

North Fork American River Shaded Fuelbreak Phase III Pre-proposal Field Tour Questions and Answers

- Q: When did Phase 2 take place?
 - A: Treatments started in March 2024 and finished March 2025
- Q: How many contractors are attending the bid walks?
 - A: 17
- Q: Is there any negotiation on slope to bring mechanical equipment?
 - A: No, the CEQA document limits equipment to 50% slope and under.
- Q: Can you provide clarification for mechanical work on slopes greater than 50%?
What type of treatment did you have in mind?
 - A: material can be dragged or winched to nearest road or <50% slope and treated with a chipper or masticator.
- Q: Will the Placer RCD conduct the biological surveys? i.e. nesting, botany, and archeology?
 - A: Yes, most surveys have been completed, and any time-sensitive surveys (such as nesting bird surveys) will be completed by Placer RCD prior to treatments.
- Q: During the previous phase, were the contractors able to drive a low bed into the project sites? – speak to general accessibility to bring equipment into the project site
 - A: Only a gooseneck trailer was used on the previous phase along John Muir Drive. Equipment will likely be limited to what can safely and effectively be transported to the site. Equipment can be tracked on dirt roads in the project area, but any damages must be repaired within 10 days after completion of use for the project.
- Q: How many private landowners are on this project?
 - A: 19
- Q: What is the funding source?
 - A: CAL FIRE Wildfire Prevention Grant
- Q: How many total acres of mechanical treatment greater than 50% slope are there?
 - A: 35.5 acres - 25.5 acres in priority 1, 10 acres in priority 2
- Q: What are the specifications for shrub retention?
 - A: Refer to Exhibit D - Treatment Specifications in RFP
- Q: Who is responsible for contacting landowners?
 - A: Placer RCD will maintain landowner communication and notifications, though contractor is expected to behave professionally and communicate with landowners in the field where appropriate.
- Q: What are the pile specifications?
 - A: Piles shall not exceed 6x6x6 feet, and size shall depend on location and risk of canopy scorch.

