

A stylized, light green graphic of a tree or branch is positioned on the left side of the slide. It features a curved trunk, a circular canopy, and a smaller oval shape above it, all rendered in a semi-transparent style against the dark green background.

# Pacific Forest and Watershed Lands Stewardship Council

## **Meeting of the Board of Directors**

Modesto, California

June 10, 2009

# Welcome

- Call to Order
- Introductions
- Conflict of Interest Disclosure
- Agenda
- Public Comment
- Consent Agenda

# Consent Calendar

- Action
  - Adoption of April 30, 2009 minutes of the Board of Directors

# Board Retreat

- Land Conservation Program: *Reflecting and Gaining Momentum*
  - Lessons learned on the pilot planning units
  - Moving beyond the pilots



# Youth Investment Program

- Youth-Focused Board Field Trip
  - Hosted by Tuolumne River Trust
  - Heard directly from youth regarding challenges they face getting outdoors



# Catalyst Fund Awards

<b>Organization Legal Name</b>	<b>Award</b>
<b>Alliance Equine Rescue and Youth Educational Foundation</b>	<b>\$12,000</b>
<b>Healing Waters Wilderness Adventures</b>	<b>\$8,000</b>
<b>Wildplaces</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>
<b>Living Arts Kinetic Experience</b>	<b>\$8,000</b>
<b>Movimiento</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>
<b>Synergia Learning Center</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>
<b>Take Out Until Completely Healed</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>
<b>Willie Brown Jr Academy Garden Program</b>	<b>\$7,000</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$70,000</b>

# Important Deadlines

- **June 19, 2009**
  - Impact & Catalyst Grant Applications
- **July 17, 2009**
  - Infrastructure Grant Applications



## Recent Accomplishments

- Two new hires
  - Angie Chen, Program Officer
  - Manav Thapar, Program Associate
- Co-sponsored Bay Area gathering with 80+ youth program representatives



# Planning Committee

- Conservation planning for 140,000+ acres in 22 counties
  - Oversees planning and transaction process
  - Develops policies and advises staff
  - Makes recommendations to the board



# Planning Committee

- Staff update on mid-point evaluation of pilot projects and lessons learned
- Staff update on Round 1
- Recommendation on prospective donees for Kennedy Meadows - Action Item



# Pilot Project Mid-point Evaluation

- **Some key findings/suggestions**
  - Collaboration beneficial
  - Additional guidance for interested donees
  - Streamline process
  - Consider watershed approach
  - Involve land conservation partners



# Pilot Project Mid-point Evaluation

- Collaboration
  - beneficial in promoting relationship-building and potential partnering
  - time consuming for staff and potential donees
  - generating some potentially more complex management structures



# Pilot Project Mid-point Evaluation

- Additional Guidance:
  - Interested donees would benefit from more guidance up front on process, roles, desired organizational and financial capacity, allowable forms of governance, prioritization of measures, funding, and transaction terms
  - Would contribute to transparency



# Pilot Project Mid-point Evaluation

- Watershed approach
  - More holistic approach for promoting beneficial public values
  - Creates opportunity for economies of scale and efficiencies



# Pilot Project Mid-point Evaluation

- Land Conservation Partners
  - Pilot process focused on two types of interests- recipients of fee title and holders of conservation easements
  - Focus on fee title/conservation easement roles limits involvement of organizations that can contribute to BPVs
  - Seek and involve organizations that can promote BPVs



