Cold Springs Helispot

BLM Office:

LLNVC0100

Stillwater Field Office

Lease/Serial/Case File No.:

N-93890

Proposed Action Title/Type:

Gravel helicopter landing pad for fire support and emergency response.

Location of Proposed Action:

Mount Diablo Meridian, T. 18 N., R. 37 E., Section 20, NW¼NE¼ and NE¼NW¼.

Description of Proposed Action:

A helicopter landing pad would be constructed by spreading decayed granite gravel in a 40-foot circle, approximately 3-4" deep in a previously burned area north of Cold Springs Station along U.S. Highway 50. The landing pad would be used intermittently when nearby fire activities are supported by helicopters and for emergency care flight landings. The pad would be accessed via an undeveloped two-track road (primary access) leading from Highway 50 north of Cold Springs Station or from the parking area at Cold Springs Station via overland travel (secondary access). Support and emergency vehicles would park on the open ground near the graveled pad.

During fire support use, additional aviation support vehicles (crew pickup trucks, fuel trucks, etc.) would drive to and be parked near the pad. The additional traffic may cause soil compaction or loosen the topsoil, which may cause increased dust when helicopters land and take off. Water or other dust suppression measures would be used to limit fugitive dust when the pad is being used. After fire support has ended, the area would be inspected and surface disturbances would be reclaimed as needed. Additional monitoring for noxious and invasive weed infestations would occur.

Land Use Plan Conformance

Land Use Plan Name:

Carson City Field Office Consolidated Resource Management Plan (2001)

Date Approved/Amended:

May 11, 2001

The proposed action is in conformance with the LUP, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following LUP decision(s) (objectives, terms, and conditions):

The proposed action is in conformance with the LUP, 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.

Compliance with NEPA:

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 11.9:

H-1790-1, Appendix 4 E(17) – Realty – Grant of a short rights-of-way for utility service or terminal access roads to an individual residence, outbuilding, or water well.

This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The proposed action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 516 DM 2 apply.

Approval and Contact Information

Teresa J. Knutson Field Manager Stillwater Field Office	Teresa J. Knutson	Date 8/6/2015

Contact Person
Matt Simons
Realty Specialist
Stillwater Field Office
5665 Morgan Mill Road
Carson City, NV 89701
775-885-6003
msimons@blm.gov

Categorical Exclusion –Screening for Extraordinary Circumstances

CX Number	DOI-BLM-NV-C010-2015-0035-CX
Date	July 2015
Lease/Case File/Serial Number:	N-93890
Regulatory Authority (CFR or Law):	43 CFR 2800, Federal Land Policy and Management Act

IMPORTANT: Appropriate staff should review the circumstances listed below, comment and initial for concurrence. Rationale supporting the concurrence should be included where appropriate.

Impacts on Public Health and Safety

1. Does the proposed action have significant impacts on public health and safety?

YES	NO	REVIEWER/TITLE
	la 7/27/15	Linda Appel, Rangeland Management Specialist
	DS 7/27/15	Dave Schroeder, Environmental Protection Specialist

Impacts on Natural Resources or Unique Geographic Characteristics

2. Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness or wilderness study areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds (Executive Order 13186); and other ecologically significant or critical areas?

YES	NO	REVIEWER/TITLE
	JH 7-29-15	Joel Hartmann, Geologist
	KD 7/27/15	Ken Depaoli, Geologist
	JW 7/23/15	Jason Wright, Archaeologist
	DW 7/27/15	Dan Westermeyer, Outdoor Recreation Planner
[redacted]	MKS 07/27/15	Michelle Stropky, Hydrologist
	CK 7/27/15	Chris Kula, Wildlife Biologist
	la 7/27/15	Linda Appel, Rangeland Management Specialist livestock graze pasture in Nov

Level of Controversy

3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)]?

YES	NO	REVIEWER/TITLE
	AOR 7/27/15	Angelica Rose, Planning & Environmental Coordinator

Highly Uncertain or Unique or Unknown Environmental Risks

4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?

YES	NO	REVIEWER/TITLE
	AOR 7/27/15	Angelica Rose, Planning & Environmental Coordinator.

