

JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

AGENDA REQUEST

TO: Board of County Commissioners
Mark McCauley, County Administrator

FROM: Heidi Eisenhour, Commissioner

DATE: August 7, 2023

SUBJECT: Jefferson County preference for DNR acquisition of forestlands with legislative funds

STATEMENT OF ISSUE:

During the 2022 Legislative Session, WSAC requested a joint legislative committee work session with the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources, & Parks and the House Committee on Rural Development, Agriculture, & Natural Resources where they presented the WSAC marbled murrelet LTCS economic impact analysis, and a panel of stakeholders answered questions from committee members. After the work session, WSAC was asked to draft a budget proviso requesting funding to purchase replacement timberlands in Clallam, Jefferson, Pacific, Skamania, and Wahkiakum Counties. Senator Kevin Van De Wege (24th Legislative District) submitted the proviso for legislative consideration. The proviso was included in the final 2022 State Supplemental Operating Budget.

The proviso appeared on page 570, Section 310, and reads as follows:

- (48)(a) \$10,000,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2023 is provided solely for the department to purchase state forestland, as described in RCW 79.22.010, to begin a program to benefit counties who have lost revenue from existing state forestlands encumbered by wildlife species listed as endangered or threatened by the federal endangered species act. The department must transfer the appropriated amount into the natural resources real property replacement account in accordance with RCW 79.17.210 to purchase state forestlands.*
- (b) Of the amounts provided in this subsection:*
- (i) \$5,000,000 must be used to purchase state forestland for the benefit of Clallam county and Jefferson county; and*
- (ii) \$5,000,000 must be used to purchase state forestland for the benefit of Pacific county, Skamania county, and Wahkiakum county.*
- (c) The purchased forestlands shall be owned and managed by the department as state forest transfer lands and shall be placed in trust for the benefit of the counties. The purchase of these state forestlands is not limited to lands within the geographic bounds of the counties listed in this subsection.*
- (d) The purchase of state forestlands must be made in concurrence with the Washington state association of counties before a transaction is finalized.*
- (e) The department shall work with the Washington state association of counties to determine if any statutory changes are necessary to address issues regarding beneficiary revenue distribution or any other fiscal matters related to state forestlands. The department and the Washington state association of counties shall report to the legislature on any needed statutory changes by December 31, 2022.*

Commissioner Eisenhower participated in the Encumbered Lands Working Group with other counties mentioned in the proviso in 2022-23. Now it's time to purchase lands. DNR would like to hear preferences from the Jefferson County Commissioners for which portion of Jefferson County that the commissioner's feel would work best for DNR's initial target area for acquiring private forest lands that DNR would purchase using the legislatively appropriated funds (\$5 Million split between Clallam and Jefferson Counties) for acquiring replacement State Forest Land Trust properties.

ANALYSIS:

DNR is assuming that the two counties are splitting the acquisition funds relatively equally, so about \$2.5 Million total is therefore available for the Jefferson County land purchases. One of DNR's next key steps is to contact a Rayonier about their potential willingness to sell some of their forest property and to discuss market prices. Commissioner Eisenhower participated in a meeting last month with WSAC and DNR which included a discussion where Bob Winslow relayed that alternatives exist for both east Jefferson County (northwestern portion of the lands shown in the first attachment Tarboo Watershed) and in the west Jefferson County (maps attached of Nolan Creek and Kalaloch Creek areas).

The second attachment has labels for the Tarboo Watershed lands, and perhaps a realty acquisition to consider exploring might attempt to build off of existing state trust ownership lands in the areas labelled as A-1 and A-8. This might be DNR's first preference for this east Jefferson County area.

The third and fourth attachments are maps for the western portion of Jefferson County. On these two sets of maps the existing state trust lands are colored darker brown, and the lighter tan colored lands are owned by Rayonier. These west Jefferson County private lands are likely to be somewhat less costly per acre for the same age class, as compared to forested properties located in eastern Jefferson County with similar age classes due to closer proximity to more populated areas.

DNR wants to hear Jefferson County's preference to guide DNR's exploratory efforts towards acquiring forest land to benefit Jefferson County.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None.

RECOMMENDATION:

Discuss.

