

Project title: Eastshore Trail Construction

Requested By: Susan Sinclair

Mail
Code : N1011

Phone: 530-247-6733

Date Submitted: 09/15/2009

Date Required: 01/31/2010

☒ **Project Description:**

The Bureau of Land Management's Redding Field Office (BLM) is proposing to construct 10.2 miles of non-motorized trail from the Sacramento River Trail to the Hornbeck Trail (Attachment A). The proposal includes brush clearing to accommodate a full bench grade trail, one trailhead, the installation of 64 culvert crossings and two 20-ft metal footbridges with wood decking. The proposed trail would pass through approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile of Western Area Power Administration (Western) property about 500 ft east of the Keswick Substation (Attachment B). The BLM has requested a license outgrant from Western in order to construct the trail through Western property.

☒ **Project Location:**

The project is located in Shasta County, California just west of the City of Redding. The majority of the proposed trail is on public lands owned by the Bureau of Reclamation (Bureau) but managed by the BLM. The remaining land is owned by private holders, the BLM, the City of Redding and the Western.

To be completed by Natural Resources Only

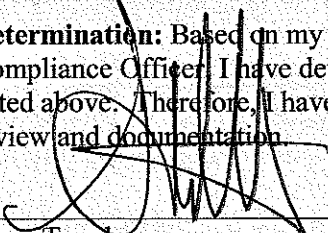
Action taken

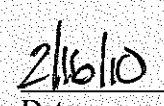
Note: All Documentation is Attached

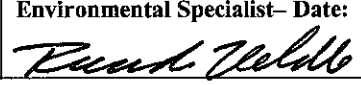
- ☒ Categorical Exclusion (CX)
- ☒ Integral Elements
- ☒ NEPA Attachment Sheet

- ☒ Minimization Measures Required
- ☐ Environmental Requirements
- ☒ Attachment(s)

Determination: Based on my review of information provided to me concerning the proposed action as NEPA Compliance Officer, I have determined that the proposed action meets the requirements for the categorical exclusion listed above. Therefore, I have determined that the proposed action may be categorically excluded from further NEPA review and documentation.


Steve Tuggle
NEPA Compliance Officer


Date
☒ Approved

CC: Requestor: Susan Sinclair	File Code:	Assigned to: Ricardo Velarde	Project #: 100101	Environmental Specialist- Date:  2/8/10
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Western Area Power Administration Sierra Nevada Region	CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (CX) DETERMINATION	Project Number 100101
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Integral Elements

Project Title: Eastshore Trail Construction

Category of Action:

B4.9 Grant or denial of requests for multiple-use of a transmission facility rights-of-way, such as grazing permits and crossing agreements, including electric lines, water lines and drainage culverts.

Regulatory Requirements for a Categorical Exclusion Determination: The Department of Energy (DOE), National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Implementing Procedures, 10 CFR 1021.410(b) require the following determinations be made in order for a proposed action to be categorically excluded (see full text in regulation).

1. The proposed action fits within a class of action listed in Appendixes A and B to Subpart D. For classes of actions listed in Appendix B, the following conditions are integral elements; i.e., to fit within a class, the proposal must not:
 - a. Threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, including requirements of DOE and/or Executive Orders.
 - b. Require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities, but may include categorically excluded facilities.
 - c. Disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA-excluded petroleum and natural gas products preexisting in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or un-permitted releases; or
 - d. Adversely affect environmentally sensitive resources (including but not limited to those listed in paragraph B (4)).
2. There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal which may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal;
3. The proposal is not connected to other actions with potentially significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.25(a)(I)), is not related to other actions with cumulatively significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.25(a)(2)), and is not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or 10 CFR 1021.211.

Results of Review: In accordance with DOE environmental regulations (10 CFR 1021), The Western Area Power Administration (Western) has reviewed the proposed action in terms of the level of NEPA review needed. Based on this review, Western has determined the proposal is encompassed within a class of action listed in Appendix B to Subpart D (10 CFR 1021.410) which do not require preparation of either an environmental impact statement (EIS) or an environmental assessment (EA).

The proposed action meets the above regulatory criteria and there are no adverse environmental effects associated with this action.



