

(3720) 6000 0068

**To:** Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology  

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**Fax:** 784-1709  

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**From:** David Loomis  

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**Date:** August 8, 1996  

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**Pages:** 9, including cover sheet.  

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Julie Butler, State Clearinghouse, asked me to send you the attached report regarding Washoe County's bomb disposal site.

# fax

From the desk of...

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Environmental Planner  
U.S. Bureau of Land Management  
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Form 3060-1  
(July 1984)  
(formerly 3980-1)

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Serial Number  
N-59733

MINERAL REPORT

Washoe County Bomb Disposal Site

R. & P. P.

Mullen Pass

Mineral Potential Report

(Title)

LANDS INVOLVED

Mount Diablo Meridian

T. 23 N., R. 21 E.,

Sec. 8: SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ ,  
Sec. 17: W $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$

120 acres

Prepared by:

Ronald K. Moore

(Signature)

GEOLOGIST, L. R. A.

(Title)

3/27/96

(Date)

Technical Approval:

Daniel Z. Jorgensen

(Signature)

District Geologist

(Title)

3/27/96

(Date)

Management Acknowledges:

John S. Suter

(Signature)

District Manager

(Title)

3-27-96

(Date)

## SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The subject lands have low to medium development potential for locatable minerals. No mining claims, mineral permits or rights-of-way, or leases encumber the subject land. The subject lands are not prospectively valuable for leasable minerals and have no known value for salable minerals. It is recommended, in regard to mineral resources, that the lands be classified for disposal pursuant to the Recreation and Public Purposes Act, as amended.

## INTRODUCTION

Washoe County has applied under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act, as amended, for the lease and eventual disposal of 120 acres of public land in the Mullen Pass area for use as a bomb disposal and training facility.

All leases, patents, and sales issued under the R&PP Act shall reserve to the United States all minerals together with the right to remove the same under applicable law and regulations to be established by the Secretary of the Interior. Until such regulations are promulgated, the lands are segregated from entry under the mineral land laws, including the mining law. Leasing under some of the mineral leasing laws<sup>1</sup> and disposal under the Material Sale Act<sup>2</sup> are allowed, though occupancy and surface disturbance could be constrained.

This report will present an opinion on the mineral potential of the subject lands, identify the existence of mining claims, and summarize other relevant mineral issues. The finding of this report should be used only in the process to classify the subject lands for lease and disposal under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act. Field work preceding the report was completed in March 1996.

## LANDS INVOLVED

Mount Diablo Meridian, Nev.

T. 23 N., R. 21 E.,

sec. 8: SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ ,

sec. 17: W $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$

(containing 120 acres)

