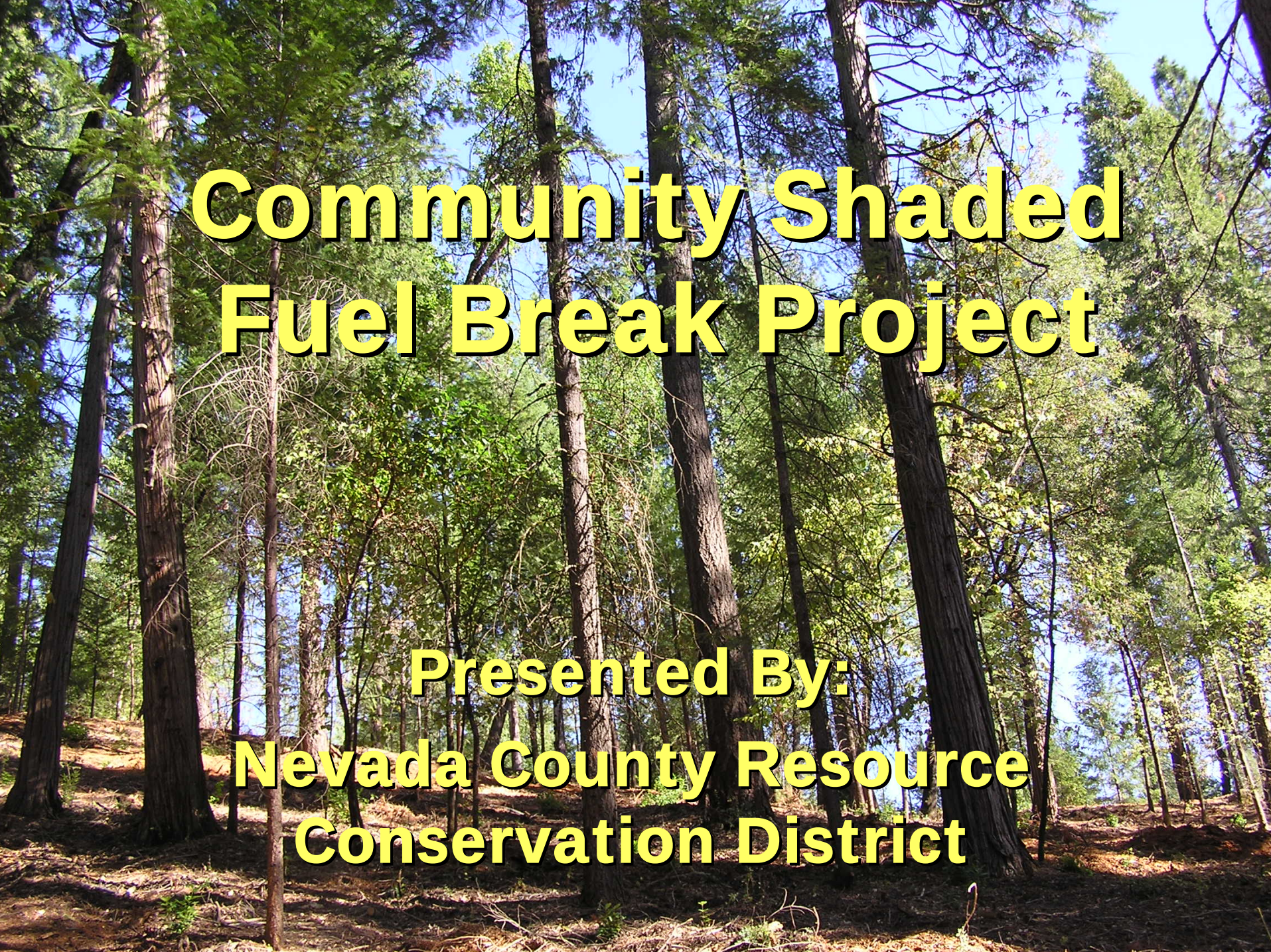
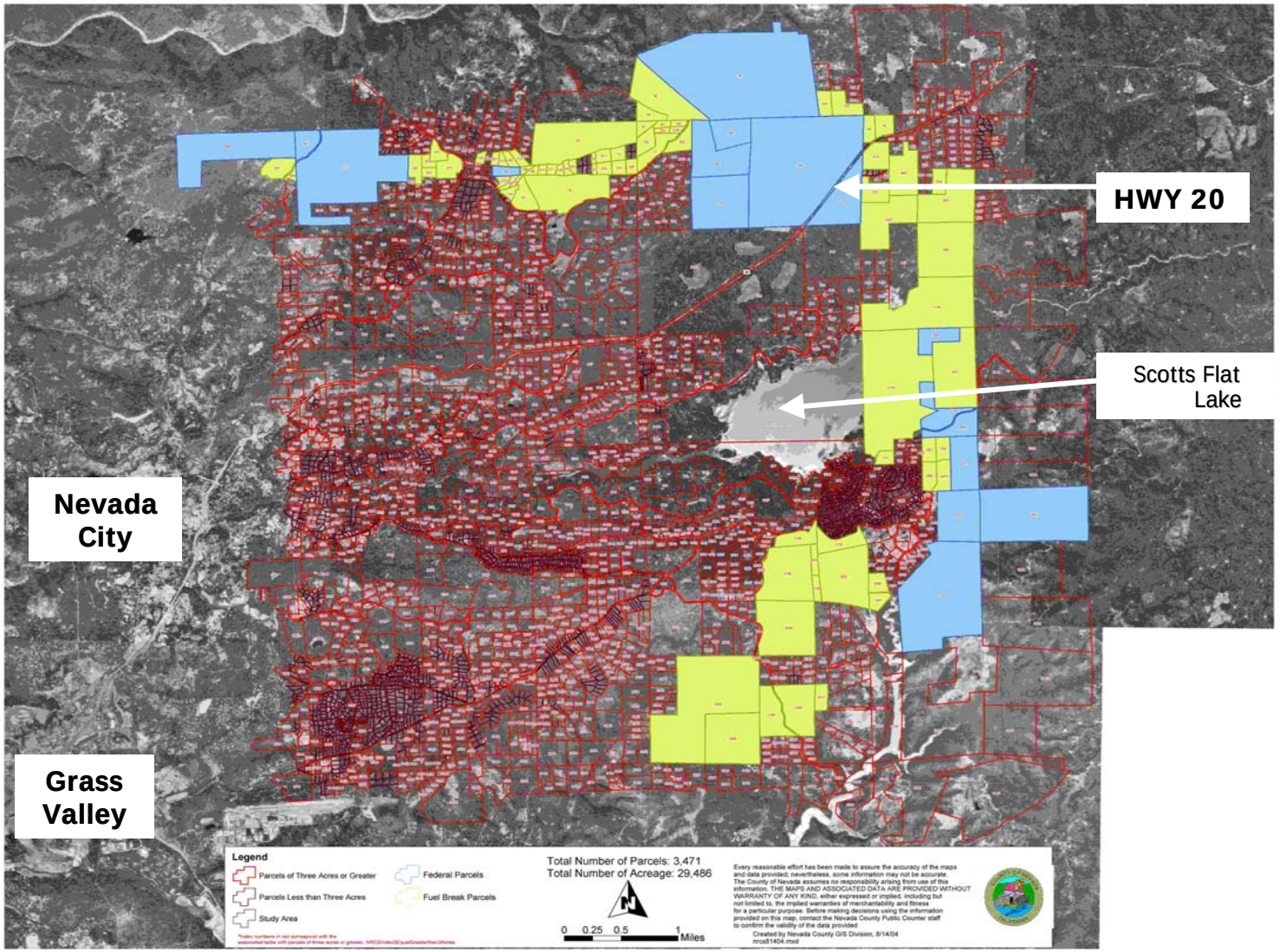

