



Mokelumne Avoided Cost Study





Mokelumne Watershed

Environmental Benefits Program



Sustainable Conservation



SIERRA NEVADA
CONSERVANCY



The Nature
Conservancy



Protecting nature. Preserving life.™



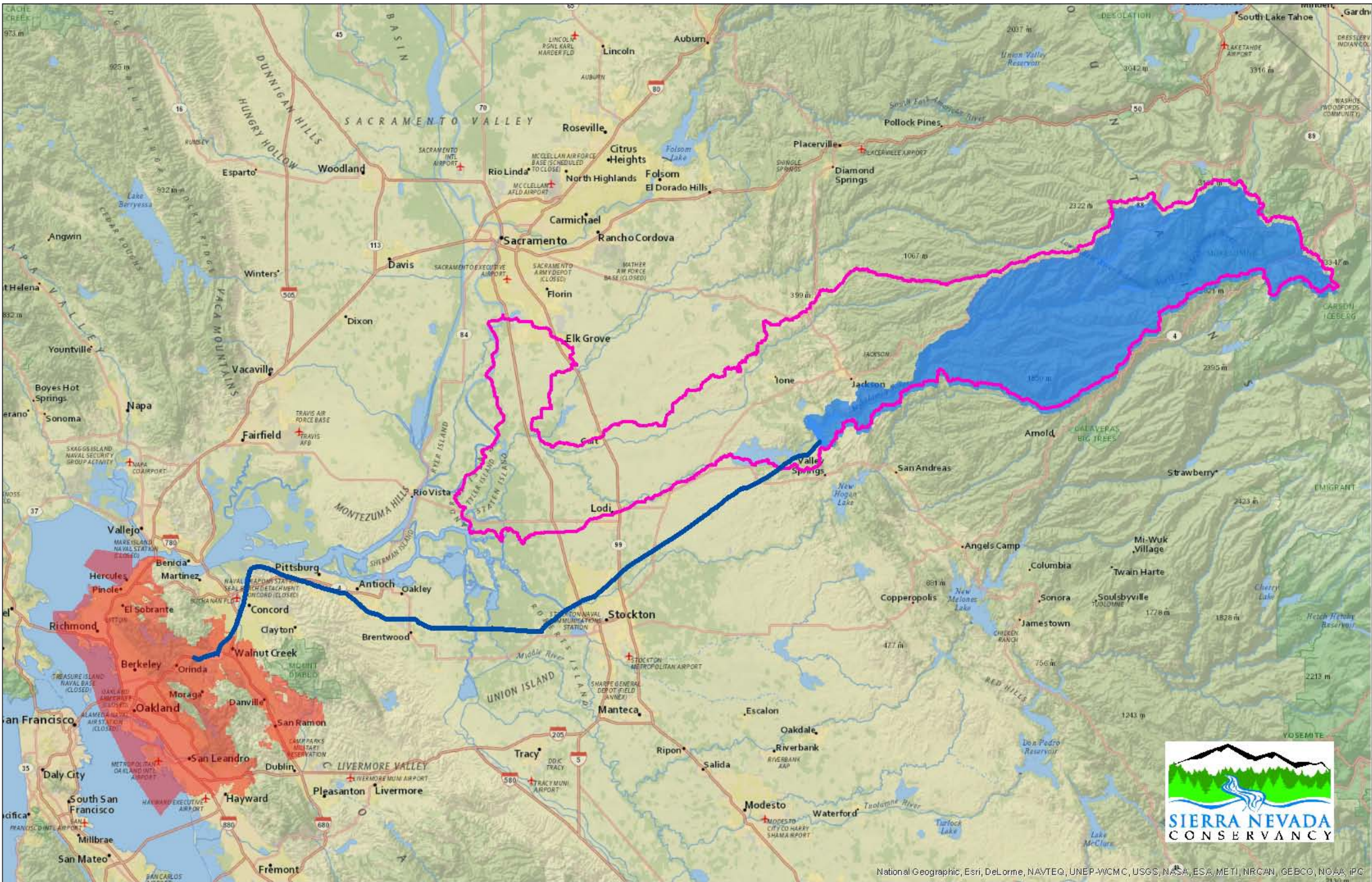
Environmental
Incentives



PROPOSAL

Accelerate restoration and improve management across the watershed





National Geographic, Esri, DeLorme, NAVTEQ, UNEP-WCMC, USGS, NASA, ESA, METI, NRCAN, GEBCO, NOAA, IPC

