

# Leveraging Innovative Partnerships & Financing for Post-Fire Restoration

# About Blue Forest

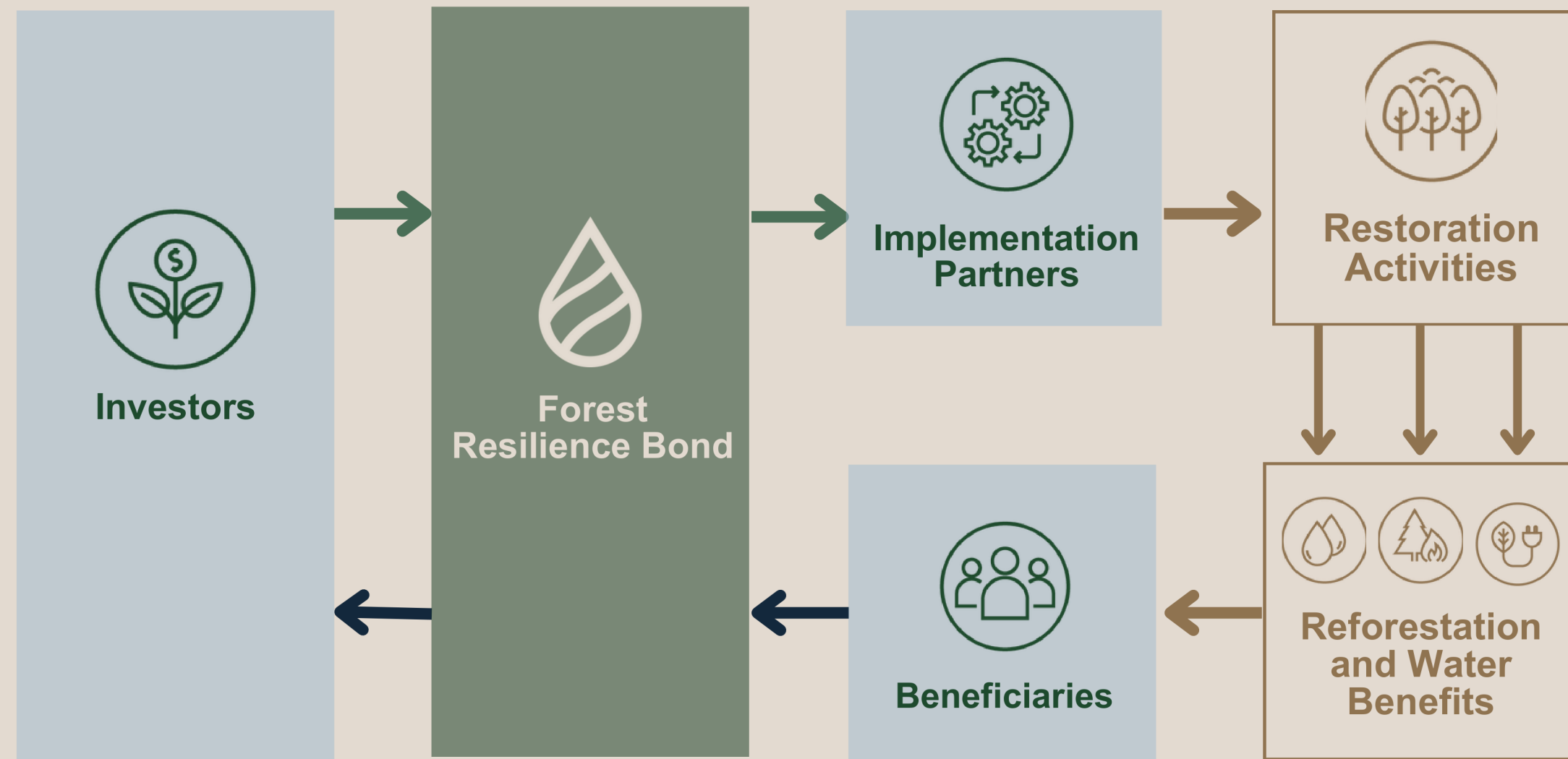
Non-profit -> **sustainable financial solutions to the wildfire crisis**

