

# Pre-Operations Report

**Operation Name:** Buster Camp  
**County:** Clatsop  
**Management Basin:** Buster

**Table 1. Operation Areas, Types and Acres**

Area	Type of Operation	Gross Acres	Net Acres
1	PC-M	126	113
2	PC-M	104	100
3	MC	49	47
4	PC-M	59	51
Total	Modified Clearcut	49	47
Total	Partial Cut-Moderate	289	264

## **I. PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION OF OPERATION AREA:**

The sale is located on the gentle slopes of the headwaters of Buster Creek and several unnamed tributaries and a small portion of the north flank of Selder Creek to the east. Area 1 is adjacent to the northwest of the Buster Camp Junction. Area 2 is located to the south of Green Mountain Road and on both the west and east sides of Selder Creek Road. Areas 3 and 4 are located off of Green Mountain 60 Spur directly south of Buster Creek. The sale is underlain by sedimentary rocks of the Keasy Creek Formation, the Cowlitz Formation and the informal Hamlet Formation.

## **II. CURRENT STAND CONDITION:**

Area 1 - The current stands consist of smaller Douglas-fir (~10" to 12" DBH) with scattered larger conifers and red alder throughout the units. The stands are categorized as an Understory structure (UDS) with a stand density index of 60 to 70. Understory development consists primarily of salal, Oregon grape, sword fern, and huckleberry.

Areas 2, 3 and 4 - The current stands are primarily composed of 65 to 75 year old, small to large sized, Douglas-fir with understory cedar, other conifer species and red alder scattered throughout the stand. The stand is categorized as UDS with a stand density index of 55 to 75. Area 3 has a larger component of red alder. Understory development consists primarily of salal, Oregon grape, sword fern, and huckleberry.

**Table 2. Stand Inventory Information**

Area	Prescription	Stand ID <sup>1</sup>	Species	Age	DBH	BA	TPA	SDI	Acres <sup>2</sup>
1	PC - M	23997	DF	68	17	256	158	63	67
		24026	DF	63	9	242	547	77	46
		Target <sup>3</sup>	DF		14	120-160	125	35	113
2	PC - M	24026	DF	63	9	242	547	77	100
		Target <sup>3</sup>	DF		12	130-150	121	27	100
3	MC	2024	DF	69	18	314	188	77	3
		2029	DF	71	16	219	153	43	32
		24026	DF	63	9	242	547	77	12
		Target <sup>3</sup>	DF,WH,WRC				5		47
4	PC - M	2012	DF	73	18	229	126	55	7
		24026	DF	63	9	188	222	52	44
		Target <sup>3</sup>	DF		14	130-150	105	30	51

1 The source of stand inventory information is OSCUR and SLI from 2002. Age shown is as of 2005.

2 The acres are based on GIS and exclude roads, streams buffers, reserve areas, etc.

3 The Target identifies expected stand characteristics (DBH, BA, TPA and SDI) after harvesting has been completed.

### **III. DESIRED STAND CONDITION/VISION:**

Area 1 - The desired future condition for Area 1 is Older Forest Structure. The goal is to achieve OFS as quickly as possible, and for the benefits of thinning to last as long as possible, to forestall the return of a Closed Single Canopy condition. Development of long and broad crowns, large limbs, and large tree diameter are immediate goals. Growth of existing understory and additional natural understory regeneration are also immediate goals. Conversion of part of the future large-tree component to snags, broken-top trees, and down material through natural events is a future goal. A second partial cutting entry will likely be necessary in 15 to 20 years to keep the stands on the pathway to OFS.

Areas 2 and 4 - These areas will be thinned and are planned for a DFC of Layered. Thinning will create openings in the canopy and allow the understory to become established. Vertical layers of tree crowns and shrubs will be essential in creating a Layered stand.

Area 3 - This area is not planned to have a complex desired future condition on the landscape.

**Table 3. Stand Structure Information**

Area	Stand ID	Current	Post Harvest <sup>1</sup>	Desired Future	Acres
1	23997	UDS	LYR	OFS	67
	24026	UDS	LYR	OFS	46
2	24026	UDS	LYR	LYR	100
3	2024	CSC	REGEN	GEN	3
	2029	UDS	REGEN	GEN	32
	24026	UDS	REGEN	GEN	12
4	2012	UDS	LYR	LYR	7
	24026	UDS	LYR	LYR	44

<sup>1</sup> The stand is expected to develop into this condition in the five to ten years after this operation is completed.

**IV. PROPOSED MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTION:**

Areas 1, 2 and 4 - The sale is designed to commercially thin from below to a stand density index (SDI) of 25 to 35. An effort will be made to retain minor tree species. Trees less than 8" DBH will be reserved.

