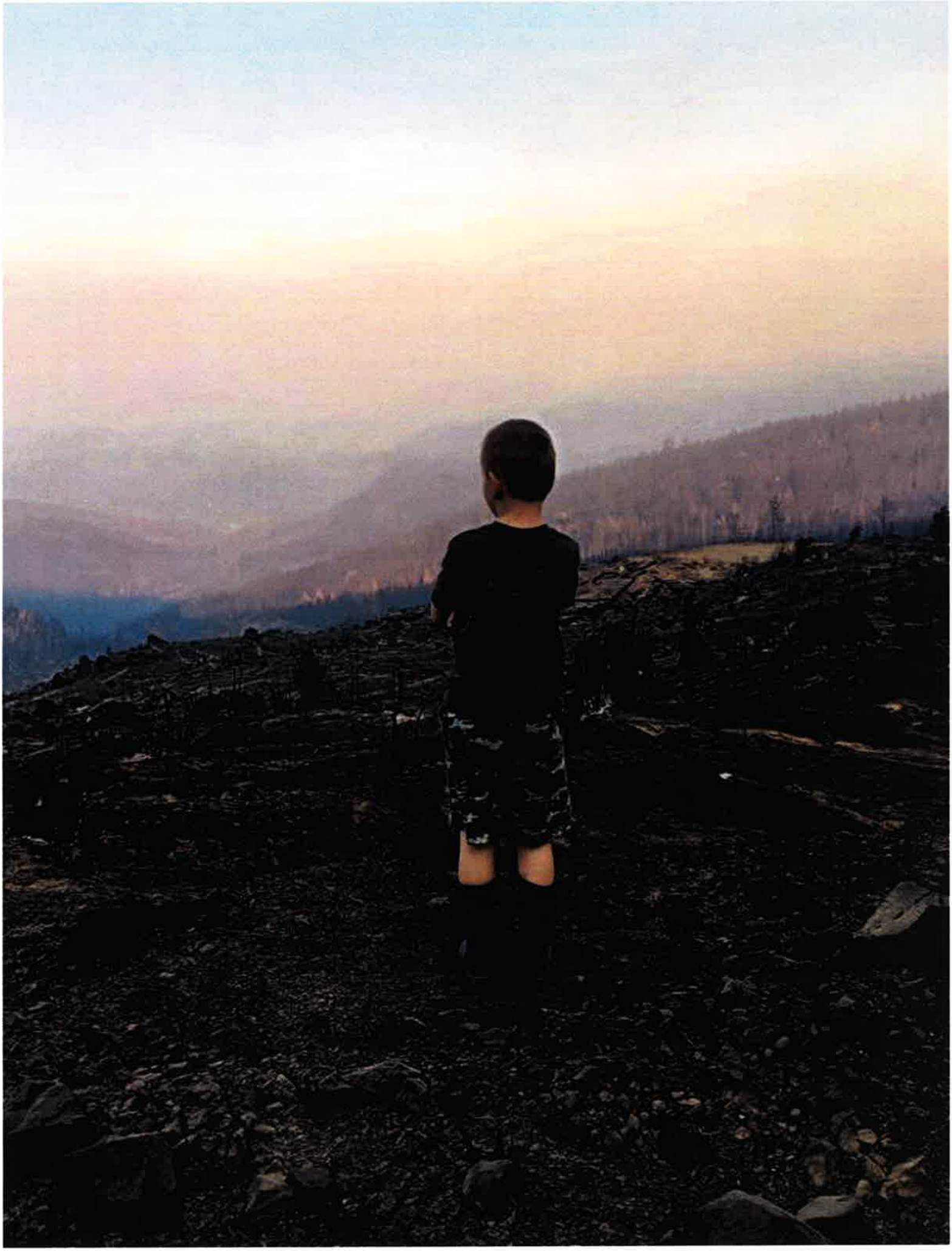
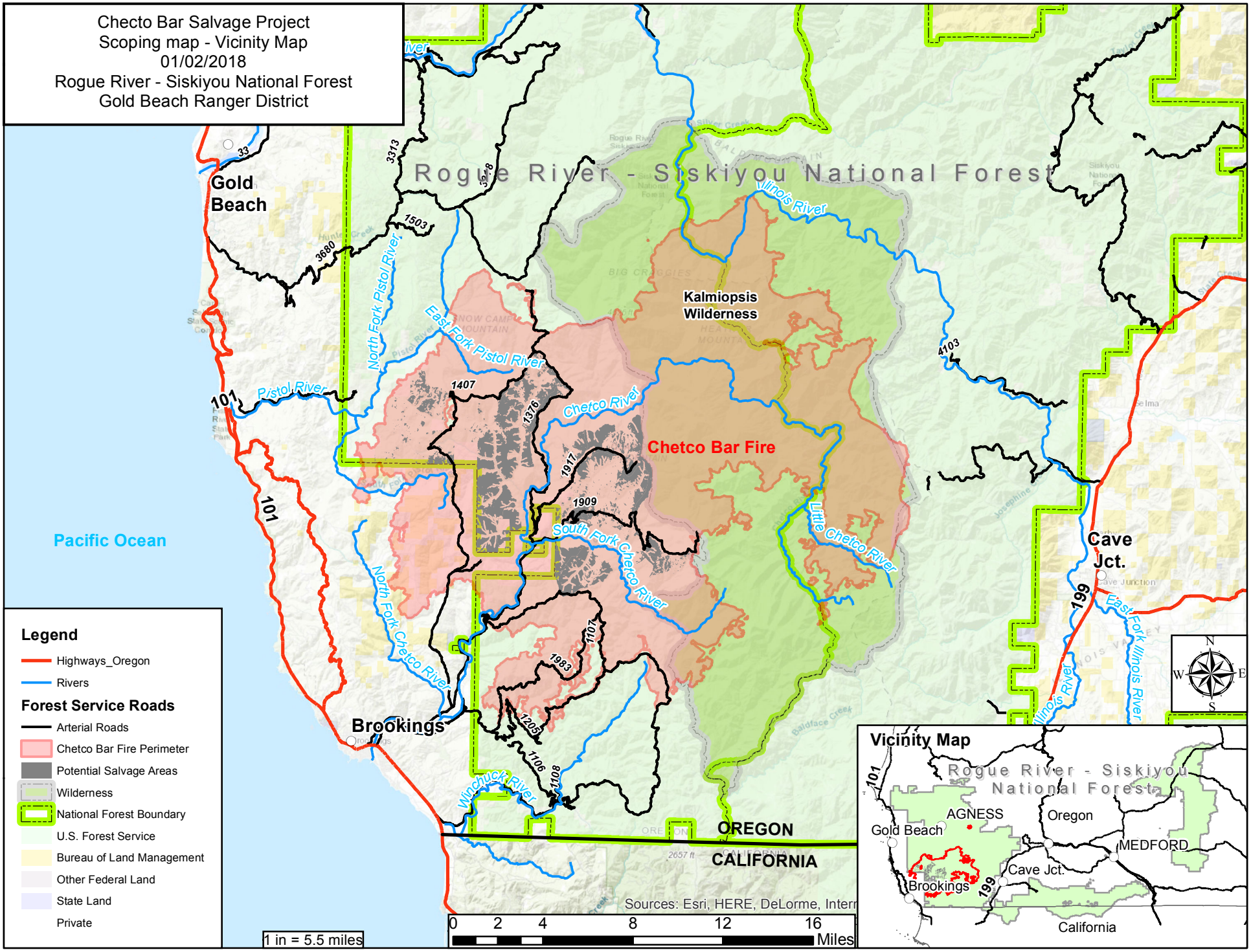
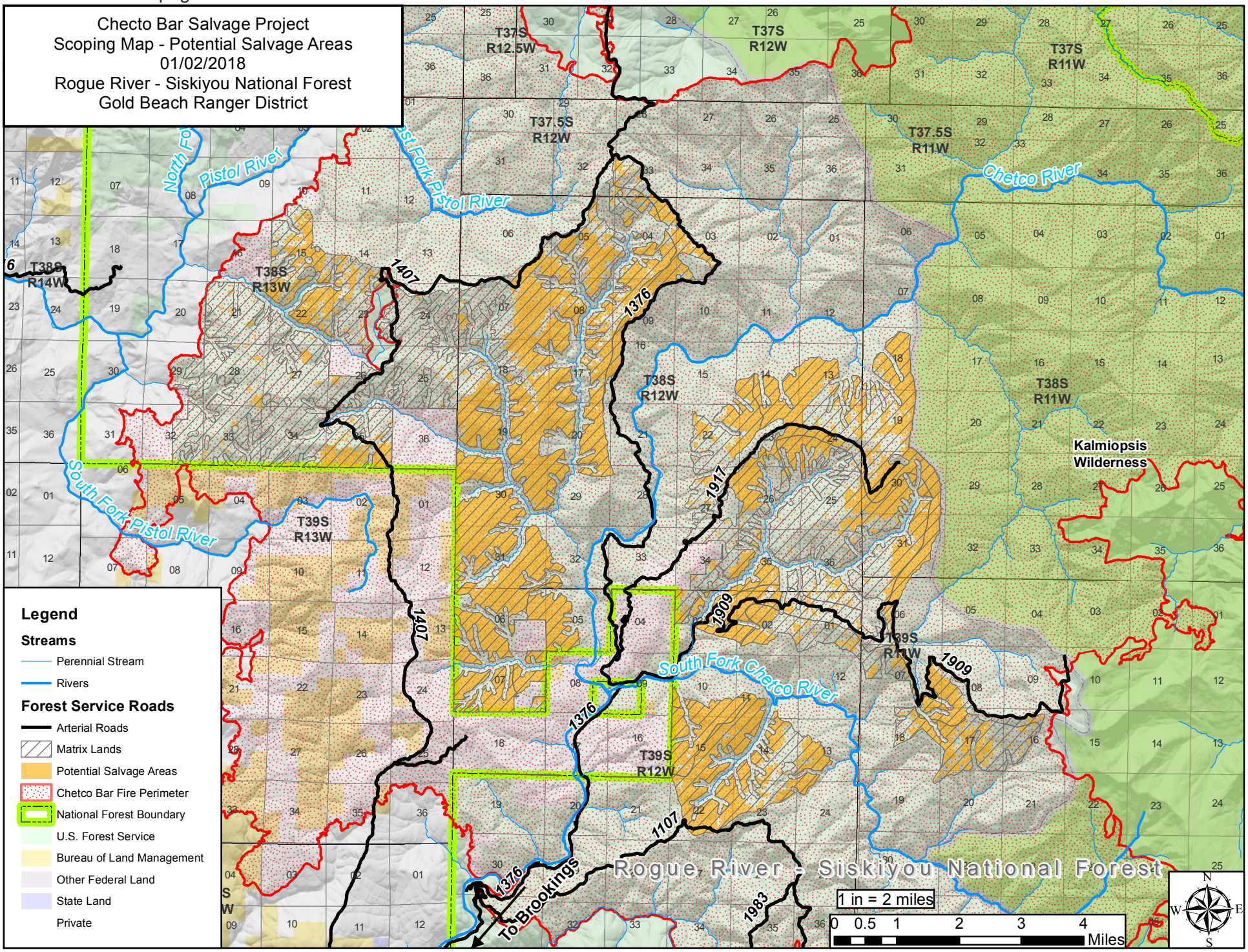
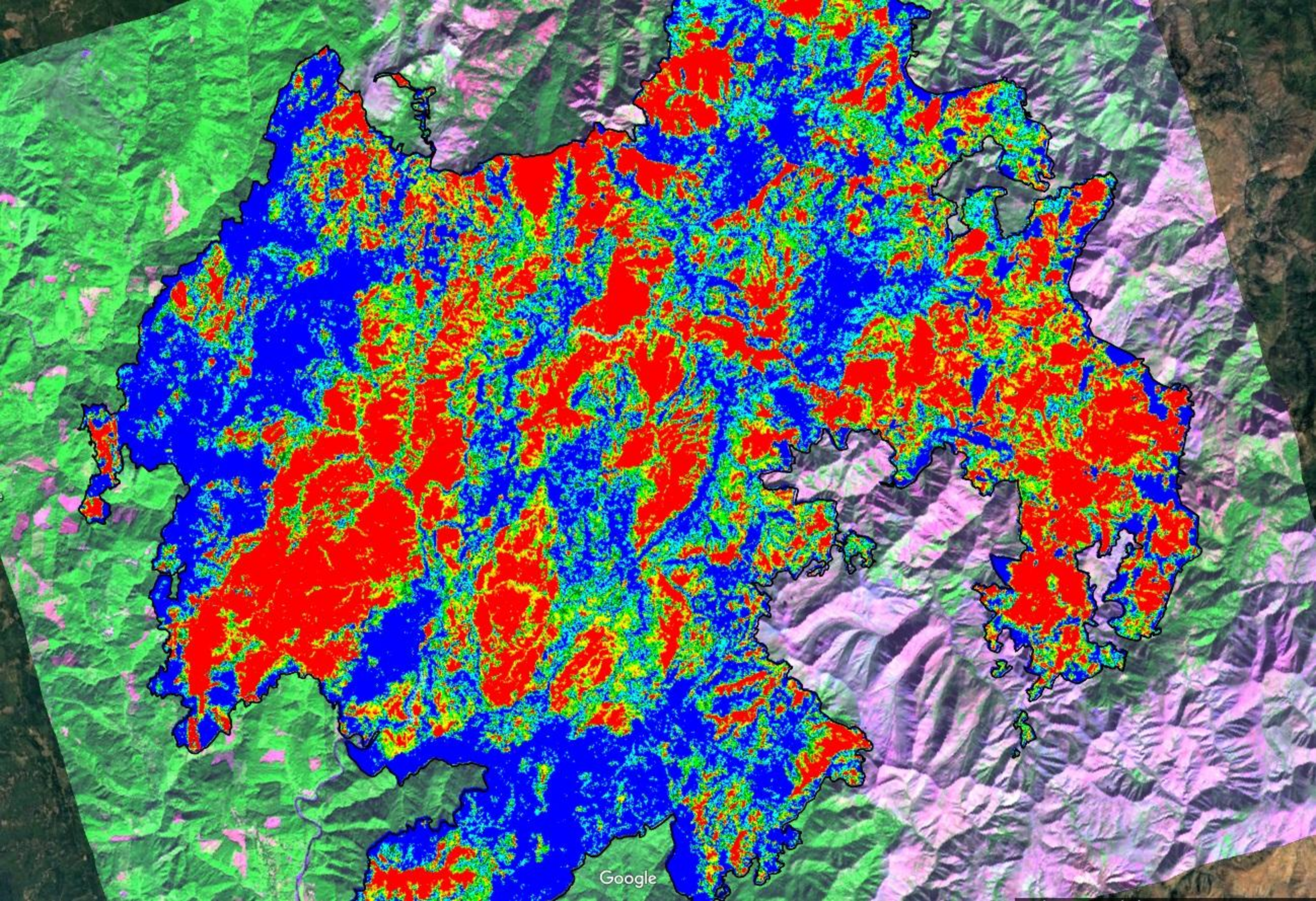



