

trees selected for 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. Fell, buck, and scale sampling:

- Shall be limited to an average of one tree per acre or less,
- Shall be limited to gas-powered chainsaws or hand tools,
- Shall not include any road or trail construction,
- Shall not include the use of ground based equipment or other manner of timber yarding.

Sample tree felling would be one of the last activities completed during preparation of timber sales. Sample tree felling 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 (for example, wildlife, botany, and cultural resources), and sale layout and preparation. If consultation is required for timber sales, sample tree felling would be included as a component of timber sales in that consultation. In the event a unit or sale is not logged (for example, if 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 Reserves, trees would be directionally felled away from the stream channel. Riparian buffers established within the Environmental Assessment for that particular sale would be observed.
- If, during implementation of the proposed action, any BLM Special Status Species are found that were not discovered during pre-disturbance surveys, felling that may affect that site would be suspended until further review by BLM specialists is completed and application of any necessary measures is applied.
- If, during implementation of the proposed action, a raptor nest is found, felling that may affect the nest site would be suspended until further review by BLM specialists could be completed and necessary measures applied.
- If, during implementation of the proposed action, any cultural resources are found that were not discovered during pre-disturbance surveys, felling that may affect the newly discovered site would be suspended and appropriate measures would be implemented before felling would be resumed.
- Where felling of a sample tree would be contingent upon the felling of snags greater than or equal to 20 inches diameter at breast height, that particular sample tree would not be felled.
- No chainsaw work would occur within 65 yards of unsurveyed suitable northern spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis caurina*) habitat, known activity centers from March 1st-July 15th unless current year surveys indicate that northern spotted owls are not present, are present but not attempting to nest, or that nesting attempts have failed.
- No chainsaw work would occur within 100 yards of any marbled murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*) site or unsurveyed suitable nesting habitat in Zone 1 or within the Zone 2 Restriction Corridor from April 1st– August 5th. Chainsaw work would be subject to daily operating restrictions from August 6th – September 15th;

these daily operating restrictions prohibit commencement of operations until two hours after sunrise and require operations cease two hours before sunset.

- In Zone 2 outside the Restriction Corridor, chainsaw work within 100 yards of any marbled murrelet site or unsurveyed suitable nesting habitat would be subject to daily operating restrictions (discussed above) from April 1st – August 5th.
- When operating in critical habitat for northern spotted owl or marbled murrelet, no potential nest trees would be sampled.

B. Plan Conformance Review:

The proposed action is in conformance with the *Roseburg District Proposed Resource Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision* (ROD/RMP, 1995) as amended, and is consistent with the RMP decision to provide a sustainable supply of timber and other forest products (ROD/RMP p.60).

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.

This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment, as documented in the following table. The proposed action is reviewed below, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 516 DM 2 apply.

D. Categorical Exclusions - Extraordinary Circumstances Documentation

THE PROPOSED CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION ACTION WILL:	YES	NO
2.1 Have significant impacts on public health or safety.		X
Rationale: All proposed activities follow established Occupational Safety and Health Administration rules concerning health and safety. The proposed sample tree felling is in remote, forested locations away from population centers.		
2.2 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: Trees to be felled are only within proposed timber sale units (see maps); these units are, by design, outside of unique areas such as those discussed above. No tree felling will occur in parks, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands. Felling an average of one sample tree per acre (or less) would not change the overall habitat function of the stand or remove habitat at the species level; as such, the proposed action would not have significant impacts on migratory birds.		
2.3 Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].		X
Rationale: Past experience has shown that the environmental effects of felling individual trees (not to exceed an average of 1 per acre) within the forest are not highly controversial. The 516 Departmental Manual 11 was revised using a public process in 2006-2007. This revision proposed, and finally included, sample tree felling as an action available for categorical exclusion for use. The BLM received numerous comments during the 30 day public comment period, none of which raised substantive questions regarding the environmental effects of utilizing the sample tree felling CX (72 FR 45504, August 2007). The ROD/RMP establishes the land use allocation and goals for the affected lands; as such, there is no unresolved conflict regarding other uses of these resources.		
2.4 Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.		X
Rationale: Past felling of individual trees has shown no highly uncertain, potentially significant, unique or unknown risks. The 516 Departmental Manual 11 was revised using a public process in 2006-2007. This revision proposed, and finally included, sample tree felling as an action available for categorical exclusion for use. The BLM received numerous comments during the 30 day public comment period, none of which raised substantive questions regarding the environmental effects of utilizing the sample tree felling CX (72 FR 45504, August 2007).		
2.5 Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.		X
Rationale: Sample tree felling has taken place throughout the State of Oregon and the Roseburg District for years. There is no evidence that this action, improving the accuracy of timber cruises, has potentially significant environmental effects. Sample tree felling is a discrete action completed as part of timber sale preparation – it does not commit the BLM to pursuing further actions, and as such would not establish a precedent or decision for future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.		
2.6 Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.		X
Rationale: Sample tree felling has been conducted in the past and this activity had no significant direct, indirect, or cumulative effect. Sample tree felling is a cruising tool used to improve the timber sale process, but this action is not integral to the timber sale process. The District timber sale program was analyzed in the RMP's Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), and individual sales are further analyzed in site-specific NEPA analysis (environmental assessments, or EAs) tiered to this EIS, which historically result in findings of no significant impact (FONSI).		

2.7 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 resources inventories would be conducted prior to implementing the proposed action. If cultural resources are found within a unit through pre-disturbance inventories or during implementation of the proposed action, appropriate mitigation would be applied.		
2.8 Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, as an Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species.		X
Rationale: Surveys, as required for consultation, would be conducted for listed species and species proposed for listing prior to sample tree felling. If sites are found, implementation of the Project Design Features would minimize disturbance effects to individuals. Some proposed units are within critical habitat for northern spotted owl and marbled murrelet. However, felling an average of one sample tree per acre (or less) would not change the overall habitat function of the stand or result in the loss of critical habitat. Project Design Features would prevent removal of primary constituent elements prior to the completion of consultation with the US Fish & Wildlife Service.		
2.9 Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.		X
Rationale: The proposed action conforms to the direction given for the management of public lands in the Roseburg District ROD/RMP, which complies with all applicable laws, such as the Clean Water Act, Endangered Species Act, and others.		
2.10 Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 2898).		X
Rationale: The felling of individual trees would not affect low income or minority populations – the activity is dispersed across District-administered land which is largely interspersed with private, industrial forest land. Furthermore, this action ensures that the public, including low income and minority populations, receive a fair price for the public resources (timber) being sold.		
2.11 Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007).		X
Rationale: Cultural resources inventories would be conducted prior to implementing the proposed action. If cultural resources are found within a unit through pre-disturbance inventories or during implementation of the proposed action, appropriate measures would be applied.		
2.12 Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112).		X
Rationale: Felling of individual trees would not measurably change the rate of introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or invasive species. Vehicles accessing the project area would stay on existing roads, reducing the potential of picking up and dispersing noxious weeds or seed.		

I considered the proposed action and its design features in my evaluation and I find the proposed action would not have significant impacts to the human environment.

E. Signature:

Authorizing Official: _____



Date: 12/29/09

Name: Jay K. Carlson
Title: District Manager

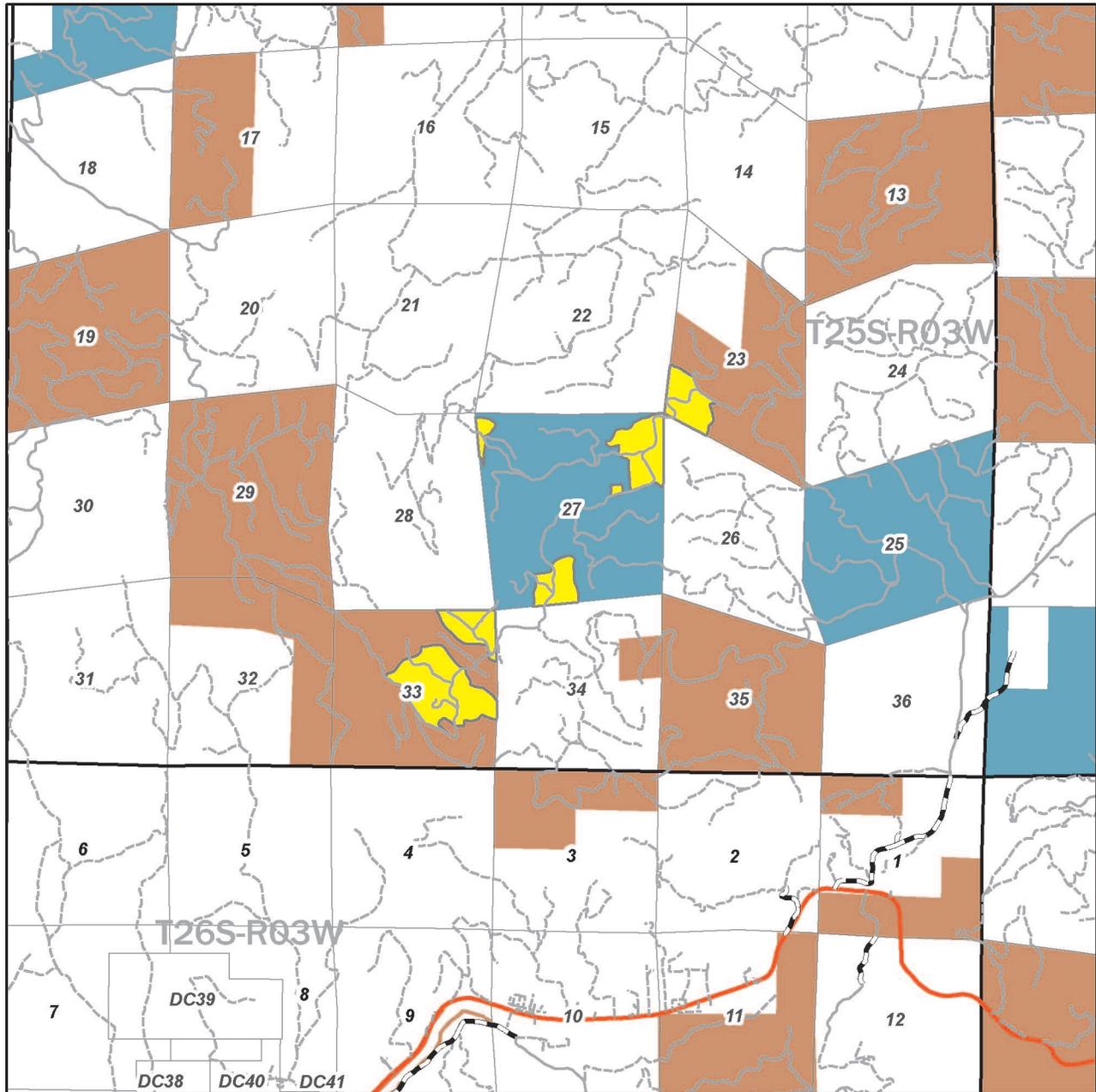
F. Contact Person & Reviewers:

For additional information concerning this Categorical Review, contact:

Meagan Conry
Roseburg District BLM
541-440-4930

Reviewers	Resource	Initials	Date
Meagan Conry	Planner	MC	12/9/09
Scott Lightcap	Fisheries Biologist	SL	12/10/09
Christopher Foster	Wildlife Biologist	CF	12/14/09
Susan Carter	Botanist	SC	12/9/09
John Royce	Forester	JR	12/15/09
Kristen Thompson	Cruiser/Appraiser	KT	12/14/09
Isaac Barner	Archaeologist	IB	12/14/09

Roseburg District Sample Tree Falling Categorical Exclusion Old Crow Timber Sale



- Legend**
- Approximate Location where Sample Trees will be felled
 - Administrative Boundary**
 - Roseburg District Boundary
 - Resource Area Boundary
 - Roads**
 - County Road
 - Bureau of Land Management
 - Private Road
 - State and Federal Highways
 - BLM Land Use Allocation**
 - Adaptive Management Area
 - Connectivity
 - General Forest Management Area
 - Late Successional Reserve



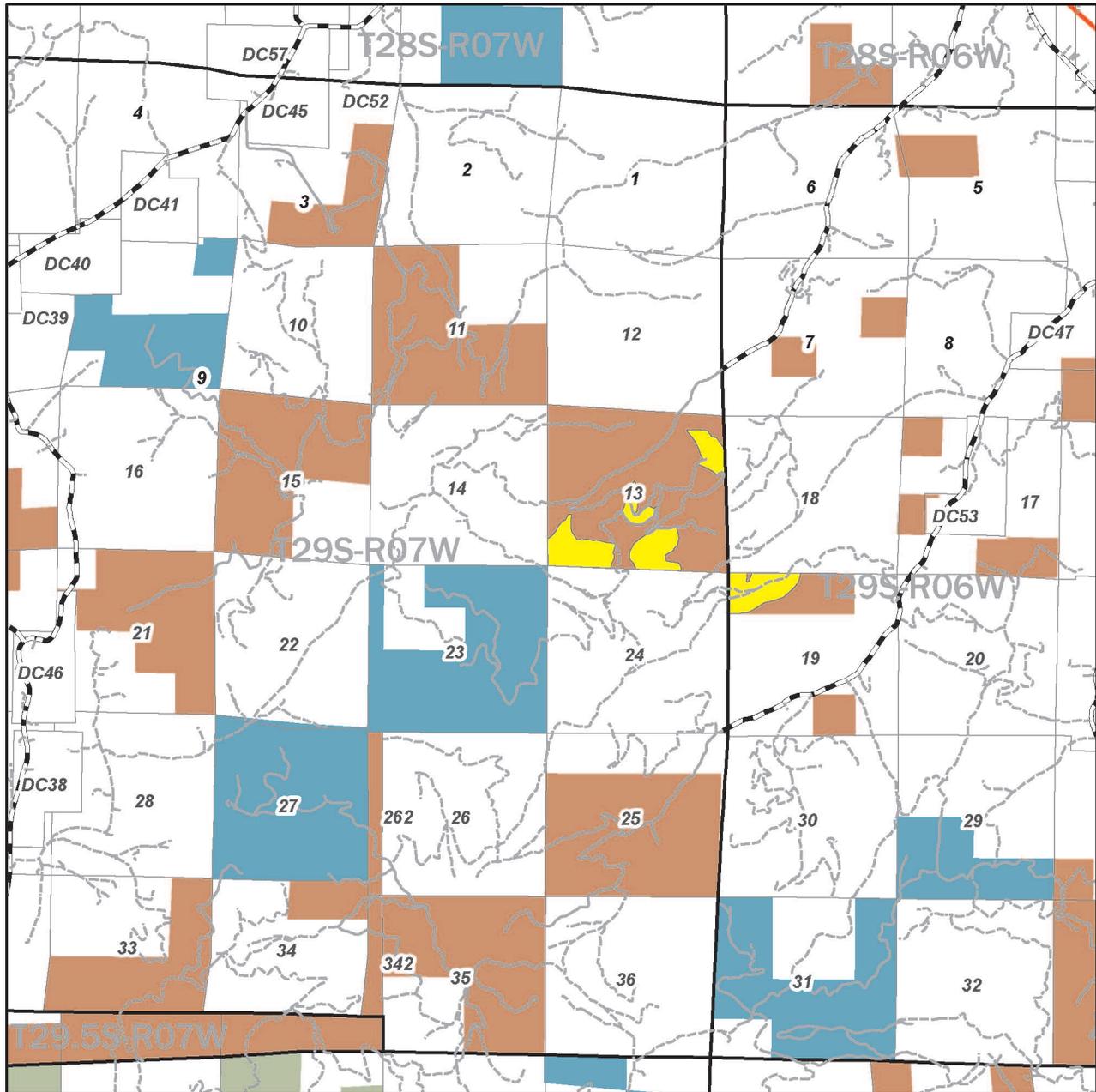
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Roseburg District Sample Tree Falling Categorical Exclusion

Kryptonite Timber Sale



- Legend**
- Approximate Location Where Sample Trees will be felled
 - Administrative Boundary**
 - Roseburg District Boundary
 - Resource Area Boundary
 - Roads**
 - County Road
 - Bureau of Land Management
 - Private Road
 - State and Federal Highways
 - BLM Land Use Allocation**
 - Adaptive Management Area
 - Connectivity
 - General Forest Management Area
 - Late Successional Reserve



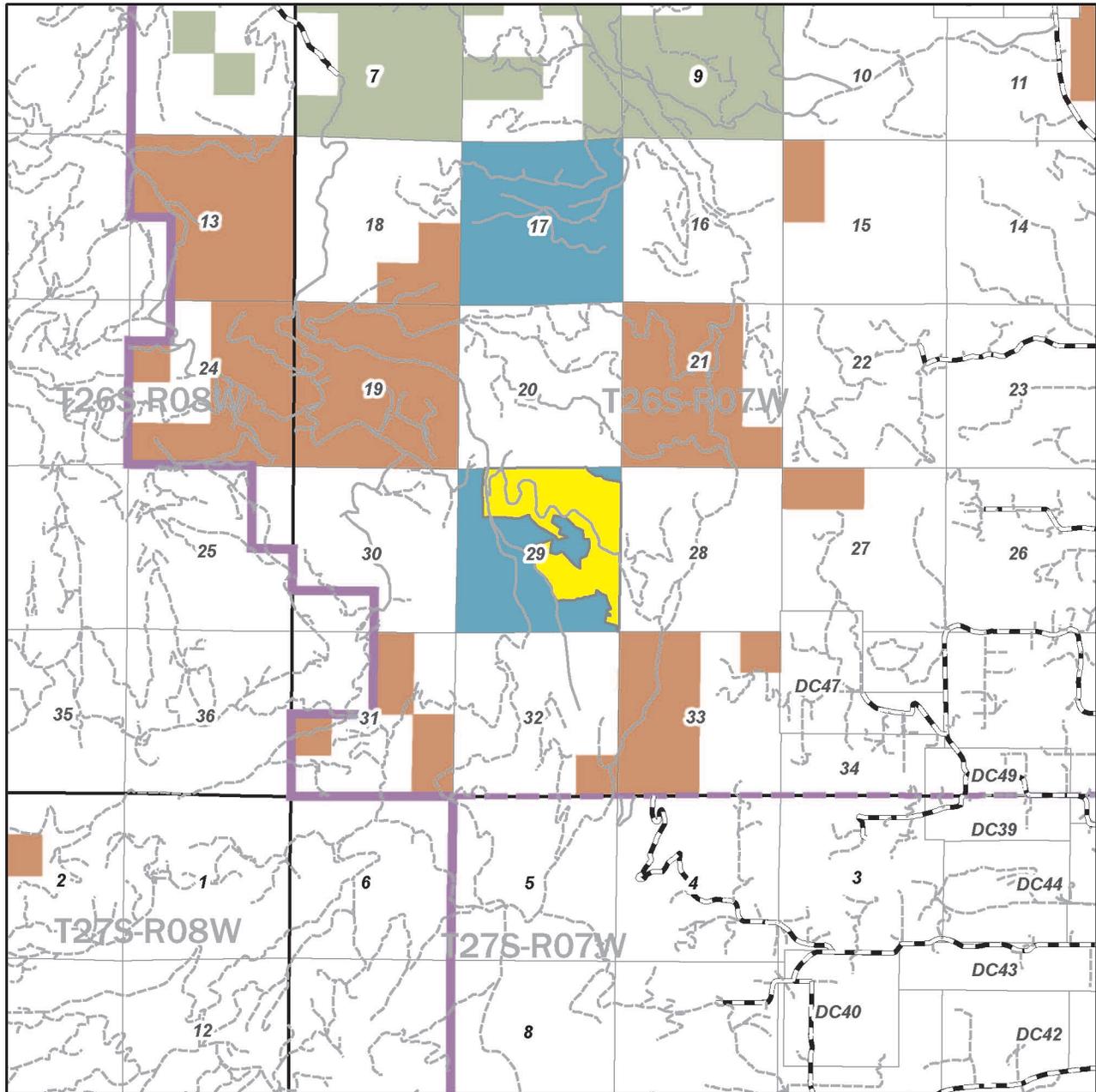
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Roseburg District Sample Tree Falling Categorical Exclusion

