

MINUTE ITEM

This Calendar Item No. C19
was approved as Minute Item
No. 19 by the State Lands
Commission by a vote of 2
to 0 at its 2/25/82
meeting.

CALENDAR ITEM

C 1 9

2/25/82
RW 20316
Childress

CERTIFICATION OF NEGATIVE DECLARATION

APPLICANT: State Lands Commission

At the May 1980 Commission meeting, the Commission endorsed a Timber Management Program for State school lands and authorized the Executive Officer to solicit bids for the sale of timber.

Staff is requesting certification of Negative Declaration No. 299, for the harvest and sale of approximately 2,000,000 board feet of mature, overmature, and some smaller, suppressed and diseased trees on a 44-acre parcel of State school land, located approximately 50 airline miles southeast of Yreka, in Section 16, T40N, R10W, MDM, in Siskiyou County.

After the negative declaration has been certified, a Timber Harvest Plan will be transmitted to the Department of Forestry for approval. The sale will be advertised, sealed bids received and submitted to the Commission for award of a Timber Sale Contract in May 1982.

AB 884: N/A.

OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION:

1. A negative declaration was prepared by the Commission pursuant to CEQA and the State EIR Guidelines. The Commission's staff has found that the project will not have a significant effect on the environment.

EXHIBIT: A. Negative Declaration.
B. Site Map.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE COMMISSION:

1. DETERMINE THAT A NEGATIVE DECLARATION HAS BEEN PREPARED FOR THIS PROJECT BY THE COMMISSION AFTER CONSULTATION WITH RESPONSIBLE AND TRUSTEE AGENCIES.

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CALENDAR ITEM NO. C 1 9 (CONTD)

2. CERTIFY THAT NEGATIVE DECLARATION NO. 299 HAS BEEN COMPLETED IN ACCORDANCE WITH CEQA, THE STATE EIR GUIDELINES AND THE COMMISSION'S ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS, AND THAT THE COMMISSION HAS REVIEWED AND CONSIDERED THE INFORMATION CONTAINED THEREIN TOGETHER WITH COMMENTS RECEIVED DURING THE REVIEW PROCESS.
3. DETERMINE THAT THE PROJECT WILL NOT HAVE A SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON THE ENVIRONMENT.

STATE LANDS COMMISSION

SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814

 DraftNEGATIVE DECLARATION

EIR NO 299

 Final

File Ref.: RW 20116

SCH#:

Project Title: Music Creek Timber Sale on State-owned Lands.

Project Location: NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 16, T.40 N., R.10 W., M.D.M., in Siskiyou County, California.

Project Description: Harvest and sale of approximately 2,000,000 board feet of mature, overmature, and some smaller, suppressed and diseased trees.

This NEGATIVE DECLARATION is prepared pursuant to the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (Section 21000 et seq of the Public Resources Code), the State EIR Guidelines (Section 15000 et seq, Title 14, of the California Administrative Code), and the State Lands Commission regulations (Section 2901 et seq, Title 2, of the California Administrative Code).

Based upon the attached Initial Studies, it has been found that:

the project will not have a significant effect on the environment.

the attached mitigation measures will avoid potentially significant effects.

Contact Person:

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INITIAL STUDY
FOR
CALIFORNIA STATE LANDS COMMISSION

MUSIC CREEK TIMBER SALE ON STATE-OWNED LANDS IN THE
NE $\frac{1}{4}$ OF THE SE $\frac{1}{4}$ OF SECTION 16,
T40N, R10W, MDB&M
SISKIYOU COUNTY

PREPARED UNDER WORK ORDER RW 20316

BY THE
SCHOOL LANDS MANAGEMENT UNIT
LAND MANAGEMENT SECTION
OF THE
DIVISION OF LAND MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION
STATE LANDS COMMISSION

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I. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Music Creek Timber Sale is a proposal by the State Lands Commission to harvest approximately 2,000,000 board feet of mature and overmature merchantable ponderosa pine, sugar pine, incense-cedar, white fir, and Douglas-fir, and to construct two new access roads. One road is approximately 30 chains (1900 feet) in length and the other approximately 25 chains (1700 feet). A few smaller, suppressed trees infested with insects, disease, dwarf mistletoe or which were mechanically damaged were marked for removal as a sanitation measure to improve the health and vigor of the stand.

