



Deschutes County
District Mapping Advisory Committee (DMAC)

Wednesday, September 24, 2025, 1:00 p.m.
Redmond City Hall, 411 SW 9th Street, Redmond Oregon

MEETING FORMAT

In accordance with Oregon state law, this meeting is open to the public and can be accessed and attended in person or remotely.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81707913521?pwd=KQh55MAkiEBZT4obaHsT5S5Dmgeo9a.1>

Meeting ID: 817 0791 3521

Passcode: 611864

TOPIC	DESIRED OUTCOME
1. Welcome Remarks Neil Bryant, DMAC Facilitator and Chair	Welcome committee members <i>2 minute</i>
2. Background on the Formation of the DMAC Jen Patterson, Deschutes County Staff	Information <i>5 minutes</i>
3. Approval of September 17, 2025, Minutes Neil Bryant, DMAC Facilitator and Chair <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>See Draft Minutes in packet. Please note staff is using a summary format for meeting minutes. All DMAC meetings are recorded and posted on the website within 24 hours of each meeting. To find a link to previous meetings please visit: DMAC@deschutes.org.</i>	Approve minutes <i>1 minute</i>
4. Public Comments Neil Bryant, DMAC Facilitator and Chair	<i>30 minutes</i>
5. Review of Draft District Maps Jen Patterson, Strategic Initiatives Manager	Information and discussion <i>10 minutes</i>
6. GIS Update Overview Lee Klemp, IT/GIS	Information <i>5 minutes</i>

TOPIC	DESIRED OUTCOME
7. DMAC Mapping Work Neil Bryant, DMAC Facilitator and Chair Lee Klemp, IT/GIS	Committee Work <i>65 minutes</i>
8. Wrap Up and Adjourn Neil Bryant, DMAC Facilitator and Chair <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Next meeting will be at La Pine Senior Center 	Information and Discussion <i>2 minutes</i>



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Condado de Deschutes alienta a las personas cualificadas con discapacidad a participar en sus programas y actividades. Esta evento/ubicación es accesible para personas con discapacidad. Si necesita hacer arreglos para hacer posible la participación, llame al (541) 388-6584 o envíe un correo electrónico a erik.kropp@deschutes.org.



Minutes
Deschutes County
District Mapping Advisory Committee (DMAC)
Wednesday, September 17, 2025, 1:00 p.m.
Sisters City Hall, 520 E. Cascade Ave, Sisters, OR

This meeting was conducted in person with the option of remote participation. It was video recorded and can be accessed on the committee website: [District Mapping Advisory Committee \(DMAC\) | Deschutes County Oregon](#)

I. Introduction

This meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Facilitator and Chair Neil Bryant.

Attendees: Chair/Facilitator: Neil Bryant. Committee Members: Bernie Brader, Carol Loesche, Drew Kaza, Matt Cyrus, Melanie Kebler, Ned Dempsey, and Phil Henderson.

Deschutes County Staff: Nick Lelack, County Administrator; Steve Dennison, County Clerk; Jen Patterson, Strategic Initiatives Manager; Lee Klemp, IT/GIS; and Phil Chi, IT/GIS.

City of Sisters Staff: Rebecca Green, Deputy Recorder/Communications Coordinator.

II. Approval of September 10, 2025, Minutes

Matt Cyrus motioned to approve the minutes, Carol Loesche seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

III. Public Comments

Ten community members provided public comment in person and one person provided comments via Zoom.

Rodney Cooper, a Sisters-area resident, urged the committee to guard against concentrating all five commissioner districts around "one central city." He asked that rural voters not be overshadowed by larger population centers and drew a parallel to the small-state concerns voiced by America's founders.

Cheryl Pellerin, a Sisters City Councilor, supplied long-range population forecasts from Portland State University that show Sisters growing 130 percent and La Pine 87 percent over the next 25 years. She encouraged the committee to supplement 2020 census data with those forecasts and to draft written guidelines for how future boards should update the map once growth makes rebalancing necessary.

Andrea Blum, also of Sisters, recalled serving on an earlier (unsuccessful) home-rule-charter effort and said Deschutes County's mix of small cities and vast unincorporated areas makes districting unusually complicated. She cautioned the committee to learn from that prior process before recommending any

final map.

Monica Tomosy of Sisters stated it is not clear what the intent of the DMAC is. The entire process is unclear, how the DMAC was formed is unclear, what their goal is unclear, the process needs to be provided in writing. This process is being pushed by two Commissioners who are affiliated with a party and there is a trust issue for the community. The question should be should there be five not districts not voting on a map of five districts.

Bryce Kellog of Bend stated that the process is inherently partisan. Having five at-large Commissioners behooves the growing liberal base of the County. Deschutes County has grown a lot between 2020 – 2024 Data needs to be brought to the problem to draw the problem. Districts that are unintentionally unfair are still unfair same with partisan districts. There are resources available for the committee to use including “Daves Redistricting”.

John Nielsen of Redmond reviewed recent county ballot measures that removed partisan labels and expanded the board to five seats. He argued that before carving districts the county should again ask voters whether they want districts at all, warning that drawing lines prematurely could “further divide” urban and rural communities.

Michael Tripp, a 23-year county resident, submitted an illustrative map he drafted after the previous meeting. The exercise, he said, revealed how few precinct combinations satisfy the committee’s stated principles. He asked DMAC to explain how any eventual map would improve representation, community cohesion, and governmental efficiency.

Samantha Smith from Redmond thanked the DMAC for listening to the public input on providing more times for comments. Smith stated the process is rushed and being pushed through. Having the process done by November is not enough time and other places throughout the state took much more time for the process. Seats should be at-large but if it is going to be districts Redmond should have their own districts, otherwise, Redmond is going to be a dis-enfranchised community. It makes more sense to have the question whether there are even going to be districts be put to the voters not a drawn map of districts.

Greg Bryant contended that fast-growing Redmond merits its own commissioner district. Citing census-based population estimates rising from 33,274 in 2020 to 37,009 in 2023, he warned that without a dedicated district Redmond residents could be “disenfranchised.” He favored letting voters decide whether to use districts once all five commissioners are seated.

Mary Fleischman (appearing remotely) asked the committee to evaluate alternatives—such as four districts plus one at-large seat—before settling on five single-member districts. She fears the current approach is being rushed and could “totally backfire” if voters conclude it does not reflect their 2024 mandate to simply enlarge the board.

IV. Discussion on Defining “Communities of Common Interest”

Neil Bryant reopened a topic carried over from the prior meeting—how the committee will define and

apply “communities of interest” (COIs). Bryant stated that the state rules purposely leave “community of interest” open-ended; he therefore urged the committee to decide whether to rely on a broad, neighborhood-based concept or to anchor the term in concrete overlays—school, irrigation and farm districts, media-market areas, and other functional boundaries the GIS team can display on draft precinct maps. He stressed that whatever framework the group adopts must still accommodate Bend’s large share of the county’s population, because some Bend precincts will inevitably be paired with rural areas to achieve equal numbers.

Melanie Kebler discussed the information she forwarded to the group from the Oregon Supreme Court. Stressing the committee should keep in mind incorporated cities and keep recognizable unincorporated areas such as Tumalo and Terrebonne intact wherever possible, and guard against splitting neighborhoods without a data-driven justification. Using voter-registration totals would overlook roughly 6,700 non-registered Bend residents in just five precincts and could disenfranchise children and non-citizens counted by the census. Kebler favored using 2020 population data—supplemented by Portland State University growth forecasts—to remain within the committee’s self-imposed 5 percent deviation target.

Ned Dempsey underscored the need for a shared working definition before staff begins drafting maps. Given the county’s rapid growth, he favored using current voter-registration totals—updated daily—as a practical proxy for population, provided that the committee continues to observe its previously adopted principles: contiguity, reliance on existing precinct lines where feasible, and neutrality toward parties and incumbents.

Phil Henderson suggested that population equality is only one facet of “community.” In his view, cities and their immediately adjacent unincorporated areas should be treated as presumptive communities of interest, while functional service boundaries—such as fire-district or sheriff-patrol zones—may prove more meaningful than school-district lines. He added that election-registration data, updated frequently, could be useful because the 2020 census is already five years old.

Bernie Brader urged simplicity, suggesting that population alone could define the county’s shared interests; he cautioned that trying to align numerous rural and urban indicators might create “a list of twenty different items” without yielding clearer results.

Matt Cyrus urged the committee to acknowledge “geopolitical” identities—predominant partisan leanings that separate, for example, conservative Redmond from progressive west Bend—while Carol Loesche countered that drawing lines explicitly around partisan concentrations risks sliding into gerrymandering.

Phil Henderson wanted to clarify what gerrymandering means to him: when one political party has enough clout to create a map to what they want. That is not this county, the county is fairly well balanced with a large amount of the population identified as non-affiliated.

Melanie Kebler said the committee should take the concerns from the public very seriously. The committee is not a balanced representation of the partisan makeup of the county. The committee should be very careful in how they talk about this issue and starting with partisan voter registration data is not a way to earn public trust.

V. GIS Mapping Work

Neil Bryant transitioned the meeting from conceptual criteria to the practical task of drawing districts. GIS analyst Lee Klemp confirmed that staff will begin with the 50 existing voting precincts, 2020 census counts, and current registration totals; he added that each of those data sets can be toggled on or off in the software as the committee tests scenarios.

