



Walker
Basin
Conservancy

← TRAIL →

RIVER



Walker Basin Conservancy

Bridgeport Valley Regional Planning Advisory Committee

August 8, 2023

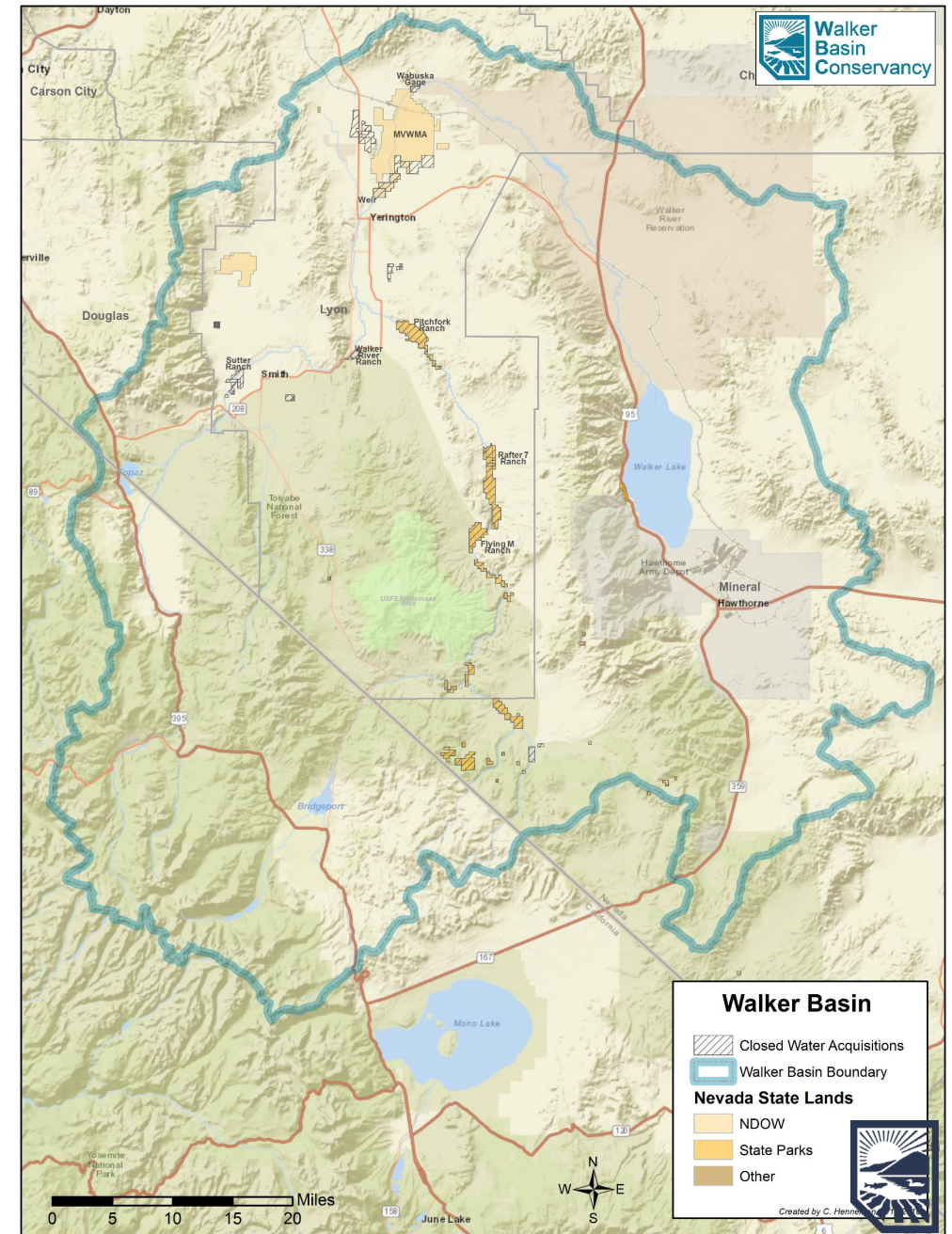
Walker Basin Conservancy

Protect the watershed of the Walker River Basin and Restore Walker Lake

Protect water rights for environmental benefit

Improve habitat on former monoculture

155 ranchers have participated



Walker Lake

Supported 50% of Mineral
County economy

Traditional homeland of Walker
River Paiute Tribe (Agai Dicutta)

