

Pre-Operations Report

Operation Name: Southern Gold (Alternative)
County: Tillamook
Management Basin: Trask

Table 1. Operation Areas, Types and Acres

Area	Type of Operation	Gross Acres	Net Acres ¹
1	Modified Clearcut	261	185
Total		261	185

1. The net acres are based on orthophotos and GIS and exclude roads, stream buffers, reserve area and non-required areas.

I. PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION OF OPERATION AREA:

Slopes have an east and south aspect. Elevations range from 680 to 2280. The major soil types are Killam and Rye.

The sale is located on both sides of the ridgeline south of Gold Peak in the headwaters of North Fork on the Gold Creek side and on the lower portion of the tributary into Edwards Creek on the other side of the ridge. There are steep and very steep side-slopes on the Edwards Creek side near the upper sale boundary and one very small steep slope area in the lower portion of the sale on the North Fork side. The sale is underlain by igneous origin rocks of the Tillamook Volcanics Formation. Refer to the Overview of Harvest Operations in the Summary document for information.

II. CURRENT STAND CONDITION:

Table 2. Stand Inventory Information³

Area	Prescription	Stand ID ¹	Species	Age	DBH	BA	TPA	SDI	Net Acres ²
1	MC	221	DF, RA, WH	43	13.6	128	126	34	185

1. The source of stand inventory information is from a field reconnaissance cruise.

2. The net acres are based on orthophotos and GIS and exclude roads, and stream buffers, reserve area and non-required thinning areas. Modified clear cut acres are not contiguous and do not exceed 120 acres.

3. These numbers are based on plot data taken to this point and final numbers may differ significantly. The directive for minor and major modifications will be followed for further review.

The sale area burned in the 1933 Tillamook Fire, the 1939 Saddle Mt. Fire, and the 1951 North Fork/Elkhorn Fire. This area was seeded with Douglas-fir in 1952

and again in 1960. This area was then re-planted with Douglas-fir in 1968. This area has had no prior stand management.

Stand Level Inventory (SLI) has not been completed on the sale area but it is classified as 100% Closed Single Canopy (CSC) according to the district stand summary information (1999). This area will be further evaluated (as defined by the July 2004 guidance, “*Planned Sale Inventory Requirements – Alternative to Full Stand Level Inventory*”). See Table 2 for specific stand data.

Area 1 is primarily a Douglas-fir plantation with several large pockets of alder (5 to 10 acres) scattered through the area. There is also a component of hemlock in the area. The Douglas-fir in this area has symptoms of Swiss needle cast (SNC) and crown ratios ranging from 25-35%, resulting in slowed diameter and height growth. The alder was aerially sprayed in the 1970’s to release the planted conifer, resulting in alder trees with short boles and many tops. Due to stand age and site quality, the alder in this stand has poor height and diameter growth. No other significant insect or disease problems have been discovered at this time. The brush component is comprised primarily of salmonberry and huckleberry. Brush is concentrated in draws and alder patches with salmonberry as the primarily understory under the denser conifer.

There are some large snags in various states of decay and some hard snags created from natural causes. Down wood consists of scattered large old logs (36”+) in Class 3 and 4 stages of decay and some windthrow in decay classes 1 and 2.

III. DESIRED STAND CONDITION AND VISION:

Table 3. Stand Structure Information

Area	Stand ID	Current	Post Harvest ¹	Desired Future	Net Acres
1	221	CSC	REG	OFS	185

1. The stand is expected to develop into this condition in the five to ten years after this operation is completed except in REG stands which occur after harvest.

See Section IV: Proposed Management Prescription for more information on Green Tree, Down Wood, and Snag Strategies during operation. Also refer to Landscape Design in the Summary document for more information on strategies to move the district toward Desired Future Condition (DFC) goals.

The DFC for this stand is Older Forest Structure (OFS). Due to the sprayed alder and Douglas-fir with small live crown ratios, poor growth, and Swiss needle cast; the present stand is not a good candidate for establishing a pathway that maintains productivity and reach the DFC in a reasonable amount of time.

After the regeneration harvest the stand will be composed of legacy structures retained from the present stand and a young cohort of Douglas-fir, western

hemlock and Douglas-fir trees. The green trees, including some hardwoods, retained on the site will provide a scattered overstory and also contribute to the down wood and snag recruitment as mortality occurs. In approximately 60 years the combination of residual trees, multiple species and trees size will provide a Layered stand. Periodic thinnings will produce a multilayered stand with some of the larger tree trees approaching 32 inches in diameter in about 80 years. There is a high probability that this stand will meet the requirements of OFS at this time.