This proposed timber sale has been designed and laid out on the ground to conform with the current Northern Forest District Rules in accordance with the Forest Practice Act of the State of California. The timber will be harvested under an approved Timber Harvest Plan.

The timber sale is located approximately 50 airline miles southwest of Yreka, California, between Sawyers Bar and Etna. The parcel is described as the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 16, T40N, R10W, MDS&N. In 1971 a cutting boundary agreement was mutually agreed upon by the State and the United States Forest Service, and the four property corners of the 44-acre parcel were established on the ground by the U.S. Forest Service.

Presently the Forest Service is negotiating with the State Lands Commission to acquire title for the road right-of-way for that segment of Road 40N45 which passes through the State's parcel. The Forest Service has also expressed interest in entering into a right-of-way agreement on the two proposed roads which will allow them access to their timber adjacent to the State's parcel.

Contrary to the topographic quad sheet, there is a blue-line stream about 12 chains in length on the parcel. There are numerous old wind throws in the stream channel but there will be no effort made to remove these because irreparable damage to the Stream Protection Zone (S.P.Z.) would occur. A 50-foot S.P.Z. on each side of the stream has been marked with blue flagging on the ground to establish the S.P.Z. boundary. This 100-foot S.P.Z. will afford adequate protection to the stream. This unnamed stream is a nonfish-bearing tributary of Highland Creek.

The new road construction consists of one single lane road running north, paralleling the east boundary and crossing four ephemeral draws three chains above the S.P.Z. boundary.

It then follows the north boundary line west to the ridge, thus affording access to the timber while avoiding road construction problems associated with stream protection. The side slopes on this road range from 20 to 40%. The road gradient for the first 22 chains (1/4 mile) is almost level (or 0 percent) and the gradient for the last 8 chains (1/10 mile) is minus 15 percent.

The other access road leaves Road 40N45 between the SE corner of the parcel and the switch back within the parcel, and follows the ridge west toward the SW corner at a minus 15 percent gradient.

Both road locations are designated with blue and white candy-striped flagging on the ground and are specifically designed to fit the contour of the slopes, avoiding construction problems. There are no construction or environmental problems anticipated with the road construction, and it will be in compliance with the Northern Forest Practice Rules and Regulations as stated in 14 CAC 935.1 (Logging Roads).

This timber sale will be a typical summer operation and will conform to 14 CAC 935.5 (Winter Period Erosion Control).

Crawler tractors will be used for timber harvesting. Cable yarding is not at all feasible because of lack of cable deflection, the resultant destruction of residual trees, and the excessive yarding costs. The slopes range from 0 to 70 percent with the majority between 20 and 40 percent.

The timber was marked under the selection method to remove the mature and overmature trees (over 140 years old). In some instances younger trees were designated for removal when severely suppressed, mechanically damaged or infested with disease, insects, or dwarf mistletoe. The silvicultural treatment is in compliance with 14 CAC 933.2 (Selection Method). The majority of the parcel south of the draw is a high Dunning Site II and III (good timber growing site). The area to the north of the drainage is Dunning Site III to IV (Commercial timber site).

The timber stand is two-storied, with a scattered old growth overstory of Douglas-fir, true fir, ponderosa pine, sugar pine and incense-cedar. The understory was created by fire and was seeded in by the scattered overstory. After logging, the scattered holes left where the overstory was removed will be cleared of logging slash and planted with conifers during the spring following logging. It is anticipated that the majority of the area will meet stocking requirements pursuant to 14 CAC 932.7 (Resource Conservation Standards for minimum stocking).

II. ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The Music Creek Timber Sale is located in southwestern Siskiyou County and is completely surrounded by the Klamath National Forest. The surrounding area is being managed by the U.S. Forest Service for multiple use management. Timber is the major economic base for western Siskiyou County.

The average annual precipitation is 60 inches. About one-quarter of this precipitation is in the form of snow packs. The elevation of the parcel ranges from 4600 to 5200 feet.

