

Pre-Operations Report

Operation Name: Panther Headwaters No. 3

County: Coos

Management Basin: 14

Table 1. Operation Areas, Types and Acres

Area	Type of Operation	Gross Acres	Net Acres
	CC	63	61
Total		63	61

I. PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION OF OPERATION AREA:

This operation is a single-unit timber sale totaling 61 net acres. The timber sale is located on the western slope of the Coast Range within the Panther Creek watershed of the Elliott State Forest, Management Basin 11. The timber sale is in close proximity to the Pacific Ocean, which has a dominant influence on the climate. The average annual rainfall is between 95-105 inches. Temperatures range from 32-76 degrees Fahrenheit throughout the year. This timber sale has an elevation of 1100 to 1900 feet above sea level with slopes ranging from 15 percent to over 85 percent. Slopes are predominantly west facing, with minor portions of the unit having east facing slopes. Eocene age sedimentary rocks underlie the area. Soil types consist of Preacher-Bohannon loams with some Milbury-Bohannon-Umpcoos association throughout.

II. CURRENT STAND CONDITION:

The timber sale is second growth Douglas-fir that originated after the Coos Bay fire of 1868. It is composed of 113 to 120 year-old Douglas-fir with a minor component of red alder and scattered understory hemlock. Table 2 contains stocking, size and age information for the timber sale. There are few hard snags in the stand.

Table 2. Stand Inventory Information

Area	Prescription	Stand ID ¹	Species	Age in 2005	DBH	BA	TPA	SDI	Acres ²
	CC	2358	DF,WH	113	24	120	39	54	40
	CC	645	DF,RA, WH	96	20	276	126	69	6
	CC	841	DF,RA, WH	77	18	132	76	39	15
	Target ³	2358,645, 841	DF,WH, WRC		24	9	3	1	61

1. The source of stand inventory information is (SLI) from current records.

2. The acres are based on GIS, and exclude interior roads, streams buffers, reserve areas, etc.

3. The Target identifies expected stand characteristics (DBH, BA, TPA and SDI) after harvesting has been completed.

III. DESIRED FUTURE CONDITION:

This timber sale will be prepared under the Elliott State management plan, providing for additional green trees, down logs, and snag creation to create and maintain forest structure for wildlife habitat. The desired condition is a young age class stand to provide early successional habitat in accordance with the Balanced Landscape strategy of the Elliott State Forest Management Plan. It will be composed of mainly Douglas-fir and may have a smaller component of other conifer species including hemlock and/or red cedar. Red alder will also naturally regenerate in the stand. Green trees retained during this operation will provide for multi-story stand structures valuable for wildlife.

Table 3. Stand Structure Information (Does not apply Elliott State Forest)

IV. PROPOSED MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTION:

The prescription for this sale is to harvest most of the overstory, leaving standing trees within buffer areas and scattered in selected locations in or along the edge of the sale unit.

Site Preparation and Planting - Site preparation will be achieved by yarding disturbance and treating residual brush with herbicide prior to planting. The site will be planted with conifer seedlings at approximately 400-500 trees per acre. Species mix is planned to be about 85% Douglas-fir and 15% hemlock and/or western red cedar.

Green Tree Retention - At least 305 trees (about 5 per acre) will be left within the sale area. Emphasis will be given to retention of conifer species other than Douglas-fir. Some of these trees will be topped and/or girdled for snag creation. Single green trees will not be left unless localized soil conditions provide for wind firmness and logging conditions are suitable. The location of retained trees will be determined during the sale prep process. Green trees may be clumped and/or scattered as allowed by topography and operational concerns and be determined in collaboration with the Southern Oregon Area Biologist and the district silviculturist. Emphasis may be given to widening riparian management areas.

Snag Retention and Creation - Existing snags within the sale area will be left, with the exception of those that endanger work crews. Green trees will receive a combination of topping and/or girdling to leave at least 122 topped/girdled trees within the sale area (about two trees per acre harvested). Specific instructions for girdling, and topping trees will be provided by the Southern Oregon Area Biologist during the timber sale layout process.

Down Log Retention - At least 305 logs (5 logs per acre harvested) will be left for wildlife emphasis within the timber sale area in accordance with the Elliott State Forest Management Plan. Down logs shall meet the following minimum specifications: 16 feet in length and 12 inches diameter at the large end.

Burning – Portions of the sale may be burned depending on the amount and distribution of the slash and timing of sale completion. The main purpose of this type of burn is to provide for biological diversity and improved big game forage rather than site preparation. However, portions of the sale may be burned, if planting spots are too few to attain adequate stocking.

