

# Pre-Operations Report

**Operation Name: Elkhorn Ranch**

**County: Coos**

**Management Basin: 12**

**Table 1. Operation Areas, Types and Acres**

Area	Type of Operation	Gross Acres	Net Acres
1	clearcut	105	86

## **I. PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION OF OPERATION AREA:**

This operation is a one-unit timber sale totaling 87 net acres. This timber sale is located on the western slope of the Coast Range in the West Fork Millicoma River watershed within Elliott State Forest Management Basins 12. This timber sale area is in close proximity to the Pacific Ocean, which has a dominant influence on the climate. The average annual rainfall is between 95-100 inches. Temperatures range from 20-95 degrees Fahrenheit throughout the year. This timber sale has an elevation of 680 to 1380 feet above sea level with slopes ranging from 11 percent to 97 percent. The dominant aspect of the sale area is south facing slopes with a quarter of the sale area being north facing slopes. Soil types consist of Milbury-Bohannon association (50%-80% slope) and Preacher-Bohannon Loam (30% -80% slope) and some Kirkendall slit loam.

## **II. CURRENT STAND CONDITION:**

The timber sale is second growth Douglas-fir that originated after the Coos Bay fire of 1868, ranging in age from 72 to 125. It is primarily composed of 119 year-old Douglas-fir with a minor conifer component of western hemlock and western red cedar with red alder and bigleaf maple associated with stream buffers. Table 2 contains stocking, size and age information for all the areas in this timber sale. There are few hard snags in the stand. Stand health is satisfactory which is typical for the Elliott State Forest. The sale area is located outside of the current area of concern for Swiss needle cast.

**Table 2. Stand Inventory Information**

Area	Prescription	Stand id <sup>1</sup>	Species	Age in 2007	DBH	BA	TPA	RD	Acres <sup>2</sup>
1	CC	1266	DX	72	20	146	70	33	16
1	CC	1276	DF,CX	121	19	140	71	40	21
1	CC	1277	DF	88	24	231	76	47	22
1	CC	1279	DF	105	19	170	86	30	17
1	CC	1347	DF	125	23	228	79	48	10
1	Target <sup>3</sup>	N/A	DF		23	3	3	11	86

1. The source of stand inventory information is (SLIP) from 2006 records.

2. The acres are based on GIS, and exclude interior roads, streams buffers, reserve areas, etc.

3. The Target identifies expected stand characteristics (DBH, BA, TPA and RD) after harvesting has been completed.

### **III. DESIRED FUTURE CONDITION:**

This sale will be prepared under the wildlife emphasis option of the Elliott management plan, providing for additional green trees, down logs, and snag creation to create and maintain forest structure for wildlife habitat. The desired condition is a young age class stand to provide early successional habitat in accordance with the Balanced Landscape strategy of the Elliott State Forest Management Plan. It will be composed of mainly Douglas-fir with a smaller component of other conifer species including hemlock and red cedar. Red alder and bigleaf maple will also naturally regenerate in the stand. Green trees retained from the previous rotation will provide for multi-story stand structures valuable for wildlife. This mix of planted and natural regeneration will comprise the next planned rotation.

**Table 3. Stand Structure Information (Does not apply Elliott State Forest)<sup>1</sup>**

#### **IV. PROPOSED MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTION:**

The prescription for this sale is to harvest most of the overstory, leaving standing trees within buffer areas and scattered in selected locations in or along the edge of the sale unit. This sale will be planned with the Wildlife Emphasis Option.

Site Preparation and Planting - Site preparation will be achieved by yarding disturbance and treating residual brush with herbicide prior to planting. This wildlife emphasis sale may have small locations of green tree retention not conducive to aerial herbicide treatment. Ground based application may be necessary. The site will be planted with conifer seedlings at approximately 400-500 trees per acre.

Green Tree Retention - At least 435 trees (about 5 per acre harvested) will be left in or adjacent to the timber sale. Emphasis will be given to retention of conifer species other than Douglas-fir. Some of these trees will be topped or girdled for snag creation. Single green trees will not be left unless localized soil conditions provide for wind firmness and logging conditions are suitable. The location of retained trees will be determined during the sale prep process. Green trees may be clumped and/or scattered as allowed by topography and operational concerns and be determined with guidance from the Southern Oregon Area Biologist. Emphasis may be given to widening riparian management areas.

