



NEVADA BLM Wilderness Bulletin

June 24, 1980

DON'T FORGET WILDERNESS DEADLINE

If you have not yet submitted your comments on the Bureau of Land Management's proposed wilderness study area designations the June 30 deadline is right around the corner.

Comments on the Bureau's proposals must be received by the Nevada State Office, P. O. Box 12000, Reno 89520, no later than close of business on Monday, June 30. So far, almost 500 comments have been received, ranging from single postcards to detailed reports. These comments have been broken down and analyzed by the Bureau for use during the decision-making process. In addition, copies of the original inputs have been sent to the district office involved so that field personnel can review the comment and begin preparing their final recommendations.

Prompt submissions of the comments is important because of the Bureau's desire to field review as many site specific comments as possible during the short period before issuance of decisions this fall.

Questions about submission of comments can be answered by calling (702) 784-5748 or 784-5311. BLM office hours are from 7:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m., Monday through Friday.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**
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NEVADA BLM Wilderness Bulletin

October 5, 1979

BLM DECIDES TO RELEASE 420,000 ACRES IN EUREKA, NYE, AND WHITE PINE FROM WILDERNESS CONSIDERATION

The Bureau of Land Management has decided to release about 420,000 acres of public lands in Eureka, Nye and White Pine counties covering seven inventory units from further wilderness consideration because the areas lack wilderness characteristics. The decision on the special, accelerated wilderness inventory will be implemented Nov. 3 unless a public protest is received.

The decision follows a 90-day public comment period started Aug 3. Seventeen comments were received; 15 agreed with the Bureau's recommendation to drop the areas and noted roads, intrusions, or other resource values and two said the area deserved further study. After checking and carefully considering all aspects of the public comments received, the Bureau has decided that the seven areas involved (Ruby Valley, NV-040-023; Big Bald, NV-040-024; Buck Pass, NV-040-035; Alligator Ridge, NV-040-036; Yelland Acres, NV-040-037; Black Point NV-040-141; and Bull Creek, NV-040-147 all lack wilderness characteristics, primarily naturalness and opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation, and should be dropped from further consideration.

The special project inventory was requested by two mining companies which desire to begin open pit mining operations within the areas.

Further information on the units, the public comments received, or the decision can be obtained from the Bureau of Land Management, Nevada State Office, 300 Booth St., Room 3008, Reno 89509 or the Ely District Office, Star Route 5, Box 1, Ely, Nv 89301.



NEVADA BLM Wilderness Bulletin

September 27, 1979

BLM CHANGES WILDERNESS DECISION ON PART OF IPP SPECIAL INVENTORY DUE TO PROTEST

The Bureau of Land Management has received a protest concerning its decision on the second Intermountain Power Project (IPP) special, accelerated wilderness inventory which was announced Sept. 5. Based on this protest and field verification of its validity in part, the Bureau has decided to amend a portion of its decision relating to one inventory unit.

The protest, from an executive of IPP, a company which desires to build a powerline in the area to carry electricity from Utah to Southern California, states that portions of four inventory units: NV-050-01R-16, 0201, 0216, and 0217 should be eliminated from wilderness study area designation because of "significant intrusions" on the areas' naturalness and opportunities for solitude and a primitive and unconfined type of recreation due to the existence and resulting visual and noise impacts of a bordering highway and powerline.

The Bureau has reviewed the protest and agrees that a portion of the Evergreen unit (identified as NV-050-01R-16A) containing a narrow canyon is so severely impacted by the nearby presence of the power line and highway that wilderness characteristics do not exist. In response to that finding, the Bureau has decided to delete approximately 140 acres containing the canyon from wilderness consideration. That amended decision will be implemented on Oct. 24 unless a further public protest is received.

However, the Bureau has also reaffirmed its original decision that the remaining 2,660 acres within the Evergreen unit as well as all the acreage within units NV-050-201, 0216, and 0217 are in a natural condition and do contain outstanding opportunities for solitude and a primitive and unconfined type of recreation in conjunction with contiguous federal acreage managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that is also under wilderness study. The Bureau feels that these areas, because of different topography, are not substantially impacted by the presence of the powerline and road which lie on their boundaries. Intermountain Power Project, which filed the original protest, has the right to appeal the Bureau's decision on this matter.

Further information on the protest and the areas involved can be obtained from the BLM, 300 Booth Street, Room 3008 Federal Building, Reno, Nevada 89509.



NEVADA BLM Wilderness Bulletin

October 3, 1979

BLM ISSUES STATEWIDE DECISION ON INITIAL WILDERNESS INVENTORY

On Sept. 28 the BLM in Nevada announced its decisions on the state-wide initial wilderness inventory required by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act and identified public land areas that clearly do not possess wilderness characteristics.

State Director Ed Spang said public comments and completion of several special, accelerated inventories resulted in a drop in the total of 21 million acres recommended for intensive inventory last May to 16.1 million. Of the additional released acreage, 2.2 million acres were dropped in direct response to public comments that were field-checked and verified by BLM. The remainder was intensively inventoried under an accelerated schedule for projects such as the Intermountain Power Project powerline, the Overthrust Belt, and various mining operations.

On the other side of the coin, BLM decided to intensively inventory about 277,000 acres due to public comment that it had previously recommended to be dropped.

These figures mean that about 65 percent of the public land acreage in Nevada has been cleared from further wilderness consideration within the last 12-month period. About 33 percent will go on for intensive inventory during the next six months. The remaining two percent (about 1.1 million acres) has already been designated wilderness study areas as the result of special inventories or is currently recommended for that status in the case of 450,000 acres identified as wilderness study areas in the Overthrust Belt special inventory now undergoing public comment and slated for completion by December.

Details on all the units in Nevada, information on the public comments received, and a fact sheet have been mailed to all those on the BLM's wilderness mailing lists. Spang emphasized that anyone with questions on these materials can contact the BLM in either the State Office in Reno or any district office.

Spang also encouraged anyone with information or concerns about the presence or absence of wilderness characteristics within the 16.1 million acres still under intensive study to submit their comments to BLM as soon as possible and not wait for the official 90-day public comment period that will begin April 1, 1980, following announcement of the Bureau's intensive inventory recommendations. "The sooner we have all the available data, the better able our field personnel will be to do a thorough on-the-ground inventory of the area's involved," he said.

He also thanked everyone who gave the Bureau information during the initial inventory. About 6,000 separate comments from 600 individuals, companies, and agencies were received during the last year and used in making the first cut decisions. Those that the Bureau's field staff were not able to verify during the short timeframes of the initial inventory will be used during the intensive inventory over the next six months.



NEVADA BLM Wilderness Bulletin

October 3, 1979

The Bureau of Land Management has decided to release the Dolly Varden (NV-010-040) and Victoria (NV-010-043) units, covering 62,720 Public Land acres in southeastern Elko County from further consideration as wilderness because the areas lack wilderness characteristics.

The decision follows a 30-day public comment period which ended Sept. 26. Ten comments were received on Dolly Varden unit and 11 comments on the Victoria unit. Of the 14 received on the Dolly Varden unit, nine agreed with the Bureau's findings that the area contained numerous intrusions such as roads, powerlines, range improvement projects, mining pits, and mining shafts which substantially impacted the areas' naturalness. Five disagreed with the Bureau's findings, stating that the area deserved further consideration as wilderness because there is a general need for more protection of public land areas as wilderness. Of the 16 comments received on the Victoria unit, 11 concurred with the Bureau's findings and five said the area deserved further consideration as wilderness.

The Bureau's special inventory, requested by Day Mines, Inc., which wants to expand a copper mine in the area, also found the area did not contain outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation, two other criteria necessary for wilderness consideration. Based upon these findings and after careful consideration of all comments received, the Bureau has decided to release the areas from further consideration. That decision will become final Oct. 29, 1979, unless public protests are received. Further information can be obtained from the BLM, 300 Booth St., Room 3008, Reno, NV, 89509, or the Elko District Office, 2002 Idaho St., Elko, NV. 89801.



NEVADA BLM Wilderness Bulletin

September 24, 1979

BLM ISSUES DECISION TO DROP SAN ANTONIO UNIT FROM FURTHER CONSIDERATION

BLM State Director Ed Spang has issued a decision to drop the San Antonio unit (NV -06-052) covering 88,300 public land acres, from further wilderness consideration because a special, accelerated inventory found the area lacks wilderness characteristics.

That decision will be implemented Oct. 4 unless there are protests, Spang said. The decision follows a 30-day public comment period, during which 17 comments were received, all favoring dropping the area from further consideration.

The area includes the San Antonio Mountains and a small part of the Big Smoky Valley. It was found to contain roads splitting it into smaller pieces, all of which were studied for wilderness characteristics. Each of those segments was found to be lacking either naturalness or outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

The special inventory was requested by the Anaconda Copper Co. which is planning a molybdenum mine and mill in the area.

Information on the inventory or the public comments received can be obtained from the BLM's Reno office at 300 Booth St. or the Battle Mountain District office at 2nd and Scott Streets.



NEVADA BLM Wilderness Bulletin

September 5, 1979

NEVADA BLM ISSUES FINAL DECISION ON SECOND SPECIAL PROJECT WILDERNESS INVENTORY ON THE INTERMOUNTAIN POWER PROJECT

Based on a second special wilderness inventory on public lands in southern Nevada affected by a proposed powerline corridor between Utah and California, the Bureau of Land Management has decided to drop 50,200 acres from further wilderness consideration and to designate an additional 50,300 acres as wilderness study areas.

The special study follows an earlier review done to expedite necessary public land clearances for the proposed Intermountain Power Project, which consists of a coal-fired generating plant in Utah and a powerline to carry the electricity generated from Utah to Southern California.

The decision, to be implemented October 1 if there are no protests, follows a 30-day public comment period. Only four comments were received: one supported the areas proposed to be dropped; one disagreed with the wilderness study area proposals; and another two disagreed with the Nevada BLM's interpretation of its Wilderness Inventory Procedures regarding application of wilderness criteria to areas contiguous to other Federal agencies' wilderness proposals. This procedural point was clarified with the Bureau's Washington Office which verified that BLM was following the procedures correctly.

Based upon an intensive look at the areas in question and correct application of the Bureau's inventory procedures, the following decisions have been made;

1. To drop from further wilderness consideration the following areas: Maynard Dry Lake (NV-050-0155) 40,000 acres; portions of Evergreen (NV-050-01R-16) 8,400 acres; and portions of Fish and Wildlife #1, 2, 3 (NV-050-0201, 0216, and 0217) 1,800 acres.

2. To designate the following areas as wilderness study areas; portions of Evergreen (NV-050-01R-16) 2,800 acres; and portions of Fish and Wildlife #1, 2, 3 (NV-050-0201, 0216, 0217) 47,500 acres.

In addition to these inventory results, a slight boundary change to the northwestern border of the Delamar Mountain (Wilderness Study Area NV-050-0177) has also been made because of a road that was overlooked in the first IPP wilderness inventory. Other slight changes to this portion of the

boundary occurred because of the imposing effect of the existing 69 kilovolt powerline that runs through several narrow canyons on the edge of the unit.

Information on the special inventory can be obtained from the Las Vegas District Office, 4765 Vegas Drive, P.O. Box 5400, Las Vegas, Nevada 89102; or the Nevada State Office, 300 Booth Street, Room 3008, Reno, Nevada 89509.



NEVADA BLM Wilderness Bulletin

July 18, 1979

DON'T FORGET JULY 31 INITIAL INVENTORY PUBLIC COMMENT DEADLINE

July 31 marks the end of the 90-day public comment period on the Bureau of Land Management's initial wilderness inventory recommendations.

BLM State Director Ed Rowland urges all those planning to submit comments to do before that date since the Bureau is under a tight deadline to issue its decisions by Sept. 30.

He reminded interested persons that the Bureau is looking for information on the presence or obvious absence or wilderness characteristics on the more than 1,600 inventory units covering 49 million acres of public land across the state. The main purpose of the initial inventory, he stressed, is to eliminate those areas that "clearly and obviously" do not contain wilderness characteristics based on existing information.

Those that possibly could contain wilderness values such as adequate size, roadlessness, naturalness, and opportunities for outstanding solitude and a primitive and unconfined type of recreation will be intensively field inventoried. The Bureau's recommendations on whether any of these lands should become wilderness study areas will be announced for public comment next April.

Maps and detailed information on the Bureau's initial findings and recommendations are available from all BLM offices in the state, he said.

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NEVADA BLM Wilderness Bulletin

BLM COMPLETES ACCELERATED INVENTORY ON MINERAL HILL

The Bureau of Land Management's Elko District Office has completed a special project inventory on 18,500 acres of public land in Eureka County, Nevada. The area, known as Mineral Hill and identified as wilderness inventory unit NV-010-083A, is about 36 miles south of Carlin and covers the Sulphur Spring Mountain Range.

As a result of that accelerated inventory, the BLM is recommending that the area be released from any further wilderness consideration because it lacks wilderness values. A 30-day public comment period is open until Aug. 2. In addition, an open house is scheduled July 16 beginning at 1 p.m. in the Elko BLM District Office to acquaint the public with the inventory findings.

The special inventory is being conducted ahead of the statewide schedule at the request of Petro-Chem, Inc., a mining company that desires to begin operations in the area, which is highly mineralized, primarily with barite.

The inventory findings indicate that the area lacks naturalness because it contains roads, ways, developed springs, evidence of mining activity, and fences that are substantially noticeable. Opportunities for outstanding solitude and a primitive and unconfined type of recreation were also found to be lacking.

A map and summary of the inventory findings are attached. Further information can be obtained from the Elko BLM District Office, 2002 Idaho St., 89801.

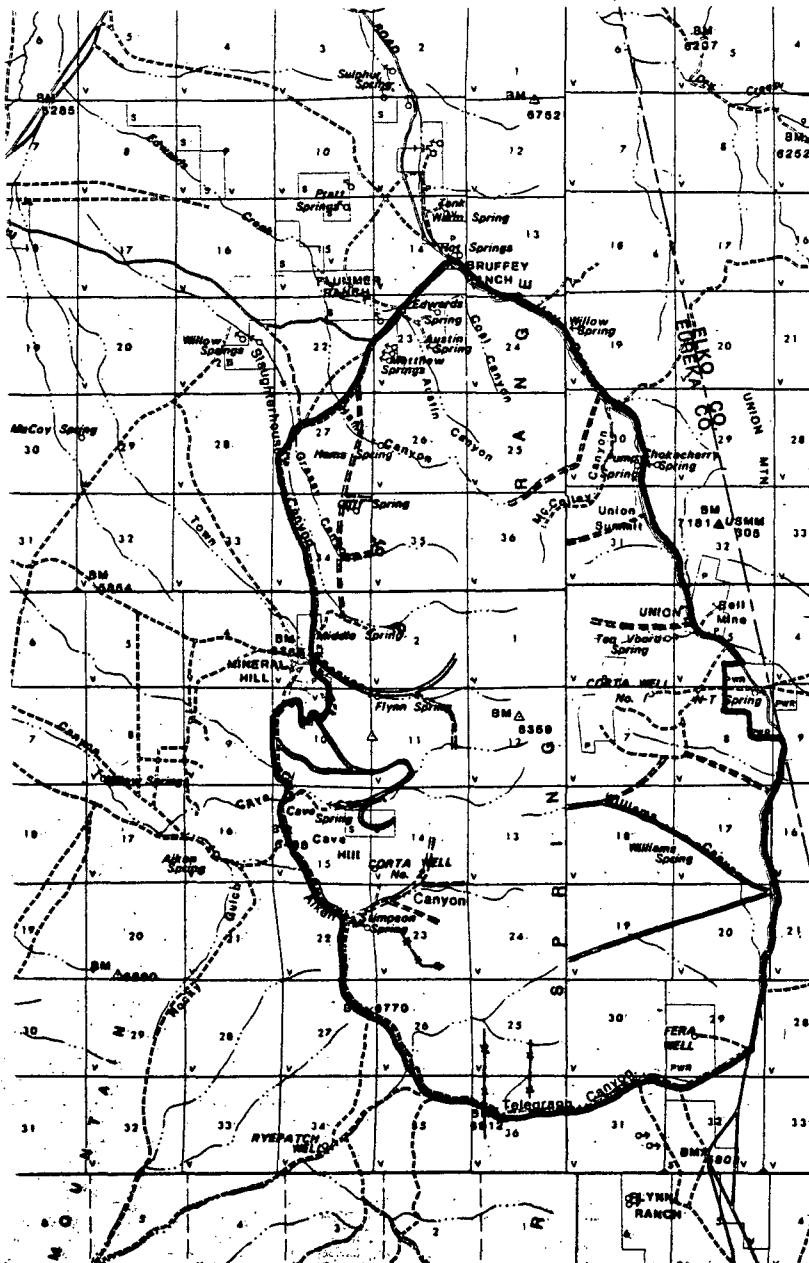
MINERAL HILL INVENTORY UNIT

R. 52 E.

R. 53 E.

T. 27 N.

T. 26 N.



- | | | | |
|-------|-----------|-----------------|---|
| ROAD | ————— | SPRING | ♂ |
| WAY | - - - - - | IMPROVED SPRING | ♂ |
| FENCE | —+—+—+— | WELL | ○ |



NEVADA BLM Wilderness Bulletin

August 13, 1979

BLM RELEASES MINERAL HILL FROM FURTHER WILDERNESS CONSIDERATION

As a result of a special project wilderness inventory, the Bureau of Land Management has decided to release the Mineral Hill unit (NV-010-083A) from all management restrictions imposed by law because the area lacks wilderness characteristics as specified by Congress.

Unless there are objections, that decision will be implemented on Sept. 4, 1979. The decision follows a 30-day public comment period during which the Bureau received five public comments; four supporting the Bureau's recommendation to release the area and one against. Of those supporting the decision, several had some reservations, including

1. making Petro-Chem Inc., the company requesting the special inventory so that it could mine barite in the area, wait until the special inventory was complete to begin their operations during the critical field season;
2. having only a 30-day public comment period, which makes it difficult for the public to adequately review the area;
3. not supplying the public with adequate information on which to base a recommendation;
4. conducting a special project inventory which disrupts the regular inventory process.

The only comment against the recommendation stated that although there were identified intrusions in the area, it should still be protected from development because there is "too little wilderness."

Basically, the Bureau found that the area is unnatural because of roads, fences, ways, evidence of mining activity, and developed springs, and lacks outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation because of topography, minimal vegetative screening, and evidence of man's activity.

Further information on the area can be obtained from the Bureau's Elko Office, 2002 Idaho Street, Elko, 89801, or its Reno Office, 300 Booth Street, Room 3008, Reno, NV 89509.



United States Department of the Interior

IN REPLY REFER TO

8500
(N-912)

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

NEVADA STATE OFFICE
Room 3008 Federal Building
300 Booth Street
Reno, Nevada 89509

May 1, 1979

During the past months, you have been hearing about or receiving information on the Bureau of Land Management's wilderness review program. We have talked about wilderness inventory procedures, special project reviews, interim management policies, and preliminary inventory findings. We understand that it is difficult for the public to keep these activities separate and still understand where we are and where we are going in this important program.

We are now embarking on another important phase of the program - public review of our initial inventory findings. To assist you in understanding what part this initial inventory plays in the entire wilderness review program, we have prepared a fact sheet to explain what we are doing, why we are doing it, and how you can best participate during this particular part of our program. This fact sheet is to be used in conjunction with the map and narrative summaries included in this packet.

Once you have reviewed this material, we would very much appreciate your views on our initial inventory findings. To be most effective, your comments should be addressed to whether or not wilderness characteristics described in the fact sheet do or do not exist in the specific area or areas you are interested in that are outlined on the map and summarized in the narrative. We, of course, will welcome general comments as well, but site specific comments will have the most impact on our decisions at this stage. We are planning public meetings in each BLM district to acquaint you even more with our findings and four statewide summary meetings where inventory maps and narratives from throughout the state will be available for study and review. These dates, places, and times will be announced shortly. We will also accept any comments in writing at our state office in Reno, 300 Booth Street, Room 3008, 89509, prior to July 31. If you desire to make any field examinations of the areas being considered, wilderness coordinators in the six BLM district offices are available to assist you. Their names and addresses are listed on the attached sheet. I hope this information is helpful to you.

Sincerely,

E. I. Rowland
State Director, Nevada



Save Energy and You Serve America!



NEVADA BLM Wilderness Bulletin

OPEN HOUSE PLANNED ON OVERTHRUST BELT SPECIAL WILDERNESS INVENTORY

The Las Vegas District of the Bureau of Land Management will conduct an open house from 2 to 4:30 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m. at the district office, 4765 W. Vegas Drive, Las Vegas on Oct. 18 to obtain public comments on the Bureau's recommendations concerning a special accelerated wilderness inventory done of 2.1 million acres of public lands in southern Nevada.

The area involved is a potentially valuable oil and gas region called the Overthrust Belt which stretches from the Northern Rocky Mountains all the way through Southern Nevada into Mexico. Because of the energy implications, the inventory on this area, which involves 46 public land units, has been accelerated and is slated for completion by the end of this year.

The Bureau announced its recommendations on whether these areas do or don't contain wilderness characteristics on July 25. The Bureau is recommending that 1.65 million acres be dropped from further wilderness consideration and 450,000 acres be designated wilderness study areas. A 90-day public comment period on these recommendations will end Oct. 23. Information on the proposals or the open house can be obtained from the BLM in Reno or Las Vegas.

END



NEVADA BLM Wilderness Bulletin

April 9, 1980

BLM PLANS SERIES OF WORKSHOPS ABOUT INTENSIVE INVENTORY RECOMMENDATIONS

The Bureau of Land Management announced a series of 18 workshops to inform the public about its proposals regarding wilderness study areas on public lands in Nevada and to gather comment on those proposals.

BLM State Director Ed Spang said the sessions will focus on the Bureau's intensive wilderness inventory recommendations which were announced April 1. "Each of you should by now have received a copy of our summary book covering the results and recommendations of our intensive wilderness inventory. The book describes how the public can most effectively participate in our decisionmaking and it outlines our findings and recommendations on 405 separate wilderness units throughout the state," he said.

The sessions will be in an open house format, he said. This means that individual case files including field reports and photographs on each area will be available for public review. BLM personnel will be available to answer questions and assist the public in making comments. A tape recorder will also be available for those wishing to make oral comments.

Spang said the first 12 sessions will focus on public land units within the BLM's six district offices in Nevada: Battle Mountain, Carson City, Ely, Elko, Las Vegas and Winnemucca. The last six sessions will cover all 405 units throughout the state. These last sessions will enable statewide interests to view all the materials in one location rather than having to travel to all six districts, he said.

The open house schedule is as follows:

District Open Houses: (covering only information for that general area)

- April 14 -- Elko - Convention center - 1 p.m. - 6 p.m.
- April 15 -- Gerlach - Gerlach High School Library - 7 p.m. - 10 p.m.
- April 15 -- Alamo - Pahrnagat High School - 7 p.m. - 9 p.m.
- April 15 -- Battle Mountain - BLM District Office - 1 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
and 7 p.m. - 9 p.m.
- April 16 -- Las Vegas - BLM District Office - 2 p.m. - 4:30, 7 p.m. - 10 p.m.
- April 16 -- Eureka - BLM office - 1 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.; Eureka County Court House - 7 p.m. - 9 p.m.
- April 17 -- Winnemucca - BLM District Office - 7 p.m. - 10 p.m.
- April 17 -- Goldfield - County Courthouse - 7 p.m. - 9 p.m.
- April 17 -- Carson City - Ormsby Public Library - 7 p.m. - 9 p.m.
- April 17 -- Ely - Convention center - 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.
- April 17 -- Tonopah - BLM Area Office - 1 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.,
Convention center - 7 p.m. - 9 p.m.
- April 22 -- Lovelock - County Courthouse, conference room - 7 p.m. - 10 p.m.

Statewide Open Houses:

- April 28 -- Reno - Pioneer Hotel Room D - 3 p.m. - 5 p.m. & 7 p.m. - 9 p.m.
- April 30 -- Las Vegas - BLM District Office - 7 p.m. - 9 p.m.
- May 14 -- Battle Mountain - BLM District Office conference room
7 p.m. - 9 p.m.
- May 15 -- Tonopah - Convention center - 7 p.m. - 9 p.m.
- May 19 -- Elko Convention center, Turquoise Room - 3 p.m. - 5 p.m. &
7 p.m. - 9 p.m.
- May 20 -- Eureka - Courthouse - 7 p.m. - 9 p.m.



NEVADA BLM Wilderness Bulletin

March 17, 1980

INTENSIVE WILDERNESS INVENTORIES COMING SOON

The Bureau of Land Management is making last minute preparations on public information materials for an April 1 announcement of its recommendations on wilderness study areas resulting from the intensive inventory conducted on public lands over the past six months.

BLM State Director Ed Spang said these proposals on which public land areas remaining in the intensive inventory process should be designated wilderness study areas and which areas should be dropped from wilderness consideration will be open to public comment for 90 days beginning April 1, 1980 and ending June 30, 1980.

"This next stage of the wilderness process is extremely critical," Spang said. "We need the public's ideas on the adequacy of our inventory data and the correctness of our recommendations. On both sides of the issue, either areas being dropped from wilderness consideration or areas being designated wilderness study areas for eventual consideration by Congress, the decisions I must make after the comment period will have a long-term impact on the future of those lands. Early and thorough review by those interested in this issue is critical to the program's success."

Documents describing the Bureau's findings and recommendations, along with maps, will be sent out to everyone who has indicated an interest in the Bureau's wilderness program about April 1. A series of open houses is being planned during the comment period to acquaint the public with BLM findings and solicit comments. Those will also be announced in early April.



NEVADA BLM Wilderness Bulletin

March 17, 1980

BLM ISSUES FINAL DECISIONS ON WILDERNESS PROTESTS

On September 30, 1979, BLM State Director Ed Spang issued his final decisions on the Bureau's initial wilderness inventory. That initial inventory divided all public lands in Nevada into two categories: areas that should be dropped from wilderness consideration and areas that should undergo intensive inventory. When that decision was announced Spang notified the public that protests on his decisions would be accepted according to federal regulations for 30 days.

Protests were received on 60 public land units in Nevada along with a general or "blanket" protest covering all units scheduled for intensive inventory. Spang carefully considered each protest received and has now issued his final decisions on the areas involved. Details on these areas are outlined below.

FINAL DECISIONS ON UNITS PROTESTED:

A. Units to be intensively inventoried -- NV-010-081, 085, 107, 108; NV-020-001, 006, 200 (no change to original boundary), 201 (no change to original boundary), 600, 601, 602, 604, 606 (no change to original boundary), 609, 615, 617, 620, 621, 621A, 622, 637, 641, 859; NV-030-102, 104, 108, 430, 517, 520; NV-050-0306, 0331, 0336; NV-060-019, 059, 078, 079, 086, 089, 163, 174, 191, 192, 231, 461, 504, 554.

All additional units scheduled for intensive inventory will be subjected to the intensive wilderness inventory except as stated in "B" and "C" below.

B. Units with their entire area eliminated from further wilderness review with the restrictions imposed by Section 603 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act no longer in effect -- NV-010-082, 030-327, 050-0335A, 060-541A, 541B.

C. Units with a portion of their area eliminated from further wilderness review with the restrictions imposed by Section 603 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act no longer in effect only on that portion eliminated --

NV-020-014 9,535 acres eliminated with 85,105 acres to be intensively inventoried.

NV-020-222 12,800 acres eliminated with 55,040 acres to be intensively inventoried.

NV-020-406 6,800 acres eliminated with 92,200 acres to be intensively inventoried.

NV-020-410 8,005 acres eliminated with 70,275 acres to be intensively inventoried.

NV-020-436 10,786 acres eliminated with 20,694 acres to be intensively inventoried.

NV-020-603 1,360 acres eliminated with 72,880 acres to be intensively inventoried.

NV-040-197 8,700 acres eliminated with 57,700 acres to be intensively inventoried.

NV-050-0354 1,090 acres eliminated with 88,729 acres to be intensively inventoried.

D. Units originally scheduled for intensive inventory with additional perimeter acreage to be intensively inventoried --

NV-020-012A 13,892 additional acres to be intensively inventoried.

NV-020-600 3,849 additional acres to be intensively inventoried.

Detailed information on the protests received and the areas involved is available from the BLM Nevada State Office, P.O. Box 12000, Reno, Nevada, 89520.



NEVADA BLM Wilderness Bulletin

March 17, 1980

BLM ISSUES DECISIONS ON FIVE ACCELERATED INVENTORY EFFORTS

The Bureau of Land Management has conducted special project, or accelerated inventories on four areas (Pueblo Mountains, Hickison, Macks Canyon, and Cedar Ridge) and one category of public lands (natural areas) in recent months.

Separate Wilderness Bulletins announcing the findings of these special inventories and the Bureau's recommendations have been issued periodically. Public comment periods were established and comments received. The State Director has reviewed the public comments received on each of his recommendations and is now announcing his final decisions on each area. Descriptions of each decision are given below.

PUEBLO MOUNTAINS: Unit NV-020-642

This area contains 10,160 acres of public land in northwestern Nevada and about 62,500 acres in Oregon. The inventory was initiated because of high interest in uranium exploration in the area. The area overlaps the state line and a coordinated effort by both states was involved in this inventory. The Burns District Office of the BLM was responsible for inventory of the Oregon portion, and the Winnemucca District Office conducted the inventory in Nevada. The original recommendation was that 50,460 acres in Oregon (Unit OR-2-81) be identified as a wilderness study area and that 4,480 acres in Nevada sub-unit NV-020-642B also qualified as a wilderness study area.

After reviewing all public comment received on the Nevada lands and analysis of new field information, it has been determined that a route located near the state line does meet the road definition, and effectively separates most of the Nevada land from the Oregon land. The final decision is that only 600 acres of land in NV-020-642B, which is contiguous with land in Oregon, does contain wilderness values and is identified as wilderness study area. The remaining

3,880 acres in NV-020-642B, as well as the entire 5,680 acres in NV-020-642A, totaling 9,560 acres, do not have wilderness values and are released from the wilderness review process. A final decision on the Oregon portion will be issued in the near future from the Oregon State Office.

HICKISON AND MACKS CANYON: Units NV-060-386 (Hickison) and NV-050-0408 (Macks Canyon)

These two units were subjected to the same public comment period, although they are located in separate districts. The Hickison area, located in central Nevada, would be crossed by a proposed power line that would transport power to a planned molybdenum mine and mill site near Tonopah. The Macks Canyon unit would be affected by the proposed state prison southeast of Indian Springs in southern Nevada.

The Bureau's original proposal was that the entire 23,254 acres in NV-060-386 and the entire 48,745 acres in NV-050-0408, did not have wilderness values, primarily outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined area of recreation, and should be eliminated from the wilderness review process. After analyzing the comments received, which were almost unanimous in supporting that recommendation, the final decision on both areas is that neither unit contains wilderness values and both are released from the wilderness review process.

CEDAR RIDGE: Unit NV-010-088A

This area originally was identified as part of Unit NV-010-088, which has been designated the Cedar Ridge Wilderness Study Area. Subsequently, a road was identified and verified that separated the area into two separate units. It was determined that NV-010-088 should remain a Wilderness Study Area and that NV-010-088A should be reinventoried in its new configuration. That inventory was completed and the recommendation that the area be dropped from further

wilderness consideration because it lacked wilderness values was announced for public comment.

State Director Spang has reviewed the public comments received and concluded that all 4,650 acres in Unit NV-010-088A do not contain wilderness values and the unit is dropped from further wilderness review.

Natural Areas: This special inventory involves designated natural areas within five inventory units as follows:

NV-050-0414 (Pine Creek Natural Area) 150 acres
NV-050-0337 & 0338A (Pinyon-Joshua Transition Natural Area) 560 acres
NV-040-048A (Heusser Mountain Bristlecone Pine Natural Area) 480 acres
NV-040-015 (Goshute Canyon Natural Area) 7,650 acres
NV-020-617 & 622 (Lahontan Cutthroat Trout Natural area) 12,316 acres

These five natural areas were inventoried ahead of the statewide schedule to determine whether or not they had wilderness values in order to meet the Congressional deadline of reporting on the wilderness potential of all natural areas by July 1, 1980. The six other natural areas in Nevada have already undergone inventories and were found to lack wilderness values.

The proposed decision on these five areas was that none of the legally designated acreage in each natural area contained wilderness values. Public comment on these areas supported this proposed decision.

The State Director's decision is that these areas do not have wilderness values, but that they should be reassessed when their surrounding lands are inventoried in the statewide intensive inventory. This is because each of the five areas are a contiguous part of larger roadless areas, and should be reconsidered in the context of the entire roadless unit.

Natural area designations will remain on all 11 areas, regardless of these inventory decisions.

More detailed information on the units involved and the public comments received are available from the district office with jurisdiction over the area or the Nevada State Office, P.O. Box 12000, 300 Booth Street, Reno, Nevada 89520.



NEVADA BLM Wilderness Bulletin

February 5, 1980

BLM ANNOUNCES DECISION ON SPECIAL PROJECT INVENTORY ON THE "OVERTHRUST BELT"

The Bureau of Land Management has completed an accelerated wilderness inventory on lands within the "Overthrust Belt" in southern Nevada. The "Overthrust Belt" is a geologic zone that extends from Canada south through the Las Vegas District in Nevada to the Gulf of California and is generally considered to be a potential oil and gas producing area.

To facilitate exploration for oil and gas in areas that do not have wilderness values, the Bureau conducted an accelerated intensive wilderness inventory in advance of the normal schedule to determine which lands within this zone do have wilderness values and should be recognized as wilderness study areas, and which lands do not.

The Bureau conducted a detailed field analysis of these lands, and then held a 90-day public comment period on the proposed decision for this inventory. The original recommendation was that 1.65 million acres be released from further wilderness consideration because they appeared to lack wilderness characteristics, and that 450,000 acres should be identified as wilderness study areas since wilderness qualities were present.

Numerous comments were received by the BLM during the 90-day comment period held on that proposed decision. Most comments were specific to the presence or absence of wilderness values in the areas being inventoried, but some were general in nature, citing opinions about the need for protecting wilderness lands.

After evaluating all public comments received, the State Director has concluded that 30 areas totaling approximately 1,449,000 acres do not have wilderness values and should be released from further wilderness consideration, and that 15 areas totaling 650,000 acres definitely do have wilderness values and are now identified as wilderness study areas. Portions of nine of these wilderness study areas are already proposed as additions to the National Wilderness Preservation System by the National Park Service and the Fish and Wildlife Service. The BLM lands in these nine areas are contiguous parts of those roadless areas already proposed as wilderness. If Congress does not include the National Park Service and Fish and Wildlife Service in the National Wilderness Preservation System, wilderness study area status will be removed from the BLM portion of the roadless areas involved.

This bulletin includes a brief summary of all public comment received on each area involved with the inventory, along with the rationale for our decision. A map of each area is also included. The enclosed chart indicates the status of each area inventoried. Detailed inventory information for each area is available for review at the Nevada State Office in Reno, or the Las Vegas District Office in Las Vegas.

It is important to note that the "Overthrust Belt" actually covers approximately four million additional acres in southern Nevada that have already been inventoried by the BLM through past accelerated inventories and by the statewide initial phase of the wilderness inventory. The result of these past decisions is that approximately 278,000 acres were identified as wilderness study areas and 3,752,000 acres were eliminated from further wilderness consideration because they lacked wilderness values. The result of these past inventories combined with the information on the "Overthrust Belt" accelerated inventory provided in this bulletin is that approximately 5,201,000 acres have been eliminated from further wilderness consideration and 928,000 acres have been identified as wilderness study areas.

For further information, contact Dave Harmon, (702) 784-5651, Nevada State Office, BLM, 300 Booth Street, Room 3008 Federal Building, Reno, Nevada, 89509 or Jim Dunn, (702) 385-6403, Las Vegas District Office, BLM, 4765 W. Vegas Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada, 89108.

OVERTHRUST BELT ACCELERATED WILDERNESS INVENTORY SUMMARY

<u>UNIT NO.</u>	<u>UNIT NAME</u>	<u>CONTIGUOUS WILDERNESS PROPOSAL</u> (*Contiguous - does not have wilderness values)	<u>TOTAL PUBLIC LAND</u>	<u>ACRES RECOMMENDED WSA</u>	<u>ACRES RECOMMENDED DROPPED</u>
NV-050-0118	Big Hogback		27,279		27,279
NV-050-0121	Oak Well		42,457		42,457
NV-050-0122	Blue Mountain		13,465		13,465
NV-050-0123	Chokecherry Canyon		15,852		15,852
NV-050-0124	Tepee Rocks		18,127		18,127
NV-050-0125	Ash Canyon		17,266		17,266
NV-050-0136	Delamar Mountains North		77,528		77,528
NV-050-0137	Clover Mountain		35,468		35,468
NV-050-0139	Grapevine Spring		132,104	84,935	47,169
NV-050-0143	Doc's Pass	*UT-040-124	24,908		24,908
NV-050-0144	Jack's Mountain		44,768		44,768
NV-050-0145	Central Delamar Mountains		111,820		111,820
NV-050-0156	Meadow Valley Mountains		310,201	185,744	124,457
NV-050-0157	Dodge Pockets		25,962		25,962
NV-050-0159	Lime Mountain		18,780		18,780
NV-050-0161	Mormon Mountains		246,812	162,887	83,925
NV-050-0162	Sams Camp Wash		16,150		16,150
NV-050-0163	South Fork		14,980		14,980
NV-050-0164	East Mormon Mountains		17,834		17,834
NV-050-0166	Tunnel Spring	UT-040-123	6,831	5,400	1,431
NV-050-0220	Black Ridge		18,318		18,318
NV-050-0221	Government Spring		14,795		14,795
NV-050-0222	Virgin Peak Natural Area	*AZ-010-121	29,775		29,775
NV-050-0223	Billy Goat Peak	*AZ-010-114	31,310		31,310
NV-050-0224	Whitney Pockets West		15,937		15,937
NV-050-0225	Hartman Tank		19,956		19,956
NV-050-0226	North Muddy Mountains		20,217		20,217
NV-050-0230	Buffington Pockets		39,361		39,361
NV-050-0231	Lime Canyon	NPS #12	35,220	30,747	4,473
NV-050-0232	Tramp Ridge		20,715		20,715
NV-050-0233	Million Hills	AZ-010-107/NPS #17	28,372	11,523	16,849
NV-050-0235	Garrett Buttes	NPS #13	11,684	7,360	4,324
NV-050-0236	Jumbo Springs	NPS #16	35,936	3,811	32,125
NV-050-0238	Bonelli Peak	NPS #14	7,278	6,581	697
NV-050-0411	Quail Springs	FWS #I	12,225	12,225	
NV-050-0412	La Madre Mountains		152,878	56,243	96,635

<u>UNIT NO.</u>	<u>UNIT NAME</u>	<u>CONTIGUOUS WILDERNESS PROPOSAL</u>	<u>TOTAL PUBLIC LAND</u>	<u>ACRES RECOMMENDED WSA</u>	<u>ACRES RECOMMENDED DROPPED</u>
		(*Contiguous - does not have wilderness values)			
NV-050-0422	River Mountains	NPS #6	9,643		9,643
NV-050-0423	Eldorado	NPS #5	31,246	12,596	18,650
NV-050-0425	North McCullough Mountains		106,472	52,258	54,214
NV-050-0428	Bird Spring Range		61,644		61,644
NV-050-0438	Ireteba Peaks	NPS #4	35,441	12,000	23,441
NV-050-0440	Summit Springs	NPS #2	36,387		36,387
NV-050-0441	Piute Valley	CDCA 226 & 267	81,272		81,272
NV-050-0447	Christmas Tree Pass	NPS #1	10,591		10,591
NV-050-04R-15	Nellis	FWS #I	13,400	5,718	7,682
	45 Inventoried Units		2,098,665	650,028	1,448,637

NPS = National Park Service

FWS = Fish & Wildlife Service

UT = Utah BLM Land

AZ = Arizona BLM Land

CDCA= California Desert Conservation Area (BLM)

JNIT NUMBER NV-050-0118

NAME Big Hogback

PUBLIC LAND ACREAGE 27,279

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION: Area does not qualify for wilderness study.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENT RECEIVED:

1. Comments agreed, citing unnaturalness, lack of topographic relief, and resulting lack of outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation.
2. One individual proposed that the area be retained in consideration for wilderness status regardless of man's impact and the cost of rehabilitation, citing excessively strict criteria for evaluation.

FINAL DECISION: 27,279 acres will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE: Although public comments were received supporting the presence and absence of wilderness characteristics, the Bureau believes that the area clearly lacks wilderness character and should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT NUMBER NV-050-0121

NAME Oak Well

PUBLIC LAND ACREAGE 42,457

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION: Area does not qualify for wilderness study.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENT RECEIVED:

1. Comments agreed, citing unnaturalness, flat topography, lack of vegetative screening, and resulting lack of outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation.
2. One individual proposed that the area be retained in consideration for wilderness status regardless of man's impact and the cost of rehabilitation, citing excessively strict criteria for evaluation.

FINAL DECISION: 42,457 acres will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE: Although public comments were received supporting the presence and absence of wilderness characteristics, the Bureau believes that the area clearly lacks wilderness character and should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT NUMBER NV-050-0122

NAME Blue Mountain

PUBLIC LAND ACREAGE 13,465

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION: Area does not qualify for wilderness study.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENT RECEIVED:

1. Comments cited the existence of several fences in the unit and their negative effect on opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation.
2. Comments supported further wilderness consideration of the unit because the existing vegetation enhances opportunities for solitude and recreation, and because excessively strict criteria were used to evaluate the unit for wilderness character.

FINAL DECISION: 13,465 acres will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE: Although public comments were received supporting the presence and absence of wilderness characteristics, the Bureau believes that the area clearly lacks wilderness character and should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT NUMBER NV-050-0123

NAME Chokecherry Canyon

PUBLIC LAND ACREAGE 15,852

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION: Area does not qualify for wilderness study.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS RECEIVED:

1. Comments cited the existence of fences in the unit. Combined with a lack of topographic relief, the fences prevent outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation.
2. Comments supported further wilderness consideration of the unit because the rugged geology and pinyon/juniper vegetation enhance the opportunities for solitude and recreation, and because excessively strict criteria were used to evaluate the unit for wilderness character.

FINAL DECISION: 15,852 acres will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE: Although public comments were received supporting the presence and absence of wilderness characteristics, the Bureau believes that the area clearly lacks wilderness character and should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT NUMBER NV-050-0124

NAME Tepee Rocks

PUBLIC LAND ACREAGE 18,127

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION: Area does not qualify for wilderness study.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENT RECEIVED:

1. Comments cited the impacts of mining and ranching in the unit. Combined with the lack of topographic relief, these intrusions also prevent outstanding opportunities for solitude or recreation.
2. Comments supported further wilderness consideration of the unit because the pinyon/juniper vegetation, rugged land surface, and the existence of ponderosa pine enhance the opportunity for solitude and recreation, and because excessively strict criteria were used to evaluate the unit for wilderness character.

FINAL DECISION: 18,127 acres will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE: Although public comments were received supporting the presence and absence of wilderness characteristics, the Bureau believes that the area clearly lacks wilderness character and should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT NUMBER NV-050-0125

NAME Ash Canyon

PUBLIC LAND ACREAGE 17,266

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION: Area does not qualify for wilderness study.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENT RECEIVED:

1. Comments cited the impact of fences and other range developments in the unit. Combined with a rolling topography, these intrusions also prevent outstanding opportunities for solitude or recreation.
2. Comments supported further wilderness consideration of the unit because the forest vegetation combined with a rugged and interesting topography enhance opportunities for solitude and recreation, and because excessively strict criteria were used to evaluate the unit for wilderness character.

FINAL DECISION: 17,266 acres will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE: Although public comments were received supporting the presence and absence of wilderness characteristics, the Bureau believes that the area clearly lacks wilderness character and should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT NUMBER NV-050-0136

NAME Delamar Mountains North

PUBLIC LAND ACREAGE 77,528

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION: Area does not qualify for wilderness study.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENT RECEIVED:

1. Comments cited the impacts of roads, mining, range improvements, and other intrusions preventing any wilderness experience in the unit.
2. Comments supported further wilderness consideration of the unit on the basis that excessively strict criteria were used to evaluate wilderness character.

FINAL DECISION: 77,528 acres will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE: Although public comments were received supporting the presence and absence of wilderness characteristics, the Bureau believes that the area clearly lacks wilderness character and should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT NUMBER NV-050-0137

NAME Clover Mountains

PUBLIC LAND ACREAGE 35,468

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION: Area does not qualify for wilderness study.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENT RECEIVED:

1. Comment cited the presence of a road detracting from the wilderness qualities of the unit.
2. Comments supported further wilderness consideration of the unit because the size and natural screening provide excellent opportunities for solitude and recreation, and because excessively strict criteria were used to evaluate the unit for wilderness character.

FINAL DECISION: 35,468 acres will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE: Although public comments were received supporting the presence and absence of wilderness characteristics, the Bureau believes that the area clearly lacks wilderness character and should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT NUMBER NV-050-0139

NAME Grapevine Spring

PUBLIC LAND ACREAGE 132,104

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION: A portion of the area (84,935 acres) should be approved as a WSA for further study and reported to the President.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENT RECEIVED:

1. Comments cited the presence of roads, mining activity, numerous oil and gas leases, and other mineral values. These were generally felt to disqualify the area from further wilderness consideration.
2. Comments supported further wilderness consideration of the unit based on the availability of water, deep canyons, vegetative diversity, geologic formations, large size, naturalness, recreational challenge, and the solitude experienced in the area, all of which qualify it for wilderness study. A boundary change was suggested.

FINAL DECISION: 84,935 acres will be studied as a WSA, and 47,169 acres will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE:

1. The unnatural impacts commented on were found to be outside the WSA boundary, or unnoticeable.
2. Other resource values, such as oil and gas leases, are not evaluated at this stage of the wilderness inventory.
3. It was felt that keeping the WSA boundary on the recommended physical features rather than drawing it down to the unit boundary roads to the north and east would exclude the impacts of man (traffic, noise, range improvements, etc.) associated with those boundary roads.

UNIT NUMBER NV-050-0143

NAME Doc's Pass

PUBLIC LAND ACREAGE: 24,908

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION: Area does not qualify for wilderness study. The natural portion near the Utah border may be added to the Cedar City District unit UT-040-124, should that unit be found to possess wilderness character and be proposed as a WSA.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENT RECEIVED:

1. Comments cited the presence of fences and spring developments. Combined with the rolling topography, these were felt to severely limit opportunities for solitude and recreation.
2. One comment protested that the unit contained the state park.
3. Comments supported further wilderness consideration of the unit because excessively strict criteria were used to evaluate it.

FINAL DECISION: 24,908 acres will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE:

1. Although public comments were received supporting the presence and absence of wilderness characteristics, the Bureau believes that the area clearly lacks wilderness character and should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT NUMBER NV-050-0144

NAME Jacks Mountain

PUBLIC LAND ACREAGE 44,768

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION: Area does not qualify for wilderness study.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENT RECEIVED:

1. Comments cited roads, fences, spring development, and a sawmill, combined with lack of topographic relief and inadequate vegetative screening, these intrusions prevent an outstanding opportunity for solitude or recreation.
2. Comments supported further wilderness consideration of the unit because excessively strict criteria were used to evaluate it.

FINAL DECISION: 44,768 acres will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE: Although public comments were received supporting the presence and absence of wilderness characteristics, the Bureau believes that the area clearly lacks wilderness character and should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT NUMBER NV-050-0145

NAME Central Delamar Mountains

PUBLIC LAND ACREAGE 111,820

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION: Area does not qualify for wilderness study.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENT RECEIVED:

1. Comments cited roads, fences, spring developments, and a TV translator site as intrusions which disqualified the area from further study.
2. Comments supported further wilderness consideration of the unit because excessively strict criteria were used to evaluate it.

FINAL DECISION: 111,820 acres will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE: Although public comments were received supporting the presence and absence of wilderness characteristics, the Bureau believes that the area clearly lacks wilderness character and should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT NUMBER NV-050-0156

NAME Meadow Valley Mountains

PUBLIC LAND ACREAGE 310,201

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION: A portion of the area (239,871 acres) should be approved as a WSA for further study, and the remainder of the unit should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENT RECEIVED:

1. Comments cited roads, mining activity, and range developments as disqualifying the unit from further study.
2. Concern was expressed that continued wilderness evaluation would conflict with oil and gas exploration, and future power generating facilities.
3. Comments supported further wilderness consideration of the unit because of its large size, apparent naturalness, recreational challenge, interesting geologic formations, and the feeling of vastness and solitude it provided.

FINAL DECISION: 185,744 acres will be studied as a WSA, and 124,457 acres will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE:

1. The WSA boundaries have been adjusted to eliminate noted intrusions. However, most noted intrusions were already located outside the recommended WSA or were unnoticeable.
2. Public comment extensively supported the solitude and recreational values of this large, natural area.

UNIT NUMBER NV-050-0157

NAME Dodge Pockets

PUBLIC LAND ACREAGE 25,962

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION: Area does not qualify for wilderness study.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENT RECEIVED:

1. Comments cited roads, mining activity, fences, spring developments, numerous oil and gas leases, and lack of outstanding topographic relief as detracting from wilderness character in this area.
2. Comments supported further wilderness consideration of the unit because excessively strict criteria were used to evaluate it.

FINAL DECISION: 25,962 acres will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE: Although public comments were received supporting the presence and absence of wilderness characteristics, the Bureau believes that the area clearly lacks wilderness character and should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT NUMBER NV-050-0159

NAME Lime Mountain

PUBLIC LAND ACREAGE: 18,780

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION: Area does not qualify for wilderness study.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENT RECEIVED:

1. Comments cited fences and flat topography as preventing outstanding opportunities for solitude and recreation.
2. Concern was expressed that a future investigation of the unit's potential for municipal or industrial water supplies would conflict with wilderness studies.
3. Comments supported further wilderness consideration of the unit because excessively strict criteria were used to evaluate it.

FINAL DECISION: 18,780 acres will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE: Although public comments were received supporting the presence and absence of wilderness characteristics, the Bureau believes that the area clearly lacks wilderness character and should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT NUMBER NV-050-0161

NAME Mormon Mountains

PUBLIC LAND ACREAGE 246,812

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION: A portion of the area (143,794 acres) should be approved as a WSA for further study, and the remainder of the unit should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENT RECEIVED:

1. Comments cited roads, powerline impacts, range improvements, and mining activities as disqualifying the unit from further study. Objections were especially raised to the "cherry-stemming" of intrusion roads, drawing the WSA boundary along the outside edges of these roads.
2. Concern was expressed that further wilderness evaluation of the unit would conflict with exploration for oil and gas, a potential coal slurry pipeline, and future investigations of the unit's potential to provide municipal and industrial water supplies.
3. Comments supported further wilderness consideration of the unit because of the spectacular peaks, the large size, the outstanding opportunities for hiking, mountain climbing, and photography, and several supplemental values: botanical, archeological, and geological. These comments also classified several of the intrusion roads as ways.

FINAL DECISION: 162,887 acres will be studied as a WSA, and 83,925 acres will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE:

1. The intrusions and areas required for future development are primarily located outside the WSA boundaries.
2. The intrusion roads have been found to have negligible visual impacts on the naturalness of the area. The numerous "ruins" noted are agave roasting pits and are of supplemental archeological value rather than of disturbing impact.
3. The Moapa Peak area was added to the originally recommended WSA because public comment illustrated its importance to the integrity of the rest of the WSA.

UNIT NUMBER NV-050-0162

NAME Sams Camp Wash

PUBLIC LAND ACREAGE 16,150

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION: Area does not qualify for wilderness study.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENT RECEIVED:

1. Comments cited the flat topography of the area as preventing outstanding opportunities for solitude or recreation.
2. Concern was expressed that a future investigation of the unit's potential for municipal or industrial water supplies would conflict with wilderness studies.
3. Comments supported further wilderness consideration of the unit because excessively strict criteria were used to evaluate it.

FINAL DECISION: 16,150 acres will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE: Although public comments were received supporting the presence and absence of wilderness characteristics, the Bureau believes that the area clearly lacks wilderness character and should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT NUMBER NV-050-0163

NAME South Fork

PUBLIC LAND ACREAGE 14,980

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION: Area does not qualify for wilderness study.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENT RECEIVED:

1. Comments stated that the opportunities for recreation and solitude are only average compared to the adjacent Mormon Mountains. Intrusions cited included roads, borrow pits, mining activity, and spring developments.
2. Concern was expressed that a future investigation of the unit's potential for municipal or industrial water supplies and for energy-related projects would conflict with wilderness studies.
3. Comments supported further wilderness consideration of the unit because excessively strict criteria were used to evaluate it.

FINAL DECISION: 14,980 acres will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE: Although public comments were received supporting the presence and absence of wilderness characteristics, the Bureau believes that the area clearly lacks wilderness character and should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT NUMBER NV-050-0164

NAME East Mormon Mountains

PUBLIC LAND ACREAGE: 17,834

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION: Area does not qualify for wilderness study.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENT RECEIVED:

1. Comments cited roads, fences, spring developments, mining activity, a communication site, and proximity to powerlines and a power generating plant as disqualifying the unit from further study.
2. Concern was expressed that a future investigation of the unit's potential for municipal or industrial water supplies and for energy-related projects would conflict with wilderness studies.
3. Comments supported further wilderness consideration of the unit because it is contiguous to the larger Mormon Mountain area and because excessively strict criteria were used to evaluate it.

FINAL DECISION: 17,834 acres will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE: Although public comments were received supporting the presence and absence of wilderness characteristics, the Bureau believes that the area clearly lacks wilderness character and should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT NUMBER NV-050-0166

NAME: Tunnel Spring

PUBLIC LAND ACREAGE: 6,831

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION: Area does not qualify for wilderness study. The natural portion (5,400 acres) however, may be added to the Cedar City District unit UT-050-123, should that unit be found to possess wilderness character and be proposed as a WSA.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENT RECEIVED:

1. Comments cited a developed spring and lack of outstanding topographic relief as disqualifying the unit from further study.
2. Concern was expressed that a future investigation of the unit's potential for municipal or industrial water supplies would conflict with wilderness studies.
3. A protest was raised to the inclusion of Beaver Dam State Park in the inventory.
4. Comments supported further wilderness consideration of the unit because excessively strict criteria were used to evaluate it.

FINAL DECISION: 5,400 acres will be studied as a WSA, and 1,431 acres will be dropped from further wilderness consideration. If UT-040-123 is eventually removed from wilderness consideration, the Tunnel Spring WSA will also be dropped from further study.

RATIONALE:

1. The BLM roadless land under review extends across the Nevada/Utah State boundary to include Cougar Canyon, UT-040-123, in Utah. The Utah inventory is now complete, and wilderness values have been identified in the Utah portion of the area that do extend across the state line to include the lands within Nevada that are in an undisturbed condition.
2. Beaver Dam State Park is contiguous to the inventory unit and was not evaluated for wilderness character.

UNIT NUMBER NV-050-0220

NAME Black Ridge

PUBLIC LAND ACREAGE: 18,318

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION: Area does not qualify for wilderness study.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENT RECEIVED:

1. Comments cited roads and mining impacts in the unit, with special concern that the unit is within a mining district. These factors were felt to disqualify the unit from further consideration.
2. Concern was expressed that further study may conflict with the proposed salinity control project for the Lower Virgin River.
3. Comments supported further wilderness consideration of the unit because excessively strict criteria were used to evaluate it.

FINAL DECISION: 18,318 acres will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE: Although public comments were received supporting the presence and absence of wilderness characteristics, the Bureau believes that the area clearly lacks wilderness character and should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT NUMBER NV-050-0221

NAME Government Spring

PUBLIC LAND ACREAGE 14,795

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION: Area does not qualify for wilderness study.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENT RECEIVED:

1. Comments cited roads and mining impacts in the unit, with special concern that the unit is within a mining district. These factors were felt to disqualify the unit from further consideration.
2. Concern was expressed that further study may conflict with the proposed salinity control project for the Lower Virgin River.
3. Comments supported further wilderness consideration of the unit because excessively strict criteria were used to evaluate it.

FINAL DECISION: 14,795 acres will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE: Although public comments were received supporting the presence and absence of wilderness characteristics, the Bureau believes that the area clearly lacks wilderness character and should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT NUMBER NV-050-0222

NAME Virgin Peak
(Natural Area)

PUBLIC LAND ACREAGE 29,775

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION: Area does not qualify for wilderness study.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENT RECEIVED:

1. Comments cited roads, mines, rock-hounding areas, and the mining district as detracting from naturalness and preventing outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation.
2. Concern was expressed that further study of the area would conflict with potential mineral resource values.
3. Comments supported wilderness consideration of the unit because it contains the Virgin Mountain Natural Area, unique and diverse vegetation, and because excessively strict criteria were used for wilderness evaluation.

FINAL DECISION: 29,775 acres will be dropped from further wilderness consideration. Because of the unique vegetation, the Virgin Mountains will be considered for designation as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) at the appropriate time.

RATIONALE: Although public comments were received supporting the presence and absence of wilderness characteristics, the Bureau believes that the area clearly lacks wilderness character and should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT NUMBER NV-050-0223

NAME Billy Goat Peak

PUBLIC LAND ACREAGE 31,310

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION: Area does not qualify for wilderness study.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENT RECEIVED:

1. Comments cited roads, mining activity, lack of solitude, and the mining district as factors disqualifying the unit from further study.
2. Comments supported further wilderness consideration of the unit because excessively strict criteria were used to evaluate it.

FINAL DECISION: 31,310 acres will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE: Although public comments were received supporting the presence and absence of wilderness characteristics, the Bureau believes that the area clearly lacks wilderness character and should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT NUMBER NV-050-0224

NAME Whitney Pockets West

PUBLIC LAND ACREAGE 15,937

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION: Area does not qualify for wilderness study.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENT RECEIVED:

1. Comments agreed with the original recommendation.
2. Comments requested further wilderness consideration of the unit because excessively strict criteria were used to evaluate it.

FINAL DECISION: 15,937 acres will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE: Although public comments were received supporting the presence and absence of wilderness characteristics, the Bureau believes that the area clearly lacks wilderness character and should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT NUMBER NV-050-0225

NAME Hartman Tank

PUBLIC LAND ACREAGE 19,956

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION: Area does not qualify for wilderness study.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENT RECEIVED:

1. Comments cited roads, mining activity, and lack of opportunity for solitude or primitive recreation.
2. Support for continued wilderness consideration was expressed because excessively strict criteria were used to evaluate the unit.

FINAL DECISION: 19,956 acres will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE: Although public comments were received supporting the presence and absence of wilderness characteristics, the Bureau believes that the area clearly lacks wilderness character and should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT NUMBER NV-050-0226

NAME North Muddy Mountains

PUBLIC LAND ACREAGE 20,217

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION: Area does not qualify for wilderness study.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENT RECEIVED:

1. Comments cited a power line right-of-way, mining activity, and lack of vegetation and topographic screening as serious impacts to wilderness character.
2. Concern was expressed that continued study would conflict with the unit's potential for a power line, a corridor for a coal slurry pipeline, and exploration for oil and gas.
3. Comments supported further wilderness consideration of the unit because of its naturalness, outstanding opportunity for recreation, and because excessively strict criteria were used to evaluate it.

FINAL DECISION: 20,217 acres will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE: Although public comments were received supporting the presence and absence of wilderness characteristics, the Bureau believes that the area clearly lacks wilderness character and should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT NUMBER NV-050-0230

NAME Buffington Pockets

PUBLIC LAND ACREAGE 39,361

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION: Area does not qualify for wilderness study.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENT RECEIVED:

1. Comments cited roads, mining activity, lack of vegetative screening, and lack of opportunities for solitude and recreation as disqualifying the area from further study. It was also considered less than outstanding when compared to the nearby Valley of Fire State Park and Muddy Mountains Wilderness Study Area.
2. Concern was expressed that further study of the area would conflict with potential and existing mineral resource values and recreational rock-hounding.
3. Comments supported further wilderness consideration of the unit because of its protected position between the Valley of Fire State Park and the Muddy Mountains WSA, the colorful scenery, and the rugged topography providing excellent hiking opportunities.

FINAL DECISION: 39,361 acres will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE:

1. Although public comments were received supporting the presence and absence of wilderness characteristics, the Bureau believes that the area clearly lacks wilderness character and should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.
2. Public comments supporting further wilderness study of the unit were focused primarily on its location adjacent and between the Muddy Mountain WSA, Valley of Fire State Park, and Lake Mead NRA. This is not a situation that is considered in evaluating the wilderness character of an individual unit when the adjacent areas are not wilderness proposals (the WSA is contiguous along only a small part of the unit boundary) and when the unit itself does not meet the wilderness criteria.

UNIT NUMBER NV-050-0231

NAME Lime Canyon

PUBLIC LAND ACREAGE 35,220

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION: A portion of the area (30,747 acres) should be approved as a WSA for further study, and the remainder of the unit should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENT RECEIVED:

1. Comments cited roads, mining activity, and lack of opportunity for solitude or recreation as disqualifying the unit from further study.
2. Concern was expressed that further wilderness evaluation of the unit would conflict with oil and gas exploration and other potential mineral resource values.
3. Opposition was expressed to WSA designation of any area contiguous to the National Park Service wilderness proposal if the BLM area does not meet the wilderness criteria when evaluated by itself.
4. Comments supported further wilderness consideration of the unit because it is natural and contiguous to the NPS wilderness proposal, and because excessively strict criteria were used to evaluate it.

FINAL DECISION: 30,747 acres will be studied as a WSA, and 4,473 acres will be dropped from further wilderness consideration. If NPS unit #12 is eventually removed from further consideration, the Lime Canyon WSA will also be removed from wilderness study area status.

RATIONALE:

1. The BLM land under review is a contiguous part of a large roadless area already proposed as wilderness by the National Park Service, and it shares the same outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation already identified by that agency. Opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation within the roadless area do not stop at the arbitrary administrative boundary which is unmarked on the ground.
2. Although public comments were received supporting the presence and absence of wilderness characteristics throughout the unit, the BLM believes that the remaining 4,473 acres clearly lack wilderness character and should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT NUMBER NV-050-0232

NAME Tramp Ridge

PUBLIC LAND ACREAGE 20,715

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION: Area does not qualify for wilderness study.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENT RECEIVED:

1. Comments cited roads, mining activity, and lack of solitude and recreation opportunities as disqualifying the unit from further study.
2. Concern was expressed that further study would conflict with exploration of several mineral resources known to exist in the area.
3. Comments supported further wilderness consideration of the unit because excessively strict criteria were used to evaluate it.

FINAL DECISION: 20,715 acres will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE: Although public comments were received supporting the presence and absence of wilderness characteristics, the Bureau believes that the area clearly lacks wilderness character and should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT NUMBER NV-050-0233

NAME Million Hills

PUBLIC LAND ACREAGE 28,372

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION: A portion of the area (11,523 acres) should be approved as a WSA for further study, and the remainder of the unit should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENT RECEIVED:

1. Comments cited roads, mining activity, a communication site, and lack of opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation as disqualifying the unit from further study.
2. Concern was expressed that further wilderness evaluation of the unit would conflict with oil and gas exploration, uranium, and other potential mineral resource values.
3. Opposition was expressed to the WSA designation of any area contiguous to the National Park Service wilderness proposal if the BLM area does not meet the wilderness criteria when evaluated by itself.
4. Comments supported further wilderness consideration of the unit because it is natural and contiguous to the NPS wilderness proposal, and because excessively strict criteria were used to evaluate it.

FINAL DECISION: 11,523 acres will be studied as a WSA, and 16,849 acres will be dropped from further wilderness consideration. If NPS unit #17 is eventually removed from wilderness consideration, the Million Hills WSA will also be removed from wilderness study area status.

RATIONALE:

1. The BLM land under review is a contiguous part of a large roadless area already proposed as wilderness by the National Park Service and it shares the same outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation already identified by that agency. Opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation within the roadless area do not stop at the arbitrary administrative boundary which is unmarked on the ground.
2. Although public comments were received supporting the presence and absence of wilderness characteristics throughout the unit, the Bureau believes that the remaining 16,849 acres clearly lack wilderness character and should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT NUMBER NV-050-0235

NAME Garrett Buttes

PUBLIC LAND ACREAGE 11,684

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION: A portion of the area (7,360 acres) should be approved as a WSA for further study, and the remainder of the unit should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENT RECEIVED:

1. Comments cited roads, mining activity, and lack of opportunities for solitude and recreation as disqualifying the unit from further study.
2. Concern was expressed that further wilderness evaluation of the unit would conflict with oil and gas exploration, and other potential mineral resource values.
3. Opposition was expressed to WSA designation of any area contiguous to the National Park Service wilderness proposal if the BLM area does not meet the wilderness criteria when evaluated by itself.
4. Comments supported further wilderness consideration of the unit because it is natural and contiguous to the NPS wilderness proposal, and because excessively strict criteria were used to evaluate it.

FINAL DECISION: 7,360 acres will be studied as a WSA, and 4,324 acres will be dropped from further wilderness consideration. If NPS unit #13 is eventually removed from wilderness consideration, the Garrett Buttes WSA will also be removed from wilderness study area status.

RATIONALE:

1. The BLM land under review is a contiguous part of a large roadless area already proposed as wilderness by the National Park Service and it shares the same outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation already identified by that agency. Opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation within the roadless area do not stop at the arbitrary administrative boundary which is unmarked on the ground.
2. Although public comments were received supporting the presence and absence of wilderness characteristics throughout the unit, the BLM believes that the remaining 4,324 acres clearly lack wilderness character and should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT NUMBER NV-050-0236

NAME JUMBO SPRINGS

PUBLIC LAND ACREAGE 35,936

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION: A portion of the area (3,811 acres) should be approved as a WSA for further study, and the remainder of the unit should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENT RECEIVED:

1. Comments cited roads, mining activity, spring developments, a communication site, and a lack of opportunity for solitude or recreation as disqualifying the unit from further study.
2. Concern was expressed that further study of the unit would conflict with oil and gas exploration, sheet mica, gold, recreational rock-hounding, and other potential mineral resource values.
3. Opposition was expressed to WSA designation of any area contiguous to the National Park Service wilderness proposal if the BLM area does not meet the wilderness criteria when evaluated by itself.
4. Comments supported further wilderness consideration of the unit because it is natural and contiguous to the NPS wilderness proposal, and because excessively strict criteria were used to evaluate it.

FINAL DECISION: 3,811 acres will be studied as a WSA, and 32,125 acres will be dropped from further wilderness consideration. If NPS unit #16 is eventually removed from wilderness consideration, the Jumbo Springs WSA will also be removed from wilderness study area status.

RATIONALE:

1. The BLM land under review is a contiguous part of a large roadless area already proposed as wilderness by the National Park Service and it shares the same outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation already identified by that agency. Opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation within the roadless area do not stop at the arbitrary administrative boundary which is unmarked on the ground.
2. Although public comments were received supporting the presence and absence of wilderness characteristics throughout the unit, the BLM believes that the remaining 32,125 acres clearly lack wilderness character and should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT NUMBER NV-050-0238

NAME Bonelli Peak

PUBLIC LAND ACREAGE 7,278

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION: A portion of the area (6,581 acres) should be approved as a WSA for further study, and the remainder of the unit should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENT RECEIVED:

1. Comments cited roads, mining activity, and lack of opportunity for solitude or recreation as disqualifying the unit from further study.
2. Concern was expressed that further wilderness evaluation of the unit would conflict with oil and gas exploration, and other mineral resource values.
3. Opposition was expressed to the WSA designation of any area contiguous to the National Park Service wilderness proposal if the BLM area does not meet the wilderness criteria when evaluated by itself.
4. Comments supported further wilderness consideration of the unit because it is natural and contiguous to the NPS wilderness proposal, and because excessively strict criteria were used to evaluate it.

FINAL DECISION: 6,581 acres will be studied as a WSA, and 697 acres will be dropped from further wilderness consideration. If NPS unit #14 is eventually removed from wilderness consideration, the Bonelli Peak WSA will also be removed from wilderness study area status.

RATIONALE:

1. The BLM land under review is a contiguous part of a large roadless area already proposed as wilderness by the National Park Service, and it shares the same outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation already identified by that agency. Opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation within the roadless area do not stop at the arbitrary administrative boundary which is unmarked on the ground.
2. Although public comments were received supporting the presence and absence of wilderness characteristics throughout the unit, the BLM believes that the remaining 697 acres clearly lack wilderness character and should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT NUMBER NV-050-0411

NAME Quail Springs

PUBLIC LAND ACREAGE 12,225

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION: Area should be approved as a WSA

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENT RECEIVED:

1. Comments cited the rolling topography and low vegetation as preventing opportunities for solitude and recreation.
2. Concern was expressed that further wilderness evaluation of the unit would interfere with exploration for oil and gas.
3. Opposition was expressed to WSA designation of any area contiguous to the Desert Game Range wilderness proposal if the BLM area does not meet the wilderness criteria when evaluated by itself.
4. Comments supported further wilderness consideration of the unit because it is natural and contiguous to the Desert Game Range wilderness proposal.

FINAL DECISION: 12,225 acres will be studied as a WSA and reported to the President. If the Desert Game Range is eventually removed from wilderness consideration, the Quail Springs WSA will be removed from wilderness study area status.

RATIONALE:

1. The BLM land under review is a contiguous part of a large roadless area already proposed as wilderness by the Fish and Wildlife Service, and it shares the same outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation already identified by that agency. Opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation within the roadless area do not stop at the arbitrary administrative boundary which is unmarked on the ground.

UNIT NUMBER NV-050-0412

NAME La Madre Mountains

PUBLIC LAND ACREAGE 152,878

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION: Area does not qualify for wilderness study.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENT RECEIVED:

1. Comments cited roads, powerlines, pipelines, and a powerline right-of-way as detracting from the wilderness character of the area.
2. Extensive support for preservation was received from homeowners in the area.
3. Comments supported further wilderness consideration of the unit because it appears natural, has outstanding opportunities for solitude, hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, and other recreational activities, possesses botanical, visual, and archaeological supplemental values, and because of its proximity to the Red Rock Canyon recreation area.

FINAL DECISION: 56,243 acres will be studied as a WSA, and 96,635 acres will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE: Overwhelming public support was received for further wilderness study of the east end of the unit. Further evaluation determined that a large portion of the eastern half was natural, and combined with public support of its outstanding opportunities for solitude and recreation, this area is recommended for further wilderness consideration.

UNIT NUMBER NV-050-0422

NAME River Mountains

PUBLIC LAND ACREAGE 9,643

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION: Area does not qualify for wilderness study.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENT RECEIVED:

1. Comments cited roads, mining activity, powerlines, and other impacts of man as making the unit appear unnatural.
2. Concern was expressed that further wilderness study of the unit would conflict with potential for a reclamation tunnel, a coal slurry pipeline, and recreational rockhounding.
3. Comments supported further wilderness consideration of the unit because excessively strict criteria were used to evaluate it.

FINAL DECISION: 9,643 acres will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE: Although public comments were received supporting the presence and absence of wilderness characteristics, the Bureau believes that the area clearly lacks wilderness character and should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT NUMBER NV-050-0423

NAME Eldorado

PUBLIC LAND ACREAGE 31,246

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION: A portion of the area (12,596 acres) should be approved as a WSA for further study, and the remainder of the unit should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENT RECEIVED:

1. Comments cited roads, mining activity, proximity of high-voltage power transmission lines, lack of water, and lack of unique characteristics as disqualifying the unit from further study.
2. Concern was expressed that further wilderness evaluation of the unit would conflict with oil and gas exploration, maintenance and development of range improvements, a coal slurry pipeline, recreational rockhounding, and possible transmission line corridors needed for Hoover Dam modifications and other reclamation developments.

3. Opposition was expressed to the WSA designation of any area contiguous to the National Park Service wilderness proposal if the BLM area does not meet the wilderness criteria when evaluated by itself.
4. Comments supported further wilderness consideration of the unit because it is natural and contiguous to the NPS wilderness proposal, and because excessively strict criteria were used to evaluate it.

FINAL DECISION: 12,596 acres will be studied as a WSA, and 18,650 acres will be dropped from further wilderness consideration. If NPS unit #5 is eventually removed from wilderness consideration, the Eldorado WSA will also be removed from wilderness study area status.

RATIONALE:

1. The BLM land under review is a contiguous part of a large roadless area already proposed as wilderness by the National Park Service, and it shares the same outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation already identified by that agency. Opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation within the roadless area do not stop at the arbitrary administrative boundary which is unmarked on the ground. The National Park Service believes that the Eldorado WSA will particularly enhance the wilderness quality of their Black Canyon area.
2. Although public comments were received supporting the presence and absence of wilderness characteristics throughout the unit, the Bureau believes that the remaining 18,650 acres clearly lack wilderness character and should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT NUMBER NV-050-0425

NAME North McCullough Range

PUBLIC LAND ACREAGE 106,472

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION: Area does not qualify for wilderness study.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENT RECEIVED:

1. Comments cited roads, powerlines, communication sites, mining activity, lack of natural screening, and lack of opportunity for solitude and primitive recreation as disqualifying the unit from further study.
2. Concern was expressed that further wilderness evaluation of the unit would conflict with exploration of potential mineral resource values and with the corridor of a coal slurry pipeline.

3. Comments supported further wilderness consideration of the area because of its naturalness, botanical diversity, large size, lack of grazing impacts, and outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation.

FINAL DECISION: 52,258 acres will be studied as a WSA, and 54,214 acres will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE: Further field review of the unit combined with extensive public comment revealed that a large interior portion was indeed natural and possessed outstanding opportunities for both solitude and primitive recreation.

UNIT NUMBER NV-050-0428

NAME Bird Spring Range

PUBLIC LAND ACREAGE 61,644

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION: Area does not qualify for wilderness study.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENT RECEIVED:

1. Comments cited roads, mining activities, pipelines, powerlines, and powerline right-of-ways as conflicting with further study of the unit.
2. Comments supported further wilderness consideration of the unit because excessively strict criteria were used to evaluate it.

FINAL DECISION: 61,644 acres will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE: Although public comments were received supporting the presence and absence of wilderness characteristics, the Bureau believes that the area clearly lacks wilderness character and should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT NUMBER NV-050-0438

NAME Ireteba Peaks

PUBLIC LAND ACREAGE 35,441

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION: A portion of the area (19,500 acres) should be approved as a WSA for further study, and the remainder of the unit should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENT RECEIVED:

1. Comments cited powerlines impacts, mining activity, lack of water and unique features, and evidence of off-road vehicle use.
2. Concern was expressed that further wilderness evaluation of the area would conflict with traditional ORV use of the area, exploration for oil and gas, maintenance and development of range improvements, and a potential coal slurry pipeline.

3. Opposition was expressed to the WSA designation of any area contiguous to the National Park Service wilderness proposal if the BLM area does not meet the wilderness criteria when evaluated by itself.
4. Comments supported further wilderness consideration of the unit because it is natural and contiguous to the NPS wilderness proposal, and because excessively strict criteria were used to evaluate it.

FINAL DECISION: 12,000 acres will be studied as a WSA, and 23,441 acres will be dropped from further wilderness consideration. If NPS unit #4 is eventually removed from wilderness consideration, the Ireteba Peaks WSA will also be dropped from further study.

RATIONALE:

1. The BLM land under review is a contiguous part of a large roadless area already proposed as wilderness by the National Park Service, and it shares the same outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation already identified by that agency. Opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation within the roadless area do not stop at the arbitrary administrative boundary which is unmarked on the ground.
2. Field review of numerous public comments resulted in a boundary change of the Ireteba Peaks WSA, to exclude ORV impacts not previously evaluated.

