2-6-95



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Eagle Lake Resource Area 705 Hall Street Susanville, CA 96130 February 6, 1995

> In Reply Refer to: 4320 (CA-026)

Dear Interested Party:

The Susanville District, Eagle Lake Resource Area, intends to conduct an analysis of actions proposed to occur within a Wilderness Study Area (WSA).

The enclosed table and maps describe BLM project proposals for the Twin Peaks Allotment for 1995 and 1996. The projects described are subject to revision or deletion depending on the outcome of the environmental analysis process pursuant to NEPA. Project design currently is in the conceptual stage and the projects have not yet been staked on the ground. BLM has begun its preliminary survey and design work. We plan to stake these projects this spring and summer and plan to coordinate visits to the project sites among BLM specialists, grazing permittees and affected interests, also in the spring and summer.

Note that all but two of the projects would be within Wilderness Study Area's (WSA's), and that all would be within the Twin Peaks Herd Management Area and in mule deer and pronghorn range.

The enclosed notice and description of the actions proposed to occur in Wildemess Study Areas is provided to invite your initial comments on these project proposals for use in our NEPA analysis. Please submit any comments regarding these actions (both those that would occur in the WSA's and those that would occur outside the WSA's) in writing within 30 days to:

Linda Hansen, Area Manager Eagle Lake Resource Area 705 Hall Street Susanville, CA. 96130

Thank you for your consideration of these proposals and your interest in BLM's management of the public's land. Communication regarding these proposals should be directed to Ken Visser, Steve Surian or Linda Hansen at (916) 257-0456, or to the Eagle Lake Resource Area BLM, 705 Hall Street, Susanville, CA 96130.

Sincerely.

Russell Elam

Acting Area Manager

Enclosures:

Table

Maps

Notice of Action in a Wilderness Study Area

PROPOSED PROJECTS - TWIN PEAKS ALLOTMENT - 1995 and 1996 - SELECTED PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Priority	Project Name (and Previous Name)	Brief Project Description as Currently Proposed	State	Pasture	Subdivision(s)	Wilderness Study Area & BLM Recommendation	Twin Peaks Herd Management Area Home Range	Big Game Wildlife Range
One	Chimney Drift Fences (Chimney Creek Drift Fences)	3 Segments of wire fence to control livestock movement between Chimney and Buffalo Subdivisions.	NV	North	Chimney / Buffalo	Twin Peaks / Suitable	Twin Peaks North	Mule deer winter. Pronghorn yearlong.
Two	Morgan Spring Riparian Exclosure (Fence)	Wire fence to exclude livestock and wild horses from public land riparian area associated with Morgan Spring.	CA	South	Skedaddle ,	Skedaddle / Non- Suitable	Skedaddle	Mule deer transition. Pronghorn yearlong.
Three	Bullfrog Fence (North Fork Buffalo Creek)	Wire fence to control livestock movement between Susanville and Winnemucca Districts.	NV	North	Stone Corral	Poodle Mountain / Non-Suitable	Twin Peaks North	Mule deer winter and transition. Pronghorn yearlong and kidding.
Four	West Parsnip Drift Fence (South Fork Parsnip #2)	Wire fence to control movement of cattle between Painter and Buffalo subdivisions.	NV	North	Painter / Buffalo	Twin Peaks / Suitable Part not in WSA	Twin Peaks North	Mule deer yearlong and fawning.
Five	Painter Fences (Painter Creek Fence)	Two segments wire fence to control livestock movement between Rowland and Painter subdivisions.	CA & NV	North	Painter / Rowland	Not applicable	Twin Peaks North	Mule deer summer and transition. Pronghorn kidding, spring, summer and fall.
Six	East Fork Springs and Pipeline (E. Fork Smoke Ck. Exclosure)	Develop springs, fence with wire fence exclosure and pipe to trough outside of exclosure.	NV	North	Chimney	Twin Peaks / Suitable	Twin Peaks North	Mule deer yearlong and fawning. Pronghorn yearlong.

Project Priority	Project Name (and Previous Name)	Brief Project Description as Currently Proposed	State	Pasture	Subdivision(s)	Wilderness Study Area & BLM Recommendation	Twin Peaks Herd Management Area Home Range	Big Game Wildlife Range
Seven	East Upper Smoke Creek Fence (Upper Smoke Ck. Fence)	Fence or series of gap fences to control livestock movement into Upper Smoke Creek.	CA	North	Black Mountain	Twin Peaks / Non- suitable	Observation South	Mule deer winter. Pronghorn kidding and yearlong.
Eight	Red Rock Springs I & II Redevelop- ment (Red Rock I & Red Rock II)	Enlarge existing wire fence exclosures around these springs and pipe water to troughs in uplands.	NV	South	Dry Valley	Dry Valley Rim / Suitable	Dry Valley Rim	Mule deer winter. Pronghorn yearlong and general kidding.
Nine	Jenkins Trough Exclosure (Jenkins Trough Spring)	Wire fence to control livestock use of associated riparian area.	NV	South	Rim	Dry Valley Rim / Suitable	Dry Valley Rim	Mule deer winter and transition. Pronghorn yearlong and general kidding.
Ten	Horn Springs Meadow Exclosure (Horn Spring)	Wire fence to control livestock use of public land portion of meadow associated with Horn Springs.	CA	North	Black Mountain	Twin Peaks / Non- suitable.	Twin Peaks North	Mule deer winter. Pronghorn kidding and yearlong.
Eleven	Sagehen Spring Redevelop- ment	Enlarge existing wire fence exclosure and pipe water to trough in uplands.	NV	North	Chimney	Twin Peaks / Suitable	Twin Peaks North	Mule deer winter. Pronghorn yearlong.
Twelve	Washtub Spring	Develop spring. Exclude associated riparian area and pipe water to trough in uplands.	CA	South	Five Springs	Five Springs / Non-suitable.	Skedaddle	Mule deer little or no use, Pronghorn yearlong and general kidding.

Project Priority	Project Name (and Previous Name)	Brief Project Description as Currently Proposed	State	Pasture	Subdivision(s)	Wilderness Study Area & BLM Recommendation	Twin Peaks Herd Management Area Home Range	Big Game Wildlife Range
Thirteen	Seep 13 and Two Springs (Five Springs Fences)	Wire fence around water source and associated riparian areas.	CA	South	Five Springs	Five Springs - Seep 13; Suitable, Two Springs: Non- suitable	Skedaddle	Mule deer winter and transition. Pronghorn winter concentration area and yearlong.
Fourteen	East Bull Springs (Bull Flat Spring Develop- ments)	Develop springs, wire fence around associated riparian area and pipe water to trough in uplands.	CA	South	Rim	Dry Valley Rim / Non-suitable	Dry Valley Rim	Mule deer transition. Pronghorn yearlong and general kidding.
Fifteen	Indian Spring	Develop spring, pipe to trough and existing reservoir.	NV	North	Painter	Not applicable	Twin Peaks North	Mule deer yearlong and fawning. Pronghorn yearlong and general kidding.

