



BLACKJACK MOUNTAIN

P a r k M a s t e r P l a n

Blackjack Mountain

Master Plan

Site Analysis:

Blackjack Mountain is the highest point in Georgia south of Interstate 20. It rises to 1550 feet above sea level and is part of the Talladega Mountain chain that encompasses the end of the Appalachian Mountains. It consists of a long ridge with a level summit. The mountain slopes are steep and rocky and any type of construction on the slopes would be difficult. The crest of the ridge has an existing unimproved dirt road to the top of the mountain from a clearing on the north side of the park near Old Blackjack Mountain Road. A pasture is located at the foot of the mountain along Blackjack Mountain Road, and a second small pasture is located adjacent SR 100. The SR 100 location will provide the best potential for site access because of existing grades and site disturbances at the roadway. The north section of the park is a secondary ridge called “Little” Blackjack Mountain.

The majority of the site is covered in mixed hardwoods with a pine forest straddling the two ridges. There are several longleaf pines scattered along the slopes. The majority of the hardwood forest is made up of Chestnut Oak, Southern Red Oak and the mountains namesake, Blackjack Oak. There are three old farm ponds in the woodlands, and the eastern side of the mountain borders a large farm with very scenic views. The county should consider preserving the views in this area through a scenic easement.

Summary:

The design team decided to concentrate the main program facilities at the pasture adjacent SR 100 to establish visitor facilities and a trail head. Equestrian facilities will be located in level areas in the pasture off of Blackjack Mountain Road. Summit development is planned so that these improvements could be implemented as a future phase. A road will traverse the ridge top up to the summit. The County is currently acquiring additional tracts of property along the edges that will allow additional access points and equestrian staging areas. As properties are added, the County will need to revise the Master Plan to accommodate the changes.

Program Components:

Included here are descriptions and images of the proposed park program elements as defined by the Master Plan. The following list includes elements recommended for the park, but the program is not limited to these elements.

•Park Entrance Development:

- Entrance road and parking area
- Visitor center/park offices
- Hiking trailhead
- Equestrian area and security gate

