

U.S. Department of Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Medford District
2010 Sample Tree Falling

A. Background:

BLM Office: Medford District
3040 Biddle Road, Medford, Oregon, 97504
Phone: 541-618-2200

Categorical Exclusion Number: DOI-BLM-OR-M000-2010-0001-CE

Proposed Action Title: 2010 Medford District Sample Tree Falling

Location of Proposed Action: The general project area is the Medford District. Individual units occur in the following locations:

Sale Name	Legal Description (Township-Range-Section)	Land Use Allocation	Resource Area
Tennessee Lime	T. 38 S. R. 8 W. Section 35 T. 39 S. R. 8 W. Sections 15 & 17	Matrix	Grants Pass
East Fork Illinois	T. 40 S. R. 8 W. Sections 23 & 24	Matrix	Grants Pass
Althouse Sucker	T. 39 S. R. 7 W. Sections 9 T. 40 S. R. 7 W. Sections 3, 4, 8, 10, 11, 12, & 18	Matrix	Grants Pass
Wolf Pup	T. 33 S. R. 7 W. Sections 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 24, 25, 26 & 35 T. 33 S. R. 6 W. Section 31 T. 34 S. R. 7 W. Section 1	Matrix	Glendale
Minimule	T. 32 S. R. 9 W. Sections 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 25, 26, 28, 29, 30, 33, 35 & 36	Matrix	Glendale
Kelsey Creek	T. 33 S. R. 9 W. Section 12 T. 33 S. R. 8 W. Section 8	Matrix	Glendale
McGindy Thin	T. 31 S. R. 4 W. Sections 22, 23 & 27	LSR	Glendale
Elk Valley Roadside	T. 31 S. R. 9 W. Sections 11, 13, 15, 21, 23, 25, 27 & 35 T. 31 S. R. 8 W. Sections 7, 17, 19, 29,, 31 & 33	Matrix	Glendale
Speaking Coyote	T. 33 S. R. 5 W. Sections 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27 & 30 T. 33 S. R. 6 W. Section 1	Matrix, LSR	Glendale
Cottonwood	T. 38 S. R. 3 E. Sections 32 & 33	Matrix	Ashland

	T. 39 S. R 3 E. Sections 5, 7, 9, 17, 20, 21, 28, 29, 30, 31 & 32		
Sampson Cove	T. 39 S. R. 3 E. Sections 6, 7, 17, 18, 19, 20, 30 & 32 T. 39 S. R.2 E. Sections 1, 3, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, & 15 T. 38 S. R.3 E. Sections 19, 29, 30, & 31 T. 38 S. R.2 E. Sections 3, 9 & 16	Matrix	Ashland
Rio Climax	T. 36 S. R. 1 E. Sections 32 & 33 T. 37 S. R.1 E. Sections 3, 5, 9, 11, 13, 14, 17, 24, 25, 27, 31, & 35 T. 37 S. R.2 E. Sections 5, 17, 19, 29, 31, & 32 T. 38 S. R.1 E. Sections 1, 11, 12, & 13 T. 38 S. R.2 E. Sections 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, & 17	Matrix	Ashland
Sweeper	T. 38 S. R. 4 W. Sections 20, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33 & 34 T. 39 S. R 4 W. Sections 4, 5, 8, 9, 17, 19, 20 & 30 T. 39 S. R. 5 W. Section 13 T. 37 S. R 3 W. Sections 21, 27 & 33 T. 38 S. R. 3 W. Sections 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 22, 25 & 26 T. 38 S. R 1 W. Section 30 T. 38 S. R. 2 W. Sections 19, 21, 23, 25, 29, 30, 31, 32, & 35 T. 39 S. R 2 W. Sections 2, 3, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 14, & 15	Matrix	Ashland
Fall Back	T. 40 S. R. 4 E. Sections 25 & 35 T. 41 S. R 4 E. Sections 1,2 & 10	Matrix	Ashland
Skeleton Mountain	T. 32 S. R. 3 W. Section 34, T. 33 S. R 3 W. Sections 3,4,5,7,8,9,11,17, 20& 21	Matrix Deferred Watershed	Butte Falls
Twin Ranch	T. 34 S. R. 3 E. Sections 27, 33, 34, & 35 T. 35 S. R 3 E. Sections 1, 2, 3,11,12, 17, & 19	Matrix	Butte Falls

For unit configuration, see attached maps.

Description of Proposed Action: The Medford District Bureau of Land Management (BLM) proposes to fell, buck, and scale sample trees (“sample tree falling”) to ensure the accuracy of timber cruises for sales limited to Fiscal Year 2010. Sample tree falling is necessary to determine wood quality and level of defect so the BLM can more accurately predict proposed timber sale volume. Sample trees would only be felled within proposed

sale units in the locations detailed above. Current unit configurations are illustrated on the attached maps. Only trees proposed for timber sale harvest would be felled; these trees would be randomly selected and would be bucked to standard, merchantable lengths for direct measurement of volume and evaluation of condition and value.

Sample tree falling

1. shall be limited to an average of no more than one tree per acre or less;
 - a) Trees would be from all diameter ranges and conifer species
 - b) Trees would reflect the percentages of each conifer species on the landscape.
 - c) Only trees within timber sale units would be selected for sample felling
2. shall be limited to gas-powered chainsaws or hand tools;
3. shall not include any road or trail construction;
4. shall not include any off road driving to felling sites; and
5. shall not include the use of ground-based equipment or other manner of timber yarding.

Sample tree falling would be one of the last activities completed during timber sale preparation. Sample tree falling would occur as part of the timber cruising process, prior to issuance of the sale decision, but after completion of planning and environmental analysis by an interdisciplinary team, all site inventories (e.g., wildlife, botany, and cultural resources), and sale layout and preparation. If consultation is required for timber sales, sample tree falling would be included as a component of timber sales in that consultation. In the event a unit or sale is not logged (for example, sale of the timber is unsuccessful), any felled trees would remain on-site; otherwise, felled sample trees would be yarded during the harvest operations of the timber sale.

Design Features of the Proposed Action

- When operating within riparian management areas, trees would be directionally felled away from the stream channel. No trees would be felled in no-cut Riparian reserve areas established within the Environmental Assessment.
- If any BLM Special Status Species are found during project implementation that were not discovered during predisturbance surveys, felling that may affect that site would be suspended until further review by BLM specialists is completed and any necessary mitigation is applied.
- No sample tree felling would occur within any buffered sites of listed or sensitive plants.
- No chainsaw work within 0.25 miles of known raptor nest trees from March 1 to July 15.
- If any cultural resources are found during project implementation that were not discovered during predisturbance surveys, felling that may affect the newly discovered site would be suspended and appropriate measures would be implemented before felling would be resumed.
- Falling of sample trees within 0.25 miles of unsurveyed suitable habitat for marbled murrelets and /or spotted owls would require incorporation of all applicable design standards and / or terms and conditions of the applicable biological assessment. For actions with in Zone 1 and Zone 2 of marbled murrelet habitat, habitat altering activities (including disturbance) within 100 yards of unsurveyed suitable habitat or potential habitat and implemented between April 1 and September 15 shall not begin until two hours after sunrise and shall end two hours before sunset.

B. Plan Conformance Review:

The actions proposed and analyzed in this CE were developed to be consistent with the management objectives for public lands identified in the following documents:

1. Medford District Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision (RMP) (1995)
2. Medford District Integrated Weed Management Plan (1998)
3. Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan Amendment for Management of Port-Orford-Cedar in Southwest Oregon, Coos Bay, Medford, and Roseburg Districts (2004)
4. Record of Decision to Remove the Survey and Manage Mitigation Measure Standards and Guidelines in Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Plans within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl (July 2007)

The proposed action is in conformance with the direction given for the management of public lands in the Medford District by the Oregon and California Lands Act of 1937, Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, Endangered Species Act of 1973, Clean Water Act of 1987, Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974 (as amended 1986 and 1996), Clean Air Act of 1990, and Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979.

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable land use plan (LUP) because it is specifically provided for in the management objective in the Medford District Resource Management Plan that directs the BLM to “provide a sustainable supply of timber and other forest products” (USDI 1995, p. 72).

C. Compliance with NEPA:

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with **516 DM 11.9, C. Forestry, (6)** – Felling, bucking, and scaling sample trees to ensure accuracy of timber cruises.

Before any action described in the list of categorical exclusions may be used, the “extraordinary circumstances,” included in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) at 43 CFR 46.205(c), must be reviewed for applicability. After review, the BLM determined no extraordinary circumstances exist that would cause the proposed action to have a significant environmental effect.

Reviewer: James A. McConnell

Date: 11-18-2009

D. Categorical Exclusions - Extraordinary Circumstances Documentation:

The Code of Federal Regulations at 43 CFR 46.205(c) requires the review of the following “extraordinary circumstances” to determine if an otherwise categorically excluded action would require additional analysis and environmental documentation.

The proposed categorical exclusion action will:	YES	NO
a. Have significant impacts on public health or safety.		X
Rationale: All proposed activities follow established rules concerning health and safety.		
b. Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation, or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.		X
Rationale: Sample tree falling will occur only within proposed timber sale units. These units, by design, are located outside parks, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands. Trees to be felled are only within the proposed timber sale units.		
c. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].		X
Rationale: Falling an average of no more than 1 individual tree per acre is not considered highly controversial nor are there unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources.		
d. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.		X
Rationale: Past experiences with sample tree falling has shown no highly uncertain, potentially significant, unique or unknown risks.		
e. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.		X
Rationale: Sample tree falling has taken place throughout the State of Oregon and the Medford District and there is no evidence that this type of project will establish a precedent or decision for future action.		
f. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.		X
Rationale: Falling, bucking, and scaling of individual trees has been conducted in the past and this activity had no significant direct, indirect, or cumulative effect.		
g. Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office.		X
Rationale: Cultural resource surveys have been completed and no sample tree felling will occur within known cultural or historic sites. A design feature for this project will protect any cultural sites discovered during project implementation.		
h. Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species		X
Rationale: Implementation of the Project Design Features will prevent impacts to species listed or proposed for listing.		
i. Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.		X

G. Contact Person:

For additional information concerning this Categorical Exclusion review, contact Jim McConnell at 541-618-2402.

H. Administrative Remedy:

The forest management decision to be made on the action described in this categorical exclusion is subject to protest under 43 CFR subpart 5003. Under 43 CFR 5003.2 subsection (c), for all decisions relating to forest management except advertised timber sales, the notice and decision document shall contain a concise statement of the circumstances requiring the action. Under 43 CFR 5003.3 subsection (a), protests of a forest management decision, including advertised timber sales, may be made within 15 days of the publication of a notice of decision or notice of sale in a newspaper of general circulation. Under 43 CFR 5003.3 (b), protests must be filed with the Medford District Manager at the Medford District Office, 3040 Biddle Road, Medford, Oregon 97504, and shall contain a written statement of reasons for protesting the decision. The regulations do not authorize the BLM to accept protests in any form other than a signed, paper document that is delivered to the physical address of the BLM office within the 15-day period. Therefore, e-mail, verbal, or facsimile protests will not be accepted. A decision on this protest would be subject to appeal to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, although, under 43 CFR 5003.1 subsection (a), filing a notice of appeal under 43 CFR part 4 does not automatically suspend the effect of a decision governing or relating to forest management under 43 CFR 5003.2 or 5003.3.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
MEDFORD DISTRICT

DECISION RECORD

Based upon the attached Categorical Exclusion (CX), DOI-BLM-OR-M000-2010-0001-CX, I have determined that the proposed action, sample tree falling, involves no significant impacts to the human environment and requires no further environmental analysis.

