

# BOULDER CREEK FUELS RESTORATION PROJECT



BUILDING ON SUCCESS



Bishop CA.

Fresno CA.

California

Hume Lake

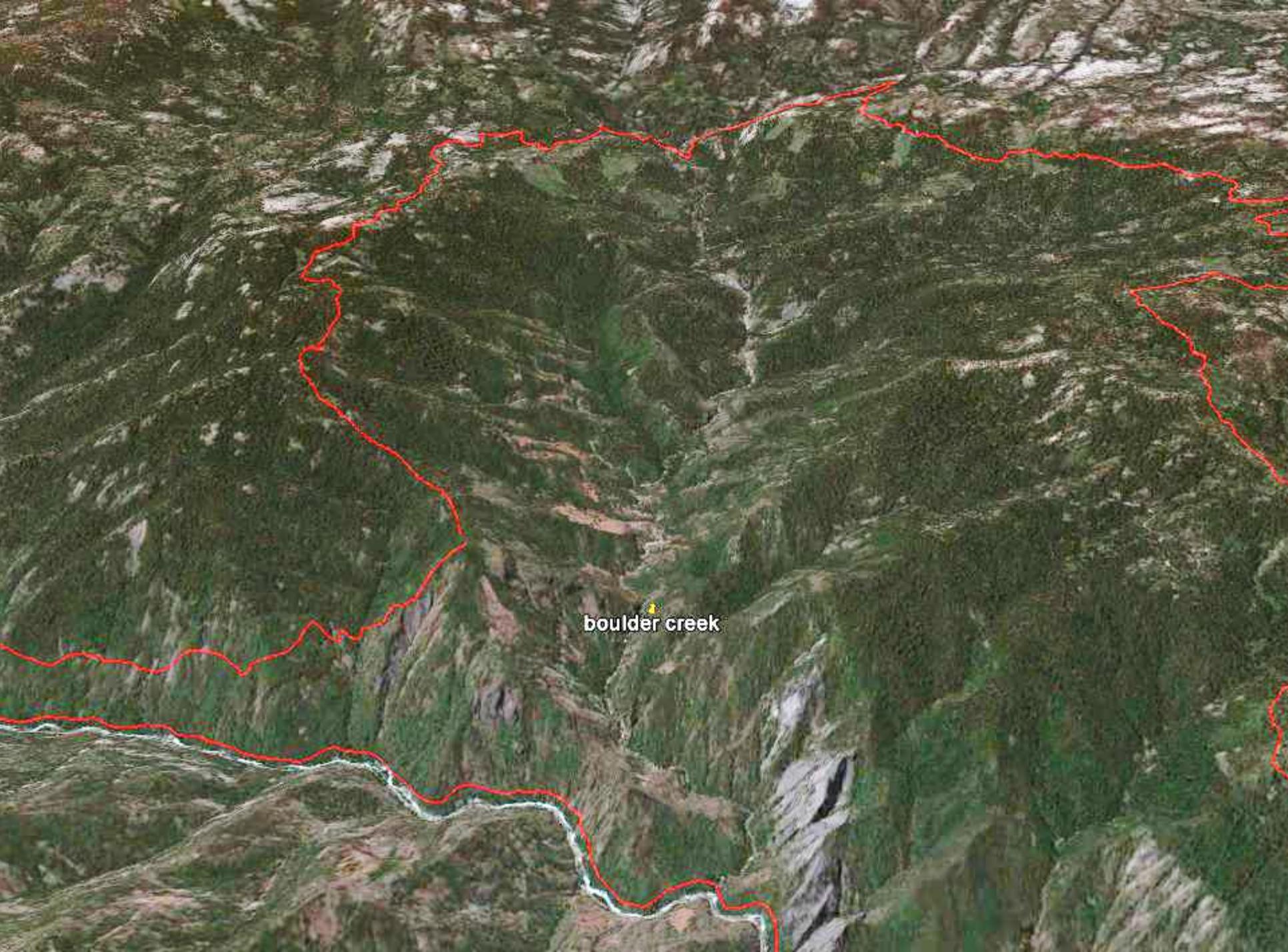
Cedar Grove CA.

