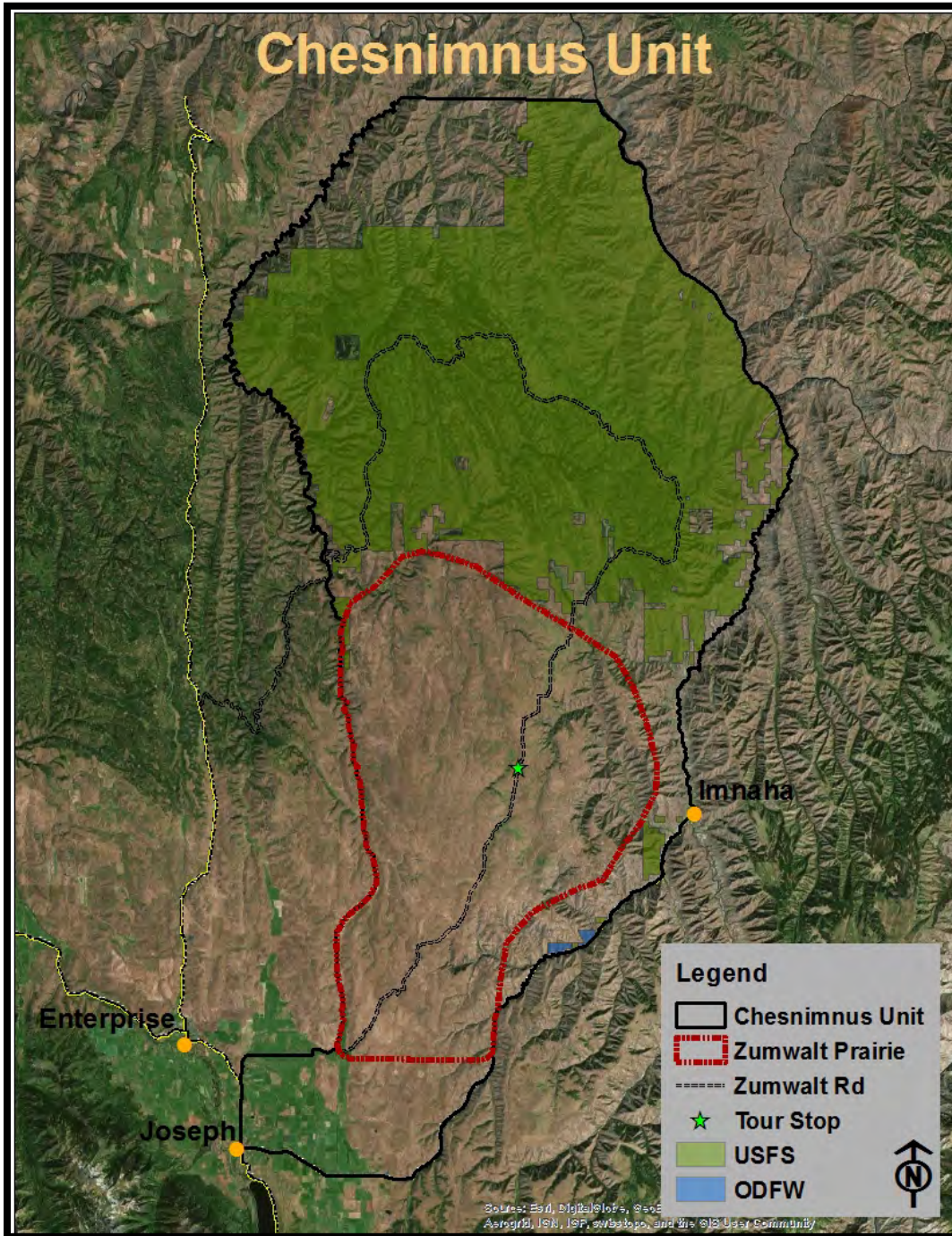
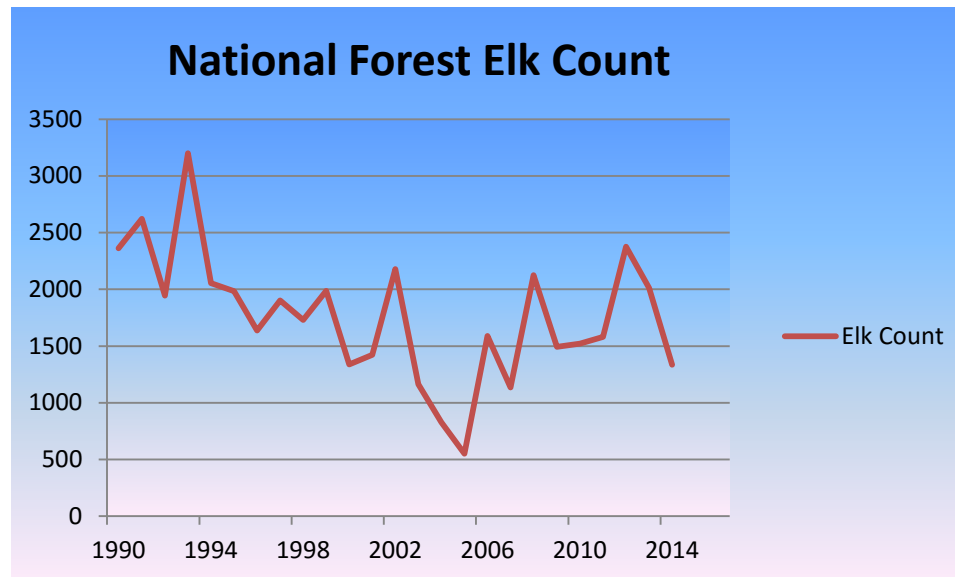
