



CONTACT INFORMATION

Mining Records Curator
Arizona Geological Survey
1520 West Adams St.
Phoenix, AZ 85007
602-771-1601
<http://www.azgs.az.gov>
inquiries@azgs.az.gov

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PRINTED: 09/05/2002

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND MINERAL RESOURCES AZMILS DATA

PRIMARY NAME: VEKOL HILLS PROJECT

ALTERNATE NAMES:

PINAL COUNTY MILS NUMBER: 732

LOCATION: TOWNSHIP 10 S RANGE 3 E SECTION 4 QUARTER NW
LATITUDE: N 32DEG 35MIN 19SEC LONGITUDE: W 112DEG 03MIN 18SEC
TOPO MAP NAME: VEKOL MOUNTAINS - 15 MIN

CURRENT STATUS: EXP PROSPECT

COMMODITY:

COPPER SULFIDE
COPPER OXIDE
MOLYBDENUM SULFIDE
GOLD
SILVER

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

ADMMR VEKOL HILLS PROJECT FILE
E/MJ 3/74 P. 202 (OWN, ACQ. COSTS)
M. CHAFFEE, GEOCHEMICAL EXPLORATION TECHNIQUE
... VEKOL CU DEPOSIT AREA USGS BULL. 1278-E

VEKOL HILLS PROJECT

3/85

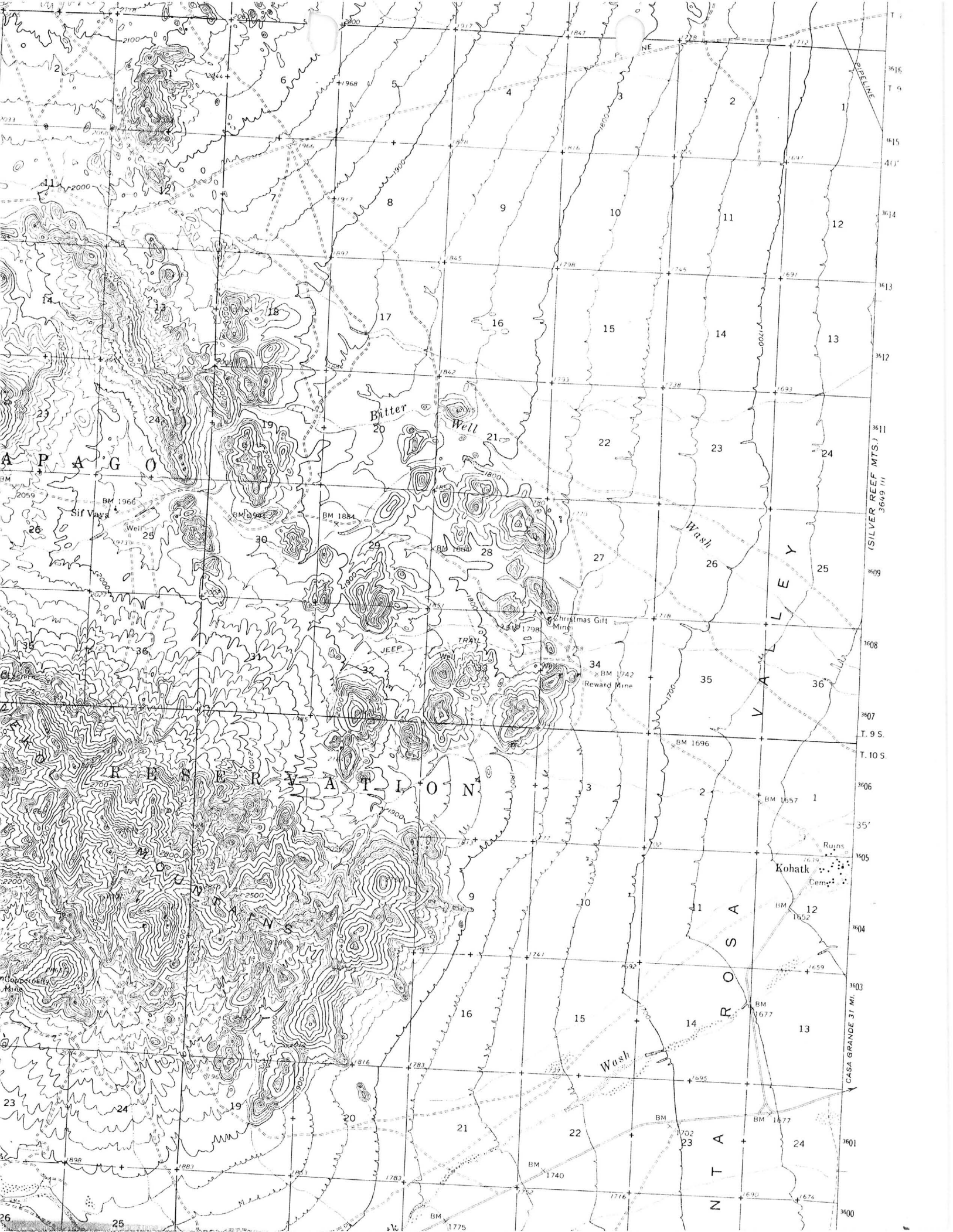
PINAL COUNTY
T10S R3E Sec 4

MILS #732 (Print out p. 7459. The original work sheets have the
Vekol Hills Project confused with the Vekol Mine T9S R2E Sec 34)

For additional information on Newmont Mining Co's involvement with
Vekol Hills Project, see Newmont Mining Co (active file) and Newmont-
Leases (active file)

USGS Vekol Mtn, Az. 15' (Included in file)

US Bureau of Indian Affairs, environmental impact statement, "Vekol
Hills Project, Papago Indian Reservation, Pinal Co."
(Included in file)



ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND MINERAL RESOURCES

VERBAL INFORMATION SUMMARY

Date of Information: 02/08/93 By: Nyal J. Niemuth, Mining Engineer

Information from: Don Hammer

Company: Formerly Newmont exploration manager
Address: P. O. Box 1120
City, State, ZIP: Oracle, AZ
Phone: 602-896-9346

MINE: Vekol Hills Project

ADMMR Mine File Vekol Hills Project
County: Pinal
AzMILSNumber:

SUMMARY

Disposition of Vekol Project Drill Core