Snag Retention and Creation - Existing snags within the sale area will be left, with the exception of those that endanger work crews. Green trees will receive a combination of topping and girdling to leave approximately 174 topped/girdled trees (about two trees per acre harvested). Specific instructions for selecting, girdling, and topping trees will be provided by the Southern Oregon Area Biologist during the timber sale layout process.

Down Log Retention - At least 435 logs (5 logs per acre harvested) will be left in or adjacent to the sale area for habitat purposes in accordance with the Elliott State Forest Management Plan. Down logs shall meet the following minimum specifications: 16 feet in length and 12 inches diameter at the large end.

Burning - No broadcast burning is planned within this unit due to the scattered green tree retention.

**V. ESTIMATED TIMBER AND REVENUE OUTPUTS:**

**Table 4. Timber and Revenue**

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

	Conifer	Hardwood	Total
Net Volume (MBF)	3654	50	3704
Stumpage Value (\$/MBF)	400	400	
Estimated Gross Value	\$ 1,461,600	\$ 20,000	\$ 1,481,600
		Project Costs:	\$79,106
		Estimated Net Value:	\$1,402,494

**VI. HARVESTING AND ACCESS CONSIDERATONS:**

Access to the lower section of the timber sale area will require the state to secure an access easement across a private holding (Gould family). There is one property line requiring surveying on the northwest corner of the sale area approximately 940 ft in length. The 9342, 9340 and 9300 roads are all rocked and will only require maintenance. The lower two landings will be accessed from the 8100 road and an unnumbered dirt spur road approximately 0.5 miles. Both these roads have a dirt surface and will require improvement. An existing concrete low water river crossing will be utilized to cross the west fork of the Millicoma. Crossing approaches will require rocking (50 feet each side). Winter harvesting will require purchaser supplied rock. New spurs and landings may be constructed in the sale area. Final locations will be determined during the sale preparation process. Segments of roads that are within/adjacent to the sale area will be examined to determine if pullback of sidecast is necessary. A 1000 cubic yard stockpile project will be included in this sale. Final stockpile location will be determined during the timber sale preparation process. Unnumbered dirt spurs in the timber sale area will be waterbarred and blocked following completion of operations.

The sale area will be a combination of ground based and uphill cable yarding. It is possible that some downhill cable yarding may be needed on the north slope that is adjacent to the large bench.

**Table 5. Transportation Management Summary (Miles).**

Activity	Mainline	Collector	Rocked Spur	Dirt Spur
Construct	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
Improve	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.8
Maintain	0.0	0.0	1.4	3.3
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:**

The timber sale area is located within the West Fork Millicoma River watershed. The streams associated with this sale were surveyed to ODFW protocol for fish presence in 1997 and some had torrent debris flows. All drainages associated with the sale area will be surveyed during 2008 for fish presence and during summer low flow period to determine the stream channel extent, and whether stream flow is perennial or seasonal. All streams empty into the West Fork of the Millicoma river which is a large type F perennial bordering the western portion of the sale.

Currently there is one water diversion points on private property adjacent to the sale area that will need to be evaluated (Oregon water resource department).

**VIII. WILDLIFE AND T&E SPECIES CONSIDERATIONS:**

The older habitat within this sale area may be suitable for certain T and E species. This sale is planned under the standards of the Elliott State Forest Management and Habitat Conservation Plans and other Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) policy. The specific measures are as follows:

NSO Habitat Retention

Basin 12 - There is no minimum acreage for NSO Nesting, Roosting, and Foraging habitat (NRF) in this basin above the required reserve acres. Reserve acres in this basin include 1420 acres (28%) that will be continually retained in riparian management areas, habitat conservation areas and other conservancy acres. After this sale plan, there will be about 3029 acres of dispersal habitat retained which includes 126 acres of in-growth in 2007 and 66 acres of in-growth in 2008. In this basin a minimum of 2,484 acres of must be maintained.

Marbled Murrelet – First year protocol surveys were completed in 2007 and second year surveys will be completed in 2008. Currently, no areas of the timber sale are within 330 feet of a Marbled Murrelet Management Area.

