

# Nevada County's Roadmap to Resilience

Nevada County Office of  
Emergency Services

May 23, 2023



**NEVADA  
COUNTY**  
CALIFORNIA

**Office of Emergency  
Services**



# Board of Supervisors 2023 Objective

Lead the community in **all hazards planning**, preparedness, response, and recovery with a focus on wildfire. Do this by focusing on improving countywide **evacuation routes** and safety, continuing to strengthen early alert and critical communication systems, **partnering closely with residents and community partners** in emergency preparedness, defensible space, home hardening, green waste disposal, and **fire-safe land stewardship**



# OES 2023 Goals



- Build on our strong foundation
- **Work on developing strategic plans**
- Strategic funding and grant prioritization
- Focus on landscape-scale projects and large community-scale projects
- Leverage and continue to build partnerships



# Where are we?

# Where do we need to go?

- **Wildfire** and **Winter Storms** are disruptive and challenging
- Solutions are needed at the landscape, community, and individual level
- **Community engagement is key**
- We need a dynamic plan for disaster resilience
  - Prevention
  - Mitigation
  - Education



# Roadmap to Resilience



# Nevada County's Roadmap to Resilience

*Holistic long-range vision...*



**Local Hazard Mitigation Plan**



**Community Wildfire Protection Plan**



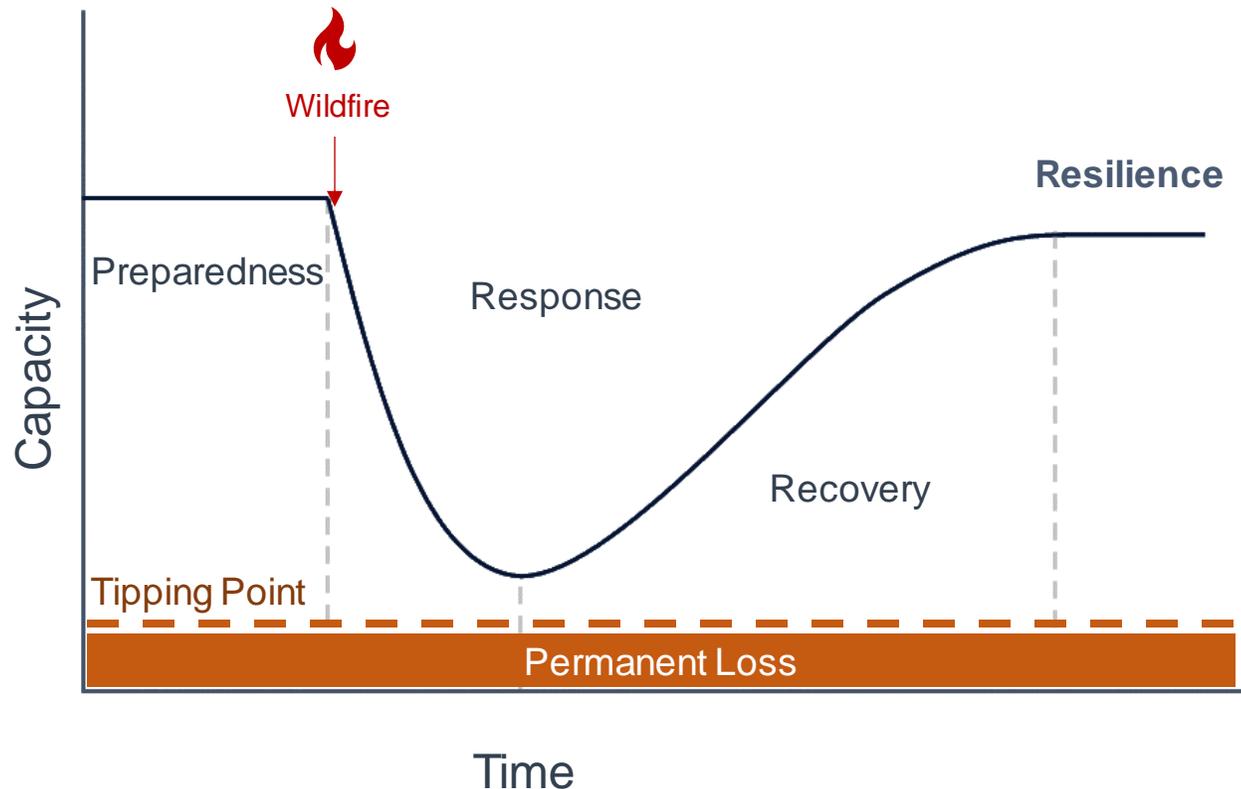
**Land Management Plan**



**Evacuation Study**



# Resilience



- Capacity to withstand and recover from disaster(s)
- Disaster does not have to be a "tipping point"
- Investing in planning, mitigation, prevention, preparedness, and recovery
- Protecting what we value in our community