Boulder Creek

General Grant grove

# Boulder Creek Drainage

- ▣ Project area (14,193 acres)
- ▣ Topography is steep and inaccessible.
- ▣ Moderate to heavy fuel load:
  - Vertical and horizontal fuel continuity
  - Extensive fuel ladders that enable low intensity surface fire to move into the tree canopy



boulder creek

# Why Here...Regional Goal

The goal for the Pacific Southwest Region is to:

Retain and restore ecological resilience of the National Forest System Lands to achieve sustainable ecosystems that provide a broad range of services to humans and other organisms.

# Why Here...Regional Intent

- ▣ Within the next 15-20 years:
  - Work together among public and private land owners, and other interested people to accelerate the scale and pace of forest restoration activities on both public and private lands.
  - Increase forest resilience through treatments and wildfire on National Forest System lands.
  - Decrease the occurrence of uncharacteristically severe wildfires and their associated impacts.
  - Ground vegetation and fire management efforts in a concern for biodiversity and ecological process.
  - Ensure retention and sustainability of forest, forest resource and forest carbon over the long term, even as climates change.

# Current Conditions



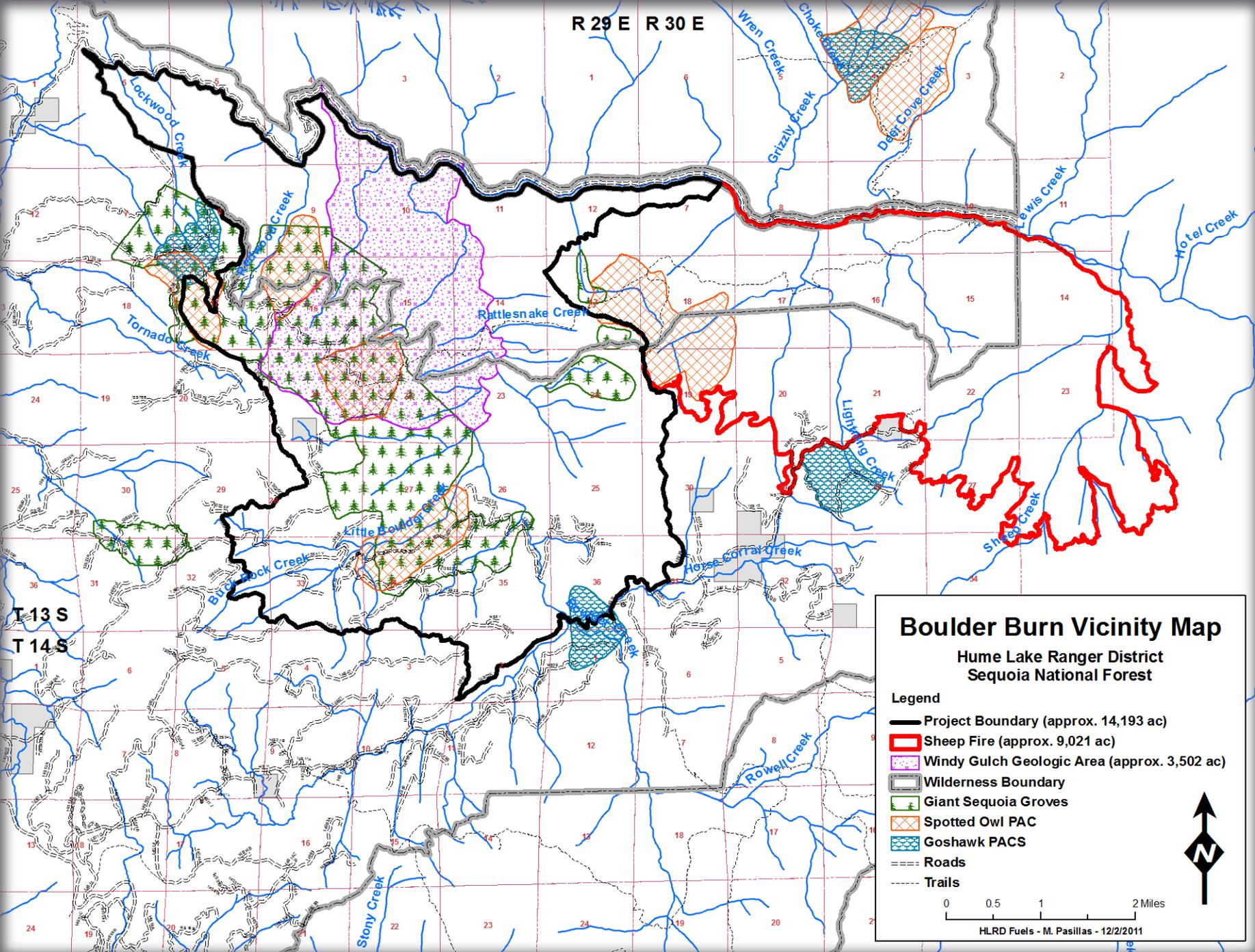
# More Examples of Current Fuel Conditions