Lee Klemp reminded the committee that the software already houses an extensive catalog of boundary layers—including city limits, county lines, urban-growth boundaries, road districts, school districts, tax and fire districts, water features, and the full range of public-land ownership classes. Any of those layers can be turned on or off in real time. There is a delay while loading while dozens of overlays and it would help the process if staff had advance notice of which datasets the committee would like to consider.

Neil Bryant concurred that without a focused request list GIS could “pick any answer you want and make it work with the data,” leaving the public to question the map’s objectivity. He recapped the legally mandated criteria already adopted—districts must be contiguous, stay within existing precinct lines where practicable, avoid favoring a party or incumbent, and achieve equal population with a self-imposed target of plus-or-minus five percent (roughly 39,000 residents or 33,000 registered voters per district).

The group discussed which optional overlays could enhance public understanding without over-complicating the visuals. Suggestions included public-lands ownership, school-district and fire-district boundaries, major road networks and water bodies. Several speakers cautioned that turning on too many layers at once could allow anyone to “pick any answer you want,” so the committee will revisit the overlay list after it receives the first drafts.

Carol Loesche asked staff to quantify the gap between total census population and registered voters; staff replied that the spread is about 35,000 people, implying that each district should contain roughly 39,000 residents or 33,000 registered voters.

Drew Kaza emphasized that staff need actionable direction, not a perfect academic definition. He proposed agreeing on a starter set of priorities—cities, nearby unincorporated settlements, and recognized service-district boundaries—so GIS staff can generate map options and the committee can then refine those drafts in public.

Two formal actions concluded the item. First, a motion directing staff to prepare draft five-district maps for review at the next meeting passed on a 5-2.

Afterward, a second motion to have staff also create an alternative showing four single-member districts plus one county-wide at-large seat was ruled within the body’s right to debate but ultimately failed, 4-3, because several members said it exceeded the Board of Commissioners’ charge to the committee.

Jen Patterson confirmed that staff will not define COIs on their own; instead, they will produce several draft maps using criteria and/or considerations provided to them from the committee including using the library district as a basis for one map, two options for Bend which include one that draws a line dividing the city north and south and one east and west, consider the State House District Map, start with

population centers, and consider cities and unincorporated areas

Staff will draft maps and include those drafts in the next meeting packet, which will be published on Monday, September 22, 2025, for the September 24, 2025, DMAC meeting.

The chair closed the discussion by reiterating that the forthcoming drafts are only data-driven starting points; decisions about communities of common interest, precinct swaps or additional overlays will follow public input and further committee deliberation.

VI. Wrap Up and Adjourn

Neil Bryant adjourned the meeting at 2:57 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by
Jen Patterson, Strategic Initiatives Manager,
Deschutes County Administrative Services



DESCHUTES COUNTY DRAFT DISTRICT MAPS

Background:

During the September 17, 2025, Deschutes Mapping Advisory Committee (DMAC) meeting, committee members requested that staff create draft maps for the DMAC members to consider and potentially use as a starting point in their work. A formal motion was made and passed in a 5-2 committee vote.

Committee members provided staff with further directive for considerations while drafting the maps. Those included:

- Apply the Library Board District map in one of the draft district maps
- Consider cities and unincorporated towns (i.e. Tumalo and Terrebonne)
- Present at least two options for splitting the City of Bend:
 - north/south split
 - east/west split
- Start with population centers
- Review the State House Districts map and see if it can be applied to a Commissioner district map
 - After reviewing the House Districts population counts staff determined it was not viable to use this as a draft map starting point.

House District	2020 Census Population Counts	August 2025 Voter Registration Count
53	70,390	58,695
54	69,948	54,389
55	34,222	29,990
59	23,611	20,689
60	82	53

Staff considered all the information on hand and drafted three maps for the DMAC as a potential starting point. For consistency staff drafted the maps using the 2020 Census data and drafted each district within, or very close to, the 5% population margin. The August 2025 Voter Registration data is also shown in each corresponding data chart. Below are the data tables the staff used for reference.

2020 Census Population	
Total Population	198,253
5 Equal Districts Count	39,651
Minimum within 5%	37,668
Maximum within 5%	41,633

August 2025 Voter Registration Count	
Total Population	163,816
5 Equal Districts Count	32,763
Minimum within 5%	31,125
Maximum within 5%	34,401

Map Option 1

Staff recreated the existing [Library Board District map](#) using the GIS software and made some minor changes to comply with mapping drawing criteria (i.e. moving precinct 10 into “B” district to comply with the contiguous boundaries criteria) and a small number of precinct changes to get the districts counts *closer* to the 5% population margin (i.e. moving precinct 18 into “A” district). To get the districts all *within* the 5% population margin would require more nuanced changes possibly considering “communities of interest” which staff felt was more appropriate work for the DMAC.

This map also incorporates a more north/south divide for the City of Bend and keeps the cities of Redmond, Sisters, and La Pine separate and wholly in one district. Unincorporated communities including Sunriver, Terrebonne, and Tumalo are also kept separately and wholly in one district.

Map Option 2

Staff created this map using only tools and resources available to the public. This map was drafted using the publicly provided [precinct data chart](#), an excel document, and [Dial software](#). Staff recreated the map in GIS for consistency in appearance and future DMAC work (if committee members so choose).

This map also incorporates a more west/east divide for the City of Bend and keeps the cities of Redmond, Sisters, and La Pine separate and wholly in one district. Unincorporated communities including Sunriver, Terrebonne, and Tumalo are also kept separately and wholly in one district.

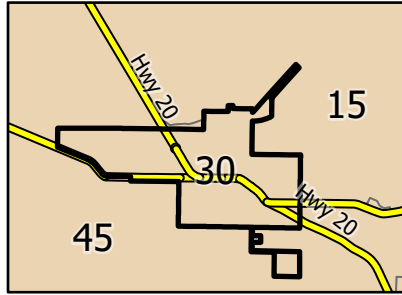
Map Option 3

Staff created this map using major highways as dividing lines as much as possible, taking into consideration Highways 97, 20, and 126. The numbers and precinct layout didn’t allow for a direct correlation but it was the starting foundation for the district divides.

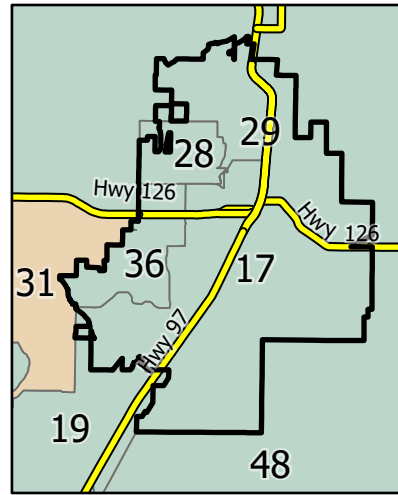
The map keeps the City of Redmond separate and wholly in one district and combines the cities of Sisters and La Pine into one district. Unincorporated communities including Sunriver and Terrebonne are kept separately and wholly within one district and Tumalo is divided into two districts.

