

# United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management

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Categorical Exclusion Not Established By Statute

DOI-BLM-UT-Y010-2015-0230-CX

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August 2015

## Film Permit UTU-91389

**Location:** Castle Rock & The Rectory  
T. 25 S., R. 23 E., sections 3 & 10.

Ida Gulch Gravel Pit  
T. 24 S., R. 23 E., sec. 30.

Fisher Towers (Ancient Arts)  
T. 24 S., R. 24 E., sections 7 & 17.

Determination Towers (Echo Pinnacle)  
T. 24 S., R. 20 E., sec. 31.

**Applicant/Address:** **George Media**  
**2408 Clement Avenue**  
**Venice CA 90291**  
**435-259-9786**

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Bureau of Land Management  
Moab Field Office  
82 East Dogwood  
Moab, Utah 84532  
435-259-2100  
FAX 435-259-2158



**CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DOCUMENTATION FORMAT WHEN USING CATEGORICAL  
EXCLUSIONS NOT ESTABLISHED BY STATUTE**

**A. Background**

BLM Office: Moab Field Office  
Serial Case File No: UTU-91389  
Proposed Action Title/Type: Film Permit – moving photography for a TV commercial

Locations of Proposed Action:

Castle Rock & The Rectory  
T. 25 S., R. 23 E., sections 3 & 10.

Ida Gulch Gravel Pit  
T. 24 S., R. 23 E., sec. 30.

Fisher Towers (Ancient Arts)  
T. 24 S., R. 24 E., sections 7 & 17.

Determination Towers (Echo Pinnacle)  
T. 24 S., R. 20 E., sec. 31.

Description of Proposed Action:

On August 20, 2015, Brett Sutteer, on behalf of George Media, filed film permit application UTU-91389 to photograph rock climbing shots at Castleton Tower, The Rectory, Ancient Arts (Fisher Towers area) and Echo Pinnacle (determination Towers area), BLM land within the Moab Field Office. Footage would be used for a TV commercial. Climbers would ascend and descend the standard routes. A helicopter would do a crew/gear drop-off on top of Castleton Tower and/or The Rectory. The photo shoot would occur on three days between the dates of August 24-29, 2015, including 1 day for set-up. There would be 20 people on the crew, 1 motorhome, 5-8 crew transport vehicles, and 1 helicopter involved in the project. The helicopter would refuel at Canyonlands Field Airport. The helicopter staging/LZ would be at the Ida Gulch gravel pit area. All vehicles would remain on designated roads or parking areas.

**B. Land Use Plan Conformance**

Moab Field Office RMP, Approved October 2008

This is shown on page 65 of the plan and reads as follows: “Meet public needs for use authorizations such as rights-of-way, alternative energy sources, and permits while minimizing adverse impacts to resource values.”

**C. Compliance with NEPA**

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 11.5(E) 19. This reference states

"issuance of short-term (3 years or less) rights-of-way or land use authorizations...where the proposal includes rehabilitation to restore the land to its natural or original condition.

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 43 CFR Part 46.215 apply.

**D: Signature**

Authorizing Official: Jennifer Jones Acting for Beth Ransel Date: 8/20/2015  
Beth Ransel, Field Manager

**Contact Person**

For additional information concerning this CX review, contact

Judie Chrobak-Cox  
Moab Field Office  
82 E. Dogwood  
Moab, Utah 84532  
435-259-2100

The following BLM Specialists have reviewed the proposed action and have determined that none of the 12 exceptions below apply to this project:

Name	Title	Critical Element(s)
David Pals	Acting Asst. Field Manager	Air Quality, Water Quality, Floodplains, Wetlands/Riparian Zones
Jennifer Jones	Acting Field Manager	Wilderness, Environmental Justice
David Pals	Acting Asst. Field Manager	Invasive Species/Noxious Weeds
David Pals	Acting Asst. Field Manager	Threatened, Endangered or Candidate Plant Species
Pam Riddle	Wildlife Biologist	Threatened, Endangered or Candidate Animal Species, Migratory Birds
Don Montoya	Archaeologist	Cultural Resources, Native American Religious Concerns
Jennifer Jones	Acting Field Manager	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, Wild & Scenic Rivers
David Pals	Geologist	Wastes (hazardous or solid)
Judie Chrobak-Cox	Lead Visitor Services Information Assistant	Lead Preparer

