

Request for Quotes
Red Siegel Fuel Break Project
Nez Perce Clearwater National Forests, Idaho

Background and Statement of Work: The National Forest Foundation (NFF) in partnership with the USDA Forest Service (USFS) is seeking qualified forestry contractors to conduct fuels reduction treatments as part of the Red Siegel Fuel Break Project. The project site is in the Red River Ranger District in the Nez Perce–Clearwater National Forests, near Elk City, Idaho.

The Red Siegel Fuel Break Project intends to create conditions that more closely resemble pre-settlement structure by reducing tree densities and crown continuity, ultimately reducing the risk of stand replacing wildfire while building ecosystem resilience. The units consist of mixed conifer stands, with understories of mostly sapling to pole-sized Grand Fir, Douglas-Fir, Sub-Alpine Fir, and Lodge Pole Pine. There are scattered Ponderosa and Western Larch.

The project involves creating a 150-foot fuel break along roadsides and private property boundaries, totaling approximately 197 acres. There are two thinning treatment types, one is specific to Riparian Conservation Habitat Areas (RHCA). Slash will be piled and papered per specifications. There are approximately 30 acres that may be suitable for mastication, however, due to tree density, slope, and access, handwork is likely the most suitable treatment method for the project in entirety.

Information Requested

If interested in submitting a bid for this project, please provide a quote for the above statement of work by providing:

- technical approach
- work experience
- cost
- capacity for this project
- experience in similar projects

Specific requirements are detailed below.

I. PROJECT OVERVIEW AND REQUIREMENTS

General Specifications

(a) Description of Work – This Request for Quotes is for restoration services related to thinning and piling, including the following:

1. Cutting and Spacing: Refer to the table below for treatment variations of non-riparian areas (A) and riparian areas (B). Careful consideration of each treatment is required. Mastication is eligible only in Treatment A areas with a slope less than 35%. Please refer to Appendix A to visualize the treatment variations per area and Appendix B to review details per area.

Treatment Type	Size Class (DBH, inches)	Current Avg TPA	Task	Desired Conditions
A (Non-Riparian)	<6	754	Cut and pile all, unless needed to achieve 10-20' canopy spacing (~29 x 29' bole spacing), in which case, prune leave trees.	One storied mature forest with 10-20 crown spacing. 36-70 trees per acre.
	>6	223	Cut and pile to achieve 36-70 TPA and 10-20' canopy spacing (~29 x 29' bole spacing). Prune leave trees.	
B (Riparian)	<4	786	Cut and pile all, unless needed to achieve 16' bole spacing, in which case, prune leave trees.	Two-storied, well-spaced forest with 16' bole spacing. 140-170 trees with 4"-8" DBH per acre, plus residual overstory trees.
	4-8	134	Cut and pile to achieve 140-170 TPA and 16' bole spacing. Prune leave trees.	
	>8	131	Leave all and prune.	

Trees smaller than 16 inches in height will not be cut, no matter the species. Stump height will not exceed 6 inches from ground level, or 4 inches above natural obstacles. All hang-up trees will be cut. Cut trees shall be felled away from unit boundaries, established trails, telephone lines, fence lines, established land corners, and streams. Any trees felled across such areas shall be removed. Hazard trees that could impact a road or private property could be felled. No cutting will occur within a 50-foot buffer perennial or seasonal streams, seeps/springs, ponds, and wetlands.

- i. Leave-Trees: Leave phenotypically superior trees, free of insects, disease, or other damages. Selection will be based on crown form, vigor, stem straightness, disease resistance, height growth, and species preference for this site, within allowable densities. Leave trees will be undamaged by operation.

