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March 3, 2010

Ms. Catherine Kuhlman  
California Regional Water Quality Control Board  
North Coast Region  
5550 Skylane Blvd, Suite A  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Subject: Enrollment of THP 1-09-018 HUM (Unit2) in the Elk River WWDR, "Tier II"

**Dear:** Ms. Kuhlman

HRC is requesting Tier II enrollment under Watershed-Wide Waste Discharge Requirement (WWDR) Order No. R1-2006-0039 for unit 2 of THP 1-09-018 HUM. This Tier II portion of the unit proposed for enrollment is comprised of 21.6 acres of group selection (10.8 clear-cut equivalent acres). Total acres currently enrolled or proposed for enrollment under Order No. R1-2006-0039 Tier II is shown in the Attached Pre-Harvest Planning Report. The Erosion Control Plan (ECP), Form 200 and an annual waste discharge enrollment fee have already been submitted for this THP.

Landslide risks associated with this plan were evaluated in compliance with the Freshwater Creek and Elk River WWDR Permit Acreage Enrollment and Compliance Monitoring Program Quality Assurance Project Plan (Version 2.0, September 1, 2006) approved by the Executive Officer of the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board. This approach uses commonly accepted standards for geologic practices in forest management (Sidle et al. 1985, Soeters and Van Western 1996, and Sidle and Ochiai 2006) to assess factors known to contribute to landslides, such as steepness of slope, slope convergence, hydrology, geologic features, and visibly unstable areas. Overlapping and complementary scientific techniques combining state-of-the-art digital elevation model (DEM) slope stability models, field investigation, and terrain analysis were used in this assessment.

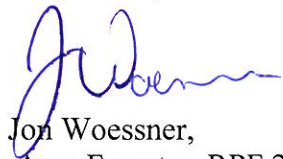
Unit 2 of the North Ridge THP is a north-facing, low relief ridgetop flanked by steep to very steep slopes. The unit is underlain by undifferentiated Wildcat group sediments and drains through Class II and III watercourses to North Fork Elk River. Unstable areas were identified in the unit and mitigated with single tree selection where timber was of merchantable age. HCP prescriptions also require a retention standard of 50% canopy closure in the southeastern portion of the unit where atop steeply inclined slope adjacent a watercourse and extensive legacy earthworks. As approved in the THP, the proposed group and single tree selection, the implemented watercourse protection zones, the recognition and adjustment of low impact silviculture where atop unstable areas, and cable yarding is anticipated to result in a low mass wasting potential harvest. Following this level of mitigation, it is our opinion that Unit 2 meets the requirements for tier 2 enrollment.

The THP proposes an uneven-age silviculture retaining 150 sq.ft. of basal area. Sub-merchantable trees and those with specific wildlife value characteristics (e.g., cavities, large limbs, broken tops, snags, etc.) will be retained within the harvest area to the extent feasible. Cable yarding is approved for the entire unit. Post-harvest no site preparation will occur.

Greater detail regarding this landslide hazard assessment is provided in the attached *THP Unit Review for Tier 2 Enrollment*. The licensed geologist involved with the Tier 2 landslide risk evaluation has concluded the proposed harvest operation, if implemented as planned and approved, will result in a negligible increase in potential for post-harvest landsliding; and thereby meets the applicable Zero Delivery of landslide related sediment performance standards of NCRWQCB Orders R1-2006-0039 and R1-2008-0071.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions or comments regarding this application for enrollment into WWDR (Order No. R1-2006-0039).

Respectfully,



Jon Woessner,  
Area Forester, RPF 2571  
Humboldt Redwood Company, LLC

Attachments:

Professional Certification of Design  
THP Unit Review for Tier II enrollment  
Pre-harvest Planning Report  
Maps

**THP: North Ridge THP 09-018 Unit # 2 March 1, 2010**

<b>Tools Used in This Assessment</b>	<b>Figure Number</b>
Elevation Map with 10 ft Contours (HRC LiDAR)	1
SHALSTAB ( Montgomery and Dietrich, 1994 and Palco, 2006) / Slope Class / Hillshade Maps	2
CGS Geology and Geomorphic Features (CGS, 2005)	3
Mass Wasting Potential Map (HRC, 1999)	4
Aerial Photo Map (HRC, 2007)	5
HRC Elk River and Salmon Creek WA deep-seated LS inventory (HRC, 2004)	6
Road Condition Map	7

Please see back of enrollment for references

**Summary of Changes to THP Prescriptions Based on Tier II Analysis in this Unit:**

<b>Geologic Review</b>	<b>Forestry Silviculture/Site Prep Plan</b>	<b>Operational Design Plan</b>
2-1	THP approved silviculture is group selection with single tree selection within identified unstable areas and watercourse protection zones. No site preparation will occur due to partial harvesting.	The approved unit is to be cable yarded from existing roads. No change to approved yarding methods.

**Geology and Plan Summary** (information presented from existing bodies of work):

Unit 2 is sharply defined northwest trending low relief trending ridge adjacent the North Fork of Elk River. Figure 3 shows the unit to be underlain by undifferentiated Wildcat Group sediments. These sediments are composed of silts, sands, clays, and infrequent gravels that are moderately to well consolidated. The slopes are typically steeply inclined and include moderate to poorly defined watercourse channels. Figure 3 maps debris slide / source areas atop both of the flanking slopes to the ridge.

No mass wasting is mapped within the unit from Figure 6.

Figure 2 review (Hillslope shade) shows regionally uniformly weathered slopes throughout the unit. The surface texture of the unit resembles weathering consistent with soft, moderately consolidated sediments. The prominent watercourse channels are visible and terminate low in the slopes.

Figure 4, Mass Wasting Potential Modeling, shows the unit to be underlain by high to extreme potential. This is a modeled projection and does not necessarily reflect true conditions as depicted on the ground.

The THP included a Note 45 Geology report to address several unstable areas. For a more comprehensive review of the geology associated with this harvest unit, please see the report in Section 5 of the THP. The approved silviculture is group selection with single tree selection within unstable areas and watercourse protection zones. The yarding is high lead cable throughout the unit. Existing roads will be used to access the unit.

The area has been previously clearcut and ground-based logged with bulldozers. Significant ground disturbance is observable throughout the unit in response to past harvest practices.

The unit has been addressed as one polygon.

**THP Unit: # 2**  
**Polygon: 2-1**

A) General Observations

The polygon is essentially north-facing. The polygon includes two Class II and two Class III watercourses. The watercourses are all within protection zones (HCP RMZ for CI II and Forester imposed RMZ for CI III).

