NDRC Project Information Sheet

Submission Deadline; July 10, 2015, Project Information can be submitted on line at CA-NDRC@hcd.ca.gov or mailed to Tuolumne County Administrator's Office (2 South Green Street, Sonora, CA 95370)

1. Agency/Organization Project Sponsor:

Stanislaus NF

2. Project Contact (Name, Email, Phone #):

Marty Gmelin, mgmelin@fs.fed.us 209-532-3671

3. Scope of Proposed Project- Include Project Goals and Objectives, Timeline and Tasks (Please submit as an attachment, **1 page max)**

4. List all Agency/Organizations involved in Project and their Role:

Stanislaus NF: Lead
Tuolumne County: Inmate Nursery; growing some of the trees for reforestation effort

5. List Measure(s) of Project Accomplishments/Expected Outcomes:

Acres of forest land established = 475
Acres of forest land prepared for planting = 15,430
Acres of forest land burned by prescribed fire to reduce fuel loading = 10,798
Acres of wildlife habitat established and/or enhanced = 475
Acres monitored for seedling survival: 475

6. How does this Project meet the resilient recovery objectives outlined in the NDRC grant application?:

The reforestation project will facilitate the transition to a sustainable forest economy in our rural communities. The program aims to support economic development in rural communities through restoration and stewardship of our natural forest systems and watersheds. The project design integrates fuels reduction for the prevention of large scale catastrophic fire with reforestation of the landscape to ensure trees for the future which will provide forest products, landscape sustainability, recreation opportunities and critical wildlife habitat. This work will provide the need for landscape restoration skills, including forestry, hydrology, and ecology as well as a long-term supply of wood products to support that infrastructure in our community. The initial work (site preparation, planting and release) will also provide hundreds of seasonal labor jobs as well as the need for heavy equipment operators to treat the thousands of acres proposed in this project. In addition, the USFS will need to hire up to 15 additional permanent full time employees to write, administer, and monitor contracts.

7. What is the target area for the project (i.e., where is it located, who are beneficiaries, etc)?:

The project is located within the 2013 Rim Fire. The local communities, businesses, recreationists and thousands of visitors to this area will benefit from the renewal of forests. Fuels reduction and thinning of the older plantations will also help protect communities and private property owners and residence within the area.

8. Has this project undergone environmental review? If yes, what stage is it in?

Ongoing. The EIS process began back in January 2014 and will be in its final stages in 2016. Public scoping alternative development are completed. The Draft EIS is due out in the fall of 2015. Final EIS and Record of Decision completed summer 2016.

9. NDRC Application Budget Request (please attach a detailed project budget):

$12,263,296 (see attached)

10. What guarantees are in place to insure the success of implementing this project?

This project is critically important to the local economy and environment and has tremendous local support. Money has been collected from timber receipts to pay for some of the proposed work (fuels reduction and other follow up treatments). Volunteers are participating in the implementation and will continue to support this effort for many years. The Stanislaus National Forest has decades of experience successfully accomplishing large scale reforestation and thinning projects. The Forest Service also conducts 1st, 3rd and 5th year plantation survival surveys to assess conifer survival and growth along with competing vegetation presence. If the vegetation is identified to be interfering with conifer survival and growth, manual or chemical methods of vegetation removal will be implemented.

11. How will this project be sustainable after implementation?

The planting design across the landscape allows the use of commercial thinning to be utilized to maintain and protect these plantations into the future. These future forests will provide timber products at several points over the forest's life time, supporting local timber mills and biomass facilities. Fuels treatments are designed to be effective for 10 to 15 years, until prescribed fire can be re-introduced into these landscapes.

NDRC Committee Use Only:

EVALUATION CRITERIA: □ Meets National Objective □ Eligible Activity □ Meets Overall Benefit Requirement
□ Within Target Area □ Ties Back to Disaster □ Incorporates Resilience
□ Meets Cost Benefit Analysis Objectives

WORKING GROUP: □ Forest □ Infrastructure □ Public Facilities/Public Services

NDRC Project Information Sheet – Attachment 1

Question 3. Scope of Proposed Project – Include Project Goals and Objectives, Timeline and Tasks

Rim Fire Reforestation Project

The extent of the fire, the severity of the burn, the lack of surviving green trees that could produce seed and the vigorous sprouting brush that is returning to the area (some species over 6 feet tall less than 2 years after the fire), natural regeneration of this area could take hundreds of years. The Reforestation project includes analysis for fuels reduction and returning trees to about 25,000 acres of the landscape and thinning of 12,000 acres of existing older plantations that were burned through in the Rim Fire. The reforestation and thinning proposal covers less than 20% of the Forest Service land burned by the Rim Fire.