**Western Area Power Administration,
SIERRA NEVADA REGION
NEPA Attachment Sheet**

Project Number
100101

PROJECT TITLE:

Eastshore Trail Construction

EFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

Woodland, foothill pine-chapparral (Wfp) – This climax woodland is a mixture of foothill pine and blue oak. In undisturbed stands, foothill pine is generally much taller than the blue oak. Non-native grassland forms the typical understory layer. Dominant species include foothill pine (*Pinus sabiniana*) and blue oak (*Quercus douglasii*). Subdominant species typically encountered in this woodland include California buckeye (*Aesculus californica*), viscid and True's manzanita (*Arcstaphylos* spp.), buck brush (*Ceanothus cuneatus* var. *cuneatus*), and hoary coffeeberry (*Rhamnus tomentella*). Live oak (*Quercus wislizenii*) is also occasionally present. This habitat type occurs on well-drained sites and is usually found in rocky or exposed sites along ridges or canyons with poor or shallow soils. This habitat is common in the Redding/Trinity area.

Intermittent and ephemeral streams and seasonal wetlands also occur in and around the project area. The proposed trail route crosses several of these areas.

REVIEW ACTION

The BLM provided cultural and historic resources information through email correspondence between BLM project archaeologist, Eric Ritter and Western archaeologist, Cherie Johnston-Waldear. The BLM completed a letter to the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) for the Bureau as they are primary land owner in the project area. The BLM also has programmatic agreement with SHPO that fulfills the Section 106 requirements for this project. Ms. Johnston-Waldear assessed the level of coordination the BLM had completed for this project with SHPO and reviewed the results of the archaeological survey completed for the project.

The BLM submitted a Special Status Plant Species Report and a Terrestrial and Aquatic Wildlife Resource Assessment for the project. The reports documented the resources that were used and what actions were taken in order to evaluate the project area. The BLM utilized GIS mapping data, wildlife range maps, a review of office wildlife records, a review of the CNDDDB database and site visits.

Ami Goerdt, Western biologist, reviewed the BLM documents, records from previous Western surveys conducted in the area for habitat information and sensitive biological resources, and CNDDDB records for sensitive biological resources found within and surrounding the project area. Additionally, Ms. Goerdt conducted a reconnaissance-level survey and compared all of the gathered information against the FWS species list generated for the Redding USGS 7.5 minute quadrangle.

CULTURAL AND HISTORIC RESULTS

Archaeological surveys completed by the BLM identified no cultural or historic resources within Western property. BLM consultations with tribal members and groups failed to elicit the identification of any traditional cultural properties. BLM is lead agency for this undertaking and has an existing Programmatic Agreement with SHPO for these types of undertakings. BLM's coordination with SHPO, and tribal members and groups fulfills Section 106 compliance requirements for the entire project area, including the portion that runs through Western property.

BIOLOGICAL RESULTS

Botanical surveys completed by BLM identified no special status plants within or near the project area. This finding was supported by both previous Western surveys and the lack of CNDDDB records.

BLM wildlife surveys and records identified the foolhill yellow-legged frog (*Rana boylei*-RABO) and migratory birds as the only special status wildlife species with the potential to be in or near the project area. This finding was supported by both Western surveys and the lack of CNDDDB records, with the exception of an elderberry shrub, which the Federally threatened valley elderberry longhorn beetle (*Desmocerus californicus dimorphus*) depends on as a host plant through all its life stages. Since it is difficult to detect whether a beetle is occupying a particular shrub, the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) requires protection measures when working around all elderberry shrubs within the valley up to 3,000 feet in elevation. Minimization measures for these species are listed below.



No consultation needed due to "no effect" determination.

