Shively Creek LSR Density Management
Environmental Assessment
South River Field Office
EA # OR-105-04-02

Lively Shively Density Management

Decision Documentation
Prepared: June 27, 2005

Decision:

It is my decision to offer Lively Shively Density Management (DM). This decision partially implements Alternative Two, described on pages 4-8 of the EA.

The project will treat four units covering a total area of 99 acres. The unit numbers and the corresponding EA designation are as follows: 1 (E); 2 (D); 3 (B); and 4 (A). The corresponding locations of the units are as follows: Section 7, T. 31 S., R. 3 W.; and Sections 23, 15 and 11, T. 31 S., R. 4 W. Units C and F, as described in the EA, were dropped from the project upon determination that treatment was not economically viable. Units 1, 2 and 3 are restricted to dry-season operations. Unit 4 is available for operations in any season.

The volume of timber to be derived from the density management is approximately 1,221 thousand board feet, not chargeable toward the ASQ. It is anticipated that there will be additional volume modified into the sale as a result of the need to cut tailhold, guyline, and corridor trees.

Renovation and maintenance to the existing designated haul roads will be conducted by BLM Road Maintenance personnel. Additional access will be provided by the construction of five temporary spur roads totaling 2,370 feet (~ 0.45 miles) in length. As addressed on page 8 of the EA, the intent is to construct, use and decommission temporary roads in the same operational season. If events beyond control of the BLM and purchaser prevent use and decommissioning of a road in the same season in which it is constructed, the BLM may winterize the road, at its discretion, and allow use the following year.

To reduce the probability of introducing new infestations of noxious weeds into the project area, pressure washing or steam cleaning of all logging and road building equipment will be required prior to move-in. If, at any time during the life of the timber sale contract, equipment is removed from the sale area, it will be cleaned prior to being returned to the sale area.

The 2004 *Record of Decision to Remove or Modify the Survey and Manage Mitigation Measure Standards and Guidelines* removed protection for species previously covered under the program and placed qualified species into the BLM Special Status Species Program.

Surveys were conducted in the spring and summer of 2004 for those Special Status botanical species identified on pages 24 of the EA. None were located.

Thinning units were evaluated for the presence of suitable habitat for the Crater Lake tightcoil snail (*Pristoloma articum crateris*) and Chace sideband snail (*Monadenia chaceana*), both Bureau Sensitive species. No suitable habitat is present in Units 1, 2 and 3. Unit 4 was surveyed based on the presence of suitable habitat, but neither of the snail species were found.

Rationale for the Decision:

Management direction for LSRs incorporated in the Roseburg District *Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan* (USDI, BLM 1995 (ROD/RMP, p. 29)) requires management to "Protect and enhance conditions of late-successional and old-growth forest ecosystems, which serve as habitat for late-successional and old-growth forest related species . . ." Alternative Two, the proposed action, will help to achieve this objective, whereas Alternative One, no action, will not.

Comments on the EA were received from three organizations, and considered in the preparation of this decision. No issues or concerns were identified which were not already considered and addressed in the EA, or which constituted new information that would change the conclusions of the analysis.

The BLM has made a determination of "No Effect" for disturbance to northern spotted owls because none of the units are within ¼-mile of an owl activity center which is beyond the established disturbance threshold of 65 yards. The BLM has also concluded that the density management may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect owls as a consequence of habitat modification, and would not have an adverse effect on the role of designated critical habitat in Critical Habitat Unit (CHU) OR-32, on the survival and recovery of the northern spotted owl for the following reasons:

- Density management will be conducted in dispersal habitat and will not remove primary habitat constituents for nesting and roosting.

- The project will achieve a balance between conservation of existing habitat characteristics and function while providing for long-term development of additional old-growth habitat features within the stands, resulting in an overall improvement in habitat quality.

- In the first 10-20 years after treatments, units within a provincial territory, particularly those closest to activity centers, could see a temporary decline in use for foraging as a consequence of more open stand and canopy conditions. This effect is moderated by dispersal of the units well away from owl activity centers, the relatively small number of acres treated, and the variability of post-treatment stand densities and canopy closure.

- As canopy closure in the stands approaches pre-treatment levels, use for dispersal and foraging is anticipated to increase as greater horizontal and vertical structure in the stands, created by the density management treatments, provides additional nesting and roosting structure. Release and retention of hardwoods as stand components, and increased understory growth and development will provide additional habitat for prey species and increase their abundance.

