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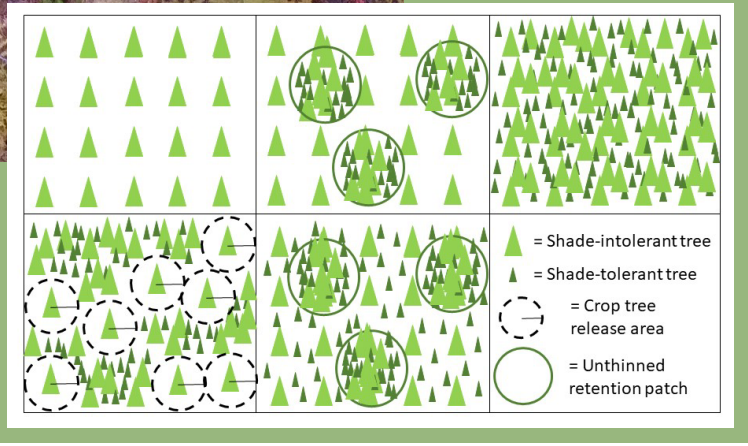
TNC Montana Precommercial Thinning Past, Present and Future



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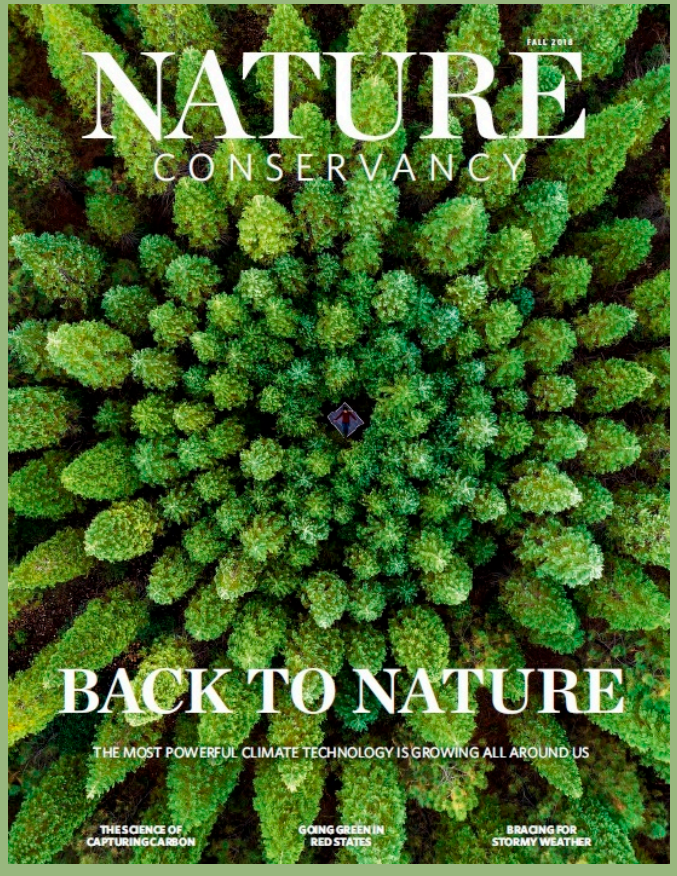
The Nature Conservancy

Mission: To conserve the lands and waters on which all life depends.

Where we work

- All 50 States
- Africa
- Asia
- The Pacific
- Europe
- Latin America
- North America
- Caribbean



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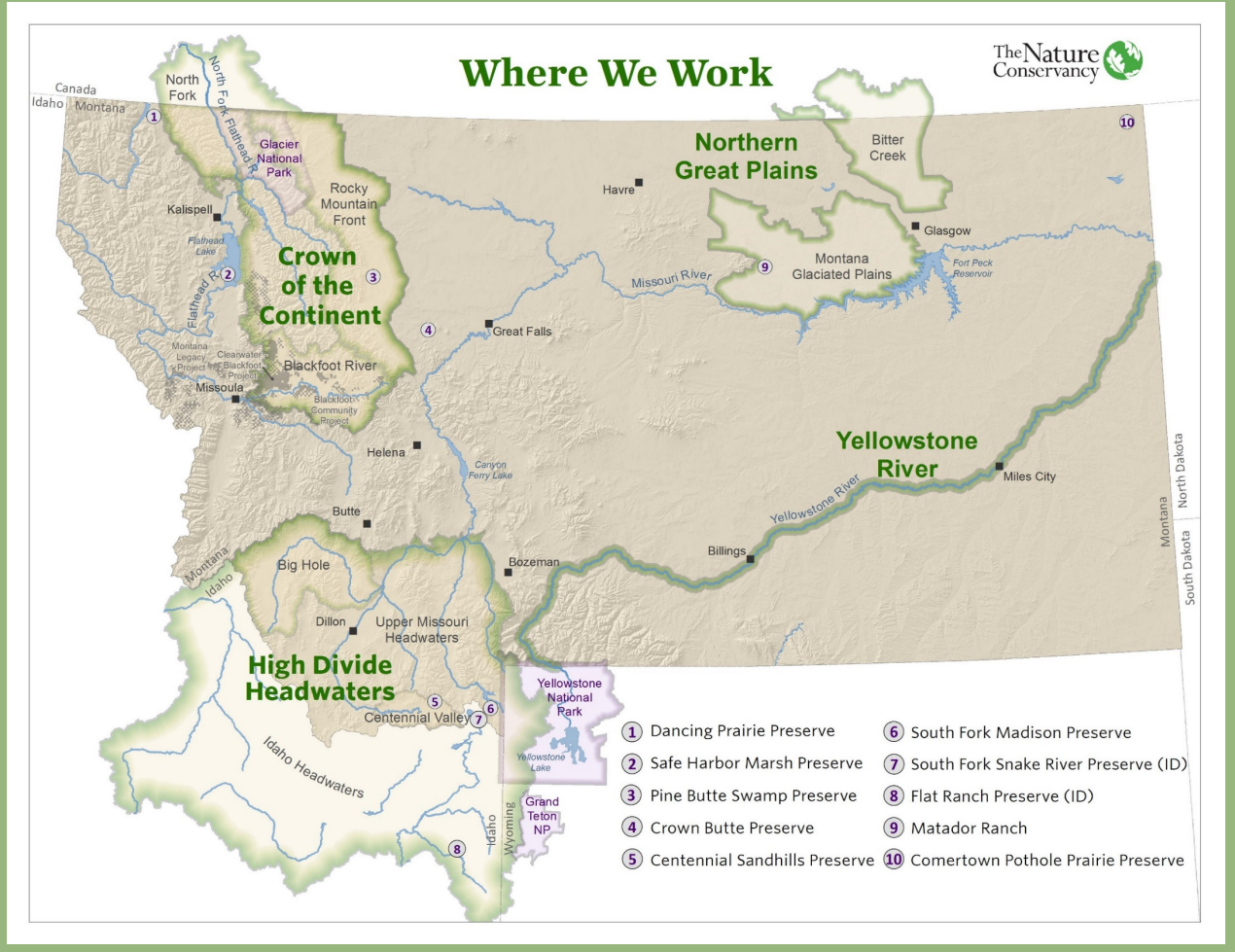
TNC Montana

