

**Environmental Assessment
For Substituting
Private Lands in the
Columbia Basin Shrub-Steppe
Assembled Land Exchange**
EA#OR135-07-EA-005

Prepared by:
Bureau of Land Management
Spokane District
Border Resource Area
December 2007

**Environmental Assessment
For Substituting
Private Lands in the
Columbia Basin Shrub-Steppe
Assembled Land Exchange
EA#OR135-07-EA-005**

Introduction

The Bureau of Land Management is considering adding 22 parcels of private land to the original Columbia Basin Shrub-Steppe assembled land exchange (CBSSA) proposal. Many of the private shrub-steppe parcels in the original exchange proposal and the subsequent amendment to that Environment Assessment (EA) have dropped out, and additional private lands are needed to substitute for the loss of private acreage previously approved for acquisition. The additional private lands total about 9,118 acres and are of the same character and provide the same opportunities as the original shrub-steppe lands. They are located in Lincoln, Whitman, Grant, Spokane and Stevens Counties (see attached maps in Appendix B).

No Federal lands will be added to the exchange.

Background

The original Decision Record for the CBSSA land exchange was issued on January 13, 2005. The reason for initiating the land exchange was to implement a directive in the Spokane Resource Management Plan Record of Decision (1987b, page i) to: “Conduct land tenure adjustments to consolidate or otherwise promote the efficient management of the public land resources, protect and improve valuable wildlife habitat, enhance recreational opportunities, and provide access to public lands.”

A subsequent EA and Decision Record, dated August 16, 2005, amended the original decision by adding 12 parcels of private land. Both decisions combined contain 43 parcels of private land comprising 27,330 acres. Table 1 summarizes the amount of acres that were proposed for acquisition in the first two decisions versus what was actually acquired. Overall, if this proposal is approved there is a potential of 1,916 less acres of private land being acquired by the federal government than what was proposed in the previous decisions. Grant and Spokane Counties show a potential increase in federal acres in their county while Lincoln, Whitman, and Stevens Counties will show a potential decrease in federal acres in their county.

Parcel P49 was analyzed in the original EA (EA#OR135-03-01) and included the decision record as being suitable for acquisition, but was not considered a member of the configuration of parcels most likely to be acquired (deferred). The parcel is again included in this EA because it is adjacent to parcels (P75 & P76) that were not previously analyzed.

Table 1. Summary of Previously Approved & Proposed Acquisition Acres					
County	Acres in Previous Decision Records¹	Acres Acquired	Acres Not Acquired	Proposed Acquisition Acres	Difference Between Acres Not Acquired & Proposed
Adams	180	180	0	0	0
Grant	0	0	0	1,640	1,640
Lincoln	14,863	8,646	6,217	6,170	-47
Spokane	0	0	0	542	542
Stevens	4,225	1,661	2,564	465	-2,099
Whitman	2,864	611	2,253	301	-1,952
Okanogan	240	0	240	0	0
Douglas	4,958	0	4,958	0	0
	27,330	11,098	16,232	9,118	-1,916

¹ Does not include deferred acreage in decision records.

The initial transaction for this exchange was completed in July, 2005. Since then 20 parcels of private land totaling 11,092 acres have been acquired in exchange for 34 parcels of Federal land totaling 3,266 acres.

Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action

The Federal Land Management and Policy Act (FLPMA) of 1975 states: “Section 206 (a) A tract of public land or interests therein may be disposed of by exchange by the Secretary under this Act ...where the Secretary concerned determines that the public interest will be well served by making that exchange.”

It also states: “[Section 206] (b) In exercising the exchange authority granted by subsection (a) ...of this Act, the Secretary ...may accept title to any non-Federal land or interests therein in exchange for such land, or interests therein which he finds proper for transfer out of Federal ownership and which are located in the same State as the non-Federal land or interest to be acquired.

The Spokane Resource Management Plan Amendment (1992) states “The highest land tenure adjustment priority will be placed on consolidation of public lands through land exchanges into, between and within the ten management areas.” These management areas are areas where most of the contiguous BLM-administered lands in eastern Washington existed. This RMP Amendment further states that “Exchanges would be accomplished to acquire specific tracts that: provide greater expanses of uninterrupted high value wildlife habitats, possess recreational values that can be better managed and/or developed in public ownership, provide legal access to other public lands, qualify as an ACEC, have high scenic values, enhance the value/manageability of other public land, or possess other resource values of public interest that would be devalued or lost if retained in private ownership.”

Large blocks of land property support wildlife habitat needs in the region, in particular the shrub-steppe habitat. In eastern Washington, there are few large blocks of public land available for the general public's outdoor recreational pursuits. This is an important consideration, in view of the increasing population of major communities in eastern Washington.

There are 17 parcels of Federal land remaining in the exchange with an estimated value of \$2.5 million dollars. The Federal government has received approximately \$1.4 million dollars in equalization payments as a result of the previous transactions in this exchange. The payments have been placed into a ledger account. The ledger account must be balanced and closed by the end of July, 2008.

Conformance With Land Use Plans

Including the additional 9,118 acres of private land is in conformance with the Spokane BLM District Resource Management Plan Amendment (June 1992) as described above in the Purpose and Needs section. In addition, the multiple-use management direction proposed for the parcels after their acquisition also conforms to the Spokane BLM District RMP.

Alternatives

Alternative 1 - Proposed Action (Include Additional Private Lands in Exchange)

The Proposed Action is to acquire fee title to the 9,118 acres identified by legal description in Appendix 1 and as shown on Maps in Appendix 2. This alternative would be subject to the management actions listed below:

General

- The BLM will manage the acquired lands according to applicable federal laws and regulations, including the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended; the Federal Land Management and Policy Act (FLMPA) of 1976; and the Spokane Resource Management Plan, Record of Decision (1987), as amended in 1992. The acquired lands will be managed for multiple uses, pursuant to management guidance in the Spokane RMP, including management for cultural and Native American resources, wildlife habitat, recreation, forest products, and livestock grazing. The 1992 RMP Amendment specifically states that "any lands acquired through exchange, purchase, or donation, or lands which have been returned to BLM administration (from other federal agency administration) through withdrawal review, would be placed under the guidance specified for the RMP-designated management area where it is located." All but three of the proposed acquisition parcels are within the Upper Crab Creek Management Area (MA). Parcels P63 and P78 (Whitman County) are within the Scattered Tracts MA, and Parcel P77 (Stevens County) is within the Northeast MA. The management goal for the Upper Crab Creek MA is to enhance native riparian and sagebrush steppe habitat, enhance opportunities for wildlife-based recreation, identify and protect significant cultural values and to protect significant sensitive species habitat. The management goal for the Scattered Tracts MA is to conserve the potential of rangeland, wildlife and fishing habitat, woodlands, and recreation opportunities. The management goals for the Northeast MA are to manage timber production and work with intermingled landowners

to consolidate landownership into manageable blocks, emphasize maintenance or improvement of key wildlife habitat areas and recreation opportunities in key areas.

- Any unique or fragile resource values on the acquired lands will be protected and managed on an interim basis until completion of the next RMP revision.

Soil, Air, Water, and Vegetation

- Project-level inventory, evaluation, and planning for soil, water, air and vegetation resources will be conducted as site-specific projects are proposed on the acquired parcels. Soils will be managed to maintain productivity and minimize erosion. Corrective actions will be taken to reduce accelerated erosion. Air and water quality will be protected. Shrub-steppe and native vegetation will be monitored and provided protection in activity planning.
- Management actions will include measures to protect or restore natural functioning condition in accordance with Executive Orders 11988 and 11990 and the Oregon-Washington Riparian Enhancement Plan (1987). The general goal will be to maintain, restore, or improve riparian areas to achieve a healthy and productive ecological condition for maximum long-term multiple-use benefits and values.
- Noxious/invasive weeds inventoried on acquired lands could be treated or controlled using chemical or biological methods, as needed and according to the Final EIS for Vegetation Treatment on BLM Lands in Thirteen Western States (July 1991) and the Spokane District Noxious Weed Control Environmental Assessment, and any subsequent updates, revisions, or replacements to either of these documents. Weed management could include planting and seeding of native species, adjustments in grazing plans, and coordination with both county and state agencies, and adjacent landowners to control weed populations in support of healthy ecosystems.
- The BLM will review and comply with the Conservation Agreement between BLM and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (1995) concerning Washington polemonium. This agreement states that public land on which this species is present will be managed to conserve the species and avoid any actions that might lead to the need for it to be listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).
- The BLM will review and comply with the Programmatic Biological Assessment (2002) (BA) concerning the following Federally Listed plant species:
 1. Water howellia (*Howellia aquatilis*) Threatened
 2. Spalding's catchfly (*Silene spaldingii*) Threatened

This BA was based on agreements reached between BLM and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (2002) concerning Spalding's catchfly. The BA describes actions to be taken if populations of *Silene spaldingii* are found in the future. The BA also states "If additional populations [of Water howellia] are found in the future, livestock will be excluded from the ponds or from the pastures where those ponds occur by fencing or by removing that pasture from the grazing plan." (p.5)

Livestock Grazing Management and Rangeland Improvements

- Grazing may be authorized on an interim basis, pending completion of an allotment management plan and environmental assessment addressing grazing on the acquired lands. Any grazing authorization will be subject to an overview onsite evaluation to set temporary use parameters. The grazing authorizations will be issued according to guidance in the Spokane RMP and BLM regulations, including the *Standards and Guidelines for Rangeland Health for Oregon and Washington* (August 12, 1997). Interim grazing authorizations will be approved subject to future development of an Allotment Management Plan, which will entail analyzing current conditions and tailoring grazing regimes to maintain or enhance rangeland conditions on the allotment.
- New grazing allotments will be placed in management categories based on present resource conditions, potential for BLM management actions to change conditions, and land ownership pattern. The management categories are Improve (I), Maintain (M), or Custodial (C).
- If it is necessary to make progress towards meeting BLM Range Health Standards and Guidelines, grazing seasons and levels of use could be adjusted or other changes could be made to the grazing plans.
- Rangeland improvements could be developed or modified, subject to consistency with BLM objectives, site-specific environmental analysis, and BLM approval.
- The shrub-steppe parcels that are currently being grazed under private ownership are likely to be grazed at a lower intensity (reduced numbers and/or length of season of use) under BLM management.

Wildlife, Riparian Habitat and Fisheries

- Management actions will be consistent with conservation needs of special status species and will not contribute to the need to list any special status species (BLM Manual Section 6840.02.B).

Energy and Mineral Resources

- All land acquired by the U. S. Government in this exchange will remain closed to operation of the land and mineral laws for a period of 90 days after acceptance of title by the United States (43 CFR 2091.3-2(c)). The land will subsequently and automatically be opened, subject to valid existing rights, to operation under the public land laws and mineral laws.
- With the Exception of Parcel P77 the Federal Government will acquire the surface and mineral estate. The current owner of Parcel P77 does not own the mineral estate.

Cultural, Archaeological, and Paleontological Resources

- Reasonable effort will be made to identify, record, and evaluate historical, cultural and paleontological resources.
- Before any proposed activities are implemented on the acquired lands, an inventory

and/or assessment will be conducted to identify related impacts on cultural and paleontological resources in accordance with applicable laws, including Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act 1966, as amended.

Recreation/Access

- The acquired parcel will be available for dispersed, non-motorized recreational activities, subject to legal access, District management policy and guidance, applicable state regulations, and the need for resource protection.
- Activities such as hunting will be deferred at least until 2009 to allow time for placement of recreational improvements (signing) to protect adjacent private lands, structures, and wildlife/vegetation values.
- Recreation improvements, such as kiosk/sign installation and parking area construction, may be necessary at key entry points to the acquired parcel to protect natural resources and enhance the public use of the area.
- The 1992 RMP Amendment limited travel by motorized vehicles within the Crab Creek MA to designated routes. This would apply to all but three of the proposed acquisition parcels. The RMP travel designation for the Scattered Parcels MA (Parcels 63 and 78) and Northeast MA (Parcel 77) is “open.” Therefore, motorized vehicles would be allowed to travel off-road on the two parcels within these areas.

