

DRIVEWAY:

The property owner alleges that there is an “existing driveway” on the property. This is not accurate. There has never been a driveway on the property, as evidenced by the attached pictures and historic aerials. This is simply the spot on the property where the prior owner cut a portion of the fence in order for him to close a well on the property. The well was closed due to orders from the County of Humboldt. There is no driveway, and the location of this driveway poses a danger to those driving on Hawks Hill Road and anyone coming or going from the driveway itself.

The location of the driveway is very close to a curve in Hawks Hill Rd., and it is impossible to see the driveway location while traveling north on Hawks Hill Rd. until after this curve. (See Google Maps and photographs). The distance between the curve in the road and the proposed driveway location is approximately 67’. A car traveling at 25 mph — the speed limit is residential areas where no speed limit is posted — requires approximately 85’ to come to a complete stop. This includes an approximate 2 seconds of reaction time before the driver engages the brake. This means that a car traveling the speed limit on Hawks Hill Rd. would likely be unable to stop in time if another vehicle (or pedestrian, horse, bicyclist, etc.) was exiting or entering the proposed driveway location for 12 Hawks Hill Rd. Vehicles frequently exceed the speed limit on Hawks Hill Rd. — a car traveling 30 mph requires approximately 109’ to stop, 35 mph requires 136’, and so on. This is a dangerous location for a driveway, and it has never been a driveway.

The danger would be further exacerbated by the fact that the driveway for the neighboring parcel is only approximately 60’ from the proposed driveway. Any vehicle entering or exiting from the neighboring parcel would further obscure the proposed driveway, and any vehicle entering or exiting the proposed driveway would obscure the neighboring parcel’s visibility.

Also, on at least three occasions in recent years, drivers have missed the turn entirely and plowed through the fence at the corner of the property.

In addition, on a nuisance level, the location of the proposed driveway would aim headlights directly into the house on the neighboring parcel.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

1. Humboldt County Code §§ 341-1, et seq.
2. Photographs of Hawks Hill Rd. and Interior Demonstrating Lack of Sight Lines and Potential Nuisance of Headlights into Neighbors’ Homes

Signed:
Cyndy Day-Wilson
John Wilson
Chad Christensen

CHAPTER 1 VISIBILITY CORRIDOR ALONG STREETS AND DRIVEWAYS



Sections:

- § 341-1. **Visibility Obstruction Prohibited.**
- § 341-2. **Visibility Obstruction.**
- § 341-3. **Visibility Triangle.**
- § 341-4. **Measurements.**
- § 341-5. **Pre-Existing Visibility Obstructions.**
- § 341-11. **Enforcement.**
- § 341-12. **Penalties.**

341-1. **Visibility Obstruction Prohibited.**



A visibility obstruction shall not be permitted in the visibility triangle formed where streets or driveways intersect County maintained roads.

In cases where unusual conditions or topography exist, right of way determinations are indeterminable or encroachment is over extended unused rights of way, special conditions of visibility maintenance may be determined by the Department of Public Works in accordance with the Humboldt County Roadway Design Standards Manual. (Ord. 1148, § 1, 7/19/1977)

341-2. **Visibility Obstruction.**



A "visibility obstruction" means any natural or man-made object exceeding three feet (3') in height which blocks or impedes the vision. Visibility obstruction includes hedges, bushes, natural growth, buildings, structures, fences and signs. Visibility obstruction does not mean any of the following:

- (a) Existing permanent buildings lawfully constructed.
- (b) Public utility poles.
- (c) Trees trimmed to the trunk so as to provide a clear open space between pavement grade and a plane six feet (6') higher.
- (d) Fences of a type which do not obstruct vision.
- (e) Supporting members or appurtenances to permanent buildings lawfully existing on the date this division becomes effective.
- (f) Official signs or signals.
- (g) Places where the contour of the ground is such that there can be no cross-visibility at the intersection.
- (h) Signs mounts so as to provide a clear, open space (except supporting members) of ten feet (10') or more above the ground and whose supports do not substantially block visibility. (Ord. 997, § 2, 9/17/1974)

341-3.
Visibility Triangle.



"Visibility triangle" means a triangular area defined as follows:

- (a) *Intersecting Streets.* For streets intersecting County maintained roads, that triangular area between the street right of way lines and a diagonal line joining points on the street right of way lines thirty feet (30') from the point of their intersection, or, in case of rounded corners, the triangular area between the tangents to the curve and a diagonal line joining points on said tangent thirty feet (30') from the point of their intersection. The tangents referred to are those at the beginning and at the end of the curve at the corner.
- (b) *Private Driveways - 25 Miles Per Hour or Less.* For driveways intersecting County maintained roads with a speed limit of 25 miles per hour or less, the triangular area formed by the edge of the driveway, the street right of way line, and a line connecting two (2) points, one (1) of which is on the right of way line fifteen feet (15') from the edge of the driveway, and the other of which is on the edge of the driveway ten feet (10') back of the right of way line measured perpendicular to the right of way line in a direction away from the street.
- (c) *Private Driveways.* For driveways intersecting County maintained roads with a speed limit greater than 25 miles per hour, the triangular area formed by the edge of the driveway, the street right of way line and a line connecting two (2) points, one (1) of which is on the right of way line thirty feet (30') from the edge of the driveway and the other of which is on the edge of the driveway ten feet (10') back of the right of way line measured perpendicular to the right of way line in a direction away from the street. (Ord. 997, § 3, 9/17/1974)

341-4.
Measurements.



