



Nez Perce Tribe Wildlife Conservation Areas



Information & Maps

Welcome to the Nez Perce Tribe's *Tekinkéecet Waq'iswíitoqt* (*Teh-kin-kah-tset Walk-is-wee-toqt*, or "Upland Restoration") wildlife conservation areas! These areas are owned and managed by the Tribe to protect and enhance wildlife and wildlife habitat as partial mitigation for habitat lost due to the construction of Dworshak Dam on the North Fork Clearwater River. There are five wildlife conservation areas currently managed by the Tribe's *Tekinkéecet Waq'iswíitoqt* Program:

1. *Heyéeq'sin'me* (Gifford) WCA west of Gifford, ID
2. *Hiñawíta* (Sixmile Creek) WCA northwest of Kamiah, ID
3. *Iceyéeyenm Hipinwées* (Posthole Creek) WCA north of Craigmont, ID
4. *Texséhe* (Bedrock Creek) WCA west of Cavendish, ID
5. *Túkéespe* (Cream Ridge) WCA southwest of Cavendish, ID

These lands are managed to sustain ecological health and restore native habitat in areas previously damaged or lost due to agriculture or livestock production. A priority is the restoration of native grassland and forest communities on formerly-tilled cropland, the only such initiative (at this scale) within the Nez Perce homeland.

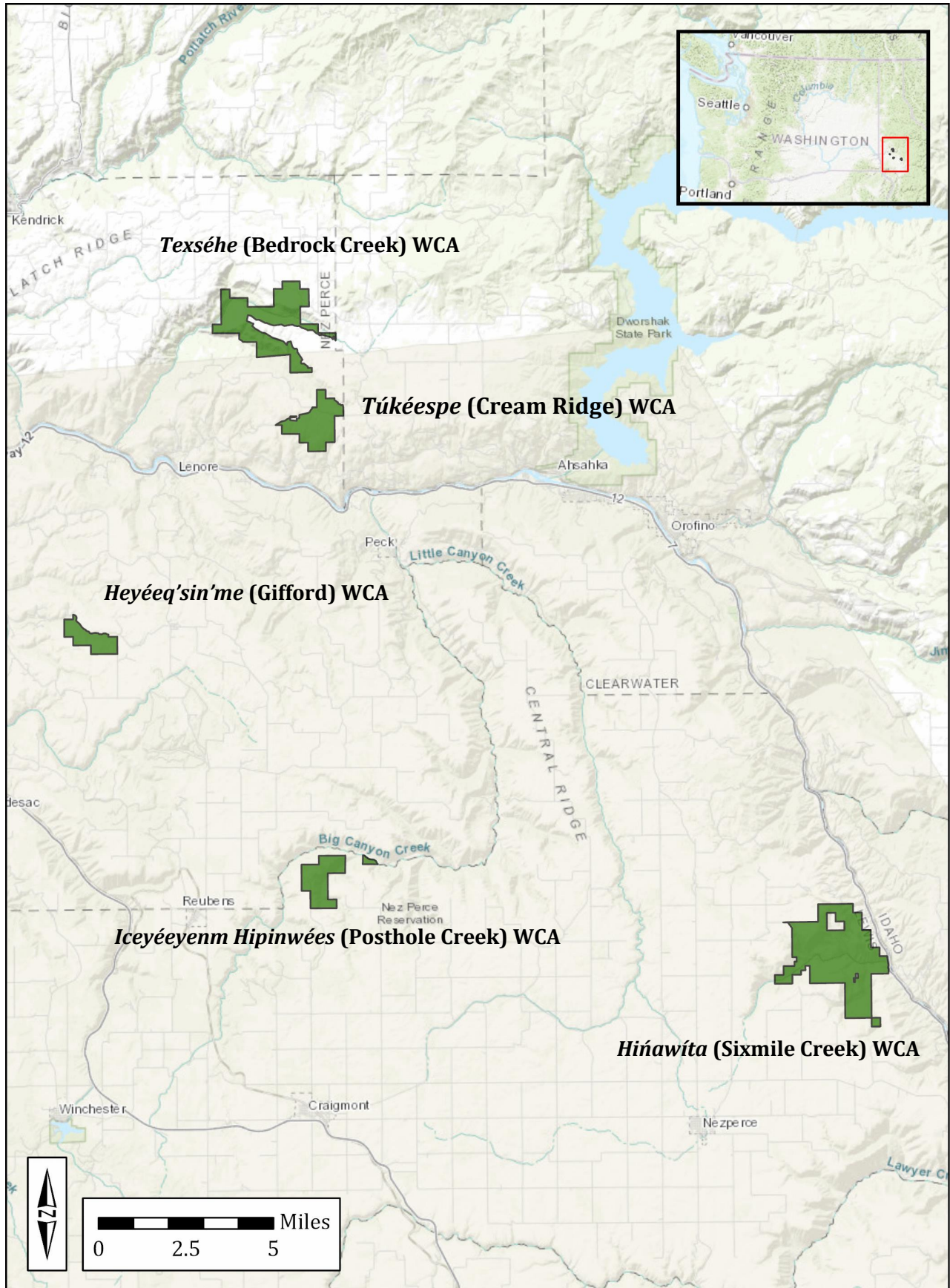
Members of the public are welcome to visit and enjoy these areas. Hiking, horseback riding, photography, and other light-on-the-land activities are all welcome uses. Motorized travel (beyond designated routes), firewood cutting, and hunting are all prohibited at this time. Please respect all signage and applicable rules to help ensure your safety and the long-term health and wellbeing of the plants and animals of the Tribe's homeland. These lands are sacred to the *Nimiipuu*, or Nez Perce people. Please treat them with care during your visit.