Community Shaded
Fuel Break Project
Presented By:
Nevada County Resource
Conservation District

Shaded Fuel Break

Project Map


HWY 20
Scotts Flat Lake
Nevada City
Grass Valley
Legend
Parcels of Three Acres or Greater
Parcels Less than Three Acres
Study Area
Federal Parcels
Fuel Break Parcels
Total Number of Parcels: 3,471
Total Number of Acreage: 29,486
0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles

Why this project area?

- Help protect the residents of Nevada City, Grass Valley & surrounding communities from a catastrophic wildfire.
- This is a key target area due to past fire history and 60 plus years of accumulated forest fuels.
- To provide a line of defense against wildfires driven by hot, dry east winds such as the 49er Fire in 1988.

What is a Shaded Fuel Break?

- Healthy tree canopies remain.
- Smaller diameter trees are thinned, pruned and minimum spacing is established.
- Where vegetative fuel ladders and ground fuels are reduced or modified.
- Minimum 1500’ wide shaded fuel break.
- Prescription compatible with new Nevada County Fire Plan.

Why a Shaded Fuel Break?

- Gives firefighters an area to fight the fire
- Wildfires are destructive and costly
- Fuelbreaks are pro-active and cost effective
- Wildfires regularly cost $10,000's per acre to suppress whereas a shaded fuel break cost $500-$1,200/acre to create.

Benefits of a Shaded Fuel Break?

- Shades out and reduces rapid re-growth of under brush
- Provides an open, understory forest condition, a habitat in short supply
- Positive community effort

Project Scope

- A community shaded fuel break starting at Round Mountain, heading east toward the Conservation camp/ Hwy 20, south along the east side of Scotts Flat Lake, down the east side of Cascade Shores and south toward Greenhorn Road.
- A minimum of 1500’ wide and over 15 miles long.
- The proposed shaded fuel break site was strategically located due to local fire history and fire weather wind patterns.
- The project is a voluntary program involving both private and public lands.
- Individual prescriptions will be flexible to meet landowner’s needs.
- The project consists of approximately 90 parcels of land encompassing 3,000 acres.

