

INTRODUCTION

This document has been prepared to supplement the information provided in Chapter 3 of the Wright Area Coal (WAC)¹ Lease Applications Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) (BLM 2009), herein referred to as the WAC DEIS document. It is a compilation of detailed, site-specific information about the existing environmental elements within the general analysis areas associated with six tracts of federal coal reserves adjacent to operating mines in the southeastern Powder River Basin (PRB). The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) received applications from the operators of three mines in southern Campbell County, Wyoming, to lease these LBA tracts as maintenance tracts under the regulations at 43 CFR 3425, Leasing On Application. The six tracts are: the North Hilight Field, South Hilight Field, and West Hilight Field Lease by Application (LBA) Tracts as applied for by Ark Land Company (ALC); the West Jacobs Ranch LBA Tract as applied for by Jacobs Ranch Coal Company (JRCC), and the North Porcupine and South Porcupine LBA Tracts as applied for by BTU Western Resources, Inc. (BTU). Figure S-1 shows the six LBA tracts as applied for, the respective BLM study areas, and the three applicant mines' (Black Thunder, Jacobs Ranch, and North Antelope Rochelle) existing federal coal lease boundaries.

For each tract, the Proposed Action that BLM is considering in the EIS is to hold a separate competitive lease sale and issue a separate lease for the federal coal lands included in the tract as applied for. The EIS also evaluates alternate tract configurations identified by BLM for consideration for leasing. BLM is evaluating adding lands to the tracts in order to avoid bypassing coal and to increase the potential for competition for the tracts. The BLM study area for each of these six LBA tracts is defined as the original tract as applied for, plus all lands that BLM is considering adding to the tract. Figures S-2 through S-7 depict the configuration of each LBA tract as applied for and the adjacent lands that BLM is considering adding to the tract as applied for, which is identified as the "Additional Area Evaluated Under Alternative 2, BLM's Preferred Alternative."

The general analysis area for each of these six LBA tracts is defined as the BLM study area (Alternative 2 tract configuration) plus surrounding lands within a ¼-mile perimeter that could be disturbed by mining the coal within the BLM study area where future mining disturbance could occur. The general analysis areas for the North and West Hilight Field LBA Tracts do not include lands within Black Thunder Mine's current mine permit area, although the general analysis area for the South Hilight Field LBA Tract does include some lands within Black Thunder Mine's current mine permit area. The general analysis area for the West Jacobs Ranch LBA Tract does not include lands within Jacobs Ranch Mine's current mine permit area. The general analysis areas for both the North and South Porcupine LBA Tracts are almost entirely within North Antelope Rochelle Mine's current mine permit area. The general Wright

¹ Refer to page xxvi of the WAC DEIS document for a list of abbreviations and acronyms used in this supplementary information document.

Supplementary Information on the Affected Environment

analysis area is defined as the area encompassing all six of these LBA tract general analysis areas.

The Data Adequacy Standards for the Powder River Coal Region (BLM 1989) provided the basis for describing the individual resources and critical elements of the human environment (BLM 1988) that could potentially be affected if these tracts are leased and mined as proposed. This document includes more detailed information about the existing conditions of the physical, biological, and cultural resources in each LBA tracts as a supplement to the discussions on corresponding elements of the affected environment that are summarized more briefly in Chapter 3 of the WAC DEIS document.

