

A photograph showing two individuals engaged in meadow restoration work. They are positioned in a field of tall, dry grasses. In the foreground, there is a large, neat pile of cut, green grass. The person on the left is wearing a maroon jacket and is bent over, working with the grass. The person on the right is wearing a dark blue jacket, a blue baseball cap, and orange work gloves, also bent over and working. The background consists of a vast field of tall, golden-brown grasses under a clear sky.

# YSS Meadow Restoration Update



# Background

- Rim Fire recovery and rehabilitation NEPA plans identified around 20 meadows for restoration that burned in the Rim Fire.
- Most meadows were restored through funding received by SNC and WCB by 2020, with support from YSS.

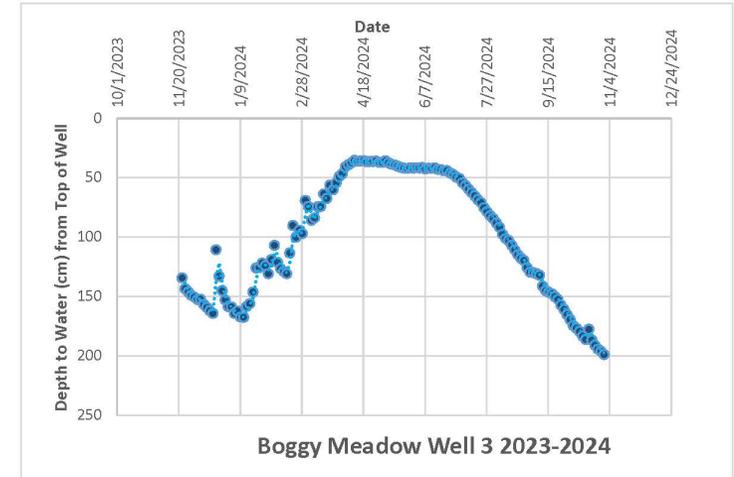
# WCB Rim Meadow Planning Grant (2021)

- Boggy Meadow, Cottonwood Meadow, and Boney Flat Meadow
- Little Rattlesnake Creek tributary
- Plumas Corps and Yosemite Rivers Alliance staff conducted field assessments, data collection
- USFS specialists informed priorities, concepts, and designs
- All projects are now shovel ready (permits and designs in hand)
- Boney Flat and Cottonwood Meadow being implemented currently
- Funding being pursued to implement Little Rattlesnake and Boggy



# Monitoring

- Groundwater wells
- Repeat photography
- Hydrological rapid assessment
- Elevation transect measurements
- Vegetation plots
- Soil sampling



Boggy Meadow Transect and Plot photographs, 2024		
	Transect 1	Transect 2
T0		
Tend		
Plot 1		
Plot 2		

**Boggy Meadow**



0 0 0.01 0.02 Miles

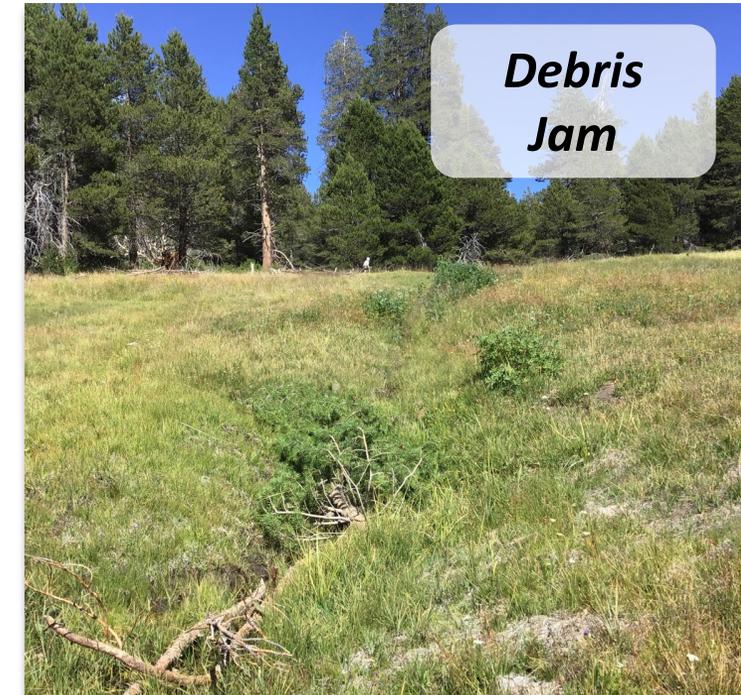
- Boggy Well
- Boggy Meadow
- Transect 2
- Transect 1
- Transect 1
- Transect 2