Lead Preparer: Judie Chrobak-Cox Date: 8-20-15

Exceptions to Categorical Exclusion Documentation

The action has been reviewed to determine if any of the extraordinary circumstances (43 CFR 46.215) apply. The project would:

<b>Extraordinary Circumstances</b>		
1. Have significant impacts on public health or safety.		
<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b> <b>X</b>	<b>Rationale</b> The proposed filming project is not likely to result in significant impacts to public health or safety. To keep impacts to a minimum and not impair public health or safety, the applicant would obtain, maintain and abide by all relevant Federal, state and local government requirements.
2. 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 (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.		
<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b> <b>X</b>	<b>Rationale:</b> Conformance with the Land Use Plan and Categorical Exclusion Review Records has been completed indicating none of the above concerns are present in the described locations and that significant impacts are not anticipated as a result of the proposed filming activity.
3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA section 102 (2) (E)].		
<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b> <b>X</b>	<b>Rationale:</b> As described, the proposed action is categorically excluded under 11.5E (19). Categorically excluded actions generally have very predictable consequences well established as insignificant and, therefore, would not create environmental effects that would generate controversy or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources. No controversial effects or conflicts have been identified with this filming project.
4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.		
<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b> <b>X</b>	<b>Rationale:</b> Helicopter refueling would not be allowed on public lands. The proposed project would not result in uncertain or unknown environmental risks.
5. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principal about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.		
<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b> <b>X</b>	<b>Rationale:</b> The proposed project is not connected to another action and would not set a precedent for future actions that would normally require environmental analysis.
6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.		
<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b> <b>X</b>	<b>Rationale:</b> Filming in the requested locations would not have a direct relationship to other actions that would create cumulatively significant environmental effects.
7. Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by the bureau.		
<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b> <b>X</b>	<b>Rationale:</b> The nature of the proposed action is such that no impact can be expected on significant cultural resources.
8. Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or		

<b>Extraordinary Circumstances</b>		
Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species.		
<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b> <b>X</b>	<b>Rationale:</b> The filming project would not have impacts of this kind.
9. Violate a Federal law, or a State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.		
<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b> <b>X</b>	<b>Rationale:</b> The applicant would be required to maintain and abide by all relevant Federal, state and local laws throughout the term of the permit.
10. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).		
<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b> <b>X</b>	<b>Rationale:</b> The proposed filming project would not have an adverse effect on low income or minority populations.
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).		
<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b> <b>X</b>	<b>Rationale:</b> There are no known Indian ceremonial or sacred sites within the proposed locations.
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).		
<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b> <b>X</b>	<b>Rationale:</b> The proposed filming project should not result in introduction or spread of noxious weeds.