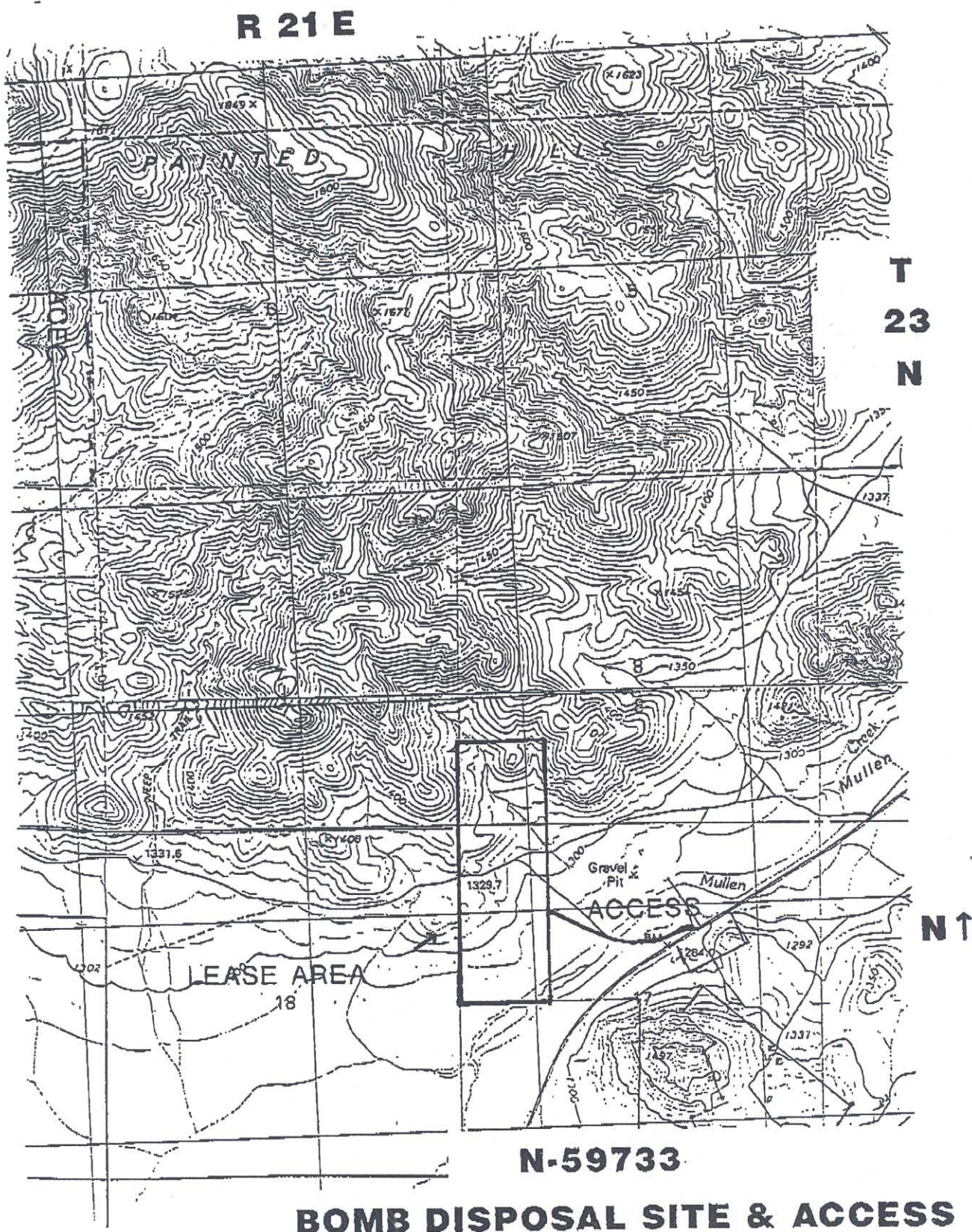
The subject lands are located in Washoe County, Nevada approximately 23 miles north of Reno (Figure 1). The parcel lies

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<sup>1</sup> Oil and Gas 43 CFR 3101.6, 1986. Geothermal Resources, 3201.1-2. Solid Leasables, 43 CFR 3500.9-3, 1986.

<sup>2</sup> Mineral Materials, 43 CFR 3600.0-3(a)(1) and W.O. I.M. 84-487, Change 1.



**Figure 1**

FRASER FLAT/TULE PEAK NV 7.5' QUADS (1980)



at the southern end of the Virginia Mountains near Mullen Pass and slopes gently to the south at an average elevation of 1330 meters. Topographic and cultural features were identified on the 7½ min. Fraser Flat and Tule Peak, Nevada USGS Quadrangle of 1980. Access from Reno to the subject lands would be via the Pyramid Lake Highway (SR 445) approximately 23 miles to the Nevada Material Site Right of Way Nev-064142.

#### STATUS RECORD DATA

The subject lands, both surface and mineral estate, are owned by the United States and are currently open to appropriation under the general mining law, mineral leasing laws, and the Material Sales Act of 1947, as amended. According to BLM records, mining claims, mineral leases, or mineral material permits or rights of way do not encumber the subject lands.

#### REGIONAL GEOLOGY

The regional geology of the area is best described by Harold F. Bonham (Bonham, 1969, p.1).

"The southern two-thirds of the two-county area has topography more or less typical of the basin and range physiographic province: elongate mountain ranges separated by alluviated basins."

"Igneous, metamorphic, and sedimentary rocks, ranging in age from Permian (?) to Recent, crop out in the two county area. The pre-Tertiary rocks, mostly of Mesozoic age, consist of metasedimentary and metavolcanic rocks intruded by granitic plutons."

"Rocks of Tertiary and Quaternary age are widespread in Washoe and Storey Counties . . ."

"The Tertiary rocks are predominantly of volcanic origin, consisting of complex, intertonguing piles and sheets of low, Pyroclastic, and intrusive rocks. Intercalated with volcanic piles are lenses of sedimentary rocks."

"Rocks of Quaternary age consist predominantly of alluvial and lacustrine sediments. Volcanic rocks of Pleistocene age occur in southern Washoe County and in Storey County."

"The structural geology of the area is complex and still little understood . . . The data presently available indicates that there have been two main deformational episodes, one of late Mesozoic age, and the other of Cenozoic age."

