



# United States Department of the Interior



## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Mother Lode Field Office  
5152 Hillside Circle  
El Dorado Hills, CA 95762-5713  
[www.blm.gov/ca/motherlode](http://www.blm.gov/ca/motherlode)

### CACA 56154 New Road Right-of-Way for Carmella Martell Environmental Assessment (EA) March 2016

**EA Number:** CA-180-15-57

**Proposed Action:** Grant a right-of-way to upgrade an existing access road across BLM managed lands.

**Location:** T. 4 N., R. 10 E., sec. 3, lot 2;  
T. 5 N., R. 10 E., sec. 34, SW1/4SE1/4.

Approximately one half mile Northwest of Campo Seco, CA.

#### **1.0 Purpose of and Need for Proposed Action**

##### **1.1 Purpose and Need**

On June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2015, Carmella Martell, a private land owner, filed an application for an access road right-of-way (ROW) in the Mother Lode Field Office. The application requests authorization to extend, re-develop and maintain an existing access road across federally managed lands in Calaveras County, California. The applicant is in the process of building a home and other structures on her adjacent private lands and requires “legal access” for the county to approve the building permits. The area of the ROW would be used as the driveway for the private land parcel.

The purpose and need for the proposed action is to respond to a FLPMA right-of-way application and to develop and extend an existing road for private property access across public lands near the city of Campo Seco, California located within T. 4 N., R. 10 E., sec. 3 and T. 5 N., R. 10 E., sec. 34 MDBM. The proposed action would allow for the extension, re-construction and maintenance of an existing road in compliance with FLPMA, BLM right-of-way regulations, and other applicable Federal laws and policies.

##### **1.2 Decision and Rational**

This EA discloses the environmental consequences of implementing the proposed action or alternatives to that action. The Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) describes the findings of the analysis in this EA. The BLM Mother Lode Field Office Manager is the Deciding Official. His decision and the rationale for that decision will be stated in a separate Decision Record. Based on the information provided in this EA, the BLM Manager will decide whether to grant the right-of-way application with appropriate mitigation measures, or whether to reject it.

##### **1.3 Conformance with Applicable Land Use Plans**

The Sierra Resource Management Plan (RMP), February 2008, covers land use planning decisions for the subject area. This ROW proposal has been reviewed to determine that the proposed action conforms to the land use plan terms and conditions as required by 43 CFR 1610.5. The parcel is in conformance with the

RMP as outlined on page 32 which states that the goal of the Lands and Realty program is to respond to demand for land use authorizations as mandated by FLPMA.

#### **1.4 Relationship to Statutes, Regulations or Other Plans**

Under Section 2801.2 of BLM right-of-way regulations, it is the BLM's objective to grant rights-of-way to any qualified individual, business, or government entity and to direct and control the use of rights-of-way on public lands in a manner that:

- a) Protects the natural resources associated with public lands and adjacent lands, whether private or administered by a government entity;
- b) Prevents unnecessary or undue degradation to public lands;
- c) Promotes the use of rights-of-way in common considering engineering and technological compatibility, national security, and land use plans; and
- d) Coordinates, the fullest extent possible, all BLM actions under the regulations in this part with state and local governments, interested individuals, and appropriate quasi-public entities.

#### **2.0 Proposed Action and Alternatives**

##### **2.1 Proposed Action**

The proposed action is to reconstruct and extend to the property line an existing gravel road across BLM managed lands near the city of Campo Seco in Calaveras County, California. The proposed project area would be from the Martell property line up to the existing paved road identified as Arkansas Ferry Road. The proposed ROW would continue on Arkansas Ferry Road until it leaves the BLM managed lands. Arkansas Ferry Road leads out to county maintained Campo Seco Road (see attached map). The area of disturbance would be 20 feet in width and 2350 feet in length making the total area of proposed disturbance 1.08 linear acres, more or less. Of the 2350 foot total length around 400 feet would be new disturbance created from the extension of the road to the property line. The width of the proposed road surface is 15 feet, 7.5 feet on either side of the centerline of the road and 2.5 feet on either side of the road for a shoulder leaving room for vegetation clearing and continued maintenance. The road would be resurfaced/constructed using a  $\frac{3}{4}$  gravel/clay mix. A grader and/or bulldozer would be used to level bumps and fill in dips while resurfacing the road. A culvert would be installed at the small seasonal creek crossing to protect the road from erosion. The proposed culvert would be of a size as wide as the natural channel to avoid channel constriction. Base material/riprap would be placed around the inlet and outlet of the culvert. Every 200 feet along the road a bar ditch with drain piping would be installed to control surface runoff. No new construction is authorized on the south end of the road where it is already paved. Long term plans are to pave the proposed road surface with asphalt/concrete. An asphalt paver would be used to lay asphalt on the roadway. A roller would then be used to press the asphalt into the ground, to create a smooth, even surface. All vehicles would be staged along existing road surfaces.