IV. PROPOSED MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTION AND PATHWAY:

The prescription described below is based on the current stand condition such as overall tree and stand growth, species mix, stand density, and stand health.

Area 1: Merchantable Douglas-fir and alder will be removed. A diameter limit (approx. 20 inches DBH) will be used to select an average of 9 conifer trees per acre. All other species will be reserved.

This harvest will remove the slow growing sprayed alder and the Douglas-fir that have poor crown ratios and slow growth. The residual trees will be distributed both in groups and scattered across the area. A component of alder and conifer will be retained in the sale area and in stream buffers. The area will be reforested with a mixture of conifer species: western hemlock, SNC tolerant Douglas-fir, western red cedar and/or noble fir. A pre-commercial thinning is anticipated at 12 to 17 years when the crowns begin to close. A commercial thinning at age 40 will produce a stand that has an average diameter of about 16 inches and 125 trees per acre. This will keep the stand on the desired trajectory, and produce revenue. Other treatments, such as the creation of small gaps, may be considered at this time to increase diversity. At about 60 years the stand will have an average diameter of 20 inches. At this time it will be evaluated for Layered characteristics and another thinning will likely be prescribed.

Green Tree, Down Wood and Snag Strategies

A variety of methods will be used to achieve green tree retention requirements. These residual green trees will supplement the future stand by promoting growth of dominant/co-dominant leave trees. Small non-merchantable hardwood and conifer will also be retained where possible. These leave trees function as future source of legacy trees, snags, and down wood recruitment across the landscape. Green trees will be left on precipitous slopes, headwalls, and those areas not reached by conventional logging methods. Stream buffers adjacent to small perennials and the outer Riparian Management Area (RMA) of Edwards Creek will also contribute additional green trees. Many of these areas will be posted so they are outside of the timber sale boundary.

Existing down wood will be left in the sale areas. Down wood recruitment is expected through mortality and windthrow of residual or leave trees, felled snags

and tops left during harvest. Obvious defect in conifer logs will be bucked out in all harvest areas to enhance down wood levels. Small non-merchantable hardwood and conifer will be retained where possible in harvest units with the expectation they will become short term snags and down wood. Tops resulting from ground yarding will also be left in the unit.

Existing snags not determined to be a safety hazard will be retained and any felled snags will be left for down wood. Creation of snags is expected during harvest activities (rub trees, lift trees, or tail trees) and over time by natural processes.

Due to the size of the trees it is unrealistic to expect that the snag targets in the FMP will be met with this operation. During sale preparation different options such as snag and/or down wood creation, additional green tree retention and future stand management and monitoring will be considered in order to achieve future FMP targets.

V. ESTIMATED TIMBER AND REVENUE INFORMATION:

Table 4. Timber and Revenue

Ownership		Sale Type	
BOF	CSL	Cash	Recovery
100%	0%	<input type="checkbox"/>	x
Planned Quarter:		Alt	

	Conifer	Hardwood	Total
Net Volume (MBF)	1244	407	1651
Stumpage Value (\$/MBF)*	\$250	\$250	
Estimated Gross Value	\$311,000	\$101,750	\$412,750
		Project Costs:	\$106,060
		Estimated Net Value:	\$306,690

* *Douglas-fir stumpage values based on harvest type.*

VI. HARVESTING AND ACCESS CONSIDERATIONS:

The sale areas are accessed via Gold Creek Road and North Fork Gold Creek Road. These are currently private all weather crushed rock roads. An easement will be needed for access. Gold Creek Road is currently gated at Chance Road. See maps for specific road locations and conditions. The Trask Road Use fee will be applied to this sale.

Approximately 0.4 miles of existing surfaced and 0.5 miles of existing unsurfaced road will be improved which includes grading, rocking, widening, culvert replacement, spot rocking, sidecast pullback, and adding new culverts. This work will bring all roads up to standards described in *the Forest Roads Manual*.

Approximately 0.80 miles of road will be constructed to provide access to cable yarding areas. Following harvest these roads will be blocked with a gate across private land which will limit public access. After reforestation the roads within the sale area will be reviewed for closure. Ground yarding roads will be closed and water-barred following harvest. See summary document for more information on road closure. No other project work is currently planned with this sale. The operation will be 100% cable yarding.