- (a) *Height of Visibility Obstruction.* The height of visibility obstructions shall be measured from either the edge of the nearest surfaced roadway or the edge of the nearest traveled way where the roadway is not surfaced.
- (b) *No Sidewalk, Curb, Substandard Right of Way.* Where there is no existing sidewalk, curb, and/or where the deeded right of way is less than twenty-five feet (25') from the center line of the street, the street right of way shall be considered to be twenty-five feet (25') from and parallel to the center line of the street, or where the deeded right of way is in excess of twenty-five feet (25') from the center line and is unused, the edge of the maintained section of the roadway shall be deemed to be the property line for determining the triangular areas for which this division controls the obstructions to visibility.
- (c) *Right of Way Includes Curb and Sidewalk.* Where the street right of way line is nearer to the center line of the street than any existing sidewalk, the street right of way line shall be assumed to be coincidental with the back edge of the sidewalk for determining the triangular area for which this chapter controls obstructions to visibility.

Where there is no sidewalk but the street right of way line is nearer to the center line of the street than any existing curb or gutter, the street right of way shall be assumed to be coincidental with the back edge of the curb and gutter for determining the triangular areas for which this division controls obstructions to visibility. (Ord. 997, § 4, 9/17/1974)

341-5.
Pre-Existing Visibility Obstructions.



No visibility obstruction shall be deemed to be excepted from the application of this division because of its being in existence at the time of the adoption hereof unless expressly exempted by the terms of Section [341-2](#). (Ord. 997, § 7, 9/17/1974)

341-11.
Enforcement.



- (a) The Department of Public Works of the County of Humboldt shall have the primary responsibility for enforcing violations of this division. The Director of Public Works, or his authorized representatives, may investigate violations of this division, give such notices as may be required to carry out this division, and perform such other duties in connection with the enforcement of this division as may be required. In enforcing this division the Director of Public Works may take into consideration traffic accident experience and the Humboldt County Roadway Design Manual.

(b) *Remedies.* Any visibility obstruction maintained in violation of this division shall be deemed a public nuisance, whether erected before or after the effective date of this division. The Director of Public Works, or his authorized representative, may in his discretion enforce any violation of this division by posting upon the premises a notice to abate the said nuisance and by sending a copy of said notice by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the owner of record, as shown on the most recent assessment roll of the County, to provide the owner fifteen (15) days to either abate the nuisance or file a request for hearing before the Board of Supervisors. If a request for hearing has not been filed with the County Clerk within said fifteen (15) day period, then the Director of Public Works, or his authorized representative, may enter upon the premises and remove or eliminate the obstruction. The cost to the County of abating the nuisance may be assessed and levied against the property in the manner prescribed by Sections [351-22](#) through [351-26](#). (Ord. 1148, § 1, 7/19/1977; Ord. 1336, § 1, 6/26/1979; Ord. 2673, § 4, 5/4/2021)

341-12. Penalties.



In addition to the remedies otherwise provided, any person, firm or corporation failing to correct the visibility obstruction within fifteen (15) days after receiving a written notice of violation from the Department of Public Works shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. Such person, firm or corporation shall be deemed guilty of a separate offense for each and every day during any portion of which any violation of this division is committed, continued or permitted by

The Humboldt County Code is current through Ordinance 2692, passed April 26, 2022.

Disclaimer: The Office of the County Counsel has the official version of the Humboldt County Code. Users should contact the Clerk of the Board's office for ordinances passed subsequent to the ordinance cited above.

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County Telephone: (707) 445-7236