Species Order of Preference:

1. **Will not be cut, regardless of size: Pacific yew, western white pine, aspen, cottonwood, deciduous shrubs, western larch and ponderosa pine.**
2. Douglas-fir (ranked lower where root disease exists)
3. Lodgepole pine
4. Engelmann spruce

5. Grand fir
6. Alpine fir
2. Pruning: All leave-trees (except pacific yews) will be bole-pruned 6-9' or 1/3 of the total height of the tree. The entire area within drip line will be pruned, including the outer edge of the lower canopy skirt. No pruning will occur within a 50-foot buffer perennial or seasonal streams, seeps/springs, ponds, and wetlands.
3. Dead and Down: Dead and down logs will be limbed. When boles reach or are already less than 6" in diameter they will be bucked and added to the piles. Cut dead and down boles so they lay flat on the ground. Leave boles at least 8 feet long when possible. Leave root wads attached to at least 8 feet of bole where possible to prevent rolling of material downhill.
4. Piling: All slash will be piled. Slash shall be immediately cleared from all roads and private property. Slash shall be cleared within 25 feet upstream of culverts. No piles will be constructed within 50 feet of perennial or seasonal streams, seeps/springs, ponds, and wetlands. Piles shall be built to avoid Leave Tree mortality, although some thermal thinning is anticipated. Piles will be oriented perpendicular to the slope to minimize rollout when burned. Piles will be a minimum of 8 ft in height and diameter and a maximum of 12 feet in height and diameter. Slash material that causes large air spaces in piles shall be cut into shorter pieces to facilitate compaction and eliminate air pockets within pile. All slash which protrudes 2 feet or more from the outer edge of the pile shall be bucked off and placed on the pile. Piles need to have adequate fine fuels located in the center and downhill portion of the pile to facilitate ignition. Hand piles will have a minimum of 48" X 72" of appropriate waxed pile paper placed on the top of the pile above a suitable area of fine fuels and weighted in place to create a dry area for ignition in wet and snowy conditions. The paper must be clearly visible to the contract inspector on every pile.

The Contractor shall identify what they can supply in terms of materials, labor, equipment, supplies, supervision, quality control, and incidentals required to complete the work described. The Contractor shall perform all work in a safe and conscientious manner.

- (a) Project Location – All units are located South and Southeast of the community of Elk City, and south of Highway 14, along roads 234, 1172, 1166. The project is located within Idaho County. Units are marked with flagging, pink flagging is designated as Non-RHCA and orange flagging is designated as RHCA, with the knots facing into the units. The project includes 41 units ranging from less than half an acre in size, to nearly 20 acres. The units have been bundled into four general areas that will be referred to as following: West Section 234 Road – Private, 1172 Soda Creek Road, East Section 234 Road – Private, and Hot Springs Area / 1166 Road. Please refer to Appendix A and B for maps and a description of each area.

- (b) Work Schedule – Work should start in Spring of 2025 as soon as conditions allow likely May 15 or June 1. Project must reach completion by October 2025.

Other Project Requirements and Specifications

- (a) Site Visitation – It is highly recommended that contractors view the site prior to making a bid. A pre-bid tour will be held on October 7th, 2024 at 2:00pm. We will meet at the [Red River Campground](#) on FS Road 234. If interested contractors are unable to attend the pre-bid tour, they are encouraged to view the site per their availability. Interested contractors are not permitted to trespass onto private land while assessing site conditions. Please be mindful of National Forest Boundaries.
- (b) Utilities –Discounted lodging may be available to crews at Red River Hot Springs for the duration of the project. Arrangements must be made directly with Red River Hot Springs at 208.842.9222. Rooms must be booked at least 30 days in advance. If the contractor would like to camp in the area, specific sites in a close campground can be reserved for them. Coordination with the Red River Ranger District office is required to make arrangements. Please allow up to 5 business days to process request for camping on site.
- (c) USFS/NFF Provided Materials
- a. Pile Paper
 - b. Road warning signs and stands
 - c. Paper and or electronic maps of the units
 - d. Forest Service Keys or combo numbers to access units behind closed gates as needed

Insurance Requirements

Upon selection of the winning bid, the Contractor agrees that it has and shall maintain the following insurance coverage indicated below. The effective date of all coverage shall precede the start of any work.

