

# ASPEN GROVE

*Twenty acres along the green, shady Ekone creek drainage, immediately upstream from the Ekone Lodge, now permanently protected within the Sacred Earth Foundation land trust.*

**Our deepest gratitude to Dale and Beverly Plank, the angel donors who have ensured that wild creatures and children will wander this precious land for many generations to come.**

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## **The importance:**

The Aspen Grove lies immediately west of Ekone's headquarters, visible from the front yard of the Lodge, upstream along the seasonal creek, and surrounded on three sides by Sacred Earth Foundation holdings. One of our main horse trails passes through the parcel, a shady treat on a hot summer day. A large grove of towering white quaking aspens is a rarity in this dry land, as are lush expanses of elk sedge on the sloping ground above, between huge old ponderosas. Threatened Western Gray Squirrels nest high in the pine branches.

## **The risk:**

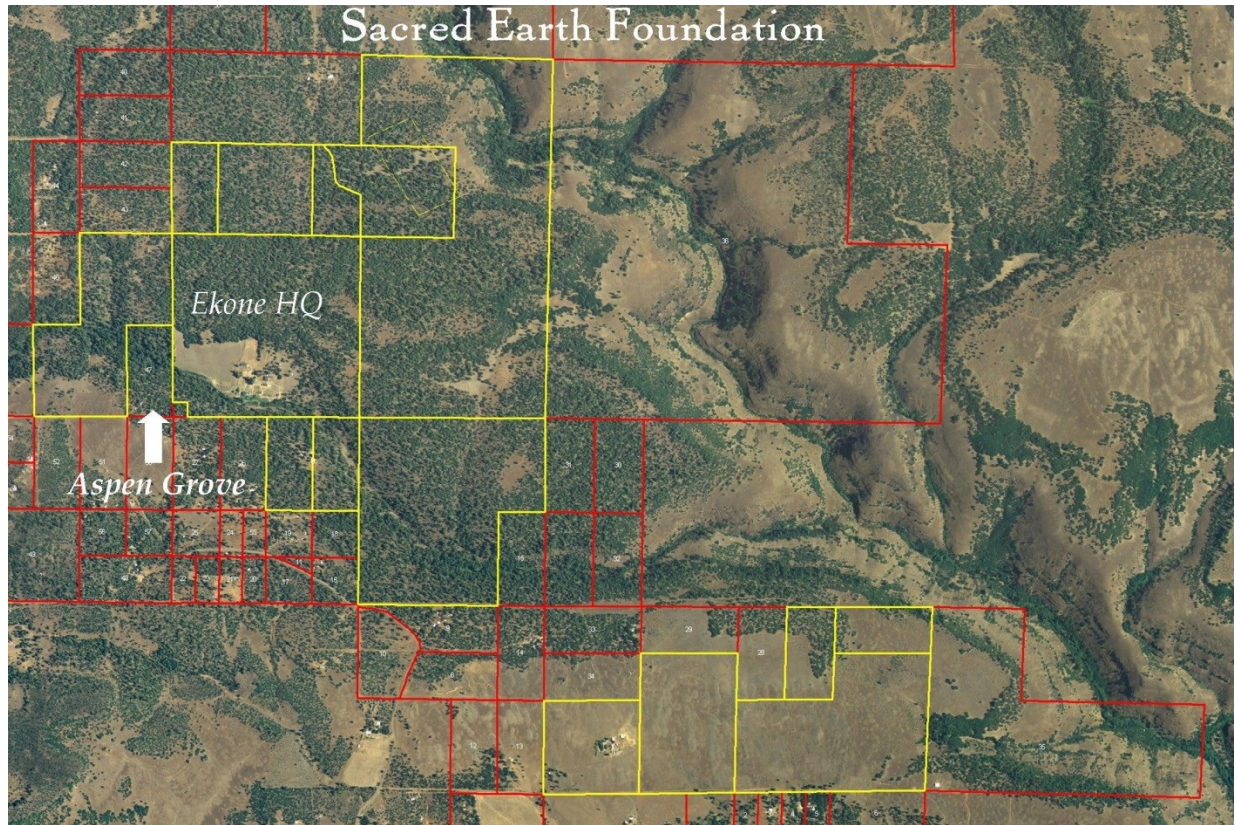
This parcel would have been a very attractive hunting and recreational parcel, and also contains large, commercially valuable trees. An upper section of the parcel sustained recent damage by the previous landowner through a heavy-handed thinning project. We were very concerned about unsustainable timber harvests and land usage, and the likelihood of acquiring a close neighbor who enjoys target practice, ATV's and motorcycles, and unsafe, disruptive hunting practices. Careless neighbors are also our highest fire risk, and this parcel is upwind.

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## Maps

All of the parcels outlined in yellow are current Sacred Earth Foundation holdings. The Aspen Grove was a gaping hole in the land trust, very close to Ekone's center of operations.



Imagine standing in the front yard of the Lodge, looking west – the treeline at the end of the horse pasture is this parcel. Look closely – it's the trees behind the "THA" in THANKS!



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# Photographs



*SEF's hardworking board of directors step from the Ekone fields into the lush Aspen Grove.*





*The southern section of this parcel above the creek is in need of healing and restoration. Aggressive thinning using heavy equipment has left scars, and there is some clean-up to be done.*





*The Aspen Grove*