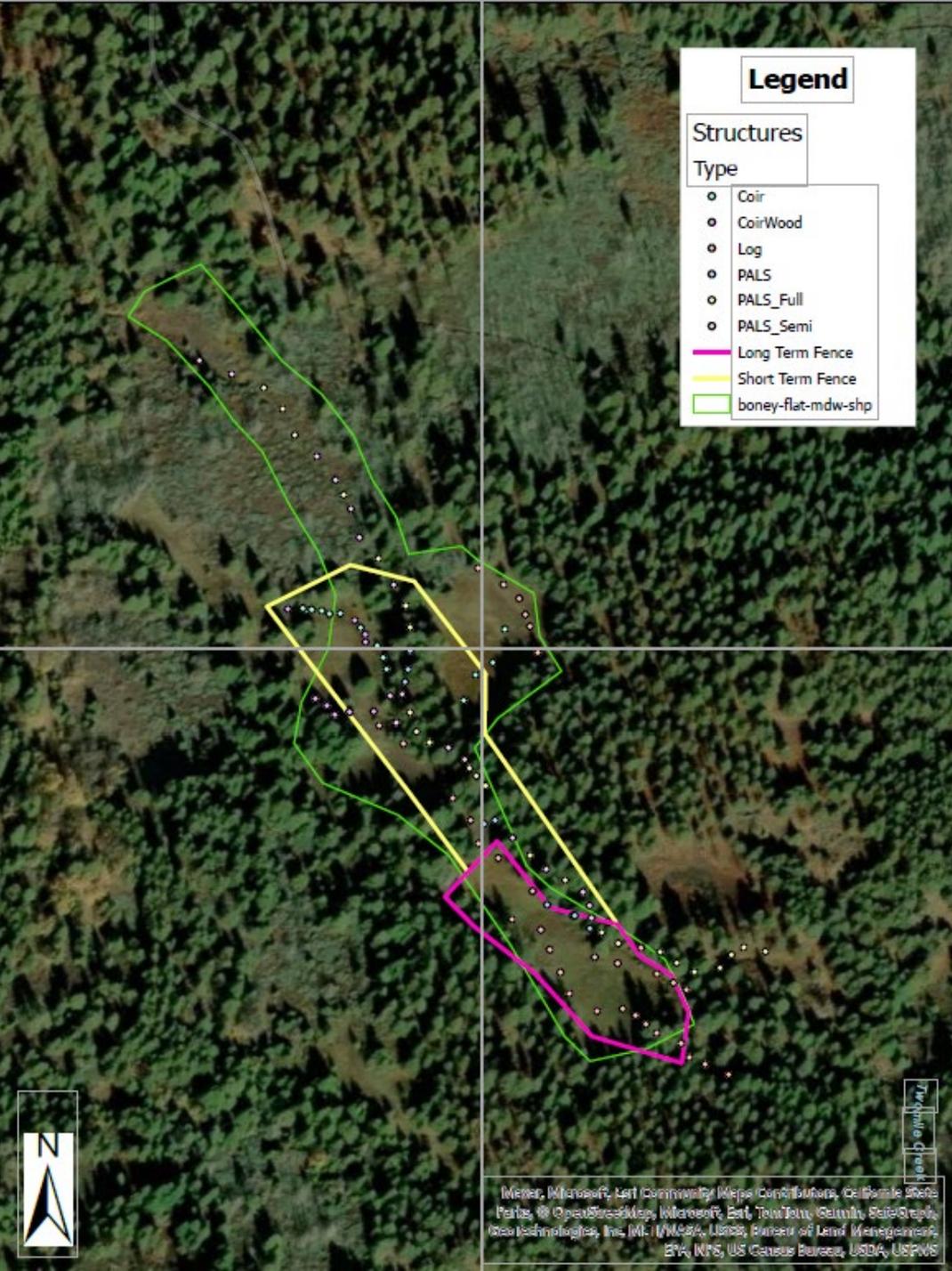
Boggy Meadow Vegetative Transects

Boggy Meadow Vegetative Transect Data, 2024				
	Transect 1 Plot 1	Transect 1 Plot 2	Transect 2 Plot 1	Transect 2 Plot 2
<b>Vegetation</b>				
Total vegetation cover	95%	80%	85%	85%
Grasses	4%	50%	20%	5%
Sedges	18%	6%	0%	1%
Rushes	0%	50%	35%	45%
Forbs	80%	25%	55%	55%
Shrubs	0%	0%	0%	0%
Trees	0%	0%	0%	0%
<b>Ground Cover</b>				
Basal vegetation cover	70%	35%	30%	25%
