

**ADDENDUM TO THE NEGATIVE DECLARATION
RUSS #1 QUARRY ADOPTED SEPTEMBER 25, 1995 (SCH #95053079)**

Project Description

The current project involves a Renewal and Modification of Conditional Use/Surface Mining and Reclamation permits and review the financial assurance for an existing quarry operation known as the Russ #1 Quarry near Korbel. The current project proposes total extraction of 30,000 cubic yards over the 15-year permit term. Mining may consist of a single 25,000 cubic yard extraction, or smaller extractions, as frequently as every three to seven years, with the total extraction amount not to exceed 30,000 cubic yards over the 15-year permit term.

Project History

On September 25, 1995, the Humboldt County Planning Commission approved Conditional Use, Surface Mining and Reclamation Plan permits and adopted the Negative Declaration (ND for the extraction of up to 20,000 cubic yards in a 14-year period from the Russ #1 Quarry located near Korbel. The applicant proposes continued operations for intermittent extraction. A modification to the current permit would allow for up to 30,000 cubic yards of extraction during the 15-year permit term. There are no other changes to the originally permitted operation. The site has been intermittently mined since prior to 1995 for road construction and winter storm damage repair in the Snow Camp Road region.

The Russ #1 Quarry is located approximately 0.5 miles south from the intersection of Ward Road and Snow Camp Road, approximately 15 miles southeast of the community of Korbel. The property is approximately 629 acres; however, the quarry site is only 3.5 acres in size. Vegetation within the project limits is minimal, although adjacent lands are a mix of grasslands and timbered with second-growth forest. Other adjacent lands have been and will continue to be used for timber harvesting and livestock grazing.

Operations include extraction, processing, stockpiling and transporting. Material is mined by ripping and separating with a bulldozer and temporarily stockpiled for crushing. Crushed, sorted rock will then be stockpiled onsite and will later be utilized for road maintenance and winter storm damage repair projects. Activity in the quarry will continue to be intermittent. Project frequency of operation is expected to be several times a year for periods ranging from a few days to a few weeks; duration and intensity of activities depend on demand. Mining is subject to extensive local, state and federal regulation including the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, the California Department of Fish and Game, CALFIRE, Office of Mine Reclamation, and the United States Fish & Wildlife Service.

Addendum

This Addendum addresses potential impacts from the renewal and modification of the Conditional Use, Surface Mining and Reclamation Plan permits for the Russ #1 Quarry located near Korbel. Final reclamation includes final grading, drainage improvements, restoration of surface soils and revegetation to reclaim the land consistent with agriculture and timber harvesting. Upon completion of extraction and site grooming, a final site review will be conducted. Reclamation grading will be performed. Disturbed areas will be restored. All revegetation work will be performed under direct supervision of

a botanist or other qualified individual(s). On-site stockpiles will be removed. Stockpile staging and storage areas will be reclaimed as described in the reclamation plan. All equipment will be removed. The quarry will be monitored following final reclamation to ensure final grading, resoiling and revegetation are successful.

Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 2770 specifies that the County's review of the Reclamation Plan is limited to whether the Plan meets the applicable requirements of PRC (SMARA) Sections 2772, 2773 and 2773. Staff has reviewed the Reclamation Plan and believes that the Reclamation Plan substantially meets the applicable requirements.

Purpose – Section 15164 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) provides that the lead agency shall prepare an addendum to a previously adopted Negative Declaration (ND) if some changes or additions are necessary but none of the conditions described in Section 15162 calling for a subsequent ND have occurred. Section 15162 states that when a ND has been adopted for a project, no subsequent ND shall be prepared for that project unless the lead agency determines, on the basis of substantial evidence in the light of the whole record, one or more of the following:

1. Substantial changes are proposed in the project which require major revisions of the previous ND due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects; or
2. Substantial changes occur with respect to the circumstances under which the project is undertaken which will require major revisions of the previous ND due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects; or
3. New information of substantial importance, which was not known and could not have been known with the exercise of reasonable diligence at the time the previous ND was certified as complete, shows any of the following: A) the project will have one or more significant effects not discussed in the previous ND; B) significant effect previously examined will be substantially more severe than shown in the previous ND; C) mitigation measures or alternatives previously found not to be feasible would in fact be feasible and would substantially reduce one or more significant effects of the project, but the project proponents decline to adopt the mitigation measure or alternative; or D) mitigation measures or alternatives which are considerably different from those analyzed in the previous ND would substantially reduce one or more significant effects on the environment, but the project proponents decline to adopt the mitigation measure or alternative.

Discussion - The current project represents a renewal of Conditional Use, Surface Mining and a Reclamation Plan approved in 1995 for an existing quarry operation that has been operational prior to 1995. With the 1995 approval of the Conditional Use, Surface Mining and Reclamation Plan, the Humboldt County Planning Commission adopted the ND. The Plan of Operations, the Reclamation Plan and the ND were reviewed by numerous agencies including the Department of Conservation, California Department of Fish and Game, North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, United States Fish & Wildlife Service and other regulating agencies. Responses to their comments were incorporated into the Conditions of Approval and the Reclamation Plan, and approval of the

Conditional Use, Surface Mining and Reclamation Plan was conditioned to address their concerns.

Summary of Significant Project Effects and Mitigation Recommended

The current project results in no new significant adverse impacts and no new mitigation is recommended.

Other CEQA Considerations - There are no other CEQA considerations.

Explanation of Decision Not to Prepare a Subsequent Mitigated Negative Declaration

See **Purpose** statement above.

In every impact category analyzed in this review, the projected consequences of the current project proposal are either the same or less than significantly increased than the initial project for which the ND was adopted.

