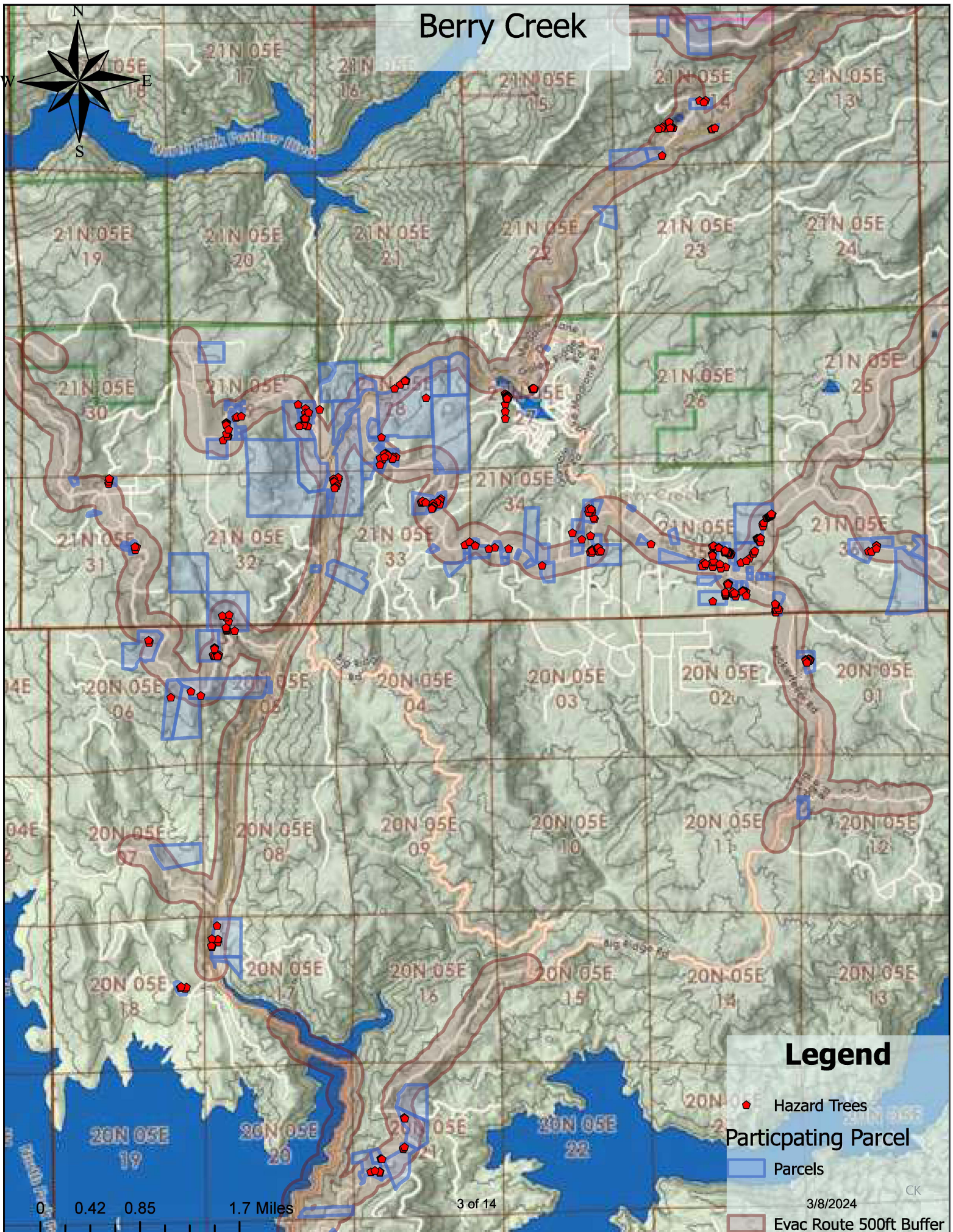


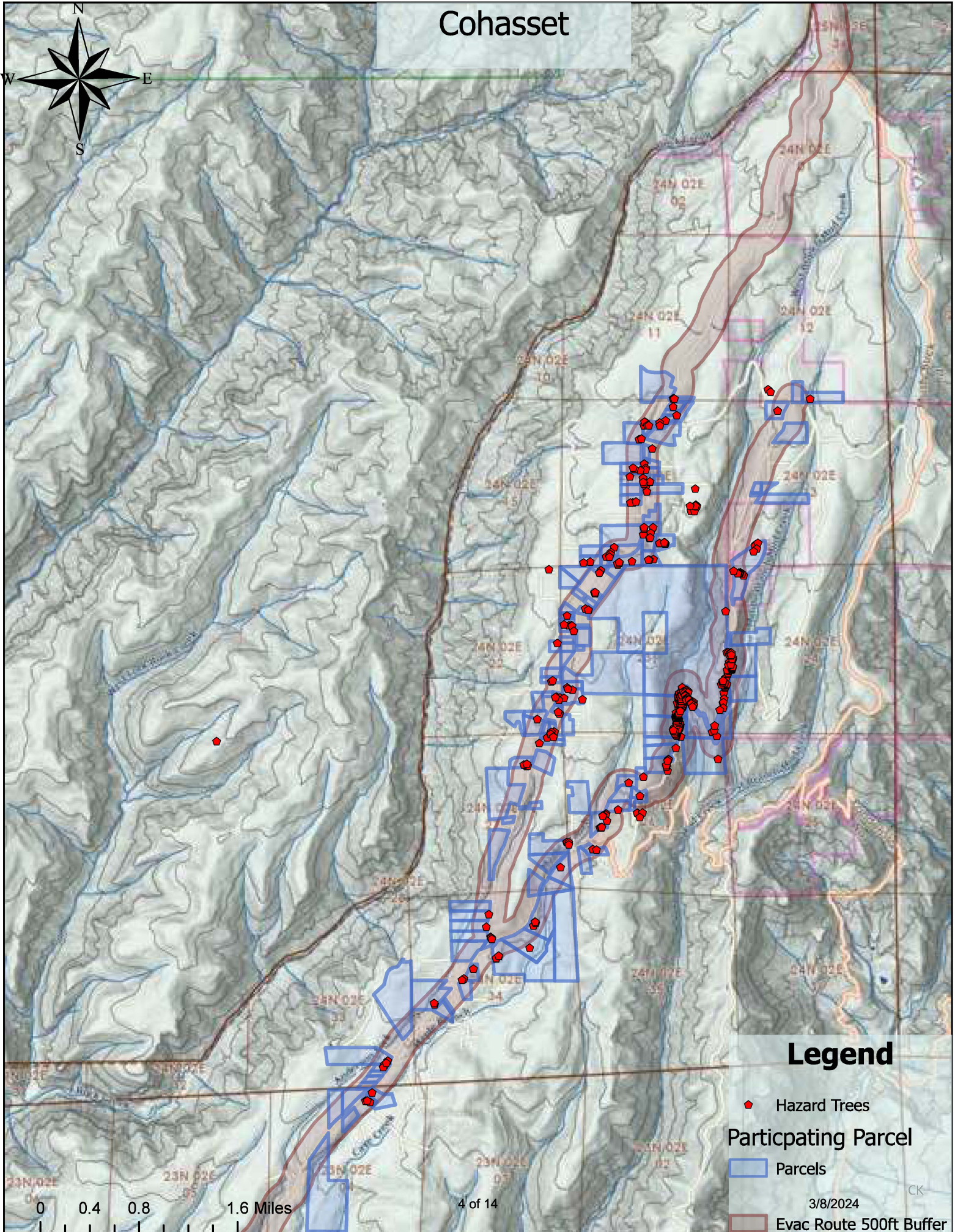
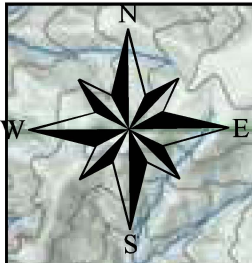
Berry Creek