Hazardous Materials

- Lands proposed for acquisition are subjected to an Environmental Site Assessment process in accordance with Departmental guidance (602 DM 2.1) and other laws and policy. As part of this process, an Initial Assessment (IA) is performed in the field in accordance with the American Standard for Testing and Materials to identify environmental conditions that could lead to liabilities. IAs are conducted in areas subject to past human intrusion (roads, structures, mines, solid waste dumps, etc.) to satisfy the due-diligence provisions associated with the “innocent purchaser” provisions of the 1986 Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act [(40 USC 9601 (35))].
- Potential environmental issues or liabilities will be identified and addressed prior to acquisition.

Timber Management

- The parcel in Stevens County, P77, has been logged under private ownership. Under BLM management, it is likely to be managed for timber production in the long term, with the objective of restoring forest health and diversity, as discussed in the Huckleberry Mountains Forest Management Programmatic Environmental Assessment (2007).

Socioeconomic

- The acquired parcels will be available for multiple uses (including grazing and dispersed recreational activities) that provide economic support to local communities and the region, while adhering to RMP management guidance for the Upper Crab Creek, Northeast, and Scattered Tracts Management Areas and specific resource values.

Alternative 2 – No Action/No Acquisition

The additional private lands would not be included in the exchange.

Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences

The following section describes the potentially affected environment by resource values and the potential impacts that could occur from the alternatives. The text focuses on resource values that have potential for significant impacts. Since the properties have been in private ownership, the affected environment information is the best available data, collected by resource specialists during field visits or researching historical data to assess the value of the property for public benefit.

Vegetation, Including Special Status Species:Affected Environment & Potential Impacts on Vegetation:

Nearly all of the private parcels have vegetation that is characterized as shrub-steppe. Big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*) is the dominant shrub; threetip sagebrush (*A. tripartita*) occurs on some north-facing slopes. Potential natural plant communities on relatively deep soils include big sagebrush/bluebunch wheatgrass, big sagebrush/Idaho fescue and threetip sagebrush/Idaho fescue. Plant communities on lithosols (shallow rocky soil) include stiff sagebrush/Sandberg's bluegrass and communities dominated by buckwheats (*Eriogonum* spp.). Parcels P49, P75 and P76 have Ponderosa pine/snowberry, Ponderosa pine/Idaho fescue, and bluebunch wheatgrass-Idaho fescue communities. P77, located in the Huckleberry Mountains, includes coniferous forest with minor amounts of mixed forest, shrub-steppe and grassland.

Wilson Creek and its tributaries, Sinking Creek and Goose Creek, flow through P64a, P64b, P66a, P68, P69, P70a, P70c, and P74. Some of these riparian systems may support communities dominated by trees and shrubs such as river birch, quaking aspen, and willow. There are wetlands on P49, P64b, P65, P67, P70b and P75. P73 includes part of the shoreline of Pacific Lake.

Culturally important plants are likely to be present on all of the parcels. Berry-producing plants in shrub-steppe include serviceberry (*Amelanchier alnifolia*), choke cherry (*Prunus virginiana*), golden currant (*Ribes aureum*), wax currant (*Ribes cereum*), elderberry (*Sambucus cerulea*), and Wood's rose (*Rosa woodsii*). Culturally important root crop plants in shrub-steppe communities include several species of desert-parsley (*Lomatium* spp.), yampah (*Perideridia gairdneri*), blue camas (*Camassia quamash*), onions (*Allium* spp.), mariposa lily (*Calochortus macrocarpus*), balsamroot (*Balsamorhiza* spp.), and bitterroot (*Lewisia rediviva*). The forested portion of P77 may have huckleberry (*Vaccinium* spp.), gooseberry (*Ribes* spp.), raspberry (*Rubus* spp.), strawberry (*Fragaria* spp.), Oregon grape (*Mahonia* spp.), kinnikinnick (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*), spring beauty (*Claytonia lanceolata*), cow parsnip (*Heracleum lanatum*), and others.

Two listed plant species, Spalding's catchfly (*Silene spaldingii*) and water howellia (*Howellia aquatilis*) occur in eastern Washington and are potentially present on some of the parcels. In earlier surveys of potential land acquisitions, Spalding's catchfly was found near the northern boundary of P49. Spalding's catchfly occurs on BLM lands to the west and

south of parcels P49, P75 and P76, so it may also occur on those parcels. P63 and P78 are within the known range of Spalding's catchfly and are located in between two BLM parcels (Rock Creek and Packer Creek) where this species occurs. However, the terrain of P63 and P78 is primarily south- and west-facing slopes, so they are unlikely to support Spalding's catchfly, which typically grows on north-facing slopes.

Water howellia occurs on BLM land adjacent to P75, so it may occur in wetlands on parcels P75 and P49. Four parcels in far western Lincoln County, P64a, P65, P67 and P70b, also have wetlands, but water howellia has not been found near this area.

One Bureau Sensitive and Washington state Threatened plant, Washington polemonium (*Polemonium pectinatum*), occurs on BLM lands in the Wilson Creek drainage. Its habitat is creek terraces and upland swales. It may occur on P64a, b, c, and d, P65, P66a, P67, P68, P69, P70a, b, and c, P72, and P74. Washington polemonium could also occur on P73, as it occurs in the Lake Creek drainage and is present on BLM land and private land just north of that parcel.

There are no reports of Special Status plant species on P77 or lands adjacent to it.

Potential Impacts on Vegetation: As a result of likely reduced grazing levels and weed management actions, cover of native vegetation is likely to increase on these parcels if they are acquired by BLM.

Acquisition of these parcels would allow BLM to protect any populations of Spalding's catchfly, water howellia, or Washington polemonium that occur on the parcels, as well as populations of other Special Status species that may occur. Although Washington polemonium is not Federally listed or proposed for listing, BLM policy states that it will be managed so as to avoid the need for listing in the future, and BLM has a Conservation Agreement in place with FWS for this species. Each parcel will be surveyed for these and other special status species prior to implementing specific activities within the parcel, and management actions will follow the guidelines set forth in the Border Resource Area Programmatic Biological Assessment (2002). These guidelines include monitoring of livestock use, vegetation, and special species populations, and adjustment of management practices as needed to protect Special Status plants. Consequently, we anticipate that impacts of Alternative 1 on Special Status species will be positive or neutral.

Under Alternative 2 (No Action/No Acquisition), the shrub-steppe parcels are likely to continue to be grazed at current levels if they remain under private ownership. P77 is likely to be logged in the future if it remains in private ownership. There would be no opportunity to provide Federal protection to any Spalding's catchfly populations or water howellia populations that may occur on these lands, as Federally listed species are not protected on private lands. There would also be no opportunity to protect populations of Washington polemonium that may occur on these lands.

Water Resources/Riparian/Wetlands:

There are approximately 16.0 miles of riparian habitat (7.7 miles of Wilson Creek, 1.5 miles of Goose Creek, 0.6 miles of Sinking Creek, 0.3 miles of Imbler Creek, 0.3 miles of Hog Canyon Creek, 0.2 miles of North Fork Hunter Creek, and 5.4 miles of unnamed creeks).

and approximately 77.8 acres of wetland habitat (Nicholson Lake, Duffy's Lake, parts of Hog Lake and Clear Lake, and seasonal ponds/wetlands) within this shrub-steppe area that are available for wildlife species use. In addition there are 0.3 miles of Pacific Lake shoreline.

Potential Impacts on Water Resources/Riparian Areas/Wetlands: Acquisition of the shrub-steppe parcels (Alternative 1) would result in a net increase of approximately 16.0 miles of riparian habitat, and 77.8 acres of wetland habitat under BLM management. Livestock grazing and other uses along the streams, riparian areas, and wetlands would be subject to monitoring and changes in levels or types of uses to maintain or enhance their condition.

Under Alternative 2 (No Action/No Acquisition), the opportunity to bring the above identified streams and wetlands into public ownership would be foregone and the resources would be subject to private land management practices.

Wildlife/Fisheries Habitat, Including Special Status Species:

The majority of the 9,118 acres of habitat in the proposed acquisition area is shrub-steppe. There are also lesser amounts of forest/shrub habitat, cropland (most notably in the Wilson Creek corridor), and Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). CRP lands support simple plant communities dominated by seeded nonnative grasses such as crested wheatgrass. The entire area is within the shrub-steppe zone of Washington State, containing suitable habitat to support a wide diversity of shrub-dependent wildlife species. Many of the parcels contain important habitat for breeding raptors, including red-tailed, Swainson's and ferruginous hawks, kestrels, and prairie falcons. Shrub-steppe nesting habitat is an important feature to many Bureau Special Status Species.

Ponderosa pine dominates the forested/shrub habitat, which are generally zones of high reptile and bird diversity. Forest/shrub habitat occurs mostly on the Canyon Lakes (P75) and Scroggie (P49) parcels (33% forest/shrub, 67% shrub-steppe) and Vaagen parcel (P77) (90% forest/shrub, 10% shrub-steppe). Much of the timber on the Vaagen parcel has been harvested. The stands of aspen found throughout the woodlands, especially around permanent and seasonal wetlands, provide important wildlife habitat.

Cliff and talus habitats are found on most of the proposed acquisition parcels, primarily around wetlands. Some small crevices and cracks are present and may provide habitat for species such as bats. No known raptor nests are recorded for the parcels, although suitable nesting habitat is present.

The streams, riparian areas, and wetlands described in the "Water Resources/Riparian Areas/Wetlands" section of this environmental assessment also provide important habitat for various wildlife species.

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife records indicate that all but one of the proposed acquisition areas contain historical sharp-tailed grouse habitat (a federal species of concern/state threatened) and historical sage grouse habitat (a federal candidate species/state threatened). The Vaagen parcel (P77) contains historical sharp-tailed grouse habitat but not sage grouse habitat. No historical sage grouse or sharp-tailed grouse leks are known to have been located in the proposed acquisition areas. The nearest recorded sharp-tailed grouse lek

(1993) is 9.6 mi southeast of the Bauer parcel (P66a), just north of the Swanson Lakes Management Area. The nearest recorded sage grouse lek (1978) is 6.2 mi south of the Dormaier parcel (P74). In 1993 an adult sage grouse with 4 young was observed 1.2 miles west of the Jantz, Merlin parcel (P73). This parcel may contain suitable nesting habitat.

Bureau Special Status Species known to occur on or within the vicinity (10 miles and observed within last 10 years) of the acquisition parcels include:

Birds: Common loon, long-billed curlew, bald eagle, peregrine falcon, prairie falcon, ferruginous hawk, Swainson's hawk, burrowing owl, gyrfalcon, Lewis' woodpecker, black-backed woodpecker, loggerhead shrike, American white pelican, sage sparrow, and sage thrasher.

Mammals: Long-eared myotis, white-tailed jackrabbit, and Washington ground squirrel.

Some of the acquisition parcels may provide foraging and nesting habitat for the bald eagle. The Canyon Lakes and Scroggie Parcels (P75, P49) include forested lakes which may be suitable for nesting and foraging. These parcels are approximately 3 miles from an active bald eagle nest on Fishtrap Lake. There are no recorded peregrine falcon nests known to occur on the acquisition parcels. The area contains suitable big game habitat for elk, mule deer and white-tailed deer.

All parcels are outside the range of anadromy, so there are no listed salmon or steelhead involved. Some tributaries are fish-bearing, and some are intermittent streams (non-fish bearing). Fish species in the fish-bearing streams include rainbow trout, white fish, sculpin, dace, and shiners.

The Canyon Lakes (P75), Dormaier (P74), Andersen (P64a), Quirk (P70c), Hughes (P68), and Bauer (P66a) parcels may have fisheries potential.

Potential Impacts on Wildlife/Fisheries Habitat: Overall, under Alternative 1 (Proposed Action-Acquisition), there would be a gain in shrub-steppe, forested/shrub habitat, cliff/talus habitat, and riparian/wetland habitat under BLM management. Acquiring this habitat would allow BLM to manage large contiguous blocks of habitat for a variety of wildlife species, with a specific benefit to those species with a larger home range and/or space requirements and species whose habitats are currently declining, both in quantity and quality in the Columbia Basin. In addition, acquiring this habitat would benefit special status species known to occur in the area, and in particular sharp-tailed grouse, sage grouse, and Washington ground squirrel.