- a. State minimum workers' compensation insurance coverage for its employees, if any.
- b. Broad form general liability, property damage, and automotive liability insurance in the minimum amount of \$1,000,000 for bodily injury, death, or damage to property of any person and \$2,000,000 for bodily injury, death, or damage to property of more than one person. The Contractor shall name NFF an Additional Named Insured and provide NFF with a certificate of insurance evidencing such coverages, prior to the initiation of the Scope of Services.
- c. If the Scope of Services includes professional services as identified herein, Contractor shall also provide professional errors and omissions liability insurance. Professional services for purposes of this section include, but are not limited to performing architecture, engineering, landscape architecture, land surveying or planning, preparation and signing or stamping of drawings, maps, surveys or construction specifications, or design and development of computer software, programs or websites by the Contractor or by subcontractors on behalf of the Contractor, for which professional liability insurance would typically be required. The minimum coverage limits required are \$1,000,000 for each claim and \$1,000,000 annual aggregate.

Prohibited Telecommunications Services and Equipment

If applicable, Contractor is responsible for compliance with the prohibition on certain telecommunications and video surveillance services or equipment identified in 2 CFR 200.216.

Payment/Performance Security

Contractor shall post cash, a letter of credit, bond, or other financial security that is easily convertible into cash in a form acceptable to the NFF, in its sole determination, to assure completion of the work required under any subsequent agreement and payment of all amounts lawfully due to all persons supplying or furnishing to the Contractor or Contractor's subcontractors with labor, laborers, materials, rental machinery, tools or equipment used or to perform the work. Contractor may incorporate required associated costs into mobilization costs or other approved expenses.

- a. Work that is classified as construction in accordance with the Miller Act or Little Miller Act or if required per conditions of the funding source, payment and performance bonding will be required in the full amount of any Agreement. For the purposes of this Request for Quote, construction is defined as "any contract greater than \$100,000 for the construction, alteration, or repair of any public building or public work where the federal government is the owner", or
- b. If Contractor is not self-performing at least 85% of the total contract value or if the cost of materials is in excess of the larger of \$100,000 or 50% of the contract total, payment and performance bonding will be required in the full amount of the agreement, or
- c. If the value of the agreement is in excess of \$250,000, Contractor will be required to post financial security in a form acceptable to the NFF in the amount of 5% of the total agreement value up to \$250,000 in total financial security.

Federal Exclusion Verification

The selected Contractor will be required to affirm that neither it nor its principals are presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction by any Federal department or agency.

Federal Flowdown Provisions

Flowdown Requirements: Any Agreement associated with this RFQ may be subject to flowdown requirements under associated federal or state funding agreements, which are included and made part of by this reference.

(d) REQUIRED COMPONENTS

Technical Quote

Please provide a detailed technical approach to the work.

Contractor Qualifications

- (a) Past Experience – Please provide a brief explanation of previous work experience with land management agencies.
- (b) References – Please provide three professional references that can speak to past performance.

Pricing Schedule

Contractor shall price work according to the schedule below. Prevailing wages are required per conditions of funding sources.

Item	Task	Unit of Measure	Quantity	Unit Price	Price
1	Tree thinning and Slash Treatment associated with Treatment A: West Section 234 Road - Private	Acres	25.8		
2	Tree thinning and Slash Treatment associated with Treatment B: West Section 234 Road - Private	Acres	19.7		
3	Tree thinning and Slash Treatment associated with Treatment A: 1172 Soda Creek Road	Acres	35.3		
4	Tree thinning and Slash Treatment associated with Treatment B: 1172 Soda Creek Road	Acres	14.8		
5	Tree thinning and Slash Treatment associated with Treatment A: East Section 234 Road - Private	Acres	40.6		
6	Tree thinning and Slash Treatment associated with Treatment B: East Section 234 Road - Private	Acres	15.24		
7	Tree thinning and Slash Treatment associated with Treatment A: Hot Springs Area & 1166 Road	Acres	6		
8	Tree thinning and Slash Treatment associated with Treatment B: Hot Springs Area & 1166 Road	Acres	40.6		
		Total Acres: 198.04		Total Bid:	

Site Visitation

Please select one

_____ Myself or someone from my team visited the project site and observed the current conditions on _____.

_____ Myself or someone from my team has not yet observed the site conditions.

(c) SUBMISSION, EVALUATION, AND CONTACTS

Contractor Selection Process

The NFF will use the Evaluation Factors below to review each submitted bid. Based on the outcomes of that selection process, the NFF will notify successful and unsuccessful bidders by October 25, 2024 and will prepare a separate contract document.