Calahan Mudaxle Timber Sale



0 0.3 0.6
Mile

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
|  Approximate Location where Sample Trees will be felled | Legend | BLM Land Use Allocation |
| Administrative Boundary | Roads |  Adaptive Management Area |
|  Roseburg District Boundary |  County Road |  Connectivity |
|  Resource Area Boundary |  Bureau of Land Management |  General Forest Management Area |
| |  Private Road |  Late Successional Reserve |
| |  State and Federal Highways | |

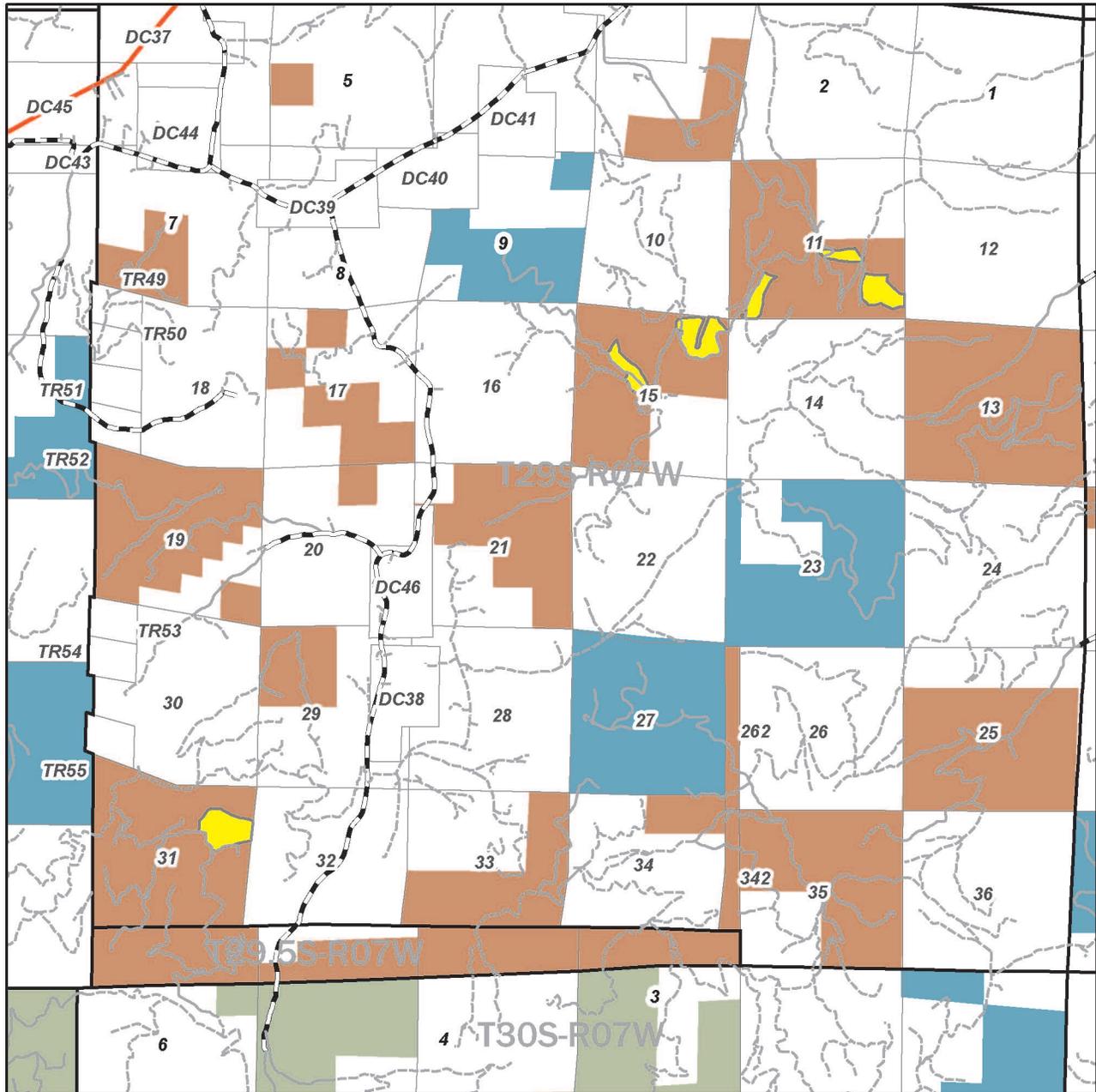


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Roseburg District Sample Tree Falling Categorical Exclusion 38 Special Timber Sale



- Legend**
- Approximate Location Where Sample Trees will be felled
 - Administrative Boundary**
 - Roseburg District Boundary
 - Resource Area Boundary
 - Roads**
 - County Road
 - Bureau of Land Management
 - Private Road
 - State and Federal Highways
 - BLM Land Use Allocation**
 - Adaptive Management Area
 - Connectivity
 - General Forest Management Area
 - Late Successional Reserve



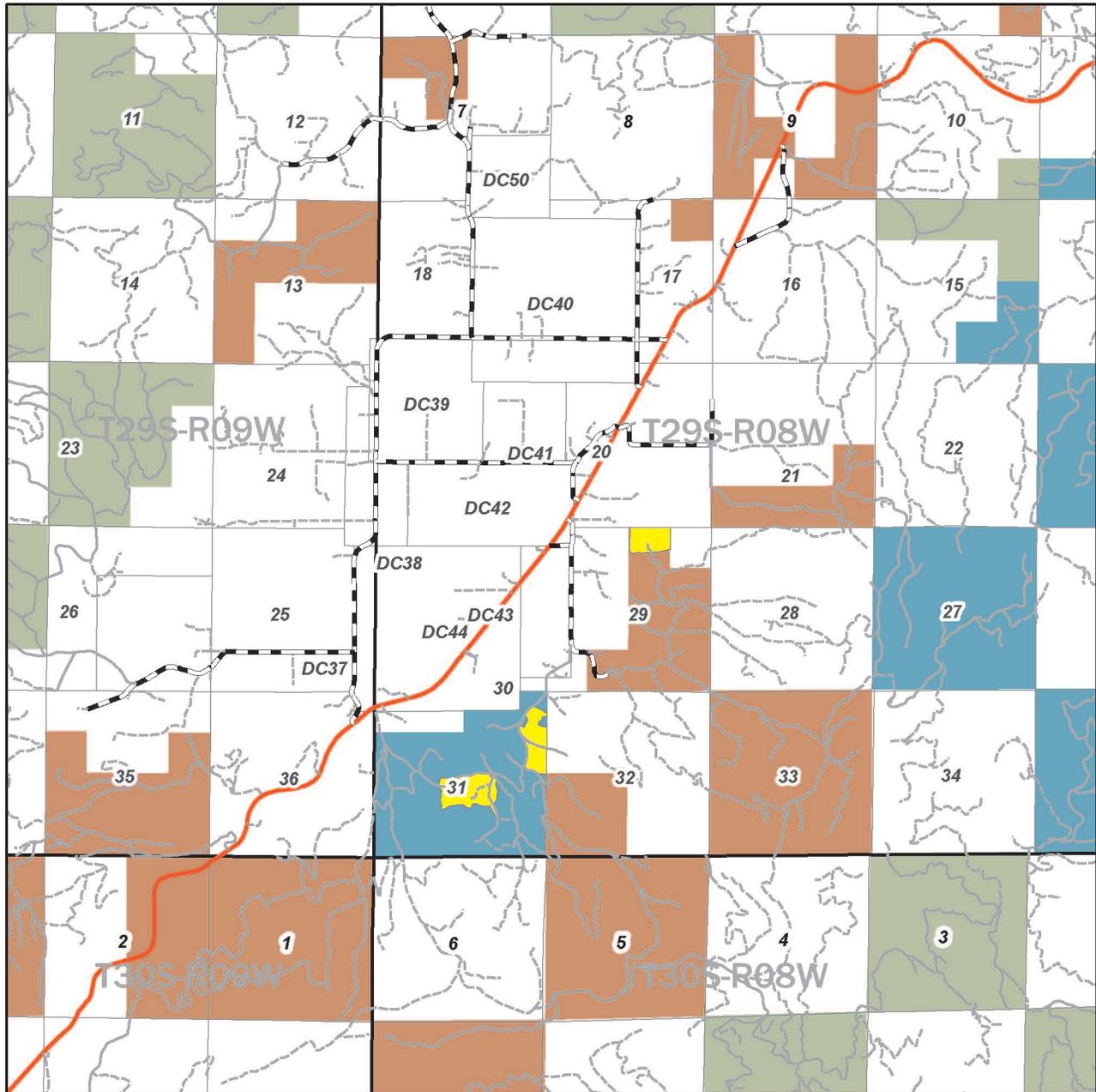
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Roseburg District Sample Tree Falling Categorical Exclusion

