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# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
Surprise Resource Area Hdqrs.  
P.O. Box 460  
Cedarville, California  
96104

## RECORD OF DECISION C-02-83-38

Surprise Resource Area MFP III Amendments - Range Management and  
Area of Critical Environmental Concern

### DECISION

BLM will amend the Cowhead/Massacre and Tuledad/Home Camp land use plans by adding eight decisions.

#### Cowhead/Massacre MFP Amendments

Sub Unit 1 (see Map, Attachment C, for division of Sub Unit)

1. Combine the Little High Rock and Massacre Mountain Allotments into one allotment, hereafter to be referred to as the Grassy Canyon Allotment (Existing Decision being effected Sub Unit 1, Decision #2, Proposed Decision developed from Modoc/Washoe Stewardship Committee recommendation).
2. Allocate forage among both consumptive and non-consumptive resources, as shown in Table A, Forage Allocation for Sub Unit 1. As additional forage becomes available as determined by monitoring, allocations will be made to livestock, wildlife, and non-consumptive uses for the area west of High Rock Canyon. Allocations will only be made to wildlife and non-consumptive uses for the canyon bottoms and east of the canyon (existing decisions to be effected Sub Unit 1, Decision #3, Proposed Decision developed from Modoc/Washoe Stewardship Committee recommendation).
3. Allow for a change in class of livestock from sheep to cattle in the entire Sub Unit. Allow livestock to graze west of High Rock Canyon and north of Little High Rock Canyon and designate this area for intensive livestock grazing. Allow cattle to graze in the canyon bottoms and east of High Rock Canyon on a prescriptive basis only. (Grazing will be scheduled when it provides a benefit to other resource values. This area will not be grazed on an annual or regular basis. Existing decision to be effected Sub Unit 1, Decision #4, Proposed Decision developed from Modoc/Washoe Stewardship recommendation.)



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4. Drop decision giving preference to Bunyard's livestock operation over Earp's livestock operation. (Existing decision to be effected, General Decisions, Decision #1, developed from Modoc/Washoe Stewardship Committee recommendation.)
5. Designate High Rock and Little High Rock Canyon proper as a special management area (ACEC). (New decision) developed from Modoc/Washoe Stewardship Committee recommendation.

#### Sub Unit 2

6. Modify the Massacre Lakes Wild Horse Herd Management Area to include Sagehen Allotment. Maintain a total population of 10 to 20 horses in the Massacre Lakes HMA. (Decision being effected Sub Unit 2, Decision #15, developed from Modoc/Washoe Stewardship Committee recommendation.)

#### Sub Unit 4

7. Combine Mosquito, Little Valley and Holy Allotments into one allotment hereafter to be called the Mosquito Valley Allotment. Also, include a portion (equal to satisfy Leininger's proportionate share of AUMs) of Horse Lake Allotment to be fenced in and be a part of the Mosquito Valley Allotment (new decision developed from Modoc/Washoe Stewardship Committee recommendation).

#### Tuledad/Home Camp MFP Amendments

8. Continue with present grazing management systems in Selic and Alaska Canyons that are providing protection and improvement to crucial aspen, riparian, and mountain brush fields. (Replaces existing MFP Range Management Decision #4, developed from AMP evaluation.)

#### RATIONALE

1. The decisions are consistent with extensive public input received prior to the amendment process and as comments to the environmental assessment.

Eight comments to the environmental assessment were received. The only specific comments received applied to the High Rock Canyon area and were supportive of the proposed amendments. One commentor, the Nevada Cattlemen's Association, was concerned about allocation of additional forage and compensation of grazing privileges where livestock were removed. Two state agencies from Nevada (Lands and Wildlife) were supportive of the amendments.

TABLE A  
FORAGE ALLOCATION  
Sub Unit 1

Existing Forage Production AUMs) <sup>1/</sup>	Non Consumptive Use		Consumptive Uses								Grand Total	
	Watershed, Wildlife Cover, Soil Stabilization (AUMs)	Wildlife (AUMs) <sup>2/</sup>	Deer	Antelope	Bighorn	Total	Class	Livestock <sup>3/</sup> Season	AUMs	Wild Horses Numbers <sup>4/</sup>		AUMs
21,696	10,848		250	350	120	720	Sheep <sup>6/</sup>	04/01-04/30 12/01-12/15 <sup>5/</sup>		100	1,200	
							Cattle	04/15-10/31	1,754 <sup>7/</sup>			13,268 <sup>8/</sup>

- 1/ Existing livestock forage production is 10,848 AUMs at 50 percent use level. Therefore, total production is 10,848 AUMs x 2 = 21,696 AUMs.
- 2/ Allocation made on a unitwide basis.
- 3/ Livestock use area is west of High Rock Canyon and north of Little High Rock Canyon.
- 4/ Maximum numbers. Numbers can vary from 70 head to 100 head.
- 5/ One week trail during a two week period.
- 6/ Only until Bunyard can convert his sheep operation to a cattle operation.
- 7/ Total after conversion of sheep to cattle.
- 8/ Total of AUMs allocated to consumptive uses. There is a total of 8,428 AUMs within the Sub Unit available for consumptive uses that were not allocated.

Public input prior to the amendment process came through the Modoc/Washoe Experimental Stewardship Program as part of a on the ground problem solving effort between federal, state and private interests.

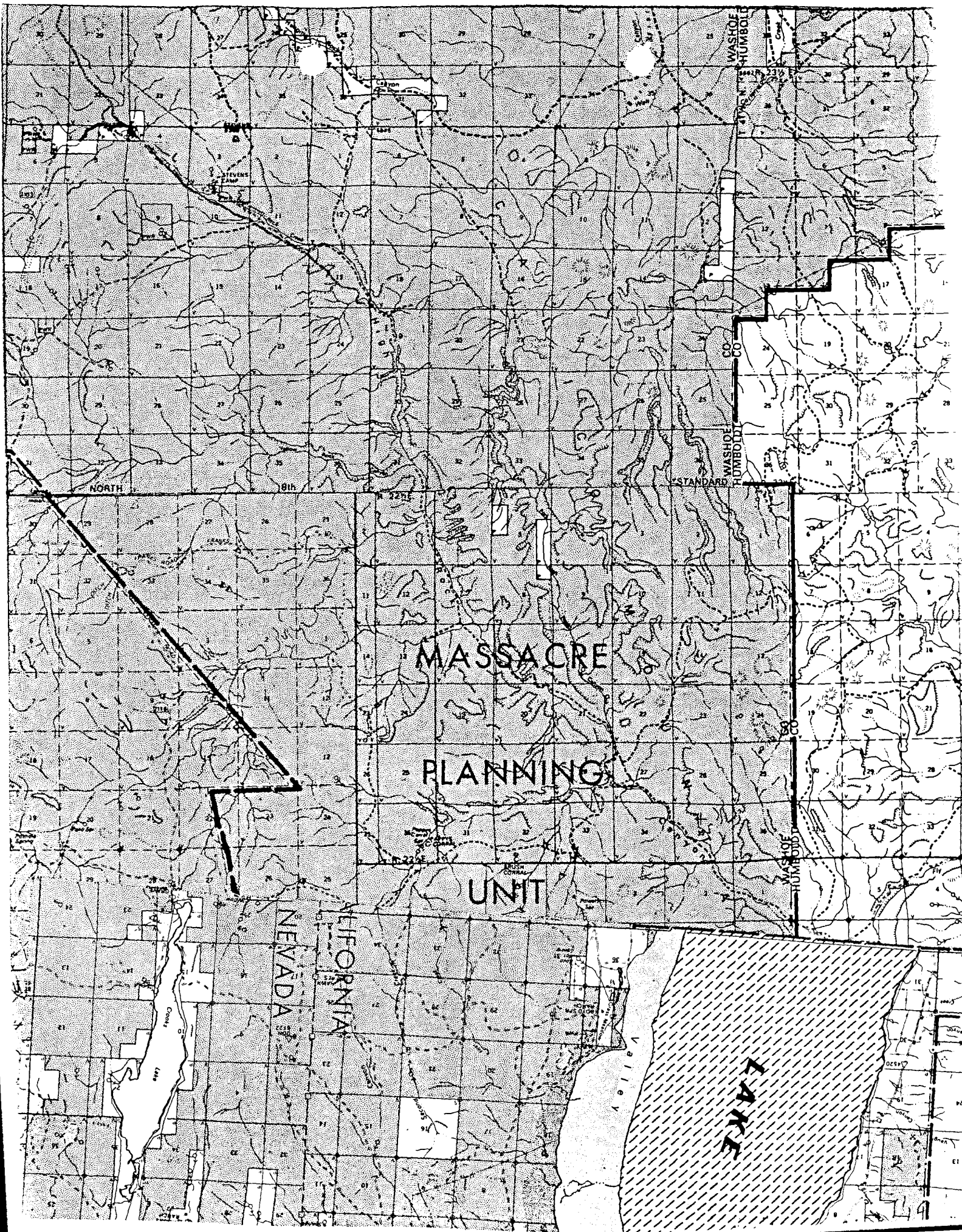
3. Designation of High Rock and Little High Rock Canyons as a special management area will provide protection for the extremely valuable cultural resource, wildlife, scenic, and wildlife values found within the area. MFP II in 1977 recommended that 80,000 acres be designated as an ACEC. However, the High Rock/Massacre Mountain TRT and Modoc/Washoe ESP Steering Committee felt this was excessive and that 12,900 acres encompassed the unique values which warrant ACEC designation for protection.
2. The alternatives evaluated during the environmental assessment process were to amend the plan or not amend the plan. The decision is the preferred alternative of amending the land use plan.

The environmental assessment led to finding that there would be no significant impacts as a result of any of the plan amendments and that preparation of an Environmental Impact Statment would not be required.

4. The major factors identified through the study process, or in other ways, which bear upon the decision can be summarized as follows:
  - a) The decision is consistent with planning and activity plans developed using extensive public and staff involvement.
  - b) No significant public controversy was discovered during the extensive public participation phase of the study.
  - c) No significant environmental impacts were uncovered during the environmental assessment process.

#### CONCLUSION

Implementation of this decision will result in no significant adverse environmental impacts, and therefore preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement will not be required.



MASSACRE

PLANNING

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CALIFORNIA

STANDARD

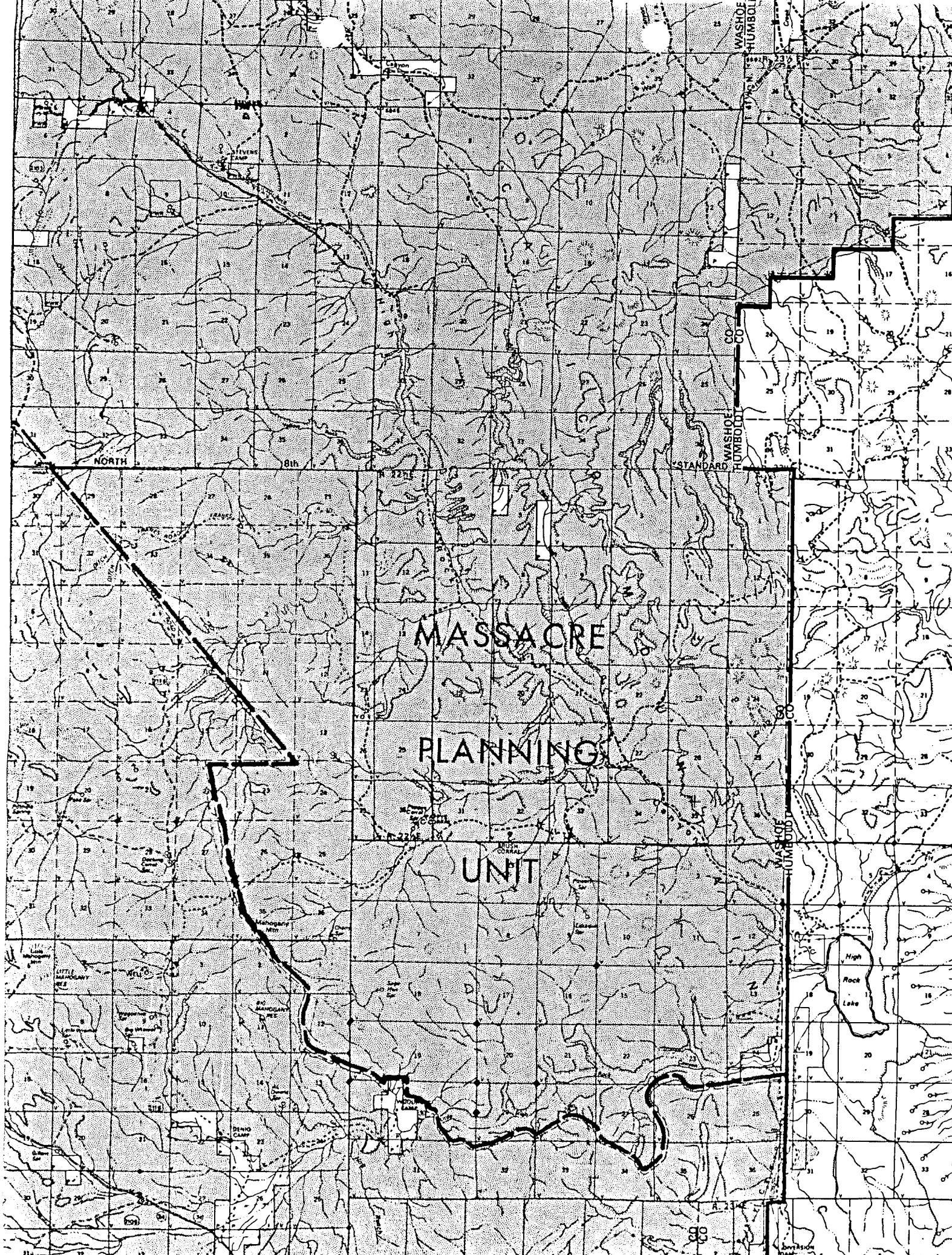
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MASSAORE

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WASHOE HUMBOLDT CO

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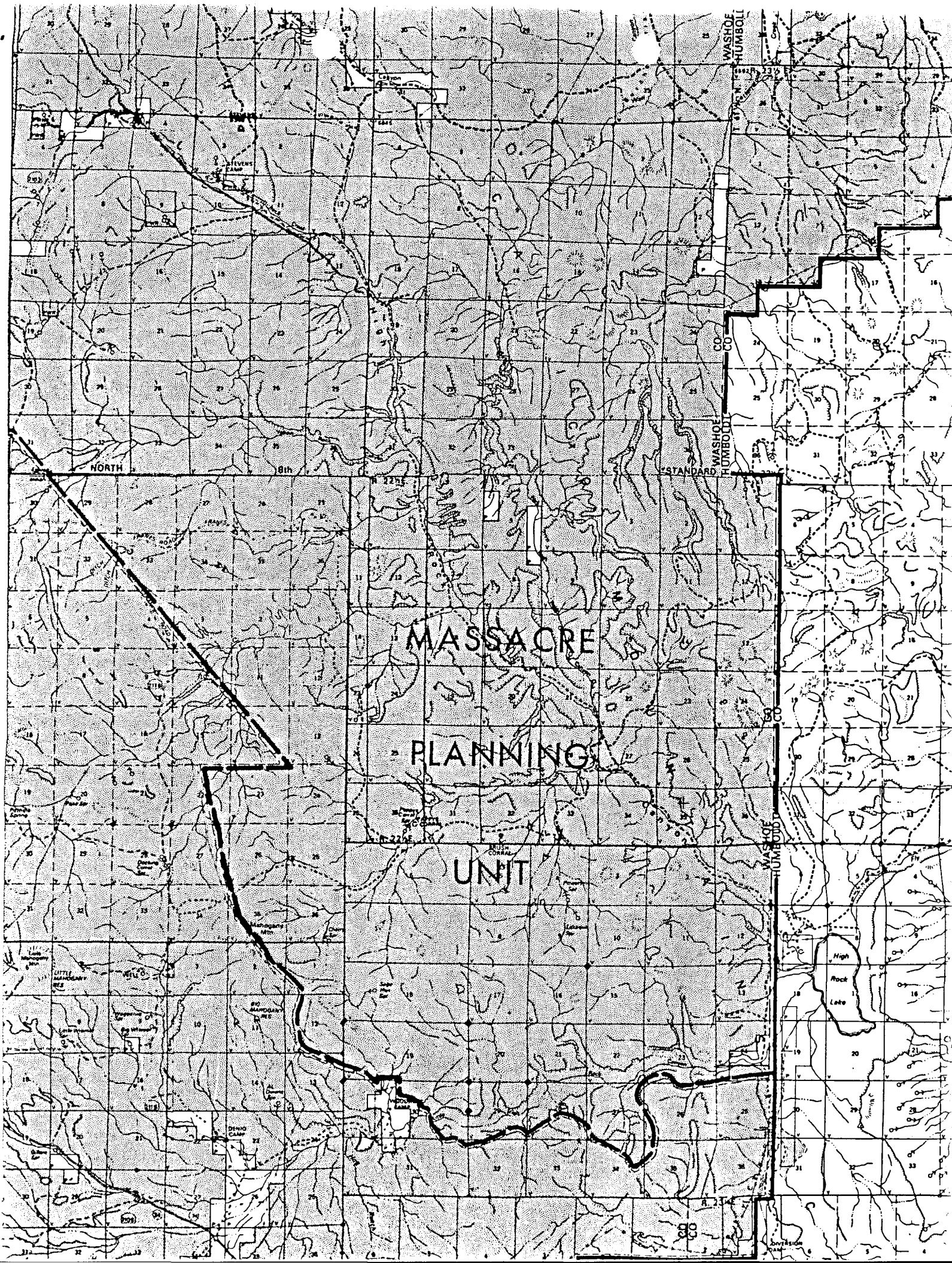
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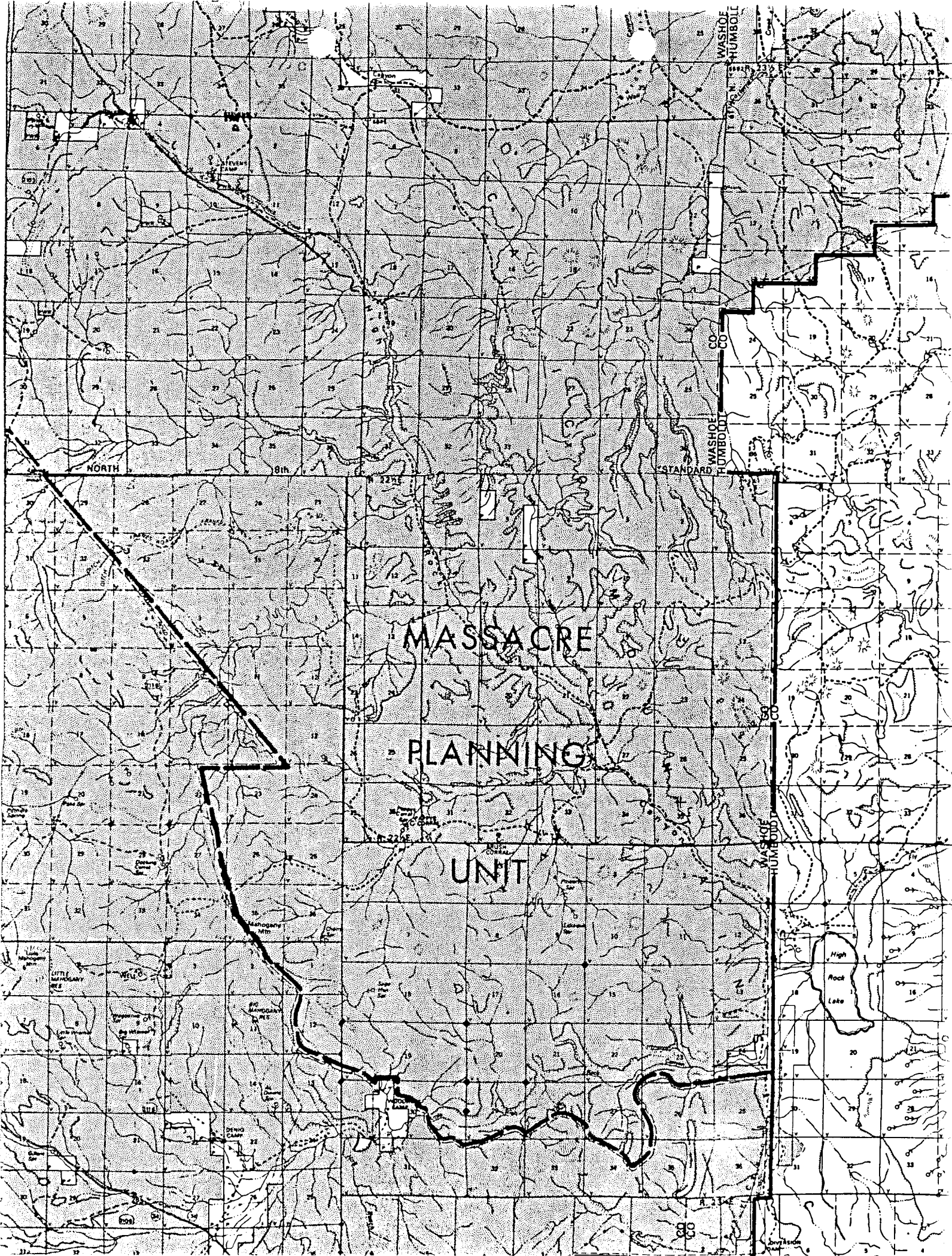
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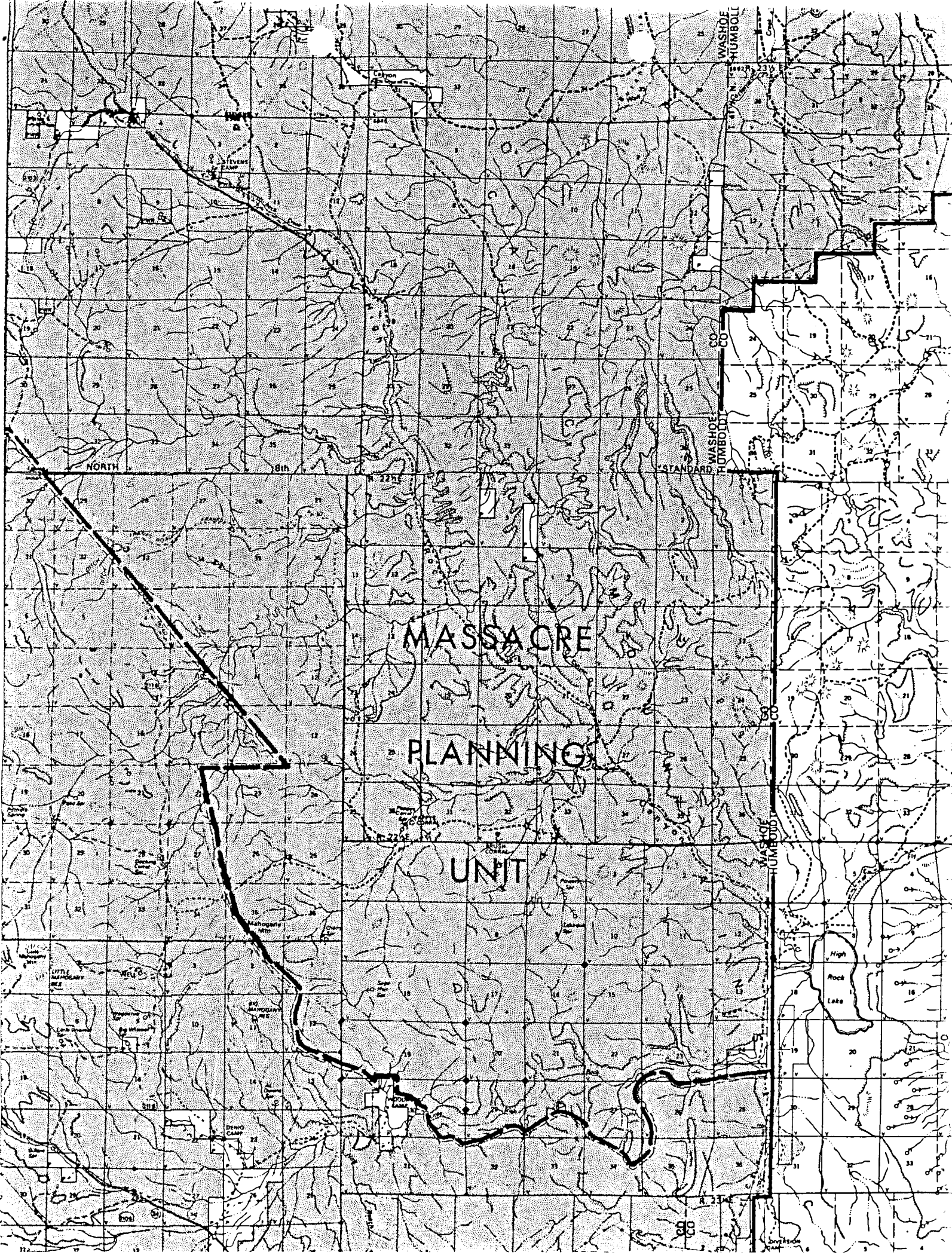
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MASSA ORE

PLANNING

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WASHOE HUMBOLDT CO

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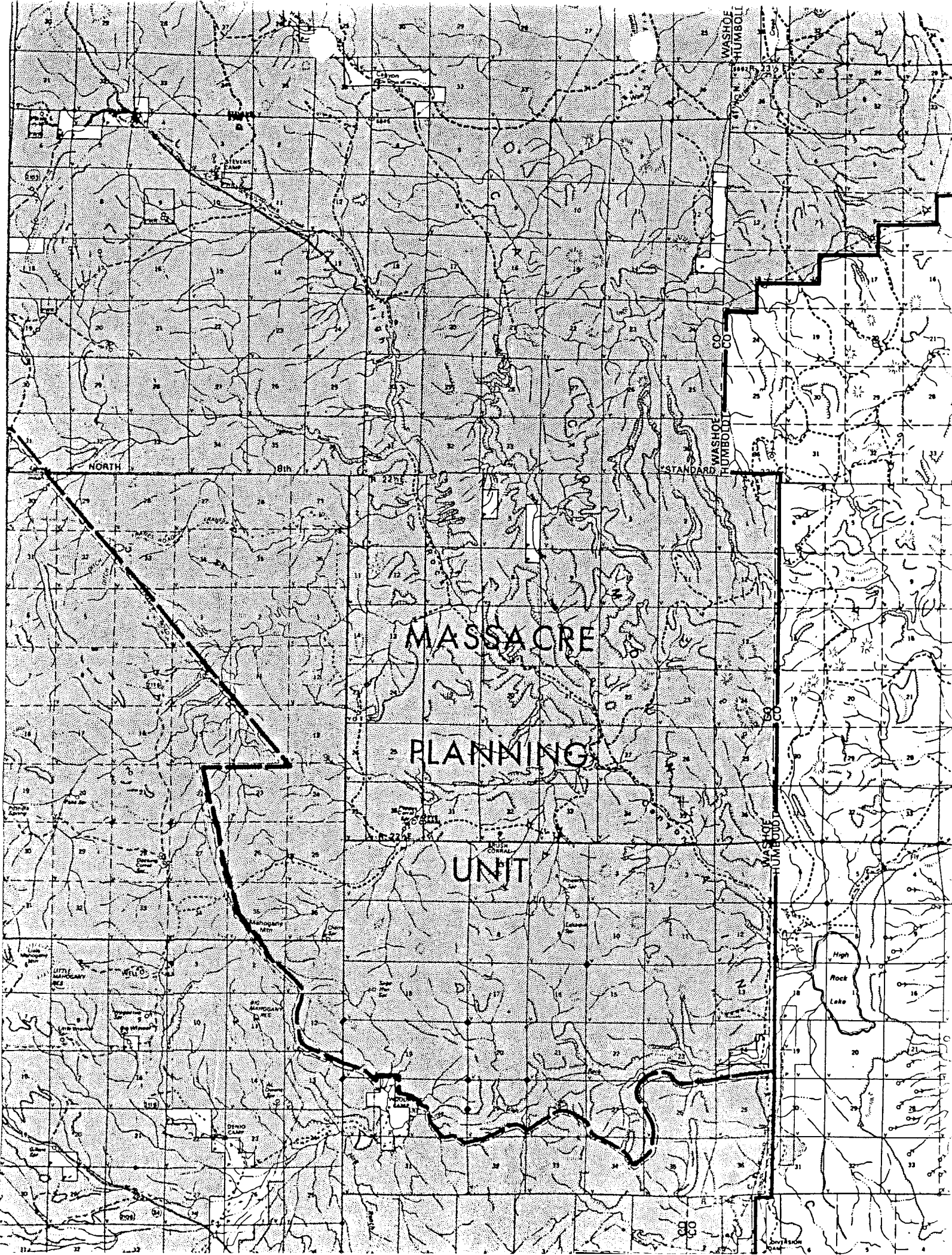
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MASSACRE

PLANNING

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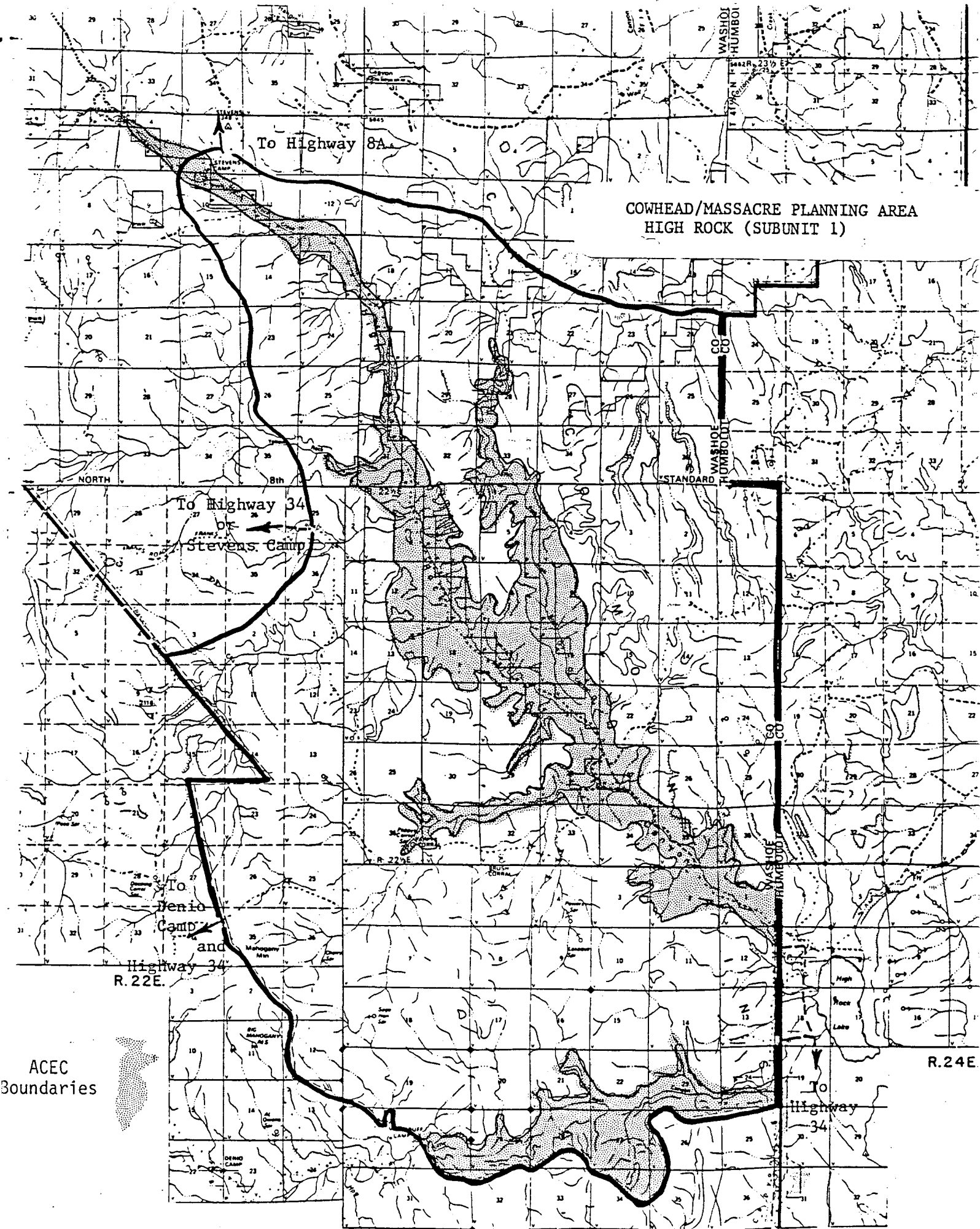
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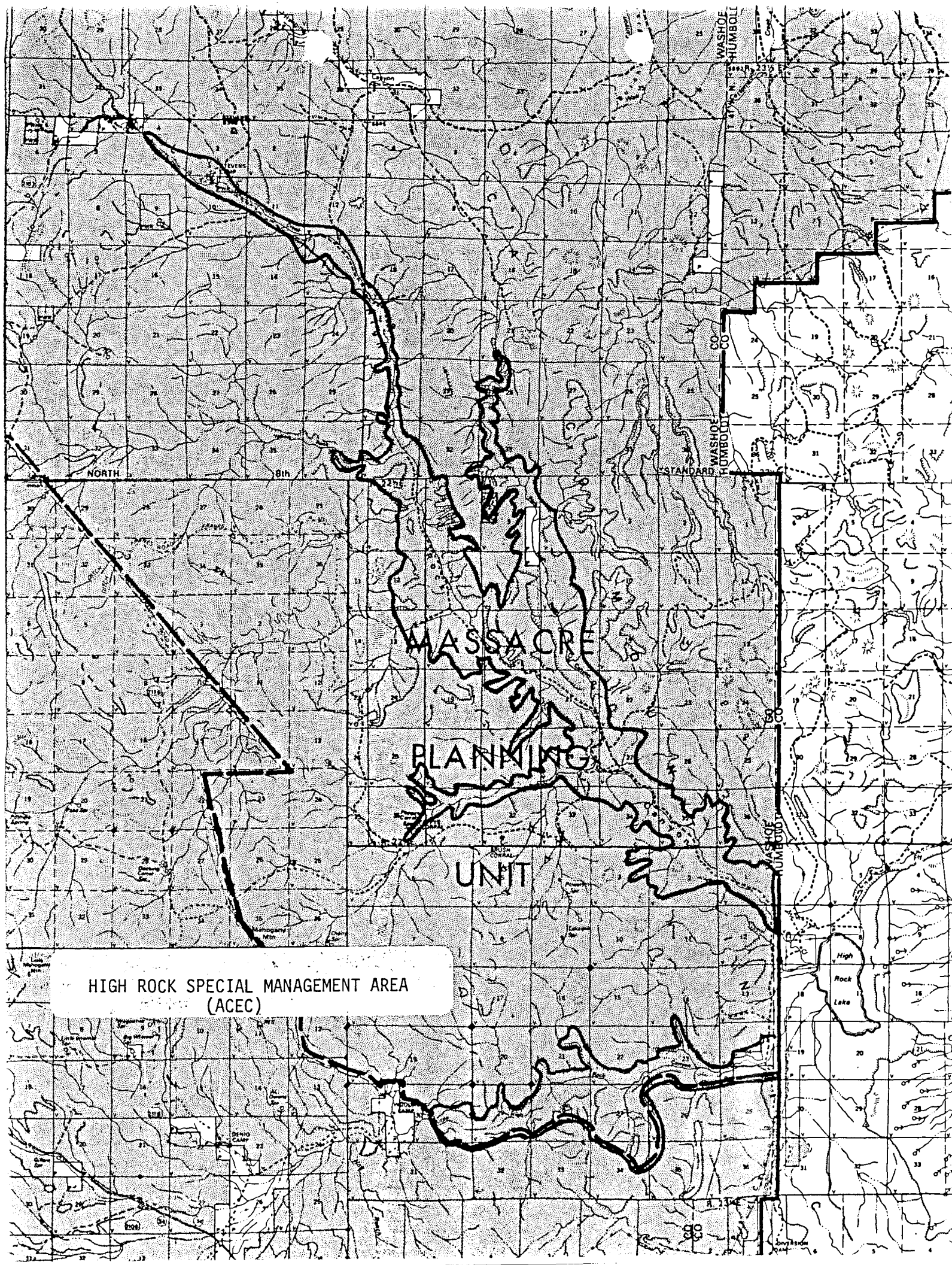
COWHEAD/MASSACRE PLANNING AREA  
HIGH ROCK (SUBUNIT 1)



ACEC  
Boundaries

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HIGH ROCK SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA  
(ACEC)

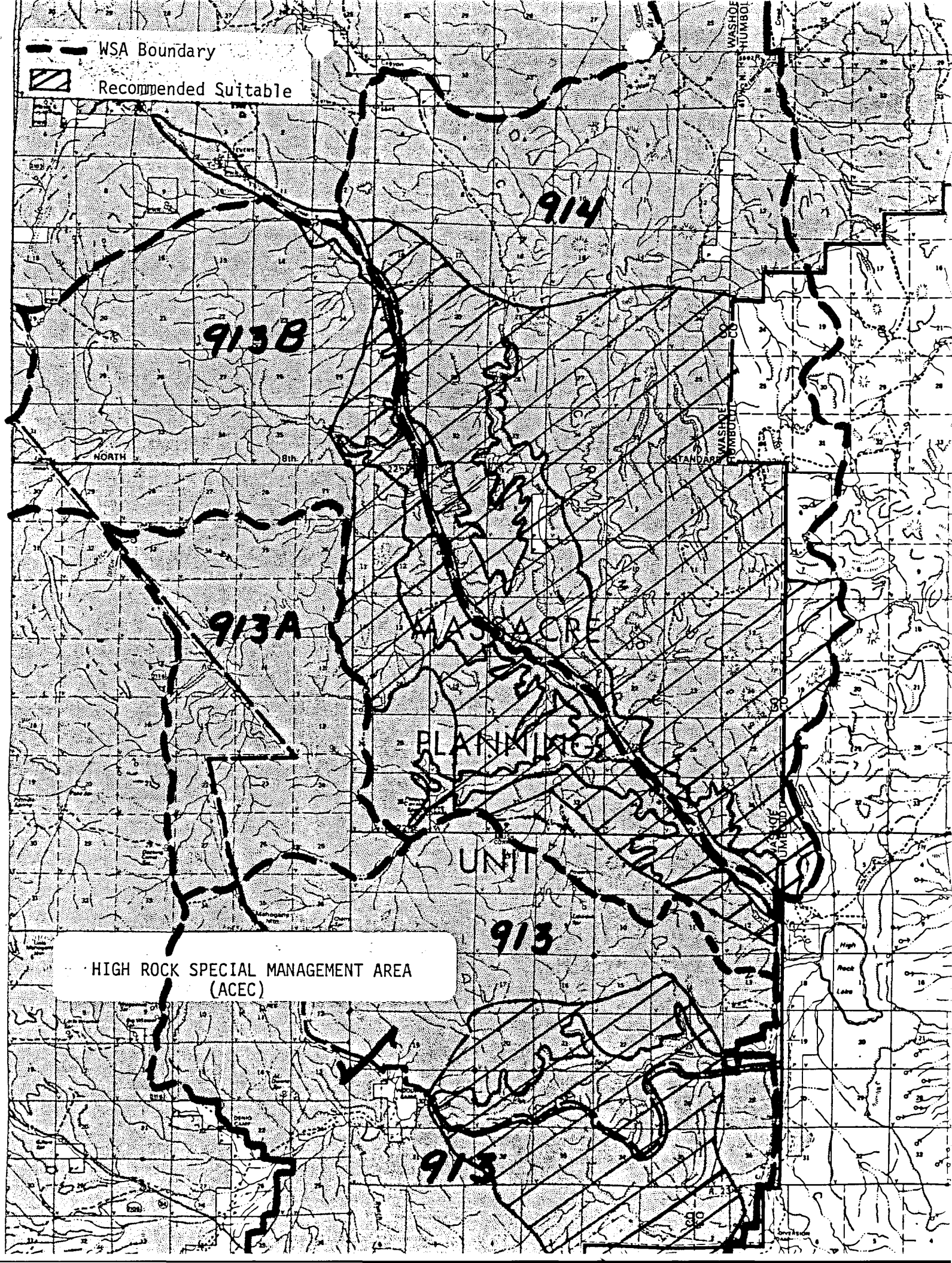
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▨ Recommended Suitable



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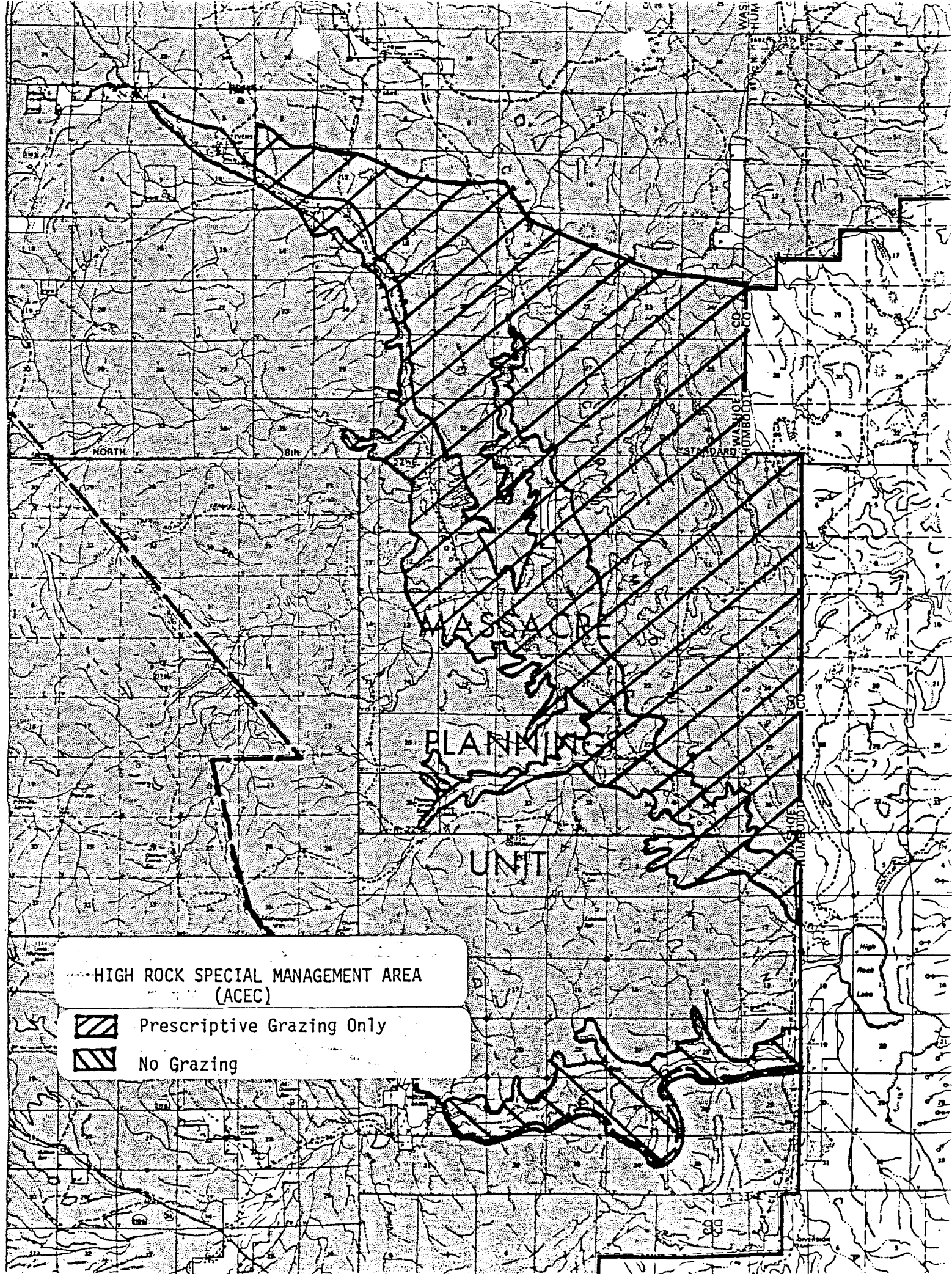
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HIGH ROCK SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA  
(ACEC)





----- HIGH ROCK SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA (ACEC)

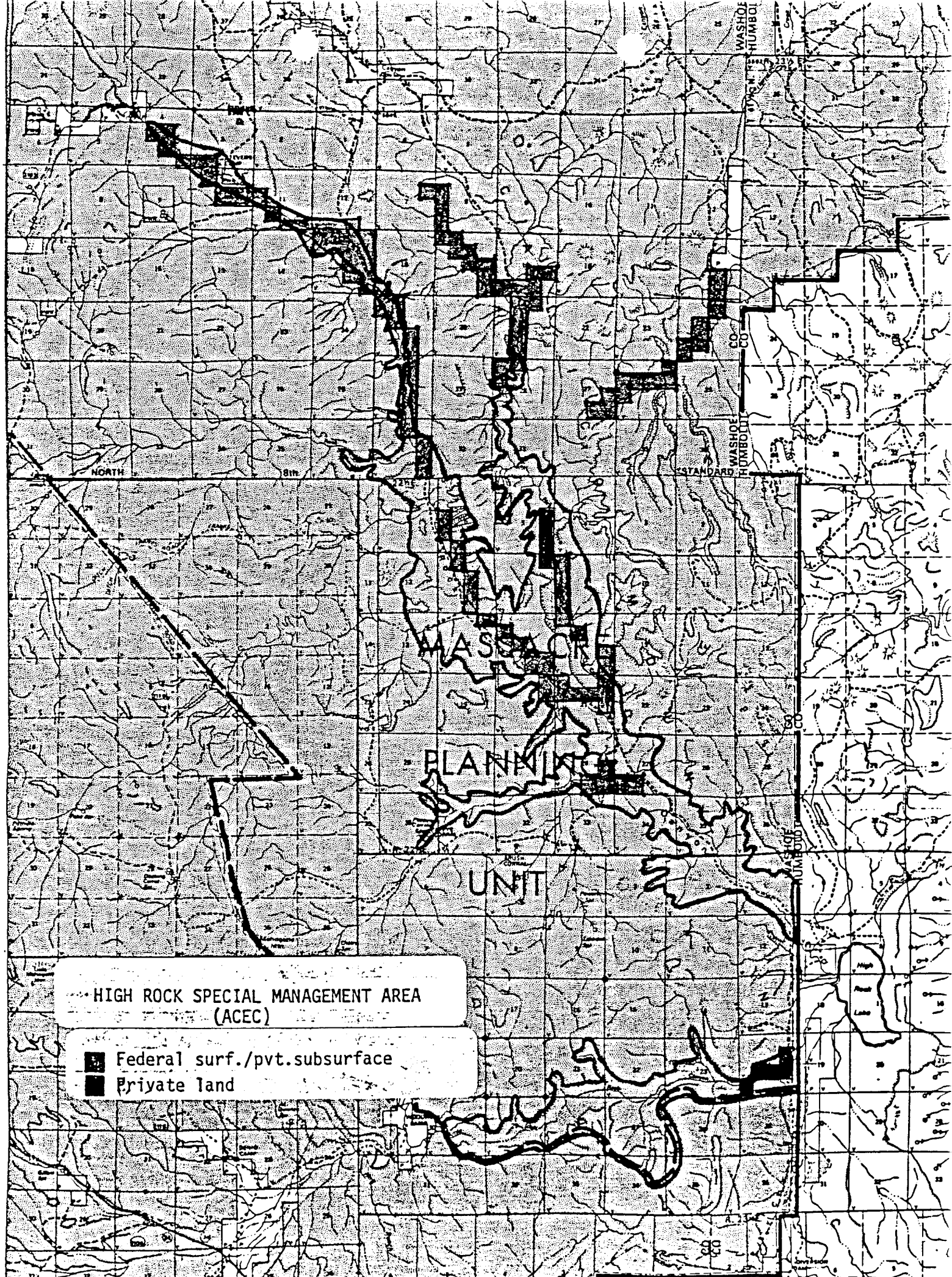


Prescriptive Grazing Only



No Grazing

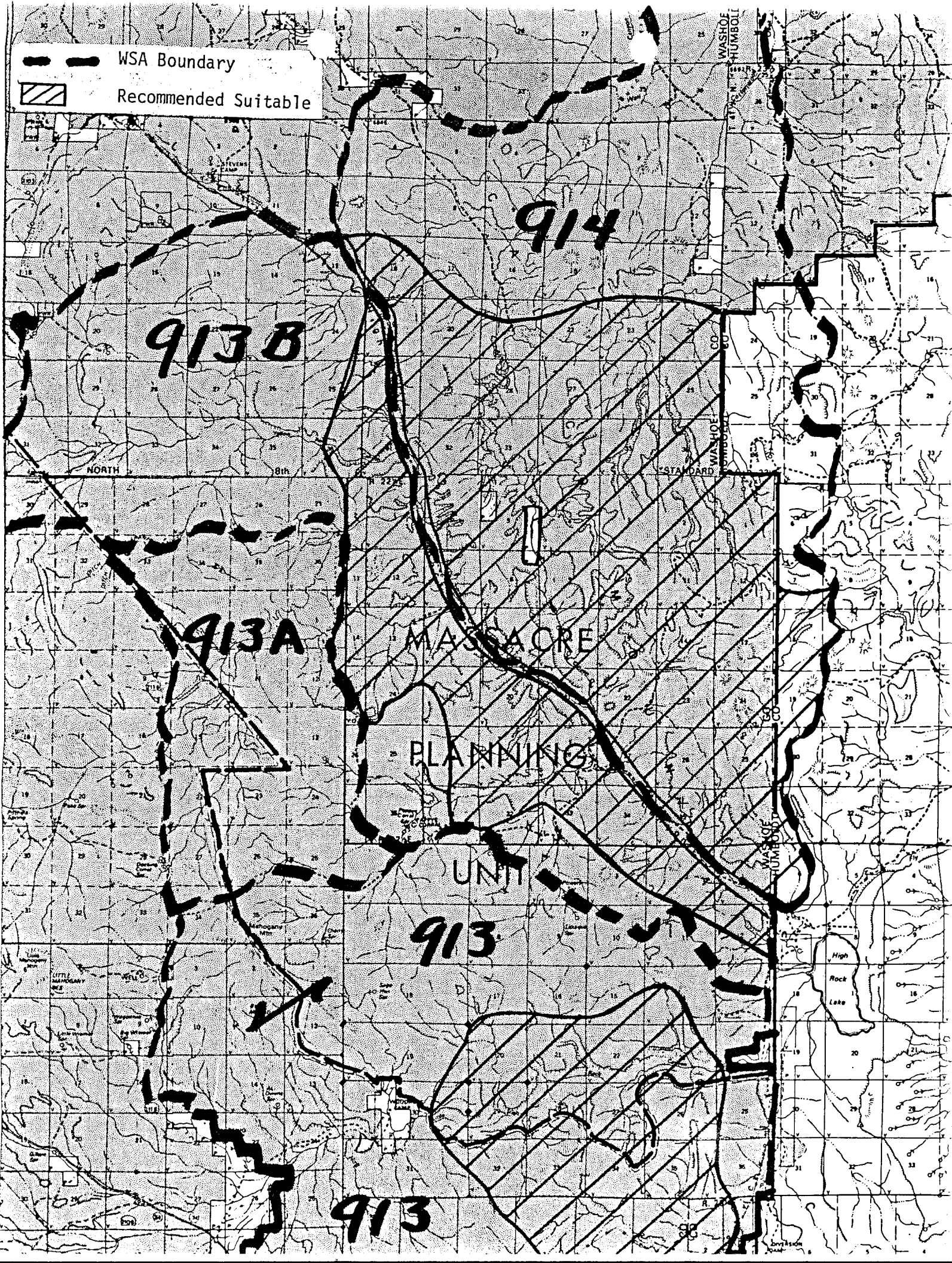




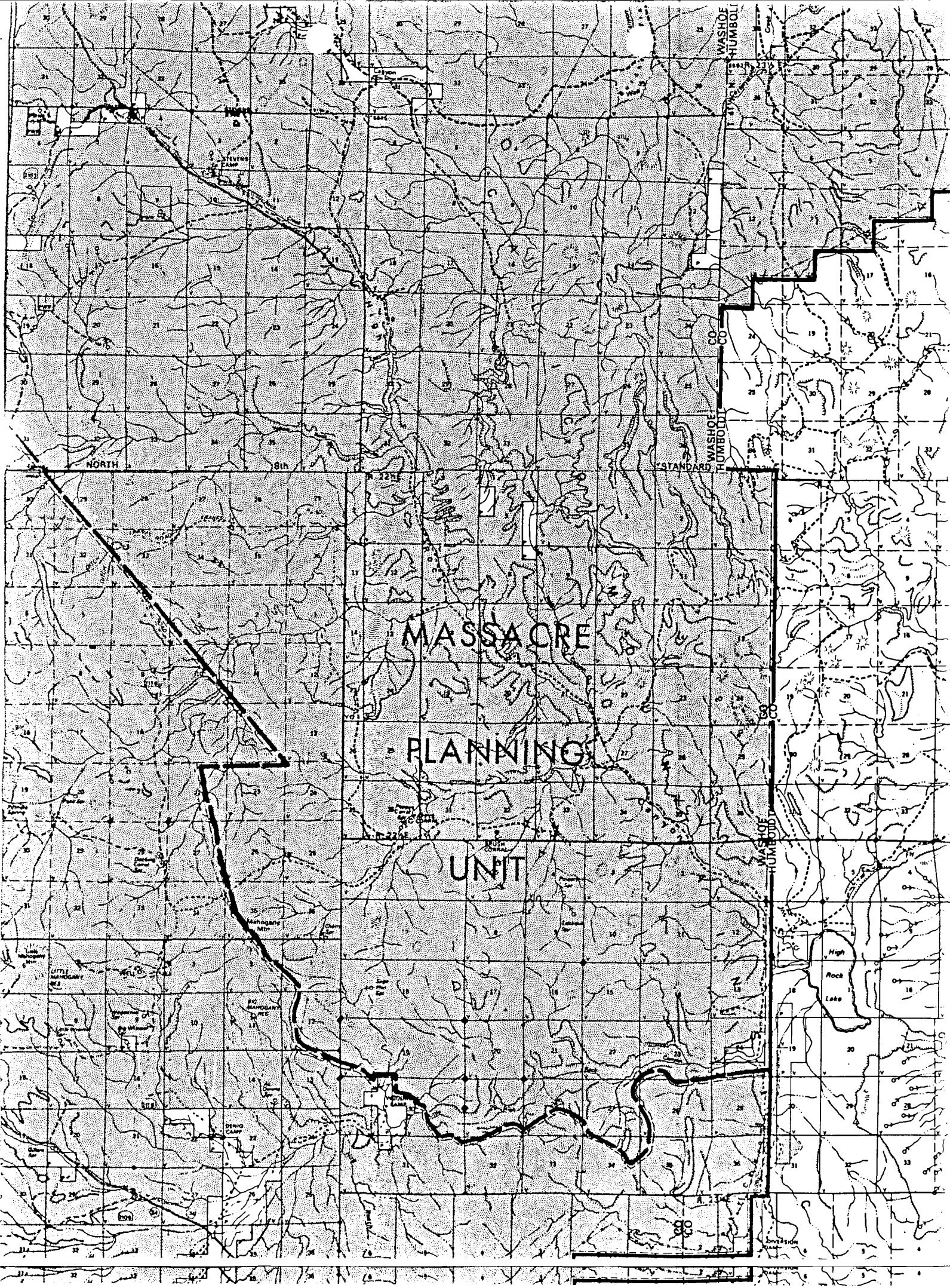
--- HIGH ROCK SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA (ACEC)

- ▨ Federal surf./pvt.subsurface
- Private land

--- WSA Boundary  
▨ Recommended Suitable







MASSACRE

PLANNING

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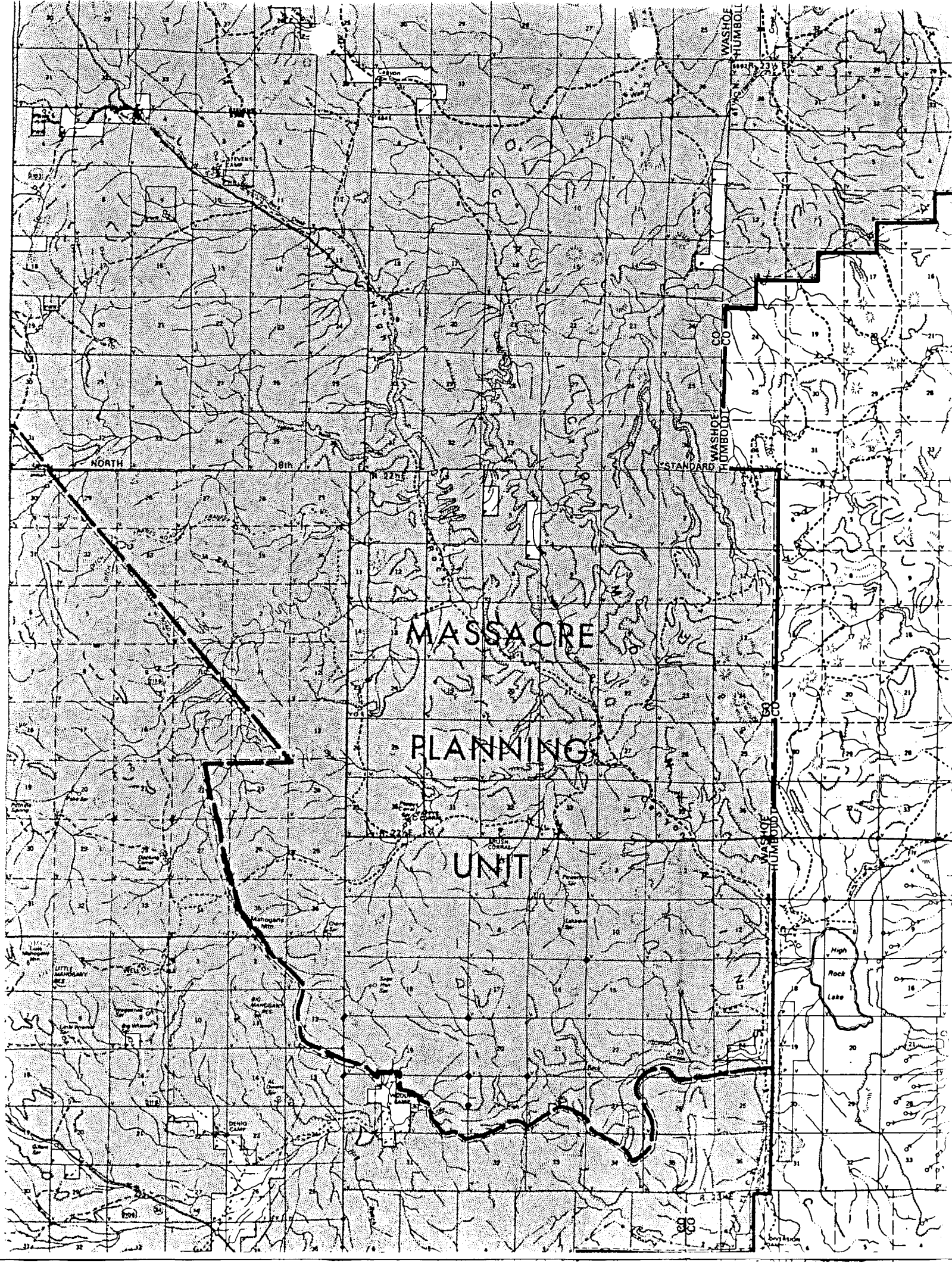
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MASSACRE  
PLANNING  
UNIT

WASHOE HUMBOLDT CO  
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WASHOE HUMBOLDT CO  
WASHOE HUMBOLDT CO

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STEVENS  
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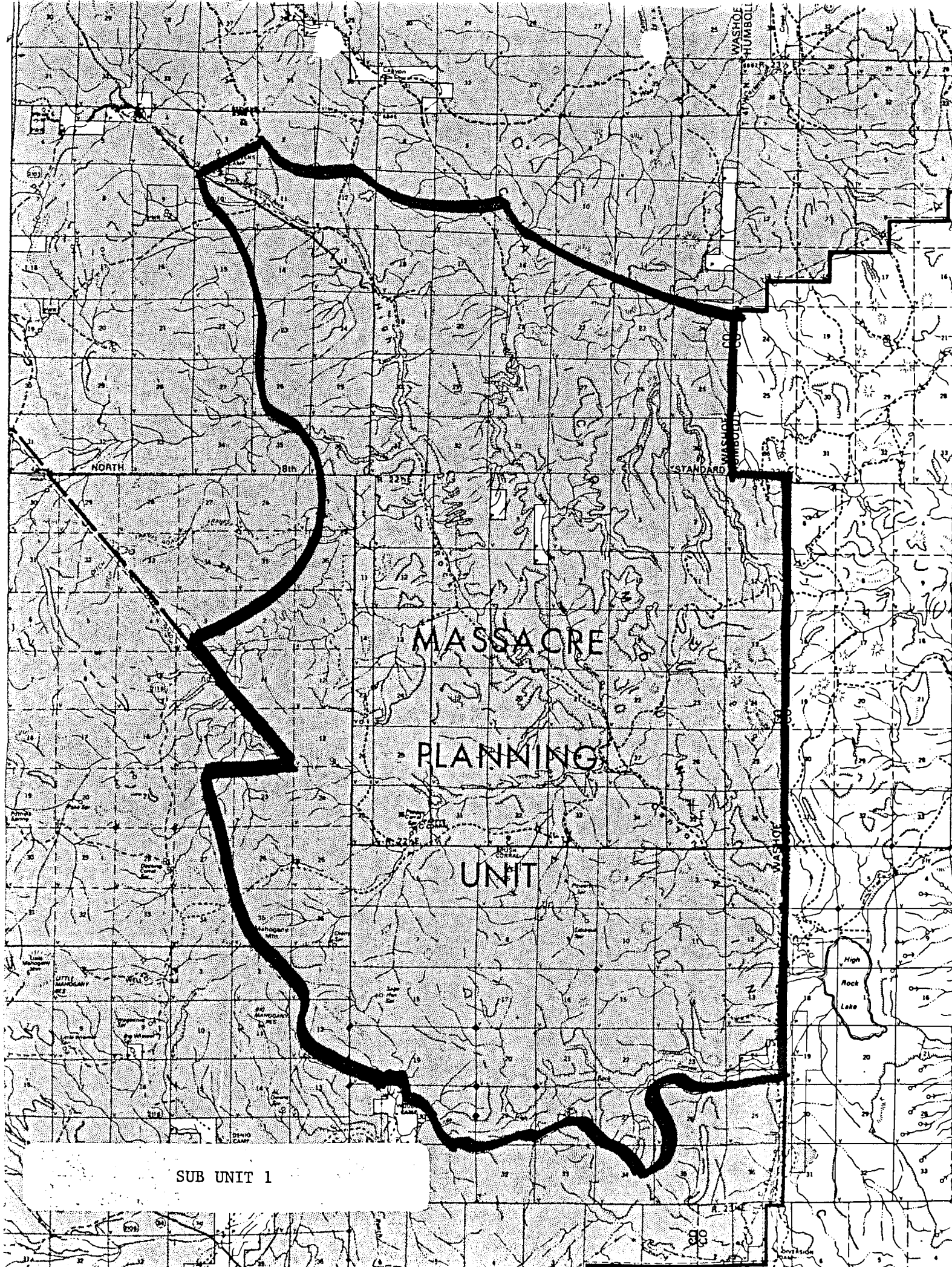
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MASSACRE  
PLANNING  
UNIT

SUB UNIT 1