

27 April 1977



University of Idaho

Laboratory of Anthropology
Department of Sociology/Anthropology
Moscow, Idaho 83843

Richard Harrison, Archeologist
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 042
Boise, ID 83724

Dear Rich:

On Monday, 18 April 1977, Don Crabtree and I drove out to see the Wilson Butte Cave site in Jerome County. Since discovery of the Hollister intaglio site southwest of Twin Falls a month or so ago (the one we were talking about over lunch in Pocatello), both of us were oriented to playas and rock alignments--and we stopped at several playas on the way to the Cave. And found another site, which may or may not be registered, but is on BLM land.

Enclosed with this letter are a "handful" (definition of a site?) of flakes and two pieces of a small projectile point, picked up in the middle of the dirt roadway that leads south from the Wilson Butte Cave. The wind blows strongly in that area most of the time, and the flakes were relatively dense along the roadway. The site is just to the west and northwest border of a small playa, as indicated by the accompanying USGS topo sheet (Star Lake 7½' sheet, 1971) and the aerial photo from Gruhn's report; the legal description is center of SW¼ of the SE¼ of the SW¼, Sec. 27, T7N, R19E. I have some slides of the site area that are at the developer's now and could supply them if you like. The lithic materials were spread along about 10-12 m of the eroded roadway, and may have gone beyond; we stopped collecting when it got to blowing dust. The lithic material was not as obvious in the grassy area between the roadway and the playa, but was thinly scattered.

I hope that someone can take a look at this site, and test excavations should be warranted since the site is constantly being driven over. I'm not aware of too many open sites having been investigated in those lava fields, and this might have some real potential. It's not in the state file now.

Hope this is of some use.