Complex terrain, fuels, access
(Chetco Bar)


Checto Bar Salvage Project
Scoping map - Vicinity Map
01/02/2018
Rogue River - Siskiyou National Forest
Gold Beach Ranger District
Rogue River - Siskiyou National Forest
Gold Beach
Kalmiopsis Wilderness
Chetco Bar Fire
Pacific Ocean
Brookings
Cave Jct.
OREGON
CALIFORNIA
Illinois River
East Fork Pistol River
North Fork Pistol River
Pistol River
Chetco River
South Fork Chetco River
North Fork Chetco River
Little Chetco River
East Fork Illinois River
Winchuck River
101
199
Legend
Highways_Oregon
Rivers
Forest Service Roads
Arterial Roads
Chetco Bar Fire Perimeter
Potential Salvage Areas
Wilderness
National Forest Boundary
U.S. Forest Service
Bureau of Land Management
Other Federal Land
State Land
Private
1 in = 5.5 miles
0 2 4 8 12 16
Miles
Sources: Esri, HERE, DeLorme, Interr
Vicinity Map
Rogue River - Siskiyou National Forest
AGNESS
Oregon
Gold Beach
MEDFORD
Cave Jct.
Brookings
California

Checto Bar Salvage Project
Scoping Map - Potential Salvage Areas
01/02/2018
Rogue River - Siskiyou National Forest
Gold Beach Ranger District




Google

Chetco Bar Fire Timber Salvage by Retired Forester Larry Ismert

March 17, 2018

Matrix Lands

The USFS solicited public input on January 5, 2018 for their fire salvage program for timber killed in the Chetco Bar Fire. The announced program restricted the salvage of fire killed timber to lands classified as matrix lands which had incurred 50 - 100% canopy cover loss in the fire. The area of matrix land within the fire perimeter is reported by the USFS to be 25,386 acres or about 15 % of the total. The gross acreage of matrix lands considered for salvage operations was 13,626 acres. The actual salvage area contemplated will be further reduced to account for included inventoried roadless areas, leaving non-merchantable tree species or size classes, avoiding unmapped riparian reserve areas, consideration of limitations due to limited road access, and post-fire wildlife habitat considerations. To date, the further reductions to the matrix salvage areas that have been identified are included inventoried roadless areas totaling 2,358 acres. Thus, of the 170,321 acres of National Forest land within the perimeter of the fire, the area being considered for timber harvest comprises 6.6%. Depending upon the extent of additional reductions, the final harvest will thus be confined to somewhere between 0% and 6.6% of the total National Forest land within the fire perimeter. According to the USFS, timber within this matrix area was scheduled to be harvested over the next 5 to 20 years and is largely comprised of mixed hardwood/conifer stands with high composition of tanoak.

The Siskiyou Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) has a stated forest wide goal that includes helping to supply local, regional and National social economic needs. The Northwest Forest Plan states that Forests covered under this plan are to maintain a sustainable supply of timber and other forest products that will help maintain the stability of local and regional economies on a predictable and long-term basis. According to the USFS, the Northwest Forest Plan also specifies that economic benefits of timber production from matrix lands receive greater consideration than found in other designated use classifications. For example, the commercial salvage of dead trees will be less constrained and replanting disturbed areas will be a high priority. The letter and intent of the Siskiyou Land and Resource Management Plan and the Northwest Forest Plan strongly suggests that maximizing the timber productivity of the matrix designated lands is a primary management objective for these lands. “The management objectives of matrix points to the need of harvesting timber; subsequently, it is important to salvage timber and reset the timber production for future harvest opportunities. This timber would be harvested, capturing the economic value that was intended to be sustainably and evenly harvested over time.” (see page 5, January 5, 2018 Request for Comments re Chetco Bar Fire).