REVIEWED BY:

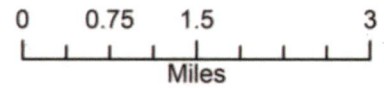

Mark McCauley, County Administrator

8/2/23
Date

Tarboo Creek Watershed Proposed Purchase

2019 lidar Imagery (3 ft resolution)

Projection: NAD 1983
State Plane Wash, North



- Road
 - Lakes
 - Streams
 - Watershed
 - Rayonier parcels proposed for purchase
- Northwest
Watershed Institute

2020 Parcels

- NW Watershed
- DNR Natural Area
- WDWF Critical Habitat Preserve
- County Park
- DNR Trust Lands
- Rayonier
- Under Appraisal
- Other - Private
- Other - Public

Easement Type

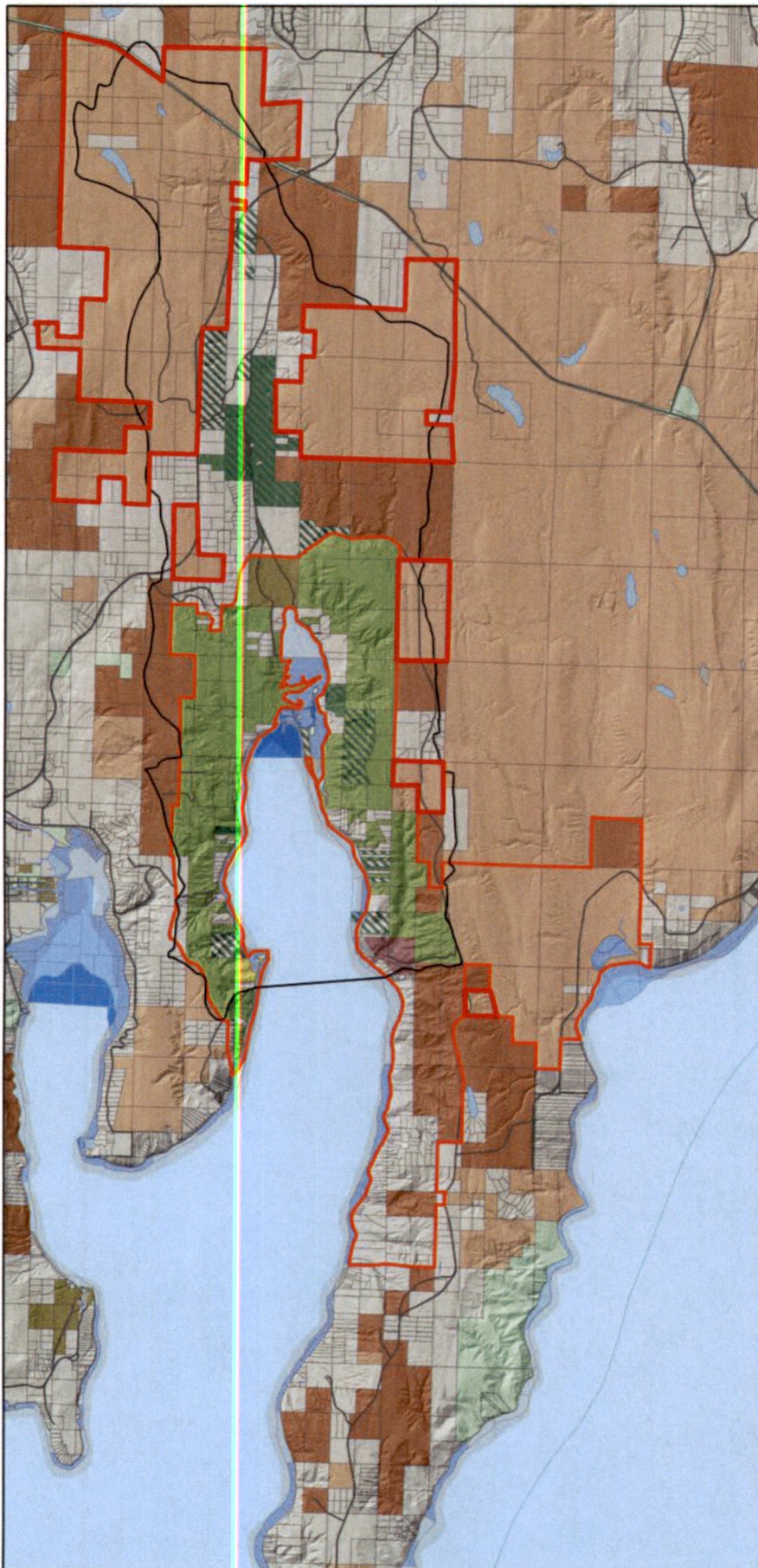
- Conservation Easement

DNR Aquatic Land

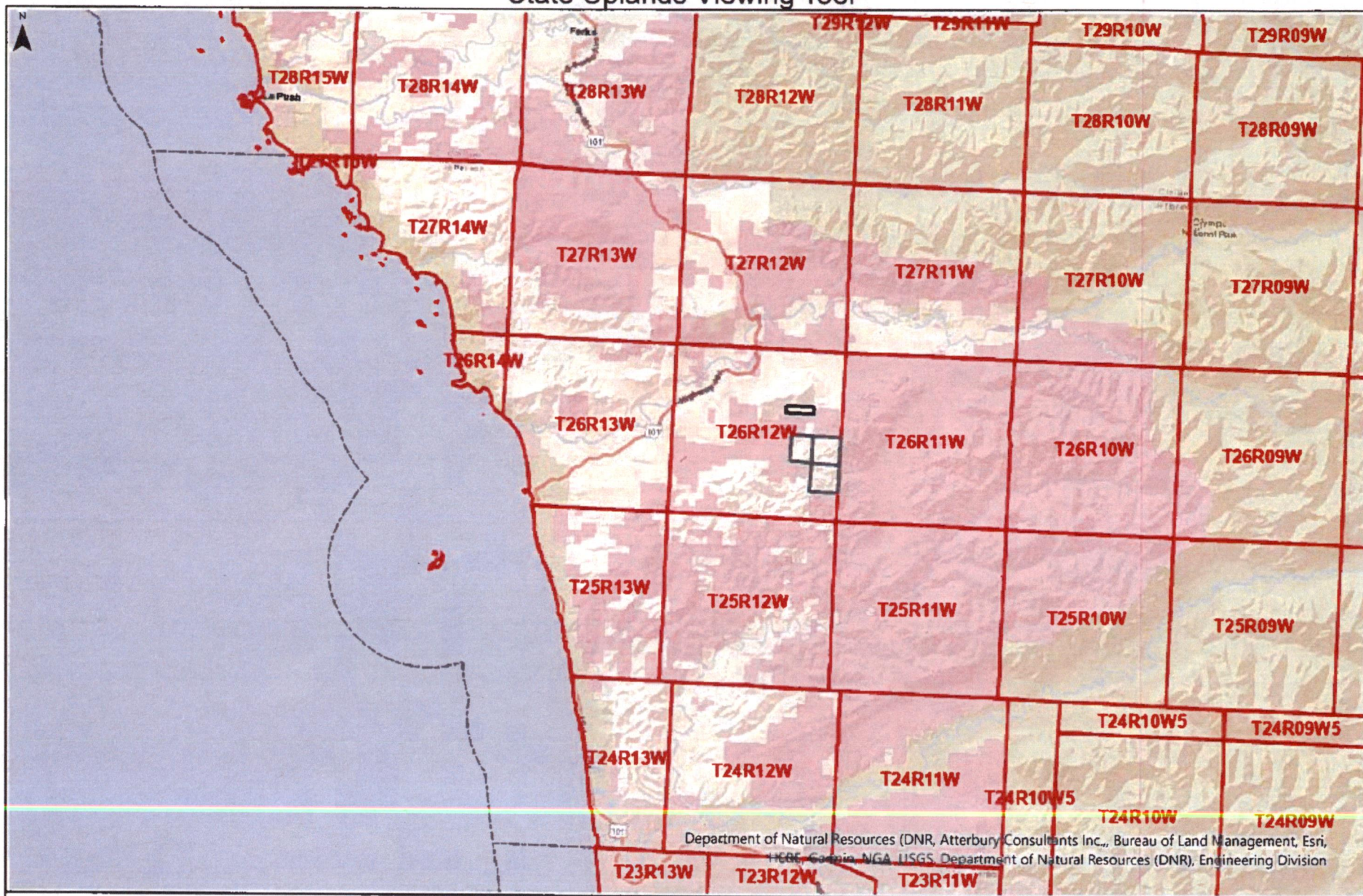
- Public
- Private
- Northwest Watershed Institute
- Unknown