Typical Riparian Management Zones for the Class II watercourses includes a 30-foot no harvest inner band and a selection buffer that extends the RMZ out to between 75 and 100 feet. The outerband may be harvested but must retain a minimum of 60% canopy closure. For this unit, the entire Class II RMZ has been established as a no harvest zone.

The implemented THP mitigation for the Class III watercourses includes the retention of all trees growing within the active channel and all trees 8 inches and less within 15 feet of the channel. Where channel sideslopes are greater than 50%, a 50' RMZ has been established and maintaining 75 sq. ft (or the unit wide retention standard if greater) evenly distributed in the buffer. Where side slopes are less than 50% employ a 25' RMZ that maintains 75 sq. ft (or the unit wide retention standard if greater) evenly distributed in the buffer and no group opening greater than ¼ acre immediately above the terminus of class III with slopes greater than 40% or immediately above a headwall swale. Additionally sub-merchantable trees and those with specific wildlife value characteristics (e.g., cavities, large limbs, broken tops, snags, etc.) will be retained within the harvest area to the extent feasible. The Class III watercourses in this unit are short extensions of the Class II watercourse and often fall with the Class II RMZ. The southern Class III has been treated with a Class II RMZ.

SHALSTAB modeling (Figure 2) identifies two areas of extreme convergence and therefore potential for shallow failure. Both are located within the headwalls of watercourses that are encompassed within the no harvest portion of the RMZs. Value two and three SHALSTAB modeling blankets the remainder of the unit and is likely in representation of the typically steep ridgetop flanking slopes.

A series of small landslides were identified in the geology report along the northeast facing side of the unit. All but one of the failures was recorded as road related (skid road). One is a true shallow debris slide. In response to this review, the forester has appropriately implemented single tree selection within these and additional areas. The western edge of the unit includes retention standards of 50% canopy closure.

**B) Harvest Related Impacts and Hillslope Sensitivity**

Significant surface disturbance has occurred within the unit in response to past logging activities. The disturbance is the culmination of road and layout construction. Following that impact, the area appears to have adjusted through minor slumping, settling and the infrequent failure of stresses slopes.

The degree of mass wasting placed sediment within the watercourses appears insignificant when compared to the construction of roads and crossings within the channels.

Current planned operations will result in less ground disturbance than previous operations and are unlikely to increase potential for mass wasting-related discharge. As part of the HCP prescriptions, the legacy earthworks are to be assessed with respect to mitigation (digging) and or the potential for failure following harvesting atop them.

The extensive RMZs were designed to provide sediment filtration bands adjacent the watercourses should extensive sediment be generated from the clearcut harvesting. The current level of harvest will retain both canopy closure and slash from the harvested trees potentially increasing the effectiveness of the sediment filtration band.

Overall hillslope sensitivity to harvest activities appears minimal with respect to mass wasting.

Please see the THP geology report for a more comprehensive assessment of the role that timber harvesting has on slope stability.

**C) Forestry / Silviculture Plan**

We have not changed the silviculture in response to this evaluation.

**D) Operational Design Plan**

THP approved yarding method is both cable and ground based. As delineated, the proposed yarding methods appear appropriate.

## References:

- CGS, 2005, Geologic and Geomorphic Features Related to Landsliding, Elk River Watershed, Humboldt County, California. Department of Conservation, now California Geological Survey (CGS) Watershed Mapping Series, Mapset 4, Plate 1. Available via the web at [ftp://ftp.consrv.ca.gov/pub/dmg/thp/maps/elk/elk\\_color.pdf](ftp://ftp.consrv.ca.gov/pub/dmg/thp/maps/elk/elk_color.pdf)
- Montgomery, D.R. and W.E. Dietrich, 1994. A physically based model for the topographic control on shallow landsliding. *Wat. Resour. Res.* 30: 1153-1171. For specific details regarding the model used in this evaluation, please see Palco, 2006. Additional information from the model authors is available at the following website: <http://socrates.berkeley.edu/~geomorph/shalstab>
- HRC, 2007, Ortho-photo rectified aerial photographs flown by 3Di West, Eugene Oregon.
- HRC, 2008, Freshwater Creek and Elk River WDR Permit Acreage Enrollment and Compliant Monitoring Program, NCRWQCB R1-2006—0039 and R1-2006-0041, Quality Assurance Project Plan, Version 3.0. Policy document submitted to NCRWQCB dated June 7, 2006.
- HRC, 2004, Elk River / Salmon Creek Watershed Analysis, Scotia, California, prepared for Pacific Lumber Company (PALCO) dated 2004?, and acquired by Humboldt Redwood Company, LLC in 2008.
- HRC, 2005, (Policy Acquired from The Pacific Lumber Company (PALCO)) Prescriptions Based on Watershed Analysis for Freshwater Creek, California, August 15, 2002.
- HRC, 1999, The Pacific Lumber Company's Habitat Conservation Plan, Vol. 2 Part D, Landscape Assessment of Geomorphic Sensitivity, Public Review Draft.
- SGD, 2008, Geologic Evaluation of the Moss Elk THP, Humboldt County, California, unpublished report to Wayne Rice RPF, Scotia Pacific Company LLC, dated April 30, 2008. Included within section V of the THP 1-08-072.

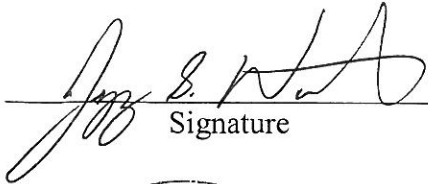
## Brief descriptions of the models used in this evaluation:

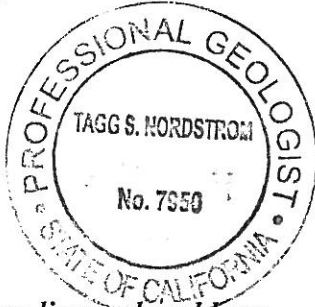
**SHALSTAB** was first described in Dietrich and Montgomery (1994). SHALSTAB is a simple, physically-based model based on the Mohr-Coulomb failure law that can be used to map shallow landslide potential. The model calculates the potential for failure using gridded digital elevation data. The simplicity of the model lies in the formulation of slope stability parameters that allow the model to be run parameter-free using default values suggested by the authors or determined by local measurement. Because the model uses no field measurements of critical characteristics that determine slope stability, the evaluation of potential instability is only an approximation. In applying SHALSTAB for Tier 2 enrollment, HRC has run the model on a 10-m spatial grid using LiDAR elevation data and applied the parameters as suggested by the model authors. HRC's application of the method and parameters is described in HRC (2008).

