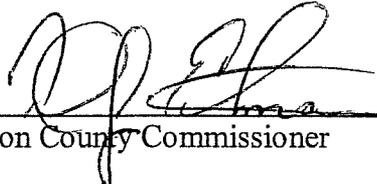


WESTON COUNTY
COMMUNITY WILDFIRE
PROTECTION PLAN

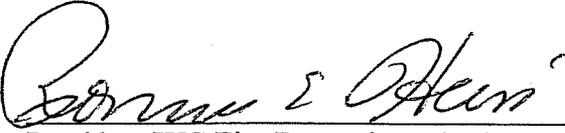
AMENDMENT A

WESTON COUNTY COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN
AMENDMENT A



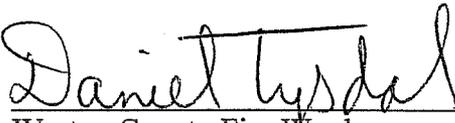
Weston County Commissioner

11-18-08
Date



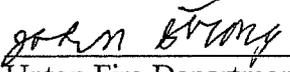
President/WC Fire Protection District

10-27-2008
Date



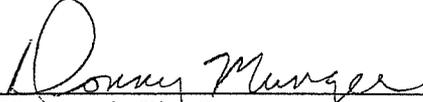
Weston County Fire Warden

10-27-2008
Date



Upton Fire Department

10-27-2008
Date



Newcastle Fire Department

10-27-2008
Date



Wyoming State Forestry Division

11/19/08
Date

**Weston County
Community Wildfire Protection Plan
Amendment A**

CONTENTS

Area of Concern Enlargement	Page 4
#1 – Newcastle – North	Page 4
Areas of Concern	Page 4
#1 – Sweetwater	Page 5
#2 – Dry Creek	Page 5
#3 – Little Thunder	Page 5&6
Maps:	
Overall County Community Protection Map	Page 7
Newcastle North Protection Area	Page 8
Sweetwater Protection Area	Page 9
Dry Creek Protection Area	Page 10
Little Thunder Protection Area	Page 11

Areas of Concern Enlargement

The designated Newcastle North Community Area is being enlarged through a collaborated effort by Wyoming State Forestry, County Officials, and concerned citizens requesting assistance with fuels mitigation practices because of fuel types, fuel density, structure density and proximity to fuel, and landscape structure value, the Newcastle North Community area is being extended to cover more structures being built in this adjacent area. (See accompanying map.)

1. Newcastle North (Enlargement)

Identified regarding the criteria of the National Fire plan Registry as being “At Risk” to wildfire with completed assessment and mitigation plans, completed mitigation projects and on going mitigation projects are all factors included in the consideration of this area.

This are incorporates upper Cambria Creek Drainage, Deadman Draw, Grant Canyon Drainage, Buck Pasture Draw Drainage, Cave Springs Canyon, Farella Draw, Salt Creek, and Freshwater Creek. The area is approximately 5 miles wide (east-west) and 7 miles (north-south) long. The area contains approximately 22,400 acres.

Areas of Concern:

The communities and locations (see accompanying maps) are being recommended to be added to the Areas of Concern designated in the Weston County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) through a collaborated effort by Wyoming State Forestry, County Officials, and concerned citizens requesting assistance with fuels mitigation practices because of fuel types, fuel density, structure density and proximity to fuel, and landscape structure value. The placement and numbering of the communities and locations is not inherent to priority needs. All locations are in common with significant mitigation needs regarding the afore-mentioned analysis criteria.

Recommended Communities to be amended into the Weston County CWPP.

1. Sweetwater:

The Sweetwater area meets the criteria for “At Risk”. There are numerous small ownership plots and homes scattered throughout the area, with potential for more to be built. The management considerations are the completed and ongoing logging, fuel mitigation projects, and the untreated defensible space, fuel break, and fuel treatment areas.

The area incorporates Sweetwater Creek, Soldier Creek, Inyan Kara Creek, West Plum Creek, Horsethief Canyon, Salt Creek, Deadman Draw, Red Creek, Brown Canyon, Fadill Canyon, and Dry Gypp Canyon. The area is approximately 6 miles wide (east-west) and 14 miles long (north-south). The area contains roughly 46,080 acres.

2. Dry Creek:

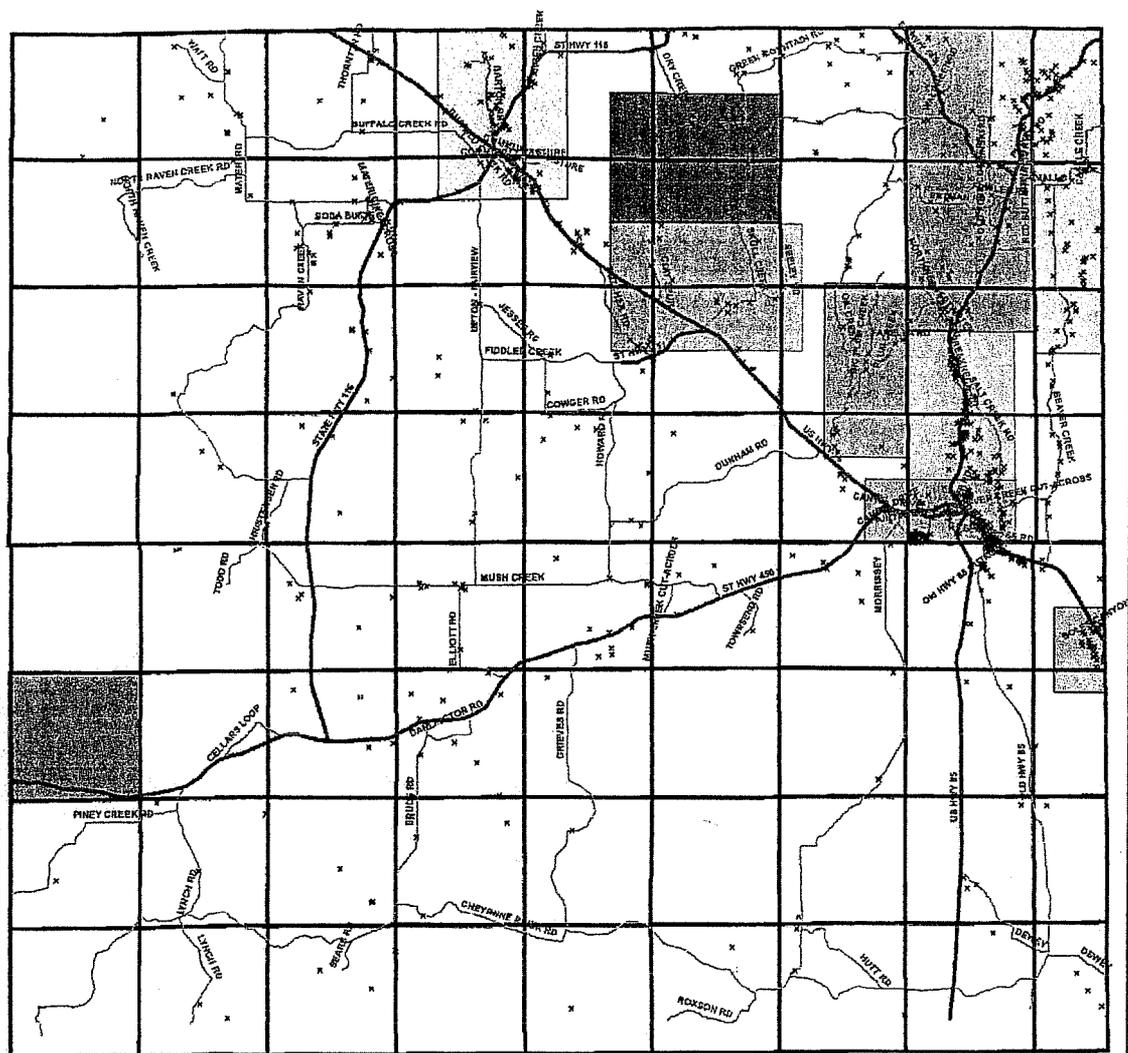
Dry Creek is a new area for small acreage/housing development in Weston County. This area has limited suppression opportunities with high concentrations of trees, brush, grass, dense ladder fuel and questionable access to locations. Continuing Wildfire Risk Assessments and following up with fuels mitigation work will be critical to this area and homes surviving a wildfire.