Sincerely,

Ruthann
Ruthann Knudson
Research Management Archaeologist

cc: Don Crabtree
Tom Green

RK:ml

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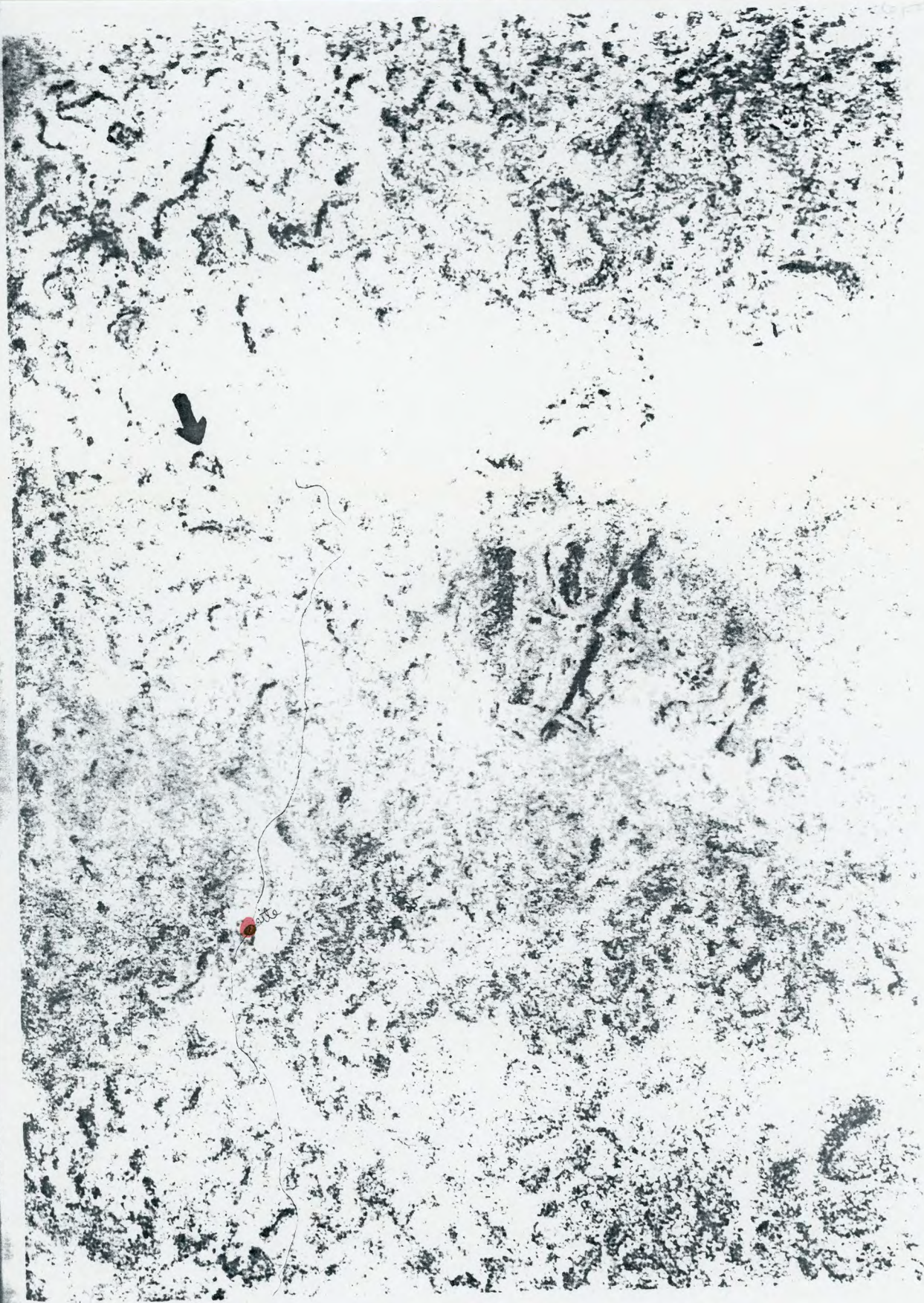
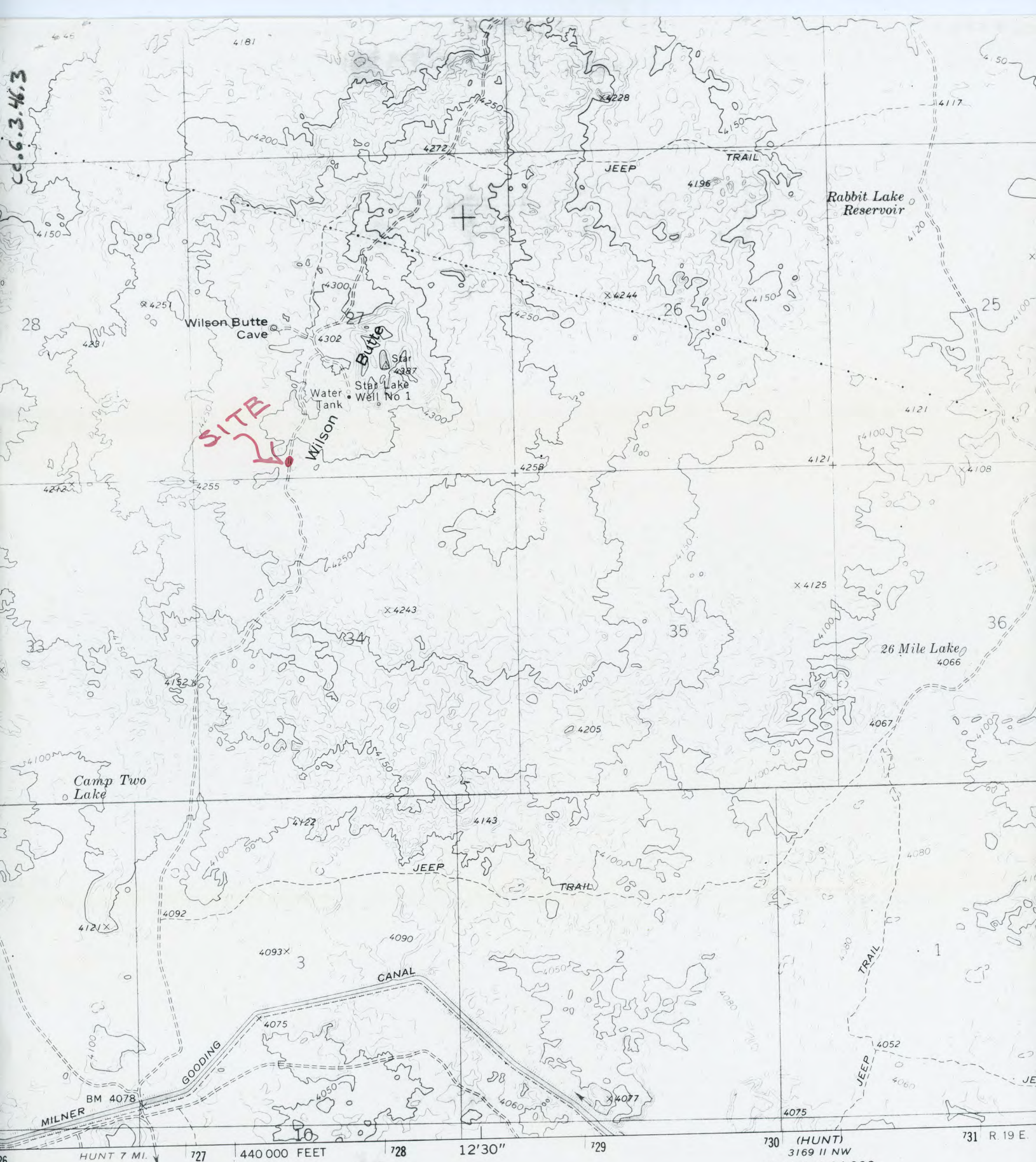


PLATE 3

Aerial Photograph of Wilson Butte. Scale: 1 inch = 660 feet. Arrow points to cave.
U.S. Department of Agriculture aerial photograph No. YQ-5T-164.
Gruhn, Ruth, 1961. The archaeology of Wilson Butte Cave, south-central Idaho.
Occasional Papers of the Idaho State University Museum No. 6.