# Boulder Creek

- ▣ Planning area contains...
  - Three giant sequoia groves
    - Evans Grove Complex (4256 Acres)
    - Deer Meadow Grove (168 Acres)
    - Agnew Grove (43 Acres)
  - A portion of Monarch Wilderness.
  - A portion of Agnew Roadless Area.
  - A portion of the South Fork of the Kings Wild and Scenic River.
  - The proposed Windy Gulch Geologic Area
  - Protected Wildlife
    - ▣ A portion of four California Spotted Owl Protected Activity Center (PACs)
    - ▣ One Goshawk PAC
    - ▣ Southern Sierra Fisher Conservation Area

R 29 E R 30 E



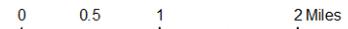
T 13 S  
T 14 S

### Boulder Burn Vicinity Map

Hume Lake Ranger District  
Sequoia National Forest

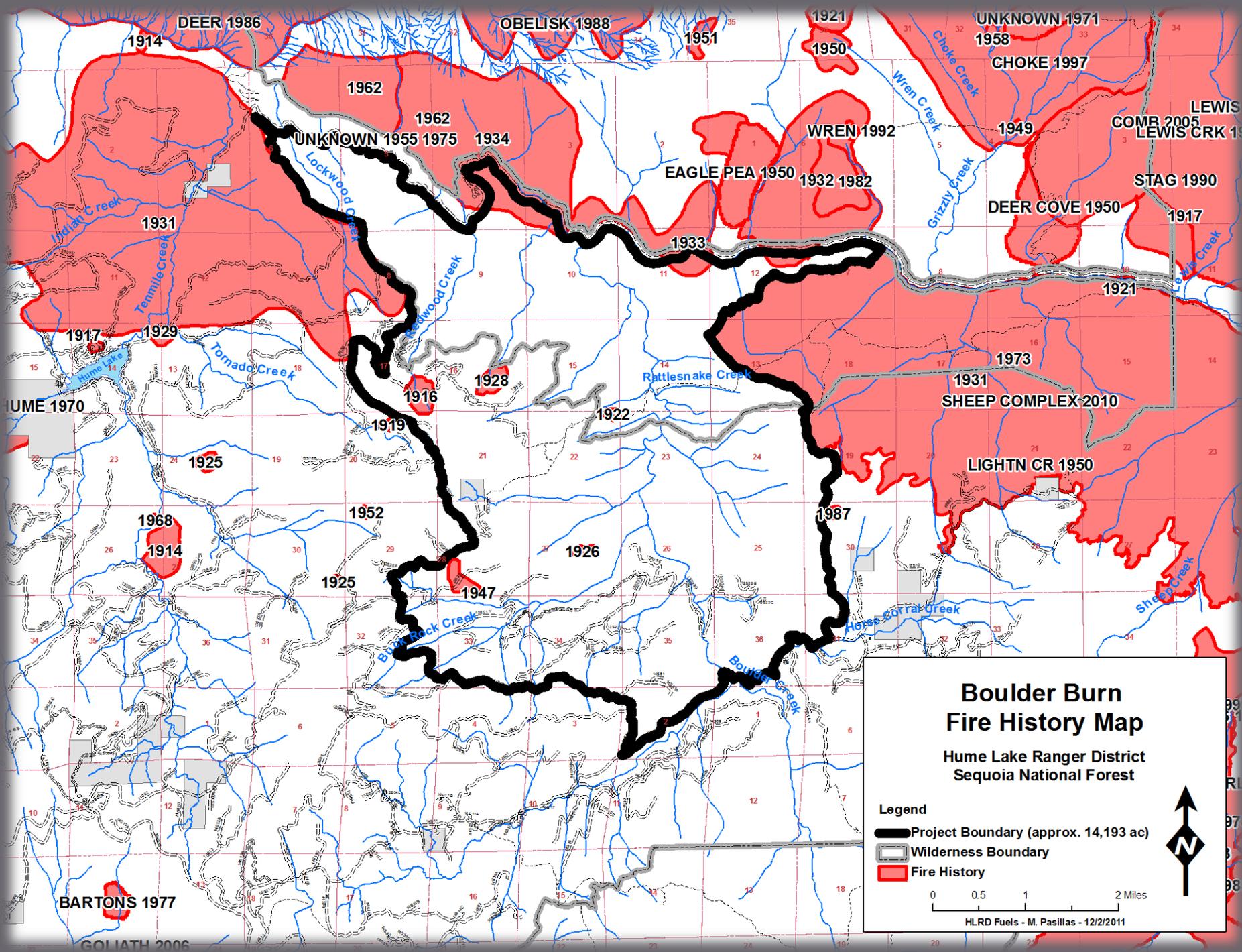
#### Legend

- Project Boundary (approx. 14,193 ac)
- Sheep Fire (approx. 9,021 ac)
- Windy Gulch Geologic Area (approx. 3,502 ac)
- Wilderness Boundary
- Giant Sequoia Groves
- Spotted Owl PAC
- Goshawk PACS
- Roads
- Trails

