



# North Coast San Luis Obispo Regional Ecological Strategy for Improving Landscapes (SLO-RESIL)



Spencer Gordon

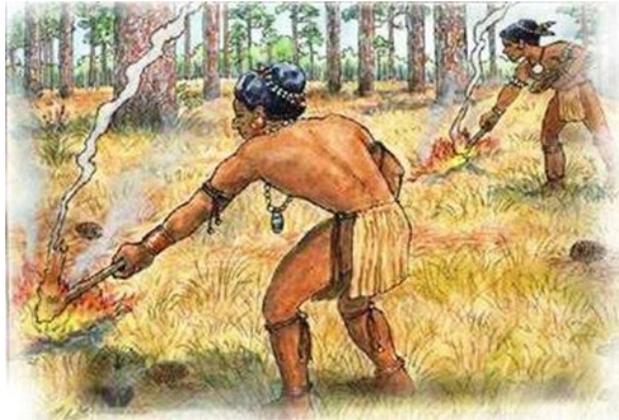
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Uppers Salinas-Las Tablas Resource Conservation District

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# Fire Timeline Current Forest Conditions



Colonialism  
and outlaw of  
intentional  
fire  
1850

Forest  
Service used  
aircrafts for  
fire  
suppression



5-10k years Native Americans regularly set fires

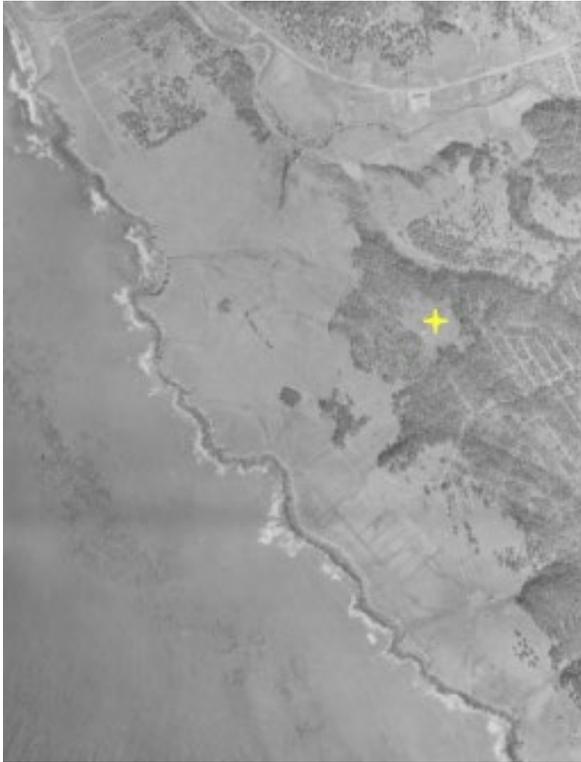
1910  
Big  
Blow  
Up

2015 present

Top 20 of  
California's  
most  
destructive  
wildfires



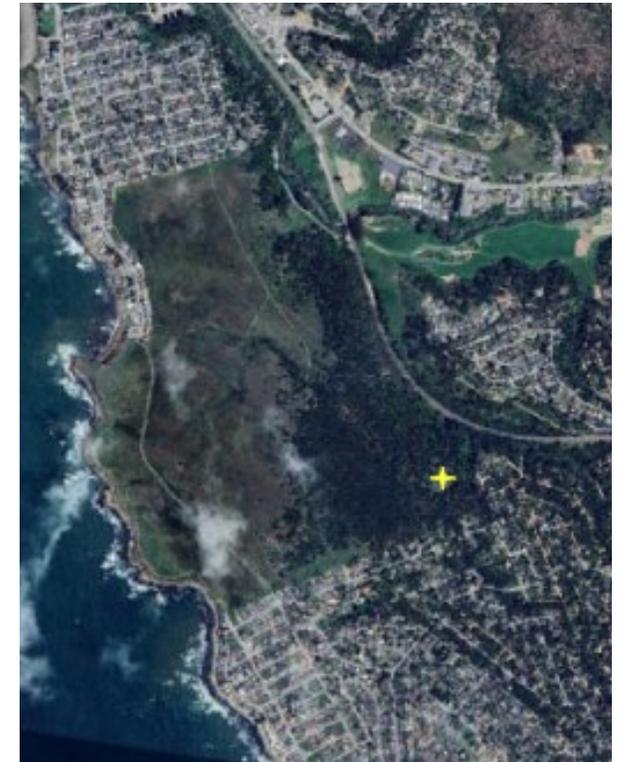
1937



1956



2024



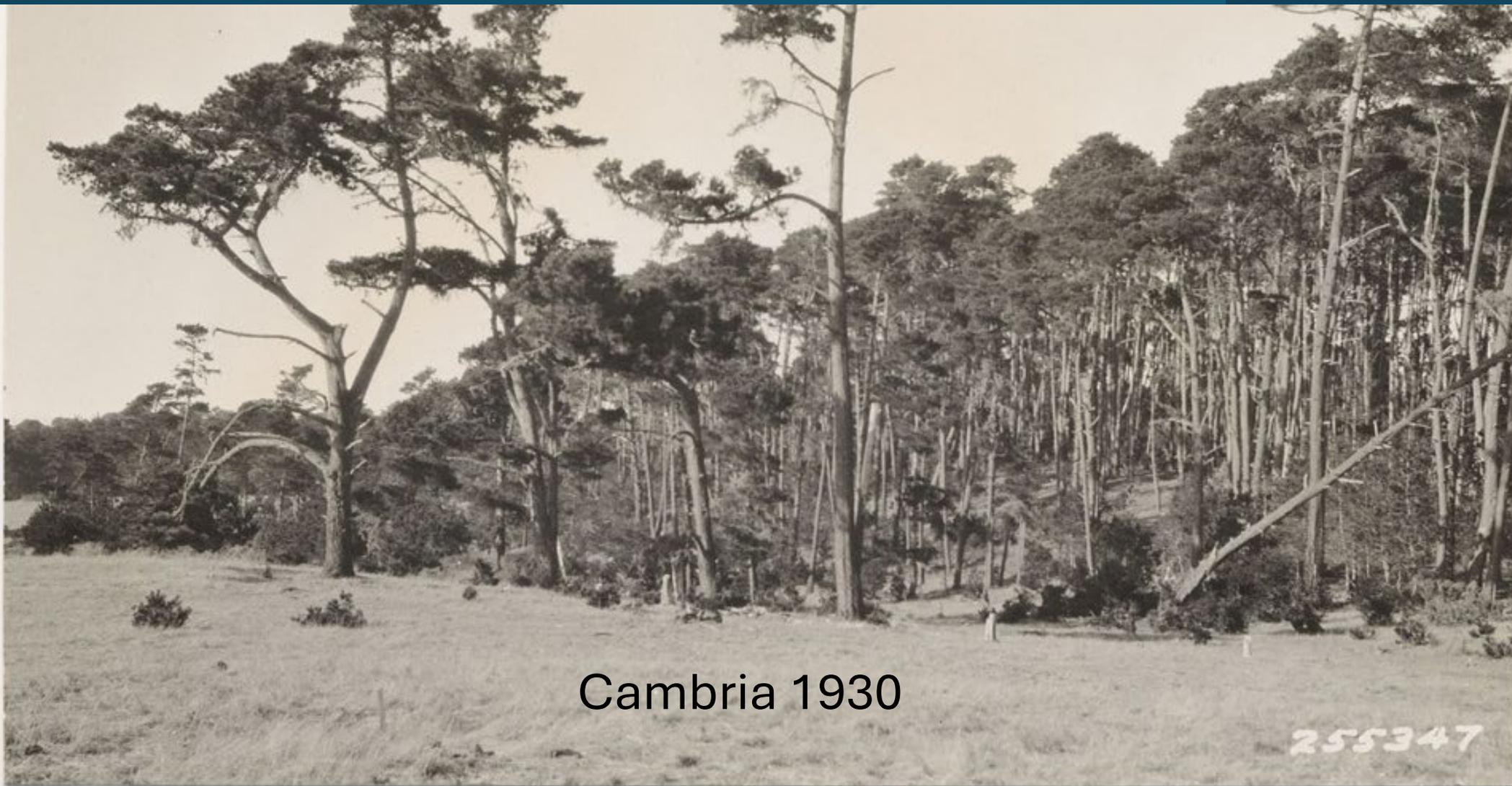
Cambria Over Time



2015 Monterey Pine Tree Mortality in Cambria, CA







Cambria 1930

255347

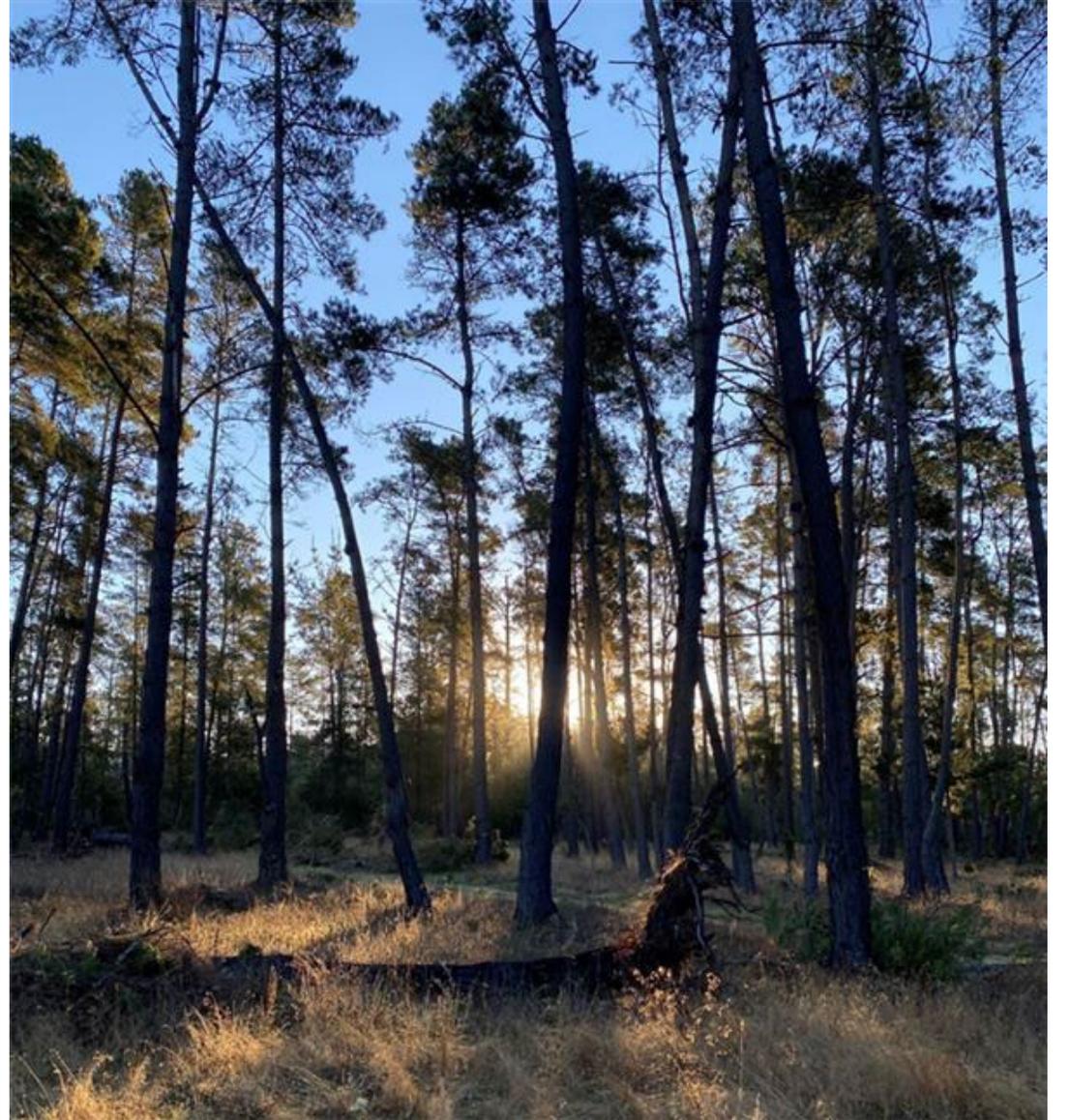


Cambria 1930











UPPER SALINAS-LAS TABLAS  
**RESOURCE**  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

-Final Draft-

**Upper Salinas-Las Tablas Resource Conservation District**  
**Forest Health and Fire Resilience**  
**Public Works Plan (PWP)**

*Project Proponent: Upper Salinas-Las Tablas Resource Conservation District*

