

Pre-Operations Report

Operation Name: California Elk
County: Clatsop
Management Basin: Klaskanine

Table 1. Operation Areas, Types and Acres

Area	Type of Operation	Gross Acres	Net Acres
1	PC-H	33	30
2	MC	53	48
3	MC	61	55
Total	Modified Clearcut	114	103
Total	Partial Cut	33	30
Total		147	133

I. PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION OF OPERATION AREA:

These sale areas are located within the Klaskanine Basin, about 15 miles southeast of Astoria along Highway 202, and then between two to four miles east into the basin. The Klaskanine Basin drains northwesterly into the multiple forks of the North Fork of the Klaskanine River and then into Youngs Bay and the Columbia River. It is in the “hemlock zone” and is generally composed of Douglas-fir, western hemlock and red alder with a mix of other conifers and an understory of ferns, huckleberry and salmonberry.

The landforms are gentle rolling slopes and steeper headwaters of North Fork Klaskanine River and the Middle Fork of the North Fork. The underlying rocks are sedimentary origin rocks of the informal Northrup Creek and Smuggler Cove Members of the Astoria Formation.

II. CURRENT STAND CONDITION:

Area 1 - This stand is composed of fairly dense, hemlock dominated, mixed conifer stands with significant stringers and small clumps of hardwoods, and is approximately 64 years old. The alder is found along the wet areas and draws. The understory vegetation is primarily sword fern with some patches of salmonberry. Currently, there is less than 1 snag per acre 24 inches in DBH or greater and about 744 cubic feet per acre of down wood in decay classes 1 and 2 on site. Total down wood for all decay classes is 3,733 cubic feet within this Area.

Area 2 - These stands are composed of moderately dense, hemlock dominated, mixed conifer stands with some small stringers and clumps of hardwoods, and are approximately 69 to 75 years old. There is very little understory, which is mostly sword fern and some hemlock reproduction along the existing road at the top of the areas.

Currently, there is less than one snag per acre 24 inches in DBH or greater and about 400 cubic feet per acre of down wood in decay class 1 and 2 on site.

Area 3 - This stand is composed of moderately dense, hemlock dominated, mixed conifer with some small stringers and clumps of hardwoods, and is approximately 75 years old. There is very little understory, which is mostly sword fern and some hemlock reproduction along the existing road at the top of the area. Currently, there is less than one snag per acre 24 inches in DBH or greater and about 370 cubic feet per acre of down wood in decay class 1 and 2 on site.

Table 2. Stand Inventory Information

Area	Prescription	Stand ID ¹	Species	Age	DBH	BA	TPA	SDI	Acres ²
1	PC-H	23528	WH, SS, RA	69	18	250	141	60	30
		Target ³	WH, SS, RA						30
2	MC	23516	WH, DF	75	18	315	171	75	35
2	MC	23528	WH, SS	69	18	250	141	60	13
		Target ³	DF, WH, WRC				5		48
3	MC	23516	WH, DF, RA	75	18	315	171	75	55
		Target ³	DF, WH, WRC				5		55

¹ The source of stand inventory information is (SLI from 2002 and 2003). Stand ages shown are as of 2008.

² The acres are based on (orthophotos, traverse, GIS, GPS, etc) and exclude 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/VISION:

The Desired Future Condition (DFC) for Area 1 is Layered (LYR). Areas 2 and 3 are not planned to have a complex desired future condition on the landscape.

Table 3. Stand Structure Information

Area	Stand ID	Current	Post Harvest ¹	Desired Future	Acres
1	23528	UDS	LYR	LYR	30
2	23516	LYR	REG	General	35
2	23528	UDS	REG	General	13
3	23516	LYR	REG	General	55

¹ The stand is expected to develop into this condition in the five to ten years after this operation is completed.

IV. PROPOSED MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTION:

Area 1 – is a partial cut, with the objective of developing a condition of a “Layered” Structure. This partial cut entry will be a heavy thinning prescription, approximately SDI 25 to 30, and will retain the “biggest and best” trees. It is anticipated that thinning to this level will allow the development of another cohort of hemlock and cedar in the

understory. Although this stand is fairly dense, the dominant trees within the stand have started to differentiate over the co-dominants and intermediate trees. It is anticipated that this prescription will remove the trees with poor crown ratios while retaining the emerging dominants with better crown ratios. It is anticipated that most of the red alder will be removed but that red alder will naturally seed in portions of exposed to mineral soil.