**Attachments:**  
**Categorical Exclusion Review Record**  
**Maps**

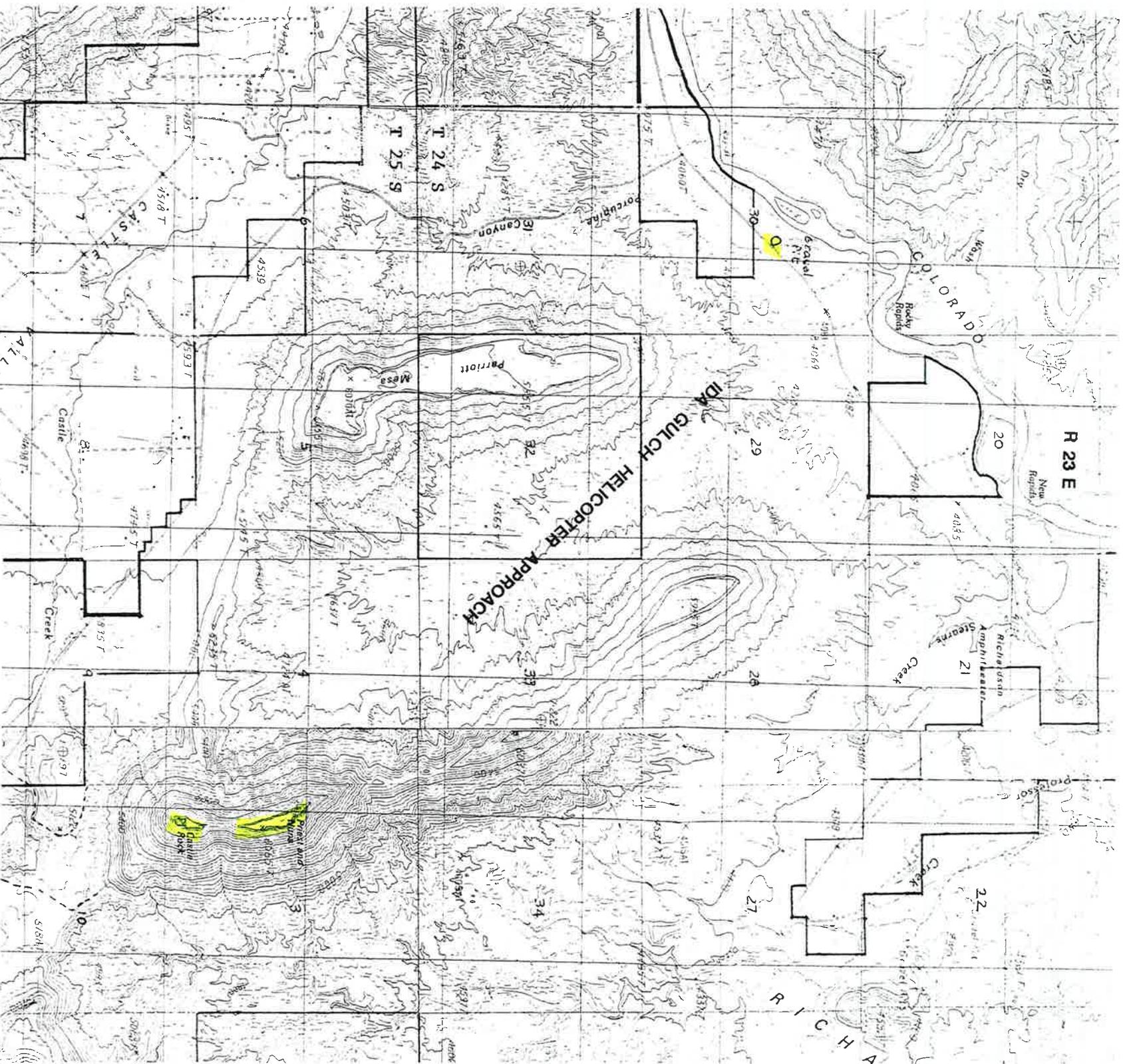
**Categorical Exclusion Review Record**  
**Film Permit UTU-91389**  
**DOI-BLM-UT-Y010-2015-0230-CX**  
**George Media**

The following elements are not present in the Moab Field Office and have been removed from the checklist:  
 Farmlands (Prime or Unique), Wild Horses and Burros.

Resource	Yes/No*	Assigned Specialist Signature	Date
Air Quality	No	for Anna Maria [Signature]	8/20/15
Floodplains	No	" " [Signature]	8/20/15
Water Quality (drinking or ground)	No	" " [Signature]	8/20/15
Wetlands / Riparian Zones	No	" " [Signature]	8/20/15
Areas of Critical Environmental Concern	No	Jennifer [Signature]	8/20/15
Wild and Scenic Rivers	No	Jennifer [Signature]	8/20/15
Wilderness	No	[Signature]	8/20/15
Native American Religious Concerns	No	JM	8/20/15
Cultural Resources	No	JM	8/20/15
Environmental Justice	No	Jennifer [Signature]	8/20/15
Wastes (hazardous or solid)	No	[Signature]	8/20/15
Threatened, Endangered, or Candidate Animal Species	No	[Signature]	8/20/15
Migratory Birds	No	[Signature]	8/20/15
Threatened, Endangered, or Candidate Plant Species	No	for Dawn Williams [Signature]	8/20/15
Invasive Species/Noxious Weeds	No	" " [Signature]	8/20/15
Other:	No		

\*Extraordinary Circumstances apply.