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SITE

Rabbit Lake Reservoir

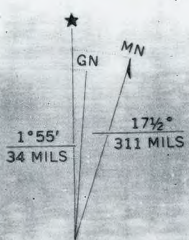
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Camp Two Lake

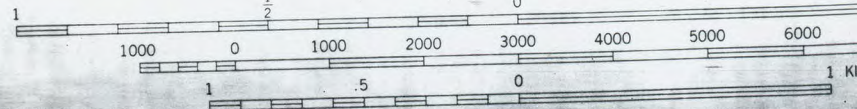
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DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

Cc. 6.3.4.4



United States Department of the Interior

IN REPLY REFER TO

6230(930)

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Idaho State Office
Box 042, Federal Building
550 W. Fort Street
Boise, Idaho 83724

MAY 16 REC'D

Don - thought you'd be interested in this exchange - Ruthann

May 12, 1977

Dr. Ruthann Knudson
Department of Sociology/Anthropology
University of Idaho
Moscow, Idaho 83843

Dear Ruthann:

Thank you for your letter of April 27, 1977. I would like to make a few comments on some of the points you mention.

First, you state that the so-called "Hollister intaglio site" was discovered "a month or so ago." This is erroneous. In fact, the site was actually discovered and recorded by Gordon Tucker in 1975 under a BLM inventory contract. The site number is 10-TF-250.

Second, you also provide information on another prehistoric site located near Wilson Butte Cave. I appreciate your taking the time to inform me of occasional discoveries like this when you are in the field. Communication relative to new site locations is very important to the success of the cultural resource management program. I would suggest that this communication process could be improved by also informing the respective district archaeologist so that he or she may inform the District Manager if some specific BLM action is warranted.

My final comment concerns the small collection of lithic material that you sent me along with your letter. In BLM we are really trying to apply the concepts of conservation archaeology in an aggressive and positive manner. In part, this means that the surface collection of cultural material is discouraged unless really necessary (e.g. cultural material will be irretrievably lost). As I understand the situation you encountered at the site near Wilson Butte Cave, the surface collection of cultural remains was wholly unwarranted, either for management and/or research needs. A brief note describing the material would have been quite adequate.

Thanks again for the site information.

Sincerely yours,

Richard R. Harrison
Archaeologist



cc: Tom Green
B. Robert Butler

cc. 6. 3. 46. 5



University of Idaho

Laboratory of Anthropology
Department of Sociology/Anthropology
Moscow, Idaho 83843

16 May 1977

Richard Harrison, Archaeologist
Bureau of Land Management, USDI
Box 042, Federal Building
550 West Fort Street
Boise, ID 83724

Dear Rich:

I'm sorry that you feel the collection of the roadway surface site near Wilson Butte was unwarranted. Don and I thought about that when we first looked at the material, but were concerned about the fact that it was in the middle of an apparently frequently used road and hence being impacted. I don't normally make collections on any lands, public or private, unless the situation seems to warrant it, and will heed your comments more stringently in the future. Would you or someone in your office please send us a list of the district archaeologists for the BLM in Idaho? I don't know who or where they are other than Larsie, and a list of names, addresses, and phone numbers would allow us to communicate with district personnel rather than having to bother your office.

You did catch a typo of mine in those comments on the "Hollister" site, which is good--it is in T12S, not T17S as ended up on my comments. Because of the typo, I didn't find a site registration when I checked with Glenda. The local people who reported the site to Don, hence to the University of Idaho since he is affiliated with this institution, had no indication that the site had been recorded previously.

Hope the information provided is of some use, even with the problems.

Sincerely,

Ruthann Knudson
Resource Management Archaeologist
Assistant Research Professor

RK:ml

CC-6.3.46.6

2 May 1977



University of Idaho

Laboratory of Anthropology
Department of Sociology/Anthropology
Moscow, Idaho 83843

Dear Don:

Would you believe it's raining up here? It started last evening and has been coming down steadily, not heavily but a good soaking rain. I managed to get most of my garden planted yesterday morning, so perhaps this will be just the boost it needs to really germinate. Even though I won't be in my present house through the end of the summer, I wanted to get in some bright flowers and some salad greens.

Thanks so much for the hospitality and company a couple of weeks ago --I did so enjoy it! After leaving Twin Falls and my adventure with Bert I headed up north and west a bit and found Thorn Creek Reservoir (there was a Haskett cache found there some years ago) and then got a look at the general area of the Simon cache. I ended up in Ketchum, Sun Valley, and the Stanley Basin/Sawtooth Valley area for the next few days, deciding to take some extra time and get an introduction to that country while I was down there. I'd never been in Ketchum or Stanley before, and it is beautiful even with late winter/early spring browns! I did find Redfish Overhang, with its Haskett cache, and think I found the Sheepeater Battleground site tho I'm not so sure there. I ran into some friends in Ketchum, too, so I had some company on a couple of my rambles around the country. I finally managed to get home on Sunday, having taken seven rolls of slides and seen a lot of country. Nice way to learn!