The area incorporates Dry Creek, Little Turner Creek, Turner Creek, Walcott Draw, Bertha Canyon, Barry Canyon, Skull Creek, East Iron Creek, Piney Ridge and Cree Divide. The area is approximately 8 miles wide (east-west) and 6 miles long (north-south). The area contains approximately 30,720 acres.

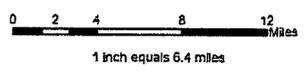
3. Little Thunder

The Little Thunder area is in native grass rangeland with a Big Sagebrush component. This area lies close to coalmines and other energy development making it attractive for small landownership.

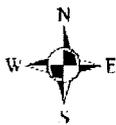
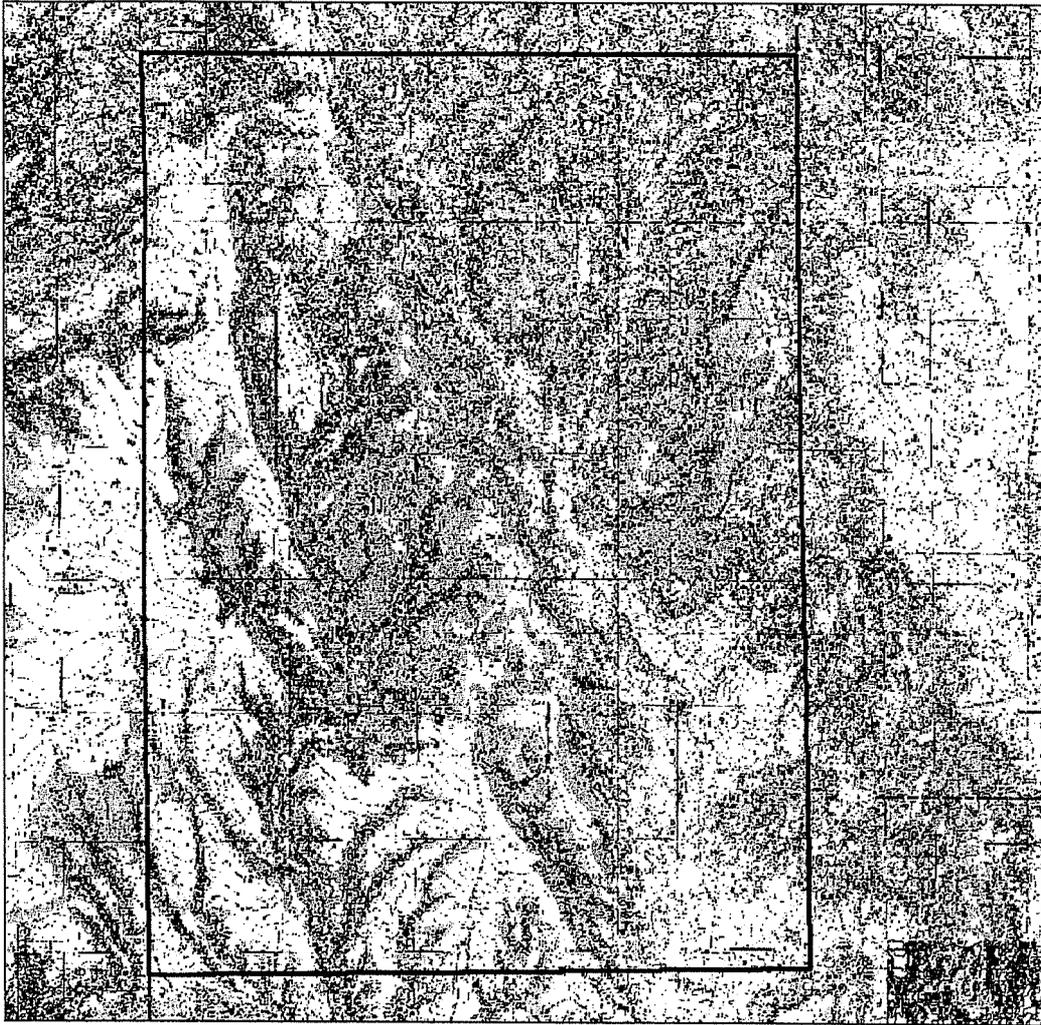
The area incorporates Little Thunder Creek, Black Thunder, Buzzard Creek and Little Mike Creek. The area is approximately 6 miles wide (east-west) and 6 miles long (north-south). The area contains approximately 23,040 acres.



- Legend**
- Beaver Creek, Buckhorn
 - Dry Creek
 - Ferguson Canyon
 - Lisa Thunder
 - Newcastle
 - Newcastle North
 - Oil Creek, Plum Creek
 - Oaage
 - Sweetwater
 - Upton

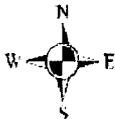
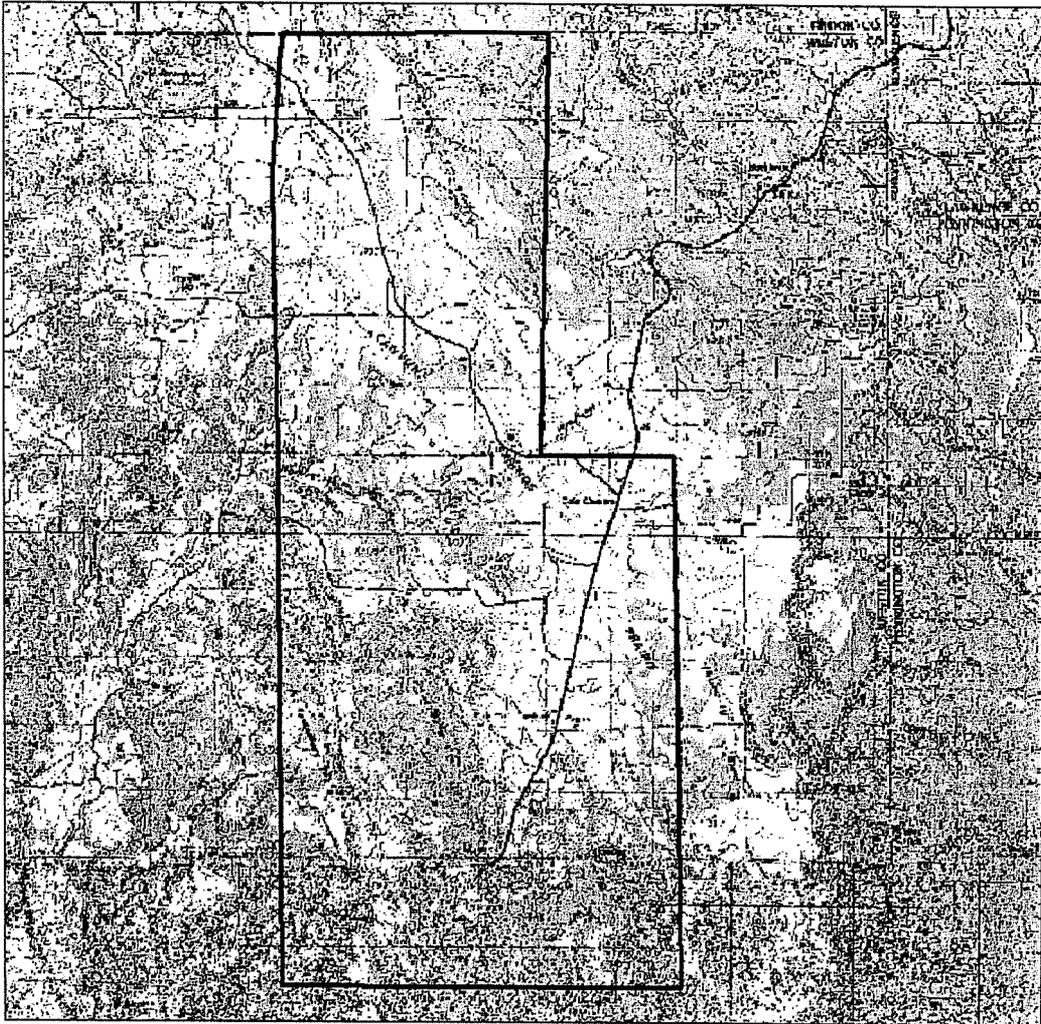