Table 5. Transportation Planning Summary (Miles)⁴

Activity	Mainline	Collector	Rocked Spur ¹	Dirt Spur ¹
Construct			0.8	
Improve			0.4	0.5
Maintain ²		2		
Close/Block ³			1.2	0.5
Vacate ³				

1. *Additional roads may be built by the operator at the time of harvest and will be approved by the State through the Operations Plan. These will be short dead end spurs and closed or blocked after harvest*
2. *All roads accessing the sale area will be maintained during the life of the timber sale contract. Maintenance miles in the table are those roads not being constructed or improved.*
3. *Roads not closed/blocked or vacated at the end of the sale will be reviewed for closure after reforestation is established.*
4. *The numbers in this table reflect planned Project Work associated with the sale.*

VII. AQUATIC RESOURCES AND WATER QUALITY:

A watershed analysis has been completed for the Trask basin. Recommendations from this assessment will be incorporated into the sale where feasible.

Edwards Creek is a Type F stream that is adjacent to the sale area. There is also an unnamed Type F stream that is in the sale area. There are additional unnamed small Type N streams within the sale area. These streams will be reviewed and protected appropriately during sale layout based on flow, topography, and terrain. The inner and outer riparian zones of these streams will be managed towards mature forest condition where possible.

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) will be requested to complete stream surveys prior to sale layout. Streams of unknown status will be treated as Type F until surveys are completed to verify fish use.

Stream buffers within or adjacent to harvest unit boundaries will be managed according to *Forest Management Plan* Riparian Strategies. The riparian areas
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will be reviewed during sale layout for current stand conditions and/or operational constraints for implementing FMP strategies.

Refer to Aquatic Resource Protection Strategies in the Summary document for information on in the “in stream work period” road work and stream improvement projects.

VIII. T&E SPECIES CONSIDERATIONS:

The sale area has been reviewed with the ODF Northwest Oregon Area Biologist. Surveys for marbled murrelets and northern spotted owls are not required for due to the absence of potentially suitable habitat.

T & E Plant species: The sale areas were checked against the Oregon Natural Heritage Program (ONHP) database of known threatened or endangered listed plant locations as well as local records in the Land Management Classification System (LMCS). No listed plants were identified within or adjacent to the sale areas.

IX. SLOPE STABILITY AND GEOTECHNICAL ISSUES:

There are steep to very steep side-slopes located in the upper portion of the sale on the Edwards Creek side and a small steep slope area near the lower boundary of the sale on the North Fork side. The initial risk assessment by the geotechnical specialist for the sale is moderate. The geotechnical specialist will be consulted during sale layout field work to determine if a field visit is necessary.

X. RECREATION RESOURCES:

The sale area is designated as Motorized in the *Tillamook State Forest Comprehensive Recreation Plan* (1993). This sale has been reviewed by the District Recreation Coordinator. No OHV trails were identified within or adjacent to the sale areas.

XI. CULTURAL RESOURCES:

The *Tillamook State Cultural Assessment* does not list any sites within or adjacent to the proposed sale boundary.

XII. SCENIC RESOURCES:

The sale area has a visual classification of Level 3, low sensitivity. No scenic impact is expected.

