

Wild Rivers Coast Forest Collaborative Progress Update – 9/14/2018

Rogue River – Siskiyou National Forest Gold Beach Shasta Agness Landscape Restoration Project

Core Interdisciplinary Team

Tami Conner – Acting Ranger	M. Mitchell, B. Hastings – GIS
Karla Cottom – Fisheries	XX – Engineering
Barbara Cisneros – NEPA Coord.	Matt Timchak – Silviculture
Kristen Coons – LogSys/Economics	Lizeth Ochoa – Hydrology/Soils
Myrnie Mayfield – Wildlife	Russell Wilstead – FMO
Dave Sheehan – Recreation	Jason McGovern – Fire Ecologist
Kailey Clarno – Botany	Kay Shelnett – Heritage
Cody Johnson – Forestry Tech	Mark Hocken – Grazing

Accomplishments to Date:

- 2011 to Current - regular workshops, field trips, and monthly meetings
- 5/14/2015 - Collaborative field trip
- 6/10-6/11/2015 - Collaborative workshop
- 5/11/2016 - Collaborative proposal received
- 6/15/2016 - USFS scoping notice and draft EA proposal
- 6/8/2017 - Collaborative field trip RE alternatives
- 08/30/2017 – Regional Ecosystem Office concurrence review and Regional Interagency Executive Committee coordination completed
- 01/05/2018 - Federal Register Notice of Intent for EIS and Project-Specific Plan Amendment completed
- Current – working draft Chapter 1 and 2

What's Next – Sept/Oct/Nov/December (Compressed Schedule)

- ASAP - Set up Pinyon Collaborative folder
- 10/31/2018 - Complete draft effects and other sections of EIS - Chapter 3,4,5 + Appendices
- 11/2018 - ESA & sensitive species baseline update – marbled murrelet (MAMU)/northern spotted owl (NSO)/red tree vole (RTV)
- 11/5/2018 - Internal 1-Week Wonder to reconcile, revise, and complete DEIS open items, including project design criteria (PDCs), best management practices (BMPs), etc.
- 11/15/2018 - Specialist Report Finalization
- 11/22/2018 – DEIS finalized
- Continue Tribal consultation/coordination/notifications
- Supervisor Office/Regional Office/Washington Office Reviews
- 12/15/2018 FR NOA for 45-day DEIS comment period
- 12/15/2018 Post prior comments to PALS

Attachments:

- Select DRAFT Maps
- Preliminary *working draft* key issues
- Preliminary *working draft* Alternatives comparison narrative summary
- Preliminary *working draft* Alternatives comparison table summary
- **WORKING DRAFT** - Normal-ish and Compressed Timeline

ESTIMATED Key Upcoming Dates – Based on Compressed Schedule Assumptions:

- 9/14/2018 - WRCFC Meeting with USFS Forest Supervisor
- 11/15/2018 Finalize DEIS and specialists reports for SO/RO review
- 12/15/2018 - Federal Register NOA published: begins DEIS 45-day public comment period
- 1/15/2019 - Public Meeting & WRCFC Field Trip
- 2/15/2019 Develop Response to Comments
- 2/15/2019 Receive USFWS BiOp
- 3/15/2019 - Federal Register NOA published: begins 45-day Objection period for Final EIS and Draft ROD
- 5/1/2019 - Objections resolution period: 45 days
- 6/31/2019 - Sign ROD

Upcoming Points of Collaborative Participation:

- Attend monthly WRCFC meetings
- Provide specific, relevant comments during 45-day DEIS public comment period (CFR)
 - 40 CFR § 1503.3 Specificity of comments.
 - (a) Comments on an environmental impact statement or on a proposed action shall be as specific as possible and may address either the adequacy of the statement or the merits of the alternatives discussed or both.
- Consider submit comments to the requested address on the public notice, NOT to individual email accounts. This reduces processing time and ensures comment is received and reviewed.
- Consider submitting comments *EARLY* in the comment period.

Summary of Alternatives: Shasta Agness and development of draft NEPA

The overall purpose of the Project: to restore resilience and ecological integrity to unique ecosystems and to aquatic and riparian habitats; to conserve and accelerate the development of late-successional forests while preserving species diversity; and to provide a diverse range of high-quality, sustainable recreation opportunities supported by an environmentally sustainable road system.

Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preferred by the agency, environmentally preferred • Unique habitat restoration focus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Oak ○ Pine ○ LSR acceleration in plantations ○ Port Orford Cedar sanitation ○ Riparian Reserves • Vegetation treatment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Radial and variable density thinning ○ Large burn blocks ○ Roadside sanitation ○ Disease resistant plantings • Aquatic restoration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Thinning in riparian reserves ○ Instream wood placement ○ Beaver dam analogs ○ Road decommissioning • Recreation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Facilities improvement ○ Road to motorized use conversion ○ Decommissioning campground and trail • Roads <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Maintenance ○ Decommissioning ○ Storage ○ Upgrades • Red Tree Vole High Priority Site Designation • Project-specific plan amendment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More aligned with collaborative proposal • Differs from Alternative 1 in the following ways: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No pine restoration ○ No Port-Orford cedar treatments ○ More extensive and new recreation opportunities ○ More road are left open 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum suite of actions to have nominal impact on planning area and meet some level of purpose and need • Most number of actions exempt from Regional Ecosystem Office-Late Successional Reserve Workgroup review requirements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Still needs plan amendment • Minimum treatment footprint and effects footprint trade-off at expense of long-term benefits for the planning area. • Differs from Alternatives 1 and 2 in the following ways: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No treatment in unroaded/undeveloped areas ○ No large burn blocks/burn between areas ○ Highest mileage of roads decommissioned ○ Least amount of new recreation opportunity

PRELIMINARY KEY ISSUES THAT DROVE ALTERNATIVES DEVELOPMENT – UNDER REVISION

1. Key Issue: Thinning within riparian reserves and consideration of possible effects on forest structure and water quality;
2. Key Issue: – Effects of thinning or other project activities in unroaded, undeveloped areas;
3. Key Issue: – Adequacy of decadence levels (snags and down wood);
4. Key Issue: – Potential effects to special status and ESA-listed species;
5. Key Issue: – Construction of new temporary roads and effects on soil and water quality;
6. Key Issue: – Appropriateness and range of created gap size;
7. Key Issue: – Effects and extent of prescribed fire and fuel loads;
8. Key Issue: – Loss or reduction of endemic botanical resources, including unique habitats and plant associations;
9. Key Issue: – Protection and preservation of heritage and cultural resources;
10. Key Issue: – Retention of LSR characteristics, protections, and function;
11. Key Issue: – Roads, including accessibility, effects, and motorized use;
12. Key Issue: – Recreational opportunities, access, and effects;

CURRENT ALTERNATIVES – THERE ARE MULTIPLE CLARIFICATIONS, INCONSISTENCIES, AND CORRECTIONS NEEDED WITHIN EXISTING TABLE BELOW – ALL NUMBER ARE PRELIMINARY;

Table 1. Summary of Action Alternatives Comparison

Unique and LSR Vegetation Restoration Types	Alt. 1 (acres)	Alt. 2 (acres)	Alt. 3 (acres)
Approximate Total Acres Treated	6,967	4,685	4,038
Oak restoration	2,199	2,199	1,147
Largest tree cut for radial release of oaks or pines (DBH)	28 inches (30 for snag creation)	28 inches (30 for snag creation)	20 inches
Largest tree cut for density thinning areas (DBH)	26 inches	26 inches	20 inches
Estimated number trees >20 inches cut (from FVS model runs)	15,000 trees (7 TPA avg.)	15,000 trees (7 TPA avg.)	0 trees
Oldest tree cut (years)	140 years	140 years	140 years
Canopy cover reduced below 40% in white oak savannah (acres)	197 acres	197 acres	100 acres
Canopy cover reduced below 40% in black oak woodland (acres) ¹	226 acres	0 acres	0 acres
Sugar pine	549	0	531
Serpentine pine	484	0	484
Largest tree cut for radial release of pines and gaps (DBH)	26 inches sugar; 25 inches serpentine (30 inches snag creation)	0	20 inches, both (30 inches snag creation)
Largest tree cut for thinning areas (inches DBH)	24 sugar/ 20 serp	0	20 inches both
Estimated number trees >20 inches cut (from FVS model runs)	2,000 trees (~15% of total)	0	0 trees
Oldest tree cut sugar pine stands (years)	100 years	0	100 years
Oldest tree cut serpentine pine stands (years)	120 years	0	120 years
Largest gap size	2 acres	0	¾ acre
Canopy cover reduced below 40% in serpentine areas (acres)	64 acres	0	0
Plantations	1,635	1,635	1,635
Largest tree cut in gaps or radial thinning (DBH)	25	25	20
Largest tree cut in thinning areas (DBH)	20	20	20
Oldest stand age (years)	55 years	55 years	55 years
Largest gap size	¾ acre	¾ acre	¼ acre
Burn between units (prescribed fire)	1,859	851	0
Port-Orford-cedar roadside sanitation	241	0	241
Largest POC tree cut for sanitation(DBH)	No limit	0	12
Largest tree removed (outside riparian reserves only) (inches DBH)	20	0	12
Logging Systems (subset of acreage already indicated in unique habitat/plantation restoration – not including POC)	6,726	4,685	3,796
Non-commercial	2,956	1,457	1,088
Commercial	3,770	3,228	2,708
Helicopter	944	840	738
Skyline	1,473	1,177	929
Shovel	66	49	64
Tractor	1,287	1,162	977
Potential helicopter landings (acres/number)	20/28	14/20	20/28
Estimated average timber volume (MBF)	50	31	42
Aquatic Restoration and Sustainable Roads	Alt. 1 (mi.)	Alt. 2 (mi.)	Alt. 3 (mi.)
Roads decommissioned	8	6	11.5
In-stream aquatic restoration (stream miles)	29	29	29
Beaver dam analog locations (only points within instream miles already identified)	5	0	0
Aquatic organism passage crossings	8	8	0
Riparian restoration (subset of acreage already indicated in unique habitat/plantation restoration/% treated of total RR in planning area)	1,582 (~6.1 %)	1,048 (~4 %)	748 (~2.9%)
Sustainable Roads (approximate mileage)			
Temporary roads (approximate total)	17	14	12
New temporary roads (subset of Temp Total)	5	4	0

