



STATE OF IDAHO
DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

1410 North Hilton • Boise, Idaho 83706 • (208) 373-0502

C.L. "Butch" Otter, Governor
Toni Hardesty, Director

October 26, 2010

Mr. Ken Marcy
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
12928 SW 276th Street
Vashon, WA 98070

RE: Abbreviated Preliminary Assessment Report and Recommended Determination for the Spring Mountain Mines, aka Annex Lode, Excelsior, Excelsior No. 1, Excelsior No. 2, Excelsior No. 3, Excelsior No. 4, Excelsior Fraction, War Eagle, Constance, Constance No. 1, Constance No. 2, Newport, Weiss, Pay Rock, Winnie, Winnie Mill Site, Relief, and Apex patented mining claims.

Dear Mr. Marcy:

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has completed the attached Abbreviated Preliminary Assessment (APA) on a number of mines located in the Spring Mountain watershed. These mine properties are mixed ownership lands within the Targhee National Forest.

These sites contain insignificant mine developments and wastes. The dominant features include four individual adits and a burned out mill building that did not appear to have had any significant production. As a result of our observations, DEQ is recommending these sites be designated as "No Remedial Action Planned" (NRAP).

The APA will be entered in DEQ's Waste Division Inventory database. A link to the APA can also be found on DEQ's Preliminary Assessment Web page at:

http://www.deq.idaho.gov/waste/prog_issues/mining/pa_program.cfm

If you have any questions about these sites, the report or DEQ's recommendations, please do not hesitate to call me at (208) 373-0554.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce A. Schuld".

Bruce A. Schuld
Mine Waste Projects Coordinator

attachments

cc: Maggie Baker – USDA National Forest Service, Region IV
USDA Targhee National Forest, P.O. Box 208, St. Anthony, ID 83467
PA Program file

ABBREVIATED PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST

This checklist is used to help site investigators determine if an Abbreviated Preliminary Assessment (APA) is warranted. This checklist should document the rationale for the decision on whether further steps in the site investigation process are required under CERCLA. Use additional sheets, if necessary, and attach all relevant information including photo logs, historical data, or maps generated during site visits or desk top research.

Checklist Preparer: **Bruce A. Schuld** **Date:** 10/18/2010
Mine Waste Projects Coordinator
Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
1410 N. Hilton, Boise, ID 83706
(208) 373-0554
bruce.schuld@deq.idaho.gov

Site Name: Spring Mountain Mines

Previous Names (if any): aka Annex Lode, Excelsior, Excelsior No. 1, Excelsior No. 2, Excelsior No. 3, Excelsior No. 4, Excelsior Fraction, War Eagle, Constance, Constance No. 1, Constance No. 2, Newport, Weiss, Pay Rock, Winnie, Winnie Mill Site, Relief, and Apex patented mining claims.

Site Owner: R. S. Johnson
(aka) Excelsior Mining Company
1348 E 3300 S, Suite 202
Salt Lake City, UT 84106

Site Owner: USDA Forest Service Targhee National Forest
P.O. Box 208
St. Anthony, ID 83445

Site Location (nearest town): Leadore, Idaho 83467

Township 12 North **Range** 27 East **Section** 20

Latitude: N 44.35927° **Longitude:** W 113.25155°

Describe the release (or potential release) and its probable nature:

During the site visits to the Gilmore area in May 2010 and historical research by DEQ, the Spring Mountain Mines were noted for their history. Because of opportunity, proximity, and ease of access, the area was investigated for potential releases of heavy metals and sediment from mine waste dumps, and potential discharges of other deleterious materials, such as petroleum products and ore processing chemicals.

Part 1 - Superfund Eligibility Evaluation

If all answers are “no” go on to Part 2, otherwise proceed to Part 3.		YES	NO
1. Is the site currently in CERCLIS or an “alias” of another site?			X
2. Is the site being addressed by some other remedial program (Federal, State, or Tribal)?			X
3. Are the hazardous substances that may be released from the site regulated under a statutory exclusion (e.g., petroleum, natural gas, natural gas liquids, synthetic gas usable for fuel, normal application of fertilizer, release located in a workplace, naturally occurring, or regulated by the NRC, UMTRCA, or OSHA)?			X
4. Are the hazardous substances that may be released from the site excluded by policy considerations (i.e., deferred to RCRA corrective action)?			X
5. Is there sufficient documentation to demonstrate that there is no potential for a release that constitutes risk to human or ecological receptors? (e.g., comprehensive remedial investigation equivalent data showing no release above ARARs, completed removal action, documentation showing that no hazardous substance releases have occurred, or an EPA approved risk assessment completed)?	X		

Please explain all “yes” answer(s).

Direct observations, plus historical records research confirmed contaminants of concern do not exist in concentrations that present a threat to human health or the environment.

Part 2 - Initial Site Evaluation

For Part 2, if information is not available to make a “yes” or “no” response, further investigation may be needed. In these cases, determine whether an APA is appropriate. Exhibit 1 parallels the questions in Part 2. Use Exhibit 1 to make decisions in Part 3.

If the answer is “no” to any of questions 1, 2, or 3, proceed directly to Part 3.		YES	NO
1. Does the site have a release or a potential to release?			X
2. Does the site have uncontained sources containing CERCLA eligible substances?			X
3. Does the site have documented on-site, adjacent, or nearby targets?			X
If the answers to questions 1, 2, and 3 above were all “yes” then answer the questions below before proceeding to Part 3.		YES	NO
4. Does documentation indicate that a target (e.g., drinking water wells, drinking surface water intakes, etc.) has been exposed to a hazardous substance released from the site?			X
5. Is there an apparent release at the site with no documentation of exposed targets, but there are targets on site or immediately adjacent to the site?			X
6. Is there an apparent release and no documented on-site targets or targets immediately adjacent to the site, but there are nearby targets (e.g., targets within 1 mile)?			X
7. Is there no indication of a hazardous substance release, and there are uncontained sources containing CERCLA hazardous substances, but there is a potential to release with targets present on site or in proximity to the site?			X

Notes:

There are no residences, recreational homes, schools, day cares, public or private drinking water supplies, wetlands, or perennial drainages within the subject area. There are short term recreational uses by backpackers, hunters, ORV operators, etc. Very little mining activities occurred in this area and no waste dumps, adits, or discharges were observed. **(See attached Spring Mountain Photo Log and Site Conditions.)**