Newcastle North



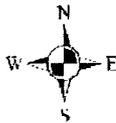
0.015 0.3 Miles
■ ■ ■

Sweetwater



0.30 0.6 Miles
■ ■ ■

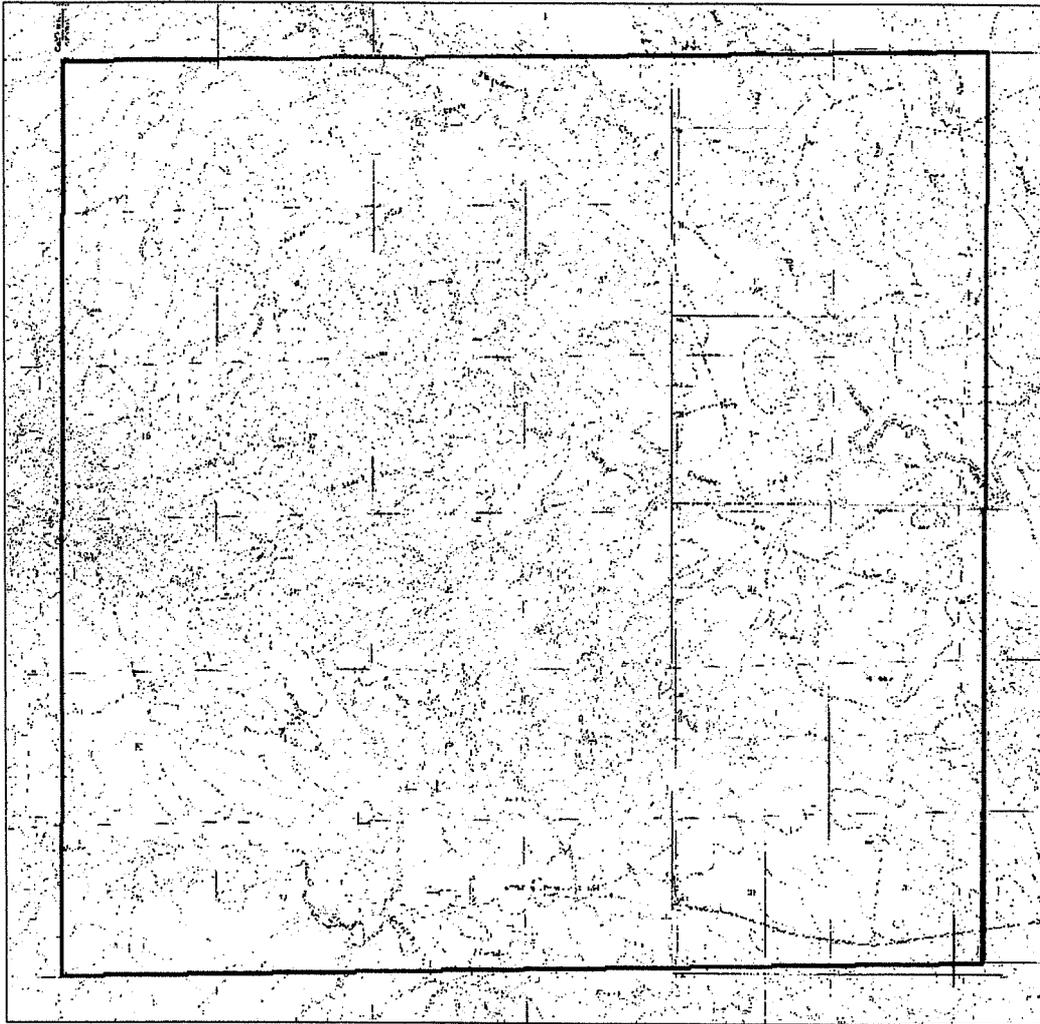
Dry Creek



0.50.25 0 0.5 Miles



Little Thunder

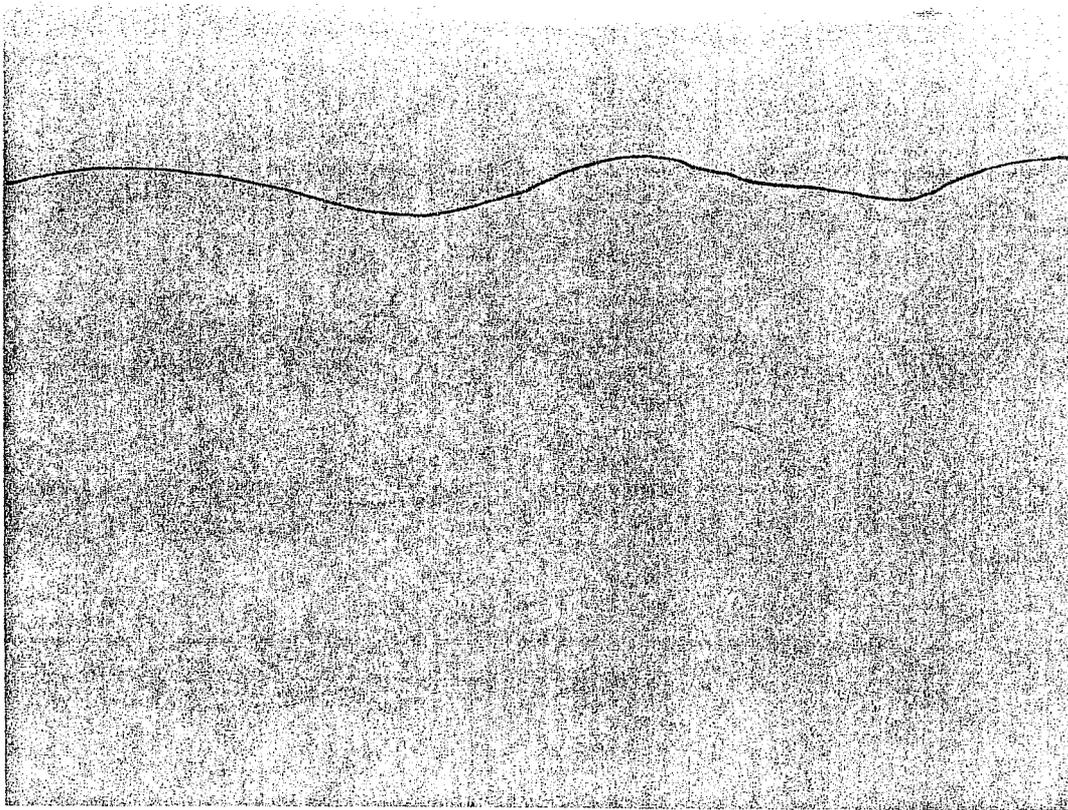


0 0.25 Miles



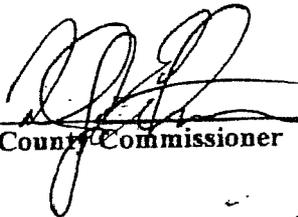
Weston County

Community Wildfire Protection Plan



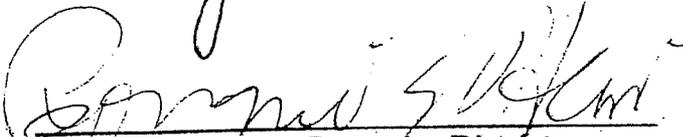
Prepared By
Weston County Fire Protection District Staff