V. ESTIMATED TIMBER AND REVENUE OUTPUTS:

Table 4. Timber and Revenue

Ownership		Sale Type	
BOF	CSL	Cash	Recovery
0%	100%		X
Planned Quarter:		3	

	Conifer	Hardwood	Total
Net Volume (MBF)	3,355	63	3418
Stumpage Value (\$/MBF)	450	365	
Estimated Gross Value	1,509,750	22,995	1,532,745
		Project Costs:	38,000
		Estimated Net Value:	1,494,745

VI. HARVESTING AND ACCESS CONSIDERATONS:

All legal access to the sale is obtained and there are no property lines needing to be surveyed. Access to the timber sale area is from the 8800 road. The 8800 road is a rocked collector spur which will require minor maintenance. Access to portions of the unit will be from an unnumbered dirt spur. The spur will be constructed to the minimum standard of 14 feet with no ditch unless winter work is planned. If winter harvesting is planned, purchaser may be required to upgrade surface and drainage. Upgrades will include ditches, cross drains and rock. Winter harvesting will require purchaser supplied rock. After operations are complete the spur will be water-barred and blocked. Final road, landing and rock stockpile locations will be determined during the timber sale preparation process.

The sale area will be cable yarded up hill. Full suspension will be required over stream channels and single end suspension on the remainder of the sale area. Trees will be felled parallel or away from the residual trees and Riparian Management Areas.

Table 5. Transportation Management Summary (Miles).

Activity	Mainline	Collector	Rocked Spur	Dirt Spur
Construct	0	0	0	0.1
Improve	0	0	0	0
Maintain	.13	.58	0	0.1
Close/Block	0	0	0	0.1
Vacate	0	0	0	0

VII. AQUATIC RESOURCES AND WATER QUALITY:

The timber sale is located within the Panther Creek watershed, a medium Type F tributary of the West Fork Millicoma River. Streams associated with this sale were surveyed to ODFW protocol for fish presence in 1997 and 2006. Surveys in 2006 revealed a recently blown out debris jam (from winter storm events) at a stream junction to the West of the western most portion of the sale area. It is likely that fish will now be able to access portions of the tributaries along the NW and SW of the sale area. Surveys in 2007 may provide additional fish presence information. All drainages associated with the sale area were field surveyed during the 2006 summer low flow period to determine the stream channel extent and whether streamflow is perennial or seasonal. The unit has three Type N Perennial channels and one Type N Seasonal channel on the western boundary and one Type N Perennial flowing through a small portion of the eastern boundary.

There are no known water rights within or downstream of the proposed operation.

VIII. WILDLIFE AND T&E SPECIES CONSIDERATIONS:

The older habitat within this sale area may be suitable for certain T and E species. This sale is planned under the standards of the Elliott State Forest Management and Habitat Conservation Plans and other Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) policy. The specific measures are as follows:

NSO Habitat Retention:

Basin 14 – The minimum acreage for nesting, roosting, and foraging (NRF) habitat in this basin is 2,030 acres. Reserve acres in this basin include 1609 acres (32%) that are being retained in riparian management areas, habitat conservation areas and other conservancy acres. After this sale plan there will be 2,415 acres of NRF acres retained, including in-growth. Fifty-percent of this basin (2,537 acres) must provide dispersal habitat. After this sale plan, there will be about 2,813 acres of dispersal habitat retained, including in-growth.

Marbled Murrelet - The sale area was surveyed according to protocol standards during the 2006 survey season and will receive second year surveys in 2007 with a portion receiving surveys again in 2008. Currently, no areas of the timber sale are within 330 feet of a Marbled Murrelet Management Area. The South Umpcoos and Panther Headwaters Marbled Murrelet Management Areas are within one-quarter mile of portions of the timber sale.

Bald Eagle, Other - There are no known bald eagle nest sites or other listed animal species in the vicinity of this sale.

Salmon and Steelhead – The sale area is not within 100 feet of a Type F stream, although the 2007 fish presence surveys may change the status of the stream.

Plants - No listed plant records were identified within the sale area.

Fragmentation – The sale area is at the edge of a mature block of timber and does not increase fragmentation of interior habitat.

IX. SLOPE STABILITY AND GEOTECHNICAL ISSUES:

This sale area has had a review by an ODF geo-tech specialist. A closer examination will be made during the sale layout process to determine if other site specific protection measures will be necessary.

The lower one-half of the west facing slopes draining into Panther Creek tributaries appear to meet criteria for classification as high landslide hazard locations. Debris flows originating on these HLHL are likely to deliver large wood to fish-bearing Panther Creek. East facing slopes in West Fork Millicoma basin do not appear to meet HLHL criteria.

To minimize yarding impacts on the slopes, single end suspension cable yarding will be required. Roads will be located on ridge-crests as much as possible and any steep sidehill portions will be constructed with full bench end-haul design and construction. Construction will be done during the dry season.