Coq and Dagger Timber Sale



- Legend**
- Approximate Location Where Sample Trees will be felled
 - Administrative Boundary**
 - Roseburg District Boundary
 - Resource Area Boundary
 - Roads**
 - County Road
 - Bureau of Land Management
 - Private Road
 - State and Federal Highways
 - BLM Land Use Allocation**
 - Adaptive Management Area
 - Connectivity
 - General Forest Management Area
 - Late Successional Reserve



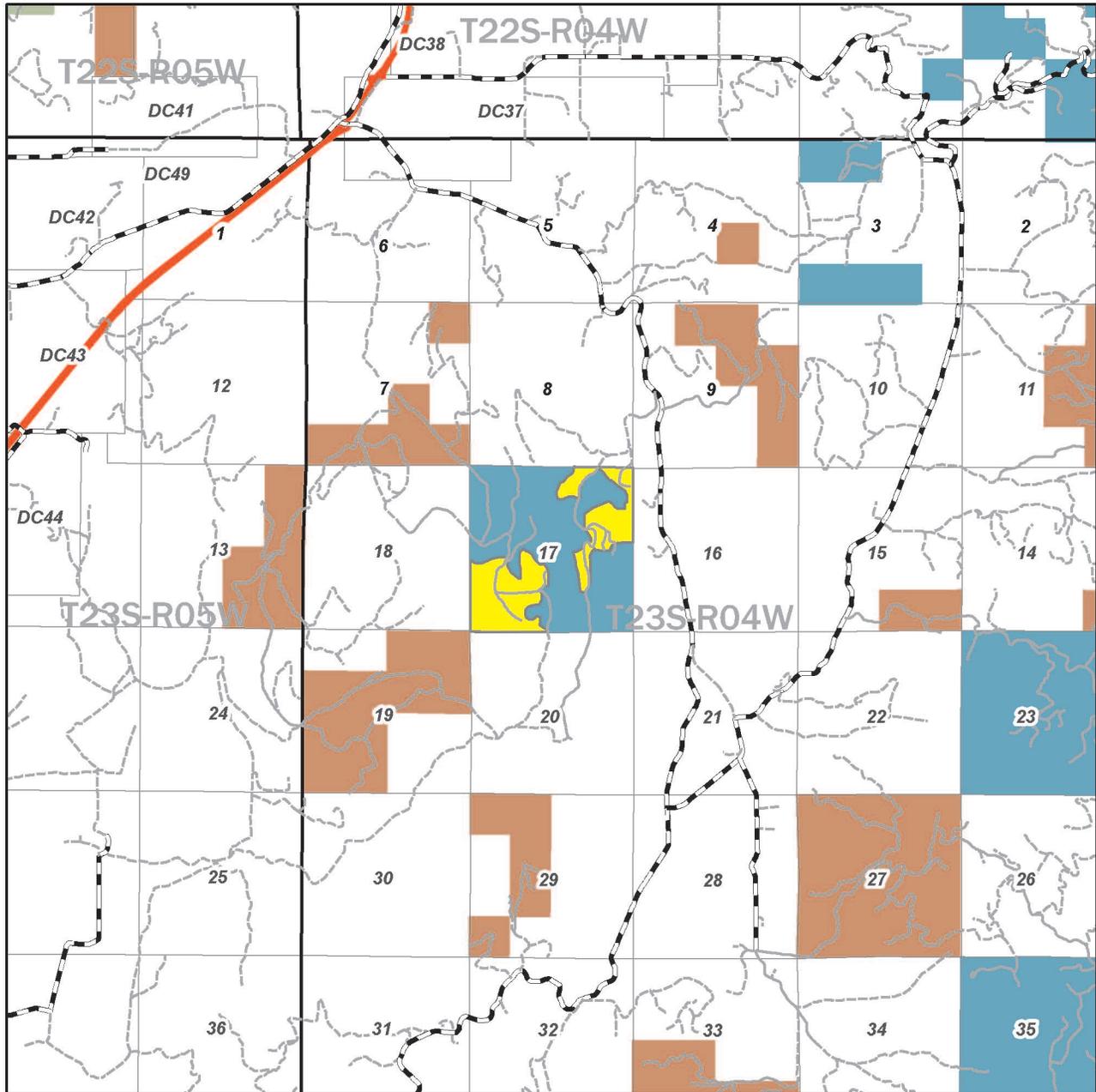
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Roseburg District Sample Tree Falling Categorical Exclusion

Elk Camino Timber Sale



0 0.3 0.6
Mile

- Legend**
- Approximate Location where Sample Trees will be felled
 - Administrative Boundary**
 - Roseburg District Boundary
 - Resource Area Boundary
 - Roads**
 - County Road
 - Bureau of Land Management
 - Private Road
 - State and Federal Highways
 - BLM Land Use Allocation**
 - Adaptive Management Area
 - Connectivity
 - General Forest Management Area
 - Late Successional Reserve



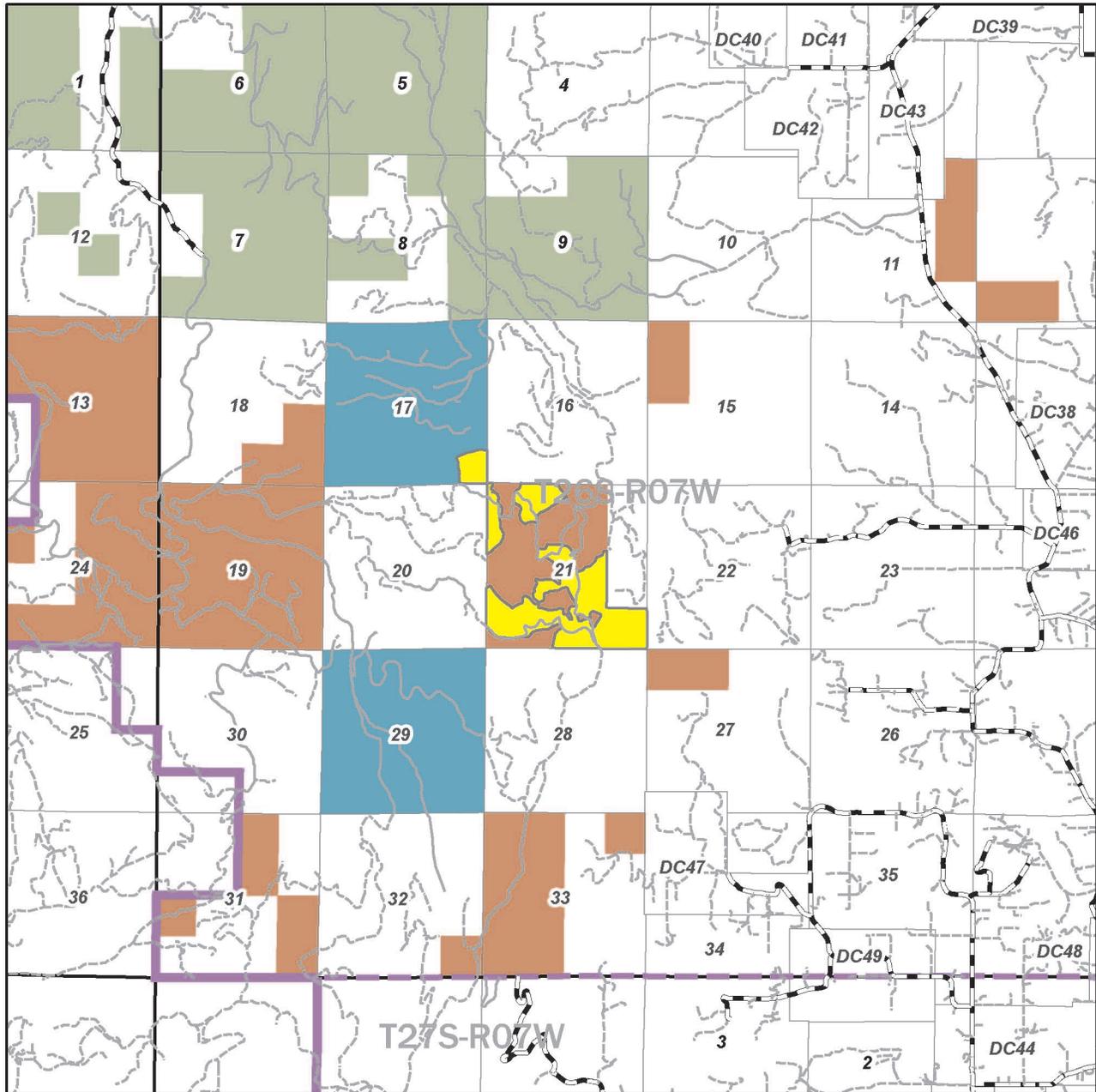
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Roseburg District Sample Tree Falling Categorical Exclusion