Precedent Setting

5. Establish a precedent for future action, or represent a decision in principle about future actions, with potentially significant environmental effects?		
YES	**NO**	**REVIEWER/TITLE**
	ADR 7/27/15	Angelica Rose, Planning & Environmental Coordinator.

Cumulatively Significant Effects

6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant, environmental effects?		
YES	**NO**	**REVIEWER/TITLE**
	ADR 7/27/15	Angelica Rose, Planning & Environmental Coordinator.

Impacts on Cultural Properties

7. Have significant impacts on properties listed or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the Bureau or office?		
YES	**NO**	**REVIEWER/TITLE**
	JW 7/23/15	Jason Wright, Archaeologist

Impacts on Federally Listed Species or Critical Habitat

8. 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?		
YES	**NO**	**REVIEWER/TITLE**

	CK 7/27/15	Chris Kula, Wildlife Biologist

Compliance with Laws

9. Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment?		
YES	**NO**	**REVIEWER/TITLE**
	ADR 7/27/15	Angelica Rose, Planning & Environmental Coordinator

Environmental Justice

10. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898)?		
YES	**NO**	**REVIEWER/TITLE**
	ADR 7/27/15	Angelica Rose, Planning & Environmental Coordinator

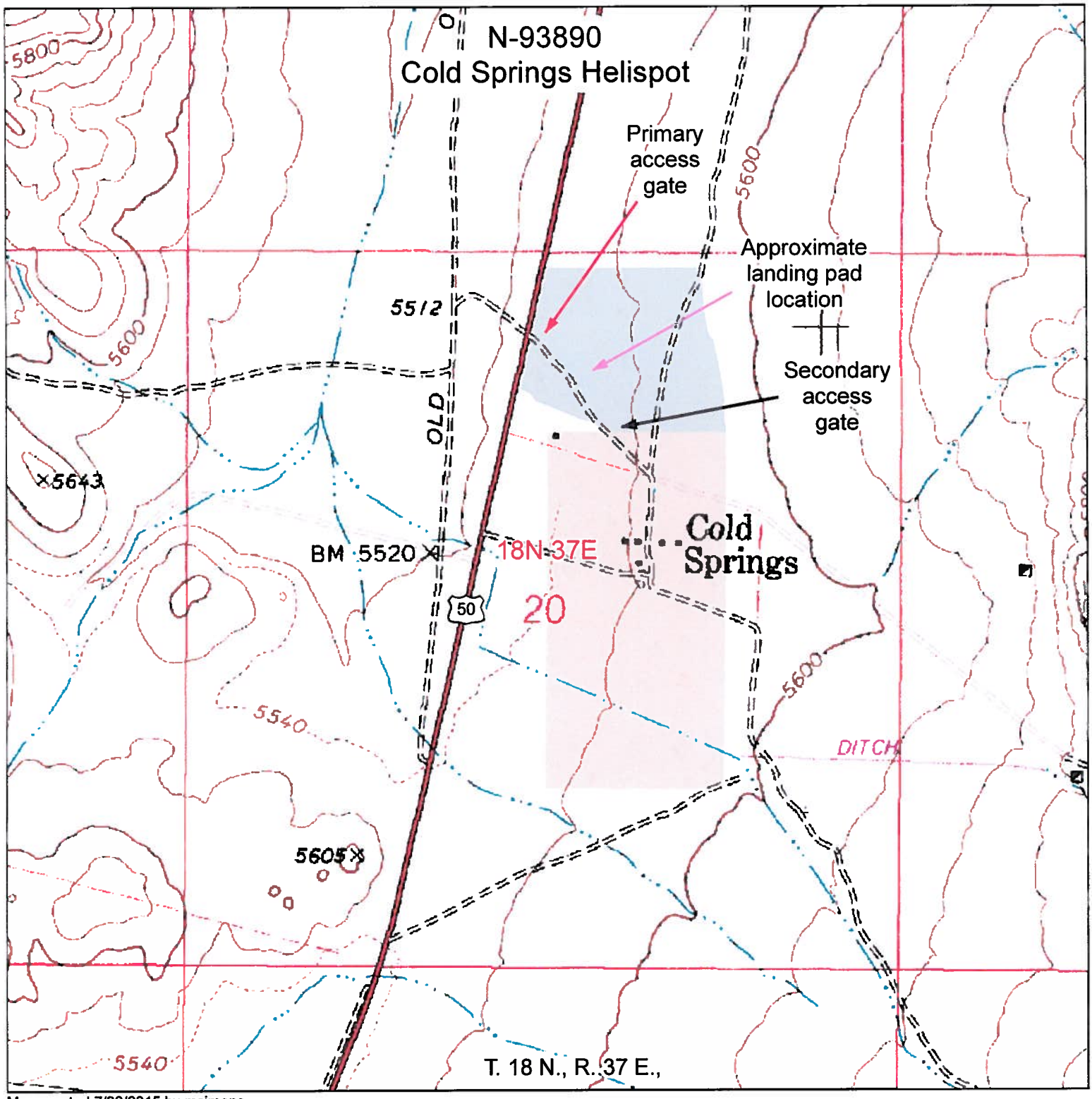
Sacred Sites

11. 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 (Executive Order 13007)?		
YES	**NO**	**REVIEWER/TITLE**
	jaw 7/23/15	Jason Wright, Archaeologist

Noxious and Non-Native Invasive Species

12. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive

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 Executive Order 13112)?		
YES	**NO**	**REVIEWER/TITLE**
		Ken Vicencio, Range Tech

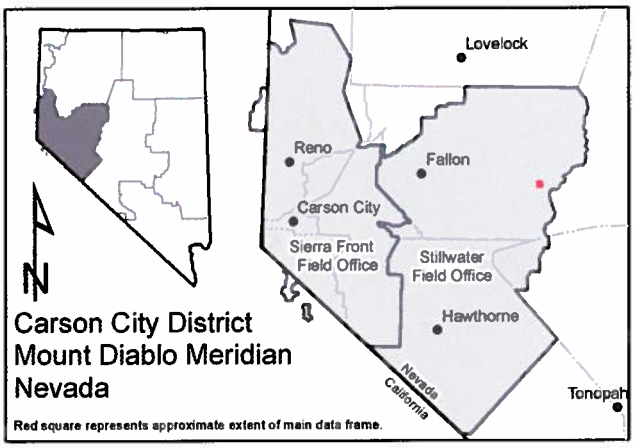


Map created 7/23/2015 by msimons.

