

**Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA)
for
Ashland Resource Area's
Silvicultural Planting-Scalping-Netting Project**

DOI-BLM-OR-M060-2014-0010-DNA

*Under the Categorical Exclusion Determination and Decision Record for FY 2012-2014 Silviculture Practices in Butte Falls and Ashland Resource Areas – Reforestation, Young Stand Management, and Forest Condition Restoration Treatments
DOI-BLM-OR-M000-2012-0007-CX*

A. Describe the Proposed Action:

The Ashland Resource Area, Medford District is proposing reforestation and young stand management treatments to accomplish land use allocation objectives described in the 1995 Medford District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan (ROD/RMP, p. 183-186). The proposed reforestation treatments would be scheduled to assure the treatment areas maintain developmental paths so that desired stand characteristics result in the future. Treatments would occur in forest stands up to 80 years old and conifers less than 8 inches in diameter breast height (DBH). All proposed silviculture treatments would be implemented on sites located throughout the Ashland Resource Area over a 3-year period. All sites would be accessed using existing road systems.

Proposed treatments include planting, scalping, and installing seedling netting. Tree planting would be accomplished using hand tools such as shovels or hoedads. The trees would be bare-root or containerized seedlings, 1 to 3 years old, and 6 to 24 inches high. The soil around the planted tree would be prepared by scalping away vegetation for a 12-inch radius around the planting hole. Seedling netting would include placing flexible plastic netting over planted seedlings to reduce animal browse.

Activities would occur in existing silvicultural treatment units located in: T. 38 S., R. 3 E., SE ¼ of section 8; T. 38 S., R. 3 E., NW ¼ of section 9; T. 38 S., R. 4 E., SE ¼ of section 20; T. 38 S., R. 4 E., NW ¼ of section 29; T. 38 S., R. 3 E., NE ¼ of section 11; T. 38 S., R. 4 E., NW ¼ of section 19. (Appendix A).

The proposed action will incorporate all appropriate Project Design Features included in the *Categorical Exclusion Determination and Decision Record for FY 2012-2014 Silviculture Practices in Butte Falls and Ashland Resource Areas – Reforestation, Young Stand Management, and Forest Condition Restoration Treatments* (May 2012).

The following Project Design Feature shall be included in addition to the above mentioned project design features:

- If, during project implementation, the contractor/workers encounters or becomes aware of any objects or sites of cultural value on federal lands, such as historical or pre-historical ruins, graves, grave markers, or artifacts, the contractor shall immediately suspend all operations in the vicinity of the cultural value and notify the Contracting Officer's Representative (COR). The project may be redesigned to protect the cultural resource values present, or evaluation and mitigation procedures would be implemented based on recommendations from the resource area archaeologist and concurrence by the Ashland Field Manager and State Historic Preservation Office.

B. Land Use Plan (LUP) Conformance

Resource Management Plan Conformance

The Proposed Action is in conformance with the 1995 Medford District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan (1995 ROD/RMP) because it is specifically provided for in management direction on page 62:

Design and implement silvicultural treatments in stands that are in a condition, or that will soon be in a condition, which prevents management objectives from being achieved. Treatments are intended to restore the ability of stands to respond to other management and to reduce the risk of mortality from insects, disease, and wildfire. Treatments will consist of thinning of stands, forest fertilization, reduction of understory vegetation, reduction of fuel ladders, and restoration of more stable plant communities.

The 1995 Medford District RMP incorporated the *Record of Decision for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl and the Standards and Guidelines for Management of Habitat for Late-Successional and Old-Growth Forest Related Species Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl* (USDA and USDI 1994).

The Proposed Action is also consistent with the Medford District Resource Management Plan as amended by the *2001 Record of Decision and Standards and Guidelines for Amendments to the Survey and Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines* (2001 ROD).

This proposal is also in compliance with the direction given for the management of public lands in the Medford District by the Oregon and California Lands Act of 1937 (O&C Act), Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA), the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA), the Clean Water Act of 1987 (CWA), Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974 (as amended 1986 and 1996) (SDWA), Clean Air Act of 1990, and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 (ARPA).

C. Identify applicable NEPA documents and other related documents that cover the proposed action.

Prior to treatment, all proposed treatment areas would be reviewed and cleared for treatment by resource area specialists. Site specific treatment prescriptions and maps would be developed for each treatment area, reviewed for appropriateness of treatment and for necessary clearances, and applicable project design features implemented for each treatment area.