Land Boundaries

- Current Dabob NA Boundary



State Uplands Viewing Tool



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Miles

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Coordinate System: NAD 1983 HARN StatePlane Washington South FIPS 4602 Feet

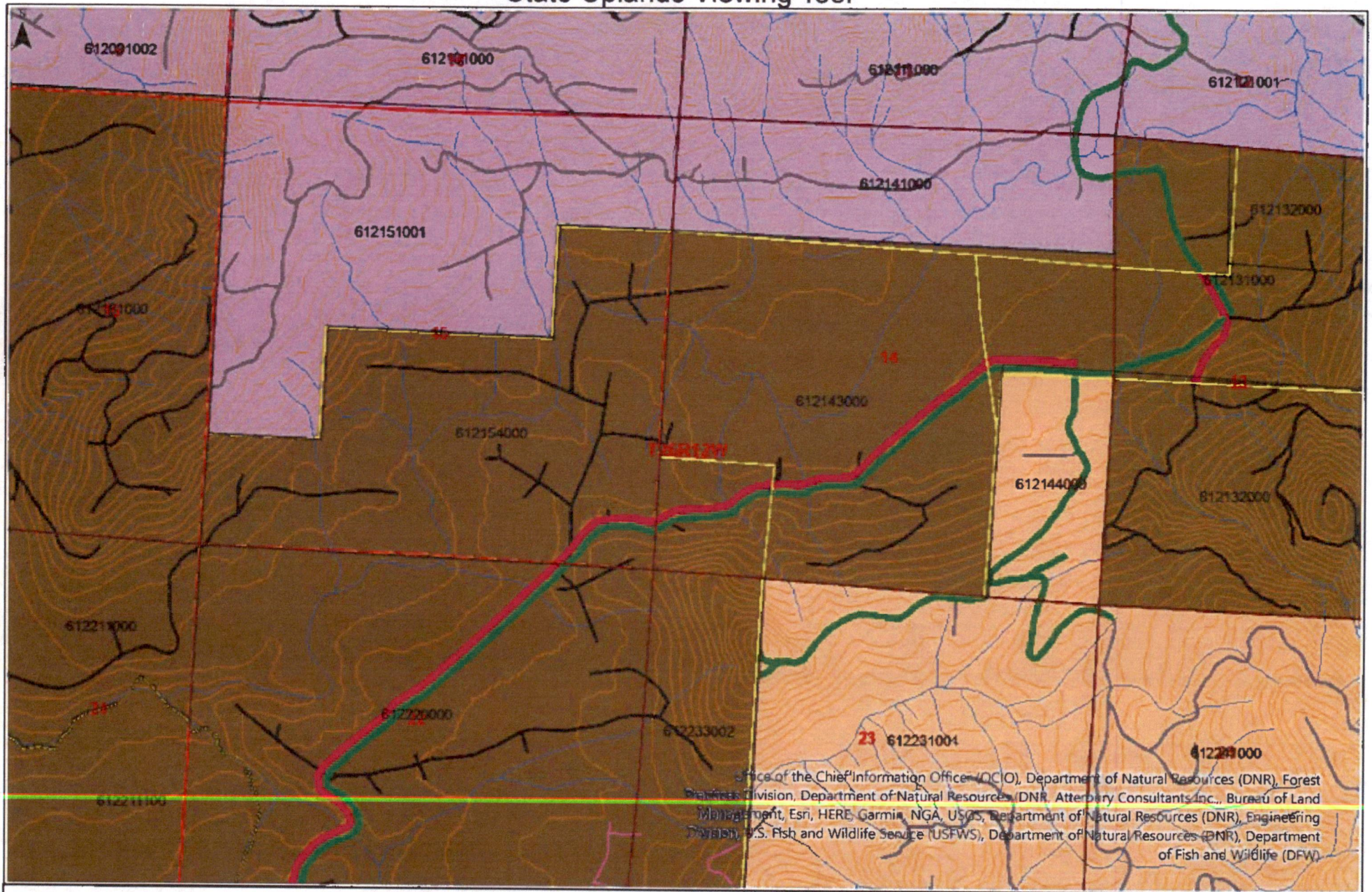


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Extreme care was used during the compilation of this map to ensure accuracy. However, due to changes in data and the need to rely on outside information, the Department of Natural Resources cannot accept responsibility for errors or omissions, and therefore, there are no warranties which accompany this material.