**Mass Wasting Potential (MWP)** modeling is a cursory regional assessment that numerically values soil, slope inclination, geology type, and geomorphology with respect to past mass wasting (HRC, 1999). The sums of the values specific to an area are measured against a set ranking system that extends from very low to extreme. The model's intent is to highlight areas of high potential for instability at the planning level. The model's use at the site specific level is limited in that pedogenic soil types are used, not textures, the geologic formations utilized provide one value for all of the incorporated facies, and the model is heavily biased if past mass wasting has occurred or has been mapped as occurring in the area.



## Professional Certification of Design

I, , P.G. 7950, 3/4/10,  
Signature license # Date



*Place licensed seal here*

hereby certify, in accordance with North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (NCRWQCB) Order Nos. R1-2006-0039 and R1-2006-0041, that the attached application and the description of THP modifications, and the materials submitted along with:

THP No. 1-09-018 HUM (North Ridge) Unit # 2

- a. are in accordance with accepted practices, and recognized professional standards;
- b. comply with the requirements of the Monitoring and Reporting Program No. R1-2006-0103, approved by the Executive Officer of the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board; and
- c. provided that the THP is properly implemented, operated, and maintained, are adequate for the THP to meet the applicable Zero Net Delivery performance standards of NCRWQCB Orders R1-2006-0039, R1-2006-0041, and R1-2006-0103, insofar as such performance can reasonably be predicted by accepted engineering geologic practices.

The opinions presented in the subject THP have been developed using that degree of care and skill ordinarily exercised, under similar circumstances, by reputable engineering geologists practicing in this or similar localities. No other warranty, expressed or implied, is made as to the professional advice included in this report.

Table 1. Proposed 2010 Harvest in North Fork Elk River.

THP Name	THP Number	Unit Number	Silviculture					Hazard		
			CC	ROW	CT	SHR	SEL	CC Equivalent	Low	High*
S. Lake View	07-183	2					13.7	6.9	11.6	26.9
S. Lake View	07-183	3					32.9	16.5	27.6	67.9
S. Lake View	07-183	4					17.9	9.0	11.7	79.4
Moss Elk	08-072	1					14.1	7.1	11.9	28.2
Moss Elk	08-072	2					13.5	6.8	10.5	38.4
Moss Elk	08-072	3		0.3			17.6	9.1	13	62.8
Moss Elk	08-072	4		0.3			18.2	9.4	10.9	97.3
North Ridge***	09-018	1					36.5	18.3	30.3	79.4
North Ridge	09-018	2					21.6	10.8	6.6	192.1
North Ridge	09-018	3		1.8			83.1	43.4	53.5	402.2
North Ridge	09-018	4		7			72.5	43.3	62.9	212.6
North Ridge	09-018	1a		1.8			10.2	0.0	10.7	0.0
North Ridge	09-018	3a		3.4			26.7	6.9	24.4	16.7
Top Lake	09-051	All acres		1.3			114.9	58.8	102.1	73.0
							Total	262.6		180.6

Table 3. Summary of THPs by Yarding System and Site Preparation for North Fork Elk River.

THP Name	THP Number	Unit Number	Yarding System		Helicopter	Site Preparation	
			Ground Based	Yarder		Mechanical	Broadcast
S. Lake View	07-183	2	0	13.7			
S. Lake View	07-183	3	8.1	24.8			
S. Lake View	07-183	4	1.8	16.1			
Moss Elk	08-072	1	14.1	0			
Moss Elk	08-072	2	13.5	0			
Moss Elk	08-072	3	15	2.6			
Moss Elk	08-072	4	1.9	16.3			
North Ridge	09-018	1	23	17.9			
North Ridge	09-018	2		21.5			
North Ridge	09-018	3	8.3	76.6			
North Ridge	09-018	4	30.7	48.8			
North Ridge	09-018	1a	6.2	5.8			
North Ridge	09-018	3a	5.4	24.7			
Top Lake	09-051	all					

# North Ridge

## N Silviculture Map

T3N R1E Sec. 4 HB&M  
T4N R1E Sec. 30, 31, 32, 33 HB&M

USGS Quad (s): MCHINNEY CREEK

Map Scale: 1 inch = 500 feet

Contour Interval: 40 feet

- Harvest Boundary
- Permanent Road
- Seasonal Road
- Proposed Seasonal Road
- Class I Watercourse
- Class II Watercourse
- Class III Watercourse

