

**Resource Management Guides  
Owen-Putnam State Forest  
30-day Public Comment Period (September 4, 2024 – October 3, 2024)**

The Indiana State Forest system consists of approximately 160,251 acres of primarily forested land distributed across the state. These lands are managed under the principle that we're stewards of this land for the future. This work is guided through legislation and comprehensive scientific national and international forest certification standards which are independently audited to help insure long-term forest health, resiliency, and sustainability.

Resource management guides (RMGs) are developed to provide long-term, scientific forest management planning tailored to each forest compartment (300-1,000 acres in size) and tract (10 - 300 acres in size). There are 1,590 tracts across the state forest system statewide. Annually, 50-100 tracts are reviewed, and these guides are developed based on current assessments. Through science-based management practices, we prescribe management actions on select tracts every 15-25 year, diversifying the forested landscape and sustaining ecosystems.

The RMG listed below and contained in this document is for storm salvage management at Owen-Putnam State Forest.

Owen-Putnam State Forest Storm Salvage Management

**To submit a comment on this document, go to:**

<https://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/state-forest-management/public-comment/submit/>

You must indicate the State Forest Name, Compartment number and Tract number in the "subject or file reference" line to ensure that your comment receives appropriate consideration. Comments received within 30 days of posting will be considered and review posted at:

<https://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/state-forest-management/public-comment/>

Note: Some graphics may distort due to compression.

Owen-Putnam State Forest  
Storm Salvage Management

**Location**

Three areas within Owen-Putnam State Forest (see location map).

**General Description**

On Tuesday, June 26, at approximately 3:30 p.m. ET, a mesoscale convective system, characterized by clusters of individual thunderstorms, struck the southern area of the Owen-Putnam State Forest. With winds upwards of 70 mph many trees were snapped in half, uprooted, or crowns damaged. Following a field reconnaissance of the affected area, it was determined enough damage had occurred to warrant a salvage harvest.

The core of the storm damaged approximately 84 acres mainly within portions of the following tracts:

- Compartment 9 tract 5 (also known as tract 6380905) – 35 acres of the 100-acre tract
- Compartment 9 tract 6 (also known as tract 6380906) – 23 acres of the 25-acre tract
- Compartment 10 tract 2 (also known as tract 6381002) – 19 acres of the 75-acre tract
- Compartment 10 tract 3 (also known as tract 6381003) – 7 acres of the 130-acre tract

**History**

Forest management activities (i.e., timber harvests) have occurred within these tracts except for compartment 9 tract 6.

**Landscape Context**

The surrounding landscape is predominately forested. There are a few scattered rural homes and agricultural fields.

**Topography, Geology and Hydrology**

The salvage area within each tract is comprised of gentle to moderately steep slopes. Aspects vary between the tracts with a mixture of north, south, east, and west. There is a mapped intermittent stream within the salvage area of compartment 9 tract 5. The 2022 Best Management Practices (BMP) field guide will be used to minimize negative impacts to soils and water quality.

**Soils**

Numerous soil types are present across the four tracts. Tulip-Welston-Adyeville silt loam, Zanesville silt loam, and Solsberry silt loam are the most common within the salvage areas.

**Access**

Access is good to these salvage areas.

**Boundary**

Some tracts are bound by other state forest tracts and others private property. Only portions of the tract damaged by the storm are part of the salvage harvest. Not all areas within the salvage harvest boundary will be impacted by the harvest.

**Ecological Considerations**

A formal Ecological Review process, which includes a search of Indiana’s Natural Heritage Database, is part of the management planning process. If Rare, Threatened, or Endangered species were found to be associated with this area, the activities prescribed in this guide will be conducted in a manner that will not threaten the population viability of those species or communities.

## Recreation

There are no designated recreational trails within these tracts. Access to these tracts will be temporarily restricted during the salvage removal process for safety reasons. They will reopen following the completion of the removal process.

## Cultural

Cultural resources may be present, but their location(s) is protected. Adverse impacts to significant cultural resources will be avoided during any activities.

## Description and Silvicultural Prescription

An estimated 190,439 board feet (BDFT) was marked for salvage removal. The following is a volume breakdown by tract:

Compartment 9 tract 5 – 105,706 BDFT

Compartment 9 tract 6 – 56,632 BDFT

Compartment 10 tract 2 – 20,981 BDFT

Compartment 10 tract 3 – 7,120 BDFT

The salvage harvest targeted damaged and uprooted trees. Once the damage trees are removed islands of young forest habitat will be created like that of a patch cut or group selection opening. Some individually damaged or uprooted trees were marked between the larger pockets of damage, like single tree selection removal.

