

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Carson City District Office

**CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION
ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW AND APPROVAL**

Project Creator: Matt Simons, Realty Specialist

Field Office: Stillwater Field Office

Lead Office: Stillwater Field Office

Case File/Project Number: N-93816

Applicable Categorical Exclusion: H-1790-1, Appendix 4 E(19) – Realty

Issuance of short-term (3 years or less) rights-of-way or land use authorizations for such uses as storage sites, apiary sites, and construction sites where the proposal includes rehabilitation to restore the land to its natural or original condition.

NEPA Number: DOI-BLM-NV-C010-2015-0014-CX

Project Name: Salt Wells and Fort Churchill Film Permit (Section 302 Land Use Permit)

Project Description: The Applicant proposes to film scenes for a documentary about the Donner Party near Salt Wells and Fort Churchill, Nevada. Scenes would include people walking, people riding horses, and covered wagons pulled by oxen. Approximately 30-35 personnel would be on location during filming. 2 large vehicles (>than one ton) and 6 small vehicles (<than one ton) would be used to support filming; motorized vehicles, wagons, and stock used to pull wagons would be restricted to existing roads or the surface of the dry lake bed at the Salt Wells location. People on foot and on horses could be filmed away from existing roads. No set construction or use of pyrotechnics is proposed.

Scenes near Salt Wells would involve characters on foot and 2 covered wagons, pulled by 2 oxen each, crossing the salt flat. The salt flat would be accessed from existing roads. Filming could occur anywhere on the salt flat that can be accessed without leaving an existing road or leaving the dry lake bed itself. The locations would either be accessed off of Macari Lane or from the improved road leading to the Salt Wells geothermal plant. The applicant could use existing roads to reach the dry lake bed from BLM-administered public lands on the east side of the salt flat or from Bureau of Reclamation administered lands on the west side from Macari Lane. Filming would be restricted to BLM-administered public lands.

Scenes near Fort Churchill would involve characters on foot, characters riding horses, and two oxen-drawn wagons that would be positioned to suggest the wagons and stock team have become tangled on the trail. As with the Salt Wells location, wagons and motorized vehicles would be confined to existing roads. Filming would occur on the lower hills of the Desert Mountains, east of U.S. Highway 95A, and south of the Carson River. The location would be accessed from the Simpson Road, which leaves U.S. Highway 95A south of Weeks and heads east towards Hooten Well.

Applicant Name: ThinkFactory Media

Project Location (include latitude and longitude):

Mount Diablo Meridian

Within the following described parts:

Fort Churchill

T. 16 N., R. 25 E.,

sec. 5, W½SE¼;

sec. 8, NE¼NE¼ (unsurveyed).

Salt Wells

T. 17 N., R. 30 E.,

sec. 4, SW¼.

Fort Churchill location is approximately: 119°11'58.947"W, 39°16'23.163"N

Salt Wells location is approximately: 118°37'41.578"W, 39°21'47.015"N

Land Use Plan Conformance:

The proposed action is in general conformance with the Land Use Plan, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with Administrative Actions listed on page ROW-4 of the Right-of-way Corridor section and would comply with the Standard Operating Procedures listed on pages ROW-4 through ROW-6. Land Use Permits are processed in a similar manner as rights-of-way.

Name of Plan: Carson City Field Office Consolidated Resource Management Plan (2001)

Screening of Extraordinary Circumstances: The following extraordinary circumstances apply to individual actions within categorical exclusions (43 CFR 46.215). The BLM has considered the following criteria: (Specialist review: initial in appropriate box)