Legacy/non-system templates for decommissioning (subset of Temp Total) ¹	12	10	12
Haul routes (miles) ¹	193	151	192
Road openings/upgrades (ML1 to ML2)	1	1	0
Road closures/storage (ML2 to ML1)	9	4	8
Road decommissioning (<i>same as under aquatic restoration</i>)	8	6	11.5
Sustainable Recreation – Campgrounds	Alt. 1 (acres)	Alt. 2 (acres)	Alt. 3 (acres)
Billings Cr dispersed campground decommissioned	0.2	0	0.2
Foster Bar facility maintenance	2.8	2.8	2.8
Foster Bar boat launch improved	0.4	0.4	0
Illahe Campground decommission	9.9	0	9.9
Illahe Campground reopened	0	15.7	0
Illinois Trail Head Horse Camp (new)	0	1.1	0
Oak Flat Campground maintenance, host, septic	0.3	0.3	0.3 (not septic)
Oak Flat Campground boat ramp/water	0	21.8	0
Shasta Costa maintenance	1.2	1.2	1.2
Shasta Costa Campground (new)	0	8.1	0
Upper Rogue Trail Head improvements – toilet and kiosk	0.1	0.1	0
Total approximate acres	14.9	51.5	14.4
Sustainable Recreation – Trails	Alt. 1 (mi.)	Alt. 2 (mi.)	Alt. 3 (mi.)
Big Bend Battlefield Trail – new trail	0	1.4	0
Foster Cr To Brewery Hole Trail – new trail	0	0.8	0
Foster/Brewery Tie-In w/ Up. Rogue Trail – new trail	0	0.1	0
FSR 2308330 To OHV Trail – convert to motorized trail	0.7	0.7	0
FSR 3577350 and 57 spur to OHV trail – convert to motorized trail	3.9	3.9	0
Nancy Cr Trail 1181 – decommission trail	1.9	0	1.9
Shasta Costa Creek Trail – new trail	0	4.3	0
Shasta Costa Overlook A – new trail	0	2.8	0
Shasta Costa Overlook B – new trail	0	1.9	0
Total approximate miles	6.5	15.9	1.9

All action alternatives include: RTV Plan; Project-specific plan amendment; snag creation; native grass/forb seeding and plantings; invasive plant treatments; basic road, trail, and facilities maintenance; and monitoring and adaptive management, as applicable

¹ Though part of the connected actions, these road miles also could be considered as part of restoration mileage. This is because without using these existing roads and legacy templates for hauling or logging systems access, there is little likelihood they would receive the needed restoration/decommissioning or maintenance actions that would benefit both transportation/access resources as well as those aquatic resources potentially impacted by the current condition of the existing road prisms.