For more information, please contact:

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www.nezpercewildlife.org/tekinkeecet-waqiswiitoqt



Heyéeq'sin'me (Gifford) Wildlife Conservation Area

Directions

Access to the *Heyéeq'sin'me* WCA is provided via both George Grade Road and Kettenbach Road west of Gifford, ID. A rocked parking area with interpretive signage is available off Kettenbach Road. Please be careful to avoid damage to annual crops.

Area Information

This WCA consists of approx. 533 acres of native and introduced grasses and forbs, young ponderosa pine, relic native forest and prairie patches, and active agricultural fields. Small tributaries of George Creek find their headwaters here, flowing westward to Cottonwood Creek and then northward to the Clearwater River. Areas in active crop production today are scheduled for restoration in the coming years.

Long-term habitat goals for this area include restoring native ponderosa pine forests on most north-facing slopes, native grassland communities on most south-facing slopes, and a high-frequency/low-severity wildfire regime.

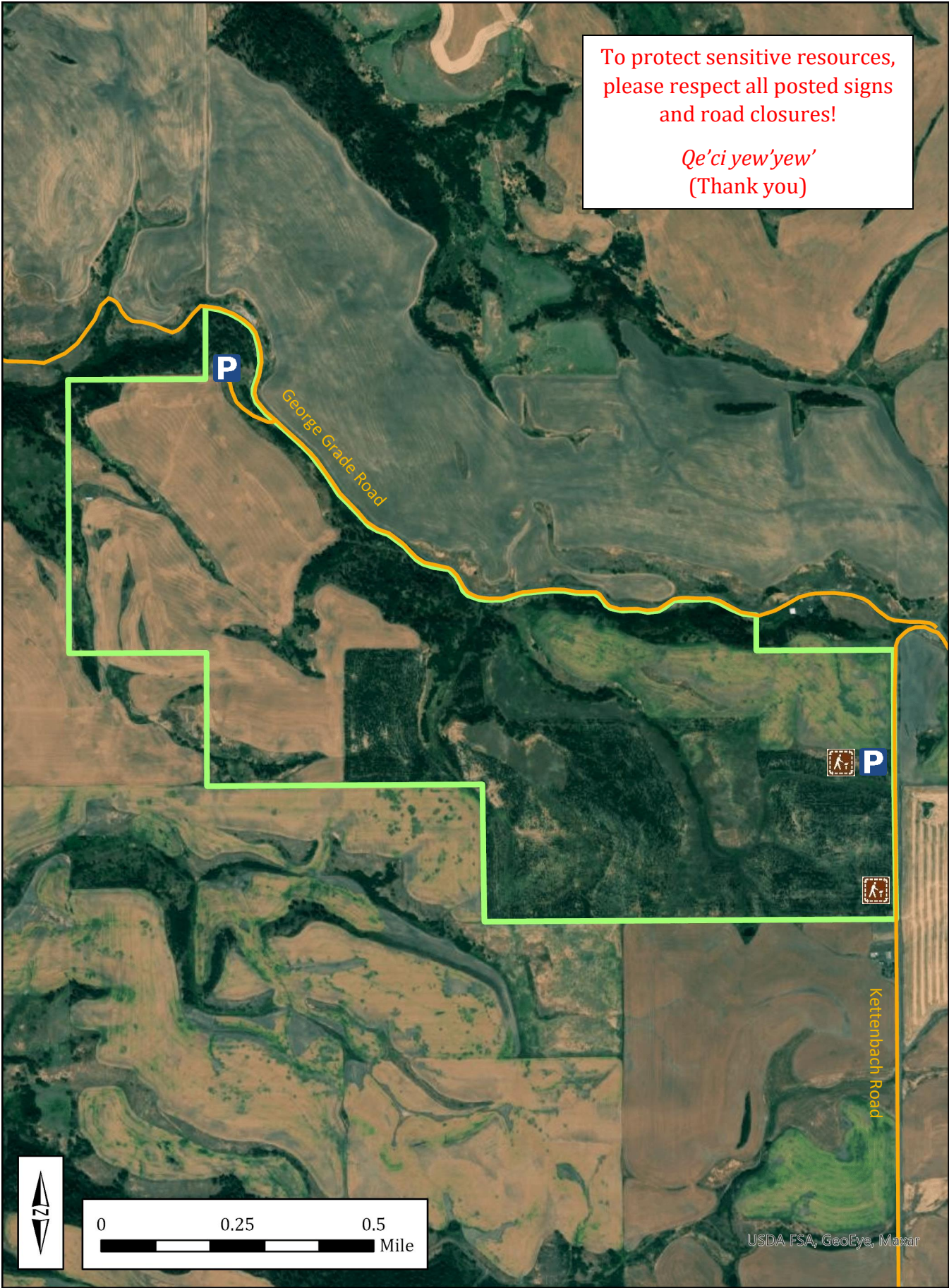
History

The name *Heyéeq'sin'me* means “place of hunger/devouring” in the Nez Perce language. Historically, this area was used by the *Nimiipuu* as a seasonal or transitional area between winter village locations at lower elevations and upland hunting, gathering, and other cultural activities here and southeastward toward the Camas Prairie. Following the opening of the Nez Perce Reservation in 1887 and subsequent Euro-American settlement, wildlife habitat in this area was cleared for dryland crop production. This property was purchased by the Tribe in two transactions in 1999 and 2018. The eastern and southern portions of the area were reseeded and planted with trees beginning in 2002.



To protect sensitive resources,
please respect all posted signs
and road closures!

Qe'ci yew'yew'
(Thank you)



Hiñawíta (Sixmile Creek) Wildlife Conservation Area

Directions

Access to the *Hiñawíta* WCA is provided via US Highway 12 between Kamiah, ID and Orofino, ID; from Idaho 64 to Ewing Road via Lyons Road; and from Russell Ridge Road to Basket Road via Waters Road. Parking areas with interpretive signage are available at all three access points. Please be aware that access via Ewing Road is typically dangerous during winter and should not be attempted.

