United States Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
Nez Perce National Forest
104 Airport Road
Grangeville, ID 83530
208-983-1950
Clearwater National Forest
12730 Highway 12
Orofino, ID 83544
208-476-4541

File Code: 1950
Date: May 1, 2013

Dear Planning Participant:

The Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests will be considering a number of **proposed** projects and conducting environmental analyses in the near future. A separate decision will be made on each project.

The District Rangers have made preliminary assessments that these projects fall within categories of actions listed in 36 CFR 220.6, thereby excluding them from documentation in an Environmental Assessment (EA) or Environmental Impact (EIS) Statement.

Brief project descriptions are incorporated in Part A or Part B of this letter based on the comment requirements.

To submit a comment on any of these proposals, please follow the instructions provided under the "How to Provide Comments" section of each category.

Thank you for your continued participation in projects involving the Nez Perce–Clearwater National Forests.

Sincerely,

for RICK BRAZELL
Forest Supervisor

Enclosures:
Part A Projects/Maps
Part B Projects/Maps/Photographs

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PART A PROJECTS

Introduction

The Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests will be considering the following five proposed projects (hereinafter referred to simultaneously as "proposed, proposal, project, and/or project") and conducting environmental analyses in the near future. Please review the following proposals and submit your comments as described below so they can be included in our analyses.

How to Provide Comments

We are interested in your comments about these proposals and invite you to send site-specific written comments to us for the following:

- **Kelly Creek Cabin Special Use Permit Reissuance**
- **Big Creek Road Maintenance**
- **Laird Park Play Equipment Replacement**
- **Bridge Creek Trail Restoration**
- **Cook Ranch Trail Restoration**

To assure your written comments are fully considered during the analyses of these projects, please submit your comments by **May 31, 2013**. Comments submitted after this date will be accepted but our ability to respond effectively could be reduced. **Please note that all comments received will be included in the public record; therefore, names, phone numbers, addresses, and electronic mail addresses of participants cannot be kept confidential (7 CFR 1 (B)1-27(c)).**

If you have any questions or would like additional information regarding these projects, please contact Linda S. Helm, Small NEPA Coordinator, Nez Perce – Clearwater National Forests, Kamiah, Idaho or call (208) 935-4285. Oral comments must be provided to her during normal business hours *via* telephone or in person. Written comments should either be mailed or hand-delivered (between 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (PST), Monday through Friday, excluding holidays) to her c/o Nez Perce – Clearwater National Forests, Supervisor's office, 104 Airport Road, Grangeville, Idaho 83530; submitted *via* facsimile transmittal to her at (208) 935-4275, where they will be forwarded to the Kamiah office *via* electronic mail. Electronic mail comments should be submitted in rich text format (.rtf) or Word (.doc) to comments-northern-nezperce@fs.fed.us.

If you choose to comment on the proposals, please include the following: (1) your name, address, and (if possible) your telephone number, and organization represented (if any);

(2) title of the project on which you are submitting comments; (3) specific facts and relevant rationale concerning this project that you feel should be considered.

Project Proposals

North Fork Ranger District

Kelly Creek Cabin Special Use Permit Reissuance to Idaho Fish & Game
Legal Description: T39N, R11E, Section 16 (Boise Meridian) See page 20, enclosed.
Proposed Category: 36 CFR 220.6(e)(3) *Approval, modification, or continuation of minor special uses of NFS lands that require less than five contiguous acres of land.*
Narrative Summary: Idaho Fish and Game's special use permit for the use of the North Fork Ranger District's Kelly Creek Cabin has expired and is currently being rewritten to reflect a more accurate portrayal of necessary management practices for the cabin.

The North Fork District Ranger would like to reissue a special use permit to Idaho Fish & Game for "**Official Use**" of the District's Kelly Creek Cabin. The Ranger would like to set up the permit to last two to four years. The permit would start in 2013 and be re-evaluated in 2015 or 2017. Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests' North Idaho Lands Zone would assist the District in rewriting the permit to portray a more accurate description of management practices.

Project Information: If you have questions or would like more information regarding this project, contact Adam McClory at (208) 875-1734.

Palouse Ranger District

Big Creek Road Maintenance
Legal Description: T42N, R3W, Sections 7, 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17 (Boise Meridian) See page 21, enclosed.
Proposed Category: 36 CFR 220.6(d)(4) *Repair and maintenance of roads, trails, and landline boundaries.*
Narrative Summary: The Big Creek Road 370 is a cost share road from mile post 3.06 to mile post 8.48. From Highway 6 to mile post 3.06, the road is surfaced with aggregate and is maintained by the North Latah County Highway District. The road is a native surfaced road for the cost shared segment and is in need of heavy maintenance, as the drainage features are no longer functioning.

In a field survey last year, it was found that the majority of the culverts on the road are in need of replacement. Historically, this road has been subjected to heavy rutting and washouts as many of the culverts are undersized and not functioning. This has led to a considerable amount of water ponding on the road. Potlatch Corporation (hereinafter referred to as "Potlatch") plans to haul a considerable amount of timber volume across the Big Creek Road in the next five years and would like to reconstruct the road to bring it up to hauling standards. The reconstruction of this road would prove to benefit both

cost share cooperators as the 370 road accesses the east side of Gold Hill and would be a Forest Service hauling route in the future.

The Palouse District Ranger and Potlatch are proposing to reconstruct the Big Creek Road 370 on the cost share segment to bring the road up to acceptable Best Management practices (hereinafter referred to as "BMPs"). The work would include realigning segments of the road to provide adequate site distance and drainage; replacing and adding culverts, including re-sizing culverts to meet 100-year flood events; and, surfacing the road with aggregate and base rock, as needed. The total length of maintenance would be 5.42 miles.

Potlatch would like to begin work August of 2013, with an estimated completion time of two months. The work would be done under a road maintenance agreement between the Forest Service and Potlatch. The Forest Service and Potlatch would share the actual cost of doing the work. Although the work should stay within the road right of way, in some areas there may be ground disturbance so that the road may be realigned to gain better drainage and site distance.

The equipment used would be typical road maintenance equipment; i.e., dozers, excavators, graders, and dump trucks.

The project would temporarily restrict access. Prior to implementation of the project, the County, State of Idaho, and other adjacent land owners would be notified.

Project Information: If you have questions or would like more information regarding this project, contact David Ratliff at (208) 875-1718.

Laird Park Play Equipment Replacement
Legal Description: T42N, R3W, Section 31 (Boise Meridian) See page 22, enclosed.
Proposed Category: 36 CFR 220.6 (d)(5) *Repair and maintenance of recreation sites and facilities.*
Narrative Summary: Laird Park Campground is the Palouse Ranger District's most active campground during the summer camping season, often reaching full capacity on weekends and, specifically, within day use areas. The swimming area in Laird Park is the most active day use area for children and families to reside.

Currently, a small play structure composed of treated timbers and a metal slide is located within the swimming area. The structure receives high use and is in substandard condition due to its age. The weathered surfaces of the timbers used for the structure are uncomfortable for children to play on; children frequently sustain splinters and small scrapes. Likewise, a different material for the surface of the structure's slide would be more desirable than the existing one which is made of metal and reaches high surface temperatures during the summer months.

The Palouse District Ranger proposes to address the current state of the facility and provide an enhanced recreation experience for users, by implementing the following activities (all of which fall within the administrative boundaries of the site):

- Decommission the current play structure at the swimming area.
- Expand the 20' x 20' footprint to 35' x 35'.
- Install and grade a sand base in reconstructed footprint of the 35' x 35' play area to 8" depth.
- Install a new play structure that meets American Society of Testing Materials (ASTM) performance standards, complying with F1487, as well as F2373 (23 months – 6 years of age group specific regulations), as noted in the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission Handbook (Page 2).
- Install a new information sign board at the entrance to the swimming area.
- Remove vegetation, as necessary, to ensure proper placement of recreation site facilities.
- Install bumpers around the perimeter of the play area

Weed Management:

The Palouse Ranger District also proposes to treat the reconstructed area with weed spraying throughout the entire swimming area.

- Spraying will be consistent with common practices used on the District; i.e., Contractor and chemical type.
- Spraying will be kept 15' away from stream bank.
- To prevent human exposure, spraying will occur only after the campground has closed at the end of the season.

Water Quality Management:

- The existing structure's footprint is 61' away from the stream bank.
- The proposed expansion of the footprint will be away from the stream to maintain the set distance of 61'.
- The swimming area maintains a 1 percent slope towards the stream through mowed lawn creating a low runoff co-efficient, resulting in little erosion concern within the project site.

No other resources are expected to receive impact.

Project Information: If you have questions or would like more information regarding this project, contact Adam McClory at (208) 875-1734.

Red River Ranger District

Bridge Creek Trail Restoration (Trail 504)
Legal Description: R6E, T1N, Sections 28, 21 (Boise Meridian) See page 23, enclosed.
Proposed Category: 36 CFR 220.6 (d)(4) *Repair and maintenance of roads, trails, and landline boundaries.*
Narrative Summary: The Bridge Creek Trail (Trail 504) was washed out because the existing drainage structures failed; and, increased illegal ATV use over-widened the template, causing major gulley erosion. The Forest Service has received complaints from the public, the local outfitter, and Agency personnel concerning the magnitude of erosion problems, safety issues, and illegal use on this trail.

Attempting to alleviate these issues, the Red River District Ranger proposes trail restoration work on the 504 Trail. The restoration work would begin at the termini off Forest Road 234, and would end at Trail 505.

This project would develop check dams and drainage structures of log and rock, as well as pull the eroded side slopes to an angle of repose. This would help reduce surface erosion and improper trail usability by removing gullies that exceed 4' in depth, and make the trail safer for public use.

All of the work would be completed with hand tools. There would be no change in access restrictions; however, the trail would be maintained as an 18" to 24" tread-width trail which would help reduce the illegal ATV use that is occurring on it.

It is estimated that it may take as long as one field season to complete the project.

Project Information: If you have any questions or would like more information regarding this project, contact Brooks Beegle at (208) 842-2139.

Cook Ranch Trail Restoration (Trail 586)
Legal Description: T26N, R9E, Sections 36, 31, 32 (Boise Meridian) See page 24, enclosed.
Proposed Category: 36 CFR 220.6 (d)(4) *Repair and maintenance of roads, trails, and landline boundaries.*
Narrative Summary: Historically, Cook Ranch Trail (Trail 586) has years of outfitter and public stock traffic with little or no maintenance; however, runoff water has turned portions of the trail into a stream channel, creating erosion and safety issues. The proposed solution to these issues is to reduce the steep eroded backs of the gullied trail to an angle of repose, thereby allowing placement of check dams and drainage structures.

The Red River District Ranger proposes restoration work, specifically drainage and tread work, on the first four miles of Trail 586, where the trail enters Forest Service land.

Hand equipment will be used by Force account crews to complete the work. There would be no change in access restrictions by completing this project.

This project would take most of a summer season to complete. The District Ranger expects to begin the project once funding is secured.

Project Information: If you have any questions or would like more information regarding this project, contact Brooks Beegle at (208) 842-2139.

Part B Projects

Introduction

The Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests will be considering the following project proposals and conducting environmental analyses in the near future.

How to Provide Comments

Please review the following proposals and submit your site-specific comments as described below so they can be included in our analyses for the following projects:

- **Bagley Creek Placer Exploration**
- **Baldy Creek Placer Exploration**
- **Heritage Gulch Placer Exploration**
- **Holy Grail Placer Exploration**
- **Orogrande 2013**
- **Bear Track Placer Exploration**
- **H30 Adam's Water Association Transmission Line and Spring Box Special Use Permit Issuance**

For these seven projects, written, facsimile, hand-delivered and oral comments will be accepted for **30 calendar days following publication of a legal notice in the *Lewiston Tribune*.** The publication date in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the comment period for this proposal. One should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source.