UNIT NUMBER NV-050-0440

NAME Summit Springs

PUBLIC LAND ACREAGE 36,387

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION: A portion of the area (22,379 acres) should be approved as a WSA for further study, and the remainder of the unit should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENT RECEIVED:

1. Comments cited roads, ways, mining activity, powerlines, lack of water and unique features, and off-road vehicle impacts as disqualifying the unit from further study.
2. Concern was expressed that continued wilderness evaluation of this unit would conflict with a proposed coal slurry pipeline, maintenance of range improvements, oil and gas exploration, recreational rockhounding, and the traditional heavy ORV use of the area.
3. Opposition was expressed to the WSA designation of any area contiguous to the National Park Service wilderness proposal if the BLM area does not meet the wilderness criteria when evaluated by itself.

4. Comments supported further wilderness consideration of the unit because it is natural and contiguous to the NPS wilderness proposal, and because excessively strict criteria were used to evaluate it.

FINAL DECISION: 36,387 acres will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE: Additional field review of the unit combined with extensive public comment revealed that the area is much more heavily impacted than originally thought, both by additional roads and ways and by an exterior U.S. Coast Guard Loran-C transmitting station. The four 700 foot tall towers with numerous strobe lights are extremely imposing and, though man-made structures outside a unit are not normally evaluated, the impact of this communication site on the naturalness of this unit is unavoidable and must be recognized. For this reason, it was felt that there was no natural area to study contiguous to NPS unit #2.

UNIT NUMBER NV-050-0441

NAME Piute Valley

PUBLIC LAND ACREAGE 81,272

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION: Area does not qualify for wilderness study.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENT RECEIVED:

1. Comments cited extensive road and mining impacts, an old townsite, powerlines, range improvements, and lack of vegetative and topographic screening as disqualifying the unit from further study.
2. Concern was expressed that continued wilderness evaluation of the unit would conflict with mineral resource potential, a powerline, a coal slurry pipeline, and recreational rockhounding.
3. Comments supported further wilderness consideration of the unit because excessively strict criteria were used to evaluate it.

FINAL DECISION: 81,272 acres will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE: Although public comments were received supporting the presence and absence of wilderness characteristics, the Bureau believes that the area clearly lacks wilderness character and should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT NUMBER NV-050-0447

NAME Christmas Tree Pass

PUBLIC LAND ACREAGE 10,591

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION: Area does not qualify for wilderness study.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENT RECEIVED:

1. Comments cited roads, communication sites, powerlines, and mining activity as disqualifying the unit from further study.

2. Comments also expressed support for further wilderness consideration of the unit because excessively strict criteria were used to evaluate it.

FINAL DECISION: 10,591 acres will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE: Although public comments were received supporting the presence and absence of wilderness characteristics, the Bureau believes that the area clearly lacks wilderness character and should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT NUMBER NV-050-04R-15

NAME Nellis

PUBLIC LAND ACREAGE 13,400

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION: Three portions of the area (total 5,718 acres) should be approved as WSAs for further study. The rest of the unit should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.






















SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENT RECEIVED:

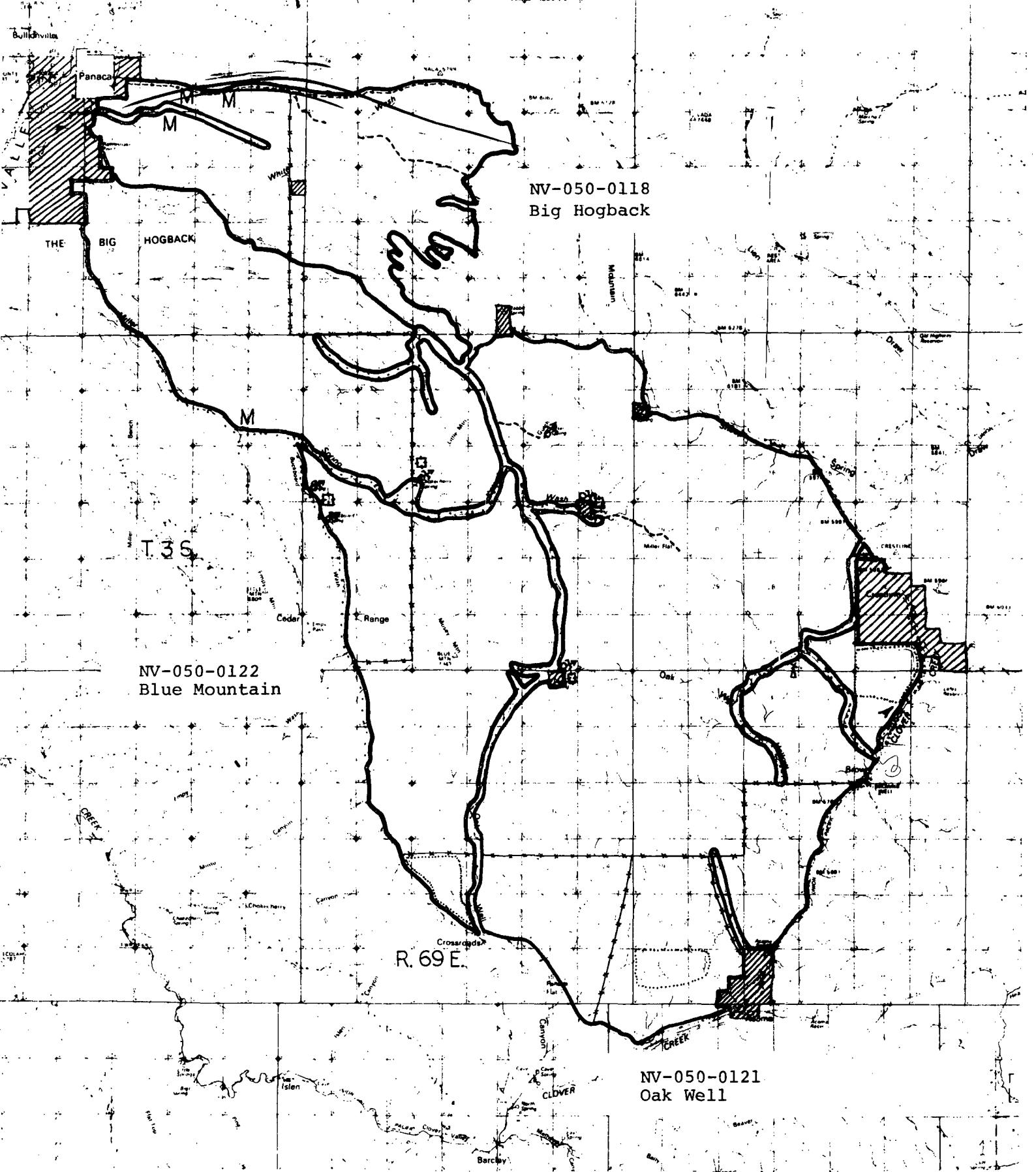
1. Comments cited roads, building, powerlines, lack of natural screening, and numerous visible impacts of man as disqualifying the unit from further study.
2. Concern was expressed that further wilderness evaluation of the unit would conflict with exploration for oil and gas.
3. Opposition was expressed to WSA designation of any area contiguous to the Desert Game Range wilderness proposal if the BLM area does not meet the wilderness criteria when evaluated by itself.
4. Comments supported further wilderness consideration of the unit because it has natural portions and is contiguous to the Desert Game Range wilderness proposal.

FINAL DECISION: 5,718 acres will be studied as a WSA, and 7,682 acres will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

RATIONALE: The BLM land under review is a contiguous part of a large roadless area already proposed as wilderness by the Fish and Wildlife Service, and it shares the same outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation already identified by that agency. Opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation within the roadless area do not stop at the arbitrary administrative boundary which is unmarked on the ground.

LEGEND

ROAD	
WAY	
FENCE	
POWER OR COMMUNICATION LINE	
SPRING	
SPRING IMPROVEMENT	
PIPELINE	
WELL AND TROUGH	
WINDMILL	
CHAINING OR LAND TREATMENT	
STORAGE	
STOCK POND	
RESERVOIR	
GUZZLER	
BUILDING	
COMMUNICATION SITE	
NON-BLM LAND	
AREA OF HIGH ORV USE	
MINING OR QUARRY	
PROPOSED STUDY AREA	
PHOTO AND DIRECTION	



NV-050-0118
Big Hogback

NV-050-0122
Blue Mountain

NV-050-0121
Oak Well

T. 36

R. 69 E.

Bullheadville
Panaca
THE BIG HOGBACK

BIG HOGBACK

M

T. 36

NV-050-0122
Blue Mountain

R. 69 E.

NV-050-0121
Oak Well

Bullheadville
Panaca
THE BIG HOGBACK

BIG HOGBACK

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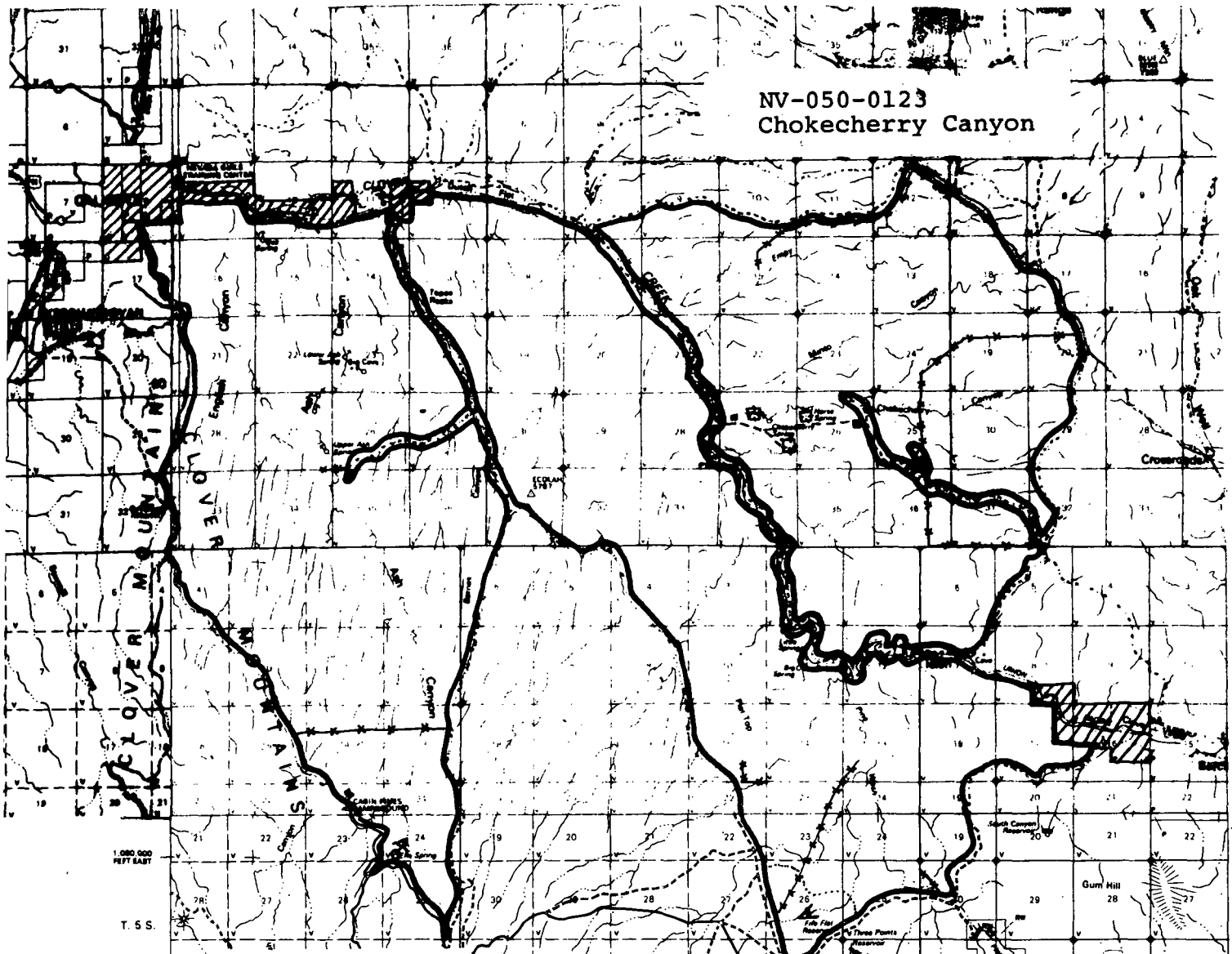
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Blue Mountain

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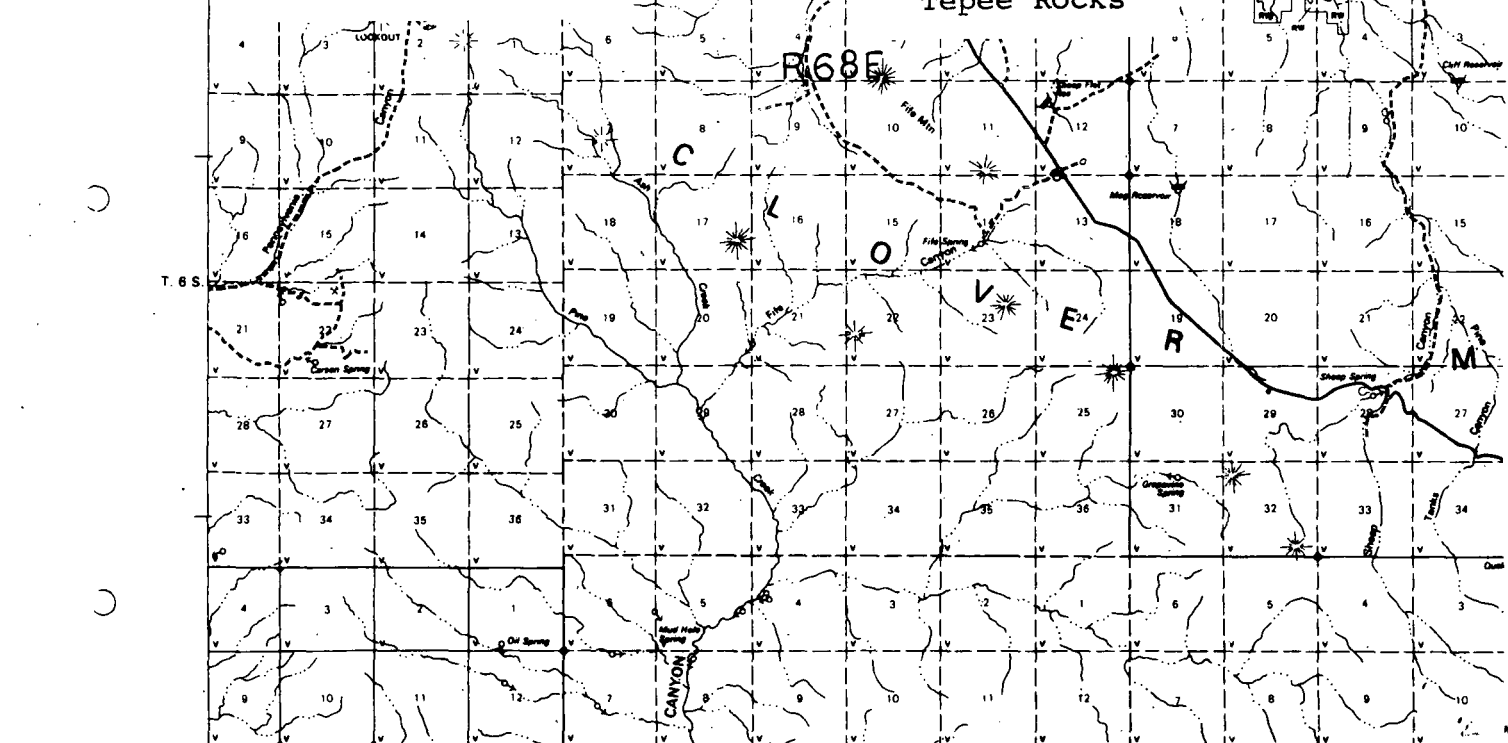
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Oak Well

NV-050-0123
Chokecherry Canyon



NV-050-0125
Ash Canyon

NV-050-0124
Tepee Rocks

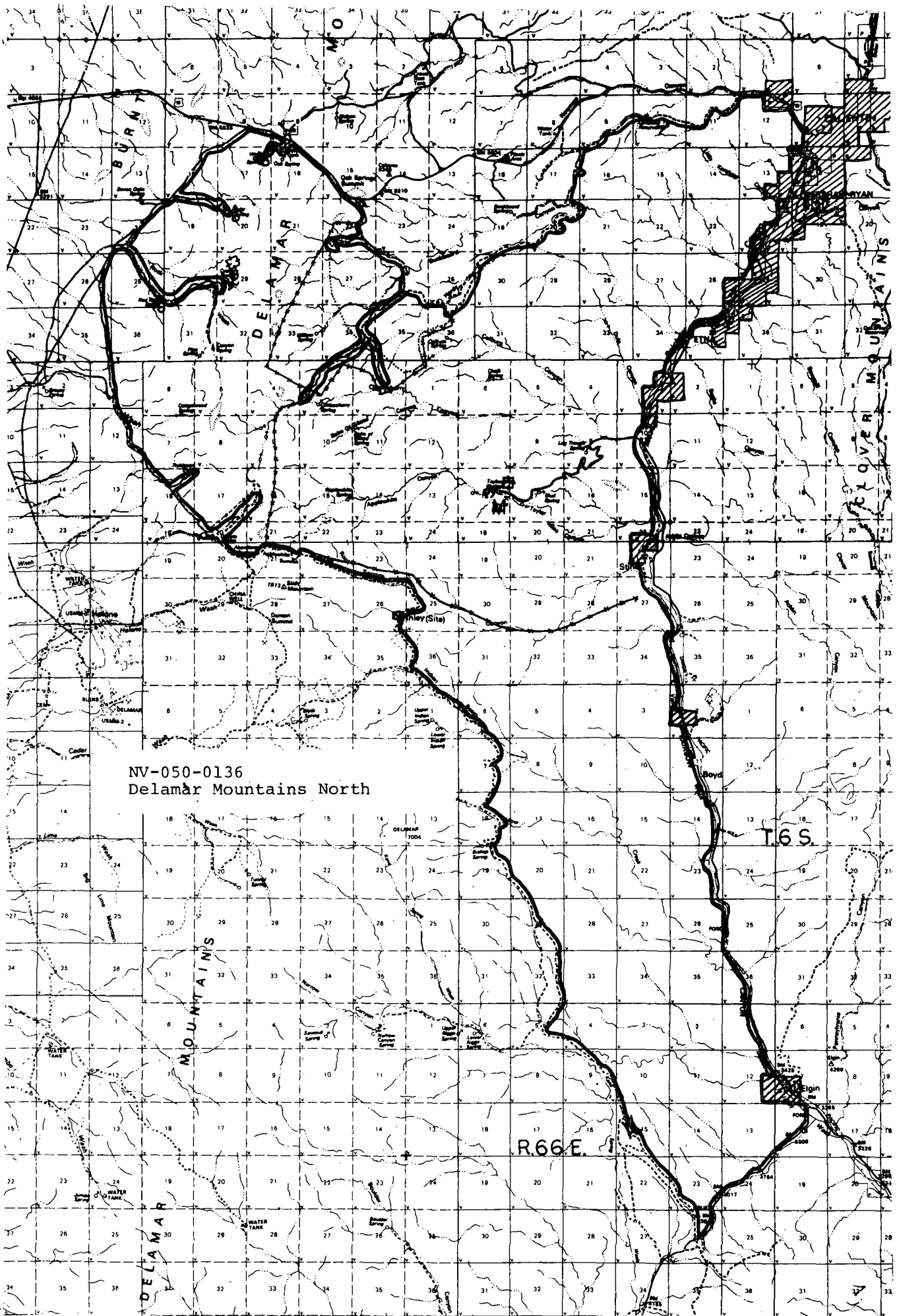


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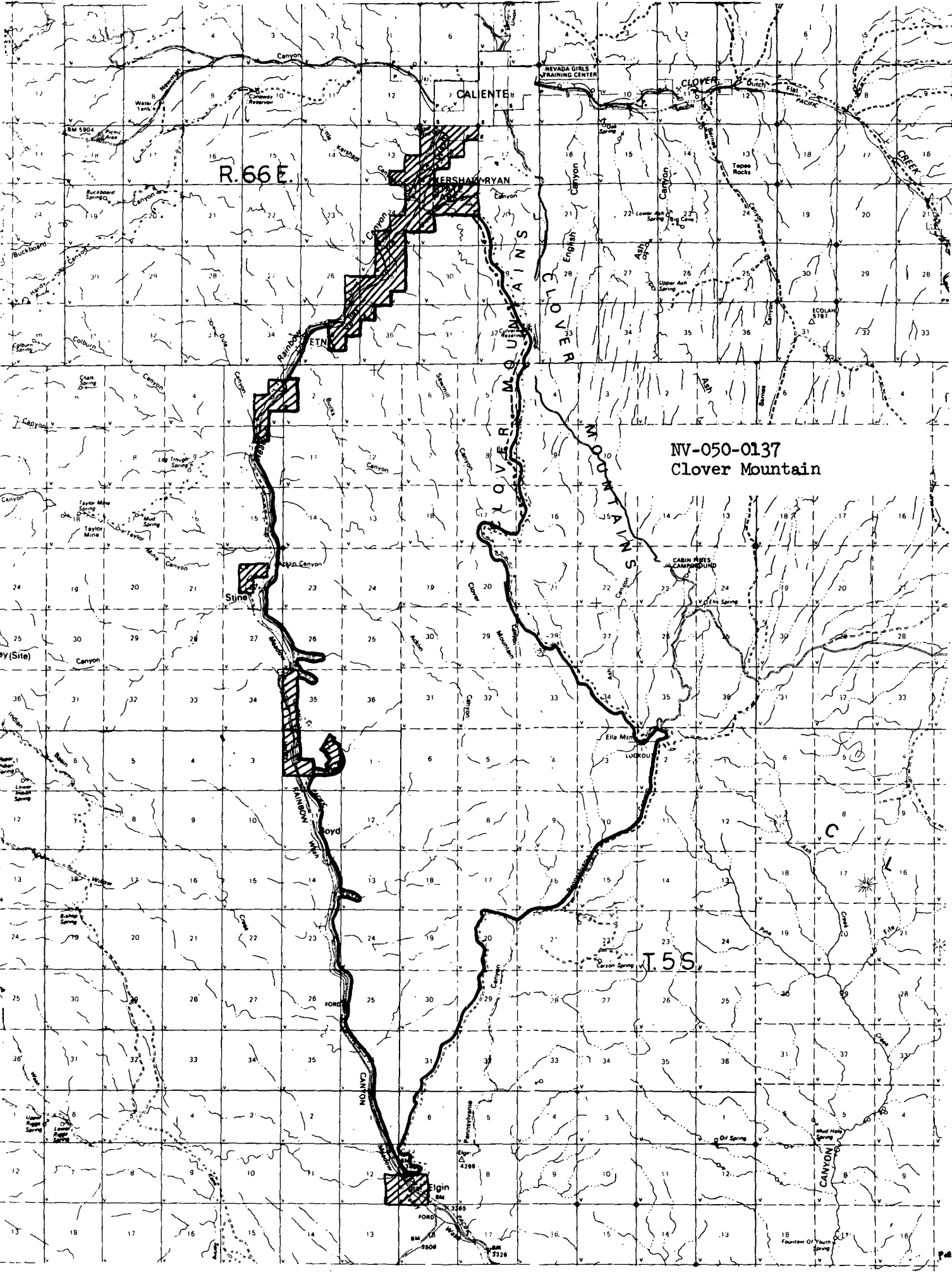
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NV-050-0136
Delamar Mountains North

T.6 S.

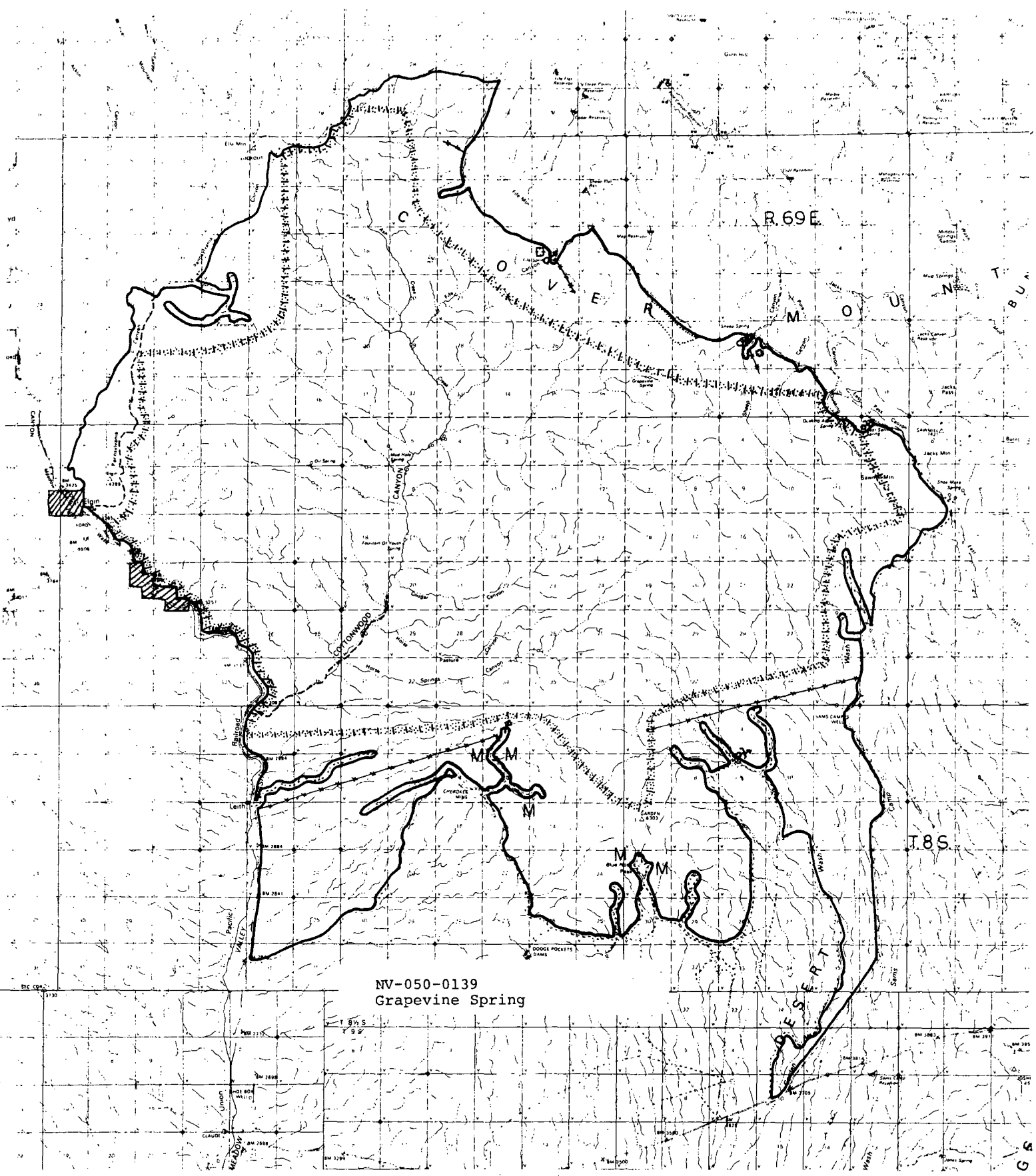
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R. 66 E.

NV-050-0137
Clover Mountain

T. 5 S.



NV-050-0139
Grapevine Spring

18° S
T 69 E

GS

NV-050-0166
Tunnel Spring
Revised Copy
WSA Boundary

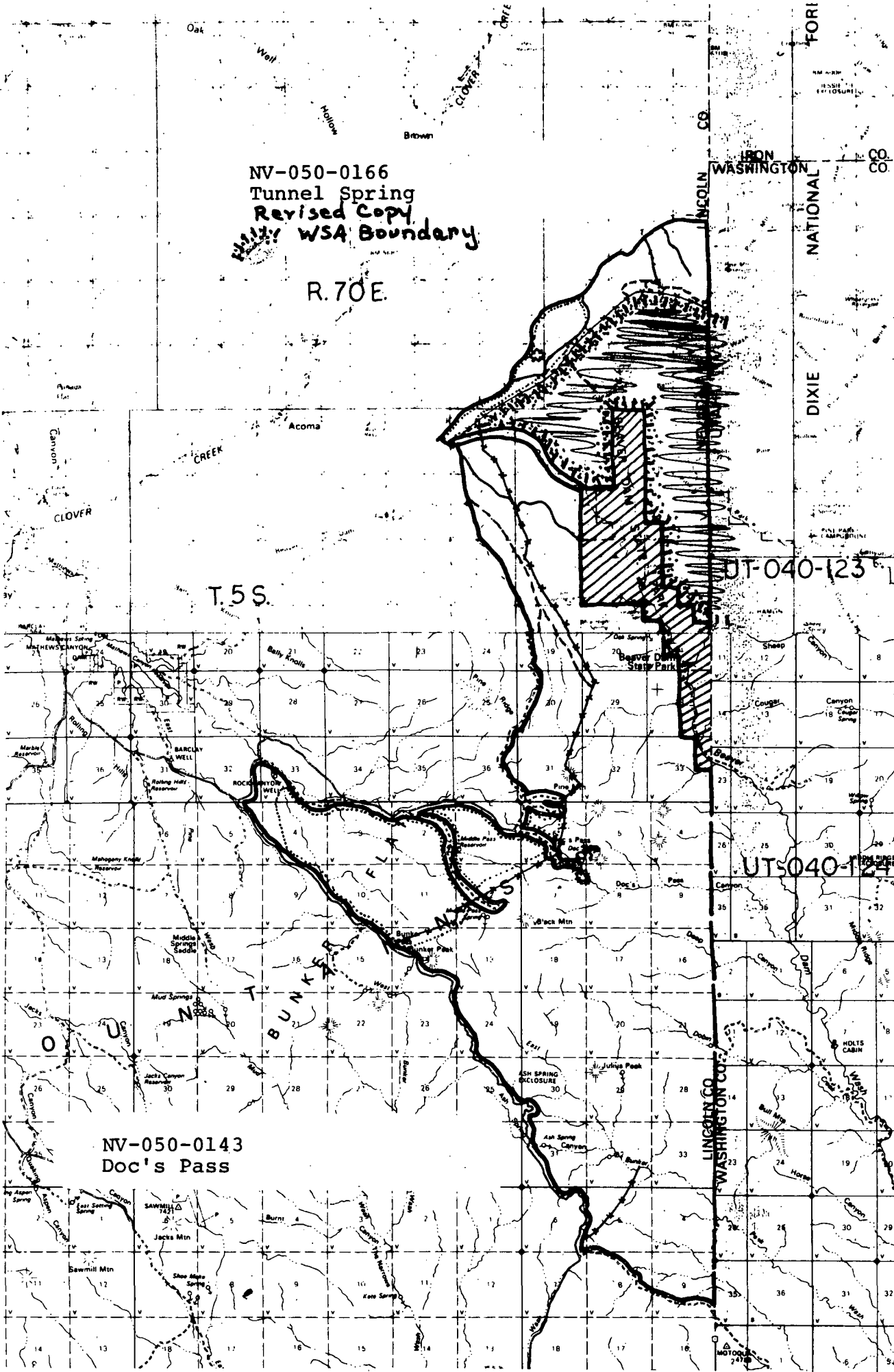
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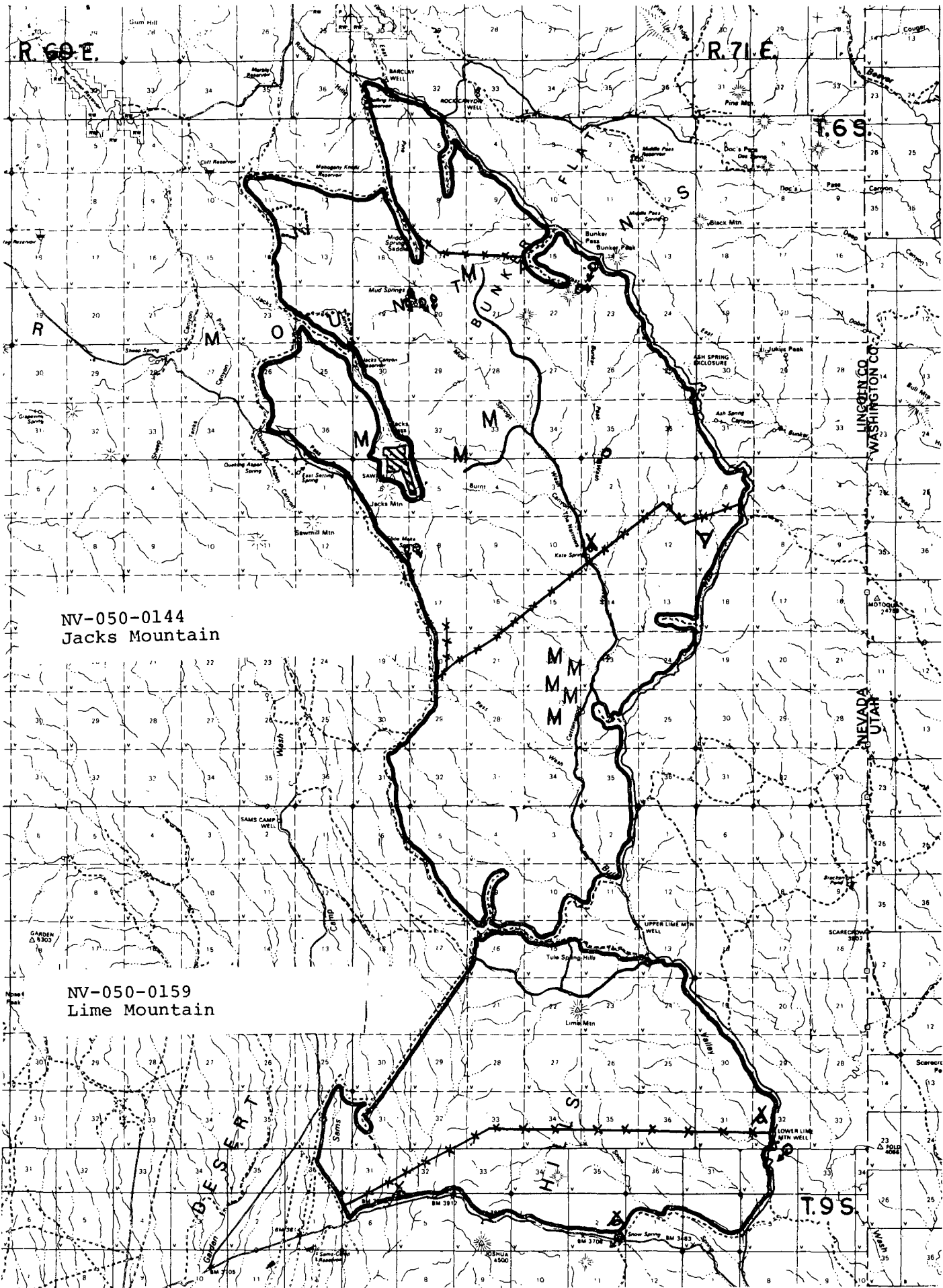
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UT-040-123

UT-040-124

NV-050-0143
Doc's Pass



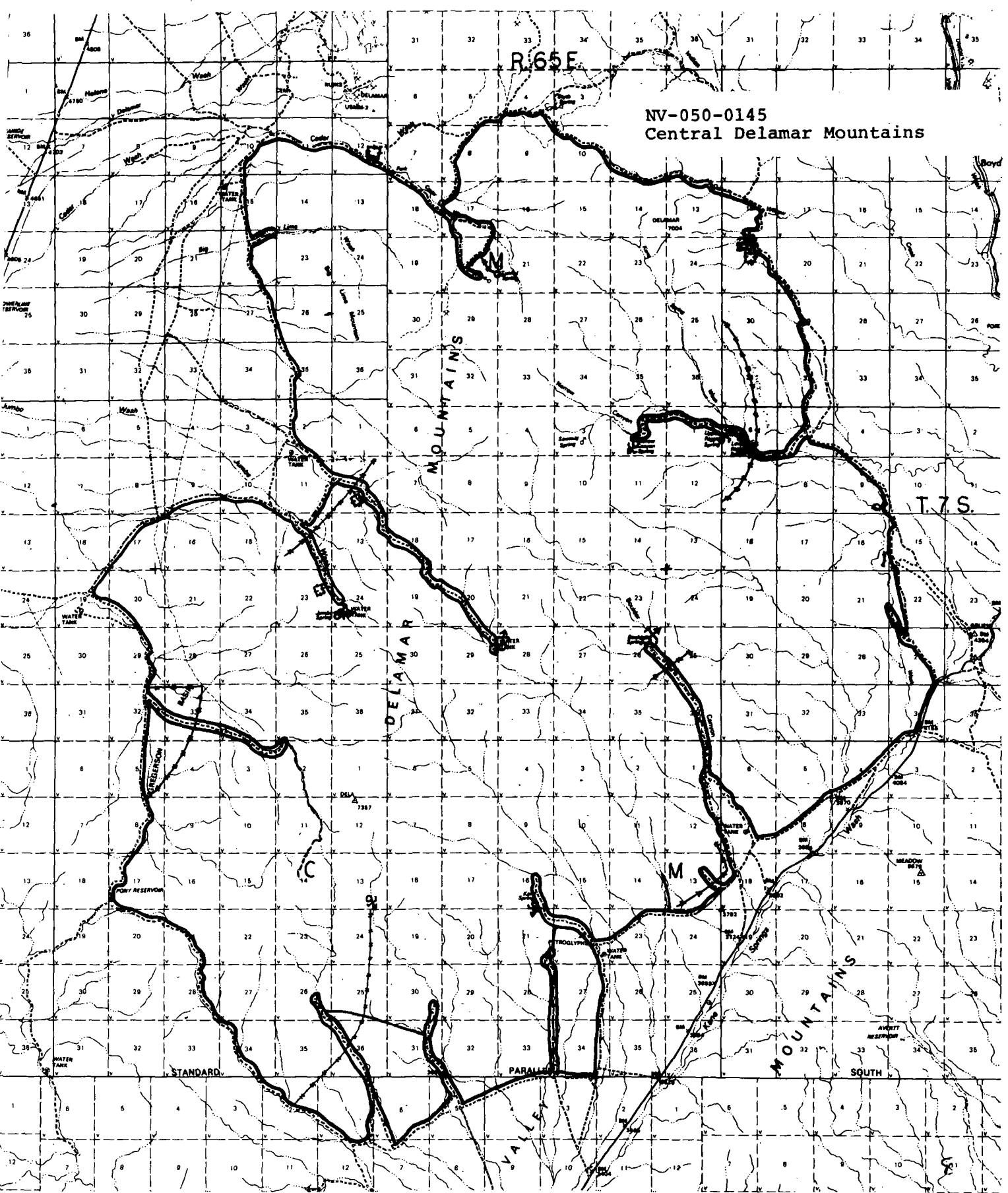


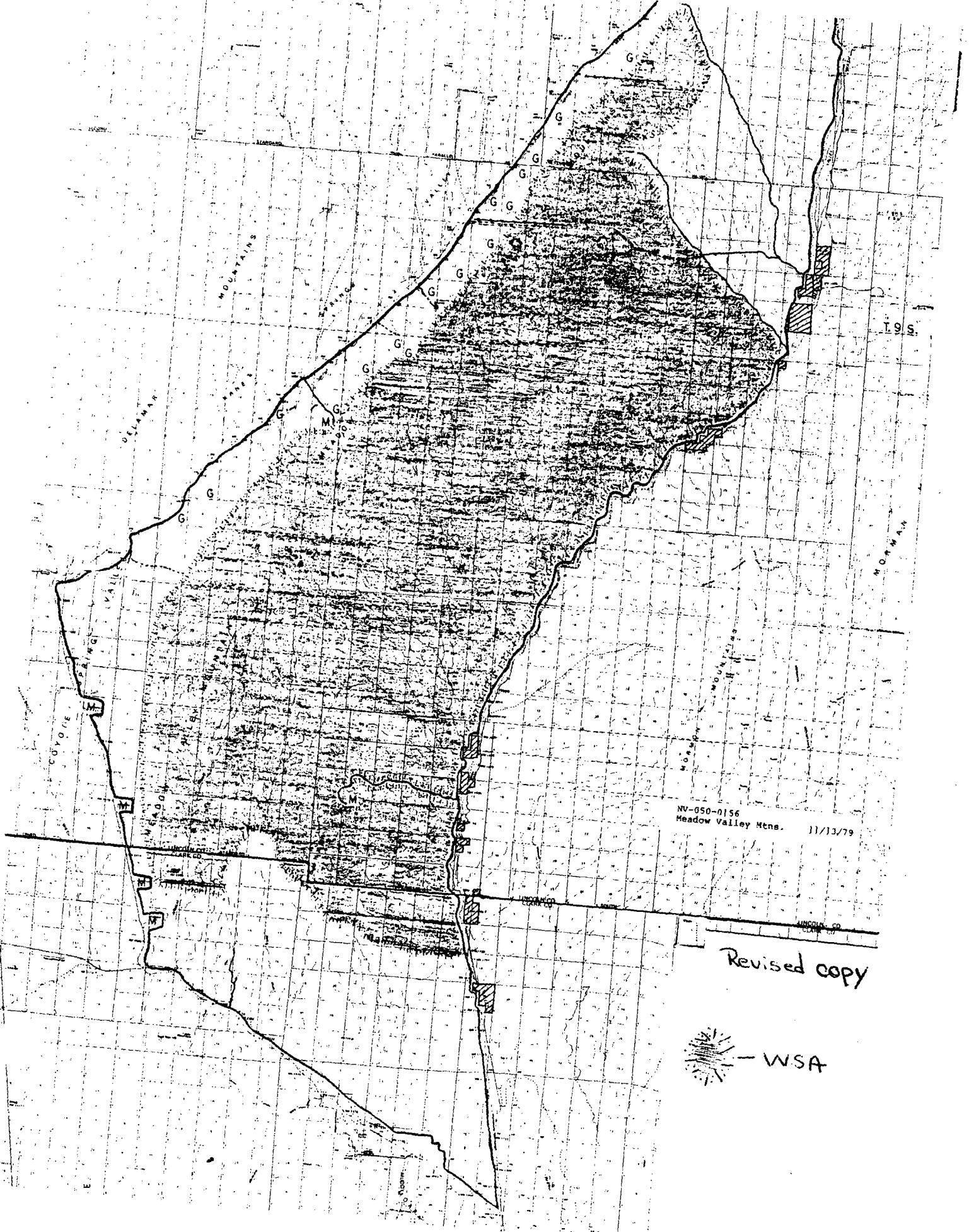
NV-050-0144
Jacks Mountain

NV-050-0159
Lime Mountain

R. 65 E

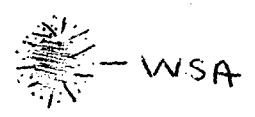
NV-050-0145
Central Delamar Mountains





NV-650-0156
Meadow Valley Mtns. 11/13/79

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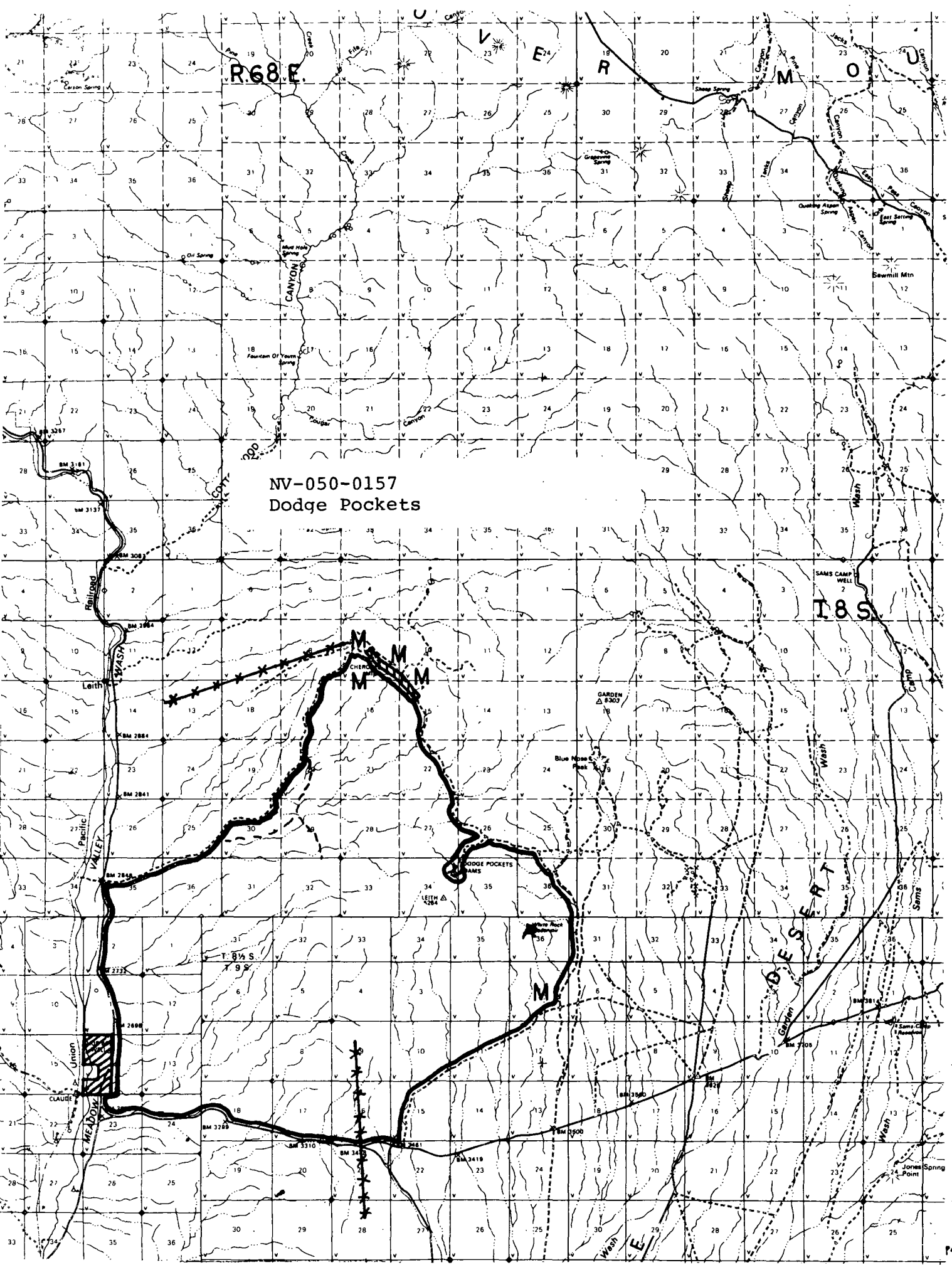


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NV-050-0157
Dodge Pockets

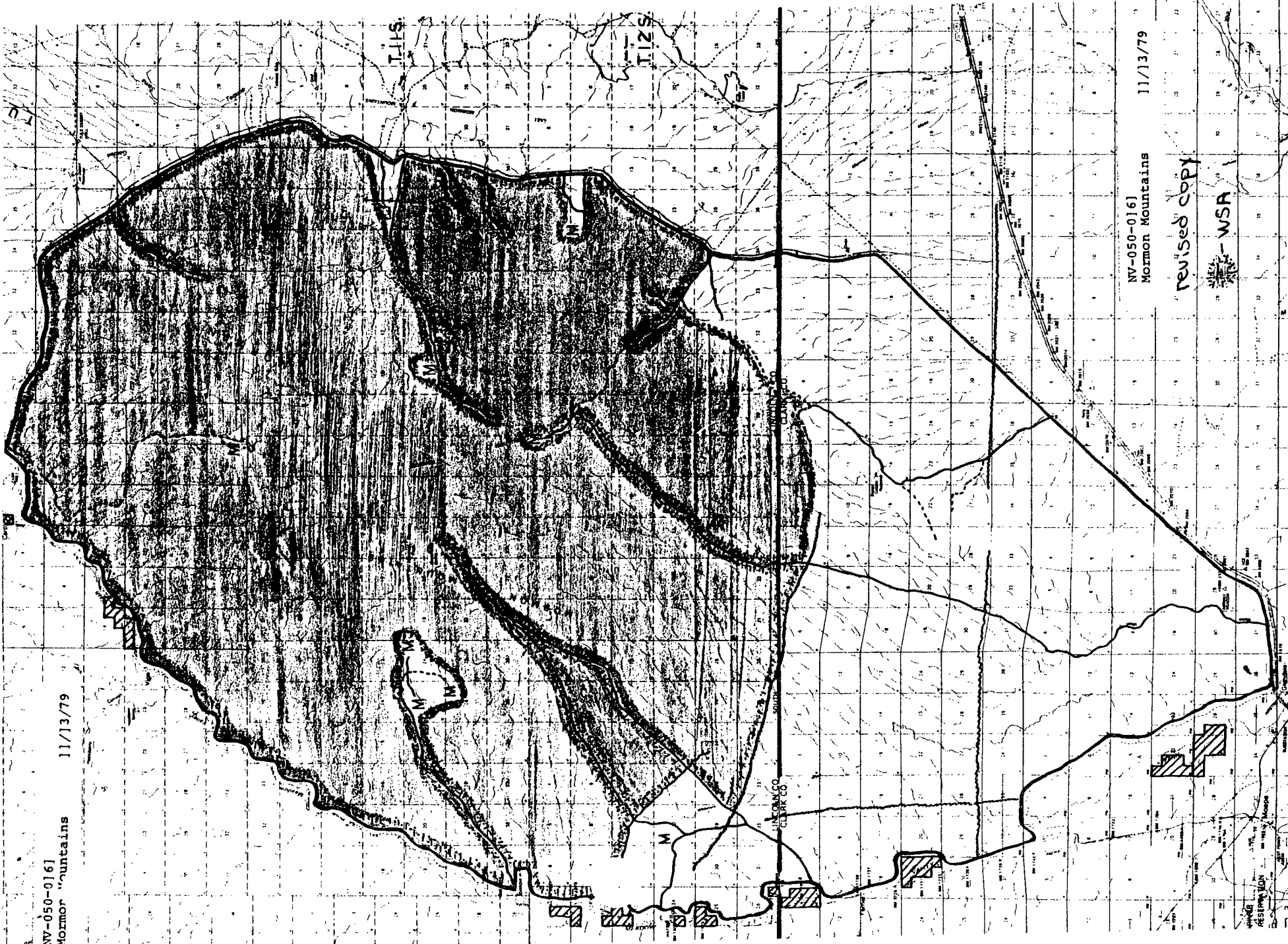
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D E S E R T



NV-050-0161
Mormon Mountains

11/13/79

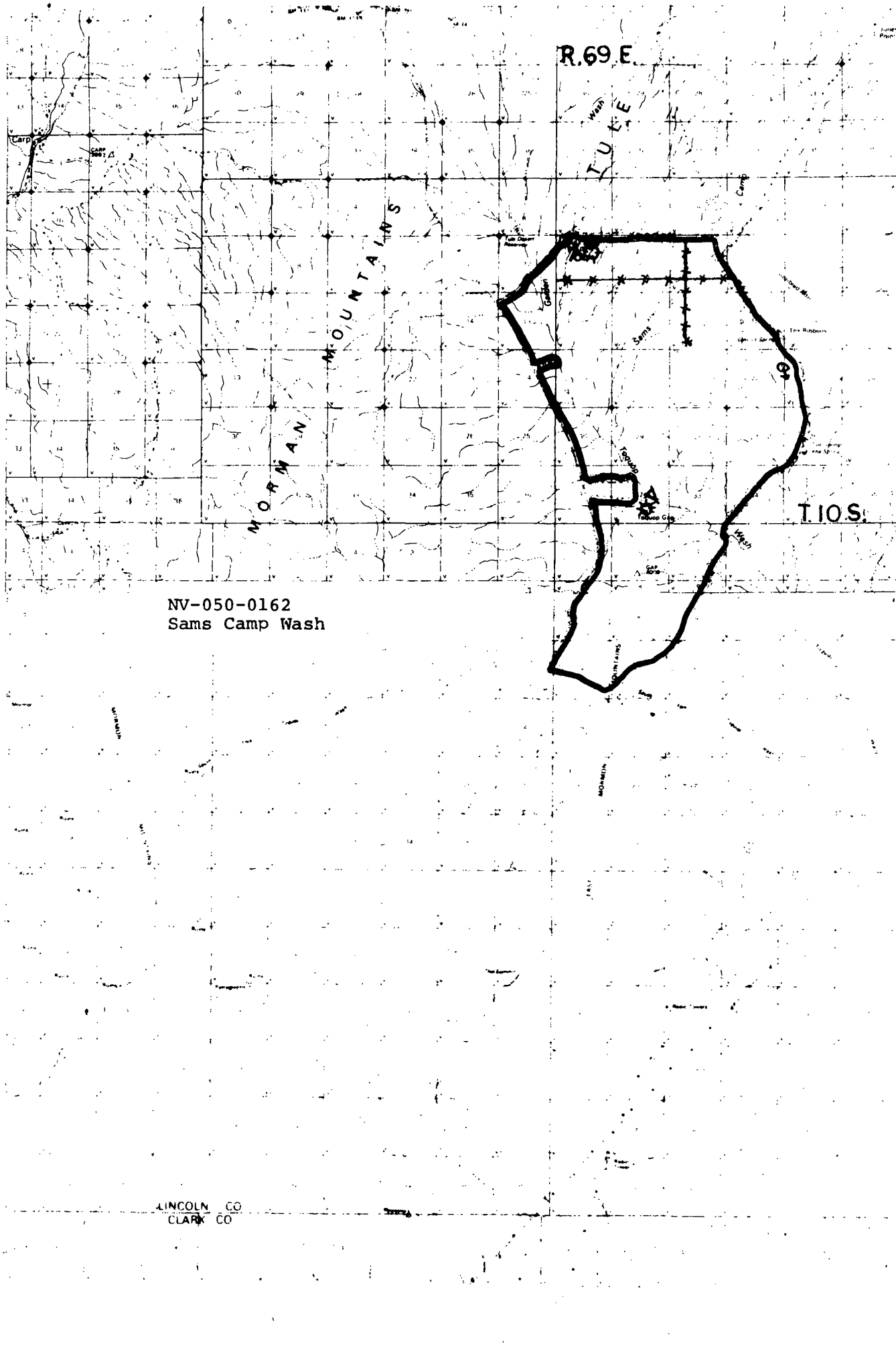


NV-050-0161
Mormon Mountains

11/13/79

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WSA



R. 69 E.

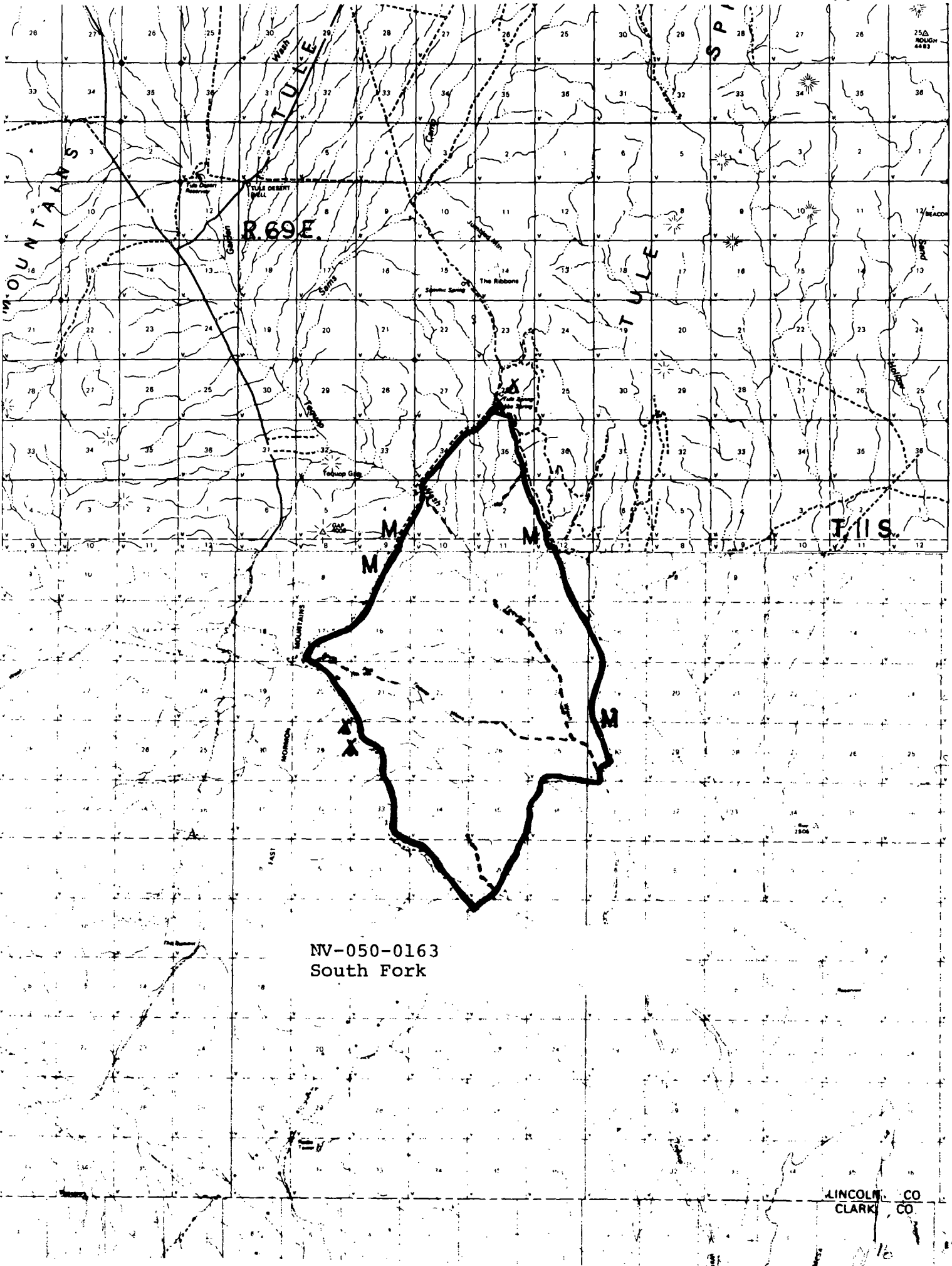
NORMAN MOUNTAINS

TULE

TIOS.

NV-050-0162
Sams Camp Wash

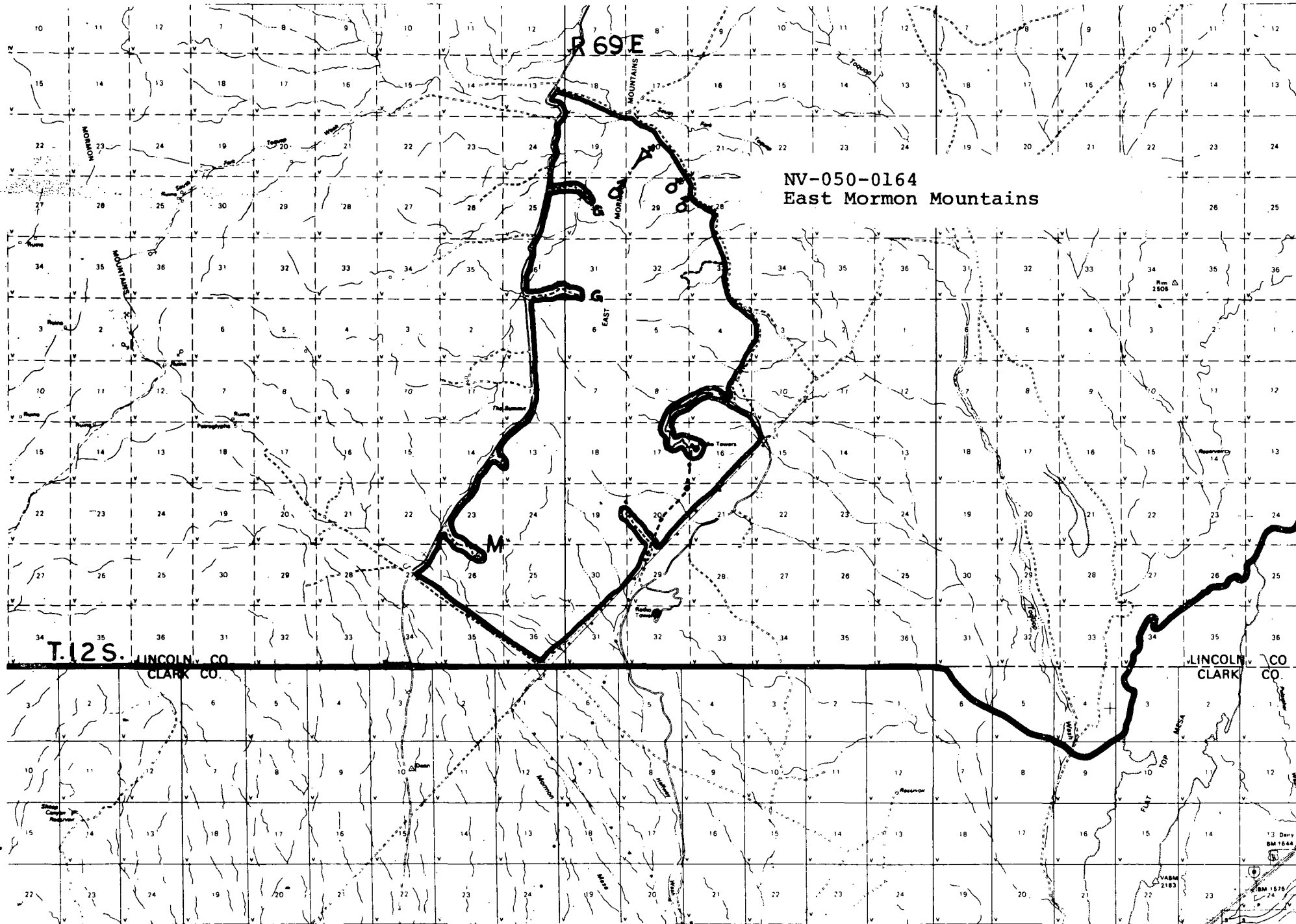
LINCOLN CO
CLARK CO



NV-050-0163
South Fork

LINCOLN CO
CLARK CO

16



R 69 E

NV-050-0164
East Mormon Mountains

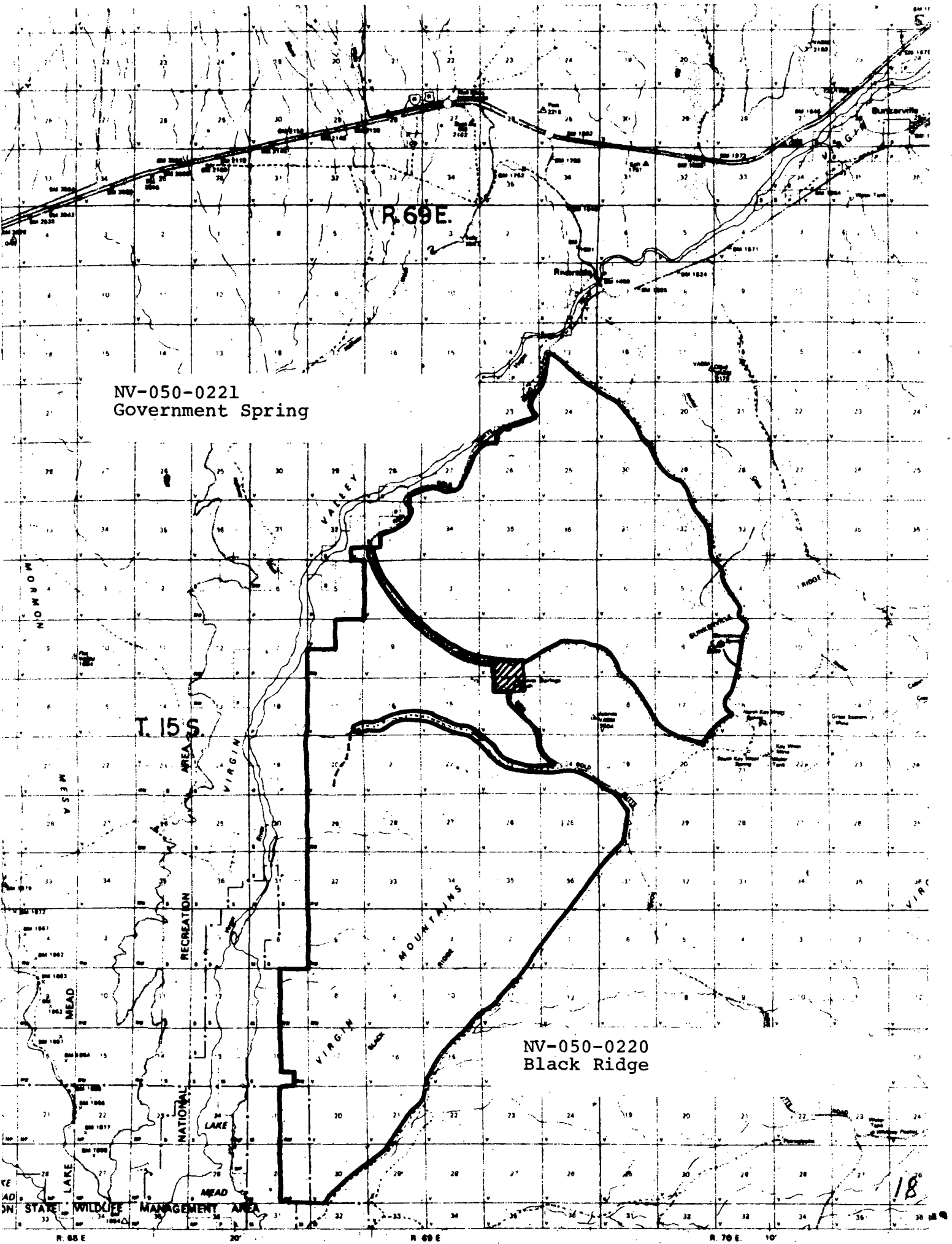
T. 12 S.
LINCOLN CO.
CLARK CO.

LINCOLN CO.
CLARK CO. CO.

