

# STATE BOARD OF LAND COMMISSIONERS

February 21, 2023

Regular Agenda

## Subject

Elk Hyde Timber Sale with clearcut harvest exceeding 100 contiguous acres.

## Questions Presented

Shall the Land Board approve the Elk Hyde Timber Sale with clearcut harvest exceeding 100 contiguous acres?

## Background

At its December 15, 2015 meeting, the State Board of Land Commissioners (Land Board) adopted a timber sale governance structure whereby the Idaho Department of Lands (Department) would only present individual proposed timber sales for Land Board approval that fall outside of established Land Board policies. Timber sales with clearcut harvesting exceeding 100 contiguous acres is one type of sale to be submitted for approval.

## Discussion

The Ponderosa Supervisory Area submitted a timber sale in the FY23 plan that has two adjacent clearcut harvest units that exceed 100 contiguous acres. Unit 1 (77 acres) is adjacent to Department ownership that has been previously managed to the north and west. To the east of Unit 1 lies a strip of non-industrial private timber. Unit 2 (89 acres) is within Department ownership that has been previously managed (Attachments 1 and 2). The sale area is located 15.5 air miles east of Deary, Idaho (Attachment 3).

The proposed clearcut harvest for this sale consists of two clearcut units (Attachment 4). Unit 1 (77 acres) and Unit 2 (89 acres) are connected for approximately 200 feet along a secondary, forest road. The unit break is along a watershed divide where Unit 1 flows into Shattuck Creek and Unit 2 flows into Seastem Creek. The preferred seral species are a minor component of the stand and are not expected to produce enough cones and seed for desired natural regeneration. The site will be planted with a mix of seral species that will optimize the site's potential. Adjacent stands have been successfully planted to adequate stocking to maximize return to the beneficiaries.

The sale has been prepared to meet or exceed the Forest Practices Act. The proposed clearcut harvest units are silviculturally and economically justified and were approved by the Timber Management Bureau (Attachment 5). This sale, as proposed, meets the objectives of the Ponderosa Area Forest Asset Management Plan.

## **Recommendation**

Approve the Elk Hyde Timber Sale.

