

STATE OF IDAHO  
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

# CONDITIONS AND PROCEDURES FOR USE OF START CARD DRILLING PERMITS

Updated February 2025

This document updates procedures regarding the use of Start Card Drilling Permits (“Start Cards”). This document supersedes previous guidance “Conditions and Procedures for Use of Start Card Drilling Permits and Pre-Sold Well I.D. Tags” (2017).

The use of Start Cards to obtain approval for the construction of a Single-Family Residential well is a privilege extended by the Department to Idaho Licensed Well Drillers. The Department reserves the right to suspend or revoke a driller’s privilege to use start cards if a driller fails to comply with these procedures and all applicable laws or rules related to well drilling and well construction in Idaho. To be eligible to use start cards, a drilling company’s Principal Driller must sign and return page 3 of this procedure acknowledging that they have read these procedures and agree to comply with the associated requirements. The signature page is to be filed by the Department and kept on record with that corresponding driller’s licensing requirement documentation.

1. Start Card Drilling Permits must **ONLY be used** for the construction of **one Single Family Residential** “Domestic” well. A start card that is incomplete, illegible, has inaccurate information or is seeking authorization to construct a well other than a single family residential domestic well is invalid. Start cards are subject to the following additional conditions and restrictions:
  - a. The production casing or pump chamber of the completed well must not exceed eight (8) inches in nominal diameter.
  - b. The well owner and Licensed Driller are responsible for complying with all applicable Administrative Rules in addition to the conditions of approval on the drilling permit.
  - c. Start Cards must be acquired through the Department’s Web Based Drilling Application and are approved once the application is complete and paid for. Start Cards are valid two (2) hours after the approval of the drilling permit through the online application. Start cards submitted after 3:00 pm on Friday are not valid until the following Monday.
  - d. The Start Card must include the well tag I.D. number that is assigned during the Web Based Drilling Application process.
  - e. Allocated well tags will be distributed only to an Idaho Licensed Well Driller or a representative of a company with an active Idaho license. Drilling Permits and Well Tags are not transferable from one driller or owner to another.
2. Standard long form drilling permits are required for construction or modification of wells:
  - a. Not meeting the definition of a single family domestic residential well.
  - b. With a bottom hole temperature of 85 degrees Fahrenheit or greater or for wells that may encounter low temperature geothermal resources.

- c. In designated [Critical Groundwater Areas](#) (CGWA).
- d. In designated [Groundwater Management Areas](#) (GWMA), excluding the ESPA.
- e. In designated [Areas of Drilling Concern](#) (ADC).
- f. In Areas of Contamination (AOC).
- g. Areas that may be otherwise designated by the Department limiting or precluding the use of Start Cards. Check with the regional office in the area you will be drilling for any other restricted areas.

**Note:** See Appendices A-D for locations of CGWAs, GWMA, ADCs & AOCs. **These locations or designations are subject to change and drillers are responsible for remaining aware of these areas.** Please refer to the Department's website or call the regional office in your area for specific locations.

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## *RESOURCES*

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[Well Driller's Locator Tool](http://maps.idwr.idaho.gov/map/locator) -- <http://maps.idwr.idaho.gov/map/locator>

[Well Construction Standards Rules](https://adminrules.idaho.gov/rules/current/37/0309.pdf) -- <https://adminrules.idaho.gov/rules/current/37/0309.pdf>

[Well Driller Licensing Rules](https://adminrules.idaho.gov/rules/current/37/0310.pdf) -- <https://adminrules.idaho.gov/rules/current/37/0310.pdf>

[Department's Well Construction & Drilling Web Page](https://idwr.idaho.gov/wells/) -- <https://idwr.idaho.gov/wells/>

[Forms](https://idwr.idaho.gov/wells/forms.html) -- <https://idwr.idaho.gov/wells/forms.html>

## Statement of Understanding of Conditions and Procedures for Use of Start Card Drilling Permits

I, \_\_\_\_\_  
(PRINCIPAL DRILLER NAME – PLEASE PRINT)

of, \_\_\_\_\_  
(Company Name) (Lic. No.)

certify that I have read and understand the Conditions and Procedures for Use of Start Card Drilling Permits.

1. As Principal Driller and Company Representative, I am responsible for explaining these procedures to all employees of this company.
2. I understand that Start Cards must identify the current property owner and be signed by the property owner and/or Licensed Principal Driller to be valid.
3. I have read and understand all the conditions of approval listed on the Start Card. Additionally I understand that regardless of who signs the Start Card, both the current property owner and Licensed Driller and/or Operator are responsible for complying with all associated conditions of approval.
4. I will ensure that the stainless steel well I.D. tag will be attached permanently to all wells constructed by my company as required by Administrative Rules.