- Price
- Previous Work History
- References
- Contractor availability / Project timeline
- Site visitation

Point of Contact

Please submit any questions about the project in writing to the Point of Contact.

Anika Baker
National Forest Foundation
Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests Coordinator
abaker@nationalforests.org
208.626.5276

Responses will be shared with known interested parties by email or otherwise posted at <https://www.nationalforests.org/rfp>.

Bid Submission

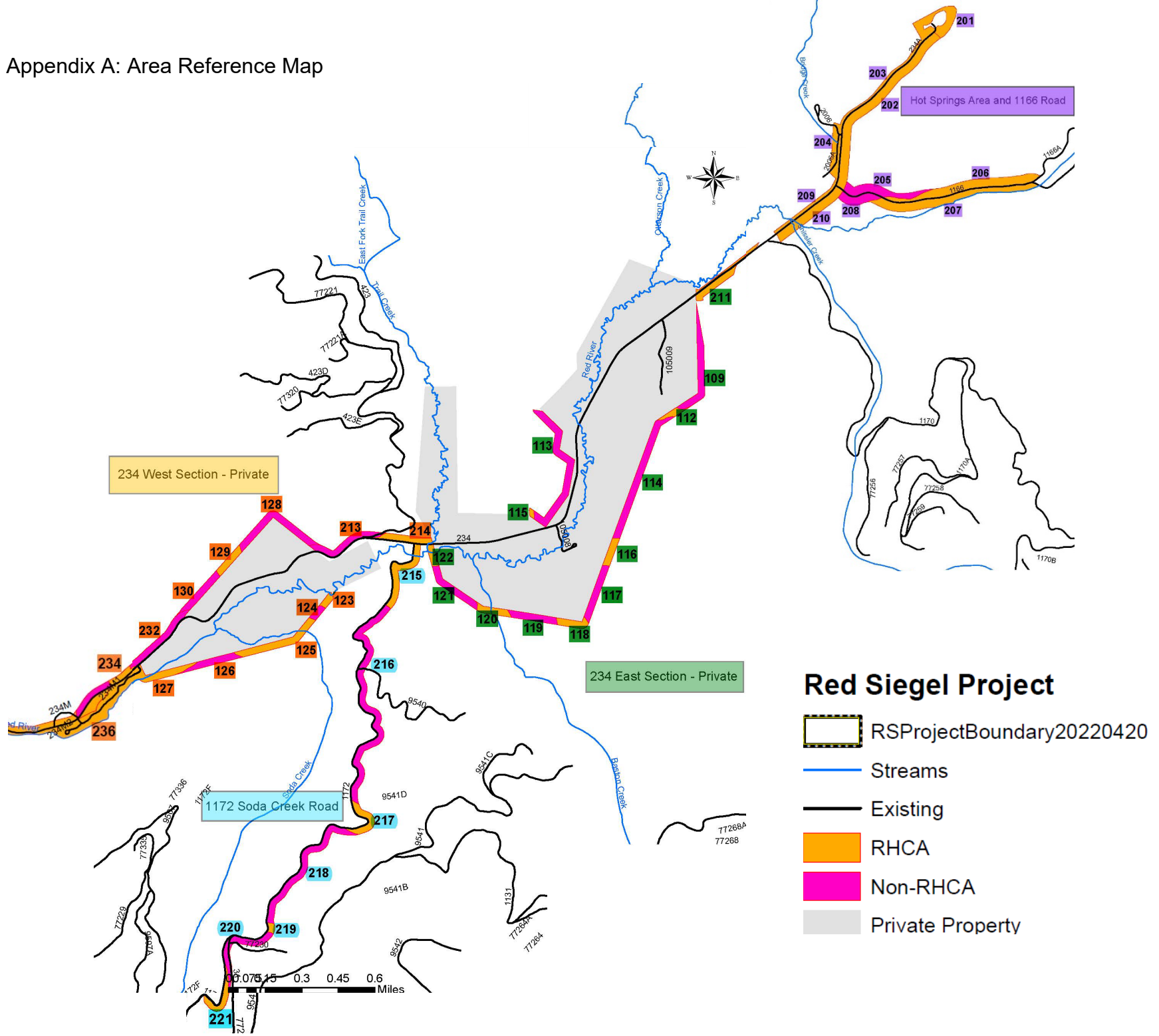
Submit bids via email to abaker@nationalforests.org by October 25, 2024.

