

MARSHALL MINE FUELS REDUCTION PROJECT



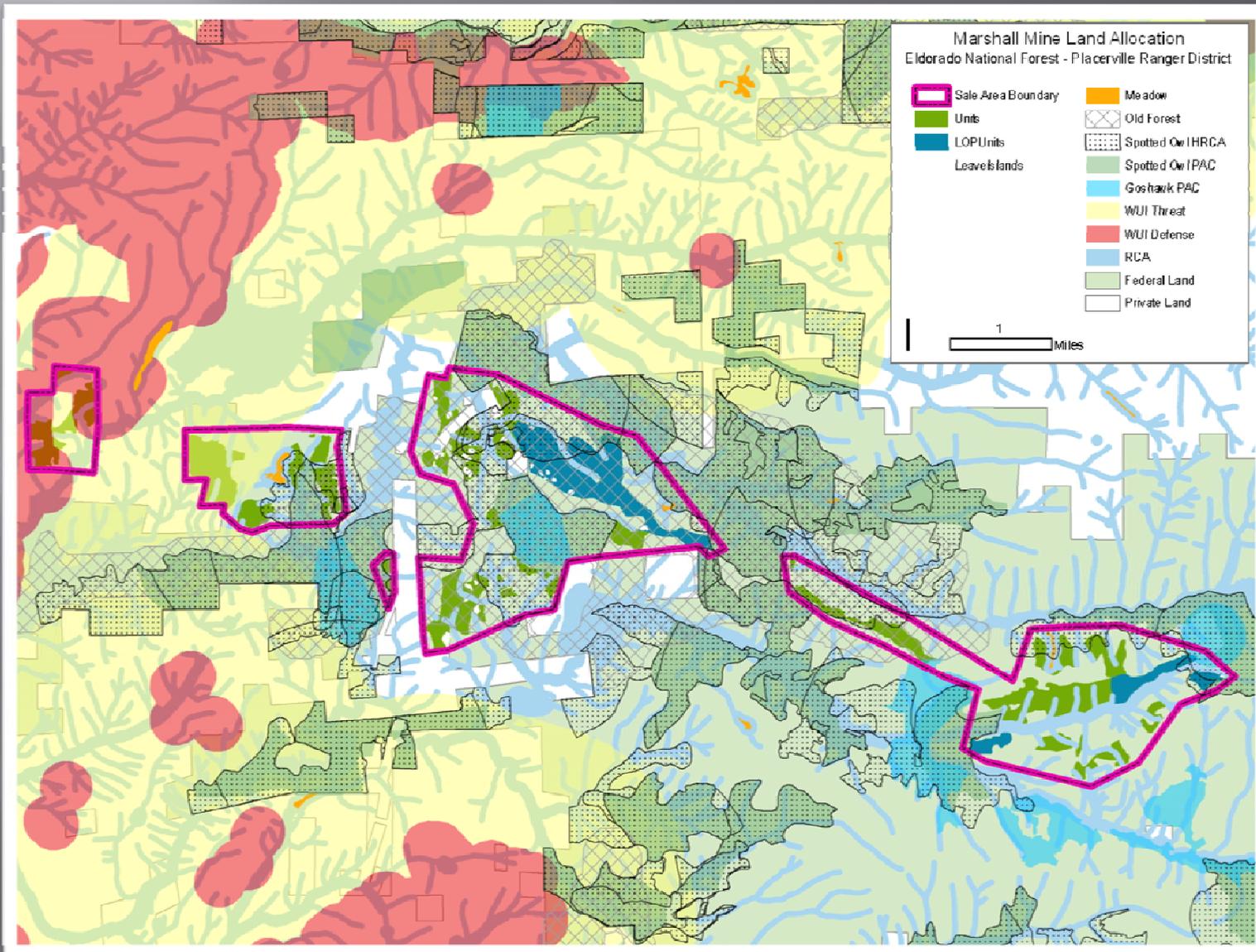
Background

The project is within the Wildland Urban Intermix (WUI) and is located on the Placerville Ranger District on the Eldorado National Forest in the vicinity of Pollock Pines, Fleming Meadow, and Baltic Ridge.