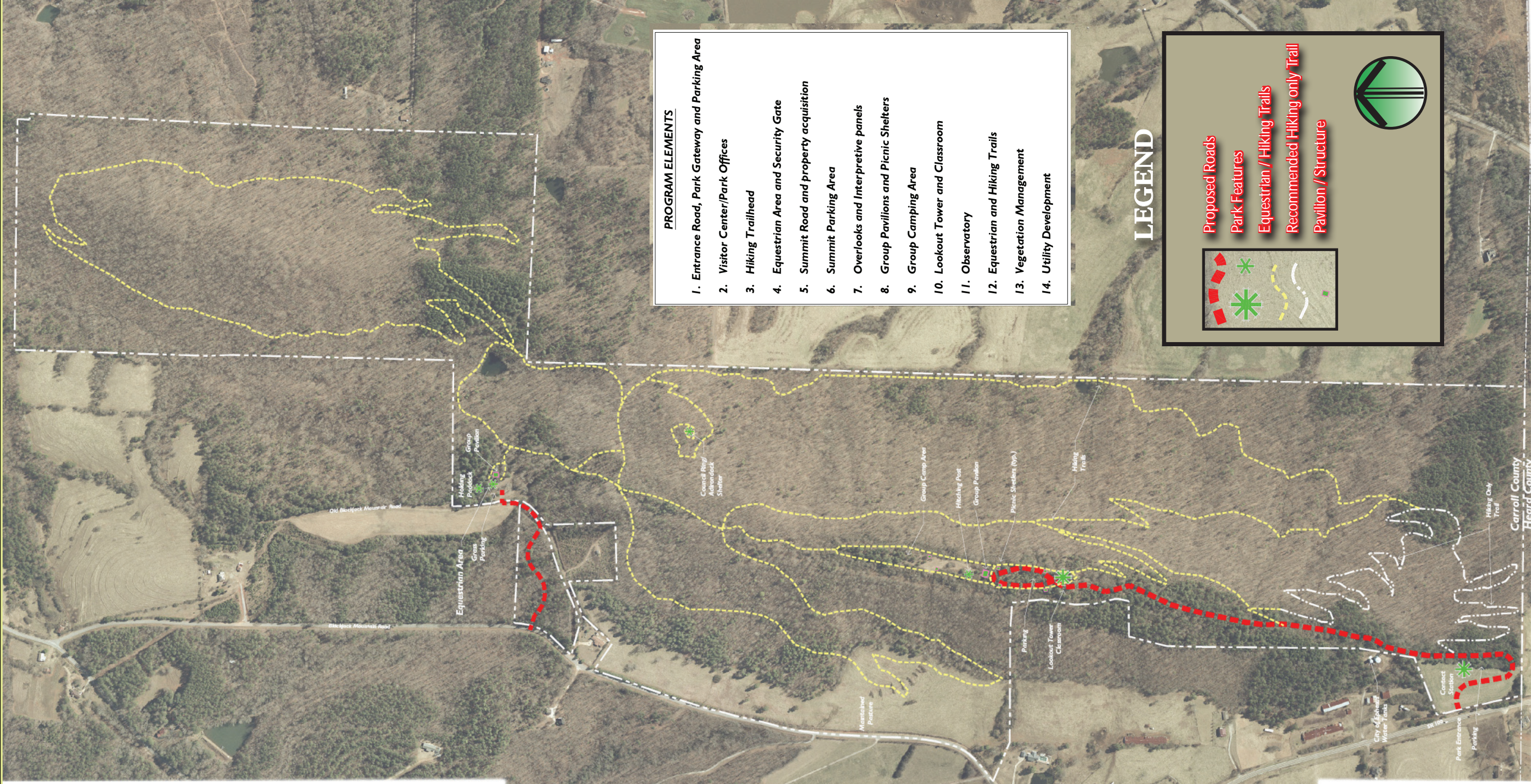
•Summit Development

- Access road and property acquisition
- Parking area
- Overlooks and interpretive panels
- Group pavilions and picnic shelters
- Group camping area
- Lookout tower and classroom
- Observatory
- Open space

•Equestrian and Hiking Trails

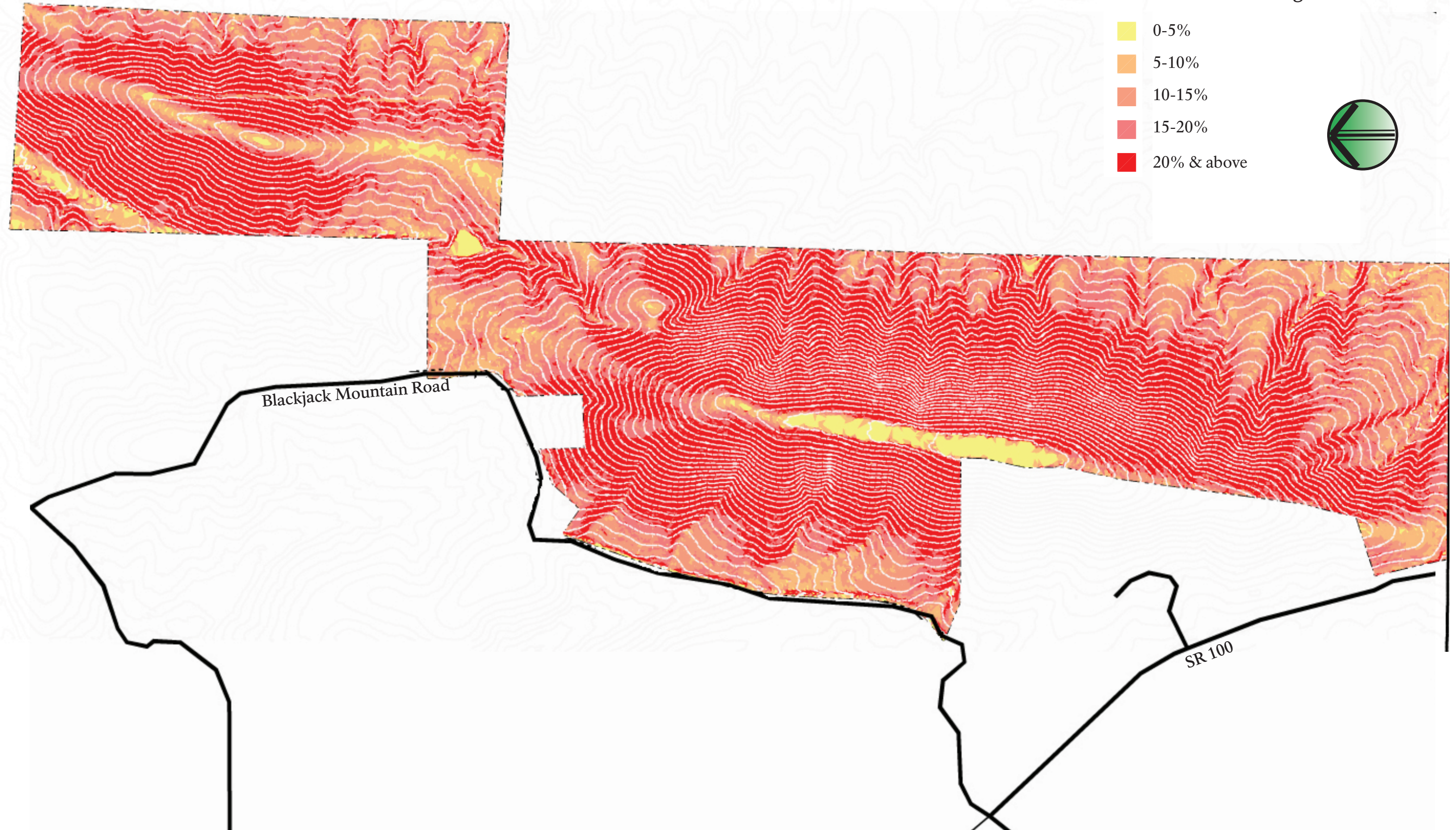
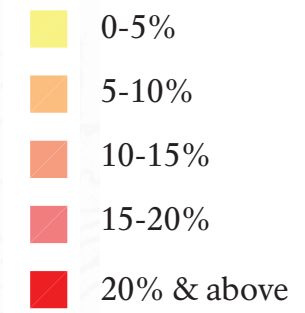
•Vegetation Management

•Utility Development



SLOPE ANALYSIS

Color Range





View from pasture along western property line



View from property line trail to East



View from summit to the West



View from Visitor Center site