



# Crystal Basin Focus Area

## Why Crystal Basin?

Crystal Basin is a key location for recreation, timber, water, and power generation. Hundreds of thousands of downstream users in the Sacramento Area rely on this power generation. The Focus Area supports landscape resilience by developing projects to create healthy landscapes.

A number of SOFAR partners coordinate activities in this area:

**Eldorado National Forest, National Wild Turkey Federation, Sacramento Municipal Utility District, Great Basin Institute, and Sierra Pacific Industries.**

## Setting

The Crystal Basin Focus area is located north of Highway 50. The area extends from the vicinity of Fresh Pond in the west to Kyburz in the east, bordering the Desolation Wilderness area, encompassing the area of Union Valley and Ice House Reservoirs.

## Management Need

The Crystal Basin area is a focus for recreation, hydroelectric power supply for the Sacramento Valley, wildlife habitat, water, and forest cover. The area is regularly threatened by fires starting from Highway 50 and running up slope into the area as showcased by the 1969 Icehouse Fire, 1992 Cleveland Fire, 2005 Freds Fire, Kyburz fires, and other annual fire starts.

Reforestation stand-replacing fires has created large swaths of even-age, susceptible plantations in this landscape. Growing large trees for forest cover and habitat and also managing vegetation that contributes to high risk of fire hazard are both important in this area.



## Planned Activities

### Van Vleck

#### *Project Description and Activities*

8,000-acre conceptual project area. Planned activities include thinning and associated fuels reduction, and prescribed burning.

**Project Lead:** USFS Eldorado National Forest

### Reservoir Forest Health Project

#### *Project Description and Activities*

20,000-acre project area with approximately 16,650 acres of treatment identified at this time. Planned activities include thinning and associated fuels reduction; fuel break treatments focused on ridges, roads, and infrastructure on national forest system lands; and mastication and prescribed burning.

**Status:** Project currently under analysis with implementation expected to begin in 2021

**Project Lead:** USFS Eldorado National Forest

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[SofarCohesiveStrategy.org](http://SofarCohesiveStrategy.org)

1. Learn more on web
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3. Attend a meeting or field visits

Everyone is welcome! Individuals, businesses, agencies, and organizations that live, work, operate, or manage forests and watersheds or assist in regional sustainability are working together in SOFAR.

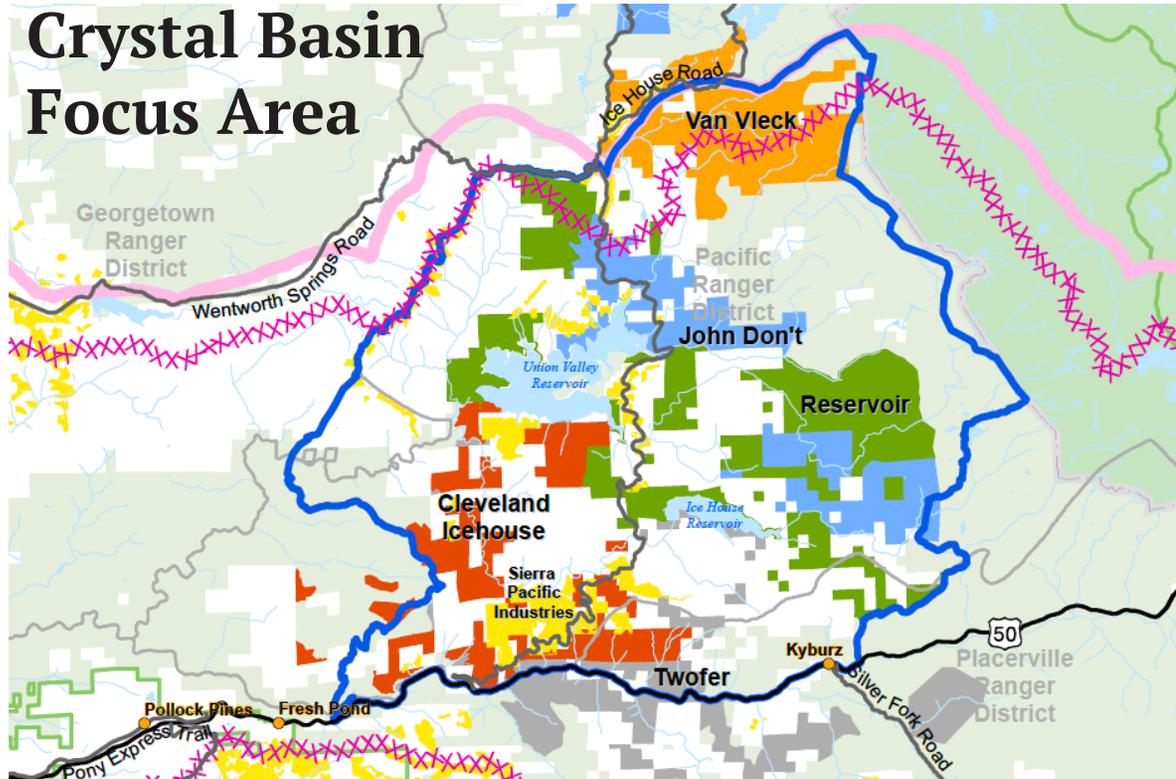
Since 2018, the SOFAR Collaborative has been working to implement projects to advance cohesive strategy goals:

**\* Resilient Landscapes \***

**\* Fire Adapted Communities \***

**\* Safe and Effective Wildfire Response \***

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## Focus Area Objectives

- Enhance landscape resilience by restoring stand structure (space and clumps of trees) and species composition (kinds of trees) to better respond to wildfire, drought, and other disturbances.
- Protecting key infrastructure and recreation assets in the area.
- Restoring meadows to improve water quality as well as the unique array of botanical and wildlife habitat that meadows provide.

## Current Activities

### John Don't

**Project Description:** 5,000 acres of fuels reduction activities, including thinning, prescribed burning, watershed restoration, and meadow enhancement.

**Project Status:** Implementation of some activities has occurred; however, most expected to begin as soon as funding can be secured to move forward.

**Project Leads:** USFS Eldorado National Forest

**Major Partners:** National Wild Turkey Federation, Sacramento Municipal Utility District, Blue Forest Conservation

### Sierra Pacific Industries

**Project Description:** 2,675 acres of strategic fuel treatment is currently under way on key locations on Sierra Pacific lands in the Crystal Basin Focus area including 1500 acres of fuels reduction in the Icehouse Cleveland area, including mastication and thinning activities in the Cleveland Fire Footprint, 750 acres of thinning and mastication activities along the Icehouse Road corridor, and 425 acres of mastication and thinning along the newly paved corridor of Yellowjacket/Wolfpack.

**Project Status:** to date 915 acres have recently been completed, with the remaining 1,075 planned for operations in 2021.

**Project Leads:** Sierra Pacific Industries is leading this effort with Sacramento Municipal Utilities District partnering in locations.

### Twofer

**Project Description:** 10,400 acres of fuels reduction activities including thinning, fuel break creation focused on ridges, roads and infrastructure on National Forest System lands that ties in with fuel breaks on other ownerships, maintenance of fuels reduction set up as part of Cleveland Icehouse and other projects, and prescribed burning.

**Project Status:** Implementation expected to begin as soon as funding can be secured and mechanisms put into place to move work forward

**Project Leads:** USFS Eldorado National Forest

**Major Partners:** National Wild Turkey Federation, Great Basin Institute, Blue Forest Conservation