Denver, Colorado

Over \$145 million in costs since 1996 and 2002 fires

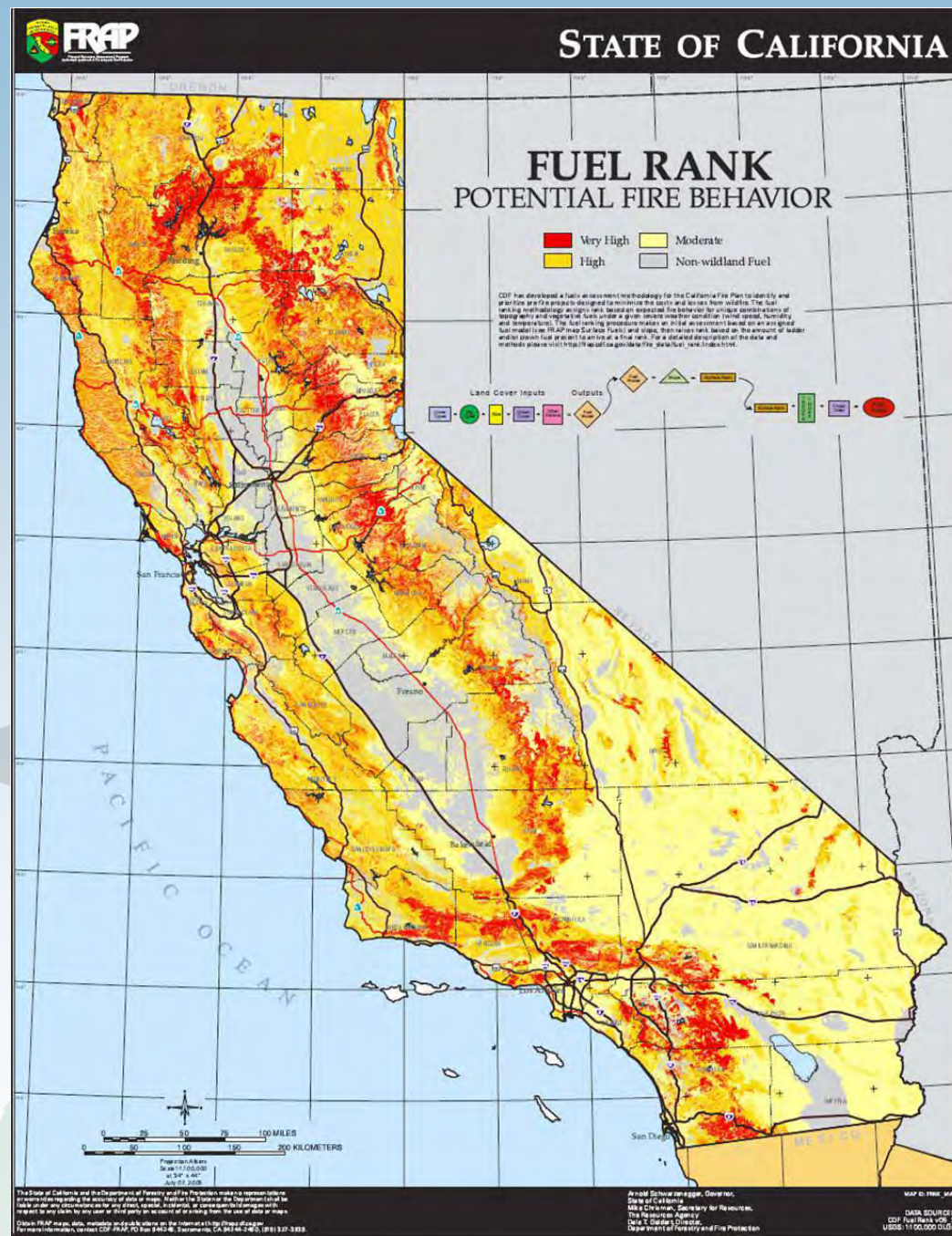
- \$30 million dredge primary reservoir
- \$42 million + fire suppression costs
- \$37 million restoration costs
- \$39 million destroyed structures

Denver Quote

“We’ve realized the water does not come from the streams, it comes from the forest.”

-Denver Water Board member

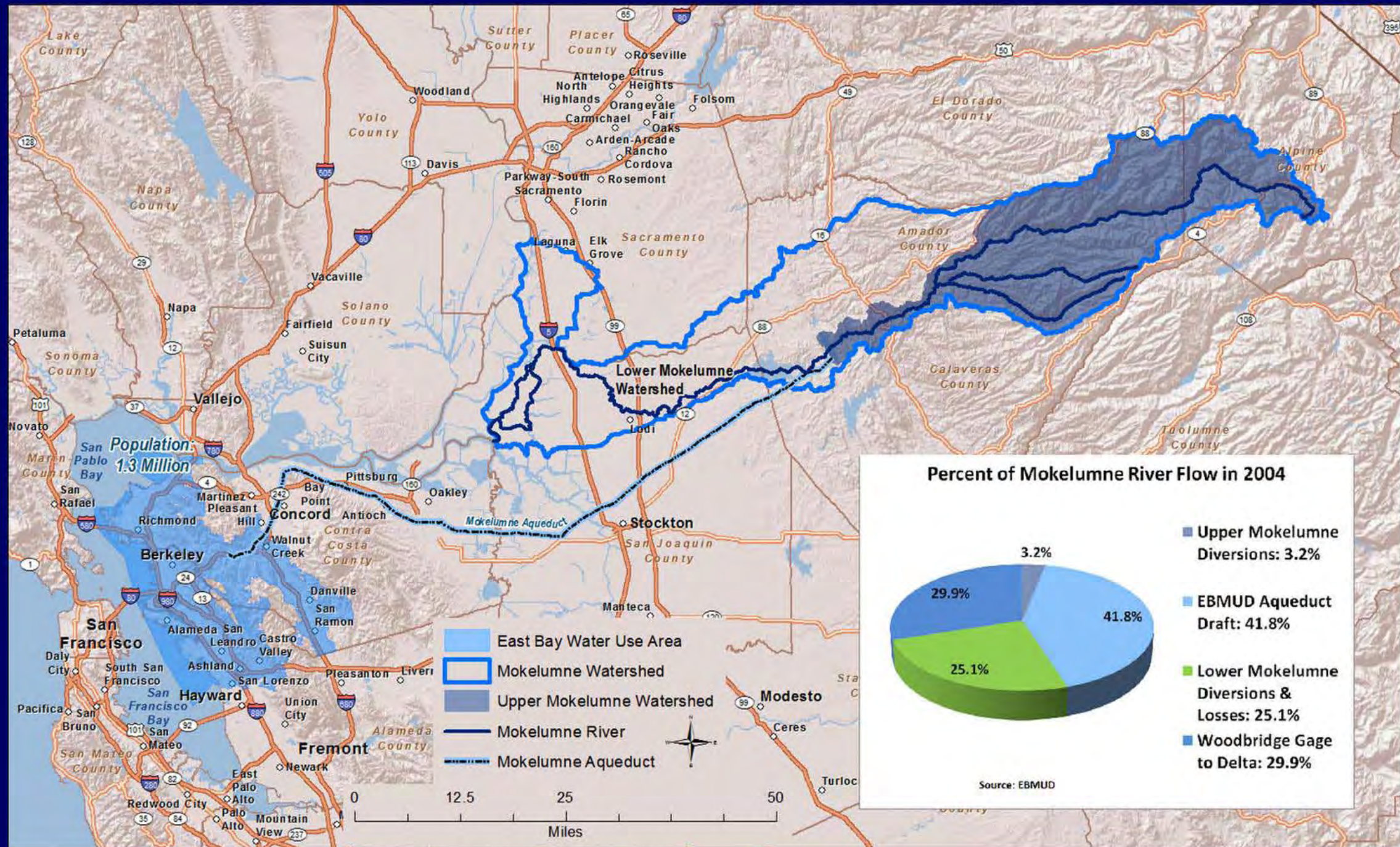
Fire: Current Conditions



Mokelumne Water Distribution



Mokelumne Water Distribution



Primary Goals of the Project

- Calculate the avoided costs of increasing forest treatments in high fire risk areas and compare to current conditions
- Identify treatment scenario for most net benefits (benefits minus costs) to maximize net benefit of treatment
- Develop an investment platform to quantify and track environmental improvement within the watershed
- Encourage new investment in forest treatment to increase pace and scale
- Connect users of ecosystem services, such as water, to its source