Areas 2 and 3 – are planned for regeneration harvest (modified clearcut) and will be replanted with a mixture of conifer species.

Snags: In all areas, all existing snags will be retained unless deemed to be safety hazards. In MC areas, several strategies will be employed to obtain the landscape goal of two hard snags per acre, including: tree topping and/or girdling, and retaining additional green trees. In the PC area, it is anticipated that additional snags will develop during yarding activities by leaving, topping, or girdling damaged rub trees, tail trees, lift trees, and/or intermediate support trees.

Green Trees: In MC Areas 2 and 3 approximately five to eight green trees per acre will be scattered and/or clumped throughout the areas, and not solely located in riparian areas. In addition, individual and small clumps of non-merchantable conifer and alder may be left in operationally feasible areas to provide short term snag recruitment for cavity nesting birds. In all sale areas minor species such as red cedar may be reserved from cutting, and any existing larger remnant trees will be reserved from cutting.

Downed Wood: For all harvesting activities, all existing downed woody debris will be retained. In MC Areas 2 and 3 additional conifer trees and/or conifer logs will be retained to meet the landscape targets for down wood as prescribed in the FMP and Implementation Plan. Area 2 has approximately 400 cubic feet of down wood per acre in decay classes 1 and 2. Area 3 has approximately 370 cubic feet per acre of down wood in decay classes 1 and 2. Obvious defect in conifer logs will be bucked out in the unit to enhance downed wood levels. In partial cut areas, to increase down wood levels, operations will be required to yard only merchantable log segments to roadsides.

Site preparation treatments for Areas 2, and 3, will be accomplished through cable yarding operations, ground based harvesting, and mechanical manipulation of slash concentrations. Ground and aerial applied herbicides may be prescribed to sale areas if competing vegetation poses a threat to stand establishment. These sale areas will be replanted with Douglas-fir, western hemlock, and western red cedar. Mountain beaver trapping is anticipated in most portions of the entire sale area. Animal damage through big game browse is expected to be heavy. Timing of planting will be critical to minimize big game browse to hemlock. Tree protection will be prescribed to newly planted conifer species, Douglas-fir may receive paper bud caps, and cedar will receive tubes at initial planting.

V. ESTIMATED TIMBER AND REVENUE OUTPUTS:

Table 4. Timber and Revenue

Ownership		Sale Type	
BOF	CSL	Cash	Recovery
100%	0%		X
Planned Quarter:		1st	

	Conifer	Hardwood	Total
Net Volume (MBF)	6,700	600	7,300
Stumpage Value (\$/MBF)	\$150	\$250	
Estimated Gross Value	\$1,005,000	\$150,000	\$1,155,000
		Project Costs:	\$141,400
		Estimated Net Value:	\$1,013,600

VI. HARVESTING AND ACCESS CONSIDERATIONS:

There are currently good quality forest roads accessing the general vicinity of the sale areas. Access to Area 1 and a portion of Area 2 requires an easement from an adjacent landowner, Teevin Bros. Land and Timber Co., for the use of an existing unnamed rocked road in Simmons Field and the construction of approximately 400 feet of road on Agency Creek Management land. The remainder of Area 2 and Area 3 are currently accessed from existing ridgetop roads

Area 3 can be accessed from existing ridge top roads.

The road rock needed for road construction and improvement will be obtained from Elk Mountain stockpiles and the California Barrel Quarry. Roadside brushing is currently planned for all of the haul routes.

Approximately 70% of the sale area will be cable logged, as the slopes are moderate to steep. Ground based harvesting systems will be utilized on the more gentle slopes. Cable yarding can be done with medium size yarders. Tractor logging can be done with shovel loggers, track or wheel skidders.

Table 5. Transportation Management Summary (Miles).