# Pilot Project Mid-point Evaluation

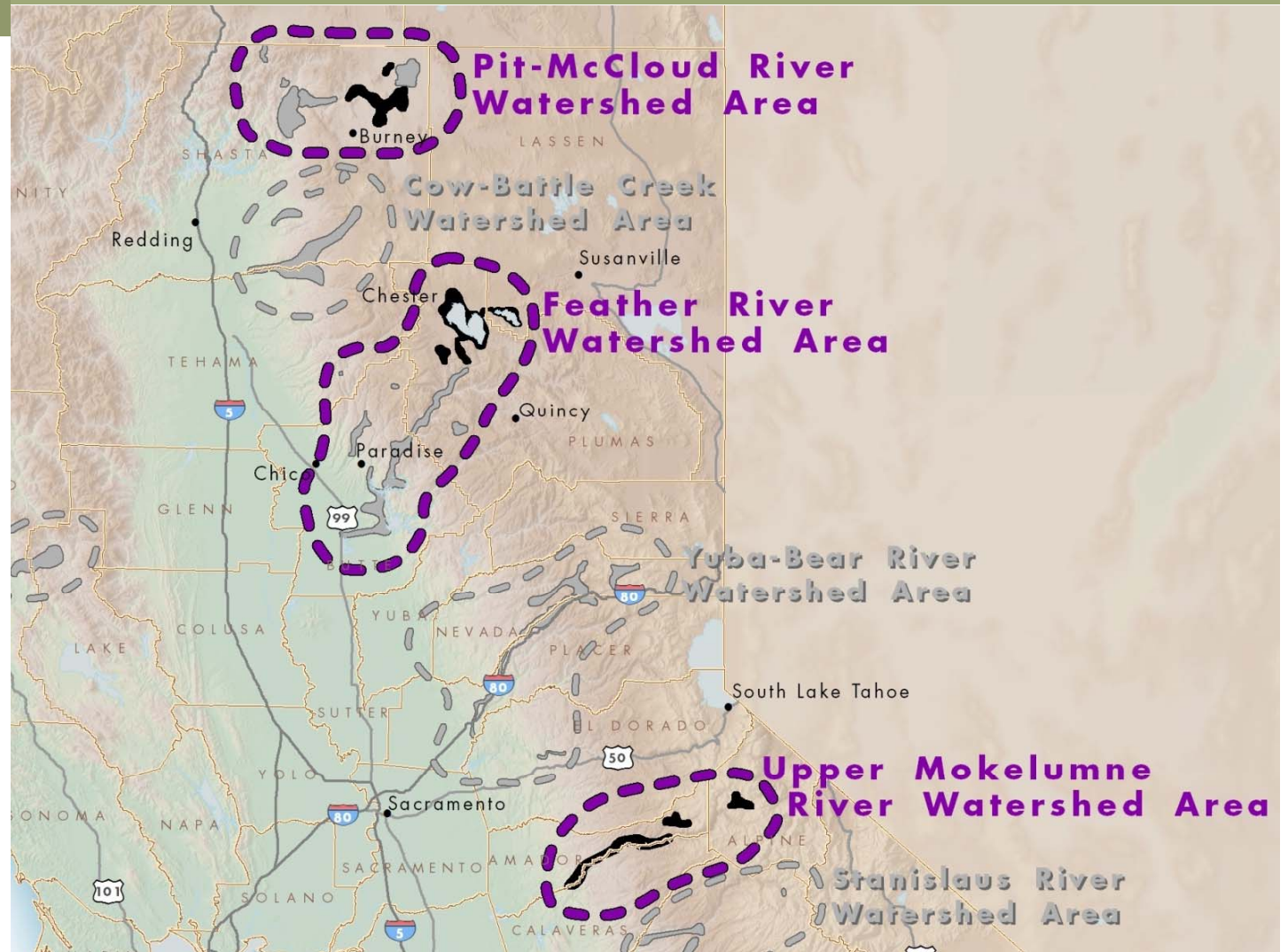
- **Primary Responsibilities**
  - **Fee Title Owner:** own, operate and preserve the property for public benefit; manage existing tenants and permitted uses
  - **Conservation Easement Holder:** inspect and monitor the site to ensure it is being preserved; work with land owner to correct any problems; enforce terms of easement



# Pilot Project Mid-point Evaluation

- **Primary Responsibilities**
  - **Land Conservation Partner:** perform or provide activities that promote the beneficial public values in coordination with the land owner and conservation easement holder; eligible for Stewardship Council funding
  - **Examples:** resource studies/surveys, physical enhancements, access to cultural resources, youth activities