*Date of US-LTRCD Board Approval: Sept 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021*

*Date of California Coastal Commission Board Approval: Oct 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021*

## Upper Salinas-Las Tablas Resource Conservation District Forest Health and Fire Resilience Public Works Plan (PWP)

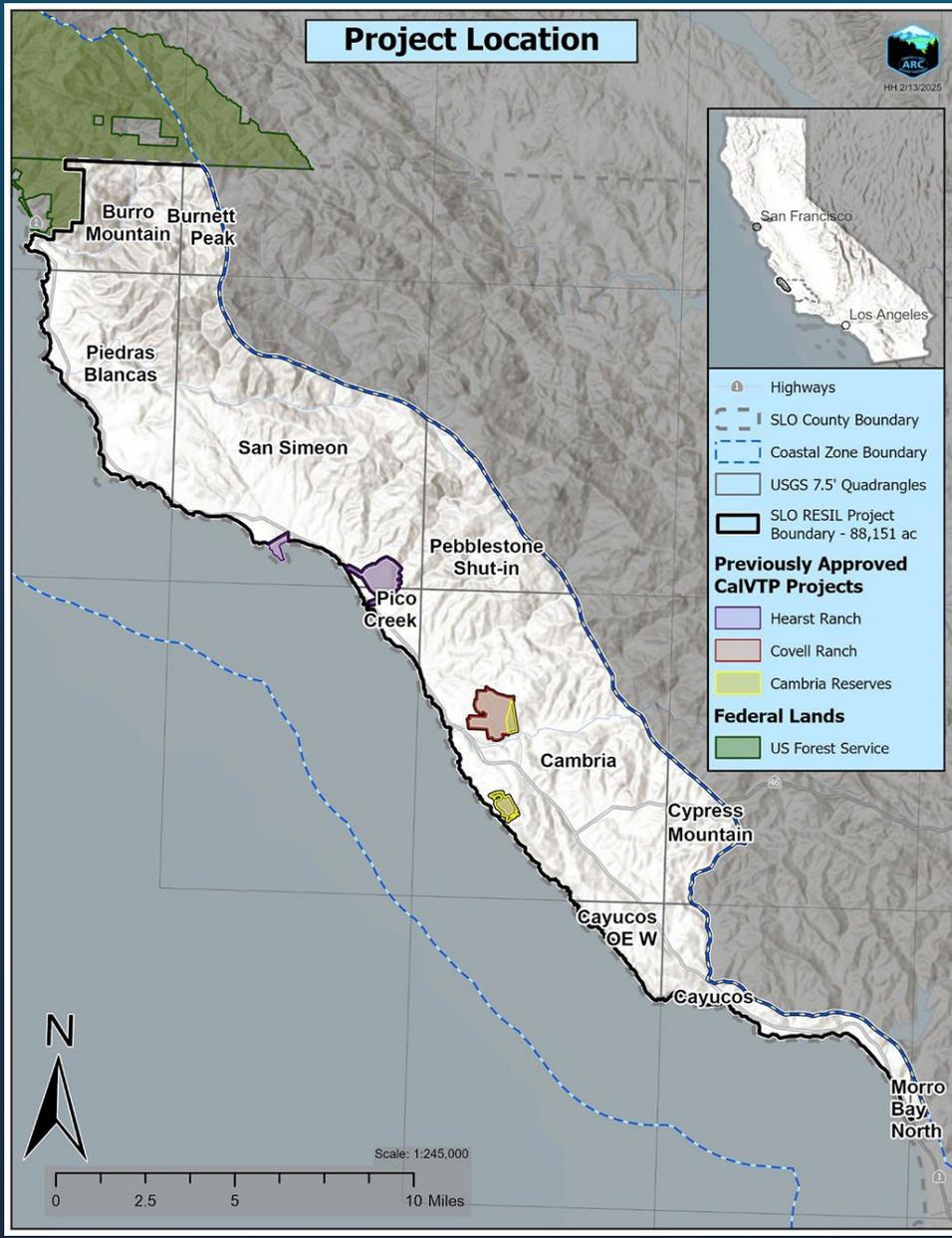
- Companion Document to the CalVTP and Coastal Act
- PWP is approved for coastal zone in 2021
- Increases efficacy of obtaining CEQA and Coastal Act compliance specific to the Coastal Zone
- What the board and the RCD needs to ensure is that...The Project Specific Analysis is consistent with language in the USLT RCD Public Works Plan



- Funding- Grantors (CALFIRE, Coastal Conservancy etc.)
- Expertise- Firesafe Council, Auten Resource Consulting, RCD
- Permits- California Vegetation Treatment Program
- (Project Specific Analysis = environmental review for CEQA and Coastal Act Compliance)

What allows practitioners to implement forest health and fuels reduction projects at landscape levels?