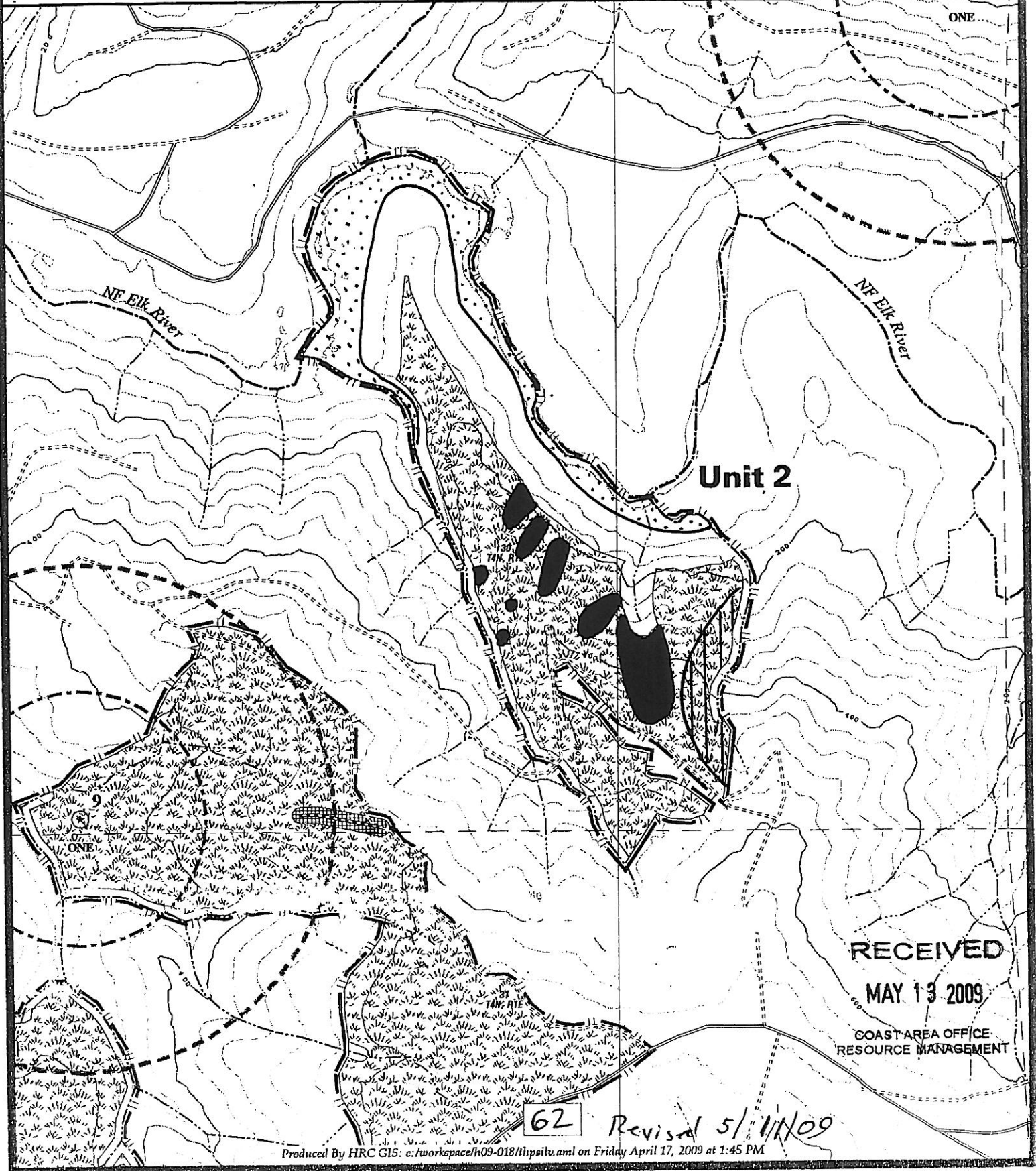
- NSO Site
- 500' NSO Buffer
- 1000' NSO Buffer
- HRA

- No Harvest
- Group Selection
- Road Right-of-Way

Hillslope Management Limited Harvest  
50% Conifer Canopy Closure

### PART OF PLAN

- CMZ No Harvest
- Individual Tree Selection Area



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# North Ridge

## N Yarding System Map

T3N R1E Sec. 4 HB&M  
T4N R1E Sec. 30, 31, 32, 33 HB&M

USGS Quad (a): MCHINNEY CRBEK

Map Scale: 1 inch = 500 feet

Contour Interval: 40 feet

- Harvest Boundary
- Permanent Road
- Seasonal Road
- Proposed Seasonal Road

- Class I Watercourse
- Class II Watercourse
- Class III Watercourse

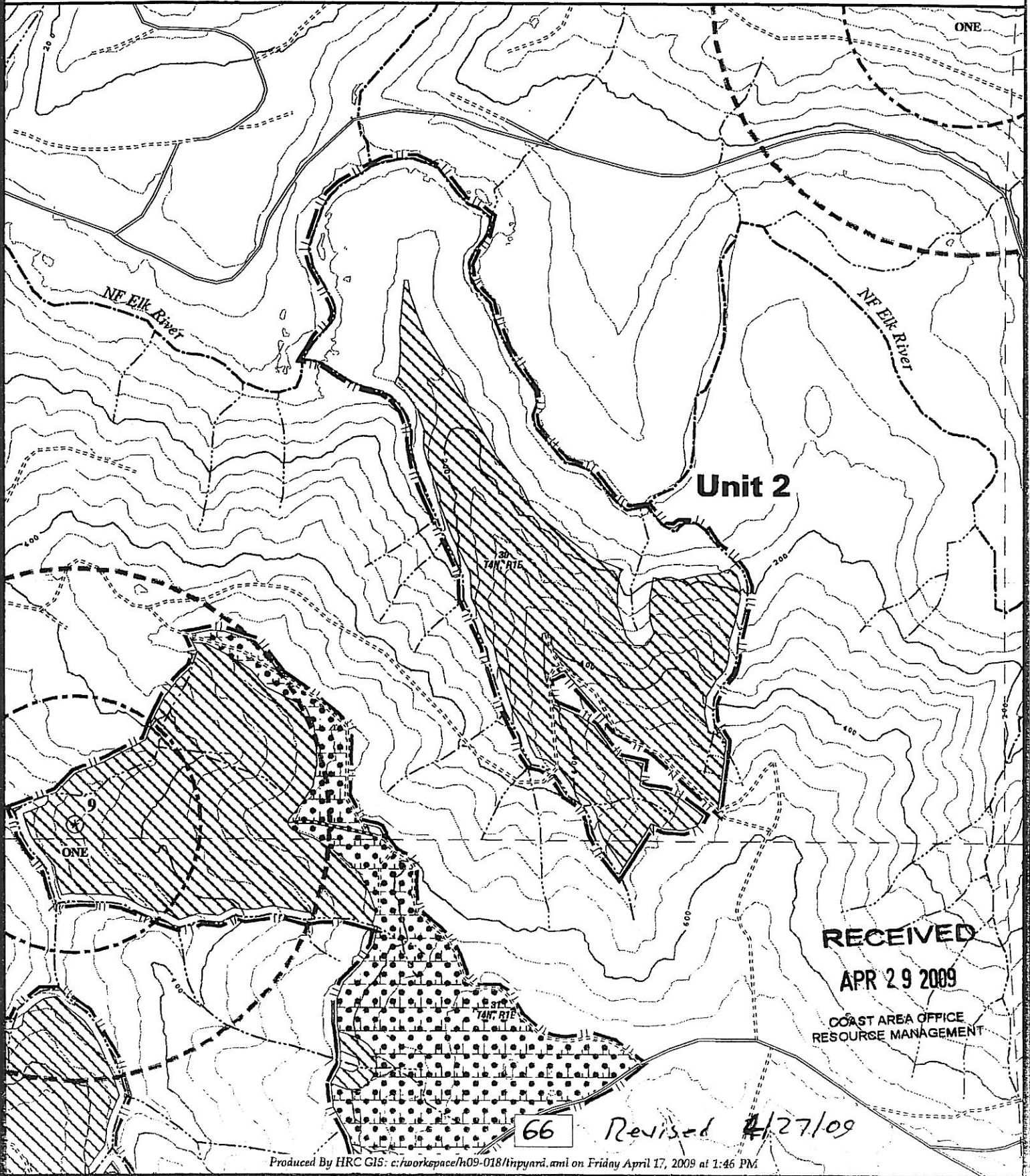
- NSO Site
- 500' NSO Buffer
- 1000' NSO Buffer
- HRA