World-class fishery

Annual Loon Festival



Walker Lake

Lost 90% of its volume since 1850s due to upstream river diversions

Currently in complete ecosystem collapse

Too saline to support fish life
Last trout caught 2009



Environmental Water Transactions

155 ranchers have participated

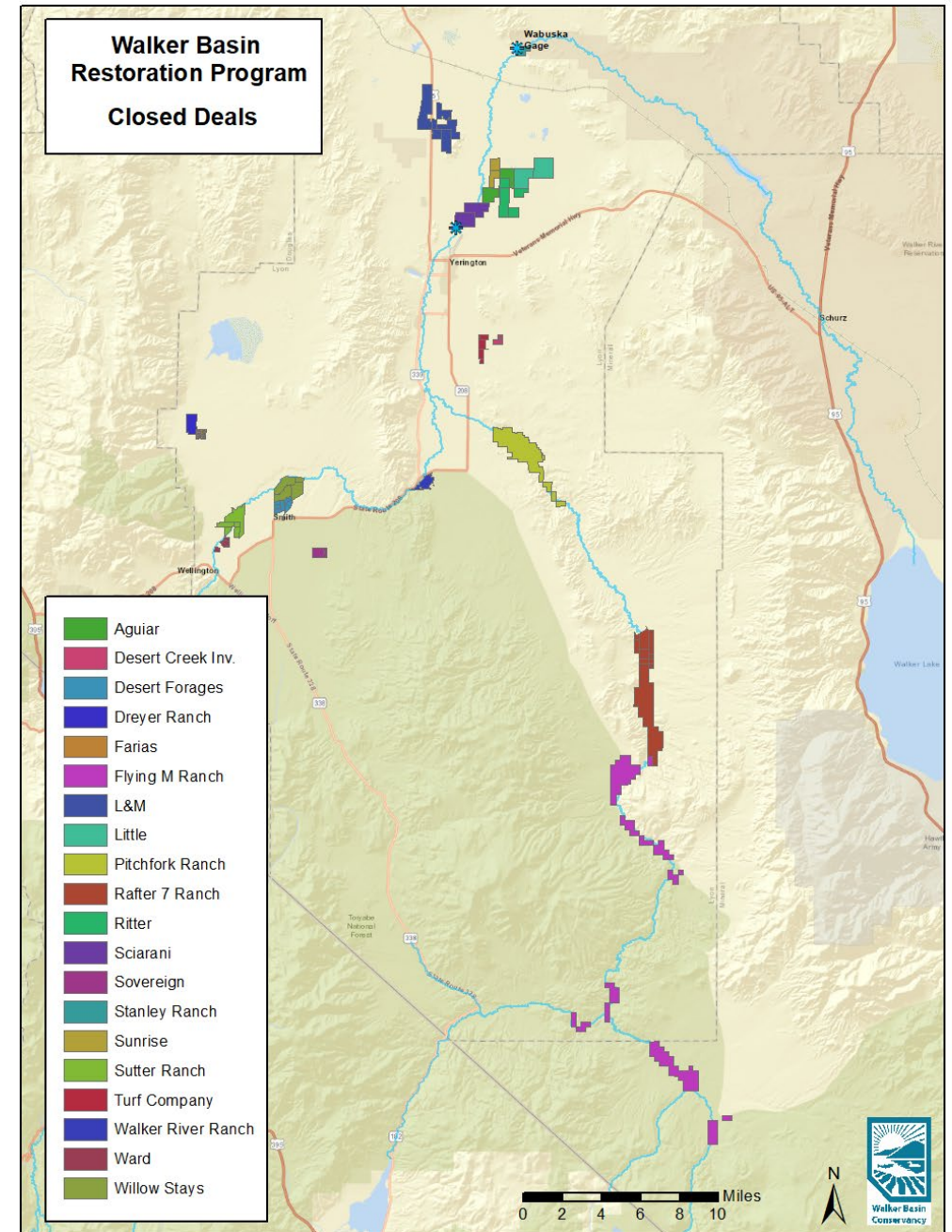
22 Permanent water rights transactions

26,000 afa

\$108,000,000 in transactions

4th year of storage leasing program

All water tracked transparently online



Public Access and Recreation

Created public access to 29 miles of the Walker River

Established new Nevada state park –
Walker River State Recreation Area
100,000 visitors first 3 years