An underlying concern is the presence of the sudden oak death pathogen in and near many of these matrix stands. Without harvest and subsequent planting of coniferous forest components large areas could potentially convert from their present mixed hardwood /conifer stand composition to hardwood (tanoak) stands which are confirmed to be particularly vulnerable to the sudden oak death pathogen.

According to the USFS planting conifers would be an important strategy to promote diversity of tree species in these vulnerable areas.

Therefore, to be compliant with the stated goals and intent of the Siskiyou National Forest Land and Management Plan and the Northwest Forest Plan as well as to be responsive to the standards and guidelines under which matrix lands are managed, we urge that salvage timber harvest of dead and dying trees be conducted to the maximum extent practicable on all matrix lands included within the perimeter of the Chetco Bar Fire regardless of the stated canopy cover loss. So doing would contribute to the unified management effort to slow the spread of the sudden oak death pathogen and demonstrate that the concept of matrix lands as a resource base to support local, regional and national economies has merit and is more than a facade.

Late Successional Reserve Lands

The Chetco Bar Fire burned a total of 13,771 acres of the Rogue River Siskiyou National Forest classified as Late Successional Reserve lands (LSR). Late Successional Reserves are identified as areas to be managed to protect and enhance conditions of late successional and old growth forest ecosystems. They are deemed to provide habitat for late successional and old growth related species including the northern spotted owl.

There is little doubt that the fire behavior in these stands followed patterns of fire behavior exhibited elsewhere within the fire perimeter in that high severity fire effects now exist in some LSR stands with no over story trees left alive. Such conditions are typically described as stand replacement sites. Under natural regeneration management such sites will not produce anything resembling a closed canopy forest for a period variously estimated to be from 50 to over 100 years. It follows that late successional and old growth related species cannot reasonably be expected to occupy these sites in the near or mid-term future. The alternative to relying on the uncertainties of natural regeneration is the prompt removal of the fire killed trees and an aggressive planting program designed to reinsert tree species consistent with nearby LSR plant communities. Utilization of existing roadways would preclude new construction and permit the prompt repair of these badly damaged LSR stands.

The USFS summarized the situation on page 6 of their request for comments: “If stands are not salvaged and material proposed for removal cannot be sold, some of these stands may not be suitable for future timber production, produce suitable owl habitat, or would not be resilient to non-native pathogens such as SOD. Additionally, increased fuel loading would likely occur within untreated units.” Although this comment was aimed at removals contemplated for matrix lands, it has equal validity in reference to LSR lands.

We therefore support the salvage of LSR stands that have incurred moderate to high severity canopy loss that are accessible from currently existing forest roads.

Roadside Salvage

A third category of salvage is that originating from the roadside salvage program. The roadside salvage timber is distinct and separate from any matrix and LSR considerations and is a function of the timely USFS response to ensure safety from fire killed roadside trees and debris attributable to the fire. As such, the source of this material is not linked directly to a specific use classification but is instead determined by its proximity to existing roads. We support the prompt sale of this material to prevent volume and value loss resulting from deterioration and insect activity.

Curry Citizens for Public Land Access
P.O. Box 183
Gold Beach, OR 97444
currypublicland@gmail.com

January 22, 2018

Jessie Berner, Chetco Bar Fire Salvage Coordinator
Gold Beach Ranger Station
29279 Ellensburg Ave.
Gold Beach, OR 97444

Dear Ms. Berner,

Curry Citizens for Public Land Access is providing the following scoping comments for the Chetco Bar Fire Salvage Project. The purpose of our group is to advocate for the protection of access to public lands, using all forms of both motorized and non-motorized means, for recreation and other uses. Our membership represents a very broad and diverse group with varied interests, but we come together in our quest to maintain access to public land for current and future generations. We support improving and maintaining our existing road and trail systems for all users. Treatments that increase current and future revenue provide funds to the County and Forest Service for maintenance.

Our comments by topic:

Purpose and Need

We agree with the overall purpose of the project to recover marketable value in fire killed trees of all sizes within matrix land allocations of the Chetco Bar Fire area before they become unsuitable for processing by local mills. However, we believe salvage should not be limited to Matrix only.

The purpose and need in the Northwest Forest Plan states that the Forests covered under this Plan are to maintain a sustainable supply of timber and other forest products that will help maintain the stability of local and regional economies on a predictable and long-term basis (Northwest Forest Plan 1-4).

The Chetco Bar fire burned approximately 191,197 acres; approximately 170,321 acres were on National Forest System (NFS) lands. The Chetco Bar fire burned roughly 15% (approximately 25,386 acres) of lands designated as matrix within the fire perimeter of which approximately 13,626 acres incurred 50-100% canopy cover loss (forest overstory mortality). This proposal focuses on salvage within the 13,626 acres of matrix that incurred 50-100% canopy cover loss.

Within matrix burned areas with 50-100% canopy loss, the treatment acreage would be **reduced** due to a combination of factors. Factors that further reduce acres treated include**: removing inventoried Roadless areas, leaving non-merchantable trees species or size classes, locating and avoiding unmapped riparian reserve areas, determining operability and accessibility via limited road access for harvesting of timber, and considerations for post-fire wildlife habitat**. Focusing the salvage efforts to suitable and operationally achievable area and timeframe, while also protecting other resource values is consistent with the direction recommended in the RRSNF Rapid Assessment Team (RAT) report.

Estimated inventoried Roadless areas (~2,000 acres) reduce Matrix treatment acres to 11,626. Unmapped riparian reserves (usually intermittent streams) are estimated to occur on 52% of the Matrix landscape (USDA 2011) which would result in reducing treatment acres by ~6,046 acres leaving 5,580 acres of Matrix for salvage or 3 % of National Forest System lands with the fire perimeter.

	Acres	
Chetco Bar Fire	191,197	
National Forest System (NFS) lands	170,321	Percent of National Forest Lands within the fire perimeter.
Matrix	25,386	15 %
Matrix with 50% + canopy mortality	13,626	8%
Matrix with 50% + canopy mortality Minus Inventoried Roadless Areas	11,626	7%
Matrix with 50% + canopy mortality Minus Inventoried Roadless Areas Minus Unmapped Riparian Reserves (estimated at 52%)	5,580	3%

We support the proposed harvest techniques including:

- Mechanized harvesting on gentle or moderate slopes, and hand-felling of trees on steep slopes.
- Ground-based skidding on gentle or moderate slopes.
- Skyline (cable) yarding on steep slopes.
- Helicopter logging in areas with no road access
- Construction of landings to support ground based skidding, skyline and helicopter logging.
- Reuse of existing road templates for temporary roads.
- Construction of short, new temporary roads, when resource values have been considered or impacts mitigated.

We also recommend the use of long new temporary and specified roads when resource values, including economics, have been considered and impacts mitigated The value of a new road to future prescribed fire operations as well as fire suppression should also be considered.

CCPLA cannot support the, "No activities or harvesting of trees would occur in any inventoried roadless areas" at this time because no specific information was provided as to location, fire severity, effects of no treatment on future fire management, etc.

We support the associated activities including:

- Road reconstruction on the existing transportation network, including activities like culvert replacement, surface rock replacement, fill repair, stabilization, bridgework, and infrastructure repair.
- Road maintenance activities on existing transportation network to facilitate logging operations, including (but not limited to) activities like roadside brushing, grading, and ditch cleaning.
- Erosion control measures to mitigate erosion that may result from operations.
- Felling of non-merchantable species or smaller size classes for site preparation for planting or fuel reduction.
- Fuel reduction and disposal of slash. This may include machine piling, hand-piling, lop and scatter, chipping, mastication, and pile burning.
- Pre and post-harvest invasive species control.
- Post-harvest regeneration surveys, site preparation, and tree planting. Species that may be planted include Douglas-fir, white pine blister rust resistant stock of western white pine and sugar pine, disease resistant stock of Port-Orford-cedar, and other species as appropriate. Replanting of trees would occur within salvage units with insufficient seed sources to ensure natural regeneration in a timely manner.

Late-Successional Reserve

We believe salvage treatments should occur within Late-successional reserve (LSR) land allocation. Approximately 45,300 acres of LSR land allocation occurs within the fire perimeter with an estimated 21,700 acres burned with greater than 50% canopy mortality. Late-successional reserves in the Klamath Provinces allow additional management activities to reduce risks of largescale disturbance. Salvage guidelines are intended to prevent negative effects on late-successional habitat, while permitting some

commercial wood volume removal. These guidelines are attached as well as Biscuit Fire Salvage LSR silvicultural prescription template.

Past timber harvest has occurred on approximately 10,800 acres of LSR within the fire perimeter utilizing the existing road network. Salvage treatments should occur within these managed stands to recover marketable value before they become unsuitable for processing by local mills. Revenue could then be used for reforestation, road and trail maintenance, and late-successional habitat development.

Background Information

	Acres	
Chetco Bar Fire	191,197	
National Forest System (NFS) lands	170,321	Percent of National Forest Lands within the fire perimeter.
Late-successional Reserve (LSR)	~ 45,300	27%
LSR with 50% + canopy mortality (48% fire average)	~ 21,744	13%
LSR with 50% + canopy mortality minus unmapped riparian reserves (estimated to be 52%)	~ 10,437	6%
Managed stands within LSR	10,799	6%
Managed stands with 50% canopy mortality (48% fire average)	5,184	3%

CCPLA supports treatments that: improve, maintain and keep existing roads and trails open; generate revenue for the county to maintain roads and trails; and treatments that reduce the risk of future catastrophic fires, and improve forest resiliency.