Enclosed is a copy for you of my letter to the BLM about that site we found out near Wilson Butte, and my memorandum about the Hollister rock figure site. I am also sending along a copy of that last memorandum for Bert--would you mind getting it to him? If you would some time, too I'd appreciate it if you would send me his mailing address, and that of Jim Woods. I'm also enclosing a copy of the casting procedure that Frank Frazier and I worked up for the Newsletter a couple of years ago, and would like it if you would give that to Jim.

My spirits haven't been there highest this past week--have to do something about that. I think it's a combination of too much work at the moment, not knowing where to begin, and perhaps a bit of early middle age depression about finally making a decision to stay here in this little community for a length of time. I have an option on a house that is now under construction and should be ready about 1 August, a nice place in a new subdivision about five miles east of town just on the north ridge of Tomer Butte, and that will be a "new adventure" as my mother refers to it. But that does mean I'm making a commitment to spend some years here, and the social life isn't very exciting most of the time--intellectually there are many things to do, but the non-work is a bit lonely. Sounds familiar, doesn't it? Oh well, don't pay much attention to me--I'll work it out, like we all have to. There are some exciting things in the research end of things in the future (horrible sentence)--Ken Ames and I are talking about putting together an NSF proposal to work on the Lenore material in a couple of years, with me on the lithics, Ken on the faunal analysis, and Al Marshall working on the Nex Perce ethnographic data. It'll

CC. 6. 3. 46, 7
DC - 2 May 77
page 2

take a year to get it all worked up, and that much time to straighten out what records we do have from Lenore, so that I should be able to get some of my backlog worked up in the meantime. Would you be interested in being incorporated into the project as a consultant? I'd like to have your assistance in the lithic analysis in some manner or another. I haven't thought this out in much detail as yet, but I would want to include some good petrographic/chemical analysis of the lithic material, tool and debitage analysis, and end up with an outline of production, use, and design of lithic items. I doubt that too much can be done with use analysis on the present lithic assemblage, since it's been handled and shipped around so much, but at least a general description of the forms and edges can be made. Anyway, for the future.

I ran into Dick Daugherty at the grocery store the other night and stood and talked with him for about 20 minutes while Phyllis was shopping; nicest conversation we've had in five years. He even hugged me and gave me a kiss on the cheek when I said I was now on a full-time permanent appointment, and then spent time advising me on how to get to know the politics of Idaho! I have a problem with the Corps of Engineers, and he has been working some out with them, and perhaps we can be of mutual aid. Time has some healing ways, I guess. I told him I'd been down to see you, and what a good time we'd had going out to Wilson Butte, but we didn't talk about anything else.

I'd better get on to work--have to run down to the bank again about the house loan, too. I don't know what Rick will do about the Hollister site, but I'm sure he'll get in touch with you. I may be back down your way again this summer, when I have the crew at Lucky Peak, but I'm not too sure. When are you coming up this way for the field school? Please let me know, and be sure and plan on coming over here and getting the full tour. And we would like to get that secretarial help for you, if you'd give us an estimate on the amount of time per week and payrate. I really am going to get back to work--take care...

~~Chao~~ Chao
Sutmann
blistered hand from
digging dandelions

MEMORANDUM

TO: Rick Sprague, Rich Harrison, Tom Green, Bert Perrine, Don Crabtree

FROM: Ruthann Knudson (Lab. Anthropology, Univ. Idaho, Moscow)

RE: Hollister rock alignments, figures

DATE: 27 April 1977

On Tuesday morning, 19 April 1977, Bert Perrine and I visited the site of a number of rock figures and alignments in a "playa" above a side canyon of the Salmon Falls Creek Canyon. The site is accessible by car by dirt roads, and is approximately 9 mi west-northwest of the small town of Hollister, Twin Falls County, Idaho. The site may be reached by driving south on U.S. 93 from Twin Falls; turning west on the paved road $\frac{1}{2}$ mi north of Hollister; driving straight west for 4 mi (end up with a gravel pit just to the north); driving on straight west through a farmyard and on the north side of an irrigation ditch, through at least one gate (there may be two) until you are 4 mi directly west of the farmyard; turning north just east of the power line for about $\frac{1}{2}$ mi, crossing the head of a side canyon to Salmon Falls Creek canyon; turning generally west along the north edge of that side canyon and crossing under the power line--you're there. It really is quite accessible by car, truck, bike, or horse, and once the area is generally known, it will undoubtedly be subject to a good deal of traffic. It is on BLM land.