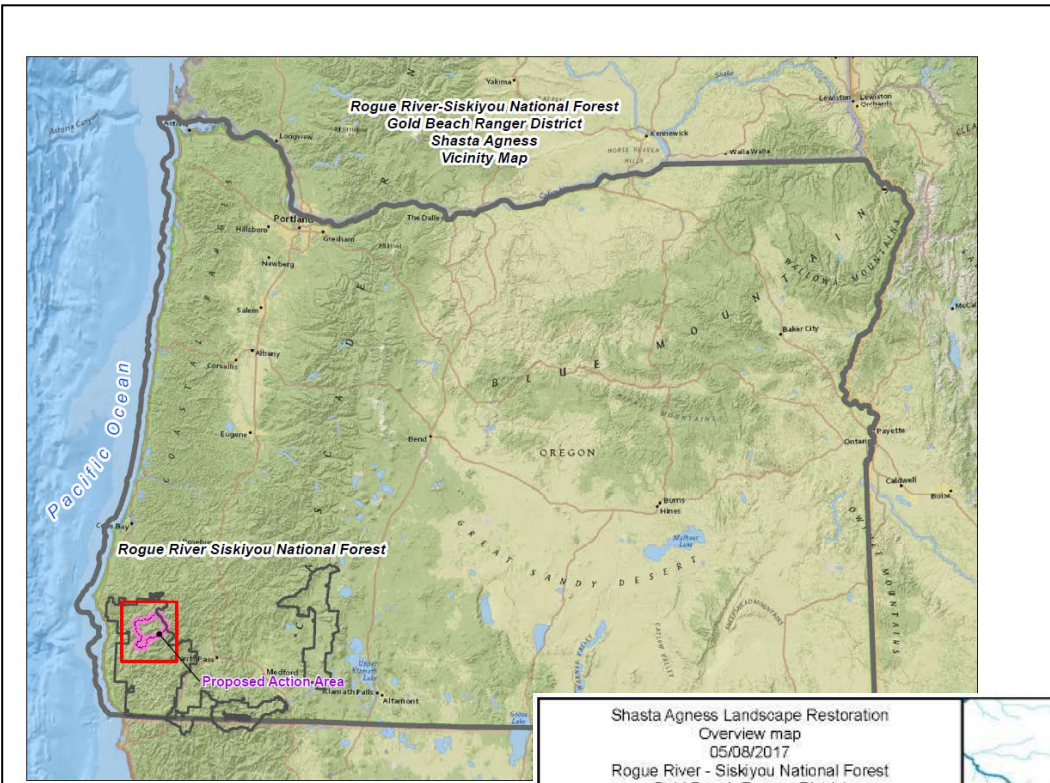
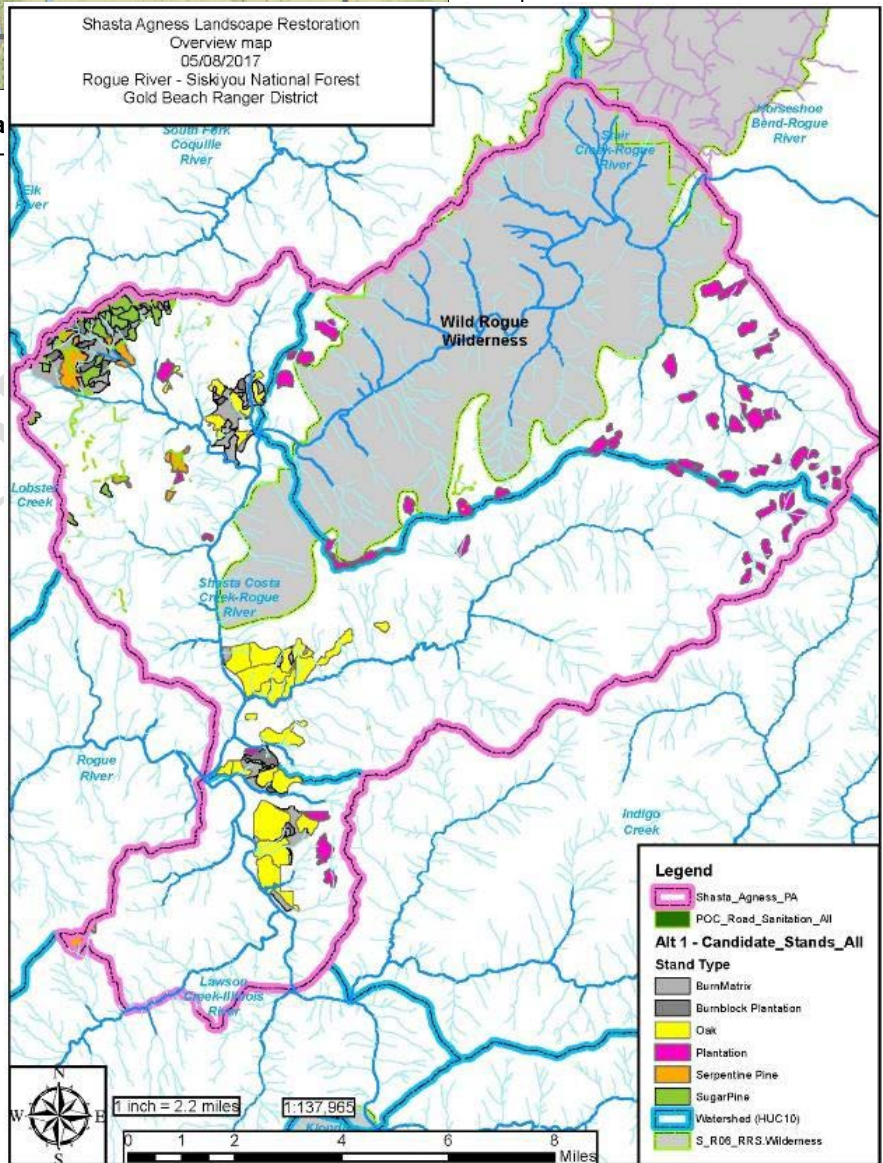