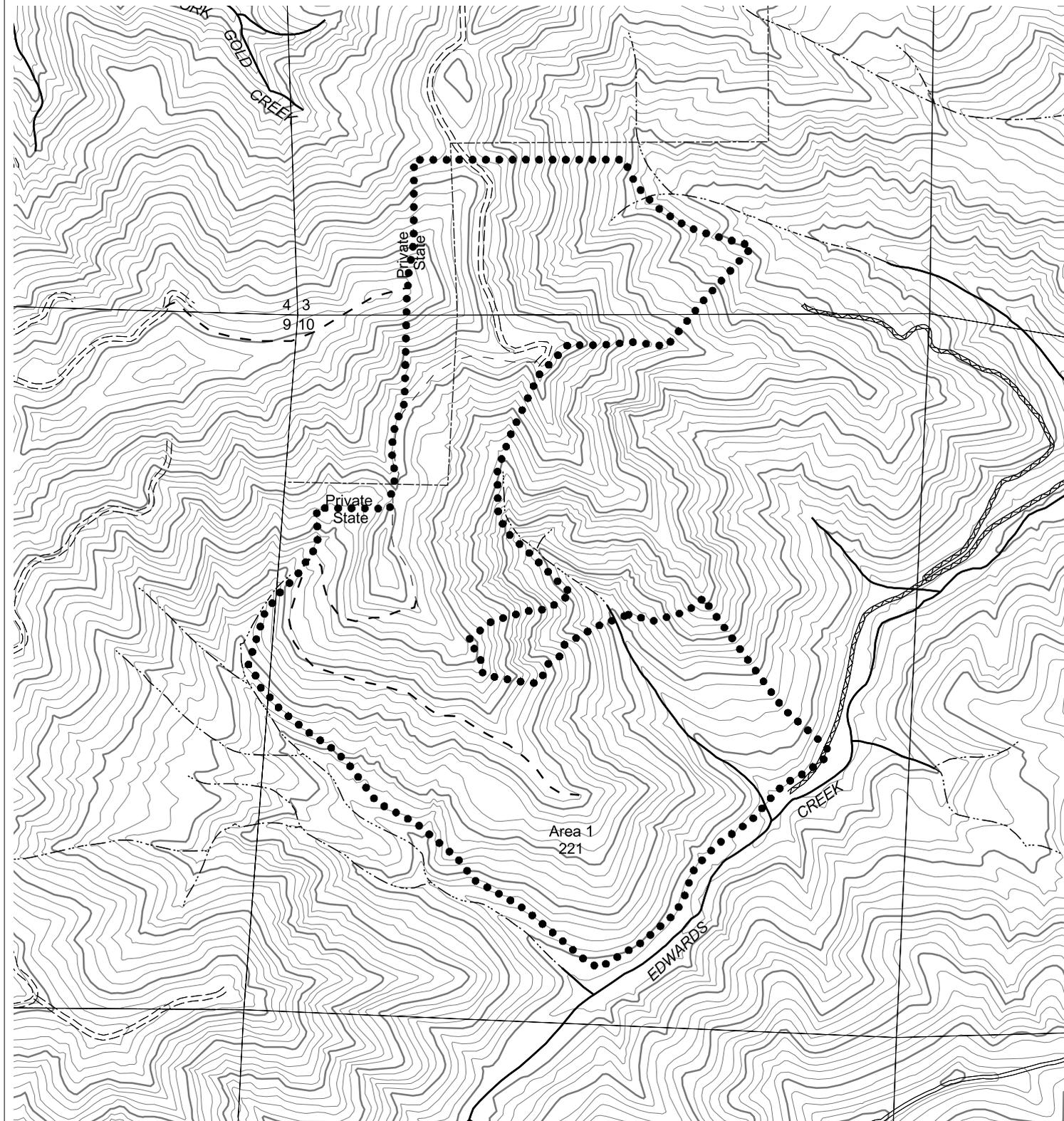
XIII. OTHER RESOURCE CONSIDERATIONS:

The ODF has entered into a boundary line agreement with the adjacent private landowner. This agreement established a mutually agreed upon property line that is marked in the field. ODF ownership GIS shape files have not been updated with the new boundary locations. This is the reason that there is a discrepancy on the exhibits.

In order to harvest this sale area a special use permit will need to be obtained for guyline trees, tailholds, landings, and roads that may be needed on private land.

XIV. LAND MANAGEMENT CLASSIFICATION SUMMARY:

The sale areas contain Focused and Special, Aquatic and Riparian Habitat and Special, Operationally Limited. See Section VII, Aquatic Resources and Water Quality, and IX, Slope Stability and Geotechnical Issues for the management guidelines that will be utilized.



- Contour Interval 40'
- +--- Area boundary
 - Sale boundary
 - Ownership boundary
 - Perennial Type-F stream *
 - Perennial Type-N stream *
 - ==== Unsurfaced road
 - ===== Surfaced road
 - State/Federal highway
 - ==== Legacy road
 - xxxxxx Blocked road
 - - - Road construction
 - County road
 - T T Transmission line

