

INTRODUCTION

This document has been prepared to supplement the information provided in Chapter 3 of the South Gillette Area Coal (SGAC) Lease Application Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS)¹ (BLM 2009), herein referred to as the SGAC EIS document. This document includes information that was not available at the time of the SGAC Draft EIS publication (October 2008). It is a compilation of detailed, site-specific information about the existing environmental elements within the study areas associated with four tracts of federal coal reserves adjacent to operating mines in the southern Powder River Basin (PRB). The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has received applications from the operators of four mines in central Campbell County, Wyoming, to lease these LBA tracts as maintenance tracts under the regulations at 43 CFR 3425, Leasing On Application. The four tracts are: the Caballo West Lease by Application (LBA) Tract as applied for by Caballo Coal Company (CCC), the Belle Ayr North LBA Tract as applied for by Foundation Coal West (FCW), the Maysdorf II LBA Tract as applied for by Cordero Mining Company (CMC), and the West Coal Creek LBA Tract as applied for by Ark Land Company (ALC). Figure SI-1 shows the four LBA tracts as applied for, the four applicant mines' anticipated permit amendment study areas, and the general analysis area for the SGAC EIS. Figures SI-2, SI-3, SI-4, and SI-5 show this information for each of the four individual applicant mines.

For each tract, the Proposed Action that BLM is considering in the SGAC 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 or subtracting lands from the tracts in order to avoid bypassing coal or to increase potential competition on some of the tracts.

The resource report area for each tract includes the tract as applied for, the adjacent lands that BLM is considering adding to the tracts, and the anticipated permit amendment study area for each tract (Figure SI-1). The anticipated amendment study area is generally defined as those lands adjacent to and outside of an applicant mine's current permit area that the applicant anticipates would be contained within the amended mine permit area if they acquire the tract.

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 that could potentially be affected if this tract is 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 SGAC EIS document.

¹ Refer to page xxiii of the SGAC EIS document for a list of abbreviations and acronyms used in this supplementary information document.