Goals and Objectives

The overall goal is to create a fire resilient mixed conifer forest that contributes to an ecologically healthy and resilient landscape rich in biodiversity.

This landscape would have an increased capacity to adapt and survive natural disturbances, especially under changing and uncertain future environmental conditions, such as those driven by climate change and human use. This project looks at the short-term (up to 10 years), proposing activities that incrementally move toward these long-term (60 to 100 years) goals. Project objectives are:

1) Return Mixed Conifer Forest to the Landscape and promote the re-establishment and recovery of conifer and hardwood forests. Create diverse structure and composition to quickly meet future resource needs for wildlife, recreation, watershed and timber while taking into account potential pressures of a changing climate.

2) Restore Old Forest for Wildlife Habitat and Connectivity to provide critical habitat for sensitive wildlife species such as the California spotted owl, northern goshawk and fisher. This includes restoring habitat connectivity compromised in the Rim Fire that is essential for wildlife dispersal, migration, and use of suitable habitat across the landscape.

3) Reduce Fuels for Future Fire Resiliency by removing the standing dead trees and re-sprouting brush to manageable fuel levels. Re-establish open canopy forest stands to safely reintroduce fire into the landscape through fuels and vegetation management.

4) Enhance Deer Habitat by restoring forested conditions within critical winter deer range, providing thermal cover essential for over-wintering deer. **5) Eradicate Noxious Weeds** and prevent new infestations.

Timeline and Tasks

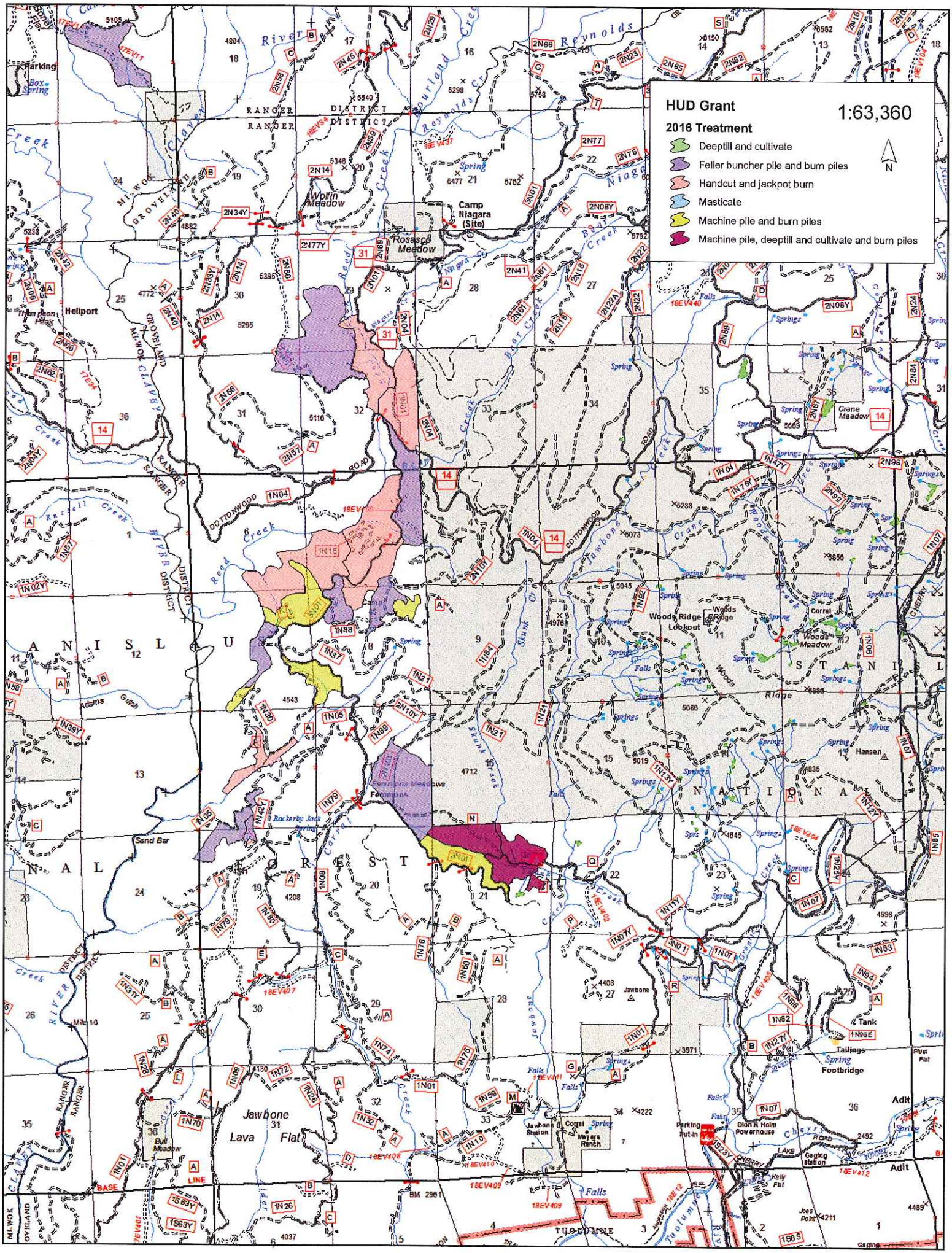
Site preparation and thinning to reduce fuel loading and competing vegetation would start in summer 2016. Most activities would be completed by 2025 (this includes follow up monitoring and treatments).This proposal seeks funding for actions taken prior to 2018,

