

Pre-Operations Report

Operation Name: White Noise
County: Clatsop
Management Basin: Gnat

Table 1. Operation Areas, Types and Acres

Area	Type of Operation	Gross Acres	Net Acres
1	PC-M	62	56
2	PC-M	160	144
3	PC-M	116	104
4	MC	32	29
Total	Partial Cut	338	304
Total	Modified Clearcut	32	29
Total		370	333

I. PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION OF OPERATION AREA:

These sale areas are located within the Gnat Basin, about seven miles southeast of the town of Knappa, south of State Highway 30, and about five miles from the Columbia River. The Gnat Basin drains in a northerly direction towards the Columbia River. It is in the "hemlock zone" and is generally characterized by Douglas-fir and hemlock as the dominant tree species, with understory of salal, huckleberry, and ferns. Well maintained mainline roads and secondary rocked roads on ODF property provide primary access to all of the sale areas.

Soil types in these sale areas are mostly Gnat, with a small amount of Astoria and Mist types, moderately deep, well-drained, moderately fine textured soils developing from siltstones and basalt, with site index ranging from 120 to 130 feet for Douglas-fir, and averaging 110 feet for hemlock. Elevations range from 500 to 800 feet.

The sale areas are located on gentle to moderately steep slopes. The landform is gentle slopes, with some associated steeper slopes dividing Rock Creek and Gnat Creek drainages. The underlying rock units are igneous origin, Columbia River Basalt Group, Grande Ronde Formation, subaerial basalt flows, associated with sedimentary origin, basaltic sandstone unit of the Wanapum Basalt, Frenchman Springs Member.

II. CURRENT STAND CONDITION:

Area 1 - The current stand is a 35 year old plantation, and is a small sized mixed conifer stand, composed of primarily Douglas-fir, with minor components of hemlock and spruce. This stand was pre-commercially thinned in 1985 and had 100 trees per acre pruned in 1987. The stand floor is mostly bare of vegetation due to heavy stocking in the stand producing a mostly closed canopy throughout. The sparse understory vegetation consists mostly of scattered sword fern and oxalis. Approximately 2.5 snags per acre greater than 24 inches DBH are present with negligible amounts of down wood in decay classes 1 and 2.

Area 2 – The current stands are generally 78 years old, and are moderate sized mixed conifer stands, composed of Douglas-fir and hemlock, with minor components of spruce, cedar, and alder. These stands were commercially thinned in 1975. Openings in the crowns from the previous thinning have started to significantly close in, shading out below canopy vegetation, as indicated by the current stand density of approximately 67% of the maximum. The understory vegetation is composed of sword ferns, vinemaple, salal, salmonberry, and oxalis. Approximately 4 snags per acre greater than 24 inches DBH are present as well as approximately 1,379 cubic feet per acre of down wood in decay classes 1 and 2.

Area 3 - The current stand is a 38 year old plantation, and is composed of primarily Douglas-fir, with minor components of hemlock, spruce, and true fir. This stand was pre-commercially thinned in 1986. The stand floor is mostly bare of vegetation due to heavy stocking in the stand producing a mostly closed canopy throughout. The sparse understory vegetation consists mostly of scattered sword fern, salmonberry, and oxalis. Approximately 1 to 3 snags per acre greater than 24 inches DBH are present with negligible amounts of down wood in decay classes 1 and 2.

Area 4 – The current stand is generally 83 years old, and is a moderate to large sized, dense, mixed conifer stand of mainly Douglas-fir and hemlock with some spruce and alder. Traces of red cedar are present. This stand has not been managed in the past and has an SDI of over 70. The understory vegetation is light and is composed of sword ferns, vinemaple, salal, salmonberry, and oxalis.

Table 2. Stand Inventory Information

Area	Prescription	Stand ID ¹	Species	Age	DBH	BA	TPA	SDI	Acres ²
1	PC	23171	DF	35	14	193	178	51	56
		Target ³	DF		16	140	100	30-35	56
2	PC	23186	WH, DF	78	23	222	78	49	144
		Target ³	WH, DF	84	21	180	67	35-40	144
3	PC	23184	DF, WH	38	14	161	152	43	104
		Target ³	DF, WH		16	140	100	30-35	104
4	MC	*25399	DF, WH	83	18	300	165	72	29
		Target ³	DF, WH, WRC				5-7		29

¹ The source of stand inventory information is (*OSCUR Stand 2002 and SLI from and 2003 through 2006). 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:

For approximately 96 acres of Area 2 the desired future stand condition is Older Forest Structure (OFS). The expected post operation result is Older Forest Structure (OFS).