We partner with corporates and other stakeholders to **realize forest restoration - before and after the fire**

**Interdisciplinary team** of 30+ scientists, financial experts, and engineering professionals



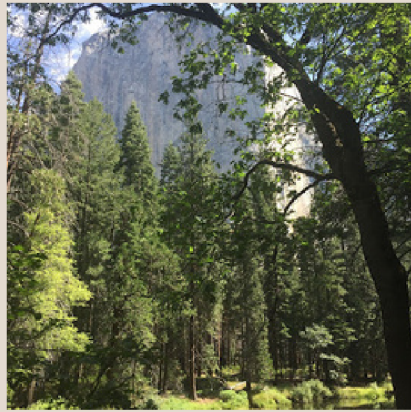
# What is the Forest Resilience Bond?



→ Outbound Cash Flow    → Inbound Cash Flow    → Resource Flow

- Blue Forest **connects new funding sources to forest restoration projects** by quantifying the multiple benefits of forest restoration and engaging beneficiaries that can pay different amounts
- The FRB acts as a **cost-share mechanism** that **unlocks financial commitments** and enables upfront financing by private capital

# Multi-Benefit Restoration Projects



## 01 BIODIVERSITY

Resilient ecosystems are characterized by varied species compositions and structure across a landscape.



## 04 RECREATION

Healthy ecosystems support numerous outdoor recreation activities.



## 07 COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

Resilient ecosystem forests protect communities from the impact of high-severity, catastrophic wildfires.



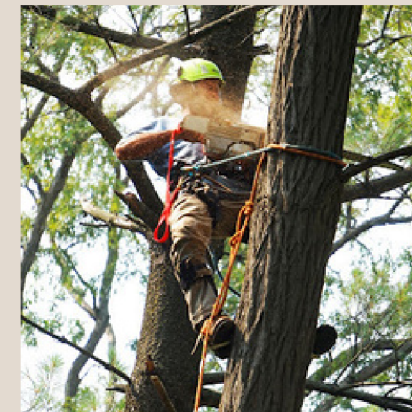
## 02 WILDFIRE RISK REDUCTION

Resilient forests are at decreased risk of high severity fire, protecting ecosystems, communities, and infrastructure from harm.



## 05 WATER SECURITY

Resilient forests and ecosystems maintain clean and abundant water for human consumption, irrigation, industry, and power generation.



## 08 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Restoration and maintenance of resilient forests and other ecosystems create jobs and supports businesses through project implementation and wood products manufacturing.



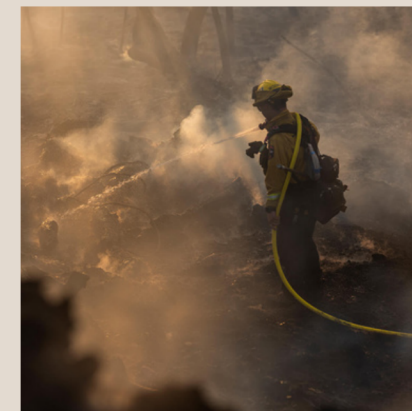
## 03 HABITAT PROTECTION

Healthy ecosystems provide key habitats for a diverse range of animal species.



## 06 CARBON STABILITY

Resilient forest ecosystems are less susceptible to high severity fire, reducing the emission of carbon stored in trees during a wildfire.



## 09 PUBLIC HEALTH

Resilient forests and other ecosystems protect multiple aspects of public health, including reducing smoke exposure by lowering the risk of severe wildfire and protecting water quality.