If you have any questions or would like additional information regarding these projects, please contact Linda S. Helm, Small NEPA Coordinator, Nez Perce – Clearwater National Forests, Kamiah, Idaho or call (208) 935-4285. Oral comments must be provided to her during normal business hours *via* telephone or in person. Written comments should either be mailed or hand-delivered (between 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (PST), Monday through Friday, excluding holidays) to her c/o Nez Perce – Clearwater National Forests, Supervisor's office, 104 Airport Road, Grangeville, Idaho 83530; submitted *via* facsimile transmittal to her at (208) 935-4275, where they will be forwarded to the Kamiah office *via* electronic mail. Electronic mail comments should be submitted in rich text format (.rtf) or Word (.doc) to comments-northern-nezperce@fs.fed.us.

If you choose to comment on the proposals, please include the following: (1) your name, address, and (if possible) your telephone number, and organization represented (if any); (2) title of the project on which you are submitting comments; (3) specific facts and relevant rationale concerning this project that you feel should be considered. For appeal eligibility, each individual must either sign the comments or verify identity upon request. Additional information regarding how to comment can be found at 36 CFR 215.6.

Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names, telephone numbers, addresses, and electronic mail addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposed action and will be available for public inspection. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; **however, those who submit anonymous comments may not have standing to appeal** the subsequent decision pursuant to 36 CFR Part 215. Additionally, pursuant to 7 CFR 1.27(d), any person may request the Agency to withhold a submission from the public record by showing how the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) permits such confidentiality. Persons requesting such confidentially should be aware that, under the FOIA, confidentiality may be granted in only very limited circumstances, such as to protect trade secrets. The Forest Service will inform the requester of the agency's decision regarding the request for confidentiality and the available options at that time (see 7 CFR 1.27 for further information).

Project Proposals

Red River Ranger District

Bagley Creek Placer Exploration
Legal Description: T26N, R9E, Sections 6 and 7 (Boise Meridian) See page 25, enclosed.
Proposed Category: 36 CFR 226.6(e)(8) *Short-term (1 year or less) mineral, energy, or geophysical investigations and their incidental support activities that may require cross-country travel by vehicles and equipment, construction of less than 1 mile of low standard road, or use and minor repair of existing roads.*
Narrative Summary: The Red River District Ranger proposes to allow the claim operator to excavate approximately 40-45 test pits for the purpose of testing placer gravels for mineral values.

A standard set of mitigation measures has been developed for exploration proposals of this type and would be implemented for this project as well as any additional mitigation, as appropriate. Idaho BMPs for mining would be adhered to. A field review, which includes the operator, would be necessary before the project is initiated to identify specific sites, related issues, and possible site-specific mitigation measures.

A reclamation bond appropriate to the operation would be calculated by the Forest Service. A bond sufficient to cover all necessary reclamation would be submitted by the operator before the Plan of Operation is approved and before work may begin.

The 40-45 test pits would be dug with a John Deere 510 backhoe or similar sized backhoe, and would be sized a maximum of 12' x 12' down to bedrock, if possible. Materials would be processed with a small wash plant, which would discharge processed materials and water back into the test pit.

Process water would initially be drawn from Bagley Creek, then recirculated from the test pit and reused. When finished, the pit would be refilled with material, topsoil replaced, and the affected area reseeded and mulched, as needed. Only one pit would remain open at a time. This technique would preclude the need for discrete settling ponds and would minimize the amount of reclamation bond required.

Equipment used in the operation would include a John Deere 510 backhoe, small wash plant with sluice boxes, 580 Case backhoe, water pumps, and related support equipment. Pickups and ATVs would be used for access and to haul supplies to the site. Camping would be on privately-owned land in Dixie.

The claim operator would obtain a temporary water right from the Idaho Department of Water Resources, and the water withdrawal site would be reviewed by Forest Service specialists before water is removed from Bagley Creek.

No live water or wetlands would be directly affected by this proposal. An appropriate buffer of at least 20' would be maintained between any surface disturbance and adjacent streams or wetland areas.

No roads or trails need to be constructed for this project. Access to the project area is from Dixie on Forest Road 222 to Forest Road 1190 (Jack Mountain Road) to Road 1190B. A primitive road/trail from 1190B runs overland through an old clear-cut to the project site. This road may require some clearing for access. Some dead and/or down timber may be removed for access and safety. A number of small trees may need to be removed. These would be cut down and piled to one side, scattered about the immediate area, and left in place when work is finished. Merchantable sized trees would not be removed without prior review and authorization from the District Ranger.

This project is currently proposed for the spring and summer of 2013 and may extend through the 2014 operating season, depending on weather and timing. Duration of the operation would be one year or less.

Project Information: If you have questions or would like more information regarding this project, contact Martin Jones at (208) 983-5158.

Baldy Creek Placer Exploration
Legal Description: T30N, R7E, Sections 18 and 19 (Boise Meridian) See page 26, enclosed.
Proposed Category: 36 CFR 226.6(e)(8) *Short-term (1 year or less) mineral, energy, or geophysical investigations and their incidental support activities that may require*

cross-country travel by vehicles and equipment, construction of less than 1 mile of low standard road, or use and minor repair of existing roads.
Narrative Summary: The Red River District Ranger proposes to allow the claim operators to excavate up to 12 placer test pits in the Baldy Creek drainage.

A standard set of mitigation measures has been developed for exploration proposals of this type and would be implemented for this project as well as any additional mitigation, as appropriate. Idaho BMPs for mining would be adhered to. A field review, which includes the operator, would be necessary before the project is initiated to identify specific sites, related issues, and possible site-specific mitigation measures.

A reclamation bond appropriate to the operation would be calculated by the Forest Service. A bond sufficient to cover all necessary reclamation would be submitted by the operator before the Plan of Operation is approved and before work may begin.

The 12 pits would be dug with a small (16,000 lbs.) excavator and sized 10' x 10' maximum down to bedrock, if possible. Materials would be processed by first excavating them from a pit, and separating them by layers (topsoil, overburden, pay material, etc.) Materials would be hauled with a small end-loader to a site where they would be processed through a small, high banker-type sluice box. Two small settling ponds would be constructed to hold process water and settle out sediments.

Process water would initially be drawn from Baldy Creek, and recirculated from the settling ponds.

The claim operators would obtain a temporary water right from the Idaho Department of Water Resources, and the water withdrawal site would be reviewed by Forest Service specialists before water is removed from Baldy Creek.

No live water or wetlands would be directly affected by this proposal. An appropriate buffer of at least 20' would be maintained between any surface disturbance and adjacent streams or wetland areas.

Reclamation would be concurrent with the operation. As testing is completed at each pit, it would be reclaimed, re-contoured, seeded, and mulched, as needed. At the completion of the project, the settling ponds would be refilled, topsoil would be replaced, and all disturbed areas would be reseeded and mulched, as needed.

No roads or trails need to be constructed for this project. Access to the project area is by Forest Road 1858 up Newsome Creek to the mouth of Baldy Creek, where a primitive two-track road leads upstream to the project area. Some dead and/or down timber may be removed for access and safety. A number of small trees may need to be removed. These would be cut down and piled to one side, scattered about the immediate area, and left in place for erosion control when work is completed. Merchantable-sized trees would not be removed without prior review and authorization from the District Ranger.

This project is currently proposed for the spring and summer of 2013 and may extend through the 2014 operating season, depending on weather and timing. Duration of the operation would be one year or less.

Project Information: If you have any questions or would like more information regarding this project, contact Martin Jones at (208) 983-5158.

Heritage Gulch Placer Exploration
Legal Description: T30N, R7E, Sections 18-19 (Boise Meridian) See page 27, enclosed.
Proposed Category: 36 CFR 226.6(e)(8) *Short-term (1 year or less) mineral, energy, or geophysical investigations and their incidental support activities that may require cross-country travel by vehicles and equipment, construction of less than 1 mile of low standard road, or use and minor repair of existing roads.*
Narrative Summary: The Red River District Ranger proposes to allow the claim operator to conduct placer testing in the Newsome Creek drainage.

The project site is in the riparian area and the toe of the hill slope containing stockpiled dredge tailings on the west side of Newsome Creek, from the northwest claim corner to the southwest claim corner. This project falls within an area of Newsome Creek which is part of a proposed watershed restoration project.

A standard set of mitigation measures has been developed for exploration proposals of this type and would be implemented, as appropriate, for this project along with any additional mitigation that is appropriate. In addition, Idaho BMPs for mining would be adhered to. A field review, which includes the operator, would be necessary before the project is initiated to identify specific sites and related issues and possible site-specific mitigation measures.

A reclamation bond appropriate to the operation would be calculated by the Forest Service. A bond sufficient to cover all necessary reclamation would be submitted by the operator before the Plan of Operation is approved and before work may begin.

This testing would be accomplished by digging 12 – 15, 10' x 10' or 10' x 12' test pits down to bedrock, when possible. Materials would be processed by first excavating them from a pit, and separating them by layers (topsoil, overburden, pay material, etc.) Materials would be processed with a trammel (def: a screened cylinder used to separate materials by size) and sluice box combination.

A small (approximately 12' x 12') settling pond would be necessary to hold and recirculate process water, and settle out sediments and other fine material.

Process water would initially be drawn from Newsome Creek, and re-circulated through the settling pond. When finished, the settling pond would be refilled with material, topsoil replaced, and the affected area re-seeded.

Only one pit would remain open at a time. This technique precludes the need for discrete settling ponds and would minimize the amount of reclamation bond required.

Equipment used would include the aforementioned processing plant, skid steer loader, and small excavator. ATVs with trailers would be used to access the project area and to transport equipment and supplies, as needed.

The claim operator would obtain a temporary water right from the Idaho Department of Water Resources, and the water withdrawal site would be reviewed by Forest Service specialists before water is removed from Newsome Creek.

No live water or wetlands would be directly affected by this proposal. An appropriate buffer of at least 20' would be maintained between any surface disturbance and adjacent streams or wetland areas.

Access to the project area is by Forest Road 1858 up Newsome Creek to Forest Road 1826, up Road 1826 to Trail 819 to Newsome Creek, up Newsome Creek *via* Trail 826 to the project site. Some trail *reconstruction* would be required in order to access the project site with equipment. No road construction or reconstruction would be required. Some dead and/or down timber may be removed for access and safety. A number of small trees may need to be removed. These would be cut down and piled to one side, scattered about the immediate area, and left in place for erosion control when work is completed. Merchantable sized trees would not be removed without prior review and authorization from the District Ranger.

This project is currently proposed for the spring and summer of 2013 and may extend through the 2014 operating season, depending on weather and timing. Duration of the operation would be one year or less.

Project Information: If you have any questions or would like more information regarding this project, contact Martin Jones at (208) 983-5158.

Holy Grail Placer Exploration
Legal Description: T16N, R8E, Sections 21, 26 (Boise Meridian) See page 28, enclosed.
Proposed Category: 36 CFR 226.6(e)(8) *Short-term (1 year or less) mineral, energy, or geophysical investigations and their incidental support activities that may require cross-country travel by vehicles and equipment, construction of less than 1 mile of low standard road, or use and minor repair of existing roads.*
Narrative Summary: The Red River District Ranger proposes to allow the claim, operator to excavate a series of three to four narrow sample channels in each of five individual areas for the purpose of testing placer gravels for mineral values. The project site is located in an area which has been previously disturbed due to placer mining activity.