Based upon this review, the following findings are supported:

Findings

1. For the current project there are no substantial changes proposed in the project which require major revisions of the previous ND due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects.
2. For the current project, no substantial changes have occurred with respect to the circumstances under which the project is undertaken which will require major revisions of the previous ND due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects.
3. For the current project there has been no new information of substantial importance, which was not known and could not have been known with the exercise of reasonable diligence at the time the previous ND was adopted as complete. Furthermore, it is concluded that: the current project will not have one or more significant effects not discussed in the previous ND. Also, significant effects previously examined will not be substantially more severe than shown in the previous ND. There are not any mitigation measures or alternatives previously not found not to be feasible that would in fact be feasible and would substantially reduce one or more significant effects of the project. Finally, there are no mitigation measures or alternatives identified in this analysis which are considerably different from those analyzed in the previous ND and which would substantially reduce one or more significant effects on the environment.

Conclusion

Based on these findings, it is concluded that an Addendum to the adopted Negative Declaration is appropriate to address the requirements under CEQA for the current project.

NEGATIVE DECLARATION
For
Russ Rock Quarry No. 1
May, 1995

Project: Russ Rock Quarry No. 1

Applicant: Humboldt County Public Works Department
Road Division
1106 Second Street
Eureka, CA 95501

Contact Person: Donald C. Tuttle, Environmental Services Manager
(707) 445-7741

Property Owner: Terry Russ

Assessor's Parcel No.: 313-132-01

Zoning Designation: TPZ, AE

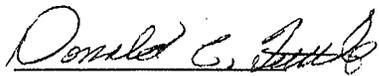
General Plan Designation: T, AG

Project Location: The Russ Rock Quarry No. 1 is located 400 feet west of Snow Camp Road, 1/2 mile south of Ward Road in the northeast quarter of the southwest quarter of Section 15, T5N, R3E.

Project Description: The County Road Division proposes to remove up to 10,000 cubic yards of material every five to seven years. A portable crusher will be set up to process the material which will be stockpiled at the site.

Purpose of Project: To provide crushed rock for maintaining County roads in the Snow Camp Road region.

Findings of Insignificant Impacts: Based upon the Initial Study prepared by the Natural Resources Division of the Public Works Department, it has been determined that the continuing use of this rock quarry will have no significant adverse effects on the environment.


Donald C. Tuttle
Environmental Services Manager

5/24/95
Date

INITIAL STUDY

RUSS ROCK QUARRY NO. 1

May, 1995

Applicant - Humboldt County Public Works
Road Division
1106 Second Street
Eureka, CA 95501

Land Owner - Terry Russ
PO Box 115
Ferndale, CA 95536

Project Description - The project involves re-opening a previously used rock quarry to extract, crush and stockpile up to 10,000 cu. yd. of rock every five to seven years. The estimated total volume of rock to be removed over the next 10 to 14 years is up to 20,000 cu. yd. The project will include grading an area measuring approximately 200' X 300' to be used as a crusher site and stockpile area (Figure 1). A portable crusher will be used to process the rock. It will be on-site for approximately two weeks every five to seven years.

Project Purpose - The purpose of the project is to provide crushed rock for maintenance of County roads in the Snow Camp Road region.

Project Location - The Russ Rock Quarry is located ten miles south of Highway 299 on Snow Camp Road, 1/2 mile south of Ward Road. The site lies 400 feet west of the road and is accessed via a private, gated road.

The project site is located in the northeast quarter of the southwest quarter of Section 15, T5N, R3E, H.B. & M. and may be located on the 7 1/2 minute Maple Creek and 15 minute Blue Lake USGS Quadrangle Sheets (see maps in Figures 2-5).

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Geomorphology - The site was originally a knoll about 400 feet west of the top of the ridge at an elevation of approximately 3,174 feet above mean sea level. East of the ridgeline is an open area known as Murphy Meadow. The site is within the Maple Creek watershed.

The site lies above steep slopes in an area of rolling terrain with good drainage and a mix of open prairie and oak, madrone and fir forest. The quarry has been developed from a naturally occurring rock outcropping.

