



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
MEDFORD DISTRICT OFFICE
3040 BIDDLE ROAD MEDFORD, OREGON 97504

PROGRAMMATIC INTEGRATED VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PROJECT
NEPA# DOI-BLM-OR-M000-2012-0001-EA
Butte Falls Resource Area Public Roadside Firewood Collection
October 2013

Draft DECISION RECORD

I. INTRODUCTION

The BLM proposes a Public Roadside Firewood Collection project along specific BLM-controlled roads on Matrix lands in the Butte Falls Resource Area. The project would allow for the sale of dead and down hardwoods or conifers less than 16 inches in diameter and the sale of standing dead hardwoods and conifers less than 12 inches in diameter. Collection would be by hand within 100 feet of designated roads.

The Butte Falls Resource Area Public Roadside Firewood Collection project is consistent with the projects described in the 2012 Programmatic Integrated Vegetation Management Project (IVMP) Environmental Assessment (EA), which was prepared under the 1995 Medford District Resource Management Plan and the Northwest Forest Plan.

The IVMP EA was developed to provide a tool to accomplish work that promotes healthy and resilient forest landscapes and species conservation, and provides forest products that contribute to the sustainability of local communities and industries. As stated in the IVMP EA (p. 2),

“All proposed projects will include a variety of vegetation management treatments designed to attain multiple management objectives identified for various land allocations using an IVM approach. . . . the focus of this programmatic analysis is on potential sets of actions that can be implemented, if and when funding becomes available, and more quickly and efficiently than if each project were analyzed on its own. This EA will not be used strictly for implementation of fuels or silviculture projects; the intent is to implement projects that meet multiple objectives. Projects proposed under the IVM programmatic EA will not overlap any other active NEPA projects; however, they could be part of a larger landscape planning effort, or could be implemented as stand-alone projects. It is expected that decisions under this programmatic EA will create significant management efficiencies.

After the public review period for this EA, it will become available for each of the three Resource Areas (Ashland, Butte Falls, and Grants Pass) to use for specific projects. The Resource Areas will propose and develop individual projects consistent with descriptions and stipulations in this EA. Project specific assessments will be completed prior to

project decisions to assure that the effects of the suite of activities proposed under this EA do not exceed the effects disclosed in this EA.”

Other Integrated Vegetation Management projects are anticipated to occur across the Medford District. The IVMP does not preclude these other IVM projects that would address a wider variety of activities than are available under this EA and that would be more appropriately analyzed as a stand-alone project. For example, a watershed-wide landscape management project that includes commercial timber harvest, road construction or decommissioning, recreation projects, silviculture treatments, and fuel hazard reduction, as well as IVM treatments, would be more appropriate to analyze as a stand-alone project rather than be implemented under this EA.

The EA details the steps that will be completed prior to signing Decision Records under the IVMP. “Project proposals/draft Decision Records would be written and posted on the Medford District BLM website and available for at least 15 days for public review” (EA, p. 2). Each Resource Area will conduct appropriate outreach for each project. “Following public review, Decision Records would be published for each project under the Forest Management Regulations (43 CFR 5003), and subject to Administrative Remedies in accordance with these regulations” (EA, p. 2). This is one of those project proposals/Decision Records.

This Decision Record (DR) is for the Butte Falls Resource Area Public Roadside Firewood Collection project, which implements the IVMP in the Big Butte Creek and Evans Creek 5th field watersheds in the Butte Falls Resource Area.

All projects implemented under the EA are required to be developed in cooperation with appropriate BLM resource specialists (minimally silviculture, forestry, soils, hydrology, wildlife, botany, fire, and fuels) for habitat considerations and treatment options.

- Projects are to be designed in context with other projects in the watersheds in which they are planned
- Interdisciplinary review (including at minimum, soil scientist/hydrologist) will determine applicable best management practices (BMP) on a project-specific basis
- Site-specific BMPs are incorporated for each project with regard to road location, design, construction, and decommissioning; yarding systems; and other activities as appropriate.

Table DR-1 outlines the preproject documentation completed for this project.