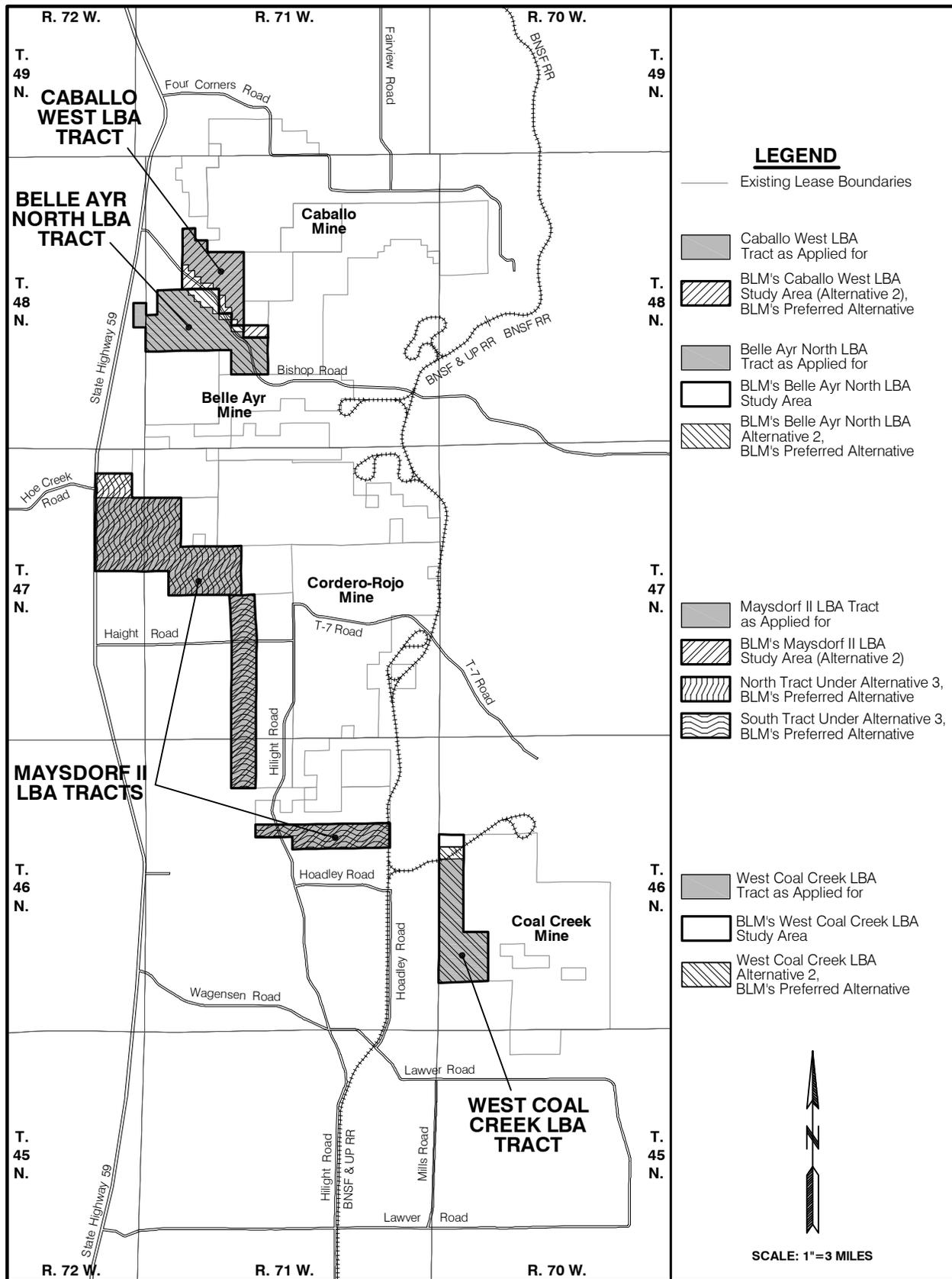


Figure SI-1. The Four SGAC Mines' LBA Tracts as Applied for, the Respective BLM Study Areas, and the SGAC EIS General Analysis Area.