"The Mesozoic deformation began in the Jurassic with the folding, faulting, and low-grade regional metamorphism of the Triassic and Jurassic volcanic and sedimentary rocks. Numerous principally in the Cretaceous, during the waning stages of the

orogenic episode."

#### LOCAL GEOLOGY AND MINERAL DEPOSITS

The subject lands are located within the Pyramid mining district. Most of the mines and prospects in the district are southeast of the Pyramid Highway on the northwest slope of the Pah Rah Range. Only small scale mining activity has taken place in the district with total production from 1881 to 1966 at \$95,478, mainly in gold and silver (Bonham, 1969, p. 81).

Uranium mineralization was discovered in the Pyramid District in 1954. Small scale production of uranium ore began in 1956 and continued on intermittent basis until 1969. Total uranium production, however, has not been large (Bonham, 1969, p. 81).

The oldest rocks exposed on the subject lands are ash-flow tuffs of the Tertiary Hartford Hill Rhyolite (Figure 2). During the late Miocene age, the Hartford Hill Rhyolite was intruded by dacite plugs of the Kate Peak Formation. Quaternary lake deposits and alluvium is also found on the southern portion of the subject.

The Nevada Department of Transportation maintains a Material Site R/W adjacent to the east boundary of the R&PP application. Evidence suggests that the Quaternary gravels have been removed by the State of Nevada from time to time. There is no observable evidence to suggest that this material is present on the subject land.

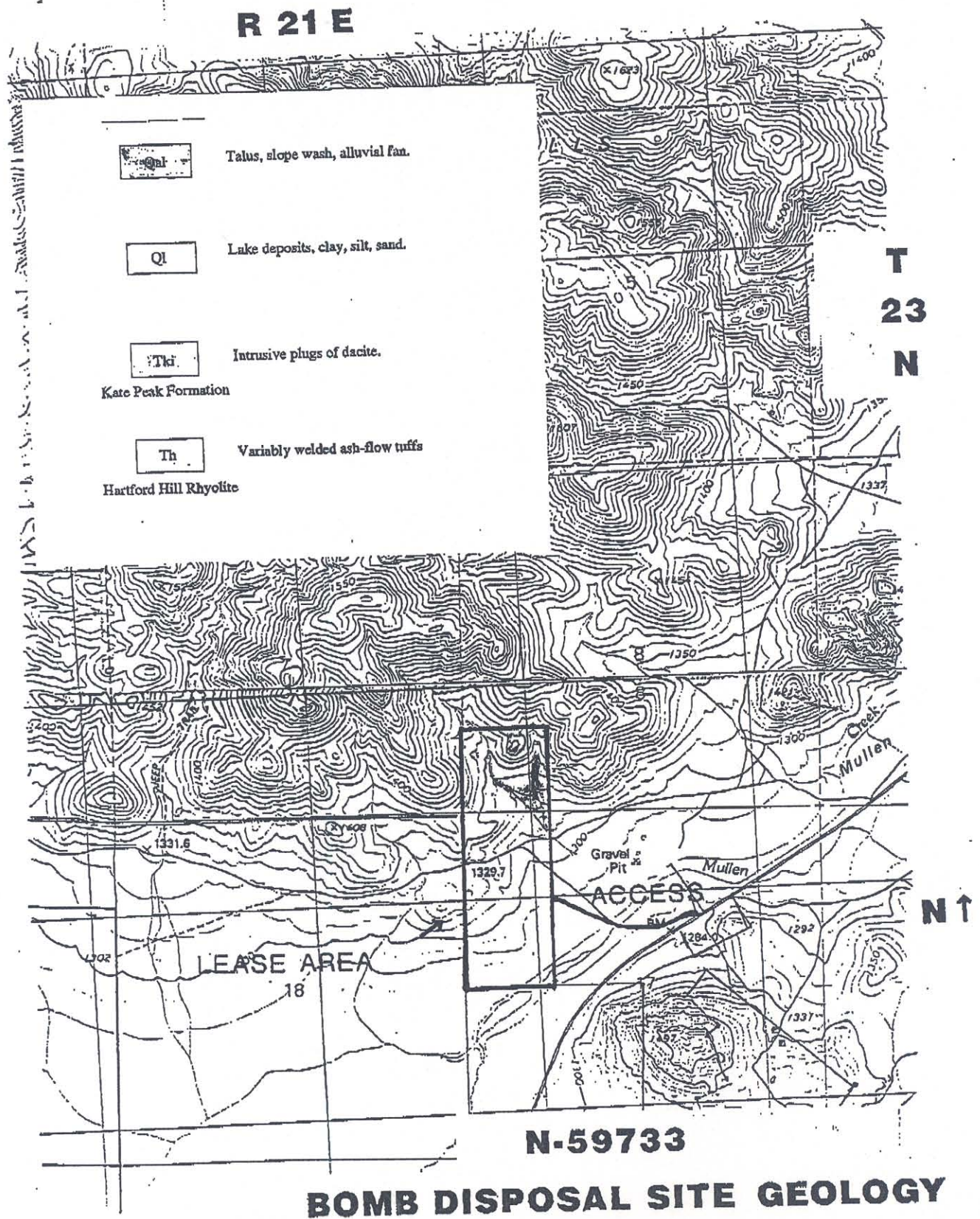
The Carson City Mineral Resource Inventory characterizes the area as having a low to moderate potential for the discovery of a copper/silver/gold resource and a moderate potential for the discovery of a uranium resource. Both resource potentials were given a confidence level of "B" (Tingley, 1990 Appendix F).

