

#### Truckee River Watershed Council

Collaborative solutions to protect, enhance and restore the Truckee River Watershed



## Thank You

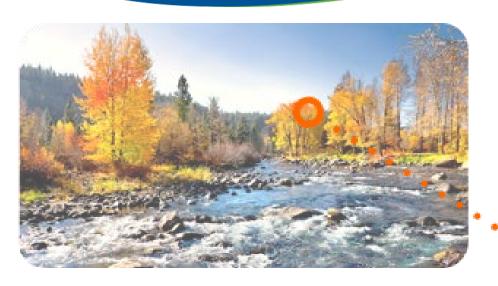








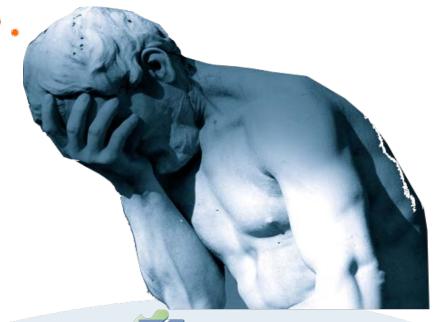
## The Truckee River is NOT Pristine.



#### The Truckee

It may look pretty

but it's not happy





# If you look closer...



# That impact our









#### We need to fix this...



And get to this...



So nature and community can thrive together

#### It takes a lot

#### Diverse partners and multiple funders



to find ecological & economical solutions

#### Here's how we do it







#### Here's what we do

Collaborate. Convene. Coordinate.

