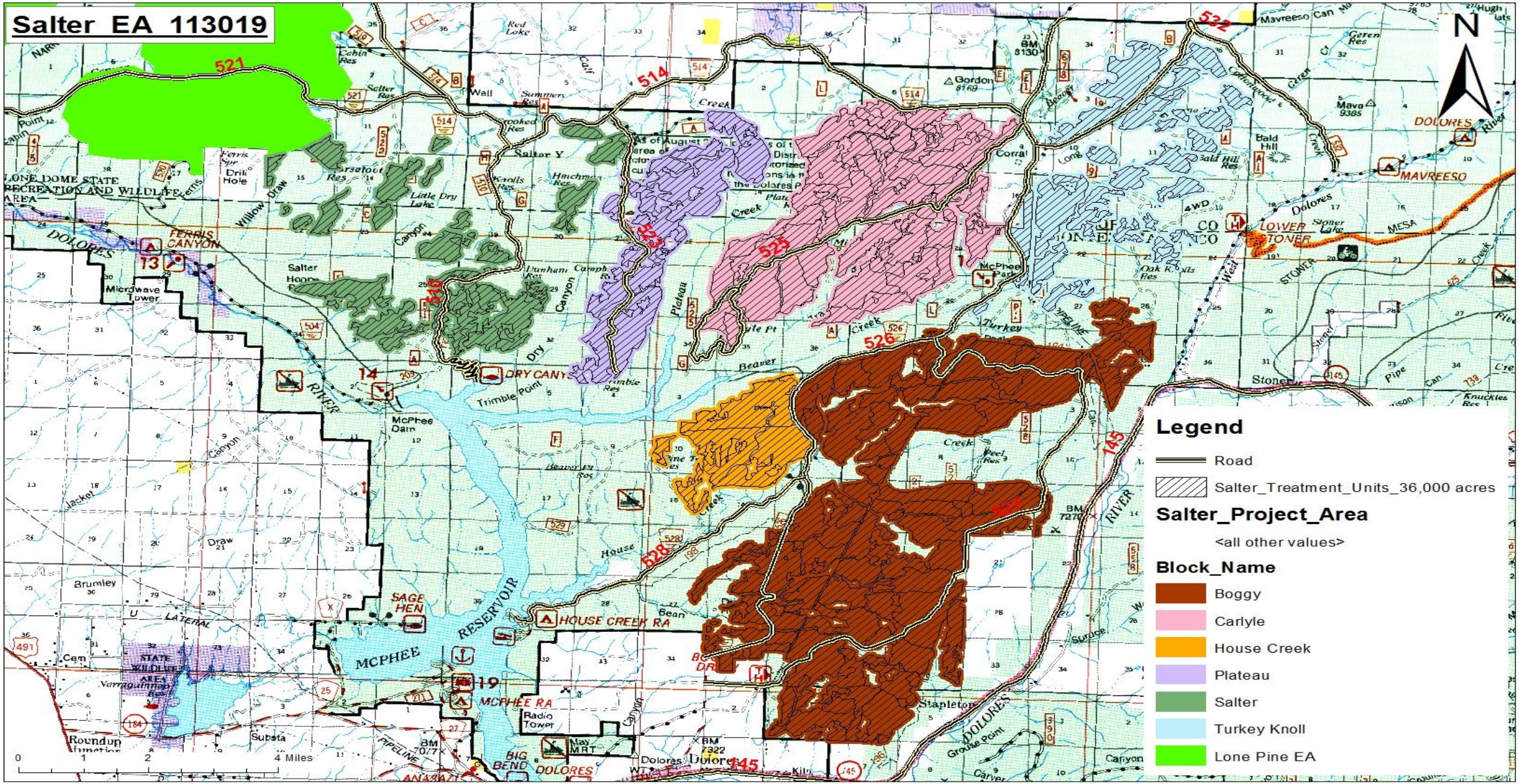
Salter Vegetation Management Environmental Analysis Project



Forest Plan Direction

All current units
* Management Area – 5
*Part of the suitable timber base

Forest Plan Direction

- “The San Juan N.F issued a Land and Resource Management plan in Sept of 2013.
- Management Areas
- Timber Suitability

Forest Plan Direction – Management Areas

- Every acre on the San Juan National Forest has a Management Area Designation
- Describes the intensity of management that can be expected
- There are 8 different designations that depict how the landscape should appear, identify uses and allowable activities
- Designations range from 1 where natural processes dominate to areas that are intensely managed

Forest Plan Direction – Management Area - 5

- Makes up 24% of the SJNF land base or 451,000 acres
- Active management area – multiple use
- Used to meet a variety of social, economic, and ecological goals
- Lands were timber harvesting, oil/gas activities, intensive grazing occur
- These activities influence the composition, structure, and landscape patterns of vegetation
- Lands contribute to ecosystem and species diversity and provide habitat for flora and fauna
- Visitors can expect to see a wide range of human activities, development, and management investments (including roads, trails, fences, corrals, stock ponds, timber harvesting equipment, oil and gas wells, and livestock).
- Maintenance of past and current investments is anticipated to be continued for future management opportunities.

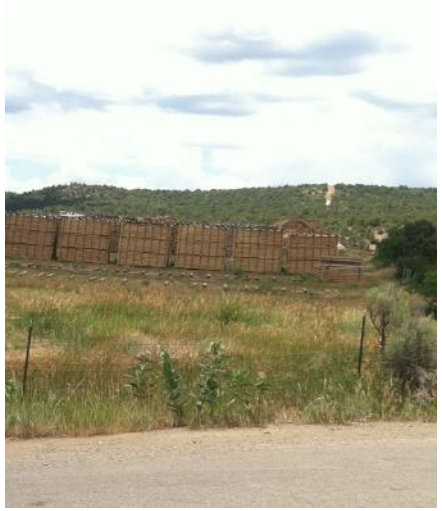
Forest Plan Direction – Management Area - 5

- Salter treatment areas fall entirely in Management Area 5
- Proposed activities for this project are allowed and encouraged. These activities would include prescribed burning, mechanical fuels treatment, timber production, timber harvest as a tool and commercial use of special forest products and firewood (Vol II, 3.5).

Forest Plan Direction – Timber Suitability

- Timber suitability (harvest potential) is based on National Forest Management Act (NFMA)
- Process starts with exclusion of lands that have no tree cover, excluded due to statute or law, irreversible resource damage could occur, adequate stocking could not be assured post harvest
- All forested lands remaining after this exclusion process are placed in tentatively suitable
- Tentatively is then broken into two sub categories – “Suitable Timber Lands” and “Other Tentatively Suitable”

Forest Plan Direction – Desired Conditions Suitable Lands



- 2.2.1 Forest vegetation management on SJNF and TRFO lands that results in, among other objectives, meeting needs or demands for forest product offerings (commercial, personal, or other use) is done in a manner that:
  - maintains or improves ecosystem function, resilience, and sustainability;
  - supports, at least, the current level of economic activity in the local timber industry;
  - provides economic or social support to local communities;
  - ensures current and future needs for Native American tribal use, including that associated with special forest products (e.g., teepee poles);
  - utilizes, to the fullest extent practicable, potential products including sawtimber, poles, topwood, or slash (e.g., limbs, foliage);
  - supports innovation in utilization, including conversion of cut-tree mass into biofuels, pellets, biochar, or other useful products;
  - efficiently balances or reduces costs of implementation of treatment activities; and
  - anticipates climate-related plant succession changes (such as favoring heat- or drought-resistant tree species as leave trees, or in reforestation).