Area Information

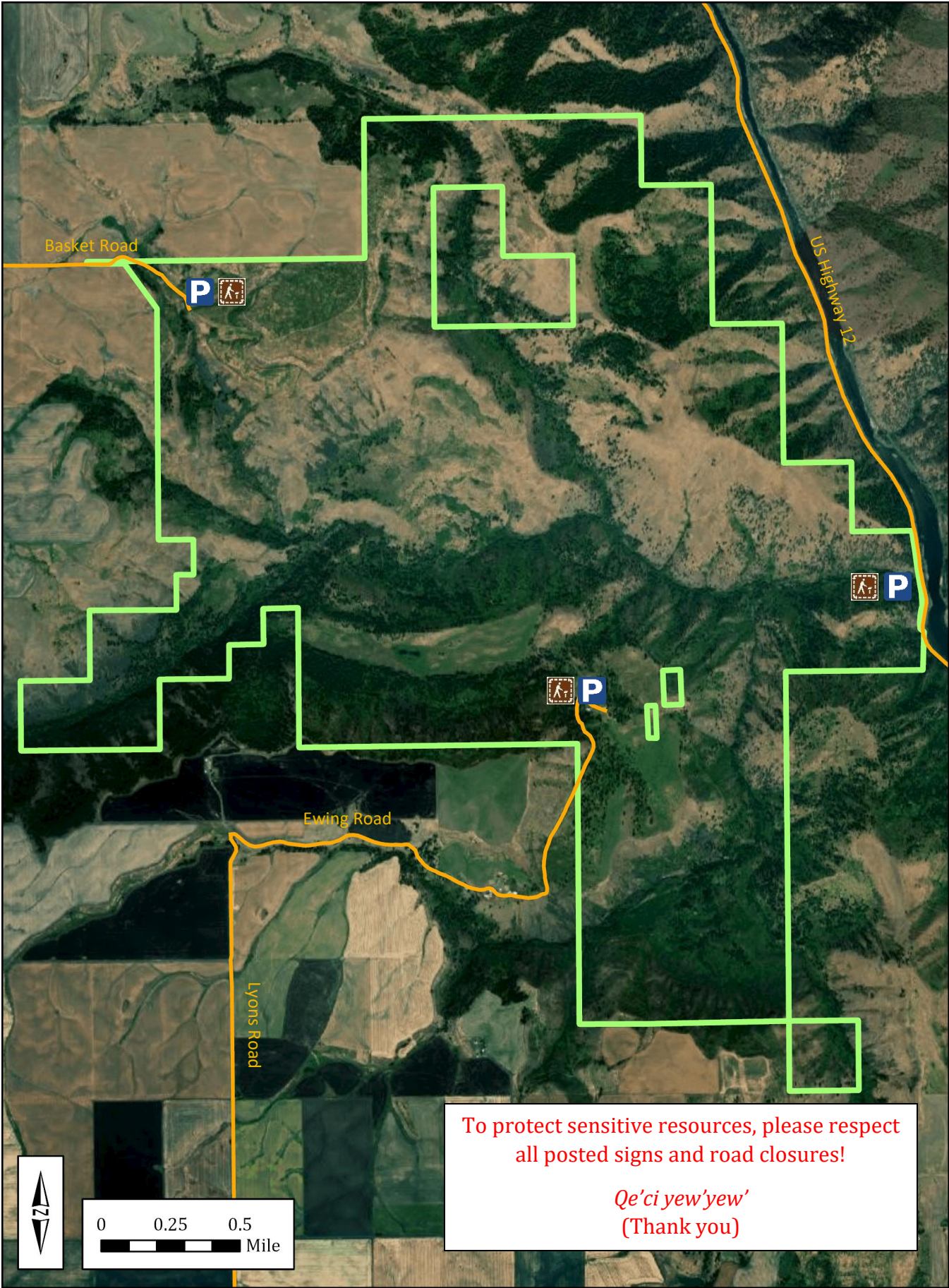
This WCA consists of approx. 3,422 acres of forested and grassy canyonlands, abandoned agricultural fields, and former fields undergoing active restoration. The area includes nearly the full lower portion of the Sixmile Creek watershed, including the small tributaries of Effie, Wise, Eagle, and Stelmon Creeks. Sixmile Creek enters the Clearwater River along the eastern edge of the WCA.

Long-term habitat goals for this diverse WCA include restoring native ponderosa pine and mixed conifer forests on most north-facing slopes and formerly tilled areas, native grassland communities on most south-facing slopes, and a mixed-frequency and -severity wildfire regime.

