



DAN JOHNSON
DIRECTOR

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND DEVELOPMENT
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES BUILDING
150 BEAVERCREEK ROAD OREGON CITY, OR 97045

MEMORANDUM

TO: Clackamas County Board of County Commissioners (BCC)

FROM: Dan Johnson, DTD Director; Sarah Eckman, DTD Assistant Director; Tom Riggs, Parks & Forestry Manager; and Andrew Dobmeier, County Forester

RE: Wild Trout Timber Sale

DATE: January 31, 2023

REQUEST: This is an informational update on the Wild Trout Timber Sale.

BACKGROUND: The DTD Forestry program is preparing for its next regularly scheduled timber sale in the County's Wildcat Tract northeast of Eagle Creek. This sale is outlined in the 2018 Forest Management Plan approved by the Board of Commissioners on May 3, 2018.

County Forester, Andrew Dobmeier, has proposed a three unit harvest in the County's Wildcat Tract which will be executed over the next three years. Units #1 and #2 will be sold to the high bidder and will be harvested together. Staff will work with Procurement on an Invitation to Bid for these two units with a plan to publish in January 2023. The sale purchaser will have up to two years to complete the harvest. The sale name is a combination of the forest tract name, and Trout Creek contained within the harvest area.

The two units total 52 acres and will harvest approximately 1,748 million board feet of Douglas-fir, white wood, and cedar. The harvest will be through ground-based logging methods. The harvest units lie at about 2,900 foot elevation. The North Fork of Eagle Creek is on the units' northern boundary and Trout Creek borders the southern boundary. Buffers of 70-110 feet will be used along creek frontage. One logging road will be constructed on the north side of Unit #2. The County Forester has estimated the sale of Units #1 and #2 will provide approximately \$844,020 in revenue to support for Forestry program operations and timber stand maintenance, and to support County Parks' capital improvement needs over the next two years.

On October 25, staff held a public meeting at the Estacada Library to discuss the sale with local community members. Then on October 27, a tour of the proposed sale area was conducted by the County Forester. Notice of the public meeting and tour were advertised in community newspapers on October 19, and 25. The public meeting was attended by four citizens and the harvest site tour was attended by two citizens. A 30-day public comment period was opened after

the site tour to provide time for feedback from community members. No comments were received. On November 29, the Timber Sale Advisory Committee (TSAC) convened to review the technical merits of the harvest plan and to consider public comment. No citizens attended the meeting. The TSAC voted to approve the harvest plan as proposed by the County Forester (4 votes to approve, 1 member abstained). TSAC Chair, Brent Keller, has submitted the attached letter in support of the public process and timber sale.

Attachments:

Timber Sale Advisory Committee Chair Letter to the Board

Wild Trout Timber Sale Harvest Plan – October 25, 2022

December 29, 2022

Tootie Smith
Chair
Board of County Commissioners
2051 Kaen Road
Oregon City, OR 97045

Dear Tootie,

On November 29, 2022, the Clackamas County Timber Sale Advisory Committee (CCTSAC) met to consider the 'Wild Trout' Timber Sale. In attendance from the County were County Forester Andrew Dobmeier, Manager of County Parks and Forest Tom Riggs, and other County Staff members. In attendance from the Timber Sale Advisory Committee were Dan Green, Louis Lopes, Eric Pfeiffer-Robinson, Marge Stewart, and me. No citizens were in attendance and there was no public comment. Andrew presented the harvest plan, which is comprised of three units that total 87-acres, to be harvested over the next three years. I have visited the sale areas, as have various members of the Advisory Committee.

The charge to the Timber Sale Advisory Committee is to review the County's plans for harvests to ensure they are well founded in terms of the Forest Practice Rules and the Forest Management Plan, and to listen to any public input that may raise *technical* issues not adequately covered in the plan. The TSAC has a narrow charge and is not a policy group. After a thorough review of the Timber Harvest Plan, the Committee concluded there is a good plan for the harvest of this sale. There was a motion to approve, and the Committee voted 4 to 1 in favor of the 'Wild Trout' Timber Sale. Louis Lopes abstained from voting and explained that she is personally against the harvest but approves of the sale as it is consistent with the Management Plan.