Conservation Tools

- Conservation Easements
- Preserves
- Acquisitions & Transfers



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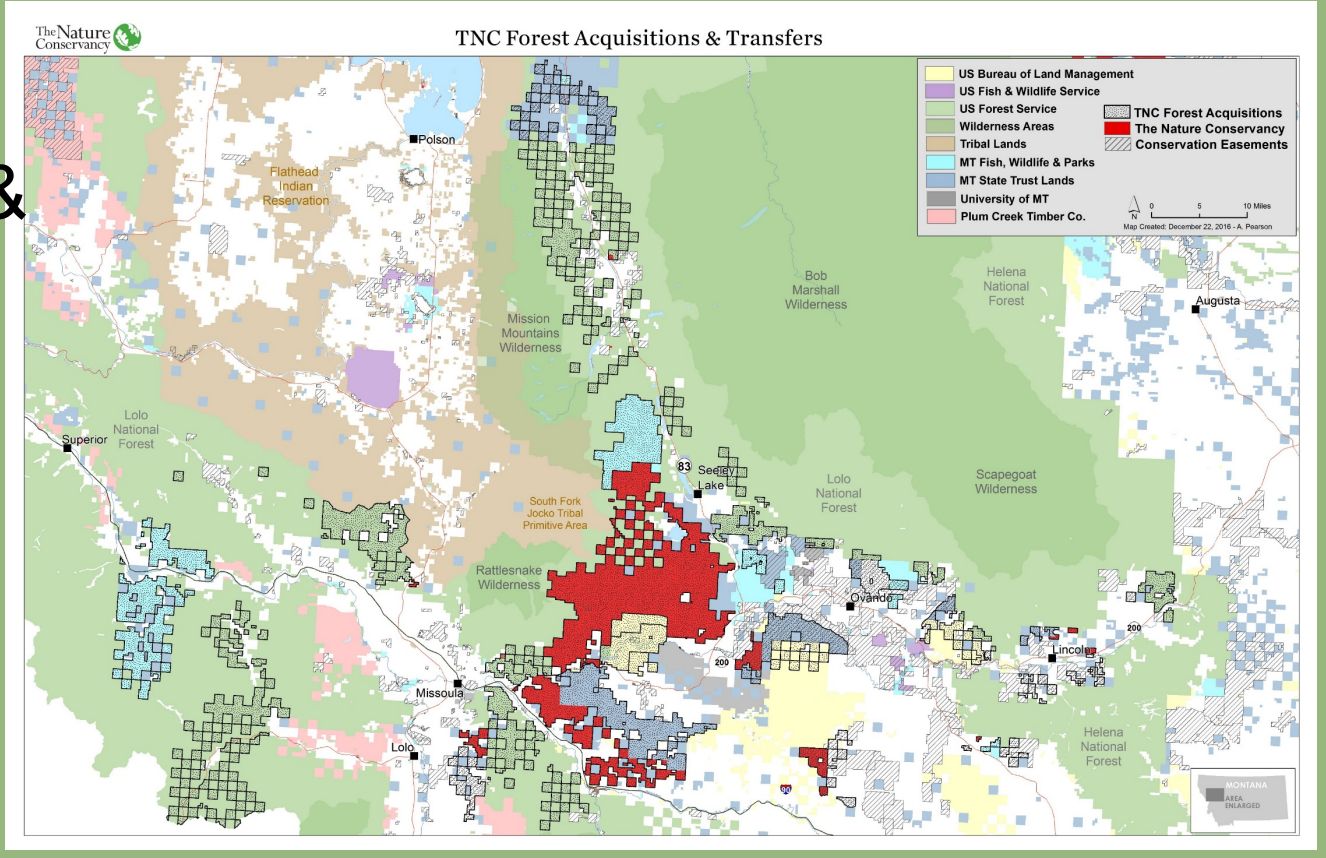
TNC Montana Forests

Conservation Tools

- Conservation Easements
- Preserves
- Acquisitions & Transfers



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Past

Conservation Tools

- Conservation Easements
- Preserves
- Acquisitions & Transfers

Common Goals: Protect older trees and promote uneven-aged management; Custodial role.