# Round 1: Watershed Areas





# Interested Conservation Easement Holders- Round 1

- Received 27 Statements of Qualifications from 19 different organizations
  - 8 for Pit-McCloud Watershed Area
  - 15 for Feather River Watershed Area
  - 4 for Upper Mokelumne Watershed Area



# Interested Conservation Easement Holders- Round 1

- **Pit-McCloud Watershed Area**
  - California Waterfowl Association
  - Center for Natural Lands Management
  - Ducks Unlimited
  - Fall River RCD
  - Pacific Forest Trust
  - Shasta Land Trust
  - Sierra Nevada Conservancy
  - Western Shasta RCD



# Interested Conservation Easement Holders-Round 1

- **Feather River Watershed Area**

- Butte County
- Butte County RCD
- California State Parks
- California Waterfowl Association
- City of Oroville
- Center for Natural Lands Management
- Deer Creek Watershed Conservancy
- Ducks Unlimited
- Feather River Land Trust
- Mountain Meadows Conservancy
- Native American Land Conservancy
- Northern California Regional Land Trust
- Pacific Forest Trust
- Plumas Corporation
- Sierra Nevada Conservancy



# Interested Conservation Easement Holders-Round 1

- **Upper Mokelumne Watershed Area**
  - California Waterfowl Association
  - Center for Natural Lands Management
  - Mother Lode Land Trust
  - Sierra Nevada Conservancy



# Kennedy Meadows Recommendation

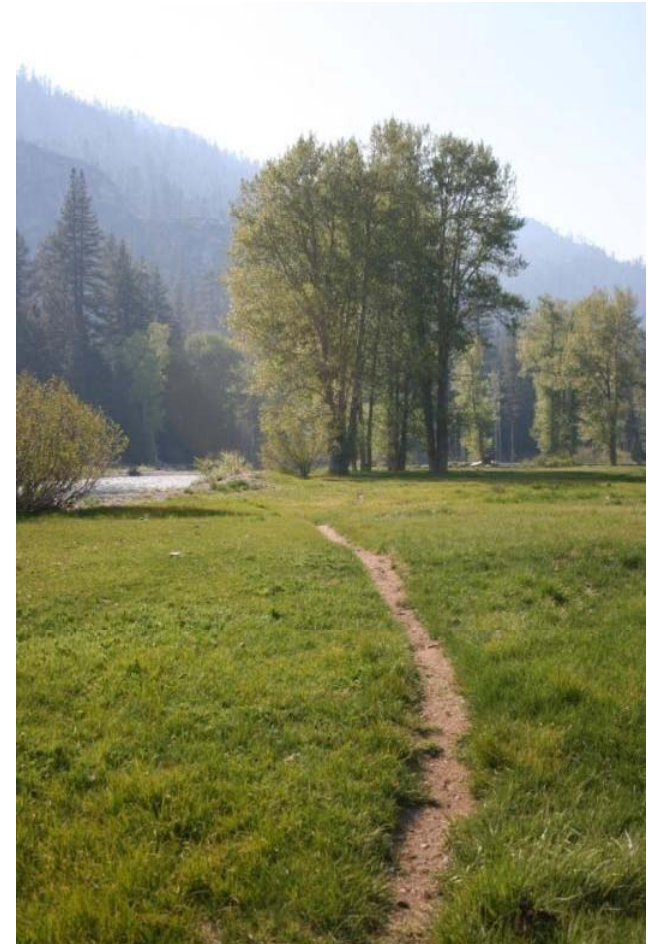
## Overview of Process

- Land Stewardship Proposals received
- Donee presentations to SC Board
- Preliminary staff review of proposals
- Evaluation team meeting with donees
- Completion of proposal evaluation
- Staff recommendation to Planning Committee
- Recommendation forwarded to Board