BM 1644

BM 1576

BM 2103



NV-050-0221
Government Spring

NV-050-0220
Black Ridge

18

R. 68 E.

R. 69 E.

R. 70 E.

20'

10'

20'

NV-050-0223
Billy Goat Peak

NV-050-0233
Million Hills

R. 71.E.

T. 16S.

T. 17S.

T. 18S.

T. 19S.

CLARK CO
MOHAVE CO

CLARK COUNTY
MOHAVE COUNTY

CLARK COUNTY
MOHAVE COUNTY

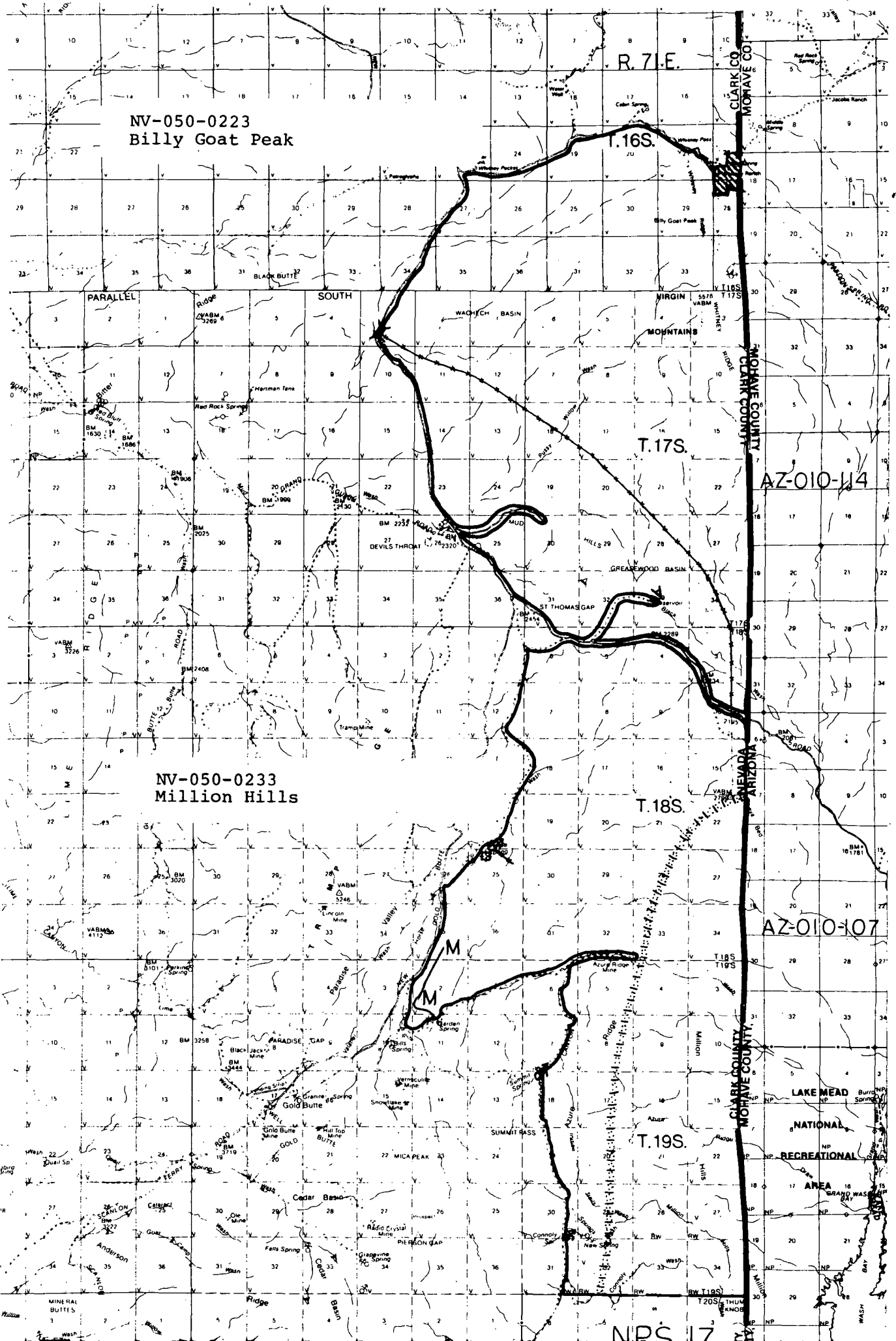
CLARK COUNTY
MOHAVE COUNTY

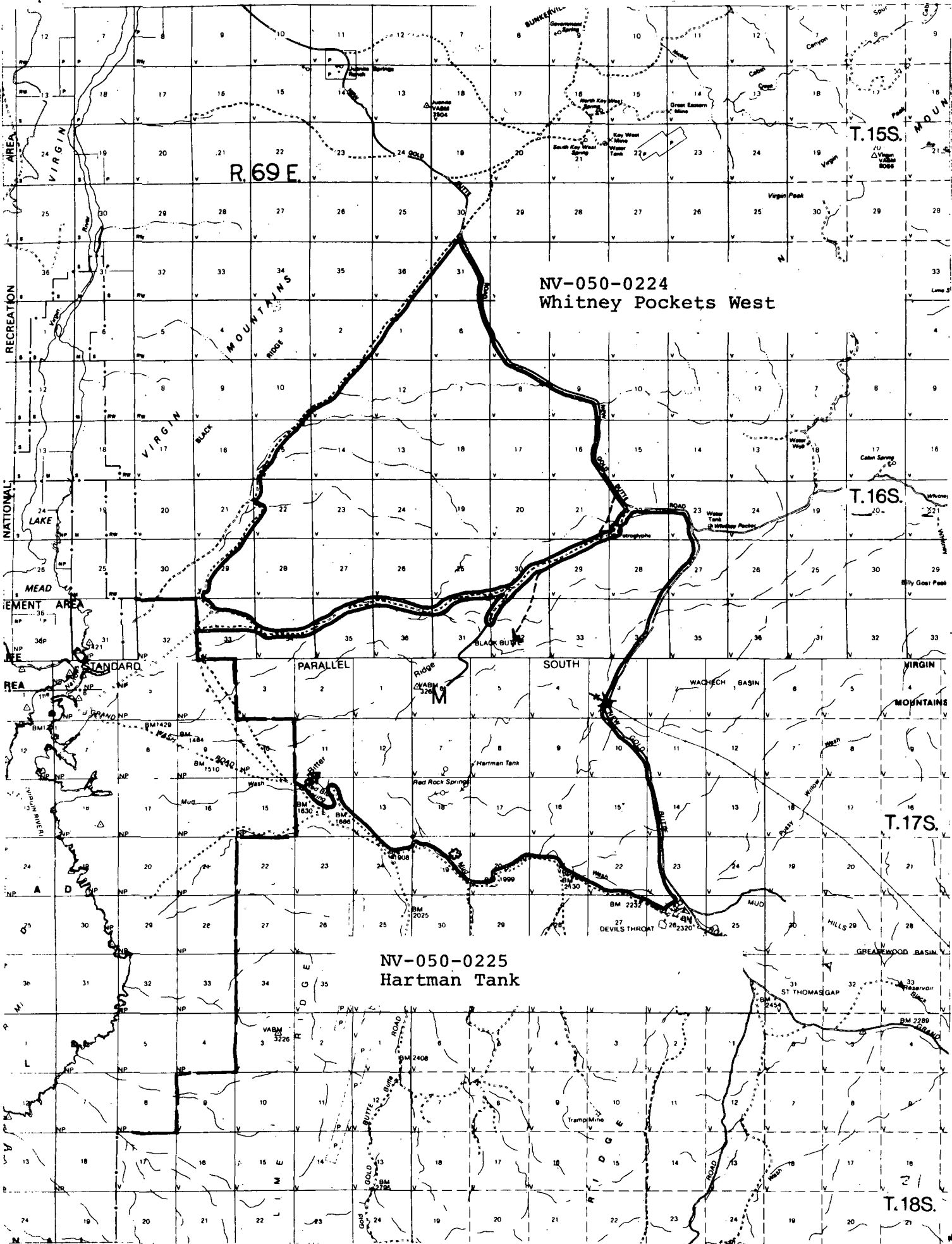
AZ-010-114

AZ-010-107

LAKE MEAD
NATIONAL
RECREATIONAL
AREA

NPS 17





NV-050-0224
Whitney Pockets West

NV-050-0225
Hartman Tank

T. 15S.

T. 16S.

T. 17S.

T. 18S.

R. 69 E.

AREA

RECREATION

NATIONAL

MENT AREA

REA

A

L

B

PARALLEL

SOUTH

VIRGIN

ROAD

2

BLACK BUTTE

HARTMAN TANK

DEVILS THROAT

TRAMP MINE

2

WACHUCK BASIN

MUD

ST. THOMAS GAP

RESERVOIR

2

VIRGIN

HILLS

GREENWOOD BASIN

RESERVOIR

2

WACHUCK BASIN

MUD

ST. THOMAS GAP

RESERVOIR

2

VIRGIN

HILLS

GREENWOOD BASIN

RESERVOIR

2

WACHUCK BASIN

MUD

ST. THOMAS GAP

RESERVOIR

2

VIRGIN

HILLS

GREENWOOD BASIN

RESERVOIR

2

WACHUCK BASIN

MUD

ST. THOMAS GAP

RESERVOIR

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VIRGIN

HILLS

GREENWOOD BASIN

RESERVOIR

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WACHUCK BASIN

MUD

ST. THOMAS GAP

RESERVOIR

2

VIRGIN

HILLS

GREENWOOD BASIN

RESERVOIR

2

WACHUCK BASIN

MUD

ST. THOMAS GAP

RESERVOIR

2

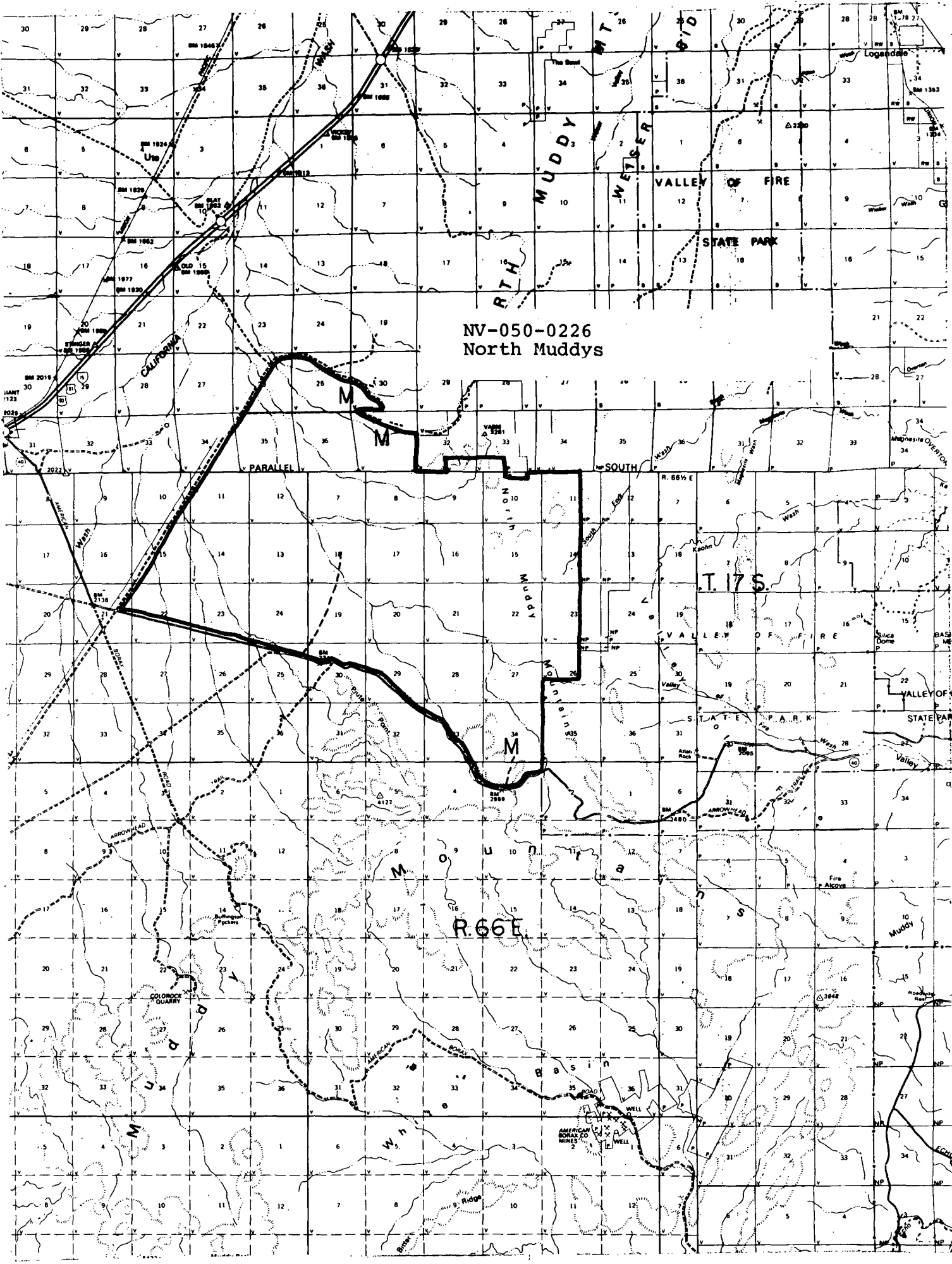
VIRGIN

HILLS

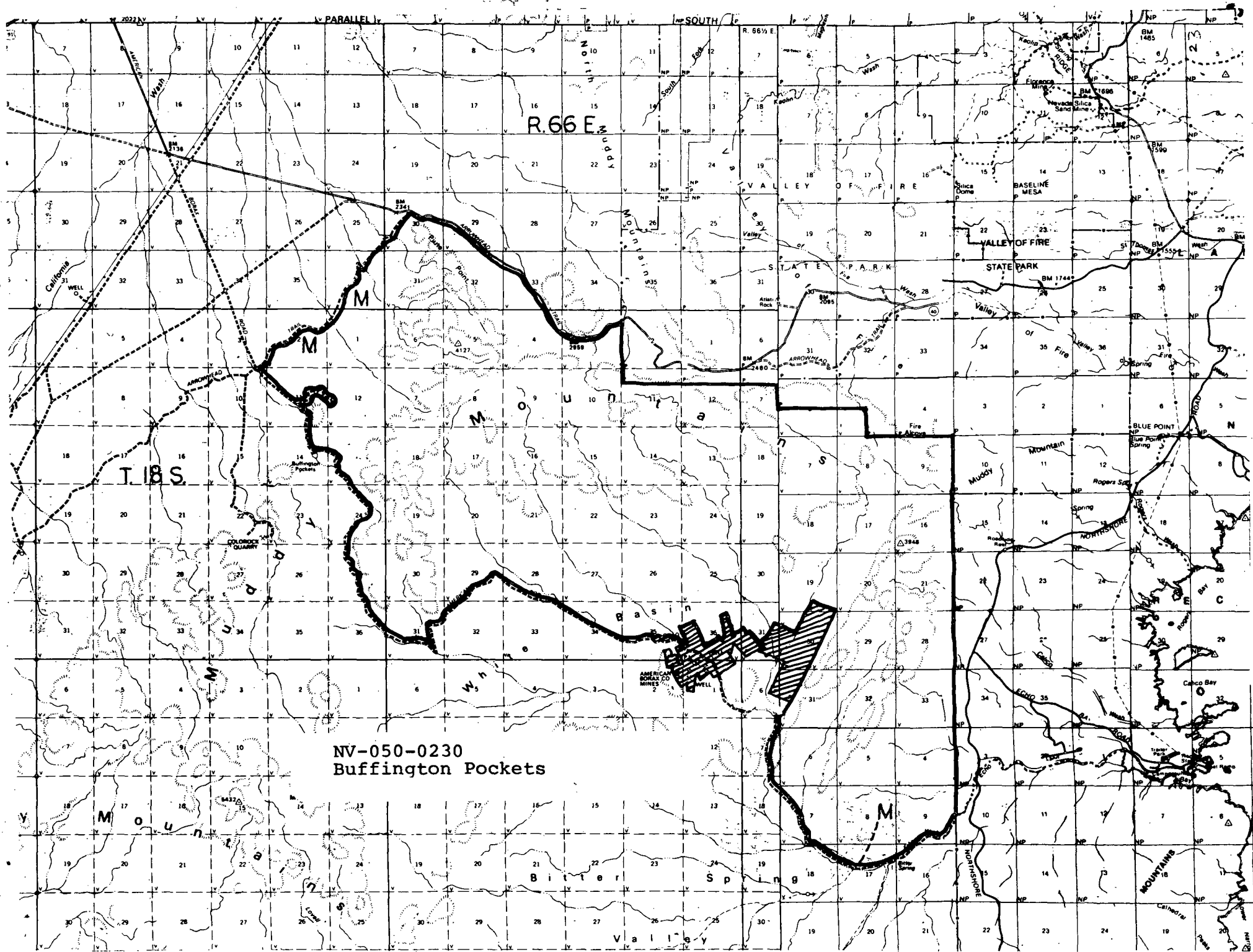
GREENWOOD BASIN

RESERVOIR

2



NV-050-0226
North Muddys



NV-050-0230
Buffington Pockets

NV-050-0231
Lime Canyon

NV-050-0232
Tramp Ridge

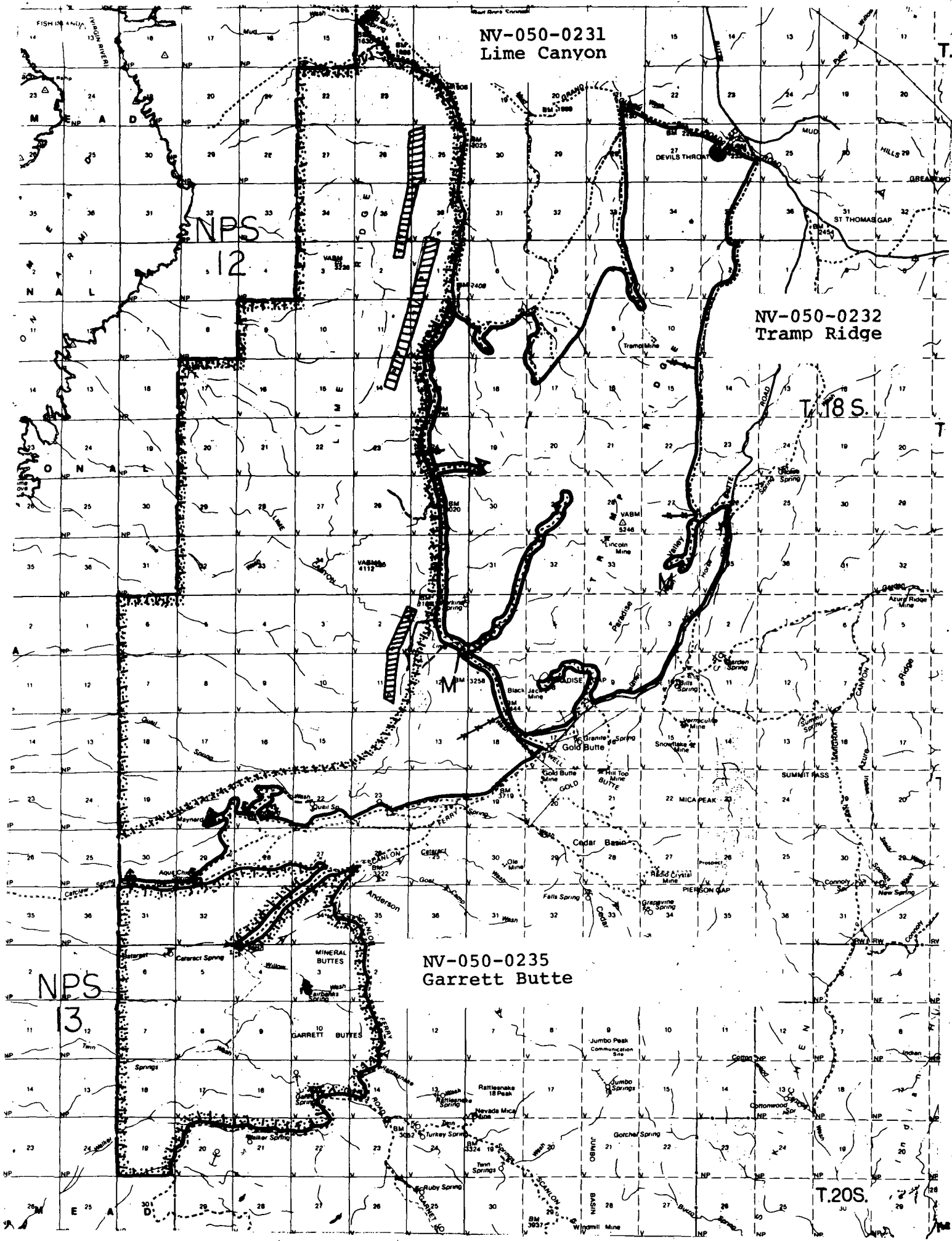
NV-050-0235
Garrett Butte

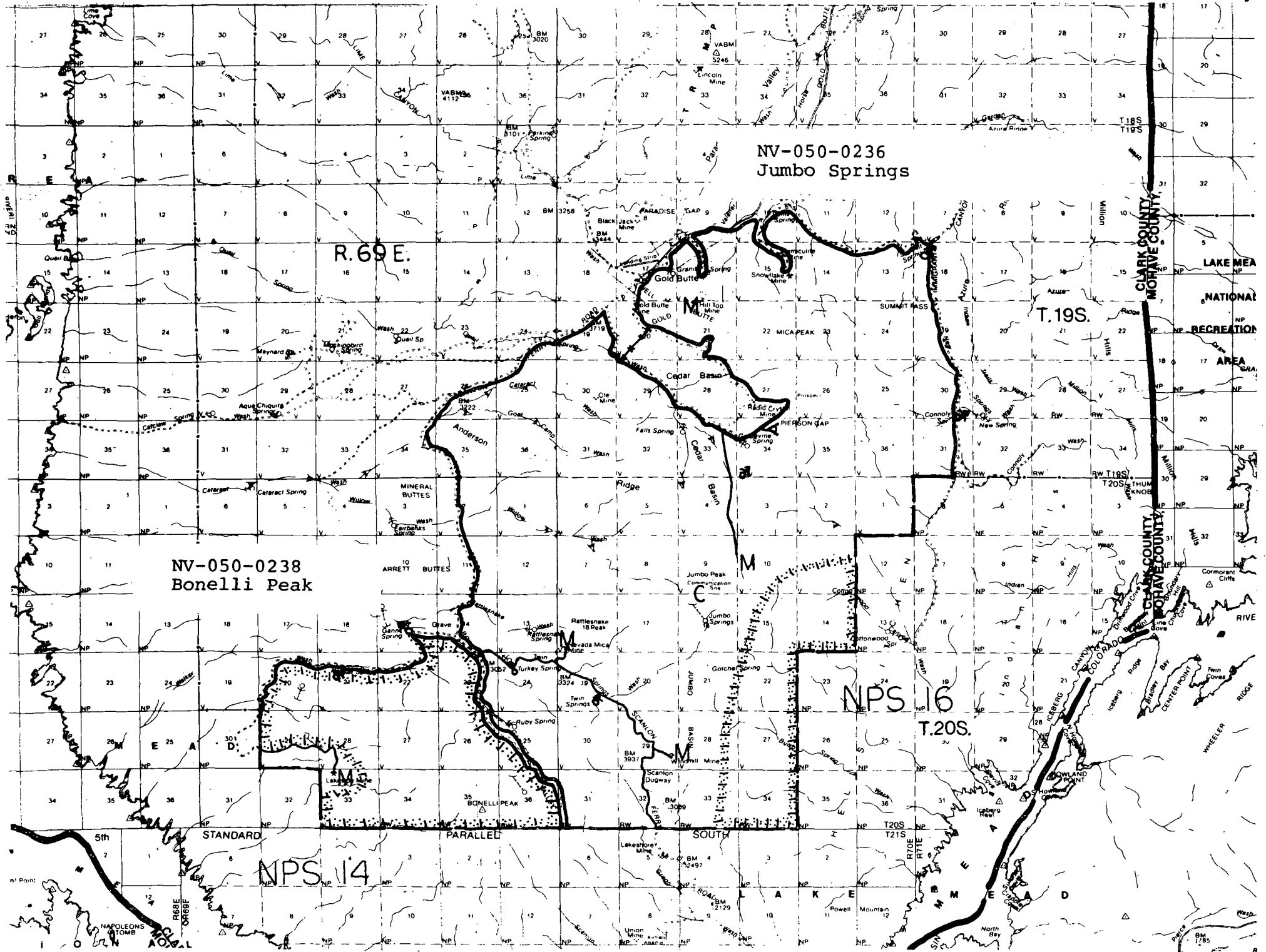
NPS
12

T.18 S.

NPS
13

T.20 S.





NV-050-0236
Jumbo Springs

NV-050-0238
Bonelli Peak

NPS 16
T. 20 S.

NPS 14

CLARK COUNTY
MOHAVE COUNTY

LAKE MEAD
NATIONAL
RECREATION
AREA

NAPOLEONS
TOMB

BM 1785

R. 59 E

20'

R. 60 E SHEEP RANGE

R. 61 E

R. 60 E.

DESERT

NATIONAL

GAMING

L A S

T 18 S

V E G A S

NV-050-0411
Quail Springs

NORTH LAS

NORTH LAS VEGAS AIRPORT

AREA

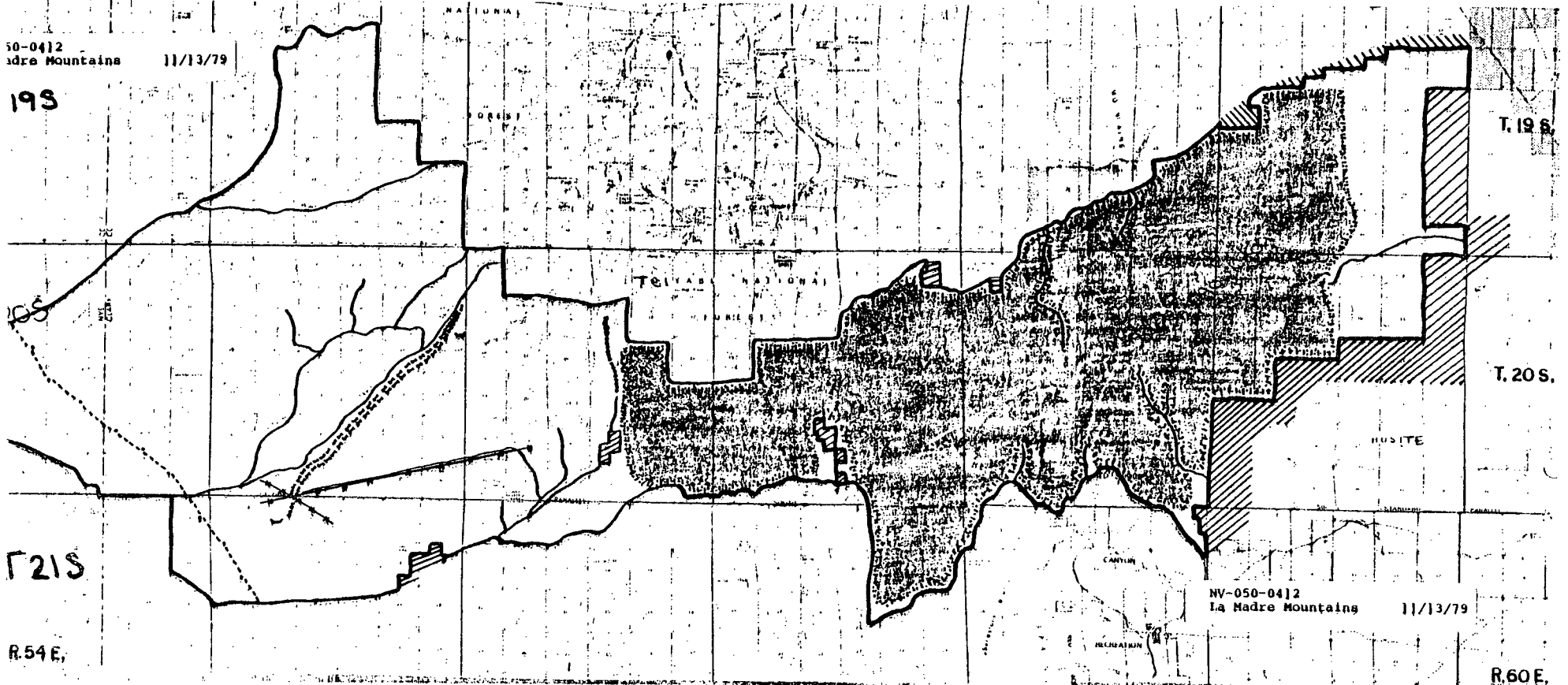
AREA

AREA

AREA

50-0412
La Madre Mountains 11/13/79

19S



R. 21 S.

R. 54 E.

NV-050-0412
La Madre Mountains 11/13/79

T. 19 S.

T. 20 S.

R. 60 E.

Revised copy
WSA

R. 60E.

R. 62E.

NV-050-0425
North McCullough Mtns. 11/13/79

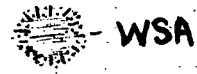
T. 23S.

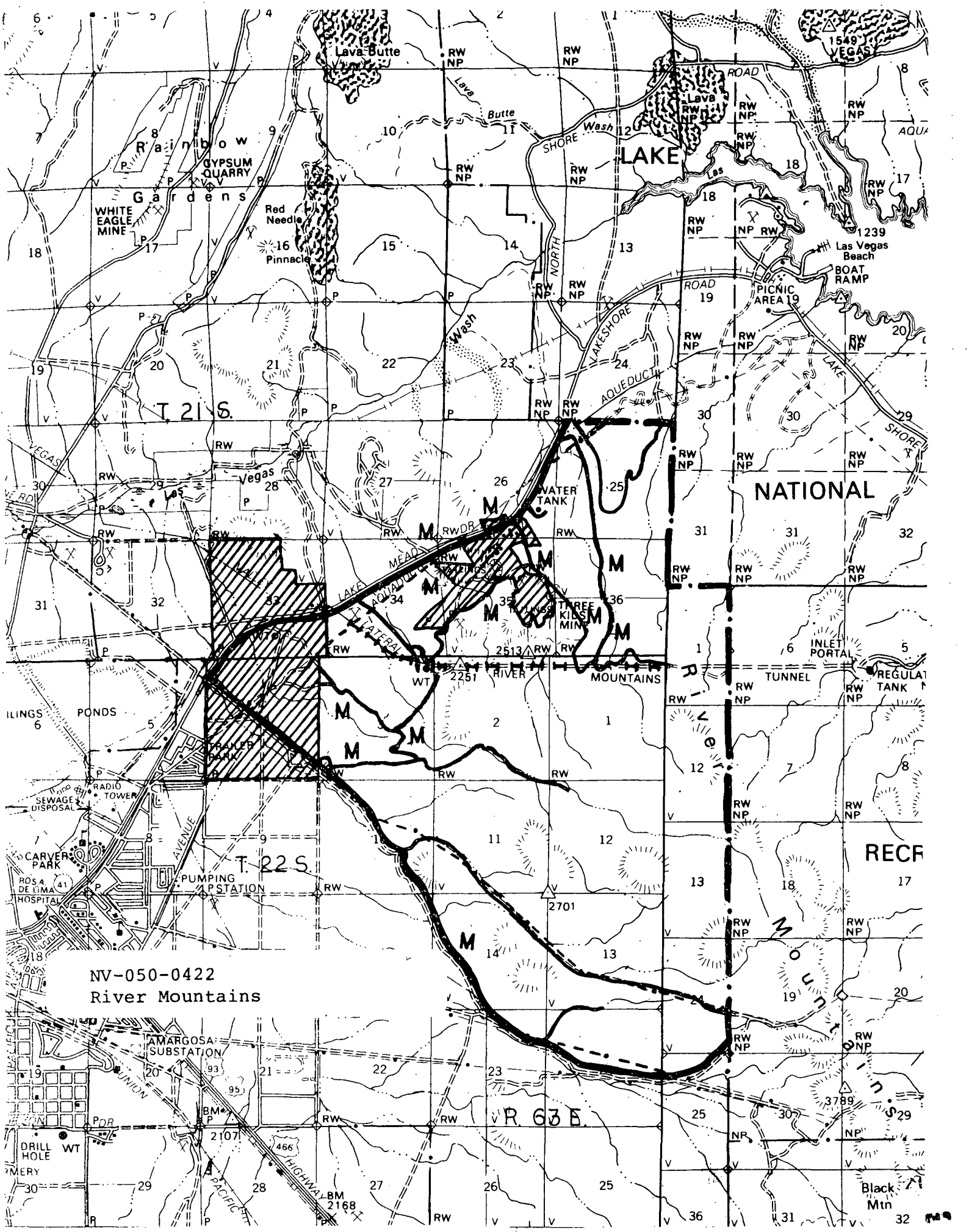
T. 24S.



NV-050-0425
North McCullough Mtns. 11/13/79

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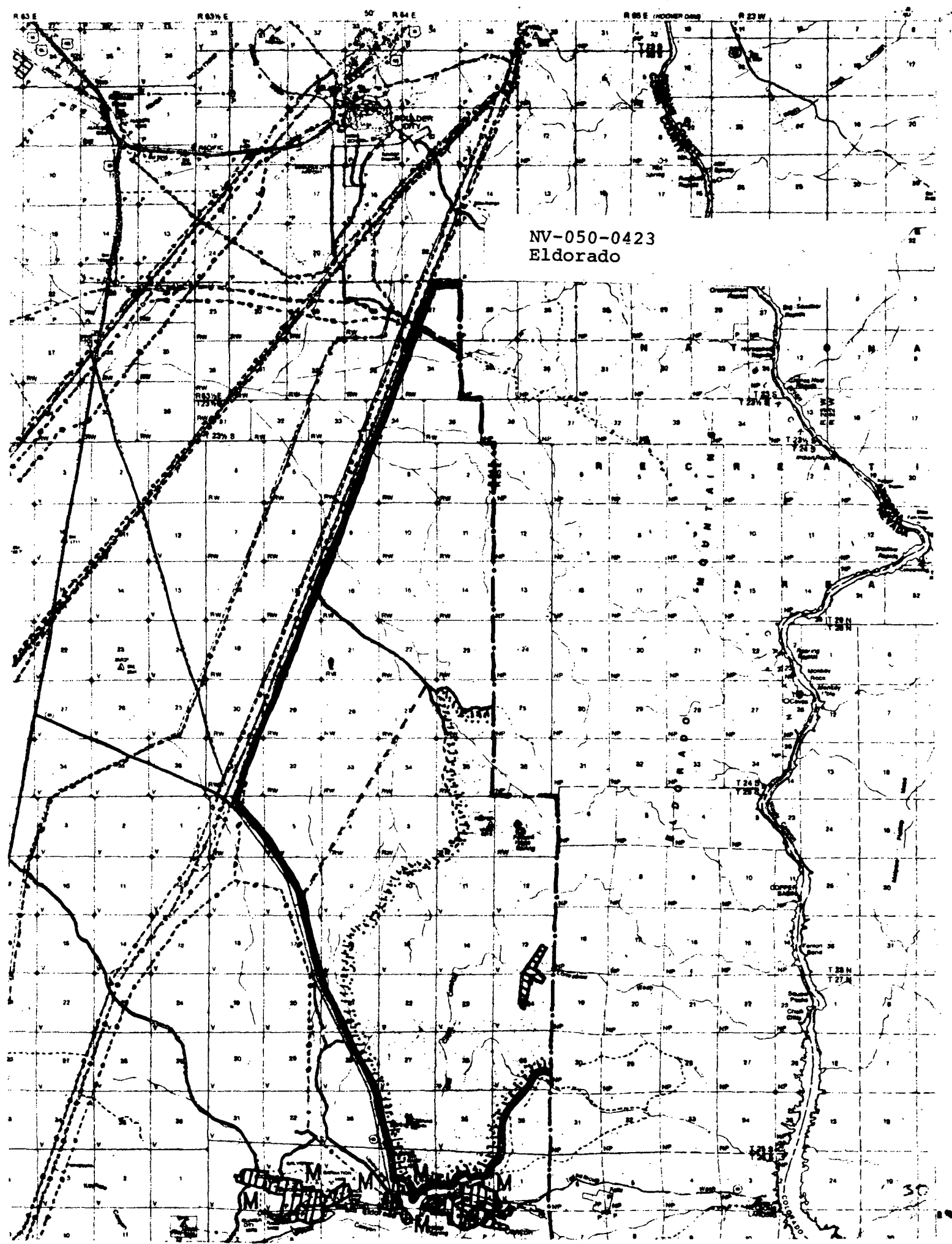
NV-050-0422
River Mountains

VR 63 E

RECF

Black Mtn

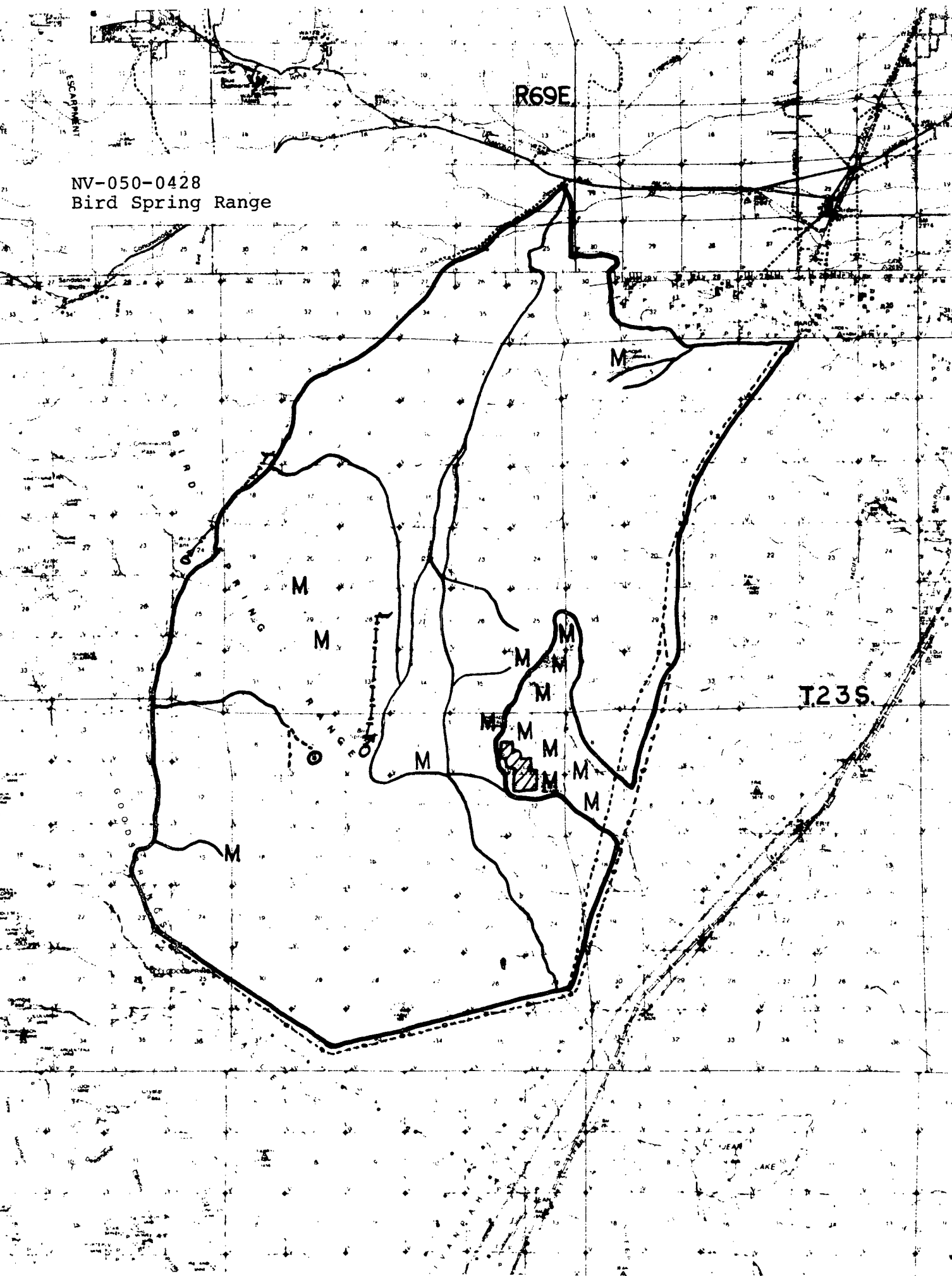
NV-050-0423
Eldorado



NV-050-0428
Bird Spring Range

R69E

T23S





R63E

R64E

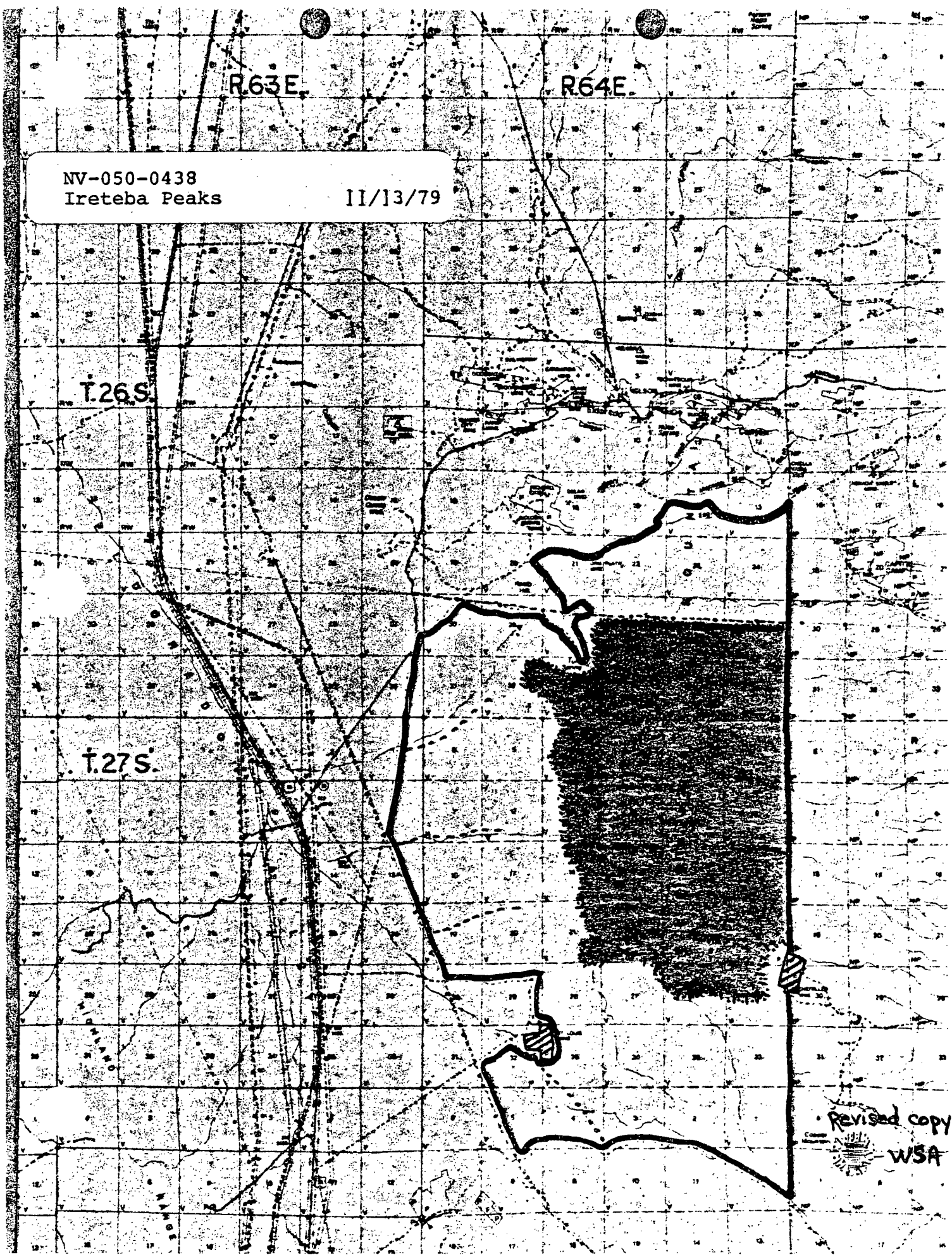
NV-050-0438
Ireteba Peaks

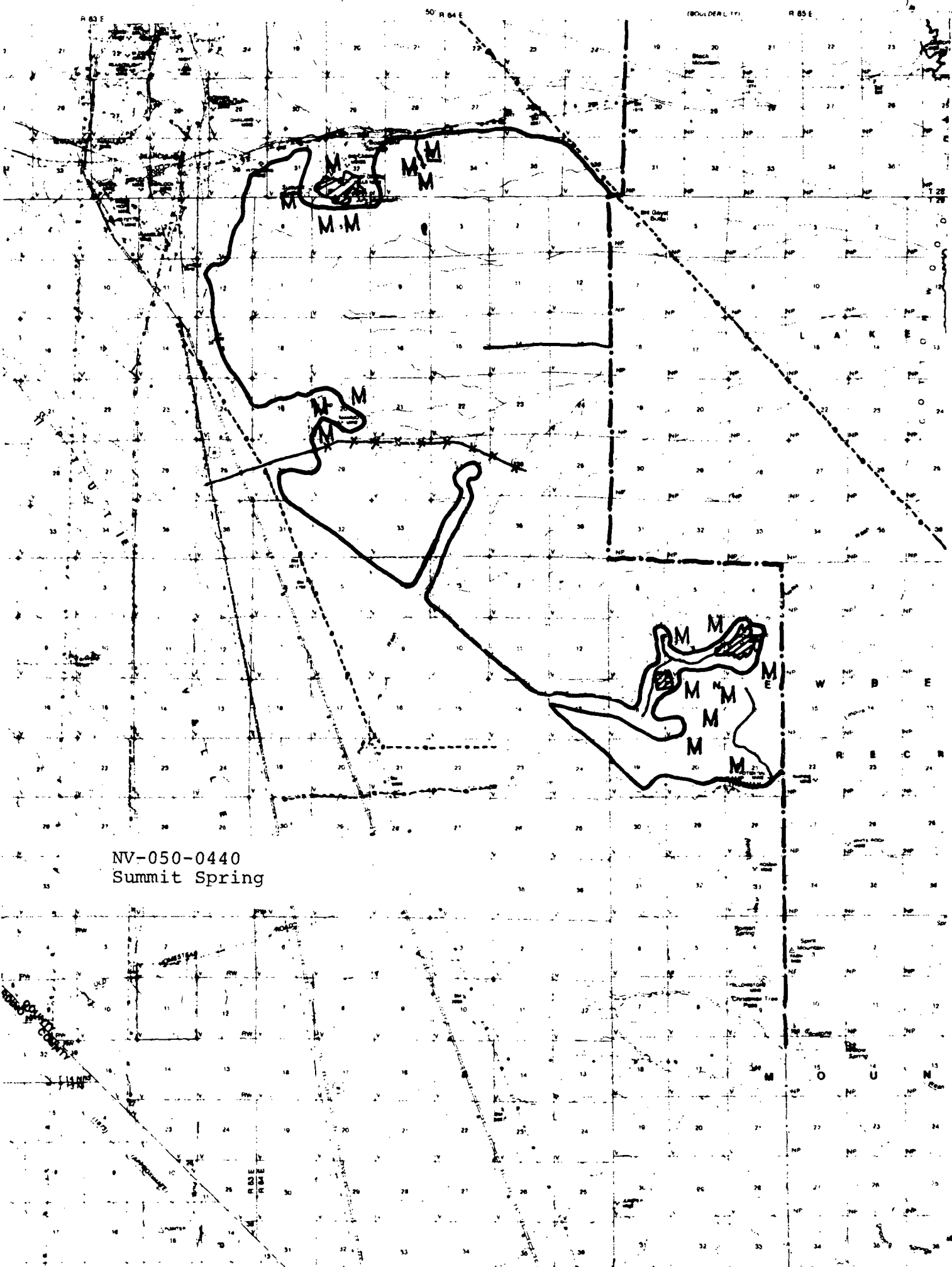
11/13/79

T.26S

T.27S

Revised copy
WSA





NV-050-0440
Summit Spring

BOULDER COUNTY

ROSE
RME

(BOULDER CO.)

R 03 E

50' R 04 E

R 05 E

W B E
R E C R

O S

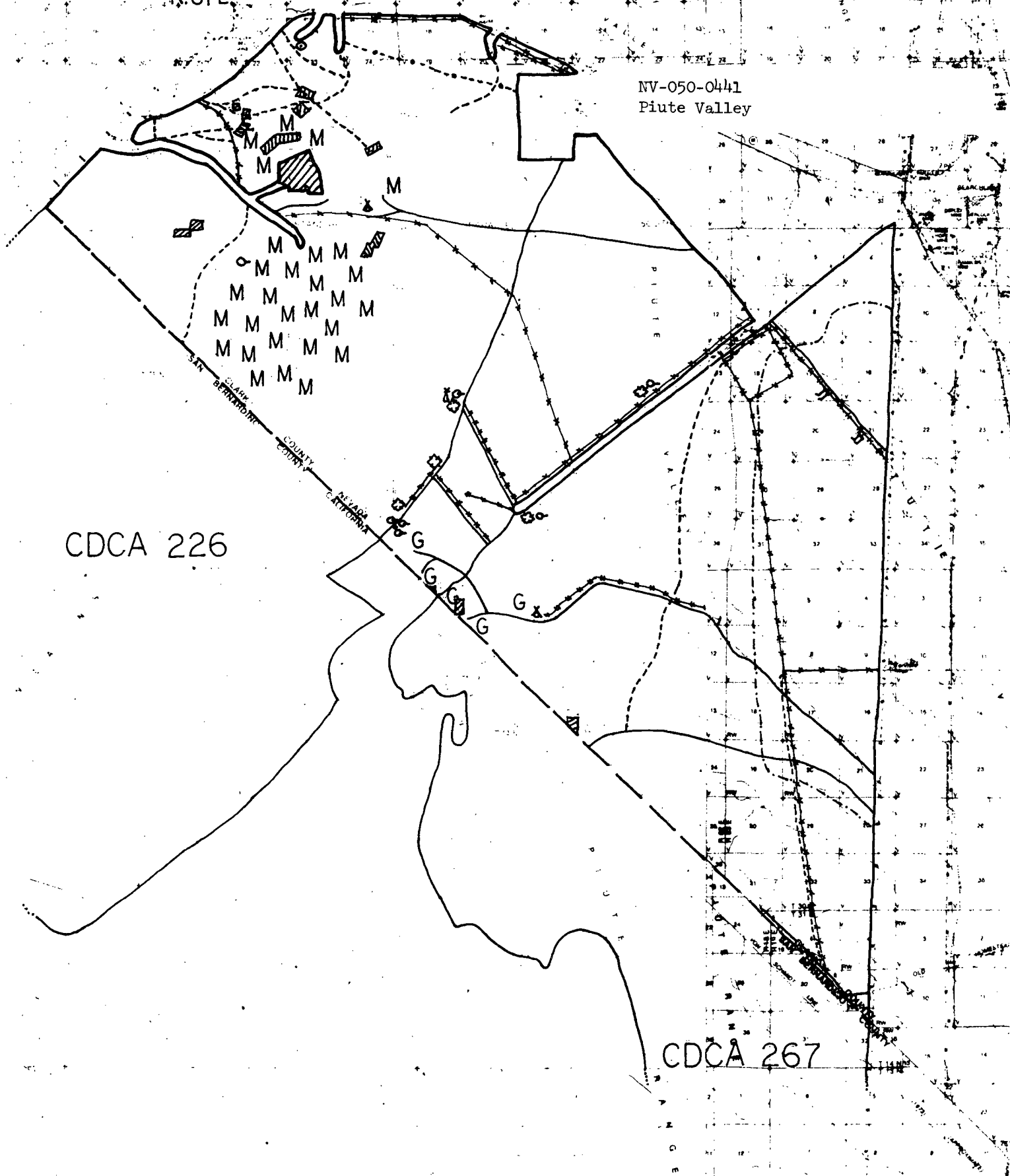
F C N

R. 61 E

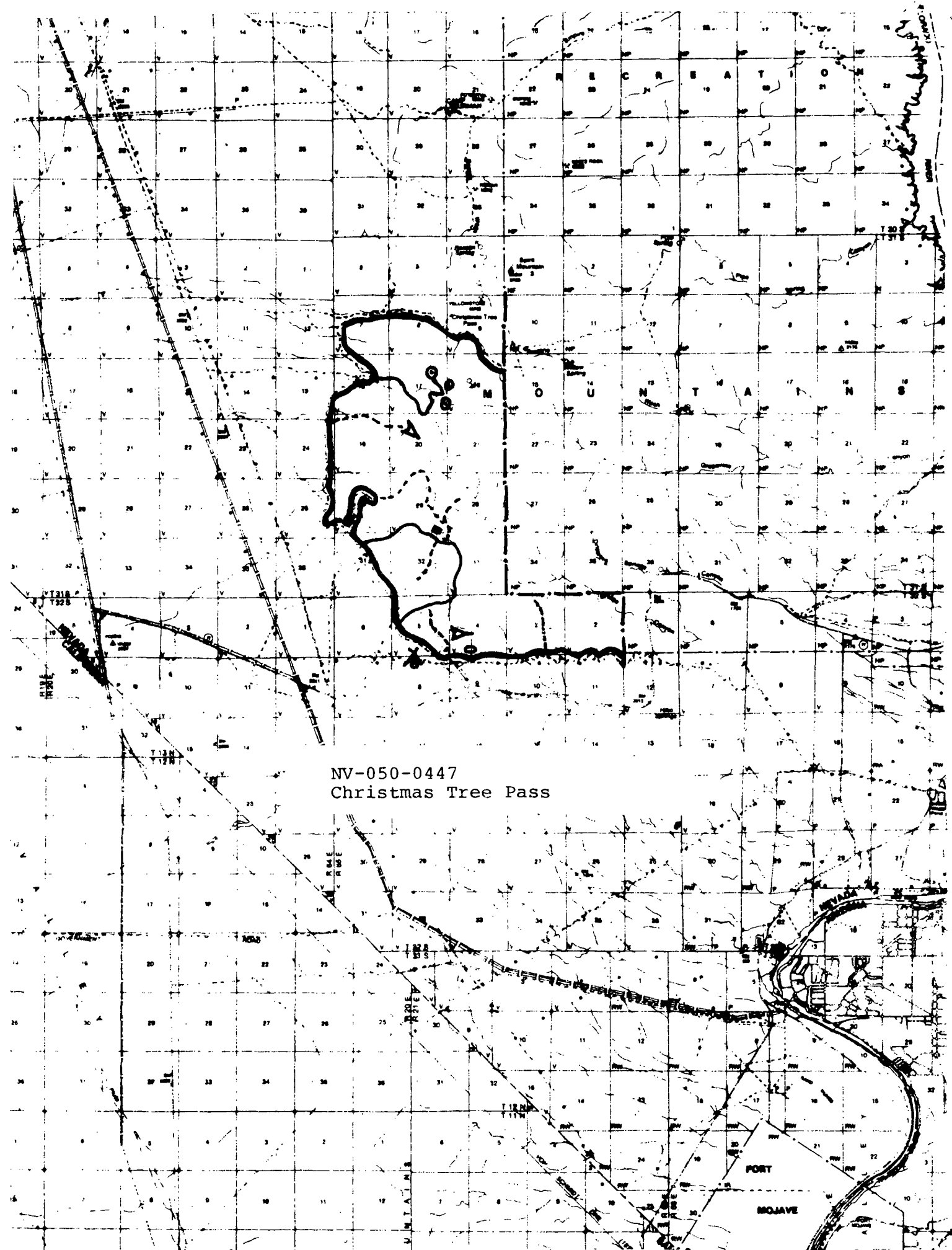
NV-050-0441
Piute Valley

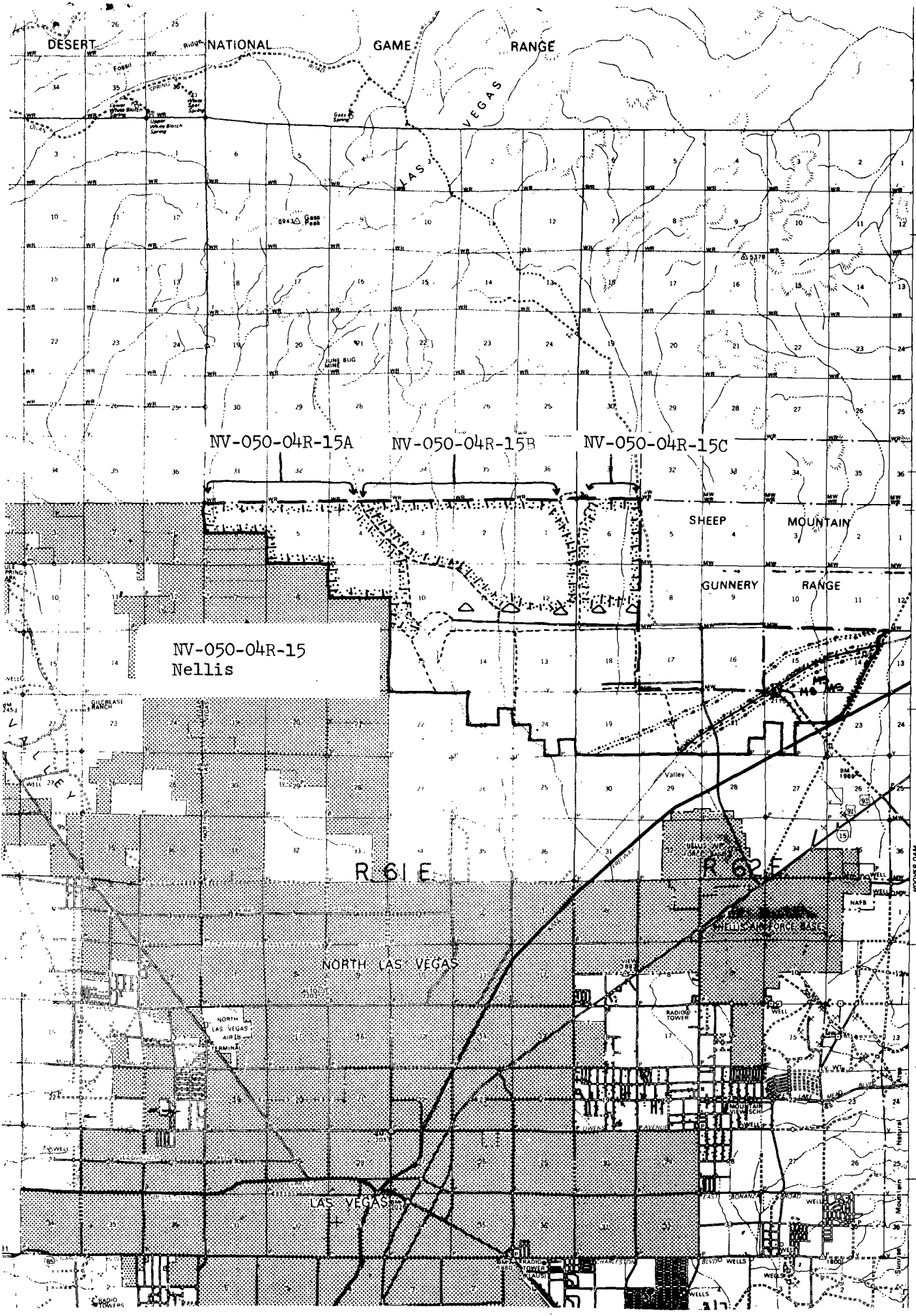
CDCA 226

CDCA 267



NV-050-0447
Christmas Tree Pass





DESERT NATIONAL GAME RANGE

LAS VEGAS

NV-050-04R-15A NV-050-04R-15B NV-050-04R-15C

NV-050-04R-15
Nellis

R 61 E

R 62 E

NORTH LAS VEGAS

LAS VEGAS

NELLIS AIR FORCE BASE

T. 18 S.

T. 19 S.

T. 20 S.

T. 20 S.

10'



NEVADA BLM Wilderness Bulletin

July 25, 1979

BLM CONDUCTS SPECIAL PROJECT INVENTORY ON "OVERTHRUST BELT"

Due to a national emphasis on energy exploration on the public lands, the Bureau of Land Management has conducted a special project wilderness inventory on 2.1 million acres of public lands in southern Nevada known as the "Overthrust Belt."

The Belt, which is considered to have high oil and gas potential, stretches from Canada to the Gulf of California, crossing portions of southeast Nevada. The area involved covers 46 wilderness units originally scheduled for intensive inventory. Based on the accelerated inventory, the Bureau is recommending that 13 units covering 450,000 acres be designated wilderness study areas and 33 units covering 1.65 million acres, be released from further wilderness consideration because they lack wilderness characteristics. Of the 13 units recommended as wilderness study areas, 10 are described by the Bureau's findings as lacking opportunities for outstanding solitude by themselves, but they border wilderness study areas already designated by other Federal agencies, namely the Fish and Wildlife Service (Desert National Wildlife Range) and the Park Service (Lake Mead National Recreation Area).

Details on the 46 units and the Bureau's study findings are contained in the attached summaries. Public comments on the Bureau's recommendations will be accepted until Oct. 23. Open houses to acquaint the public with the Bureau's findings are planned for the week of July 29 in Las Vegas, Moapa, and Caliente. Field trips are planned for Aug. 11, 18, and 25. A public forum to gather comments on the proposals will be conducted in mid-October. Details on these public involvement opportunities will be available in the near future and will be handled by the BLM's Las Vegas Office (702) 385-6403.

DRAFT INTENSIVE WILDERNESS INVENTORY
NARRATIVE SUMMARY

Unit No: NV-050-0118

Unit Name: Big Hogback

1. Area Description: The unit is located southeast of Panaca, and contains 27,279 acres of public land.
2. Wilderness Characteristics:
 - A. Size - The unit contains 27,279 acres of public land.
 - B. Naturalness - The unit is cut in half by a road running from the northwest to the southeast. There are numerous roads and ways intruding into the unit leading to mining claims and stock developments, as well as for hunting access routes. The unit is in a generally unnatural condition.
 - C. Outstanding Opportunities -
 1. Solitude: The vegetation is shrubs and grasses with scattered pinyon/juniper. The topography consists of rolling hills and ridges, with one major wash, White Wash, in the northeast corner of the unit. The vegetative and topographic screening are insufficient to avoid the sight and sound of other visitors to the area and to allow an outstanding opportunity for solitude.
 2. Primitive and Unconfined Recreation: Opportunities for horseback riding, hiking, camping, hunting, and nature study are available, but these opportunities were not found to be outstanding.
 - D. Supplemental Values: Outcrops of soft bedrock weathered into unusual shapes are located along the southern unit boundary.
3. Recommendation: Area does not qualify for wilderness study.
4. Rationale for Recommendation: The imprint of man's activity is substantially noticeable throughout this unit, and the opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation were not determined to be outstanding.

Unit No: NV-050-0121

Unit Name: Oak Well

1. Area Description: The unit is located east of Caliente, near the Nevada/Utah border. It contains 42,457 acres of public land.

2. Wilderness Characteristics:

- A. Size - The unit contains 42,457 acres of public land.
- B. Naturalness - There are fencelines, three major chainings, three corrals, and several roads and ways within the unit. The unit has been impacted by man's activities and appears unnatural.
- C. Outstanding Opportunities -
 - 1. Solitude: The vegetation is primarily pinyon/juniper. The topography consists of low, rolling hills. Vegetative and topographic screening are adequate to provide some opportunities to avoid the sight and sound of other visitors to the area, but the opportunity was not considered to be outstanding.
 - 2. Primitive and Unconfined Recreation: Opportunities for hiking, camping, hunting, horseback riding, and nature study are available, but these opportunities were not found to be outstanding.
- D. Supplemental Values: None known.

3. Recommendation: Area does not qualify for wilderness study.

4. Rationale for Recommendation: The unit appears to be in a generally unnatural condition, and the opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation were not determined to be outstanding.

Unit No: NV-050-0122

Unit Name: Blue Mountain

1. Area Description: The unit is located northeast of Caliente, and contains 13,465 acres of public land.

2. Wilderness Characteristics:

- A. Size - The unit contains 13,465 acres of public land.
- B. Naturalness - Intrusions include a fenceline and chaining which are very noticeable, and a fenceline, a way, and a small corral which do not significantly impact naturalness. A large part of the unit appears natural.

C. Outstanding Opportunities -

1. Solitude: The vegetation is pinyon/juniper. The topography is a primary peak in the center of the unit, sloping outward to the boundaries. The configuration of the unit is long and narrow, and, while the vegetative screening is excellent, it is still difficult to avoid the sight and sound of other visitors to the area.
2. Primitive and Unconfined Recreation: Opportunities for hiking, camping, horseback riding, nature study, and hunting are available, but these opportunities were not found to be outstanding.

D. Supplemental Values: None known.

3. Recommendation: Area does not qualify for wilderness study.
4. Rationale for Recommendation: The unit appears to be generally natural, however, the opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation were not determined to be outstanding.

Unit No: NV-050-0123

Unit Name: Chokecherry Canyon

1. Area Description: The unit is located east of Caliente, along the Union Pacific railway. It contains 15,852 acres of public land.

2. Wilderness Characteristics:

- A. Size - The unit contains 15,852 acres of public land.
- B. Naturalness - Intrusions include a fence, a jeep trail, a chaining, a corral, and two cabins. None of these impacts are substantially noticeable, being very old, and the unit appears natural.

C. Outstanding Opportunities -

1. Solitude: The vegetation changes from brush and grasses in the southwest to pinyon/juniper in the northeast. The topography consists of ridges and canyons. Topographic screening was considered fairly good and vegetative screening only minimal. Overall, it would be difficult to avoid the sight and sound of other visitors to the area and the opportunity to obtain solitude was not found to be outstanding.

2. Primitive and Unconfined Recreation: Opportunities for hiking, camping, horseback riding, nature study, and hunting are available, but these opportunities were not found to be outstanding.

D. Supplemental Values: None known.

3. Recommendation: Area does not qualify for wilderness study.
4. Rationale for Recommendation: The unit appears to be in a natural condition, however, the opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation were not determined to be outstanding.

Unit No: NV-050-0124

Unit Name: Tepee Rocks

1. Area Description: The unit is located east of Caliente, along the Union Pacific railway. It contains 18,127 acres of public land.

2. Wilderness Characteristics:

A. Size - The unit contains 18,127 acres of public land.

B. Naturalness - The major intrusions in the unit are located in the southern end and include chainings and two fence lines. The rest of the unit appears natural.

C. Outstanding Opportunities -

1. Solitude: The vegetation consists primarily of pinyon/ juniper, with some pockets of ponderosa in the southern portion. The topography is generally rolling hills with a few canyons on the northern end of the unit. The configuration of the unit is extremely long and narrow, making it very difficult to avoid the sight and sound of other visitors to the area.
2. Primitive and Unconfined Recreation: Opportunities for hiking, camping, hunting, and nature study are available, but these opportunities were not found to be outstanding.

D. Supplemental Values: None known.

3. Recommendation: Area does not qualify for wilderness study.
4. Rationale for Recommendation: The northern and central portions of this unit appear to be natural, however, the opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation were not determined to be outstanding.

Unit No: NV-050-0125

Unit Name: Ash Canyon

1. Area Description: The unit is located adjacent to and southeast of Caliente. It contains 17,266 acres of public land.

2. Wilderness Characteristics:

A. Size - The unit contains 17,266 acres of public land.

B. Naturalness - One fenceline cuts across the southern end of the unit, and one across Ash Canyon in the center of the unit. A corral is located at the southern tip. The remainder of the unit appears natural.

C. Outstanding Opportunities -

1. Solitude: The vegetation consists of pinyon/juniper, with ponderosa pine in the south. Three canyons feed into Clover Creek, providing some limited topographic screening within the unit. The configuration of the unit is narrow. Overall, the opportunity to avoid the sight and sound of other visitors to the area and to obtain solitude was not found to be outstanding.

2. Primitive and Unconfined Recreation: Opportunities are available for hiking, camping, nature study, and hunting, and their quality is considered good within Ash Canyon itself. The quality of the recreation opportunity was not found to be outstanding.

D. Supplemental Values: None known.

3. Recommendation: Area does not qualify for wilderness study.

4. Rationale for Recommendation: A large part of the unit appears to be in a natural condition, however, the opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation were not determined to be outstanding.

Unit No: NV-050-0136

Unit Name: Delamar Mountains North

1. Area Description: The unit is located southwest of Caliente, adjacent to the Meadow Valley Wash. It contains 77,528 acres of public land.

2. Wilderness Characteristics:

A. Size - The unit contains 77,528 acres of public land.

B. Naturalness - The unit has been extensively impacted by mining and range developments, including numerous fences and roads, chainings, and corrals. There is a communication site with an access road and powerline near Applewhite Summit.

C. Outstanding Opportunities -

1. Solitude: The vegetation in the southern portion is grasslands and desert shrubs, and to the north, changes to pinyon/juniper. The topography in the south is a flat plateau, and to the north, is a series of high peaks with several steep canyons. The impacts of the intrusions cannot be avoided, however, and the opportunities for solitude were not found to be outstanding.

2. Primitive and Unconfined Recreation: Opportunities for hiking, camping, hunting, horseback riding, and nature study are available, but were not found to be outstanding.

D. Supplemental Values: A small canyon with unusual geologic formations is located in the northeastern portion of the unit.

E. Rehabilitation - Many of the structures in the unit could be removed, but it is not expected to be economically feasible. The numerous road cuts through the northern mountains would not naturally revegetate within a reasonable amount of time.

3. Recommendation: Area does not qualify for wilderness study.

4. Rationale for Recommendation: The unit has been severely impacted by man's activities beyond the possibility of rehabilitation. The opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation were not determined to be outstanding.

Unit No: NV-050-0137

Unit Name: Clover Mountains

1. Area Description: The unit is located southeast of Caliente, just east of the Meadow Valley Wash. It contains 35,468 acres of public land.

2. Wilderness Characteristics:

A. Size - The unit contains 35,468 acres of public land.

B. Naturalness - There are several short roads intruding into the unit from the Meadow Valley Wash, and a single pole powerline following a boundary road. These intrusions are not substantially noticeable and the unit appears to be in a natural condition.

C. Outstanding Opportunities -

1. Solitude: Most of the unit is covered with pinyon/juniper, with desert shrubs and grasses in the lower areas to the north. The topography consists of a series of peaks and canyons. The vegetative and topographic screening are very good, but the long and narrow configuration of the unit confines activities to an area in which it would be difficult to escape the sight and sound of other visitors to the area.
2. Primitive and Unconfined Recreation: Opportunities are available for hiking, camping, nature studies, and hunting, however, these opportunities were not found to be outstanding.

D. Supplemental Values: None known.

3. Recommendation: Area does not qualify for wilderness study.
4. Rationale for Recommendation: The unit is in a natural condition, however, the opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation were not determined to be outstanding.

Unit No: NV-050-0139

Unit Name: Grapevine Spring

1. Area Description: The unit is located southeast of Caliente, in the Clover Mountains. It contains 132,104 acres of public land.
2. Wilderness Characteristics:
 - A. Size - The unit contains 132,104 acres of public land. The portion being recommended for WSA status contains approximately 85,000 acres.
 - B. Naturalness - The southern portion of the unit has been heavily impacted by mining and range developments. There are other developments along the boundary roads of the whole unit, but the north and central portions are in a natural condition.
 - C. Outstanding Opportunities -
 1. Solitude: The vegetation ranges from desert shrubs to pinyon/juniper and some ponderosa pine, as the elevation varies. The topography consists of an extensive series of ridges and drainages. The excellent screening found in this unit provides outstanding opportunities to avoid other visitors to the area and obtain solitude.

2. Primitive and Unconfined Recreation: Opportunities for hiking, camping, and nature study were found to be outstanding, because of the naturalness of the area, the vegetative and topographic diversity, and the challenge offered to the hiker.

D. Supplemental Values: There is an old habitation of historic value in the unit, as well as a number of scenic vistas of various canyons and mountain ridges.

3. Recommendation: A portion of the area should be approved as a WSA for further study and reported to the President. The restrictions imposed by Section 603 will no longer apply on the remainder of the area.
4. Rationale for Recommendation: The large, central portion of the unit was found to be natural, and the opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation in that area were determined to be outstanding.

Unit No: NV-050-0143
Unit Name: Doc's Pass

1. Area Description: The unit is located southeast of Caliente, along the Nevada/Utah border. It contains 24,908 acres of public land. It is contiguous to Beaver Dam State Park on the north, and to Cedar City District inventory unit UT-040-124 (21,083 acres.)
2. Wilderness Characteristics:
 - A. Size - The unit contains 24,908 acres.
 - B. Naturalness - The unit has been heavily impacted by large chainings, stock tanks, corrals, fencelines, pipelines, and associated roads and ways. There is a narrow area of naturalness near the Utah border, of approximately 6,000 acres.
 - C. Outstanding Opportunities -
 1. Solitude: The vegetation is pinyon/juniper, except over the chainings. The topography consists of a steep ridge near the Utah border, sloping east to rolling hills and a basin. The vegetative and topographic screening are inadequate to avoid the sight and sound of other visitors and of the intrusions within the unit. In the natural area, the long and narrow configuration prevents it from offering an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

2. Primitive and Unconfined Recreation: Opportunities for hiking, camping, horseback riding, nature studies, and especially hunting are available, but these opportunities were not found to be outstanding.

D. Supplemental Values: There is an old cabin at Doc's Pass that may be of historic interest.

3. Recommendation: Area does not qualify for wilderness study. The natural area near the Utah border may be added to the Cedar City District unit UT-040-124, should that unit be found to possess wilderness character and be proposed as a WSA. This will not be determined until the Utah inventory is complete.
4. Rationale for Recommendation: The unit is in an unnatural condition, except for the area discussed in the Recommendation. The opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation were not determined to be outstanding.

Unit No: NV-050-0144

Unit Name: Jacks Mountain

1. Area Description: The unit is located east of the Clover Mountains, near the Nevada/Utah border. It contains 44,768 acres of public land and 200 acres of private land.
2. Wilderness Characteristics:
 - A. Size - The unit contains 44,768 acres of public land, and encloses 200 acres of private land.
 - B. Naturalness - The entire unit has been extensively impacted by man's activities, including chainings, range developments, and mineral development. About half the unit has been burned over. There is no natural area over 5,000 acres in this unit.
 - C. Outstanding Opportunities -
 1. Solitude: The vegetation is varied and includes sagebrush, mountain mahogany, scattered pinyon/juniper, and a few ponderosa pine at the highest elevations. The topography of the area is flat in the north and west portions, falling off into a canyon to the east and a sloping bajada to the south. It would be possible to escape the sight and sound of other visitors to and intrusions within the area, however, the opportunity for solitude is not outstanding.

2. Primitive and Unconfined Recreation: Opportunities for hunting, hiking, camping, horseback riding, and nature study are available and would be of good quality. These opportunities were not determined to be outstanding.

D. Supplemental Values: None known.

3. Recommendation: Area does not qualify for wilderness study.

4. Rationale for Recommendation: The unit is in an unnatural condition and the opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation were not found to be outstanding.

Unit No: NV-050-0145

Unit Name: Central Delamar Mountains

1. Area Description: The unit is located southwest of Caliente, at the north end of the Kane Springs Valley. It contains 111,820 acres of public land.

2. Wilderness Characteristics:

A. Size - The unit contains 111,820 acres of public land.

B. Naturalness - The unit contains an extensive system of stock developments with associated access roads. There is a large chaining and seeding in the western portion. These intrusions leave the unit in an unnatural condition.

C. Outstanding Opportunities -

1. Solitude: The vegetation ranges from grassland and desert shrubs to pinyon/juniper to some ponderosa pine, as the elevation varies. The topography ranges from peaks to ridges and canyons. The impacts of the intrusions cannot be avoided, however, and the opportunities for solitude were not found to be outstanding.

2. Primitive and Unconfined Recreation: Opportunities for hiking, camping, horseback riding, and nature study are available, but were not found to be outstanding.

D. Supplemental Values: None known.

E. Rehabilitation - The structures in this unit could be removed and the roads rehabilitated, but there is serious doubt as to whether this could be done by hand labor, and whether it would be economically feasible.

3. Recommendation: Area does not qualify for wilderness study.
4. Rationale for Recommendation: The unit primarily is in an unnatural condition, and rehabilitation does not appear to be possible. The opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation were not found to be outstanding.

Unit No: NV-050-0156

Unit Name: Meadow Valley Range

1. Area Description: The unit contains the Meadow Valley Mountains and runs between the Union Pacific railway and the Kane Springs Wash road. It contains 310,201 acres of public land.
2. Wilderness Characteristics:
 - A. Size - The unit contains 310,201 acres of public land. The area recommended for WSA designation contains approximately 250,000 acres.
 - B. Naturalness - There are several roads and ways in the southern portion of the unit, and some other minor intrusions, including guzzlers, small fencelines, and spring developments, along the boundaries. The remainder of the unit is natural.
 - C. Outstanding Opportunities -
 1. Solitude: The vegetation is low desert shrubs with scattered Joshua trees, and some pinyon/juniper at the higher elevations. The topography consists of a single ridge mountain range running from southwest to northeast. Flat, sloping bajadas fan out from either side of the ridge. The vegetative and topographic screening in this unit are less than excellent, but the sheer size of the natural area provides outstanding opportunity for solitude.
 2. Primitive and Unconfined Recreation: Opportunities for hiking, camping, horseback riding, nature study, and especially small game hunting are available, but these opportunities were not found to be outstanding.
 - D. Supplemental Values: None known.
3. Recommendation: A portion of the area should be approved as a WSA for further study and reported to the President. The restrictions imposed by Section 603 will no longer apply on the remainder of the area.

4. Rationale for Recommendation: A large portion of the unit appears to be in a natural condition, and possesses outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Unit No: NV-050-0157

Unit Name: Dodge Pockets

1. Area Description: The unit is located east of the Meadow Valley Wash and northwest of the Tule Desert. It contains 25,962 acres of public land.
2. Wilderness Characteristics:
 - A. Size - The unit contains 25,962 acres of public land.
 - B. Naturalness - There are several intrusions found around the perimeter of the unit, including fences, stock developments, and some mining impacts to the north. There are several ways and trails meandering throughout the unit, but the interior portion appears natural.
 - C. Outstanding Opportunities -
 1. Solitude: The vegetation consists of a low, desert shrub community with some scattered pinyon/juniper to the east. The topography is gently rolling and sloping to the west from a series of ridges on the eastern boundary. The lack of vegetative screening and only moderate amount of topographic screening would make it difficult to avoid the sight and sound of other visitors to the area as well as activities at the developments along the boundary.
 2. Primitive and Unconfined Recreation: Opportunities for hiking, camping, horseback riding, and nature study are available, but they were not found to be outstanding.
 - D. Supplemental Values: None known.
3. Recommendation: Area does not qualify for wilderness study.
4. Rationale for Recommendation: Most of the unit remains in a natural condition, but the opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation were not found to be outstanding.

Unit No: NV-050-0159
Unit Name: Lime Mountain

1. Area Description: The unit is located at the east end of the Tule Desert, near the Nevada/Utah border. It contains 18,780 acres of public land.
2. Wilderness Characteristics:
 - A. Size - The unit contains 18,780 acres of public land.
 - B. Naturalness - The unit is bisected by a fence, has a large stock development along the southern boundary, and several roads and ways around the north and west side of Lime Mountain. These intrusions are substantially unnoticeable, leaving the unit with a natural appearance.
 - C. Outstanding Opportunities -
 1. Solitude: The vegetation consists of the desert shrub community, including creosote and sagebrush. The topography is flat except for a volcanic cone in the north and Bull Valley Wash on the eastern boundary. The lack of vegetative and topographic screening makes it difficult to avoid the sight and sound of other visitors to the area and obtain solitude.
 2. Primitive and Unconfined Recreation: Opportunities for hiking, camping, horseback riding, and nature study are available, however, these opportunities were not found to be outstanding.
 - D. Supplemental Values: None known.
3. Recommendation: Area does not qualify for wilderness study.
4. Rationale for Recommendation: The unit has a natural appearance, however, the opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation were not found to be outstanding.

Unit No: NV-050-0161
Unit Name: Mormon Mountains

1. Area Description: The unit is located north of Moapa, adjacent to the Meadow Valley Wash. It contains 246,812 acres of public land.
2. Wilderness Characteristics:
 - A. Size - The unit contains 246,812 acres of public land. The area recommended for WSA status contains approximately 150,000 acres.

B. Naturalness - There are numerous intrusions around the boundaries of the unit, including mineral assessment and development, stock tanks, pipelines, corrals, fences, and associated roads and ways. There are several roads extending quite a distance into the unit, however, the central portion of the unit appears natural.

C. Outstanding Opportunities -

1. Solitude: The vegetation consists of desert shrubs and grasses at the lower elevations, and gradually changes to pinyon/juniper and some ponderosa as the mountains rise. The topography changes from a flat, sloping bajada on the west, up to rugged mountains with steep cliffs, canyons, and peaks. The size of the area and the topographic screening provide an outstanding opportunity to obtain solitude in this area.

2. Primitive and Unconfined Recreation: Opportunities for camping, hiking, horseback riding, spelunking, backpacking, hunting, and nature study are all good. The quality of the backpacking, hunting, hiking and camping are excellent. The unit has outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation.

D. Supplemental Values: The Old Spanish Trail/Mormon Road runs through the unit. There are numerous examples of agave roasting pits, rock art, and temporary hunting and camping sites. The Mormon Peak caves, some limestone caverns, are located within the unit, and the scenic quality of the area is also a supplemental value.

3. Recommendation: A portion of the area should be approved as a WSA for further study and reported to the President. The restrictions imposed by Section 603 will no longer apply on the remainder of the area.

4. Rationale for Recommendation: The natural portion of the unit has outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation.

Unit No: NV-050-0162

Unit Name: Sams Camp Wash

1. Area Description: The unit is located on the east side of the Mormon Mountains. It contains 16,150 acres of public land.

2. Wilderness Characteristics:

A. Size - The unit contains 16,150 acres of public land.

B. Naturalness - The unit has been extensively impacted by range improvements, and a network of roads, ways, and trails throughout the unit.

C. Outstanding Opportunities -

1. Solitude: The vegetation is low desert shrubs. The topography consists of a flat, sloping bajada with shallow washes and draws. The lack of vegetative and topographic screening would make it extremely difficult to avoid the sight and sound of other visitors to the area.

2. Primitive and Unconfined Recreation: Opportunities for hiking, camping, nature study, and especially horseback riding and upland bird hunting are available, however, these opportunities were not found to be outstanding.

D. Supplemental Values: The Old Spanish Trail/Mormon Road runs through the unit.

3. Recommendation: Area does not qualify for wilderness study.

4. Rationale for Recommendation: The unit has been extensively impacted by man's activities, and the opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation were not found to be outstanding.

Unit No: NV-050-0163

Unit Name: South Fork

1. Area Description: The unit is located on the east side of the Mormon Mountains. It contains 14,980 acres of public land.

2. Wilderness Characteristics:

A. Size - The unit contains 14,980 acres of public land.

B. Naturalness - There are several mining and range development impacts around the boundaries of the unit, as well as a 500 kv powerline on the southern edge. The central portion of the unit remains natural.

C. Outstanding Opportunities -

1. Solitude: The vegetation is primarily low desert shrubs. The topography is a flat, sloping alluvial fan. The lack of vegetative and topographic screening makes it extremely difficult to avoid the sight and sound of other visitors to the area as well as the intrusions around the boundary.

2. Primitive and Unconfined Recreation: Opportunities for hiking, camping, nature study, and especially horseback riding and upland bird hunting are available, however, these opportunities were not found to be outstanding.

D. Supplemental Values: None known.

3. Recommendation: Area does not qualify for wilderness study.

4. Rationale for Recommendation: The central portion of the unit appears to remain natural, but the opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation were not found to be outstanding.

Unit No: NV-050-0164

Unit Name: East Mormon Mountains

1. Area Description: The unit is located on the east side of the Mormon Mountains. It contains 17,834 acres of public land.

2. Wilderness Characteristics:

A. Size - The unit contains 17,834 acres of public land. Its configuration is long and narrow.

B. Naturalness - A small, central portion of the unit remains natural. Most of the unit has been extensively impacted by a communication site, range developments, a powerline, and several roads, ways, and trails.

C. Outstanding Opportunities -

1. Solitude: The vegetation consists of blackbrush, creosote, yucca and scattered Joshua trees. There is a knife-shaped ridge in the center, with flat areas sloping away to either side. There is topographic screening of one side of the unit from the other, but the combination of minimal vegetative screening and the configuration of the unit makes it difficult to avoid the sight and sound of other visitors to the area as well as the intrusions on the flat portions at the base of the ridge.

2. Primitive and Unconfined Recreation: Opportunities for hiking, camping, and nature study are available, however, they were not found to be outstanding.