Partners

Core Team:

- US Forest Service Region 5
- The Nature Conservancy
- Sierra Nevada Conservancy



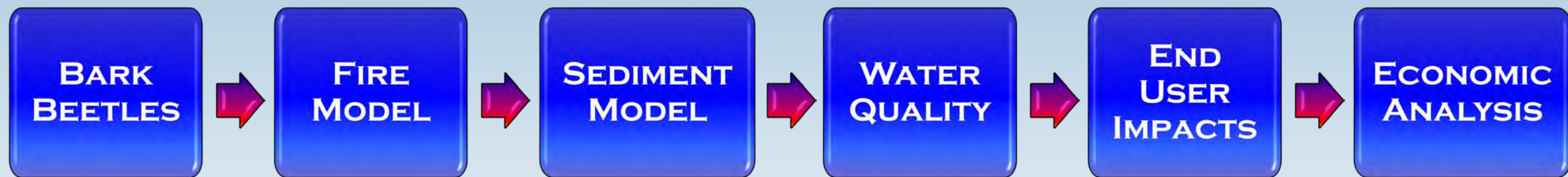
Advisory and Technical Teams:

- East Bay Municipal Utility District
- Pacific Gas & Electric
- Eldorado National Forest
- Stanislaus National Forest
- Bureau of Land Management
- Sierra Pacific Industries
- Environmental Defense Fund
- Native American Community
- Foothill Conservancy
- Sustainable Conservation
- Department of Water Resources
- CALFIRE
- Department of Water Resources
- Local Fire Districts
- Amador and Calaveras Counties

