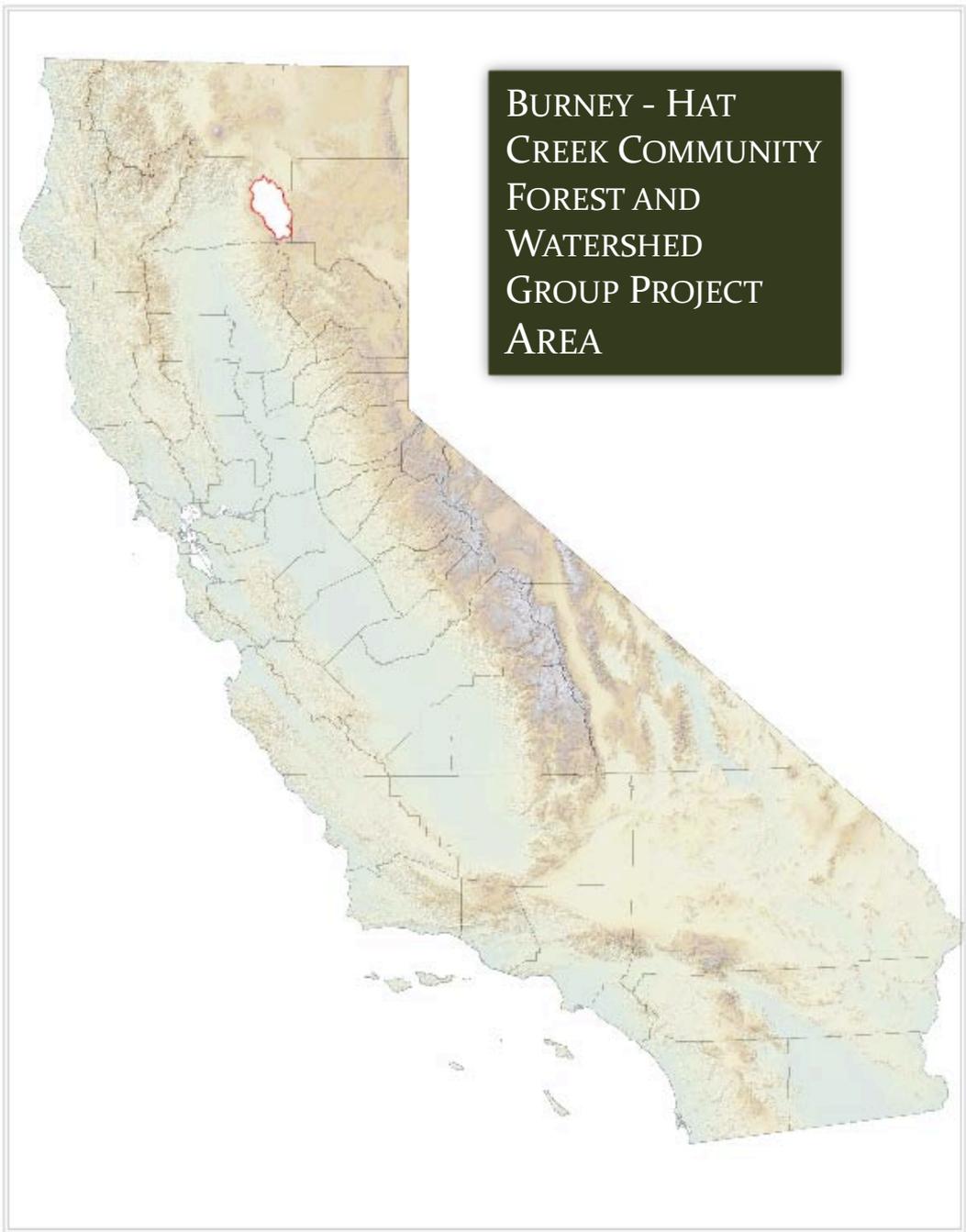




Burney-Hat Creek
Community Forest and
Watershed Group

Burney-Hat Creek Basins
Project



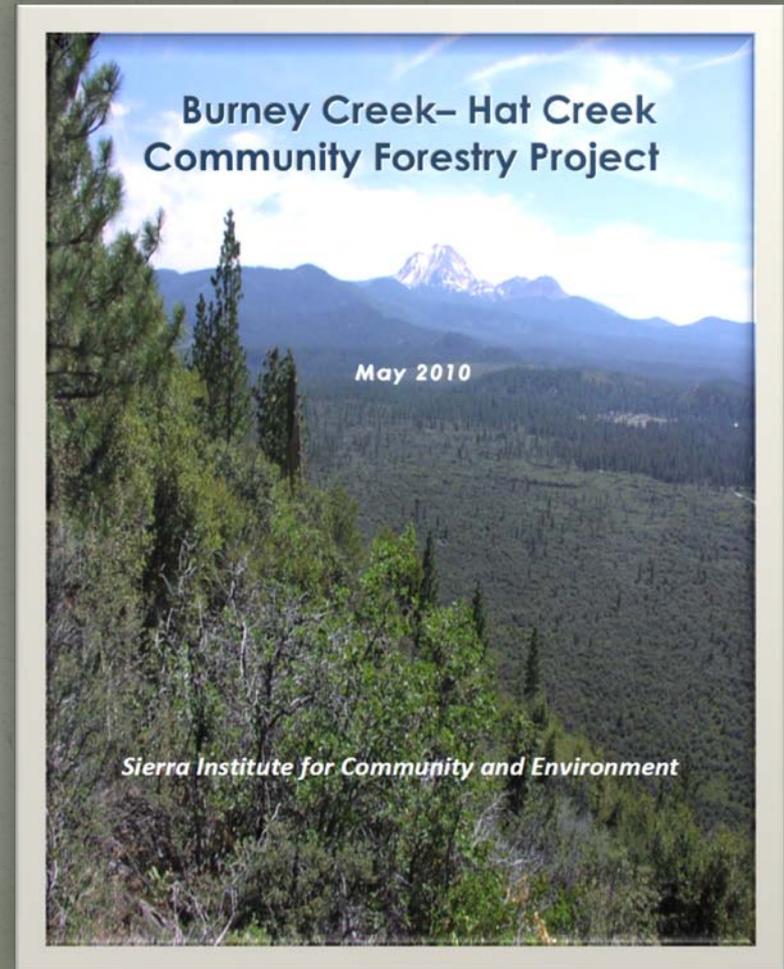
BURNEY - HAT
CREEK COMMUNITY
FOREST AND
WATERSHED
GROUP PROJECT
AREA

Why Burney-Hat Creek

- Three cogeneration plants
- Two sawmills that take small logs
- High risk of severe wildfire
- Landscape in need of restoration
- USFS demonstrated success
- Economically viable for forest production
- Willing stakeholders
- Recreational attraction (Hat Creek)
- Existing RCD assessment and planning effort

Shasta RAC and Fall River RCD

- Approached Forest Service with legacy project vision
- Sierra Institute for Community and Environment
 - Conducted study on local social and economic condition
 - Study recommended the formation of collaborative group



Collaborative Group

- Fall River RCD Board approved collaborative group formation and partners
- Collaborative Group agreed upon area of interest
- Identified projects most likely to achieve results
- RCD & Sierra Institute submitted proposal to RAC
- Primary resource concerns: fuels management, watershed restoration, sustainable forests, sustainable economy, improved recreation opportunities, collaborative process

Burney-Hat Creek Community Forest and Watershed Group

BURNEY-HAT CREEK COMMUNITY FOREST AND WATERSHED GROUP

SUMMER 2011
PROJECT
NEWSLETTER

PROJECT:
improve social, environmental, and
economic conditions in the Burney
Creek and Hat Creek watersheds.



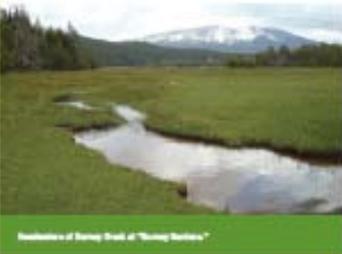
Lower Hat Creek Recreation Area, which is part of the study area, is a beautiful wilderness area with great views. The project will benefit a wide range of users in the area.