Figure 1. Vicinity Map and Project Planning a



Candidate Stands Area Maps

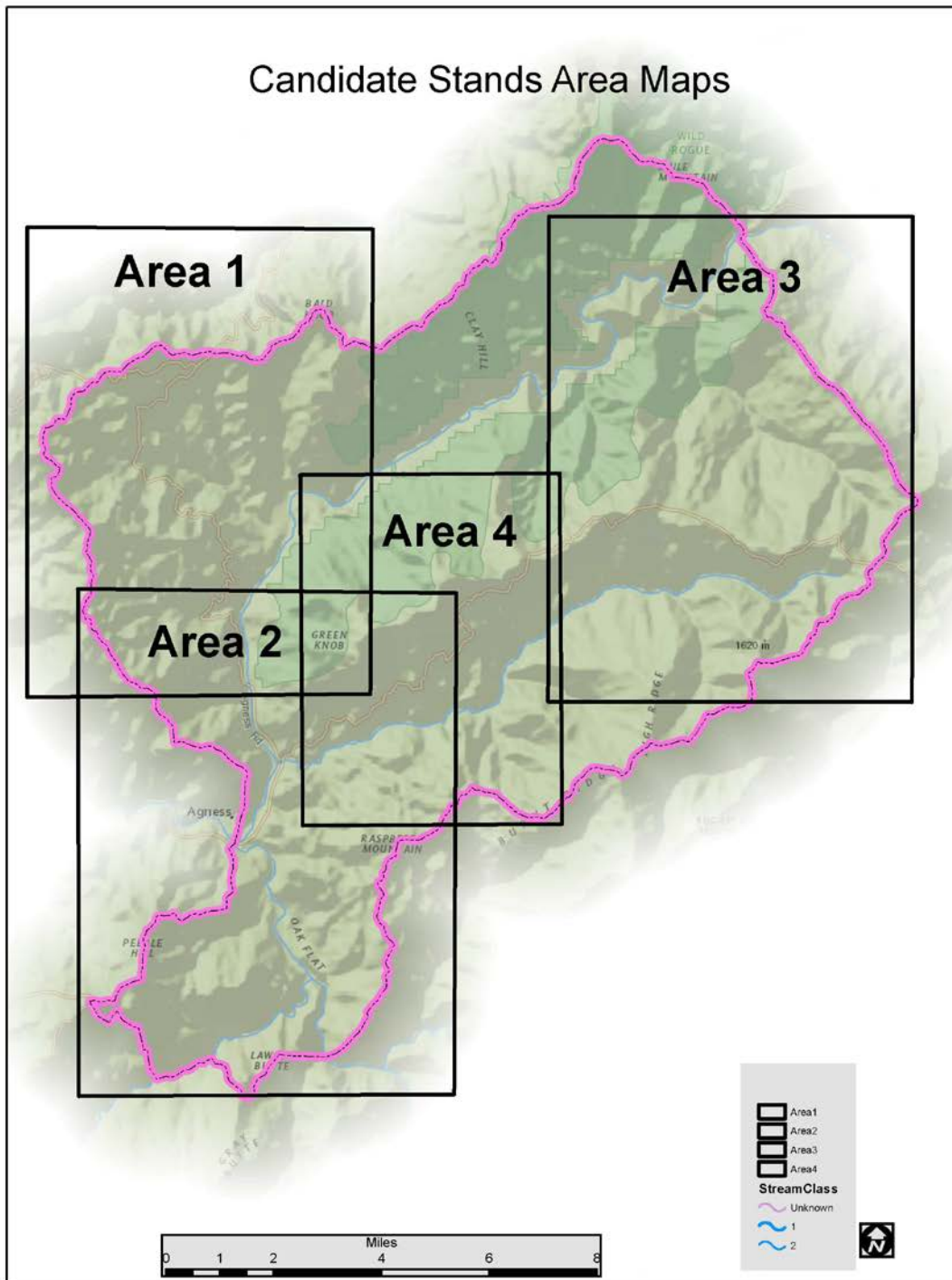


Figure 2. Candidate stands area reference maps