# Project Location



- Highways
- SLO County Boundary
- Coastal Zone Boundary
- USGS 7.5' Quadrangles
- SLO RESIL Project Boundary - 88,151 ac
- Previously Approved CalVTP Projects**
  - Hearst Ranch
  - Covell Ranch
  - Cambria Reserves
- Federal Lands**
  - US Forest Service



# Cal VTP Treatments and Activities under the Programmatic EIR

## Treatment Types include:

Ecological Restoration  
Fuel Break's  
WUI



## Treatment Activities include:

Prescribed burning (broadcast and pile burn)  
Mechanical vegetation removal (masticator and chipper)  
Manual vegetation removal (hand crews with chainsaws and chipper)  
Prescribed herbivory  
And targeted herbicide application

# Treatment Types - North



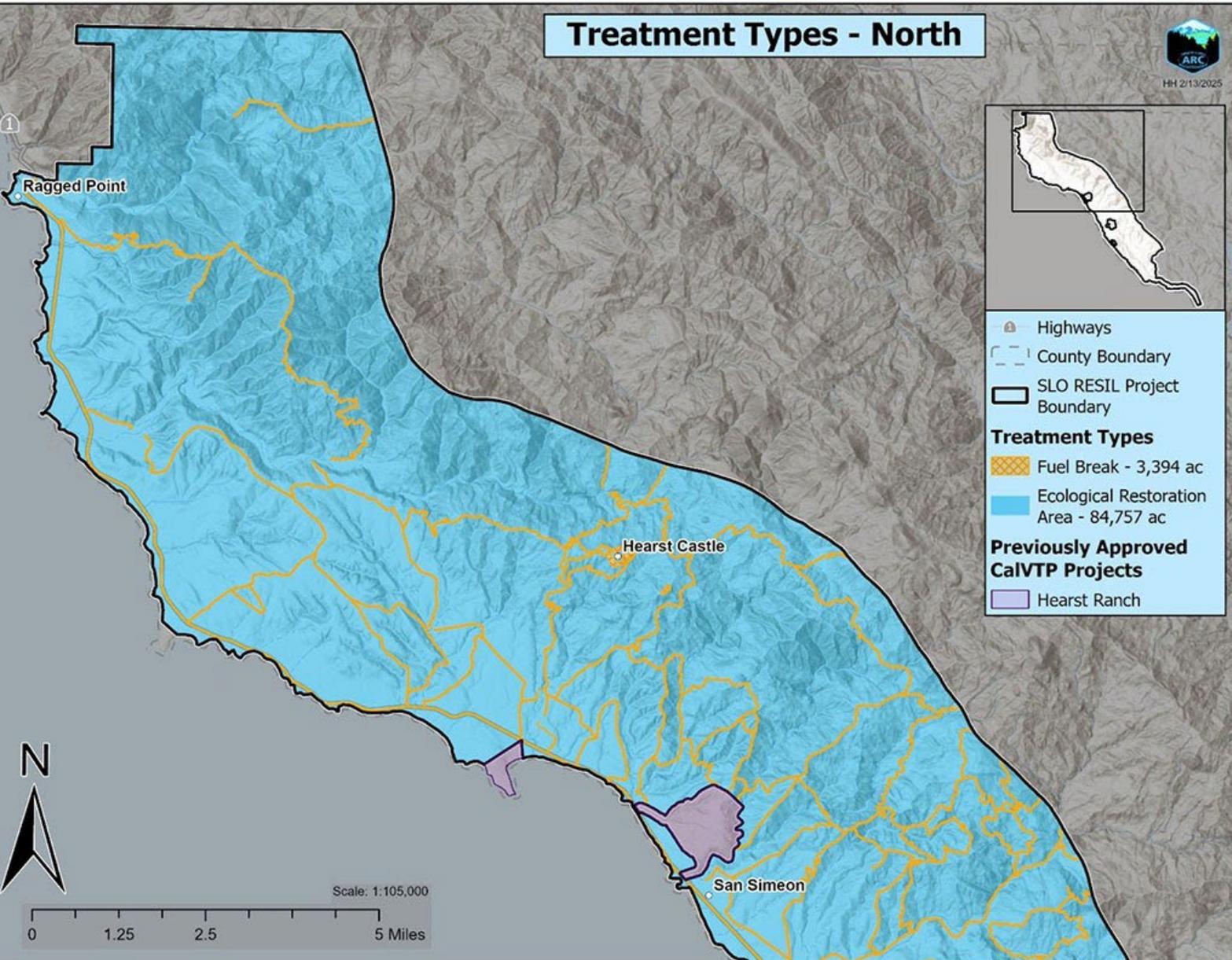
HH 2/13/2025



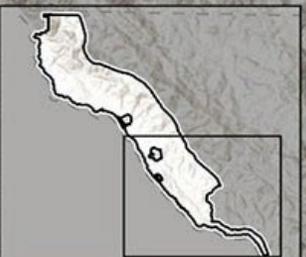
- Highways
- County Boundary
- SLO RESIL Project Boundary
- Treatment Types**
  - Fuel Break - 3,394 ac
  - Ecological Restoration Area - 84,757 ac
- Previously Approved CalVTP Projects**
  - Hearst Ranch



