

# PLANNING WATERSHED PILOT PROJECTS WORKSHOP

## Timber Regulation and Forest Restoration Program

December 15, 2015

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California Natural Resources Agency

Departments of Conservation, Fish and Wildlife, Forestry  
and Fire Protection

California Environmental Protection Agency

State and Regional Water Boards



# Overview of Workshop

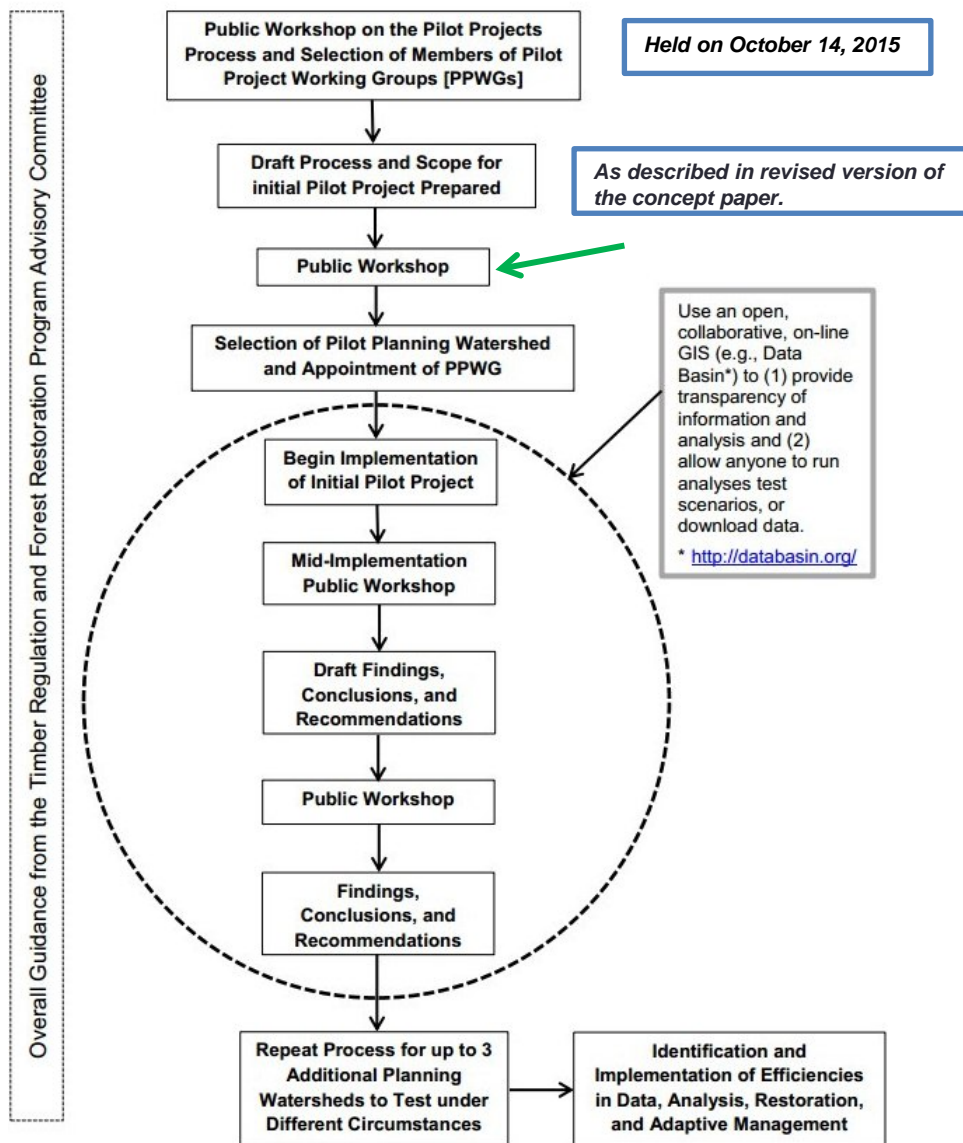
- Welcome, Introductions, Logistics (Russ Henly)
- Process Overview (Russ Henly)
- Summary of Comments Received (Russ Henly)
- Pilot Project Working Group (Russ Henly)
- Questions, Comments, Discussion (all)
- Selection of the Initial Pilot Watershed (Elliot Chasin, Suzanne Lang, Dave Longstreth)
- Questions, Comments, Discussion (all)
- Wrap-Up Summary, Next Steps (Elliot Chasin)