I acknowledge that if my company, or its drillers or operators fail to comply with these procedures, the company's privileges to use Start Cards for constructing wells may be suspended or revoked.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

### RETURN FORM TO:

[file@idwr.idaho.gov](mailto:file@idwr.idaho.gov)

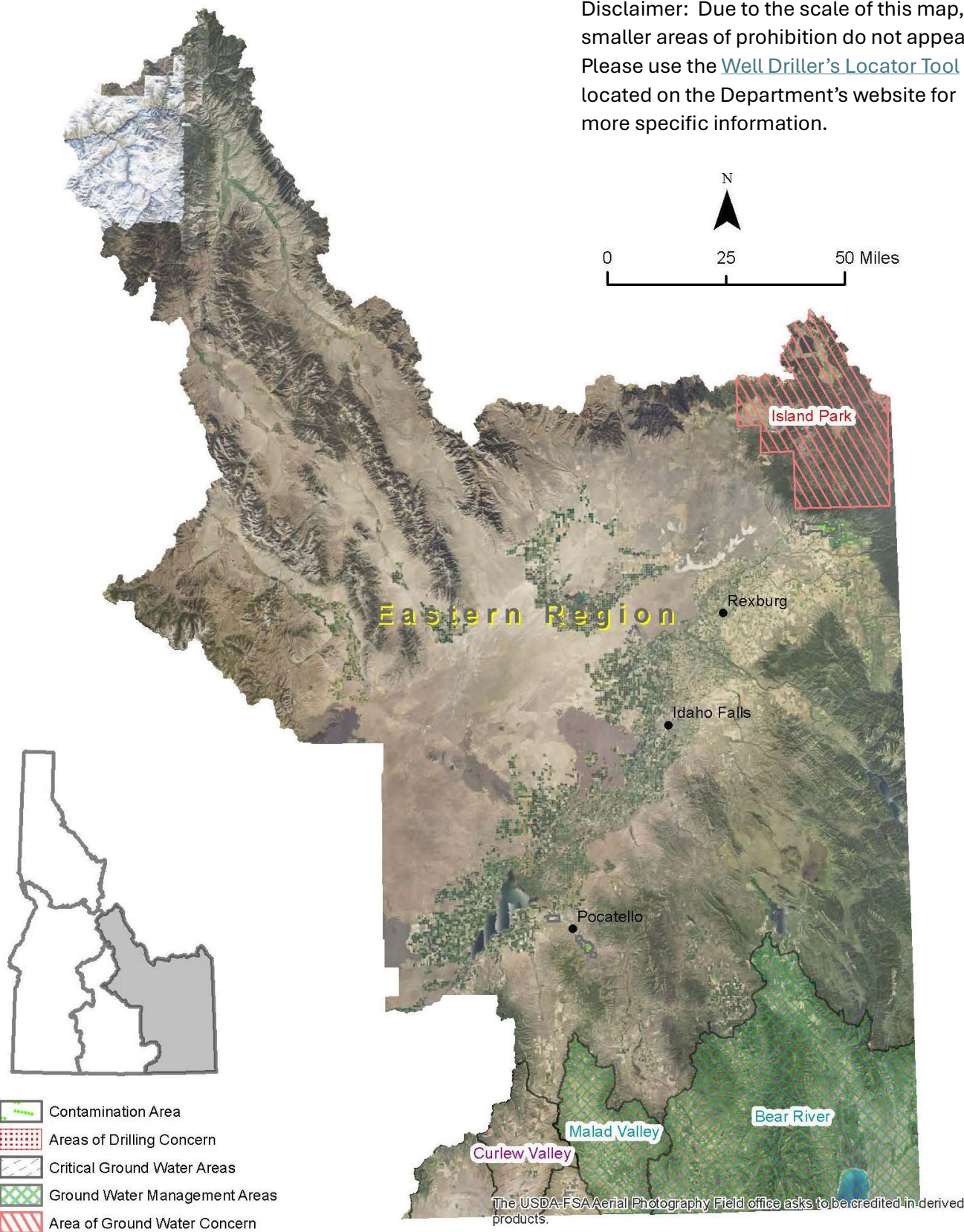
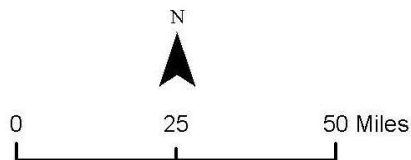
OR

