QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

FEATHER RIVER CANYONS NATIONAL MONUMENT PROPOSAL
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INTRODUCTION

Friends of Plumas Wilderness and coalition partners are soliciting public input for a proposed national monument in the Upper Feather River Watershed. This document seeks to answer questions and provide a forum for conversation.

The Upper Feather River watershed is the headwaters of the State Water Project, providing drinking water to 27 million people throughout California. Large swaths of forests in all forks of the Feather River burned at high severity in the Camp (2018), North Complex (2020), and Dixie (2021) fires. Friends of Plumas Wilderness is heading up a locally-led, nationally-scaled effort to conserve, connect, and restore the lands and waters of our region to build resilience in the face of the social, economic, and ecological upheaval wrought by the wildfires of the last five years.

GET INVOLVED

Every aspect of our proposal is open for discussion and input. The national monument coalition will host informational sessions, public input meetings, and focus groups. Additionally, there are opportunities to provide your ideas and input through written comment on this comment form or through email at info@plumaswilderness.org.

Join a Working Group
Ask a question or share an idea
Sign our petition of support (coming soon!)
Send us an email
Follow us IG, FB, or YouTube
Join our mailing list
Become a Friend of Plumas Wilderness!
QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

We welcome your questions and will do our best to provide answers in a timely fashion. We appreciate your ideas on how to better the management of our public lands!

WHAT, WHERE, WHY?

What is a national monument?
National monuments are designated to safeguard nationally significant federal lands and waters that have cultural, historic, ecological, and scientific importance to ensure that future generations can enjoy these places in perpetuity.

While some national monuments contain historic structures or memorials, a national monument is not an individual statue.

How is a national monument different from a national park?

Process of Designation
National parks are designated by Congress. National monuments can be designated by either a Presidential Proclamation under the Antiquities Act (the most common way - it has happened over 160 times since 1906), or by an act of Congress (which has happened 40 times).

Purpose
The reason for preserving the land is different: national parks are protected due to their scenic, inspirational, educational, and recreational value. National monuments have objects of historical, cultural, ecological and/or scientific interest, and vary greatly. National Monuments allow for the interests of diverse stakeholders to be incorporated into the management of federal lands, and are much more flexible and less restrictive than national parks.

Managing Agencies
National monuments can be managed by one or more agencies, including: National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, and a few others. The 63 National Parks are all managed by the National Park Service.

**Size**

National parks and national monuments both vary dramatically in size. The smallest national park is 0.02 acres and the largest is 13.18 million acres. The smallest national monument is 0.34 acres and the largest is 8.61 million acres.

Would the land be transferred to the National Park Service?

No. The U.S. Forest Service currently manages this land, and they would continue to manage it as a national monument. It is possible that collaborative management between the Forest Service and local Tribes could be appropriate.

How does the 1906 Antiquities Act work today?

The Antiquities Act was the first U.S. law to provide general legal protection of cultural and natural resources of historic or scientific interest on federal lands. The 1906 law is extremely flexible and has been used to protect monuments as different as the Statue of Liberty (1924) and the Grand Canyon (1908).

The Antiquities Act remains relevant because its use has evolved to address a changing society and natural world; an example of this is Tribal co-management.

In simple terms: A locally-led proposal will be developed, submitted to the federal government for consideration and negotiation, then the proposal goes to the President who develops a proclamation to create the national monument.

It is typical that within the presidential proclamation a management plan is required to be developed within three years, led by local interests. The management plan is subject to review and compliance with the 1970 National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).
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<tr>
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<td>Access to State &amp; Private Lands</td>
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<td>Access to Utility Right-of-Way</td>
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Where is this proposed national monument located?

The proposed Feather River Canyons National Monument is located where the North and Middle Forks of the Feather River cut through the Sierra Crest. The proposed national monument currently encompasses the steep, rugged canyons of the Middle Fork Feather River from Feather Falls and Bald Rock Canyon in the west to Lakes Basin in the east, including the large tributary of Nelson Creek. It stretches north through Bucks Lake Wilderness to the North Fork Feather River, including the rugged terrain of Bucks Creek and Chips Creek, along the river canyon from Tobin to Caribou. See the draft map on p. 8.

How big is the proposed monument?