Bald Eagle, Other - There are no known bald eagle nest sites or other listed animal species in the vicinity of this sale.

Salmon and Steelhead – The sale area is within 100 feet of the West Fork Millicoma River, a Type F stream.

Plants – No listed plant records were identified within the sale area.

Fragmentation – The sale area bisects contiguous forest cover north to south. The area was chosen because alternate choices in this basin were adjacent to Marbled Murrelet Management Areas, HCA's, or had data indicating the potential presence of marbled murrelets.

#### **IX. SLOPE STABILITY AND GEOTECHNICAL ISSUES:**

This sale has had a map review by an ODF geotechnical specialist. A closer examination will be made during the sale layout process to determine if additional geotechnical review is needed. Approximately 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the sale area appear to meet criteria for classification as high landslide hazard locations (uniform slopes greater than 75% and/or planform concave slopes greater than 65%). Geomorphic characteristics of the steep north facing slope in the sale area do not appear conducive to debris flow delivery to the WF tributary. The steep SW facing slope is likely to deliver a potential (open-slope) debris flow to the WF, assuming the material does not “hang-up” in the RMA trees. There appear to be 3 subtle swales on the SW face which may be capable of delivering material through the RMA into the WF. Given the high peak flows which occur in the WF during storm events, large wood from a debris flow(s) is likely to be carried or mobilized downstream and be deposited along with other large wood where channel conditions are conducive to deposition.

#### **X. RECREATION RESOURCES:**

The most common recreation for this area is hunting and dispersed undeveloped recreation. Harvesting this unit will provide forage areas to help promote healthy deer and elk populations. In addition, areas of bare soil around road edges and landings will be grass seeded after logging to provide forage. Surrounding forest types provide escape cover. No conflict is seen with respect to the undeveloped, dispersed recreation usage of the forest. Elkhorn ranch, a popular undeveloped recreation site is located across the river and to the west of the proposed sale area.

#### **XI. CULTURAL RESOURCES:**

A private holding adjacent to the timber sale area is considered a culturally significant area i.e. homestead site. This sale will not impact the homestead site on private property.

**XII. SCENIC RESOURCES:**

A portion of the sale area typed within the Scenic Production land use classification. Visual impacts will be considered when designing the location of green leaf trees within the sale area boundary.