The legal description of the site is:

SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$ } Sec. 19, R15E, T17S
NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$ }

(Hollister SW 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ ' USGS topo sheet, 1965); it is at approximately 114°44'30" W long., 42°22'15" N lat. (UTM zone 11, E685920/N4693235). It sits just below and south-southeast of a slightly elevated ridge, at approximately 4480 ft (1366 m) elevation, and is about $\frac{1}{2}$ mi southwest of a bend in the power line. See attached maps (Hollister SW quad and Twin Falls 1:125,000 excerpts).

The site itself is quite spectacular, whatever else it is in historical value. It is a rather elongated circle (elongated more north-south), and is about 170 ft (52m) east-west and 320 ft (98 m) from north to south, based on Perrine's estimate of 16 ft from the basal tip of the "man"'s spine to the tip of the center of one of "his" three "toes." Most of the rocks have silt packed up around their sides and/or are slightly imbedded in the ground surface, indicating their stability for some time. However, there are some small rock arrangements just to the east of the main cairn (in center of largest arrow) that appear to have been set on the surface quite recently. The area does not necessarily appear to be a true playa, since it tilts slightly to the south-southeast and has no real water-holding depression; rather, it could be an area in which salts sitting above basalt bedrock have been brought to the surface and created a natural salt pan. The surface is quite solid at the moment and there is no major damage to it--i.e., there are no bike or jeep tracks around it; no cattle tracks, and very few remnant bootprints at present. There is a dirt track just north of the site, and the power line maintenance road is just east of it. Perrine says that he has seen cattle come up close to the site, then walk around the salt pan rather than come across its surface.

There appears to be considerable variation on the amount of desert varnish on the surfaces of the basalt rocks that make up the figures and alignments, but varnish is present on most pieces to some degree and few seem to have been overturned. In walking down the bottom of the side canyon just south of the salt pan, I noticed the same variation of degree of varnish in the bedrock surfaces and boulder/cobble surfaces in the bottom of the wash; it appears that the variation in the archaeological site is a true reflection of the natural variation if the art rocks had been randomly selected from the locality.

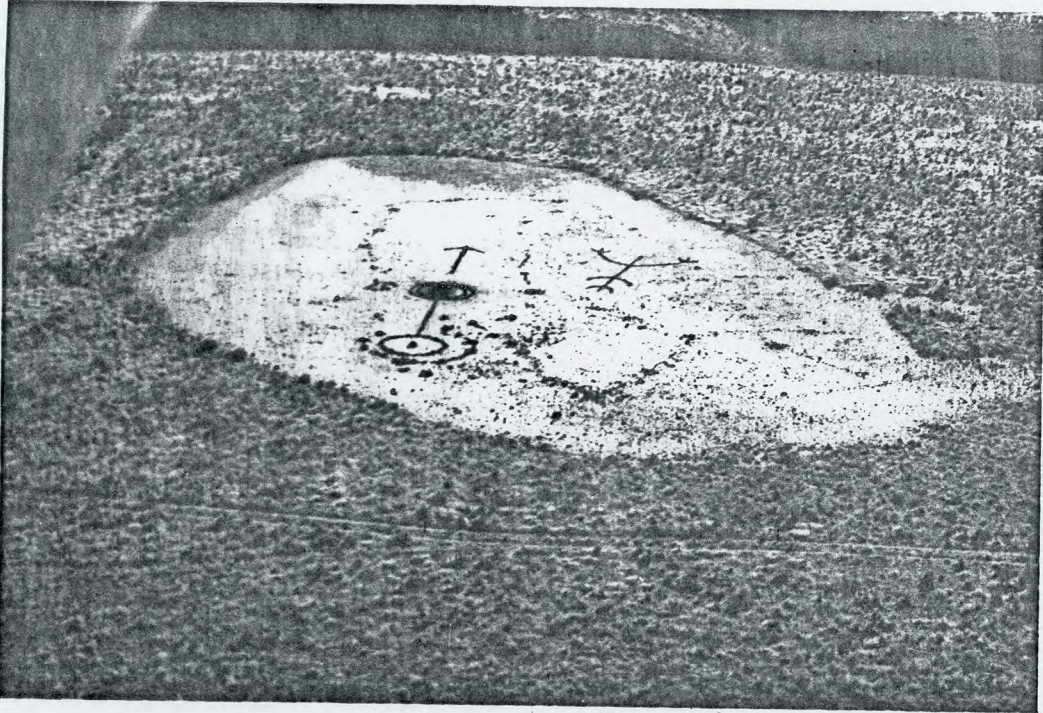
There is a scatter of lithic tools and debris in the sage and grass around the archaeological site, mostly black and red ignimbrite with some Bruneau jasper noticeable, and there are also lithic tools and fragments on the site itself (though less than around the area, as a first impression). The rocks making up the figures and alignments are all of basalt, and most are large cobbles to small boulders (generally angular, but some are slightly rounded). There is a cairn built up in the center of the long arrow, but most of the rest of the figures consist of single rows of stones placed so that they are touching end to end (or nearly so). The "natural" surface of the salt pan is covered with small angular cobbles on the west side, but these do not appear to be so common on the east side--my impression is that the prevailing wind in this particular spot is from the west-northwest, over the slight ridge, and hence there may be a build-up of silt on the eastern side that is covering a surface more like that to the west. Whatever, in addition to the rather random scatter of cobbly gravel, there are a lot of faint rock alignments through the site area, and an almost box-like formation around the entire area.

