



Forest Resilience Bond Webinar May 6, 2021

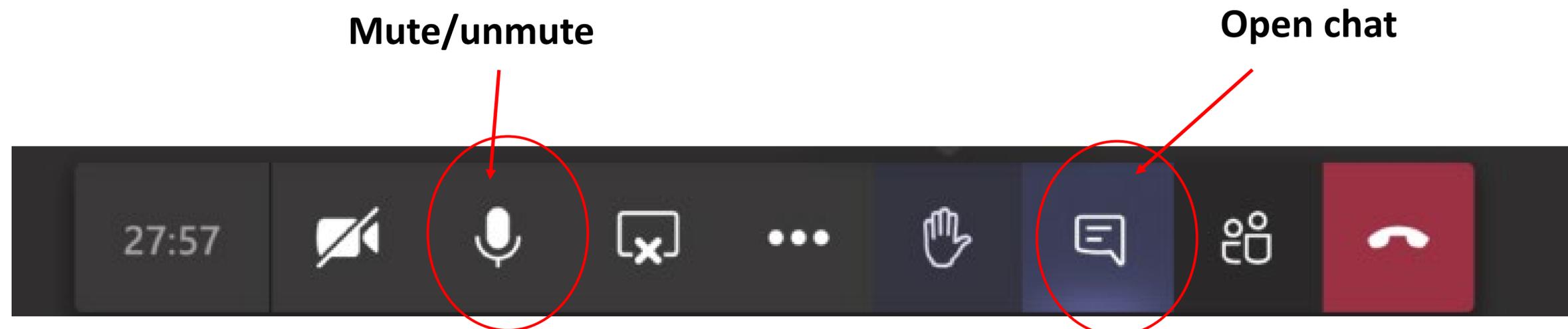


This webinar is sponsored by EPA's Office of Wastewater Management.

The opinions expressed in this webinar are those of the guest speaker(s). They do not reflect EPA policy, endorsement, or action, and EPA does not verify the accuracy or science of the contents of the presentation.

