

TRAIL MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR PUBLIC TRAILS ON BOROUGH LAND

CTMA No. 2021-01

Trail Management for the Caribou Hills South (CHS) Trail System

TRAIL MANAGER:

SNOMADS, Inc.

PO Box 3646

Homer AK 99603

snomads@gmail.com

www.snomadsonline.org

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED ACTIVITIES (Check All That Apply)

SEASONS OF TRAIL MANAGEMENT

Winter Summer Year Round

TRAIL WIDTH (Typical)

Under 5 Feet

5-10 Feet

10-20 Feet

TRAIL MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES

Periodic Brushing/Clearing

Grading

Snow Grooming

Erosion Controls

TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS

Trailheads

Parking Area

Loading/Unloading Area

Signs

Sanitation (Trash/Outhouse)

Picnic Area

Shelters

Culverts

Bridges

Stairs

Gates & Bollards

Hardening

New Trails

TRAIL ADMINISTRATION

Competitions/Sponsored Events

Grants

Signage

Equipment Storage Facilities

TRAIL ACTIVITIES

Motorized:

ATV

Snow Machines

Non-Motorized:

Dog Sleds

Skiing

Snowshoeing

Skijoring

Sledding

Hiking

Biking

Walking/Running

Biathlon

Horses

Pet Friendly

Other:

Water Access

Landing Area

Narrative description of the activities, operations, and scope:

Snomads Inc. works to guarantee Backcountry Access and protect existing Alaska recreational trails within the Kenai Peninsula Borough (KPB) Caribou Hills South (CHS) Trail System Area by establishing and maintaining legal public access for all, and for generations to come. Further, to responsibly develop and maintain and groom these trails to a sustainable level so that they can be used year round by the public. The Snomads Vision is to protect our CHS Trail System recreational trails with legally established easements and with permits/agreements acquired from all landowners. CHS Trail System groomed trails shall be uniformly marked, under one coordinated management authority, and, where appropriate, maintained by local clubs or organizations. See attachment B for a map of the CHS Trail System and where trails transit KPB lands. Snomads currently has LMD 08-02 and 07-03 Trail Management Agreements with the KPB.

History of the organization, membership size, accomplishments:

The origin of Snomads Inc. started in the mid 1980's when the organization was founded as the Homer Snow Roamers, as a group of dedicated Winter Snowmachine enthusiasts. The Club was incorporated in March 1992, and the name was changed to Snomads 23 Feb 2002 as a Non-Profit 501c4. Snomads has grown over the years and now has 450 Members, with 335 voting Members comprised of individuals and businesses. Snomads has been active over the years to establish, rehabilitate and maintain CHS Trails, including the building of roads to access trail heads, and has been granted trail easements (Boardwalk Trail). We typically organize, host and support seasonal activities like: The Snomads Fun Run, Group Trail Rides, an area Search & Rescue, Children's Snowmachine Safety Events, as well as supporting events like the Tustemena 200 Dog Sled Race and the Homer Epic (bike, ski, run) Race. Snomads Inc. is a primarily an advocate organization for Public Access to the Alaskan Backcountry, for all user groups, including Hunters and Fishermen.

Summary of proposed activities:

Snomads intends to continue its operations with the KPB CHS Trail System by rehabilitating, maintaining, marking and grooming our trails and trailheads and parking lots for year round use. We have an aggressive trails management agenda in the coming years, raising funds with grants and private funding sources to secure trail permits and easements, construct trail reroutes around native lands, and harden our trails from to a USDA Forest Service Tier 1 to a Tier 3 trail level. We accomplish our activities with a balance of both contracted services and volunteer work. Typical Sources of funding for our operations come from Snomads Gaming, KPB CAP Grants, ORTAB Grants, SnowTRAC Grooming Grants, Pittman-Robertson Grants, Membership Dues, and Event Fundraising.

Means and methods for maintenance, erosion control, and trash pick-up:

All trail clearing and trail maintenance work that the Snomads undertake are performed to written standard. Work is supervised by a Snomads assigned Committee Chairman, and task completion reports are captured in monthly Board of Director or Membership Meeting Minutes.

Weather conditions largely dictate when trail maintenance tasks can be performed throughout the year. Trail clearing with heavy construction equipment will be employed only when the ground is firm enough to support the weight of the equipment used. This is typically in the Fall or Spring, when the ground is frozen, but also in the summer when there are dry periods that will support the weight of the equipment without significantly degrading subsurface soils and vegetation. Winter Snow Grooming operations will be undertaken when snow conditions permit.