Reforestation treatments include: hand, mechanical and manual herbicide site preparation (Glyphosate); prescribed burning; planting a diversity of conifer tree species using various patterns and densities (trees per acre) across the landscape (up and down slopes, with fewer on ridges and more in drainage bottoms) to develop a resilient mixed conifer forest and enhance wildlife (including deer) habitat; and manual herbicide release (Glyphosate) when vegetation competition begins to inhibit survival and growth.

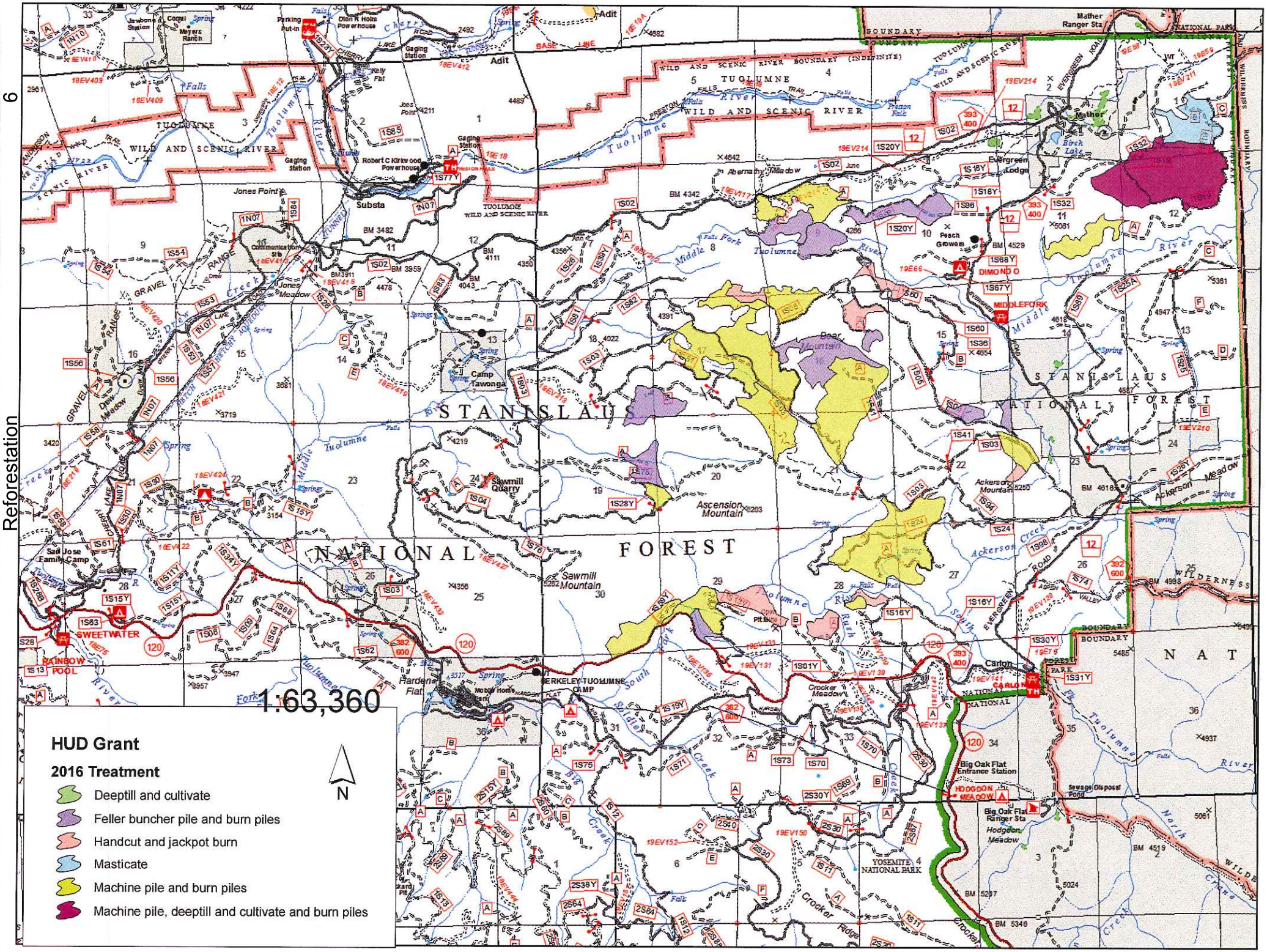
Plantation Thinning treatments include: hand and mechanical treatments for prescribed burning and thinning to achieve the desired forest structure and diversity to maximize heterogeneity and wildlife (including deer) habitat while creating more fire resilient stands.