History

The name *Hiñawíta* refers to the act of learning, practicing, or overcoming a challenge. Historically, this area was used by the *Nimiipuu* in a variety of ways, from winter camps and fishing sites at lower elevations to seasonal hunting, gathering, and other cultural activities in the uplands. More recently, this area consisted of approx. 13 homesteads established after the Reservation was opened to settlement in 1887. These homesteads and later owners used the canyon slopes for timber and livestock production and a number of mid-slope benches as home sites and for crop production. The main property was purchased by the Nez Perce Tribe in 2002. A major fire in 2003 burned approx. 75% of this WCA, causing light under-burning in some areas but extensive forest canopy loss across most southern areas. Former crop fields near the northwestern corner of the WCA were reseeded and planted with trees beginning in 2003.





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Iceyéeyenm Hipinwées (Posthole Creek) Wildlife Conservation Area

Directions

Access to the *Iceyéeyenm Hipinwées* WCA is provided via Airport Road north from Craigmont, ID. A rocked parking area with interpretive signage is available at the end of Airport Road.

Area Information

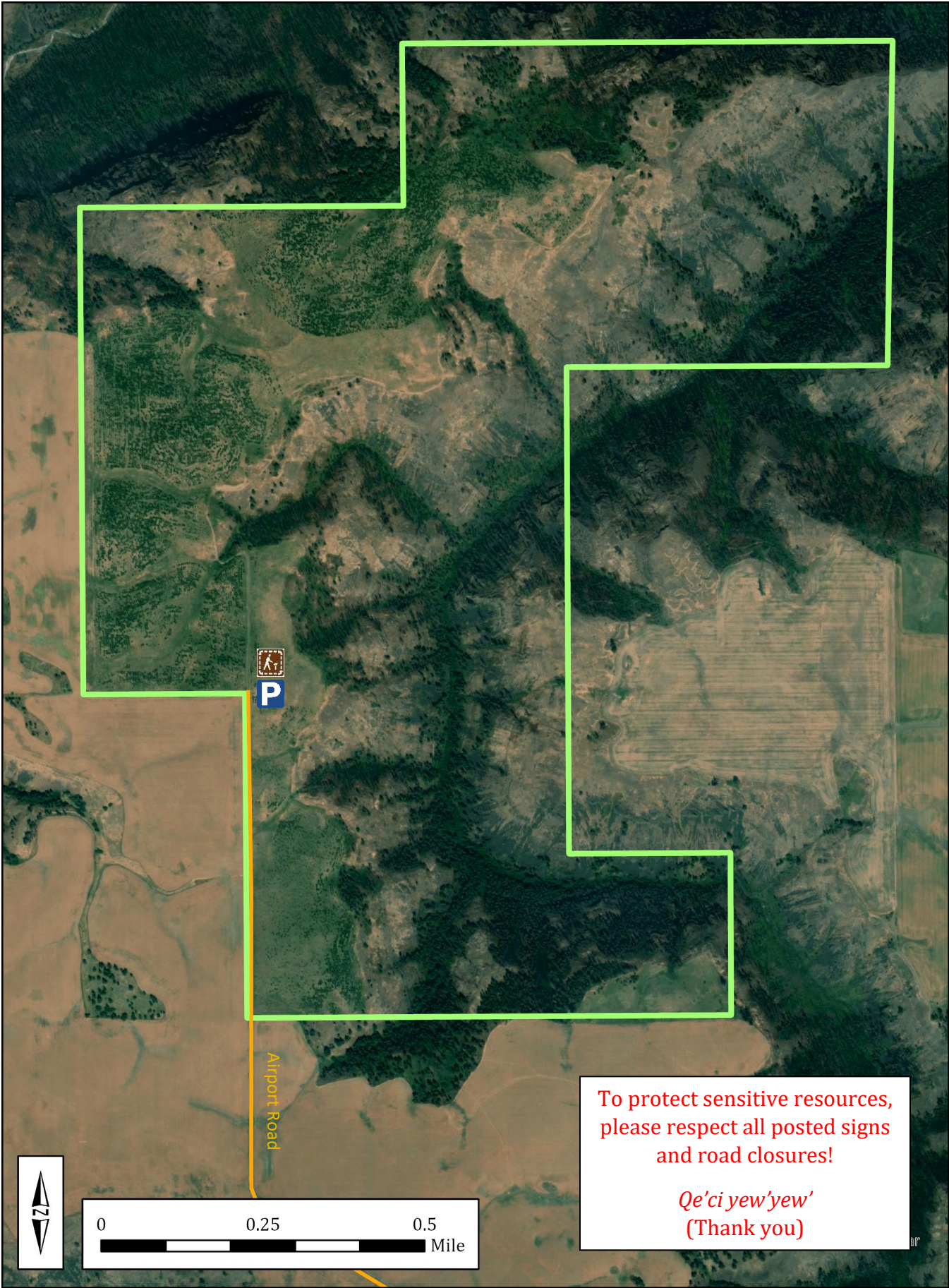
This WCA consists of approx. 803 acres of forested and grassy canyonlands and agricultural fields undergoing active restoration. The area includes the lower portion of Posthole Creek as well as the northern tip of a flat plateau resting between Posthole Creek and Big Canyon Creek. Big Canyon Creek flows northward to the Clearwater River near Peck, ID.