Table DR-1. Preproject Clearances for the Butte Falls Resource Area Public Roadside Firewood Collection			
Clearance/Survey Type	Date Completed	Specialist Responsible	Reference
Botany—Survey and Manage/Special Status Species	June 10, 2013	Marcia Wineteer	Not Applicable
Botany—T&E	May 15, 2013	Marcia Wineteer	Not Applicable

Table DR-1. Preproject Clearances for the Butte Falls Resource Area Public Roadside Firewood Collection

Clearance/Survey Type	Date Completed	Specialist Responsible	Reference
Botany Consultation	No Effect; surveys completed and no sites found	(U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2008), (Bureau of Land Management, 2008, p. 20) #13420-2008-I-0136	
Wildlife—Surveys	Not Required	Dave Roelofs	Not Applicable
Wildlife—Habitat Assessment	April 11, 2013	Dave Roelofs	Not Applicable
Wildlife Consultation	January 29, 2013	(FWS REF #01EOFW00-2013-I-0039) Final IVM Informal	
Project-specific Wildlife Consultation	April 12, 2013	Dave Roelofs	Wildlife Consultation Monitoring Report 9/24/2013
Slope Stability Assessment	September 30, 2013	Amy Meredith	Timber Production Capability Class
Stream Surveys	May 17, 2013	Shawn Simpson	Used National Hydrography Dataset
Site-specific BMPs Identified	May 17, 2013	Shawn Simpson	PDFs with *
Cultural Resources Surveys	May 2, 2013	Lisa Rice	Arch Report #OR110-13-41
Cultural Resources Consultation	May 2, 2013	Lisa Rice	Arch Report #OR110-13-41

II. DECISION

It is my decision to implement Alternative 2, the proposed action, as described in the *Programmatic Integrated Vegetation Management Project Environmental Assessment* (DOI-BLM-OR-M000-2012-0001-EA).

The sale of dead and down hardwoods or conifers less than 16 inches in diameter will be made available for firewood collection if snag and down wood requirements are met for the land allocation in which the project is located. Dead standing hardwoods and conifers less than 12 inches in diameter at breast height could also be available. Collection by hand within 100 feet of designated roads will be permitted (See attached maps). Specific areas for firewood collection were identified and site-specific project design features (PDF) were stipulated for each designated firewood collection area. The PDFs described in the EA (p. 23-34), Section 2.3, will be implemented as applicable.

The Butte Falls Resource Area Public Firewood Collection project will occur along approximately 13 miles of BLM-administered roads, as identified on the project maps. The project area is geographically divided to benefit separate population centers.

The Project Area is located on BLM-Administered land in

Township 32 South, Range 2 West, Section 33 along BLM roads 32-2-33.5 (0.2 miles), 32-2-33.9 (0.7 miles), and 33-2-33.8 (0.6 miles)

Township 33 South, Range 2 West, Section 5 along BLM road 33-2-5.3 (0.3 miles)

Township 34 South, Range 2 East, Sections 3, 8, 9, 15, and 16 along BLM roads 34-2-4.4 (1.2 miles), 34-2-9.1 (2.8 miles), and 34-2-9.7 (0.8 miles)

Township 34 South, Range 3 West, Sections 1, 3, 11, and 15 along BLM roads 34-3-1.1 (0.6 miles), 34-3-1 (0.6 miles), 34-3-3.2 (0.8 miles), 34-3-3.6 (0.4 miles), 34-3-3.7 (0.2 miles), and 34-3-23 (3.6 miles)

Project Design Features (PDF)

The following PDFs were developed specifically for roadside firewood collection:

- No motorized vehicles will leave the rocked road surface.
- Firewood collection will be by hand only (includes chainsaws and winching/lining).
- On areas where material was winched to the road, place slash over any area where 50% of the top soil is removed at a width of 5 feet or more.*
- Clear all slash and debris from road surfaces and ditch lines.
- Lop and scatter all slash (boughs, limbs etc.).
- Purchaser must meet all state fire regulations.
- All live/green trees are reserved from cutting.
- Remove all litter/trash from the project area.
- All trees marked with paint (any color) are reserved.
- Standing trees will be cut as close to ground level as possible.
- No removal of trees or coarse woody material within riparian reserves. The riparian reserves are flagged and posted.
- No trees or coarse woody material (over 16" diameter) will be removed.