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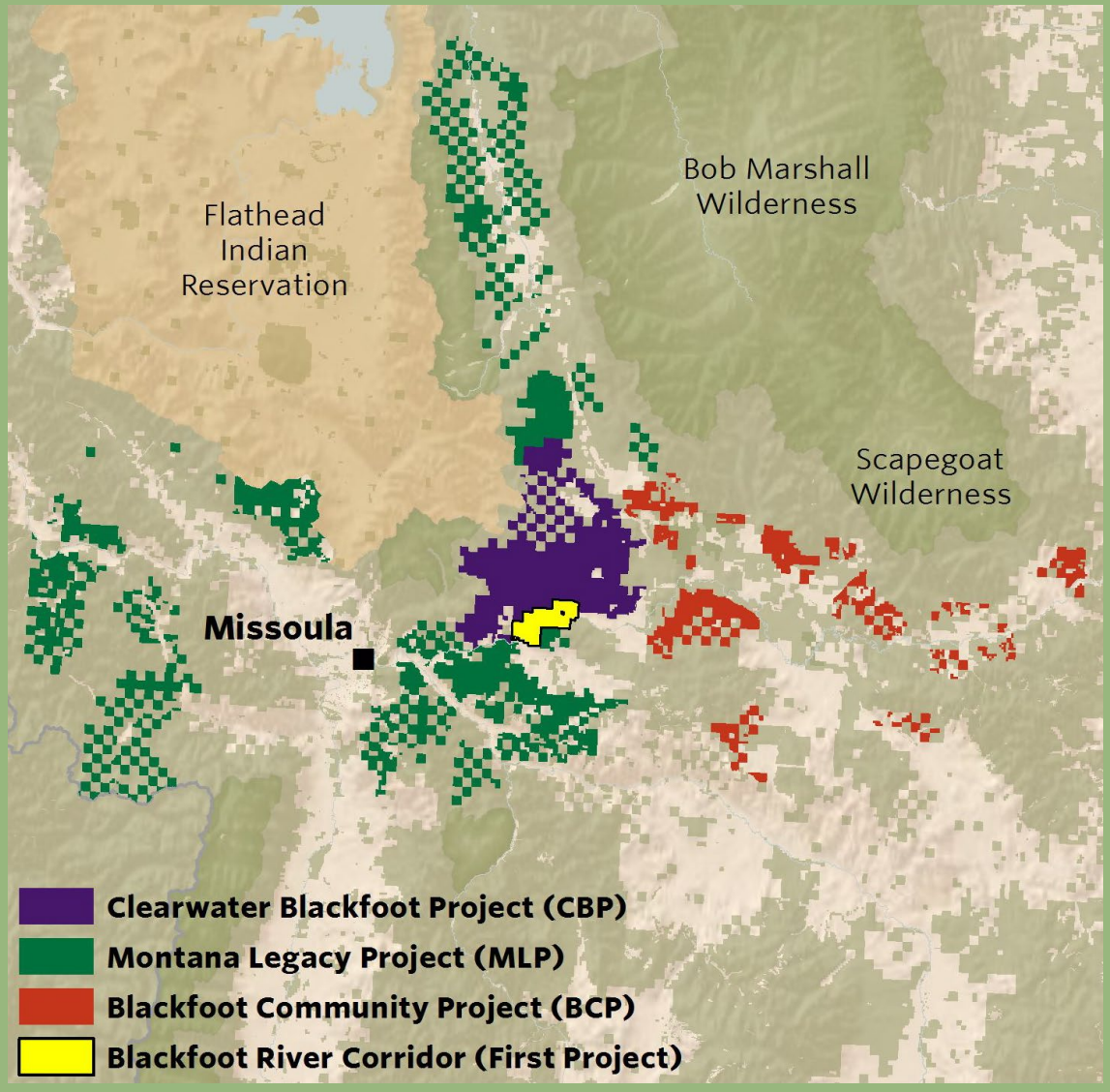
Past

Conservation Tools

- Conservation Easements
- Preserves
- Acquisitions & Transfers >528,000 acres

Challenges to PCT

- Interim ownership
- Costs
- Fiber supply agreement



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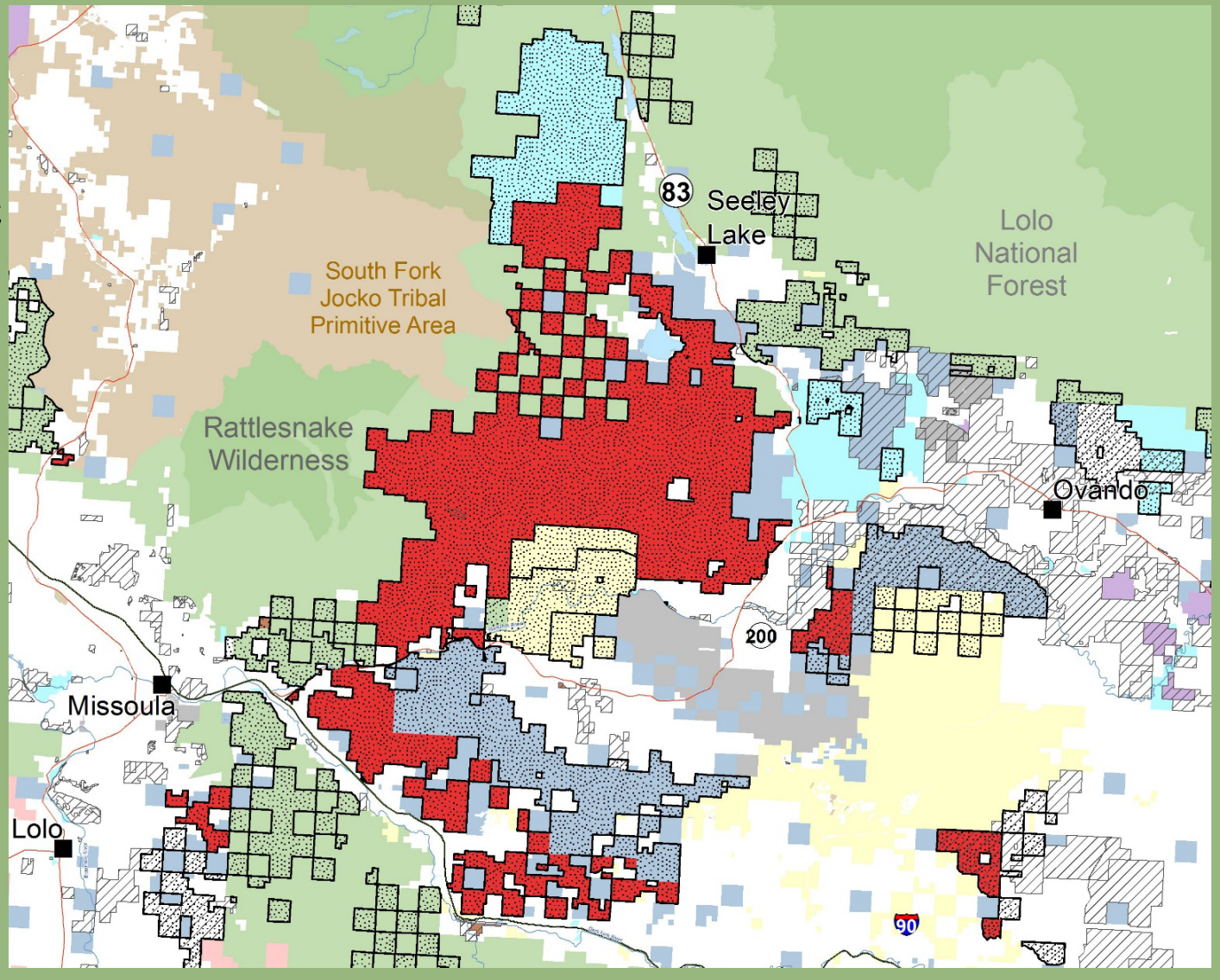
Present: Ownership

