

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
Bureau of Land Management  
Coos Bay District

**Worksheet**  
**Documentation of NEPA Adequacy (DNA)**

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**BLM Office:** Coos Bay District, Myrtlewood Field Office

**Tracking No.** DOI-BLM-OR-C040-2010-0007-DNA

**A. Description of the Proposed Action:** Removal of European beachgrass to reduce competition with native plant communities including established populations of four Bureau sensitive special status plant species.

**Proposed Action Title/Type:** Sand Dune Habitat Restoration

**Location / Legal Description:** New River ACEC - T. 30 S., R. 15 W., Sections 2,3,10, and 15

**Proposed Action:**

The proposed action is to remove non-native European beachgrass (*Ammophila arenaria*), that is occupying areas formerly dominated by open sand and low density native plants communities. The beachgrass is encroaching upon several populations of Bureau sensitive special status plant species. These include populations of silvery phacelia (*Phacelia argentea*), Wolf's evening primrose (*Oenothera wolfii*), coastal cryptantha (*Cryptantha leiocarpa*), and beach sage (*Artemisia pycnocephala*). There is also a low herbaceous native plant community that is being encroached upon by the spreading beachgrass.

There are four project area locations and all are within the New River Area of Critical Environmental Concern. The following is a summary of the unit sizes using location names in order of north to south (note that **not** all acres within a project area would be treated):

Lost Lake – one unit – 22 acres/ hand-pulling

Fourmile Creek – one unit – 2 acres/hand-pulling

Storm Ranch – four units – 10, 11, 3.5, and 9 acres; 33.5 acres total/all hand-pulling

Floras Lake – one unit – 57 acres total, 53 acres hand-pulling and 4 acres horse-plowing

Most treatment units have low concentrations of beachgrass with a few high-dense pockets. The north half of the Floras Lake unit contains a native low herbaceous plant community with beachgrass interspersed among plants and encroaching on the edge. None of the sites would be completely bare sand after treatment.

Currently, there are populations of silvery phacelia at the Lost Lake and Fourmile sites; Wolf's evening primrose at the Fourmile site; coastal cryptantha at the Floras Lake and Fourmile sites, and beach sage at Lost Lake. The Storm Ranch sites have the potential for these species to be re-introduced and beachgrass removal would complement the meadow restoration activities (shore pine removal) that have occurred.

Beachgrass would be hand-pulled or tilled using horses pulling a plow. The pulled beachgrass would be removed from the site and deposited in a landfill, moved and placed on the foredune to desiccate, or piled and burned at a later date. Burning would occur at sites that have already been treated for shore pine removal and the same burning pile locations would be used.

Additionally, these habitats would be treated through the similar methods through time, to maintain them in the desired condition. The need for treatment would be determined annually through monitoring, but every 2-3 years is anticipated for retreatment.

**B. Land Use Plan (LUP) Conformance**

This project is tiered to and in conformance with the *Coos Bay District Resource Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement* (USDI BLM 1994) and its *Record of Decision (ROD/RMP)*, as supplemented and amended. The Coos Bay ROD/RMP is supported by and consistent with the *Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (FSEIS) on Management of Habitat for Late Successional and Old Growth Forest Related Species Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl* (Northwest Forest Plan [NFP])

(USDA/USDI 1994) and its *Record of Decision* (USDA/USDI 1994a).

- The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decisions:

Use management practices – including fire – to obtain desired vegetation conditions in special areas (p.28)

- The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUPs, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following LUP decisions (Objectives, terms and conditions):

Manage for the conservation of federal candidate and Bureau sensitive species and their habitats so as not to contribute to the need to list and to recover the species (p.32)

Study, maintain or restore community structure, species composition, and ecological processes of special status plant and animal habitat (p.32)

Maintain, protect, or restore relevant and important values of areas of critical environmental concern (p.38)

### **C. Identify applicable NEPA document(s) and other related documents that cover the proposed action.**

List by name and date all applicable NEPA documents that cover the proposed action.

New River Foredune Management Environmental Assessment, EA OR128-06-01 (USDI 2009)

Final New River ACEC Management Plan (USDI 1995)

New River Area of Critical Environmental Concern Management Plan Updated May 2004 (USDI 2004)

List by name and date other documentation relevant to the proposed action (e.g., biological assessment, biological opinion, watershed assessment, project management plans, water quality restoration, and monitoring report).

