



December 16, 2022

RPF Letter



Owner of Record (AP# 223-141-010-000)
Trent Sanders
PO BOX 1126
Redway CA 95560-1126

Owner of Record (AP# 214-141-001-000)
Willard C Hurlbutt TR
PO BOX 283
Garberville CA 95542-0283

Registered Professional Forester
Stephen Hohman RPF #2652
PO Box 733
Hydesville CA. 95547
(707) 768-3743

The following is being provided to address the County request from Trevor Estlow *for a letter from a Forester stating that the lands to be zoned TPZ meet the inclusion requirements of Section 4561 of the Public Resources Code.*

PRC 4561 reads:

It is the purpose of this section to set forth resource conservation standards for Timber Operations, and to ensure that a cover of trees of commercial species, sufficient to utilize adequately the suitable and available growing space, is maintained or established after Timber Operations.

To that end, the following resource conservation standards define minimum acceptable stocking, and an area covered by a timber harvesting plan shall be classified as acceptably stocked if either of the following conditions exist within five years after completion of Timber Operations: ...

PRC 4561 triggers the minimum stocking standards, regardless of zoning, to an area covered by a Timber Harvest Plan within five years after completion of Timber Operations.

Per Humboldt County Code 314-7.4.1.2.5, The land to be included in the Timberland Production or TPZ Zone shall be timberland as defined by Section 51104(f) of the Government Code. (Former Section INL#314-12(b)(5); Ord. 1126, Sec. 1, 3/12/77; Amended by Ord. 1907, Sec. 3, 8/21/90)

California Government Code 51104 (f) reads:

“**Timberland**” means privately owned land, or land acquired for state forest purposes, which is devoted to and used for growing and harvesting timber, or for growing and harvesting timber and compatible uses, and which is capable of growing an average annual volume of wood fiber of at least 15 cubic feet per acre.

The capacity of this letter felt it was more appropriate to determine whether the portion of AP# 214-141-001 to be conveyed to AP# 223-141-010 is Timberland.

Site visit in preparation for this letter was conducted on December 2, 2022. Referencing the Humboldt County Web GIS, AP# 223-141-010 is zoned: **AE;TPZ** and that portion of AP# 214-141-001 to be conveyed to AP# 223-141-010 is zoned: **AE-B-5(160)**.

Regulations and Definitions

Humboldt County Code (HCC)

313-155 Definitions

Timberland: Land, other than land owned by the Federal government and land designated by the Board of Forestry as experimental forest land, which is available for, and capable of growing a crop of trees of any commercial species used to produce lumber and other forest products, including Christmas trees. (See, Public Resources Code Section 4526) (Former Section CZ#A312-22)

PRC 4526. Timberland.

“**Timberland**” means land, other than land owned by the federal government and land designated by the board as experimental forest land, which is available for, and capable of, growing a crop of trees of a commercial species used to produce lumber and other forest products, including Christmas trees. Commercial species shall be determined by the board on a district basis.

The following Rules are provided for quick reference and reader background.

- 14 CCR 912.7 Resource Conservation Standards for Minimum Stocking
- 14 CCR 1070-1075 Standardized Stocking Sampling Procedures
- Public Resources Code 4561 Resource Conservation Standards

14 CCR 895.1 Definitions:

Commercial Species (For the Coast Forest District:) means those species found in group A and those in group B that are found on lands where the species in Group A are now growing naturally or have grown naturally in the recorded past.

Timberland, pursuant to PRC § 4526, means land, other than land owned by the federal government and land designated by the board as experimental forest land, which is available for, and capable of, growing a crop of trees of a commercial species used to produce lumber and other forest products, including Christmas trees. Commercial species, on a district basis, is defined in 14 CCR § 895.1.

14 CCR 1100 Definitions

(m) “**Timberland**” means Timberland as defined in PRC § 4526, for land outside a Timber production zone. “Timberland” means Timberland as defined in Gov. C. § 51104(f) for land within a Timberland production zone (Reference: § 4526, Public Resource Code; § 51104(f) Government Code.)