No Harvest

Cable Yarding  
(Opt. Tractor Long Line)

Tractor Yarding  
(Opt. Cable Yarding)

### PART OF PLAN



**Figure 1**

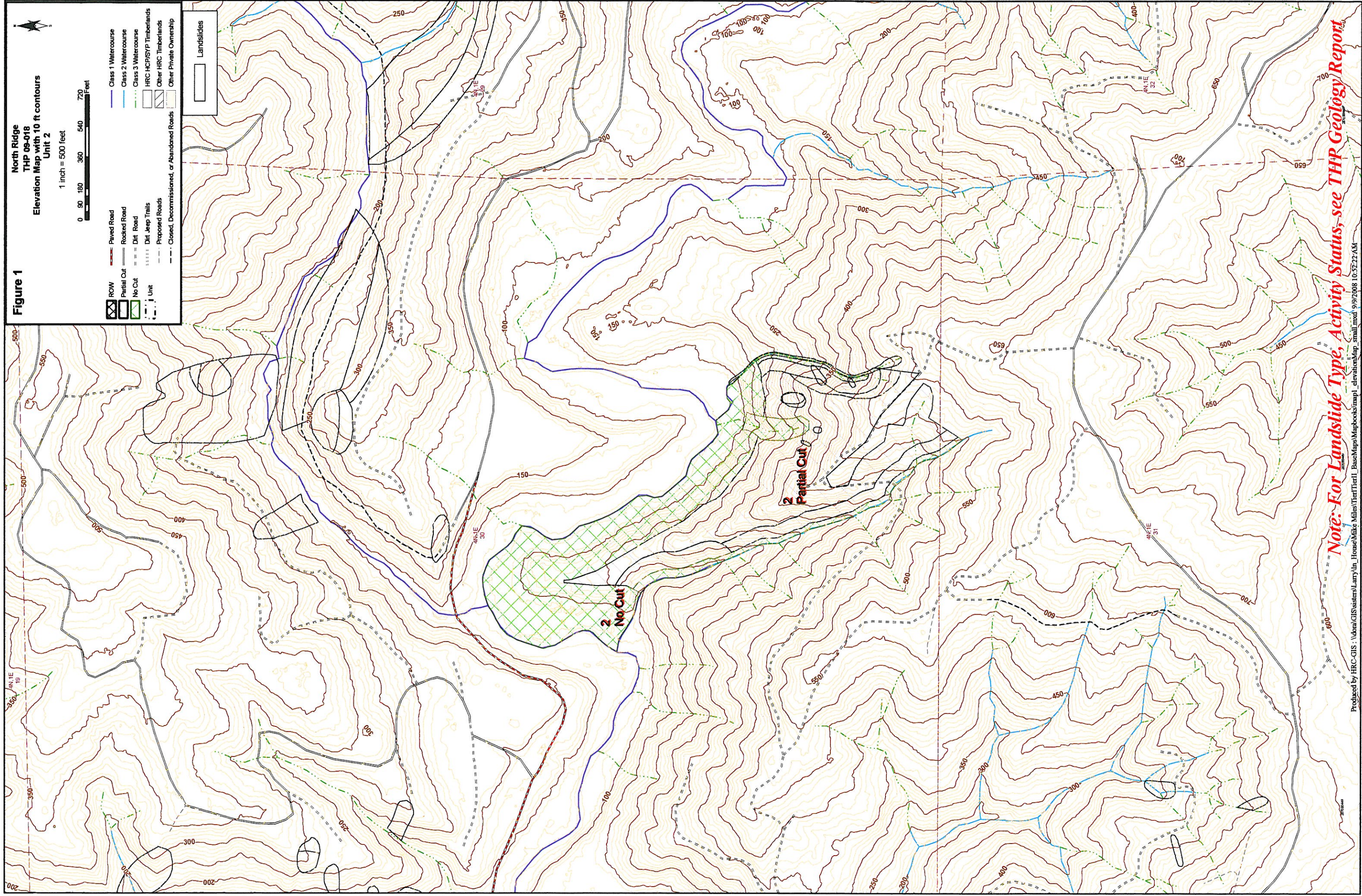
North Ridge  
THP 08-018  
Elevation Map with 10 ft contours  
Unit 2

1 inch = 500 feet



- |             |  |                         |
|-------------|--|-------------------------|
| ROW         | Paved Road                                 | Class 1 Watercourse     |
| Partial Cut | Rocked Road                                | Class 2 Watercourse     |
| No Cut      | Dirt Road                                  | Class 3 Watercourse     |
| Unit        | Dft. Jeep Trails                           | HRC HCPSP/Timberlands   |
|             | Proposed Roads                             | Other HRC Timberlands   |
|             | Closed, Decommissioned, or Abandoned Roads | Other Private Ownership |