Nolan Creek_Vicinity_SUVT_07172023

State Uplands Viewing Tool



Approximate Scale 1:18,056

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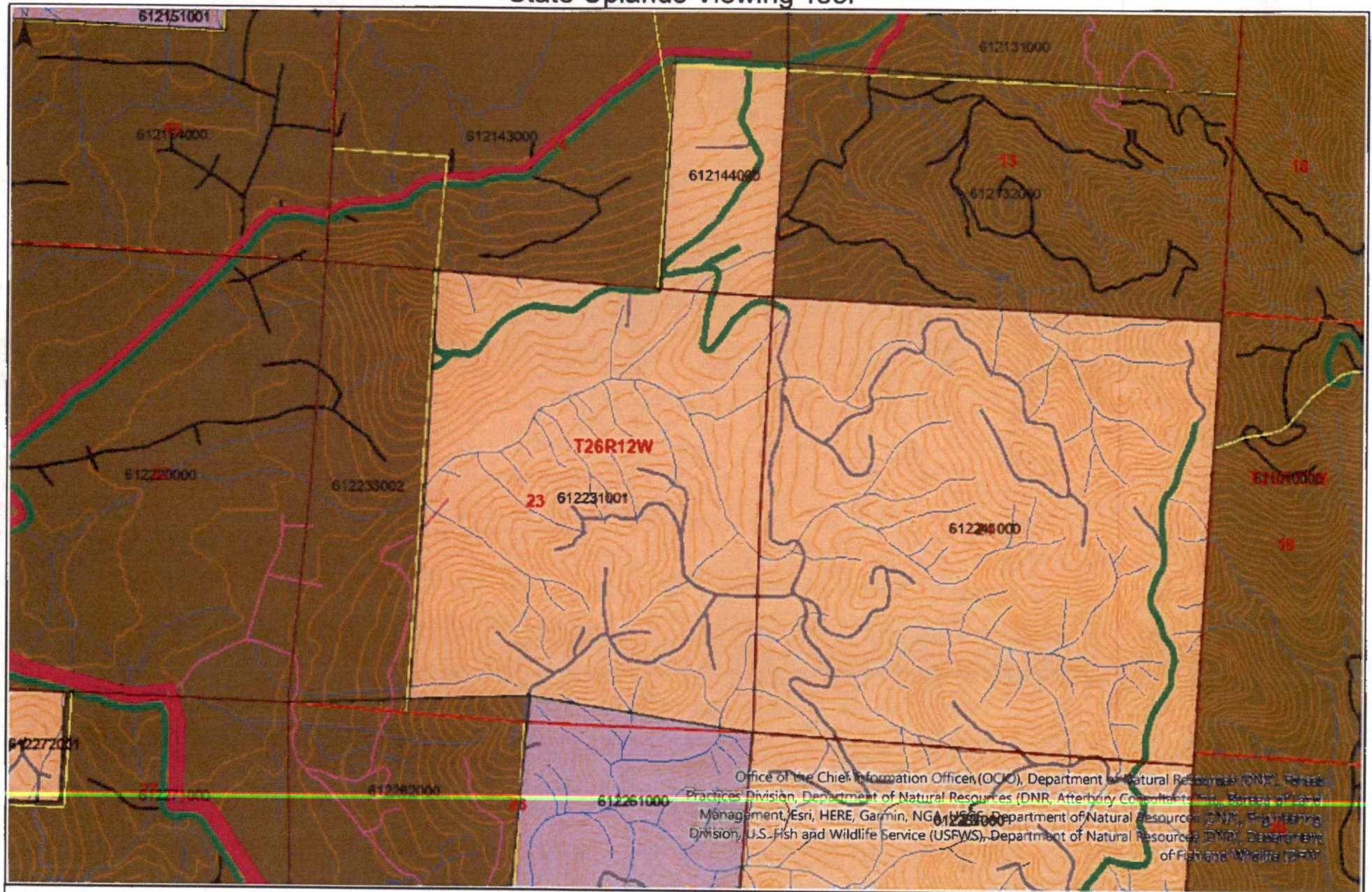
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Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO), Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Forest Practices Division, Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Attorney Consultants Inc., Bureau of Land Management, Esri, HERE, Garmin, NGA, USGS, Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Engineering Division, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW)