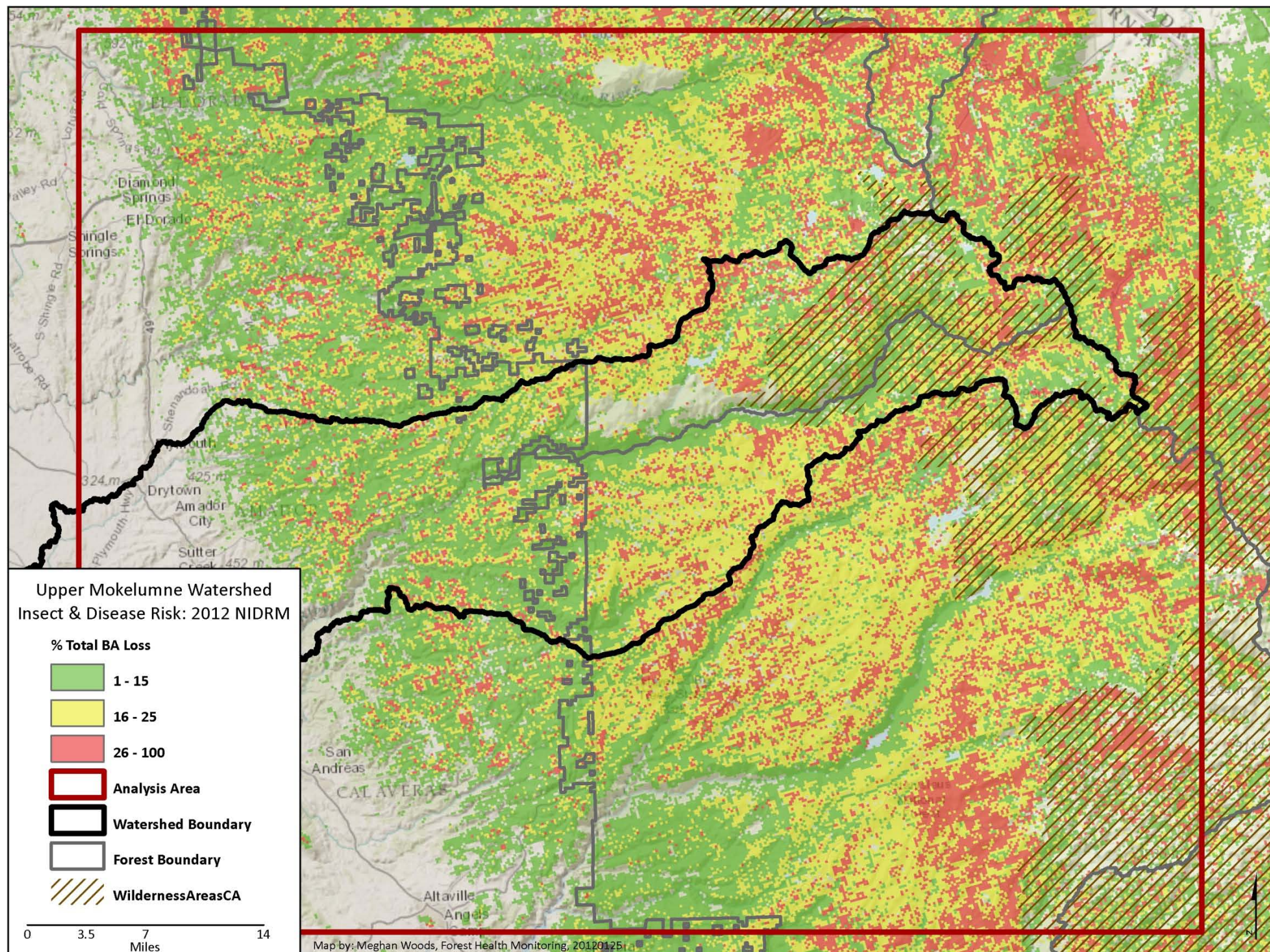


Credit: Mathew Grimm/EDF

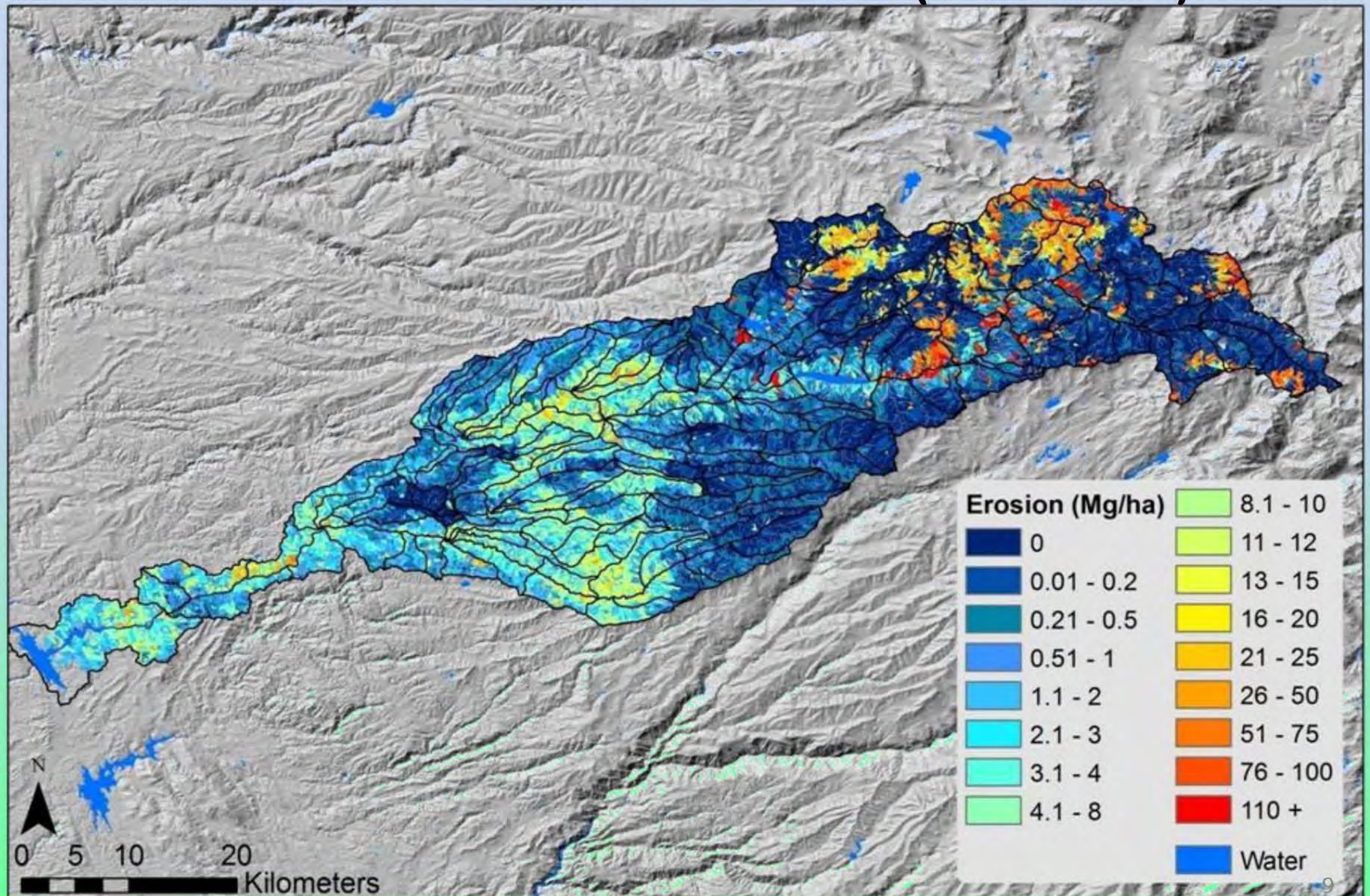
Model Flowchart



2012 Bark Beetle Forecast

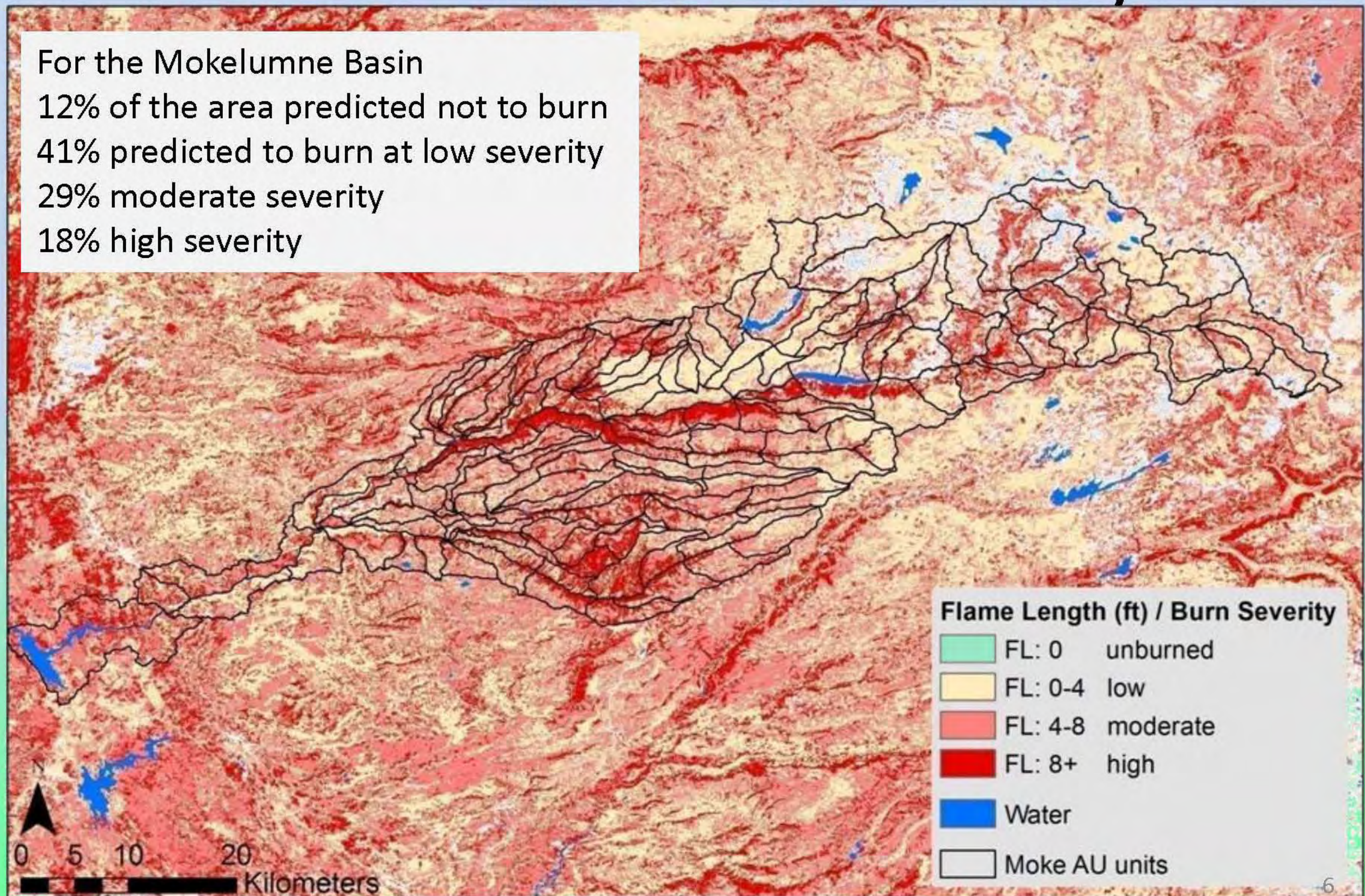


Results: Hillslope scale erosion predictions for current land cover (No Fire)

