United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
COOS BAY DISTRICT OFFICE
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5400/1792 (OR120)
EA No. OR128-07-01

March 19, 2007

SCOPING DOCUMENT

Dear Citizen:

This information and the enclosed maps briefly describe a Proposed Action for the Slater Rocks Environmental Assessment (EA).

The USDI, Bureau of Land Management, Coos Bay District Office is preparing an Environmental Assessment for multiple timber sales that will occur within the Middle Fork Coquille River fifth field watershed. The Analysis Area includes the Slater Creek and Rock Creek Subwatersheds and the *Bingham Creek Drainage* of the Camas Valley Subwatershed and the *Upper Twelve Mile Creek Drainage* of the Twelve Mile Subwatershed. The proposed action would treat approximately 1,800 acres of 30-80 year old plantations through commercial thinnings and density management thinning. The timber sales are expected to be sold in Fiscal Year (FY) 2008 through FY 2010 and contribute approximately 18 million board feet to the decadal Allowable Sale Quantity (ASQ) for the Myrtlewood Field Office.

Forest treatments would occur in the General Forest Management Area (GFMA) portions of the Matrix Land Use Allocation (LUA) and within the Riparian Reserve LUA as defined in the Coos Bay District Final Proposed Resource Management Plan, 1995 and the interagency FSEIS Record of Decision (ROD), 1994.

The stands identified for harvest in both the GFMA and Riparian Reserves are the result of past clear-cut logging operations or salvage logging operations following wildfire. The treatments proposed are a necessary and anticipated step in the continuing management of these stands to meet objectives described in the RMP for the respective LUA's. Currently, stands are characterized by heavy stocking averaging over 200 trees per acre leading to slow growth rates and reduced stand vigor. The thinning regime for these areas will be to "thin from below" by removing the suppressed, intermediate and possibly some co-dominate trees leaving a healthy residual stand to continue to grow. Individual stand prescriptions for the GFMA will be derived by modeling thinning prescriptions that will capture imminent mortality and yield commercial forest products while leaving a residual stand that fully utilizes the growing potential of the site and maximizes the volume and quality of future forest products.

The associated Riparian Reserves are similar in structure to the rest of the stand however they would generally receive a slightly different treatment. The Riparian Reserve LUA is a component of the Aquatic Conservation Strategy and its objectives. In addition Riparian Reserves are to provide habitat for special status species, SEIS special attention species, and other terrestrial species. The Aquatic Conservation Strategy (ACS) is intended to maintain and

restore the ecological health of watersheds and aquatic ecosystems. It is comprised of nine objectives "intended to be applied and achieved at the fifth field watershed and larger scales, and over a period of decades or longer rather than in the short-term" (ACS ROD p.1 , March 2004). Prescriptions for the Riparian Reserves would be developed to "control stocking, re-establish and manage stands, and acquire desired vegetation characteristics needed to attain Aquatic Conservation Strategy Objectives" (RMP p.13).

No hardwood conversions are planned with this proposal, although some hardwoods within the proposed units would be thinned.

All proposed units are scheduled to have stand exams conducted in 2007 that will provide data on the current condition of the stands and will be used to develop the individual thinning prescriptions.

The proposed action would include constructing roughly 8 miles of new roads, management of road systems by renovating or improving 9 miles of existing roads, decommissioning of selected roads, and limiting access to selected roads. Roughly 1 mile of new road construction and 3 miles of renovation of existing roads would occur in non-fish bearing Riparian Reserves. Field review of the road work needed to access the harvest units has identified 4 intermittent stream crossings that would be constructed. The ID team will determine whether newly constructed roads will be of a permanent or temporary nature.

There are no occupied Marbled Murrelet Reserves identified within the Slater Rocks Analysis Area however some of the proposed treatment units are adjacent to Marbled Murrelet habitat. Surveys to determine occupancy will begin in May 2007 for selected Marbled Murrelet habitat.

