Kane County Deer Springs Project narrative

2021

Proposal Narrative:

Kane County continues to take an aggressive approach to fuels treatment projects to reduce the threats of Catastrophic wildfire. We are always looking at different avenues for accruing money and working with landowners to further our efforts in reducing that threat.

Deer Springs Development is a concern of Kane County in regards to wildfire. Deer Springs is a remote development that sits below beautiful Bryce canyon national park. Access to this development is down a remote and often times rough county road. Response time to Deer springs can have many factors such as weather and the impact it has on road conditions, time of year and the increase of traffic from visitors and seasonal residents.

A little history about the area located on the East side of Bryce Canyon national park. Deer Springs has a number of visitors to the area throughout the year. The area isn't your typical paved roads and large development town feeling. Its more remote with it being a lot of narrow and often times over grown two track roads leading to some popular hiking trails to Bryce Canyon as well as Dixie National Forest. Deer Springs Ranch Is also located around the development and consists of a number of rental cabins, the area also has cabins from many different property owners that scatter throughout the landscape.

Kane County has been working with landowners in Deer Springs to continue the efforts in reducing the extrema threat the area has to wildfire. Utilizing the Utah Wildfire Risk Portal and with past and present fire activity in that area we want to continue to be ahead of the curve working with land owners to reduce the chances of having a large wildfire, with also providing a buffer on boundary lines in the event that a wildfire does get established.

This area is on the threshold of expansion due to current trends of isolation and remote living in areas of affordable land prices. Kane County will utilize fire policy participation commitment funds and other funding as it becomes available to stay ahead of the anticipated growth trends.

Vegetation Type:

Utah Juniper; scientific name: Juniperus osteosperma (Torr.) Little,

Utah juniper is common on dry plains, plateaus, and the lower elevation of the mountains of the state. Its elevation ranges between 4,000 and 7,500 feet. It is common in elevations below pinyon pine, and above the sagebrush-grass zone.

Across the West, junipers have expanded their historical range in the years since European settlement, especially into sagebrush-grass communities below areas of traditional pinyon-juniper. Overgrazing, fire suppression, and climatic change have been identified as potential causes of juniper invasion. In the absence of fire or other disturbances, trees eventually dominate the site and crowd out herbaceous and shrub species through allelopathy.

Twoneedle Pinyon; scientific name: Pinus edulis Engelm

The woodland mosaic formed by pinyon pine occurs primarily on the high plains, plateaus, mesas, canyons, foothills, and lower mountain slopes of the Colorado Plateau. Sites are intermediate between ponderosa pine and submontane scrub above, and semiarid grassland or sagebrush steppe below. In the Great Basin, P. edulis is replaced by P. monophylla. Pinyon occurs most commonly at elevations between 4,500 and 7,500 feet where annual precipitation ranges from 12 to 18 inches.

The distribution of pinyon pine is primarily a function of climate. Its lower limits are determined by lack of moisture; upper limits by biotic competition, low temperatures, and excessive soil moisture. Therefore, the elevational zones it occupies vary considerably depending on local topography and geographical location. Pinyon pine usually grows on the higher elevation sites in the pinyon-juniper woodlands it occupies.

Gambel Oak, Scrub Oak; Scientific name: Quercus gambelii Nutt.

Gambel oak is widespread at low elevations (4,000 to 8,000 feet) throughout central and southern Utah. It is a predominate tree on dry foothills and canyon walls where the rainfall averages between 12 and 25 inches each year. Better stands may be found on moist, rich, well-drained soils. The northern extent of gambel oak's range is Sardine Canyon in Box Elder County.

Gambel oak has strong vegetative reproduction capabilities. In most of its range, gambel oak regeneration depends more on sprouting than establishment from seed. The large underground structure (Lignotuber) of gambel oak supports rapid and extensive sprouting following top removal. This vegetative reproduction is often dependent on disturbances such as fire and cutting.