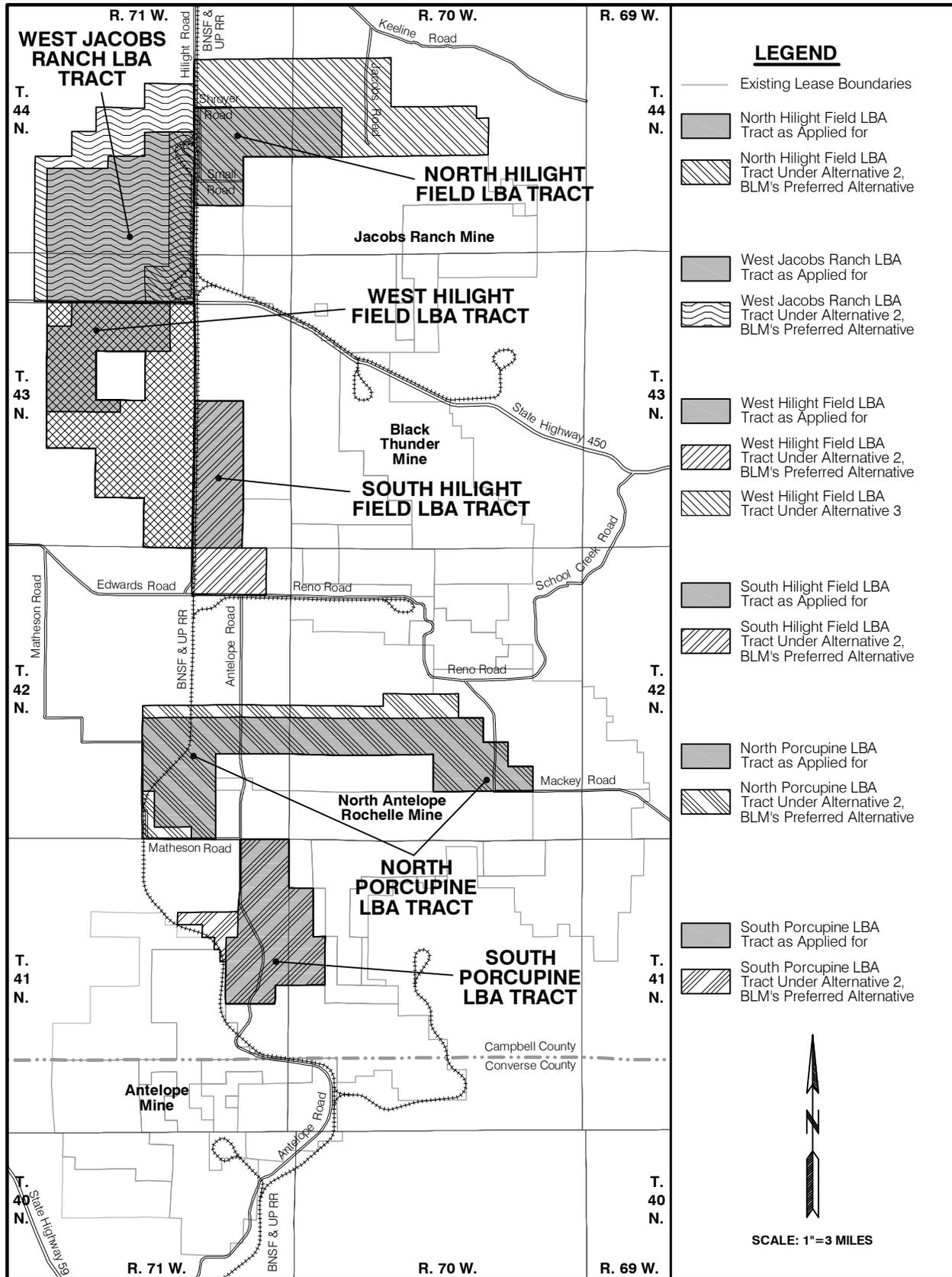


Figure S-1. The Three WAC Mines' LBA Tracts as Applied for, the Respective BLM Study Areas, and the WAC EIS General Analysis Area.

