

MINUTE ITEM

This Calendar Item No. 40
was approved by the Commission
No. 40 on 11/27/78
Committee Report No. 3
to 0 at its 11/27/78
meeting.

CALENDAR ITEM

40.

11/78
W 9785
Smith

CERTIFICATION OF NEGATIVE DECLARATION
FOR PROSPECTING PERMIT

APPLICANT: Mr. Denby Jackson
3201 San Carlos Drive
Spring Valley, California 92077

TYPE OF LAND: School land.

AREA AND LOCATION:
NW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 16, T16S, R5E, SBB&M, San
Diego County.

PROPOSAL: To evaluate the potential for mineral values
other than oil, gas and geothermal of the
subject State lands. The primary exploration
objective is to determine if Tungsten ore
exists in commercial quantities and, if
so, propose a plan for its extraction.

METHOD OF EXPLORATION:
Initially the surface will be mapped and
surface samples taken for analysis. Five
exploratory drill holes will be completed,
each to a depth of 50 feet. Access will
be by existing roads. All data obtained
will be made available to the Commission.

- PREREQUISITE TERMS:
1. The State Lands Commission's staff,
in accordance with Art. 10, Section
2905(b) of the Cal. Adm. Code, has
conducted an initial study and has
concluded that the project will not
have a significant effect on the environ-
ment. Therefore, in compliance with
subsection (c) of Section 2905, a negative
declaration was prepared and filed
with the State Clearinghouse.
 2. The State Clearinghouse acknowledged
receipt of the negative declaration
and has completed the required review.
 3. In accordance with Chapter 1200, Statutes
of 1977, the State Lands Commission

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CALENDAR ITEM NO. 40. (CONTD)

must complete and certify a negative declaration within 105 days following receipt of a completed application and approve or deny the project within 1 year. This application was certified complete as of August 31, 1978.

EXHIBIT: A. Negative Declaration.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE COMMISSION:

1. DETERMINE THAT AN EIR HAS NOT BEEN PREPARED FOR THIS PROJECT BUT THAT A NEGATIVE DECLARATION HAS BEEN PREPARED BY THE COMMISSION'S STAFF.
2. CERTIFY THAT NEGATIVE DECLARATION ND# 232 HAS BEEN COMPLETED IN COMPLIANCE WITH CEQA OF 1970, AS AMENDED, AND THE STATE GUIDELINES; AND THAT THE COMMISSION HAS REVIEWED AND CONSIDERED THE INFORMATION CONTAINED THEREIN.
3. DETERMINE THAT THE PROPOSED PROJECT WILL NOT HAVE A SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON THE ENVIRONMENT.

EXHIBIT A

NEGATIVE DECLARATION
Denby Jackson
W 9785

This Negative Declaration is prepared by the State Lands Commission pursuant to Section 15083, California Administrative Code, Title 14, Division 6, and is based upon an Initial Study pursuant to Sections 15080 and 15066 thereof.

The proposed project is for the approval to conduct a mineral exploration program to evaluate the potential occurrence of an economic deposit of tungsten in the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 16, T.16 S., R.5 E., S.B.M., in San Diego County. The proposed site is located within the boundary of the Cleveland National Forest approximately five miles southeast of Pine Valley.

Based upon such Initial Study, the project will not have a significant effect on the environment for the following reasons:

1. There will be no significant growth inducing impact, inefficient energy consumption, air or water pollution, or solid waste problems created as a result of implementation of this project.
2. There will be minimal impacts on fish and wildlife.
3. The implementation of this project will not narrow the range of beneficial uses of the environment or pose long-term risks to health or safety.

A copy of the Initial Study is attached for your information. Additional copies may be obtained from Ted T. Fukushima, State Lands Commission, 1807-13th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814.

9/78

INITIAL STUDY

JFS

1. Project and Its Location:

An application has been received from Mr. Denby Jackson to prospect the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 16, T. 16 S., R. 5 E., 160 acres in San Diego County. The proposed site is within the boundary of the Cleveland National Forest approximately five miles southeast of Pine Valley. From the junction of Highway 8 and the dirt road that leads to the site it is a little over three miles.

2. Statement of the Objective Sought by the Proposed Project:

It is the intent of the applicant to conduct an exploration program to evaluate the tungsten potential of the area.