Option 1

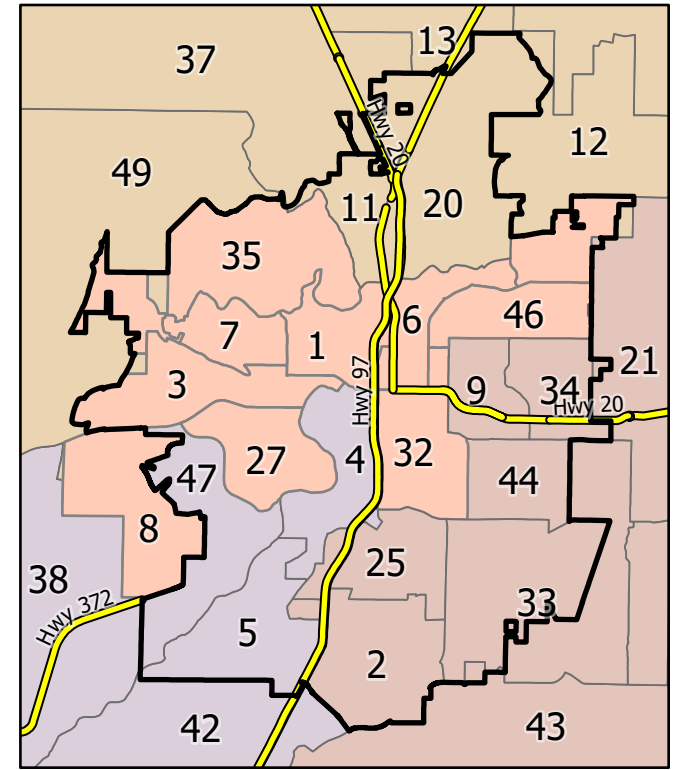
- A
- B
- C
- D
- E



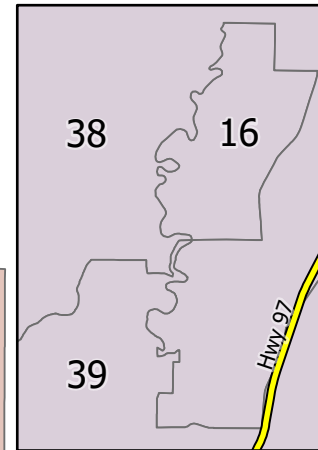
Sisters



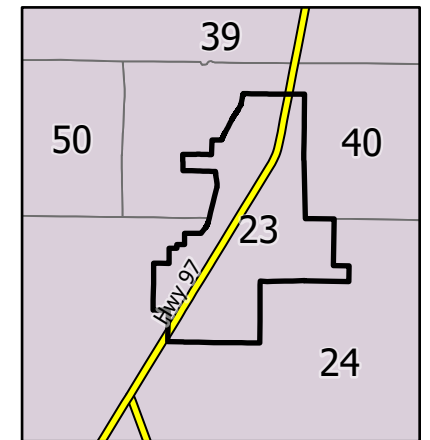
Redmond



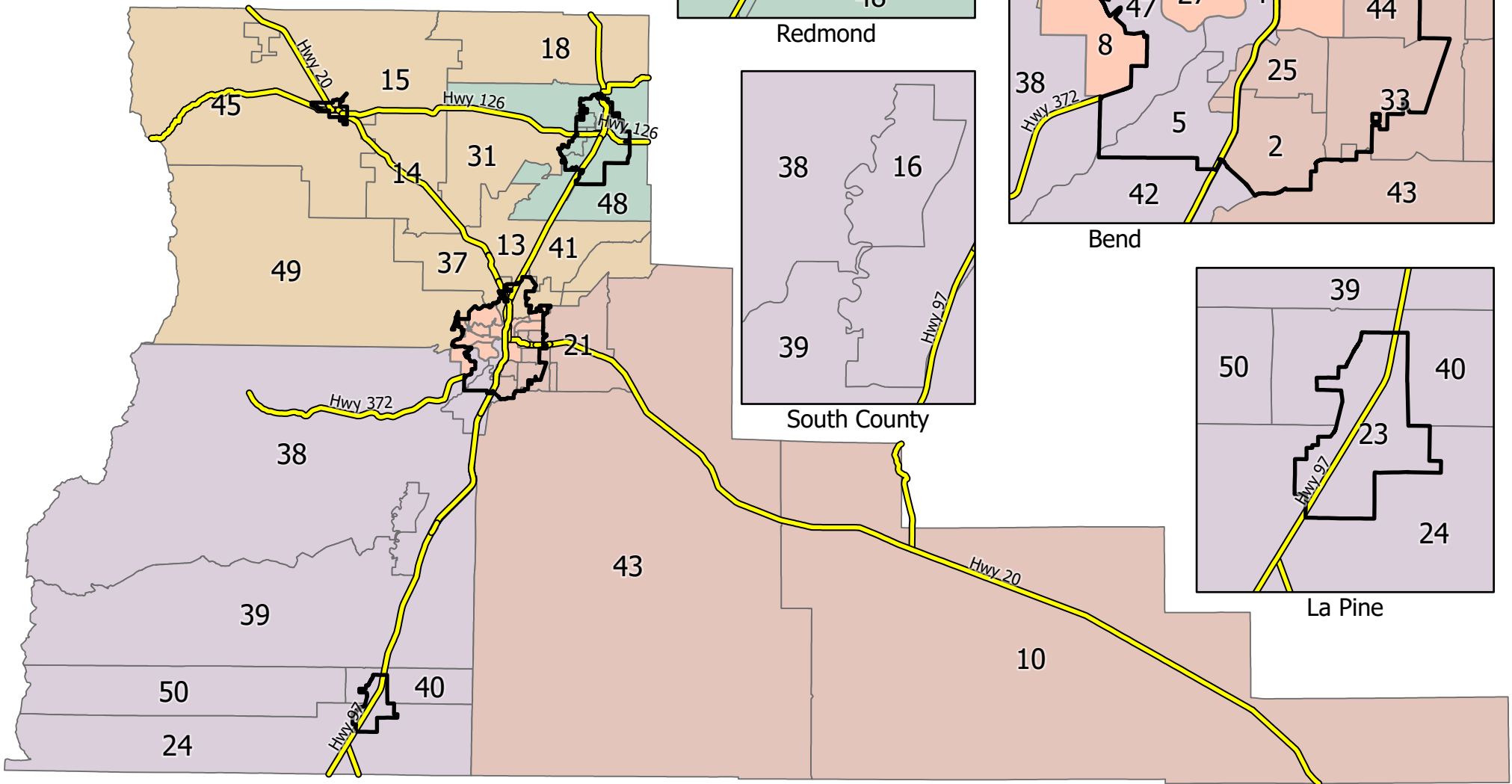
Bend



South County



La Pine

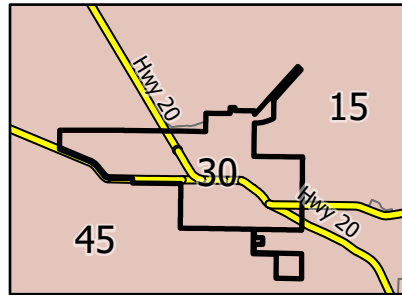


Map Option 1 Population Counts by District

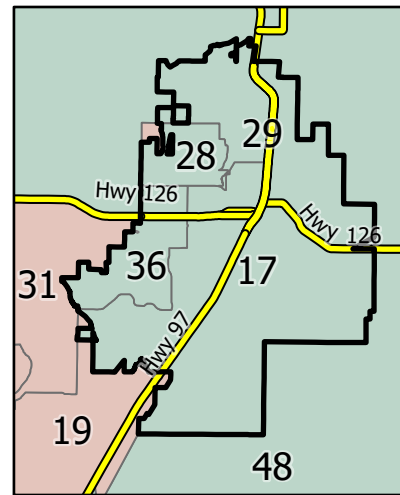
Option1	SUM_Population20	SUM_Voters
A	36130	31766
B	40332	32001
C	41873	34946
D	41678	33506
E	38240	31597

Option 2

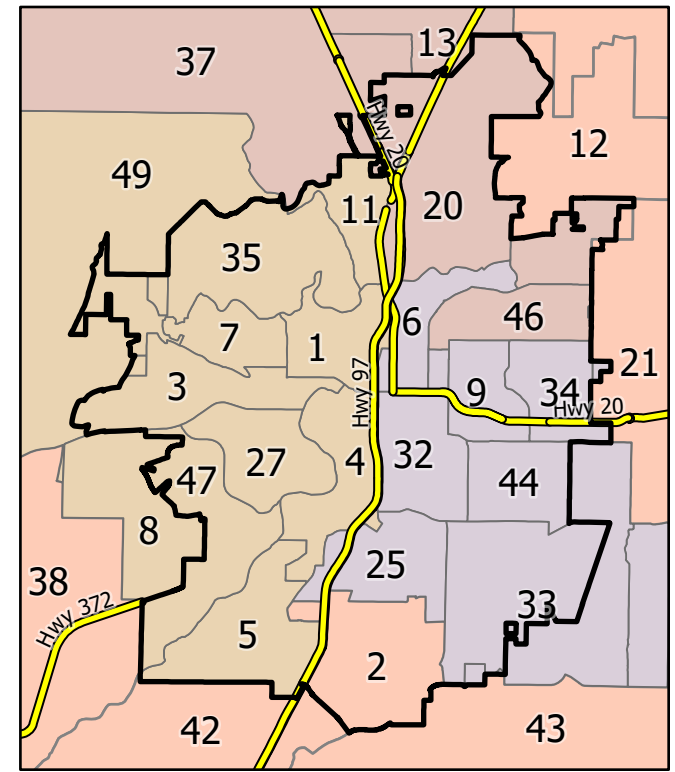
- A
- B
- C
- D
- E



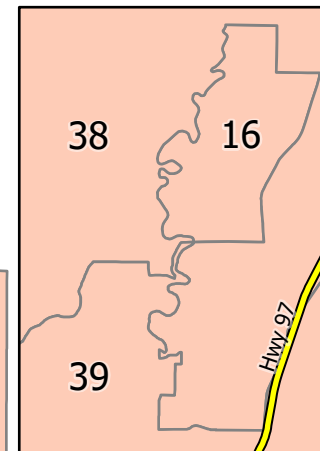
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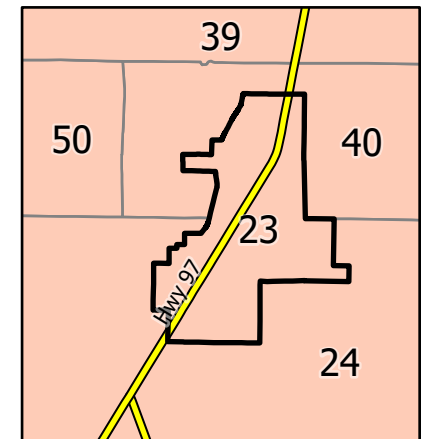
Redmond