Sincerely,

/s/ Tom Hawkins

Tom Hawkins
Chair

/s/ Mike Miller

Mike Miller
Environmental Coordinator

Attachment

:

Biscuit Fire Recovery met and implemented the salvage requirements contained in the Northwest Forest Plan and also developed a Silvicultural prescription template. We have included these references below.

References:
USDA Forest Service 2004, Biscuit Fire Recovery Final Environmental Impact Statement, Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest, Josephine and Curry Counties, Oregon. Volume II Appendicies

USDA Forest Service 2011, Siskiyou National Forest Management Indicator Species Forest-Wide Environmental Baseline and Species Account, page 32

NWFP ROD

Late-Successional Reserves: Late-successional reserves are to be managed to protect and enhance old-growth forest conditions. In the reserves east of the Cascades and in Oregon and California Klamath Provinces, additional management activities are allowed to reduce risks of largescale disturbance. Salvage guidelines are intended to prevent negative effects on late-successional habitat. Non-silvicultural activities within late-successional reserves are allowed where such activities are neutral or beneficial to the creation and maintenance of late-successional habitat. Thinning or other silvicultural activities must be reviewed by the Regional Ecosystem Office and the Regional Interagency Executive Committee.

NWFP – Standard and Guidelines

East of the Cascades and in the Oregon and California Klamath Provinces - Given the increased risk of fire in these areas due to lower moisture conditions and the rapid accumulation of fuels in the aftermath of insect outbreaks and drought, additional management activities are allowed in Late-Successional Reserves. Guidelines to reduce risks of large-scale disturbance are as follows:

Guidelines to Reduce Risks of Large-Scale Disturbance - Large-scale disturbances are natural events, such as fire, that can eliminate spotted owl habitat on hundreds or thousands of acres. Certain risk management activities, if properly planned and implemented, may reduce the probability of these major stand-replacing events. There is considerable risk of such events in Late-Successional Reserves in the Washington and Oregon Eastern Cascades, and California Cascades Provinces and a lesser risk in the

Oregon and California Klamath Provinces. Elevated risk levels are attributed to changes in the characteristics and distribution of the mixed-conifer forests resulting from past fire protection. These forests occur in drier environments, have had repeated insect infestations, and are susceptible to major fires. Risk reduction efforts are encouraged where they are consistent with the overall recommendations in these guidelines.

Silvicultural activities aimed at reducing risk shall focus on younger stands in Late-Successional Reserves. The objective will be to accelerate development of late successional conditions while making the future stand less susceptible to natural disturbances. Salvage activities should focus on the reduction of catastrophic insect, disease, and fire threats. Treatments should be designed to provide effective fuel breaks wherever possible. However, the scale of salvage and other treatments should not generally result in degeneration of currently suitable owl habitat or other late successional conditions.

In some Late-Successional Reserves in these provinces, management that goes beyond these guidelines may be considered. Levels of risk in those Late-Successional Reserves are particularly high and may require additional measures. Consequently, management activities designed to reduce risk levels are encouraged in those Late-Successional Reserves even if a portion of the activities must take place in currently late-successional habitat. While risk-reduction efforts should generally be focused on young stands, activities in older stands may be appropriate if: (1) the proposed management activities will clearly result in greater assurance of long-term maintenance of habitat, (2) the activities are clearly needed to reduce risks, and (3) the activities will not prevent the Late-Successional Reserves from playing an effective role in the objectives for which they were established.

Such activities in older stands may also be undertaken in Late-Successional Reserves in other provinces if levels of fire risk are particularly high.

Guidelines for Salvage

Salvage of dead trees is based on the following standards and guidelines, and is subject to review by the Regional Ecosystem Office. The Regional Ecosystem Office may develop criteria that would exempt some activities from review. Salvage of dead trees is not generally considered a silvicultural treatment within the context of these standards and guidelines.

Salvage is defined as the removal of trees from an area following a stand-replacing event such as those caused by wind, fires, insect infestations, volcanic eruptions, or diseases. Salvage guidelines are intended to prevent negative effects on late-successional habitat, while permitting some commercial wood volume removal. In some cases, salvage operations may actually facilitate habitat recovery. For example, excessive amounts of coarse woody debris may interfere with stand regeneration activities following some disturbances. In other cases, salvage may help reduce the risk of future stand-replacing disturbances. While priority should be given to salvage in areas where it will have a positive effect on late-successional forest habitat, salvage operations should not diminish habitat suitability now or in the future.

Tree mortality is a natural process in a forest ecosystem. Diseased and damaged trees are key structural components of late-successional forests. Accordingly, management planning for Late-Successional Reserves must acknowledge the considerable value of retaining dead and dying trees in the forest as well as the benefits from salvage activities.

In all cases, planning for salvage should focus on long-range objectives, which are based on desired future condition of the forest. Because Late-Successional Reserves have been established to provide high quality habitat for species associated with late-successional forest conditions, management following a stand-replacing event should be designed to accelerate or not impede the development of those conditions. The rate of development of this habitat will vary among provinces and forest types and will be influenced by a complex interaction of stand-level factors that include site productivity, population dynamics of live trees and snags, and decay rates of coarse woody debris. Because there is much to learn about the development of species associated with these forests and their habitat, it seems prudent to only allow removal of conservative quantities of salvage material from Late-Successional Reserves and retain management opportunities until the process is better understood.

The following guidelines are general. Specific guidelines should be developed for each physiographic province, and possibly for different forest types within provinces.

1. The potential for benefit to species associated with late-successional forest conditions from salvage is greatest when stand-replacing events are involved. Salvage in disturbed sites of less than 10 acres is not appropriate because small forest openings are an important component of old-growth forests. In addition, salvage should occur only in stands where disturbance has reduced canopy closure to less than 40 percent, because stands with more closure are likely to provide some value for species associated with these forests.

2. Surviving trees will provide a significant residual of larger trees in the developing stand. In addition, defects caused by fire in residual trees may accelerate development of structural characteristics suitable for associated species. Also, those damaged trees that eventually die will provide additional snags. Consequently, all standing live trees should be retained, including those injured (e.g., scorched) but likely to survive. Inspection of the cambium layer can provide an indication of potential tree mortality.

3. Snags provide a variety of habitat benefits for a variety of wildlife species associated with late-successional forests. Accordingly, following stand-replacing disturbance, management should focus on retaining snags that are likely to persist until latesuccessional conditions have developed and the new stand is again producing large snags. Late-successional conditions are not associated with stands less than 80 years old.

4. Following a stand-replacing disturbance, management should retain adequate coarse woody debris quantities in the new stand so that in the future it will still contain amounts similar to naturally regenerated stands. The analysis that determines the amount of coarse woody debris to leave must account for the full period of time before the new stand begins to contribute coarse woody debris. As in the case of snags, province-level specifications must be provided for this guideline. Because coarse woody debris decay rates, forest dynamics, and site productivity undoubtedly will vary among provinces and forest types,

the specifications also will vary.

Province-level plans will establish appropriate levels of coarse woody debris and decay rates to be used. Levels will be "typical" and will not require retention of all material where it is highly concentrated, or too small to contribute to coarse woody debris over the long timeframes discussed. This standard and guideline represents one item to be considered and may indeed result in no salvage following windthrow in low density stands. As for other management activities, it is expected that salvage standards and guidelines will be refined through the implementation and adaptive management processes.

5. Some salvage that does not meet the preceding guidelines will be allowed when salvage is essential to reduce the future risk of fire or insect damage to late-successional forest conditions. This circumstance is most likely to occur in the eastern Oregon Cascades, eastern Washington Cascades, and California Cascades Provinces, and somewhat less likely to occur in the Oregon Klamath and California Klamath Provinces. It is important to understand that some risk associated with fire and insects is acceptable because they are natural forces influencing late-successional forest development. Consequently, salvage to reduce such risks should focus only on those areas where there is high risk of large-scale disturbance.

6. Removal of snags and logs may be necessary to reduce hazards to humans along roads and trails, and in or adjacent to campgrounds. Where materials must be removed from the site, as in a campground or on a road, a salvage sale is appropriate. In other areas, such as along roads, leaving material on site should be considered. Also, material will be left where available coarse woody debris is inadequate.

7. Where green trees, snags, and logs are present following disturbance, the green-tree and snag guidelines will be applied first, and completely satisfied where possible. The biomass left in snags can be credited toward the amount of coarse woody debris biomass needed to achieve management objectives.

8. These basic guidelines may not be applicable after disturbances in younger stands because remnant coarse woody debris may be relatively small. In these cases, diameter and biomass retention guidelines should be developed consistent with the intention of achieving late-successional forest conditions.

9. Logs present on the forest floor before a disturbance event provide habitat benefits that are likely to continue. It seldom will be appropriate to remove them. Where these logs are in an advanced state of decay, they will not be credited toward objectives for coarse woody debris retention developed after a disturbance event. Advanced state of decay should be defined as logs not expected to persist to the time when the new stand begins producing coarse woody debris.

10. The coarse woody debris retained should approximate the species composition of the original stand to help replicate preexisting suitable habitat conditions
.
11. Some deviation from these general guidelines may be allowed to provide reasonable access to salvage sites and feasible logging operations. Such deviation should occur on as

small a portion of the area as possible, and should not result in violation of the basic intent that late-successional forest habitat or the development of such habitat in the future should not be impaired throughout the area. While exceptions to the guidelines may be allowed to provide access and operability, some salvage opportunities will undoubtedly be foregone because of access, feasibility, and safety concerns.