EXHIBIT 1 SITE ASSESSMENT DECISION GUIDELINES FOR A SITE

Exhibit 1 identifies different types of site information and provides some possible recommendations for further site assessment activities based on that information. The Assessor should use Exhibit 1 in determining the need for further action at the site, based on the answers to the questions in Part 2. Please use your professional judgment when evaluating a site. Your judgment may be different from the general recommendations for a site given below. **(Circle or highlight responses)**

Suspected/Documented Site Conditions		APA	Full PA	PA/SI	SI
1. Releases or potential to release are documented at the site.		No	No	No	No
2. Uncontained sources with CERCLA-eligible substances have been documented as being present on the site. (i.e. they do exist at site)		No	No	No	No
3. On-site, adjacent, or nearby receptors are present.		No	No	No	No
4. There is documentation or observations made leading to the conclusion that a sensitive receptor is present or may have been exposed (e.g., drinking water system user inside 4 mile TDL) 5. There is documentation that a sensitive receptor has been exposed to a hazardous substance released from the site.	Option 1: APA	No	No	No	No
	Option 2: Full PA or PA/SI	No	No	No	No
6. There is an apparent release at the site with no documentation of targets, but there are targets on site or immediately adjacent to the site.	Option 1: APA SI	No	No	No	No
	Option 2: PA/SI	No	No	No	No
7. There is an apparent release and no documented on-site targets and no documented targets immediately adjacent to the site, but there are nearby targets. Nearby targets are those targets that are located within 1 mile of the site and have a relatively high likelihood of exposure to a hazardous substance migration from the site.		No	No	No	No
8. There are: no indications of a hazardous substance release; uncontained sources containing CERCLA hazardous substances; but there is a potential to release with targets present on site or in proximity to the site.		No	No	No	No

Part 3 - EPA Site Assessment Decision

When completing Part 3, use Part 2 and Exhibit 1 to select the appropriate decision. For example, if the answer to question 1 in Part 2 was "no," then an APA may be performed and the "NFRAP" box below should be checked. Additionally, if the answer to question 4 in Part 2 is "yes," then you have two options (as indicated in Exhibit 1): Option 1 --conduct an APA and check the "Lower Priority SI" or "Higher Priority SI" box below; or Option 2 -- proceed with a combined PA/SI assessment.

Check the box that applies based on the conclusions of the APA:

X	NFRAP	Refer to Removal Program – further site assessment needed
	Higher Priority SI	Refer to Removal Program - NFRAP
	Lower Priority SI	Site is being addressed as part of another CERCLIS site
	Defer to RCRA Subtitle C	Other:
	Defer to NRC	

DEQ Reviewer:

Bruce A. Schuch *Bruce A. Schuch*

Print Name/Signature

11/11/10

Date

PLEASE EXPLAIN THE RATIONALE FOR YOUR DECISION:

This claim contains no historic mine developments. Its dominant features include four individual adits. However, as a result of our observations, DEQ is recommending this site be designated as "No Remedial Action Planned" (NRAP).

NOTES: (SEE ATTACHMENTS INCLUDING: Photo Logs, Field Notes, Existing Water Quality and Soils Data, and/or Historical Reports)

Spring Mountain Mines and Mill Sites Photo Log and Site Conditions

Access to the area is unrestricted and actually advertised by numerous U.S. Dept. of Interior Bureau of Land Management and USDA Forest Service historical markers. Although the main road up Spring Mountain Gulch is very rough over the lateral moraines, it becomes much better after traveling four miles up from Highway 28.

None of DEQ's requests for access received responses, but public access was sufficient to make the necessary observations and conclusions.

The mines and mill sites in upper Spring Mountain Canyon and Horseshoe Gulch are mixed in ownership. There is no documentation of patented claims in the Upper Spring Mountain Canyon directly below Big Windy Peak. Seventeen patented lode claims are located in Horseshoe Gulch. The Winnie Mill site is located at the mouth of Horseshoe Canyon on the Spring Mountain road.

Although both Upper Spring Mountain Canyon directly below Big Windy Peak and Horseshoe Gulch contain numerous relicts of cabins used by miners, the unpatented claims in Upper Spring Mountain Canyon appear to have seen the most development as there is evidence of four separate tramways to the four adits in the wall of the cirque. Several prospects and numerous drill roads are visible from the road in Horseshoe Gulch. There are no significantly sized dumps in either Upper Spring Mountain Canyon or Horseshoe Gulch.

The Rex Mill Site aka Winnie Mill Site(?) located at the mouth of Horseshoe Gulch burned to the ground in 2010 after a lightning strike. It was obvious the site was frequented by recreational users, but other than the extensive evidence of mill building construction, there was no evidence of tailings or other wastes generated by operations.



Photo 1. The week before the site visit, the Winnie Mill Site was struck by lightning and burned to the ground. (Photo by Schuld 5/12/10)



Photo 2. Burned ruins of the Winnie Mill Site. (Photo by Schuld 5/12/10)



Photo 3. Winnie Mill Site. (Photo by Schuld 5/12/10)



Photo4. Oxidized jig tailings. (Photo by Schuld 5/12/10)

In upper Spring Mountain Canyon there were signs some ore may have been produced (<10 yards) and a very small attempt was made to run them over a jig for concentration. There were no indications of connectivity to wetlands or perennial waterways (Tramway Creek).



*Photo 5. Ore chute in Upper Spring Mountain Canyon.
(Photo by Schuld 5/12/10)*



*Photo 6. Cabin sites in Upper Spring Mountain Canyon.
(Photo by Schuld 5/12/10)*



*Photo 7. Office and bunkhouse in Upper Spring Mountain Canyon.
(Photo by Schuld 5/12/10)*



Photo 8. Tramway to adit in Upper Spring Mountain Canyon (Photo by Schuld 5/12/10)

Although the remains of four tramways and adits were identified in Upper Spring Mountain Canyon, none of the workings appeared to have generated significant waste rock.