A standard set of mitigation measures has been developed for exploration proposals of this type and would be implemented as well as any additional mitigation that is appropriate. State of Idaho BMPs for mining would be adhered to. A field review, which includes the operator, would be necessary before the project is initiated to identify specific sites, related issues, and possible site-specific mitigation measures.

A reclamation bond appropriate to the operation would be calculated by the Forest Service. A bond sufficient to cover all necessary reclamation would be submitted by the operator before the Plan of Operation is approved and before work may begin.

Once individual sampling sites are selected, they would be flagged, and GPS mapped. Pre-sampling digital photographs of the individual sample sites would be taken to establish a record of the project activities before and after completion. The operator intends to excavate narrow bucket width (shorter than boom length) individual trenches to bedrock utilizing a locally-hired, 580 Case backhoe; rented sports utility or pickup truck; and, a towable, smaller version, rubber-tire backhoe.

Sample trench bucket width is contemplated to be 12" to 14" wide, with each individual trench being approximately 6' in length, extending to a depth of 3' to 6' to bedrock. Where applicable, any existing on-site surface vegetation, organic litter layer, woody debris or topsoil would be scraped off, removed, and set to one side of the individual sample trench.

Once a single sample trench is excavated to a maximum depth of 6', a gravel sample of 3 to 4 cubic feet in volume would be removed and set aside in five gallon plastic buckets. After individual trench gravel samples are removed, each shallow trench would be immediately back filled; contour-leveled; and (when available on site), covered with topsoil, vegetation, organic litter layer, and woody debris to simulate pre-existing site conditions.

The claim operator projects three to four shallow sample trenches would be excavated 15' to 25' apart within each of five separate individual sample areas, in the manner described above. Gravel samples stored in plastic buckets would be manually loaded into a vehicle, and transported *via* existing roads to the vicinity of the "camp" area for washing on a daily basis.

Gravel samples would be hand-shovel fed through a small Keene Engineering High-Banker (sluice box).

Water for running the high-banker spray bars and sluice box would be pumped *via* a small Honda gas engine powered pump, and collapsible hose from the South Fork of 4th of July Creek to the high-banker.

The claim operator would obtain a temporary water right from the Idaho Department of Water Resources, and the water withdrawal site would be reviewed by Forest Service specialists before water is removed from the South Fork of 4th of July Creek .

The high-banker would generate turbid water, silt, and one-half inch minus gravel fine, which would directly entrain into an excavated infiltration gallery contemplated to be approximately 2' or 3' in width, about 20' in length, and about 3' to 6' feet in depth.

The high-banker and in-situ infiltration galley would be situated on a slightly sloping grade upslope of the tent camp area. Ground slope would permit turbid water to gravity flow the length of the infiltration gallery, allowing liquid effluents to percolate-infiltrate into the surrounding down-slope subsurface dirt, gravel and rocks, as a natural filter mechanism.

Silt/drift fences or straw wattles would be installed immediately down slope of high-banker effluent infiltration gallery to prevent sediment delivery to aquatic habitats in the event of an intense precipitation event or infiltration gallery overload failure.

No gasoline, diesel fuel, lubrication oil, grease, hydraulic fluid or other petroleum products would be released on any project site.

Maximum total sample volume is contemplated to be approximately 320 cubic feet, or about 12 cubic yards of fine gravel material; in total, the bulk equivalent of about one twelve-yard standard dump truck load.

As sample washing progresses on a daily basis, if it becomes obvious the infiltration gallery would fill with fine gravel before all sample washing is completed, the down slope end of the gallery would be extended for a distance sufficient to preclude filling with fine gravel before all samples are washed. The infiltration galley extension is not expected to be more than an additional 10' in length.

Once all samples are washed, the infiltration gallery, and any disturbed area immediately adjoining it, would be refilled and contour-leveled. If available on site, it would be covered with topsoil, vegetation, organic litter layer, woody debris to simulate pre-existing site conditions.

No live water or wetlands would be directly affected by this proposal. An appropriate buffer of at least 20' would be maintained between any surface disturbance and adjacent streams or wetland areas.

Limited short distance overland travel; i.e., not on an existing road, is contemplated to access specific open areas where on-site geology, local terrain topography and bordering historical placer workings indicates sub-surface placer gold should be present.

Vehicles and equipment would not be operated when ground and/or road conditions are such that excessive damage would occur; i.e., saturated road or soil conditions.

Access to the project site is *via* Forest Service Road 222 to Dixie, up Road 222C to the project area. To minimize potential ground disturbance impacts, individual sample sites

have been selected on the basis of existing roadside accessibility. No new roads would be constructed, and no live standing timber would be cut; however, standing dead trees, dead windfall trees and/or dead stumps or snags may be cut and set aside to improve access and for safety issues.

This project is currently proposed for the spring and summer of 2013 and may extend through the 2014 operating season, depending on weather and timing. Duration of the operation would be one year or less.

Project Information: If you have any questions or would like more information regarding this project, contact Martin Jones at (208) 983-5158.

Orogrande 2013
Legal Description: T27N, R7E, Sections 13, 24; T27N, R8E, Section 19 (Boise Meridian) See page 29, enclosed.
Proposed Category: 36 CFR 226.6(e)(8) *Short-term (1 year or less) mineral, energy, or geophysical investigations and their incidental support activities that may require cross-country travel by vehicles and equipment, construction of less than 1 mile of low standard road, or use and minor repair of existing roads.*
Narrative Summary: The Red River District Ranger proposes to allow the claim operator to perform exploratory drilling in the Badger Summit area of the Red River Ranger District, approximately three airline miles south of Orogrande.

A standard set of mitigation measures has been developed for exploration proposals of this type and would be implemented for this project as well as any additional mitigation, as appropriate. Idaho BMPs for mining would be adhered to. A field review, which includes the operator, would be necessary before the project is initiated to identify specific sites, related issues, and possible site-specific mitigation measures.

A reclamation bond appropriate to the operation would be calculated by the Forest Service. A bond sufficient to cover all necessary reclamation would be submitted by the operator before the Plan of Operation is approved and before work may begin.

The proposal is for a total of six drill sites. Each of these drill sites is anticipated to be approximately 30' x 50' in size. A maximum of two holes may be drilled at each site. These holes are estimated to be 3" in diameter and from 750' to 1000' deep. Drilling depths may be adjusted as targets become more defined.

The holes would be drilled using a self-contained track mounted drill rig. The drill rig would be self-leveling to minimize the need for excavation of the drill area. A sump would be dug at each site to contain drilling fluid and to allow drill cuttings to settle out. This sump would measure approximately 3' wide by 3' – 4' deep, and approximately 20' long. Drilling fluid would be comprised of water and a clay derivative.

The operation would require between 500 and 1000 gallons of water per day, which would be obtained from a source on nearby patented mining claims (private land). In the

event that insufficient water is available from this source, water would be hauled onsite with a 1000 gallon water tanker.

In the event that water would need to be drawn from Forest Service streams, the claim operator would obtain a temporary water right from the Idaho Department of Water Resources, and the water withdrawal site would be reviewed by Forest Service specialists before water is removed.

Upon completion of drilling, each drill hole would be filled and plugged according to the State of Idaho BMPs for filling and plugging drill holes. Upon abandonment of a drill site, sumps would be allowed to dewater through percolation and evaporation, then backfilled. Topsoil would be replaced, duff and woody debris scattered over the area if available, the area seeded and mulched, as necessary. If earth-leveling is required for any drill pad, the area would be restored to original contour, topsoil replaced, and the site re-vegetated. Each drill site would be reclaimed when work at that site is completed before moving on to the next drill site.

Two, "4 x 4" trucks would be used to support drilling activities. One "chase truck" would carry drilling supplies and tools, and a pickup would be used to carry miscellaneous equipment and supplies.

Access to the project area is made by taking Forest Road 233 from State Highway 14 to a point just south of Orogrande, then *via* Forest Road 311 to the project area.

Only one site would require approximately 300' of temporary road construction. This temporary road would be re-contoured, mulched with existing duff and woody debris, and seeded (as required) as part of the reclamation of the drill site it accesses. Required surface disturbance to reach the remaining drill sites would be minimal and may require some brushing of existing road templates or overland routes, and temporary removal of drainage structures. Some minor widening of the road surface may be required at some of the sites for drill pads, depending on the orientation of the drill rig.

This project is currently proposed for the spring and summer of 2013 and may extend through the 2014 operating season, depending on weather and timing. Duration of the operation would be one year or less.

Project Information: If you have any questions or would like more information regarding this project, contact Martin Jones at (208) 983-5158.

Salmon River Ranger District

Bear Track Placer Exploration

Legal Description: T25N, R4E, SE¼, Section 7 (Boise Meridian) See page 30, enclosed.

Proposed Category: 36 CFR 226.6(e)(8) *Short-term (1 year or less) mineral, energy, or geophysical investigations and their incidental support activities that may require cross-country travel by vehicles and equipment, construction of less than 1 mile of low standard road, or use and minor repair of existing roads.*
Narrative Summary: The Salmon River District Ranger proposes to allow the claim operator to excavate 8-10 placer test pits for the purpose of testing placer gravels for mineral values.

A standard set of mitigation measures has been developed for exploration proposals of this type and would be implemented, as appropriate for this project, along with any additional mitigation that is appropriate. Idaho BMPs for mining would be adhered to. A field review, which includes the operator, would be necessary before the project is initiated to identify specific sites, related issues, and possible site-specific mitigation measures.

A reclamation bond appropriate to the operation would be calculated by the Forest Service. A bond sufficient to cover all necessary reclamation would be submitted by the operator before the Plan of Operation is approved and before work may begin.

The project area is located in the Meadow Creek drainage. These test pits would be dug with a John Deere 160 or similar sized excavator or backhoe to bedrock, if possible, and would be sized a maximum of 15' x 15' to a maximum depth to bedrock. Material would be processed with a small or medium sized wash plant, which would discharge processed materials and water back into the pit.

Process water would initially be drawn from Meadow Creek, re-circulated from the test pit, and reused.

When finished, the pit would be refilled with material, topsoil replaced, and the affected area reseeded. Only one pit would be open at a time, with the exception that, if one pit is inadequate to contain and store process water and waste material, a second test pit may be left open concurrently and used as a backup. This technique would preclude the need for discrete settling ponds, minimizing the amount of reclamation bond required.

The claim operator would obtain a temporary water right from the Idaho Department of Water Resources, and the water withdrawal site would be reviewed by Forest Service specialists before water is removed from Meadow Creek.

No live water or wetlands would be directly affected by this proposal. An appropriate buffer of at least 20' would be maintained between any surface disturbance and adjacent streams or wetland areas.

Equipment used in the operation would include a John Deere 160-size excavator, 10 ton/hour wash plant with sluice boxes, 580 Case backhoe, 5 yard single axle dump

truck, ATVs, storage and equipment trailers, and camp trailers. Camping would be at a dispersed campsite adjacent to the project area.

No roads or trails need to be constructed for this project. Access to the project area is from Grangeville to Forest Development Road 221 to Forest Development Road 394 to Forest Development Road 9922 to 9922A. From 9922A, access is by old trails and jeep roads. The project area is adjacent to an approximately 600' stretch of the East Fork of Meadow Creek.

Some dead and/or down timber may be removed for access and safety. A number of small trees may need to be removed. These would be cut down and piled to one side, scattered about the immediate area, and left in place when work is finished. Merchantable sized trees would not be removed without prior review and authorization from the District Ranger.

This project is currently proposed for the spring and summer of 2013 and may extend through the 2014 operating season, depending on weather and timing. Duration of the operation would be one year or less.

