United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
COOS BAY DISTRICT OFFICE
1300 AIRPORT LANE, NORTH BEND, OR 97459
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May 28, 2008

1792/5400 (OR-120)
Umpqua River Sawyer Rapids
EA OR125-05-01
Purdy Creek DM
OR120-TS08-01

Dear Citizen:

Enclosed is copy of the Decision Documentation and maps for the "Purdy Creek Density Management " (OR120-TS08-01) timber sale. The units in this sale were analyzed as part of the "Umpqua River Sawyer Rapids" Environmental Assessment (EA OR 125-05-01). The analysis concluded in a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for proposed density management/commercial thinning and red alder conversion harvest projects. These projects were designed to implement management objectives described in the BLM Coos Bay District Resource Management Plan and Northwest Forest Plan.

Sincerely,

Dennis Turowski

A. Dennis Turowski
Umpqua Field Manager

Enclosures:

Decision Documentation (5pp)
Exhibit A and A-1 sale map (9pp)

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1792/5400 (OR120)
Purdy Creek
OR120-TS08-01
Umpqua River-Sawyer Rapids EA
OR125-05-01

Decision Documentation

Purdy Creek DM Timber Sale
Analyzed in
EA No. OR125-05-01, Umpqua River-Sawyer Rapids

Background:

The Umpqua Resource Area, Coos Bay District Bureau of Land Management, using input from District resource staff and public input, prepared the Umpqua River-Sawyer Rapids Environmental Assessment (EA), which concluded with a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) dated February 1, 2008. The Proposed Action Alternative proposes to thin approximately 8,796 acres of conifer forest and to convert approximately 167 acres of red alder to conifer in 31-80 year old stands within the Umpqua River-Sawyer Rapids Fifth Field Watershed. The edges of the project area overlap into Vincent Creek, Big Creek-Lower Umpqua, Lower Elk Creek, and Lower Camp Creek subwatersheds all within Douglas County. The *Purdy Creek DM* timber sale, composed of EA units 1A-8, as outlined in the Table below, is part of this EA and is located in T. 21 S., R. 09 W., Section 33 and T. 22 S., R. 09 W., Sections 03, 04, 05, & 09, Willamette Meridian. The proposed treatment area is located within 582 acres of the Late Successional Reserve (LSR), 13 acres of General Forest Management Area (GFMA), and 1 acre of GFMA Riparian Reserve (RR) land use allocations.

The following EA estimates have been field verified for the *Purdy Creek DM* timber sale:

EA Unit Number	*Purdy Creek DM Unit Number*	*Estimated Acres*	*Actual Acres*	*EA Unit Number*	*Purdy Creek DM Unit Number*	*Estimated Acres*	*Actual Acres*
1A	3A & 3C	269	250	**4C**	1F	1	3
1B	2A	114	117	**4D & 4E**	1B	51	50
1C	1C, IG, 1H, 1I, 1J	88	78	**4F**	1I	15	15
2A	3B	6	8	**5**	Dropped	23	0
2C	3D	32	30	**6**	Dropped	42	0
4A	1E	4	3	**7**	1C,1A,& 1D	55	26
4B	2B	6	6	**8**	Dropped	19	0
				Totals		**725**	**599**

EA Road Designator	*Purdy Creek DM Assigned Road Number*	*Estimated New Road Construction*	*Actual Road Construction*
A	Dropped	0.18	0.00
A1	22-9-9.3	0.42	0.45
C	21-9-33.2	0.13	0.18
E,E1,E2	21-9-33.3, Spur 2 & 3	0.39	0.31
F,F1	22-9-4.2 Spur 1	0.30	0.34
G	22-9-4.2	0.07	0.11
H	22-9-4.1	0.21	0.24
I1	22-9-33.1, Swing Spur 1	0.10	0.10
K & K1	22-9-4.10	0.17	0.19
L	Dropped	0.33	0.00
M	22-9-4.7	0.13	0.10
N1	22-9-4.8	0.20	0.11
O1	22-9-4.9, Spur 5	0.16	0.18
P1	22-9-9.2	0.15	0.15
Q	Dropped	0.36	0.00
R	Dropped	0.24	0.00
T	Dropped	0.21	0.00
Totals		**3.75**	**2.46**

The *Purdy Creek DM* timber sale would implement treatments on 599 acres, which is a reduction of 126 acres from the EA estimate of 725 acres. The reduction in acres is for stream buffers of 30 feet for intermittent and 60 feet for perennial streams, and for whole or partial units that were dropped. These dropped forest stands will develop on a different trajectory in comparison to the adjacent thinned stands.

The Proposed Action, to construct 3.75 miles of road identified in the EA has been decreased to 2.46 miles.

The Proposed Action is to create 930 snags in Units 1A, 1C, 1D, 1G, 1H, 1J, 2A, 3A, & 3C.

The Proposed Action is to reserve minor conifer and hardwood species other than red alder except those trees that fall within road rights-of-way, landings, yarding corridors or are needed for safety reasons.

Harvest

- The sale area will be harvested with a skyline cable and ground based systems.

Road Decommissioning

- 2.19 miles of road decommissioning consists of barricading, scarifying, waterbarring, seeding, fertilizing, and mulching on nine natural surface spur roads as necessary to stabilize road surfaces.

Prescription

- The Purdy Creek Density Management units 3A & C were marked using a basal area leave of 140; 2A with 120, 1C, 1G, & H with 130; and 1C (north), 1A, & 1D with 100. Minor conifer and

hardwood species will be retained except those trees that fall within road rights-of-way, landings, yarding corridors or are needed for safety reasons.

- Red Alder Conversion units 1B, 1E, 1F, 1I, 2B, 3B, and 3D will retain dominant conifers, minor conifer and hardwood species other than red alder except those trees that fall within road rights-of-way, landings, yarding corridors or are needed for safety reasons.

The ***Final - Coos Bay District Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement*** **and its** ***Record of Decision*** (USDI 1995) responds to two needs: the need for forest habitat and the need for forest products (USDI 1995 p1). These needs are addressed in the RMP through an ecosystem management strategy under which BLM lands "will be managed to maintain healthy, functioning ecosystems from which a sustainable production of natural resources can be provided" (USDI 1995, p. 5).

The following purposes for the project are incorporated in the design features (Special Provisions) of the *Purdy Creek DM* timber sale.

1. Improve Late-Successional Reserve stand structure by thinning out excess trees in overstocked stands to enhance the growth and vigor of the residual trees to provide larger and healthier trees for future management objectives while maintaining native species diversity. *"Plan and implement silvicultural treatments inside Late-successional Reserves to be beneficial to the creation of late-successional habitat"* (USDI-BLM 1995, pg. 19).