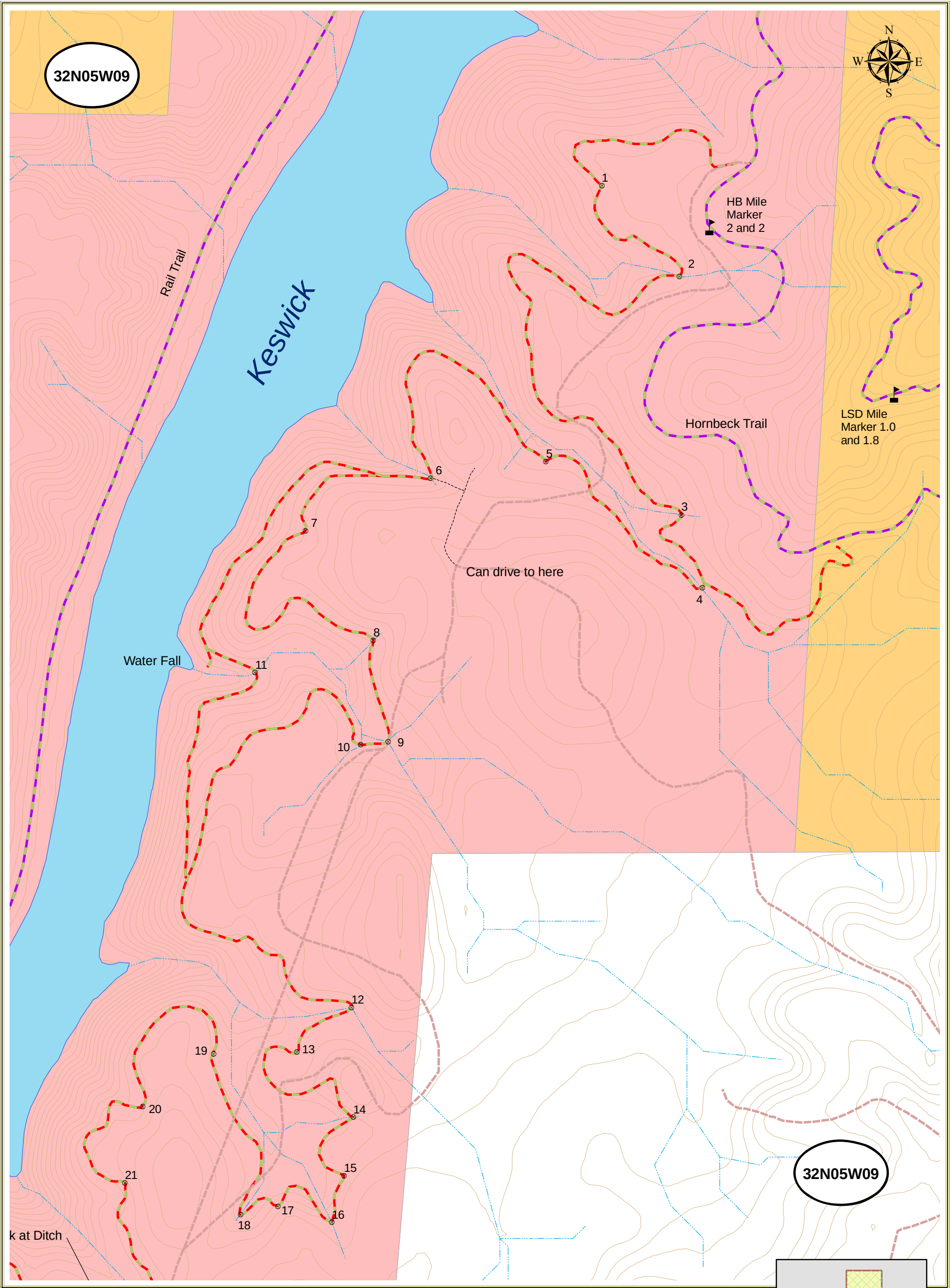


Minimization measures required:

- No ground disturbance is allowable within 100 feet of an elderberry shrub unless BOR first consults with USFWS.
- No culvert installation work that will impact water quality will occur during periods from March 15 to May 15 to minimize impact to the foothill yellow-legged frog.
- No brush removal work will occur during the nesting period (March 15 to May 15) for neotropical migratory birds unless surveys detect that no nests are present in the location of brush removal.
- Sediment control devices such as straw, seeding, erosion control mats and wattles will be used in order to reduce chances of runoff along the new trails and roads.

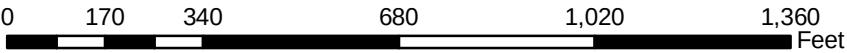
Attachment A

Maps of Proposed Eastshore Trail Construction



	FB P-line		BLM		City of Redding
	Short cuts		WAPA		Shasta Co
	Crossings		BOR		Other
	PowerPoles		USFS		