Project Information: If you have any questions or would like more information regarding this project, contact Martin Jones at (208) 983-5158.

H30 Adam's Water Association Transmission Line and Spring Box Special Use Permit Issuance
Legal Description: T27N, R3E, NE¼, SE¼, Section 23 (Boise Meridian) See pages 31-33, enclosed.
Proposed Category: 36 CFR 226.6(e)(3) *Approval of a minor special use of National Forest Service lands that requires less than 5 contiguous acres.*
Narrative Summary: In 2012, Melissa Gilbert, Rita Herman, and Vickie Sears coordinated to form the H30 Adams Water Association (hereinafter referred to as "AWA"), to consolidate their individual special use permit requests into one request.

The AWA submitted a request to install a 1"– 2" buried waterline from an unnamed spring that exists on National Forest Lands (immediately northwest of the old Adams Ranger Station) to transport water approximately 380 yards to private property. Once the water is on private property, it would be held in a catchment container to support three individual recreation residences on private property. The water line would be drained in the winter and would service the owners for the spring, summer, and early fall months of the year.

Currently, two of the three parties comprising AWA have been hauling water from a nearby spring with permission from their neighbor and relative who has a special use permit (Dillon: SAL528701); however, the spring supplying this holder was deemed insufficient by the proponents to provide sufficient water for three additional summer residences. Because the proposed water source is close by, and there is a precedent

of providing special use permits for water transmission lines on the South Zone of the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest, AWA opted to request approval and pay for a water transmission special use permit, rather than invest in a well on their lands.

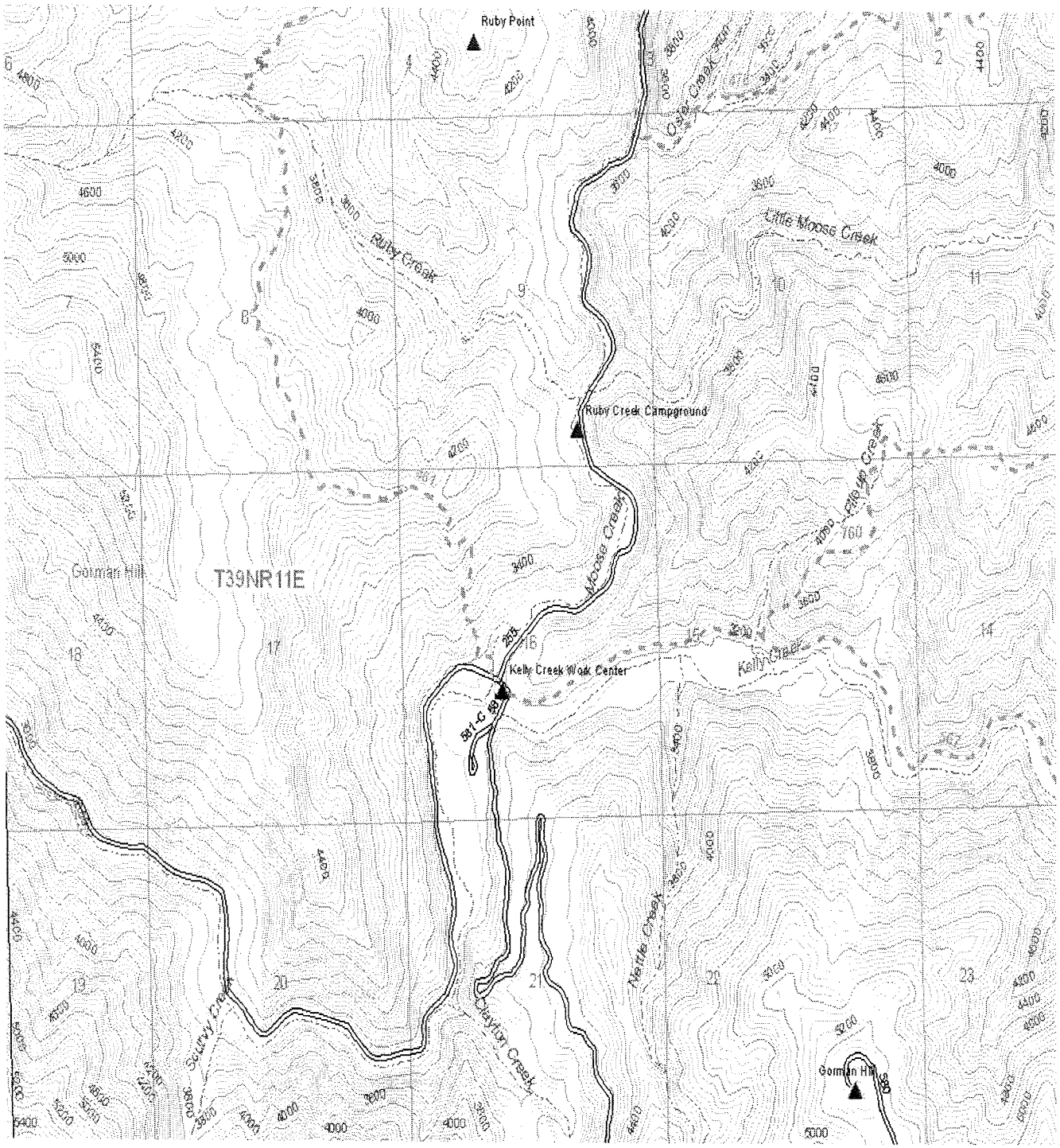
The proposed improvements include:

- A spring box made of wood or a piece of culvert to capture the water. Dimensions to be determined and would adhere to standards required by the Forest Service.
- A 6' x 6' fence around the spring box to keep cattle out of the source. Materials to be determined, subject to Forest Service approval.
- Approximately 380 yards of 1"-2" buried transmission line (pipe or hose) running from the spring to AWA's private property along an old skid trail (approximately 6000 sq. ft. = .14acres).
- Because cattle roam the locale, AWA has requested approval to bury the water transmission line 8"-12" deep to prevent possible damage to the line. To decrease installation impacts in the riparian area, near the spring and resulting stream, AWA would dig the line by hand for approximately 50 yards. Once beyond the soft riparian soils, the transmission line would follow an existing skid trail.
- Due to the rocky nature of the skid trail, AWA has requested permission to use an excavator with a bucket to dig the remaining 330 yards of trench. No trees would be cut; the incline of the slope between the starting and ending point of the line is less than 40' change in elevation.
- Implementation of the project would be conducted in the dry season to reduce impact to the soil and mechanical equipment would not come within 150' of the stream channel. Mechanized entry on the Forest would be minimal to dig the one foot deep line. Trench width would be less than two feet wide, and excavated material would be replaced once the waterline is installed.

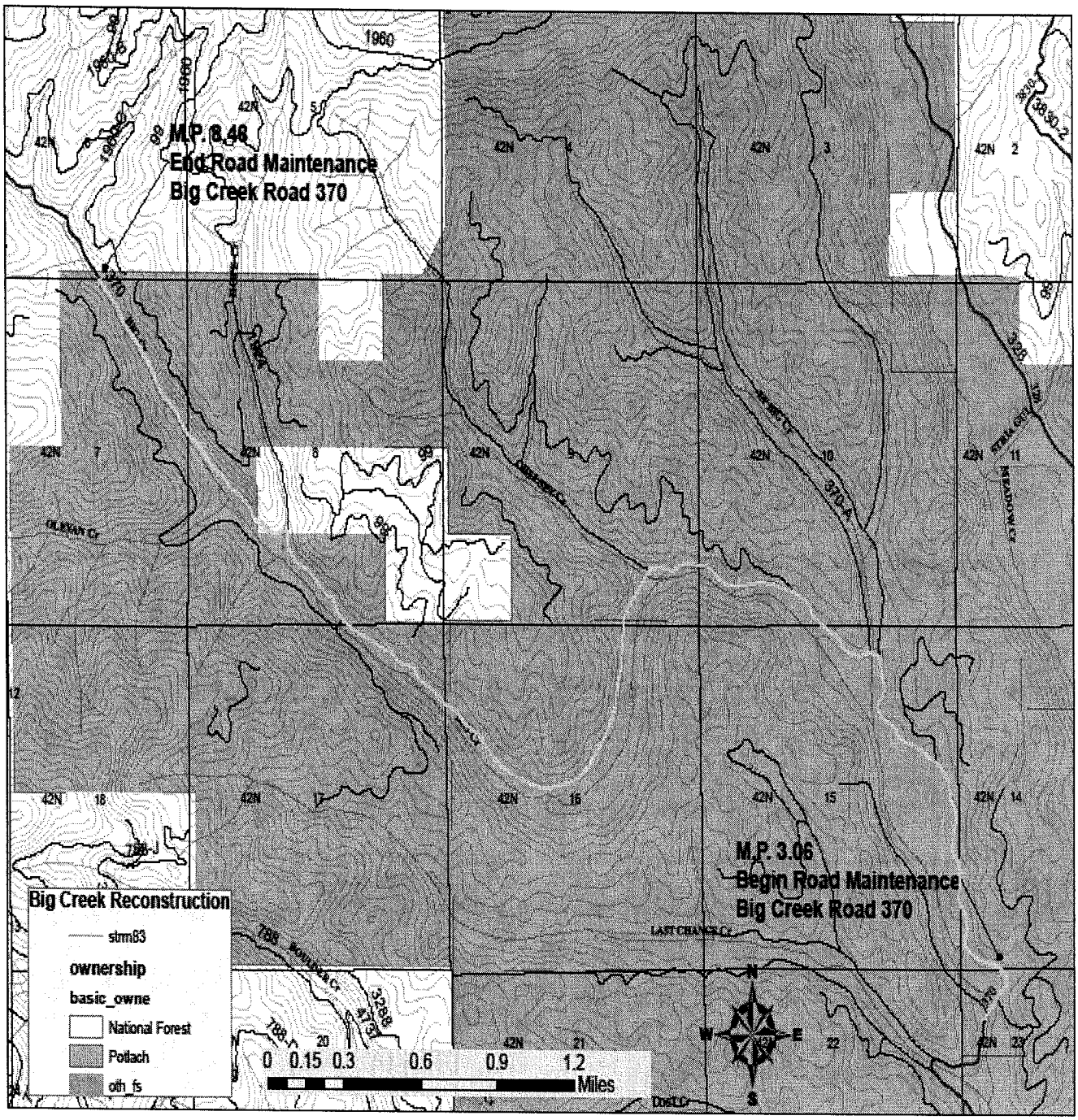
The AWA would like to install the spring box and waterline as soon as is practicable in 2013, pending approval from the Forest Service. Once approved, it is estimated that installation of the water line would take less than one month.

Project Information: If you have any questions or would like more information regarding this project, contact Kearstin Edwards at (208) 935-4255.