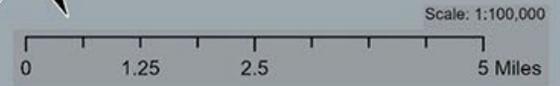
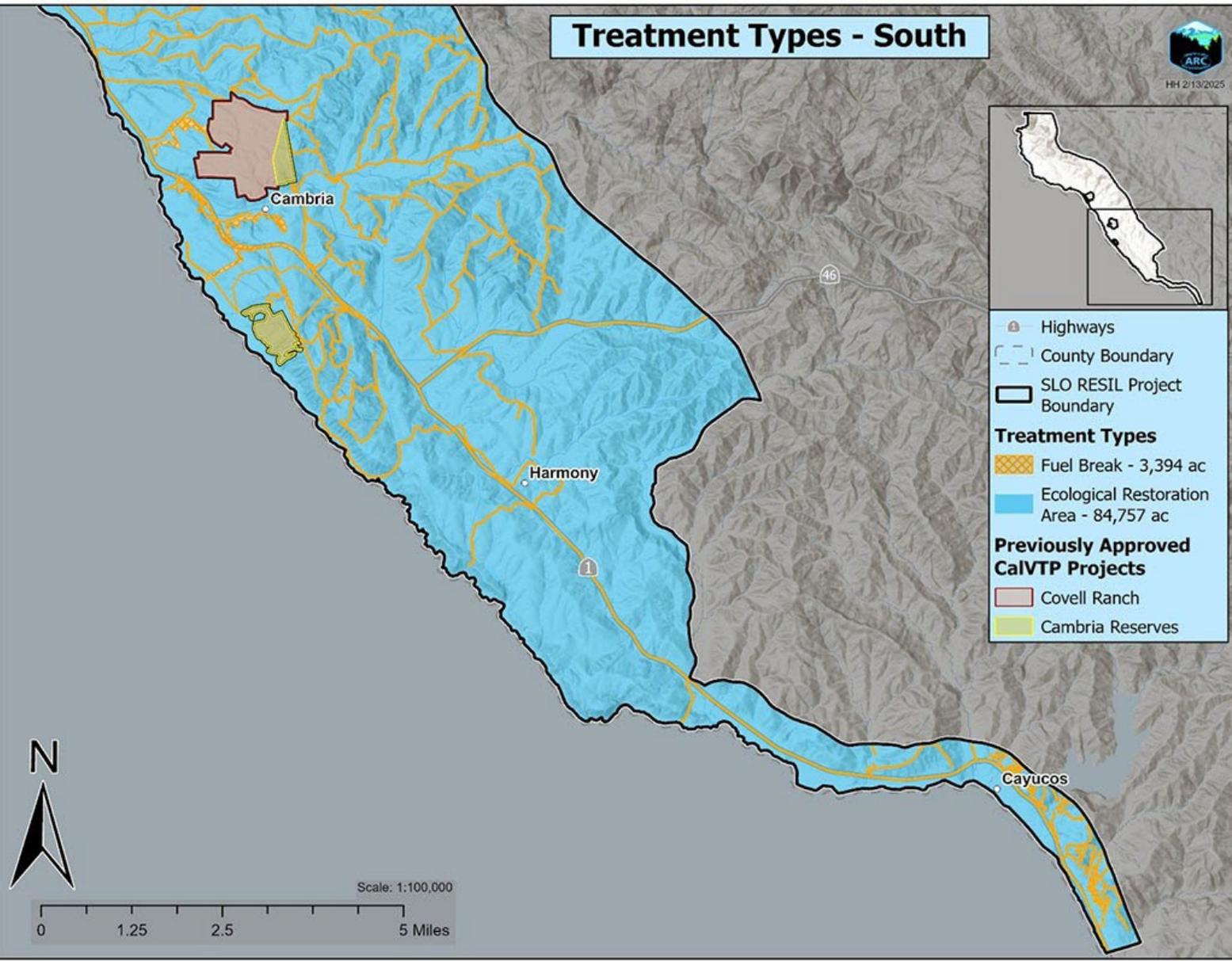
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0 1.25 2.5 5 Miles



# Treatment Types - South



- Highways
- County Boundary
- SLO RESIL Project Boundary
- Treatment Types**
  - Fuel Break - 3,394 ac
  - Ecological Restoration Area - 84,757 ac
- Previously Approved CalVTP Projects**
  - Covell Ranch
  - Cambria Reserves



# Treatment specs (Same as previous PSA's)

Selectively remove live trees up to 8" (not all small trees)

10-20 ft spacing  
(Approximately 150 TPA)

Retain habitat trees and snags for wildlife

Retain a portion of downed woody debris for wildlife

Retain micro stands of oak trees

prune lower branches of trees 6 to 15 feet above the ground, but no more than 33 percent of the tree's crown

Shrub roots intact, spacing of 25-75 feet between canopy's

Chipped biomass average 3" not exceed 6" (mosaic pattern)

# Consultation and Standard Project Requirements (SPR's)

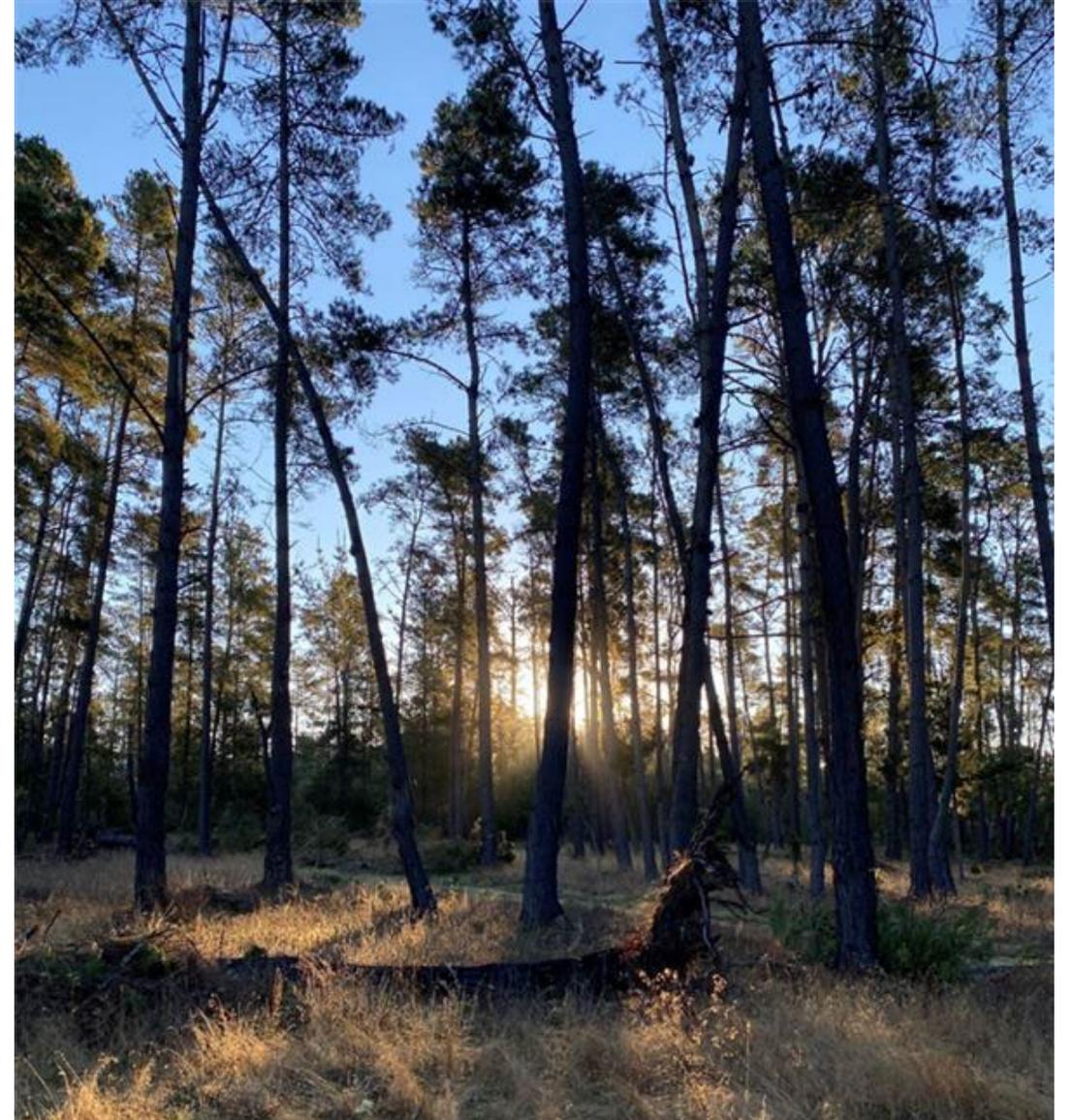
- Consultation with USFW and CDFW
- Applicable Standard Project Requirement's will be implemented to avoid impacts to wildlife
- Notifications to tribes
- Rare plant and animal surveys
- Archaeological survey reports
- Annual Monitoring and reporting program