D. Supplemental Values: None known.

3. Recommendation: Area does not qualify for wilderness study.

4. Rationale for Recommendation: A central portion of this unit does remain natural, however, the opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation were not found to be outstanding.

Unit No: NV-050-0166

Unit Name: Tunnel Spring

1. Area Description: The unit is located north of Beaver Dam State Park and is adjacent to the Nevada/Utah border. It contains 6,831 acres of public land. It is contiguous to Beaver Dam State Park on the south and to Cedar City District inventory unit UT-040-123 (10,568 acres) on the east.
2. Wilderness Characteristics:
 - A. Size - The unit contains 6,831 acres of public land.
 - B. Naturalness - There are several impacts of man's activities in this unit, including a large chained area, several fencelines, a corral, and some roads and ways. There is a portion of the unit that remains natural along the Utah border, approximately 5,400 acres.
 - C. Outstanding Opportunities -
 1. Solitude: The vegetation is primarily pinyon/juniper. The topography consists of 3 major canyons among the rolling hills. The vegetative and topographic screening are good but limited by the small size of the natural area. By itself, this unit does not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude, but it might if it were combined with the contiguous Utah unit.
 2. Primitive and Unconfined Recreation: Opportunities for hiking, camping, and nature study are available, but these opportunities were not found to be outstanding.
 - D. Supplemental Values: None known.
3. Recommendation: Area does not qualify for wilderness study. The natural area, however, may be added at a later date to the Cedar City District unit UT-040-123, should that unit be recommended for WSA designation in the Utah wilderness inventory.
4. Rationale for Recommendation: There is a natural area within the unit, but the opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation were not found to be outstanding.

Unit No: NV-050-0220
Unit Name: Black Ridge

1. Area Description: The unit is located to the northeast of the Overton Arm, in the Gold Butte area. It contains 18,318 acres and is contiguous to Lake Mead NRA on the west.
2. Wilderness Characteristics:
 - A. Size - The unit contains 18,318 acres of public land.
 - B. Naturalness - Mining impacts are located in the northern portion of the unit. One road intrudes almost through the unit, with some ways running off from it. Most of the unit appears natural.
 - C. Outstanding Opportunities -
 1. Solitude: Vegetation in the unit is composed of low desert shrubs. The major topographic feature is a long, narrow ridge, which provides screening only of one boundary from the other. It would be difficult to avoid the sight and sound of other visitors to the unit.
 2. Primitive and Unconfined Recreation: Opportunities exist for hiking, horseback riding, and nature study, but these are not outstanding.
 - D. Supplemental Values: None known.
3. Recommendation: Area does not qualify for wilderness study.
4. Rationale for Recommendation: This unit does possess a significant amount of natural area. But the opportunities for solitude and for primitive types of recreation were not considered to be outstanding.

Unit No: NV-050-0221
Unit Name: Government Spring

1. Area Description: The unit is located along the Virgin River, southwest of Bunkerville. It contains 14,795 acres of public land, and is contiguous to Lake Mead NRA at its southwest corner.
2. Wilderness Characteristics:
 - A. Size - The unit contains 14,795 acres of public land.

B. Naturalness - There is a spring development in the southeast corner of the unit. The rest of the unit remains in a natural condition.

C. Outstanding Opportunities -

1. Solitude: Vegetation in the unit consists of low desert shrubs. The topography is flat and sloping except for some highly eroded earthen cliffs along the Virgin River floodplain and a portion of Bunkerville Ridge in the southeast corner of the unit. The vegetative and topographic screening are not adequate to avoid the sight and sound of other visitors to the area and provide an outstanding opportunity for solitude.
2. Primitive and Unconfined Recreation: Opportunities for hiking, camping, horseback riding, and nature study are available, but these opportunities were not found to be outstanding.

D. Supplemental Values: None known.

3. Recommendation: Area does not qualify for wilderness study.
4. Rationale for Recommendation: Most of the unit remains in a natural condition, however, the opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation were not determined to be outstanding.

Unit No: NV-050-0222

Unit Name: Virgin Peak

1. Area Description: The unit is located south of Bunkerville in the Gold Butte area, and is adjacent to the Nevada/Arizona border. It contains 29,775 acres of public land, and is contiguous to the Arizona Strip District inventory unit AZ-010-121 (20,045 acres). The 5,560 acre Virgin Mountain Natural Area is contained within the Nevada portion of this unit.
2. Wilderness Characteristics:
 - A. Size - The unit contains 29,775 acres of public land.
 - B. Naturalness - There are extensive mining impacts on the east and north sides of the peaks, and numerous range improvements on the southeast and north, with many associated roads and ways. These impacts dominate the entire unit, including the acreage within the natural area.

C. Outstanding Opportunities -

1. Solitude: There is a wide variety of vegetation, including creosote, oaks, pinyon/juniper, ponderosa, and white fir. The topography is a large central peak with associated hills, valleys, and ridges. The vegetative and topographic screening are excellent, and allow outstanding opportunities for solitude in some areas of the unit.
2. Primitive and Unconfined Recreation: Opportunities for hiking, camping, backpacking, hunting, horseback riding, and nature studies are available and of excellent quality. The opportunity for primitive recreation is outstanding.

D. Supplemental Values: The area contains archaeological, geological, botanical, and historical supplemental values. The Virgin Mountain Natural Area was established to protect an extreme southern extension of Douglas

E. Rehabilitation - The impacts in this unit are too major to be rehabilitated by hand or natural means.

3. Recommendation: Area does not qualify for wilderness study.

4. Rationale for Recommendation: The unit possesses outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation and solitude, however, the imprint of man's work is substantially noticeable and the unit appears unnatural.

Unit No: NV-050-0223

Unit Name: Billy Goat Peak

1. Area Description: The unit is located east of the Overton Arm, in the Gold Butte area, and is contiguous to Arizona Strip District inventory unit AZ-010-114, Pakoos Springs (24,842 acres). The Nevada portion of the unit contains 31,310 acres of public land.

2. Wilderness Characteristics:

A. Size - The unit contains 31,310 acres of public land.

B. Naturalness - A series of earthen dams, reservoirs, and borrow pits is found in Greasewood Basin. There is one range improvement, and an area of historic mining activity within the unit, both of which are substantially unnoticeable.

C. Outstanding Opportunities -

1. Solitude: Most of the unit is covered with creosote, but there are pinyons and junipers on Whitney Ridge. The topography is basically flat and sloping, with a small ridge occurring along the Arizona border and some low hills in

the southwestern portion of the unit. Overall, most of the unit is open land and it would be difficult to avoid the sight and sound of other visitors to this and surrounding units.

2. Primitive and Unconfined Recreation: Opportunities for hiking, camping, horseback riding, and nature study are available, but these opportunities were not found to be outstanding.

D. Supplemental Values: The remains of the mining activity may be of historic value.

3. Recommendation: Area does not qualify for wilderness study.
4. Rationale for Recommendation: While the unit does have areas of naturalness, opportunities for solitude and for primitive recreation were not found to be outstanding.

Unit No: NV-050-0224

Unit Name: Whitney Pockets West

1. Area Description: The unit is located at the northeast end of the Overton Arm, in the Gold Butte area. It contains 15,937 acres of public land, and is contiguous to Lake Mead NRA at the very southwest corner.

2. Wilderness Characteristics:

- A. Size - The unit contains 15,937 acres of public land.
- B. Naturalness - The impacts of seismic exploration are evident along the southern boundary road, and there are several ways in the southeast corner. The remainder of the unit is natural.

- C. Outstanding Opportunities -

1. Solitude: The vegetation in the unit consists of low desert shrubs. The topography is flat, sloping to the south, except for a large broad wash in the southern portion of the unit. Because of the lack of vegetative and topographic screening, it would be difficult to avoid the sight and sound of other visitors to the unit.
2. Primitive and Unconfined Recreation: Opportunities exist for hiking, camping, and horseback riding, but these opportunities are not considered outstanding in this unit.

D. Supplemental Values: None known.

3. Recommendation: Area does not qualify for wilderness study.
4. Rationale for Recommendation: Although the unit does possess a large area of naturalness, the opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation were not found to be outstanding.

Unit No: NV-050-0225

Unit Name: Hartman Tank

1. Area Description: The unit is located east of Overton Arm, in the Gold Butte area. It contains 19,956 acres of public land, and is contiguous on the west to Lake Mead NRA.
2. Wilderness Characteristics:
 - A. Size - The unit contains 19,956 acres of public land.
 - B. Naturalness - The impacts of seismic exploration are evident along the northern boundary, and there are substantial mining and range developments within the unit.
 - C. Outstanding Opportunities -
 1. Solitude: The vegetation in the unit is sparse desert shrubs. The numerous valleys and ridges within the unit offer some topographic screening, however, it would still be difficult to avoid the sight and sound of other visitors to the area.
 2. Primitive and Unconfined Recreation: Opportunities exist for hiking, camping, horseback riding, and nature study, but these opportunities were not found to be outstanding.
 - D. Supplemental Values: Cultural values in the form of shelter caves and petroglyphs were located in the southern portion of the unit.
3. Recommendation: Area does not qualify for wilderness study.
4. Rationale for Recommendation: The imprint of man's work was felt to be substantially noticeable in this unit, and the opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation were not found to be outstanding.

Unit No: NV-050-0226

Unit Name: North Muddys

1. Area Description: The unit is located northeast of Las Vegas and is contiguous on the east to Valley of Fire State Park. It contains

20,217 acres of public land.

2. Wilderness Characteristics:

- A. Size - The unit contains 20,217 acres of public land.
 - B. Naturalness - There are scattered ways and trails within the unit, and some mineral assessment work in the eastern portion. Overall, the unit appears natural.
 - C. Outstanding Opportunities -
 - 1. Solitude: The vegetation is low desert shrubs. The topography consists of ridges and washes on the east, and is flat and sloping to the west. The vegetative and topographic screening are inadequate to avoid the sight and sound of other visitors to the area and to allow an outstanding opportunity for solitude.
 - 2. Primitive and Unconfined Recreation: Opportunities for hiking, camping, horseback riding, and nature study are available, but these opportunities were not found to be outstanding.
 - D. Supplemental Values: None known.
3. Recommendation: Area does not qualify for wilderness study.
4. Rationale for Recommendation: The unit appears to be in a natural condition, however, the opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation were not determined to be outstanding.

Unit No: NV-050-0230

Unit Name: Buffington Pockets

- 1. Area Description: The unit is located at the northeast end of the Muddy Mountains. It contains 39,361 acres of public land. It is contiguous on the north to Valley of Fire State Park, and on the east, to Lake Mead NRA.
- 2. Wilderness Characteristics:
 - A. Size - The unit contains 39,361 acres of public land.
 - B. Naturalness - The major intrusions in the unit consist of mining activity along the western and southern boundaries. The interior of the unit is natural.

C. Outstanding Opportunities -

1. Solitude: The vegetation in the unit is low desert shrubs. The topography is a single large ridge, with White Basin in the south central portion of the unit. Opportunities to avoid other visitors to the unit are available, but not outstanding.
2. Primitive and Unconfined Recreation: Opportunities for hiking, camping, and nature study are available, but were not found to be outstanding.

D. Supplemental Values: There is high potential for cultural resource values in the unit.

3. Recommendation: Area does not qualify for wilderness study.
4. Rationale for Recommendation: A large portion of the unit is natural, however, the opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation were not found to be outstanding.

Unit No: NV-050-0231

Unit Name: Lime Canyon

1. Area Description: The unit is located just east of Overton Arm, in the Gold Butte area. It contains 36,220 acres, of which 1,000 acres are privately owned. It is contiguous on the west to Lake Mead NRA and to the National Park Service wilderness proposal, Unit 12, Overton (24,040 acres).

2. Wilderness Characteristics:

- A. Size - The unit contains 35,220 acres of public land. The area recommended for WSA status contains about 23,000 acres.
- B. Naturalness - The impacts of historic mining activity were found in Lime Canyon and on the west side of Lime Ridge. A few range developments are located in the southern portion. The remainder of the unit is natural.

C. Outstanding Opportunities -

1. Solitude: Vegetative cover in this unit consists of low desert shrubs. The topography is a tall ridgeline oriented north-south, with one steep canyon bisecting it. The remainder of the unit is a flat, sloping bajada. Screening is not adequate to avoid the sight and sound of other visitors to the unit, except for one side of the ridge from the other.

2. Primitive and Unconfined Recreation: Opportunities exist for hiking, camping, and nature study, but these opportunities were not found to be outstanding.
- D. Supplemental Values: None known.
- E. Rehabilitation: The historic mining impacts on the west side of Lime Ridge are already substantially unnoticeable and will become even less so over the passage of time.
3. Recommendation: A portion of the area should be approved as a WSA for further study and reported to the President. The restrictions imposed by Section 603 will no longer apply on the remainder of the area.
4. Rationale for Recommendation; The portion of this unit to the west of the ridgeline of Lime Ridge is recommended for further study solely on the basis that it is natural and it is contiguous to the National Park Service wilderness proposal for Lake Mead NRA. The opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation were not determined to be outstanding, although they could be determined outstanding when the NPS lands are considered as an entire unit.

Unit No: NV-050-0232

Unit Name: Tramp Ridge

1. Area Description: The unit is located east of Overton Arm, in the Gold Butte area. It contains 20,715 acres of public land.
2. Wilderness Characteristics:
 - A. Size - The unit contains 20,715 acres of public land.
 - B. Naturalness - Intrusions within the unit include mineral assessment activity, guzzlers, fencelines, and a stock development. These impacts leave small areas of naturalness within the unit.
 - C. Outstanding Opportunities -
 1. Solitude: Most of the vegetation is low desert shrubs, with scattered Joshua and juniper trees in the southern portion of the unit. The topography consists of a steep, narrow ridge bisecting the unit in a north-south direction. Screening is available only for one side of the ridge from the other, so that avoiding the sight and sound of other visitors to and intrusions within the area would be difficult.
 2. Primitive and Unconfined Recreation: Opportunities for hiking, camping, horseback riding, and nature study are available, but were not found to be outstanding.

D. Supplemental Values: None known.

3. Recommendation: Area does not qualify for wilderness study.
4. Rationale for Recommendation: Very little natural area remains in this unit, and the opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation were not determined to be outstanding.

Unit No: NV-050-0233

Unit Name: Million Hills

1. Area Description: The unit is located east of the Overton Arm in the Gold Butte area. It contains 28,372 acres of public land. It is contiguous on the east to Arizona Strip District inventory unit AZ-010-107, Grand Wash (8,141 acres); and on the south it is contiguous to the National Park Service wilderness proposal for Lake Mead NRA, Unit #17, Indian Hills (15,370 acres).
2. Wilderness Characteristics:
 - A. Size - The unit contains 28,372 acres of public land. The area proposed for WSA status contains about 15,000 acres of public land.
 - B. Naturalness - There are extensive mining impacts on the western ridge. The remainder of the unit appears natural.
 - C. Outstanding Opportunities -
 1. Solitude: Most of the vegetative cover is low desert shrubs, with some pinyon/juniper appearing in Immigrant Canyon. Topography is basically flat and sloping, with two small ridges. This combination of vegetative and topographic screening does not allow one to avoid other visitors to the unit and surrounding area.
 2. Primitive and Unconfined Recreation: Opportunities for hiking, camping, horseback riding, and nature study are available, however, these opportunities were not found to be outstanding.
 - D. Supplemental Values: None known.
3. Recommendation: A portion of the area should be approved as a WSA for further study and reported to the President. The restrictions imposed by Section 603 will no longer apply on the remainder of the area.

4. Rationale for Recommendation: The natural portion of the unit around Azure Ridge is recommended for WSA status solely on the basis that it is natural and contiguous to the National Park Service wilderness proposal for Lake Mead NRA. The opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation were not determined to be outstanding, although they could be determined outstanding when the NPS lands are considered as an entire unit.

Unit No: NV-050-0235

Unit Name: Garrett Butte

1. Area Description: The unit is located east of Overton Arm, in the Gold Butte area. It contains 11,684 acres of public land, and is contiguous on the west to the National Park Service wilderness proposal for Lake Mead NRA, Unit #13, Twin Springs (10,610 acres).
2. Wilderness Characteristics:
 - A. Size - The unit contains 11,684 acres of public land. The area recommended for WSA status contains 7,360 acres of public land.
 - B. Naturalness - Except for Gann Spring stock development in the southeast corner and an intrusion road from the northeast boundary, the unit appears natural.
 - C. Outstanding Opportunities -
 1. Solitude: The vegetation is low desert shrubs. The unit is dominated by two solitary buttes along the eastern boundary and there is a ridgeline running along the eastern boundary. The central portion of the unit has flat and sloping topography. Combined with the lack of vegetative screening, this makes it difficult to avoid the sight and sound of other visitors to the area.
 2. Primitive and Unconfined Recreation: Opportunities for hiking, camping, horseback riding, and nature study are available, however, these opportunities were not found to be outstanding.
 - D. Supplemental Values: None known.
3. Recommendation: A portion of the area should be approved as a WSA for further study and reported to the President. The restrictions imposed by Section 603 will no longer apply on the remainder of the area.
4. Rationale for Recommendation: The western portion of this unit is being recommended for WSA status solely on the basis that it is natural and contiguous to the National Park Service wilderness proposal for Lake Mead NRA. Opportunity for solitude and primitive recreation could be considered outstanding when the NPS lands are considered as an entire unit.

Unit No: NV-050-0236

Unit Name: Jumbo Springs

1. Area Description: The unit is located east of the Overton Arm, in the Gold Butte area. It contains 35,936 acres of public land, and is contiguous on the south and east to the National Park Service wilderness proposal for Lake Mead NRA, unit #16, Hell's Kitchen (8,545 acres).
2. Wilderness Characteristics:
 - A. Size - The unit contains 35,936 acres of public land. The area recommended for WSA status contains approximately 20,000 acres of public land.
 - B. Naturalness - Most of the northern and western portions of the unit have been heavily impacted by mining and stock developments, especially in the Cedar Basin area. The southeastern area of the unit remains natural.
 - C. Outstanding Opportunities -
 1. Solitude: The vegetation ranges from desert shrubs in the south to pinyon/juniper in the north. The topography contains many peaks and ridges. Within the natural area, topographic and vegetative screening are inadequate to avoid the sight and sound of other visitors to the area, and to allow an outstanding opportunity for solitude.
 2. Primitive and Unconfined Recreation: Opportunities for hiking, camping, horseback riding, and nature study are available, however, these opportunities were not found to be outstanding.
 - D. Supplemental Values: None known.
3. Recommendation: A portion of the area should be approved as a WSA for further study and reported to the President. The restrictions imposed by Section 603 will no longer apply on the remainder of the area.
4. Rationale for Recommendation: A portion of this unit is being recommended for WSA status solely on the basis that it is natural and contiguous to the NPS wilderness proposal for Lake Mead NRA. The unit does not possess outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation, by itself, but may possess these characteristics when considered with the NPS lands.

Unit No: NV-050-0238
Unit Name: Bonelli Peak

1. Area Description: The unit is located east of the Overton Arm, in the Gold Butte area. It contains 7,278 acres of public land and is contiguous to the National Park Service wilderness proposal for Lake Mead NRA, unit #14, Scanlon Wash (22,095 acres).
2. Wilderness Characteristics:
 - A. Size - The unit contains 7,278 acres of public land. The area recommended for WSA designation contains approximately 6,000 acres.
 - B. Naturalness - The remains of an old mining camp and minesite are located to the northeast. Stock tanks and guzzlers are located along the boundary roads. The central portion of the unit, along the NPS boundary, is natural.
 - C. Outstanding Opportunities -
 1. Solitude: The vegetation is low desert shrubs. The topography consists of one mountain peak, with radiating ridges and canyons. The minimal vegetative screening makes it difficult to avoid the sight and sound of other visitors to the area and to provide an outstanding opportunity for solitude.
 2. Primitive and Unconfined Recreation: Opportunities for hiking, camping, and nature study are available, but these opportunities were not found to be outstanding.
 - D. Supplemental Values: None known.
3. Recommendation: A portion of the area should be approved as a WSA for further study and reported to the President. The restrictions imposed by Section 603 will no longer apply on the remainder of the area.
4. Rationale for Recommendation: A portion of this unit is recommended for WSA designation solely on the basis that it is natural and contiguous to the NPS wilderness proposal for Lake Mead NRA. The unit does not possess outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation, by itself, but may possess these characteristics when considered with the NPS lands.

Unit No.: NV-050-0411
Unit Name: Quail Springs

1. Area Description: The unit is located along the southern boundary of the Desert Game Range. It contains 12,225 acres of public land. The unit is contiguous along its northern boundary to the 1977 wilderness proposal made to Congress by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
2. Wilderness Characteristics:
 - A. Size - The unit contains 12,225 acres and has an irregular configuration of about 9 miles in length and 3 miles in width at its widest point.
 - B. Naturalness - There were no significant intrusions located in this unit. It appears to be natural.
 - C. Outstanding Opportunities -
 1. Solitude: The vegetation in the area is low-growing desert shrubs. Topography consists of a gently sloping flat area. Because of the minimal vegetative and topographic screening, traffic on U. S. 95 is visible from all points in the unit and it would not be possible to avoid the sight of other visitors to the area.
 2. Primitive and Unconfined Recreation: Opportunities exist for hiking and horseback riding, but the quality of these opportunities would not be outstanding.
 - D. Supplemental Values: None known.
3. Recommendation: Area should be approved as a WSA.
4. Rationale for Recommendation: This unit is recommended for designation as a Wilderness Study Area solely on the basis that it is natural and is contiguous to the 1977 wilderness proposal made to Congress by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation were not determined to be outstanding, they could be determined outstanding when the Fish and Wildlife lands are considered as an entire unit.

Unit No: NV-050-0412
Unit Name: La Madre Mountains

1. Area Description: The unit is located just west of Las Vegas, and is contiguous to the Toiyabe National Forest along its northern boundary. It contains 152,878 acres of public land and 200 acres of private land.

2. Wilderness Characteristics:

A. Size - The unit contains 152,878 acres of public land.

B. Naturalness - There are numerous intrusions in the unit, including roads, ways, stock tanks, fencelines, pipelines, buildings, and others. Most of the unit has been impacted, but there are some small areas of naturalness.

C. Outstanding Opportunities -

1. Solitude: The vegetation varies from low desert shrubs on the flatlands to pinyon/juniper in the mountains. The topography includes flat, sloping bajadas, and ridges and mountains. The configuration is long and narrow, and in many places, intrusion roads have sliced through the canyons in the unit and into the National Forest. It would be difficult to avoid the sight and sound of other visitors, and of activities on and around the numerous intrusions.

2. Primitive and Unconfined Recreation: Opportunities for hiking, camping, backpacking, hunting, and nature study are available, but were considered to be limited by the configuration of the unit and the numerous intrusions.

D. Supplemental Values: None known.

3. Recommendation: Area does not qualify for wilderness study.

4. Rationale for Recommendation: The unit has been extensively impacted by man's activities. There is some natural area remaining, however, the opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation were not determined to be outstanding.

Unit No: NV-050-0422

Unit Name: River Mountains

1. Area Description: The unit is located just west of the Hoover Dam and immediately northeast of the city of Henderson. It contains 9,643 acres of public land, of which 4,500 acres are under reclamation withdrawal, and also contains 640 acres of private land. The unit is contiguous along its east boundary to the National Park Service wilderness proposal for Lake Mead NRA, Unit #6, River Mountains (6,975 acres).

2. Wilderness Characteristics:

- A. Size - The unit contains 9,643 acres of public land and 640 acres of private land.
- B. Naturalness - The unit has been extensively impacted by mineral exploration and development. There are several patented mining claims within it. Intrusions include power and telephone lines, water tanks, numerous roads and ways, and the major water construction project of the River Mountains tunnel slicing through the unit from Lake Mead. These impacts leave the entire unit in an unnatural condition.
- C. Outstanding Opportunities -
1. Solitude: The vegetation is low desert shrubs. Topographic screening is good in some of the interior canyons and washes, but there are roads running through most of these also. It would be difficult to avoid the sight and sound of other visitors to the area, of the many intrusions within the unit, and of the frequent air traffic associated with nearby McCarran Airport.
 2. Primitive and Unconfined Recreation: The road access into the unit would provide good opportunities for day hiking and possible photography of desert bighorns, but these opportunities were not determined to be outstanding.
- D. Supplemental Values: Cultural resource values have been located in the area, and it provides habitat for desert bighorn sheep.
3. Recommendation: Area does not qualify for wilderness study.
4. Rationale for Recommendation: The unit was found to have been extensively impacted by man's activities and to be in an unnatural condition. The opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation were also found not to be outstanding.

Unit No: NV-050-0423

Unit Name: Eldorado

1. Area Description: The unit is located just south of Boulder City, and contains 31,246 acres of public land. It is contiguous on the east to the National Park Service wilderness proposal for Lake Mead NRA, unit #5, Eldorado Mountain (29,665 acres).

2. Wilderness Characteristics:

- A. Size - The unit contains 31,246 acres of public land. The area recommended for WSA designation contains approximately 16,800 acres.
- B. Naturalness - There is a large powerline along part of the western boundary, headed for a major substation at the northern tip of the unit. There is also another large powerline crossing the unit, as well as two major roads, and several ways and trails. A large portion of the unit is substantially impacted by these intrusions. A portion along the NRA boundary remains natural.
- C. Outstanding Opportunities -
1. Solitude: The vegetation is primarily desert shrubs, with some scrub oaks in Oak Creek Canyon. The topography of the unit is flat to the north and northwest, and rugged mountains to the south. The minimal vegetative screening makes it difficult to avoid the sight and sound of other visitors to the area and of the many intrusions in the unit.
 2. Primitive and Unconfined Recreation: Opportunities are available for hiking, camping, nature study, and especially horseback riding, however, these opportunities were not found to be outstanding.
- D. Supplemental Values: None known.

3. Recommendation: A portion of the area should be approved as a WSA for further study and reported to the President. The restrictions imposed by Section 603 will no longer apply on the remainder of the area.
4. Rationale for Recommendation: A portion of the unit is recommended for WSA designation solely on the basis that it is natural and contiguous to the NPS wilderness proposal for Lake Mead NRA. The unit does not possess outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation, by itself, but may possess these characteristics with the NPS lands.

Unit No: NV-050-0425

Unit Name: North McCullough Range

1. Area Description: The unit is located south of Las Vegas. It contains 106,472 acres of public land.
2. Wilderness Characteristics:
 - A. Size - The unit contains 106,472 acres of public land.

B. Naturalness - The southern and eastern portions of the unit are heavily impacted by a network of powerlines with associated roads. To the southeast is the Eldorado Switching Station just outside the unit. The western portion has many intrusions, including fences, roads, ways, a material site, and mineral assessment activities. The northern portion is also impacted with four powerlines and a communication site.

C. Outstanding Opportunities -

1. Solitude: The vegetation is low desert shrubs and grasses. The topography consists of a mountain range with several peaks and valleys, sloping away to flat bajadas to the east and west. The vegetative and topographic screening is inadequate to avoid the sight and sound of other visitors and of the numerous intrusions within the unit.

2. Primitive and Unconfined Recreation: Opportunities for hiking, camping, horseback riding, and nature study are available, but these opportunities were not found to be outstanding.

D. Supplemental Values: None known.

E. Rehabilitation - Most of the intrusions could not be rehabilitated using only hand or natural means.

3. Recommendation: Area does not qualify for wilderness study.

4. Rationale for Recommendation: The unit has been extensively impacted by man's activities and appears unnatural. The opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation were not determined to be outstanding.

Unit No: NV-050-0428

Unit Name: Bird Spring Range

1. Area Description: The unit is located in the hills northeast of the town of Goodsprings. It contains 61,664 acres of public land.

2. Wilderness Characteristics:

A. Size - The unit contains 61,644 acres of public land.

B. Naturalness - The entire unit has been extensively impacted by man's activities. Intrusions include stock tanks, corrals, fences, race courses, an abandoned communication site, and numerous roads, ways, and trails throughout the unit.

C. Outstanding Opportunities -

1. Solitude: The vegetation is low desert shrubs. The topography consists of rolling hills from the west to the north-east end, and a broad open valley to the south. The lack of vegetative screening and the number of intrusions would make it difficult to avoid the sights and sounds of man's presence.
2. Primitive and Unconfined Recreation: Opportunities for horseback riding, hiking, camping, nature studies, and hunting are available, but these opportunities were not found to be outstanding.

D. Supplemental Values: There is a National Historic Site at Bird Springs, consisting of an ancient campsite.

3. Recommendation: Area does not qualify for wilderness study.
4. Rationale for Recommendation: The unit is in an unnatural condition, and the opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation were not determined to be outstanding.

Unit No: NV-050-0438

Unit Name: Ireteba Peaks

1. Area Description: The unit is located northeast of Searchlight, and contains 35,441 acres of public land and 20 acres of private land. It is contiguous on its east boundary to the National Park Service wilderness proposal for Lake Mead NRA, unit #4, Opal Mountain (17,635 acres).
2. Wilderness Characteristics:
 - A. Size - The unit contains 35,441 acres of public land. The area recommended for WSA status contains approximately 19,500 acres.
 - B. Naturalness - The powerline and road located at the north end of the unit should be the new unit boundary, eliminating 3,000 acres. The southern portion of the unit has mineral assessment activity, guzzler sites, and several roads and ways. The central portion of the unit remains natural.
 - C. Outstanding Opportunities -
 1. Solitude: The vegetation is desert shrubs with scattered Joshua trees and some pinyon/juniper as the elevation rises. The topography is a central mountain range with small canyons, sloping down to flat bajadas to the east and west. The vegetative and topographic screening is inadequate to

avoid the intrusions to the west, and does not provide an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

2. Primitive and Unconfined Recreation: Opportunities for hiking, camping, horseback riding, hunting, and nature studies are available, but these opportunities were not found to be outstanding.

D. Supplemental Values: There are cultural resource values in the form of shelter caves, quarry sites, and temporary campsites.

3. Recommendation: A portion of the area should be approved as a WSA for further study and reported to the President. The restrictions imposed by Section 603 will no longer apply on the remainder of the area.
4. Rationale for Recommendation: The central portion of the unit is recommended for WSA designation solely on the basis that it is natural and contiguous to the NPS wilderness proposal for Lake Mead NRA. The unit does not possess outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation, by itself, but may possess these characteristics when considered with the NPS lands.

Unit No: NV-050-0440

Unit Name: Summit Spring

1. Area Description: The unit is located southeast of Searchlight in the Newberry Mountains. It contains 36,387 acres of public land, and is contiguous to the National Park Service wilderness proposal for Lake Mead NRA, Unit #2, Nellis Wash (15,870 acres).

2. Wilderness Characteristics:

- A. Size - The unit contains 36,387 acres of public land. The area recommended for WSA designation contains approximately 20,000 acres.
- B. Naturalness - Intrusions include guzzlers, range developments, a TV reflector, mining impacts, and several roads, ways, and trails within the unit. There are, however, large areas that remain natural along the NPS/BLM boundary.
- C. Outstanding Opportunities -

1. Solitude: The vegetation is primarily desert shrubs with grasses, and scattered Joshua trees and cacti. The topography consists of gently rolling hills in the center of the unit, with flat slopes to the east and to the west. The vegetative and topographic screening are inadequate to avoid the sights and sounds of other visitors to the unit.

2. Primitive and Unconfined Recreation: Opportunities for hiking, camping, nature study, and especially hunting and horseback riding are available, but these opportunities were not found to be outstanding.

D. Supplemental Values: None known.

3. Recommendation: A portion of the area should be approved as a WSA for further study and reported to the President. The restrictions imposed by Section 603 will no longer apply on the remainder of the area.
4. Rationale for Recommendation: The natural area of this unit is recommended for WSA status solely on the basis that it is natural and contiguous to the NPS wilderness proposal for Lake Mead NRA. The opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation were not determined to be outstanding within this unit, however, they could be determined to be outstanding when the NPS lands are considered as an entire unit.

Unit No: NV-050-0441

Unit Name: Piute Valley

1. Area Description: The unit is located on the California/Nevada border, just south of the McCullough Mountains. It contains 81,272 acres of public land and 415 acres of private land. It is contiguous to two California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) Wilderness Study Areas, Unit 266 and Unit 267 (36,239 acres and 37,561 acres).
2. Wilderness Characteristics:
 - A. Size - The unit contains 81,272 acres of public land and 415 acres of private land.
 - B. Naturalness - The entire unit has been heavily impacted by mining, ranching, and ORV use. Intrusions include numerous stock tanks, corrals, fencing, windmills, mine shafts and tunnels, and roads, ways and trails.
 - C. Outstanding Opportunities -
 1. Solitude: Vegetation consists predominantly of creosote, with scattered Joshua trees and yucca. The topography varies from a flat area to the north and east, to the foothills of the Castle and New York Mountains on the western boundary. The vegetative and topographic screening is inadequate to avoid the sight and sound of other visitors to, and the extensive intrusions within the unit.

2. Primitive and Unconfined Recreation: There are good opportunities for dove and quail hunting because of the many guzzlers built within the unit. However, this opportunity as well as the opportunities for hiking, camping, and horseback riding, were not found to be outstanding.

D. Supplemental Values: There are cultural resource values in the northernmost extensions of the Castle and New York Mountains, including shelter caves and quarry sites. Some of the older mining developments may be of historical interest.

3. Recommendation: Area does not qualify for wilderness study.

4. Rationale for Recommendation: There is no natural area remaining in this unit, including the lands adjacent to the CDCA Units 266 and 267. The opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation also were not determined to be outstanding.

Unit No: NV-050-0447

Unit Name: Christmas Tree Pass

1. Area Description: The unit is located southeast of Searchlight in the Newberry Mountains. It contains 10,591 acres of public land and is contiguous to the National Park Service wilderness proposal for Lake Mead NRA, Unit #1, Christmas Tree Pass (7,650 acres).

2. Wilderness Characteristics:

A. Size - The unit contains 10,591 acres of public land.

B. Naturalness - The entire unit has been extensively impacted by man's activities. Three communication sites dominate the peaks of the unit, with associated buildings, towers, and massive cut and fill access roads. Other intrusions include guzzlers, spring developments, mineral assessment sites, and roads and ways. The entire unit is in an unnatural condition.

C. Outstanding Opportunities -

1. Solitude: The vegetation is desert shrubs and grasses, with Joshua trees and pinyon/juniper at the higher elevations. The topography consists of rolling mountains at the northeast end and a flat bajada to the west and south. The vegetative and topographic screening are insufficient to avoid the sights and sounds of other visitors and of the intrusions within the area.

2. Primitive and Unconfined Recreation: Opportunities for hiking, camping, horseback riding, nature studies, and especially hunting are available, but these opportunities were not found to be outstanding.
- D. Supplemental Values: Cultural resources, such as shelter caves, rock art, and temporary campsites, are known to exist within the unit.
3. Recommendation: Area does not qualify for wilderness study.
4. Rationale for Recommendation: The unit is in an unnatural condition beyond the possibility of rehabilitation. The opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation were not determined to be outstanding.

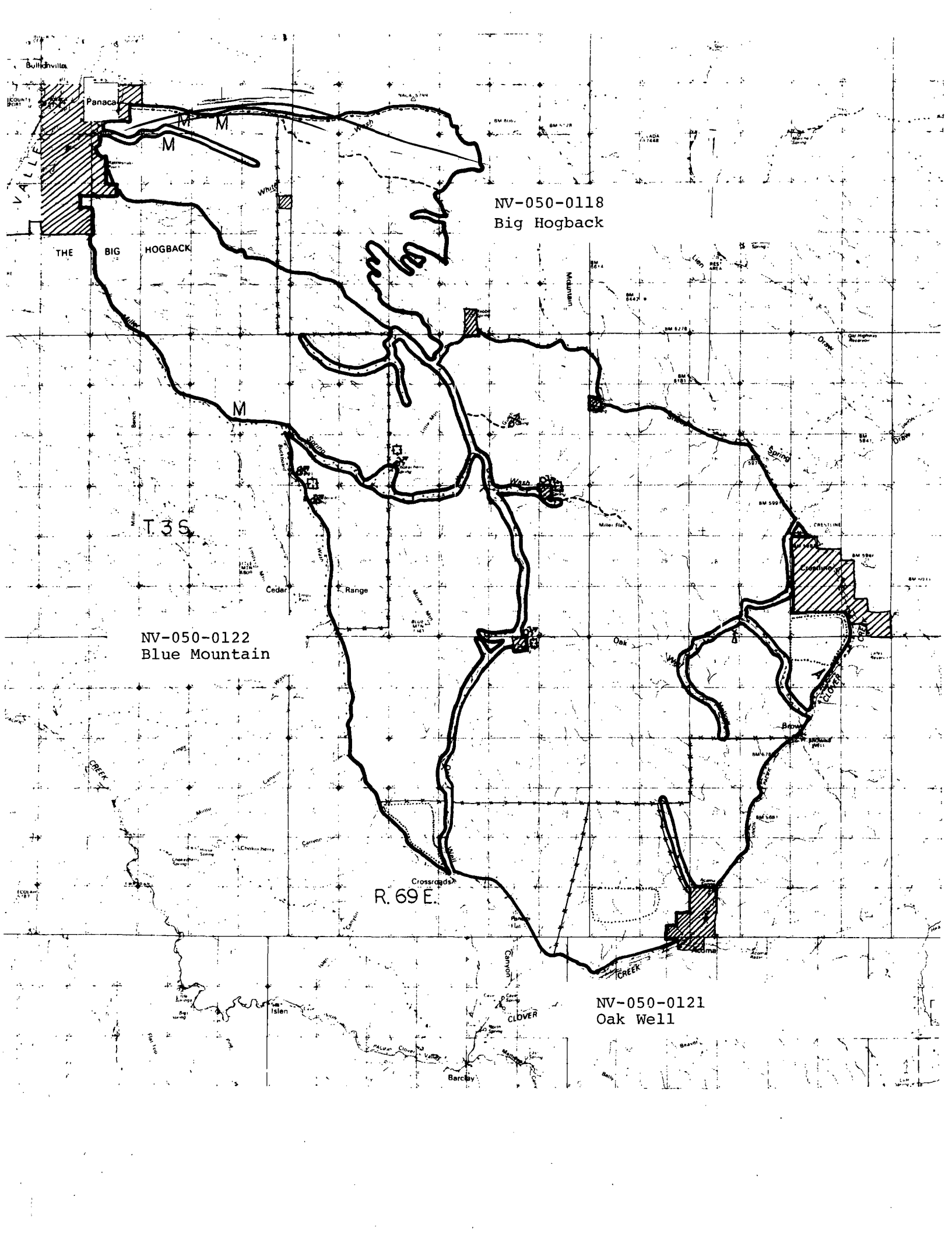
Unit No: NV-050-04R-15

Unit Name: Nellis

1. Area Description: This unit is located at the northern end of the Vegas Valley and contains 13,400 acres of public land and 80 acres of private land. It is contiguous on the north to the 1977 wilderness proposal made to Congress by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
2. Wilderness Characteristics:
 - A. Size - The unit contains 13,400 acres. The three portions recommended for WSA status contain about 6,000 acres combined.
 - B. Naturalness - Intrusions in the unit include roads, ways, trails, gravel pits, powerlines, a railroad, mining assessment pits, and large rifle ranges. There are three small areas in the northern portion that remain natural.
 - C. Outstanding Opportunities -
 1. Solitude: The predominant vegetation is creosote, with some yucca in the northern portion. Most of the unit is a flat bajada gently sloping south from the Sheep Range and highly eroded. Because of the lack of vegetative and topographic screening and the numerous access routes in the unit, it would be extremely difficult to avoid other visitors to the unit and experience outstanding solitude.
 2. Primitive and Unconfined Recreation: The quality of the available recreational opportunities is rated fair to poor in this area.

D. Supplemental Values: None known.

3. Recommendation: Three portions of the area should be approved as WSA's for further study and reported to the President. The restrictions imposed by Section 603 will no longer apply on the remainder of the area.
4. Rationale for Recommendation: These three areas are recommended for designation as WSA's solely on the basis that they are natural and are contiguous to the 1977 wilderness proposal made to Congress by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation were not determined to be outstanding, by themselves, but could be determined outstanding when considered with the Fish and Wildlife lands as an entire unit.



NV-050-0118
Big Hogback

NV-050-0122
Blue Mountain

NV-050-0121
Oak Well

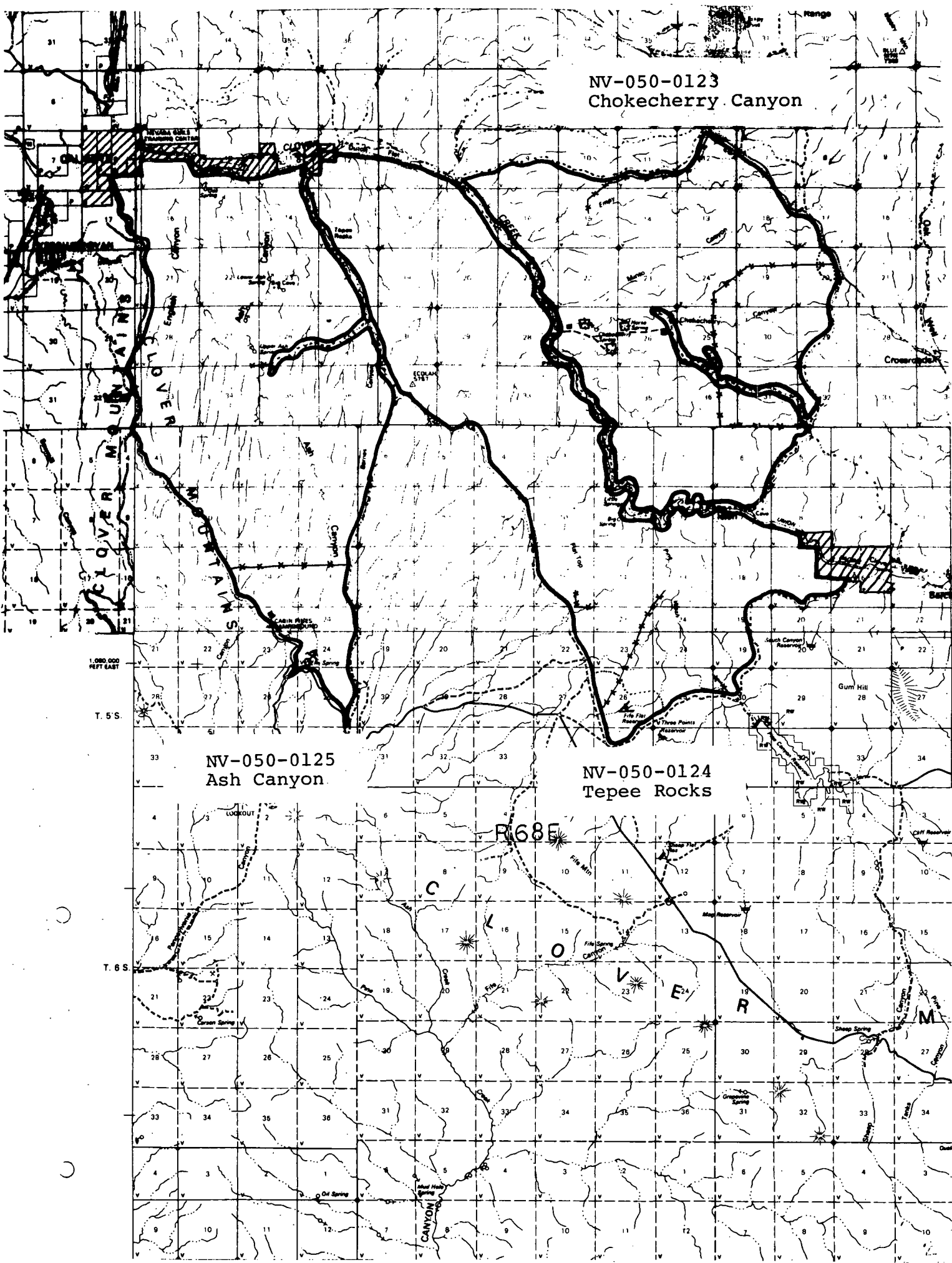
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Chokecherry Canyon

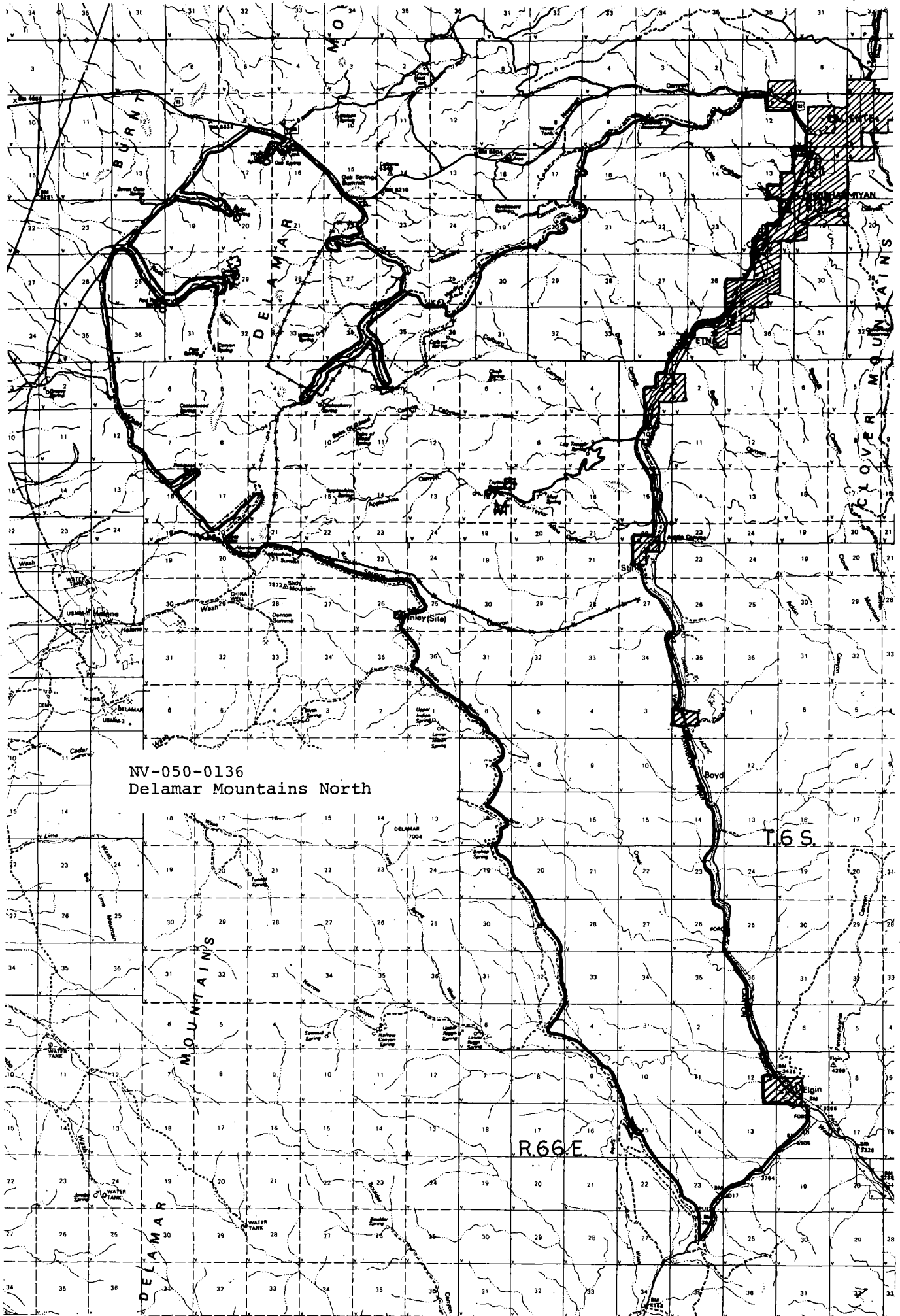
NV-050-0125
Ash Canyon

NV-050-0124
Tepee Rocks

1,000,000
FEET EAST
T. 5 S.

T. 6 S.

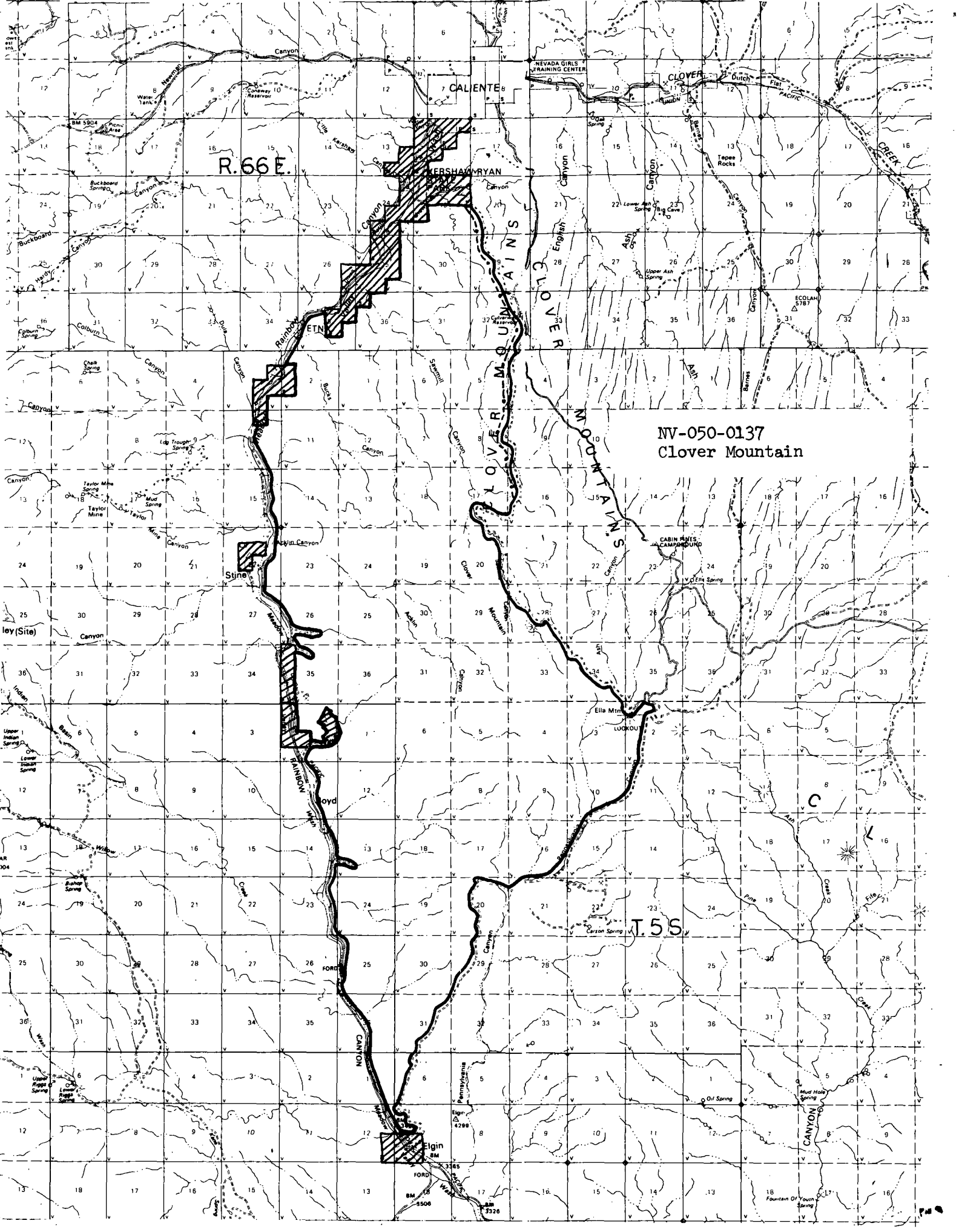




NV-050-0136
Delmar Mountains North

T.6 S.

R.66 E.



R. 66 E.

CLERHAMRYAN

NEVADA GIRLS TRAINING CENTER

CLOVER

NV-050-0137
Clover Mountain

CLOVER MOUNTAINS

CABIN RITES CAMPGROUND

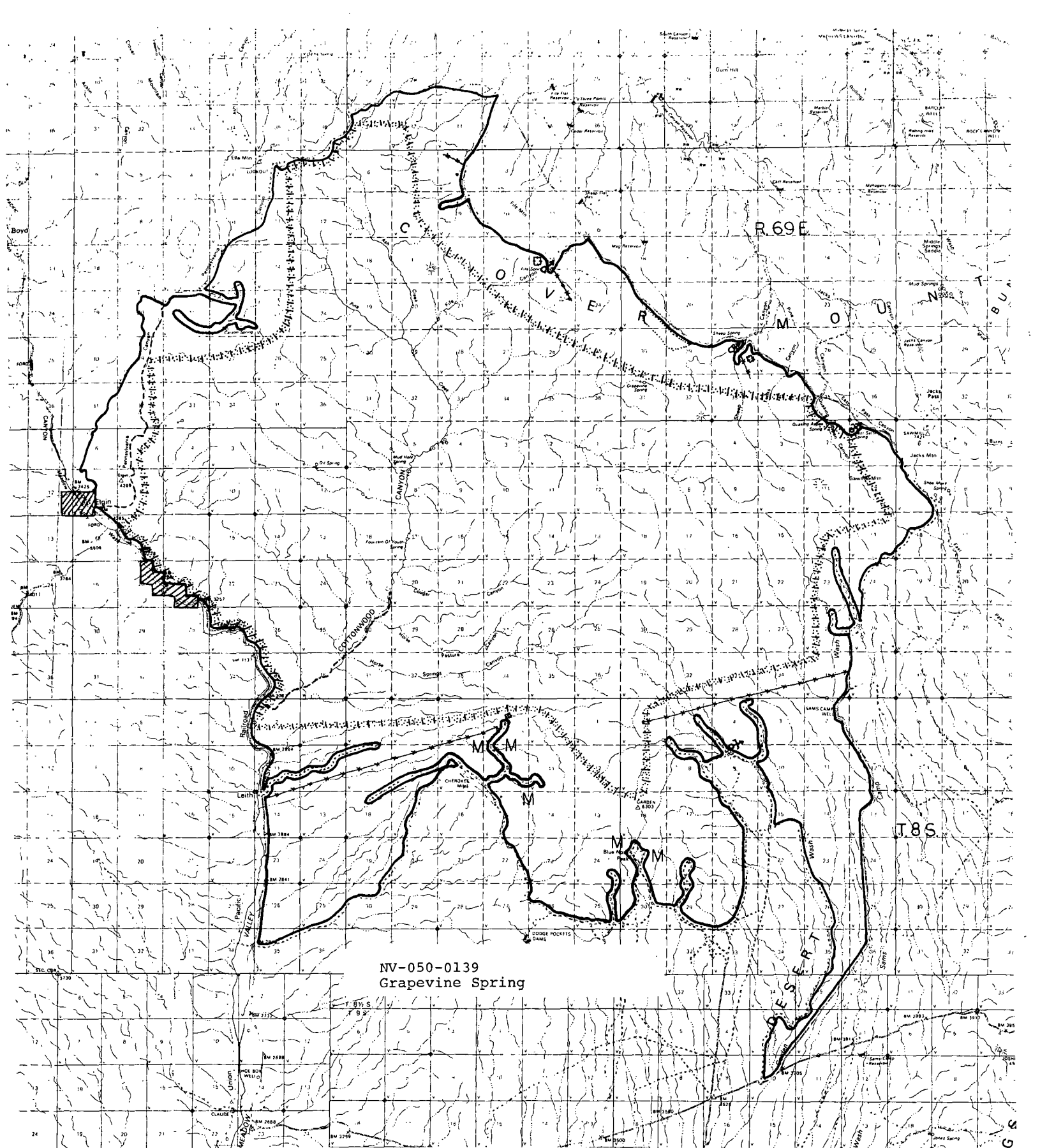
T. 5 S.

Elgin

FORD

CLOVER CANYON

Fountain of Youth Spring



NV-050-0139
Grapevine Spring

NV-050-0166
Tunnel Spring

R.70E.

T.5S.

IRON WASHINGTON CO. CO.

NEVADA
UTAH

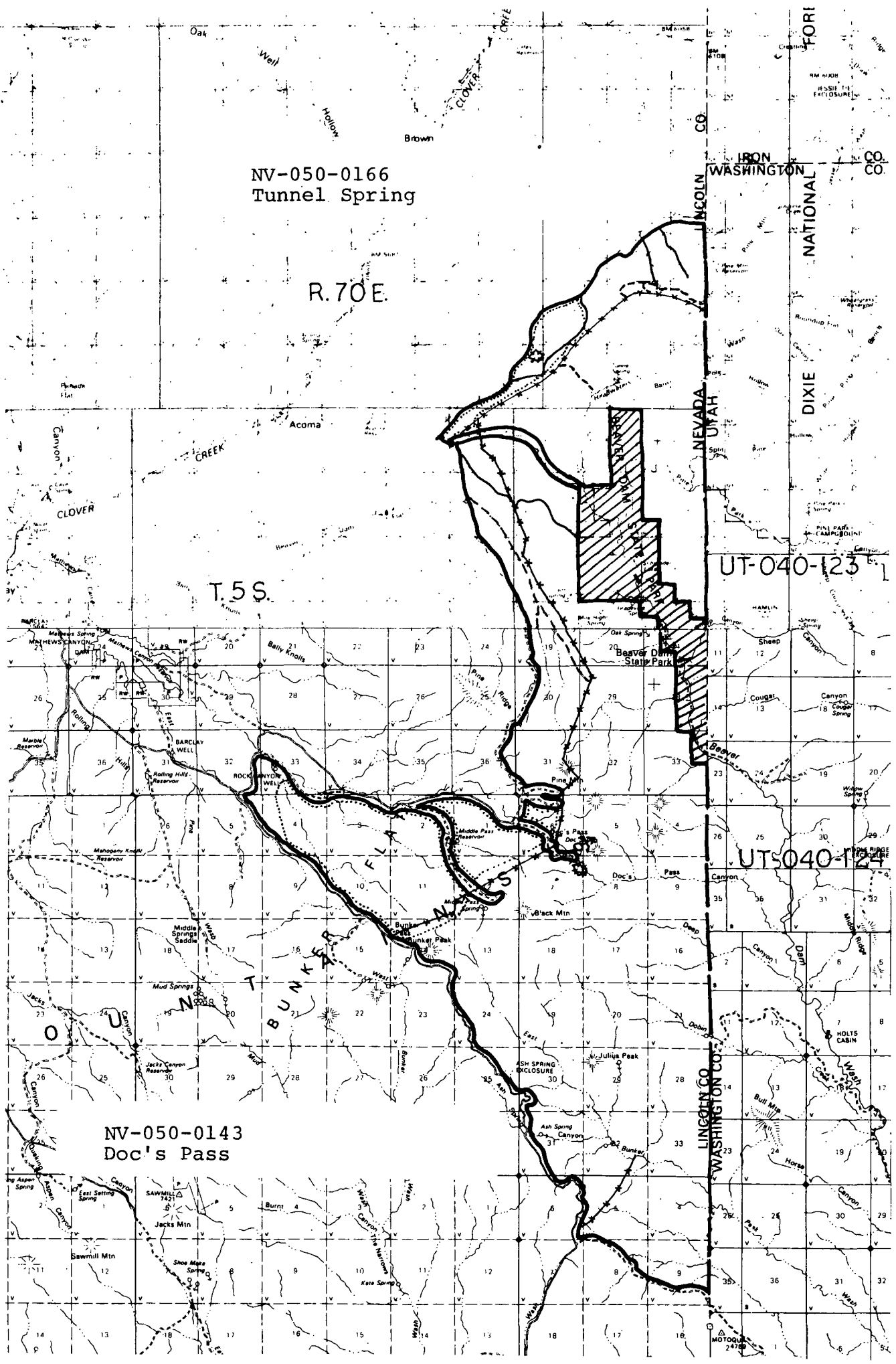
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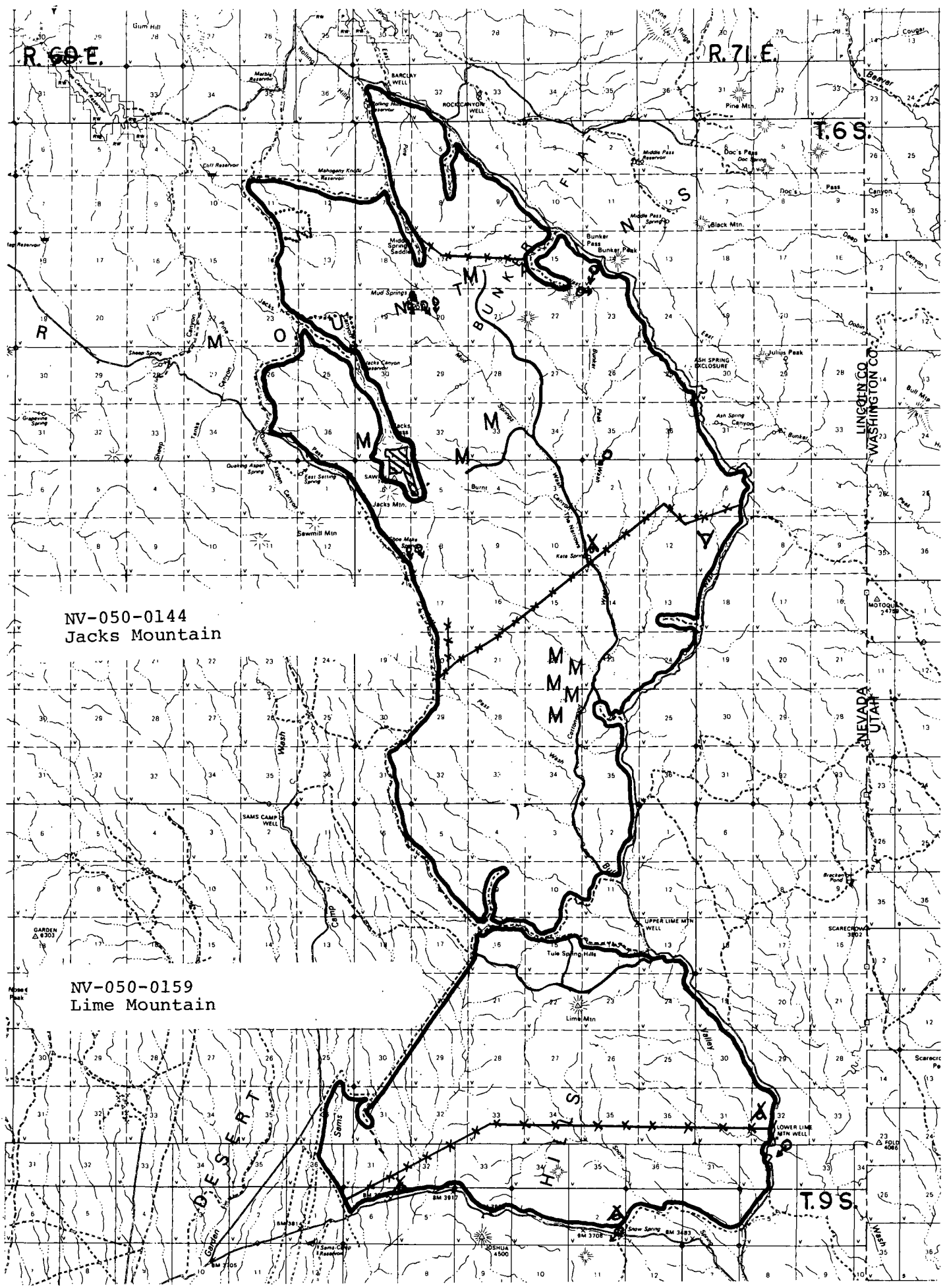
UT-040-123

UTS040-124

NV-050-0143
Doc's Pass

LINCOLN CO.
WASHINGTON CO.





R. 60 E.

R. 71 E.

T. 6 S.

NV-050-0144
Jacks Mountain

NV-050-0159
Lime Mountain

T. 9 S.

NEVADA
UTAH

LINCOLN CO.
WASHINGTON CO.

DESERT

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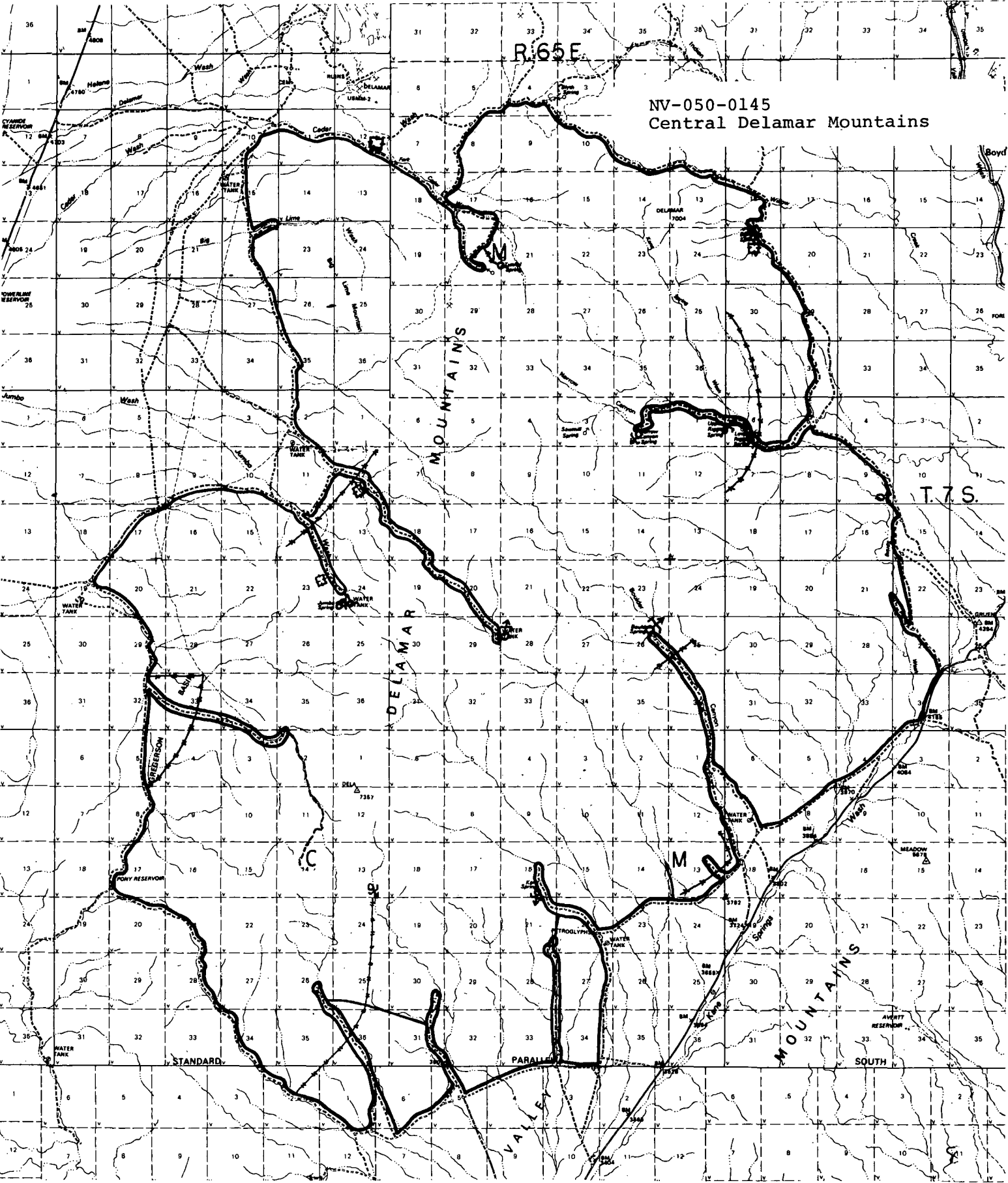
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NV-050-0145
Central Delamar Mountains



DELAMAR MOUNTAINS

DELAMAR

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T. 7 S.

CYANIDE RESERVOIR

WATER RESERVOIR

Jumbo

WATER TANK

WATER TANK

WATER TANK

DELA 7387

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WATER TANK

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WATER TANK

MEADOW

WATER TANK

Boyd

FOR

BM 1284

BM 1034

BM 1034

BM 1034

BM 1034

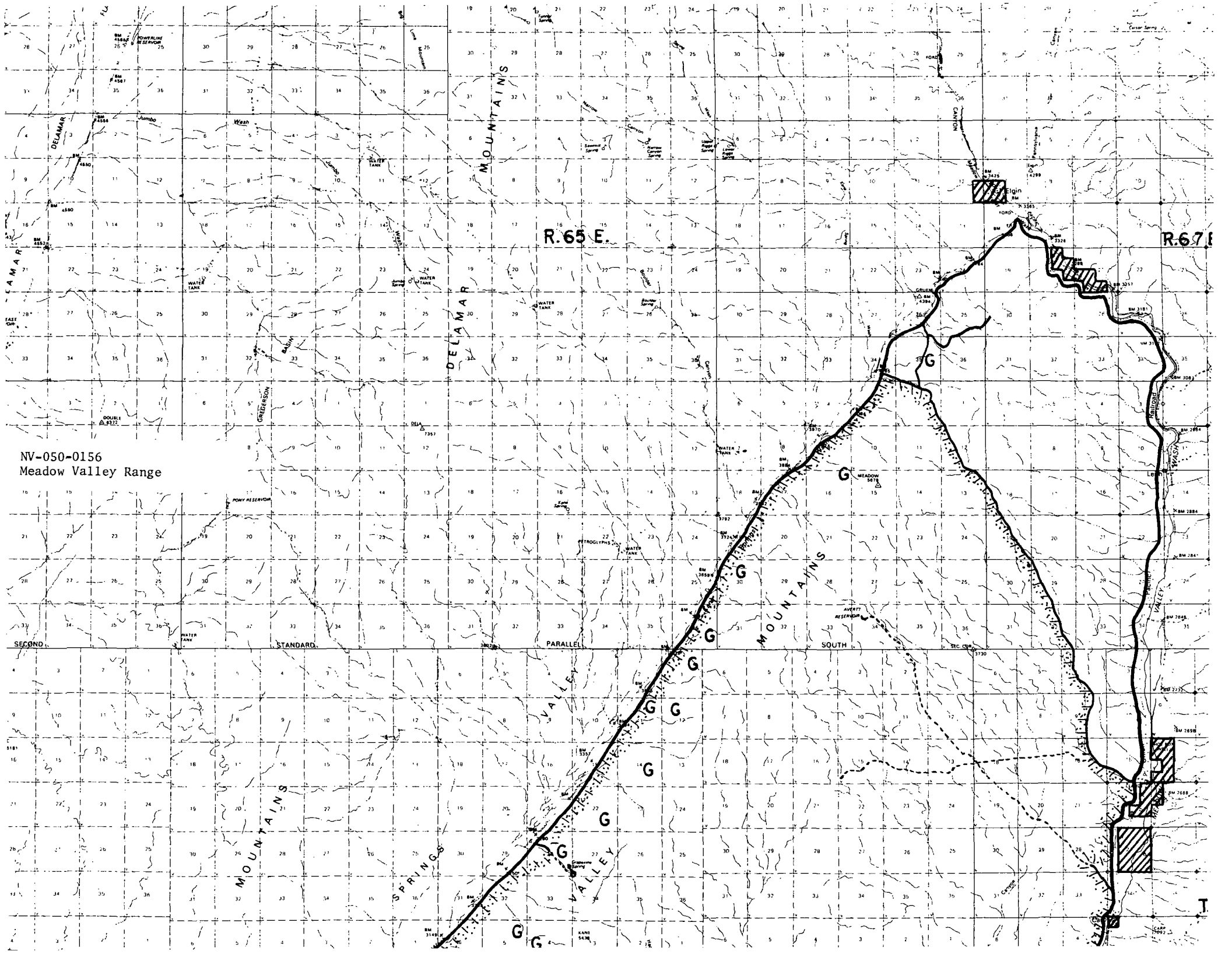
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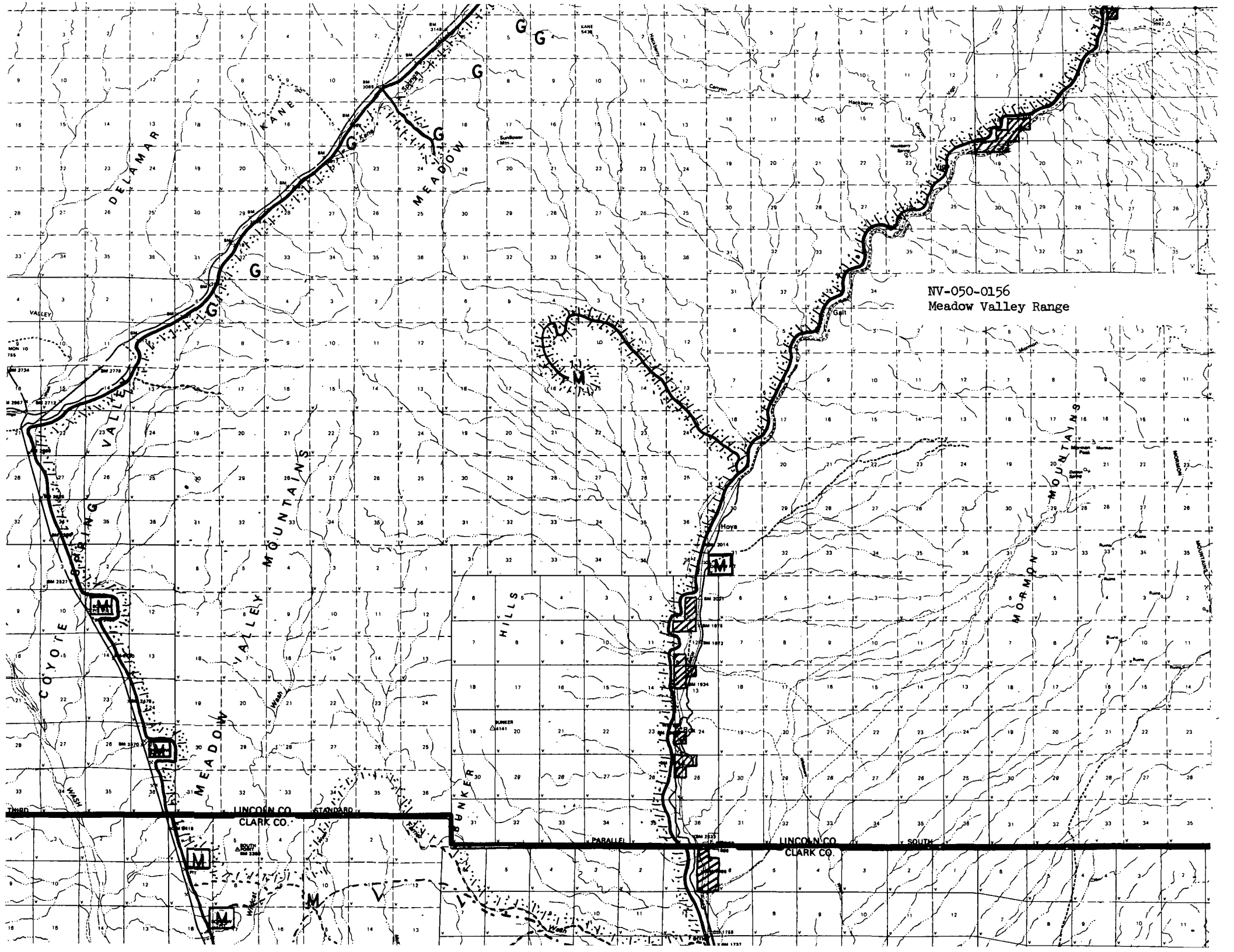
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NV-050-0156
Meadow Valley Range

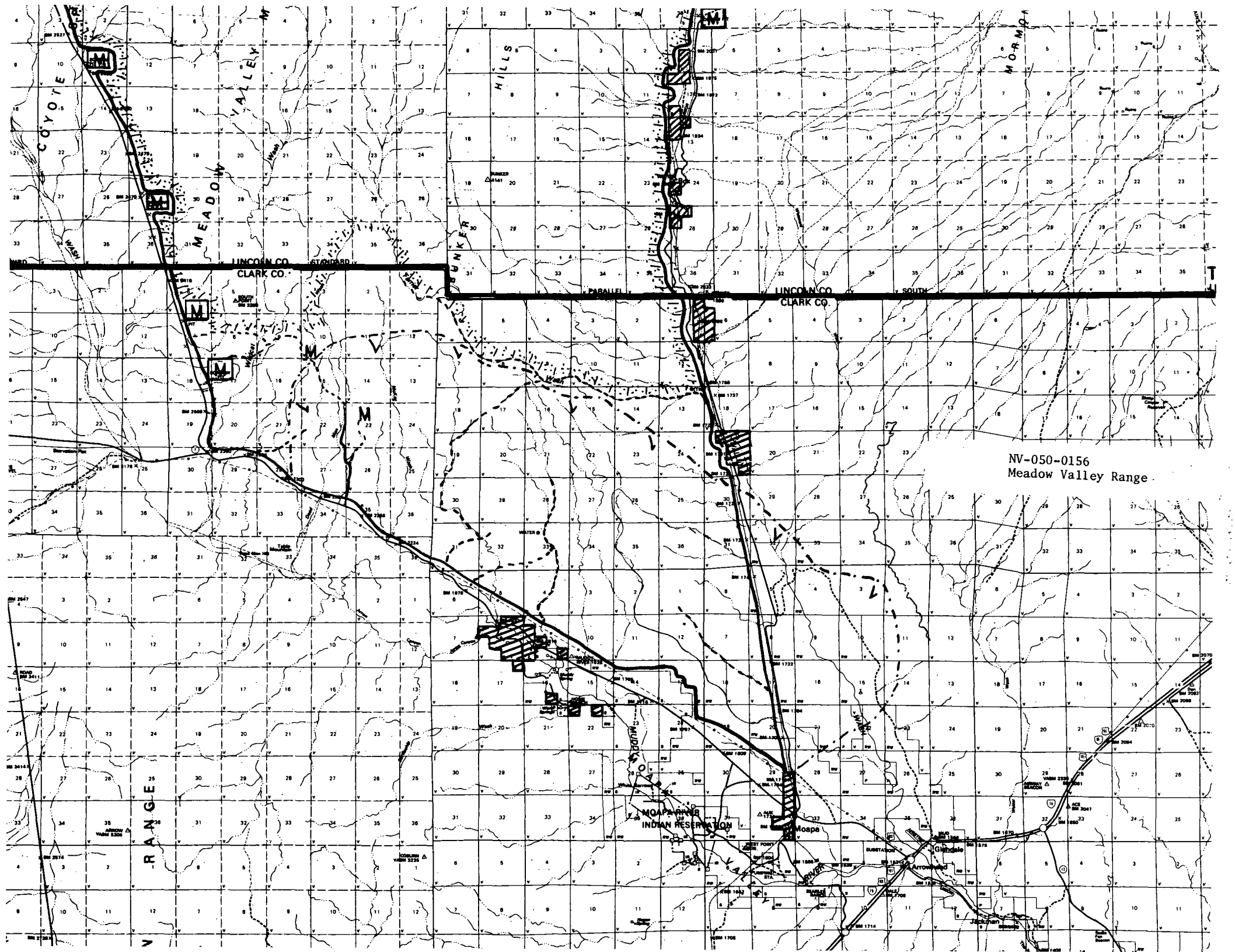




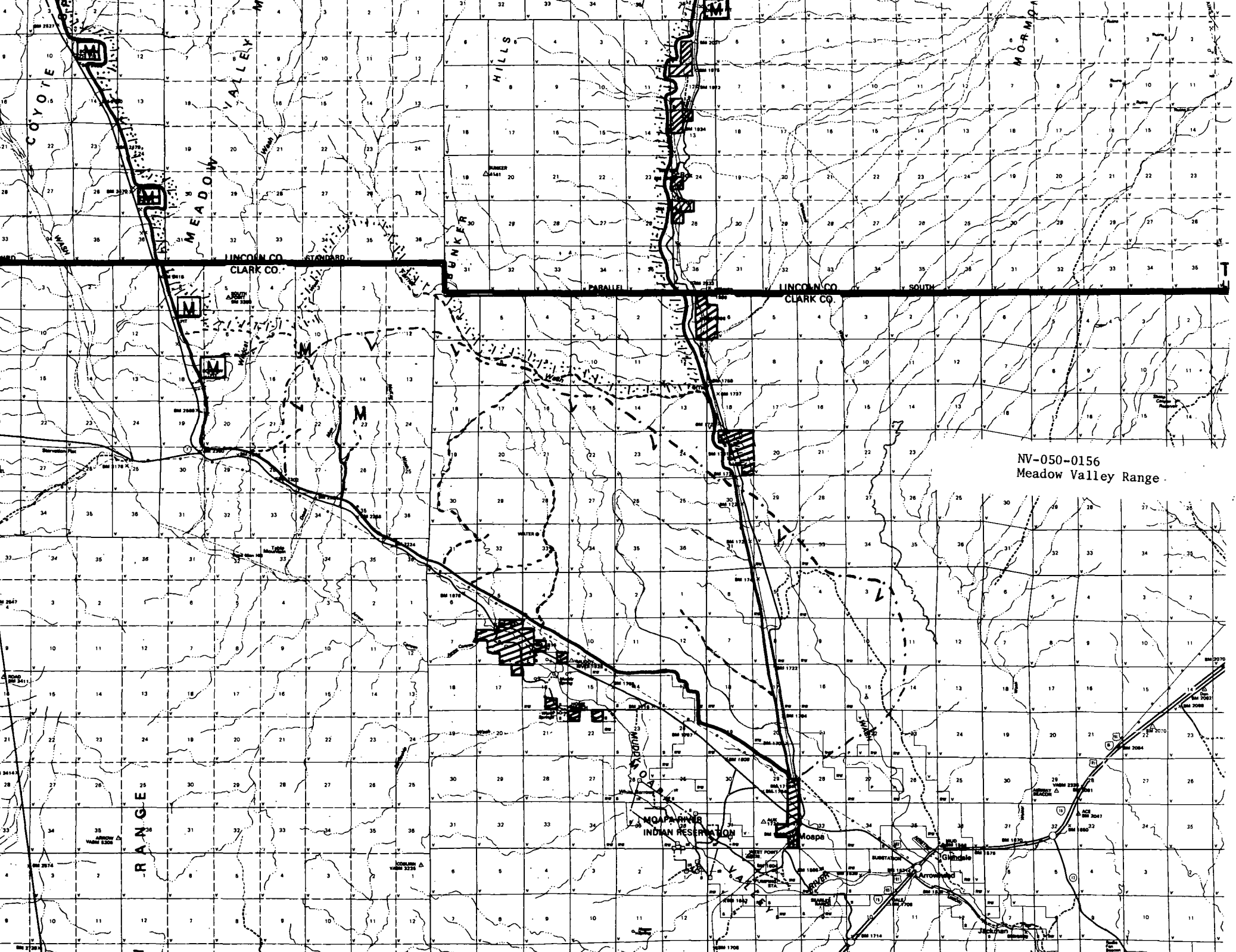
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Meadow Valley Range

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CLARK CO. LINCOLN CO.