Current Ownership: ~150,000 ac



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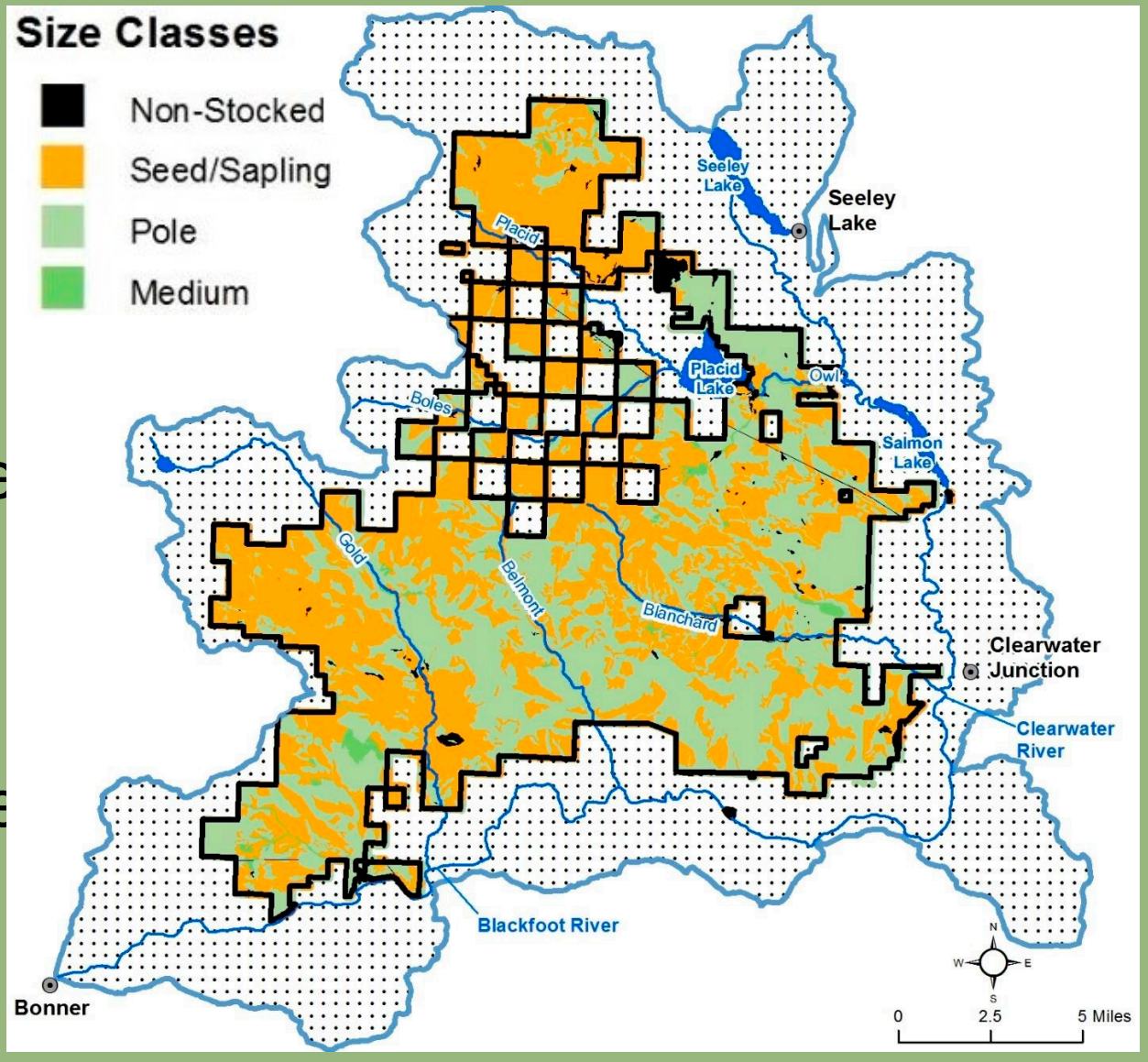
Present: Tree Size Class

- 60,500 acres seed/saplings (<5” DBH)
- 55,000 acres pole-size timbe (5”-8” DBH)
- 2,000 acres small saw-timbe (8”-16”)