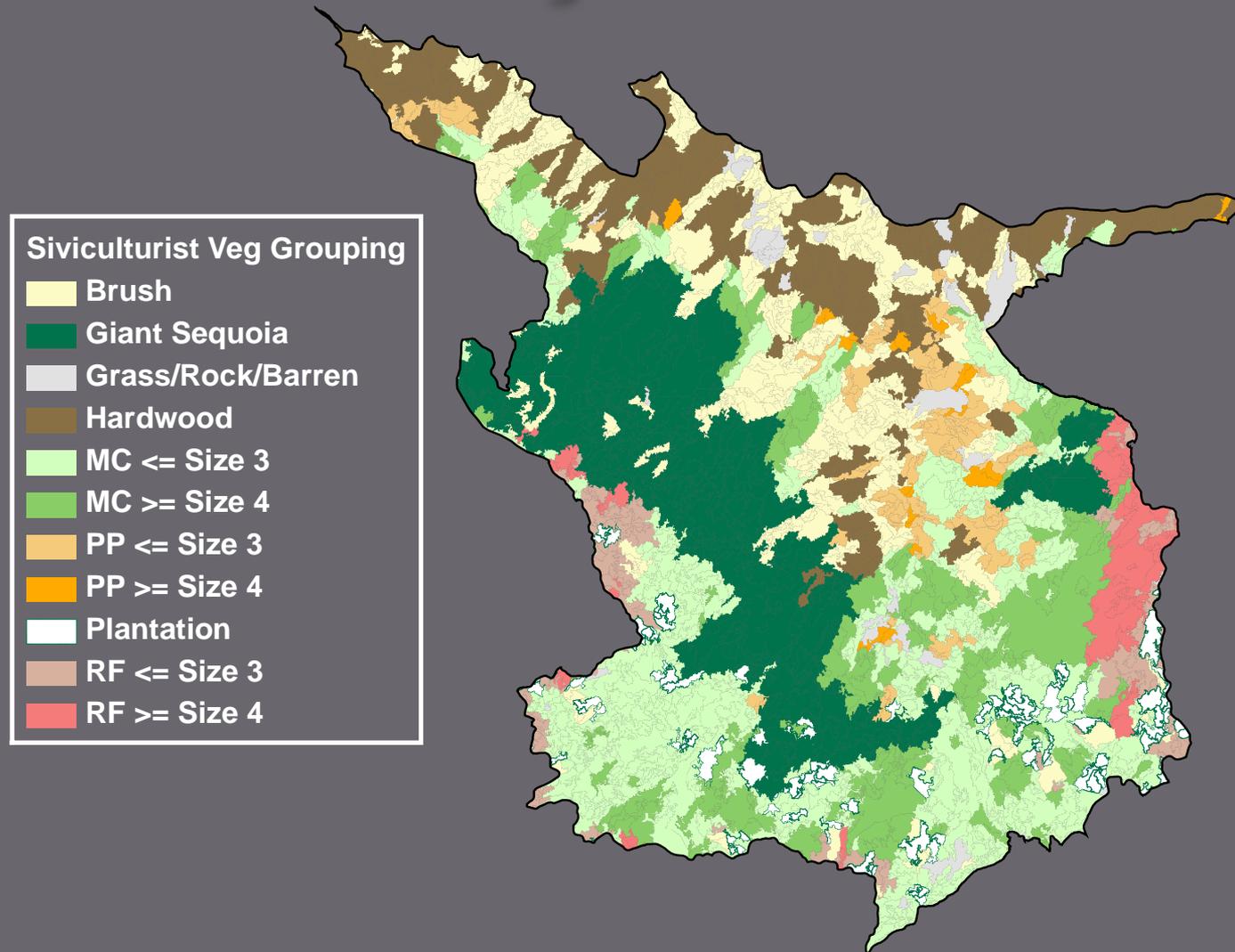


HLRD Fuels - M. Pasillas - 12/2/2011



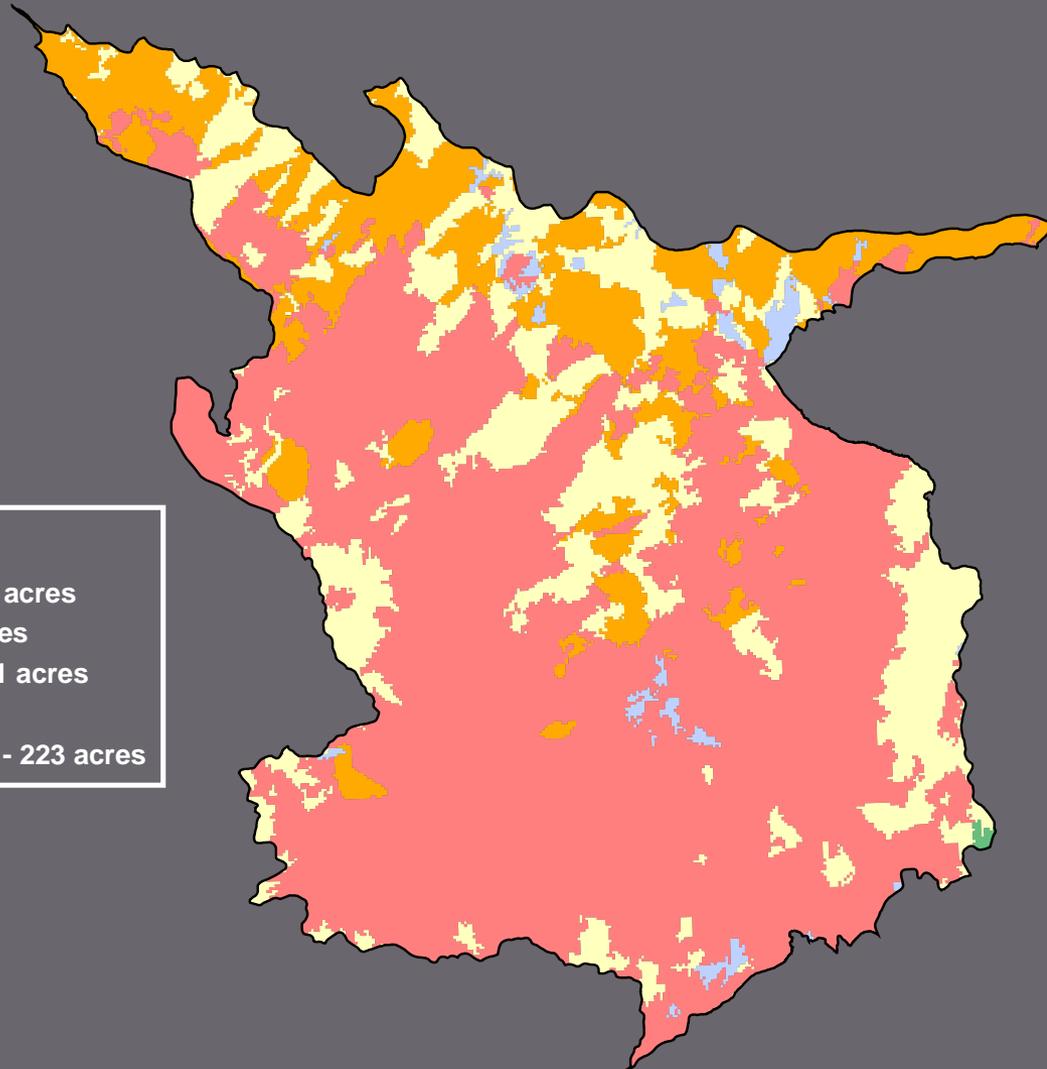