3. General Description of the Project:

The applicant proposes to core the surface exposure of the ore body. Five holes 1-1/8" in diameter will be drilled to a depth of 50 feet. Three of the holes will be drilled along the north-south trending exposure approximately 50 feet apart, while the remaining two holes will be placed 50 feet east and west, respectively, of the indicated strike of the ore body. A portable gas-powered drill will be utilized for coring. Cores will be assayed and results evaluated. Since the site is situated next to the existing access road, no new access roads will be needed nor will there be any need for site preparation. If the results of the coring are negative, the holes will be filled and tamped and the surface area restored to as near to the original condition as is practicable. At this point additional surface outcrops will be studied and tested to see if further coring is justified.

If an ore discovery is substantiated, an open-pit mining operation may be feasible; however, if the dip of the ore body is too steep it will necessitate an underground operation. It is anticipated that a ten to twenty ton mill, 50 feet X 100 feet in size, would be constructed on the site and the ore would be milled and concentrated. Water needed for the concentrating would be hauled from an existing spring in the canyon approximately three-quarters of a mile away. The spring flows reportedly at about 2500 G.F.D. The water used in processing would be recycled and the fine tailings impounded to avoid contaminating the intermittent canyon stream.

The tailings would be appropriately disposed at the mining site. All transportation would occur on the existing road; however, the road would need to be bladed and leveled more often than it is presently being done by the U.S. Forest Service. Such development and mining phase would be subject to the preparation of an additional environmental document.

4. Description of the Environmental Setting:

Geologically, the site is located in the Peninsular Range province, a vast northwest trending block of granitics and metamorphics. Known tungsten deposits in Peninsular Range province are reported to be of contact metamorphic origin. Indications are that this site is located in a fault contact zone between the metamorphics and granitics with the ore body tending to have intermittent surface exposure over a distance of one-quarter to one-half mile.

Environmental Setting:

The site lies within the Cleveland National Forest at an elevation of 4600 feet on the west flank of Sheephead Mountain, along the west wall of remote Horse Canyon. It is one mile east of Highway 8 and 1.3 miles northeast of Buckman Springs, a small community in Cottonwood Valley. A slightly larger community, Pine Valley, lies about five miles to the northwest of Buckman Springs.

Because the site is below the crest of Sheephead Mountain, it is not visible from Highway 8 and can be seen only from a relatively short distance as one approaches on the winding access road from the south. To the east lies the rugged and remote vastness of the Cleveland National Forest, traversed very sparingly by occasional canyon jeep trails. In 1971 the area was razed by fire. Today the vegetation on the proposed site and surrounding area is chiefly brush, though scrub oak is establishing itself over much of the hillside. The only trees in the area are a small stand of oak in the canyon along the stream that were damaged during the fire. Approximately two miles to the northeast on Sheephead Mountain, they recently cut a stand of oak trees damaged in the same fire. The stream runs only intermittently during rainy season and is dry most of the year; however, a spring some three-quarters of a mile from the location flows at approximately 2500 G.P.D. Water from this site would be hauled to the proposed millsite for concentrating processes where it would then be recycled.

Wild life in the area has been reported as consisting predominantly of the smaller species of animals such as hawks, various types of

birds, ground squirrels, rats, kangaroo rats, rabbits and coyotes; however, the area, which is heavily hunted, had had in the past a large deer population at different times of the year. A gun and hunting club is reported two miles to the north of the site, just off Highway 8.

Two endangered species are reported to inhabit the area (see "At the Crossroads", pages 75 and 83). These are the Peninsular Bighorn Sheep and Stephen's Kangaroo Rat. A 1968 study of the California desert bighorn (*Ovis canadensis*) in San Diego County, by the Department of Fish and Game, outlines an area of known habitat of the bighorn sheep extending diagonally south from the Riverside, San Diego County line to the Mexican border. (Exhibit map attached) The western seasonal population boundary of this map is approximately 10 miles to east of the prospect area. It is not known if the bighorn sheep inhabit or utilizes the area of the proposed site, however, the Kangaroo Rat has been reported in the area. The applicant who has lived most of his life in the area has never seen a bighorn sheep west of Borrego, but others he stated have reported them 15 to 20 years ago in the area of Eagle Nest Mine to the east and in Bear Valley to the west.

The area receives an average of 15 to 20 inches of rain per year and exhibits a broad range of temperatures. The access road which winds up Sheephead Mountain from a junction with Highway 8 just south of Buckman Spring is, under best conditions, a jeep trail. Presently, the Forest Service reports it unpassable due to recent rains. Under normal conditions the road is bladed and leveled once a year by the Forest Service since most of the traffic results from hunters.