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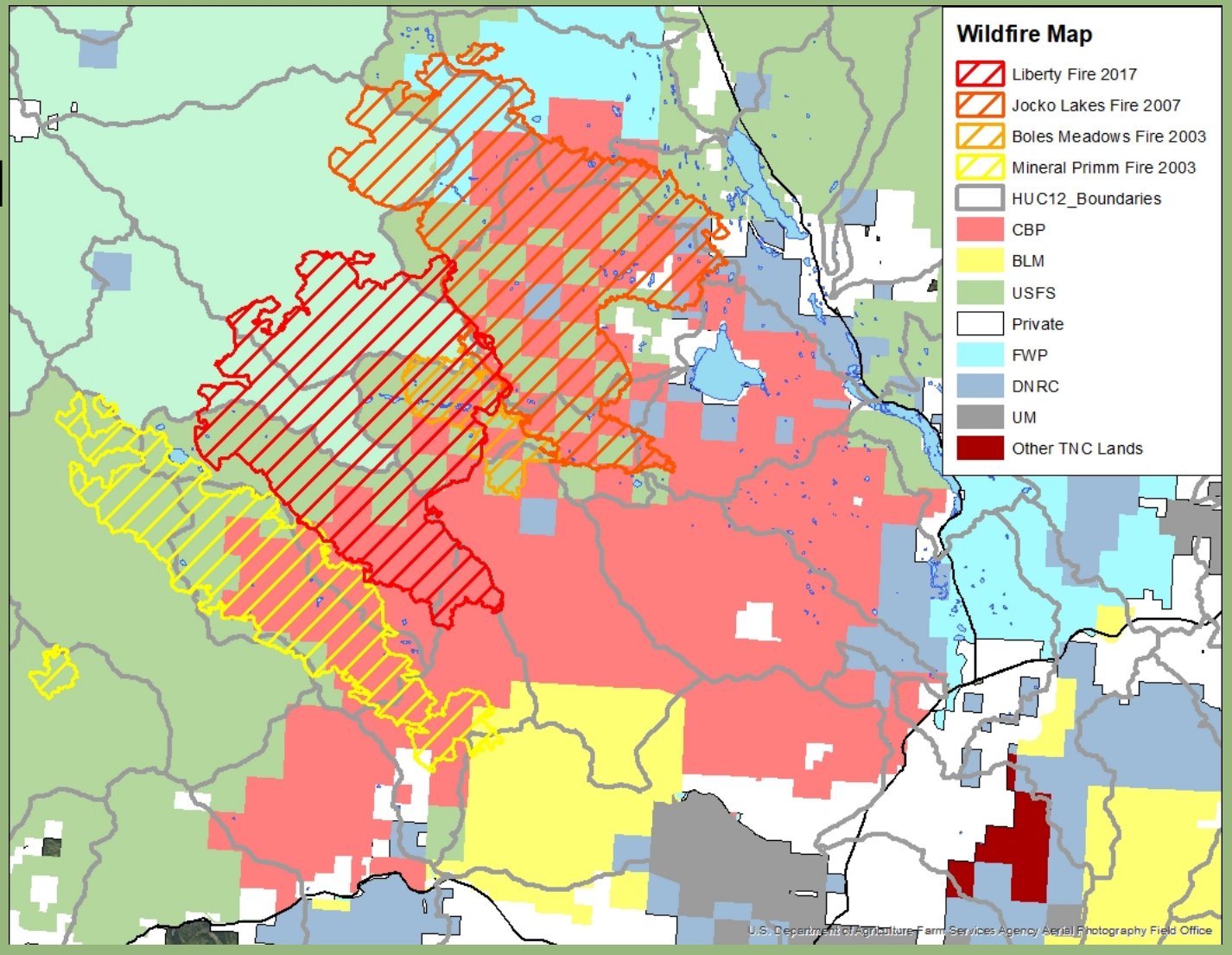
Present: Wildfire

Current Ownership: ~35% burned since 2003



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Present: Interim Ownership

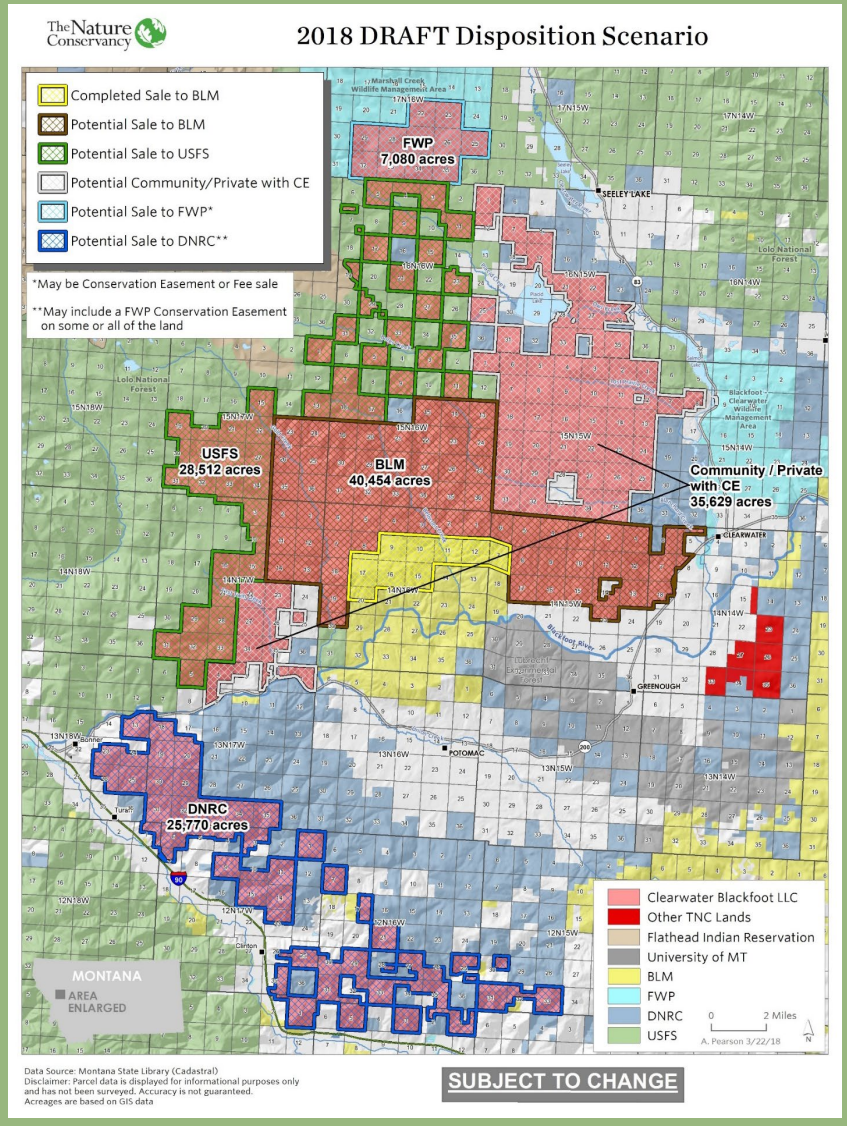
Potential Future Ownership:

- BLM
- USFS
- MT DNRC
- MT FWP
- Community Forest?

Challenge to PCT:

Treatment costs without economic returns

Clear and urgent need for PCT



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Present: Ecosystem Services

- Wood fiber production
- Local Jobs
- Carbon storage
- Wildlife habitat
- Biodiversity
- Climate Resilience/ Adaption
- Wildfire Fuels

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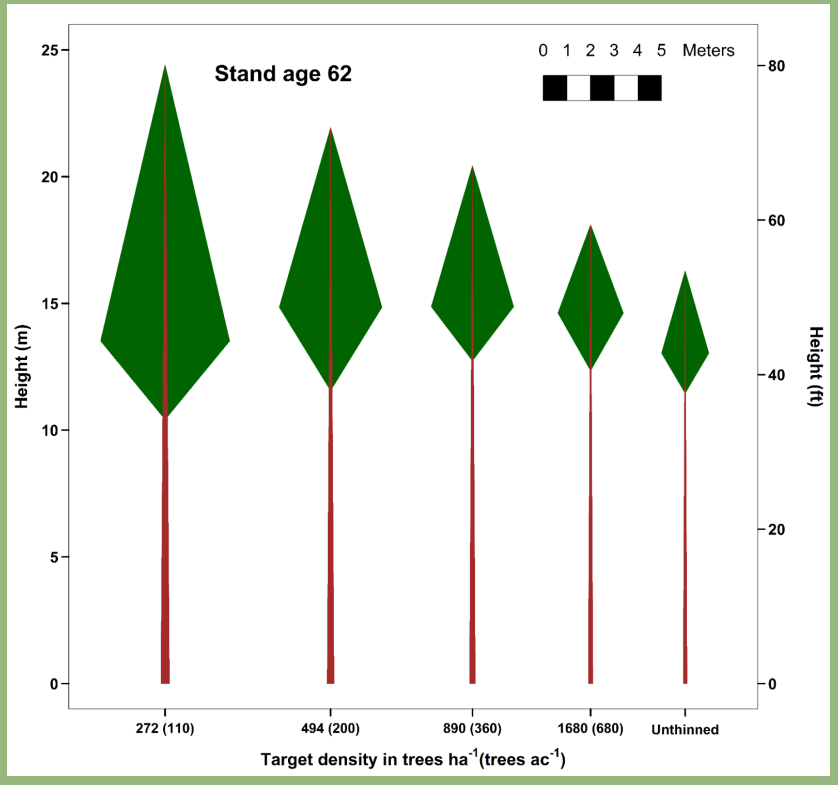
Present: Ecosystem Services

Competing objectives:

- Wood fiber production
- Wildlife habitat
- Climate Adaption



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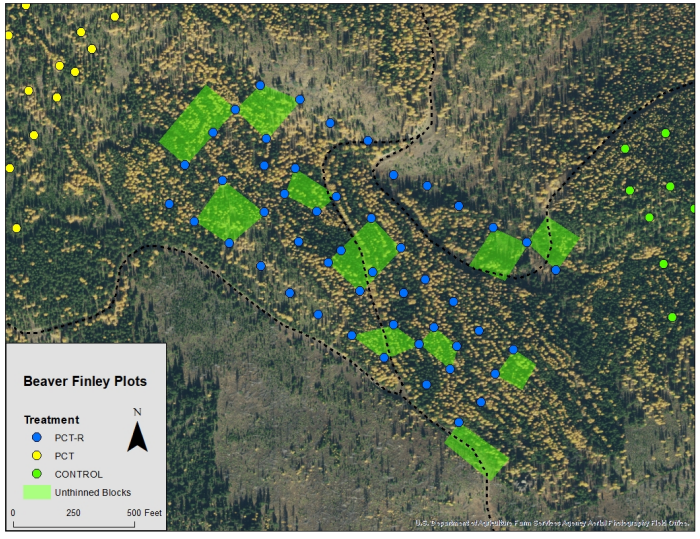
Present: Promoting Complexity

Research Note

Precommercial Thinning Reduces Snowshoe Hare Abundance in the Short Term

PAUL C. GRIFFIN,[1] *Wildlife Biology Program, University of Montana, Missoula, Montana 59812, USA*
L. SCOTT MILLS, *Wildlife Biology Program, University of Montana, Missoula, Montana 59812, USA*

"PCT with retention blocks retains some natural variation in young stand structure, and may maintain snowshoe hare abundance at comparable levels to unthinned stands, at least in the short term."