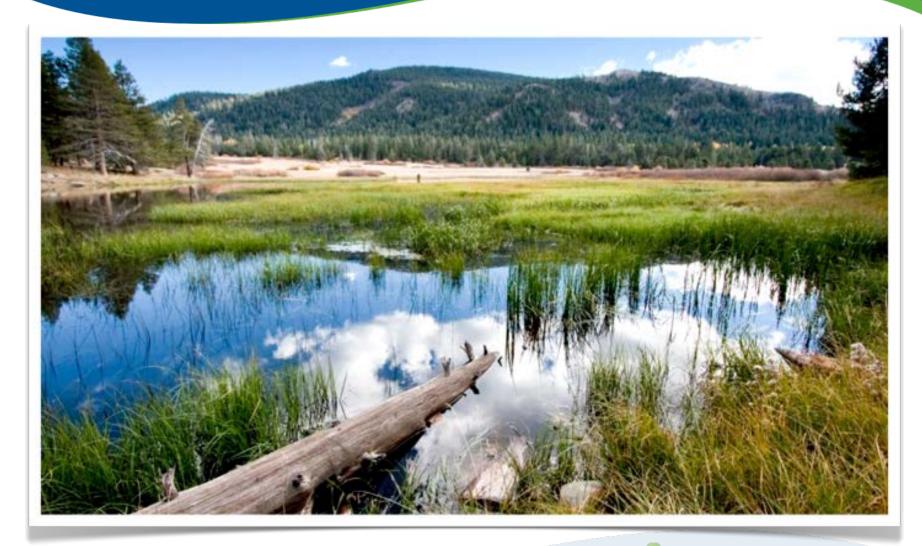


Prevent

Engage



# To create...





# Together...







# Piecing Together the Restoration Puzzle

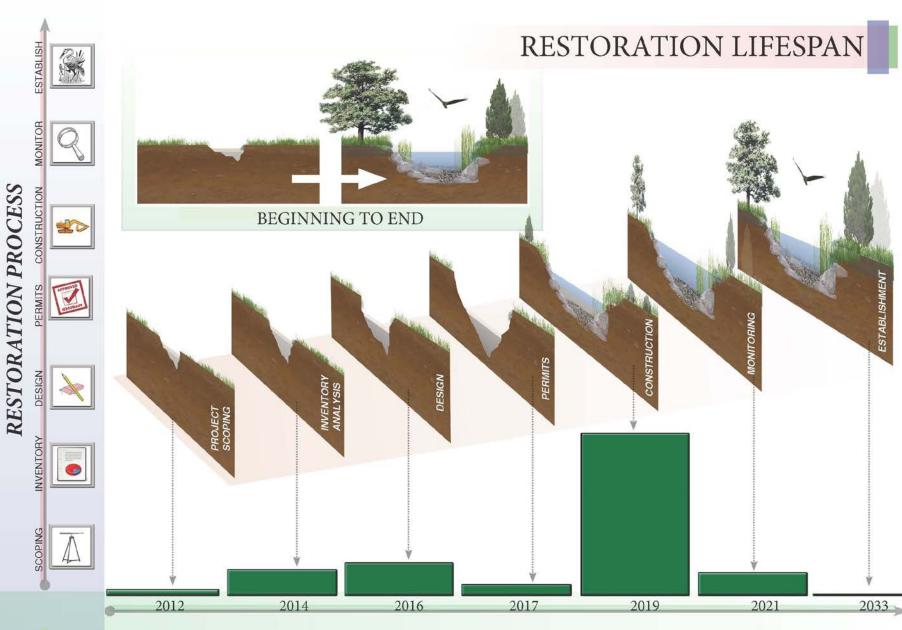
Cedar House, Feb. 9th, 2016

Beth Christman, Director of Restoration Programs

## Tonight's Talk

- Pieces of the restoration puzzle
- Selected projects
  - 2015 Implementation Projects
  - Revisit some "Old Friends"
- Q & A with our project partners
  - John Svahn Truckee Donner Land Trust
  - Deborah Urich US Forest Service
  - Randy Westmoreland US Forest Service

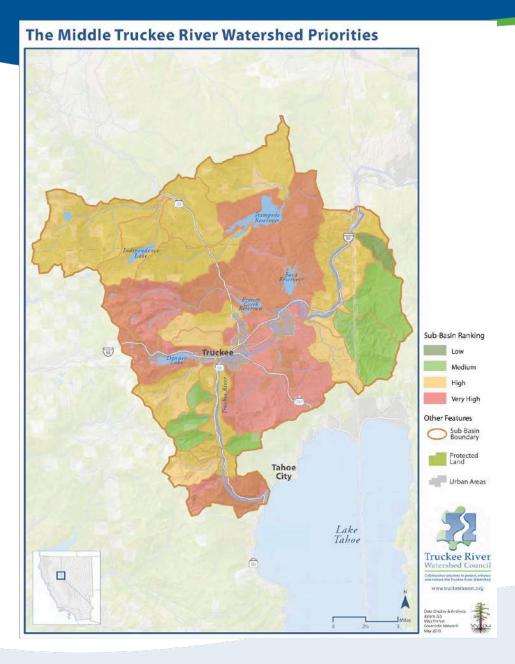








#### Watershed Priorities









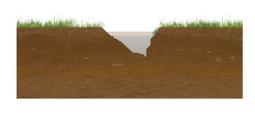


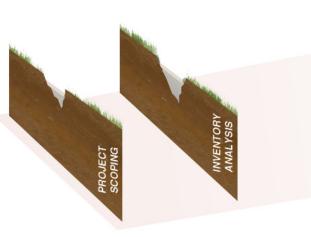


- Problem identification
- Preliminary estimate of scale

2012 2014 2016 2017 2019 2021 2033

# INVENTORY & ANALYSIS







2012 2014 2016 2017 2019 2021 2033

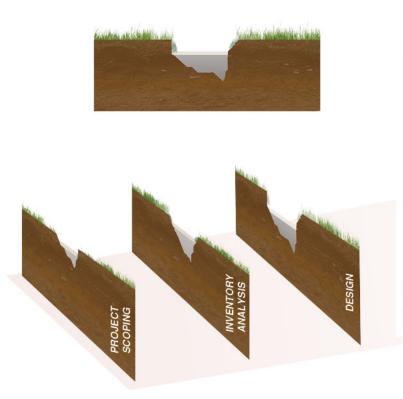
#### **Assessment Outcomes**

- Understand root causes
  - Determine impairment of natural functions
- Develop stakeholder relationships
- Identify restoration opportunities
- Pre-project monitoring