Alternative 2 (No Action/No Acquisition) would restrict the conservation of shrub-steppe habitat. The opportunity to consolidate and conserve additional fish and wildlife habitat and substantially increase management efficiency and associated public benefits would be foregone.

If the No Action Alternative is selected, approximately 9,118 acres of privately owned shrub-steppe/forested shrub habitat could in the future be converted to agriculture and/or subdivided into 20-40 acre development parcels. Converting the shrub-steppe vegetation to agriculture crops would reduce habitat for resident and migratory wildlife species, including

sharp-tailed and sage grouse (state Threatened) and other Bureau Sensitive Species. Populations of small mammals and reptiles would be greatly reduced. Conversion of the shrub-steppe habitat could reduce foraging opportunities for breeding raptors.

Soil Resources:

Soils: Soils on the parcels are of the Anders–Bakeoven–Rock outcrop type. These soils occur on nearly level to moderately steep, moderately deep and very shallow soils in 12 to 16 inch precipitation zone, and rock outcrop. These soil associations exhibit slow to rapid surface runoff and slight to high erosion hazard. The main limitations of these soils for rangeland use are shallowness to basalt, which limits its available surface water capacity and its rocky/stony surface layer which interferes with farm/ranch machinery use.

Potential Impacts on Soils: Acquisition of these properties (Alternative 1 – Proposed Action), for the most part, projected recreational use on the acquired land is expected to be dispersed and therefore the areas should incur minimal soil compaction. Existing fencing would curtail recreational uses to non-motorized vehicles in most areas. Those areas where vehicles access and are parked would likely incur greater compaction. Site-specific impacts, including those on soils, would be addressed in site-specific environmental assessments and mitigated where possible or necessary.

Under Alternative 2 (No Action/No Acquisition), soils could be impacted by actions of the private landowners. Soil compaction could be less, since the property would not be legally accessible by the general public.

Energy and Mineral Resources:

With the exception of parcel P77, all mineral estate on the subject acquisition lands are held by the private landowner.

The private land parcels proposed for acquisition through exchange in Lincoln, Whitman, Grant, and Spokane Counties are situated in the Columbia Plateau geologic region. Most private land included in this EA and identified for potential acquisition is within the Columbia Basin area of Lincoln County. Late Miocene basalt flows and younger sediments filled the Columbia Basin. Generally, multiple horizontal basalt flow sequences ranging from 30 to 70 feet in thickness exceed 2,300 to 3,200 feet in total thickness in this area and are up to 10,000 feet thick further to the southwest. Surficial geology in the area where non-federal lands are likely to be acquired has also been sculpted by large-scale Holocene glacial flooding and erosion, resulting in what is termed the “Channeled Scablands.”

Leasable Minerals: Based on the suspected presence of sedimentary rocks beneath the Columbia River Basin basalts, the parcels in Lincoln County are believed to have moderate potential for oil and gas (at depth).

Locatable Minerals: Although there is potential for small, locatable minerals deposits to be associated with igneous rocks (both intrusive and extrusive) and sedimentary rocks, no outcrops of these rocks were observed during related Hazardous Materials inspections of the parcels for acquisition in Lincoln County. These rocks and associated mineral deposits may exist at depth, but it is highly unlikely that economic occurrences of these minerals are

present in this area. Therefore, locatable mineral potential for these parcels is believed to be low.

Salable Materials: Most parcels identified for acquisition in Lincoln County are situated in the Columbia River Basin and have moderate high potential for deposits of salable materials (such as sand and gravel, crushed rock, or decorative basalt columns) due to their proximity to glacial Lake Missoula outbreak floods and historical and present rivers, local streams. Purchase price of these salable minerals is greatly dependent upon market demand, competition, and transport distant to a market.

Potential Mineral Interference: The likelihood for surface interference between potential mineral development activities on the parcels for acquisition relative to surrounding land use (i.e. farming, residential, schools, etc.) was also evaluated using general data obtained from Hazardous Materials inspections, local geology, available literature, and professional knowledge. Surface interference on or adjacent to the parcels is anticipated to be low. Most acquired parcels would be aggregated with existing BLM property and mineral availability may in fact be enhanced through larger Federal parcel ownership. Future mineral exploration and development and resulting potential surface interference would be regulated by Federal regulations and BLM surface management policy.

Potential Impacts on Energy & Mineral Resources: Under Alternative 1 (Proposed Action), mineral estates associated with lands for potential acquisition, if available at the time of this exchange, would be transferred to the United States. In accordance with 43 CFR 2109.3-2(c), the received lands would automatically be segregated for 90 days. Mineral entry would then be open to the public, unless otherwise segregated. Mineral-related surface use conflicts on these lands are expected to be minimal due to limited conflicting activities believed to exist on these parcels. Considering the likelihood and location of leasable energy and mineral resources, development is not expected to occur on these parcels. In the event that oil and gas resources are located at depth, the development “footprint” for a drilling and extraction site is anticipated to be relatively small and controllable. Primary mineral material commodities anticipated to be present on these parcels include sand, gravel, and quarry rock which serve as basic components in development of local infrastructure. These materials will be available for future use as appropriate under BLM regulation.

Under Alternative 2 (No Action/No Acquisition), all of the energy and mineral resources estate would remain in private ownership. Any mineral activity would be similar under the Proposed Action and the No Action alternative. Mineral activity on the private lands would be regulated by the State of Washington under applicable laws.

Recreation and Access:

The majority of the lands proposed for acquisition are within the “Channeled Scablands” region of Eastern Washington, home to geologic features found nowhere else in the world. There is high potential in this region for increasing opportunities associated with backcountry experiences in sagebrush shrub-steppe country and dispersed recreation activities such as camping, hunting, hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking, Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) use, nature study (such as wildflower and wildlife viewing), and

environmental education. Most of the lands to be acquired are located within two hours or less of major population centers.

Lands adjacent to larger tracts of BLM-managed lands are increasingly popular with visitors, because they offer many dispersed recreation opportunities and are located within a two-hour drive of Spokane. Other public lands in the vicinity had more than 11,000 visitors in FY07.

If all of the parcels are acquired they can be accessed by the public via county roads and/or State Highways.

Potential Impacts on Recreation and Access: Under Alternative 1 (Proposed Action) the acquired land could receive higher public use as the BLM consolidates its scattered public land pattern and makes access improvements. Having large blocks of public land available for recreational opportunities is especially important given the increasing populations of surrounding cities within a few hours drive. Recreation improvements may be necessary on the newly acquired lands to protect natural resources and enhance the public use of the area. These types of improvements could attract higher numbers of visitors which would benefit the public directly through an enriched experience on BLM-administered lands.

Under Alternative 2 (No Action/No Acquisition), recreational opportunities on the parcels would be limited to the private landowner and persons authorized by the landowner.

Cultural and Archaeological Resources:

The acquisition properties are located within the traditional use area of the Spokane, Columbia Salish and Palus tribes and bands. Traditional Native American subsistence and religious activities, including plant gathering and hunting are among the cultural values potentially associated with the habitats identified in the acquisition parcels.

Although specific traditional resource use areas have not been identified on the parcels, the habitats found in these areas are possible indicators of culturally important plant and animal resources. Habitats on lands to be acquired include upland plant communities favorable to traditional economic plants and important summer and winter wildlife habitat. The favorable habitats on these properties would permit potential harvest of plant and wildlife species important to tribal communities.

Cultural resources associated with Native American use of the parcels include talus pits, rock features, and lithic scatters. Additional inventory of the parcels would likely identify additional cultural resources. Traditional Cultural Properties or sacred sites haven't been identified on the properties. Acquisition of the parcels would potentially increase the number and types of cultural resources managed, as well as improve access to and conservation of those resources.

Cultural properties associated with post-contact agriculture and development including roads, trails, fences, and farming/ranching equipment also occur on the properties.

Potential Impacts to Cultural and Archaeological and Paleontological Resources:

Cultural resources of historic or cultural value would be managed and protected by federal laws, regulations and policies. Federal acquisition of the parcels and cultural resources would increase the number and types of cultural resources managed, as well as improve access to and conservation of those resources. In addition, acquisition of the parcels would provide public access to the traditional use areas and allow for traditional activities such as root gathering. Impacts on cultural properties from grazing would likely decrease, however, improved public access may result in greater recreational use and damage or vandalism of cultural properties.

Under Alternative 2 (No Action/No Acquisition), any cultural resources occurring on the on the parcels would remain in private ownership.

Hazardous Materials:

The parcels were inspected by field visits as well as interpretation of recent aerial photography. In addition, information was provided by landowners through interviews.

With one exception, located in parcel P77 as described in the Potential Impacts section below, examination of the proposed acquisition parcels during the Initial Assessment identified no environmental hazards.

Two operating wells (for irrigation) on the Parcel P74 have electrical pumps and associated transformers. The transformers appear to be in good shape with no visible leakage. They were installed no earlier than 1988 as indicated by title records; therefore they do not contain PCBs. There are also numerous pieces of old farm equipment on this parcel. The landowner will remove all abandoned equipment and vehicles before closing, unless other arrangements are made and approved by the BLM.

Examination of State and EPA records of registered underground storage tanks, contaminated sites, Superfund sites, National Priorities List sites, RCRA listed disposal operations, etc., revealed no sites of concern on any of the parcels with the exception of parcel P77. No landfills were located on or adjacent to any of the parcels.

Potential Impacts Associated with Hazardous Materials: A small portion of parcel P77 (northeast corner of section 6 of T. 30 N., R.38 E.) includes a riparian area extending along the North Fork of Hunter Creek. Due to downstream migration and deposition of mine tailings from the Cleveland mine/mill site, located off the parcel \approx 1.5 miles upstream, it is probable that the floodplain of the creek is contaminated with heavy metals. EPA collected samples in 2006 along Hunter Creek showing contamination downstream from the parcel. Recommendations to avoid acquiring a potential liability would include eliminating the area of the parcel containing the contaminated floodplain from the acquisition.

Under Alternative 2 – No Action, the existing environmental situation would be unchanged.

Socioeconomics:

In public ownership, the land would be subject to Payments In Lieu of Taxes (PILT). PILT is a payment made, historically on a yearly basis, by the Bureau of Land Management with

Congressionally appropriated funds, to counties to compensate local governments for the presence of federal lands in their jurisdiction that are not subject to local taxes.

According to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, one of Washington's most valuable natural resources is its native fish and wildlife (WDFW 2003). Their statistics claim that "over \$1.7 billion is spent annually in Washington on wildlife watching activities, mostly in rural areas. This is money spent locally on food, lodging, transportation and equipment. Wildlife watching activities support more than 21,000 jobs. Washington's wildlife resources contribute to social, economic, and cultural qualities of the state and its communities." Wildlife viewing opportunities occur primarily on public lands and often increase revenues in local economies in small towns and rural areas.

Recreation has been recognized by several local governments as a growth industry and has been included as a strategic element in their local economic development plans. The lands that the BLM has acquired to date include lands with high potential for recreation. According to the Recreation Management Information System (RMIS), visitor use estimates on BLM-managed land within the Border Resource Area during the 2007 federal fiscal year were approximately 73,950 visitors and 98,750 visitor days. The public use of these sites is increasing and is expected to continue to grow.

As visitor use rises, typically visitor spending does, as well. Accordingly, visitor spending often brings new money into the local economy and generates local employment. The BLM provides for access to public lands for a variety of dispersed uses, including hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing, motorized travel, and sightseeing. Proposed acquisition parcels would provide larger blocks of public land which are more attractive to visitors for these uses. The BLM has developed and distributed public maps, recreation brochures, and website information to promote recreation on public land.

Potential Socioeconomic Impacts: The primary socioeconomic concern raised was the potential impact in the change in taxation basis of the counties. Table 3 summarizes the estimated change in the taxation and Payments In Lieu of Taxes (PILT) under private ownership.

Table 3. Estimated Property Tax versus PILT Payment				
County	Acquisition Acres	2007 PILT Payment	Estimated Property Tax	Difference of PILT - Tax
Grant	1,640	\$2,362	\$2,846	-\$484
Lincoln	6,170	\$8,700	\$9,063	-\$363
Spokane	542	\$ 742	\$ 925	-\$183
Stevens	465	\$ 405	\$ 262	\$143
Whitman	301	\$ 421	\$ 71	\$350
Totals:	9,118	12,630	13,167	- 537

It is estimated that the counties would receive \$537 less in taxes than they would receive from PILT payments. PILT payments for Stevens and Whitman Counties would be slightly greater (\$493) than the amount of taxes the Counties receive under private ownership under

Alternative One. Grant, Lincoln and Spokane Counties would receive an estimated net decrease of \$1,030 in receipts.

Increasing public land acreage directly results in increased hunting opportunities, and in protecting and enhancing fish and wildlife habitat to support healthy populations available for fishing, hunting and viewing. Local economies also benefit from wildlife viewing and hunting through sales in permits, guides and outfitters, and purchase of outdoor supplies.

Grazing figures into the socioeconomic element with Alternative 1 (Proposed Action). Continuing to allow grazing on some of the subject lands, even at a reduced rate, would continue to help meet a local demand for grazing forage. This would provide some economic support directly to the grazing lessee as well as indirect support to the livestock industry. An unspecified amount of revenue would be generated to the BLM through grazing fees. Half of these fees would be paid to the county, and the other half would be available for range improvements.

Under Alternative 2-(No Action/No Acquisition):

If additional private lands are not approved for acquisition, and acquired by July, 2008, the \$1.4 million dollars in the ledger account will be return to the general national treasury. Not utilizing these funds would restrict the conservation of shrub-steppe habitat. The opportunity to consolidate and conserve additional fish and wildlife habitat and substantially increase management efficiency and associated public benefits would be foregone.

Other Resource Elements Analyzed

Critical Elements That Were Considered

Other critical elements addressed in addition to those above (cultural resources, threatened/endangered species, etc.) are listed below. No impacts were identified from the two alternatives on the following critical elements.

- Prime/unique farmlands
- Floodplains
- Native American Religious Concerns
- Special area designations (including Wild & Scenic Rivers, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, and Wilderness)

Cumulative Impacts:

Some of the impacts from the proposed action would be cumulative with effects of other BLM land ownership adjustments. Since the early 1980's, BLM has acquired over 84,000 acres in the five counties affected by this EA, in exchange for approximately 14,000 acres of private lands (Table 4). The bulk of the acquisitions (\approx 80,000 acres) have involved shrub-steppe habitat in the Upper Crab Creek area. Following the completion of the acquisitions under the preferred alternative, total acquisitions will approach 94,000 acres in the five counties.

Table 4. Acres Acquired & Conveyed by BLM by County with PILT Payments						
County	Total Acres Acquired	Total Acres Conveyed	Difference Between Acquired and Conveyed	2007 PILT Payment	Additional Lands 2007 PILT Payments	Potential PILT Payments
Grant	14,379	3,614	10,765	\$15,502	\$2,362	\$17,864
Lincoln	58,119	641	57,479	\$81,045	\$8,700	\$89,745
Spokane	766	0	766	\$ 1,049	\$ 742	\$ 1,791
Stevens	4,151	9,973	-5,822	\$ 5,065	\$ 405	\$ 5,470
Whitman	7,390	0	7,390	\$10,346	\$ 421	\$10,767
	84,805	14,228	70,578	\$113,007	\$12,630	\$125,637

The RMP evaluated the management of the public land administered by BLM within 19 counties of Eastern Washington. Land tenure adjustment was a component evaluated in this plan. An important part of that component was the consolidation of public land ownership. As indicated in the RMP, this would be accomplished primarily through the disposal of isolated parcels.

Foreseeable future exchanges of BLM lands would continue to emphasize consolidation in the Upper Crab Creek and Northeast Management Areas.

Over the past twenty years the BLM has conveyed almost 10,000 acres of forest lands within Stevens County and acquired over 4,000 acres. Although this results in a net loss of federally managed forest habitat, it has also resulted in the consolidation of over 11,000 acres of forest land allowing the area to be managed on more of a landscape scale. Large blocks of contiguous forest land in the Northeast Management Area would facilitate management of land in a manner that can provide the connectivity, forage, and cover needed by wildlife, including forest dependent species.

Similarly, the current proposed action would result in the acquisition of approximately 8,500 acres of additional shrub-steppe habitat. The larger tracts of land resulting from the acquisitions would increase the probability of maintaining functional shrub-steppe ecosystems in Eastern Washington, and increase the habitat availability for shrub-steppe dependent plant and animal species. Overall, the shift in management from private to public on shrub-steppe parcels acquired by BLM would improve habitat for shrub-steppe dependent species, as some land usage would likely shift from livestock grazing to those uses emphasizing enhancement of riparian and wildlife habitat. Foreseeable future BLM acquisitions in the region would further provide large contiguous blocks of habitat that could be managed for shrub-steppe dependent species of concern.

Access to traditional cultural resources by tribal members would be improved and the variety and type of resources would be enhanced through long term management by the BLM.

Through past acquisitions, the proposed action, and potential future acquisitions, BLM has, and would acquire contiguous blocks of accessible land and some key parcels that would

provide public access to previously inaccessible private lands, and increase recreational opportunities for dispersed activities such as hunting, hiking, and camping. As public land is acquired and more people become aware of public-land recreation opportunities in this region, dispersed uses will likely increase in popularity.

As shown in the table above, the payments in lieu of taxes (PILT) for each county would be cumulatively based on past acquisitions and those in the proposed action.

Under Alternative 2-(No Action/No Acquisition): With past and potential future land acquisitions by BLM, most of the cumulative effects just described have already occurred and would continue to occur. However, these effects would be slightly less due to the retention of the subject lands in private ownership.

Development of these parcels would permanently remove habitat for present and future wildlife use. Residential development would cause increased wildlife displacement in the affected and surrounding area. A permanent loss of habitat through residential or other development and/or habitat conversion would pose a potential risk to the long-term sustainability of many species. Any shrub-steppe lands not acquired by BLM would continue to be privately managed, most likely under current practices.

Since PILT is based on acres of federal land, under Alternative 2, payments would be slightly less (see Table 4 above).

Coordination/Consultation With Other Agencies, Groups and Individuals

Consultation was initiated with the Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, and the Spokane Tribe on September 4, 2007. All interested parties were requested to provide input to the proposed action and to identify any concerns with the project.

The Notice of Exchange Proposal (NOEP) for the additional private lands was published in a legal notice section of the *Spokesman Review* newspaper, once a week for four consecutive weeks, with the first publication dated April 5, 2007. One letter was received from the Grant County Commissioners stating the council's concern of lost property tax revenue. As the Grant County parcel is configured now, the expected tax revenue loss to the county is approximately \$480 (see Table 3).

The Notice of Availability of Decision will be sent to the individuals who were sent the Notice of Exchange Proposal including the governor and the Washington State Department of Ecology, SEPA Unit, in Olympia, Washington.

Agencies, Organizations and Individuals Contacted or Consulted

State and Federal agencies that were contacted or coordinated with during the environmental analysis are listed below:

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

- Washington State Department of Natural Resources
- Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Spokane Tribe
- Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- Washington State Department of Ecology

County agencies contacted about the proposed exchange are:

- Lincoln County Commissioners
- Lincoln County Planning Commission
- Whitman County Commissioners
- Whitman County Planning Department
- Grant County Commissioners
- Grant County Planning Department
- Spokane County Commissioners
- Spokane County Planning Department
- Stevens County Commissioners
- Stevens County Planning Department

List of Preparers

This environmental assessment was prepared by an Interdisciplinary Team, involving various resource specialists and managers. A list of the team members who assisted in the environmental assessment preparation follows below:

- Kerrin Doloughan, Range Management Specialist
- Mark Hatchel, Realty Specialist
- Scott Pavey, Planner and Environmental Coordinator
- Mike Stevenson, Hydrologist; (Hazmat)
- Richard Bailey, Archeologist
- Robert Troiano, Natural Resource Specialist
- Barb Benner, Botanist
- T. Michael Sweeney, Geologist
- Nancy Williams, Wildlife Biologist
- Steve Smith, Outdoor Recreation Planner

Appendix A
Legal Description for Additional Private Lands

P49 ± 320 acres:

T.22 N. R.40 E., Willamette Meridian, Spokane County, Washington,
Section 29, W½.;

P63 ± 275 acres:

T. 19N. R.39E., Willamette Meridian, Whitman County, Washington,
Section 33, S½S½, S½N½S½.

T. 18N. R.39E., Willamette Meridian, Whitman County, Washington,
Section 4, Portion of Lots 3 and 4 Lying north of the County Road known as Rock
Lake and Revere Rd.

P64a ± 488 acres:

T.25 N. R.32 E., Willamette Meridian, Lincoln County, Washington,
Section 5, portion lying west of County Road No. 1850 (Lewis Bridge Rd)
Section 6, All EXCEPT Beginning at the Southeast corner of Section 6, being the
intersection of County Roads No. 1850 and 1613; thence South
89°25'30" West 3201.89 feet; thence North 0°49'30" West 1292.21 feet;
thence North 37°28'30" East 1135.55 feet; thence North 87°41'00" East
968.28 feet; thence North 68°51'00" East 356.36 feet; thence North
79°48'00" East 1031.28 feet; thence South 83°12'00" East 215.90 feet;
thence South 0°00'00" East 2484.96 feet to the true point of beginning;
EXCEPT any portion used for roads.

T.26 N. R.32 E., Willamette Meridian, Lincoln County, Washington,
Section 32, portion of SW¼ lying west of County Road No 1850 (Lewis Bridge Rd)

P64b ± 280 acres:

T.26 N. R.32 E., Willamette Meridian, Lincoln County, Washington,
Section 30, NE¼, E½E½NW¼, NE½SE¼.

P64c ± 33.46 acres:

T.26 N. R.32 E., Willamette Meridian, Lincoln County, Washington,
Section 30, E½ of Lot 3, E½ of Lot 4.

P64d ± 80 acres:

T.26 N. R.32 E., Willamette Meridian, Lincoln County, Washington,
Section 22, E½SW¼.

P65 ± 160 acres:

T.26 N. R.32 E., Willamette Meridian, Lincoln County, Washington,
Section 28, SW¼.

P66a ± 389 acres:

T.26 N. R.32 E., Willamette Meridian, Lincoln County, Washington,
Section 27, Portion of W½ lying South of Magee Rd. E., E½SE¼, SE¼SE¼.

P67 ± 160 acres:

T.26 N. R.32 E., Willamette Meridian, Lincoln County, Washington,
Section 28, NW¼.

P68 ± 150 acres:

T. 25 N. R.31 E., Willamette Meridian, Lincoln County, Washington,
Section 1, S½S½ EXCEPTING all of that land in the SE¼SE¼ of said Section
Lying Northerly and Easterly of the County Road running through said SE¼SE¼.

P69 ± 459.5 acres:

T.26 N. R.32 E., Willamette Meridian, Lincoln County, Washington,
Section 22, Portion of SE¼ lying South of the Central Washington Railroad right-of-
way;
Section 23, Portions of N½ and SW¼,
EXCEPT that portion thereof lying within the 100 foot right of way of the
Central Washington Railroad, formerly the Northern Pacific Railway;

AND EXCEPT that portion of the West half of said Section 23 lying North and
West of the Center line of the main track of said Central Washington Railroad.

P70a ± 228 acres:

T.26 N. R.32 E., Willamette Meridian, Lincoln County, Washington,
Section 21, Portion of S½ lying South of the County Road.
Section 28, Portion of NE¼ lying South of County Road and EXCEPT Crick Road.

P70b ± 160 acres:

T.26 N. R.32 E., Willamette Meridian, Lincoln County, Washington,
Section 32, N½NE¼;
Section 33, N½NW¼.

P70c ± 340 acres:

T.25N. R.31 E., Willamette Meridian, Lincoln County, Washington,
Section 1, NE¼, NE¼NE¼NW¼, S½SW¼NW¼, NE¼SW¼,
N½SE¼, Portion of the SE¼SE¼ Lying Northerly and Easterly of the County
Road.

P71a ± 240 acres:

T.26 N. R.32 E., Willamette Meridian, Lincoln County, Washington,
Section 28, SE¼ EXCEPT Crick Road along the East line of said Section;
Section 33, N½NE¼ EXCEPT Crick Road along the East line of said Section;

P72 ± 600 acres:

T.26 N. R.32 E., Willamette Meridian, Lincoln County, Washington,
Section 21, E½NE¼ EXCEPT Sand Road along the North line of said Section;
Section 22, NW¼, Portion of the E½ lying North and West of railroad right-of-way;

Section 23, Portion of W $\frac{1}{2}$ lying North and West of railroad right-of-way EXCEPT road.

P73 ± 915.37 acres:

- T. 22 N., R. 33 E., WM, Lincoln County, Washington
Section 7, Lot 3 except that portion thereof lying North of Pacific Lake, Lot 4, and the West 80 feet of SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$;
Section 18, Lots 1, 2, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$.
- T. 22 N., R. 32 E., WM, Lincoln County, Washington
Section 13, N $\frac{1}{2}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ S $\frac{1}{2}$ Except Lakeview Ranch Road along the West line thereof.

P74 ± 3126.4 acres:

- T. 24N. R.30 E., Willamette Meridian, Grant County, Washington,
Section 12, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$;
Section 13, All,
Section 24, W $\frac{1}{2}$ E $\frac{1}{2}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ N $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$ N $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$,
S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$;
Section 25, All.
- T. 24N. R.31 E., Willamette Meridian, Lincoln County, Washington,
Section 7, Lots 1-4, E $\frac{1}{2}$ W $\frac{1}{2}$;
Section 18, Lots 1-4;
Section 19, All;
Section 30, Lots 1-4, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$.

P75 ± 220 acres:

- T.22 N. R.40 E., Willamette Meridian, Spokane County, Washington,
Section 30, E $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ except the East 500 feet of the north 1750 feet, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$,
E $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$.

P76 ± 2.14 acres:

- (Proposed Easement):
T.22 N. R.40 E., Willamette Meridian, Spokane County, Washington,
Section 31, An permanent exclusive easement 60 feet wide within NE $\frac{1}{4}$.

P77 ± 465 acres: Abbreviated legal

- T.30 N. R.38 E., Willamette Meridian, Stevens County, Washington,
Section 5, SW $\frac{1}{4}$,
Section 6, S $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, Portion of NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$,
Section 7, That part of NE $\frac{1}{4}$, that part of NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ lying North &
West of Revision No. 2 in Springdale-Hunters Road No. 2923.

P78 ±26 acres:

- T. 18N. R.39E., Willamette Meridian, Whitman County, Washington
Section 4, Portion of Lots 1 and 2 Lying north of the right-of-way of the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific Railroad Company and south of the County Road as it was laid out and traveled on April 1, 1922.

Total Acres: 9,117.87

Appendix B – Maps of Proposed Acquisition Parcels

Proposed Acquisition Parcels Overview Map

Legend

- Acquisition Parcels
- Interstate
- Federal Highway
- State Highway
- Railroads
- County Lines

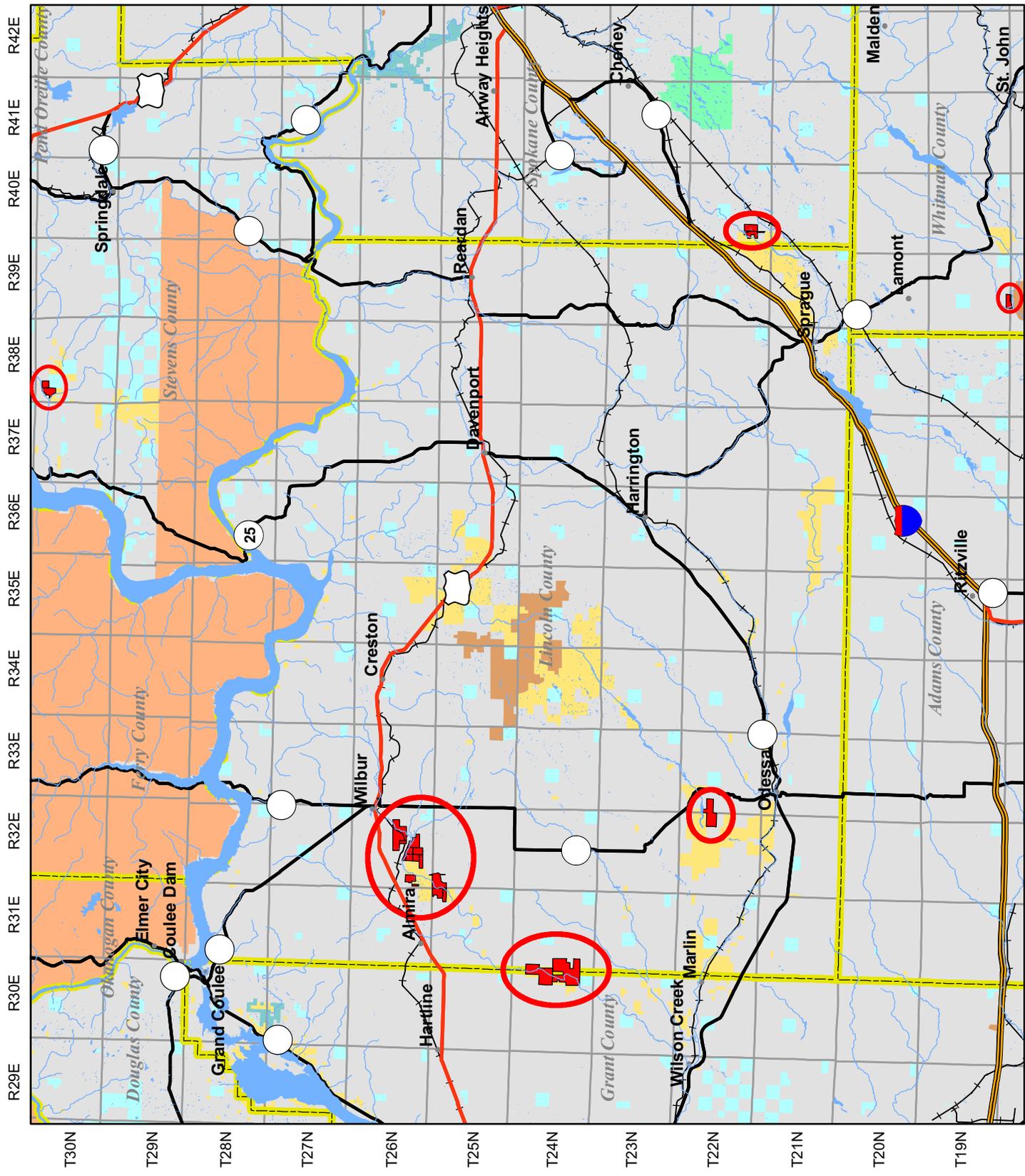
Public Lands

- Indian Reservation
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife
- WA State Parks & Rec
- WA Dept. of F & W
- BLM Lands
- DNR Lands

Project Area

Seattle
Spokane

Washington

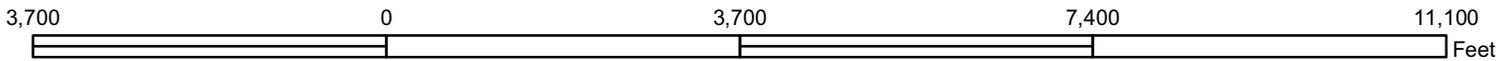
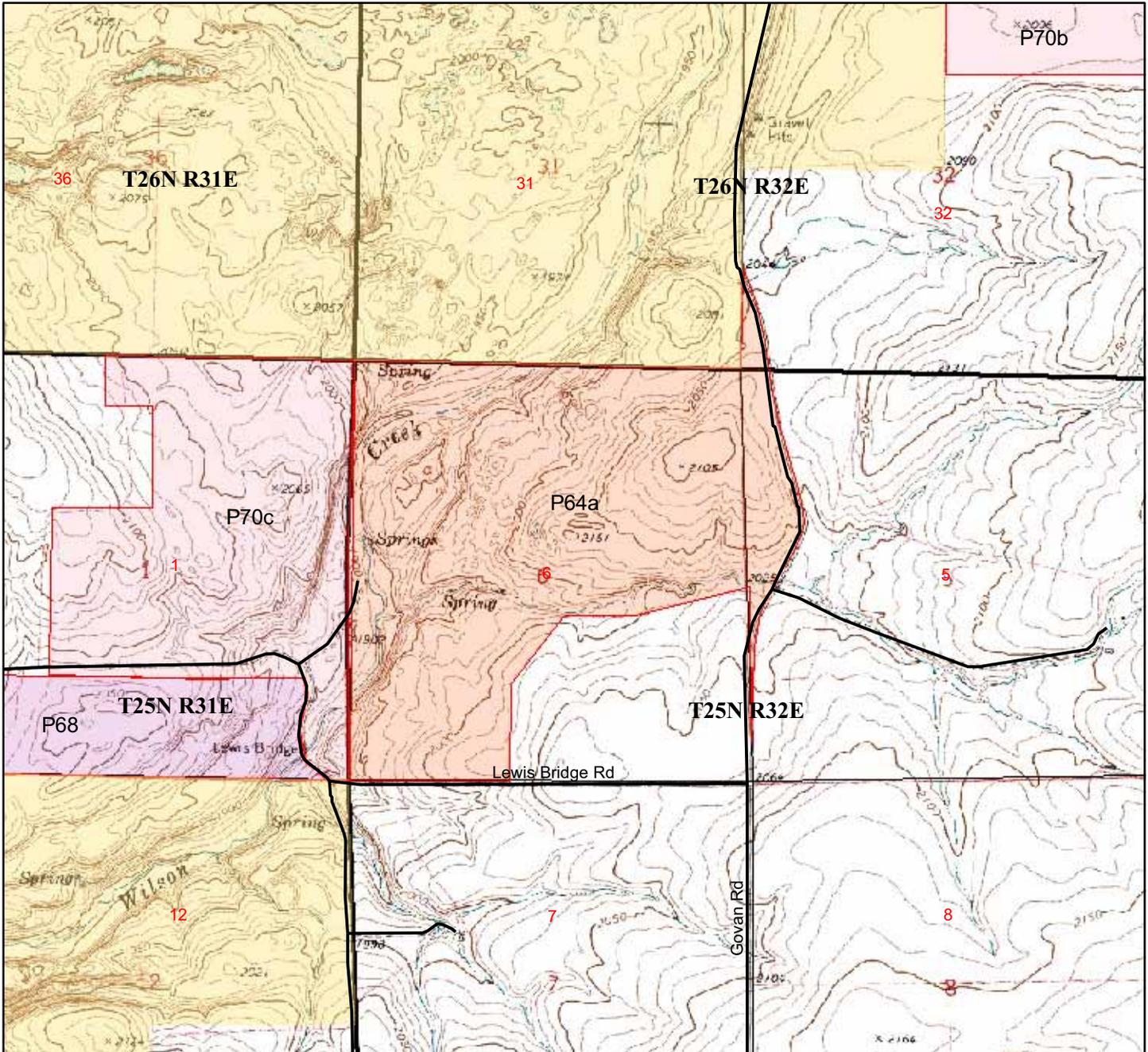


No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual or aggregate use with other data. Original data may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. This product was developed through digital means and may be updated without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



Parcel P64a

Columbia Basin Shrub-steppe Land Exchange - WAOR-55351



1:24,000

1 inch equals 2,000 feet

Legend

- BLM Land
- Parcel 64a

P64a (short legal) (±488 acres):
 T.25 N. R.32 E., Willamette Meridian, Lincoln County, Washington,
 Section 5, portion lying west of County Road No 1850 (Lewis Bridge Rd)
 Section 6, All EXCEPT Portions of SE¼ and E½E½ SW¼.
 T.26 N. R.32 E., Willamette Meridian, Lincoln County, Washington,
 Section 32, portion of SW¼ lying west of County Road No 1850.