##### **2.2 No Action**

Under the no-action alternative, the BLM Mother Lode FO would deny Carmella Martell's road ROW application, and the proposed action of performing new road installation and maintenance on public land would not be initiated. The no-action alternative is considered as a part of BLM's NEPA process and provides a comparative impact base for other alternatives. It could be selected by BLM if warranted by the findings of the environmental analysis. The no action alternative would meet the purpose and need of the BLM but would not address the multiple use mandates set forth for the BLM by FLPMA.

##### **2.3 Alternatives Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis**

There were no other alternatives considered for analysis.

### **3.0 Affected Environment**

The proposed action is located on an isolated BLM parcel approximately one half mile northwest of Campo Seco, CA in Calaveras County. The road is situated on a west facing slope at approximately 600 feet in elevation. Several residential properties dot the surrounding landscape. The road travels over an area that has seen a significant amount of mining activity.

### **4.0 Environmental Effects**

The following critical elements have been considered for this environmental assessment, and unless specifically mentioned later in this chapter, have been determined to be unaffected by the proposal: air quality, prime/unique farmlands, floodplains, water quality, hazardous waste, wetlands and riparian zones, wild and scenic rivers, wilderness, environmental justice and recreation.

#### **4.1 Impacts of the Proposed Action**

Visual – Impacts of the proposed action on visual resources will likely be minimal given that most of the road is already there. The surrounding area already contains many roads, homes, power lines, and other human created features.

Botany – The Botanist analyzed the impacts of the proposed action on botanical resources, especially special status plants. The analysis included a background records search through the California Natural Diversity Database as well as an internal BLM natural resources geodatabase. Because the records search showed no sensitive soils or rare plant habitat, the BLM Botanist determined that there were no special status plants in the project area; therefore, the proposed action would not negatively impact threatened and endangered plants or other BLM special status plants. The proposed action calls for vegetation removal. The proposed action would cause negligible effects to common vegetation. No merchantable timber is slated for removal during road construction.

Wildlife – The wildlife biologist analyzed the impacts the proposed action on wildlife, especially special status animals. The analysis was designed to help BLM meet its obligations under the Endangered Species Act and other special status species policy. During two previous site visits conducted on October 17, 2006, and March 26, 2007, special status animals were not found within the project area. In addition, searches of California Natural Diversity Database and BLM’s internal geodatabase revealed no special status animal records. The proposed action would not affect threatened and endangered animals or other BLM special status animals. The proposed action would cause temporary disruption to wildlife through the production of dust and noise. The impacts would be localized and temporary. The proposed action would cause negligible effects to common wildlife.

Cultural- The project area of the ROW directly affected by the proposed action was inventoried using Class III survey protocol by a BLM archaeologist. The primary purpose of the inventory was to identify the presence of significant cultural resources or “historic properties”, in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. No cultural resources were identified within the ROW area that would be affected by the proposed action.

#### **4.2 Impacts of the No Action Alternative**

Under the No Action Alternative, Ms. Martell would not be authorized to upgrade a road across BLM managed lands. The existing road surface would continue to degrade and eventually be reclaimed. Mrs. Martell would not be able to access her private property.

#### **4.4 Cumulative Impacts**

Erosion, rare plants, animals, and cultural resources are not expected to be impacted at the site specific scale. Therefore, cumulative impacts at a larger scale are not expected.