Equal Opportunity Provider

In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, the National Forest Foundation is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age,

religion, political beliefs, or disability.

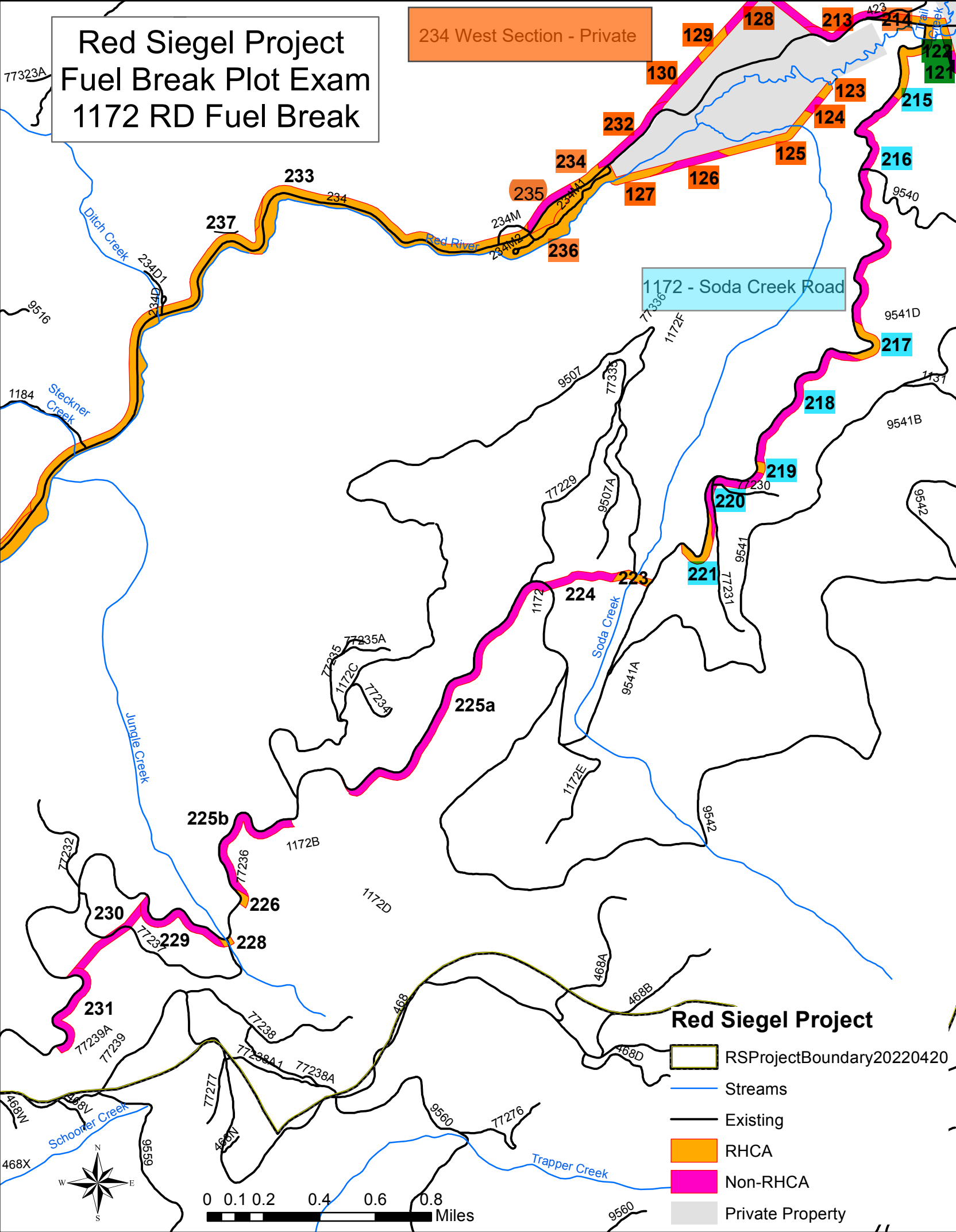