Litter	7%	40%	7%	3%
Bare ground	23%	20%	60%	33%
Water	0%	0%	0%	32%
Moss/Lichen	0%	5%	3%	7%
other	0%	0%	0%	0%
<b>% Cover of Plants by Wetland Rating</b>				
Obligate	2%	51%	57%	67%
Facultative Wetland	48%	11%	3%	12.5%
Facultative	25%	14%	30%	50%
Facultative Upland	18%	55%	8%	8%
Upland	0%	0%	0%	0%
Unknown	0%	0%	0%	0%

# LTPBR Structures

Mimic beavers and woody debris





## Boney Flat Meadow

- Started As Channel Fill Project, Switched To Process Based Restoration (PBR)
- Funding to implement received in 2024 (CDFW)
  - 1<sup>st</sup> year worked with contracted crew (Symbiotic Restoration), Greater Valley Conservation Corps (GVCC), National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC), volunteers, staff to implement
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> year treatment accomplished by staff, volunteers, and GVCC



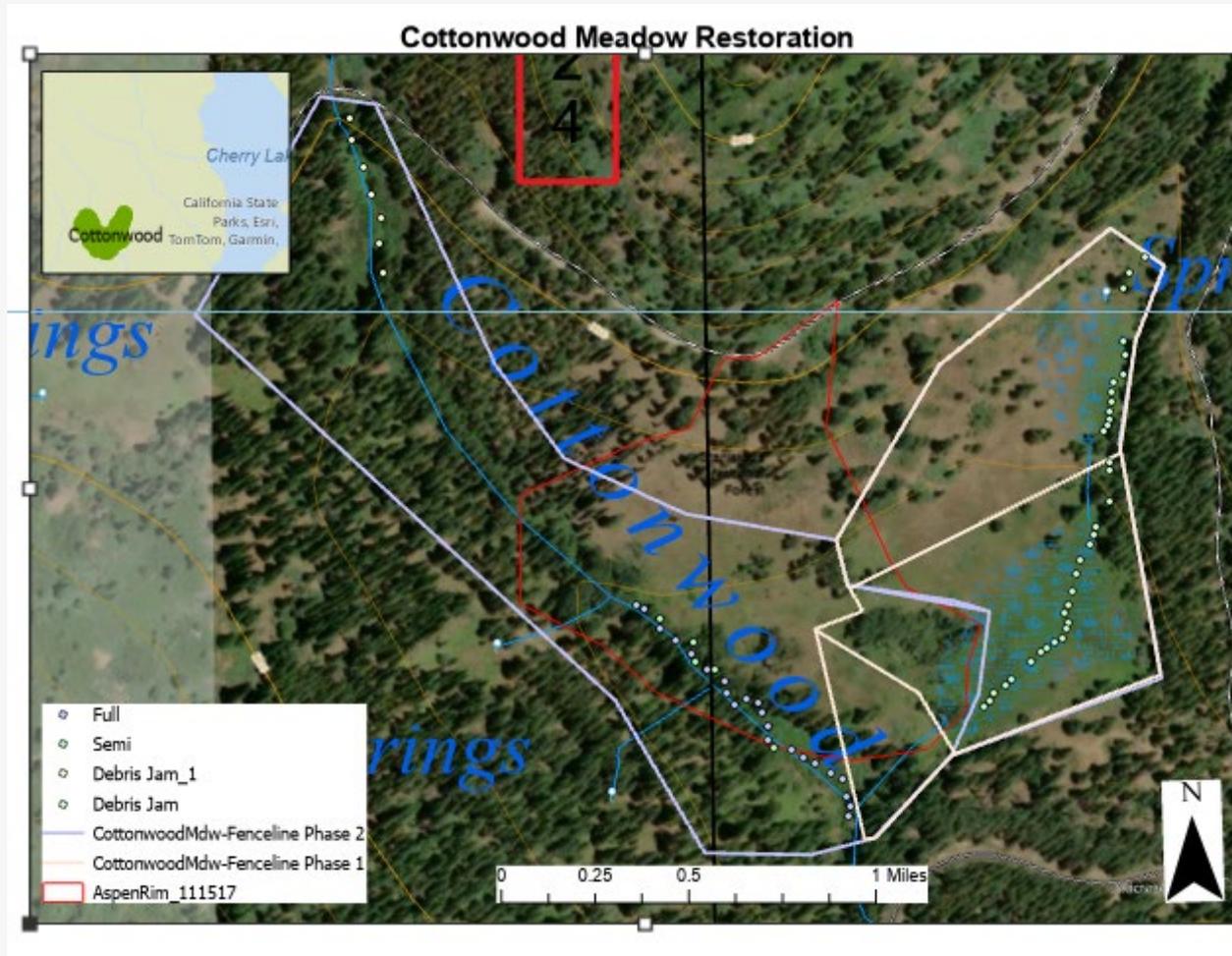
### Boney Flat:

- 3600 feet of fence built
- 56 PALS/PBR structures built
- 43 Coir logs placed in channel, side channels or fen
- IS removed (mullein & bull thistle): 7718
- Encroaching Conifers removed: 6845
- Over three weeks of GVCC saw support
- Willows collected & planted in structures: 500

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# Cottonwood Meadow

- Initially a channel fill project, evolved to a process based approach.
  - Channel fill still a consideration for part of main channel.
- Phase 1 Funding – Implementation Started
- Phase 2 ‘a’ Funded – Implementation Starts This Summer
- Seeking Funding for 2 ‘b’



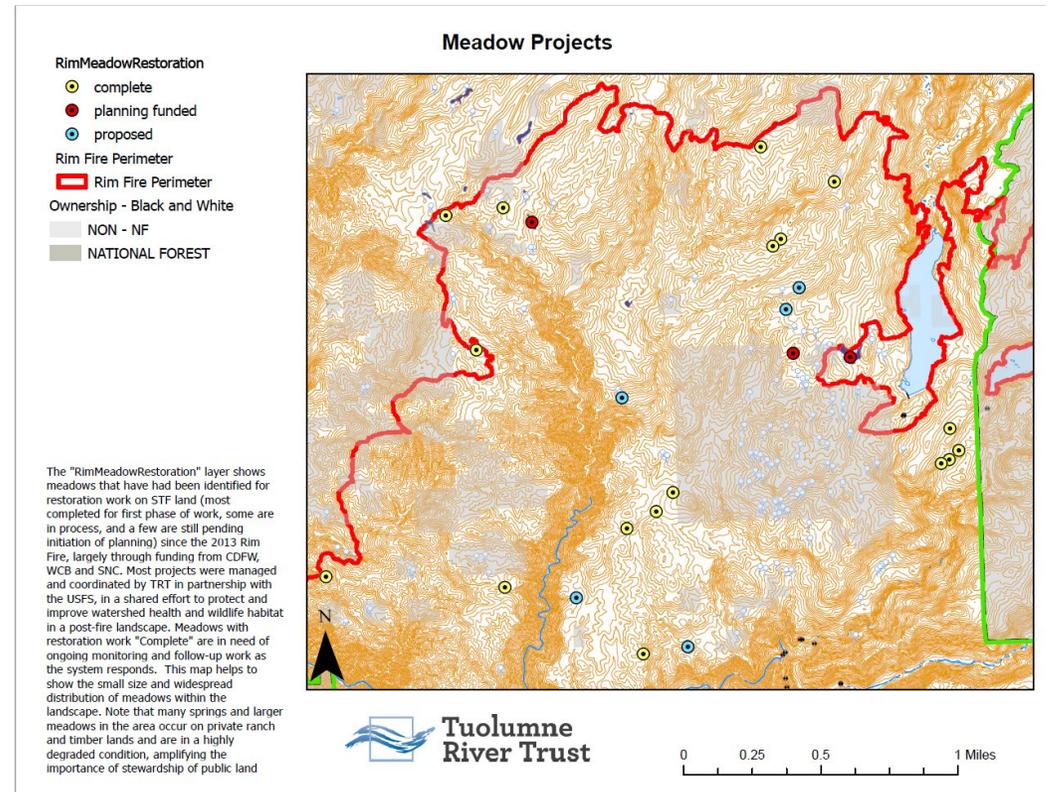


### Cottonwood Phase 1:

- 3000 feet of new fence built
- 47 PBR/PAL structures built
- IS removed (mostly mullein, some bull thistle): 3,414
- Encroaching conifers removed: 1,990
- Over three weeks of saw support from GVCC

# Rim Meadow Restoration – adaptive management on past projects

- Many meadows restored through past grants need additional treatments
- Did some initial assessments with USFS and Plumas Corp.
- Funding acquired through Sierra Meadow Partnership block grant from WCB
- *Learn more about past Rim and Stanislaus projects accomplished with YSS support, with these StoryMaps*
  - [Restoring Sierra Nevada Meadows](#)
  - [Healing the Scars of the Rim Fire](#)





- Plumas Corps consulted
- USFS specialists supported resource protection assessment

In 2025:

- 5,818' of fence built and repaired (thank you CSERC!)
- 51 PBR structures built in-channel
- 1,600 encroaching conifers removed (thank you Columbia College FNR!)
- Almost 15,000 invasive plants removed
- Native seed collected for replanting disturbed sites
- 58 volunteers engaged over 10 days of work
- 9 meadows (74 acres) benefitted from work in 2025 over 46 field days of work by Yosemite Rivers Alliance staff
- 8-10 more meadows will be worked on in 2026