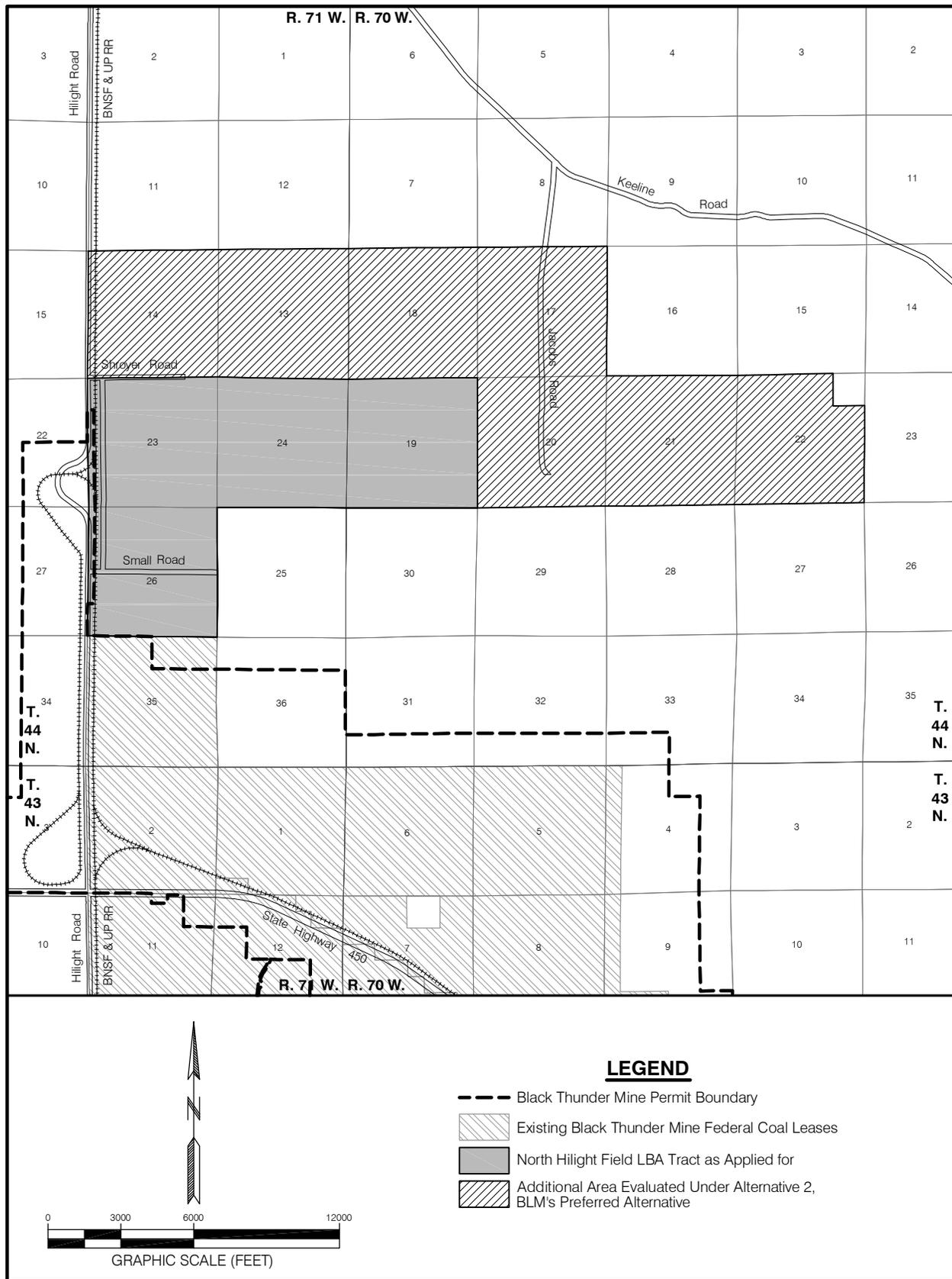


Figure S-2. North Hilight Field LBA Tract Alternatives.