Following the salvage harvest timber stand improvement (TSI) will be administered to complete the areas where salvage removal created an opening.

The following table represents the total marked trees for salvage removal.

Species	# Trees	# Poles	# Culls	Volume	Cords
Northern Red Oak	115	0	0	43,201	0.0
Sugar Maple	171	0	8	36,480	0.0
Yellow Poplar	89	0	0	31,469	0.0
Sassafras	89	0	1	13,620	0.0
White Oak	28	0	0	9,573	0.0
Black Cherry	42	0	0	9,121	0.0
Pignut Hickory	43	0	0	9,071	0.0
Shagbark Hickory	29	0	0	6,512	0.0
American Sycamor	19	0	1	5,697	0.0
Red Maple	35	0	2	5,044	0.0
White Ash	15	0	1	4,422	0.0
Largetooth Aspen	23	0	0	4,270	0.0
American Beech	30	0	3	3,643	0.0
Virginia Pine	32	0	0	3,182	0.0
Black Oak	4	0	0	1,573	0.0
Black Walnut	11	0	0	1,169	0.0
Chinkapin Oak	2	0	0	1,058	0.0
Red Elm	8	0	0	1,050	0.0
Blackgum	1	0	0	238	0.0
Basswood	1	0	0	46	0.0
<b>Totals</b>	787	0	16	190,439	0