2. Improve Riparian Reserve stand structure by thinning out excess trees in overstocked stands to enhance the growth and vigor of the residual trees to provide larger and healthier trees for future management objectives while maintaining native species diversity. Re-establish conifers on selected sites, currently occupied by red alder, to provide a long-term streamside supply of large wood, shade, and nutrient input. *"Apply silvicultural practices for Riparian Reserves to control stocking, re-establish and manage stands, and acquire desired vegetation characteristics needed to attain Aquatic Conservation Strategy Objectives"* (USDI-BLM 1995, pg. 13).

3. Improve GFMA stand structure by thinning out excess trees in overstocked stands to enhance the growth and vigor of the residual trees to provide larger and healthier trees for future management objectives while maintaining native species diversity. *"Apply silvicultural systems that are planned to produce, over time, forests with desired species composition, structural characteristics, and distribution of seral or age classes"*(USDI-BLM 1995, pg. 53).

4. Re-establish conifer on alder dominated stands within the GFMA to provide a sustainable supply of timber that will contribute to the allowable sale quantity. *"Plan harvest of marketable hardwood stands in the same manner as conifer stands, unless the land is otherwise constrained from timber management. Volume from projected hardwood harvest would be in addition to the allowable sale quantity. Where hardwood stands became established following previous harvest of conifers, plant to re-establish a conifer stand on the site*" (USDI-BLM 1995, pg. 53).

5. Replace red alder dominated stands in the Late-Successional Reserves with conifers on sites that previously supported conifer stands. *"Plan and implement silvicultural treatments inside Late-Successional Reserves to be beneficial to the creation of late-successional habitat"* (USDI-BLM 1995, pg. 19).

6. Within the Late-Successional Reserves, restore structural habitat complexity typically found in late-successional or old-growth forests, such as large green trees, large down logs, and snags. *"Plan and implement silvicultural treatments inside Late-successional Reserves to be beneficial to the creation of late-successional habitat"* (USDI-BLM 1995, pg. 19).

7. Implement recommendations and management priorities contained in the *South Coast - Northern Klamath Late-Successional Reserve Assessment* to enlarge existing interior late-successional habitat blocks, improve habitat connections between Late-Successional Reserves, and maintain and improve connectivity habitat within Late-Successional Reserves. *"Develop Late-Successional Reserve assessments prior to habitat manipulation"* (USDI-BLM 1995, pg. 18).

8. Work towards the goals in the *Western Oregon Districts Transportation Management Plan* by improving problem roads and decommissioning roads not needed for continued resource management. "*Develop and implement a Road Management Plan or a Transportation Management Plan that will meet the Aquatic Conservation Strategy*" (USDI-BLM 1995, pg. 14).

9. Provide cost effective management that will enable implementation of these management objectives while providing collateral economic benefits to society.

10. Protect and/or restore rare and key habitats (wetlands, cliff habitats, talus habitats, grassy balds, or meadows). *"Using interdisciplinary teams, identify special habitat areas and determine relevant to values for protection or management on a case-by-case basis"* (USDI-BLM 1995, pg. 28).

11. Provide timber sale volume toward the Coos Bay District Allowable Sale Quantity as required in the O&C Act of August 28, 1937. The BLM has a statutory obligation under the Oregon and California Act of 1937 (O&C Act) to manage suitable commercial forest lands revested by the government from the Oregon and California Railroad grant (O&C lands) for permanent forest production in accordance with the sustained yield principle.

Public comments:

The *Umpqua River - Sawyer Rapids* Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact was made available for public comment on February 1, 2008. The comment period closed on March 3, 2008.

We have made edits to the EA where appropriate to clarify the description of the various thinning prescriptions and the reserve language as it applies to selected species within the forest management activities. I conclude that these edits are not substantial and a revision of the EA is not warranted. The environmental assessment and existing Finding of No Significant Impact fully cover this timber sale and constitute BLM's compliance with the requirements of NEPA and conform to the applicable land use plan. As stated in the Notice of Sale for the *Purdy Creek DM* timber sale, these documents are available for inspection at the Coos Bay District Office.

Decision:

It is my decision to implement the Proposed Action Alternative as it applies to the *Purdy Creek DM* timber sale described in the EA OR125-05-01 for the *Umpqua River – Sawyer Rapids EA* project.

Proposed activities that may affect listed wildlife species within the project area were submitted for consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in accordance with Section 7(A)(2) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 [16 U.S.C. 1536(A)(2) and (A)(4) as amended]. A Letter of Concurrence was received from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in which they concur that the proposed actions are not likely to adversely affect the northern spotted owl, and the marbled murrelet.

Based on analysis by the Umpqua Field Office fisheries biologist, it has been concluded that the proposed activities in the *Umpqua River - Sawyer Rapids EA* project area will not adversely affect Essential Fish

Habitat (EFH). It has been determined to have no effect on Oregon Coast coho and its Critical Habitat a species listed by the National Marine Fisheries Service. Therefore, consultation is not warranted.

Rationale for Decision:

I am choosing to offer *Purdy Creek DM* timber sale for the following reasons:

It is consistent with the Proposed Action as described in the EA. It meets the purpose and need for action described in the EA and in the *Final - Coos Bay District Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement* (RMP) and its *Record of Decision*, as supplemented and amended. It is consistent with the RMP objectives and management directions for the GFMA, LSR, and Riparian Reserve LUA.

The No Action alternative fails to address the purpose and need for action and does not meet management objectives.

Administrative Remedies:

In accordance with *Forest Management Regulations* at 43 CFR 5003.2, the decision for this timber sale will not become effective or be subject to formal protest until the *Notice of Sale* is published ". . . in a newspaper of general circulation in the area where the lands affected by the decision are located." For this project, the *Notice of Sale* will be published in *The World* newspaper on May 29, 2008.