14 CCR 912.7

(a) Rock outcroppings, meadows, wet areas, or other areas not normally bearing commercial species shall not be considered as requiring stocking and are exempt from such provisions.

14 CCR 1072.4 Exclusions

Roads and Landings that will not be regenerated, meadows, wet areas, rocky areas, and areas not normally bearing timber shall not be used as plot centers for sampling purposes.

Observations

Access to the proposed Hurlbutt land to be conveyed to Sanders was accessed off Dean Creek Road through the Sanders parcel. The vegetative community observed through this portion of the Sanders parcel was a mosaic of early to mid-seral forested condition, grassland and integrating edges of forest encroachment into the grasslands.

Aided by GPS, a meandering traverse was walked along and interior to a georeferenced shape boundary provided by Points West Surveying Co. on the Hurlbutt parcel. The vegetative community within the shape boundary was of similar composition as the adjacent Sanders parcel. Grasslands are dominated by native and non-native grasses, coyote brush and poison oak with Douglas-fir prairie encroachment. Tree species observed in the forested portions include Douglas-fir, Oregon white oak, madrone, buckeye, laurel and big leaf maple.

Soils

The web soil survey (<https://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/>) was queried and generated a soils report. Below is the summary table.

Map Unit Symbol	Map Unit Name	Percent of AOI
673	Coolyork-Yorknorth complex, 30 to 50 percent slopes	86.1%
5508	Canoecreek-Coyoterock- Sproulish complex, 15 to 50 percent slopes	13.9%
Totals for Area of Interest (AOI)		100.0%

The soils are of relatively similar parent material; colluvium derived from mudstone and/or colluvium derived from sandstone and/or residuum weathered from schist. These soils are characterized as a moderately well-drained clay loam to gravelly clay loam, depth of more than 80 inches with moderate permeability and having a moderate to high erosion hazard when completely cleared of vegetation.

Referencing the 1952 Vegetation-Soil map 29C-1, the area is dominated by the 752 Series primarily composed of unidentified grasses and poison oak. The timbered areas observed in imagery lie within the Hugo (812) Series, commonly found on timbered sites. The dominant plant species noted for these soil series are similar to those noted above during the meandering traverse.

The mosaic polygons of grassland and timber soils transcend across both parcels, meaning those soils on the Hurlbutt parcel are a contiguous polygon existing on the Sanders parcel.

Site Index

This is a measure of a soils productive potential for growing commercial quality timber. The index is based on only two parameters, tree height and age. Two trees were measured for site. The first, Douglas-fir 15.8" DBH, 24 years @ DBH, height 64' and last 10 years radial growth 3.0". The second, Douglas-fir 14.4" DBH, 30 years @ DBH, height 58' and last 10 years radial growth 2.35". Referencing Bulletin 201, Douglas-fir Site Class is a low III with a Site Index of 130. Based on the height of pre-dominant trees observed in the field the area assessed would be considered Site Class III. Pre-dominant trees, also referred to as Residuals, were not measured due to damage and defect, but estimated to be approximately 120 years of age with estimated height of 130-150 feet.

References-

McArdle, Meyer, Bruce. *The Yield Of Douglas Fir In The Pacific Northwest*, Technical Bulletin 201, U. S. Dept. Of Agriculture, Revised October 1949 Slightly revised May 1961

Vegetation-Soil Map 29C-1, U.S. Department Of Agriculture - Forest Service, California Forest And Range Experiment Station, Division Of Forest Economics – Forest Survey; First Edition: January, 1952

For the following photo gallery, see attached imagery map for referenced Photo Point locations.