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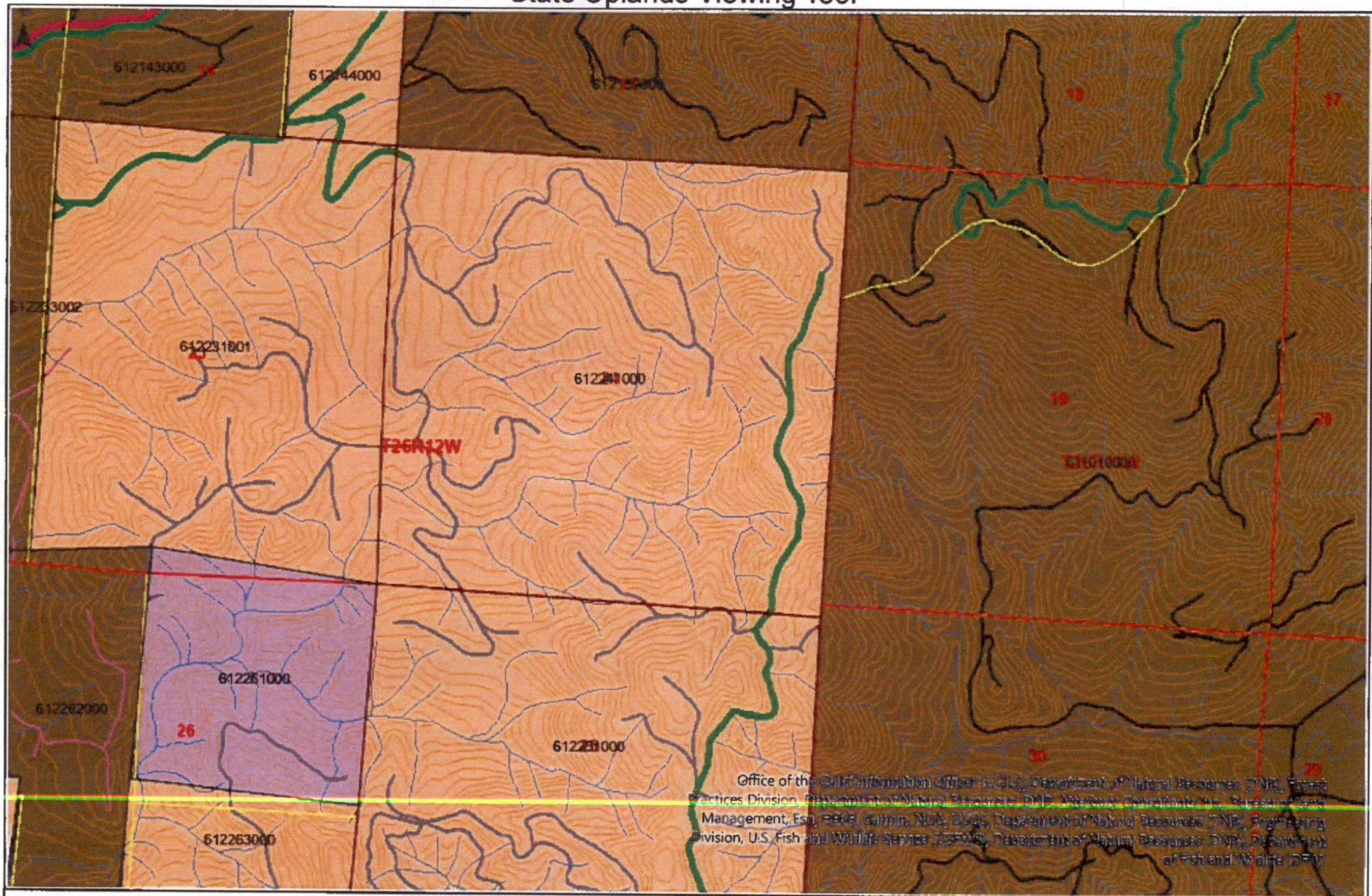
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