

BOG CREEK ROAD PROJECT

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT



U.S. Customs and
Border Protection

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and the U.S. Forest Service Idaho Panhandle National Forests (Forest Service) are seeking comments on a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that analyzes and discloses the potential social and environmental effects from implementation of the Bog Creek Road Project.

The Draft EIS presents a road repair, maintenance, and motorized closure project in the Continental Mountain area of the Idaho Panhandle National Forests within the Bonners Ferry and Priest Lake Ranger Districts. The project has two objectives: 1) to provide safe east-west access for administrative use to this section of the U.S.–Canada border across the Selkirk Mountains, and 2) to meet grizzly bear motorized access standards within the Blue-Grass BMU of the Selkirk Grizzly Bear Recovery Zone in order to comply with the Forest Plan Amendments for Motorized Access Management within the Selkirk and Cabinet-Yaak Grizzly Bear Recovery Zones.

The Proposed Action was developed through collaborative efforts between CBP, the Forest Service, and the public, and was designed to meet the goals and objectives established for the project while meeting as many other resource needs as possible. The Proposed Action consists of three components: 1) road repair and maintenance of the 5.6-mile Bog Creek Road and change in motorized use designation; 2) change in motorized use designation for Blue Joe Creek Road; and 3) motorized closure of selected seasonally restricted Forest Service roads. The Draft EIS includes three action alternatives that meet the goals and objectives through a variety of approaches.

Electronic copies of the Draft EIS are available on the following project websites:

- <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=41296>
- <https://www.cbp.gov/document/environmental-assessments/bog-creek-road-project-environmental-impact-statement>

Get Involved!

You are encouraged to attend any of the open houses to learn more about the Draft EIS, ask questions, and submit comments. Comments will be accepted for 45 days through **July 16, 2018**.

Open House Schedule

Attend one of these open houses to learn about the proposed alternatives and provide comments on the environmental analysis.

**The open houses will be held from
5:30 to 7:30 p.m.**

June 19	Priest Lake, Idaho Priest Lake Ranger Station 32203 Highway 57, Priest Lake, ID
June 20	Sandpoint, Idaho Sandpoint Ranger Station 1602 Ontario Street, Sandpoint, ID
June 21	Bonnors Ferry, Idaho Bonnors Ferry Ranger Station 6286 Main Street, Bonnors Ferry, ID

How to Submit Comments

- The 45-day Draft EIS comment period extends through **July 16, 2018**.
- Attend an open house public meeting to learn about the project and submit comments.
- Mail: Bog Creek Road EIS, P.O. Box 643, Flagstaff, AZ, 86002-0643;
- E-mail: SPWBogCreekEIS@cbp.dhs.gov;
- Hand Deliver: Idaho Panhandle National Forests Supervisors Office, 3815 Schreiber Way, Coeur d'Alene, ID; or
- FAX: 208-765-7426.

If you have any questions please contact Paul Enriquez, CBP, Border Patrol and Air and Marine Program Management Office, by telephone at 949-643-6365, or email at Paul.Enriquez@cbp.dhs.gov.

Draft EIS Proposed Action and Alternatives

The Proposed Action and Alternatives analyzed in the Draft EIS are described below.

Alternative 1 - No Action

For this project, the No-Action Alternative represents the effects of not implementing the proposed repair and maintenance of Bog Creek Road and motorized closure of seasonally restricted Forest Service roads, while taking into account the effects of other past, ongoing, and reasonably foreseeable activities occurring in the area. This alternative proposes no repair and maintenance activities would occur on the 5.6-mile section of Bog Creek Road, and the 26 miles of seasonally restricted Forest Service roads would continue to be available for motorized use in accordance with seasonal access restrictions. There would be no change in Forest Service management of the roads and CBP activities in the Blue-Grass BMU.

Under the No-Action Alternative, the Forest Service would continue to work toward meeting the Access Amendment standards. However, it is unknown exactly which roads would be closed to motorized use to meet the standards. Therefore, future motorized closure actions are not analyzed as part of the No-Action Alternative.