Please let me know if you or the other Commissioners have any questions or concerns.

Yours truly,



Brent Keller
Forester
Chair – Clackamas County Timber Sale Advisory Committee

TIMBER HARVEST PLAN
WILD TROUT TIMBER SALE

October 25, 2022



Andrew Dobmeier
County Forester
Clackamas County Parks and Forest
(503) 488-9416

Wild Trout HARVEST PLAN

This report will describe the proposed project, the resources present in the project area, the expected impacts, and mitigation measures to be taken during harvest operations.

LOCATION AND SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

The Wild Trout Harvest area is located in Sections 7 and 18, T.3 S, R.6 E in the Wildcat Forest tract. The sale will harvest approximately 3.0 million board feet (MMBF) of timber over a three-year timeframe. Unit #1 is 28 acres (approximately 1,112 MBF Douglas-fir, 126 MBF white wood and 21 MBF cedar), Unit #2 is 24 acres (approximately 1,481 MBF Douglas-fir, 232 MBF white wood and 37 MBF cedar) and Unit #3 is 35 acres (approximately 369 MBF Douglas-fir, 106 MBF white wood and 16 MBF cedar). A total of net value worth approximately \$1,203,641 at today's prices. The harvest will cover approximately 87 total acres in three units using ground-based logging systems. The first two units will be advertised as one sale to be sold in December/January with the purchaser having up to two years to harvest. Unit #3 will be harvested in 2024 or 2025 depending on the market conditions. The logging slash and brush on moderately sloping ground will be loader-piled by the Purchaser and burned by the County. Small areas of steeper ground will be logged as cleanly as possible but may not be piled. The harvested area will be planted with Douglas-fir, western red cedar and possibly western white pine. Hardwoods and Western hemlock are expected to seed in naturally. Revenue from this sale will pay for forest program operations and help to support Clackamas County Park improvements.

SETTING

This area can be described as upland forest in the Douglas-fir-western hemlock-western red cedar forest type, a forest type common in western Oregon. The harvest unit lies at about 2,900 feet elevation. Most of the acreage is covered by conifers and hardwoods that became established after past railroad logging and fires between 1910 and 1935. The area also exhibits evidence of fires that occurred in a patchwork fashion after the logging. The common hardwoods in the area include big leaf maple, red alder and cottonwood. The headwaters of Trout Creek, a small perennial stream, are located on the north boundary of the harvest area. The harvest area lies within a large block of County-owned Forest called the Wildcat Tract which extends about two miles to the west. West of the County property are mostly young plantations on industrial forest ownership. To the east and south of the County property is a very large block of federal forest land that includes wilderness areas and other mostly unmanaged areas of forest land.

GEOLOGY & SOILS

The soils in the area are well-developed and highly productive. Most of the harvest unit is flat terrain of 0% to 20% slopes with a few short, moderately steep pitches on the northern edge ranging from 25% to 35%. Road building and thinning 20 to 30 years ago produced no slumping or erosion problems. Along the southern, lower-elevation boundary of the sale area there are numerous springs and swampy areas. These areas are included in the buffer strip along Trout Creek and to a lesser extent the North Fork Eagle creek.

VEGETATION

The 85-year-old forested area was thinned about 15 to 20 years ago. The area is covered in Douglas-fir and hemlock stands with lesser amounts of western red cedar and noble fir. The stand was established with natural regeneration after the railroad logging era of the 1920's and 30's. Ground vegetation present includes salal, blackberry, rhododendron, ferns, and other typical plants native and introduced to western Oregon. One invasive weed, scotch broom, is present along Wildcat Mountain Drive, which is a County road that bisects the sale. Nearby harvest areas planted in the past few decades have been successful with over 400 trees per acre present and growing well.

WILDLIFE & FISH

Deer and elk are regularly observed in this area. Bear, bobcat and cougar sign are also found in the area. One can expect to find all the smaller animals associated with the upland forest areas of western Oregon. There are fish in Trout and North Fork Eagle Creeks which are part of the unit boundaries. A buffer at least 70 to 110 feet wide will protect the stream.