**Rim Meadows 2025:** Fahey, Wet Meadow Springs, Thompson, Reynolds, and more



Rim Meadows Work - 2025



## Jawbone Meadow Planning and Design

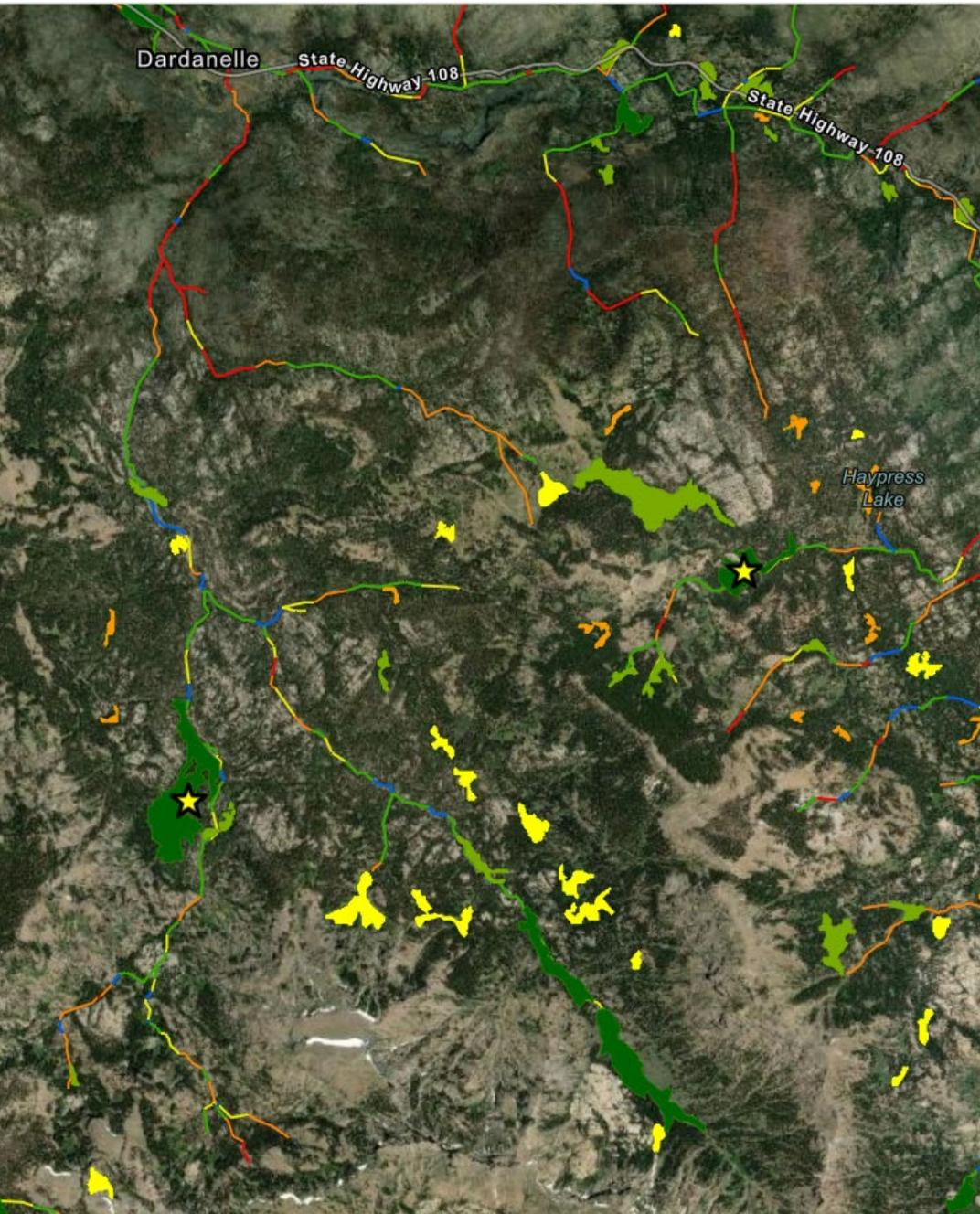
- New project in 2026.
- Identified as a priority meadow for restoration by USFS, within the Rim Fire burn area
- Tuolumne Band of Me Wuk partnering on project.
- Funding received by Sierra Meadow Partnership WCB block grant for planning and design
- Working with Trout Unlimited and Anabranch Solutions to design project this summer.
- Plans and permits by end of 2026

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# Beaver Integration Group (BIG)

- Beavers are being recognized as nature's environmental engineers and a key component to functioning riparian and wetland systems
- There is a growing interest from agencies, NGOs, and the public to help reintroduce beavers in the landscape
- BIG formed after a local resident presented at IRWM about the ecological benefits of beavers.
- Stakeholder group formed out of that, under the umbrella of IRWM, exploring feasibility of local beaver reintroduction.