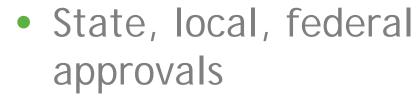












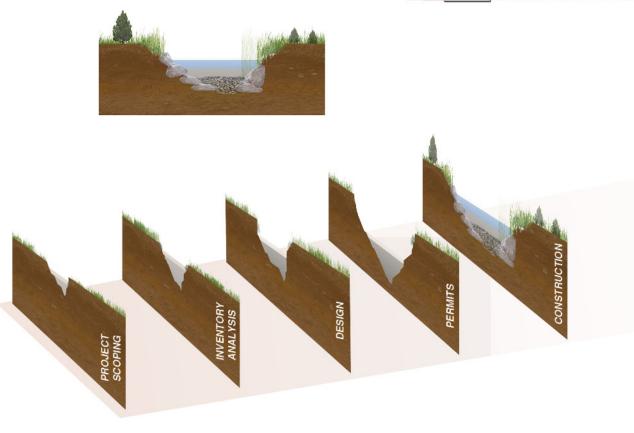
Necessary protections







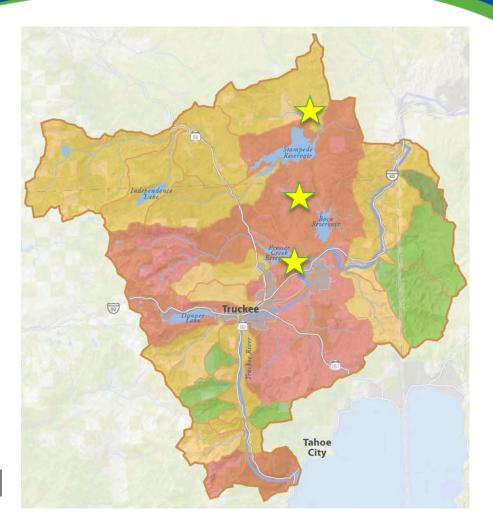




 2012
 2014
 2016
 2017
 2019
 2021
 2033

#### 2015 Construction Projects

- Prosser Creek Fish Habitat\*
- Dry Creek Meadow Restoration - two sites\*
- Jammer Chair
- All in partnership with USFS - Tahoe National Forest

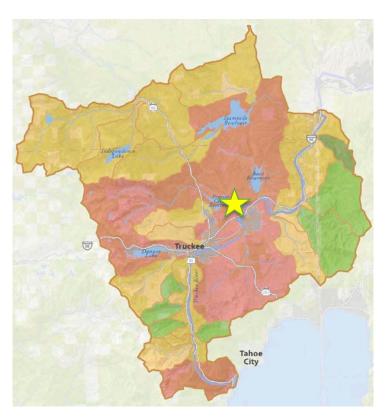




#### Prosser Creek Fish Habitat

- Dam limits material transport
- Reduced habitat complexity
- Degraded biological community

