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January 8, 2025

Attention: Cannabis Services Division
Humboldt County Planning and Building Department
3015 H Street
Eureka, CA 95501

Re: APN 221-171-022
PLN-11852-CUP

The Timberland Conversion Evaluation Report was prepared in response to the County's request for the following"

Specifically, the timber conversion report does not detail the two areas. From the attachment I sent in my last email, "The only issue that I see is that there was expansion in the North Flat and South Flat after 2016. In the NRM report, on page 3 it mentions, "Few if any trees appear to have been cut after 2012". Per aerial imagery, it is evident that there was additional tree removal in the North Flat and South Flat. You should consider reaching out to Natural Resource Management for an addendum to that report.

Timberland Resource Consultants (TRC) inspected and evaluated the North Flat and South Flat on December 11, 2024. Chris Carroll, RPF #2628 exercised due diligence in evaluating both sites to fully assess timberland conversion and associated impacts. This report evaluates the rules and regulations contained in the Forest Practice Rules associated with 14CCR 1104.1 Conversion Exemptions.

Timber Operations conducted under 14CCR 1104.1 are exempt from a Conversion Permit and timber harvesting plan requirements but are required to comply with all other applicable provisions of the Z'berg-Nejedly Forest Practice Act, regulations of the Board, and currently effective provisions of county general plans.

The foregoing report analyses compliance with the Forest Practice Rules, particularly those associated with 14CCR 1104.1 Conversion Exemptions. The report highlights common limitations and restrictions associated with Conversion Exemptions; however, the RPF's field assessment includes evaluation of countless rules and regulations contained in the Forest Practice Act, which restrict and limit timber operations associated with timberland conversion.

Project Location

APN: 221-171-022

Acreage: 81 acres

Legal Description: S ½ of SW ¼ of Section 32, T3S, R2E, HB&M.

County Zoning: Unclassified

Site Address: None

Landowner/Timber Owner: Joshua Gatlin & Daniel Tanner

Parcel Description & Timber Harvest History

Note: The property background has been summarized using personal accounts of the current landowner, digital orthographic quadrangle (DOQ) imagery, Humboldt County Web GIS, CAL FIRE Watershed Mapper v2, and Historic Aerials. To avoid speculation and maintain relevancy, the property background focuses mainly on the past 10-15 years.

The property consists of second growth tanoak, madrone, and Douglas-fir. Review of 1968 aerial imagery reveals signs that the timbered portions of the property and surrounding areas were harvested in the late 1950's / early 1960's as evidenced by truck roads, skid roads, landings, and distinct timber/vegetation type changes. Increment borings of second growth Douglas-fir trees surrounding the conversion area revealed a stand age of approximately 50-60 years old. Review of more recent historic imagery from 1972 to present reveals no signs of additional timber harvest entry. Chris Carroll, RPF #2628 prepared a Cal Fire Less Than 3-Acre Conversion Exemption 1-18EX-128-HUM. This conversion exemption is viewable at CAL FIRE's Forest Practice Watershed Mapper (http://egis.fire.ca.gov/watershed_mapper/)

Project Description

Two cultivation sites were inspected during the field assessment as shown on the attached Conversion Evaluation Map.

Cultivation Site/Associated Area	Total Acreage	Converted?	Converted Acreage
North Flat	0.84	Yes	0.84
South Flat	0.55	Yes	0.55
Total:	1.39		1.39

North Flat Cultivation Site

Review of NAIP, Google, and historicaerials.com imagery reveals that the North Flat was originally converted and developed between 2006 and 2009. Subsequent enlargement, albeit minor in scope occurred along the southern periphery between 2012-2018. The cultivation activities observed impedes the use of this space for current timber growth and future harvesting. The landowner has effectively converted this area from timber production to cannabis cultivation.