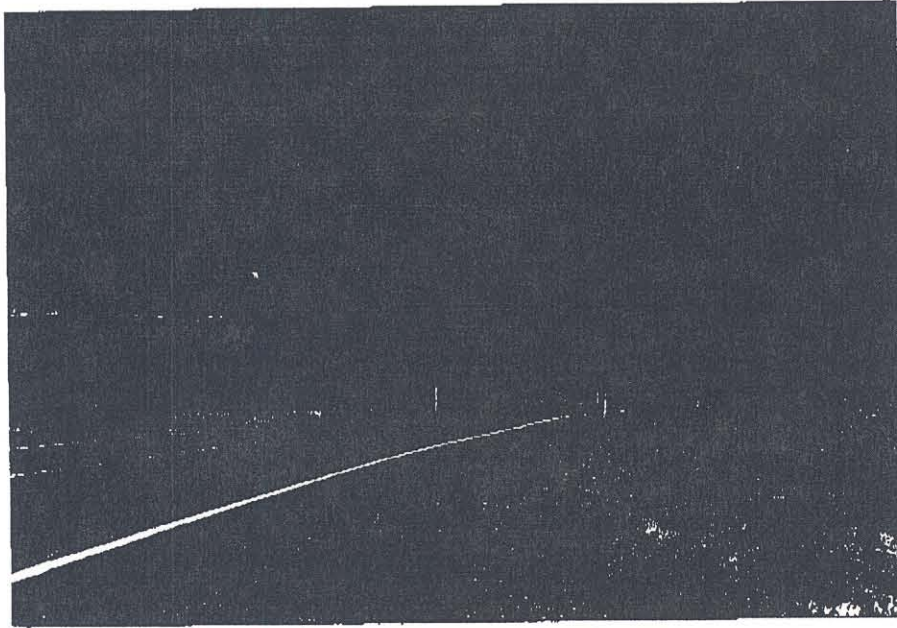
#### REFERENCES AND SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Bonham, H. F., Jr., 1969, Geology and Mineral Deposits of Washoe and Storey Counties, Nevada: Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology Bulletin 70.

Tingley, J. V., 1990, Mineral Resource Inventory, Bureau of Land Management, Carson City District Office



**Figure 2**



View depicting the geology of the subject R&PP application  
looking north from the Pyramid Highway.