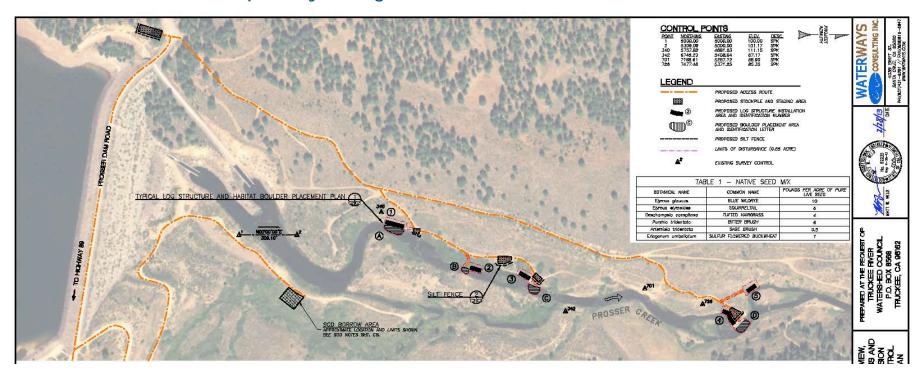






#### Prosser Project Area

#### Increase habitat complexity along 2,500 feet of Prosser Creek





#### Isolate Work Area





# **Coarse Grading**





# Setting Footer Log





# **Building Log Structures**





## Plant Willows, Stabilize Area





# Place Boulders





#### 2016 Plans

#### Starker, Field Assistant

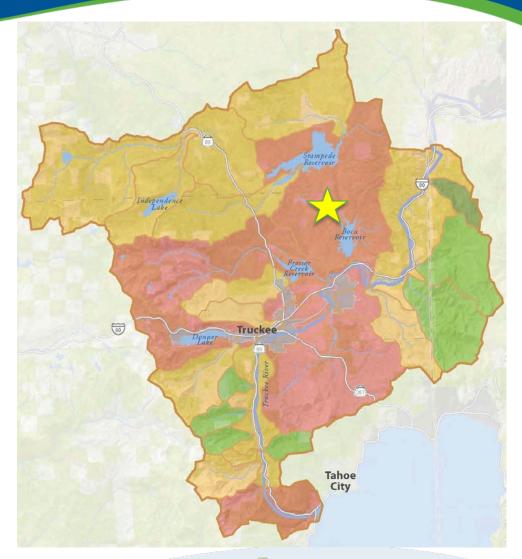


- Fish population monitoring
- Aquatic insect monitoring
- Adaptive management



#### Dry Creek Meadow Restoration

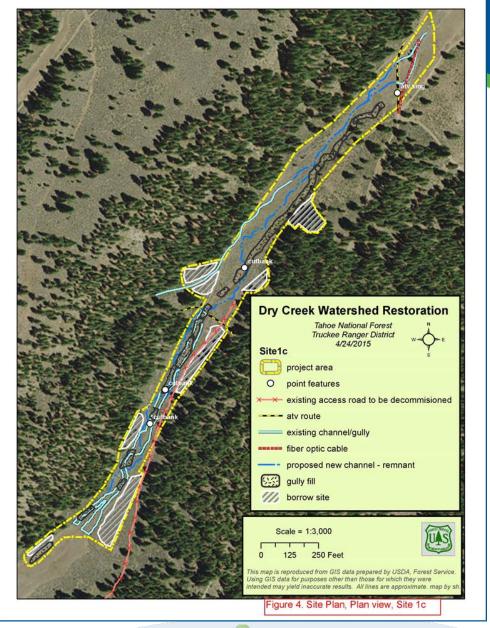
- Significant earlyera logging impacts
- Road erosion
- Stream channel alteration
- Meadow degradation





## Project Plan

- Stream diverted to straight channel
- Increased erosion
- Meadow loss
- Solution:
  - Restore stream to natural channel
  - Reconnect floodplain
  - Restore hydrologic function





# Salvage Sod and Topsoil





## Generate Fill





# Shape Fill





## Replace Topsoil and Sod





## Seed and Mulch Site



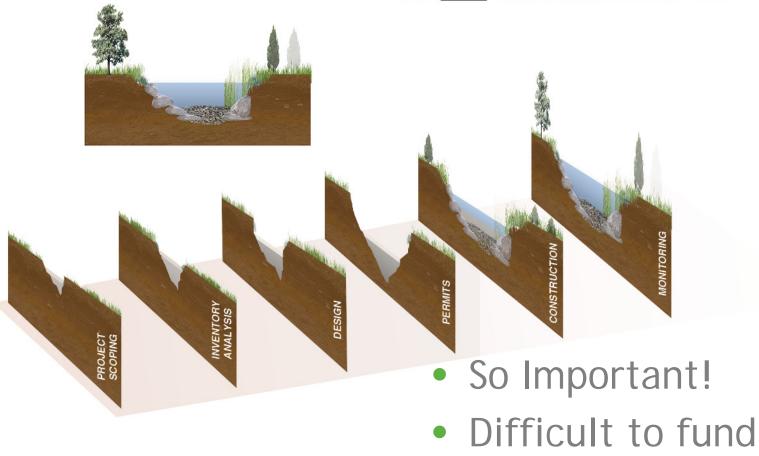


# Immediately After



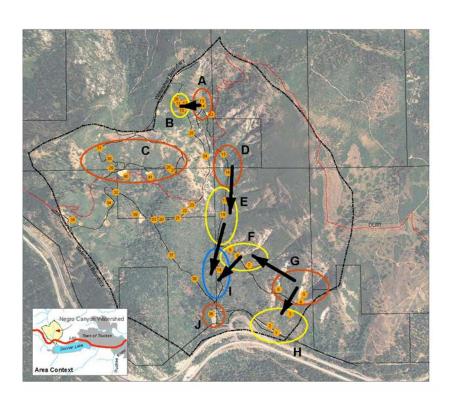






2012 2014 2016 2017 2019 2021 2033

### Johnson Canyon Restoration



- Assessment completed 2010
- Sites D, E, F, I restored 2014
- Partners: Truckee
   Donner Land Trust,
   Tahoe Donner
   Association