NV-050-0156
Meadow Valley Range



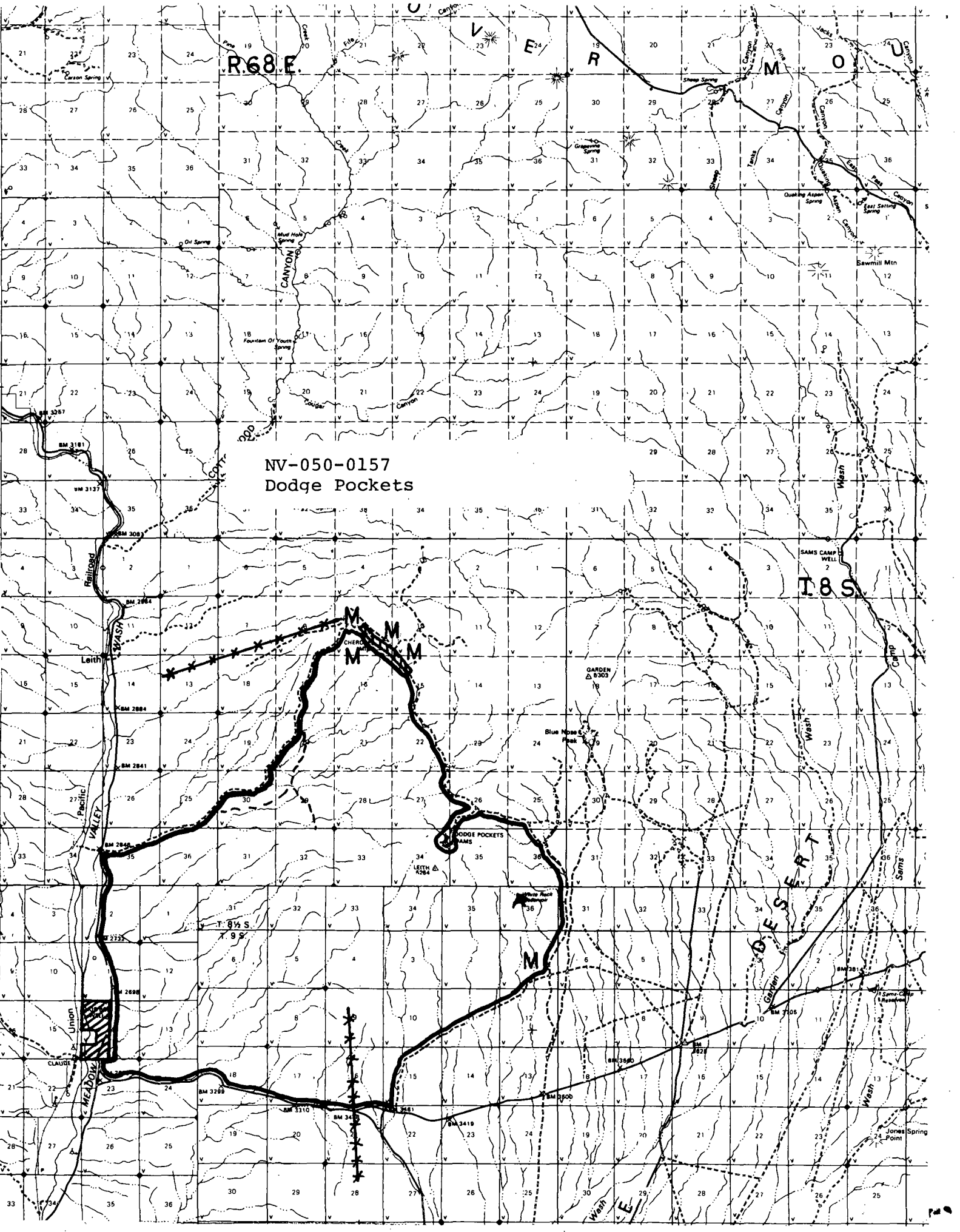
R. 68 E.

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NV-050-0157
Dodge Pockets

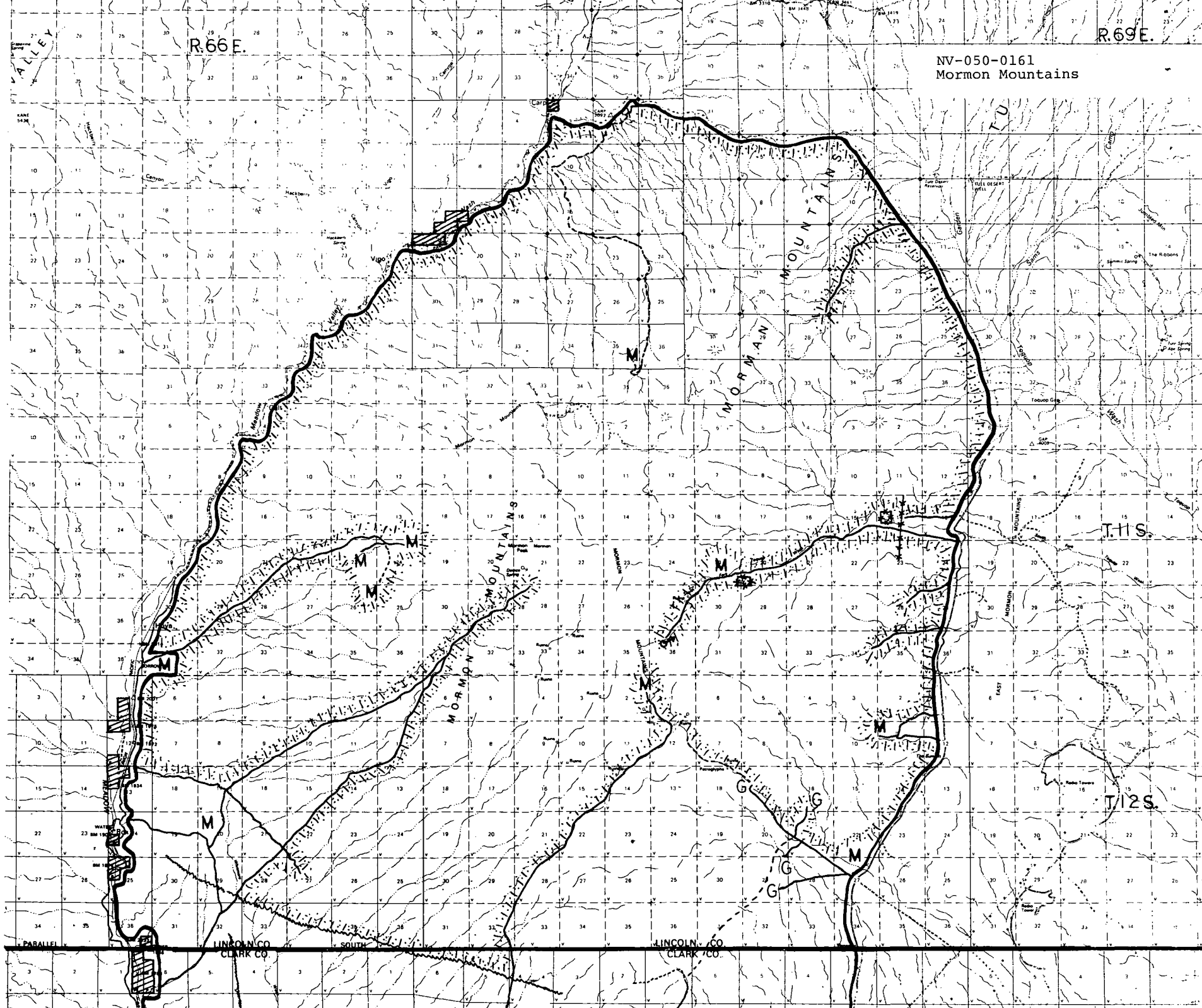
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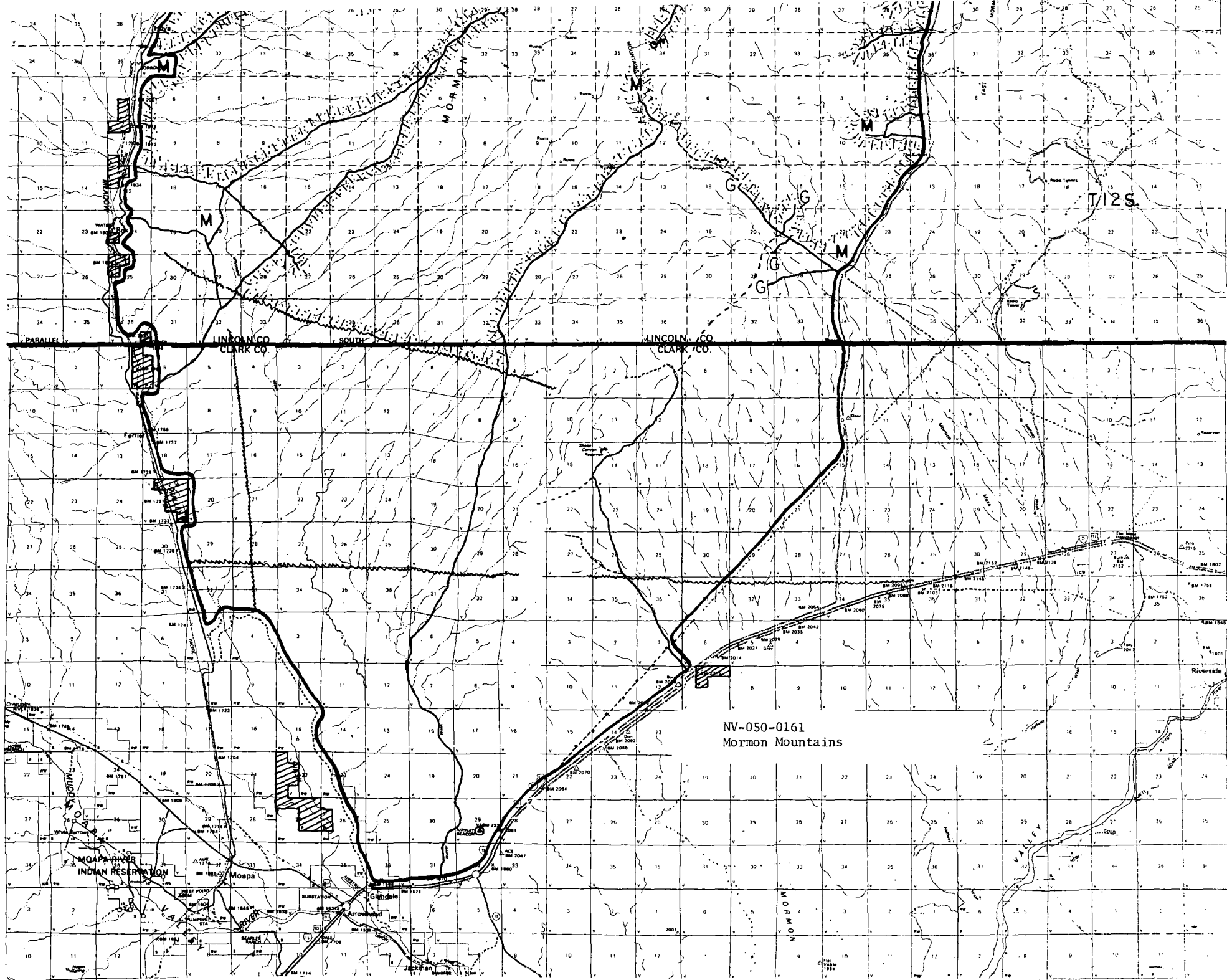


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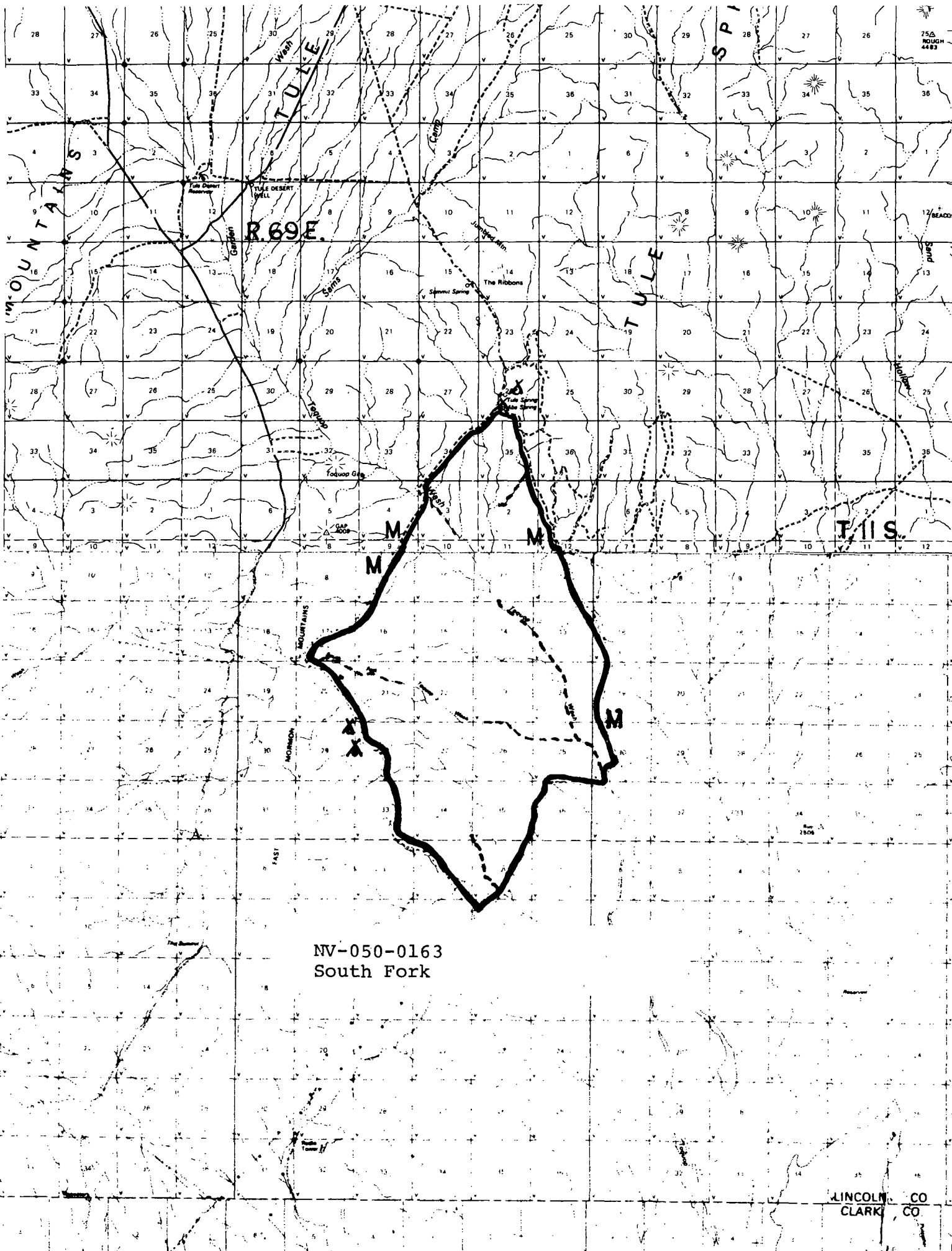
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NV-050-0161
Mormon Mountains





NV-050-0161
Mormon Mountains



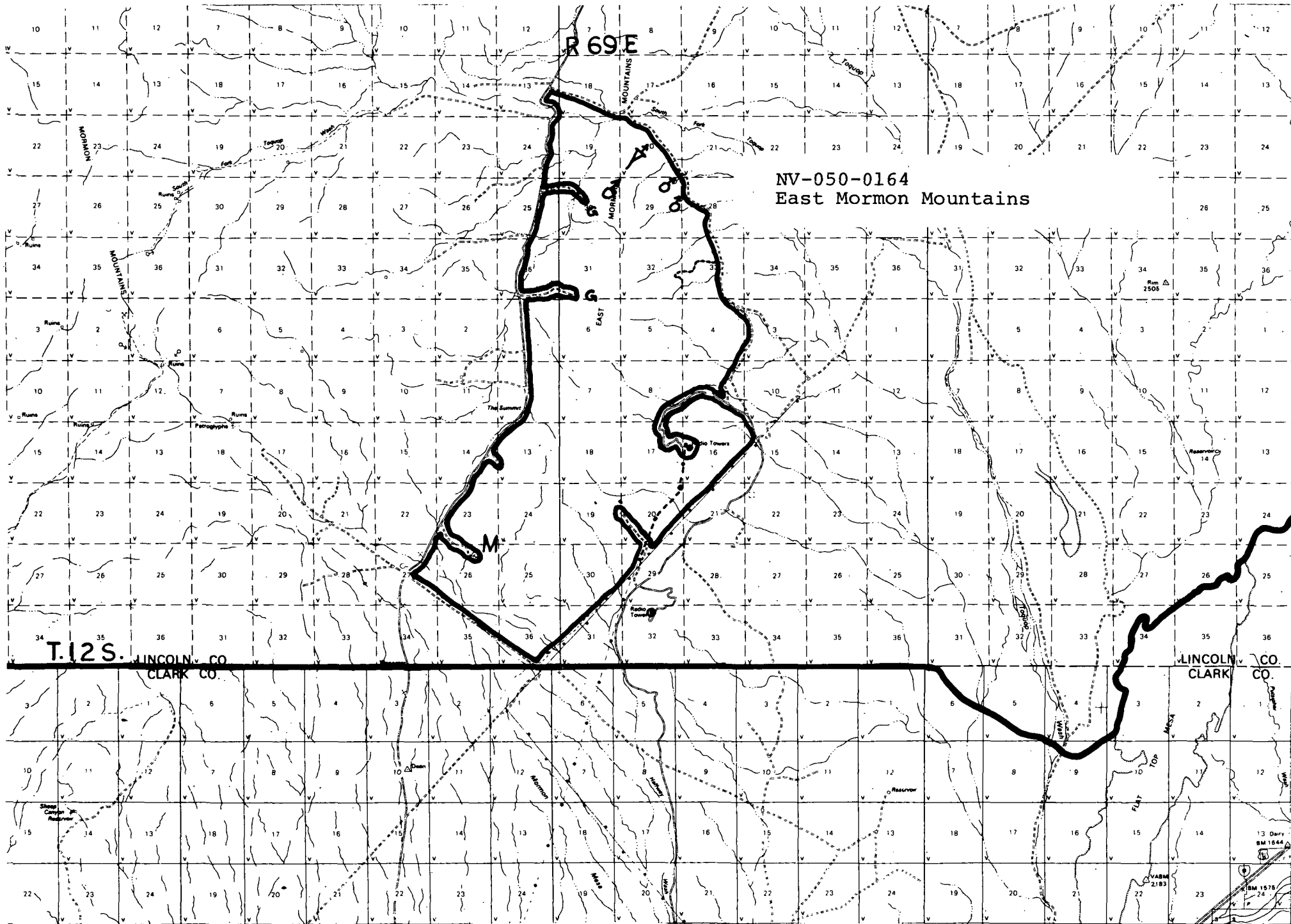
NV-050-0163
 South Fork

LINCOLN CO
 CLARK CO

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NV-050-0164
East Mormon Mountains



T. 12 S. LINCOLN CO.
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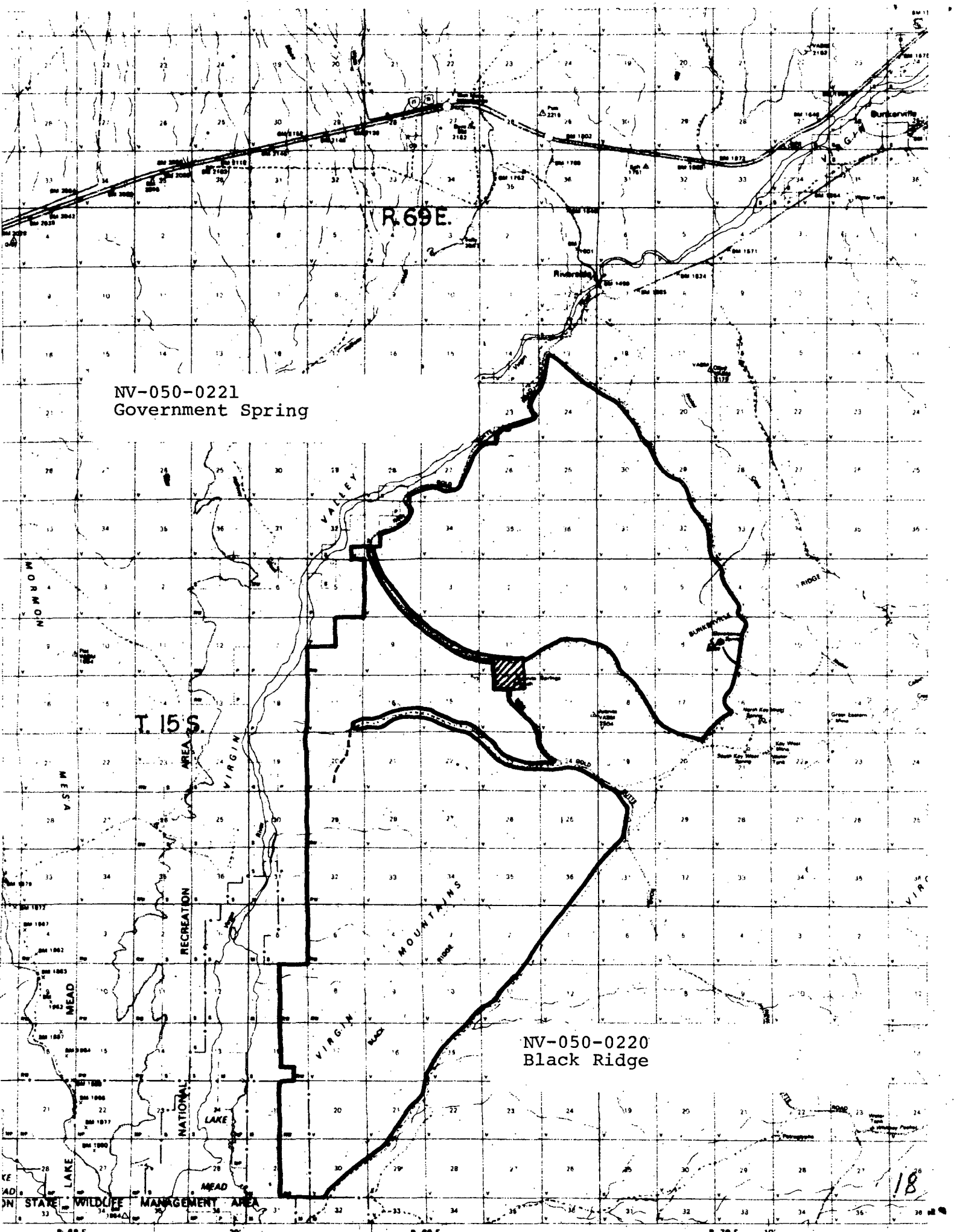
NV-050-0221
Government Spring

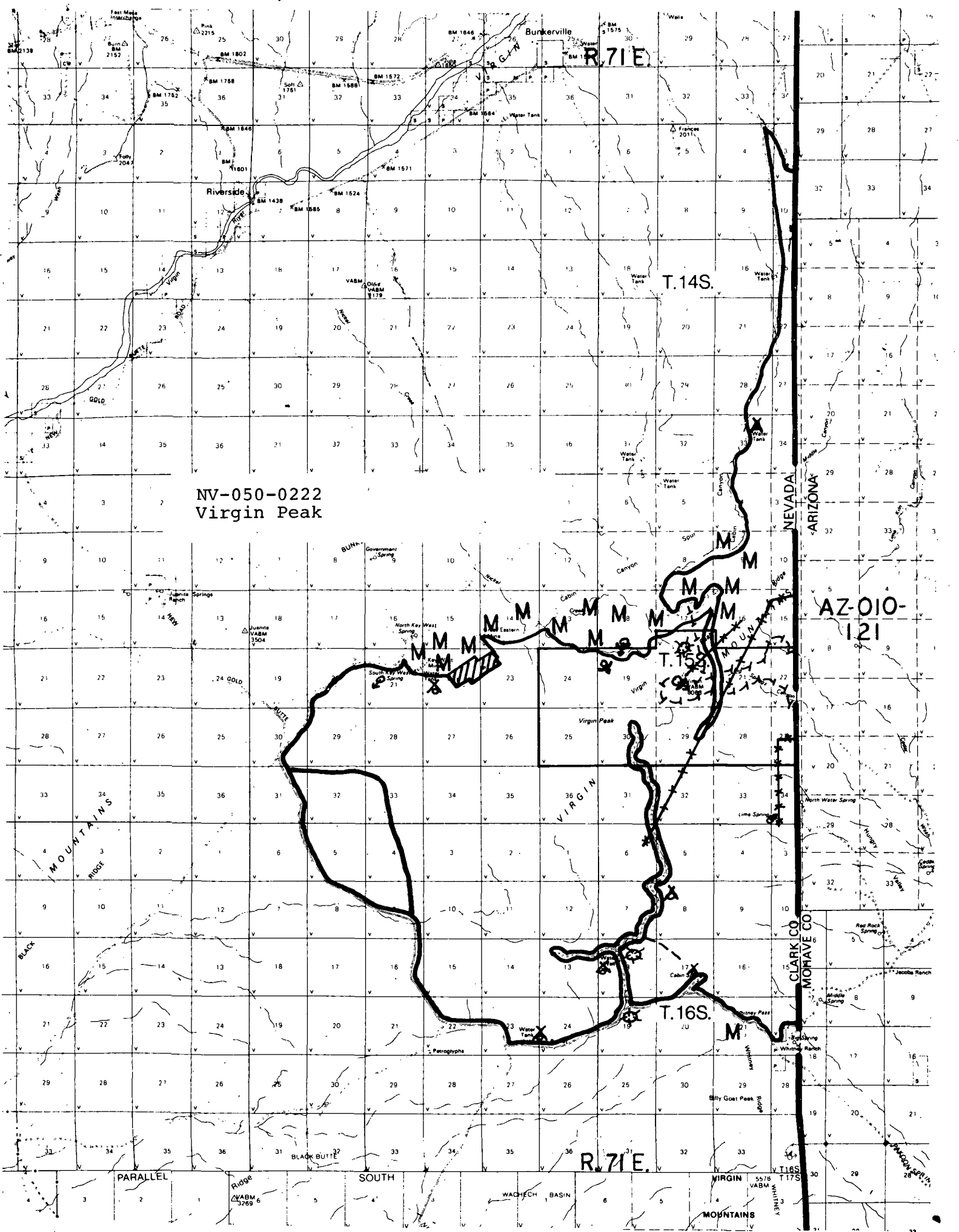
R. 69 E.

T. 15 S.

NV-050-0220
Black Ridge

18





NV-050-0222
Virgin Peak

AZ-010-121

PARALLEL

SOUTH

R. 71 E.

VIRGIN

MOUNTAINS

CLARK CO.
MORAVE CO.

NEVADA
ARIZONA

T. 16 S.

T. 14 S.

VABM 3269

VABM 5576

VABM 1175

VABM 3504

BUNN- Government

Spring

South Key West

Spring

Petroglyphs

Water Tank

Water Tank

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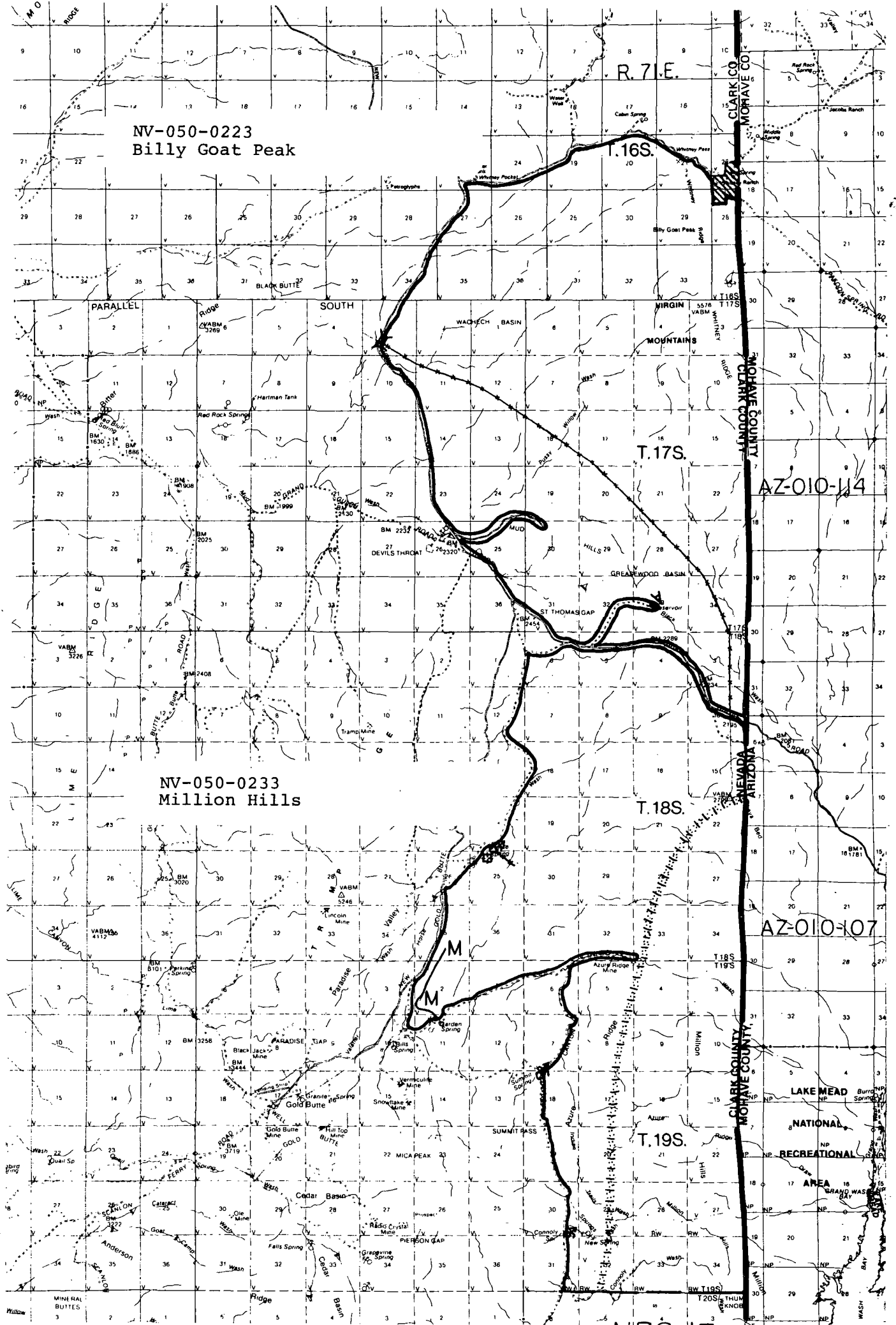
Water Tank

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NV-050-0223
Billy Goat Peak

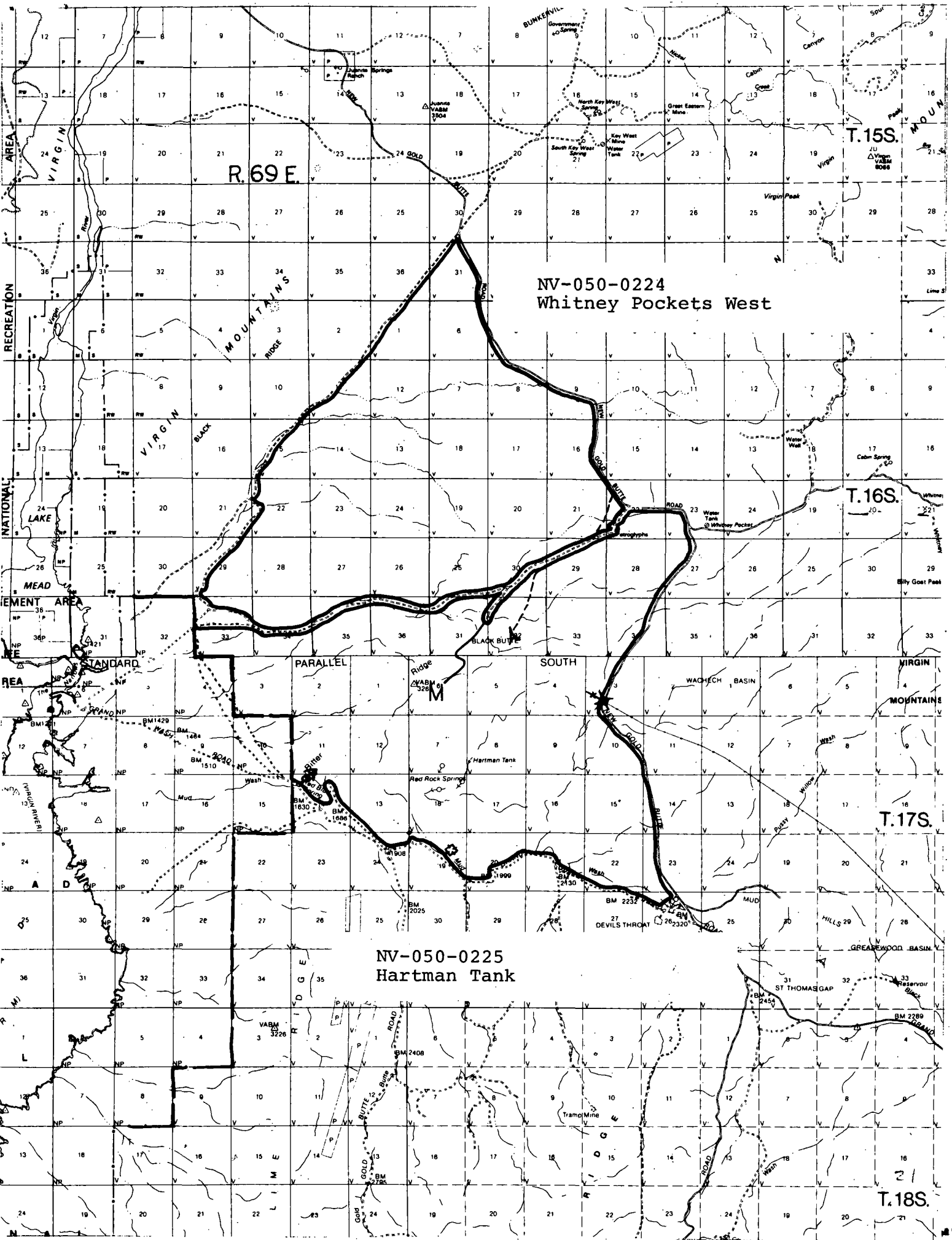
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Million Hills



AZ-010-114

AZ-010-107

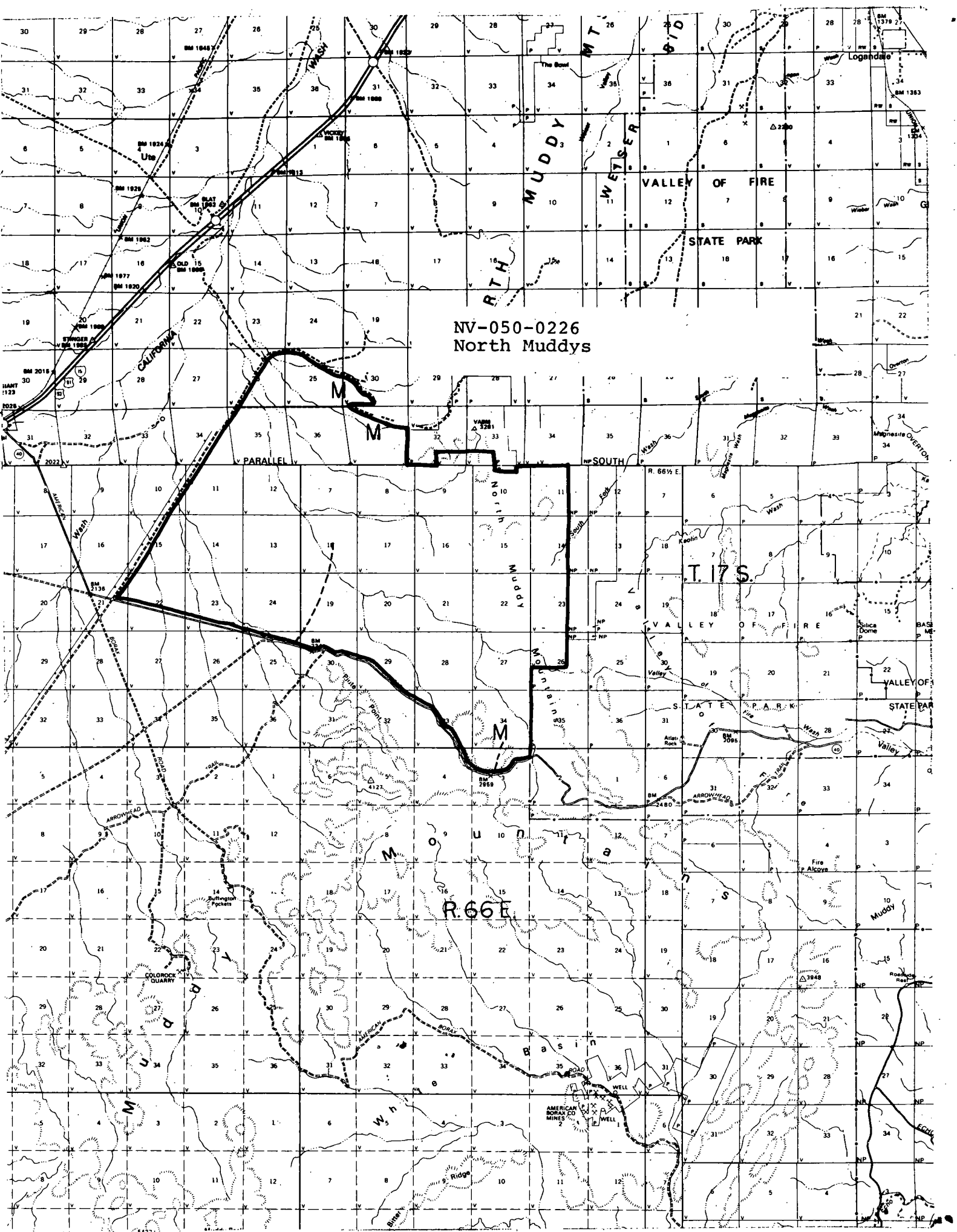
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MOHAVE CO. ARIZONA

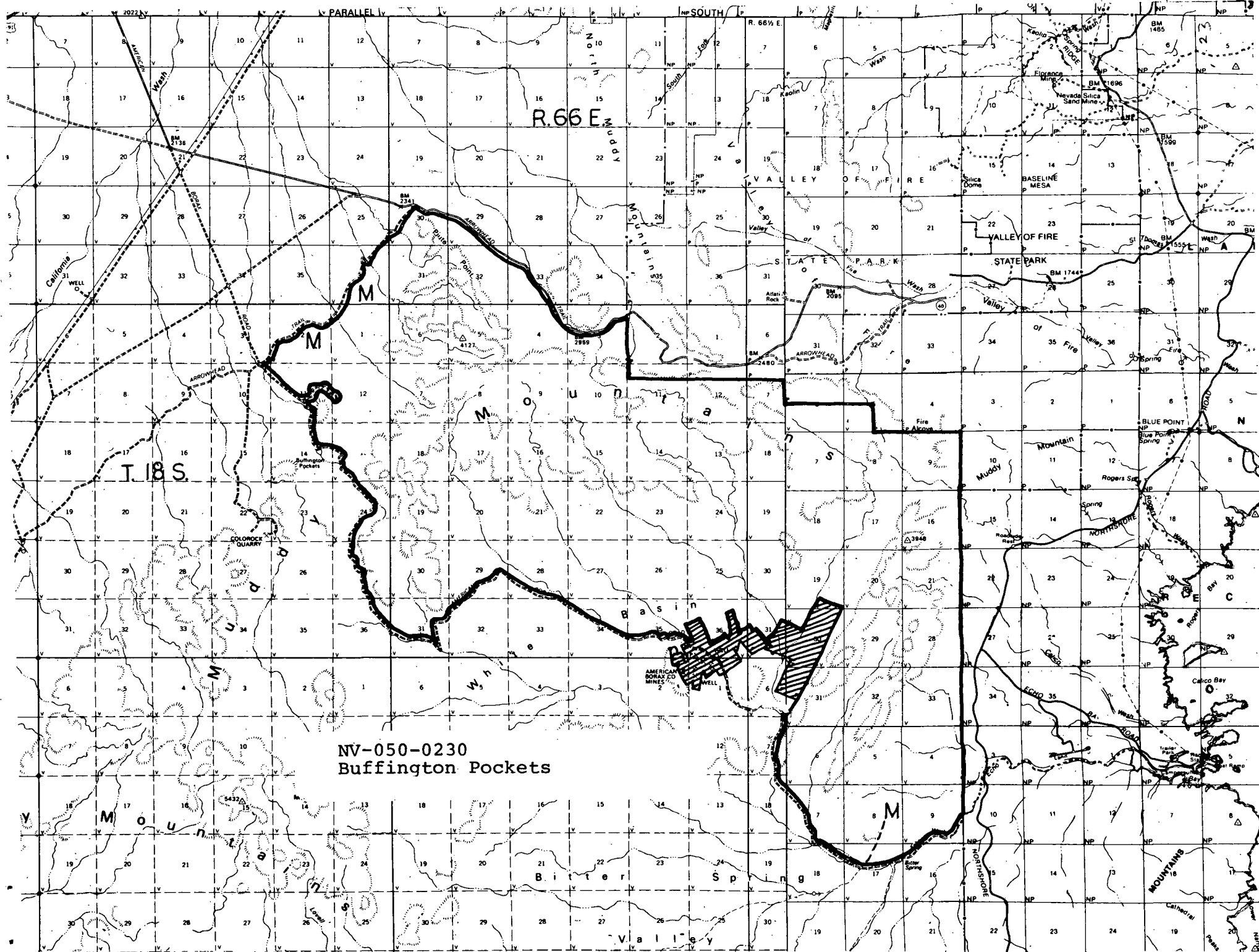


NV-050-0224
Whitney Pockets West

NV-050-0225
Hartman Tank

NV-050-0226
North Muddys





NV-050-0230
Buffington Pockets

NV-050-0231
Lime Canyon

NV-050-0232
Tramp Ridge

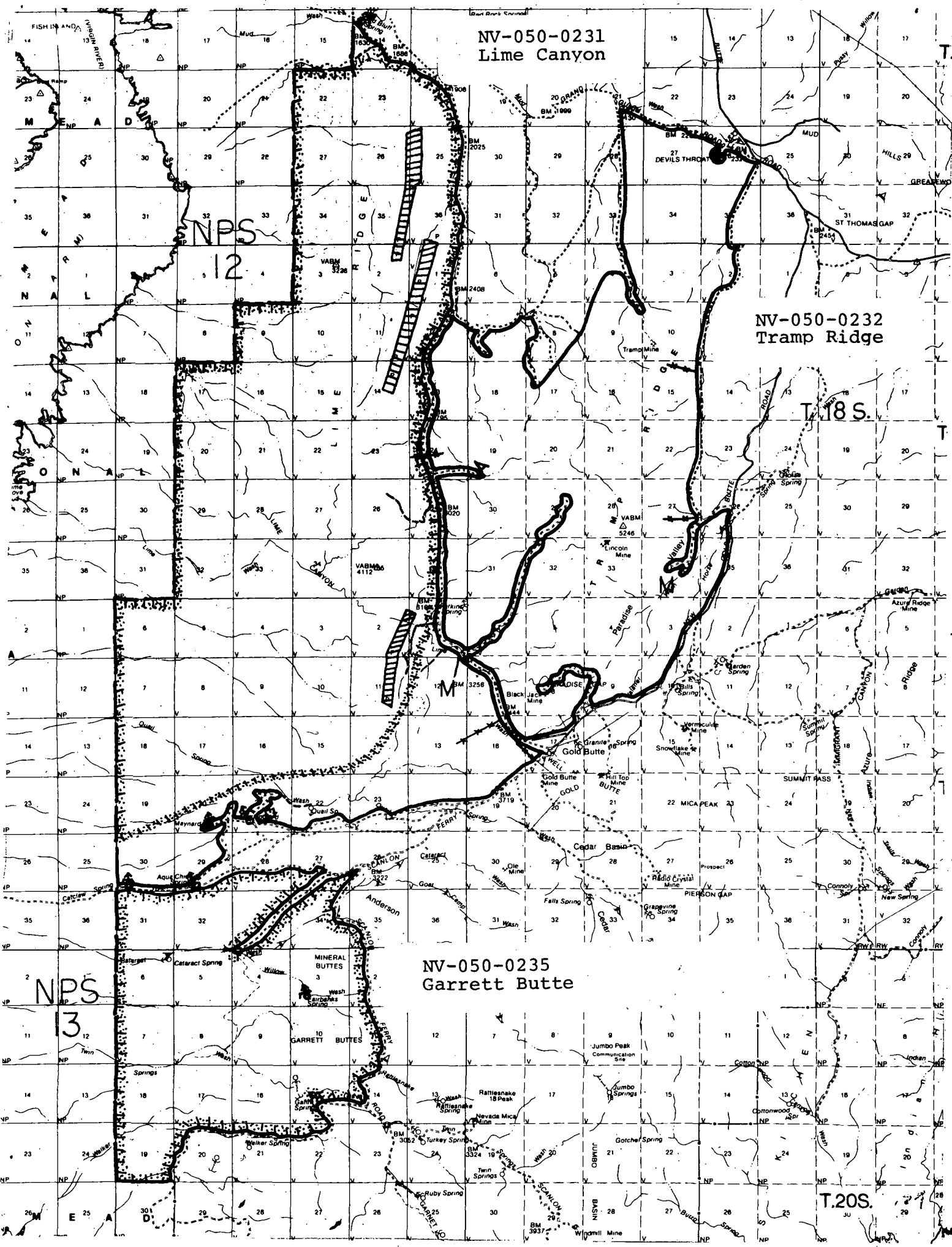
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Garrett Butte

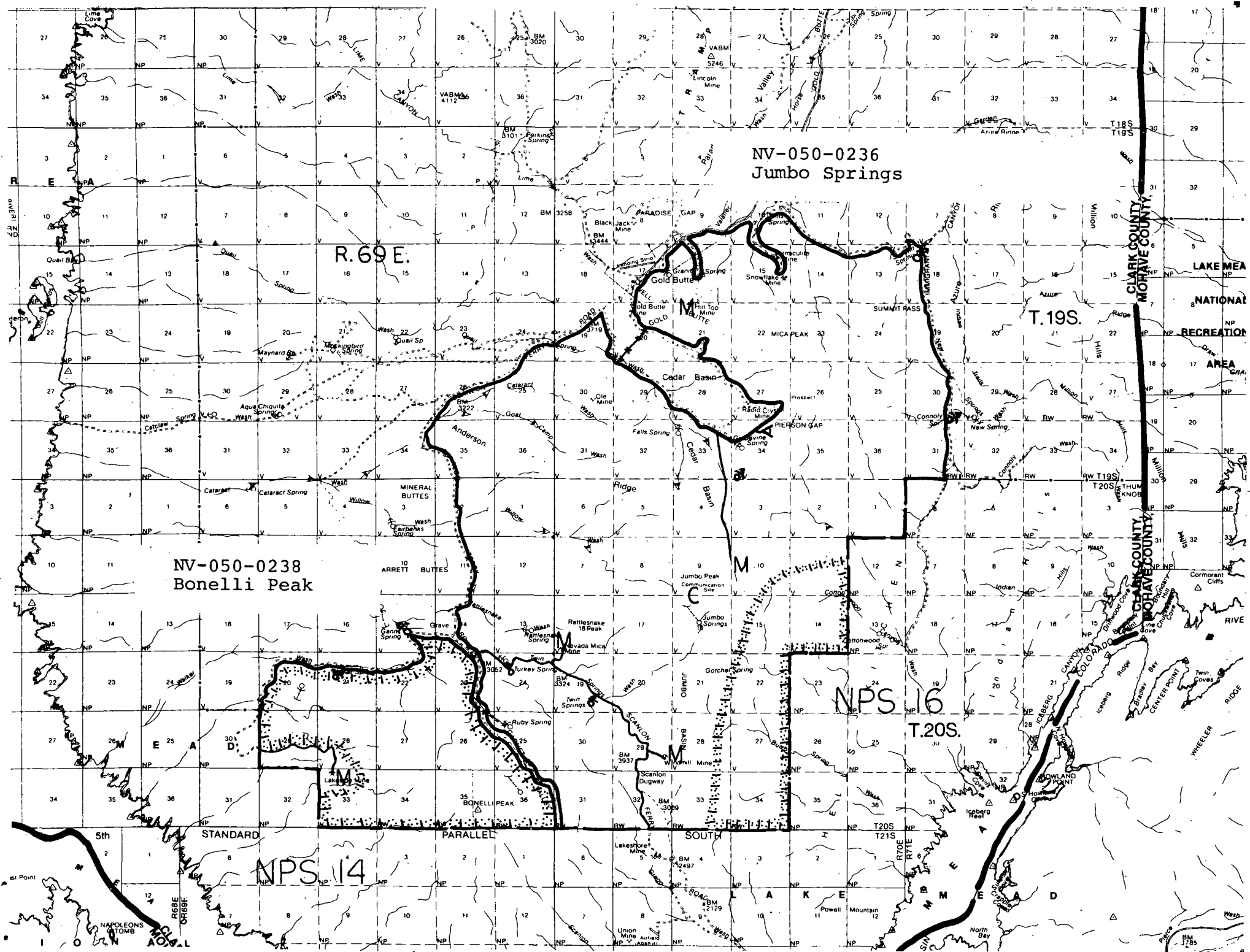
NPS
12

NPS
13

T.18 S.

T.20 S.





NV-050-0236
Jumbo Springs

R. 69 E.

T. 19 S.

NV-050-0238
Bonelli Peak

NPS 16
T. 20 S.

NPS 14

CLARK COUNTY
MOHAVE COUNTY

CLARK COUNTY
MOHAVE COUNTY

CLARK COUNTY
MOHAVE COUNTY

CLARK COUNTY
MOHAVE COUNTY

LAKE MEAD
NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

COLORADO RIVER

STANDARD PARALLEL

SOUTH

T20S
T21S

5th

NAPOLEONS TOMB

Union Mine

Powell Mountain

North Bay

BM 1785

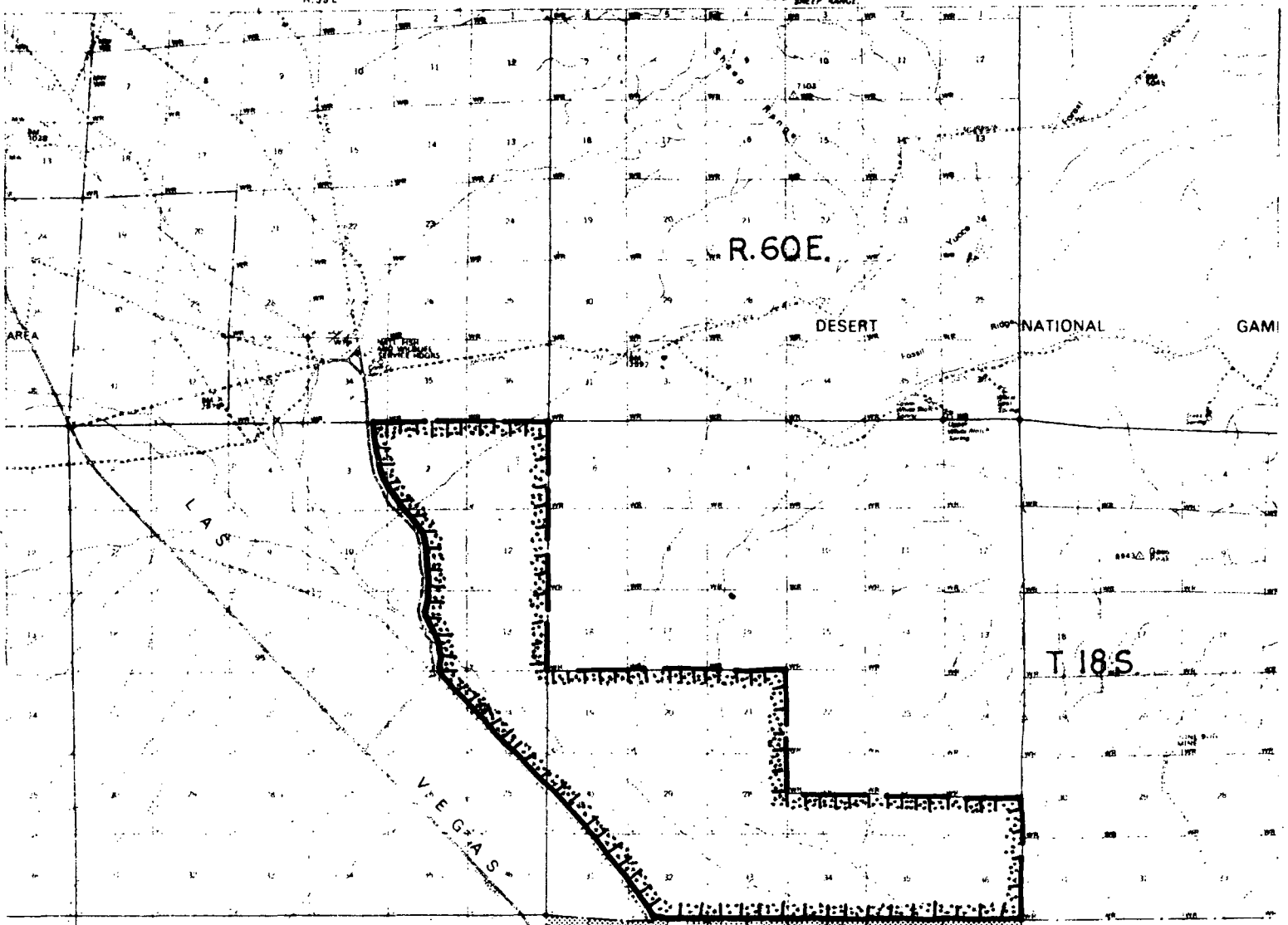
R. 59 E

20'

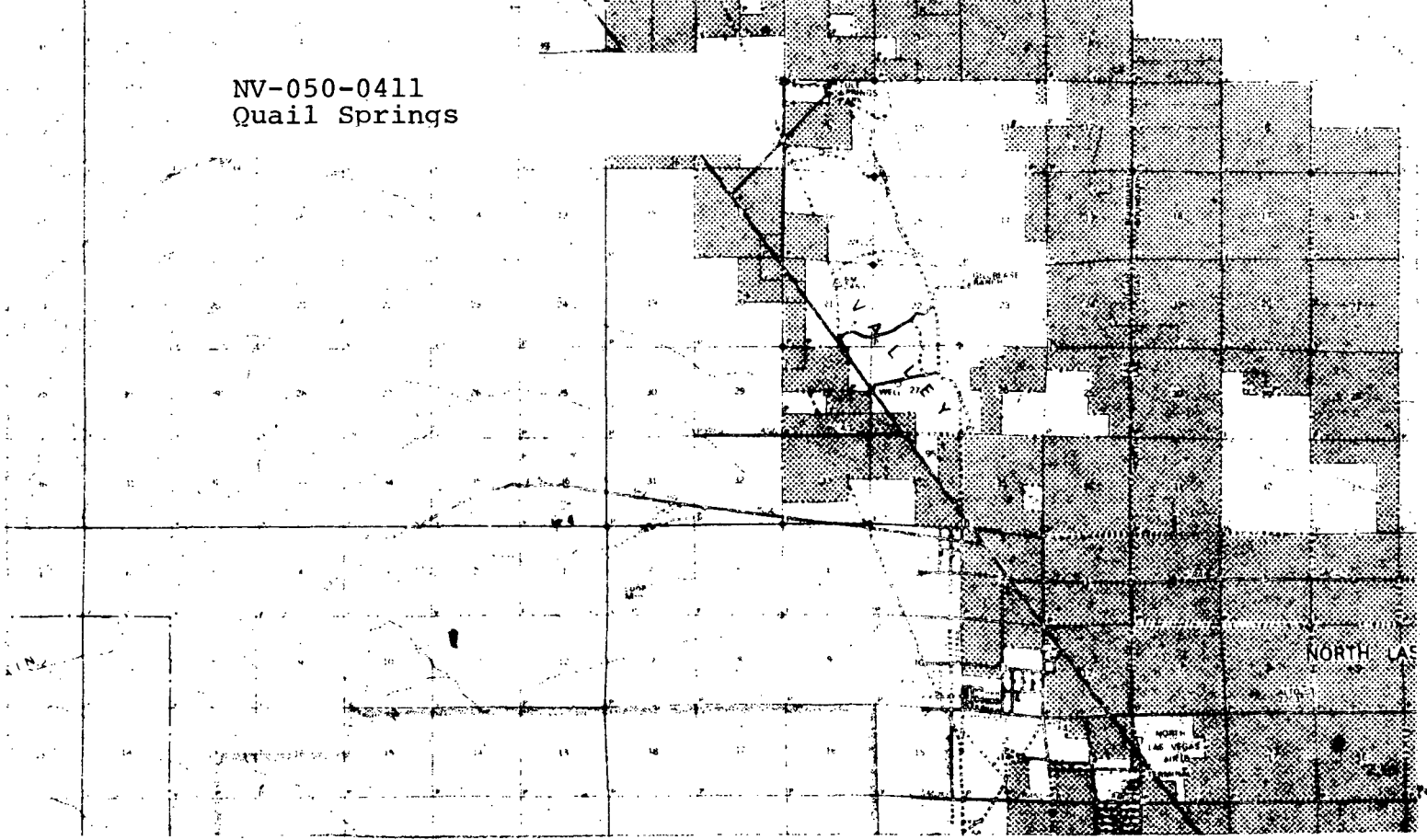
R. 60 E SHEEP RANGE

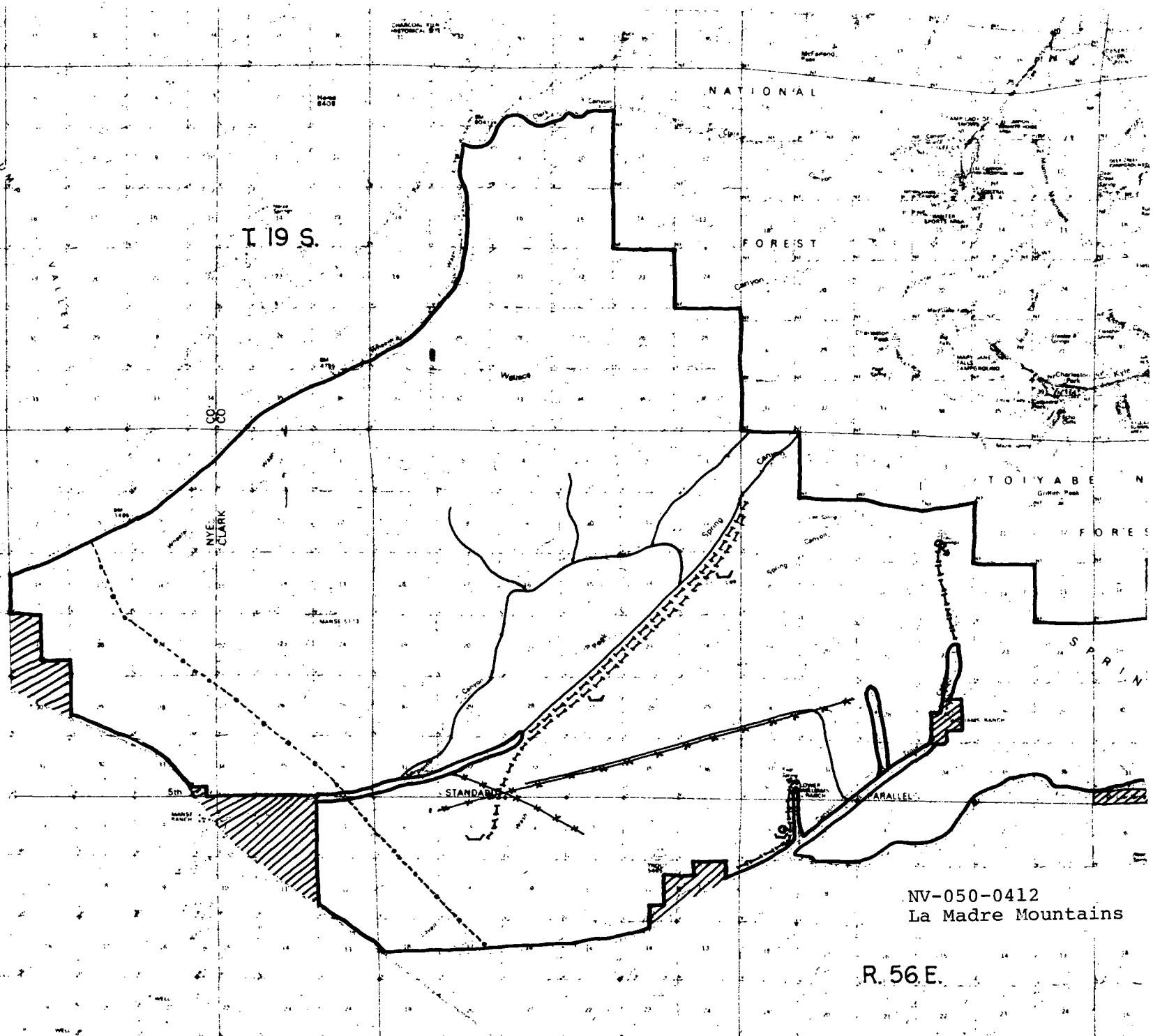
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R. 61 E



