Van Norden Meadow Restoration

Alecia Weisman, South Yuba River Citizens League

Rachel Hutchinson, Tahoe National Forest



Issues

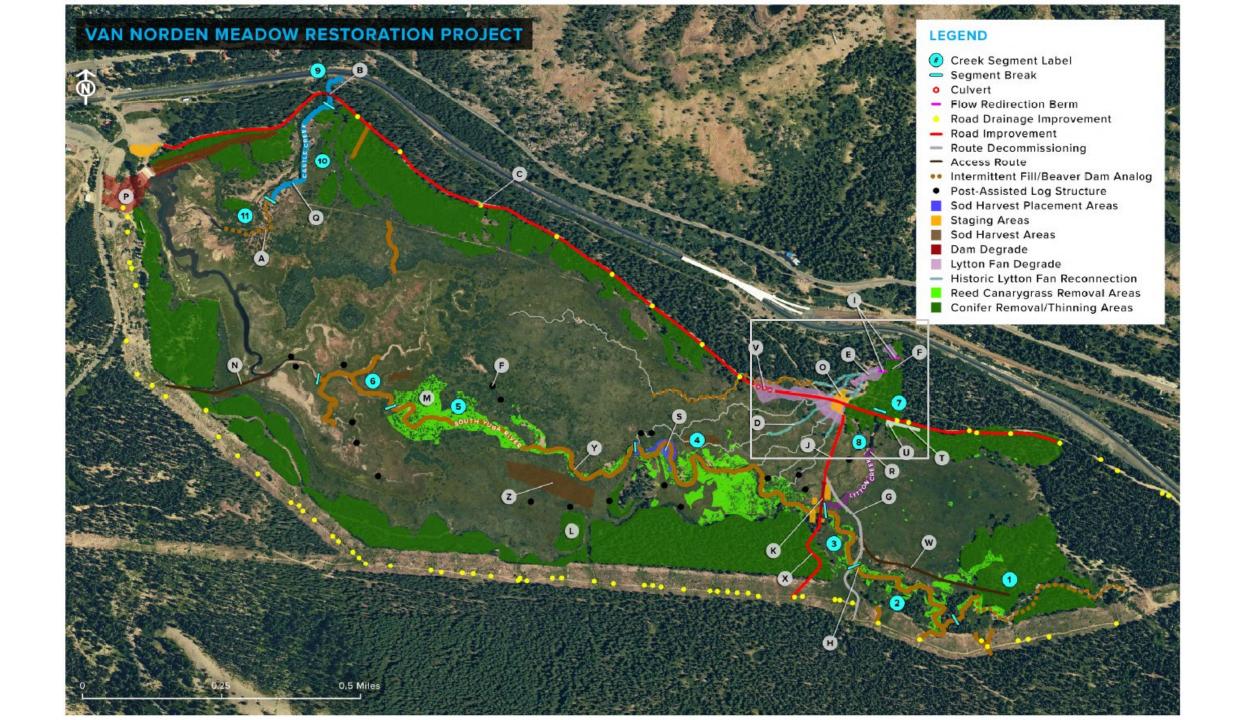
- Channel erosion
- Lowering of groundwater and loss of vegetation
- Loss of Carbon
- Loss of late season baseflow/aquatic habitat

Translating Meadow Restoration Benefits

Restoration Benefit	What this means				
Increase spring and summer surface inundation	Saturated soils, potential for shallow (inches) ponding in low spots				
Increase groundwater recharge	Groundwater level will be shallower: moving from 3-6 feet (current) to less than 3 feet below ground.				
Decrease peak storm flows	Flows leaving the meadow may not be as high.				
Increase summer baseflows	Streams within the meadow may have more flow into the summer months.				
Decrease conifer encroachment	A higher water table should result in less conifer encroachment				
Increase wet meadow vegetation/willows	Wetter soils will favor wetter loving plant species				
Increase habitat for willow flycatcher	Wetter soils mean more willow growth and habitat of the willow flycatcher. We will also plant willows.				
Improve Water Quality	Meadows serve to increase water quality through filtration of surface water, reduction of erosion, and late season "cooling"				
Reduce Reed Canary Grass (Phalaris arundinacea)	Management of a species that is outcompeting native plants in the meadow.				
Increase Carbon Storage	Wetter soils may result in increased carbon sequestration and less carbon dioxide release				

Project Timeline

Action	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Develop Proposed Action	х	х					
Follow-up Arch Survey		Х					
Complete NEPA/CEQA		Х	Х				
Permits			Х				
PHAR Treatment			Х	Х	Х	Х	Х
Conifer Removal		Х	Х	Х	Х		
Road work		Х	Х	Х	Х		
Berm Removal			Х				
Stream Channel Work			Х	Х			
Sheep Pen Parking Lot				Х	Х		
Trail Building			Х	Х	Х		
Monitoring	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х





Long Term Monitoring

- Hydrology: Continuous surface and groundwater measurements
- Vegetation: 2014, 2020, 2023
- Birds: annual, moving to less frequent
- Aquatics: fish, amphibians, BMIs
- Carbon storage: 2021 and Post-restoration