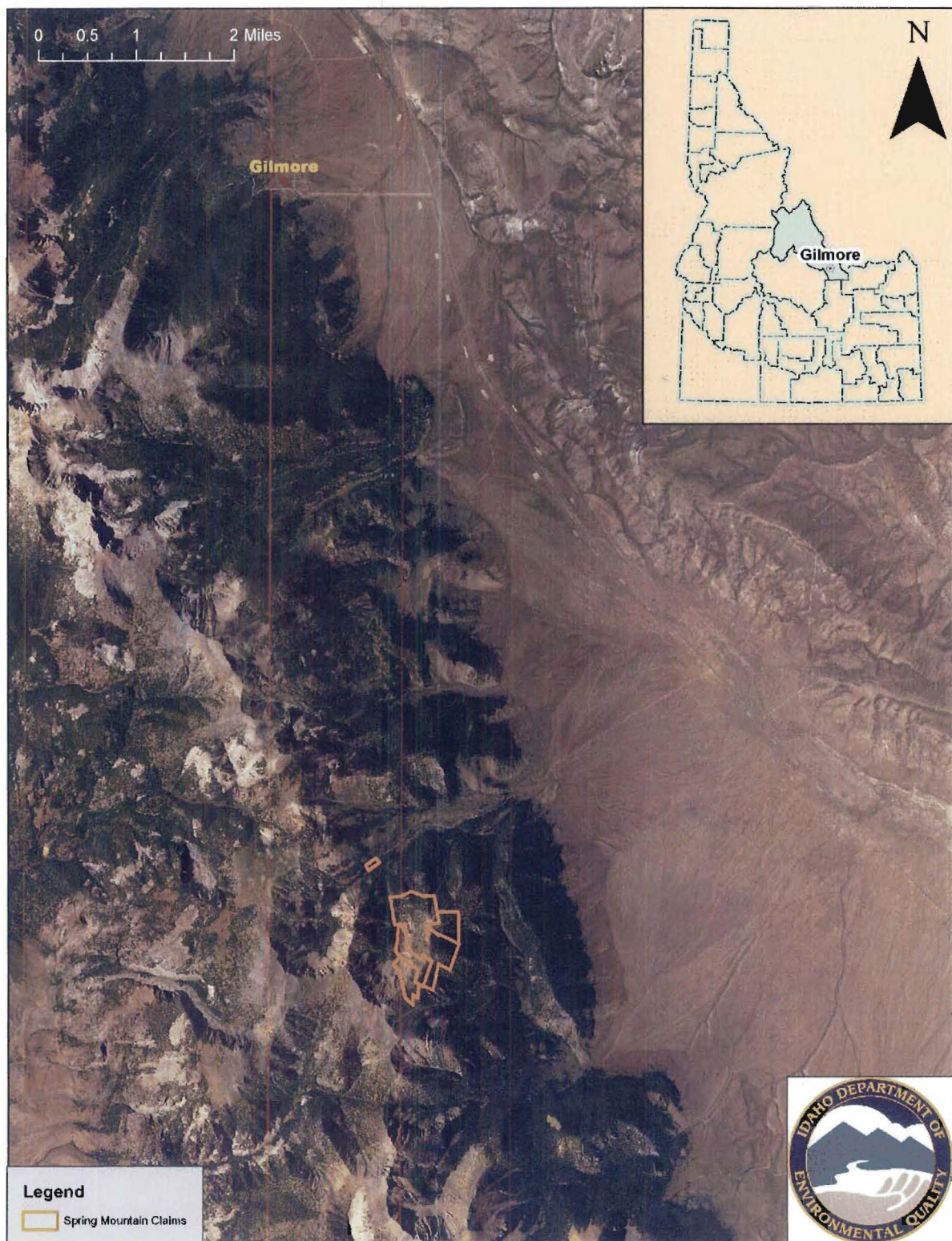
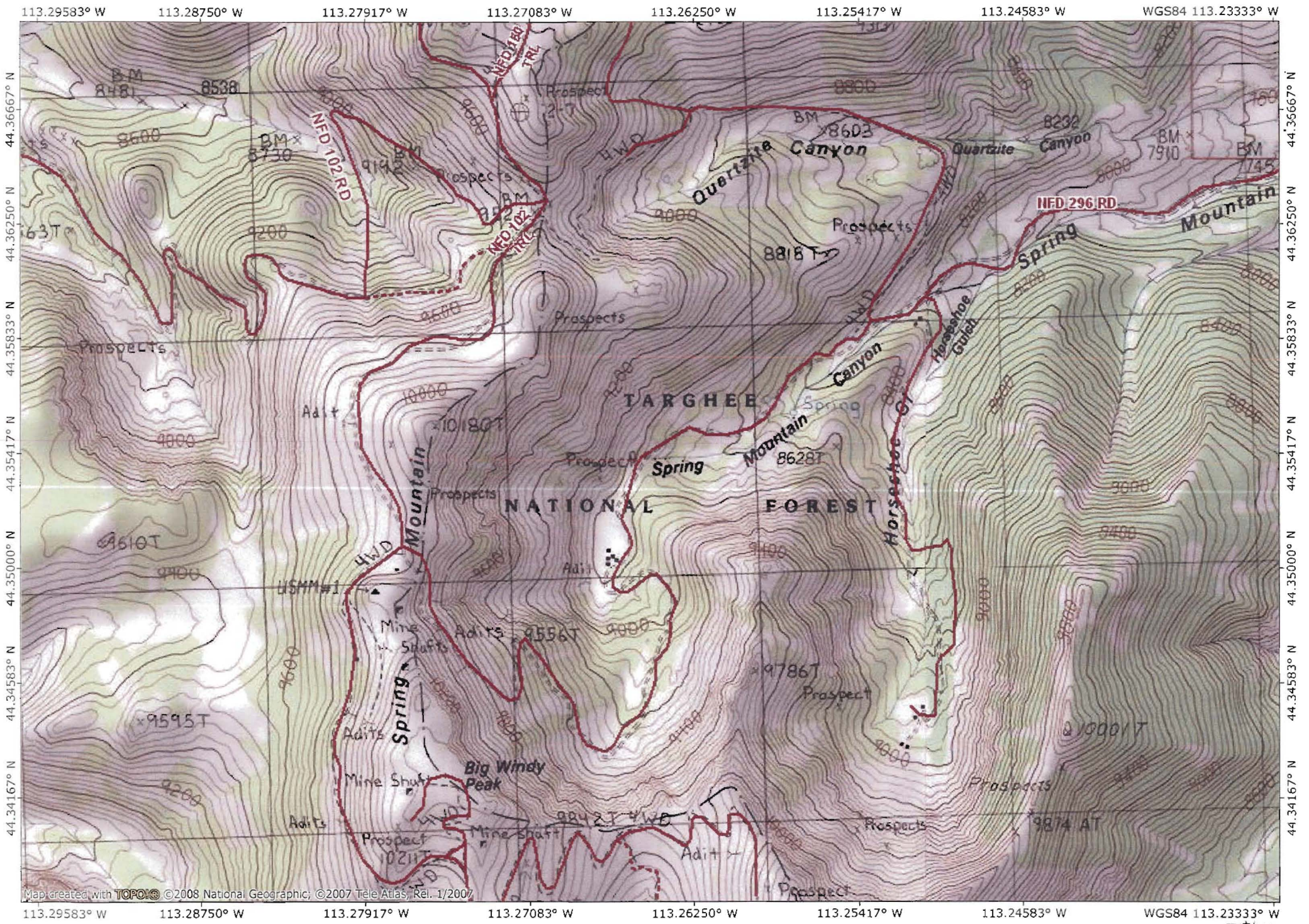
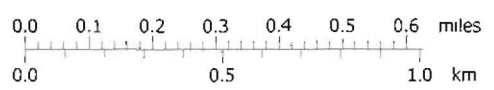