## Proposed Activities Listing

### Proposed Management Activity

### Proposed Date

Salvage sale marked

2024

Salvage sale sold

2024

Salvage harvest

2024-2025

Post-harvest TSI and invasive work

2025

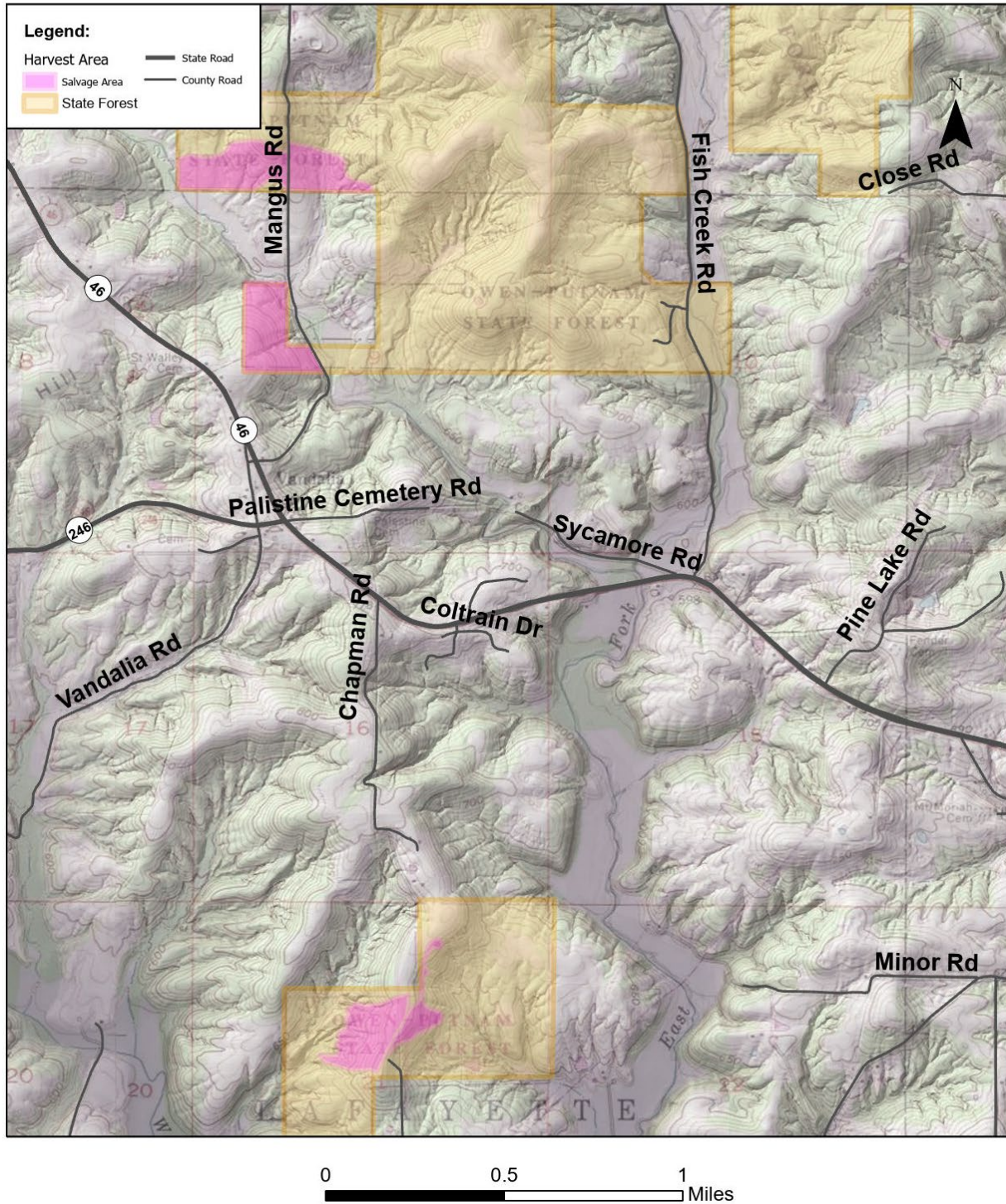
3-year regeneration opening review

Three years after salvage harvest

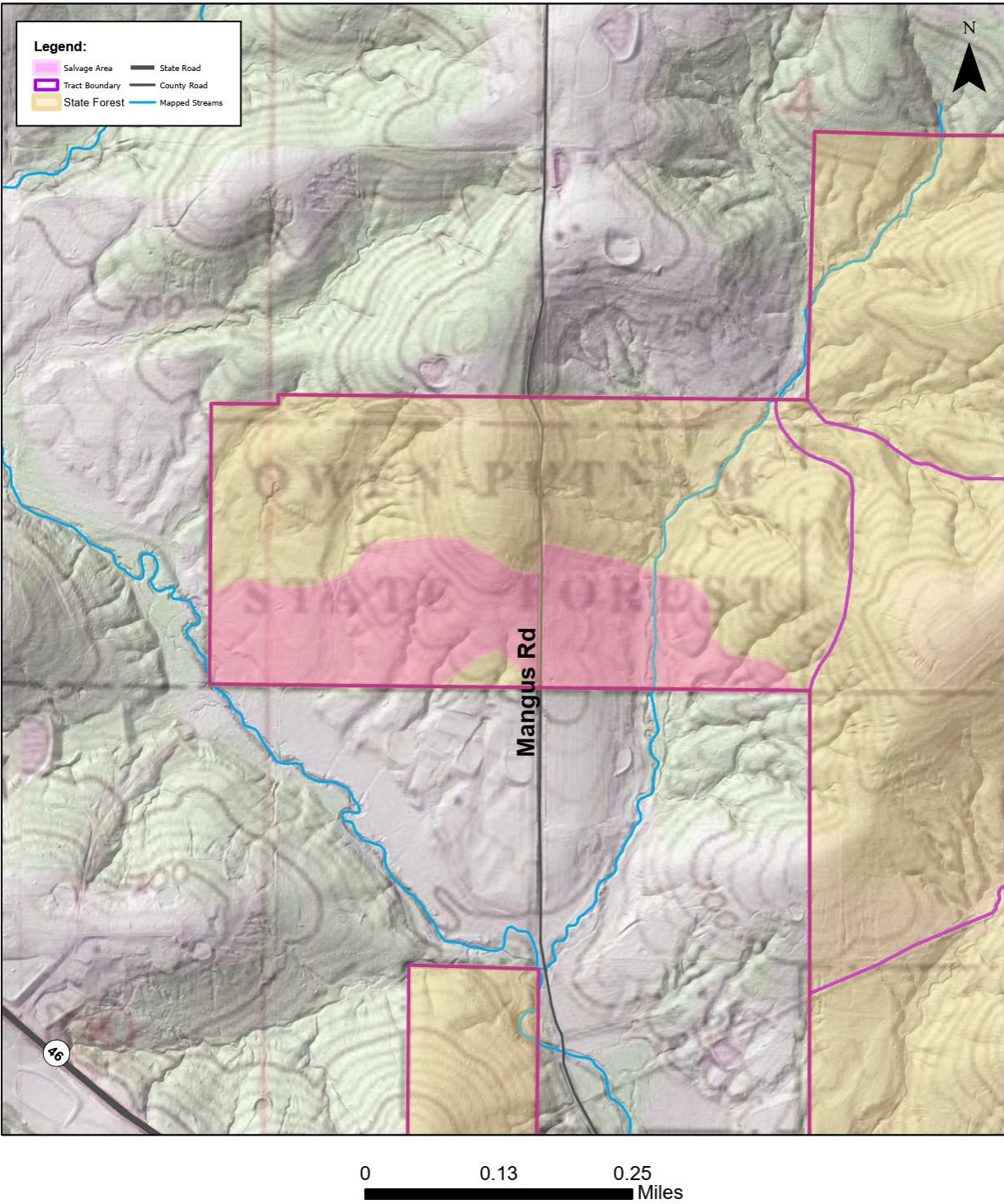
Monitor until next forest inventory

2040-2044

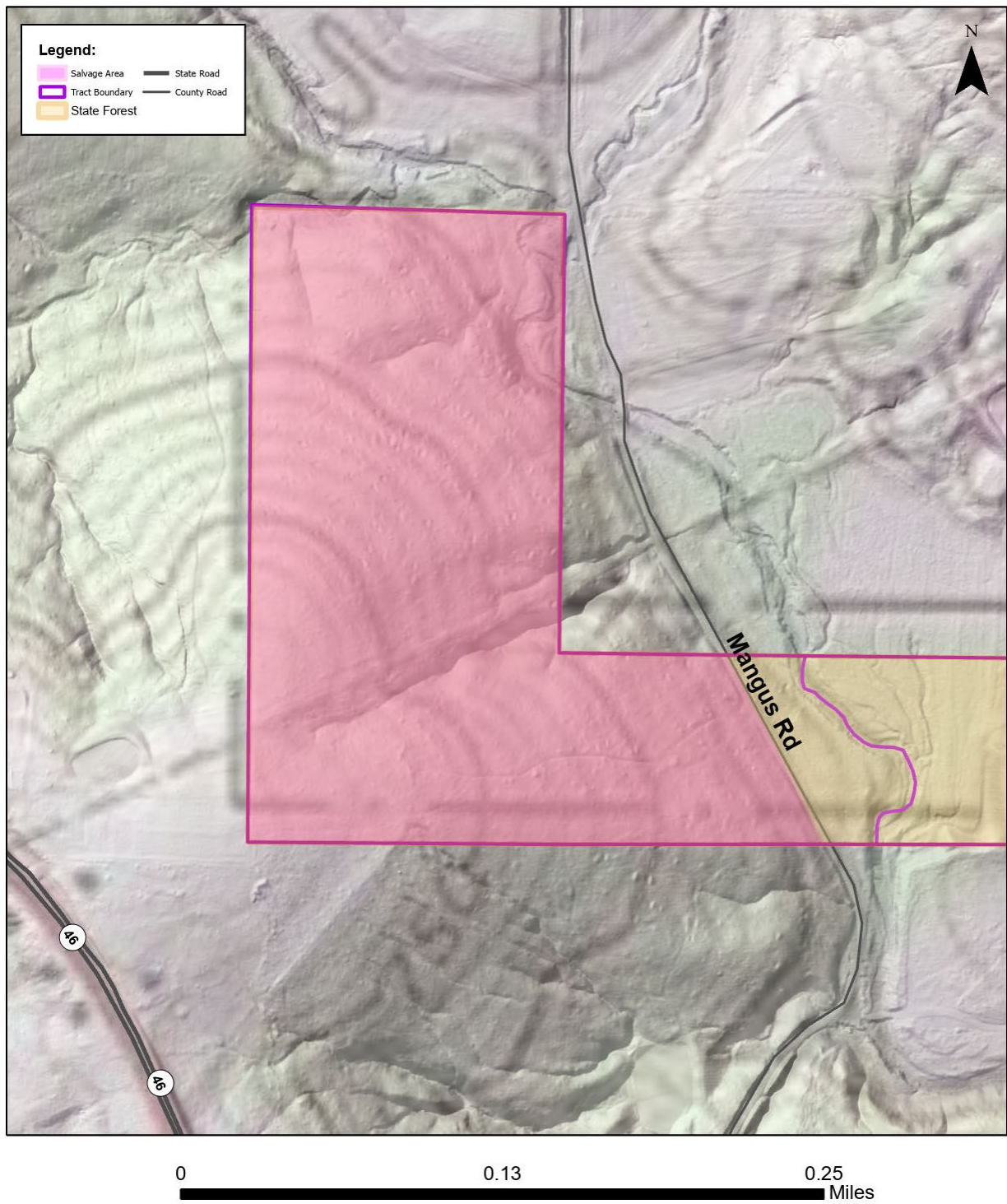