- |            |
|------------|
| Landslides |
|------------|



**Note: For Landslide Type, Activity Status, see THP Geology Report**

Figure 2

North Ridge  
THP 09-018  
Shalstab 10 mts grid / Slope Class Map  
Unit 2

1 inch = 750 feet

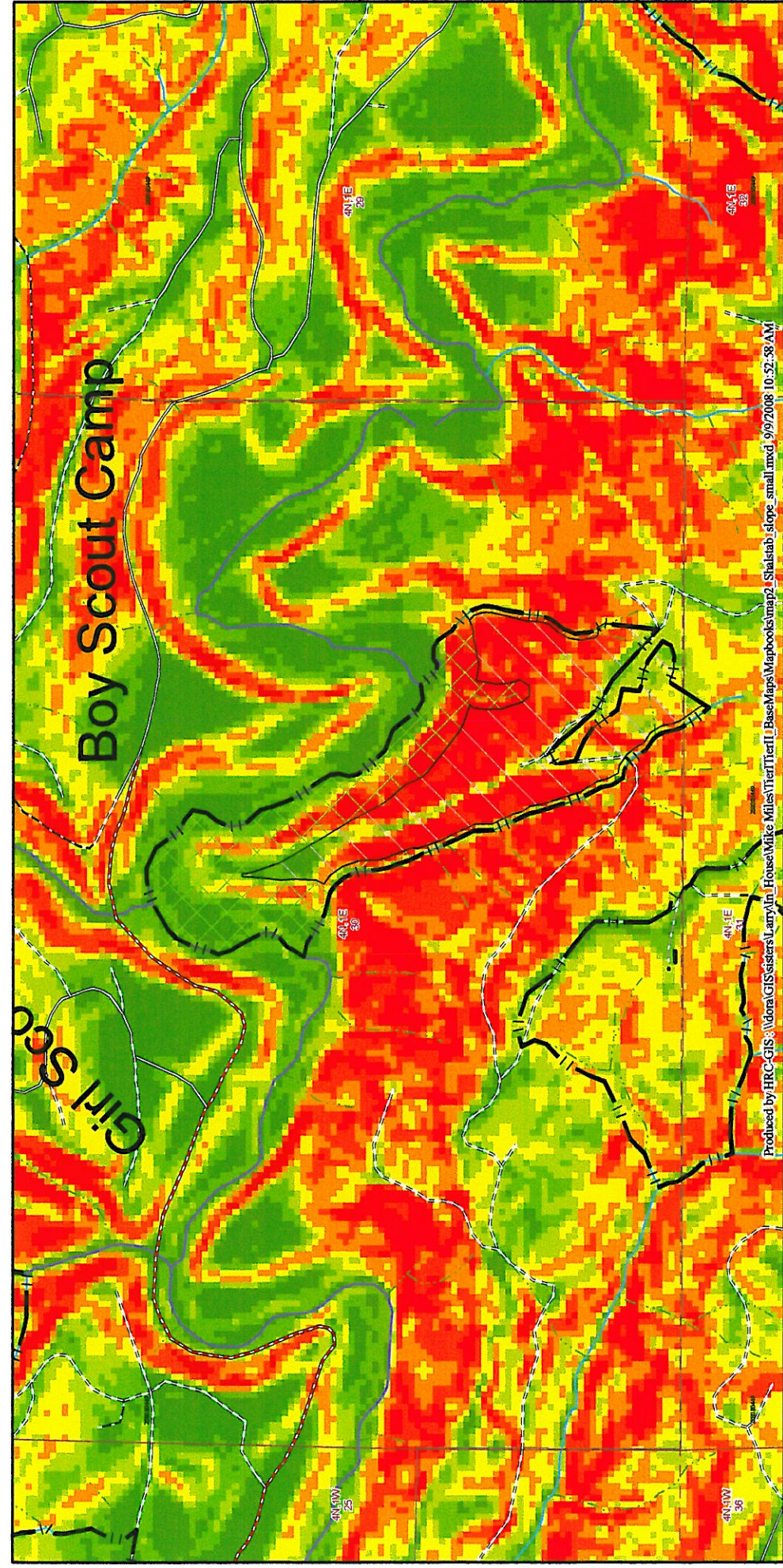
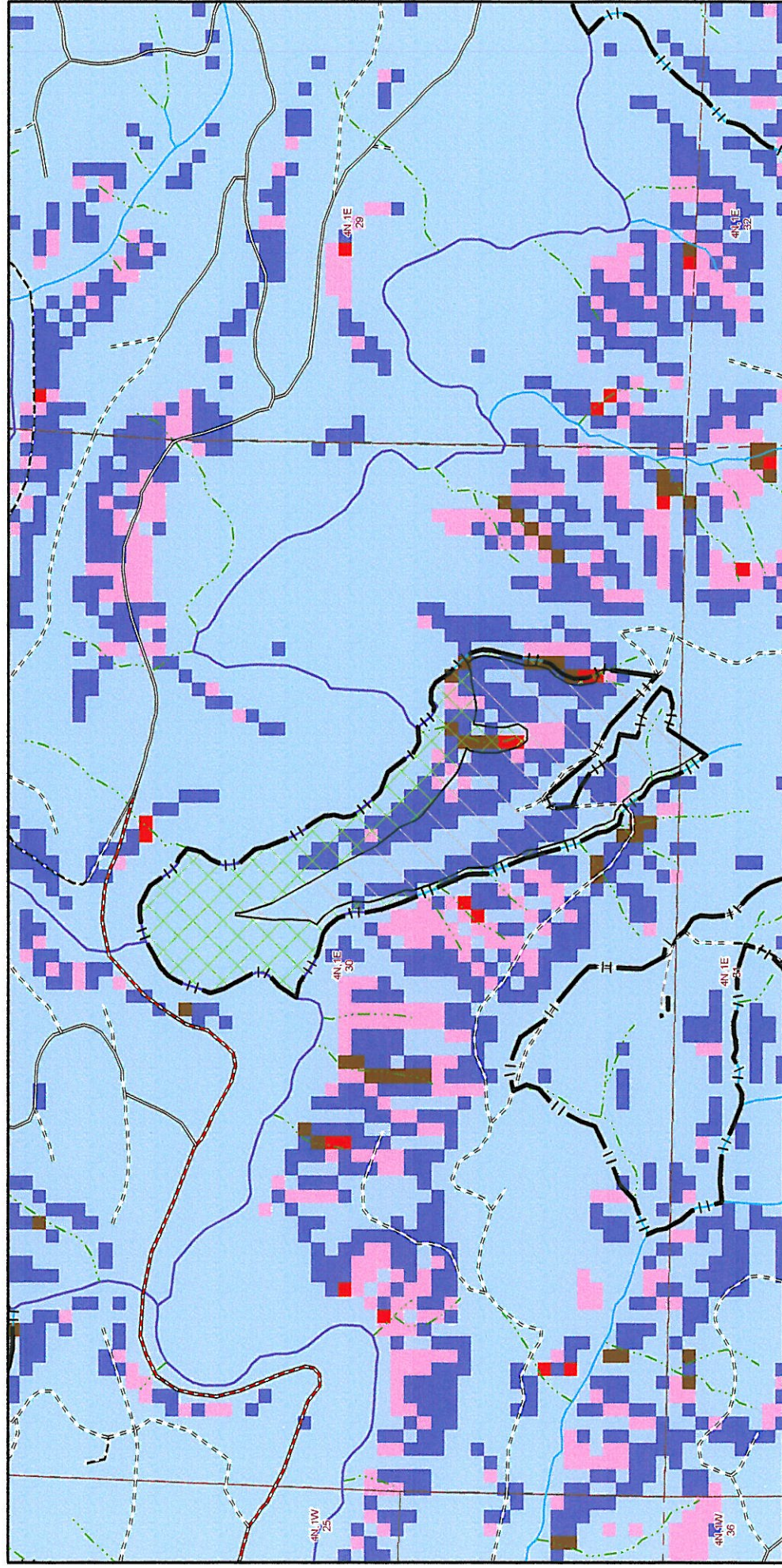
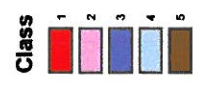
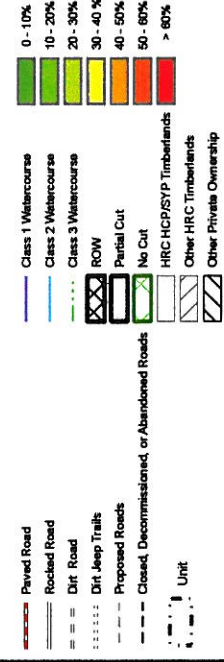


