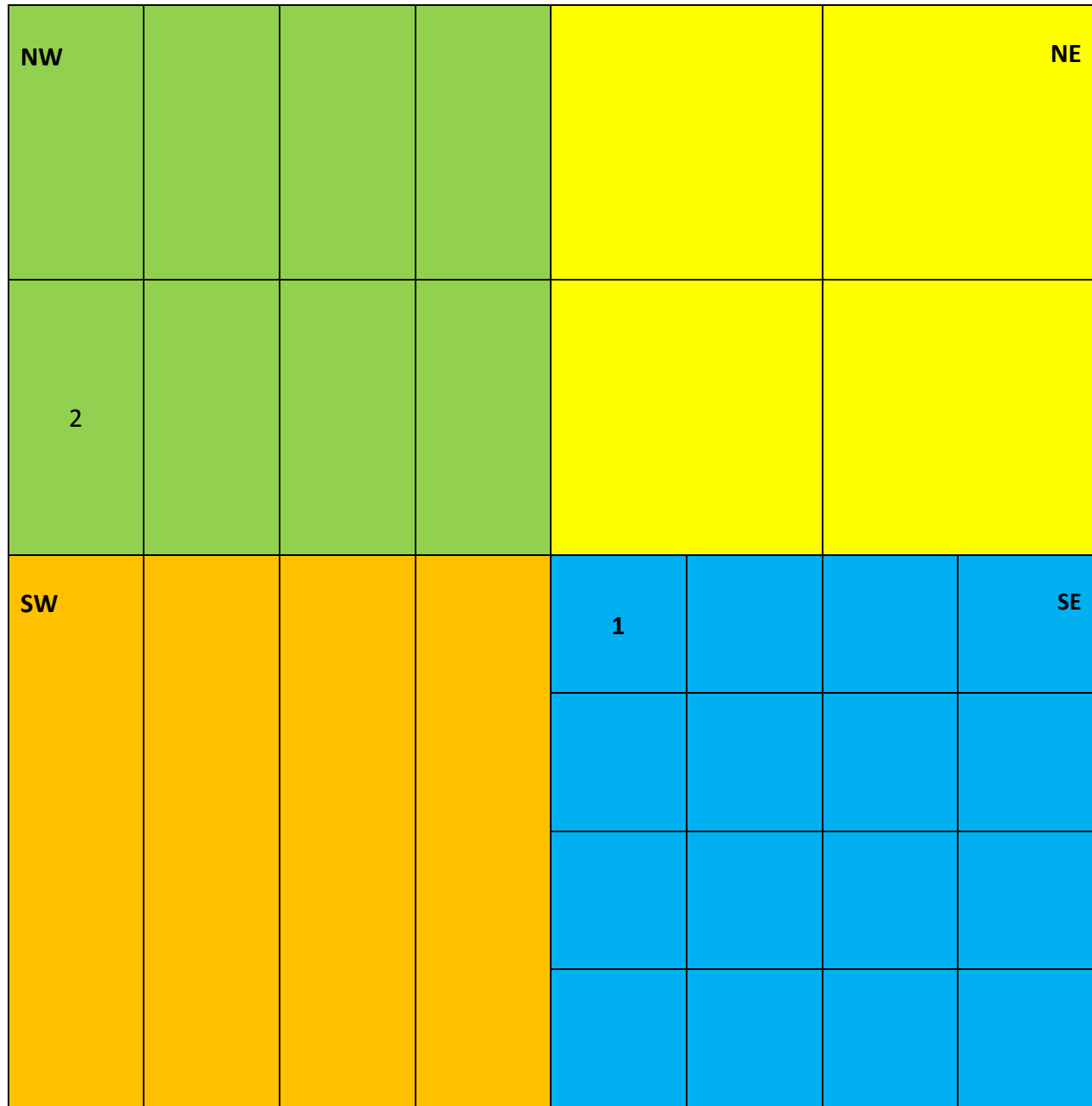


Section – Township – Range

These are the three numbers that are needed to research land. It is typically included in the legal description of the land, or on the plat which is referenced in the legal description. Each section is one square mile which equates to 640 acres. The section is divided into four quadrants, and each quadrant is equal to 160 acres. Each square in turn can then be divided to smaller squares. For example the NE quadrant (Yellow) is divided into 4 forty-acre plots. The NW quadrant (green) is divided into 8 twenty-acre plots. The SE quadrant (blue) is divided into 16 ten-acre plots. Finally, the SW quadrant is divided into 4 forty-acre plots but in a different configuration.



Reading a legal description can be confusing – something like this “The NW ¼ of the NW ¼ of the SE ¼” is the square marked by 1. “The W ½ of the SW ¼ of the NW ¼” is the square marked by 2. It is easiest to read these backwards. I take blank charts and mark these as I am very visual. There is probably an infinite number of ways that a section can be divided. The green design is very common. Each 20 acre plot makes a one street development like you see very often. Imagine a road going down the middle and houses on each side.