Appendix A: Area Reference Map



Red Siegel Project Fuel Break Plot Exam 1172 RD Fuel Break

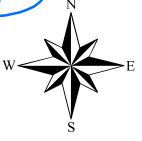
234 West Section - Private

1172 - Soda Creek Road

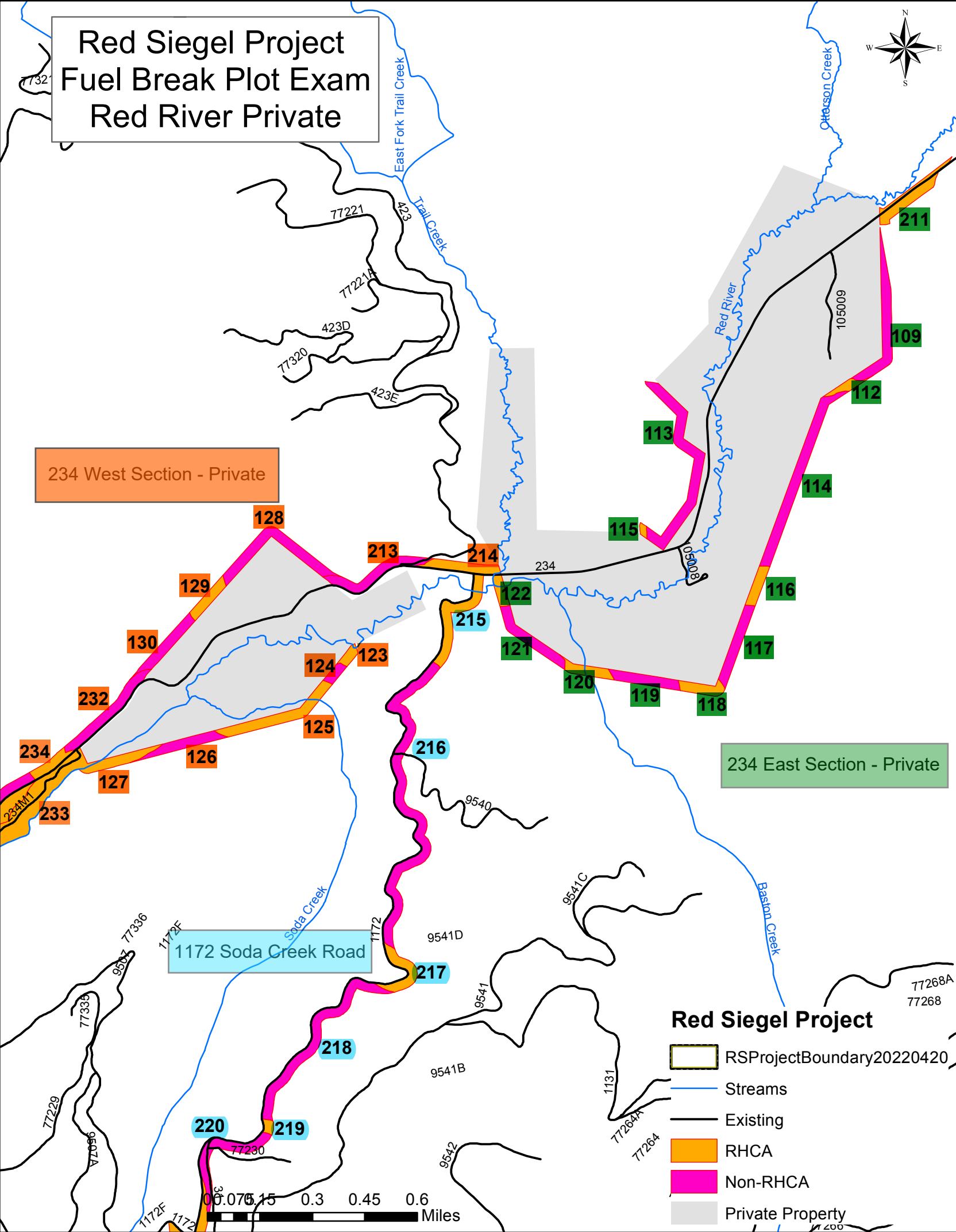
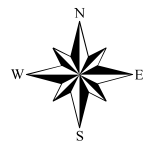