**XIII. OTHER RESOURCE CONSIDERATIONS:**

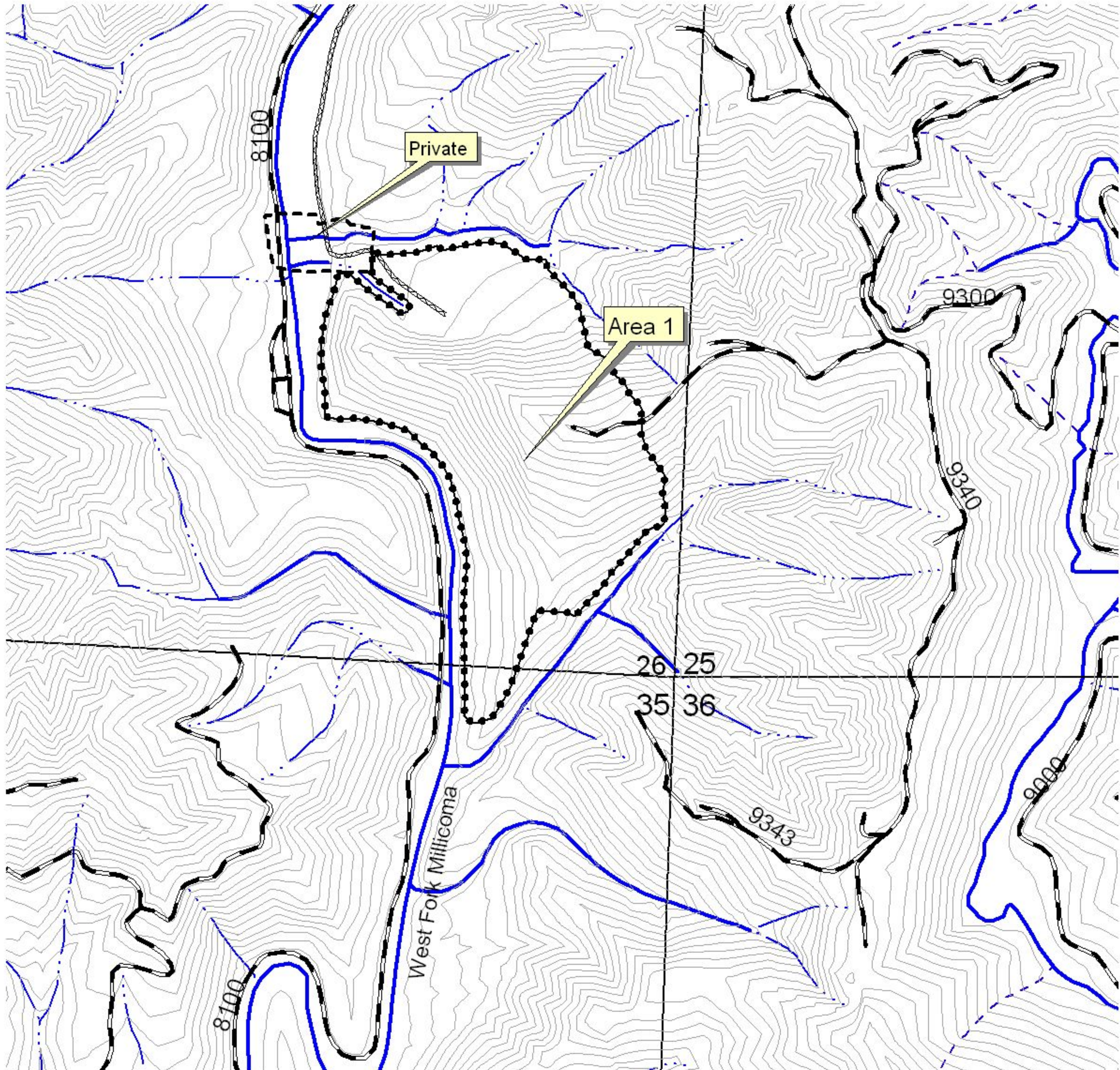
There are no other known resource considerations associated with this sale.

**XIV. LAND MANAGEMENT CLASSIFICATION SUMMARY:**

**Table 6. Land Use Classification Summary**

Area	Production	Scenic Production
1	21	64
2	1	0

This table summarizes the acres in each land use class within the operation.

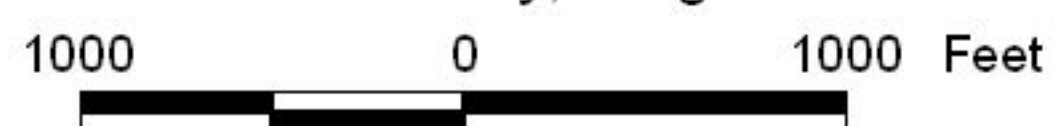


- Timber Sale Boundary
- Road Improvement
- Existing Roads
- ODF Ownership Boundary
- 40 ft. Contours
- Section lines
- Type F Stream
- Type N Stream
- Unclassified Stream