NOTICE OF PROPOSED ACTION IN A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA (WSA)

State: California County: Lassen District: Susanville

Area: Eagle Lake Resource Area

WSA NAME	NUMBER	ACRES
Five Springs Dry Valley Rim	CA-020-609 CA-020-615	50,401 95,025
Buffalo Hills Twin Peaks Poodle Mountain	CA-020-619 CA-020-619A 46,14 NV-020-012 145,75	

Date that 30-day notification period ends: March 9, 1995

Description of Action: The Bureau of Land Management proposes to build drift or gap fences to help create four stream riparian management areas and to build twelve spring riparian exclosures. Seven of twelve exclosures would have water developments to provide drinking water outside the exclosure. This consists of installing below ground water collection boxes and conveying the water to outside of the exclosure via below-ground pipe to a trough. proposed fences would be built to BLM specifications for pronghorn and mule deer ranges which consists of three barbed wires and a barbless bottom wire. wires are spaced to allow mule deer to jump over and for pronghorn to go under. Green metal posts would be used to help camouflage the appearance of the fence, but if built, the fences will be temporarily flagged to alert deer, pronghorn, wild horses and burros to their presence. Where possible, fencing will be located off ridge tops to minimize "sky lining" and therefore reduce the visual impact. Clearing of brush and rocks will be limited to hand tools and no blading of the surface would be allowed thus reducing surface disturbance and associated visual impacts.

Transportation of materials would be limited to horseback, helicopter or via existing roads outside the WSA's.

All projects described in this notice are within the Twin Peaks grazing allotment and the Twin Peaks Wild Horse and Burro Home Range.

The proposed projects are expressly to support BLM's Riparian-Wetland Initiative for the 1990's to restore and maintain 75 percent of riparian areas to properly functioning condition by 1997, for watershed protection and to enhance wilderness values by restoring riparian habitat to provide the widest variety of and habitat diversity for fish and wildlife while managing existing uses within the WSA's.

2. <u>Location of Activity</u>:

See enclosed maps for locations of the proposed projects.

Activity Name	Units (all figures approximate)	Location	WSA Name	
Chimney Drift Fences	4.5 miles fence	T32NR18E S 7, 18; T32½NR18E S 34.	Twin Peaks	
Morgan Spring Riparian Exclosure	1.5 miles fence enclosing 20 acres	T30NR17E S 28 W½W½.	Skedaddle	
Bullfrog Fence	1.75 miles fence	T34NR19E S 13, 24, 25.	Poodle Mountain	
West Parsnip Drift Fence	0.4 miles fence	T33NR18E S 23.	Twin Peaks	
East Fork Springs and Pipeline	1.5 miles fence enclosing 60 acres; 0.3 miles pipeline	T32NR18E S 7 SE¼.	Twin Peaks	
East Upper Smoke Creek Fence (or Gap fences)	2.6 miles fence - if gap fences, then < 2.6 miles fence	T33NR17E S 31; T32NR17E S 5.	Twin Peaks	
Red Rock Springs I and II Redevelopment (2 sites)	For each site: 0.6 miles fence enclosing 7 acres; 0.2 miles pipeline	T30NR18E S 10, 15.	Dry Valley Rim	
Jenkins Trough Exclosure	1 mile fence enclosing 10 acres	T31NR18E S 32 NE¾.	Dry Valley Rim	
Horn Springs Meadow Exclosure	2 miles fence enclosing 50 acres	T33NR17E S 18, 19.	Twin Peaks	
Sagehen Spring Redevelopment	1 mile fence enclosing 10 acres	T32NR18E S 33	Twin Peaks	
Washtub Spring	0.5 miles fence enclosing 3 acres	T31NR17E S 31 NE¼SE¼.	Five Springs	
Seep 13 and Two Springs (2 sites)	Seep 13: 1 mile fence enclosing 10 acres; Two Springs: 0.3 miles fence enclosing 2 acres	T31NR17E S 24 NW¼, S 23 NE¼.	Five Springs	
East Bull Springs (2 sites)	Each site: 0.3 miles fence enclosing 2 acres; 0.1 miles pipeline	T30NR17E S 2 SW¼, S 11 NW¼.	Dry Valley Rim	

3. <u>Description of Activity:</u>

Drift Fences

The proposed drift fences, with topographic barriers, will help create four riparian management areas for the following segments of streams: East Fork Smoke Creek and Chimney Canyon ephemeral drainage (Chimney Drift Fences); North Fork Buffalo Creek - upper segment (Bullfrog Fence); Parsnip Wash and South Fork Parsnip Wash (West Parsnip Drift Fence); Upper Smoke Creek - segment between Shinn Ranch on the north and Smoke Creek Ranch on the South (East Upper Smoke Creek Fence). The Chimney Drift Fences and West Parsnip Drift fence also would control livestock movement between unfenced subdivisions within the Twin Peaks Allotment. The Bullfrog fence also would control livestock movement between the Susanville and Winnemucca Districts. Deer and pronghorn and wild horses and burros can go around the fences if necessary, or over the rough topography left unfenced.

Spring Riparian Enhancement Projects

Nine projects consisting of twelve spring and/or meadow sites are proposed to protect and enhance riparian vegetation associated with springs. The enclosures would vary in size from about 2 to 60 acres. Seven of the twelve sites also would have water developments which typically consist of a below-ground collection box of about 3 feet in diameter. A pipeline generally is buried from the collection box to a trough outside the exclosure and a water overflow pipe from the trough would re-enter the spring drainage to complete the water development. Two of the projects are termed "re-developments" in order to enlarge the existing exclosure and reroute the existing pipeline from a trough located in a drainage bottom to a trough located in adjacent uplands. The proposed projects would be built to ensure that water is available from the spring site for wildlife, livestock, wild horses and burros.

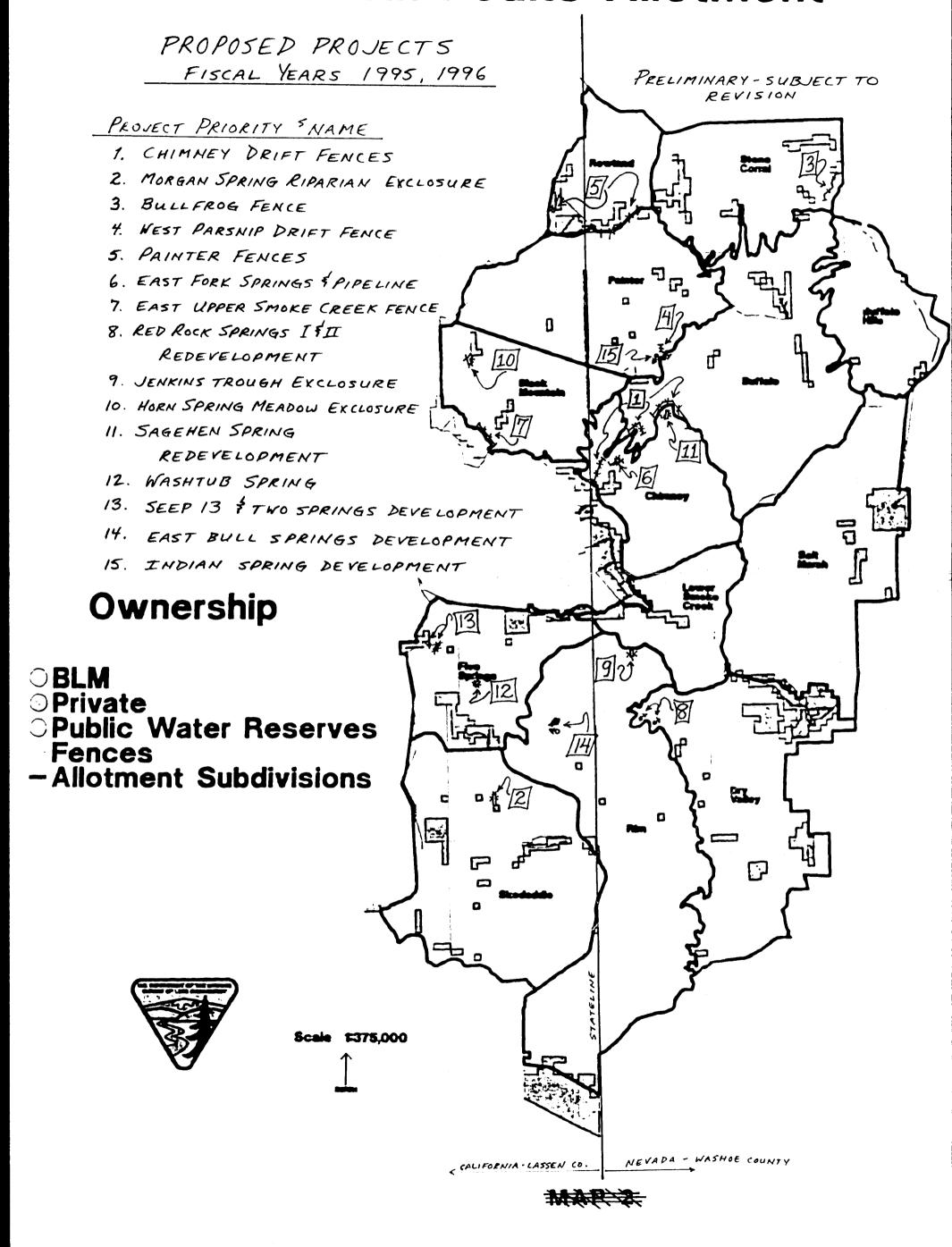
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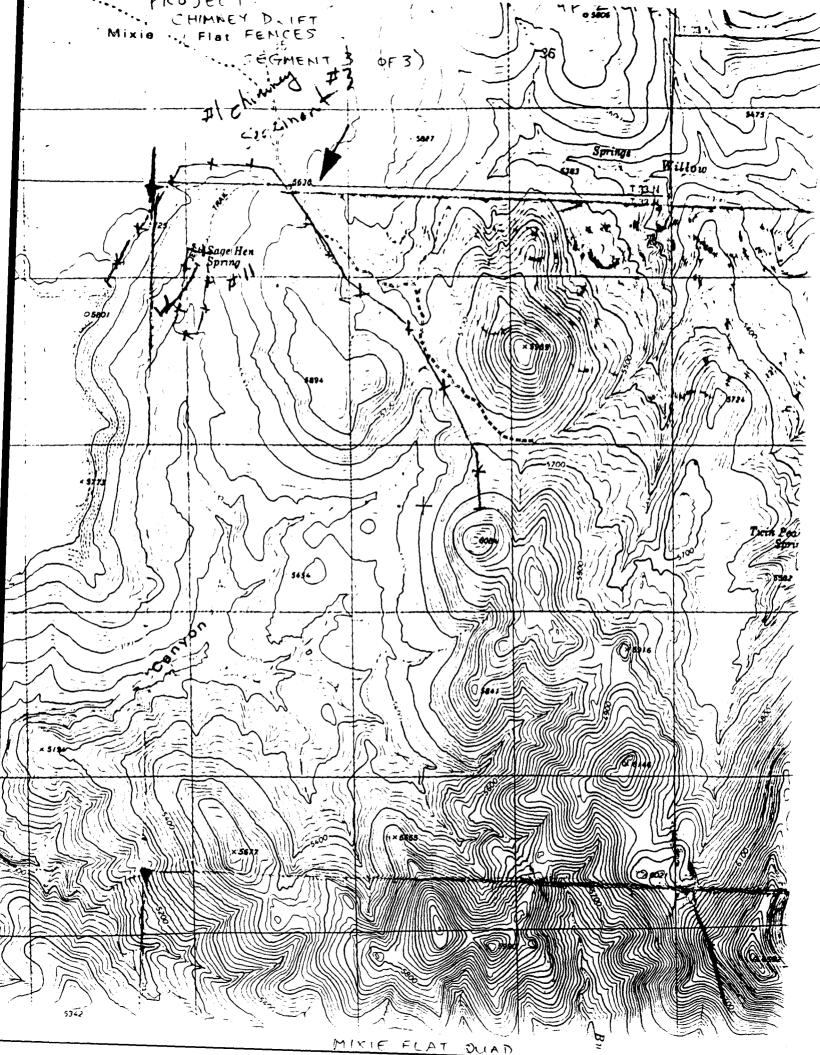
Pursuant to NEPA, an environmental assessment will be prepared by June 30, 1995. The proposed projects are expected to be completed in the next two years.