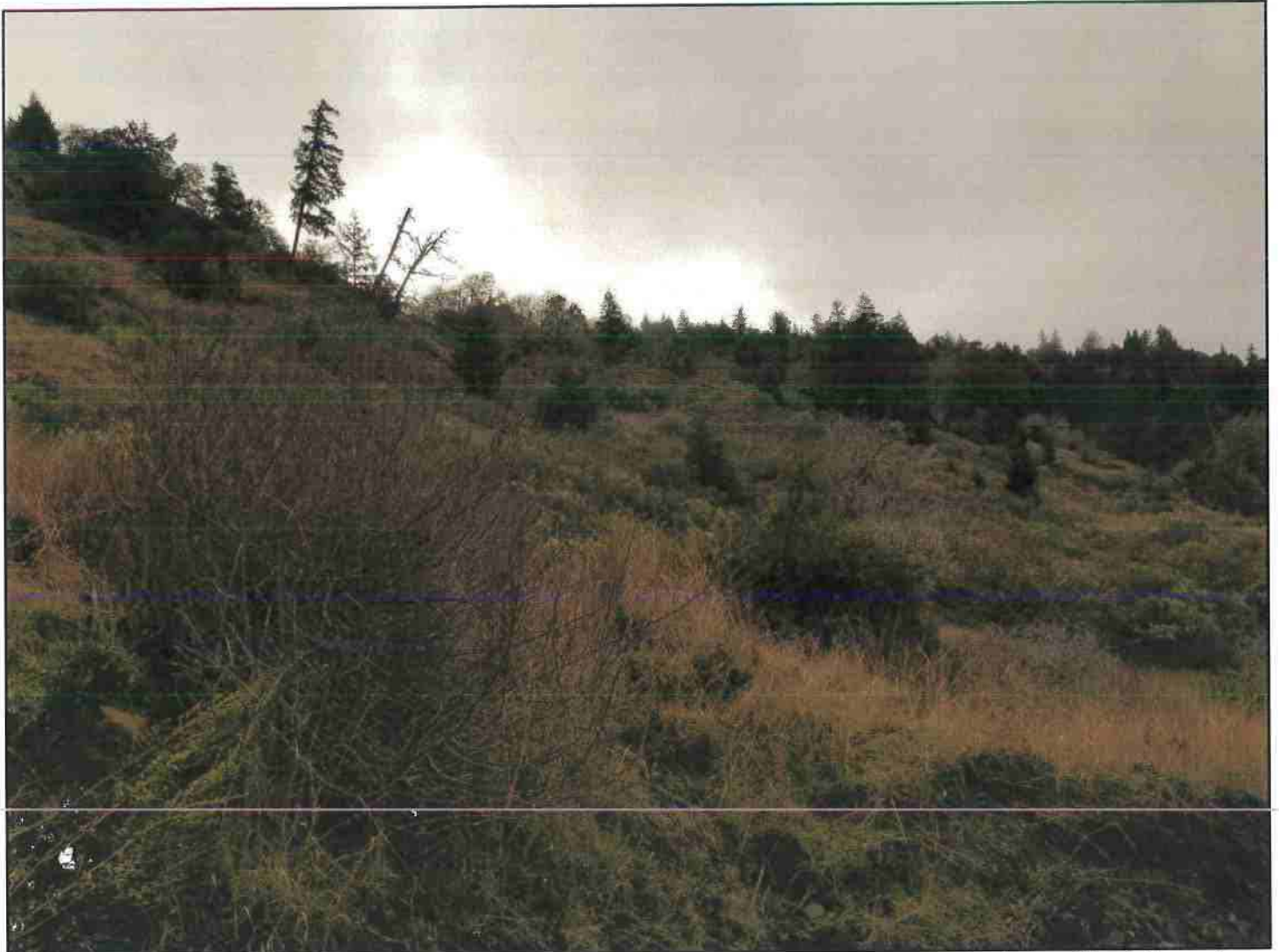


Photo Point 1 viewing southerly. While this area is understocked, note advanced Douglas-fir regeneration in the mid and distant views.
Photo date: December 2, 2022



Photo Point 2 location of site tree. Douglas-fir 15.8" DBH, 24 years @ DBH, height 64' and last 10 years radial growth 3.0"
Photo date: December 2, 2022