It is my decision to implement sample tree falling on timber sales limited to the 2010 fiscal year. Sample tree falling will help ensure accuracy of these timber cruises. The proposed action has been reviewed and appropriate Project Design Features will be incorporated into the proposal. The proposed action is categorically excluded from further NEPA documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act, in accordance with 516 DM 11.9 (C)(6).

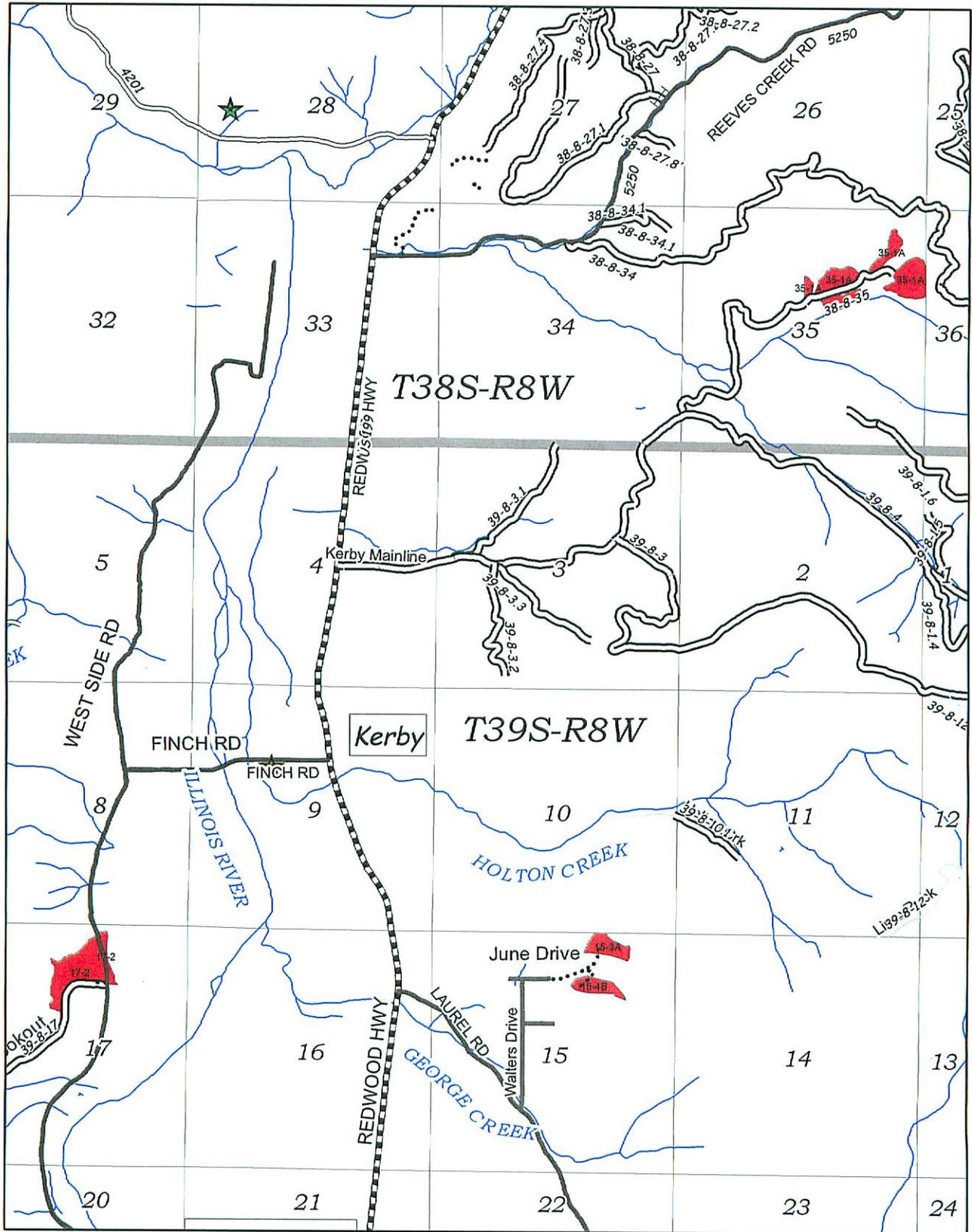
My decision to fall, buck, and scale sample trees is based on the need for the best available information in sustainably managing public resources and to ensure full market value to the public for the timber sold in current and future timber sales. Collecting such data is a longstanding part of the BLM's inventory, monitoring, and quality assurance programs. It is a separate action from any proposed harvesting projects. I base this determination on the limits described in the proposed action and the project design features which provide substantial protections for a wide array of sensitive resource values. As described in the CX, OR-M000-2010-0001, 2010 Sample Tree Falling will be implemented in proposed sale units. These sales have only been proposed; no decision has been issued.

Notice of this forest management decision will be posted on Medford District website, at: <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/medford/plans/index.php>. The forest management decision to be made on the action described in this categorical exclusion is subject to protest under 43 CFR subpart 5003. Under 43 CFR 5003.2 subsection (c), "a notice of decision will be published in local newspapers(s)". Under CFR 5003.2 subsection (a) protests may be filed with the authorized officer within 15 days of the publication date of the notice..." Under 43 CFR 5003.3 (b), "protest filed with the authorized officer shall contain a written statement of reasons for protesting the decision". Protests must be received by close of business (4:30 pm PST), December 15, 2009.

