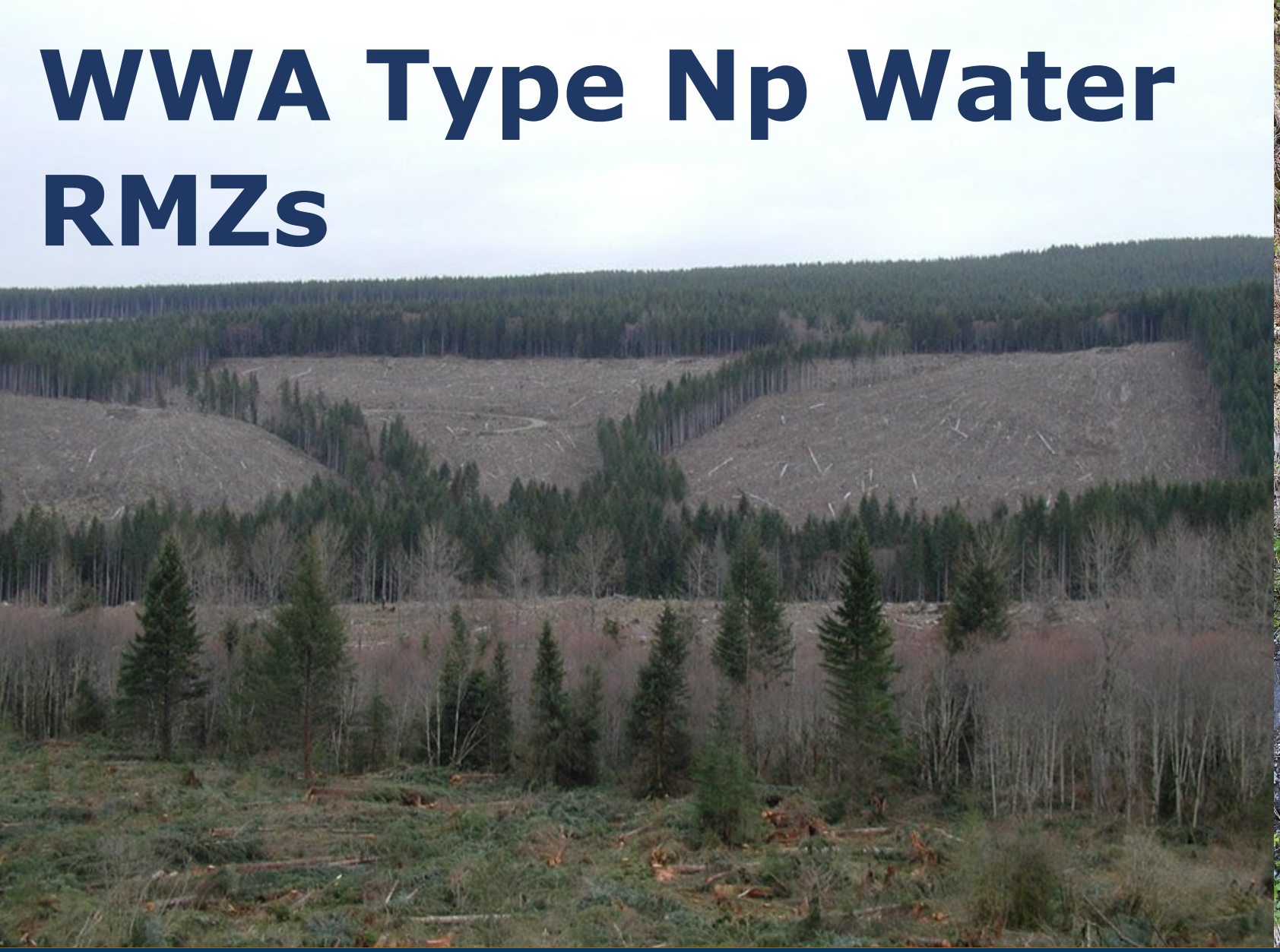
WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

WWA Type Np Water RMZs



Training Objectives

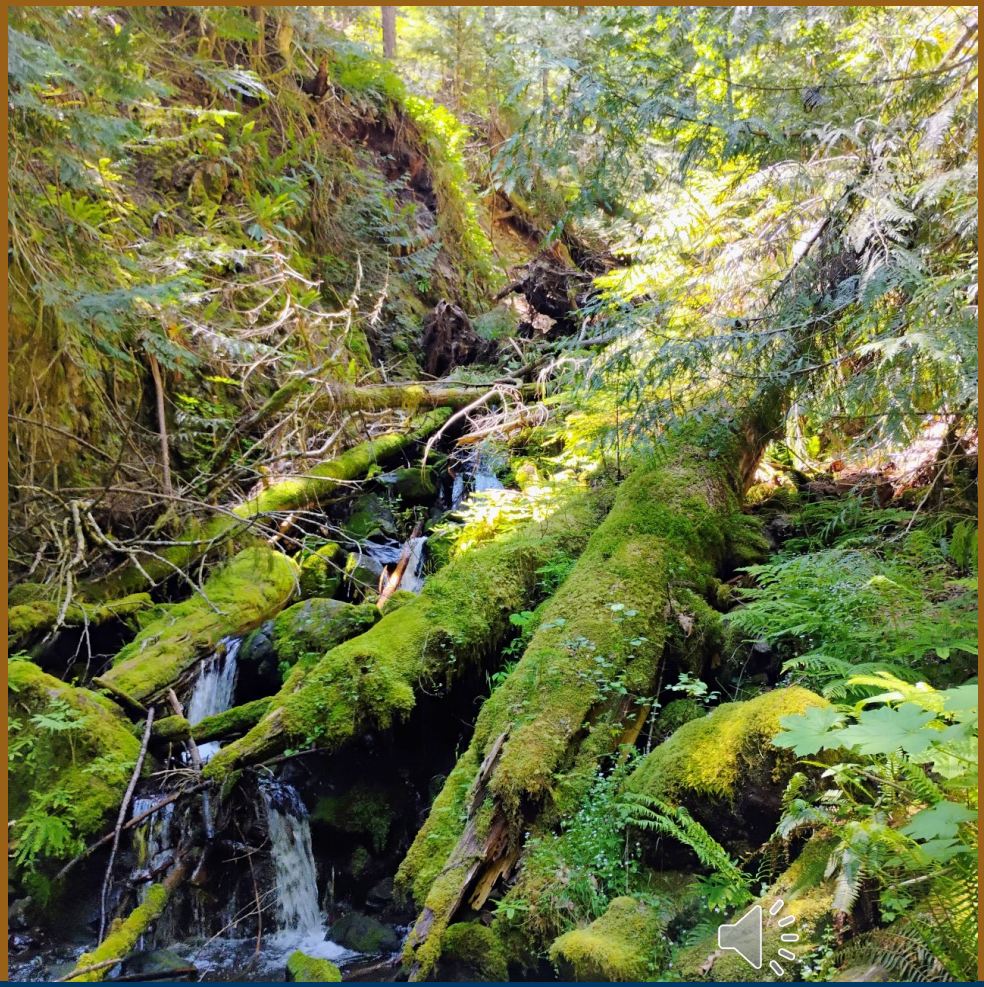
- Overview of rule changes
- 3-Step process for determining WWA Type Np Water RMZs
- Common examples for WWA Type Np Water RMZ layout