Biscuit Fire Recovery

BISCUIT FIRE SALVAGE - Silvicultural Prescription Template

Management Area:

This unit/stand lies within the **LATE-SUCCESSIONAL RESERVE (LSR)** land management allocation, Land and Resource Management Plan, Siskiyou Forest (1989), as amended by Northwest Forest Plan (1994).

Plant Association Super-Group (Super PAG):

Aspect:

Snags:

Down wood:

Management Goals:

Managed to protect and enhance conditions of late-successional and old-growth ecosystems, which serve as habitat for late-successional and old-growth related species, including the northern spotted owl. These reserves are designed to maintain a functional, interacting, late-successional and oldgrowth forest ecosystem successional reserves.

Project Objectives:

• Prevent negative effects on late-successional habitat, while permitting some commercial wood volume removal.

• Unsuitable lands will not be reforested

• Provide adequate amounts and distribution of large, down wood and snags to achieve habitat requirements of dependent species.

• Facilitate habitat recovery, as excessive coarse woody debris may interfere with stand regeneration activities following large-scale stand replacement Biscuit Fire (2002).

• Assure reforestation of salvage areas, which are under-stocked with suitable conifers, as a result of the Biscuit Fire (2002). Provide for variable spacing of regeneration.

• Desired Conditions at the stand scale:

1. Late successional forest has over-stories dominated by 16-28 conifer trees>21” dbh per acre.
2. Old growth forests has over-stories dominated by 8-16 conifer trees >32” dbh per acre.
3. Establish fire resilient species and stand structure over time
4. Maintain hardwoods, especially deciduous species, as an important component of the stand.

• Reduce the risk of future stand replacement disturbance.

Court Boice, *Commissioner*

94235 Moore Street, Ste. 122

Gold Beach, OR 97444

Ph.: (541) 247.3229

Ms. Lanier, **Sept. 22, 2018**

I appreciate your offer and willingness to meet and have continued discussion. I'll take some time to contemplate respectfully and will get back to you.

I have watched carefully and quietly since you arrived here in 2013. I consider the USFS a key player in Curry County, particularly as it pertains to our economic vitality and feel it could and should be a beacon of hope and offering leadership in how to work closely in respectful collaboration together with all interested parties.

That is where my anxiety escalates. For example, I have watched your interaction with the citizen volunteer group, Curry Citizens for Public Land Access (CCPLA). They stand ready and willing to donate their time, money and equipment to help maintain our forest roads and trails, and instead of being met with appreciation, they've been disrespected and frequently ignored. They've invested their time and energy jumping through every hoop required, only to have their efforts stymied and delayed by lack of a simple action and communication from you. Three months to produce meeting notes and associated decisions is unacceptable by any measure. Ignoring their efforts to communicate with you about that or any other topic increases frustration, and in the end, the work goes undone and the public pays the price. The continued excuses of budgets and being shorthanded doesn't fly, particularly in this case when your inaction is preventing you from getting help you so desperately need. I don't understand why you aren't taking advantage of this opportunity.

Again, just like in the large forest fires events this summer; we get only a wide range of excuses for repeated lack of effective action which has proven so very costly. You don't appear to use a fraction of the authority you have, and that management paralysis—the unwillingness to say yes and go forward with thoughtful effective action—results in chaos. Indecision and repeated failure to act is a decision and one with devastating consequence.

You were very disappointed that I challenged the Forest Service about the disregard and lack of commitment to put out the Chetco Bar Fire, and the disappointment in me from your staff for voicing my concern. You asked how I would feel. As a public servant myself, I understand very well the challenges of both public scrutiny and budget shortfalls.

However, the feelings we all should be worried about are those who have been impacted so terribly by this fire. Unnecessarily so, in my mind, is due to the mismanagement and failure to act. The delay in taking full suppression action on this fire was negligent, and the citizens of our county and beyond are paying a heavy price.

Yes, I have very strong views on your failure to put that fire out early and I asked you very specifically in the Sheriff's office on July 18, 2017 to hit it with everything you had. You explained why you couldn't. I didn't understand it then, and don't understand it now. We have an incalculable disaster here and devastation that is way beyond painful. I will spend every bit of energy I have to right this wrong.

The former District Ranger requested fuel reduction funding in order to work to prevent these large events. Most of those funds went to a large project in the Ashland area. Has the Gold Beach RD been aggressively seeking funding for this purpose? Why not?

What alternatives were considered to removing the rappellers? Why wasn't strong air support with water and/or retardant utilized to support them and hold the fire until reinforcements could arrive? When no safety zone exists, it is common practice to construct one, using heavy air support to keep them safe in the meantime. Was that done?

Why wasn't the ground management force more involved in Type 3 team's planning? Why were resource requests, such as the request for six hand crews, denied? Who blocked the order for those crews? Why was local knowledge and experience underutilized and discounted.

Was the suppression organization intentionally kept small to avoid reaching the logistical threshold that would require ordering a Type 2 Team or to extend the assignment of the Type 3 organization? Who made that decision? Were the longstanding communication problems between Agency Administrator (Lanier) and the Type 3 Incident Commander (Edwards) a factor in the flawed decision making?

Why wasn't a Type 2 or 1 Incident Management Team ordered? Who made the decision to use a NIMO Team and adopt a long term strategy instead of ordering a regular Incident Management Team to put the fire out?

The fire history and potential for such an event is very clear and well documented. Why did local and forest management allow the NIMO team to both underestimate the potential for large growth associated with the Chetco effect which would come into play several times before season ending rains, and fail to preposition staffing to support their stated worst case scenario?

Firefighter safety has been touted as the prevailing factor for several decisions early on. But if firefighter safety was really the most important consideration, why was the use of chainsaws in the wilderness denied? That is fundamentally inconsistent with safe firefighting on a fire with this potential.

A fundamental truth about safety is that exposure increases exponentially as the fire perimeter expands. By missing the opportunity to catch the fire through failure to act during the initial and extended attack phases—with heavy aerial support backed up by a strong contingent of ground forces; or, by going after the fire aggressively through an Incident Management Team, instead of taking long term monitoring approach using a NIMO Team, the safety of the suppression organization, law enforcement and thousands of citizens and visitors was jeopardized. Why?

Court Boice, Curry County Commissioner

Curry County Commissioners

94235 Moore Street, Ste. 122

Gold Beach, OR 97444

Ph.: (541) 247.3229

March 7, 2018

RE: Chetco Bar Fire, Curry County Recovery. Rogue River – Siskiyou National Forest

Good Day Interim Supervisor Russell;

We want to thank you again for the extended and committed time you offered recently in Curry County. As this critical process moves forward, and as discussed, we are and will continue to request additional and more acceptable salvage totals well above the 13 K burned acres currently being considered.

This Federal Disaster seems all too familiar when we review historically the dreadful overall results of the 2002 "Biscuit Fire". That was essentially due to horrible and extreme environmental delays -- the 'clock ran out'. Sadly, millions of trees unnecessarily were wasted.

We stand by our position that the 13,000 acres plus "Road Hazard" trees of the 172,000 acres of Public Lands lost simply are not nearly a large enough portion. In Curry County this represents millions of dollars and a tragic compromise for future generations. We will not accept colossal waste especially after the tremendous hit our County and the City of Brookings took due to the devastating Chetco Bar Fire.

Please review and adjust the Late Successional Reserve Lands. Those incredible and valuable trees are obviously not coming back and as well the ground is mostly in the severe burn category. Conifer seedlings will not prosper in ruined soil for many years. Further, each and every dead tree left to rot raises the risk level with additional fuel for another Catastrophic Forest Fire. As the Chetco Bar Fire was not part of a normal burn cycle, that destroyed timber has no other legitimate value.

Thank you as well for your consideration of our request regarding Salvage Contracts vs. Stewardship Salvage. Curry County needs all the historical harvest funds it can obtain and in the interest of succeeding in our complex recovery. We stand guarded, however optimistic and remain fully resolved to challenge any decisions on behalf of our citizens.

We ask you to take immediate action. Thank you again for your professionalism and noteworthy communication.

Curry County Commissioners

Chetco Bar Fire Burned Timber Salvage Harvest – Urgent …

- The USFS is requesting comment on Salvage Harvest
- Contact Person: Jessie Berner, Chetco Fire Salvage Coordinator
  Gold Beach Ranger District, 29279 Ellensburg Ave., Gold Beach, Or. 97444
  Email: comments-pacificnorthwest-siskiyou-goldbeach@fs.fed.us
- With comment, each responder will be notified when the draft environmental statement is advertised for 30 day public comment period.
- Protecting Property and People is the critical responsibility for those agencies managing our Public Lands. Rural lives matter and are more important than the birds and wildlife that are taking the top preference.
- Approximately 170,000 acres of the 191,000 acres the Chetco Bar Fire consumed was on the USFS section. The remaining fuels now are perhaps at a higher level than ever.
- The proposed harvest by the USFS is only **13,000 acres or about 7.6%** of the burned area on USFS Public Land. It is deemed suitable for salvage harvest because 50% to 100% of the forest canopy was destroyed.
- Reforestation is dependent on Salvage Contract Revenues and only harvest areas will be reforested.
- About 25,000 acres of Matrix lands total were burned (Matrix Land is the land the USFS has not set aside in Late Succession Reserves for Owls and Old Growth and is available for harvest)
- The additional 12,000 acres of burned Matrix lands had less than 50% canopy loss. It is unlikely however these trees will survive the damage they incurred as the majority is less than 20 inches in diameter. These areas likewise will not be reforested without the benefit of contracts. Selective cuts in these classifications are a wise choice.
- The USFS likes to leave large trees over 20 inches as wildlife trees – there are 10's of thousands of dead burned snags that will not be logged already. We would encourage that only no value large snags are left in Matrix burn areas and all dead or severely damaged merchantable trees allowed additionally for harvest.
- The Government Accounting Office Report on the 2002 Biscuit Fire gives a great look at how the USFS failed miserably in Salvage Logging there. The Biscuit Fire is a great reference. Report # GAO-06-967 and can be found with online search.
- The USFS commitment to Salvage Logging and reforestation is documented as very poor at best, we can hope for better results certainly following the Chetco Bar Fire.
- Without harvest destroyed Logs there is no money for reforestation and further the 13,000 acres is not nearly enough. The wanton waste is unacceptable. It cost the USFS 78 million to slowly and eventually stop the Chetco Bar Fire.