Watershed Analysis of the Sixes and New River Area, Coos and Curry County Oregon (USDI 2008)

### **D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria.**

**1. Is the new proposed action a feature of, or essentially similar to, an alternative analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? Is the project within the same analysis area, or if the project location is different, are the geographic and resource conditions sufficiently similar to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? If there are differences, can you explain why they are not substantial?**

Documentation of answer and explanation: The proposed action is essentially the same as addressed in the EA on page 10. The original EA contained the analysis of the removal of beachgrass and maintenance of open sand habitat for the benefit of native plants and animals within the western snowy plover habitat restoration area (HRA) at New River, but did not specifically address areas outside of the HRA undergoing similar beachgrass expansion. Though the existing plant community locations are not exactly the same, the effects are parallel. The expansion of invasive beachgrass is leading to a decline in open sand habitat, and its associated native assemblage of plants and animals. This is the same issue that was analyzed in the EA.

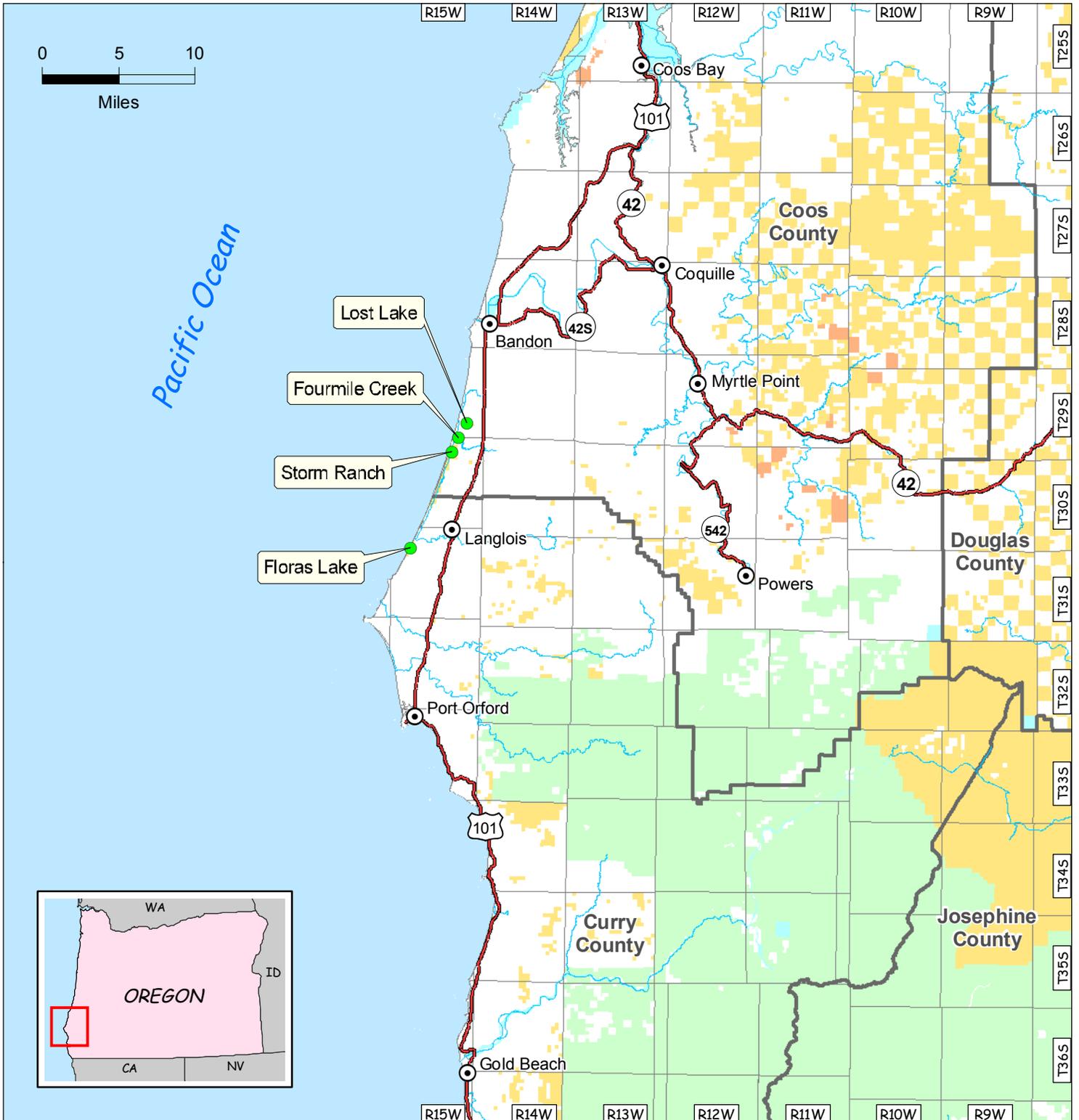
**2. Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s) appropriate with respect to the current proposed action, given current environmental concerns, interests, and resource values?**

Documentation of answer and explanation: Yes, the EA analyzed two alternatives, the No Action alternative and the Action alternative. The Action alternative analyzed a broader array of treatment options including hand-pulling, burning and the use of heavy equipment, but did not analyze the use of plowing with horses. Nevertheless, the resource values, and environmental concerns identified in the EA accurately address the concerns in this proposed action.