South Flat Cultivation Site

Review of NAIP, Google, and historicaerials.com imagery reveals that the South Flat was originally converted and developed between 2006 and 2009. The southern portion of the site appears to have burned between 2016 and 2018. Prior to the burning this area appears to have been developed with outbuildings, but also contained scattered overstory Douglas-fir. The trees and their associated shading obstruct the visibility of the extent of development seen in the 2016 imagery. The dead, dying, and diseased trees, which are visibly burned on the NAIP 2018 imagery were subsequently removed as shown on Google Imagery 4-2019. The cultivation activities observed impedes the use of this space for current timber growth and future harvesting. The landowner has effectively converted this area from timber production to cannabis cultivation.

Timberland Conversion Summary

TRC observed 1.39 acres of timberland conversion for cultivation-related purposes. This total does not exceed the three-acre conversion exemption maximum.

Limitations and Considerations for Timberland Conversion Activities

Watercourses and Water Resources

14CCR 1104.1(a)(2)(F): *"No timber operations are allowed within a watercourse and lake protection zone unless specifically approved by local permit (e.g., county, city)."*

The North Flat and South Flat cultivation sites do not occur within a Watercourse per 14CCR 895.1, or its associated Watercourse and Lake Protection Zone (WLPZ). The RPF's observations of watercourse classification are consistent with NRM's Conversion Evaluation dated December 12, 2018.

Slash, Woody Debris, and Refuse Treatment

14 CCR 914.5(b): *"Non-biodegradable refuse, litter, trash, and debris resulting from timber operations, and other activity in connection with the operations shall be disposed of concurrently with the conduct of timber operations."*

14CCR 1104.1(a)(2)(D) – *Treatment of Slash and Woody Debris*

- 1) *Unless otherwise required, slash greater than one inch in diameter and greater than two feet long, and woody debris, except pine, shall receive full treatment no later than April 1 of the year following its creation, or within one year from the date of acceptance of the conversion exemption by the Director, whichever comes first.*
- 2) *All pine slash three inches and greater in diameter and longer than four feet must receive initial treatment if it is still on the parcel, within 7 days of its creation.*
- 3) *All pine woody debris longer than four feet must receive an initial treatment prior to full treatment.*
- 4) *Initial treatment shall include limbing woody debris and cutting slash and woody debris into lengths of less than four feet, and leaving the pieces exposed to solar radiation to aid in rapid drying.*
- 5) *Full treatment of all pine slash and woody debris must be completed by March 1 of the year following its creation, or within one year from the date of acceptance of the conversion exemption by the Director, whichever comes first.*
- 6) *Full slash and woody debris treatment may include any of the following:*
 - a) *Burying;*
 - b) *Chipping and spreading;*
 - c) *Piling and burning; or*
 - d) *Removing slash and woody debris from the site for treatment in compliance with (a)-(b). Slash and woody debris may not be burned by open outdoor fires except under permit from the appropriate fire protection agency, if required, the local air pollution control district or air quality management district. The burning must occur on the property where the slash and woody debris originated.*
- 7) *Slash and woody debris, except for pine, which is cut up for firewood shall be cut to lengths 24 inches or less and set aside for drying by April 1 of the year following its creation. Pine slash and woody debris which is cut up for firewood shall be cut to lengths 24 inches or less and set aside for drying within seven days of its creation.*
- 8) *Any treatment which involves burning of slash or woody debris shall comply with all state and local fire and air quality rules.*

No slash, logs, and/or woody debris created by past development was observed by the RPF at the North Flat and South Flat cultivation sites.

Limitations and Considerations for Timberland Conversion Activities (Cont.)

Biological Resources and Forest Stand Health

14 CCR 1104.1 (2)(H): "No sites of rare, threatened or endangered plants or animals shall be disturbed, threatened or damaged and no timber operations shall occur within the buffer zone of a sensitive species as defined in 14 CCR 895.1"

There were no known rare, threatened, or endangered plants or animals within the subject property based upon the RPF's research. A query of the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) revealed no observations of sensitive, rare, threatened, or endangered species or species of special concern within a 0.7-mile radius biological assessment area (BAA) surrounding the two cultivation sites. Likewise, the query of the CNDDDB-NSO Database revealed no Northern Spotted Owl (NSO) Activity Centers within a 0.7-mile radius BAA surrounding the two cultivation sites. The closest NSO Activity Center (HUM 345) is located approximately 2.35 miles northwest of the subject property in the Harrow Creek watershed.

