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The Nature
Conservancy



USDA USFS Presentation

Dan Porter | Forest Strategy Lead

California (USFS Region 5)

1.

TREATMENTS

(bigger, more precise, faster)

2.

MARKET INNOVATIONS

(targeted public investments)

3.

SKILLED WORKFORCE

(new public policy, project intermediaries)



Future of the West?

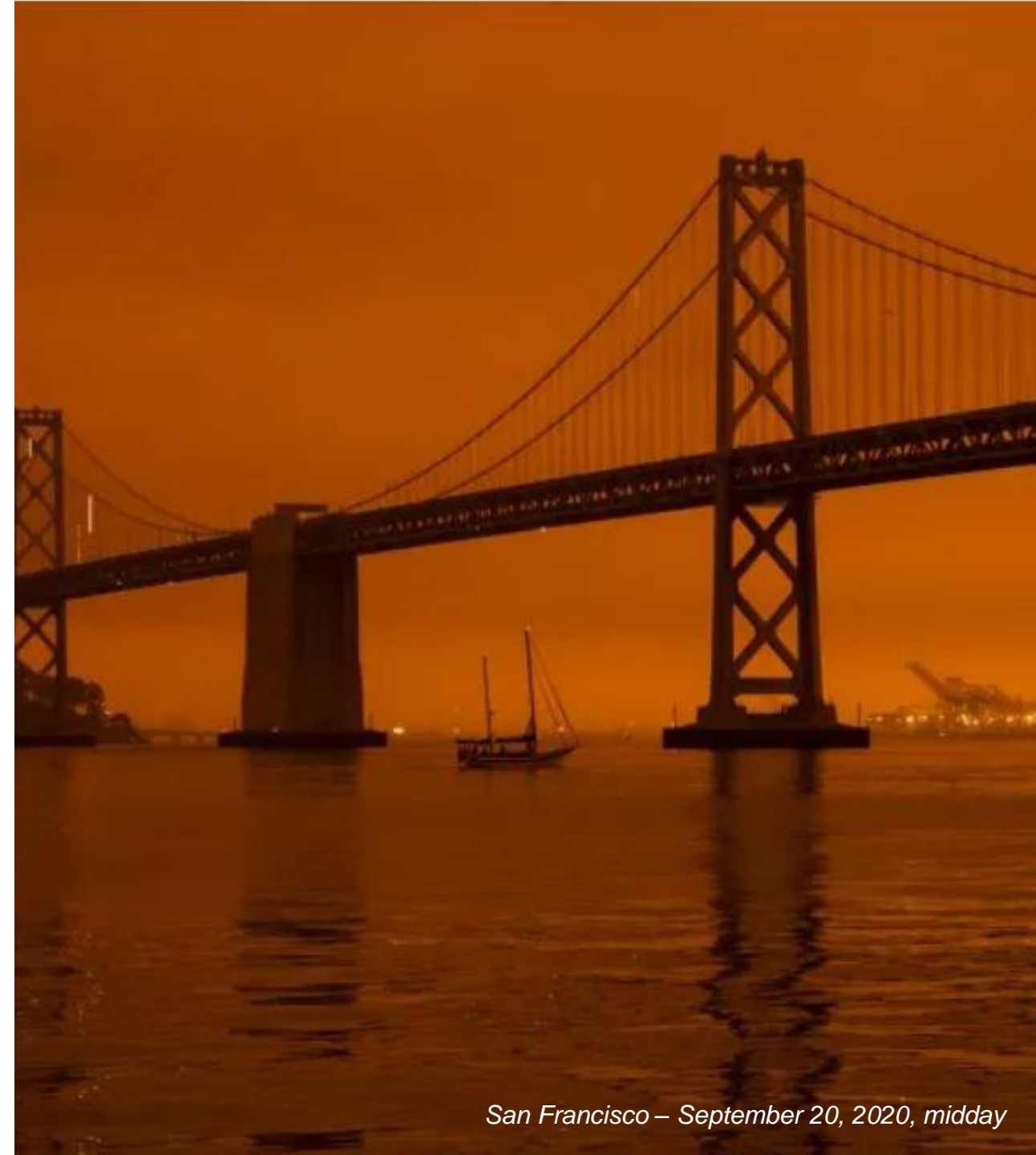
CA, 40 MILLION PEOPLE, AND GROWING

CA WILDFIRE SUPPRESSION (\$/YR.)

- ~\$1B₍₂₀₀₆₎ → \$4B₍₂₀₂₂₎

RESILIENCE FUNDING: STRONG START, BUT STILL NOT SIZED FOR THE CRISIS AT HAND.

- USFS 10-yr plan: \$5B/yr. need
- Federal BIB: \$655 M/yr.
- CA 21/22 budget: \$1B/yr.



1.

TREATMENTS

Thinning + Prescribed Fire is Effective...

But treatments must be strategic, and work with novel fire regimes



1.

TREATMENTS

French Meadows Project – 28,000 acres

Safeguarding rural water supplies



1.

TREATMENTS

North Yuba Forest Partnership – 275,000 acres

Precision management, for multiple beneficiaries, at scale



North Yuba Forest Partnership – 275,000 acres

Precision management, for multiple beneficiaries, at scale

- High resolution baseline data on current forest conditions
- Dynamic scenario planning¹ using PSW/TNC resilience pillars
- Staged NEPA, with public input along the way
- If / then approach for fuel reduction treatment prescriptions

End markets analysis for the utilization of small diameter trees

Takeaways:

- Co-locating proven, and scalable wood conversion technologies is necessary to achieve CA's wildfire and forest resilience goals.
- Targeted public investments and policies are needed spur investment in low-margin and/or higher risk business models.