Weston County
Community Wildfire Protection Plan



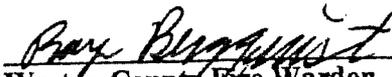
Weston County Commissioner

5-17-05
Date



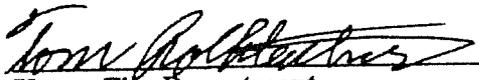
President /W.C. Fire Protection District

5-18-05
Date



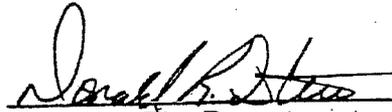
Weston County Fire Warden

5-13-05
Date



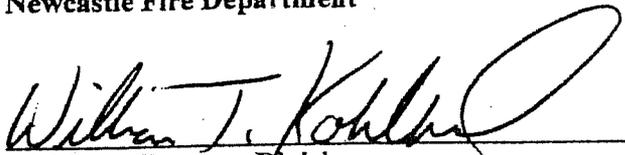
Upton Fire Department

5-13-05
Date



Newcastle Fire Department

5-12-05
Date



WY State Forestry Division

5/11/05
Date

Weston County
Community Wildfire Protection Plan

CONTENTS

Introduction	Page 1-2
Background	Page 2-3
Management Considerations	Page 3-6
Areas of Concern	
#1 – Community of Newcastle	Page 6-7
#2 – Newcastle – North	Page 7
#3 – Community of Osage	Page 7
#4 – Community of Upton	Page 8
#5 – Oil Creek – Plum Creek	Page 8
#6 – Ferguson Canyon	Page 9
#7 – Beaver Creek – Buckhorn	Page 9

Maps:

Overall County Community Protection Map
Newcastle Protection Area
Newcastle North Protection Area
Osage Protection Area
Upton Protection Area
Oil Creek – Plum Creek Protection Area
Ferguson Canyon Protection Area
Beaver Creek – Buckhorn Protection Area

Weston County Community Wildfire Protection Plan

Introduction:

What is a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)? Why do the citizens of Weston County need a CWPP? The CWPP provides communities with an opportunity to influence where and how federal agencies implement fuel reduction projects on federal lands and how additional federal funds may be distributed for projects on nonfederal lands. A CWPP is the most effective way to take advantage of this opportunity.

People don't want their loved ones, homes, livestock, or property destroyed by wildfire. The potential for a catastrophic fire that will result in these effects is dramatically increasing in Weston County because of extreme drought, increased vegetation density, and a greater influx of Wildland-Urban Interface conditions. To assist communities that are "At Risk" to wildfires, various programs and policies related to community fire planning and fire protection have been enacted by the Federal Government. Most recently, the Healthy Forests Restoration Act (HFRA) was enacted by congress and signed into law by President Bush in 2003.

The HFRA allows local government, local fire protection districts, and State agencies responsible for forest management, in collaboration with interested parties and the federal land management agencies, to develop a CWPP that identifies and prioritizes areas for hazardous fuel reduction treatments. Also, reducing wildfire risk to communities, municipal infrastructure, and other at-risk Federal land as well as enhancing efforts to protect watersheds and address threats to forest and rangeland health,

including catastrophic wildfire, across the landscape are additional priorities of the HFRA.

In 2005, the Weston County Fire Board directed the County Fire Warden to work with state and federal agencies to develop a CWPP to address and mitigate, the hazardous fuel build-up, Wildland-Urban Interface conditions, epidemic of disease and/ or insect infestations and promote and seek additional water supply systems within Weston County as described in the HFRA.

This document is a collaborative result of the County fire boards' request. The document includes maps depicting areas within Weston County that have been identified and prioritized through the consultative efforts of the signatories. The maps also depict the areas and districts identified on the National Fire Plan Register as being "At Risk" to wildfire. The areas of concern have been prioritized based on fuel hazards, risk from wildfire, infrastructure, and values such as viewscapes and watersheds. The drought experienced in recent years adds credence and necessity to promote and seek additional water supply systems and mitigate epidemic insect and disease infestations within the forested areas of the county.

Background:

With interface development specific problems will come to these natural or wildland areas, including catastrophic wildfire. The threats to life and property, the assets lost, and the costs for fighting fires are escalating at astounding rates. The responsibility of management, preservation, restoration and mitigation rests with us. Our ultimate goal is not to stop wildland fires. Fire is part of the normal ecosystem of the land. Our mission is to break or at least reduce the traditional destructive cycle of: building in a non-compatible environment... destruction by wildfires... rebuilding...destruction, ect.

State and County Authorities are cognizant of fires' role within its natural scheme and the ever increasing imbalance interface development places on the wildland ecosystem. This awareness did not lapse into apathy. State and local fire personnel adopted a proactive stance toward the Wildland-Urban interface dilemma through proposal, implementation, and completion of 84 private landowner Hazardous Fuel Mitigation Plan projects with an additional 18 near completion. An extensive firebreak was completed north of the community of Newcastle while a fuel reduction project near the communities of Osage and Upton is in the planning stage. The County Fire Chief/Fire Warden has met with the County Commissioners and County Planning Board in the hopes of adopting guidelines for future developments, obtaining a County fire plan/Resolution, and to investigate the ways and means to fund and obtain a position for a county wildfire mitigation coordinator.

Plan Oversight Considerations:

Development of a CWPP is no small task. Building a collaborative environment between fire districts, local government, public land management agencies and community-based organizations is the life-blood of this plan. Maintaining this cooperation is a long term effort that requires commitment of all respective jurisdictions involved.

County & Municipal Governments:

1. Promote wildfire awareness and public safety
2. Support the roles and functions of the County's Fire Districts and Fire Service Providers
3. Seek to establish fire resolutions

4

- 4. Improve survivability to people, homes, and the environment when wildfire occurs**
- 5. Access and utilize federal and other grant dollars**
- 6. Seek ways to fund and obtain a position for a county wildfire mitigation coordinator**

County Fire:

- 1. Protect against potential losses to life, property and natural resources from wildfire**
- 2. Set realistic expectations for reducing wildfire risk**
- 3. Identify and prioritize actions for fire protection**
- 4. Access and utilize federal and other grant dollars**
- 5. Develop evacuation plans if appropriate**
- 6. Monitor the changing conditions of wildfire risk and community action**

Wyoming State Forestry Division:

- 1. Continue assistance to County Fire with assessments and mitigation needs as necessary**

- 2. Continue assistance to County Fire with silvicultural recommendations on private land**
- 3. Continue coordination and assistance to the county and municipal governments, fire districts, fire boards, and fire warden in regards to funding grants, mitigation coordination, and other facets of fire protection**
- 4. Continue assistance to County Fire with hazard fuel reduction through state cost share programs**
- 5. Continue to use harvests and thinning to maintain diversity in both age classes and stand densities to mitigate epidemic insect and disease outbreaks and to reduce the potential for large scale stand replacement wildfires**

United States Forest Service:

- 1. Continue implementing the prescribe burn program in place**
- 2. Continue to use harvests and thinning to maintain diversity in both age classes and stand densities to mitigate epidemic insect and disease outbreaks and to reduce the potential for large scale stand replacement wildfires**
- 3. Implement and complete the fuel reduction, firebreaks projects in the areas of Osage and Upton**

Bureau of Land Management:

- 1. Continue to implement prescribe burning to facilitate fuels reduction**
- 2. Continue to use harvests and thinning to maintain diversity in both age classes and stand densities to mitigate epidemic insect and disease outbreaks and to reduce the potential for large scale stand replacement wildfires**
- 3. Continue and expand the thinning, fuel treatment project in the Newcastle target area. Assist private landowners with silviculture recommendations and funding grant sources.**

Areas of Concern:

The communities and locations (see accompanying maps) were identified through a collaborated effort by Wyoming State Forestry, County Officials, and concerned citizens using criteria as fuel types, fuel density, structure density and proximity to fuel, municipal infrastructure at risk, and landscape structure value. The placement and numbering of the communities and locations is not inherent to priority needs. All locations are in common with significant mitigation needs regarding the afore-mentioned analysis criteria.