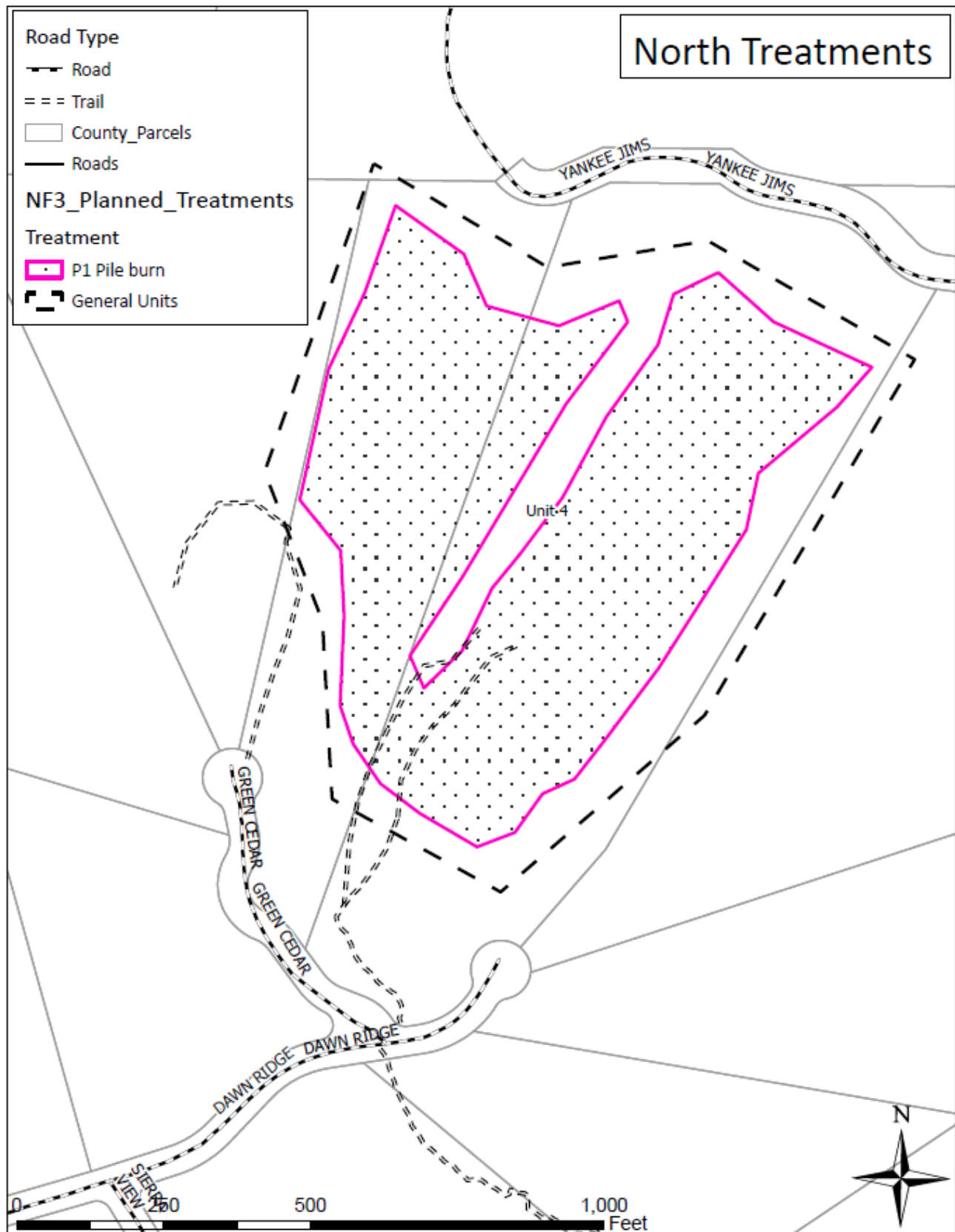
- Q: Is there a possibility of increasing the pile burning acreage?
 - A: If all planned treatments are completed and there are still remaining funds, additional treatments may include piling and burning.
- Q: Would the landowners with privacy barrier be willing to decrease the size of the barriers?
 - A: That may be a possibility later if funds remain and landowner is open to it, but plan on it remaining as is.
- Q: Can slope map include different treatment types?
 - A: See attached map at end of this document
- Q: Can you cut larger than 6in oaks to gain access into units?
 - A: If there is no other way and it is pre-approved by project manager (RPF).
- Q: Can you provide a map showing the infrastructure within the project units?
 - A: Attached map includes polygons for houses. Wells, low powerlines, and other small infrastructure will be included on operations maps after contract is awarded.
- Q: For trees of special concern, will you mark them prior to starting operations?
 - A: Yes, all protected trees and shrubs will be flagged with Pink “DO NOT CUT” flagging prior to operations.
- Q: Is there a 100ft defensible space buffer on private landowners infrastructure?
 - A: In most cases, yes, though some units come slightly inside that defensible space zone.
- Q: To access units with machinery, can contractors track equipment on roads? Dirt vs. paved
 - A: steel-tracked machines can track on dirt roads, but any damage needs to be repaired afterward. They cannot track on paved roads. Rubber-tracked machines can track on dirt and paved roads, but any damages must be repaired.
- Q: How thick is the pavement on the private driveways?
 - A: Thickness varies. Contractor and project manager can discuss with landowners prior to starting operations.
- Q: For the avoidance buffers, does material for lop n scatter need to be dragged outside of the buffer or just outside of the protected resource? (i.e. drag 50 feet out of the buffer or just remove material out of the ditch)
 - A: for the lop and scatter treatment units, material can be lopped and scattered within the avoidance buffer but must be pulled out of the feature itself (e.g. ditch, adit, historic road/railroad, etc.). For all other treatment types, material must be dragged outside of the avoidance buffer and processed.
- Q: Does this project require prevailing wages?