**3. Is the existing analysis valid in light of any new information or circumstances (such as, rangeland health standard assessment, recent endangered species listings, updated lists of BLM-sensitive species)? Can you reasonably conclude that new information and new circumstances would not substantially change the analysis of the new proposed action?**



# Vicinity Map - European Beach Grass DNA



- Project Locations
- BLM Administered Land
- Bureau of Indian Affairs
- U.S. Forest Service
- State of Oregon Lands
- Private or Other Lands
- Highway
- Major Stream
- County Boundary



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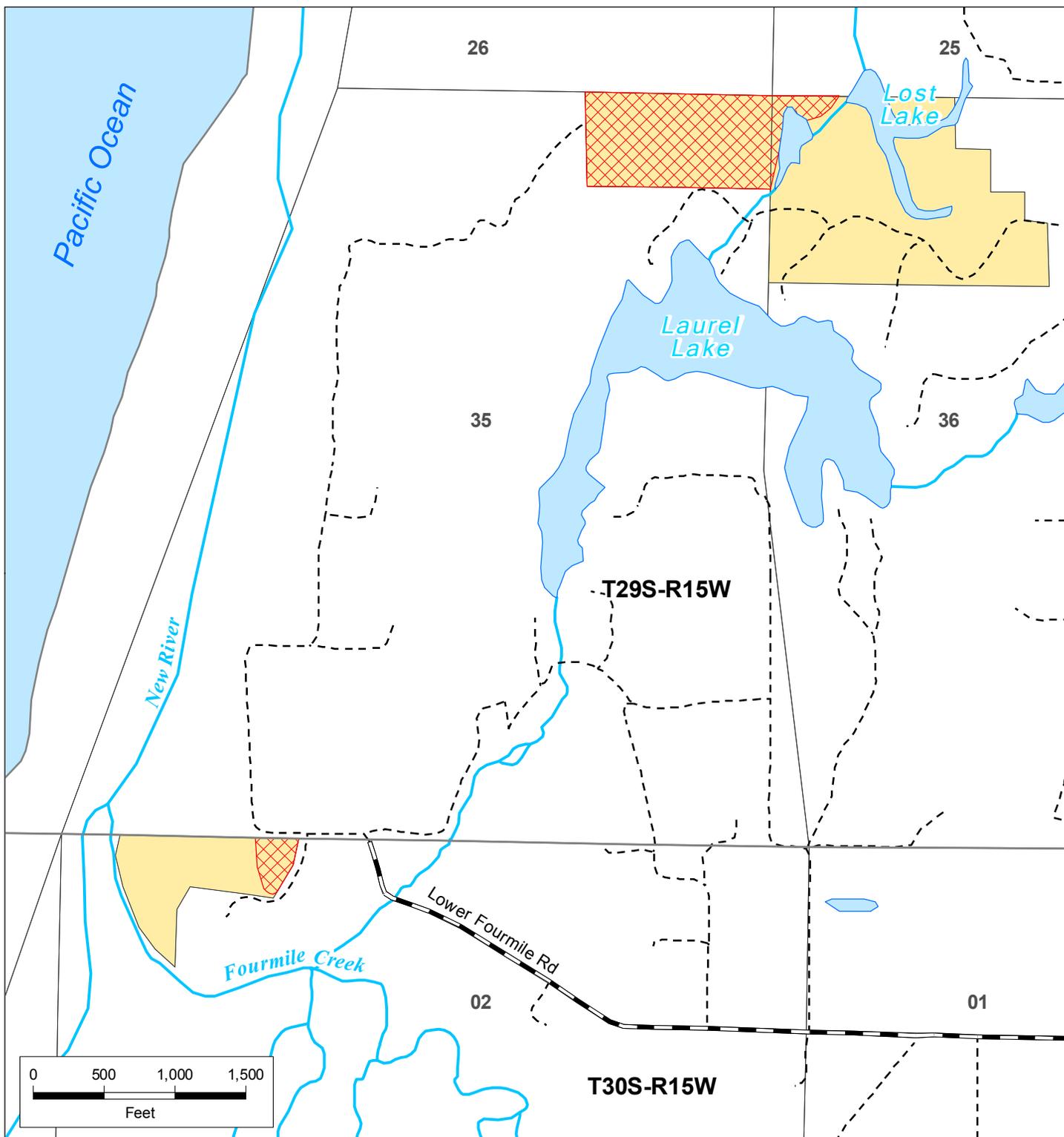


