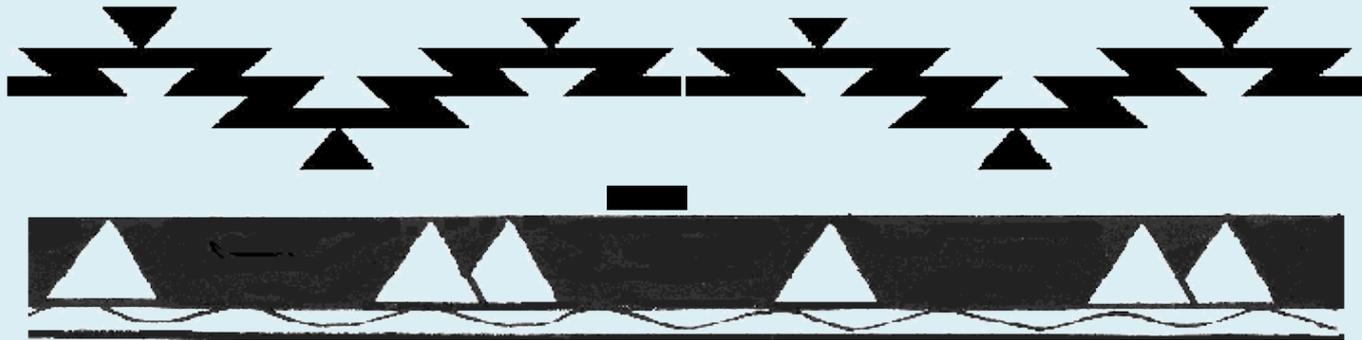


Potter Valley Tribe

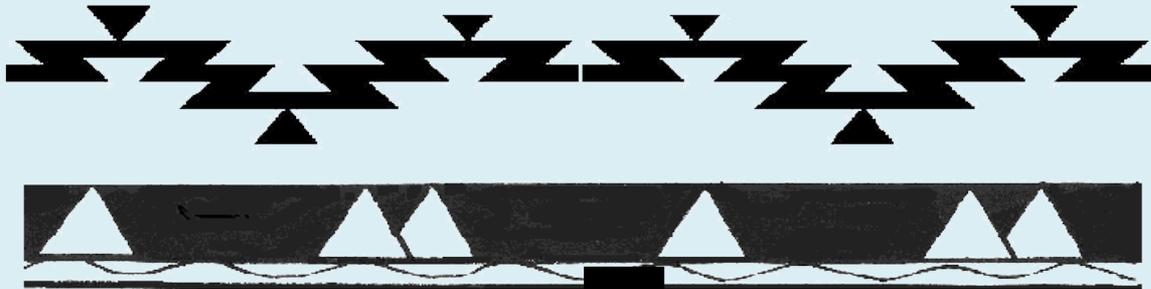


Southwest Tribal Clean Water Act Training

March 4-7, 2024

Isleta Resort & Casino, Albuquerque, NM

Potter Valley Tribe

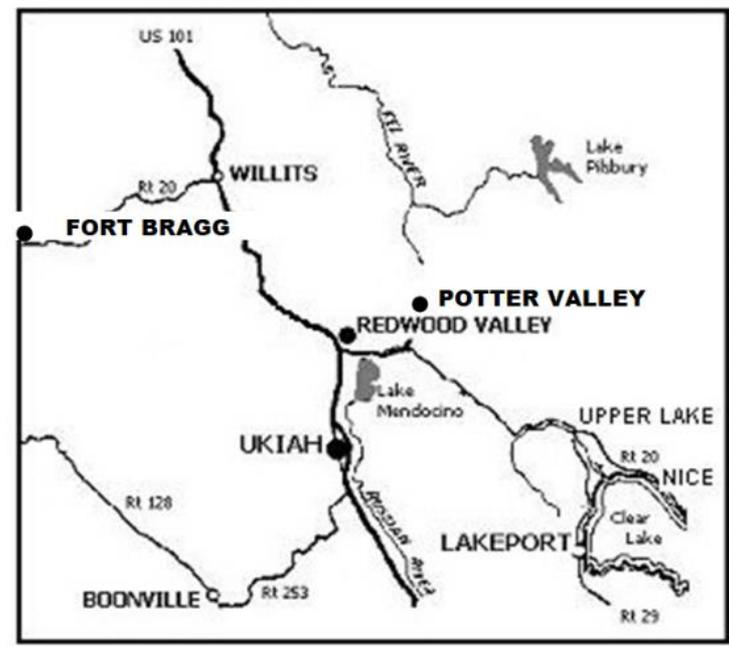


Protecting Tribal Water Resources in Northwest California

Gregg Young, M.A. - Environmental Director

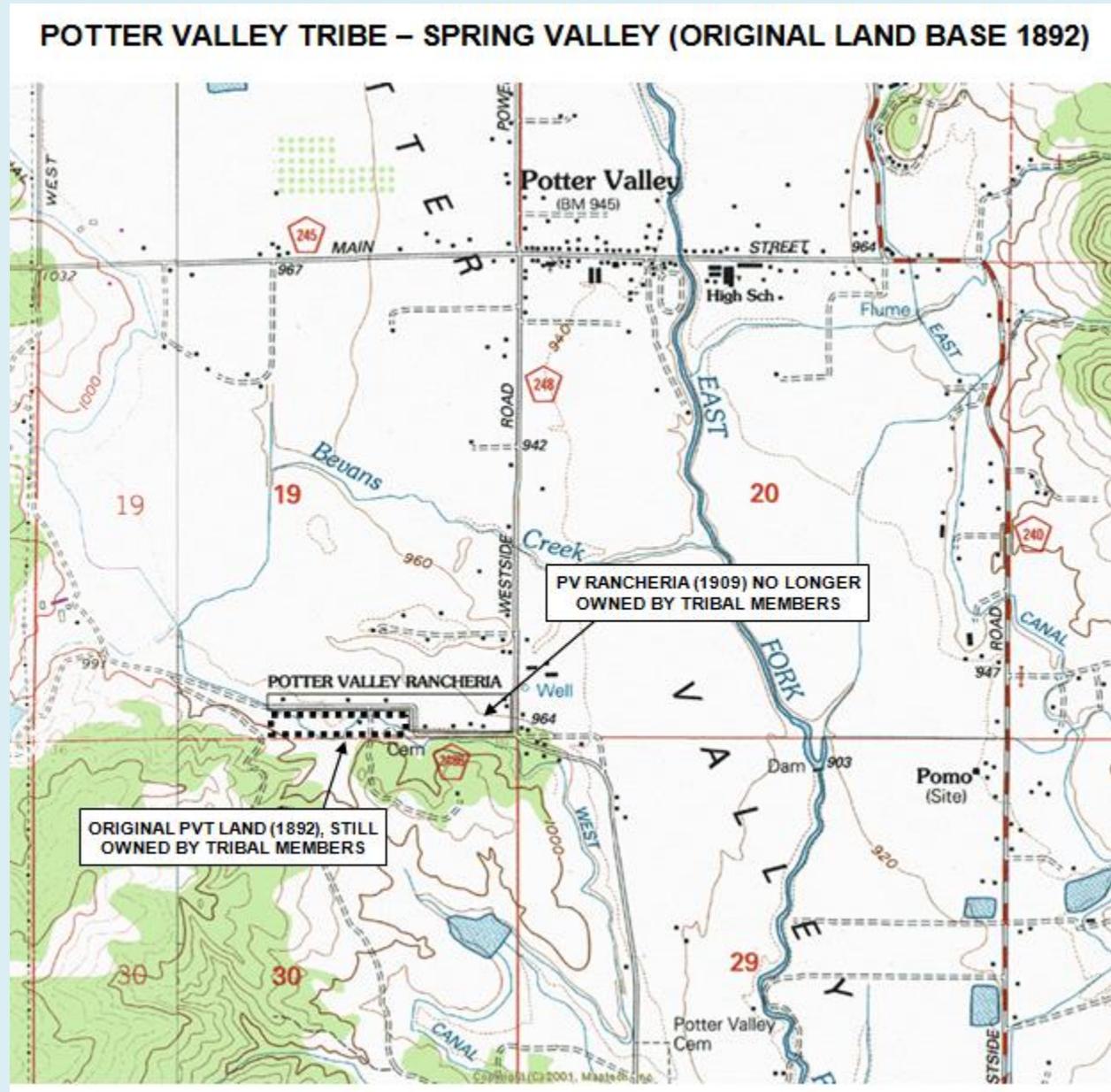
Tribal Environmental Office

The Potter Valley Tribe is in northwestern California, in an area often referred to as the 'North Coast'. Most of the PVT lands are in Mendocino County, with one parcel extending into Lake County. The Tribal Community Center is in Ukiah, the seat of Mendocino County, approximately 100 miles north of San Francisco and 150 miles west of Sacramento.