In a conference opinion dated April 26, 2005, the National Marine Fisheries Service concurred that the Shively Creek DM project was not likely to adversely affect Oregon Coast coho salmon, currently proposed for listing as a threatened species, or the Oregon Coast steelhead trout. This conclusion is based on: location of units near ridge tops; minimum "no-harvest" buffers established on all streams; maintenance of roads to include spot surfacing and correction of drainage deficiencies; use of temporary spur roads that will be decommissioned and revegetated after use; and acceleration of the development of late-successional habitat conditions that will include large wood for incorporation into the stream network.

Monitoring:

Monitoring would be done in accordance with provisions contained in Appendix I of the ROD/RMP (p. 84, 191, 193, & 195-199). Monitoring efforts will focus on the following resources: Late-Successional Reserves; Water and Soils; Wildlife Habitat; and Special Status Species Habitat.

Protest Procedures:

As outlined in 43 CFR § 5003 - Administrative Remedies, protests may be filed with the authorized officer within 15 days of the publication date of the Decision Notice in *The News-Review*, Roseburg, Oregon.

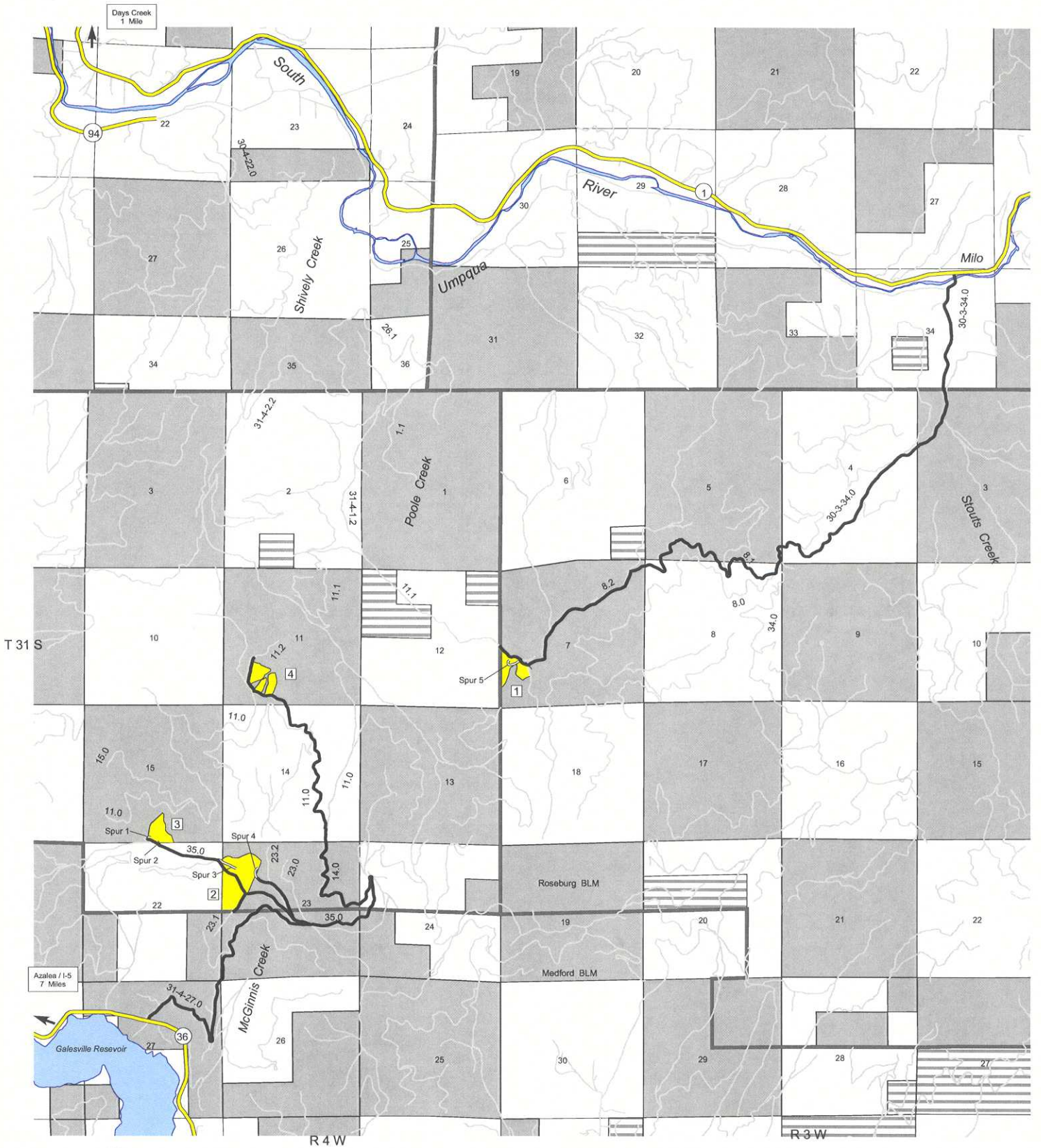
43 CFR 5003.3 subsection (b) states that: "Protests shall be filed with the authorized officer and shall contain a written statement of reasons for protesting the decision." This precludes the acceptance of electronic mail or facsimile protests. Only written and signed hard copies of protests that are delivered to the Roseburg District Office will be accepted.