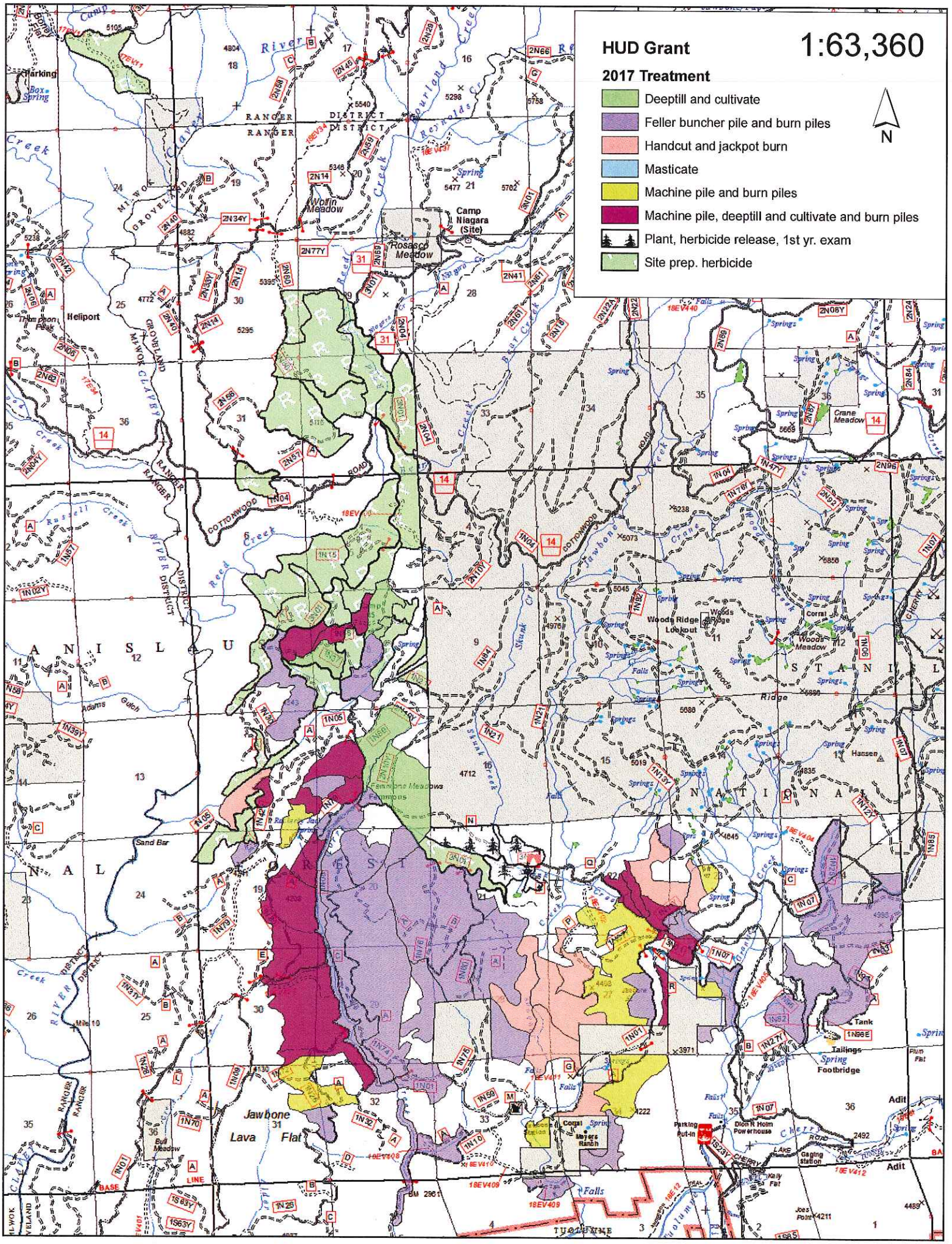
Monitoring: Contract inspection during implementation as well as longer term review of desired outcomes and project goals. These include survival exams and watershed best practices review.