Measures of performance, timeframes, ownership of improvements & reclamation:

Trail Markers, Trail Kiosks, Signage, bridges and any “moveable” objects or structures placed on KPB lands by Snomads Inc are the sole property of Snomads. Parking Lots, access drives and other “immoveable” improvements would remain upon termination of the Agreement for any reason. Reclamation of “moveable” objects or structures would be undertaken by Snomads if this agreement were to be terminated. Although none are present to date, Snomads reserves the right to place Public Outhouses on KPB Lands at Trailheads or along Trail Corridors.

Estimated value of proposed structures and facilities:

Not applicable

Any short-term and long-range goals:

Snomads intends to execute the construction of a reroute of the Watermelon Trail around CIRI lands within 1 to 2 years (as funding permits). The Watermelon Reroute traverses ADNR Parcels that are known to be ‘KPB Select’ parcels (16523008, 16523009). See attachment B.

Long range goals:

- a. Expanding the Watermelon Trailhead Parking Lot to accommodate additional traffic, once the trail is fully cleared, and the reroute constructed.
- b. Harden the trail surface on the Dry Hole Trail near the Anchor River crossing.

Conceptual Site Plan: See attachment B for KPB CHS Trail System Traversing KPB Lands

Location of trail improvements and buffers: None as of the initial agreement

Property lines, right-of-ways, easement, access: No known conflicts, See attachments A & B

Location of wetlands, water bodies, anadromous stream crossing and major topography:

See attachment A

Detailed Plans:

Snomads is including a detailed survey for the construction of the Watermelon Trail ‘CIRI Reroute’ as attachment A. Trail Construction standards as detailed below will adhered to, and a completion report will be forwarded to KPB when accomplished.

Plans for specific improvement including architectural or engineering designs, when

Applicable:

Snomads will contact KPB Lands Management for any improvements that are planned, and where applicable, will obtain requisite approval in the planning stages.

Grant proposals, when applicable:

Snomads intends to execute an existing \$40K Pittman-Robertson Grant, managed by ADF&G to Homer Soil & Water (HS&W) for the construction of the Watermelon Trail 'CIRI Reroute', within 2021 and 2022. This will be under a separate agreement between Snomads and HS&W.

Trail Usage Restrictions:

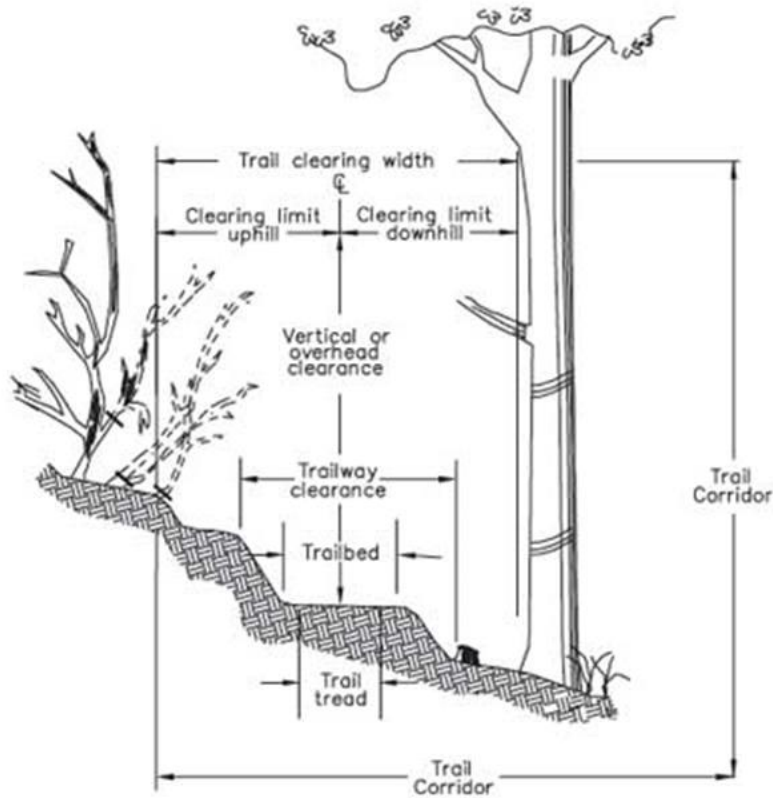
Wheeled ATV/UTV or any motorized Off Road Recreational Vehicle (ORRV) are not authorized on groomed Snomads Managed CHS trails at any time that the wheeled vehicle is leaving visible tire depressions exceeding 1" depth and degrading the condition of the groomed trail during the Winter Months. Fat Tire bikes are permitted on CHS groomed Trails.