X. RECREATION RESOURCES:

The most common recreation for this area is hunting and dispersed undeveloped recreation. Harvesting of these units will provide forage area to help promote healthy deer and elk populations. In addition, areas of bare soil around road edges and landings will be grass seeded after logging to provide forage. Surrounding forest types provide escape cover. No conflict is seen with respect to the undeveloped, dispersed recreation usage of the forest.

XI. CULTURAL RESOURCES:

There are no cultural sites associated with this sale.

XII. SCENIC RESOURCES:

The units are not within any scenic management areas.

XIII. OTHER RESOURCE CONSIDERATIONS:

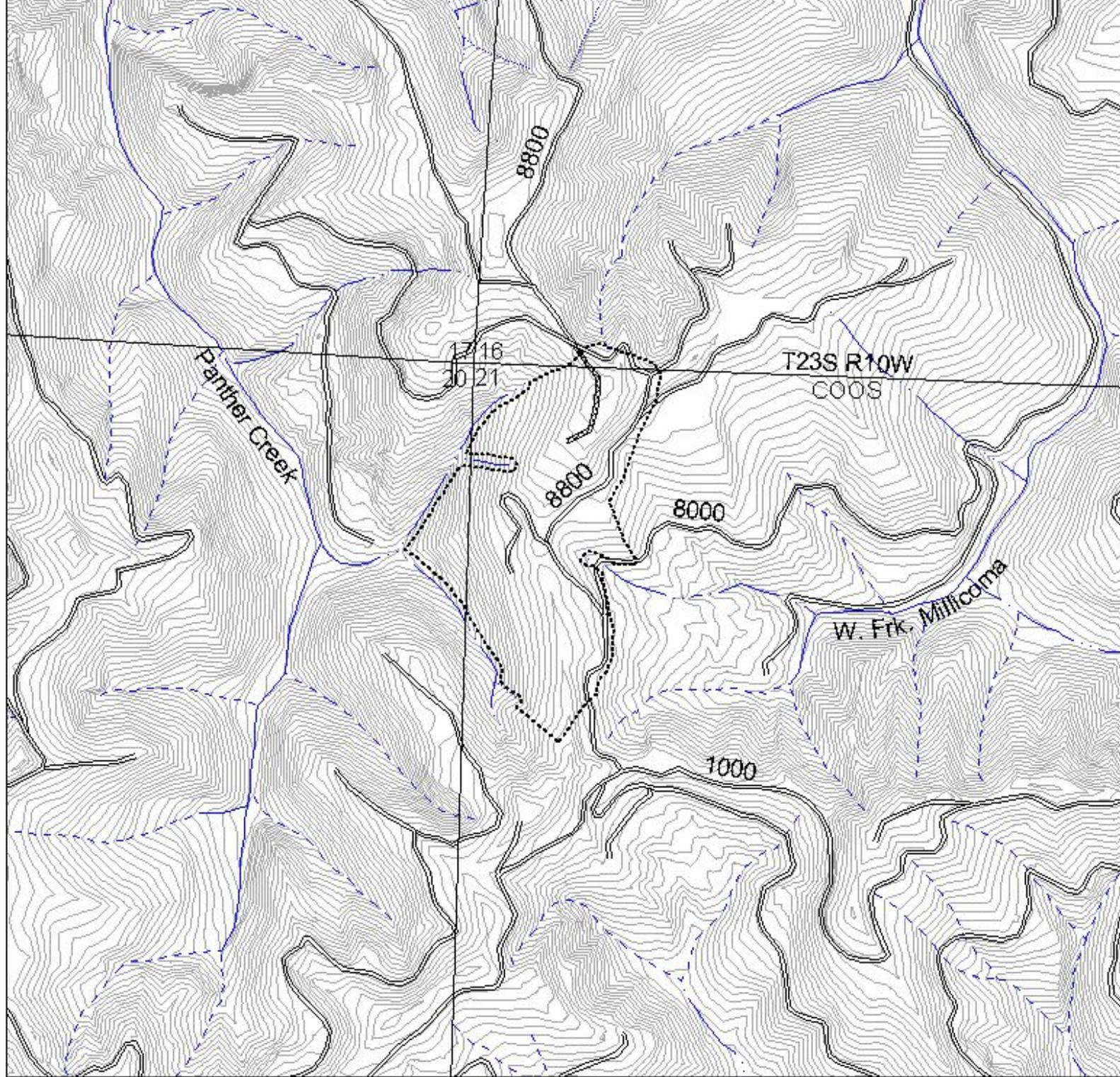
There are no other known resource considerations associated with this sale.

XIV. LAND MANAGEMENT CLASSIFICATION SUMMARY:

Table 6. Land Use Classification Summary

Area	Production
	61

This table summarizes the acres in each land use class within the operation.