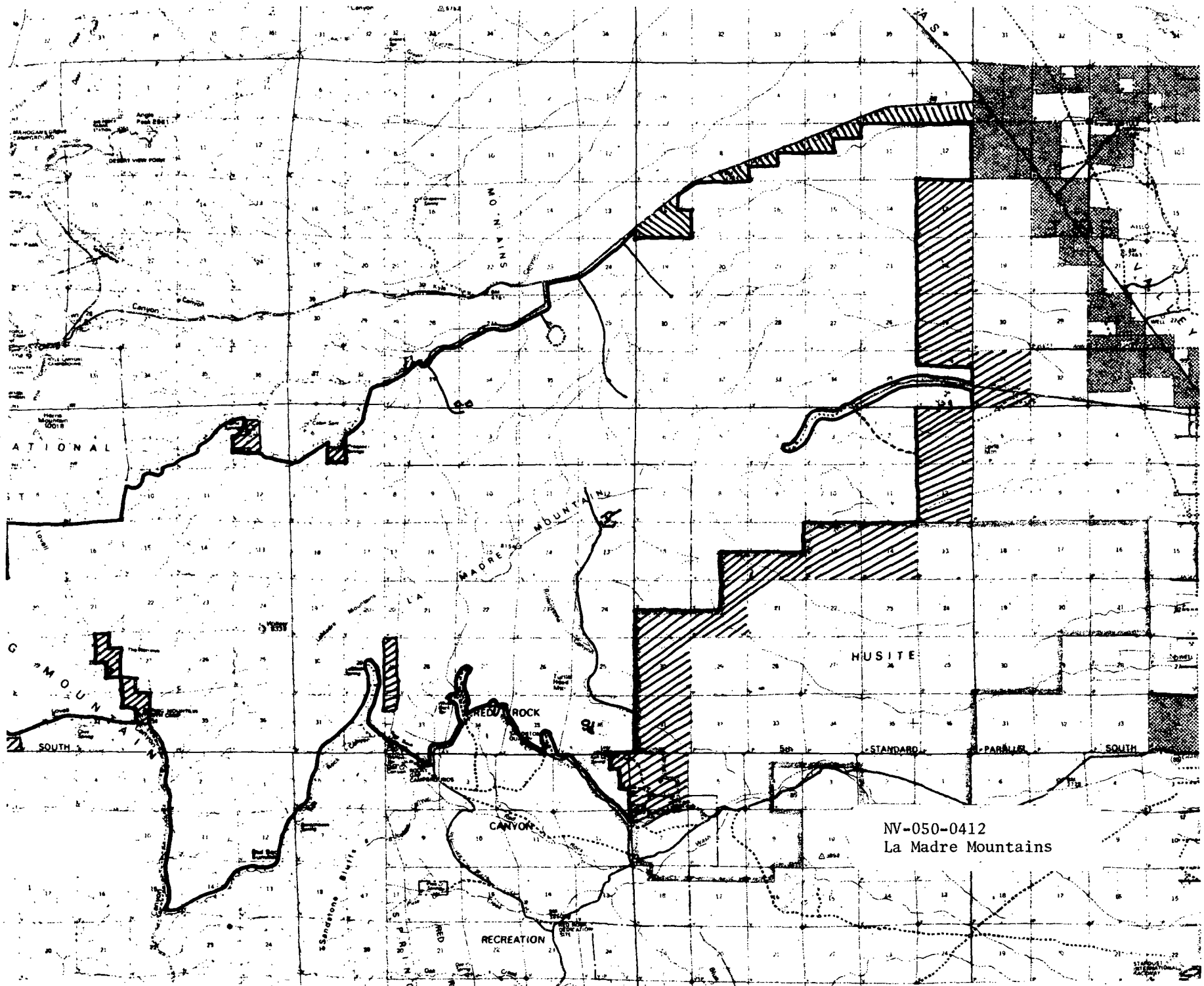
NV-050-0411
Quail Springs



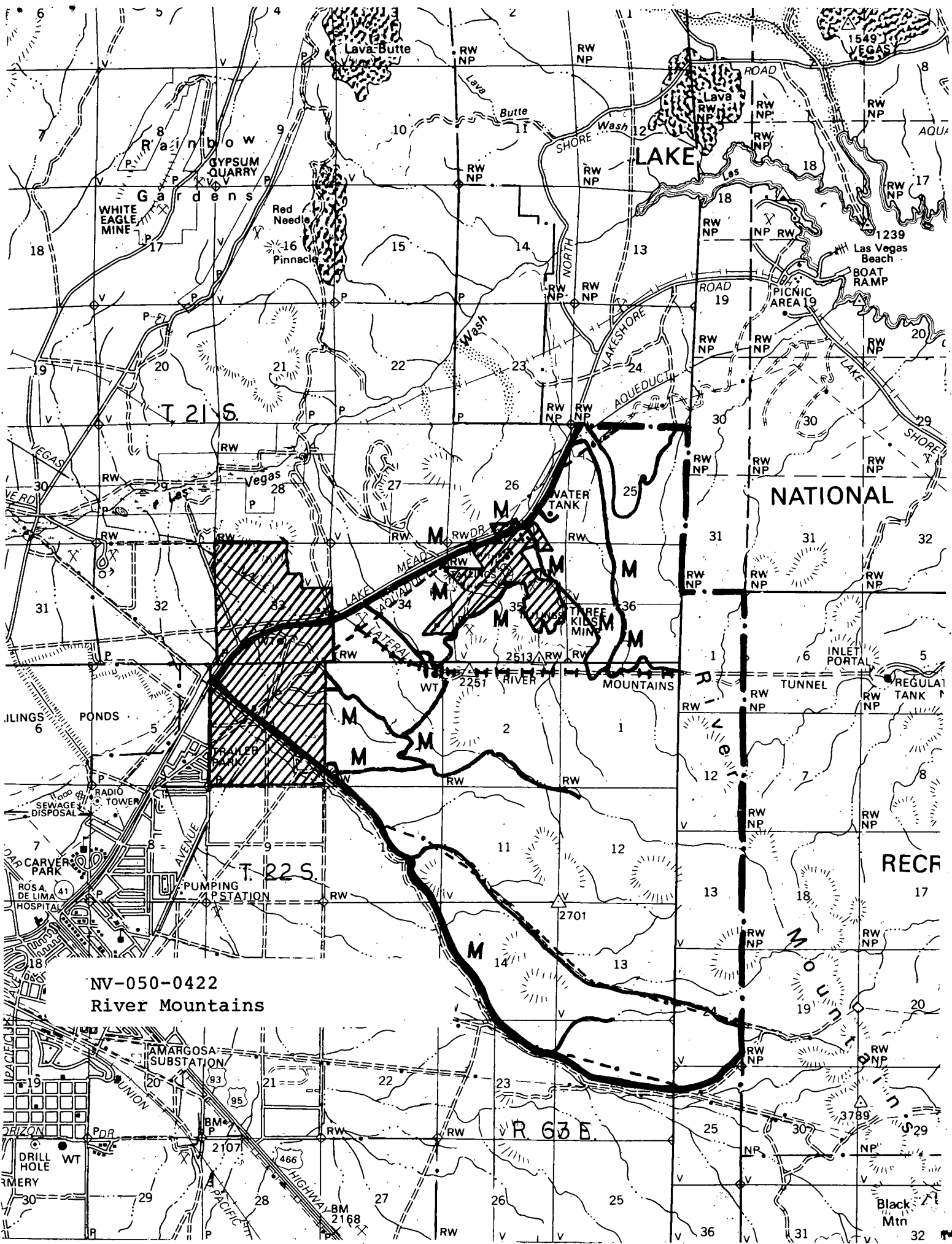


NV-050-0412
La Madre Mountains

R. 56 E.



NV-050-0412
La Madre Mountains



NV-050-0422
River Mountains

AMARGOSA
SUBSTATION

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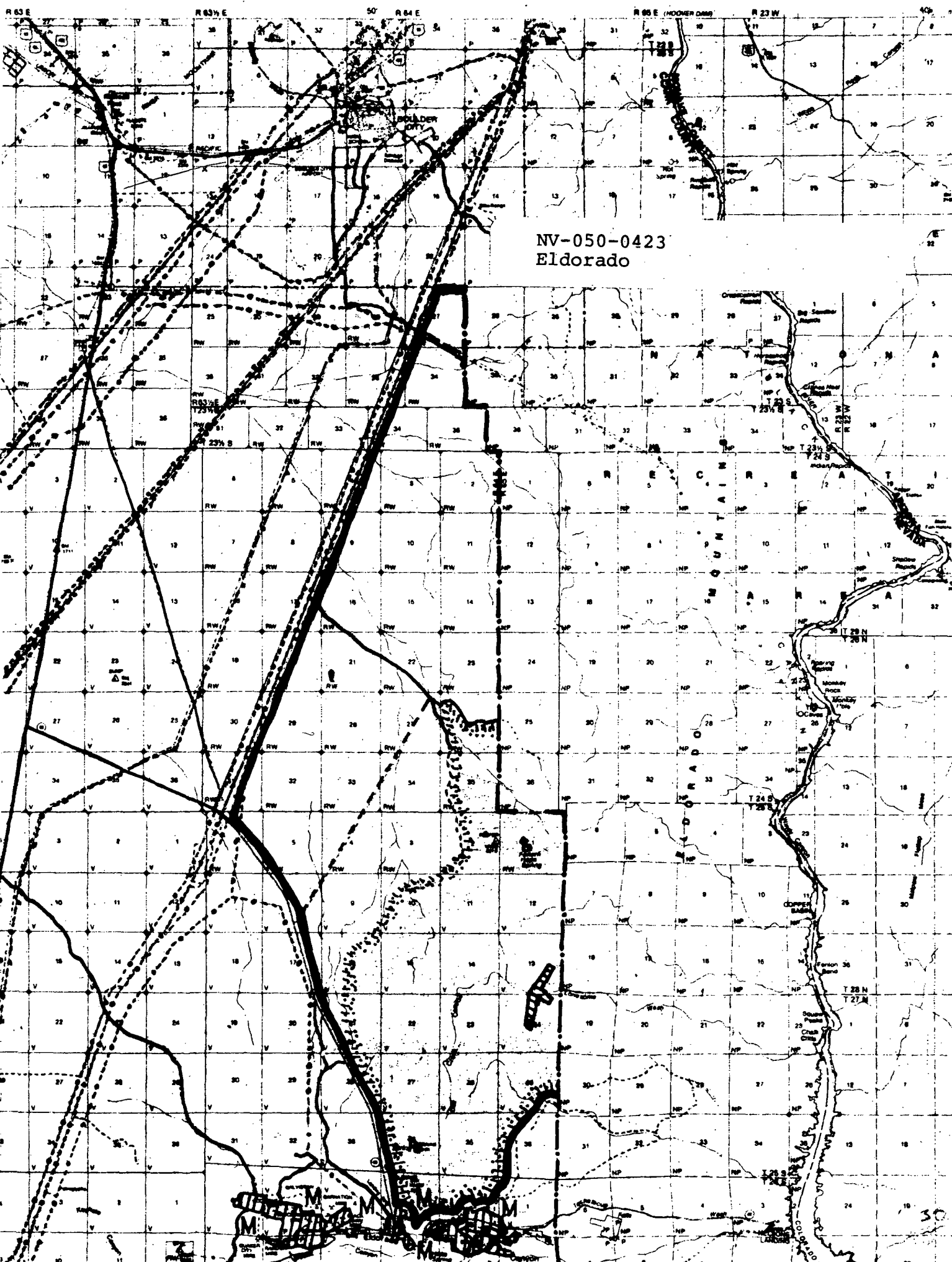
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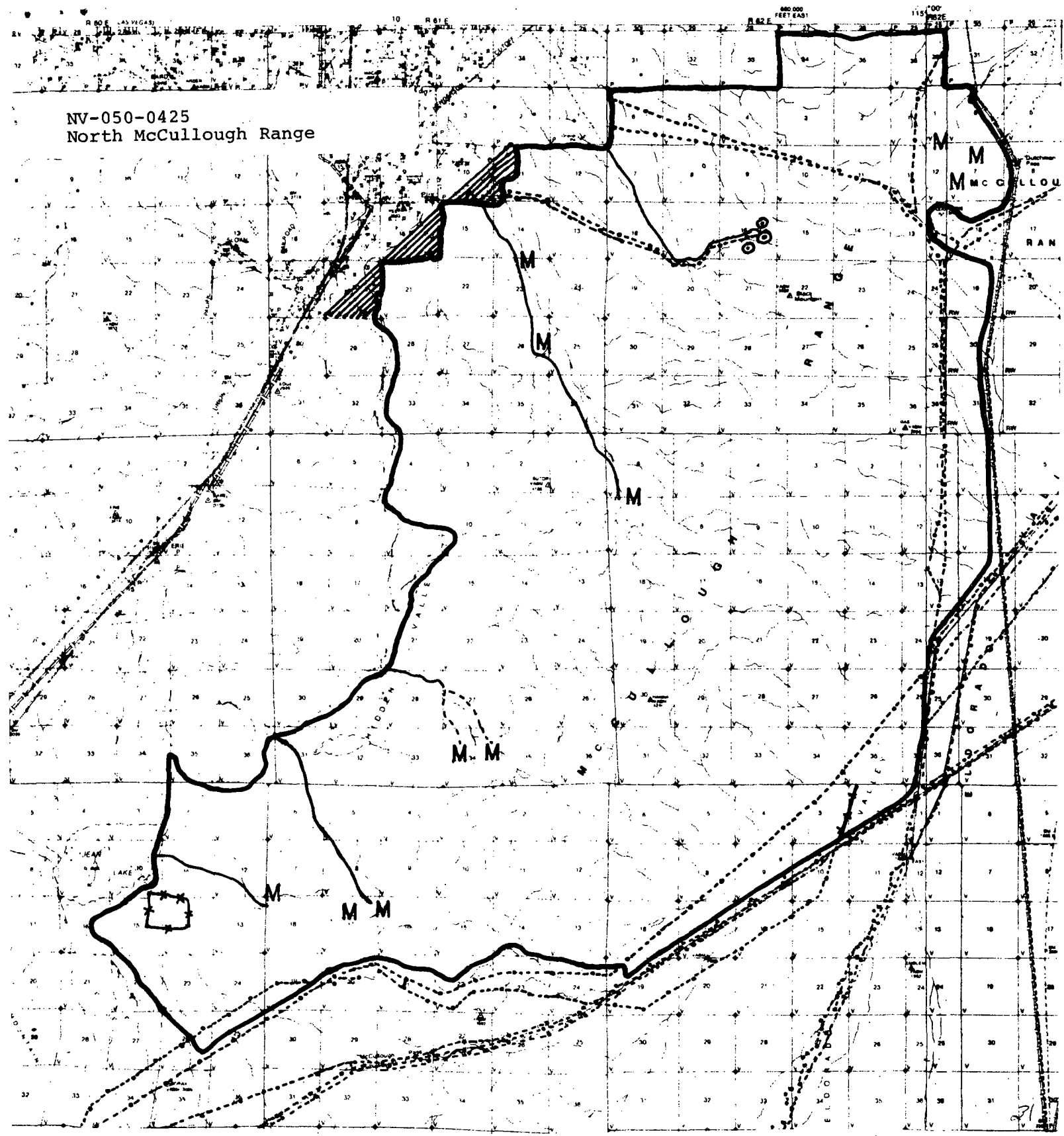
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NV-050-0423
Eldorado

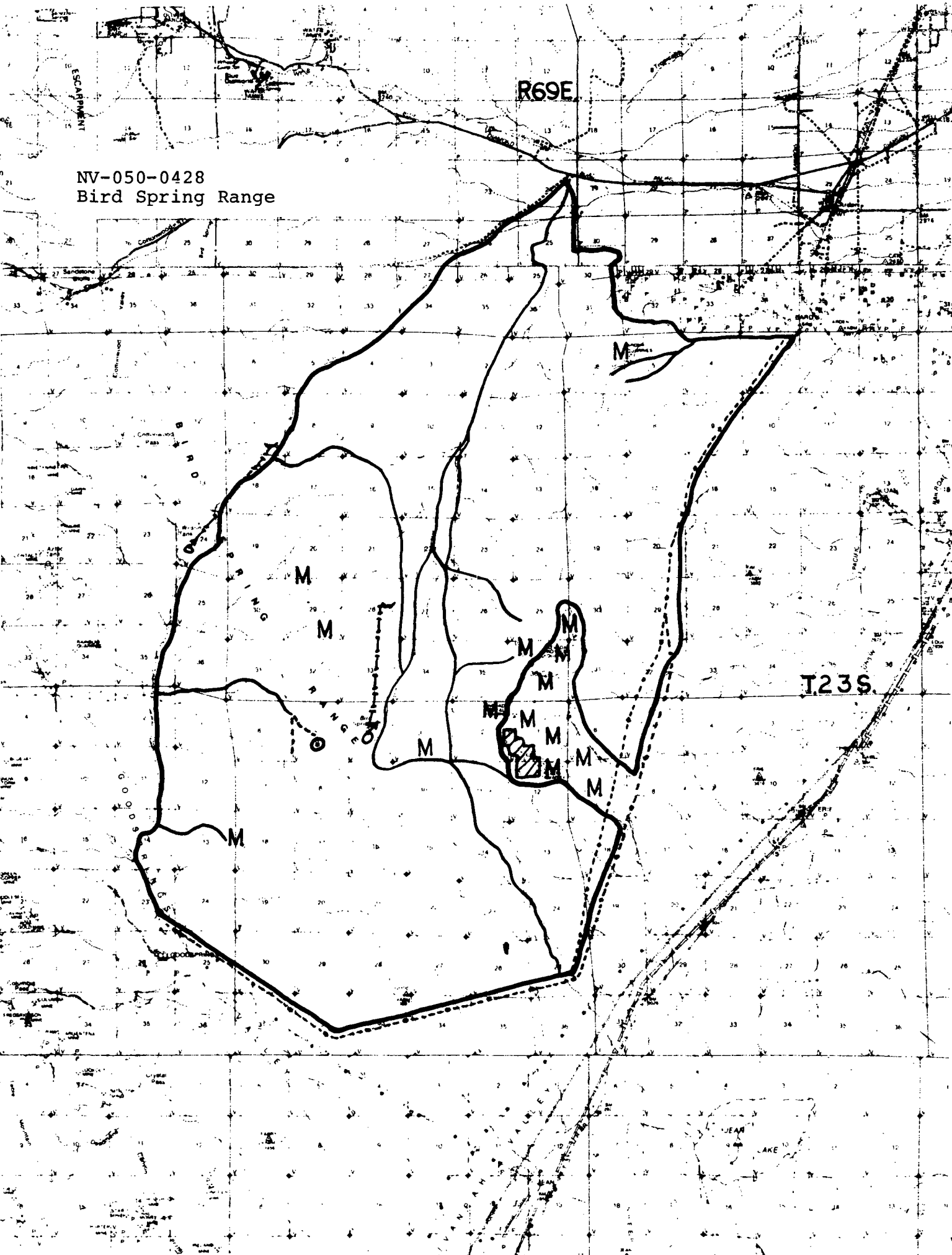
NV-050-0425
North McCullough Range



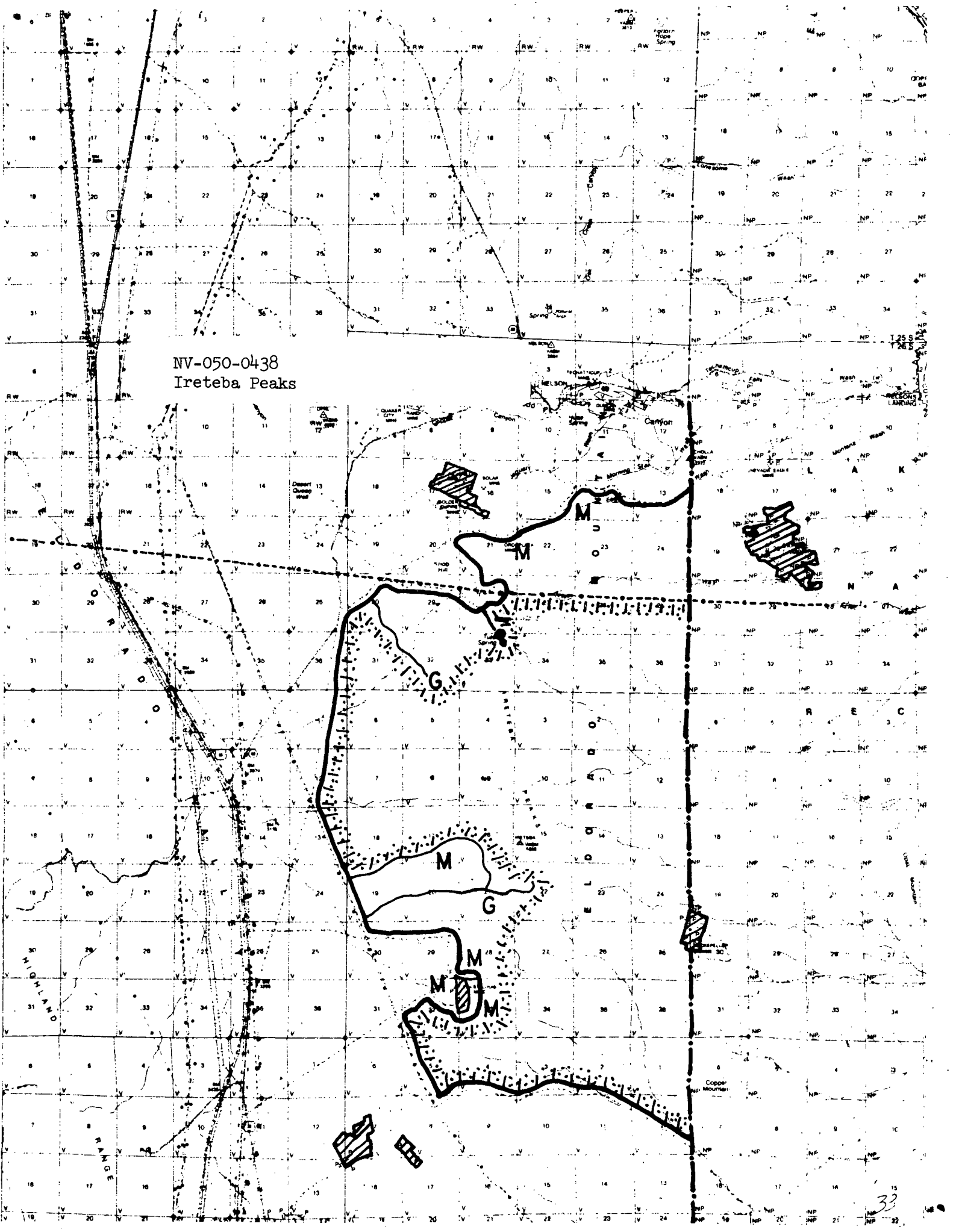
NV-050-0428
Bird Spring Range

R69E

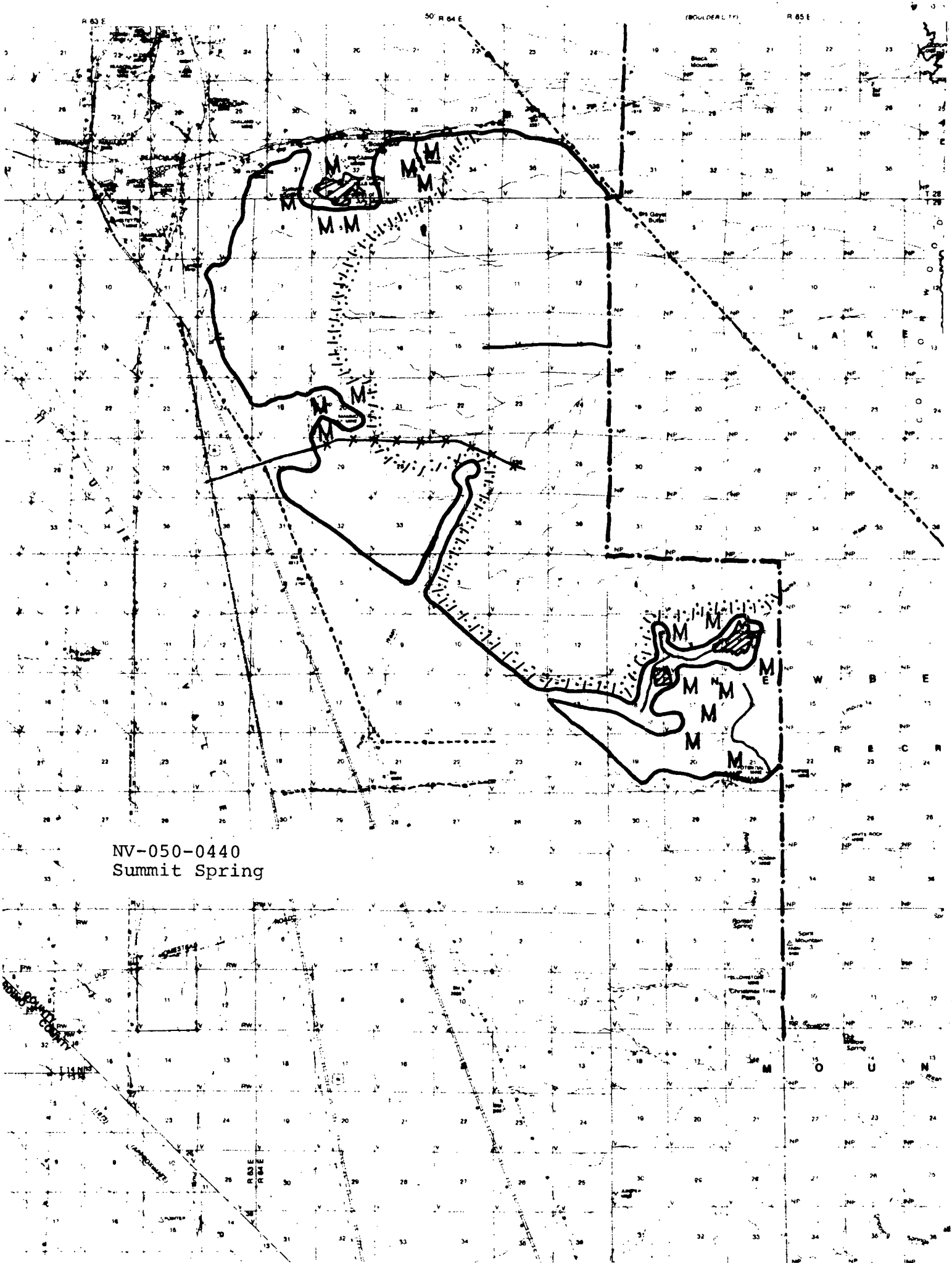
T23S



NV-050-0438
Ireteba Peaks



NV-050-0440
Summit Spring

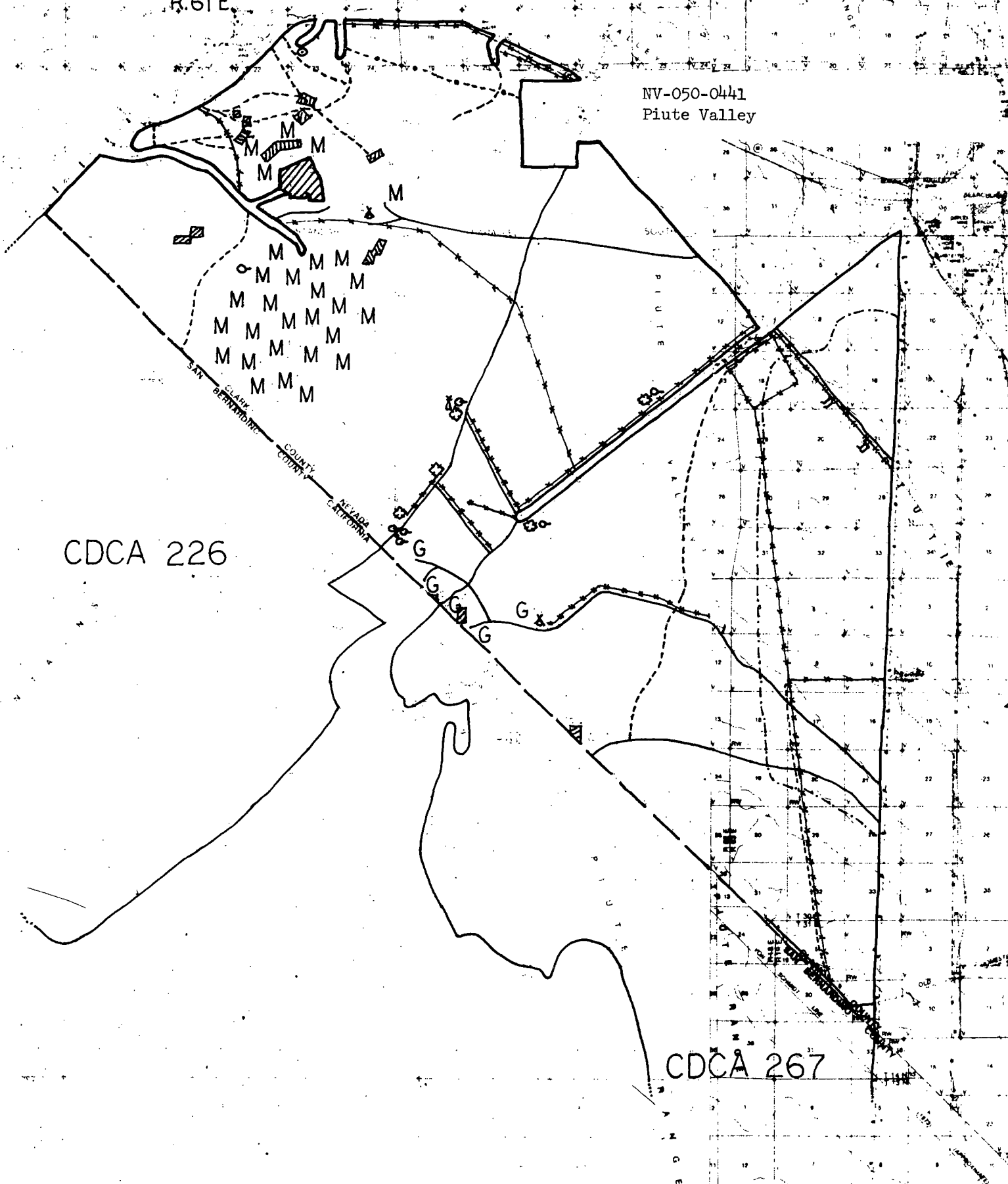


R. 61 E

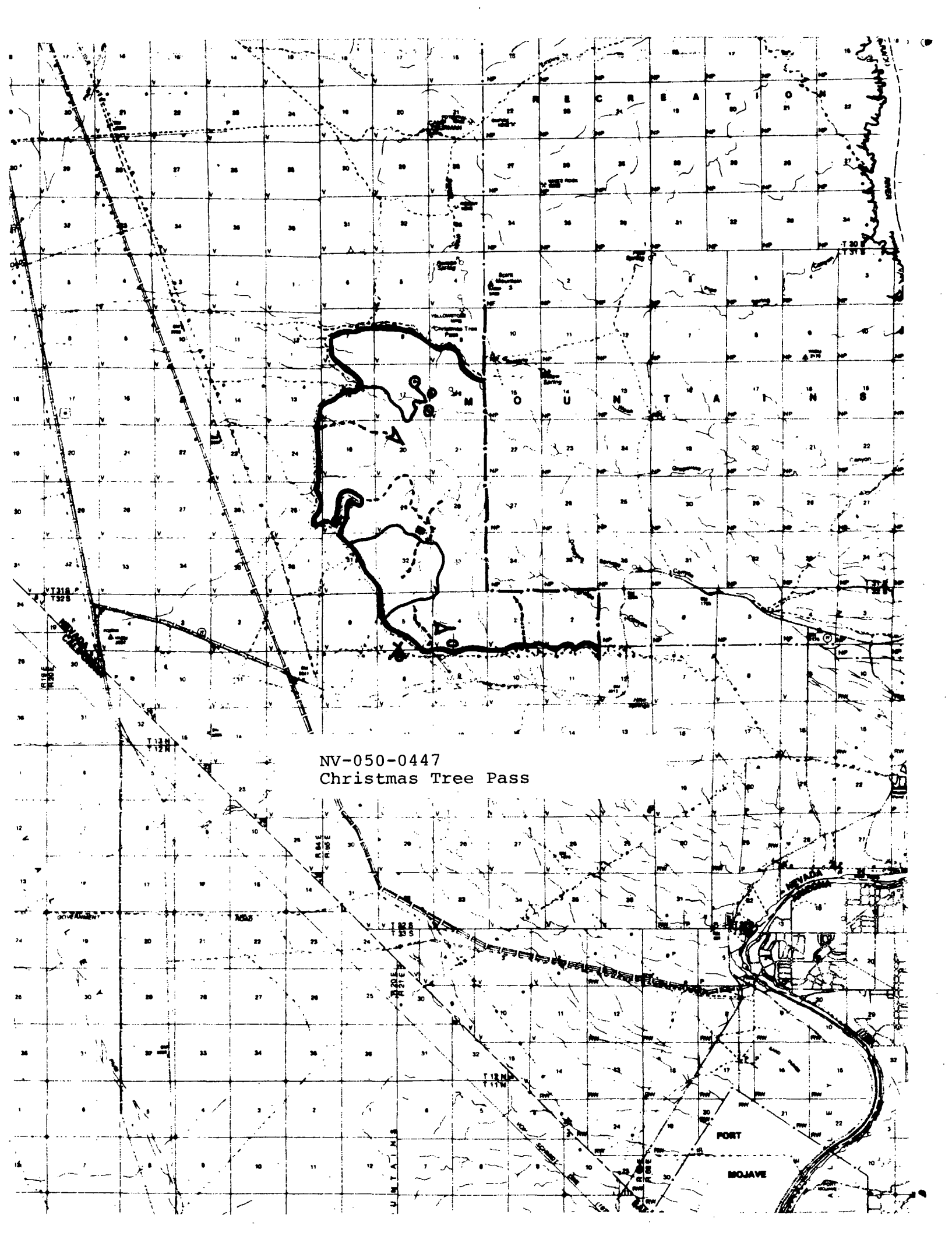
NV-050-0441
Piute Valley

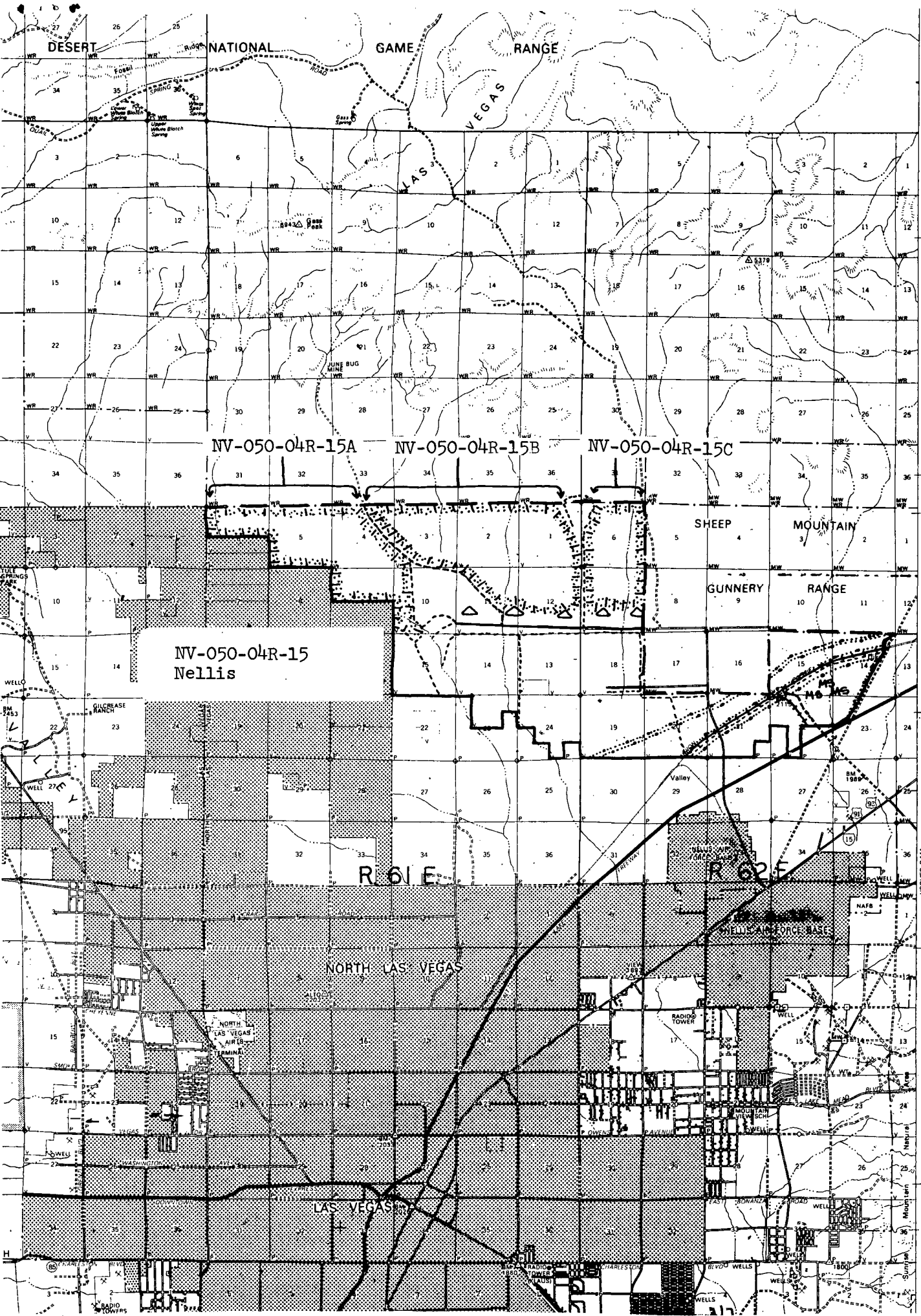
CDCA 226

CDCA 267



NV-050-0447
Christmas Tree Pass





T.18 S.

20'

T.19 S.

R. 62 E.

T.20 S.

10'

LEGEND

ROAD



WAY



FENCE



POWER OR COMMUNICATION LINE



SPRING



SPRING IMPROVEMENT



PIPELINE



WELL AND TROUGH



WINDMILL



CHAINING OF LAND TREATMENT



STORAGE



STOCK POND



RESERVOIR



GUZZLER



BUILDING



COMMUNICATION SITE



NON-BLM LAND



AREA OF HIGH ORV USE



MINING OR QUARRY



PROPOSED STUDY AREA



PHOTO AND DIRECTION



NEVADA BLM OUTLOOK

an update for employees and interested publics

As the District Managers and the State Director for the Bureau of Land Management in Nevada continue the difficult task of analyzing the almost 100 protests to the wilderness study area decisions issued last November, it seems like a good time to look at where we are in the wilderness review of public lands in Nevada and where we, you, and others interested in the program are going.

What's happening now?

As the chart on the following page shows, the first phase of this review effort, mandated by Congress in the 1976 Federal Land Policy and Management Act, is inventory. We are now nearing the end of that first phase, in which all public lands were carefully examined to verify the presence or absence of the wilderness characteristics identified by Congress: generally, 5,000 acres or more of roadless public land, primarily in a natural condition, with outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation. Over the two-year effort, many groups, government agencies, and individuals assisted the Bureau by providing data on nearly all public land areas in the state. On many areas, information was submitted to support both the presence and absence of these characteristics. The BLM carefully evaluated this input, conducted independent field studies, made recommendations and issued its decisions to the public in November, 1980.

Because of the differences of opinion of many groups in Nevada concerning whether or not these areas possessed the necessary criteria, reception to the Bureau's decisions was mixed. Some people still disagreed with certain decisions and asked the Bureau, through a protest, to reconsider. All the protests are being carefully evaluated by the BLM, which, despite the public controversy, must eventually decide whether each area qualifies for wilderness study or does not qualify. A response to these protests will be issued soon. Decisions not protested, covering some 41 million acres of public lands in Nevada, are already final.

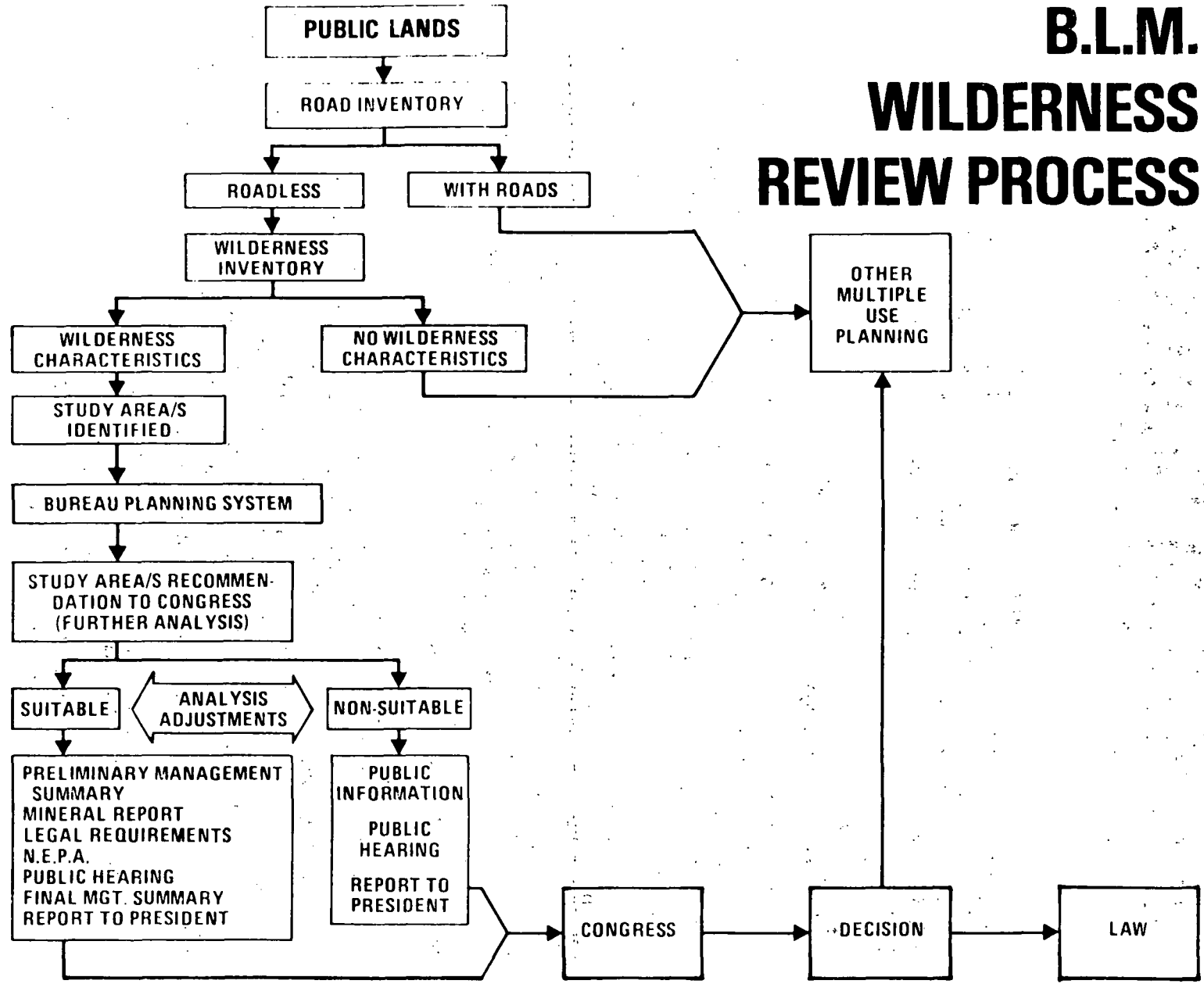
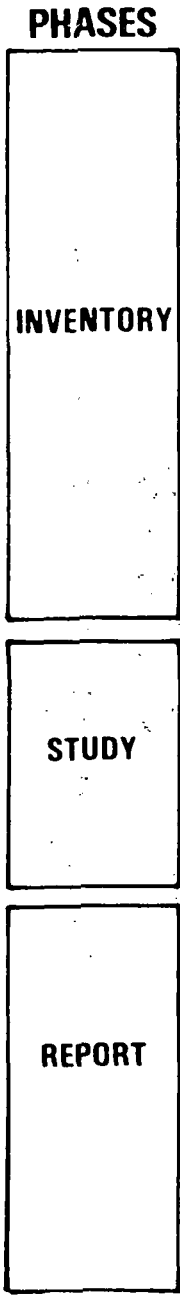
What lies ahead...

Now that we're nearing the end of the first phase, it's important to remember what it does and does not do.

IT DOES: identify areas with necessary characteristics that qualify for further wilderness study.

IT DOES NOT: designate these areas as wilderness (only Congress can do that).

B.L.M. WILDERNESS REVIEW PROCESS



IT DOES NOT: mean that all these areas are suitable for wilderness designation (that will be decided during the study phase).

IT DOES NOT: "lock up" these areas from other uses during the study phase (with few exceptions, most uses can continue and new uses that do not significantly disturb the landscape can be allowed).

So, now that we've settled what wilderness study area identification does and does not mean, let's look at the next phase: study.

Actually, a better term to describe this next effort is the land use planning phase. Once the wilderness study areas (or WSAs) are identified, we will know where the wilderness resource exists on public lands in Nevada. Through other inventories we will also know the location, quantity, quality of other resources in the same area, such as minerals, livestock grazing potential, wild horses, wildlife habitat, other recreational opportunities, and will have identified land needs such as utility rights-of-way, community expansion, etc. All these resources are discussed with the public and opinions gathered on the best combinations of uses for the area, and whether that combination should include wilderness preservation.

It is during this phase that a great deal of information received during the inventory phase will be utilized. Many people, while explaining to the Bureau why they felt a particular area did or did not possess wilderness characteristics, also described other resources in the same area that they thought would be compatible or incompatible with wilderness designation. Even though we couldn't use that information during the inventory phase, it will prove very useful during the planning or study phase.

In addition, new public input will be sought during the planning phase to get a better understanding of the public's preferences on whether that particular WSA will be recommended to Congress (through the Secretary of Interior and the President) as suitable or unsuitable for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Since this study phase will be so critical to the decision-making process, the Bureau has even asked the public to comment on the procedures to be used in conducting these studies. Copies have been circulated to Bureau employees and hundreds of interested publics. The comments received will be used to develop the final study procedures. Draft procedures on how to manage areas designated by Congress as wilderness are also out for public comment.

Meanwhile, management continues...

Many people also want to know what they can and cannot do while these studies are being conducted. Congress was pretty specific about that. The basic rule is that wilderness values or characteristics identified in the area will be protected while allowing existing and as many new uses as possible.

Of course, that's a broad generalization, and to be meaningful, it must be translated into on-the-ground specifics. The Bureau has partially accomplished this goal in a handbook called the Interim Management Policy. This

policy was also developed with the public's help to outline what can and cannot be allowed in WSAs while studies are being conducted to prepare recommendations to Congress. Mining activities in WSAs are covered in a separate set of regulations called Exploration and Mining-Wilderness Review Program (43 Code of Federal Regulations 3802).

Copies of the IMP and regulations are available at all BLM offices, but a short sampler of the do's and don'ts is included here for your information. However, please remember that application of this policy is to be done on a case-by-case basis depending on the specific circumstances of each area and impacts involved. A list of district managers and wilderness specialists in each BLM office in Nevada is on the last page of this Outlook. We suggest that you contact or refer people to these individuals to discuss specific situations.

The BLM's Interim Management Policy

PROTECTS: lands under wilderness review against long-term impacts that would impair their wilderness suitability.

PROHIBITS: activities that would cause long-lasting permanent impacts such as construction of power plants or permanent roads.

REQUIRES: reclamation of temporary impacts for such activities as oil and gas exploration and temporary access routes.

ALLOWS: activities that cause little or no surface disturbance, such as hunting, fishing, livestock grazing, and use of motorized vehicles on existing routes.

new developments if impacts are temporary and will be reclaimed by the time the Secretary of Interior makes his recommendation to the President on the area's wilderness suitability or nonsuitability.

grazing and mining uses that existed on the date the Federal Land Policy and Management Act was passed (Oct. 21, 1976) to continue in the same manner and degree even if they cause permanent impacts that would impair the wilderness suitability. These operations may be expanded or changed if the added impacts are not significantly different than those existing in 1976.

mining claims on which a valid discovery was made before the law was passed to be fully developed, even if this would impair the wilderness suitability.

staking of new claims and development of those claims as long as development does not impair the wilderness values.

grazing to continue as well as maintenance of range improvements.

construction of new range improvements if they do not impair wilderness values, and are substantially unnoticeable.

What all this means is that unless someone wants to build a major, permanent structure or a permanent road in a WSA, or create any other major disturbance to the landscape, most uses can go on unhindered during the study

phase. Hunters, recreationists, ranchers, and most miners can continue their activities as they always have, as long as they don't impair the wilderness characteristics that exist there.

The Study Schedule

Many people also inquire about when their particular area will undergo this study phase. The exact schedule is still not definite but the Bureau currently expects to follow its existing land use planning schedule in most areas. In areas like the Caliente Resource Area in southern Nevada and the Tonopah Resource Area in central Nevada where planning is almost complete, the wilderness resource will be evaluated through a revision of those plans. All plans should be completed in Nevada by 1987.

Wilderness is controversial

Nobody ever said reviewing all public lands in Nevada for wilderness would be easy and so far, it hasn't. We've found that there are strong feelings both for and against wilderness in and outside of Nevada. With such a wide divergence of opinion, we don't expect to make everyone happy with each decision, but we can promise everyone will be heard and we'll make every effort to keep the public informed of our progress and involved in the process. The following BLM managers and staff specialists are available to help answer questions on this program:

Elko District Office
(702) 738-4071
Rod Harris, District Manager
Gene Drais and Kevin Carson,
Wilderness Coordinators

Carson City District Office
(702) 882-1631
Tom Owen, District Manager
Terry Knight, Wilderness Coordinator

Las Vegas District Office
(702) 385-6403
Kemp Conn, District Manager
Jim Dunn, Wilderness Coordinator

Winnemucca District Office
(702) 623-3676
Frank Shields, District Manager
Janaye Byergo and Mark Danley,
Wilderness Coordinators

Ely District Office
(702) 289-4865
Neil McCleery, District Manager
Wayne Howell, Wilderness Coordinator

Battle Mountain District Office
(702) 635-5181
Mike Mitchell, Acting District Manager
Alan Steinbeck and Jon Joseph,
Wilderness Coordinators

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BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
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NEVADA BLM Wilderness Bulletin

August 3, 1979. —

BLM CONDUCTS SPECIAL INVENTORY ON SAN ANTONIO UNIT

The BLM has conducted a special wilderness inventory on 88,300 acres in Nye County, known as the San Antonio unit (NV-060-052). Based on that inventory, the BLM's Battle Mountain District Office is recommending that the entire acreage be released from further wilderness consideration because it lacks wilderness characteristics identified by Congress.

The public comment period for the Bureau's recommendation is open until Sept. 4. A public workshop to acquaint the public with the Bureau's findings and recommendations is scheduled for Aug. 16 at the Tonopah Convention Center from 6:30 to 9:30 P.M.

The special inventory was requested by the Anaconda Copper Co. which wants to develop a molybdenum mine in the area.

A summary of the study findings is attached. Further information on the study area and findings can be obtained from the Battle Mountain District Office, 2nd and Scott Streets, Battle Mountain, NV 89820 or from the Nevada State Office, 300 Booth St., Room 3008, Reno, NV. 89509.

* * *

SAN ANTONIO INTENSIVE INVENTORY UNIT

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

The San Antonio Intensive Inventory Unit (NV-060-052) does not meet minimum criteria for wilderness designation as established by the Wilderness Act of 1964. The unit is split by roads, resulting in several areas which were evaluated for wilderness characteristics on an individual basis. None of the areas under study qualified for designation as a Wilderness Study Area.

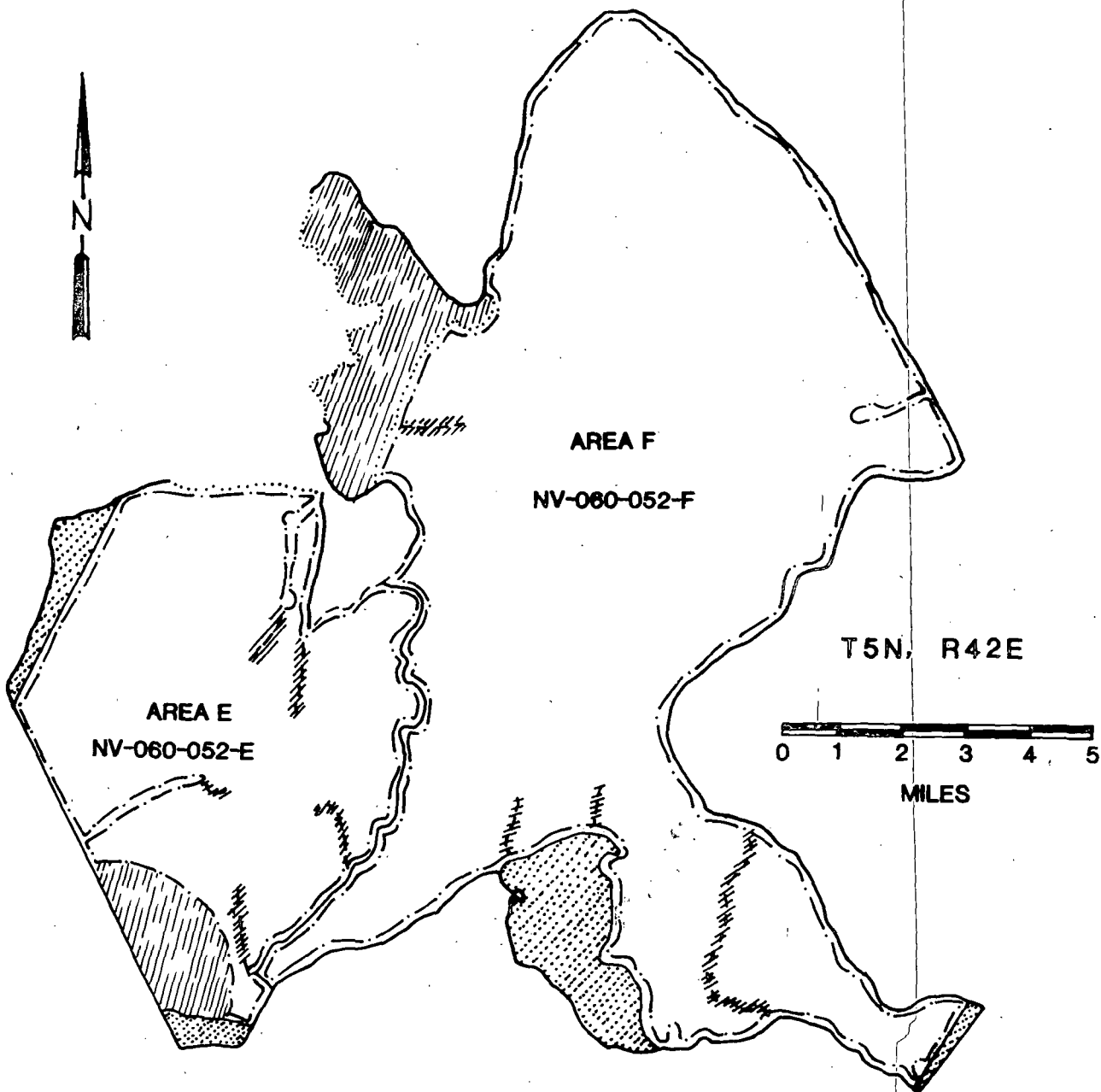
Reasons for Recommendations:

- I. 4,385 acres of the unit were excluded in four parcels because roads separated them from the bulk of the unit. All of these areas are completely surrounded by roads.
- II. 7,000 acres of the unit were excluded due to heavy mining impacts which resulted in a lack of naturalness.
- III. Area NV-060-052E
 1. Size. 20,500 acres are present in a roadless, essentially natural state.
 2. Naturalness. There are no substantially noticeable intrusions on naturalness. Mining and ranching disturbances, which were considered impacts, were deleted, leaving an area which appears to have been affected by the forces of nature with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable.
 3. Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude are not present due to a) generally flat topography without the size necessary to provide solitude by distance alone; b) lack of vegetative screening to compensate for flat, open topography; and c) lack of secluded spots due to open terrain and absence of screening vegetation.
 4. Outstanding Opportunities for Primitive and Unconfined Recreation are not present partly due to low scenic values and lack of outstanding features of interest. Additionally, sandy terrain, lack of water, and absence of protection from the elements combine to reduce the quality of opportunity for such activities as camping, hiking and backpacking.
 5. Supplemental Values. The area possesses supplemental values in the form of Crescent Sand Dunes and existence of two plants on the threatened list.

6. Rehabilitable Areas. Rehabilitable intrusions consist of five ways, all of which could rehabilitate themselves given time and closure of the route.

IV. Area NV-060-052-F

1. Size. 56,400 acres are present in a roadless, essentially natural state.
2. Naturalness. No substantially noticeable intrusions remain within the area. Roads, mining disturbances and other intrusions were deleted, resulting in an essentially natural area affected primarily by the forces of nature; with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude are not present due to a) topography which does not lend itself to the achievement of solitude; b) lack of adequate vegetative screening; and c) lack of secluded spots where a user could experience isolation.
4. Outstanding Opportunities for Primitive and Unconfined Recreation are not present due to lack of scenic values, points of interest, water, and protection from the elements. The rough, rocky terrain discourages hiking and backpacking, and hunting is poor due to low game populations.
5. Supplemental Values. The area possesses supplemental values in the form of a historic rock wall, a ruined rock building, Indian chipping site, and existence of a threatened plant.
6. Rehabilitable Areas. Rehabilitable intrusions consist of four ways, all of which could rehabilitate themselves given a great deal of time and closure of the route.



**SUMMARY MAP: SAN ANTONIO INTENSIVE INVENTORY UNIT-
88,300 ACRES INV-060-052**

- ROAD
- - - WAY
- ##### WAY CAPABLE OF REHABILITATION
- NONROADED BOUNDARY
- BOUNDARY OF ROADLESS NATURAL AREAS WHICH DO NOT POSSESS OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION
- ▒ AREAS OF LESS THAN 5,000 ACRES
- ▨ AREAS OF IMPAIRED NATURALNESS



NEVADA BLM Wilderness Bulletin

August 20, 1979

BLM CONDUCTS A SPECIAL INVENTORY ON DOLLY VARDEN AND VICTORIA UNITS IN ELKO COUNTY

The BLM's Elko District Office has completed a special project inventory on two units in southeastern Elko County covering about 62,720 acres of public lands. Based on that inventory, the Bureau is recommending that both areas, Dolly Varden (NV-010-040) and Victoria (NV-010-043), be released from further wilderness consideration because they lack wilderness values specified by Congress.

Public comments on the Bureau's recommendation will be accepted until Sept. 26, 1979. An open house to acquaint the public with the Bureau's findings and recommendations is set for Sept. 7, between 1 and 3 p.m. at the BLM's Elko District Office, 2002 Idaho St., Elko 89801. Comments can be addressed to that office or to the Nevada State Office, 300 Booth St., Room 3008, Reno, NV 89509.

A summary of the Bureau's findings on the two units follows:

1) NV-010-040 (Dolly Varden)--The Dolly Varden Unit contains about 26,880 acres of public lands. Only about 8,000 acres of the unit are in a natural condition. The other 18,880 acres contain roads, mining pits, shafts, and mining scrapes as well as powerlines and grazing improvements that are substantially noticeable. Although some portions of the unit could provide a high degree of solitude, the unit as a whole does not qualify as outstanding because they are affected by the large amount of man-made structures and disturbances.

2) NV-010-043 (Victoria)--The Victoria unit contains about 35,840 acres of public lands. Only about 11,000 acres of the unit are in a natural condition. The other 24,840 acres contain prospecting pits and other evidence of mining activities, roads, ways, communications equipment, and power lines that are substantially noticeable and detract from the natural character of the unit. The unit does not provide an outstanding opportunity for solitude due to the significant amount of noticeable man-made structures and disturbances in combination with the moderate level of topographic and vegetative screening. Primitive recreation opportunities are also not considered to be outstanding for the same reasons.

The special accelerated inventory was made at the request of Day Mines, Inc., which wants to expand a copper mine in the area.

SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENTS ON BLM'S INITIAL WILDERNESS INVENTORY RECOMMENDATIONS

In May, 1979, the Bureau of Land Management released its initial inventory recommendations to the public and asked for comments, specifically comments related to the presence or absence of wilderness characteristics in the public land areas (1,633 units in Nevada) inventoried.

The public response was very good and most (85 percent) did address specific inventory units. Others made general comments about wilderness or other public land issues.

This material was carefully analyzed through a system called Codinvolve. A summary of some of the information extracted is provided here. Specific comments on each area are available for viewing at the Bureau's Nevada State Office in Reno along with the original letters, maps, etc. and Codinvolve materials.

GENERAL

A total of 459 inputs (an input is defined as a piece of information given in written or graphic forms, such as letters, reports, response forms, maps, etc. or orally and recorded by BLM personnel) were received representing 595 signatures. In the following statistical summaries, inputs and signatures will be cited and will often not balance since one person could have submitted several inputs and one input may have been signed by several people.

These people gave a total of 5,831 specific comments (drawn from the inputs) on 676 public land units in addition to 222 general comments about various wilderness issues and 66 general comments about other resource values, such as minerals, grazing, etc.

REASONS GIVEN FOR GENERAL OPINIONS

Each general opinion given was often supported by a reason. To conserve space, only the pro/con wilderness reasons are given here. Summaries of other general reasons are available from BLM's Reno office.

Wilderness Pro/Con

Reasons: (numbers following reasons indicate number of times reason cited.)

Pro

BLM should intensively study all areas contiguous to Forest Service RARE II areas. (3)

Wilderness potential is great in Nevada; supports all areas for intensive inventory. (1)

Wilderness should be preserved as much as possible from abuse and development. (1)

Wilderness is an important part of multiple use. (1)

More wilderness can prevent further development. (1)

Wilderness allows us a place to go free from civilization. (1)

Pleased that wilderness review finally underway in Nevada. (1)

Con

Favors multiple use of land, not wilderness. (7)

Too much land has been identified for wilderness potential. (2)

Wilderness discriminates against majority of users. (2)

Wilderness is a land grab. (2)

Our future depends on our natural resources. (2)

Wilderness inhibits mineral development. (7)

Wilderness restricts other recreation uses; results in overcrowding of other areas. (2)

Livestock operations would be adversely affected. (2)

Wilderness limits access for ORV users and others. (4)

Many intrusions are evident in areas BLM studying. (2)

There is no wilderness in Nevada. (1)

Land needs to be kept for ranchers and miners. (1)

Against wilderness or general principle. (1)

Wilderness management is impractical for recreation since there is no shelter for large numbers of people. (1)

Although the general comments were interesting reflections of public opinions about wilderness and its relation to other resource values, the most useful comments to the Bureau at this initial inventory stage are the specific unit comments. These types of comments are quantified below and described in the summary book:

District	Number of Units/Areas Commented On	Number of Unit Comments	
		I	S
NV-010-Elko	43	1,112	1,088
NV-020-Winnemucca	124	1,090	2,633
NV-030-Carson City	115	551	573
NV-040-Ely	96	661	600
NV-050-Las Vegas	169	1,288	975
NV-060-Battle Mtn.	129	1,129	690

The content of these comments was summarized and categorized by unit number and used by BLM in the final decision-making process.

RESIDENCE OF THOSE RESPONDING

The residence of those responding was also quantified for management review purposes. Most of the inputs received (57 percent) were from Nevada; 12 percent were from adjoining California; 10 percent from Utah; 3 percent from Idaho, Arizona, and Oregon; and 18 percent were from other states across the country. Focusing on the Nevada inputs, the spread was not always by population. Clark County, the state's most populous county, came in third in the total inputs received. Washoe, the state's second most populous county, was first, followed by Elko and Humboldt counties. Carson City, where most state agencies are located, was fifth, closely followed by Pershing County. At least one comment was received from every Nevada county except Mineral and Storey. A graph depicting this spread follows on the next page.

<u>Residence</u> <u>(by County/State)</u>	<u>Inputs</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Signatures</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Carson City	23	5	23	4
Churchill	7	2	6	1
Clark	25	5	28	5
Douglas	1	*	1	*
Elko	41	9	46	8
Esmeralda	6	1	6	1
Eureka	6	1	6	1
Humboldt	41	9	44	7
Lander	8	2	7	1
Lincoln	3	1	3	1
Lyon	2	*	2	*
Mineral	0	-	0	-
Nye	10	2	11	2
Pershing	22	5	145	25
Storey	0	-	0	-
Washoe	56	12	85	14
White Pine	12	3	12	2
California	55	12	49	8
Utah	44	10	44	7
Idaho	3	1	3	1
Arizona	8	2	5	1
Oregon	2	*	2	*
Other State	84	18	67	11
Totals	459	100	595	100

*Less than one-half of one percent.

FORM OF INPUT

Most (57 percent of the signatures) of these people chose to communicate with the Bureau by personal letters, which were sometimes accompanied by maps. Although only one petition was received, the number of signatures on it was rather large, so it represented 20 percent of all signatures. That petition came from Pershing County. The third most popular was response forms (or BLM information sheets) that were used by 13 percent of those responding. The verbal form noted on the following chart means oral comments that were transcribed or summarized by BLM personnel and form letters are identical letters signed by different individuals.

	I	%	S	%
Personal Letter	301	66	301	51
Form Letter	5	1	7	1
Petition	1	*	122	20
Response Form	99	21	78	13
Report	6	1	6	1
Verbal Form	35	8	36	6
Map	8	2	41	7
Other	4	1	4	1
Totals	459	100	595	100

* Less than one-half of one percent

GROUP TYPES

The largest number of inputs (215) came from individuals. Companies were the second largest input group followed by informal groups (such as households or neighborhoods), government agencies, and formal groups (associations or organized groups). These group types are graphically shown below:

	I	%	S	%
Individual	215	47	191	32
Informal Group	51	11	179	30
Formal Group	24	5	67	11
Government	27	6	33	6
Company	142	31	125	21
Totals	459	100	595	100

INTEREST OF RESPONDENT

The Bureau also, where possible, identified the primary interest of the respondent. Many times the interest could not be identified, but of those whose interest was apparent, the large majority were from mining and oil and gas interests. The next largest identifiable group was ranchers, followed by rock-hounders. Environmentalists (such as Sierra Club, Wilderness Society, etc.) were fourth in numbers, followed by wildlife and sportsmen interests. These figures are noted below:

	I	%	S	%
Mining, oil, and gas	166	36	178	30
Ranching	71	16	76	13
Environmental	20	4	20	3
Rockhound	61	13	51	8
Sportsman	3	1	3	1
Wildlife	4	1	6	1
Unknown	134	29	261	44
Totals	459	100	595	100

GENERAL OPINIONS

Forty-eight percent of all inputs (37 percent of all signatures) gave an opinion about various wilderness issues. These issues are: a) wilderness in general, for (pro) or against (con); b) the BLM's procedures for wilderness inventory pro/con; c) the way in which BLM personnel applied the procedures, pro/con; d) the Bureau's public involvement efforts, pro/con; e) requests for extending the comment period pro (only); and f) the Bureau's policies for managing the public lands during the inventory, called interim management. The breakdowns of these opinions are noted below:

	Pro				Con			
	I	%	S	%	I	%	S	%
a. Wilderness	25	54	26	54	87	49	79	47
b. Wilderness Inventory Procedures	10	22	10	21	39	22	43	25
c. Application of Wilderness Inventory Procedures	4	9	4	8	29	17	27	16
d. Involvement Methods	1	2	1	2	18	10	17	10
e. Extension of Comments	5	11	6	13	-	-	-	-
f. Interim Management	1	2	1	2	3	2	3	2
Totals	46	100	48	100	176	100	169	100

OTHER RESOURCE VALUES

Many people gave information about other resource values in specific units. These comments are noted in the summary book. Some gave general, non-specific opinions about other resource values, as they related to wilderness. These comments, although they have no impact on the presence or absence of the wilderness resource, will be valuable to the Bureau during the study phase once wilderness study areas are identified. During this phase, the Bureau will weigh the wilderness resource against all other resources and where conflicts exist will make land use recommendations to Congress on whether the wilderness study area should be preserved as wilderness or other resource values should have priority. A graph depicting the general comments about other resource values follows:

	I	%	S	%
Minerals	12	34	12	39
Grazing	3	8	4	13
Other Recreation	1	3	1	3
Rockhound	17	49	12	39
Other	2	6	2	6
Totals	35	100	31	100

Much of this raw data was cross-referenced to tell BLM managers, for example, how many people from Lincoln County had a general opinion about wilderness, whether they were individuals, whether they were mostly from the mining interest group, etc. These cross-tabulations are not given here to conserve space, but they are available upon request from the BLM's Reno office as well as summaries on each wilderness unit which received comments.

I. SIZE

The Victoria Inventory Unit contains 35,840 acres of federally owned land. No private land falls within the unit. The unit is generally elliptical in shape and averages about 5 miles wide and 10 miles long. The Dolly Varden Mountains and their associated drainages comprise about 32,000 acres of the unit. There are mining claims in the unit comprising about 10,000 acres. The unit meets the minimum 5,000 Federal acres requirement and is not contiguous to an inventory unit being recommended as a Wilderness Study Area.

II. NATURALNESS

About 11,000 acres of the unit are relatively natural. These comprise the southern one third of the unit. This portion includes about 7 miles of ways that provide access to the Dolly Varden Mountains and the old town of Dolly Varden. These ways are substantially unnoticeable from the ground. The remaining 24,840 acres are substantially impacted by the works of man and are not considered natural.

There are about 30 miles of roads that form cherry stems and loop access routes into the original unit. These are generally located in the northern $\frac{1}{2}$ of the unit and provide continuous access to the extensive numbers of mining cuts and pits within the unit. About 4 miles of these roads are associated with a powerline of similar length near the eastern border of the unit.

There are numerous mining cuts and pits within the northern and northeastern parts of the unit. Some are old but most show recent activity such as exploratory or assessment work. These cuts are substantially noticeable and, therefore, impact the natural character of the unit.

A television relay station and other communication equipment are located on Bald Peak about two miles from the northern boundary. These facilities are accessible by a regularly maintained road that can be reached from both the northern and eastern boundaries of the unit. These too are considered substantially noticeable.

The imprint of man's work is substantially noticeable in about 24,840 acres leaving about 11,000 acres that meet the wilderness criteria for naturalness.

III. SOLITUDE

The unit does not contain outstanding opportunities for solitude due to the significant amount of manmade improvements that are substantially noticeable. This is especially true in the northern portions of the unit where topographic and vegetative screening is good but where the impacts of roads and the significant amount of mining activity greatly hinder the feeling of solitude that can be experienced.

In the southern portion also, even though man-made improvements are less noticeable, the opportunities for solitude are not outstanding. Because topographic and vegetative screening would be moderate other recreationists would be easily noticeable, therefore hindering the solitude that would be felt.

IV. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION

Recreation opportunities available in the unit include deer hunting, camping, and some nature studies. These opportunities for these activities are not considered outstanding because the large amount of man-made improvements in the unit hinder the quality of these activities. Therefore, opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation are not considered outstanding in the unit.

V. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES

The unit is greatly mineralized and might offer a small amount of geological sightseeing and perhaps some educational and scientific values. These minerals, however, are generally considered low grade from a recreationists point of view.

VI. REHABILITATIVE POTENTIAL

The potential for rehabilitation of improvements is low overall. Mining activities have little possibility for rehabilitation and the potential for rehabilitation of roads is considered moderate. Rehabilitation would generally require heavy machinery.

VII. MAP DOCUMENTATION

The attached maps depict the inventory unit boundary and man-made improvements within the unit as well as locations of photographs taken of the unit.

VIII. SUMMARY

Recommendation: The unit is not recommended for WSA identification.

Location and Description: The unit is about 14 miles northeast of Currie, Nevada and is generally elliptical in shape with the Dolly Varden Mountains partially contained within the unit.

Size: The unit contains 35,840 acres of federally owned land. No private land exists in the unit but mining claims comprise about 10,000 acres. The unit averages in size about 5 miles wide and 10 miles long.

Naturalness: Only about 11,000 acres are considered to be in a natural condition. The other 24,840 acres contain prospecting pits, and other mining activities, roads, ways, communication equipment and power lines that are substantially noticeable and detract from the natural character of the unit.

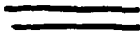
Solitude: The unit does not provide for an outstanding opportunity for solitude. The significant amount of noticeable man-made improvements in combination with the moderate level of topographic and vegetative screening make outstanding solitude difficult to experience.

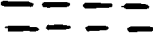
Primitive and Unconfined Recreation: Recreation opportunities available include deer hunting, hiking, camping and nature study. It is felt these would not be outstanding in nature.


Supplemental Values: Mineralization is important within the unit. A small amount of geological sightseeing might be possible in the unit.

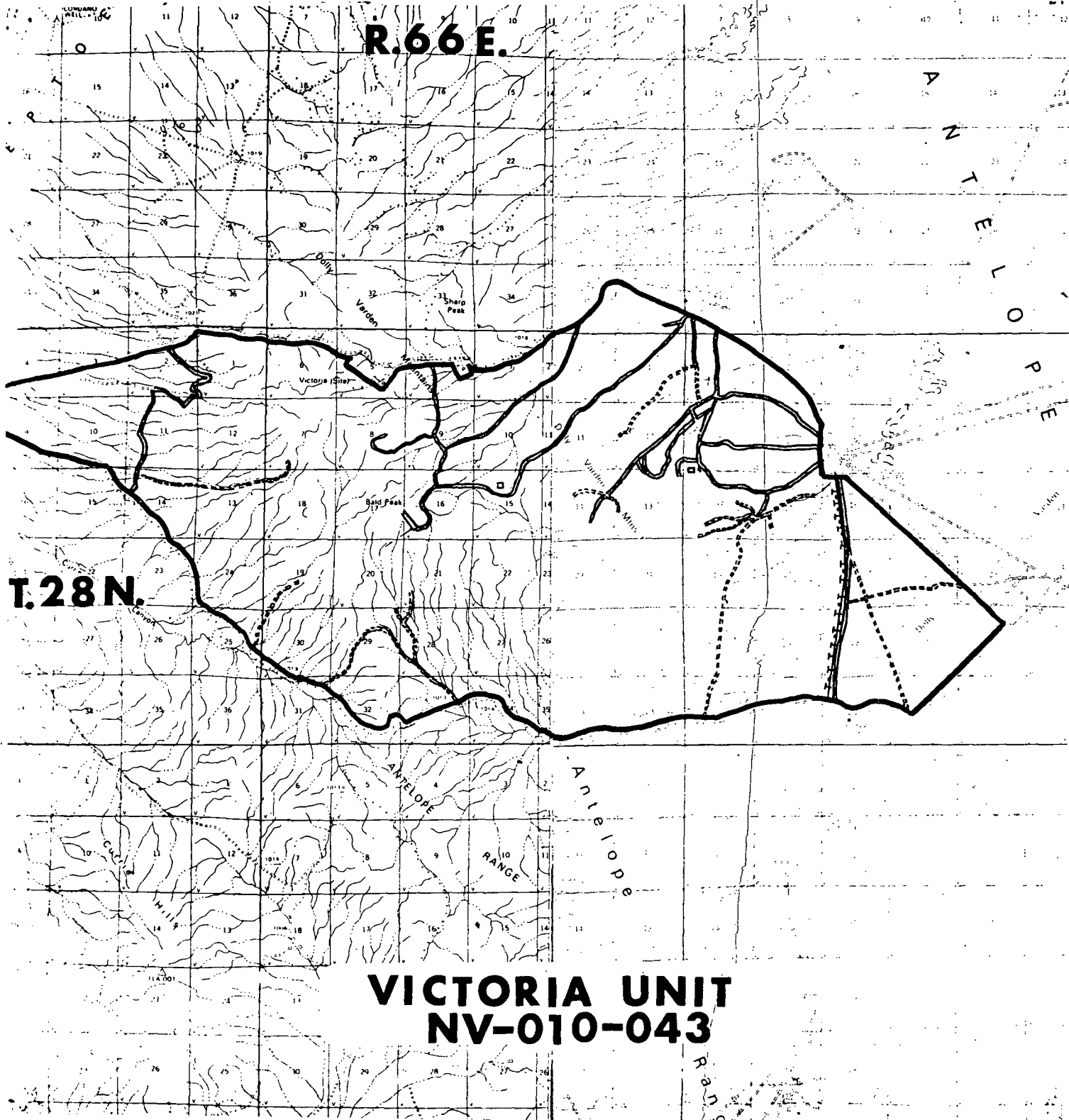
Rehabilitative Potential: The potential for rehabilitation of the area to its natural condition is low overall. Heavy machinery would definitely be required.

Conclusion: After the intensive inventory the Victoria Inventory Unit lacks criteria for WSA identification.

Road 

Way 

Telephone and Telegraph Line 



**VICTORIA UNIT
NV-010-043**

I. SIZE

The Dolly Varden Inventory Unit contains 26,880 acres of federally owned land. There are no private parcels in the unit but unpatented mining claims cover about 9,400 acres. The unit is generally circular in shape and has a radius of about three miles. The unit meets the minimum 5,000 federal acres requirement and is not contiguous to an inventory unit being recommended as a Wilderness Study Area.

II. NATURALNESS

The unit contains about 8,000 acres of land that would be considered in a natural condition. Most of this is in the far southwestern corner of the unit in the lower elevations of the Dolly Varden Mountains. This natural area also comprises of several deep canyons as well as some high valleys. There is also a strip about 1½ miles wide along the northern boundary that is substantially natural.

Mineral exploration is substantially evident in the mid-southwestern portion of the unit containing the Dolly Varden Mountains. Most of the prospecting pits, claim stakes and other mining activities are located in sections 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, and 34 of T. 29 N., and R. 66 E. About twenty miles of bladed and/or cut roads provide access to these sites.

The southeastern corner of the unit contains grazing improvements consisting of a pipeline, a pump house, water tanks and a corral. These would not generally hinder the apparent naturalness except that the flatness of the terrain make them substantially noticeable from the ground.

The imprint of man's work is substantially noticeable in about 18,800 acres of the unit leaving about 8,000 acres that meet the wilderness criteria for naturalness.

III. SOLITUDE

The unit contains excellent opportunities for solitude in very localized portions but overall the opportunities would not be considered outstanding. Throughout the Dolly Varden Mountains the topography is such that screening is excellent. However, the road cuts and mining activities are so noticeable that they detract from the solitude thereby making it less than outstanding.

The eastern half of the unit is comprised of a gentle slope leading from the Dolly Varden Mountains to the Antelope Valley. This topography coupled with low vegetative types provides for poor screening. Due to these effects, the solitude in this portion is low in quality.

IV. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION

The recreational opportunities available in this unit include hunting, camping, hiking, and some nature study. Because the man-made improvements are so noticeable within the unit these would not be considered outstanding. Sections 30 and 31 of T. 29 N., R. 66 E. and sections 25 and 36 of T. 29 N., R. 65 E. have excellent scenic quality and have historically been used for recreational car camping and hunting camps. Parts of these sections could possibly make excellent primitive campgrounds. Overall, however, the unit does not contain outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

V. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES

Some pronghorn antelope and wild free-roaming horses can be seen in the unit. These, however, are not in enough quantity to be considered a supplemental value. The Victoria Mine is located just outside the southern boundary of the unit. This mine is of substantial size and offers a moderate amount of sightseeing.

VI. REHABILITATIVE POTENTIAL

The potential for rehabilitation of improvements is low overall. Mining activities have little possibility for rehabilitation and the potential for rehabilitation of roads and water developments are moderate. To rehabilitate the unit would generally require heavy machinery.

VII. SUMMARY

Recommendation: The unit is not recommended for WSA identification.

Location and Description: The unit is about 14 miles northeast of Currie, Nevada. It is generally circular in shape with a radius of about three miles. The Dolly Varden Mountains run southeasterly through the unit from the middle of the western border to the middle of the southern border.

Naturalness: Only about 8,000 acres of the unit are in a natural condition. The other 18,880 acres contain roads, mining pits, shafts and scrapes as well as powerlines and grazing improvements that are substantially noticeable and detract from the natural character.

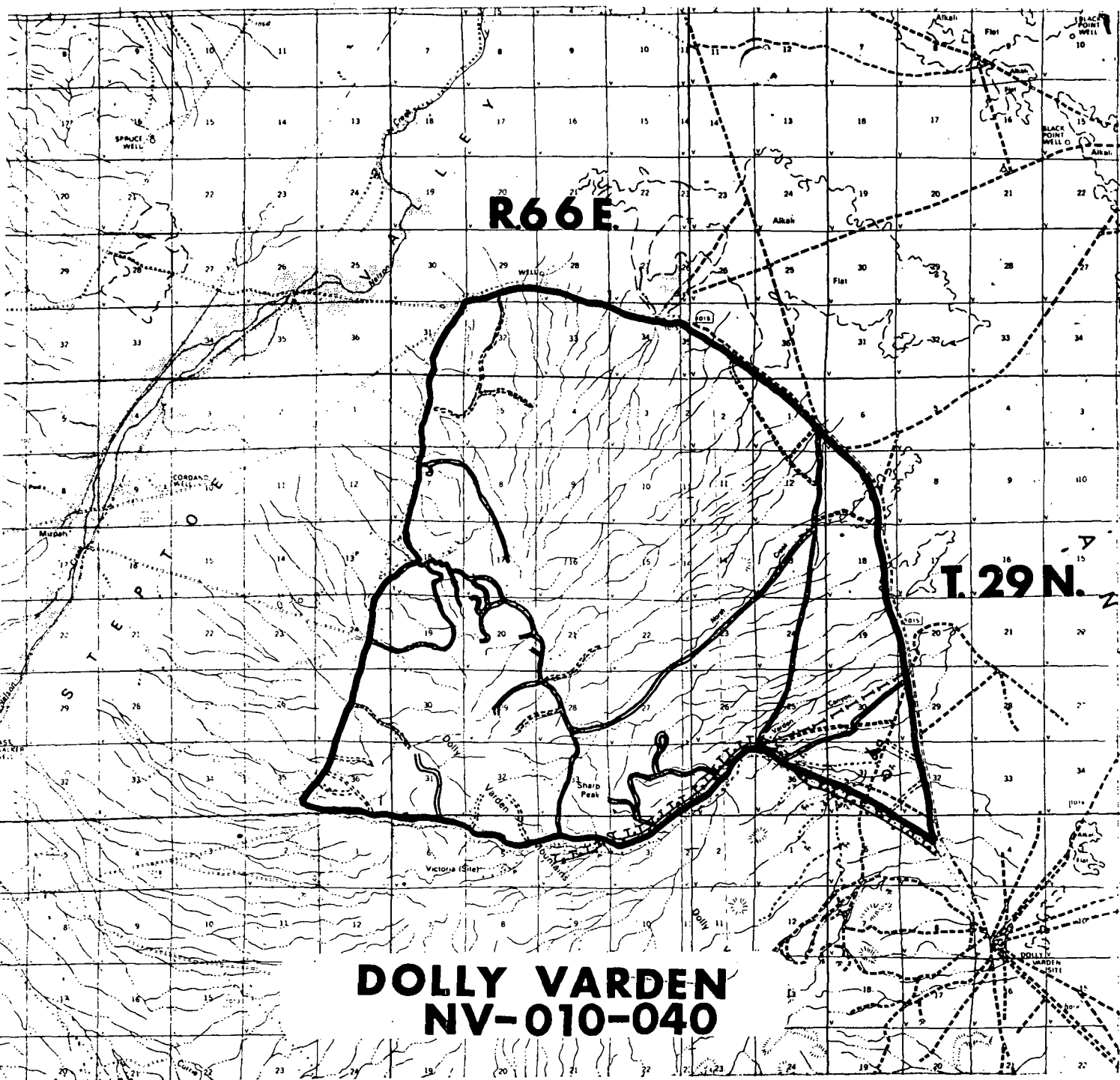
Solitude: Some of the canyons and high mountain valleys provide a high degree of solitude, however opportunities for solitude in the unit as a whole do not qualify as outstanding. The topographic and vegetative screening of the eastern part of the unit combine to provide little solitude in that portion.