For approximately 48 acres of Area 2 and all of Areas 1, 3, and 4 are not planned to have a complex desired future condition on the landscape.

Table 3. Stand Structure Information

Area	Stand ID	Current	Post Harvest ²	Desired Future	Acres
1	23171	UDS	UDS	General	56
2	23186	UDS	OFS	OFS	96
2	23186	UDS	OFS	General	48
3	23184	UDS	UDS	General	104
4	23231	UDS	REG	General	29

² The stand is expected to develop into this condition in the five to ten years after this operation is completed.

IV. PROPOSED MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTION:

Areas 1 and 3 - are early first entry partial cuts into plantation stands, with the objective of stimulating stand and understory growth. This partial cut entry will be a moderate thinning prescription, approximately SDI 30-35, and will retain the “biggest and best” trees, including hardwoods. It is anticipated that thinning to this level will allow the residual stand to gain individual tree growth as well as develop understory vegetation and potentially another cohort of hemlock and cedar in the understory. The goal of this prescription is to remove the trees with poor crown ratios while retaining the emerging dominants with better crown ratios. While Area 3 does not have a complex desired

future condition, this moderate thinning will provide increased stand growth and provide for future flexibility in stand management decisions.

Area 2 - is a second entry partial cut, with the objective of developing a condition of "Older Forest Structure (OFS)" on approximately 96 acres. This will be a light to moderate level thinning prescription, approximately SDI 35-40, and will retain the "biggest and best" trees as well as a component of intermediate sized conifer trees to provide multiple dimensions to the stand following harvest. In addition, all cedar and hardwoods will be retained to provide further diversity and structure within the stand. It is anticipated the thinning will allow increased diameter growth of the overstory trees while continuing the growth of the existing mid-story and understory conifer, and allow the development of a third cohort of hemlock and cedar as well as increased growth and diversity of understory vegetation.

Area 4 - is 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. Snag retention will be emphasized during sale layout and coordinated with green tree retention marking practices to protect existing snags.

Green Trees: In Area 4, an average of 5 to 7 green trees per acre will be retained using multiple wildlife tree strategies, including scattering and/or clumping green trees throughout the area, and not solely located in riparian areas. Non-merchantable understory trees will also be retained. Minor species such as red cedar and any existing larger remnant trees will be reserved from cutting.

Downed Wood: All existing down wood will be retained. In Area 4, it is anticipated that normal felling and bucking practices will meet and/or exceed 600 cubic feet per acre of downed wood. Non-merchantable log segments suitable for downed wood will be bucked out prior to yarding.

Site preparation will be provided by the ground based harvesting and slash manipulation after harvesting operations are completed. Understory vegetation are a concern so herbicide prescription will be consider and evaluated once harvesting operation are completed. Plant at 300 trees per acre with a mixture of Douglas-fir, Western Hemlock, and Western Red Cedar. Mountain beaver trapping will focus on draw areas. Animal damage to seedling is anticipated to be heavy. Paper bud caps will be installed on Douglas-fir and tubes on the Western Red Cedar at the time of initial planting.

V. ESTIMATED TIMBER AND REVENUE OUTPUTS:

Table 4. Timber and Revenue

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

	Conifer	Hardwood	Total
Net Volume (MBF)	2,500	0	
Stumpage Value (\$/MBF)	\$150	0	
Estimated Gross Value	\$375,000	0	\$375,000
		Project Costs:	\$73,500
		Estimated Net Value:	\$301,500

VI. HARVESTING AND ACCESS CONSIDERATIONS:

There are currently good quality forest roads accessing all of the sale areas. Since Areas 1, 2, and 4 are currently completely accessed by surfaced roads, other access options for these areas were not considered. Area 3 may require a road leaving Rock Creek Road heading north along the eastern boundary at the area. Access and locations for these roads will be evaluated further during sale layout.

The new rocked roads into the partial cut areas will be needed for future harvesting entries, and will remain open upon completion of harvesting activities.