**Elkhorn Ranch**  
**-- Topography --**  
**FY 09 Sale Plan**  
**Coos District**

Portions of Sections 26 & 35  
 T23S, R11W, W.M.  
 Coos County, Oregon



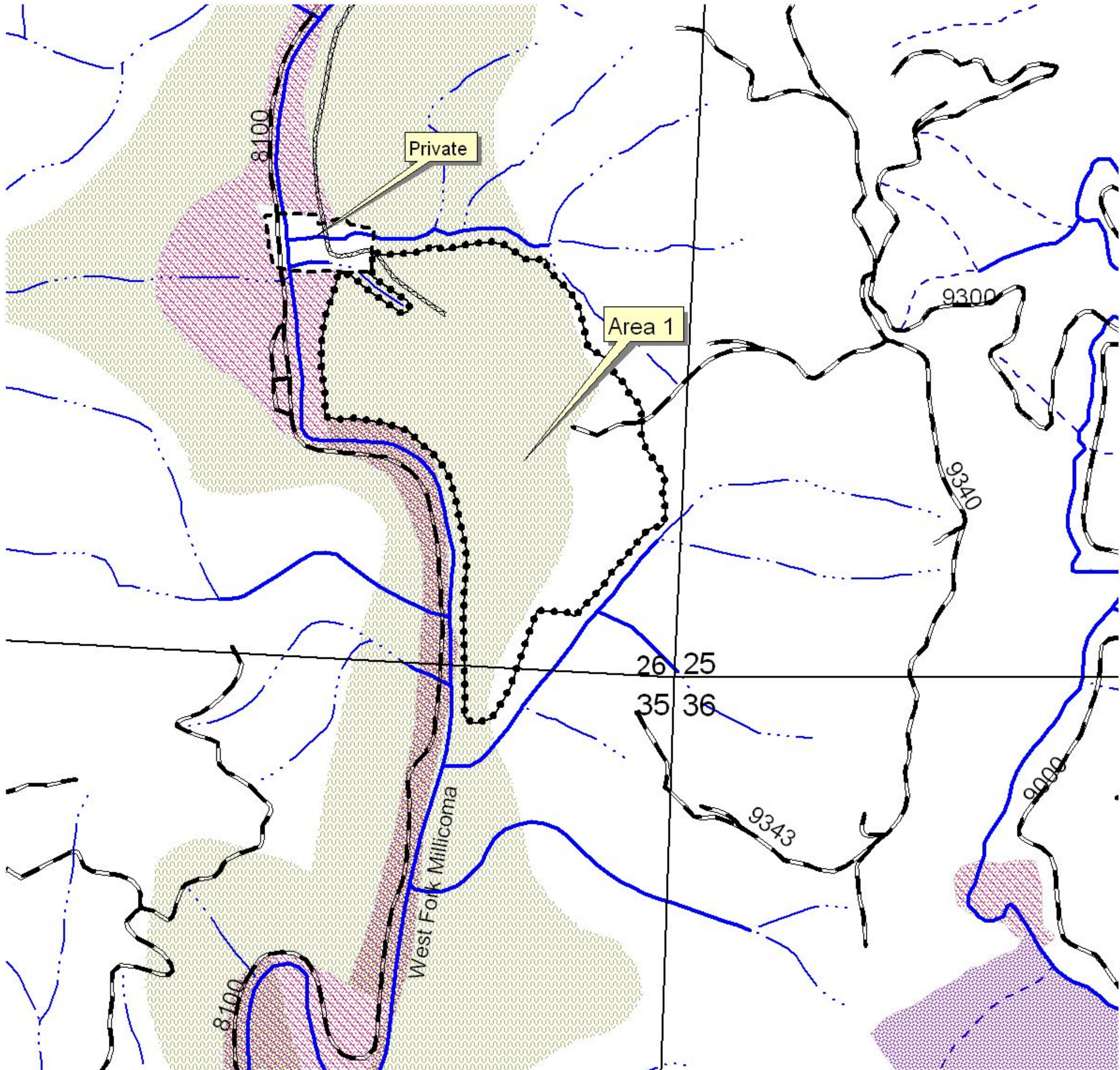
1"=1,000'  
 Scale 1:12,000

Sale Area	Harvest Type	Net Acres
1	clearcut	86

Coos District GIS  
 06/11/2007

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**Attachment A**

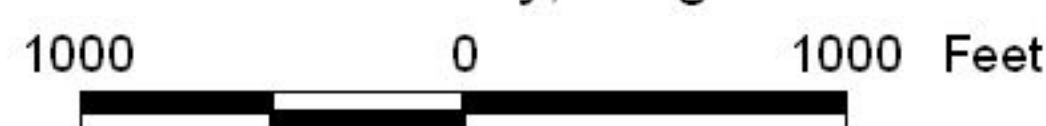


- Timber Sale Boundary
- Road improvement
- Existing Roads
- ODF Ownership Boundary
- Section lines
- Streams
  - Type F
  - Type N
  - Unclassified
- Marbled Murrelet Management Area
- Public Safety Deferred
- Recreation use
- Scenic conservancy
- Scenic production



**Elkhorn Ranch**  
**-- Key Resources --**  
**FY 09 Sale Plan**  
**Coos District**

Portions of Sections 26 & 35  
 T23S, R11W, W.M.  
 Coos County, Oregon



1"=1,000'  
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