Dennis Turowski

_____

A. Dennis Turowski
Umpqua Field Manager

May 28, 2008

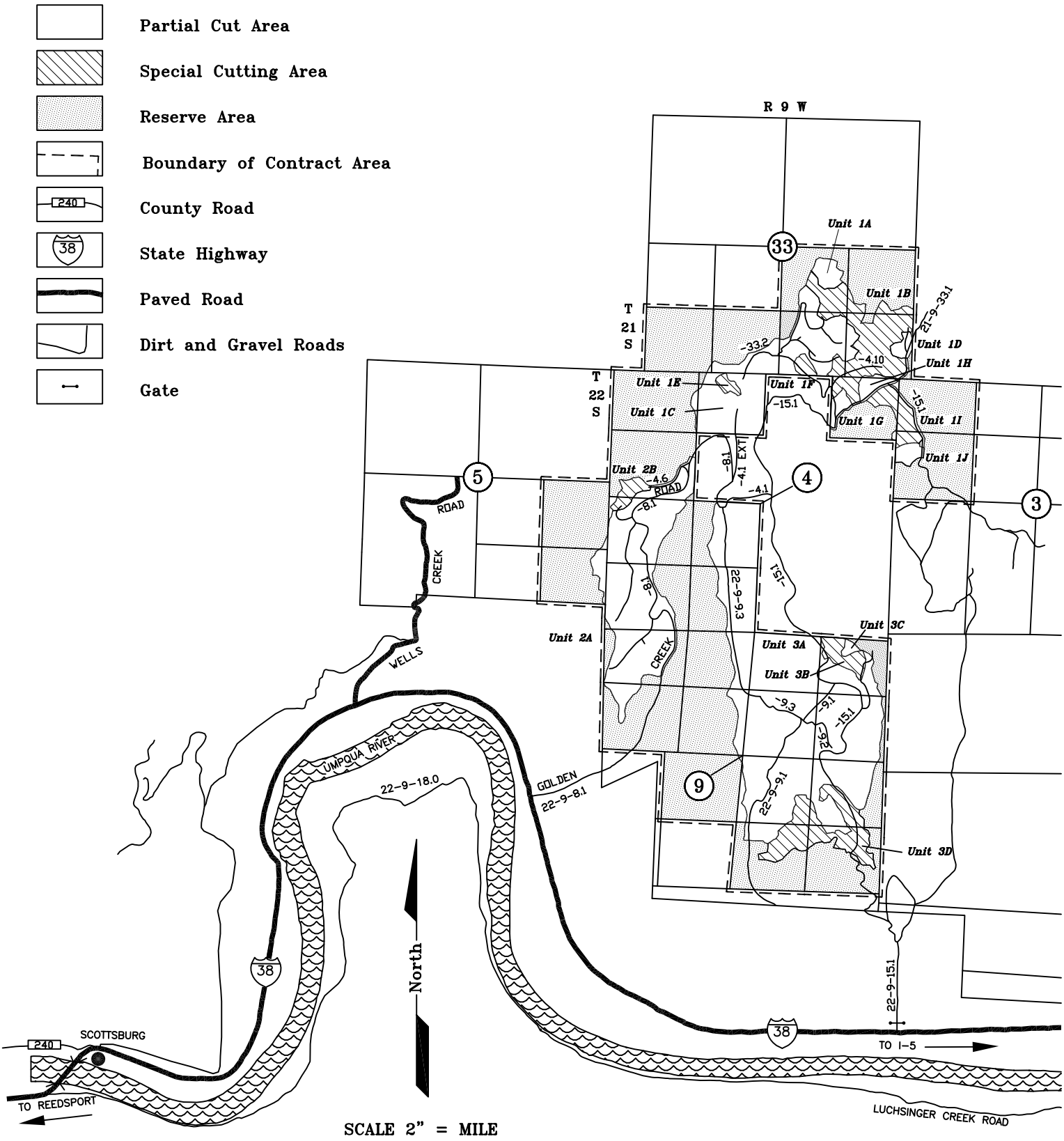
_____

Date

TIMBER SALE CONTRACT MAP
USDI–BLM COOS BAY DISTRICT

SALE NO. 08–01
EXHIBIT A–1
Page 1 of 1
PURDY CREEK DM

T. 21 S., R. 9 W., Sec. 33 Will. Mer.
T. 21 S., R. 9 W., Sec. 3, 4, 5 & Will. Mer.

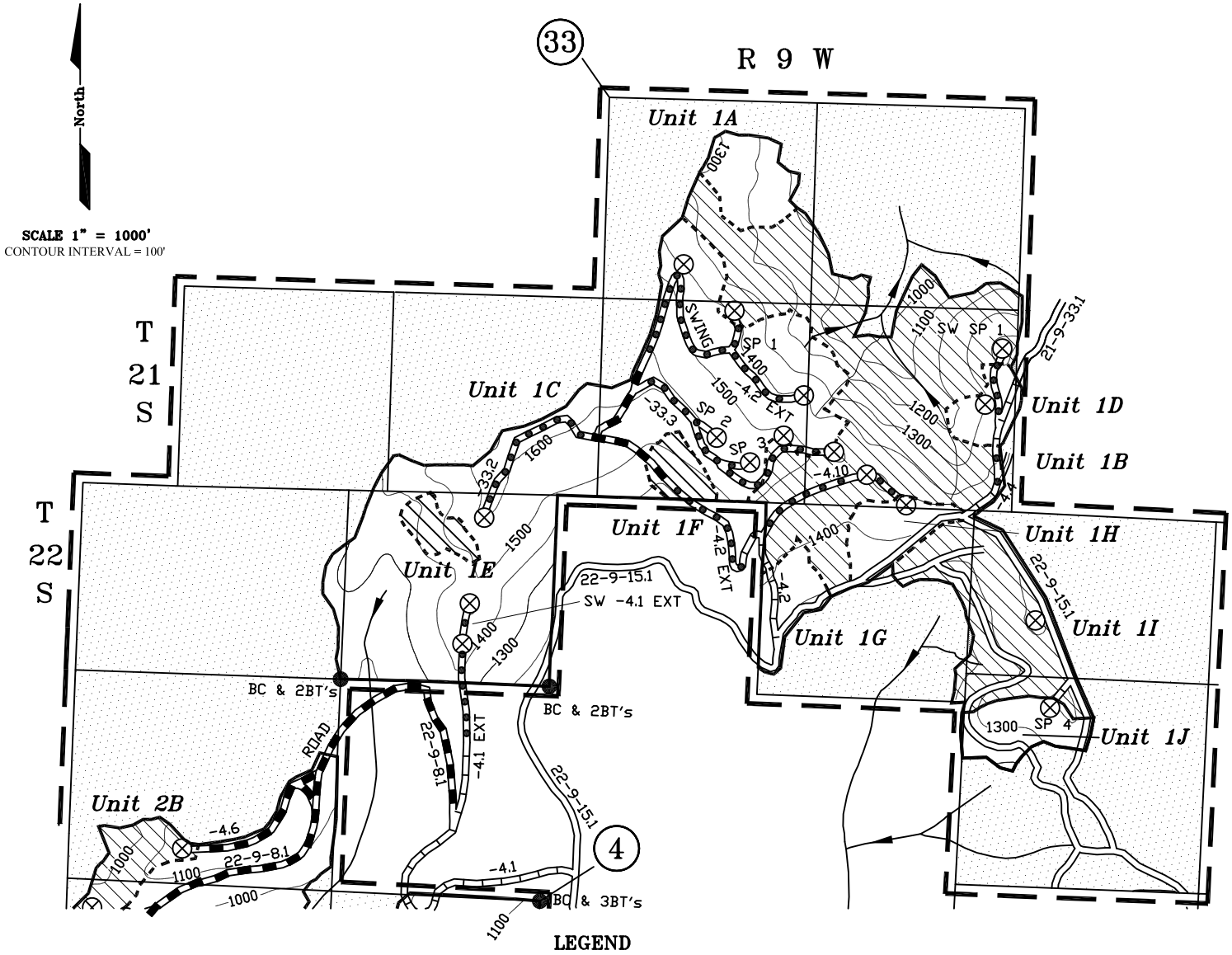


TIMBER SALE CONTRACT MAP
USDI–BLM COOS BAY DISTRICT

SALE NO. 08–01
EXHIBIT A

PURDY CREEK DM

T. 21 S., R. 9 W., Sec. 33 Will. Mer.
T. 22 S., R. 9 W., Sec. 3, 4, 5 & 9 Will. Mer.



LEGEND

Partial Cut Area	Corner Found	Stream Channel
Reserve Area	Proposed Landing	Segment Break
Special Cutting Area	Existing Road	Roadside Hazard Reduction, 1–side
Boundary of Cutting Area, Blazed, Posted and Painted	Road to be Constructed	Roadside Hazard Reduction, 2–sides
Boundary of Contract Area	Road to be Improved	Boundary of Special Cutting Area. Posted and Painted
Existing Trail	Road to be Renovated	Swing Spur