Approximately 2.5 miles of road improvement is needed on portions of West and East Big Noise Roads, and portions of Rock Creek Road as well as unnamed existing rocked access spurs.

The project work associated with this sale is estimated to cost \$73,500.

The road rock needed will come from the Big Noise or Hunt Creek Stockpile Sites.

Table 5. Transportation Management Summary (Miles).

Activity	Mainline	Collector	Rocked Spur	Dirt Spur
Construct	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.0
Improve	0.0	0.0	2.5	0.0
Maintain	0.0	4.0	3.0	0.0
Close/Block	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Vacate	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

VII. AQUATIC RESOURCES AND WATER QUALITY:

Type F Streams:

One unnamed tributary of Rock Creek (small, Type F stream) flows northwesterly along the southwest and west boundaries of Areas 3 and 4 respectively. Two unnamed tributaries of Big Noise Creek (small, Type F stream) flow northwesterly through Area 5. Big Noise Creek (medium, Type F) flows along and through Area 2. Big Noise Creek contains Oregon Coast Coho, a federally listed fish.

All of the streams flow in a northerly direction towards the Columbia River through the Gnat Basin.

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.

Oregon Coast Coho

Stream Enhancement Opportunities: There may be opportunities for stream enhancement on portions of Big Noise Creek in Area 2. 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 ODF Northwest Area Biologist determined Areas 1 and 3 do not contain suitable habitat for Northern Spotted Owls. Areas 2 and 4 have been surveyed for Northern Spotted Owls in 2007 and 2008 with no responses and will be surveyed again in 2009.

The ODF Northwest Area Biologist determined Areas 1, 3, and 4 do not contain suitable habitat for Marbled Murrelets. Area 2 has been surveyed for Marbled Murrelets in 2007 and 2008, with no detections and 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:

The initial assessment from the geotechnical specialist is low. The geotechnical specialist may be consulted if concerns arise during sale layout.

This assessment is based off of USGS 1:24,000 topographic maps and available geologic maps. There are no high landslide hazard locations in the entire sale area. Area 1 drains to Gnat Creek and Big Noise Creek. Areas 2 and 3 drain to Big Noise Creek. Area 4 drains to an unnamed tributary of Big Noise Creek and an unnamed tributary of Rock Creek. The risk of landslides delivering directly to any of these streams from the sale area is low. The sale area appears to be located on a large, deep-seated landslide landform.

X. RECREATION RESOURCES:

This area receives dispersed recreation, which includes hunting, fishing, camping, target shooting, and driving forest roads. There are no established recreation sites within the operation areas.

XI. CULTURAL RESOURCES:

There are no identified cultural resources within the operation areas.

XII. SCENIC RESOURCES:

All of Area 1 has been designated "Level 2 Visual", as it may be visible from Highway 30. The planned operation is thinning and therefore should minimize visual impact.

XIII. OTHER RESOURCE CONSIDERATIONS:

Traverse blaze and post 0.5 miles of property line, restore 1 survey corner and protect 2 survey corners.

XIV. LAND MANAGEMENT CLASSIFICATION SUMMARY:

The lands in this timber sale are all classified "general" management. Within this overlay all of Area 1 is of "focused" Visual classification for Highway 30.

FY 2010
White Noise

Portions of Sections 13, 14, 23, 24, 25, &
26 of T8N, R7W, W.M., Clatsop County, OR