Environmental Coordinator Bruce Davitt Date: 8/2/2015

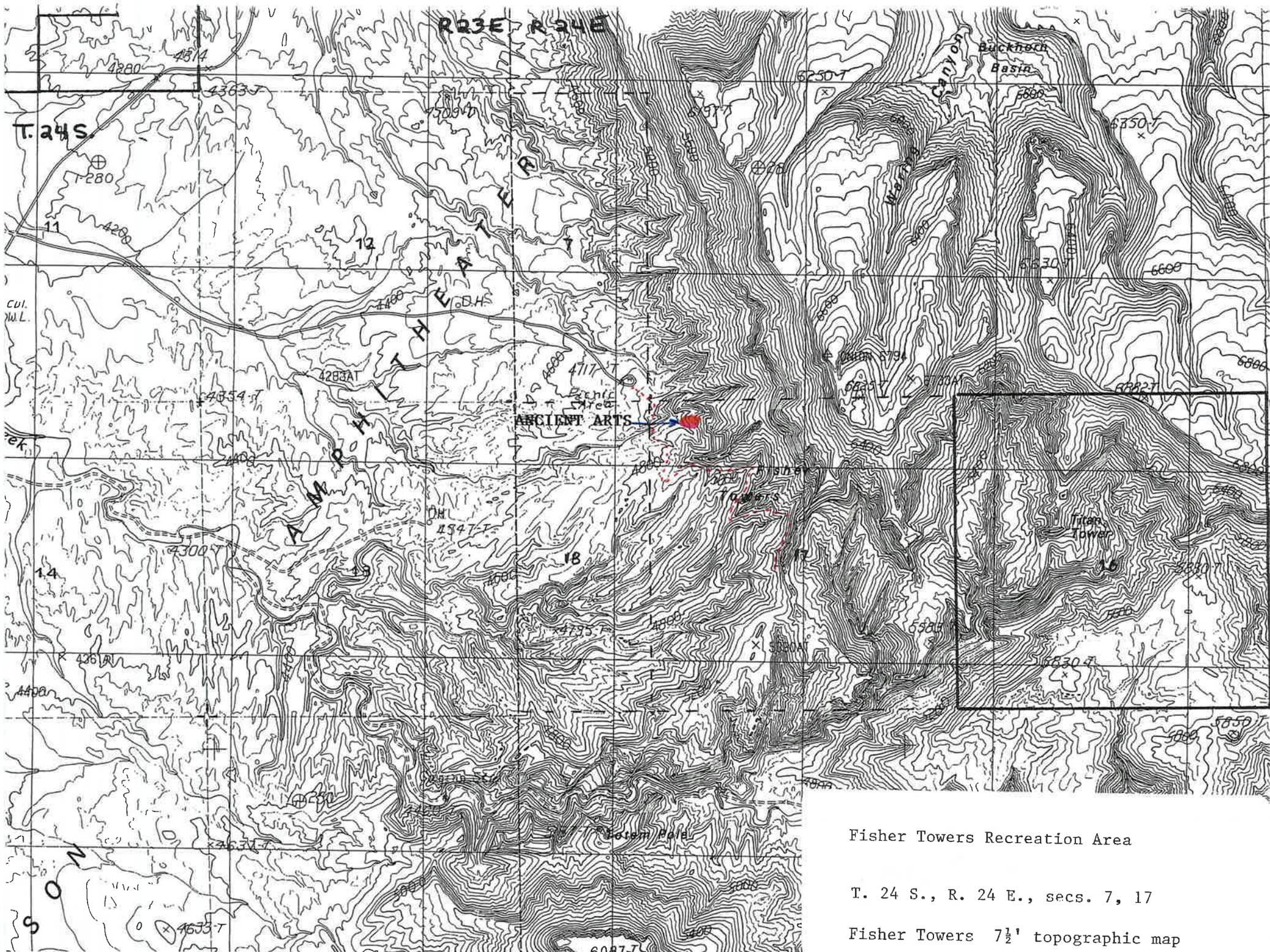


Castle Rock/Priest & Nuns  
T. 25 S., R. 23 E., secs. 3 and 10

Staging: Ida Gulch gravel pit  
T. 24 S., R. 23 E., sec. 30

Big Bend & Fisher Towers 7 1/2' reduced topo maps