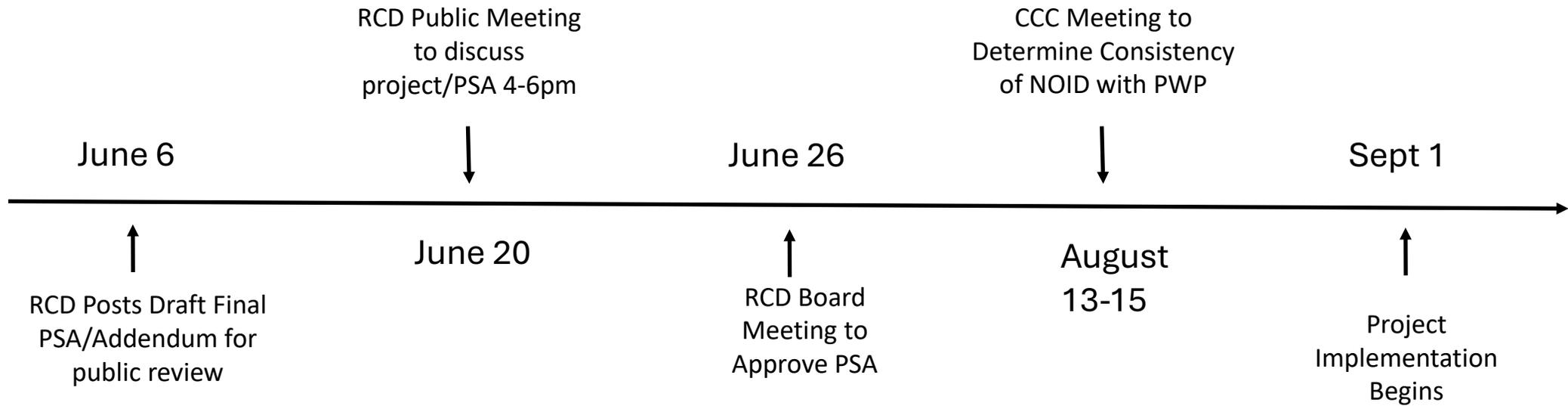
# **SLO-RESIL - KEY LANDOWNER POINTS**

- 1. Would provide CEQA coverage for any strategic forest health fuels reduction projects that landowners might want to implement with grant funds.**
- 2. Would provide an efficient permitting mechanism for Coastal Commission approval on any strategic forest health fuels reduction projects in the Coastal Zone under the existing USLTRCD Coastal Zone Jurisdiction (Public Works Plan)**
- 3. Creates “shovel-ready” projects that have a higher likelihood of being grant funded with CEQA compliance and Coastal Commission approval.**
- 4. SLO-RESIL does not add any additional restrictions on the landowner, constrain other permits or permitted work, or change current land uses.**

# Questions



# Timeline



# Looking for Letters of Support

- Send letters to or contact Spencer Gordon (USLTRCD)  
Spencer@us-ltrcd.org
- Send Letters to or contact Dan Turner (SLOFiresafe  
Counci) [firesafeslo@gmail.com](mailto:firesafeslo@gmail.com)
- Mail a letter of support directly to Coastal Commission  
Address will be provided at later date
- Attend Coastal Commission Hearing

# Costs and Values

Costs	Product
\$100,000	Development of PWP (2021)
\$200,000	Covell PSA (600 Acres)
\$200,000	Cambria PSA (290 Acres)
\$200,000	Hearst PSA (760 Acres)
\$200,000	<i>SLO-RESIL (88,150 Acres)</i>

Funding Received Since PWP (2021)	Agency
\$4,000,000 (12% indirect)	USLTRCD
\$7,000,000	SLO Firesafe Council

## Values (Economic, Ecological, Social)

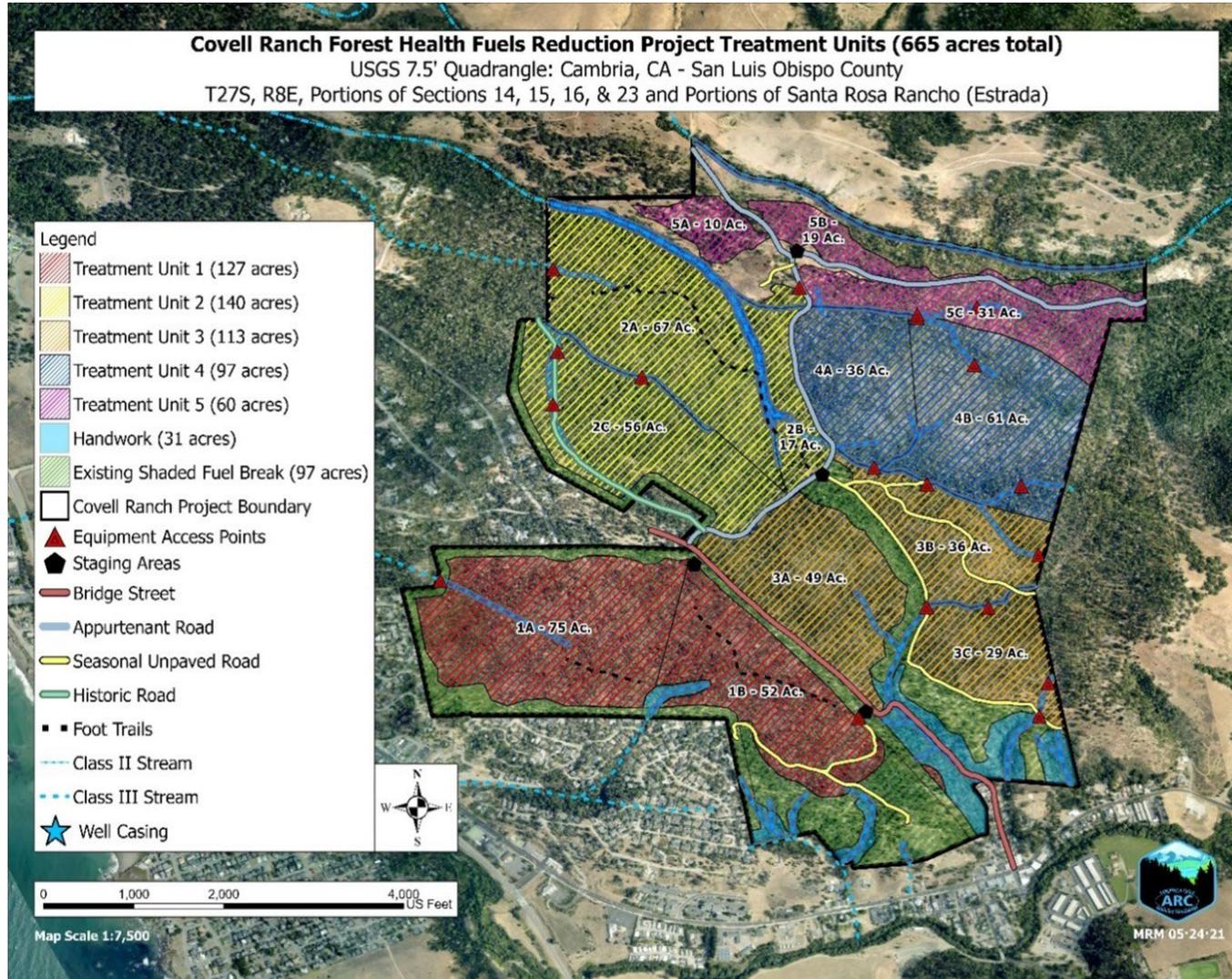
“Shovel-ready” projects for the RCD which have a higher likelihood of being grant funded with CEQA compliance and Coastal Commission approval.

SLO-RESIL will foster working partnerships for years to come (State Parks, Firesafe Council, large private landowners) by providing at no cost permitting pathway administered by the RCD

Safer communities and healthier forests result in millions of dollars in savings by way of increased ecosystem services and reduced emergency funding associated with catastrophic wildfires

Enhance the health of a rare Monterey pine forests (only 3 natural occurring in CA, 5 in the world)

# Covell Ranch



- Managed by Firesafe Council
- 665 Acres
- Shaded fuel break
- Selective thinning for forest health