<i>If any question is answered 'yes' an EA or EIS must be prepared.</i>	YES	NO
1. Would the Proposed Action have significant impacts on public health or safety? (Range)		gd 2-17-15
2. Would the Proposed Action have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (EO 11990); floodplains (EO 11988); national monuments; migratory birds (EO 13186); and other ecologically significant or critical areas? (Archaeology, Recreation, Wilderness, Wildlife, Range by allotment, Water Quality)		juw 2/17/15 ck 2/17/15 MRS 02-17-15 DUE 2/17/15
3. Would the Proposed Action have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA 102(2)(E)]? (PEC)		3/5/15 DUE
4. Would the Proposed Action have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks? (PEC)		DUE 2/5/15
5. Would the Proposed Action establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects? (PEC)		DUE 3/5/15
6. Would the Proposed Action have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects? (PEC)		DUE 3/5/15
7. Would the Proposed Action have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the NRHP as determined by the bureau or office? (Archaeology)		juw 2/17/15
8. Would the Proposed Action have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the list of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species? (Wildlife)		ck 2/17/15
9. Would the Proposed Action violate federal law, or a State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment? (PEC and Archaeology)		juw 2/17/15 DUE 3/5/15
10. Would the Proposed Action have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (EA 12898)? ((PEC)		DUE 3/5/15
11. Would the Proposed Action limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (EO 13007)? (Archaeology)		juw 2/17/15
12. Would the Proposed Action contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and EO 13112)? (Range)		gd 2-17-15

SPECIALISTS' REVIEW:

During ID Team review of the above Proposed Action and extraordinary circumstances, the following specialists reviewed this CX:

- Planning Environmental Coordinator: Angelica Rose *AR 3/5/15*
- Public Health and Safety/Noxious Weeds: Jill Devaurs *JD 2-17-15*
- Recreation/Wilderness/VRM/LWC: Dan Westermeyer *DW 2/17/15*
- Wildlife/T&E/BLM Sensitive Species: Chris Kula *CK 2/17/15*
- Archaeology/Paleontology: Jason Wright *JW 2/17/15*
- Livestock Grazing/Wild Horses and Burros: Chelsy Simerson/Linda Appel *CS 2/17/15*
- Minerals: Dave Schroeder/Ken Depaoli/Joel Hartmann *DS 2-17-15*
- Vegetation: Chelsy Simerson/Linda Appel *CS 2/17/15*
- Water Quality/Soils: Michelle Stropky *MRS 02-17-15*

CONCLUSION: Based upon the review of this Proposed Action, I have determined that the above-described project is a categorical exclusion, in conformance with the LUP, and does not require an EA or EIS. A categorical exclusion is not subject to protest or appeal.

Approved by:

Teresa J. Knutson *3/5/2015*
Teresa J. Knutson (date)
Field Manager
Stillwater Field Office



Bureau of Land Management
**Filming on Public
Lands**



**Required Form --
DETAILED
DESCRIPTION OF
FILMING ACTIVITY**

Print this form, fill it in, and send it to the appropriate BLM office.

1. Company Name:

Thinkfactory Media

2. Production Manager &Phone #:

John Kalning - C: 936-433-9151

3. Alternate Contact &Phone #:

Mayen Ma - C: 718-344-1626

4. Site Location/Name:

Ft. Churchill - Pony Bob Haslam Group Use Area

5. Specific location (ie, what part of lake bed/dunes,etc.):

Foothills north of Simpson Road

6. Dates & hours of use:

2/21/15: 8AM - 5PM

7. Number of personnel to be on location (include everyone):

30 - 35 people

8. Animals to be on location:

4 oxen, 1 horse

9. Describe activity to occur in detail (if possible, attach a copy of the story board):

We are filming recreations for a documentary. The recreations will consist of:

Characters get in an altercation on the wagon trail (oxen and wagons will be in this scene)

Character rides a horse

10. List numbers and type of equipment, vehicles, and aircraft to be on location:

Cameras:

Two 3C00s

Small vehicles (<than one ton):

6

Large vehicles:(>than one ton):

2

Aircraft:(numbers and type):

0

11. Describe props and sets to be used/constructed:

We will not need to build sets and will use the look of the land that is already existing.

We will bring in 2 covered wagons that will have small props hanging off the sides.

We will bring in 4 oxen to pull the wagons.