Driller Licensing  
Idaho Department of Water Resources  
P. O. Box 83720  
Boise, ID 83720-0098

# Appendix A: Eastern Idaho Region

## General Locations where Start Cards are Prohibited

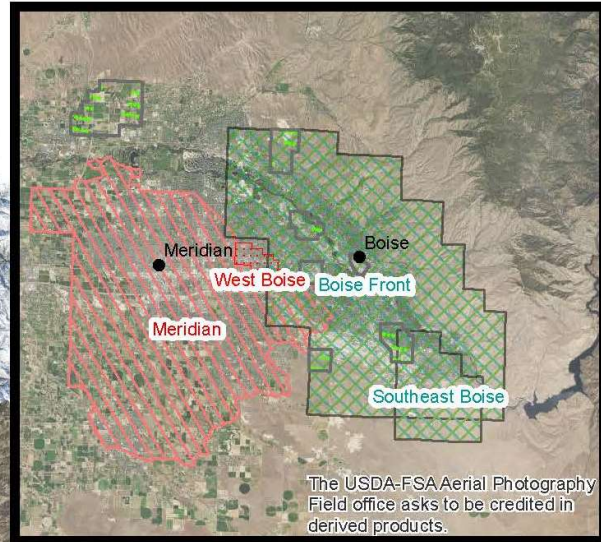
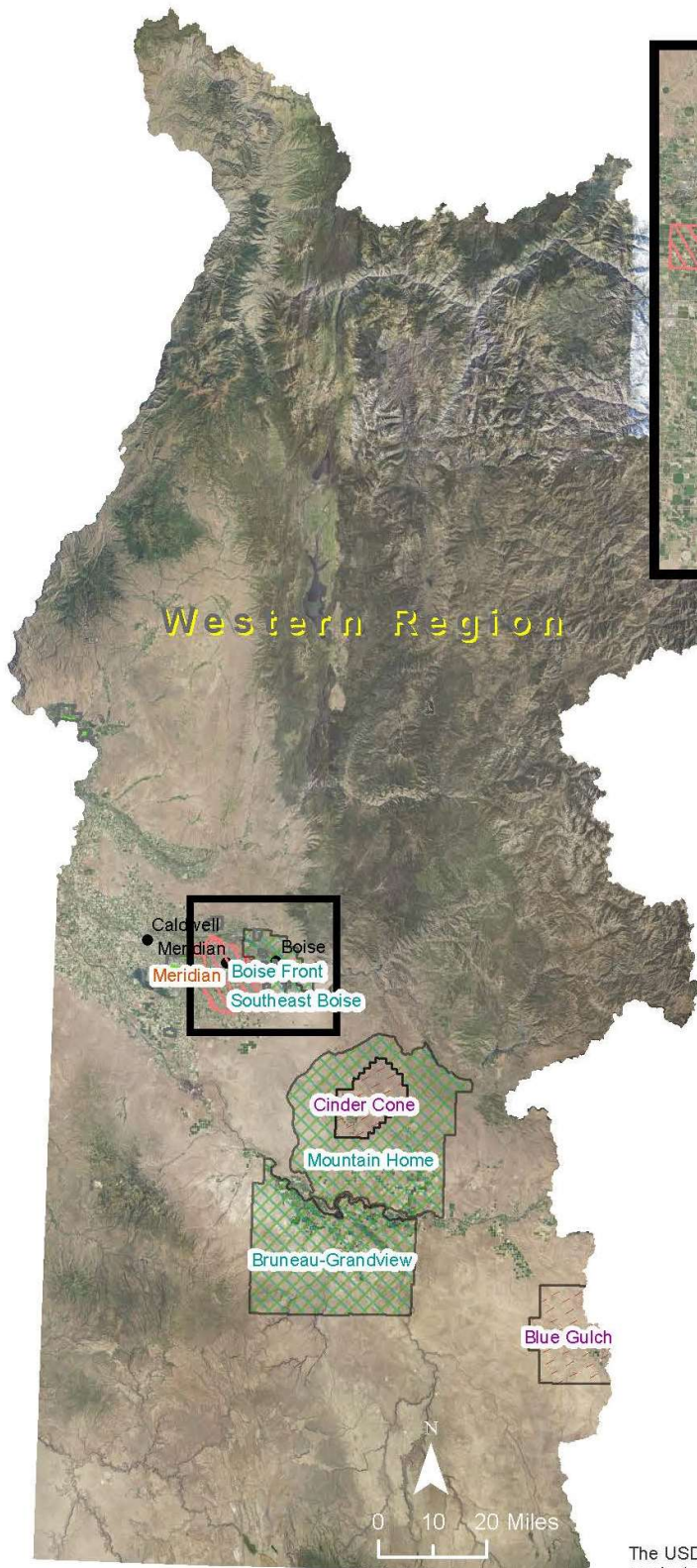
Disclaimer: Due to the scale of this map, smaller areas of prohibition do not appear. Please use the [Well Driller's Locator Tool](#) located on the Department's website for more specific information.