Mr. Hammer reported that at the termination of Newmont's lease of the Vekol Hills property with the then Papago Indian Reservation that all drill core and cuttings were transferred to the tribe. The tribe had to provide a facility. Noranda had returned the Lakeshore deposit to the tribe and since there were buildings on the property they decided to have the core transferred there. Mr. Hammers staff moved all the material to the the Lakeshore mine's hoist house.

VEKOL MINE

PINAL COUNTY

MG WR 2/11/83: The Superior Oil Co. no longer has an interest in the Vekol Hills copper deposit in Pinal County. I assume Newmont Mining Corp. has sole interest in the property.

Vekol mining Co.
(Newmont mining Co.)

~~SECRET~~ X-ref

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT STATEMENT TO THE U. S. BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS ON THE VEKOL HILLS PROJECT. STATEMENT GIVEN ON JUNE 23, 1977 AT THE FRANCISCO GRANDE HOTEL, CASA GRANDE, ARIZONA.

BY: BRUCE R. DUKE
PROJECT EVALUATION SPECIALIST
ARIZONA GAME & FISH DEPARTMENT

DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP NUMBERS HAVE BEEN DECLINING AT AN ALARMING RATE DURING THE PAST TWO DECADES IN ARIZONA. OUR CURRENT ESTIMATE PUTS THE DWINDLING DESERT BIGHORN POPULATION IN ARIZONA AT AROUND 3,000.

ARIZONA HAS THE FASTEST GROWING POPULATION IN AMERICA. ADDITIONAL MAJOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS PROMOTED BY OUT-OF-STATE INTERESTS ARE CONTRIBUTING TO THE IMPACT ON BIGHORN SHEEP. THE TOTAL IMPACT OF THIS DRASTICALLY INCREASED HUMAN ENCROACHMENT IN DESERT COUNTRY NOT CAPABLE OF WITHSTANDING THE RESULTING PRESSURE IS SERIOUSLY AFFECTING ALL WILDLIFE.

THE DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP IS PARTICULARLY VULNERABLE TO HUMAN ENCROACHMENT. IT SIMPLY CANNOT TOLERATE HEAVY USE OF ITS LAND BY PEOPLE. IT IS TRULY AN ANIMAL NOT UNLIKE THE FRAGILE DESERT IN WHICH IT LIVES.

