

ORIGINAL

BIG CREEK LODGE & OUTFITTERS, INC.
250 SOUTH BEECHWOOD DRIVE, SUITE 220
P.O. BOX 2895
BOISE, IDAHO 83701-2895
119 West Braemar Street
July 18, 1995

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
95 JUL 28 AM 11:57
FEDERAL ENERGY
REGULATORY
COMMISSION

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
Division of Project Compliance and Administration
525 North Capitol Street, NE
Washington, D.C. 20426

ATTN: J. Mark Robinson, Director

P-10721-013

Dear Mr. Robinson:

In accordance with Article 104 of our license, we are pleased to submit the evidence and record of consultation regarding our hydropower plant with the Krassel Ranger District, Pavette National Forest, U.S. Forest Service during the past year.

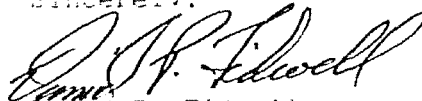
In 1994, the power house enclosing the hydro plant was completed along with the upgraded adjustment connections for the belts from the turbine to the generator. The building is of solid log construction, with a metal roof that will slide off the heavy winter snow. It is a permanent structure.

In addition, the electrical boxes and wiring was upgraded to more efficiently provide power to the lodge and to improve the safety factor.

The plant was not used in 1994, although it is fully operational because it was feared the turbine might require more than half the water in McCorkle Creek because of the serious drought we were faced with. This was a major concern of the Idaho Fish and Game Department. The Pavette National Forest surrounding Big Creek Lodge was closed for most of the summer because of the disastrous forest fires that were sweeping much of the forest. A heavy snowpack during the winter of 1994-95 has eliminated that potential problem this year and for some years to come.

Please find one original and eight copies of this report.

Sincerely,


David P. Tidwell

DPT:dpt

enclosure

cc: FERC, Portland Regional Office
Krassel District Ranger, Pavette National Forest

9508040245

FERC DOCKETED

JUL 28 1995



BIG CREEK LODGE & OUTFITTERS, INC.

250 S. Beechwood Dr., Suite 220
P.O. Box 2895
Boise, Idaho 83701-2895
Phone (208) 375-4921 • Fax (208) 377-8880

May 12, 1995

Clem Pope
Payette National Forest
Krassel Ranger District
P.O. Box 1026
McCall, Idaho 83638

RE: FERC: Agency/Forest Service Consultation

Dear Clem:

This is to confirm our telephone conversation yesterday regarding the requirement in our FERC license for an annual consultation with the Forest Service regarding the Big Creek hydroproject.

We appreciate you providing a letter which we can submit to FERC evidencing the fact that there has been the annual consultation between the Forest Service and Big Creek Lodge & Outfitters, Inc., pursuant to Article 104 of the FERC license. It is interesting that you do not have to provide evidence of an annual consultation for other permittees with hydroplants like ours. We will try to find out from FERC why this is a requirement for us.

Regarding the appropriation of the water right from the State of Idaho, as we were not able to get the hydroplant in operation last year, we were not able to put the water to beneficial use to complete the application process. You indicated that you would apply for the extension, paying the \$50 extension fee and then bill us.

Thank you for your assistance in these matters.

Very Truly Yours,

Donald E. Manly

cc: Dave Tidwell

08 12 0000

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Payette
National
Forest

Krassel Ranger District
P.O. Box 1026
McCall, ID 83638

Reply To: 2720

Date: May 15, 1995

BIG CREEK LODGE AND OUTFITTERS INC
HOWARD MANLY PRESIDENT
250 S BEECHWOOD SUITE 220
P O BOX 2895
BOISE ID 83701

Dear Howard:

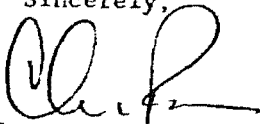
This letter is in response to a phone call from Don regarding "annual consultation" concerning the Licensed and Permitted hydroelectric generating facility.

I appreciate the effort that went into the construction last season of a power house. However, efforts to put the plant on-line last season were not completed, and no power production took place. As efforts are renewed this season to bring the plant on-line, the conditions and stipulations of the License, Permit and Operating Plan (as amended) will be followed.

As discussed with Don, we will file with the Department of Water Resources, a "REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF TIME" in which to submit proof of beneficial use. This filing requires a \$50 fee, which the Forest Service has incurred. The enclosed billing is intended to cover that cost.

We look forward to your successful efforts this year to make the hydroplant fully operational.

Sincerely,



FREDRICK L. DAUBER
District Ranger

enclosure: billing

cc:
SO

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA 58 FERC ¶ 62, 245
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Big Creek Lodge & Outfitters, Inc. Project No. 10721-001
Idaho

ORDER ISSUING LICENSE
(Minor Constructed Project)
(ISSUED MARCH 27, 1992)

Big Creek Lodge & Outfitters, Inc. (applicant) filed a license application under Part I of the Federal Power Act (Act) to operate and maintain the constructed Big Creek Project located on McCorkle Creek, in Valley County, Idaho, within the Payette National Forest.^{1/}

The Commission published a public notice of the application. No protests or motions to intervene were filed in this proceeding, and no agency objected to issuance of this license. In determining whether to issue this license staff fully considered comments from interested agencies and individuals.

Comprehensive Development

Section 4(e) of the Act states that in deciding whether to issue a license, the Commission, in addition to considering the power and development purposes of the project, shall give equal consideration to (1) the purposes of energy conservation, (2) the protection, mitigation of damage to, and enhancement of fish and wildlife, (3) the protection of recreational opportunities, and (4) the preservation of other aspects of environmental quality. Staff considered these purposes in the comprehensive development section of the Environmental Assessment (EA) prepared for this project.

Further, in section 10(a)(1), the Act says the Commission shall adopt a project that in its judgement will be best adapted to a comprehensive plan for improving or developing a waterway for (1) the use or benefit of interstate or foreign commerce, (2) the improvement and utilization of water power development, (3) the adequate protection, mitigation, and enhancement of fish and wildlife (including related spawning grounds and habitat), and (4) other beneficial public uses, including irrigation, flood control, water supply, and recreation, and other purposes discussed in section 4(e).

Section 10(a)(2) of the Act requires the Commission to consider the extent to which a project is consistent with federal

1/ See page 1 of the attached Environmental Analysis for the history of this project.

or state comprehensive plans for improving, developing, or conserving a waterway or waterways affected by the project. Under section 10(a)(2), federal and state agencies filed 26 plans that address various resources in Idaho. Of these, staff identified four plans relevant to this project.^{2/} No conflicts were found.

In determining whether to issue this license, staff fully considered the terms and conditions provided by the Forest Service (FS), pursuant to section 4(e) of the Act, and staff evaluated the effect of project operation on the environmental resources of the project area. Staff concurs with the FS recommendation requiring the Big Creek Lodge & Outfitters, Inc. to release a continuous minimum flow, at least equal to 50 percent of the instantaneous flow in the stream, to offset the minor effects this project may have on the aquatic resources of the McCorkle Creek.

Staff has also evaluated the economics of the project with the above mitigation and has determined that the energy benefits exceed the cost of operating the plant.

Based on staff's review under section 4(e) and 10(a), and staff review of agency and public comments filed in this proceeding, and our independent analysis, I conclude that the Big Creek Hydroelectric Project, with the mitigative measures required in this license, would be best adapted to a comprehensive plan for the waterway.

Recommendations of Federal and State Fish and Wildlife Agencies

Section 10(j) of the Act requires the Commission to include license conditions, based on recommendations of federal and state fish and wildlife agencies, for the protection, mitigation of damage to, and enhancement of fish and wildlife. Staff's EA for the Big Creek Hydroelectric Project addresses the concerns of the fish and wildlife agencies and this license provides conditions consistent with their recommendations.

Summary of Findings

^{2/} (1) Payette National Forest land and resource management plan, 1988, Forest Service, McCall, Idaho; (2) Idaho outdoor recreation plan, 1983, Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, Boise, Idaho; (3) Columbia River Basin fish and wildlife program, 1987, Northwest Power Planning Council; and (4) Protected areas, amendments, and responses to comments, 1988, Northwest Power Planning Council.

Staff's EA contains background information, analysis of impacts, support for related license articles, and the basis for a finding of no significant impact on the environment. Issuing this license is not a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment.

The design of this project is consistent with the engineering standards governing dam safety. The project will be safe if operated, and maintained in accordance with the requirements of this order. Staff analyze related issues in our attached safety and design assessment (S&DA).

I conclude that (1) the Big Creek Project does not conflict with any planned or authorized development and (2) is best adapted to the comprehensive development of the waterway for beneficial public uses.

License Term and Pre-effective Date Charges

In accordance with the Commission policy established in the order issuing license for Project No. 10896, issued on March 20, 1992 (58 FERC □ 61,318), this license will be effective as of March 1, 1992, for a term of 30 years. Pre-effective charges will be assessed to August 1, 1968, when project construction started.