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:
1:12,000

0 500 1,000 2,000 Feet



Carson City District
Mount Diablo Meridian
Nevada

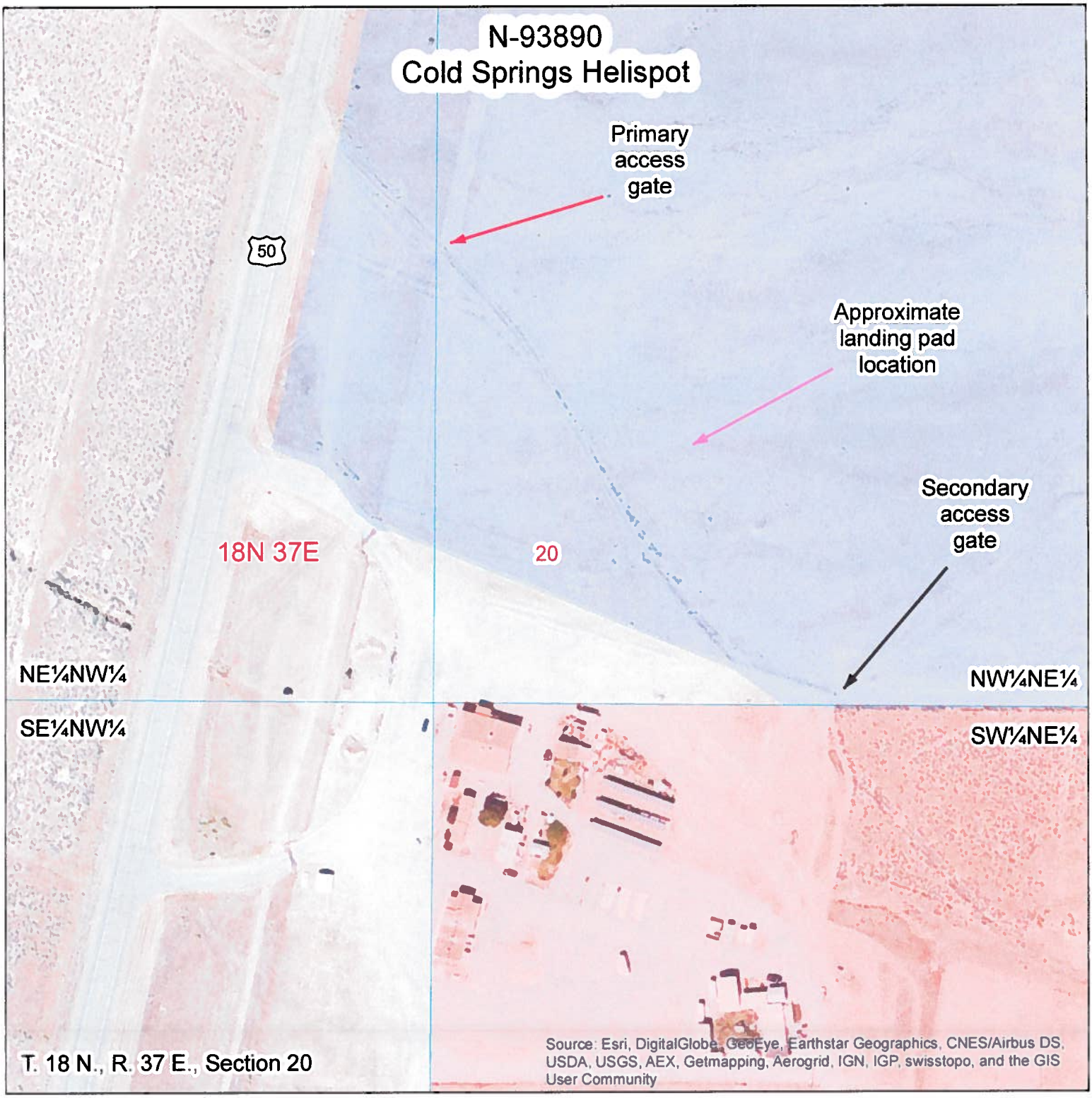
Red square represents approximate extent of main data frame.

Cultural Survey Area

Surface Mgmt. Status

Private

All lands administered by the BLM unless otherwise indicated.



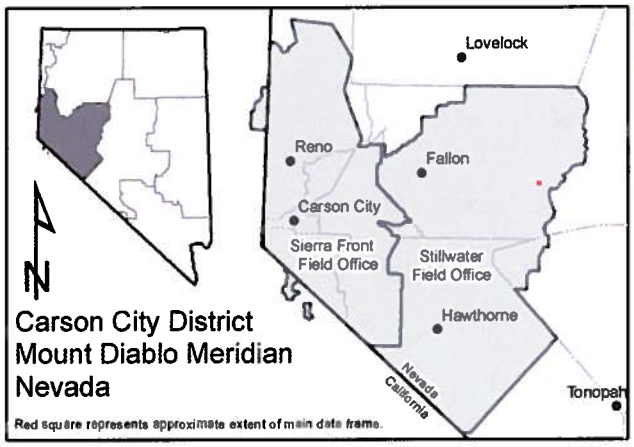
Map created 7/23/2015 by msimons.

NATIONAL SYSTEM OF PUBLIC LANDS
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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:
1:2,000

0 75 150 300 Feet



Carson City District
Mount Diablo Meridian
Nevada

Red square represents approximate extent of main data frame.