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Present: Promoting Complexity

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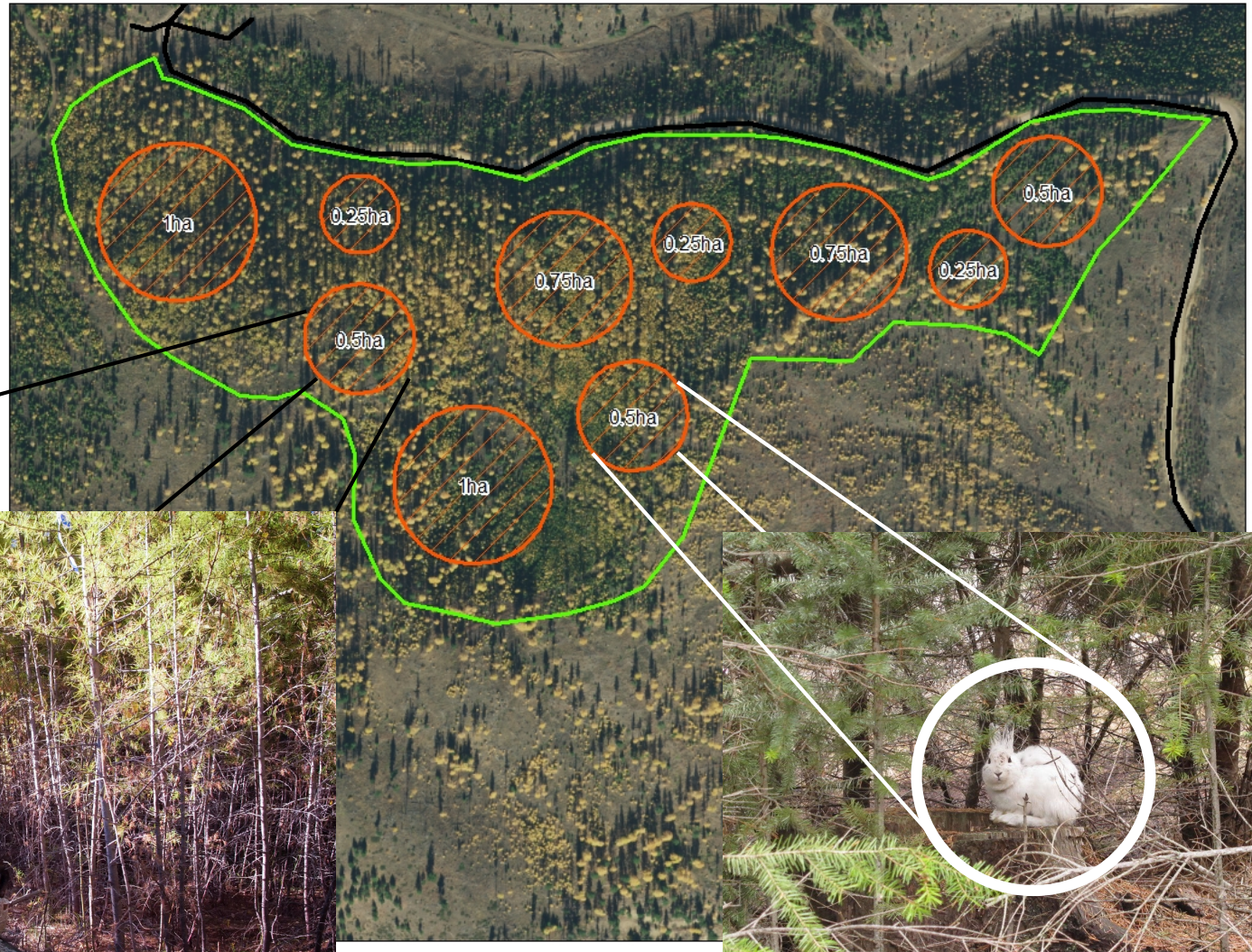
Present: Promoting Complexity



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Present: Promoting Complexity

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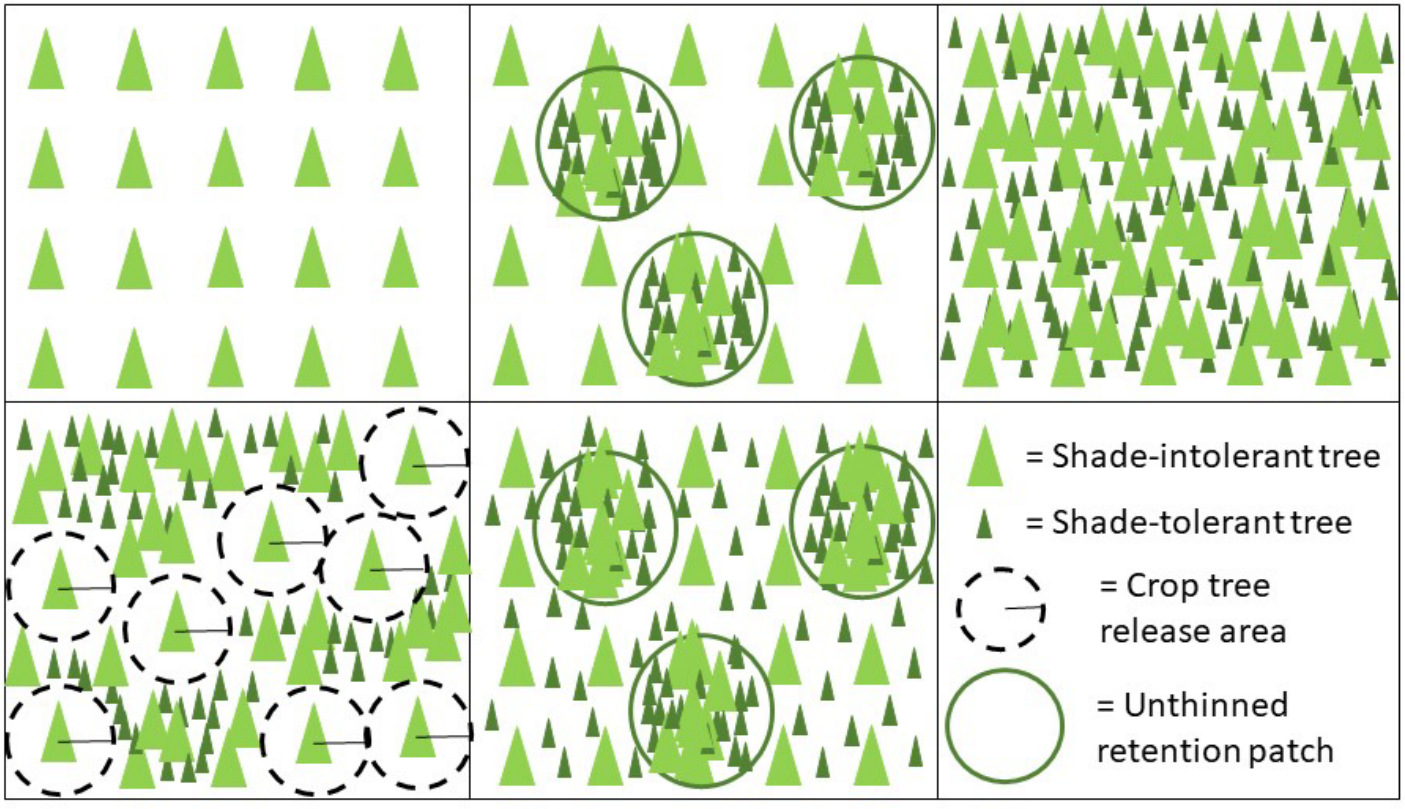
Future: Leveraging Science

