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Hello Everyone! Dori here. This picture is what it looks like out here right now. Des looked at the weather and saw that we may reach 77 degrees this week! Although we had great snow this winter, if left up to its own, all the water runoff would channel right into McGinnis Creek and leave the area. Well who knew Randy is an irrigator too? All the meadow you see is actually flooded with a layer of water! Randy's out with his rubber boots and a shovel opening up spots in the drainages to have the water fan out over the meadows.



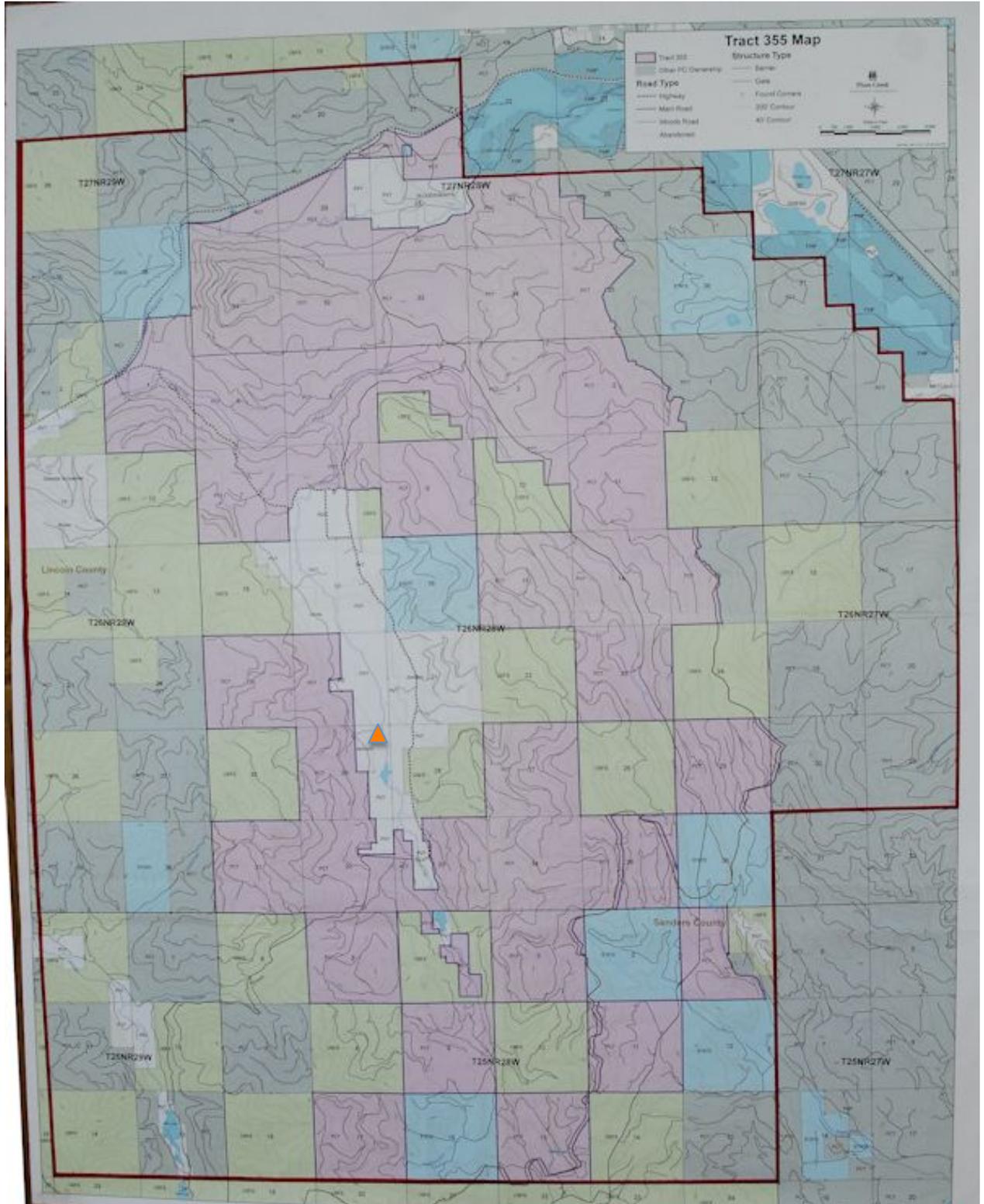
We have Peat Moss as a base, which is a mere carpet about 6 inches thick. Underneath is endless rich black Peat. Looks like simple mud to us, but it'll sink our horses up to their bellies if they walk through it. This country in the past has stories of losing full teams of horses, and even tractors in the peat! So it's Spring time, and we are anxious to get outside and ride, things to avoid: open mud areas in the meadows, areas on the mountain sides with fern or moss cover, edges of creeks with no gravel or rock bottoms, areas of lush tall grass that hasn't been grazed by wildlife or cattle because it's a BOG! When in doubt, if your horse flat refuses to go through or across an area, listen to him! He may decide to leap over and you may not be ready to become a Jumper yet! If the area is for sure fine and your horse is refusing you, we can teach you how to work through those instances too.

I got this picture mid week – the elk have stayed in close all winter and the deer...! We've counted up to 70 out in the meadow!

Both of my pictures are through the windows of the lodge. As Des said last week, I've been a busy beaver! My next project is revamping the gift shop. I'm excited about that!



This season we have extended the ground we can cover horseback to include, and I marked it with the red line, the orange triangle is the ranch:



Okay, I want all of you outside riders to study the map cause we are going to be exploring some new country, and while with the cattle, you'll be pretty handy to me. Get your stretching in as you don't sit on a barrel shape too often in your every day life. Do some light upper body work as we may need to clear some brush. Oh, and wear comfy cowboy boots that you can walk in from time to time so I don't have to be the one flushing the cattle out of the shrubbery all the time! Well, I'll probably save that task for myself as I love seeing how nice they've made their hangout spots. It's like they've made forts like we did when we were kids.

Well the sun is shining and we are all wrapping things up early so we can play! I hope you are able to do the same on this beautiful weekend!

Dori