Activity	Mainline	Collector	Rocked Spur	Dirt Spur
Construct	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.5
Improve	0.0	4.5	2.5	0.0
Maintain	0.0	6.0	0.9	0.0
Close/Block	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5
Vacate	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

VII. AQUATIC RESOURCES AND WATER QUALITY:

Type F Streams: Middle Fork of the North Fork Klaskanine (medium, Type F stream) flows along the northwestern boundaries of Areas 1 and 2.

An unnamed tributary of the North Fork of the North Fork Klaskanine (medium, Type F stream) flows along the eastern boundary of Area 3.

Type N Streams: There are small perennial Type N streams in all sale areas. NW Oregon Forest Plan stream riparian strategies will be employed along these streams. The current riparian vegetation is composed of a patchwork of conifer and hardwood overstories. The understory in the conifer dominated reaches is similar to the headlands, with mostly ferns, salal, and some wild rose. The understory within the alder reaches is mostly salmonberry.

All streams will be examined during sale layout to determine stream type and classification. Then, the specific RMA strategies required in the FMP will be implemented. These strategies are found in Appendix J, pages J-1 through J-16.

None of the sale areas are within proximity of streams in which known listed fish are present.

Stream Enhancement Opportunities: Preliminary sale review by ODFW Fish Habitat Biologist indicates that there are options for stream enhancement projects associated with this sale. Further assessment and collaboration will be done with ODFW biologists and the Sunset Unit Forester.

Aquatic Resource Protection: For all areas, full log suspension is required when cable yarding over streams. No ground-based logging equipment operation is allowed within the stream bank zone. Adequate RMA buffers will be left where required on all streams per the FMP standards. To protect water quality during active operations, a variety of methods will be used to prevent sediment from entering live streams. These methods range from use of hay bales in road ditches, to “ditch-outs” away from streams, to complete shutdown of logging and hauling operations during times of heavy rainfall. There are no known high risk sites within the sale area. Any high-risk sites found will require at least one-end log suspension and cable logging. If any in-stream work is required with the sale, then the in-stream work will be conducted during in-stream periods established by ODFW.

VIII. WILDLIFE AND T&E SPECIES CONSIDERATIONS:

The sale areas were surveyed for Northern Spotted Owls in 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, and 2008 with no responses and will not be resurveyed for Northern Spotted owls again in 2009.

The sale area was surveyed for Marbled Murrelets in 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008, with one audio detection in 2008 adjacent to Area 1. The sale areas will not be surveyed for Marbled Murrelets in 2009.

The sale area was checked against the Oregon Natural Heritage Program database of known listed plant locations. The sale area was also checked against district knowledge for any listed plant location. No listed plant records were identified within the sale area.

IX. SLOPE STABILITY AND GEOTECHNICAL ISSUES:

Very few High Landslide Hazard Locations appear on the topography as mapped in the operation. The initial assessment from the geotechnical specialist is low. If High Landslide Hazard Locations are located during field work the geotechnical consultant will be consulted.

X. RECREATION RESOURCES:

This area receives dispersed recreation, which includes hunting, camping, target shooting, and driving forest roads. This sale is located in the motorized recreation portion of the Clatsop State Forest; however inventories of existing trails have not yet been conducted for this area.

XI. CULTURAL RESOURCES:

None.