The following documents cover the proposed action:

- *The Categorical Exclusion Determination and Decision Record for FY 2012-2014 Silviculture Practices in Butte Falls and Ashland Resource Areas – Reforestation, Young Stand Management, and Forest Condition Restoration Treatments* (May 2012).

D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria

- 1. Is the current proposed action substantially the same action (or is a part of that action) as previously analyzed? Is the current proposed action within the same analysis area of the previously analyzed project?** *The Categorical Exclusion Determination and Decision Record for FY 2012-2014 Silviculture Practices in Butte Falls and Ashland Resource Areas – Reforestation, Young Stand Management, and Forest Condition Restoration Treatments*, listed

above, analyzed programmatically the planting, scalping, and grubbing treatments used across the Butte Falls and Ashland Resource Areas of the Medford District BLM. Project Design Features required under the above referenced CE are included in this project.

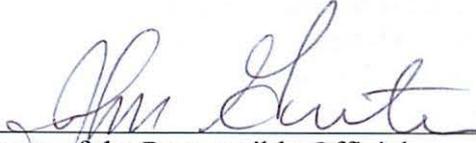
2. **Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA documents appropriate with respect to the current proposed action, given current environmental concerns, interests, and resource values?** The range of alternatives analyzed in the above referenced CE is appropriate with respect to the current proposed action.
3. **Is the existing analysis valid in light of any new information or circumstances?** This project is consistent with the suite of activities analyzed in the above referenced CE. The project proponent planning and overseeing the implementation of this site-specific project sent a detailed description of the proposed action to resource specialists according to the specified time frame (at least 10 days prior to implementation). Resource specialists reviewed the design of this project against those documented in the above referenced CE and found the existing analysis to be valid for this proposed action.
4. **Do the methodology and analytical approach used in the existing NEPA documents continue to be appropriate for the current proposed action?** The interdisciplinary team approach was used in evaluating the proposed action. The present methodology continues to be appropriate because the action is the same.
5. **Are the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of the current proposed action similar to those identified in the existing NEPA documents?** The ID Team planning and overseeing the implementation of this site-specific project reviewed the anticipated effects of this project against those documented in the above referenced CE and the effects disclosed are the same as those identified and analyzed. The Ashland Resource Area Cultural Resource Specialist included an additional project design feature to mitigate any adverse effects on potential new sites. No other new information or circumstances would affect the predicted environmental impacts as stated in the above referenced CE.
6. **Are the public involvement and interagency review associated with existing NEPA document(s) adequate for the current proposed action?** The *Categorical Exclusion for the Categorical Exclusion Determination and Decision Record for FY 2012-2014 Silviculture Practices in Butte Falls and Ashland Resource Areas – Reforestation, Young Stand Management, and Forest Condition Restoration Treatments* was made available for public review on BLM's Medford District Website in June of 2012.

E. Interdisciplinary Analysis: This document, which includes a detailed description of the project, was distributed to the appropriate members of the Ashland Resource Area Interdisciplinary Team for review and input within at least 10 days prior to implementation of the project.

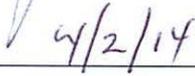
F. Mitigation Measures: Project Design Features (PDFs), discussed in Section A above, are included as part of the proposed action for the purpose of reducing or eliminating anticipated adverse environmental impacts.

CONCLUSION

Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal conforms to the applicable land use plan and that the existing NEPA documentation fully covers the proposed action and constitutes BLM's compliance with the requirements of NEPA.