The proposed harvest areas are available for harvest under the Coos Bay Final Proposed Resource Management Plan, 1995 and the interagency FSEIS and ROD, 1994. The Slater Rocks analysis area is within the natural range of Port-Orford-cedar (POC). The proposed action will be in compliance with the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for the Management of Port-Orford-cedar in Southwest Oregon and the subsequent Record of Decision. The Draft SEIS for POC was issued June 2003. This project may incorporate data and recommendations from the Middle Fork Coquille, Sandy Creek, Big Creek, and Upper Middle Fork Coquille Watershed Analysis.

The Slater Rocks Analysis Area is located about 30 miles southeast of Coos Bay, Oregon and is bisected by state highway 42. The total analysis area is 57,493 acres in size. The proposed harvest activities are located in T.29S., R.9W., T.29S., R.10W., T.30S., R9W., T.30S., and R.10W.,; Willamette Meridian.

Table 1: Ownership within the Analysis Area

BLM District	Private Acres	BLM Acres	Total Acres
Coos Bay	30,981	10,165	41,146
Medford	590	435	1,025
Roseburg	8,958	6,364	15,322
Totals	40,529	16,964	57,493

Table 2: LUA of BLM acres in the Analysis Area

BLM District	GFMA Acres	Connectivity Acres	LSR Acres	Total Acres
Coos Bay	7,625	1,181	1,359	10,165
Medford	435	0	0	435
Roseburg	3,192	1,018	2,154	6364
Totals	11,252	2,199	3,513	16,964

You are invited to submit written comments on any issues or concerns you may have regarding this project by April 19, 2007.

Comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the above address during regular business hours (8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.), Monday through Friday, except holidays, and may be published as part of the EA document or other related documents. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

The EA interdisciplinary team will use your comments, along with their own expertise, to further develop a Proposed Action, alternative actions, and design features. The Proposed Action and alternatives will then be analyzed and the results documented in an EA as required by the National Environmental Policy Act. The EA is expected to be available for public comments in August of 2007. A copy of the EA will be sent to those that request it or are on the District's mailing list to receive an EA. It will also be posted on the District's web site: http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/coosbay/index.php.

Please direct your responses or questions to Paul Leman, Myrtlewood Field Office, 1300 Airport Lane, North Bend, OR 97459, call (541) 756-0100, FAX: (541) 756-9303. OR_CoosBay_Mail@blm.gov