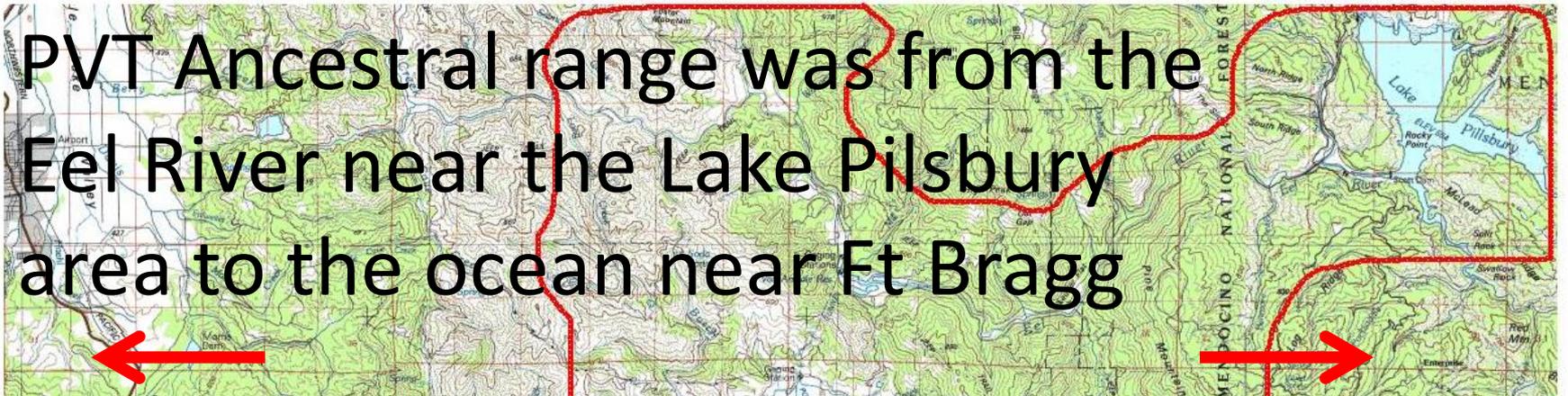


Original
Property –
10 acres

Purchased by Potter
Valley Indians in
1892. PV Rancheria,
purchased by US
government about
1909, and others,
are still erroneously
depicted on maps

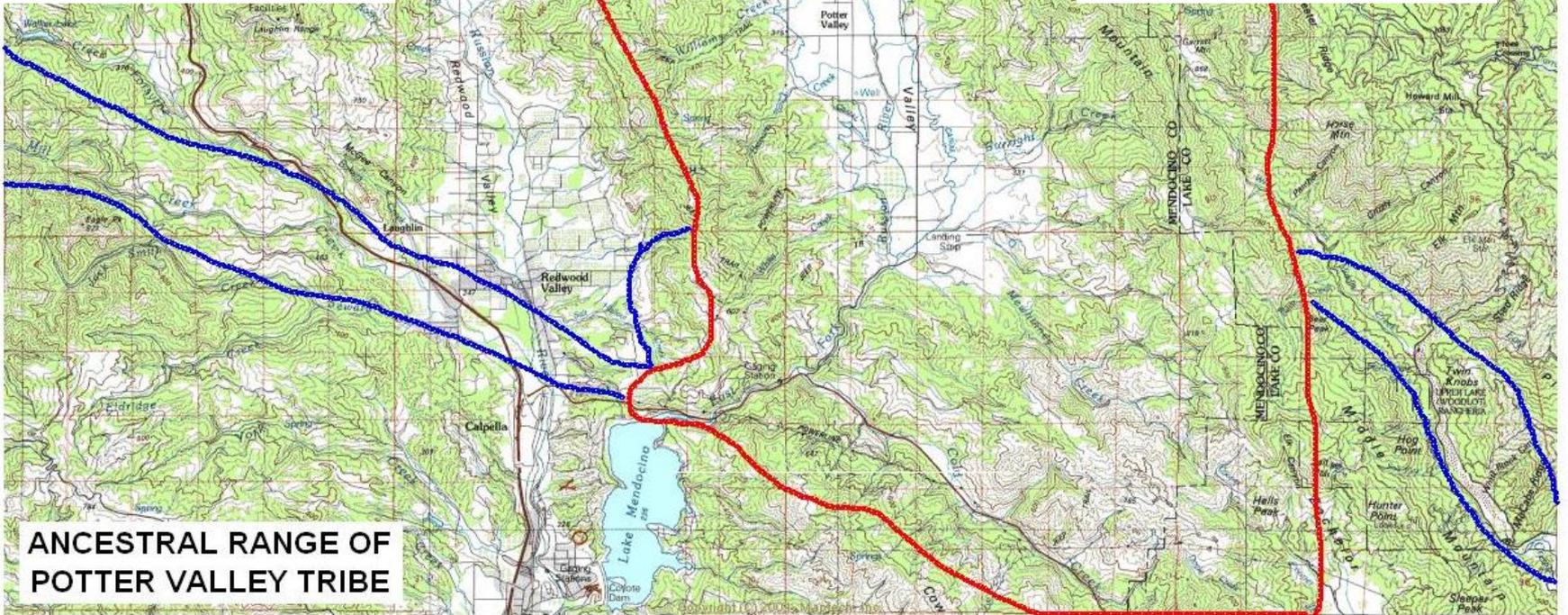


PVT Ancestral range was from the Eel River near the Lake Pilsbury area to the ocean near Ft Bragg