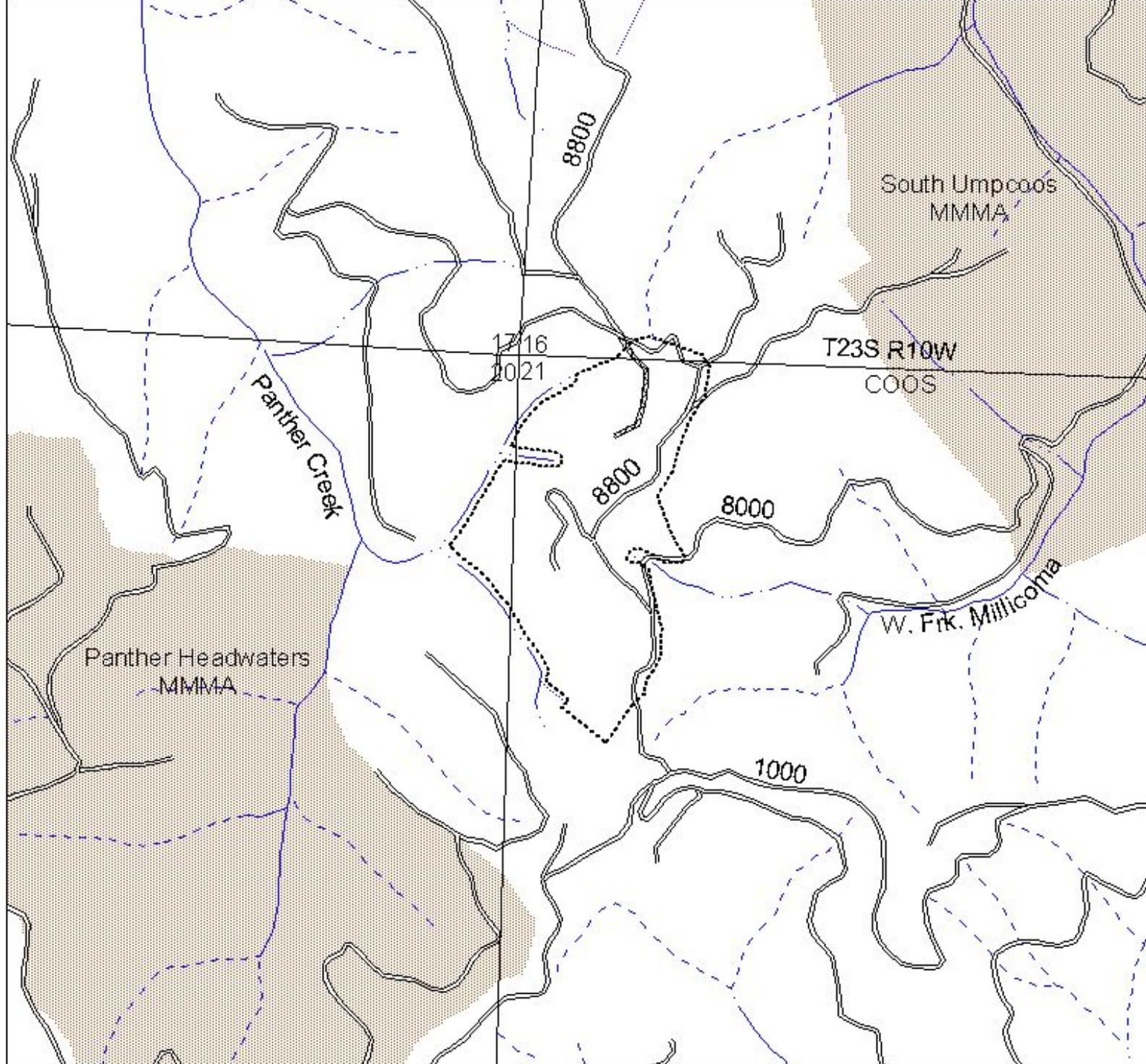


Legend

- Sale Boundary
- New Road Construction
- Roads
- Streams**
- Type F
- Type N Perennial
- Type N Seasonal
- Unclassified
- 20 Foot Contours

Panther Headwaters No. 3
 61 Net Acres
 -- Exhibit A Topography --
 FY 08 Sale Plan
 Coos District
 Portions of Sections 16, 20 & 21
 T23S, R10W, W.M.
 Coos County, OR





Legend

- Sale Boundary
- New Road Construction
- Roads
- Streams**
 - Type F
 - Type N Perennial
 - Type N Seasonal
 - Unclassified
- 20 Foot Contours
- Marbled Murrelet Management Area

Panther Headwaters No. 3
61 Net Acres
-- Exhibit A Topography --
FY 08 Sale Plan
Coos District

Portions of Sections 16, 20 & 21
 T23S, R10W, W.M.
 Coos County, OR



Approx. Scale 1" = 1000'

Coos District GIS
 09/12/2006

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