Figure 3

North Ridge  
THP 09-018  
CGS Map Unit 2

1 inch = 500 feet



- HRC HCP/SYP Timberlands
- Other HRC Timberlands
- Other Private Ownership
- ROW
- Partial Cut
- No Cut
- Unit
- Paved Road
- Rocked Road
- Dirt Road
- Dirt Jeep Trails
- Proposed Roads
- Closed, Decommissioned, or Abandoned Roads

- Class 1 Watercourse
- Class 2 Watercourse
- Class 3 Watercourse

**Legend**

- dss
- a
- df
- gh
- db
- y
- contact, approx. located
- contact, approx. located
- contact, approx. located, concealed
- f.a., anticline, approx. located
- f.a., anticline, approx. located, concealed
- f.a., anticline, certain
- fault, approx. located
- fault, certain
- thrust fault, approx. located
- thrust fault, concealed
- thrust fault, concealed, queried
- thrust fault, inferred

**Geological Units:**

- dt
- df, h
- ds, dm
- ds, dy
- ds, h
- ef, dm
- ef, do
- ef, dy
- ef, h
- rs, dm
- rs, do
- rs, dy
- rs, h
- u
- Kfs
- Q
- Qds
- Qh
- Crnts
- Crt
- Ckwu
- Ty

Girl Scout Camp

Boy Scout Camp

Fork

Elk



Figure 4

North Ridge  
THP 09-018  
Mass Wasting Potential  
Unit 2

1 inch = 500 feet

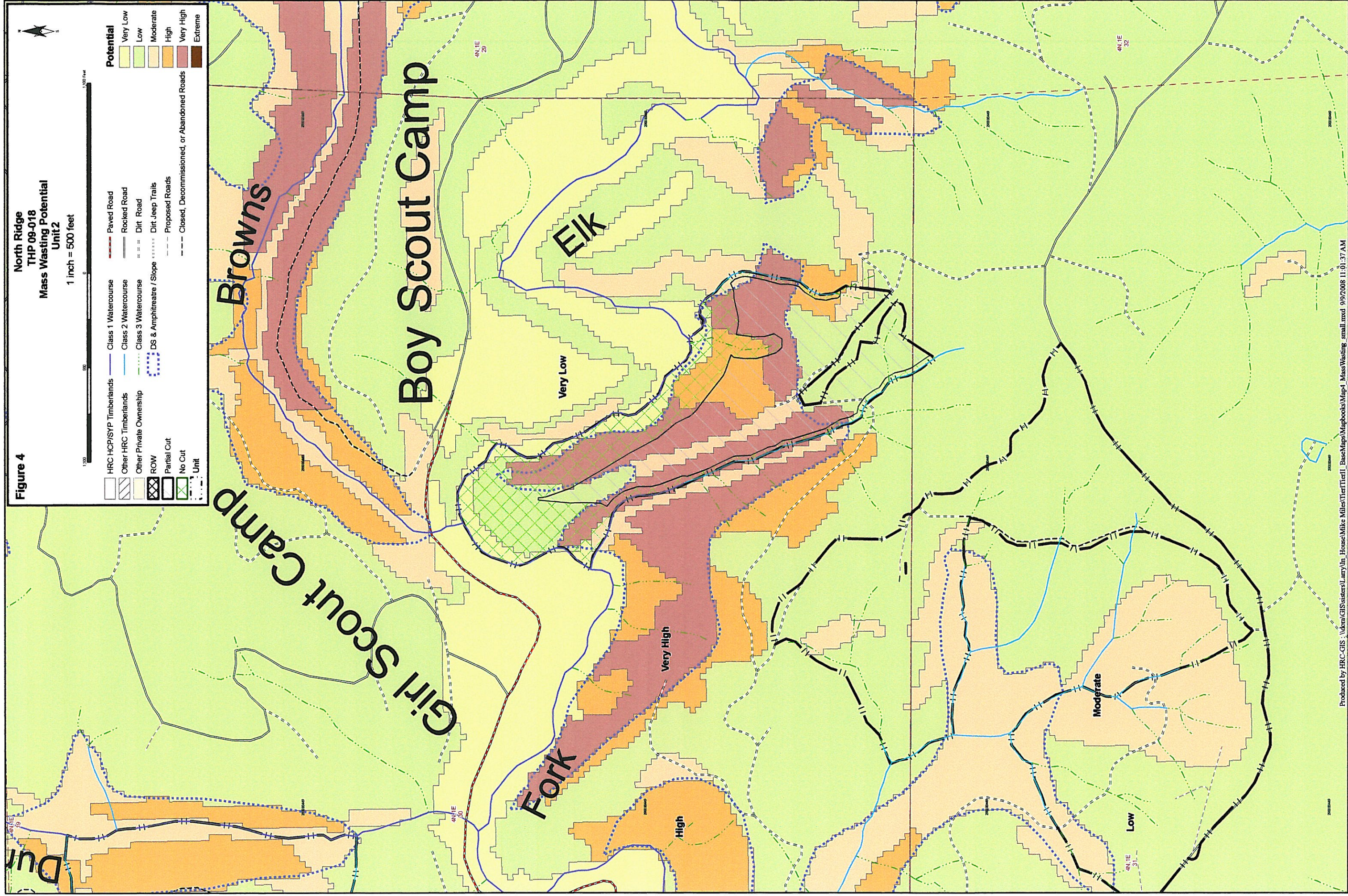
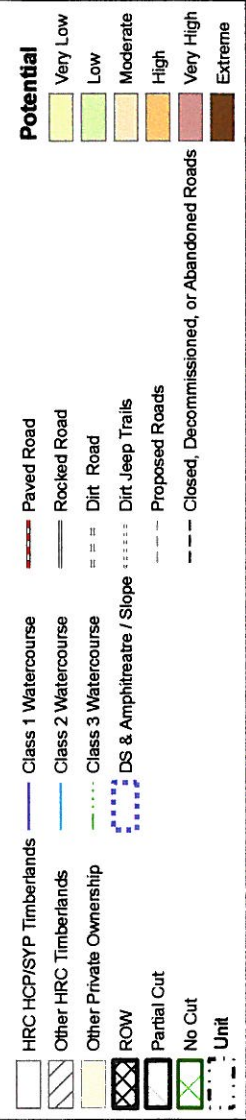