The harvest activity should generate new foraging opportunities for big game and other animals that thrive in forest openings. U. S. Forest Service land to the east lacks open forest habitat. Weyerhaeuser Timberlands LLC lands to the west have ample open habitat but it is in age classes that are rapidly becoming closed canopy, producing hiding cover but little forage. The diverse habitat on County property will be important for many wildlife species.

Snags and large trees will be left in or around the harvest unit as habitat for tree cavity dwellers and raptors. Rotten logs on the forest floor will be left undisturbed where possible. Oregon Forest Practices Act standards for wildlife tree, snag, and down log retention will be met or exceeded.

TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

The Wild Trout sale is accessed by Wildcat Mountain Drive (FS3600) and graveled spur roads. There will need to be approximately 1,275 of road reconstructed by adding a new 4" lift of rock on the north side of Unit #2. There will be a newly constructed tie through road to access Unit #3. The two new segments will total approximately 1,615 feet. Included in that new construction is a fish passage culvert which will be designed and installed. This culvert is on a small tributary of North Fork Eagle Creek located in the west edge of Unit #3. Additional short dirt spur roads will be allowed if needed for logging if pre-approved by the County Forester. All haul route roads will need to be shaped up and spurs closed when logging is completed. Loggers will be instructed to minimize use of exhaust brakes on the first flight of trucks each morning out of consideration for our neighbors.

FIRE & FUELS

Slash and brush will be loader-piled in the harvested area. The current plan is for piles to be burned in the fall after logging. We will monitor energy markets as they develop to see if they will allow economical removal of slash.

AIR QUALITY

Smoke will be produced for one or two days during slash burning. All burning will be done under the permitting and regulation of DEQ and ODF. Due to the remote nature of the property, it is not expected that this slash burning will negatively affect any neighbors.

RECREATION & PUBLIC USE

The area is open to hiking, fishing, mushrooming, berry picking, picnicking, horseback riding and most other types of day-use recreation. Overnight use is not allowed. Off-road vehicle use and target shooting are not allowed but do occur regularly. All gravel and dirt roads are off-limits for unauthorized vehicles but open for pedestrian, equestrian, and mountain bike use. Public use will not be allowed in the areas during active harvest operations.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

No cultural resources are known to exist, so no adverse effect is anticipated.

WETLANDS & FLOOD PLAINS

Trout Creek flows on the southern edge of Units #1 and #2 of the sale. North Fork Eagle Creek flows on the southern edge of Unit #3. Each creek will be separated from the unit by a buffer strip 70-110 feet wide. No activity will be allowed in the buffer strip. Any wet areas adjacent to the harvest unit boundary are included within the buffer area.

This sale will be monitored during logging and hauling to ensure no sediment is transported out of the sale area into live streams. The design of this sale exceeds the requirements of the stream protection rules in the Oregon Forest Practices Act rules.

MANAGEMENT PLAN

The dominant trees in the area are about 85 years old. Clackamas County's *10-Year Forest Management Plan* allows for an average cut of 1.4 million board feet of volume per year. These three units total 3 million board feet and equate to three years of timber harvest activities.