1. Community of Newcastle:

Newcastle and peripheral residential areas are defined on the National Fireplan Registry as being "At Risk" to wildfire.

Z

The area encompasses the Cambria Creek Drainage, Alum Creek Drainage, Cemetery Creek Drainage, Cave Spring Drainage, Salt Creek Drainages and Hilton Draw Drainage. The area is approximately 3 miles wide (north-south) and approximately 7-8 miles long (east-west) and incorporates 17,300 acres. Paramount management concerns are fuel reduction, urban interface and municipal infrastructure facilities.

2. Newcastle North:

Identified regarding the criteria of the National Fireplan Registry as being "At Risk" to wildfire with completed assessment and mitigation plans, completed mitigation projects and on going mitigation projects are all factors included in the consideration of this area.

This area incorporates upper Cambria Creek Drainage, Deadman Draw Drainage, Grant Canyon Drainage, Upper Salt Creek Drainage and Buck Pasture Draw Drainage. The area is 3 miles wide (east-west) and 7 miles long (north-south). The area incorporates roughly 17,000 acres.

3. Community of Osage:

Osage common and surrounding areas are defined on the National Fireplan Registry as being "At Risk" to wildfire.

The area encompasses the Jordan Draw Drainage, Skull Creek Drainage, Little Turner Creek Drainage and Turner Creek Drainage. The area is approximately 5 miles wide (east-west) and approximately 7 miles long (north-south) and consists of approximately 23,000 acres.

4. Community of Upton:

Upton common and its peripheral residential areas are defined on the National Fireplan Registry as being "At Risk" to wildfire, with completed assessments and mitigation plans, completed mitigation projects and on going fuel reduction projects are all factors included in the consideration of this area.

The area incorporates Cox Creek Drainage, Coyote Creek Drainage, Iron Creek Drainage, Pine Creek Drainage, Owens Draw Drainage and West Draw Drainage. The area is approximately 6 miles wide (east-west) and approximately 8 miles long (north-south). The area incorporates roughly 31,000 acres.

5. Oil Creek-Plum Creek:

The Oil Creek-Plum Creek area meets all criteria as defined on the National Fireplan Registry as "At Risk" with Wildland Urban interface pockets throughout the area, high concentrations of brush, grass, timber, dense ladder fuel and questionable access to locations in the area. These conditions are dispersed in a steep slope, canyon topography. The necessity to increase fuel reduction and assessment projects and completion of ongoing projects is a paramount wildland management concern.

This area encompasses approximately 19,000 acres and is roughly 5 miles wide (east-west) and 6 miles long (north-south). The area contains the Oil Creek Drainage, Fourmile Creek West Fork Drainage, West Plum Creek Drainage, East Plum Creek Drainage, and the Blacktail Canyon , Farella Draws.

6. Ferguson Canyon

The factors included in the consideration of this area included, being "At Risk", numerous small ownership plots and cabins scattered throughout the area, limited suppression opportunities, historical locations, the buildup of insect and disease infestations and deadfall situations in the area.

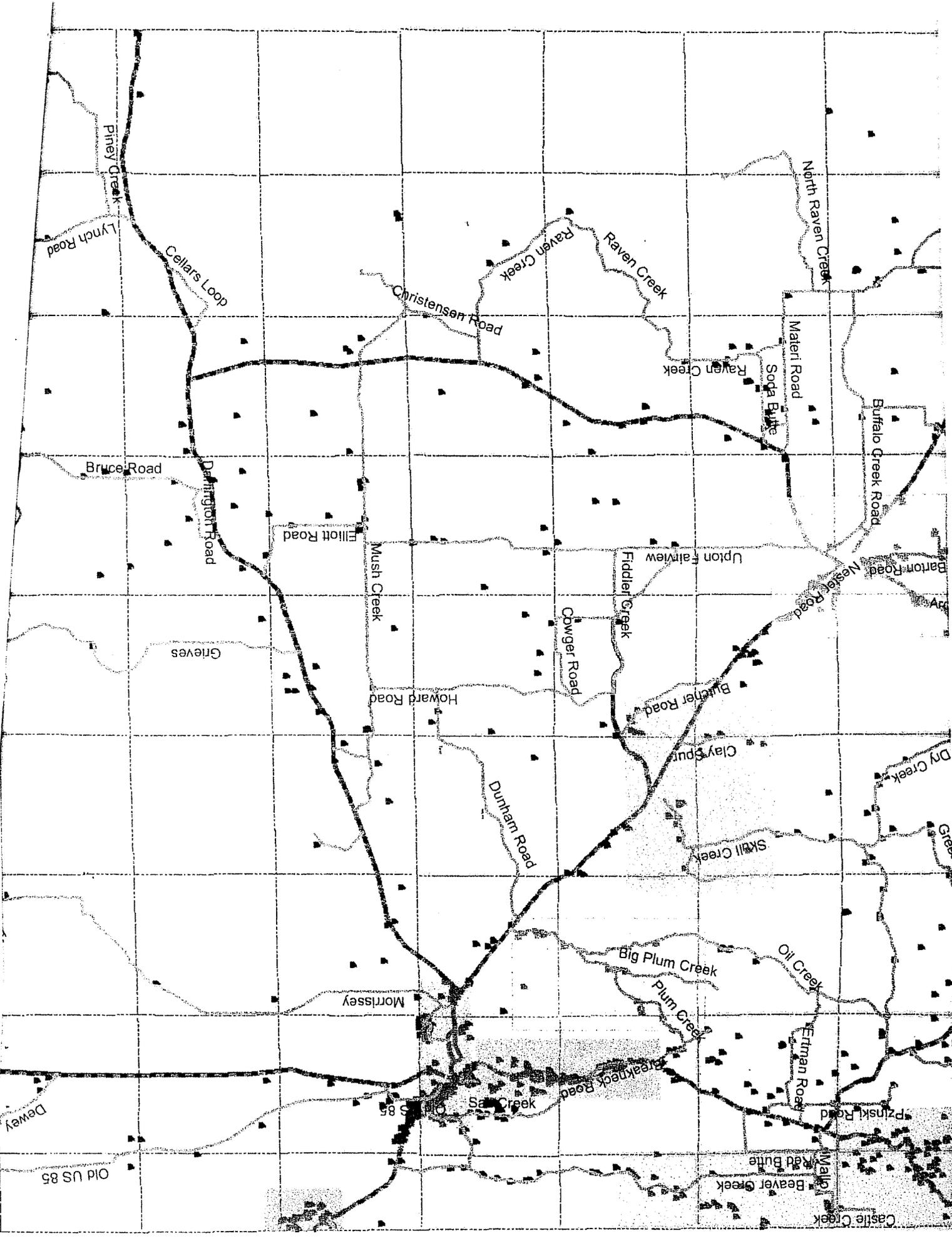
The area incorporates Ferguson Canyon, Ferguson Springs Drainage, Rock Canyon Drainage, and Slate Spring Drainage. The area is approximately 2.5 miles wide (east-west) and 4 miles long (north-south). The area contains roughly 5,700 acres.

7. Beaver Creek-Buckhorn

Identified regarding the criteria as being "At Risk" to wildfire included; the buildup of insect and disease infestation, limited suppression opportunities, historical sites, valuable view-shed, back-country fishing, hunting and horse recreation. Also the numerous Wildland Urban Interface locations dispersed in the areas steep slope canyon topography. The management considerations are the completed and ongoing fuel mitigation projects and the untreated defensible space, fuel break and fuel treatment areas.