The U.S. Forest Service has conducted third-order soil surveys on the State's parcel. The eastern edge of the parcel (six to eight chains in width) is within the "G-45" Ducey (soil series) Family - Entic Xerumbrepts, loamy, mixed, frigid, shallow association, 50 to 90 percent slopes with surface soil 0-11 inches deep and subsoils 11-20 inches deep. This soil type produces a climax true fir forest and is a Dunning Site III. From six to eight chains west of the east boundary of the parcel there is an abrupt soil change to the "G-42" Chaix Family - Holland Family Association with 15 to 70 percent slopes. These soils are Ultic Haploxeralfs, fine, loamy, mixed mesic, 15 to 50 percent slopes (Holland Family) "K75+1". These soils have a Dunning Site II class and produce a good mixed conifer site for Douglas-fir, ponderosa pine, sugar pine, incense cedar and white fir.

The third soil classification is north of the major drainage. This family series is "M24" Lithic Haploxeralfs, loamy-skeletal, mixed mesic, Holland Family Association, with 30 to 70 percent slopes. This soil has a somewhat poorer timber site class - Dunning III and IV.

As was previously mentioned, the timber being removed is primarily old growth ponderosa pine, sugar pine, Douglas-fir, white fir, and incense-cedar. Other species on the parcel include younger conifers, chinquapin (tree variety) scrub canyon live oak, maple, currents, wild rose, snowberry, hazel, etc.

Prior to the construction of Road 40N45, there was no access to the parcel. In a letter dated December 3, 1980 from the California Archeological Site Survey Regional Office at Chico, California, to Hans Feickert, Archeologist, State Lands Commission, clearance from doing a site survey was recommended. James Rock, Archeologist, U.S. Forest Service, was contacted via telephone on September 29, 1981 and he stated that there were no known archeological sites near the Music Creek parcel. If any archeological artifacts or evidence of

potential significance are uncovered during the timber sale operations will be halted and a qualified archeologist will be consulted.

There is one blue-line stream on this parcel which has a designated 50 foot Stream Protection Zone Boundary on each side to conform to 14 CAC 936.1 (Stream and Lake Protection Zone - Timber Operations). There will be no stream crossings, but four ephemeral draws will be crossed without any anticipated problems, which conforms to 14 CAC 936.2 (Stream Crossings). S.P.Z. boundaries are designated with blue flagging.

The only observed erosion of decomposed granitic soils was caused by water accumulating for about 500 feet on Forest Service Road 40N45 and thereafter running off and depositing decomposed granite on the forest litter as it percolated down through the litter and into the soil. This is a minor problem and can be easily corrected. No other areas of soil movement or slides were observed on the parcel.

A Spotted Owl was observed on the parcel by all of the Foresters, and the sighting was reported to both Forest Service and Department of Fish and Game wildlife biologists and managers. After a thorough discussion with both parties, it was determined that all snags except road snags would be retained for wildlife habitat and it was agreed that the removal of the large scattered overstory on this 40-acre parcel would not have much affect on the Spotted Owl's habitat. The Forest Service is setting up a 1,000 acre Spotted Owl Management Unit in which timber management operations will take place surrounding this parcel in the near future (1984) as part of that habitat plan. There was evidence of bears in the area, but none were observed. Soaring buzzards, hawks and ravens were observed overhead but not on the parcel. One nest of an unknown bird species was observed on the parcel; it will be preserved along with five closely associated trees.

Access to the parcel is by Forest Service Road 40N45 which may be reached from Yreka via Fort Jones and Etna. Additional access within the parcel will be provided by constructing two roads, each approximately one-quarter mile in length: one along the ridge on the south boundary, and the other across the parcel paralleling the east boundary. These roads will be outleveled and/or rolled and dipped to avoid their accumulating water and thereby causing erosion on decomposed granite soils.

III. RFC REAL SETTING

The State's 44-acre parcel is completely surrounded by Klamath National Forest ownership in southwestern Siskiyou County. The historical setting is characterized by continuous logging and mining. The only private parcels near the sale area are patented mineral claims and these are zoned as such. The remainder of the land belongs to the U.S. Forest Service and is currently administered under approved multiple use management plans.

The harvesting of timber from the State's parcel is compatible with the U.S. Forest Service management objectives. There are no private timber holdings in the vicinity of this parcel for comparison.

IV. SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

1. Road Building. The new road construction will have some effect on the soil and vegetation in the area. The roads will be constructed by the cut and fill method using a bulldozer. The vegetation affected will be the smaller, scattered coniferous trees and scrub canyon live oak along the road prism which will be removed. The majority of the large slow-growing conifers have already been designated for removal.