Alternative 2 - Proposed Action

The Proposed Action proposes repair and maintenance of 5.6 miles of Bog Creek Road and the motorized closure of 26 miles of seasonally restricted Forest Service roads in the Blue-Grass BMU. This would allow the Forest Service to meet the Access Amendment grizzly bear core habitat requirement of 55 percent and the Total Motorized Route Density (TMRD) requirement of 26 percent. All roads proposed for motorized closure under the Proposed Action are classified as seasonally restricted Forest Service roads. Motorized public access on these roads is only permitted to occur between November 16 and March 31. A total of 5.3 miles of designated snowmobile route (FSR 1388) would be closed to motorized use.

After road repair activities, the Bog Creek Road designation would change from the current seasonally restricted designation (limited motorized access) to an administrative open designation (as-needed administrative motorized access). Under the administrative open road designation, Bog Creek Road would be open to as-needed administrative motorized access but not open to the public for motorized travel. Approximately 7.4 miles of Blue Joe Creek Road, currently designated as a seasonally restricted road (limited motorized access), would also change from this designation to an administrative open designation (as-needed administrative motorized access). Non-motorized public access on all roads is permitted year-round.

Alternative 3 - Modified Proposed Action

Alternative 3 is a modified version of the Proposed Action that would close a different set of seasonally restricted Forest Service roads to motorized access. The repair and maintenance activities proposed for Bog Creek Road and the administrative open designation for Bog Creek Road and Blue Joe Creek Road are the same as described under the Proposed Action.

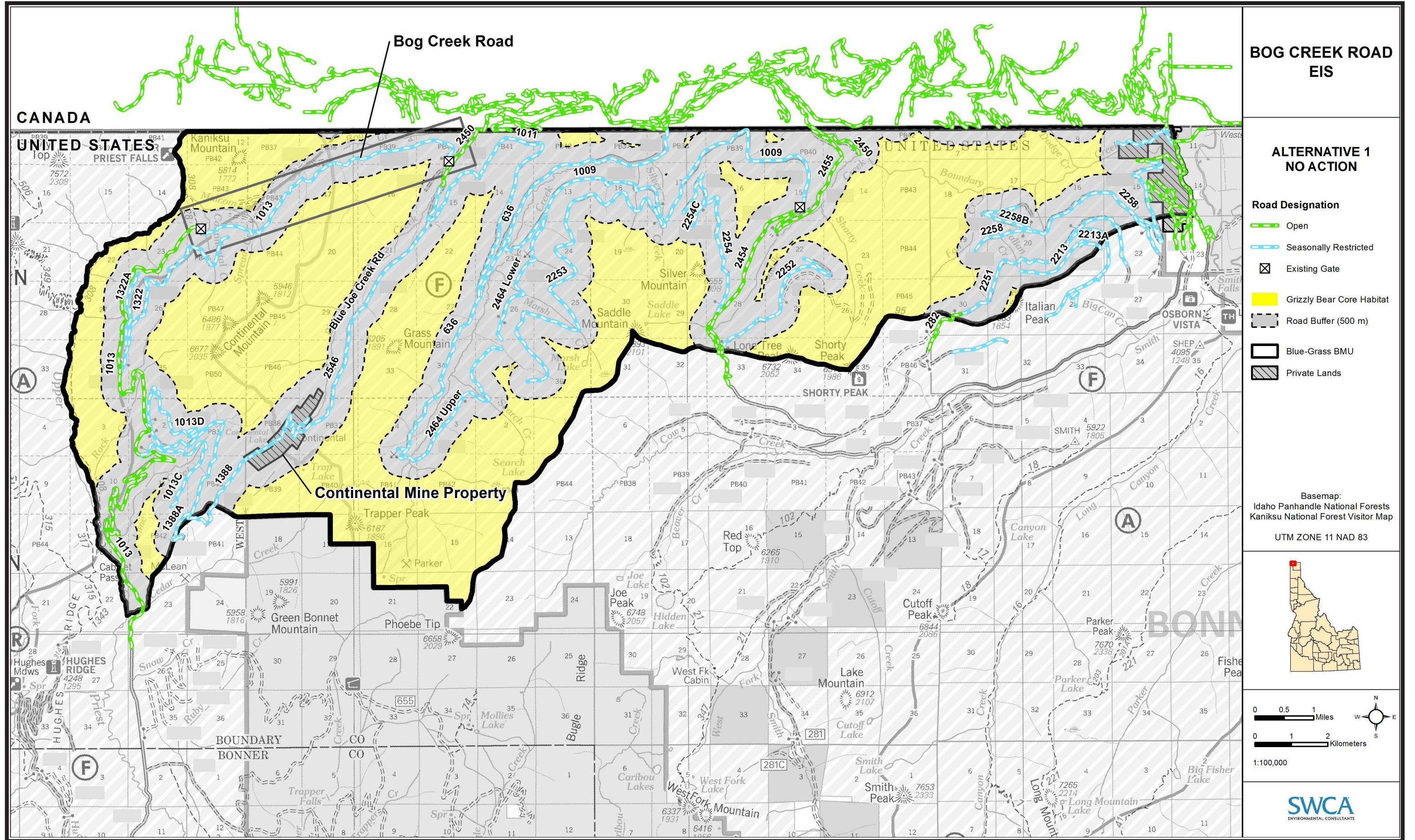
Under Alternative 3, approximately 25 miles of Forest Service roads would be closed to all motorized use by the Forest Service within the Blue-Grass BMU. This would allow the Forest Service to meet the Access Amendment grizzly bear core habitat requirement of 55 percent and the TMRD requirement of 26 percent. Two of the nine roads proposed for motorized road closure under Alternative 3 would be different from the roads proposed for closure under the Proposed Action, Forest Service Road (FSR) 636 and a portion of FSR 2253. These roads were selected to be included in this alternative because closing these roads would create more core grizzly bear habitat in upper Grass Creek, a place that has been heavily and continuously used by grizzly bears since at least the 1980s. All roads proposed for motorized closure under Alternative 3 are classified as seasonally restricted Forest Service roads. Motorized public access on these roads is only permitted to occur between November 16 and March 31. Non-motorized public access on these roads is permitted year-round. No impacts to designated snowmobile routes would occur.

