

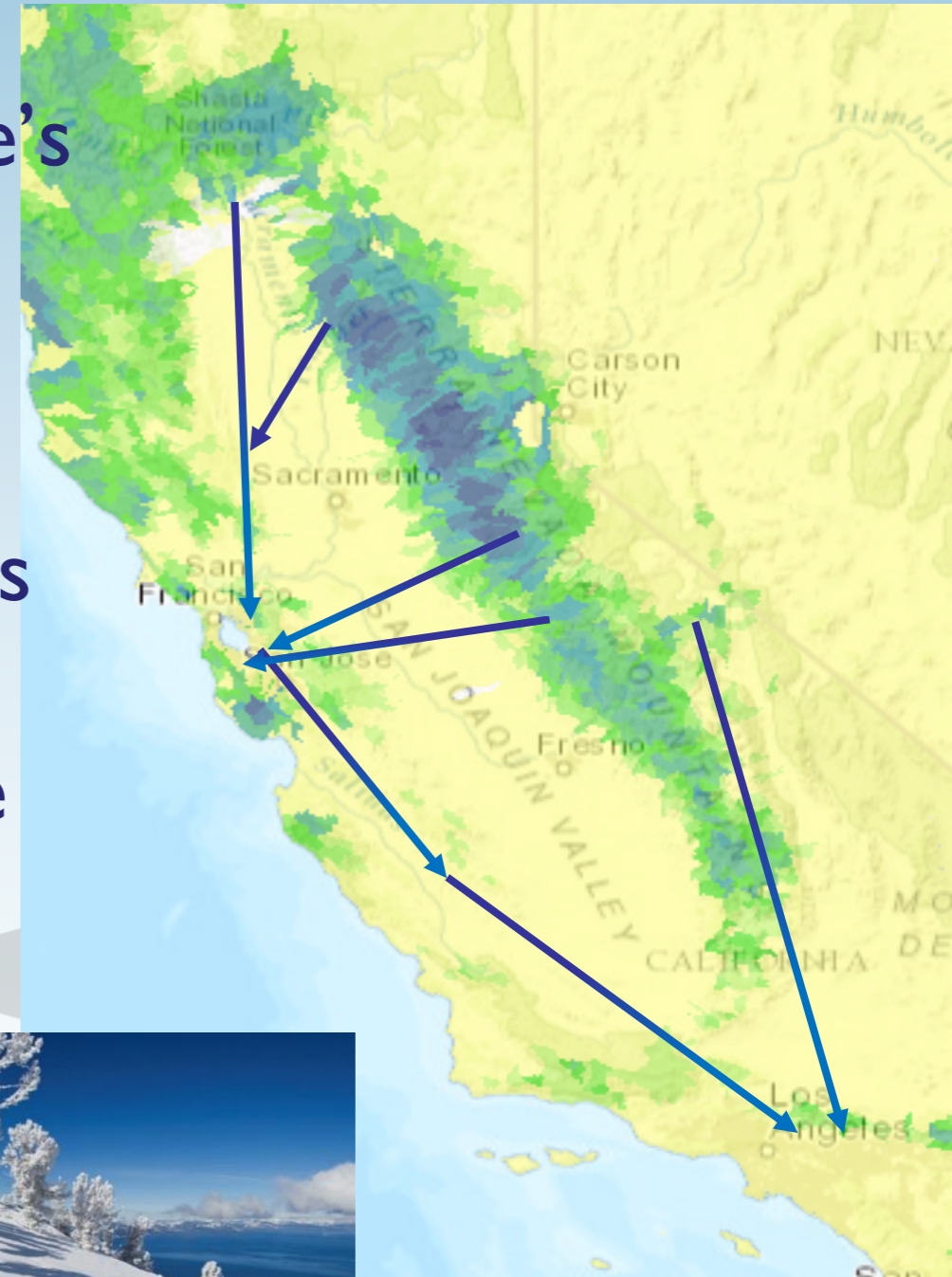
# The Sierra Nevada *W*atershed *I*mprovement *P*rogram

Restoring the Sierra: California's Key to Climate Adaptation



# Sierra Significance: *water, habitat, recreation*

- The source of at least 2/3 of the state's developed water
  - Power development
  - Instream flow and drinking water
- Incredible species and habitat richness and diversity
- Premier recreation destination; more than 50 million visitor days annually



Map source, minus arrows: USFS  
Forests to Faucets: Index of Forest  
Importance to Surface Drinking Water

SIERRANEVADA.CA.GOV

# Sierra Significance: *carbon and climate*

- Stores massive amounts of carbon:  
**1,051 MMT total!**
- Robust and diverse habitat, especially climate refugia
- Climate mitigation bank: stores and/or provides:
  - Water,
  - Cool air,
  - Genetic resources,
  - Higher elevation lands,
  - And more!