# Current Vegetation in the Boulder Project Area



# Fire Return Interval Departure (FRID)

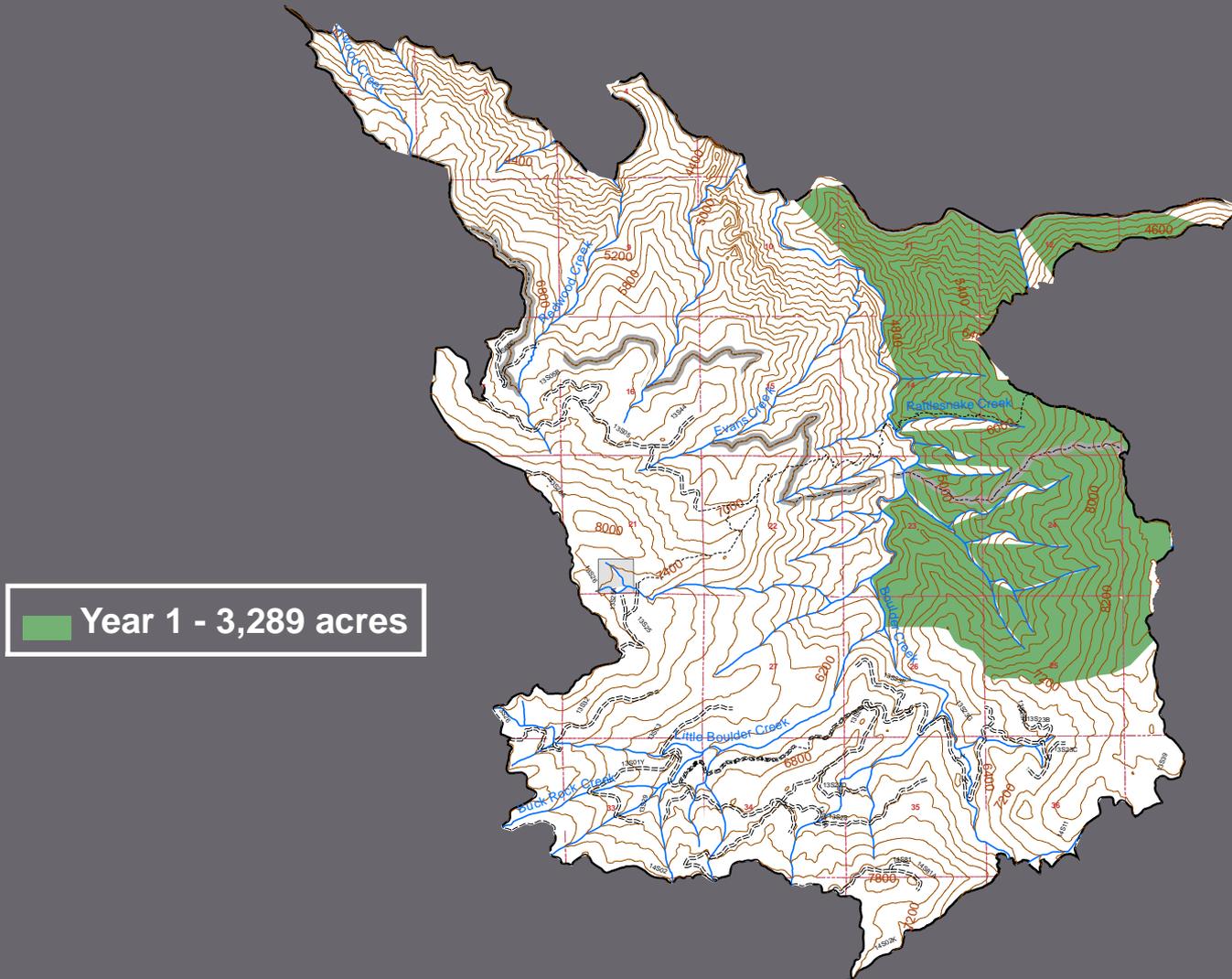
FRID Values	
	1 (Extreme) - 8,850 acres
	2 (High) - 2,188 acres
	3 (Moderate) - 2,911 acres
	4 (Low) - 19 acres
	99 (Rock or Water) - 223 acres