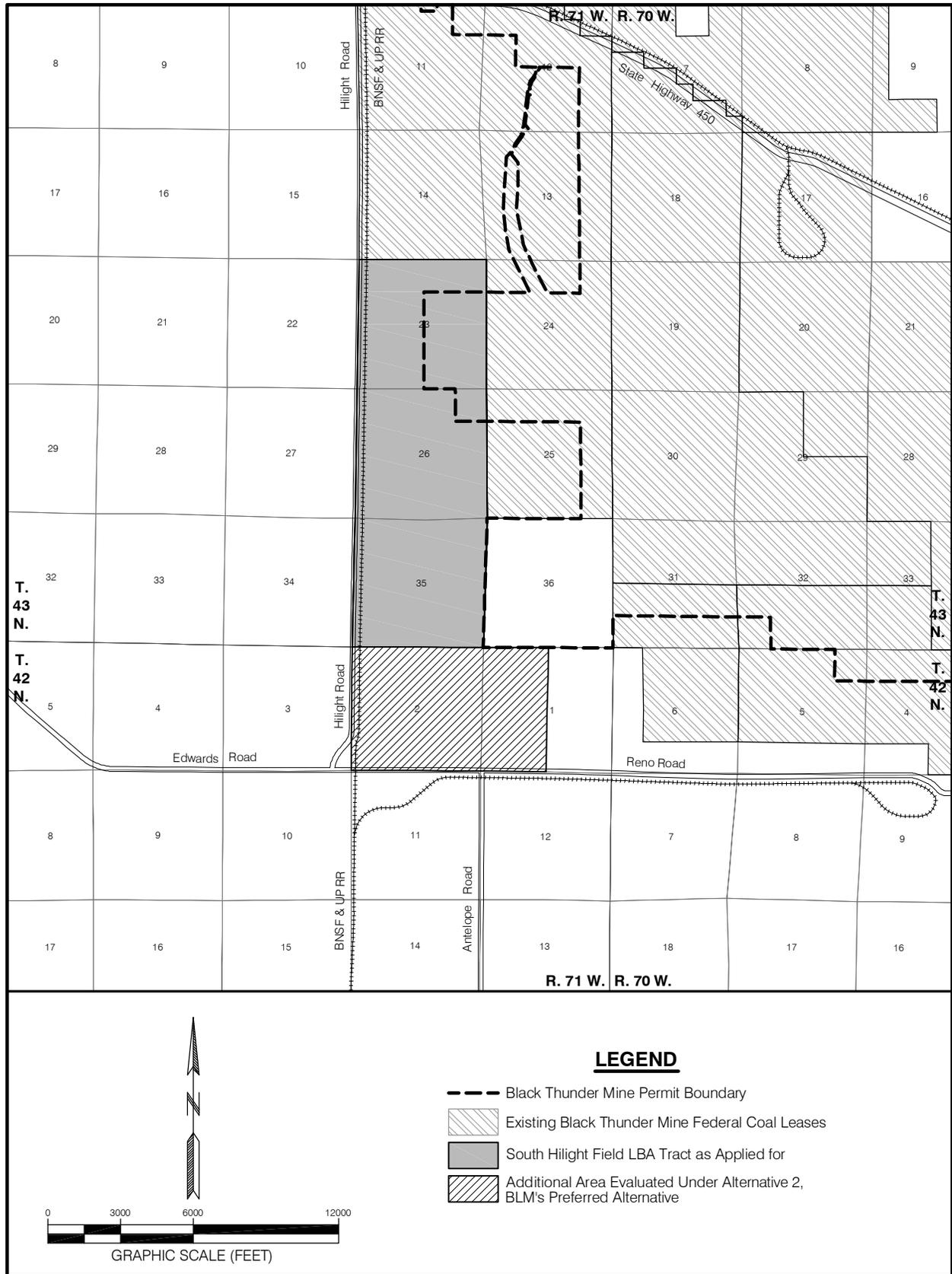


Figure S-3. South Hilight Field LBA Tract Alternatives.