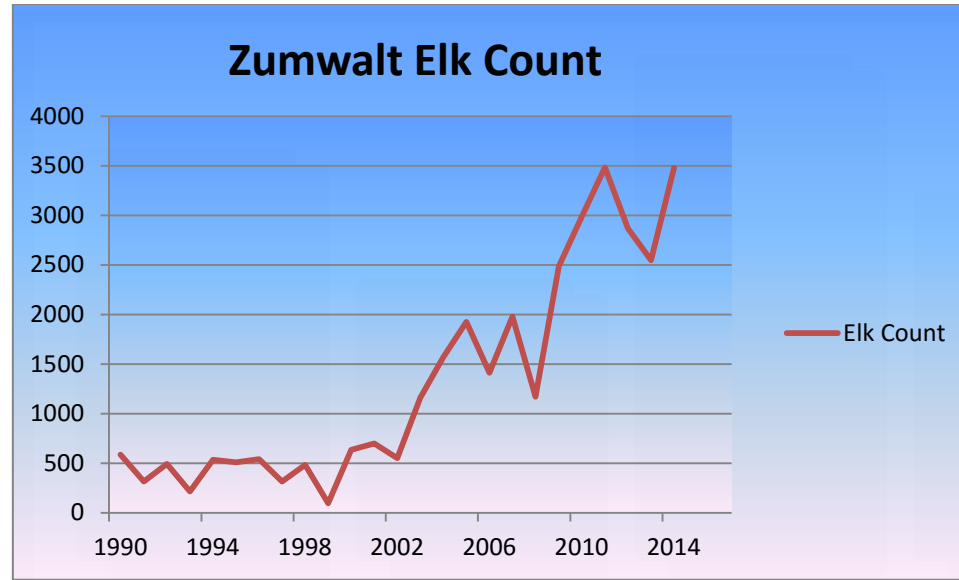


