

Sierra to Sea Watershed Outcomes Initiative

Cosumnes Groundwater Authority Brief

January 7, 2026

Overview

1. The Freshwater Trust
2. A Framework for Regional Sustainability
 - Why do this, why now?
 - How does it work?
2. Sierra to Sea Pilot
 - Current progress
 - Partnerships
3. Questions & Discussion
 - CGA current interests & collaborative opportunities?



The Freshwater Trust

- BasinScout®
 - Ag water use management- Multi-state and multi-agency
 - Groundwater sustainability planning, 7 GSAs managed, 2 GSP in two subbasins
 - Using analytics to target sustainability



Regional Funding & Implementation Framework: *Core Principles*

Need

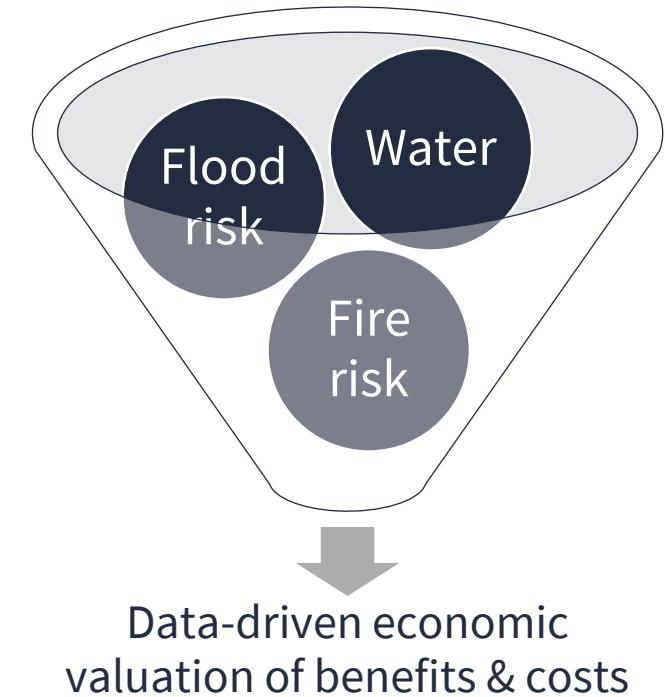
Continuous funding capacity development and simplified planning and reporting

Solution

Consolidate fundraising mechanisms, permitting, monitoring, and reporting processes

Opportunity

Access mix & match funding sources, accelerate implementation, streamline reporting, and maximize ROI



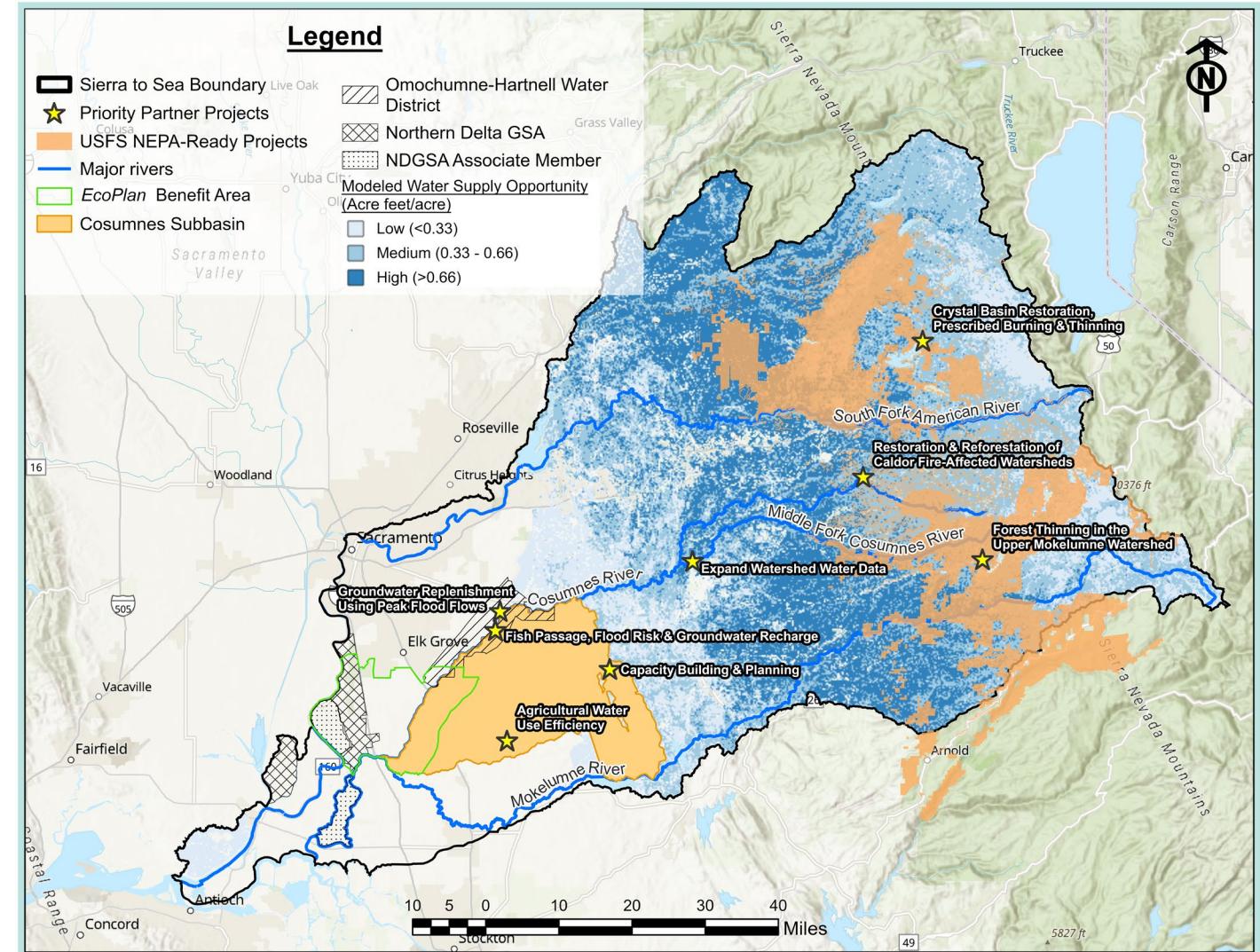
Expanding Regional Funding & Implementation Framework