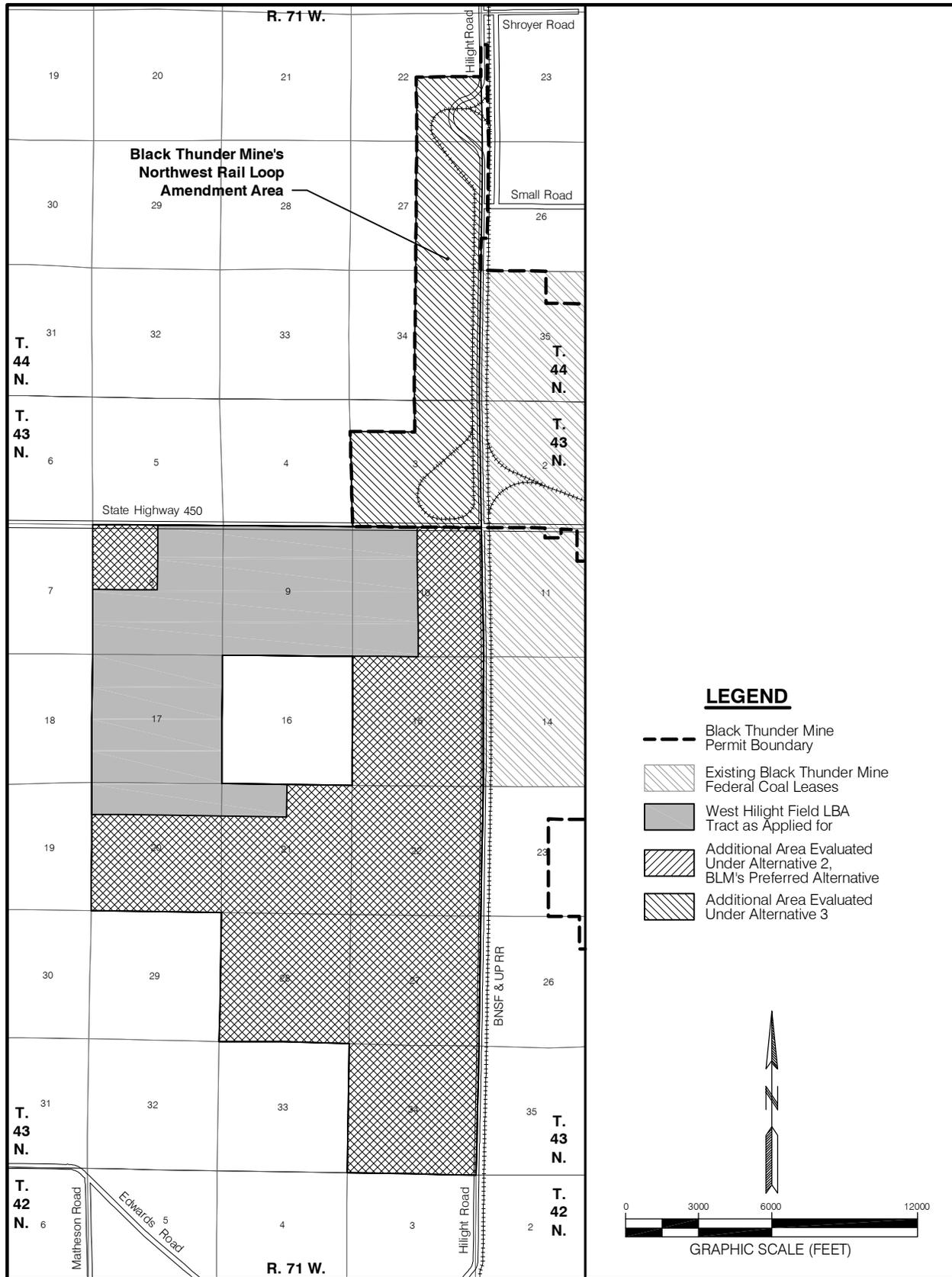


Figure S-4. West Hilight Field LBA Tract Alternatives.

