



National Fire Plan
Bray Creek Treatment / Verde EA
Arizona, Tonto National Forest, Payson Ranger District

Project Description: The Bray Creek Ranch Fuels Treatment was authorized via decision on Webber Timber Sale Environmental Assessment in the late 1990s to protect private property from wildfire. Thinning treatments were completed on 44 acres of Ponderosa Pine around Bray Creek Ranch in 2003 at a cost of approximately \$500 per acre.

The Verde Urban Interface Analysis, funded by the National Fire Plan, was completed in March of 2004. This analysis authorized the burning of the fuel break and additional treatment acres around Bray Creek Ranch. The fuel break was burned by prescribed fire in November of 2005 at a cost of approximately \$200/acre.

Accomplishment to Date: On February 6, 2006, an abandoned campfire on the edge of the Mogollon Rim erupted into a wildfire. On February 7, the fire progressed downhill towards Bray Creek Ranch. As it approached the fuelbreak, the fire was in heavy fuels with active crown fire. The flaming front dropped to the ground as it reached the fuelbreak on the northeast portion of the fuelbreak. The February Fire, which burned a total of 4,234 acres, burned around the fuelbreak and Bray Creek Ranch did not suffer any loss of structure. The fuel treatments at the Bray Creek Ranch were successful at protecting values at risk and providing for fire fighter safety.