III. DECISION RATIONALE

The Butte Falls Resource Area Public Roadside Firewood Collection project conforms to the Personal Use Firewood project described under Alternative 2 in the IVMP EA (p. 20). This project also meets the objective for Special Forest Products in the Medford District ROD/RMP to manage for the production and sale of special forest products (i.e., firewood) when demand is present and where actions taken are consistent with primary objectives for the land use allocation (ROD/RMP, p.75). This project follows ROD/RMP management direction to allow harvest of

special forest products throughout the District, with area and plant species/group restrictions listed in the RMP (p. 76).

This project has been reviewed by the Butte Falls Resource Area staff and appropriate PDFs will be incorporated into the project. Based on the attached NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) Programmatic Environmental Assessment Review, I have determined the proposed action involves no significant impact to the human environment and no further environmental analysis is required.

Plan Consistency

Based on the information in the IVMP EA and project record, and comments received from the public regarding this project, I conclude that the decisions documented in this Decision Record are consistent with the Medford District Resource Management Plan; *Record of Decision and Standards and Guidelines on Management of Habitat for Late-Successional and Old-Growth Forest Related Species Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl*; and *Record of Decision and Standards and Guidelines for Amendments to the Survey and Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines*. They are also consistent with the Endangered Species Act, Native American Religious Freedom Act and cultural resource management laws and regulations, and Executive Order 12898 regarding Environmental Justice. They will not, per Executive Order 13212, impact energy development, production, supply, and/or distribution.

IV. CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

No adverse impacts to the sites of cultural or historical significance were identified during project planning. The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) was informed of the BLM's finding in accordance with 36 CFR 800.5(b).

The Confederated Tribes of the Grande Ronde, Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians, Klamath Tribe, Burns Paiute Tribe, Coquille Indian Tribe, and Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation were notified of this project during IVMP EA scoping and the EA's public comment period. Josephine County Commissioners and the Josephine County forestry department were also contacted. No responses were received.

Botany

The firewood cutting area, except for Township 32 South, Range 2 West, Section 33, is within the range of Gentner's fritillary, *Fritillaria gentneri*, but there is very little potential habitat for this species. Only one year of surveys is required for this species for small-scale projects (USFWS 2008, BLM 2008, p. 20). All potential habitat was surveyed and no Gentner's fritillary sites were found; therefore, this project would be "no effect" to T&E plants (FWS REF #13420-2008-I-0136).

Wildlife Consultation Trail# 01EOFW00-2013-I-0039

Firewood collection will occur along existing roads and will be outside of riparian reserves and designated 100-acre northern spotted owl activity centers. Collection areas will be monitored to

ensure they meet the RMP guidelines for the retention of adequate levels of snags and down wood for wildlife. Collection of dead trees and down wood will help reduce the fire danger along these roads because these areas were identified as having high levels of dead wood. The collection of firewood in dispersal and NRF habitat in the identified areas will “Affect, Not Likely to Adversely Affect” spotted owl habitat because wood 16 inches in diameter and greater will be retained, there will be no reduction in canopy cover, and adequate levels of snags and down wood will be retained per RMP guidelines. The firewood collection area is located within northern spotted owl critical habitat subunits: KLE 3 and KLE 5. Habitat that is currently dispersal and nesting, roosting and foraging will retain those habitat designations after the project is completed (Table DR-2).

Table DR-2. Effects to Northern Spotted Owl Habitat from Firewood Collection					
Effects to NRF Habitat			Effects to Dispersal Habitat		Critical Habitat Sub-Unit
Remove	Downgrade	Maintain	Remove	Maintain	
0	0	98	0	58	KLE 3
0	0	5	0	0	KLE 5

V. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Public involvement for the IVMP EA began on November 14, 2011 with the mailing of a scoping letter to approximately 660 residents and landowners near or adjacent to BLM parcels within the planning area; Federal, state, and county agencies; Tribes; private organizations; and individuals that requested information concerning projects of this type.