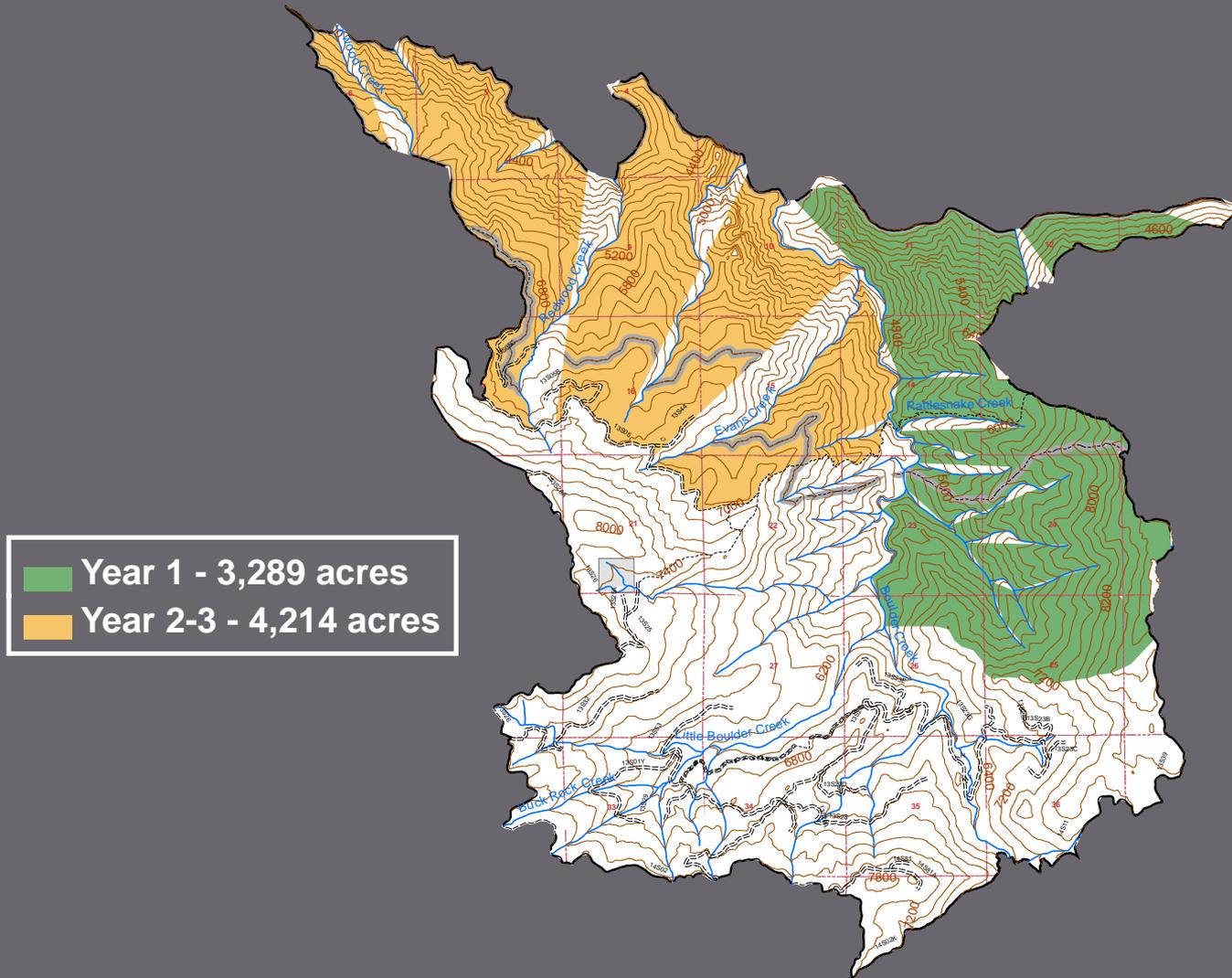
# Proposed Action

- ▣ Project scheduling is essential
  - Take advantage of opportunities presented by the sheep fire.
  - Timing of the ignition operations.
  
- ▣ Prescribed fire operations initiated as early as Fall of 2012.