The roads were designed, and laid out on the ground, to avoid the stream on the parcel. Four ephemeral draws will be crossed. The Forest Service plans to enter into a road right-of-way agreement with the State and to supply culverts for these draws and provide annual culvert maintenance.

The access roads will be constructed with rolling dips or outsloped, depending on location, to keep water from washing for long distances on the road bed.

2. Mitigation. The roads are presently flagged on the ground, and the operator will adhere to all State and Federal regulations and restrictions. Both roads have been laid out to minimize erosion and avoid adding sediment to the stream. New road construction will be single-lane, minimum-width roads. Should the U.S. Forest Service not enter into a road right-of-way agreement prior to the letting of this timber sale contract, the draws will be crossed without culverts and reopened and cleaned after logging operations. The two roads are needed for timber access by both the State (now) and the U.S. Forest Service (in 1984). The

construction cost of these roads will be relatively low because of the topography, and geology, gentle slopes, and small amount of parent rock. The immediate benefit of the proposed road system will be realized by the State during the timber harvest operation. Long term benefits will be realized by both the State and the U.S. Forest Service during future land management operations.

All road construction will be pursuant to 14 CAC 935.1 (Logging Roads) and 14 CAC 935.3 (Road Drainage).

2. Logging. Yarding will be done by crawler tractor which will result in soil disturbance where skidding or yarding operations will take place. The majority of the logging operations will take place on Dunning Site II soils (very good growing sites) on slopes less than 50 percent. The calculated Erosion Hazard Rating is in the Moderate Erosion Potential range.

There will be an increase in ground water storage where logging activities have removed major transpiring vegetation and exposed the soil. Since the soils are porous, the moisture from precipitation will penetrate rapidly and actual surface runoff will be minimal. Since the transpiring vegetation has been removed in areas of operations, the summer ground water yield will be higher in the stream draining the parcel.

Additional sedimentation created from logging operations will be minimal because a number of trees were purposely left unmarked to afford stream protection and create a protective undisturbed buffer between logging operations and the stream. In addition, the roads were located to avoid conflicts with stream protection.

After regeneration has been established and transpiration has increased, the temporary increase in stream flow will stabilize.

There will be a temporary animal habit disruption created by logging activities which will force wildlife to relocate from about 30 of the 44 acres. The dislocation will continue for about five years, when regeneration will have become established.

Large mature and overmature trees were selected for removal and the younger trees (less than 140 years), even though merchantable, were left as a residual stand. All snags were left for wildlife habitat. The only snags to be removed will be within 100 feet of access roads and 200 feet of Road 40N45 on State-owned land to conform with 14 CAC 937.1 (Snag Disposal and Retention).

The removal of stagnated timber from this stand will be offset by leaving the healthy, vigorously growing understorey. Within five years regeneration will be established to replace the timber removed and the stand will be perpetuated as an all-age healthy stand producing more volume per year than prior to logging activities.

After logging, mechanical and hand site preparation will be performed to prepare ground suitable to plant conifers in the areas disturbed during logging operations, to conform with 14 CAC 932.7 (Resource Standards for minimum stocking).

Mitigation. After logging operations, skid trails will be water barred pursuant to 14 CAC 935.4 (Waterbreaks).

Understocked openings created by logging operations will be artificially regenerated upon completion of logging, site preparation and slash-burning operations. The planting stock used will be from the same elevational seed zone compatible with the site. It is anticipated that natural regeneration will also become established from residual trees after site preparation work has been completed.

In the event any nests are spotted in trees designated for removal, these trees will be left and a wildlife biologist will be consulted. All snags on the parcel will be left as wildlife habitat except those designated for removal pursuant to 14 CAC 937.1 (Snag Disposal and Retention). The Klamath National Forest's wildlife biologist indicated that the State's silvicultural prescription for timber harvesting is compatible with the National Forest's Spotted Owl Management Plan.

Neither Forest Service nor Department of Fish and Game wildlife biologists know of any other rare or endangered species of plants or animals inhabiting the State's parcel.

As was mentioned earlier an archeological survey was not required, but if archeological artifacts are uncovered, operations will be halted and an archeologist consulted.