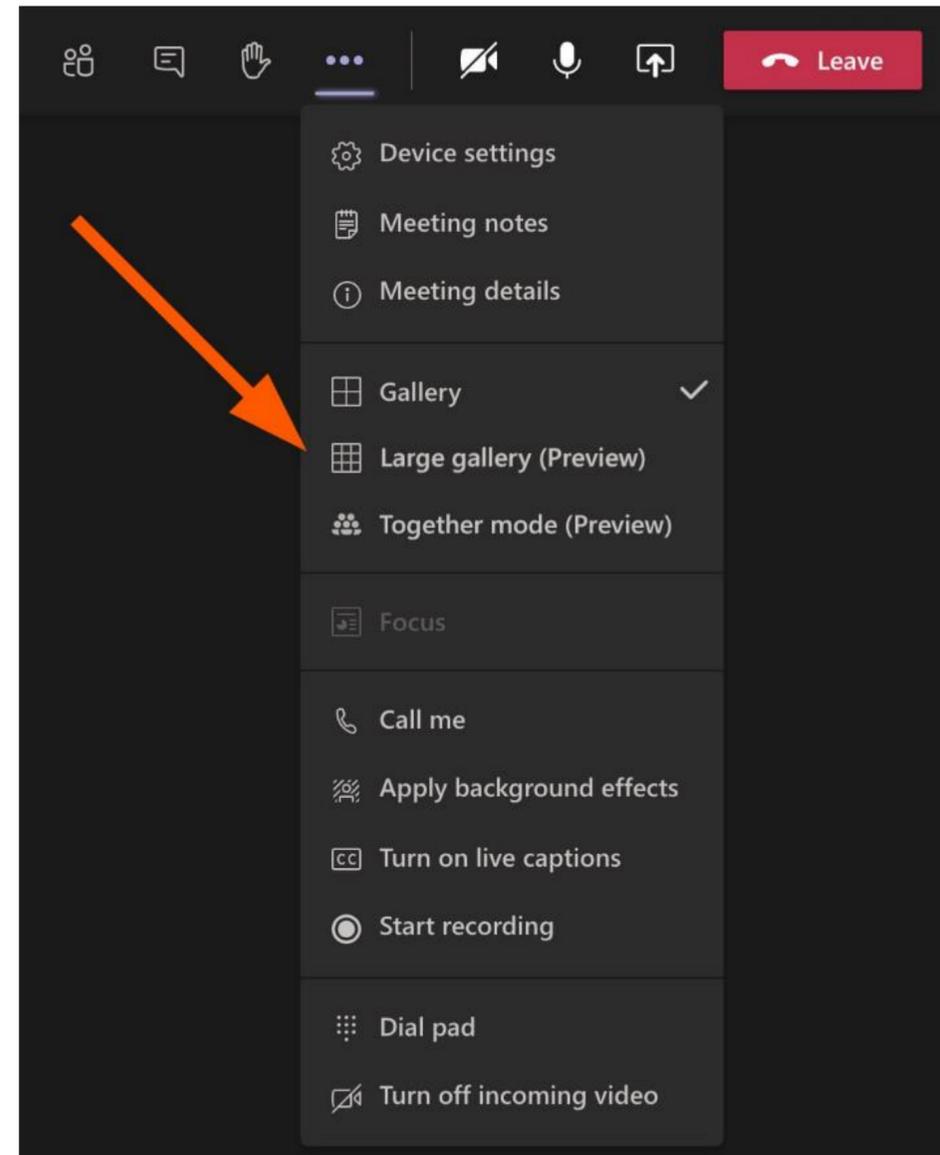
Participating Effectively via Teams

- Today's webinar will be recorded and made available on the EPA website at a later date.
- To reduce background noise, please mute yourself when you are not speaking.
- Attendees will be kept muted the whole time.
- We ask that you keep your video off as well, to make it easier for everyone to view all the panelists.



Participating Effectively via Teams

- Changing your view to “Gallery View”
 - Click the “...” icon at the top-right of the meeting screen.
 - Click “Large gallery” in the menu which appears
- We will not be taking questions verbally. Questions will only be taken using the chat function.



Panelists



Todd Gartner

Director, Cities4Forests and Natural Infrastructure Initiative, World Resources Institute



