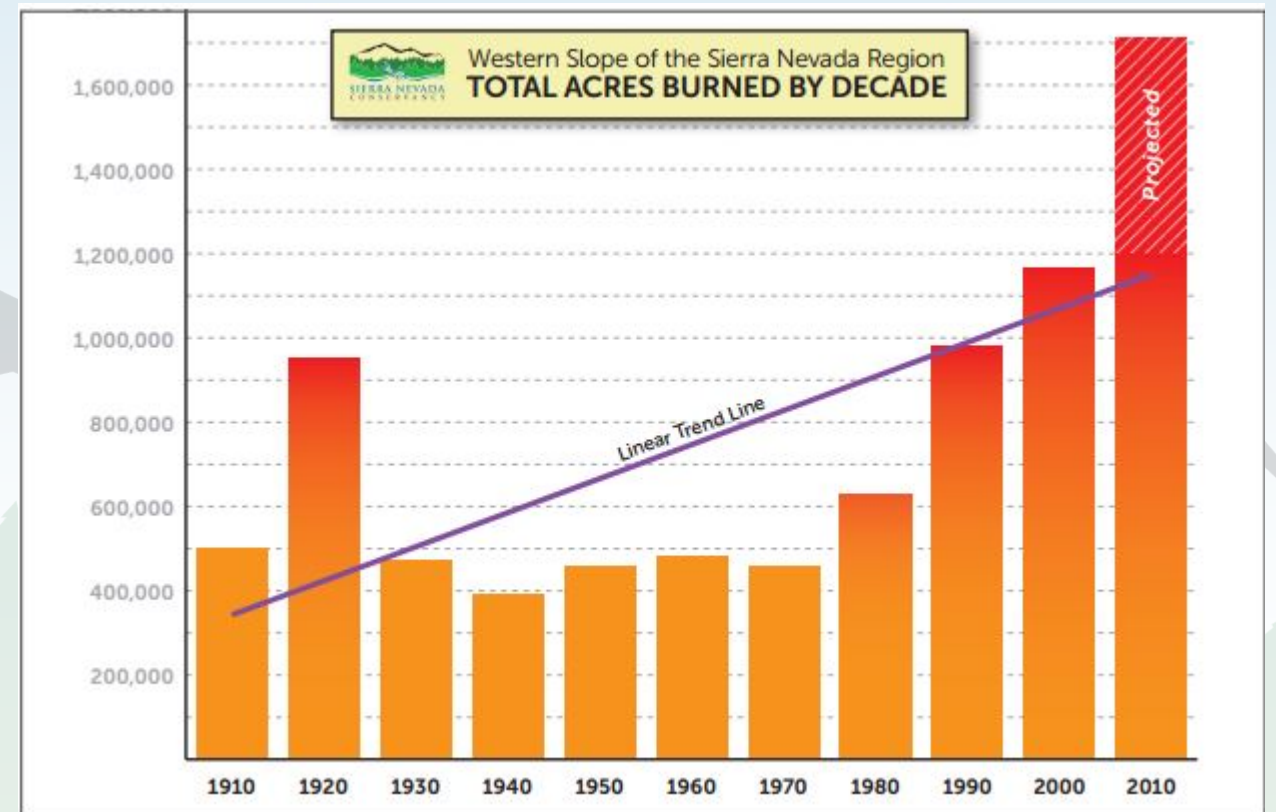
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Capital Region Climate Readiness Collaborative  
Quarterly Meeting  
4/25/2017

# Wildfire



- One of the most prominent threats to rural communities in the region
- Greater burner area this decade than in previous
- Earlier spring = increased wildfire activity and longer fire seasons