## **Restored Drainages**

Pre-project



Post-project





## Removed Road Beds

Pre-project



#### Post-project





## Relocated Wendin Way Trail

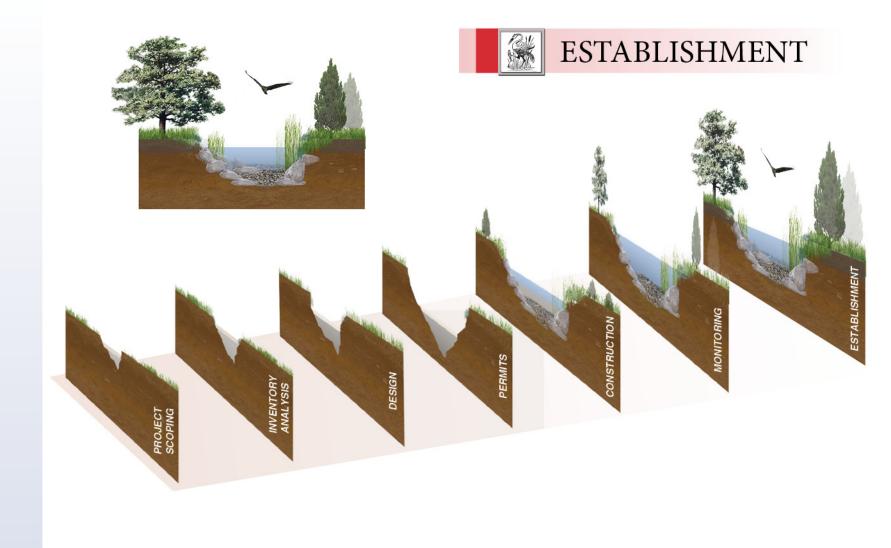
Old Trail



**New Trail** 



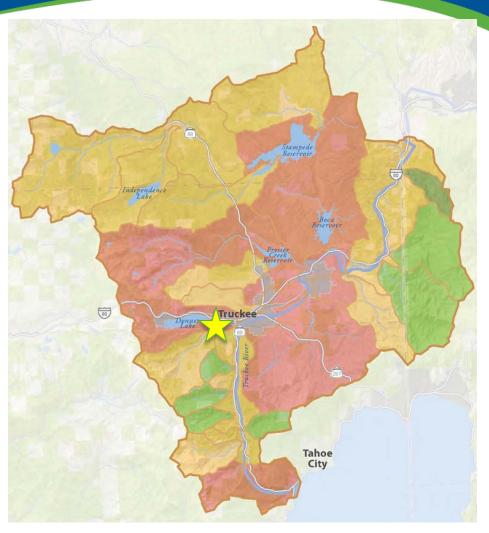




2012 2014 2016 2017 2019 2021 2033

## Cold Creek Floodplain

- Assessment completed 2007
- Implementation 2012- 2013
- Partner: California
   State Parks