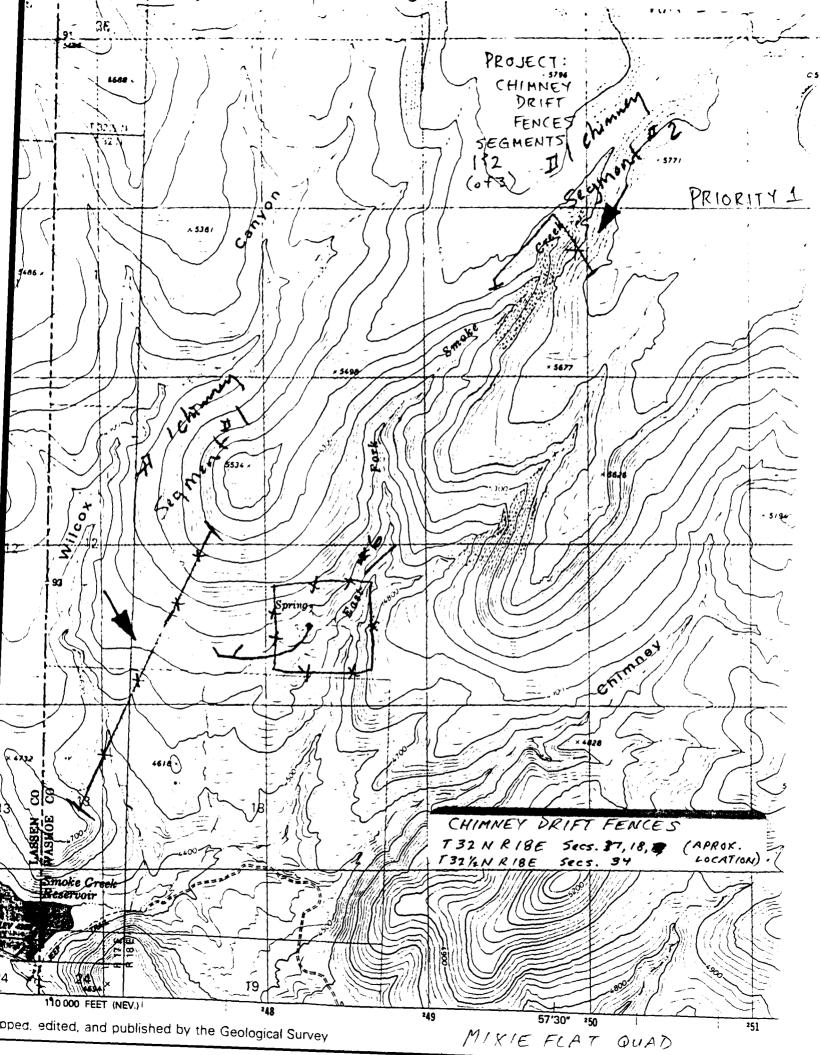
Eagle Lake Area Manager

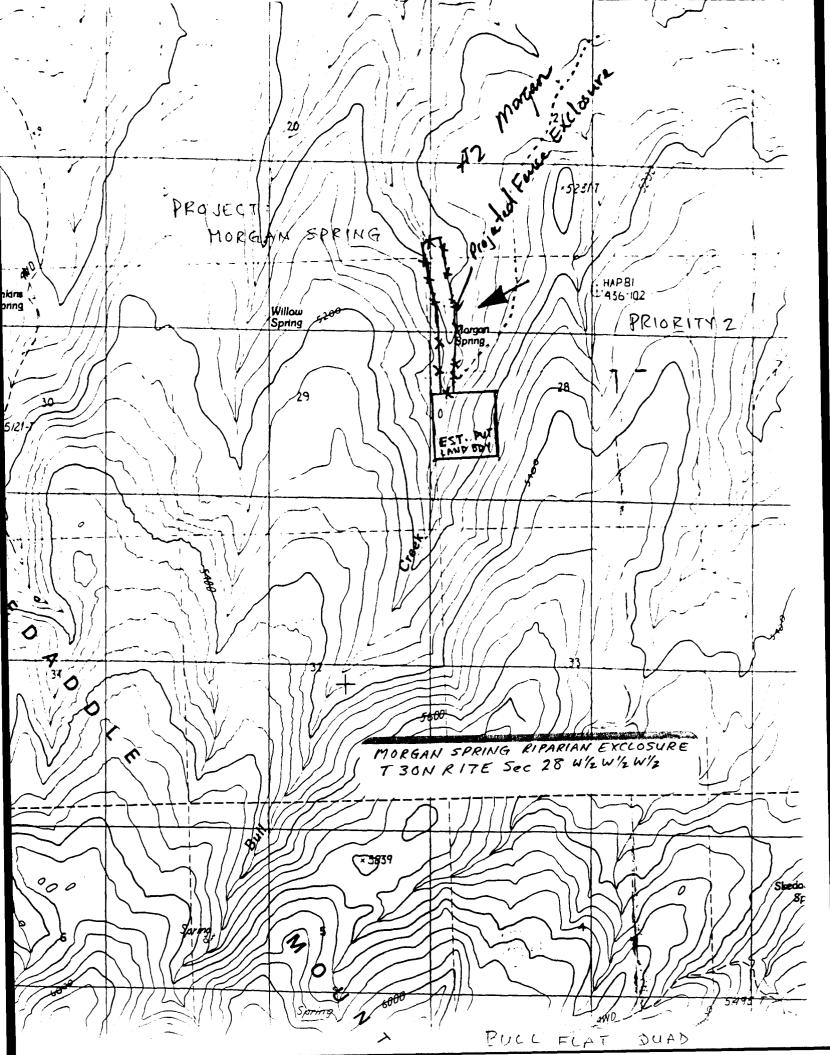
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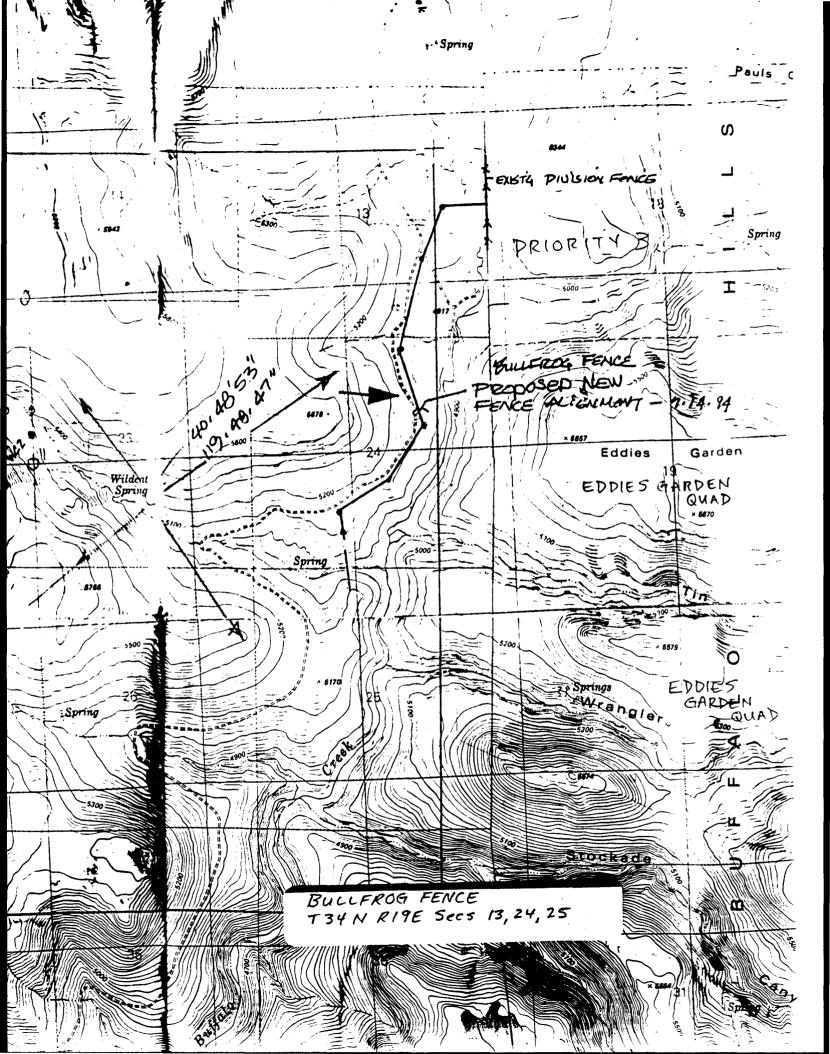
Twin Peaks Allotment