WWA Np Rule Change Overview

- WAC 222-30-021(2) → WAC 222-30-0211 [effective Aug 31]
- Western Washington Type Np Waters ONLY
- Bankfull width determines RMZ requirements in some cases
- More variety of buffer width requirements
- Sensitive site protections remain the same as before

Type Np Water WAC 222-16-030(3)

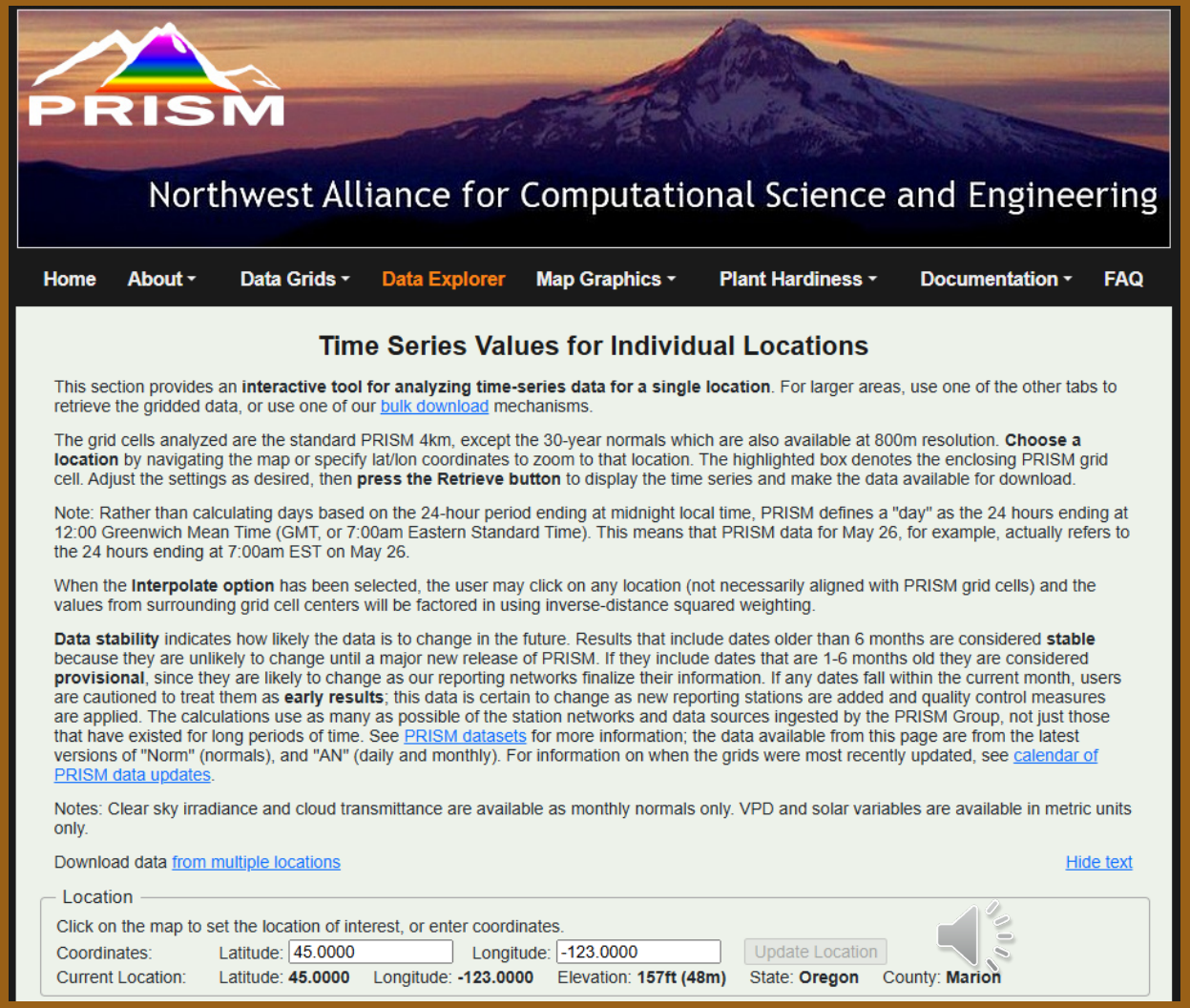
- All segments of natural waters within the bankfull width of perennial non-fish habitat streams
- Perennial streams are flowing waters that do not go dry any time of a year of normal rainfall and include the intermittent dry portions of the perennial channel below the uppermost point of perennial flow



Year of Normal Rainfall

- Allows comparison of 30-year average to last 12 months observed data
- Compare "30-Year Monthly Normals" to 12 months average prior to observation date used to make Np/Ns determination
- Normal rainfall year = previous 12 months of measured precipitation is within 75+% of the 30-year average precipitation value

https://prism.oregonstate.edu/explorer/



Flowing Waters

- Observe movement of small particles, without the influence of wind, on the surface of the water (i.e. dust, flour, spores, etc.)
- Impounded water behind an object newly placed in its path (i.e. pieces of wood or rocks, etc.)
- Sound of moving water within buried or obscured stream channel segments

(1) *Sensitive sites* within 75’ of the proposed harvest unit?

NO

(2) Within topographic basin >30 acres AND 85% or more of basin is planned, or reasonably expected, to be harvested within a 5-year period?

NO

Apply 75’ no-cut buffer on both sides for:
- 600’ upstream from confluence with Type S/F Water; or
- Lowest 600’ of isolated Type Np Water

(3) Bankfull width = 3’ or greater?

YES

Apply these protections:
- 50’ saturated soil buffer on headwalls and sidewall seeps;
- 56’-radius circular buffer on Type Np Water intersections, headwall springs, and UMPPF; and
- No harvest within alluvial fans

CONTINUE

YES

Apply 75’ no-cut buffer on both sides of entire Type Np Water

STOP!

YES

Apply <u>either</u>:
- 75’ partial management RMZ (50’ no cut w/ outer 25’ thinning); <u>or</u>
- 65’ no-cut buffer on both sides of Type Np Water

STOP!

NO

Apply 50’ no-cut buffer on both sides of Type Np Water

STOP!