Seasonally Restricted Area (MM) or (NSO). No timber operations from March 1 Through August 5. From August 6 Through September 30 follow daily timing restrictions (work is limited to 2 hours after sunrise to 2 hours before sunset)

TIMBER SALE CONTRACT MAP
USDI–BLM COOS BAY DISTRICT

SALE NO. 08–01
EXHIBIT A

PURDY CREEK DM

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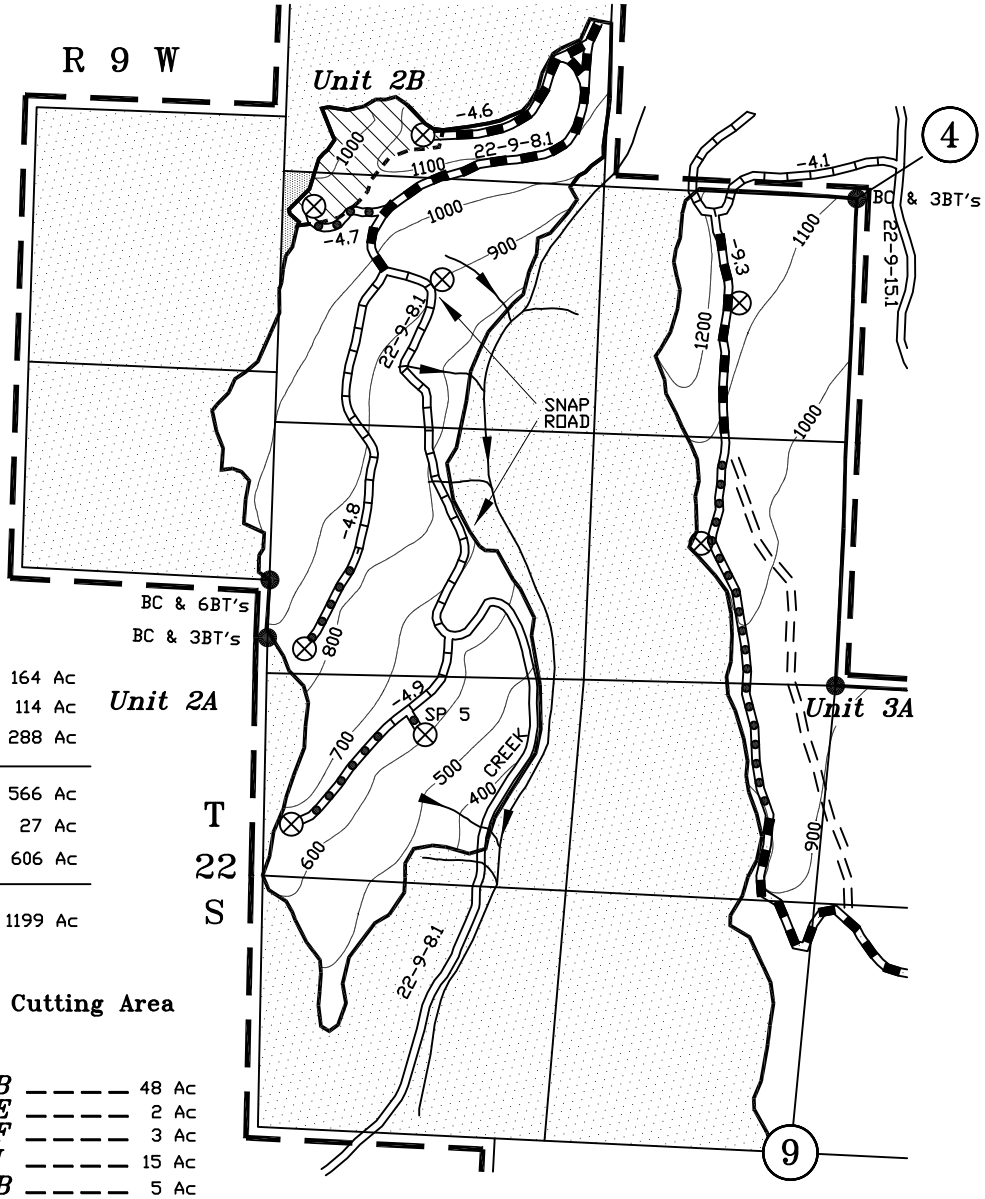

North

SCALE 1" = 1000'
CONTOUR INTERVAL = 100'

Unit 1	164 Ac
Unit 2	114 Ac
Unit 3	288 Ac
Total	566 Ac
R/W	27 Ac
Reserve	606 Ac
Total Contract	1199 Ac

Partial Cut Area

Unit 1A	6 Ac
Unit 1C	73 Ac
Unit 1D	3 Ac
Unit 1G	3 Ac
Unit 1H	5 Ac
Unit 1J	6 Ac
Unit 2A	109 Ac
Unit 3A	248 Ac
Unit 3C	2 Ac
Total	455 Ac

Special Cutting Area

Unit 1B	48 Ac
Unit 1E	2 Ac
Unit 1F	3 Ac
Unit 1I	15 Ac
Unit 2B	5 Ac
Unit 3B	8 Ac
Unit 3D	30 Ac
Total	111 Ac

Partial Cut Area	455 Ac
Special Cutting Area	111 Ac
Total	566 Ac
R/W	27 Ac
Reserve	606 Ac
Total Contract	1199 Ac