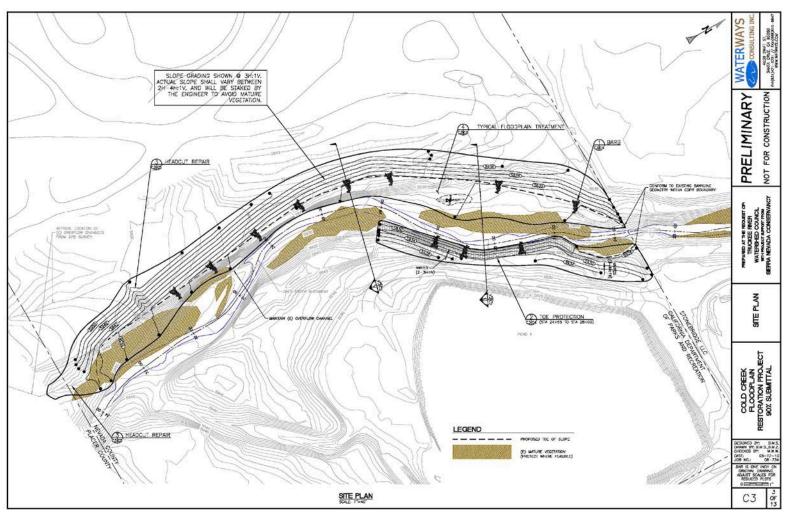
#### Cold Creek Floodplain Restoration

#### Historic gravel mining impacts





# Cold Creek Implementation



# Create Floodplain

Pre-project



2015 Post-project





## **Grade Eroding Banks**

#### Pre-project



#### 2012 Post-project





## Immediately After Restoration

Pre-project



2012 - Post-project





## **Vegetation Matures**

2012 Immediately post-project



2015 Post-project





## Willows Sprout from Sticks!

2012 2015

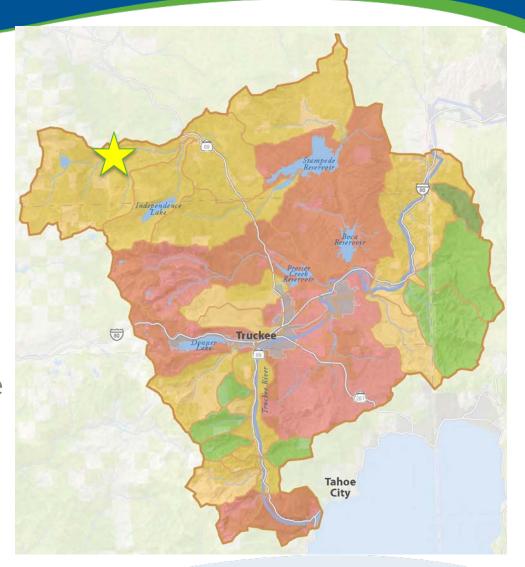




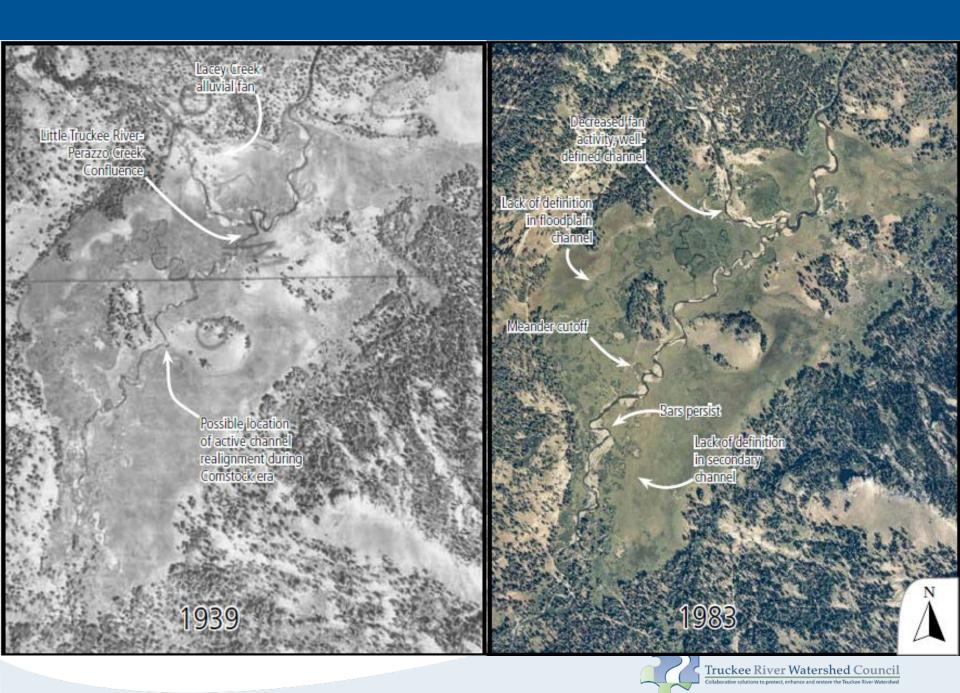


#### Perazzo Meadows

- Stream channel realignment
- Meadow loss
- Stream incision and erosion
- Lowered water table







## Restoration Design

- Restore 1.5 miles remnant channel
- Block eroding gully
- Results:
  - Floodplain connectivity
  - Raised water table