Photo Point 3 location of site tree. Douglas-fir 14.4" DBH, 30 years @ DBH, height 58' and last 10 years radial growth 2.35"
Photo date: December 2, 2022



Photo Point 4 at old fence line viewing south into Sanders Parcel. Photo date: December 2, 2022



Photo Point 4 at old fence line viewing north into Hurlbutt Parcel. Photo date: December 2, 2022

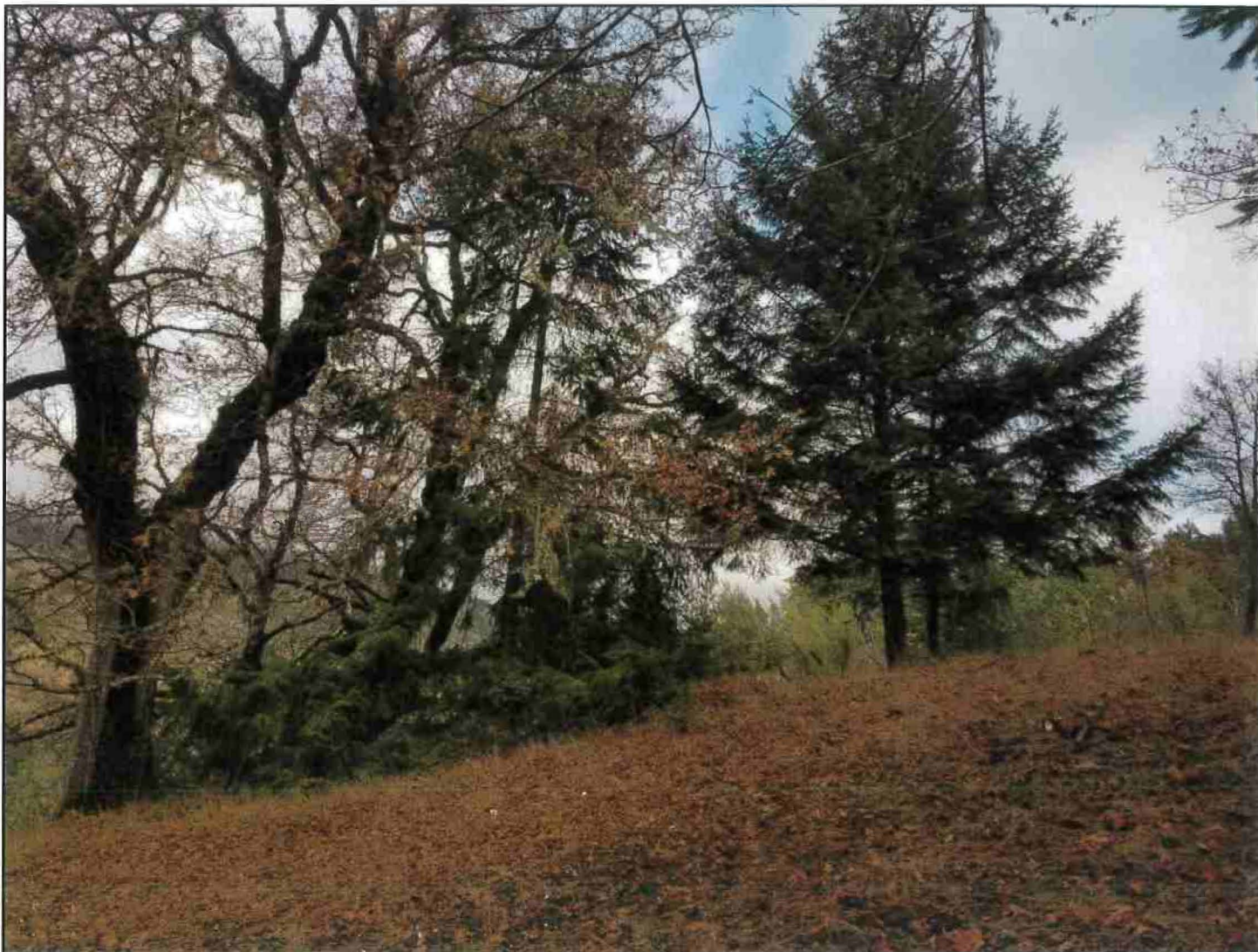


Photo Point 5 at old fence line viewing north into Hurlbutt Parcel. Photo date: December 2, 2022