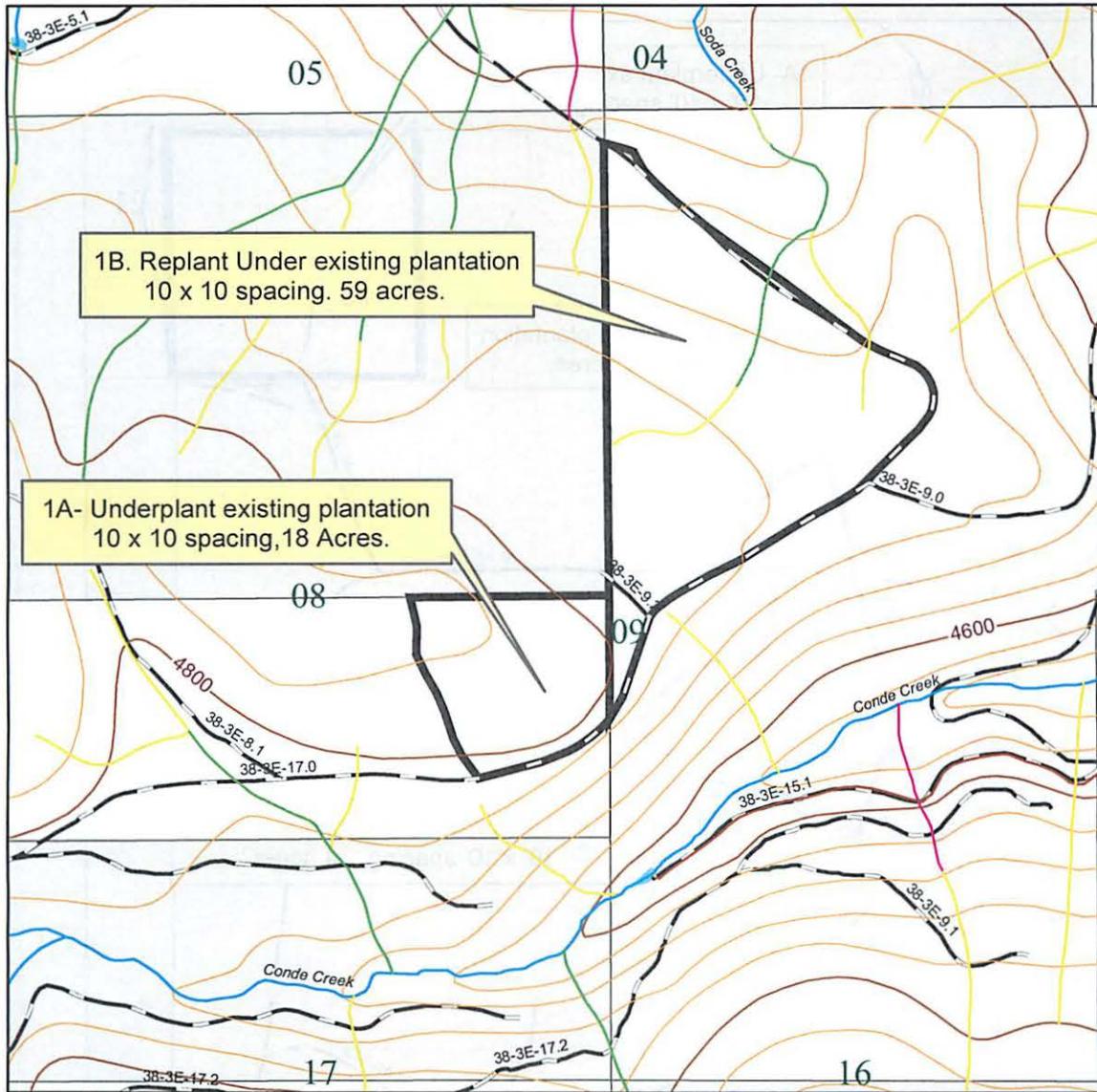


Signature of the Responsible Official



Date

T38S-R3E-SEC.8 & 9



SUB ITEM	1 A, 1B
UNIT #	Conde Flat #2
ACRES	18, 59
KEY #	120404, 122369
TRS/UNIT	T38S-R3E-SEC.8,9

Legend

- Treatment Area
- Stream
- Road
- Barricade
- Gate
- Lake Pond
- 40 Foot Contour
- 200 Foot Contour

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT			
Fuels Reduction IDIQ			
ASHLAND RESOURCE AREA			
DESIGNED	Chad J. Vetter		
REVIEWED	Chad J. Vetter		
APPROVED	William Ripley		
DRAWN	Chad J. Vetter	SCALE	1:12000
DATE	29-October-2013	SHEET	1 of 4