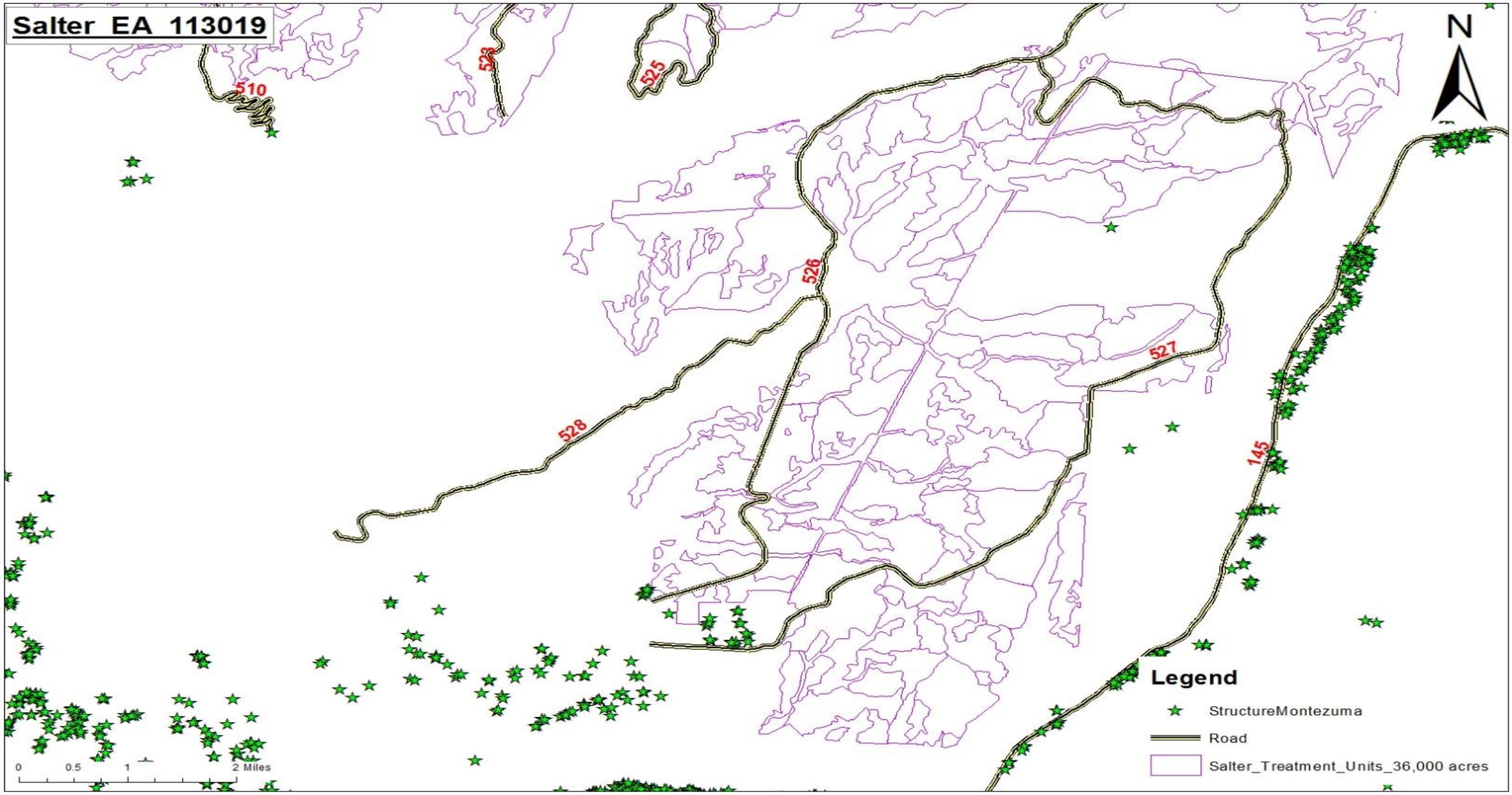
Forest Plan Direction – Suitable Timber Lands

Harvest activities associated with the Salter analysis will only occur on lands designated as suitable for timber harvest and production (Vol II, 2.9).

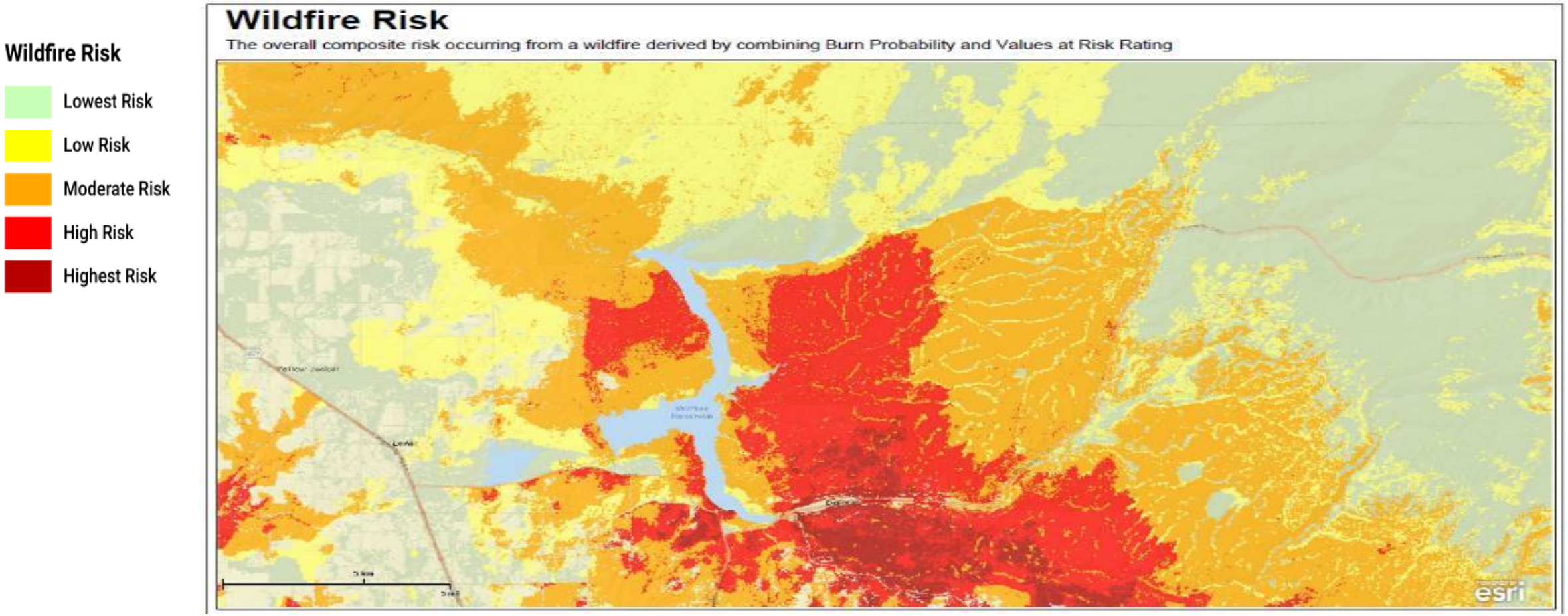
Salter Resource Concerns

- Overstocked Stands
- Reduced stand vigor
- Lack of PP regen
- Insects
- Disease
- Areas of high wildfire danger
- Crown fire potential
- Wild Land Urban Interface (WUI)