HISTORY: The Sierra Resource Advisory Committee (SRAC) met in early 2006. The SRAC is tasked with allocation of the revised Title II program funds over the next 4 years. In past years, grant proposals were reviewed and funded by the SRAC to implement a variety of projects that met program objectives. However, many individuals on the committee felt a scale of efficiency was lost when funding several smaller projects, although many of these small projects had merit. A discussion followed that advocated and supported the idea of funding a "larger" project that met the objectives of the statute to create jobs, develop economic stability for rural communities and stability for payments of course, as well as having the components of many of the small projects previously funded by the SRAC. This discussion eventually led to the idea of using SRAC funds to form a type of community ownership project that would serve as a "model" of how the local stakeholders could provide input regarding locally managed federal lands. SRAC representatives approached the Fall River Resource Conservation District (FRCD) in mid-March 2009 to introduce the concept and encourage a larger project submittal. The Fall River RCD submitted a proposal to the SRAC in May 2009 and this proposal officially resulted in the formation of the Burney-Hat Creek Community Forest and Watershed Group. The purpose and goal of this project are as follows.

PROJECT PURPOSE: The purpose of this project is to improve social, environmental, and economic conditions in the Burney Creek and Hat Creek watersheds. These two watersheds include all of the land that drains into Burney Creek and Hat Creek, totaling 164,350 acres. Fifty-eight percent of this land is in the Lassen National Forest. Another 24 percent is owned by large private forestland owners and 4 percent by large ranches. The communities of Burney, Johnson Park, Hat Creek, Casadi, and Old Station lie within these two watersheds. Local communities suffer from high unemployment and face high risk of wildfire in many surrounding forests. There is a recognized need for a coordinated public-private effort to address these and other concerns.

PROJECT GOAL: The goal of this project is to develop a plan to improve sustainable natural resource managers with socioeconomic development across the 164,000 acres, two watershed project area.

INITIAL STEPS: During the first year, public meetings were held and interviews were conducted with over 10 stakeholders and community members to clarify goals, identify resources and socio-economic issues, and establish a collaborative committee to lead the project. The Sierra Institute for Community and Environment (Sierra Institute), a nationally recognized leader in assessing rural community health, conducted interviews, summarized information, and prepared policy innovations used by other collaborative efforts with similar goals in a report. The interviews and community meetings also led to the formation of the Burney-Hat Creek Community Forest and Watershed Group, that represents a diversity of stakeholder interests. Since its formation, the Group has met several times and continues to meet to address the project goals.