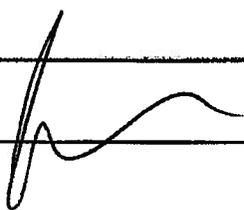
12. Describe any explosives to be used:

No Explosives

13. Describe any pyrotechnics to be used:

No Pyrotechnics

SIGNATURE:

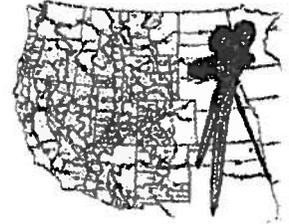


DATE:

1-21-15



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2. Production Manager &Phone #:

John Kalning - C: 936-433-9151

3. Alternate Contact &Phone #:

Mayen Ma - C: 718-344-1626

4. Site Location/Name:

Salt Wells

5. Specific location (ie, what part of lake bed/dunes,etc.):

Salt flats off of Macari Road

6. Dates & hours of use:

2/22/15: 8AM - 5PM

7. Number of personnel to be on location (include everyone):

30 - 35 people

8. Animals to be on location:

4 oxen

9. Describe activity to occur in detail (if possible, attach a copy of the story board):

We are filming recreations for a documentary. The recreations will consist of:

Characters crossing the salt flats with their covered wagons (2 wagons in total) pulled by 2 oxen (4 oxen in total).

10. List numbers and type of equipment, vehicles, and aircraft to be on location:

Cameras:

Two 3C00s

Small vehicles (<than one ton):

6

Large vehicles:(>than one ton):

2

Aircraft:(numbers and type):

0

11. Describe props and sets to be used/constructed:

We will not need to build sets and will use the look of the land that is already existing.

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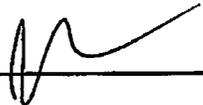
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12. Describe any explosives to be used:

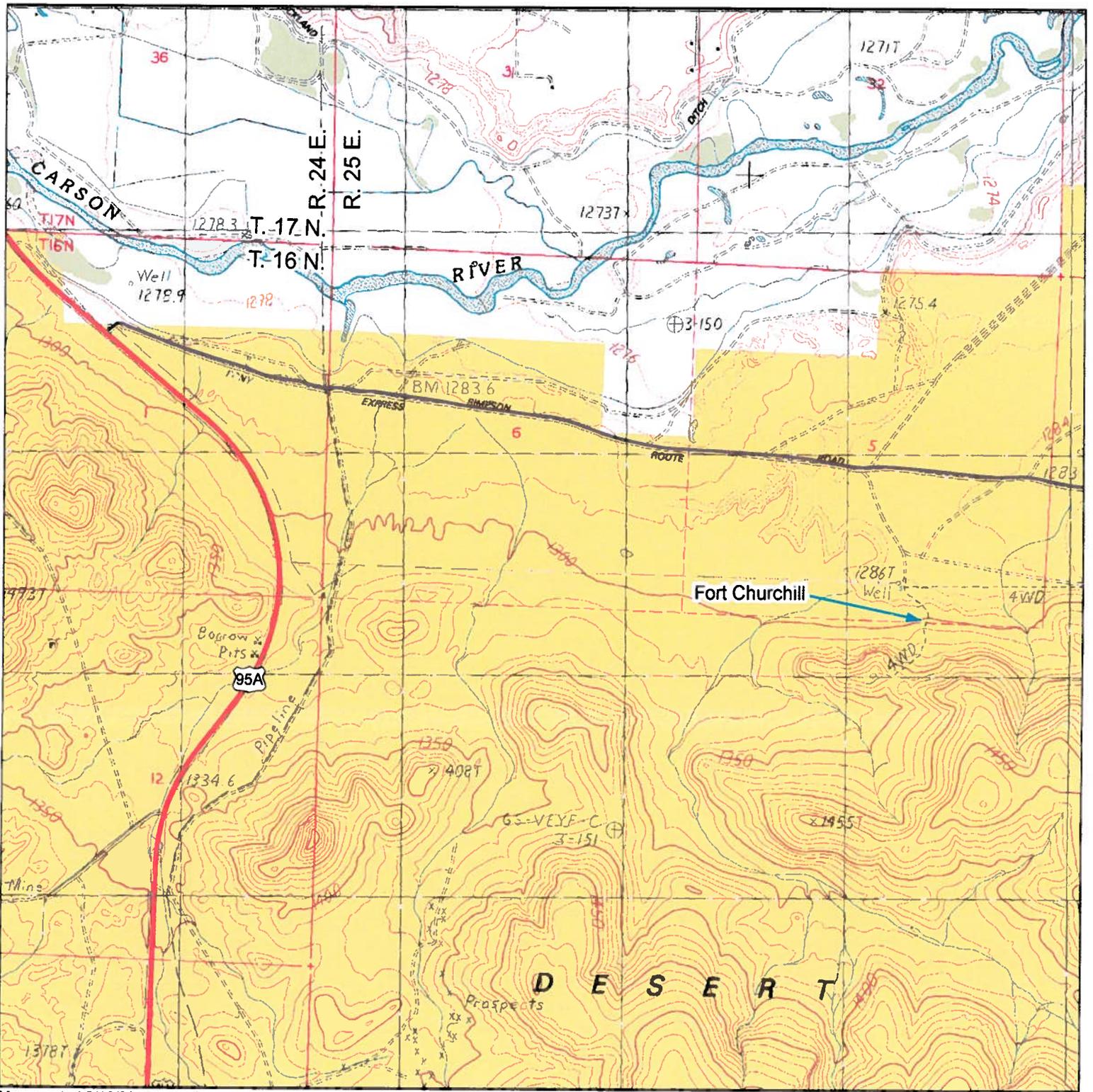
No Explosives

13. Describe any pyrotechnics to be used:

No Pyrotechnics

SIGNATURE: 

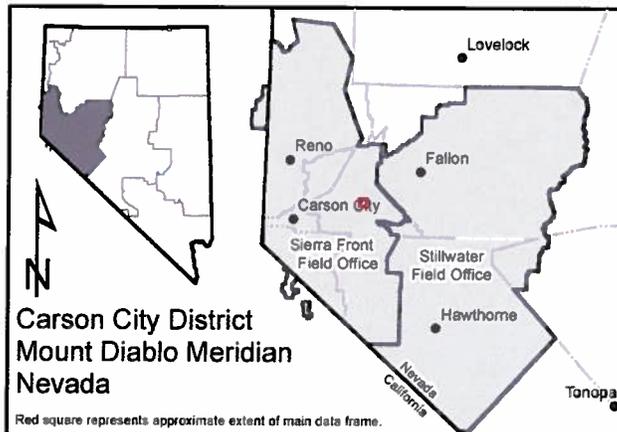
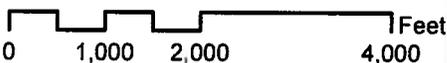
DATE: ~~11-21-15~~ 11-21-15



Map created 2/10/2015 by msimons.



No warranty is made by the BLM as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual or aggregate use.
8 inch by 8 inch data frame represents:
1:24,000

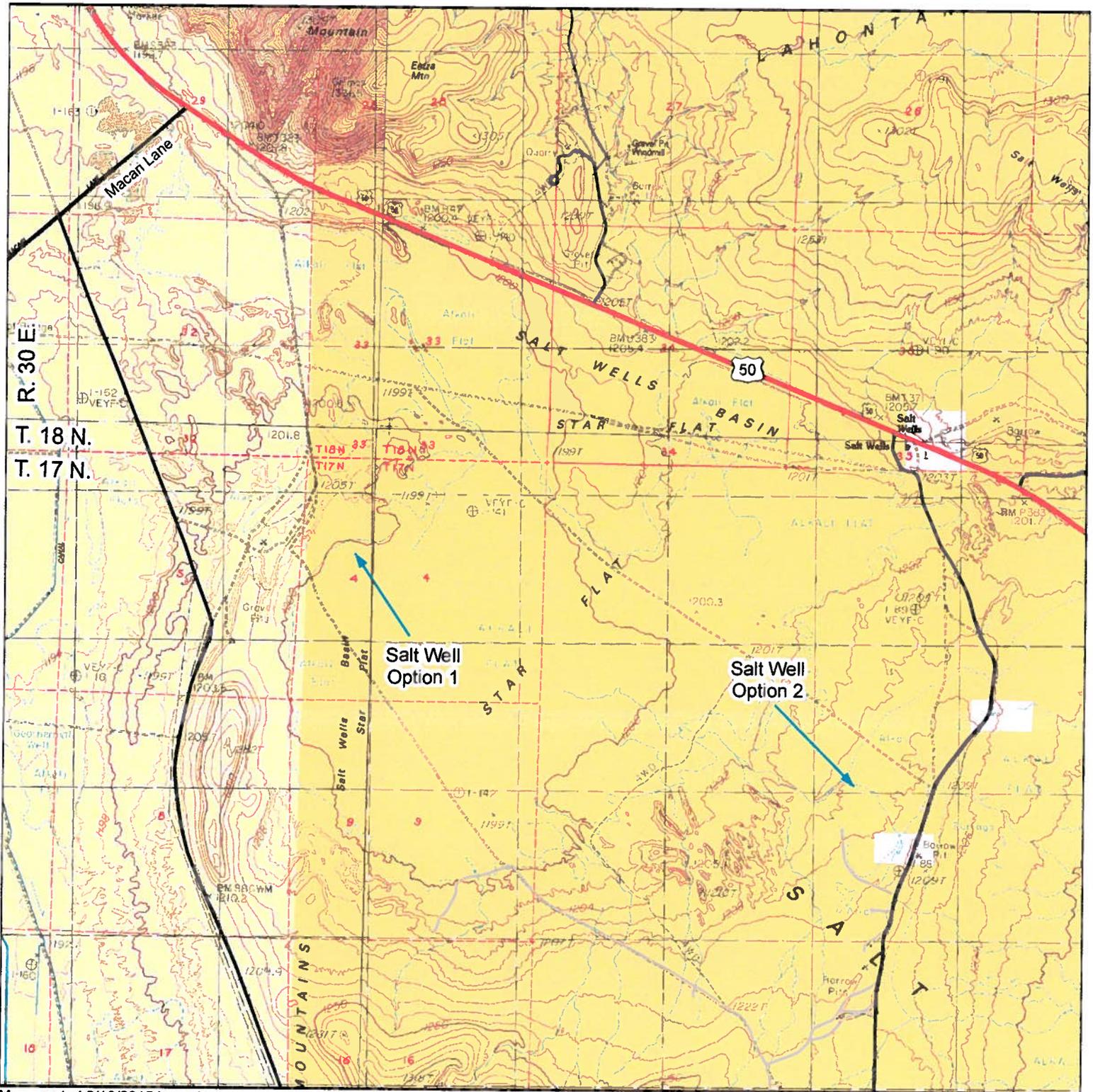


Legend

Color Land Status NV

Agency

- Bureau of Land Management
- Private

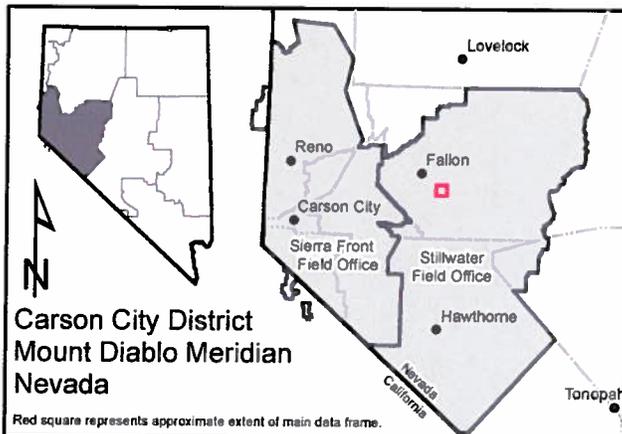
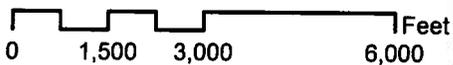


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8 inch by 8 inch data frame represents:
1:36,000



Carson City District
Mount Diablo Meridian
Nevada

Red square represents approximate extent of main data frame.

Legend

Color Land Status NV Agency

- Bureau of Land Management
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Private