Authorizing Official:  Date: 11/18/2009

Timothy B. Reuwsaat
Medford District Manager

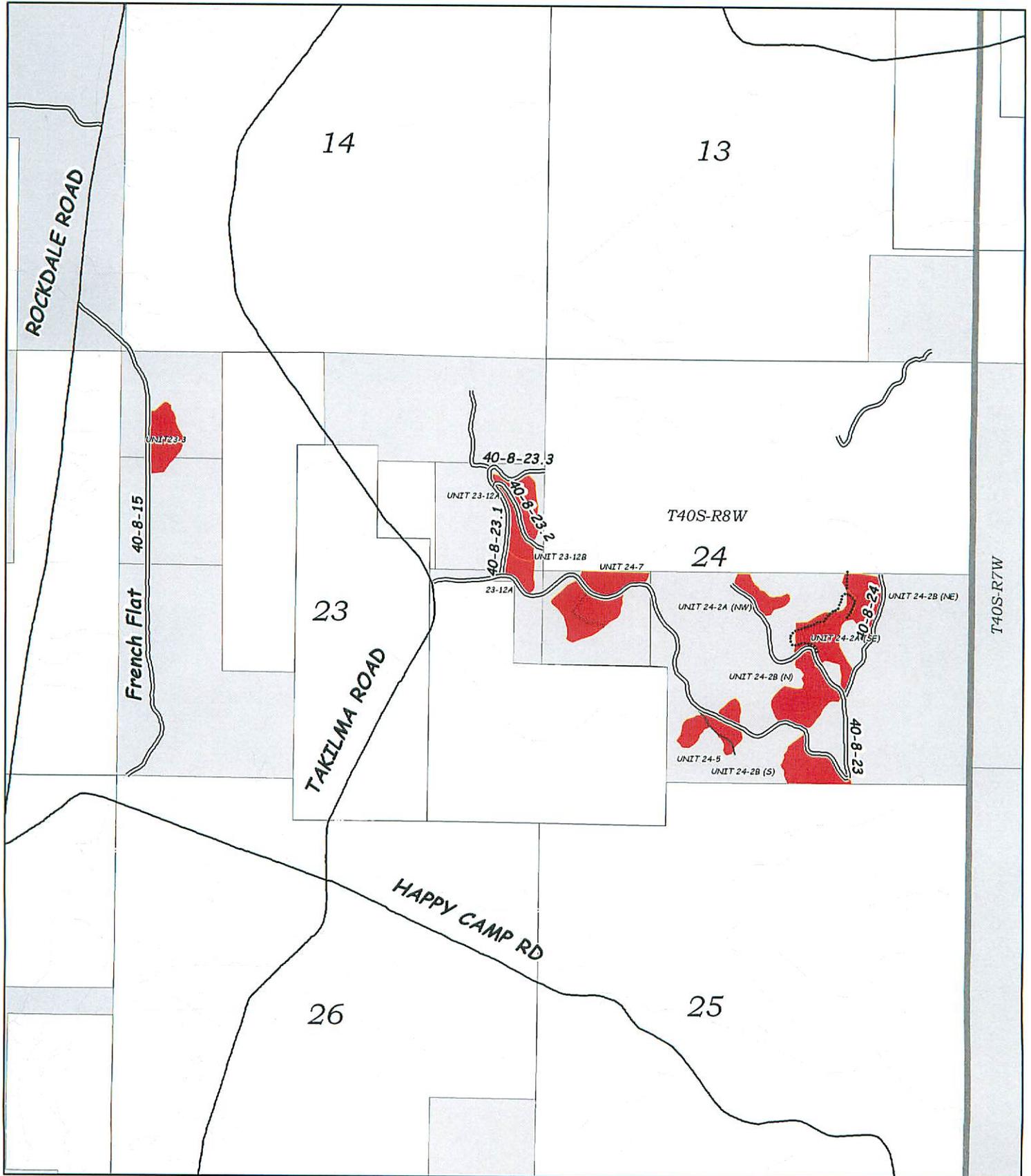
Tennessee Lime 2010 TS Location Map



Tennessee Lime 2010
Timber Sale Unit



East Fork Illinois TS 2010
Sale Location Map



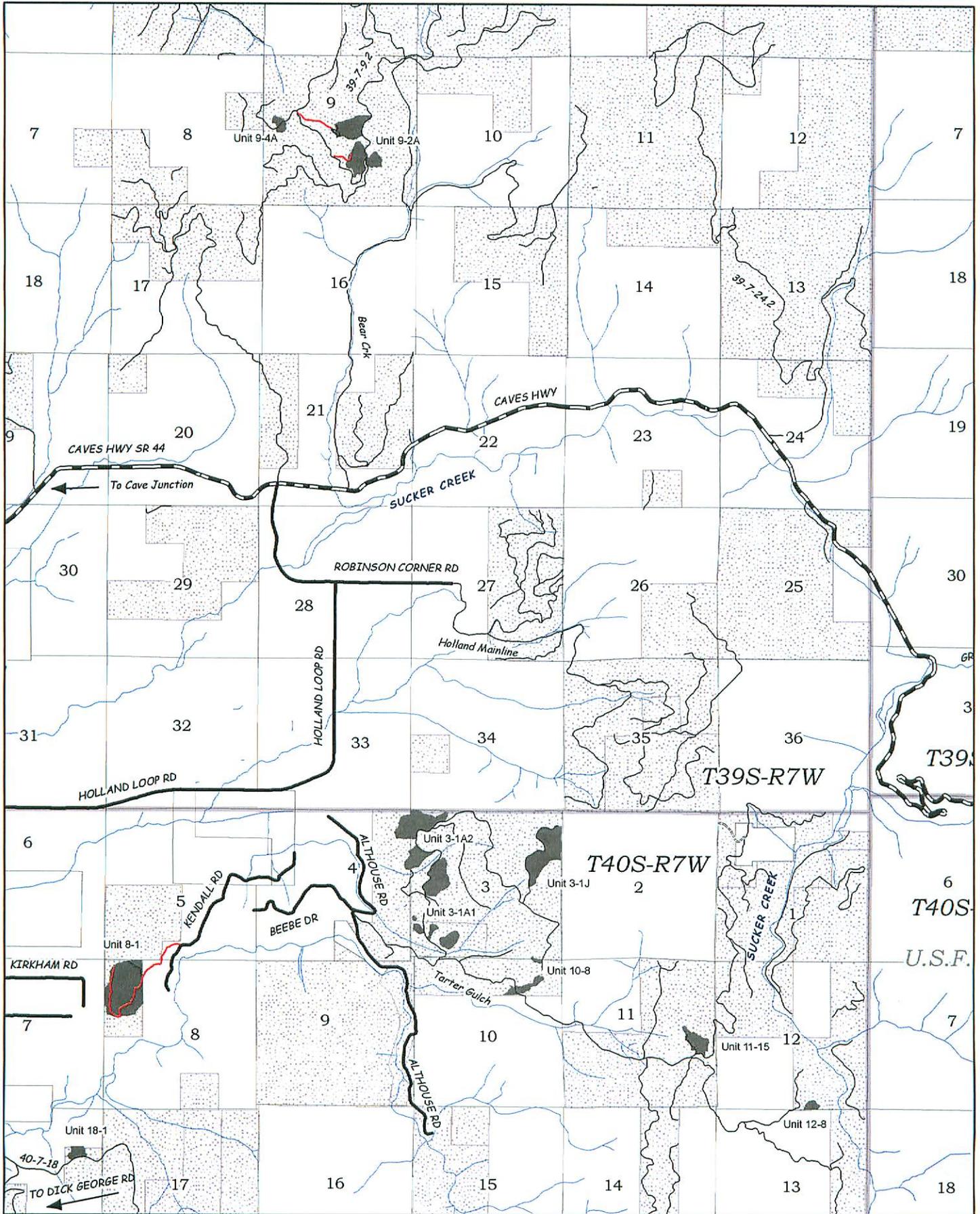
Legend

 Timber Sale Unit



Draft

10/27/2009 jschneid



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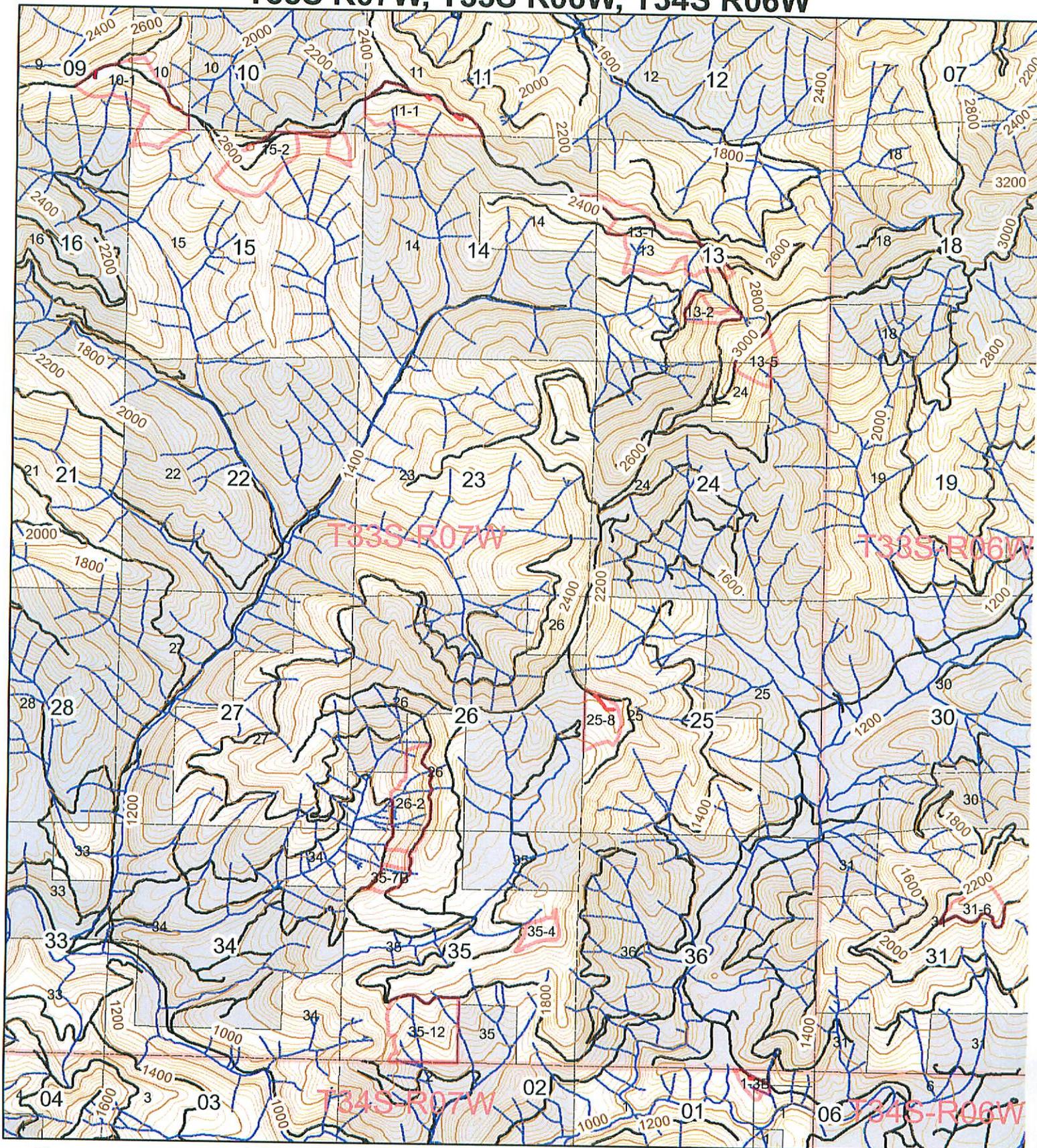
j.schneider

Wolf Pup TS

Sale Date 2010

355 Acres

T33S R07W, T33S R06W, T34S R06W



1 inch = 2,884 feet



Legend

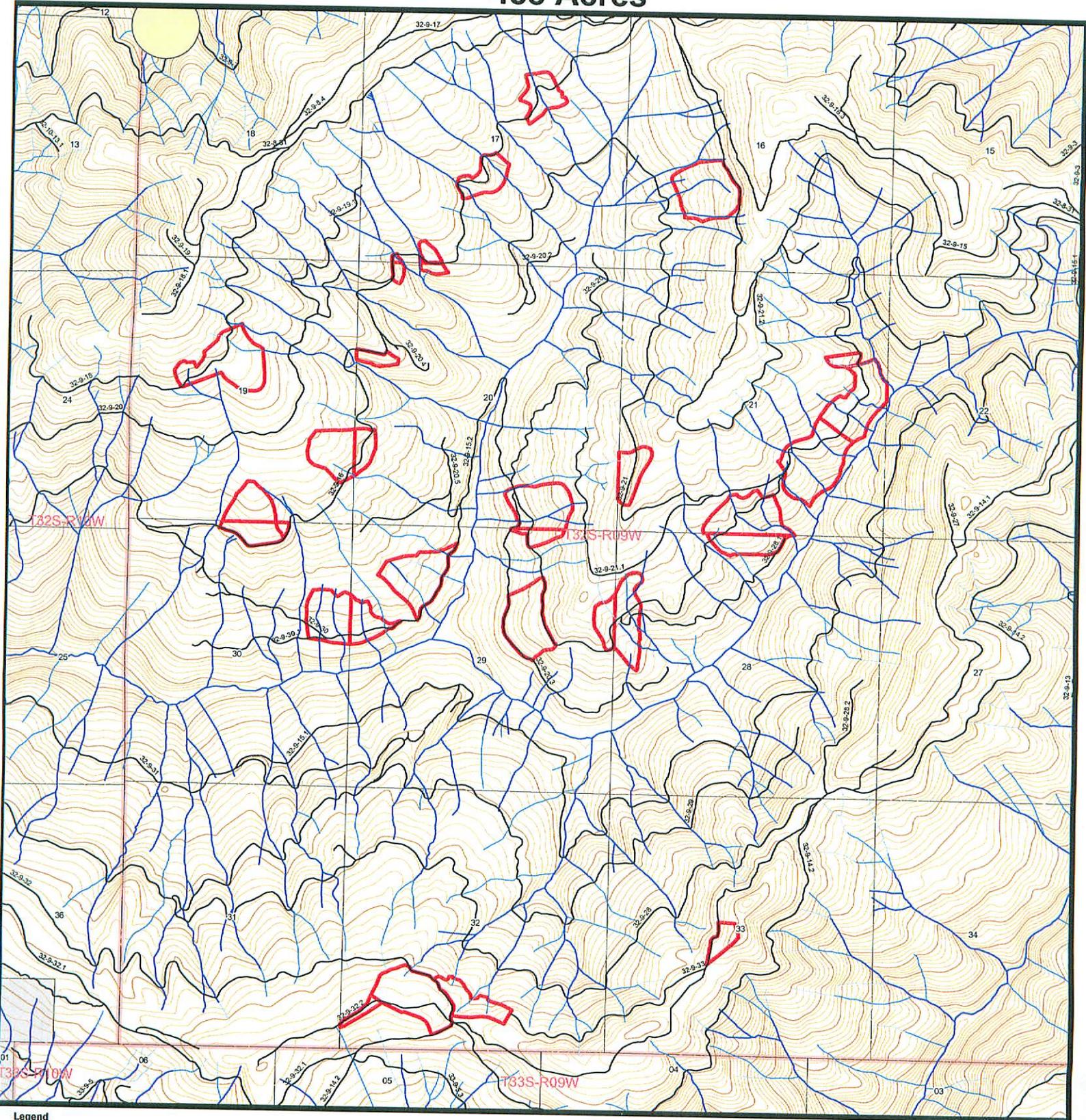
- ▭ Wolf_Pup_Units_20090720
- ▭ Intermediate 40-ft contour
- ▭ Index 200-ft contour
- OWNERSHIP_POLY_C
- <all other values>
- ▭ OWNER_TYPE

Mini Mule TS

Sale Date 2010

T32S R09W

438 Acres



- Legend**
- MM_scoured_units_40to80
 - OWNERSHIP_POLY_Clip
 - <all other values>
 - OWNER_TYPE**
 - Federal
 - Non-Federal
 - SECTIONS**
 - TOWNSHIP_RANGE



