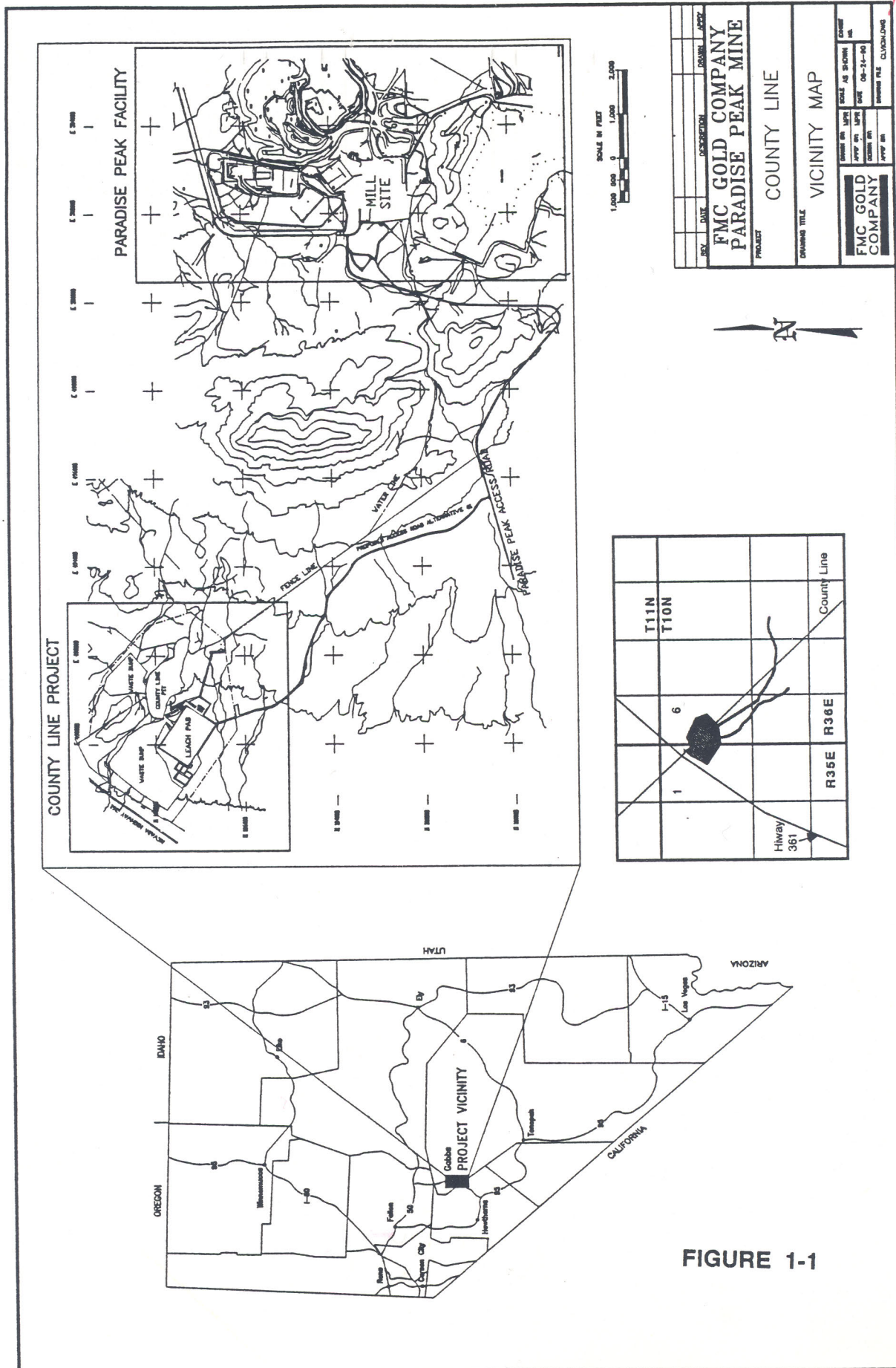


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ITEM



1.3 Area Geology

The County Line project area is located within the Basin and Range physiographic province. This province is characterized by isolated erosional remnants of fault block mountain ranges which are separated by aggraded desert plains. The project vicinity is bounded on the east by the northeast-trending Paradise Range and on the south and west by the northwest-trending Gabbs Valley Range. This latter range consists primarily of Tertiary volcanic flows and tuffs with isolated blocks of contorted and metamorphosed sediment and volcanic rocks of Permian or Triassic age. The Paradise Range consists of Permian-Jurassic age contorted and locally metamorphosed sediments, intruded by Mesozoic and Tertiary igneous rocks and flanked with Tertiary volcanic flows and tuffs.

Valley fill sediments include Quaternary and Tertiary age gravel, sand, and silt deposited by streams, slope wash, wind, and lakes. Thickness of these deposits varies from a thin veneer on pediment slopes to probably over 1,000 feet towards the center of Gabbs Valley.

1.4 Description of Proposed Action

1.4.1 Mining Operation

The County Line deposit is a small, shallow ore body occurring in altered, silicified volcanic tuffs containing approximately 30,000 to 40,000 recoverable ounces of gold. The ore body would be mined as an open pit, approximately 2,000 feet by 500 feet by 270 feet deep. The pit will be approximately 20.6 acres in size with 9.5 acres in Mineral County and 11.1 acres in Nye County. Bench intervals would be approximately 15 feet. Pit location as well as other mine area facilities are shown on Figure 1-2. Because of the small size and shallow nature of the deposit, relatively little prestripping of overlying waste would be required. Prestripping of overburden, scalping and stockpiling of topsoil, construction of roads, heap leach pad, and processing facilities would begin in early 1991. Mining would commence in the second quarter of 1991 and be completed by the third quarter of 1992 during which time approximately 5.4 million tons of material (2.0 million tons of ore and 3.4 million tons of waste) would be mined. Approximately 120 acres would be disturbed by mine related facilities. Disturbance by component would be as follows.

Western Waste Dump	37.5 acres
Eastern Waste Dump	13.6 acres
Leach Pad and Solution Ponds	33.1 acres
Access Road	6.4 acres
Pit	20.6 acres
Water Line	3.8 acres
Plant and Ancillaries (Including topsoil)	<u>5.0 acres</u>
Total Disturbance	120.0 acres
Area Enclosed by Perimeter Fence	280.0 acres