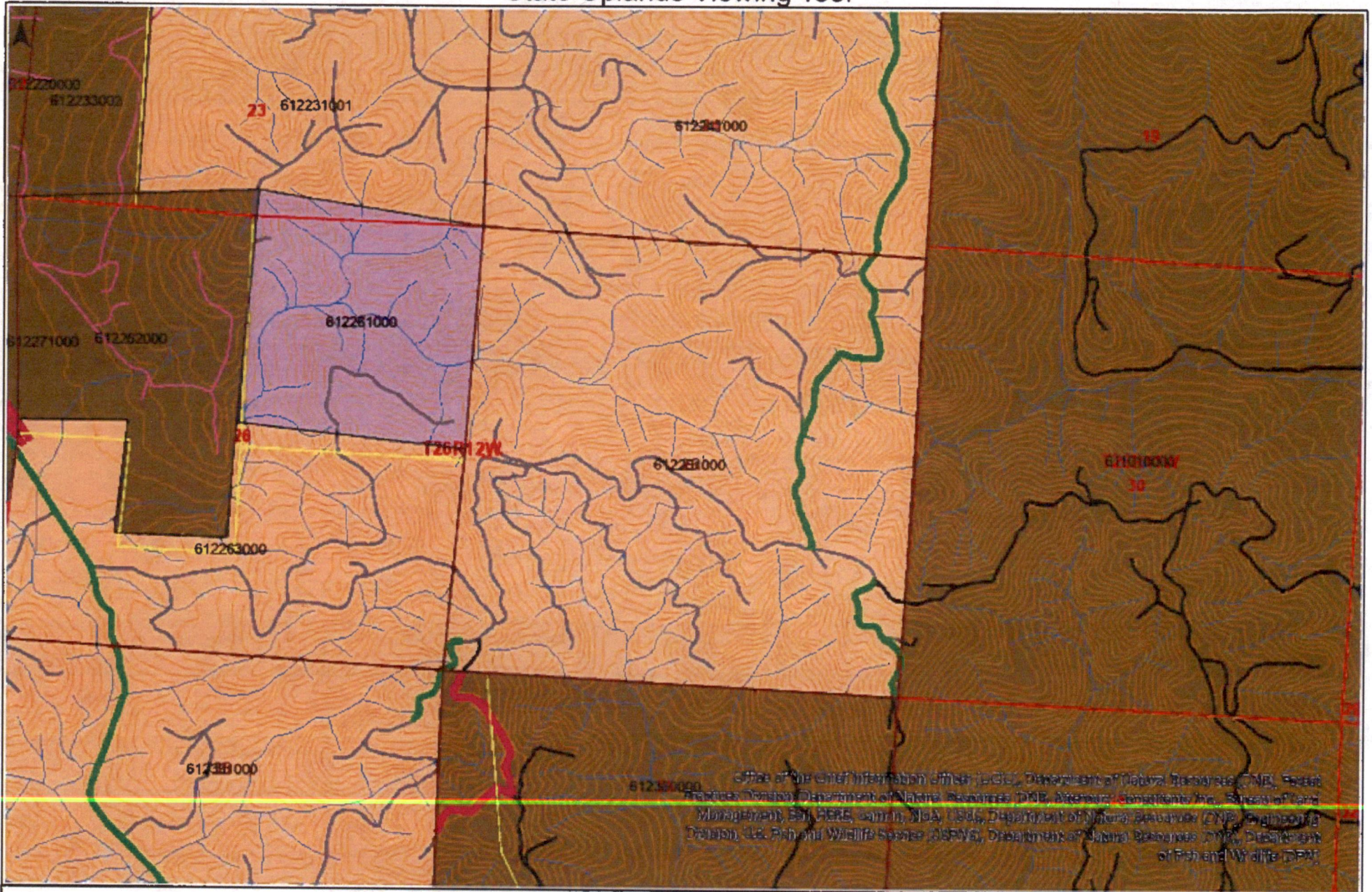
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 of Fish and Wildlife (DFW)