The BLM held a public meeting on January 19, 2012 and also gathered information through questionnaires, personal discussions, and comment letters, which provided public input to BLM for consideration in the IVMP EA. Extensive discussions with individuals interested in the projects were held throughout the planning process.

A formal 30-day public comment period was provided for the EA during August and September 2012. The public was notified of this via a newspaper notice and letters to individuals, Tribes, organizations, and government entities who expressed a wish to continue to be informed about the project.

A Draft Decision Record will be posted on the Medford District BLM Web site and will be available for a 15-day public review. Following the public review, the notice of the Decision Record will be published in the *Medford Mail Tribune*. Publication of this notice establishes the date initiating the protest period provided in accordance with 43 CFR § 5003.3. While similar notices may be published in other newspapers, the date of publication in the *Medford Mail Tribune* will prevail as the effective date of this decision.

VII. ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDIES

The decision described in this document is a forest management decision and is subject to protest by the public. In accordance with Forest Management Regulations at 43 CFR Subpart 5003

Administrative Remedies, protests of this decision may be filed with the authorized officer, Jon K. Raby within 15 days of the publication date of the notice of final decision in the *Medford Mail Tribune* newspaper in Medford, Oregon. The protest must clearly and concisely state which portion or element of the decision is being protested and the reasons why the decision is believed to be in error.

43 CFR § 5003.3 subsection (b) states, “Protests shall be filed with the authorized officer and shall contain a written statement of reasons for protesting the decision.” This precludes the acceptance of electronic mail (email) or facsimile (fax) protests. **Only written and signed hard copies of protests delivered to the Medford District Office will be accepted.** The Medford District Office is located at 3040 Biddle Road, Medford, Oregon.

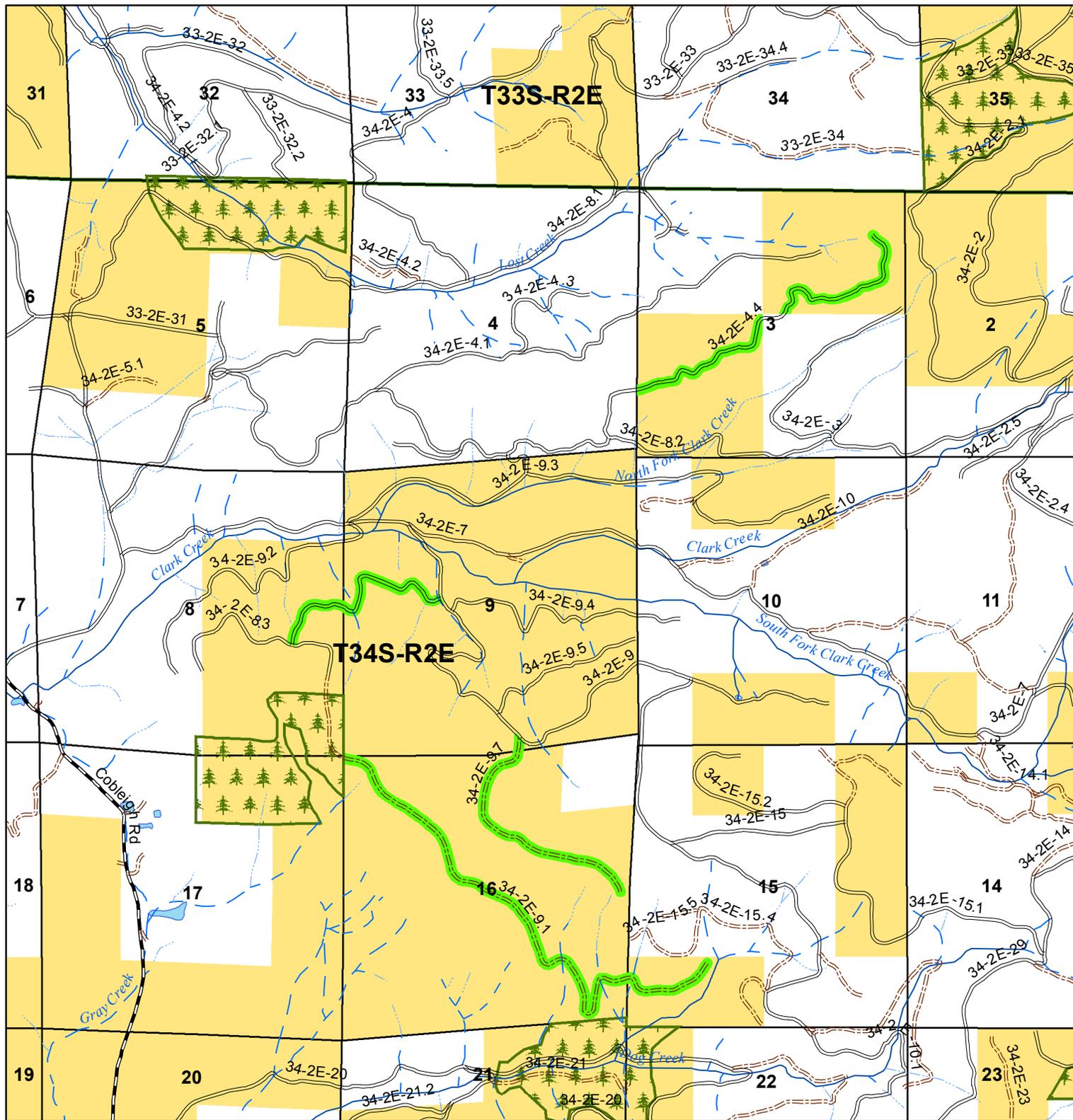
43 CFR § 5003.3 subsection (c) states: “Protests received more than 15 days after the publication of the notice of decision or the notice of sale are not timely filed and shall not be considered.” Upon timely filing of a protest, the authorized officer shall reconsider the project decision to be implemented in light of the statement of reasons for the protest and other pertinent information available to him. The authorized officer shall, at the conclusion of the review, serve the protest decision in writing to the protesting party(ies). Upon denial of a protest, the authorized officer may proceed with the implementation of the decision as permitted by regulations at 5003.3(f).