The proposed monument could range in size; our current draft proposal has explored boundaries between 200,000 and 400,000 acres in size. Our coalition seeks your input on where boundaries are appropriate. Language from the Antiquities Act of 1906 states that a national monument should be the smallest area compatible with proper care and management of the objects to be protected.

Why is this monument important and necessary?

This spectacular area is worthy of national recognition. There are many nationally significant natural and cultural values within the proposed national monument boundary: stunning granite domes and plutons, abundant waterfalls, unique geology including limestone, soapstone, and serpentine that contribute to outstanding biological diversity and scenic interest. The cultural history of Maidu and other people is deep, and the basic elements of ample water, healthy soil, clean air, dark skies, and natural quiet are found in abundance.

People have been advocating for protection of Feather River canyons for nearly a century. In 1931, the Oroville Chamber of Commerce proposed creating Feather River National Park. In 1946, Elizabeth A. Everett of Berry Creek suggested the area be designated as a national monument. In 2018, Dick Laursen, who grew up on Milsap Bar during The Depression, suggested Forest Service lands be designated as Feather River Canyons National Monument. In 2020, Friends of Plumas Wilderness and coalition partners began exploring this possibility.
At present, while the land within the proposed national monument boundary is managed by the US Forest Service, it lacks permanent protection. Bucks Lake Wilderness and the ¼-mile corridor around the Middle Fork Feather River enjoy permanent protection; otherwise there is no defense against industrial mining, water development, and unmanaged recreation.

The proposed national monument contains a high concentration of unique areas that have been recognized for their national significance: four Inventoried Roadless Areas, twenty-one Eligible Wild & Scenic Rivers, two Candidate Natural Research Areas, and nine Proposed Special Interest Areas. Rather than seek protection for each of these unique features and create a complex management situation, our coalition believes that one designation, a national monument, would permanently protect these special lands and waters with the most flexible management tool available. If these many unique areas are protected under the Antiquities Act, our coalition will not advocate for additional Wilderness, Wild & Scenic Rivers, Research Natural Areas, or Special Interest Areas within the designated national monument.

Now is the time to protect the area. Both state and federal governments currently support increasing the use of Indigenous knowledge and practices, such as cultural burning, to restore land. At the same time, multinational mining companies are acquiring unpatented mining claims within the boundaries of the proposed monument. We are at a critical juncture. If we wish to conserve the most culturally and naturally unique areas on our public lands for current and future generations, we must do it now.

What special values and areas would be designated as a national monument?

While the specific boundary of the proposed national monument is still being determined, it is important to note that our coalition is particularly interested in creating a monument at the watershed scale. This does not mean the entire watershed would be a national monument: it means we’re thinking big!

The map on page 8 shows the general area we are evaluating for our proposal.
Our first priority in determining the boundary is meaningful collaboration with Indigenous peoples within our watershed. Where the national monument boundary ultimately ends up depends on local input, and other considerations like cultural landscapes of interest to Tribes; watershed boundaries, landforms, and roads; national forest lands, management prescriptions and designations; county boundaries; and critical wildlife habitats and plant communities.

**Cultural Landscapes**

The mountains, canyons, rivers, streams and springs of the Feather River are the ancestral homelands of the Maidu Indians and have special cultural value because of their long relationship with the land. The Upper Feather River Watershed contains numerous ceremonial and cultural sites – trails, villages, gathering sites, and burial grounds. Traditional Knowledge of ecosystems and processes, such as fire, were disregarded by settler culture and have led to undesirable consequences, like biodiversity loss and uncontrollable wildfires. Indigenous knowledge can help guide us towards a more sustainable future.

There are many post-settlement historical resources worth protecting as well. The California National Historical Trail crosses the proposed national monument where African American explorer Jim Beckwourth pioneered a route across the Sierra Nevada in 1850. The area contains numerous historical Gold Rush mining sites, ghost towns, artifacts, and trails. Unique voices such as Louise Amelia Clapp, a.k.a. Dame Shirley, are also present. Within the proposed national monument is the site of the first documented ski race in the Western Hemisphere at Onion Valley in the winter of 1861. Western Pacific Railroad’s Feather River Canyons Route has been dubbed by railfans a wonderland of iconic bridges, tunnels and engineering innovations.

**Healthy Watersheds**

In light of the recent devastating fires in the region, a more focused and aggressive approach to conservation, restoration, and adaptive management of forests is much needed.