Figure 1. Location of the Spring Mountain Claims with Lemhi County 2010 Parcel Data overlay. (Map source: Lemhi County NAIP 2004)



Map created with TOPO! © 2008 National Geographic, © 2007 Tele Atlas, Rel. 1/2007



TN* MN
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10/19/10

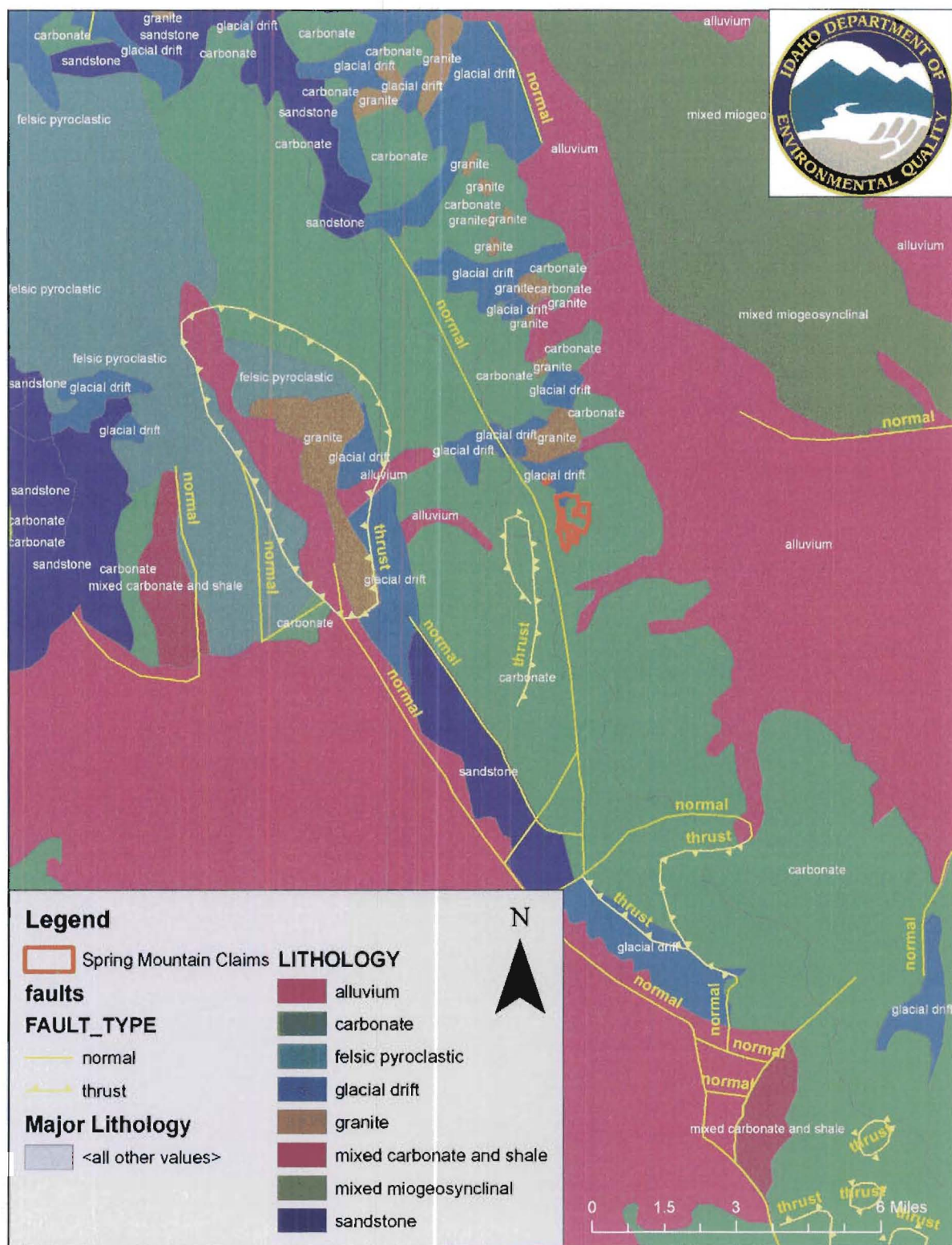


Figure 2. Lithology of the Spring Mountain Claims. (Map source: Idaho DEQ ArcSDE 9.2 Geodatabase)