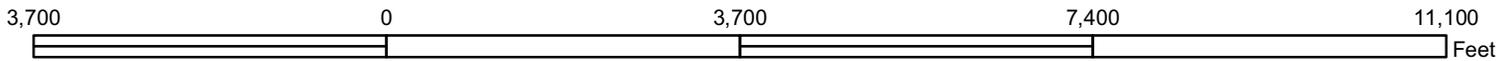
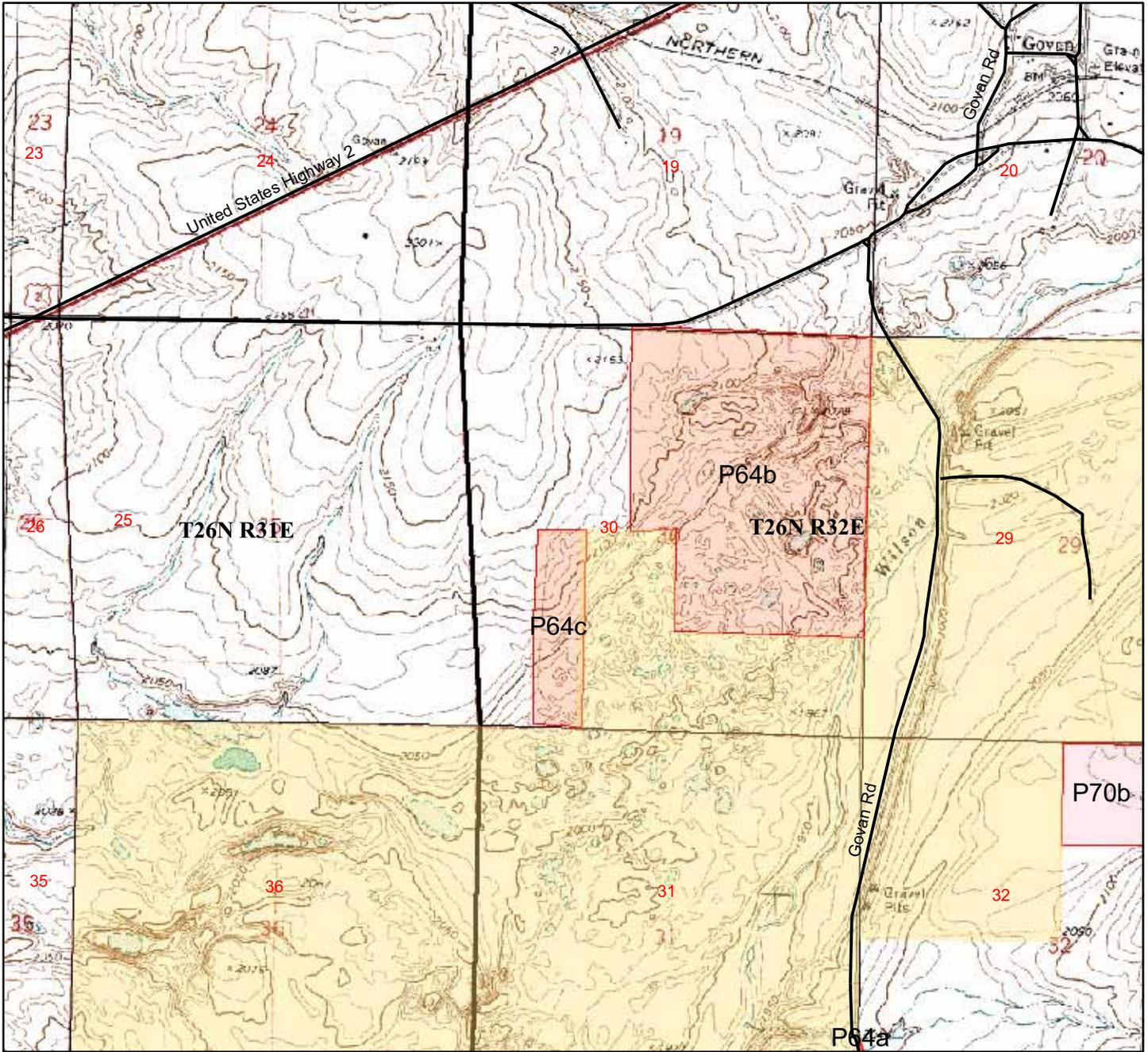


No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability or completeness of these data for individual or aggregate use with other data. Original data was compiled from various sources. This information may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. This product was developed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



Parcels P64b & P64c

Columbia Basin Shrub-steppe Land Exchange - WAOR-55351



1:24,000

1 inch equals 2,000 feet

Legend

- BLM Land
- Parcels 64b & 64c

P64b ± 280 acres:
 T.26 N. R.32 E., Willamette Meridian, Lincoln County, Washington,
 Section 30, NE¼, E½E½NW¼, NE½SE¼.

P64c ± 33.46 acres:
 T.26 N. R.32 E., Willamette Meridian, Lincoln County, Washington,
 Section 30, E½ of Lot 3, E½ of Lot 4.



Washington

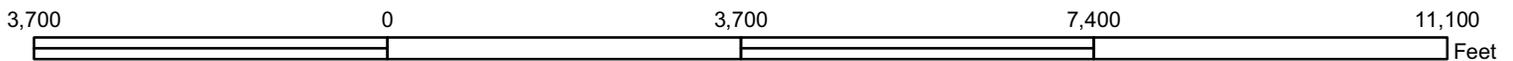
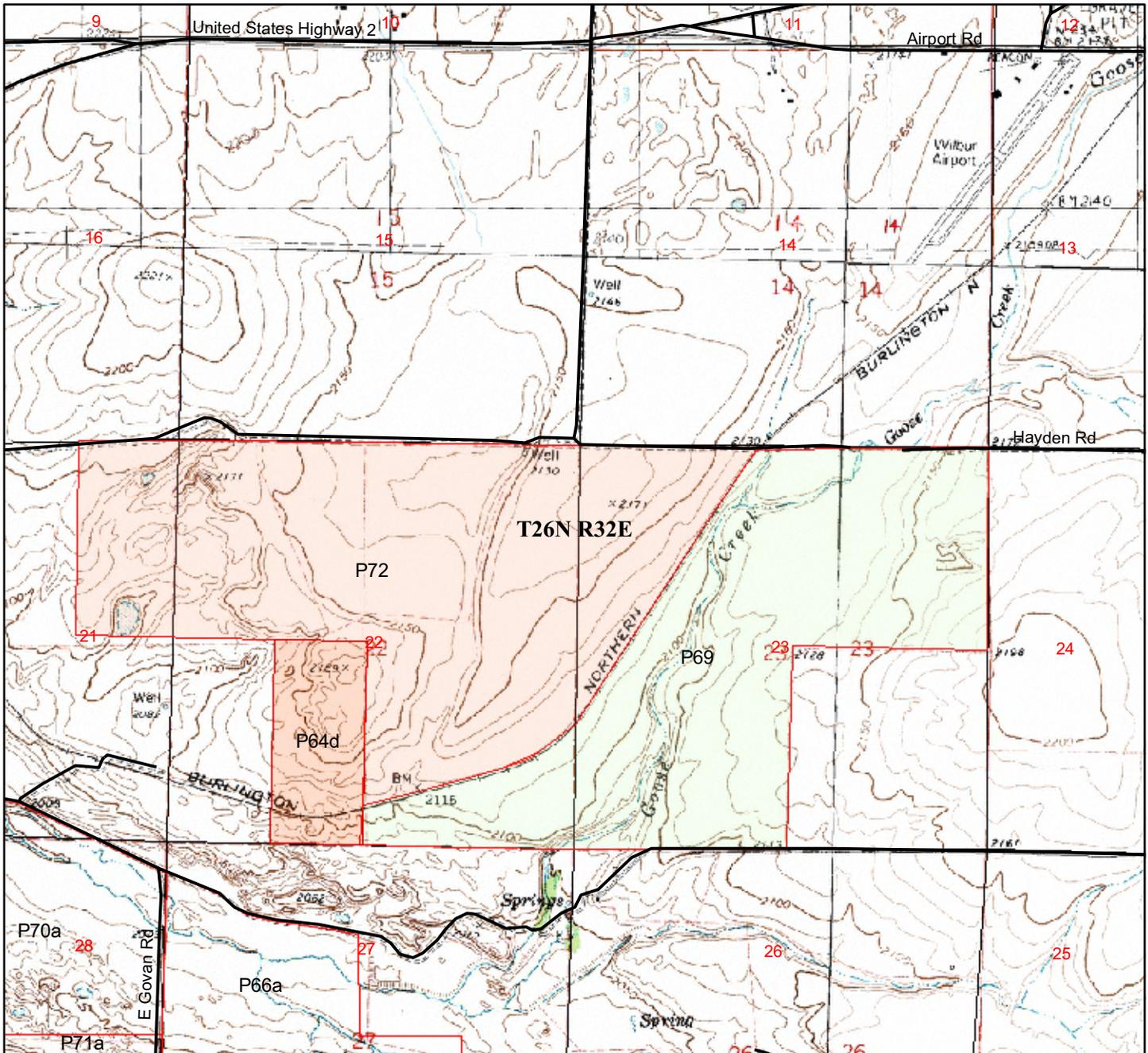


No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability or completeness of these data for individual or aggregate use with other data. Original data was compiled from various sources. This information may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. This product was developed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



Parcels P69, P72 & P64d

Columbia Basin Shrub-steppe Land Exchange - WAOR-55351



1:24,000

1 inch equals 2,000 feet

Legend

- BLM Land
- Parcel P72
- Parcel P64d
- Parcel P69

P69 ± 459.5 acres- short legal:
 T.26 N. R.32 E., Willamette Meridian, Lincoln County, Washington,
 Section 22, Portion of SE¼ lying South of the Central Washington Railroad right-of-way;
 Section 23, Portions of N½ and SW¼ east of the Burlington Northern R R,

P64d ± 80 acres:
 T.26 N. R.32 E., Willamette Meridian, Lincoln County, Washington,
 Section 22, E½SW¼.

P72 ± 600 acres:
 T.26 N. R.32 E., Willamette Meridian, Lincoln County, Washington,
 Section 21, E½NE¼ EXCEPT Sand Road along the North line of said Section;
 Section 22, NW¼, Portion of the E½ lying North and West of railroad right-of-way;
 Section 23, Portion of W½ lying North and West of railroad right -of-way EXCEPT road.

Project Area



Washington

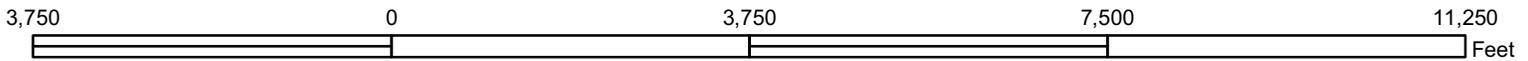
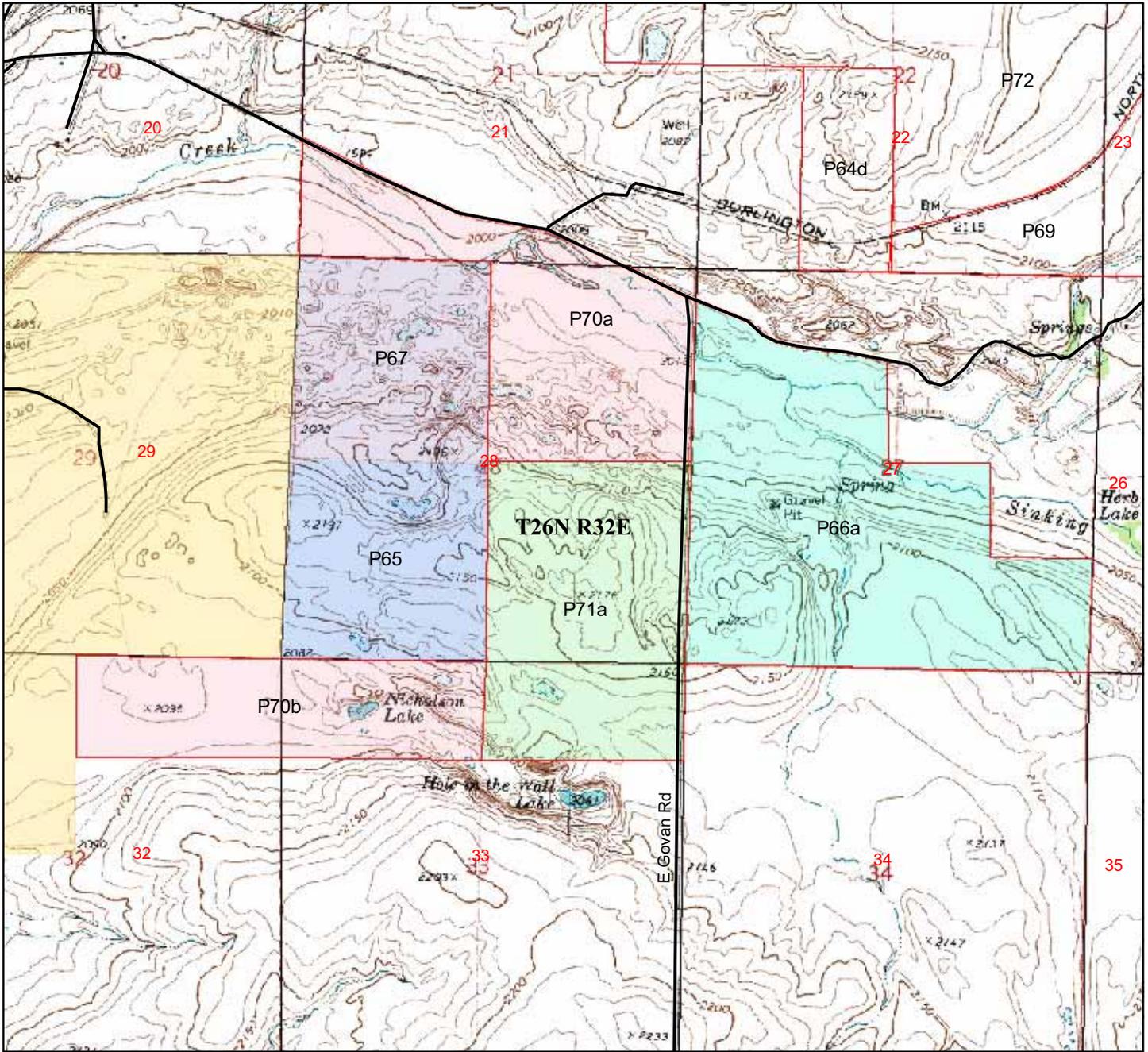