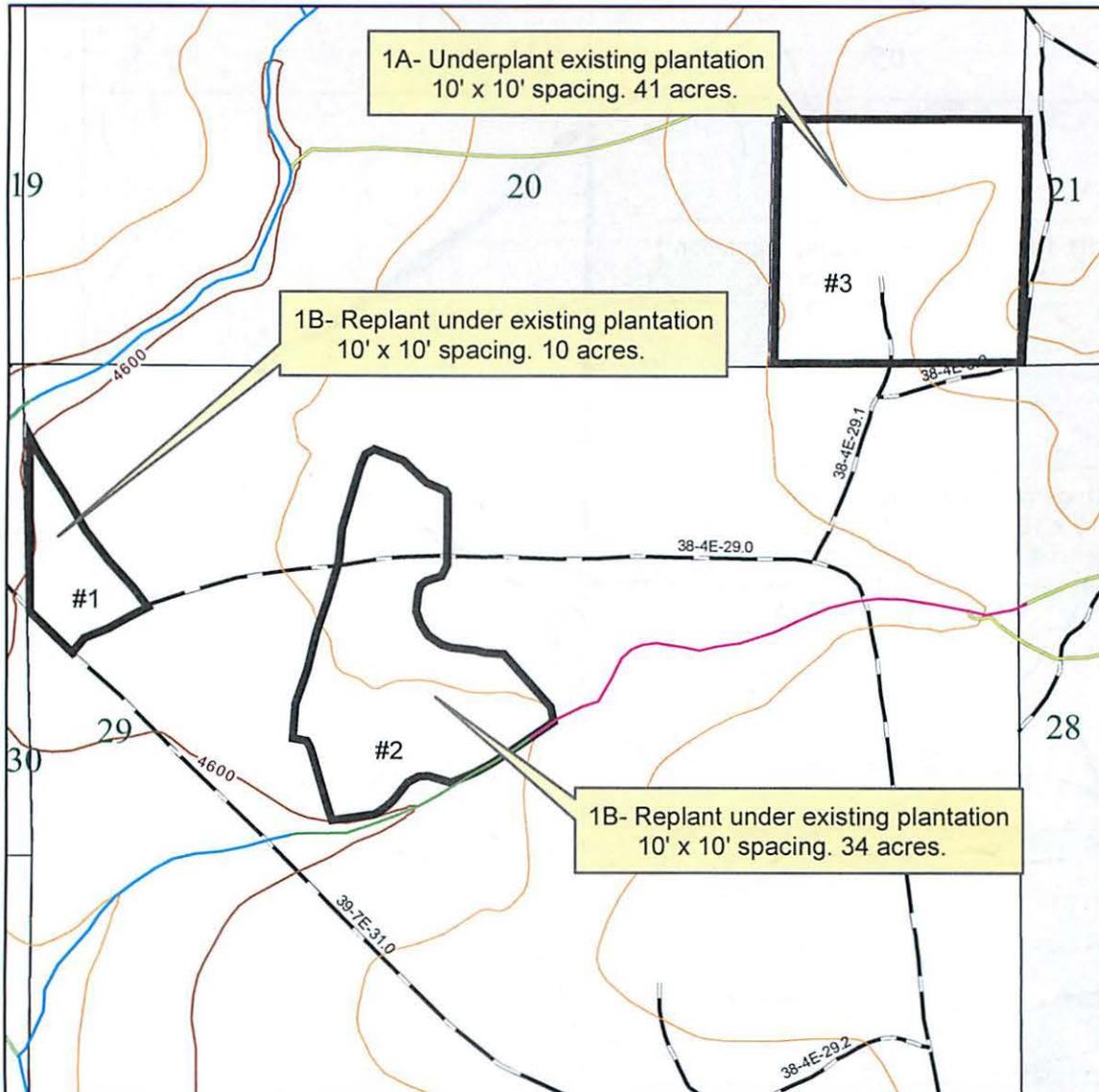
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T38S-R4E- SEC.20, 29



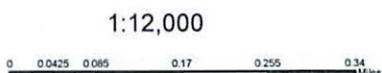
SUB ITEM	1B, 1B, 1A
UNIT NAME	Hoxie Creek # 1, 2, 3
ACRES	10,34, 41
KEY #	122481,122483, 120563
TRS/UNIT	T38S-4E- SEC.20, 29

- Legend**
- Treatment Area
 - Barricades**
 - Barricade
 - Gate
 - Road
 - OWNER_TYPE**
 - Federal
 - Non-Federal

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Silviculture IDIQ			
ASHLAND RESOURCE AREA			
DESIGNED	Norvery Tate		
REVIEWED	Chad Vetter		
APPROVED	William Ripley		
DRAWN	Chad Vetter	SCALE	1:12000
DATE	30-October-2013	SHEET	2 of 4