Ponderosa Pine; Scientific name: Pinus ponderosa,

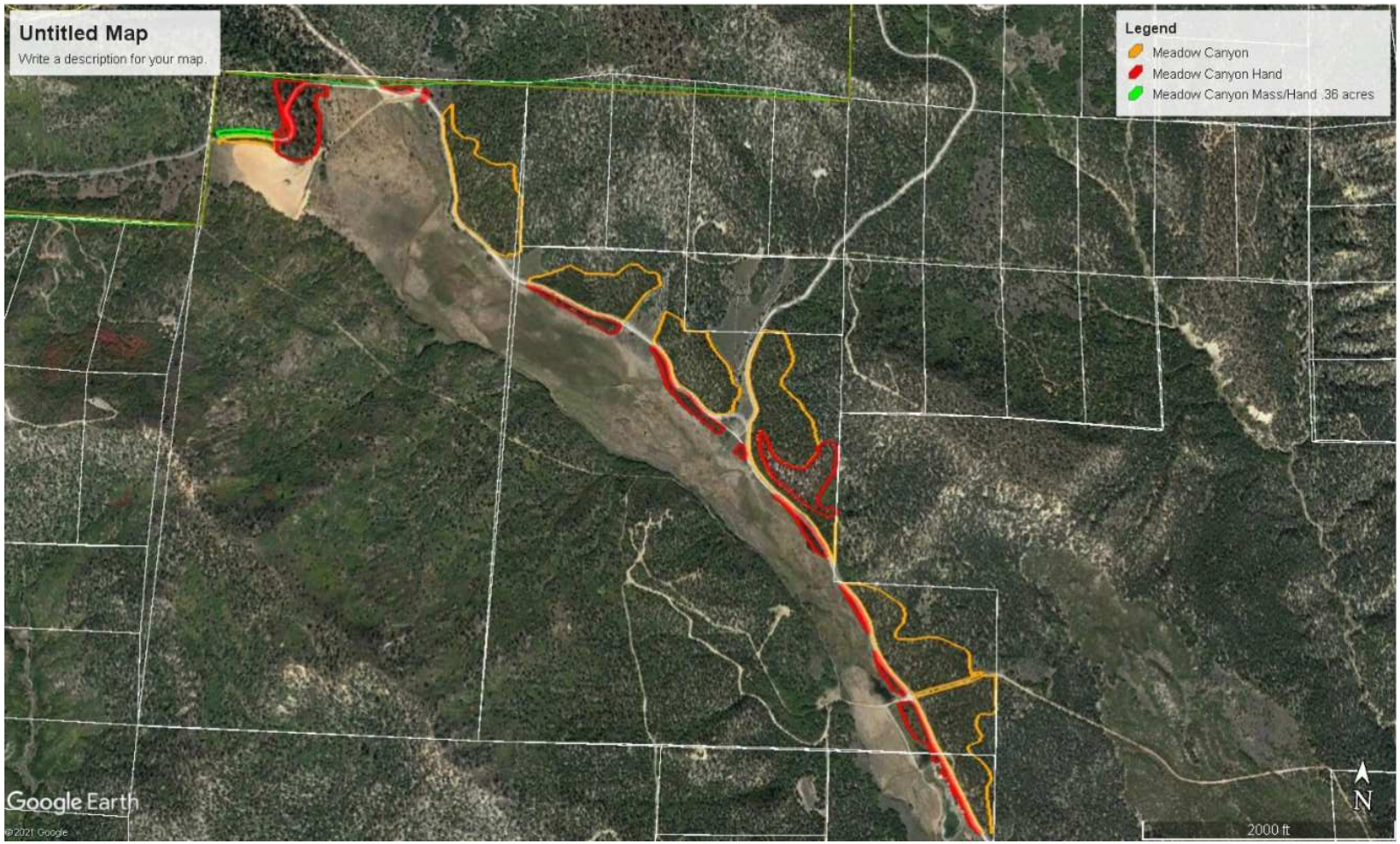
Pinus ponderosa is one of the Southwest's tallest trees in many parts of its range, growing to incredible heights of over 200 feet, with huge trunks 3-4 feet across. Named for its ponderous (heavy) wood, this pine is the major lumber tree in the Southwest. These woody behemoths grow on dry mountain slopes and mesas. They occur in green, park-like stands on dry, well-drained, and exposed southerly slopes or plateaus. Ponderosa Pines are easily recognized by their tall, straight, thick trunks, clad in scaled, rusty-orange bark that has split into big plates. One can easily identify some trees by smelling their bark. Ponderosa Pine bark smells like vanilla or butterscotch.