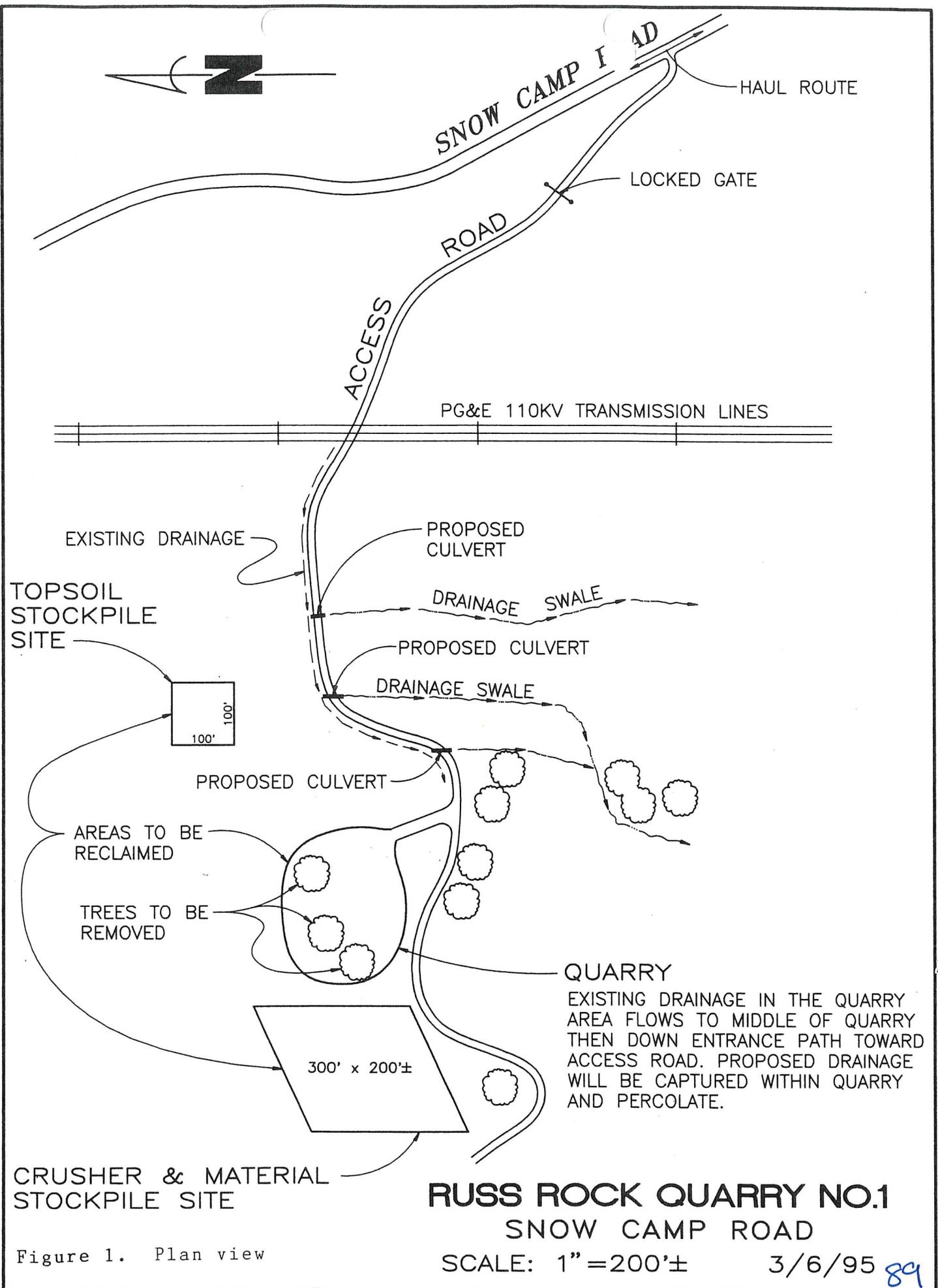


Figure 1. Plan view

RUSS ROCK QUARRY NO.1

SNOW CAMP ROAD

SCALE: 1"=200'±

3/6/95 89

Revised²

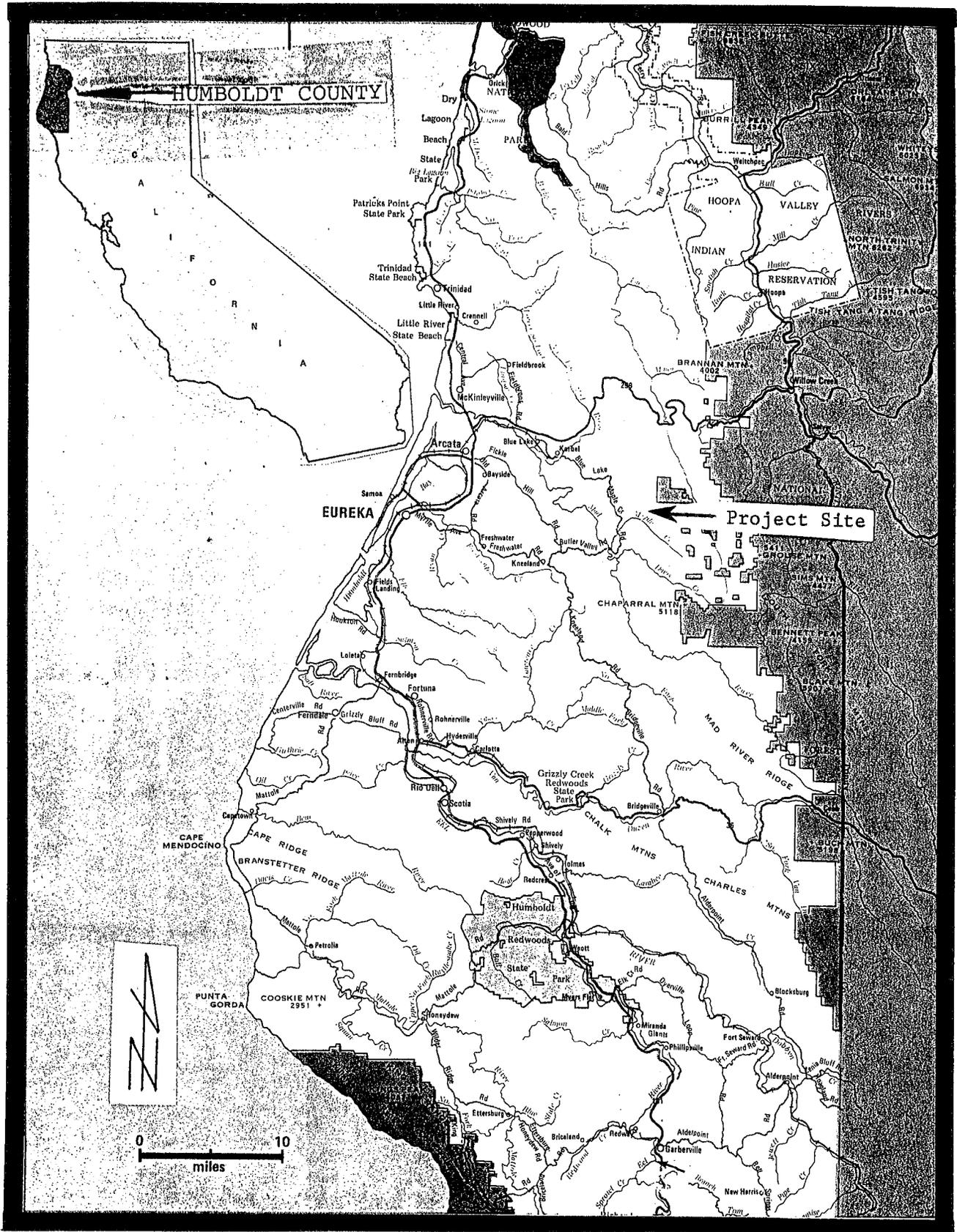


Figure 2. Regional Map

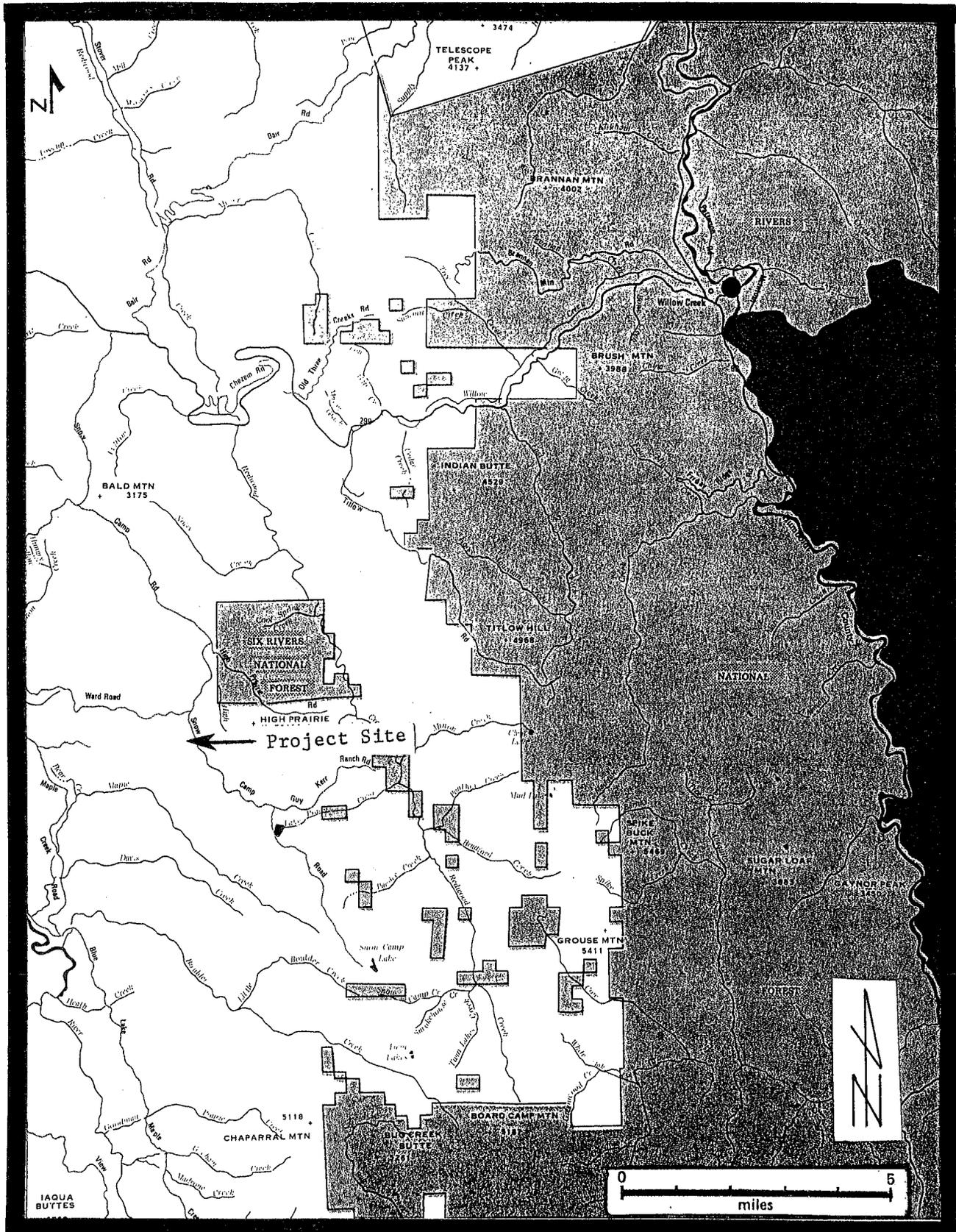


Figure 3. Area map showing project site

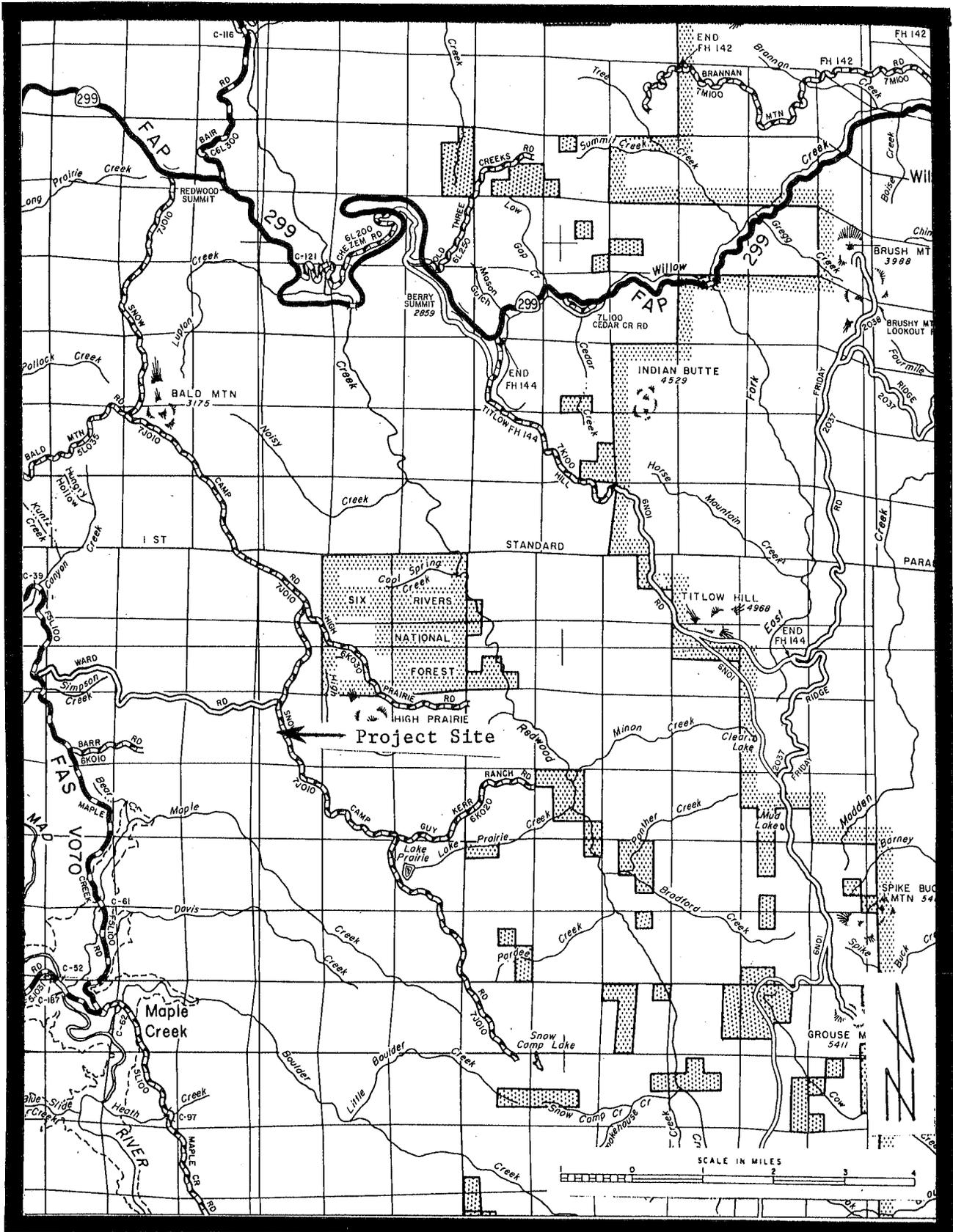


Figure 4. Portion of County road map showing project site.
 Scale 1" = 2 miles

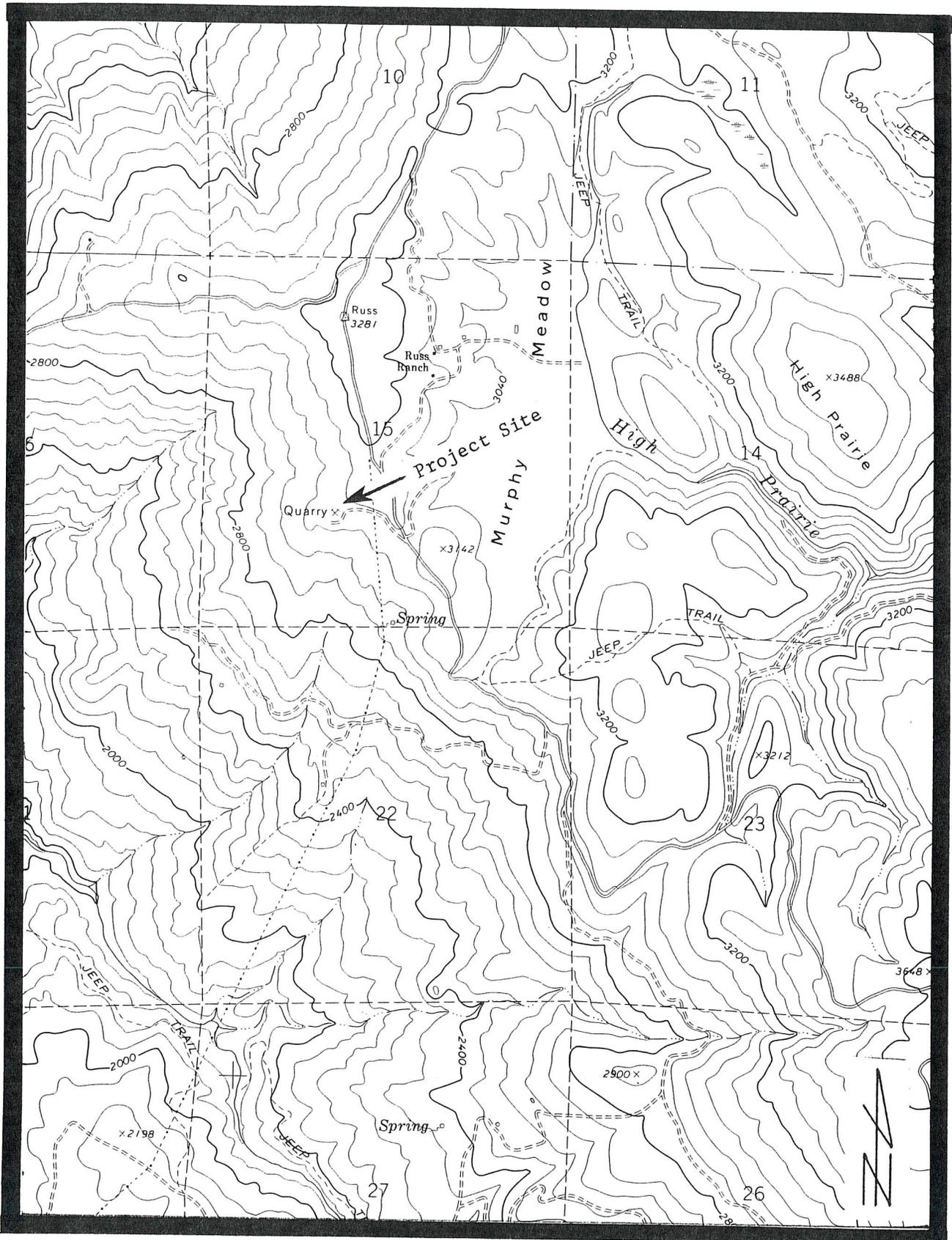


Figure 5. Portion of 7½ minute USGS Maple Creek quadrangle map. Scale 1" = 2,000'

Geology - The site lies within a region of franciscan sandstone made up chiefly of massive graywacke with minor amounts of shale, thin-bedded chert, greenstone and glaucophane schist. This data was obtained from the Geologic Map of California, Redding Sheet, Division of Mines and Geology, Second Printing, 1969.

Plate 1 of the 1979 Humboldt County Seismic Safety map shows that a section of a potentially active seismic fault, known as the Bald Mountain Fault, runs in a northeast/southwest line approximately 1/4 mile south of the site.

Soil - The Pacific Southwest Forest and Range Experiment Station, in cooperation with the University of California at Berkeley and the California Division of Forestry, produced a soil-vegetation map 26B-4 in January, 1960. This map designates the soil at the project site as being in the Kneeland soil series.

Soils in the Kneeland series are characterized by having a depth of three to four feet, less than 30% slope, moderate permeability with good drainage and moderate erosion hazard. The soil is clay loam, strongly acidic with parent material of sandstone. It is rated as being unsuited for timber production with a high suitability for extensive range use.

Drainage - Figure 1 shows the drainage features of the site. Surface run-off drains towards the center of the previously excavated area and then runs east and west along the access road into grass covered swales. Ultimately, all drainage is to the west.

Vegetation - As shown in Figure 6, the site lies within a prairie which supports small clumps of oak trees. The prairie is bordered on the north and south by oak, madrone and fir forests. The knoll which comprises the immediate quarry site is bordered on its northwest side by 17 oaks and one large, big leaf maple tree.

The prairie vegetation is made up of various grass species.

The California Department of Fish and Game Natural Diversity Data Base listed no rare or endangered plant species at the project site as of January, 1995.

Wildlife - The following species were observed during field trips to the project site on May 10 and June 6, 1994 and February 23, 1995: meadowlarks, western tanager, barn swallows, turkey vultures, ravens, rough-legged hawk and red-tailed hawks.

Species which would be expected to occur in this area include mountain lion, black bear, mule deer, grey fox and various species of rodents, raptors and passerine birds, reptiles, amphibians and invertebrates.

The California Department of Fish and Game Natural Diversity Data Base listed no rare or endangered animal species at the project site as of January 1995.