# Why Conservation Finance?

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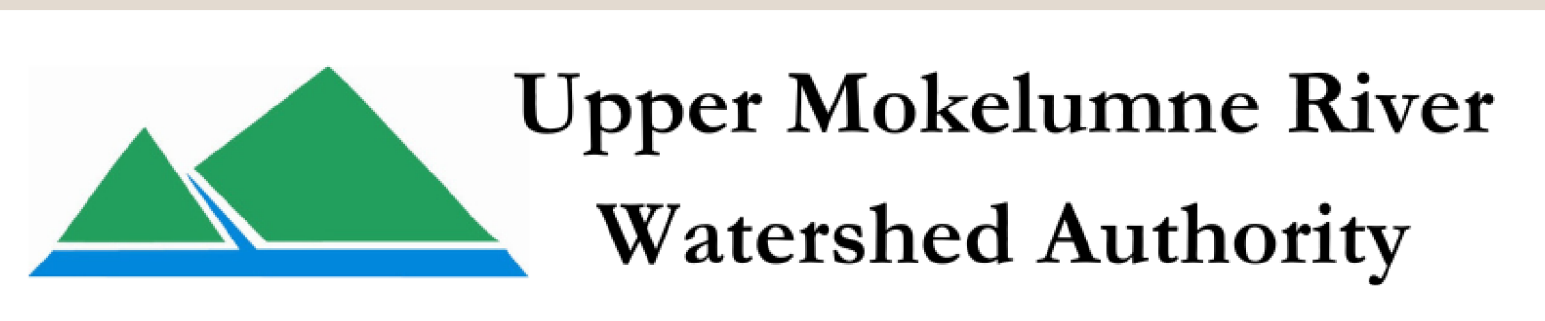
- Need for reforestation funding alone is >\$3.6B in the western U.S. (Dobrowski, Aghai, *et al.*, In Review)
  - Investments need across the entire supply chain
- Post-fire restoration has high upfront and early stage maintenance costs
- Benefits of restoration accrue years and decades after restoration
  - Carbon, water, & biodiversity credits
- State & Federal grants can have extended reimbursement timelines



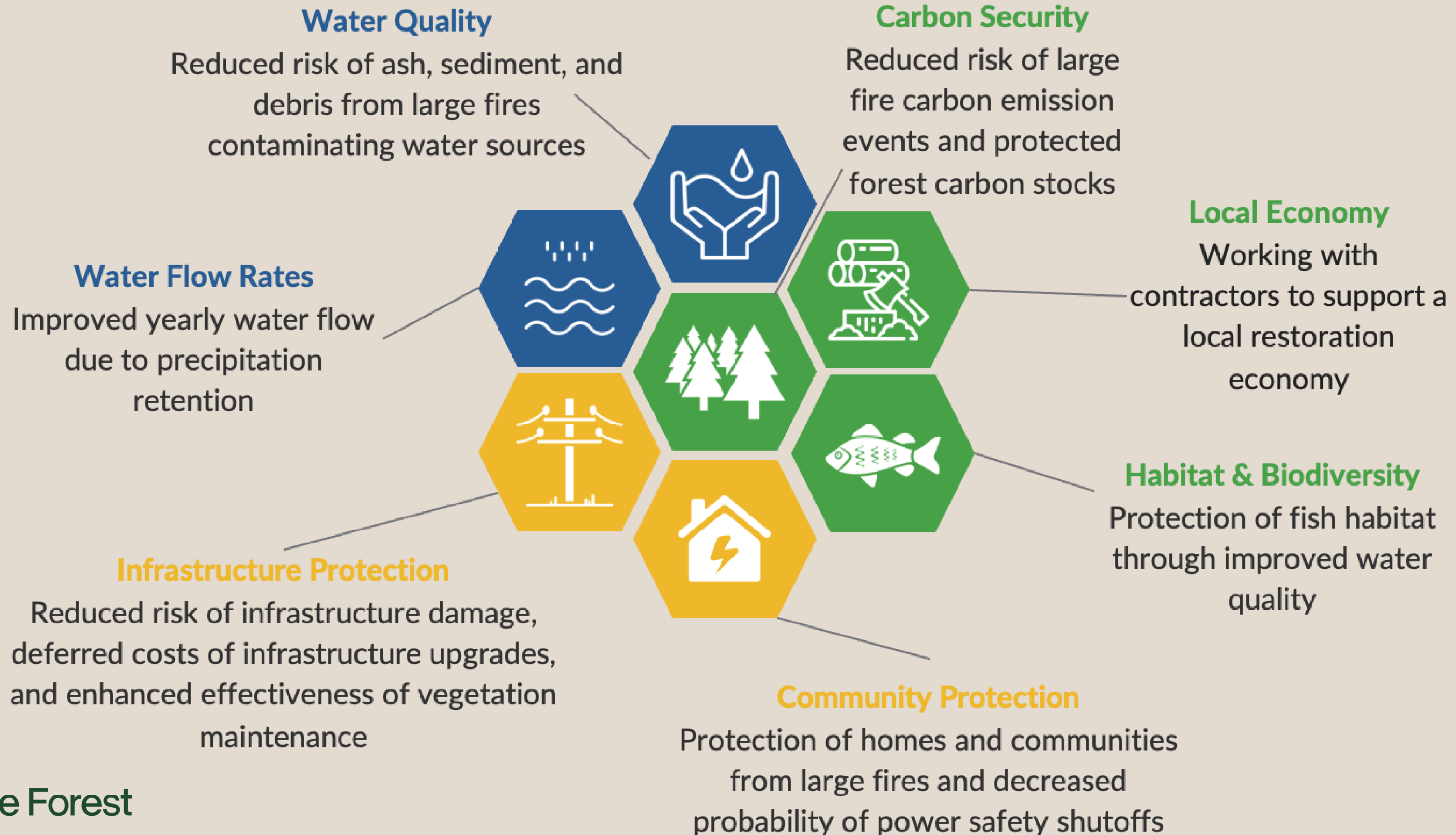
# Who do we provide financing to through FRBs?