The Director orders:

(A) This license is issued to Big Creek Lodge & Outfitters, Inc. (licensee), effective March 1, 1992 and expiring February 28, 2022, for the operation and maintenance of the Big Creek Project. This license is subject to the terms and conditions of the Act, which is incorporated by reference as part of this license, and subject to the regulations the Commission issues under the provisions of the Act.

(B) The project consists of:

(1) All lands, to the extent of the licensee's interests in those lands, enclosed by the project boundary shown by exhibit G:

Exhibit G-	FERC No. 10721-	Showing
2	7	Project Map
5	8	Overview of Project

(2) The existing non-operating project consists of: (1) a 2-foot-high, 3-foot-long diversion dam; (2) a 4-inch-diameter, 1,340-foot-long penstock; (3) a 12-foot by 14-foot log powerhouse containing a single generating unit with an installed capacity of 22-kw, producing approximately 10,000 kwh of energy annually; (4)

an 18-inch-wide tailrace; and (5) a 350-foot-long underground cable, connecting to the Big Creek Lodge.

The project works generally described above are more specifically shown and described by those portions of exhibits A and F recommended for approval in staff's attached S&DA.

(3) All of the structures, fixtures, equipment or facilities used to operate or maintain the project and located within the project boundary, all portable property that may be employed in connection with the project and located within or outside the project boundary, and all riparian or other rights that are necessary or appropriate in the operation or maintenance of the project.

(C) The exhibit G described above and those sections of exhibits A and F recommended for approval in staff's S&DA are approved and made part of the license.

(D) The following sections of the Act are waived and excluded from the license for this minor project:

4(b), except the second sentence; 4(e), insofar as it relates to approval of plans by the Chief of Engineers and the Secretary of the Army; 6, insofar as it relates to public notice and to the acceptance and expression in the license of terms and conditions of the Act that are waived here; 10(c), insofar as it relates to depreciation reserves; 10(d); 10(f); 14, except insofar as the power of condemnation is reserved; 15; 16; 19; 20; and 22.

(E) This license is subject to the following terms and conditions submitted by the United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, under section 4(e) of the Act:

Article 101. Within 6 months following the date of issuance of this license and before starting any activities the Forest Service determines to be of a land-disturbing nature, the licensee shall obtain from the Forest Service a special-use authorization for the occupancy and use of National Forest System lands, and shall file that authorization with the Director, Office of Hydropower Licensing.

The licensee may commence land-disturbing activities authorized by the license and special-use authorization 60 days following the filing date of such authorization, unless the Director, Office of Hydropower Licensing, prescribes a different commencement schedule. Notwithstanding the authorizations granted under the Federal Power Act, National Forest System lands within the project boundaries shall be managed by the Forest Service under the laws, rules, and regulations applicable to the

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National Forest Service System. The terms and conditions of the Forest Service special-use authorization are enforceable by the Forest Service under the laws, rules, and regulations applicable to the National Forest System. The violation of such terms and conditions also shall be subject to applicable sanctions and enforcement procedures of the Commission at the request of the Forest Service. In the event there is a conflict between any provisions of the license and Forest Service special-use authorization, the special-use authorization shall prevail on matters which the Forest Service deems to affect National Forest System resources.

Article 102. Before any construction of the project occurs on National Forest System land, the licensee shall obtain the prior written approval of the Forest Service for all final design plans for project components which the Forest Service deems as affecting or potentially affecting National Forest System resources. The licensee shall follow the schedules and procedures for design review and approval specified in the Forest Service special-use authorization. As part of such prior written approval, the Forest Service may require adjustments in final plans and facility locations to preclude or mitigate impacts and to assure that the project is compatible with on-the-ground conditions. Should such necessary adjustments be deemed by the Forest Service, the Commission, or the licensee to be substantial change, the licensee shall follow the procedures of Article 2 of the license. Any changes to the license made for any reason pursuant to Article 2 or Article 3 shall be made subject to any new terms and conditions of the Secretary of Agriculture made pursuant to section 4(e) of the Federal Power Act.

Article 103. Notwithstanding any Commission approval or license provisions to make changes to the project, the licensee shall get written approval from the Forest Service prior to make any changes in the location of any constructed project features or facilities, or in the uses of project lands and waters, or any departure from the requirements of any approved exhibits filed with the Commission. Following receipt of such approval from the Forest Service, and at least 60 days prior to initiating any such changes or departure, the licensee shall file a report with the Commission describing the changes, the reasons for the changes, and showing the approval of the Forest Service for such changes. The licensee shall file an exact copy of this report with the Forest Service at the same time it is filed with the Commission. This article does not relieve the licensee from the amendment or other requirements of Article 2 or Article 3 of this license.

Article 104. Each year during the 60 days preceding the anniversary date of the license, the licensee shall consult with the Forest Service with regard to measures needed to ensure protection and development of the natural resource values of the project area. Within 60 days following such consultation, the

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licensee shall file with the Commission evidence of the consultation with any recommendations made by the Forest Service. The Commission reserves the right, after notice and opportunity for hearing, to require changes in the project and its operation that may be necessary to accomplish natural resource protection.

Article 105. Flow conditions are subject to the existing water rights of .75 cubic feet per second during the operating season held by the US Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, for power purposes subject to the provisions of Section 42-205 through 42-210 Idaho Code.

During the construction and operation of the facilities authorized by this license, the licensee shall not divert more than 50 percent of the instantaneous flow from the stream as determined by reserved flows at the penstock diversion from McCorkle Creek.

Article 106. Within 1 year following the date of issuance of this license, the licensee shall cause to be conducted a survey of project boundaries enclosing all project works and other features that are to be licensed and excluding all recreation and Forest Service administrative facilities. Upon completion of the survey, a plat of the survey information shall be provided to the Commission and to the Forest Service and the project boundary description shall be adjusted accordingly.

(F) This license is also subject to the articles set forth in Form L-16, (October 1975), entitled "Terms and Conditions of License for Constructed Minor Project Affecting Lands of the U.S.", except article 15, and the following additional articles:

Article 201. (1) The licensee shall pay the United States an amount equal to the annual charges that would have been assessed from August 1, 1968 to the last day of the month preceding the month in which this order is issued, as if the project had been licensed during that period; (2) the licensee shall pay the United States the following annual charges as determined by the Commission, effective the first day of the month in which this license is issued for the purposes of:

a. Reimbursing the United States for the cost of administration of Part I of the Act. The authorized installed capacity for that purpose is 29 horsepower.

b. Recompensing the United States for the use, occupancy and enjoyment of 5 acres of its lands other than for transmission line right-of-way.

Article 202. The licensee shall clear and keep clear to an adequate width all lands along open conduits and shall dispose of all temporary structures, unused timber, brush, refuse, or other

All clearing of lands and disposal of unnecessary material shall be done with due diligence to the satisfaction of the authorized representative of the Commission and in accordance with appropriate federal, state, and local statutes and regulations.

Article 203. Within 60 days after completion of the requirements of Article 106 above, the licensee shall file for approval revised exhibits A and G to describe and show the project facilities enclosed within a project boundary and the FS acreage within the project boundary.

Article 401. The licensee, before starting any future land-clearing, land-disturbing, or spoil-producing activities associated with the project, shall consult with the Idaho State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and conduct a cultural resources survey of the affected areas. Further, the licensee shall file: (1) a report containing the survey results; (2) for Commission approval, a cultural resources management plan to avoid or mitigate impacts to any significant archeological or historic sites identified during the survey; and, (3) the written comments of the SHPO on the report and the plan.

The survey, report, and plan shall: (1) be based on the recommendations of the SHPO; (2) be conducted and prepared by a qualified cultural resources specialist; and (3) adhere to the Secretary of the Interior's Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation.

The plan shall contain the following: (1) a description of each discovered site, indicating whether it is listed or eligible to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places; (2) a description of the potential effect on each discovered site; (3) proposed measures for avoiding or mitigating the effects; (4) documentation of the nature and extent of consultation with the SHPO; and (5) a schedule for mitigating effects and conducting additional studies. The Commission may require changes to the plan.

In addition, if the licensee discovers any previously unidentified archeological or historic sites during the course of constructing, developing, or operating project works or other facilities at the project, the licensee shall: (1) stop all land-clearing, land-disturbing, or spoil-producing activities in the vicinity of the sites; (2) consult with the SHPO, and (3) file for Commission approval a cultural resources management plan to avoid or mitigate impacts to significant resources, together with the written comments of the SHPO on the plan.

The licensee shall not implement a cultural resources management plan or begin any land-clearing, land-disturbing, or

spoil-producing activities until informed by the Commission that the requirements of this article have been fulfilled.

Article 402. The Commission reserves the authority to

order, upon its own motion or upon the recommendation of federal and state fish and wildlife agencies, affected Indian Tribes, and the Northwest Power Planning Council, alterations of project structures and operations to take into account to the fullest extent practicable the regional fish and wildlife program developed and amended pursuant to the Pacific Northwest Electric Power Planning and Conservation Act.