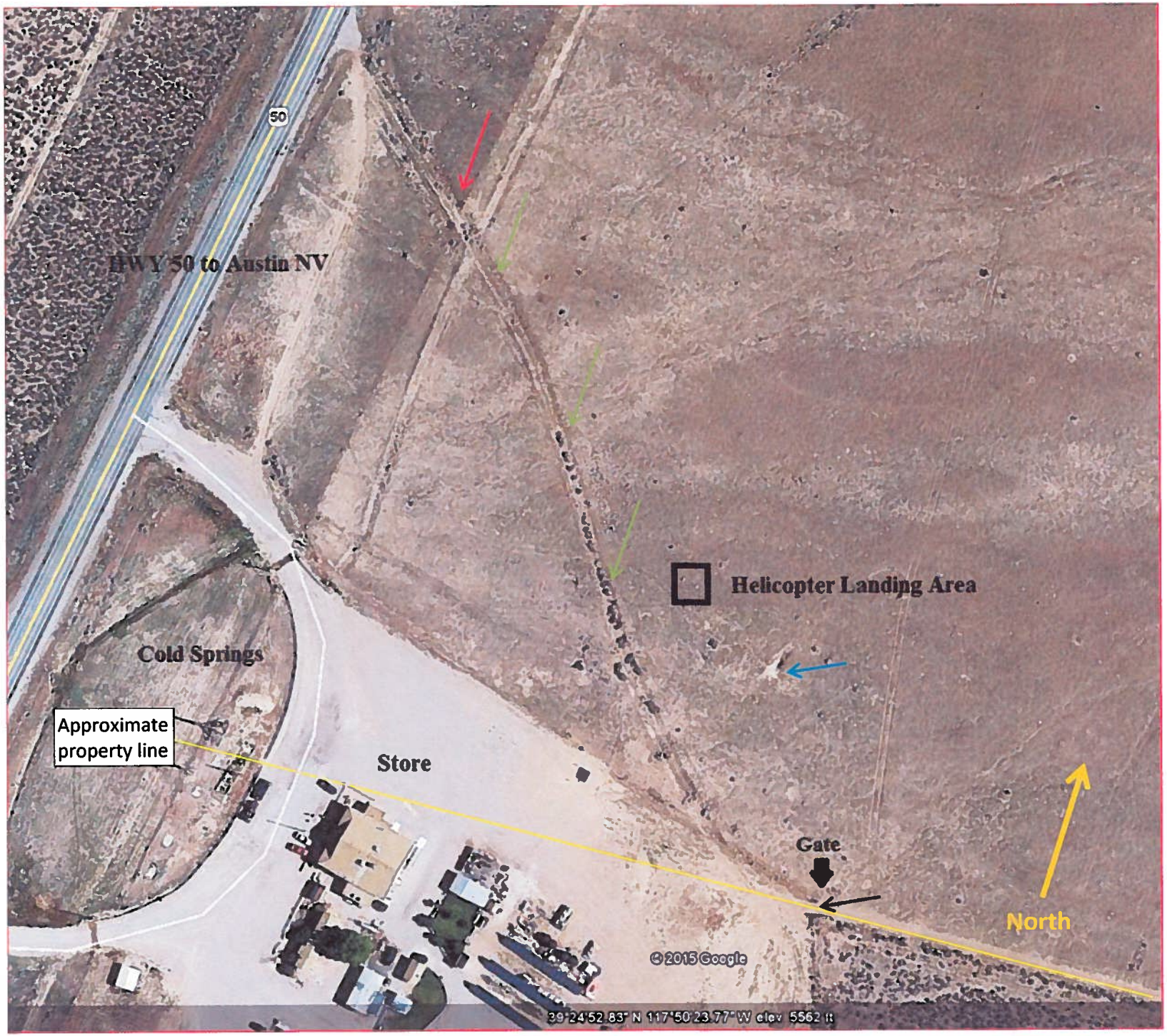
Quarter-Quarter

Cultural Survey Area

Surface Mgmt. Status

Private

All lands administered by the BLM unless otherwise indicated.


50
HWY 50 to Austin NV
Helicopter Landing Area
Cold Springs
Approximate property line
Store
Gate
North
© 2015 Google
39°24'52.83" N 117°50'23.77" W elev 5562 ft

Photos 1-6: Series of photos showing the area where the landing pad would be established. The graveled driveway is part of the Cold Springs Station restaurant and RV park, which is directly behind the photo location. Photo series starts looking towards the west in Photo 1 and ends looking east in Photo 6. The lack of vegetation is from previous wildfires. Evidence of dumping and target trash (clay pigeon pieces, spent shotgun shells, etc) was also observed.