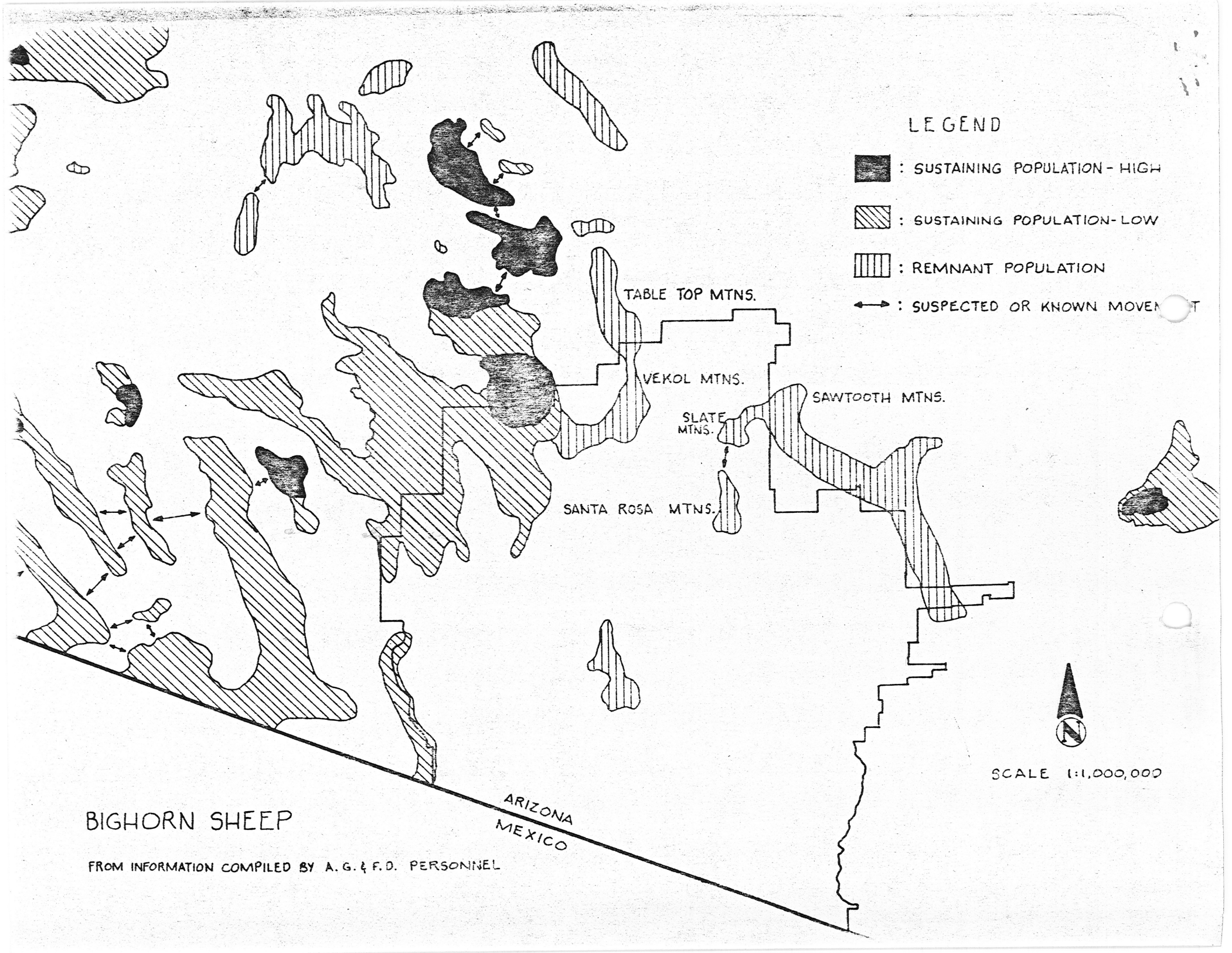
HUMAN OCCUPATION AND USE ARE RESTRICTING THE BIGHORN RANGE TO THE MORE INACCESSIBLE REACHES OF THE DESERT IN SOUTHWESTERN ARIZONA. DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP ARE IN SERIOUS TROUBLE IN THE VICINITY OF THE PAPAGO INDIAN RESERVATION. A GOOD ESTIMATE WOULD PUT SHEEP NUMBERS AT NO MORE THAN \pm 50 ON THE NORTHERN PORTION OF THESE PAPAGO LANDS AND THE ADJACENT MOUNTAIN RANGES OFF THE RESERVATION.