Dr. Roberts, head of the Geology Department of San Diego State University, has expressed his interest and the school's, in the possibility of establishing a field laboratory for the Geology Department should a mine be developed, and the Forest Service has indicated they have no objections to the development of a mine.

b. 6. Environmental Impact - Impact of Proposed Action:

Air pollutants released into the air by the coring program will be minimal. The gas-driven portable coring drill is comparable to a gas-driven power mower; the amount of noise that will be generated at the site by the coring activity will be engulfed

by the vastness and remoteness of the area: however, wildlife will temporarily avoid the area.

When the 1-1/8" X 50 foot holes are completed, they will be filled and tamped. No new access roads or site preparation will be necessary.

The coring program will be conducted by two people on an intermittent basis and is anticipated to be completed over a three-week period. No structure will be needed and the only attending vehicle will be a pickup truck.

7. Any Adverse Environmental Effects Which Cannot Be Avoided If The Proposal is Implemented:

There are no adverse environmental impacts from the proposed exploration program. If it is deemed necessary to do any trenching in support of the coring program, the impact will be of short duration for the trenches will be filled and if necessary the surface seeded to insure its restoration.

8. Mitigation Measures Proposed to Minimize the Impact:

None are needed for the proposed exploration activity.

9. Alternatives to the Proposed Action:

The only alternative is "no project". Any mineral deposit that is considered commercial must by its nature be mined where it is found. If other similar commercial sites can be located or are known to exist, then there is an alternative: however, tungsten a strategic metal, vital to the nation, is in short supply, with 50% of the ore consumed annually being imported.

10. Relationship Between Local Short-Term Uses of Man's Environment and the Maintenance and Enhancement of Long-Term Productivity:

The short-term exploratory program stands to benefit man in the long term by the utilization of a much needed mineral resource should it be discovered. The development of a viable tungsten mine will result in long-term effects upon the environment, particularly the benefits derived from the industry's broad use of the tungsten alloy. However, the impact on the local economy will be slight due to the limited size of the anticipated project.

Any Irreversible Environmental Changes Which Would Be Involved
in the proposed Action Should It Be Implemented:

There are no irreversible environmental changes involved in the nature of the prospecting permit. Again, if the permit goes to lease, the depletion of a nonrenewable resource is a matter of expediency and need. Only if tungsten reserves become plentiful or technology provides a substitute may the irreversible trend be changed.

2. Growth-Inducing Impact of the Proposed Action:

The exploration project will have no growth inducing impact, nor will the anticipated small-scale production.

13. Organizations and Person Consulted:

USDA Forest Service
Cleveland National Forest

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Colorado River Basin Region 7