No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability or completeness of these data for individual or aggregate use with other data. Original data was compiled from various sources. This information may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. This product was developed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



Parcels P65, P66a, P67, P70a, P70b & P71a

Columbia Basin Shrub-steppe Land Exchange - WAOR-55351



Legend

- BLM Land
- Parcel P65
- Parcel P66a
- Parcel P67
- Parcel P71a
- Parcels P70a & P70b

1:24,000

1 inch equals 2,000 feet

T.26 N. R.32 E., Willamette Meridian, Lincoln County, Washington,
 Section 21, Portion of S½ lying South of County Road 1901; (P70a ±73ac)
 Section 27, Portion of W½ lying South of Magee Rd. E., E½SE¼, SE¼SE¼. (P66a ±389ac)
 Section 28, Portion of NE¼ lying South of County Road 1901; (P70a ±155 ac)
 Section 28, NW¼; (P67 ±160 ac)
 Section 28, SW¼; (P65 ±160 ac)
 Section 28, SE¼; (P71a ±160 ac)
 Section 32, N½NE¼; (P70b ± 80ac)
 Section 33, N½NW¼. (P70b ± 80ac)
 Section 33, N½NE¼. (P71a ± 80ac)

Project Area



Washington

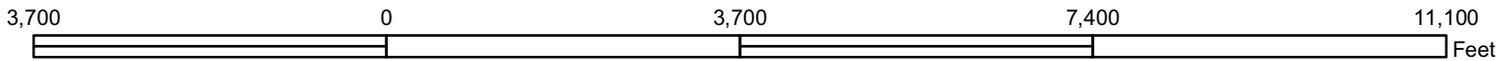
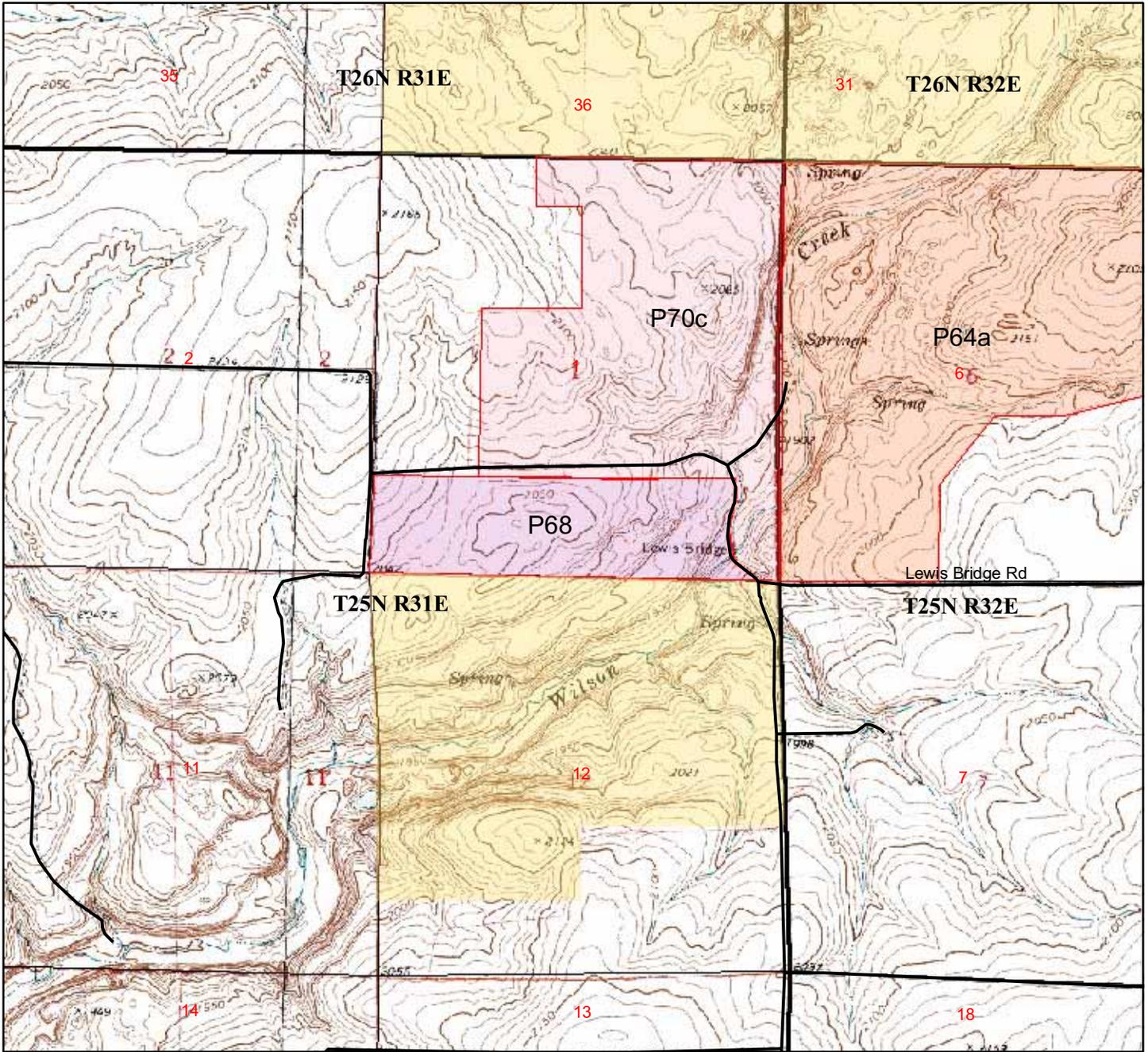


No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability or completeness of these data for individual or aggregate use with other data. Original data was compiled from various sources. This information may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. This product was developed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



Parcels P68 & P70c

Columbia Basin Shrub-steppe Land Exchange - WAOR-55351



1:24,000

1 inch equals 2,000 feet

Legend

- BLM Land
- Parcel P68
- Parcel 70c

P68 ±150 acres:
 T. 25 N. R. 31 E., Willamette Meridian, Lincoln County, Washington,
 Section 1, S½S½ EXCEPTING all of that land in the SE¼SE¼ of said Section Lying
 Northerly and Easterly of the County Road running through said SE¼SE¼.

P70c ±340 acres:
 T. 25N. R. 31 E., Willamette Meridian, Lincoln County, Washington,
 Section 1, NE¼, NE¼NE¼NW¼, S½SW¼NW¼, NE¼SW¼,
 N½SE¼, Portion of the SE¼SE¼ Lying Northerly and Easterly of the County Road.

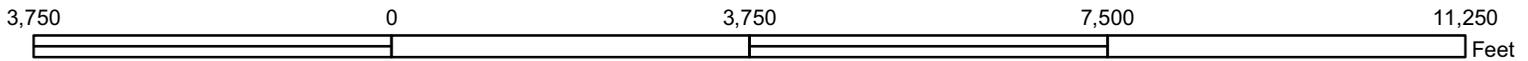
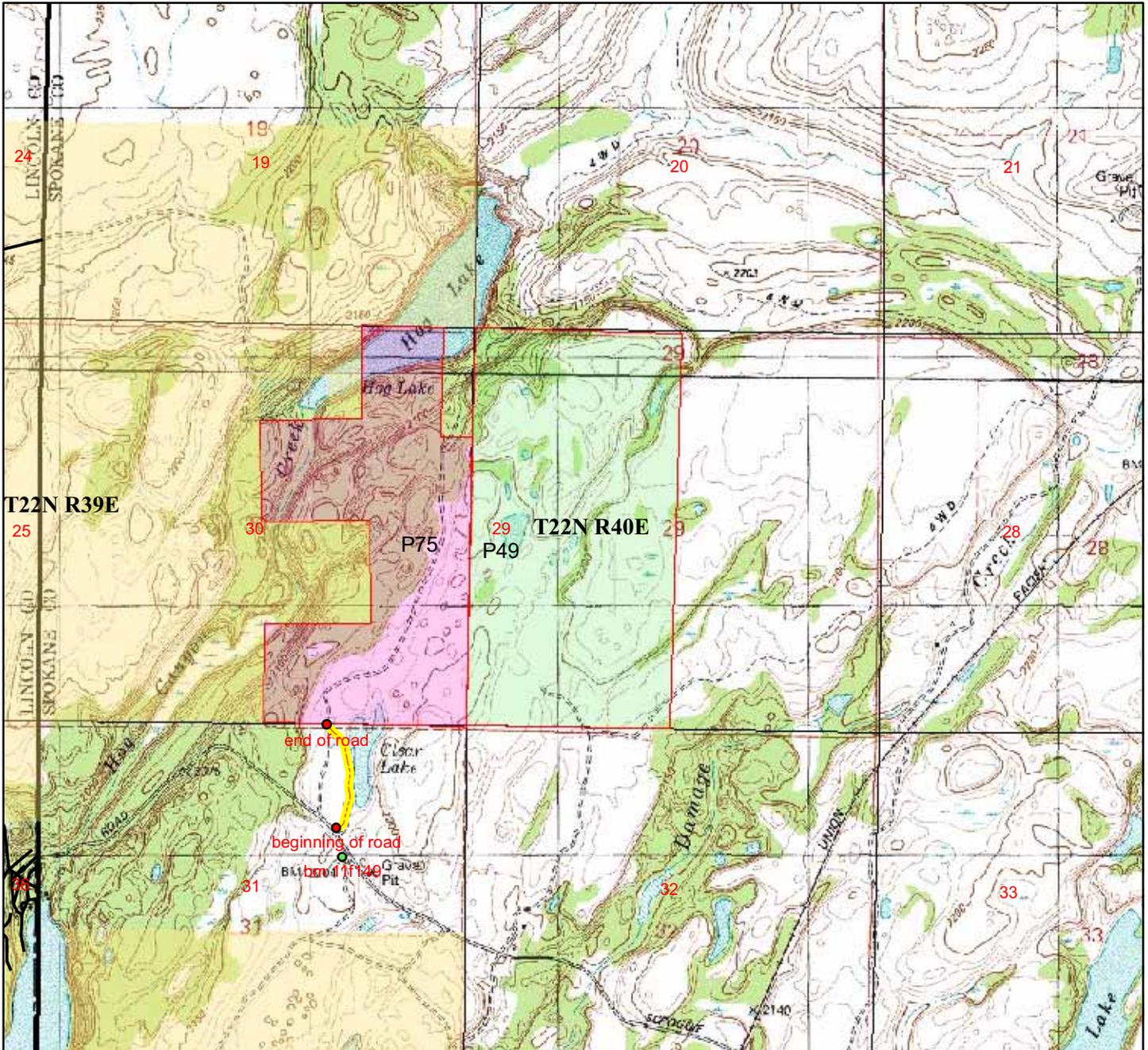


No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability or completeness of these data for individual or aggregate use with other data. Original data was compiled from various sources. This information may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. This product was developed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



Parcel P75, P49 & P76 Easement

Columbia Basin Shrub-steppe Land Exchange - WAOR-55351



1:24,000

1 inch equals 2,000 feet

Legend

- DNR Land
- BLM Land
- Easement
- Parcel P77

P75 ± 220 acres:
T.22 N. R.40 E., Willamette Meridian, Spokane County, Washington,
Section 30, E½/NE¼ except the East 500 feet of the north 1750 feet, SW¼/NE¼,
E½/SE¼, SW¼/SE¼.