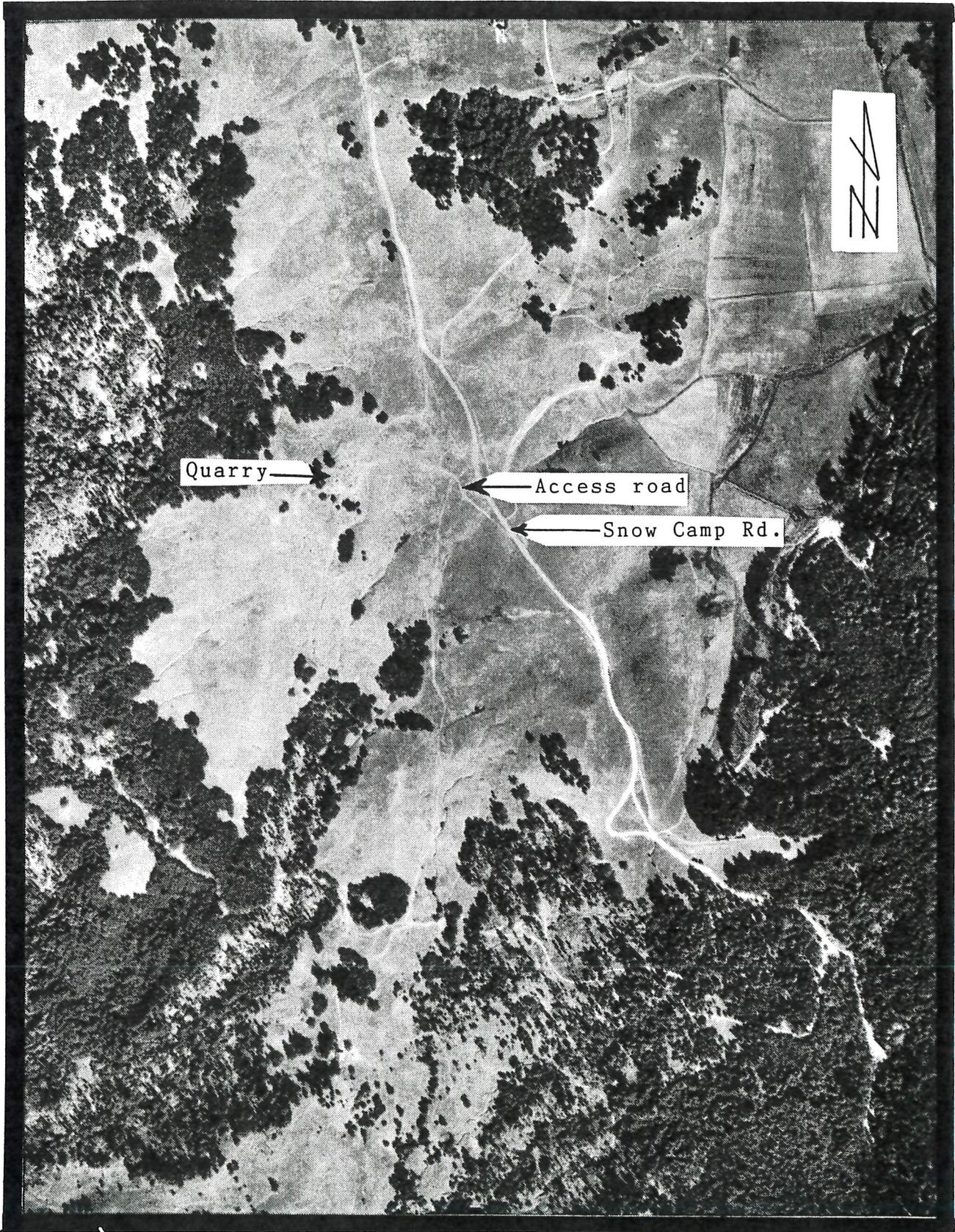


Figure 6. Forest and prairie surrounding Russ Rock Quarry

Noise Levels - Ambient noise levels range from about 30 dBA to 40 dBA and result from wind, bird calls, cattle calls, and occasional automobiles.

Archaeological and Historical Resources - The archaeological site maps contained in the Environmental Data Bank of the Public Works Natural Resources Division contain no known or recorded archaeological resources at the project site.

The portion of Snow Camp Road east of the project site is shown on the 1865 Doolittle Map of Humboldt County as a trail connecting two major east-west trails which ran between Humboldt Bay and the Trinity County mines and northern Sacramento Valley, respectively. Prior to that time, the connector trail, which ran along the ridge top, was probably a Native American trail.

Visual Aesthetics - The project site is visible from a 1/4 mile section of Snow Camp Road. It is also visible from Kneeland Road approximately 12 miles to the southwest.

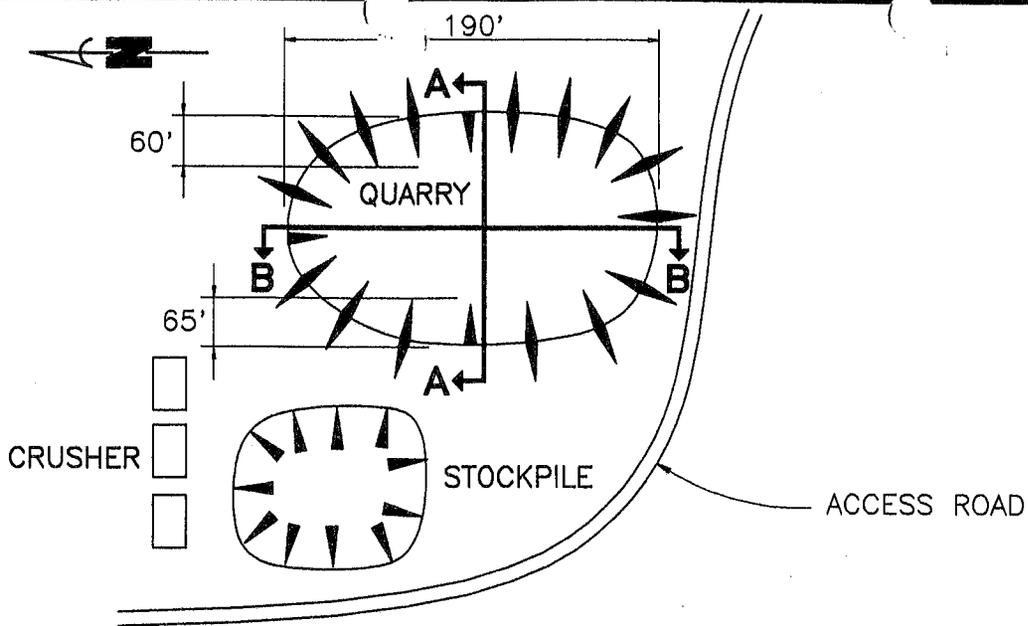
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT

Geomorphology - The continuing operation of this quarry will result in the complete removal of the exposed rock knoll. The calculated volume of material to be removed is approximately 20,000 cubic yards. This will occur over a span of approximately 15 years, ending on or about the year 2010. Upon completion of mining, the site will be graded and shaped to conform with the adjacent prairie slopes (see Figure 7).

Geology - Operation of this quarry will not result in the creation of any geological hazards or impacts.

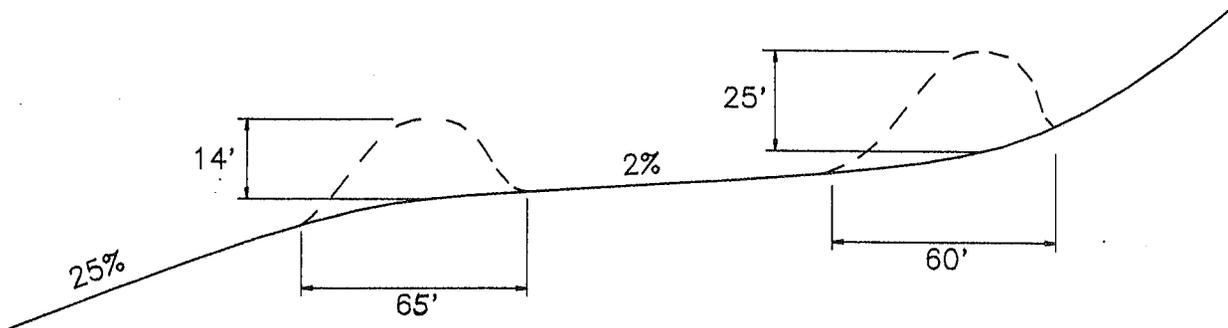
Drainage - The project should not result in any significant changes in drainage patterns, nor cause any erosion since it lies within 100 yards of the top of the slope and drains a relatively small area. There are springs within the slope east of the quarry which drain down along the ditch on the north side of the access road and then flow across the road. This drainage will be altered by placing three 12 inch culverts across the access road which will divert the flow into existing vegetated swales draining the prairie south of the access road as shown in Figure 1. Controlling the flow from these springs will prevent the water from entering the quarry. Drainage from the surrounding prairies, consisting of approximately 650 acres, will not be affected by the project.