Article 403. (a) In accordance with the provisions of this article, the licensee shall have the authority to grant permission for certain types of use and occupancy of project lands and waters and to convey certain interests in project lands and waters for certain types of use and occupancy, without prior Commission approval. The licensee may exercise the authority only if the proposed use and occupancy is consistent with the purposes of protecting and enhancing the scenic, recreational, and other environmental values of the project. For those purposes, the licensee shall also have continuing responsibility to supervise and control the use and occupancies for which it grants permission, and to monitor the use of, and ensure compliance with the covenants of the instrument of conveyance for, any interests that it has conveyed, under this article. If a permitted use and occupancy violates any condition of this article or any other condition imposed by the licensee for protection and enhancement of the project's scenic, recreational, or other environmental values, or if a covenant of a conveyance made under the authority of this article is violated, the licensee shall take any lawful action necessary to correct the violation. For a permitted use or occupancy, that action includes, if necessary, cancelling the permission to use and occupy the project lands and waters and requiring the removal of any non-complying structures and facilities.

(b) The type of use and occupancy of project lands and water for which the licensee may grant permission without prior Commission approval are: (1) landscape plantings; (2) non-commercial piers, landings, boat docks, or similar structures and facilities that can accommodate no more than 10 watercraft at a time and where said facility is intended to serve single-family type dwellings; (3) embankments, bulkheads, retaining walls, or similar structures for erosion control to protect the existing shoreline; and (4) food plots and other wildlife enhancement. To the extent feasible and desirable to protect and enhance the project's scenic, recreational, and other environmental values, the licensee shall require multiple use and occupancy of facilities for access to project lands or waters. The licensee shall also ensure, to the satisfaction of the Commission's authorized representative, that the use and occupancies for which

it grants permission are maintained in good repair and comply with applicable state and local health and safety requirements. Before granting permission for construction of bulkheads or retaining walls, the licensee shall: (1) inspect the site of the proposed construction, (2) consider whether the planting of vegetation or the use of riprap would be adequate to control

erosion at the site, and (3) determine that the proposed construction is needed and would not change the basic contour of the reservoir shoreline. To implement this paragraph (b), the licensee may, among other things, establish a program for issuing permits for the specified types of use and occupancy of project lands and waters, which may be subject to the payment of a reasonable fee to cover the licensee's costs of administering the permit program. The Commission reserves the right to require the licensee to file a description of its standards, guidelines, and procedures for implementing this paragraph (b) and to require modification of those standards, guidelines, or procedures.

(c) The licensee may convey easements or rights-of-way across, or leases of, project lands for: (1) replacement, expansion, realignment, or maintenance of bridges or roads where all necessary state and federal approvals have been obtained; (2) storm drains and water mains; (3) sewers that do not discharge into project waters; (4) minor access roads; (5) telephone, gas, and electric utility distribution lines; (6) non-project overhead electric transmission lines that do not require erection of support structures within the project boundary; (7) submarine, overhead, or underground major telephone distribution cables or major electric distribution lines (69-kv or less); and (8) water intake or pumping facilities that do not extract more than one million gallons per day from a project reservoir. No later than January 31 of each year, the licensee shall file three copies of a report briefly describing for each conveyance made under this paragraph (c) during the prior calendar year, the type of interest conveyed, the location of the lands subject to the conveyance, and the nature of the use for which the interest was conveyed. If no conveyance was made during the prior calendar year, the Licensee shall so inform the Commission and the Regional Director in writing no later than January 31 of each year.

(d) The licensee may convey fee title to, easements or rights-of-way across, or leases of project lands for: (1) construction of new bridges or roads for which all necessary state and federal approvals have been obtained; (2) sewer or effluent lines that discharge into project waters, for which all necessary federal and state water quality certification or permits have been obtained; (3) other pipelines that cross project lands or waters but do not discharge into project waters; (4) non-project overhead electric transmission lines that require erection of support structures within the project boundary, for which all necessary federal and state approvals have been

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obtained; (5) private or public marinas that can accommodate no more than 10 watercraft at a time and are located at least one-half mile (measured over project waters) from any other private or public marina; (6) recreational development consistent with an approved Exhibit R or approved report on recreational resources of an Exhibit E; and (7) other uses, if: (i) the amount of land conveyed for a particular use is five acres or less; (ii) all of the land conveyed is located at least 75 feet, measured

horizontally, from project waters at normal surface elevation; and (iii) no more than 50 total acres of project lands for each project development are conveyed under this clause (d)(7) in any calendar year. At least 60 days before conveying any interest in project lands under this paragraph (d), the licensee must submit a letter to the Director, Office of Hydropower Licensing, stating its intent to convey the interest and briefly describing the type of interest and location of the lands to be conveyed (a marked exhibit G or K map may be used), the nature of the proposed use, the identity of any federal or state agency official consulted, and any federal or state approvals required for the proposed use. Unless the Director, within 45 days from the filing date, requires the licensee to file an application for prior approval, the licensee may convey the intended interest at the end of that period.

(e) The following additional conditions apply to any intended conveyance under paragraph (c) or (d) of this article:

(1) Before conveying the interest, the licensee shall consult with federal and state fish and wildlife or recreation agencies, as appropriate, and the State Historic Preservation Officer.

(2) Before conveying the interest, the licensee shall determine that the proposed use of the lands to be conveyed is not inconsistent with any approved exhibit R or approved report on recreational resources of an exhibit E; or, if the project does not have an approved exhibit R or approved report on recreational resources, that the lands to be conveyed do not have recreational value.

(3) The instrument of conveyance must include the following covenants running with the land : (i) the use of the lands conveyed shall not endanger health, create a nuisance, or otherwise be incompatible with overall project recreational use; (ii) the grantee shall take all reasonable precautions to insure that the construction, operation, and maintenance of structures or facilities on the conveyed lands will occur in a manner that will protect the scenic, recreational, and environmental values of the project; and (iii) the grantee shall not unduly restrict public access to project waters.

(4) The Commission reserves the right to require the

licensee to take reasonable remedial action to correct any violation of the terms and conditions of this article, for the protection and enhancement of the project's scenic, recreational, and other environmental values.

(f) The conveyance of an interest in project lands under this article does not in itself change the project boundaries. The project boundaries may be changed to exclude land conveyed under this article only upon approval of revised exhibit G or K

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drawings (project boundary maps) reflecting exclusion of that land. Lands conveyed under this article will be excluded from the project only upon a determination that the lands are not necessary for project purposes, such as operation and maintenance, flowage, recreation, public access, protection of environmental resources, and shoreline control, including shoreline aesthetic values. Absent extraordinary circumstances, proposals to exclude lands conveyed under this article from the project shall be consolidated for consideration when revised exhibit G or K drawings would be filed for approval for other purposes.

(g) The authority granted to the licensee under this article shall not apply to any part of the public lands and reservations of the United States included within the project boundary.

(F) The licensee shall serve copies of any Commission filing required by this order on any entity specified in this order to be consulted on matters related to that filing. Proof of service on these entities must accompany the filing with the Commission.

(G) This order is issued under authority delegated to the Director and constitutes final agency action. Requests for rehearing by the Commission may be filed within 30 days of the date of issuance of this order, pursuant to 18 C.F.R. § 385.713.

Fred E. Springer
Director, Office of
Hydropower Licensing

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ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
FOR HYDROPOWER LICENSE

Big Creek

FERC Project No. 10721-001

Idaho

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
Office of Hydropower Licensing
Division of Project Review
825 N. Capitol Street, NE
Washington, D.C. 20426

March 26, 1992

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ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION OFFICE OF HYDROPOWER LICENSING DIVISION OF PROJECT REVIEW

Date: March 26, 1992

Project name: Big Creek

FERC Project No. 10721 --001

A. APPLICATION

1. Application type: Minor (Constructed) License
2. Date filed with the Commission: March 22, 1991
3. Applicant: Big Creek Lodge & Outfitters, Inc.
4. Water body: McCorkle Creek River basin: Big Creek
5. Nearest city or town: Yellow Pine, Idaho (See figure 1.)
6. County: Valley State: Idaho

B. PURPOSE AND NEED FOR ACTION

1. Purpose.

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Project power is for use at Big Creek Lodge.

The lodge's existing hydroelectric generation system was constructed in 1968 and operated until about 1985. In 1986, the applicant, Big Creek Lodge & Outfitters, Inc. (Big Creek Lodge) acquired the lodge, which is in the Payette National Forest, and a special use permit was issued by the Forest Service. Since then, Big Creek Lodge has delayed operation of the project until a license can be issued. The plant would be placed in service immediately if the Commission approves the pending license application.

2. Need for power.

The proposed project would supply electrical generation to operate the existing facilities, replace existing gasoline generation when available, meet existing unfulfilled power needs, and provide power for future anticipated demands. All project generation would be used on-site; none of the project power would be sold for use by others.