Alternative 1 Area1 Candidate Stands

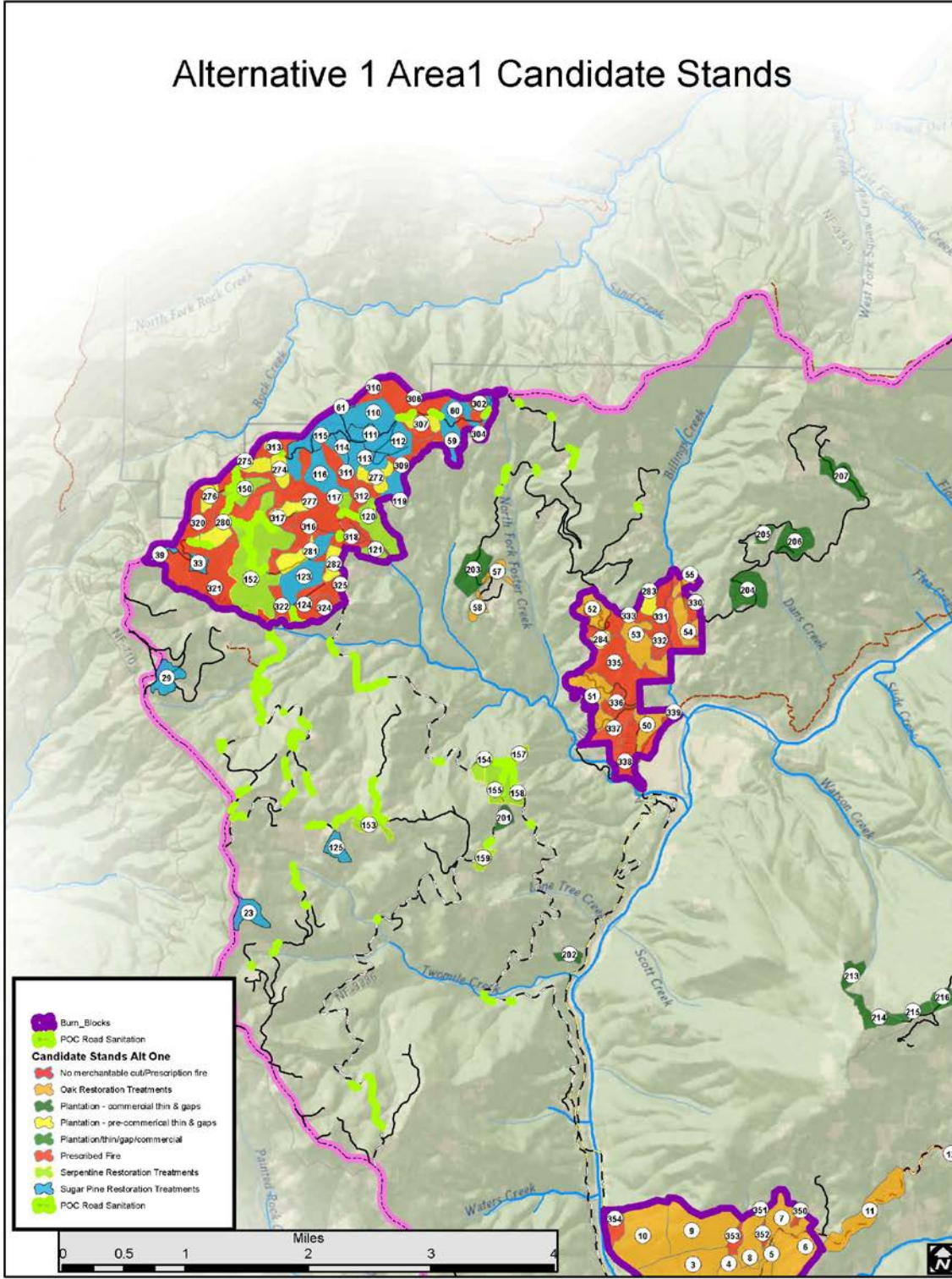


Figure 3. Alternative 1 – Area 1 candidate restoration stands