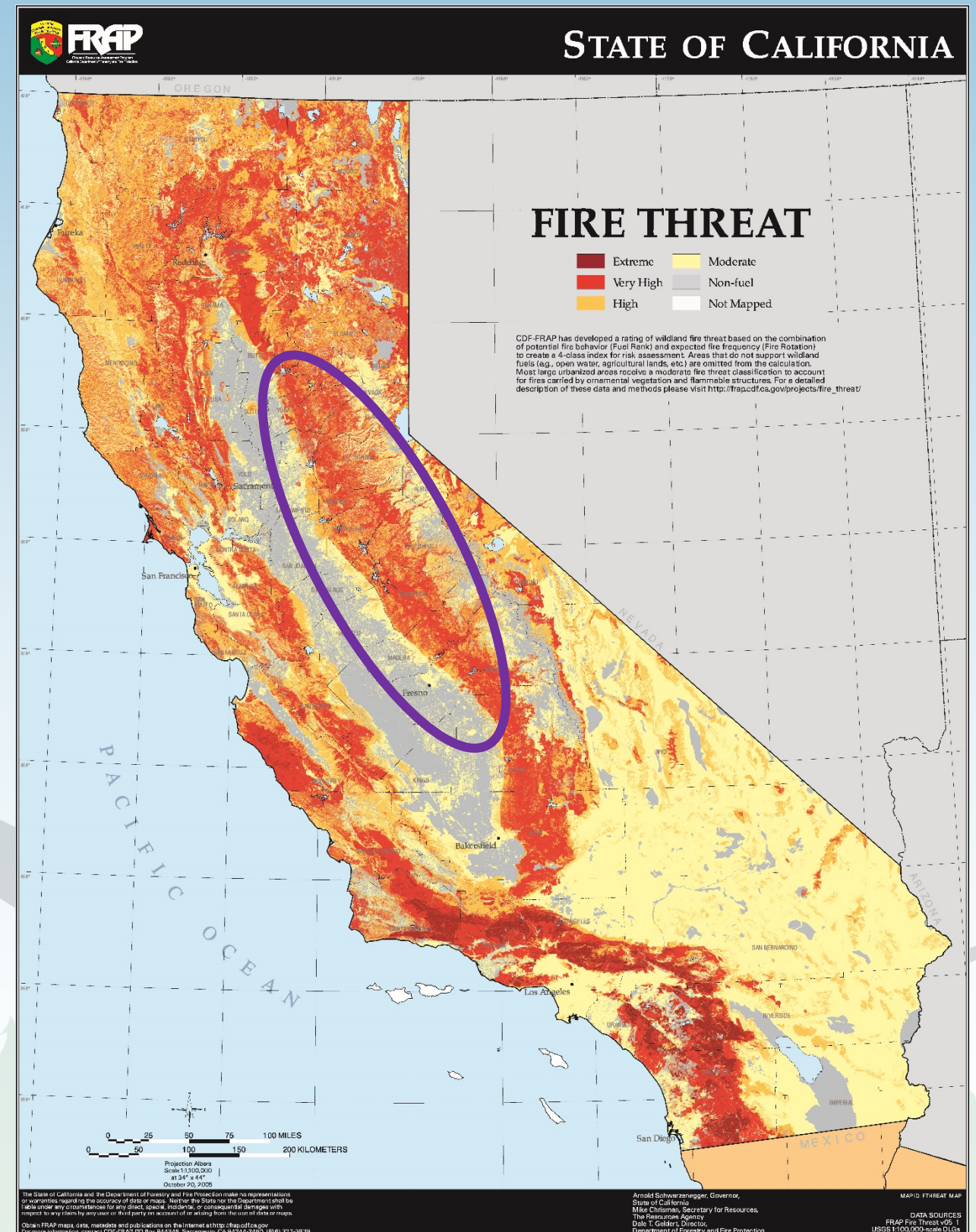
Source: SNC State of the Sierra Nevada's Forest Report

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# Wildland Urban Interface

- Communities spread throughout the Sierra Nevada Forests
- Many of our rural communities live in High Fire Threat areas
- Health and resiliency of our communities is intimately connected to the health of our forests.





# Overstocked Forests



Source: Managing Sierra Nevada Mixed Conifer Forests

- Years of fire suppression have left many forests too crowded and unhealthy
- Higher density of small diameter trees
- Species composition shifting towards more fir and cedar dominated forests



# Tree Mortality

Result of:

- Overstocked forests
- Hot, dry summer temps
- Prolonged drought
- Allowed for astronomical population growth of western and mountain pine beetle attacks