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C. PROPOSED PROJECT AND ALTERNATIVES

1. Description of the proposed action. (See figure 2.)

The project, which is constructed but not presently operating, consists of: (1) a 3-foot-long, 2-foot-wide, and 2-foot-deep instream diversion box; (2) a 4-inch-diameter, 1,340-foot-long penstock, buried at a depth of 4 feet; (3) a 14-foot-long, 12-foot-wide log powerhouse with a single pelton turbine and generating unit rated at 22-Kilowatts (kw); (4) an 8-foot-long, 18-inch-diameter steel culvert tailrace with natural rock baffles; (5) a 350-foot-long underground cable, connecting to a master distribution panel in Big Creek Lodge; and (6) related facilities. The estimated average annual generation for the project would be 10,000 kilowatt-hours.

2. Applicant's proposed mitigative measures.

Big Creek Lodge proposes to operate the project as they have in the past--to use only 0.75 cubic feet per second (cfs) of McCorkle Creek's flow for project operation and to always leave at least half of the stream's total flow in the bypass reach.

3. Alternatives to the proposed project:

a. The proposed project as modified by our (the staff's) recommended mitigative measures.

We propose no additional mitigative measures. However, we recommend measures to protect any undiscovered cultural resources.

b. Alternative of no action.

The alternative of no action, denying the license, would preclude Big Creek Lodge from operating the existing project and producing hydroelectric power at the site. The existing environment has already been altered by previous construction and operation of the project. In the event that the license is denied, the applicant will continue to consume non-renewable fossil fuels to meet its system generation requirements. Licensing the project would conserve non-renewable primary energy resources, lower cost, and reduce atmospheric pollution.

4. Federal lands affected.

No. X Yes; Forest Service; acreage = approximately 5;

X Conditions provided by letter dated : 12/10/91
(attachment A).

Conditions have not been provided.

□

3

Remarks: The following is a summary of the conditions listed in the attachment.

- ù Flow conditions are subject to the existing water rights of 0.75 cfs during the operating season held by the Forest Service, for power purposes subject to the provisions of Section 42-205 through 42-410 Idaho Code.
- ù During the construction and operation of the facilities authorized by this license, the licensee shall not divert more than 50 percent of the instantaneous flow from the stream as determined by reserved flows at the penstock diversion from McCorkle Creek.
- ù The licensee shall conduct a survey of project boundaries enclosing all project works and excluding all recreation and Forest Service administrative facilities.

D. CONSULTATION AND COMPLIANCE

1. Fish and wildlife agency consultation (Fish & Wildlife Coordination Act):

- a. U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS): X Yes. No.
- b. State(s): X Yes. No.
- c. National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS): Not required.

2. Section 7 consultation (Endangered Species Act):

a. Listed species: None. X Present: The FWS notified the Commission (Lobdell 1991) that the gray wolf may occur in the project area (species list number FWS-1-4-91-SP-648).

b. Consultation: Not required.

Remarks: The project wouldn't affect the gray wolf. See
Page 15

3. Section 401 certification (Clean Water Act):

Not required.

X Required; applicant requested certification on 8/17/91.

Status: Granted by the certifying agency on 9/16/91.

Remarks: The certificate was issued without conditions.

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4. Cultural resource consultation (Historic Preservation Act):

- a. State Historic Preservation Officer: X Yes. No.
- b. National Park Service (NPS): X Yes. No.
- c. National Register status: X None. Eligible or listed.
- d. Council: Not required.
- e. Further consultation: Not required.

Remarks: We agree with the Idaho State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) (Green 1991) and the NPS (Pepin-Donat 1991) that the project would not affect any archeological or historic sites eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

5. Recreational consultation (Federal Power Act):

- a. U.S. Owners: X Yes. No.
- b. National Park Service: X Yes. No.
- c. State(s): X Yes. No.

6. Wild and scenic rivers (Wild and Scenic Rivers Act):

Status: X None. Listed.

7. Land and Water Conservation Fund lands and facilities (Land and Water Conservation Fund Act):

Status: X None. Designated.

8. Pacific Northwest Power Planning and Conservation Act:

Under section 4(h) of the Pacific Northwest Power Planning and Conservation Act (Act), the Northwest Power Planning Council (NWPPC) developed the Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program (Program) to protect, mitigate, and enhance fish and wildlife resources associated with development and operation of hydroelectric projects within the Columbia River Basin. Section 4(h) states that responsible federal agencies should provide equitable treatment for fish and wildlife resources in addition to other purposes for which hydropower is developed. Section 4(h) further states that these agencies shall take into account, to the fullest extent practicable, the Program adopted under the

Act.

The Program directs applicants to consult with federal and state fish and wildlife agencies, appropriate Indian Tribes, and the NWPPC during the study, design, construction, and operation of any hydroelectric development in the basin [sections 1103(a)(1)(A) and (2)(A)]. At the time the application was filed, the Commission's regulations required applicants to start prefiling consultation with the appropriate federal and state

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fish and wildlife agencies and the Tribes and to provide these groups with postfiling opportunities to review and to comment on the application. Big Creek Lodge carried out this consultation process.

The Program states that authorization for new hydroelectric projects should include conditions of development that would mitigate the impacts of the project on fish and wildlife resources [1103(a)]. Our recommendations in the Environmental Analysis section are consistent with the requirements of the Program.

The proposed project would not affect tribal lands, other tribal interests, or treaty rights. Further, a condition of any license issued would reserve to the Commission the authority to require future alterations in project structures and operation to take into account, to the fullest extent practicable, the applicable provisions of the Program.

The project would be located at an existing diversion box and thus would not be subject to the Council's protected area rule [section 1103(b)(4)(c)].

E. COMMENTS

The following agencies and entities provided comments on the application or filed a motion to intervene in response to the public notice dated 10/2/91:

Commenting agencies and other entities	Date of letter
U.S. Department of the Interior	12/03/91
U.S. Forest Service	12/10/91

Motions to intervene	Date of motion
None.	

The applicant did not respond to the comments.

F. AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

1. General description of the locale.

a. Description of McCorkle Creek.

McCorkle Creek is a tributary to Big Creek located in the high-country of central Idaho. McCorkle Creek is about 3 feet wide at its mouth. The Big Creek Lodge is located on a flat, grassy clearing next to McCorkle Creek in the remote Big Creek

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Valley. Both McCorkle Creek and the lodge are within the Payette National Forest. A Forest Service work station is located near the lodge, across McCorkle Creek.

b. Existing licensed projects in the basin:

The only other facility is the exempted, 8-kw Flying w project on Lick Creek, a tributary of Big Creek.

c. Other pending license applications and exemption applications in the basin:

None.

d. Cumulative Impacts.

A cumulative impact is the effect on the environment that results from adding the effects of a proposed action to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, regardless of what agency (federal or nonfederal) or person undertakes such other actions. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time (40 C.F.R., section 1508.7).

We selected chinook salmon as an important resource that may be cumulatively affected within the Big Creek Basin. However, no chinook salmon occur in McCorkle Creek. Therefore, the proposed Big Creek Project would have no impacts on chinook salmon.

2. Descriptions of the resources in the project impact area:

Unless we note otherwise, the source of our information is Big Creek Lodge's amended application for license and application supplements.

a. Streamflow:

Average annual flow: 3 cfs.

b. Water quality:

There is no water quality data on McCorkle Creek. But since the creek is used as a domestic water supply at the lodge, and because there is no other type of development in the watershed of this small mountain creek, we assume that water quality is good to excellent.

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c. Fisheries:

Anadromous: X Absent. Present.

Resident: Absent. X Present.

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Remarks: Although some fish exist in McCorkle Creek, there are no game species.

d. Vegetation: The project is located within the Cedar-Hemlock-Douglas Fir section of the Highland Columbia Forest Province (Bailey 1980).

Cover type	Dominant species
Mixed Coniferous Forest	western red cedar western hemlock Douglas fir
Meadow	annual grasses, forbs, perennial bunch grasses

e. Wildlife: Bailey (1980) describes some of the typical fauna of the Highland Columbia Forest Province, where the project would be located. Large mammals in the area include black bear, mule and white-tailed deer, Rocky Mountain elk, mountain lion, and bobcat. Common birds are red-breasted nuthatches and several species of hawks, owls, and jays. Blue and ruffed grouse are upland game birds that are common in the region.

f. Cultural:

National Register (listed and eligible) properties have not been recorded.

g. Visual quality:

The proposed project lies in a scenic valley at the west edge of a green, willow and conifer-ringed meadow. The steep mountain slopes of the valley are covered with fir and pine forests.

h. Recreation:

Big Creek Lodge provides its guests a wilderness setting, lodging, and professional outfitting and guide services. Recreational activities on the surrounding Forest Service lands include horseback riding, big-game hunting, fishing, summer pack trips, nature viewing, and snowmobiling.

i. Land use:

Land in the project vicinity, along the Big Creek Valley, is used for high-country recreation, irrigated pasture, and managed forest and wilderness.

G. ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES AND PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS

There are three issues addressed below.