TIMBER SALE CONTRACT MAP
USDI–BLM COOS BAY DISTRICT

SALE NO. 08–01
EXHIBIT A

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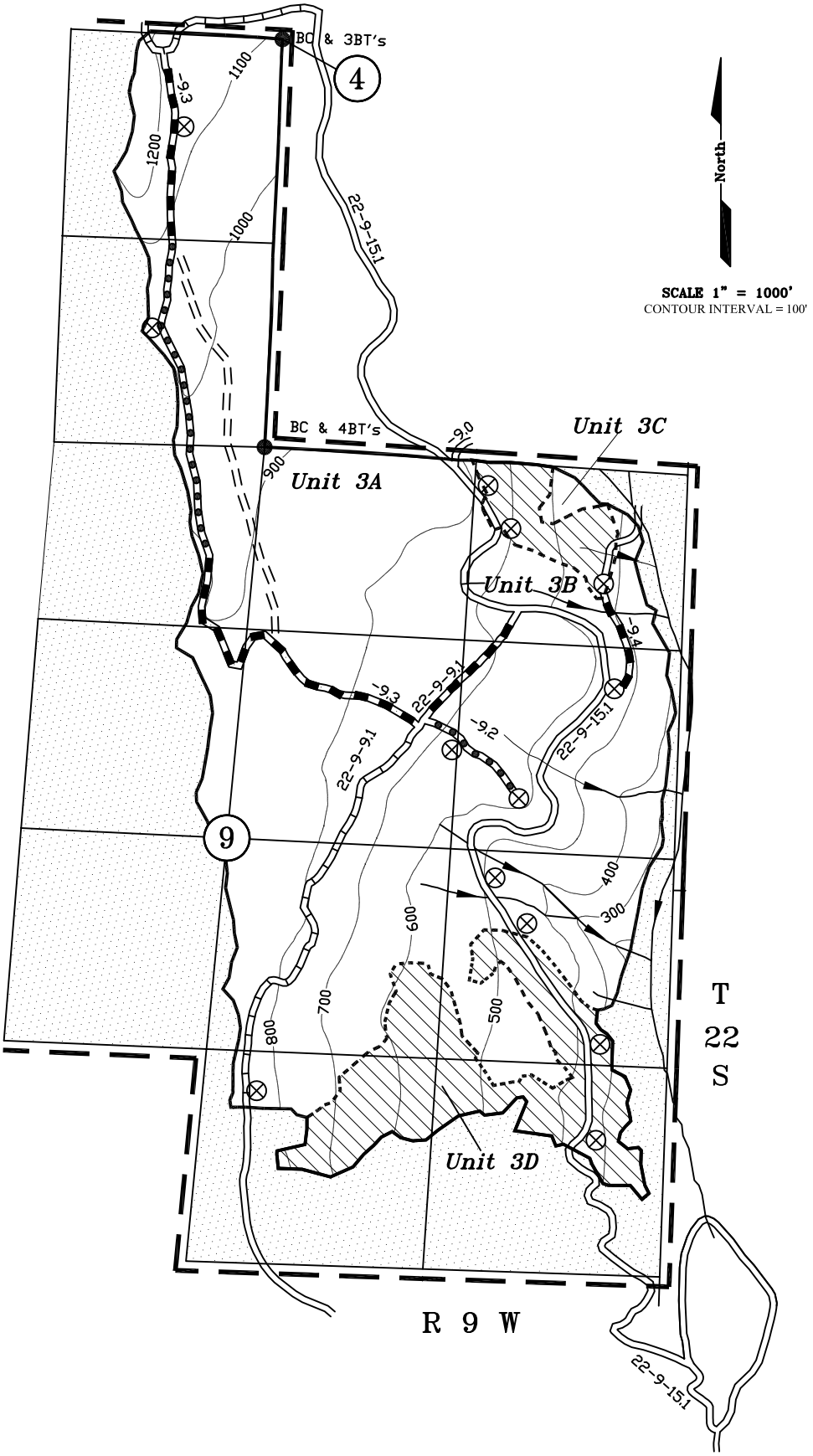
T. 22 S., R. 9 W., Sec. 3, 4, 5 & 9 Will. Mer.

PURDY CREEK DM



TIMBER SALE CONTRACT MAP
USDI–BLM COOS BAY DISTRICT

SALE NO. 08–01
EXHIBIT A

PURDY CREEK DM

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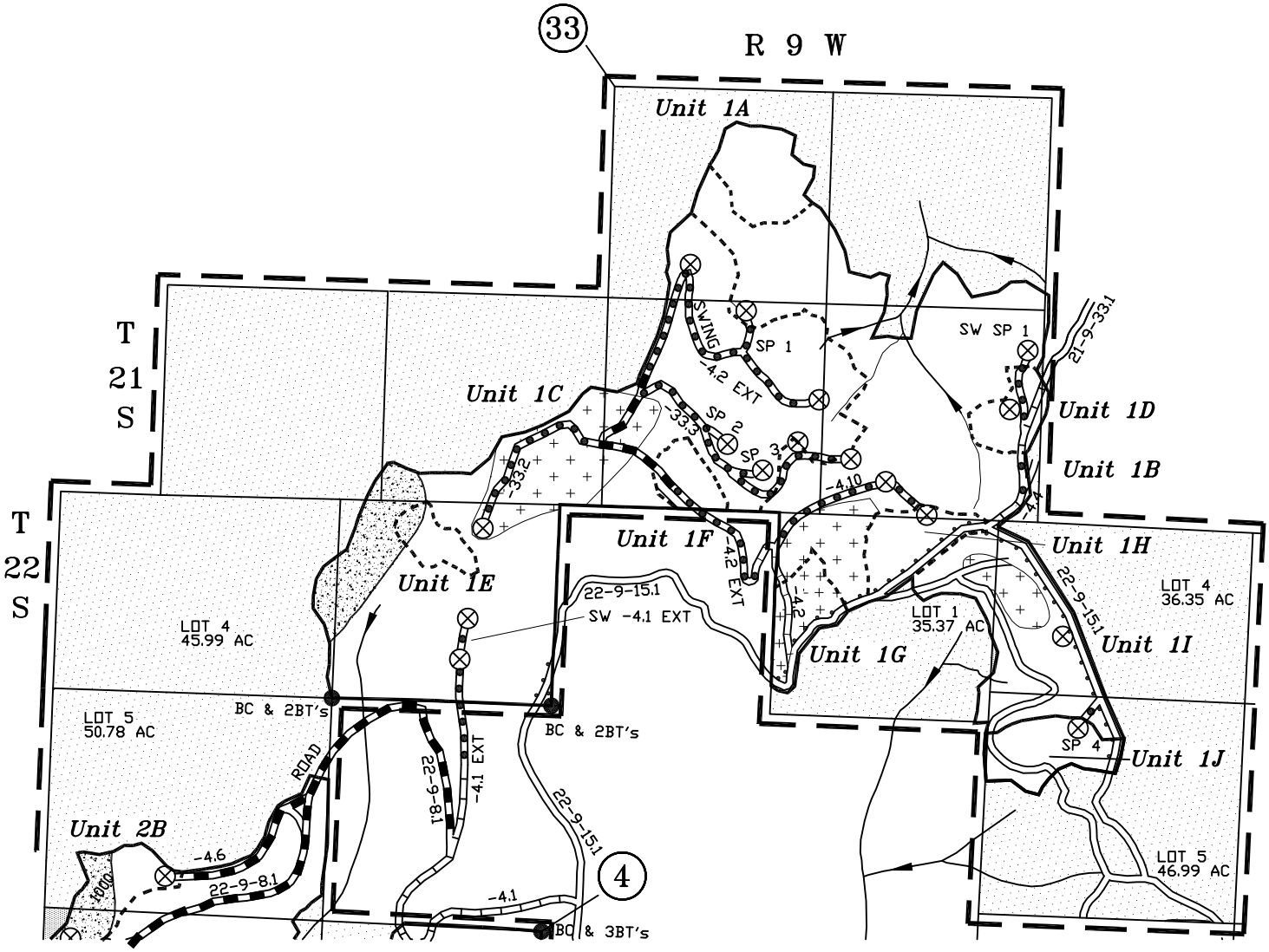