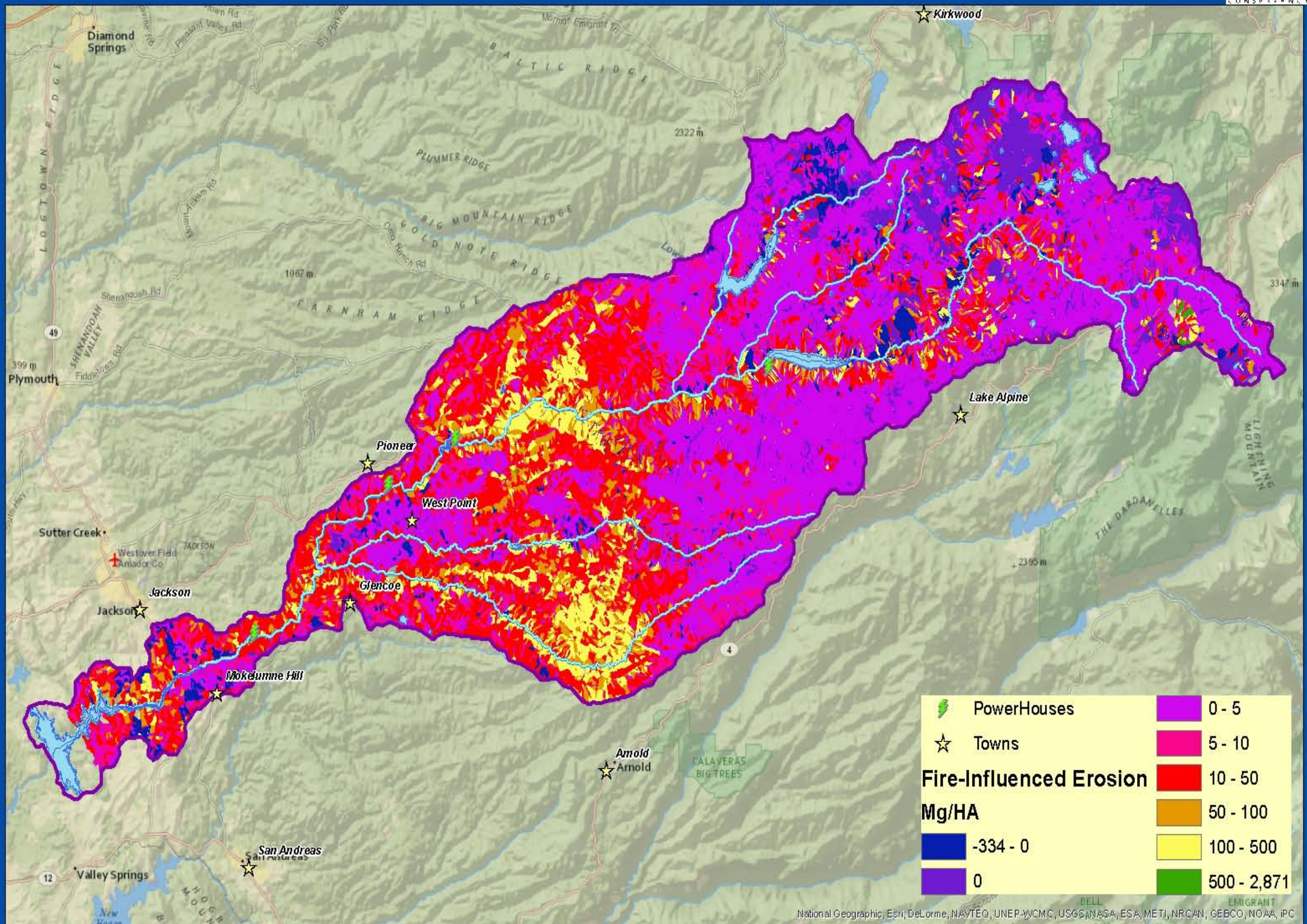


Inputs: Flame length predictions reclassified to burn severity

For the Mokelumne Basin
12% of the area predicted not to burn
41% predicted to burn at low severity
29% moderate severity
18% high severity



