

Project Description
Elko District Vegetation Treatment Maintenance

The Elko District Office is proposing to maintain several existing vegetation treatments using a variety of different methods, including herbicide application, mowing, and reseeding.

Background

The Elko District of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) maintains several greenstrips that are important for wildland fire suppression operations in close proximity to communities and key wildlife habitats. Additionally, several seedings have been established as rehabilitation measures for previous large wildland fires. Non-native, invasive cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*) and other non-native invasive weed species have expanded into several of these greenstrips and seedings. This has resulted in a less diverse plant community and has greatly increased the amount of flashy fine fuels present in many of these vegetation treatments. As a result, many of the greenstrips are no longer functional for wildland fire suppression operations and portions of several of the seedings are in danger of reverting to annual grass and forb communities.

Periodic maintenance of these greenstrips and seedings is critical if they are to function as they were designed. For most, maintenance could be achieved with application of imazapic herbicide. Others, however, may require methods similar to what was originally done, such as re-mowing and/or re-seeding. The following table outlines the approximate acreage and the original methods used in the vegetation treatments involved in this analysis. Electronic versions of the maps of the treatment areas are available at the “Maps for the Elko District Vegetation Treatment Maintenance Project” link at the following URL:

http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/elko_field_office/blm_information/nepa.html.

Treatment Name	Acreage	Type	Mowed	Disked	Rollerchopped	Seeded?
Beaver Creek	117.9	Greenstrip	Yes	No	No	No
Clover	11,489.3	Seeding	No	Yes	No	Drill or Broadcast and Aerial
Contact	1,662.1	Seeding	No	No	No	Aerial
Dixie	989.2	Greenstrip	Yes	No	No	No
Double Mountain	163.5	Greenstrip	Yes	No	No	No
Dry Hills	1,769.7	Greenstrip	No	Yes	No	Drill and Aerial
Frenchie	2,283.1	Greenstrip	No	No	No	Drill
Izzenhood	9,775.4	Seeding	No	Yes	No	Drill or Broadcast and Aerial
Larkspur	857.4	Greenstrip	Yes	No	No	No
Long Field	873.1	Greenstrip	Yes	No	No	Aerial
Owyhee	751.1	Greenstrip	Yes	No	No	Broadcast
Rose	1,155.4	Greenstrip	No	No	No	Drill and Aerial
Scott’s Gulch	570.2	Greenstrip	No	No	No	Drill and Aerial
Silver Lake	2,274.8	Greenstrip	Yes	No	No	No
Southside	587.2	Greenstrip	No	Part	Part	Drill or Broadcast and Aerial
Spring Creek North	961.2	Greenstrip	Yes	No	No	No
Spruce Mtn. Stewardship	153.4	Chaining	No	No	No	Aerial
Spruce Seeding	7,509.2	Seeding	Part	Part	Part	Drill or Broadcast and Aerial
Star Ridge	896.5	Greenstrip	Yes	No	No	Aerial
Tabor Creek	992.0	Greenstrip	Yes	No	No	No
Toano	457.9	Greenstrip	Yes	No	No	No

Project Proposal

BLM proposes to maintain these existing vegetation treatments, where necessary, using a variety of methods. Where cheatgrass is present in high density, application of imazapic herbicide may be employed. On greenstrips where shrub density has recovered to a level where they are no longer suitable for use as a greenstrip, re-mowing may be employed. For previously seeded greenstrips or seedings, reseeding may be employed if it is determined that the previous seeding has failed.

The following resources were identified during internal scoping as being present and potentially affected and will be analyzed in detail:

- Wildlife
- Riparian Areas
- Native American Tribal Values
- Cultural Resources
- Surface and Ground Water
- Private Lands
- Grazing Management
- Wild Horse Herd Areas
- Weeds
- Recreation (Tabor Creek and Spruce Mountain Campgrounds)
- Visual Resources
- Human Health and Safety

The BLM is seeking comments pertaining to this action from the permittees, agencies having responsibilities for resources within the affected areas, and members of the public interested in the resource values in the affected areas. All comments must be received by the Elko District Office within thirty days of the date of this letter. Comments may be mailed to the above address, faxed to (775) 753-0255, or e-mailed to Derrick_Holdstock@nv.blm.gov.

Comments received through this scoping process may be used to develop alternatives to be considered in the preparation of the environmental assessment for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

If you have any questions please call Derrick Holdstock, Wildlife Biologist, at (775) 753-0238.

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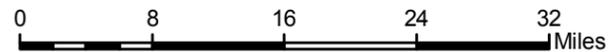
Map 1: District Vegetation Treatment Maintenance in Relation to Herd Management Areas

LEGEND

- Cities
- Treatments
- == Interstate Highway
- U.S. Highway
- State Highway

Herd Management Areas

- Antelope Valley
- Diamond Hills North
- Goshute
- Little Humboldt
- Maverick-Medicine
- Owyhee
- Rock Creek
- Spruce-Pequop
- Little Owyhee
- Snowstorm Mountains



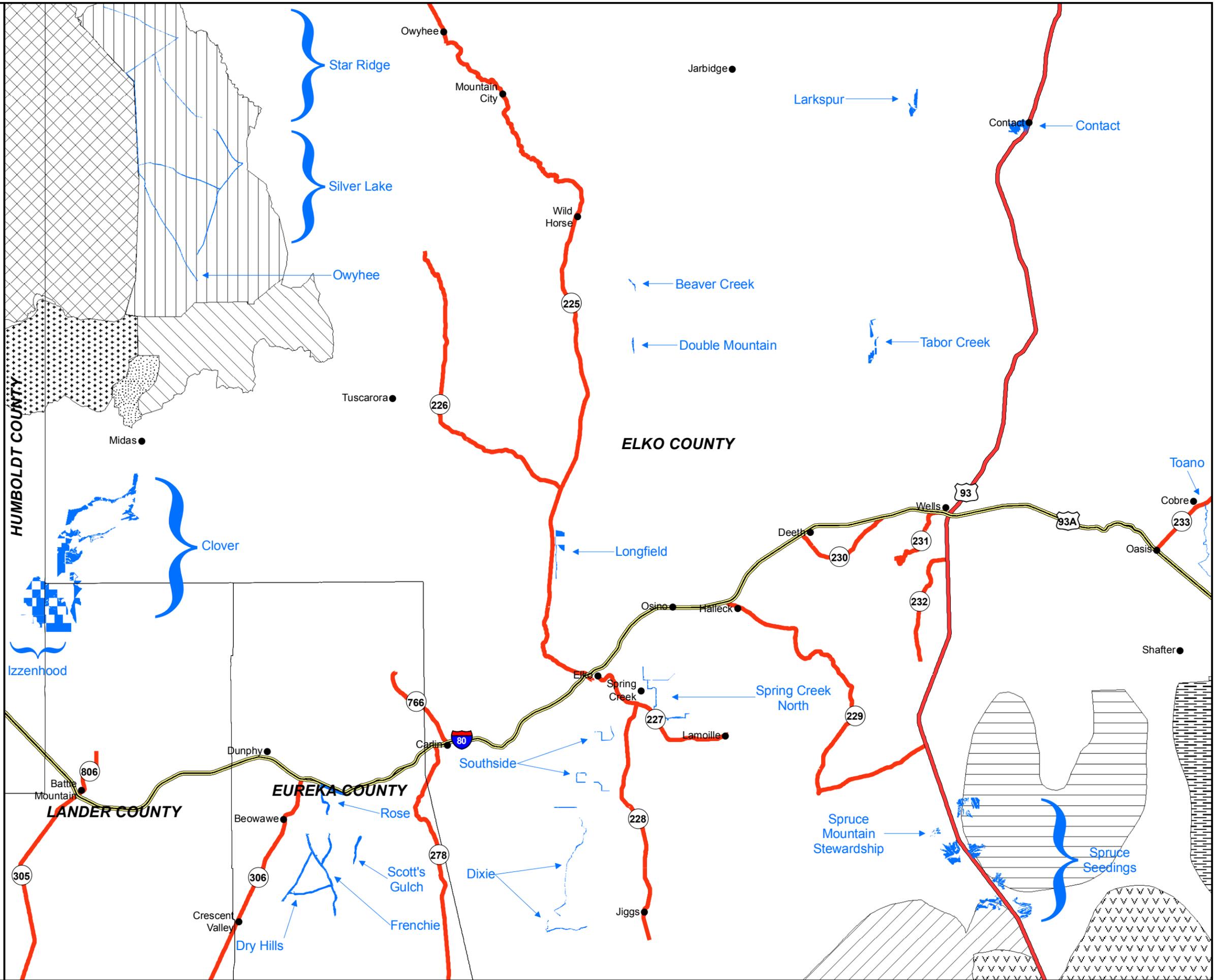
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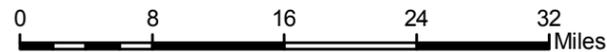
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Map 2: District Vegetation Treatment Maintenance in Relation to Wilderness Study Areas