The North and Middle Forks of the Feather River begin in the snow-covered mountains of the Southern Cascades and Northern Sierra Nevada and flow to Lake Oroville, the primary reservoir of the California State Water Project, providing drinking water to more than 27
million people. The headwaters of the North Fork Feather River originate in the Southern Cascades within Lassen Volcanic National Park and the Middle Fork begins in Sierra Valley, the largest valley in the Sierra Nevada.

The Middle Fork Feather River was one of eight Wild & Scenic Rivers designated with the passage of the 1968 Act and 21 Eligible Wild & Scenic Rivers have been identified on the North and Middle Forks of the Feather River within the proposed boundaries of the monument.

**Resilient Forests**

Coalition members advocate for the expanded use of ecological forestry—ecological thinning, prescribed burning, and managed wildfire—in areas outside of the Wildland Urban Interface to protect communities, working lands, and wildlands. Ecological management of our forests will be an important part of protecting California’s largest supply of drinking water.

An example of how national monument coalition members propose to create resilient forests is to use frequent, low severity fire to reduce fuels in areas with serpentine soils. Soils in these areas lack nutrients and have sparse vegetation, making them logical places to create fuel breaks. The proposed national monument is bisected by a 3 mile by 30 mile serpentine band. Our coalition proposes to increase fuels reduction efforts here to reduce the risk wildfires pose to human communities and infrastructure downwind of wildlands within the proposed national monument.

Coalition members view our contributions to natural resource management as additive. We aim to grow the local forest restoration economy by increasing the capacity of non-governmental organizations and engaging historically underrepresented groups in natural resource management. Until recently, Indigenous knowledge, such as cultural burning, has been disregarded by natural resource professionals. Our national monument coalition includes local tribes and aims to increase our collective capacity to expand the use of Indigenous knowledge on public lands. Doing so will diversify the forest resilience workforce and ensure our forests are stewarded for a variety of natural and cultural values.
Biodiversity
The Upper Feather River Watershed is a biodiversity hotspot spanning nine distinct ecoregions that is home to at least 75 animal and 143 plant species of special concern. Its dramatic elevational range and geologic diversity allow for life to thrive in numerous and unique ways, unmatched by other regions of the Sierra Nevada.

The clean and cold waters of the Feather River and its tributaries provide essential habitat for wild trout, federally threatened North Fork foothill yellow-legged frogs, and federally endangered Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frogs. Old-growth and mature conifer forests, those that remain, provide critical habitat for federally threatened California spotted owls and northern goshawks. Elk inhabit the northern portion of the proposed monument and the eastern portion provides critical deer habitat.

Scenic & Recreational Resources
The national monument proposal includes many scenic wonders and recreational resources. For example, there are stunning granite domes and plutons (Big Bald Rock, Bald Rock Dome, Grizzly Dome); abundant waterfalls, including Feather Falls, Curtain Falls, and Seven Falls on Fall River; and unique geologic features like Little Volcano (limestone), and Red Hill (the largest serpentine terrane in the northern Sierra).

The Feather River National Scenic Byway travels through the proposed monument. The Scenic Byway parallels the upper reaches of the Wild & Scenic Middle Fork Feather River and through the deepest section of the North Fork Canyon. The proposed monument also contains the 13,764-acre Feather Falls Scenic Area.

From the easily accessible Lakes Basin Recreation Area to the remote portions of the Middle Fork Feather River, like Bald Rock Canyon, the proposed monument would provide a diversity of recreation opportunities. The hard-to-get-to Middle Fork Canyon and Nelson Creek provide some of the best trout fishing in California and have been designated Wild Trout Waters by the California Department of Fish & Wildlife.

The Middle Fork Feather River is the premier Class V multi-day kayak expedition in California, attracting whitewater enthusiasts from around the world. The Pacific Crest
National Scenic Trail traverses the proposed monument, including within the Bucks Lake Wilderness. Feather Falls and Hartman Bar are National Recreation Trails within the proposed monument.

Thirty more hiking trails and a half-dozen routes allow visitors to explore deep into the remote canyons of the proposed monument or high into the surrounding mountains. Four unique Off-Highway Vehicle trails provide access to the inner canyon of the Middle Fork and there are abundant opportunities to explore the canyon rims by vehicle or bicycle.