Trade-offs?

Stand Yield
VS
Habitat Value

Present
Habitat Value
VS
Future climate
Resilience



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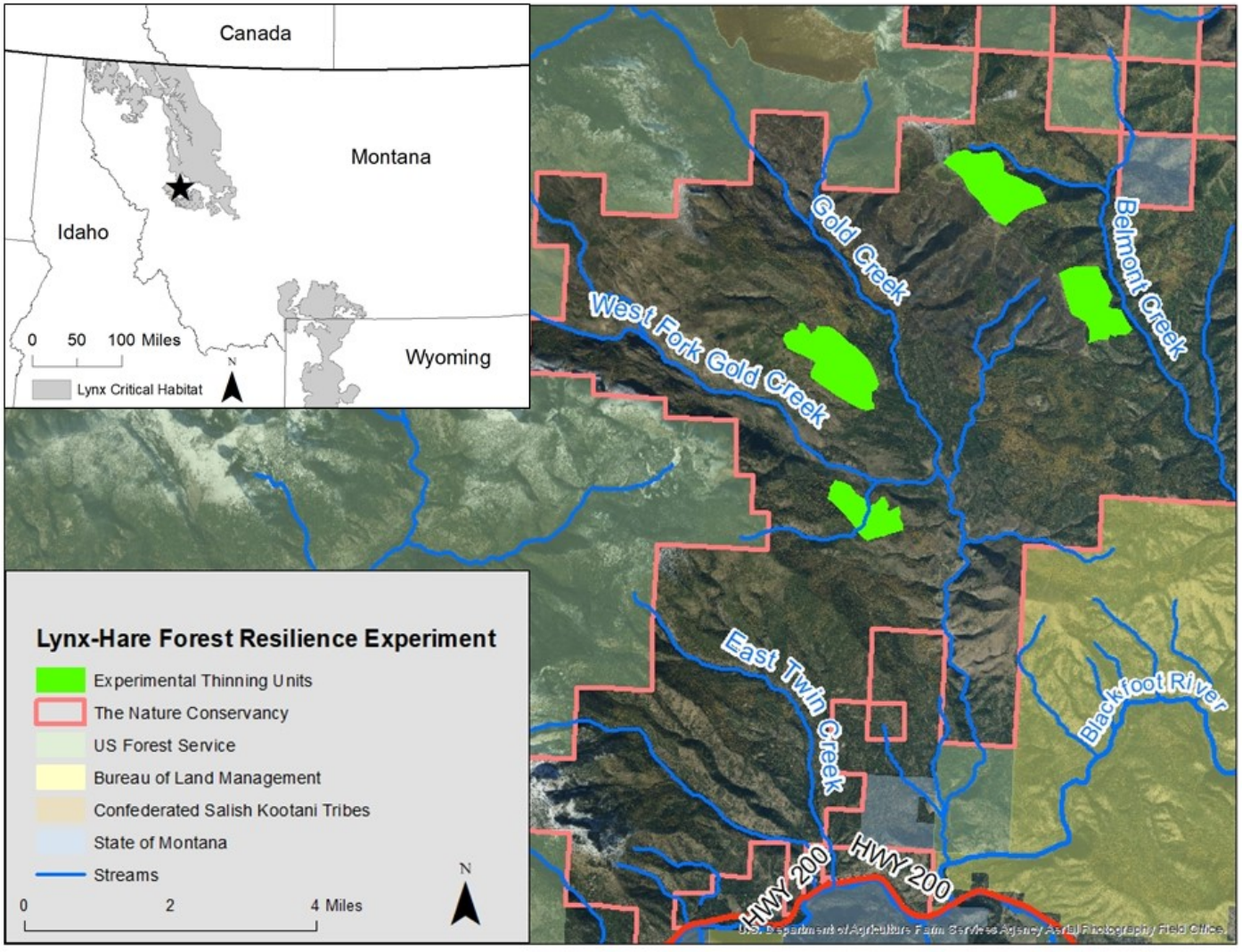
Future: Leveraging Science

Trade-offs?

Stand Yield
VS
Habitat Value

Present
Habitat Value
VS
Future
climate
Resilience



Summary

Past:
- Focused on protecting larger trees
- Limited use of PCT

Present:
- Preserving working landscapes
- Promoting structural complexity
- Beginning science
- Fuels reduction

Future:
- Leveraging science and work on TNC land to improve management opportunities on all ownerships

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Questions?

<u>My challenge to you:</u>
Can we come up with a better name for young forest thinning?

<u>Photo Credits</u>

- Larch thinning photos: Conservation Media, LLC
- Snowshoe hare: Dr. Scott Mills
- Lynx: Swan Valley Connection
- All other photos: TNC