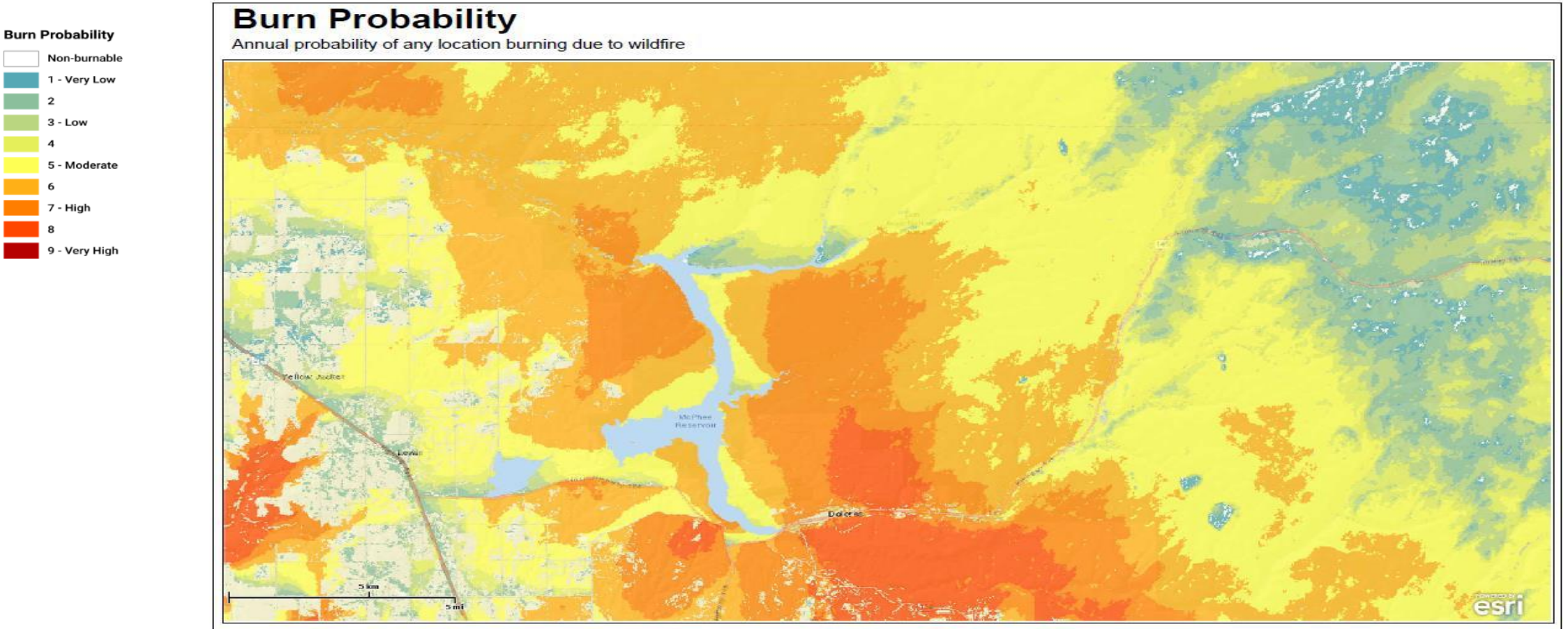
Wildland Urban Interface - Structures



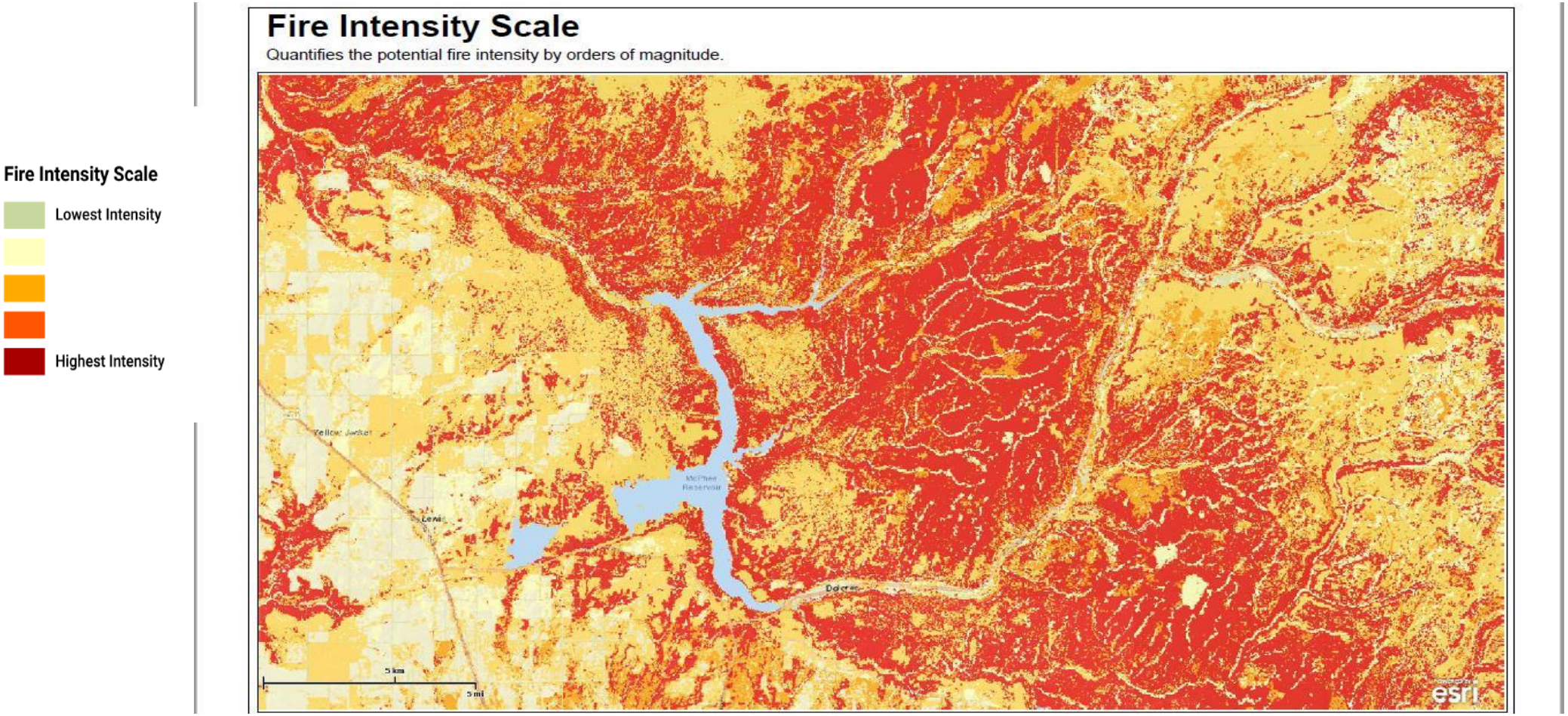
Fire – Wildfire Risk



Fire – Burn Probability



Fire – Intensity Scale



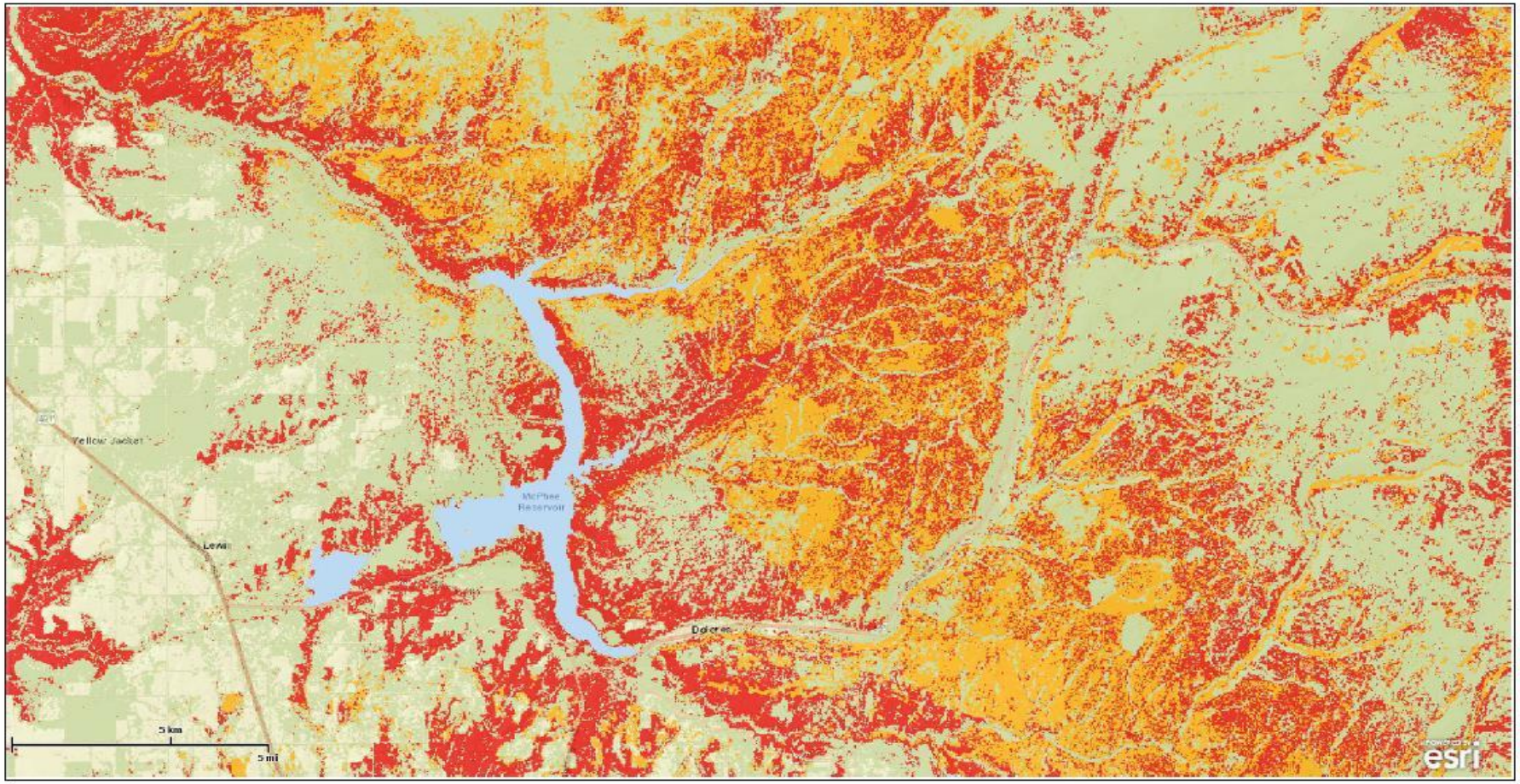
Fire - Type

Fire Type Extreme

- Surface Fire
- Passive Canopy Fire
- Active Canopy Fire

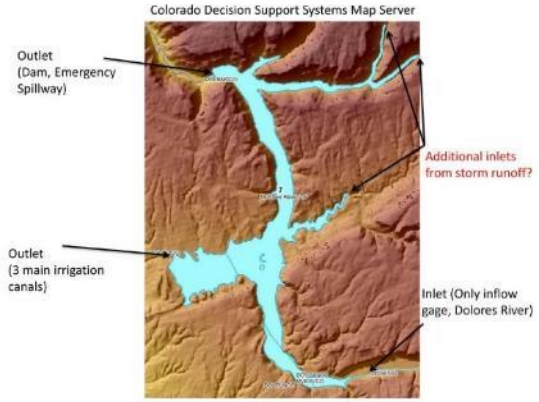
Fire Type - Extreme

Represents the potential fire type under the extreme percentile weather category.

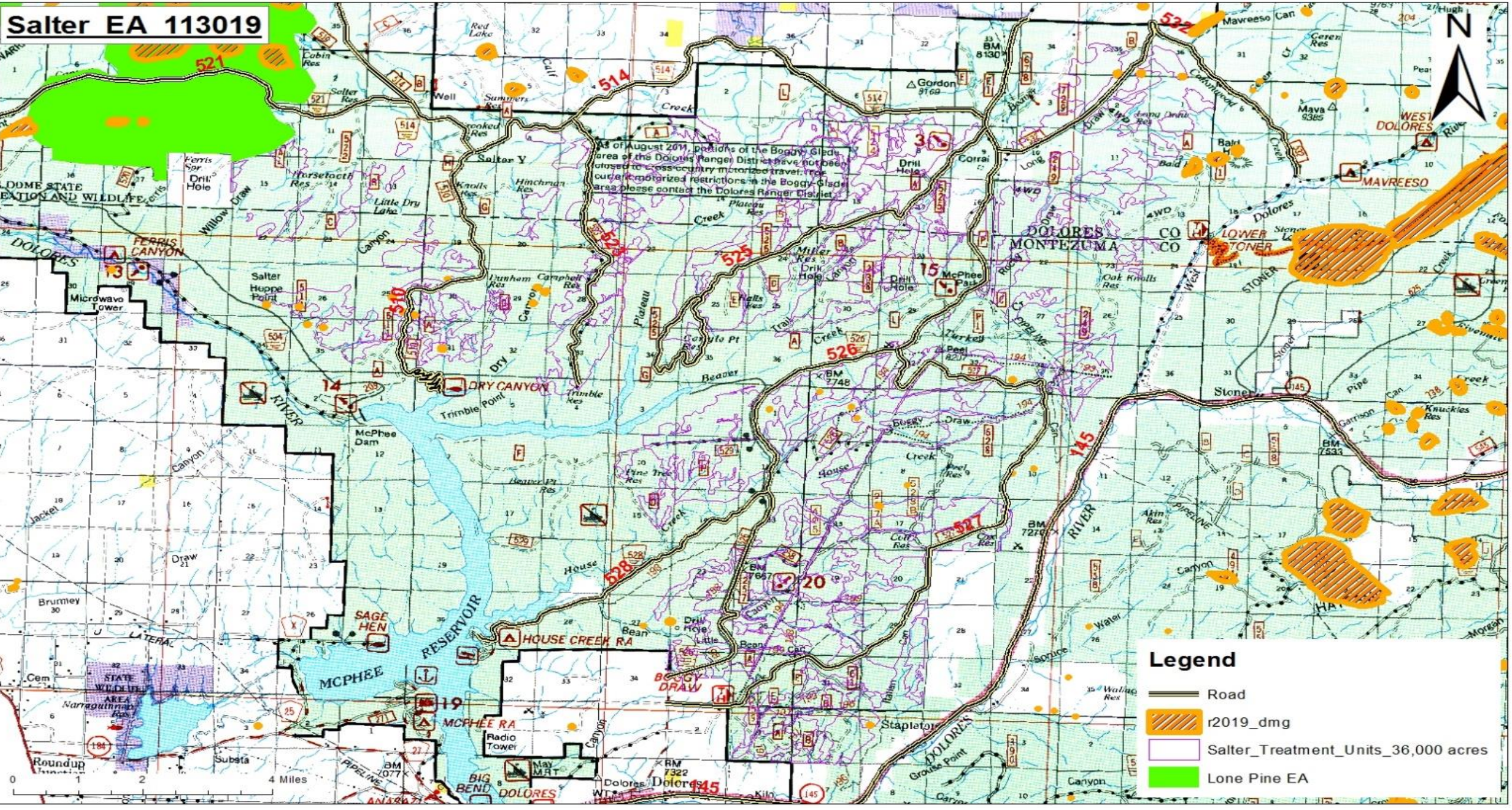


Values at Risk

- Mcphee Reservoir
- Recreation destinations
- Utilities
- Structures
- Nature Center
- Grazing lands



Salter Forest Health Map 2019



Treatment Types

Plantations

- Variable spacing to restore uneven aged structure through clump and individual tree marking

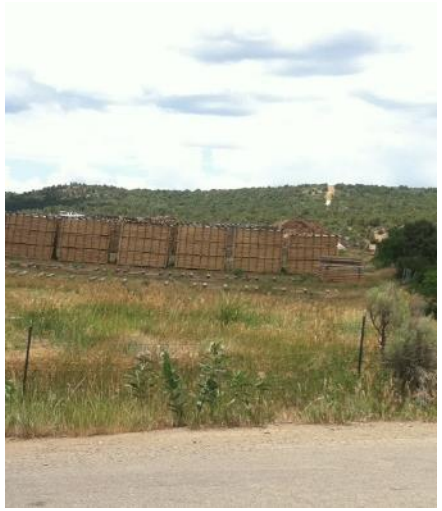
Single Tree Selection

- Regenerative cut on consistently stocked stands

Commercial Thinning

- Thinning with a commercial component on stands with variable stocking or limited available merchantable byproduct.