Code Publishing Company

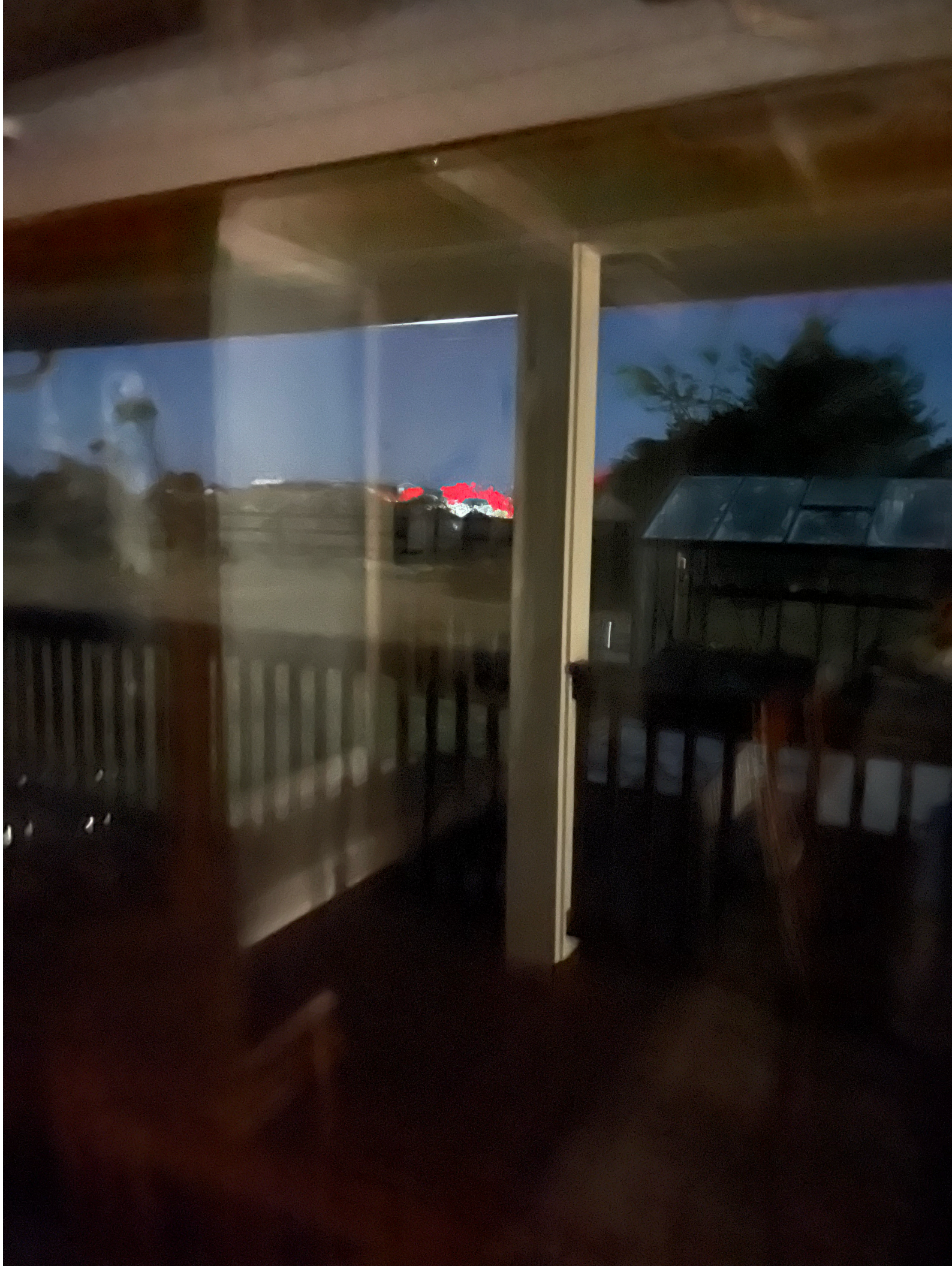


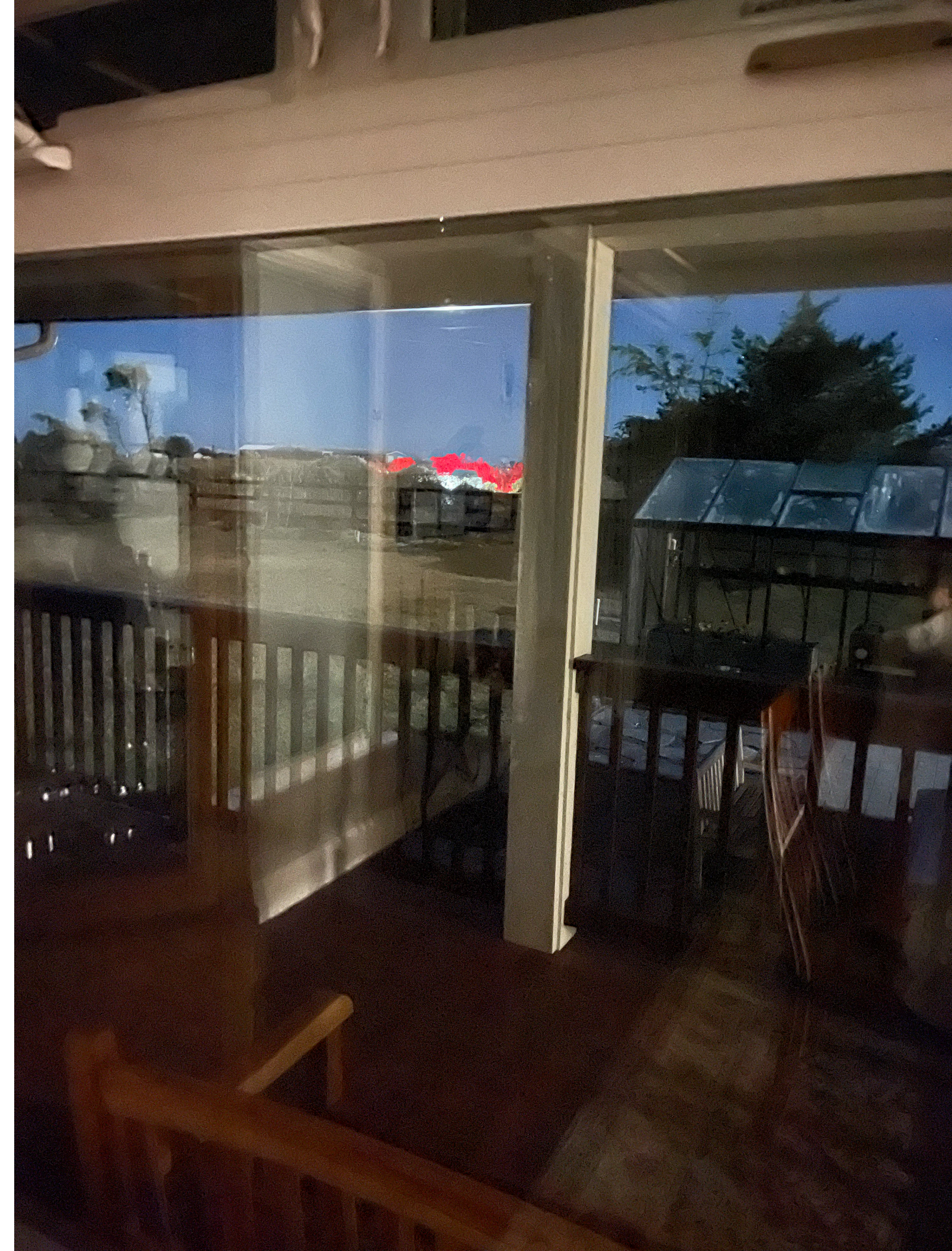














NO
driveway

3/2015



4/11/2015
NO MESS

clearing
fence
lines
issued
fence

Note
fence
part



Table Bluff Rd

Rasmussen Rd

Table Bluff Rd

Hawks Hill Rd

12 Hawks Hill Rd

Google Earth

Imagery Date: 5/26/2016 40°39'53.58" N, 124°13'35.97" W elev 401 ft eye alt 1838 ft

1985

4/1989
1985 2019

Table Bluff Rd

Rasmussen Rd

Table Bluff Rd

Hawks Hill Rd

12 Hawks Hill Rd

Image U.S. Geological Survey

Google Earth

Imagery Date: 4/27/1989 40°39'56.56" N 124°13'30.82" W elev 405 ft eye alt 1838 ft