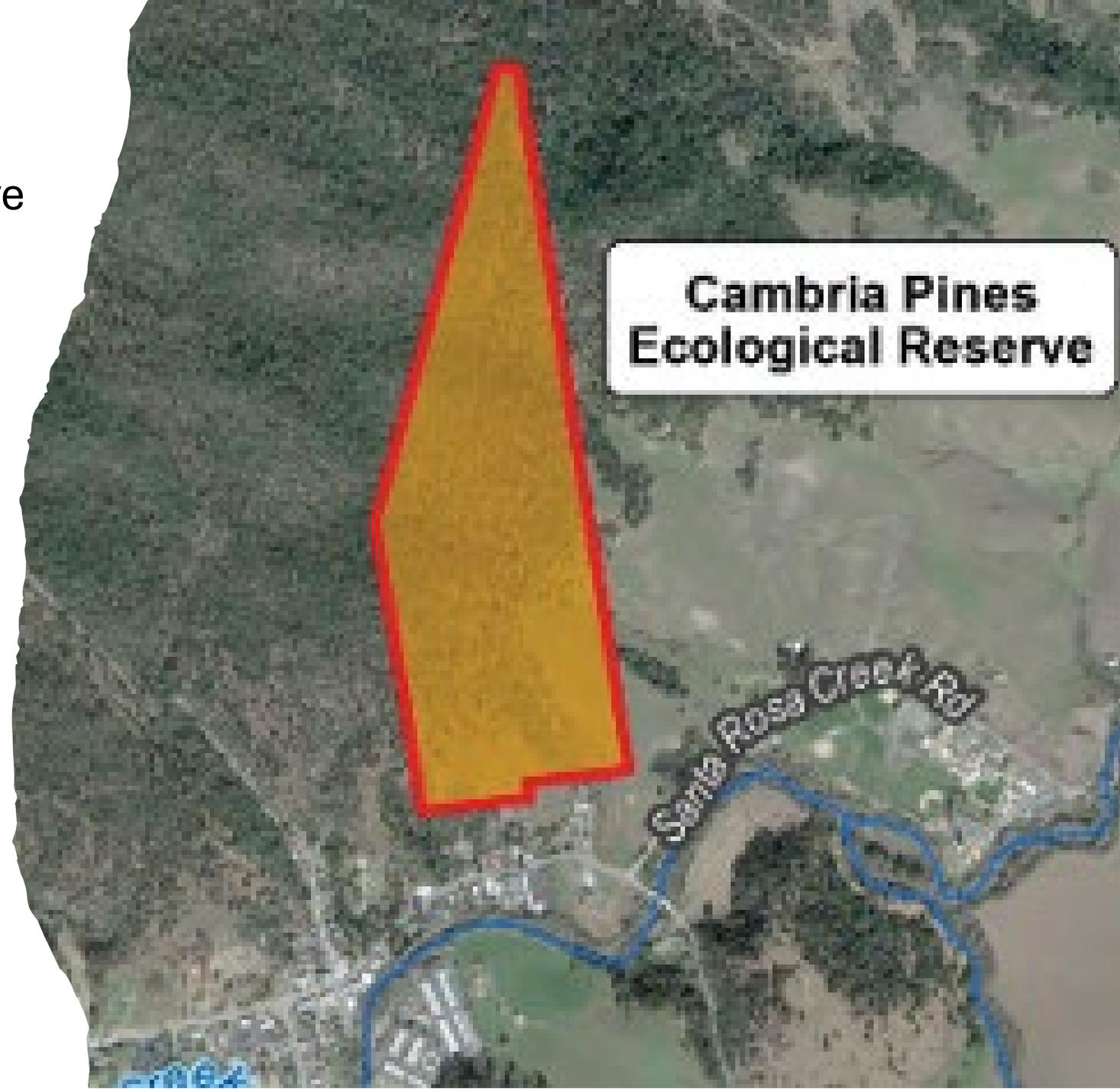


## Rancho Marino Reserve

- 188 Acres (44 Acres to be treated)
- UC Santa Barbara Reserve
- Managed by USLT RCD
- Cal Fire Wildfire Prevention Grant
- Shaded fuel break
- Selective thinning for Forest Health
- Work started last week (4/30/24)
- Will continue into 2025

## Cambria Pines Ecological Reserve

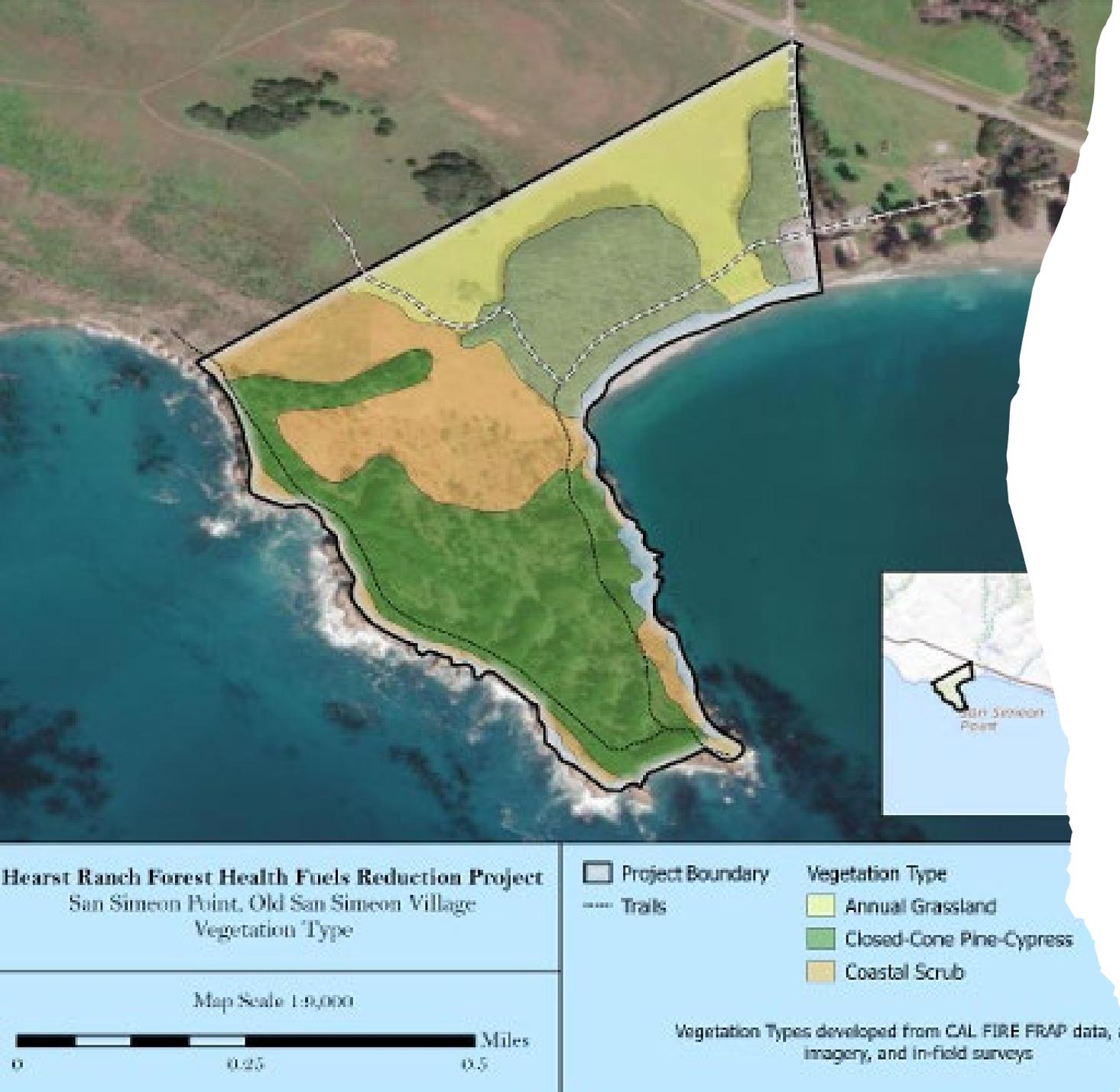
- 104 Acres
- Funded and managed by California Dept. Fish and Wildlife
- Thinning/pile burning
- Invasive plant removal
- M. pine, Coastal prairie, and chapparal
- Work to begin in 2025