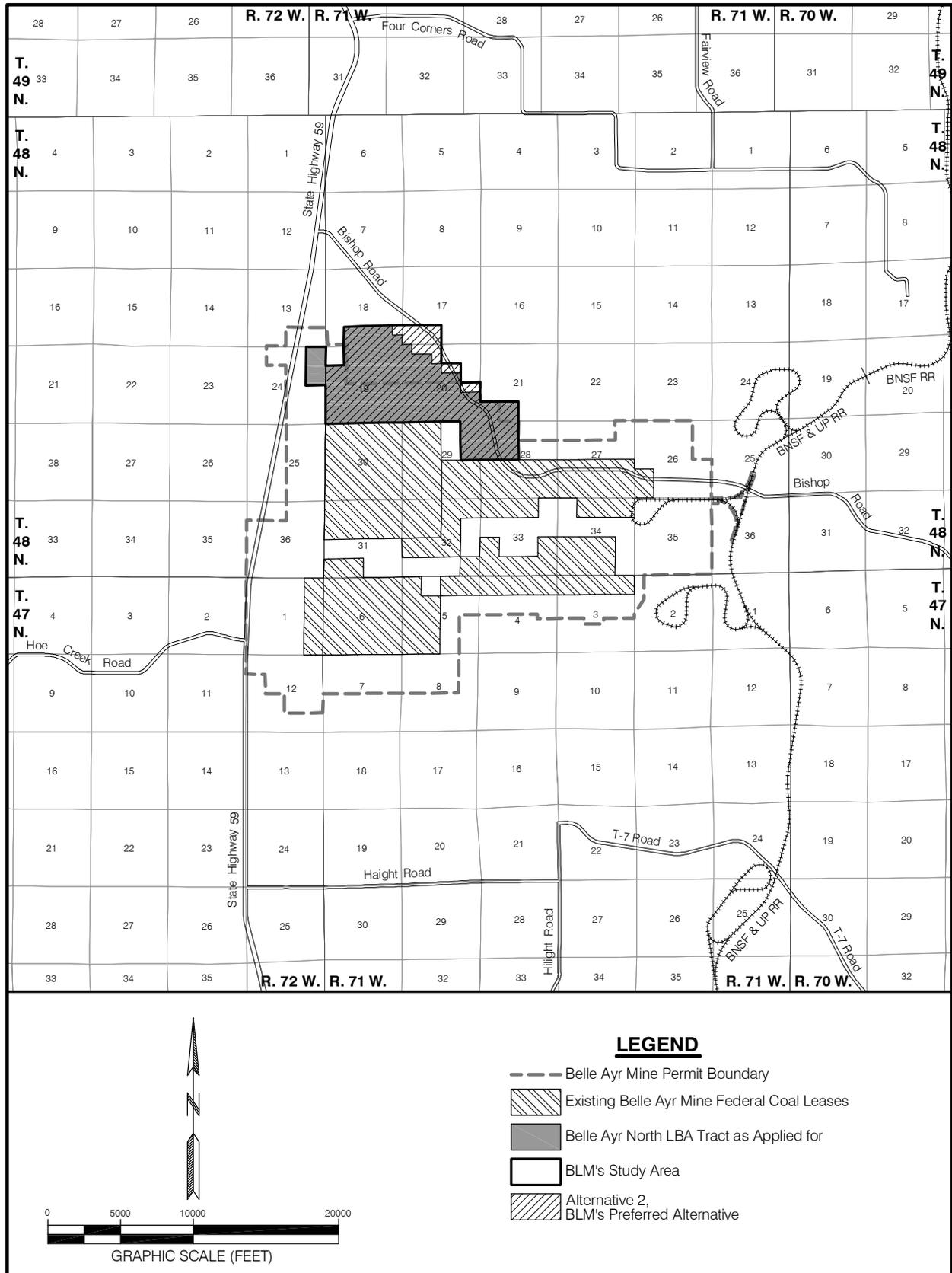


Figure SI-2. Belle Ayr North LBA Tract Alternatives.