XII. SCENIC RESOURCES:

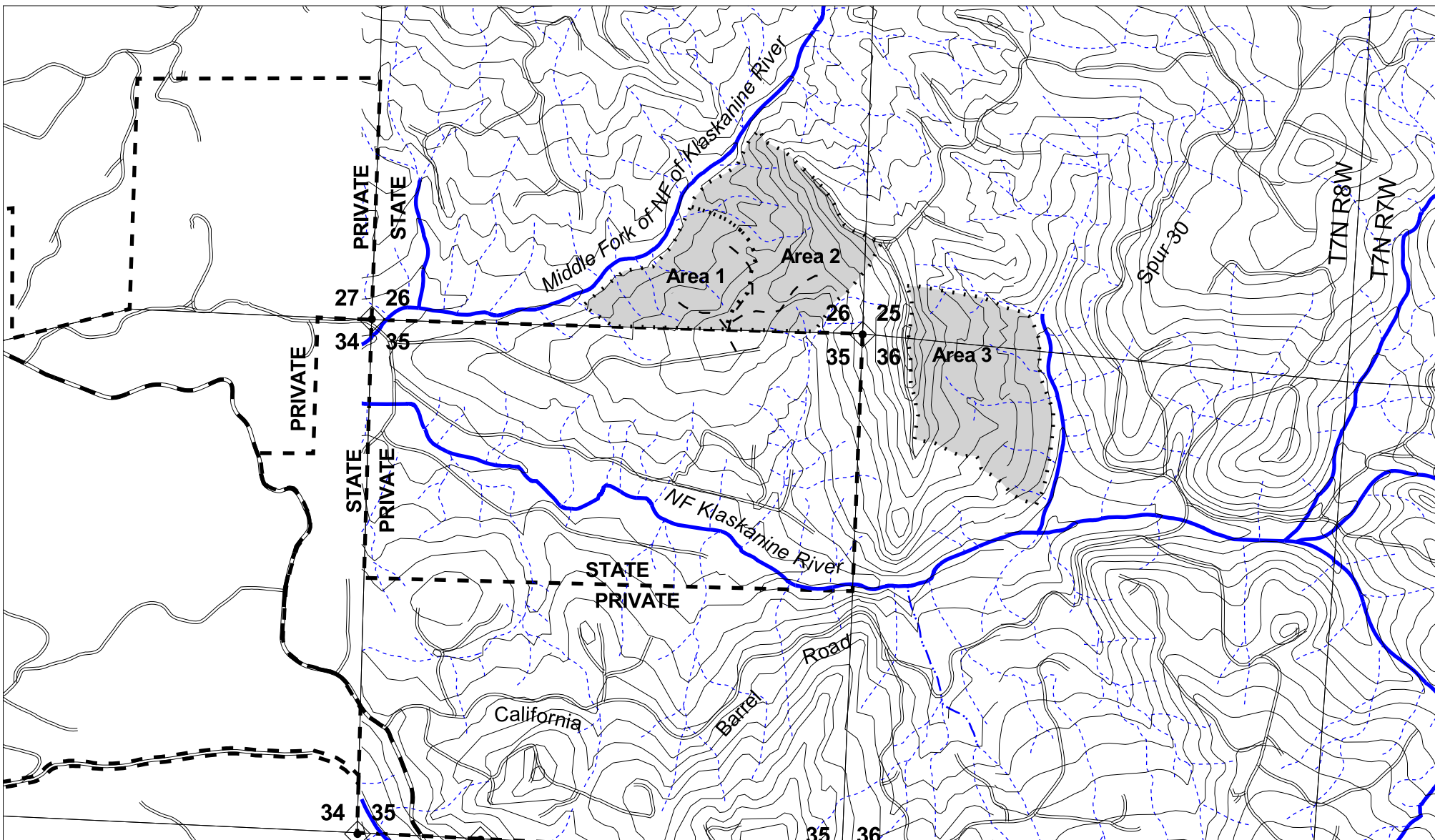
The sale areas are not visible from any county or state highway. All forest roads accessing the sale areas are Level 3 classification.

XIII. OTHER RESOURCE CONSIDERATIONS:

Locate and remark blazes, protect survey corners. (Survey Plan available on District).

XIV. LAND MANAGEMENT CLASSIFICATION SUMMARY:

The lands in this timber sale are all classified "general" stewardship.