Catherine Godschalk

Vice President of Investments, Calvert Impact Capital



Zach Knight

CEO and Co-Founder of Blue Forest



Willie Whittlesey

General Manager, Yuba Water Agency, California



Nathalie Woolworth

Conservation Finance Program Manager, U.S Forest Service

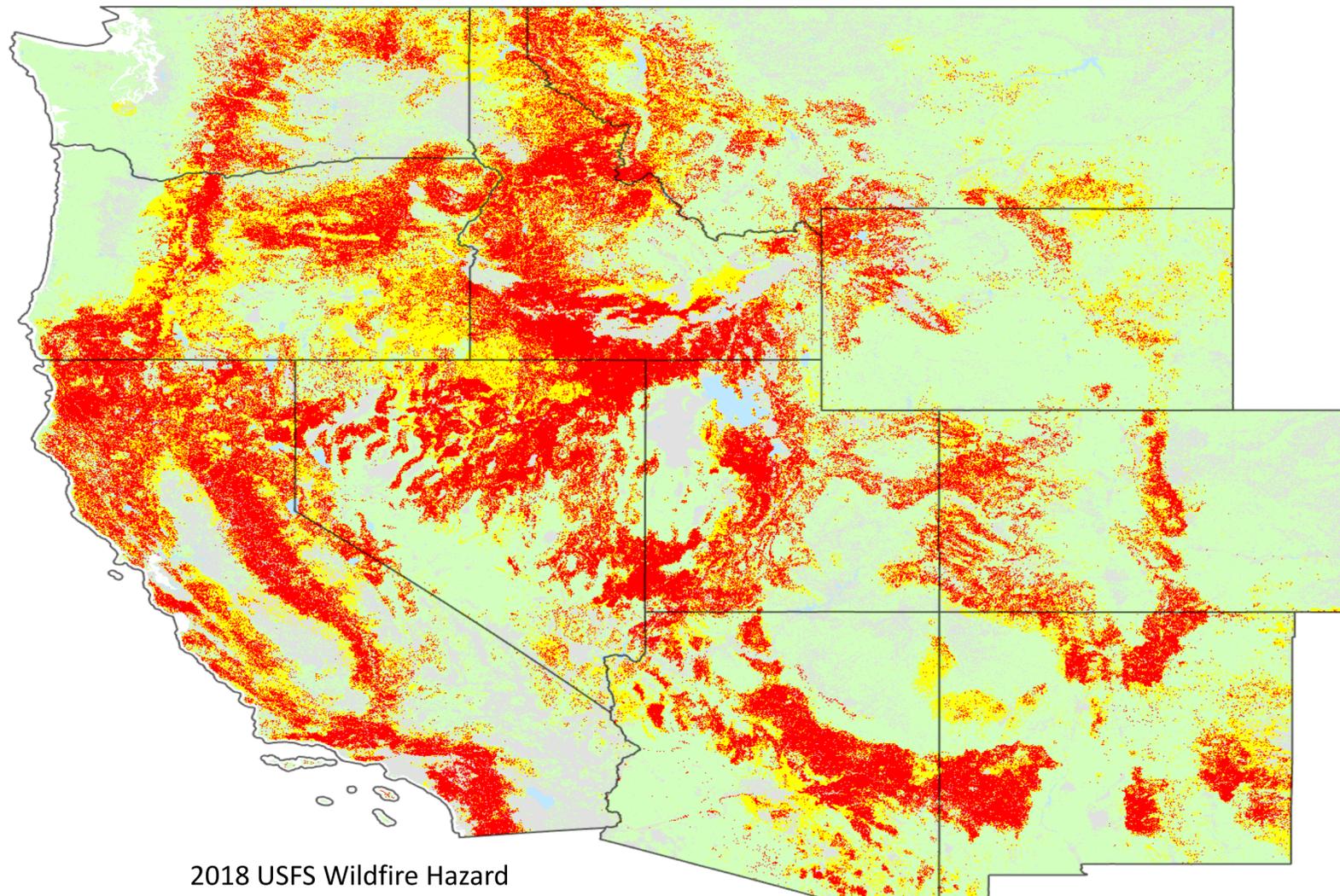
Forest Resilience Bond

Zach Knight, CEO and Co-Founder of Blue Forest

Nathalie Woolworth, Conservation Finance Program

Manager, U.S Forest Service

Western US Forests & Communities at Risk



2018 USFS Wildfire Hazard Potential

- Low
- Moderate
- High

- ▶ 63M acres of National Forests, 70,000 nearby communities, at risk of severe wildfire
- ▶ 52M acres in important water supply watersheds at high risk
- ▶ \$220B property value at high risk
- ▶ \$76B-\$130B long term annual wildfire health risk
- ▶ Wildfires increasing in number, size, and severity, with longer fire seasons

Path to Overgrown Forests

1890



1993



Photo Credit: George E. Gruell, Fires in the Sierra Nevada, 2001

Proven Solution: Forest Restoration



- ▶ Mechanical and hand thinning
- ▶ Prescribed fire
- ▶ Meadow restoration
- ▶ Invasive plant removal
- ▶ Native aspen regeneration
- ▶ Road decommissioning



