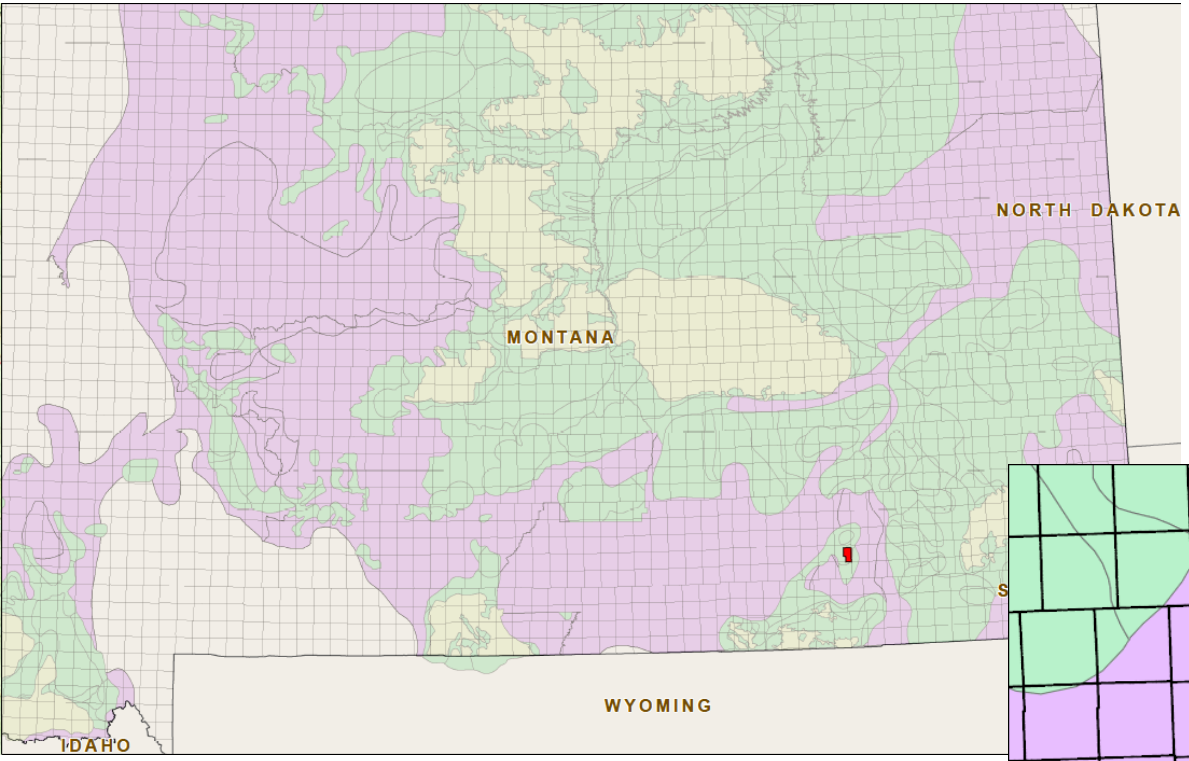
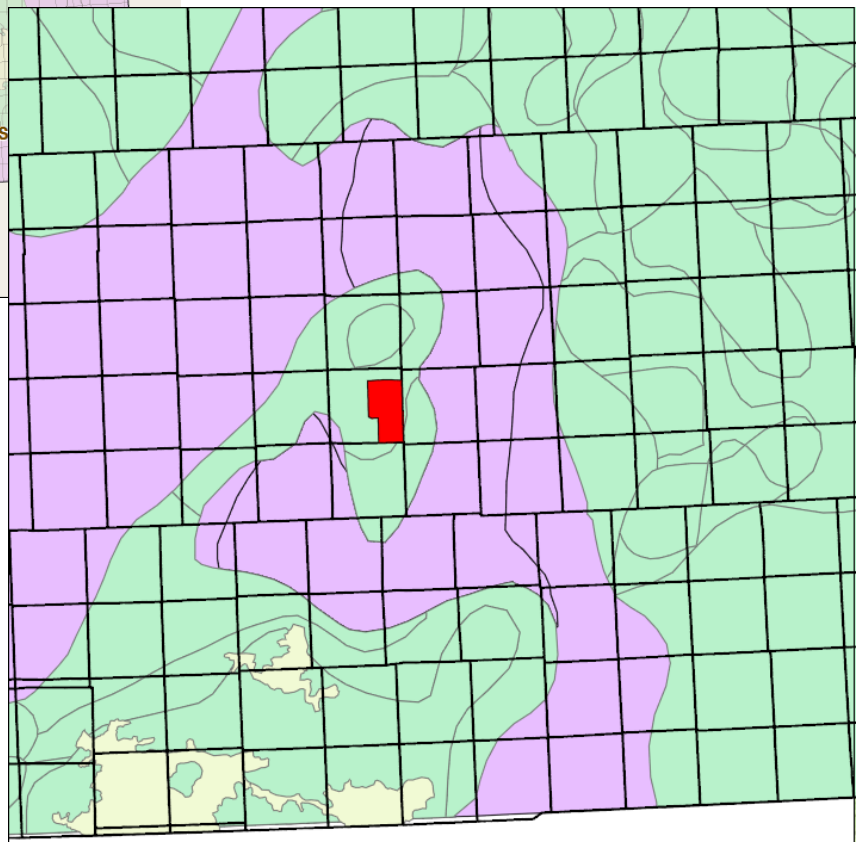
Montana Sage-grouse Advisory Council