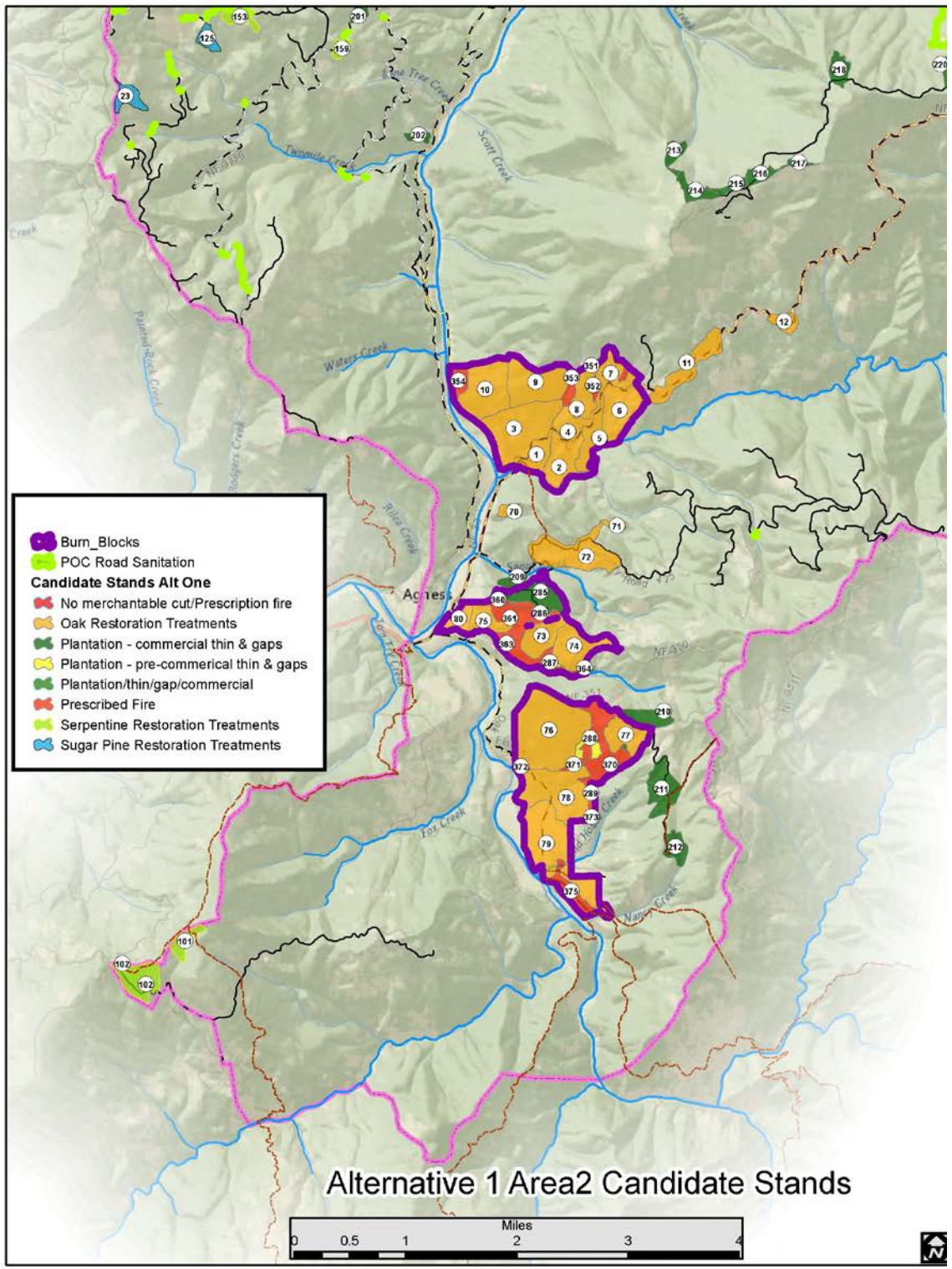


Figure 4. Alternative 1 – Area 2 candidate restoration stands

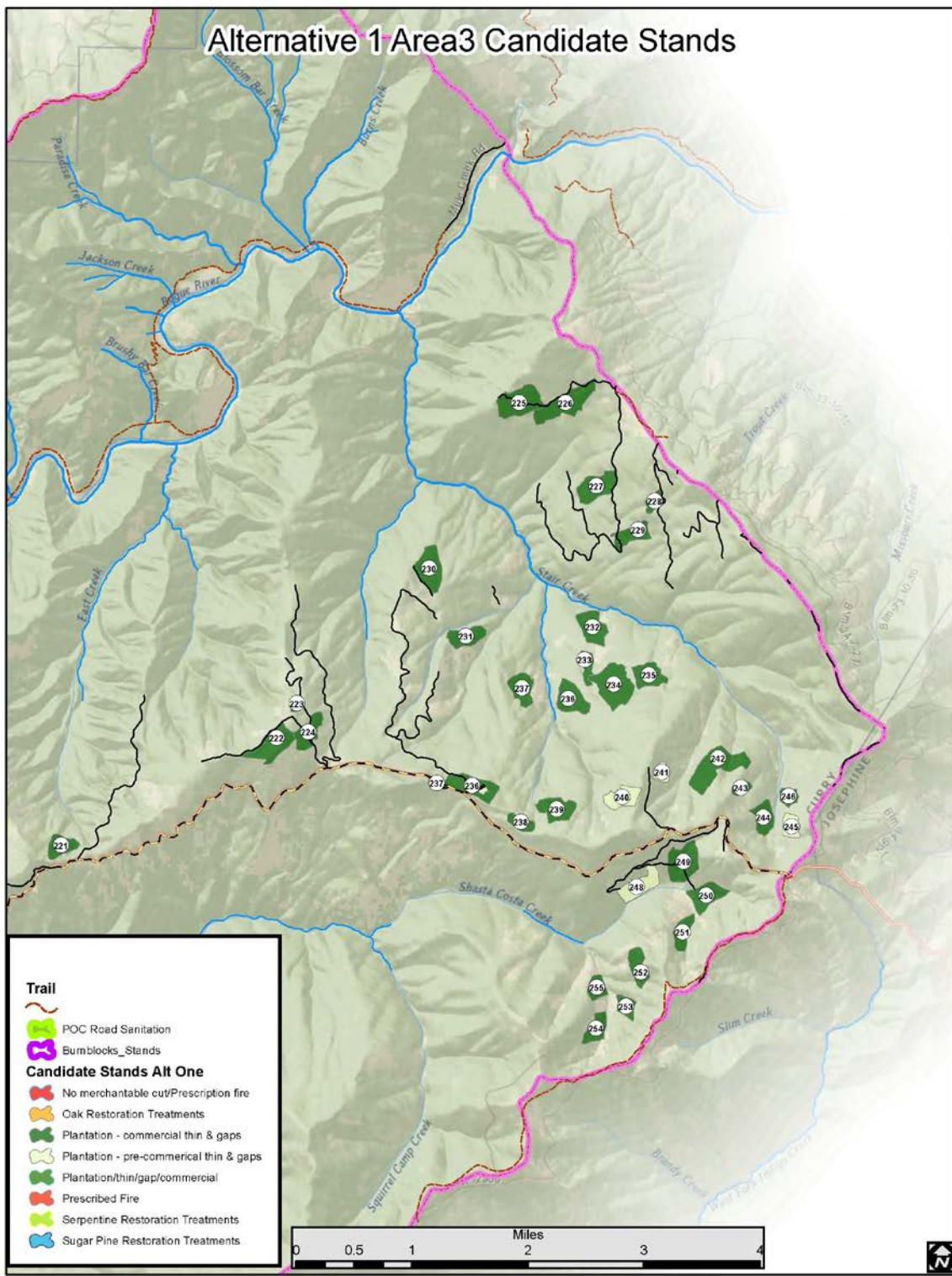


Figure 5. Alternative 1 – Area 