Step 1: Sensitive Site Protections

- No timber harvest is permitted within:
  - 50’ of headwall seep;
  - 50’ of side-slope seep;
  - 56’ radius of intersection of two or more Type Np Waters;
  - 56’ radius of headwater spring or upper most extent of a Type Np Water; or
  - Alluvial fan
- When sensitive site protections differ from no-harvest RMZ requirements, the wider no-harvest buffer applies

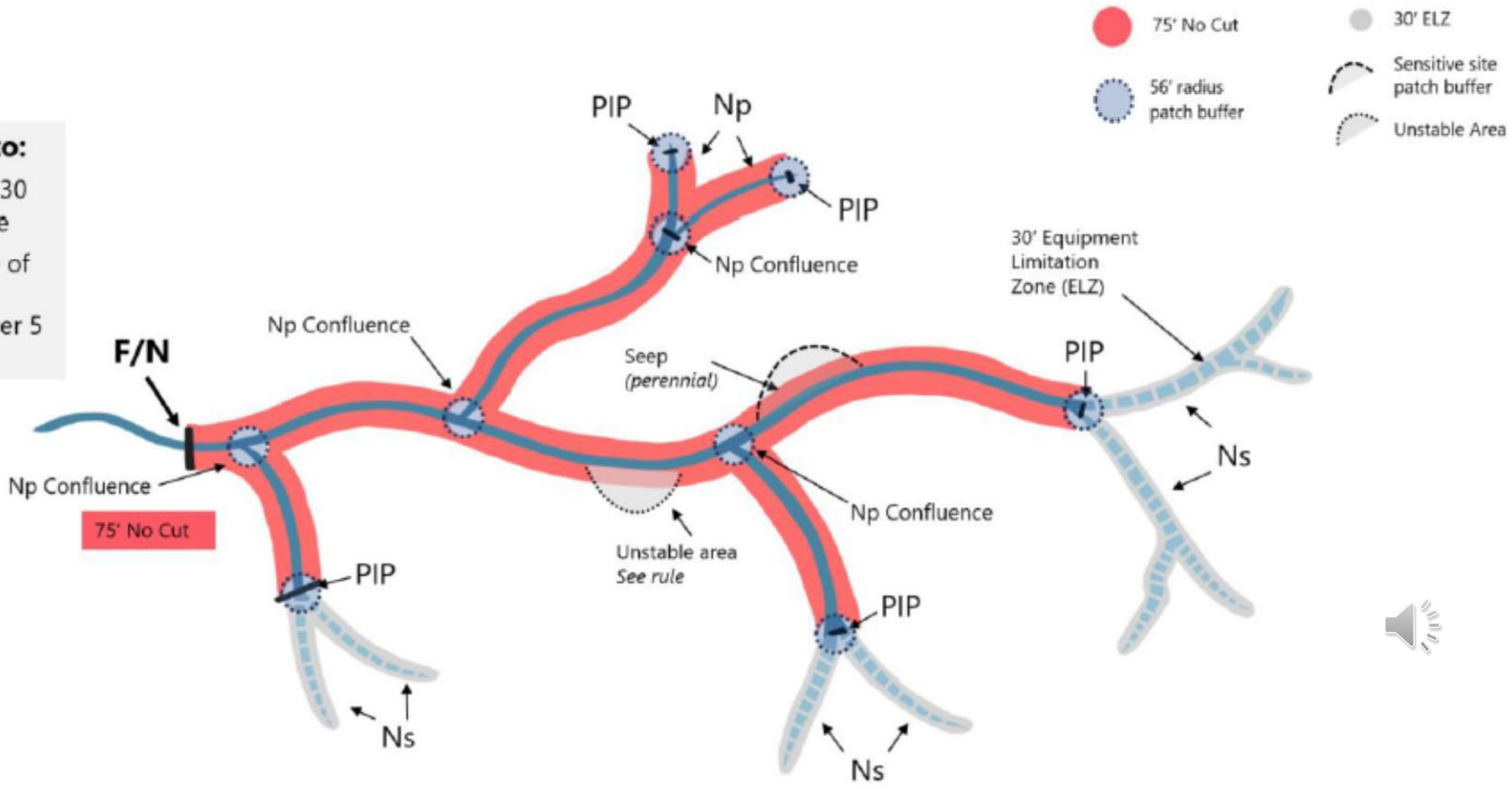
Step 2: Basin Acreage & Planned Harvest

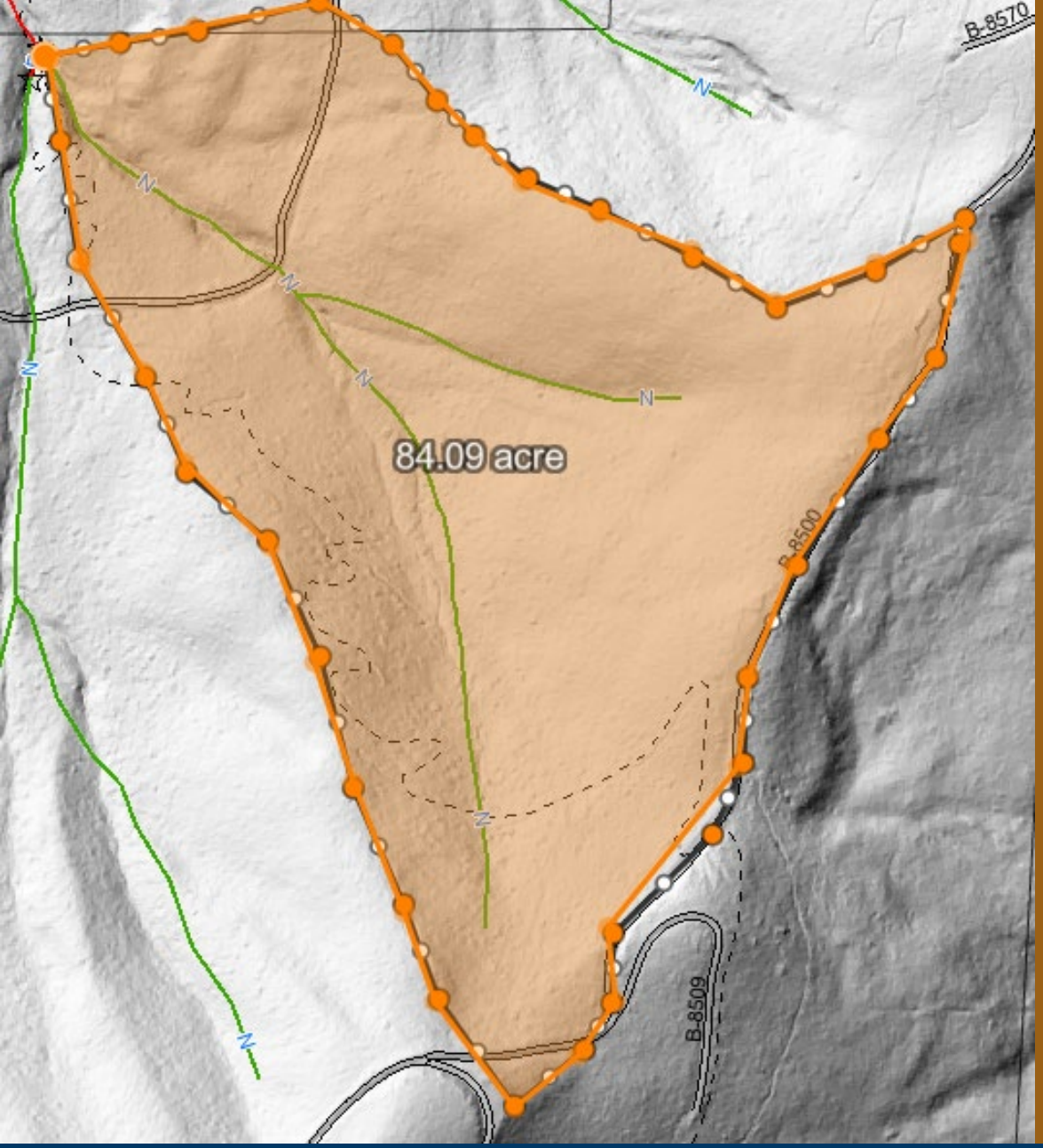
Basin Acreage & Planned Harvest	Buffer
Topographic basin > 30 acres and 85% or more is planned for harvest or reasonably expected within 5-year period	Two-sided 75’ no-cut buffer
All other topographic basins and harvests	Two-sided 75’ no-cut buffer for first 600’ upstream from the confluence with Type S or F Water or the lowest 600’ length of the isolated stream.