**Cambria Pines  
Ecological Reserve**

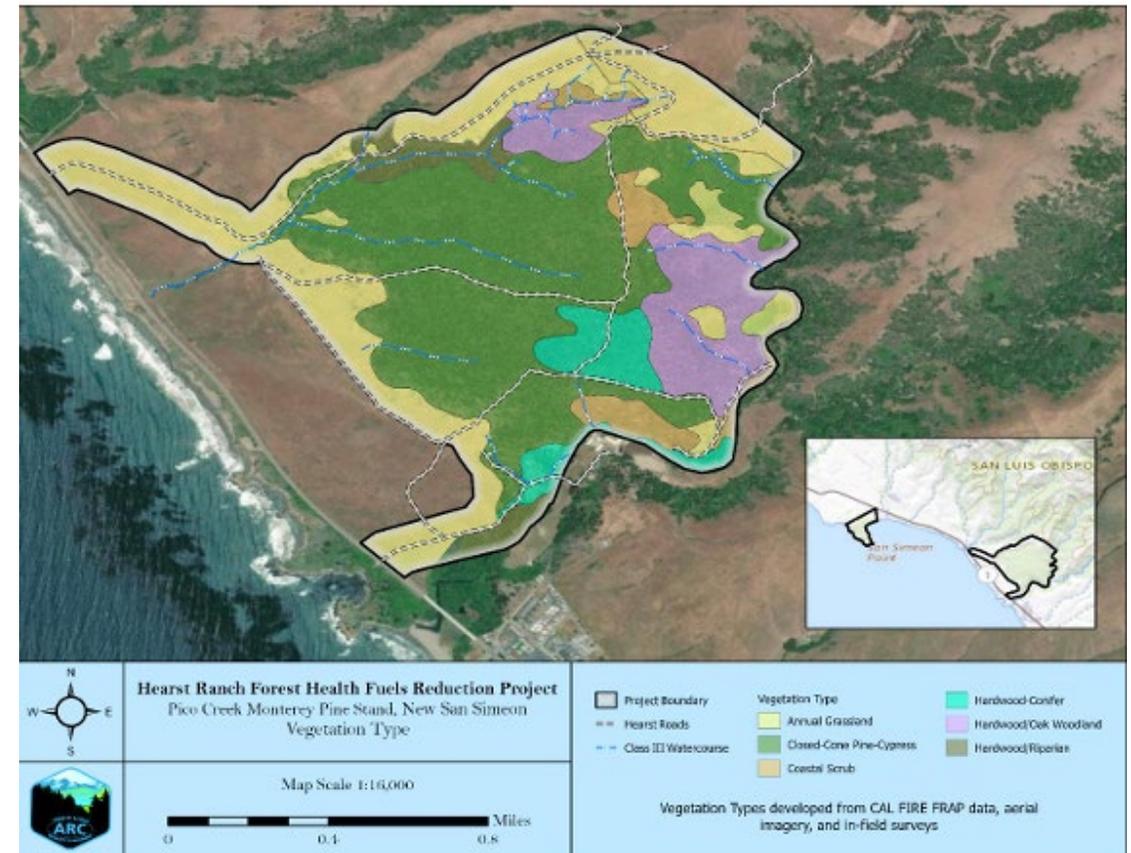
# San Simeon Point

- 80 Acres
- Hearst Corp. Property
- Managed by Firesafe Council
- CalFire Wildfire Prevention Grant
- Protect historical building
- Enhance monarch habitat in Eucs
- Chainsaw training space
- Work to begin this summer (2024)



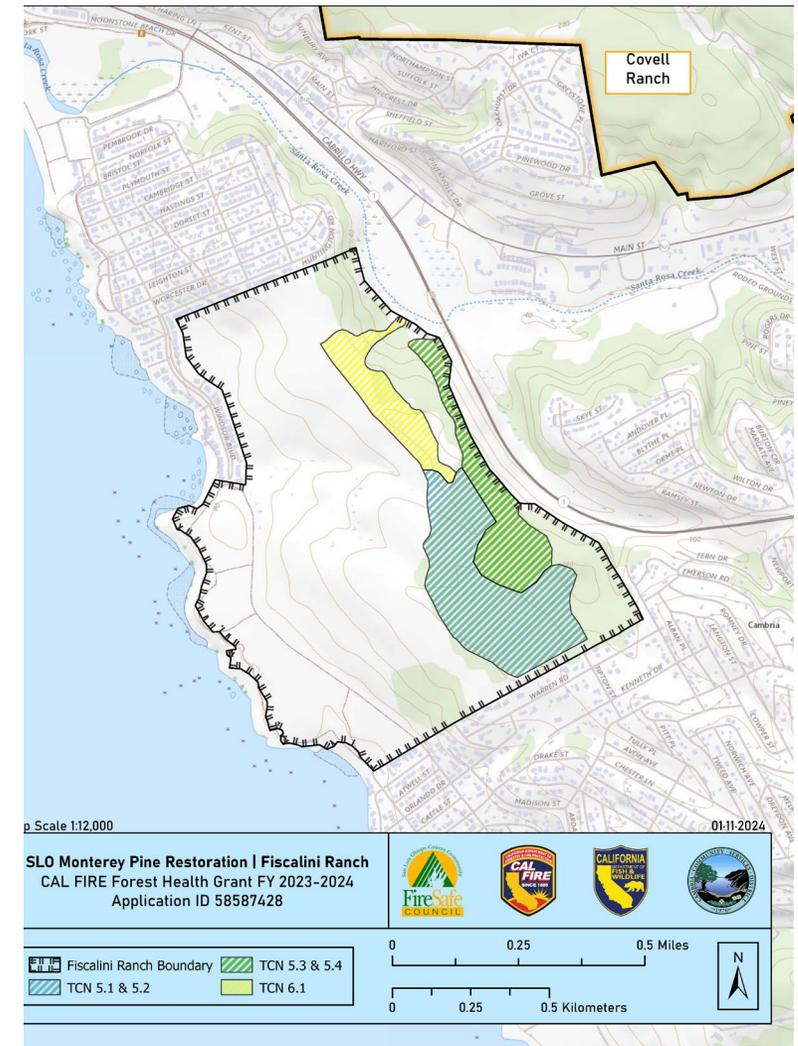
# Pico Creek

- 300 Acres
- Hearst Corp Property
- Managed by Firesafe Council
- CALFIRE Wildfire Prevention Grant
- Work to begin fall of 2024