Alternative 4 – Blue-Grass BMU West–East Open Access

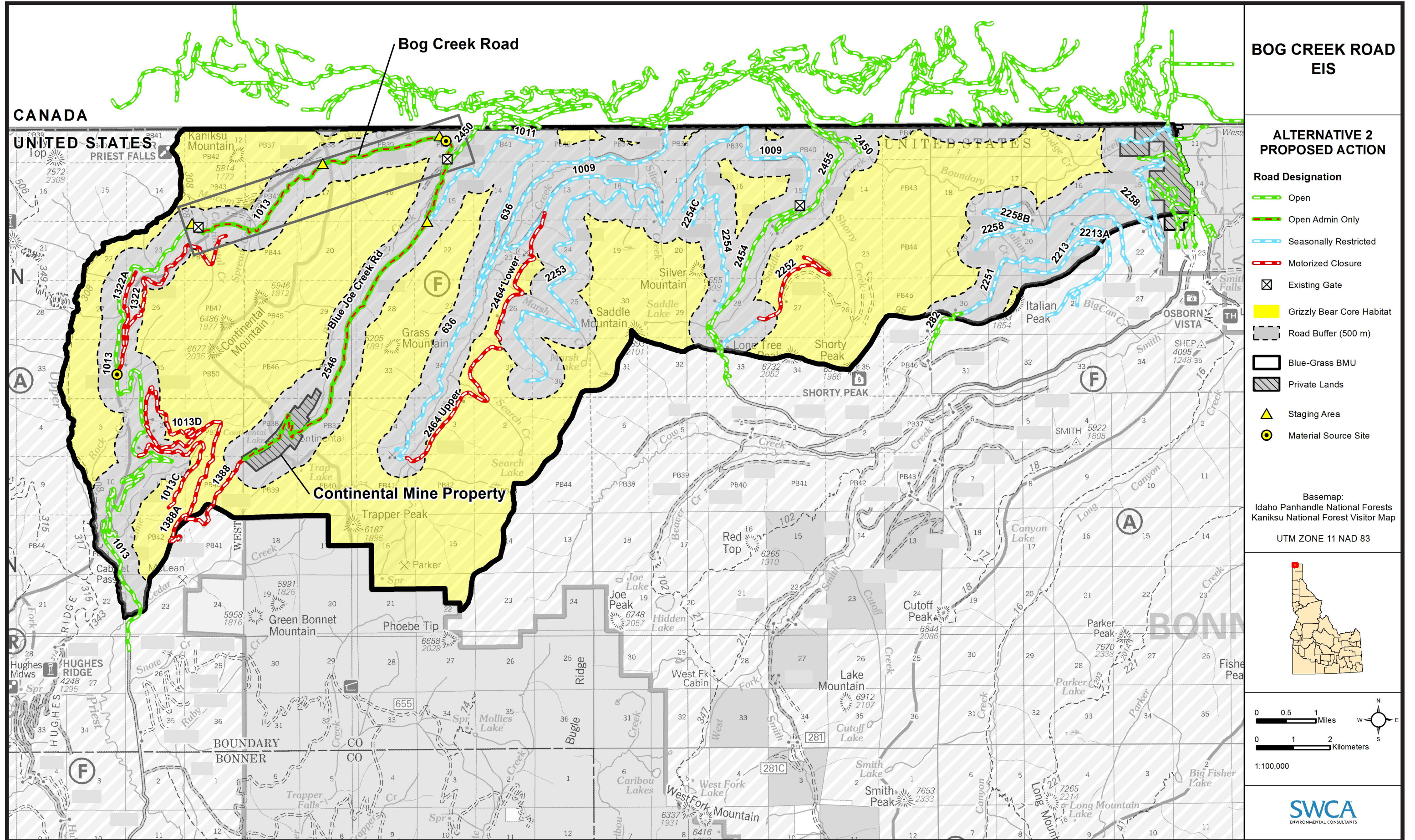
Alternative 4 is a modified version of the Proposed Action that would open Bog Creek Road and roads along the eastern approach to Bog Creek Road to unlimited public motorized access year-round. Under Alternative 4, Bog Creek Road repair and maintenance and the motorized closure of seasonally restricted Forest Service roads would be identical to the Proposed Action. After repair of Bog Creek Road is completed, Alternative 4 would designate the 5.6 miles of the repaired Bog Creek Road as open for unlimited public motorized access year-round. However, winter motorized snowmobile use by the public is currently not allowed on Bog Creek Road as a result of the court orders of Nov. 7, 2006, and Feb. 27, 2007, relating to recovery of woodland caribou and the potential impacts of snowmobile use within the recovery area.

Approximately 6.4 miles of Blue Joe Creek Road would change to an administrative open designation (as-needed administrative motorized access). Additionally, the designation of roads along the eastern approach to Bog Creek Road (FSRs 2546, 1011, 636, and 1009) would also change from the current seasonally restricted designation (limited motorized access) to an open road designation (unlimited motorized access) to allow for continuous unrestricted public motorized travel around Continental Mountain.