_____ _____

William S. Haigh Date
Field Manager
South River Field Office

LIVELY SHIVELY

LSR Density Management



N
W E
S

0 1 Miles

T31S, R3,4W
Willamette Meridian, Douglas Co., OR.

No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of this data for individual or aggregate use with other data. Original data was compiled from various sources. This information may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. This product was developed through digital means and may be updated without notification.

County Highway
Existing Road
Access/Haul Route
Temporary Road

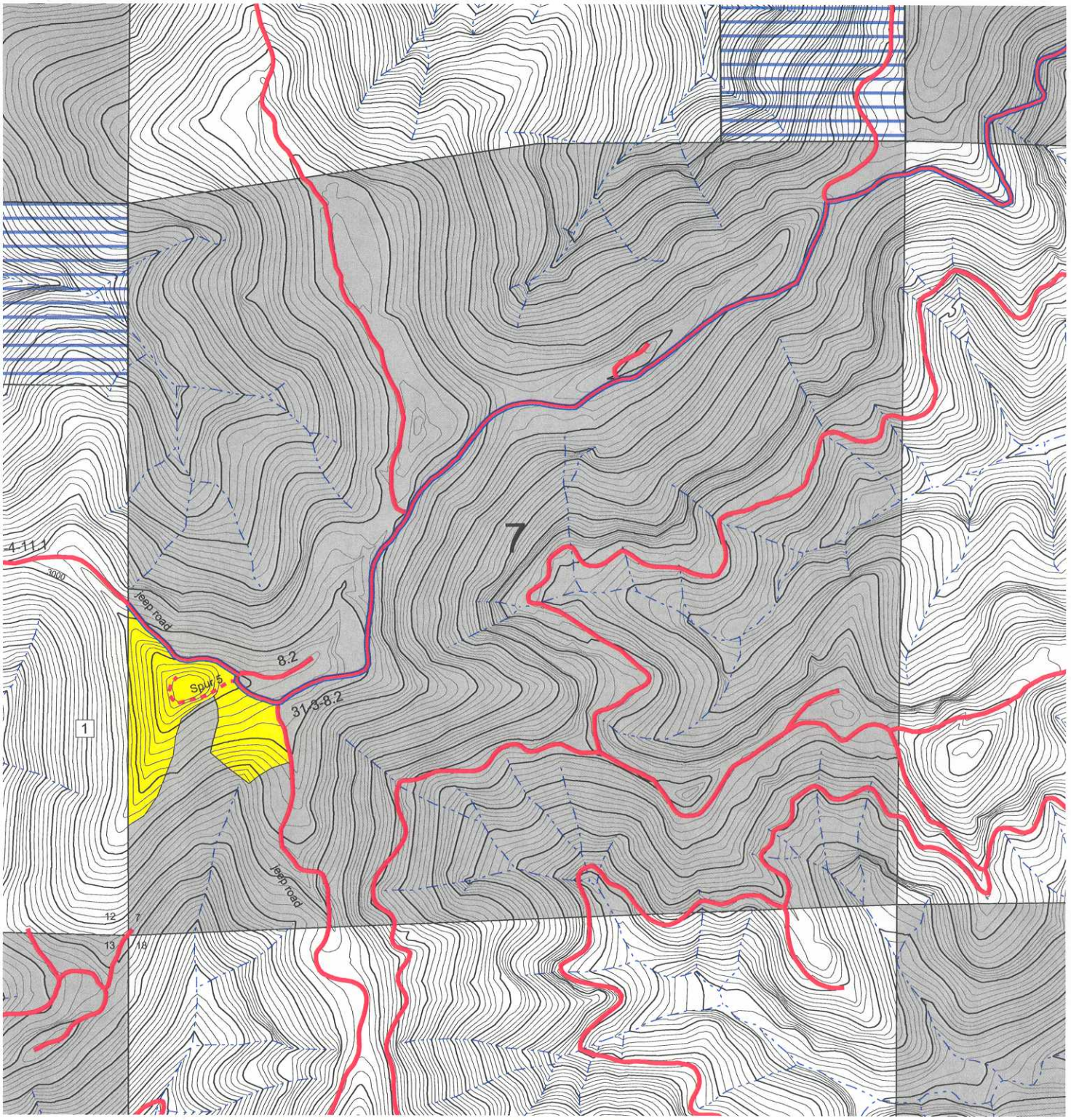
Thinning Area
BLM (O&C) Land
BLM (PD) Land
Non-BLM Land