Figure 5

North Ridge  
THP 08-018  
Aerial Photo Map - Unit 2

1 inch = 500 feet



- HRC HCP/SP Timberlands
- Other HRC Timberlands
- Other Private Ownership
- Unit
- ROW
- Partial Cut
- No Cut
- Class 1 Watercourse
- Class 2 Watercourse
- Class 3 Watercourse
- Paved Road
- Rocked Road
- Dirt Road
- Dirt Jeep Trails
- Proposed Roads
- Closed, Decommissioned, or Abandoned Roads



Figure 6

North Ridge  
THP 09-018  
Watershed Analysis Deep-Seated Landslide Inventory  
Unit 2

1 inch = 500 feet



- HRC HCP/SYP Timberlands
- Other HRC Timberlands
- Other Private Ownership
- ROW
- Partial Cut
- No Cut
- Class 1 Watercourse
- Class 2 Watercourse
- Class 3 Watercourse
- Dirt Jeep Trails
- Proposed Roads
- Closed, Decommissioned, or Abandoned Roads
- Paved Road
- Rocked Road
- Dirt Road

**Legend**

- Scarp
- Earthflow
- Rotational/ Translational/ Earthflow
- Rotational/ Translational

# Boy Scout Camp

# Girl Scout Camp

## Fork

## Eik

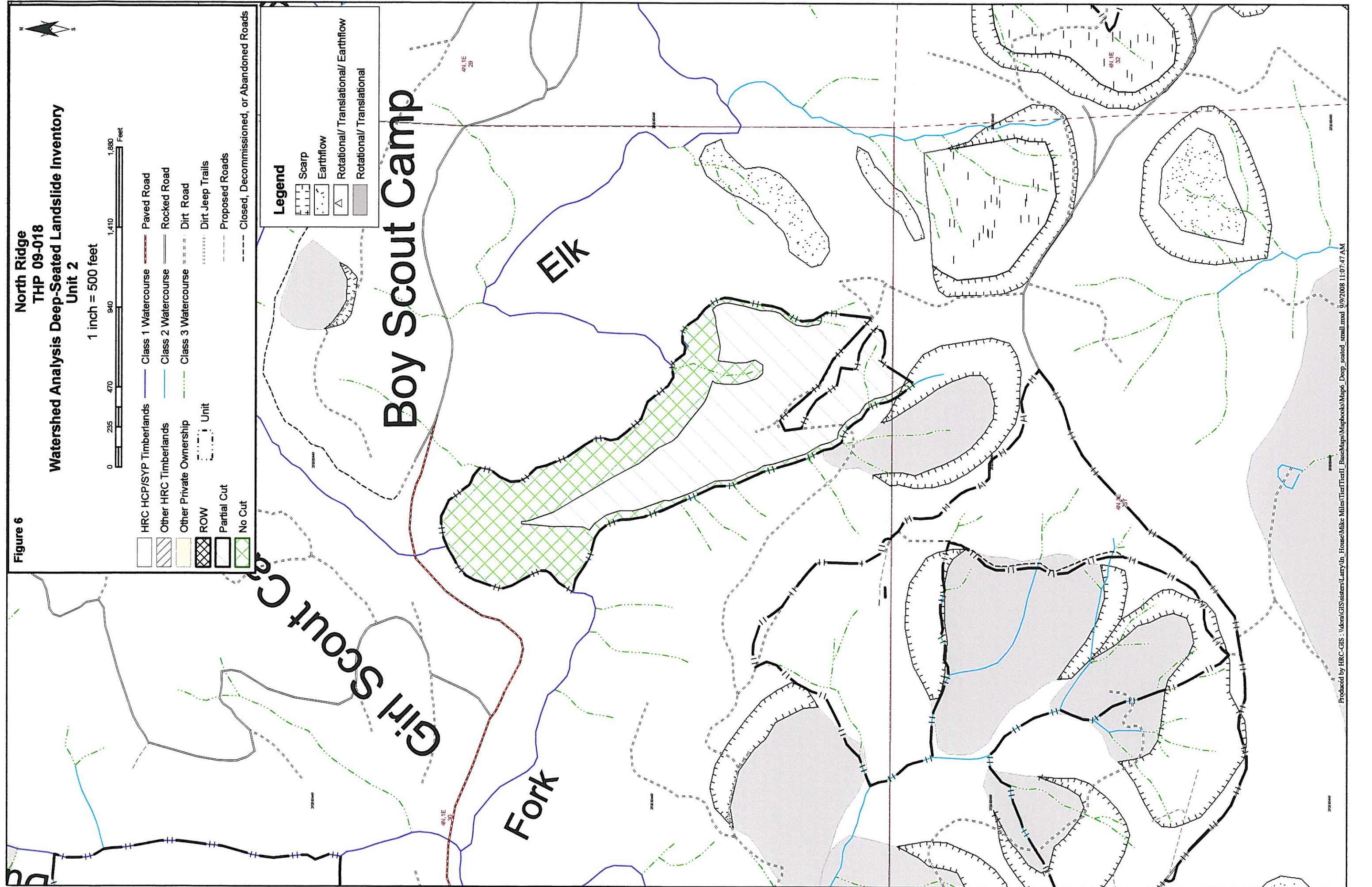


Figure 7

North Ridge  
THP 09-018  
Road Map

1 inch = 1,500 feet



- |  |                         |  |  |  |                |
|--|-------------------------|--|--|--|----------------|
|  | HRC HCP/SYP Timberlands |  | Class 1 Watercourse                        |  | Paved Road     |
|  | Other HRC Timberlands   |  | Class 2 Watercourse                        |  | Rocked Road    |
|  | Other Private Ownership |  | Class 3 Watercourse                        |  | Dirt Road      |
|  | ROW                     |  | Dirt Jeep Trails                           |  | Proposed Roads |
|  | Partial Cut             |  | Closed, Decommissioned, or Abandoned Roads |  | Stormproofed   |
|  | No Cut                  |  | Upgraded                                   |  | Decommissioned |