Example:
>30 acre & ≥85% Harvest

As applied to:

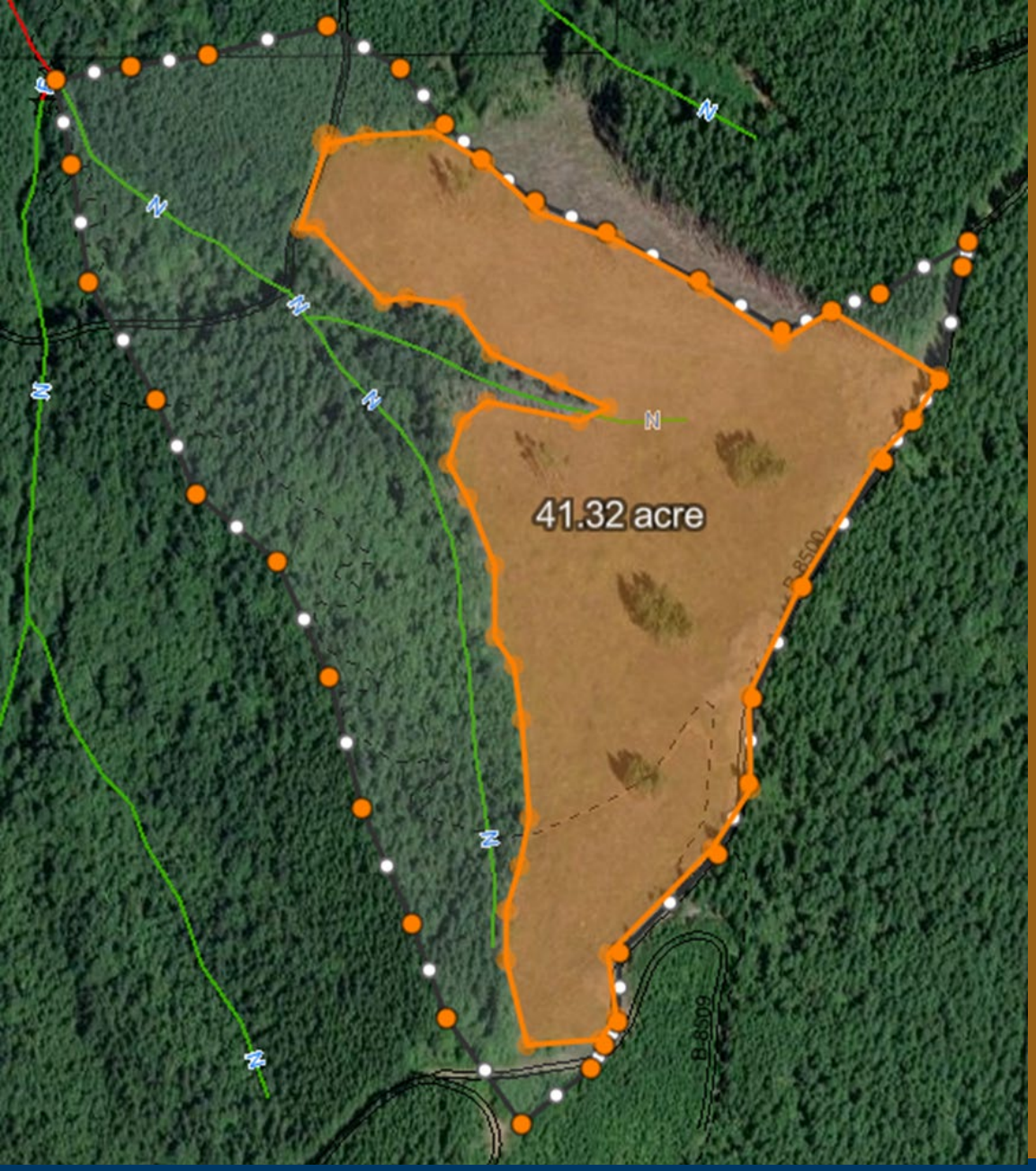
- Basin size of 30 acres or more
- 85% or more of basin is harvested over 5 years or less





Example: 85% Calculation

- 84.09-acre basin
- To stay within 85% threshold: (84.09) x (0.85) = 71.48
- 71.47 acres may be harvested within 5-year period to have the option of using partial management RMZ harvest strategy



Example: 85% Calculation

- 84.09-acre basin
- To stay under 85% threshold: 71.47
- Harvest 41.32 acres within basin
- No more than 30.15 acres may be proposed to harvest within 5 years without incurring requirement of 75’ no-cut buffer along entire Type Np Water