Impacts to the Otter Creek Mine Property


NORTH DAKOTA
MONTANA
WYOMING
IDAHO



Current Status

- All baseline data collected, analyzed, compiled and put into permit, permit submitted
- Completeness review finished
- Comment Responses to DEQ for Technical review in process

- **Cost so far:**
  - **$85.8 million** lease payment to state of MT (2010)
  - **$500,000+** in permitting costs – putting local MT companies to work
  - **Expected total : $1 Billion** (including permitting, railroad, facilities construction, initial overburden)

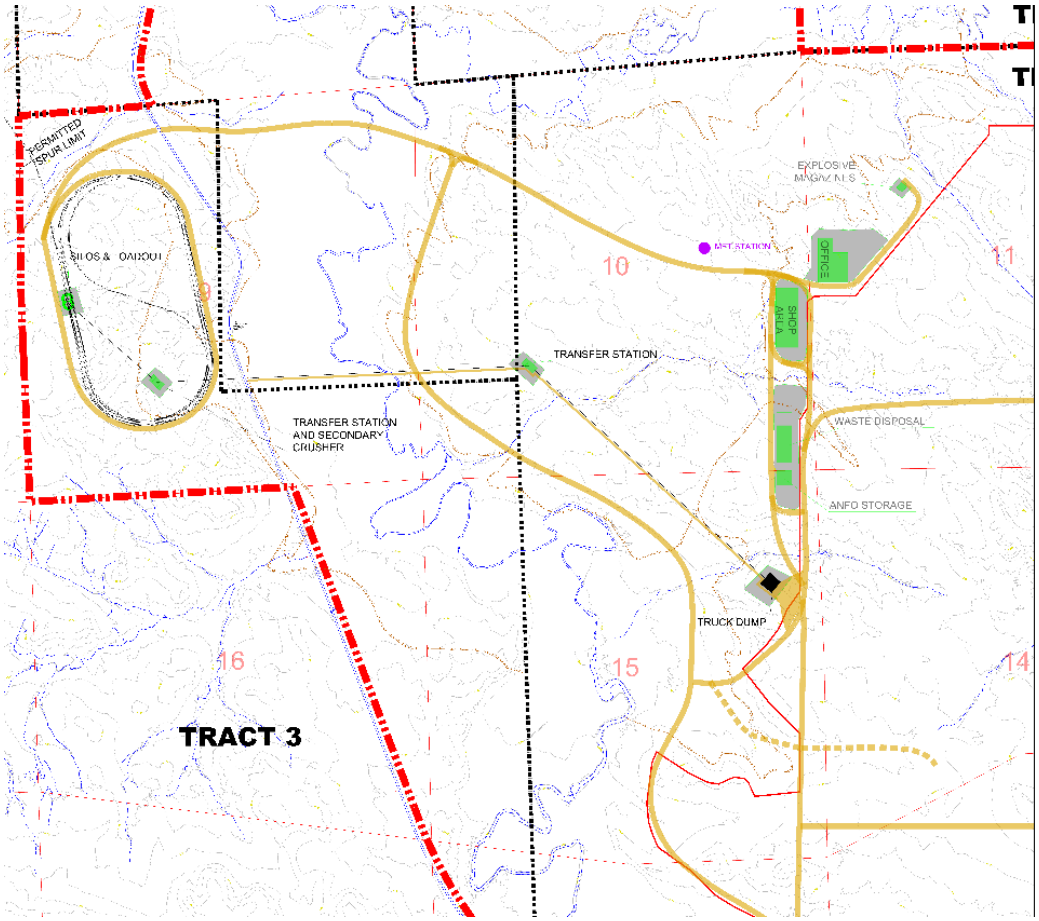
Peak Operations

- Over 300 permanent mining jobs + peripheral jobs
- 20 million tons per yr.
- Over $91 million in annual tax revenues to MT
  - (similar to Spring Creek)
    - University of MT Bureau of Business and Economic Research Study