5-9-2005

'Final Decision' Map

LIVELY SHIVELY

LSR Density Management



N
W E
S

T31S, R3W

Willamette Meridian, Douglas Co., OR.

0 1,000 Feet

Existing Road
Access/Haul Route
Temporary Road
Stream
20 ft. Contour
100 ft. Contour

Thinning Area
BLM (O&C) Land
BLM (PD) Land
Non-BLM Land

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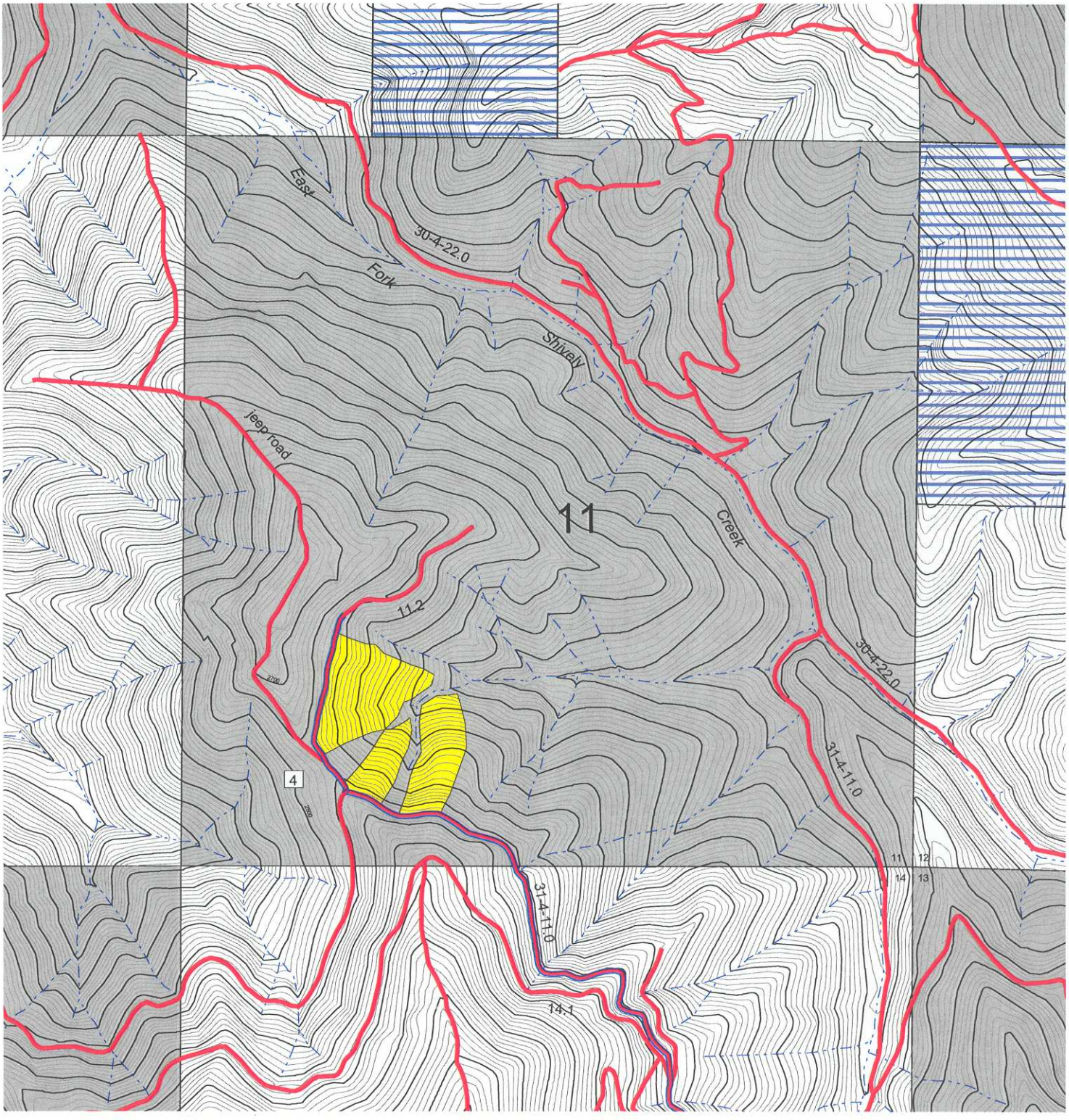

N
W E
S

T31S, R4W

Willamette Meridian, Douglas Co., OR.