- A: No
- Q: If an oak has multiple stems, are contractors expected to cut all the stems under 6in DBH or leave all of the stems if at least one is greater than 6in DBH?
 - A: Stems smaller than 6” in a clump and dead stems up to 14” shall be cut to meet spacing requirements. Live stems larger than 6” shall not be cut.
- Q: Can the Placer RCD provide unit numbers for referencing in the bids?
 - A: Attached map shows the project area broken into 4 general units
- Q: Is there an earlier deadline for pile burning?
 - A: No
- Q: Will RCD assist with pile burning?
 - A: Yes, RCD staff will be on site during pile burning operations and will assist when broader oversight is not needed.
- Q: Is priority 2 to be done with additional funds later on, or included in this contract?
 - A: If there are remaining funds in the amount available for this contract to treat priority 2 areas, then it will be included in this contract. If not, there may be funds available later to be added into this contract to treat Priority 2 areas, but not guaranteed.
- Q: Is there a species preference for leaving oaks and conifers?
 - A: There is a slight preference toward leaving oaks, and special cases will be addressed in a pre-ops field meeting.
- Q: Can equipment be tracked on main road (Swanson)?
 - A: See above answer about tracking on paved vs. dirt roads. Traffic control may be needed, and roads may not be blocked for long periods of time unless previously approved by project manager.
- Q: Can trash and other landowner debris be moved out of the way for equipment access?
 - A: Where needed, yes, and with prior approval by project manager.
- Q: Will watercourses be included in acreage for payment?
 - A: No, actual acreage treated will be measured for payment.
- Q: Can <50% slope mechanical treatment be either mastication or chip?
 - A: Yes, the contractor has the option to choose either treatment method. The payment rate will be the same for those units no matter the treatment method.
- Q: Do the internal boundaries need to be followed exactly?
 - A: As close as reasonably possible. There can be deviation if there is a mapping error that is previously discussed with project manager.
- Q: What is the vegetation type on the Northern pile burning unit?