- Red Siegel Project**
- RSProjectBoundary20220420
 - Streams
 - Existing
 - RHCA
 - Non-RHCA
 - Private Property

0 0.1 0.2 0.4 0.6 0.8 Miles



Red Siegel Project Fuel Break Plot Exam Red River Private



234 West Section - Private

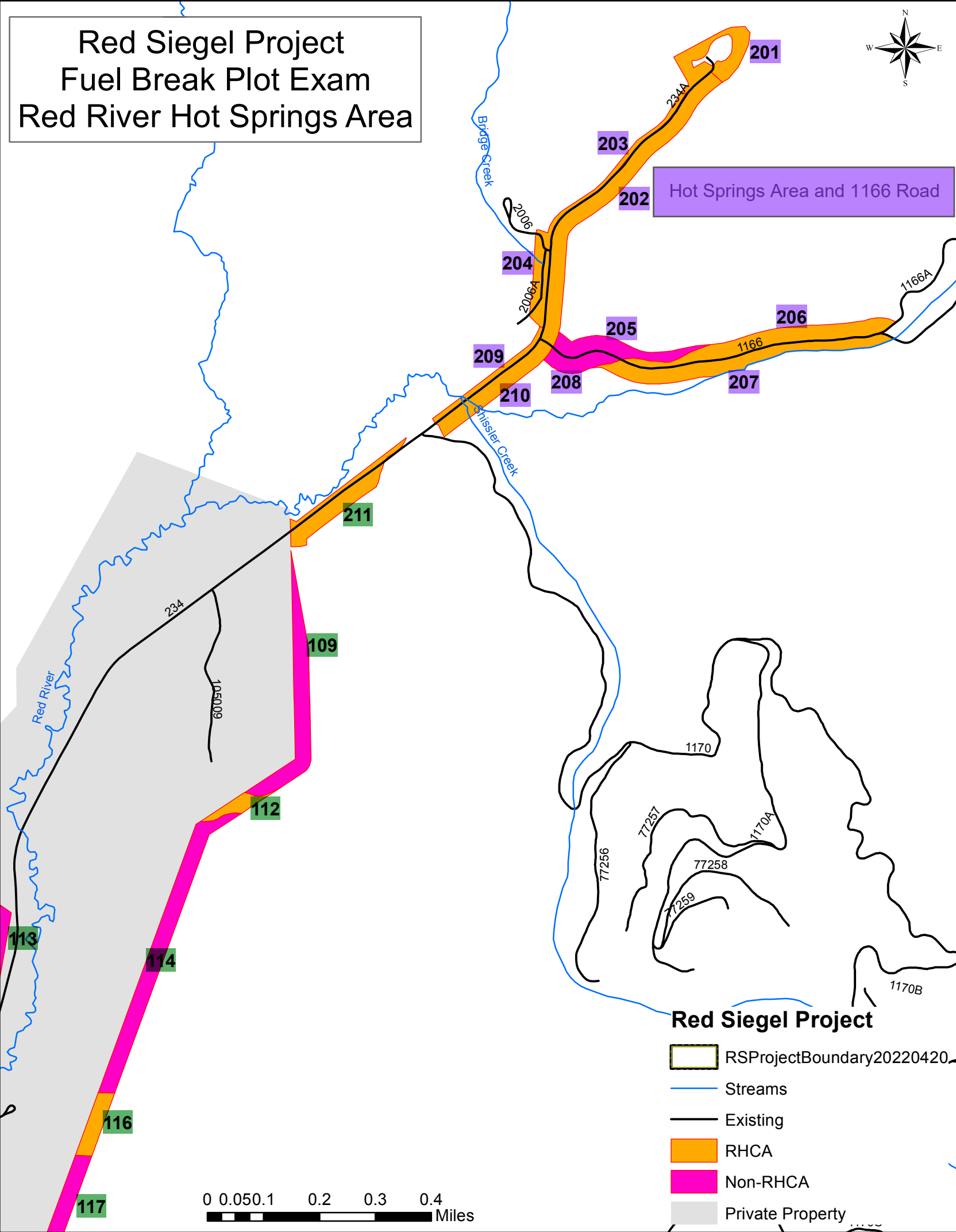
234 East Section - Private

1172 Soda Creek Road

- Red Siegel Project**
- RSProjectBoundary20220420
 - Streams
 - Existing
 - RHCA
 - Non-RHCA
 - Private Property


0 0.075 0.15 0.3 0.45 0.6 Miles

Red Siegel Project Fuel Break Plot Exam Red River Hot Springs Area



Hot Springs Area and 1166 Road

Red Siegel Project

-  RSPProjectBoundary20220420
-  Streams
-  Existing
-  RHCA
-  Non-RHCA
-  Private Property

0 0.05 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 Miles

Appendix B – Area Descriptions

Please note that any units that are not highlighted with a respective area color in Appendix A are not included in the scope of this particular project.

234 West Section – Private

Units 236, 235 (4 acres A) 234, 232, 230, 129, 128, 214, 127, 126, 125, 124, and 123

This section's unit numbers are highlighted in Orange in Appendix A: Area Reference Map. The units begin East of the Red River Campground Road on both sides of the 234 Road. Idaho County is conducting fuels reduction work in units West of the campground road, flagged with Blue tape. Unit 236, around the campground will likely not need treatment due to wet areas and minimal tree cover. The fuel break largely wraps around a private property boundary. There are 25.8 Treatment A acres and 9.7 Treatment B acres. Unit 128 (7.4 acres) and unit 213 (5.6 acres) may be eligible for mastication in areas where the slope is less than 35%. Unit 232 (5.2 acres) has Aspens mixed with conifers. If permission is not granted from property owners, crews may be needed to cross streams/wet areas. Tree density varies across units.

1172 Soda Creek Road

Units 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221