7/2004

Table Bluff Rd

Table Bluff Rd

Rasmussen Rd

Table Bluff Rd

Hawks Hill Rd

12 Hawks Hill Rd

Table Bluff Rd

Image USDA/FPAC/GEO

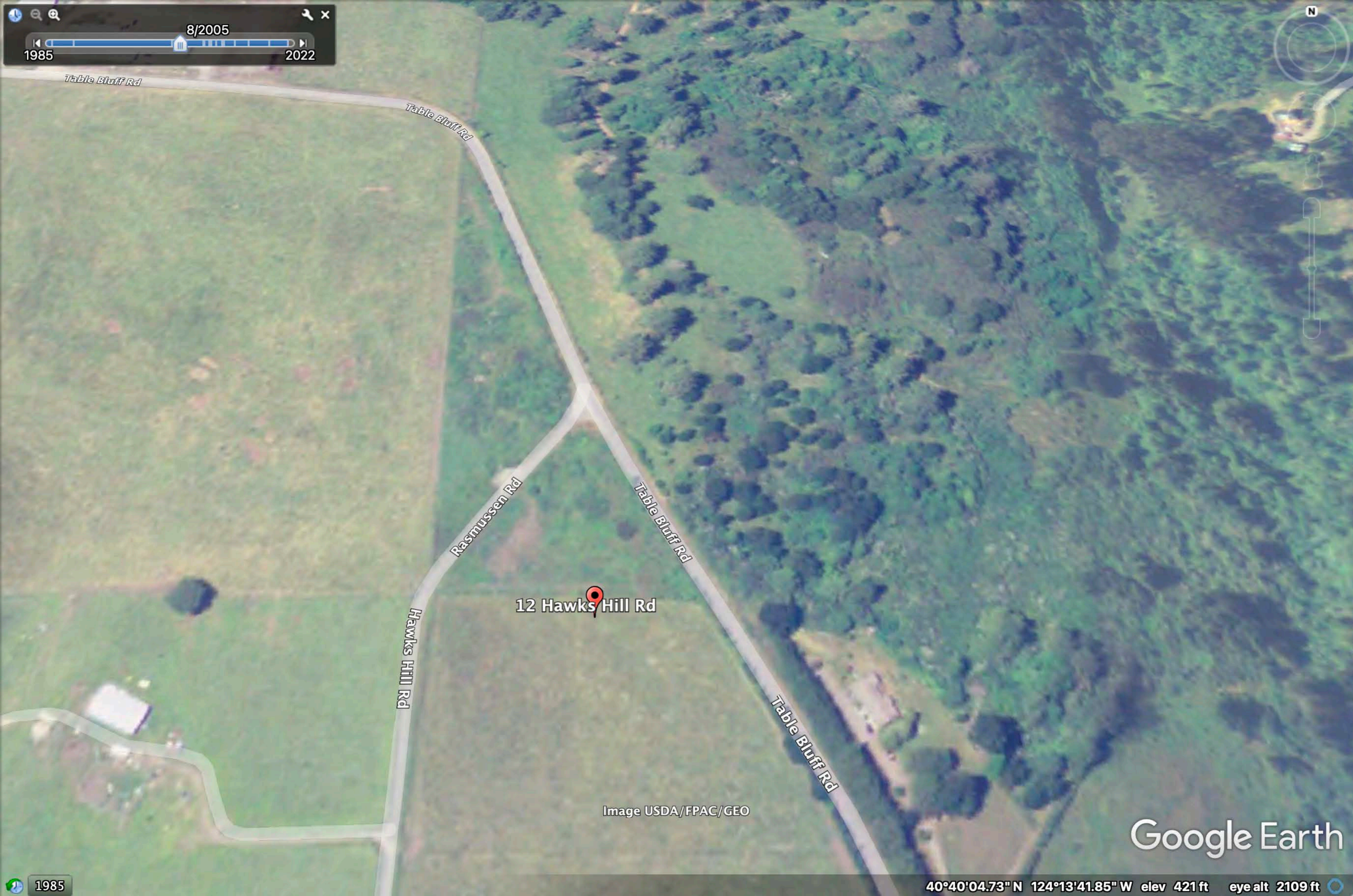
Google Earth

1985

Imagery Date: 6/30/2004 40°39'58.74" N 124°13'36.85" W elev 406 ft eye alt 2109 ft