5-Year Period

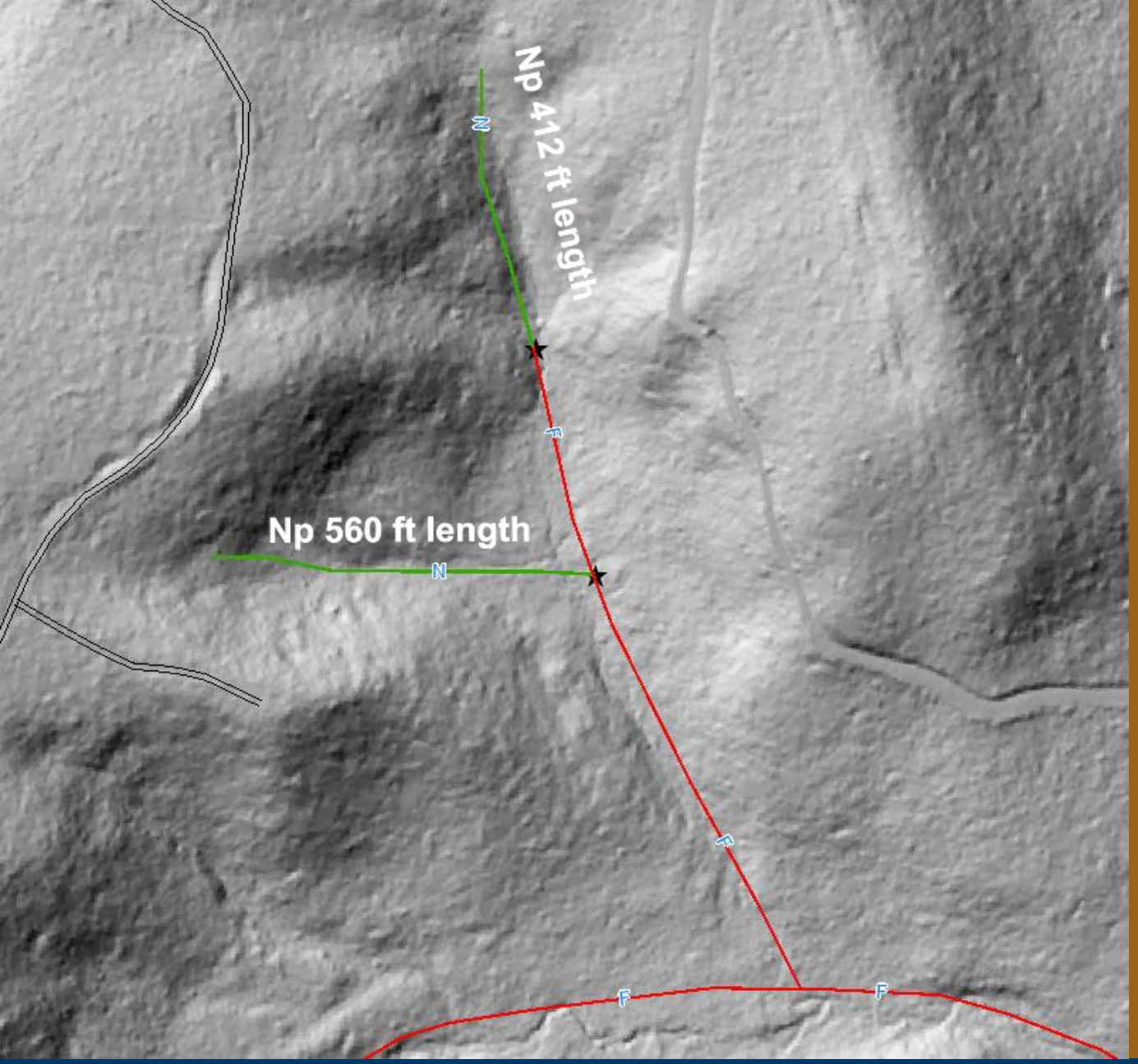
Previous 5 Years

- Calculated from beginning of previous harvest operations in topographic basin to FPA/N submission

5-Year Period

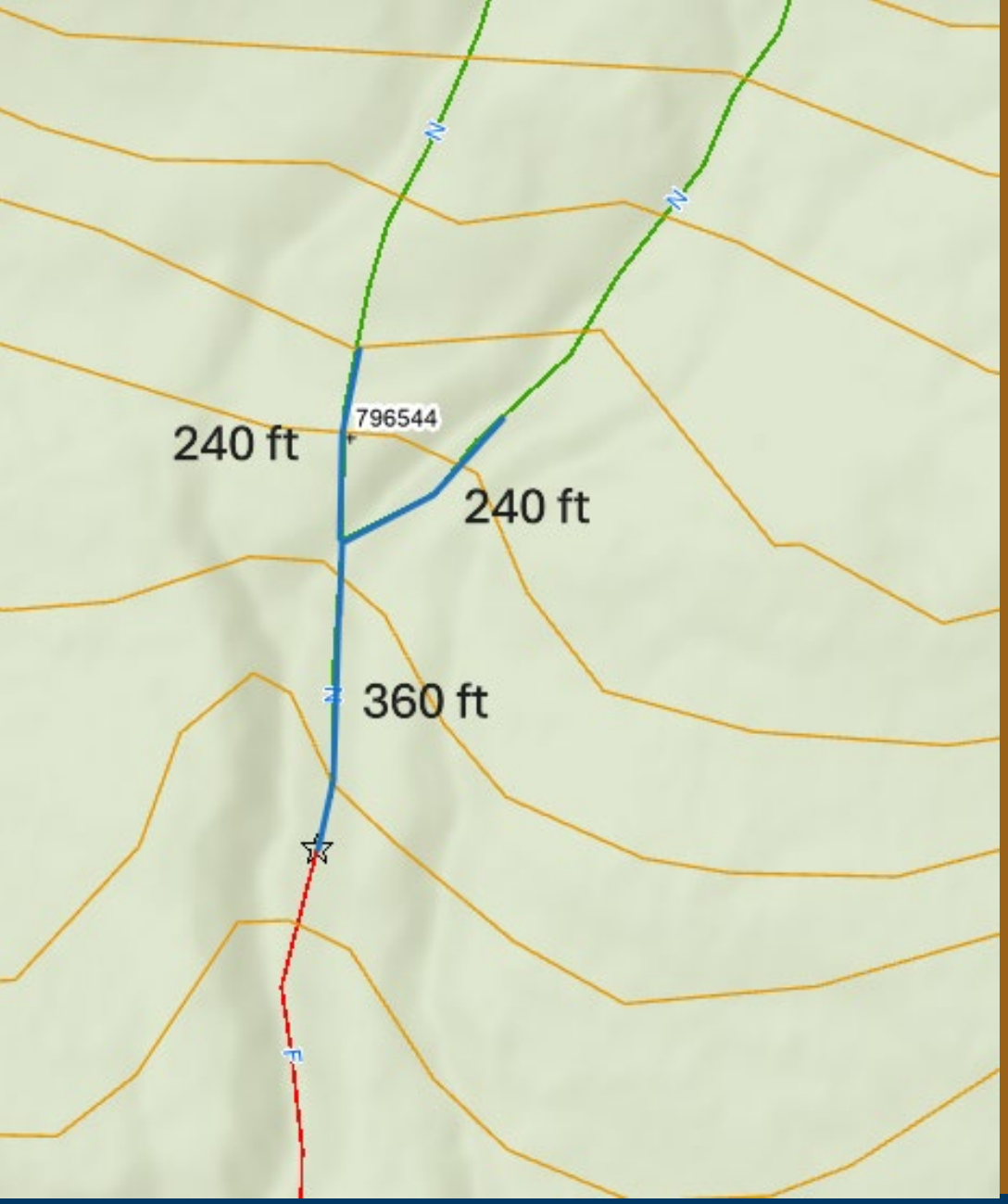
Future 5 years

- Harvests planned, or reasonably expected, to occur in the 5 years following the FPA/N submittal
- Calculate basin percentage based on ownership and account for:
  - Recent harvest
  - Approved FPA/Ns where operations haven't begun
  - Proposed harvest
  - Anticipated harvest



Example: Other Basins/ Harvests

- Entire Type Np Water is within 600’ from confluence with Type F Water
- Minimum 75’ no-cut buffer
- Account for sensitive sites



Example: Other Basins/Harvests

- Intersection of 2 Type Np Waters (sensitive site)
- Entire Type Np Water is within 600’ of confluence with Type F Water
- Intersection requires 56’-radius buffer, however lowermost 600’ requires a 75’ no-cut buffer
- 75’ no-cut buffer must be applied because it is more protective

Step 3: Determine Bankfull Width

Field determination of the bankfull channel edge generally relies on two or more of the following:

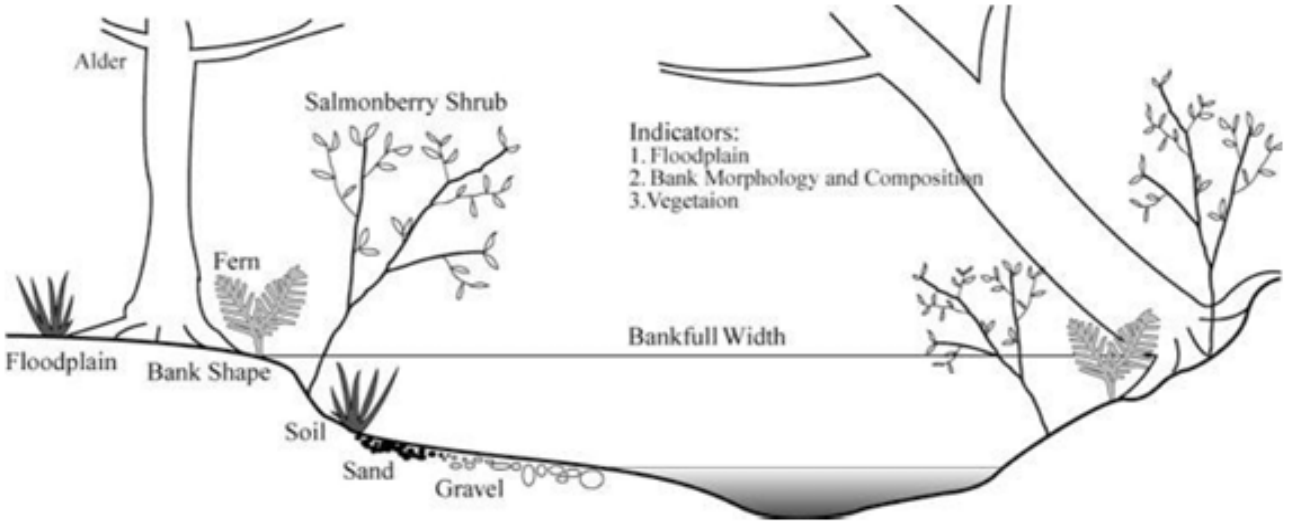


Figure 1. Indicators for determining bankfull width (adapted from Pleus and Schuett-Hames, 1998).

- Measure over representative section of at least 500’ with at least 10 evenly spaced measurements
- Exclude unusually wide areas of negligible gradient

Step 3: Determine Bankfull Width

- Bankfull width <3’ = Minimum 50’ no-cut buffer
- Bankfull width ≥3’ = Choose between two RMZ strategies to meet minimum buffer requirements
  - Partial Management
  - No-Cut

Management Strategies

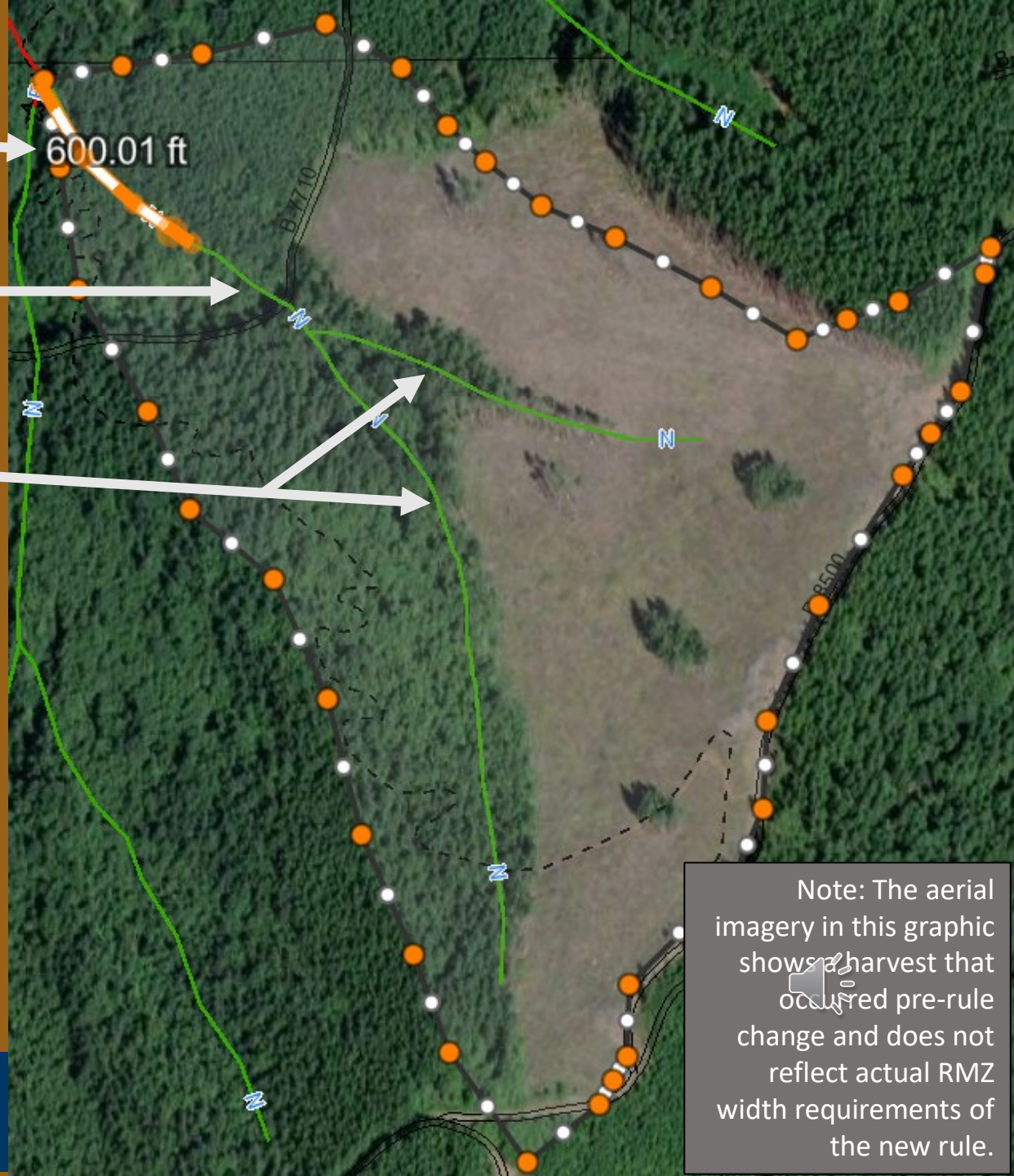
- No-Cut: 65’ no-cut buffer along entire stream reach
- Partial Management: 75’ RMZ along the entire stream reach comprised of:
  - Interior: 50’ no-cut buffer, or required sensitive site protected area width, whichever is more protective
  - Outer: 25’ of RMZ (50-75’ from BFW) may be thinned *