## **Board Action**

## **Attachments**

1. Sale Map
2. Ownership Map
3. Vicinity Map
4. Clearcut Justification
5. Timber Bureau Approval Memo

R 02 E



CR410140  
Elk Hyde

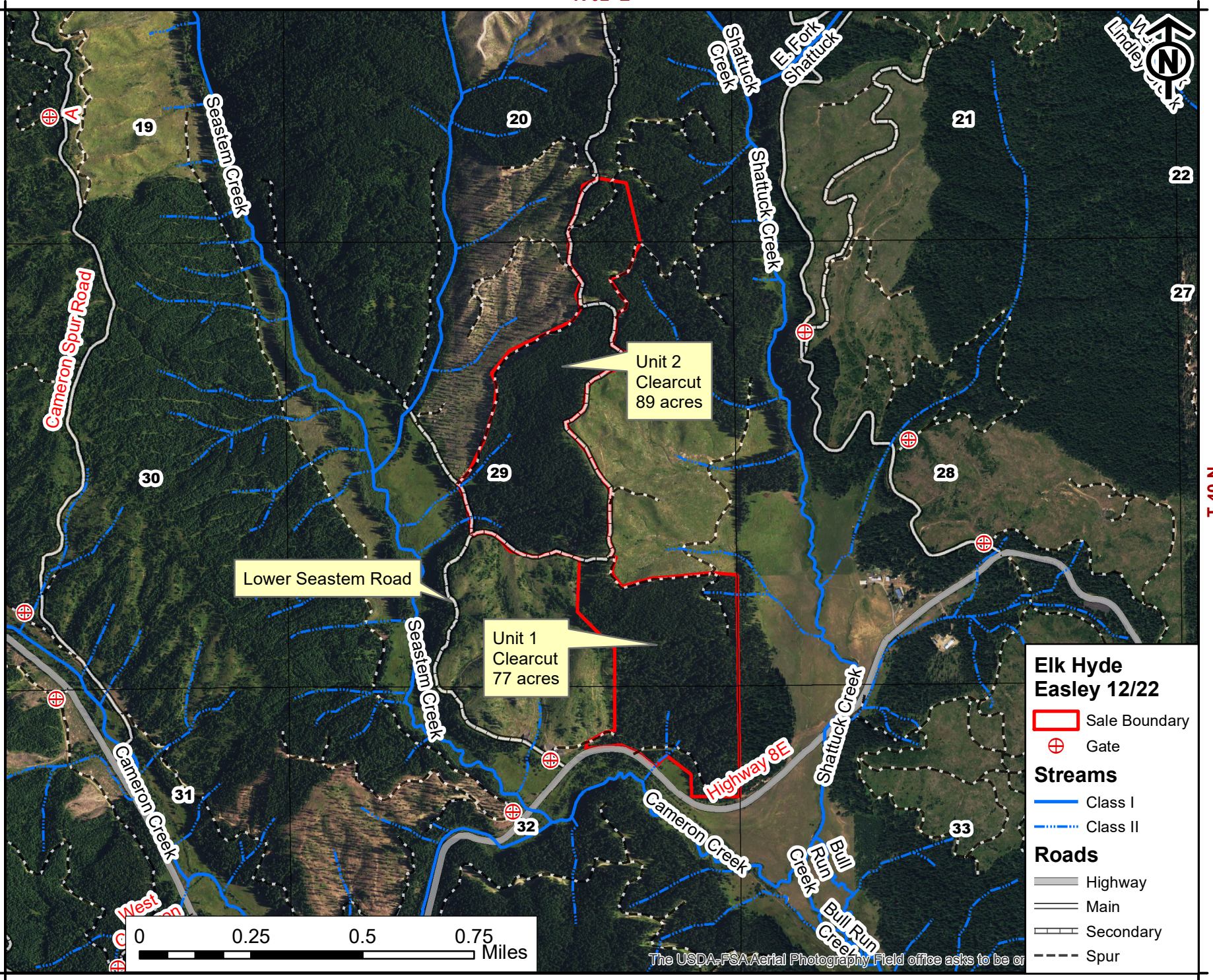
Sale  
Map

N 04 J

22

27

T 40 N



Unit 2  
Clearcut  
89 acres

Lower Seastem Road

Unit 1  
Clearcut  
77 acres

**Elk Hyde  
Easley 12/22**