Respectfully,

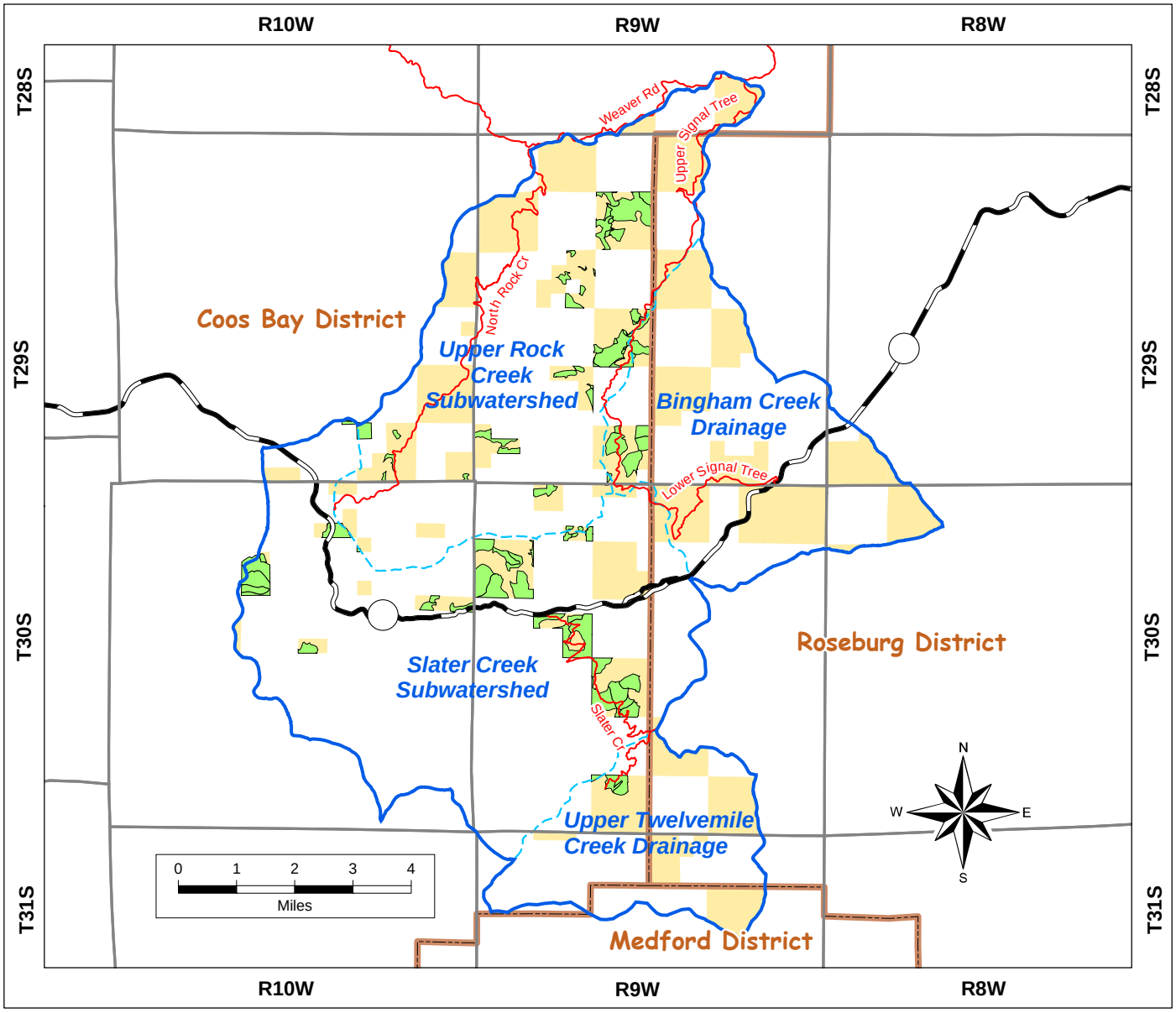
Paul T. Flanagan

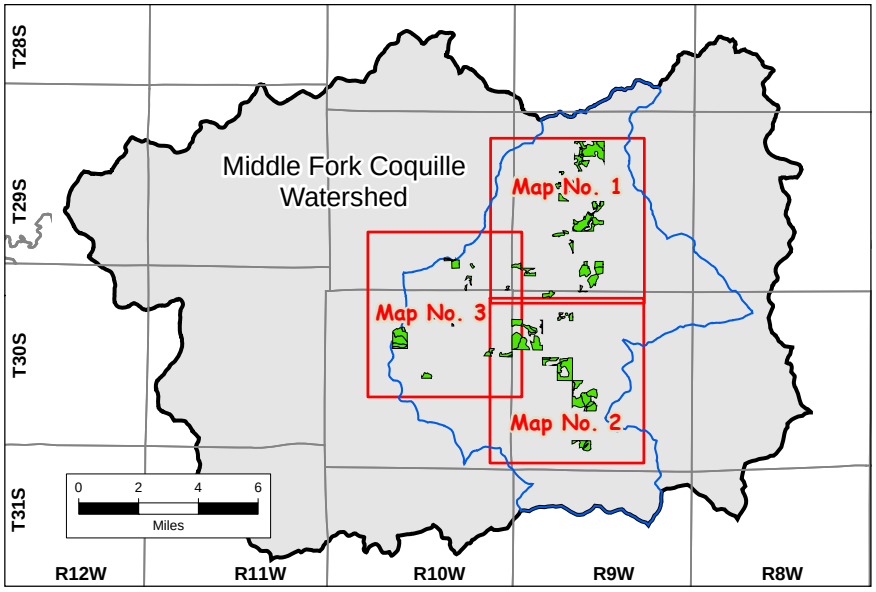
Paul T. Flanagan
Myrtlewood Field Manager

Attachments
Maps(4pp)

Slater Rocks EA OR128-07-1

Vicinity Map





Map Features

- Primary Access Roads
- Highway 42
- BLM District Boundary
- Drainage/Subwatershed Boundary
- Analysis Area Perimeter
- Unit Boundary
- BLM Administered Land in Analysis Area

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

Phone: (541) 756-0100
email: OR_CoosBay_Mail@blm.gov

No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual or aggregate use with other data.

