

Request for Proposals
Shinbone Fuel Reduction
Pisgah National Forest
Mitchell County, North Carolina

NFF Background:

The National Forest Foundation (NFF) is a congressionally chartered nonprofit organization with the simple mission of bringing people together to restore and enhance National Forests and Grasslands. The NFF is the leading organization inspiring personal and meaningful connections to our National Forests, the centerpiece of America's public lands. Working on behalf of the American public, the NFF leads forest conservation efforts and promotes responsible recreation. We believe these lands, and all they provide, are an American treasure and are vital to the health of our communities.

Project Background:

The primary purpose of Helene projects on Pisgah National Forest (Appalachian Ranger District) is the emergency response to complete urgent recovery actions from Hurricane Helene. The storm impacted the Forest with devastating flooding, heavy debris flows, severe landslides, soil erosion and destabilization, and high winds that caused severe forest blowdown areas, increasing insect and disease concerns. The heavy blowdown also increased the fuel loading with potential for catastrophic wildfires further increasing erosion and soil infiltration to waterways.

This project will reduce fuel loading on the Appalachian Ranger District of the Pisgah National Forest in Mitchell County, North Carolina. Hurricane Helene winds damaged standing trees while the floods left wood debris along Forest Service Roads. The Forest Service Roads were damaged to the point that equipment was unable to access these areas. The Forest Service has an existing contract for repairing the roads so other operators can access these areas to remove the fuel. Repairing the roads also creates access for firefighters. However, there isn't much that can be done with dozers if there is a fire because of the fuel loading. The desired result is to remove the fuel created by Hurricane Helene to reduce the wildfire potential and allow firefighters to put equipment and men in the woods. The emergency response time will be greatly increased because of accessibility and the ability to use ridgelines and other topographical features, as fire breaks will be available to the firefighters.

Statement of Work:

The objective of this project is to reduce fuel loading resulting from Hurricane Helene on approximately 870 acres in the Appalachian Ranger District. Reduce hazardous fuel loads by removing blown-over, broken, root sprung, and leaning trees (sawtimber and pulpwood) within the project boundary. Restore disturbed areas through erosion control treatments, water-barring, slashing and vegetation establishment. Haul roads used will be maintained during operations to ensure safe and sustainable access.

The selected contractor will be responsible for:

- Removing all designated storm damaged trees using Damaged by Designation including trees blown over with roots still attached, trees with broken tops (attached or on the ground), and leaning or root sprung trees.
- Processing material into commercial sawtimber and pulpwood where feasible.
- Decking merchantable products at locations approved by the USFS and NFF project leads.
- Avoiding damage to residual standing trees not designated for removal.

Road maintenance is required on 11 miles of haul routes used during the project. The selected contractor will:

- Conduct dozer grading to restore proper road surface shape and repair damage.
- Apply aggregate/stone as directed to correct surface damage caused by hauling.
- Maintain roadside drainage features and ensure they function throughout the contract period.
- Repair any road damage resulting directly from contractor operations.

Establish approximately 1.7 miles of temporary roads on an existing road prism. These roads will include two stream crossings that will require a ford or culvert. All culverts will be removed post hauling.

Upon completion of the fuel removal, skid trails will need to have water bars installed at intervals specified by the USFS and NFF project leads. Apply slash from onsite material to stabilize trails and discourage use. Decks that are no longer needed for this project will be prepared to ensure proper seedbank contact. Plant all decks in an annual grass seed mix. Apply mulch if required to ensure germination and soil stabilization. Treat all disturbed soil areas with erosion control best practices using the State of North Carolina [Best Management Practices Manual](#).

The selected contractor is responsible for supplying all equipment necessary for fuel removal (e.g. skidders, saws, loaders). Coordinate regularly with the NFF representative to ensure adherence to treatment boundaries and specifications. Keep roads clear of debris generated by operations.

There will be a separate permit required to settle the timber products. The estimated cost is \$0.01 per ton on sawtimber and \$0.01 on pulpwood. The estimated tonnage on sawtimber is 27,066 and estimated pulpwood is 23,882.

Competitive Range

The expected competitive range for bids to this solicitation is \$2,500,000 to \$3,100,000.

Timeline:

This Request for Proposals will close and all proposals will be due on Friday, September 11, 2026. The NFF anticipates being able to enter a contract with any selected bidder(s) by September 25, with a projected contract start date of October 16. Changes in the closing date for this Request for Proposals will be updated on the NFF website at <https://www.nationalforests.org/rfp> under the link for this project's Request for Proposals. All contract related dates are estimates and subject to change at the NFF's sole discretion.

Pre-bid tour: A pre-bid tour is scheduled for: Thursday, September 3, 2026, meeting at the intersection of Ephriam Road (Forest Service Road) and NC HWY 197. As the areas are accessible, prospective bidders can visit the sites unaccompanied, see maps in Appendix A. For more information about site conditions and to confirm attendance at the pre-bid tour, contact: Laura Belleville, lbelleville@nationalforests.org

I. PROJECT OVERVIEW AND REQUIREMENTS

General Specifications

- (a) Description of Work – This Request for Proposals is for fuel reduction services related to the Hurricane Helene Recovery project, located on the Appalachian Ranger District, Pisgah National Forest in North Carolina. Work on this project will be accomplished by performing a sanitation salvage. The selected contractor will be responsible for cutting damaged sawtimber and damaged pulpwood sized material and removing it from the project area, slashing down tops or limbs that do not meet the size specification in the harvesting process. At or adjacent to log landings, delimbing areas, and similar areas of slash accumulation within the project area, concentrations of slash greater than 4 feet in height and 50 foot in length, measured at greatest distances, shall be lopped and scattered.

A separate special forest products permit will be issued by the Forest Service. Total estimate for sawtimber and pulpwood products is \$509.48 The selected contractor will be responsible for performing the following deliverables:

1. **Fuel Reduction** will entail treating all trees greater than 8” DBH (Diameter Breast Height) that are leaning, broken off and/or root sprung, to be felled and skidded to deck/landing. All trees already on the ground from Hurricane Helene within the 8” or greater DBH will be skidded to the deck/landing and processed for hauling.

Table 1. – Minimum Specifications

Species Group	Product	Estimated Quantity	Unit of Measure	Minimum Specifications				
				Tree to be Removed		Piece to be Removed		
				Diameter At Breast Height (DBH) (inches)	Number of Minimum Pieces per Tree	Length (feet)	Diameter Inside Bark at Small End (inches)	Net Scale in % of Gross Scale
All	Small Roundwood	27,066	Tons	8.0	1	12	4.0	0
All	Sawtimber	23,882	Tons	15.0	1	12	9.0	50%

The subdivision boundaries are identified on the project maps and are determined by slope limitations, topographic contours, and roads. Follow project area map for boundary location. Electronic files will be made available for use in Avenza. Any painted boundaries will be painted in orange paint with three slashes at eye level with a stump shot.

There are site specific special protection measures for wildlife in the following units: 1, 2, 3, 6 and 7. Areas are identified on the project map with SMA. These areas are equipment exclusion zones but allow for felling and

winching.

Location and size of all landings, tractor roads, and skid trails shall be agreed upon prior to their construction. The cleared or excavated size of landings shall not exceed that needed for efficient skidding and loading operations. After landings have served Contractor's purpose, Contractor shall ditch and slope them to permit water to drain or spread. Unless agreed otherwise, cut and fill banks around landings shall be sloped to remove overhangs and otherwise minimize erosion.

Contractor shall construct cross ditches and water-spreading ditches on tractor roads and skid trails, where staked or otherwise marked on the ground by Forest Service. Contractor may use other comparable erosion control measures, such as backblading skid trails, in lieu of cross ditching.

Contractor's Operations shall not unnecessarily damage young growth or other trees to be preserved.

Prior to moving off-road equipment onto the project area, Contractor shall have equipment clean and available for inspection by the Forest Service.

2. **Hauling (haul to disposal & sawmills)** Remove all included sawtimber 15.0" DBH and greater and small roundwood 8"-14.9" DBH from project area. Load tickets shall be placed in approved lockbox at designated and agreed upon location(s). The trucks hauling sawtimber will be tagged with a yellow load ticket. Pulpwood to be hauled to the disposal zones will be tagged with a blue ticket. The disposal zones are already set up to accept pulpwood from this project. Contractor will surrender the load ticket to the scale master.

Load Count Product Removal Permits will be issued for load count product loads. Product Removal Permits (Yellow & Blue Book) shall be completed by an assigned individual on the landing following the instructions on the inside cover of the product removal book. The truck driver shall sign for the load. For log truck loads, the Product Removal Permit will be stapled to the driver's side bunk log of the trailer portion of the load. If a loaded truck is staged on the Project Area or any other approved location, the driver, prior to moving the load, shall record the removal date and sign on the outside of the attached ticket as instructed on the inside cover of the Product Removal Permit Book, section II.A.4. Truck drivers are responsible for ensuring the Product Removal Permit is attached to the load prior to removal from the loading area and until the load is accounted for at the final delivery point.

Small Roundwood may be delivered to the following disposal sites:

- Bridgewater Forest Products: located at 3991 Bridgewater Road, Morganton, North Carolina.
- Suncrest: located at 118 Ferguson Road, Wayneville, North Carolina

- Valwood: located at 35 Coalville Road, Marble, North Carolina.

Before removal of the log landing, loads will be paint branded on each side of the load. The brand for this project will be SB. Painted letters should be at least 10 inches high and 2 inches wide. Side branding should be painted near the bottom of the load. The paint color will be agreed upon before operations begin.

Depending on the truck configuration, the following tons per load will be used:

- Volume for all material will be paid at rates listed in the contract on a predetermined conversion factor of 25 tons per load for single trailer, 5 axle log truck configuration (tractor trailer). Log trucks are restricted to a maximum gross vehicle weight of 80,000 pounds unless otherwise agreed, as well as State limits for width and height.
- Volume for all material will be paid at rates listed in the contract per ton on a predetermined conversion factor of 25 tons per load for truck/trailer, 6 axle log truck configuration (truck & pup/wiggle wagon). Log trucks are restricted to a maximum gross vehicle weight of 80,000 pounds unless otherwise agreed, as well as State limits for width and height.
- Volume for all material will be paid at rates listed in the contract per ton on a predetermined conversion factor of 17 tons per load for single trailer, 3 axle log truck configuration (short truck). Log trucks are restricted to a maximum gross vehicle weight of 54,000 pounds unless otherwise agreed, as well as State limits for width and height.

3. **Sediment Erosion Control** Any ground that is disturbed with construction clearing for temporary roads, decks/trail agreed upon under the timber settlement contract will have waterbars where needed, slash on the trails and/or planted. Decks and temporary roads will be planted back. Exposed soil on temporary roads, skid trails and landings no longer needed for Contractor's operations shall be seeded and mulched within 30 days of discontinued use during the seeding season. Soil tilling to cover seed may be required under dry site conditions.

Bare areas or roads with soil compaction will require harrowing, disking or ripping. Due to compaction, it may be necessary to till the soil to a depth of 6 inches or more.

Contractor's operations shall be conducted reasonably to minimize soil erosion. Equipment shall not be operated when ground conditions are such that excessive damage will result. Contractor shall adjust the types and intensity of erosion control work done to ground and weather conditions and the need for controlling runoff. Erosion control work shall be kept current

immediately preceding expected seasonal periods of precipitation or runoff. Areas of ground that were disturbed by operations (decks/landings and/or trails) that need revegetated shall follow seeding season from March 15 to October 15.

Revegetation Plan and Specifications, Fertilizer and Seed:

Fertilizer	Pounds/Acre	Seed	Pounds/Acre
17-17-17	550	Orchard Grass	30
		Millet	10
		Annual Rye	7
		Wheat	10
		White Clover	8

4. Road Maintenance Blading/Grading and Gravel Hauling & Spreading

Forest Service Roads identified in the table below will have road grading/blading and contractor-supplied gravel applied. There are 11 miles of roads to grade and 1,575 Tons of gravel estimated for hauling and spreading.

FSR Number	Name	Miles
5583	Ephriam Road	8.5
5565	Chestnut Mountain	0.83
5567	Bowling Greene	1.67

5. Temporary Road Development & Specifications

An estimated 1.7 miles of temporary development on an existing road prism. There will be 1.7 miles of dozer blading during and post hauling. There are two stream crossings, either ford or culverts to implement crossing. The culverts shall removed post hauling. There will need to be 180 tons of 3" ballast.

Clearing Limits – Maximum clearing width for the temporary road shall be 16 feet.

1. Clearing limits include removal of trees, brush, and vegetation necessary to construct and safely operate the road.
2. Clearing shall be kept to the **minimum necessary for safe equipment operation** and shall not exceed **16 feet measured horizontally from the outer edge of disturbance**.
3. Merchantable timber within clearing limits shall be processed according to contract requirements.
4. Non-merchantable vegetation may be lopped and scattered or placed in designated disposal areas.

Roadway Width:

1. The running surface shall be approximately 10–12 feet wide, sufficient for single-lane logging traffic.
2. Shoulders and minor cut/fill slopes must remain within the 16-foot clearing envelope.
3. The road shall be designed as a single-lane temporary access route with turnouts where terrain permits.

Alignment and Location:

1. Alignment shall minimize ground disturbance, erosion risk, and impacts to soil and water resources.
2. Existing disturbed corridors or skid trails should be used where practical. Sharp curves, unstable soils, and steep grades should be avoided whenever possible

Grade:

1. Road grade should generally not exceed 12 percent, except for short pitches approved by the Forest Service.
2. Outsloping of 2–4 percent should be used where feasible to facilitate drainage.

Drainage:

1. Drainage features shall be installed as needed to prevent erosion and maintain road stability.
2. Drainage measures may include:
 - Waterbars
 - Rolling dips
 - Outsloped road surfaces
 - Cross-drainage features

Spacing of drainage structures shall depend on slope and soil conditions. Typical waterbar spacing guideline:

Road Grade	Waterbar Spacing
0–5%	300–400 ft
6–10%	200–300 ft
11–15%	100–200 ft

Revegetate the temporary road by seeding post haul. The seed mix will be the same as prescribed for erosion control.

(b) Specifications – Project work shall be accomplished in accordance with the following specifications:

1. Appendix A: Maps
2. Appendix B: Road Maintenance Plan
3. Appendix C: Federal Funding Flowdown Provisions

(c) Project Location – Project is located on the Appalachian Ranger District, Mitchell County off NC State Road 197. The work location and conditions for this project are as follows: No facilities available.

(d) Work Schedule – No limitation on work schedule.

Insurance Requirements

Minimum Insurance. In accordance with the terms of the Services Agreement, prior to the start of any work, the successful bidder will be required to maintain, and ensure that its subcontractors performing work described in the proposal (Subcontractors) maintain, the minimum coverages and comply with the insurance requirements indicated below.

a. Coverage Requirements

- i. **Commercial General Liability Insurance.** Commercial general liability insurance written on an occurrence basis, including bodily injury, property damage, personal injury, advertising injury, products and completed operations and contractual liability in the amount no less than:
 - \$1,000,000 each occurrence;
 - \$1,000,000 products/completed operations limit;
 - \$1,000,000 advertising injury and personal injury limit; and
 - \$2,000,000 general aggregate.
- ii. **Business Automobile Liability Insurance.** If using motor vehicles (owned, hired, or borrowed) to deliver perform the work described in the proposal, business automobile liability insurance with a minimum limit of \$1,000,000 combined single limit each accident for bodily injury and property damage for all owned, rented leased or hired vehicles used in conjunction with the performance of the services.
- iii. **Workers' Compensation Insurance.** Statutory workers' compensation insurance in accordance with all state and local requirements of the state(s) in which services will be performed. This will include employers' liability insurance with minimum occurrence limits of:
 - \$100,000 bodily injury by accident/\$100,000 each accident;
 - \$500,000 bodily injury by disease/\$500,000 policy limit; and
 - \$100,000 bodily injury by disease/\$100,000 each employee.

- b. Waiver of Subrogation. All insurance policies shall include a waiver of any and all rights of subrogation or recovery of the insurers thereunder against, inter alia, the NFF, and its assigns, successors, undertakings and their subsidiaries, affiliates, employees, insurers and underwriters, and of any right of the insurers to any set-off or counterclaim or any other deduction, whether by attachment or otherwise, in respect of any liability of any such person insured under any such policy or in any way connected with any loss, liability or obligation covered by such policies of insurance.
- c. Primary and non-contributory. With the exception of Workers' Compensation and Professional Liability insurance (if applicable), all insurance required to be maintained by Contractor shall be primary with respect to all claims arising out of Contractor's performance and/or activities under this Agreement, and any insurance or self-insurance maintained by the NFF shall be excess only, and not be required to contribute with it.
- d. "Claims Made" Coverage. Any liability insurance purchased on a "claims made" basis must be continuously maintained for a period equal to the applicable statute of repose, but in any case, not less than 3 years, following final performance or termination of Services, either through the continued purchase of insurance or the purchase of an extended reporting period. The retroactive date applicable to such "claims made" insurance, if any, must precede the first date on which Services are to be performed.
- e. Verification of Coverage. Contractor, for itself and any permitted Subcontractors, will have furnished to the NFF original certificates of insurance and amendatory endorsements or copies of the applicable policy language effecting coverage required herein prior to or at the time of execution of the Agreement, and shall further provide evidence that the foregoing is in place and will not be cancelled or reduced during the term of the agreement. Contractor's and any Subcontractors' certificates of insurance will list "The National Forest Foundation" as an Additional Insured on its or their commercial general liability policy, business automobile liability policy, and pollution liability policy (as applicable). Contractor and any of its Subcontractors will submit updated certificates of insurance upon expiration of the required policies.

Additional Insurance Requirements. In addition to the minimum insurances set forth above, the NFF reserves the right to request additional coverage as reasonably necessary based on the scope, nature, and risks associated with the services to be performed, including, but not limited to:

Loggers' Broad Form Property Damage endorsement (or its structural equivalent providing specialized forestry liability extensions) written on an occurrence basis; covering bodily injury; property damage; personal injury; advertising injury; products and completed operations; contractual liability; all firefighting, suppression, and mitigation costs or expenses levied by any federal, state, or local government agency resulting from fires caused by the Contractor's operations; accidental damage or destruction to standing timber, reproduction timber, vegetation, and the land itself, including property

in the Contractor's care, custody, or control; property damage arising out of mechanical mastication, brush clearing, slash disposal, or fuel reduction activities.

Commercial Pollution Liability Insurance (or specialized endorsement) cover claims for third-party bodily injury, property damage (including loss of use of damaged property), and environmental remediation or cleanup costs. The policy must explicitly cover pollution conditions resulting from the Contractor's on-site activities and operations under the Agreement. The policy shall be written on an occurrence basis with limits of liability no less than:

A. \$2,000,000 Each Incident

B. \$2,000,000 Aggregate

Payment/Performance Security

If selected, Bidder(s) shall be required to provide performance security in the form of cash, a letter of credit, bond, or other financial security that is easily convertible into cash in a form acceptable to the NFF, in its sole determination. The security will be used to ensure completion of the work required under any subsequent agreement and payment of all amounts lawfully due to all persons. All persons shall include, but not be limited to, those supplying or furnishing to the Bidder or Bidder's Subcontractors with labor, laborers, materials, rental machinery, tools or equipment used or to perform the work. Bidders may incorporate required associated costs into mobilization costs or other approved expenses. Payment or Performance security will be required in the following amounts as applicable:

- a. For work that is classified as construction in accordance with the Miller Act or Little Miller Act or if required per conditions of the funding source, payment and performance bonding will be required in the full amount of any Agreement. For the purposes of this Request for Proposal, construction is defined as "any contract greater than \$100,000 for the construction, alteration, or repair of any public building or public work where the federal government is the owner"; or
- b. If Contractor is subcontracting 15% or more of the total contract value, or if the cost of materials is in excess of the larger of \$100,000 or 50% of the contract total, payment and performance bonding will be required in the full amount of the agreement; or
- c. If the value of the agreement is in excess of \$250,000, Contractor will be required to post financial security in a form acceptable to the NFF in the amount of 5% of the total agreement value up to \$250,000 in total financial security.

The NFF will not provide blanket waivers of payment/performance security requirements though reserves the right to negotiate payment and performance security terms and conditions with selected contractors based upon legal requirements and organizational needs and policies.

Prevailing Wage Requirements

Prevailing wages are required for this work and will be determined based on the project's funding source, the nature and scope of services to be performed, and applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations. Bidders are responsible for evaluating the requirements associated with the work proposed and incorporating all applicable labor costs into their pricing.

Prohibited Telecommunications Services and Equipment

NFF contractors are responsible for compliance with the prohibition on certain telecommunications and video surveillance services or equipment identified in 2 CFR 200.216.

Federal Exclusion Verification

The selected Contractor will be required to affirm that neither it nor its principals are presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction by any Federal department or agency.

Federal Flowdown Provisions

NFF funding for projects may vary but will frequently include federal funds. As such, any Agreement associated with this RFP may be subject to flowdown requirements under associated federal or state funding agreements, which are included and made part of by this reference. Federal flowdown requirements are not negotiable by the NFF and will not be removed or edited.

II. PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

Technical Proposal

Bidders shall submit a technical proposal for the work described in this RFP. Bidders shall consider all relevant factors when submitting proposals for this work. Bidders shall identify in their proposals what they can supply in terms of materials, labor, equipment, supplies, supervision, quality control, and incidentals required to complete the work as described. Proposals should account for the need of the selected contractor to make its own arrangements for temporary utilities and facilities, if required. Proposals shall be sufficient to guarantee that the selected contractor shall be able to perform all work in a safe and conscientious manner and in accordance with all industry standards. At a minimum, each proposal **must** include the following:

1. An overview and description of the services, materials, supplies, labor, equipment, utilities, and facilities provided by the Bidder that align with the requests in this RFP.
2. A description of the project management or administration approach that will be followed by the Bidder to ensure that the identified work is completed on time and within budget.
3. A project work plan and schedule that lists in detail the stages of work expected to be completed in this project, all identifiable deliverables, and the dates on which the Bidder would anticipate being able to complete delivery of the work.
4. A project personnel overview identifying key personnel to be utilized if selected to perform the work described in this RFP and any relevant or required credentials or certifications held by the key personnel.

Bidders may also include the following items in proposals as applicable:

1. Any change or risk management approaches utilized by the Bidder when completing projects of the type described in this RFP.
2. Successful bidders will be required to provide a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI). If you have a UEI, please provide it in your proposal.
3. Location for sawtimber products and opportunities for new emerging markets.

Bidder Qualifications

Bidders shall submit a statement of their qualifications for the work described in this RFP. The statement should include the following items in narrative format:

1. Experience –
 - i. Please provide a brief explanation of previous work experience with land management agencies, noting specifically any work performed on National Forests or Grasslands.

- ii. Please provide a listing of relevant projects of similar size, scope, and total value performed by the Bidder within the past 5 years.
2. References –
- i. Please provide three professional references, identifying as applicable any government or conservation nonprofit references.
 - ii. Provide the name, email address, and telephone number for each reference, as well as the dates of the projects during which the Bidder worked with each reference.

Failed Projects or Legal Actions

Bidders shall identify any past failed projects and the reasoning behind the failure or incompleteness. Bidders shall also identify any and all current or pending legal matters in which the Bidder or any of its principals is involved.

Pricing Schedule

Bidders shall price work according to the schedule below. If Bidders believe that an alternative method of pricing is more applicable, they may also provide an alternative pricing schedule in addition to the format requested below. The NFF, in its sole discretion, reserves the right to utilize any alternative pricing schedule proposed by any Bidders.

Due to the dynamic and changing nature of NFF funding, the NFF reserves the right to negotiate an increased cost with the selected Bidder in the event that prevailing wages become required for the work described in this RFP.

All quantities and measurements identified in this RFP are based upon the best knowledge available to the NFF and are subject to change. Payment will only be made for actual work completed. If the opportunity to add additional funding to the work described in this RFP arises, the NFF may increase the quantities of work to be performed as part of this project, as agreed upon by the NFF and the selected Bidder.

	Task/Item	Units	Unit Cost	Extended Cost
(a)	Cutting and Hauling of Sawtimber	27,066 Tons		
(b)	Cutting and Hauling of Pulpwood	23,882 Tons		
(c)	Blading Roads	11 Miles		
(d)	Spot Surface Placement (to address erosion control)	1445 Tons		

(e)	Temporary Road Development	1.7 Miles		
			Total Bid	

Payment Schedule

Bidders shall submit a proposed payment schedule consistent with their proposed pricing structure. Lump sum proposals should identify invoicing milestones tied to deliverables or project phases, while time-and-materials proposals should identify the anticipated invoicing frequency, cost of materials/supplies, and the applicable rates for invoicing. Proposed payment schedules are for evaluation purposes only. The final payment structure and invoicing terms will be negotiated with the selected Bidder and incorporated into the executed agreement.

Invoice Number	Work Tasks/Items Performed	Corresponding Cost
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
	Agreement Total	

Insurance

Bidders must identify the insurance coverage currently in place. If available, please attach a sample certificate of insurance.

III. SUBMISSION, EVALUATION, AND CONTACTS

Bidder Selection Process:

Bid Submission

Bidders shall submit proposals containing all of the required information described above via email at the address specified below by the stated deadline:

Submission Address: belleville@nationalforests.org

Submission Deadline: 5PM Eastern on Friday, September 11, 2026.

Proposals submitted after this RFP closes will not be considered unless approved by the NFF. The NFF will review all proposals determined to be responsive using the evaluation factors listed below. Proposals may be deemed non-responsive for failure to submit any required information or for failure to comply with any terms of this RFP. Non-responsive proposals may be disqualified from evaluation in the sole discretion of the NFF.

Notification

If a proposal is selected by the NFF to advance to the contracting stage, the NFF will notify the successful Bidder via email. Once the selected Bidder has been notified, the NFF project representative will coordinate the drafting and negotiation of an NFF agreement outlining the terms and conditions of the work to be performed.

Unsuccessful Bidders will be notified via email as soon as possible after the closing date of this RFP. Please Note: The NFF **will not** share any information about the organizations submitting proposals nor any information regarding the proposals submitted by other organizations. If a Bidder has questions about its proposal, the Bidder may ask the NFF Point of Contact identified below. If an answer can be provided, the NFF will respond via email as soon as it is able to do so.

Request for Proposals Only

This is a request for proposals only and bids furnished do not bind the NFF in any way. Selection of a bid will result in the opportunity to contract with the NFF but will not guarantee a resulting contract or any amount of work. The NFF reserves the right to disqualify any incomplete or improper proposal submitted as non-responsive. The NFF may also decide not to select any proposals submitted to this RFP for advancement to contract negotiations. This request does not commit the National Forest Foundation to pay any costs incurred in the preparation or submission of the proposal or to contract for supplies or services.

Evaluation Factors and Scoring

The following factors will be used to evaluate any responsive submitted proposals. The factors, as listed, are ordered from highest priority (Level 3) to lowest priority (Level 1). Each factor can receive a score from 1 point to 3 points. The number of points awarded will be multiplied by the priority level to determine the total score for each factor.

(Example: If Price/Cost (level 3) is awarded 2 points, the total score for price would be 6 points.)

Level 3 Criteria

- Price / cost
- Equipment and contractor capability
- Timing of when contractor can begin and/or finish the project
- Past performance, references, and USFS feedback

Level 2 Criteria

- Technical proposal / proposed approach to project
- Overall strategic benefits to meeting NFF goals and grant needs, requirements, and timelines

Level 1 Criteria

- Benefits to the local community
- Relationship to local community

Point of Contact

Any questions about this Request for Proposals shall be submitted in writing to the NFF contact identified below. Questions determined to be of importance to all potential Bidders will be posted as an attachment to an updated version of this RFP at <https://www.nationalforests.org/rfp>.

Laura Belleville
National Forest Foundation, Assoc. Vice President Conservation, Eastern Programs
lbelleville@nationalforests.org

Bid Submission

Submit bids via email to lbelleville@nationalforests.org by September 11, 2026.

Equal Opportunity Provider

In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, the National Forest Foundation is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, political beliefs, or disability.

Contract Map 1 of 8
Shinbone
National Forests of North Carolina
Appalachian Ranger District



- ① Subdivision Unit Number
- - - Project Area
- - - Subdivision/Cutting Unit Boundary
- DxDam Designation by Damage Class
- Existing Transportation System
- ▨ Protection of Special Areas (SMA)
- · - Private Land Boundary

FSR 5583

TR1-08

NC-197

FSR 5565

①

DxDam

②

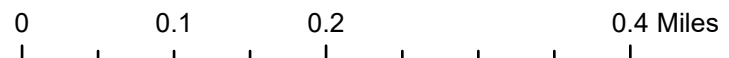
⑥

SMA

SMA

SMA

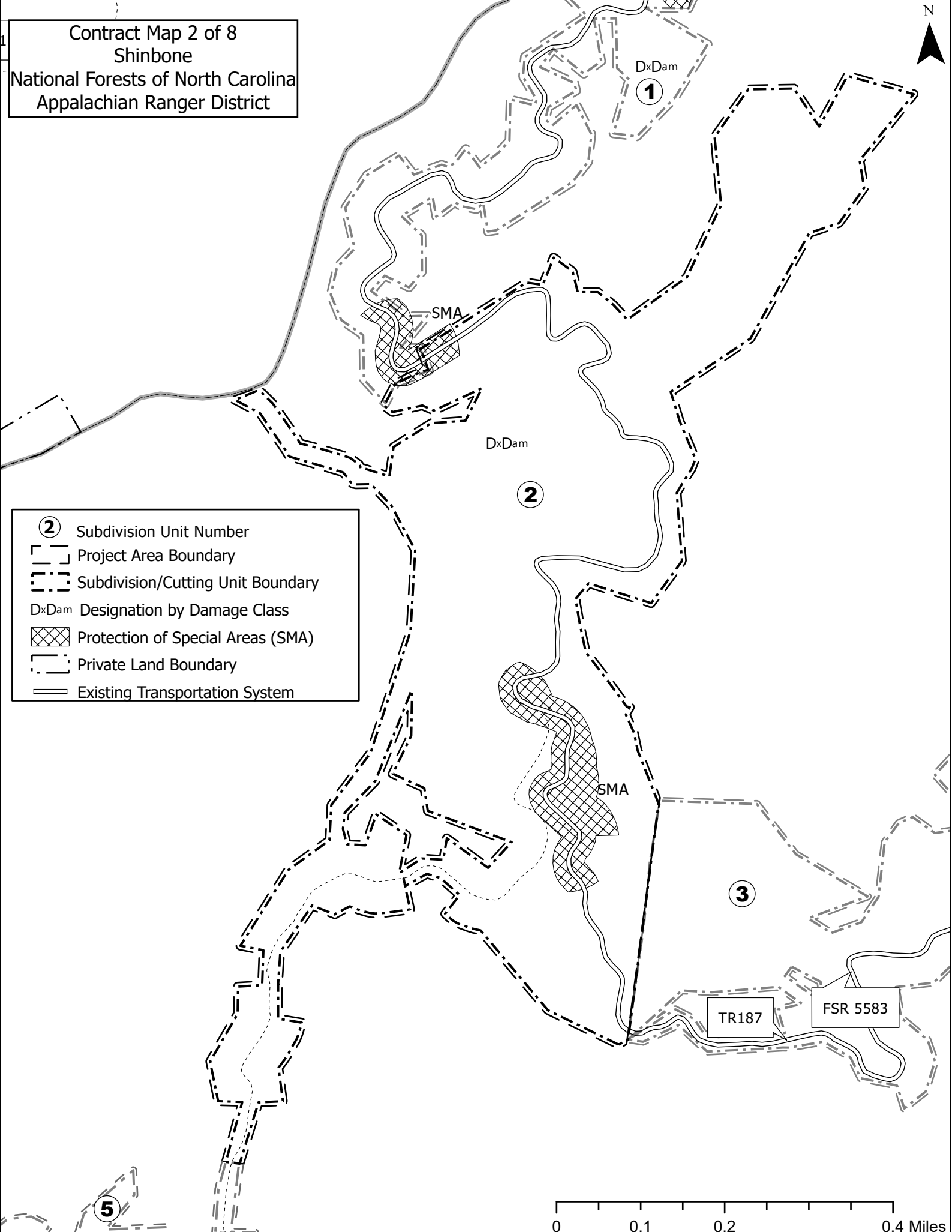
DxDam



Contract Map 2 of 8
Shinbone
National Forests of North Carolina
Appalachian Ranger District

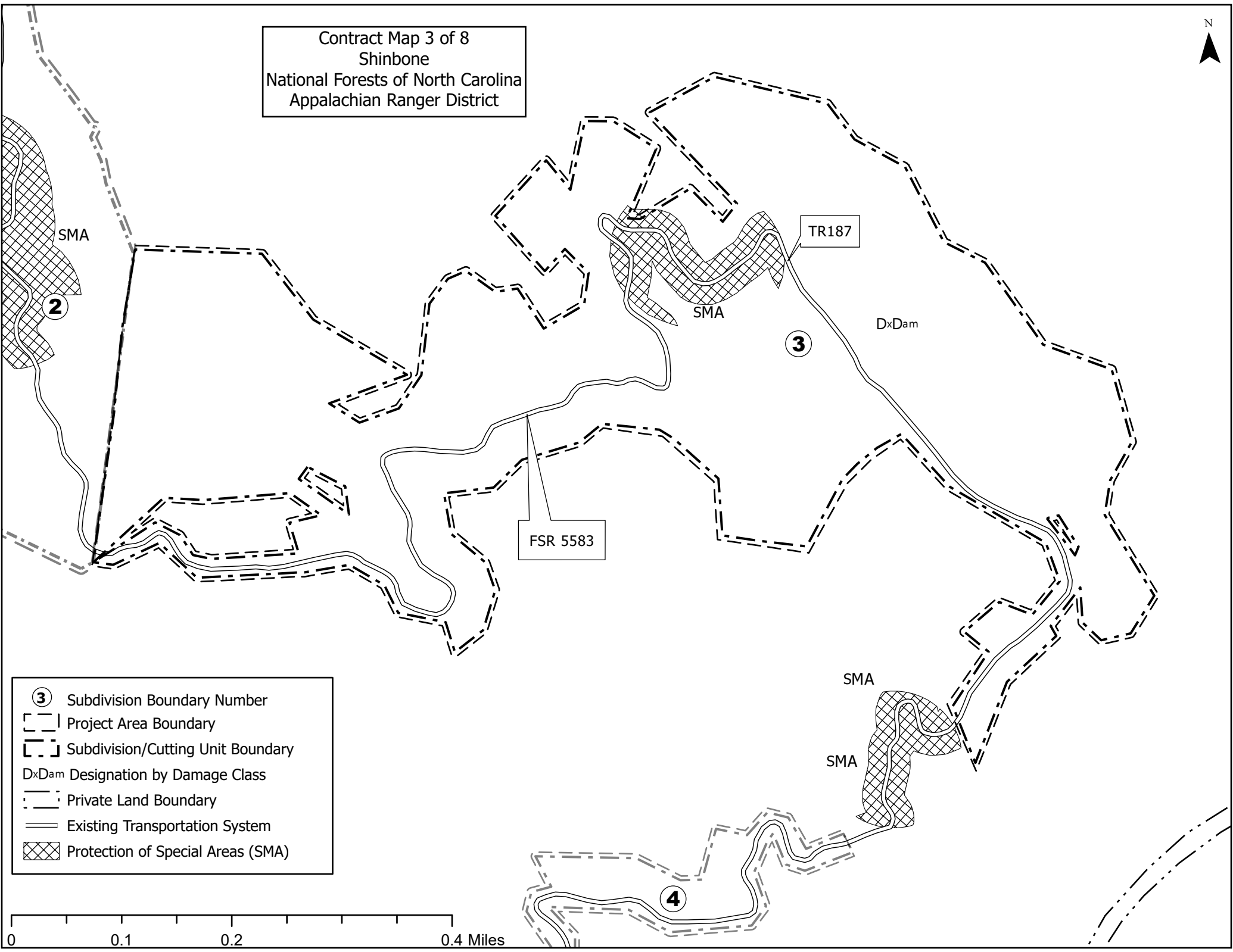


- ② Subdivision Unit Number
- Project Area Boundary
- Subdivision/Cutting Unit Boundary
- DxDam Designation by Damage Class
- Protection of Special Areas (SMA)
- Private Land Boundary
- Existing Transportation System

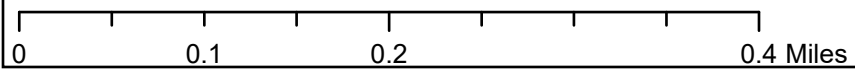


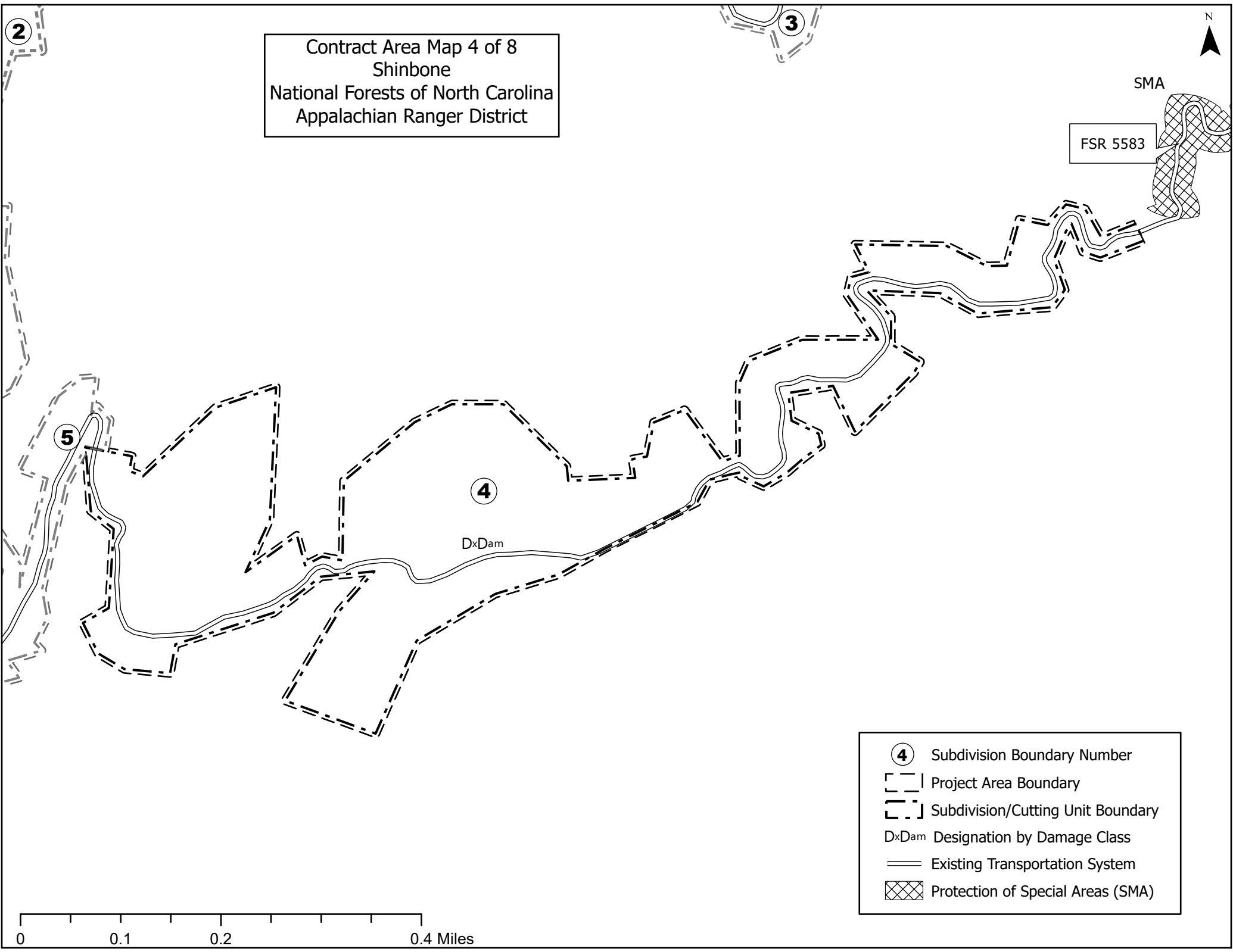
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Contract Map 3 of 8
Shinbone
National Forests of North Carolina
Appalachian Ranger District

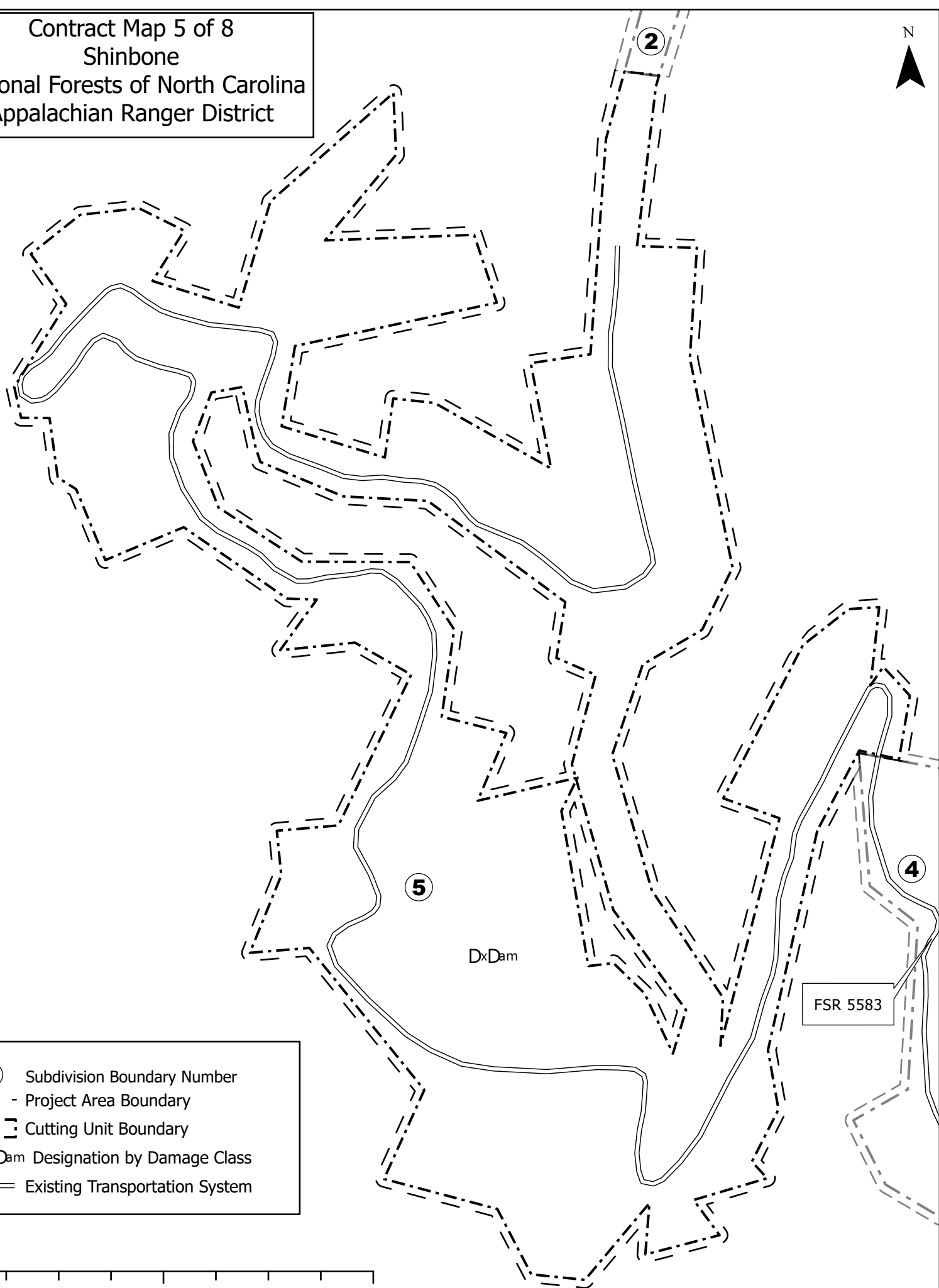


- ③ Subdivision Boundary Number
- Project Area Boundary
- .- Subdivision/Cutting Unit Boundary
- DxDam Designation by Damage Class
- ... Private Land Boundary
- Existing Transportation System
- ▨ Protection of Special Areas (SMA)





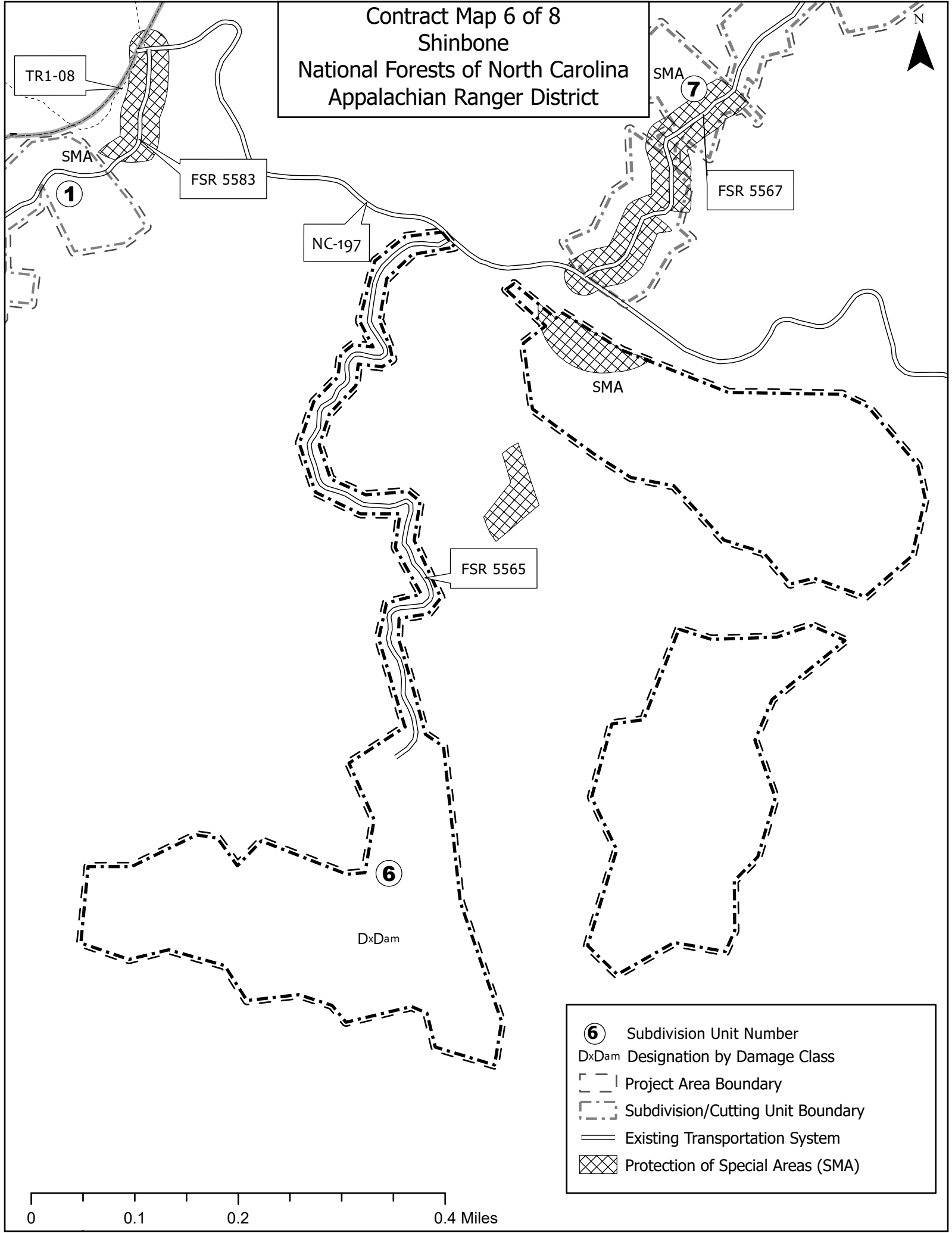
Contract Map 5 of 8
Shinbone
National Forests of North Carolina
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- ⑤ Subdivision Boundary Number
- - Project Area Boundary
- · - Cutting Unit Boundary
- DxDam Designation by Damage Class
- Existing Transportation System

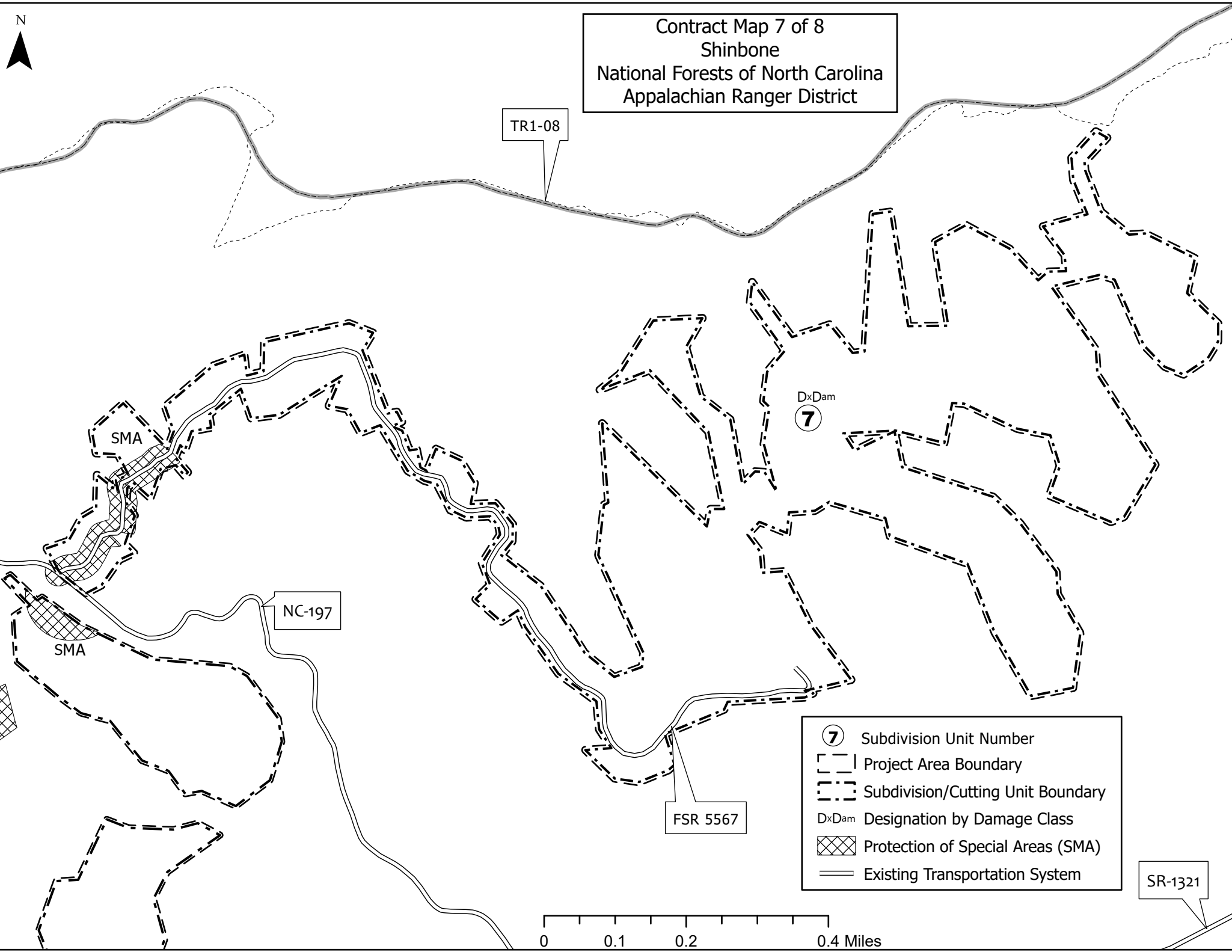
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Contract Map 6 of 8
Shinbone
National Forests of North Carolina
Appalachian Ranger District



- ⑥ Subdivision Unit Number
- DxDam Designation by Damage Class
- - - Project Area Boundary
- - - Subdivision/Cutting Unit Boundary
- Existing Transportation System
- ▨ Protection of Special Areas (SMA)

0 0.1 0.2 0.4 Miles



Contract Map 7 of 8
Shinbone
National Forests of North Carolina
Appalachian Ranger District

TR1-08

DxDam
7

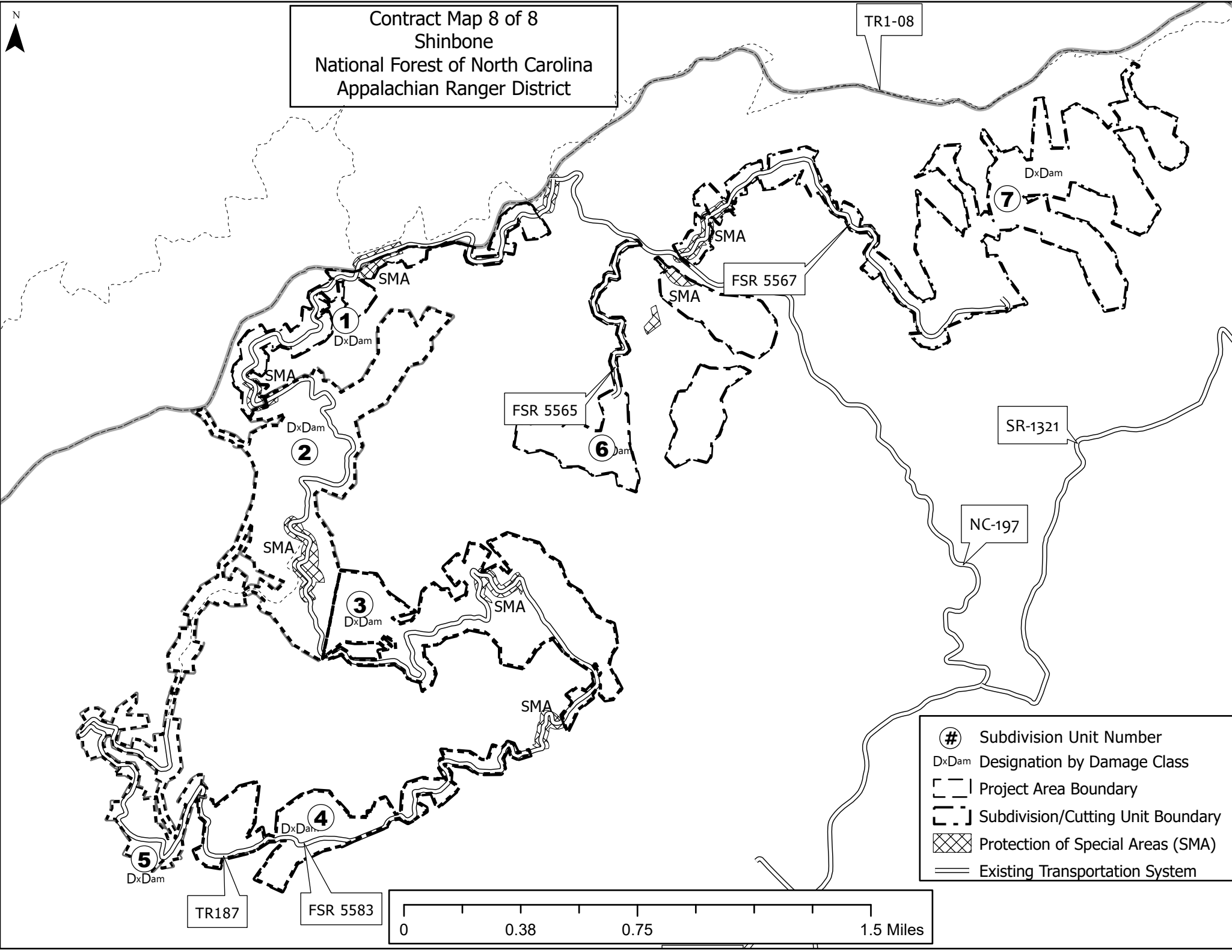
NC-197

FSR 5567

SR-1321

- 7 Subdivision Unit Number
- - - Project Area Boundary
- . - Subdivision/Cutting Unit Boundary
- DxDam Designation by Damage Class
- Protection of Special Areas (SMA)
- Existing Transportation System

0 0.1 0.2 0.4 Miles



Contract Map 8 of 8
Shinbone
National Forest of North Carolina
Appalachian Ranger District

- # Subdivision Unit Number
- DxDam Designation by Damage Class
- - - Project Area Boundary
- · · Subdivision/Cutting Unit Boundary
- ▣ Protection of Special Areas (SMA)
- Existing Transportation System

APPENDIX B. ROAD MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS

FS-2400-6T Contracts (6/06)

SECTION 1. GENERAL

Purchaser's maintenance responsibility begins (1) after purchaser performs Prehaul Maintenance on a road listed in the Road Maintenance Requirements Schedule; or (2) for all other roads, when Purchaser begins to use the road. Occasional travel by Purchaser's light vehicles, prior to beginning of construction clearing or logging operations in the area accessed by the road, does not constitute beginning of use. Purchaser is not required to perform routine maintenance during periods of inactivity. During periods of inactivity, Forest Service will perform maintenance only as required to meet its needs.

The Purchaser shall maintain roads, commensurate with the Purchaser's use, in accordance with the Road Maintenance Requirements Summary and Road Maintenance Specifications. Performance of road maintenance work by the Purchaser may be required prior to, during, or after each period of use. The timing of work accomplishment shall be based on the Purchaser's operating schedule under Standard Provision BT6.31.

If the Purchaser elects to use different roads than those listed in the Road Maintenance Requirements Summary, the Contracting Officer or designee shall determine the Purchaser's commensurate share of road maintenance and/or revise road maintenance deposits.

Unless the Contracting Officer or designee agrees in writing otherwise, prehaul maintenance shall be completed on any portion of road prior to hauling on that portion.

The Purchaser shall attend to the following situations as they occur and concurrently with sale operations: remove slides, fallen timber and other obstructions and overhanging brush obstructing road sight distance. Excess material resulting from any maintenance activity shall not be placed at locations where it will wash into streams.

The Forest Service shall prepare a revised Road Maintenance Requirements Schedule to reflect changes in the original haul route.

SECTION 2. ROAD MAINTENANCE DEFINITIONS

Wherever the following terms are used in the Road Maintenance Specifications, the meaning shall be:

Base Course. Material placed on the Subgrade to distribute concentrated wheel loads.

Berm. Curb or dike constructed to prevent Roadway runoff water from discharging onto embankment slope.

Borrow. Select Material taken from designated borrow sites.

Crown, Inslope, and Outslope. The cross slope of the Traveled Way to aid in drainage and traffic maneuverability.

Culverts. A conduit or passageway under a road, trail, or other obstruction. A culvert differs from a bridge in that it is usually entirely below the elevation of the Traveled Way.

Drainage Dip. A dip in the Traveled Way which intercepts surface runoff and diverts the water off the Traveled Way. A Drainage Dip does not block the movement of traffic.

ROAD MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS

FS-2400-6T Contracts (6/06)

Drainage Structures. Manufactured structures which control the runoff of water from the Roadway including Inslope, overside drains, aprons, flumes, downdrains and downpipes.

Lead-off Ditches. A ditch used to transmit water from a Culvert, Drainage Structure or Drainage Dip outlet to the natural drainage area.

Maintenance Activitiy. Items of work leading to the minor restoration and upkeep of a road and necessary to sustain the road's anticipated traffic.

Material. Any substance specified for use in the performance of the work.

Prehaul Maintenance. Road maintenance work to be accomplished prior to the roads use. Roads receiving prehaul maintenance shall be shown on the Sale Area Map.

Roadbed. The portion of a road between the intersection of Subgrade and sideslopes, excluding that portion of the ditch below Subgrade.

Roadside. A general term denoting the area adjoining the outer edge of the Roadway.

Roadway. The portion of a road within the limits of excavation and embankment.

Shoulder. That portion of Roadway contiguous with Traveled Way for accommodation of stopped vehicles, for emergency use, and lateral support of Base and Surface Course, if any.

Slide. A concentrated deposit of materials from above or on backslope extending onto the Traveled Way or Shoulders, whether caused by mass land movements or accumulated ravelling.

Slough. Material eroded from the backslope which partially or completely blocks the ditch, but does not encroach on the Traveled Way so as to block passage of traffic.

Slump. A localized portion of the Roadbed which has slipped or otherwise become lower than that of the adjacent Roadbed and constitutes a hazard to traffic.

Subgrade. Top surface of Roadbed upon which Base Course or Surface Course is constructed. For roads without Base Course or Surface Course, that portion of Roadbed prepared as the finished wearing surface.

Surface Course. The Material placed on the Base Course or Subgrade to enhance traction, distribute concentrated wheel loads and resist abrasion and the effects of climate. Surface Course may be referred to as surfacing.

Traveled Way. That portion of Roadway, excluding Shoulders, used for the movement of vehicles.

Turnouts. That portion of the Traveled Way constructed as additional width on single lane roads to allow for safe passing of vehicles.

Waterbar. A dip in the Roadbed which intercepts surface runoff and diverts the water off the Roadway. A Waterbar is not designed to be traversable by logging trucks.

ROAD MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS

FS-2400-6T Contracts (6/06)

SECTION 3. ROAD MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS SCHEDULE

Contract Road Maintenance Requirements Summary

X = Required by Contractor

Road	Termini		Miles	Applicable During Haul Road Maintenance Specifications									
	From	To		1020	1040								
5583	0.0	8.5	8.5	X	X								
5565	0.0	0.83	0.83	X	X								
5567	0.0	1.67	1.67	X	X								

Road	Termini		Miles	Applicable Post Haul Road Maintenance Specifications									
	From	To		1020	1040								
5853	0.0	8.5	8.5	X	X								
5562	0.00	0.83	0.83	X	X								
5567	0.0	1.67	1.67	X	X								

SECTION 4. ROAD MAINTENANCE ACTIVITY SPECIFICATIONS

INCLUDED SPECIFICATIONS

<u>Activity No.</u>	<u>Activity Specification Title</u>
1020	Surface Blading (Dozer)
1040	Spot Surface Course Placement

ACTIVITY 1020 - SURFACE BLADING (DOZER)

DESCRIPTION

1.1 Surface blading is keeping a native or aggregate surfaced Roadbed in a condition to facilitate traffic and provide proper drainage. It includes maintaining the Crown, Inslope or Outslope of the Traveled Way, Turnouts, and Shoulder; repairing Berms; blending approach road intersections; and cleaning bridge decks, Drainage Dips, and Lead-off Ditches. This work may be accomplished using a crawler tractor with a dozer blade capable of angling.

REQUIREMENTS

3.1 Surface blading shall be performed before, during, and after Purchaser's use as often as necessary to facilitate traffic and proper drainage.

3.2 The surface blading shall preserve the existing cross-section. Ruts, chuckholes and corrugations that affect the smoothness of ride do not have to be removed unless they become excessive or interfere with proper drainage. Surface Course Material which has been displaced to the Shoulders or Turnouts shall be returned to the Traveled Way. The blading operation shall be conducted to conserve surface Material and to provide for a thorough mixing of the Material being worked.

ROAD MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS

FS-2400-6T Contracts (6/06)

3.3 On native surfaced roads, Material generated from backslope Sloughing, and ditch cleaning may be blended with the surface Material being worked. On aggregate surfaced roads this Material shall not be blended with Surface or Base Course Material unless agreed otherwise.

3.4 Roadway backslopes shall not be undercut.

3.5 Drainage Dips and Lead-off Ditches shall be cleaned and maintained to retain the existing line, grade, and cross-section.

3.6 Intersecting roads shall be bladed for a distance of 50 feet to assure blending of the surfaces.

3.7 Rocks or other Material remaining on the Traveled Way after the final pass that are 4 inches in diameter or larger shall be removed. The unsuitable Material shall be disposed of by sidecasting unless agreed otherwise.

3.8 Material resulting from this activity shall not remain on or in structures, such as Culverts, cattle guards, ditches and Drainage Dips.

3.9 Material resulting from this activity, plus any accumulated debris, shall be removed from bridge decks and the deck drains opened.

ACTIVITY 1040 - SPOT SURFACE COURSE PLACEMENT

DESCRIPTION

1.1 Spot surface course placement includes subgrade preparation, furnishing, spreading and shaping Materials in accordance with the Requirements.

MATERIALS

2.1 Surface course Material will be in accordance with the Requirements, 3.2.

REQUIREMENTS

3.1 Subgrade Preparation. Prepare subgrade to receive surface course Material at locations as designated on-the-ground by the Forest Service on roads listed below. Prepare the subgrade by shaping the Roadbed to approximately the original cross-section and consistent with adjacent sections.

3.2 Furnish and spread Material at spot locations designated on the ground by the Forest Service as follows.

Road Number	Road Name	During Haul	Type Material	Quantity During/Post (Tons)
5583	Ephriam Road	During/Post	ABC	500/220
5565	Chestnut Mnt.	During/Post	ABC	175/50
5567	Bowling Greene	During/Post	ABC	300/200

3.3 Variations. The purchaser will be required to furnish weight or volume tickets to the Forest Service for the amount of surface course material placed. When it is mutually agreed that all or part of the surface course Material is not needed, the estimated cost of surfacing not placed shall be charged to the Timber Sale Account in accordance with BT8.31.

Appendix C Flowdown Provisions

NFF Funding Code: 1596155

NFF Funding Name: SA Hurricane Helene NC WR

Funder Agreement ID: 25-SA-11081100-596

TRAINING, EVALUATION, AND CERTIFICATION OF SAWYERS USED BY COOPERATORS.

Any employee, contractor, or volunteer of the cooperator who will use chain saws or crosscut saws on National Forest System lands under this agreement must be trained, evaluated, and certified in accordance with Forest Service Manual 2358. The cooperator is responsible for providing sawyer training, evaluation, and certification for the cooperator's employees, contractors, and volunteers, unless the U.S. Forest Service and the cooperator determine it is not in the best interest of the partnership for the cooperator to provide sawyer training and evaluation. In these circumstances, the U.S. Forest Service, upon request and upon availability of Agency resources, may assist with conducting sawyer training and evaluation for the cooperator's employees, contractors, and volunteers. Cooperator employees, contractors, and volunteers who will use chain saws and/or cross cutsaws on National Forest System lands must be certified by the cooperator. Only those cooperator organizations with an approved sawyer training, evaluation, and certification program may conduct sawyer training, evaluation, and certification. Any employee, contractor, or volunteer of the cooperator who will use other types of saws, such as handsaws to cut small diameter material, brush saws, and pole saws, must be trained in accordance with Forest Service Handbook 6709.12, Chapter 40, section 41.3. The cooperator is responsible for providing that training.

TRAINING, EVALUATION, AND CERTIFICATION OF SAWYERS WORKING UNDER INTERAGENCY FIRE MANAGEMENT COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.

Federal, State, Tribal, and local governmental agencies, contractors, and other types of cooperators working under interagency fire management cooperative agreements involving the use of chain saws or crosscut saws on National Forest System lands are not subject to the provisions governing training, evaluation, and certification of sawyers in Forest Service Handbook 6709.12, chapter 40, section 41.3. Federal, State, Tribal, and local governmental agencies, contractors, and other types of cooperators working under interagency fire management cooperative agreements involving the use of chain saws or crosscut saws on National Forest System lands are subject to the sawyer training, evaluation, and certification standards established by the National Wildfire Coordinating Group. These types of cooperators are responsible for ensuring that their employees, contractors, and volunteers are trained, evaluated, and certified in accordance with those standards.

PAID SICK LEAVE REQUIREMENTS.

Executive Order 13706, Establishing Paid Sick Leave for Federal Contractors, and its implementing regulations, including the federal contractor paid sick leave clause at 29 CFR Part 13, Appendix A, apply to the Cooperator and any subcontractors under this agreement. These regulatory requirements are incorporated by reference into this agreement as if fully set forth in this agreement.

U.S. FOREST SERVICE ACKNOWLEDGED IN PUBLICATIONS, AUDIOVISUALS AND ELECTRONIC MEDIA.

Award Recipient or Contractor shall acknowledge U.S. Forest Service support in any publications, audiovisuals, and electronic media developed as a result of this agreement.

COPYRIGHTING.

Award Recipient or Contractor is/are granted sole and exclusive right to copyright any publications developed as a result of this agreement. This includes the right to publish and vend throughout the world in any language and in all media and forms, in whole or in part, for the full term of copyright and all renewals thereof in accordance with this agreement. No original text or graphics produced and submitted by the U.S. Forest Service must be copyrighted. The U.S. Forest Service reserves a royalty-free, nonexclusive, and irrevocable right to reproduce, publish, or otherwise use, and to authorize others to use the work for Federal Government purposes. This right must be transferred to any sub-agreements or subcontracts.

This provision includes:

- The copyright in any work developed by Award Recipient or Contractor under this agreement.
- Any right of copyright to which Award Recipient or Contractor purchase(s) ownership with any Federal contributions.