Long-term habitat goals for this WCA include restoring native ponderosa pine and mixed conifer forests on most north-facing slopes and formerly tilled areas, native grassland communities on most south-facing slopes, and a mixed-frequency and -severity wildfire regime.

History

The name *Iceyéeyenm Hipinwées* means “Coyote’s Table” in the Nez Perce language. Historically, this area was used by the *Nimiipuu* for seasonal hunting, gathering, and other cultural activities. Much of the wildlife habitat on tillable soil was converted for crop production many decades ago. The property was purchased by the Tribe in 1999, and field restoration efforts began in 2002. Much of the canyon areas were burned in a 2015 wildfire.





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(Thank you)

Texséhe (Bedrock Creek) Wildlife Conservation Area

Directions

Access to the *Texséhe* WCA is provided by Driscoll Road northwest of Cavendish, ID. There are currently no improved parking areas developed for this WCA, but visitors are welcome to park adjacent to Driscoll Road and hike southward into Bedrock Creek canyon. Please be careful to avoid damaging annual crops. Public access is not available via Johnson Road (south of Cavendish). Visitors should exercise extreme caution when entering recently-burned areas.

Area Information

This WCA consists of approx. 2,087 acres of forested and grassy canyonlands, abandoned agricultural fields, and active agricultural fields. The area includes portions of the lower Bedrock Creek and Louse Creek watersheds, including approx. 3.1 miles of Bedrock Creek as it flows west and south to the Clearwater River near Lenore, ID. This WCA was heavily impacted by the Bedrock Fire of 2021.