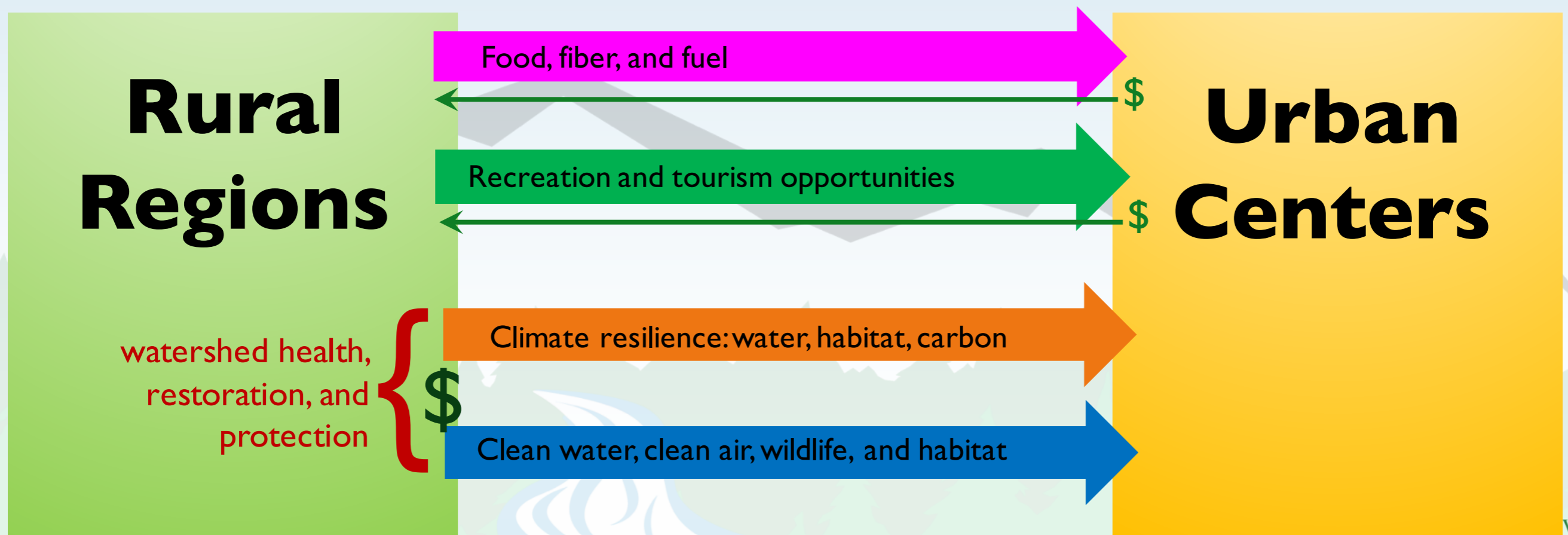
# The Sierra Needs Help: *ecological and sociological challenges*

- Sierra forests are unhealthy
- Economic struggles are the result of decades of policy, environmental, and sociological shifts
- We are all responsible partners
- This is a state and national challenge



# The Connection: *Urban-Rural Dependence*

- Urban areas can't survive or thrive without rural resources
- Rural areas can't do this alone, financially
  - < 1 million in Sierra Nevada population
  - 25 million acres



# The **WIP**: *objectives*

- California needs the Sierra!
- Sierra needs help!
- WIP = USFS-CA partnership, with targets of:
  - **Increased funding** for watershed restoration
  - Identify and **address key policy issues**
  - Increase the **infrastructure** available for processing
- Focuses energy and resources, creates synergies



# The **WIP**: *tools*

- Needs Assessments: for all lands
- The WIP Hub: providing information on regional issues, as well as partner links
- Partners: help in identifying policy priorities and funding opportunities
- Pilot Projects:
  - Testing policy and funding findings
  - Identifying new ways of governing large landscape efforts

• **AND...**



**WE WANT YOU!**

**Your ideas!**  
**Your connections!**  
**Your efforts and your help!**

**Because together, we can make sure that  
the Sierra remains California's**

*Range of Light*



Photo credit: Ansel Adams: Half Dome, Merced River, Winter, Yosemite Valley, c. 1918

# Thank you!

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For more information:

***RestoreTheSierra.org***