Devil's Den Timber Sale



0 0.25 0.5
Mile

- Legend**
- Approximate Location where Sample Trees will be felled
 - Administrative Boundary**
 - Roseburg District Boundary
 - Resource Area Boundary
 - Roads**
 - County Road
 - Bureau of Land Management
 - Private Road
 - State and Federal Highways
 - BLM Land Use Allocation**
 - Adaptive Management Area
 - Connectivity
 - General Forest Management Area
 - Late Successional Reserve

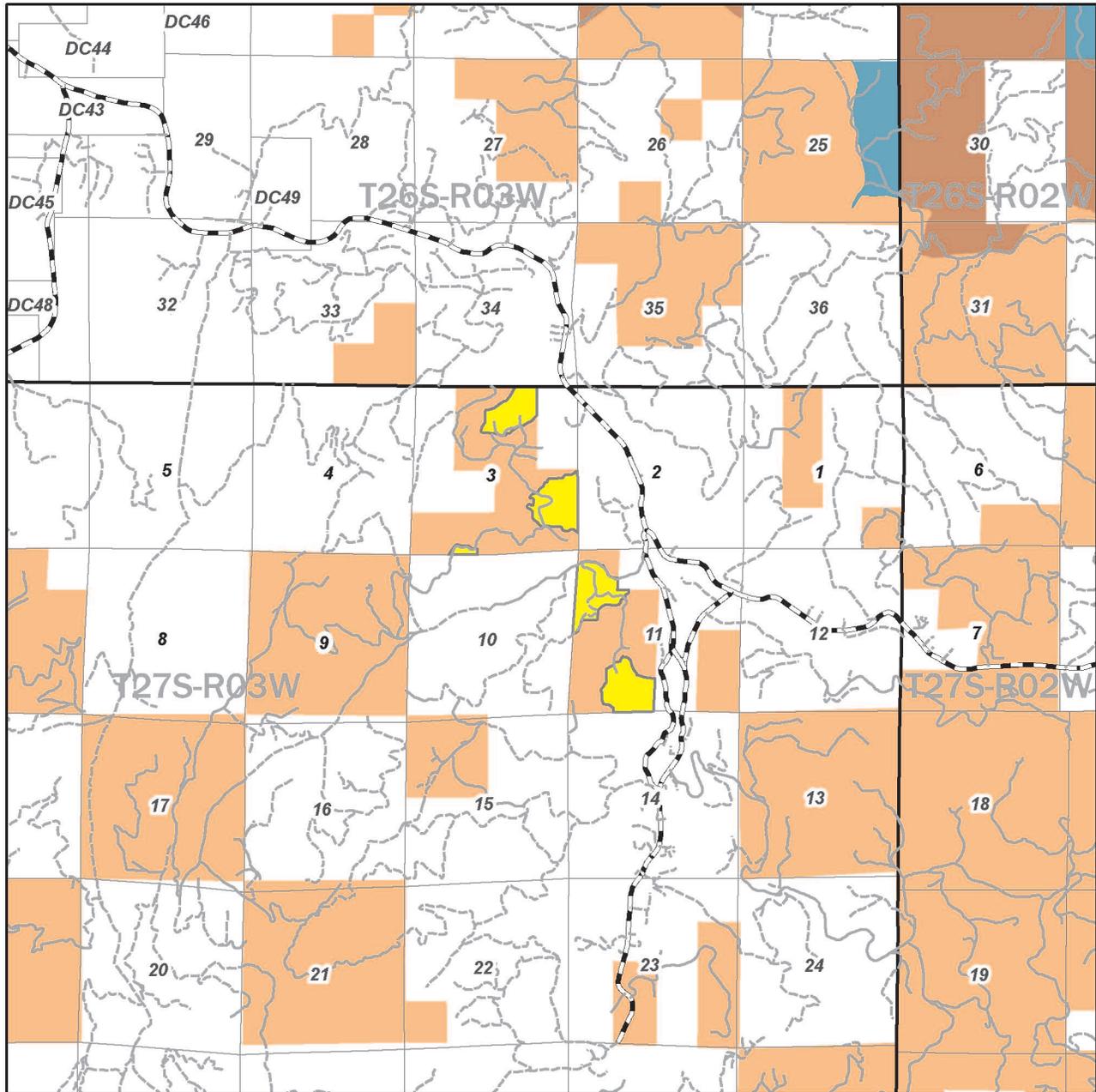


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Roseburg District Sample Tree Falling Categorical Exclusion Baker Steet Timber Sale



- Legend**
- Approximate Location where Sample Trees will be felled
 - Administrative Boundary**
 - Roseburg District Boundary
 - Resource Area Boundary
 - Roads**
 - County Road
 - Bureau of Land Management
 - Private Road
 - State and Federal Highways
 - BLM Land Use Allocation**
 - Adaptive Management Area
 - Connectivity
 - General Forest Management Area
 - Late Successional Reserve

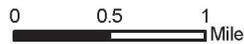
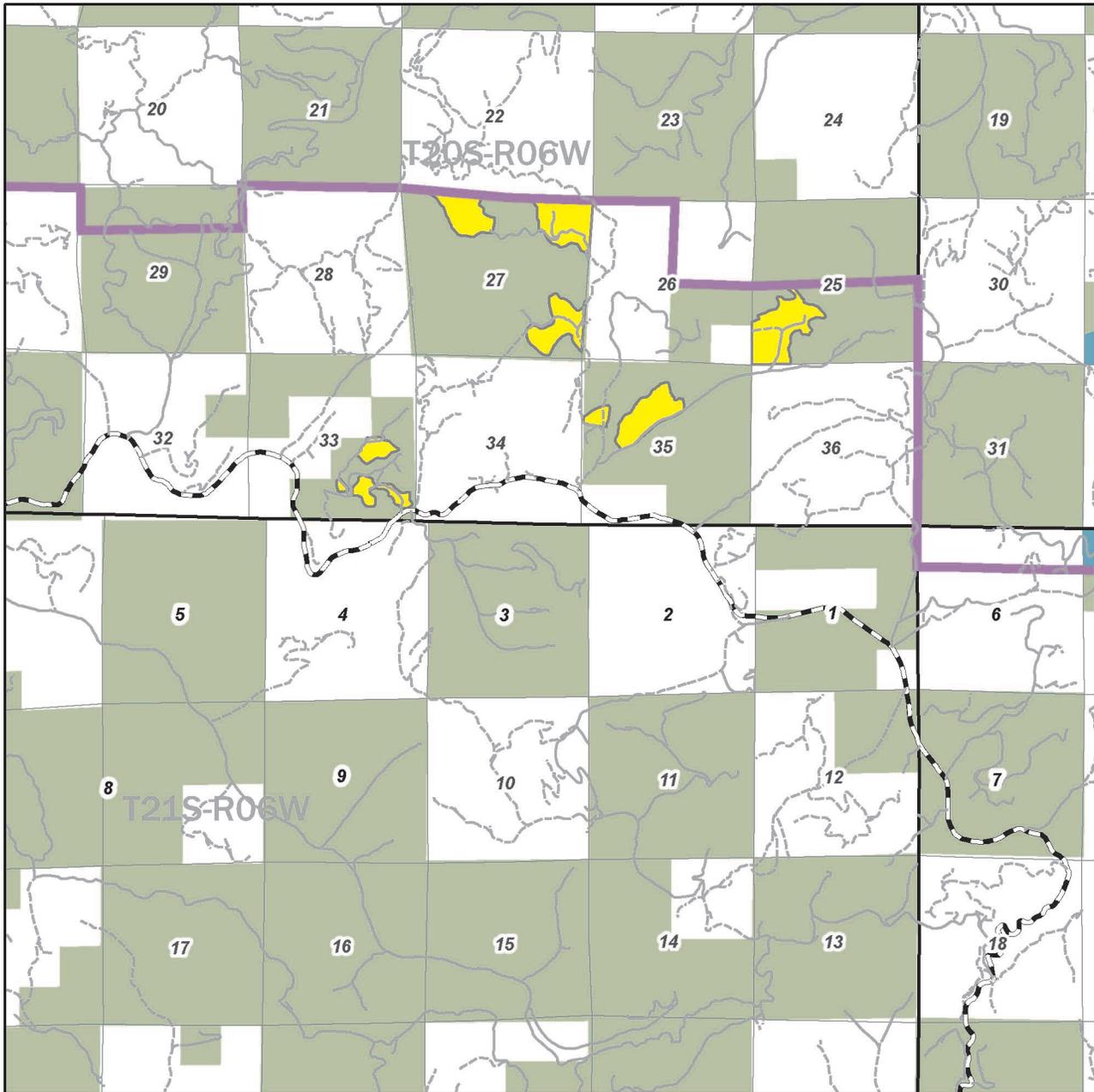