WUI land allocations within the project:

- 228 acres of Defense Zone
- 751 acres of Threat Zone
- 3,883 acres of Strategically Placed Landscape Treatments (SPLATS)

Map of Land Allocations



Purpose and Need

The goal of the Marshall Mine Project is to effect an immediate change in potential wildfire behavior by reducing the rate of spread and intensity of fire; to maintain vegetation conditions that allow fires to burn with lower intensities in surface fuels, providing a good opportunity for fire crews to stop a fire from spreading quickly; to improve forest health; and to protect adjacent landowners, California spotted owl and northern goshawk nesting and foraging habitat from wildfire damage.

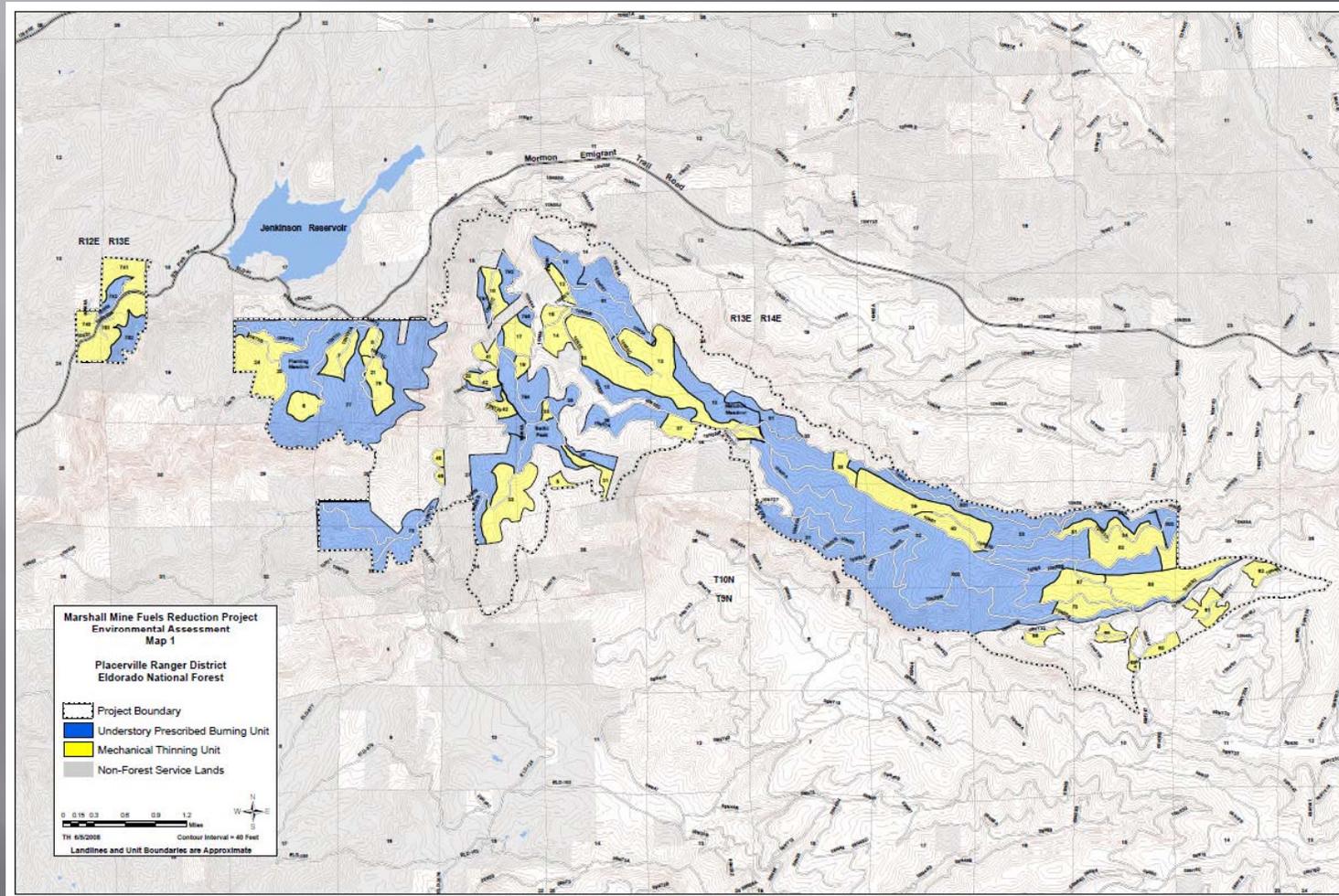
There is a need to:

- Reduce fuel loading for community protection in the WUI defense zone around the Sly Park Corridor.
- Reduce surface fuels and alter the vegetation structure in strategic locations along ridge tops and upper slopes.
- Increase the proportion of shade intolerant species and improve the health and growth of the larger overstory trees and hardwood component.
- Reduce stand densities to reduce the risk of insect attack or density related mortality.