# Local Hazard Mitigation Plan

- Update of the current (2017) LHMP
- All hazards approach (includes wildfire)
- Establishes hazard and prioritization
- Supported by Wildfire Hazard Assessment
- Allows us to apply for FEMA HMGP funding

**Status:** Funded (FEMA-HMGP, DR-4558-288-088P)

**Next Steps:** Consultant Contract and Kick-Off



# Community Wildfire Protection Plan



- Provide a "roadmap" for wildfire mitigation
- Landscape and community scale
- Prioritize areas based on wildfire risk and community values
- Supports the County, the community, and partners

**Status:** Funded (CWDG, Agreement # pending)

**Next Steps:** Consultant Contract and Kick-Off





# Land Management Plan

- A "toolbox" of mitigation treatments for Nevada County
- Best-management practices specific to our landscape
- Increase the pace and scale of work
- A component of the CWPP

**Status:** Funded (CWDG, Agreement # pending)

**Next Steps:** Release RFP and Identify Qualified Consultant





# Evacuation Study



- Understand evacuation constraints and opportunities
- Identify priority areas for ingress and egress improvement
- Opportunity for community input

**Status:** Funded (CAL FIRE, 5GG21105)

**Next Steps:** Consultant Contract and Kick-Off



# Nevada County Community Wildfire Protection Plan



# What is a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)?

- Healthy Forest Restoration Act
- Plan for wildfire risk reduction
- Identify and prioritize areas for wildfire mitigation
- Versatile planning document
- **Created by the community for the community**



# What does a CWPP Do?

## It Does

- Create a collaborative wildfire planning document
- Create a roadmap for wildfire mitigation
- Consider multiple scales of hazard and risk
- Identify and prioritize areas for mitigation

## It Does Not

- Create rules or laws
- Influence fire insurance
- Create a CEQA document or serve as environmental analysis
- Mandate what should or should not be done

***It is a strategic, collaborative, and educational planning tool for at-risk communities***



# CWPP Requirements



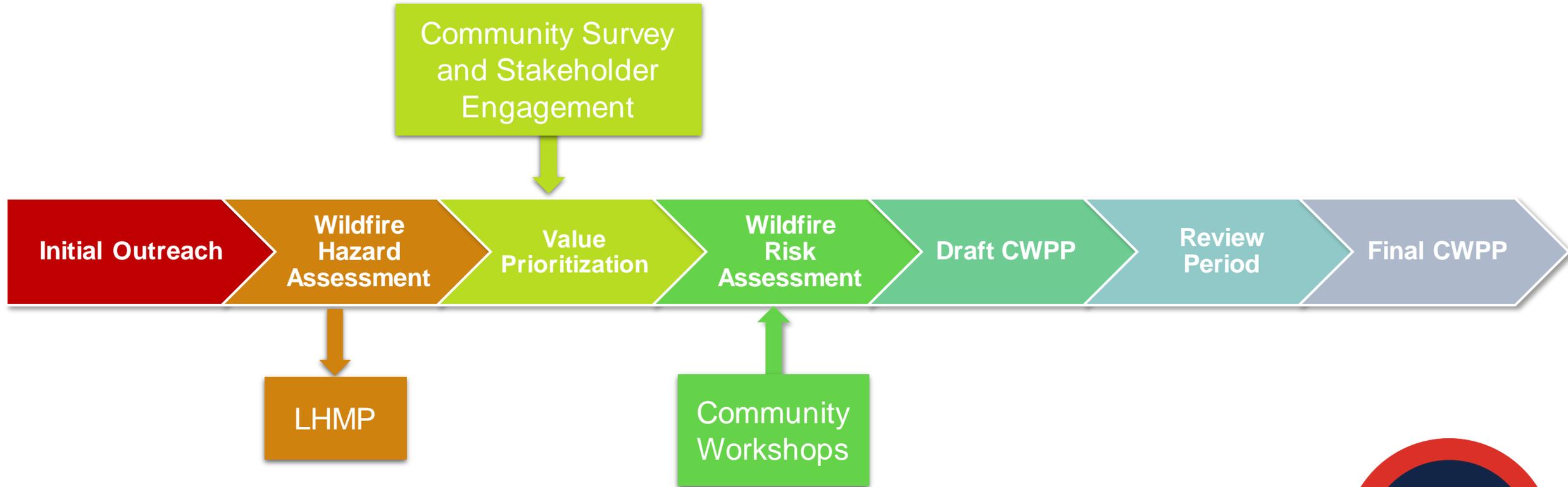
1. Regional collaboration
2. Identify and prioritize areas for mitigation
3. Identify strategies for reducing structural ignitability
4. Best management practices