Kane county is looking to:

1. Continue to work the area of Deer Springs Development and reduce vegetation on a large scale bases. We would like to work off projects already completed, Projects that are being proposed such as the Shared Stewardship project on the Dixie national Forest.
2. Cute back road side vegetation to create a better safer ingress egress in the event of a wildfire and or other natural disaster such as flooding. Provide firefighters a safe place to engage fires.
3. Working with landowners in doing multiple large scale perimeter Fuel Breaks (150ft) that would reduce the density of vegetation in key areas that have the potential for large fire growth and limited access. We would utilize multiple treatment options such as machine type treatments in grinding and or feller bunching, Cut/Pile/Burn or Cut/Pile/Chip.

The project focus area will be multiyear and will be completed as money becomes available.

Our goal is to create a more resilient landscape in the area, creating a healthier eco system that has multiple benefits. From wildlife habitat, reduce Catastrophic Wildfires and help with Water shed restoration. This area has experienced large fires in the past and has only had a handful of small treatments.


Untitled Map
Write a description for your map.
Legend
Meadow Canyon
Meadow Canyon Hand
Meadow Canyon Mass/Hand .36 acres
Google Earth
©2021 Google
2000 ft
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Meadow Canyon

SCOPE OF WORK
Catastrophic wildfire Ingress and Egress
Kane County Fire
Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands (FFSL)

Introduction: Services in this project will reduce wildland fire hazardous fuels, enhance firefighting tactics and enhance response time to ignitions. This project will aid safer ingress and egress in the event of a catastrophic wildfire for the public and emergency personnel. An additional benefit to this work will be the enhanced wildlife habitat including visual awareness from traffic on the many roads that will be impacted from lot owners.

Project Objective: Reduce vegetation along the Main Meadow Canyon road from the edge of the travel way using different methods of treatment from hand cut chip, cut/pile/burn, and or mastication equipment to clear vegetation. The goal is to open crown spacing, reduce density in all fuel types to allow for safer ingress and egress.

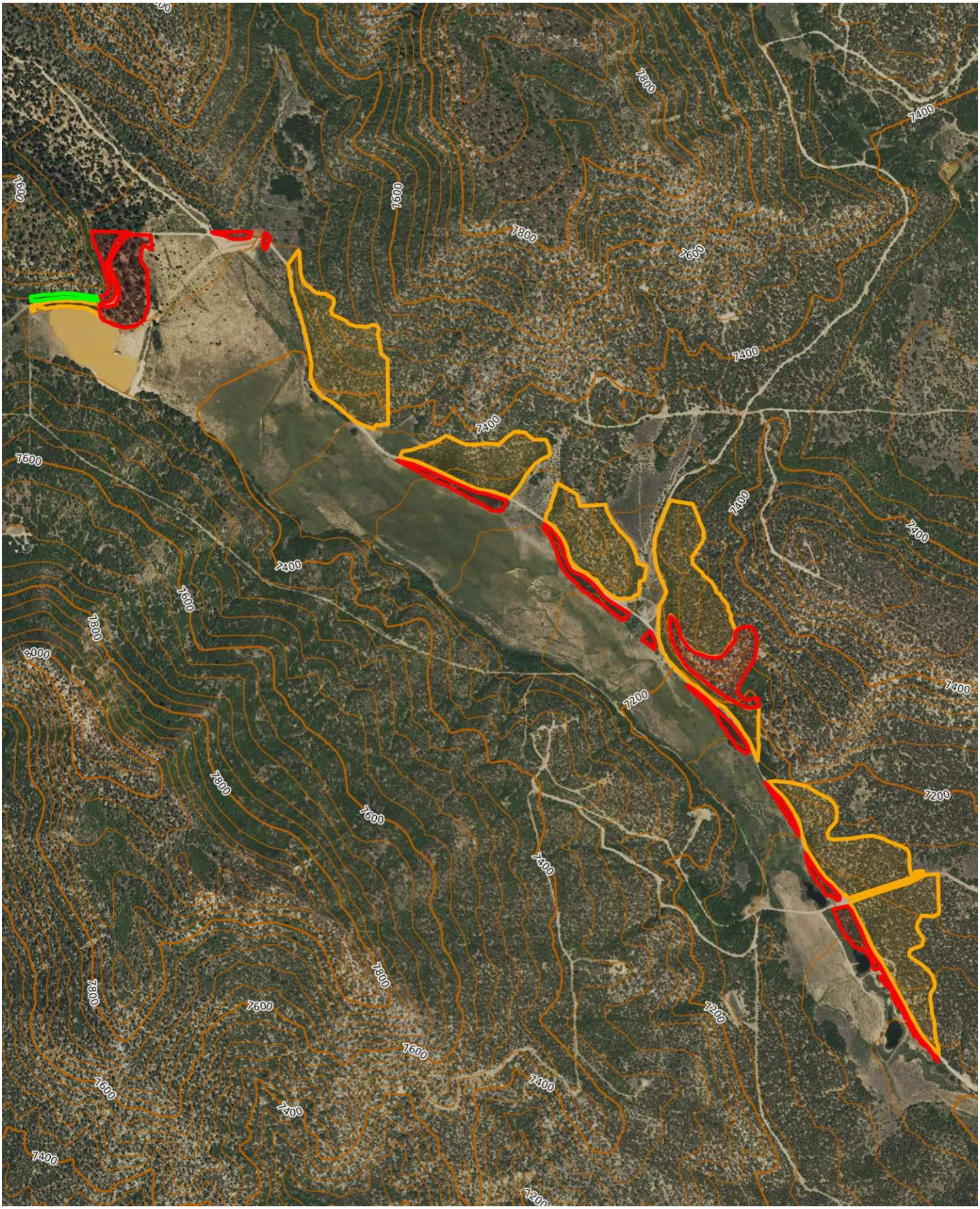
Cutting/Piling/ Mechanical Specifications:

- Unit boundaries are flagged with pink flagging or identified using geo-referenced mapping.
- All trees within treatment area (shown on map) will be thinned to a 40-foot spacing
- All oak trees/brush along Main Meadow Canyon roadside will be cut back 20 feet off of the road. Other roadways will be a 40-foot spacing between trees.
- All oak trees within the treatment area will be thinned and grouped, all dead components will be piled for disposal (burned or chipped where appropriate).
- All stumps or bases of trees will be cut flat and within six (6) inches of ground.
- No live limbs shall be left on the stump of cut trees. (Whips)
- Trees identified as bearing trees, or any trees blazed or tagged to mark the lines of any Government survey, shall not be cut or destroyed under penalty of the law.
- All trees that are diseased will be removed by mechanical or hand treatment. (i.e. Mistletoe, schoolmarm, dead or dying trees.
- All understory in ponderosa stands need to be removed other than oak brush. Any ponderosa 10 DBH or less will be removed.
- All dead standing trees will be removed using the methods mentioned above.
- All material inaccessible to mechanical means in unit will be hand cut and constructed into compact burn piles at a distance of fifteen (15) feet away from the drip line of any leave tree or chipped where appropriate.
- Piles will be spaced a minimum of fifteen (15) feet apart measured from widest outside point to widest outside point forming a grid like order of piles.
- Additional shagging of material may be required in order to accomplish pile grid.
- Piles will be constructed in a Tepee like manner, with heavier material around the outside edges of the pile.
- Piles must be a minimum of five (5) feet in diameter by Ten (10) feet high.
- Piles will be clear of bio-mass measuring six inches diameter and greater protruding from base of piles extending for two feet from pile edge.
- Notice to bidder, additional bucking may be necessary to meet pile specs (i.e.) compactness.

Meadow Canyon

Chipping/Specifications: (Optional if excessive material)

- All chipping will be done by the contractor.
- Chips to be piled and not spread around the boles of any leave trees.
- Chips can be discharged along roadside Do Not pile chips in ditch banks.