Visitors can also ride horseback, snow-shoe, ski, and snowmobile in the proposed monument. Local resorts, restaurants, and retail businesses will likely benefit from increased visitation to the region with the establishment of a national monument.\(^1\)

What does a national monument mean for the Middle Fork Feather River?
The area of the Middle Fork Feather River to be included in the proposed Feather River Canyons National Monument is yet to be determined. Only a quarter-mile on either side of the Middle Fork Feather is currently protected under the Wild & Scenic Rivers Act. This leaves the rest of the watershed and the tributaries of the Middle Fork vulnerable to water diversion and development, such as large-scale mining, road-building, and commercial logging.

There are a dozen tributaries to the Middle Fork that could be protected by a national monument, such as Nelson Creek, Jamison Creek, and Fall River. Including these waterways in the proposed national monument will keep them free-flowing and protect their watersheds.

What are the threats?
National Forests face four major threats: Wildfire, Invasive Species, Loss of Open Spaces, and Unmanaged Recreation, as identified by the Chief of the Forest Service in 2006. These threats remain pertinent for the Plumas and Lassen National Forests today. Wildfire and forest health issues are of primary concern. National monument coalition members strongly support Forest Service efforts to restore and protect communities and forests from wildfire.

\(^1\)https://headwaterseconomics.org/public-lands/national-monuments-studies/
FoPW believes there is a need for aggressive fuel reduction in the rugged and remote portions of the watershed that is not currently being addressed. For example, we advocate that the Plumas National Forest Land & Resource Management Plan be amended to allow the use of prescribed fire in the Bucks Lake Wilderness.

Because our region is the headwaters of the State Water Project, providing drinking water to 27 million Californians, we are vulnerable to water development and diversions. Protecting our free-flowing rivers and streams benefits people, ecosystems, and wildlife.

EON Discovery Inc. recently acquired 30 unpatented mining claims under the subsidiary Gold Mining LLC. The claims consist of 600 acres in the vicinity of Bucks Lake at the headwaters of Big, Haskins, and Bear creeks. In late 2022, EON Discovery put the subsidiary Gold Mining LLC on the market.

Monument coalition members strongly feel that the proposed national monument is protecting these special places for something, not just against something. We are protecting it for future generations. For healthy watersheds. For wildlife habitats. For the traditional knowledge and practices of the Maidu, who have inhabited this region for untold generations.

**TRIBAL INVOLVEMENT**

How will Tribes be involved and sovereignty respected?

National monument coalition members respect the sovereignty of all Maidu groups, regardless of federal status. Friends of Plumas Wilderness has worked on LandBack efforts and will continue to partner with and develop collaborations with Maidu Tribes and organizations. Because the proposed national monument is on federal land (Plumas and Lassen National Forests), federally recognized Tribes would need to create a resolution with federally unrecognized Tribes to delineate traditional areas of occupation and overlap as well as which Tribe is responsible for specific areas. At this point, the Maidu would then negotiate with the Forest Service to determine appropriate uses within the proposed monument. Our coalition advocates for the meaningful inclusion and recognition of all
Tribes and indigenous people, both federally and non-federally recognized in the production of a national monument management plan.

We see the designation of a national monument in the Feather River region as an opportunity to expand the use of Indigenous Knowledge on federal lands to restore watersheds and wildlife habitat. We feel strongly that public lands could be better stewarded by incorporating Indigenous Knowledge into federal land management practices. Collaborative management of federal lands using Indigenous Knowledge is what our coalition is working toward.

Collaborative Management - how does it work?

Collaborative management in a national monument first occurred at Bears Ears National Monument in Utah. Five Tribes from the region co-wrote the initial proposal (2015) and management plan (2022) for the monument. Because the 1906 Antiquities Act allows for the President to protect prehistoric, historic, and scientific ‘objects’ ‘in his discretion’, this broad presidential authority was used to allow for collaborative management.

What it means, in practice, is that Tribes and agency officials will work together to make joint management decisions. The government does not give authority of the US Forest Service lands to the Tribes, but Tribes have a ‘seat at the table’ when management decisions are made.

What about non-federally recognized Tribes?

While our coalition recognizes and respects the sovereignty of all Tribal Nations, due to legal limitations beyond our control, non-federally recognized Tribes need to partner with federally recognized tribes to most effectively voice their concerns.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Is there a formal process for public involvement?

Our coalition is seeking input from the public in many ways. The national monument coalition will host informational sessions, public input meetings, and focus groups in the
coming months and years. Additionally, there are opportunities to provide your ideas and input through written comment on this comment form or through email at info@plumaswilderness.org.