8/2005
1985 2022

N



12 Hawks Hill Rd

Image USDA/FPAC/GEO

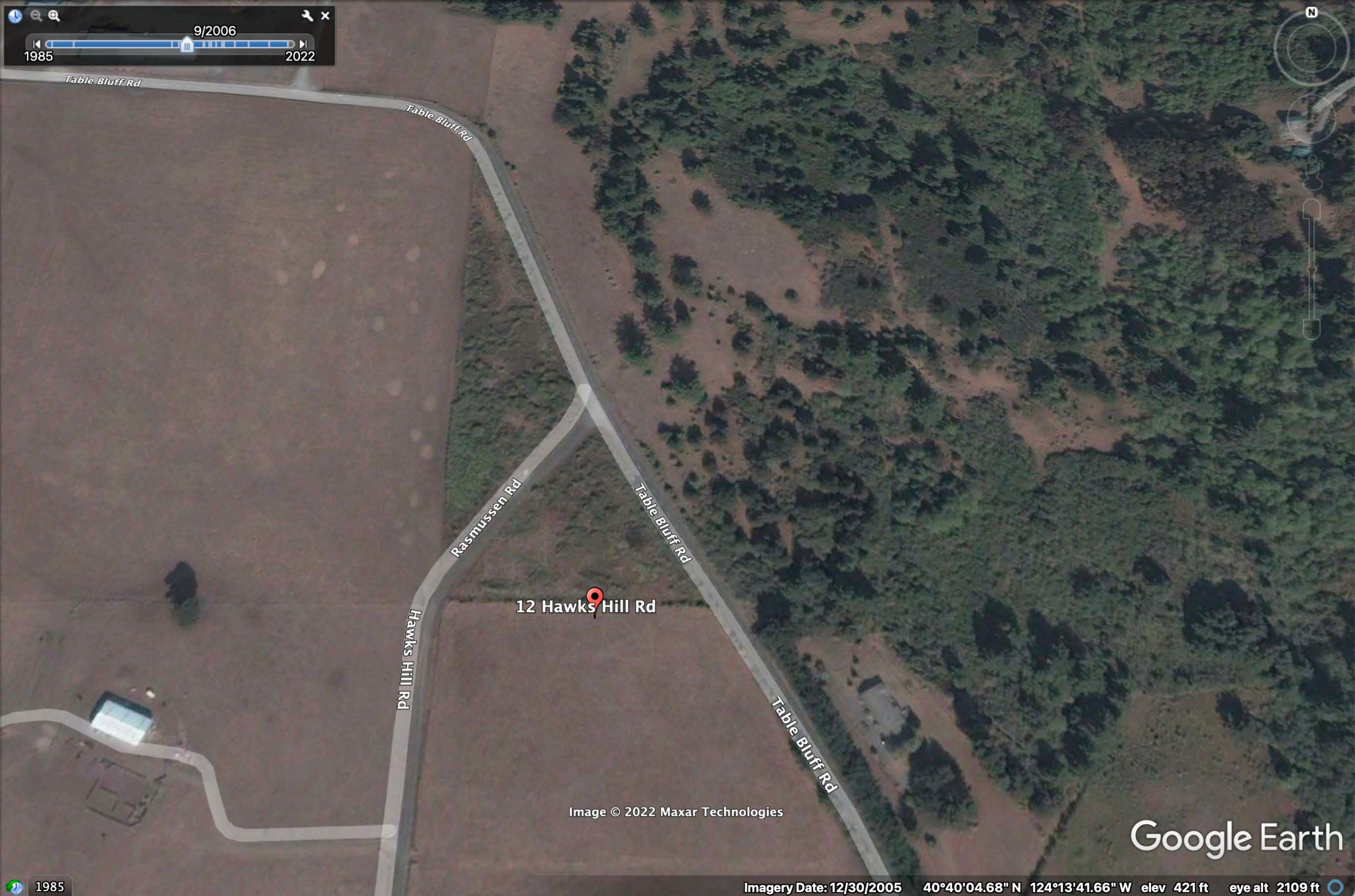
Google Earth

1985

40°40'04.73" N 124°13'41.85" W elev 421 ft eye alt 2109 ft

1985 9/2006 2022

Navigation controls including a compass, a zoom slider, and a street view pegman icon.



12 Hawks Hill Rd

Image © 2022 Maxar Technologies

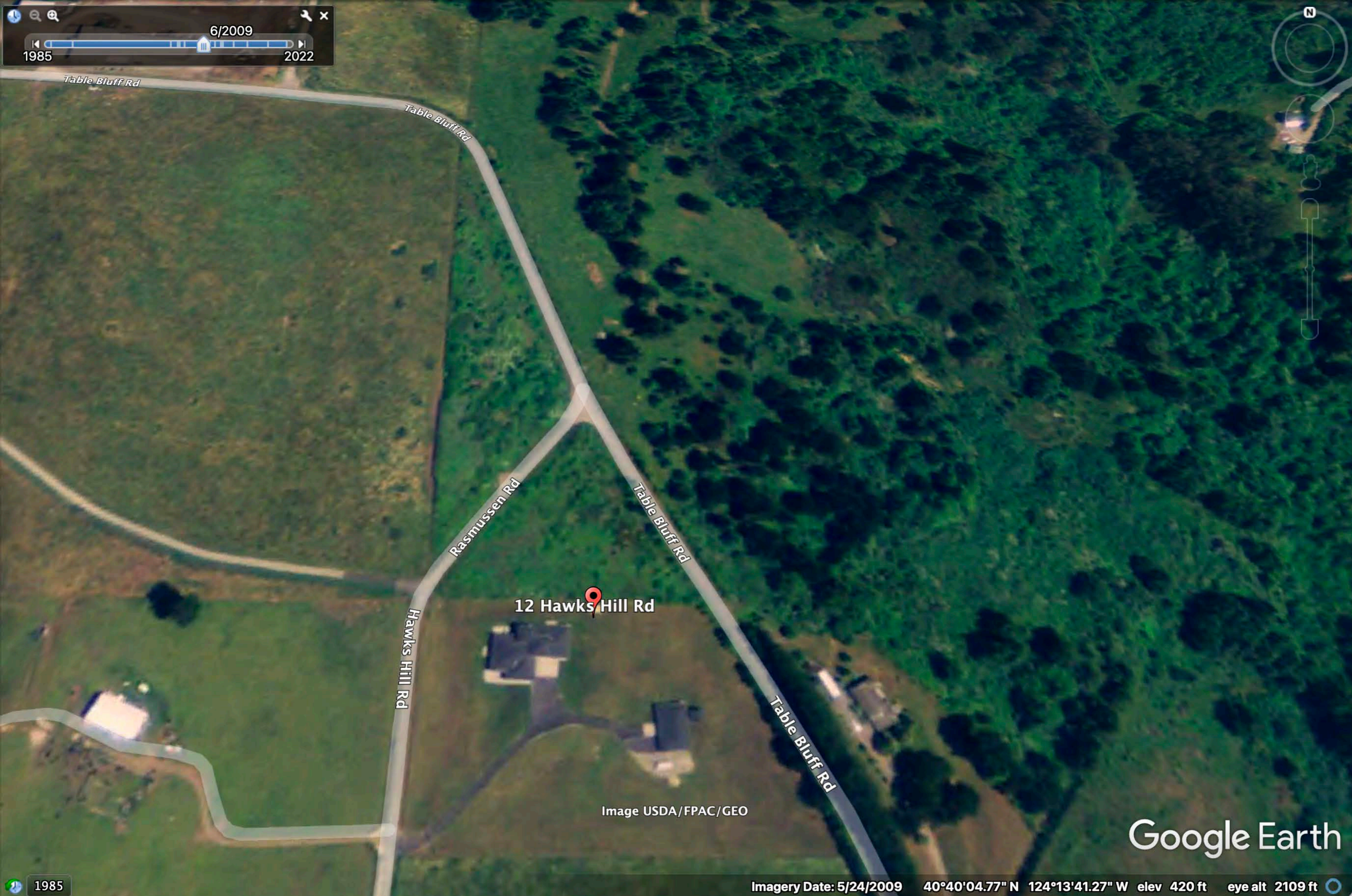
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1985

Imagery Date: 12/30/2005 40°40'04.68" N 124°13'41.66" W elev 421 ft eye alt 2109 ft

1985 6/2009 2022

Navigation controls including a compass, a street view pegman, and a vertical scale bar.