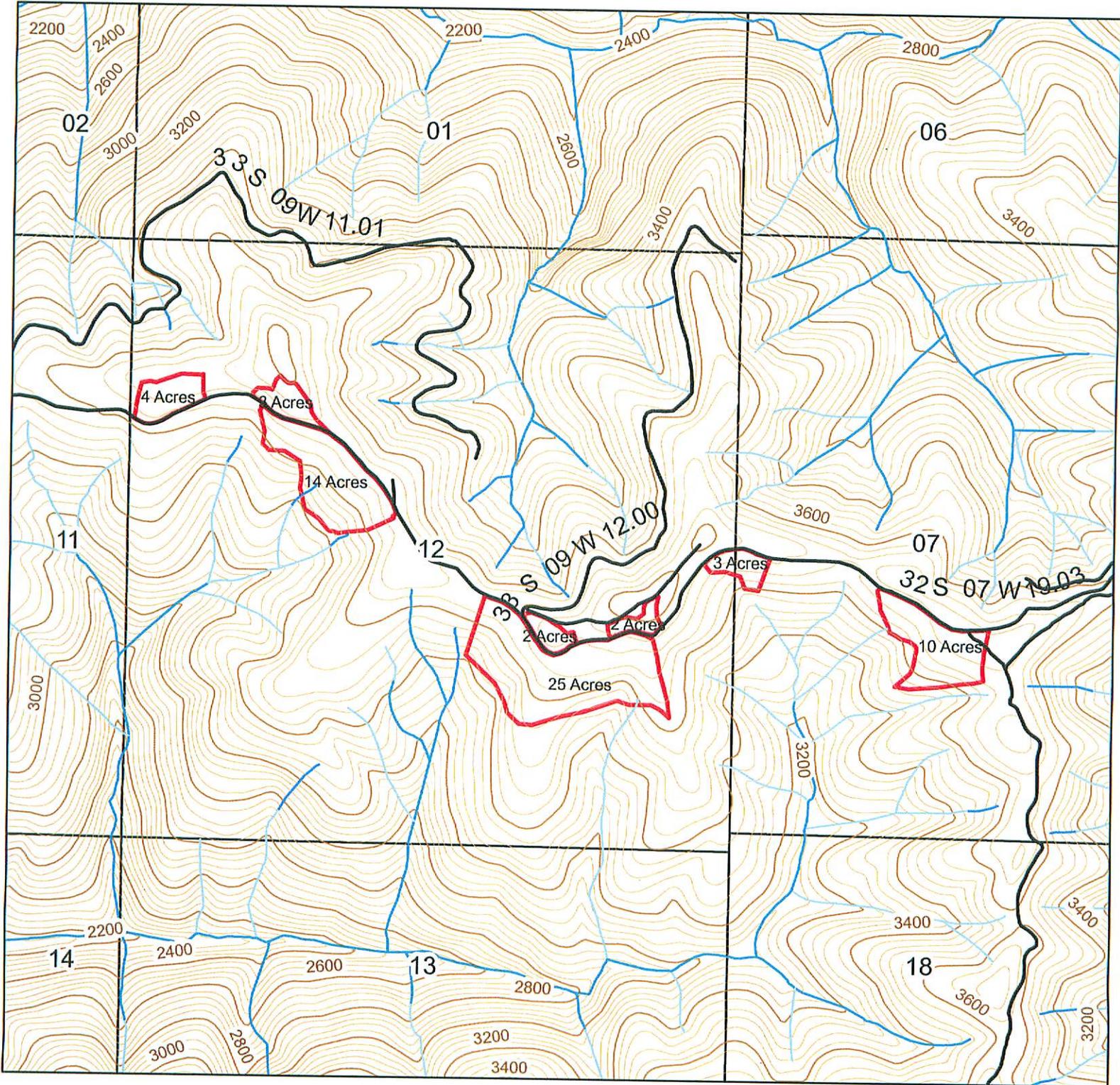
1 inch = 2,630 feet

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Revision Date: 11/09/09 09:00 AM

Property: unaff

Kelsey CE 2010 Sale Date T33S, R09W Section 12 T33S, R08W Section 7



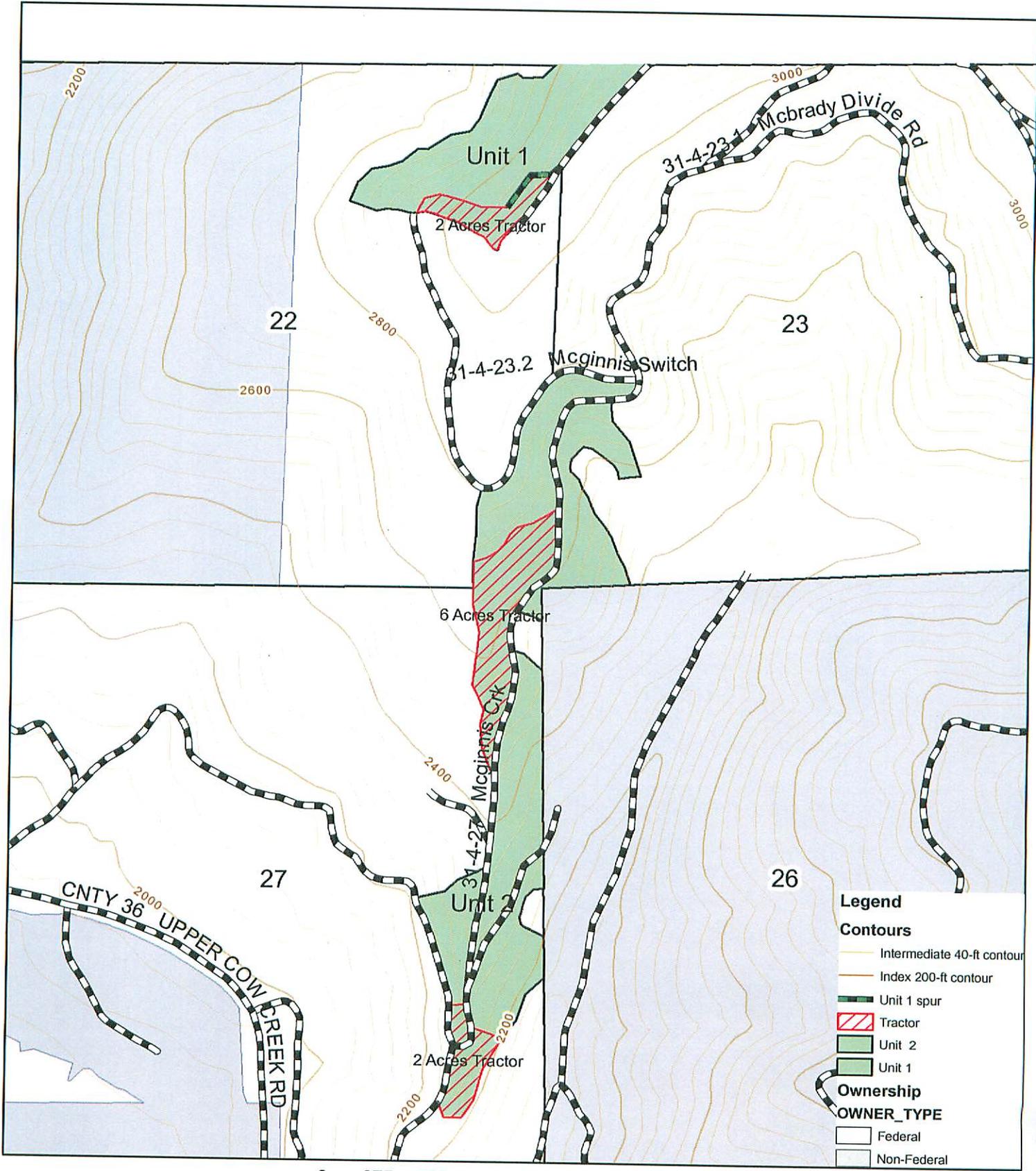
Legend

- Intermediate 40-ft contour
- Index 200-ft contour
- UEK_TSunits
- OWNERSHIP_POLY_Clip**
- OWNER_TYPE**
- Federal
- Non-Federal
- SECTIONS



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. Original data were compiled from various sources and may be updated without notification.

McGindy Thin Layout Map
 T31S R4W
 48 Total Acres



Legend

Contours

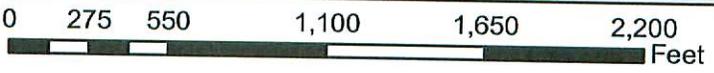
- Intermediate 40-ft contour
- Index 200-ft contour
- Unit 1 spur
- Tractor
- Unit 2
- Unit 1

Ownership

OWNER_TYPE

- Federal
- Non-Federal

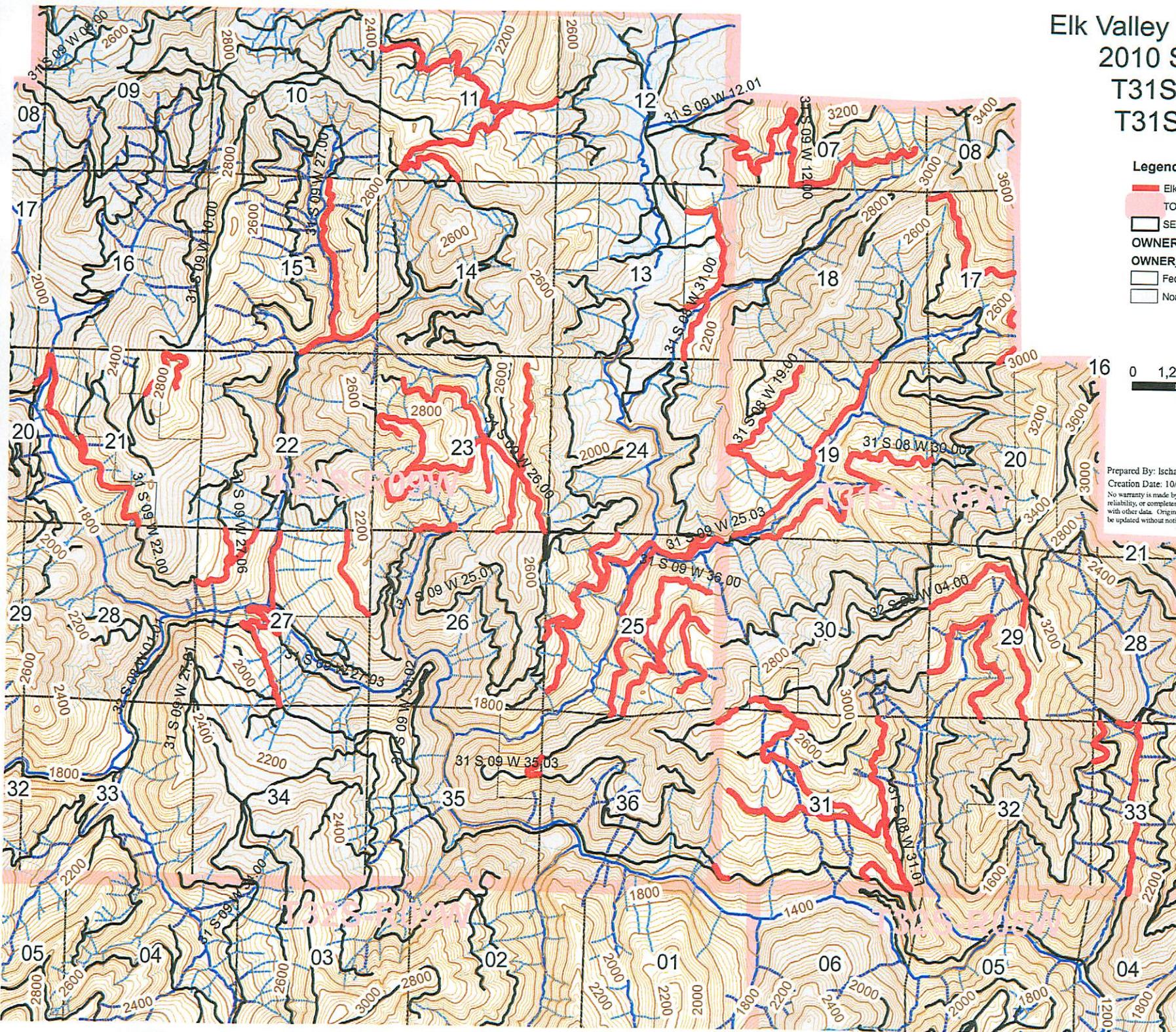
10 Acres Tractor
 38 Acres Cable



1 inch = 675 feet

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Elk Valley Roadside CE 2010 Sale Date T31S, R09W T31S, R08W