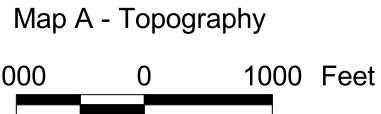
LEGEND

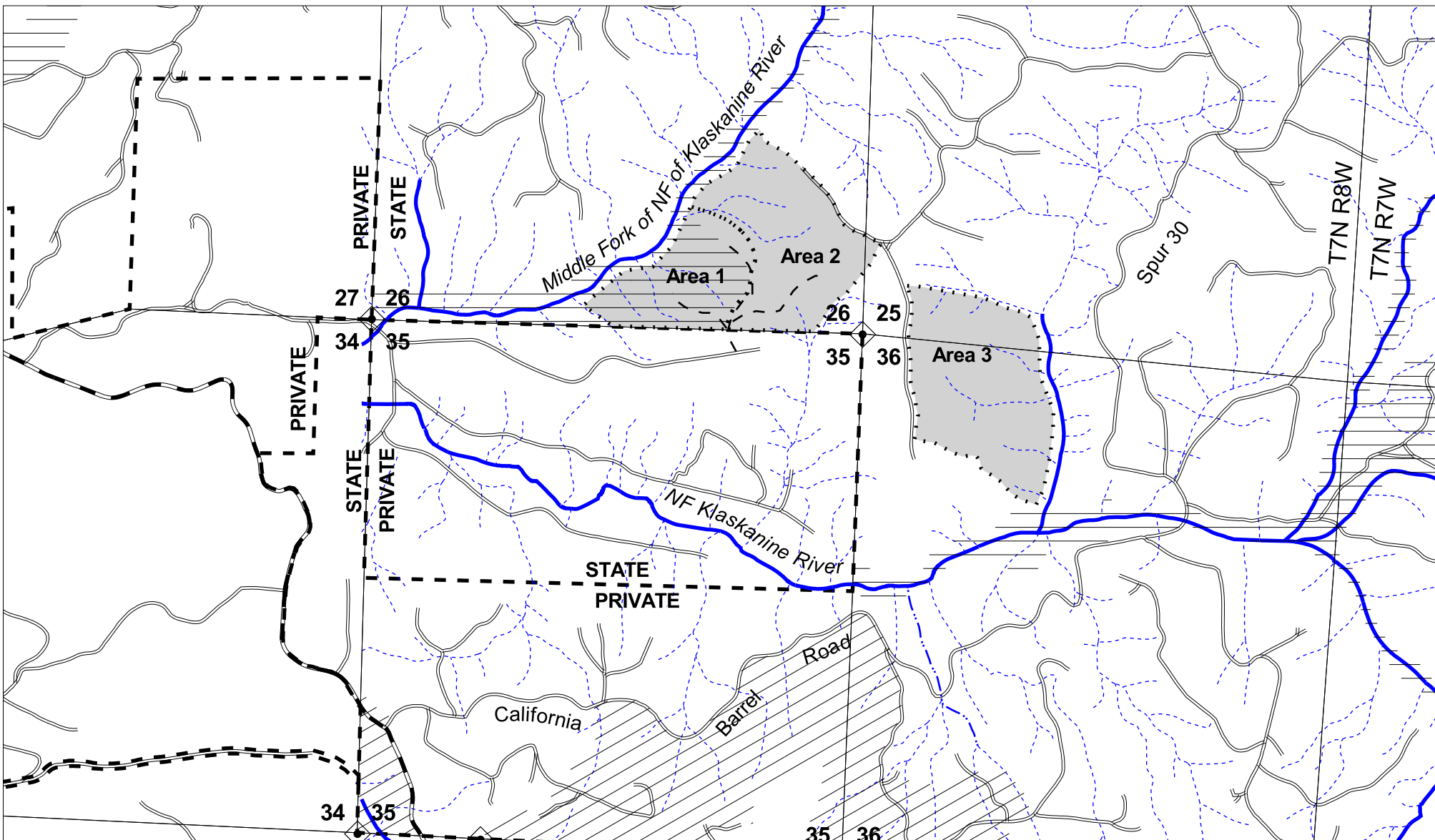
- New Road Construction
- Roads
- Dirt
- Paved
- Rocked
- Timber Sale Boundary
- Streams
- Fish
- Nonfish
- Unknown
- Ownership

APPROXIMATE NET ACREAGE:

	MC Acres	PC Acres
Area 1(PC-H)		30
Area 2(MC)	48	
Area 3(MC)	55	
TOTALS =	103	30
Total Sale Acreage =	133	

FY2010
 California Elk
 Portions of Sections 25, 26, and 36, T7N, R8W,
 W.M., Clatsop County, Oregon.