# Nevada County CWPP

- More than just a document
- 5 phase approach
  1. Outreach
  2. Wildfire Risk Assessment
  3. Land Management Plan
  4. CWPP Document
  5. CWPP Dashboard
- 18-month program



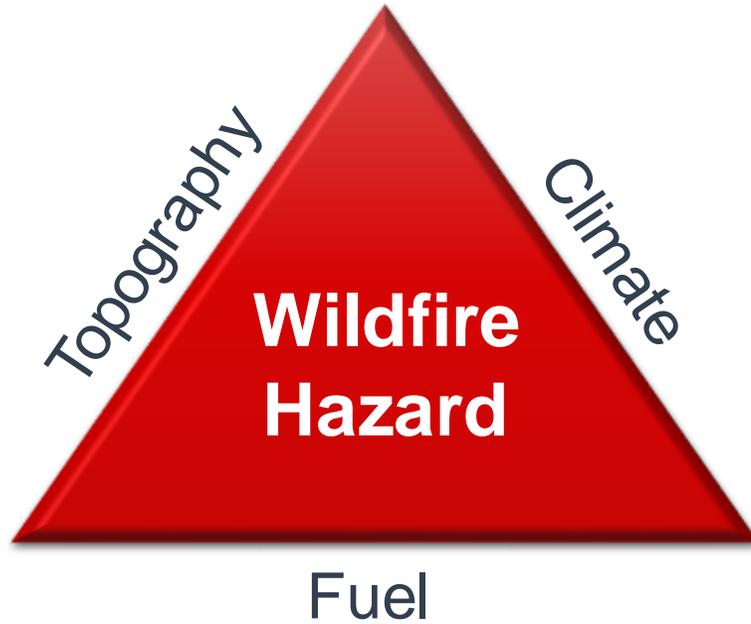
# CWPP Flow Chart



# CWPP Flow Chart



# Wildfire Hazard vs. Wildfire Risk



*Wildfire Hazard helps us understand our fire environment and Wildfire Risk helps us decide what to protect based on what we consider to be important*