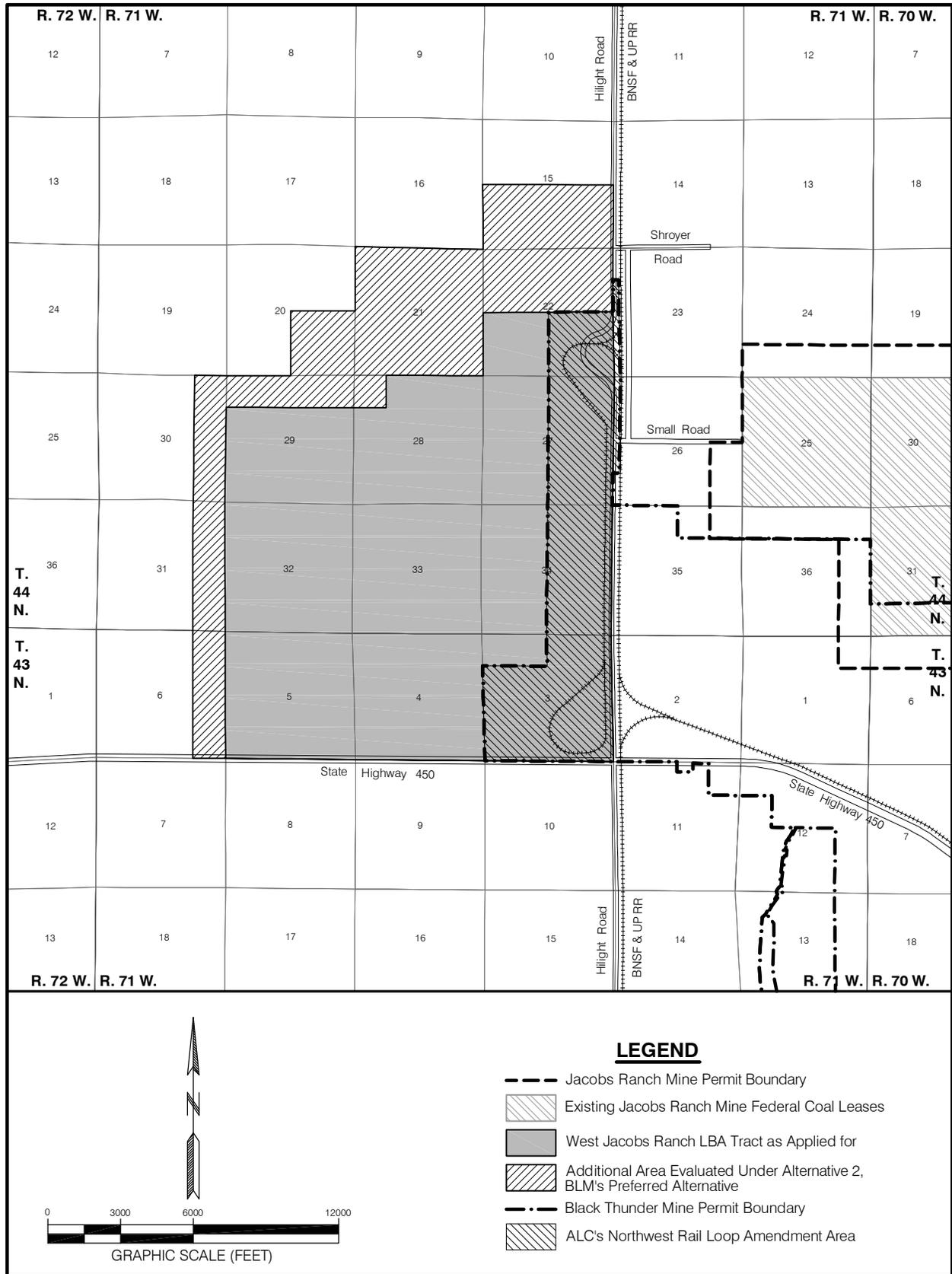


Figure S-5. West Jacobs Ranch LBA Tract Alternatives.