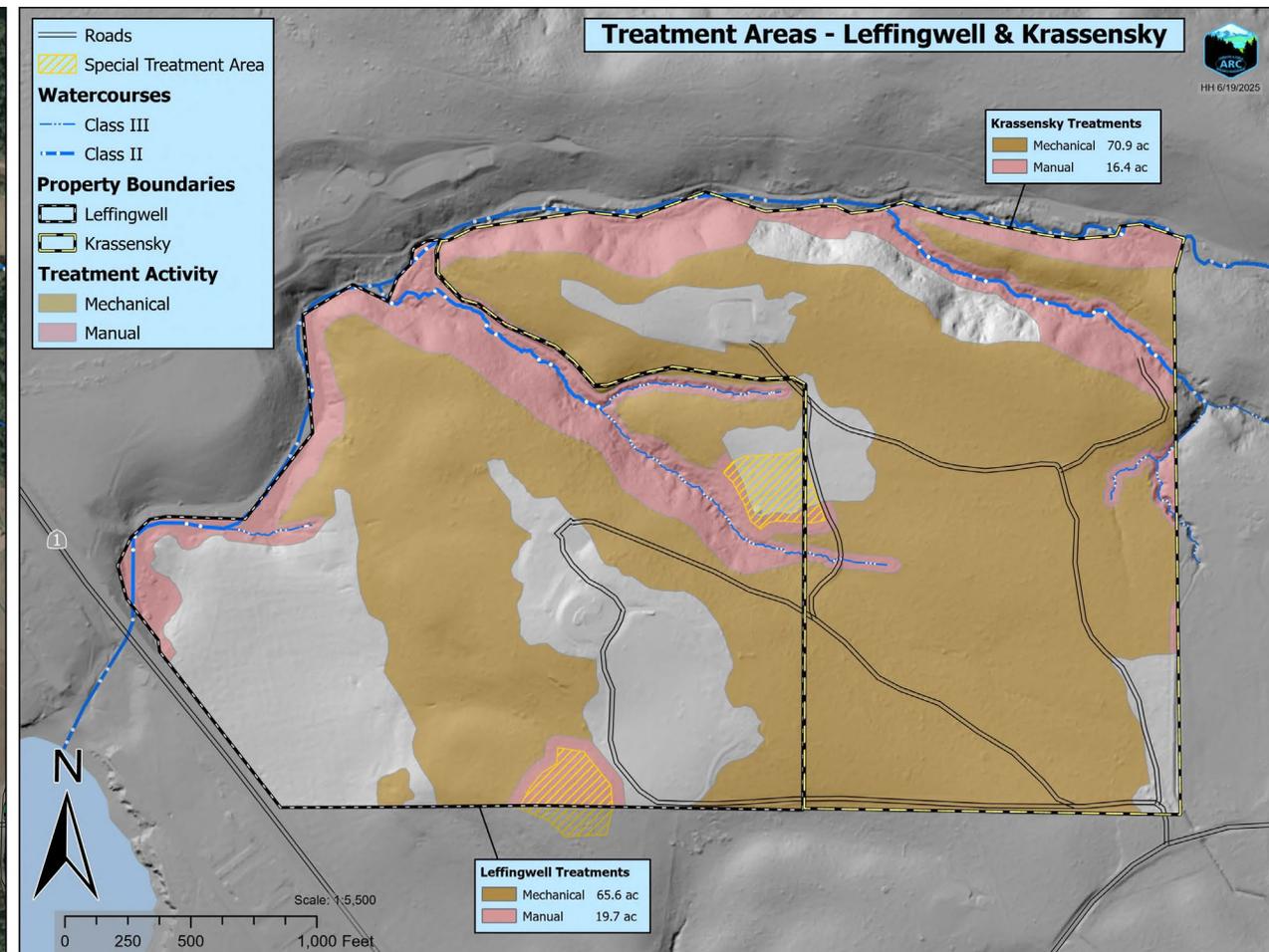
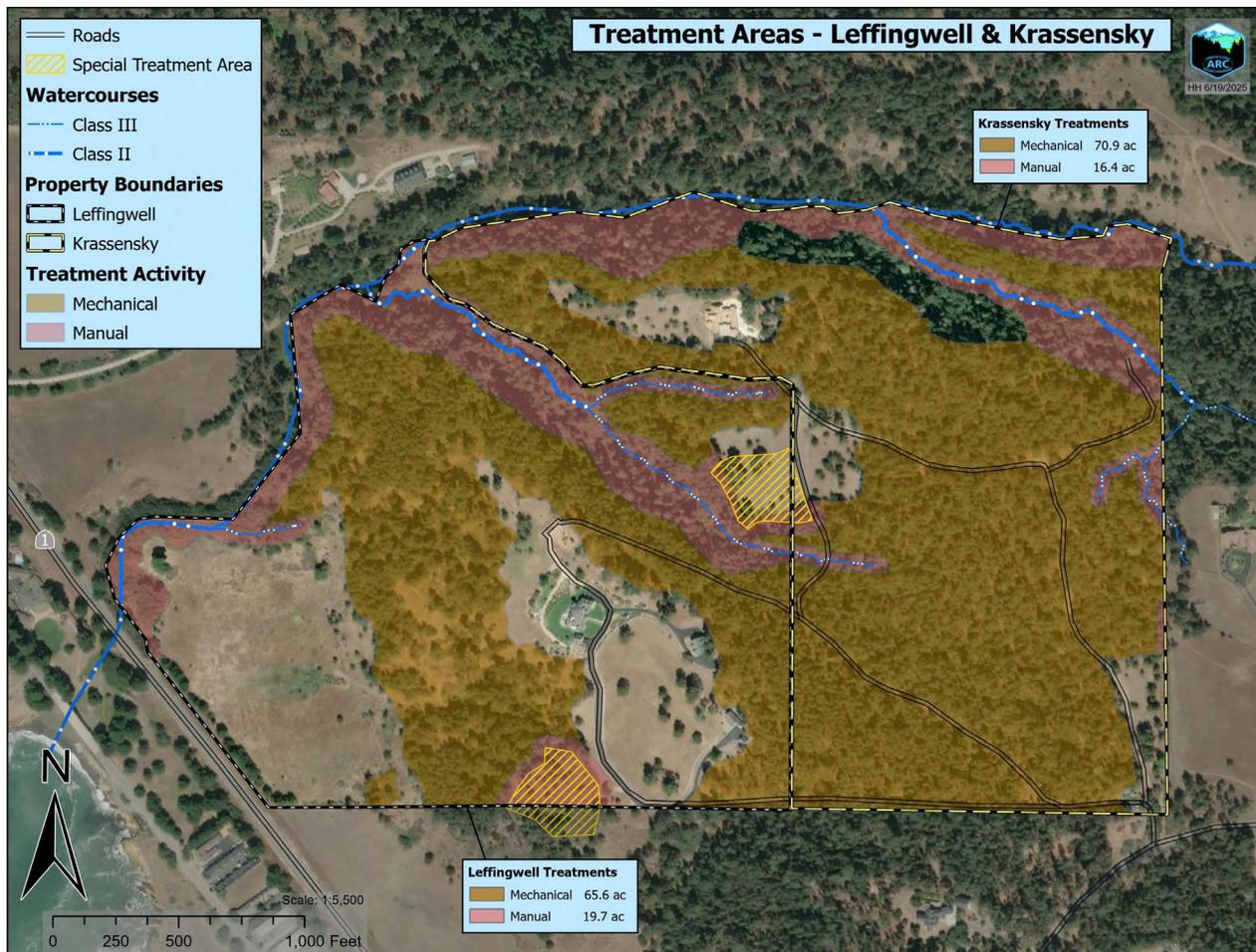
# Fiscalini Ranch

- Approximately 60 acres
- Friends of Fiscalini/RCD
- Forest Health Grant
- Thinning
- Tree planting
- Work to begin TBD



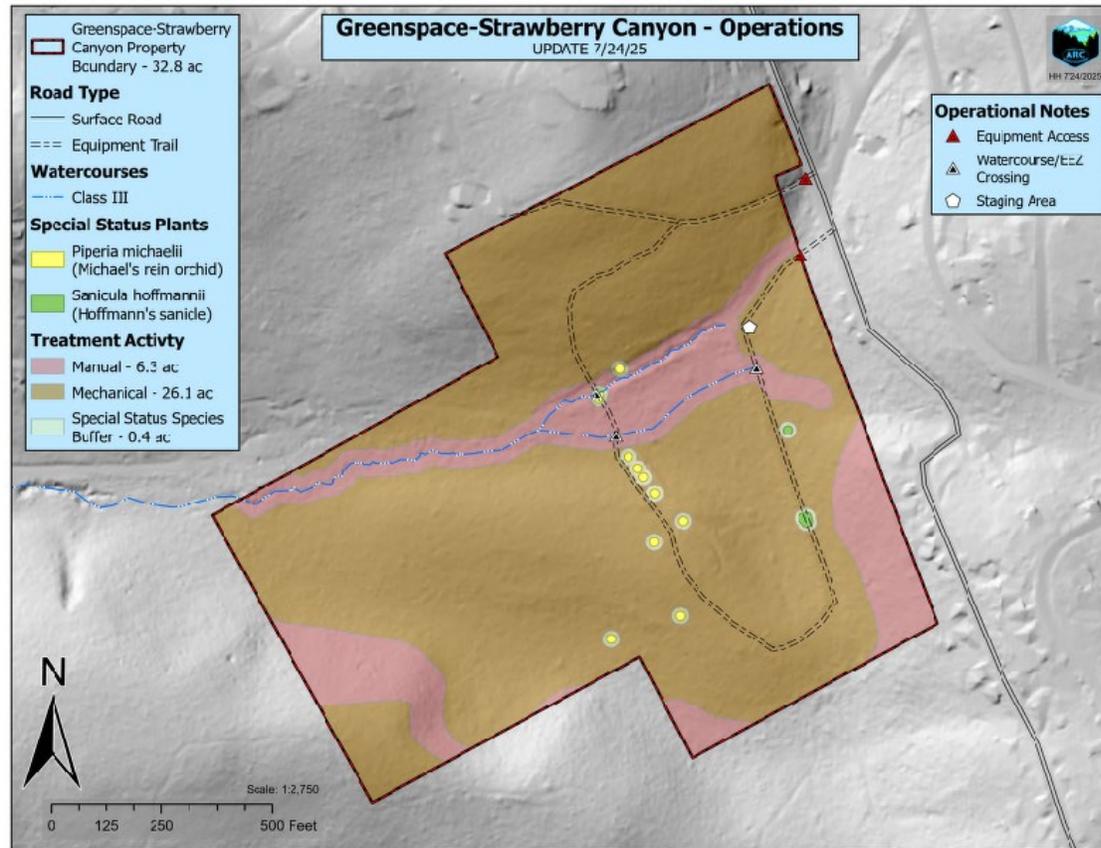
# Forest Health Grant





Work to be completed under SLO-RESIL This Year

# Strawberry Canyon



# Sohagi