LEGEND

- Cities
- Treatments
- == Interstate Highway
- U.S. Highway
- State Highway
- Wilderness Study Areas**
- ▨ Bad Lands
- ▨ Bluebell
- ▨ Cedar Ridge
- ▨ Goshute Peak
- ▨ Little Humboldt River
- ▨ Owyhee Canyon
- ▨ Red Spring
- ▨ Rough Hills
- ▨ South Fork Owyhee River
- ▨ South Pequop



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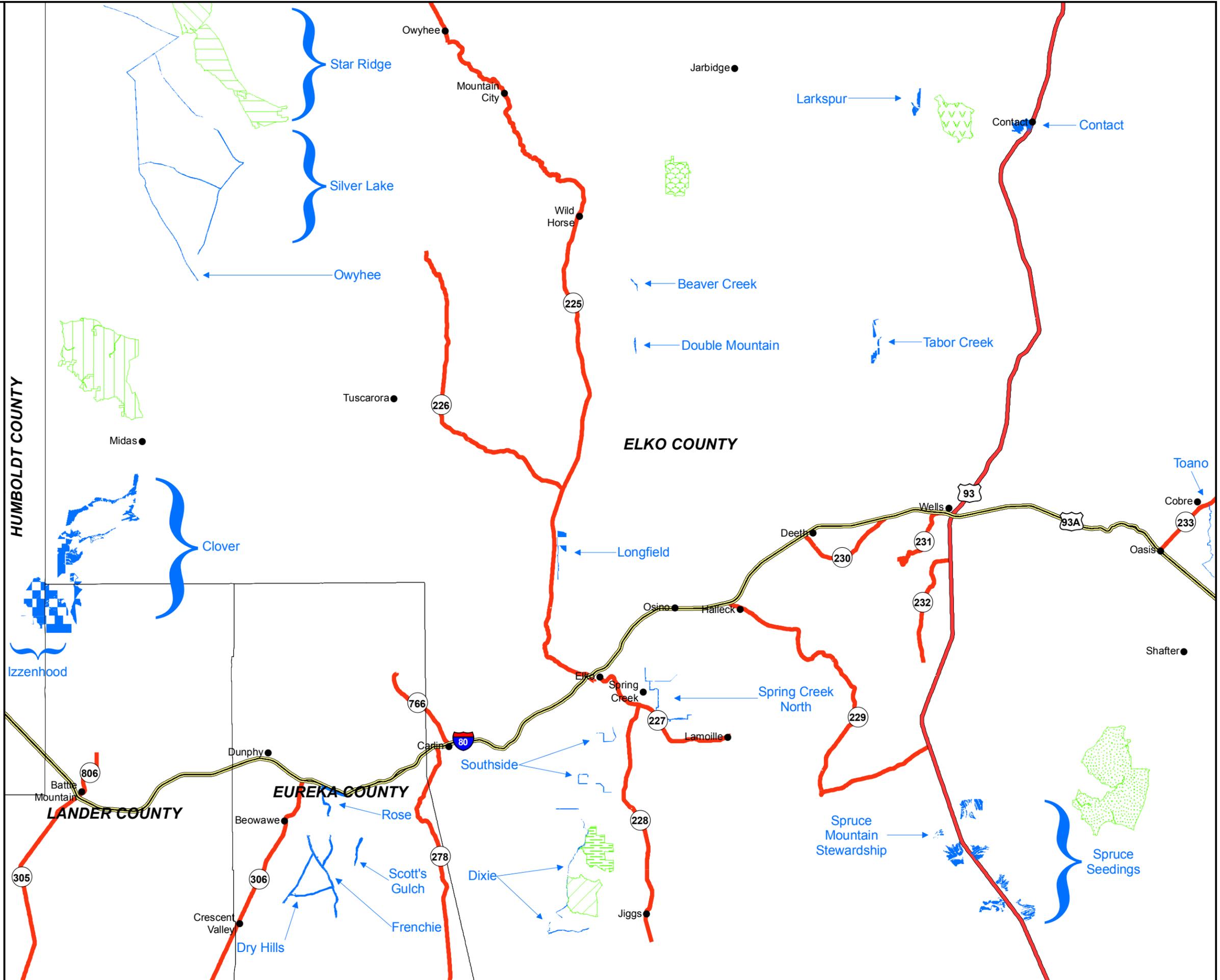
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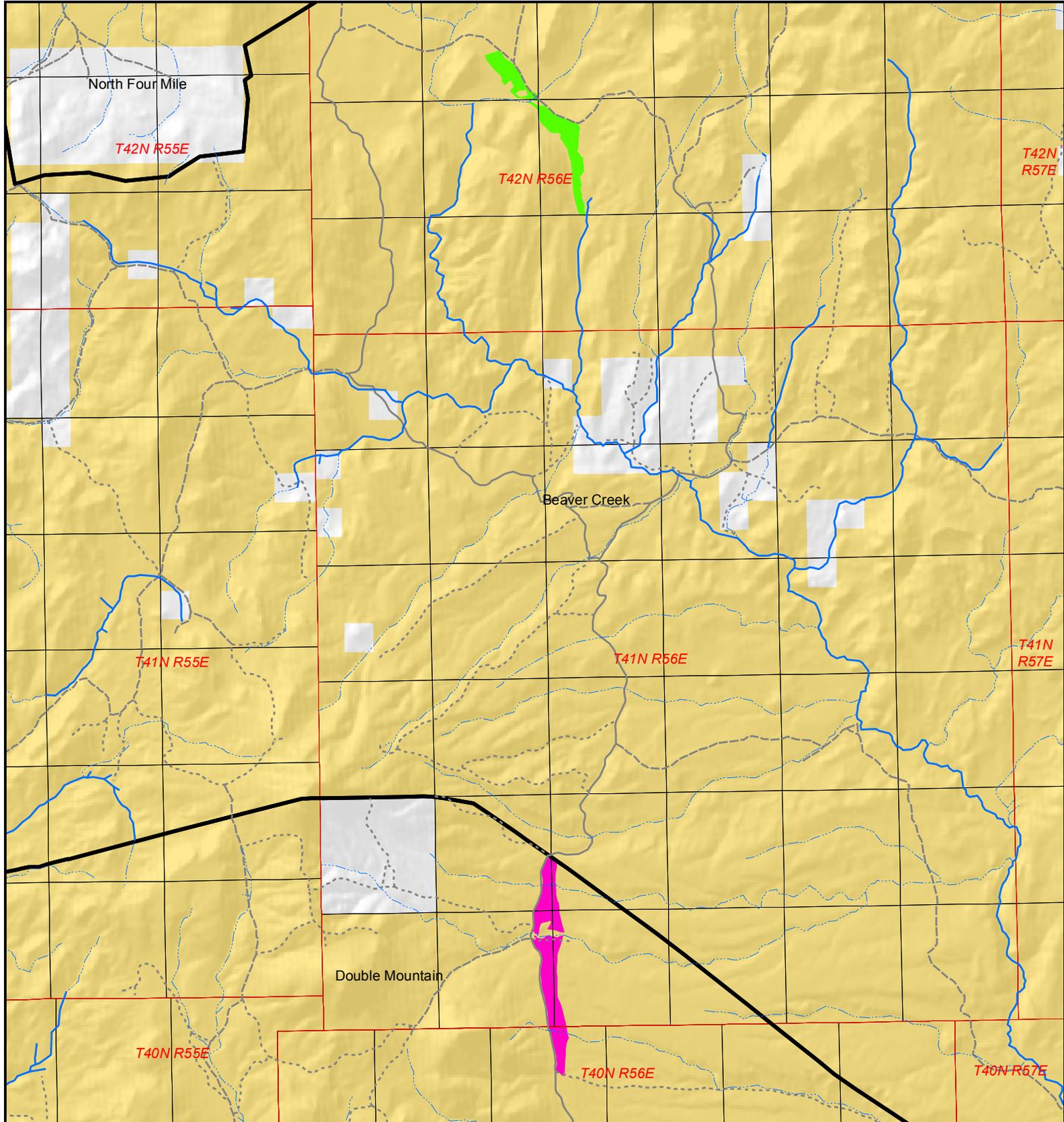
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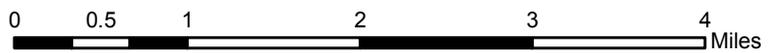
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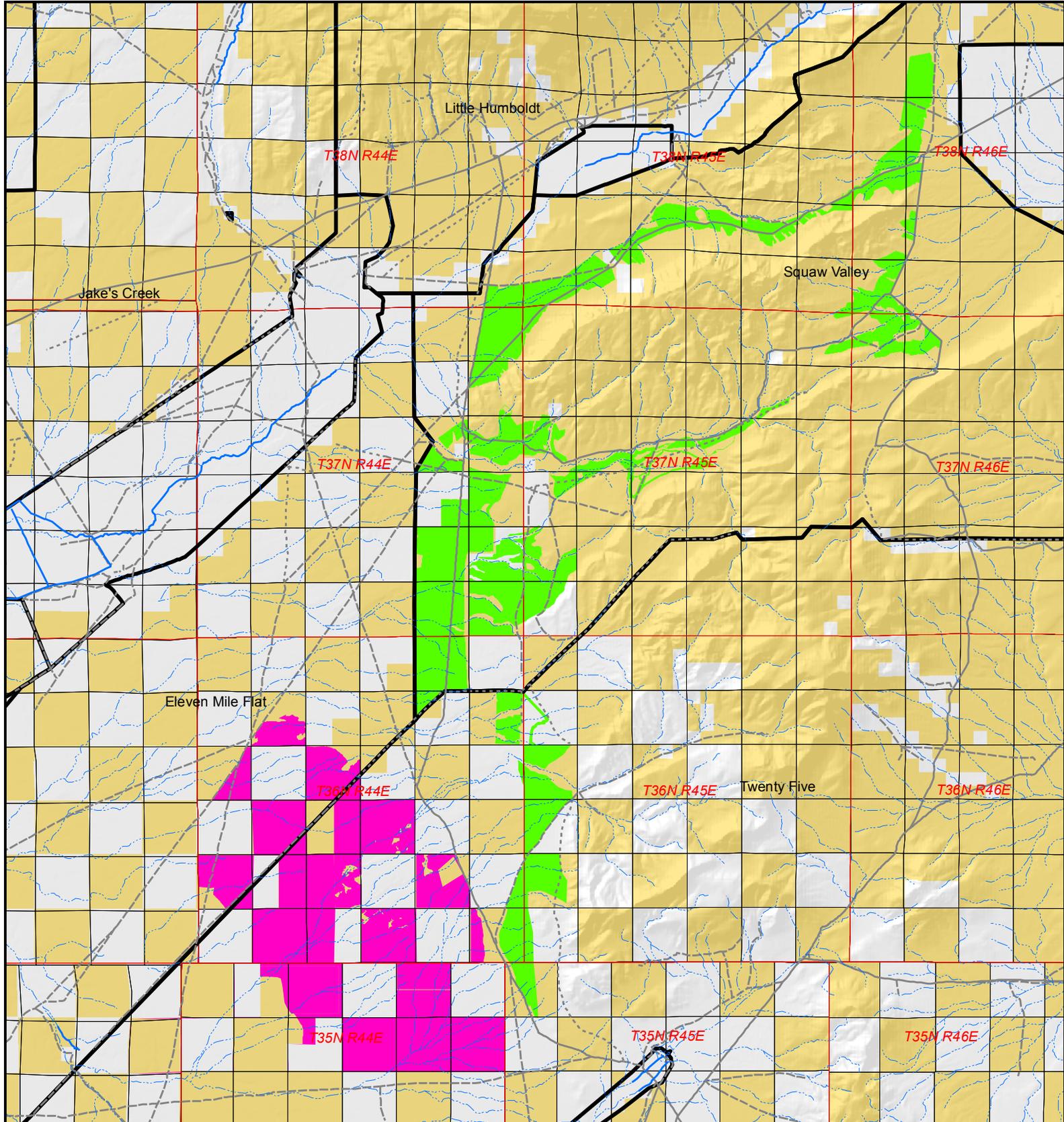