Area 3 - This area is planned for a modified clearcut that will be replanted with a mixture of conifer species. Site preparation will be mainly by cable harvesting. Seedlings will be planted at 300 trees per acre with a mixture of Douglas-fir, western hemlock, and western red cedar. Mountain beaver trapping may be needed prior to initial planting. Tree protection measures will include paper bud caps (Douglas-fir) and tubes (western red cedar). Prescription of herbicide application will be evaluated at the time the sale is prepared.

*Snags:* For all harvesting activities, all existing snags will be retained unless deemed to be safety hazards. It is anticipated that additional snags will develop during harvesting activities by leaving, topping or girdling damaged rub trees, tail lift trees, and/or intermediate support trees (FMP, "Landscape Management Strategy 3c. Snags", pages 4-53 and 4-54). Additional snags will be created in Areas 1 and 3 after the completion of harvesting activities.

*Green Trees:* A combination of methods will be implemented to achieve the green tree retention requirements such as green tree retention areas, stream buffers, and trees scattered across the sale areas (FMP, page 4-53, Paragraph 2). Minor species found may be reserved from cutting; further consideration of those species will be taken during sale layout.

*Downed Wood:* In Area 1, down woody debris levels are anticipated to be below stand target levels for OFS. It is unrealistic to expect that the target levels will be achieved with this entry. Efforts will be made to leave as much downed wood that is created from the harvest activities within the unit. This will be accomplished through topping trees and bucking out cull sections within the unit.

In Areas 2, 3, and 4, all existing down woody debris will be retained and similar bucking practices will be implemented.

Snag creation will occur in Area 1 and Area 3 during harvest. The total number of snags that will be created at this time is unknown, but will be determined during sale layout. Where fewer than two hard snags per acre are found to exist during sale layout, opportunities for snag creation or leaving additional live green trees will be implemented to supplement landscape snag levels (FMP, "Landscape Management Strategy 3c. Snags", pages 4-53 and 4-54). It is also anticipated that natural snag and down wood recruitment will occur post harvest over time due to natural occurrences.

**V. ESTIMATED TIMBER AND REVENUE INFORMATION:**

**Table 4. Timber and Revenue**

Ownership		Sale Type	
BOF	CSL	Cash	Recovery
100%	%	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
Planned Quarter		3rd	

	Conifer	Hardwood	Total
Net Volume (MBF)	5,300	800	6,100
Stumpage Value (\$/MBF)	\$350	\$300	
Estimated Gross Value	\$1,855,00	\$240,000	\$2,095,000
		Project Costs:	\$361,000
		Estimated Net Value:	\$1,734,000

**VI. TRANSPORTATION PLANNING AND HARVESTING:**

Access to the harvest site will be Highway 202 to East Sager Creek Road to Buster Creek M.L.

Road improvements will need to be done to access sale areas from Green Mt. Road. It is expected that a lift of surfacing rock will be needed along a portion of the main haul route. Additional improvement will also be needed on existing spur roads. All new road construction in Areas 1 and 2 will be dirt spurs, which will be vacated after harvest of the sale areas. In addition, roadside brushing of Green Mountain Road, Stanley Creek Road, and Buster Creek Road will be needed to facilitate safe hauling conditions.

Rock Crushing at Green Mountain Quarry will be conducted to provide 18,000cy of rock for in-sale projects and 7,000cy for stockpiling at the Green Mountain Quarry.

The sale will have cable-yarding settings as well as ground yarding areas. These areas were determined from analysis of the terrain and landing locations. Existing roads will be utilized as much as possible for logging the sale areas.

**Table 5. Transportation Planning Summary (Miles).**

Activity	Mainline	Collector	Rocked Spur	Dirt Spur
Construction	0	0	0	1.1
Improvement	0	4.5	4.0	0
Maintenance	11	0	0	0
Close/Block	0	0	0	1.1
Vacating	0	0	0	0

**VII. AQUATIC RESOURCES AND WATER QUALITY:**

*Type F and Domestic Use Streams:* The headwall tributaries of Buster Creek are located in Area 1. The main stem of Buster Creek, a medium Type F stream, is also located within Area 1 for a distance of approximately 1,500 feet. The southwest boundary of Area 2 is adjacent to Selders Creek, a small Type F stream for a distance of 1,800 feet. The northern boundaries of Areas 3 and 4 run closely adjacent to Buster Creek, a medium Type F stream for a distance of 2,500 feet. Area 3 has a medium Type F tributary adjacent to the west boundary for 1,100 feet and Area 4 has a medium Type F tributary running through the eastern end of the sale area.