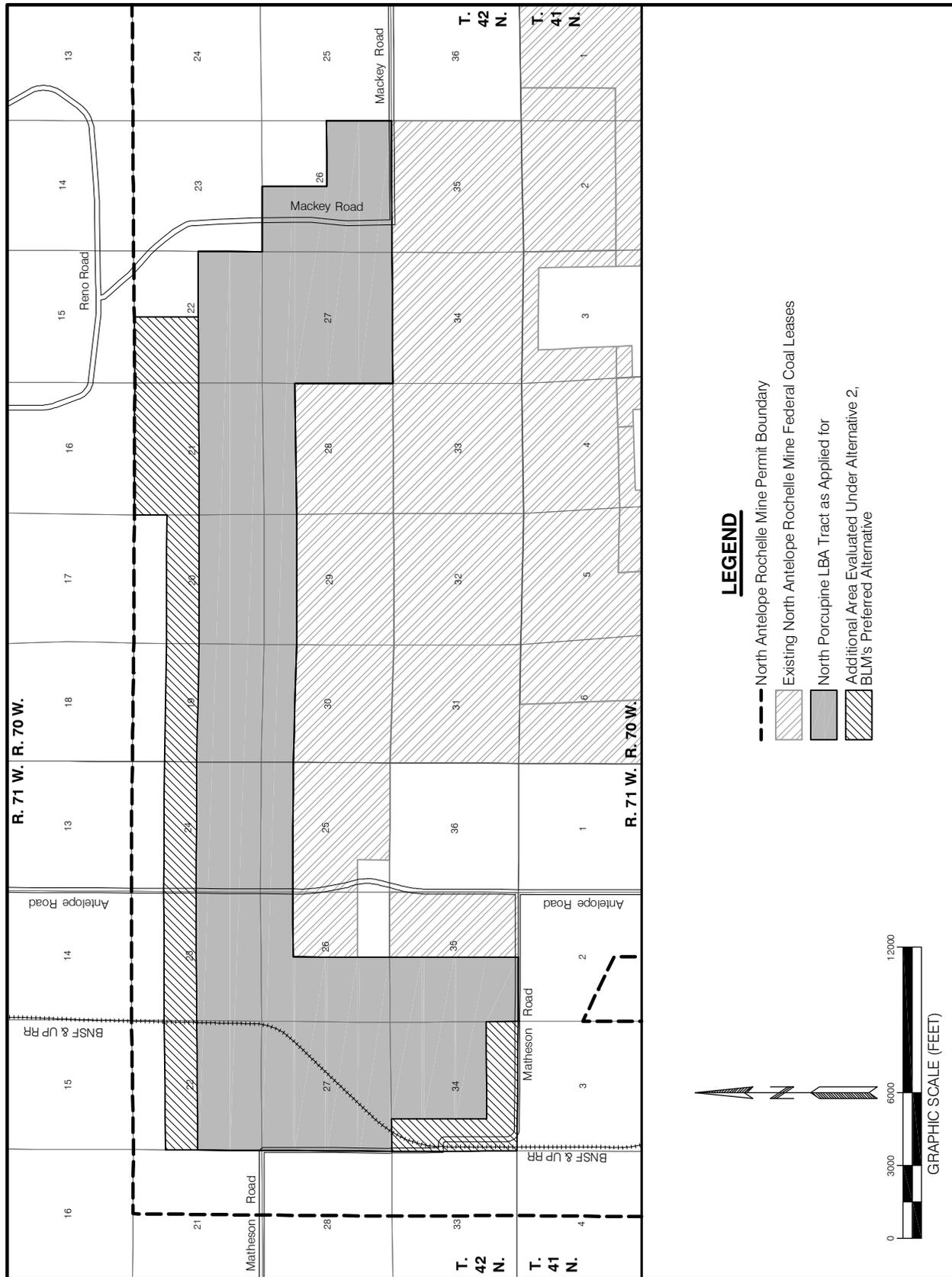


Figure S-6. North Porcupine LBA Tract Alternatives.