1 inch = 333 feet At 11x17

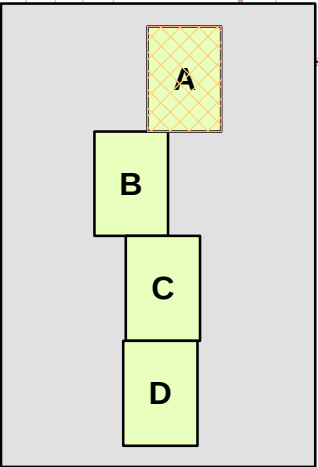


FB Trail Construction

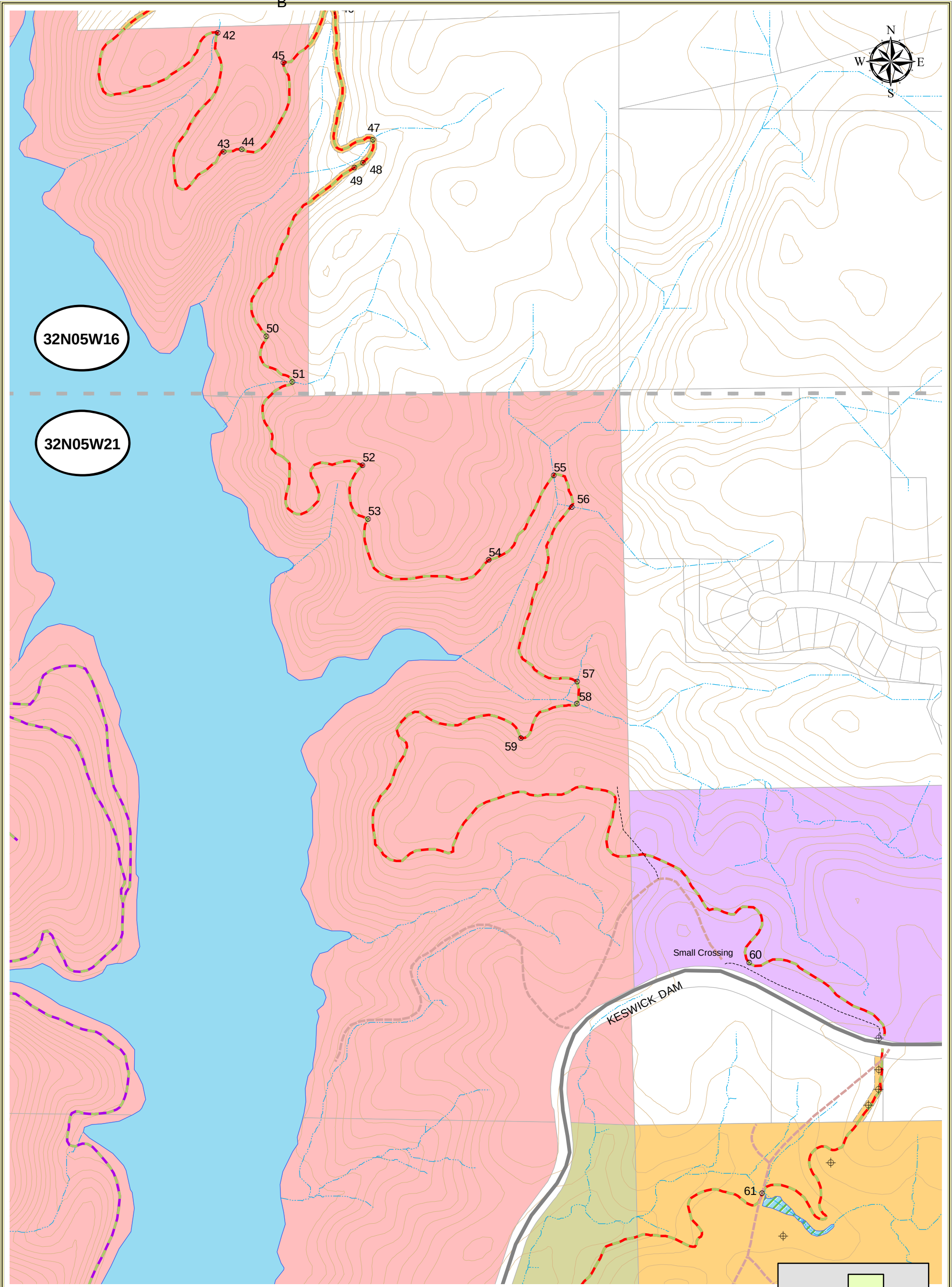
A

Sep 17, 2009

Topo 10 foot



B



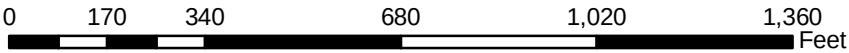
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FB Trail Construction