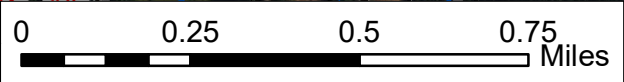
- Sale Boundary
- Gate

**Streams**

- Class I
- Class II

**Roads**

- Highway
- Main
- Secondary
- Spur



The USDA-FSA Aerial Photography Field office asks to be cr

R 02 E

Exhibit C  
Page 1 of 1  
ATTACHMENT 1

R 02 E



CR410140  
Elk Hyde

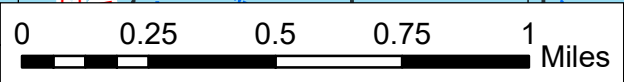
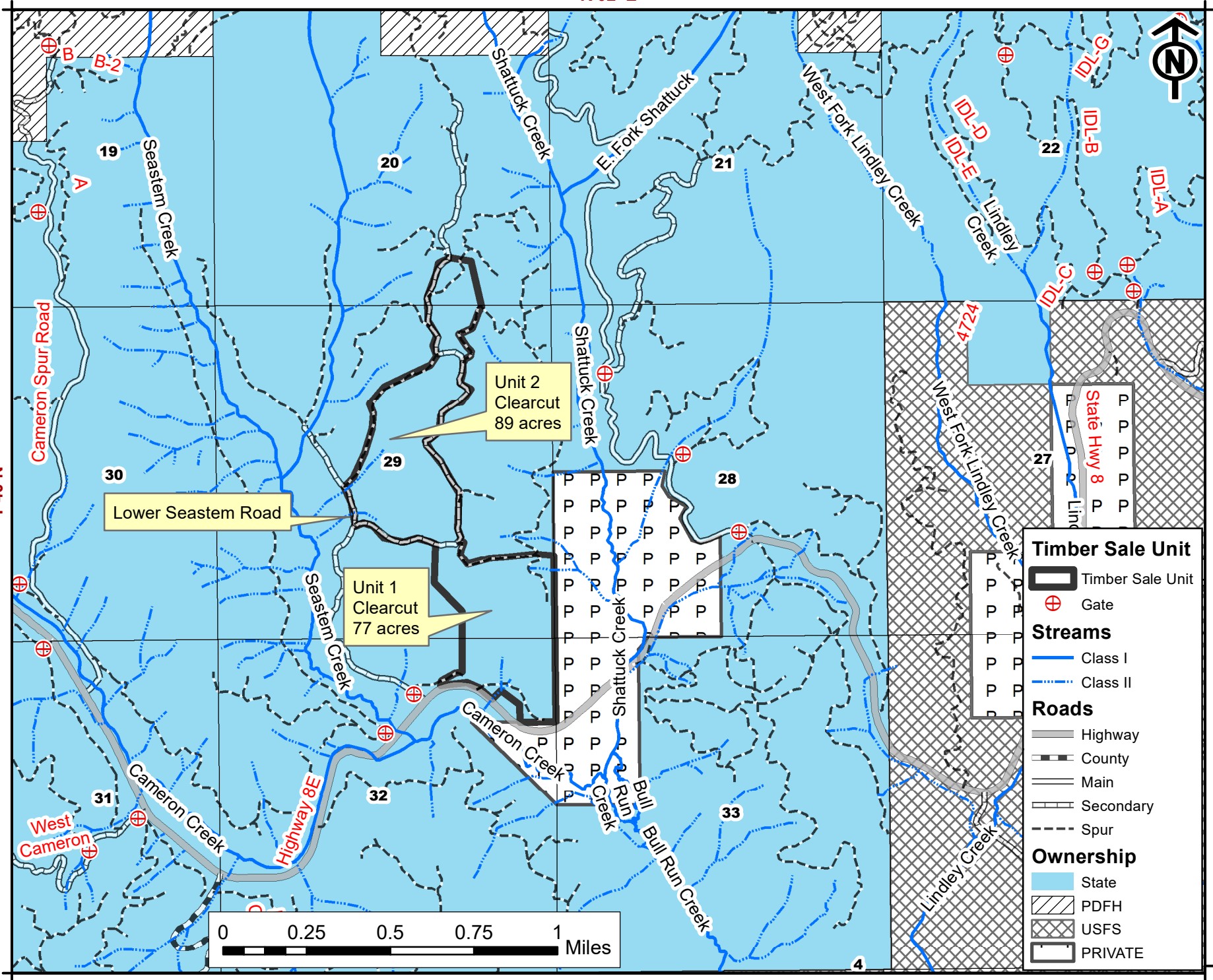
Ownership Map