LEGEND

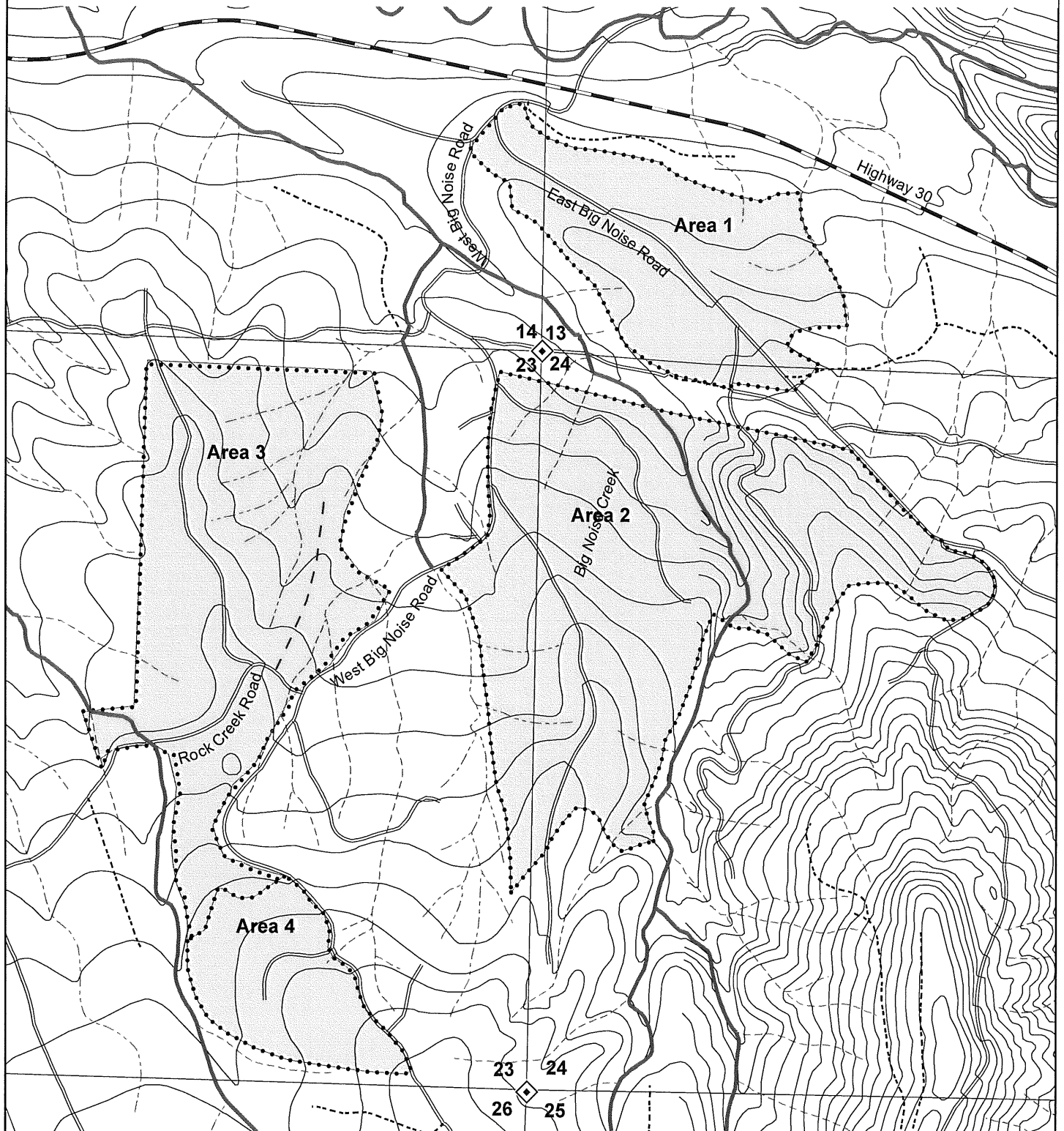
-  Fish Stream
-  Non-fish Stream
-  Unknown Stream
-  Timber Sale Boundary
-  Ownership Boundary
-  Vacated Road
-  Paved Road
-  Rocked Road
-  New Road Construction



Approximate Net Acreage		PC Acres
MC Acres		
Area 1 (PC) -		56
Area 2 (PC) -		144
Area 3 (PC) -		104
Area 4 (MC) -	29	
Total =	29	304
Total Sale Acreage = 333		

Map A: Topography

1:12,000



FY 2010
White Noise

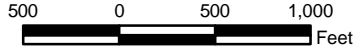
Portions of Sections 13, 14, 23, 24, 25, &
26 of T8N, R7W, W.M., Clatsop County, OR