Legend

- Hazard Trees
- Participating Parcel
- Parcels
- Evac Route 500ft Buffer

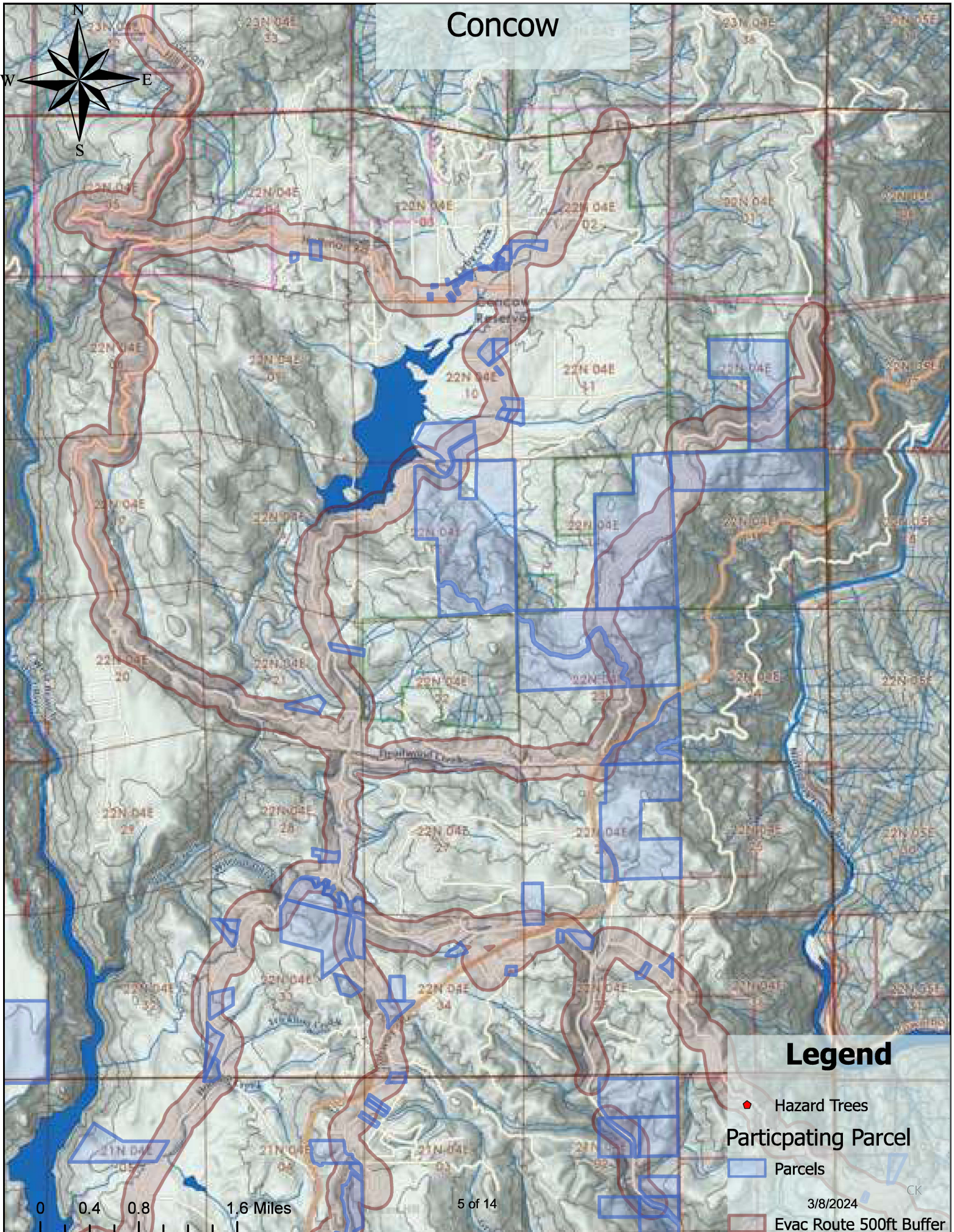
Cohasset



Legend

- Hazard Trees
- Participating Parcel**
- Parcels
- Evac Route 500ft Buffer

Concow

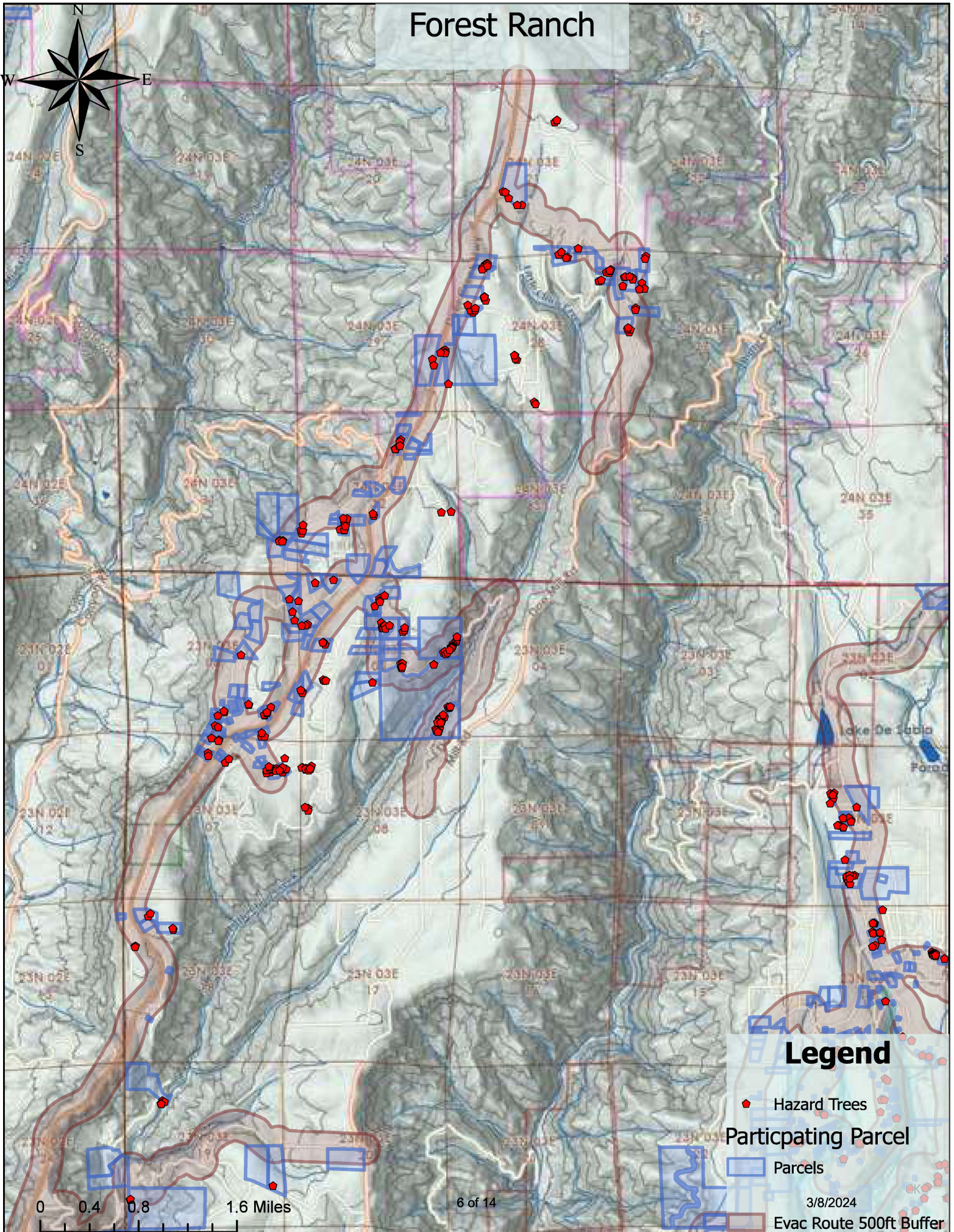


Legend

- ◆ Hazard Trees
- Participating Parcel
- Parcels
- Evac Route 500ft Buffer

0 0.4 0.8 1.6 Miles

Forest Ranch

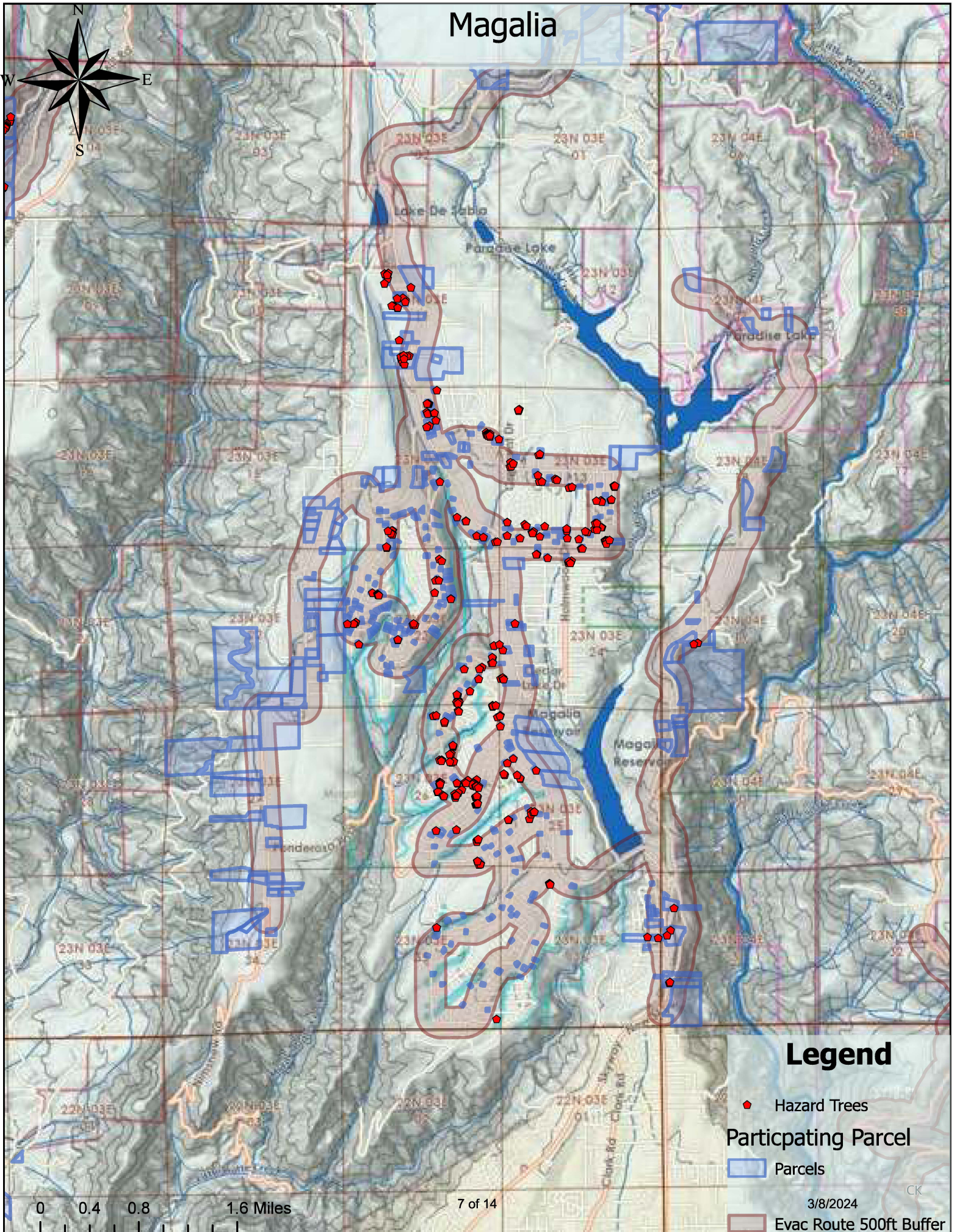


Legend

-  Hazard Trees
-  Participating Parcel