Primitive and Unconfined Recreation: Recreational opportunities include hunting, camping, hiking and some nature study. These opportunities are not considered outstanding because they are affected by the large amount of man-made improvements. The southwestern part of the unit has a few excellent places for recreational car camping and hunting camps. These have been used historically and could possibly make excellent sites for primitive campgrounds.

Supplemental Values: Pronghorn antelope and wild free-roaming horses can be seen in the unit, but not in great quantity. The Victoria Mine, located just outside the southern boundary of the unit, offers a moderate amount of sightseeing.

Rehabilitative Potential: The potential for rehabilitating the area to its natural condition is extremely low and would definitely require heavy machinery.

Conclusion: After intensive inventory the Dolly Varden Inventory Unit lacks criteria for WSA identification.



R66E.

T.29N.

**DOLLY VARDEN
NV-010-040**

- Road
- Telephone and Telegraph Line
- Way
- Pipeline
- Well
- Windmill and Well



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

NEVADA STATE OFFICE
Room 3008 Federal Building
300 Booth Street
Reno, Nevada 89509

September 28, 1979

On May 1 of this year, the Bureau of Land Management released its initial inventory recommendations on which public land areas in Nevada obviously do not contain wilderness characteristics defined by Congress and should be released from further wilderness consideration, and which areas deserve a closer look through the intensive inventory.

Many of you received copies and maps of these recommendations and were asked to give comments on the presence or absence of wilderness characteristics (at least 5,000 roadless acres, naturalness, and outstanding opportunities for solitude and a primitive and unconfined type of recreation) in the more than 1,600 units studied within the state.

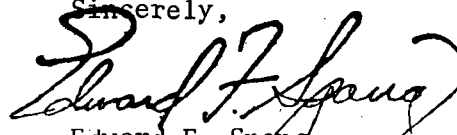
Hundreds of people responded to our request for comments. Those comments have now been analyzed and evaluated by our top management and we are now ready to announce our initial inventory decisions. These decisions will become final in 30 days unless a public protest is received.

Because you have indicated an interest in our wilderness program, we are sending you a summary of the results of our initial inventory process. The materials provided will explain our decisions unit by unit, the public comments received, and our rationale for those decisions. A revised statewide map, a fact sheet, and a public comment analysis summary are included. Additional file information on each unit is available for review at my office in Reno and in appropriate BLM district offices throughout the state.

As explained in detail in the fact sheet, the next six months will be busy ones for us as we complete intensive inventories on about one-third of the public land in Nevada for possible wilderness characteristics. Your comments will be welcomed during this period as well as during our official comment period between April and June of 1980 when we announce our intensive wilderness inventory recommendations.

Please don't hesitate to contact any of the wilderness personnel listed on the fact sheet if you have any questions.

Sincerely,


Edward F. Spang
State Director, Nevada



Save Energy and You Serve America!

ERRATA SHEET

1. Please note Category G on the accompanying map is in error. All areas delineated as "clear" are not already classified as wilderness. The only classified area is the Jarbidge Wilderness Area in Elko County.
2. Please examine your publication for missing pages. If yours has sections missing, please contact the BLM at the office nearest you for a new copy.

FACT SHEET

NEVADA BLM'S

INITIAL WILDERNESS INVENTORY DECISIONS

UPDATE

The Nevada Bureau of Land Management recently published its initial wilderness inventory decisions. A 30-day protest period follows before these decisions can be implemented. The results of this initial inventory, combined with earlier and ongoing special inventories, means that about 65 percent of all public lands in Nevada have been released from wilderness consideration because they were lacking wilderness characteristics defined by Congress. These are: at least 5,000 roadless acres, naturalness, and outstanding opportunities for solitude and a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

Of the remaining public land acreage, 33 percent, or about 16.1 million acres, will be intensively inventoried. This means that the Bureau did not have enough information on the areas to make a determination and the areas might possibly contain wilderness characteristics. Therefore, an intensive, on-the-ground look is necessary to verify the presence or absence of wilderness characteristics. The areas where characteristics are lacking will also be released from further wilderness consideration; the area where wilderness characteristics exist will be designated wilderness study areas and studied further through the Bureau's land use planning and environmental study processes. Public involvement is an integral part of these two processes. Based on these findings and public comments, the Bureau will recommend each wilderness study area to Congress as suitable or unsuitable for eventual preservation as wilderness.

There is one other category of public land acreage in this wilderness process: lands that have already been intensively inventoried because of high priority projects such as land transfers, energy projects, etc. About 8.3 million acres of public lands in Nevada have been inventoried in this manner. Of that acreage, 87 percent has been released from further wilderness consideration or recommended for release. That acreage is included in the total acreage-released figure given earlier. The remaining 1.1 million acres or about 13 percent were found to contain wilderness characteristics and have been designated wilderness study areas. They will go through the same studies as wilderness study areas identified as a result of the regular intensive inventory.

The various phases described in the BLM's wilderness review program are outlined on the following page.

THE BLM'S WILDERNESS REVIEW PROGRAM

PHASE	PURPOSE	TIMEFRAME
1. Inventory	To review all public land for wilderness characteristics. (A flow chart to illustrate the inventory phase is attached to the back of this fact sheet. Procedures for accomplishing this phase are detailed in BLM's <i>Wilderness Inventory Handbook</i> of September 27, 1978. Copies are available at any BLM office.)	Entire inventory complete by September, 1980.
(a) Initial	Based on existing information, take an initial look at the public lands and determine which obviously and clearly do NOT meet the mandated wilderness criteria. These areas are removed from any further study and all management restrictions imposed by law are lifted.	Initial inventory complete by September, 1979.
(b) Intensive	All the remaining lands are intensively field surveyed to determine if they contain the wilderness characteristics described in the Wilderness Act. If wilderness characteristics do exist, the areas are designated Wilderness Study Areas. If they do not exist, the areas are removed from any further study and all wilderness related management restrictions imposed by law are lifted.	Intensive inventory complete by September, 1980.
2. Study	Once Wilderness Study Areas are designated and the wilderness resource is identified, that resource is weighed against all other values, resources, and uses of the public lands such as off-road vehicle use, mineral values, livestock forage, wild horses, wildlife habitat, energy development, etc., in the BLM's land use planning system. In some cases, wilderness preservation may be in direct conflict with another resource, but in other situations wilderness may be compatible with other resource needs. Comparing wilderness values with other resource values is an important part of the study phase. During this phase, BLM, with the public's help, will consider and resolve whether orderly land development or preservation within the National Wilderness Preservation System is the best use of these Wilderness Study Areas.	The study phase will be completed according to the statewide land use planning schedule. Some plans are being completed this year and all will be updated and completed no later than 1989.
3. Reporting	During the study phase, recommendations are made on whether each Wilderness Study Area is suitable or unsuitable for designation as a Wilderness Area by Congress. During the reporting phase, these recommendations are forwarded through the Secretary of the Interior and the President to Congress. Mineral surveys, environmental statements, and other data are also submitted with these recommendations.	All recommendations must be submitted to the President no later than October 21, 1991.

NOTE: Only Congress can designate an area as part of the Wilderness Preservation System.

BACKGROUND

The Bureau is conducting this extensive wilderness review program because of two Federal laws; the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 and the Wilderness Act of 1964.

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act directs the BLM to review all roadless areas of 5,000 acres or more for wilderness values and report, through the Secretary and the President, its recommendations to Congress. During the review period, the BLM is directed to manage these areas so that wilderness values are not impaired. The exact Congressional wording is quoted below:

"Sec. 603.(a) Within fifteen years after the date of approval of this Act, the Secretary shall review those roadless areas of five thousand acres or more and roadless islands of the public lands, identified during the inventory required by Section 201(a) of this Act as having wilderness characteristics described in the Wilderness Act of September 3, 1964 . . . and shall from time to time report to the President his recommendation as to the suitability or nonsuitability of each such area or island for preservation as wilderness: Provided, That prior to any recommendations for the designation of an area as wilderness the Secretary shall cause mineral surveys to be conducted by the Geological Survey and the Bureau of Mines to determine the mineral values, if any, that may be present in such areas"

(c) During the period of review of such areas and until Congress has determined otherwise, the Secretary shall continue to manage such lands according to his authority under this Act and other applicable law in a manner so as not to impair the suitability of such areas for preservation as wilderness, subject, however, to the continuation of existing mining and grazing uses and mineral leasing in the manner and degree in which the same was being conducted on the date of approval of this Act: Provided, That, in managing the public lands the Secretary shall by regulation or otherwise take any action required to prevent unnecessary or undue degradation of the lands and their resources or to afford environmental protection."

The Wilderness Act of 1964 outlined Congress' policy concerning what constitutes a wilderness. The BLM will be reviewing the public lands to see if these values do or do not exist. Congress' exact wording follows:

"Sec. 2.

(c) A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain. An area of wilderness is further defined to mean in this Act an area of undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions and which (1) generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable; (2) has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation; (3) has at least five thousand acres of land or is of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition; and (4) may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value."

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT DURING THE INITIAL INVENTORY

The Bureau received more than 6,000 comments from about 600 individuals, agencies, and organizations. Everyone that gave us a name and address has been added to our wilderness mailing list so that he or she can stay informed during the remainder of the review program.

Each of these people should have received a summary book, outlining the more than 1,600 units of public lands in Nevada inventoried for wilderness characteristics, what public comment we received; our decision; and our rationale. A statewide map depicting these decisions was also included, along with this fact sheet.

Because the BLM felt the public input received was so important, we carefully analyzed and evaluated each comment received through a system called Codinvolve. This enabled us to draw out demographic and other factual data about those responding (where they were from, what forms their input came in, what kind of groups responded, and what their primary interest seemed to be). We also were able to quantify the general opinions received about wilderness and other public lands resources. All this information was evaluated by our management personnel prior to decision-making. Of course, as we had asked, most people gave us specific comments about individual units. This information was also drawn out and summarized for review by the appropriate district manager and the State Director. As the summary book shows, this information was considered in making every decision. Although we tried to field-check each comment, some will have to be carried over into the intensive inventory due to time constraints and limited personnel. Those comments that discussed other resource values, such as minerals, rockhounding opportunities, or grazing in these same areas will even be carried over into the land use planning phase in areas that are selected as wilderness study areas.

Overall, the public was very responsive and helpful during the initial inventory phase. A short summary of the highlights of our Codinvolve findings was mailed to every respondent. Additional copies are available from our State Office in Reno.

Also available upon request from the State Office are maps covering smaller areas than the statewide maps provided. A key for ordering these maps is shown on the statewide map.

WHAT'S NEXT ?

Between now and early April, 1980, the BLM wilderness specialists will be finishing the intensive inventories on the 16.1 million acres discussed earlier.

During this six-month period, the public is encouraged to continue giving us information on the presence or absence of wilderness characteristics in specific units. A form outlining the pertinent information needed is attached for your use. Additional copies are available from the BLM's Nevada State Office. If this information is given early enough, it will be field-checked during the ongoing intensive inventory.

In early April, 1980, the Bureau will announce its recommendations on which areas should be dropped from further wilderness consideration and which should become wilderness study areas. An official 90-day public comment period will follow. These comments will be added to those received earlier, and will be fully analyzed, field-checked if possible, and evaluated. The Bureau's final intensive decisions will be announced in late August, 1980.

If you have any questions about the wilderness program or its progress in Nevada, feel free to contact any one of the wilderness coordinators listed on the back of this page.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

- BLM DISTRICT OFFICE
- BLM STATE OFFICE

WILDERNESS
COORDINATORS
IN NEVADA

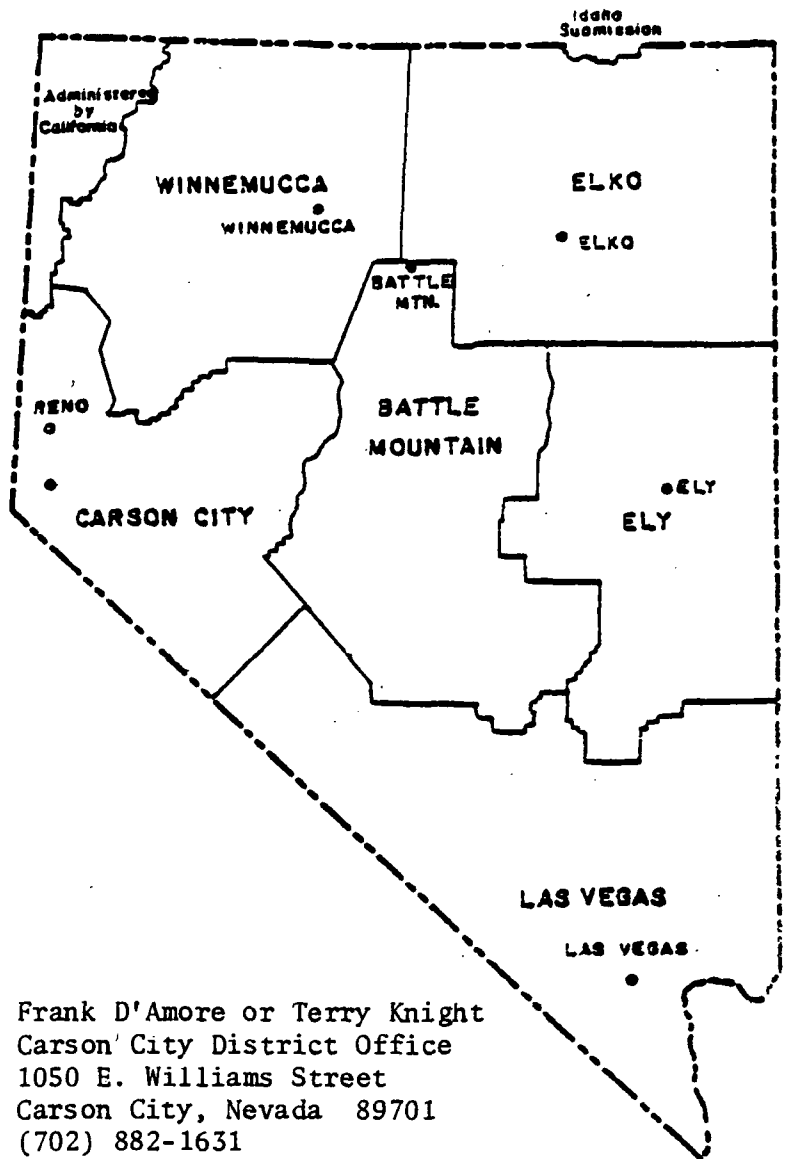
David Harmon, Wilderness Coordinator
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Dave McMorran or Russ Koch
Battle Mountain District Office
P.O. Box 194
Battle Mountain, Nevada 89820
(702) 635-5181

Jon Joseph
(Battle Mountain District Office)
Tonopah Resource Area Headquarters
Building, 102 Old Radar Base
Tonopah, Nevada 89049
(702) 482-6214

Jim Cameron or Janae Byergo
Winnemucca District Office
705 East 4th Street
Winnemucca, Nevada 89445
(702) 623-3676

Larry Jung
Ely District Office
Star Route 5, Box 1
Ely, Nevada 89301
(702) 289-4865



Frank D'Amore or Terry Knight
Carson City District Office
1050 E. Williams Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701
(702) 882-1631

Larry Monroe or Paul Colbert
Elko District Office
2002 Idaho Street
Elko, Nevada 89801
(702) 738-4071

Jim Dunn or Marta Witt
Las Vegas District Office
P.O. Box 5400
4765 Vegas Drive
Las Vegas, Nevada 89102
(702) 385-6403

Federal Building
300 Booth Street, Room 3008
Reno, Nevada 89509

INTENSIVE INVENTORY
PUBLIC COMMENT FORM

NEVADA BLM INTENSIVE
WILDERNESS INVENTORY

Name _____

Address _____

Representing any Group _____

UNIT NUMBER _____

NAME _____

For internal use only:

I ___ S ___ A ___ D ___

For the purposes of our wilderness inventory, wilderness characteristics as identified and outlined by Congress are:

- 1) Roadlessness:
"The word 'roadless' refers to the absence of roads which have been improved and maintained by mechanical means to insure relatively regular and continuous use. A way maintained solely by the passage of vehicles does not constitute a road."
- 2) Size:
 - a) 5,000 acres or more of public land.
 - b) Less than 5,000 acres but are of unique character and are of sufficient size suitable for wilderness management.
 - c) Are contiguous to other federally managed acreage determined to have wilderness values.
- 3) Naturalness:
"...generally appears to have been affected primarily by forces of nature with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable."
- 4) Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation:
"...has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation."

Do you think this area has wilderness characteristics?

Why or why not? Please be specific and address the presence or absence of the characteristics outlined above. The back of this sheet lists those characteristics with room for your comments. If you need to point out a particular location, please do so on a map. BLM maps are available for all public land areas in the state. To make sure your map comment is able to be utilized, please mark your comment clearly with a heavy black pen; in writing nearby describe your comment (e.g. "maintained, regularly used road" or "well" etc.); and be sure to put your name or address on the map: Please do not use colored pens as many colors are not reproducible on Xerox or duplicating machines.

(PLEASE CONTINUE TO BACK OF SHEET)

SIZE:

ROADS:

NATURALNESS:

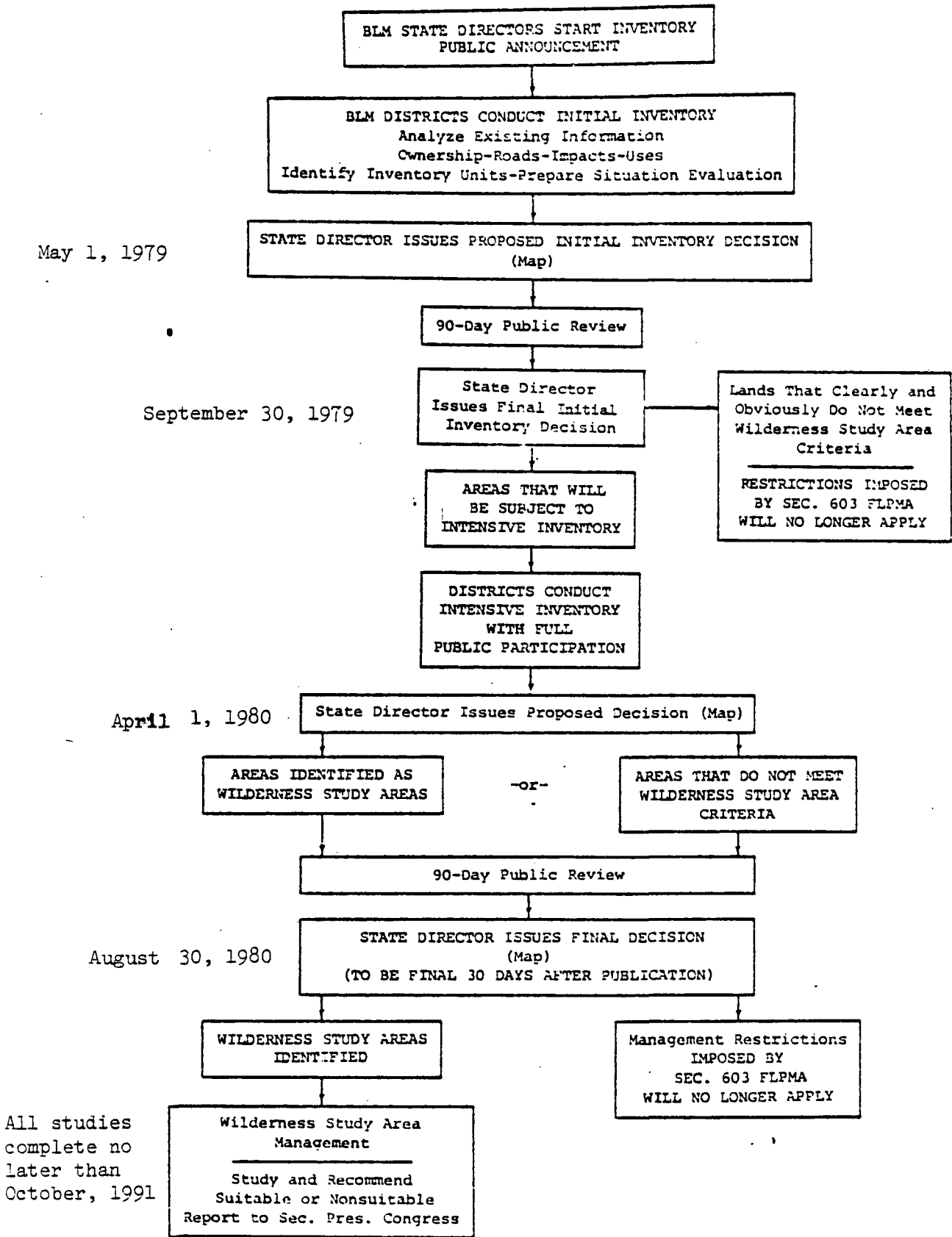
SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION:

If you think the area lacks naturalness, but otherwise contains wilderness characteristics, it may be considered for further study when it is reasonable to expect the imprint of man's work to return or be returned to a substantially unnoticeable level either by natural processes or by hand labor. Lands where imprints of man's work require artificial rehabilitation by use of power machinery to return them to a natural condition, except litter collection and removal, will not be considered as meeting the wilderness characteristics criteria.

Does this area, in your opinion, fit this description? Please explain why.

Why and how do you think it can be rehabilitated?

BLM WILDERNESS INVENTORY PROCESS





NEVADA BLM Wilderness Bulletin

BLM AMENDS CEDAR RIDGE WILDERNESS STUDY AREA BOUNDARY DUE TO NEW INFORMATION

December 4, 1979

BLM State Director Ed Spang has decided to amend the boundary of the Cedar Ridge Wilderness Study Area (NV-010-088) due to new information presented to the Bureau from the public.

The area was designated a wilderness study area in an earlier accelerated intensive inventory done to expedite oil and gas leasing in northeastern Nevada. Since that decision was issued, a road meeting the Bureau's definition was pointed out by the public and the Bureau's field personnel verified the information. That resulted in splitting the original unit into two pieces along the new road boundary. The wilderness study area (which remains NV-010-088) now contains 9,430 acres. The remaining acreage (4,650 acres) is now NV-010-088A and has undergone a special accelerated inventory to examine its wilderness potential independent of the wilderness study area.

That special inventory has found that unit NV-010-088A does not possess wilderness characteristics due to size and lack of outstanding opportunities for solitude and a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. The public is invited to examine the Bureau's findings on this special inventory at an open house scheduled at the Elko District Office, 2002 Idaho St., on Jan. 7, 1980 at 1:30 p.m. Comments on NV-010-088A will be accepted until Jan. 15, 1980. Further information on the proposal can be obtained from either the Elko District Office or the BLM's Reno Office, 300 Booth St., Room 3123, zip code 89509.

END

Intensive Inventory Analysis

The Cedar Ridge Roadless Area (NV-010-088) originally contained 20,080 acres of federal land. A 6,000 acre parcel of land that lacked natural character was removed and the remaining 14,080 acres were designated as a Wilderness Study Area. Subsequent field checking encouraged by public input identified a road that bisects the Wilderness Study Area east to west. The road is located in T. 30 N., R. 55 E., sections 9,8,7, and 18, and T. 30 N., R. 54 E., section 13. This road necessitates the original unit to be divided into two units. The units are now designated as NV-010-088, consisting of 9,430 acres, and NV-010-088A, with 4,650 acres. The large portion remains designated as a Wilderness Study Area. The remainder of this report discusses the smaller unit, NV-010-088A.

I. Size

The Cedar Ridge Inventory Unit, NV-010-088A contains 4,650 acres of federal land. The unit is generally triangular in shape (see attached map). The unit does not meet the minimum size requirement of 5,000 acres for wilderness consideration, nor is it contiguous to lands designated by another federal agency as qualifying for wilderness consideration.

II. Naturalness

The unit contains about 4,200 acres of substantially natural land. The natural areas consist of juniper covered ridges and canyons. The area is bisected by a bladed fenceline that is easily noticeable from the ground. Indian Well, located at the northern tip of the unit, is substantially noticeable when viewed from all portions of the northern third of the unit with a northern exposure.

III. Solitude

The unit's small size and generally moderate vegetative and topographic screening would provide only moderate opportunities for solitude. Outstanding opportunities for solitude do not exist in the unit.

IV. Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

Primitive recreational opportunities in the unit are not considered outstanding. Activities available include hiking, backpacking, camping, hunting and wildlife observation. The quality of these activities are diminished by the unit's small size and lack of recreational diversity.

V. Supplemental Values

Predators and a small deer population exist in the unit. Nearby areas exist that offer better opportunities for wildlife observation. Therefore, these supplemental values are not considered critical.

VI. Rehabilitation Potential

Rehabilitation potential is considered low for both the Indian Well and the fenceline. The well consists of a large metal structure powered by a gasoline engine. The fence is constructed of barbed wire and all the fence posts are metal. The potential for natural rehabilitation of both the fenceline and the well do not exist.

VII. Summary

The unit does not meet the basic size requirement necessary for consideration as a Wilderness Study Area. This deficit as well as the lack of opportunity for an outstanding experience of solitude and/or primitive recreation make this unit undesirable for further consideration in the wilderness inventory.

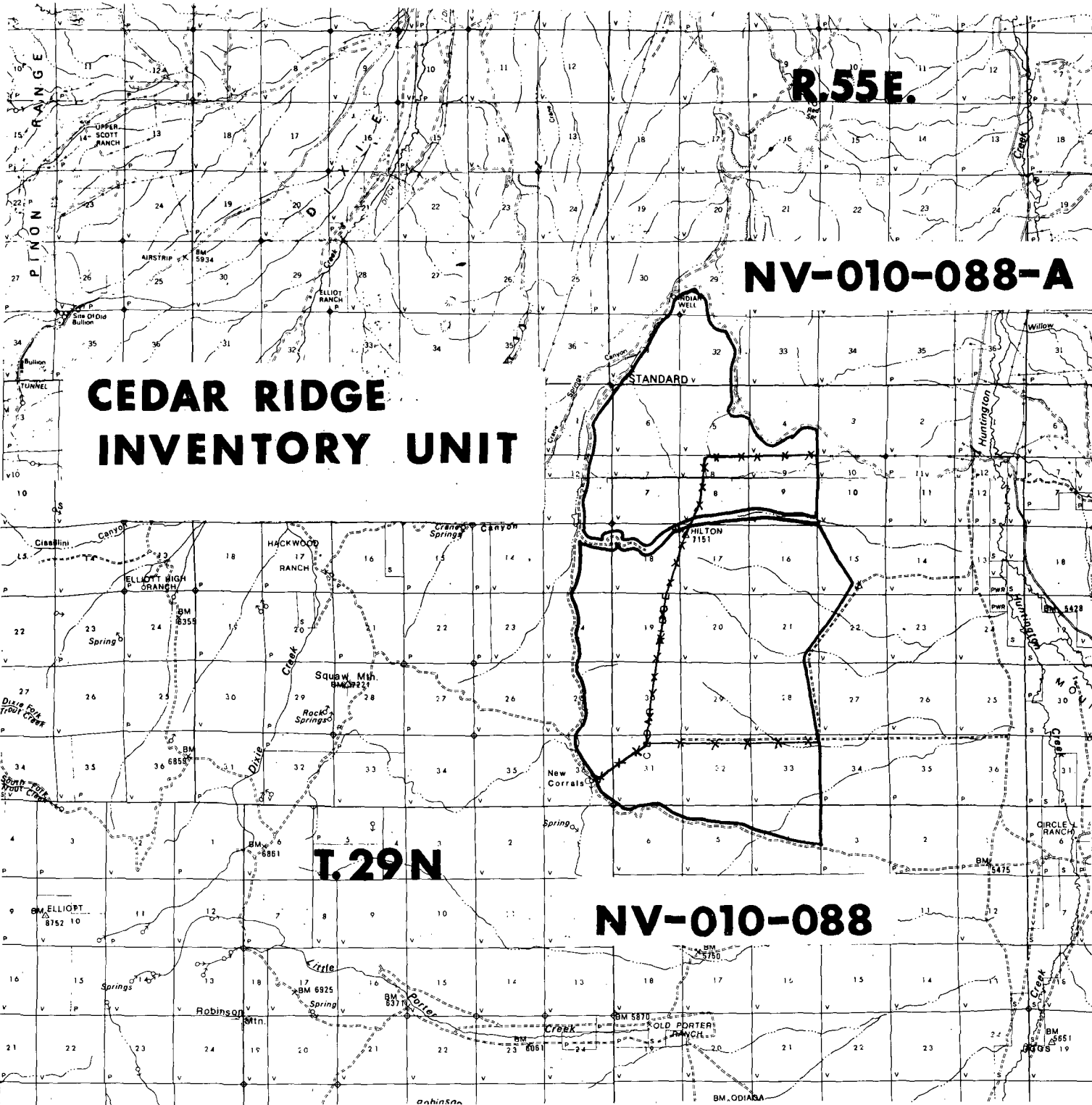
R.55E.

NV-010-088-A

CEDAR RIDGE INVENTORY UNIT

T.29N

NV-010-088



POWERLINE

TELEGRAPH

TELEPHONE

TEL&TELEG LINE

PRIVATE LAND

PHOTO POINT

ROAD

WAY

FENCE

PIPELINE

WELL

WINDMILL & WELL

RESERVOIR

IMPROVED SPRING

LAND TREATMENT
seeding, fire burn,
brush eradication,
etc.

PHOTOS TAKEN(date)

SCALE: 1/2" = 1 mile

NORTH



NEVADA BLM Wilderness Bulletin

July 18, 1979

ELY DISTRICT CONDUCTS A SPECIAL, ACCELERATED INVENTORY

The Bureau of Land Management's Ely District has conducted a special, accelerated inventory on about 420,000 acres of public lands in Eureka, Nye and White Pine Counties. Based on this intensive inventory, the agency is recommending that the seven inventory units involved be released from further wilderness consideration because they lack wilderness characteristics specified by Congress.

The seven units involved are: Ruby Valley (NV-040-023); Big Bald (NV-040-024); Buck Pass (NV-040-035); Alligator Ridge (NV-040-036); Yelland Acres (NV-040-037); Black Point (NV-040-141) and Bull Creek (NV-040-147).

The special accelerated inventory was requested by two mining operators who desire to begin open pit mining operations within the units to extract gold and barite.

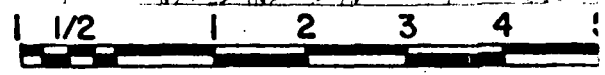
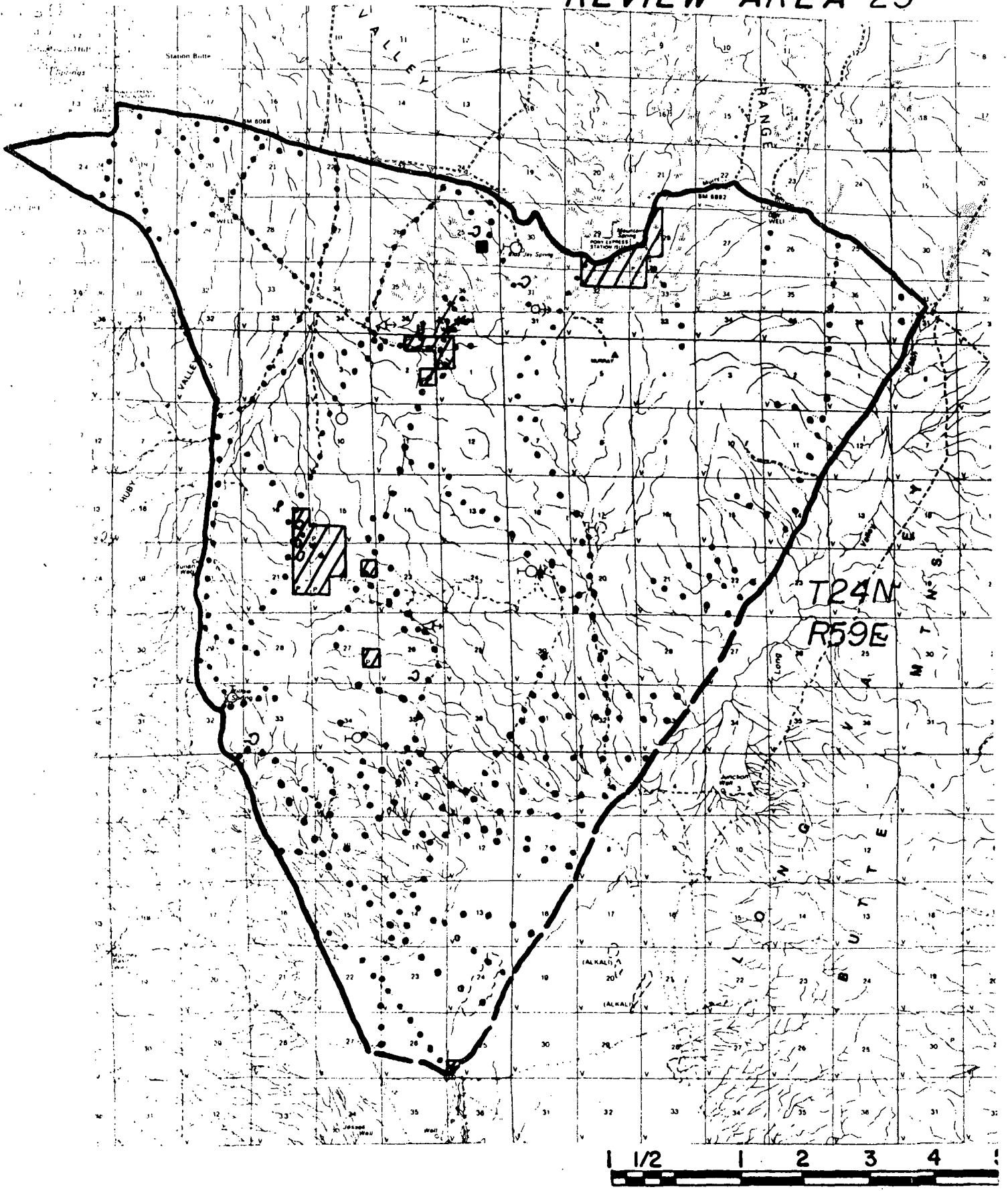
The Bureau's recommendations are open to public comment until Oct. 3. An open house is scheduled for July 27, 1979, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Ely District Office. Summaries of the study findings and maps identifying the inventory units are attached. Further information can be obtained from the BLM offices in Ely and Reno.

END

Intensive Wilderness Inventory Narrative Summary

1. Area Description - This review unit made up of flat valley, rolling foothills and low mountains. Dominant ground cover is split between areas forested with pinyon-juniper and sagebrush types.
2. Wilderness Characteristics
 - A. Size - 1,400 acres of this 69,100 acre unit are privately owned.
 - B. Naturalness - One portion of about 11,000 acres is in a relatively natural condition. The primary impacts on the rest of the area are a result of ranching activities in the area.
 - C. Outstanding Opportunities
 1. Solitude - The natural portion of the area is a relatively small, open rolling area with limited screening of any kind.
 2. Primitive & Unconfined Recreation - Standard activities such as hiking, dry camping, hunting and horseback riding can take place in the area. There are no special features which would provide special diversity or quality.
 - D. Supplemental Values - One historic site and one archeologic site have been located in the area. No other supplemental values are known in the area.
3. Recommendation - The area lacks wilderness characteristics and is recommended to be released from further wilderness consideration.
4. Rationale for Recommendation - The review unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for either solitude or primitive recreation. In addition, most of the unit is in an unnatural condition as a result of past ranching activities.

REVIEW AREA 23

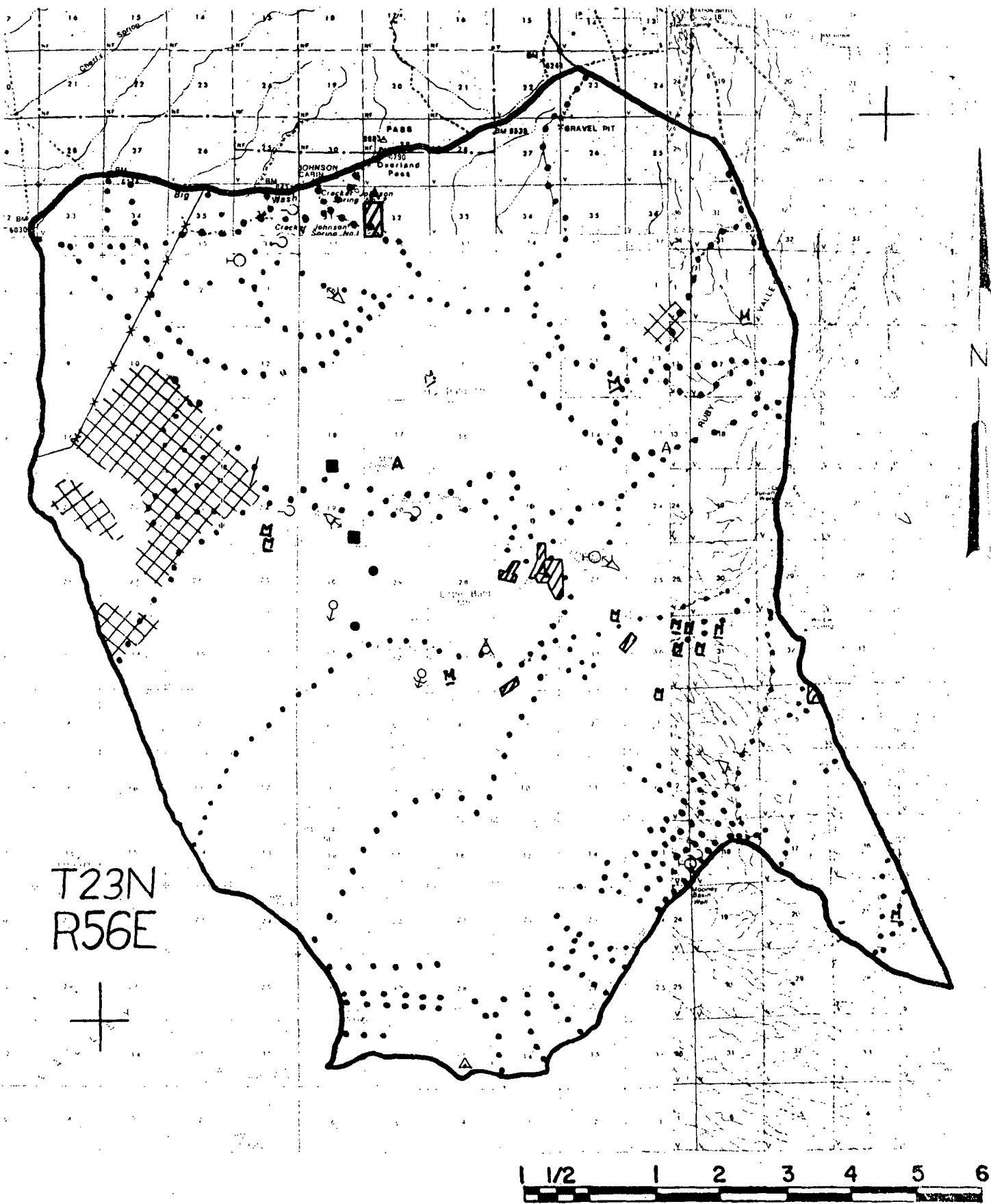


Scale: 1/2" = 1 Mile

Intensive Wilderness Inventory Narrative Summary

1. Area Description - This review area is made up of two connected mountains with associated foothills. Dominant cover is split between sagebrush types on the high country and pinyon-juniper in the foothills.
2. Wilderness Characteristics
 - A. Size - The review area is about 80,100 acres in size with all but about 200 acres under Federal administration.
 - B. Naturalness - Primary human activities are mining and ranching. Much of the area is highly intruded with developments associated with these activities. Four portions are natural and over 5,000 acres. These areas are fairly open.
 - C. Outstanding Opportunities
 1. Solitude - The largest natural area is a relatively small 13,500 acres. These areas are either open or covered with sparse to moderate density pinyon-juniper. Topographic screening is very low in the high country and somewhat better in the foothills.
 2. Primitive & Unconfined Recreation - Hiking, dry camping, horseback riding and snowshoeing can take place. There are no features in the area which would provide a quality recreation.
 - D. Supplemental Values - Non-National Register archeological sites have been located in the area. No other known supplemental values were located.
3. Recommendation - The area lacks wilderness characteristics and is recommended to be released from further wilderness consideration.
4. Rationale for Recommendation - The majority of the area is in a disturbed state and opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation are lacking. Therefore, the review area does not meet the criteria in the Wilderness Act for designation.

REVIEW AREA 24



T23N
R56E

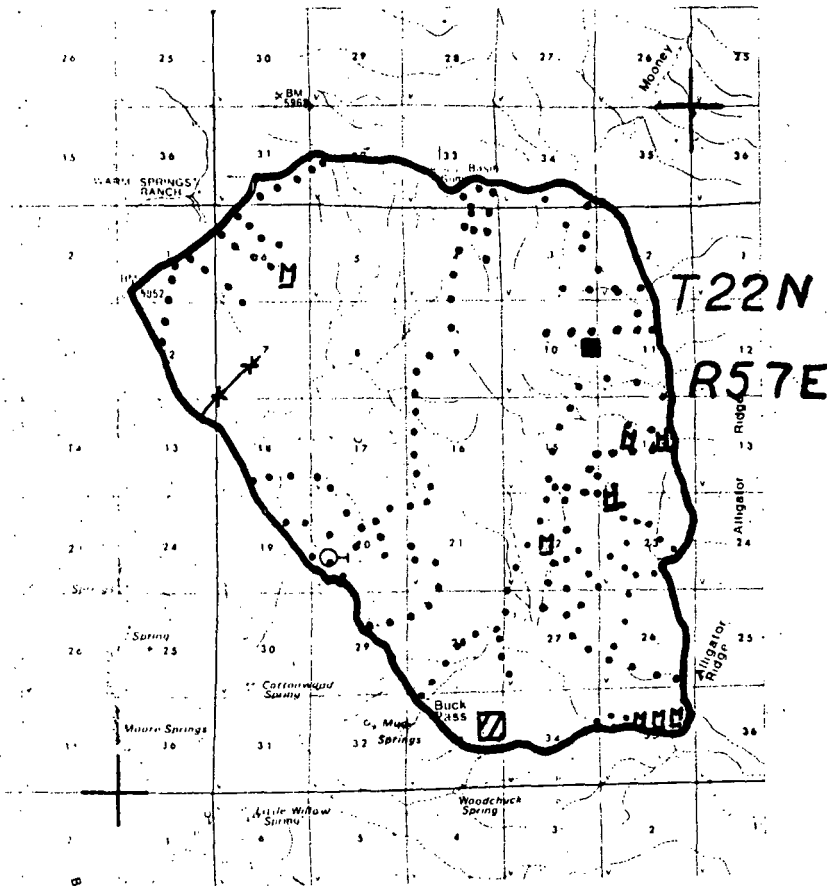


Scale: 1/2" = 1 Mile

Intensive Wilderness Inventory Narrative Summary

1. Area Description - This area of open pinyon-juniper stands and sagebrush areas is made up primarily of foothills and benchland.
2. Wilderness Characteristics
 - A. Size - the review unit is about 15,700 acres in size, including 60 acres in private ownership.
 - B. Naturalness - This area is heavily intruded, primarily by mining and ranching, to the point of being generally in an unnatural condition with no area over 5,000 acres natural.
 - C. Outstanding Opportunities
 1. Solitude - Natural portion size is less than 5,000 acres, acting to the detriment of solitude opportunities. Portions of the area have adequate vegetative screening and topography provides some additional screening. Opportunities are not outstanding.
 2. Primitive & Unconfined Recreation - Only minimal diversity in the ecosystem and a lack of special features limit the opportunities for primitive recreation.
 - D. Supplemental Values - None known.
3. Recommendation - The area lacks wilderness characteristics and is recommended to be released from further wilderness consideration.
4. Rationale for Recommendation - While the unit is more than 5,000 acres in size, it does not meet any of the other Wilderness Act criteria.

REVIEW AREA 35

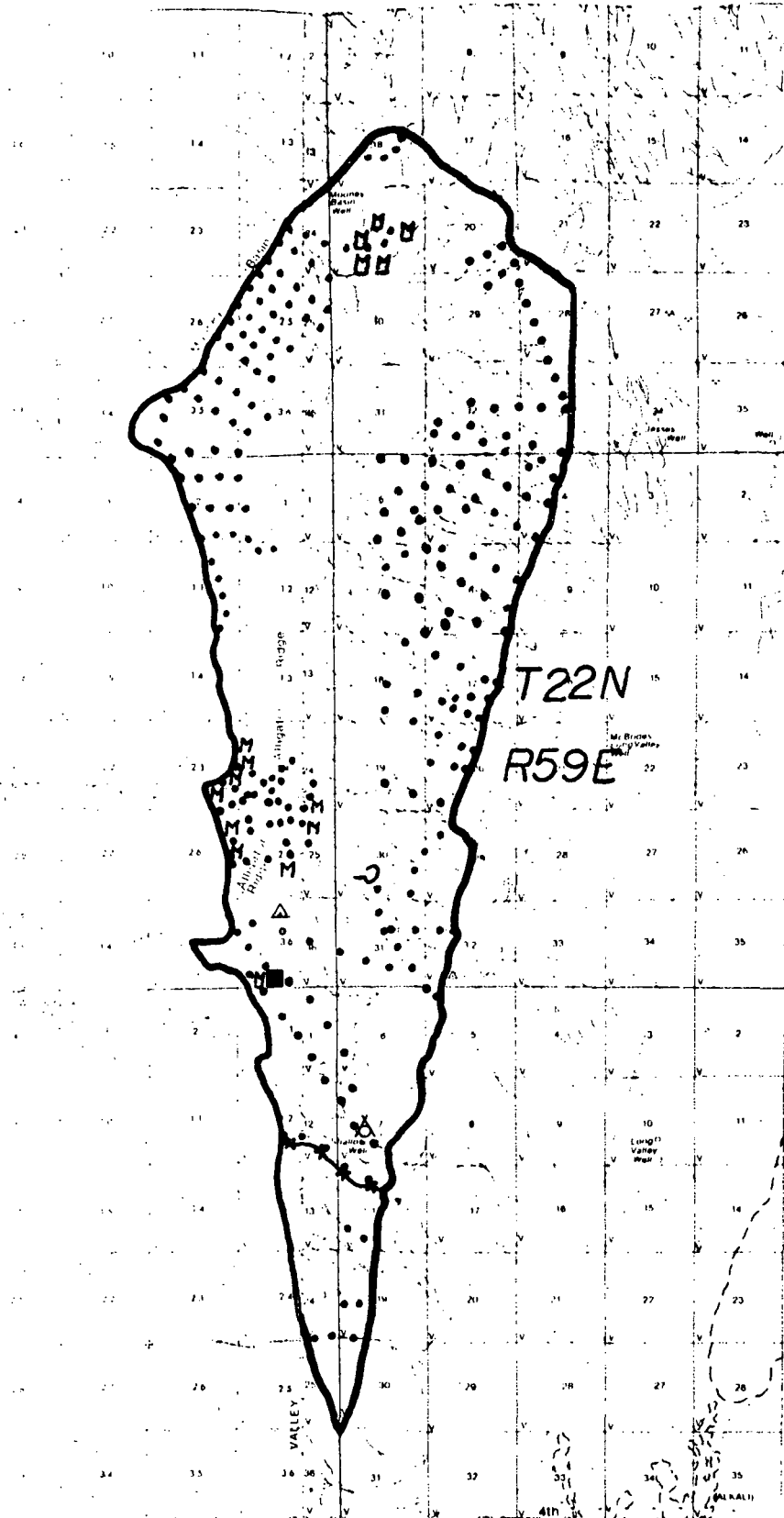


Scale: 1/2" = 1 Mile

Intensive Wilderness Inventory Narrative Summary

1. Area Description - This review unit is narrow with a single ridge mountain which extends into the valley on the east. Primary cover in the mountainous portion is pinyon-juniper with shrub growth dominant in the valley.
2. Wilderness Characteristics
 - A. Size - The review unit is about 25,600 acres in size.
 - B. Naturalness - The perimeter of the area is heavily intruded by mining activities. A natural portion of about 9,700 acres exists along the ridge top.
 - C. Outstanding Opportunities
 1. Solitude - The natural portion is long and very narrow and lacks topographic variation and heavy tree cover. Man's activities within the unit are in constant evidence. Little opportunity exists in the area for solitude.
 2. Primitive & Unconfined Recreation - The diversity of primitive recreation is limited by lack of ecosystem variety and no features were found which would provide a quality experience.
 - D. Supplemental Values - There are no known supplemental values in the area.
3. Recommendation - The area lacks wilderness characteristics and is recommended to be released from further wilderness consideration.
4. Rationale for Recommendation - Most of the area is in an unnatural condition and the portion which is in a natural condition is relatively small and lacks effective screening, limiting opportunities for solitude. The lack of ecosystem diversity and features providing a quality recreation experience makes recreation opportunities less than outstanding.

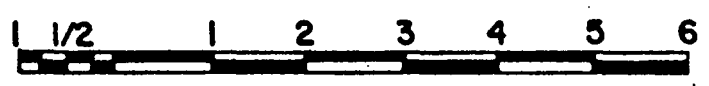
REVIEW AREA 36



X



T22N
R59E



Scale: 1/2" = 1 Mile

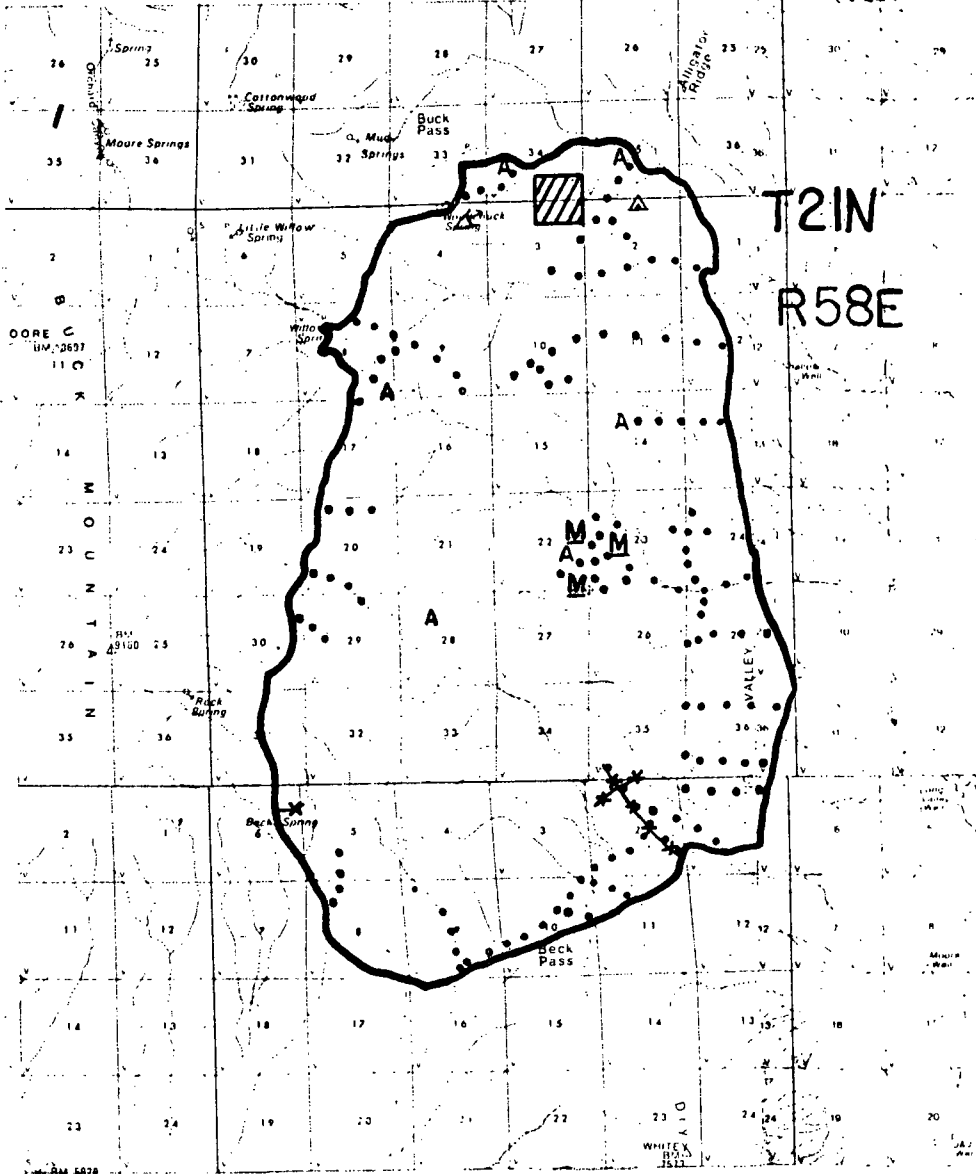
X

Intensive Wilderness Inventory Narrative Summary

1. **Area Description** - This area contains low mountains and rolling hills. Ground cover is sagebrush types and pinyon-juniper.
2. **Wilderness Characteristics**
 - A. **Size** - This area is about 24,300 acres in size and contains about 200 acres in private ownership.
 - B. **Naturalness** - The perimeter of the area has been intruded on by access routes and mining development. A portion of about 17,300 acres in the southcentral part of the area is generally in a natural condition.
 - C. **Outstanding Opportunities**
 1. **Solitude** - The relatively small size and lack of effective topographic or vegetative screening effectively limit opportunities for solitude.
 2. **Primitive & Unconfined Recreation** - This area offers a rather limited diversity of primitive recreation opportunity and contains no features which would provide quality experience.
 - D. **Supplemental Values** - Six archeological sites have been located in the review area.
3. **Recommendation** - The area lacks wilderness characteristics and is recommended to be released from further wilderness consideration.
4. **Rationale for Recommendation** - This area was found to lack wilderness characteristics since it does not offer outstanding opportunities for either primitive recreation or solitude. Size and screening were insufficient to provide outstanding solitude opportunities and ecosystem diversity and physical features were insufficient to provide outstanding primitive recreation opportunities.

REVIEW AREA 37

X



X

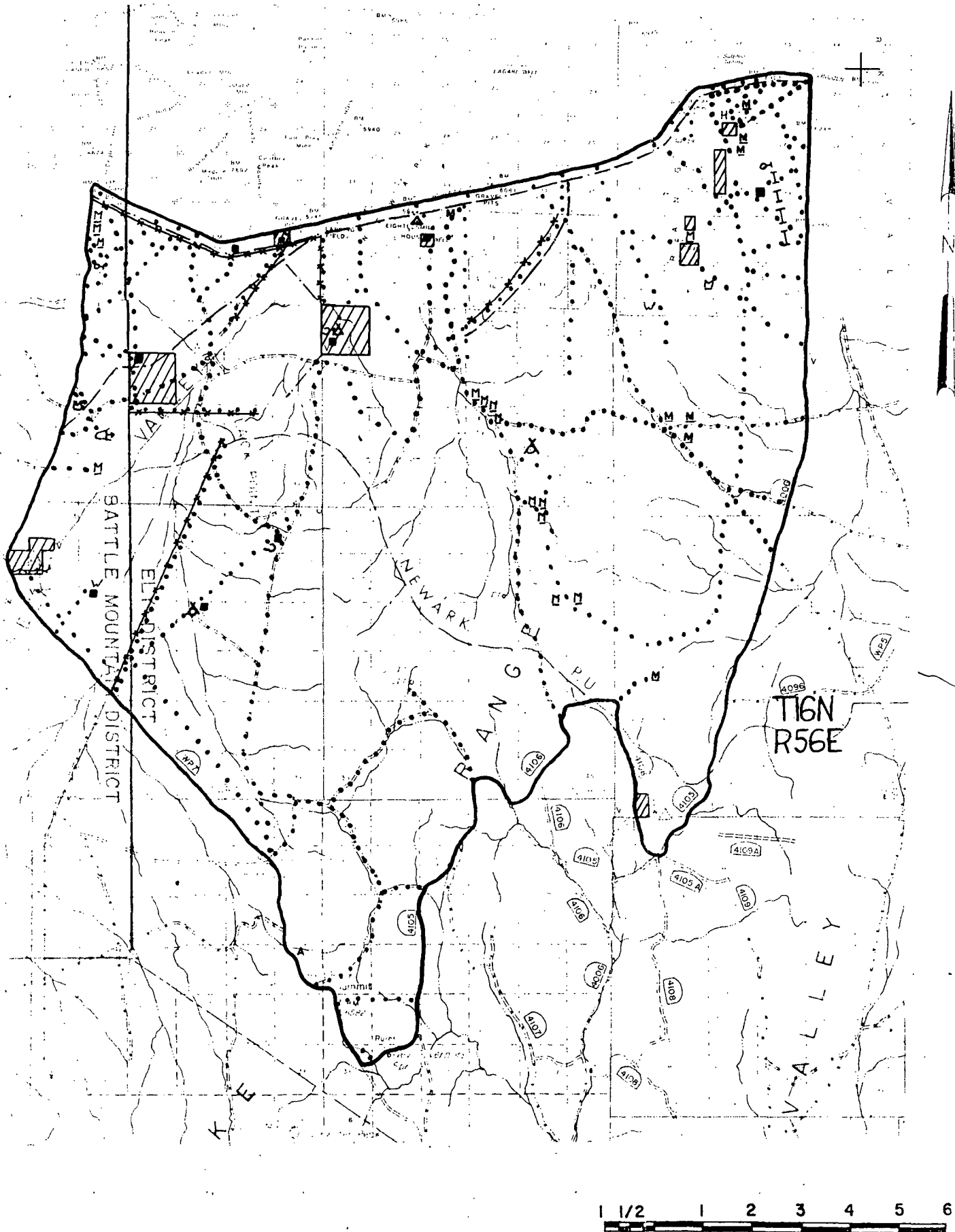


Scale: 1/2" = 1 Mile

Intensive Wilderness Inventory Narrative Summary

1. Area Description - The review area is covered with shrub growth and open pinyon-juniper. Topography varies from flat to rolling foothills in the west and central portions of the area.
2. Wilderness Characteristics
 - A. Size - The review unit is about 127,500 acres in size with all but 2,200 acres in Federal control.
 - B. Naturalness - The review area has been intruded on by man's works associated with mining and ranching. Two areas of 12,000 acres and 20,000 acres are in a relatively natural state.
 - C. Outstanding Opportunities
 1. Solitude - The natural portions offer limited opportunities for solitude. Pinyon-juniper densities varied from none to isolated instances of dense growth. Generally, the area consists of sagebrush areas and open pinyon-juniper. Topographic screening is limited to shallow washes and rolling hills.
 2. Primitive & Unconfined Recreation - Hiking, dry camping and nature study can be pursued but no features were found which provide a quality experience.
 - D. Supplemental Values - An old cabin and an isolated archeological site have been located in the area. No other supplemental values are known.
3. Recommendation - This area was found to be lacking in wilderness character and is recommended to be released from further wilderness consideration.
4. Rationale for Recommendation - The area contains two portions over 5,000 acres in a natural condition. Neither of these areas offer outstanding opportunities for either solitude or primitive recreation.

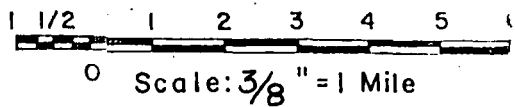
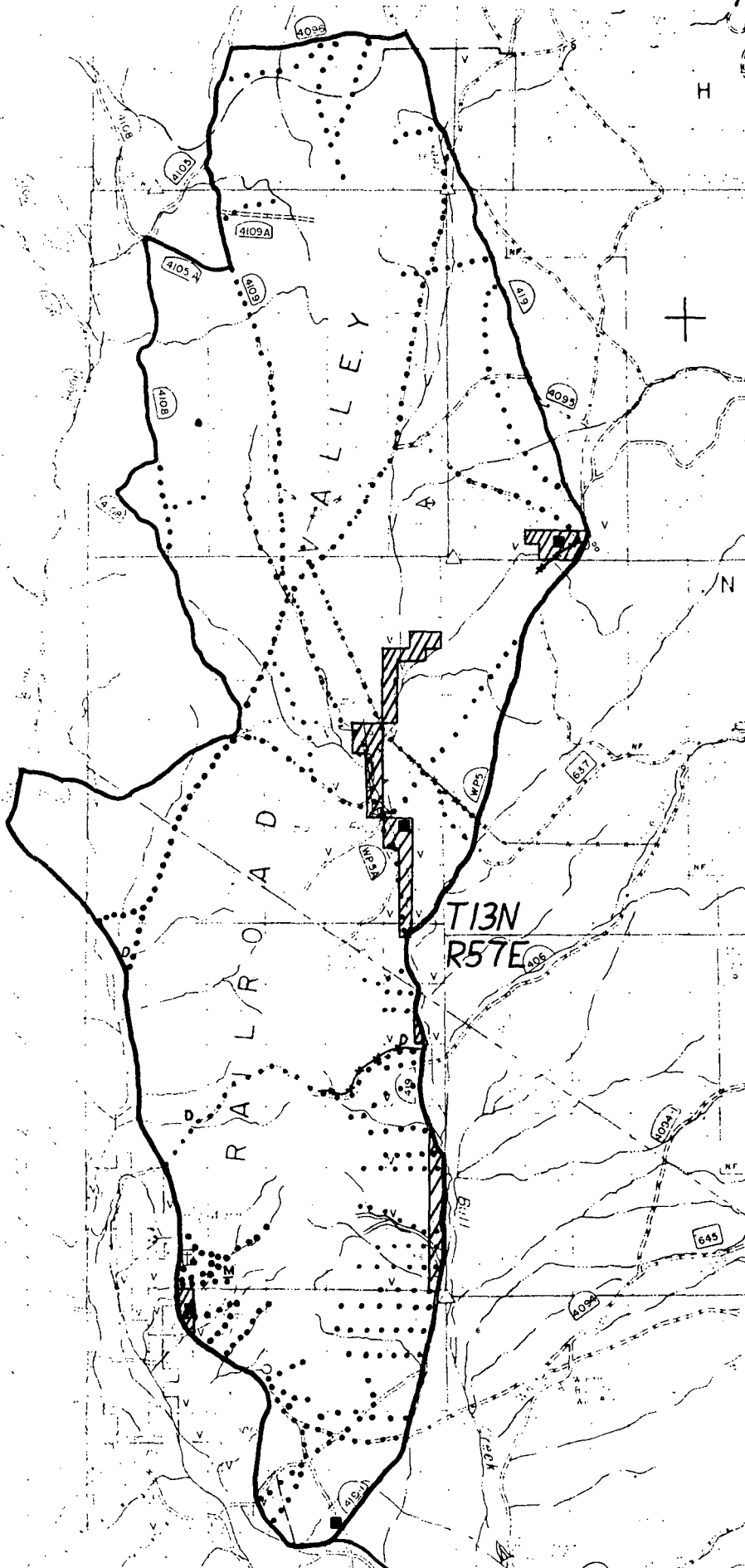
REVIEW AREA 141



Intensive Wilderness Inventory Narrative Summary

1. Area Description - This review area is generally flat with a single mountain ridge. Most of the area is covered with low growth vegetation such as sagebrush, shadscale, winterfat, rabbitbrush and greasewood. Portions of the natural parts of the area have open pinyon-juniper stands.
2. Wilderness Characteristics
 - A. Size - The review area is about 83,200 acres in size, with 1,720 acres in private ownership.
 - B. Naturalness - Tracts of about 13,600 and 13,700 acres are in a natural condition.
 - C. Outstanding Opportunities
 1. Solitude - Only limited screening exists in the review area and the size of the natural portions is inadequate to provide outstanding opportunities.
 2. Primitive & Unconfined Recreation - Hiking, dry camping, horseback riding and nature study can take place in the area, but no features were found in the area that would provide a quality experience or attract users.
 - D. Supplemental Values - One isolated artifact has been located in the area. No other supplemental values are known.
3. Recommendation - The area lacks wilderness characteristics and is recommended to be released from further wilderness consideration.
4. Rationale for Recommendation - Only two relatively small areas are in a generally natural state. These two areas offer only limited opportunities for solitude due to a lack of topographic and vegetative screening. Opportunities for recreation are similar; limited diversity of the ecosystem and a lack of features which would enhance the quality of the recreation experience. Therefore, the area does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation and does not meet the criteria required for Wilderness Act for designation.

REVIEW AREA 147

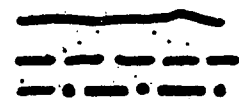


14

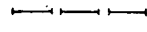
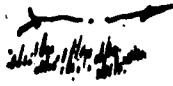
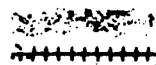
LEGEND

REVIEW AREA BOUNDARY:
 TRANSPORTATION PLAN ROAD
 DOCUMENTED ROAD
 FOREST SERVICE BOUNDARY
 REVIEW AREA FEATURES:

NON-FEDERAL LANDS
 PROPOSED STUDY AREA
 PHOTO AND DIRECTION
 POWER OR COMMUNICATION LINE
 DESIGNATED NATURAL AREA
 RAILROAD
 FENCES
 BRIDGE
 TOWNS & CITIES
 CEMETERY
 STREAMS
 MARSH
 SPRING:
 IMPROVED
 UNIMPROVED
 RESERVOIR
 PIPELINE OR CONDUIT
 CANAL OR DITCH
 ARTESIAN WELL
 WELL & TROUGH
 STORAGE TANK
 LAND TREATMENT
 SCHOOL
MINE(S) or QUARRY(S) or MINING CLAIM(S)
 DIKE
 BUILDING
 ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE(S)
 HISTORICAL SITE
 ENDANGERED SPECIES
 CAVE
 OIL WELL
 TERRACING
 DOCUMENTED ROADS
 UNREVIEWED RO
 CAMP
 CORRAL
 WINDMILL
 DUMP



3 → or → 3





NEVADA BLM Wilderness Bulletin

BLM COMPLETES EARLY INVENTORY ON "INSTANT STUDY AREAS"

When Congress passed the Federal Land Policy and Management Act in 1976 and directed the Bureau of Land Management to inventory all public lands for wilderness potential and report its findings and recommendations to Congress, it made a special provision for areas that had been previously designated primitive or natural areas.

These areas were to be inventoried and reported to Congress by July 1, 1980 rather than 1991, which was the final deadline for the remaining public land acreage. In Nevada, there are 11 natural areas but no primitive areas which are affected by this special deadline. Six of these areas have already been inventoried and determined to lack wilderness characteristics specified by Congress. Four were inventoried in several of the accelerated inventories that were conducted over the last 18 months to expedite special projects. Two were inventoried during the initial state-wide inventory and determined to lack wilderness values in themselves and in conjunction with the surrounding public land acreage.

The Bureau has now completed the special inventories required on the remaining five natural areas and is proposing that the areas be reported to Congress as not meeting in themselves the wilderness criteria set in Federal law, such as size, naturalness, outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation. That proposal is now open to public comment until Jan. 30, 1980. Open houses are planned in the three BLM districts affected as follows: Jan. 9, Las Vegas District Office, 1 to 4 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m.; Jan. 11, Winnemucca District Office, 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.; and Jan. 14, Ely District Office, 1 to 4 p.m.

Summaries of the Bureau's findings and maps of the five areas are attached to this bulletin. A chart summarizing this information is also attached. It is important to note that the Bureau's recommendation is the result of an inventory which was limited to the legally designated acreage of each natural area, not on any surrounding lands. The surrounding lands that have not been eliminated through previous inventories will be analyzed with the state-wide intensive inventory, now being conducted, and a 90-day public comment period on the Bureau's findings will begin in April 1980. At that time, these five natural areas will be assessed again in the context of the entire area to determine if they have wilderness characteristics when considered with contiguous land that may not be a part of the designated natural areas, but is part of the same roadless area.

That means that since our reports on the wilderness analysis of the designated acreage of each natural area are due to the President in June 1980, these five areas will be submitted as "deferred reports." A final report will be submitted after the wilderness analysis of the surrounding lands is complete.

If you have any questions regarding this review procedure, please contact the Nevada State Office, BLM, 300 Booth Street, Room 3008, Reno, Nevada 89509. If you have questions on specifics of any of the five special areas inventoried, you can contact the Reno office, or any of the three field offices involved.

NATURAL AREAS THAT HAVE ALREADY BEEN SUBJECT TO PUBLIC REVIEW
DECISION - FINAL

<u>DISTRICT</u>	<u>NATURAL AREA</u>	<u>NAME OF INVENTORY</u>	<u>WITHIN UNIT NO.</u>	<u>DECISION</u>
Ely	Swamp Cedar	Intermountain Power Project	NV-040-089	No Wilderness Characteristics
ELY	Shoshone Ponds	Intermountain Power Project	NV-040-180	No Wilderness Characteristics
ELY	Pygmy Sage	Intermountain Power Project	NV-040-099	No Wilderness Characteristics
LAS VEGAS	Virgin Mountain	Overthrust Belt	NV-050-0222	No Wilderness Characteristics
LAS VEGAS	Sunrise Mountain	State Initial Inventory	NV-050-0420	No Wilderness Characteristics
BATTLE MOUNTAIN	Mountain Meadow	State Initial Inventory	NV-060-221	No Wilderness Characteristics

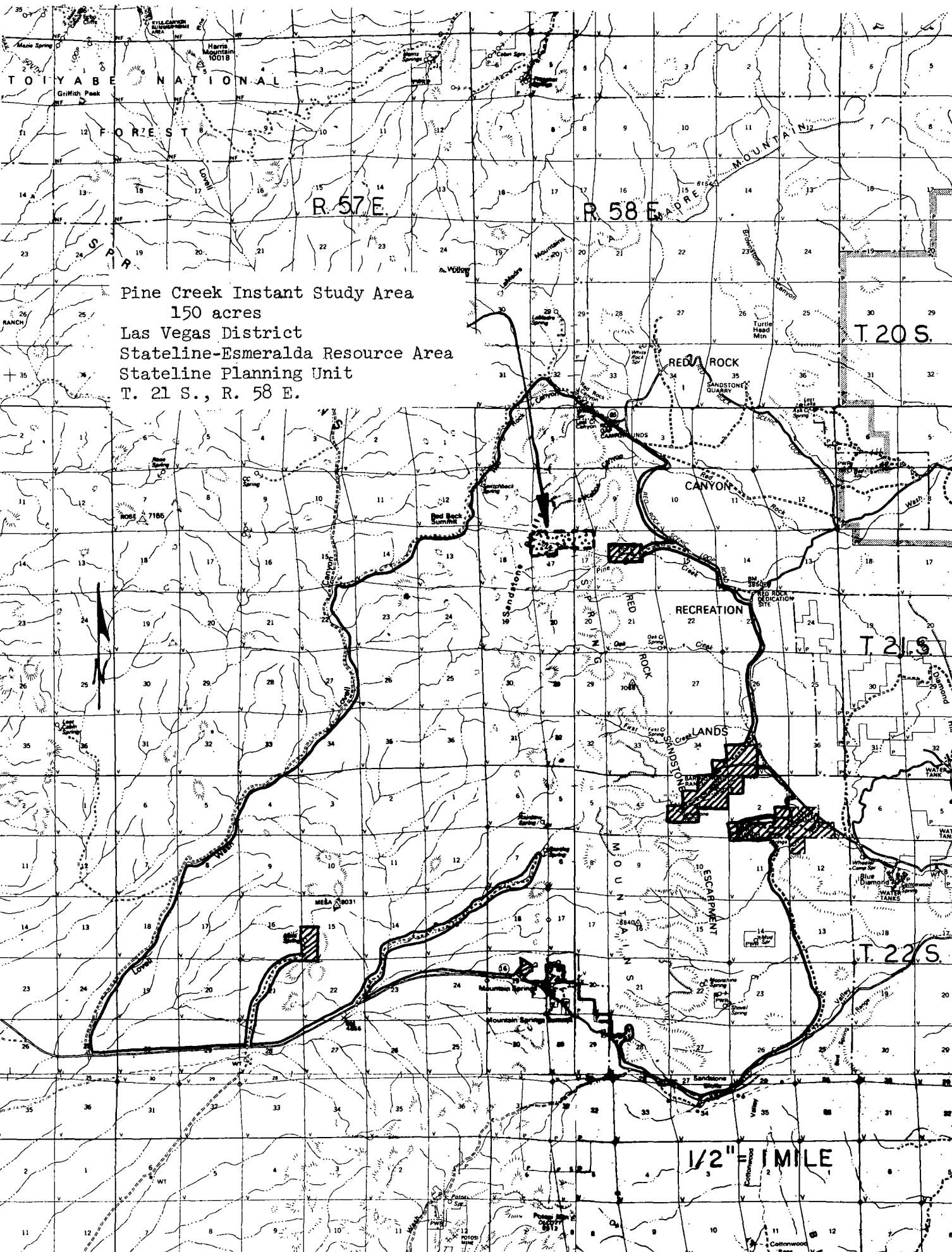
NATURAL AREAS THAT ARE SUBJECT TO PUBLIC REVIEW
from JANUARY 1 - JANUARY 30, 1980

DECISION - NOT FINAL

<u>DISTRICT</u>	<u>NATURAL AREA</u>	<u>WITHIN UNIT NO.</u>	<u>PROPOSED DECISION</u>
LAS VEGAS	Pine Creek Canyon	NV-050-414	Designated Natural Area does not have wilderness characteristics
LAS VEGAS	Pinyon-Joshua Tree Transition	NV-050-0337 & NV-050-0338A	Designated Natural Area does not have wilderness characteristics
ELY	Bristlecone Pine	NV-040-048A	Designated Natural Area does not have wilderness characteristics
ELY	Goshute Canyon	NV-040-015	Designated Natural Area does not have wilderness characteristics
WINNEMUCCA	Lahontan-Cutthroat Trout	NV-020-622 & NV-020-617	Designated Natural Area does not have wilderness characteristics

Pine Creek Natural Area

1. Area Description: The Natural Area is located approximately 18 miles west of Las Vegas in the Red Rock Canyon Recreation Lands. It contains 150 acres of public land, and its legal description is: T.21S., R.58E., Section 17, N $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, and N $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$. Pine Creek Natural Area was designated in 1965 (PLO 3530) because of its unique and rare botanical values.
2. Wilderness Characteristics:
 - A. Size - The Natural Area size is 150 acres.
 - B. Naturalness - The Natural Area shows no signs of man's impact and is in a completely natural condition.
 - C. Outstanding Opportunities -
 1. Solitude: The Natural Area is primarily a single, narrow canyon. The vegetation is dense and varied, but the size and configuration of the area limit the opportunity for solitude to less than outstanding.
 2. Primitive and Unconfined Recreation: Excellent opportunities for hiking, botanical nature study, photography, and sightseeing exist in Pine Creek Canyon. However, these opportunities were felt to be limited by the extremely small acreage of the area to less than outstanding.
 - D. Supplemental Values - The Natural Area possesses botanical, geological, archaeological and scenic supplemental values.
3. Recommendation: The Natural Area itself does not qualify for wilderness study because its small size prevents outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. A final recommendation is deferred until the intensive inventory of the contiguous roadless area, NV-050-0414, can be completed. The Natural Area will then be re-evaluated for wilderness character along with all contiguous roadless areas.
4. Rationale for Recommendation: There is a possibility that when considered with contiguous lands, the ISA which by itself lacks wilderness characteristics may meet the wilderness criteria. For this reason, the recommendation is deferred until the contiguous lands can be studied during the regular inventory process, which is scheduled for completion in September, 1980.