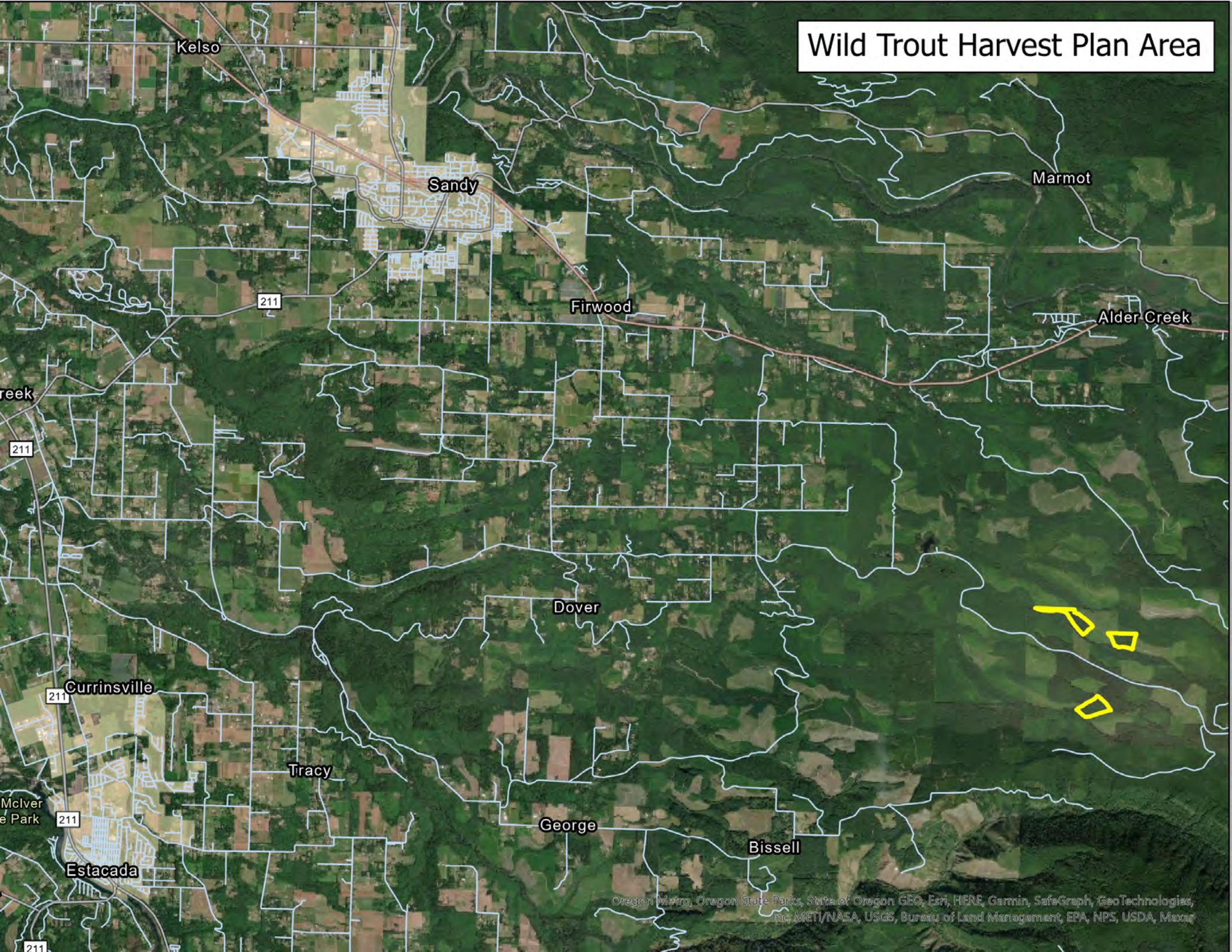
PLANNED REFORESTATION ACTIVITIES

Reforestation will be done by planting the area with Douglas-fir, western red cedar and possibly western white pine. Natural seeding of hemlock and hardwood species is expected and will be welcomed for diversity. Some protection of seedlings from browsing may be necessary using Vexar tubing. The area currently has little underbrush. Planting will occur as soon after harvest as possible to reduce the need for control of competing vegetation. The sale area will be planted with an average of 400 seedlings per acre and additional western red cedar seedlings in appropriate areas.

PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENTS

On October 27, 2022 a public tour will be held. The tour was advertised in the *Clackamas Review*, *Estacada News* and the *Sandy Post* newspapers. Additional public input is welcomed by the County Forest Program staff. Andrew Dobmeier can be reached at (503) 488-9416 or by email at ADobmeier@clackamas.us

Wild Trout Harvest Plan Area



Wild Trout Harvest Plan Units

- Unit Boundary
- 10' Contours
- Streams
- Stream Buffers
- 2018 Imagery



1"=850'