## Before and After



D. Shaw



#### **Restored Channels**

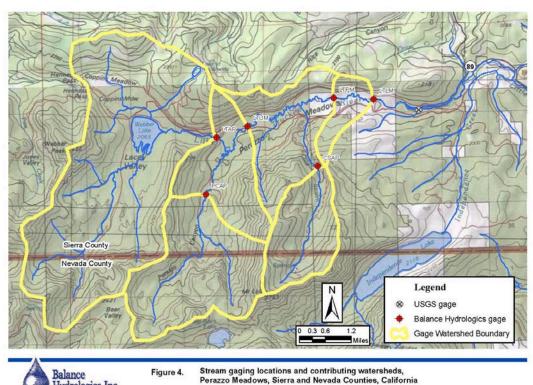
Upper Meadow, 1 month post-restoration





## Hydrologic Monitoring

- Groundwater
- Surface Flow
- Results:
  - Improved Hydrologic function
  - Increased floodplain connectivity
  - Increased groundwater table





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## Middle Meadow Monitoring Wells

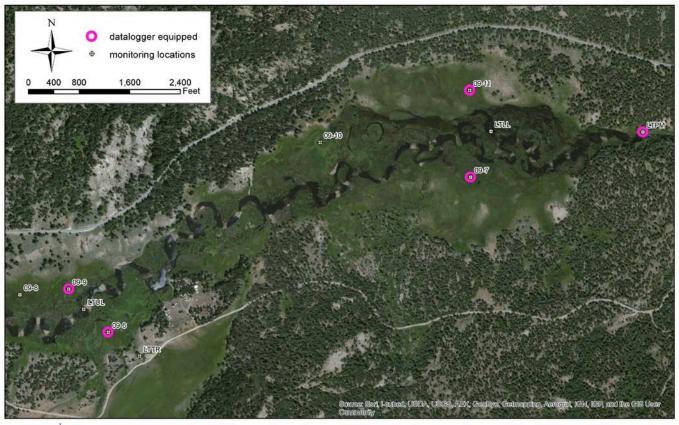




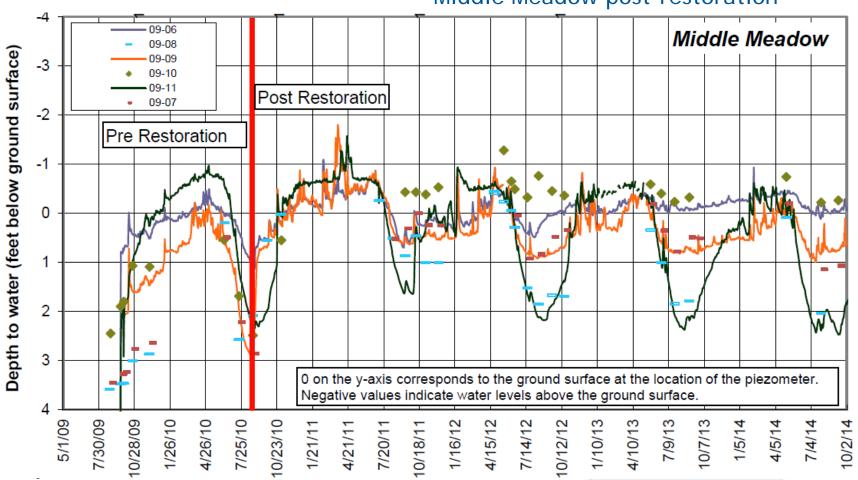
Figure 3. Location of groundwater and surface water monitoring stations Middle Perazzo Meadow, Sierra County, California

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### Groundwater Monitoring Results

1 - 6 foot increase in Upper and Middle Meadow post-restoration





### Annual Overbank Flow

#### Restored Upper Meadow July 2011





## Restored Meadow!





#### **Funders**

- Donors of the Truckee River Watershed Council
- Bella Vista Foundation
- California Natural Resources Agency
- California State Parks
- Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board
- Overall Family Foundation
- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- National Forest Foundation
- Sierra Nevada Conservancy
- South Tahoe Public Utility District
- State Water Resources Control Board
- Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation
- Truckee River Fund
- U.S. Forest Service Tahoe National Forest



### Q & A with our partners!

- John Svahn Truckee Donner Land Trust,
   Johnson Canyon
- Deborah Urich US Forest Service,
   Prosser Creek
- Randy Westmoreland US Forest Service,
   Dry Creek, Perazzo Meadows