#### **5.0 Agencies and Persons Consulted**

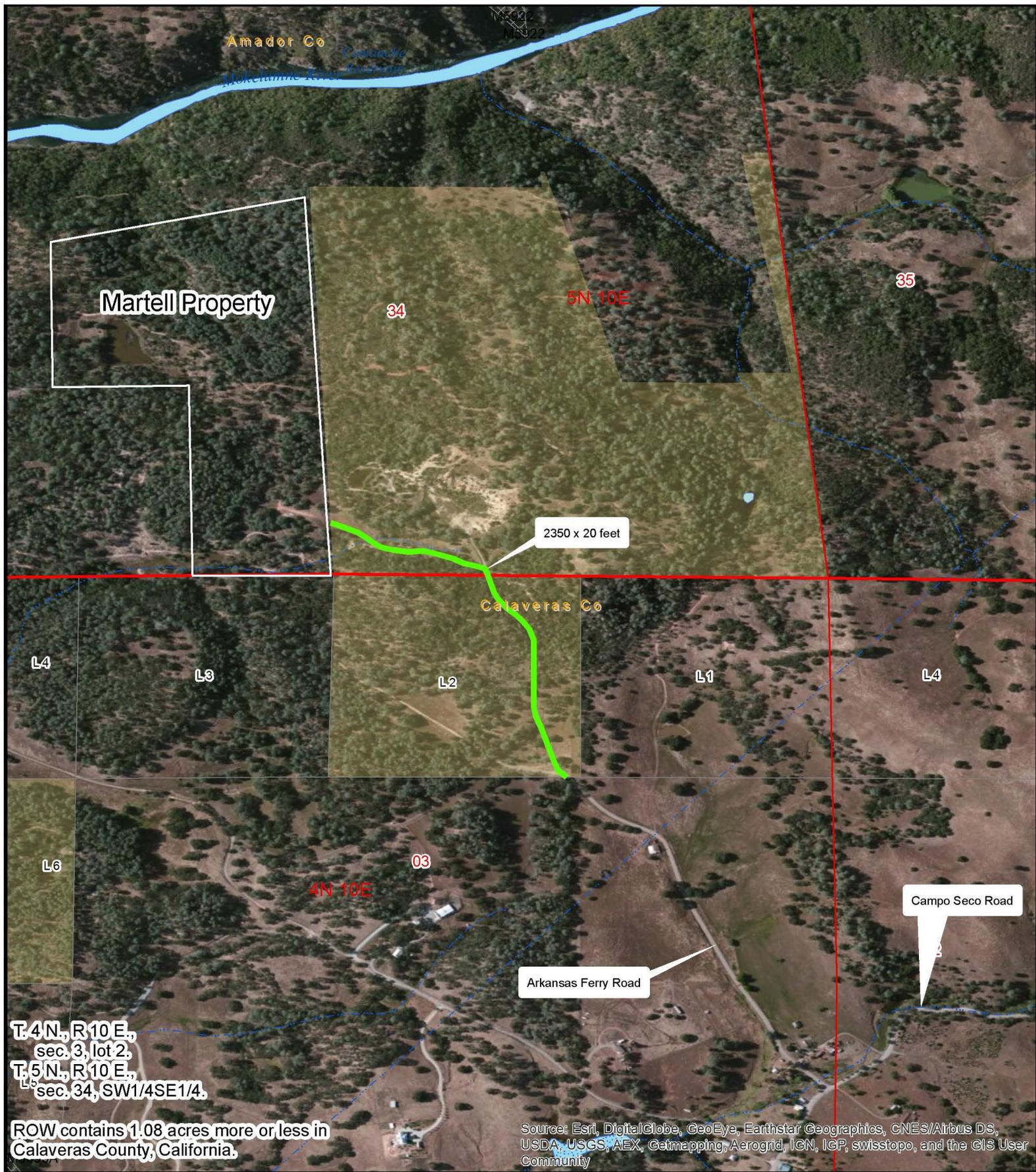
None.

## 5.1 BLM Interdisciplinary Team

<i>/s/ Peggy Cranston</i>	<i>3/1/2016</i>
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Peggy Cranston Wildlife Biologist	Date
<i>/s/ Alden Neel</i>	<i>3/1/2016</i>
<hr/>	
Alden Neel Cultural Resources	Date
<i>/s/ Beth Brenneman</i>	<i>3/1/16</i>
<hr/>	
Beth Brenneman Botanist	Date
<i>/s/ Jeff Horn</i>	<i>3/1/2016</i>
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Jeff Horn Recreation/Visual Resources	Date
<i>/s/ Heather Daniels</i>	<i>3.1.2016</i>
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Heather Daniels NEPA Coordinator	Date

## 6.3 Availability of Document and Comment Procedures

This EA, posted on Mother Lode Field Office's website ([www.blm.gov/ca/motherlode](http://www.blm.gov/ca/motherlode)) under Information, NEPA (or available upon request), will be available for a 15-day public review period. Comments should be sent to the Mother Lode Field Office, 5152 Hillside Circle, El Dorado Hills, CA 95762 or emailed to us at [mtobey@blm.gov](mailto:mtobey@blm.gov).