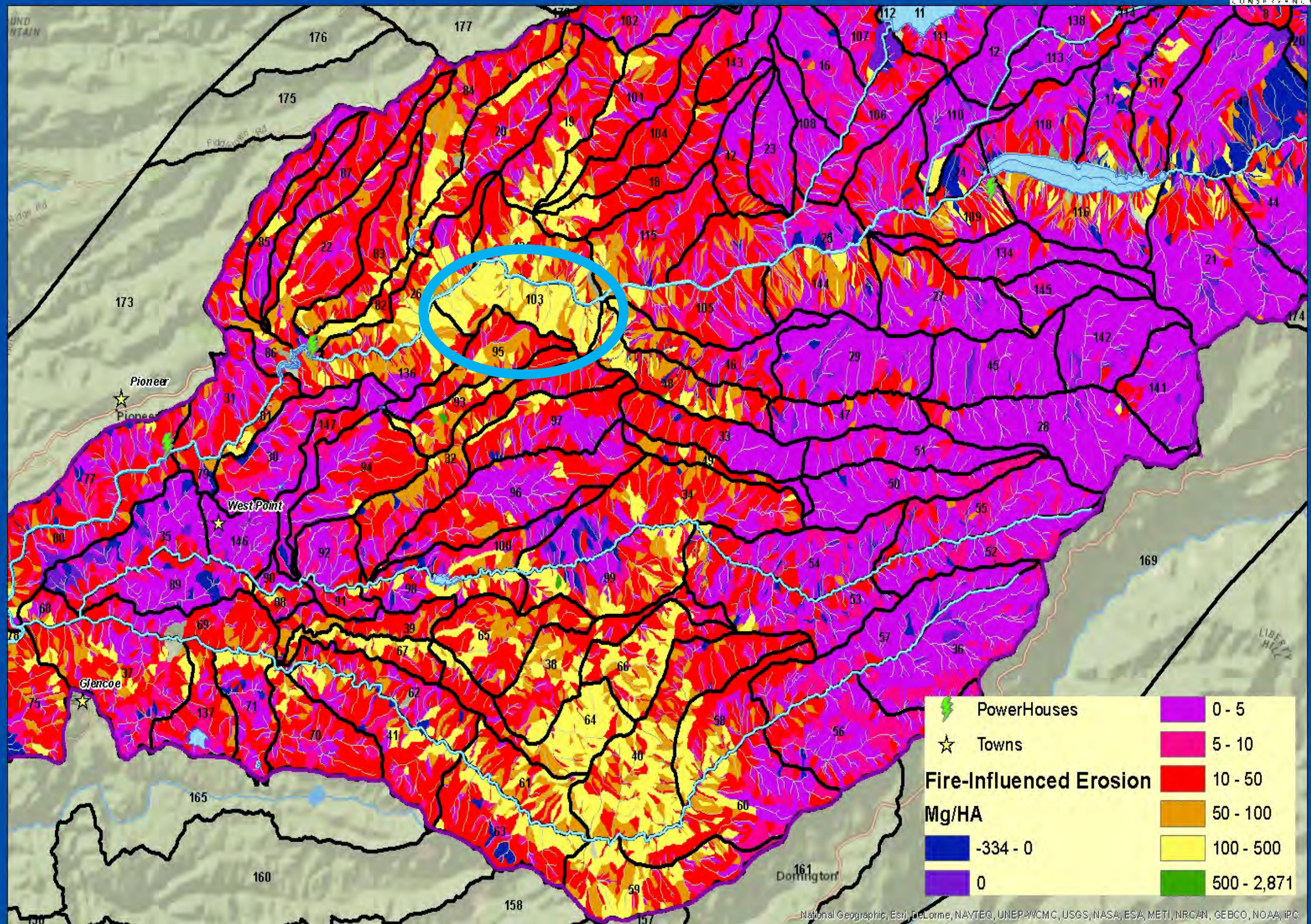
HILLSLOPE SEDIMENT (<2MM) EROSION AS A RESULT OF FIRE



National Geographic, Esri, DeLorme, NAVTEQ, UNEP-WCMC, USGS, NASA, ESA, METI, NRCAN, GEBCO, NOAA, IPC

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HILLSLOPE SEDIMENT (<2MM) EROSION AS A RESULT OF FIRE



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How Much Is That?

- Unit # 103 on the previous map is approximately 2,000 acres in size.
- Average estimated erosion from that unit is 200 megagrams per hectare.
- If that unit was struck by fire and then eroded, how many dump trucks would that eroded sediment fill?

How Much Is That?

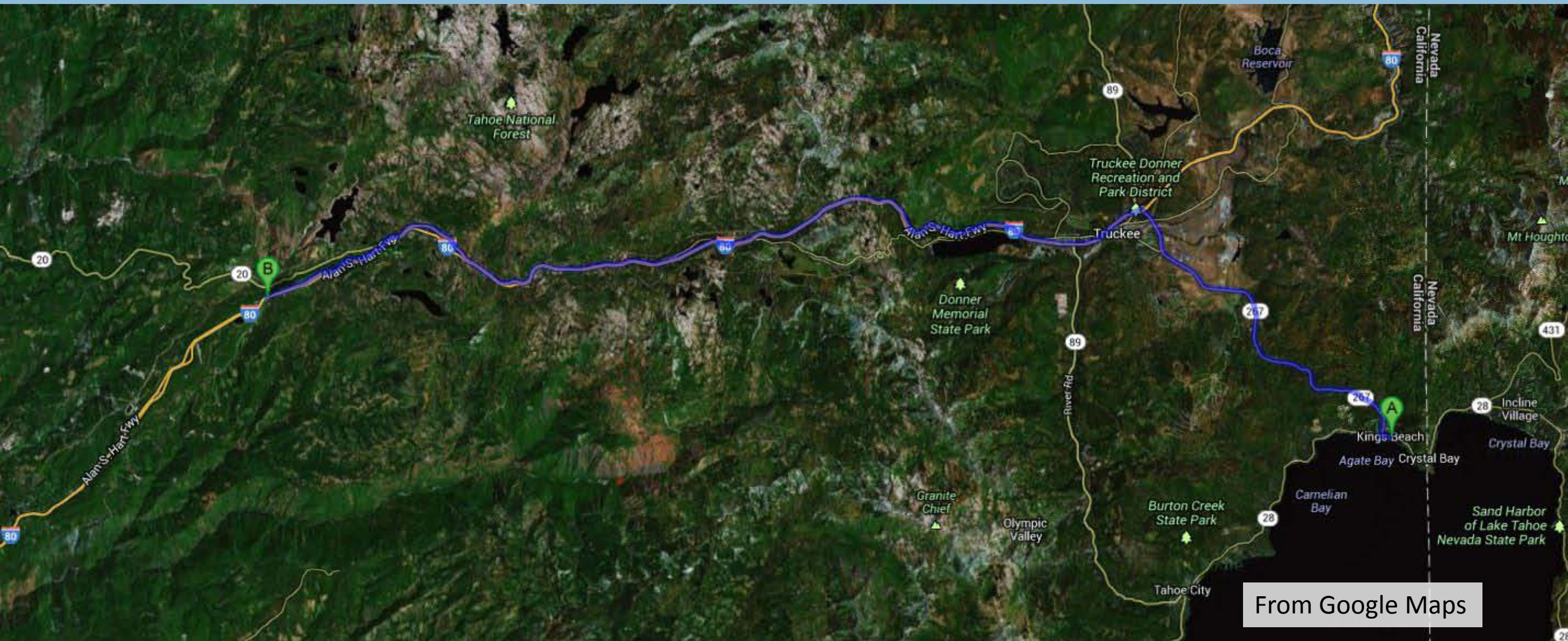


Each one of these
can carry 50,000 lbs

Have a length of
32.5 feet

If all of the eroded sediment from that
unit filled these trucks to their max
capacity and they were set end to end,
how far would it stretch?

How Much Is That?