3 candidate restoration stands

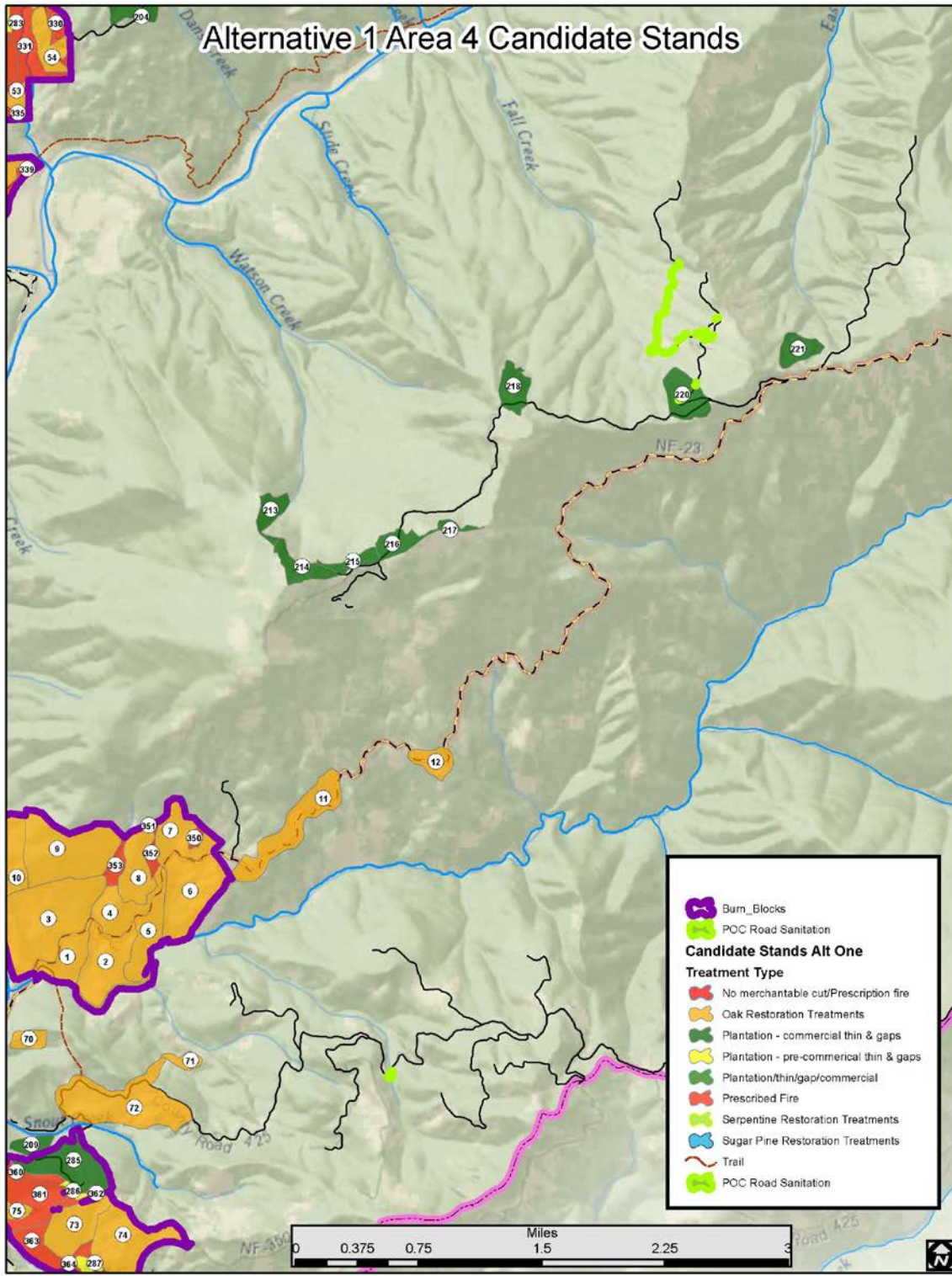


Figure 6. Alternative 1 – Area 4 candidate restoration stands

WORKING DRAFT - PRELIMINARY