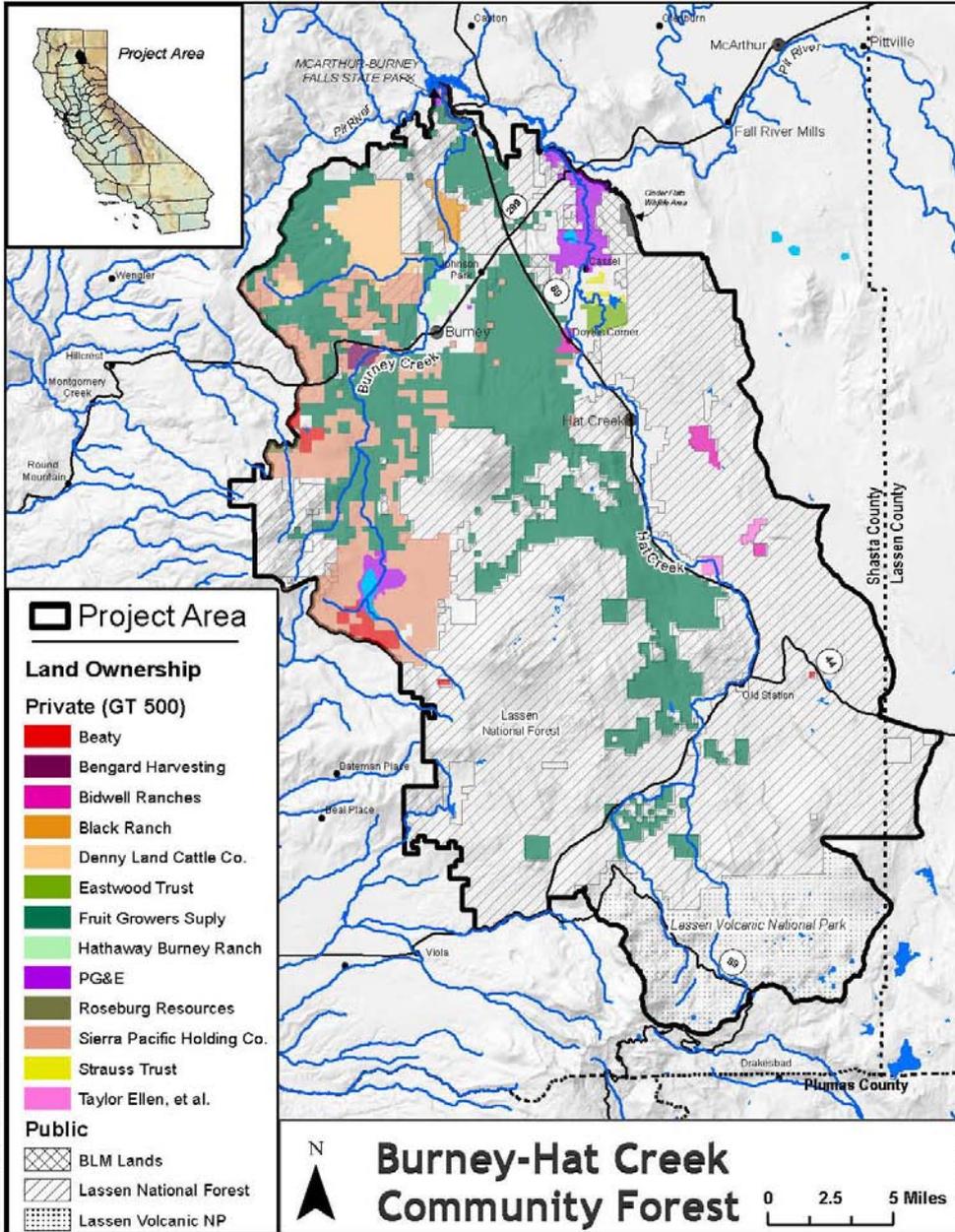


Headwaters of Burney Creek at "Whiskey Bend."