- Areas outside Matrix Lands that were Late Succession Reserves which is the majority of the burned area at 91,000 acres with 50% to 100% canopy loss cannot be considered Late Succession Reserves or Owl and Marble Murrelet habitat as they are simply dead snags. Selective contracts and reforestation needs to be completed on these 91,000 acres also or it will take 150 years to recover.
- Much of the burned area was in the 47 mile long Wild and Scenic corridor of the Chetco River. This area is 1700 ft. of protection on either side of the Chetco River. This area also needs to have the destroyed trees harvested and subsequent harvest to prevent further erosion and damage to the Chetco Wild and Scenic waterway and as the ground is very steep.

From USFS website dated August 14, 2017

https://www.fs.fed.us/postfirevegcondition/process.shtml

"Following large wildfires, a rapid initial assessment of post-fire conditions is important to support management decisions on National Forest System lands. This is particularly important in areas where vegetation management activities are allowed: outside of congressionally designated wilderness areas, Wild and Scenic River corridors, or research natural areas (RNA) where under certain conditions, vegetation manipulation may take place to meet specific resource objectives."

https://www.fs.fed.us/restoration/reforestation/overview.shtml

Reforestation is an element of a land stewardship ethic that includes growing, nurturing, and harvesting trees to meet specified resource objectives while conserving soil, air, and water quality in harmony with other resource management concerns. Reforestation following harvest or revegetating areas denuded by catastrophic fire or other natural disasters are important to ensuring forest sustainability; it is a top priority for national forest management.

Restoring Forest Ecosystems after Large Scale Disturbance

Some recent catastrophic wildfires, severe wind and rain events, and other natural disturbance events have resulted in significant losses to critical wildlife habitat, imperiled fisheries, watersheds, and municipal water sources. These events also threaten the long-term productivity of forest soils, through erosion and changes in soil properties, as well as many other resources.

Court Boice, *Commissioner*

94235 Moore Street, Ste. 122

Gold Beach, OR 97444

Ph.: (541) 247.3229

Subject: Wild Horses – Fuel abatement, Kalmiopsis Wilderness Area

Curry Commissioner, Court Boice notes …

While everyone loves the idea of helping to save these animals, here are some considerations: [false assertions made by the author would have to have some basis in truth to be "considerations", but I offer proven facts nonetheless]

1. **Adequate availability of grass and "horse friendly" vegetation in forested areas**. Unlike ruminants (deer, elk, cows, etc.) who eat a large variety of brush and are aggressive browsers, horses are more selective, eating primarily grasses. [This is a completely erroneous statement that flies in the face of the extensive peer-review research as well as thousands of hours of direct observations of wild horse behavioral ecology in a natural wilderness. The study by R. M. Hansen, R. C. Clark and W. Lawhorn titled '*Foods of Wild Horses, Deer and Cattle in the Douglas Mountain Areas, Colorado'* shows that wild horses do not adversely compete with deer for food, and that wild horses eat much more than grasses…

2. **Terrain must be horse friendly**. Unlike deer and elk, horses will not typically transverse steeper slopes, preferring lower to medium. [Here again, an unfounded assertion by a novice domestic horse owner. Wild horses regularly use existing deer trails and graze ground so steep that humans cannot traverse it... this is simply an obtuse statement by someone who knows nothing about horses.

3. Following, is one of many photos and videos available of ***wild horses grazing even on a 100% grade in and around volcanic talus fields***... as difficult terrain as there is... and they do this even in snow, with ease...

Grazing patterns. Ruminants tend to move across large areas of land when grazing. Horses have a tendency to overgraze, staying in one place and eating the vegetation down to the ground and potentially damaging the environment unless they were actively relocated. [This is one of the oldest canards used to demonize wild horses to get legislators to push them off public range lands. That false assertion is dealt with in this white paper: https://www.horsetalk.co.nz/2017/09/25/evolution-wild-horses-cattle-effect-range-damage]

1. **Environmental damage**. Ruminants, when they migrate, tend to move across land using well-worn paths. Horses do not. They will randomly move over that terrain, destroying more vegetation and (entire) creek banks than their deer friends. [Ditto here, another patently false assertion as detailed in this white paper: https://www.horsetalk.co.nz/2017/09/25/evolution-wild-horses-cattle-effect-range-damage]

2. **Impact on existing ruminant population**. Horses may eat enough of the available grasses that it impacts the survival of the native ruminants by partially destroying their food source. Hunters probably wouldn't be happy. [Another myth which was again shown as such in the study by R. M. Hansen, R. C. Clark and W. Lawhorn titled '*Foods of Wild Horses, Deer and Cattle in the Douglas Mountain Areas, Colorado'* shows that wild horses do not adversely compete with deer for food, and that wild horses eat much more than grasses. The key statement in this study is on Page 117, which states:*" The similarity indices and correlation coefficients show a strong potential for competition between wild horses and cattle, but little potential conflict between mule deer and the other two herbivores" [horses and cattle].*

3. **Herd management**. Expect a wild horse pack to double in size every four years. Some type of contraceptive or culling might be required. [This is another patently false statement, and even the terminology ('pack') used is *very telling* from those who hate wolf-packs... anyone with real knowledge would use the term 'herd' in regard to wild horses.

Arbitrary Management Level (**AML**): The number of wild horses "that the land can support" — 26,715 — is a political construct. BLM uses the AML to concoct the *perception* of a crisis. BLM must have a crisis. Why? Politically, agencies have to justify their existence. They must show they are *needed*. Nothing works better than a "crisis" to secure continued and even increased funding. Think: Jobs, paychecks. BLM then chooses high-cost management-methods, such as multi-million-dollar contracts for helicopter-roundups, contracts against which the agency can add on its 20% admin. fee.
Sparsely Populated, Widely Dispersed: Wild horses are few and far between. Per the 31,583,386 acres (49,349 square miles) of dedicated wild-horse habitat, the AML establishes a *maximum* stocking density of 1 wild horse per 1,182 acres (nearly 2 square miles). Even if the on-the-range wild-horse population really were 72,674 (hint: it *can't* be), that would mean a stocking density of 1 horse per 435 acres (⅔ of a square mile). No reasonable person would consider that overpopulated.

4. **Contrast with Livestock Density**: To put this in perspective, on the same land, BLM sets a stocking density of 1 cow-with-calf pair (or 5 sheep) per 76 acres, which means 8 cow-calf pairs (or 40 sheep) per square mile. Further, within wild-horse habitats — where the mustangs are, by law, supposed to receive principal benefit of resources — livestock are often awarded 90% of the grazing slots.

Normative Annual Herd-Growth = *at most,* **5**%: Gregg, LeBlanc, and Johnston (2014) found the average birth rate across wild-horse herds to be just under 20%. But they also found that 50% of foals perish before their first birthday. Thus, the birth rate is just a temporary *blip* in the data. Starting with the surviving-foal rate (10%), and then subtracting a *conservative* estimate of adult-mortality (5%), the expected normative herd-growth rate would be, *at most*, **5**%. At that rate, it would take **14 years** for a herd to double. The corresponding growth-rate for burro-herds is **2**%; thus, it would take **35 years** for a burro-herd to double.

From: MARYBETH DEVLIN <marybethdevlin@bellsouth.net>
To: Craig Downer <ccdowner@aol.com>; Anne Novak <anne@protectmustangs.org>; Bill Simpson <gemmaster7@aol.com>; Kathy Gregg <therealgrandmakathy@yahoo.com>; Carla Bowers <carlab@volcano.net>; Bonnie Kohleriter <bkohlerite@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tue, Oct 31, 2017 7:05 pm
Subject: Ice-Age Horses Survived by Moving into the Forests

Breaking new research appears to have uncovered how horses survived the Ice Age — they moved from the grasslands into the forests. This successful transition shows they are able to thrive on a different diet — browse — attesting to their being "mixed feeders" rather than grass-obligates. Here in North America, scientists have likely been looking for fossils in the wrong places, leading to the erroneous conclusion that horses went extinct on this continent. If horses survived in European forests, they could do so in American forests. Indeed, First Nation / Native American oral history testifies that horses did survive the Ice Age, and were alive and well when the Anglo-Euro adventurers "discovered" the New World.

Will incorporate this study into the literature-review on the subject of browse being compiled for Bill Simpson.