There are no known domestic water systems associated with this sale.

*Aquatic Resource Protection:* All sale areas are within or partially within the Buster Creek Salmon Anchor Habitat Area. These areas shall receive aquatic resource protection in accordance with the standards contained in the Northwest State Forest Management Plan, Implementation Plan, and SAH strategies.

Log hauling activities may be conducted over Buster Creek; therefore, per ODF’s Salmon Protection Policy for State Forest Operations, contract provisions will be included to reduce the likelihood of adverse effects on listed fish. Specific standards will include: (1) hauling on roads which are in proximity to streams would only be allowed during weather conditions and use levels commensurate with the capabilities of road drainage systems and; (2) implementation of riparian management area strategies in accordance with the FMP, Appendix J, “Management Standards for Aquatic and Riparian Areas”, pages J-1 through J-

16, for perennial Type N streams that are within 500 feet of streams in which listed fish are present.

*Type N Streams:* There are small perennial Type N streams within all sale areas.

One of the potential sites for management activities determined by the Upper Nehalem Watershed Project WIT Action Plan was low in-stream wood in Buster Creek. In order to address this issue large woody debris placement within Buster Creek will occur with the cable yarder if lines are hung over Buster Creek adjacent to Areas 3 and 4. There may also be an opportunity for some large woody debris placement with an excavator downstream of the sale area.

All streams will be examined to determine stream type and classification during sale layout, and then the specific riparian management area strategies required in the FMP will be implemented. The FMP riparian management area strategies that will be implemented are found in the FMP, Appendix J, "Management Standards for Aquatic and Riparian Areas", pages J-1 through J-16.

There may be an opportunity to perform stream enhancement work in Buster Creek. Further assessment and collaboration will be done with ODFW biologists and the Jewell Unit Forester. If any in-stream work is done with this sale, then it will be conducted during in-stream periods established by ODFW.

#### **VIII. T&E SPECIES CONSIDERATIONS:**

All sale areas were surveyed to protocol for northern spotted owls and marbled murrelets in 2006 with no detections and will be surveyed again in 2007.

This sale area was checked against district knowledge for any listed plant location. The sale area was also checked against the Oregon Natural Heritage Program (OHNP) database of known listed plant locations. No listed plant records were identified with the sale area.

#### **IX. SLOPE STABILITY AND GEOTECHNICAL ISSUES:**

Area 4 has one very small area with steep slopes in the tributary stream near the east boundary. The initial risk assessment by the geotechnical specialist for the sale is low. A field visit by the geotechnical specialist is not expected to be needed, but will be consulted during sale layout if slope stability concerns are encountered.

#### **X. RECREATION RESOURCES:**

This area receives little use, most likely hunting and dispersed camping. The Clatsop State Forest Recreation Plan does not list any specific activities for this portion of the basin.

**XI. CULTURAL RESOURCES:**

The Buster Camp railroad logging site was located along the east boundary of Area 1 adjacent to East Sager Road. There are several grades emanating from it across the landscape. Future sale recon will look for features and artifacts along any of the old Railroad grades that should be considered for conservation. Activities will be focused to minimize disturbance to the actual Buster Camp site for preservation of the camp. The camp site will be posted out of the sale area. This site will get ODF Class II protection per Table 4-3, Cultural Resource Classes and Objectives in the FMP.

**XII. SCENIC RESOURCES:**

The sale areas are not visible from any county or state highway.

**XIII. OTHER RESOURCE CONSIDERATIONS:**

The east boundary of Area 2 is along a private property boundary. This may need to be surveyed.

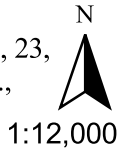
There is one survey corner located on the east end of Area 1 that will need to be protected.

**XIV. LAND MANAGEMENT CLASSIFICATION SUMMARY:**

Areas 3 and 4 fall completely within the Buster Creek Salmon Anchor Habitat Area. Areas 1 and 2 have 114 and 4 acres, respectively that are within the Buster Creek Salmon Anchor Habitat area. See Section VII, Aquatic Resources and Water Quality, for the management guidelines to be utilized.