New Mine Facilities necessary for opening Otter Creek

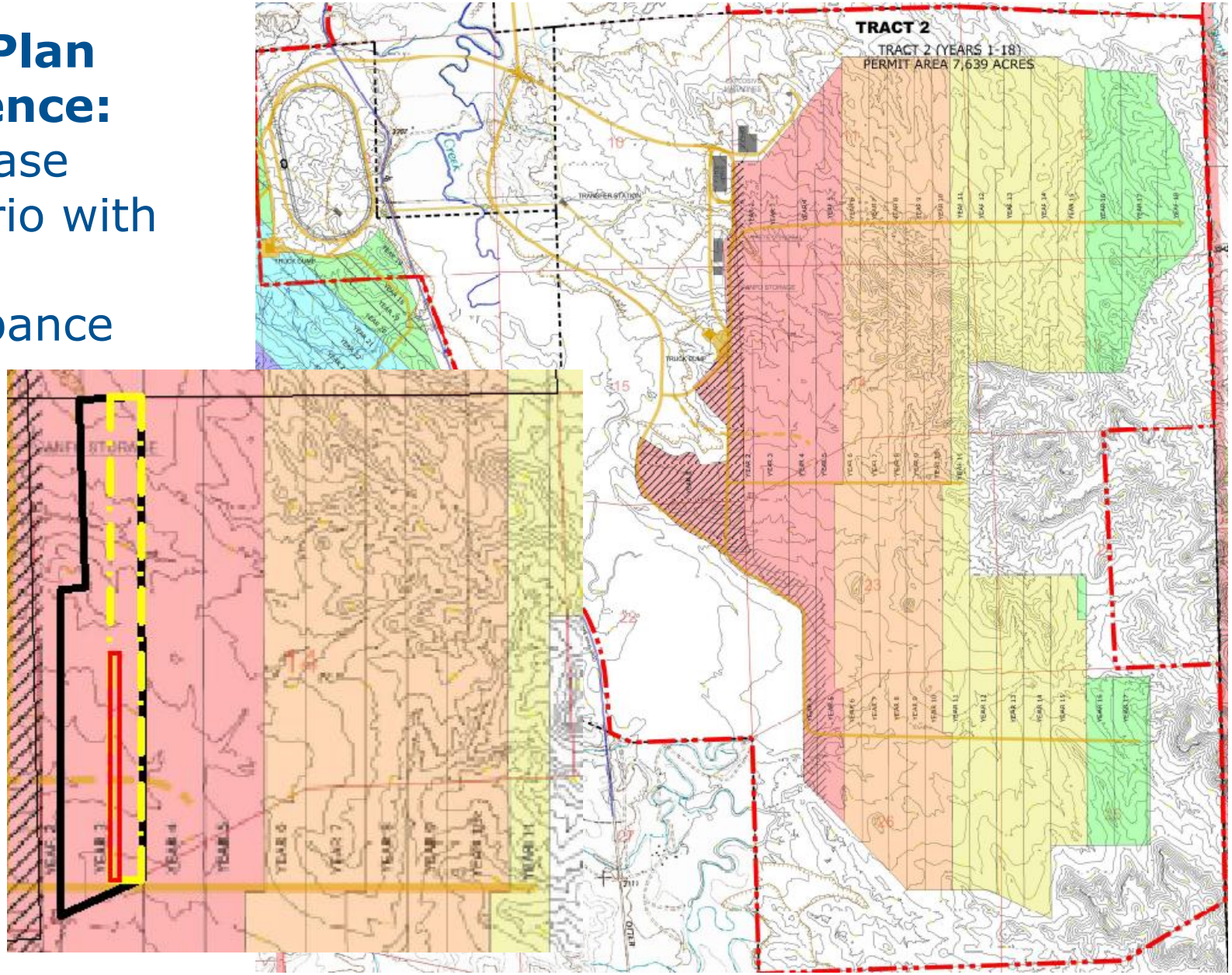
- Railroad
- Silos and Rail loop
- Loading facilities, crushing facilities, transfer facilities
- Haul roads, office buildings, maintenance shop
- Dragline erection site
- Initial boxcut (with associated overburden pile)
- Sediment control ponds, Topsoil stockpiles