It is expected that no Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan will be required for this project since water will be contained within the quarry. This will be accomplished by sloping the sides of the excavated area so that all storm water will run into the quarry where it will percolate down through the porous substrate. No run-off will be discharged through a conveyance into waters of the State. When the usable rock is exhausted, the quarry site will be graded to conform to the surrounding



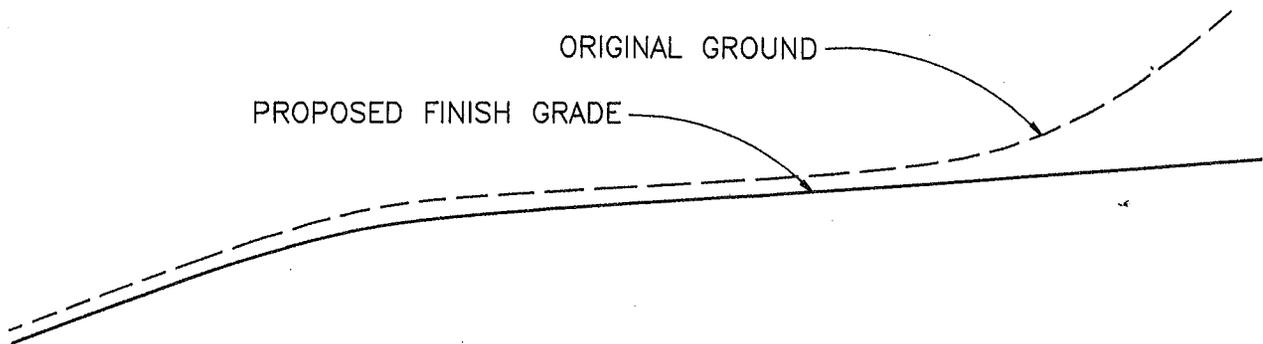
PLAN VIEW

NOT TO SCALE



SECTION A-A

NOT TO SCALE



SECTION B-B

NOT TO SCALE

RUSS ROCK QUARRY NO.1
SNOW CAMP ROAD

3/6/95

Figure 7. Plan & section views

prairie slope, resoiled and revegetated. It will be monitored by the County Road Division which will take appropriate action if erosion occurs.

Drainage from the 1.4 acres, which will be graded to provide a flat area for the portable crusher and the crushed rock stockpile, will be controlled by a rock berm which will be constructed, monitored and maintained by the County Road Division. A similar berm will be constructed down slope from the top soil stockpile to control erosion of that material.

Vegetation - The 17 oak trees and 1 big leaf maple tree growing along the northwest, north and northeast edges of the existing knoll will be removed during implementation of this project. Considering the number of trees growing in the forests adjacent to the project site, the effect of this loss of vegetation is not considered to be significant.

Wildlife - The project will result in the loss of a small amount of habitat represented by the trees that will be removed and the 1.4 acre grassy area which will be utilized as a crusher site and stockpile area. This loss of trees in an area surrounded by hundreds of acres of similar trees is not considered to be significant. Likewise, the loss of approximately 1.4 acres of prairie habitat, which will be the effect of creating a site for the crusher and stockpile, represents a loss of about two thousandths of a percent (0.002%) of this habitat type and is not considered to be significant. In addition, following completion of the project, the approximately 1.4 acres of prairie and the approximately 1.3 acres that will be mined will be restored as prairie.

The most significant impact on wildlife from this project will be the noise generated when the crusher is operating. This equipment generates 90 dBA at a distance of 50 feet which could impact nesting birds during the spring breeding season and various mammals living in dens within a few hundred feet of the crusher. Since birds sing to establish territories and attract mates, any loud, persistent noise could disrupt this activity. Impacts may also occur relative to nocturnal species which rest during the day.

The predicted noise levels produced by the equipment are recognized as being relatively high compared to the ambient noise levels in this area. To remedy this as much as possible, the crusher will be operated in the fall after the birds have completed their nesting activities. Large mammals, such as mountain lion, deer and bear will temporarily move out of the immediate area to a point where the noise no longer disturbs them. In evaluating the impact of the crusher noise levels, it is important to consider that the equipment will be operated here once every five to seven years and then only for a period of 10 to 15 working days. Considering these aspects of crusher operation and that many animals can temporarily move from the immediate area, it was determined that the impacts of the increased noise levels would not be significant.

From time to time, a front-end loader will load dump trucks with material removed from the stockpile. Impacts to wildlife from this activity are considered to be insignificant.

Noise Levels - Equipment noise has been measured at 90 dBA at a distance of 50 feet. The effect on wildlife is discussed above.

The nearest residence is located northeast of the project over the ridge and down slope at a distance of approximately 3,500 feet. The noise level will decrease by 6 dBA for each doubling of the distance from the source and will be further reduced as the sound pressure wave refracts and disperses after passing over the ridgeline. The predicted noise level outside the residence will be approximately 40 dBA. This will not constitute a significant impact since normal conversation level is about 62 dBA.

Visual Aesthetics - The project site is visible from a section of Snow Camp Road measuring approximately 1/4 mile. When not being mined, the site will appear as a small disturbed area within the surrounding prairie. This condition will exist until the site is no longer mined and reclamation has been completed. There is no practical way to mitigate for this visual intrusion. Since the site will only be visible to the public from a short distance while traveling on Snow Camp Road, the impact is considered to be less than significant. It will also be visible from Kneeland Road at a distance of approximately twelve miles. This is also considered to be an insignificant impact.