1. Streamflow.

Although the project would reduce flows in the 1,340 foot-long bypass, Big Creek Lodge proposes to use only 0.75 cfs of the 3 cfs average flow generally present in McCorkle Creek. Forest Service 4(e) conditions limit the lodge to 0.75 cfs for hydroelectric generation and no more than half of any flow present in the stream. Because there are no game fish or rare aquatic species in McCorkle Creek, nor any recreational fishing, we believe the proposed bypass flow should adequately protect the biological resources of the creek.

2. Gray wolf.

The project is located within the Central Idaho Recovery Area (CIRA), defined in the Northern Rocky Mountain Wolf Recovery Plan (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 1987). The authors of the plan estimated that the CIRA supports no more than 15 wolves. The Forest Service (1988) estimated that two to five wolves inhabit the Payette National Forest, which surrounds the Big Creek Lodge project area.

Based on habitat characteristics and land use relationships, Kaminski and Hansen (1984) identified key areas for wolves within the Payette National Forest. These areas are important year-round or seasonal habitat for elk, the primary prey species of the Rocky Mountain gray wolf. The project isn't located within any of these key areas, but is near one that is within the River of No Return Wilderness Area.

Wolves generally avoid sites of human activity. Kaminski and Hansen (1984) list sufficient space with minimal exposure to humans as one of three primary components of wolf habitat. Big Creek Lodge has operated since 1934 and as we said, proposes no modifications of the existing environment.

We find that licensing the Big Creek Lodge Project wouldn't likely affect gray wolves for the following reasons:

- ù There has been human activity at the project site for a long time, so wolves probably avoid the area.
- ù The project wouldn't alter existing habitat conditions.
- ù The project area isn't critical habitat for elk, which wolves eat.

Because information about the location and number of wolves

is useful in managing the recovery of this species, and the project site is in a remote area that is near wolf habitat, Big Creek Lodge should notify the appropriate wildlife authorities whenever gray wolves are sighted in the project area.

3. Buried archeological or historic sites that may be affected by any changes in the location of facilities.

It's sometimes necessary to change the location of project facilities. These changes could affect lands not included in the cultural resources survey of the project.

To protect any sites which might be affected by changes in location of facilities, Big Creek Lodge would consult the SHPO about measures needed to: (1) inventory such sites before making any changes in the location of facilities; and (2) avoid or mitigate impacts to sites determined eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

H. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

1. Assessment of impacts expected from the proposed project (P), with Big Creek Lodge's proposed mitigation and any conditions set by a federal land management agency; the proposed project with any additional mitigation recommended by the staff (Ps); and any action alternative considered (A). Assessment symbols indicate the following impact levels: 0 = None, 1 = Minor, 2 = Moderate, 3 = Major; A = Adverse, B = Beneficial; L = Long-term, S = Short-term.

Resource	P	Ps	A	Resource	P	Ps	A
a. Streamflow	1	L	3	e. wildlife	0	0	3
b. Water quality:	0	3	3	f. Cultural:	0	3	3
Temperature	0	0	3	Archeological	0	0	3
Dissolved oxygen	0	0	3	Historical	0	0	3
Turbidity and sedimentation	0	0	3	g. Visual quality	0	0	3
c. Fisheries:	0	3	3	h. Recreation	1	B	3
Anadromous	0	0	3	i. Land use	0	0	3
Resident	0	0	3		0	3	3
d. Vegetation	0	0	3		0	3	3

Remarks: a. Streamflow would be reduced in the bypass reach,

but never by more than 50 percent. h. The proposed project would enable Big Creek Lodge to provide lodging services to recreationists in a cost-effective manner.

2. Impacts of the no-action alternative.

Under the no-action alternative, there would be no change to the existing physical, biological, or cultural components of the area; electrical power that would be generated by the project would have to be generated from other available sources.

3. Recommended alternative (including proposed, required, and recommended mitigative measures):

Proposed project.

4. Reason(s) for selecting the preferred alternative:

We select the proposed project as the preferred alternative because its purpose can be achieved with little or no adverse impacts to biological or cultural resources.

I. UNAVOIDABLE ADVERSE IMPACTS OF THE RECOMMENDED ALTERNATIVE

We identified no unavoidable adverse impacts.

J. COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENT

Section 4(e) of the Federal Power Act (Act) states that in deciding whether to issue a license, the Commission, in addition to considering the power and development purposes of the project, shall give equal consideration to: (1) the purposes of energy conservation; (2) the protection, mitigation of damage to, and enhancement of fish and wildlife; (3) the protection of recreational opportunities; and (4) the preservation of other aspects of environmental quality.

Further, in section 10(a)(1), the Act says the Commission shall adopt a project that in its judgement will be best adapted to a comprehensive plan for improving or developing a waterway for (1) the use or benefit of interstate or foreign commerce, (2) the improvement and utilization of water power development, (3) the adequate protection, mitigation, and enhancement of fish and wildlife (including related spawning grounds and habitat), and (4) other beneficial public uses, including irrigation, flood control, water supply, and recreation, and other purposes discussed in section 4(e).

Section 10(a)(2) of the Act requires the Commission to consider the extent to which a project is consistent with federal or state comprehensive plans for improving, developing, or conserving a waterway or waterways affected by the project. Under

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section 10(a)(2), federal and state agencies filed 26 plans that address various resources in Idaho. Of these, we identified four plans relevant to this project.^{3/} No conflicts were found.

Based on our review under sections 4(e) and 10(a), our review of agency and public comments filed in this proceeding, and our independent analysis, the Big Creek Hydroelectric Project, with the mitigative measures recommended in this environmental assessment, would be best adapted to a comprehensive plan for the waterway.

K. CONCLUSION

1. X Finding of No Significant Impact. Approval of the recommended alternative [H(3)] would not constitute a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment; therefore, an environmental impact statement (EIS) will not be prepared.

Intent to Prepare an EIS. Approval of the recommended alternative [H(3)] would constitute a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment; therefore, an EIS will be prepared.

2. X Under Section 10(j) of the Act, this EA addresses the concerns of the Federal and state fish and wildlife agencies and makes recommendations consistent with those of the agencies.

Under Section 10(j) of the Act, we find that the recommendations of the Federal and state fish and wildlife agencies may be inconsistent with the purpose and requirements of Part I of the Act or other applicable law. We will attempt to resolve the inconsistency through negotiation with the agencies.

L. LITERATURE CITED

Bailey, R.G. 1980. Description of the ecoregions of the United States. Miscellaneous publication no. 1391. Department of Agriculture. 77 pp. 1980.

Big Creek Lodge and Outfitters, Inc. 1991. Amended application

^{3/} (1) Payette National Forest land and resource management plan, 1988, Forest Service, McCall, Idaho; (2) Idaho outdoor recreation plan, 1983, Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, Boise, Idaho; (3) Columbia River Basin fish and wildlife program, 1987, Northwest Power Planning Council; and (4) Protected areas, amendments, and responses to comments, 1988, Northwest Power Planning Council.

□

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Forest Service. 1988. Final environmental impact statement,
land and resources management plan, Payette National Forest,
Idaho. 1988.

Green, T. 1991. Letter from Dr. Thomas Green, Deputy State
Historic Preservation Officer, Idaho State Historical
Society, Boise, Idaho. April 16, 1991.

Kaminski, T. and J. Hansen. 1984. Wolves of central Idaho.
Montana Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, U.S. Fish and
Wildlife Service. Missoula, Montana. 196 pp.

Lobdell, C.H. 1990. Letter from C.H. Lobdell, Field Supervisor,
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Boise, Idaho. May 28, 1991.

Pepin-Donat, M. 1991. Letter from Margaret Pepin-Donat, Chief,
Division of National Register Programs, National Park
Service, San Francisco, California. June 11, 1991.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 1987. Northern Rocky Mountain
wolf recovery plan. Denver, Colorado. 119 pp. 1987.

M. LIST OF PREPARERS

Name	Position
R. Joe Davis--	Environmental Protection Specialist (Environmental Coordinator)
Roland George--	Electrical Engineer
Chuck Hall--	Engineer
Gaylord Hoisington--	Soil Scientist
Robert E. Hylton--	Fisheries Biologist
John Mitchell--	Editor
Edwin Slatter--	Archeologist
Jerry W. Ziewitz--	Wildlife Biologist

Project Design and Operation

The Big Creek Project is on McCorkle Creek, a tributary of
Big Creek, 24 miles northeast of Yellow Pine in the County of
Page 24

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Valley, Idaho.

The existing, nonoperating project consists of the following:

1. A 2-foot-wide by 3-foot-long by 2-foot-deep timber diversion structure diverting water from McCorkle Creek into a penstock
2. A 4-inch-diameter, 1,340-foot-long buried PVC penstock
3. A log powerhouse with a single pelton turbine and generator with a capacity of 22 kw
4. An 18-inch-diameter, corrugated metal pipe tailrace which returns project flows back to McCorkle Creek
5. A 350-foot-long underground electrical cable from the powerhouse to the Big Creek Lodge.