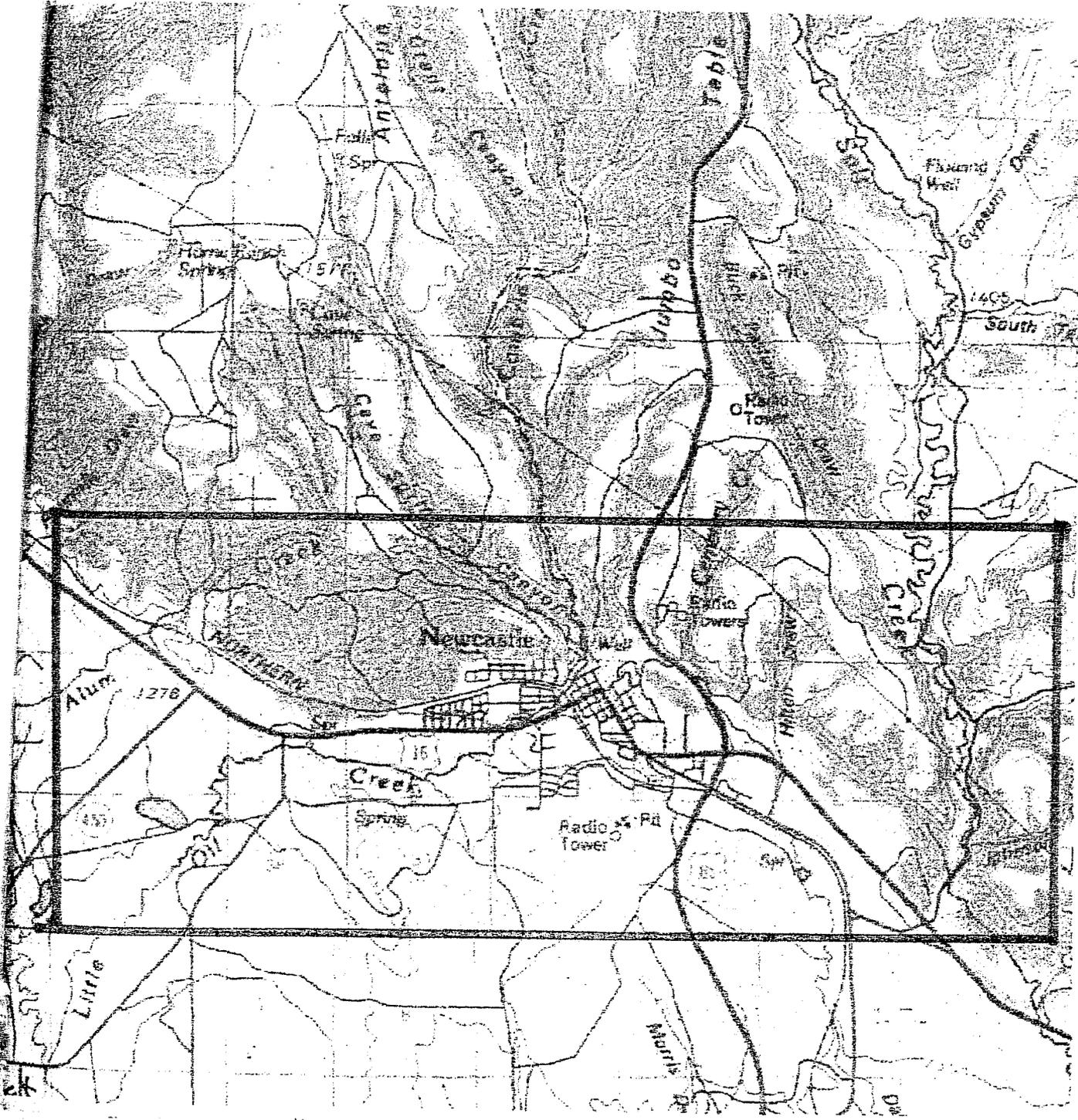
The area incorporates Stockade Beaver Creek Drainage, Brown Canyon, Parmlee Canyon, Mallo Camp, Thoeming Draw, Barnette Draw, Buckhorn Town, Cold Springs Creek Drainage, and Soldier Creek Drainage. The area incorporates roughly 33,000 acres.

Over-all County Community Protection Map



Newcastle

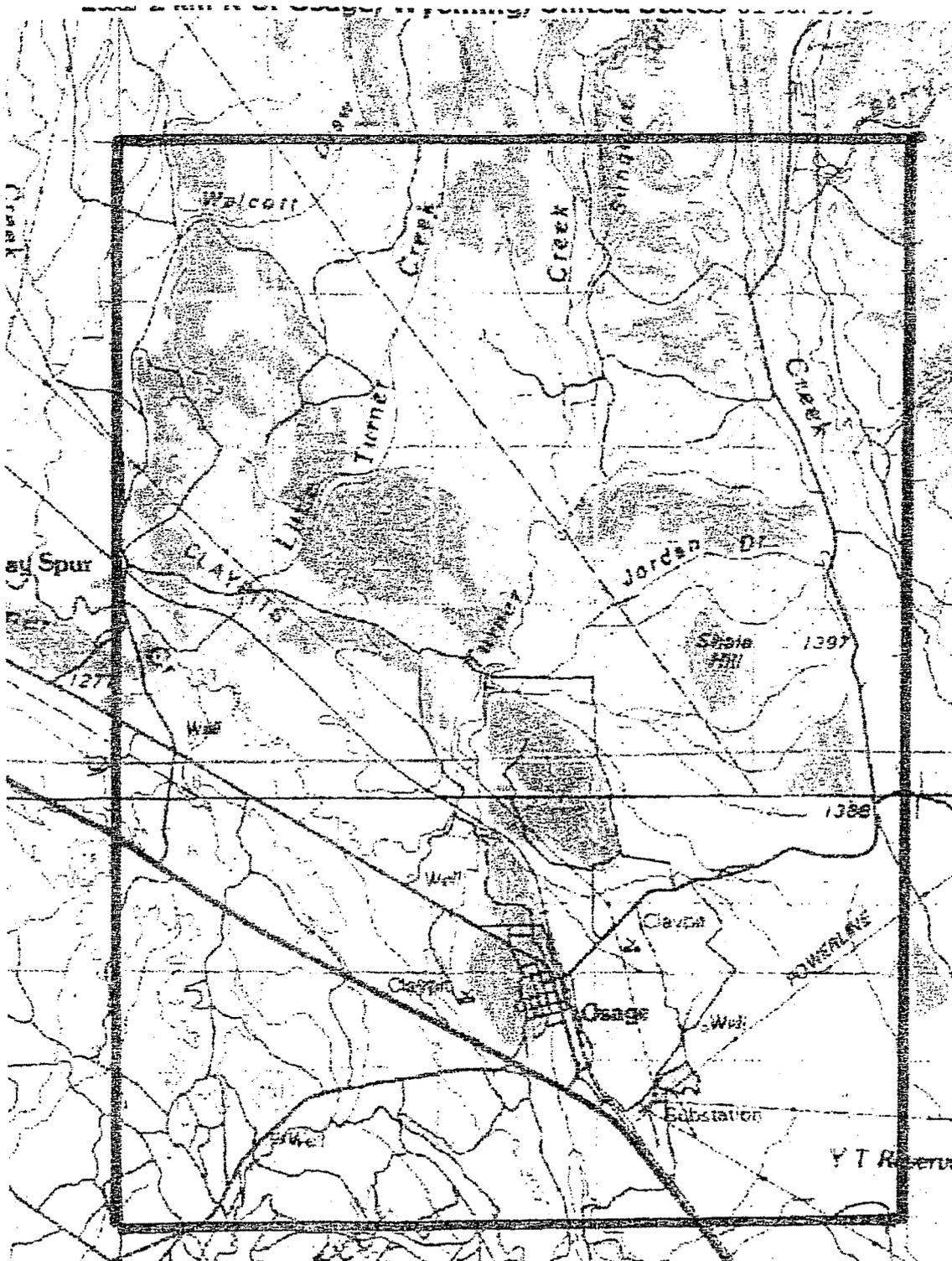
NEWCASTLE



Newcastle North

Osage

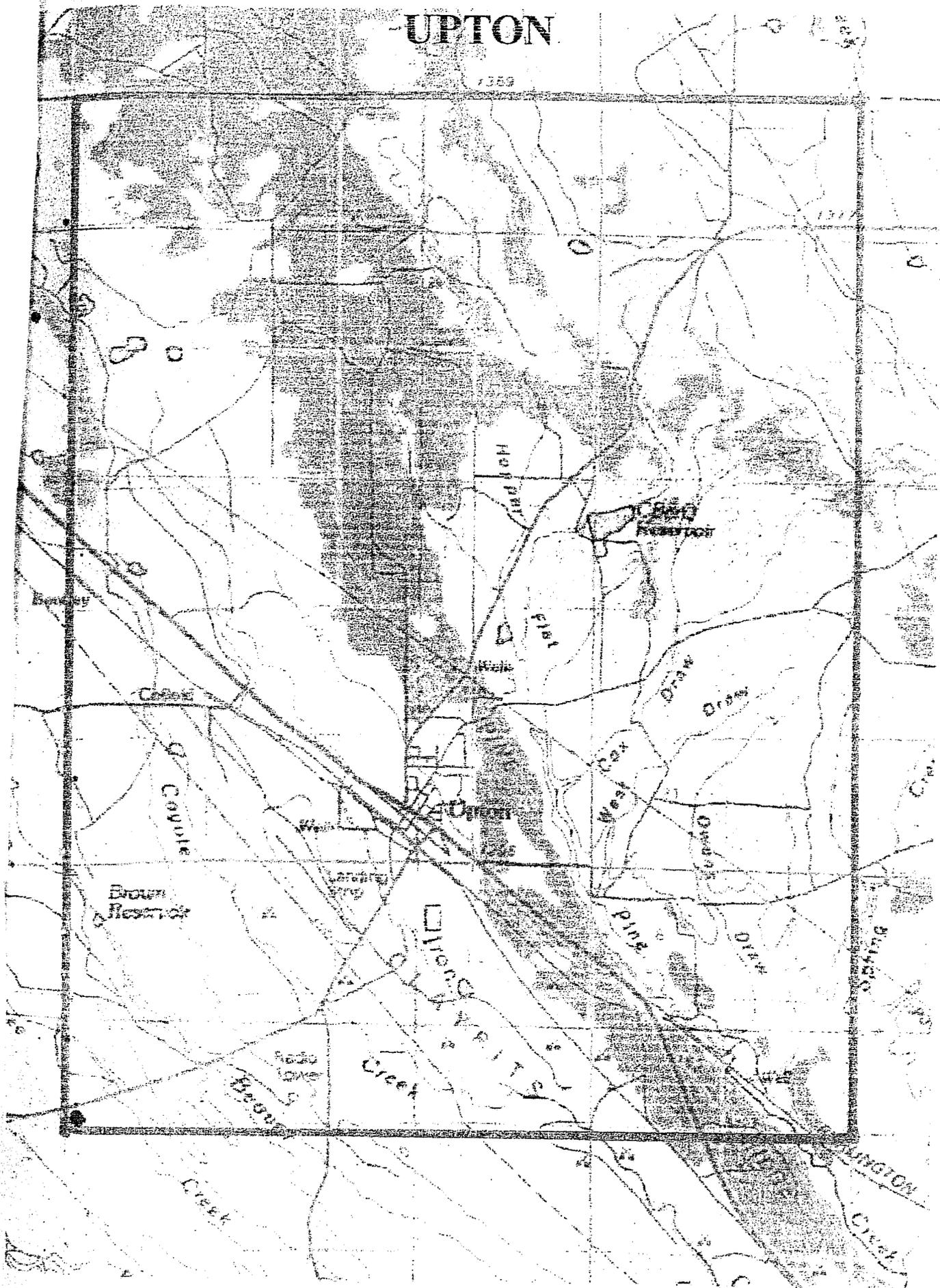
OSAGE



Upton

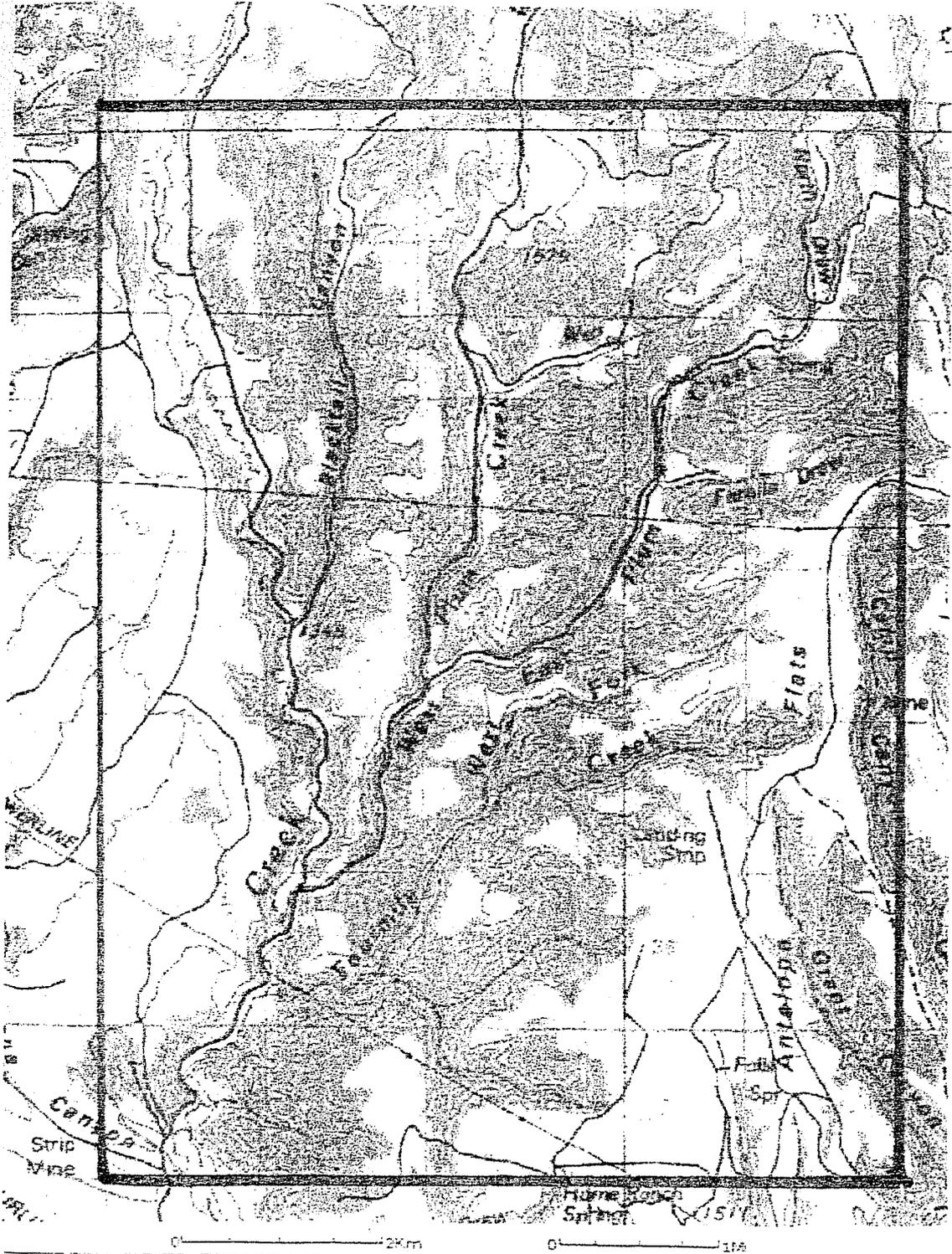
UPTON