State Water Resources Control Board
Attn: John Huddleson

Department of Fish and Game
Region V

State Forester
California Division of Forestry

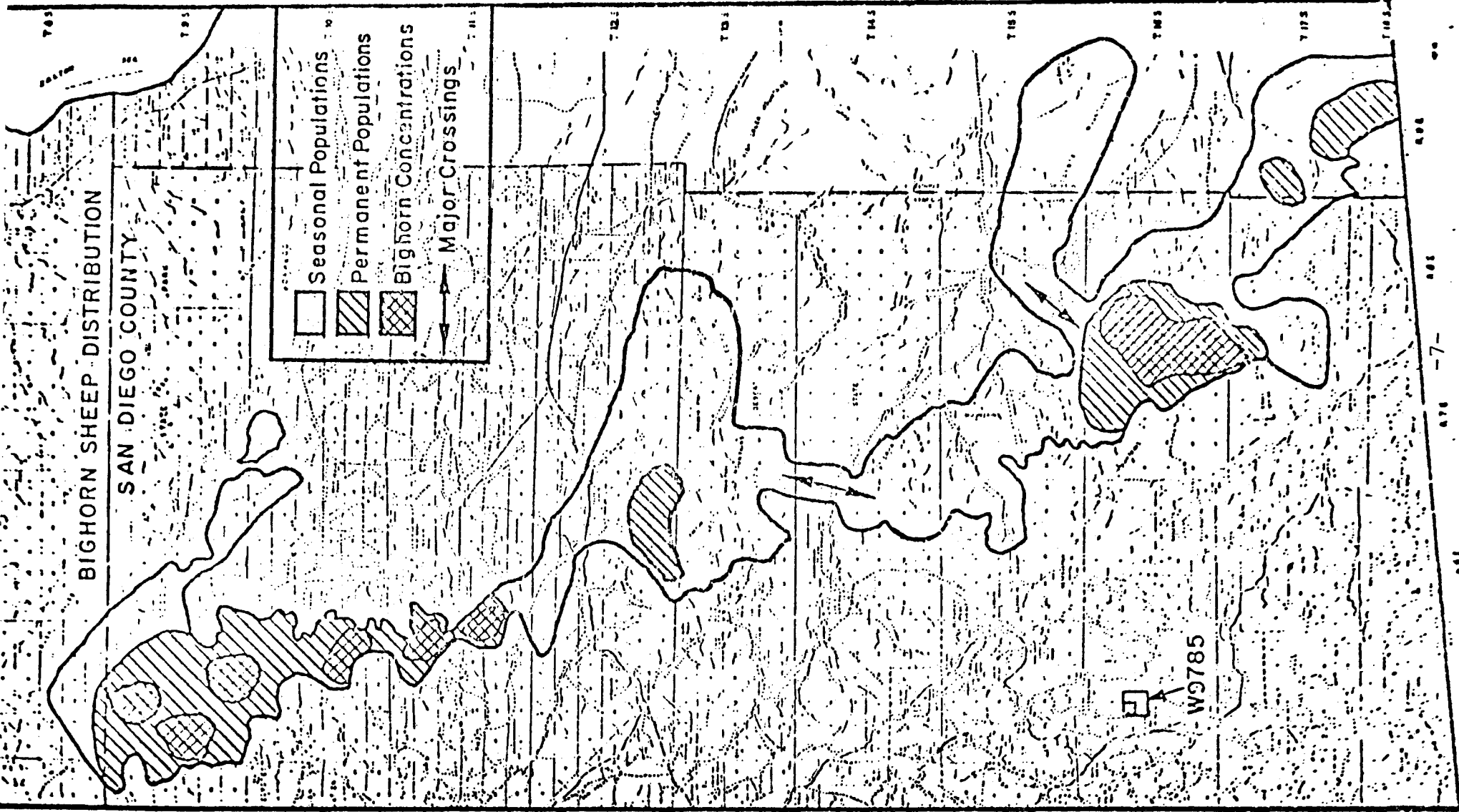
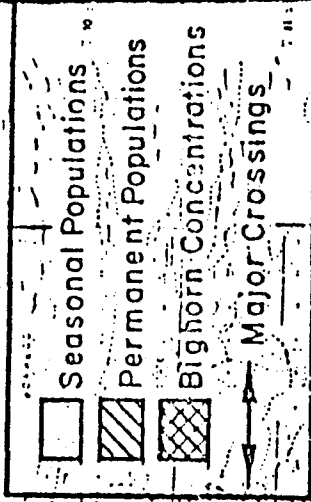
County of San Diego
Integrated Planning Office
Environmental Planning
Attn: Bud Gray