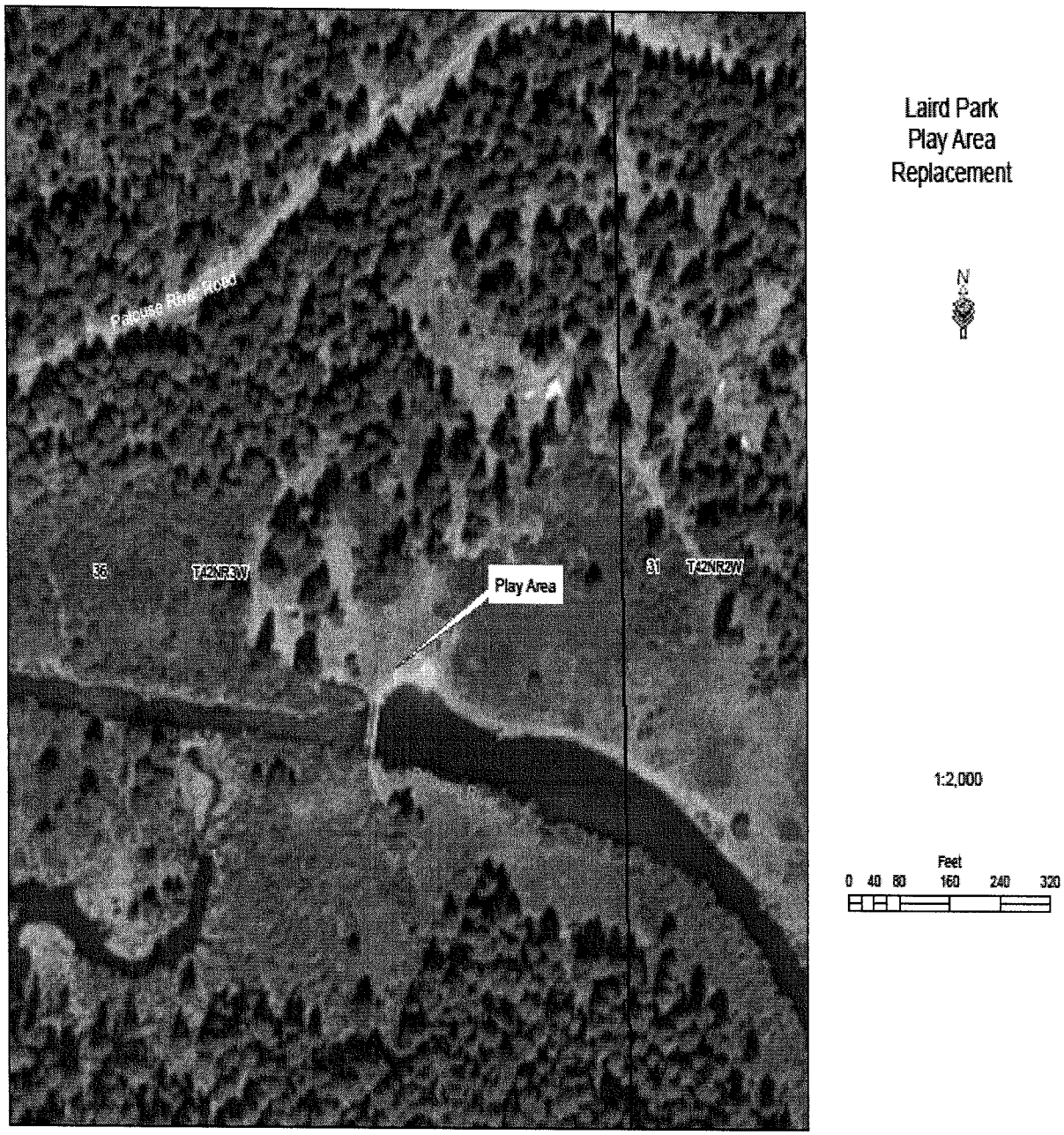
MAPS AND PHOTOGRAPHS FOLLOW



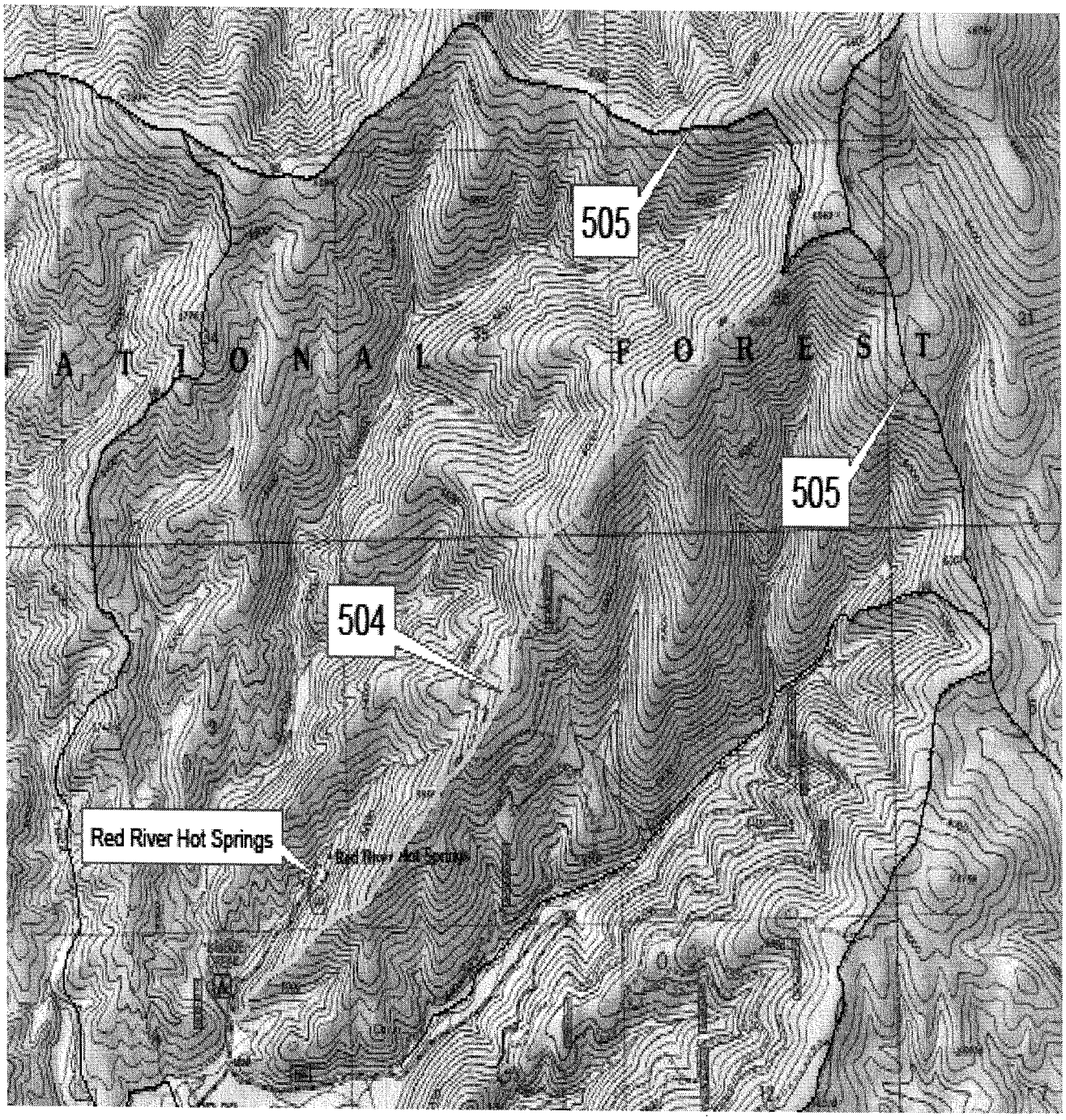
MAP
KELLY CREEK CABIN
SPECIAL USE PERMIT REISSUANCE



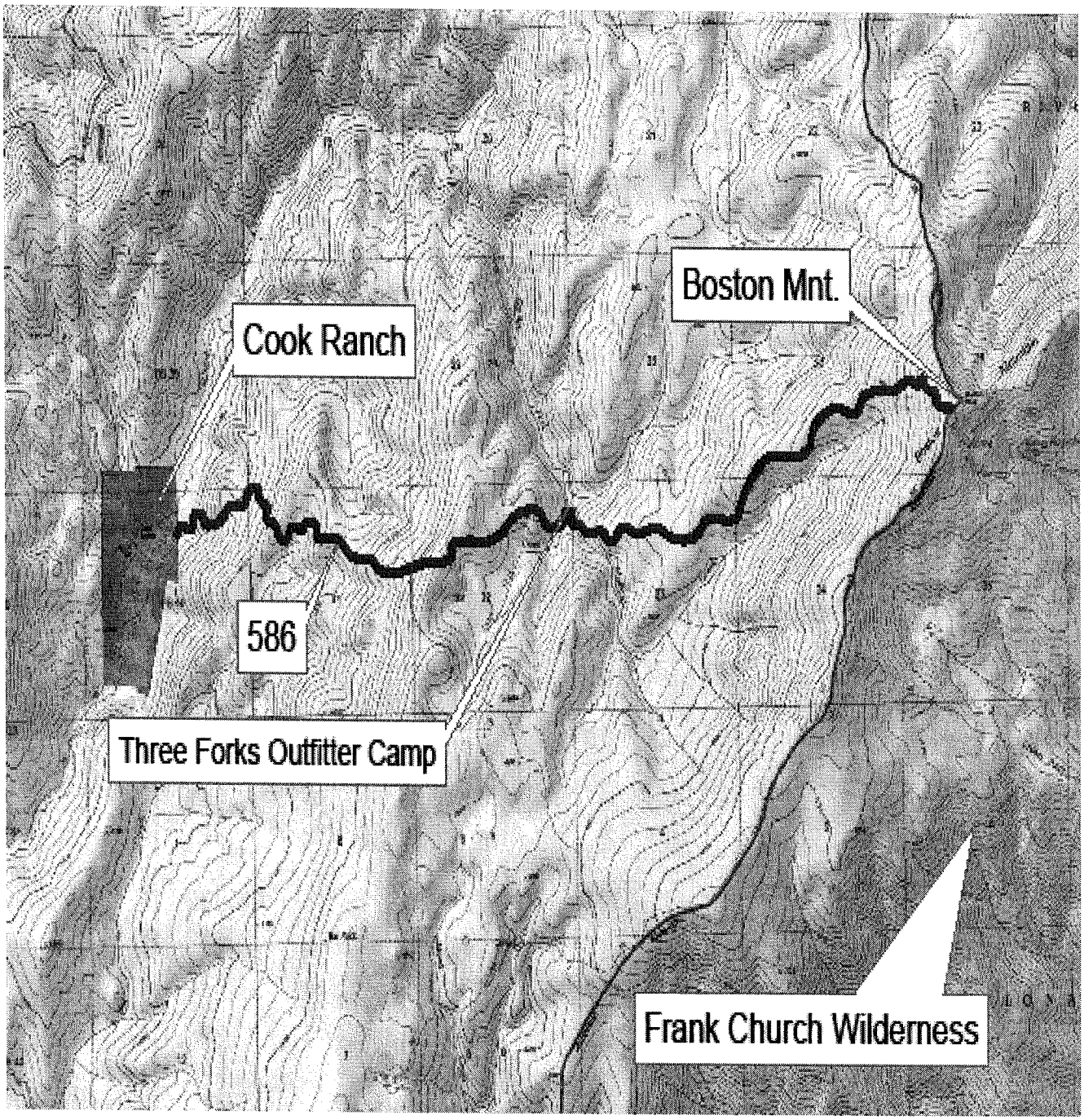
MAP
SITE OF BIG CREEK
ROAD MAINTENANCE PROJECT