THE VEKOL HILLS PROJECT WOULD IN ALL PROBABILITY FURTHER DENT THE REMNANT DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP BANDS IN THIS DESERT COUNTRY. OUR DEPARTMENT FEELS THAT IT WOULD BE A TRAGEDY FOR THIS MAJESTIC NATIVE ANIMAL TO DISAPPEAR FROM AN AREA OF WHICH IT IS SO CHARACTERISTIC. THE DESERT BIGHORN HAS TRADITIONALLY BEEN A PART OF THE PAPAGO INDIAN CULTURE. THEY HAVE ALWAYS LIVED SIDE BY SIDE.

THE ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT FEELS THAT THE DESERT BIGHORN IN THIS AREA DESERVES AN IN-DEPTH STUDY TO MORE THOROUGHLY DETERMINE ITS STATUS AND FUTURE. WE WOULD HOPE THAT THE U. S. BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS, THE PAPAGO INDIANS, AND NEWMONT EXPLORATIONS, LTD. SHARE OUR SENTIMENTS.

ON BEHALF OF MY DEPARTMENT, I WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT THIS STATEMENT AND THE ACCOMPANYING MAP TO THE BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT ON THE VEKOL HILLS PROJECT.

BD:MLC
JUNE 15, 1977



BIGHORN SHEEP

FROM INFORMATION COMPILED BY A.G. & F.D. PERSONNEL

by John H. Jett, Director, Dept. of Mineral Resources

VEKOL HILLS PROJECT - PAPAGO INDIAN RESERVATION. AS I UNDERSTAND IT, THE LAND BELONGS TO THE PAPAGO INDIANS. THEREFORE, IT IS THEIR DECISION AS TO HOW THE LAND WILL BE USED. I WOULD NOT BE SO AUDACIOUS AS TO SUGGEST A PRIORITY FOR THE USE OF THIS LAND. THIS AGAIN, IS THE PREROGATIVE OF THE OWNERS OF THE LAND.

HOWEVER, I SINCERELY HOPE AND DO RECOMMEND THAT THE PAPAGO INDIAN TRIBE ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH VEKOL MINING COMPANY THAT WILL PERMIT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INDUSTRY WITH MANY GOOD BENEFITS FOR THE INDIANS, THE BALANCE OF THE CITIZENS OF ARIZONA, AND THE ENTIRE COUNTRY.

I DO WANT TO POINT OUT SOMETHING THAT I BELIEVE IS A FALLACY IN THIS DRAFT STATEMENT. I REFER SPECIFICALLY TO ITEM 4 IN THE SUMMARY WHICH IS TITLED "ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED." - NO ACTION, UNDERGROUND MINING AND LEACHING. IT IS MY OPINION THAT UNDERGROUND MINING AND LEACHING (IN-SITU, DUMP-HEAP) ARE NOT ALTERNATIVES. IT IS EITHER AN OPEN PIT-MILLING OPERATION AS PROPOSED, OR IT IS "NO ACTION." THIS APPLIES ONLY TO THIS PROPOSED OPERATION WITH TODAY'S MARKETS AND TECHNOLOGY.

THIS PROPOSED OPERATION, IN AREA, IS QUITE INSIGNIFICANT WHEN COMPARED TO TOTAL ACREAGE INCLUDED IN THE PAPAGO RESERVATION. ON PAGE 212, IT MENTIONS 190 ACRES FOR THE OPEN PIT ITSELF, PLUS ANOTHER 1840 ACRES FOR DUMPS AND SURFACE FACILITIES. 2,030 ACRES OUT OF 2,800,000 ACRES (PAGE 149). THIS IS LESS THAN ONE-TENTH OF ONE PERCENT. IN OTHER WORDS, THE ENTIRE RESERVATION IS EQUAL IN SIZE TO 1,379 OPERATIONS OF THIS SAME SIZE.

I WOULD LIKE TO SUGGEST THAT THOSE INVOLVED MAKING THIS DECISION ON THIS PROPOSITION, TAKE A VERY POSITIVE APPROACH TO THE FUTURE OF THE AREA. IT IS NOT ECONOMICALLY FEASIBLE TO DETERMINE, WITH NO DOUBT, THE COMPLETE EXTENT OF THE ORE BODY PRIOR TO EXTENSIVE MINING. IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO PREDICT WITH ANY DEGREE OF CERTAINTY, THE ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN THE FUTURE THAT COULD RESULT IN ADDITIONAL MINING ACTIVITY. AN ORE BODY DOES NOT CHANGE, BUT ECONOMICS AND TECHNOLOGY DO.