The conversion area did not include late successional stands, late seral stage forests, or old growth trees. The conversion area did not include any trees that existed before 1800 A.D and is greater than sixty (60) inches in diameter at stump height for Sierra or Coastal Redwoods, and forty-eight (48) inches in diameter at stump height for all other tree species.

Sudden Oak Death

No major forest health issues were observed during the field assessment. The property is located within Humboldt County, a Zone of Infestation (ZOI) for Sudden Oak Death (SOD) but the RPF observed no symptoms, signs, and evidence of oak mortality within the subject property.

Cultural Resources

14 CCR 1104.1 (2)(I): "No timber operations are allowed on significant historical or archeological sites."

No archeological sites were observed during the TRC field assessment. The RPF conducted pre-field research for the project's geographic location and closely surveyed the converted site and surrounding undisturbed areas for presence or evidence of prehistoric or historic sites. The archaeological survey was conducted by Chris Carroll, a certified archaeological surveyor with current CALFIRE Archeological Training (Archeological Training Course #575). The survey consisted of examining boot scrapes, rodent disturbances, natural and manmade areas of exposed soils, and road and cultivation site surfaces.

14CCR 923.4 Construction and Reconstruction of Logging Roads and Landings

While it is recognized that cannabis cultivation sites are not log landings; initial development and construction and subsequent maintenance of the graded flats should (at a minimum) meet or exceed similar requirements stated in the Forest Practice Rules for log landings. Compliance with State Water Resources Control Board Order WQ 2019-0001-DWQ, and other regulations will require even higher standards. Therefore, the RPF closely evaluated the cultivation sites for such compliance and has concluded that the performance standards of 14CCR 923.4(a-s) have been met.

14CCR 923.5 Erosion Control for Logging Roads and Landings

The roads on the property accessing the cultivation sites are permanent rocked roads with a high component of natural/native rock. Consequently, no significant erosion was observed on the appurtenant roads. No Controllable Sediment Delivery Sites were observed on the roads leading to the cultivation sites. The roads accessing the cannabis cultivation sites are in compliance with the requirements of 14CCR 923.5 and Board of Forestry Technical Rule Addendum No. 5: Guidance on Hydrologic Disconnection, Road Drainage, Minimization of Diversion Potential, And High-Risk Crossings.

Recommendations

The North Flat and South Flat cultivation sites are in compliance with the Forest Practice Rules. The RPF has no recommendations.