Treatment	2016: Acres	2016: Cost/Acre	2016 Costs	2017: Acres	2017: Cost/Acre	2017 Costs	Total Acres	Total Costs
Hand cut	839	750	$629,250	722	775	$559,550	**1,561**	**$1,188,800**
Jackpot burn	839	650	$545,350	674	670	$451,243	**1,513**	**$996,593**
Feller-buncher: bunch only	1,278	450	$575,100	3,339	470	$1,569,330	**4,617**	**$2,144,430**
Masticate (shred)	88	650	$57,200	264	670	$176,748	**352**	**$233,948**
Machine pile	1,495	430	$642,850	826	450	$371,700	**2,321**	**$1,014,550**
Pile burn	3,248	200	$649,600	6,037	225	$1,358,325	**9,285**	**$2,007,925**
Machine pile, and/or deep till and forest cultivater	475	550	$261,250	1,872	575	$1,076,400	**2,347**	**$1,337,650**
Manually apply herbicide for site prep	0	450	$0	4,232	475	$2,010,200	**4,232**	**$2,010,200**
Seed/Sow: per pound of seed NOT per acre	26 lbs	na	$6,500	304 lbs	na	$76,000	**330**	**$82,500**
Seedlings: NOT by acre	142,500	na	$57,000	1,668,000	na	$667,200	**1,810,500**	**$724,200**
Plant	0	350	$0	475	375	$178,125	**475**	**$178,125**
Manually apply herbicide for 1st-year release	0	450	$0	475	475	$225,625	**475**	**$225,625**
Stake-Row survival exam, 1st year	0	225	$0	475	250	$118,750	**475**	**$118,750**
Total	8,262		$3,424,100	19,391		$8,839,196	27,653	**$12,263,296**


HUD Grant
1:63,360
2016 Treatment
Deeptill and cultivate
Feller buncher pile and burn piles
Handcut and jackpot burn
Masticate
Machine pile and burn piles
Machine pile, deeptill and cultivate and burn piles
N
Camp Niagara (Site)
Rosasco Meadow
Wolfin Meadow
Heliport
Woods Ridge Lookout
Woods Meadow
Crane Meadow
Fermons
Jawbone Lava Flat
Jawbone Station
Meyers Ranch
Parking Put-in
Dion R Holm Powerhouse
Tailings
Footbridge
Adit
Sand Bar
Hansen
Corral
Tank
Gaging Station
Kelly Flat
Joes Point
Bull Meadow
Adams Gulch
Parking
Box Spring
Thompson Peak
Reynolds
Niagara
Bear Creek
Skunk Creek
Jawbone Creek
Crane Creek
Reed Creek
Clavey River
Cherry Road
Tuolumne River
Falls
Springs
Spring
Ridge
Lake
Tuolumne
Cottonwood Road
Ranger District
Mi-Wok Groveland
Clavey River
Stanislaus National Forest
Stanislaus National
Stanislaus National Forest
Tuolumne
Mile 10
Base Line
Gaging