List of KPB CHS Trail System Trails that traverse KPB Parcels: See Attachment B

Note: Designation of 'Winter Groomed' may not denote that the entire trail is groomed

- a. **Watermelon Trailhead and Parking Lot:** KBP Parcel ID: 17113141
- b. **Watermelon Trail/Ohlson Mtn Trail (Winter Groomed):** KBP Parcel ID's: 17113141, 17113106, 17113133, 17113102, 17110117, 17112015, 17109028, (Borough Select 16523008 & 16523009)
- c. **North Fork Hills Trail and deviations** (Winter Groomed):** KBP Parcel ID's: **16521013, **16521006, **16512005, **16513003, 16513005, 16513007, 16505006, 16505007, 18515017, 18515046
- d. **Garcia Hill Trail:** KBP Parcel ID: 16513007
- e. **McNeil Power Line Trail (Winter Groomed):** KBP Parcel ID's: 17231166 (added to LMD 08-02), 17205213, 18515046, 18515017
- f. **Dry Hole Trail (Winter Groomed):** KBP Parcel ID's: 18515046, 16515006
- g. **Blue Trail (Winter Groomed):** KBP Parcel ID's: 18515046, 18515017, 18515018
- h. **McNeil Canyon Trail (Winter Groomed):** 17201726, 18521055, 18521056
- i. **Matthews Hill Trail (Winter Groomed):** KBP Parcel ID's: 18521053, 18515046, 18515018
- j. **Hidden Hills Trail:** KBP Parcel ID's: 17104022, 17104018, 17137114, 1652002, 16513003, 16513007
- k. **Eagle Lake Trail (Winter Groomed):** KBP Parcel ID's: 18521050, 18521053
- l. **Moosehorn Lake Trail:** KBP Parcel ID: 18515018
- m. **Dimond Ridge Connector Trail:** KBP Parcel ID's: 17110201 17106038, 17110117 (added to LMD 08-02)

Trail Construction, Rehabilitation, Maintenance Standards:



Trail Corridor Width: 60 ft

Trail Clearing Width: 24 ft (restricted to 12" above soil surface in Critical Habitat Areas)

Trail Clearing Limit (generally flat terrain): 20 ft vertical

Trail Clearing Limit Uphill/Downhill: 35 ft vertical







Trail Tread: 5 ft (hardened Trail Surface)