Sincerely,



Chris Carroll, RPF #2628
Timberland Resource Consultants

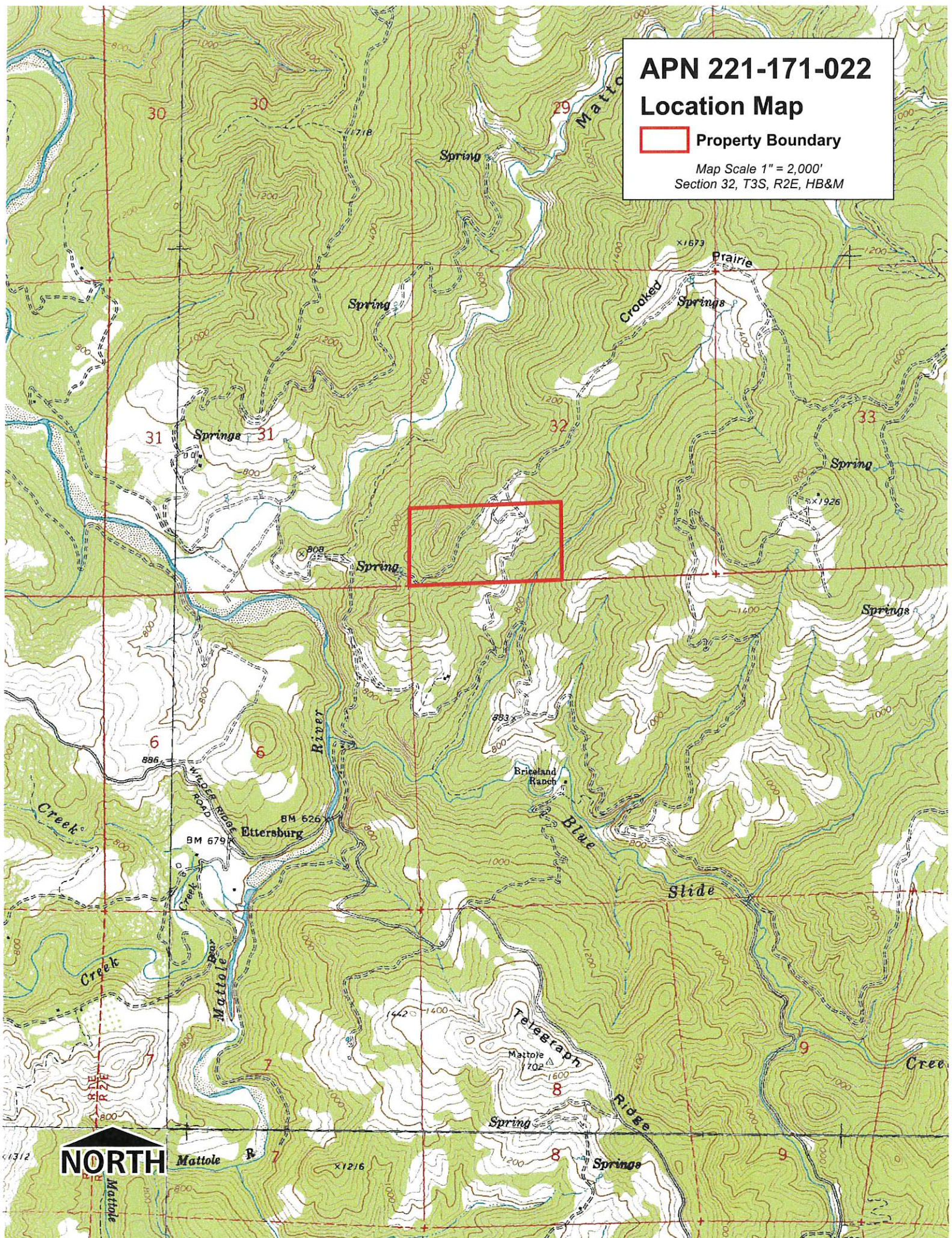
MAPS

APN 221-171-022

Location Map

 **Property Boundary**

Map Scale 1" = 2,000'
Section 32, T3S, R2E, HB&M



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Conversion Evaluation Map

- Property Boundary
- Cultivation Site / Timberland Conversion
- Class III Watercourse
- Class II Watercourse
- Crooked Prairie Road
- Permanent Rocked Road