# Planning Watershed Pilot Projects

- Collaborative and multi-disciplinary (Pilot Project Working Group or PPWG);
- Data collection and characterization;
- ID of information and methods used for cumulative impacts assessment;
- ID of specific restoration opportunities;
- Draft concept paper provides details, including identifying 6 critical questions.

# Concept Paper: Public Process

## Flow Chart for Pilot Projects Process



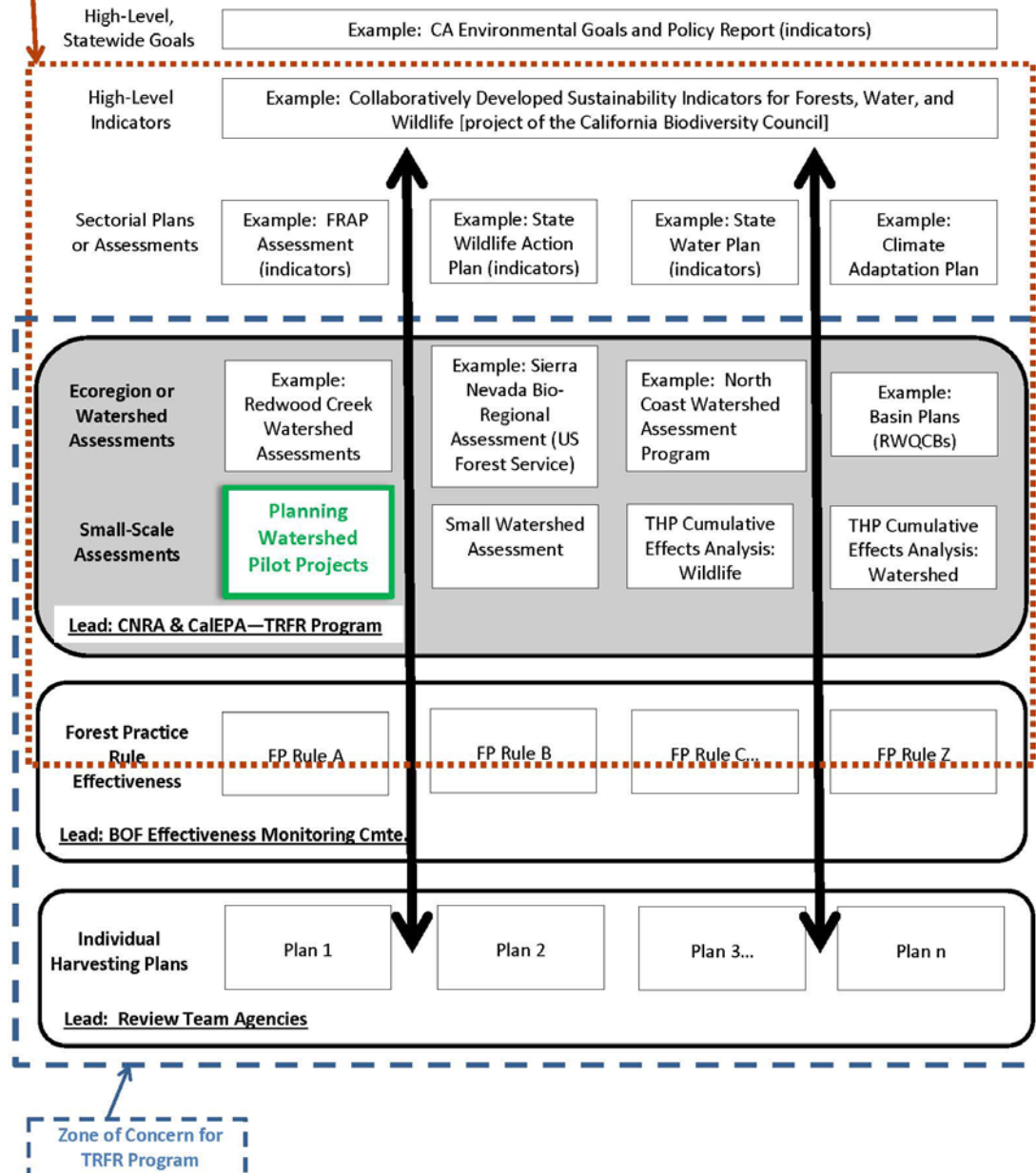
# High Level Summary of Comments

## Scope

- Scope was not clear;
- Address a larger scope (substance or spatial scale);
- Unclear on where the pilot projects fit into the larger context of the TRFR Program;
- The first pilot should be as direct, simple, and “real” as possible.

Ecosystem  
Functions/Performance

## Conceptualizing Levels of Environmental Performance Measurement for AB 1492



# High Level Summary of Comments

## **PPWG Responsibilities and Composition**

- Include a multi-stakeholder, collaborative process;
- Process for selection of members should be clearly defined to ensure appropriate balance of representation;
- The PPWG should be a full participant in data collection and review, and in ground truthing;
- Use the AB 875 membership list plus tribal representation;
- Experts and scientists need to be involved;
- Public must have a meaningful role in the development and management of the pilot projects

# High Level Summary of Comments

## **Initial Pilot Watershed Selection**

- Recent harvest activity and data;
- Listed species present;
- More than just THP data available, such as monitoring data and scientific studies;
- Good potential to restore aquatic and terrestrial conditions;
- Multiple landowners to reflect different practices and results.



# Pilot Project Working Group

## Composition

- Review team agencies (CAL FIRE, DFW, CGS, Water Board)