1389



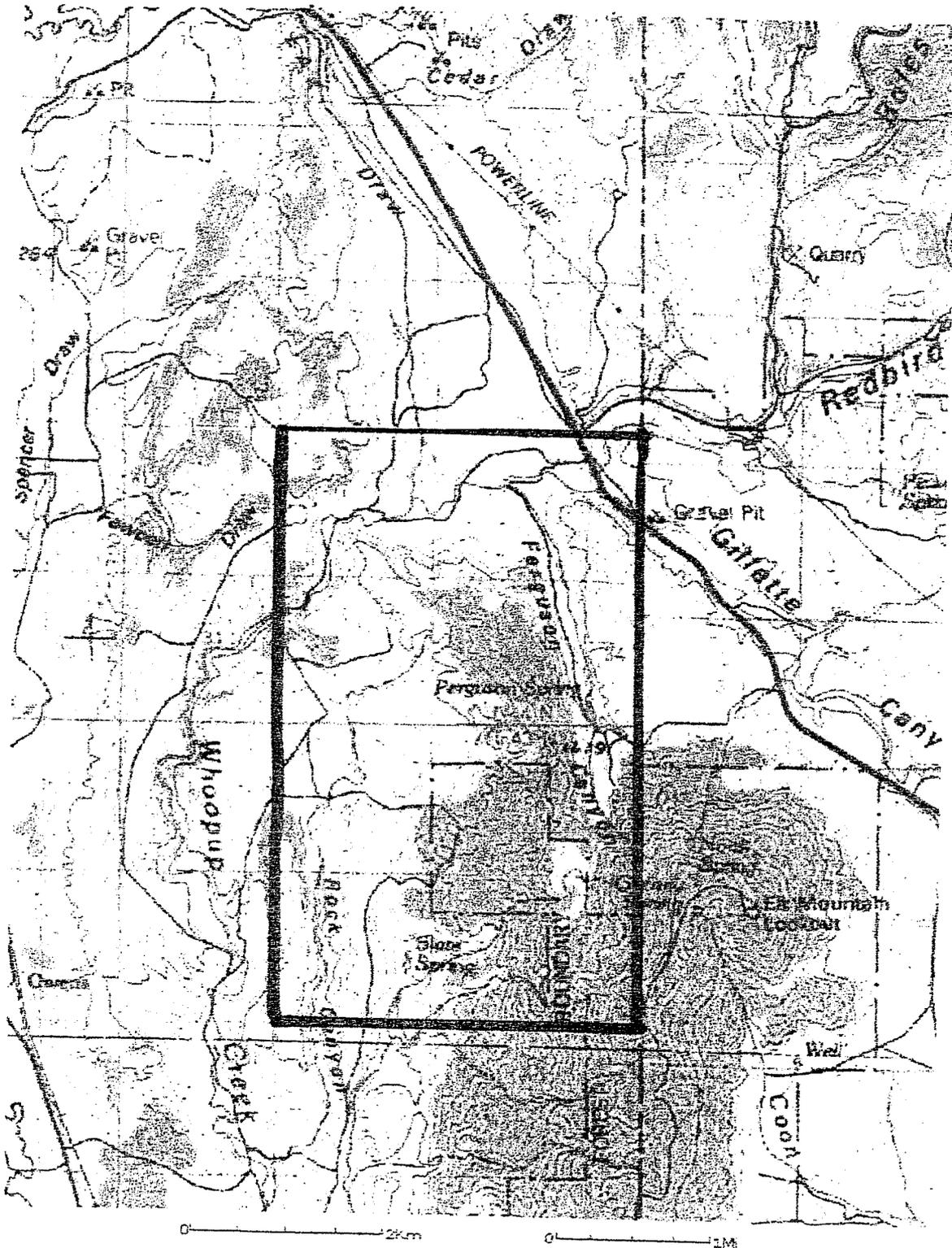
Oil Creek - Plum Creek

OIL CREEK - PLUM CREEK



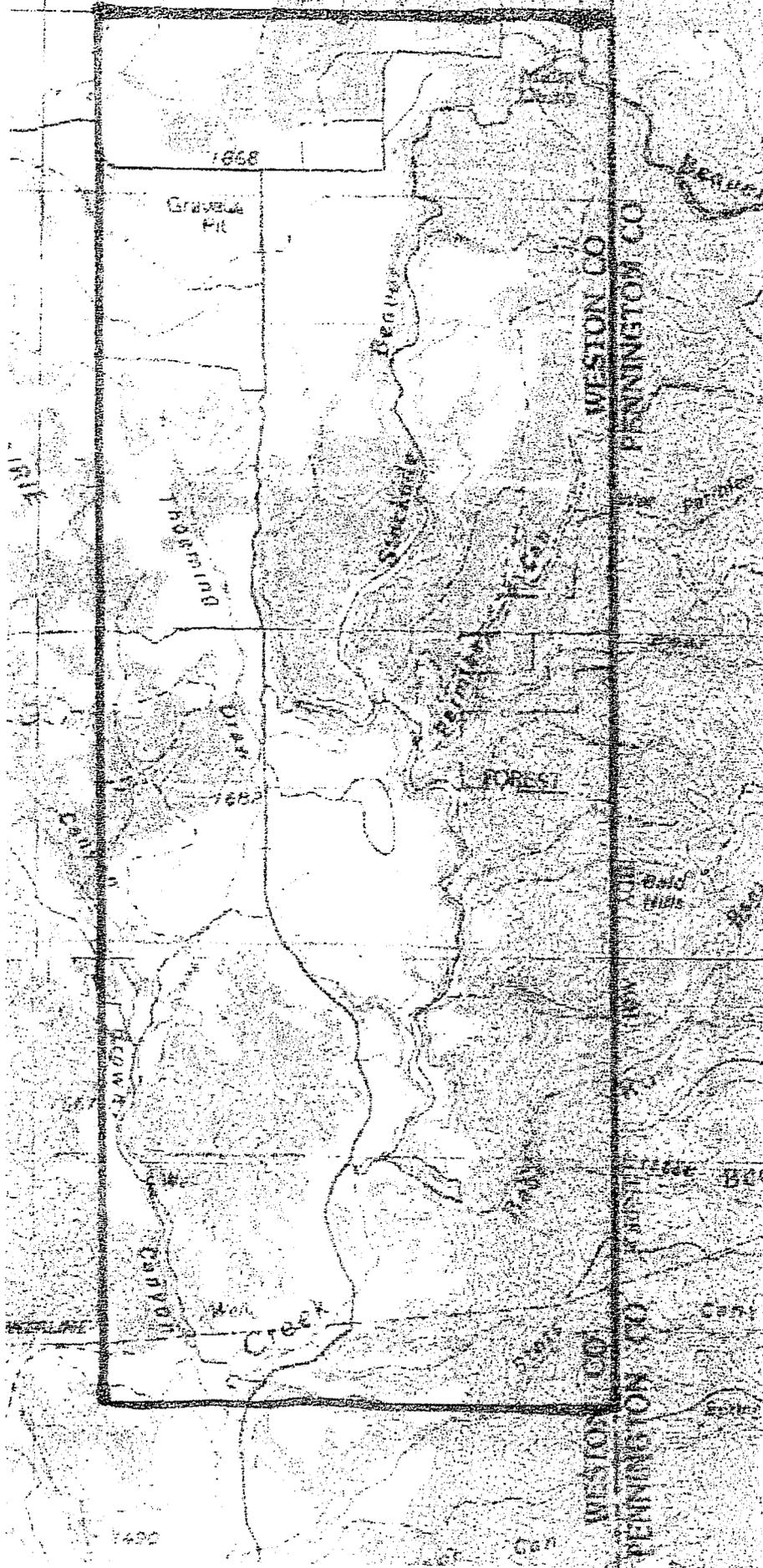
Ferguson Canyon

FERGUSON CANYON



Beaver Creek - Buckhorn

BEAVER CREEK AREA



BUCKHORN AREA