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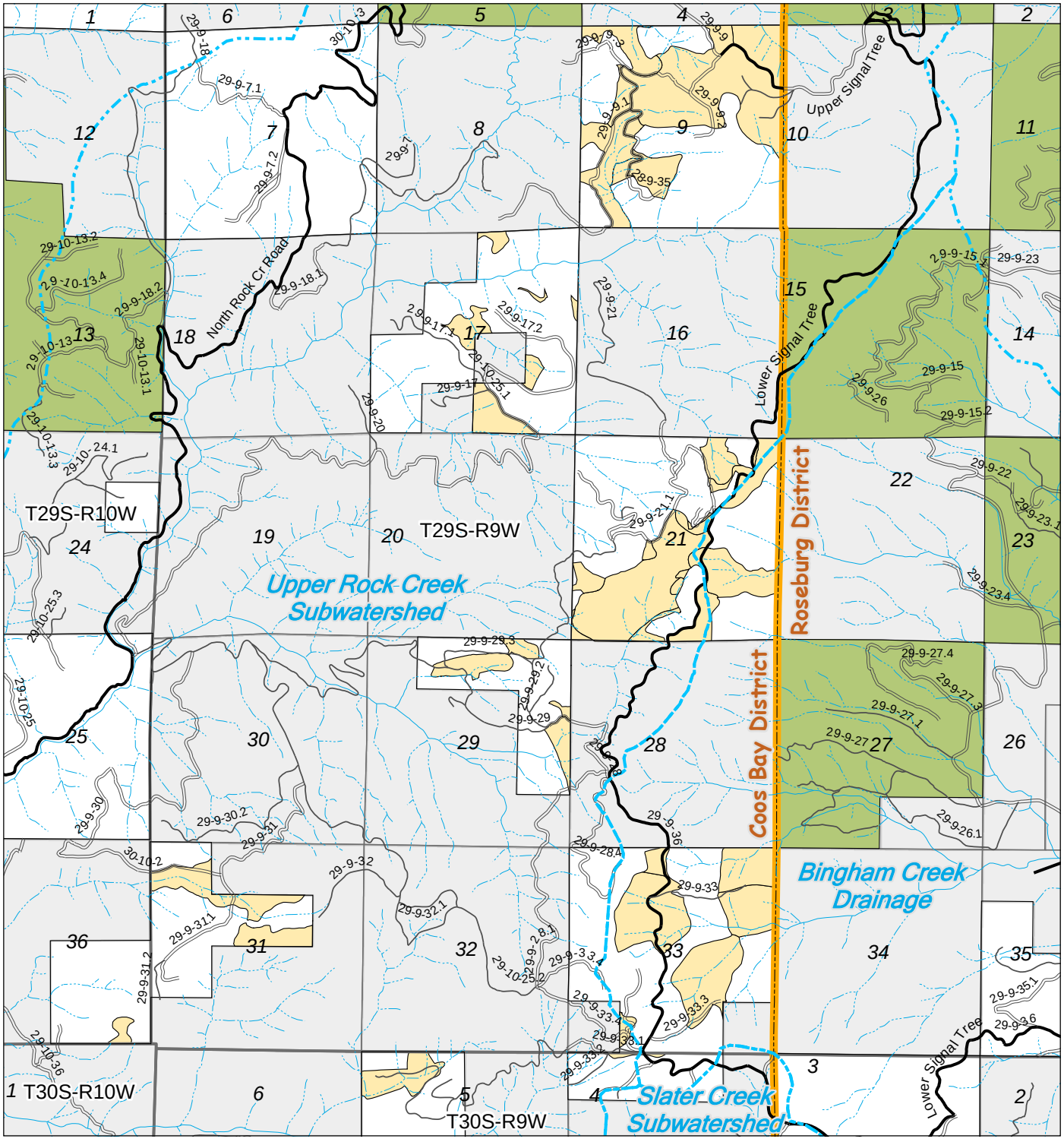
Scoping Map 1 of 3



Map Features

(Not all map features necessarily occur in the area mapped above.)