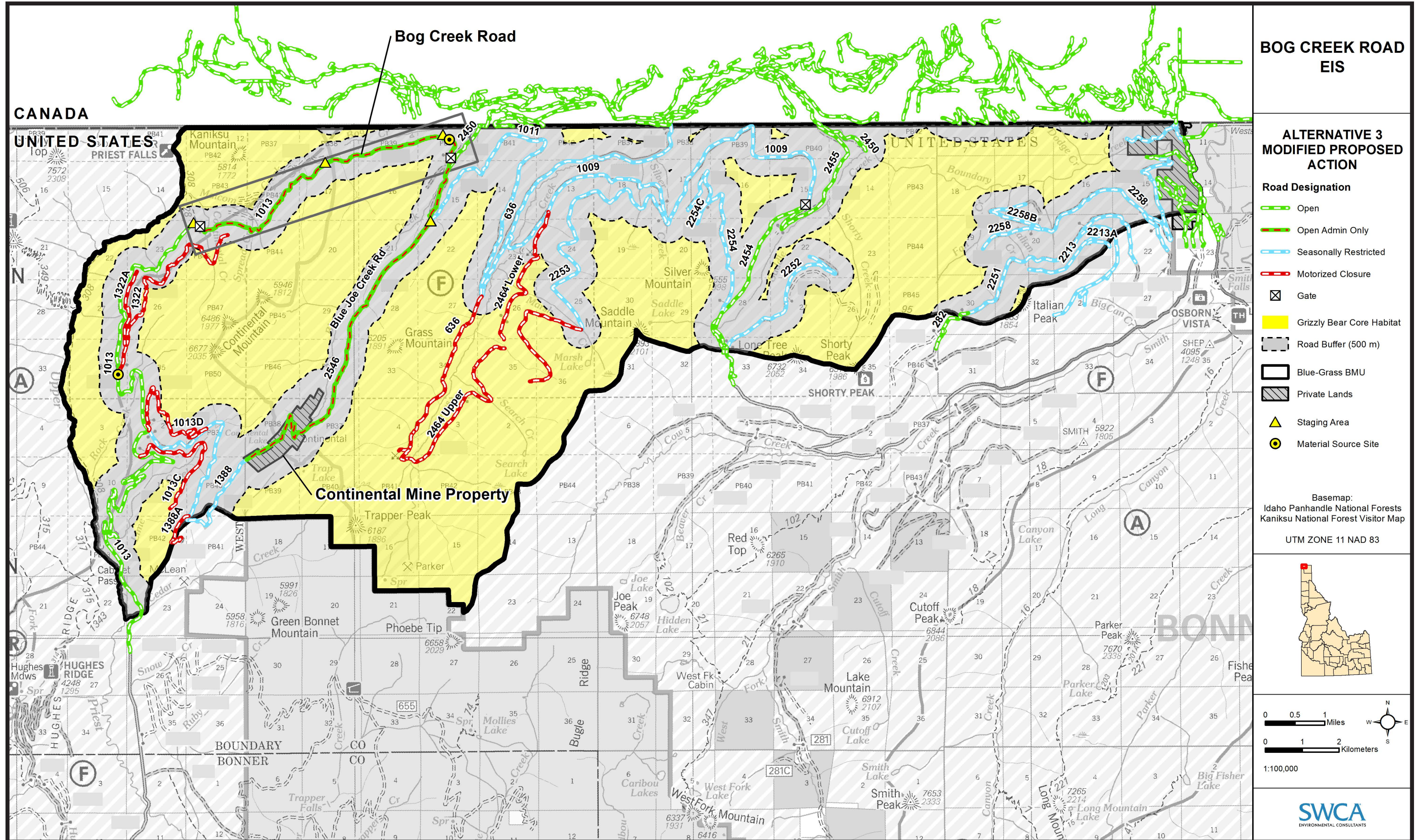
Bog Creek Road Draft EIS - Alternative 1 No Action