-  Parcels
-  Evac Route 500ft Buffer

0 0.4 0.8 1.6 Miles

Magalia



Legend

- ◆ Hazard Trees
- Participating Parcel
- ▭ Parcels
- Evac Route 500ft Buffer

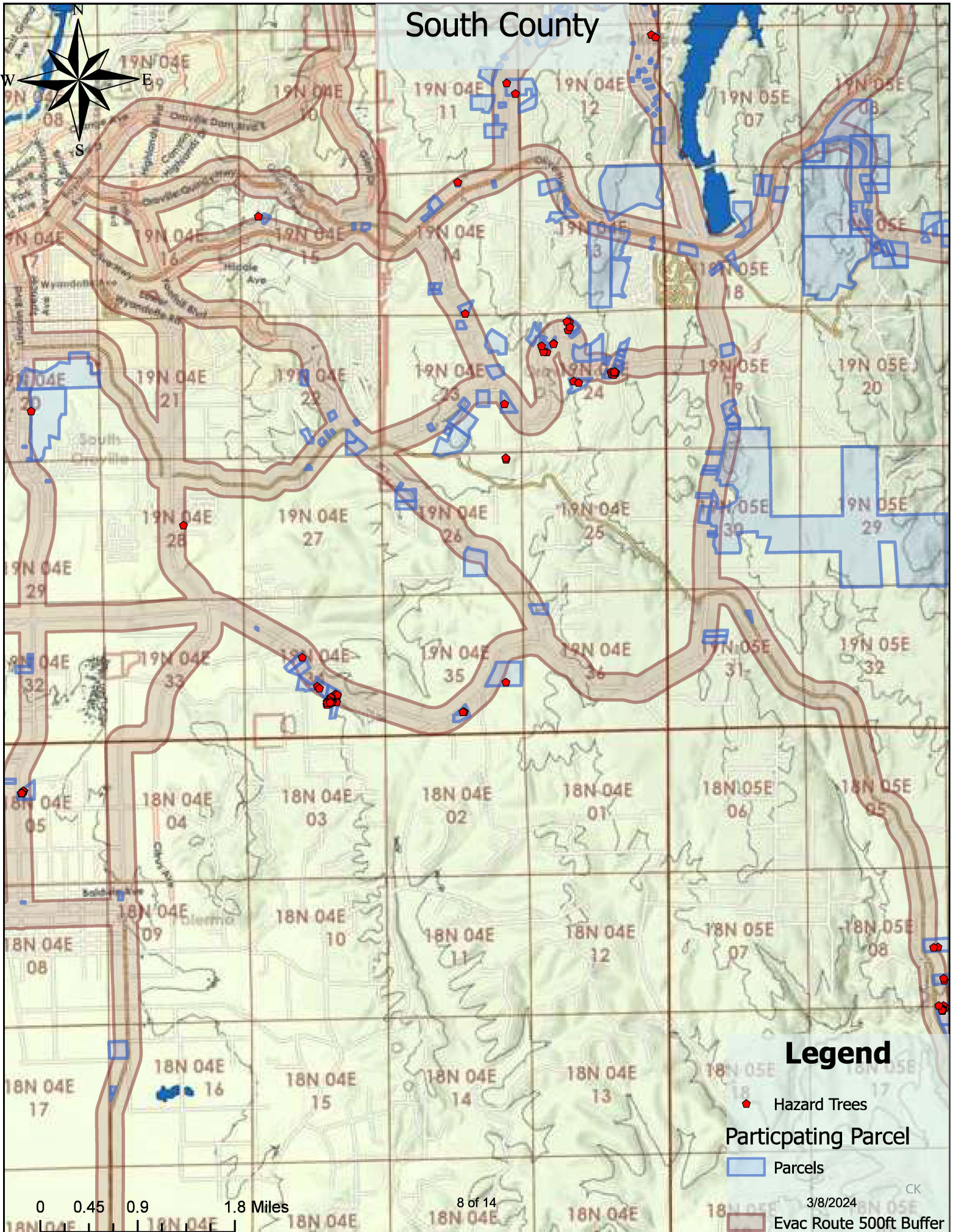
0 0.4 0.8 1.6 Miles

7 of 14

3/8/2024

CK

South County

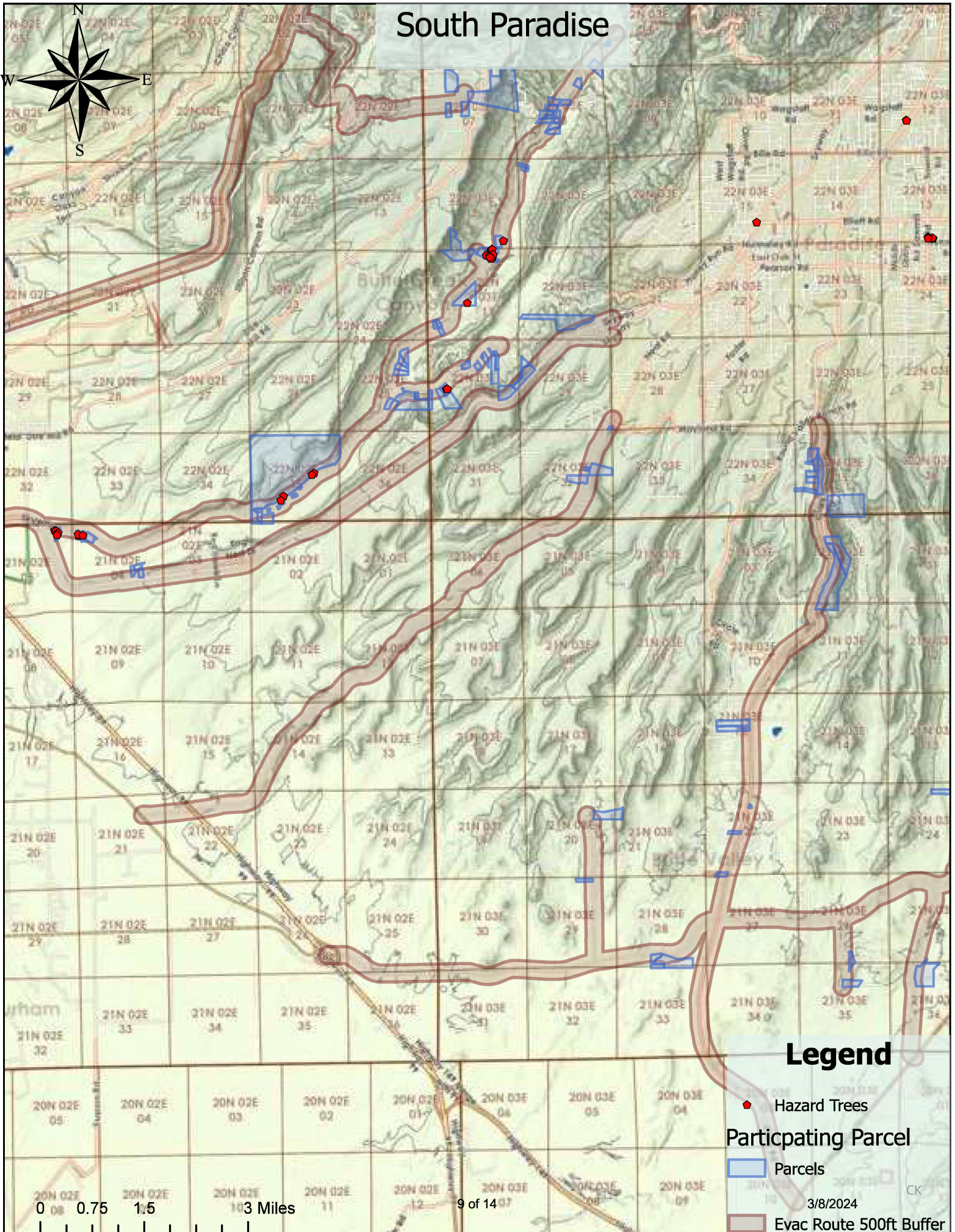


Legend





- ◆ Hazard Trees
- Participating Parcel
- Parcels
- Evac Route 500ft Buffer

0 0.45 0.9 1.8 Miles

South Paradise



Legend

-  Hazard Trees
-  Participating Parcel
-  Parcels
-  Evac Route 500ft Buffer

0 0.75 1.5 Miles

3/8/2024

Defensible Space

Defensible space work on up to 1100 properties with signed landowner right of entry (ROE) agreements. Defensible space established on 1,463 acres (based on a total of 1100 homesites at an average of 1.33 acres defensible space per home). Properties will be re-evaluated for defensible space and tagged trees will be reviewed to determine if they are still standing.

Vegetation removed by crews will be either chipped on site or transported to an approved processing facility. If an on-site chipper is used, the chipper will remain stationary on previously disturbed land beside the road; brush will then be carried to the chipper and fed into it, reducing overall environmental and historical resource impacts. The defensible space work will be limited to the activities in Table 1. Note that not all residents will need the full scope of defensible space work completed.