A coalition of organizations working for national monument designation would negotiate with the Forest Service on what would be included in the Presidential Proclamation. The public would be involved with the development of a management plan per the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Has FoPW already made up their mind?

We are at the very beginning of the process for determining if a national monument is right for our region and where it might be located. We started internally, and are now expanding to local Tribes, reaching out to the general public, and establishing working groups to guide the proposal.

This is news to me! When did you start working on it?

For nearly a century Feather River residents have been advocating for permanent protection of Feather River canyons. In 1931, the Oroville Chamber of Commerce proposed Feather River National Park. In 1946, Elizabeth A. Everett of Berry Creek suggested Bald Rock Canyon be designated as a national monument. On November 7th, 2018, when the Friends of Plumas Wilderness film “Visions of the Lost Sierra” had its debut at Quincy’s Town Hall Theatre, Dick Laursen suggested the idea of making the Middle Fork a national monument. Friends of Plumas Wilderness began investigating the national monument idea in 2020. Since then, there have been many events, field trips, and informational pieces published in local newspapers, on social media, and elsewhere.

In February 2022, Friends of Plumas Wilderness launched its Protect Plumas initiative, which started with a watershed-wide analysis of lands and waters to be conserved. The group reached out to organizations, elected officials, and boards within the region to present our vision and gather feedback. A public opinion survey was conducted between March 1 and July 6, 2022, with 380 people responding.
We apologize if you haven’t had a chance to learn about the national monument idea until recently, but we welcome your input! Follow us on social media, join our mailing list, or become a member of Friends of Plumas Wilderness.

Is this a ‘land grab’?

The lands that are proposed to be included in the national monument are currently managed by the U.S. Forest Service for the benefit of the American people. No private lands will be transferred to public ownership unless there is express consent and interest by a willing seller to do so. Current uses, activities, and access will be maintained.

**US FOREST SERVICE & COUNTY GOVERNMENT INVOLVEMENT**

Is a national monument better than an updated forest plan?

The national monument proclamation could mandate a plan be written within three years of designation. The National Forest Management Act requires each National Forest to update their management plan every 10-15 years, yet the Plumas National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (“Forest Plan”) has not been updated since it was published in 1988.

We need a plan for the rugged and remote portions of the Plumas and Lassen National Forests that addresses fuels and post-fire restoration as soon as possible.

How does national monument designation affect existing land ownership?

The establishment of the proposed national monument will not adversely affect any private property or water rights, any trust lands held by the State of California, any political subdivision of the State of California, or any special district within the boundaries of the national monument.
What about new infrastructure and maintenance of existing facilities (visitor center, roads, etc.)?

Designation would allow the development of infrastructure (roads, visitor center) if it is desired by local communities and does not adversely impact values the monument was established to protect. Similar monuments managed by the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management have information kiosks but do not have visitors centers. Conservation groups associated with national monuments, including Friends of Plumas Wilderness, can help fund maintenance and development.

How would the proposed national monument be staffed? Who would enforce laws there?

Existing law enforcement jurisdictions would remain as they are today. The monument management plan could address staffing and law enforcement needs.

Will the US Forest Service get more funding if a national monument is designated?

The Forest Service would continue to manage lands within the monument. Congressional allocation of funds for a national monument is the exception, not the rule. The national monument coalition would work to secure funding from a variety of sources (grants, foundations, donors) to develop the monument management plan and for future work within the monument.

Can livestock grazing occur within the national monument?

Yes. Valid, existing grazing leases in the proposed national monument will continue. Grazing will be managed with the same laws and regulations as on other land managed by the US Forest Service.

Why can’t this area just stay as is - multiple-use land managed by the US Forest Service?

National monument designation could provide protection against water development and large-scale mining. Because the Upper Feather River Watershed lacks permanent
protections, when compared to state and national averages, we will likely become a target for extractive uses unless we protect more lands and waters.

In addition to extractive uses, our local lands and waters are threatened by climate change and wildfire. Sustainable management of land is among the most promising solutions to the climate crisis. Given recent wildfires, our region needs restoration. Restoring more fire resilient forests that can sequester carbon dioxide for the long haul would help our local communities and our planet.

**FOREST HEALTH & MANAGEMENT**

Does national monument designation allow for forest health work?