# Kennedy Meadows Recommendation

- 2 sets of competitive proposals received on Dec. 17, 2008
- 4 Potential Donees:
  - Mother Lode Land Trust
  - Tuolumne County
  - Tuolumne County RCD
  - U.S. Forest Service,  
Stanislaus National Forest





# Kennedy Meadows

Proposal with three options submitted jointly by Tuolumne County, Tuolumne Resource Conservation District, and the Mother Lode Land Trust

Donee Interest	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
Fee Title	RCD	County	JPA (RCD + County)
Conservation Easement Holder	County(w/ Cal Rangeland Trust & Tuolumne Band of Miwok as consultants)	RCD(w/ Cal Rangeland Trust & Tuolumne Band of Miwok as consultants)	Mother Lode



# Kennedy Meadows Recommendation

Proposal with two options submitted by the USFS

- **Option 1:** Parcel split with USFS receiving title to upper meadow leaving the lower area available for local ownership and management
- **Option 2:** USFS receives title to the entire parcel



# Kennedy Meadows Recommendation

## **Considerations**

- Requirements of Settlement and Stipulation
- LCP Volume I- general requirements, policies
- LCP Volume II- management objectives
- Pilot process
- Public comment



# Kennedy Meadows Recommendation

## **Evaluation Criteria**

- Programmatic
- Financial
- Legal
- Public input



# Kennedy Meadows Recommendation

## **Staff and Planning Committee's Recommendation on Prospective Donees:**

- Tuolumne County to hold fee title
- Mother Lode Land Trust to hold conservation easement
- Tuolumne County Resource Conservation District (RCD) to partner with above entities



# Kennedy Meadows Recommendation

## County/RCD/MLLT Proposal Evaluation Results

- Proposal demonstrates a commitment to: honoring existing economic uses; management objectives/BPVs; being inclusive of different perspectives; creating youth opportunities
- Proposal reflects public input
- Proposal consistent with requirements of LCP
- County and MLLT qualified and have capacity



# Kennedy Meadows Recommendation

## County

- Organizational capacity and experience to own and manage fee title
- Financial and organizational resources and established standards and practices
- Codes, ordinances and policies to protect public health and safety
- Demonstrated capacity to own/ manage land for recreation/conservation-related purposes



# Kennedy Meadows Recommendation

## **Mother Lode Land Trust**

- Organizational capacity and experience to hold and administer conservation easement
- Independent of County
- Experience holding conservation easements
- Established practices and standards



# Kennedy Meadows Recommendation

## **Resource Conservation District**

- Established to promote natural resource conservation needs in county
- Capacity and experience to perform activities at Kennedy Meadows that would promote beneficial public values



# Kennedy Meadows Recommendation

## **12 Recommended Initial Transaction Terms, Including:**

- Honor existing agreements for economic uses
- Establish mechanism for ongoing monitoring and future enhancements
- Address tax neutrality via transfer to County
- Apply lease revenues to property
- Permit reasonable public access



# Kennedy Meadows Recommendation

Prospective donees, PG&E and Stewardship Council to negotiate transaction terms, including proposed scope and timing of:

- Future studies/surveys
- Management plans
- Enhancements
- Land Conservation Partners
- Funding



# Kennedy Meadows Recommendation

- Results of negotiations to be reflected in Land Conservation and Conveyance Plan (LCCP)
- Draft LCCP to be available for public comment
- LCCP describes future actions to preserve and enhance the beneficial public values
- LCCP fulfills requirements of Settlement Agreement and serves as basis for CPUC filing



# Kennedy Meadows Recommendation

## **Next steps**

- Conduct due diligence
- Negotiate terms
- Develop funding agreement
- Prepare Draft LCCP for public review and comment
- Prepare Final LCCP



## Board Action

- **Action requested:**
  - Adopt staff recommendation endorsed by Planning Committee on selection of prospective donees and approval of initial transaction terms for Kennedy Meadows