LEGEND

Cable Yarding Area

Ground Based Yarding Area

North

SCALE 1" = 1000'

TIMBER SALE CONTRACT MAP
USDI–BLM COOS BAY DISTRICT

SALE NO. 08–01
EXHIBIT A

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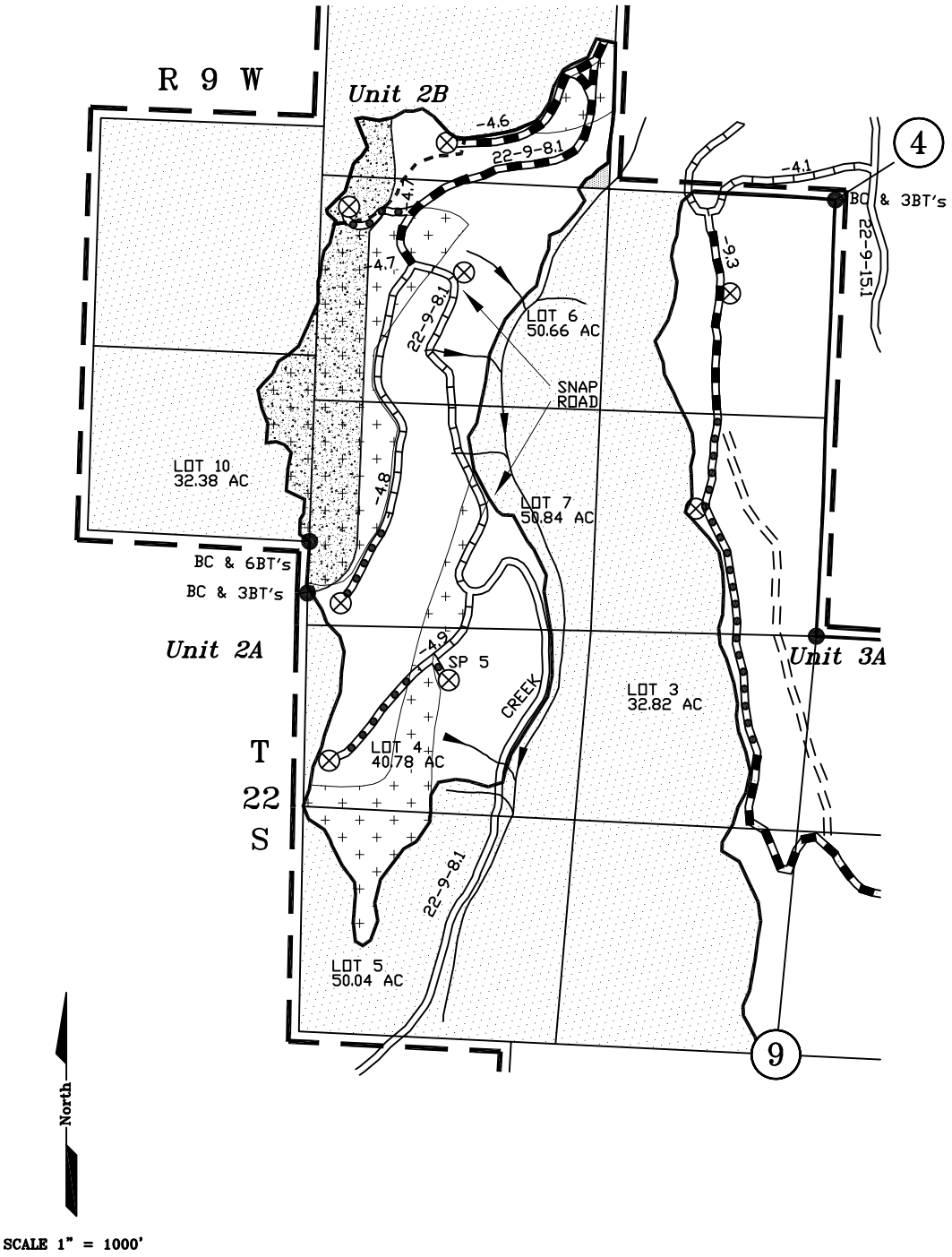
PURDY CREEK DM



SCALE 1" = 1000'

TIMBER SALE CONTRACT MAP
USDI–BLM COOS BAY DISTRICT

SALE NO. 08–01
EXHIBIT A
Page 6 of 9

T. 21 S., R. 9 W., Sec. 33 Will. Mer.
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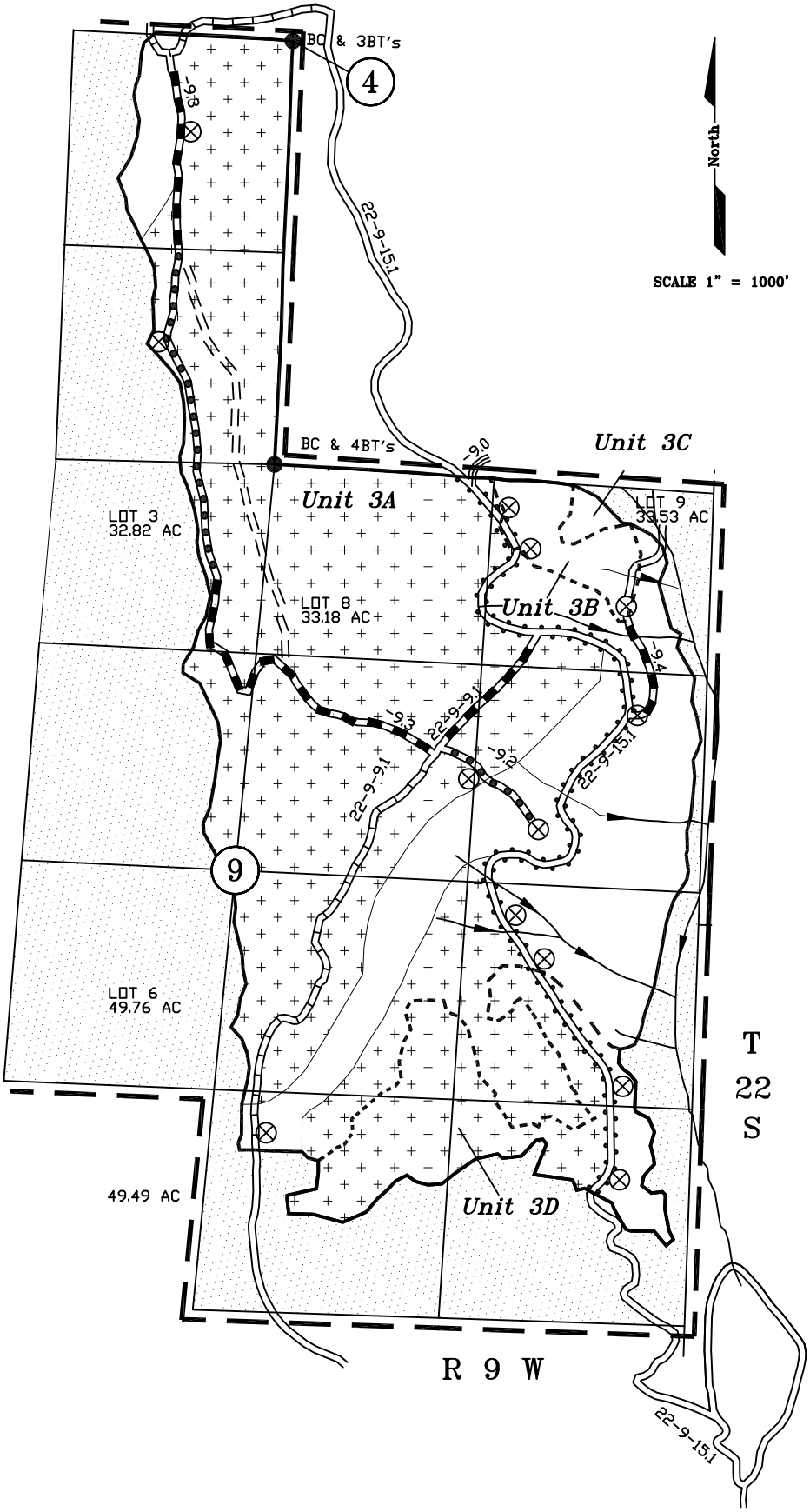
PURDY CREEK DM