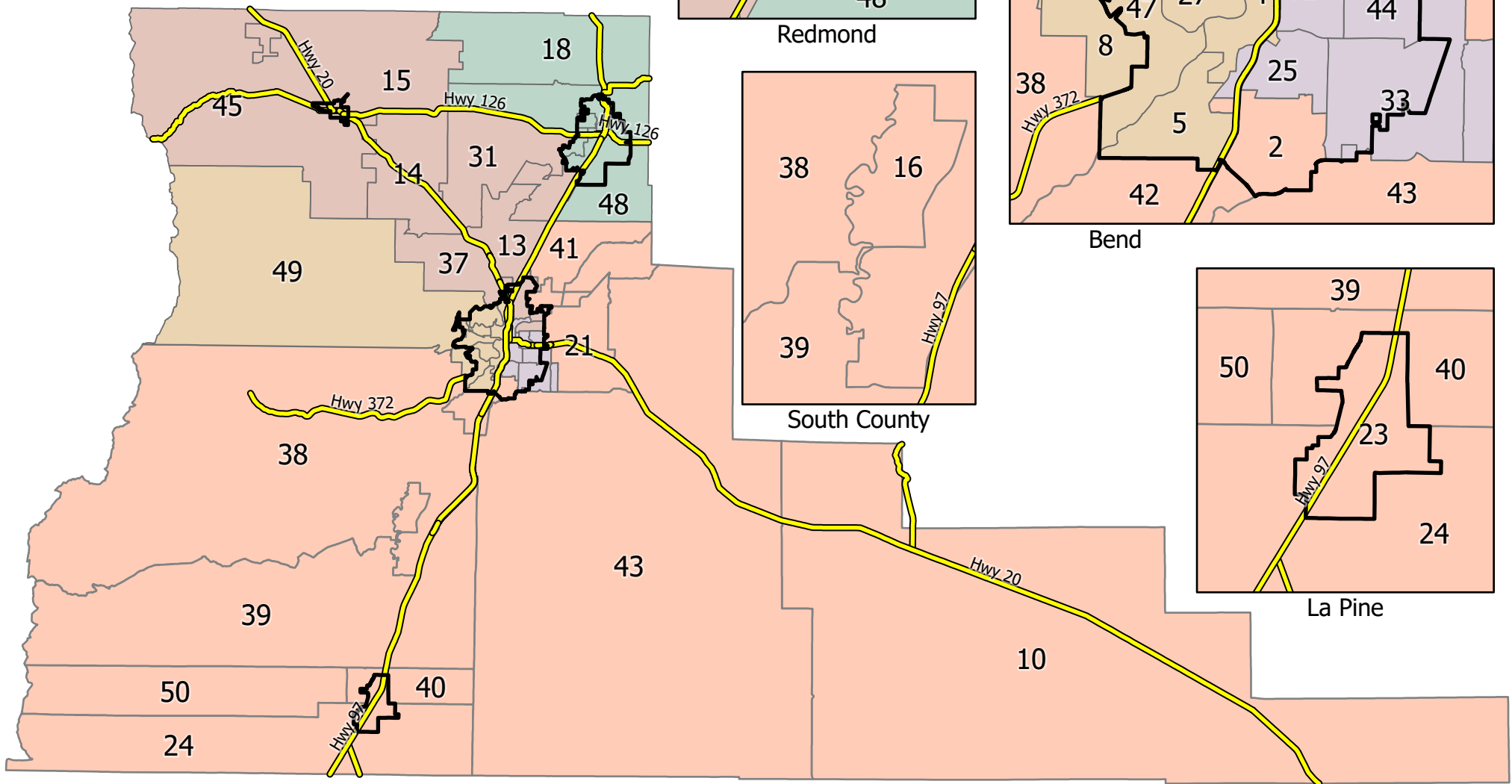
Bend



South County



La Pine

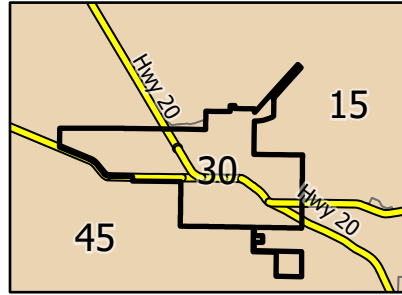


Map Option 2 Population Counts by District

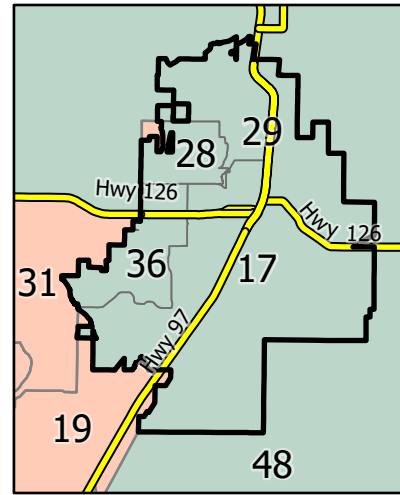
Option2	SUM_Population20	SUM_Voters
A	40113	33289
B	39071	33032
C	37700	28380
D	40186	34906
E	41183	34209

Option 3

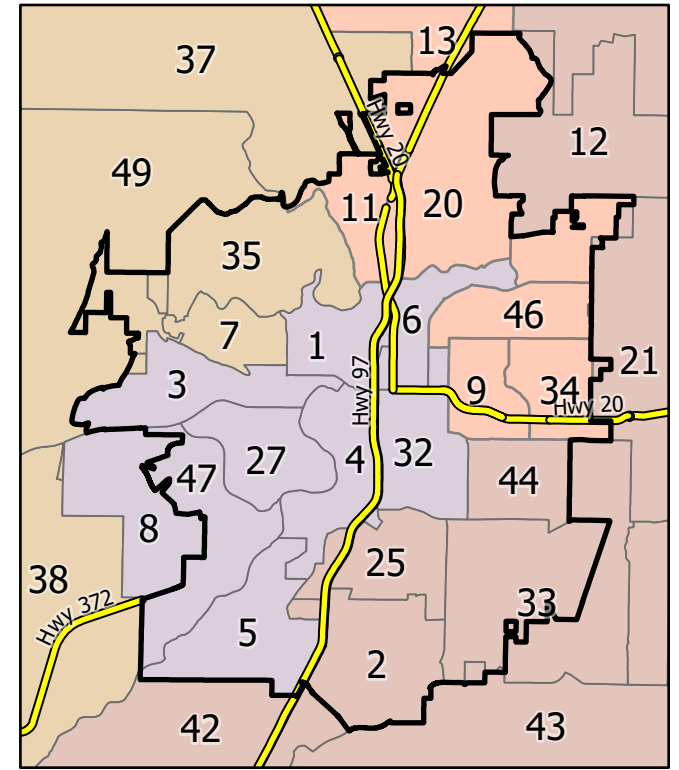
- A
- B
- C
- D
- E



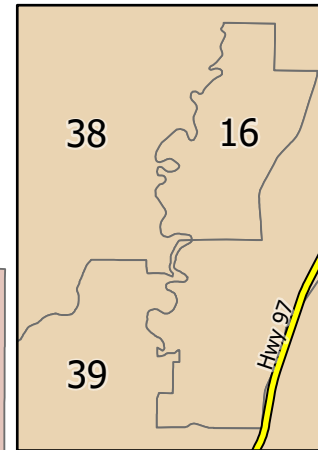
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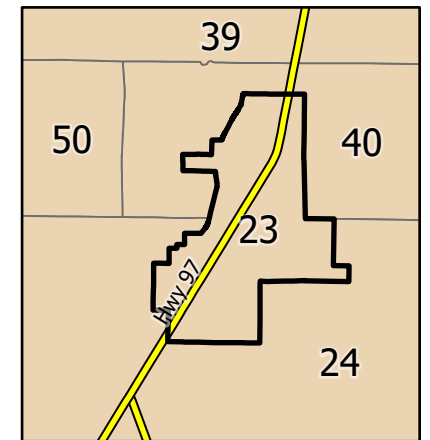
Redmond