Reforestation

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Plant, herbicide release, 1st yr. exam
Site prep. herbicide
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Cherry Creek
Russell Creek
Adams Gulch
Box Spring
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RANGER DISTRICT
COTTONWOOD ROAD
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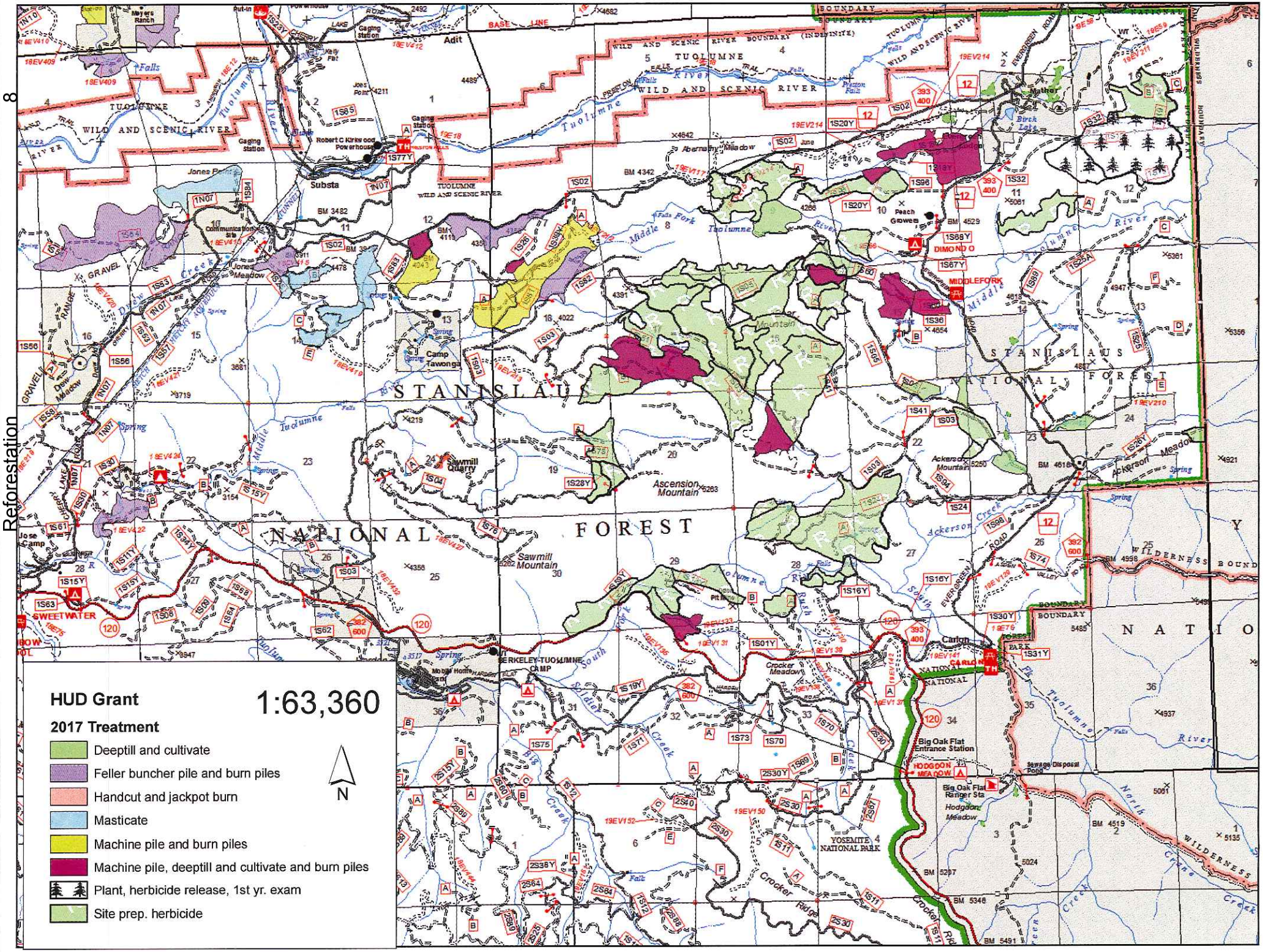
Reforestation