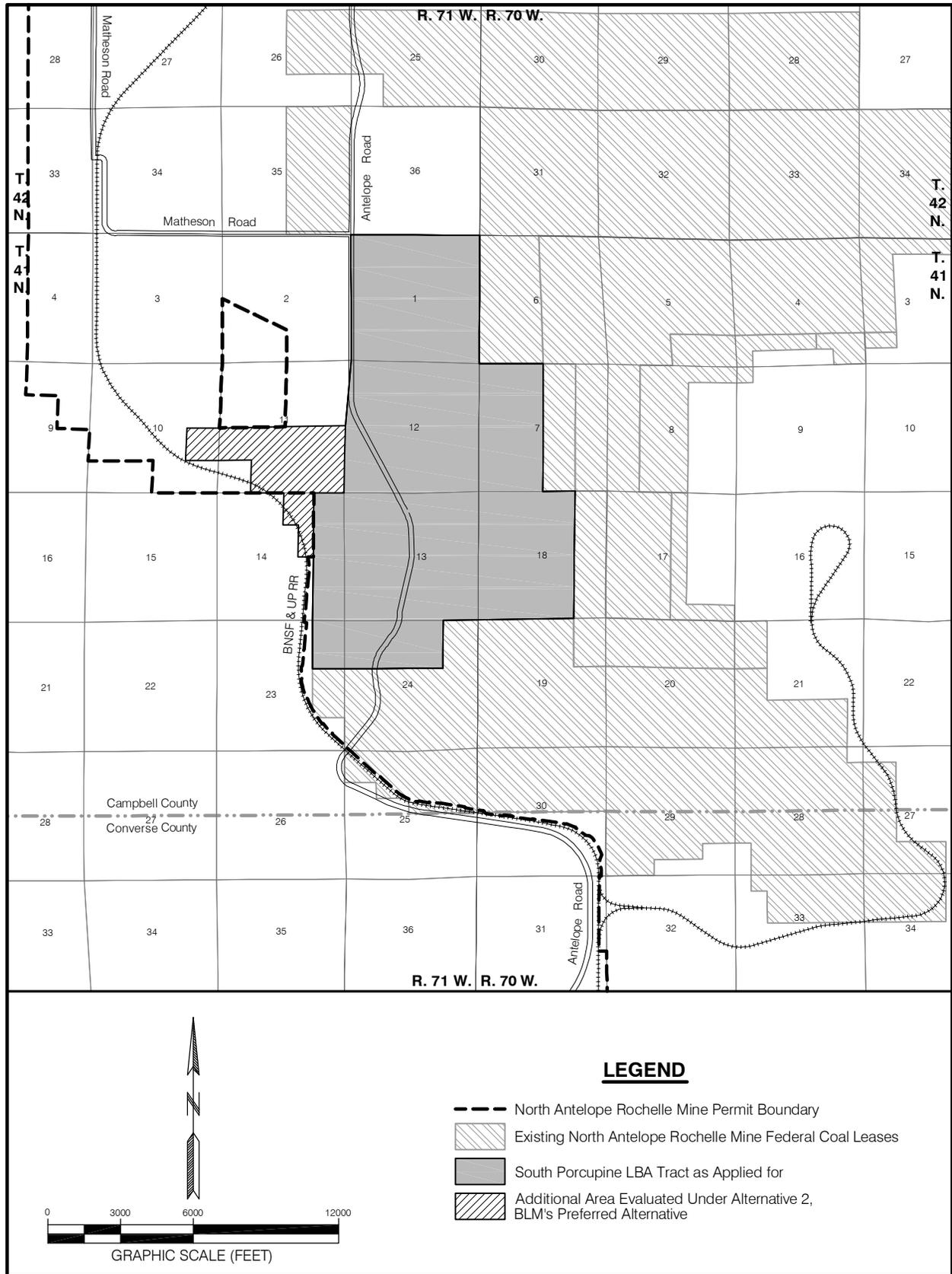


Figure S-7. South Porcupine LBA Tract Alternatives.