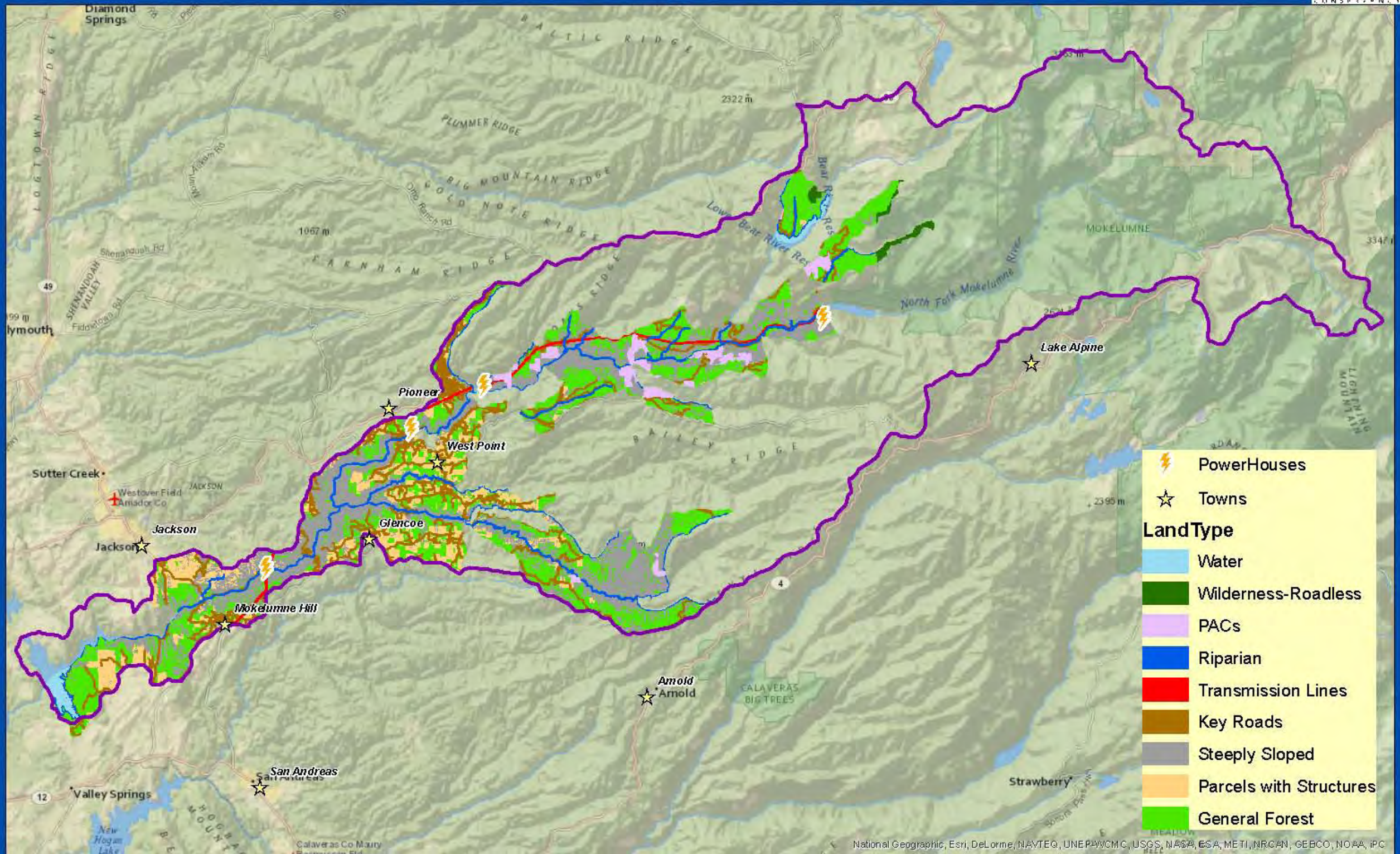


If parked end-to-end, it would fill enough dump trucks to stretch from the conference center to the Emigrant Gap exit on I-80, just over 40 miles.

Treatment Area Selection Process

- Stakeholder driven – both location and type/intensity of treatment;
- High-level perspective – 100,000-acres covered, overlooks many implementation obstacles;
- Designed to highlight areas where treatments are most effective to guide future work; and,
- Future work will focus on smaller areas with more realistic boundaries and treatments.

MOKELUMNE WATERSHED TREATMENT AREAS BY LAND TYPE

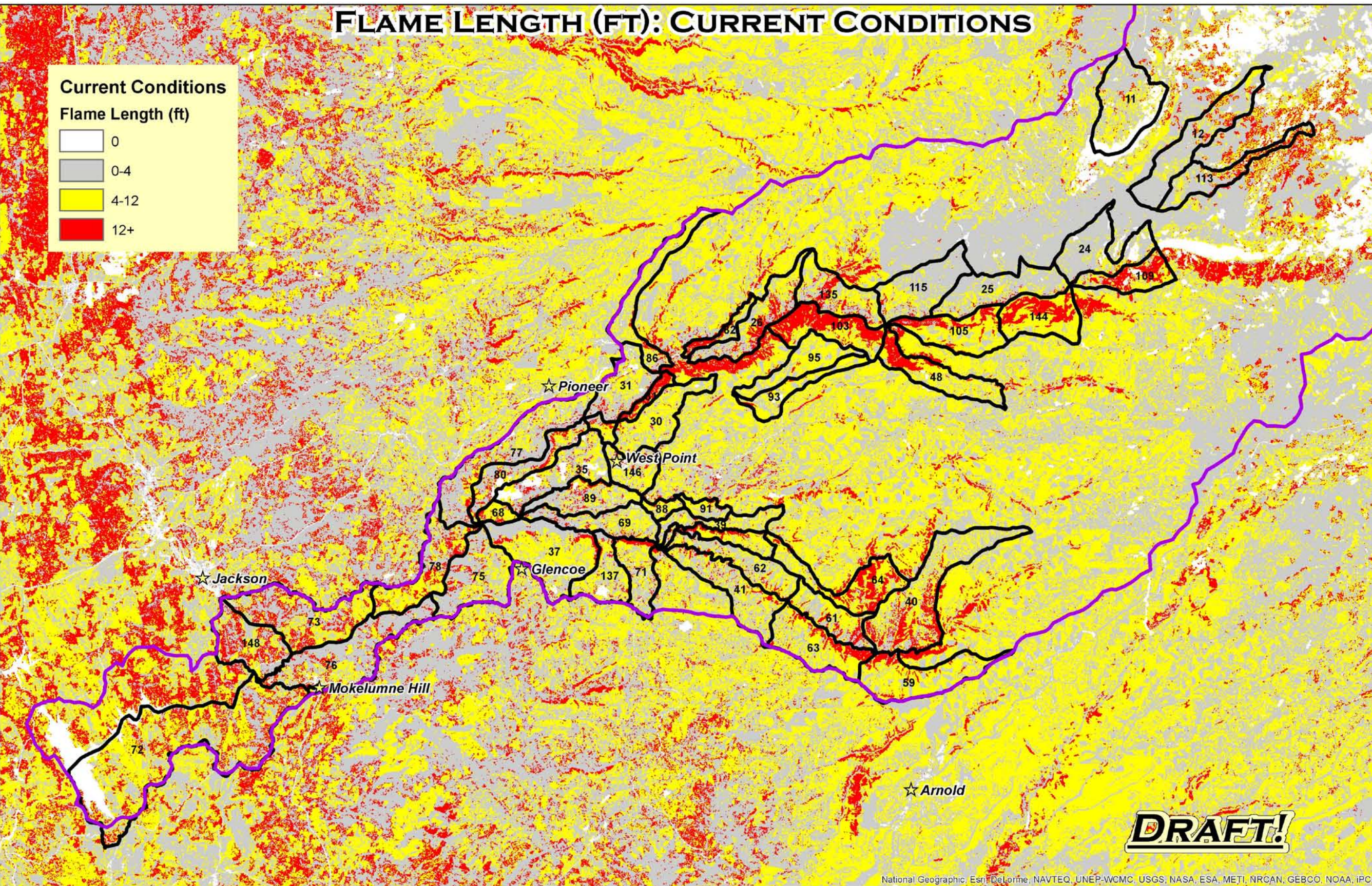
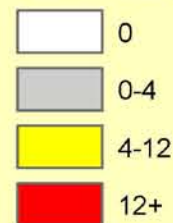