This section's unit numbers are highlighted in Blue in Appendix A: Area Reference Map. The units are along the uphill slope of road 1172. There are 35.3 Treatment A acres and 14.8 Treatment B acres. The road is relatively narrow, and tree density is moderate to extreme. Roadside clearing was completed in Summer 2024 so there is some slash already piled. Mastication is eligible in Treatment A areas where the slope is under 35%, however, density and slope may hinder ability to operate equipment. Please note that units south of unit 221 at the Soda Creek intersection are not included in this project.

234 East Section – Private

Units 122, 121, 120, 119, 118, 117, 116, 114, 112, 109, 211, 115, 113

This section's unit numbers are highlighted in Green in Appendix A: Area Reference Map. The units are around a private property boundary. Like the West Section of the 234 Road, crews may need to cross rivers and/or wet areas to access work, depending on private landowner's permission to access. There are 40.6 Treatment A acres and 15.24 Treatment B acres. Unit 109 (7.1 acres) is eligible for mastication, as well as other Treatment A units where the slope is under 35%, however, density and slope may hinder ability to operate equipment. Density is moderate to extreme across all units.

Hot Springs Area and 1166 Road

Units 209, 210, 208, 205, 207, 206, 204, 202, 203, 201

This section's unit numbers are highlighted in Purple in Appendix A: Area Reference Map. This section is a fuel break around the remaining section of 234 Road that leads to the Red River Hot Springs Resort, as well as the 1166 Road that forks from the 234 Road. The resort operates on a USFS commercial permit. Contractor and crews must be courteous to the resort's guests and workers. There are 6 Treatment A acres and 40.6 Treatment B acres. This area requires especially careful attention to any seeps or wet areas that require a 50ft buffer. Slope varies across all units. Density is moderate to extreme across all units.