The project, which is manually operated, will be used intermittently a total of about 200 days per year to meet an average demand of 50 kwh/day--producing about 10,000 kwh of energy annually.

The license for the Big Creek Project should include the 120/240-volt generator leads, the 350 foot-long cable, the existing distribution system, and appurtenant facilities.

Dam Safety

The project has no dam and no hydraulic structure that creates any significant threat to public safety.

Water Resource Planning and Comprehensive Development

The project develops energy from a flow of 0.75 cfs diverted from McCorkle Creek and providing a gross head of 237 feet. McCorkle Creek is a high gradient mountain stream with a drainage area of about 3 square miles. It is reported in the application to have a mean annual flow of 3 cfs. The project has no storage; it operates in a run of river mode with manual control.

Energy developed by the project would be used for domestic purposes at the Big Creek Lodge facilities. The remote location of these facilities precludes economical connection to a local electrical utility.

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None of the agencies commenting on the application had any alternatives to recommend or concerns requiring an engineering or economic evaluation.

Federal and state agencies filed 26 comprehensive plans discussing various resources in Idaho. Of these, we identified four plans relevant to this project. No conflicts were found.

Our review of the Commission's Hydroelectric Site Data Base shows the project wouldn't conflict with any proposed or existing projects.

Project Economics

This is an existing project being put back into operation at the expense of the owner/applicant and for the exclusive use of the owner/applicant. The energy benefits of the project would exceed the operating cost.

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Exhibits

The following parts of exhibit A and the following exhibit F drawings conform to the Commission's Rules and Regulations and are approved and made a part of the license:

Exhibit F:

Drawing	FERC No. 10721-	Showing
F- 1	1	sketch of project facilities
F- 2	2	layout of existing generating facilities at powerhouse
F- 3	3	diversion box - top view
F- 4	4	diversion box - side view
F- 5	5	diversion box - end view
F- 6	6	powerhouse - side view
F- 7	7	powerhouse - end view

List of Preparers: Charles Hall, Civil Engineer
Roland George, Electrical Engineer

BIG CREEK PROJECT NO. 10721-001
IDAHO

II. Resource Development

A. Purpose

The project power is for use at Big Creek Lodge.

Big Creek Lodge & Outfitters, Inc. (Big Creek Lodge) is a domestic corporation under the laws of the State of Idaho. Construction of the hydro generation system was completed in 1968. The plant is operational and will be placed in service immediately

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following the FERC's approval of the pending license application.

B. Need For Power

The proposed project would supply electrical generation to operate the existing facilities, replace existing gasoline generation when available, meet existing unfulfilled power needs, serve domestic loads and living quarters, and provide power for future anticipated demands. All project generation would be used on-site; none of the project power would be sold for use by others.

C. Alternative of No Action

The alternative to the proposed action is, denial of license. In the event that the license is denied, the applicant will continue to consume 100-percent, non-renewable fossil fuels to meet its system generation requirements. Licensing the project would conserve non-renewable primary energy resources, lower cost and reduce atmospheric pollution.

□



BIG CREEK LODGE & OUTFITTERS, INC.

An Idaho Corporation

Boise Office
(208) 343-1880

ORIGINAL

March 6, 1991

Commission Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
825 North Capital Street, N. E.
Washington, D. C. 20426

Dear Secretary:

Enclosed is an original and fourteen copies of an APPLICATION FOR LICENSE FOR A MINOR WATER POWER PROJECT OF FIVE MEGAWATTS OR LESS for filing under Section 4.60 and 4.61, Subpart G, Part 4, Subchapter B, 18 CFR Chapter 1.

The power plant under application is a small (22 KW) Pelton Wheel Dyna Generator designed to service a small backcountry lodge (Big Creek Lodge) located on a Special Use Permit on U.S. Forest Service land. This Application replaces an erroneous Application for an exemption that was submitted on February 13, 1989.

The power plant, diversion check box, pipe line and transmission line are presently in place and had operated for more than ten years under a U. S. Forest Service authorization until FERC became the authorizing agency. My predecessor failed to properly file for an Application. No changes in the present equipment are planned. The power generation is needed for the health and welfare of the existing facilities once a license is granted.

Very truly yours,

BIG CREEK LODGE & OUTFITTERS, INC.

Howard F. Manly
Howard F. Manly
President

HFM/be
Enclosures

9103260197

P.O. Box 967 • Boise, Idaho 83701

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APPLICATION FOR LICENSE FOR A MINOR WATER POWER PROJECT,
FIVE MEGAWATTS OR LESS

BIG CREEK LODGE & OUTFITTERS, INC., an Idaho corporation

APPLICATION FOR LICENSE FOR A MINOR WATER POWER PROJECT,
FIVE MEGAWATTS OR LESS

Big Creek Lodge & Outfitters, Inc.,
an Idaho corporation
815 Park Blvd., Suite 300
P. O. Box 967
Boise, Idaho 83701

(208) 343-1880

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- 2) Exhibit A
 - Description of the Project
 - Type of Hydraulic Turbine
 - Power Plant Operation
 - Estimated Average Annual Generation
 - Estimated Average Head
 - Reservoir Storage Area
 - Estimated Hydraulic Capacity of the Plant
 - Sizes, Capacities and Construction Materials
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- 3) Exhibit E
 - Description of the Area
 - Description of Services and Recreation
 - Description of Existing Facilities
 - Access to Big Creek Lodge
 - Map of Western United States
 - Map of State of Idaho
 - Map of Central Idaho
 - Map of Big Creek Area
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 - Plat of Special Use Permit
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BEFORE THE FEDERAL ENERGY
REGULATORY COMMISSION

In re:

BIG CREEK HYDROELECTRIC
PLANT, Big Creek, Idaho

FERC PROJECT NO. 10721-001
APPLICATION FOR LICENSE FOR
A MINOR WATER POWER PROJECT,
FIVE MEGAWATTS OR LESS

(1) Big Creek Lodge & Outfitters, Inc., applies to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for a license for the Big Creek Hydroelectric water power project as described hereinafter.

(2) The location of the project is:

State or territory: State of Idaho
County: County of Valley
Township or nearby town: Yellow Pine, 24 miles to the South-
west. Big Creek Lodge is situated in the NE 1/4 SW 1/4 Section 26,
Township 21 North, Range 9 East, Boise Meridian.
Stream or other body of water: McCorkle Creek, a small
tributary to Big Creek.

(3) The exact name, address and telephone number of the applicant is:

Big Creek Lodge & Outfitters, Inc.
815 Park Boulevard, Suite 300
P. O. Box 967
Boise, Idaho 83701
Telephone (208) 343-1880

(4) The exact name, address and telephone number of each person authorized to act as agent for the applicant in this Application, if applicable, are:

(a) Howard F. Manly, President
Big Creek Lodge & Outfitters, Inc.
815 Park Boulevard, Suite 300
P. O. Box 967
Boise, Idaho 83701
Telephone (208) 343-1880

(b) David P. Tidwell
815 Park Boulevard, Suite 300
P. O. Box 967
Boise, Idaho 83701
Telephone (208) 888-3325

(c) Britt G. Manly, Vice President

Big Creek Lodge & Outfitters, Inc.
815 Park Boulevard, Suite 300
P. O. Box 967
Boise, Idaho 83701
Telephone (208) 343-1880

(5) The applicant is a domestic corporation incorporated under the laws of the State of Idaho and is not claiming preference under Section 7(a) of the Federal Power Act. See 16 U.S.C. 726.

(6)(i) The statutory or regulatory requirements of the state in which the project would be located that affect the project as proposed with respect to bed and banks and the appropriation, diversion and use of water for power purposes and with respect to the right to engage in the business of developing, transmitting and distributing power and in any other business necessary to accomplish the purposes of the license under the Federal Power Act, are:

(1) Idaho Department of Water Resources, Application for Permit No. 77-7157, dated July 15, 1982, to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, for the appropriation of .75 cubic feet per second for power purposes subject to the provisions of Sections 42-205 through 42-210, Idaho Code.

(2) U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, TERM SPECIAL USE PERMIT, dated November 15, 1976, (see Exhibit E), which authorizes Big Creek Lodge & Outfitters, Inc., to operate on U.S. Forest Service land and to use the water appropriated to the U.S. Forest Service by the State of Idaho.

(ii) The steps which the applicant has taken or plans to take to comply with each of the laws cited above are:

(1) The .75 cubic feet per second has been diverted and is flowing through the diversion into the 1,340 foot four inch diameter pipe penstock. The water is presently allowed to discharge back into McCorkle Creek, but will be applied to the generation of power upon approval of this Application. The exhaust water will in turn be released back into McCorkle Creek upon its discharge from the turbine.

(2) Big Creek Lodge & Outfitters, Inc., has completed a Master Development Plan which was requested by the U.S. Forest Service as preliminary to the issuance of a new TERM SPECIAL USE PERMIT in 1991.

(7) Brief project description:

(i) Proposed installed generating capacity 22 KW

(ii) Check appropriate box:

(X) existing dam () unconstructed dam ()
existing dam, major modified project (see Section 4.30(b)(14)).

(8) Lands of United States affected (shown on Exhibit G).

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Acres</u>
(i) National Forest	Payette National Forest	13.994
(ii) Indian Reservation	N/A	N/A
(iii) Public Lands Under Jurisdiction of	N/A	N/A
(iv) Other	N/A	N/A
(v) Total U. S. Lands	<u>Payette National Forest</u>	<u>13.994</u>

(vi) Check appropriate box:

() Surveyed Land (X) Unsurveyed land

(9) Construction of the project was completed in 1968. The plant is operational and will be placed on line at such time as the instant Application is approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

(10) The Application is executed in the:

State of Idaho)
: ss.
County of Ada)

by: Howard F. Manly
815 Park Boulevard, Suite 300
P. O. Box 967
Boise, Idaho 83701

being duly sworn, deposes and says that the contents of this Application are true to the best of his knowledge or belief. The undersigned applicant has signed this Application this ____ day of March, 1991.

by: _____

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me, a notary public, in and for

EXHIBIT A

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

Number of Generating Units	A1
Type of Hydraulic Turbine	A1
Power Plant Operation	A1
Estimated Average Annual Generation	A1
Estimated Average Head	A1
Reservoir Storage Area	A1
Estimated Hydraulic Capacity of the Plant	A1
Sizes, Capacities and Construction Materials	A1
Estimated Cost of the Project	A2
The Purpose of the Project	A2

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

- 1) Number of Generating Units:
 - (i) A single "DYNA" generator, with a capacity of 22 KW will be the basic feature of the project.
 - (ii) The hydroelectric plant is backed up by a 6 KW gasoline powered portable generator.
 - (iii) There are no plans to add additional generating capacity in the future.
- 2) The Type of Hydraulic Turbines:
 - (i) A "Pelton Wheel" impulse turbine will be used to turn the generator.
- 3) Power Plant Operation:
 - (i) The plant will be operated manually. The plant will not be used for peaking. During the off-season (December through May) the plant will only be used intermittently.
- 4) Estimated Average Annual Generation:
 - (i) 50,000 Kilowatthours
- 5) Estimated Average Head:
 - (i) The plant has a head of 237 vertical feet between the intake and the turbine.
- 6) Reservoir Storage Area/Net and Gross Storage Area:
 - (i) No water will be impounded. There is no reservoir. There is only a 2-foot by 3-foot by 2-foot deep instream diversion box in McCorkle Creek.
- 7) Estimated Hydraulic Capacity of the Plant:
 - (i) McCorkle Creek has an average flow of three (3) cubic feet per second (CFS). The hydro project will use about .75 CFS to generate the needed power and return the water to the stream. There is ample water for power generation and maintenance of stream flow in McCorkle Creek between the diversion and the generator.
- 8) Sizes, Capacities and Construction Materials:
 - (i) Diversion Structure: A 2-foot by 3-foot by 2-foot deep instream check box was installed in 1968. It is constructed of pine logs bolted together. Natural rock

riprap is installed on the upstream side (see photos, Exhibit F).

(ii) Pipeline Penstock:

1,340 feet of four inch (4") PVC pipe is buried at a depth of four feet (4') to carry water with a head of 237 vertical feet from the diversion to the turbine.

(iii) Powerhouse:

The Pelton Wheel Turbine and generator will be secured to a concrete pad within an eight foot by ten foot log building constructed to U.S. Forest Service and Valley County standards.

(iv) Transmission Line:

Electrical power will be transmitted from the generator to Big Creek Lodge and its associated outbuildings through 350 feet of eight gauge weather-proof cable, buried two feet underground.

(v) Spillway:

Exhaust water from the turbine will be discharged into an 18" steel culvert which will return the water to McCorkle Creek. Natural rock baffles will reduce the velocity of the water to that of the creek so as to eliminate any turbulence.

9) The Estimated Costs of the Project:

<u>Component</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
Diversion Headgate	\$ 200.00
1,340 feet 4" PCV Pipe	2,000.00
Concrete Pad & 18" Steel Culvert	200.00
8-foot by 10-foot Log Building	1,000.00
Pelton Wheel Turbine	2,500.00
22 KW DYNA Generator	2,500.00
Miscellaneous Valves & Fittings	75.00
TOTAL ESTIMATED COST	<u>\$8,475.00</u>

10) The Purpose of the Project:

The proposed hydroelectric power plant, upon being licensed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, is to be used for generating electrical power for the sole use of Big Creek Lodge, its two existing cabins, four proposed cabins, plus four assorted outbuildings. No power will be sold or transported off the premises. The power is for the convenience, safety and comfort of the

guests and staff of Big Creek Lodge.

A Master Development Plan has been developed for Big Creek Lodge, which proposes a number of structural improvements to the Lodge and the construction of four additional guest cabins. The availability of electrical power will make possible the use of power tools which will reduce the cost of construction considerably. Over the years the use of power tools for normal operation and maintenance will greatly reduce costs and save time, which is at a premium considering the short season (July to November) that road access is available to this remote area.

EXHIBIT E

Description of the Area	E1
Description of Services and Recreation	E1
Description of Existing Facilities	E2
Access to Big Creek Lodge	E2
Map of Western United States	E4
Map of State of Idaho	E5
Map of Central Idaho	E6
Map of Big Creek Area	E7
Special Use Permit	E8
Plat of Special Use Permit	E9
Summation of Environmental Findings	E10
Summary Of Consultation	E12
Photos of Big Creek Lodge, Facilities and Activities . . .	E23

SUMMARY REPORT FOR BIG CREEK LODGE

DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA

Big Creek Lodge lies in a lovely glacial valley at the west edge of a green, willow and conifer-ringed meadow which gently slopes toward cascading Big Creek. Mule deer and rocky mountain elk often feed within view of the Lodge. Open meadows dot the valley. Big Creek has its headwaters at the south end of the valley near Profile Summit and Goat Mountain, winds its way northward through Big Creek Valley and then continues eastward down Big Creek Gorge into the River of No Return, the Middle Fork of the Salmon River. Big Creek is the spawning grounds for thousands of Chinook Salmon and Pacific Steelhead Trout, as well as for Rainbow and Cutthroat Trout and Rocky Mountain Whitefish.

Big Creek Lodge is situated on a 13.994 acres of U.S. Forest Service land in the Krassel Ranger District, Payette National Forest. The topography of the site varies from rolling meadow around the buildings to steep fir and pine covered mountain slopes west of the Lodge.

McCorkle Creek forms the north boundary of the Special Use Permit area and has provided water for domestic use at the Lodge, for irrigation and for generating hydroelectric power. The creek is also used for stock water and irrigation in the meadow.

Big Creek Lodge is located in the Big Creek Valley, one and one-half miles north of the historic mining settlement of Edwardsburg. The Forest Service maintains a guard station one-eighth mile north of Big Creek Lodge.

Big Creek Airstrip, a thirty-six hundred foot State maintained grass strip lies two hundred yards north of the Lodge. It provides much of the access to the Big Creek area and to the surrounding backcountry. The Lodge is geared to provide services for the fly-in public who use the airstrip.

Big Creek Valley also provides several major trailheads to the famous Frank Church River Of No Return Wilderness Area.

DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES AND RECREATION

Big Creek Lodge and Outfitters, Inc. provides its guests with a relaxed wilderness setting, a full service restaurant, comfortable lodging and professional outfitting and guide services. Trailriding, big game hunting, fishing, summer pack trips, game packing and snowmobiling are available. Supplemental services include the general store, gasoline, oil, minor repairs, beverages and miscellaneous items; public pasture, livestock boarding,

horseshoeing; showers for campers, transportation for the fly-in public and the use of the all-important backcountry radio for communication with the outside world.

The best attraction at Big Creek Lodge is getting away from the grind of city life. It is a place where one can just relax and leisurely spend the day reading, socializing or photographing wildlife and the exquisite Big Creek scenery. Other activities such as trailrides, fishing, big game hunting (in season), summer pack trips, hiking, gold panning, horseshoes, volleyball, cards, snowmobiling and cross-country skiing are available to Lodge guests.

DESCRIPTION OF EXISTING FACILITIES

Big Creek Lodge is a rustic two story log building built in 1934. The twenty-six hundred square foot Lodge contains a rustic family-style dining room which seats twenty to twenty-five guests. A living room just off the dining room provides a homey, relaxing atmosphere. The kitchen, west of the dining room is designed to serve family-style meals and short orders. There are four comfortable guest rooms on the second floor of the Lodge.

Guests may enjoy relaxing and viewing wild game feeding in the meadow along with the beautiful mountain splendor, from the covered porch and boardwalk which extends to the "old store" which was used as a general store until the late 1970's.