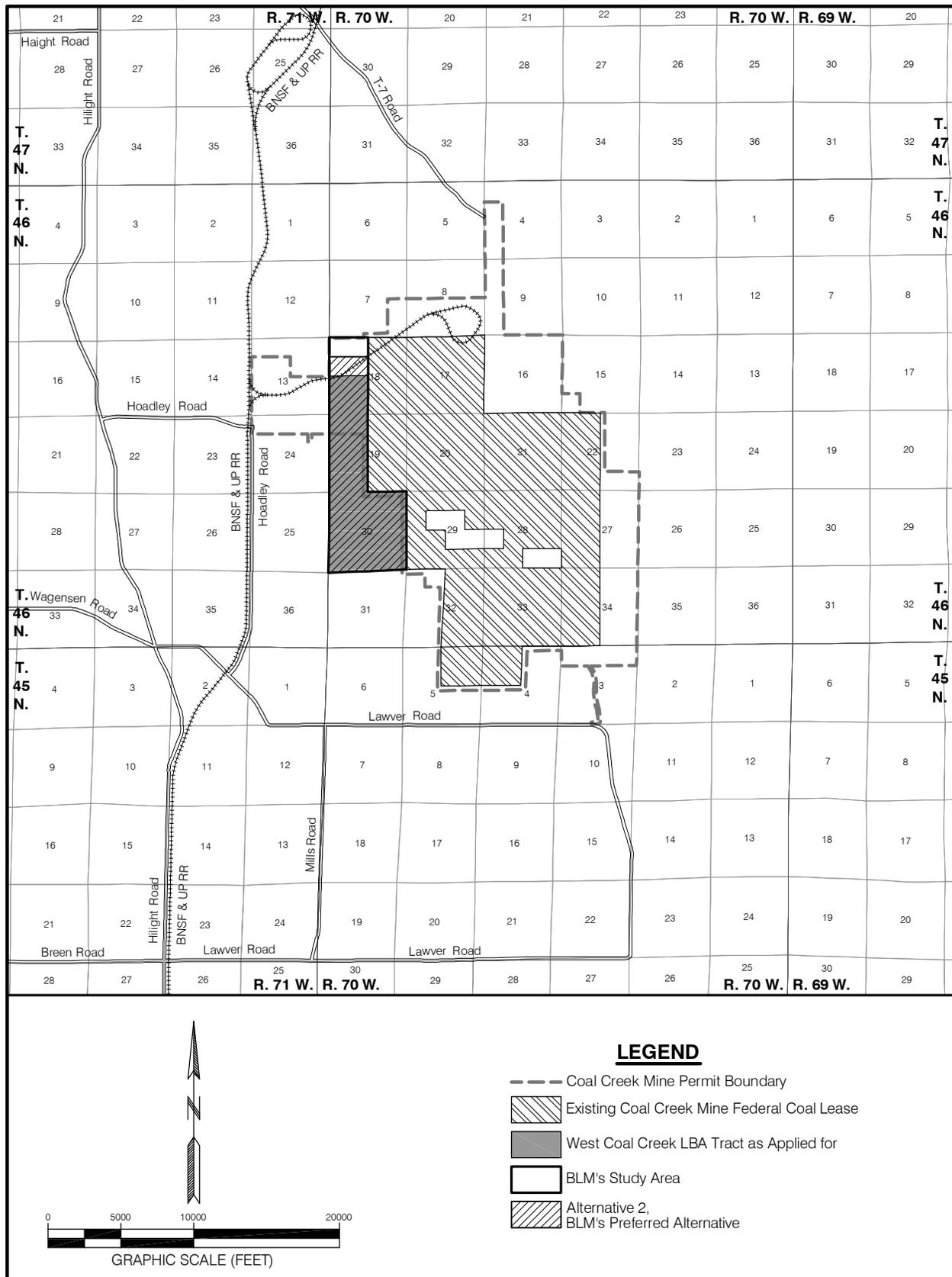


Figure SI-3. West Coal Creek LBA Tract Alternatives.

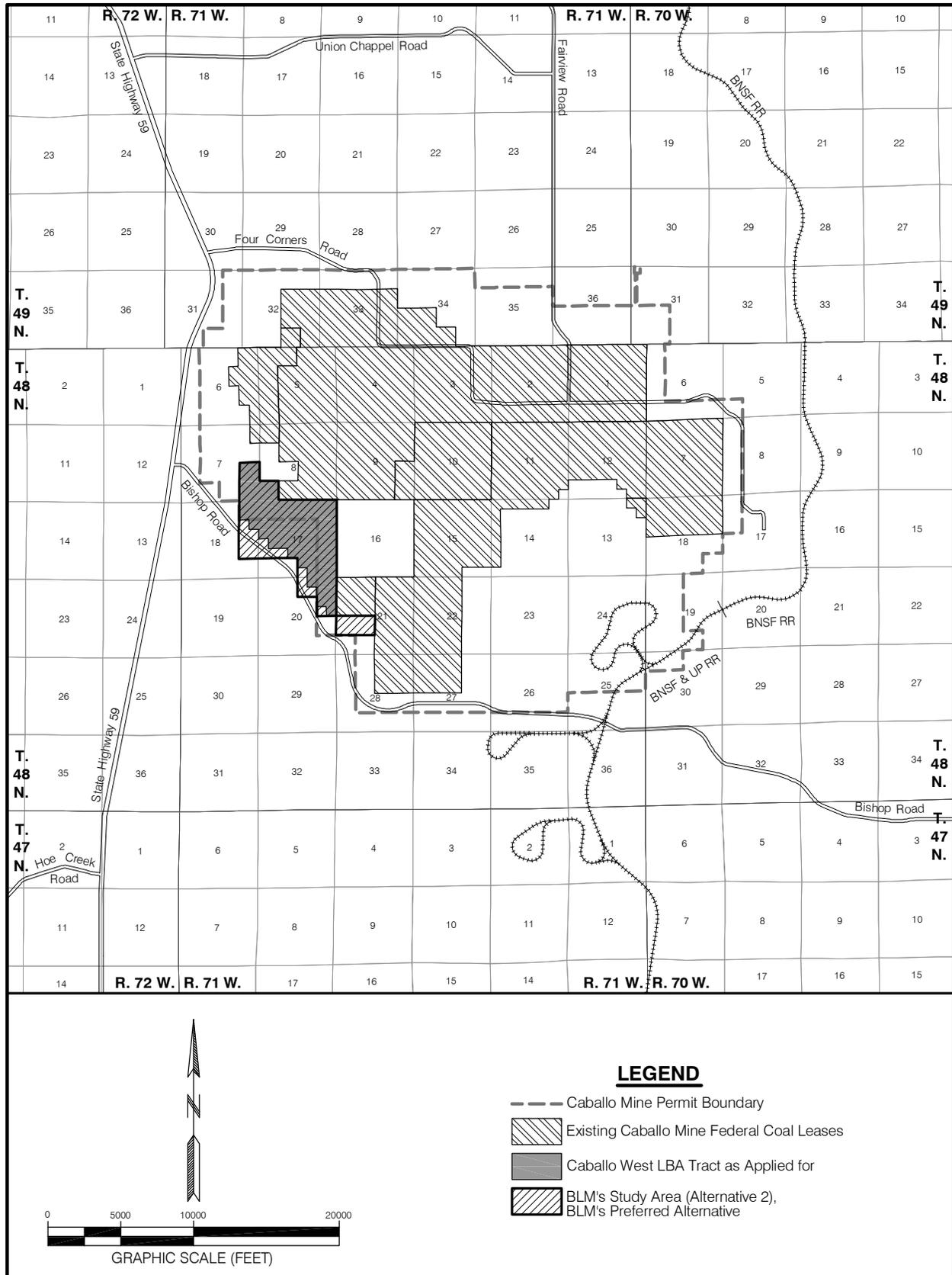


Figure SI-4. Caballo West LBA Tract Alternatives.