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Map 3: Beaver Creek and Double Mountain

Legend			Treatments		
	Intermittent Stream		Improved Dirt Road		Allotments
	Perennial Stream		2-track Dirt Road		Township/Range
	4WD Dirt Road		Section		BLM
			Beaver Creek		Private Land
			Double Mountain		





Map 4: Clover and Izzenhood



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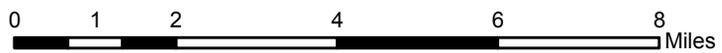
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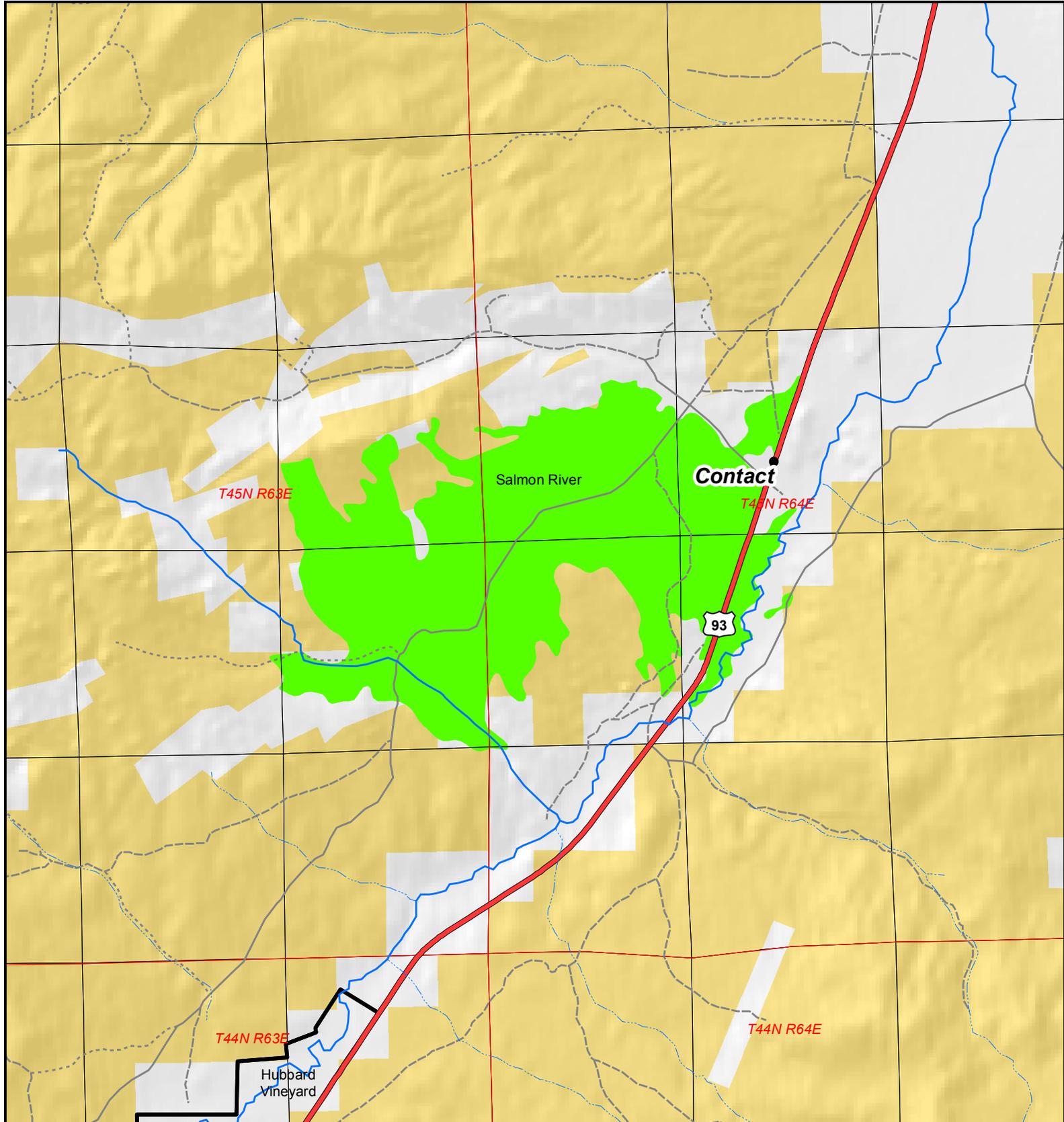


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Legend

Intermittent Stream	Improved Dirt Road	Allotments	Treatments	BLM
Perennial Stream	2-track Dirt Road	Township/Range	Clover	Private Land
4WD Dirt Road	Section	Izzenhood		