First 600’ upstream of F/N break = 75’ no-cut buffer

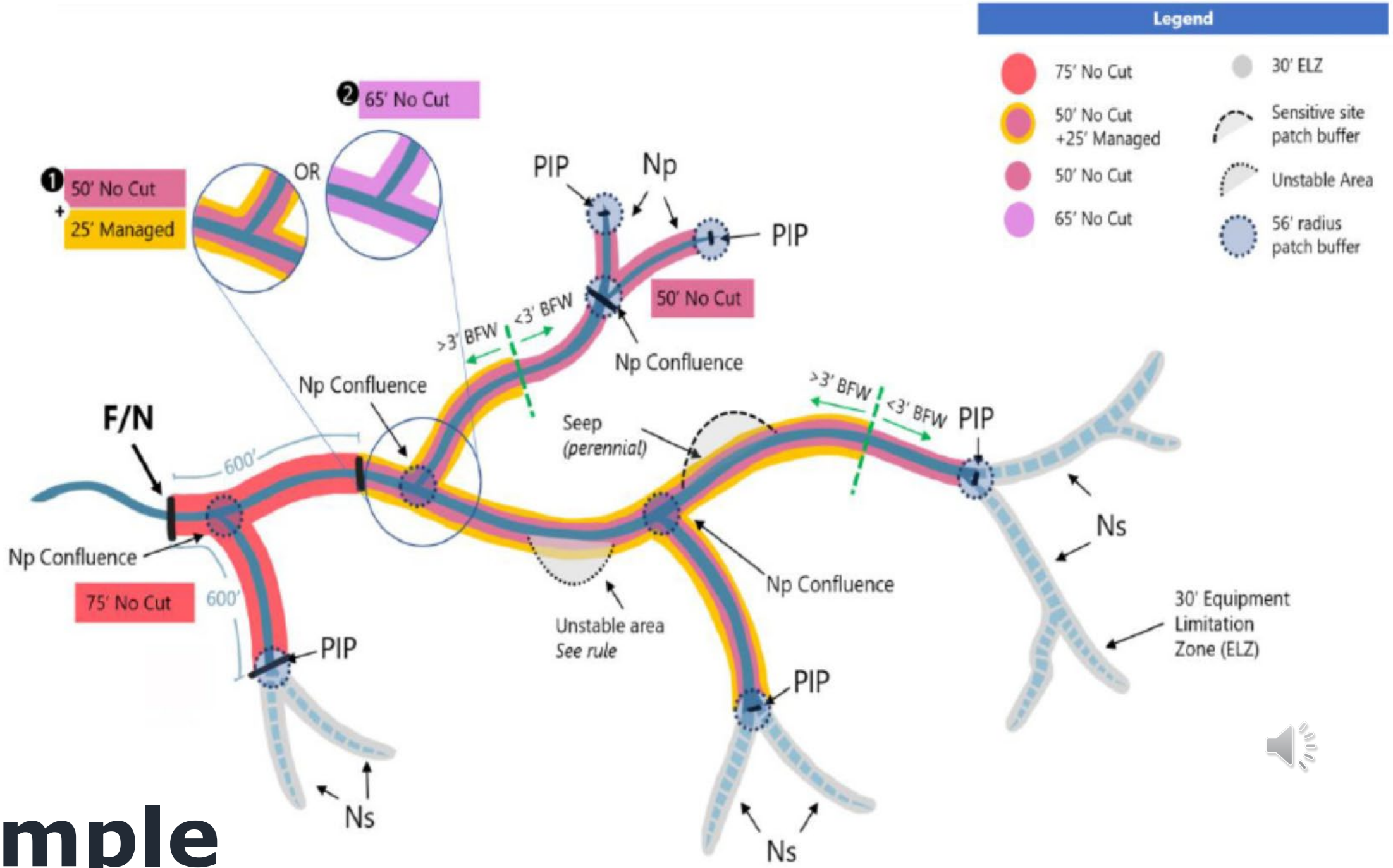
BFW ≥ 3ft’ = 75’ w/partial management in outer 25’ or 65’ no-cut buffer

Splits to 2 channels w/BFW <3’= 50’ no-cut buffer

Example: RMZ Protection Along Type Np Water



Note: The aerial imagery in this graphic shows a harvest that occurred pre-rule change and does not reflect actual RMZ width requirements of the new rule.


Legend
75' No Cut
50' No Cut +25' Managed
50' No Cut
65' No Cut
30' ELZ
Sensitive site patch buffer
Unstable Area
56' radius patch buffer
1 50' No Cut + 25' Managed
OR
2 65' No Cut
PIP
Np
PIP
50' No Cut
>3' BFW
<3' BFW
Np Confluence
Np Confluence
F/N
600'
Seep (perennial)
>3' BFW
<3' BFW
PIP
Np Confluence
75' No Cut
600'
PIP
Unstable area See rule
Np Confluence
Ns
30' Equipment Limitation Zone (ELZ)
PIP
Ns
Ns