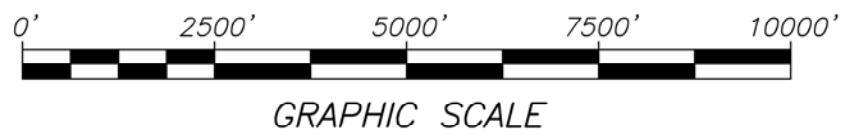
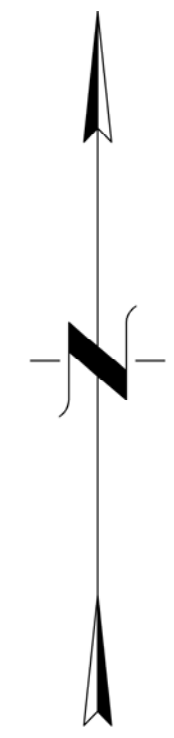
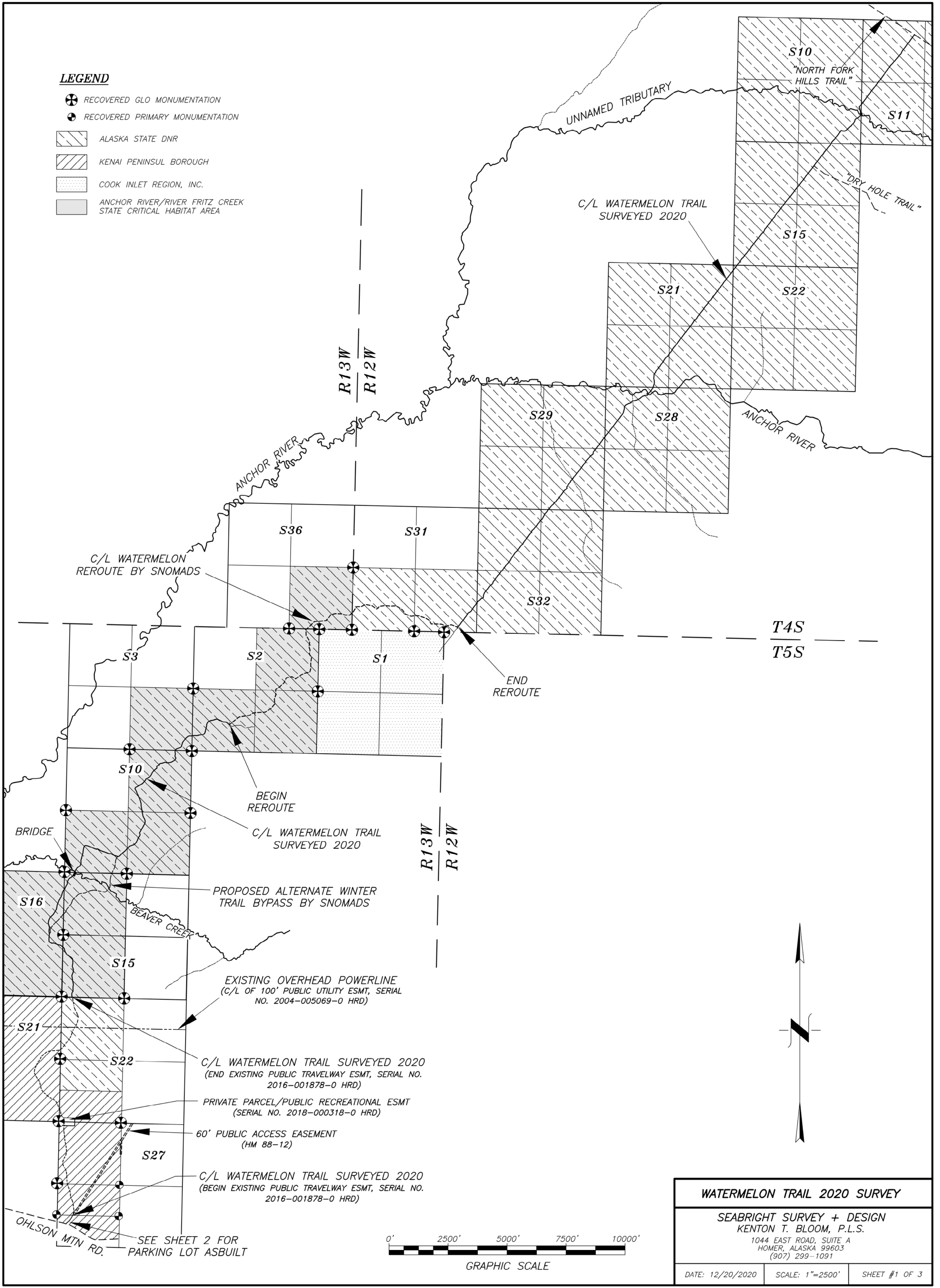
Trail Bed: 8 ft generally (except where 3/1 ratio of taper required for proper drainage)

Trailway Clearance & Trail Grooming Width (Winter): 18 ft maximum to soil surface