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Roseburg District Sample Tree Falling Categorical Exclusion Clever Beaver Timber Sale



- Legend**
- Approximate Location where Sample Trees will be felled
 - Administrative Boundary**
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 - County Road
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 - Private Road
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 - BLM Land Use Allocation**
 - Adaptive Management Area
 - Connectivity
 - General Forest Management Area
 - Late Successional Reserve



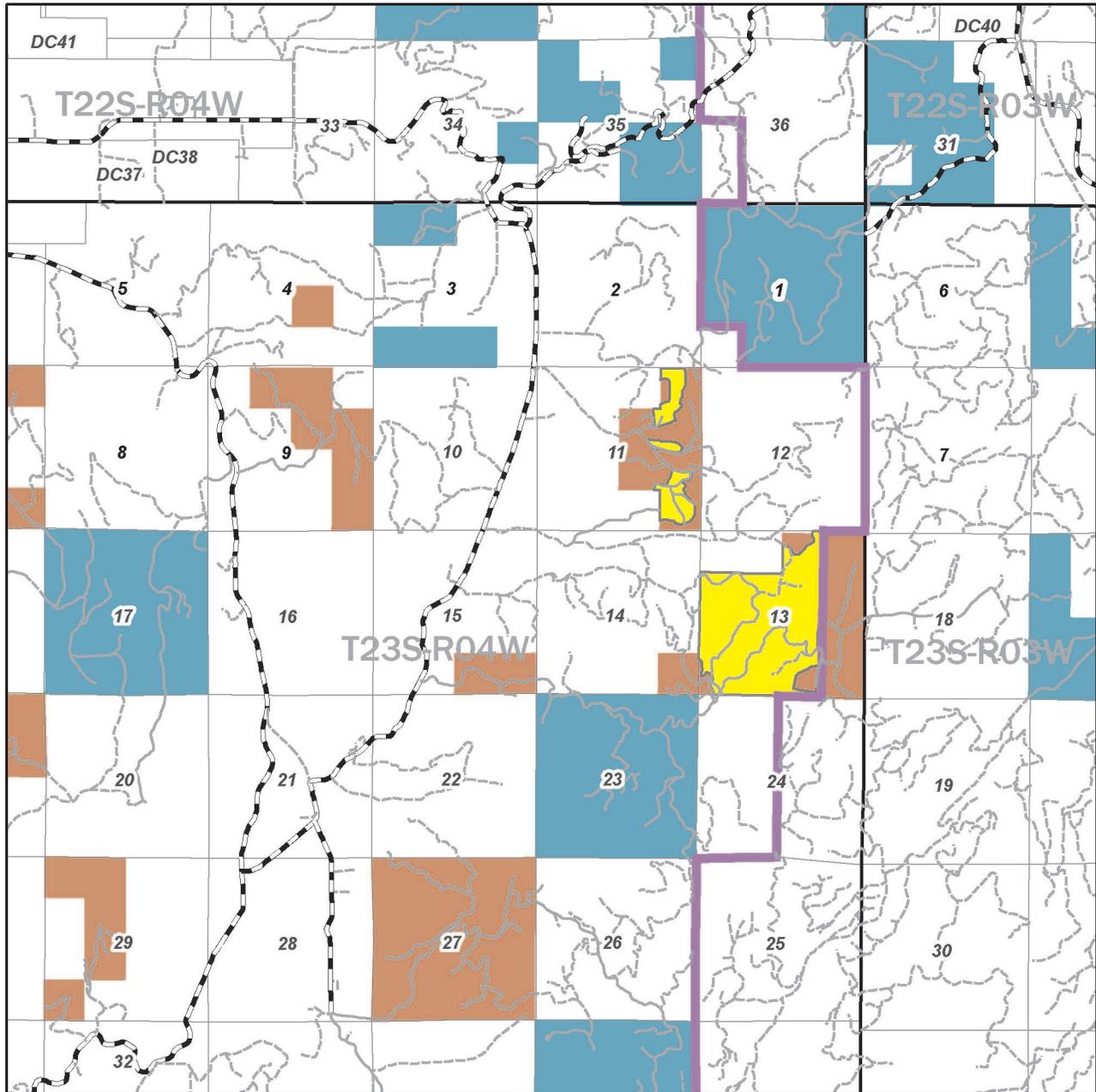
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Roseburg District Sample Tree Falling Categorical Exclusion

Off Your Walker Timber Sale



0 0.3 0.6
Mile

- Legend**
- Approximate Location where Sample Trees will be felled
 - Administrative Boundary**
 - Roseburg District Boundary
 - Resource Area Boundary
 - Roads**
 - County Road
 - Bureau of Land Management
 - Private Road
 - State and Federal Highways
 - BLM Land Use Allocation**
 - Adaptive Management Area
 - Connectivity
 - General Forest Management Area
 - Late Successional Reserve



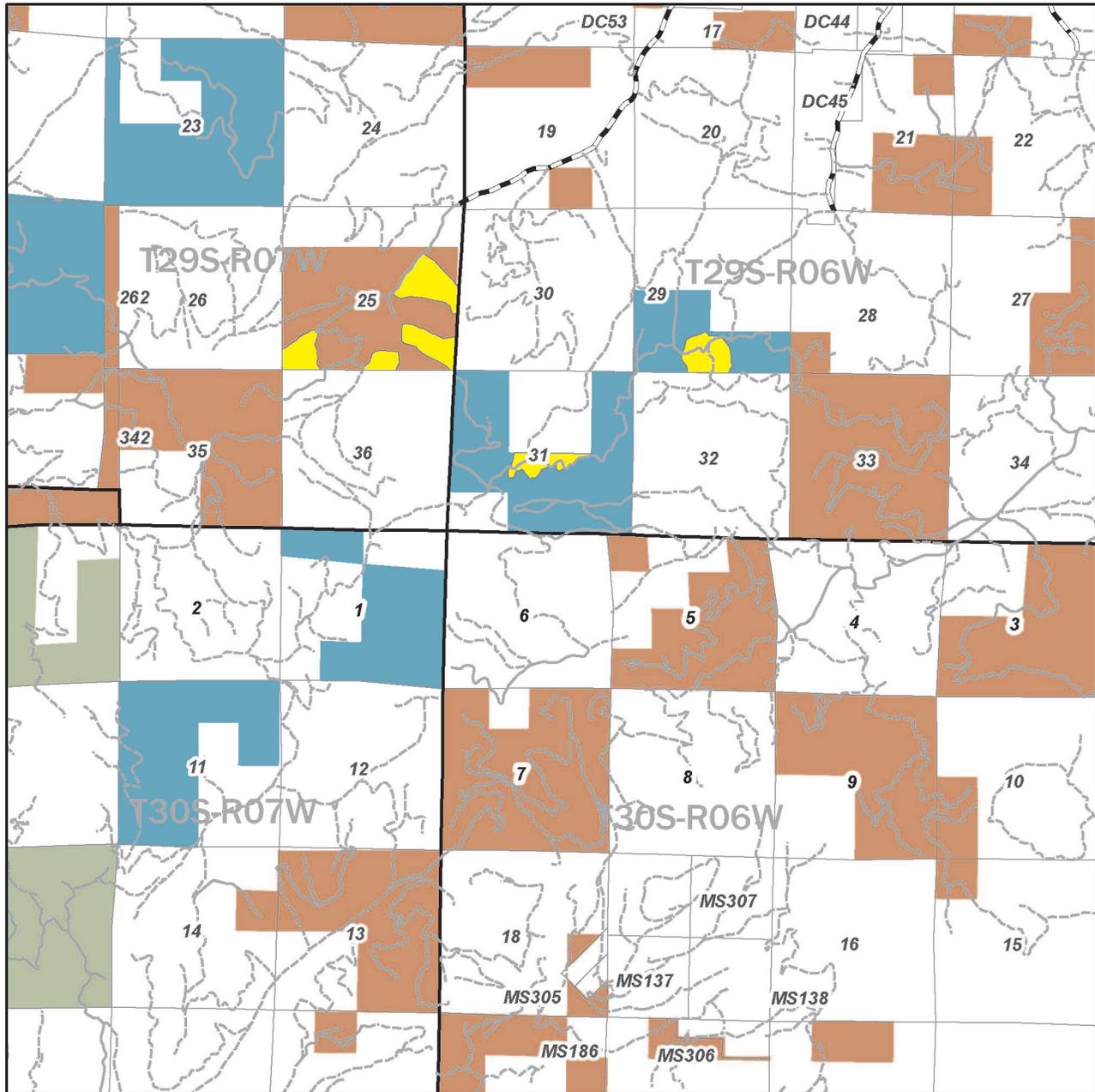
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Roseburg District Sample Tree Falling Categorical Exclusion

Rice Cake Timber Sale



- Legend**
- Approximate Location Where Sample Trees will be felled
 - Administrative Boundary**
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 - Roads**
 - County Road
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 - Private Road
 - State and Federal Highways
 - BLM Land Use Allocation**
 - Adaptive Management Area
 - Connectivity
 - General Forest Management Area
 - Late Successional Reserve