12 Hawks Hill Rd

Image USDA/FPAC/GEO

Google Earth

6/2011

Table Bluff Rd

Table Bluff Rd

Rasmussen Rd

Table Bluff Rd

Hawks Hill Rd

12 Hawks Hill Rd

Image © 2022 Maxar Technologies

Google Earth

1985

Imagery Date: 6/7/2011 40°40'01.93" N 124°13'37.83" W elev 411 ft eye alt 2045 ft

1985 8/2012 2022

Navigation controls including a compass, zoom in/out buttons, and a vertical slider.



Table Bluff Rd

Rasmussen Rd

Table Bluff Rd

Hawks Hill Rd

12 Hawks Hill Rd

Table Bluff Rd

Google Earth

1985

Imagery Date: 8/23/2012 40°40'03.99" N 124°13'40.50" W elev 419 ft eye alt 2045 ft

1985 5/2014 2022

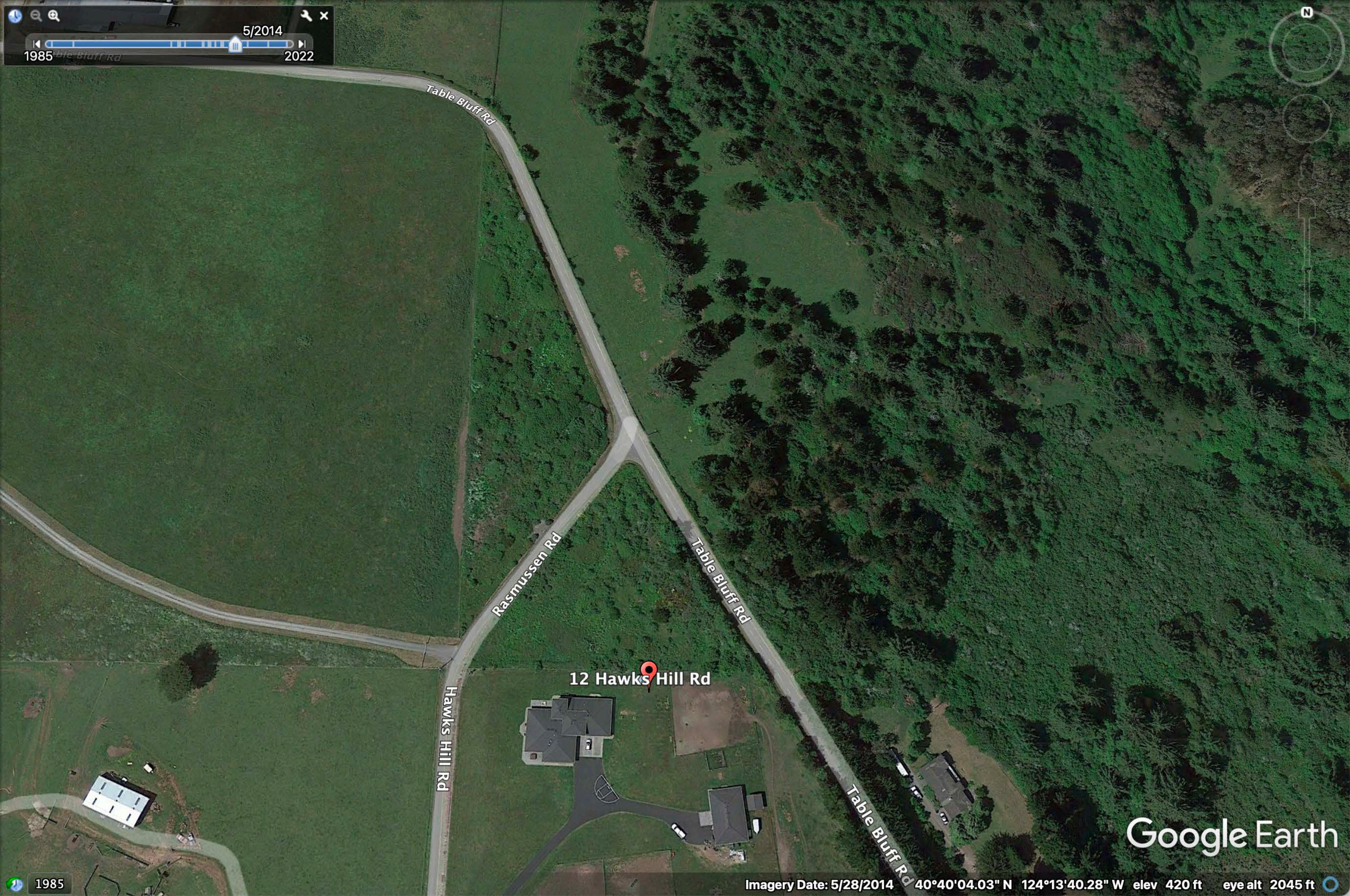


Table Bluff Rd

Rasmussen Rd

Table Bluff Rd

Hawks Hill Rd

12 Hawks Hill Rd

Table Bluff Rd

Google Earth

1985

Imagery Date: 5/28/2014 40°40'04.03" N 124°13'40.28" W elev 420 ft eye alt 2045 ft

5/2016
1985 2022

Navigation controls including a compass, a vertical scale bar, and a street view pegman icon.