The use of natural resources by the project (fuel, displacement, etc.) are minimal but irretrievable.

The project will not result in any measurable increase in demand for public services, but will result in use by the U.S. Forest Service using the access roads for access to their adjacent ownership for timber management purposes.

V. REFERENCES AND PERSONS CONTACTED

This study was prepared by Registered Professional Foresters on the staff of the State Lands Commission. Below are listed additional persons consulted.

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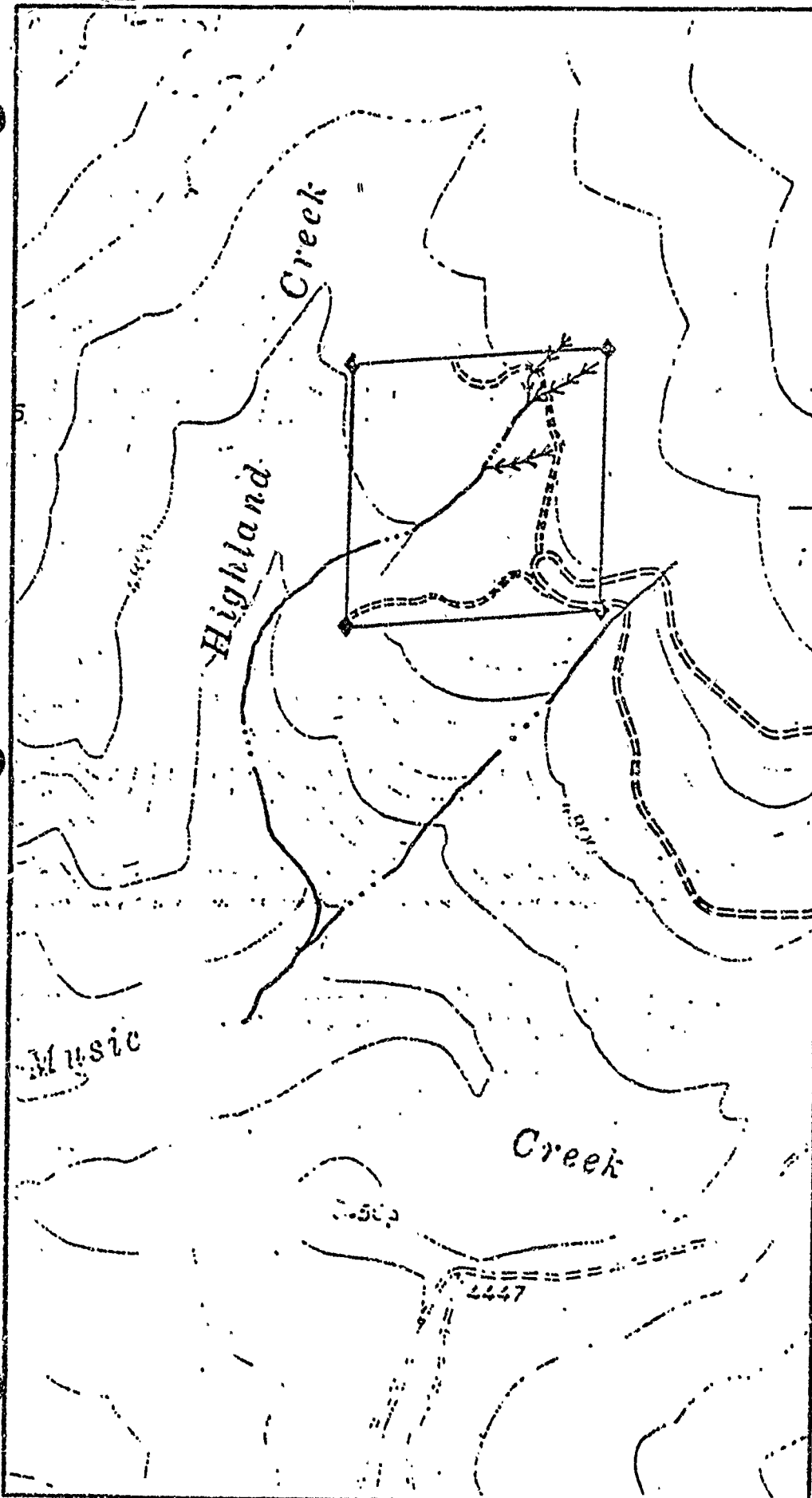
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T40N, R10W
 NE1/4, SE1/4
 SEC. 16