Burney Hat Creek Community Forest & Watershed Group

- Sustainable
 - Environment
 - Community
 - Economy





Burney_BV_Feb2011_8x11.mxd

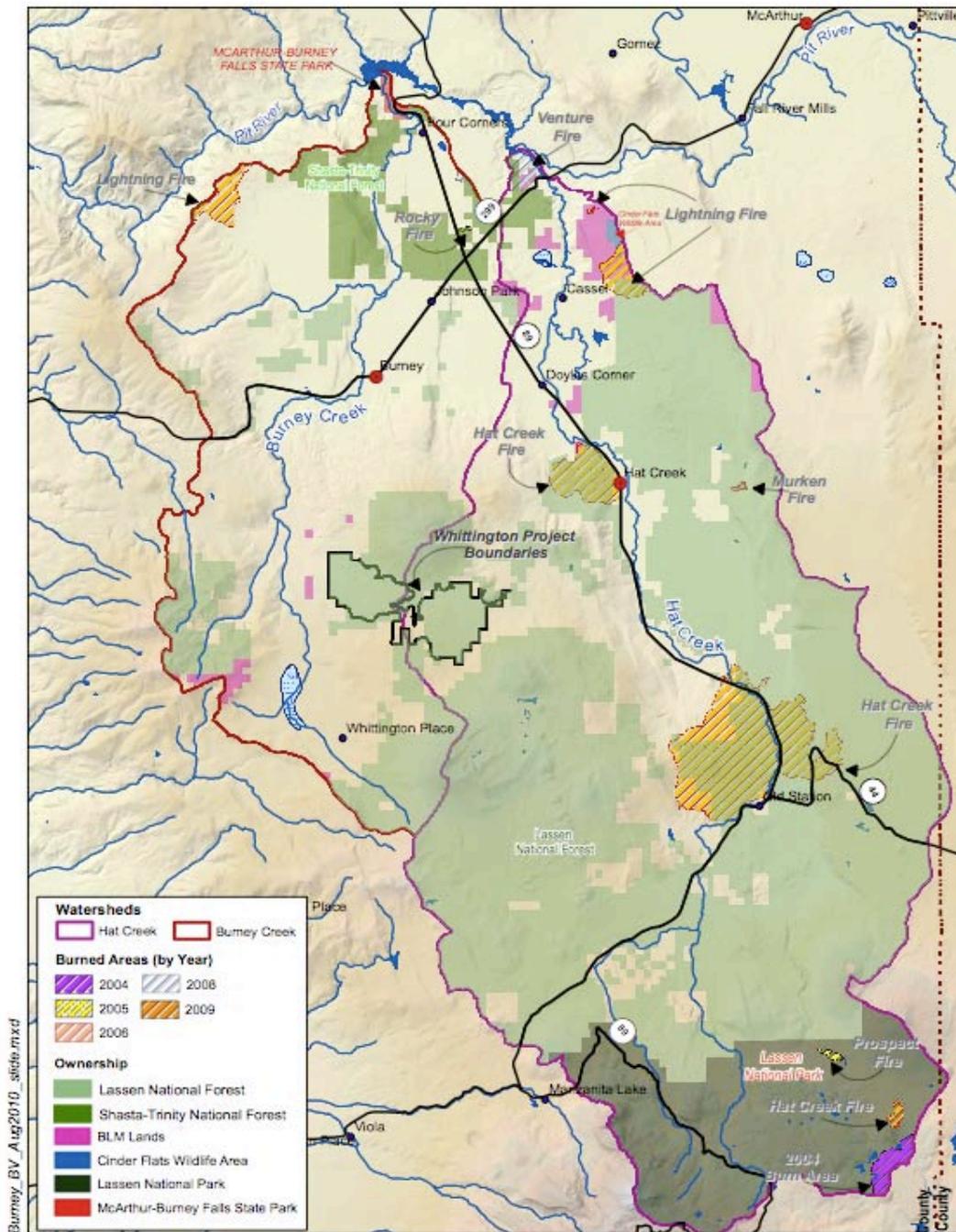
Map Developed by Sierra Institute GIS







BURNEY - HAT CREEK COMMUNITY FOREST AND WATERSHED GROUP PROJECT AREA



Burney_BV_Aug2010_slate.mxd

Map Developed by Sierra Institute GIS



