Sage-Grouse Habitat Conservation Advisory Council
June 26, 2013

Current Sage Grouse Stipulations

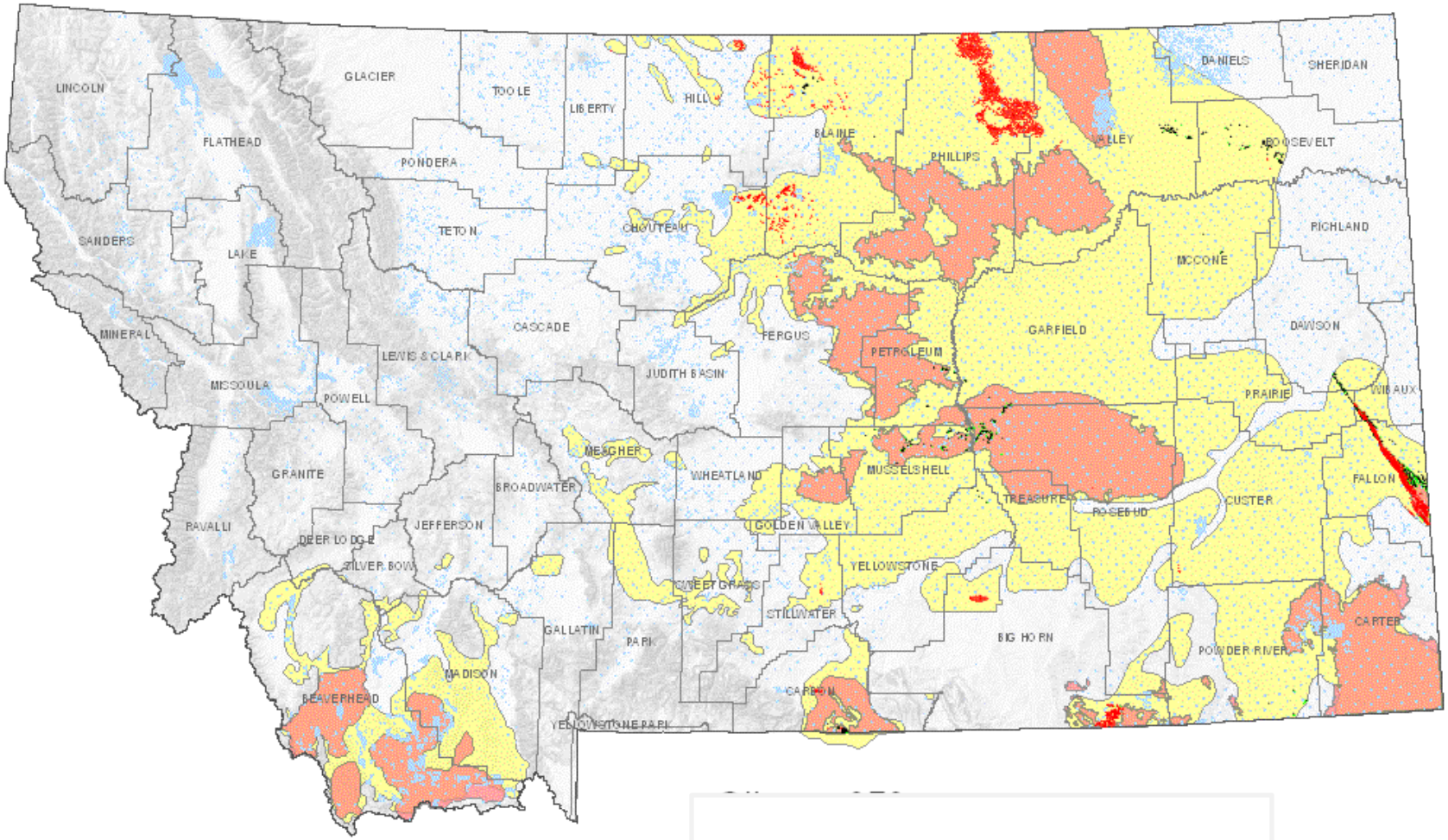
And a look at the “Straw Dog” Impact Assessment