Mercator Projection
WGS84
UTM Zone 12S

SARTOPO

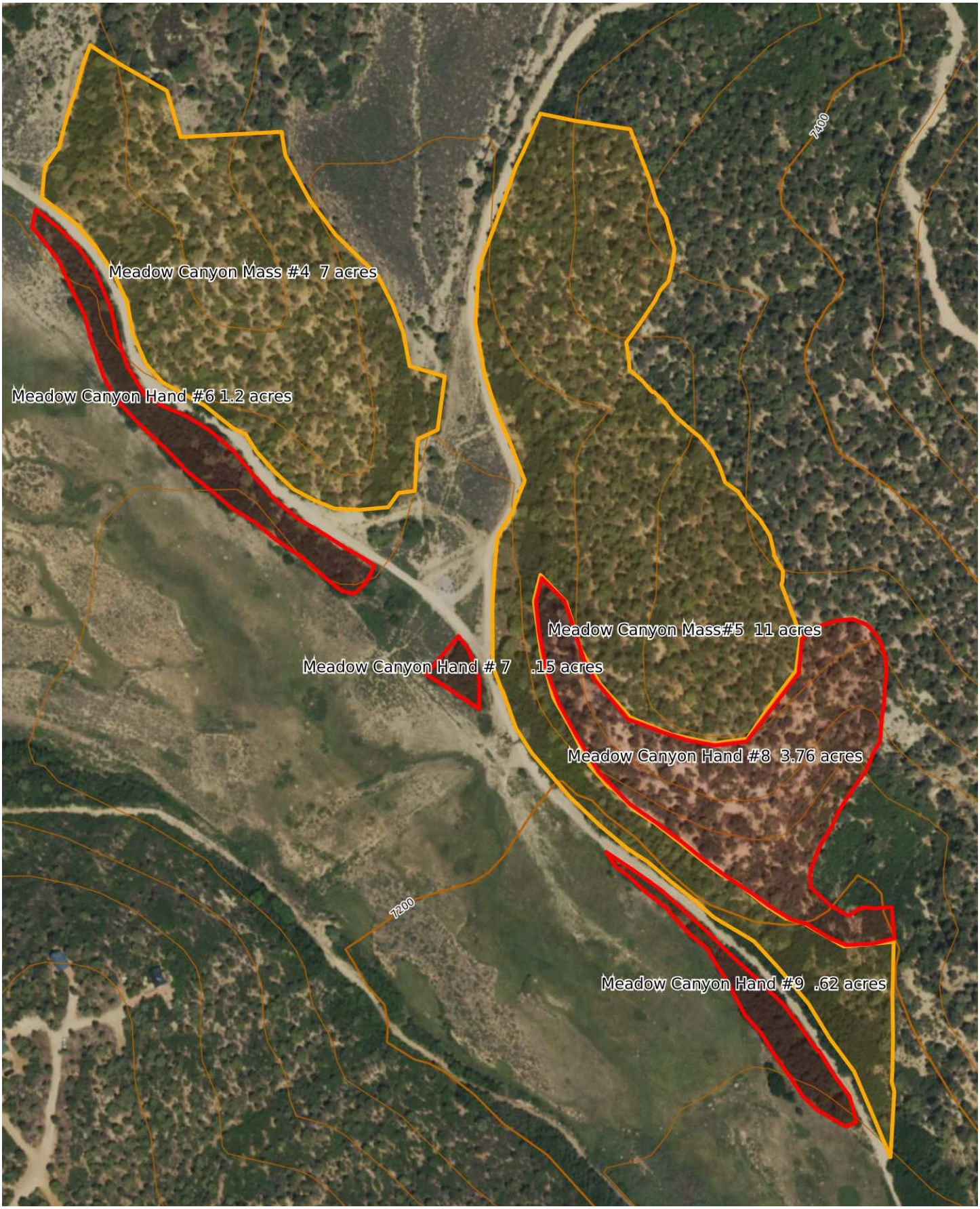
0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 0.5 0.6 0.7 0.8 0.9 1.0 1.1 1.2 1.3 km