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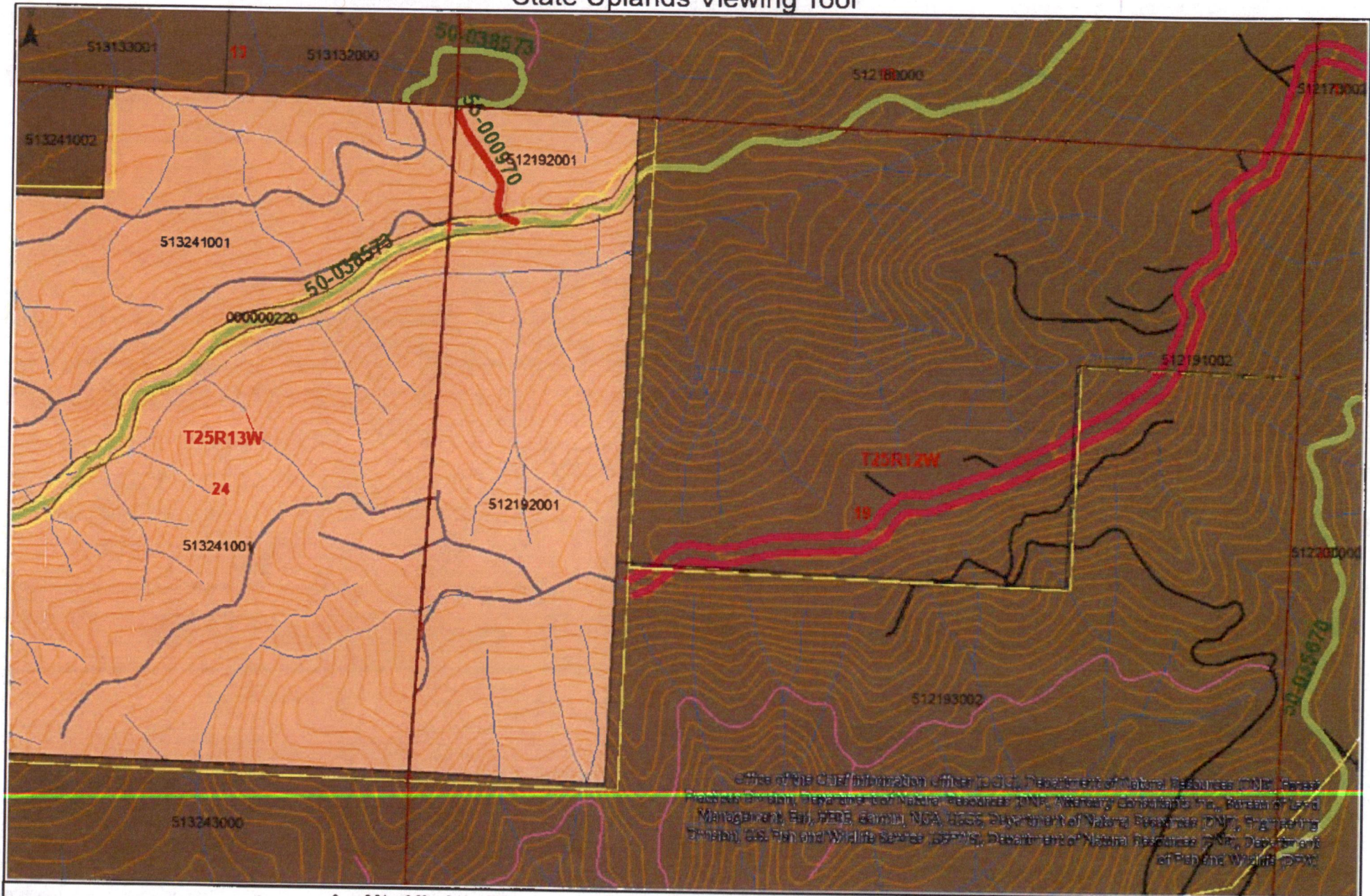
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Miles

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