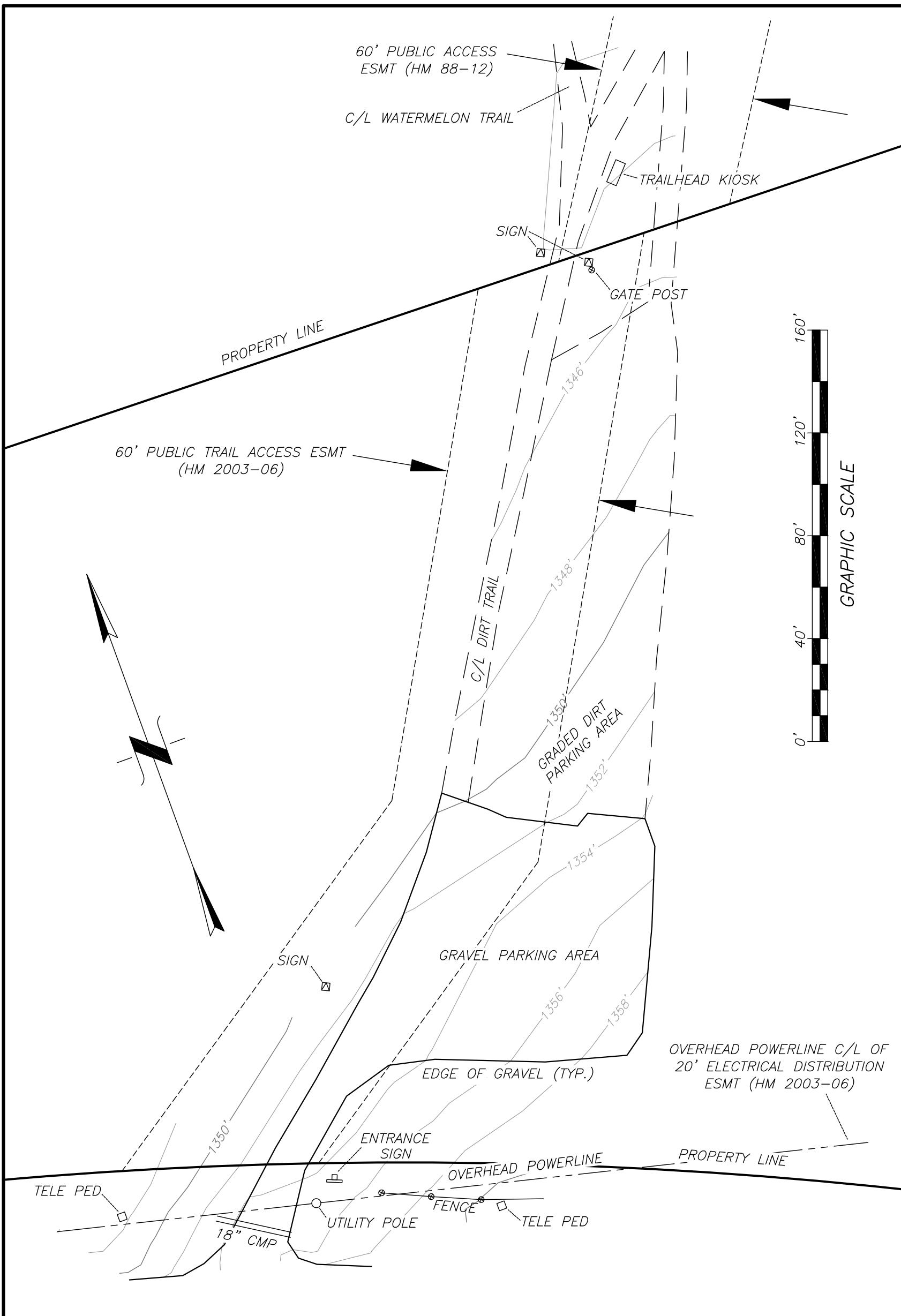
Ground disturbances and erosion control measures have been, or may be required. Trails can be groomed with as little as six inches of snow depth. Major trails (those within SnowTRAC Grooming Pool) are groomed to a width of 18 ft. Minor Trails may be groomed to 18 ft in width or less, if terrain and funding permits.

LEGEND

-  RECOVERED GLO MONUMENTATION
-  RECOVERED PRIMARY MONUMENTATION
-  ALASKA STATE DNR
-  KENAI PENINSUL BOROUGH
-  COOK INLET REGION, INC.
-  ANCHOR RIVER/RIVER FRITZ CREEK STATE CRITICAL HABITAT AREA



WATERMELON TRAIL 2020 SURVEY		
SEABRIGHT SURVEY + DESIGN KENTON T. BLOOM, P.L.S. 1044 EAST ROAD, SUITE A HOMER, ALASKA 99603 (907) 299-1091		
DATE: 12/20/2020	SCALE: 1"=2500'	SHEET #1 OF 3



OHLSON MOUNTAIN RD. 100' ROW

WATERMELON TRAIL 2020 SURVEY
 TRAILHEAD ASBUILT

SEABRIGHT SURVEY + DESIGN
 KENTON T. BLOOM, P.L.S.