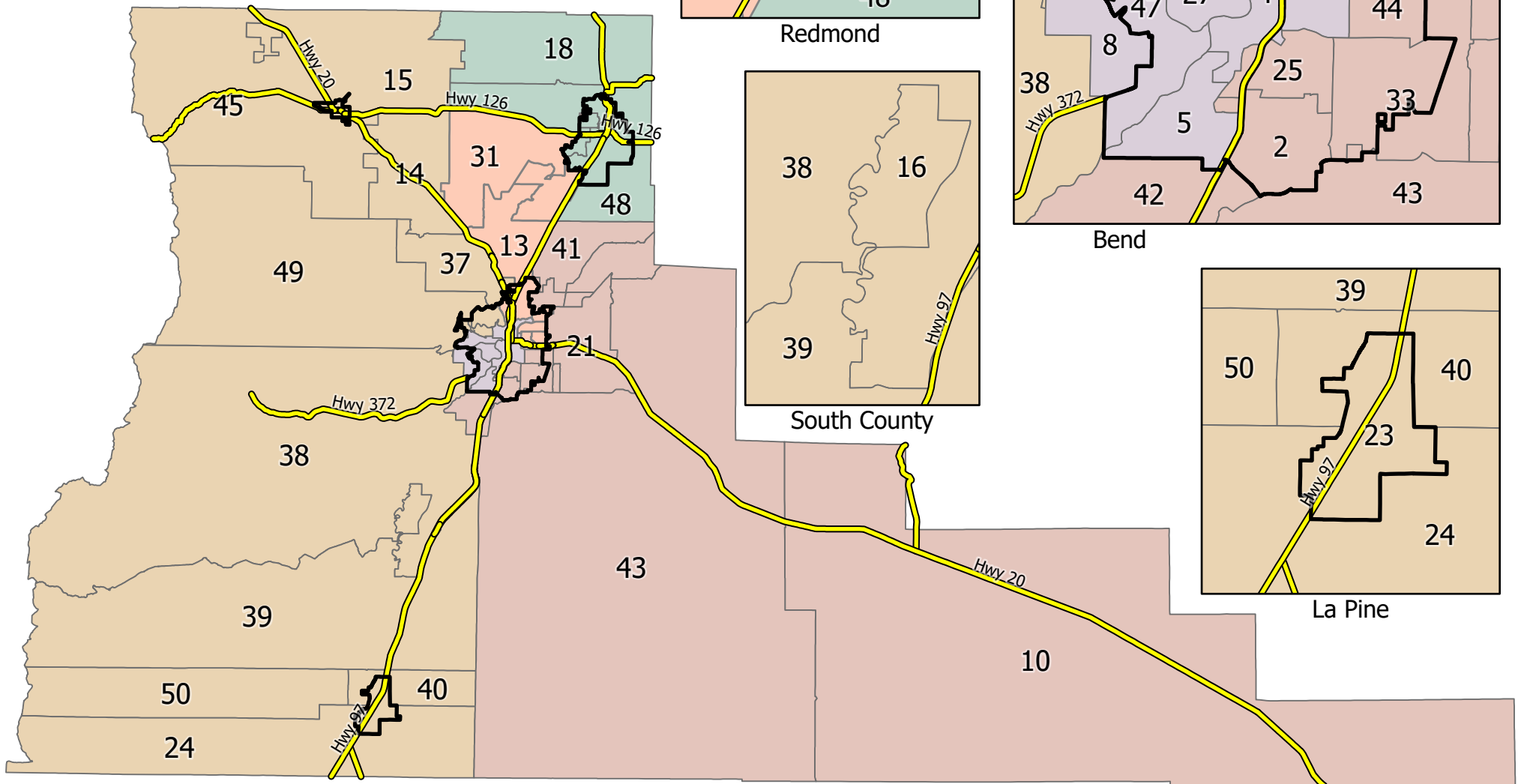
Bend



South County



La Pine

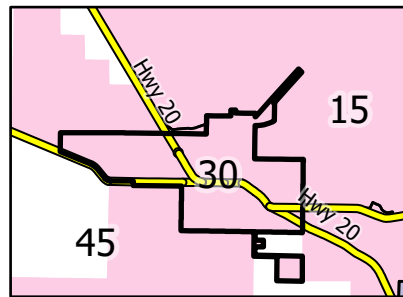


Map Option 3 Population Counts by District

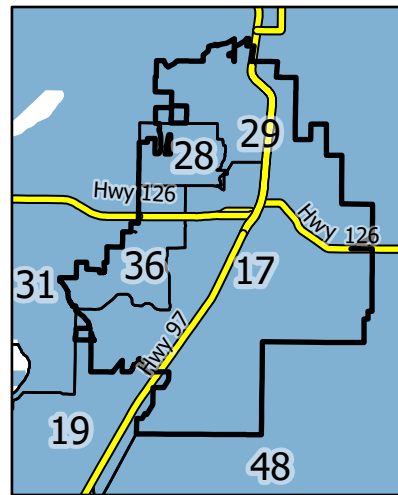
Option3	SUM_Population20	SUM_Voters
A	39591	35787
B	37932	31092
C	40223	31442
D	39324	31286
E	41183	34209

Fire Districts

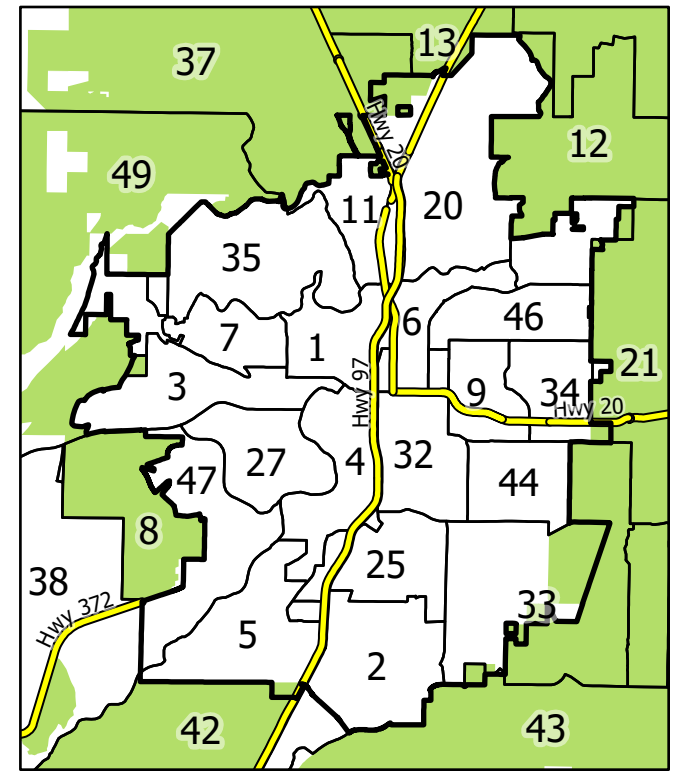
- ALFALFA FIRE
- BLACK BUTTE RANCH RFPD
- CLOVERDALE RFPD
- CROOKED RIVER RANCH RFPD
- LA PINE RFPD
- REDMOND FIRE & RESCUE
- DESCHUTES RFPD #2
- SISTERS-CAMP SHERMAN RFPD