N 40 J

T 40 N

Exhibit A  
Page 1 of 1

ATTACHMENT 2



R 02 E

**Timber Sale Unit**

- Timber Sale Unit
- Gate

**Streams**

- Class I
- Class II

**Roads**

- Highway
- County
- Main
- Secondary
- Spur

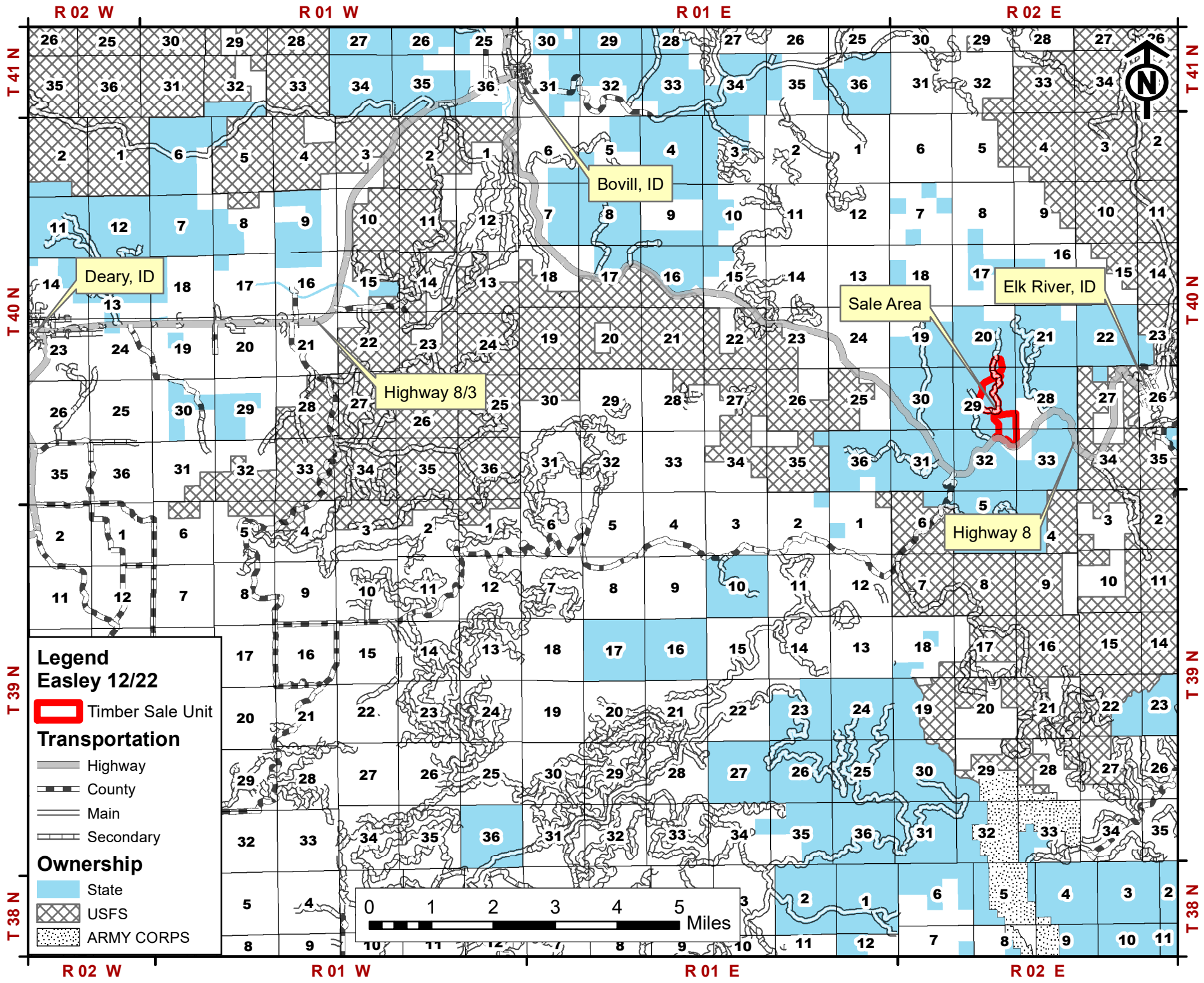
**Ownership**

- State
- PDFH
- USFS
- PRIVATE

CR410140  
Elk Hyde

Vicinity Map

Exhibit B  
Page 1 of 1  
ATTACHMENT 3



## Elk Hyde Clearcut Justification

### 1. Treatment Description:

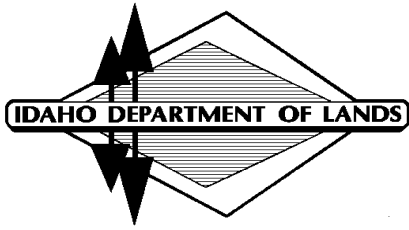
(a) Both stands are comprised predominantly of overmature grand fir (87% of the standing volume). Lodgepole pine, western redcedar, Douglas-fir, western larch, and white pine comprise minor components of the stands. These stands will be clearcut and planted following harvest.

### (b) Clearcut Justification:

Clearcuts in this sale will help the Ponderosa Area achieve the desired future conditions outlined in the Ponderosa Area's Forest Asset Management Plan. The clearcuts in units 1 (77 acres) and 2 (89 acres) are silviculturally and economically justified and were planned to comply with the Idaho Forest Practices Act. A clearcut prescription will be used to harvest the existing stands and re-establish seral species on the site. This prescription will be used for following reasons:

1. The evidence of Indian paint fungus, Douglas-fir bark beetle, and a variety of root rots have reduced the availability of preferred species to be utilized as seed trees. The number of healthy trees of seral species is insufficient to naturally regenerate the stand to desired stocking levels post-harvest.
2. Clearcutting will minimize the number of entries into the area, reducing harvest costs and maximizing revenue to the Endowments. Reducing the number of entries into the stand is also expected to reduce disturbance and erosion, minimize the spread of disease, and expedite regeneration by planting genetically superior western larch and white pine.

(c) Forest Improvement Activity: Units 1 and 2 will receive a site prep herbicide treatment if needed and will be planted to seral species as soon as practicable following harvest. Post planting surveys will be conducted immediately following planting at 1 and 5-year intervals, to determine seedling success, ensure the stand meets stocking level targets, and evaluate the need for follow up pesticide treatments. The sites adjacent to the proposed sale have been successfully regenerated with seral species through clearcut, site preparation, and planting operations similar to the proposed plan for this sale.



**FOREST MANAGEMENT BUREAU**  
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## **MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Derrick Reeves, Lands Resource Supervisor

**FROM:** Jeremy Shawver, Lands Section Manager Timber Sales & Contract Admin

**DATE:** January 23, 2023

**SUBJECT:** Elk Hyde (CR-41-0140) Timber Sale

On January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Jeremy Shawver, Kyle Seigley, and Spencer Hanson, Timber Bureau representatives, visited the Elk Hyde (CR-41-0140) Timber Sale on the Ponderosa Area for a field review. This occurred prior to harvest to discuss the proposed silvicultural prescription of two clearcut units constituting over 100 contiguous acres. Attendance also included Derrick Reeves from Operations.

The Elk Hyde TS resides in sections 20, 29 and 32 of T 40 N R 02 E. Normal School owns section 20, University of Idaho and Public School own section 29, and State Hospital South owns section 32.

The group parked at the nearest turnout to the Elk Hyde Timber Sale and continued on snowshoes to the sale area. The Elk Hyde sale consists of two clearcut units. Unit 1 (77 acres) and unit 2 (89 acres) are connected by approximately 250 feet along a secondary road. This creates 166 contiguous clearcut acres. The majority of the sale area was historically harvested in the early 1900s.

The group approached unit 1 from the west. The stand to the west of the proposed sale area was harvested with the Gravy Shattuck timber sale. The sale cancelled in 2014 and was successfully regenerated with Douglas-fir and western larch (Image 1). Once arriving to the Elk Hyde sale area, the group discussed the stands composition. The sale consists of primarily grand fir (87% by volume) (Image 2). The density and age of the stand has made it susceptible to insects and disease. Varying levels of mortality have been occurring throughout the stands (Image 3).

The group continued to the secondary road where the two clearcuts join. The narrow portion of road connects the two units in a saddle. This road follows the main ridge that separates the two units. The road also divides the sale into separate watersheds. Unit 1 flows into Shattuck Creek while unit 2 flows into Seastem Creek. Due to past management, unit 2 has similar stand composition and insect and disease issues (Image 4). The adjacent stand to the east of unit 2 was also harvested with the Gravy Shattuck timber sale and successfully regenerated (Image 5).