- Legend**
- Elk Valley Roadside
 - TOWNSHIP_RANGE
 - SECTIONS
 - OWNERSHIP_POLY_Clip
 - OWNER_TYPE
 - Federal
 - Non-Federal



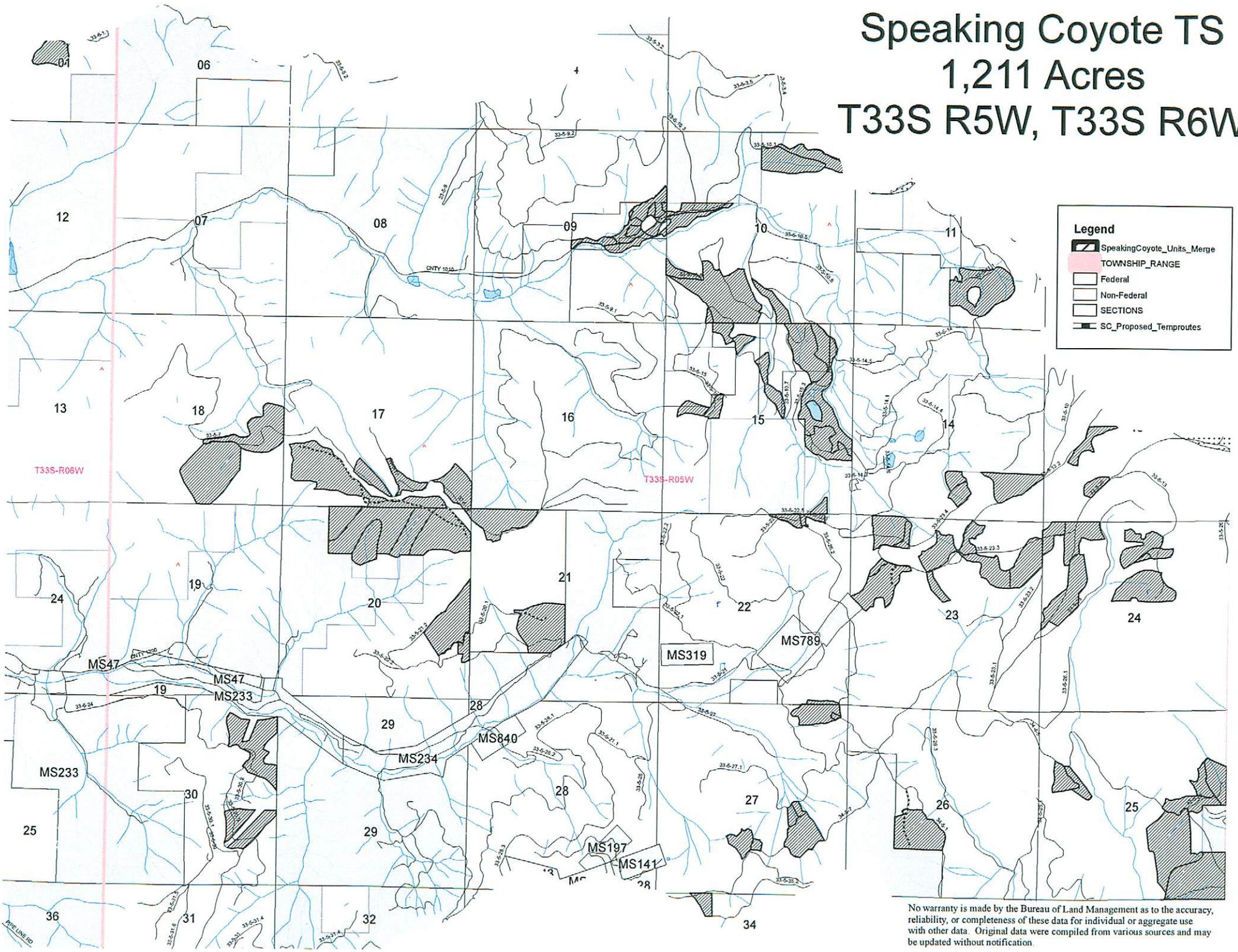
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Speaking Coyote TS

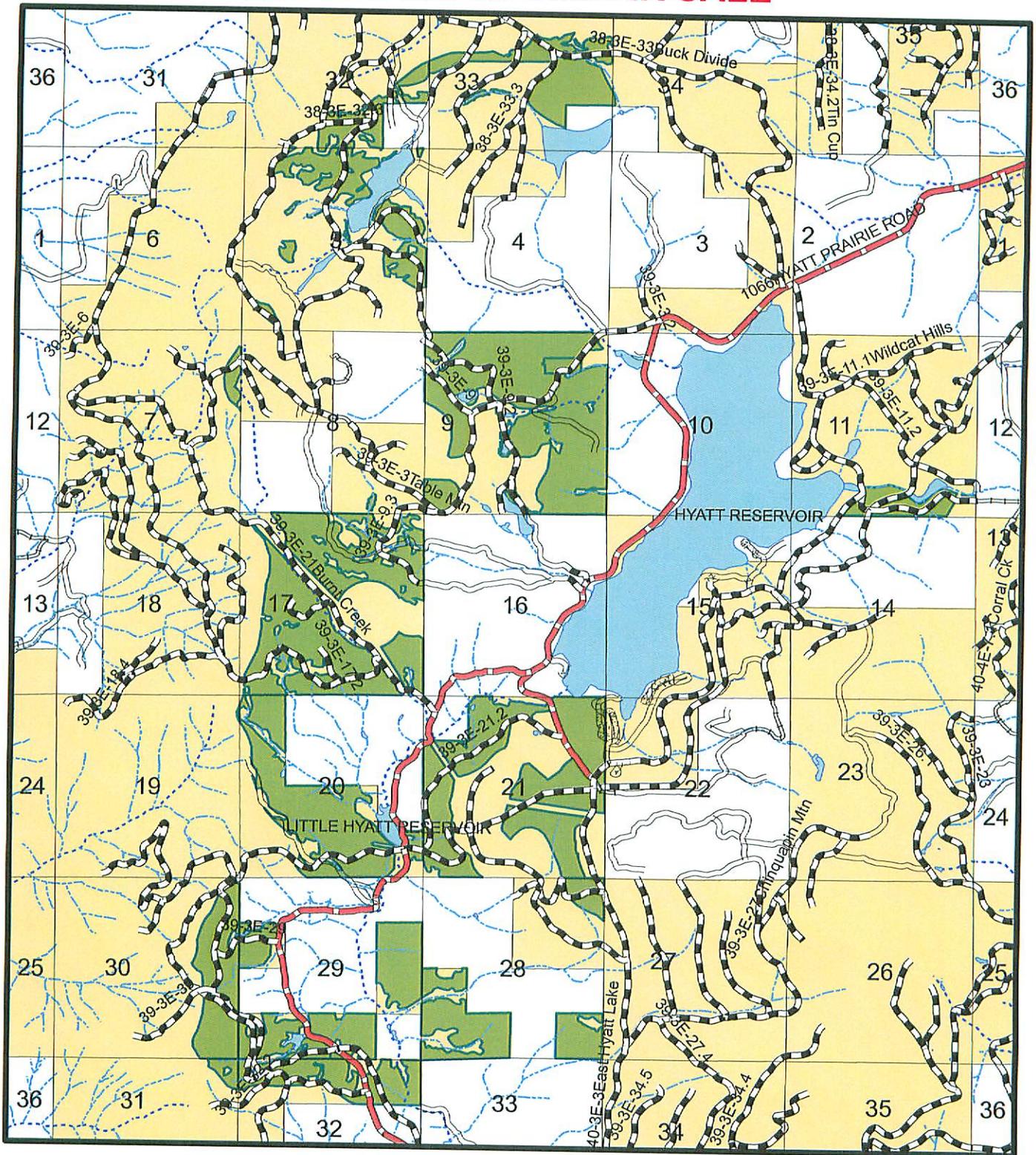
1,211 Acres

T33S R5W, T33S R6W



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. Original data were compiled from various sources and may be updated without notification.

COTTON WOOD TIMBER SALE



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T38S-3E
SEC. 32, 33

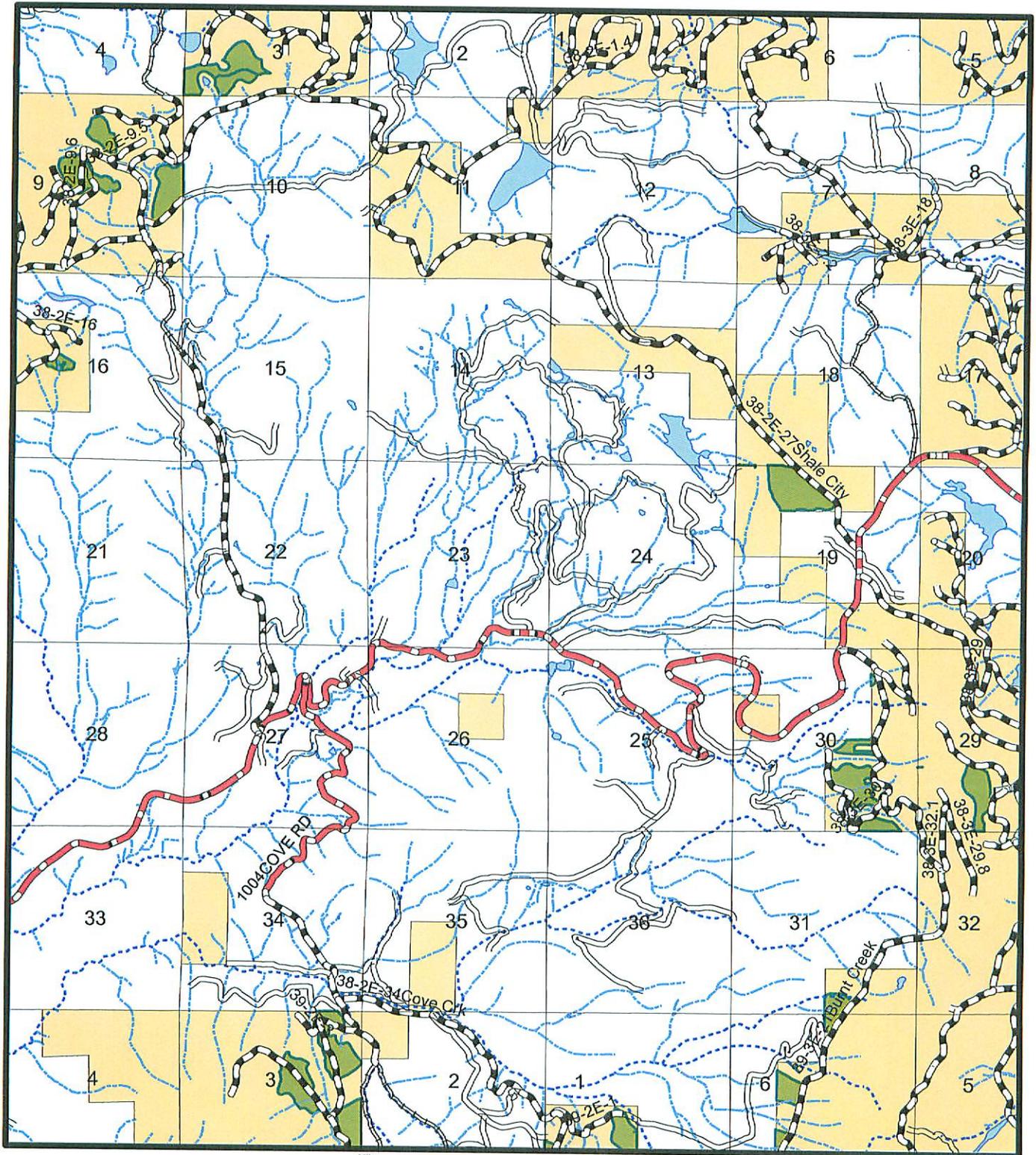
T39S-3E
SEC. 5, 7, 9, 17, 20,
21, 28, 29, 30,
31, 32