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FLAME LENGTH (FT): CURRENT CONDITIONS

Current Conditions

Flame Length (ft)

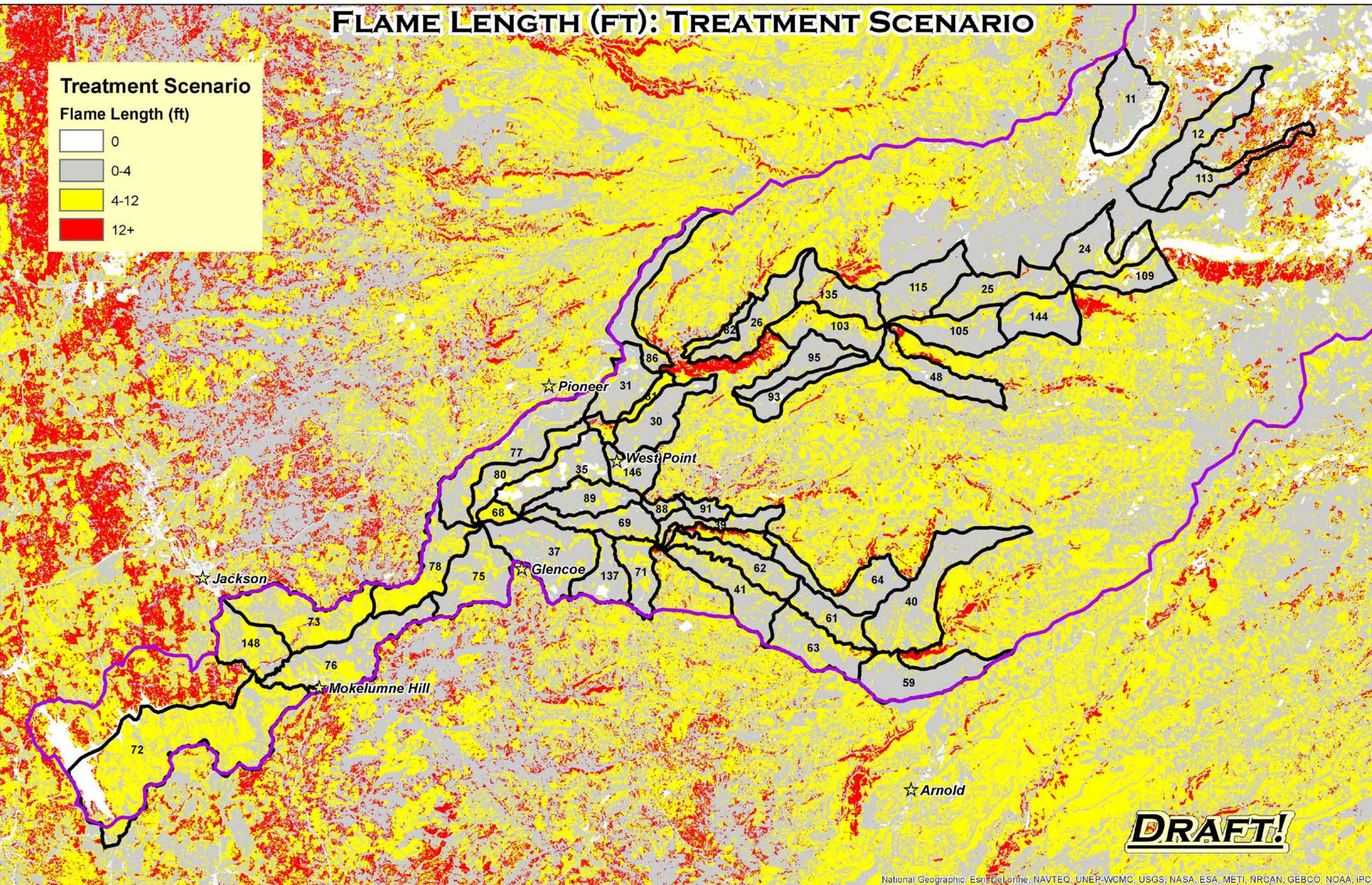
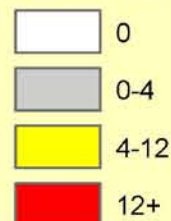


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FLAME LENGTH (FT): TREATMENT SCENARIO

Treatment Scenario

Flame Length (ft)



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Next Steps

- Complete modeling process
- Calculate the Avoided Costs
- Determine strategic areas where the cost/benefit is greatest to design more specific and realistic sized-treatments