Forest Plan Direction – Desired Conditions Suitable Lands



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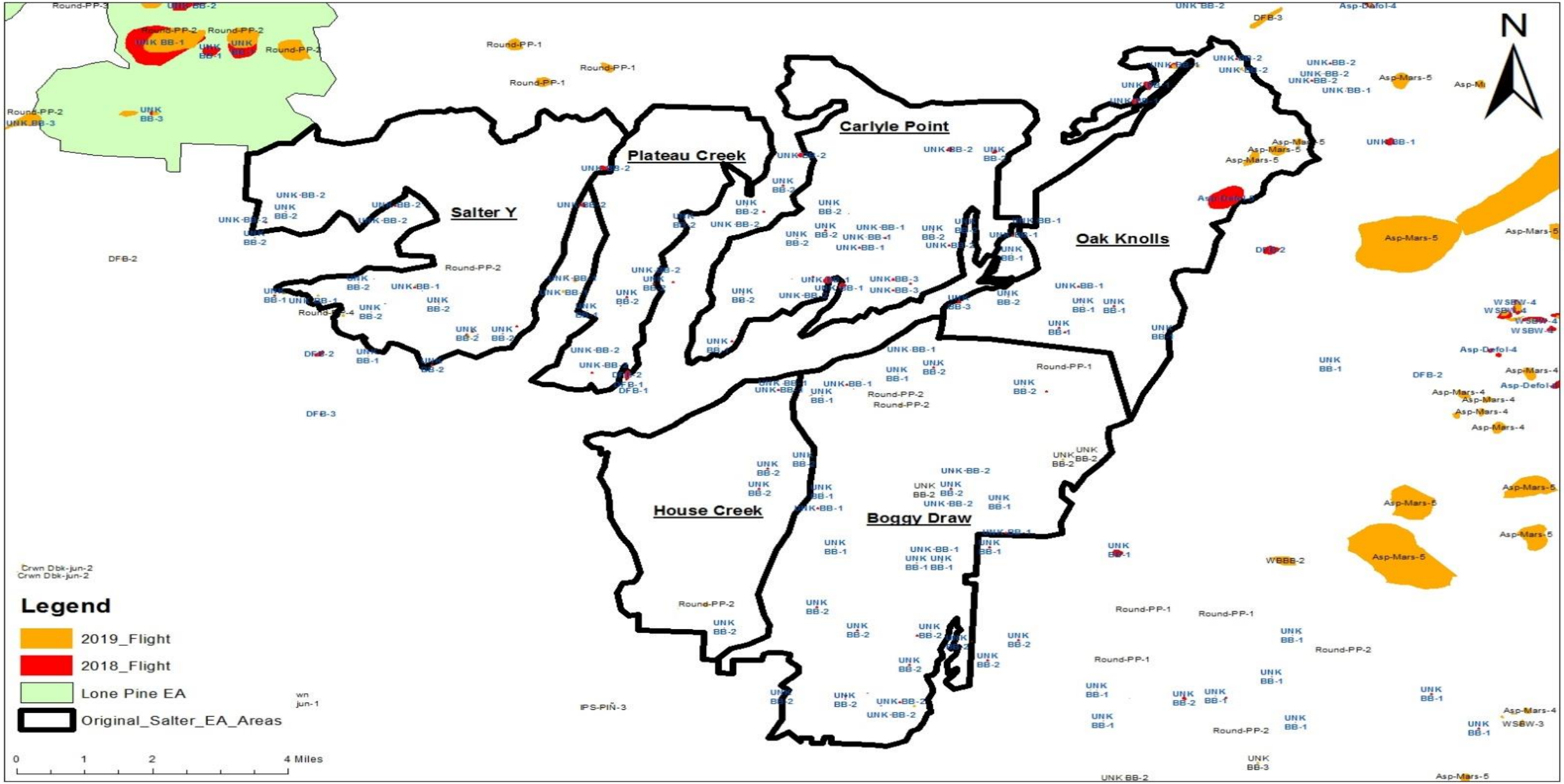
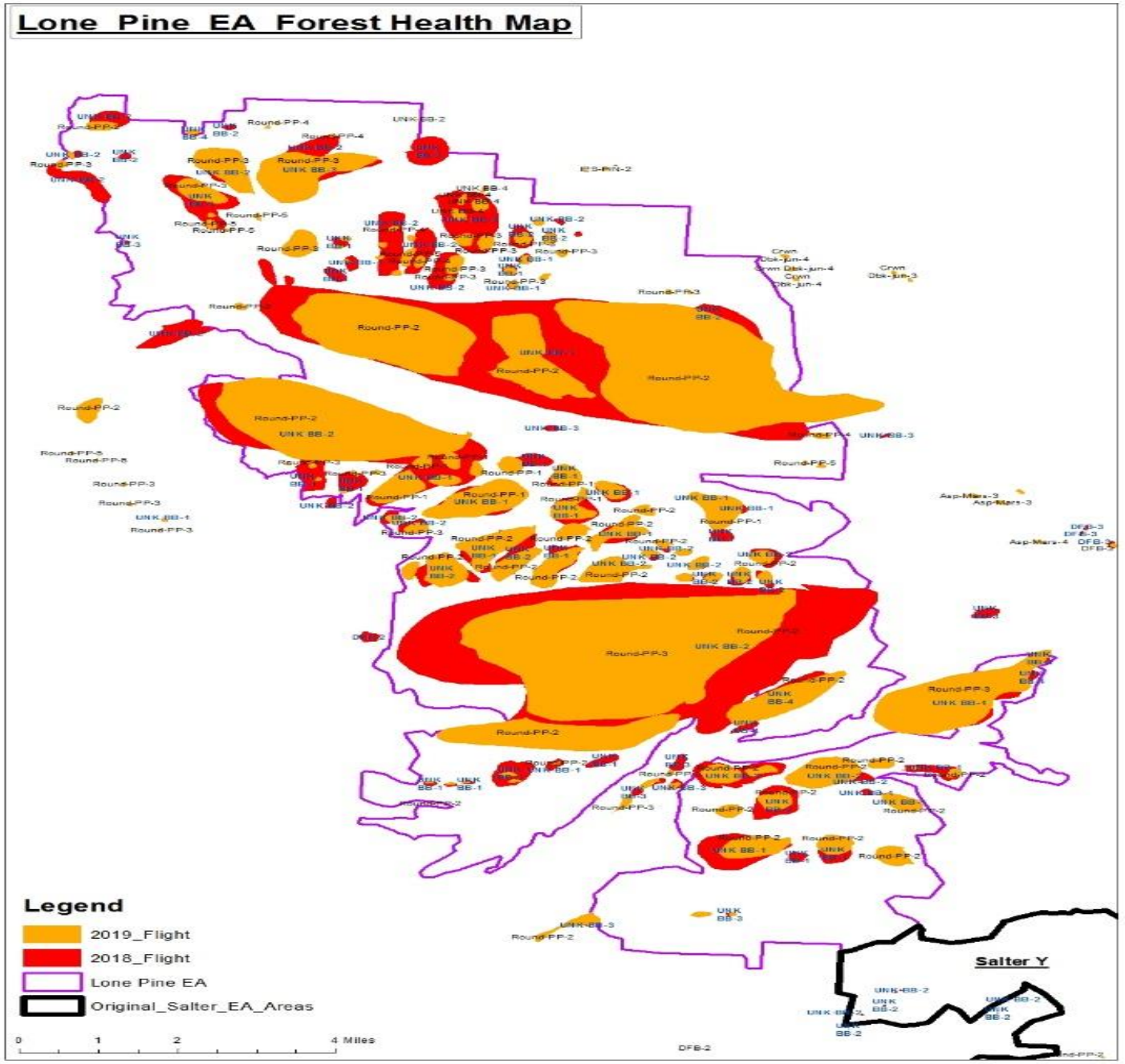
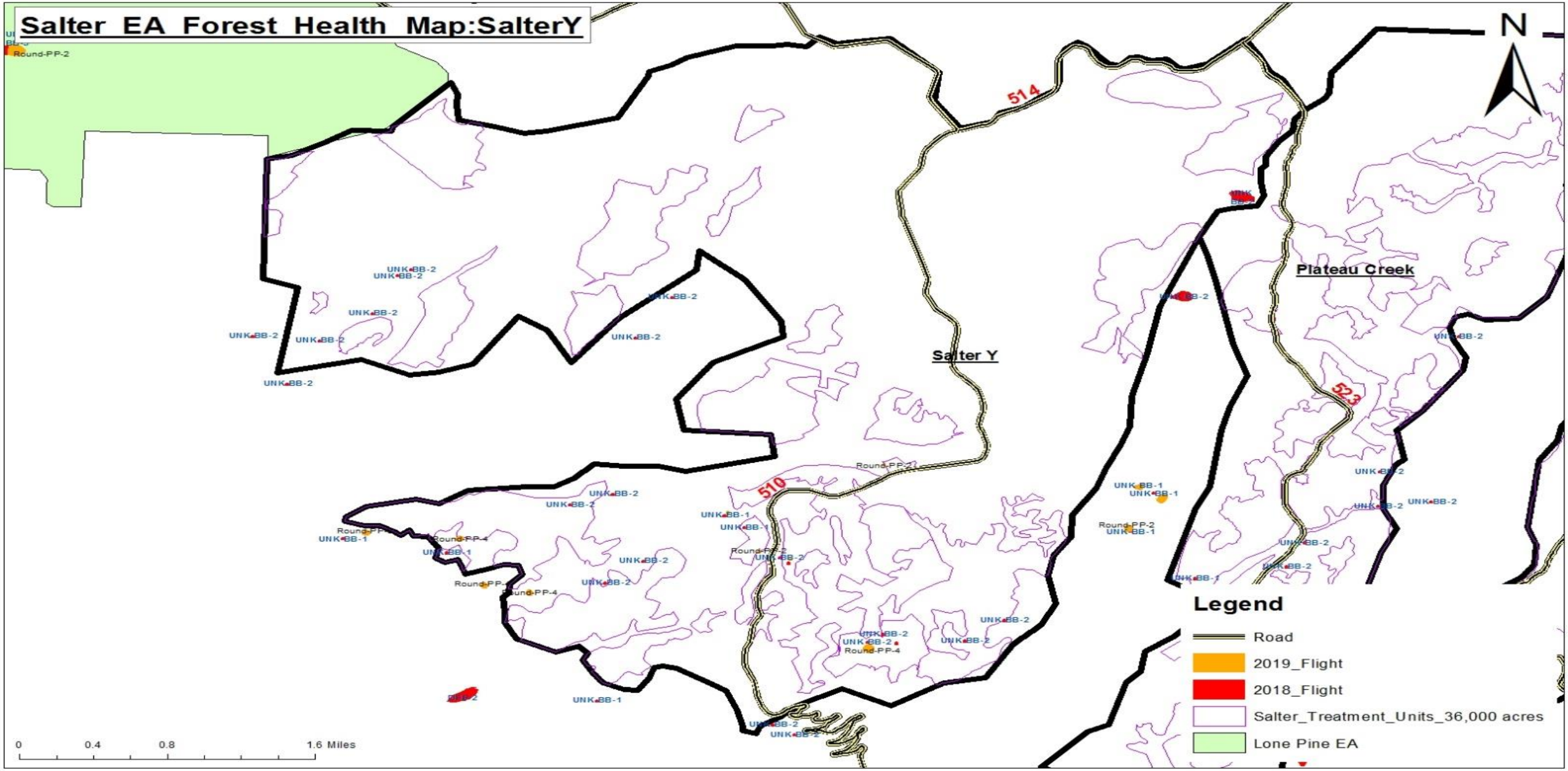
Salter Forest Health Flight Overview