There is not any remarkable build-up of historic artifacts on the site; in fact, I found only one flip top opener and one artillery shell (which may be a function of the Saylor Creek Air Force Range just west of the site, across the canyon of Salmon Falls Creek).

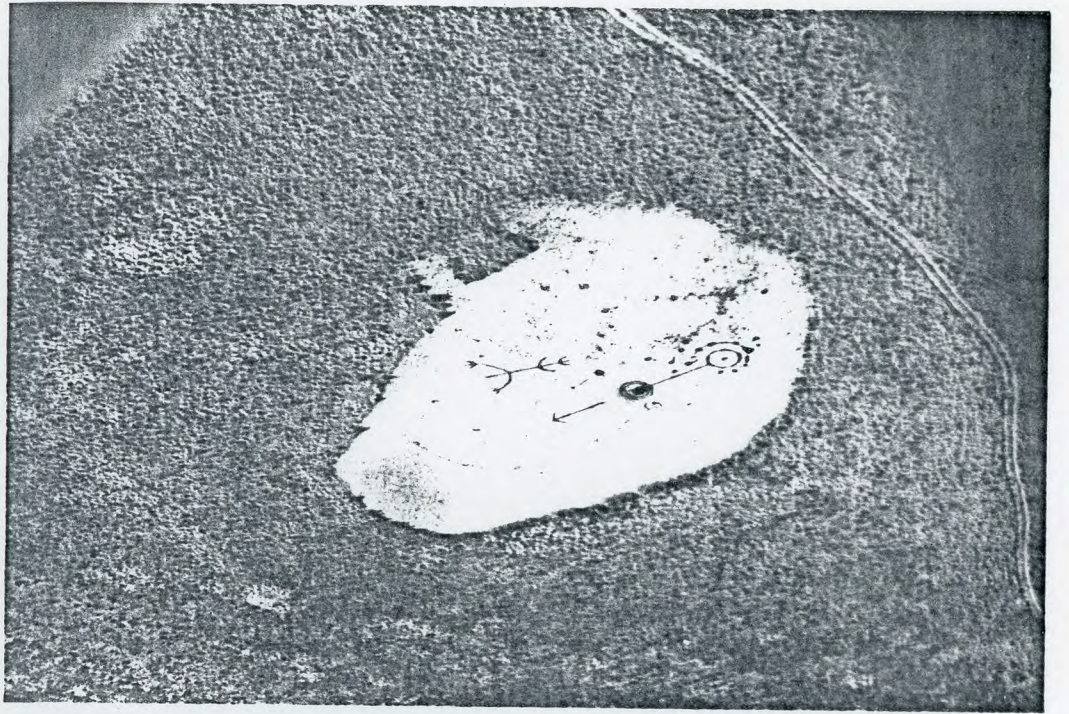
Without any detailed mapping, examination, or excavation of the site, it looks like most of it has been there for some time. I am not familiar enough with the peculiar soil-forming factors of that area to judge the whys and wherefores of the "playa" itself, but there is no surfeit of historical evidence at the site and a lot of lithic flaking debris, some bedding of the rocks making up the figures. The site certainly merits serious professional archaeological attention and preservation by the BLM, and evaluation of its appropriateness for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