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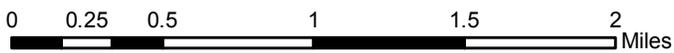
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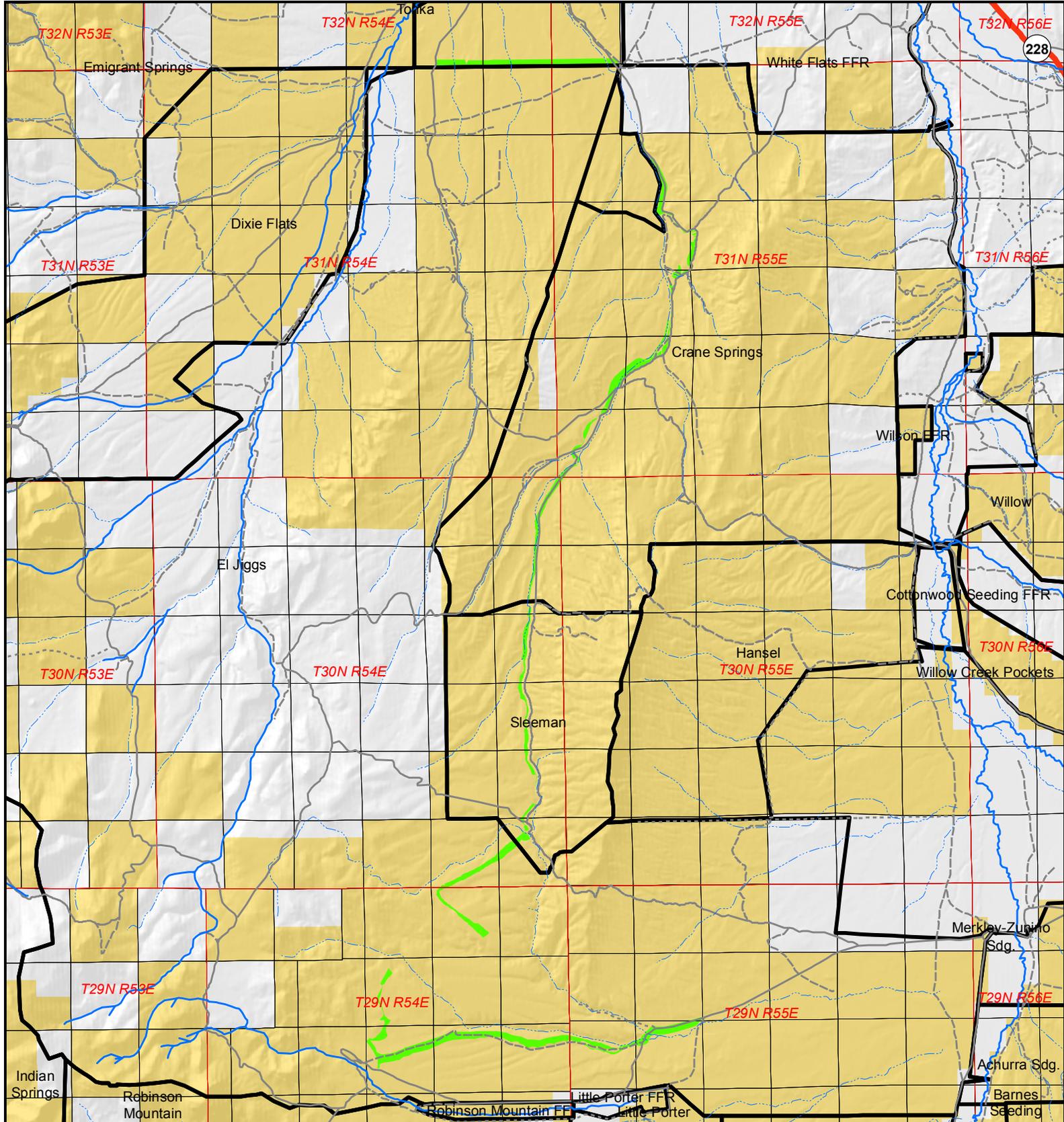
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Map 5: Contact

Legend			
	Intermittent Stream		Allotments
	Perennial Stream		Township/Range
	U.S. Highway		Section
	Improved Dirt Road		Contact
	2-track Dirt Road		BLM
	4WD Dirt Road		Private Land





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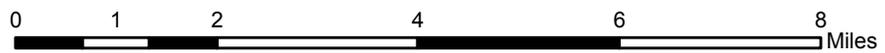
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Map 6: Dixie

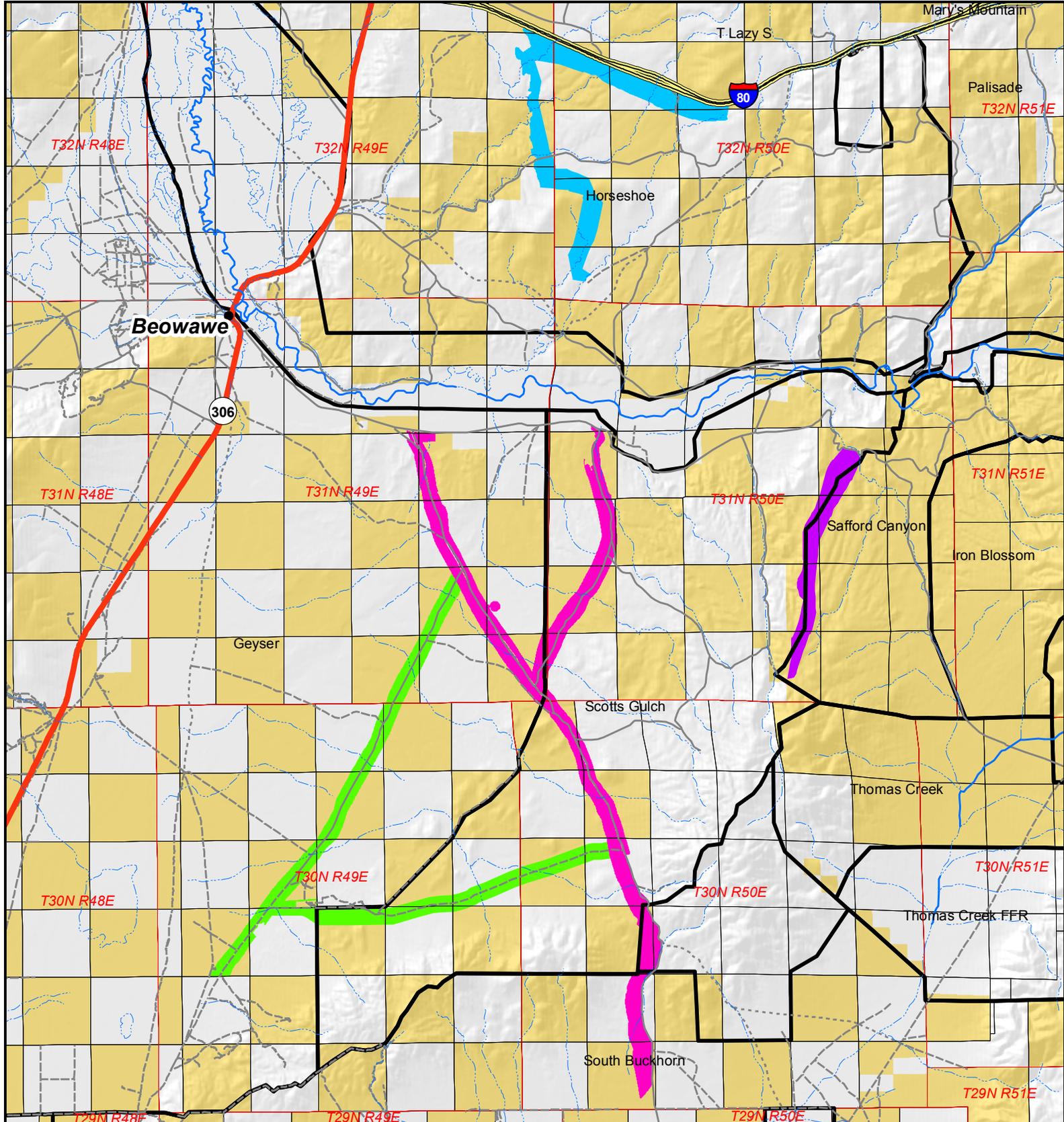
Legend									
	Intermittent Stream		Improved Dirt Road		Allotments		Treatments		BLM
	Perennial Stream		2-track Dirt Road		Township/Range		Dixie		Private Land
	State Highway		4WD Dirt Road		Section				