Gathering and trading to the east 40 ± miles

Hunting and trading to the east 20 ± miles



ANCESTRAL RANGE OF POTTER VALLEY TRIBE

— ANCESTRAL RANGE OF POTTER VALLEY TRIBE
— PROBABLE AREA OF TRAILS TO EAST AND WEST

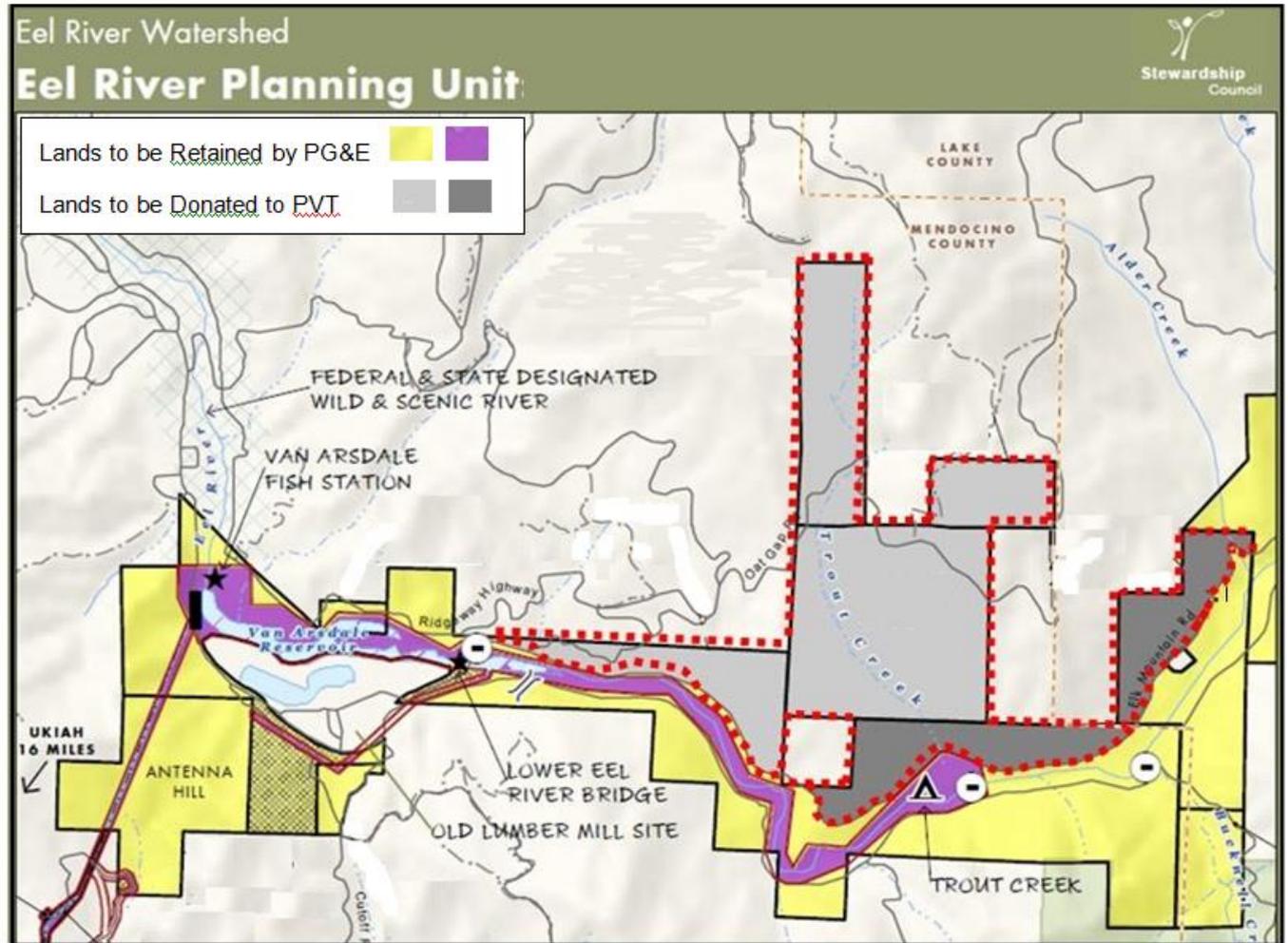
The PVT currently has 9 different properties

- From Ft Bragg (on the coast) to the Eel River (near the eastern Mendocino/Lake County lines)

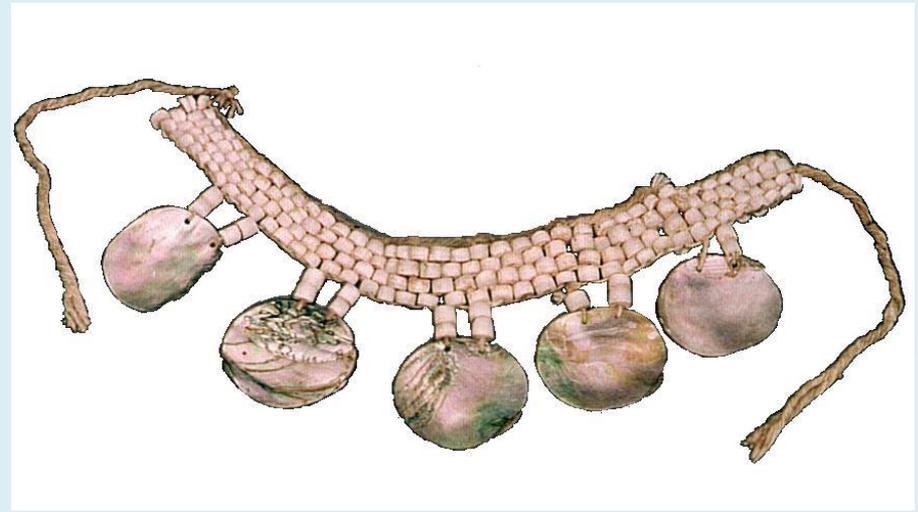


In 2019 the PVT acquired 923 acres of forest land

Property was donated by Pacific Gas & Electric Co. in a court settlement; located near PVT Eel River 14 property.



Natural Resources



- About 893 acres of open land, mostly forested
- 10 acres of developed, primitive campground and recreation area (on the coast)
- 1300 feet located 800 feet from the Pacific Ocean
- 1750 feet of river frontage (350 ft east fork Russian River, 1400 ft main stem Eel River)
- 10,150 feet of Trout & Alder Creek ownership

Habitats:

- Coastal Terrace Prairie
 - Grassland
 - Freshwater seeps
 - Coastal scrub
 - Bishop pine & cypress groves
- Valley Foothill Woodland
 - Oak woodland & grasslands
 - Chaparral
 - Riparian (river & stream)



Habitats: main stem Eel River

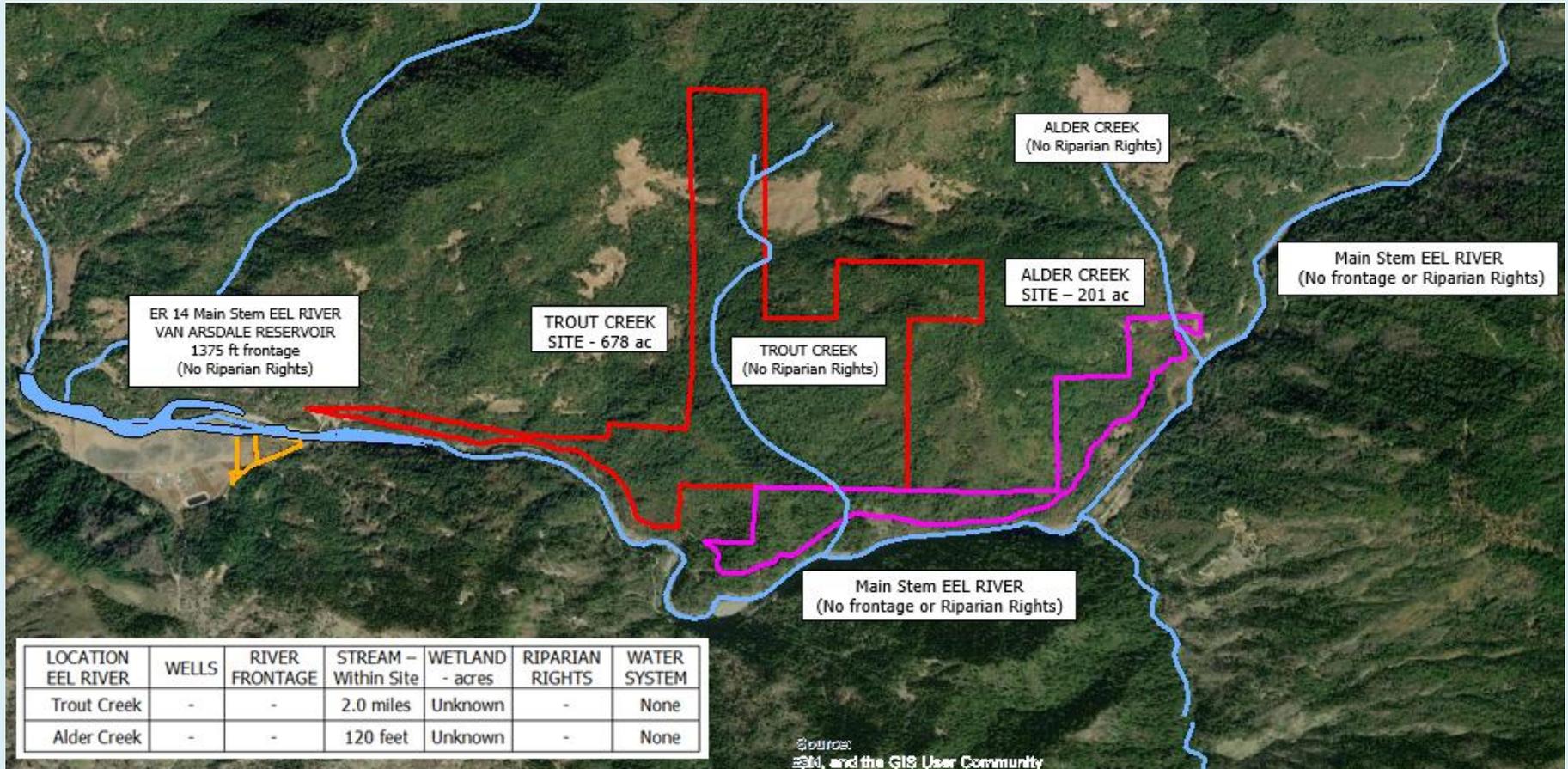
- Pacific Douglas Fir-Pine Forest
 - Oak woodland & grasslands
 - Chaparral
 - Riparian (river & stream)



Water resources include 3 (non-tribal) public water suppliers, groundwater wells, creeks, wetlands, 1 pond, 2 adjacent rivers, 2 irrigation districts.



Main Stem Eel River – Trout & Alder Creeks



Water Resource Activities originally conducted under USEPA General Assistance Program (GAP, since 2004):

*** Develop an Environmental Survey of Tribal Lands –**
Do a very thorough Environmental Assessment (using NEPA format); this helps with everything (planning, grant applications, contracting firms)

Component #1: GAP Administration

Component #2: Environmental Program Capacity

Component #3: Environmental Program Funding

Component #4: Technical Training + Projects

Component #5: Integrated Waste Management

Component #6: Pollution Prevention & Emergency Response

Component #7: Water Resource Activities - Capacity building in assessment, protection, and restoration activities on all its water resources, with anticipation of receiving CWA 106 funding, development of water quality standards & anti-degradation policies, and applying for Treatment as State (TAS) status. Allowed PVT to apply for CWA 106 (2022)

Component #8: Climate Change and Environmental Vulnerability

Other Water Resources Programs:

- * USEPA – EPA-Tribal Environmental Plan (ETEP)
- * BIA Water Management and Planning Grant (2015)
- * Draft (BIA) Integrated Resource Management, Forest Management Plans; Forest Inventory
- * (Calif.) Non-Industrial Timber Harvest Plan



Applied for CW106 funding for FY 2023

Receive award notification – 5/18/22

- * Created Water Resources Dept. under the TEO, Hired PVT Water Resources Manager 2/2023
- * Develop capacity to assess water quality conditions – RFP for QAPP Spring, 2023
- * Quality Assurance Project Plan for Water Quality Data Assessment Draft PVT review 11/2023; to USEPA 12/2023; revisions 1/2024; awaiting approval

FY 2024 Activities

- * Review water resource priorities for consistency and inclusion in the CWA 106 program
- * Evaluate traditional & current uses by tribal members and participate in the CA Tribal Beneficial Uses designation
- * Purchase field testing meters & devices
- * Use QAPP to establish baseline water quality; sampling Russian & Eel watersheds at Tribal properties; WQX data input of results

More FY 2024 Activities

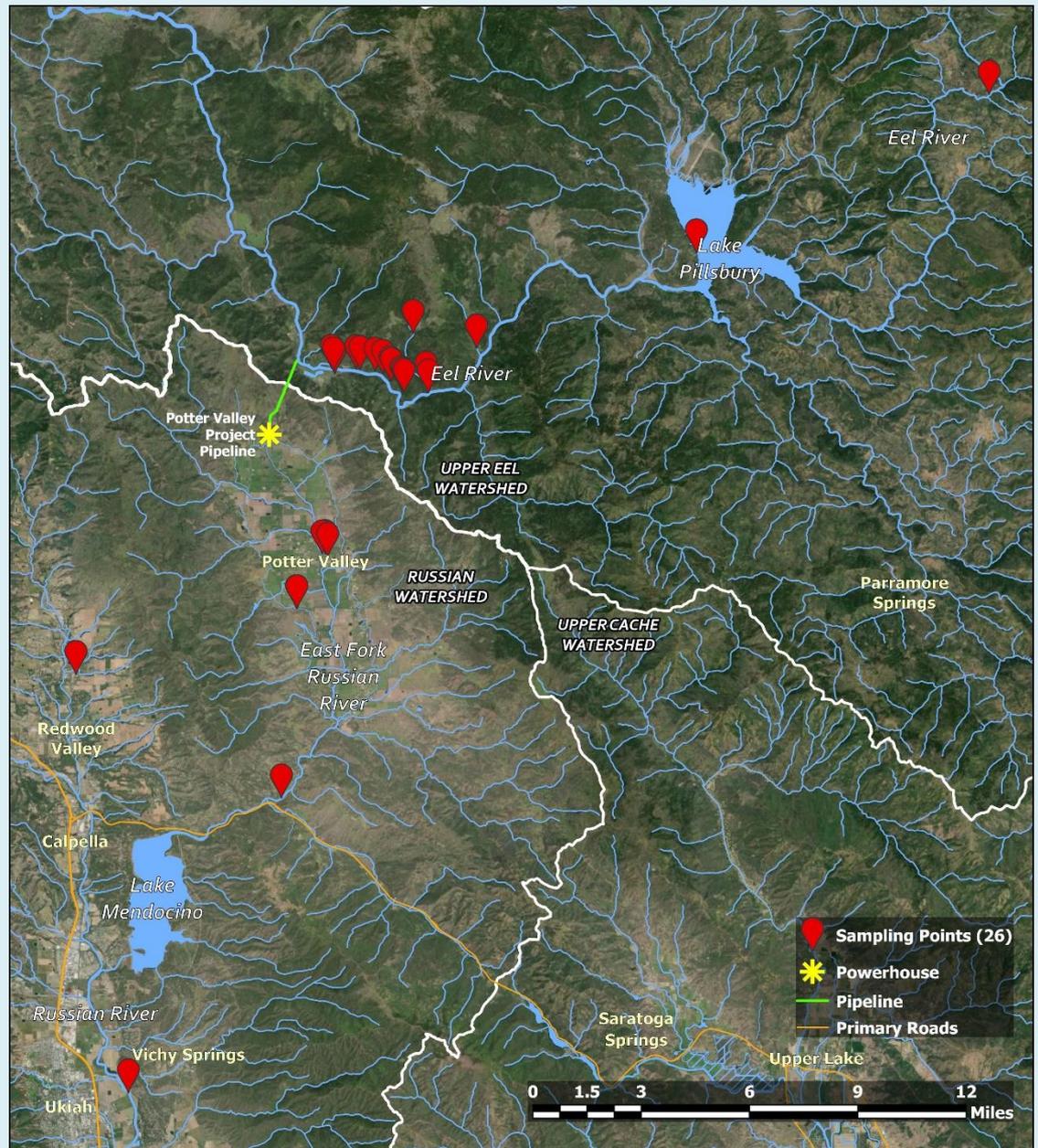
- * Draft a Water Quality Assessment Report and submit to Tribal Council & USEPA.
- * Attend & participate in ITEY Campout planning meetings
- * Plan & set up game(s), booth, and/or stream demonstration
- * Update TAS application (new trust lands, revise QAPP, etc.

QAPP Sampling Sites (Proposed):

Surface Water (11)

Ground/Well (6)

Stormwater (9)

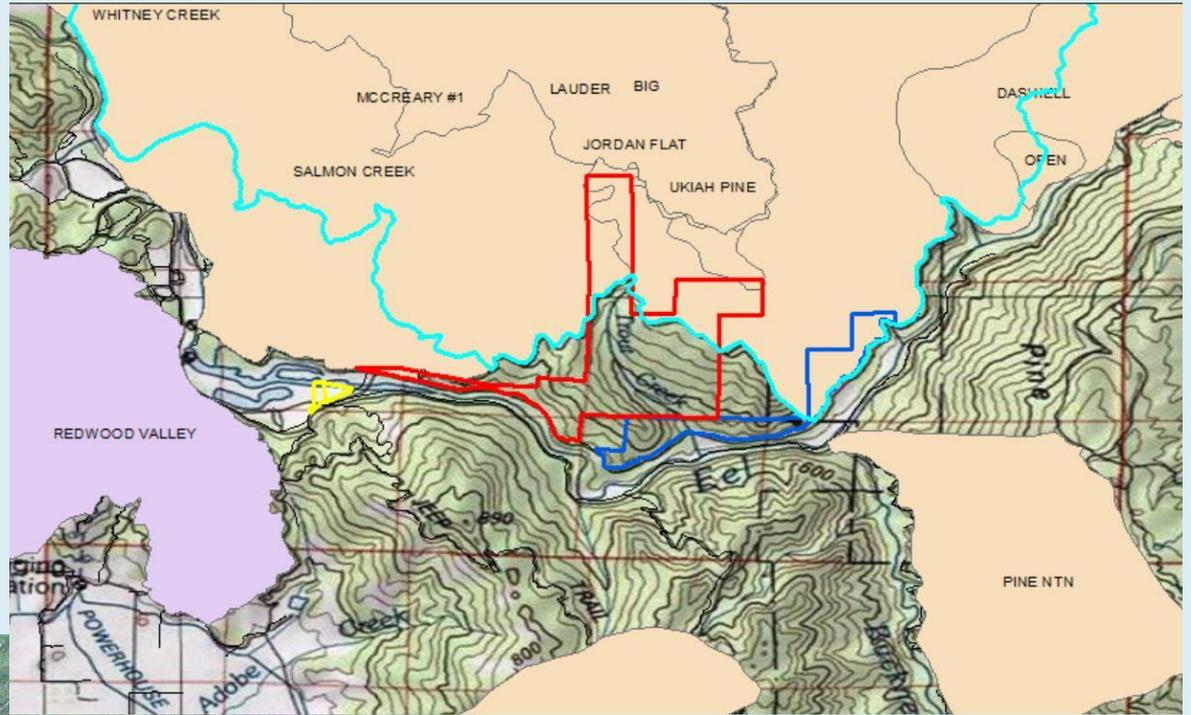


Water Resources - Quality & Other Issues

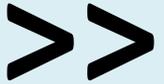
- Agricultural runoff (sediment, pesticides, fertilizers)
- Dam removal/habitat restoration
- Listed species (salmonids, lampreys) & invasives
- Cultural uses/Gathering Sites
- Sediment/Turbidity (logging, construction)
- Unauthorized water removals (*Cannabis*)
- Forest clearing/wildfire management