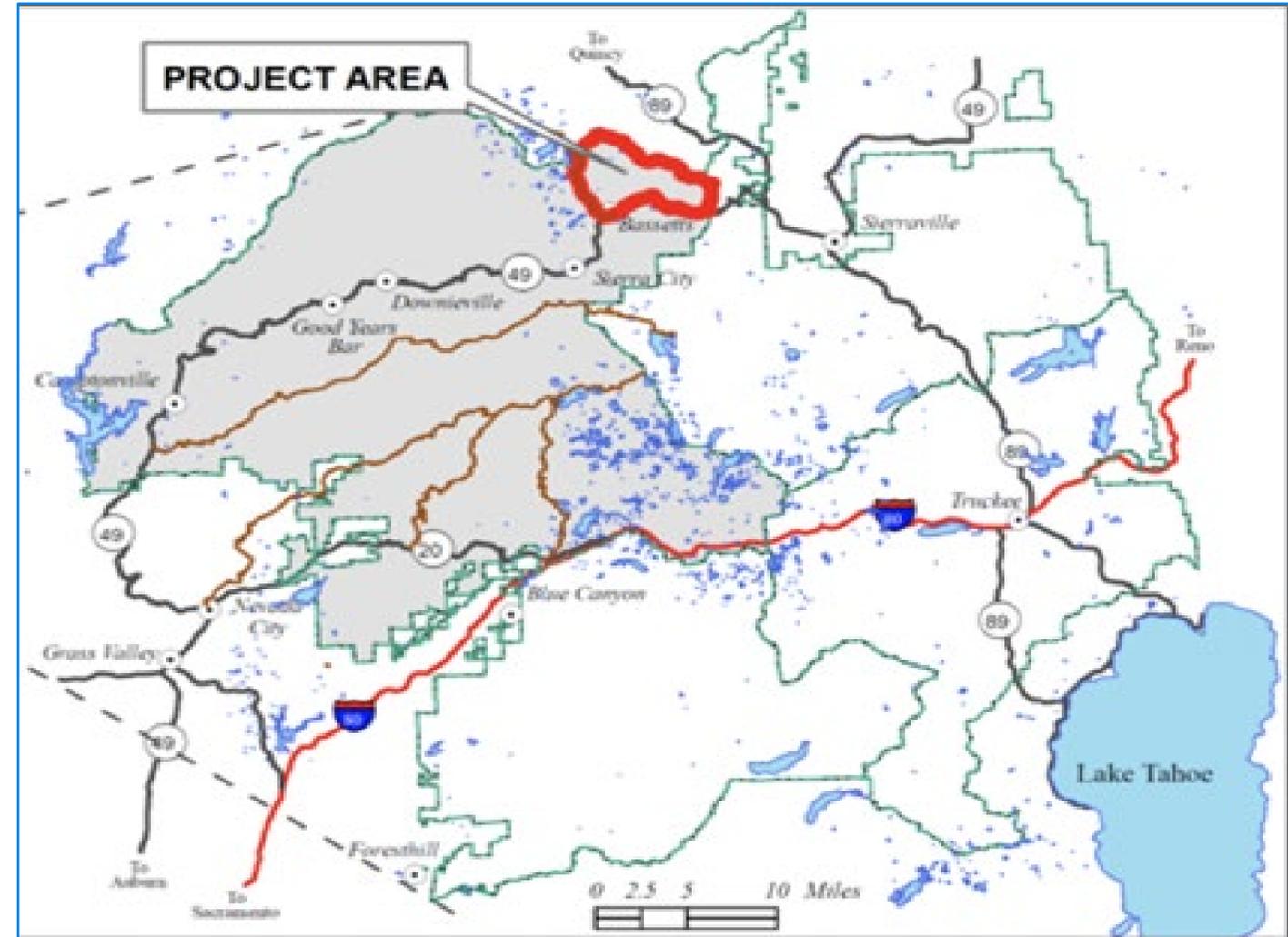
The Yuba Project, Tahoe NF



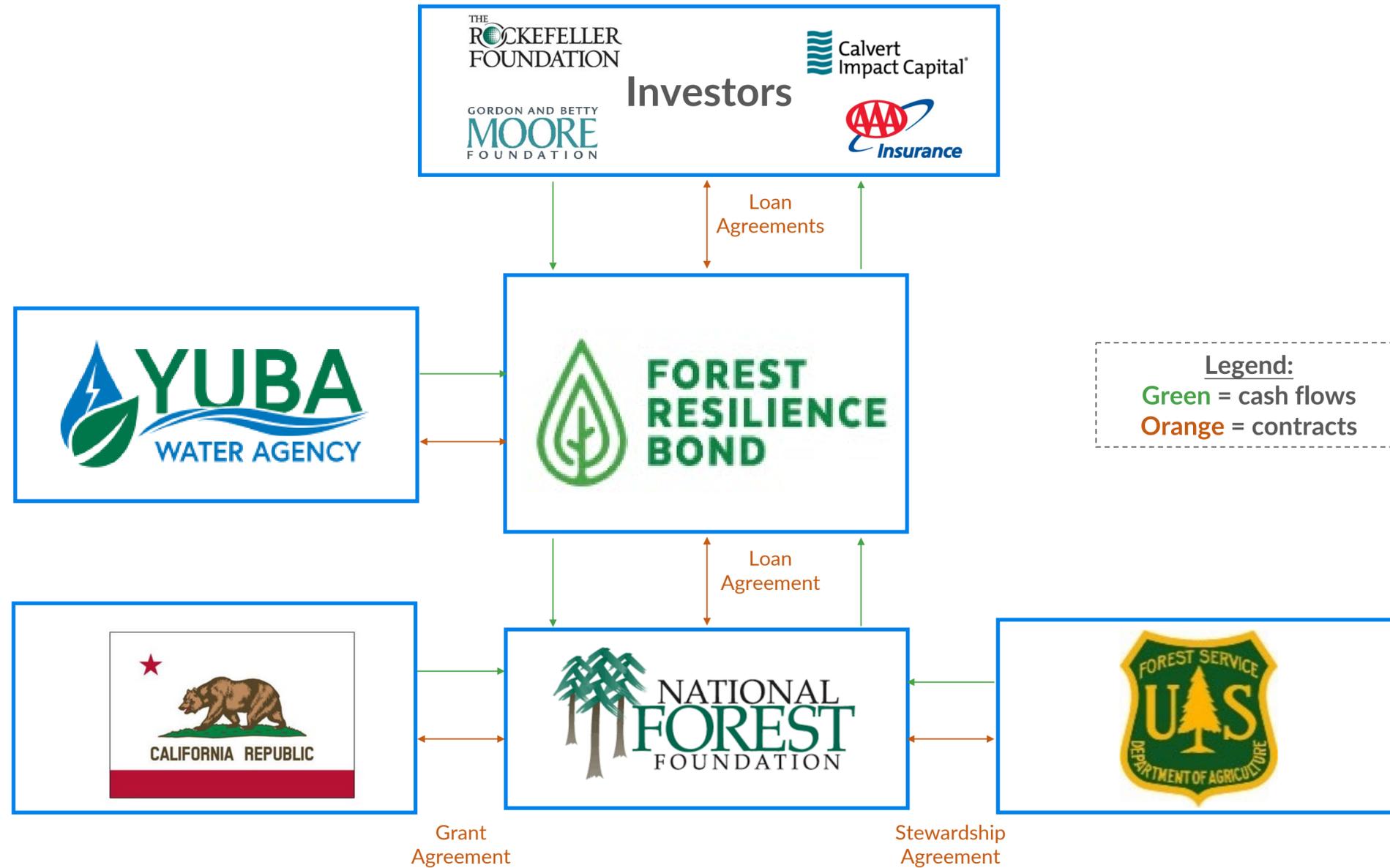
**FOREST
RESILIENCE
BOND**

Pilot FRB: Yuba Restoration

- ▶ North Yuba River Watershed, Tahoe NF, California
- ▶ \$4M FRB closed Oct 2018
- ▶ Restoration work 2019 – 2022
- ▶ Restoring 7,114 acres => protecting 15,000 acres
- ▶ Key partnerships: USFS, CA State and Yuba Water Agency
- ▶ Market rate investors earn 4% return, PRIs 1%