In accordance with BLM Forest Management Regulation 43 CFR § 5003.2 (a and c), the effective date of this decision, as it pertains to actions which are not part of an advertised timber sale, will be the publication date of the Notice of Decision and FONSI in the *Medford Mail Tribune*. This date applies to the Butte Falls Resource Area Public Roadside Firewood Collection project. Publication of this notice establishes the date initiating the protest period provided in accordance with 43 CFR § 5003.3. While similar notices may be published in other newspapers, the date of publication in the *Medford Mail Tribune* will prevail as the effective date of this decision.

If no protest is received by the close of business (4:30 p.m.) within 15 days after publication of the decision notice, this decision will become final. If a timely protest is received, the project decision will be reconsidered in light of the statement of reasons for the protest and other pertinent information available, and the Butte Falls Resource Area will issue a protest decision.

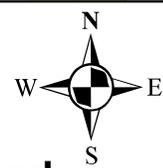
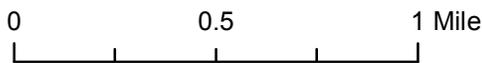
Jon K. Raby
Field Manager
Butte Falls Resource Area

Date



Legend

Firewood Area	Stream	Ownership
Road	Perennial	BLM
Paved	Intermittent	Forest Service
Gravel or Rock	Ephemeral	Private
Natural	Section	State
	Township	Lake
	OwlActivityCenter	