The links below are to the article in *Cosmos Magazine* and to the study just published in *Nature Ecology and Evolution*. I will purchase the study.

https://cosmosmagazine.com/biology/into-the-woods-horses-survived-mass-extinction-by-adapting-to-forests

https://www.nature.com/articles/s41559-017-0358-5

The Three Great Myths About America's Wild Horses

By: William E. Simpson II

Throughout American history, the cattle industry has been for the most part unreasonable to other livestock producers. The American range and Sheep Wars of the 18th and early nineteenth centuries are clear evidence of this statement, as is outlined in this summary:

Wikipedia: The **Sheep Wars**,[1][2] or the **Sheep and Cattle Wars**,[3][4] refers to a series of armed conflicts in the Western United States which were fought between sheep men and cattlemen over grazing rights. Sheep wars occurred in many western states though they were most common in Texas, Arizona and the border region of Wyoming and Colorado. Generally, the cattlemen saw the sheepherders as invaders, who destroyed the public grazing lands, which they had to share on a first-come, first-served basis. Between 1870 and 1920, approximately 120 engagements occurred in eight different states or territories. At least 54 men were killed and some 50,000 to over 100,000 sheep were slaughtered.[1][3][5][6]

One of the favorite tools used by the cattle industry to push competing grazing animals off the lands they covet is that of supporting outright myths and also funding questionably designed studies and then promoting the highly questionable results. Over the last century this has led to the demonizing of grazing animals that compete with cattle for forage on public lands. And sadly some of these methods and the resulting idiotic canards still permeate common knowledge in society today. This is tragic from the standpoint that; in order to manage any grazing animals, including wild and or domestic herbivores, a clear and precise understanding of each animal's behavioral ecology is critical.

These days most grazing herbivores wild or domestic have lobbies based-upon an economic foundation. The economic value of cattle, sheep and swine are obvious due to the market demands for these animals as common human food sources. Not quite as obvious are the economics that support many wild animals, such as deer and elk for instance that have economic support from the hunting industry as 'game-animals'. On

the other hand, wildlife that are not seen as 'game animals', such as wild horses, have no such economic value placed upon them as they did in the century past when they were a key source of transportation and logistics in America.

The myths herein below were relatively easily perpetrated during the time that predated the Internet, when advanced scientific information was available via relatively few and obscure resources. Today the information is available for those who are willing to spend some time to conduct some research and due diligence using Internet-based resources.

Therefore, let's examine the three greatest myths that the cattle industry has perpetrated upon Americans in regard to America's wild horses:

Myth One: ***Wild horses are not a native species in North America:***

Fossil Records say no; wild horses are a native species:

Today, with the prolific publication of paleontological records of wild horses in North America and the well documented horse fossil record on the North American continent (horse fossils exist in many states), the evidence is compelling; they are native. In fact, all horses on the planet today originated from North America and migrated over the Aleutian land bridge into Asia sometime around 17,000 years ago.

Dr. Ross MacPhee has in fact criticized the BLM for publishing manifestly incorrect information for public viewing on their Wild Burro and Horse website. Here is the transcript of the testimony from the curator of vertebrates at the American Museum of Natural History
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1-zNiS1uqCWZ9PimwJpaVdY7NC57hxdGKDCLXbCEYb8c/edit?pli=1

Furthermore, according to Professors Kirkpatrick, J.F., and P.M. Fazio, in their article; *Wild Horses as Native North American Wildlife* (The Science and Conservation Center, Zoo Montana, Billings. 8pp, revised January 2010): “The issue of feralization and the use of the word “feral” is a human construct that has little biological meaning except in transitory behavior, usually forced on the animal in some manner. Consider this parallel. E. Przewalskii (Mongolian wild horse) disappeared from Mongolia a hundred years ago. It has survived since then in zoos. That is not domestication in the classic sense, but it is captivity, with keepers providing food and veterinarians providing health care. Then they were released during the 1990s and now repopulate their native range in Mongolia. Are they a reintroduced native species or not? And what is the difference between them and E. caballus in North America, except for the time frame and degree of captivity?

Cultural Archeological Records say no; wild horses are native and did not go extinct in America:

Some interesting studies have recently brought to light important details from the journals of the French explorers who penetrated more deeply onto the North American continent than any other explorers as of the early 16th century. And in fact had made contact with the Lakota Indians that resided on the plains-lands the stretched between the Mississippi River and the Rocky Mountains and observed them riding horses and hunting buffalo using methods and tools (evolved spear designs) that were advanced in that place and time. The journals of these explorer-cartographers are now being studied from their secure locations in museums, where scientists have uncovered these illuminating revelations of wild horses having been tamed and ridden for centuries in America prior to the arrival of the French explorers in the early 1600's, thus predating the arrival of any Spaniards and even the Vikings on the North American continent. The clear implication is that the Lakota tribes had been taming and using wild horses for buffalo hunting for at least several hundred years prior to the arrival of the Spaniards and the re-introduction of their horses to America. Here is a link to a very interesting study that details some of these facts: http://www.curlyhorses.com/documents/AboriginalNorthAmericanHorse.pdf

Molecular Biology & Genetics say no; the DNA doesn't lie, wild horses today *are* descended from the Yukon Horse ('E. *lambei*'):

With the recent advent of new field on science of Molecular Biology, there are new genetic studies that point to the fact that wild horses in America today are a native species. This article discusses that subject in depth, and in short states: “The work of Michael Hofreiter examining the genetics of the so-called E. *lambei* from the permafrost of Alaska, found that the variation was within that of modern horses, which translates into E. *lambei* actually being E. *caballus*, genetically.” (M. Hofreiter, M., Serre, D. Poinar, H.N. Kuch, M., Pääbo, S., Ancient DNA. *Nature Reviews Genetics*. 2(5), 2001, pp353-359). Thus, as Hofreiter adds, “the molecular biology evidence is incontrovertible and indisputable, and is also supported by the interpretation of the fossil record, as well.”
There is further reading to the same point here.

Myth Two: *Wild horses compete for the same foods that depleted deer populations need:*

Another common fallacy even among hunters is that; 'wild horses deprive deer and elk of their preferred grazing choices in the wild', which is false.

The study by R. M. Hansen, R. C. Clark and W. Lawhorn titled '*Foods of Wild Horses, Deer and Cattle in the Douglas Mountain Areas, Colorado'* shows that wild horses do not adversely compete with deer for food. The key statement in the study is on Page 117, which states;

"The similarity indices and correlation coefficients show a strong potential for competition between wild horses and cattle, but little potential conflict between mule deer and the other two herbivores" [horses and cattle].

Black tail deer in western coastal areas similarly have little potential for grazing competition for foods with wild horses, hence the characterization used by wildlife biologists in regard to the co-evolutionary grazing adaptation between wild horses and cervids as being 'commensal'; essentially *eating from the same table without competing.*

Myth Three: ***Wild horses damage North American range and riparian areas:***

Arguably one of the cattle industry's favorite whoppers is that wild horses damage range and riparian lands. Cattle require extensive management to minimize the extensive damage they do to pastures and especially wetlands and riparian areas. The fact is that cattle are an invasive species imported onto the North American continent by settlers as early as the very end of the 15th century, and certainly to the Americas by the first part of the 16th century from Africa. It is important to note that there are no cattle fossils anywhere to be found on the North American continent. It is also important to note that cattle have an evolutionary adaptive hoof design that arguably provides extra traction in wetlands which are their preferred homesteads in a natural ecosystem.

More detailed information and photos about the differential evolutionary adaptations between cattle and equid (horse) hooves and the impacts of those differently evolved hooves on range and wetlands is found here: https://www.horsetalk.co.nz/2017/09/25/evolution-wild-horses-cattle-effect-range-damage/

Another damaging aspect of cattle is their multi-stomach ruminant digestive system, which is quite effective at digesting most of the plant and grass seeds they consume when grazing native pastures, rending those seeds non-viable and thereby eliminating the natural reseeding process of the plants and grasses consumed.

Wild horses on the other hand have a very simple single stomach gastric system, which passes most of the seeds they consume intact and viable back onto the pastures they graze, thereby effectively reseeding the pastures. This is without doubt an evolutionary symbiotic mutualism where the plants and grasses provide sustenance for the wild horses and in-turn the horses provide a reseeding mechanism via their hummus rich droppings, which also contains nutrients valuable to the seeds when they germinate. More information here: https://www.horsetalk.co.nz/2016/08/21/symbiont-wild-horses-belong-american-ranges/

Wild horses have many other mutualisms within the ecosystems of the American landscape, including with trees, which they adopt as their means of shelter from the heat of the summer and rains and snows of winter. In return, wild horses graze-down all of the grasses and plants under the trees thus removing that fuel for wildfires. They also use the trees for scratching, and due to their height and body mass, are able to break-off low-hanging branches (fire ladders) which are subsequently broken-up on the ground by the hooves of the horses as they decompose, adding to the nutrients from the horse's droppings, all of which build hummus and nutrient-rich soils under the trees. The results of this mutualism are that trees so adopted are made more fire resilient. And as we see in the photo below, wild horses grazing in and around forests will create 'natural' fire-breaks, which change the characteristics of wildfires in a manner that benefits the forests.

As we consider the foregoing it becomes strikingly obvious that the logic that follows from millennia of evolutionary processes leading to the complex mutualisms between plants, grasses and wild horses is the basis of a perfectly adapted symbiosis that cannot be duplicated be any animal(s) which has evolved in another off-continent ecosystem, such as the genetic lines of cattle that stem from African evolutionary processes.

It's a sham for any scientist to disparage or minimize the intrinsic value of wild horses to American ecosystems.