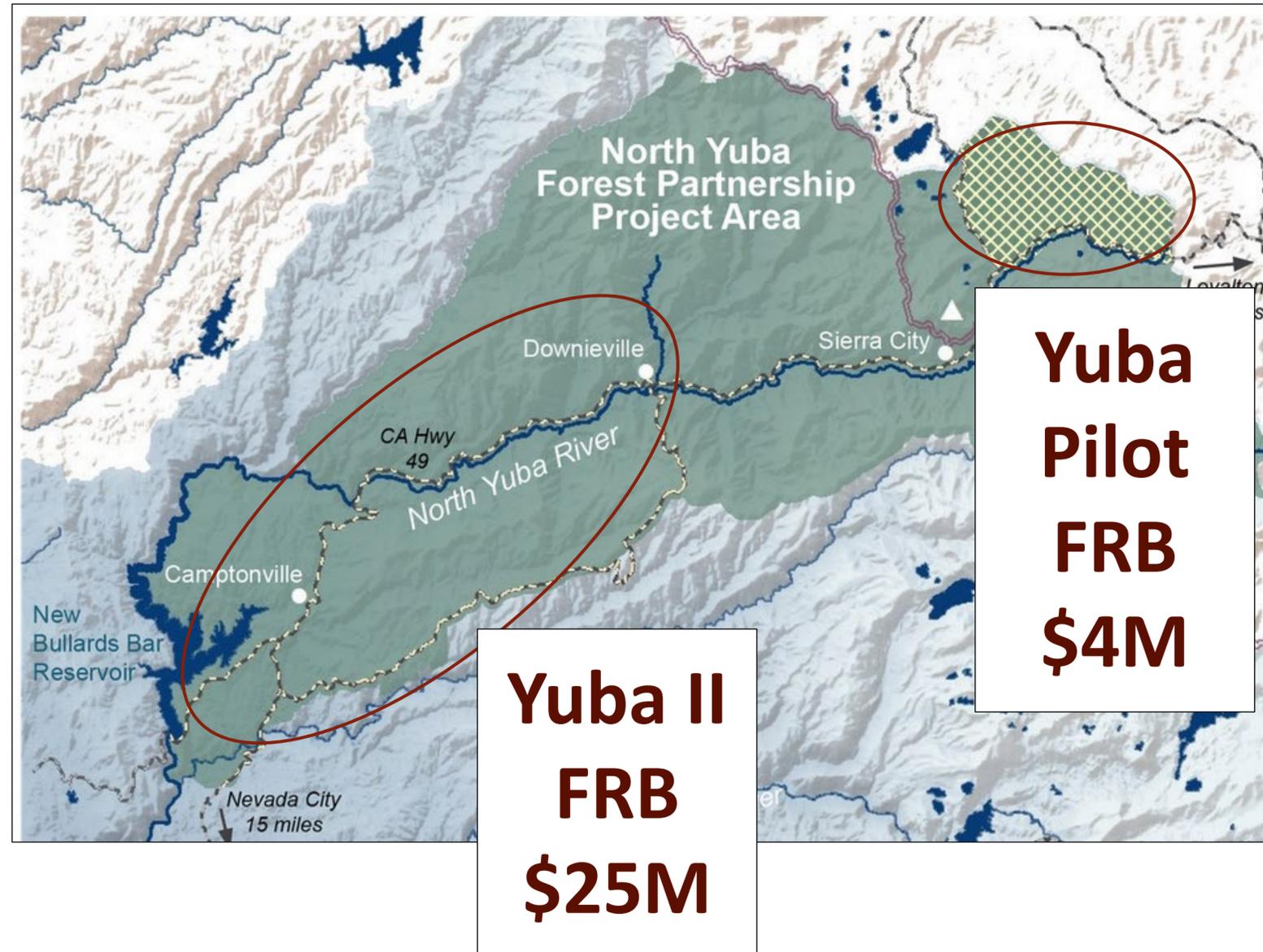


Pilot FRB: Structure & Stakeholders



The FRB: From Pilot to Scale

- ▶ Start with a pilot FRB
- ▶ Build social license with stakeholders
- ▶ Scale to \$100M+ of future FRBs
 - Same watershed
 - Same stakeholders
 - Same contracts
- ▶ Spur growth in biomass, forestry, recreation
- ▶ Drive sustainable rural development



Forest Resilience Bond Partners

YUBA PILOT INVESTORS



PROJECT PARTNERS



LEGAL



Forest Restoration in Action – 2020 Field Season



← **Pre-
restoration** →

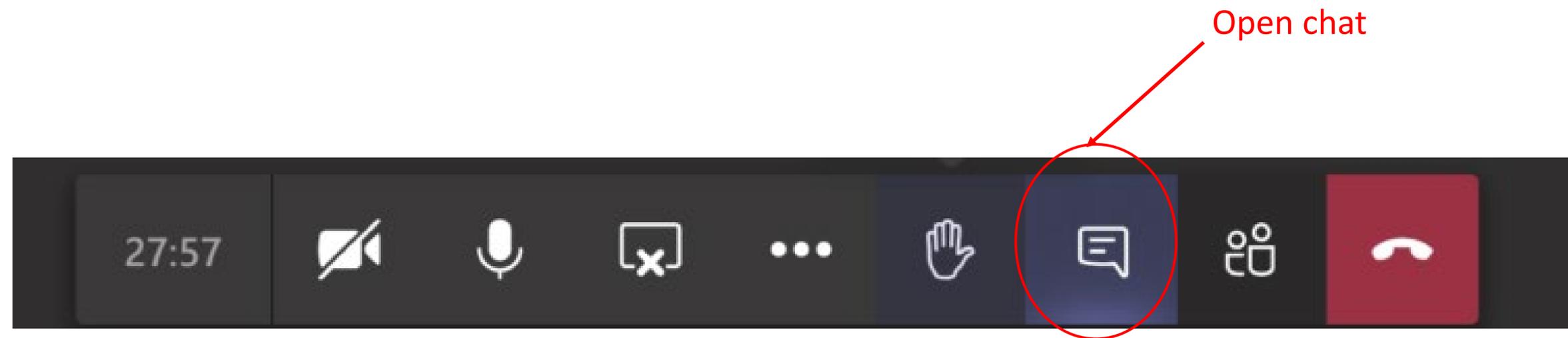


← **Post-
restoration** →



Questions and Answers

- Please type in your questions using the chat function.
- We will not be taking questions verbally.



U.S. EPA Water Finance Center
www.epa.gov/waterfinancecenter

U.S. EPA Water Resilience
www.epa.gov/waterresilience

U.S. EPA Water Finance Center Forest
Resilience Bond Report
<https://www.epa.gov/waterfinancecenter/forest-resilience-bond>