TABLE 1 Defensible Space	
Zone 0 (0- 5 feet from structure)	
BCFSC (FEMA Grant) work activities:	
Chip or remove all vegetation within 5 feet of the structure, including adjacent to or under decks. This includes all grass, herbaceous ground covers, plants, shrubs, and bushes, both dead or dying or living.	
Shrub and bush root balls will not be removed within the 0 – 5’ zone; however, tree root balls will be treated consistent with all other zones (cut and ground to grade)	
Remove all woodchips, bark, combustible mulch, or synthetic lawns.	
Chip or remove all live and dead tree branches 10 feet above the roof and 10 feet away from chimneys and stovepipe outlets. Remove all live or dead branches or ladder fuels within five feet (5 feet) of the sides of the structure.	
Landowner recommended work activities:	
Removal of leaves, needles, cones, bark, etc. from roofs, gutters, decks, porches, stairways, etc.	
Install a permeable weed barrier and gravel. Additional soil may be applied for erosion control and drainage.	
Recommend using a qualified contractor to prepare a hardscaping site plan that includes all areas around the structure including any attached decks with procedures for avoiding utilities and securing irrigation lines.	
Zone 1 (5-30 feet from structure)	
BCFSC (FEMA Grant) work activities:	
Chip or removal of all branches within 10 feet of any chimney or stovepipe outlet.	
Chip or removal of dead and dying grass, plants, shrubs, trees, branches, leaves, weeds and needles.	
Removal of any flammable vegetation or items that could catch fire that are adjacent to or below combustible decks, balconies, and stairs.	
Relocation of firewood and lumber not completely covered in fire-resistant material to Zone 2.	
Provide appropriate separation between shrubs and live flammable ground cover and all structures.	
Landowner recommended work activities	
Installation of hardscape like gravel, pavers, concrete and other non-combustible mulch materials. No combustible bark or mulch,	
Replacement of combustible fencing, gates, and arbors attached to the residence with non-combustible alternatives.	
Relocate any propane tanks located in this zone to Zone 2.	
Zone 2 (within 30-100 feet from structure)	

BCFSC (FEMA Grant) work activities:
Chip or remove dead and down material up to 10 DBH.
Removal or cut annual grass and broad leaf plants.
Trimming or removal of any tree branches up to 15 feet from the ground.
Creation of effective horizontal space between shrubs and trees.
If woodpile(s) are exposed, creation of a minimum of 10 feet of clearance, down to bare mineral soil, in all directions.
Removal of any dead and dying woody surface and aerial fuels.
Removal of fallen leaves, needles, twigs, bark, cones, and small branches greater than 3 inches in depth.
Cut downed trees greater than 10 DBH into 3 foot sections for removal by landowner.
Landowner recommended work activities:
Creation of effective horizontal space between shrubs and trees. (Recommend 15 foot spacing between trees. Root balls should be left intact, though stumps may be ground to surface level).

On properties where landowners have expressed an interest in having defensible space creation completed for them, work crews would then be dispatched to complete the work. Landscaping and vegetation within 100 feet of existing structures would be modified to be consistent with the requirements of California Public Resources Code 4291. Defensible space would be created by thinning shrubs and trees 10 inches DBH or less to achieve at least a 20-foot spacing between the tree crowns. Work crews would hand-cut vegetation and either stack brush at designated areas, chip material, or cut it into smaller pieces and scatter it on-site. Masticators or other heavy equipment would not be used. Defensible space creation work would proceed in compliance with all applicable regulations and environmental review documents. No vegetation removal would be performed near any wetlands, ponds, or rivers. An RPF would identify and establish a minimum 25-foot to 150-foot buffer around these resources, dependent upon stream class and slope, as recommended by the NMFS for the State Hazard Tree Removal Program (NMFS 2022). Vegetation cut by crews would either be chipped and spread on-site or trucked to a permitted facility for disposal. No material would be placed in streams, vernal pools, or wetlands, and these resources would not be affected by project activities. A tow-behind chipper would be used for most locations, but in areas of extreme terrain, a tracked chipper would be used. Staging would occur along access roads or other previously disturbed areas, and there would be no need for grading or leveling.

Hazardous Tree Removal

Removal of 3,740 hazardous trees greater than 10" diameter on up to 1700 properties that are within 200 feet of an evaluation route and/or 200 feet from a home or other structure. An arborist will be retained to make sure that healthy trees aren't unnecessarily removed. A GIS specialist will be hired to create a geospatial database of project sites, which will be essential for reporting, follow-up, and the post-project maintenance.