Project Description

- ❑ Mechanically cut and remove trees 1.0 to 29.9 inches in diameter on approximately 2,498 acres.
- ❑ Hand cut and pile trees and brush 1 to 8.9 inches in diameter 100 feet from private property on approximately 36 acres.
- ❑ Understory burn at a low intensity on approximately 4,154 acres.
- ❑ Cut and remove hazardous trees along roadsides.
- ❑ Reconstruct forest roads on approximately 36 miles. Maintain approximately 20 miles of forest roads.
- ❑ Restore, block and rehabilitate new and existing skid trails by ripping to alleviate soil compaction.

Map of Project Activities



Design Criteria

- ❑ Slash piles in landings near residences, Fleming Meadow, and Cedar Park will be burned as soon as possible following harvest.
- ❑ Prescriptions for tree removal in units 6, 7, 8, 24, and 76 will adhere to the Fleming Meadow Interpretive Plan (working forest).
- ❑ Trails included in the Sly Park Outdoor Education Center Special Use Permit (units 741, 742, 743, 751, and 752) will be protected. Trail crossings will be restored following use. Activities will be coordinated with the Education Center and Special Use Permit Administrator.
- ❑ Archaeological sites within units or near road maintenance will be flagged for avoidance during project activities.
- ❑ A limited operating period (March 1 to August 15) for California spotted owls applies to units 13, 58, 62, and 66 that are within ¼ mile of spotted owl activity centers.

Design Criteria continued

- ❑ A limited operating period (February 15 to September 15) for northern goshawks applies to unit 13.
- ❑ To maintain desired conditions for old forest habitat and species, including California spotted owl Home Range Core Areas (HRCAs), mechanical tree removal will be avoided within patches classified as CWHR 5M or 5D except where such habitat occurs within SPLATs. Project units provide approximately 817 acres of old forest habitat classified as 5M or 5D. These leave islands will be flagged on the ground and avoided during mechanical activities. Units within SPLATs that contain 5M or 5D habitat will be designed to retain canopy cover and multi-storied structure.
- ❑ Prescribed burn units 10, 35, 36, 77, 78, 81, 792, 794, 802, 803, and 804 (714 acres) are limited to hand thinning in association with burning to maintain 5M or 5D classification and old forest habitat values.

Design Criteria continued

- ❑ Randomly distributed pockets of small trees and understory brush will be retained during mechanical tree removal to provide for wildlife habitat.
- ❑ No prescribed fires will be initiated within 300 feet of the Riparian Conservation Area (RCA) of Camp Creek and 150 feet of other perennial and seasonal streams, except to maintain control of the fire. (Red-legged frog protection)
- ❑ The RCA on each side of perennial streams and springs are 300 feet. No ground disturbing activities will occur within 150 feet of the streams/springs. Low ground pressure equipment is allowed to operate within the outer 50 feet of the restriction zone.
- ❑ The RCA on each side of intermittent and ephemeral streams is 150 feet. No ground disturbing activities will occur within 100 feet of the streams. Low ground pressure equipment is allowed to operate within the outer 50 feet of the restriction zone for intermittent streams and 75 feet of ephemeral streams.

Design Criteria continued

- ❑ Several denuded and dispersed recreation areas adjacent to Van Horn Creek will be rehabilitated. Activities include ripping, planting, or allowing to revegetate naturally.
- ❑ All known and any new occurrences of sensitive plant species identified during project surveys, will be monitored and flagged prior to implementation.
- ❑ All off-road equipment will be cleaned to insure it is free of soil, seeds, vegetative matter or other debris before entering National Forest system land.
- ❑ Mulch or straw used for vegetative soil stabilization will be certified weed free.
- ❑ Where possible, large down logs will be protected during mechanical activities. Ground cover and fine organic material will be maintained as follows: minimum of 40% on flat ground, 50 % on moderate ground, and at least 60% in all other areas. Mechanical activities will be restricted during high soil moisture conditions.
- ❑ Slash piles will be constructed with minimal soil displacement and very little removal of soil cover.