**FY 2008  
Buster Camp**

Portions of Sections 14, 15, 22, 23,  
26 & 27, T5N, R6W, W.M.,  
Clatsop County, OR



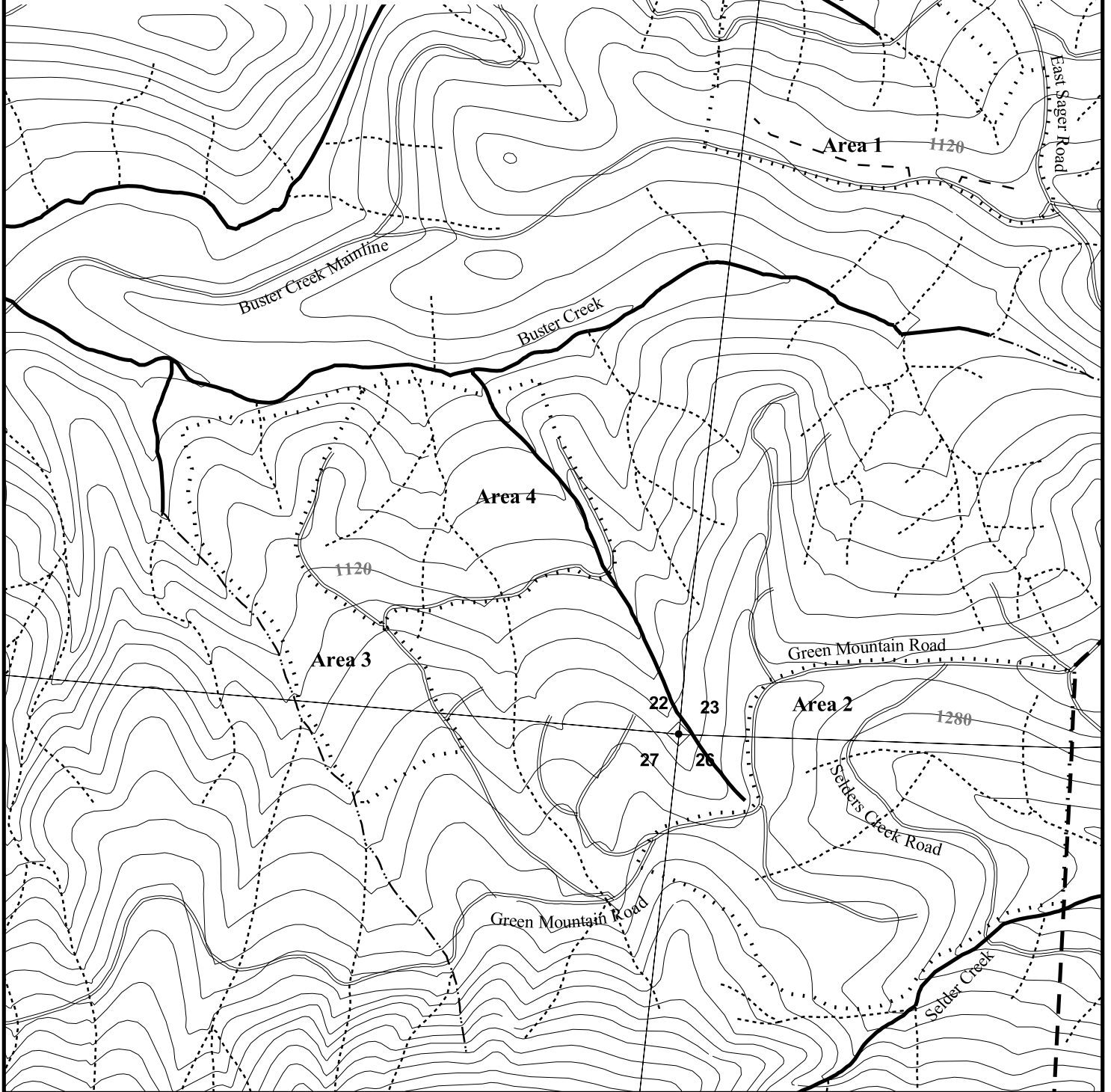
- LEGEND**
- Fish Stream
  - Non-fish Stream
  - Unknown Stream
  - Ownership Boundary
  - Roads**
  - Gravel
  - Paved
  - Vacated
  - New Road Construction
  - New Landing Construction
  - Timber Sale Boundary
  - 40ft Contour Lines

Approximate Net Acreage

	MC Acres	PC Acres
Area 1 (PC) -		113
Area 2 (PC) -		100
Area 3 (MC) -	47	
Area 4 (PC) -		51
Total by Prescription =	47	264
Total Sale Acres =	311	

500 0 500 1000 Feet

Map A: Topography



**FY 2008  
Buster Camp**  
Portions of Sections 14, 15, 22, 23,  
26 & 27, T5N, R6W, W.M.,  
Clatsop County, OR

**LEGEND**

- Fish Stream
- Non-fish Stream
- Unknown Stream
- Ownership Boundary
- Roads**
- Gravel
- Paved
- Vacated
- New Road Construction
- New Landing Construction
- Timber Sale Boundary
- Desired Future Conditions
- Layered
- Older Forest Structure