0 1,000 Feet

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100 ft. Contour

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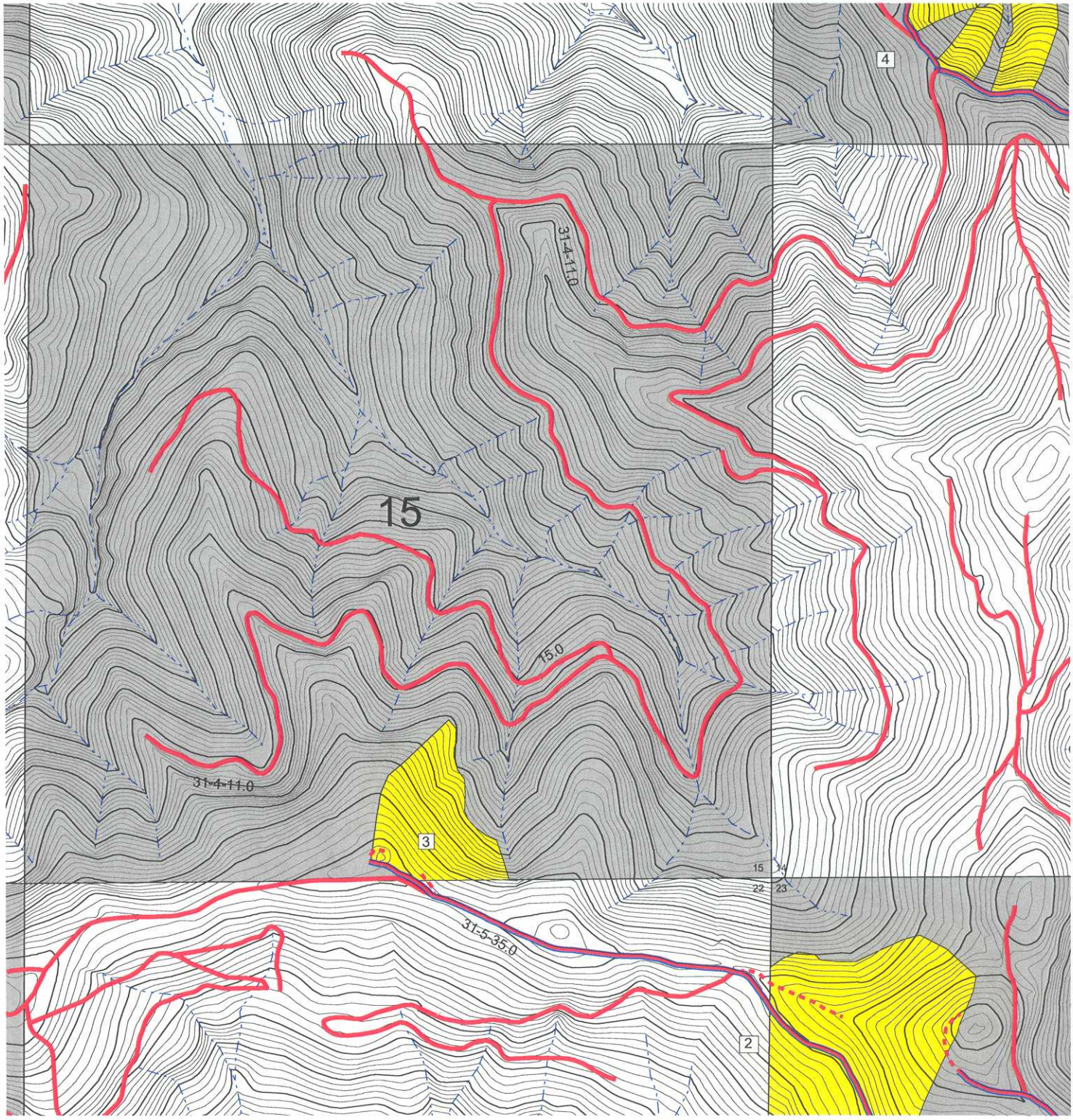

N
W E
S

0 1,000 Feet

T31S, R4W

Willamette Meridian, Douglas Co., OR.

