Monitoring a Forest Restoration "Opportunistic Experiment"

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A Real Experiment

- US Forest Service Pacific Southwest Research Station Black's Mountain Experimental Forest
- Cone Fire 2002
- Variable Retention Study

An "Opportunistic Experiment"

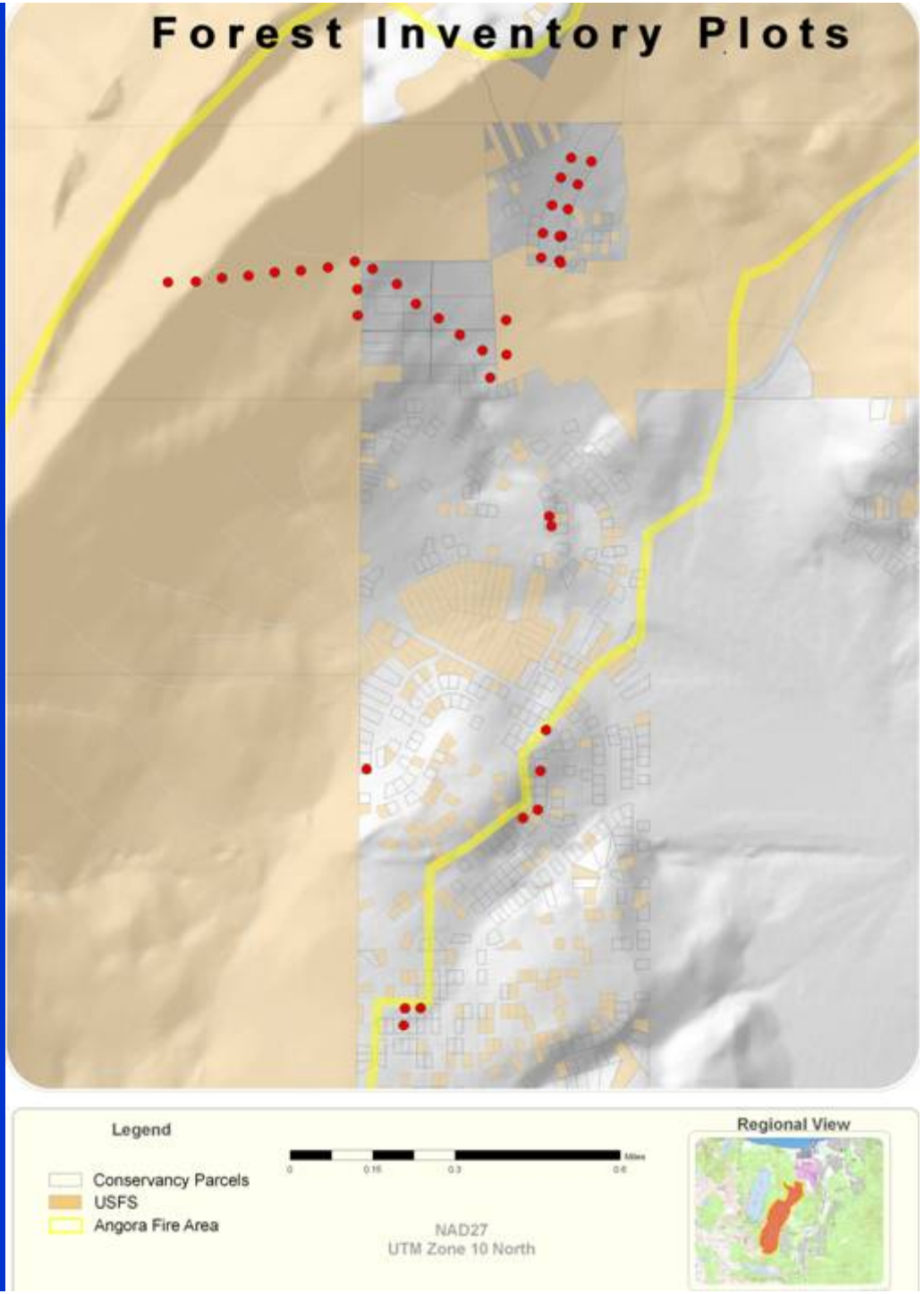
- The Angora fire burned through multiple forest ownerships
- Each owner will pursue different forest restoration strategies
- These different strategies offer the opportunity to compare outcomes for adaptive management

Different treatment approaches may lead to different outcomes

- US Forest Service
  - Erosion control for emergency rehab, hazard tree removal, and other treatments to be determined
- California Tahoe Conservancy
  - Hand thinning, salvage harvest, replanting, seeding, erosion control
- Private lands?
  - Erosion control, salvage harvest, hazard tree removal, individual revegetation desires

Initial data collection summer 2007

- California Tahoe Conservancy
  - 17 plots on parcels salvage logged, (7 masticated, 5 seeded)
  - 10 plots on hand treated parcels
- USFS
  - 12 plots on general forest and urban lots, mulched so far



Compare plots with similar pre-burn characteristics and burn intensities

CTC plot on Angora slope

USFS plot nearby

Outcomes to be monitored

- Time to reestablishment of vegetative cover
  - Forest stands: Size and age of trees and snags, canopy cover

Outcomes to be monitored

- Time to reestablishment of vegetative cover
  - Understory vegetation: Composition and cover

Outcomes to be monitored

- Fuels accumulation

Outcomes to be monitored

- Soil impacts from harvesting equipment

Next Steps

- Continue collaboration with CTC data collection
- Seek approval and support to continue monitoring on USFS plots
- Incorporate additional ownerships / private lands when possible
- Report initial results in Winter 2008/09

Study collaborators from USFS, CTC and UCCE

Thank you to collaborators

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- California Tahoe Conservancy
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- University of California Cooperative Extension
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For More Information

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