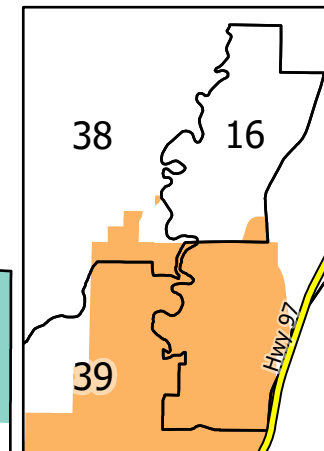
Sisters



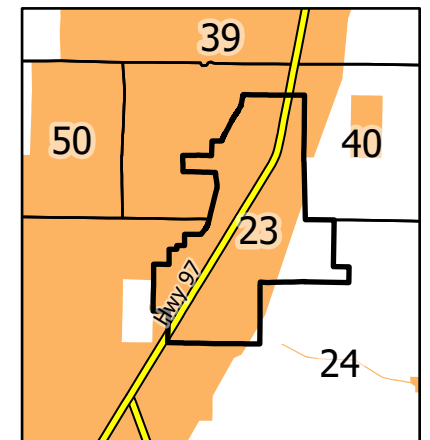
Redmond



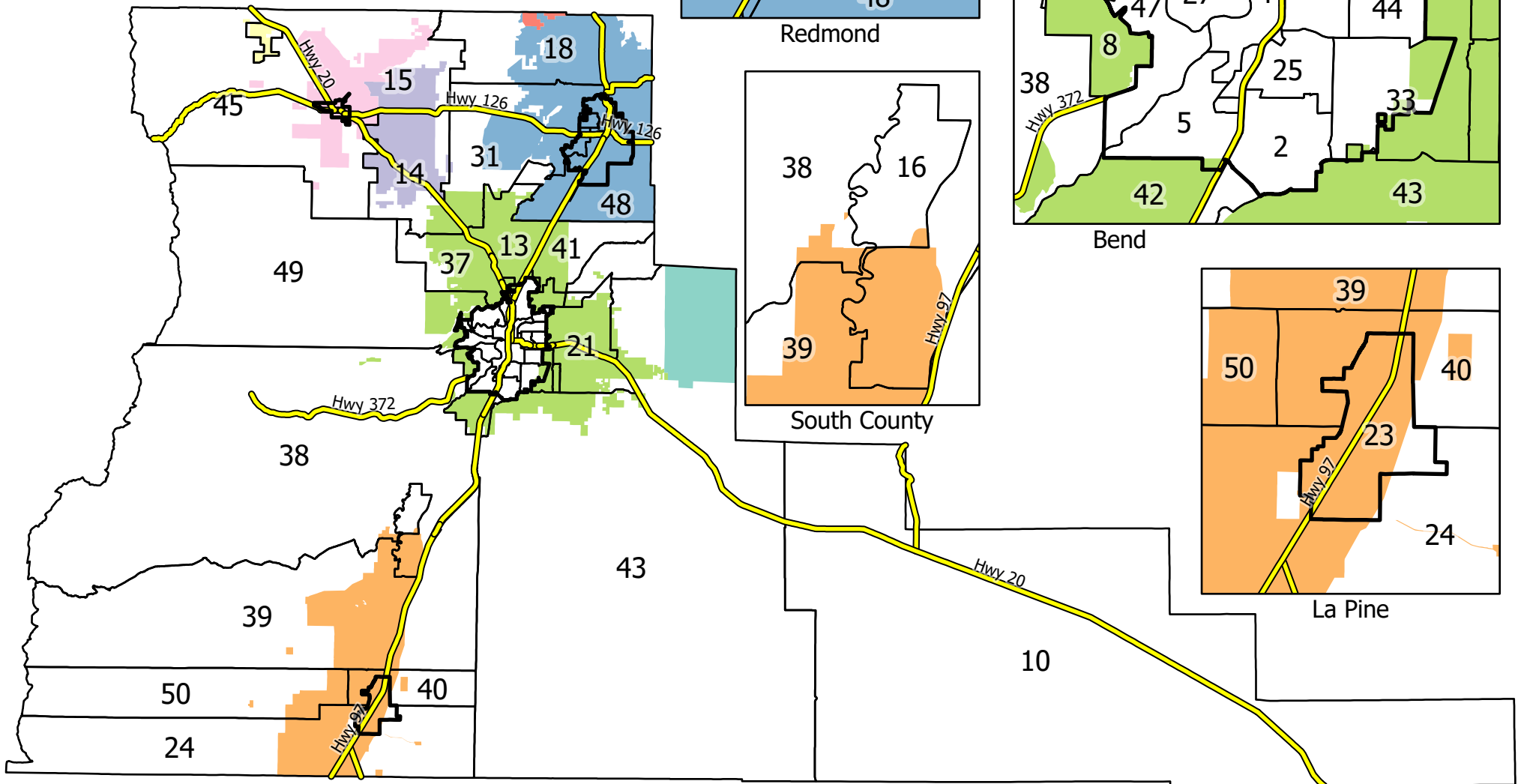
Bend



South County

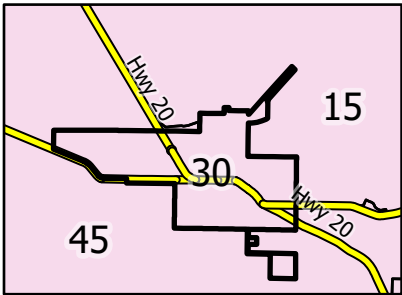


La Pine

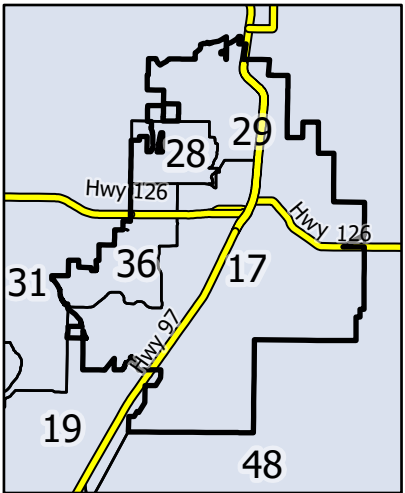


School Districts

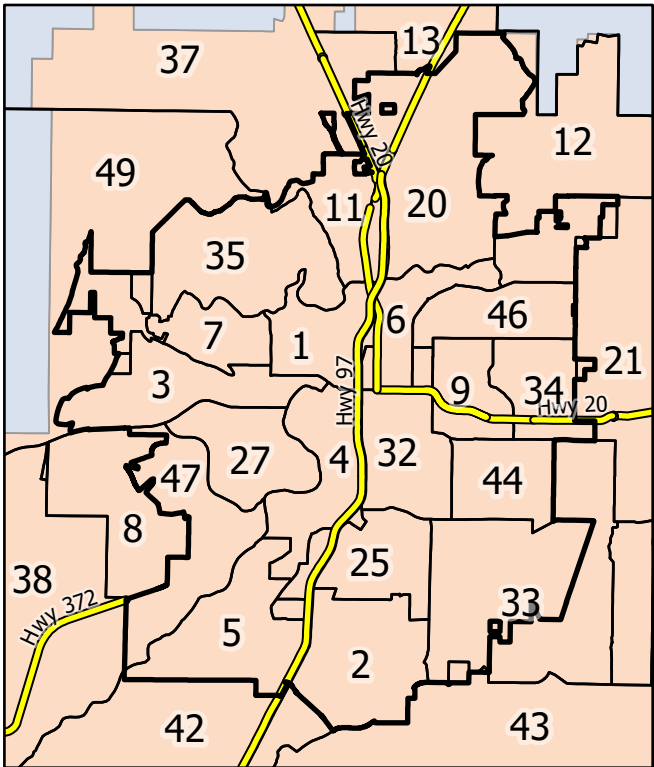
- CROOK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
- SCHOOL DISTRICT #1
- SCHOOL DISTRICT #2
- SCHOOL DISTRICT #6