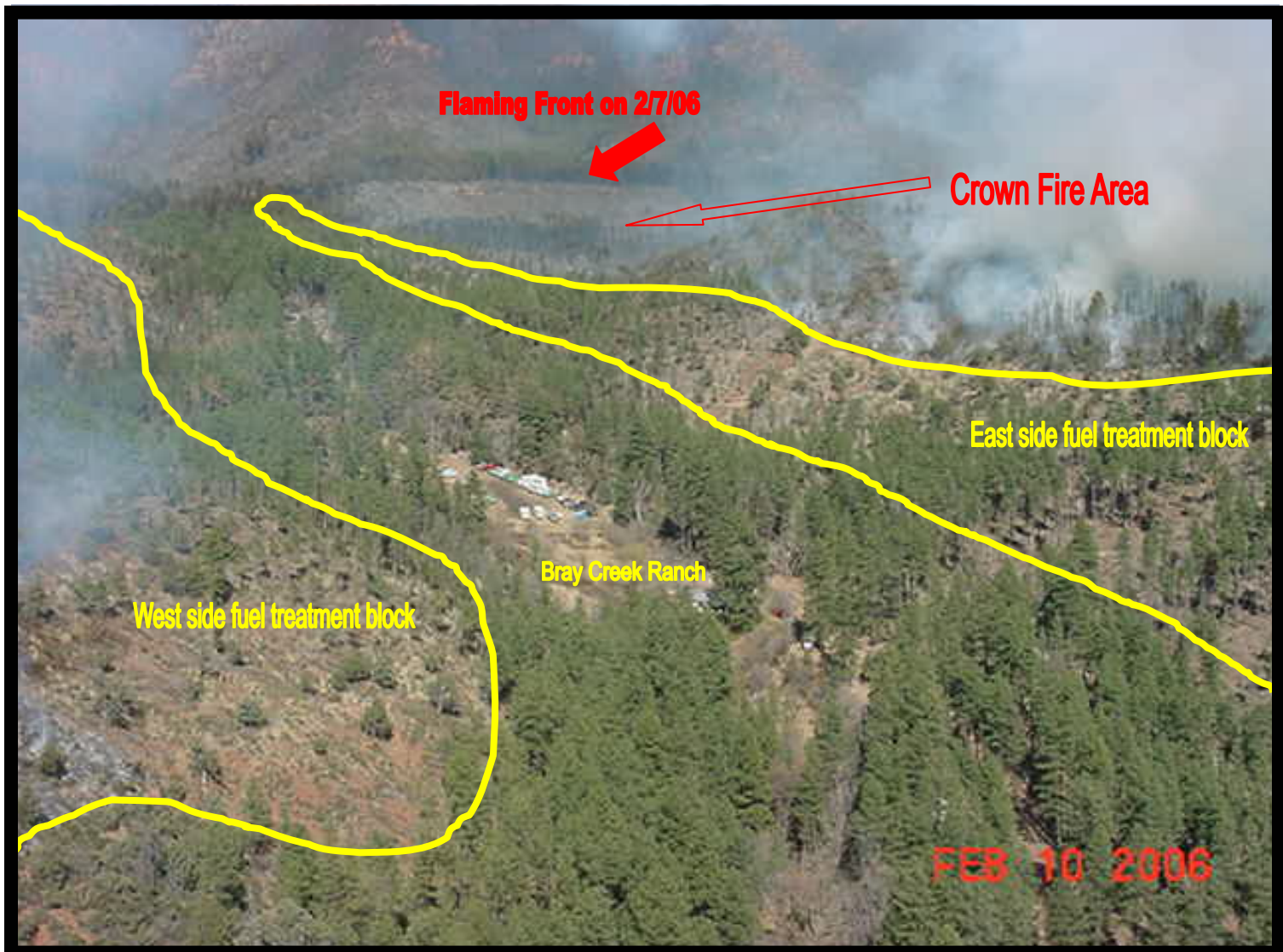


Photo 1: View of Bray Creek Ranch from the air, February 10, 2006. Photos 2 and 3 display the northeast corner of the fuelbreak (photo Don Nunley, USFS).

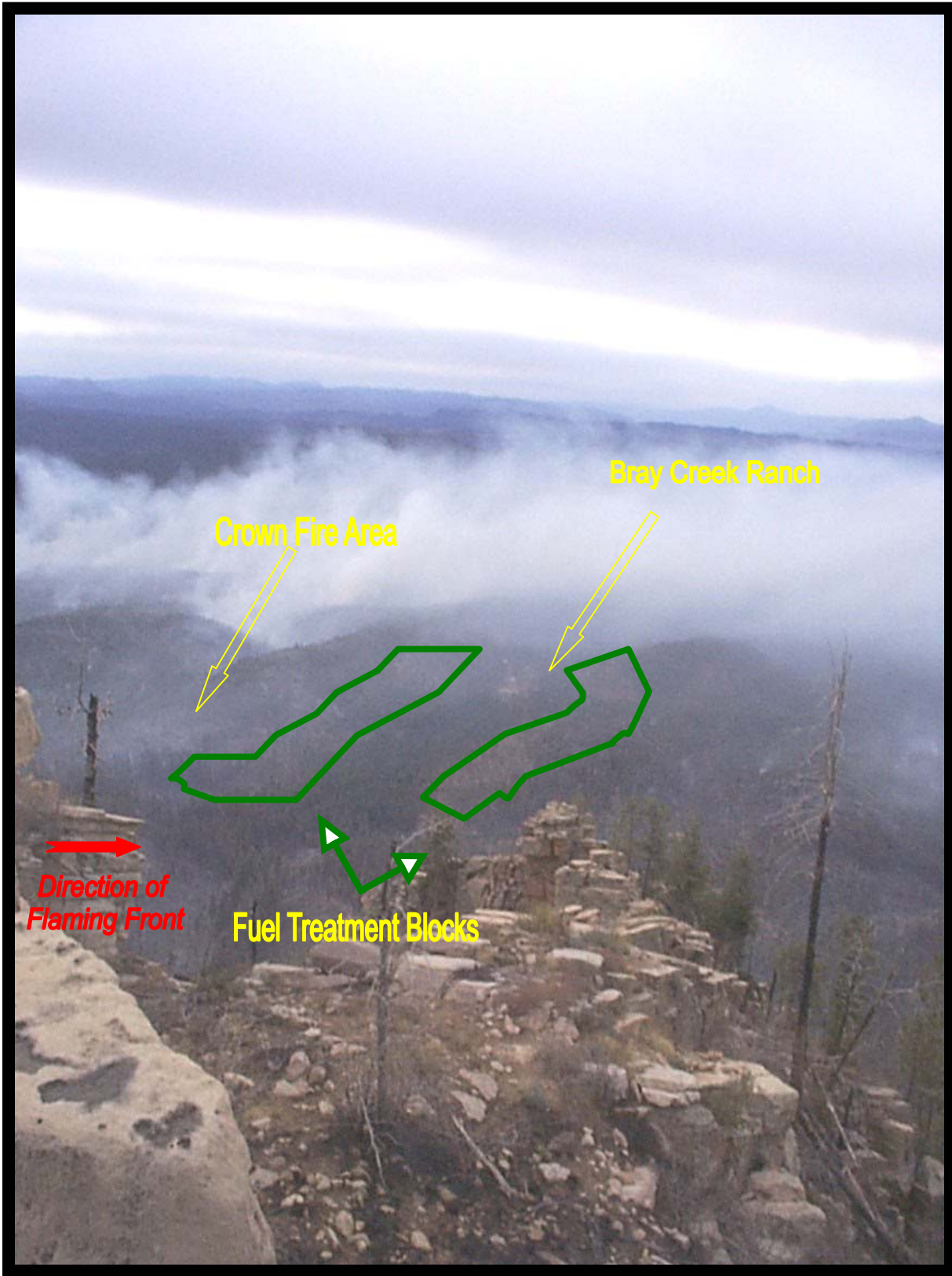


Photo 2: Bray Creek Ranch and the February Fire from the Mogollon Rim, February 9, 2006, 9:30 am.