# Chesninus Unit



# Changes Over Time



# Zumwalt Elk – Chesnimnus Unit Redistribution



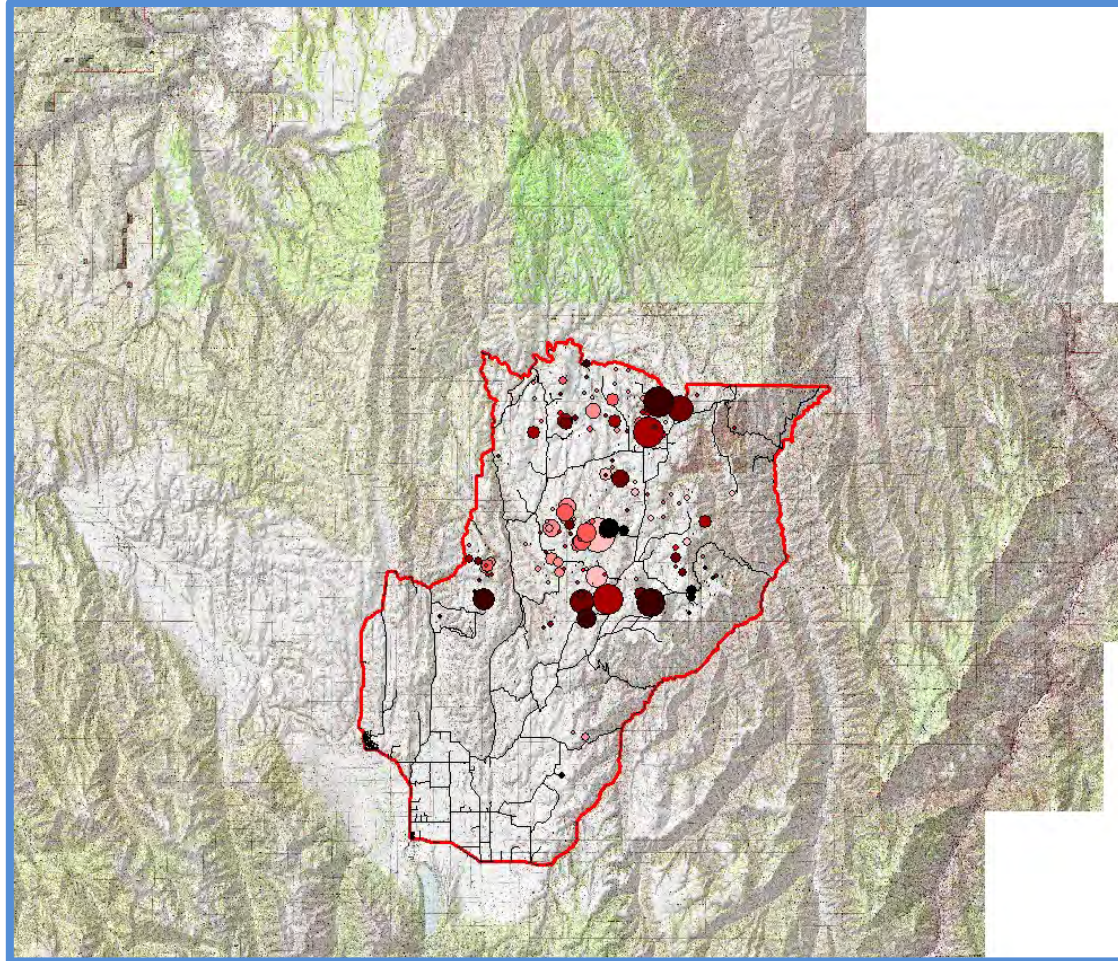
# Zumwalt is truly a Prairie



# Elk Attractions - Security



# Elk locations on Zumwalt Private Land (ODFW flights)

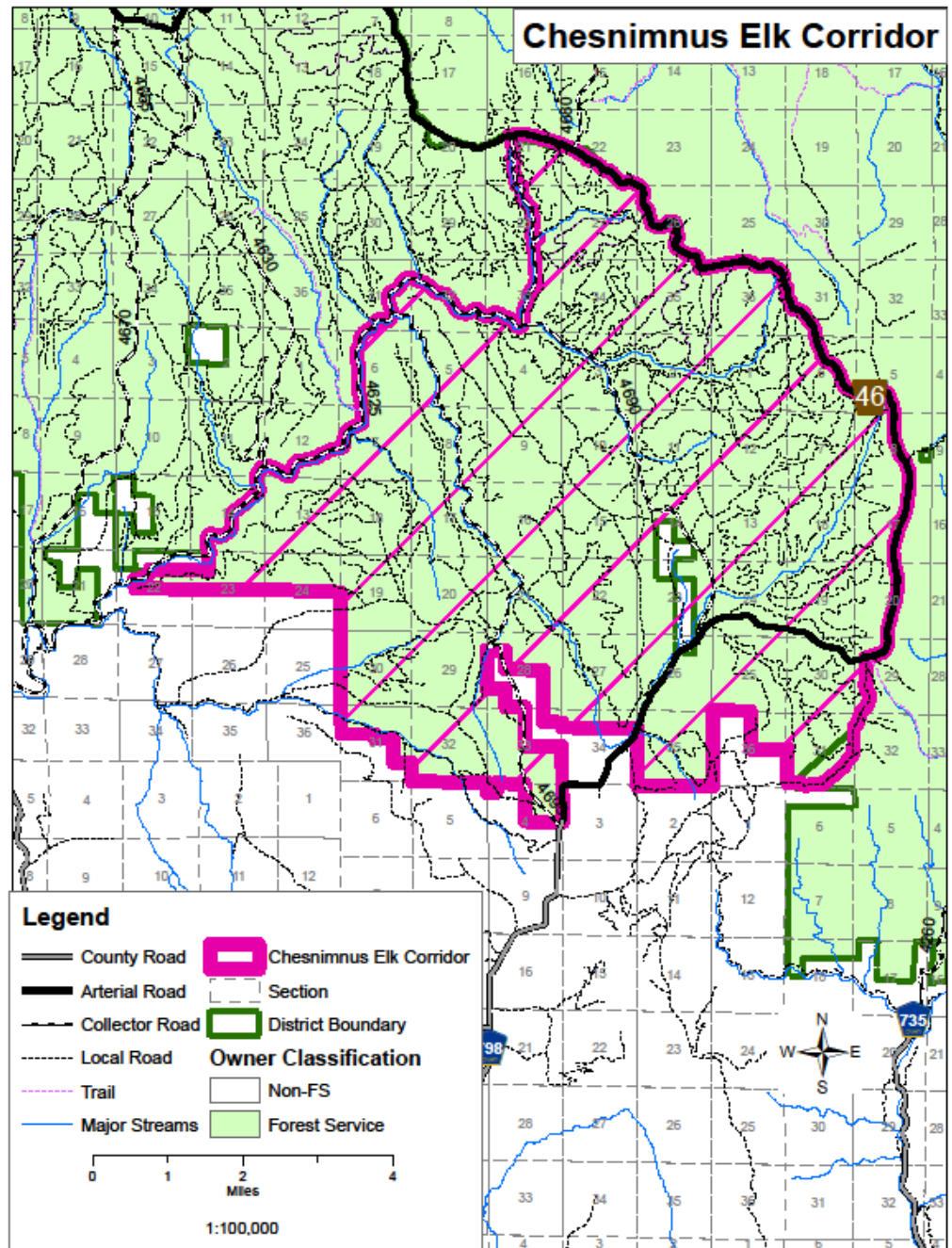


# ODFW Aerial

## Zumwalt Elk Counts - 2016

Date	Count	Cows	Calves	Bulls	Calf ratio	Bull ratio	Percent of Unit-wide Count
2/29	2454						62%
4/20	1359						34%
5/9	1682						42%
5/20	1691						42%
6/1	886						22%
6/17	1595						40%
7/1	1315		236				33%
7/15	898	429	150		35		23%
<b>8/23</b>	<b>609</b>	<b>405</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>76</b>	32	19	<b>15%</b>
<b>9/16</b>	<b>717</b>	<b>501</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>88</b>	26	18	<b>18%</b>
<b>9/26</b>	<b>1238</b>	<b>738</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>223</b>	38	30	<b>31%</b>

# Proposed Elk Corridor



# Population Goals

- Current population MO's are established at 3,500 with a localized goal of 700 animals on the private portion of the Zumwalt Prairie. (Previous slides show area involved). To accomplish this goal there needs to be two conditions: **1) maintain significant hunting pressure on elk occupying private property, and 2) develop incentives for elk to move onto public land and stay there.**

# Can they be moved?



# Possible Solutions

- 1) **Maintain elk hunting on private property** to discourage elk from staying there.
- 2) **Reduce hunting pressure on public land** so that elk have “security areas” to move to.
- 3) **Establish road closures during key times within the elk corridor** for minimizing disturbance – during hunting seasons (only).
- 4) **Conduct Habitat enhancement** on neighboring public lands to encourage elk redistribution.

# What is the role of the Wallowa-Whitman NF in addressing the issue of elk distribution?

The majority of spring/summer/fall range for elk is administered by the US Forest Service