0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 0.5 0.6 0.7 0.8 mi

Scale **1:11345** 1 inch = 945 feet

N

MN
10°



Mercator Projection
WGS84
UTM Zone 12S

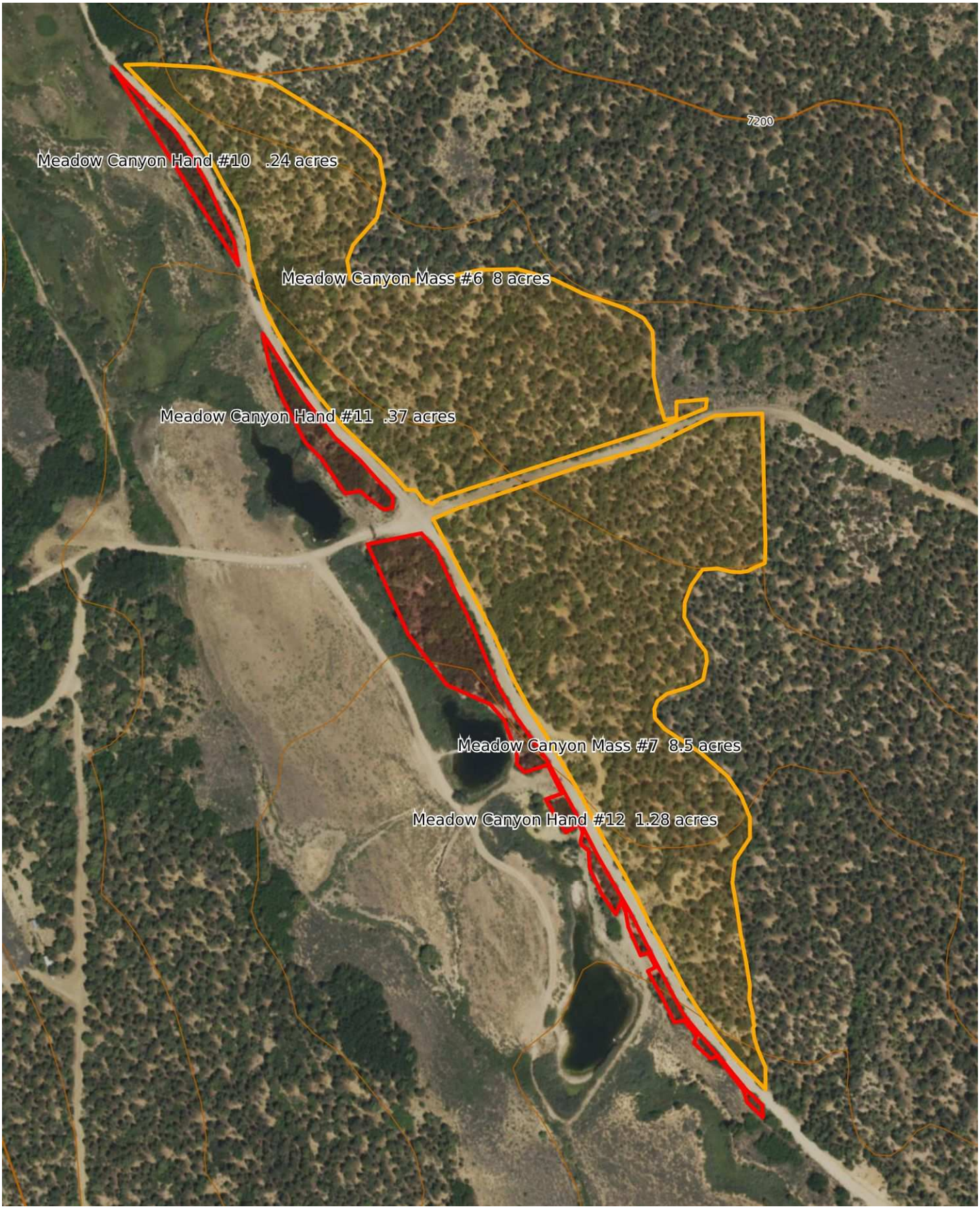
SARTOPO

0.1 0.2 0.3 km

0.1 mi

Scale **1:2836** 1 inch = 236 feet

N MN 10°



Mercator Projection
WGS84
UTM Zone 12S

SARTOPO

0.1 0.2 0.3 km

0.1 mi

Scale **1:3021** 1 inch = 252 feet

N MN 10°