2

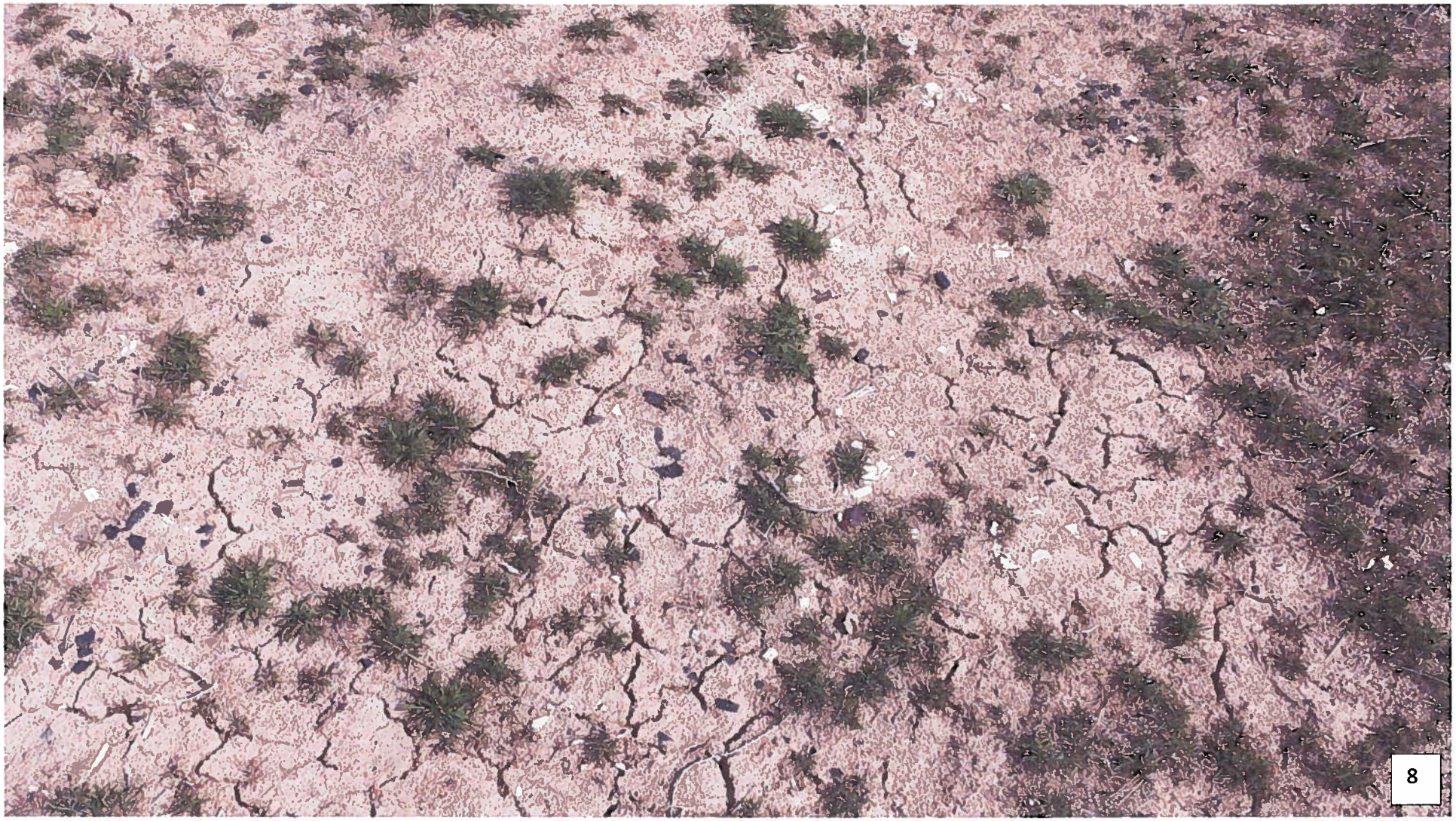
Primary access to the helispot from Highway 50 would be the wire gate indicated by the red arrow, just north of the gravel driveway described in Photo 1. The two-track indicated by the green arrows passes by where the pad would be located.