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9.17.09

Legend			
	Section Numbers		Water Bodies
	BLM		Secondary Streams
	CNTY		Large Streams
	FS		Cottonwood EA Units
	NKN		Bureau of Land Management
	PVT		United States FS
	HIGHWAYS		Private

SAMPSON COVE TIMBER SALE



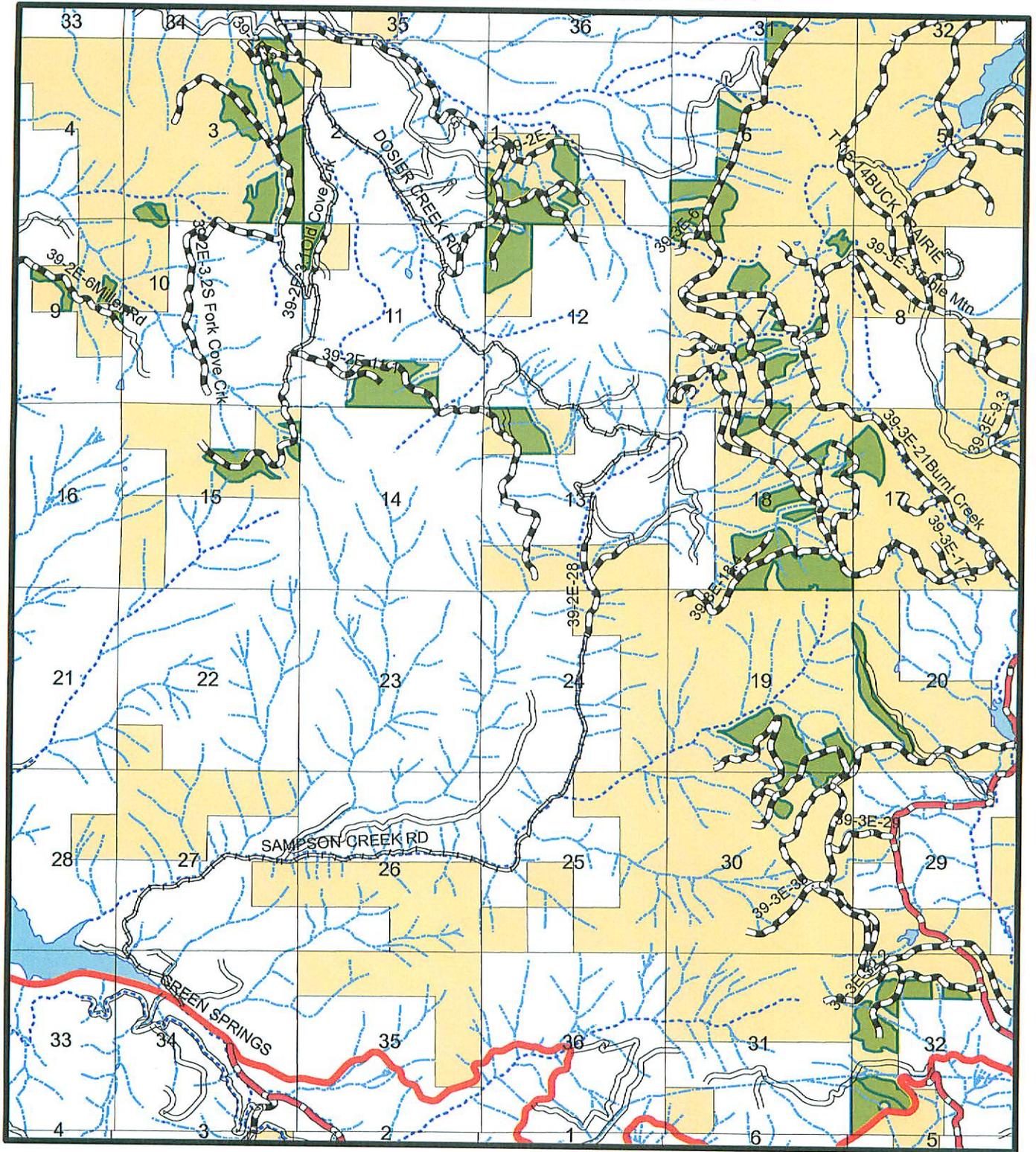
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T38S-2E
SEC. 3, 9, 16
T38S-3E
SEC. 19, 29, 30, 31
T39S-2E
SEC. 1, 3, 9, 10, 11
12, 13, 15
T39S-3E
SEC. 6, 7, 17, 18, 19, 20,
30, 32
 1:50000
 9.18.09

Legend			
	Section Numbers		Water Bodies
	BLM		Secondary Streams
	CNTY		Large Streams
	FS		Sampson Cove EA Units 6.19.09
	NKN		Bureau of Land Management
	PVT		United States FS
	HIGHWAYS		Private

SAMPSON COVE TIMBER SALE



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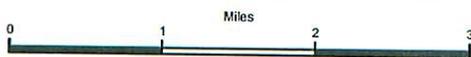
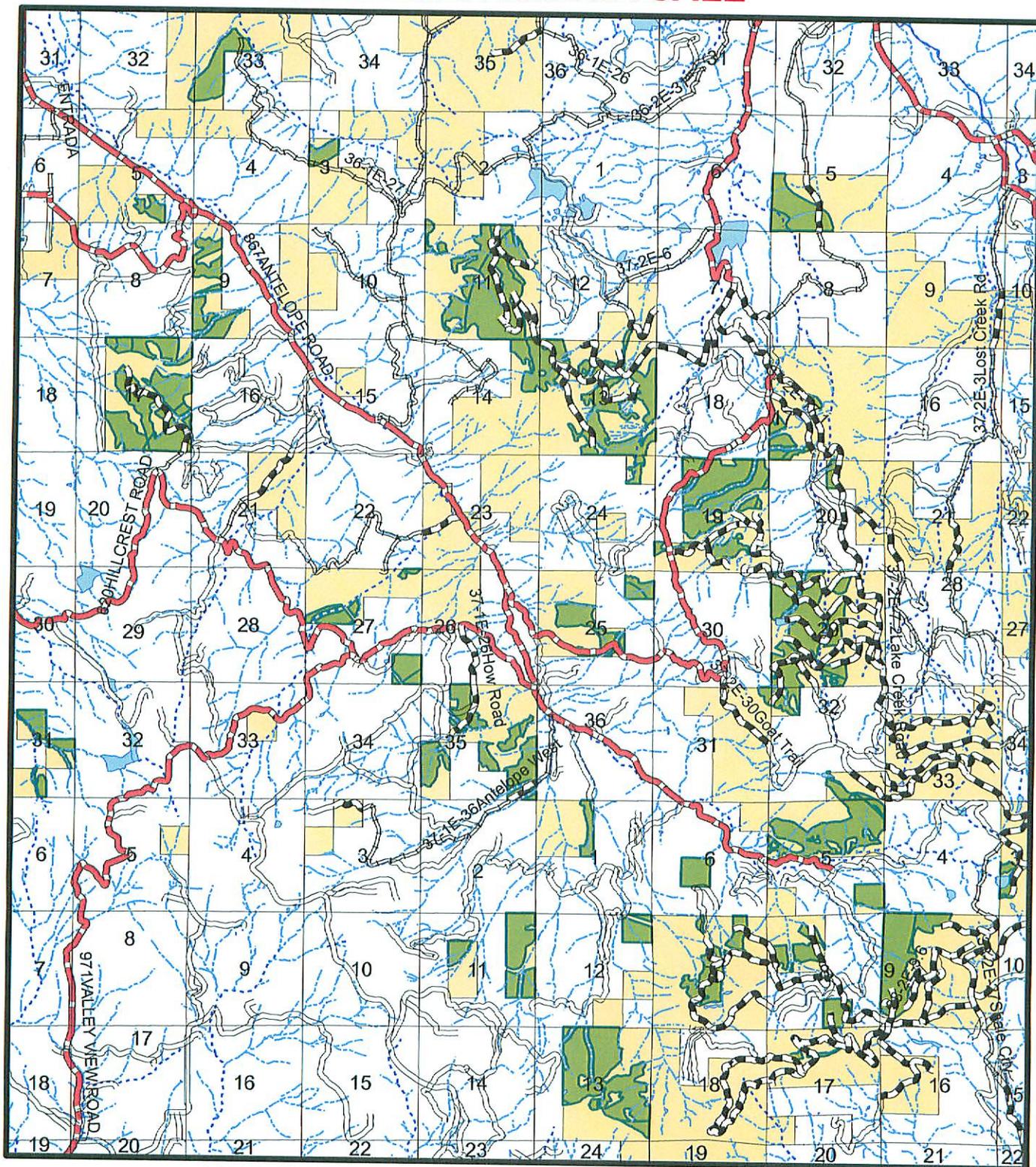


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9.18.09

T38S-2E
SEC. 3, 9, 16
T38S-3E
SEC. 19, 29, 30, 31
T39S-2E
SEC. 1, 3, 9, 10, 11
12, 13, 15
T39S-3E
SEC. 6, 7, 17, 18, 19, 20,
30, 32

Legend			
	Section Numbers		Water Bodies
	BLM		Secondary Streams
	CNTY		Large Streams
	FS		Sampson Cove EA Units 6.19.09
	NKN		Bureau of Land Management
	PVT		United States FS
	HIGHWAYS		Private