Group Selected/Supported Projects



- Lower Hat Creek (Blue ribbon wild trout stream)
- Whittington (USFS 5,000 acres forest improvement)
- Burney Gardens Meadow (2,500 acre private land meadow restoration)
- Basins Project (369,000 acre CFLRP)

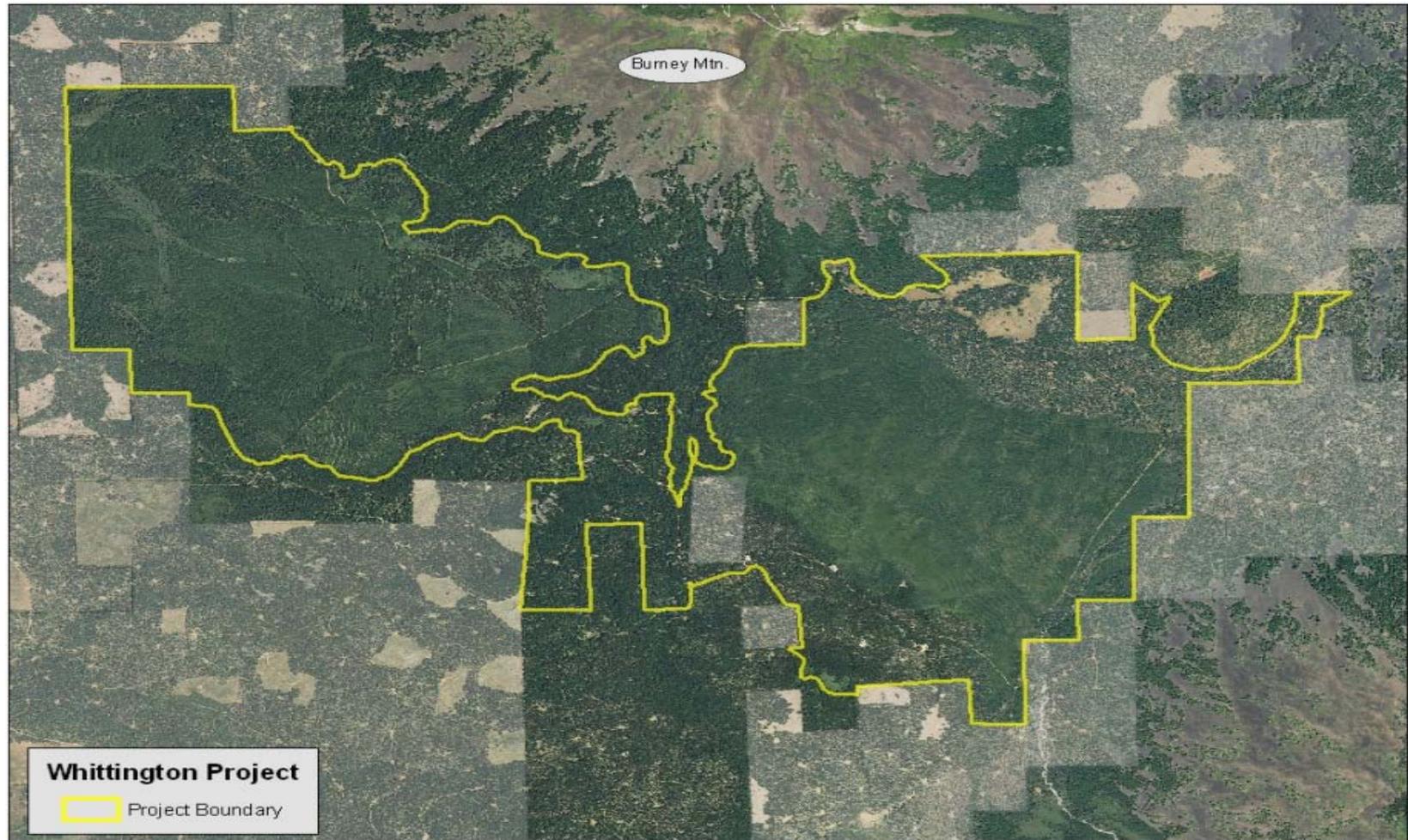
Lower Hat Creek Streambank Restoration Assessment and Planning