- == EXISTING ROAD
- - - PROPOSED ROADS
- - - STREAM
- ←←← EPHEMERAL DRAW

1"=1000'

MUSIC CREEK
 TIMBER SALE
 RW20316



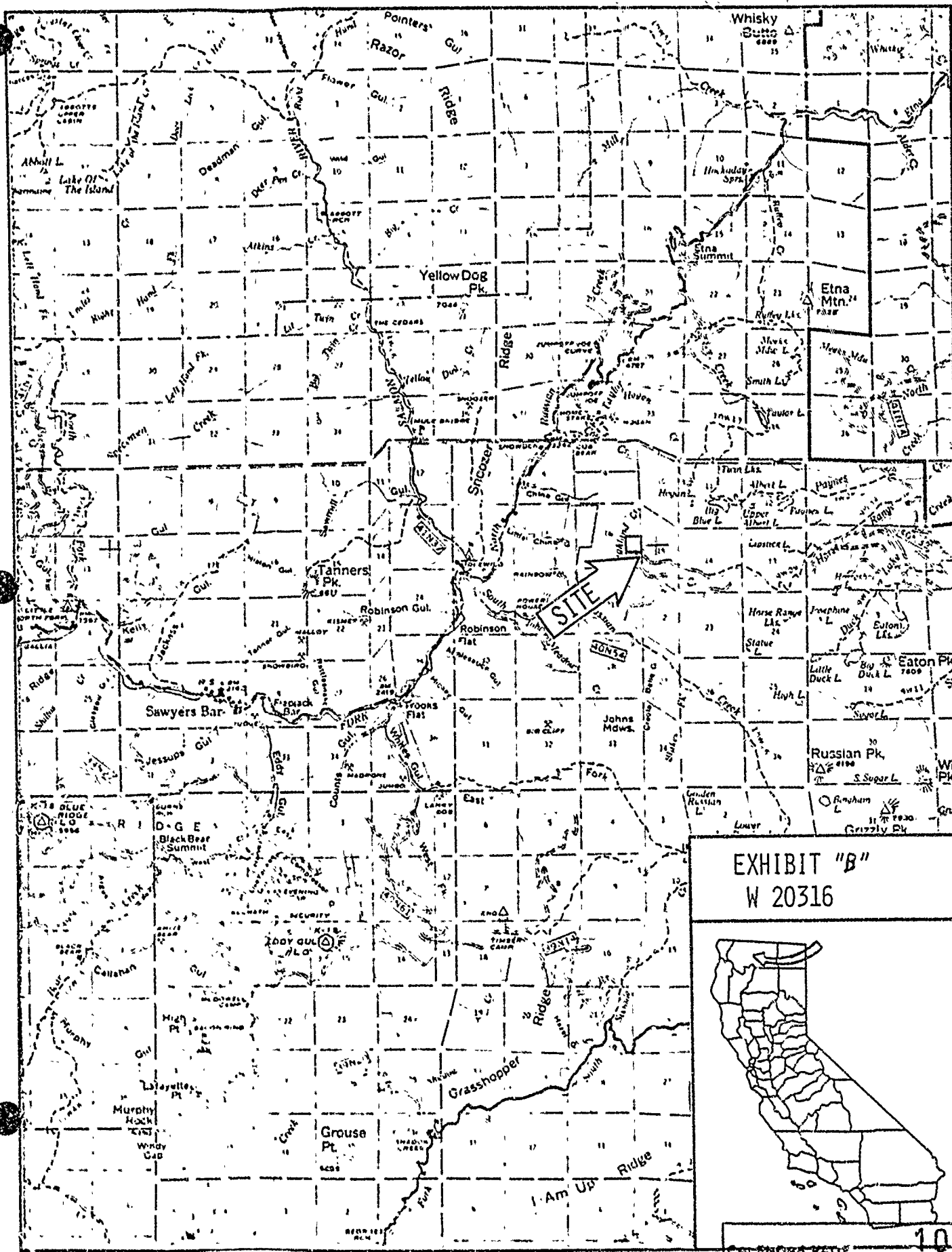


EXHIBIT "B"
W 20316