RIO CLIMAX TIMBER SALE



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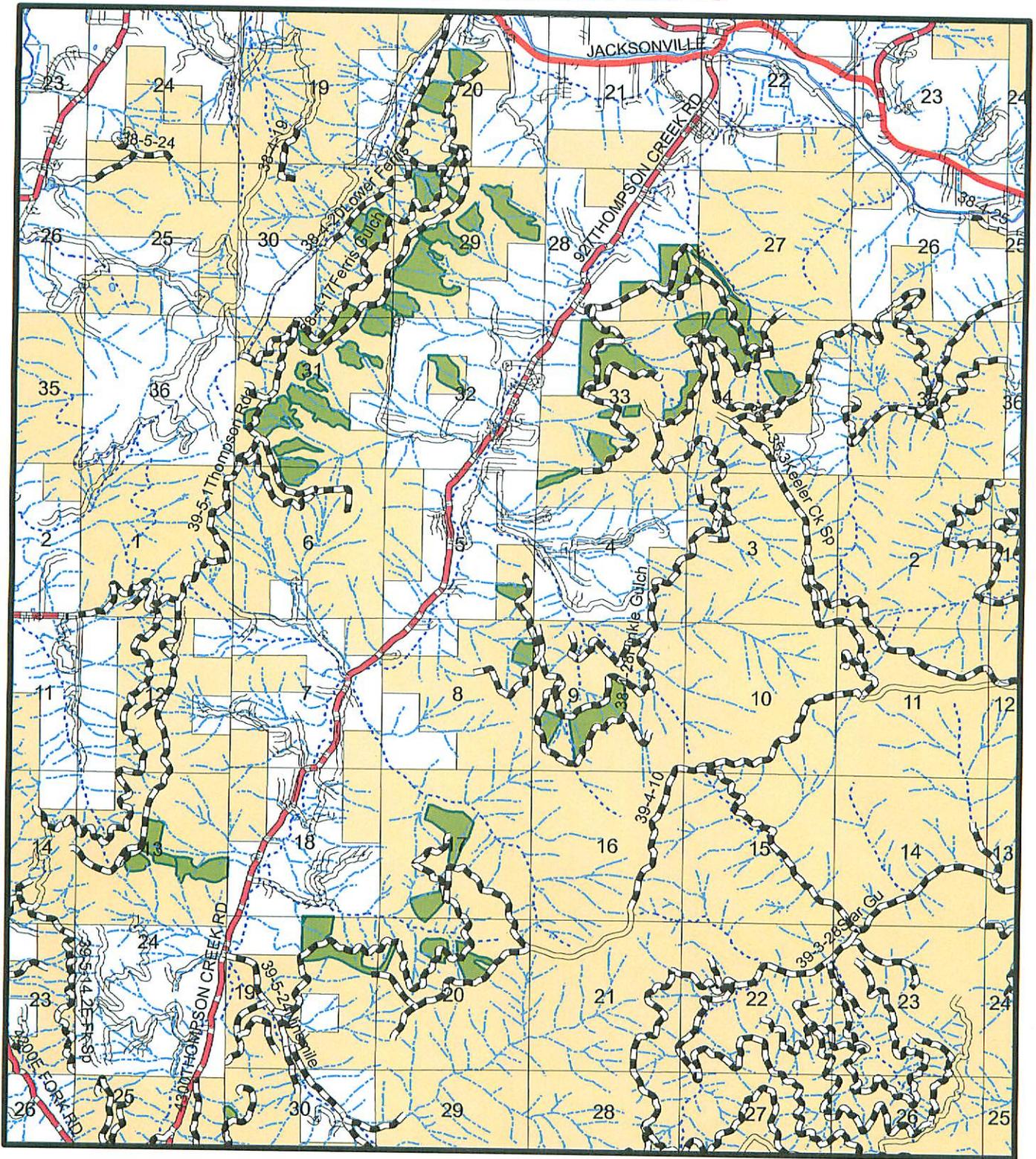


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9.18.09

T36S-1E
SEC. 32, 33
T37S-1E
SEC. 3, 5, 9, 11, 13, 14,
17, 24, 25, 27, 31, 35
T37S-2E
SEC. 5, 17, 19, 29, 31, 32
T38S-1E
SEC. 1, 11, 12, 13
T38S-2E
SEC. 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 17

Legend			
	Section Numbers		Water Bodies
	BLM		Secondary Streams
	CNTY		Large Streams
	FS		RIO CLIMAX_T_S-Unit_7.15.09
	NKN		Bureau of Land Management
	PVT		United States FS
	HIGHWAYS		Private

SWEEPER TIMBER SALE



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T38S-4W
SEC. 20, 27, 28, 29, 30,
31, 32, 33, 34

T39S-4W
SEC. 4, 5, 8, 9, 17, 19,
20, 30

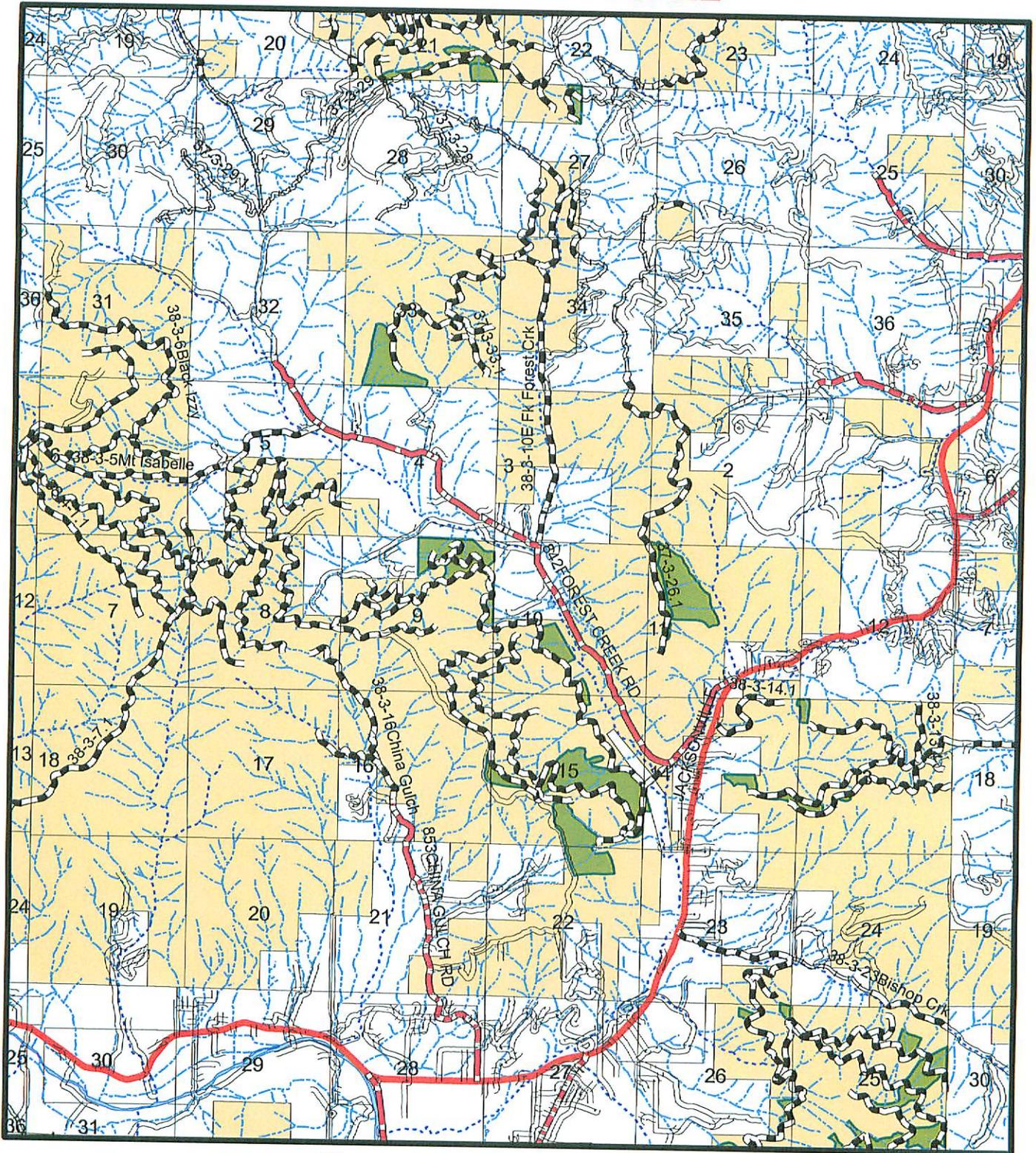
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9.18.09

T39S-5W
SEC. 13

Legend	
	Section Numbers
	BLM
	CNTY
	FS
	NKN
	PVT
	HIGHWAYS
	Water Bodies
	Secondary Streams
	Large Streams
	Sweeper Timber sale-8.18.09
	Bureau of Land Management
	United States FS
	Private

SWEEPER TIMBER SALE



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T37S-3W
SEC. 21, 27, 33
T38S-3W
SEC. 9, 10, 11, 13, 14
15, 16, 22, 25, 26

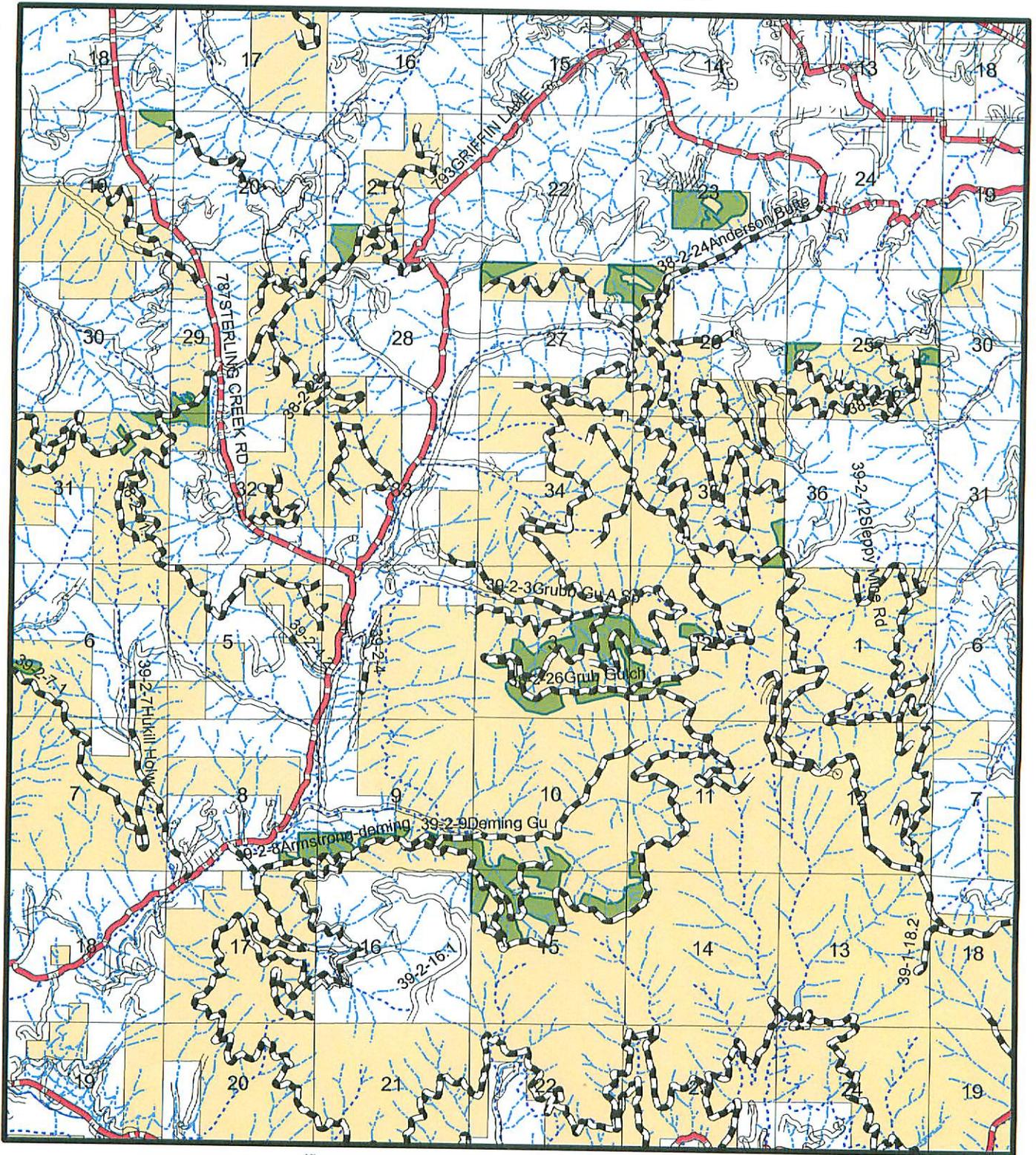
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9.21.09