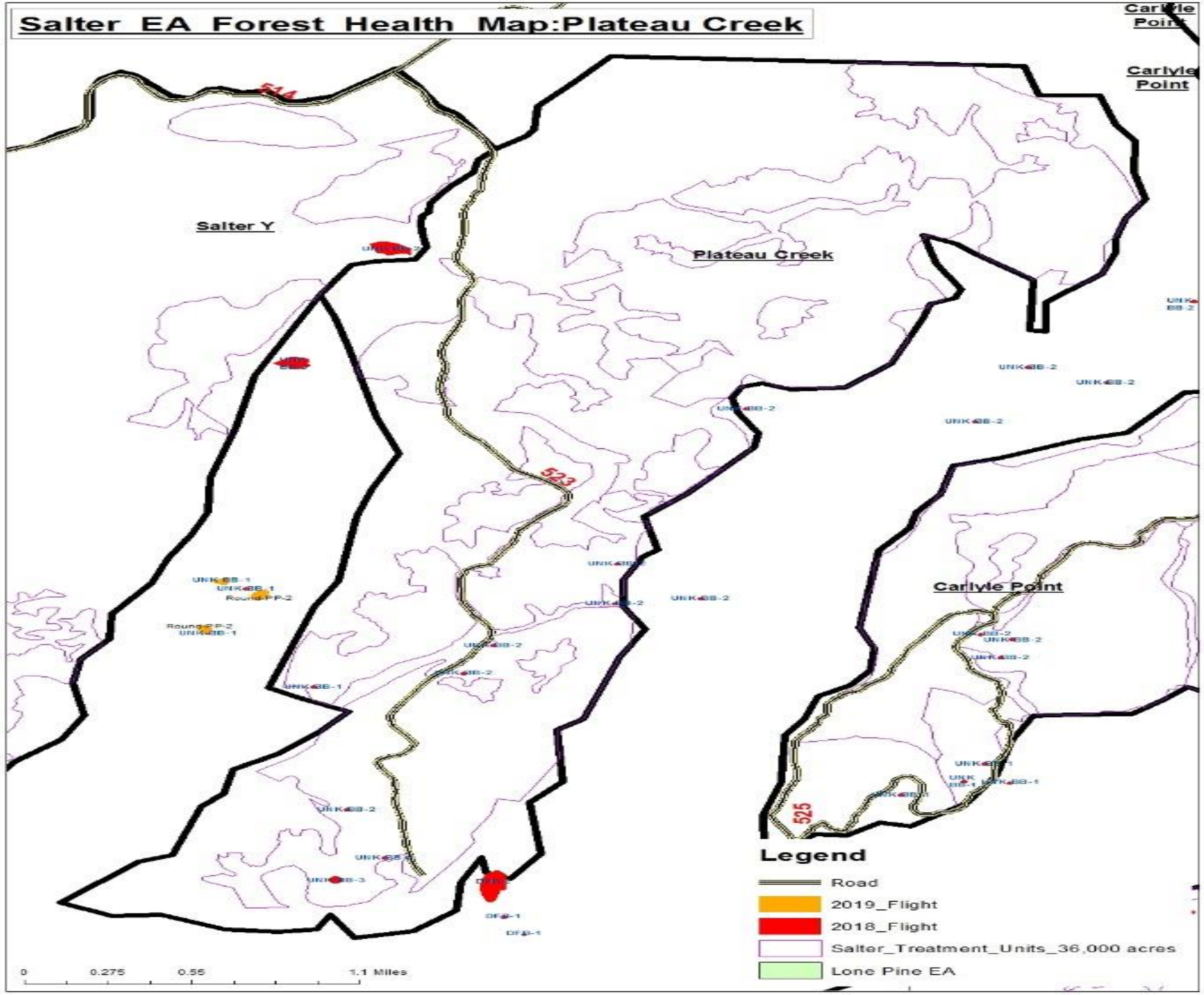


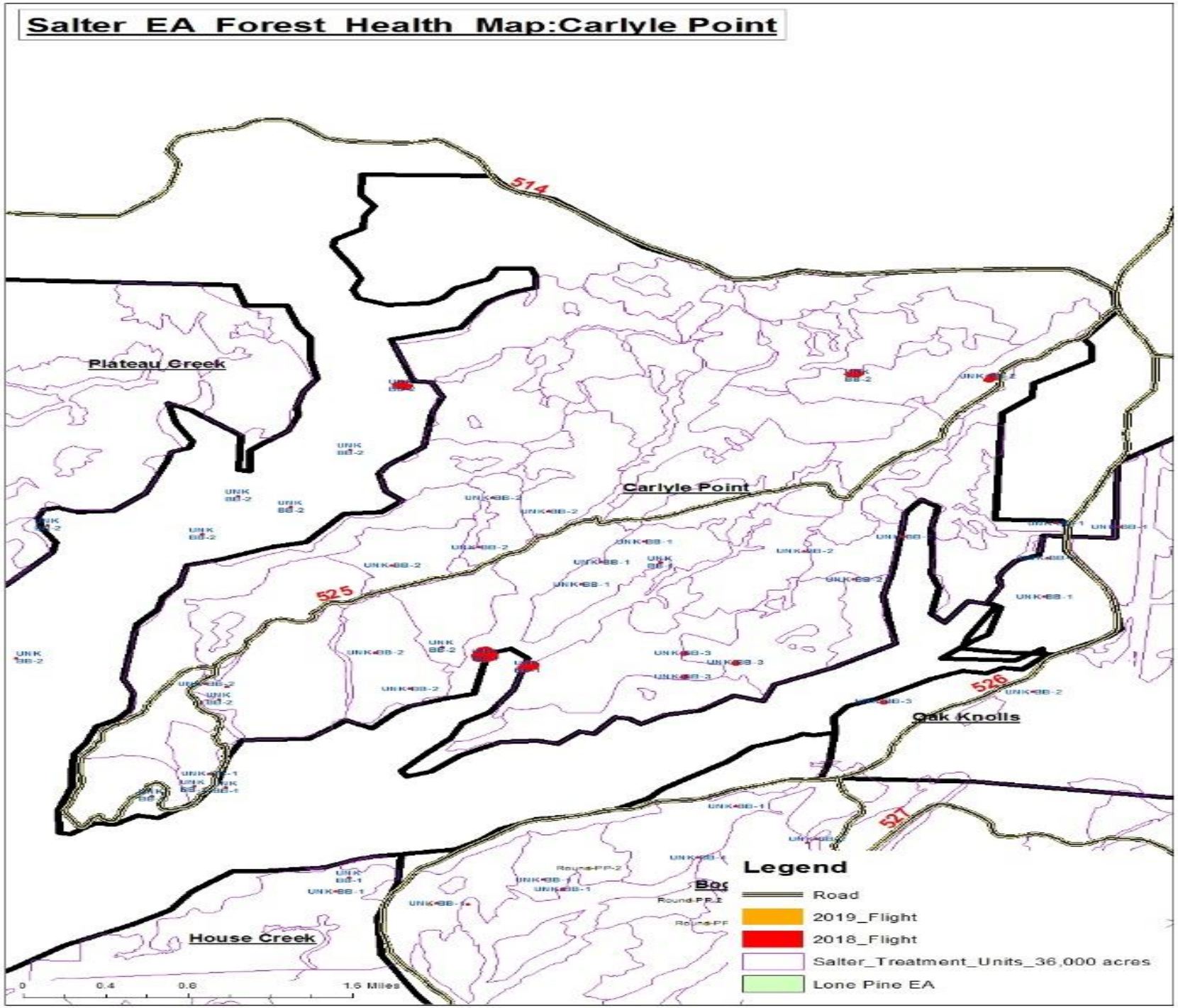
Lone Pine Forest Health Flight Overview

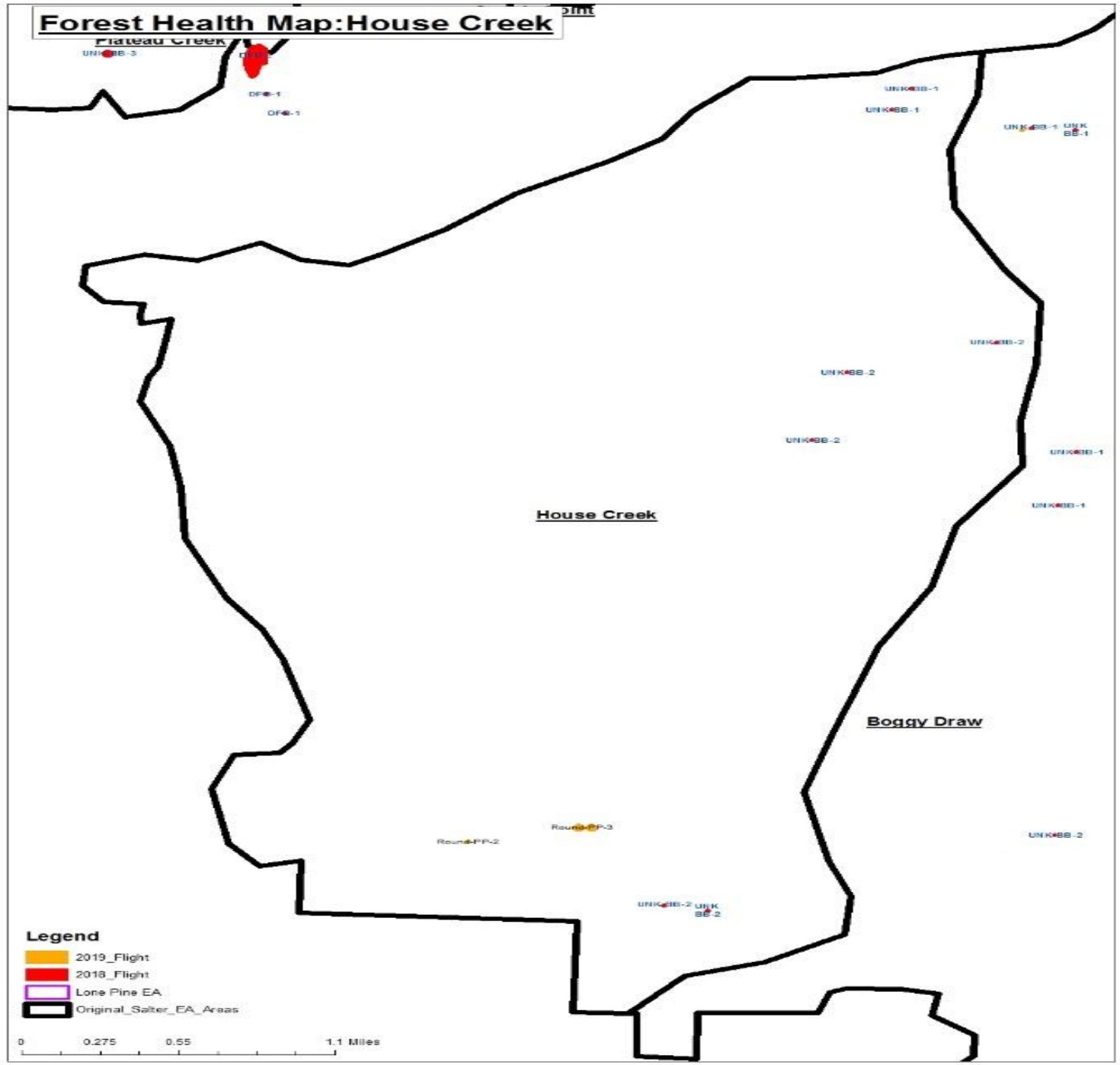


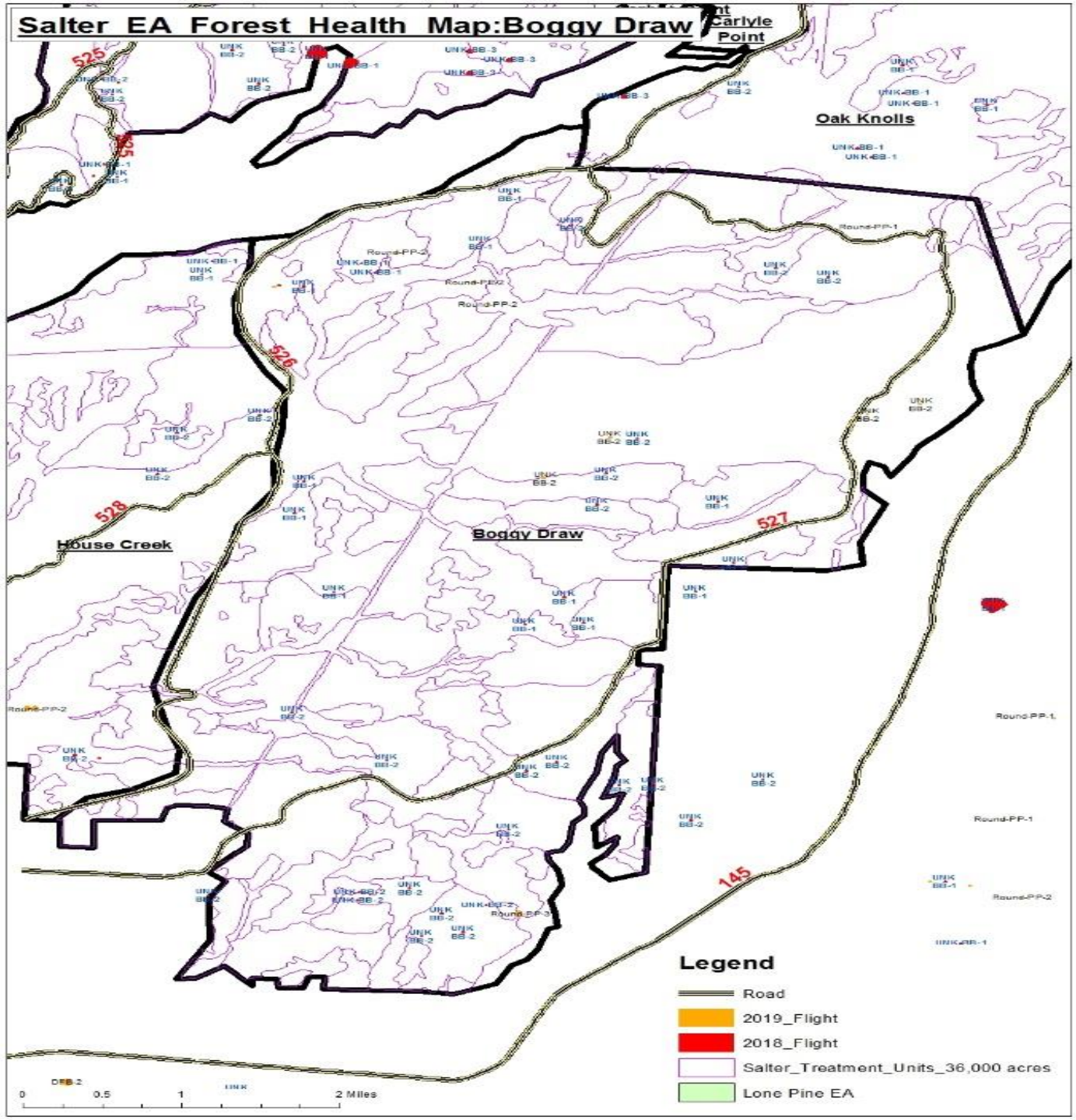
Forest Health Maps

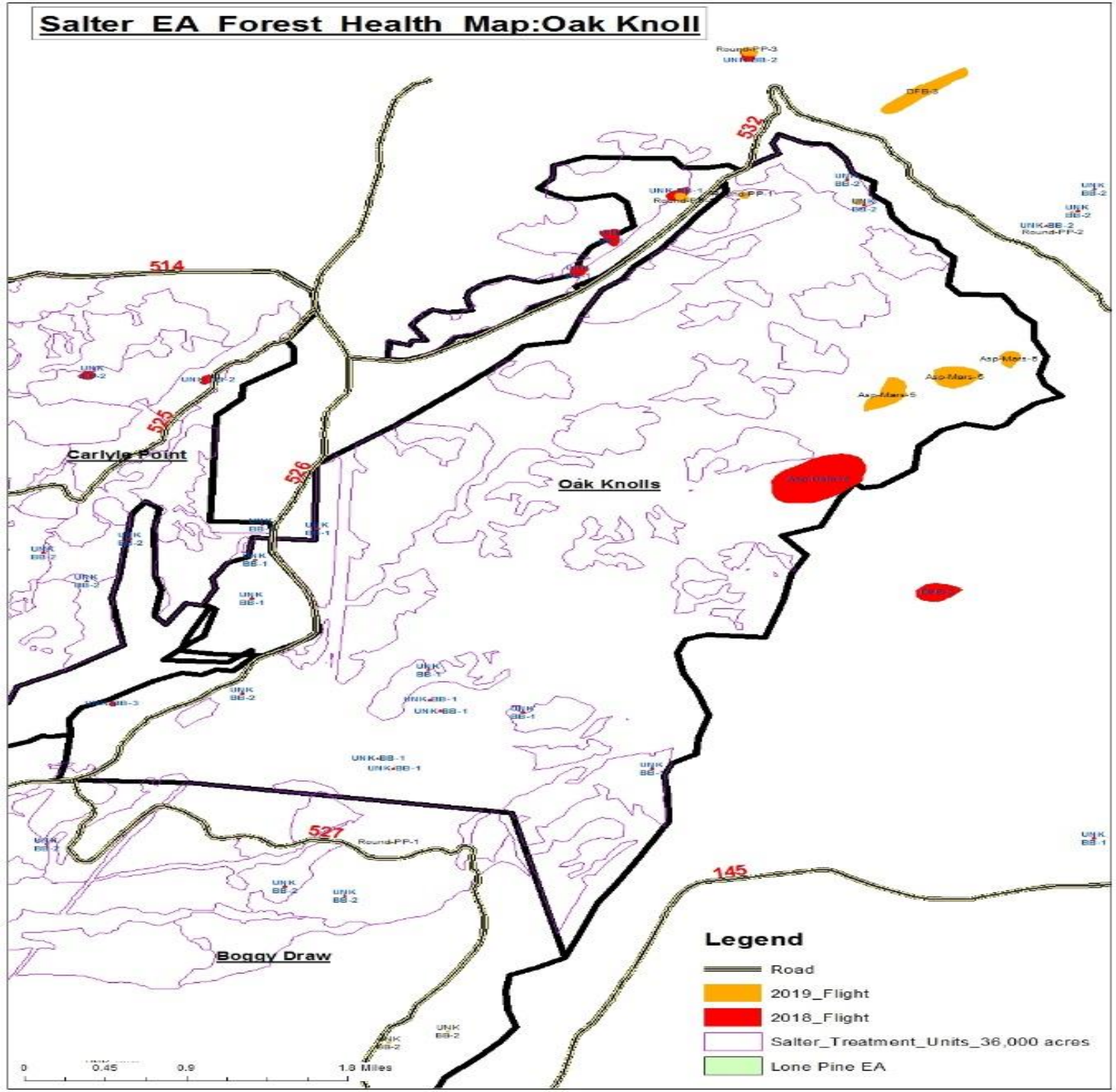



Salter EA Forest Health Map:Plateau Creek
Carlyle Point
Carlyle Point
514
Salter Y
Plateau Creek
523
Carlyle Point
525
Legend
Road
2019_Flight
2018_Flight
Salter_Treatment_Units_36,000 acres
Lone Pine EA
0
0.275
0.55
1.1 Miles


Salter EA Forest Health Map:Carlyle Point
514
Plateau Creek
Carlyle Point
525
526
Oak Knolls
527
House Creek
0
0.4
0.8
1.6 Miles
Legend
Road
2019_Flight
2018_Flight
Salter_Treatment_Units_36,000 acres
Lone Pine EA


Forest Health Map:House Creek
House Creek
Boggy Draw
Legend
2019_Flight
2018_Flight
Lone Pine EA
Original_Salter_EA_Areas
0
0.275
0.55
1.1 Miles


Salter EA Forest Health Map:Boggy Draw
Carlyle Point
Oak Knolls
House Creek
Boggy Draw
525
526
527
528
145
Legend
Road
2019_Flight
2018_Flight
Salter_Treatment_Units_36,000 acres
Lone Pine EA
0
0.5
1
2 Miles


Salter EA Forest Health Map:Oak Knoll
514
525
526
532
527
145
Carlyle Point
Oak Knolls
Boggy Draw
Legend
Road
2019_Flight
2018_Flight
Salter_Treatment_Units_36,000 acres
Lone Pine EA
0
0.45
0.9
1.8 Miles