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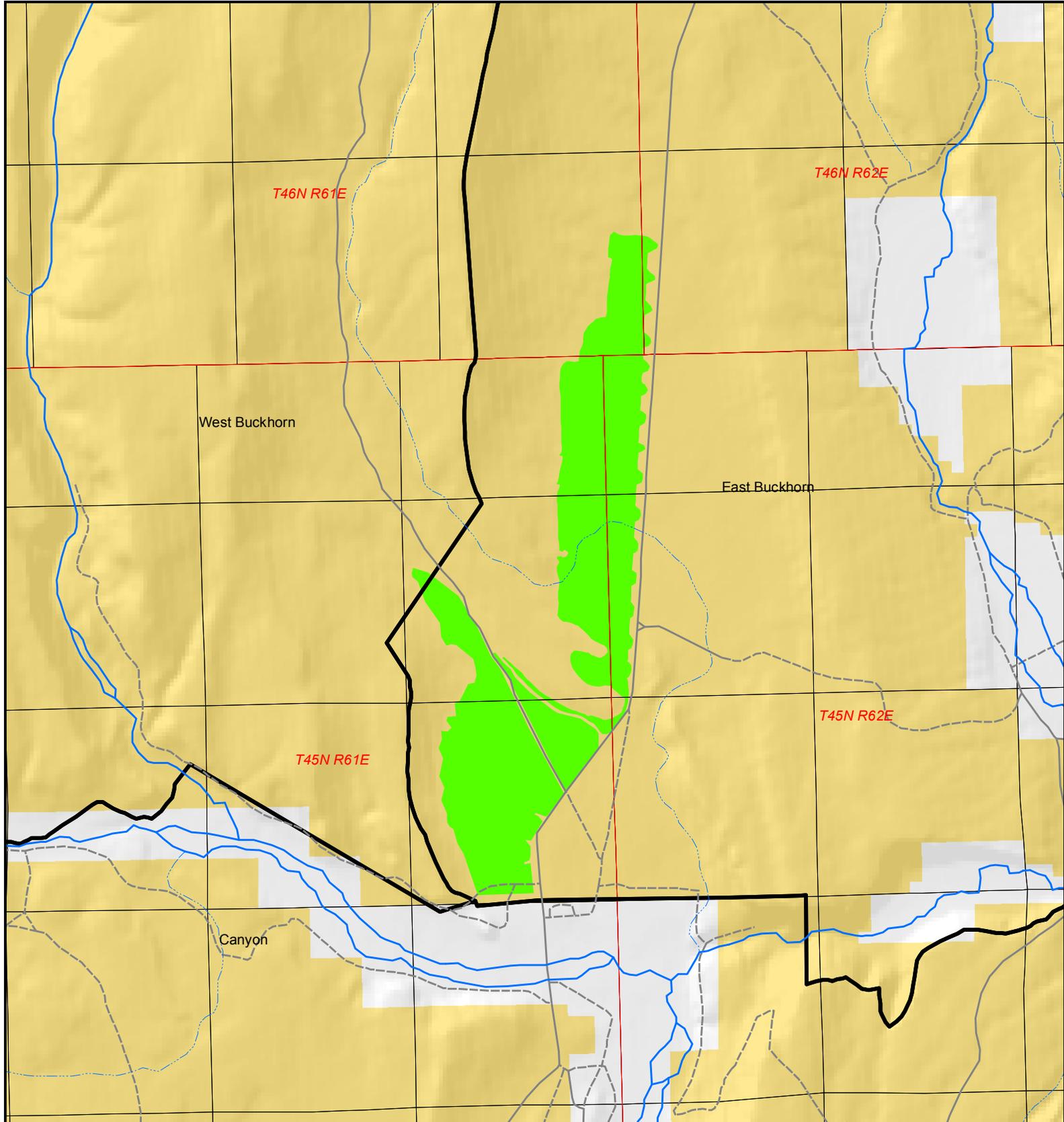
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Map 7: Dry Hills, Frenchie, Rose, and Scott's Gulch

Legend			Treatments		
	Intermittent Stream		Improved Dirt Road		BLM
	Perennial Stream		2-track Dirt Road		Private Land
	State Highway		Allotments		Dry Hills
	Interstate Highway		Township/Range		Frenchie
	4WD Dirt Road		Section		Rose
					Scott's Gulch



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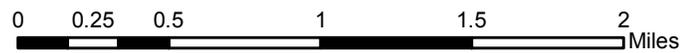


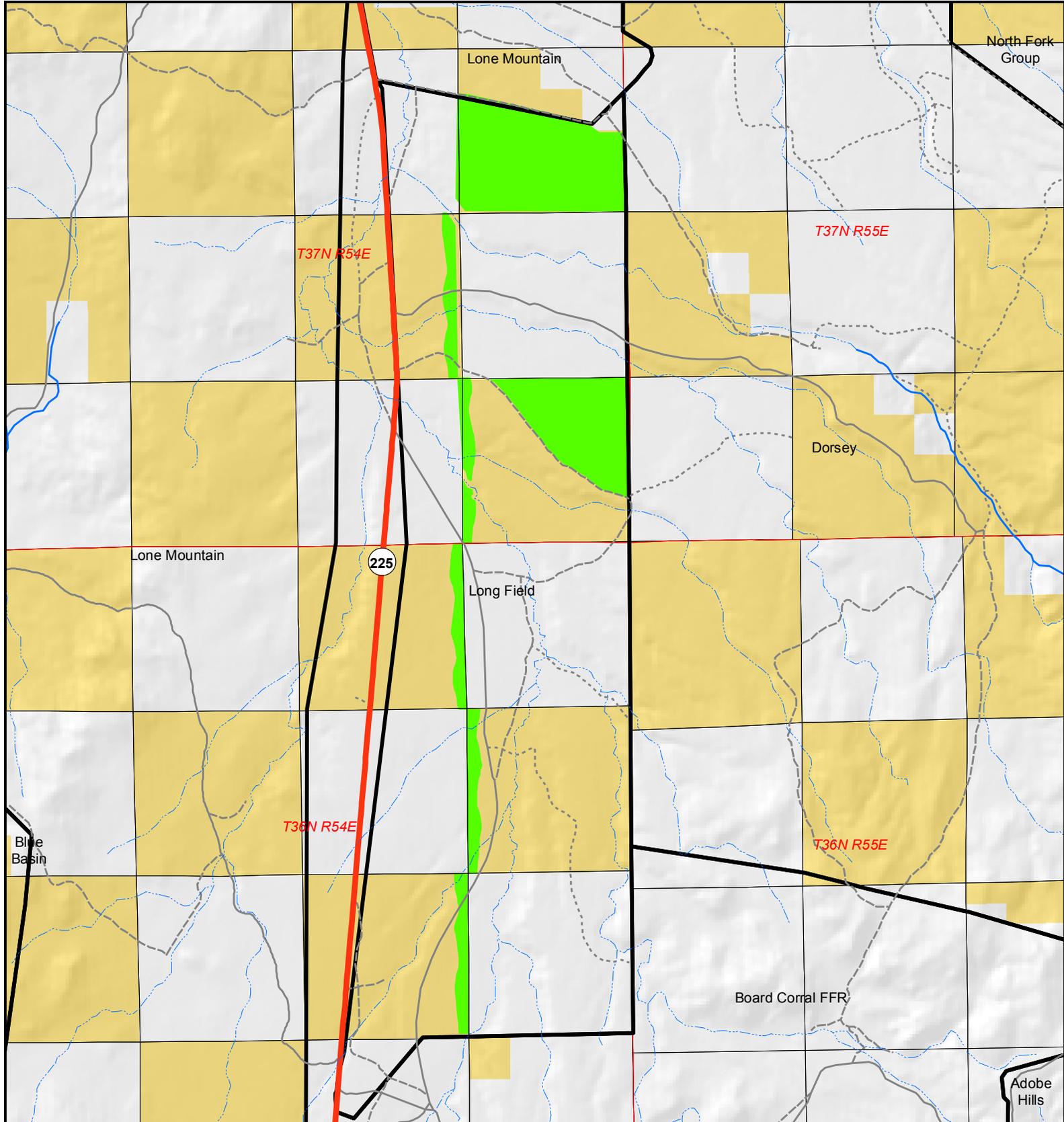
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Map 8: Larkspur

Legend

Intermittent Stream	Improved Dirt Road	Allotments	Treatments	BLM
Perennial Stream	2-track Dirt Road	Township/Range	Larkspur	Private Land
		Section		





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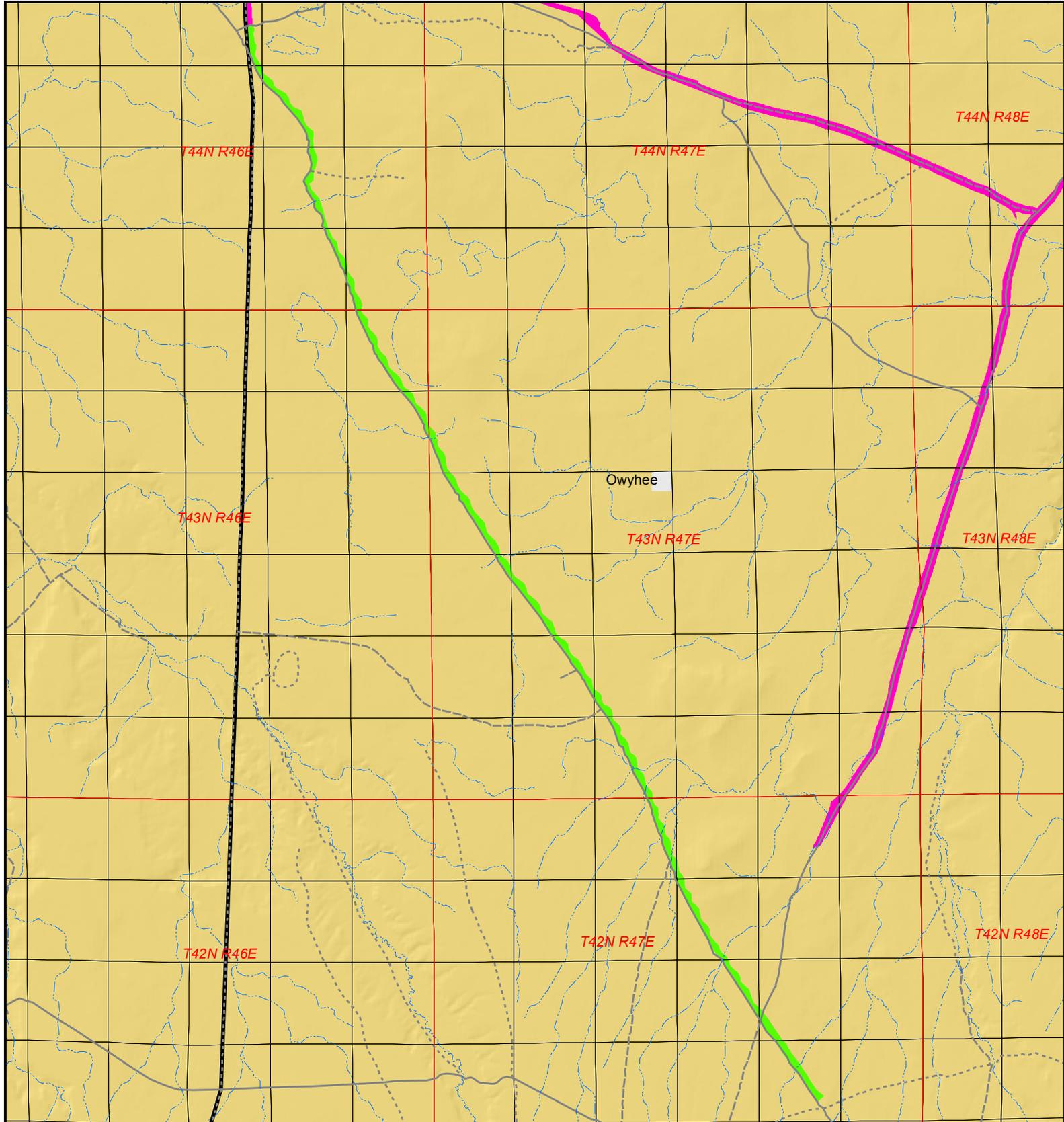