C

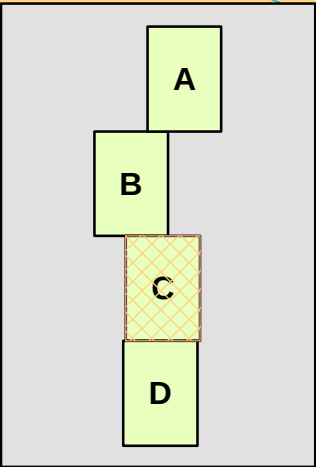
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	Short cuts		WAPA		Shasta Co
	Crossings		BOR		Other
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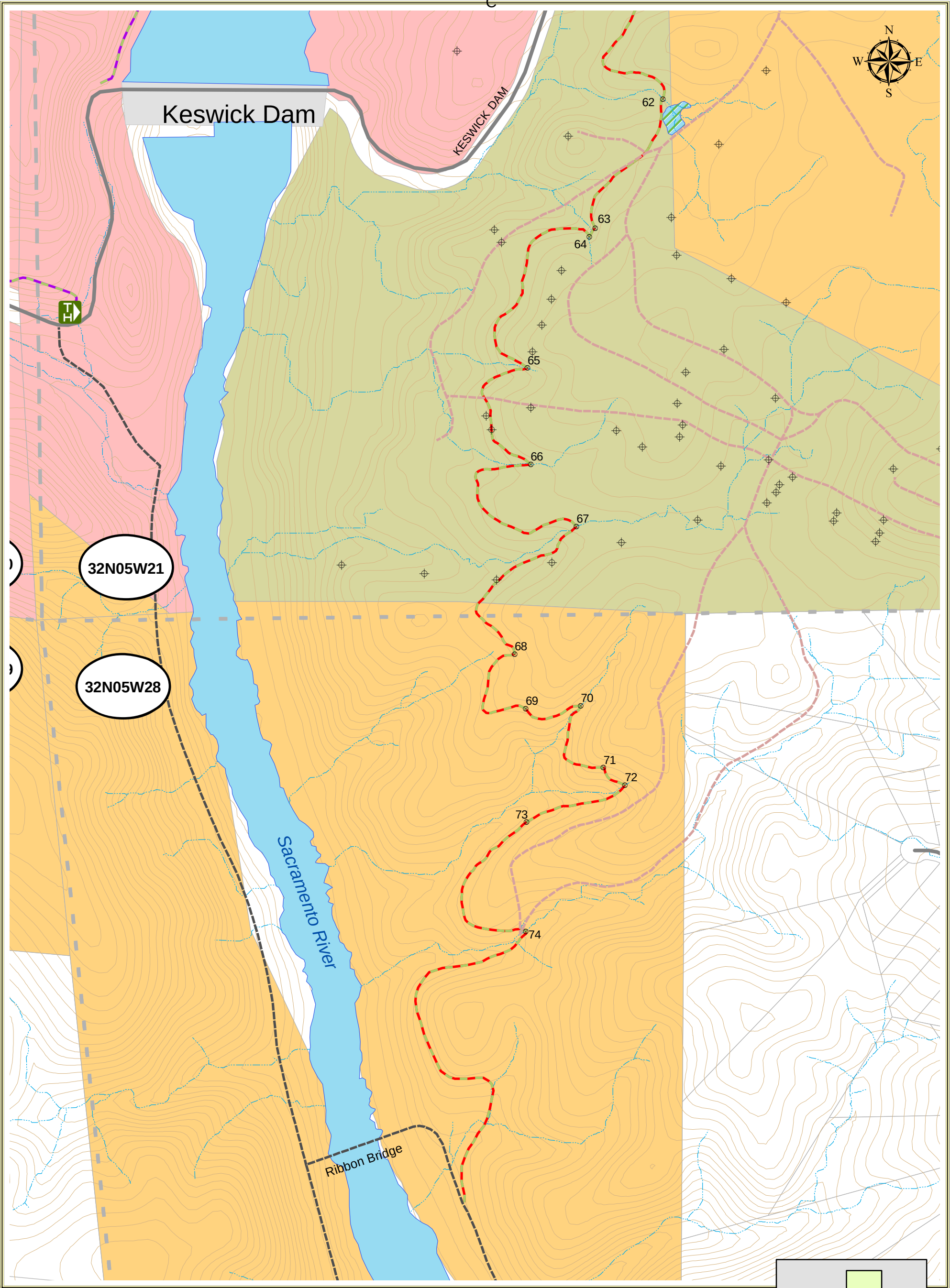
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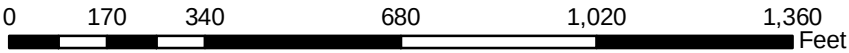
Topo 10 foot





	FB P-line		BLM		City of Redding
	Short cuts		WAPA		Shasta Co
	Crossings		BOR		Other
	PowerPoles		USFS		

1 inch = 333 feet At 11x17

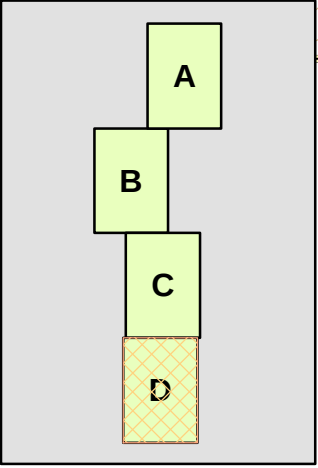


FB Trail Construction

D

Sep 17, 2009

Topo 10 foot



Attachment B

Western Area Power Administration Property near the Keswick Substation

This map was removed to protect sensitive information
pursuant to DOE O 471.2A - Information Security Program.