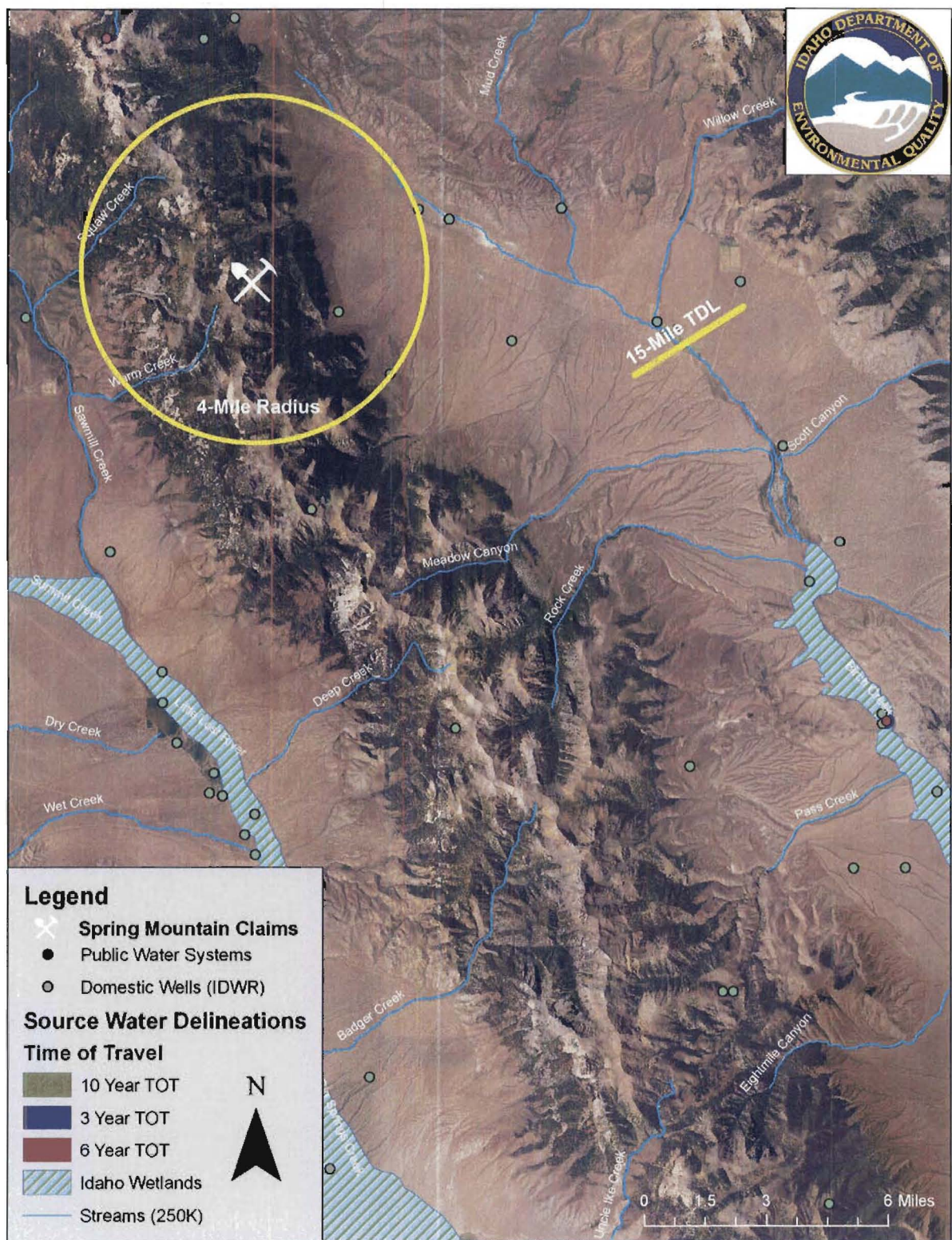


Figure 3. Drinking water well locations and source water delineations. 15-Mile Target Distance Limit (TDL). Wetlands are present on Birch Creek, approximately 6 miles past the 15-Mile TDL. (Map source: Lemhi County NAIP 2004)

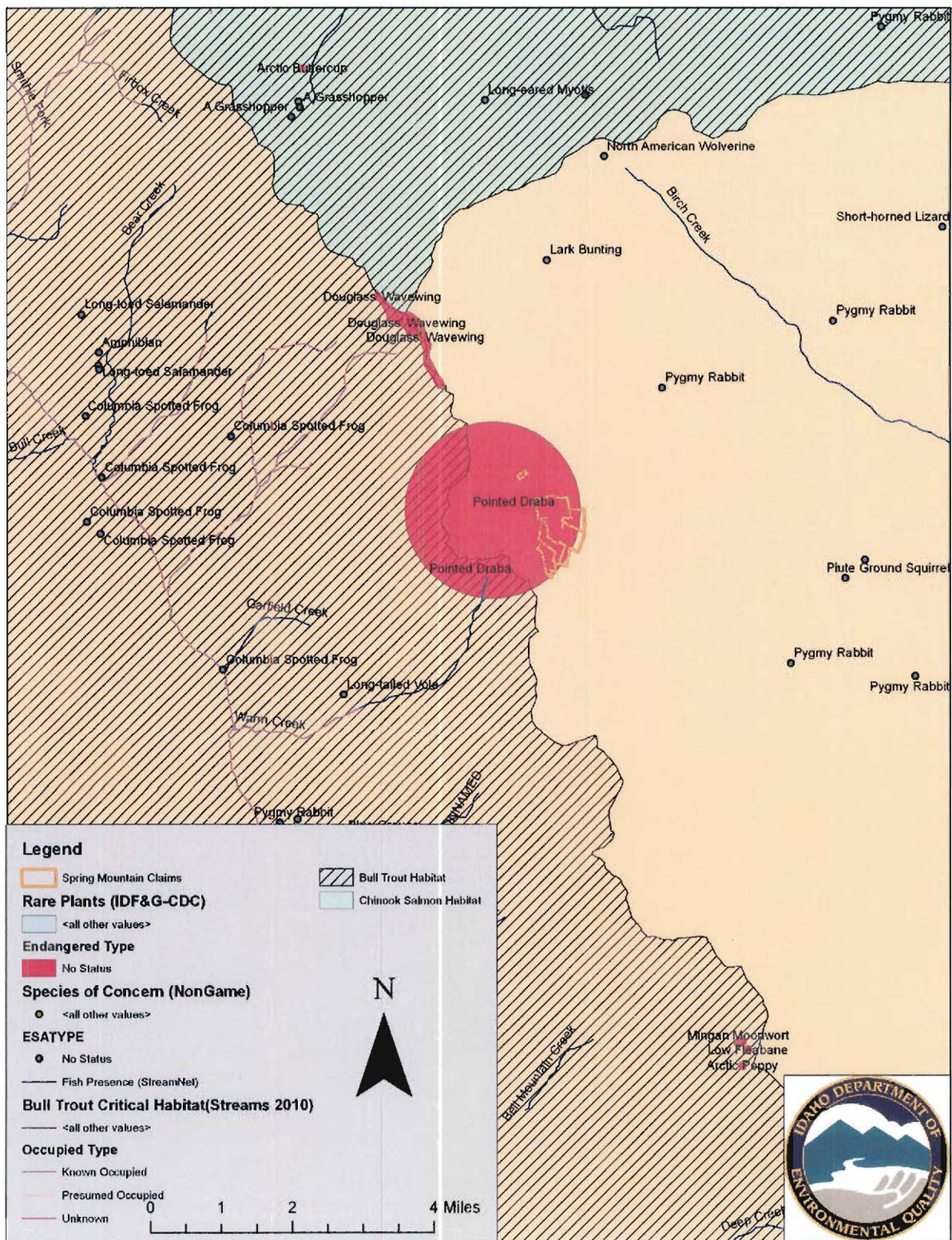


Figure 4. Sensitive species near the Spring Mountain Claims. (Map source: Idaho DEQ ArcSDE 9.2 Geodatabase)