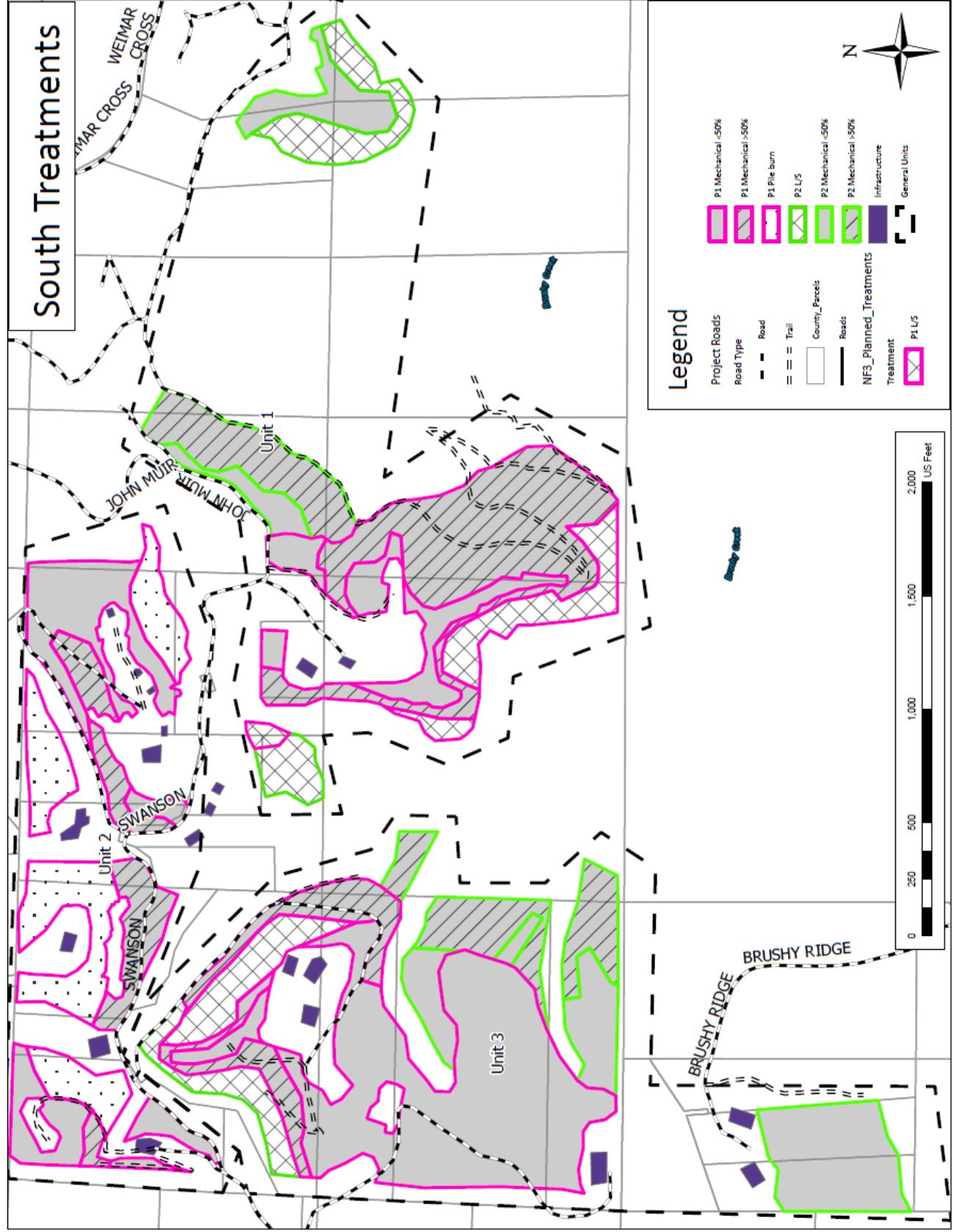
- A: The overstory is primarily Douglas-fir and live oak, with CA bay laurel, buckeye, deer brush, toyon, and other vegetation common to a cool, north-facing slope in this area.
- Q: Are half-fallen/hung up trees expected to be cut and processed?
 - A: Yes, unless they are a safety concern to the crew or marked to be left for wildlife habitat.
- Q: Will the individual prices for each treatment in each priority be evaluated, or only the overall proposed price?
 - A: Overall proposed price will be evaluated, but project manager will look at individual treatment prices and reach out if there seems to be an error.
- Q: Do large snags/hazard trees need to be felled?
 - A: No, unless it is a safety concern to the crew working near them.
- Q: How frequently can contractors invoice?
 - A: Invoices may be submitted as frequently as every 14 days, and as infrequently as quarterly.
- Q: Is there a minimum acreage to invoice?
 - A: No, but RCD prefers completed treatment units to be invoiced.
- Q: Does it matter if contractor does many short periods of work with breaks in between, vs. longer periods of work with little to no breaks?
 - A: RCD will give preference to timelines that propose continuous periods of work rather than short periods with frequent breaks.
- Q: Will the list of bidders be released?
 - A: The following is a list of contractors who attended pre-proposal field tours and are eligible to submit a project proposal:

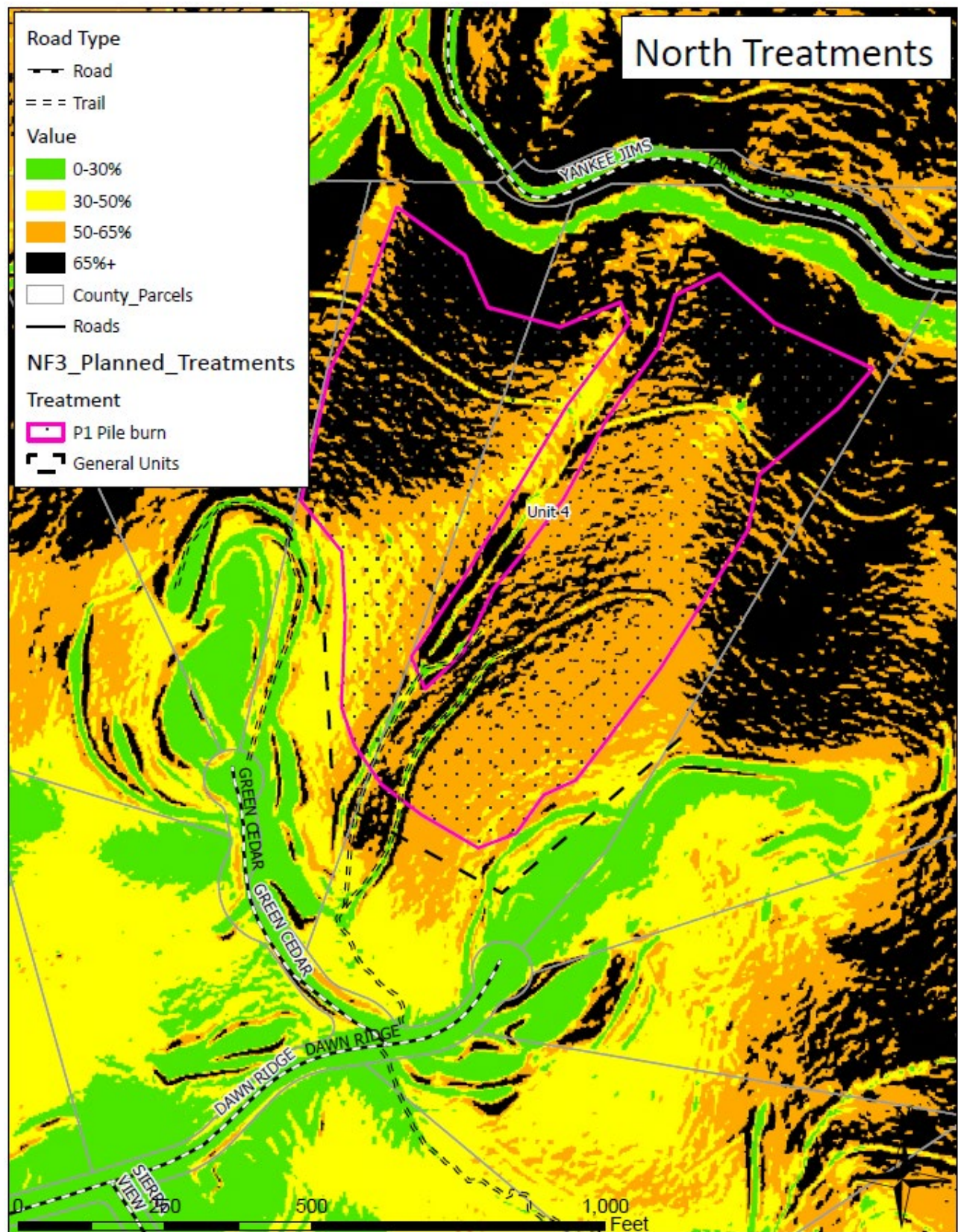
Northwoods Tree & Land Service LLC
 North Tree Fire
 Apex Enterprises Inc.
 Black Dog Enterprises
 Summitt Forests, Inc.
 Snowline Farms
 Hard Rock Engineering Inc.
 Yuba Forest Restoration
 AAA Tree Service LLC

Timbersmith Corporation
 Red Mtn Resource LLC
 Biswell Forestry
 Wildland Corporation
 Tree MD
 On Site Equipment
 Hagerty Forestry
 White Oak Land Management



South Treatments





South Treatments