## Appendix B: Western Idaho Region

### General Locations where Start Cards are Prohibited



Disclaimer: Due to the scale of this map, smaller areas of prohibition do not appear. Please use the [Well Driller's Locator Tool](#) located on the Department's website for more specific information.



- Contamination Area
- Areas of Drilling Concern
- Critical Ground Water Areas
- Ground Water Management Areas
- Area of Ground Water Concern

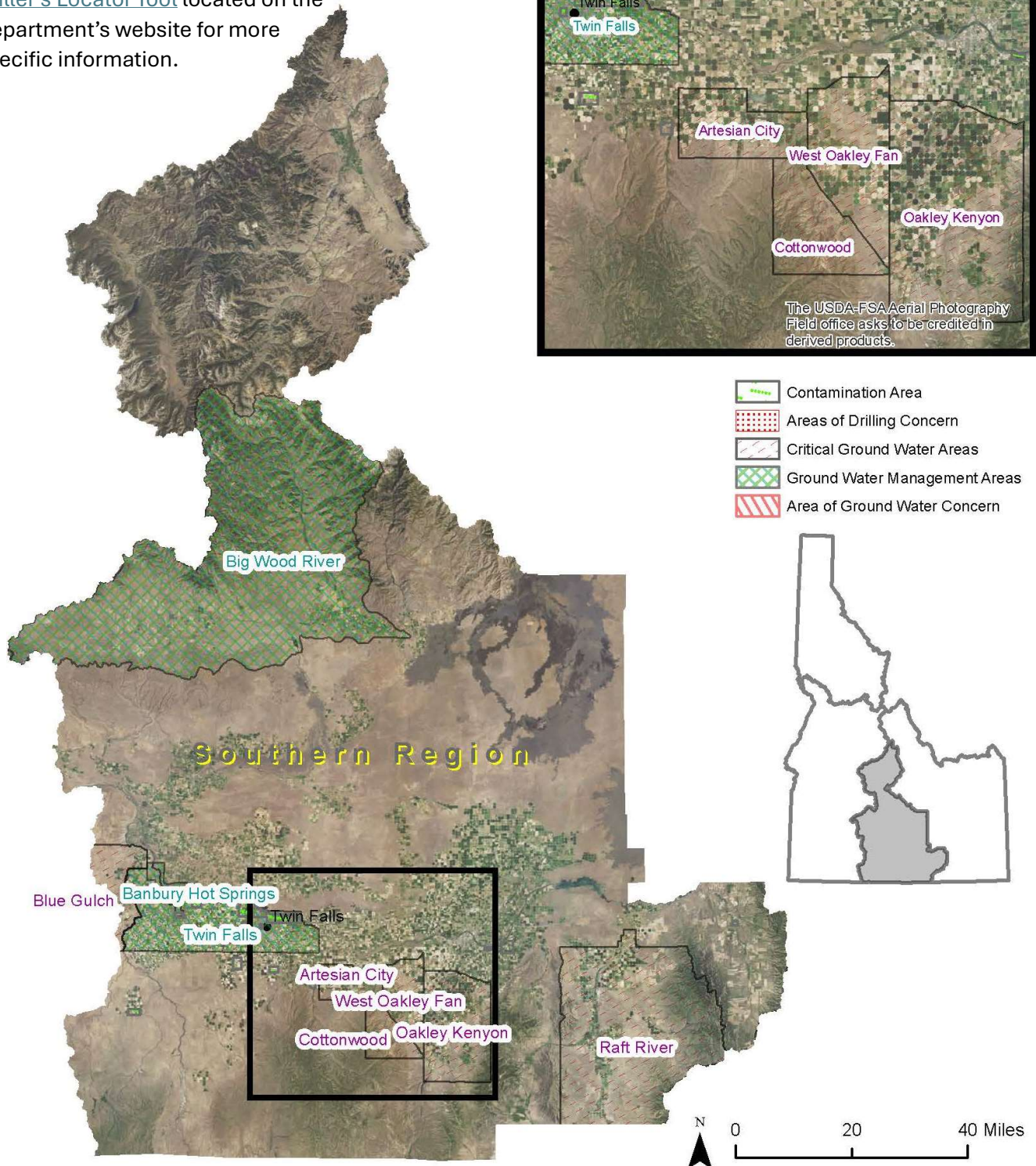
The USDA-FSA Aerial Photography Field office asks to be credited in derived products.