<5% disturbance not possible

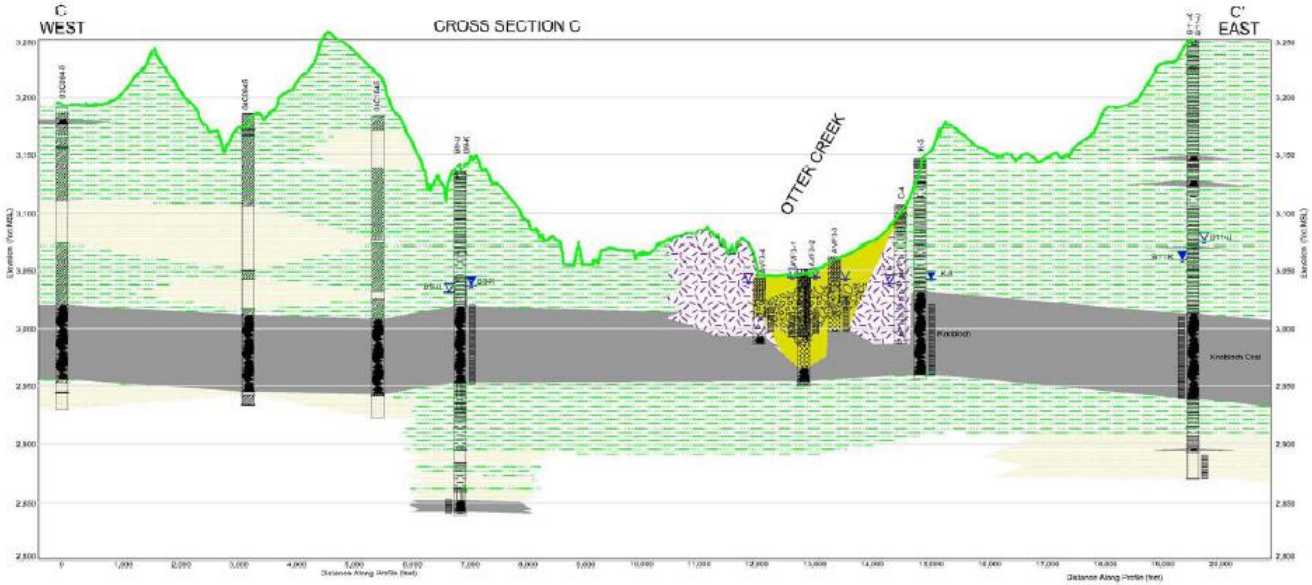


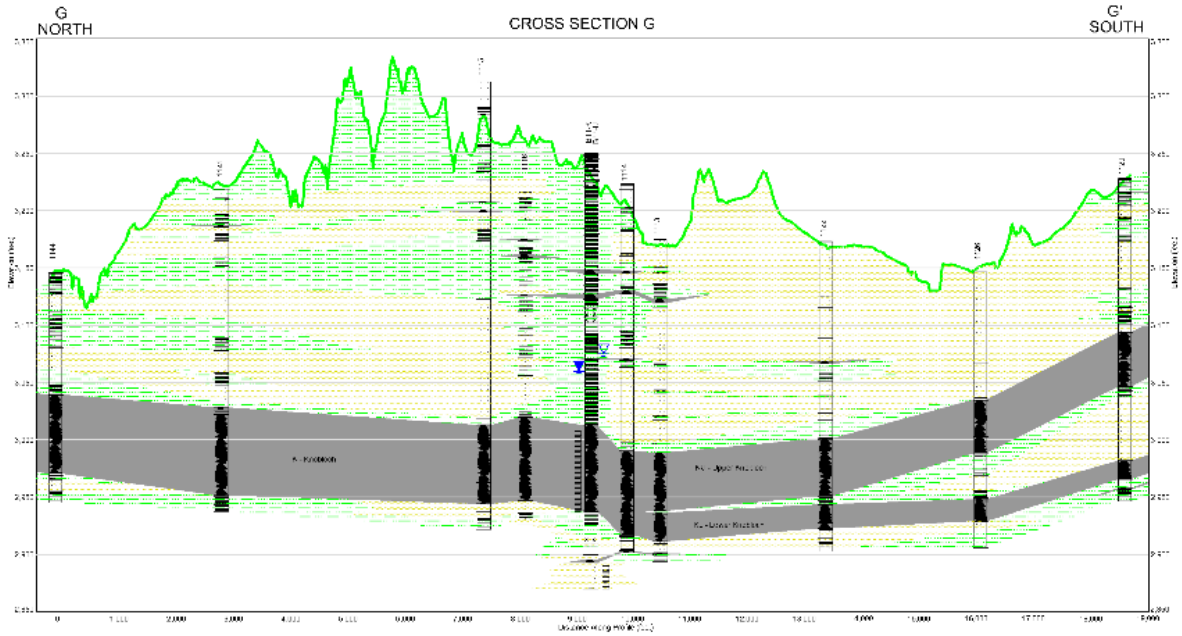
Mine Plan Sequence:

Best-case Scenario with 5% disturbance cap



- 2.5:1 Overburden to coal ratio
- Variable topography
- Surface disturbance larger in some areas





Conclusions

- **Consider:**
  - Balance between sage-grouse protection and MT economy
  - Impacts to future development
  - Rules and regulations already in place to help protect sage-grouse and contemporaneous reclamation
  - Alternative conservation measures – Conservation Agreements and mitigation tools