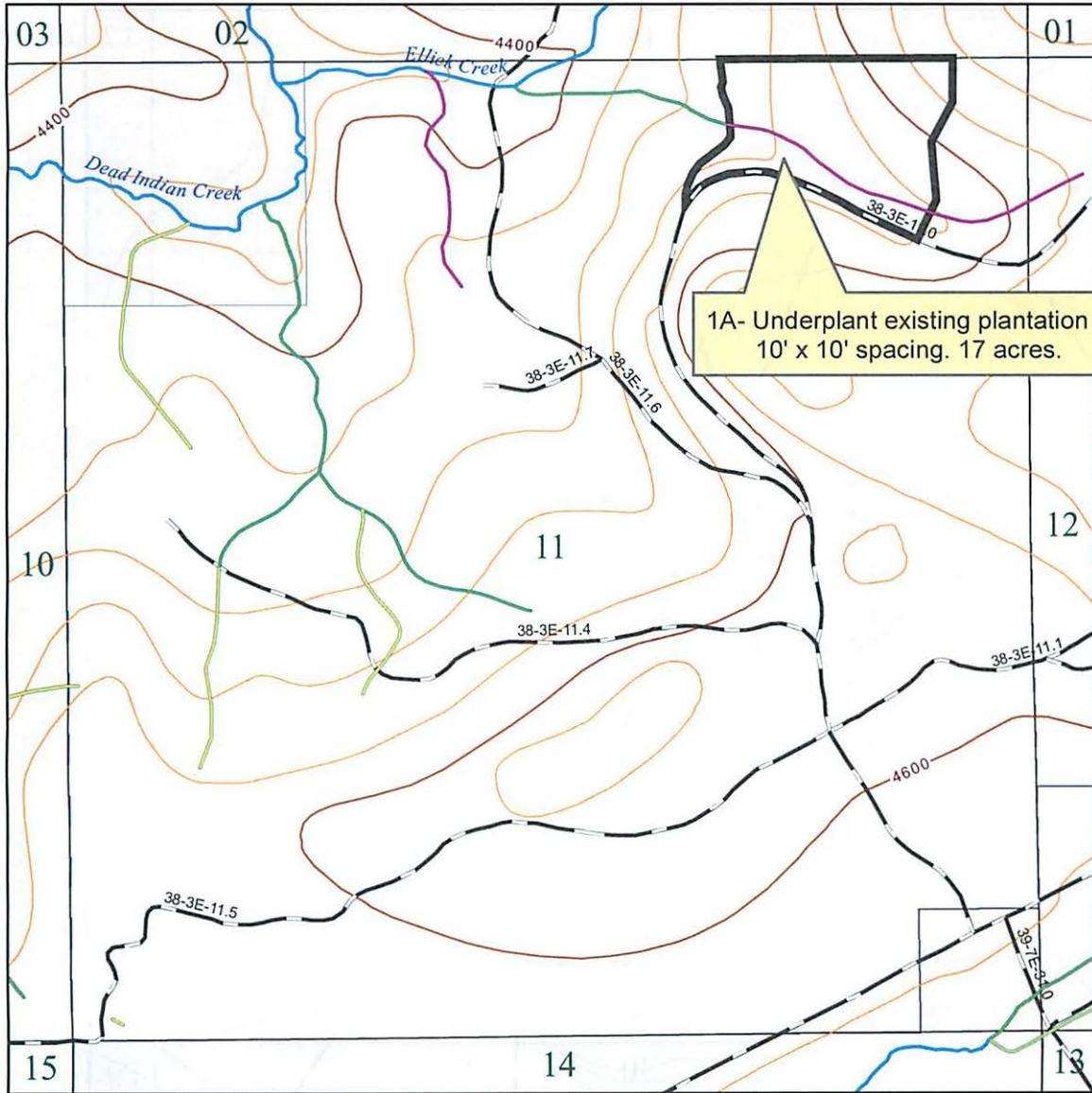


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T38S-R3E- SEC.11



SUB ITEM	1A-10 x 10 Underplant
UNIT NAME	Stag Meadow#2
ACRES	17
KEY #	120417
TRS/UNIT	T38S-3E- SEC.11

Legend

- Road
- Treatment Area
- Barricades
- Barricade
- Gate
- OWNER_TYPE**
- Federal
- Non-Federal

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Silviculture IDIQ			
ASHLAND RESOURCE AREA			
DESIGNED	Norvay Tate		
REVIEWED	Chad Vetter		
APPROVED	William Ripley		
DRAWN	Chad Vetter	SCALE	1:12000
DATE	30-October-2013	SHEET	3 of 4