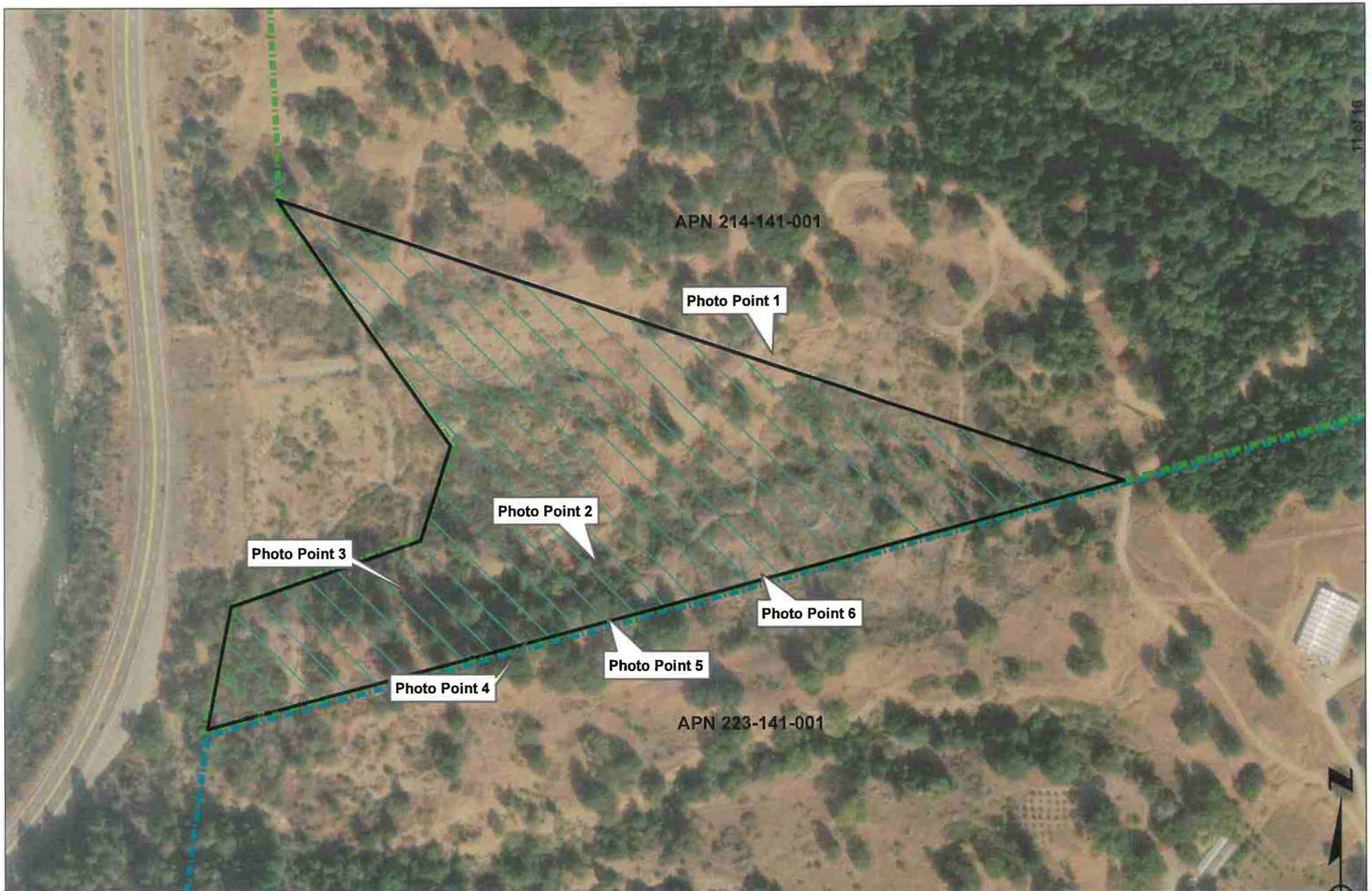


Photo Point 6 viewing northerly. While this area is understocked, note advanced Douglas-fir regeneration in the mid and distant views.
Photo date: December 2, 2022

Conclusion

In review of references and field assessment of that portion of AP# 214-141-001 to be conveyed to AP# 223-141-010, it has been determined that it does meet the definition of Timberland. This decision is based on the findings that; it is available for and capable of growing a crop of Commercial species.

A timber cruise was not conducted and the conifer component is generally of small stature. The Mean annual increment (MAI) could not be computed. Trees measured indicate site class III. While portions as viewed in Photo Points 1 and 6 are understocked, there is approximately 3 acres of timbered portion. It is estimated to have a current standing volume of approximately 16MBF per acre. Assuming a 30 year age class, the MAI is approximately 530 board feet per acre per year (volume per acre divided by stand age).