1044 EAST ROAD, SUITE A
 HOMER, ALASKA 99603
 (907) 299-1091

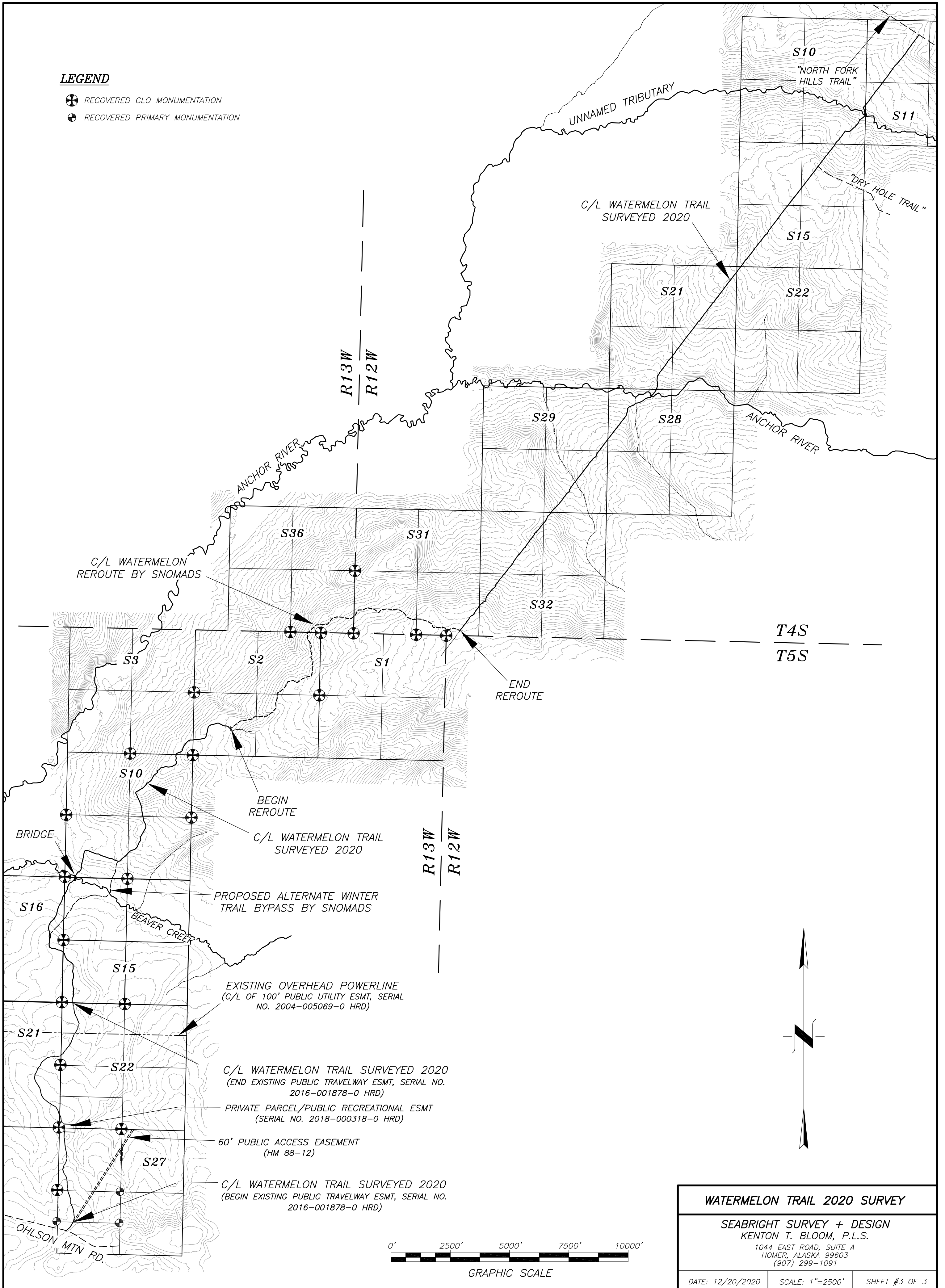
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SCALE: 1"=40'