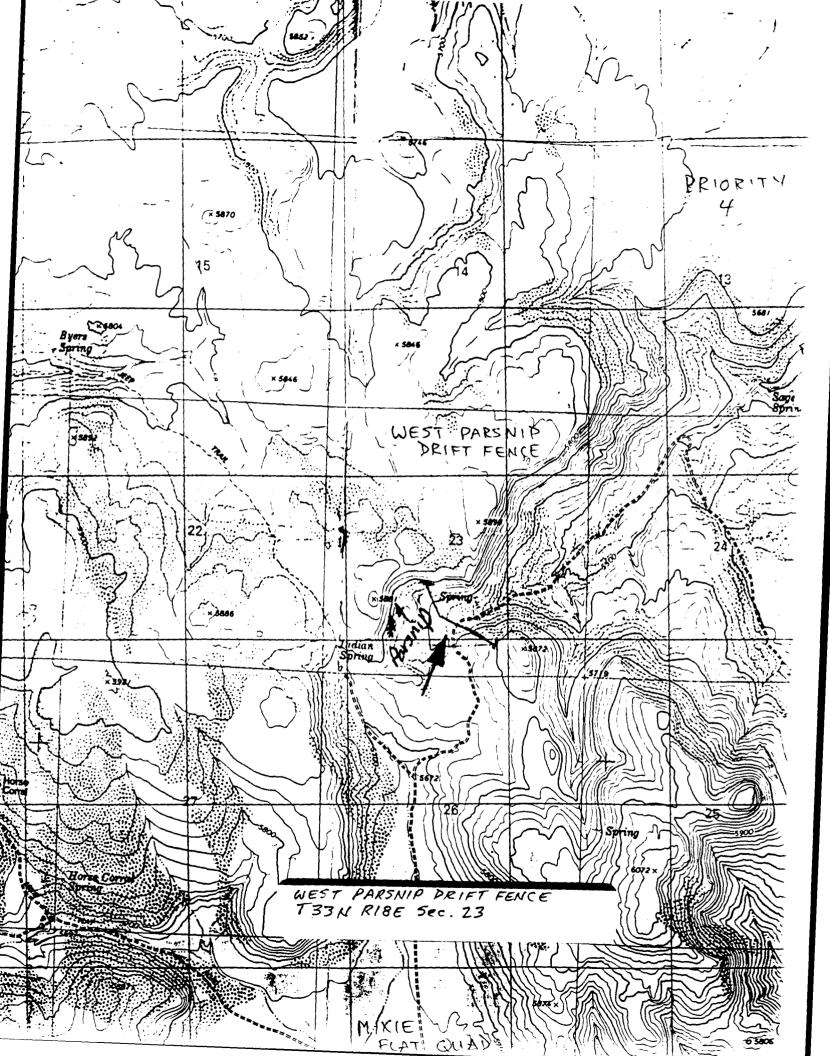


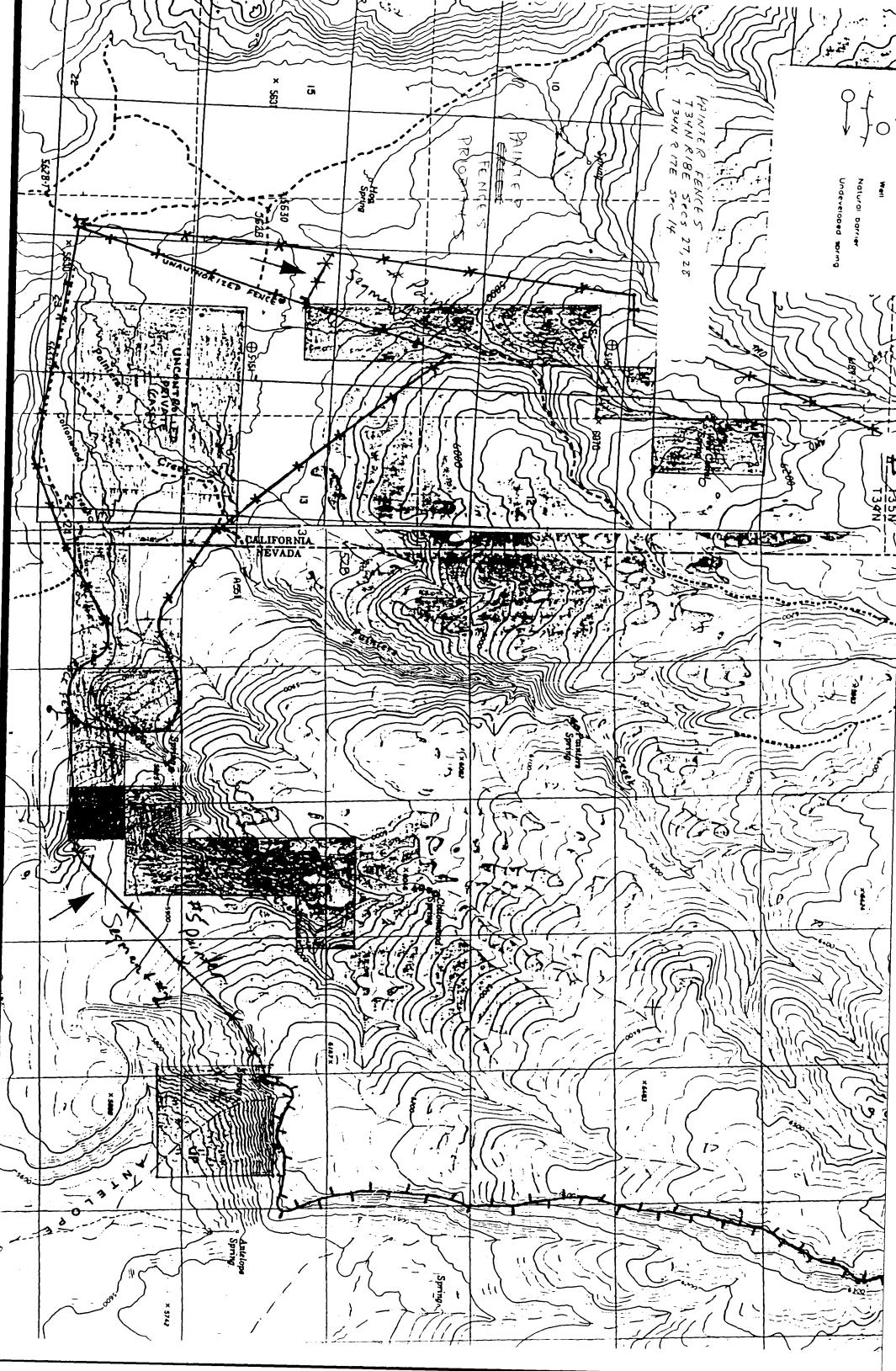


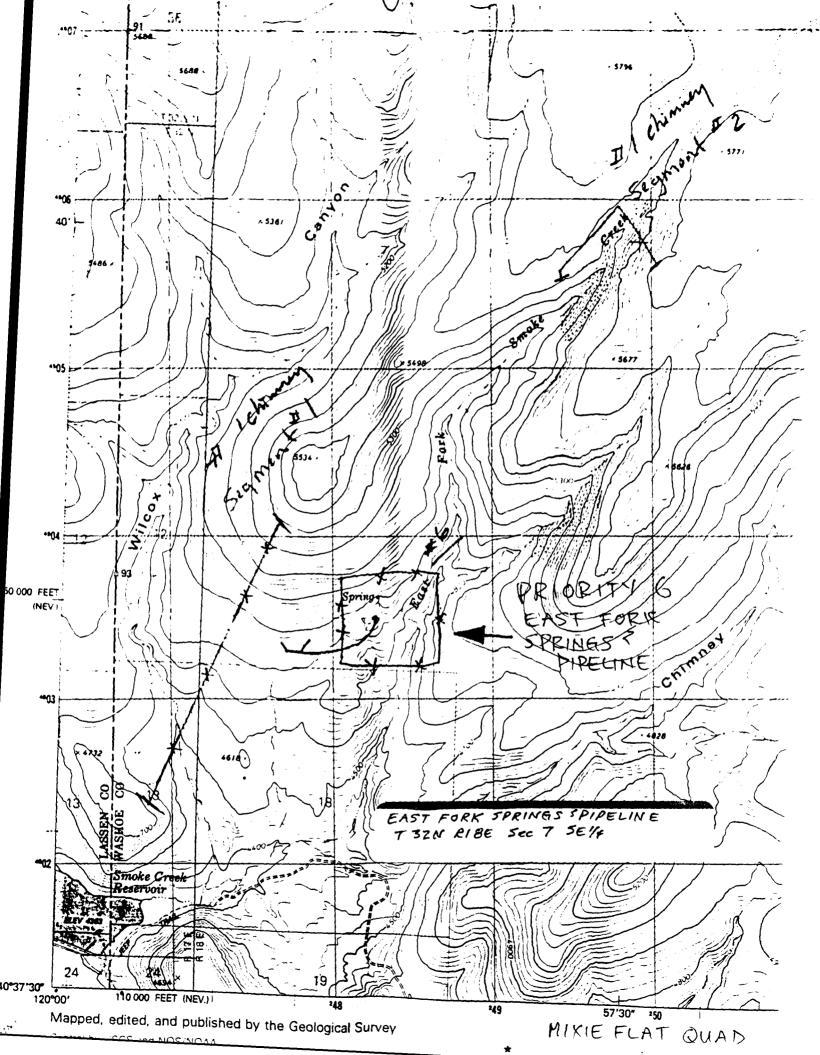


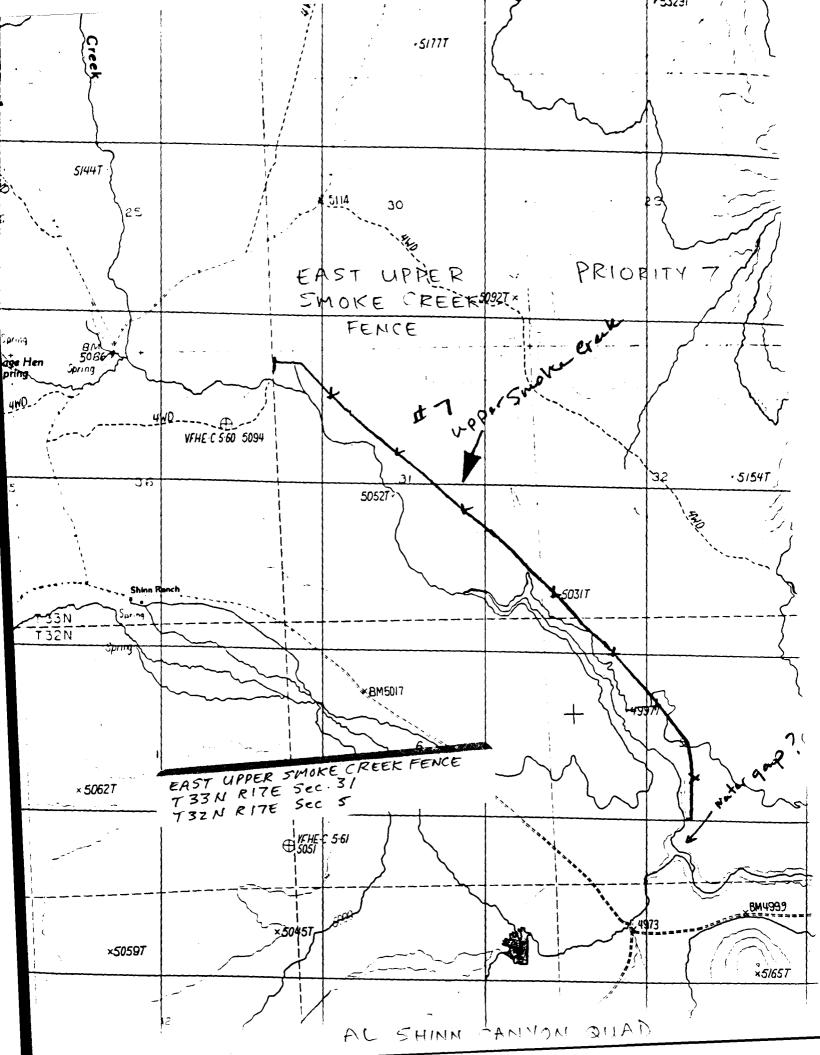


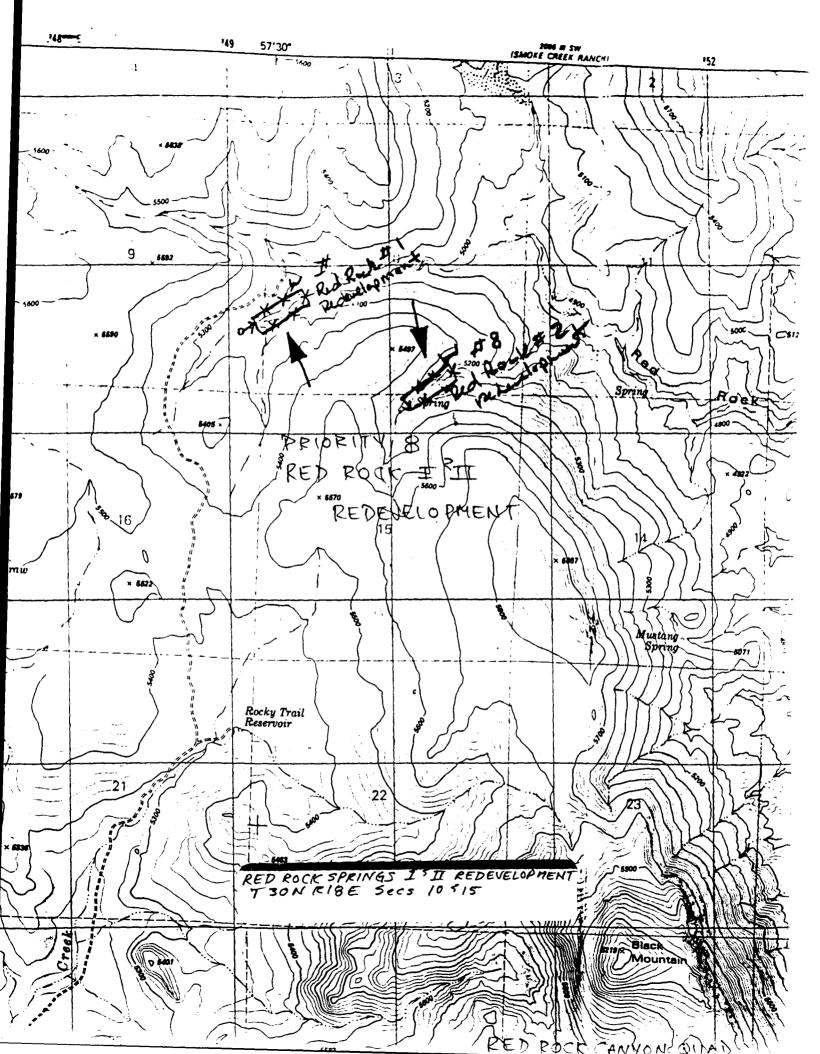


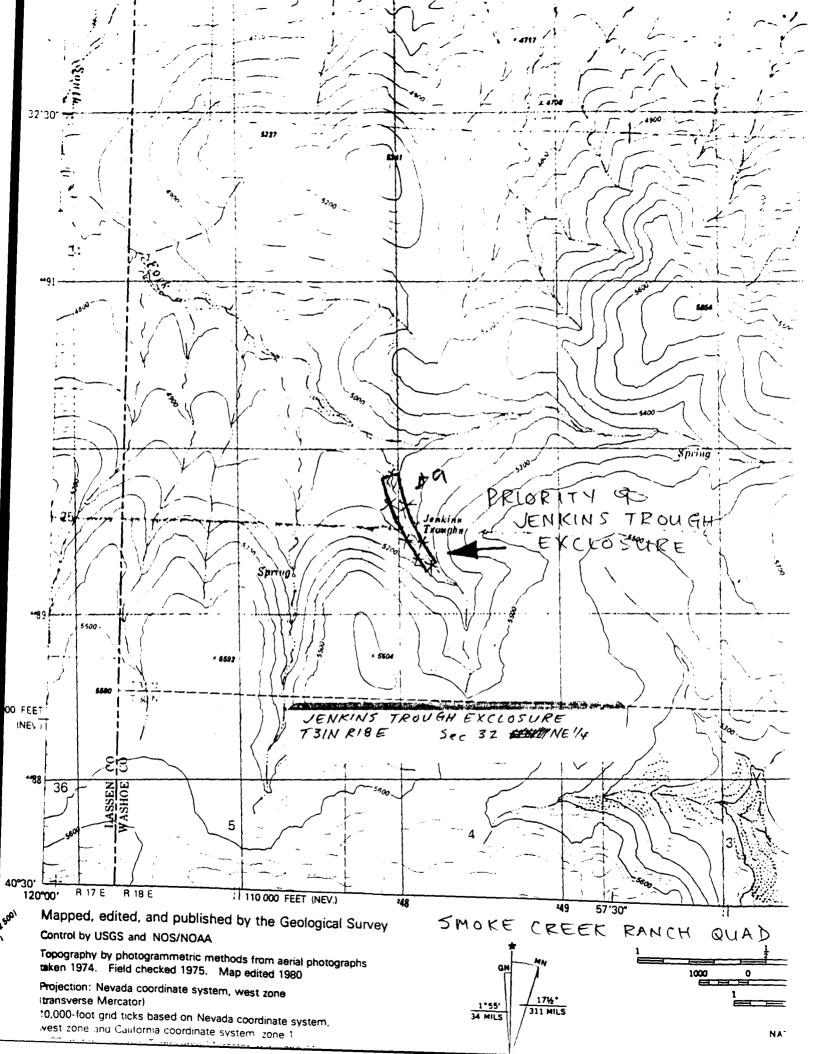


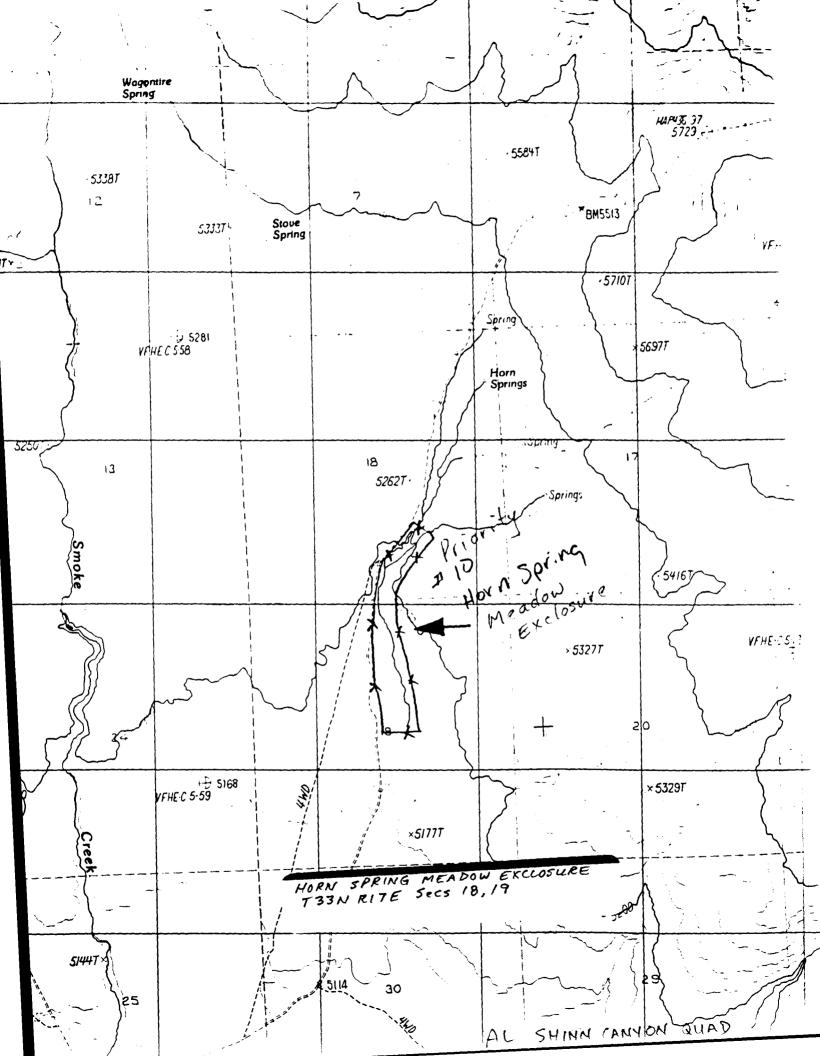


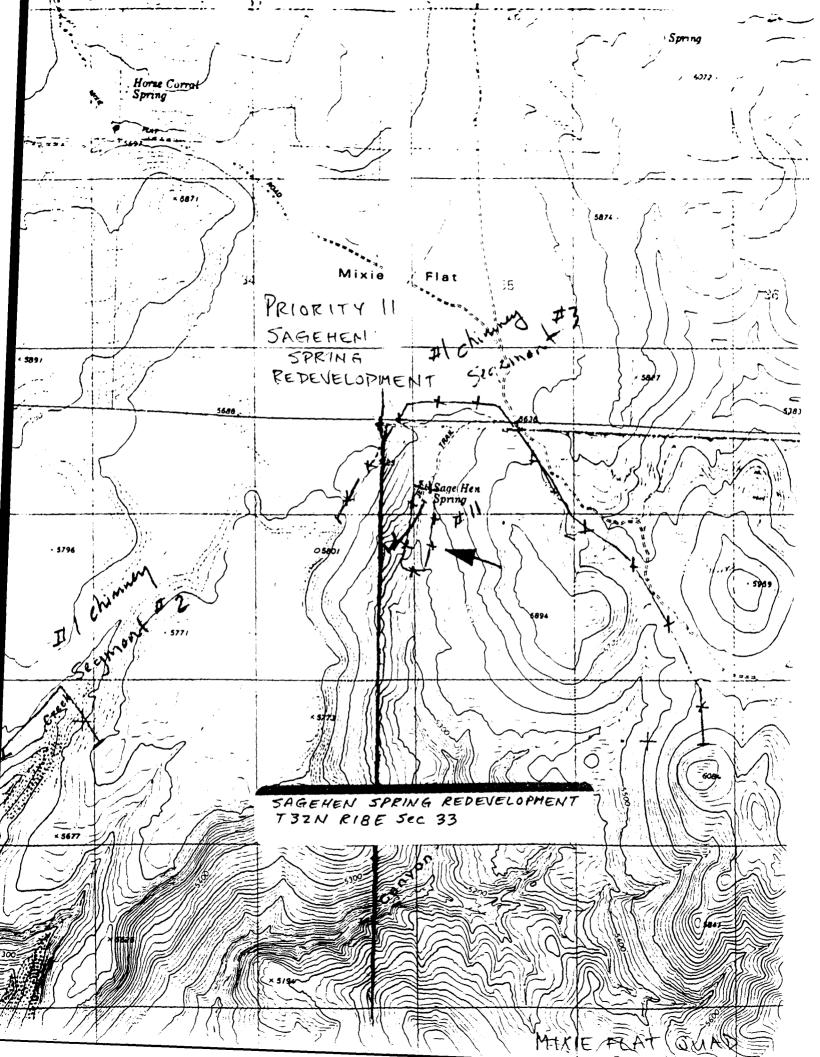


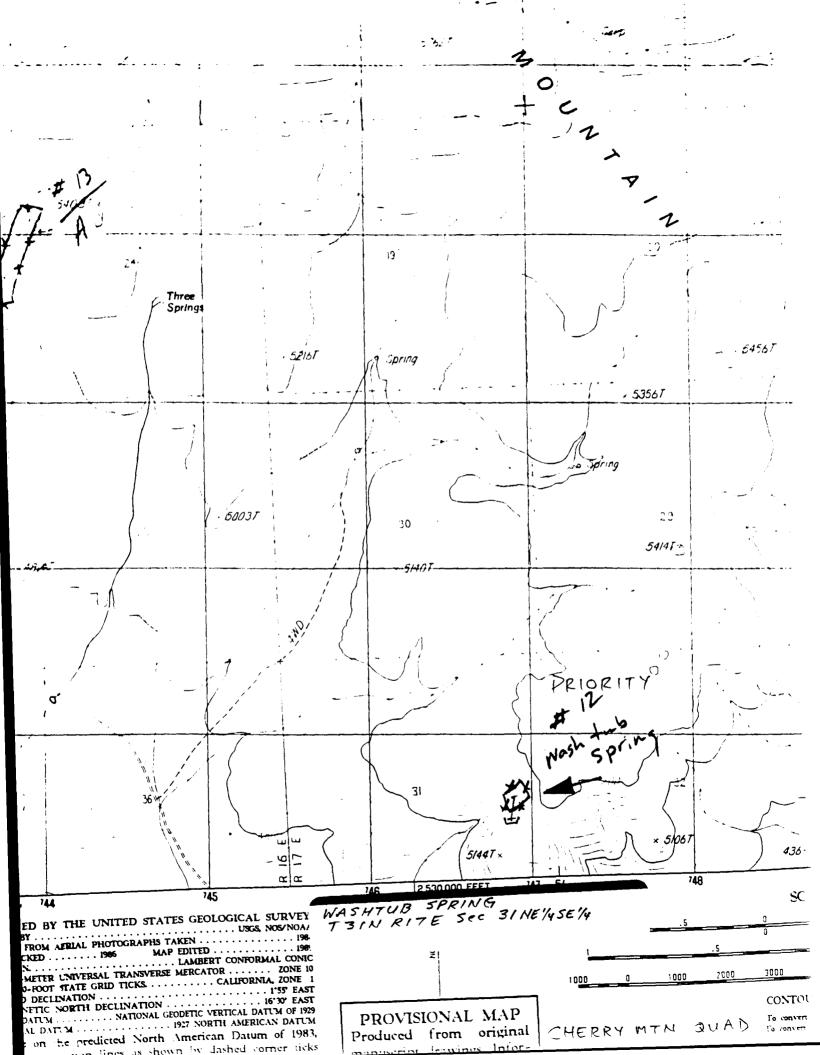


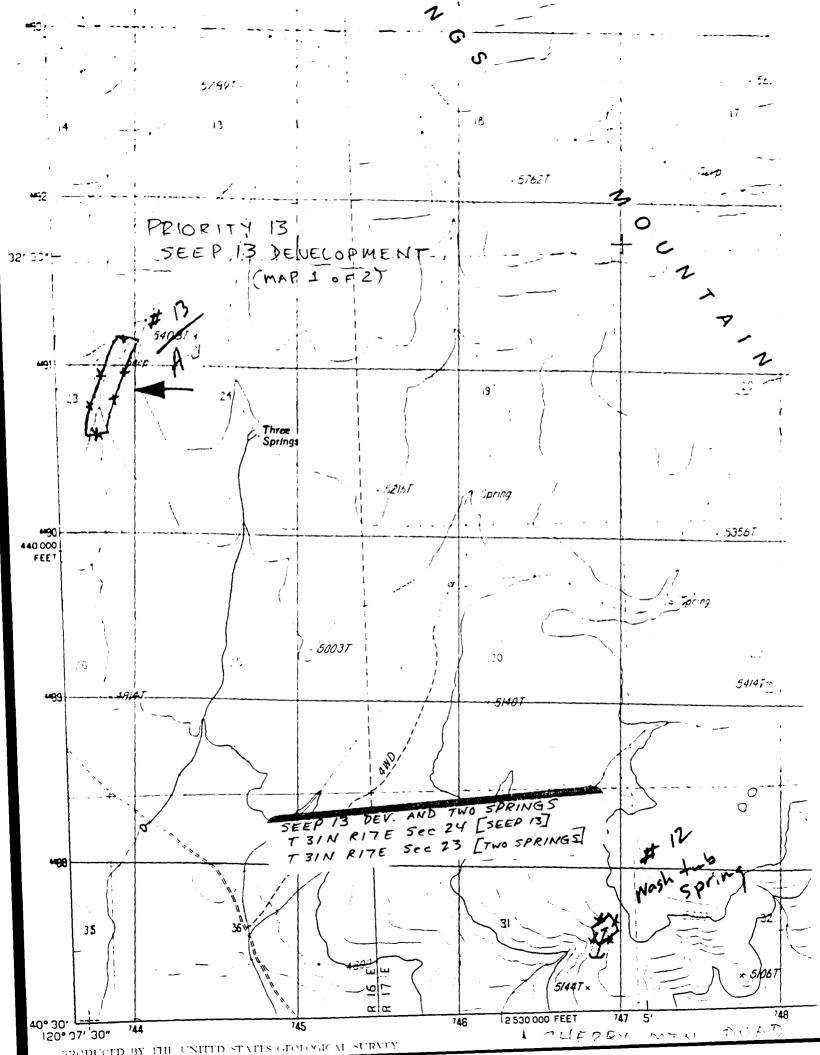


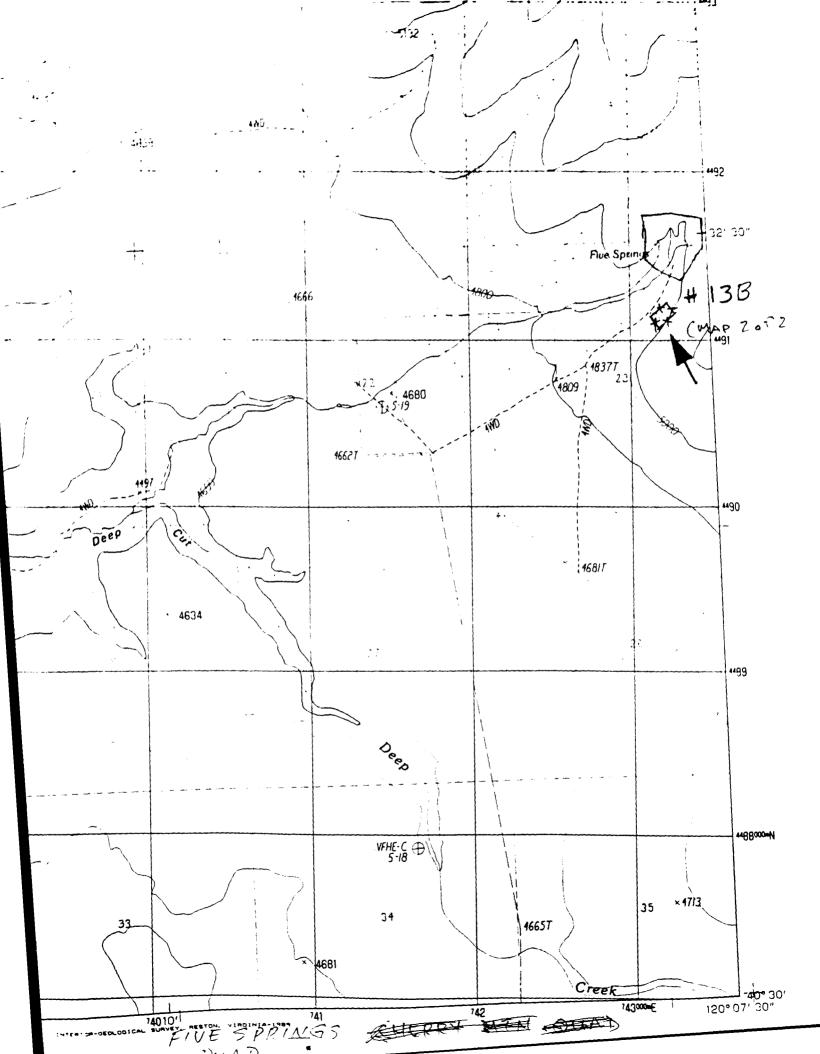












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