Much of our management has an influence on how elk distribute the landscape:

- Some management actions attract
- Some management actions repel



Collaboration with ODFW, and other stakeholders

NEPA – not glamorous work, but critically important

- The process whereby the public and our partners have a say in how their public lands are managed
- Ensures that land management decisions are informed by the best available science and information

# Public Land Management Influences Elk Distribution

Commercial forest management



# Non-commercial Forest Management

- Thinning
- Slash busting
- Slash piling/burning



# Grazing by Livestock

- Forage
- Water
- Fences



# Fire – Wildfire & Prescribed Fire



# Human Disturbance

## Security habitat

- Administrative access
- Recreational access
- Roads and trails



# • Hunting

- Escapement
- Hunt quality/opportunity



# Dry Beaver/Ladd Canyon Elk Enhancement Project

- National Demonstration Project
- 80,000 Acres (50,000 public, 30,000 private)
- Problem was similar to Chesnimnus, with some differences:
  - Land types
  - Proximity to human population centers
  - Road network
  - Landowner tolerance for elk

# Management Tools Applied in Dry Beaver/Ladd Canyon Elk Enhancement Project

- Prescribed burning
- Changes to cattle grazing program
- Salting near National Forest boundary
- Fertilization of grasslands
- Reduction in motorized access

# Dry Beaver/Ladd Canyon Elk Enhancement Project Results:

- Approximately 52% of the radio marked elk (and their associated herds) began to utilize NFS lands for at least part of the June – September period
- Private land damage complaints involving elk decreased
- Hunters were divided at first, but soon the area became the most popular hunting destination in the Starkey WMU
- Hunter opportunities increased on public lands, and a new private land hunt was established. This resulted in reducing the elk population from 6,900 to the MO of 5,700 in just a few years