Expanded Mason Valley Wildlife
Management Area



Habitat Restoration and Land Management

30 staff members and 30 AmeriCorps members mainly working on revegetation

Improved habitat on more than 5,000 acres of former monoculture

Every transaction includes long-term land use planning



Walker River State Recreation Area

Conservancy donated Pitchfork,
Rafter 7 and Flying M Ranches to
State of Nevada

Conservancy re-vegetated more
than 2,500 acres

Park is gateway to 65+ miles of the
East Walker River

100,000 visitors first 3 years



Dreyer Ranches

300 Acres in Smith Valley, Nevada

Water-only sale

Conservancy worked with
landowner to convert hay operation
to irrigated grazing

Satellite imagery from June 2023

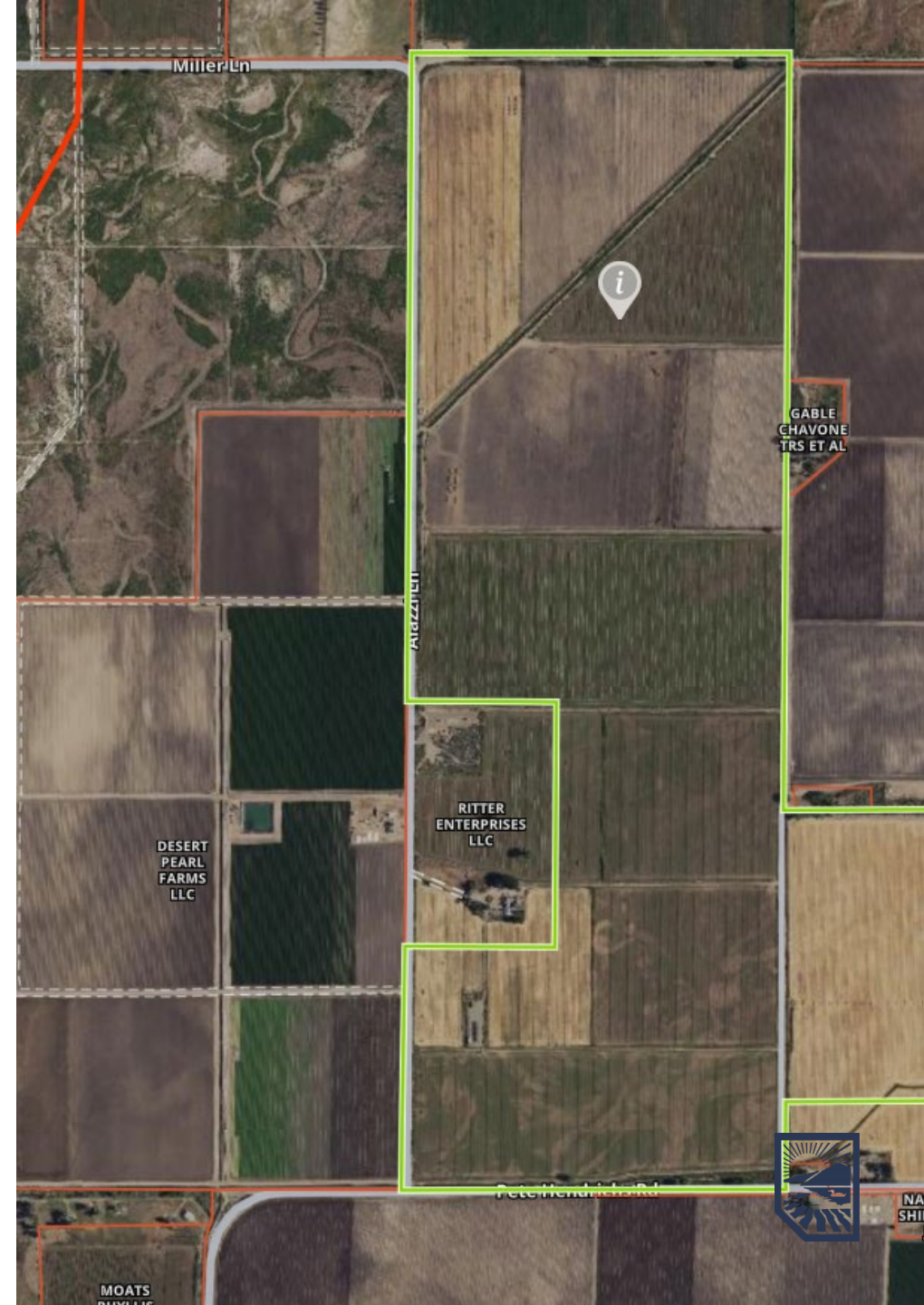


Ritter

574 acres in Mason Valley

Three-way deal with local grower

Currently in row crop vegetable production



Community Involvement

Environmental education with Boys and Girls Club and Schurz Elementary

Board of Directors of Yerington Chamber of Commerce

Lyon County and Smith Valley Advisory Board volunteer partnerships



2023 Walker Lake

Walker Lake up 13 feet year-to-date

Record river discharge of 605,000
acre-feet forecast

Walker Lake forecast to rise 15+ feet

Estimated 2 consecutive years of
similar flows could re-establish
fishery at Walker Lake