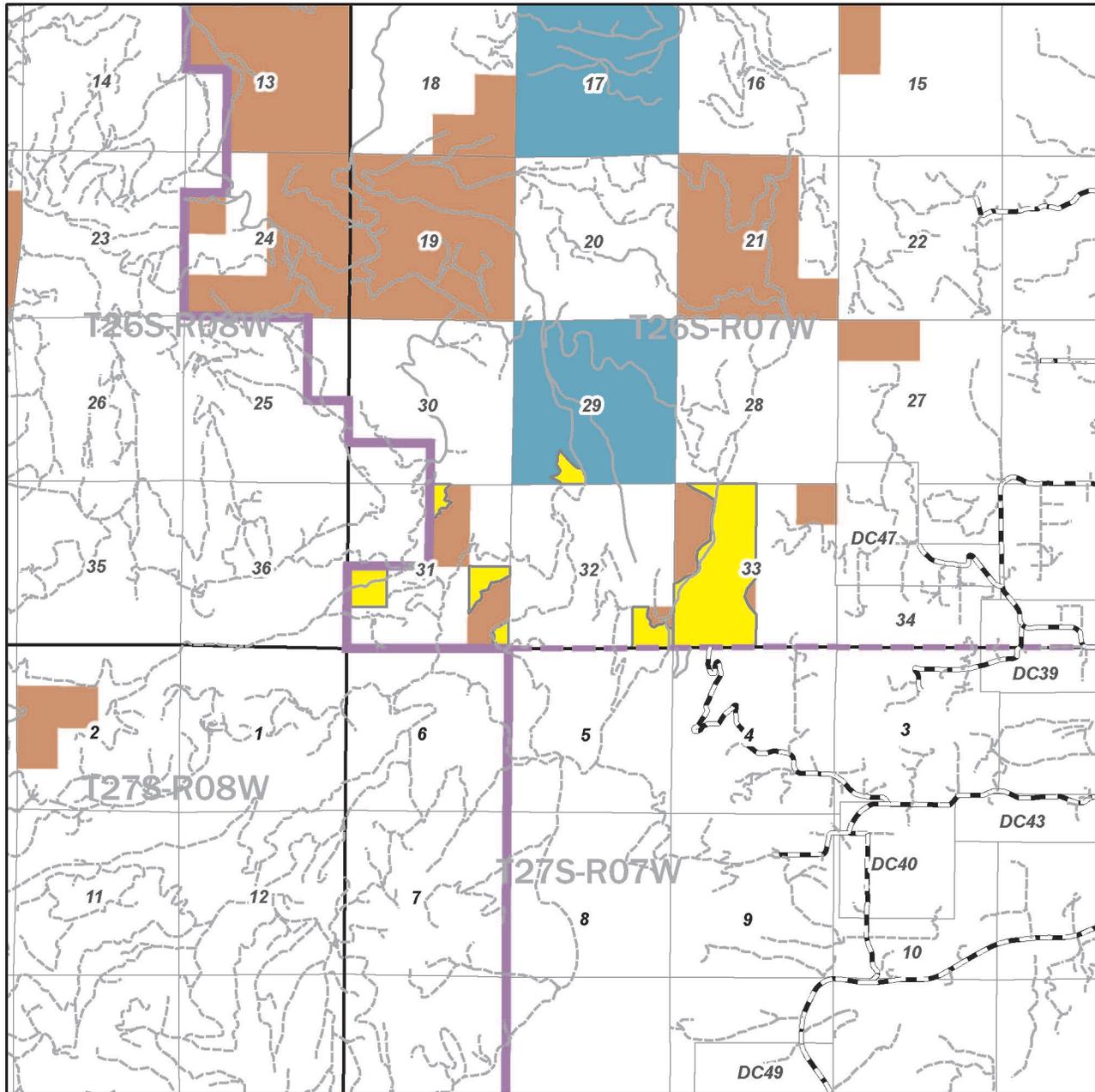


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Roseburg District Sample Tree Falling Categorical Exclusion Mud Slinger Timber Sale



- Legend**
- Approximate Location where Sample Trees will be felled
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 - Private Road
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 - BLM Land Use Allocation**
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 - Late Successional Reserve

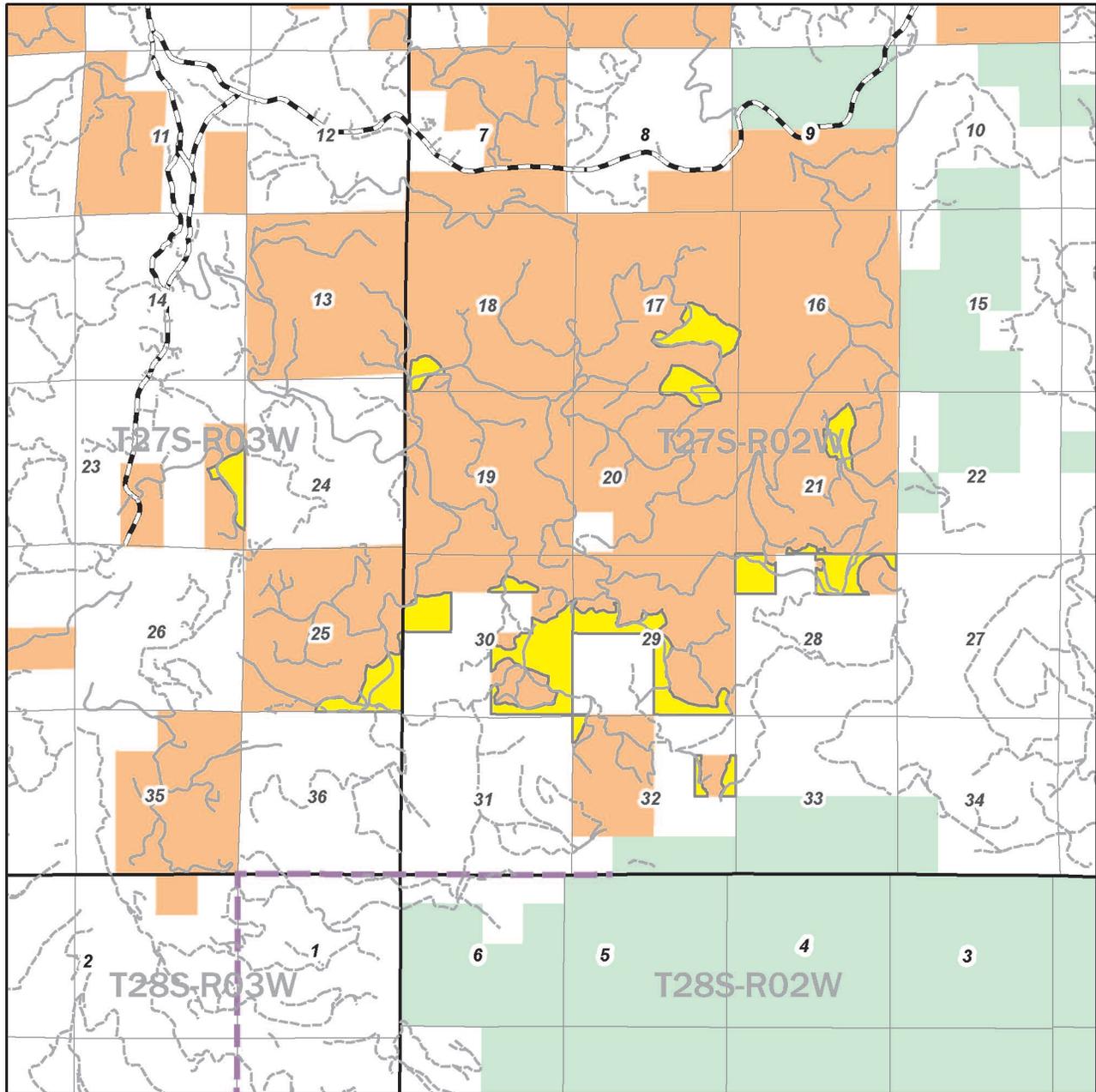


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Roseburg District Sample Tree Falling Categorical Exclusion Root Canal Timber Sale



- Legend**
- Approximate Location where Sample Trees will be felled
 - Administrative Boundary**
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 - County Road
 - Bureau of Land Management
 - Private Road
 - State and Federal Highways
 - BLM Land Use Allocation**
 - Adaptive Management Area
 - Connectivity
 - General Forest Management Area
 - Late Successional Reserve