The group continued to the north and walked around unit 2 and back down to the Lower Seastem Road. The stand to the northwest of unit 2 was harvested with the Pale Rider Ton timber sale. This sale initiated regeneration and was harvested in 2017 and 2018. The French Hog Salvage timber sale salvaged the area from a wind event that completely blew down the seed-trees from the initial harvest. The stand is well stocked with 800 seedlings per acre.

The proposed sale, Elk Hyde, is surrounded by well managed endowment timberland. The adjacent stands have been successfully regenerated facilitating both natural and artificial regeneration methods. Unit 1 is adjacent and visible from State Highway 8. Unit 2 lies on the backside of the watershed divide, and the majority of the unit is not visible from Highway 8 (Image 6). The proposal meets or exceeds the Idaho Forest Practices Act (FPA).

The Timber Management Bureau recommends that the area proceed with the Elk Hyde timber sale as proposed. The clearcut units are the most economically and silviculturally justified treatment for the stands. Initiating regeneration following harvest operations will achieve desired stocking levels and maximize revenue to the Normal School, University of Idaho, Public School, and State Hospital South endowments.





Image 1 – Plantation west of unit 1.



Image 2 – Stand composition, density, and age.



Image 3 – Mortality unit 1.



Image 4 – Stand composition and mortality unit 2.



Image 5 – Plantation east of unit 2.

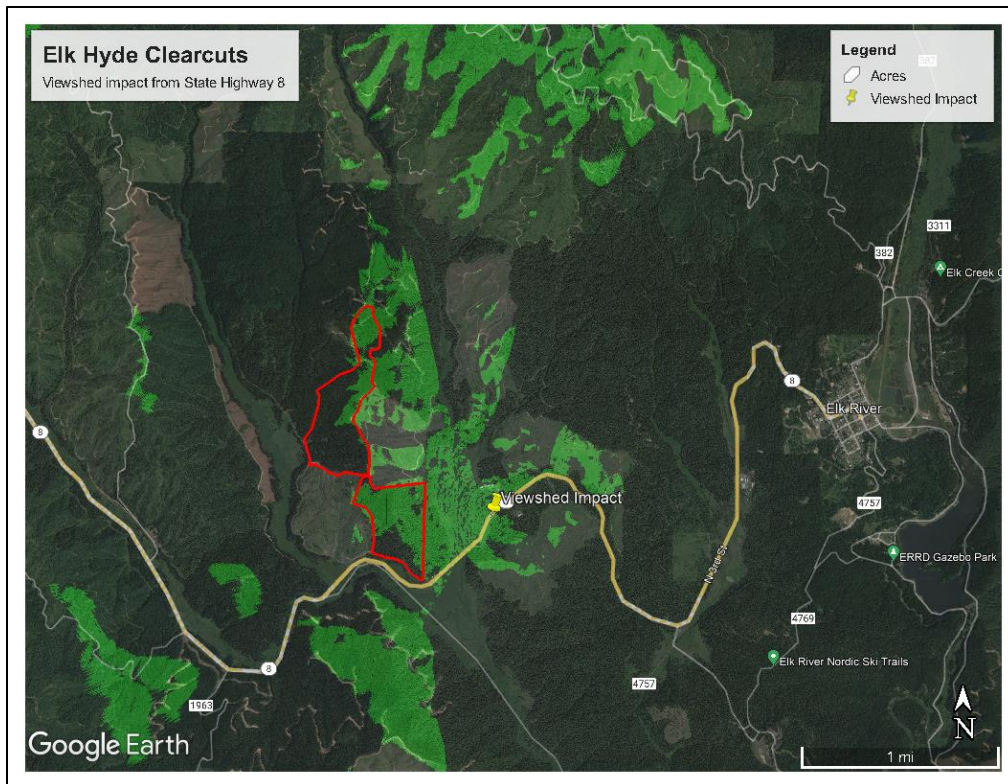


Image 6 – Viewshed impact from Highway 8.