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Map 9: Long Field

Legend			Treatments		
	Intermittent Stream		Improved Dirt Road		BLM
	Perennial Stream		2-track Dirt Road		Long Field
	State Highway		4WD Dirt Road		Private Land
	Allotments		Township/Range		Section





Map 10: Owyhee



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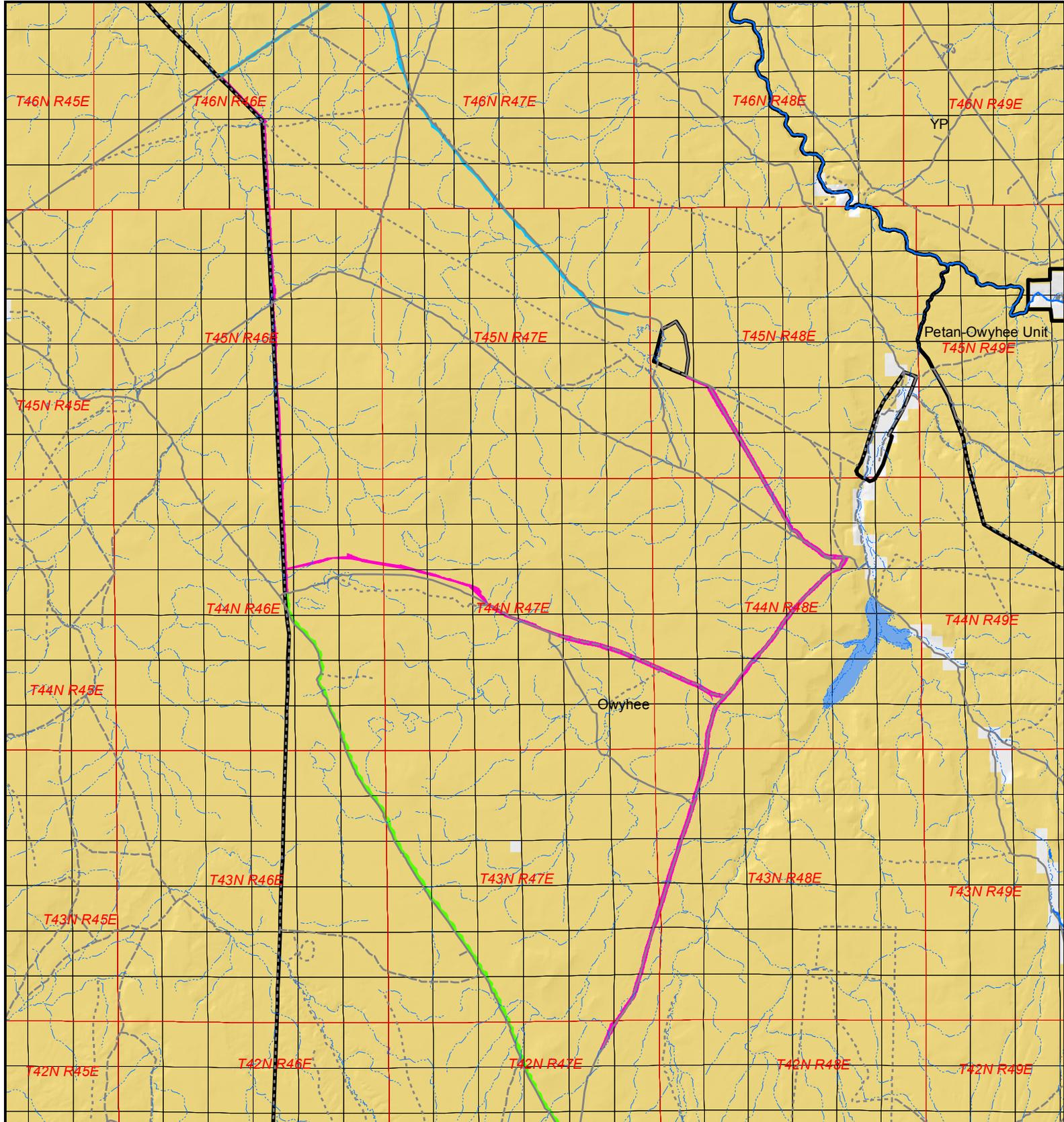
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Legend				
Intermittent Stream	Improved Dirt Road	Allotments	Treatments	BLM
2-track Dirt Road	4WD Dirt Road	Township/Range	Owyhee	Private Land
	Section		Silver Lake	





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Map 11: Silver Lake

Legend

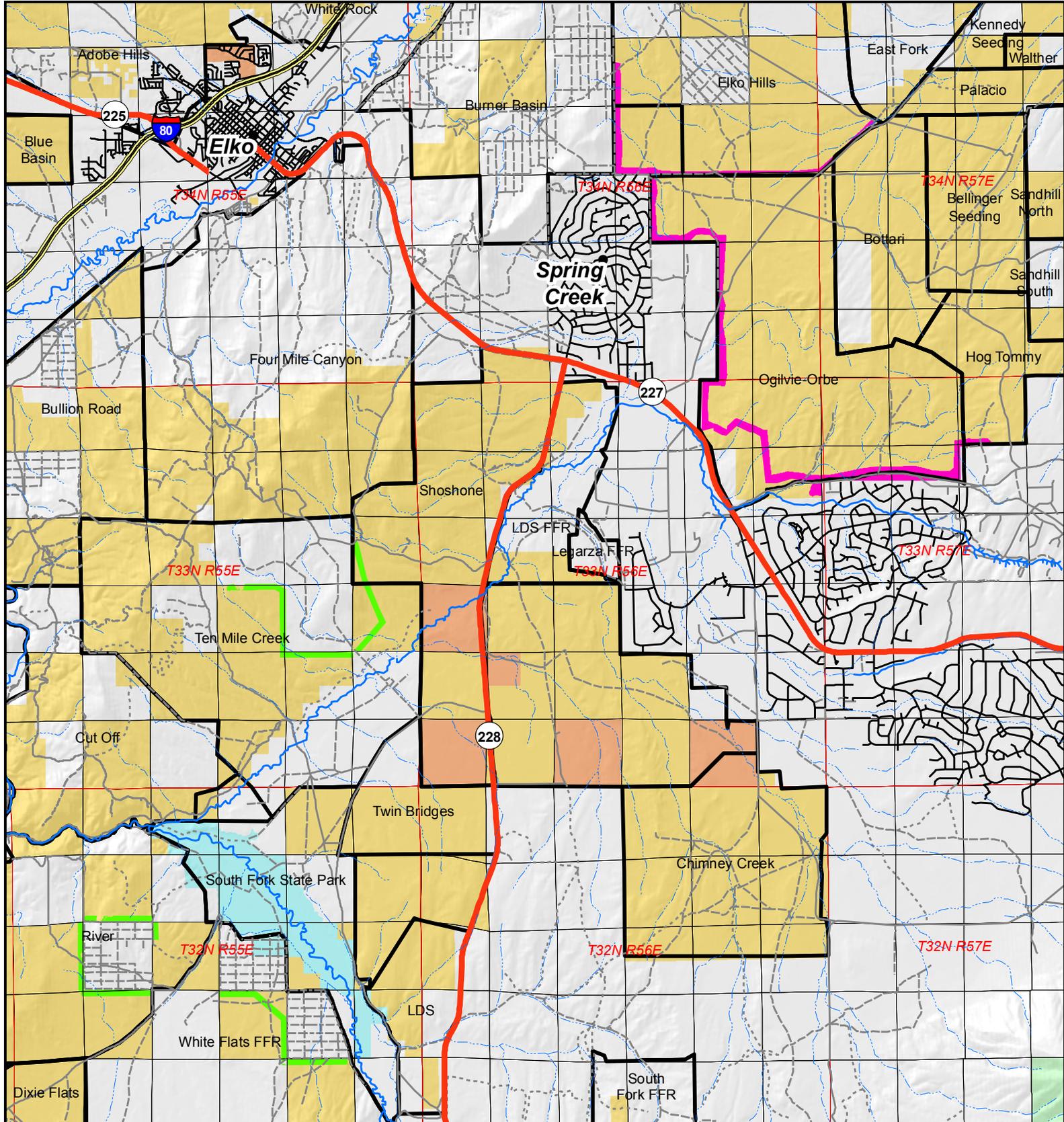
Intermittent Stream	Improved Dirt Road	Allotments	Treatments	
Perennial Stream	2-track Dirt Road	Township/Range	Owyhee	BLM
4WD Dirt Road	Section	Star Ridge	Silver Lake	Private Land
			Water	