4

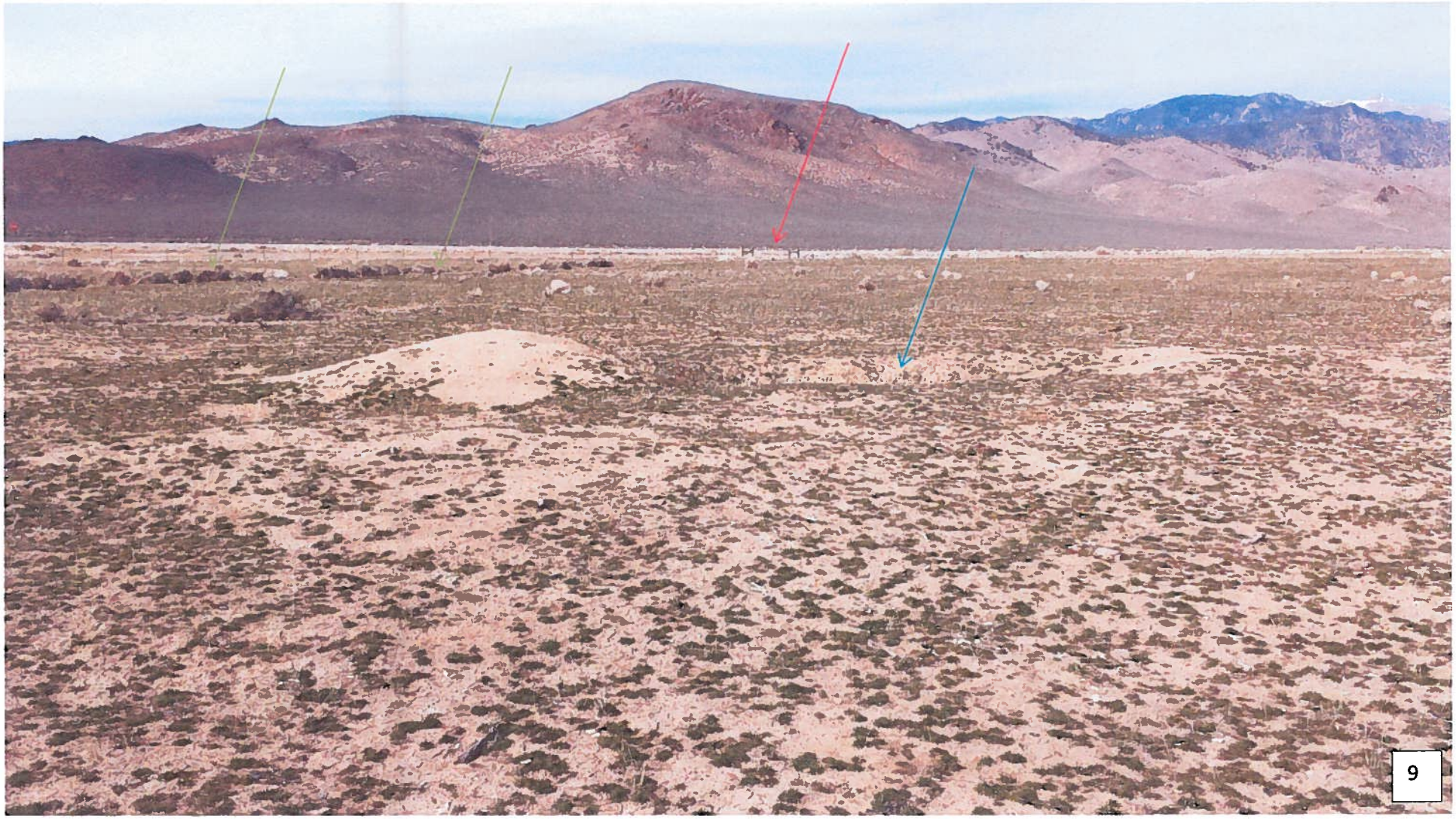
The 40-foot by 40-foot gravel landing pad would be located just beyond the primary access road and to the northwest of the small excavated pit indicated by the blue arrow.

The secondary access to the landing pad would be through the gate indicated by the black arrow. The yellow line indicates the approximate property boundary between public land and the private land with the Cold Springs Station facilities.

Secondary access point with Cold Springs Station buildings in the background. The road is very near the property boundary. There has not been a dependent resurvey of the area, so determining the precise property boundary is difficult.



Typical trash found on the east side of the fence where the first six photos were taken.



The pit indicated by the blue arrow in Photo 5. The landing pad would be beyond this pit towards the two H-braces (red arrow) where the primary access would be. The two track road (green arrows) is evident by the taller sagebrush.