Yes! The national monument coalition fully acknowledges the need to reduce fuels and use prescribed fire across the watershed and we strongly support Forest Service community protection and recovery efforts, but these efforts will fall short if we do not address all lands in the watershed. National monument designation would require a plan be written within three years that would address fuels reduction and prescribed fire in the most rugged and remote portions of the watershed.

The Plumas National Forest Land & Resource Management Plan is antiquated, encourages high densities of trees, and does not allow prescribed fire in Wilderness. We need a new plan that incorporates best available science and Indigenous knowledge. And we need it as soon as possible. National monument designation could push that planning effort along and make progress towards getting our forests in better shape - a big task.

Does national monument designation allow wildfire suppression activities?

Yes. There is no federal land designation, including Wilderness, that impedes fire suppression efforts. Monument coalition members would like to see increased proactive fuels management instead of an unending emergency response as the primary strategy to address wildfire.
ACCESS

Will access - like motorized access - change or be limited by national monument designation?

Motorized recreation would continue to be allowed on legal routes within the proposed national monument. Our coalition does not wish to negatively impact motorized recreationists or revisit the Motor Vehicle Use Map and Over-snow Vehicle decisions.

Will national monument designation lead to overcrowding?

The Feather River Region is being promoted and we are being discovered. Public input would guide the national monument plan, which would determine where recreation and tourism would be encouraged and discouraged. Recreation and tourism could be promoted where infrastructure exists and the community desires it. As it is, the area is being promoted, often without direct public involvement.

Will there be an entrance fee?

Similar monuments managed by the Forest Service and BLM, such as Berryessa-Snow Mountain and Cascade-Siskiyou, do not have an entrance fee. A fee collection strategy could be employed in portions of the proposed monument if desired by the community.

Are pets allowed?

Similar monuments managed by the Forest Service allow equestrian recreation as well as dogs. Ultimate pet rules are developed during the management plan process.

ECONOMICS & COMMUNITY

How does national monument designation affect local communities?

Positive business growth was associated with areas adjacent to 14 national monuments designated between 1991 and 2014, according to a 2020 study. Job sectors with the most growth were: hotels, business services, health services, construction, and real estate.
Will my private property be impacted?

National monuments protect “existing rights,” including private property rights. Our coalition will work closely with private landowners to determine final boundaries.

How will other local proposals and initiatives be affected?

The national monument proposal is emerging from the community. The development of a national monument management plan will require public input per the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Our coalition will work closely with Plumas and Lassen National Forests, other agencies, organizations, and individuals affected by the national monument.

Could this national monument become a national park someday?

Of the nation’s 63 national parks, 27 of them started out as national monuments. The designation of a national park requires an act of Congress.

Won’t this lead to ‘loving the area to death?’

The goal of designating a national monument is not to attract more visitors to our region. Coalition members aim to forefront local Indigenous knowledge, conserve and restore forests, and protect free-flowing rivers and important plant and wildlife habitat. We strongly believe conserving these values far outweighs the risk of attracting more visitors.

Several organizations in the Upper Feather River Watershed actively and effectively promote recreation opportunities available in our area. The local economy has been and continues to shift from one of extraction and resource production toward recreation and eco-tourism.
FUNDING

How will the new national monument be funded, especially the collaborative management idea?

USFS funds allocated through Congress are not the only source for the implementation of a national monument management plan. Grants, foundation dollars, and donations are also tools for funding.

Investing in forest health and fire resilience can pay off through reducing spending in emergency situations. The 2021 Dixie Fire cost $637.4 million (over $6 million / day) to suppress (not including losses or insurance): it burned nearly one million acres, making it the largest and most expensive wildfire to contain in state history. Investing in forest health and landscape scale land stewardship now will prevent costly emergency fire suppression activities in the future.

Should something more durable be proposed?

The current amount of protected lands in the Upper Feather River Watershed is only about 7% total - 4% public lands and 3% private lands. Compared to the U.S. as a whole, which has 12% protected lands, and California, at 24% protected lands, our region has a significant gap in protections.

But it takes a movement - our entire community - to make a national monument happen. We hope you will join our coalition. For cultural landscapes, healthy watersheds, critical habitats, and resilient forests. For future generations.
Spanish Peak Ridge with view to Silver Lake, Bucks Lake Wilderness

Photo: Darrel Jury