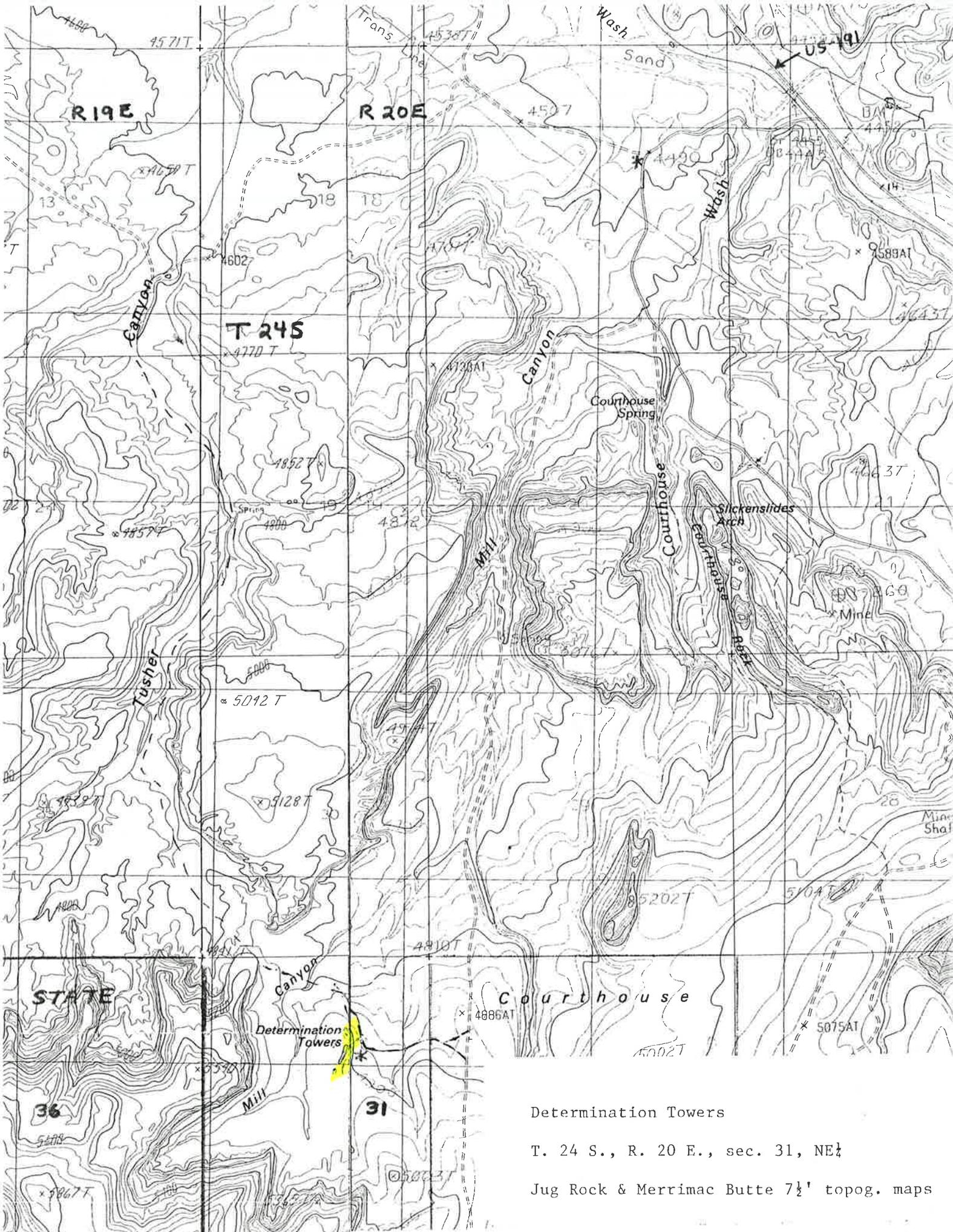




Fisher Towers Recreation Area

T. 24 S., R. 24 E., secs. 7, 17

Fisher Towers 7½' topographic map



Determination Towers  
T. 24 S., R. 20 E., sec. 31, NE $\frac{1}{4}$   
Jug Rock & Merrimac Butte 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ ' topog. maps