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Mineral Survey

Rex Millsite

• Twp 12N-27E, ID, Boise

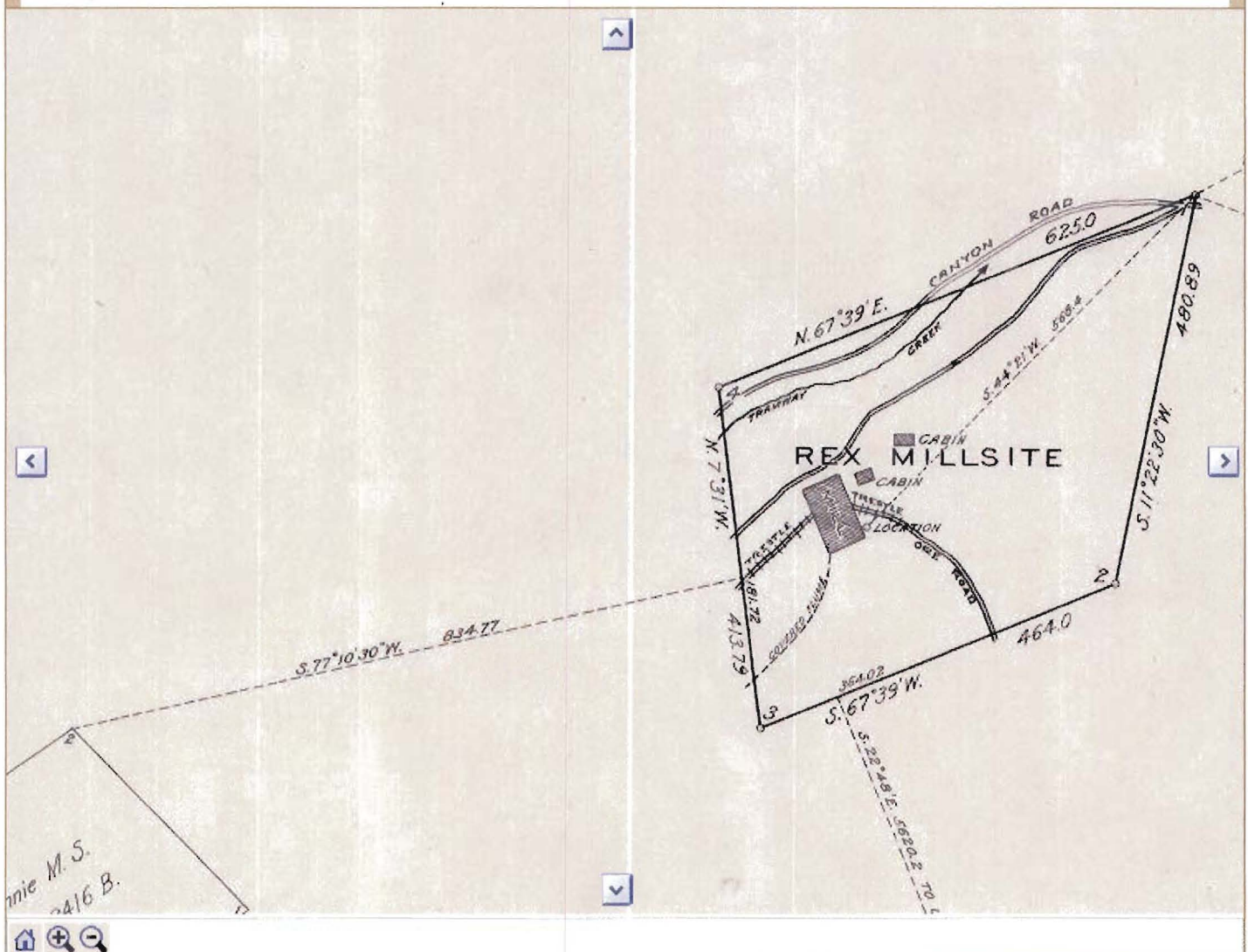
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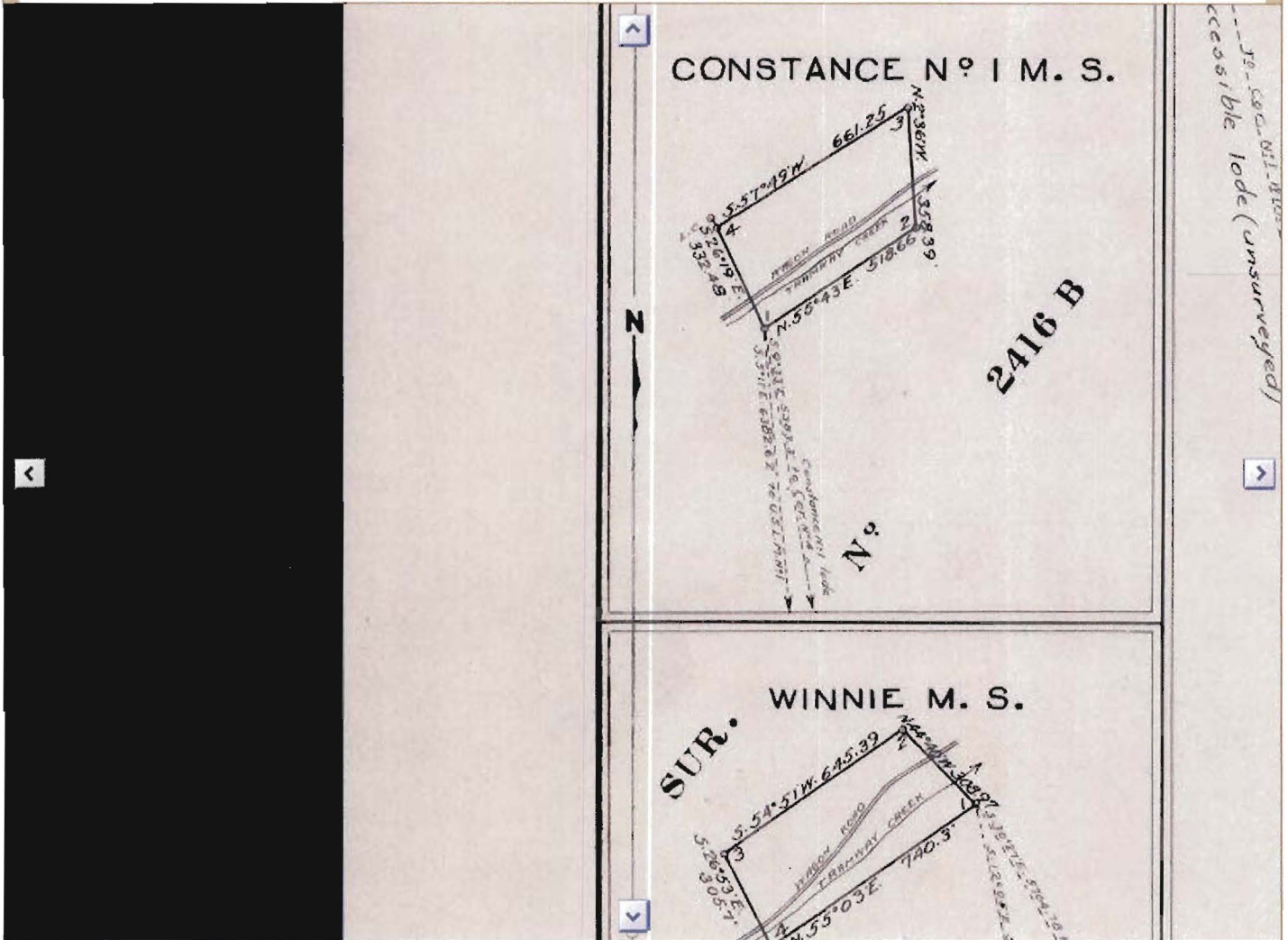
Mineral Survey