- Federal agencies
- Environmental community
- Timber industry
- Professional foresters
- Scientists
- Watershed restoration practitioners
- Owners or managers of forestland in the pilot watershed
- Tribal representatives

# Pilot Project Working Group

## **Selection and Appointment**

- Openly solicit nominations and applications;
- Selection and appointment by Natural Resources Agency;
- The location and characteristics of the pilot planning watershed will be a factor in making appointments;
- Members will be appointed for the duration of the pilot watershed; approximately 2 years;
- Reimbursement for travel costs;
- Working with Governor's Office to investigate the potential to offer additional compensation to members.

# Pilot Project Working Group

## **Role of the PPWG Includes:**

- Guides the overall work of the pilot project;
- Refines the critical questions;
- Develops a scope of work for the pilot project, including types of information to be collected and the products to be produced;
- Evaluates information sources;
- Works with the interagency team to ground truth preliminary office results and determine if there are significant gaps in existing information;
- Identifies restoration opportunities;
- Interprets results and makes recommendations.

# Pilot Project Working Group

## Meeting Processes

- Open to public and noticed in advance;
- Public can provide comments;
- Meetings will be webcast when technically possible;
- Members will use a consensus process;
- Findings and recommendations will be recorded in writing and posted to the TRFR Program website;
- If needed, a professional facilitator will be provided;
- If a need for specific scientific expertise not available through PPWG members or agency staff is identified, we will attempt to provide this expertise through other means.