Coos Bay District Office  
Myrtlewood Resource Area  
1300 Airport Lane  
North Bend, OR 97459



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# European Beach Grass DNA - Lost Lake and Fourmile Cr Areas



-  Stream
-  County Road
-  Paved Road
-  Other Roads
-  BLM Administered Land
-  Pvt/Other Ownership
-  Restoration Area



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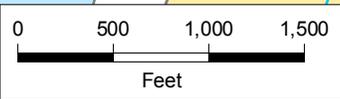
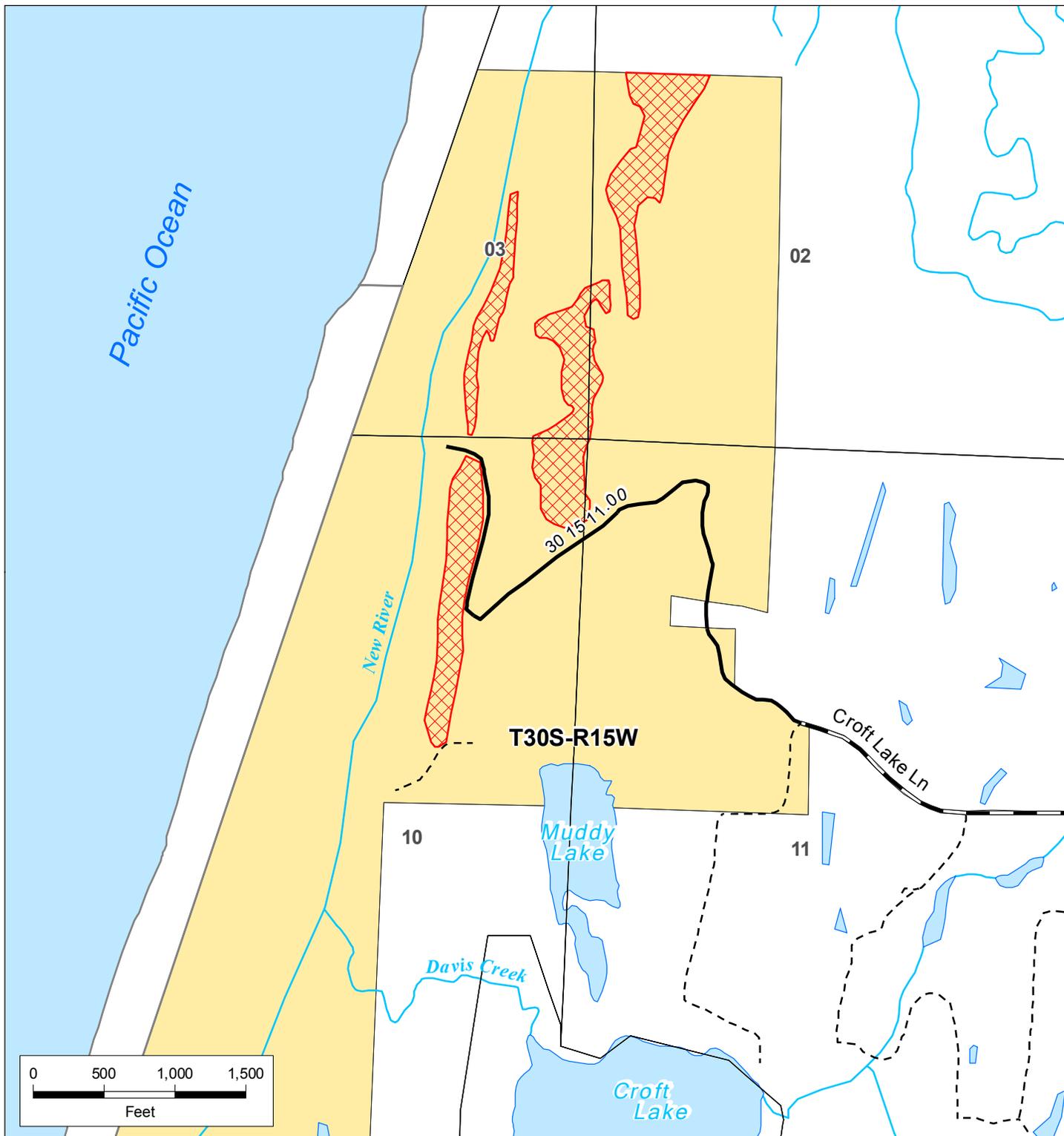