# State Forest Location Map



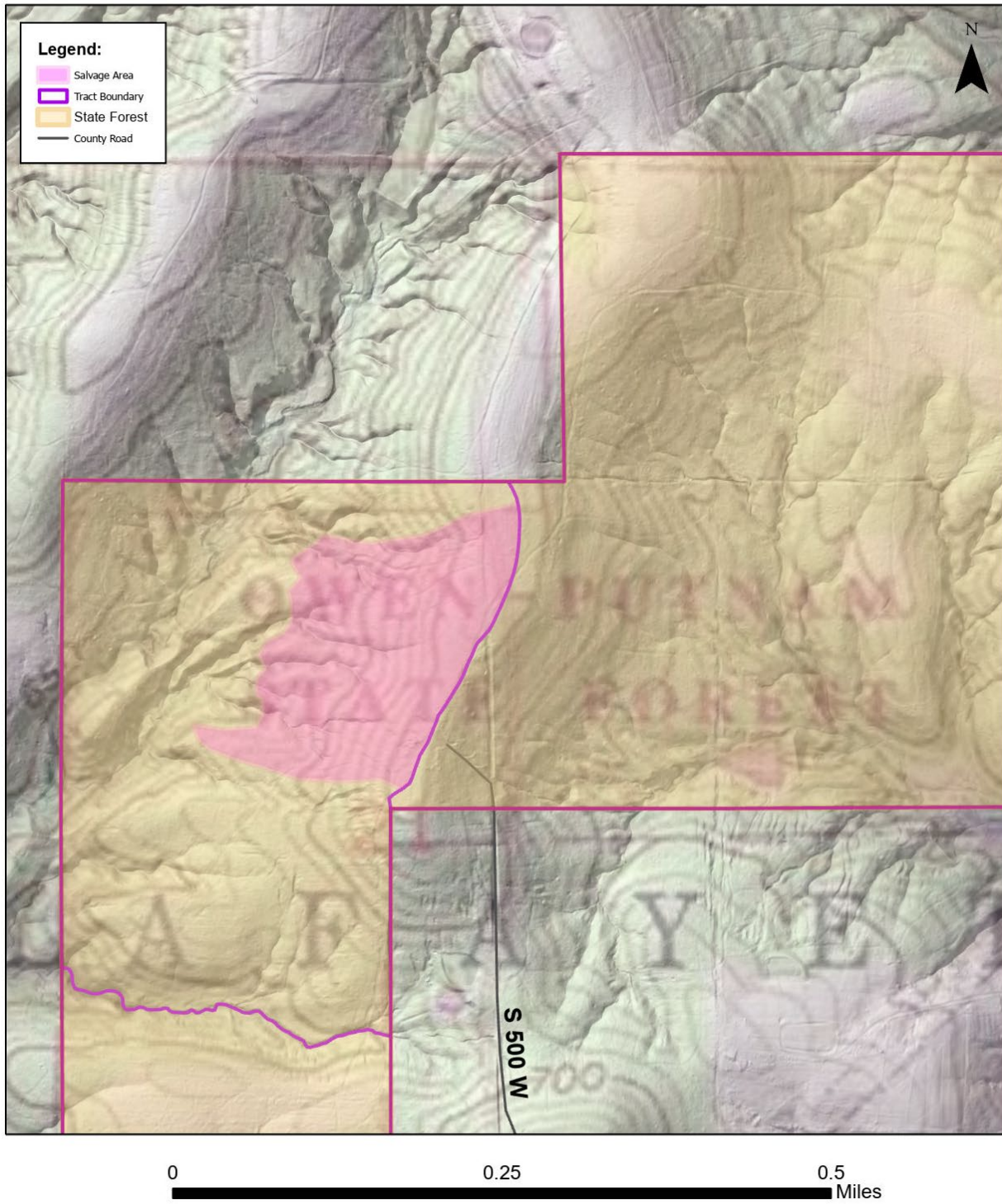
# Salvage Harvest Area Tract 6380905



# Salvage Harvest Area Tract 6380906



# Salvage Harvest Area Tract 6381002





# Salvage Harvest Area Tract 6381003