On properties where landowners have expressed an interest in having hazard trees removed, the certified arborist and RPF would assess trees 10 inches DBH and larger to determine whether the trees are a fire hazard. They would identify the number, type, and size of tree(s) for removal. Tree species to be removed would include, California black oak (*Quercus kelloggii*), incense cedar (*Calocedrus decurrens*), Ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*), gray pine (*Pinus sabiniana*), and Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), among other species, and would vary in size from 10 inches DBH to 60 inches DBH. Hazard tree removal would be limited to trees assessed to be dead or dying. The program team would ensure that all tree removal operations comply with the environmental review and permitting documents.

Trees would be removed at the base with tree root balls left intact. Stumps would be cut to not exceed 12 inches from the ground. Equipment used would include excavators, grapple trucks, tracked shovel or log loaders, skidders, skid steers, bumper pull chippers, and whole-tree drum chippers. After trees have been felled, they would be dragged to a staging area and trucked to a permitted facility for disposal. Staging would occur along access roads or other previously disturbed areas, and there would be no need for grading or leveling. Throughout phase two, the arborist and RPF would ensure that the program stays in compliance with California regulations, which include best management practices (BMP) as defined by the California

Forest Practice Rules (California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Resource Management, Forestry Practice Program 2020).

As federal dollars are involved, the program was also evaluated under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for which an Environmental Assessment, EA was prepared. Table 4.5 of the EA includes best management practices (BMPs) that must be followed per the terms of the grant. The entire EA can be found here: <https://buttefiresafe.net/fema-butte-county-wildfire-mitigation-projects/>

Name of Person or Agency Approving Project: Butte County Zoning Administrator

Exempt Status: (Check One)

- Ministerial (Sec. 15073)
- Declared Emergency [Sec. 15071(a)]
- Emergency Project [Sec. 15071 (b) and (c)]
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: 15304 Minor Alterations to Land
- Statutorily Exempt – 15274(a)
- Review for Exemption – 15061(b)(3)

Reasons why project is exempt: The project is classified as a Class 4 Categorical Exemption, under CEQA Guidelines Section 15304 Minor Alterations to Land. The project is a hazardous fuel management program activity that consists of minor treatments to vegetation in the form of hand-cutting, piling, and onsite chipping of brush, small trees within 100 feet of existing structures for the creation of defensible space, and removal of standing or downed dead and dying trees (10 inches in diameter and larger) that are determined to be a fire hazard by a certified arborist or registered professional forester. The program contains procedures to ensure that fuel reduction activities do not result in the taking of endangered, rare, or threatened plant or animal species, or sedimentation to surface waters. No vegetation removal would be performed near any wetlands, ponds, or rivers. A Registered Professional Forester would identify and establish a minimum 25-foot to 150-foot buffer around these resources, dependent upon stream class and slope, as recommended by the NMFS for the State Hazard Tree Removal Program (NMFS 2022).

Contact Person: Rowland Hickel, Senior Planner

Telephone: (530) 552-3684

If filed by applicant:

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a notice of exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project?
Yes _____ No _____

Date Received For Filing: _____

3/15/2024
Date Signed



Dan Breedon, Planning Manager
Department of Development Services

DECLARATION OF FEES DUE
(California Fish and Game Code Section 711.4)

NAME AND ADDRESS OF APPLICANT

Butte County Fire Safe Council
6569 Clark Road
Paradise, CA 95969

FILING NO. _____

Project Title/File Number: Butte County Defensible Space and Hazardous Fuels Reduction Program,
CEQA24-0001

CLASSIFICATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT:

- 1. NOTICE OF EXEMPTION/STATEMENT OF EXEMPTION
 - A. Statutorily or Categorically Exempt
\$50.00 Clerk's Documentary Handling Fee
 - B. De Minimis Impact - Certificate of Fee Exemption
\$50.00 Clerk's Documentary Handling Fee

- 2. NOTICE OF DETERMINATION - FEE REQUIRED
 - A. Negative Declaration
\$2,764.00 State Filing Fee
\$50.00 Clerk's Documentary Handling Fee
 - B. Environmental Impact Report
\$3,839.25 State Filing Fee
\$50.00 Clerk's Documentary Handling Fee

- 3. OTHER (Specify) _____
\$50.00 Clerk's Documentary Handling Fee

PAYMENT / NON-PAYMENT OF FEES:

- 1. PAYMENT: The above fees have been paid.

- 2. NON-PAYMENT: The above fees are required. Not paid.

Chief Planning Official

By: Paula M. Daneluk, AICP, Development Services
Title: Director
Lead Agency: Butte County Department of
Development Services
Date: March 15, 2024

TWO COPIES OF THIS FORM MUST BE COMPLETED AND SUBMITTED WITH ALL ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS FILED WITH THE BUTTE COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE.

THREE COPIES OF ALL NECESSARY DOCUMENTATION ARE REQUIRED FOR FILING.

ALL APPLICABLE FEES ARE DUE AND PAYABLE PRIOR TO THE FILING OF ANY ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT WITH THE BUTTE COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE. MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO THE COUNTY OF BUTTE.