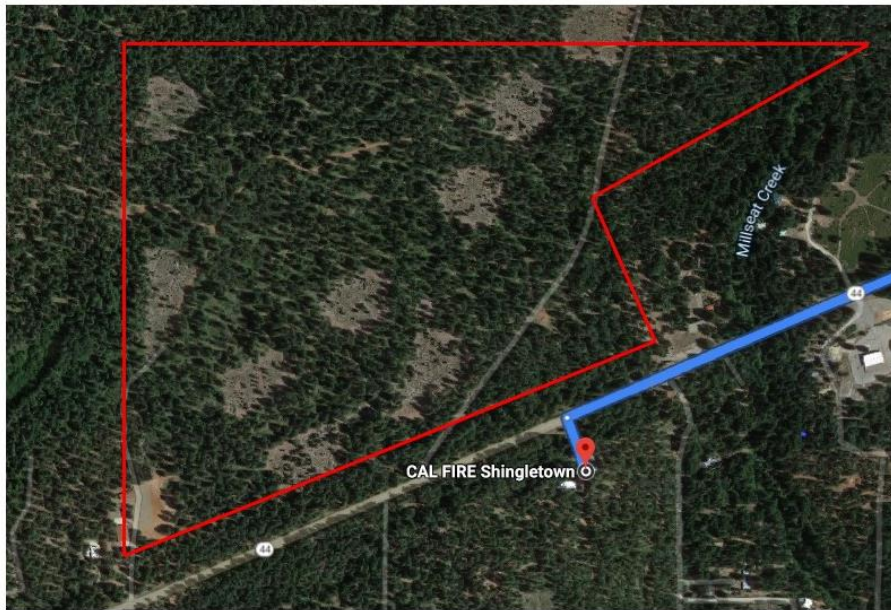


History of the Big Wheels Unit

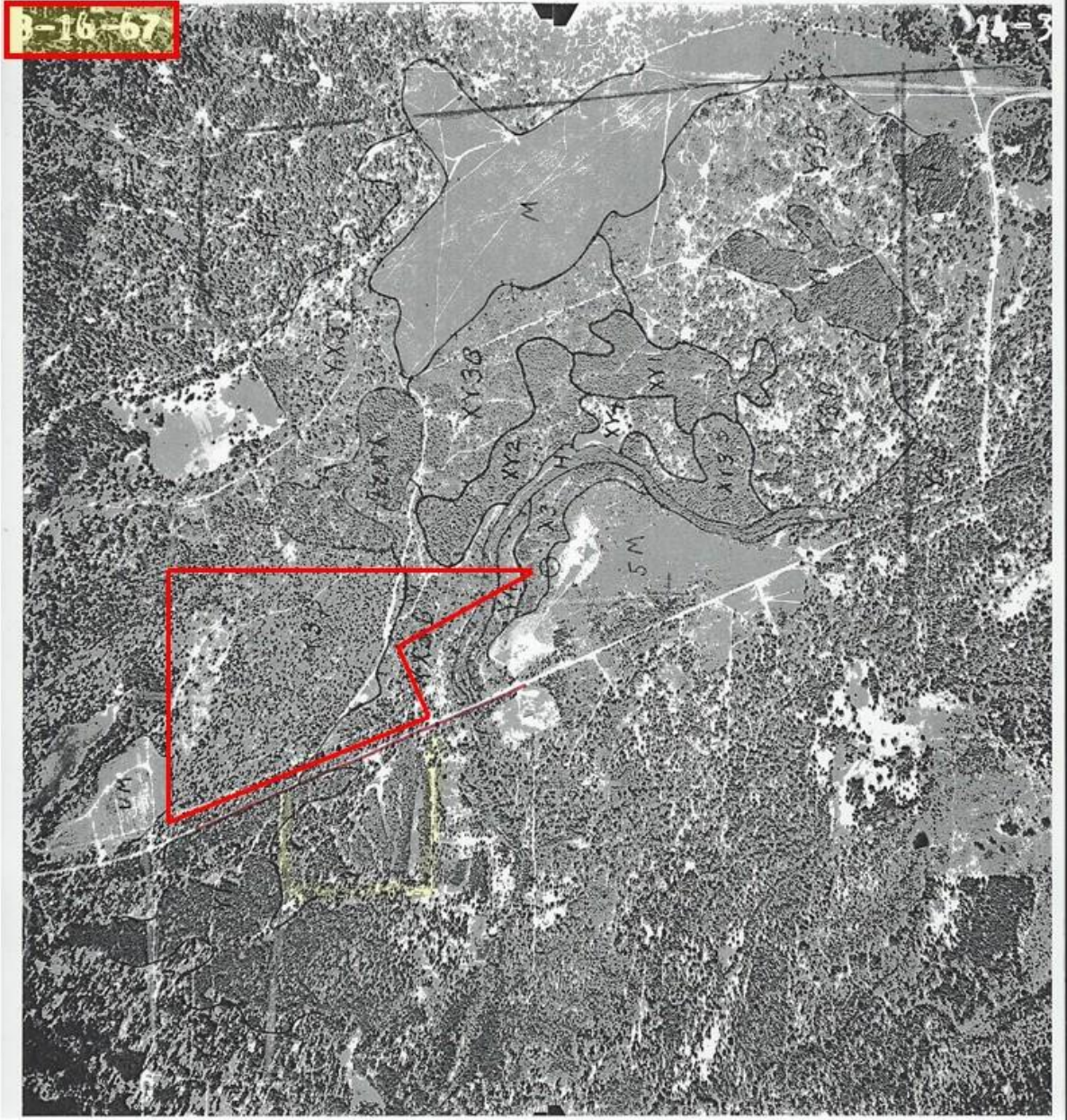
The Big Wheels unit is located on the north side of Highway 44 east of Shingletown, California. It is approximately 120 acres and is a mixed conifer forest type. Here is the latest Google earth photo:



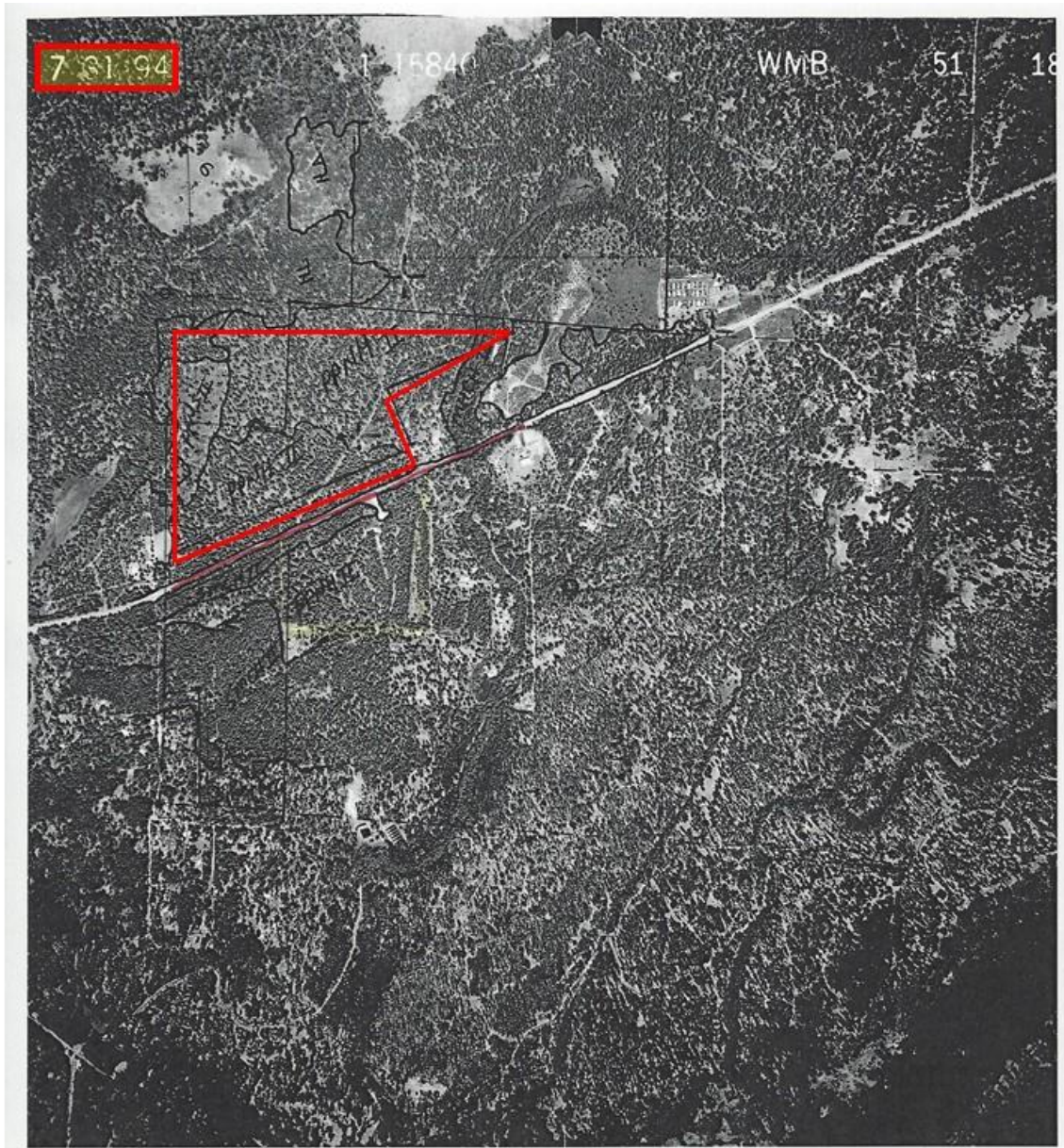
In 1931, a stand-replacing wildfire burned through the entire unit. The area was replanted a few years after the fire and aerial photography from 1940 shows a relatively bare landscape:



The stand was left alone to grow for about 40 years. In the meantime, W.M. Beaty & Associates assumed management responsibilities for the unit in 1970. Between 1980 and 2000 the unit had several light thinnings to harvest poorly performing trees. Those trees had low timber value because they were young trees and full of knots, since the limbs were low on the trees and left knots in the lower bole. In this photo from 1967, you can see the trees beginning to fill in the landscape.



Because the stand grew from seedlings all planted at the same time, it was an even aged stand, and Beaty's management objective was to develop it into an uneven aged stand. Here is what the stand looked like in 1994:



In 2011, the stand was getting denser, with basal area of 130 square feet per acre, so a Timber Harvest Plan called the "Tower THP" was written and a harvest conducted. The silvicultural prescription for the Big Wheels unit was group selection, which created openings of up to 2.5 acres throughout the unit. The group areas were replanted but also had natural regeneration and can be seen on the most recent Google Earth images.