The cattle industry desperately attempts to paint wild horses as a current problem on public lands by stating that wild horses are damaging to range-lands. It is very well-known that cattle and sheep operations have wreaked more havoc on U.S. range-lands than all other species combined over the past 5,000 years, as cited by Professor Thomas L. Fleischner, Ph.D. to wit:

"The most severe vegetation changes of the last 5,400 years occurred during the past 200 years. The nature and timing of these changes suggest that they were primarily caused by 19th-century open-land sheep and cattle ranching."

So as we can now see, the cattle industry and others who repeat these myths and false narratives have done and continue to do a grave injustice to the reputation and the natural history of America's wild horses, which have been a great blessing to mankind; literally a gift from the Creator. America was built off the backs of horses, so where would we all be today without their mutualism with man?

Mountain lion attacks concern residents - KOBI-TV NBC5 / KOTI-TV ...

https://kobi5.com › Local › News

1. Cached
2. Similar

Sep 27, 2016 - He thinks his donkeys could have a chance of scaring the **cougars** away, but he's more worried about his chickens if a mountain lion were somehow able to jump over the fence. In 2015, **Oregon** Department of Fish and Wildlife received 61 calls involving mountain lions in **Jackson County**. “It's really not that ...

Reported cougar sighting in Ashland - KOBI-TV NBC5 / KOTI-TV NBC2

▸ 1:47

https://kobi5.com › Local › News › Top Stories

Apr 13, 2017 - Uploaded by KOBI Tee-Vee

ASHLAND, Ore. – An Ashland resident said they saw a **cougar** in their backyard just a few hundred yards from ...

ODFW Living with Wildlife - Cougars

www.dfw.state.or.us › Wildlife Division › Living with Wildlife › Cougars

1. Cached
2. Similar

Jul 17, 2017 - **Cougars**. Living with **Cougars Oregon** is home to more than 6,000 **cougars**, or mountain lions. While **cougar** sightings and encounters are rare, it is wise to educate yourself about the big cats. Native to **Oregon**, **cougars** range throughout the state, the highest densities occur in the Blue Mountains in the ...

Cougar sighted in Ashland backyard - News - MailTribune.com ...

www.mailtribune.com/news/20170414/cougar-sighted-in-ashland-backyard

1. Cached

Apr 14, 2017 - An Ashland resident reported seeing a **cougar** in their backyard at 5:30 this morning in the area of Central Avenue and North Laurel Street in Ashland, according to a news release sent out by Ashland police.The **Oregon** Department of Fish and Wildlife was notified of the sighting, police said.Ashland police ...

Cougar sighting spooks Grants Pass homeowner - News - MailTribune ...

www.mailtribune.com/article/20150108/news/150109711

1. Cached
2. Similar

Jan 8, 2015 - The ODFW generally gets more than 100 complaints a year about damage from **cougars**, typically involving small livestock, in **Jackson** and Josephine **counties**. In 2014 there were 118 complaints, and 17 **cougars** were killed in connection with these complaints. Another 33 **cougars** were killed by hunters in ...

State confirms third wolf attack on Jackson County ranch this month ...

www.oregonlive.com/environment/index.ssf/.../state_confirms_third_wolf_atta.html

1. Cached

State confirms third **wolf** attack on **Jackson County** ranch this month. Updated January 16, 2018 at 3:42 PM ; Posted January 16, 2018 at 1:40 PM. OR-54, a young female **wolf**, is a member of the Rogue Pack in Southern **Oregon**. She is the first **wolf** in the region to be tracked in several years.(Courtesy of USFWS). Comment.

Wolves expected to make their move to Southwest Oregon ...

www.oregonlive.com/environment/index.ssf/.../wolves_expected_to_make_their.html

1. Cached

Apr 19, 2017 - A pack is described as four **wolves** traveling together in winter, a status OR-7, his mate and their first two pups cracked three years ago. The pack is currently denning in the same general area of federal forestland in eastern **Jackson County** they have the past three years, Vargas says. They have produced ...

Wolf kills calf on Jackson County ranch, first known attack in 2018 ...

www.oregonlive.com/environment/index.ssf/.../wolf_kills_calf_on_jackson_cou.html

1. Cached

Wolf kills calf on **Jackson County** ranch, first known attack in 2018. Posted January 9, 2018 at 4:08 PM. OR-54, a young female **wolf**, is a member of the Rogue Pack in Southern **Oregon**. She is the first **wolf** in the region to be tracked in several years.(Courtesy of USFWS). Comment. By Andrew Theen · atheen@oregonian.

2 more calves killed by wolves in Jackson County - KOBI-TV NBC5 ...

https://kobi5.com › Local › News › Top Stories

1. Cached

Jan 12, 2018 - **JACKSON COUNTY**, Ore. – Two more calves were killed by **wolves in Jackson County**, just days after another calf was found dead. On January 4 a cattle producer found a dead calf on private ranchland about six miles southeast of Prospect, in the Boundary Butte area. The 250-pound calf was found about ...

Calf killed by wolves in Jackson County - KOBI-TV NBC5 / KOTI-TV ...

https://kobi5.com › Local › News › Top Stories

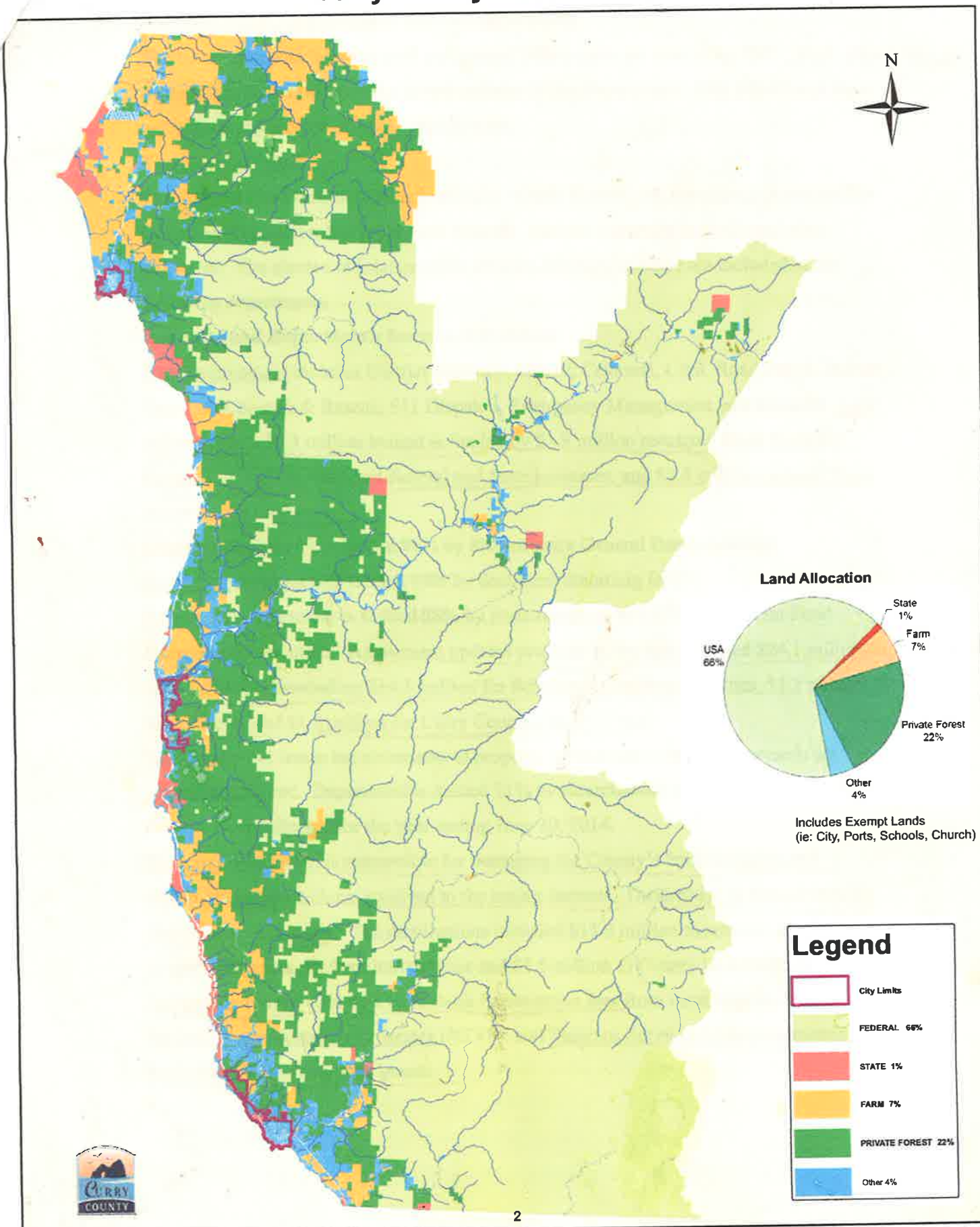
1. Cached

Jan 8, 2018 - **JACKSON COUNTY**, Ore. – Officials say **wolves** killed a calf inside a fenced pasture within 500 yards of a residence near Prospect. The **Oregon** Department of Fish and Wildlife said a cattle producer heard howling on the night of January 3 in the Boundary Butte area, about 6 miles southeast of Prospect.

County Wolf Advisory Committee - Jackson County, Oregon

jacksoncountyor.org/Commissions-Committees/.../Wolf-Advisory-Committee

Curry County Land Owners



Date: 1/20/2012

Path: D:\WorkSpace\County\GeneralMaps\Land_Allocation_County 8 x 11 .mxd