I RECALL READING ABOUT THE FIRST OPEN PIT MINE IN THE STATE - SACRAMENTO PIT. AFTER IT WAS COMPLETED, GLORY HOLE MINING WAS DONE IN THE BOTTOM OF THE PIT. SOME ADIT MINING WAS DONE IN SELECTED AREAS OF THE PIT WALL.

THE UNITED VERDE OPEN PIT AT JEROME WAS LEASED AND OPERATED BY A SMALL MINE CONTRACTOR FOR APPROXIMATELY 14 YEARS AFTER JEROME OPERATIONS CEASED. SELECTIVE HIGH GRADE LENSES OR PODS WERE MINED FOR DIRECT SHIPPING ORE. SOME SMALL SCALE LEACHING WAS PRACTICED.

ONE OF THE LARGEST MINES IN THE STATE IS PRESENTLY LEACHING TAILINGS. THESE TAILINGS WERE THE LEFT-OVERS FROM EARLIER MILLING OPERATIONS.

BE POSITIVE. THINK OF "USED LAND CONVERSION" (DR. LEAMING), NOT RECLAMATION. PERHAPS THE OPEN MINED OUT PIT COULD BE USED FOR A CITY DUMP IN THE FUTURE, OR A CONTAINER FOR TAILINGS FROM OTHER OPERATIONS. IT IS NOT BEYOND THE REALM OF POSSIBILITY THAT A WORKED-OUT OPEN PIT COULD BECOME A TEST AREA FOR MINING MACHINERY DEVELOPMENT. TWO OF THE MAJOR MANUFACTURERS OF EARTH-MOVING EQUIPMENT HAVE TRACK-TESTING FACILITIES IN ARIZONA AT THIS TIME. NOT LONG AGO, ONE OF THE COMPANIES WAS LOOKING FOR A NEW AREA.

GENTLEMEN: WE SUPPORT THE PROPOSED MINING ACTIVITY.

*File
Vekol mining Co
file*

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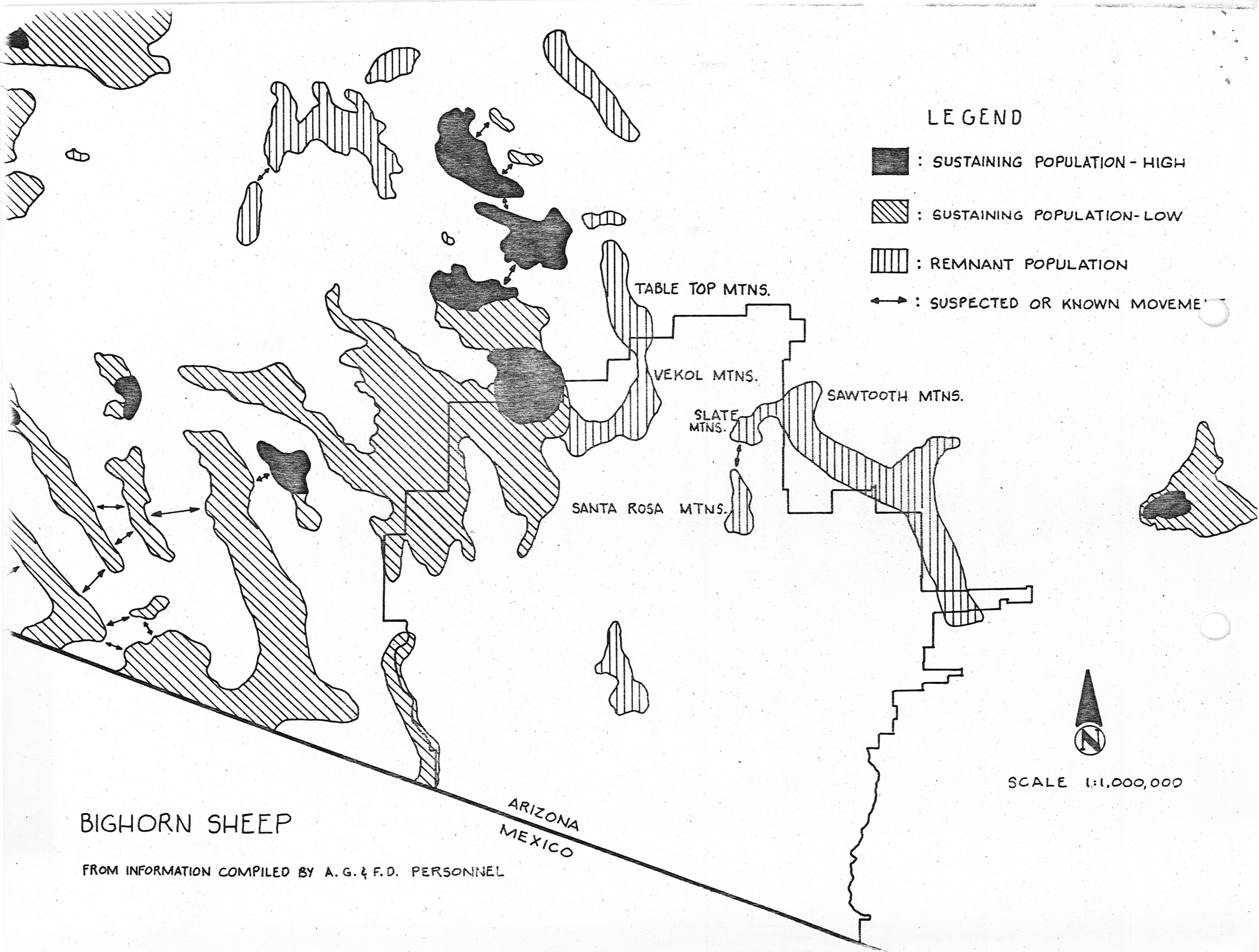
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BD:MLC
JUNE 15, 1977