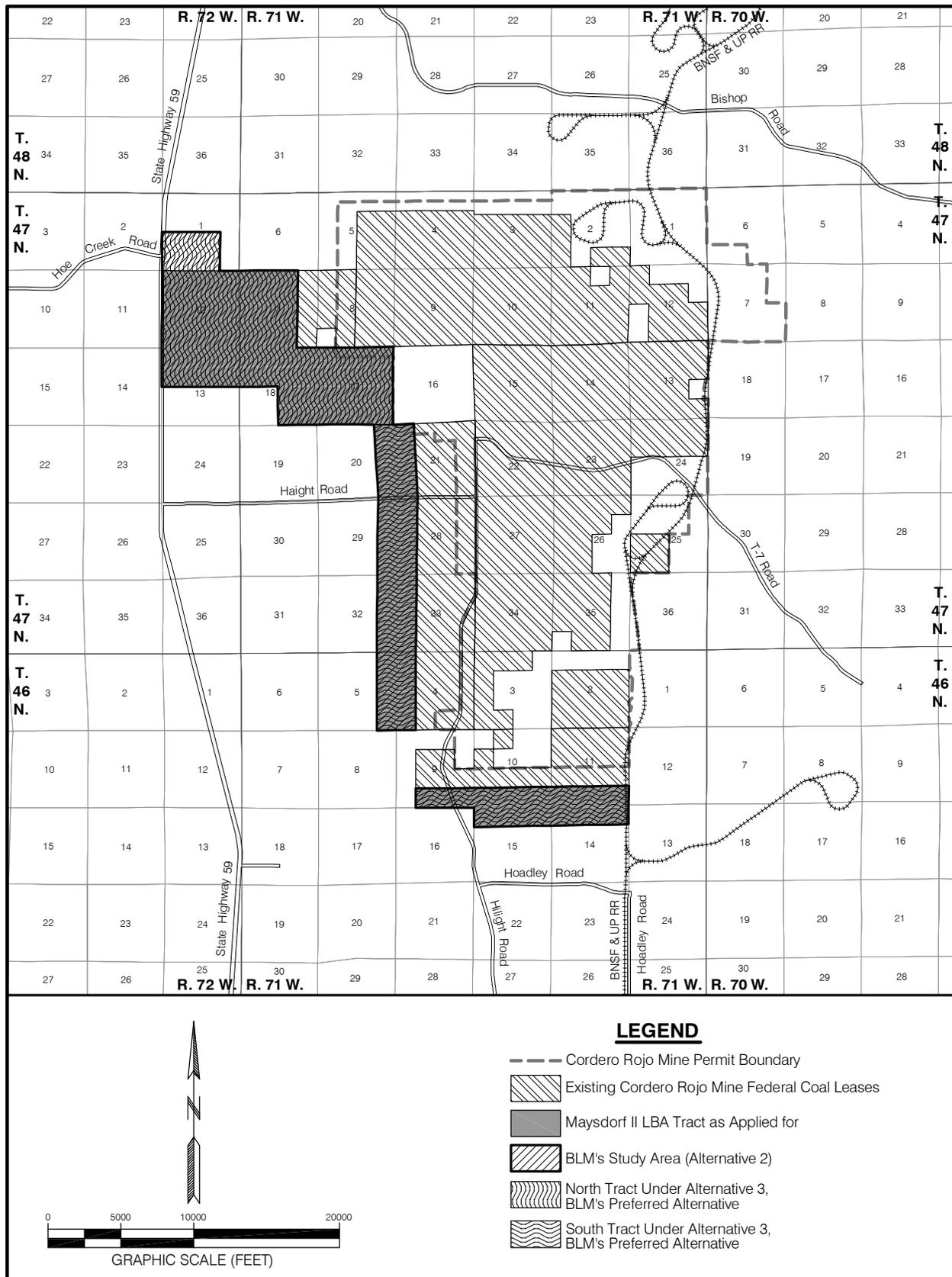


Figure SI-5. Maysdorf II LBA Tract Alternatives.