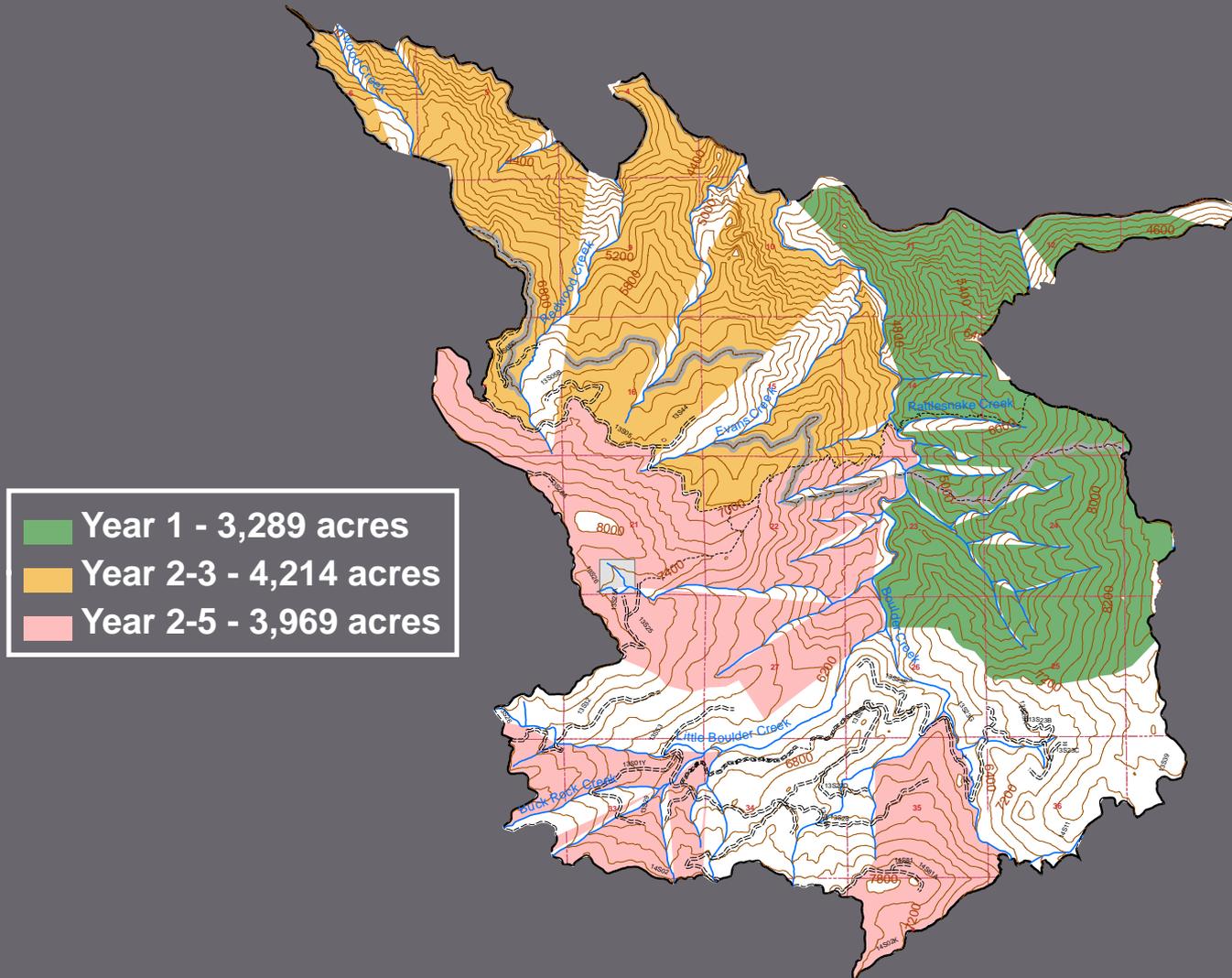
# Project Implementation



# Project Implementation



# Project Implementation



# Potential Issues which could arise from large scale ignition operations

- ▣ Disruption of recreation
- ▣ Impacts to wildlife habitat
- ▣ Damage to cultural resources
- ▣ Water quality impacts
- ▣ AND.....





Smoke Emissions from large scale ignition operations

# Comments/Questions

A scenic view of a mountain range with evergreen trees in the foreground and a clear blue sky. The mountains are rugged and rocky, with some snow patches on the higher peaks. The sky is a clear, bright blue. The foreground is filled with dark green evergreen trees, some of which are in silhouette. The overall scene is a beautiful, natural landscape.

*The earth, born in fire, baptized by lightning, since before life's beginning has been and is, a fire planet. E.V. Kormarek*