Photo 3: Photo taken in the northeast corner of the fuelbreak around the Bray Creek Ranch. The picture is taken on the edge between the treated (left) and untreated (right) timber facing north, with the Mogollon Rim in the background. The untreated side of the photo displays the aftermath of a crown fire through very dense young growth ponderosa pine. The treated portion of the photo displays the fuelbreak, with scorch on the canopies from the intense fire that approached from the untreated timber (photo Dick Fleishman, USFS).



Photo 4: Photo taken adjacent to the northeast corner of the fuelbreak around the Bray Creek Ranch. The picture is taken from the crown fire area adjacent to the northeast corner of the fuelbreak that is noted in photos 1 and 2 as the crown fire area. Note that the ground and tree canopy in the foreground are devoid of any live vegetation. The live canopy in the background is the fuelbreak (photo Dick Fleishman, USFS).

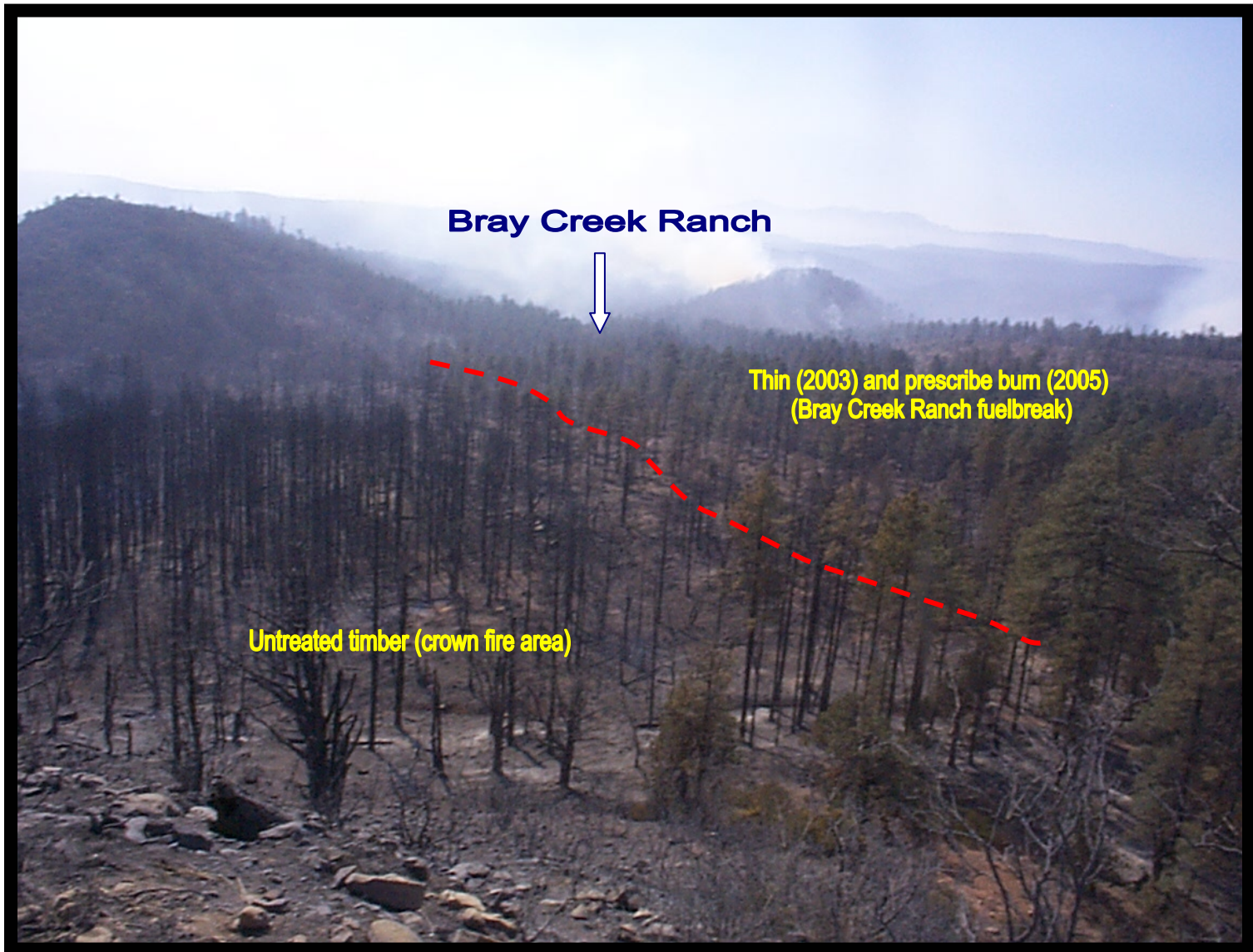


Photo 5: Photo taken from hill north above the northeast corner of the Bray Creek Ranch Fuelbreak. The red dashed line delineates the approximate boundary between the treated (right) and untreated (left) forest. The untreated area on the left is characterized by a total crown fire, with the treated area (right) exhibiting corn scorch adjacent to the crown fire and evidence of ground fire (photo Dick Fleishman, USFS).