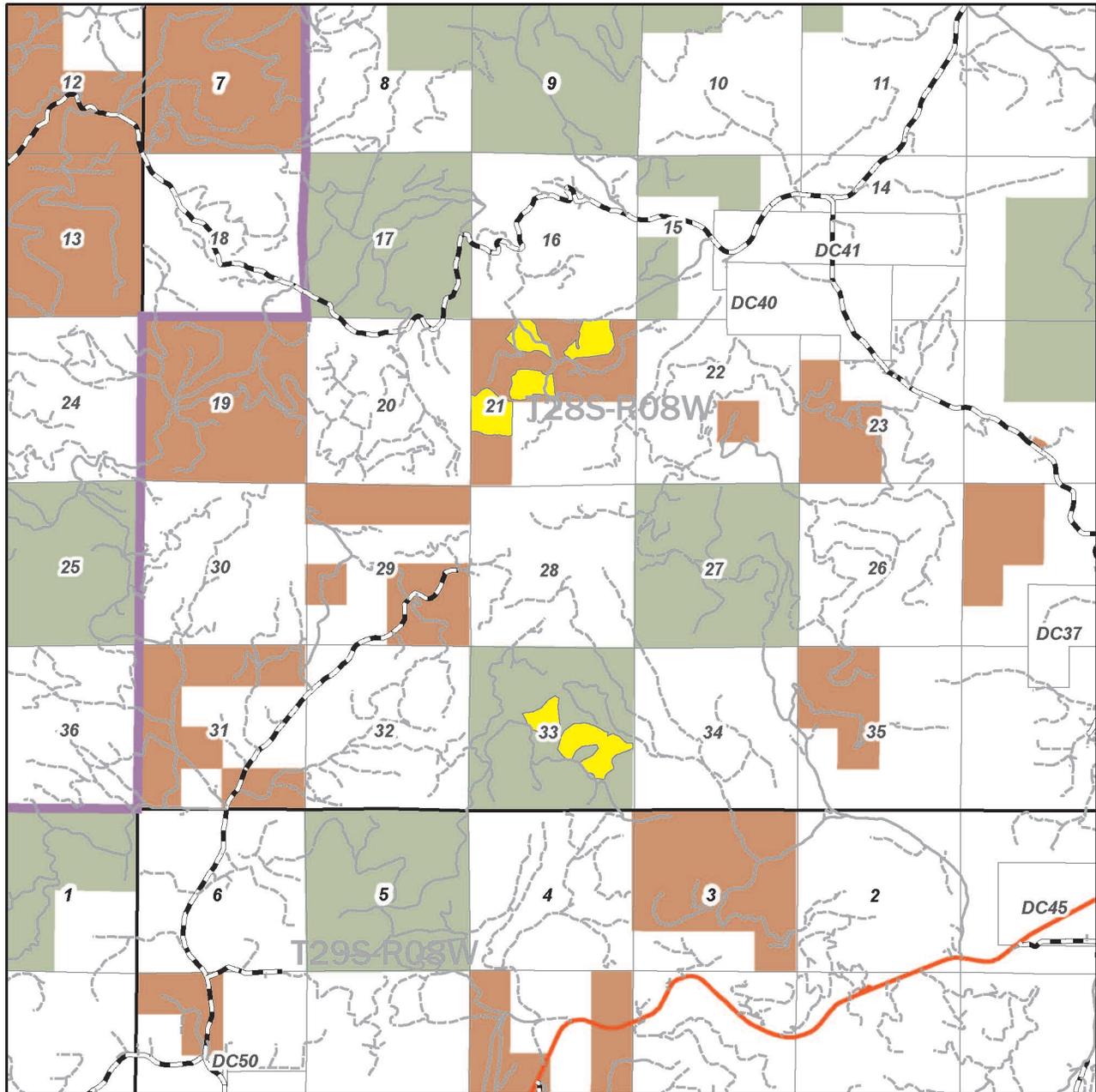
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Roseburg District Sample Tree Falling Categorical Exclusion

Eager Weaver Timber Sale



- Legend**
- Approximate Location Where Sample Trees will be felled
 - Administrative Boundary**
 - Roseburg District Boundary
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 - Roads**
 - County Road
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 - Private Road
 - State and Federal Highways
 - BLM Land Use Allocation**
 - Adaptive Management Area
 - Connectivity
 - General Forest Management Area
 - Late Successional Reserve



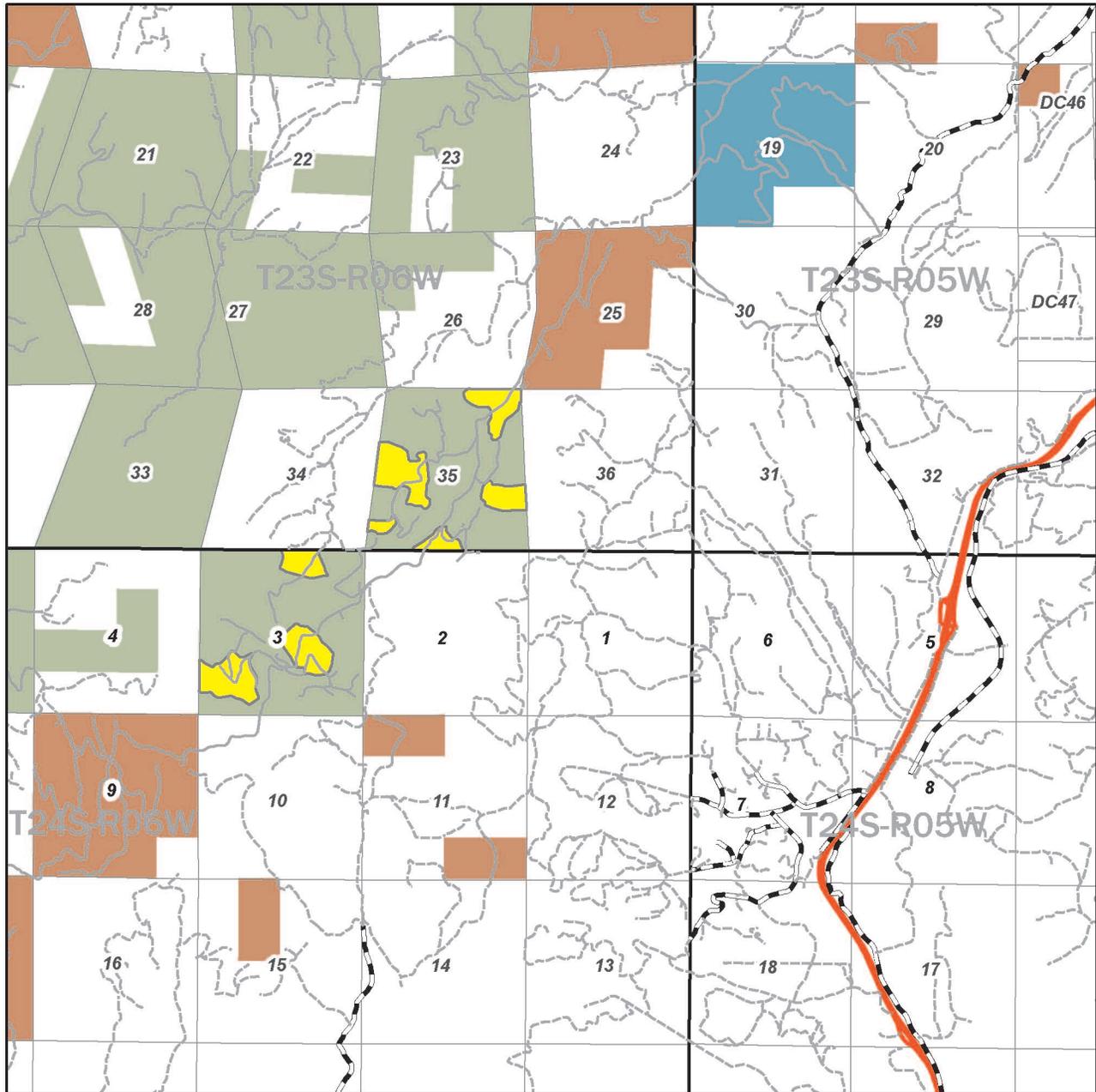
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Roseburg District Sample Tree Falling Categorical Exclusion

Sir Galahad Timber Sale



0 0.4 0.8
Mile

- Legend**
- Approximate Location where Sample Trees will be felled
 - Administrative Boundary**
 - Roseburg District Boundary
 - Resource Area Boundary
 - Roads**
 - County Road
 - Bureau of Land Management
 - Private Road
 - State and Federal Highways
 - BLM Land Use Allocation**
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 - Connectivity
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 - Late Successional Reserve



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

DECISION RECORD

Based upon the attached Categorical Exclusion (CX), DOI-BLM-OR-R000-2010-0001-CX, I have determined that the proposed action, sample tree felling, involves no significant impacts to the human environment and requires no further environmental analysis.

It is my decision to implement sample tree felling on commercial thinning and density management sales limited to the 2010 calendar year. Sample tree felling will help ensure accuracy of these timber cruises. I make this decision within the bounds of the authority provided to me within the Departmental Manual Part 516 Chapter 11 (516 DM 11). This authority is the result of an open public process, in which extensive public comment was considered (72 Federal Register 45504, August 14, 2007). 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 fell, 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 long-standing part of BLM's inventory, monitoring, and quality assurance programs, and it is a separate action from any proposed density management or thinning projects. It is my determination that this sampling procedure does not constitute an irrevocable commitment to market the sample trees or proceed with specific thinning projects. I base this determination on the limits described in the proposed action and the project design features which provide substantial "circuit-breaker" protections for a wide array of sensitive resource values. As described in the CX (DOI-BLM-OR-R000-2010-0001-CX), sample tree felling will be implemented in proposed sale units. These sales have only been proposed; no sale decision has been issued.

Notice of this forest management decision will be posted on the Roseburg District website, at: <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/roseburg/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 newspaper(s)". Under 43 CFR 5003.3 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), January 13, 2009.

Authorizing Official:


(Signature)

Date: 12/29/09

Jay K. Carlson
Roseburg District Manager