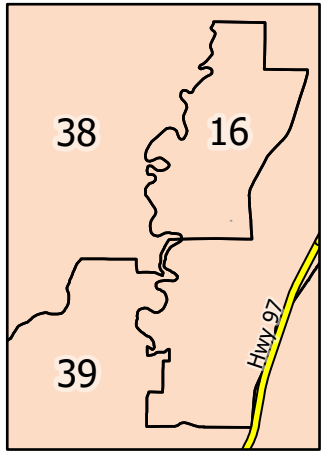
Sisters



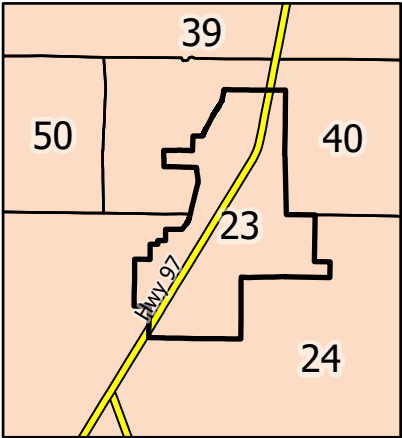
Redmond



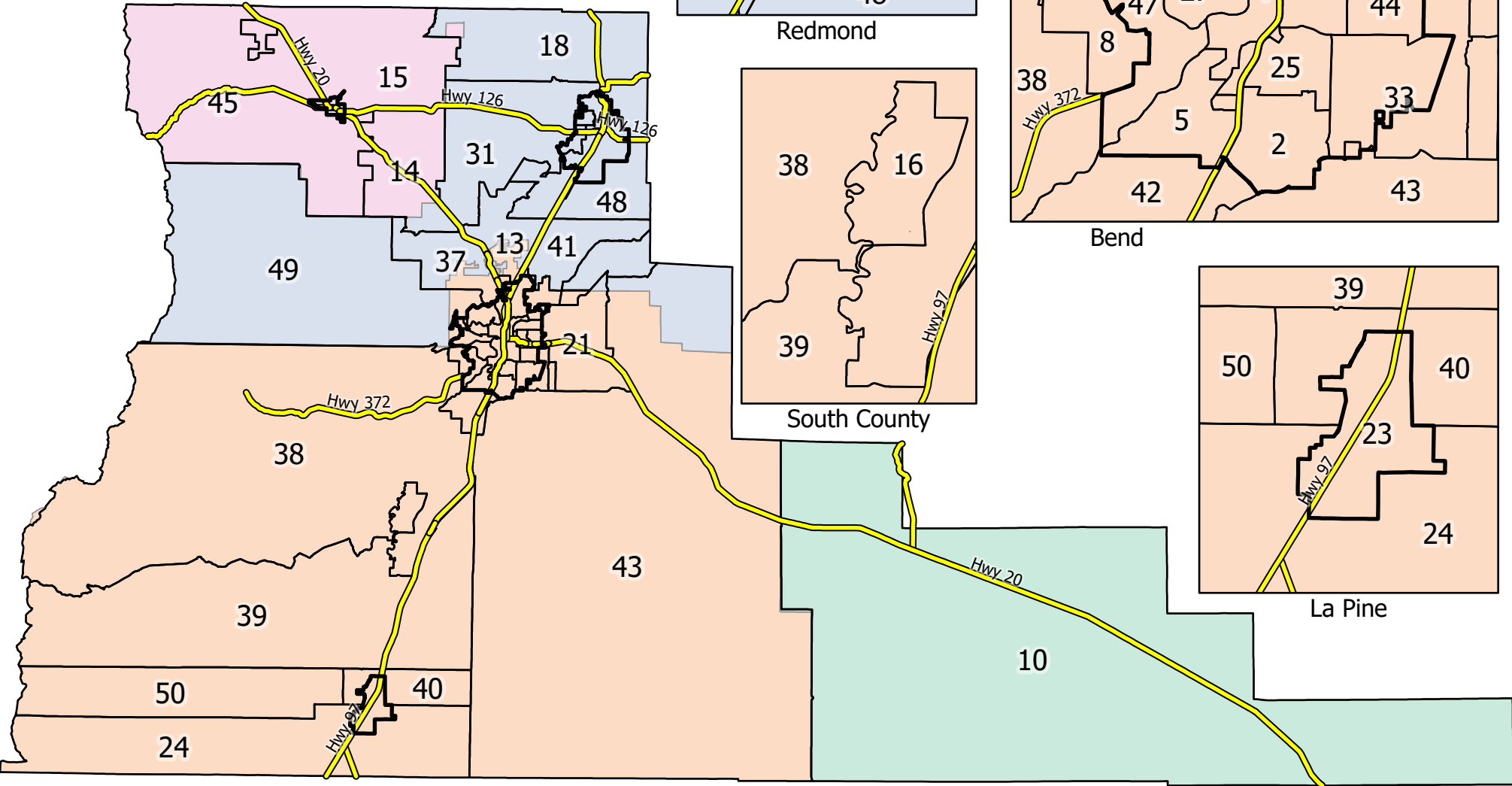
Bend



South County

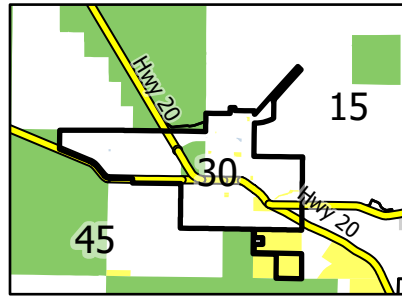


La Pine

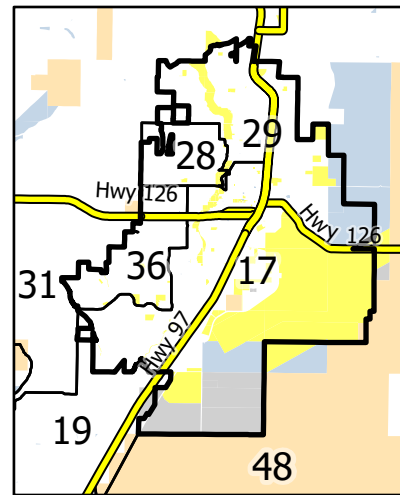


Public Lands

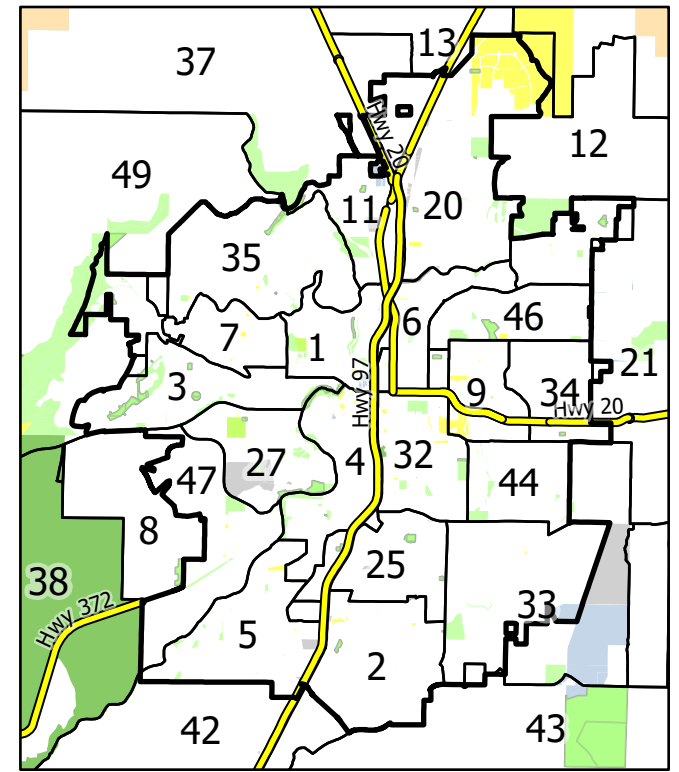
- USFS
- BLM
- CITY
- COUNTY
- STATE
- BEND PARKS