Excelsior Group Lode Claim

• Twp 12N-27E, ID, Boise

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Mineral Survey

Excelsior Group Lode Claim

• Twp 12N-27E, ID, Boise

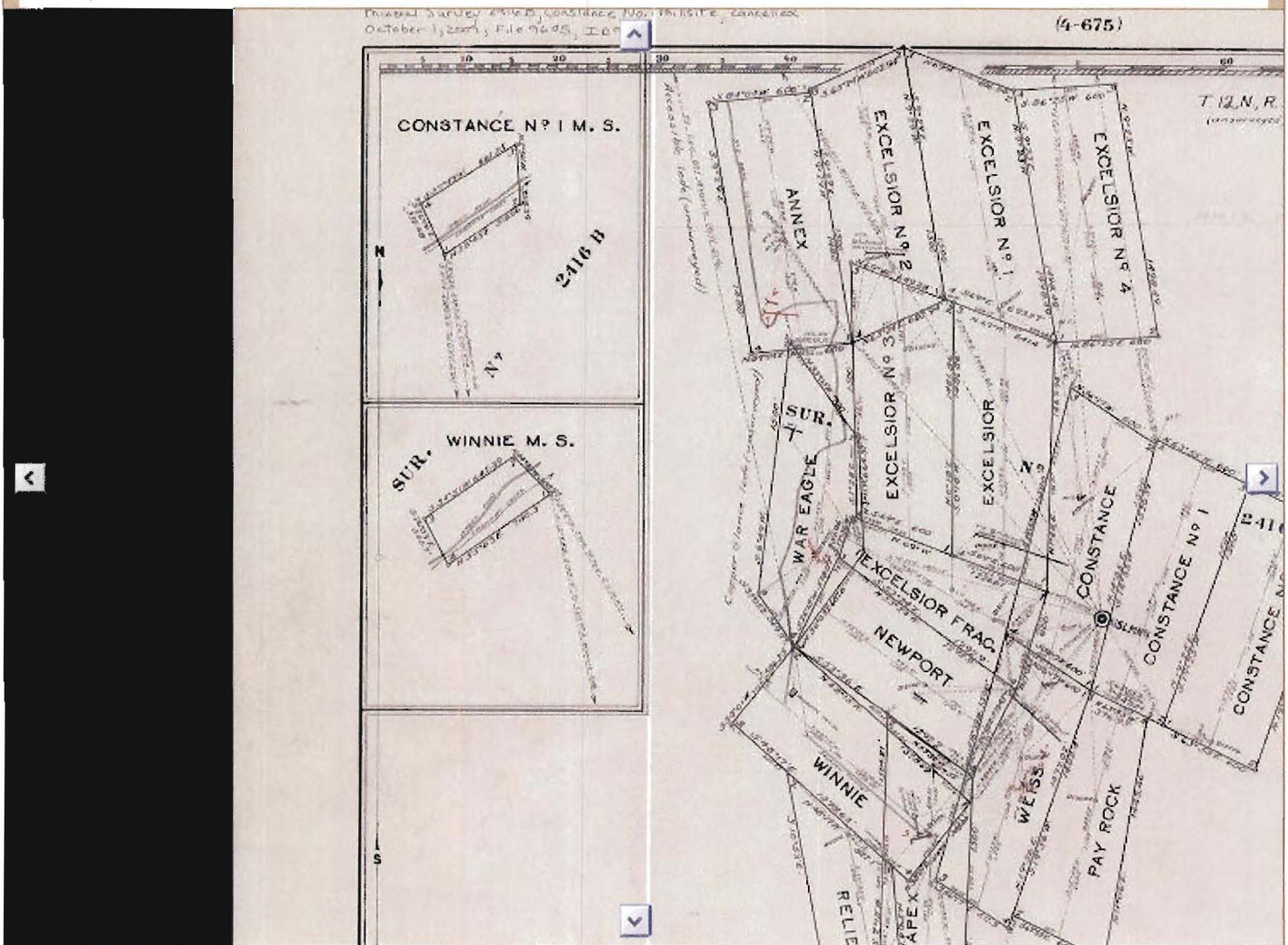
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Mineral Survey