Map Scale 1 inch = 300 feet
Section 32, T3S, R2E, HB&M

North Flat







South Flat

 NORTH

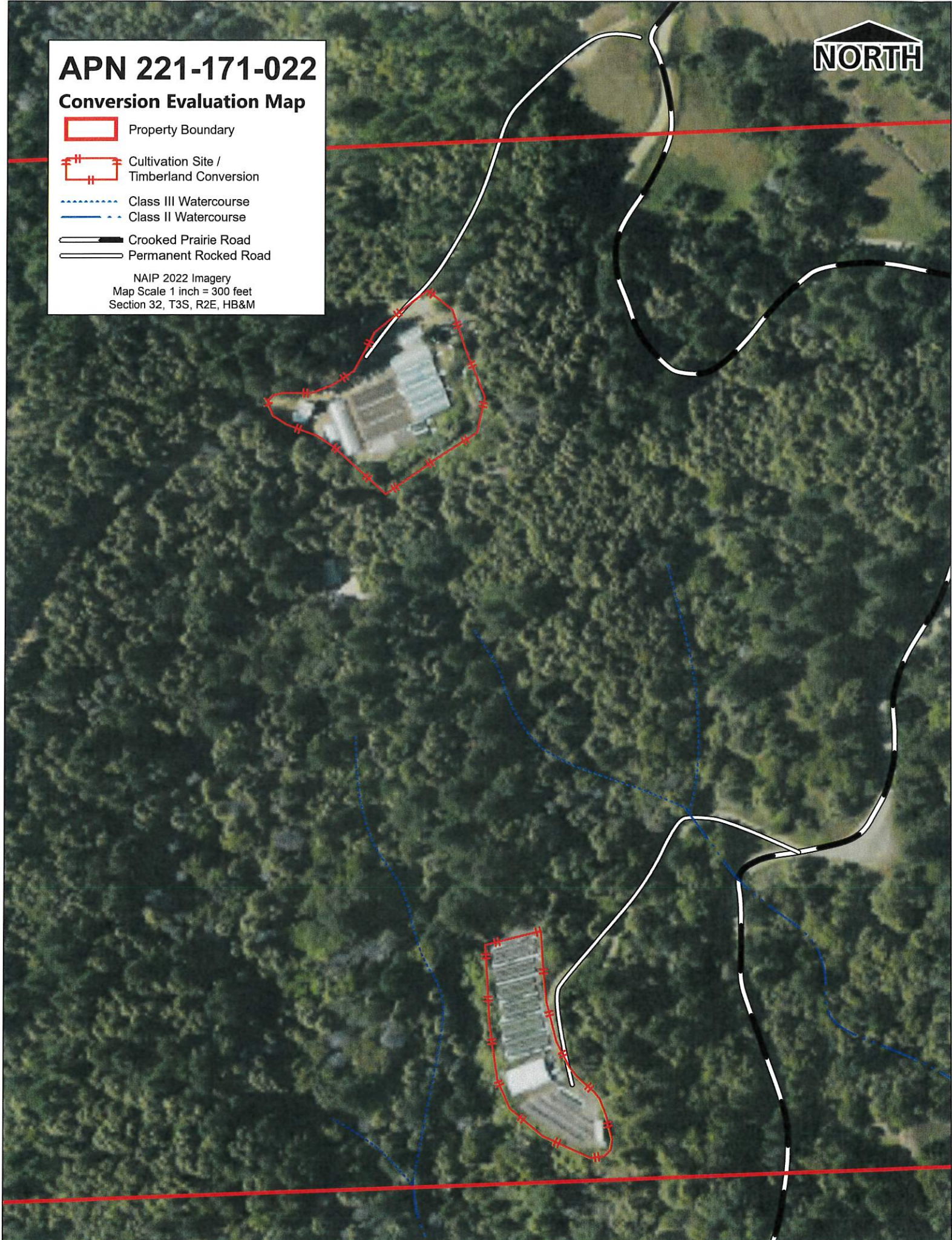
NORTH

APN 221-171-022

Conversion Evaluation Map






-  Property Boundary
-  Cultivation Site /
Timberland Conversion
-  Class III Watercourse
-  Class II Watercourse
-  Crooked Prairie Road
-  Permanent Rocked Road

NAIP 2022 Imagery
Map Scale 1 inch = 300 feet
Section 32, T3S, R2E, HB&M



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CNDDDB Map

-  Property Boundary
-  Cultivation Site / Timberland Conversion
-  0.7-mile Biological Assessment Area
-  CNDDDB Sensitive Species
-  NSO Activity Center

Map Scale 1 inch = 1,200 feet
Section 32, T3S, R2E, HB&M