11 of 16

APN 214-141-001

Photo Point 1

Photo Point 2

Photo Point 3

Photo Point 4

Photo Point 5

Photo Point 6

APN 223-141-001

-  Hurlbutt2Sanders
-  HurlbuttParcel
-  SandersParcel

Sanders - Hurlbutt LLA
Section 36; T3S; R3E and Section 1; T4S; R3E; HB&M;
Humboldt County; Located on the Miranda 7.5' USGS Quadrangle



0 115 230 460

Feet 1 inch = 250 feet Photo Imagery Date: 9/24/2021

Hohman And Associates Forestry Consultants

Date: 12/13/2022



United States
Department of
Agriculture

NRCS

Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

A product of the National
Cooperative Soil Survey,
a joint effort of the United
States Department of
Agriculture and other
Federal agencies, State
agencies including the
Agricultural Experiment
Stations, and local
participants

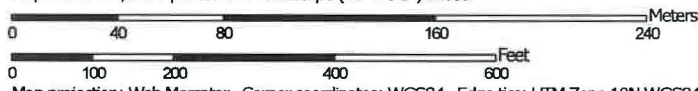
Custom Soil Resource Report for Humboldt County, South Part, California



Custom Soil Resource Report Soil Map



Map Scale: 1:2,870 if printed on A landscape (11" x 8.5") sheet.