ACCELERATING FOREST RESTORATION

Stimulating a Forest-Restoration Economy and
Rebuilding Resilience in California's Fire-Adapted Forests



Feedstock Aggregation / California Climate Catalyst Fund

- All of government approach (Jan 2021 report)
- Feedstock aggregation pilots (OPR)
- \$47 m Climate Catalyst Fund (GoBiz)
 - Revolving loans
 - Do more for industries aligned w-state goals
 - 4:1 private/public investment ratio



3.

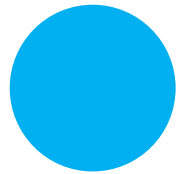
SKILLED WORKFORCE

Building a world class workforce of restoration professionals

- Dedicated, state-sponsored prescribed fire crew
- State prescribed fire burn boss certification
- Prescribed fire liability claims fund pilot
- Great partnership with CA air quality regulators

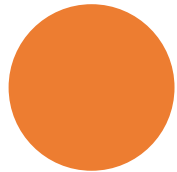


California PBA/Community-Based Burning Efforts



BLUE:

group formed and burning



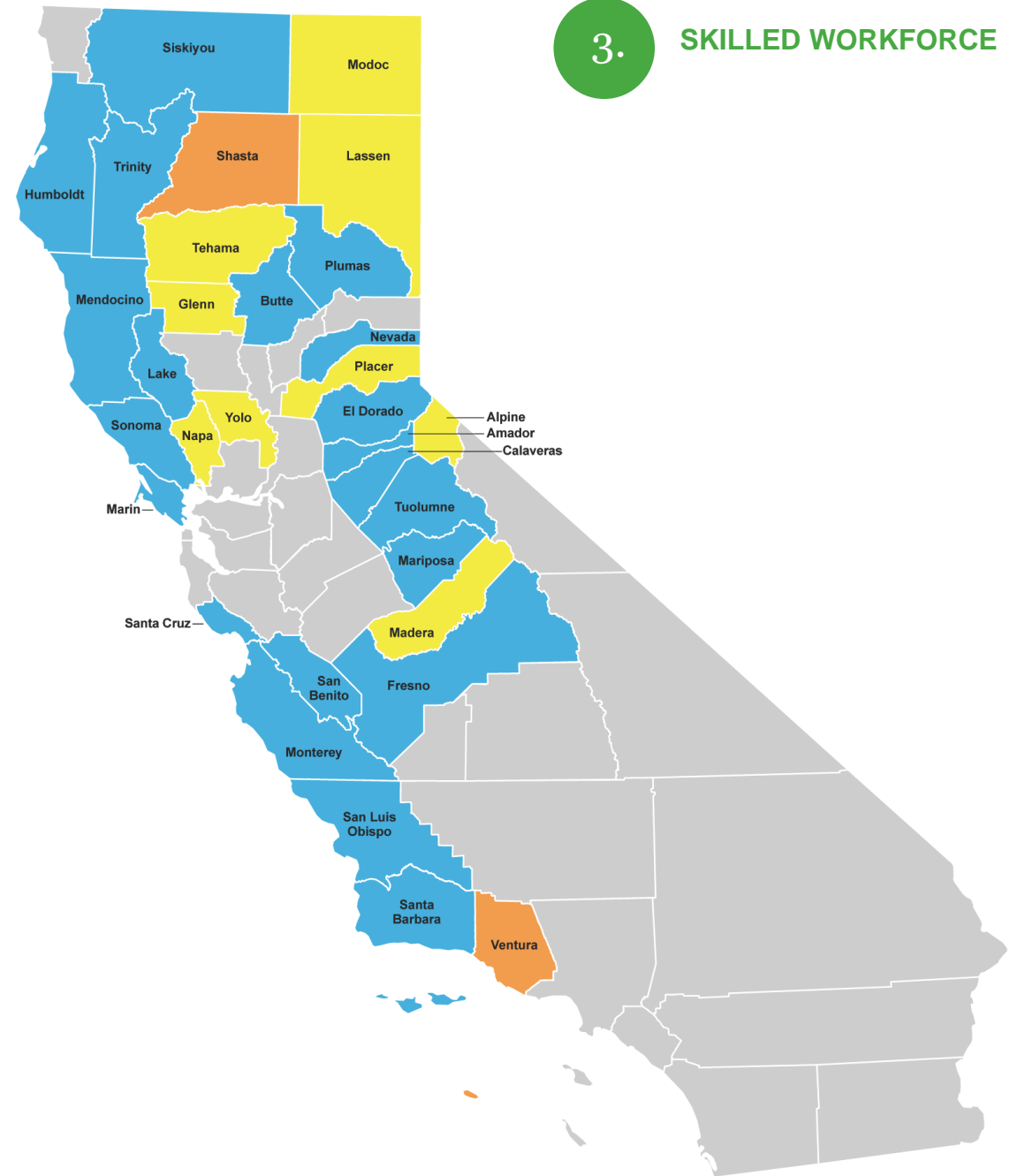
ORANGE:

group in formation



YELLOW:

having conversations about forming



Acknowledgements

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- Jessica Morse (CNRA)
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- Dan Adler (GoBiz)
- Liz Forsburg (TNC)

MARKET INNOVATIONS

- Bain and Company
- Governor's Office of Planning & Research
- USDA (Larry Swan, Steve Ostoja)
- Market Lab (TNC)

LARGE-SCALE RESTORATION PROJECTS

- U.S. Forest Service and regional partners
- Placer County
- Placer County Water Agency
- Yuba Water Agency
- Cal Fire, Sierra Nevada Conservancy, UC

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

- The Fire Restoration Group (Craig Thomas)
- UC Cooperative Extension (L. Quinn-Davidson)
- Dave Jones (former CA Insurance Commissioner)



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Thank you!

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