P49 ± 320 acres:
T.22 N. R.40 E., Willamette Meridian, Spokane County, Washington,
Section 29, W½.

P76-Proposed Easement ±2.14 acres:
T.22 N. R.40 E., Willamette Meridian, Spokane County, Washington,
Section 31, Within NE¼. The P.O.B. is Benchmark 11F149 located 395.7 feet at a
heading of 342 degrees 7 minutes 6.91 seconds from the start of the easement. The
easement continues for 1,550.5 feet in a northerly direction and follows an existing
graveled road, as depicted on the 2006 NAIP aerial image, until the existing road
intersects the section line between sections 31 and 30 of T.22 N. R.40 E. at the end
point. Benchmark 11F149 is located 1770 feet at a heading of 349 degrees 26 minutes
53.8 seconds from the end of the easement. The easement is 1,550.5 feet in length and 30
feet on each side of the centerline.

Project Area



Washington

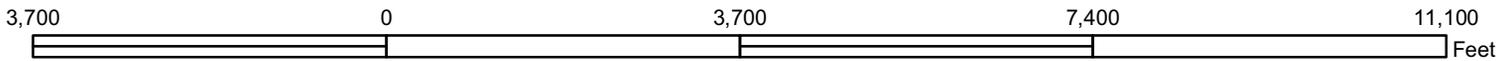
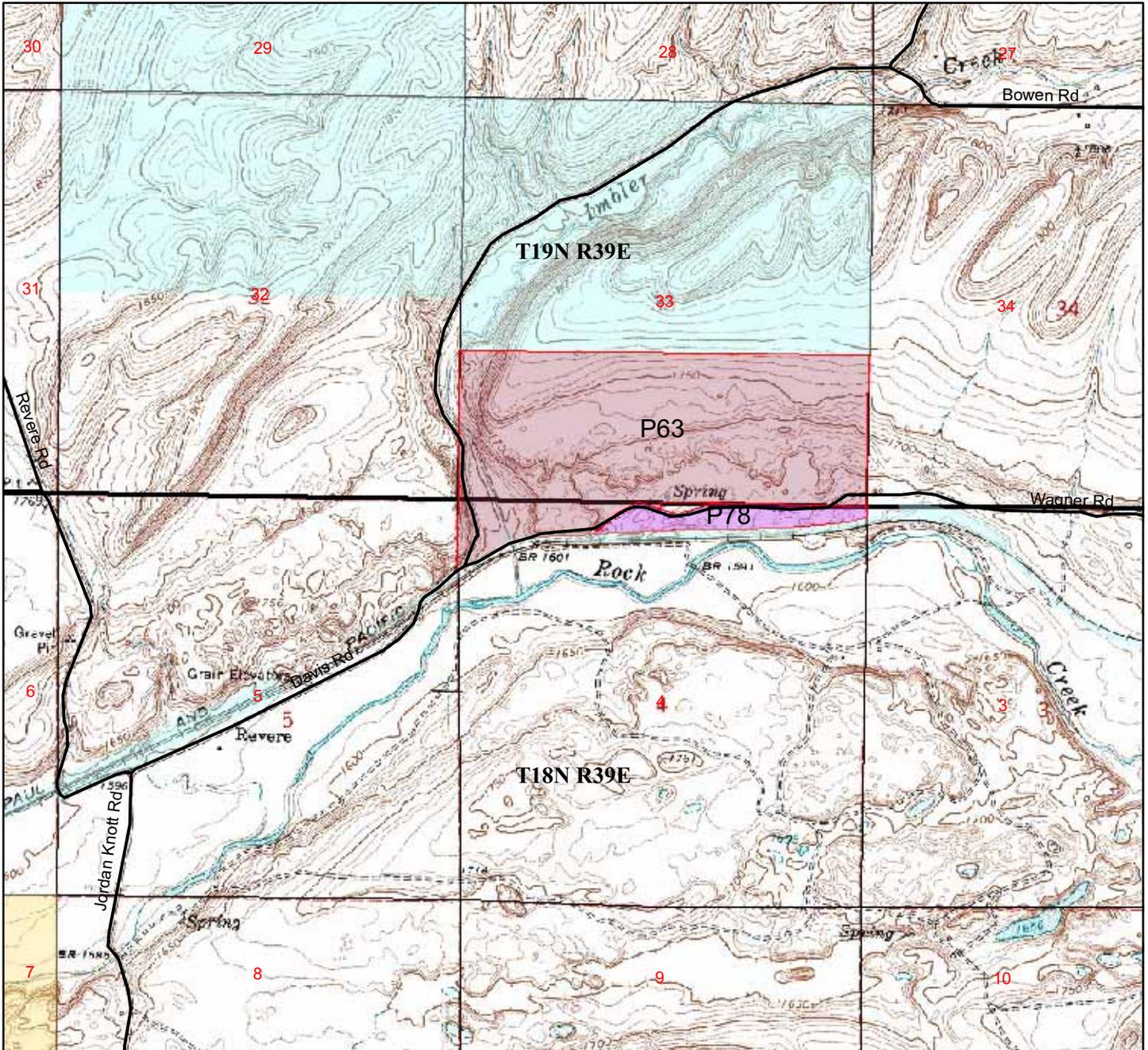


No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability or completeness of these data for individual or aggregate use with other data. Original data was compiled from various sources. This information may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. This product was developed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



Parcels P63 & P78

Columbia Basin Shrub-steppe Land Exchange - WAOR-55351



1:24,000

1 inch equals 2,000 feet

Legend

- DNR Land
- BLM Land
- Parcel P63
- Parcel P78

Parcel P63 (±275 acres):
 T. 19N. R.39E., Willamette Meridian, Whitman County, Washington
 Section 33, S½S½, S½N½S½;
 T. 18N. R.39E., Willamette Meridian, Whitman County, Washington
 Section 4, Portion of Lots 3 and 4 Lying north of the County Road known as Rock Lake and Revere Rd.
 Parcel P78 (±26 acres):
 T. 18N. R.39E., Willamette Meridian, Whitman County, Washington
 Section 4, Portion of Lots 1, 2 and 3 Lying north of the right-of-way of the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific Railroad Company and south of the County Road as it was laid out and traveled on April 1, 1922.

Project Area



Washington

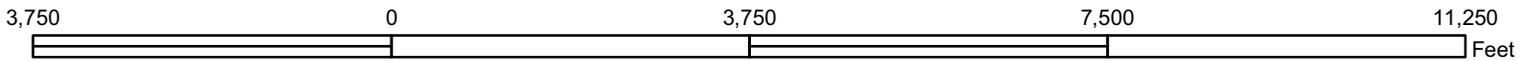
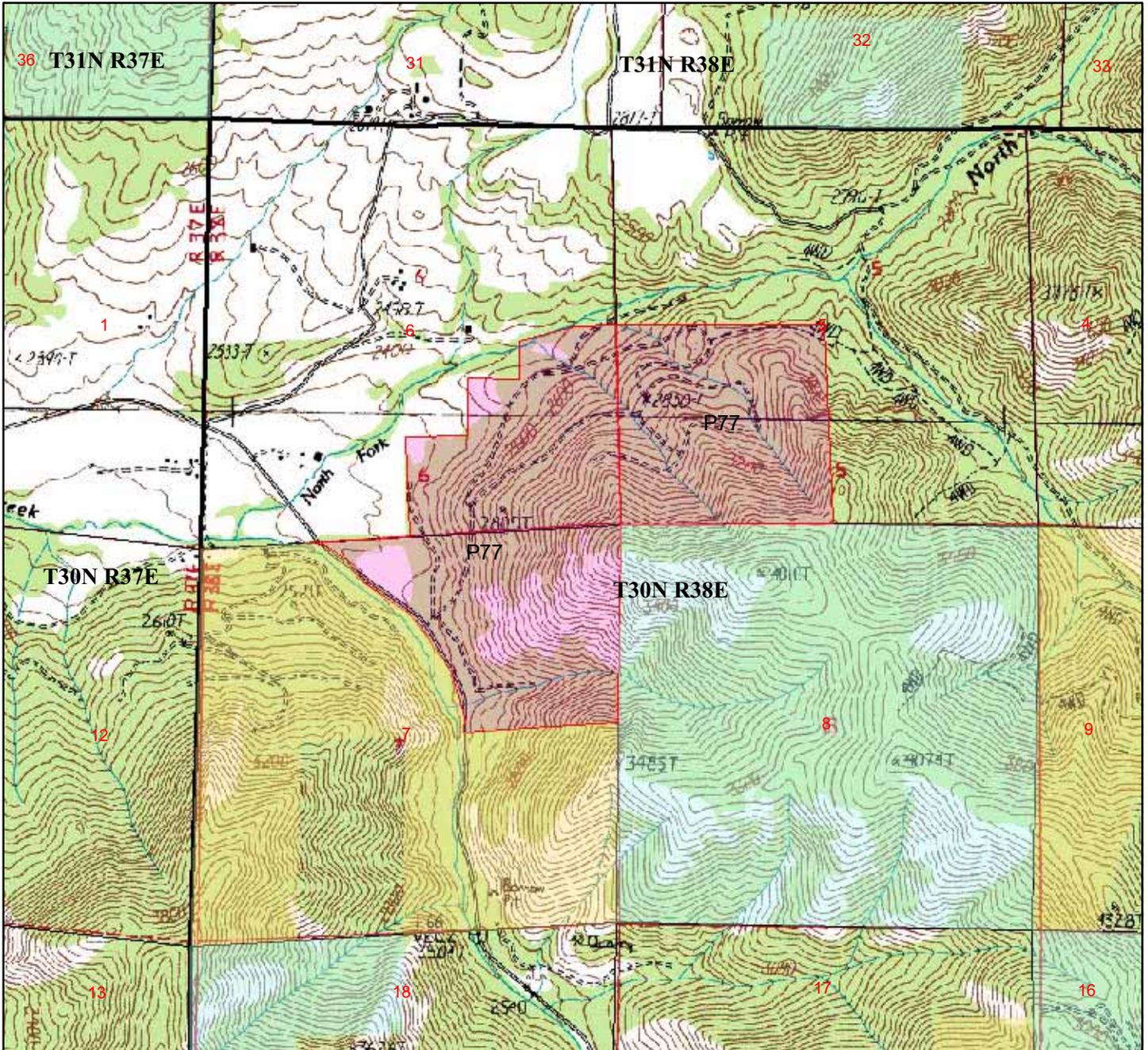


No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability or completeness of these data for individual or aggregate use with other data. Original data was compiled from various sources. This information may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. This product was developed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



Parcel P77

Columbia Basin Shrub-steppe Land Exchange - WAOR-55351



1:24,000

1 inch equals 2,000 feet

Legend

- BLM Land
- DNR Land
- Parcel P77

P77 ±465 acres: Abbreviated legal
 T.30 N. R.38 E., Willamette Meridian, Stevens County, Washington,
 Section 5, SW¼,
 Section 6, S½SE¼, Portion of NE¼SE¼, SE¼NW¼SE¼,
 Section 7, That part of NE¼, that part of NE¼NW¼ lying North &
 West of Revision No. 2 in Springdale-Hunters Road No. 2923.



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 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.