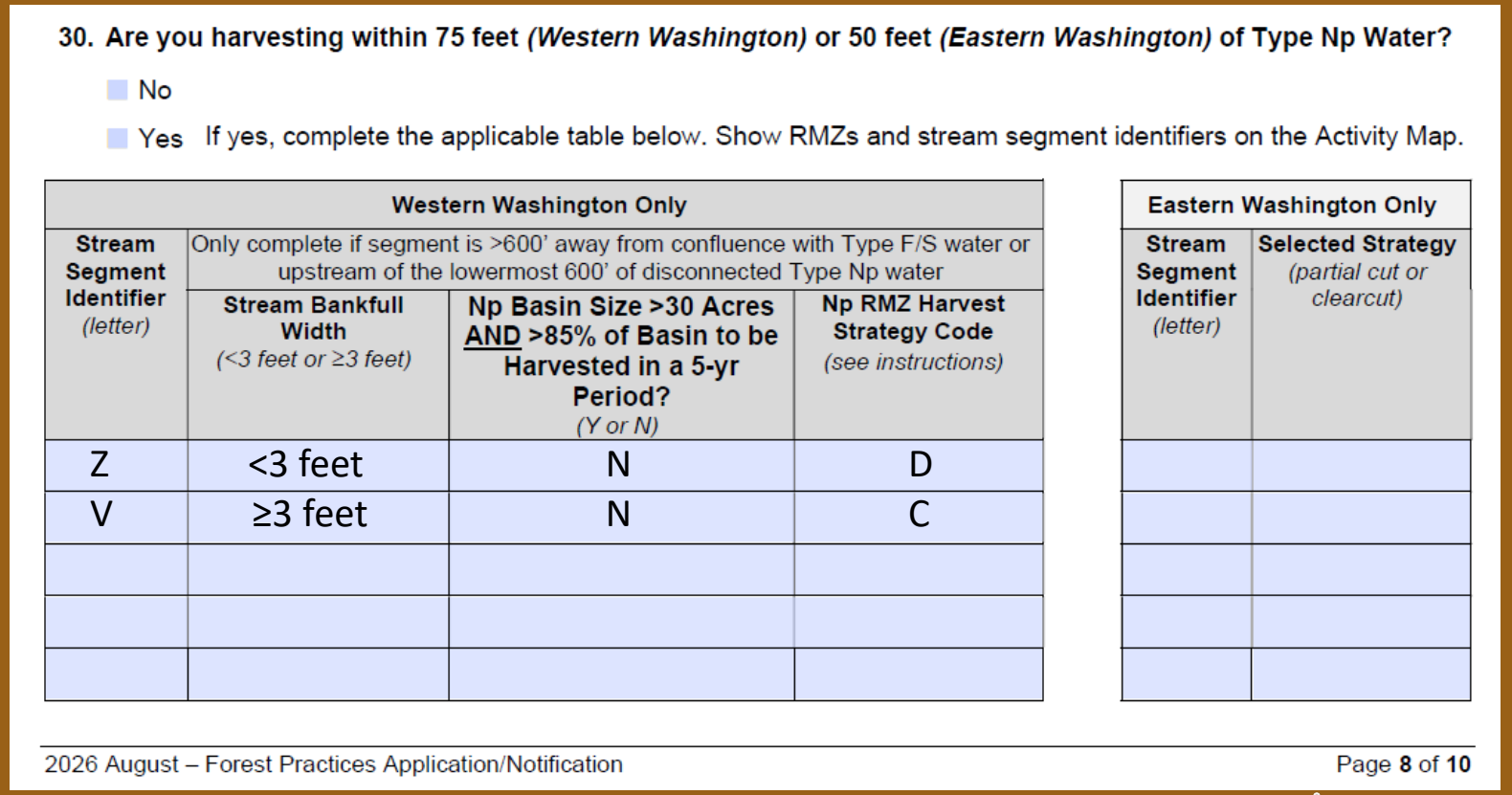
Example

Road Crossings & Yarding Corridors

- Type Np Water RMZs or sensitive sites will not preclude or limit:
  - Road construction/maintenance for the purposes of crossing streams
  - Creation and use of yarding corridors
- Buffer areas must be expanded elsewhere on the Type Np Water equal to the acreage harvested, or by mitigation that provides comparable function to a buffer expansion
- Additional buffer acreage (including partial acres) must be left for parts of Type Np Water RMZ or sensitive site buffer is occupied by a stream adjacent parallel road

Effective Date & FPA/N Form Change

- WAC 222-30-0211 will be effective on August 31, 2026
- Question 30 for WWA Type Np Water has been revised to reflect the rule change
- The new version of the FPA/N will be required starting August 31, 2026



30. Are you harvesting within 75 feet *(Western Washington)* or 50 feet *(Eastern Washington)* of Type Np Water?

☐ No

☐ Yes If yes, complete the applicable table below. Show RMZs and stream segment identifiers on the Activity Map.

Western Washington Only				Eastern Washington Only	
Stream Segment Identifier *(letter)*	Only complete if segment is >600' away from confluence with Type F/S water or upstream of the lowermost 600' of disconnected Type Np water			**Stream Segment Identifier** *(letter)*	**Selected Strategy** *(partial cut or clearcut)*
	Stream Bankfull Width *(<3 feet or ≥3 feet)*	**Np Basin Size >30 Acres AND >85% of Basin to be Harvested in a 5-yr Period?** *(Y or N)*	**Np RMZ Harvest Strategy Code** *(see instructions)*		
Z	<3 feet	N	D		
V	≥3 feet	N	C		

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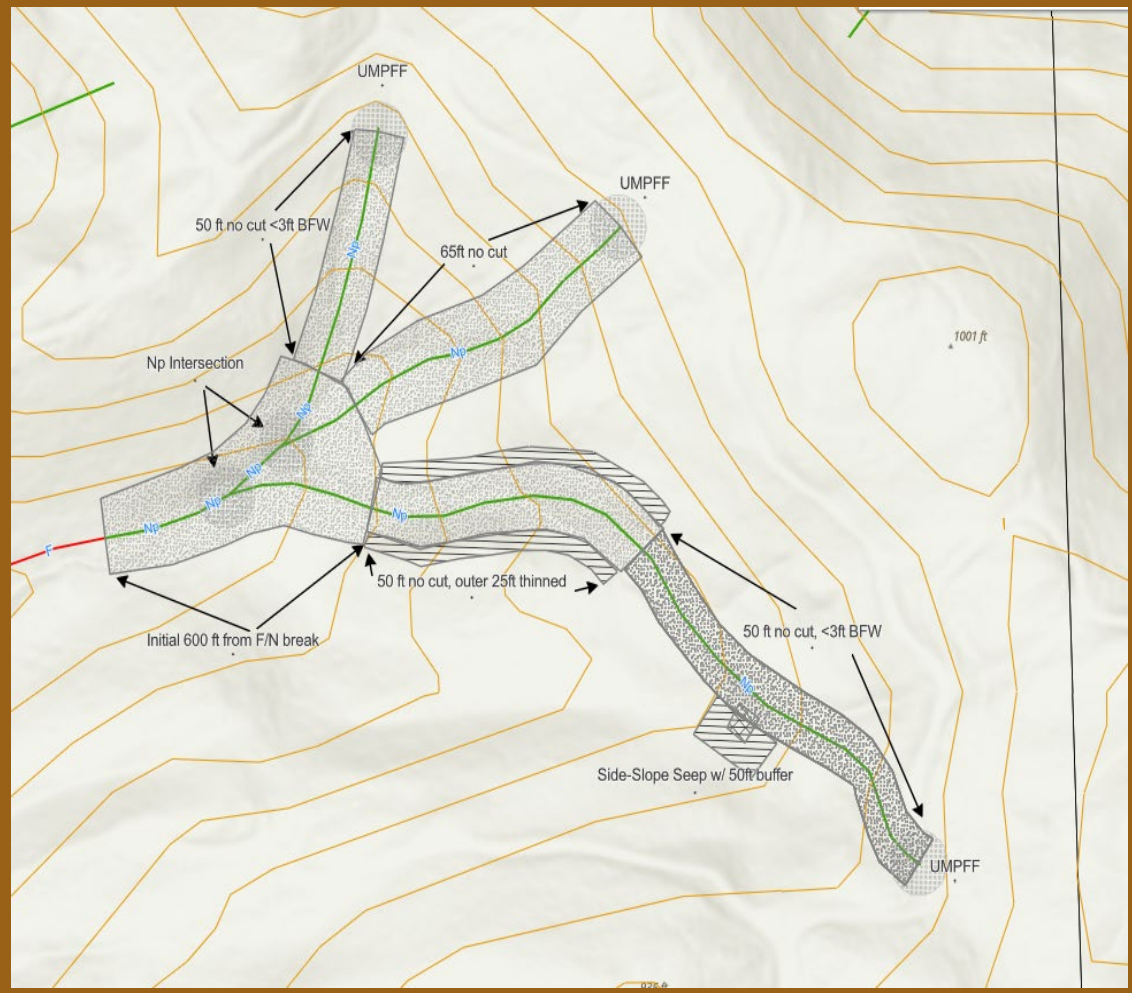
WWA Np Harvest Codes & Activity Map Standards

WESTERN WASHINGTON NP RMZ HARVEST CODES	
A	**Alternate Plan**. Enter this code if you are using an alternate plan. Include completed Alternate Plan template or attach narrative describing how Np riparian functions will be achieved in the short and long term.
B	**75-foot No-Cut**. Enter this code if you are not harvesting within 75' of the Type Np stream segment.
C	**65-foot No-Cut**. Enter this code if you are not harvesting within 65' of the Type Np stream segment.
D	**50-foot No-Cut**. Enter this code if you are not harvesting within 50' of the Type Np stream segment.
E	**75-foot Partial Management**. Enter this code if you are implementing the partial management strategy. This strategy involves an RMZ that is 75' wide in total, not harvesting within the inner 50' and partial harvest in the outer 25'. For more information on this harvest strategy, refer to WAC 222-30-0211(3)(b)(i)(A).



Additional Resources

- Forest Practices Illustrated
- Forest Practices Forms and Instructions
- Forest Practices Water Typing
- Forest Practices Board Manual
- Forest Practices Training
- PRISM

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