Whittington Forest Restoration

5,000 acres of thinning









Burney Gardens



- 2,500 acre meadow restoration project
- 4 private landowners
- 1 Timber Harvest Plan
- 1,000 acres of surrounding forest thinned to maintain site









Regional Forester's Honor Award

2011

- Awarded to the Burney-Hat Creek Community Forest and Watershed Group
- Category of Ecological Restoration - All Lands
- For outstanding dedication, commitment and leadership in support of the Pacific Southwest Region and its mission

Burney-Hat Creek Basins Project

- Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Proposal
- 369,036 Acres
- Long-term (10 year) project

Burney-Hat Creek Basins Project

A COLLABORATIVE FOREST LANDSCAPE RESTORATION
PROGRAM PROPOSAL

LASSEN NATIONAL FOREST
PACIFIC SOUTHWEST REGION

February 2011



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE

CFLR Highlights

- Ten Projects per year nationally
- Limit of two projects per Region
- Up to \$40 million annually
- At least 50,000 acres per project
- Forest lands, other federal, tribal, private
- Funding for project implementation and multi-party monitoring
- Requires matching funds

CFLR Focus

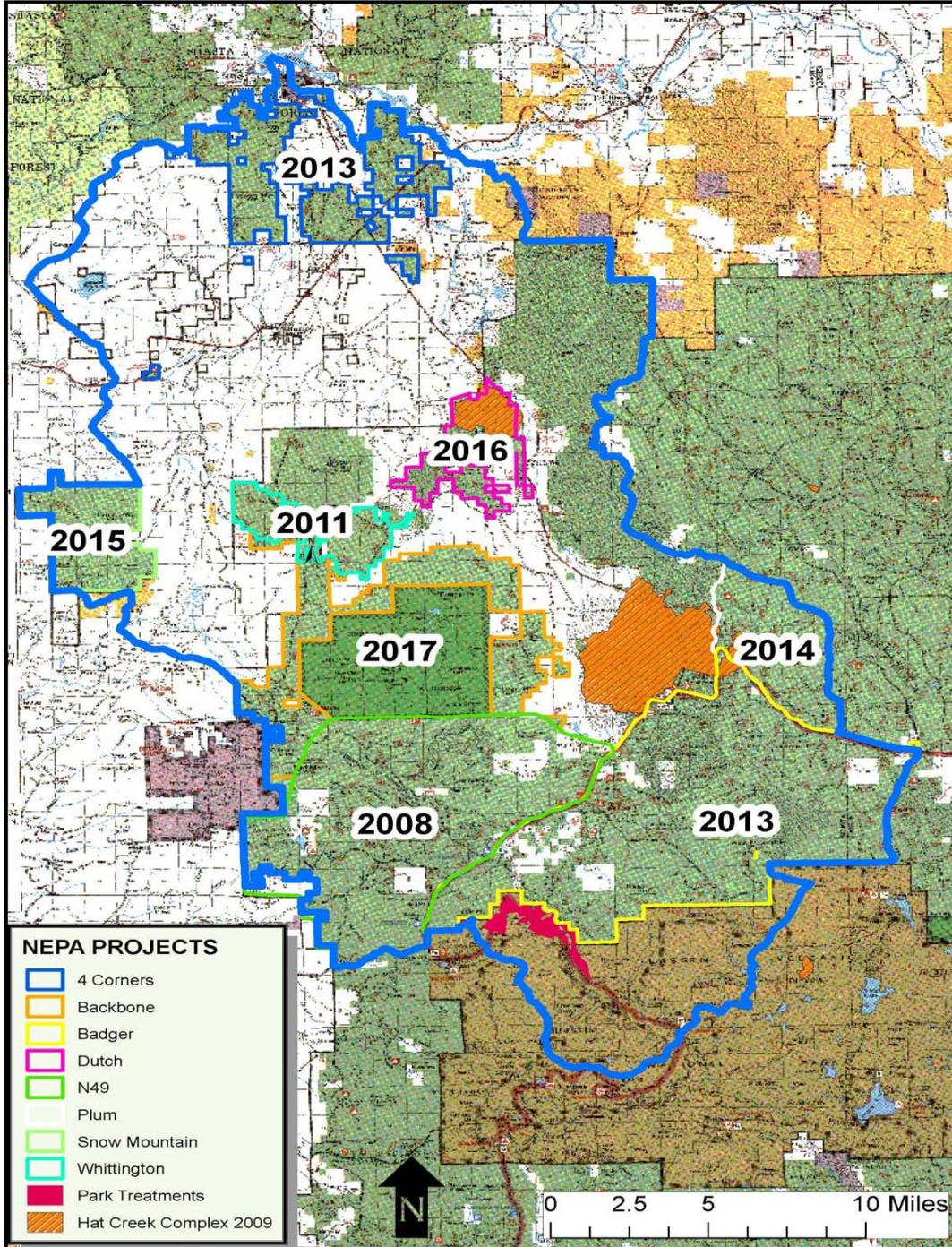
- Landscape in need of active ecosystem restoration
- Accessible to wood processing infrastructure
- Use of woody biomass
- Reduction of hazardous fuels
- Restoration of old growth stands
- Improved wildlife habitat
- Maintain water quality and watershed function
- Prevent or control invasive species

CFLR Focus

- Collaborative process required for ecological restoration
- Benefits to local communities
 - Private, non-profit, cooperatives
 - Youth Conservation Corps
 - State and local non-profit youth groups
 - Small and micro-businesses
 - Other entities that hire or train local people

Burney-Hat Creek Basins Project

- Approved by Secretary of Agriculture February 2, 2012
- Approved 10-year proposal
- Funded annually
- Ten-year project life funding \$10.8 million
- 604,629 for 2012
- Treatment for woody biomass in areas not otherwise funded through timber receipts
 - Plantations
 - Brush fields
 - Forest matrix biomass



Implementation

- Multiple sales were prepared for offer
- Sales were awarded in 2009, 2010, 2011
- All three sales are currently active



Successes/strengths

- Private leadership includes all major Companies
- Complex and innovative partnerships and permitting
- Synergy
- Consistency of Group members
- Existing infrastructure and capacity



Challenges/Obstacles/Needs

- Need more biomass facilities
- Consistent facilitation
- Planning funds for USFS
- Working toward PWS
- Technical guidance with business development and models



Opportunities

- All Lands Management and landscape scale
- Coordinate activities and share resource information across land ownerships
- Provide information and input for fully informed decision making
- Leverage resources and encourage financial support
- Solidified support for reviews and procedures







2011

- Ecological Restoration of legacy pine trees
- Initial entry starts recovery process
- Mechanical thinning to preserve priority species and structure
- Management of fuels and fire use help maintain forest

- Maintain a dynamic and healthy forest that is resilient to natural disturbances
- Maintain ecological services



1941