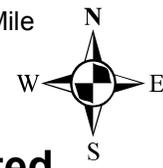
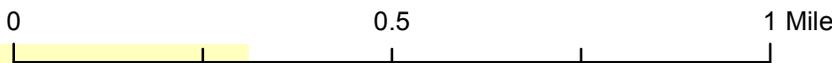
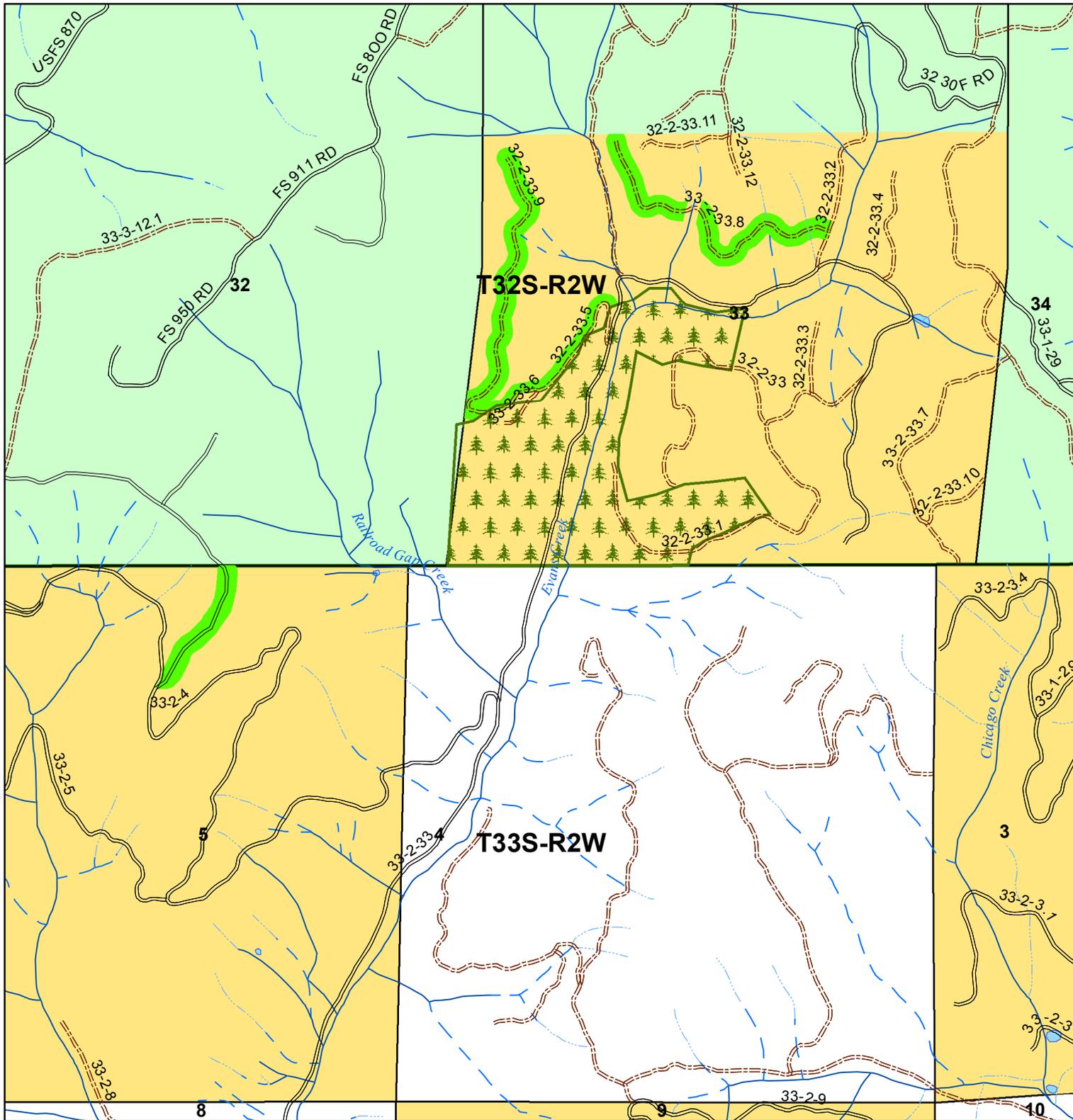


Programmatic Integrated Vegetation Management Project



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Public Roadside Firewood
 T.32S.,R.2W. Sec.33 T.33S.,R.2W. Sec. 5