- Private & Other Ownership

BLM Administered Lands

- GFMA or Connectivity
- Late Successional Reserve
- Unit Boundary
- BLM District Boundary
- Drainage Boundaries
- Highway 42
- Paved Road
- Rocked Road
- Natural Surface
- Fishbearing Stream
- Non-Fishbearing Stream

N

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Coos Bay District Office
Myrtlewood Resource Area

Scale = 1:45,000

0 0.25 0.5 0.75 1
Miles

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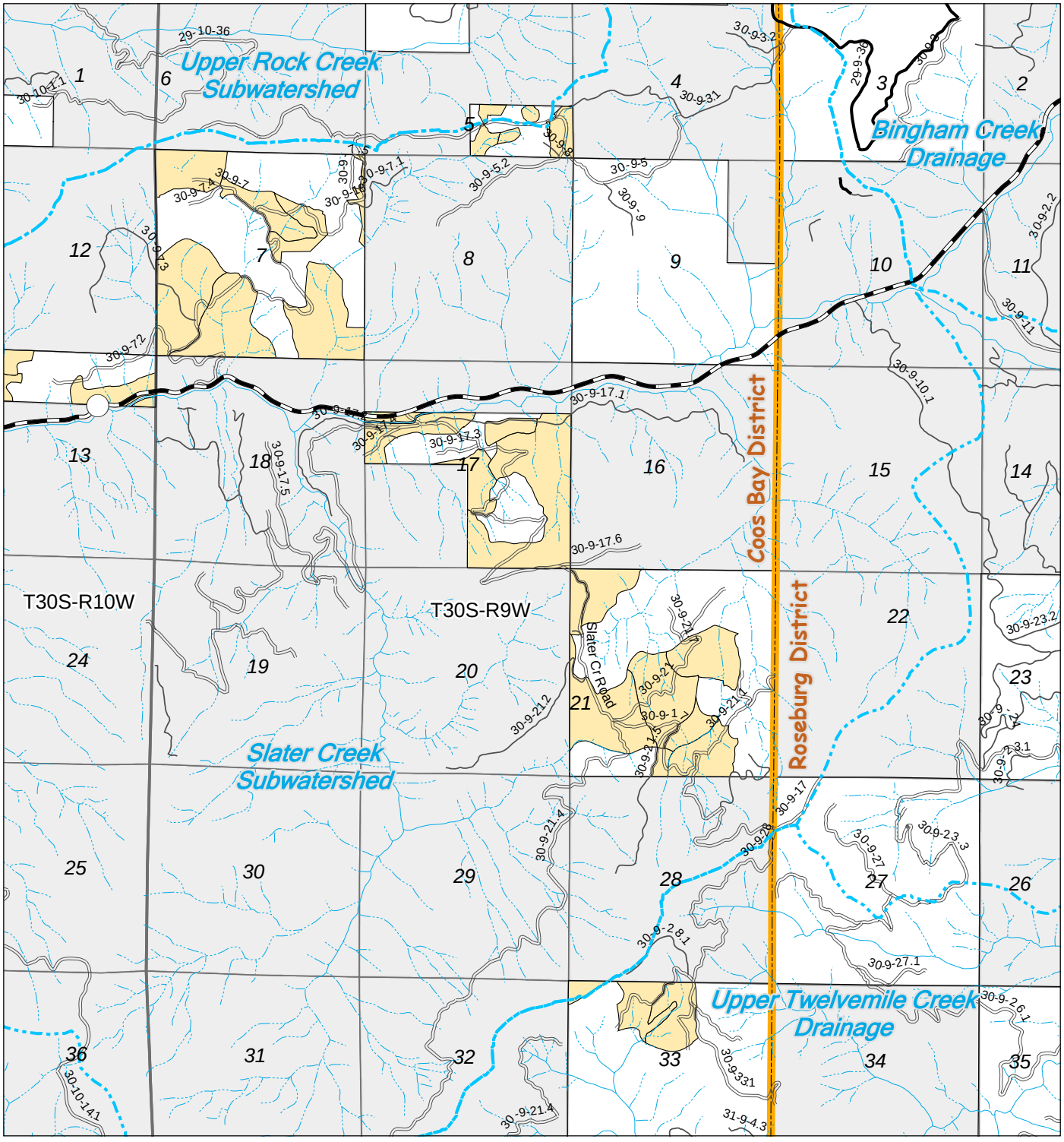
Scoping Map 2 of 3