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# European Beach Grass DNA - Storm Ranch Area



- Highway 101
- Stream
- County Road
- BLM Administered Land
- Paved Road
- Pvt/Other Ownership
- Other Roads
- Restoration Area



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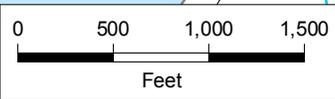
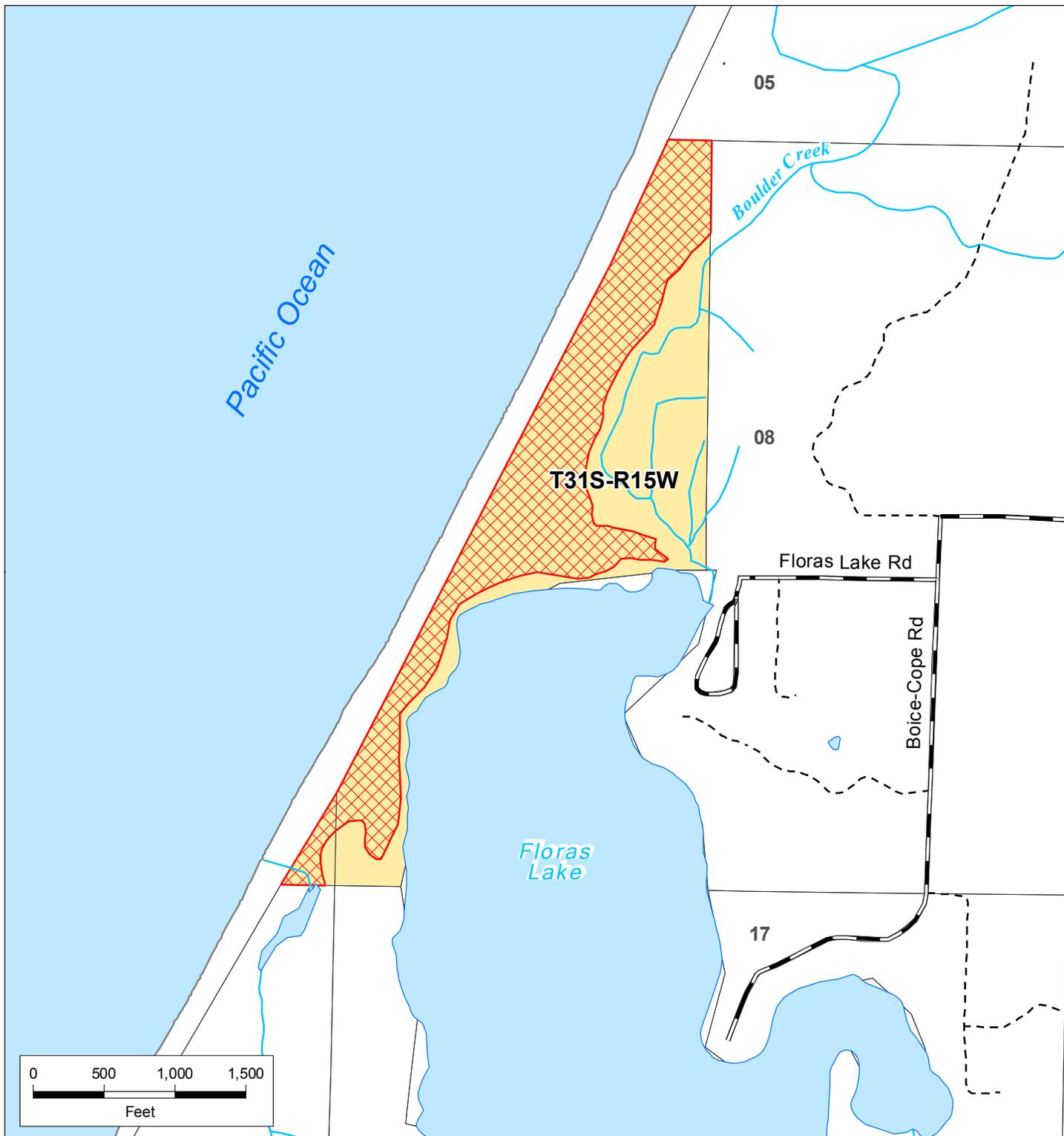


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# European Beach Grass DNA - Floras Lake Area



- |   |   |
|---|---|
|  Highway 101 |  Stream                |
|  County Road |  BLM Administered Land |
|  Paved Road  |  Pvt/Other Ownership   |
|  Other Roads |  Restoration Area      |



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