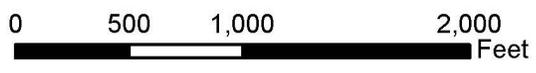


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 T. 5N., R. 10E.,  
 L. sec. 34, SW1/4SE1/4.

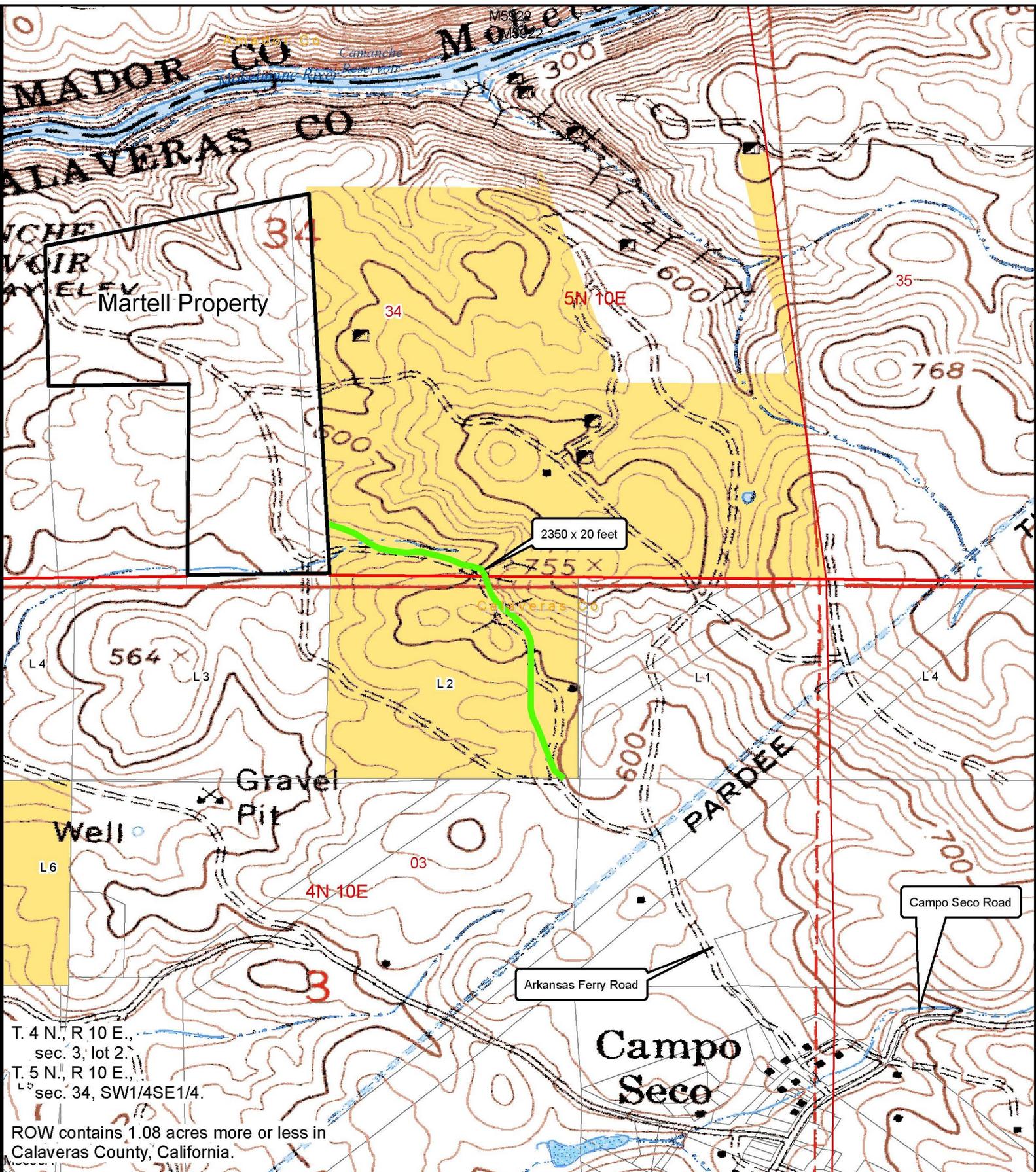
ROW contains 1.08 acres more or less in  
 Calaveras County, California.

Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS,  
 USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the GIS User  
 Community

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 Date Prepared: 11/25/2013  
 Project: rightofwaymaptemplate



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