UNIT 1

UNIT 2

UNIT 3

Trout Creek

Trout Creek

NF-36

NF-36

New Construction

New Construction

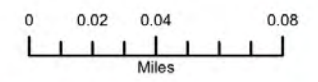
Wild Trout Harvest Plan - Unit 1

- Unit Boundary
- 10' Contours
- Streams
- Stream Buffers

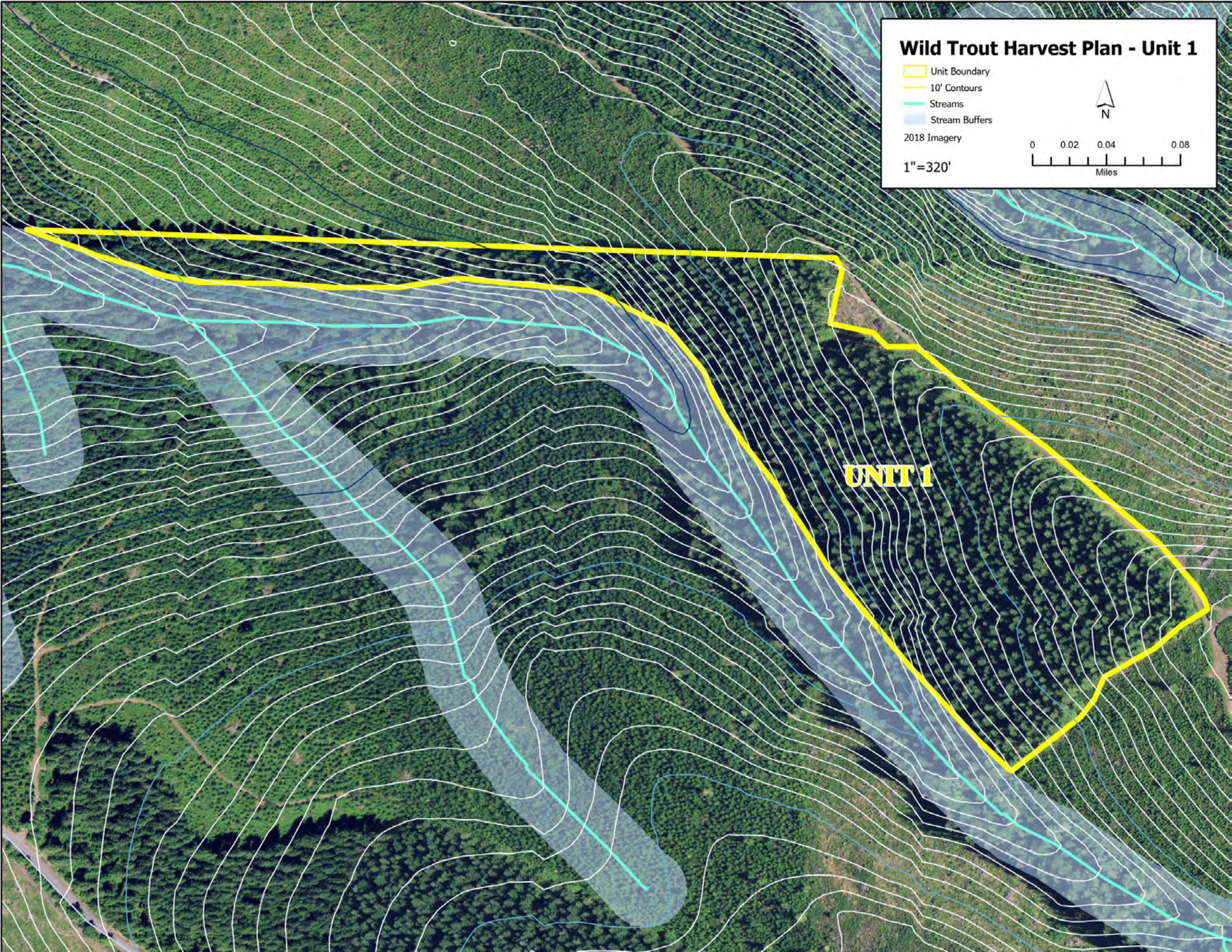


2018 Imagery

1" = 320'