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Access/Haul Route
Temporary Road
Stream
20 ft. Contour
100 ft. Contour

Thinning Area
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Non-BLM Land

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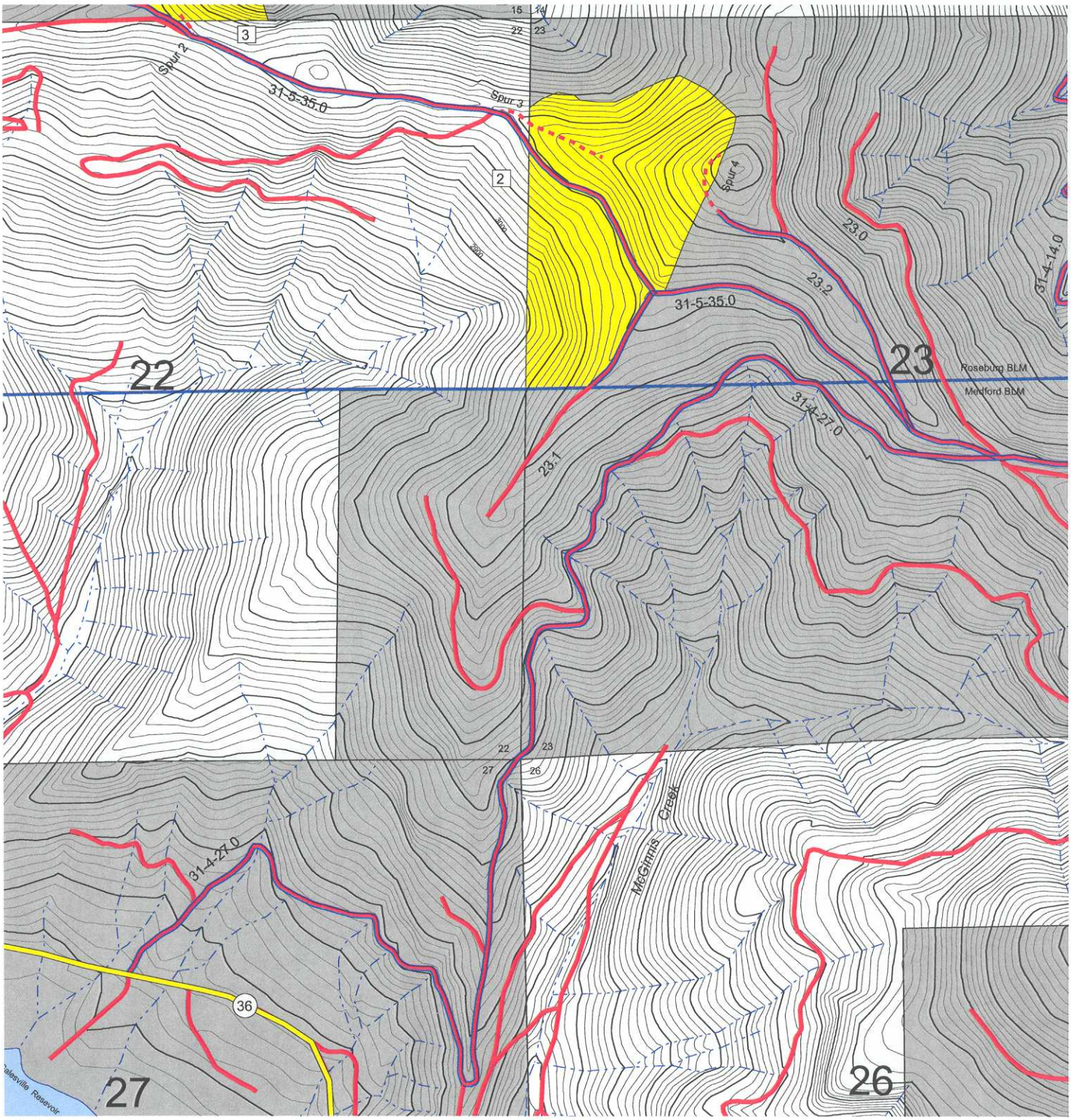
5-10-2005

'Final Decision' Map

LIVELY SHIVELY

LSR Density Management



N
W E
S

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Willamette Meridian, Douglas Co., OR.

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