LEGEND





-  : SUSTAINING POPULATION - HIGH
-  : SUSTAINING POPULATION - LOW
-  : REMNANT POPULATION
-  : SUSPECTED OR KNOWN MOVEMENT

TABLE TOP MTNS.

VEKOL MTNS.

SLATE MTNS.

SAWTOOTH MTNS.

SANTA ROSA MTNS.

ARIZONA
MEXICO



SCALE 1:1,000,000

BIGHORN SHEEP

FROM INFORMATION COMPILED BY A. G. & F. D. PERSONNEL



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

PHOENIX AREA OFFICE

P. O. Box 7007

Phoenix, Arizona 85011

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Real Prop. Mgmt.
300.1 - Papago

May 18, 1977

NOTICE

Enclosed for your information is a copy of the Draft Environmental Statement on the Vekol Hills Project, Papago Indian Reservation, Pinal County, Arizona. The statement has been prepared by the Bureau of Indian Affairs in compliance with Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, Public Law 91-190.

There is a 45-day review period on this draft in which written comments may be submitted to this office for consideration and incorporation into the final statement.


Acting Ass't Area Director

Enclosure



THE VEKOL HILLS PROJECT, ARIZONA

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT;

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

Public hearings on the Vekol Hills open pit copper mining project will be held at 9:00 a.m. on June 22, 1977, in the Conference Room of the Papago Agency, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Sells, Arizona, and at 9:00 a.m. on June 23, 1977, in Patio Rooms A and B of the Francisco Grande Hotel, Casa Grande, Arizona. These hearings are being held to enable members of the public to present comments concerning the Department of Interior's Draft Environmental Impact Statement of the Vekol Hills Project, which will be located on the Papago Indian Reservation, in Pinal County, Arizona, approximately 30 miles southwest of Casa Grande.

Oral and written comments by interested parties are invited. The number of persons desiring to present oral statements may make it necessary to limit the time allowed for any single statement. Written comments supplementary to, or in lieu of, oral statements will be accepted at the hearings. Copies of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement may be obtained from the Phoenix Area Office, Bureau of Indian Affairs, 3030 North Central Avenue, Suite 502, Phoenix, Arizona 85011, telephone 602/261-4195.

Those desiring to make an oral presentation at the hearings should make that fact known by advising the Phoenix Area Office in advance of the hearing or by registering on the date and at the place of hearing prior to the scheduled hour. An interpreter will be present at the hearing to translate comments from the Papago language into English.

**FINAL
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
VEKOL HILLS PROJECT
PAPAGO INDIAN RESERVATION
PINAL COUNTY, ARIZONA**

U. S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Phoenix Area Office

DRAFT

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

VEKOL HILLS PROJECT

PAPAGO INDIAN RESERVATION

PINAL COUNTY, ARIZONA

Prepared By

U. S. Department of the Interior

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Phoenix Area Office

Date: _____



Area Director
Phoenix Area Office
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Department of the Interior