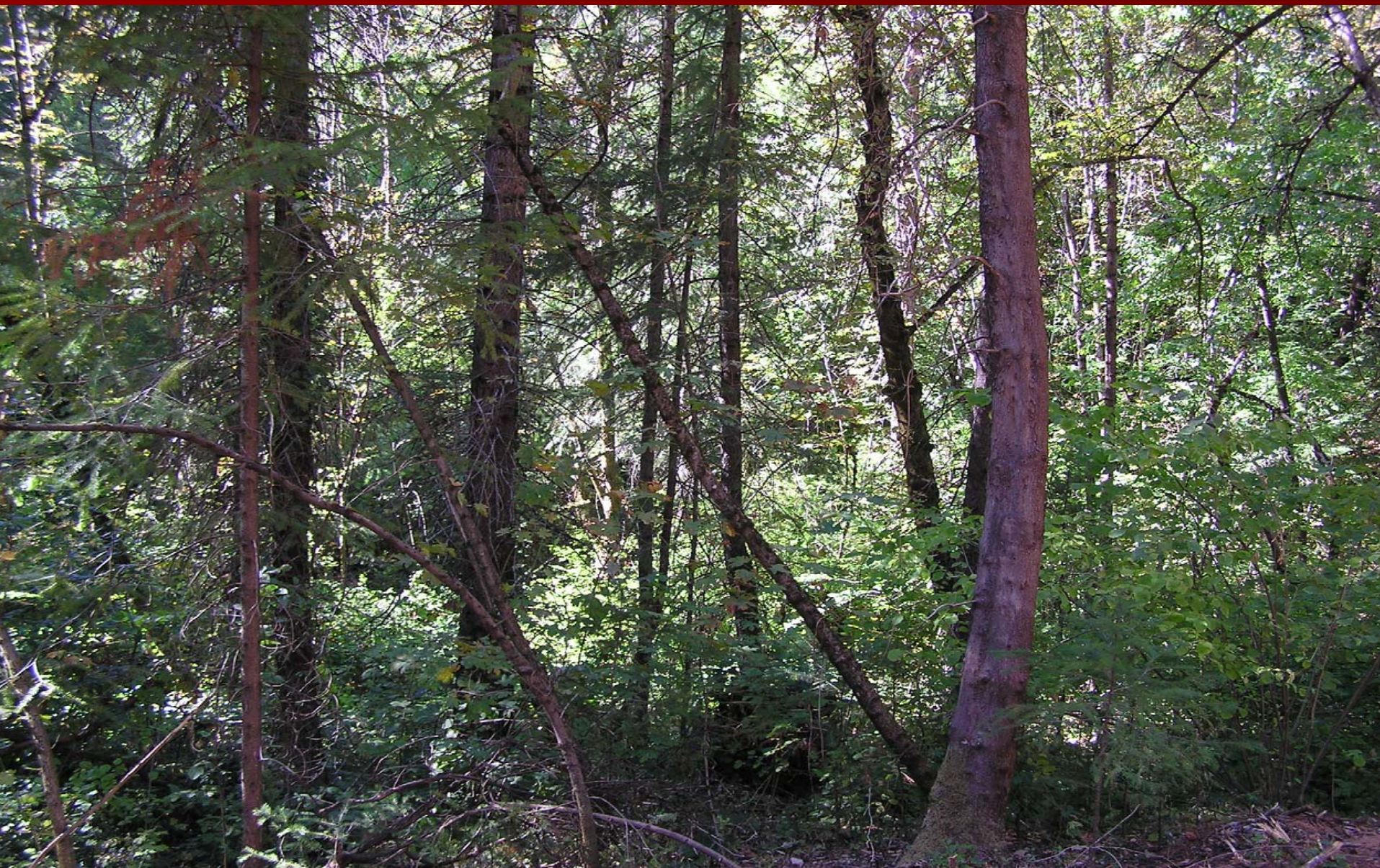
Which would you prefer?

Shaded Fuel Break Project Area

Current conditions

Dead Ladder Fuels

Live and Dead Ladder Fuels



Heavy Ground Fuels

Shaded Fuel Breaks

Current Conditions

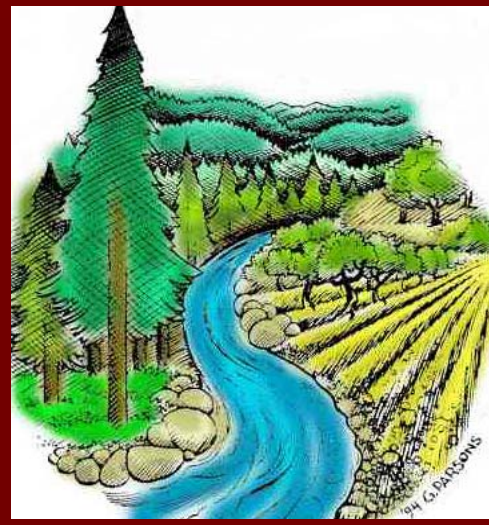
Desired Condition

Shaded Fuel Break

Nevada County Resource Conservation District's Forestry Committee Members:

- NCRCD- Nevada County Resource Conservation District Staff and Board Members
- NRCS- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- BLM- Bureau of Land Management
- USFS- United States Forest Service
- CDF- California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
- FSCNC- Fire Safe Council of Nevada County
- NID- Nevada Irrigation District

Contact the Nevada County Resource Conservation District for more information



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