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

FOREST SERVICE

CALIFORNIA FOREST AND RANGE EXPERIMENT STATION

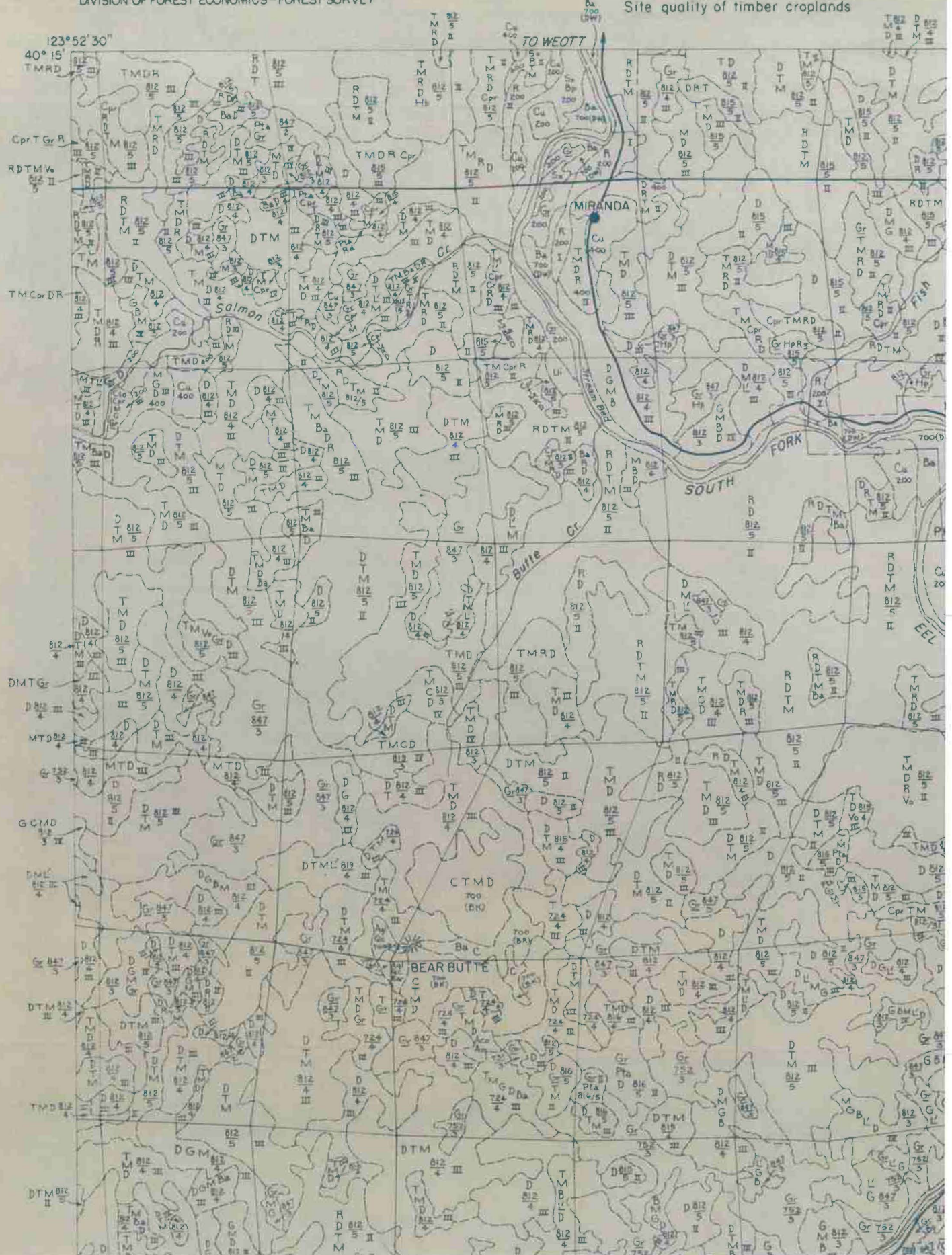
DIVISION OF FOREST ECONOMICS - FOREST SURVEY

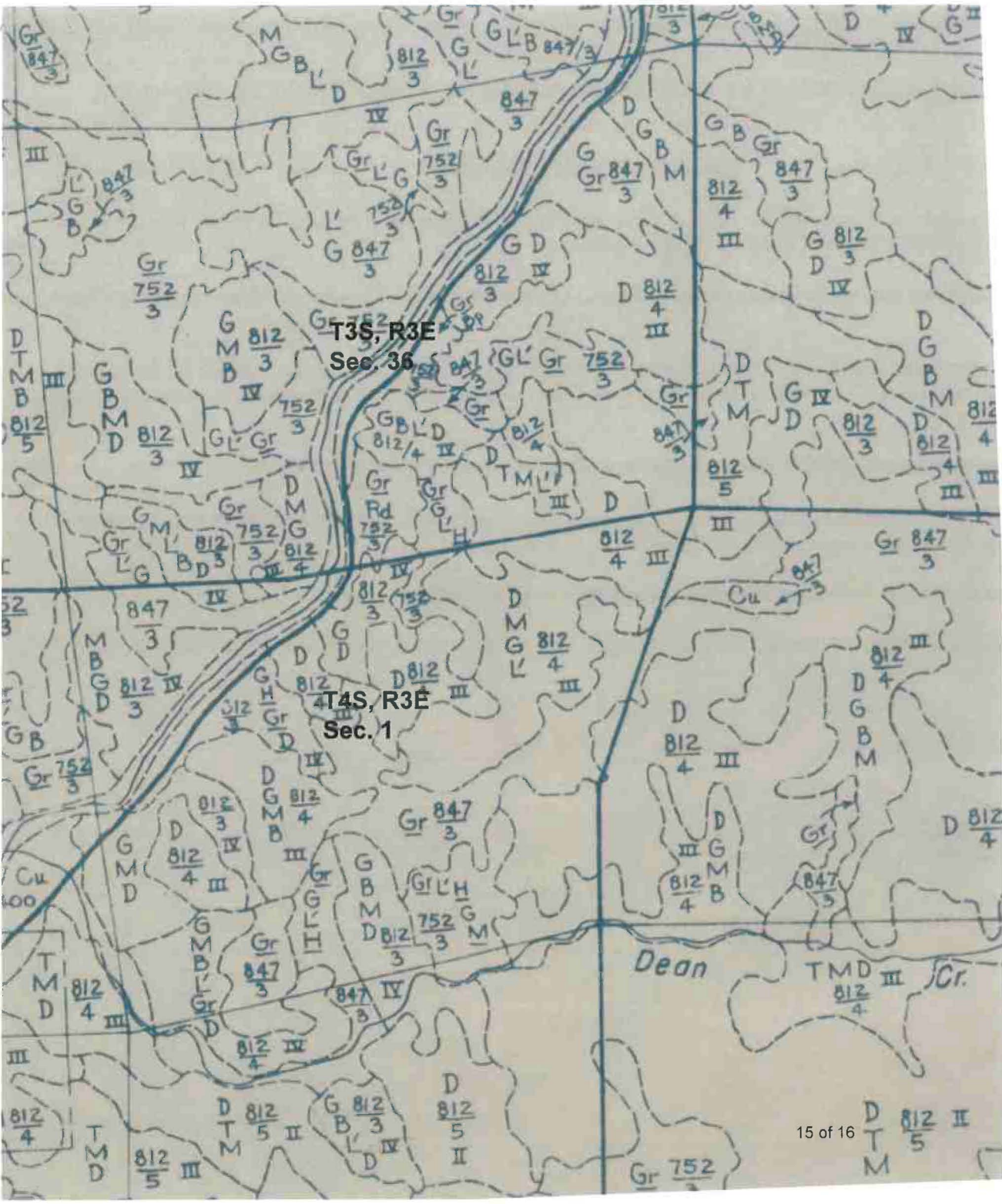
VEGETATION—SOIL

Species composition of vegetation

Series and depth class of soil

Site quality of timber croplands





T3S, R3E
Sec. 36

T4S, R3E
Sec. 1

Dean Cr.

STATEMENT OF CONTINGENT AND LIMITING CONDITIONS CONCERNING THE PREPARATION AND USE OF THE RPF LETTER

Prepared by Hohman & Associates

1. This information has been prepared for the sole use of the **Permittee** or **Landowner of Record**, for the express purpose of submitting the document to the local County Planning Department.
2. Hohman and Associates does not assume any liability for use of this information by any party other than the owner or their agent.
3. The assessment presented in this report should be viewed and considered in light of the time spent observing the property and the methodologies used. The assessment may differ from those made by others or from the results of interpretation and assessment protocols.
4. Hohman and Associates did not conduct an investigation on a legal survey of the property.
5. The information is based upon conditions apparent to Hohman and Associates at the time the work was done. This report is time sensitive and provides current conditions as per the date of this document.
6. All future work on site shall be through **approved permits** with local, state or county agencies.
7. Hohman and Associates shall not be responsible for the supervision of operations following approval of this letter.
8. Signature line

Registered Professional Forester: Stephen Hohman RPF #2652

Signature:  _____

Date: 12-16-22