12 Hawks Hill Rd

Hawks Hill Rd

Rasmussen Rd

Table Bluff Rd

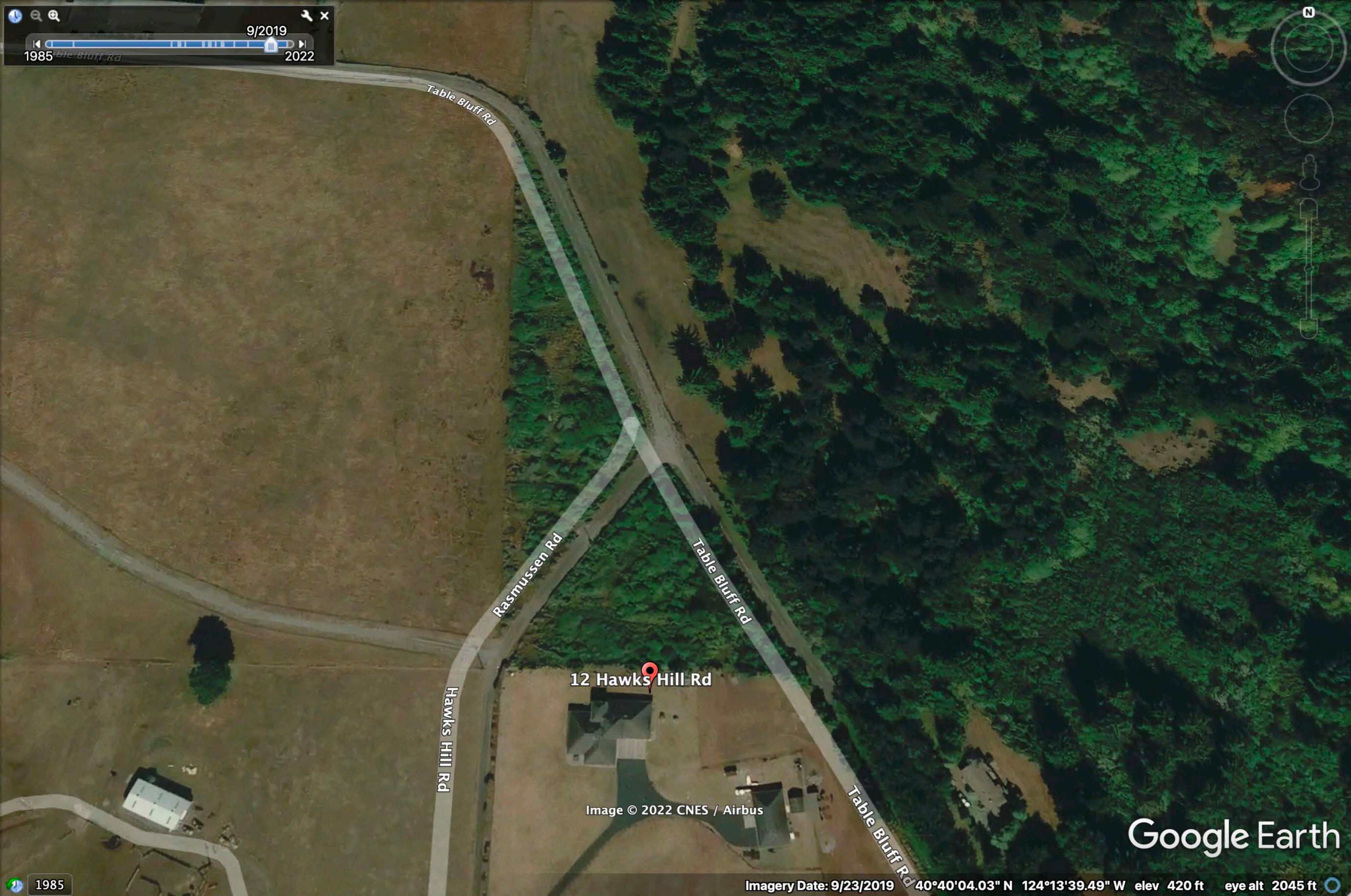
Table Bluff Rd

Google Earth

1985

Imagery Date: 5/26/2016 40°40'04.09" N 124°13'40.00" W elev 420 ft eye alt 2045 ft

1985 9/2019 2022
Table Bluff Rd



12 Hawks Hill Rd

Image © 2022 CNES / Airbus

Google Earth

1985

Imagery Date: 9/23/2019 40°40'04.03" N 124°13'39.49" W elev 420 ft eye alt 2045 ft