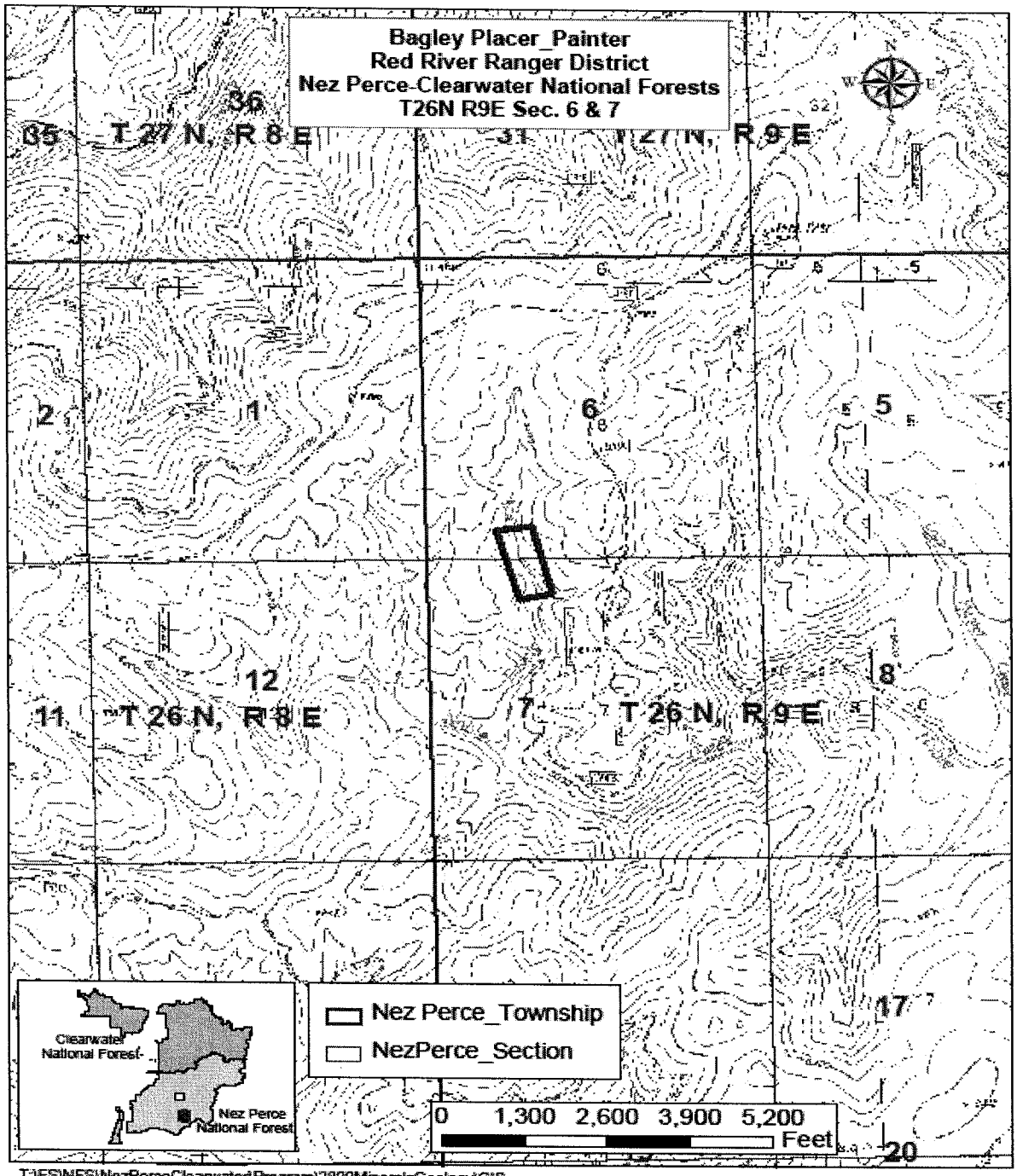
MAP
SITE OF LAIRD PARK
EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT PROJECT



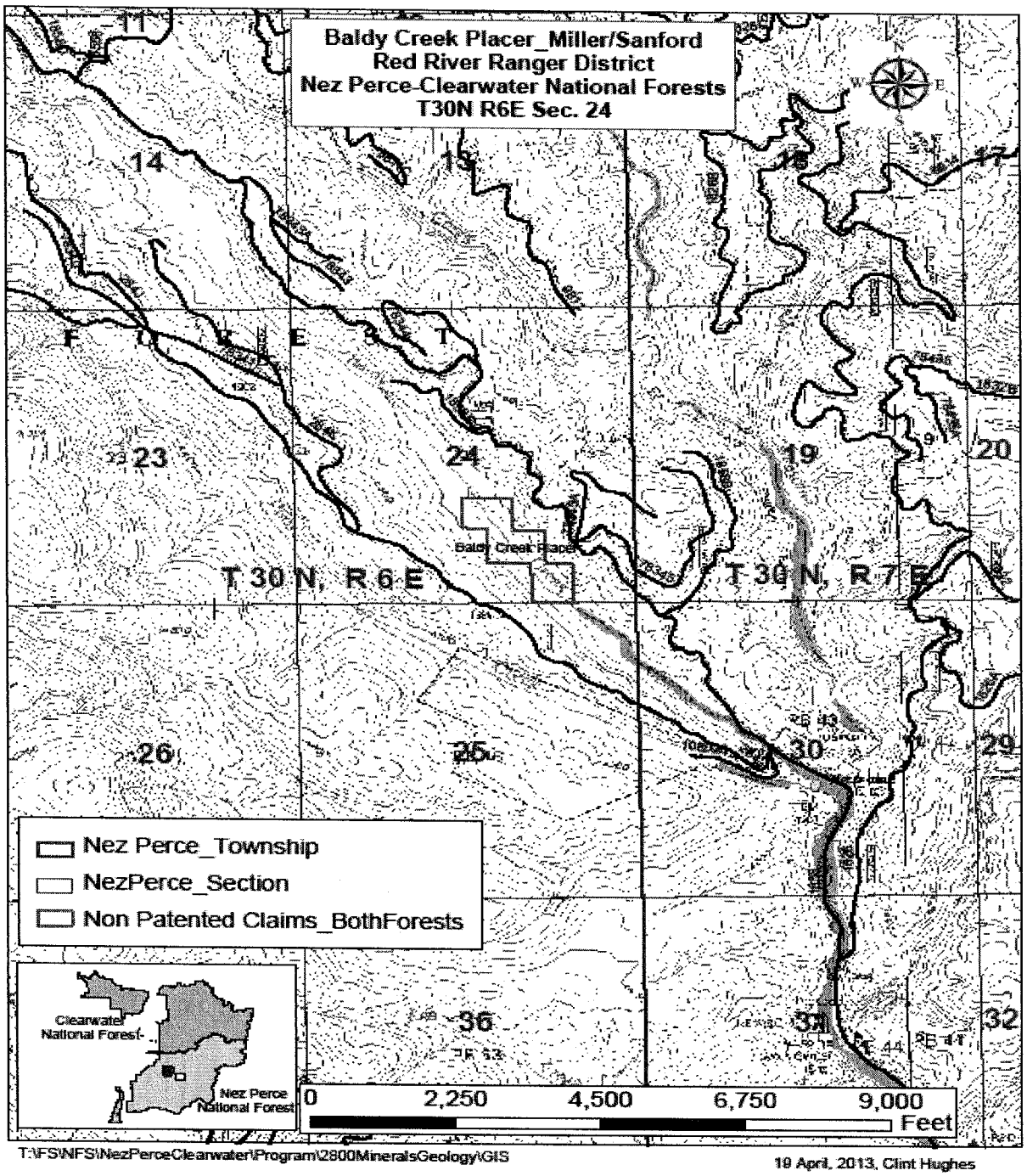
MAP
BRIDGE CREEK TRAIL
RESTORATION PROJECT



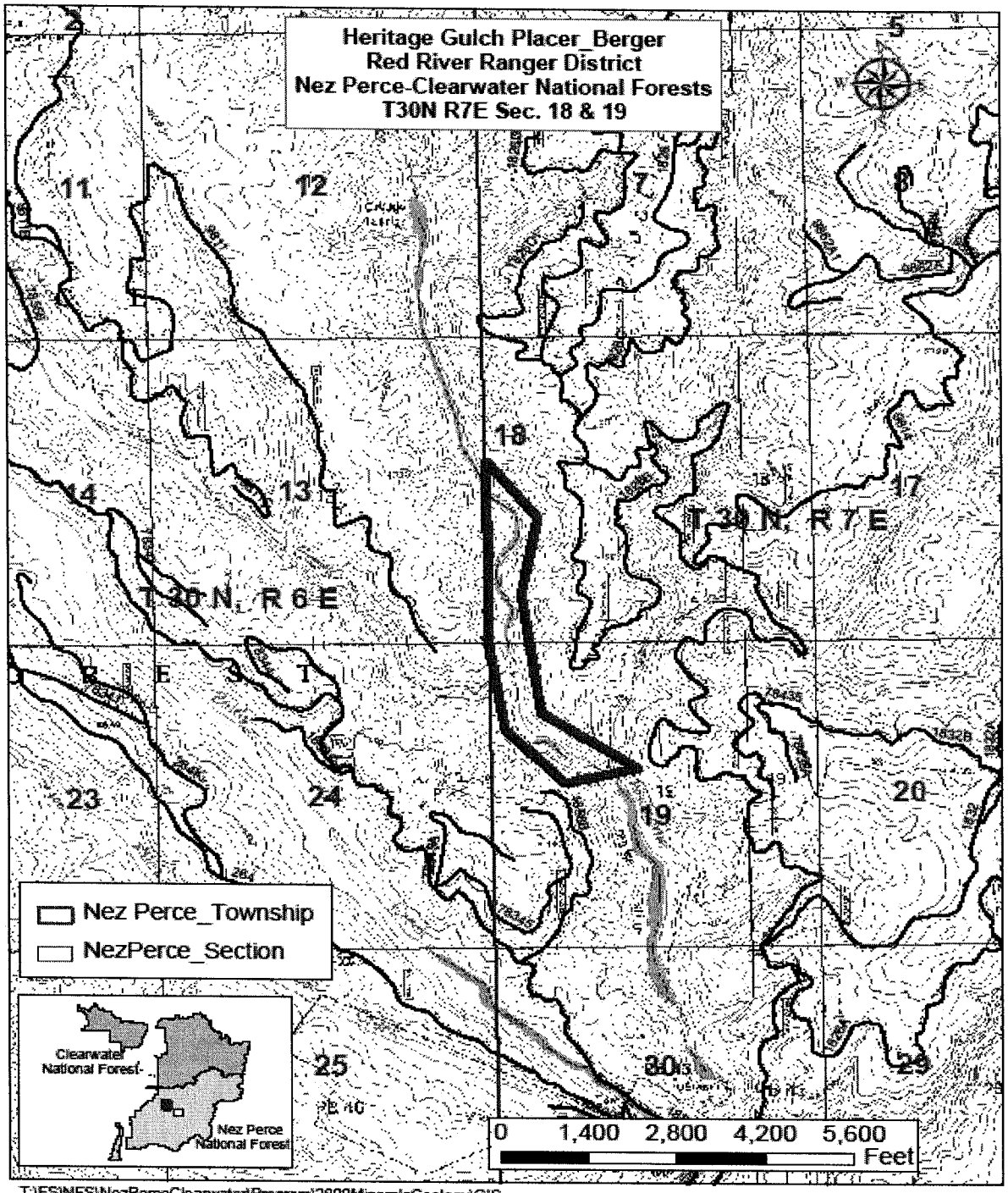
MAP
COOK RANCH TRAIL
RESTORATION PROJECT