Rex Millsite

• Twp 12N-27E, ID, Boise

Survey Details

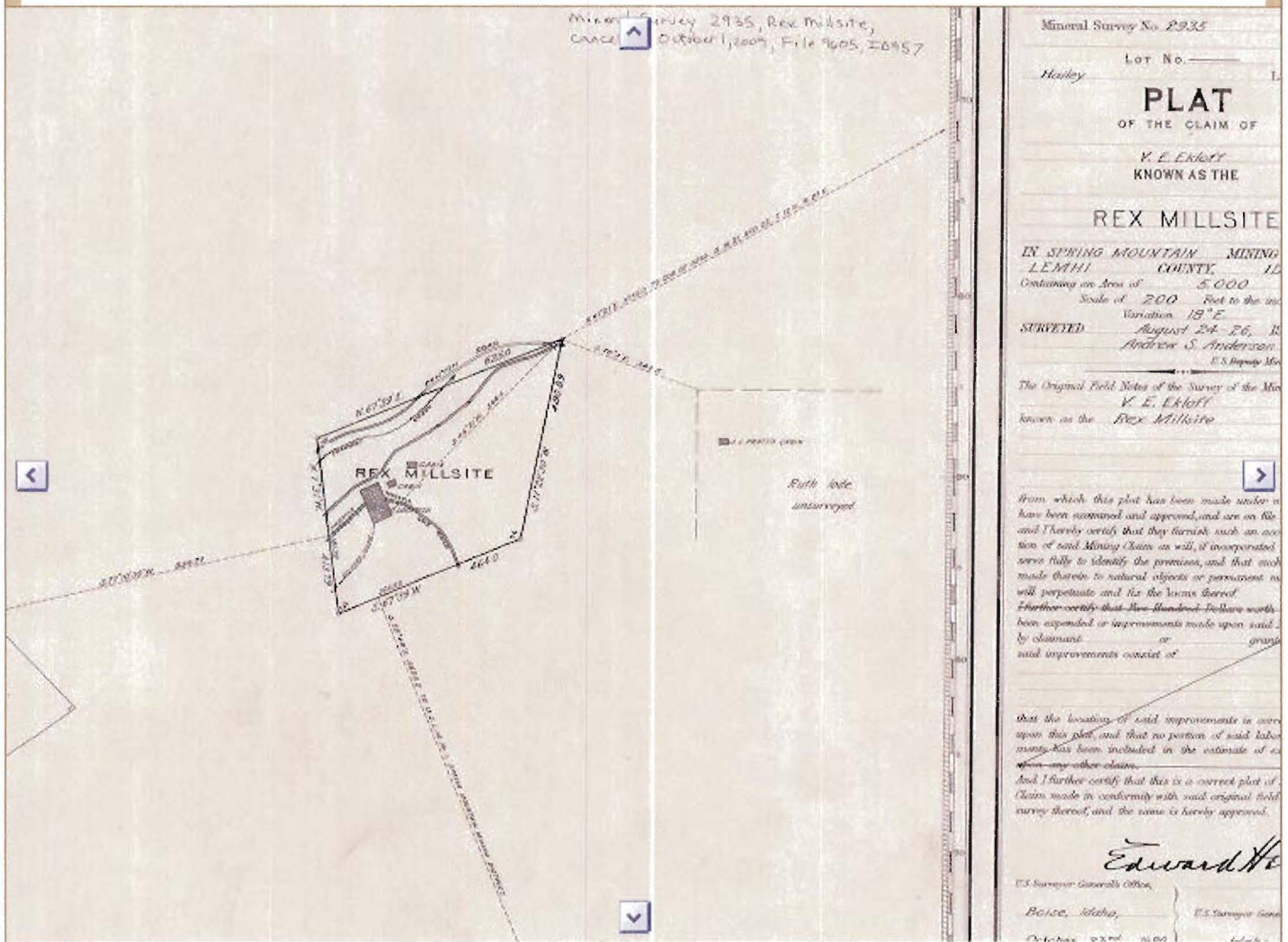
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Description: ---

Mineral Survey July 2935, Rex Millsite,
CRACK, October 1, 2009, File 9605, 20957

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Search Results

The Idaho Geological Survey's Mines and Prospects Database

The following information is from the IGS's Mines database and is available exclusively at www.idahogeology.org. Most of the resources that are referred to here are also available at the agency.

DU 240 - Teddy Mine (Big Windy; Spring Mountain; Medicine)

LOCATION

Type	Results	Type	Results
Latitude DMS	4420S7	Latitude DD	44.3492
Longitude DMS	1131637	Longitude DD	-113.2769
Legal (TRS)	12N27E30	7.5' Quad	BIG WINDY PEAK
Land Owner	Forest Service	30' x 60' Quad	BORAH PEAK
Forest Service Land	Challis NF	County Name	Lemhi

REFERENCE

Type	Results	Type	Results
MILS Reference Number	160590820	MRDS Reference Number	W015769
File on Record?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Yes	Use "DU 240" to find the file in the Mines cabinets	
Reference	Select Citation to view mines with same source <ul style="list-style-type: none">Umpleby, 1913, USGS B-528.		
MLA Reference	MLA 6-91, MLA 5-91		

COMMODITY AND Au, Ag, Cu, Pb, Zn PRODUCTION

Type	Results
Commodity	Not necessarily in order of production quantity. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> lead silver
Production	No Production recorded for this property.

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DU 241 - Elizabeth Mine (Big Windy; Spring Mountain; Sand Carbonate)

LOCATION

Type	Results	Type	Results
Latitude DMS	442041	Latitude DD	44.3447
Longitude DMS	1131645	Longitude DD	-113.2792
Legal (TRS)	12N27E30	7.5' Quad	BIG WINDY PEAK
Land Owner	Forest Service	30' x 60' Quad	BORAH PEAK
Forest Service Land	Challis NF	County Name	Lemhi

REFERENCE

Type	Results	Type	Results
MILS Reference Number	160590821		
MRDS Reference Number			
File on Record?	No		
Reference	Select Citation to view mines with same source		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Umpleby, 1913, USGS B-528. 		
MLA Reference	MLA 6-91, MLA 5-91		

COMMODITY AND Au, Ag, Cu, Pb, Zn PRODUCTION

Type	Results
Commodity	Not necessarily in order of production quantity. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> copper gold lead silver
Production	Production value shown in a range to protect confidentiality. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> silver - (10,001-50,000) oz lead - (500,001-2,000,000) lbs copper - (10,001-50,000) lbs gold - (0-50) oz