SHEET #2 OF 3

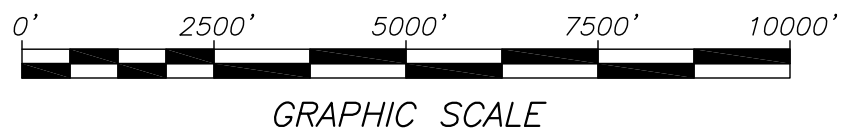
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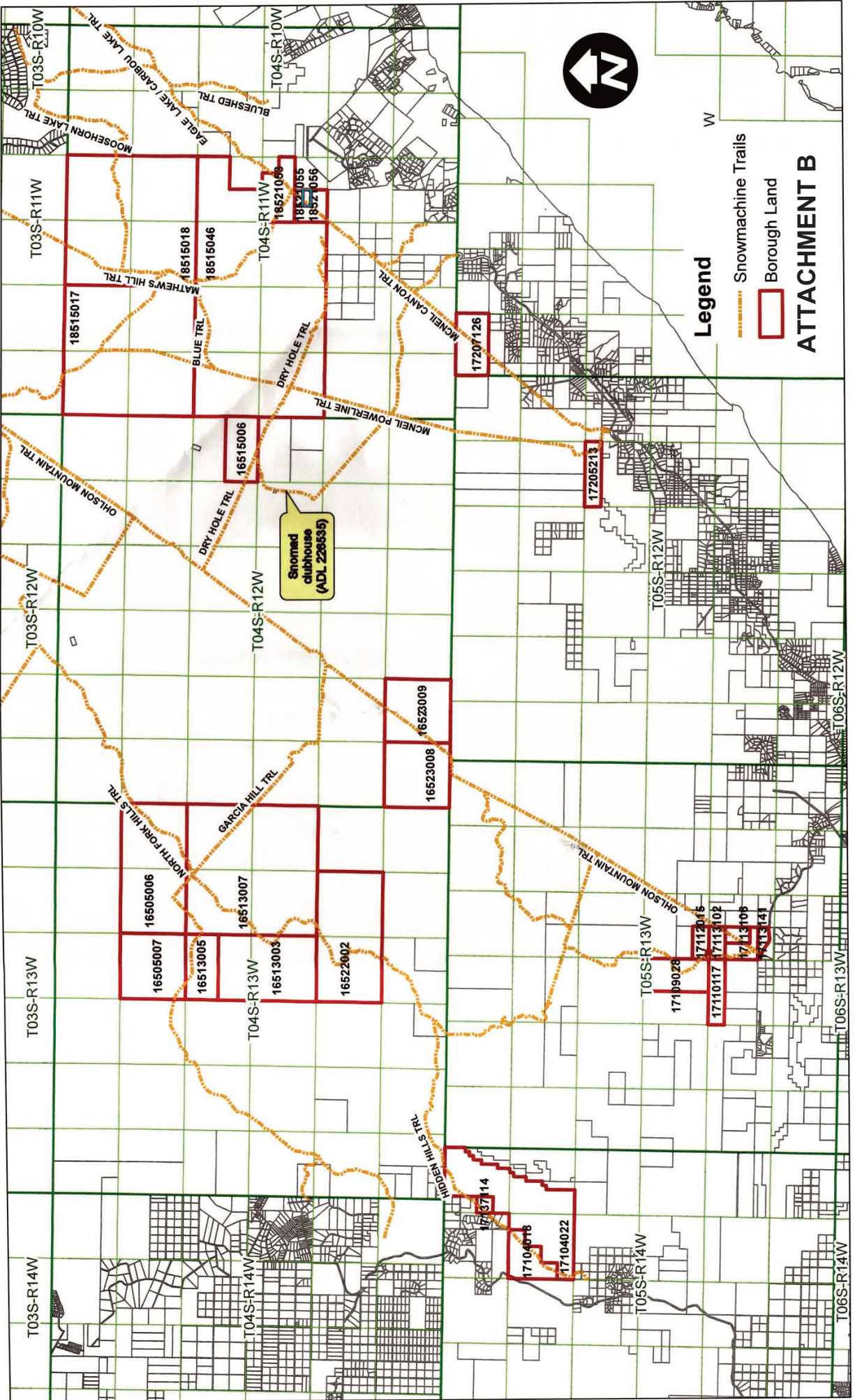
- ⊕ RECOVERED GLO MONUMENTATION
- RECOVERED PRIMARY MONUMENTATION



WATERMELON TRAIL 2020 SURVEY

SEABRIGHT SURVEY + DESIGN
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Legend

ATTACHMENT B