1. Define regional watershed/landscape sustainability targets
2. Quantify potential benefits & costs
3. Solve for the most cost-effective project & funding solutions
4. Consolidate leveraged funding sources, improve access to financing, and match funds to the high-priority projects
5. Streamline accounting, tracking, & reporting

Watershed Benefit	Average Annual Target
Water volume improved	112,000 AF
Sediment reduction	3,000 MT
Wildfire risk reduction	5,000 acres
Greenhouse gas reduction	14,500 MT
Flood risk reduction	% reduction in celerity

Sierra to Sea Watershed Outcomes Initiative

- Working with Healthy Eldorado Landscape Partnership (HELP)
 - >\$140M secured across the region
- Currently active work:
 - Secured USDA-FS Master Participating Agreement
 - Several NEPA-ready forest resilience projects (fuels reduction, restoration)
 - Harvest Water Program *EcoPlan*
 - Northern Delta GSA
 - OHWD MAR-Sustainability Expansion
 - Cosumnes Multi-benefit Project



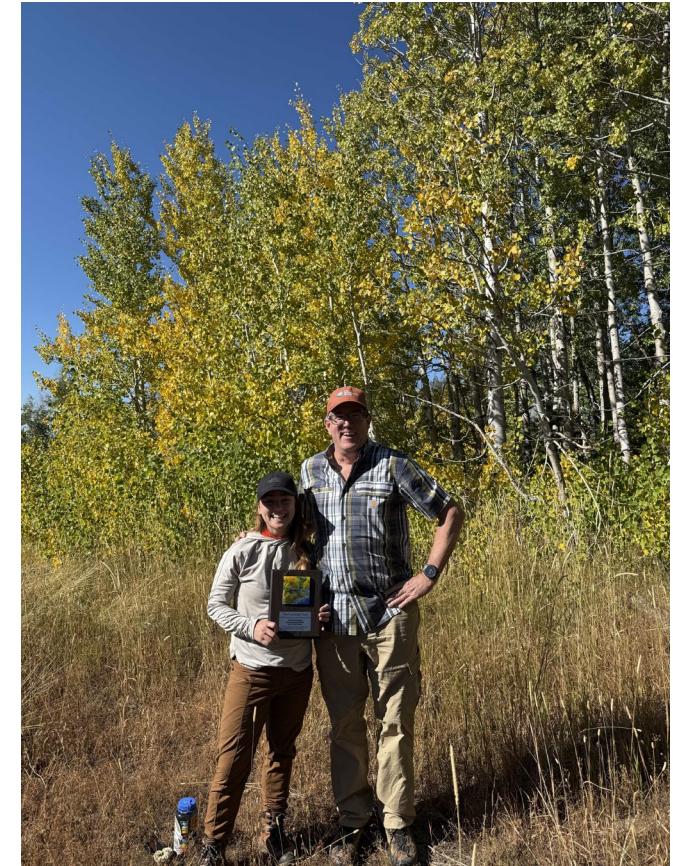
Partnerships

- Executed an enabling agreement with USFS to help integrate watershed efforts
- Key elements of the Partner Charter:
 - Summarizes funding & implementation approach
 - Common metrics for watershed targets & projects
 - Leverage funding/matching through a central hub
 - Centralized tracking, accounting, & management
- Demonstrating this approach via coordinated multi-agency Prop 4 proposals

Current Charter Signatories



Collaborating Regional Partners



Erik presents Michelle Wolfgang (ENF Partner Coordinator) an Outstanding Partner Award, 2024 ENF Meadows Site Tour

Current Interests?

- Agricultural water use efficiency
- Expand MAR applications
- Expand stream gage network – assess potential benefits from upstream activities
- Add current GSP PMAs into the regional funding framework – benefit quantification & coordinated proposals



Thank you