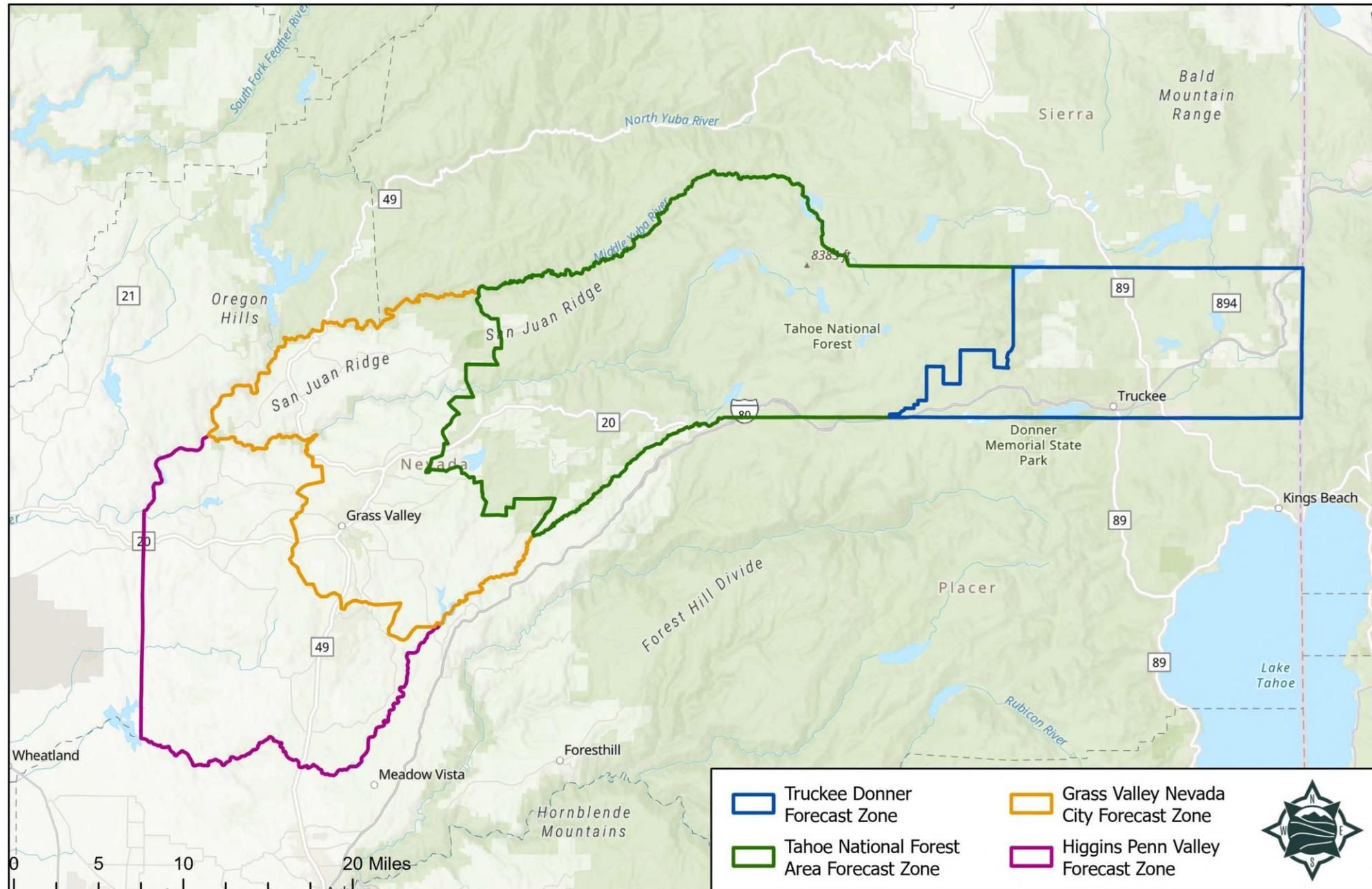


# Wildfire Risk Assessment (Overall)

- Wildfire Hazard Assessment and Wildfire Risk Assessment
- Specific to Nevada County wildfire challenges
- Landscape and community scale
- 4 forecast zones for the assessment



# Fire Modeling Forecast Zones



# Wildfire Hazard Assessment



- Fire behavior modeling
  - Comparative hazard analysis
- Determines hazard priority areas
- Worked collaboratively with CAL FIRE
- Wrapped up modeling results in April
- Fire Chiefs meeting in June



# Wildfire Risk Assessment

- Fire Risk Modeling
- Determines priority areas based on wildfire risk
  - Uses results from hazard assessment
  - High-value resources and critical assets' vulnerability to wildfire
  - CWPP Survey
    - Community values
    - Community priorities
- Project Priority Areas
- In-progress



# The Community



- Crucial element of the process
- Worked in advance to establish community priorities and concerns
- Robust outreach and engagement strategy
- Multiple opportunities for public participation
  - Survey
  - Workshops
  - Public comment



# Next Steps

- Community Survey
  - Help establish wildfire risk
  - Establish the community priorities for mitigation
- Available online June 1<sup>st</sup> through August 31<sup>st</sup>
  - English and Spanish
- Social Media campaign
- Available at outreach events



# Nevada County's Roadmap to Resilience

- Local Hazard Mitigation Plan

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- Community Wildfire Protection Plan

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craig.griesbach@nevadacountyca.gov

- Evacuation Study

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alex.keeble-toll@nevadacountyca.gov

- Sign-up to attend Virtual Office Hours

alessandra.zambrano@nevadacountyca.gov

- Email OES with Evacuation Priorities

oes@nevadacountyca.gov

- Take the CWPP Survey



**Thank you**