Source: M. Pickard



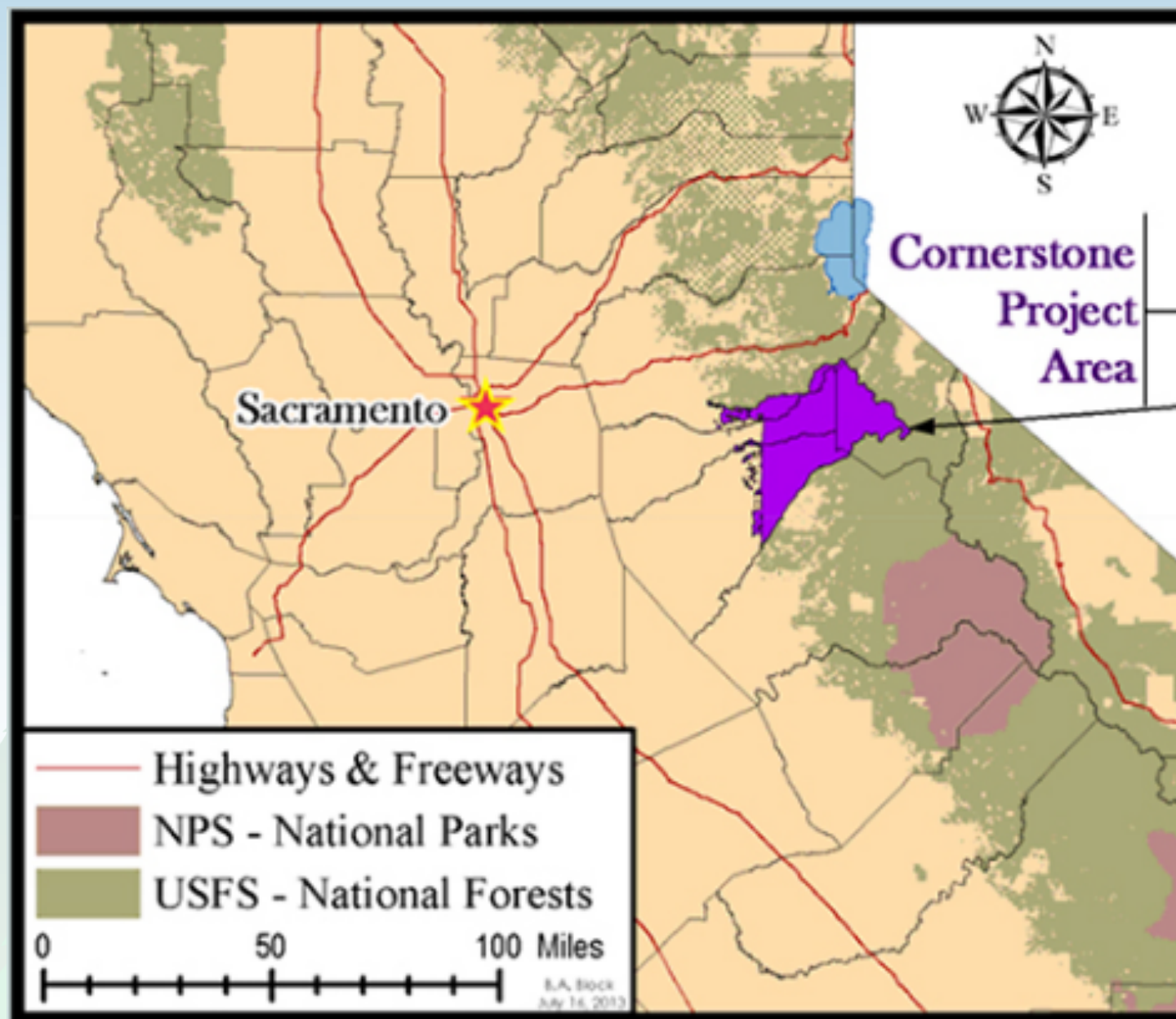
# Fuels Reduction

- PRC 4291 – 100-ft clearance around structures
- Fuelbreaks are used to break continuity of fuels and drop a canopy fire to the ground
- Provides access for emergency personnel



Source: SNC State of the Sierra Nevada's Forests Report

# Large Landscape Forest Restoration



Source: Amador Calaveras Consensus Group

- Need to increase pace and scale of management and restoration work
- Collaborative Strategies
- Wide range of partners brings multiple benefits into individual projects



# Tree Mortality Relief

- TM relief efforts being coordinated on state and local levels
- Big focus on removing dead trees from damaging public infrastructure
- Private landowners receiving grants from NRCS, CAL FIRE, and SNC



Source: M. Pickard



# Forest Products/Bioenergy



**Mariposa Biomass Project Awarded \$5 Million CEC Grant**

- Biomass power generation gaining new traction
- BioRAM contracts
- New, innovative wood products emerging



# Watershed Improvement Program



[www.RestoreTheSierra.org](http://www.RestoreTheSierra.org)

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# Thank you

## Questions or Comments?



Source: M. Pickard

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