Approximate Net Acreage
MC Acres

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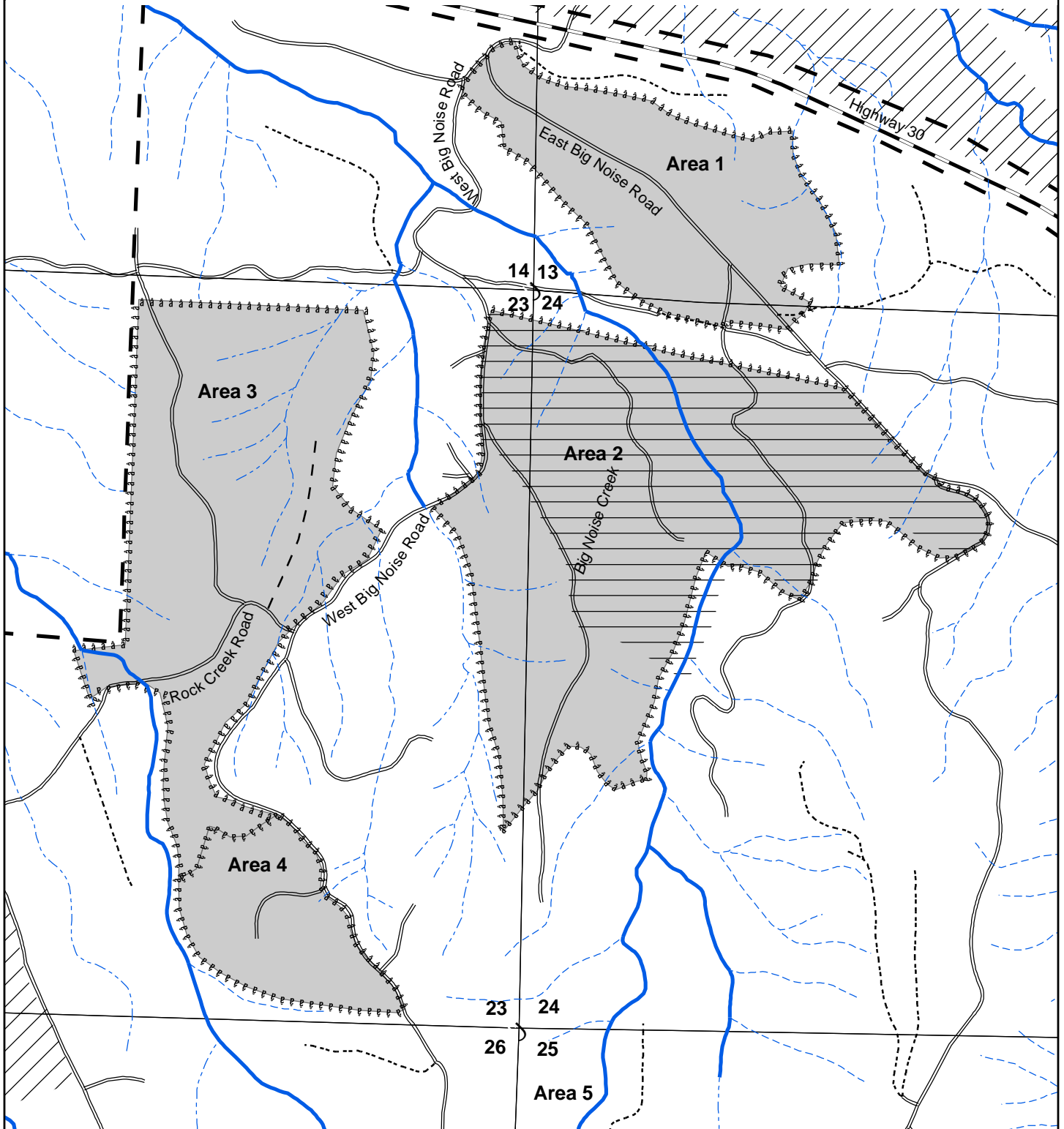
Map B: Desired Future Condition

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Legend

- Ownership Boundary
- Fish Stream
- Non-fish Stream
- Unknown Stream
- Timber Sale Boundary
- Vacated Road
- Paved Road
- Rocked Road
- New Road Construction
- Layered
- Older Forest Structure



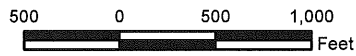
FY 2010
White Noise

Portions of Sections 13, 14, 23, 24, 25, &
26 of T8N, R7W, W.M., Clatsop County, OR

Map C: Key Resources

Approximate Net Acreage	MC Acres	PC Acres
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1:12,000



LEGEND

- Fish Stream
- Non-fish Stream
- Unknown Stream
- Timber Sale Boundary
- Ownership Boundary
- Vacated Road
- Paved Road
- Rocked Road
- New Road Construction
- Focused Visual