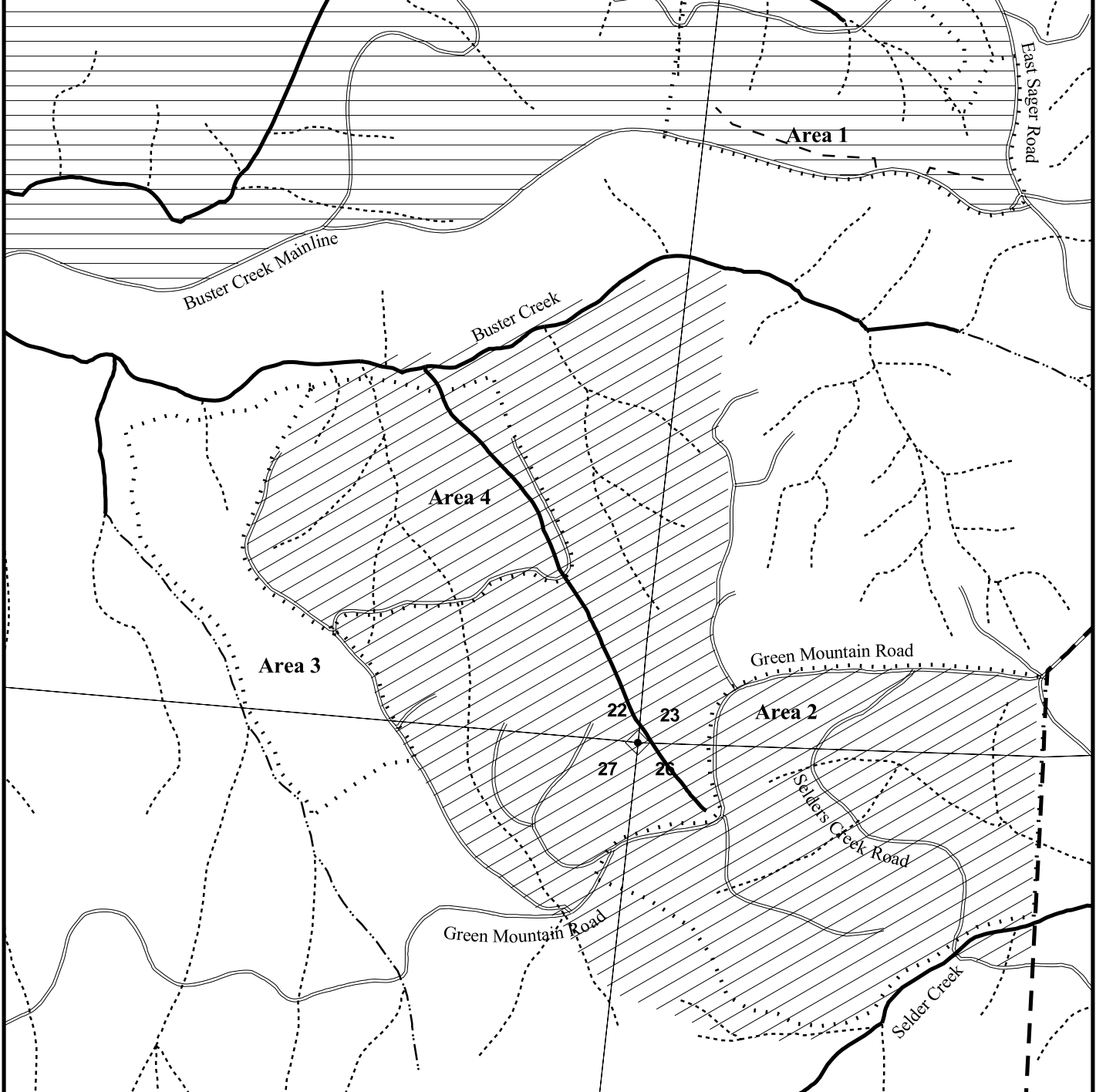
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Map B: Desired Future Conditions



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**LEGEND**

- Fish Stream
- Non-fish Stream
- Unknown Stream
- Ownership Boundary
- Roads**
- Gravel
- Paved
- Vacated
- New Road Construction
- New Landing Construction
- Timber Sale Boundary
- Salmon Anchor Habitat
- Cluster Boundary

1:12,000

Approximate Net Acreage

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Map C: Key Resources