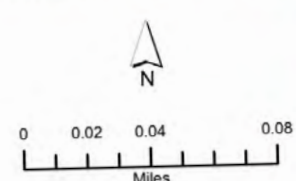
UNIT 1



Wild Trout Harvest Plan - Unit 2

- Unit Boundary
- 10' Contours
- Streams
- Stream Buffers
- 2018 Imagery

1" = 320'

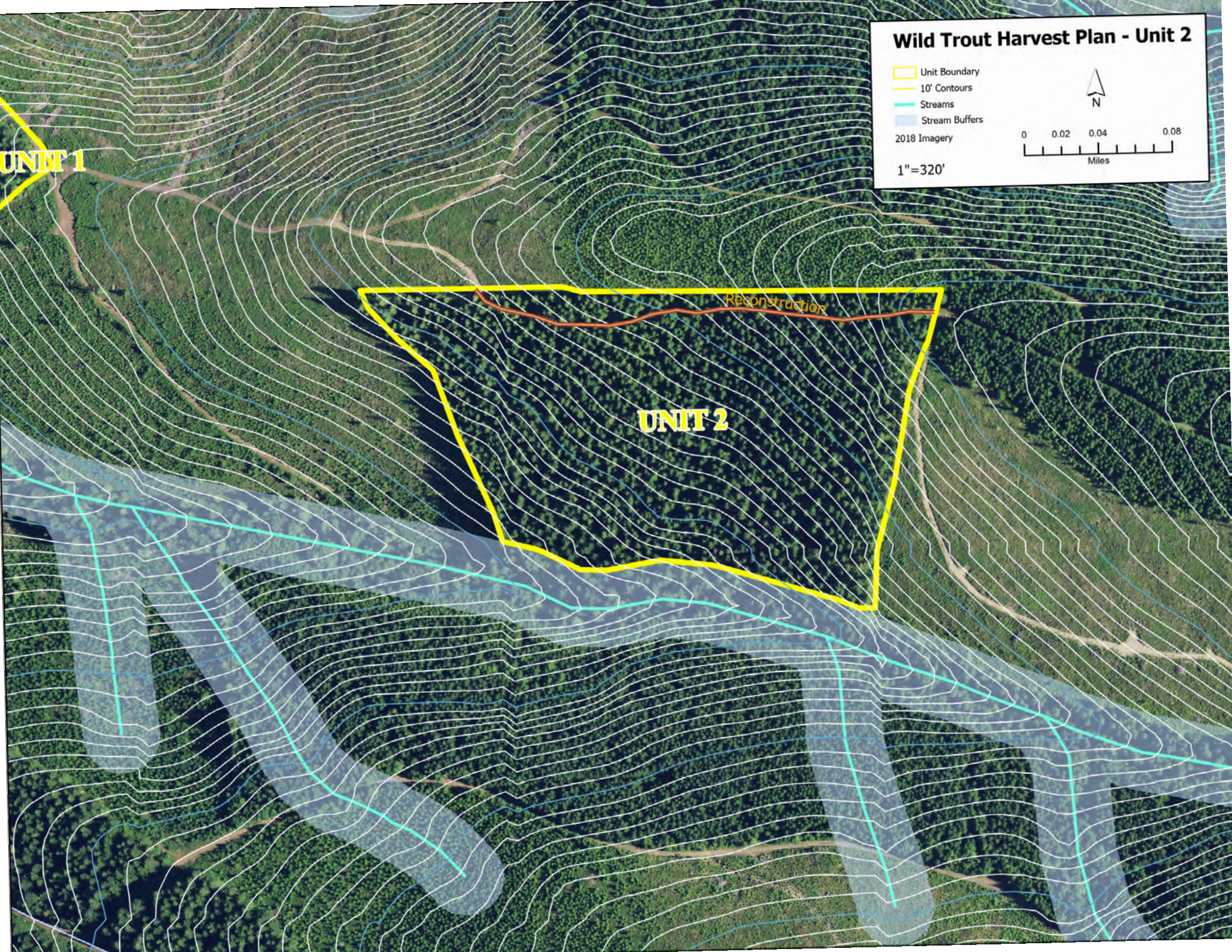


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Miles