## Appendix C: Southern Idaho Region

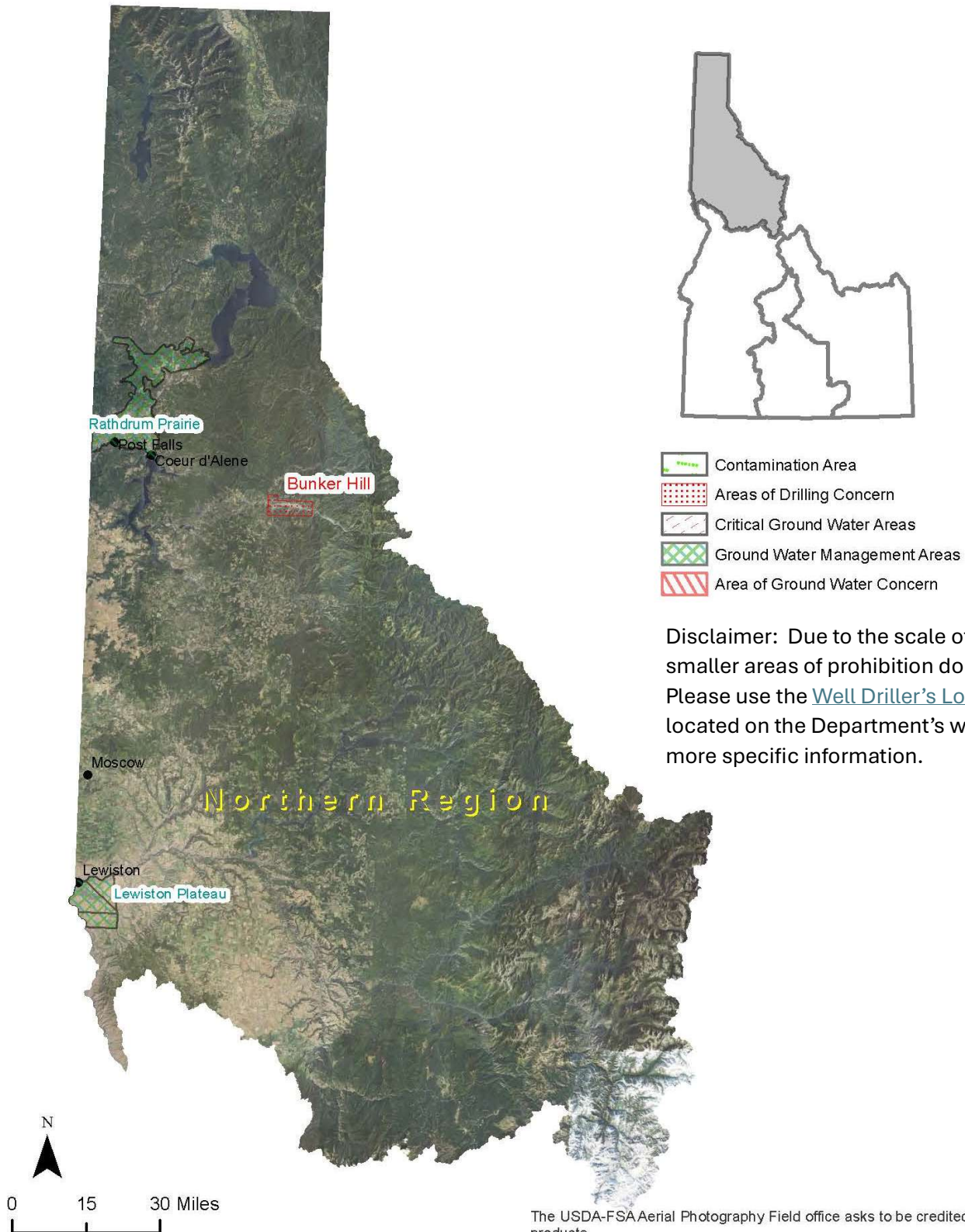
### General Locations where Start Cards are Prohibited

Disclaimer: Due to the scale of this map, smaller areas of prohibition do not appear. Please use the [Well Driller's Locator Tool](#) located on the Department's website for more specific information.



## Appendix D: Northern Idaho Region

### General Locations where Start Cards are Prohibited



The USDA-FSAAerial Photography Field office asks to be credited in derived products.