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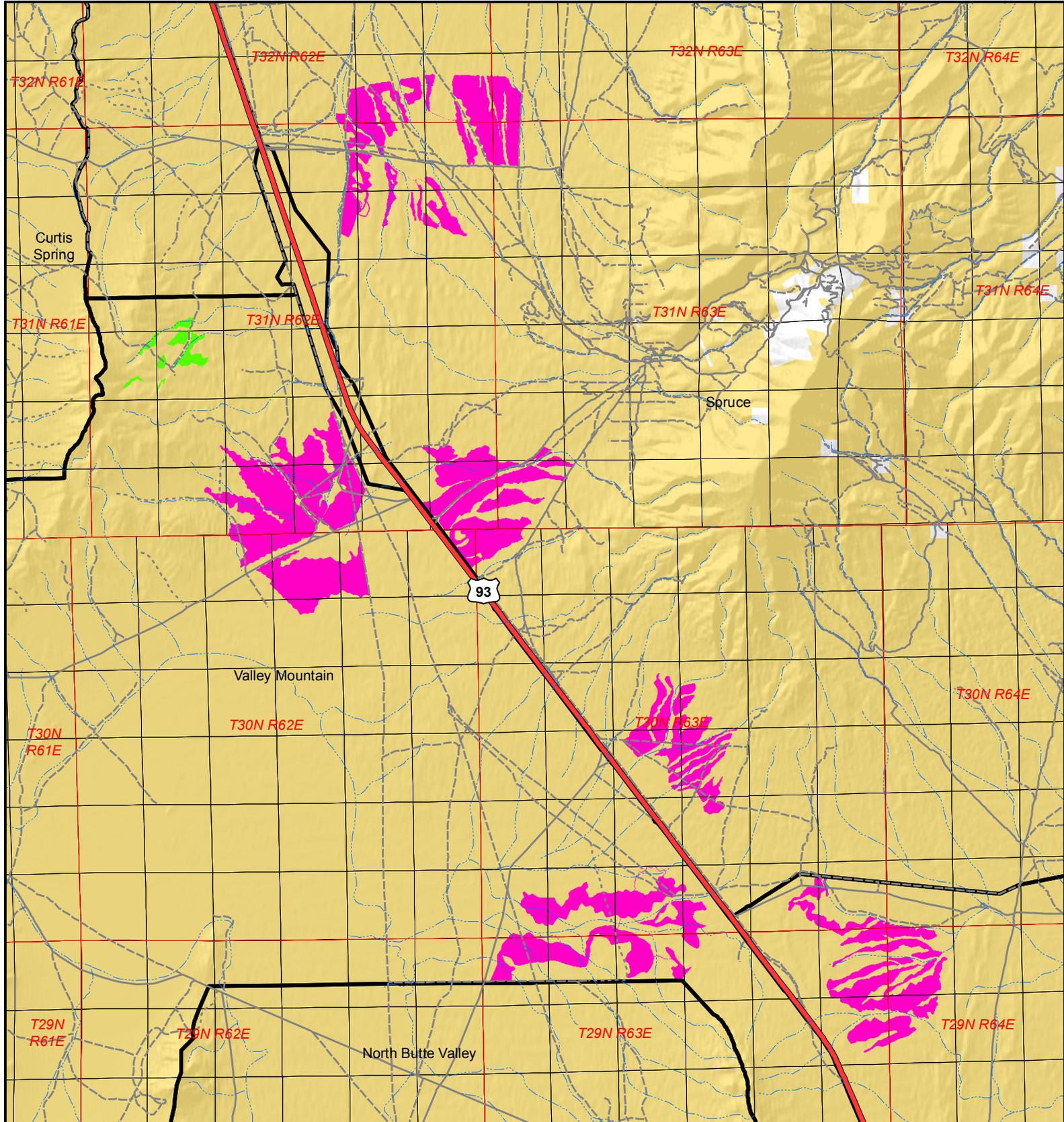
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Map 12: Southside and Spring Creek North

Legend		Treatments	
Intermittent Stream	Paved Road	Southside	Reservation
Perennial Stream	Improved Dirt Road	Spring Creek North	BLM
Interstate Highway	2-track Dirt Road	US Forest Service	Nevada State Land
State Highway	4WD Dirt Road	Private Land	
Allotments	Township/Range		
Section			



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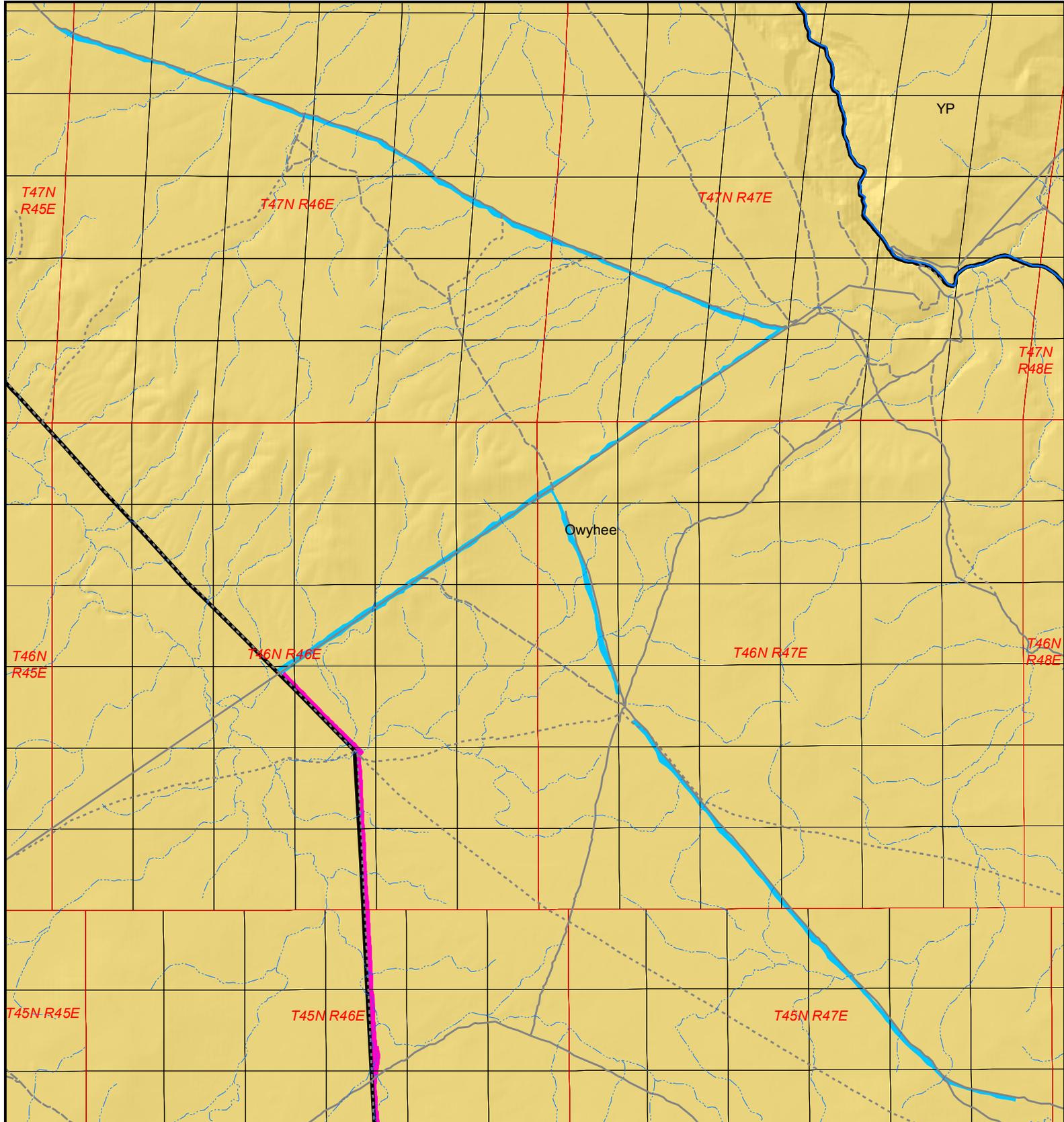


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Map 13: Spruce Mountain Stewardship and Spruce Seedings