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- Implementation partners
  - Implement planned actions
  - Lead applicant on state grants, collect funds from grantors
  - Perform work, administer contracts, supervise contractors
  - Coordinate partners
  - Support monitoring
  - Support development of cost estimates and project sequencing, as needed



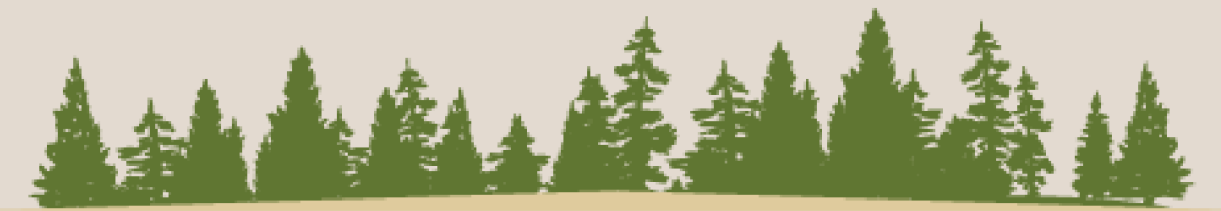
# How we work with utilities



# Innovative Partnerships

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- North Yuba Forest Partnership (NYFP)
  - 9 partners
- Healthy Eldorado Landscape Partnership (HELP)
  - 25 partners
- Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority (UMRWA)
  - 6 water agencies & 3 counties
- Southern Oregon Forest Restoration Collaborative (SOFRC)
  - 14 partners



**SOFRC**  
Southern Oregon Forest Restoration Collaborative



**Upper Mokelumne River  
Watershed Authority**



**HEALTHY ELDERADO  
PARTNERSHIP (HELP)**



# Post-Fire Landscape Exploration

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- 2021 - USDA R5 Wood Innovation Grant
  - Creek Fire (2020, 360k acres)
  - Dixie Fire (2022, 960k acres)
  - Sonoma (2017-2020, >100k acres)
- 2024 - The Water Foundation
  - Utility Engagement Strategy - Headwater Restoration
- Utility Survey (Jones, K.W. *et al.* 2023)
  - Higher wildfire concerns in areas with more Federal lands
  - Water quality concerns (90%)
  - Water flow concerns (>60%)



# Blue Forest Asset Management

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- **Wildfire Innovation Fund**

- We invest in every part of the forestry value chain – from harvesting to hauling, processing, and utilization – in order to build the system capacity needed to achieve forest restoration and wildfire risk reduction goals.
- These investments, in turn, support the transition to regenerative natural resource stewardship while promoting workforce development and sustainable employment for rural communities.



HEARTWOOD BIOMASS



TAHOE FOREST  
PRODUCTS



**BURNBOT**

# Thank you for your time

**Phil Saksa**  
Co-Founder & Chief Scientist

**Email**  
[phil@blueforest.org](mailto:phil@blueforest.org)

 Blue Forest