Legend

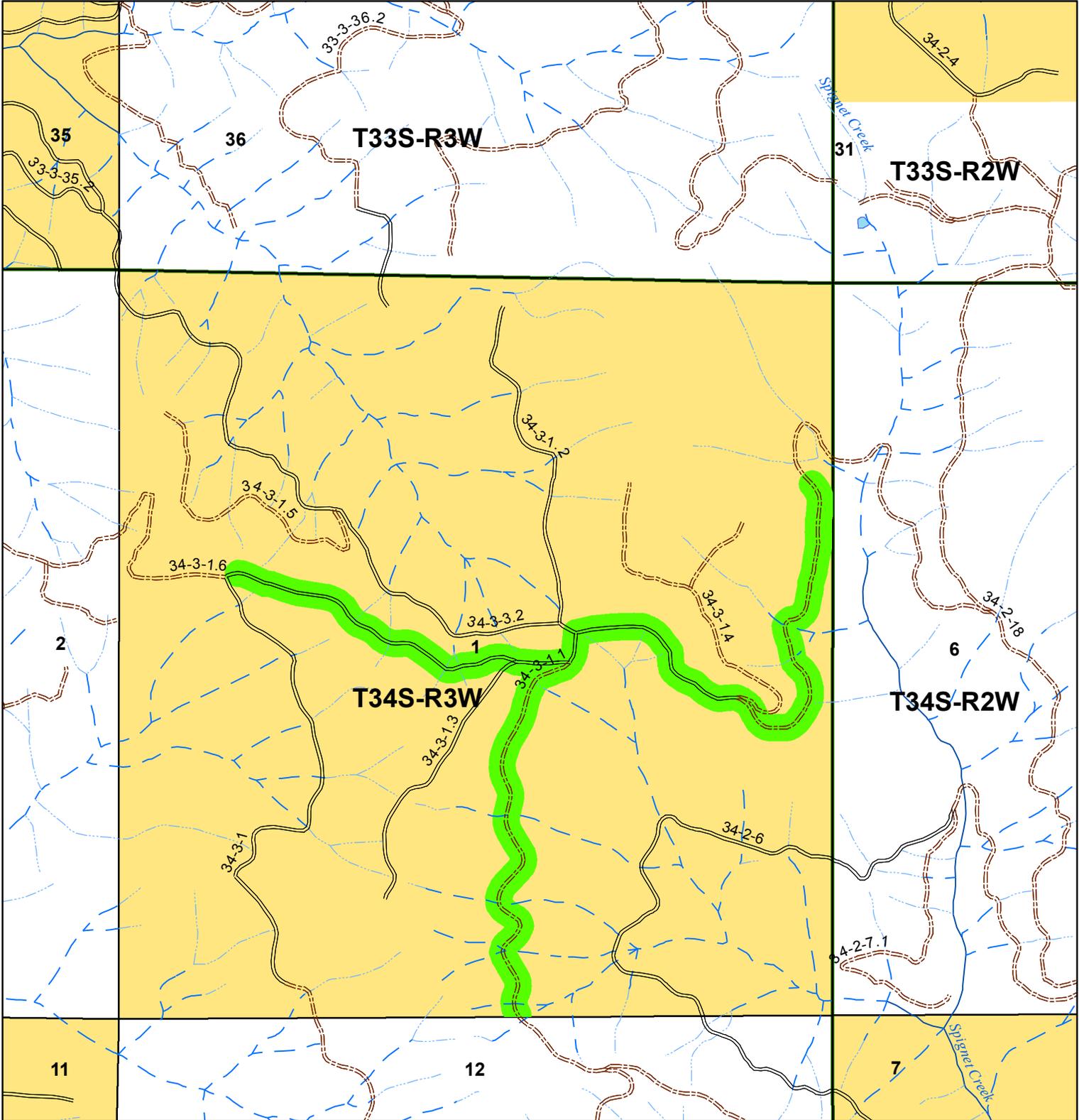
 Firewood Area	 Stream	 Ownership
 Road	 Perennial	 BLM
 Paved	 Intermittent	 Forest Service
 Gravel or Rock	 Ephemeral	 Private
 Natural	 Section	 State
	 Township	 Lake
	 OwlActivityCenter	

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Public Roadside Firewood
T.34S.,R.3W. Sec.1