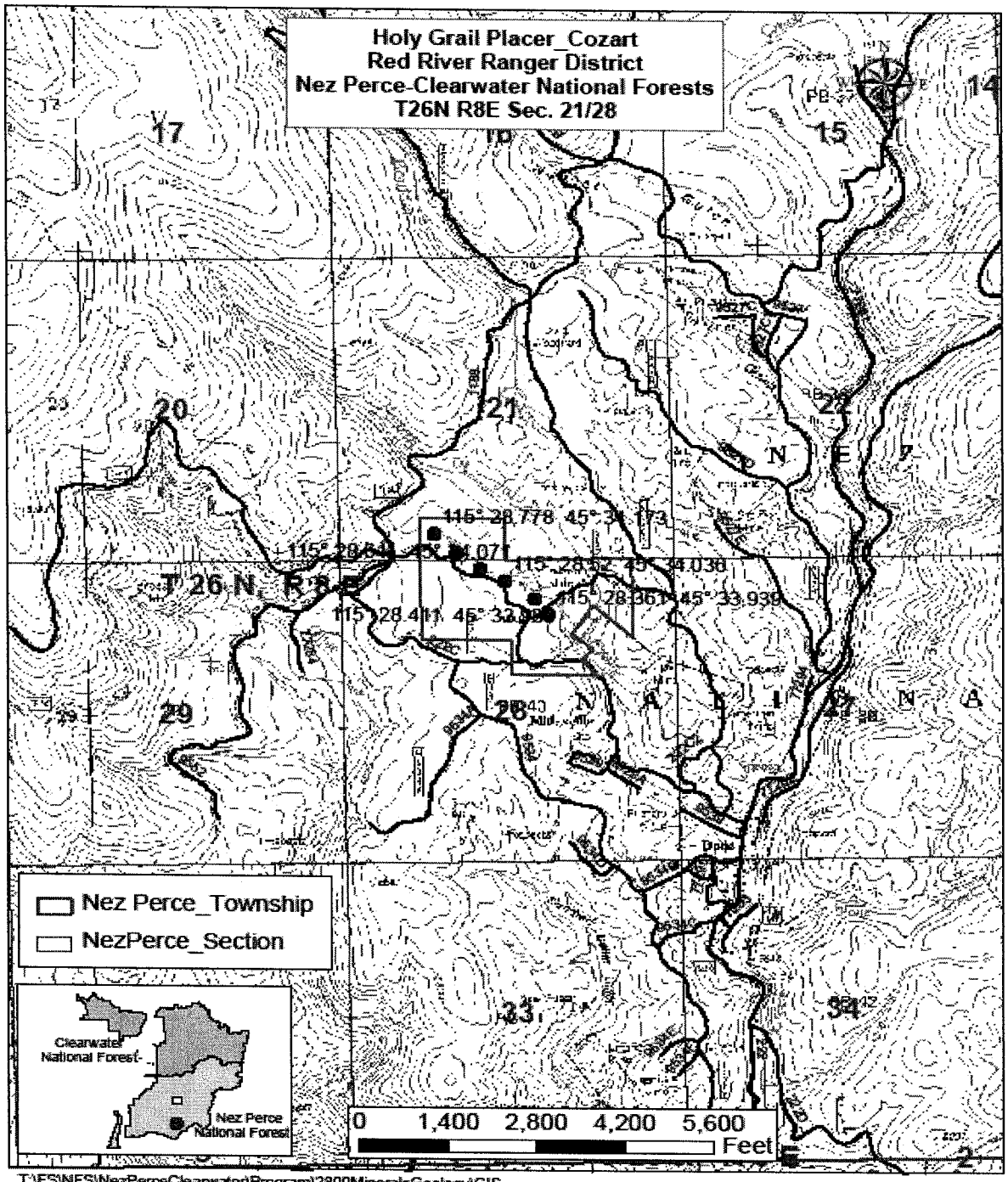
MAP
BAGLEY CREEK
PLACER EXPLORATION PROJECT



MAP
BALDY CREEK
PLACER EXPLORATION PROJECT



MAP
HERITAGE GULCH
PLACER EXPLORATION PROJECT



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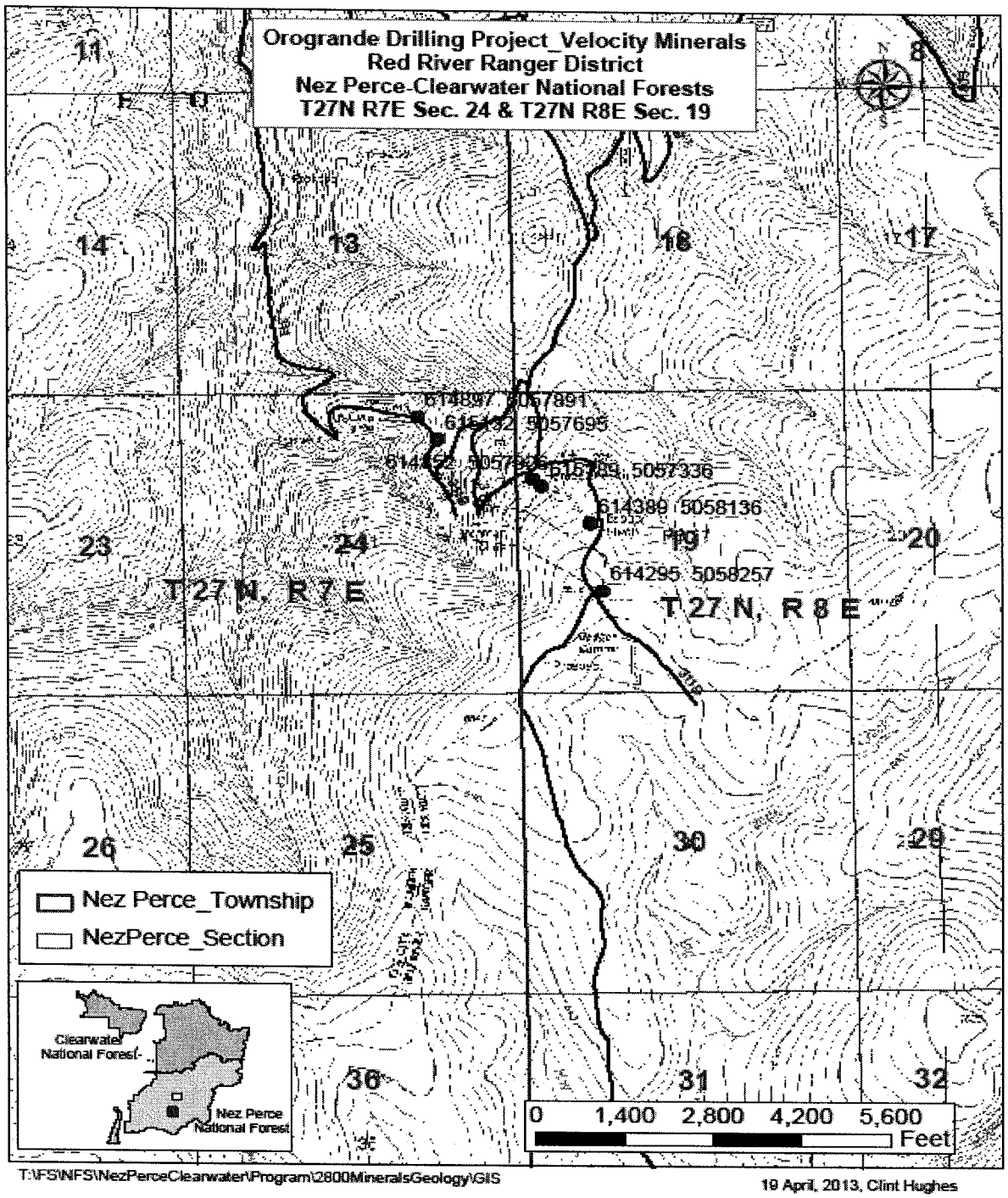
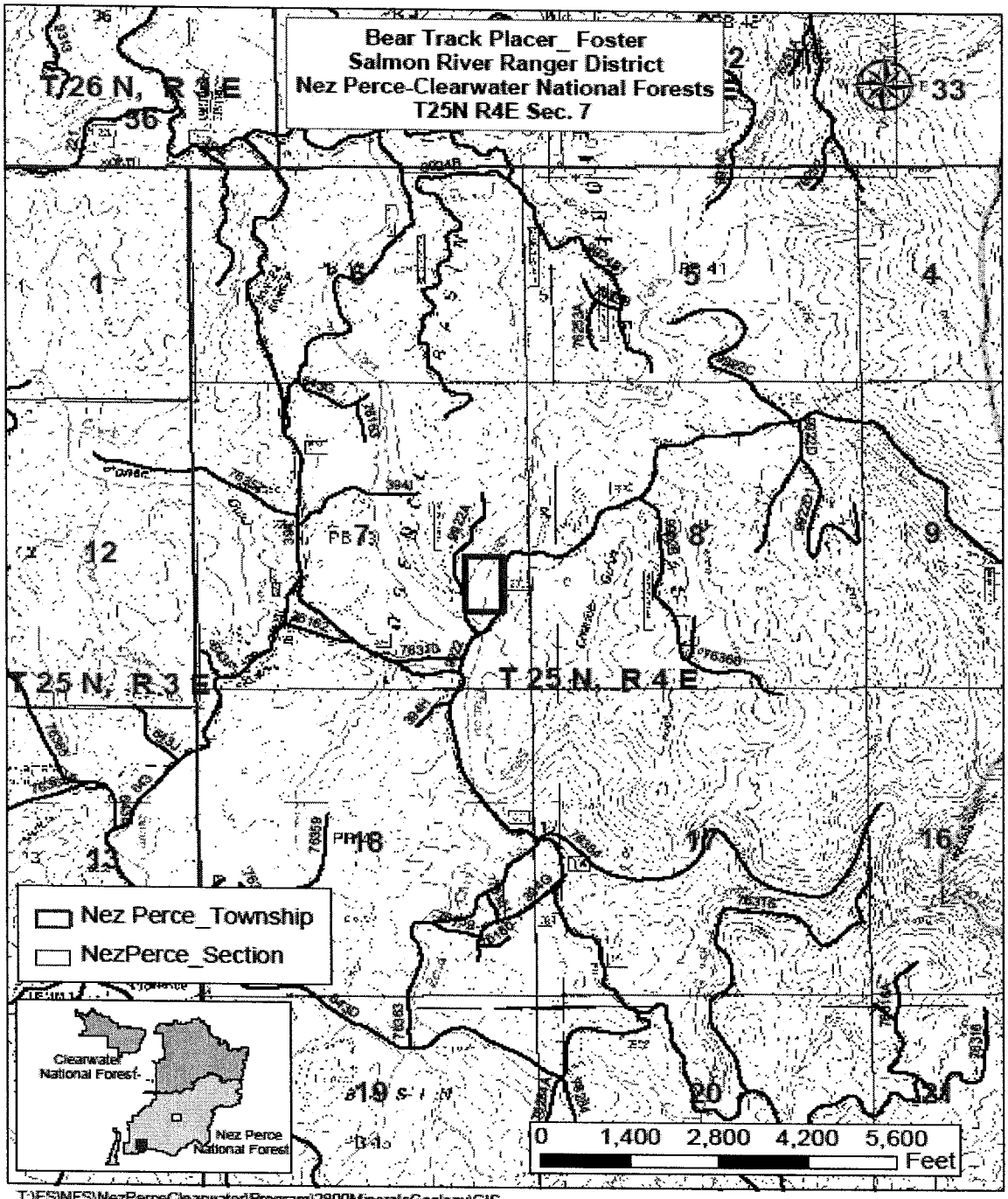
19 April, 2013, Clint Hughes