LEGEND

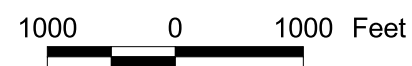
- New Road Construction
- Roads**
- Dirt
- Paved
- Rocked
- Timber Sale Boundary
- Desired Future Condition**
- LYR
- OFS
- Streams**
- Fish
- Nonfish
- Unknown
- Ownership

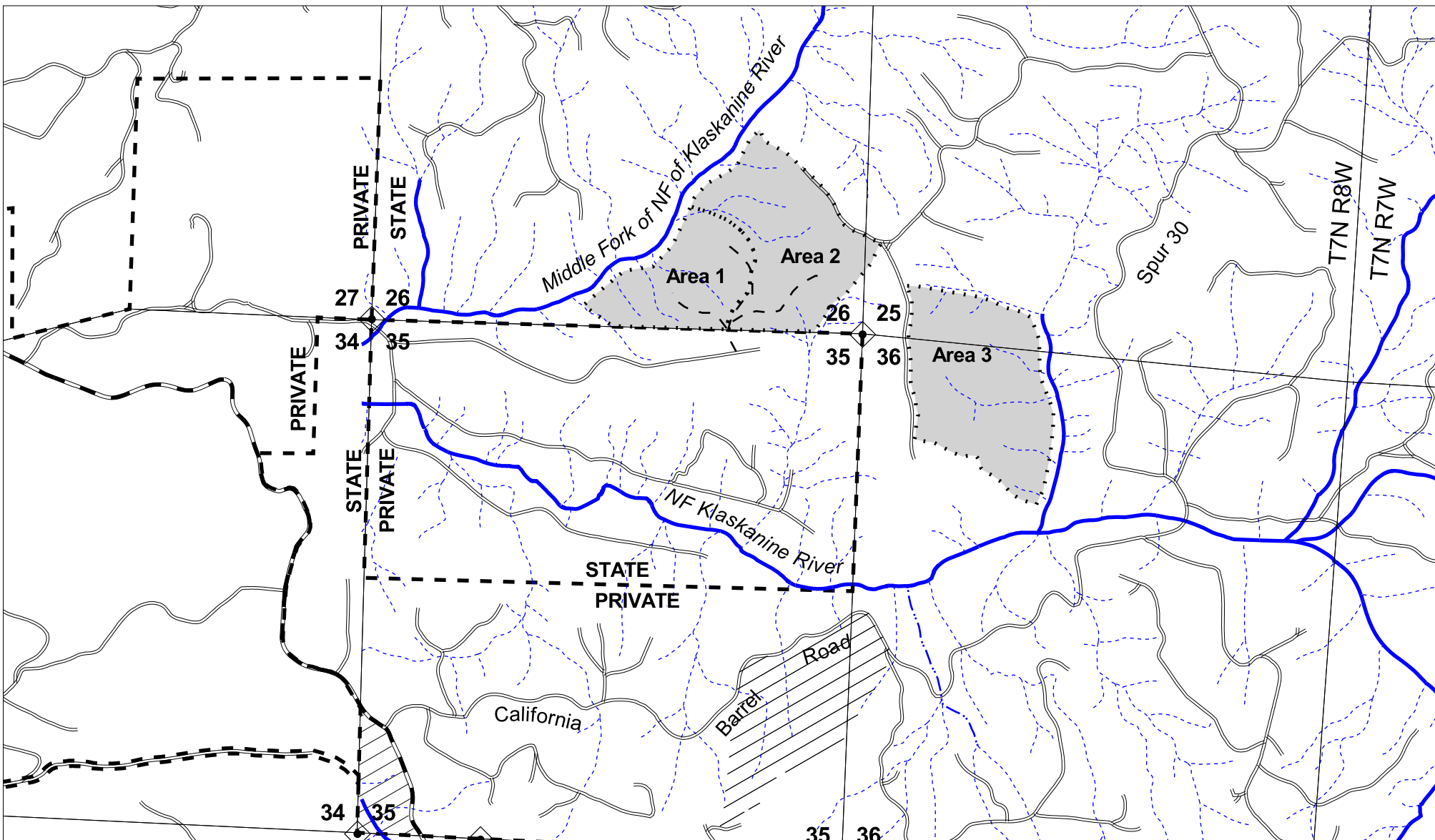
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Map B - Desired Future Condition





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Map C - Key Resources



LEGEND

- New Road Construction
- Roads**
- Dirt
- Paved
- Rocked
- Timber Sale Boundary
- Streams**
- Fish
- Nonfish
- Unknown
- Ownership**
- FLMC
- Special

1:18000