**WHY MEADOWS MATTER**

Meadow: an area where shallow groundwater enables grass-like plants and wild flowers to flourish

60% of the state's water supply originates in the Sierra Nevada

50% of meadows are unhealthy and in need of restoration

**MEADOWS IN SIERRA NEVADA**

18,000+ meadows ~ 280,000 acres

**RECOVERING 1 MEADOW ACRE**

YIELDS 1 YEAR OF WATER FOR AN AVERAGE FAMILY IN CA

**MAIN CAUSES OF MEADOW DEGRADATION:**

- Overgrazing
- Land development
- Timber harvest
- Climate change

**BENEFITS OF HEALTHY MEADOWS**

**Clean & Cold Water**
- Clean water by filtering sediment & breaking down toxins.
- Allows clean water to flow into reservoirs, important fish tributaries, and crucial habitats.

**Flood Control**
- Reduces the magnitude of floods.
- During high precipitation events, water loses momentum as it spreads out across meadow.

**Critical Habitat**
- Biological diversity hotspots and are home to essential habitat for many of California's endemic species, including inland native trout.

**Recreation & Health**
- Recreational activities such as walking, bird-watching, hunting and fishing
- Contributed to psychological, spiritual, and physical wellness.

**Carbon Sequestration**
- 1/3 of landscape's soil organic matter.
- Healthy meadows are net carbon sinks and unhealthy meadows are net carbon emitters.

CREATED BY: Megan Nguyen
SOURCE: US Forest Service - Sierra Nevada Meadows Infographic

CALTROUT.ORG