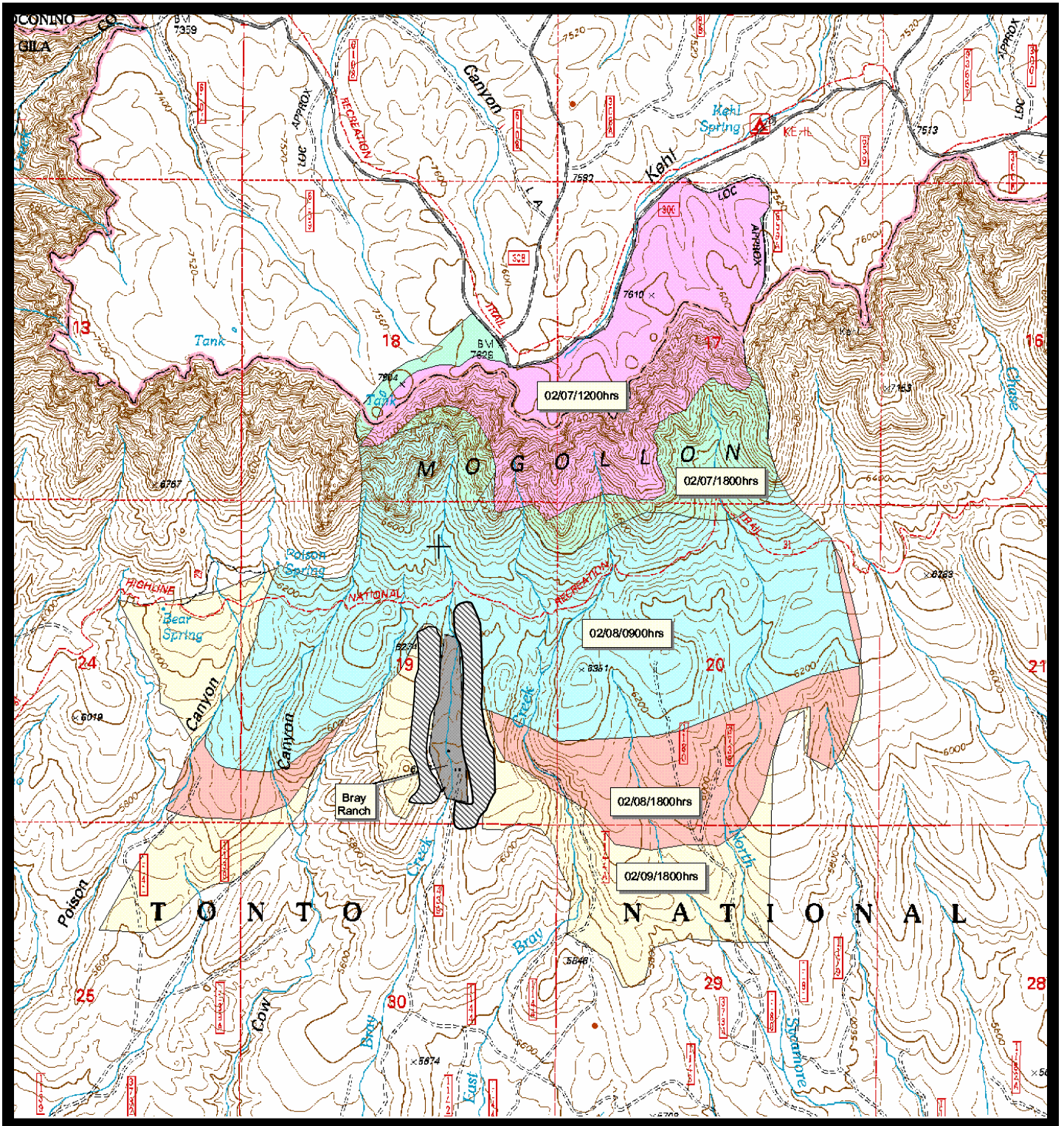


Figure 1: Fire progression map, February 6-February 9. Note that the fire was well above the Highline Trail at 6:00 pm on February and moved rapidly towards the Bray Creek Ranch. Fuel treatment areas (fuelbreak) are displayed in black diagonal cross hatch adjacent to the Bray Creek Ranch (map: Central West Arizona Type II Team).