UNIT 1

UNIT 2

Reconstruction

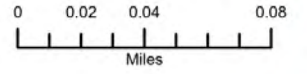


Wild Trout Harvest Plan - Unit 3

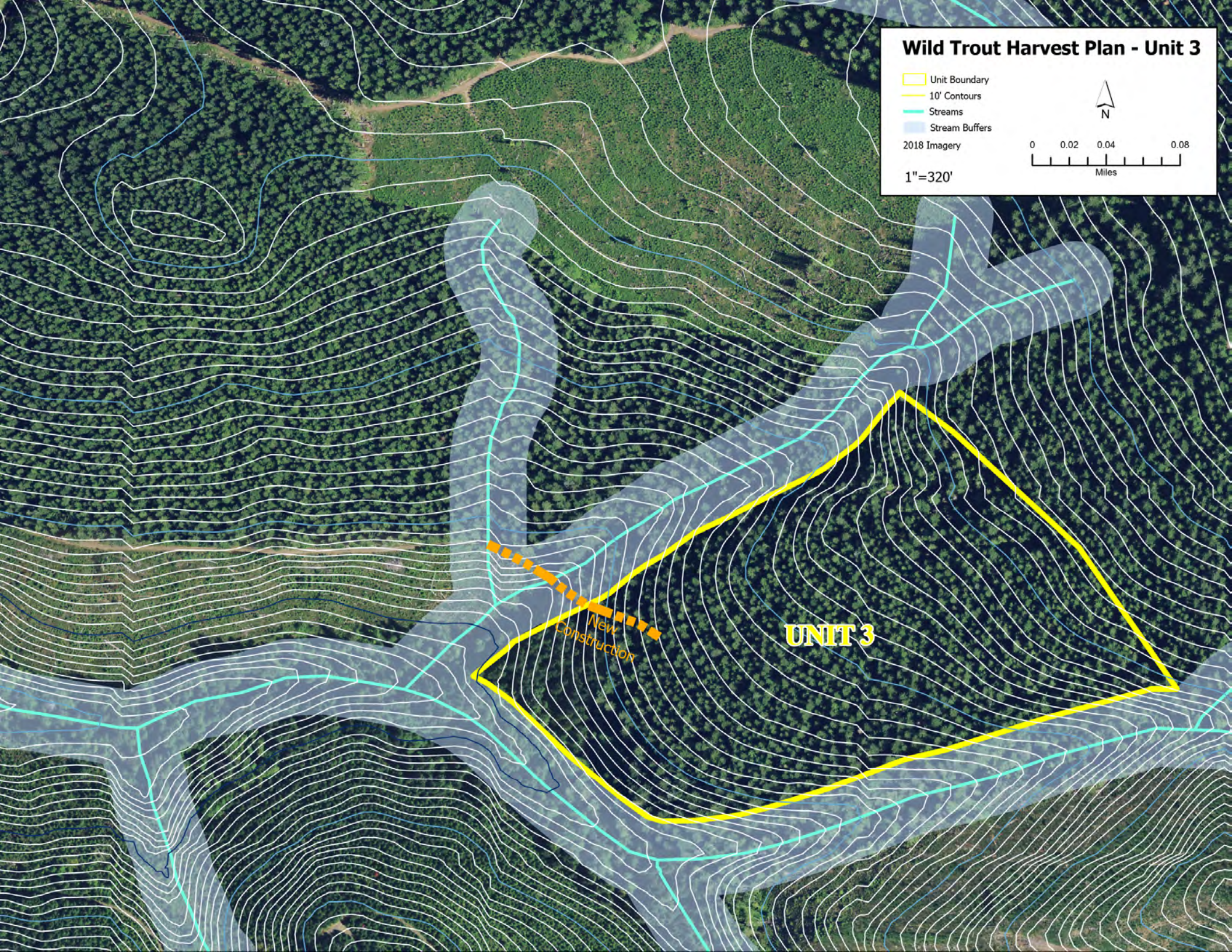
- Unit Boundary
- 10' Contours
- Streams
- Stream Buffers



2018 Imagery



1"=320'



UNIT 3

New Construction