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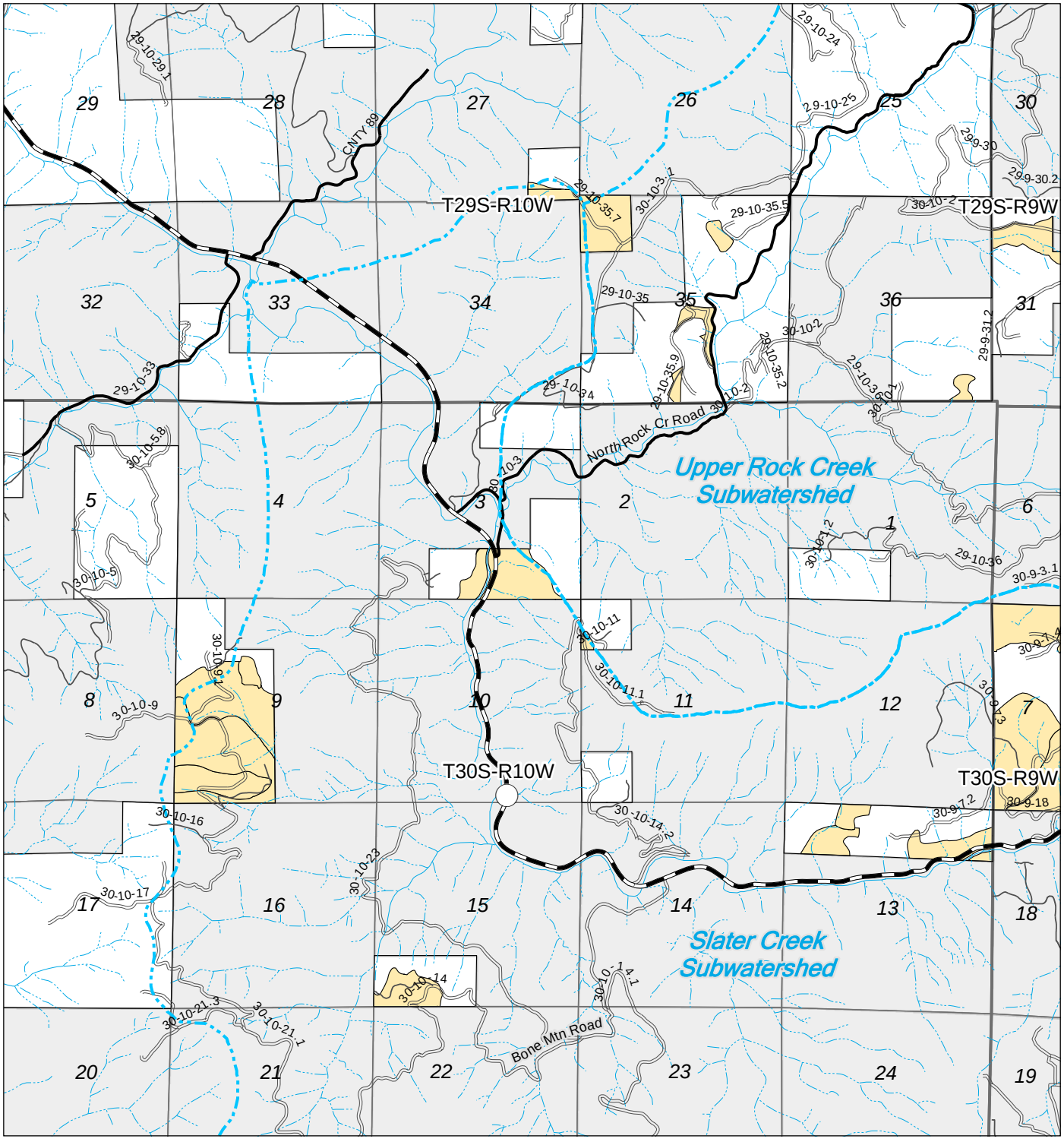
Scoping Map 3 of 3



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