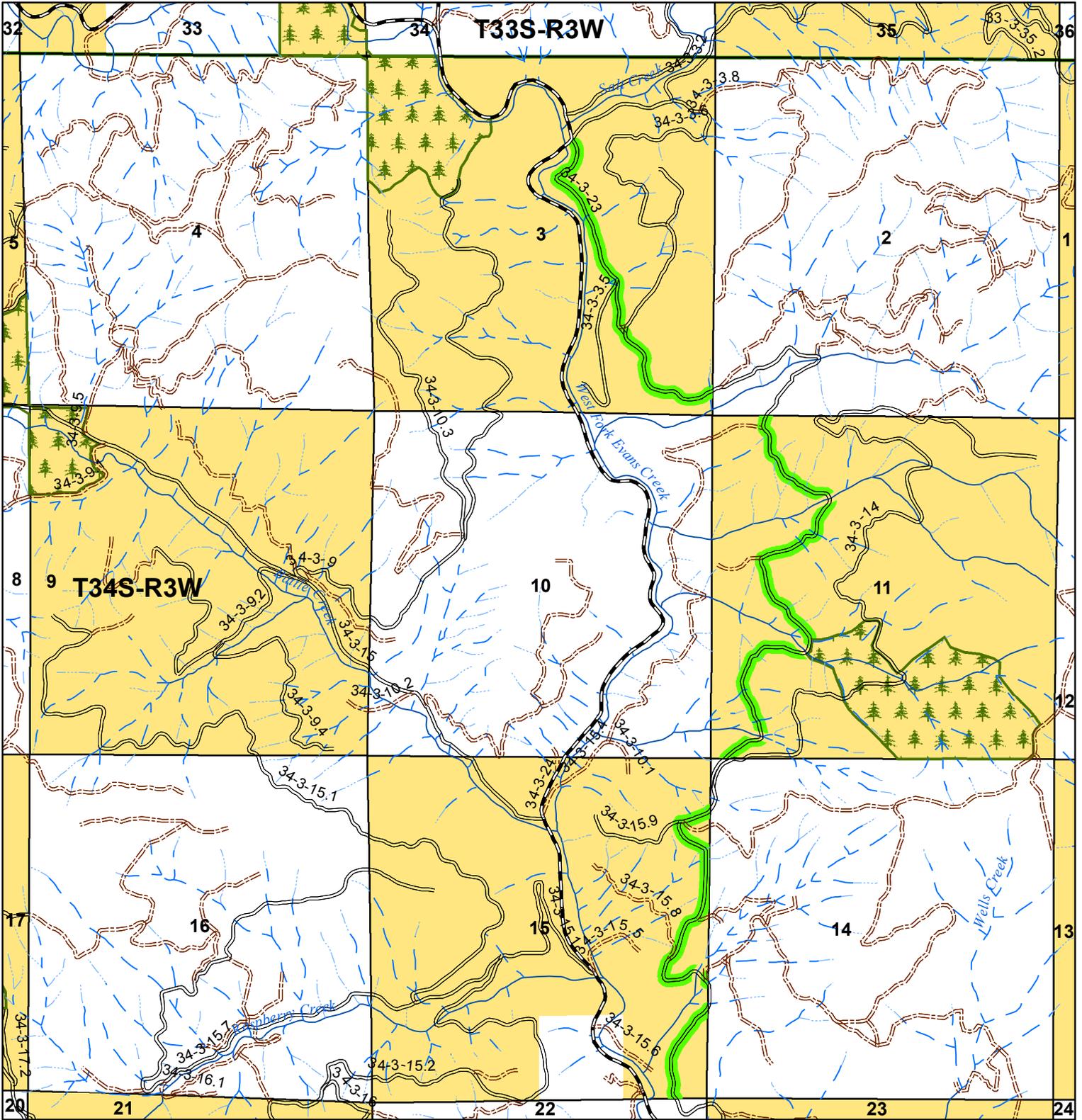
Legend

 Firewood Area	 Stream	 Ownership
 Road	 Perennial	 BLM
 Paved	 Intermittent	 Forest Service
 Gravel or Rock	 Ephemeral	 Private
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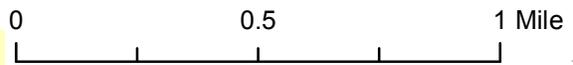


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Legend

 Firewood Area	 Stream	 Ownership
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