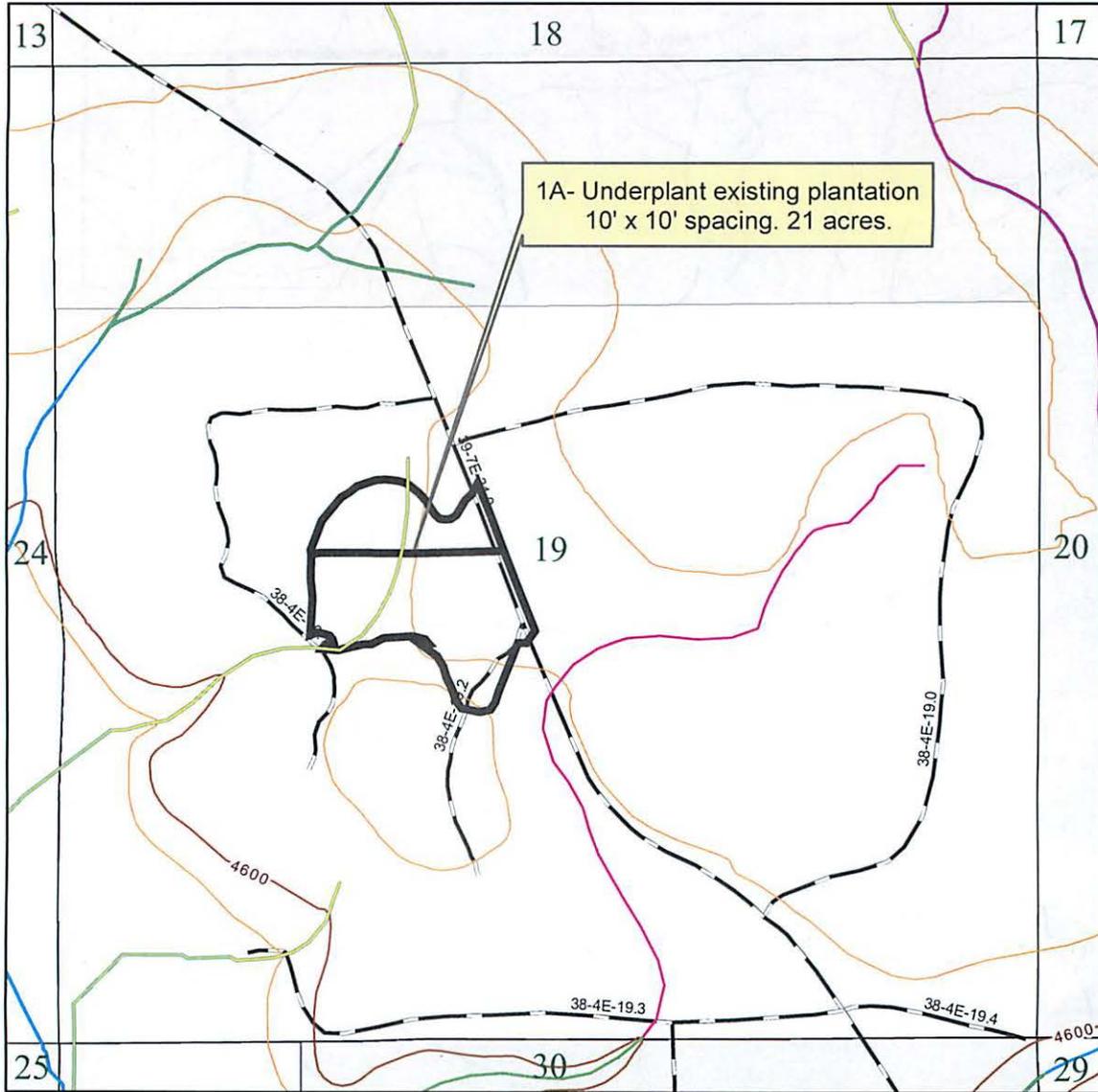
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T38S-R4E- SEC.19



SUB ITEM	1A
UNIT NAME	Stag Meadow#6
ACRES	21
KEY #	120926, 120925
TRS/UNIT	T38S-4E- SEC.19

Legend

- Treatment Area
- Barricades
- Barricade
- Gate
- Road
- OWNER_TYPE**
- Federal
- Non-Federal

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Silviculture IDIQ	
ASHLAND RESOURCE AREA	
DESIGNED	Norvery Tate
REVIEWED	Chad Vetter
APPROVED	William Ripley
DRAWN	Chad Vetter
DATE	31-October-2013
SCALE	1:12000
SHEET	4 of 4



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