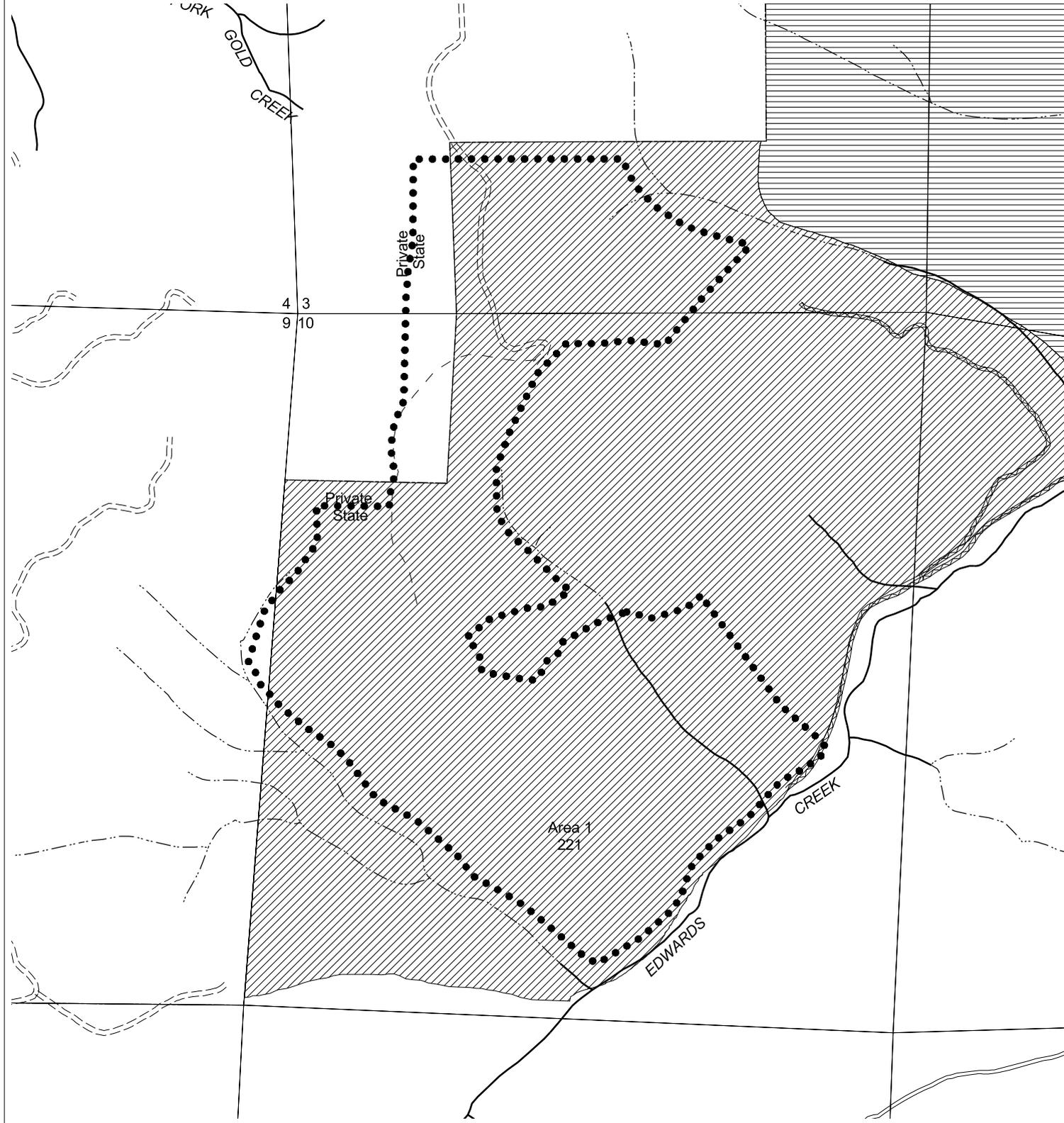
Southern Gold
-- Topography --
2008 SALE PLAN
TILLAMOOK DISTRICT
 Portions of Sections 3, 9, and 10,
 T2s, R8W, W. M.
 Tillamook County, Oregon

Area	Type of Operation
1	MC



Tillamook District GIS
 Jan. 2007
 This product is for informational use and
 may not have been prepared for, or suitable
 for legal, engineering, or surveying purposes.

* Streams of unknown fish presence are not shown but will be surveyed prior to the sale



- Desired future condition
- Layered
 - Older forest
 - Area boundary
 - Sale boundary
 - Ownership boundary
 - Perennial Type-F stream *
 - Perennial Type-N stream *
 - Unsurfaced road
 - Surfaced road
 - State/Federal highway
 - Legacy road
 - Blocked road
 - Road construction
 - County road
 - Transmission line

Southern Gold
-- Current and Future Condition --
2008 SALE PLAN
TILLAMOOK DISTRICT
 Portions of Sections 3, 9, and 10,
 T2s, R8W, W. M.
 Tillamook County, Oregon