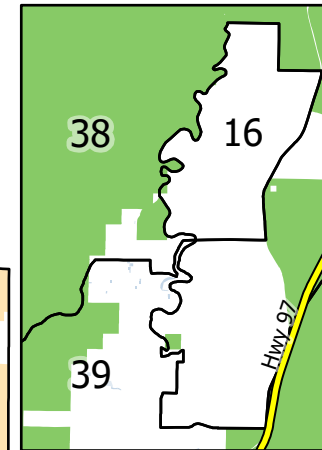
Sisters



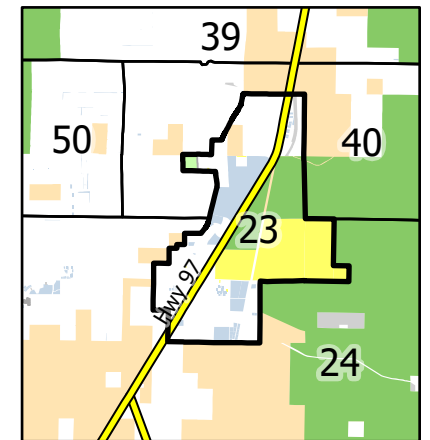
Redmond



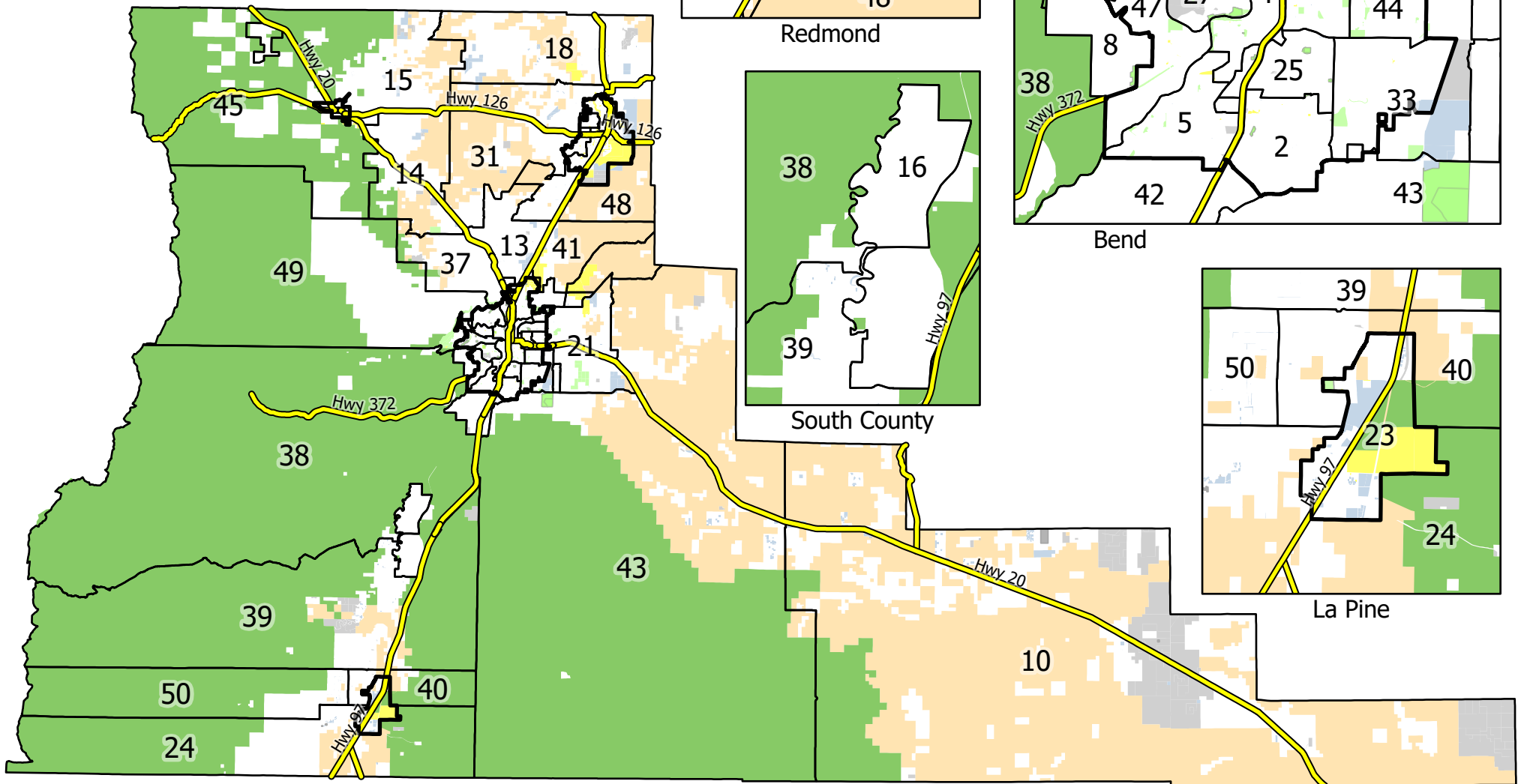
Bend



South County

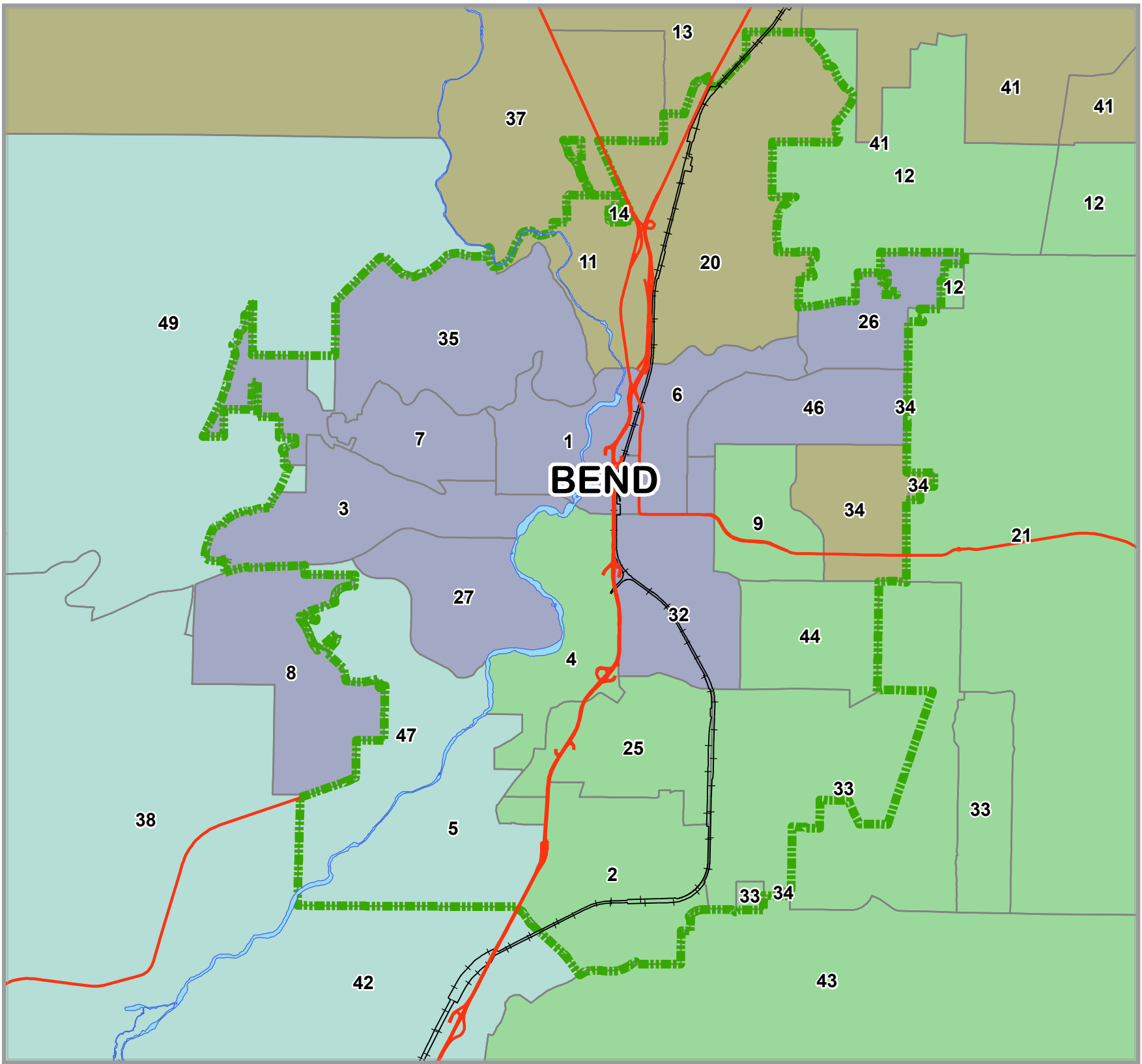
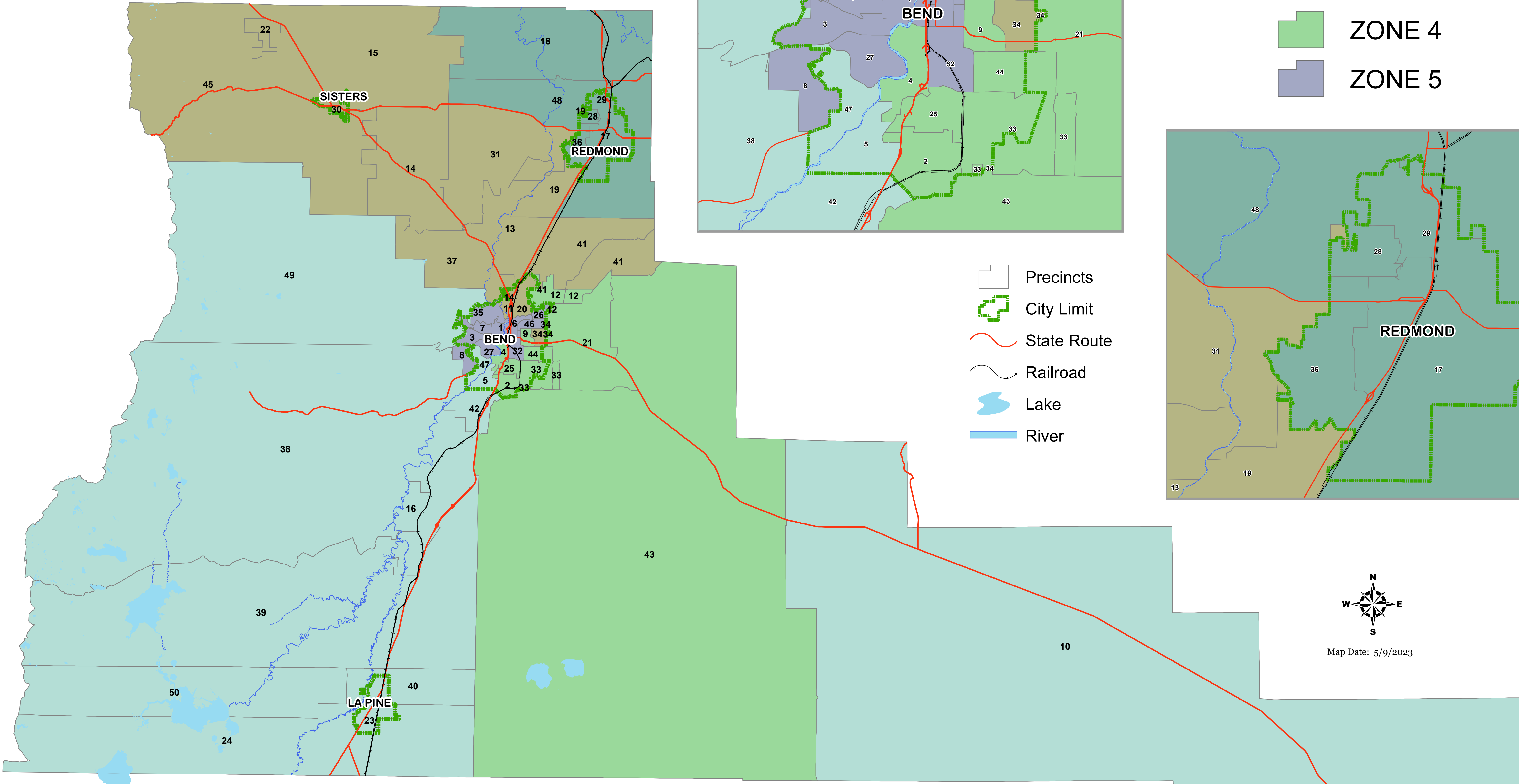


La Pine



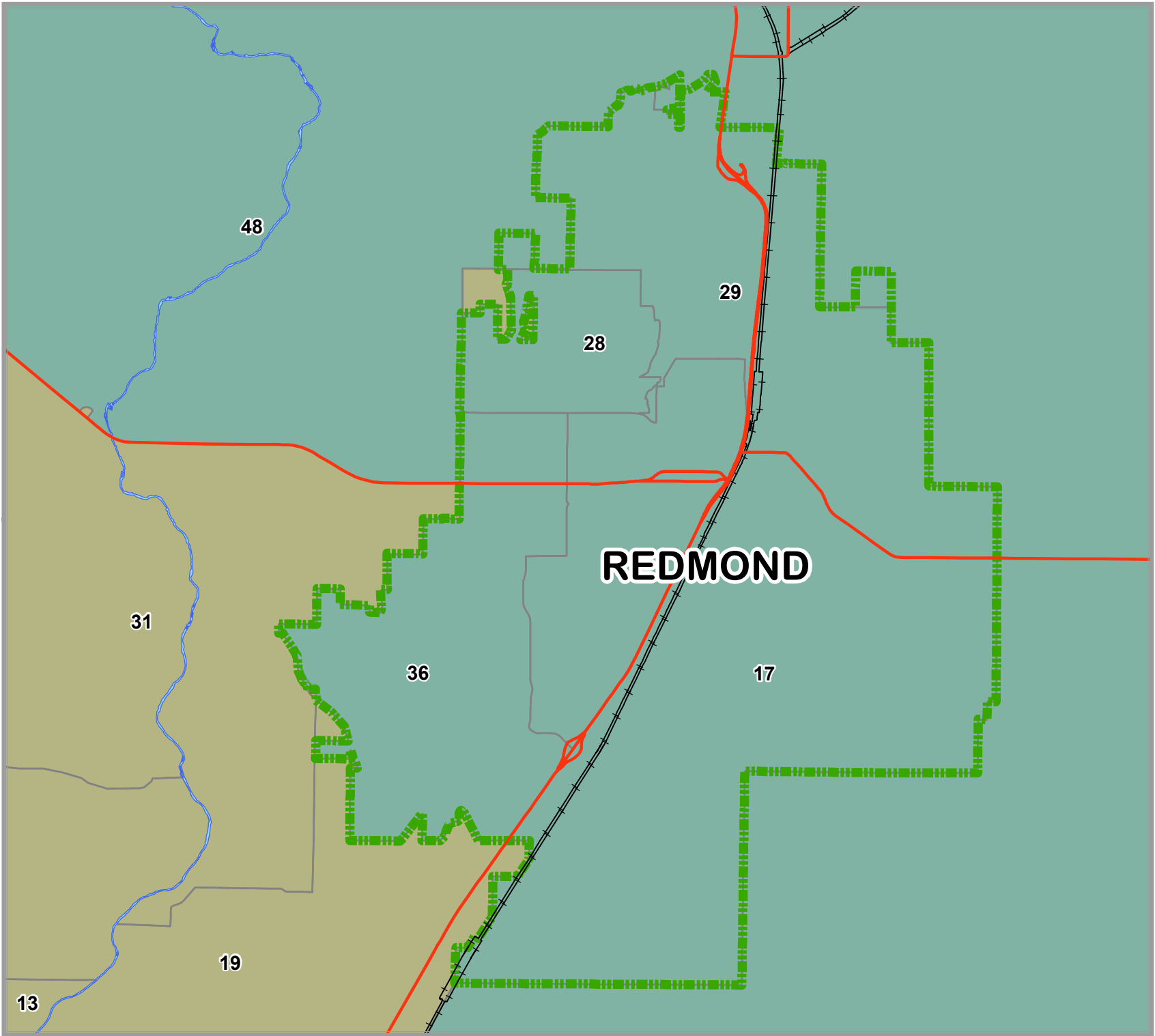


Library Board Districts

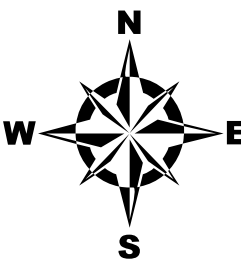


Board Districts

- ZONE 1
- ZONE 2
- ZONE 3
- ZONE 4
- ZONE 5



- Precincts
- City Limit
- State Route
- Railroad
- Lake
- River



Map Date: 5/9/2023