

MINUTE ITEM

This Calendar Item No. 27
was approved by the Commission
No. 27 by the State Lands
Commission by a vote of 3
to 0 at its 2/22/79
meeting.

CALENDAR ITEM

27.

2/79
WP 3999
Smith

CERTIFICATION OF NEGATIVE DECLARATION

APPLICANT: Department of Transportation
District 2
P. O. Box 2107
Redding, California 96001

TYPE OF LAND: School land.

AREA AND LOCATION:
SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 22 and N $\frac{1}{2}$ of Section 27
all in T20N, R16E, MDBM, Lassen County,
on Highway 395, approximately 5 miles SW
of Herlong.

PROPOSAL: Material will be removed as needed from
existing, previously used, borrow sites
for highway shoulder repairs. Annual volume
to be removed is estimated at 6,000 cubic
yards per year. The proposed permit is
for a term of 10 years.

PREREQUISITE TERMS:

1. The State Lands Commission's staff, in accordance with Article 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 environment. 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 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 November 20, 1978.

A 1
S 1

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CALENDAR ITEM NO. 27. (CONTD)

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 NO #233 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
Caltrans
WP3999

This Negative Declaration is prepared by the State Lands Commission in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act.

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), District 2, proposes to remove 6,000 tons (approximately 6,000 cubic yards) of aggregate per year from an area within the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 22 and the N $\frac{1}{2}$ of Section 27 all in T.26 N., R.16 E., M.D.M., Lassen County. Removal will be conducted from existing, previously used borrow sites. The material will be used for highway shoulder repair and other maintenance requirements.

The Initial Study upon which this Negative Declaration is based, was prepared by the applicant in consultation with the staff of the State Lands Commission and other interested agencies.

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 implementing this project.
2. The project will be mitigated, as enumerated in the Initial Study, so that there will be minimal impacts on 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 P. Fukushima, State Lands Commission, 1807-13th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814.

INITIAL STUDY

Proposed Borrow Pit for Aggregates
near Doyle, Lassen County
WP 3999

Prepared for
The State Lands Commission

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SUMMARY

Caltrans plans to remove 6,000 tons (approximately 6,000 cu. yds.) of gravel per year from State lands for a period of up to 30 years.

An archeological site adjacent to the gravel source will be protected from any disturbance when this proposal is implemented.

Minor disturbance of flora and fauna will occur over small areas.

Possible adverse effects on the deer herd will be minimized or eliminated by adherence to the proposed mitigation measures.

The project is not considered to have a significant effect on the environment.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

The California Department of Transportation, (Caltrans) District 2, proposes to remove 6,000 tons of material per year for highway shoulder repair and other maintenance uses.

Aggregates will be excavated, loaded with rubber-tired front end loaders, and hauled by ten-wheel dump trucks to Caltrans maintenance work areas on State Route 395. Two maintenance territories will be using this source (Susanville and Quincy).

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

General. The subject property is located within an area of approximately 730 acres situated between Bird Hills (a lower area of the Diamond Mountains) and Long Valley Creek, on the southwesterly edge of the Honey Lake Valley.

State Route 395 bisects the area. Garnier Road (access road to Horlong) passes along the westerly side of Area "A" (see attached EXHIBIT B). An existing dirt road provides access to Areas "B" and "C", south of Highway 395.

Areas "A", "B" and "C" are all existing gravel pits and have been used intermittently for more than 20 years by Federal, State and county agencies, and by private operators.

A commercial aggregate plant is located within one-half mile of the proposed site.

There is one residence about .4 mile southwest of Area "A", across Highway 395, one about .5 mile south of Areas "B" and "C" and one .8 mile north of Area "A".

Soils. On site, soils are Class IV and VI. Class IV soil is sandy or alkaline, which restricts its use for agriculture. It can be used for selected crops with careful management. Class VI soils occur on gently sloping to moderately deep to very deep, well-drained soils. Timber production is the main use of Class VI

soil. (There are no trees on these areas.) Both classes contain high percentages of sand, gravel and cobbles, and are alluvial or lakeshore deposits.