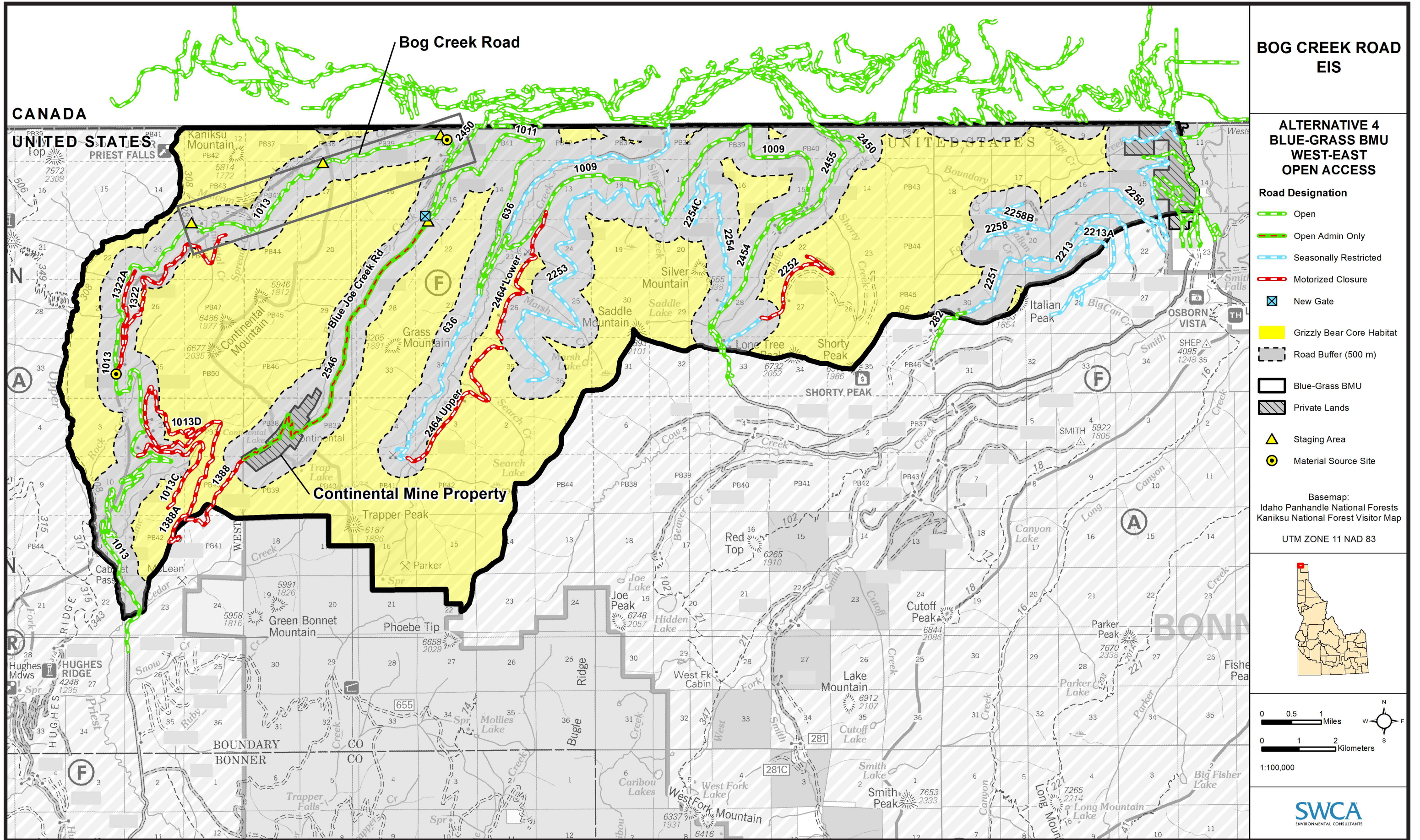
Bog Creek Road Draft EIS - Alternative 2 Proposed Action



Bog Creek Road Draft EIS - Alternative 3 Modified Proposed Action



Bog Creek Road Draft EIS - Alternative 4 Blue Grass BMU West-East Open Access



CANADA

UNITED STATES

UNITED STATES

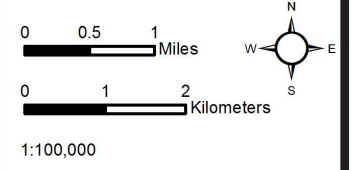
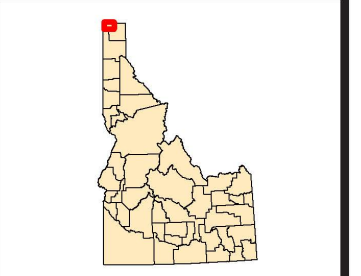
BOG CREEK ROAD EIS

ALTERNATIVE 4 BLUE-GRASS BMU WEST-EAST OPEN ACCESS

- Road Designation**
- Open
 - Open Admin Only
 - Seasonally Restricted
 - Motorized Closure
 - New Gate
- Grizzly Bear Core Habitat**
- Road Buffer (500 m)**
- Blue-Grass BMU**
- Private Lands**
- Staging Area**
- Material Source Site**

Basemap:
Idaho Panhandle National Forests
Kaniksu National Forest Visitor Map

UTM ZONE 11 NAD 83



SWCA
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS