The Nature Conservancy

Catalyzing a Restoration Economy in California's Sierra Nevada

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Renewable Gas 360 Educational Series

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60 %
Of California's Water Supply
30 %
Of CA's Above Ground Carbon


$7.8 B
Generated from Travel/ Recreation
$3.3 B
Earnings supporting 52,000 Jobs

We know how we can fix a lot of the problem

ECOLOGICAL THINNING

PRESCRIBED FIRE

MANAGED WILDFIRE

Barriers to Restoration at Scale

1. Social License
2. Science
3. Funding

Changing the Narrative

Prioritizing Management Interventions

$1.0 B/Yr.

Forest resilience

Fire dynamics

Carbon Sequestration

Fire-adapted communities

Water Security

Biodiversity Conservation

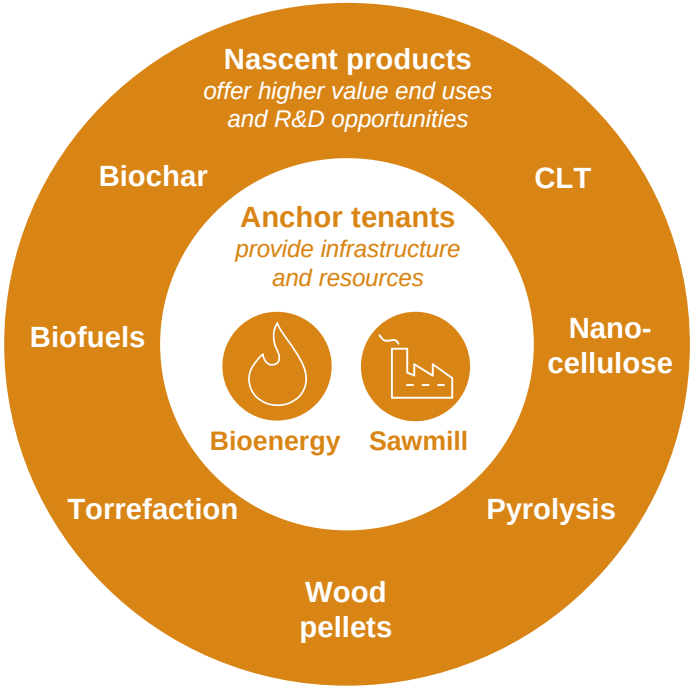
Economic Diversity

Increase Investment to be Commensurate with the Need


Nature Can’t Wait.
Change Must Be Systemic ,
Sustainable, Forever.


But the capacity to sustain a
restoration economy does not exist.

Bain evaluated 40 end markets for products made from thinned trees



BAIN & COMPANY

Key Findings

New conversion technologies (e.g., biofuels, biochar) will need significant upfront investment before the associated businesses can meet the scale of the problem

In the near term, an “Integrated campus” is the best option, combining biomass + small log sawmill to serve as an anchor tenant and would put greater share of thinned material to economic use.

Solution set:

- Incentives or market stimulation for products from small-diameter trees
- Changes and increases in subsidies
- Long-term R&D and favorable innovation environment

Driving policy and funding priorities

- Economic analysis underpinning an “upstream subsidy” or publics good charge to incentivize the removal and processing of thinned trees
- Establishment of the “Climate Catalyst Fund” to fund innovative wood product businesses. Initial fund size ~$47 m
- Early action funding ($536 m) approved and an additional $1 billion in state investments

Next phase strategic questions

HOW DO WE COLLECTIVLEY, ACCELERATE THE DEVELOPMENT OF A RESTORATION ECONOMY?

- Develop public policy conducive to innovation in wood conversion space
- Est. environmental sideboards that ensure mature, fire resilient forests
- Call on private entrepreneurs to develop cross-sector solutions
- Leverage philanthropic capital to test promising solutions

HOW DO WE FURTHER REDUCE SOCIAL BARRIERS PREVENTING USE OF GOOD FIRE?

- Recalibrate society's understanding of risk, as it relates to implementing prescribed fire
- Demonstrate the benefits of large-scale, intentional use of fire, using a risk/return model that recognizes long-term, public benefits

One Forest

Two Futures