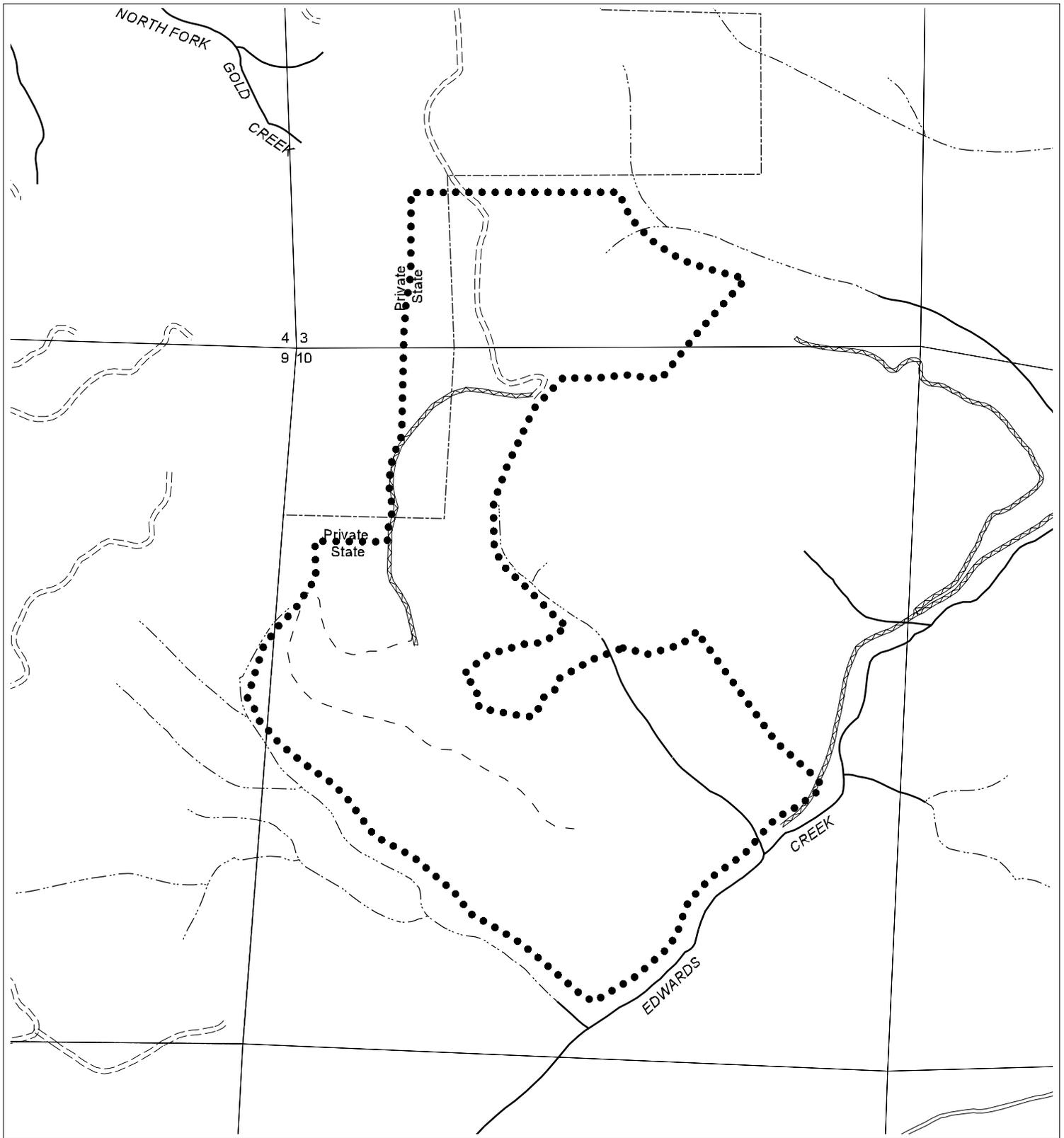
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Tillamook District GIS
 Jan. 2007

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Area	Type of Operation
1	MC

* Streams of unknown fish presence are not shown but will be surveyed prior to the sale



- Buffer
- Non-required thinning
- Area boundary
- Sale boundary
- Ownership boundary
- Perennial Type-F stream *
- Perennial Type-N stream *
- Unsurfaced road
- Surfaced road
- State/Federal highway
- Legacy road
- Blocked road
- Road construction
- County road
- Transmission line

Southern Gold
-- Key Resources --
2008 SALE PLAN
TILLAMOOK DISTRICT
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Type of	
Area	Operation
1	MC

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