MT-DNRC

Trust Land Management Division

Shawn Thomas and Monte Mason

Sage Grouse Habitat and Active Wells

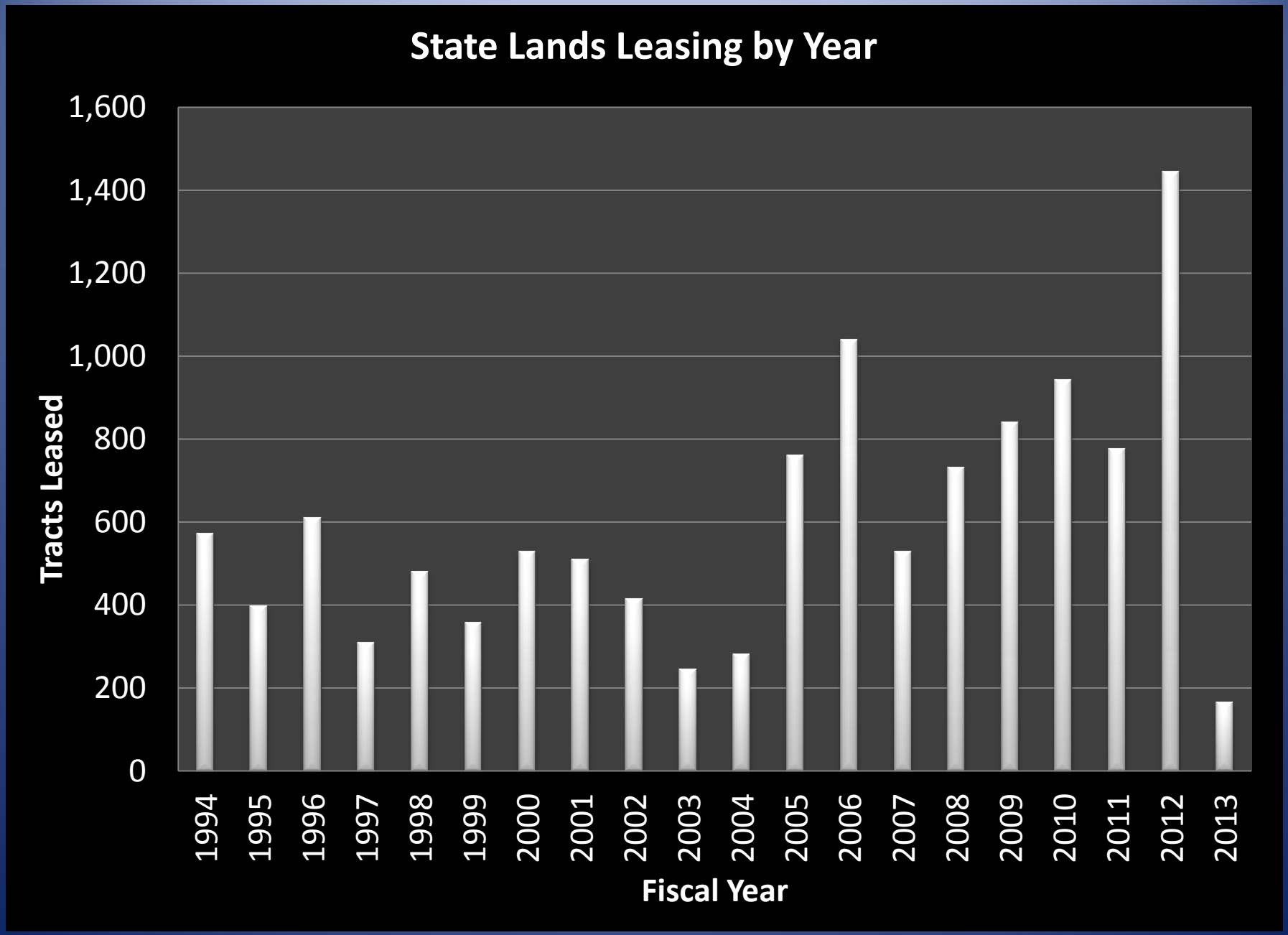


State Acres Leased/Productive Comparison

Acres	1993	2012	Change
Leased	611,071	2,650,781	4.3 X
Productive	178,922	241,476	35%

State School Trust Mineral Revenue

	FY 2011	FY 2012
Oil & Gas	$33,040,606	$37,514,849
Coal	$8,563,336	$7,466,339
Other	$177,113	$865,288
Total	**$41,781,055**	**$45,846,476**


State Lands Leasing by Year
Tracts Leased
1,600
1,400
1,200
1,000
800
600
400
200
0
1994
1995
1996
1997
1998
1999
2000
2001
2002
2003
2004
2005
2006
2007
2008
2009
2010
2011
2012
2013
Fiscal Year

DNRC/DFWP Current Sage-grouse Stipulation

- DFWP expressed concern regarding active sage grouse leks within a mile of tracts proposed for leasing in 2007.
- The result was the development of a lease stipulation with DFWP that established a review and consultation process.
- A surface use proposal has not yet occurred that would trigger the stipulation.

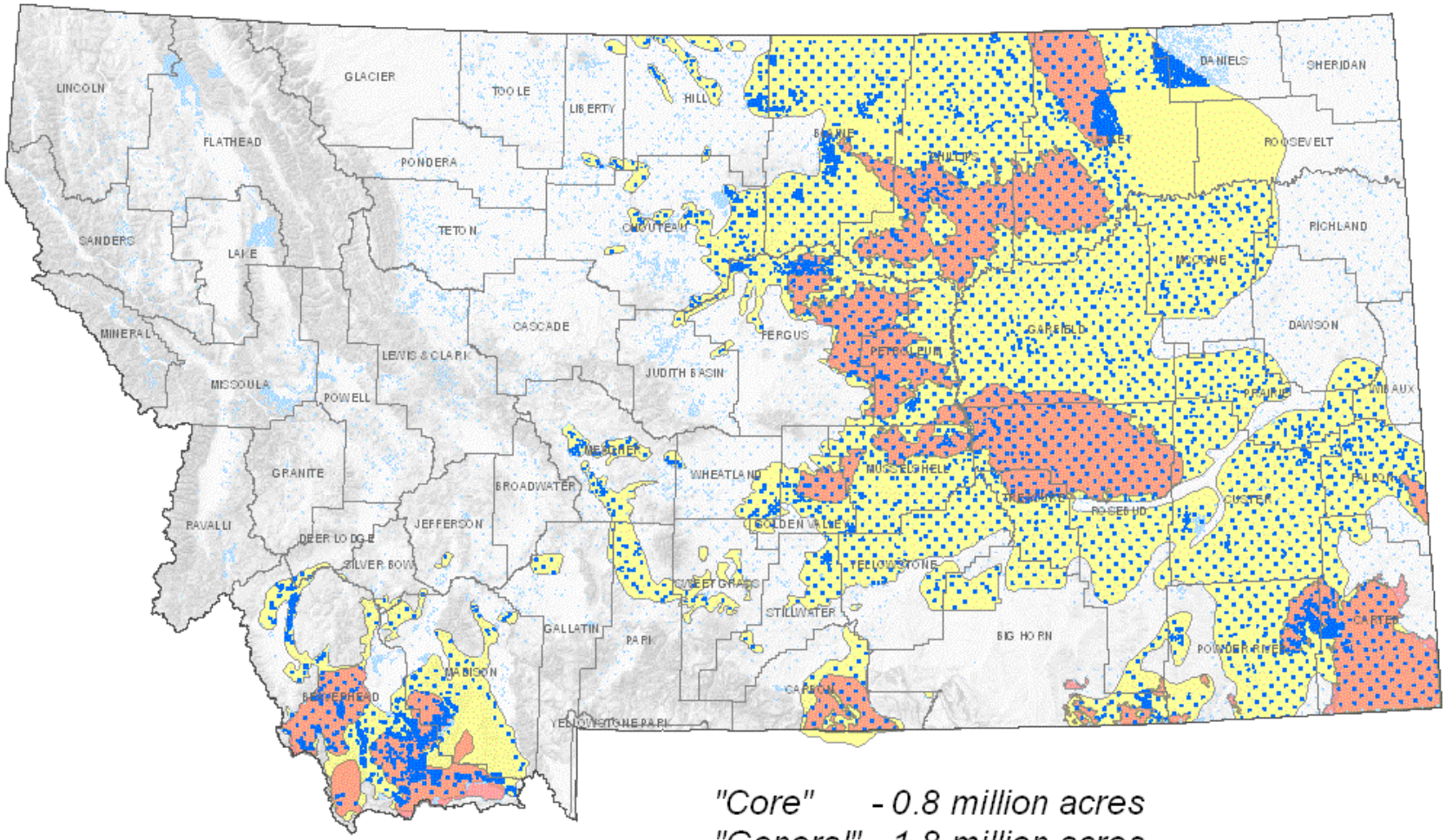
Lease Sage-grouse Stipulation

"Active sage grouse leks have been identified on or adjacent to this tract. No activities shall occur on the tract until the proposed action has been approved in writing by the Director of the Department. If surface activity is proposed on the tract, the department will consult with the Director of the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks for his or her comments, concerns and recommendations. Additional mitigation measures may be required, including no-surface-occupancy buffers and/or timing restrictions, which may encompass part or all of the tract."

DFWP Lease Sale Input

- A list of nominated tracts is distributed to DFWP for review. DFWP provides information and comments on a variety of wildlife species, including sage grouse.
- DFWP provided the following guidance for a tract on DNRCs June 2013 lease sale:
- *"If lek(s) are found, no surface occupancy within 0.25 miles of any sage grouse lek and surface use prohibited within 2 miles of the lek during the spring lek, nesting and brood-rearing seasons (March 1 and June 15)."*

School Trust Lands
w/i Habitat Area



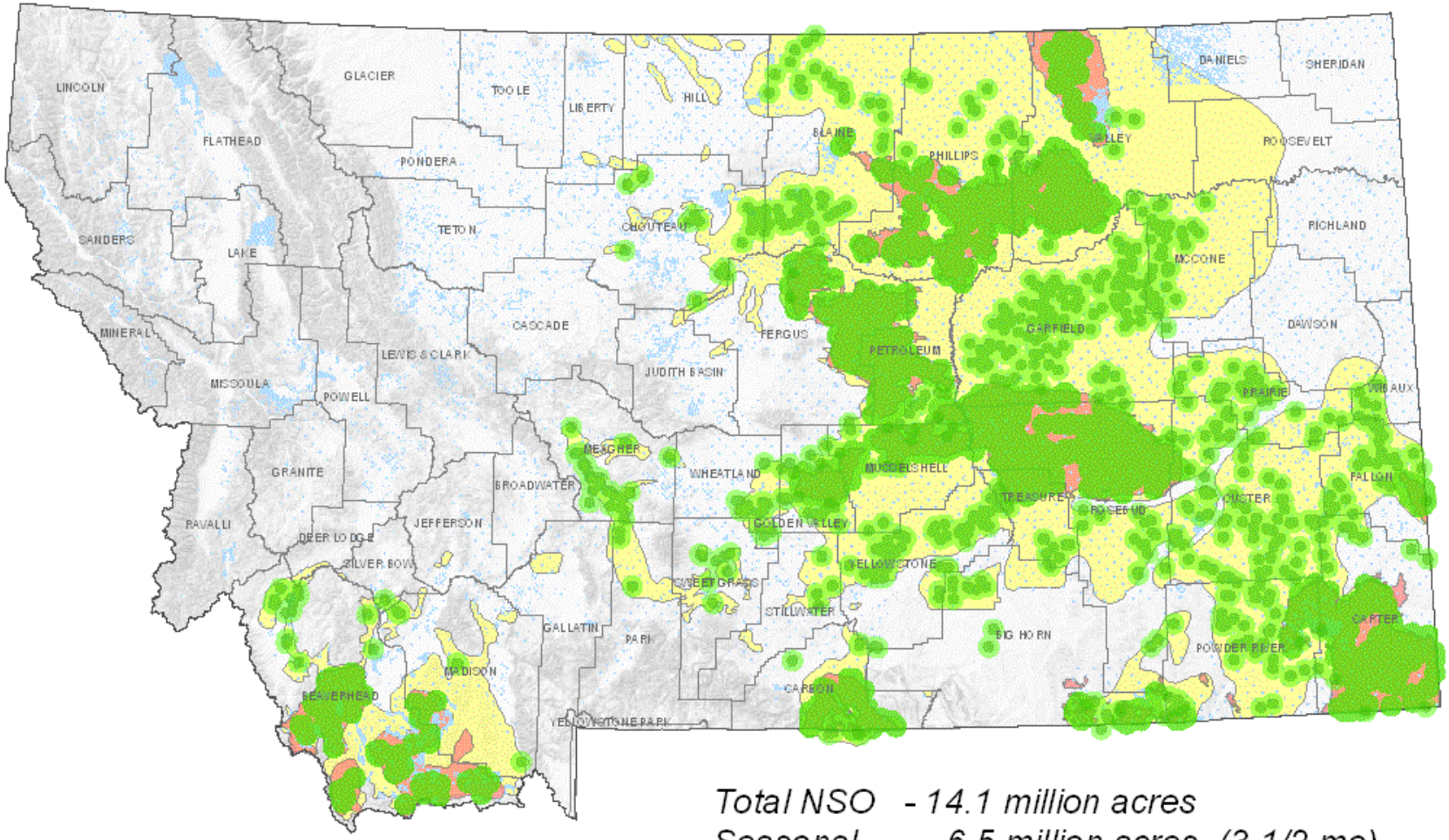
"Core" - 0.8 million acres
"General" - 1.8 million acres
Total - 2.6 million acres (7.0%)

State School Trust Land within SG Habitat

Acres	General		Core		Total	
Total	27,626,000	100.0%	8,885,000	100.0%	36,511,000	100.0%
Owned	1,769,830	6.4%	788,293	8.9%	2,558,123	7.0%
Leased	636,342	2.3%	205,148	2.3%	841,490	2.3%
Producing	85,621	0.3%	7,880	0.1%	93,501	0.3%

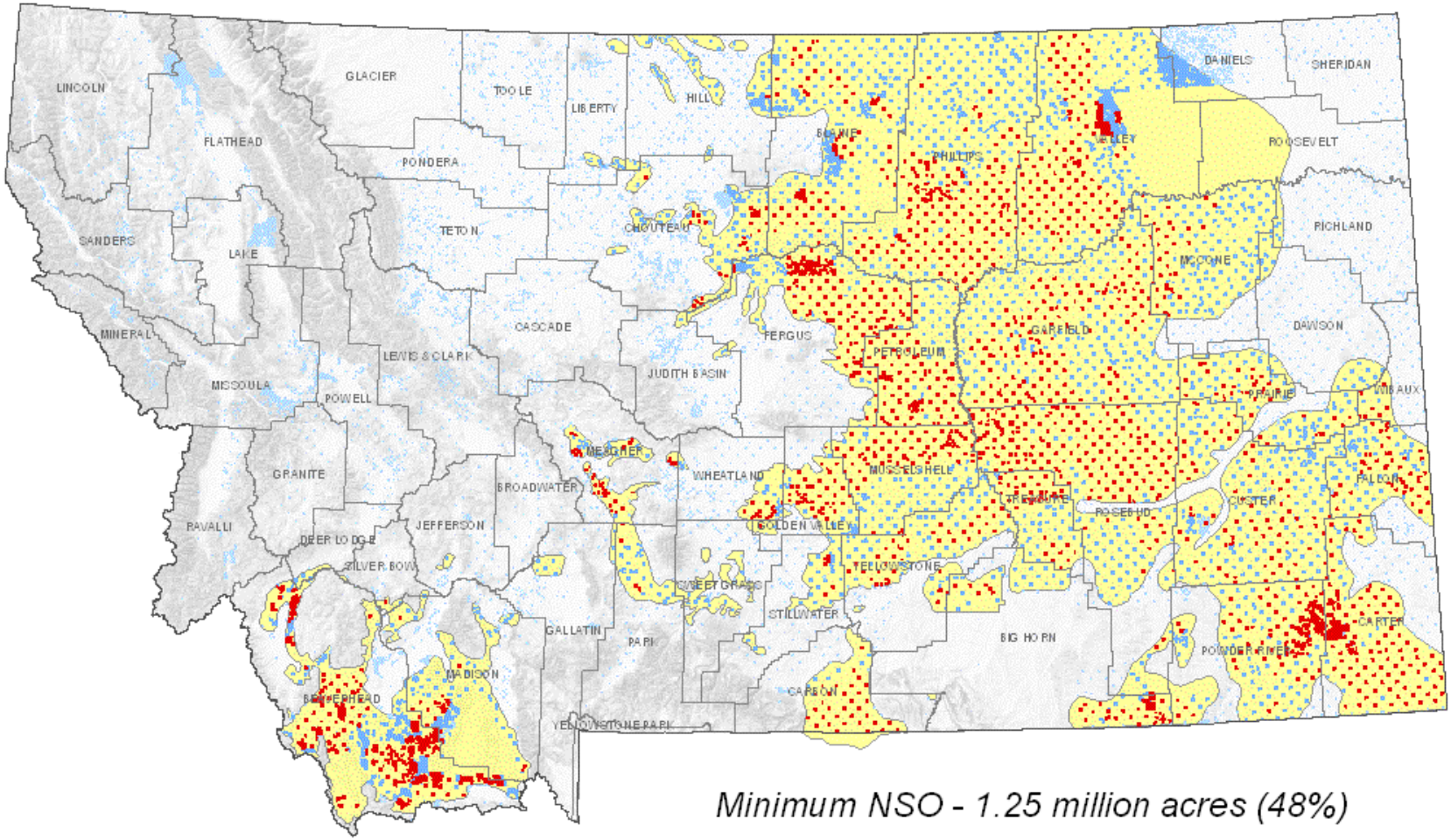
“Straw Dog” Assessment and Maps

FWP Buffer Restrictions



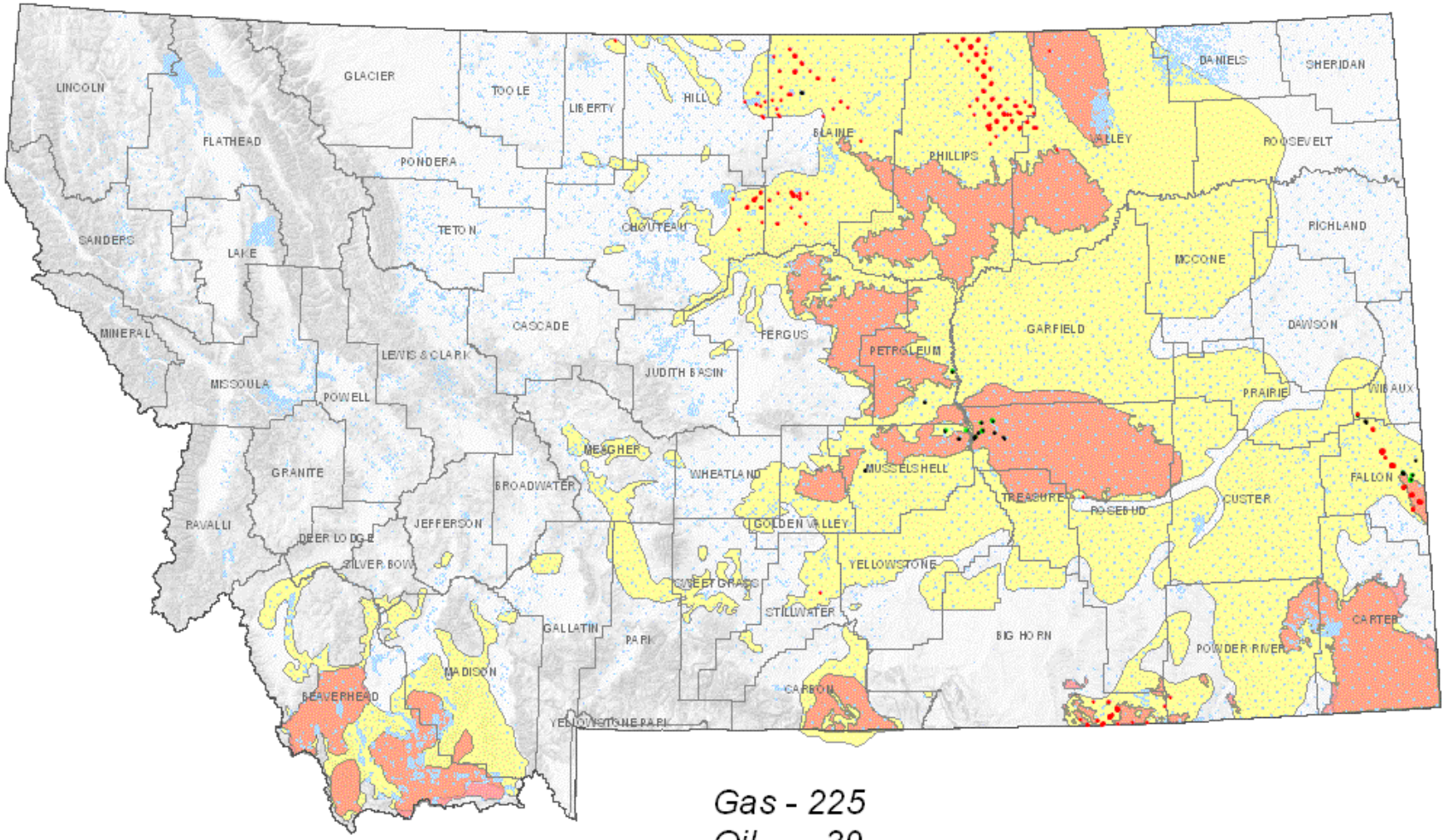
Total NSO - 14.1 million acres
Seasonal - 6.5 million acres (3-1/2 mo)
Total - 20.6 million acres

School Trust Lands
No Surface Occupancy



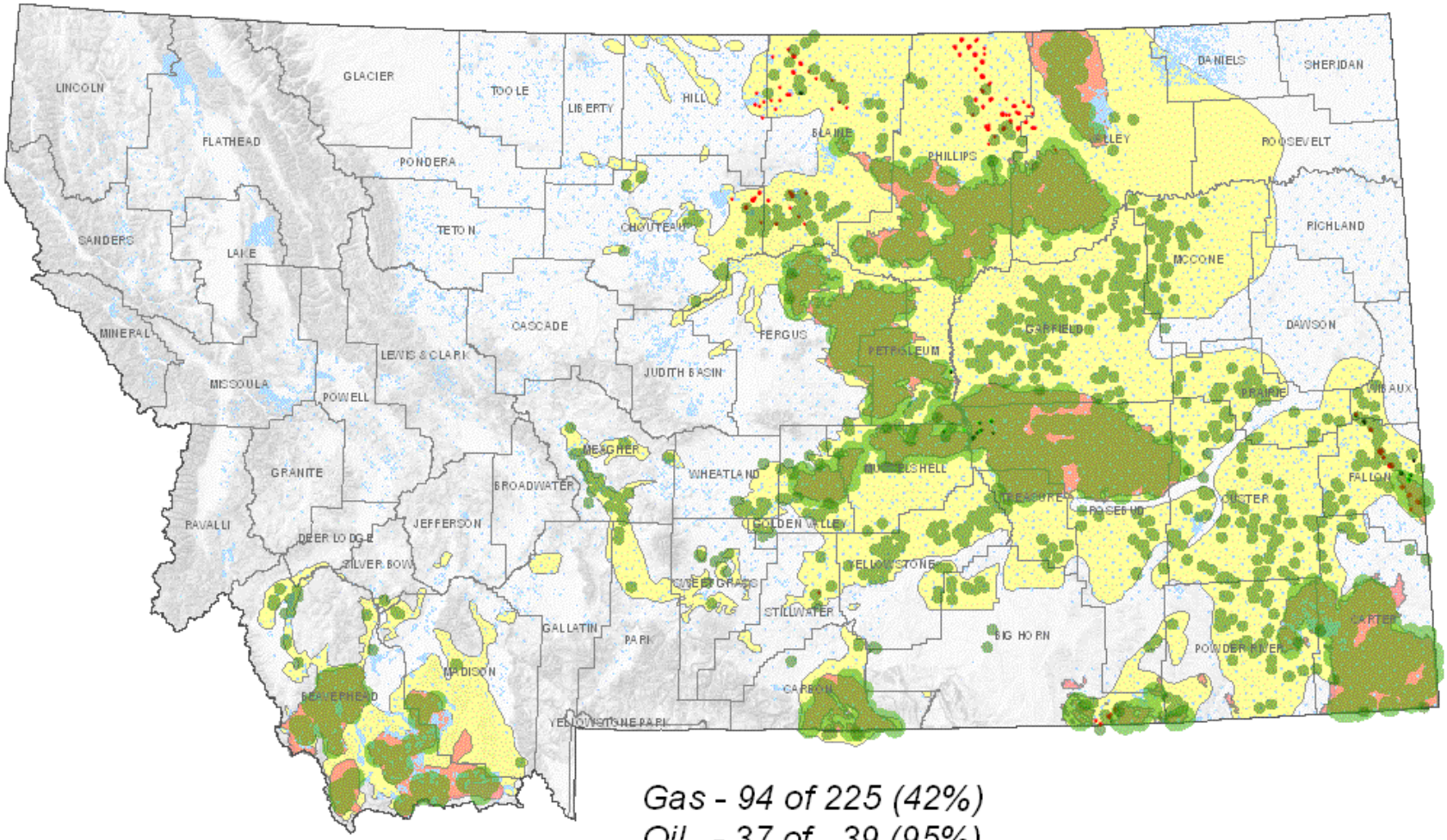
Minimum NSO - 1.25 million acres (48%)

Active Wells on School Trust Land



Gas - 225
Oil - 39
Inj - 31 *Total - 295*

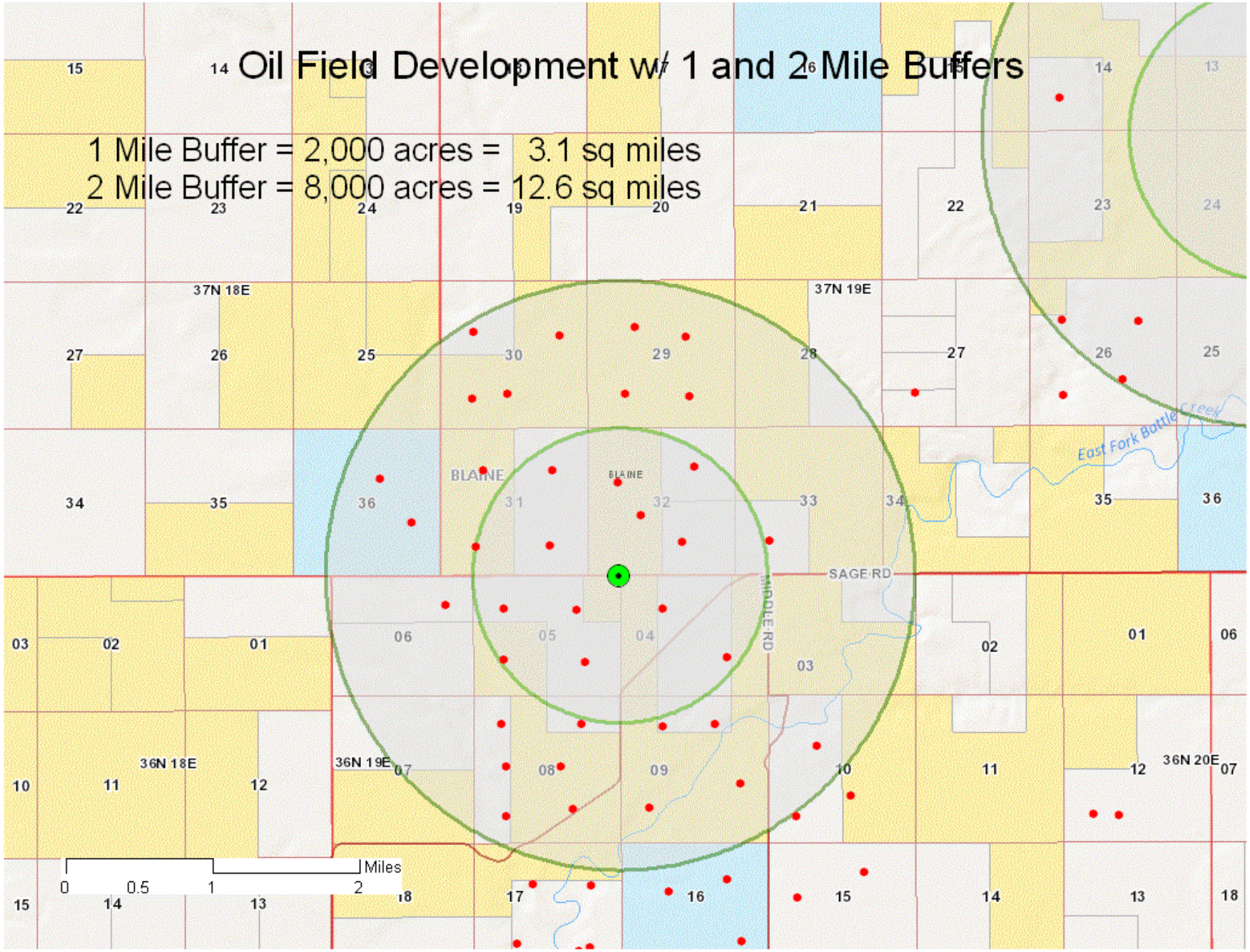
Active Wells on School Trust Land
w/i NSO Buffer

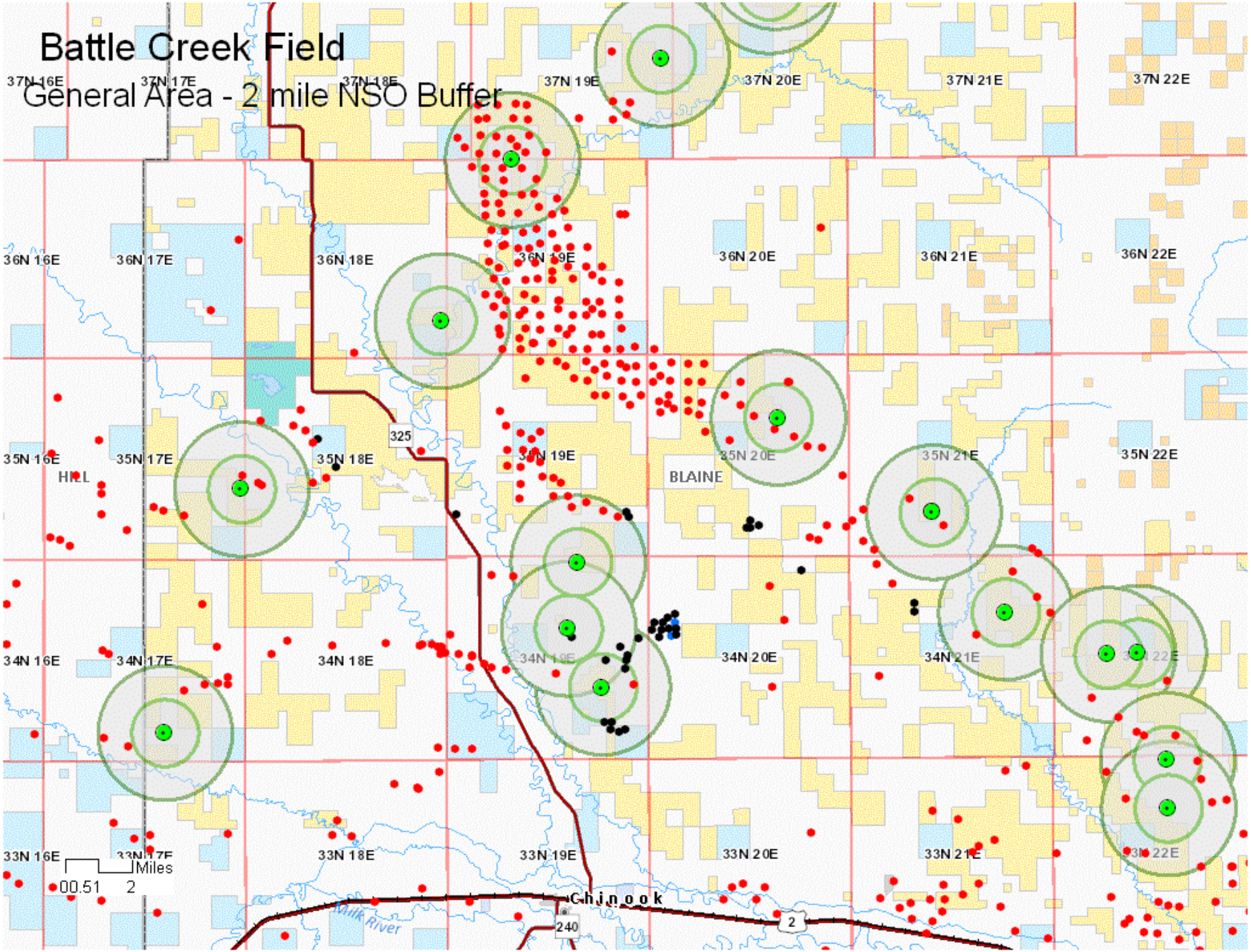


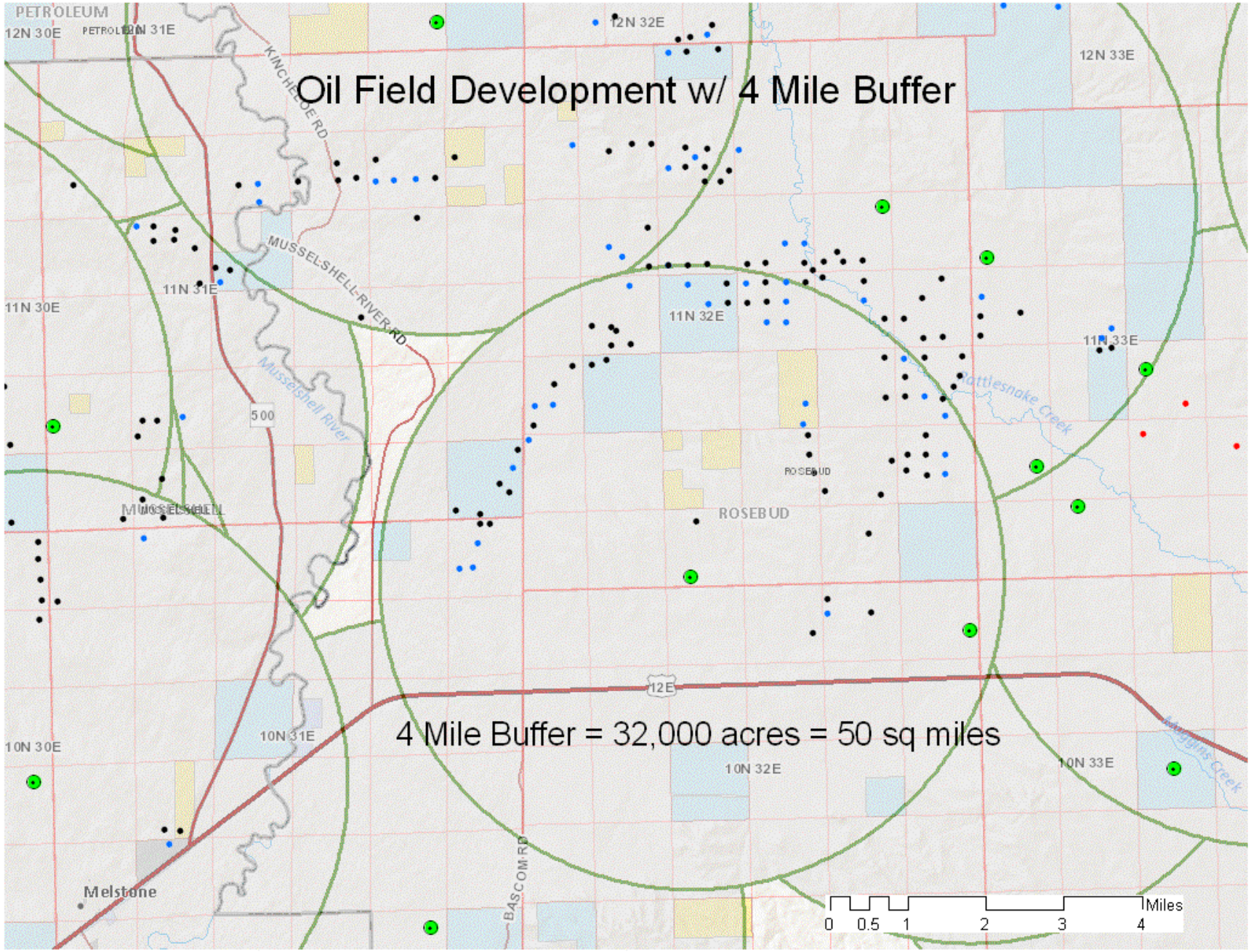
Gas - 94 of 225 (42%)
Oil - 37 of 39 (95%)
Inj - 30 of 31 (97%) *Total - 161 of 295 (55%)*

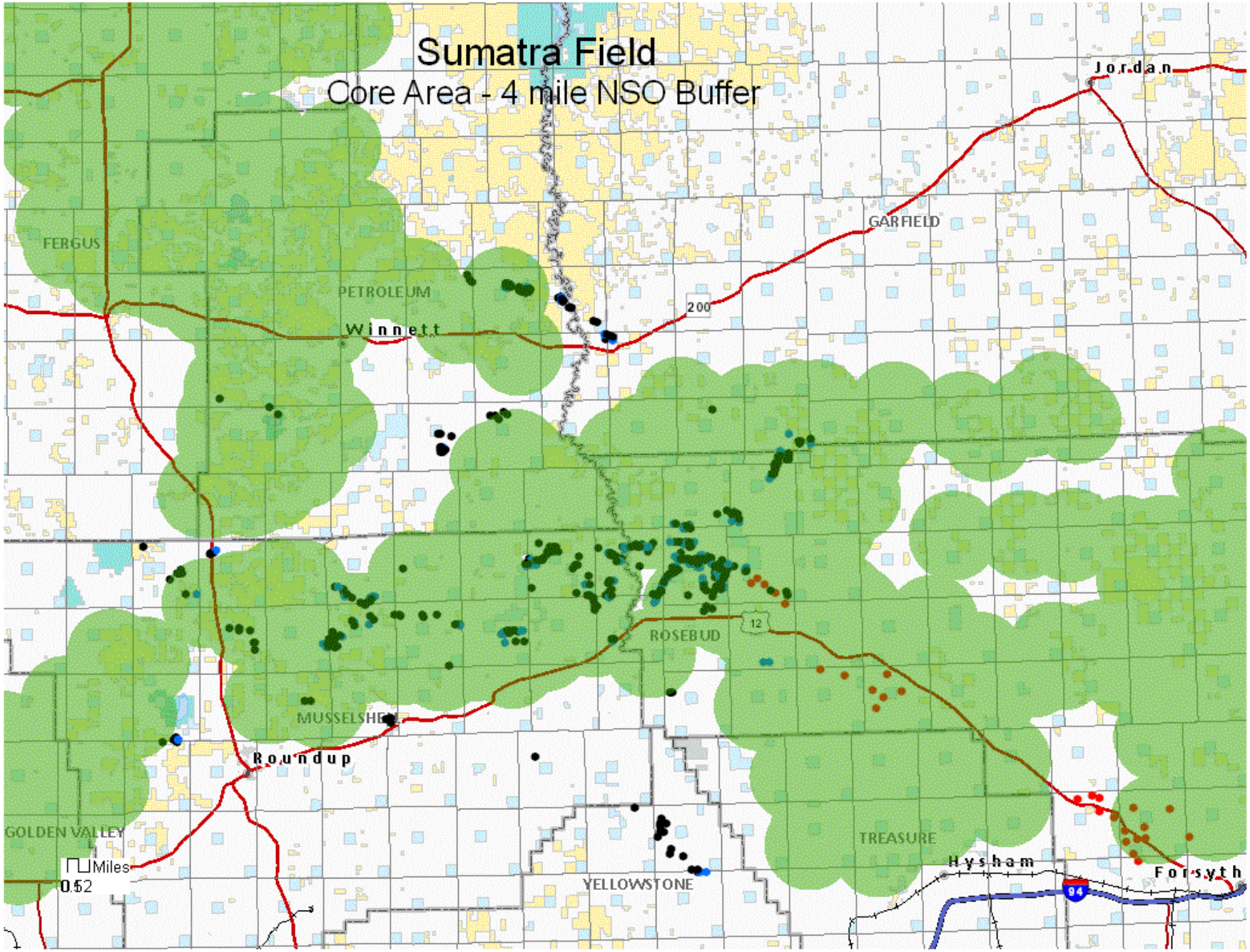
Oil Field Development w/ 1 and 2 Mile Buffers

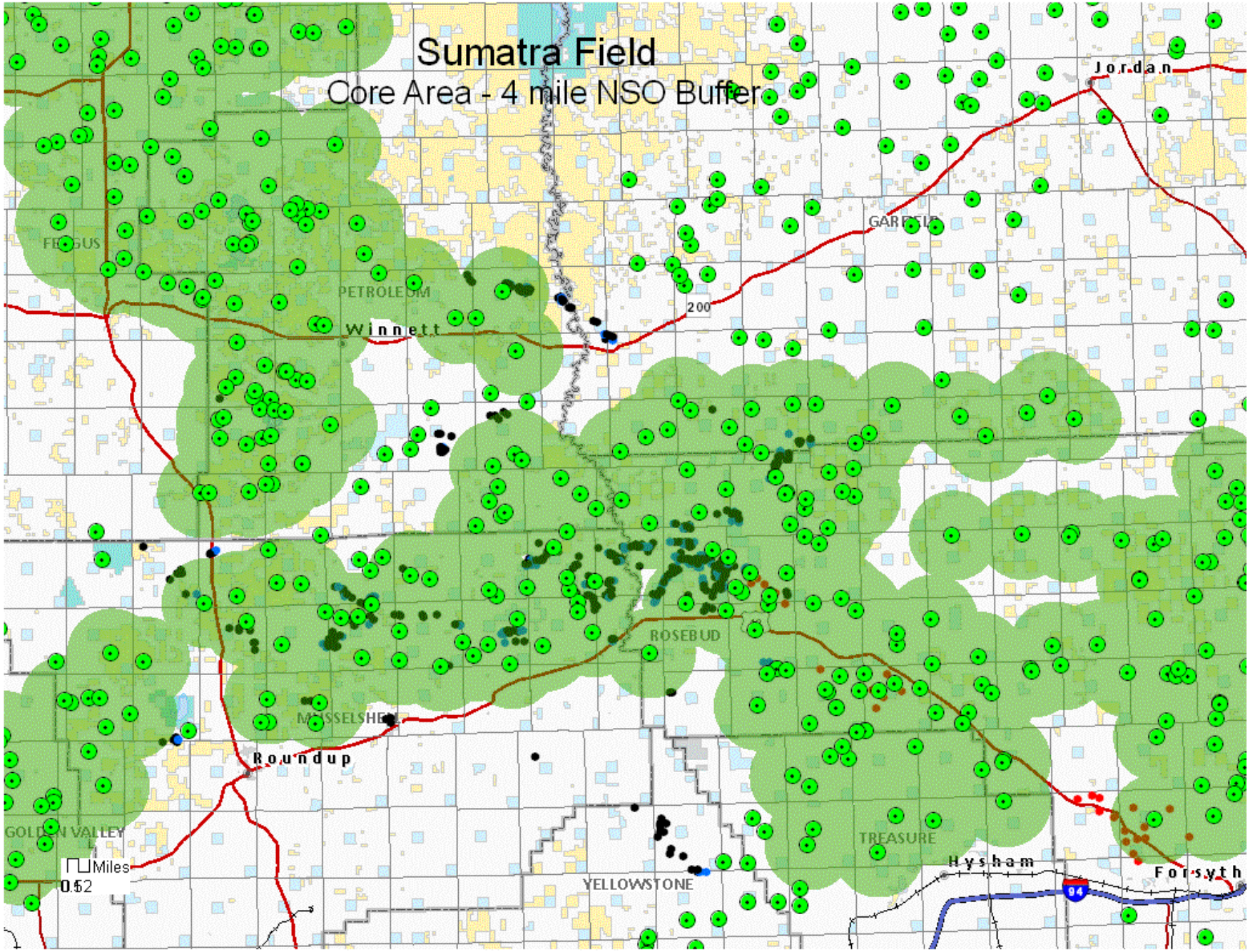
1 Mile Buffer = 2,000 acres = 3.1 sq miles
2 Mile Buffer = 8,000 acres = 12.6 sq miles




Battle Creek Field
General Area - 2 mile NSO Buffer
37N 16E
37N 17E
37N 18E
37N 19E
37N 20E
37N 21E
37N 22E
36N 16E
36N 17E
36N 18E
36N 19E
36N 20E
36N 21E
36N 22E
35N 16E
35N 17E
35N 18E
35N 19E
35N 20E
35N 21E
35N 22E
HILL
BLAINE
325
34N 16E
34N 17E
34N 18E
34N 19E
34N 20E
34N 21E
33N 16E
33N 17E
33N 18E
33N 19E
33N 20E
33N 21E
33N 22E
Miles
0 0.5 1 2
Chinook
Milk River
240
2


Oil Field Development w/ 4 Mile Buffer
4 Mile Buffer = 32,000 acres = 50 sq miles
PETROLEUM
12N 30E
12N 31E
12N 32E
12N 33E
KINCHELOE RD
MUSSELSHELL RIVER RD
11N 30E
11N 31E
11N 32E
11N 33E
Musselshell River
500
Rattlesnake Creek
ROSEBUD
MUSSELSHELL
12E
10N 30E
10N 31E
10N 32E
10N 33E
Muggins Creek
BASCOM RD
Melstone
0 0.5 1 2 3 4 Miles


Sumatra Field
Core Area - 4 mile NSO Buffer
Jordan
GARFIELD
FERGUS
PETROLEUM
Winnett
200
ROSEBUD
12
MUSSELSHELL
Roundup
GOLDEN VALLEY
TREASURE
Hysham
Forsyth
YELLOWSTONE
94
Miles
0 1 2


Sumatra Field
Core Area - 4 mile NSO Buffer
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Winnett
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ROSEBUD
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Roundup
GOLDEN VALLEY
TREASURE
Hysham
Forsyth
YELLOWSTONE
94
Miles
0 1 2

Conclusion- Wrap up discussion points:

- Do we need significant restrictions placed on state lands in general habitat? 1.8 or 2 mile buffers in general habitat significantly impact school trust lands.

- What are workable buffers within core habitat? 3.8 or 4 mile buffers entirely remove development from school trust lands within core habitat. Trust resources, at a minimum need to be protected from loss (draining)

Questions