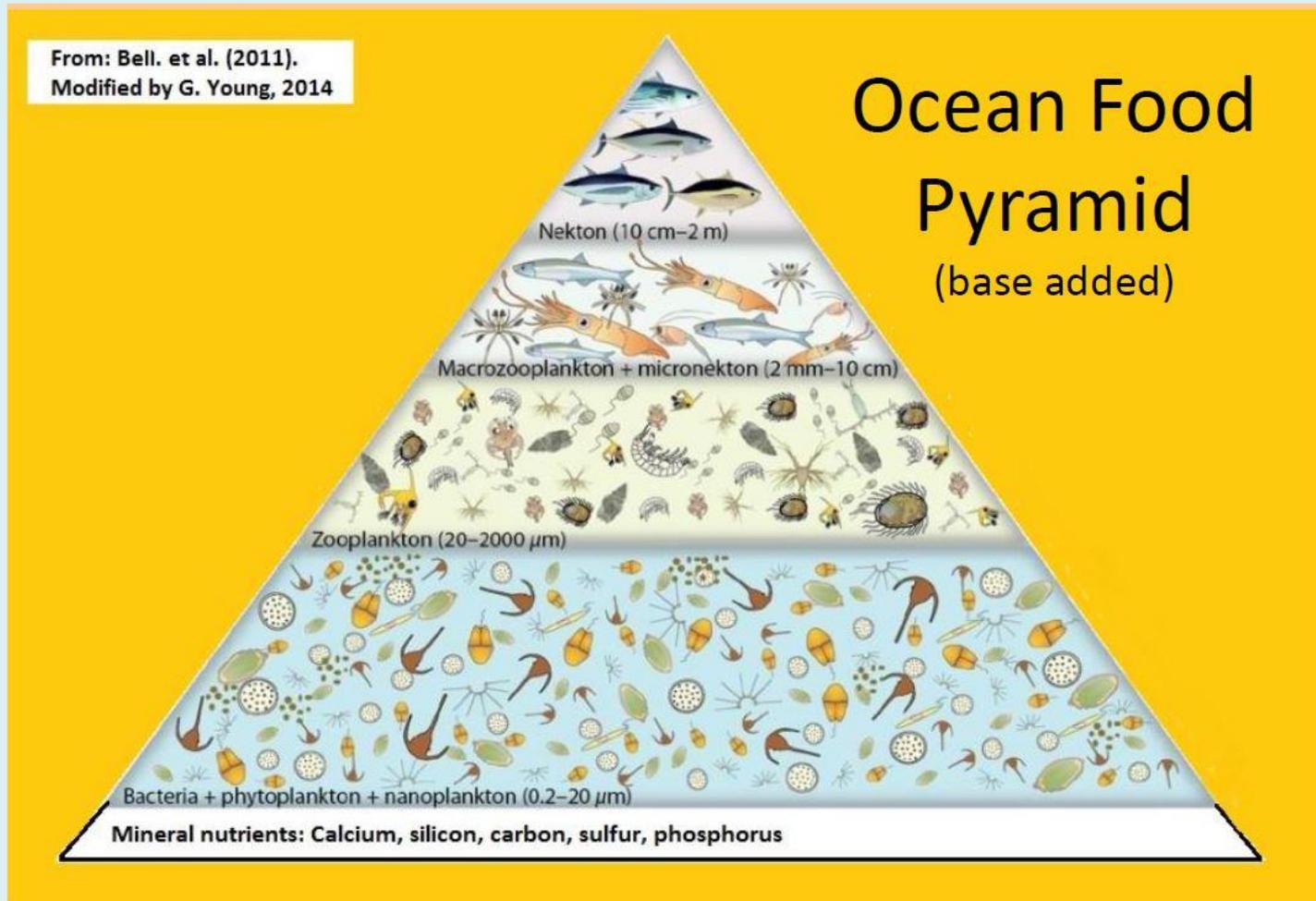
Wildfires –
our forests
are next



Not all nutrients that flow into rivers are pollutants



Mineral nutrients: **Ca > Si > C > S > P**
= base of food pyramid for aquatic systems
(seasonal delivery is normal; otherwise, it is a problem)



Serious Water Issues, impacting listed salmonids, others

West fork of Russian River (green on left); joining east fork (from Lake Mendocino dam) – who has authority over ACE?



FEBRUARY 15TH, 2023