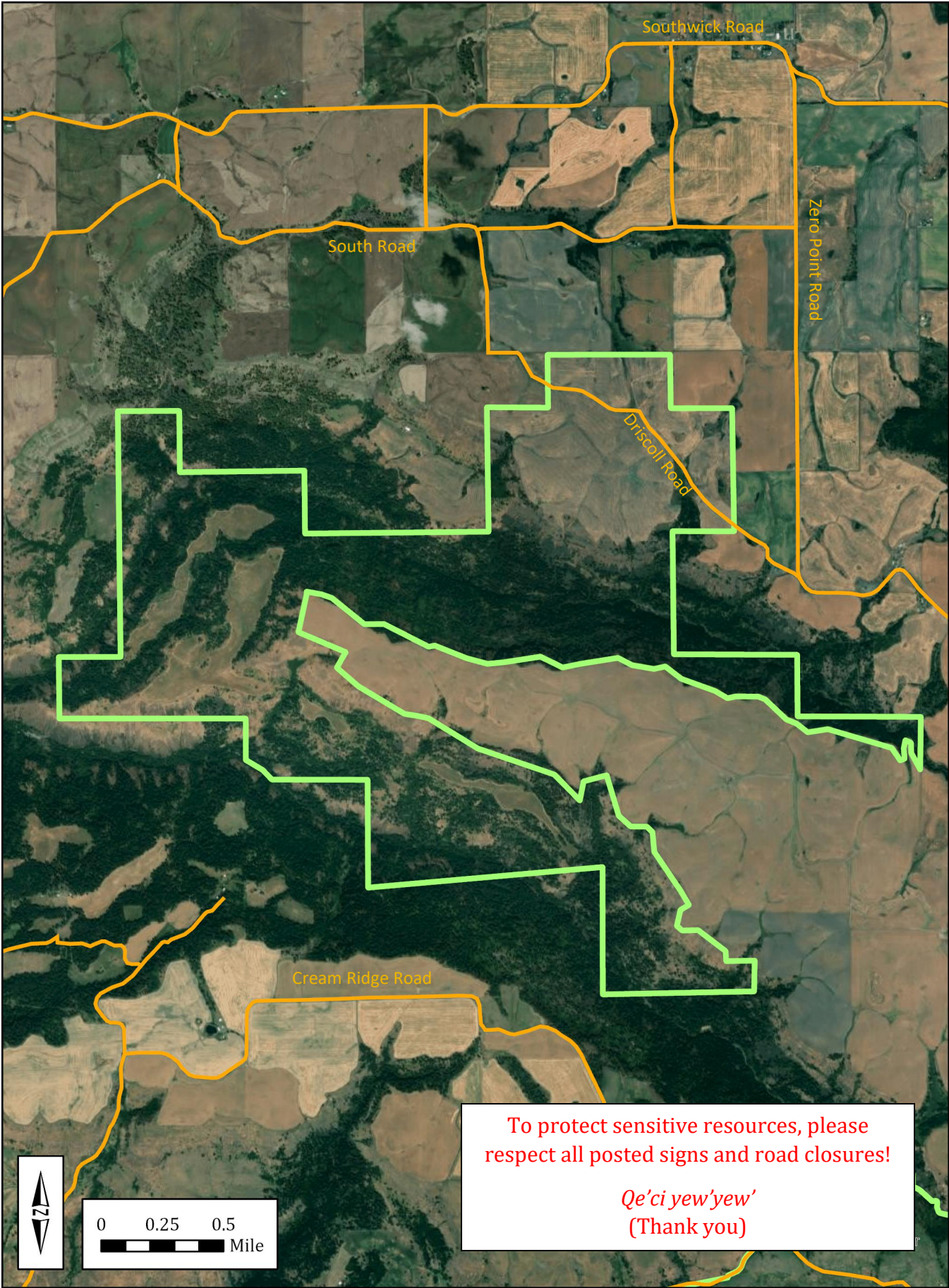
Long-term habitat goals for this WCA include restoring native ponderosa pine, western larch, and bunchgrass communities in recently-burned areas and reestablishing native vegetation on formerly tilled areas. Areas in active crop production today are targeted for restoration in the coming years.

History

The name *Texséhe* is the Nez Perce place name for Bedrock Creek. Historically, this area was used by the *Nimiipuu* for seasonal hunting, gathering, and other cultural activities. More recently, this area was homesteaded by Euro-American settlers and used for home sites and crop, timber, and livestock production. The property was purchased by the Nez Perce Tribe in 2006.



Nez Perce Tribe – Tekinkéecet Waq'iswiitoqt Program



Túkéespe (Cream Ridge) Wildlife Conservation Area

Directions

Access to the *Túkéespe* WCA is provided by Cream Ridge Road southwest of Cavendish, ID. A parking area with interpretive signage is available off Cream Ridge Road at the eastern edge of the property. Please be careful to avoid damaging annual crops.

Area Information

This WCA consists of approx. 995 acres of native and introduced grasses and forbs, young ponderosa pine, relic native forest and prairie patches, and active agricultural fields. Several small tributaries to the Clearwater River find their headwaters here, and a portion of the Louse Creek watershed forms the property's northern boundary. Areas in active crop production today are scheduled for restoration in the coming years. Portions of this property north of Cream Ridge Road were heavily impacted by the Bedrock Fire of 2021.

Long-term habitat goal for this area include restoring native ponderosa pine forests on most north-facing slopes, native grassland communities on most south-facing slopes, and a high-frequency/low-severity wildfire regime.

History

The name *Túkéespe* is the Nez Perce place name for a nearby site along the Clearwater River used for the drying of meat. Historically, the Cream Ridge area was used by the *Nimiipuu* for seasonal hunting, gathering, and other cultural activities as well as travel to areas further north. More recently, the majority of this area was cleared for home sites and dryland crop production by Euro-American settlers. This property was purchased by the Tribe in two transactions in 2000 and 2020. Most portions of the first parcels were reseeded and planted with trees beginning in 2003.



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