TIMBER SALE CONTRACT MAP
USDI-BLM COOS BAY DISTRICT

SALE NO. 08-01
EXHIBIT A

PURDY CREEK DM

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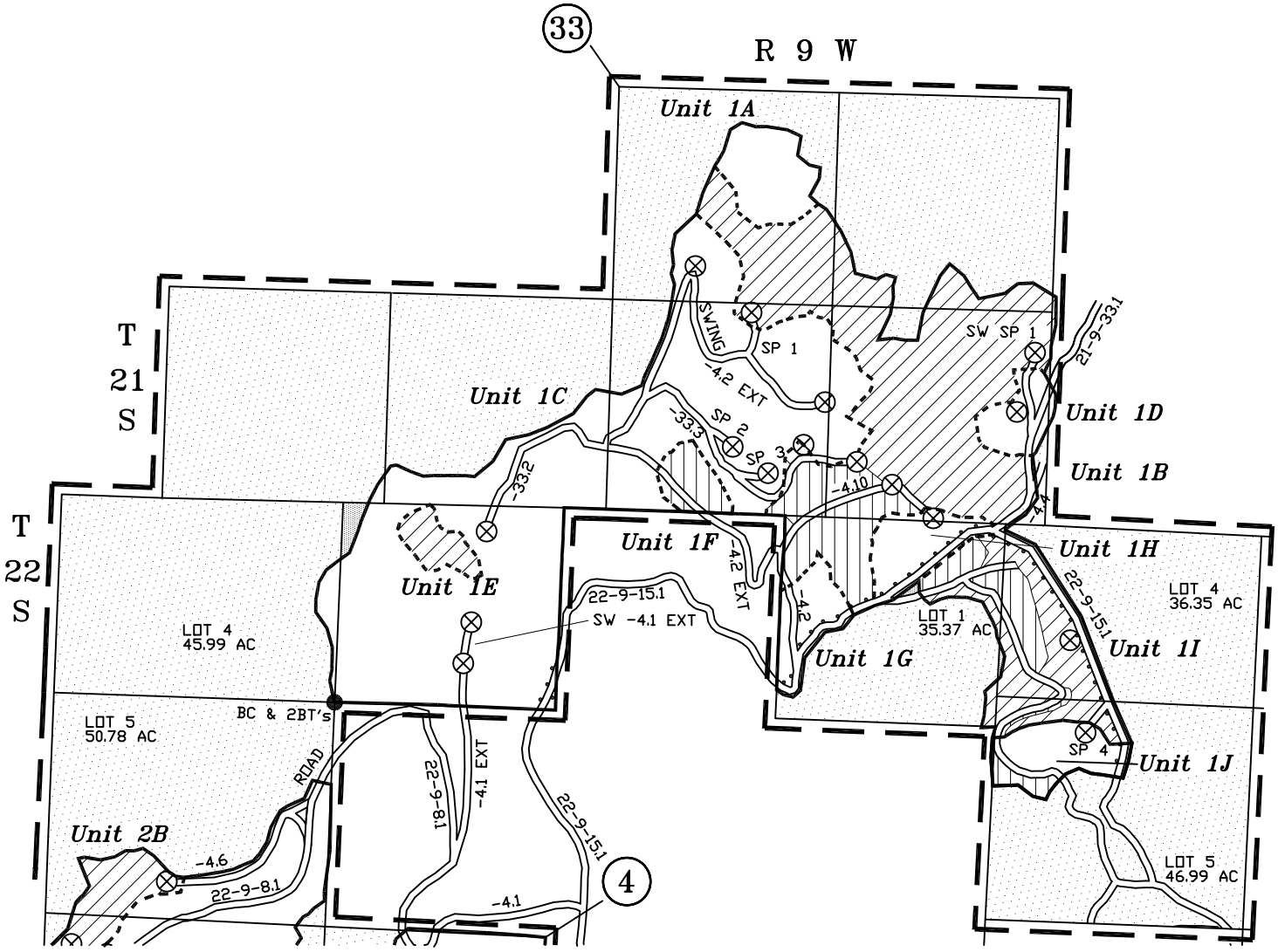

LEGEND

Hand Pile

Machine Pile

North

SCALE 1" = 1000'

TIMBER SALE CONTRACT MAP
USDI–BLM COOS BAY DISTRICT

SALE NO. 08–01
EXHIBIT A

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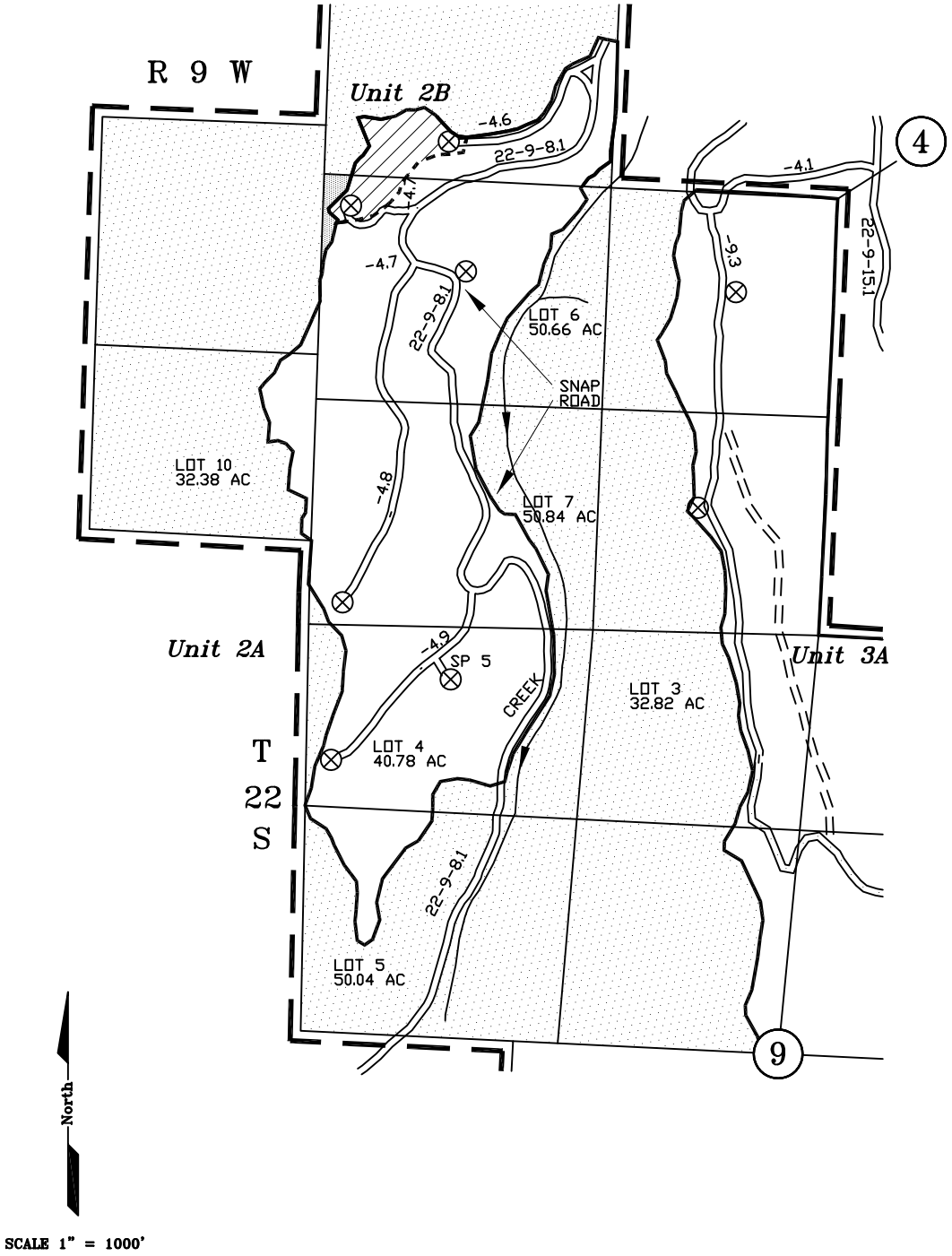
PURDY CREEK DM



SCALE 1" = 1000'

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USDI-BLM COOS BAY DISTRICT

SALE NO. 08-01
EXHIBIT A

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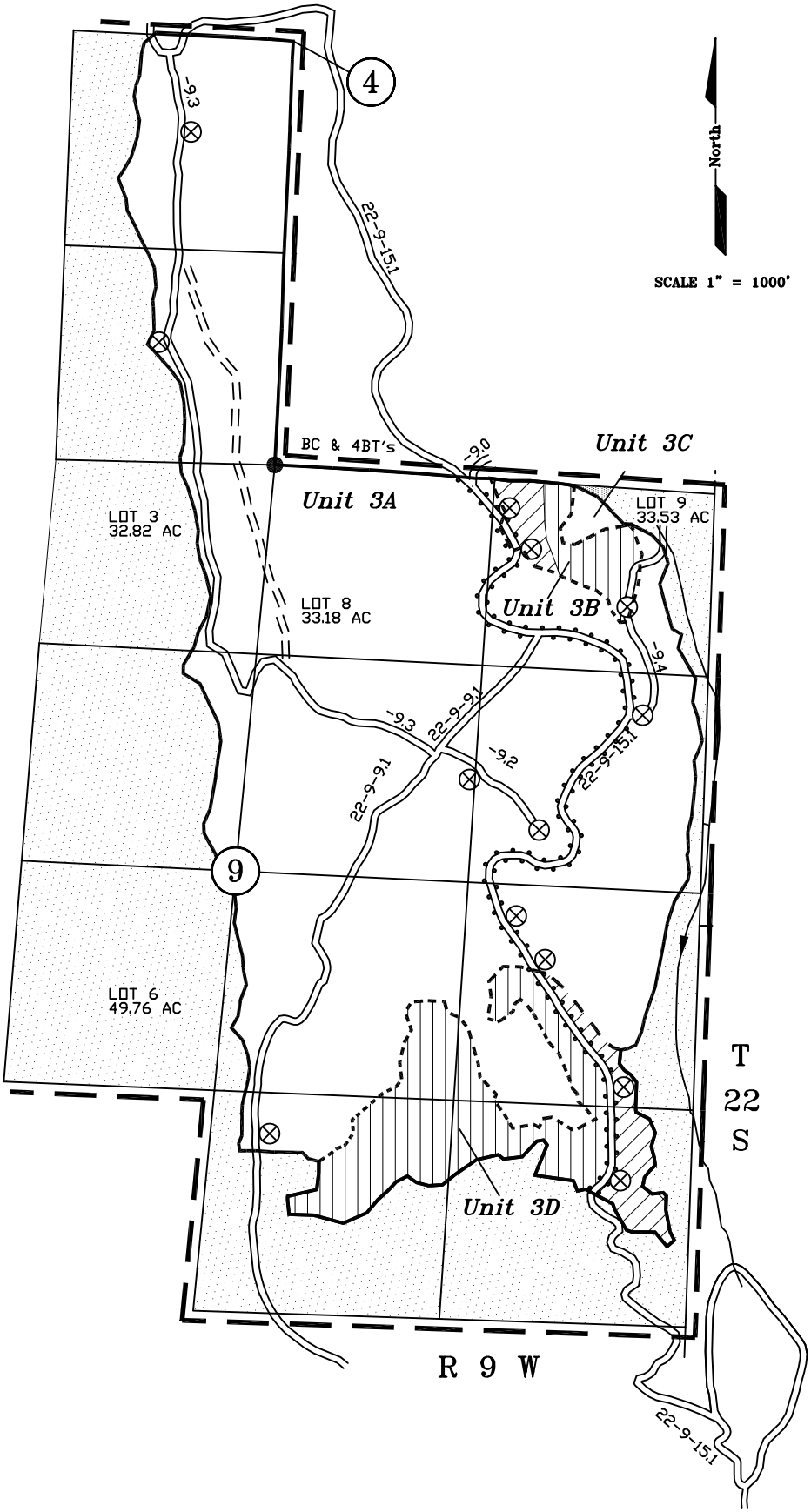
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