Legend			Treatments		
	Intermittent Stream		Improved Dirt Road		BLM
	U.S. Highway		2-track Dirt Road		Spruce Mountain Stewardship
	4WD Dirt Road		Township/Range		Spruce Seeding
	Allotments		Section		Private Land

0 1 2 4 6 8 Miles



Map 14: Star Ridge



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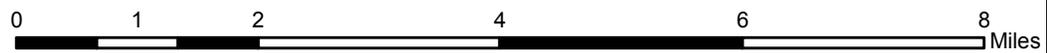
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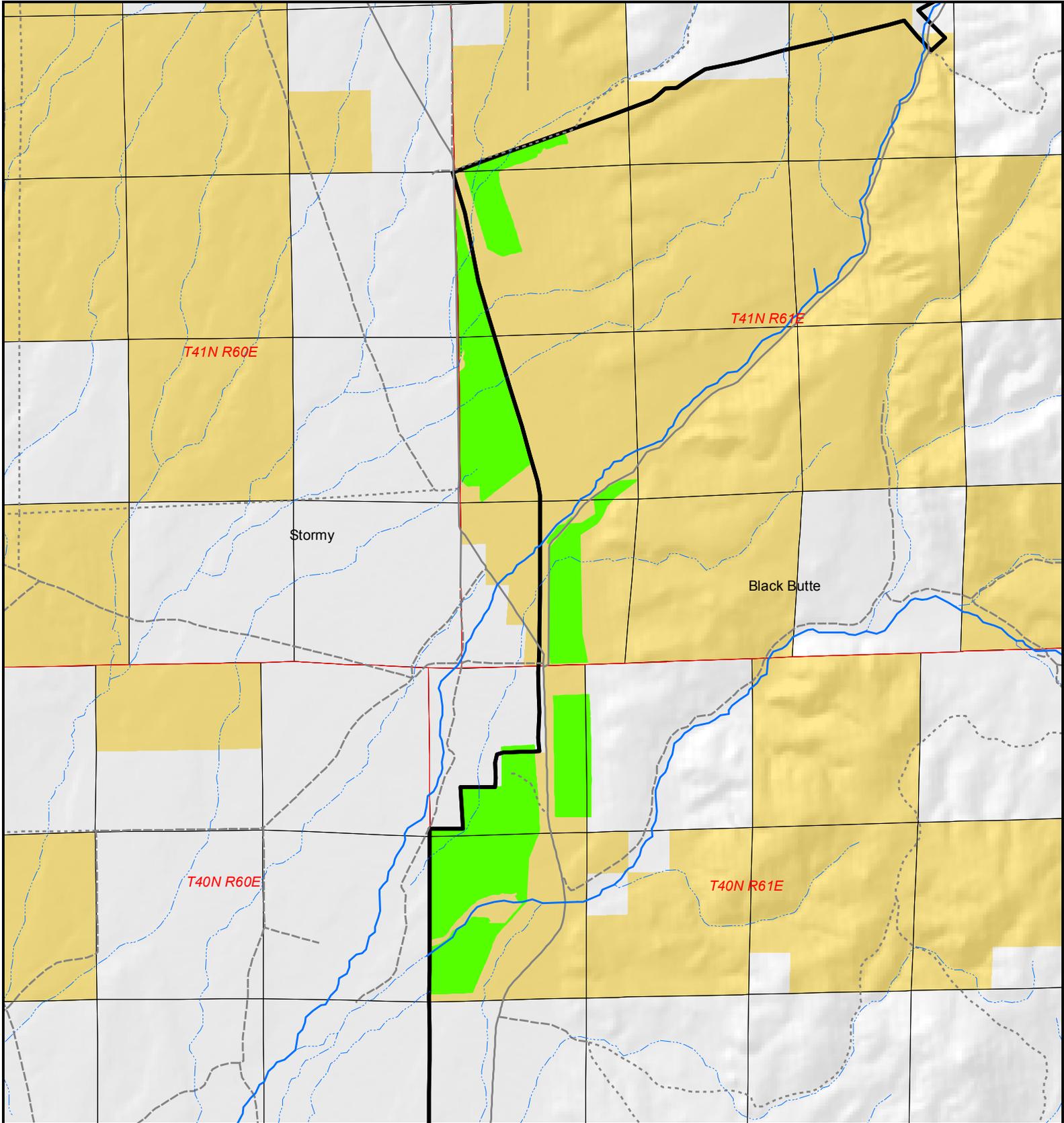


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Legend

Intermittent Stream	Improved Dirt Road	Allotments	Treatments	BLM
Perennial Stream	2-track Dirt Road	Township/Range	Silver Lake	
4WD Dirt Road	Section	Star Ridge		





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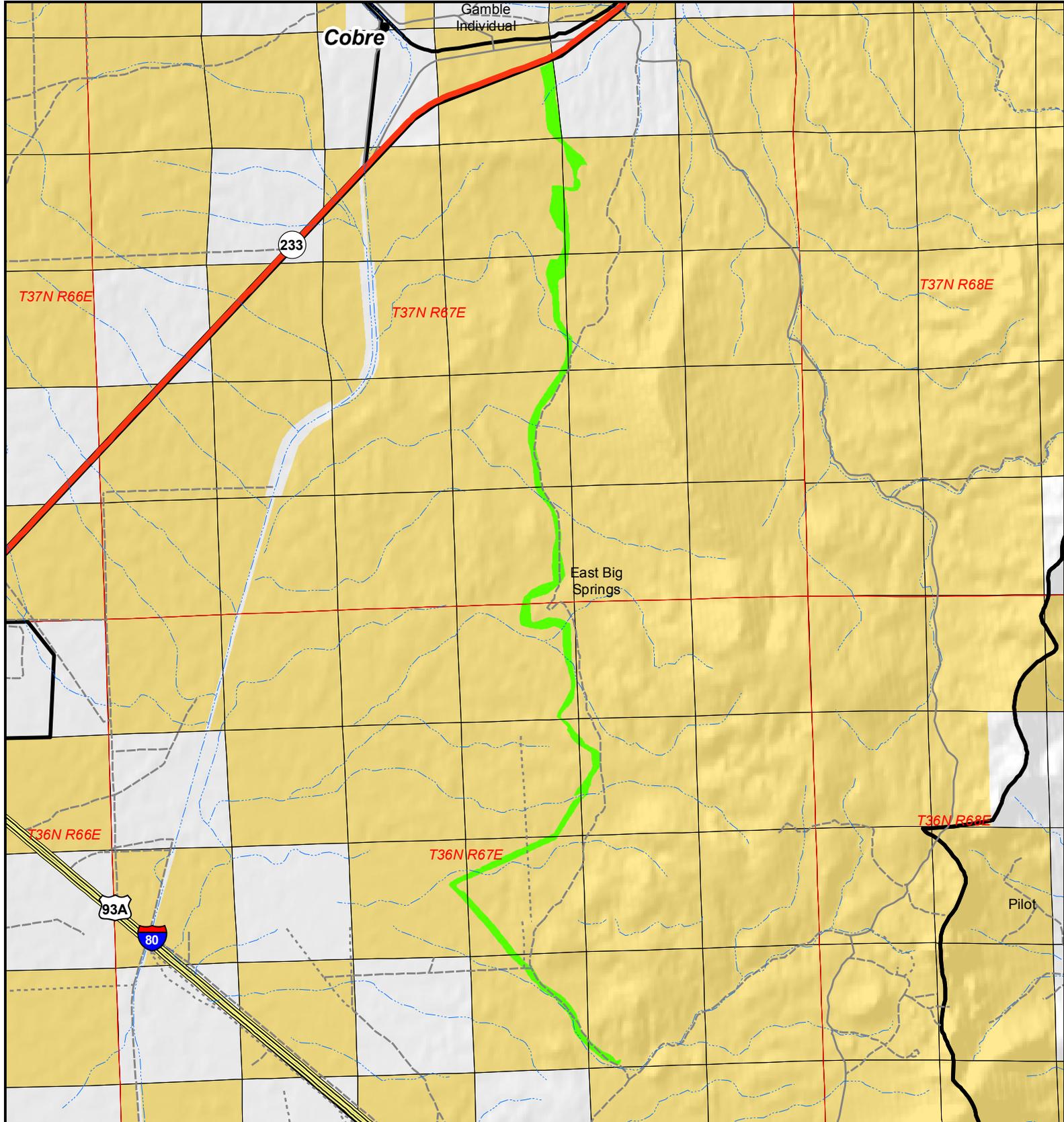
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Map 15: Tabor Creek

Legend

Intermittent Stream	Improved Dirt Road	Allotments	Treatments	BLM
Perennial Stream	2-track Dirt Road	Township/Range	Tabor Creek	Private Land
4WD Dirt Road	Section			





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Map 16: Toano

Legend

Intermittent Stream	Improved Dirt Road	Allotments	Treatments	BLM
Interstate Highway	2-track Dirt Road	Township/Range	Toano	Private Land
U.S. Highway	4WD Dirt Road	Section		
State Highway				