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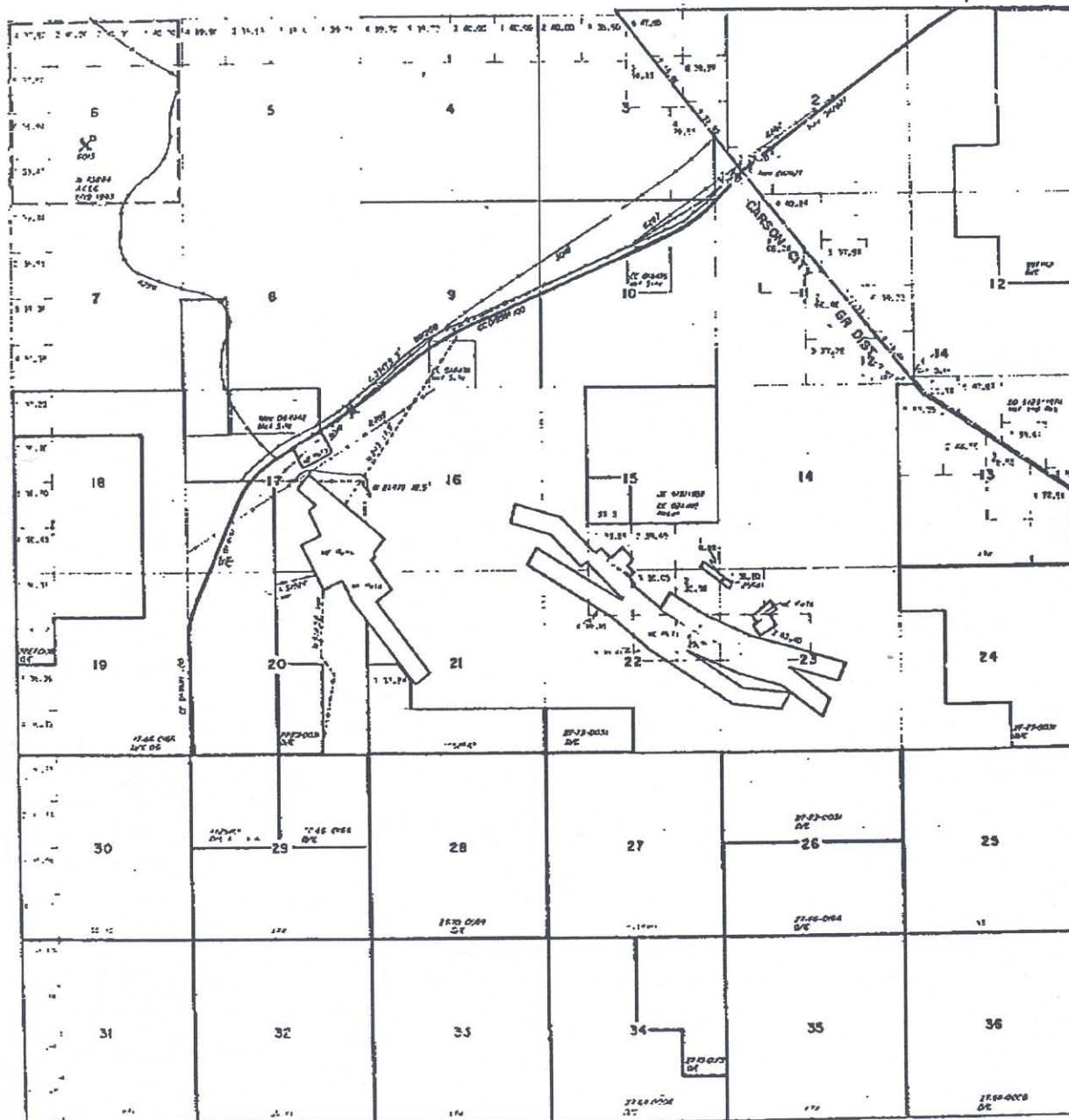
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FOR ORDERS REGARDING DISPOSAL OF USE OF  
UNIDENTIFIED LAND, ATTENTION FOR CLASSIFICATION,  
MINERAL WATER AND/OR OTHER PUBLIC PLACES  
GIVEN TO WORK OF MISCELLANEOUS DOCUMENTS.

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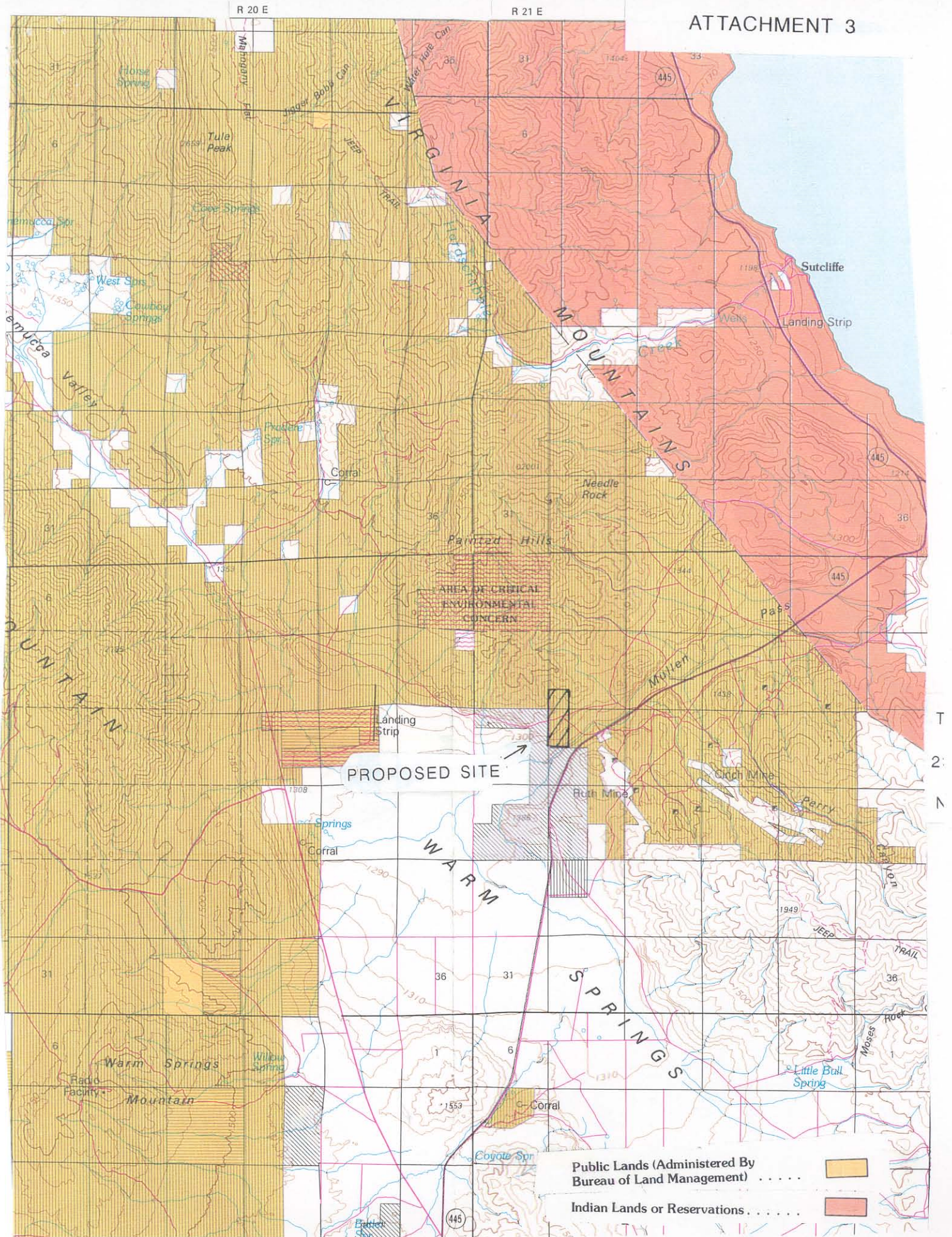
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# ATTACHMENT 3







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## BOMB DISPOSAL SITE & ACCESS

FRASER FLAT/TULE PEAK NV 7.5' QUADS (1980)

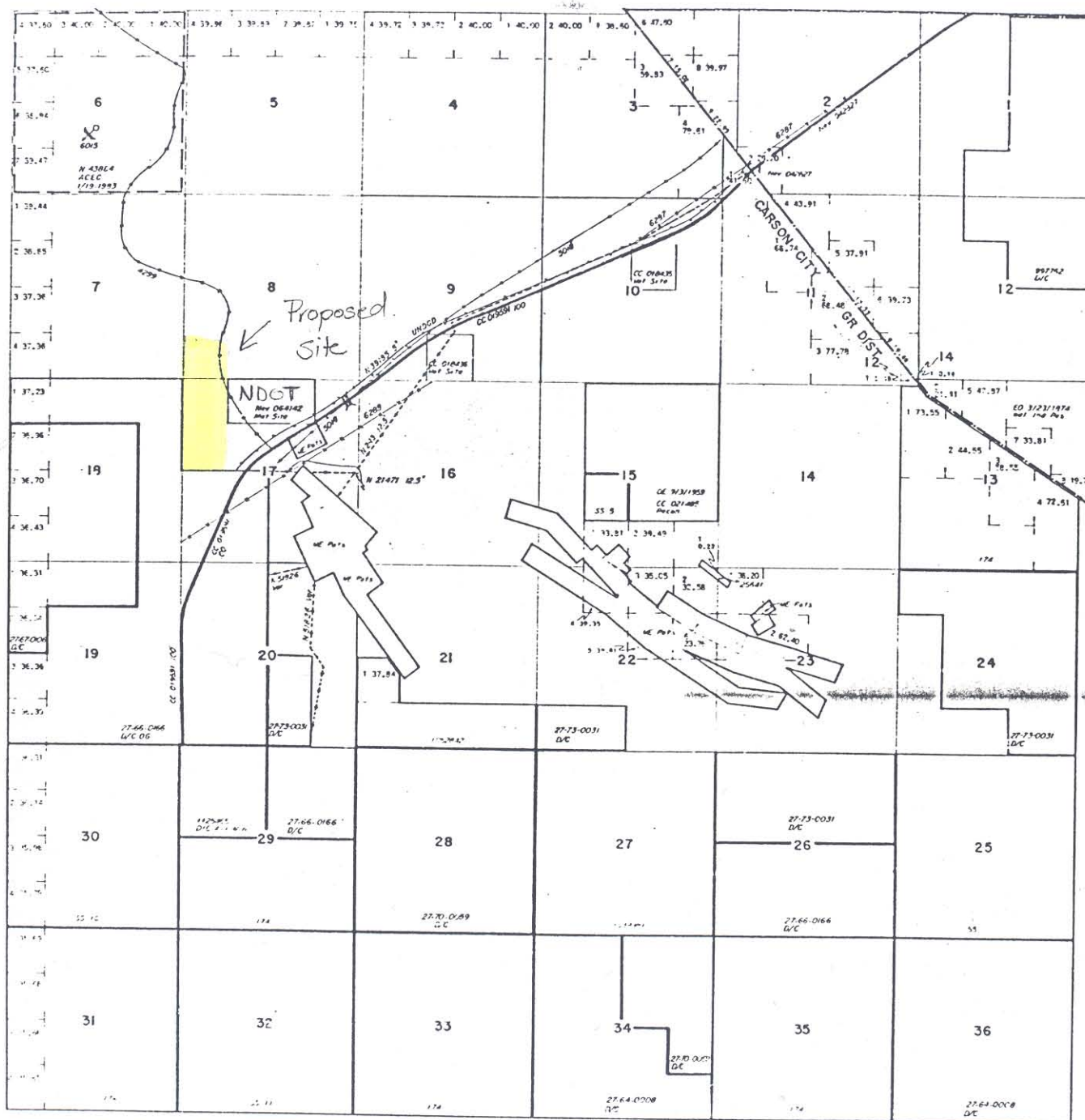


TOWNSHIP 23 NORTH RANGE 21 EAST OF THE MOUNT DIABLO MERIDIAN, NEVADA

WASHOE COUNTY

STATUS OF PUBLIC DOMAIN  
LAND AND MINERAL TITLES

MT PLAT

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FOR ORDERS EFFECTING DISPOSAL OR USE OF  
UNIDENTIFIED LANDS WITHIN OR FOR CLASSIFICATION,  
MINERALS, WATER AND/OR OTHER PUBLIC PURPOSES,  
REFER TO INDEX OF MISCELLANEOUS DOCUMENTS.

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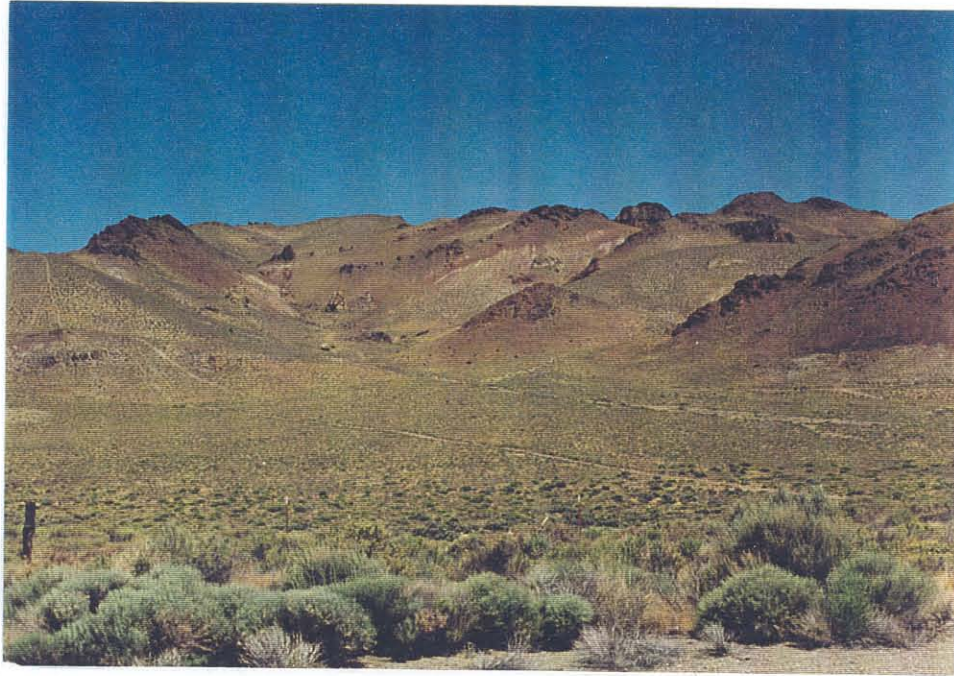
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SCALE

**WARNING STATEMENT**  
This plot is the Bureau's Record of Title, and should be used only as a graphic display of the transaction history data. It



View of proposed bomb disposal/training site looking from a point near the southern end of the 120-acre site in a northerly direction. The site is located generally in the middle of the photograph.

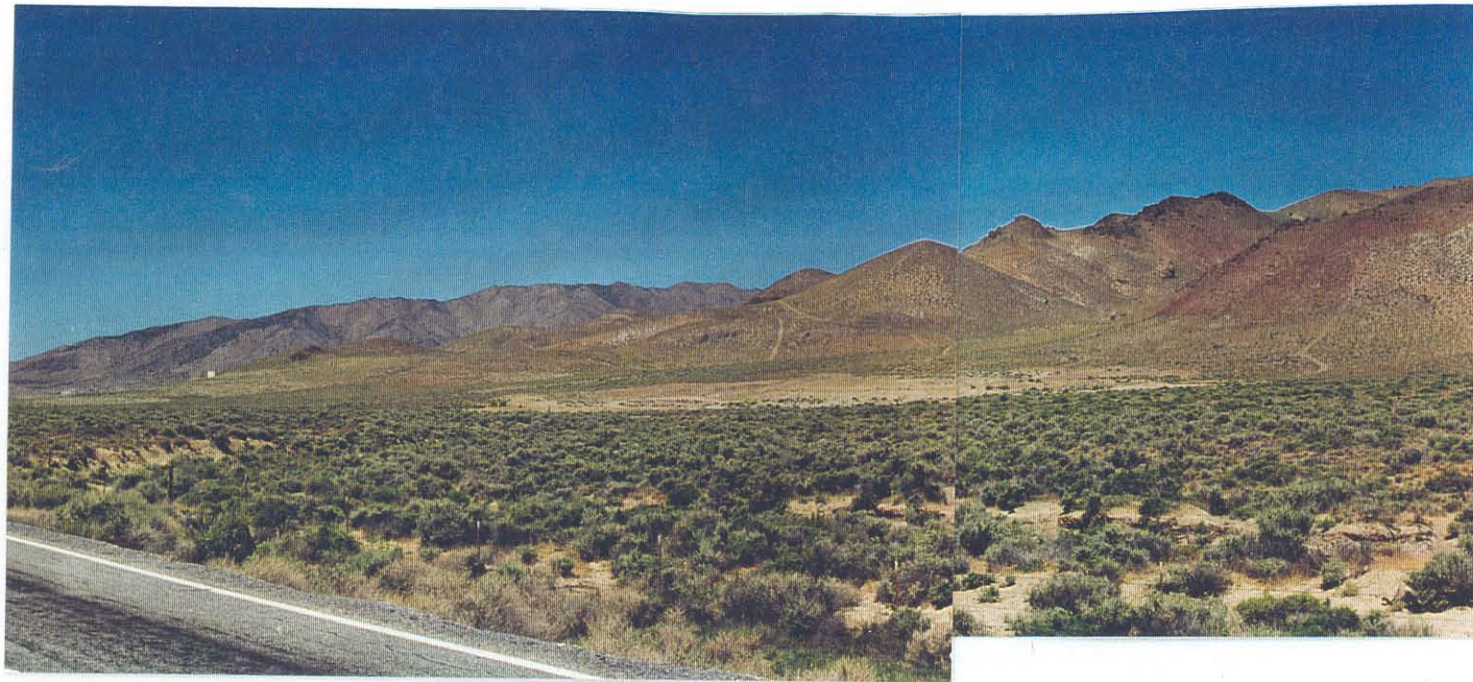


View of proposed bomb disposal/training site approaching on State Route 445 traveling north. The County Shooting Facility is shown on the left-hand side of the photograph. The 120-acre site is located just east (right) of the shooting range.





View of proposed bomb disposal/training site and surrounding County and public lands. Photograph was taken from State Highway 445 (Pyramid Highway) looking in a northwesterly direction. Nevada Department of Transportation Material Site R/W is shown in center of the photograph. The 120-acre site is located north of the material site.





View of proposed bomb disposal/training site and surrounding County and public lands. Photograph was taken from State Highway 445 (Pyramid Highway) looking in a northwesterly direction. Approximate boundaries of 120-acre site are outlined.