Legend			
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	CNTY		Large Streams
	FS		Sweeper Timber sale-8.18.09
	NKN		Bureau of Land Management
	PVT		United States FS
	HIGHWAYS		Private



SWEEPER TIMBER SALE



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T38S-1W
SEC. 30

T38S-2W
SEC. 19, 21, 23, 25,
29, 30, 31, 32, 35

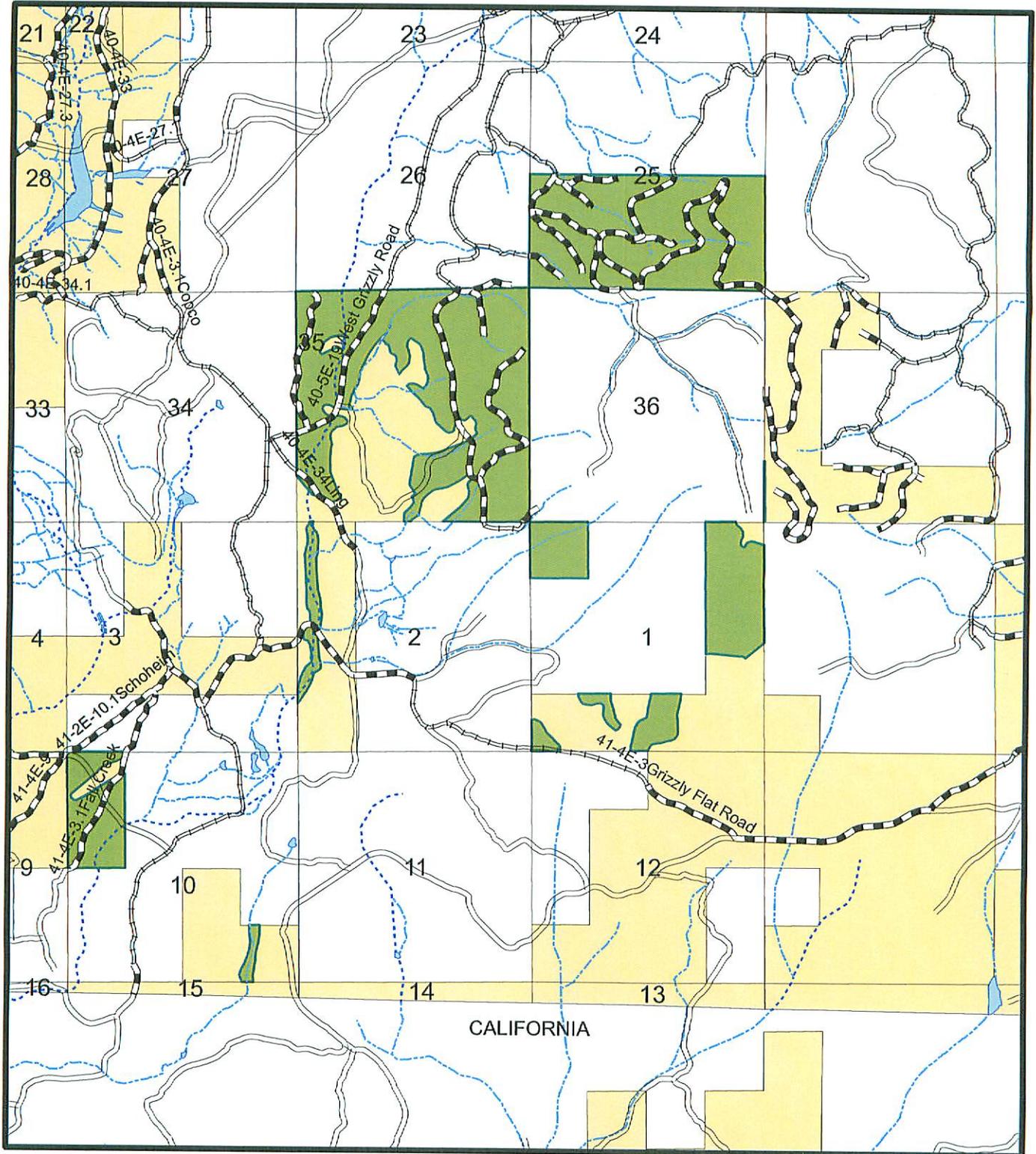
T39S-2W
SEC. 2, 3, 6, 8, 9, 10,
11, 14, 15

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9.21.09

Legend	
	Section Numbers
	BLM
	CNTY
	FS
	NKN
	PVT
	HIGHWAYS
	Water Bodies
	Secondary Streams
	Large Streams
	Sweeper Timber sale-8.18.09
	Bureau of Land Management
	United States FS
	Private

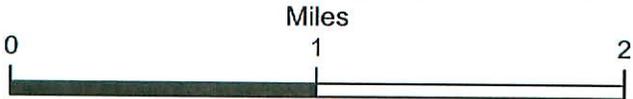


FALL BACK TIMBER SALE



CALIFORNIA

DRAFT



T40S-4E
SEC. 25, 35

T41S-4E
SEC. 1, 2, 10

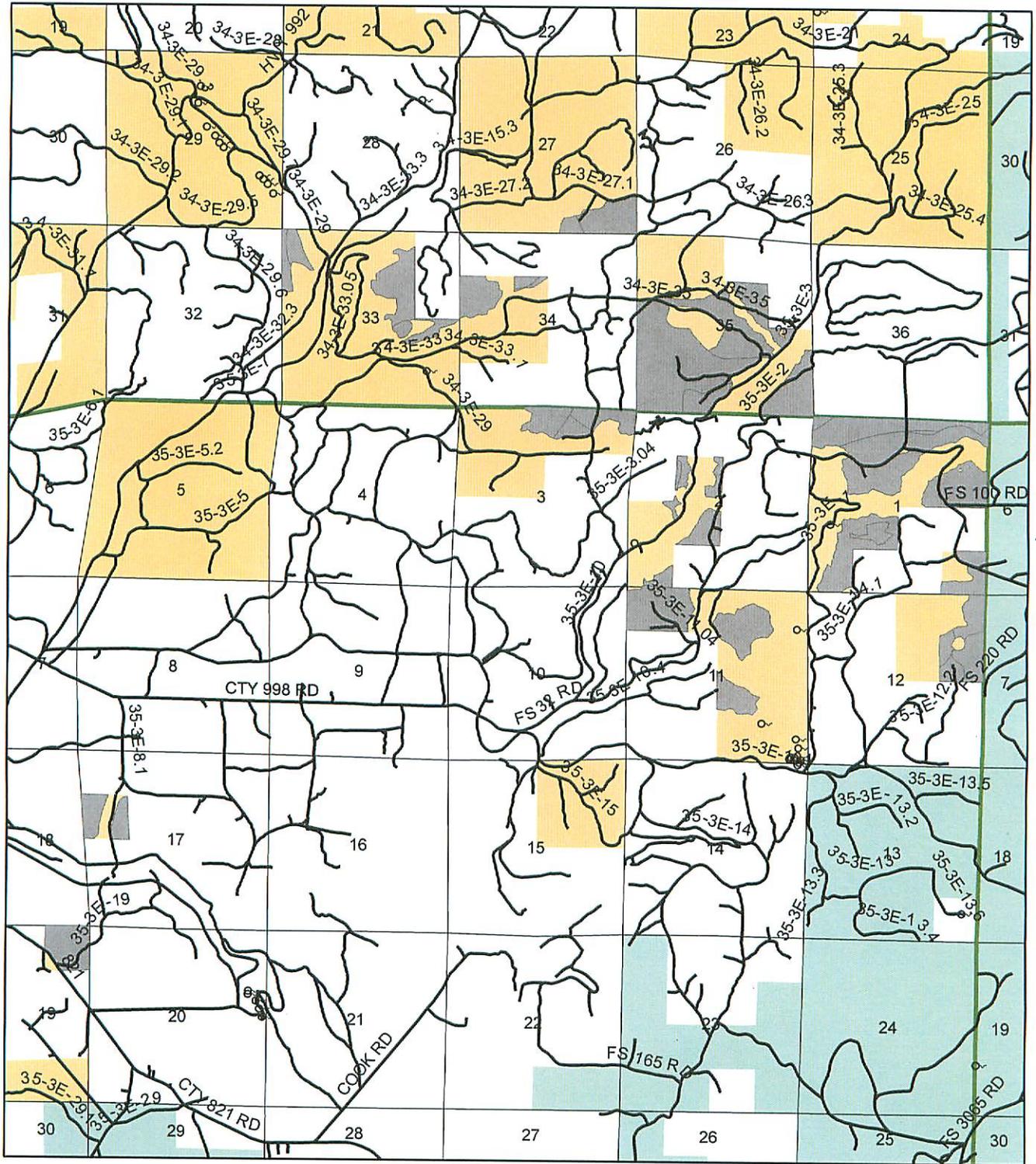
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9.17.09



Legend	
	Section Numbers
	BLM
	CNTY
	FS
	NKN
	PVT
	HIGHWAYS
	Water Bodies
	Secondary Streams
	Large Streams
	Fall Back EA Units
	Bureau of Land Management
	United States FS
	Private

R 3 E



T.34S.

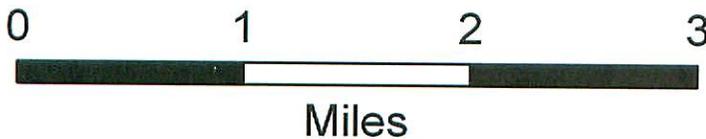
T.35 S

DRAFT - FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY

Twin Ranch EA

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 Bureau of Land Management
 MEDFORD DISTRICT
 September, 2009

- Road
- TwinRanch Units
- BLM
- Forest Service
- Private



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