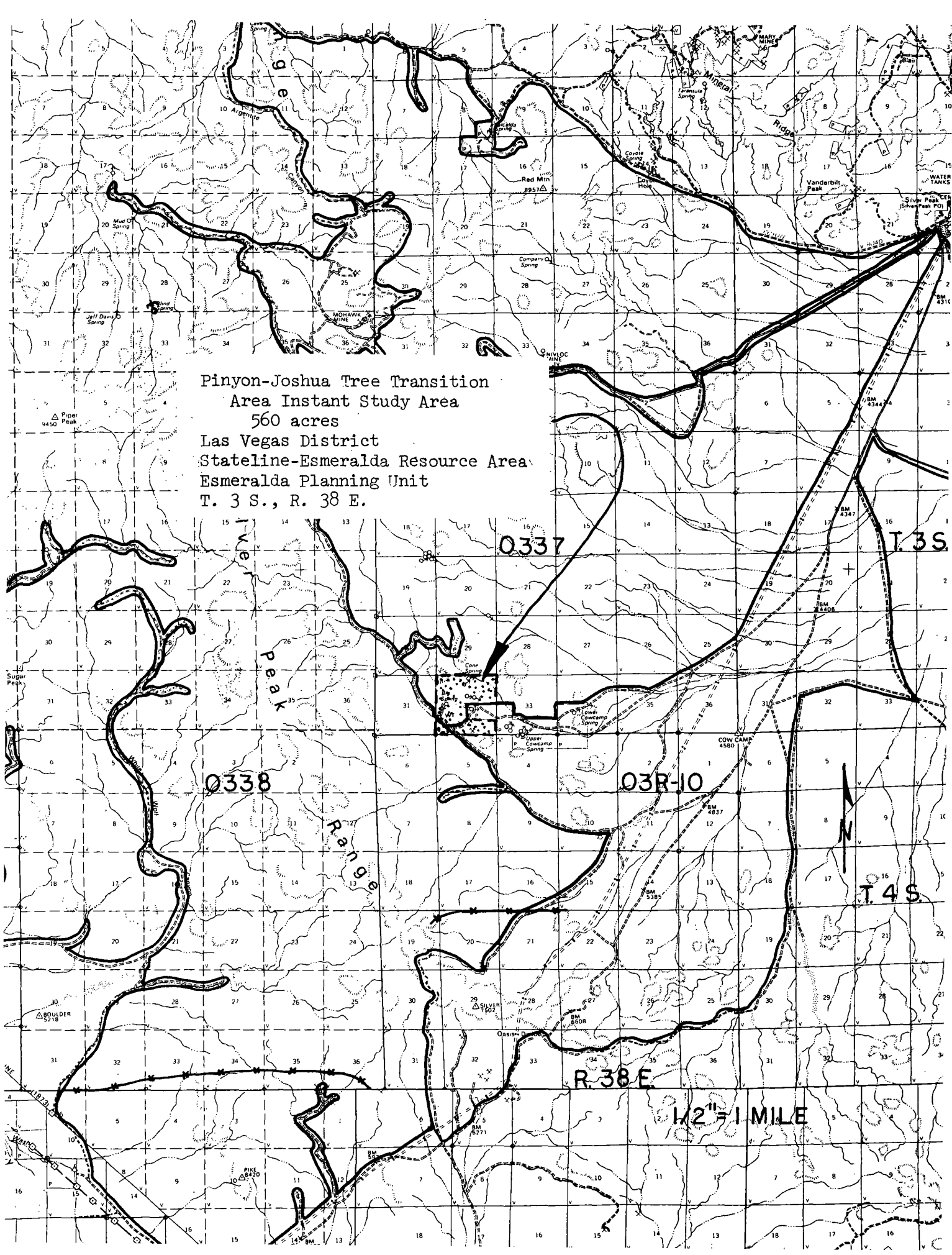


Pine Creek Instant Study Area
150 acres
Las Vegas District
Stateline-Esmeralda Resource Area
Stateline Planning Unit
T. 21 S., R. 58 E.

1/2" = 1 MILE

Pinyon Joshua Transition Natural Area

1. Area Description: The Natural Area is located approximately 12 miles southwest of the town of Silver Peak. It contains 560 acres of public land, and its legal description is: T.3S., R.38E., Section 32, N $\frac{1}{2}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, and S $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$. Pinyon Joshua Transition Natural Area was designated in 1965 (PLO 3530) because it represented the northern extreme of the Joshua Tree.
2. Wilderness Characteristics:
 - A. Size - The Natural Area contains 560 acres of public land. It is divided into four portions by three roads running through the area: the NE corner, 35 acres; the SE corner, 100 acres; the SW corner, 45 acres; and the central area, 380 acres.
 - B. Naturalness - The NE corner and SW corner are both natural in appearance. The SE corner is impacted with mining activities, and the central portion has a development at Big Spring consisting of several roads, a water tank, and a corral.
 - C. Outstanding Opportunities -
 1. Solitude: The rolling hills and large vegetated washes would provide some opportunities for solitude. Other vegetation is low sage types of brush and a few Joshua trees. Solitude is limited to less than outstanding by the small size and frequently travelled roads dissecting the Natural Area.
 2. Primitive and Unconfined Recreation: Chukar hunting is the primary recreational use of the area. However, neither the diversity nor the quality of the available recreational activities in the Natural Area were found to be outstanding.
 - D. Supplemental Values - None are known.
3. Recommendation: The Natural Area itself does not qualify for wilderness study because of its small size and the road and spring development intrusions. A final recommendation is deferred until the intensive inventory of the contiguous roadless areas, NV-050-0337 and NV-050-0338A, can be completed. The Natural Area will then be re-evaluated for wilderness character along with all contiguous roadless areas.
4. Rationale for Recommendation: There is a possibility that when considered with contiguous lands, the ISA which by itself lacks wilderness characteristics may meet the wilderness criteria. For this reason, the recommendation is deferred until the contiguous lands can be studied during the regular inventory process, which is scheduled for completion in September, 1980.



Pinyon-Joshua Tree Transition
Area Instant Study Area
560 acres
Las Vegas District
Stateline-Esmeralda Resource Area
Esmeralda Planning Unit
T. 3 S., R. 38 E.

0338

0337

03R-10

T. 3 S.

T. 4 S.

R. 38 E.

1/2" = 1 MILE



live
peak

Pang
e

Piper Peak
9450

BOULDER
5218

PIKE
10
5270

SILVER
7902

6608

BM
5385

BM
4837

COW CAMP
4580

Lower
Covercamp
Spring

Cone
Spring

BM
2347

BM
2406

BM
431C

Silver Peak
CE
Silver Peak PD

Vanderbilt
Park

Corole
Spring

Red Mt
8957

CONMLOC
MINE

Conary
Spring

Jeff Davis
Spring

Meat
Spring

Argente

MARY
MINES

SMITH
MINES

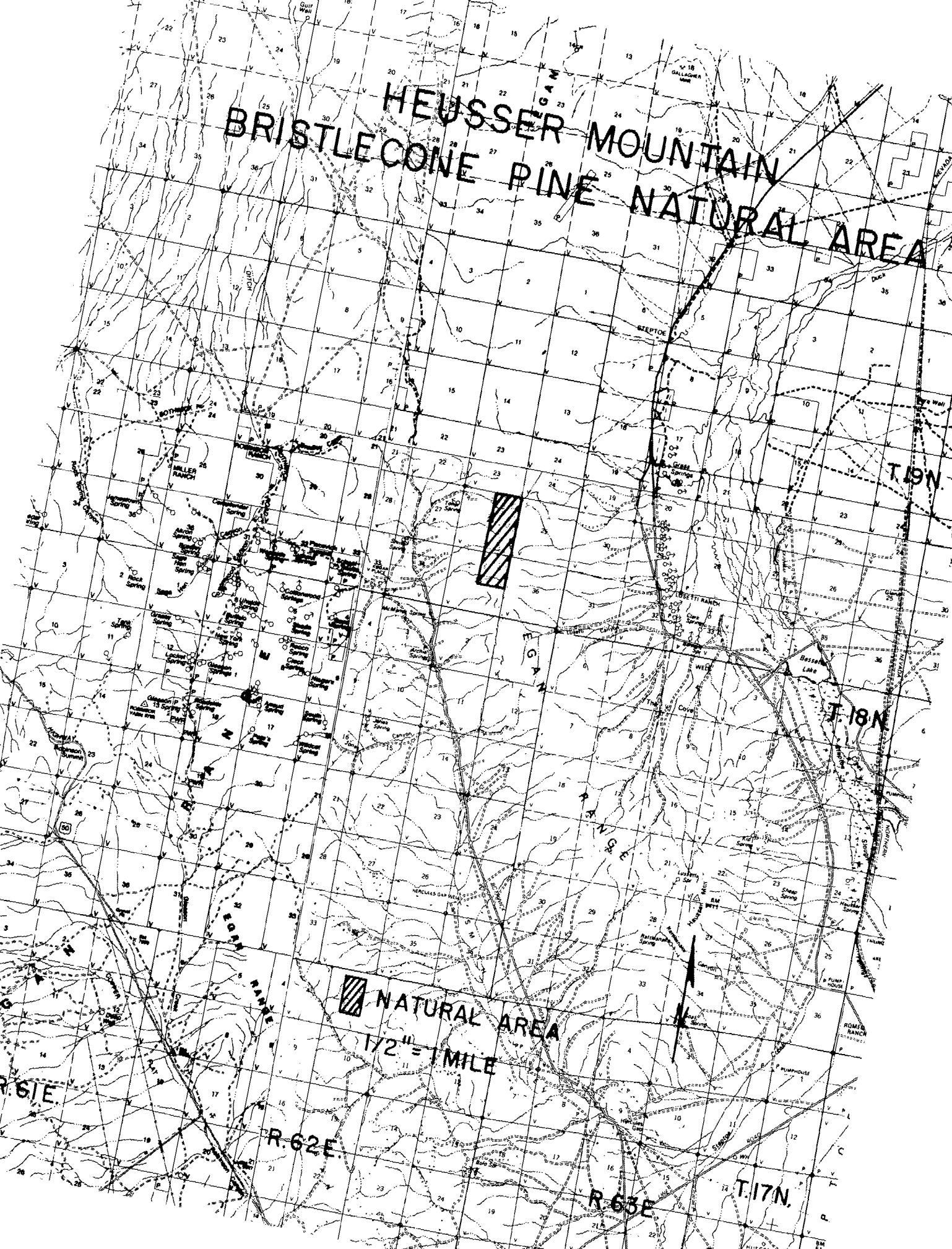
RIDGE

WATER
TANKS

Heusser Mountain Bristlecone Pine Natural Area

1. Area Description: The Heusser Mountain Bristlecone Pine Natural Area is a small rectangle of land located on the side and along the ridge of the Egan Range. The site was made a Designated Natural Area on February 4, 1965, on the basis that it supports a fine stand of Bristlecone Pines and therefore, offers an excellent study for anyone interested in the species. Because of its remote location, the Natural Area is not used by man for any other purpose.
2. Wilderness Characteristics:
 - A. Size - The total acreage of the Natural Area is 480 acres. The entire acreage of the Natural Area is managed by the BLM. There are no private or state holdings within the Natural Area.
 - B. Naturalness - All 480 acres of the Natural Area appears to have been influenced primarily by the forces of nature with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable.
 - C. Outstanding Opportunities
 1. Solitude: The small size of the Natural Area severely limits opportunities for solitude. Some screening is provided by topography and vegetation, but it is insufficient to provide outstanding opportunities for solitude.
 2. Primitive and Unconfined Recreation: There are no outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation in the Natural Area. The only practical opportunity is for nature study and the quality of this activity is not outstanding because there is nothing unusual or outstanding about the ecosystem.
 - D. Supplemental Values: None are known.
 - E. Rehabilitation: Consideration of rehabilitation is unnecessary because of the completely natural state of the Natural Area.
3. Recommendation: The Heusser Mountain Bristlecone Pine Natural Area does not meet the Wilderness Act criteria for wilderness. A recommendation on the Designated Natural Area with its contiguous roadless lands will be deferred until they can be inventoried together.
4. Rationale for Recommendation: The Heusser Mountain Bristlecone Pine Natural Area does not meet the Wilderness Act criteria for wilderness because: (1) it is less than 5,000 acres in size, and (2) it does not offer outstanding opportunities for either solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. Recommendation is deferred until the Designated Natural Area can be inventoried with its contiguous roadless lands.

HEUSSER MOUNTAIN BRISTLE CONE PINE NATURAL AREA



 NATURAL AREA
1/2" = 1 MILE

R. 61 E.

R. 62 E.

R. 63 E.

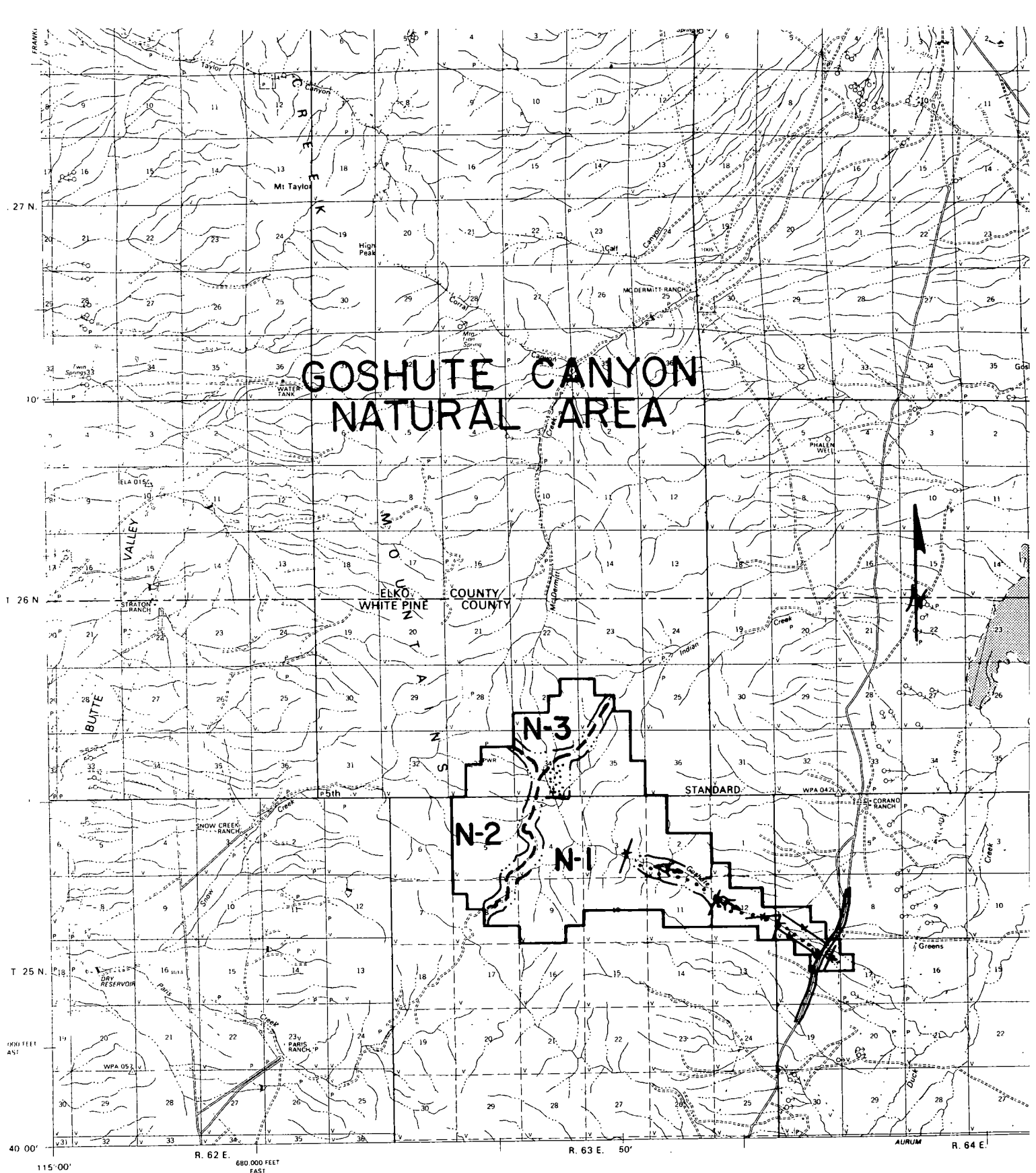
T. 17 N.

T. 18 N.

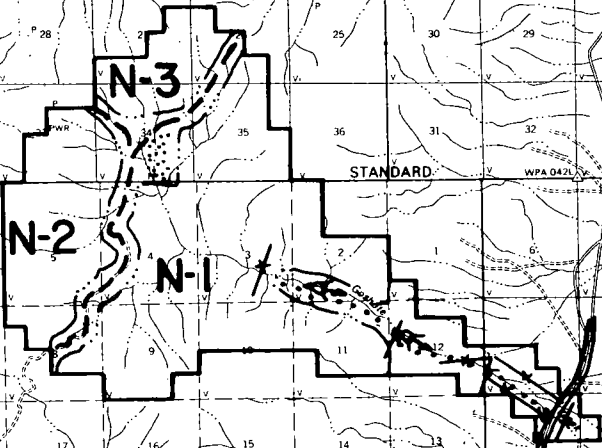
T. 19 N.

Goshute Canyon Natural Area

1. Area Description: The Goshute Canyon Natural Area is located in Winter Pine County within the Cherry Creek Range, just south of the Elko County line. It was made a Designated Natural Area on December 22, 1970, to protect the existence of the Utah Cutthroat Trout, a fish found in Goshute Creek and listed on the Nevada State endangered species list. The eastern portion of this Designated Natural Area is a narrow creek canyon. The western portion is a bowl. The canyon portion is wooded whereas the bowl portion is almost entirely covered by sagebrush and other low-lying shrubs. Portions of the Designated Natural Area are grazed by sheep.
2. Wilderness Characteristics:
 - A. Size - The total acreage of the Designated Natural Area is 7,649.56 acres. There are 80 acres of private land within the Designated Natural Area; the rest is managed by BLM.
 - B. Naturalness - There are three subareas within the Designated Natural Area which appear to have been primarily affected by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. These subareas are 800, 1,600, and 4,400 acres in size, and do not meet the Wilderness Act size criterion.
 - C. Outstanding Opportunities:
 1. Solitude: There are not outstanding opportunities for solitude in the Designated Natural Area. The small size of the natural portions limits such opportunities, as do the topography and the vegetation.
 2. Primitive and Unconfined Recreation: Several forms of primitive and unconfined recreation are possible in the area, but not so many as to create an outstanding diversity of opportunities. There is also no single recreational opportunity which may be called outstanding.
 - D. Supplemental Values: Goshute Creek is inhabited by the Utah Cutthroat Trout, identified by the State of Nevada as an endangered species. The area as a whole has high scenic quality because of high color contrast and varying vegetation. Two minor archaeological finds have been located in the area and collected.
 - E. Rehabilitation: Rehabilitation of the intrusions in the Designated Natural Area would not be practicable because of the extensive labor or time required for removal or natural rehabilitation of the intrusions.
3. Recommendation: The Goshute Canyon Natural Area does not meet the Wilderness Act criteria for wilderness. A recommendation on the Designated Natural Area with its contiguous roadless lands will be deferred until they can be inventoried together.
4. Rationale for Recommendation: The Goshute Canyon Natural Area does not meet the Wilderness Act criteria for wilderness because (1) its natural portions are less than 5,000 acres in size, and (2) it does not offer outstanding opportunities for either solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. Recommendation is deferred until the Designated Natural Area can be inventoried with its contiguous roadless lands.



GOSHUTE CANYON NATURAL AREA



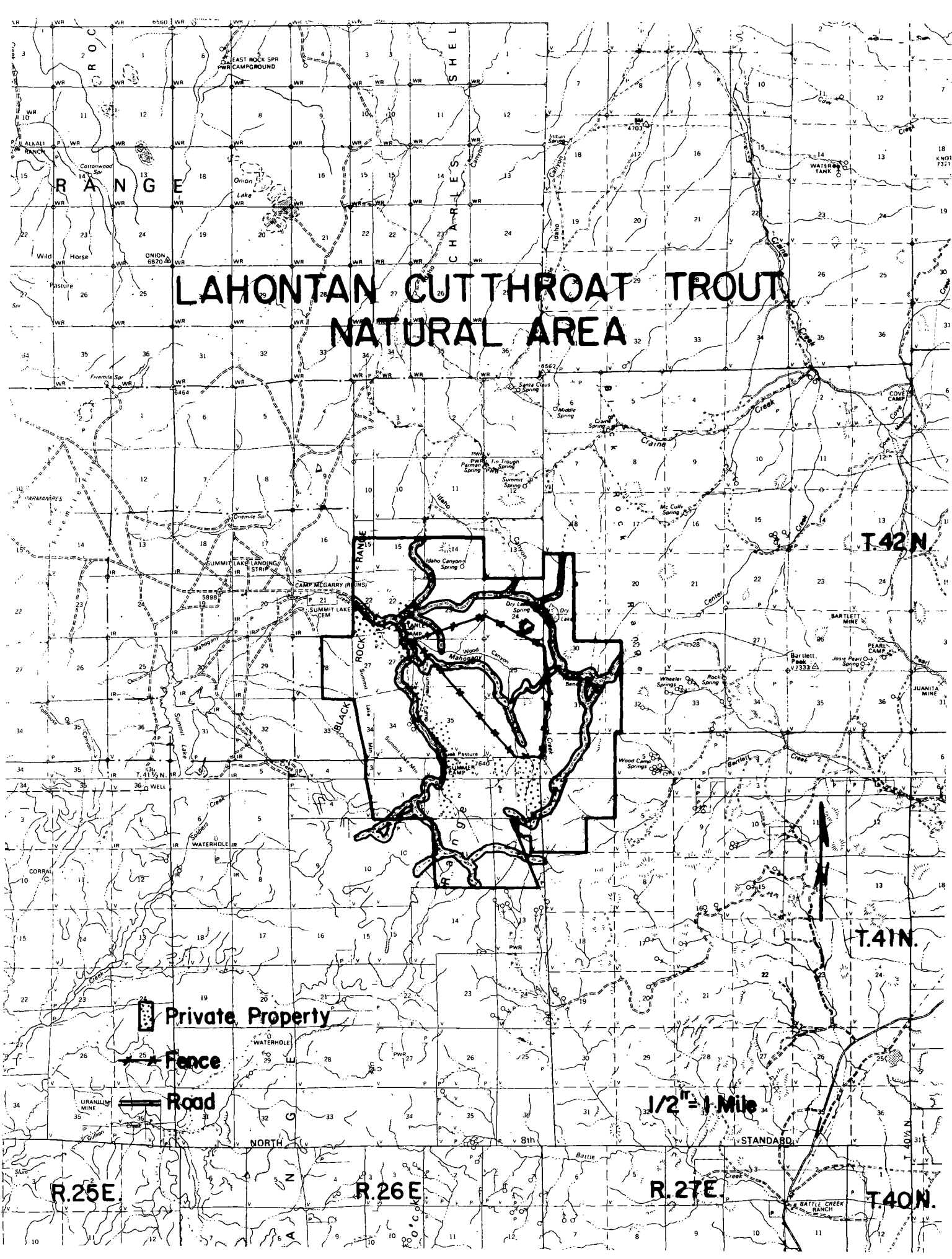
- ~ ~ ~ ~ Natural Subarea Boundary
- Road
- ▣ Private Property

1/2" = 1 MILE

Lahontan Cutthroat Trout Natural Area

1. Area Description: The Lahontan Cutthroat Trout Natural Area is located in the western portion of Humboldt County, approximately 78 miles north-west of Winnemucca. The natural area was designated by the Secretary of Interior on Dec. 4, 1973. The major objective of the natural area is to ensure the preservation of the Lahontan cutthroat trout, a threatened species in its natural habitat, and to maximize available spawning areas.
2. Wilderness Characteristics:
 - A. Size - The natural area consists of 12,316 acres of public land with 1,256.24 acres of private land located primarily in the drainages. The unit is crisscrossed with numerous roads dividing it into seven separate units. All of these units are less than 5,000 acres each.
 - B. Naturalness - All seven individual units contain numerous evidence of man's activities. These intrusions include four permanent structures, water troughs, mining scars, 12,160 acres of private land, several corrals, and numerous fence lines.
 - C. Outstanding Opportunities
 1. Solitude: Less than outstanding opportunities for solitude are available within the natural area due to an extensive road system throughout, which causes easy access by vehicles. Also, the visibility of numerous man-made intrusions and the great amount of private inholdings also contribute to less than outstanding opportunities for solitude.
 2. Primitive and Unconfined Recreation: Summer camping and hunting are the most heavily conducted activities at present. The areas do contain outstanding opportunities for hiking, backpacking, and cross-country skiing.
 - D. Supplemental Values - The area contains the original strain of the threatened Lahontan cutthroat trout as well as wildlife and watershed values.
3. Recommendation: The Natural Area itself does not qualify for wilderness study because of the small size of its roadless portions and its numerous intrusions, and its lack of outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation. A final recommendation is deferred until the intensive inventory of the contiguous roadless areas, NV-020-622 and NV-020-617, can be completed. The natural area will then be reevaluated for wilderness character along with all contiguous roadless areas.
4. Rationale for Recommendation: There is a possibility that when considered with contiguous lands, the instant study area, which by itself lacks wilderness characteristics, may meet the wilderness criteria. For this reason, the recommendation is deferred until the contiguous lands can be studied during the regular inventory process, which is scheduled for completion in September 1980.

LAHONTAN CUT THROAT TROUT NATURAL AREA



Private Property

Fence

Road

1/2" = 1 Mile



R.25E.

R.26E.

R.27E.

T.40N.

T.41N.

T.42N.



NEVADA BLM Wilderness Bulletin

July 25, 1979

LAS VEGAS DISTRICT COMPLETES IPP INVENTORY

The BLM's Las Vegas District Office has completed a second special project wilderness inventory connected with the proposed Intermountain Power Project.

The new effort involves five wilderness inventory units covering about 101,000 acres of public lands south of Pahrangat Lakes between Highway 93 and the Desert National Wildlife Range.

Based on that inventory, the Bureau is recommending that about 50,300 acres of that area be released from further wilderness consideration because they lack wilderness characteristics and about 50,700 acres be designated wilderness study areas.

The units involved as recommended to be dropped from further consideration are: Maynard Dry Lake (NV-050-0155); portions of Evergreen (NV-050-01R-16), portions of the Fish and Wildlife #1, #2, and #3 (BLM units NV-050-0201, 0216, and 0217).

The units recommended to be designated wilderness study areas are: portions of Evergreen and Fish and Wildlife #1, #2, and #3. (BLM unit numbers above). In addition, a boundary change is recommended for the Delamar Wilderness Study Area (NV-050-0177) which was inventoried earlier.

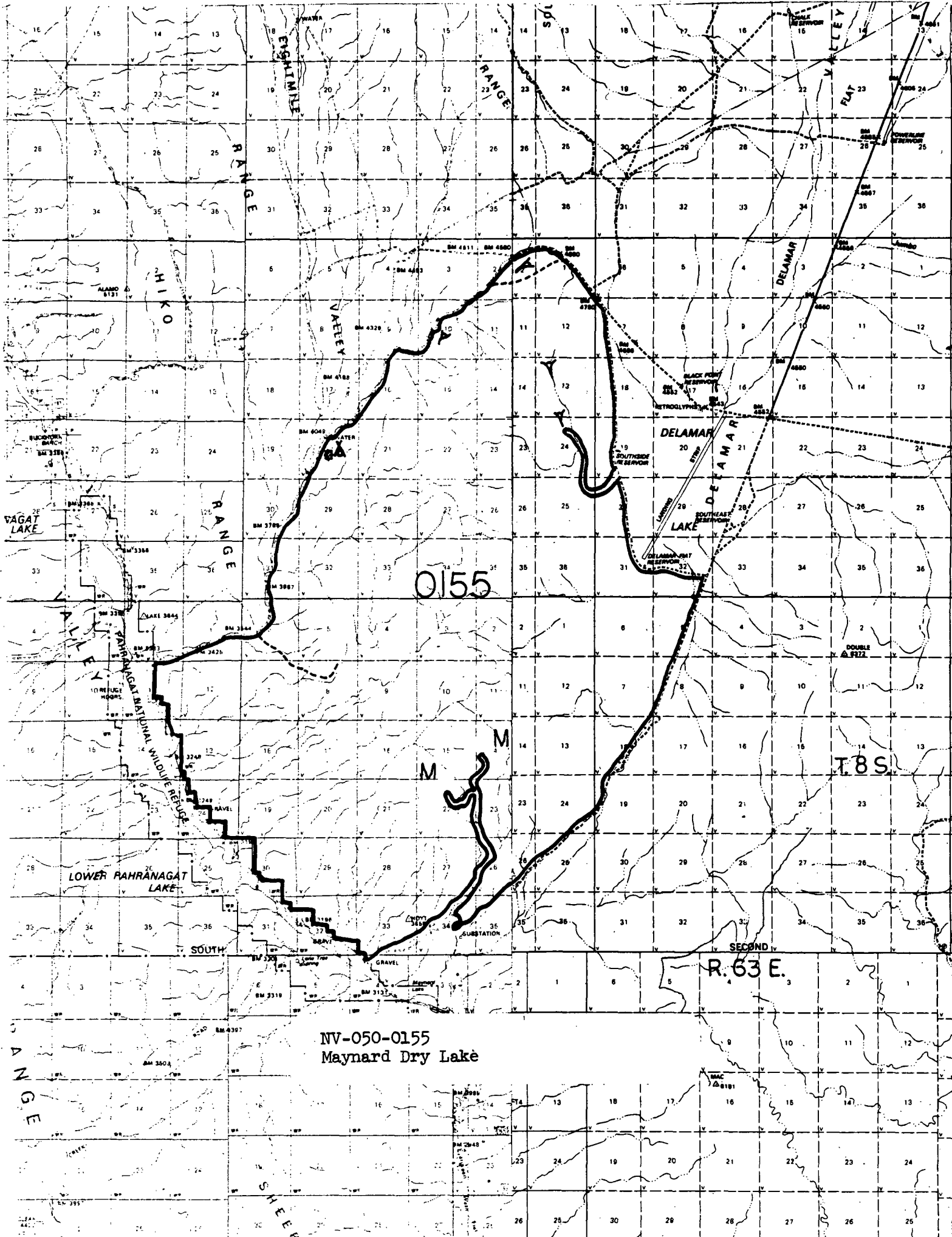
The second inventory was necessary because designation of the Delamar unit as a wilderness study area--on the east side of Highway 93 just south of the Lakes--left no room for the proposed powerline corridor to carry power from Utah to Southern California. During the first inventory, when the Delamar unit was reviewed, lands to the west were not inventoried.

The Bureau's recommendations are open to public comment until Aug. 24. An open house is scheduled for Aug. 15 in the BLM Conference Room in Las Vegas from 1 to 4 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m.

Unit No: NV-050-0155

Unit Name: Maynard Dry Lake

1. Area Description: The unit is located at the northeast corner of the Desert Game Range. It contains 39,958 acres of public land.
2. Wilderness Characteristics:
 - A. Size - The unit contains 39,958 acres of public land.
 - B. Naturalness - This unit has been extensively impacted by ranching and mining all around the perimeter. There is a central portion that remains natural.
 - C. Outstanding Opportunities -
 1. Solitude: The vegetative cover consists of sparse creosote and grasses, with some Joshua trees to the north and west. The topography is flat and sloping, with a small canyon along the southeast border. Overall, the lack of vegetative and topographic screening does not allow one to avoid the sight and sound of other visitors or the perimeter intrusions.
 2. Primitive and Unconfined Recreation: Opportunities for hiking, camping, nature study, and primarily horseback riding are available, but were not found to be outstanding.
 - D. Supplemental Values: The Black Canyon Petroglyphs, a National Register site, are located in this unit.
3. Recommendation: Area does not qualify for wilderness study.
4. Rationale for Recommendation: The central portion of this unit is natural, however, the opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation were not found to be outstanding.



0155

T. 8 S.

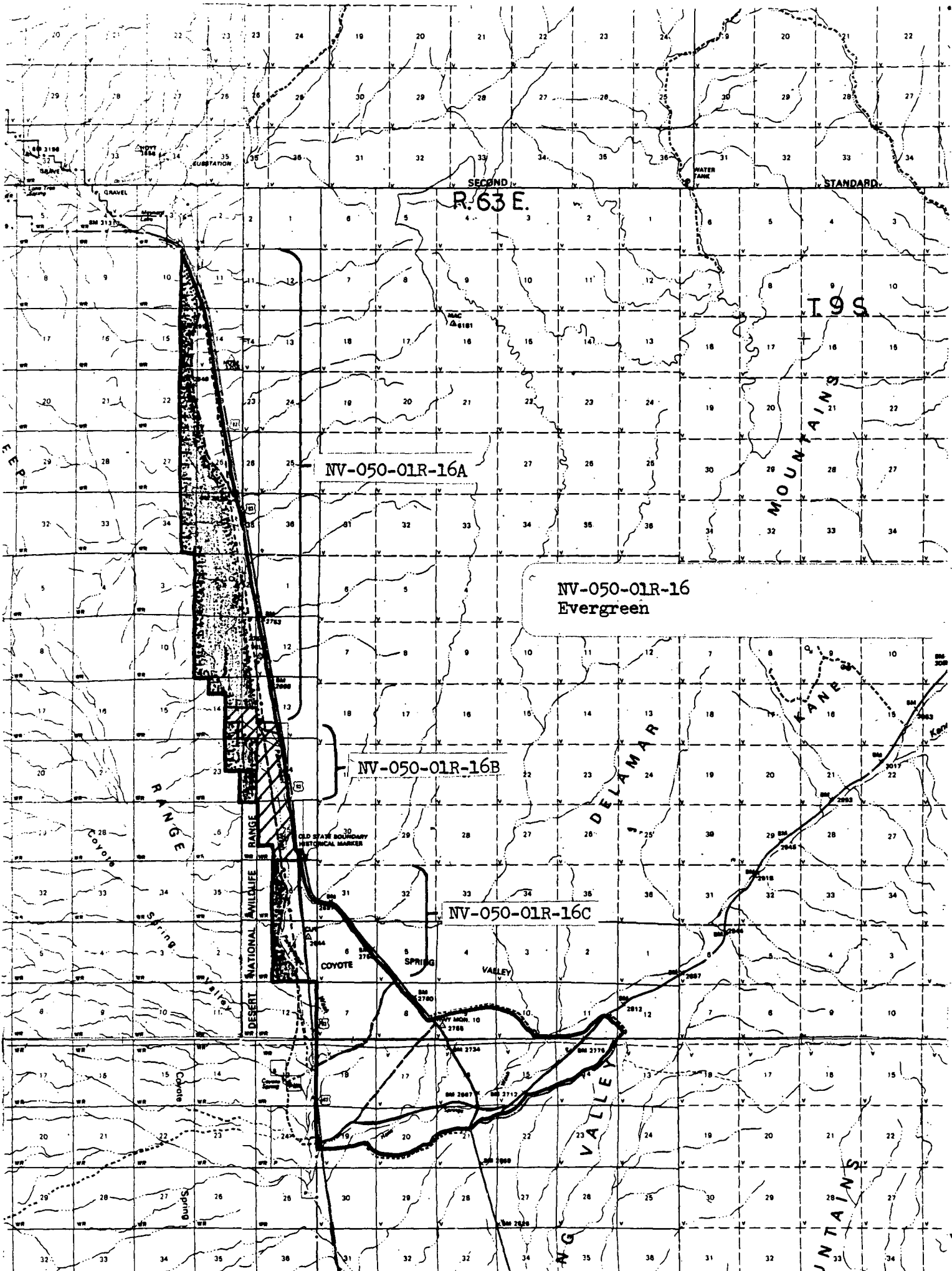
R. 63 E.

NV-050-0155
Maynard Dry Lake

Unit No: NV-050-01R-16

Unit Name: Evergreen

1. Area Description: The unit is located at the northeastern corner of the Desert Game Range. It contains 11,200 acres of public land, and is contiguous along its western boundary to the 1977 wilderness proposal made to Congress by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
2. Wilderness Characteristics:
 - A. Size - The total unit contains 11,200 acres of public land. The proposed WSA's contain a total of 2,834 acres.
 - B. Naturalness - The major intrusion in the unit is a 69 kv power-line and access road adjacent to the eastern boundary road. To the west of this, except for a section of the old highway to the north, the unit is natural.
 - C. Outstanding Opportunities -
 1. Solitude: The vegetative cover consists of the Great Basin shrub community. The topography is flat and slopes to the east. Because of the long, narrow configuration, proximity to U.S. 93, and a lack of vegetative or topographic screening, it would be difficult to obtain outstanding solitude in this unit.
 2. Primitive and Unconfined Recreation: Opportunities exist for hiking, camping, horseback riding, and nature study, but these opportunities are not outstanding.
 - D. Supplemental Values: Cultural values are found along the White River drainage.
3. Recommendation: A portion of the area should be approved as a WSA for further study and reported to the President. The restrictions imposed by Section 603 will no longer apply on the remainder of the area.
4. Rationale for Recommendation: Three portions of this unit are being recommended for WSA status solely on the basis that they are natural and are contiguous to the 1977 wilderness proposal made to Congress by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.



SECOND R. 63 E.

T9S

MOUNTAINS

NV-050-01R-16A

NV-050-01R-16
Evergreen

NV-050-01R-16B

NV-050-01R-16C

DELAWARE VALLEY

COYOTE VALLEY

CANYON

RANGE

NATIONAL WILDLIFE RANGE

DESERT SPRING

OLD STATE BOUNDARY HISTORICAL MARKER

COYOTE SPRING

WATER TANK

GRAVEL

SUBSTATION

GRAVE

BM 3188

BM 3133

BM 2763

BM 2990

BM 2991

BM 2992

BM 2993

BM 2994

BM 2995

BM 2996

BM 2997

BM 2998

BM 2999

BM 3000

BM 3001

BM 3002

BM 3003

BM 3004

BM 3005

BM 3006

BM 3007

BM 3008

BM 3009

BM 3010

BM 3011

BM 3012

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BM 3015

BM 3016

BM 3017

BM 3018

BM 3019

BM 3020

BM 3021

BM 3022

BM 3023

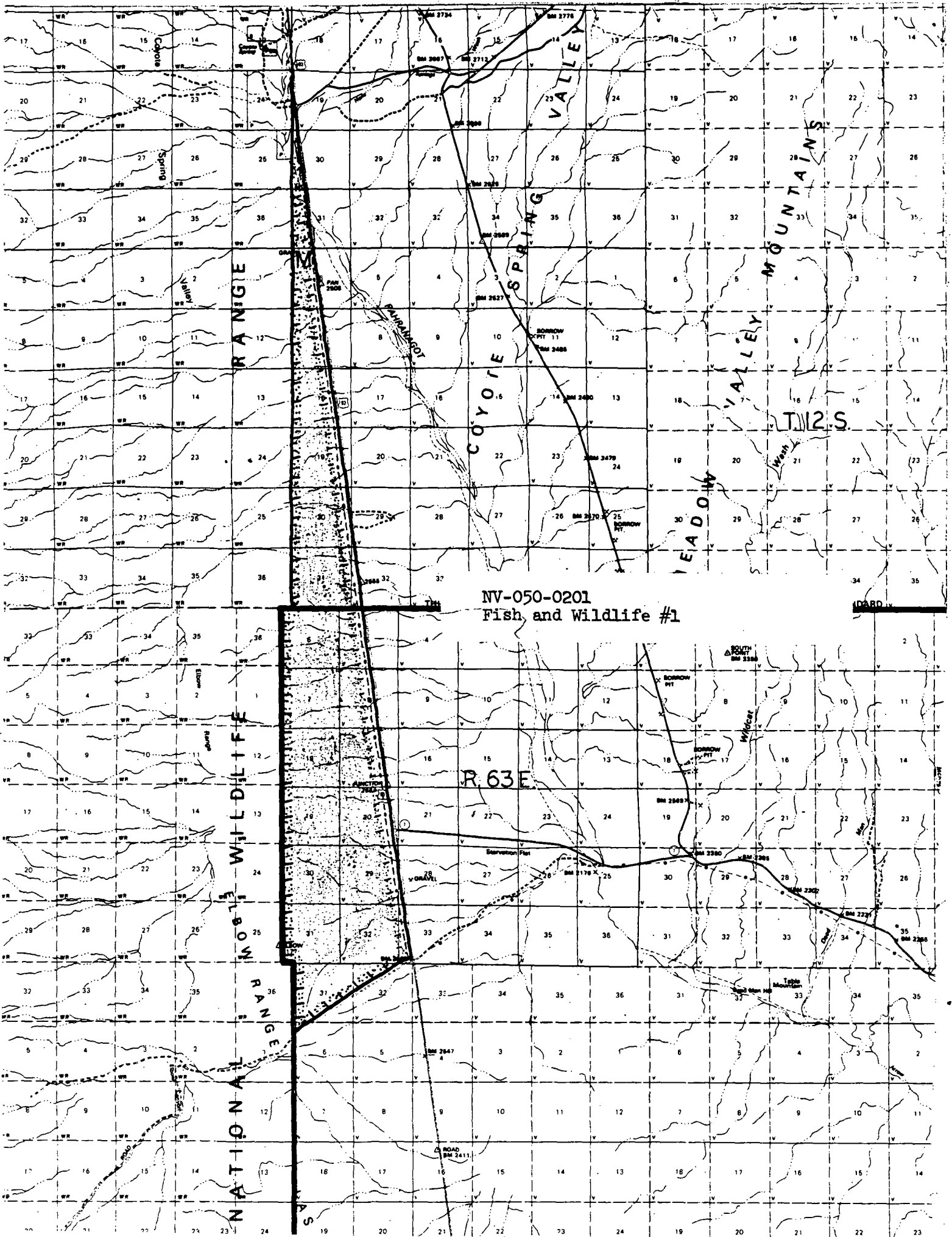
BM 3024

BM 3025

Unit No: NV-050-0201, 0216, & 0217

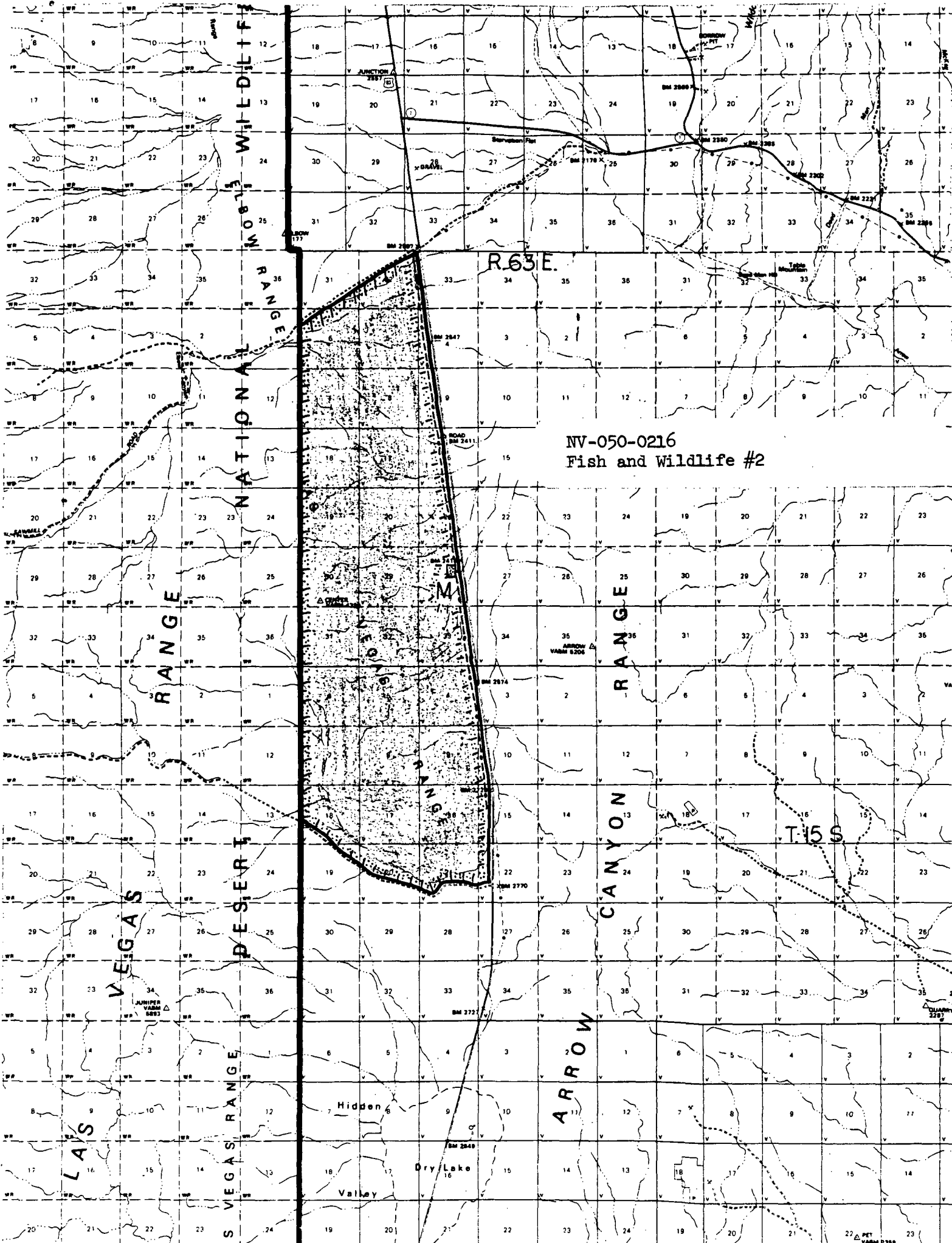
Unit Name: Fish and Wildlife #1, 2, & 3

1. Area Description: These 3 units form the narrow strip of public land between the Desert Game Range and U. S. Highway 93. Their combined size is 49,304 acres. The unit is contiguous along its western border to the 1977 wilderness proposal made to Congress by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
2. Wilderness Characteristics:
 - A. Size - The total unit size is 49,304 acres. Its shape is approximately 50 miles long and, at its widest point, 3 miles wide. The combined size of the three proposed WSA's is 47,509 acres.
 - B. Naturalness - A double-pole 69 kv powerline with a maintenance road runs the length of the total unit. There are 3 intrusion roads and 1 way in the unit, as well as a gravel pit at the far north tip, and a scraped area in the southern end. The rest of the unit is natural.
 - C. Outstanding Opportunities -
 1. Solitude: The vegetation in the unit consists of the Great Basin shrub community with scattered Joshua trees. The topography is flat and gently sloping to the north, with low mountains at the southern end. Because of the narrow configuration of the unit and its minimal vegetative screening, it would be extremely difficult to avoid the sight and sound of other visitors to the area as well as the traffic on U. S. 93.
 2. Primitive and Unconfined Recreation: Opportunities exist for hiking, horseback riding, and nature study. Because of the narrow area that the recreationist is restricted to and the intrusive sight and sound of traffic on U. S. 93, recreation in this area would not be considered outstanding.
 - D. Supplemental Values: Cultural resource values exist in the southern portion of the unit.
3. Recommendation: A portion of the unit should be approved as a WSA for further study and reported to the President. The restrictions imposed by Section 603 will no longer apply to the remainder of the area.
4. Rationale for Recommendation: The three areas between the boundary and intrusion roads are recommended for designation as Wilderness Study Areas solely on the basis that they are substantially natural and are contiguous to the 1977 wilderness proposal made to Congress by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.



NV-050-0201
Fish and Wildlife #1

R 63E



WILDLIFE
NATIONAL RANGE
DESERT
VEGAS RANGE
S VEGAS RANGE

R.63E.

NV-050-0216
Fish and Wildlife #2

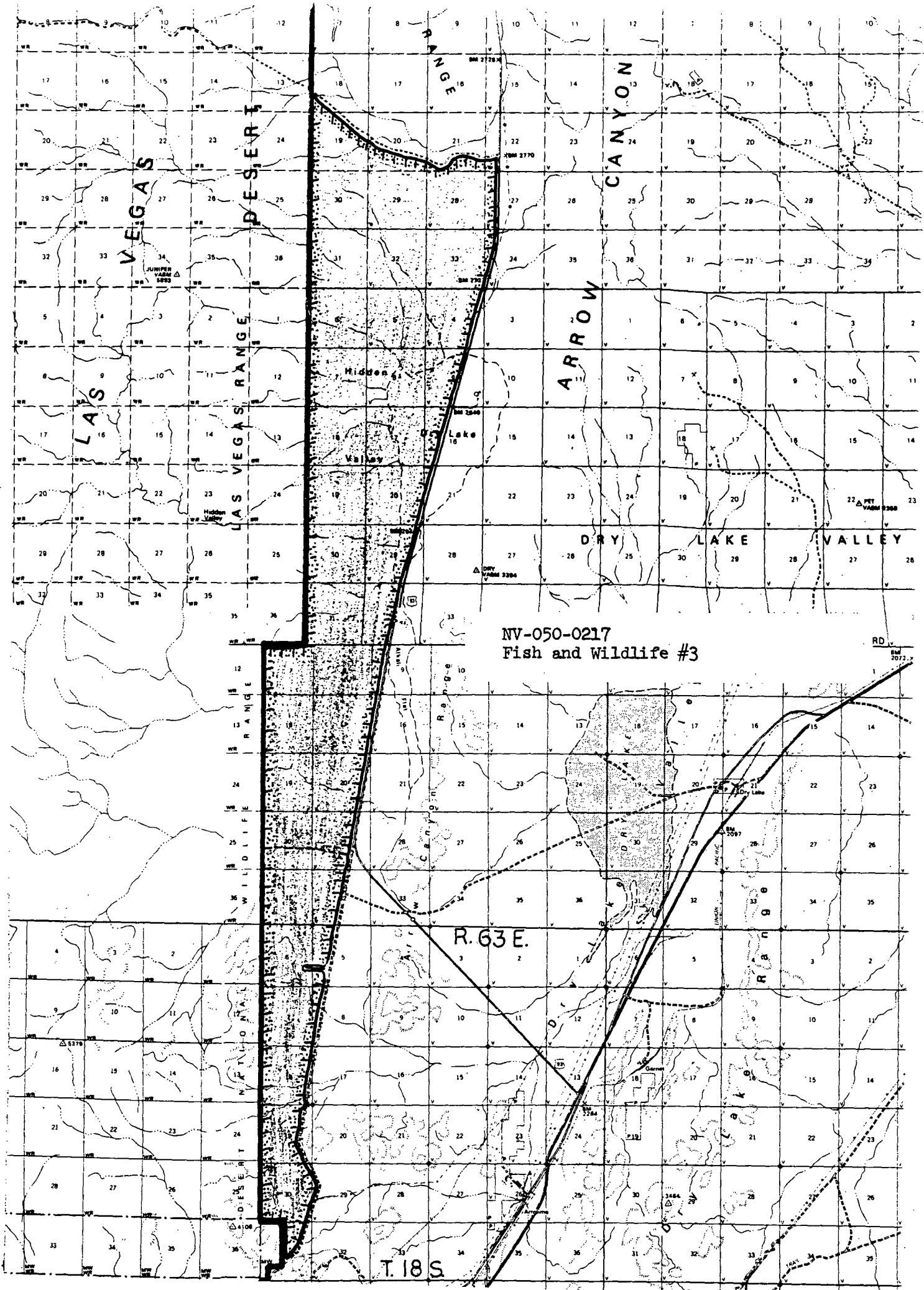
T.15S.

LA'S

Hidden Valley
Dry Lake

ARROW CANYON

PET VADN 3389



NV-050-0217
Fish and Wildlife #3

RD
6th
2072

R. 63 E.

T. 18 S.

Unit No.: NV-050-0177 (IPP-07)
Unit Name: Delamar Mountains

Boundary Changes: Delamar Mountains WSA

In recent studies, a road was discovered within the WSA boundary that was overlooked during the first IPP Special Wilderness Inventory. This has led to a slight boundary change from the existing powerline right-of-way, back to the newly discovered road on the northwest boundary of the unit. (see map).

Other changes to the boundary were made because of the imposing effect of the existing 69 kv powerline as it runs through several narrow canyons on the edge of the unit. The visual closeness within these canyons will not allow the visitor to escape the sight and sound of the powerline. The boundary was moved up to the ridgeline to alleviate this impact. These changes affect only the canyon areas, as the impact from the powerline was not as severe in the broad open flats.

MAP LEGEND

Wilderness Study Area Boundary



Existing Powerline



Private Land



Mine



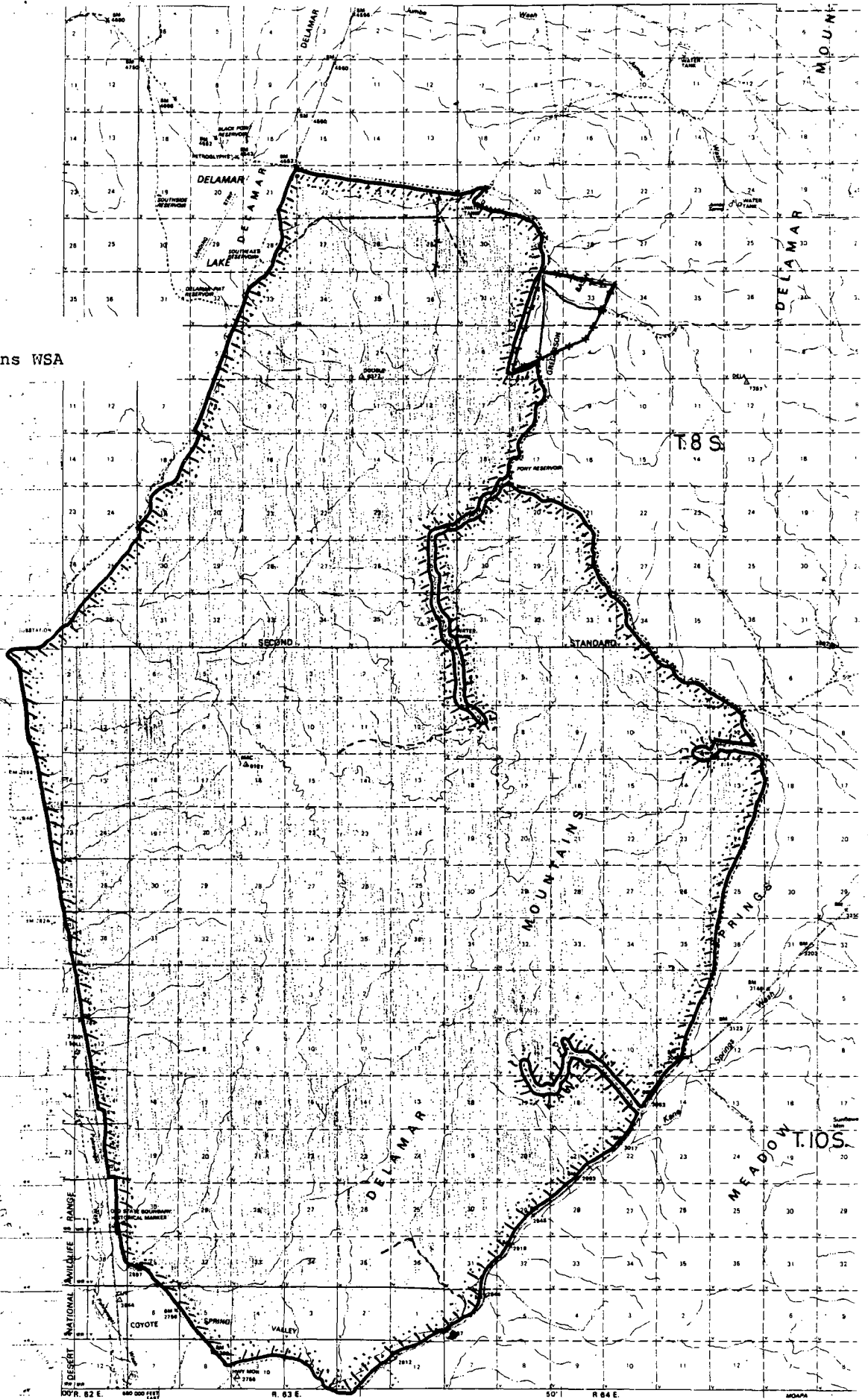
Reservoir



Well & Trough



NV-050-0177
Delamar Mountains WSA



1:50,000

1:50,000



IPP Special Inventory #2
Location Map

NORTH LAS VEGAS

LAS VEGAS

HENDERSON

Boulder City





NEVADA BLM Wilderness Bulletin

November 5, 1979

The Bureau of Land Management has completed a special, accelerated inventory on the Pueblo Mountains area of Humboldt County and is recommending that a portion of the area be eliminated from further wilderness consideration and a portion be designated a wilderness study area.

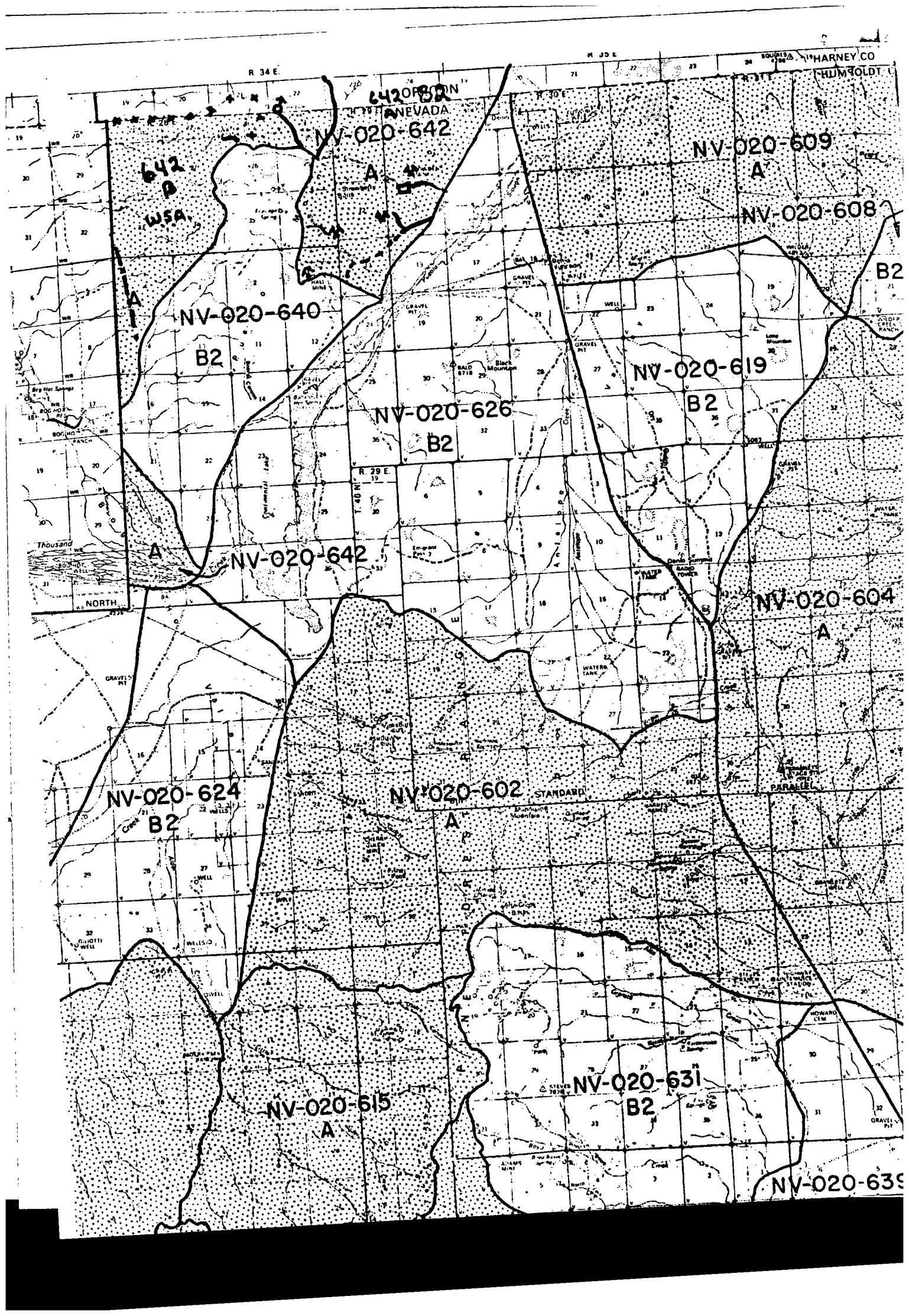
BLM State Director Ed Spang said that the special inventory was necessary because the land adjoins public land in Oregon being considered for a land exchange program. The area involved was split into two inventory units: NV-020-640a, covering 10,160 acres, and NV-020-640b, covering 4,480 in Nevada and additional acreage in Oregon, making the total unit more than 5,000 acres.

Spang said the special inventory indicates that NV-020-642a lacks wilderness characteristics, specifically naturalness and outstanding opportunities for solitude and a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. NV-020-642b was found to possess wilderness characteristics and is recommended to be designated a wilderness study area.

A public meeting to discuss and Bureau's findings and recommendations is scheduled for Dec. 6 at the Winnemucca Bureau of Land Management Office, 705 E. Fourth St, Winnemucca from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Further information on the proposals can be obtained from that office and the Nevada State Office, 300 Booth St., Room 3008, Reno, NV 89509. ○

A summary of the Bureau's findings and a map depicting the area studied are attached.

* * *





NEVADA BLM Wilderness Bulletin

NEVADA BLM CONDUCTS SPECIAL WILDERNESS INVENTORIES IN MACKS CANYON, HICKISON AREAS

November 28, 1979

In an effort to be responsive to public and other governmental needs, the Bureau of Land Management in Nevada has completed two special accelerated wilderness inventories in southern and central Nevada and is seeking public comment on those findings.

Ed Spang, BLM State Director, said the two areas involved are Macks Canyon (Unit NV-050-0408) and Hickison (NV-060-386).

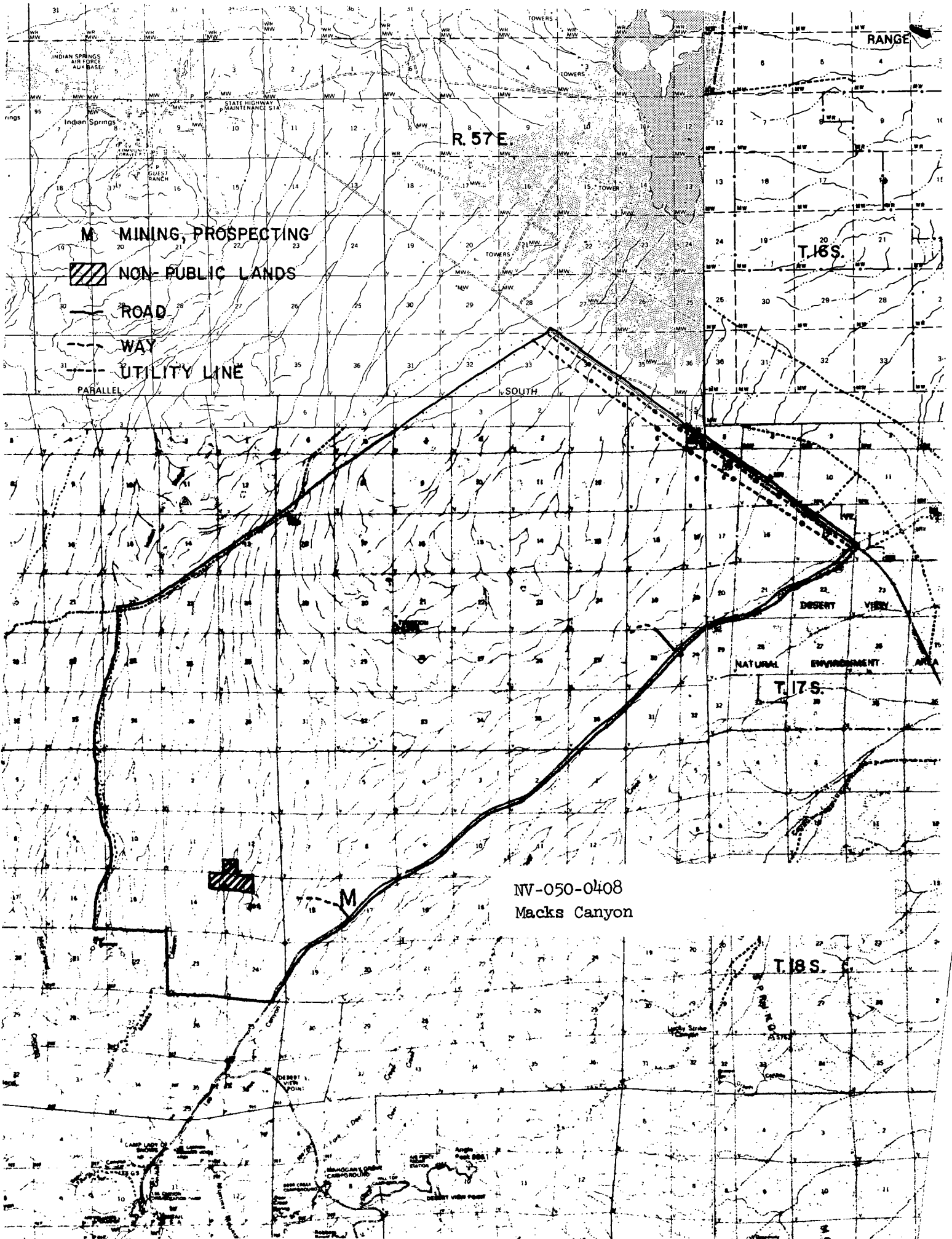
The Macks Canyon area is located southeast of Indian Springs, Nevada, and contains 48,745 acres of public lands. The Bureau's special inventory found that although a majority of the unit appears to be in a substantially natural condition, the area does not possess outstanding opportunities for either solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation. An open house to discuss the area is slated for December 12 from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Las Vegas BLM District Office, 4765 W. Vegas Drive. The special inventory was requested by the State of Nevada which wants to obtain a portion of the area under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act for use as a prison site.

The Hickison area is southeast of Austin, Nevada, and contains 23,254 acres of public land. The area was found to lack naturalness and outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. An open house to acquaint the public with the Bureau's findings is scheduled for December 19 from 1 to 4 p.m. at the BLM's Battle Mountain District Office, 2nd and Scott Streets. The special inventory was necessary due to an application for a proposed powerline that will transfer electricity to a proposed molybdenum mine and mill near Tonopah, Nevada.

A narrative description of the Bureau's studies and maps of the two areas are attached. Public comment will be accepted until December 28, 1979.

Unit No.: NV-050-0408
Unit Name: Macks Canyon

1. Area Description: The unit is located southeast of Indian Springs and contains 48,745 acres of public land. It surrounds a 160 acre parcel of private land which was not evaluated for wilderness character.
2. Wilderness Characteristics:
 - A. Size - The unit contains 48,745 acres of public land.
 - B. Naturalness - Two powerlines run along the northeastern boundary, a short intrusion road extends into the northeastern corner to some campfire rings, and a small borrow pit is located at the southeastern edge of the unit. These intrusions are not substantial impacts and the majority of the unit appears natural.
 - C. Outstanding Opportunities -
 1. Solitude: Topography in the unit is primarily an outwash plain, with a bedrock outcrop, Traction Peak, and some ridges and washes to the north. Vegetation is joshua trees and low growing desert shrubs, except for the pinyon/juniper at the southwestern corner where the land starts to rise into the National Forest. The size and configuration of the unit would provide some opportunity for solitude, but this opportunity was found to be limited to a few small areas of vegetative and topographic screening and would not be outstanding.
 2. Primitive and Unconfined Recreation: Opportunities for horseback riding, hiking, camping, backpacking, and nature study would be available in this unit, but neither the diversity nor the quality of these primitive recreational activities was determined to be outstanding.
 - d. Supplemental Values: Two species of Threatened and Endangered plants are thought to exist generally in this area.
 - E. Rehabilitation: The borrow pit and short intrusion road could be naturally restored to a natural appearance.
3. Recommendation: Area does not qualify for wilderness study.
4. Rationale for Recommendation: The unit appears to be in a natural condition, but the opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation were not found to be outstanding.



M MINING, PROSPECTING

NON-PUBLIC LANDS

ROAD

WAY

UTILITY LINE

PARALLEL

NV-050-0408
Macks Canyon

RANGE

R. 57E.

T. 16S.

T. 17S.

T. 18S.

SOUTH

DESERT VIEW

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT AREA

INDIAN SPRINGS AIR FORCE AUX BASE

STATE HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE STA

TOWERS

GUEST RANCH

TOWERS

DESERT VIEW POINT

CAMP LAGOON

DESERT VIEW POINT

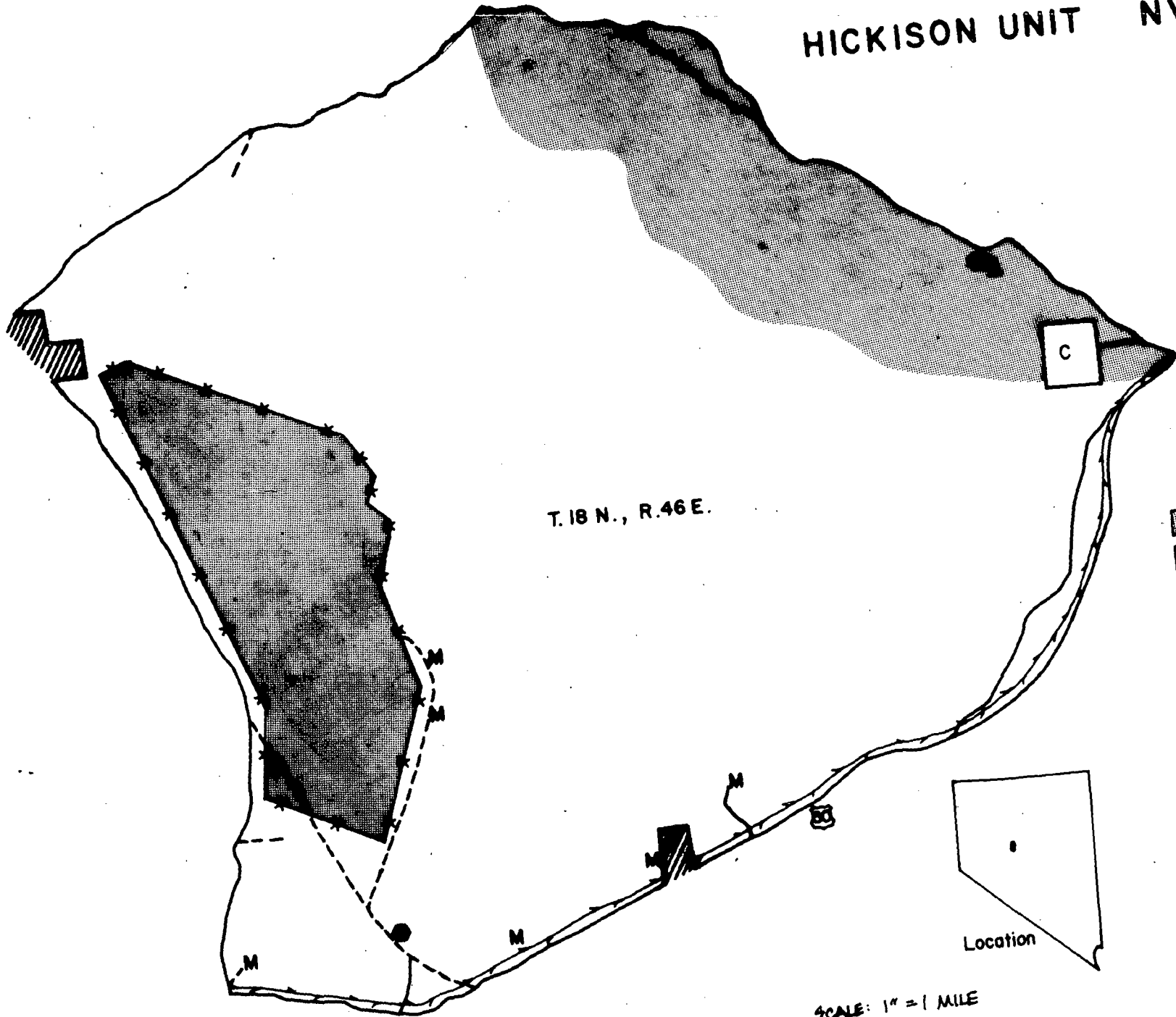
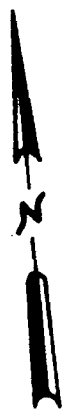
DESERT VIEW POINT

Unit No: NV-060-386













Unit Name: Hickison

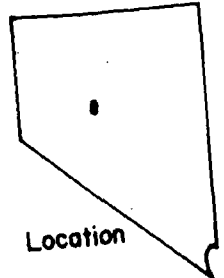
1. Area Description: The Hickison inventory unit, which includes 23,250 acres, is the southern tip of the Simpson Park Range. It is located along highway U.S. 50 between the towns of Austin and Eureka, Nevada. The northeastern portion of the area is higher than the remainder and is covered by a sparse Pinyon Pine and Juniper forest. The western part of the area is flat, while the central and eastern sections are composed of gently rolling hills. These areas contain sagebrush community plants.
2. Naturalness: Approximately 15,900 acres were found to be in a roadless and natural condition. Two large areas were found to be unnatural. The forested area in the northeast has been logged and a large fenced seeding takes up most of the western flat. Two short dead-end roads penetrate into the area and a third separates a narrow strip of land from the bulk of the unit. Three ways and a number of prospects were documented in the southwest section of the unit.
3. Outstanding Opportunity for Solitude and Primitive Recreation:
The roadless and natural portion of the area does not contain an outstanding opportunity for solitude or primitive recreation due to its narrow width, a lack of topographic and vegetative screening, and absence of recreation attractions and opportunities.
4. Final Decision: This unit clearly does not have wilderness characteristics and should be eliminated from the Wilderness Review process.

HICKISON UNIT NV 060 386



T. 18 N., R. 46 E.

-  Areas in an Unnatural Condition
-  Non-Public lands
-  Mining, Prospecting
-  Developed Waters
-  Structure
-  Other Intrusion
-  Fence
-  Utility Line
-  Ditch, Canal
-  Road
-  Way
-  Campground



SCALE: 1" = 1 MILE