Geology. The formation consists of Quaternary nonmarine terrace deposits which overlie lake deposits of the same age.

Hydrology. Water runoff enters Long Valley Creek, which drains into the Honey Lake basin. This is a subbasin of the North Lahontan basin. Annual rainfall for this area is low at approximately 16 inches.

There are no streams or lakes within the project limits.

Flora. Vegetation is typical of the northern desert shrub belt consisting predominantly of sagebrush, bitterbrush, curl-leaf mahogany, rabbit brush, saltbrush and various grasses and forbs.

Fauna. Wildlife common to this area includes the Rocky Mountain mule deer, jackrabbit, cottontail rabbit, dove, quail and chuckar. Coyote and bobcat are seen frequently. Rodents, reptiles and non-game birds common to this terrain are found in the vicinity of the project area.

According to the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG), there are no rare or endangered species of wildlife or plants within the project limits. While the southern bald eagle is occasionally seen in this area, there are no nesting areas near the project.

A portion of the proposed site is a major deer wintering and crossing area (see attached EXHIBIT C for deer browse area and crossing corridor). Deer leave the Bird Hills during winter migration, follow the ridge easterly through the project, cross State Route 395 at Post Mile 30.2 and continue along the widening ridge to the northeast.

Historical and Archeological. There are no known historical or archeological resources located on the site except those covered by the Archeological Evaluation Report prepared by John W. Parker, Staff Archeological Specialist, Caltrans, Sacramento, California. The sites identified in the report will be protected. The report is on file at the office of the State Lands Commission.

General Plan and Zoning. This area is shown on the Lassen County General Plan as open space and is zoned A-1 (general agricultural).

The proposed use does not conflict with these land use classifications. The Lassen County Planning Department has indicated that a use permit is not required as the entire project is within State lands. However, they wish to be considered as an advisory agency in the processing of this evaluation.

ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

Small quantities of native grasses and brush will be removed by

reopening existing pits and enlarging them.

Loss of native plant cover in areas where new pits are started or where existing pits are widened will be mitigated by stockpiling any overburden, contour grading depleted areas, respreading overburden and reseeding with grasses.

Migration routes of deer could be disrupted by work conducted near the ridge they use for travel.

Disturbance of the migratory deer herd that uses the areas defined on the attached map as deer corridor or deer browse areas (EXHIBIT "C"), will be avoided by not going through or into these areas during the period from October 15 through April 15 inclusive. No excavation or operations will be allowed within the deer corridor at any time.

DFG recommends use of Area "A" because there are no deer in this area and effects on other wildlife will be insignificant. Areas "B" and "C" can be used but the dates of restriction must be adhered to.

Noise generated by pit operations and from traffic associated with these operations is not considered to be significant due to both the great distance of this noise source from sensitive noise receptors and due to the limited amount of truck haul (about 225 truck trips per year).

ALTERNATIVES

1. No project. This concept would continue conditions as they are at present. Material for road repairs would have to be supplied by commercial sources or from other State-owned material pits.
2. Purchase aggregates from a commercial source. Price would be considerably higher than from State-owned land.
3. Haul from other State material pits. This would require longer hauls resulting in loss of time and additional uses of a nonrenewable petroleum resource. The nearest State pit with aggregates suitable for shoulder repair work is over 40 miles from the Doyle area.

CONTACTS

The following persons or agencies were contacted or helped prepare this study:

Lassen County Planning Department
California Department of Fish and Game

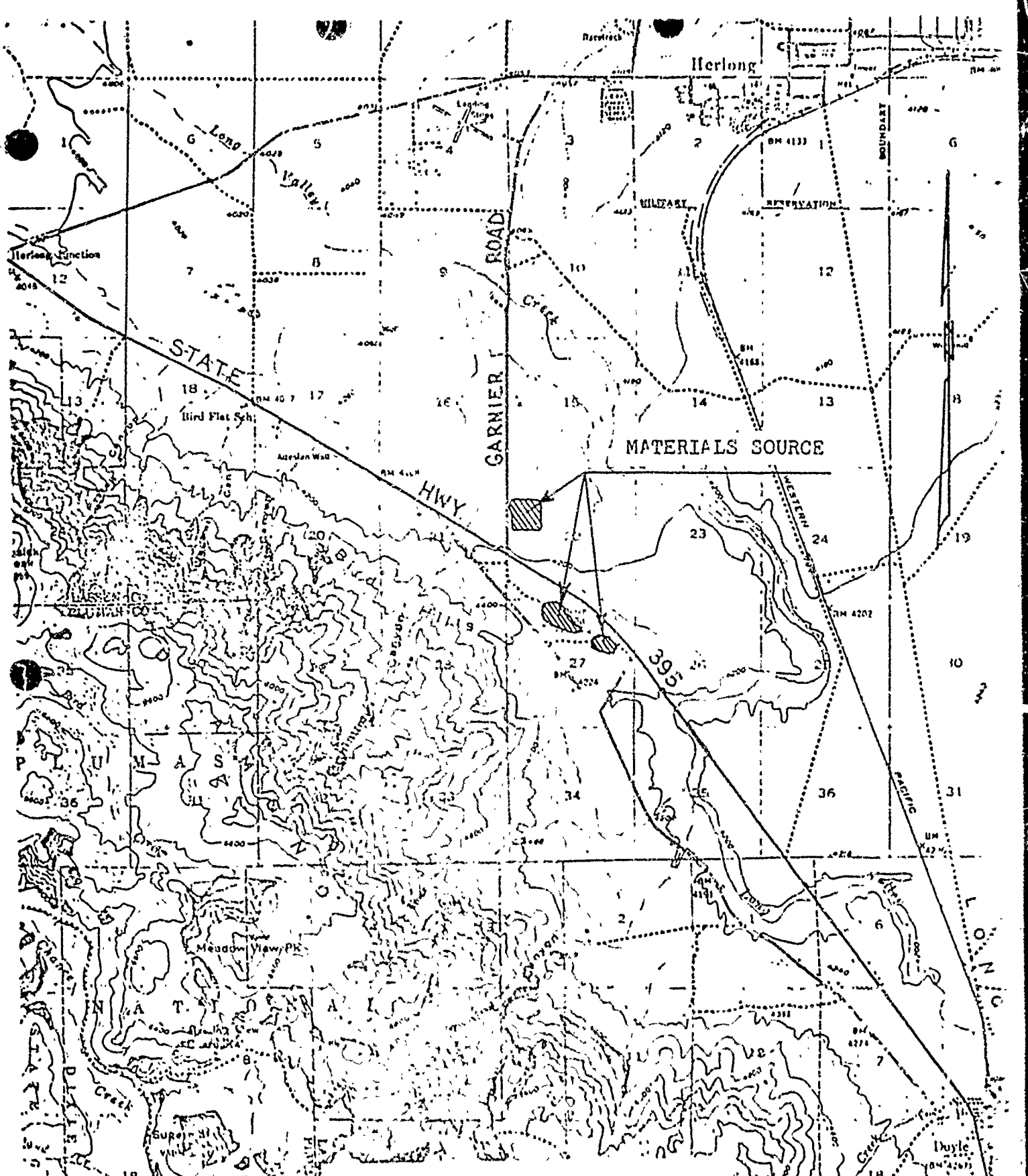
Persons involved in the preparation of this study:

Robert Richardson, Environmental Planner, Caltrans (Writer)
James Ceraicall, Senior Right of Way Agent, Caltrans
Bud Pyshora, Associate Wildlife Manager-Biologist, DFG

CONTACTS (Continued)

Kenneth Zanzi, Wildlife Habitat Supervisor II, DFG
Robert McBroom, Associate Transportation Engineer, Caltrans
John Parker, Staff Archeologist, Caltrans
Stan Thompson, Wildlife Management Supervisor, DFG

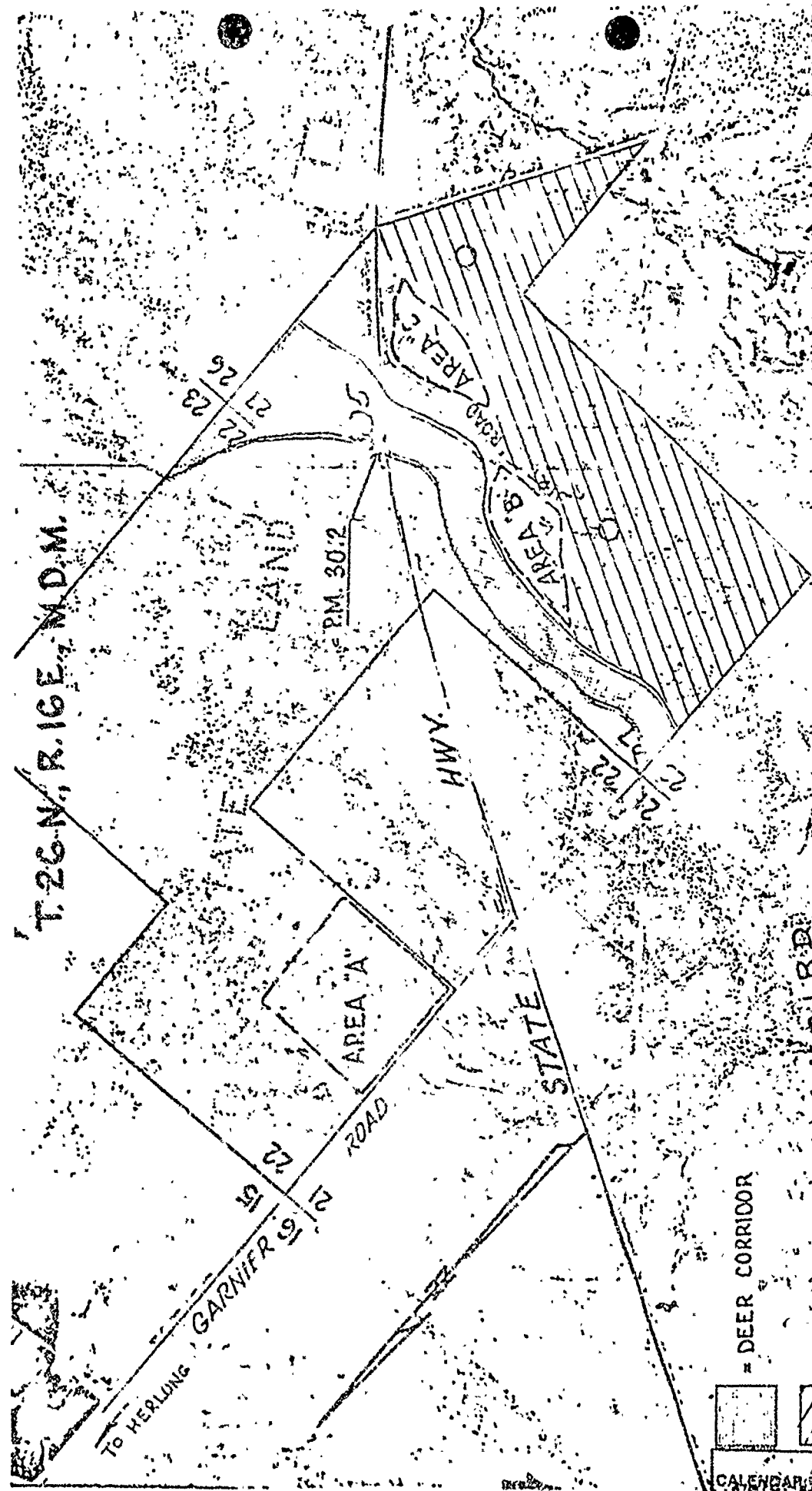
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VICINITY MAP
 STATE LANDS COMMISSION LAND
 Portion "DOYLE" Quad
 15 Min. Series U.S.G.S.

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EXHIBIT	

T. 26 N., R. 16 E., M. D. M.



-  = DEER CORRIDOR
-  = DEER BROWSE
-  = ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE

MATERIALS SOURCE
STATE LANDS COMMISSION LAND

EXHIBIT "C"