Attachments: 2 USGS map excerpts
4 photos supplied by Don Crabtree

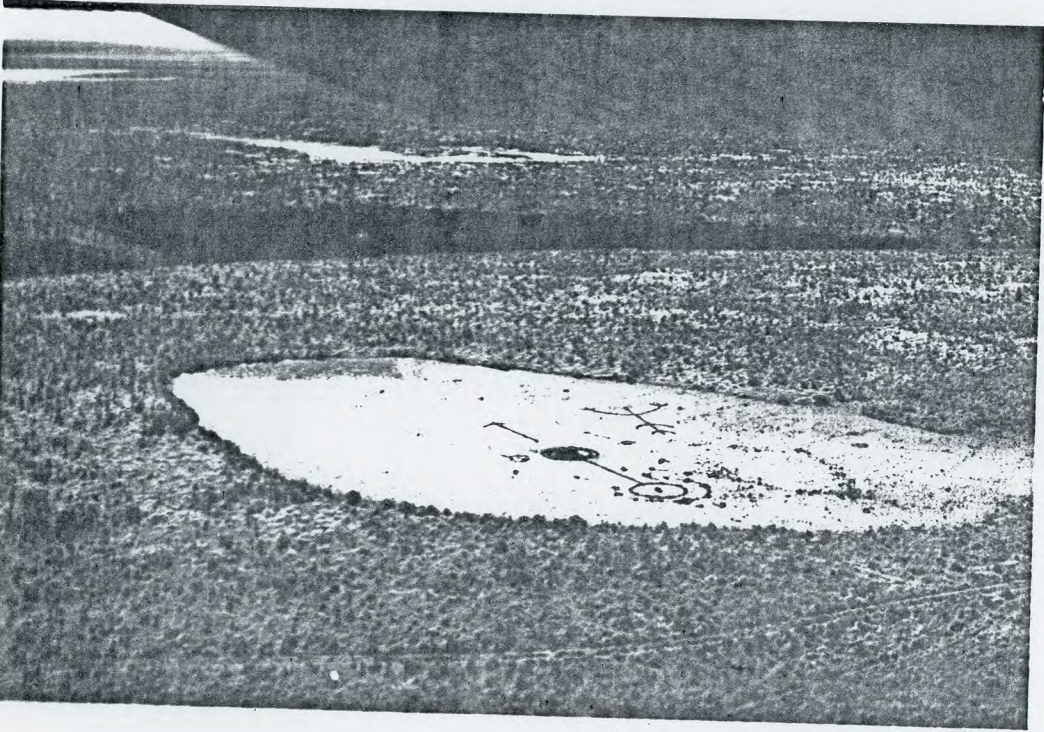
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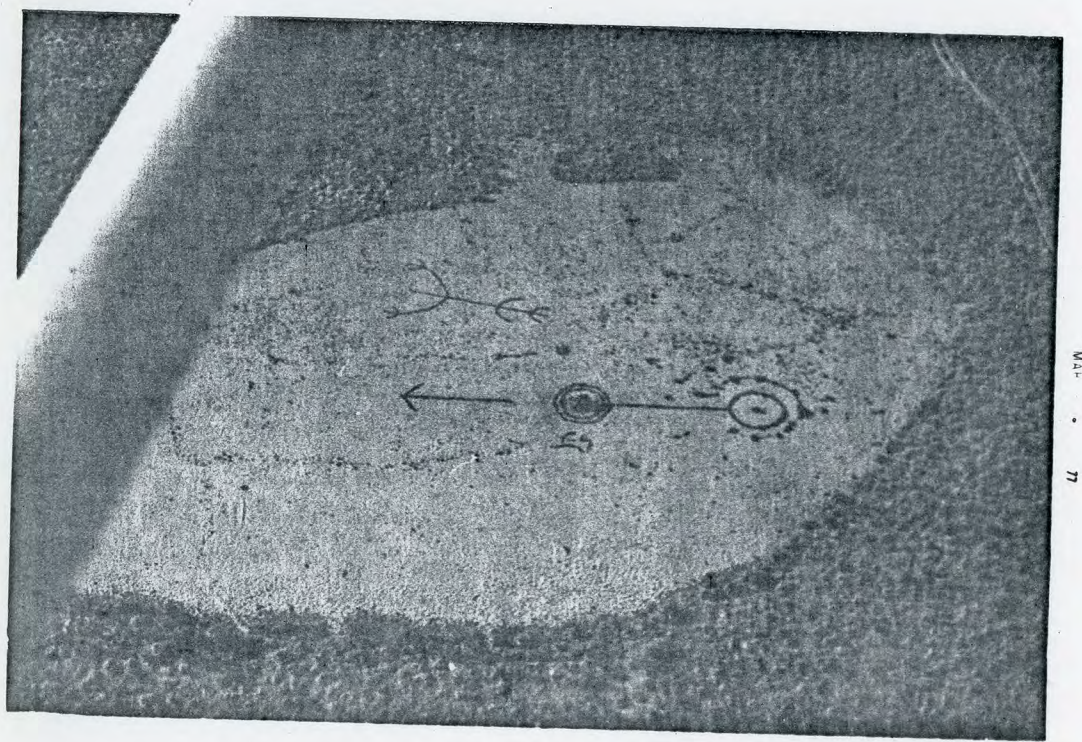
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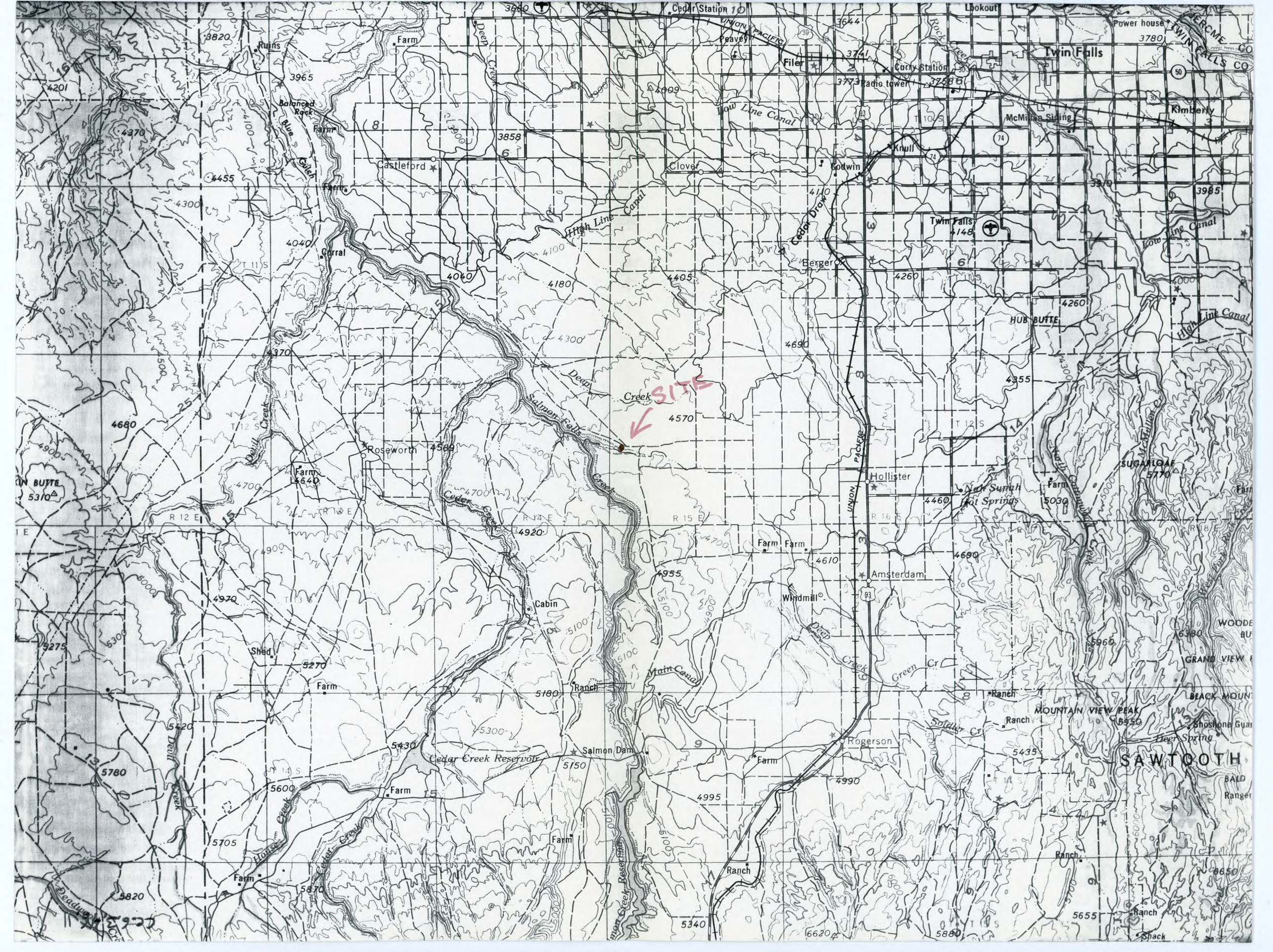
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Creek SITE
↓