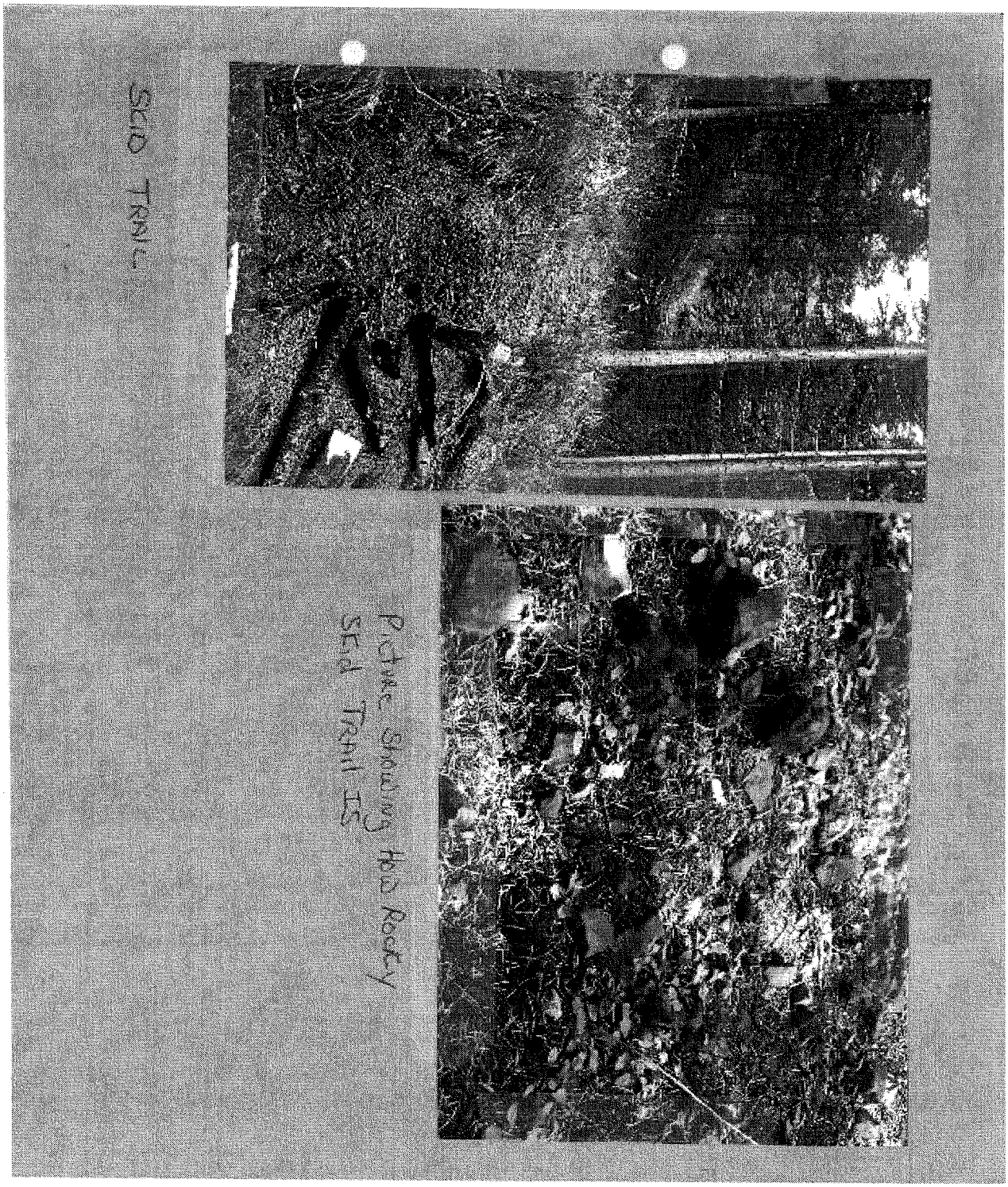
MAP
HOLY GRAIL
PLACER EXPLORATION PROJECT



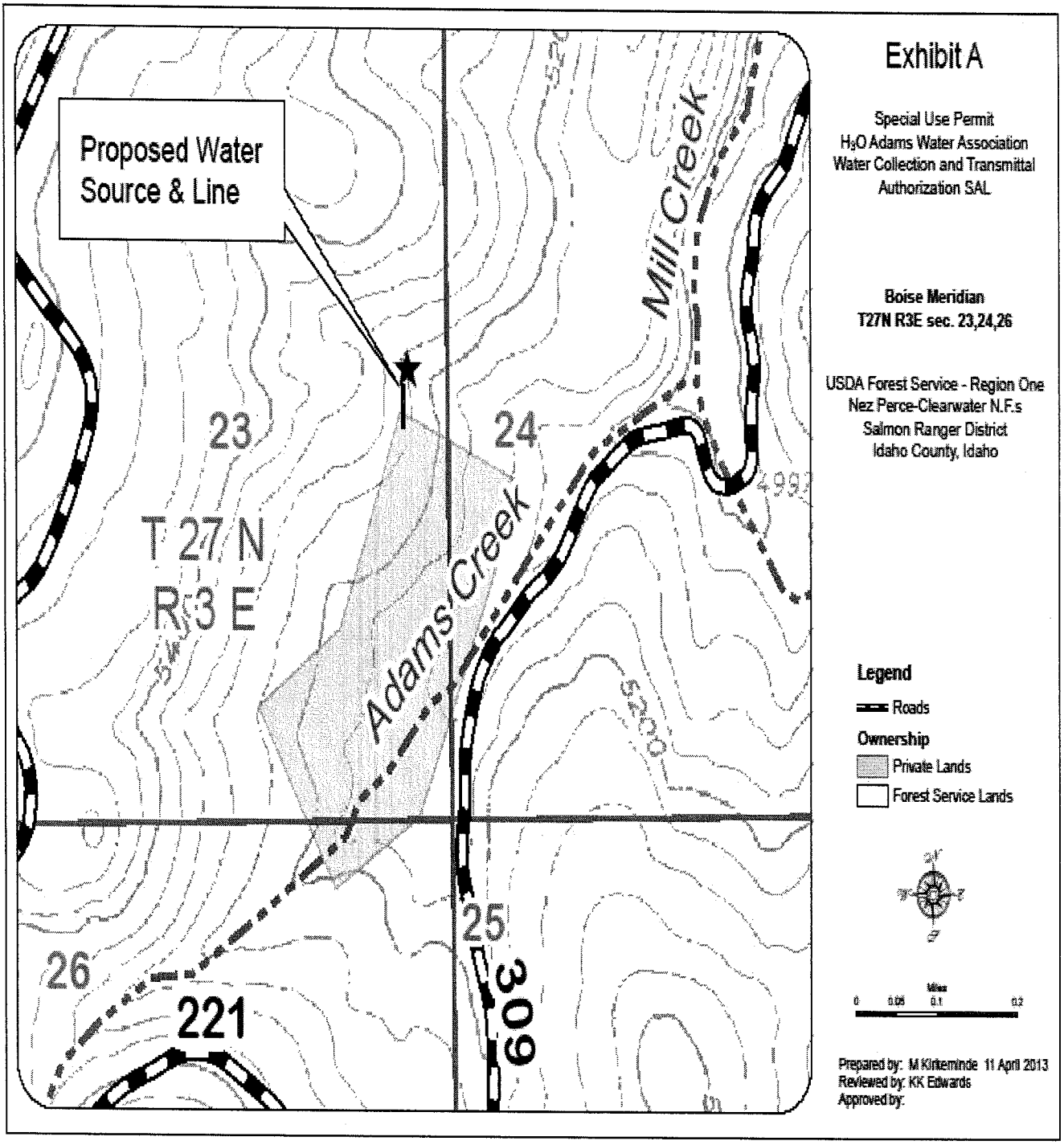
MAP
OROGRANDE 2013
DRILLING PROJECT



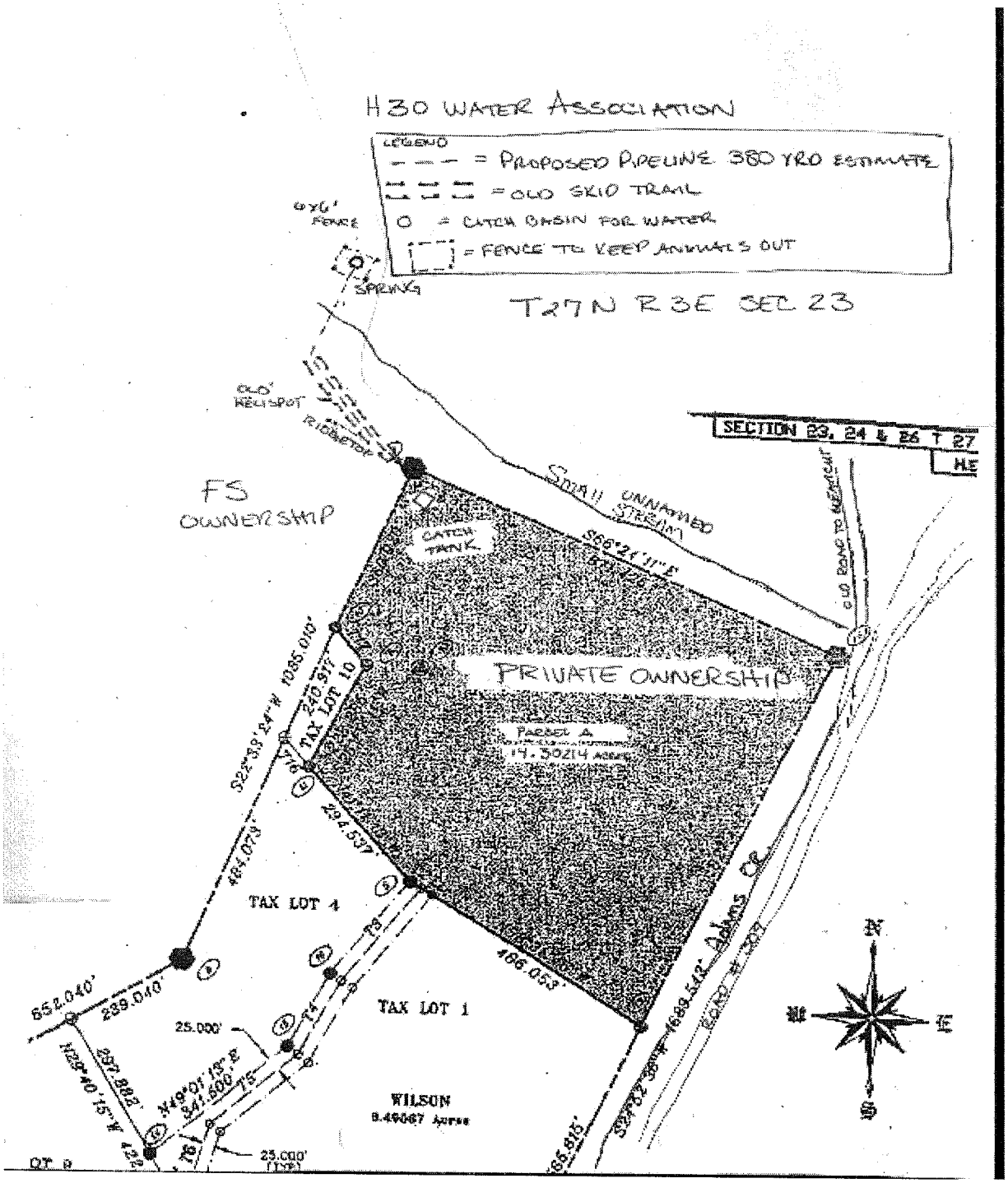
MAP
BEAR TRACK
PLACER EXPLORATION PROJECT



PHOTOGRAPHS
PROPOSED SITE OF
H30 ADAM'S WATER ASSOCIATION
TRANSMISSION LINE AND SPRING BOX



MAP (1)
PROPOSED SITE OF
H30 ADAM'S WATER ASSOCIATION
TRANSMISSION LINE AND SPRING BOX



MAP (2)
PROPOSED SITE OF
H30 ADAM'S WATER ASSOCIATION
TRANSMISSION LINE AND SPRING BOX