# Comments and Questions

- **We will shift back and forth between the room and the phone;**
- **People in the room, please speak directly into one of the phone extensions;**
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# Selecting a Planning Watershed:

## Introduction

- **Agency staff determined need to present potential criteria for selection of pilot watershed**
- **Narrowed focus to North Coast Planning Watersheds**
  - **Range of harvesting density and practices**
  - **High level of interest from the public**
  - **Listed species present**
  - **Variety of ownership regimes**
  - **Presence of geologic maps and studies conducted within the area**

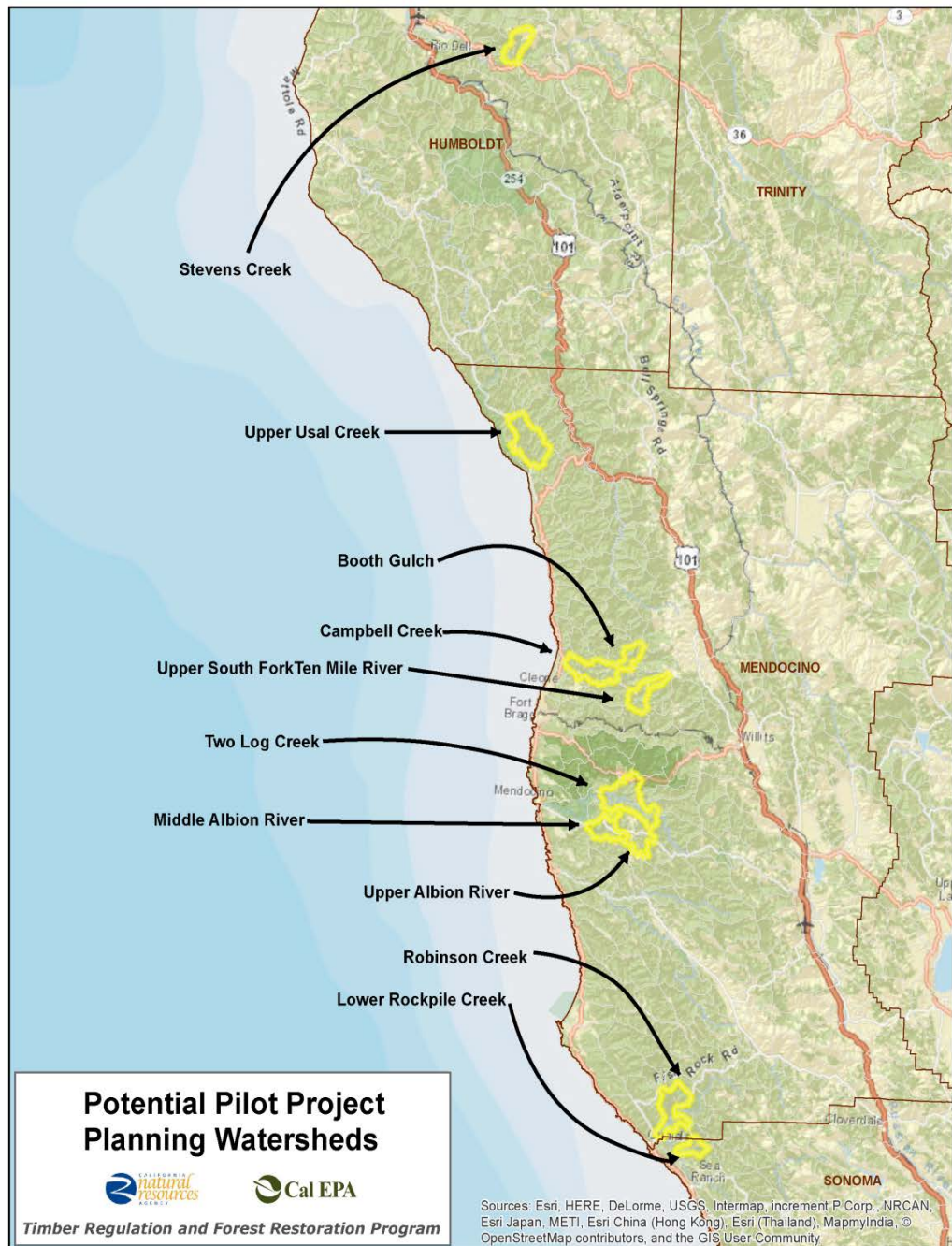
# Selecting a Planning Watershed:

## Narrowing Focus

- **Initial focus on Mendocino County & Humboldt County**
- **GIS analysis winnowed the number of proposed watersheds :**
  1. **By combining layers in GIS, created a data set of 68 planning watersheds that had timber harvesting since 1997**
  2. **Timber harvesting data for these 68 planning watersheds includes: silviculture, acreage, rate of harvest, # of THPs, & timberland ownership**
  3. **Eliminated some of the extremes in data, reducing the number of potential watersheds to 29**
  4. **A further visual assessment reduced the number to 10**

## Ten potential planning watersheds based on:

- Rate of harvest
- Range of silviculture
- Timberland owners
- Logical watershed boundaries





# Timber Harvesting North Coast Planning Watersheds 1997-2015

## Silviculture Category

- Evenaged Management
- Intermediate Treatments
- Special Prescriptions & Other Management
- Unevenaged Management



*Albion River  
Hydrologic Area*

Middle Albion River  
1113.400001

Two Log Creek  
1113.300406

Upper Albion River  
1113.400006

*Big River  
Hydrologic Area*

0 0.5 1 2 Miles

Sources: Esri, HERE, DeLorme, USGS, Intermap, increment P Corp.,  
China (Hong Kong), Esri (Thailand), MapmyIndia, © OpenStreetMap  
Community



# Selecting a Planning Watershed:

## More Data

- Agency staff expanded the set of criteria recorded in the table:
  - Watershed studies
  - Geologic maps
  - Type of imagery
  - T&E species
  - Stream length
  - Fish barriers
- Result is table posted on website on December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

<b>Calwater 2.2 Classification</b>					<b>Timber Harvesting 1997-2015</b>			<b>Primary Timberland Owners</b>
<b>Hydrologic Area</b>	<b>Hydrologic Sub Area</b>	<b>PWS Name</b>	<b>PWS Number</b>	<b>PWS Acres</b>	<b>THP Acres Approved for Harvesting 1997- 2015</b>	<b># of THPs 1997-2015</b>	<b>% of PWS (includes re- entry)</b>	
Van Duzen	Bridgeville	Stevens Creek	1111.220603	4963	2848.7	37	57.4%	Green Diamond Industries, Humboldt Redwood Co, Sierra Pacific Industries
Rockport	Usal Creek	Upper Usal Creek	1113.110102	10611	1681.5	15	15.8%	Usal Redwood Forest
Rockport	Ten Mile	Booth Gulch	1113.130201	3260	2683.4	23	82.3%	Hawthorne Timber Co*
Rockport	Ten Mile	Campbell Creek	1113.130303	7904	4291.4	29	54.3%	Hawthorne Timber Co*
Rockport	Ten Mile	Upper S Fk Ten Mile River	1113.130304	5239	3900.5	34	74.5%	Hawthorne Timber Co*
Big River	Big River	Two Log Creek	1113.300406	11432	8180.1	59	71.6%	Mendocino Redwood Co, Humboldt Redwood Co, Conservation Fund, JDSF, Soper
Albion River	Albion River	Middle Albion River	1113.400001	4878	3629.6	33	74.4%	Mendocino Redwood Co
Albion River	Albion River	Upper Albion River	1113.400006	8739	3213.9	45	36.8%	Mendocino Redwood Co, Soper, Conservation Fund, Small Landowners
Gualala River	North Fork	Robinson Creek	1113.810002	8793	2607.4	23	29.7%	Gualala Redwood Timber, Conservation Fund
Gualala River	Rockpile Creek	Lower Rockpile Creek	1113.820003	2947	471.9	6	16.0%	Gualala Redwood Timber

# Selecting a Planning Watershed:

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# Wrap Up and Next Steps

- Some key messages from today;
- Requesting written comments by COB Friday, January 8, submitted to:  
  
**[AB1492Program.Comments@Resources.ca.gov](mailto:AB1492Program.Comments@Resources.ca.gov);**
- Early 2016: finalize concept paper, complete selection of initial pilot, establish PPWG, and start work.



# Thank You!

## Watershed Anatomy