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

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ROSEWORTH NE
C.C. 6. 3. 4. 12

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NW 1/4 NE 1/4 SE 1/4

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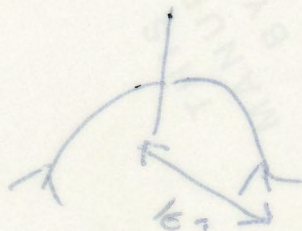




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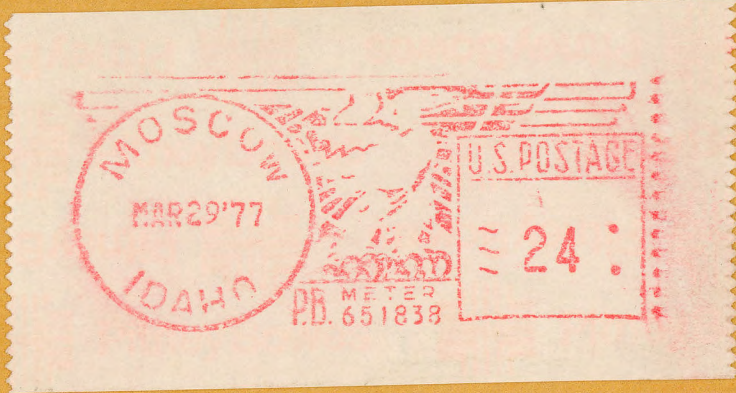
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EVAN X HYDE

AMANDA NEWS PAPER

ce. 6.3.46.17



first class

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