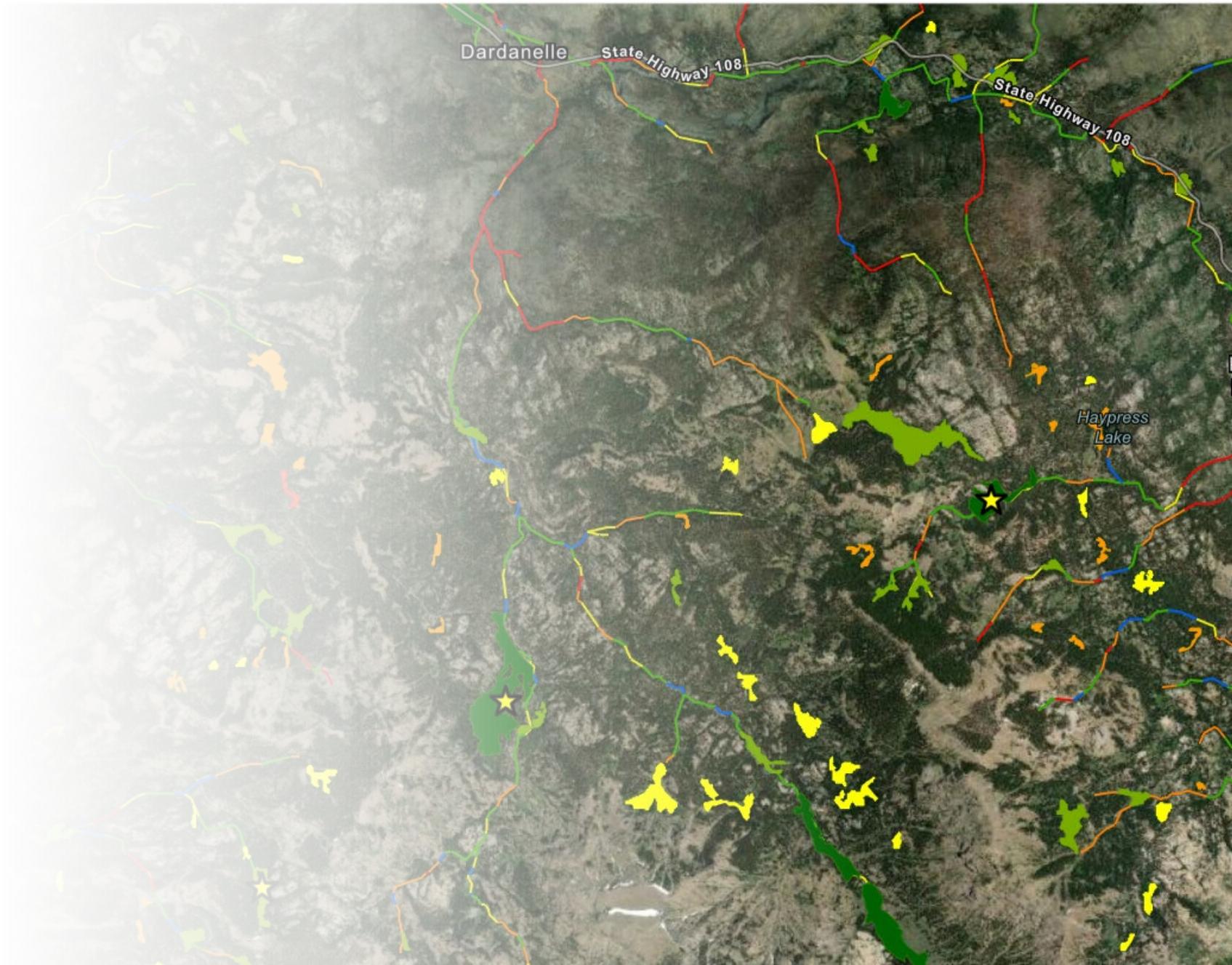
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## BIG Stakeholders and Participants

- Tuolumne RCD
- Calaveras RCD
- Tuolumne Band of Me Wuk
- CA State Parks
- Yosemite Rivers Alliance
- Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center
- Trout Unlimited
- Stanislaus National Forest
- Yosemite National Park
- Local residents

## BIG's Focus

- Exploration of feasibility of beaver reintroduction in the central Sierra region
- GIS tools to assess habitat locally for suitable beaver habitat
- Site visit to local privately owned meadows with CDFW's Beaver Restoration Program Supervisor to discuss potential meadows for reintroduction, and habitat conditions needed for CDFW to approve translocation of a beaver family
- Working to discuss with STF, YNP, private landowners, what requirements would need to be met (NEPA, CEQA, etc.) to allow beaver reintroduction to happen on or adjacent to their land
- Seeking funding to help support groups participating, and to support additional outreach, collaboration with landowners, and in-field assessments, and next steps if potential suitable sites are found.



# Get involved in BIG!

- Carolyn can add you to the email group
- Meet semi-regularly on last Friday of the Month
- Funding suggestions and other input welcome!