Native American Heritage Commission

Dr. L. Larry Leach
San Diego State University

BIGHORN SHEEP DISTRIBUTION

SAN DIEGO COUNTY

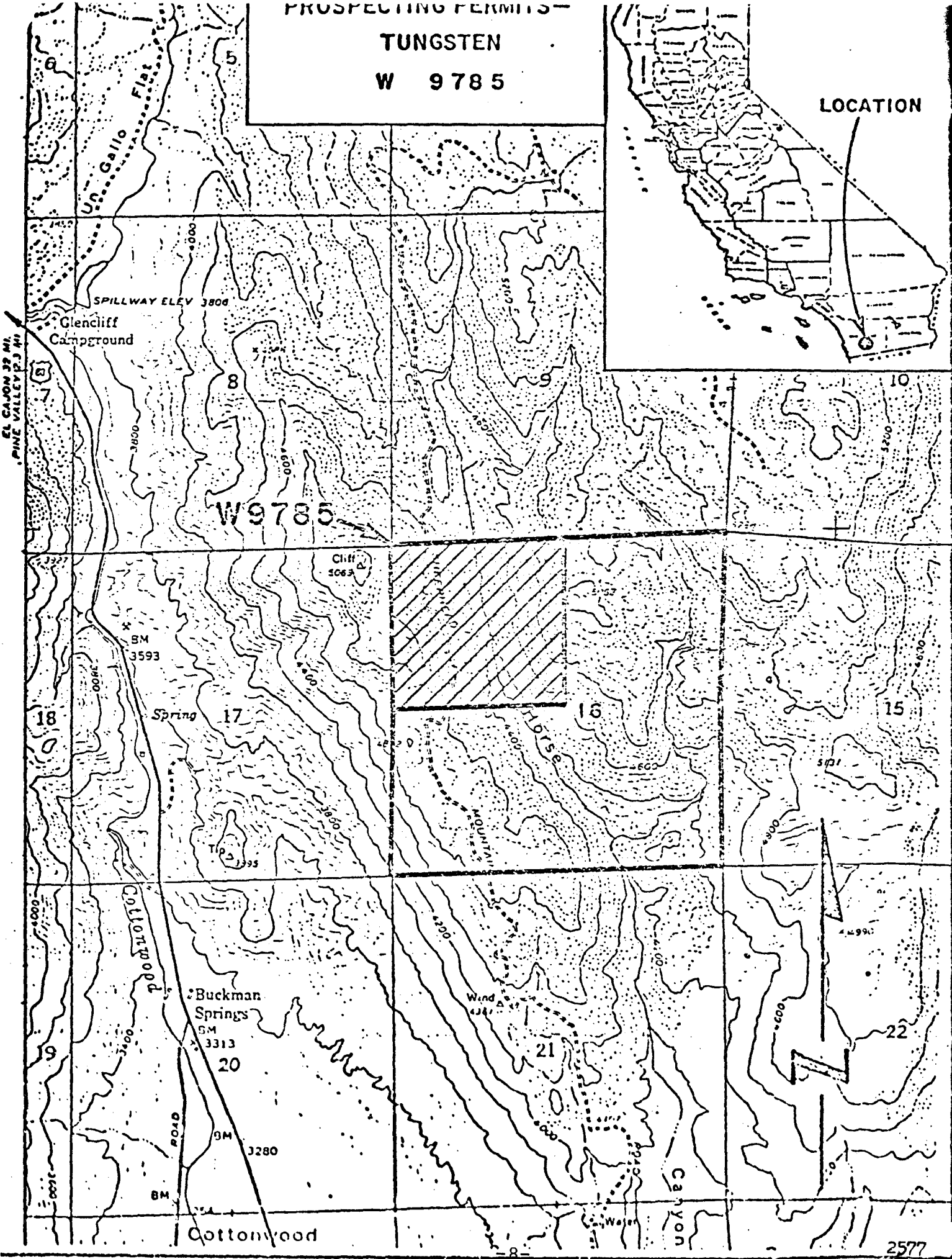
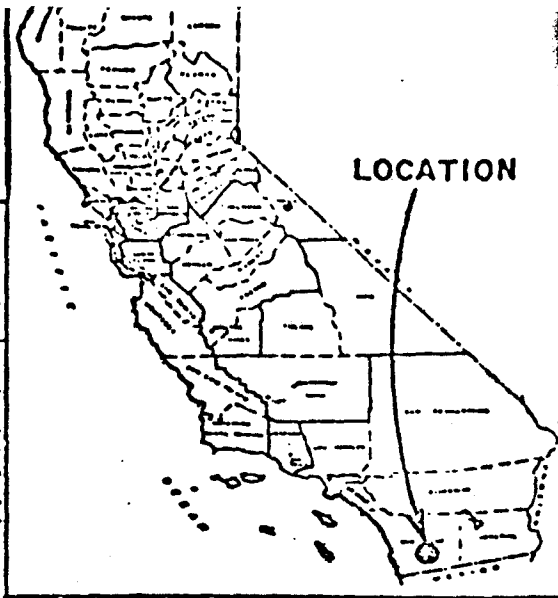


PROSPECTING PERMITS -

TUNGSTEN

W 9785

LOCATION



EL CAYON 32 MI.
PINE VALLEY 23 MI.

3327

4000
3600
3200

2577
K.L. 78

SPILLWAY ELEV 3800

Glenciff
Campground

3800
4000

BM
3593

Spring

4000
3600
3200

Buckman
Springs
BM
3313

20

BM
3280

Cottonwood

Cliff
5063

Spring

TP
3335

Wind
4341

BM
3280

Water

Cliff
5063

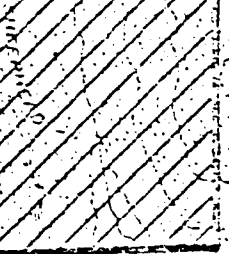
Spring

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Wind
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BM
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Water



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Water

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