A guest cabin built in the mid to late 1930's lies just south of the Lodge. The six-hundred square foot cabin has two bed-rooms, one full bathroom and a fully equipped kitchen. It also has a comfortable living/dining room combination.

A duplex is also situated near the Lodge. Each unit has a double bed, sleeping loft for the kids and half bath.

A store and gas station is just north of the Lodge, off the boardwalk. The store is in the front and a maintenance shop is in the rear of the building. Gas, oil and minor repairs are available to the public.

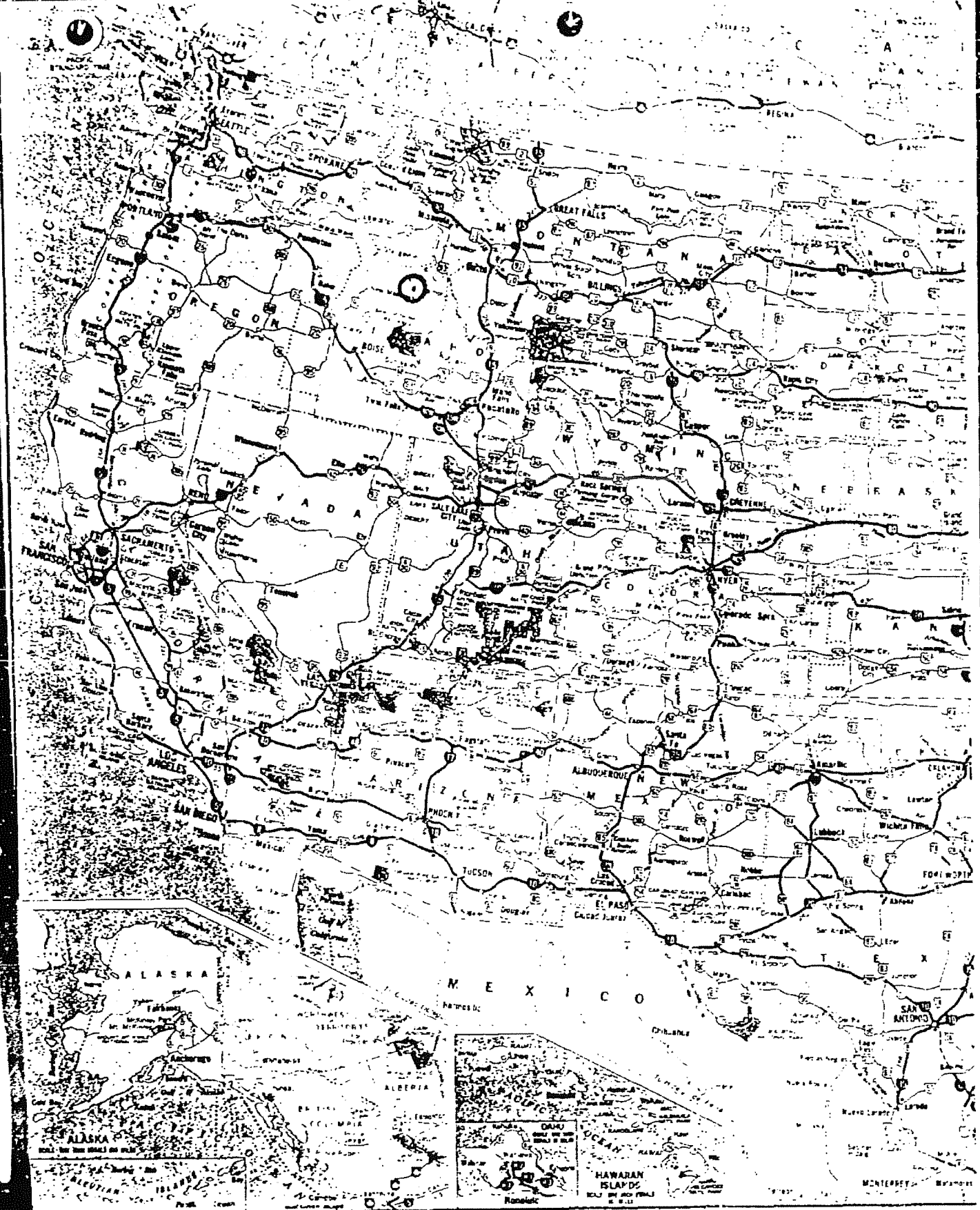
ACCESS TO BIG CREEK LODGE

Big Creek Lodge is accessible by road and by air. Primary road access is by way of Yellow Pine, a small backcountry town twenty-four miles southwest. Yellow Pine is about fifty miles east of Cascade, Idaho. The road from Yellow Pine to Big Creek climbs 7,600 feet over Profile Gap. This road is seldom open before mid June to July first.

Other road access, from Warren, Idaho, over Elk Summit opens later due to its 8,600 foot pass.

Air access to Big Creek is limited to small aircraft or helicopters. The 3,600 foot grass airstrip was built and is maintained by the State of Idaho.

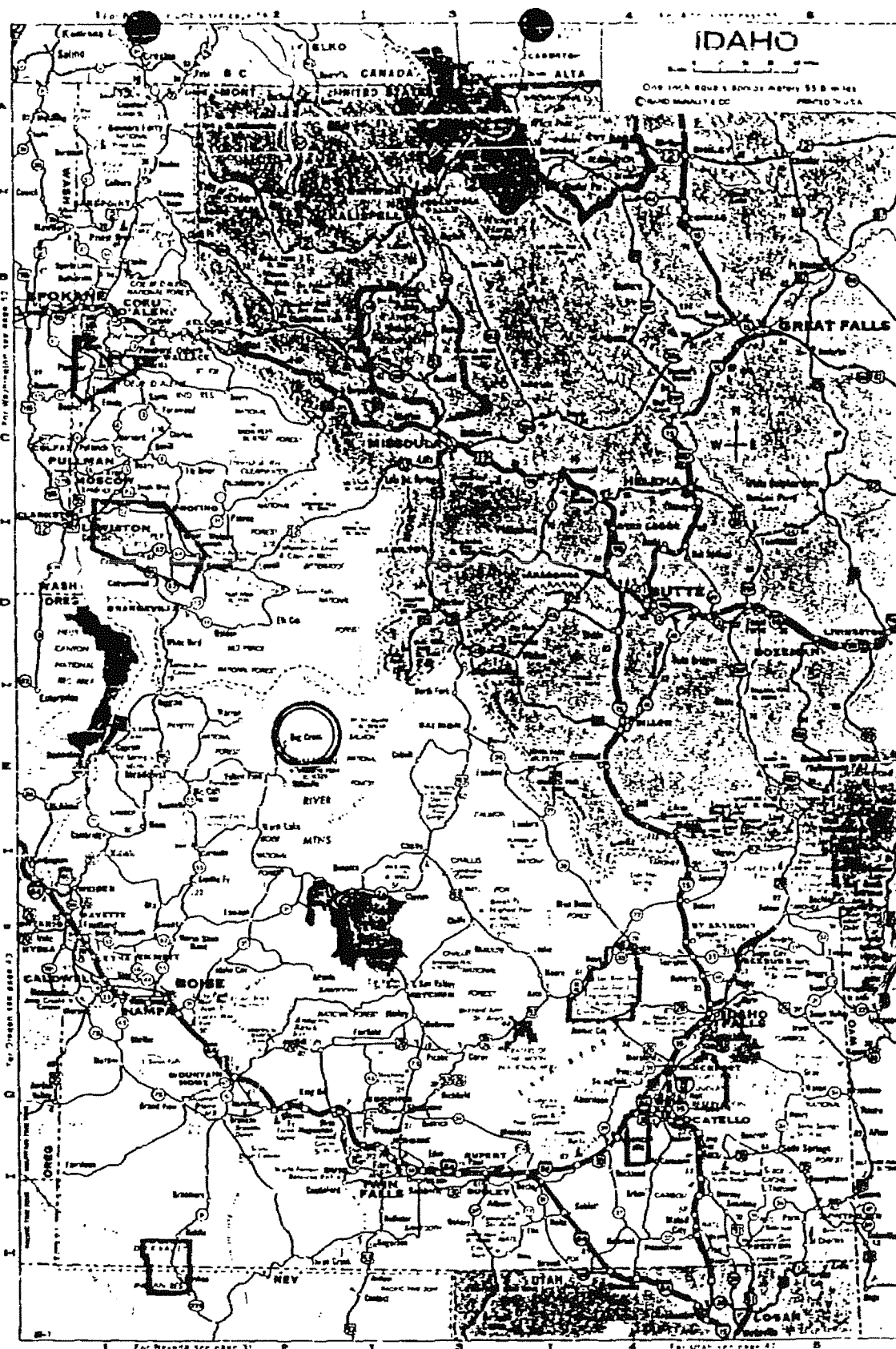
Big Creek Lodge is accessible in winter by snowmobile and by ski plane which is available through several backcountry air charter services. Normally, snowmobiles are transported over plowed roads to Yellow Pine and then driven the twenty four scenic miles over Profile Gap to Big Creek.

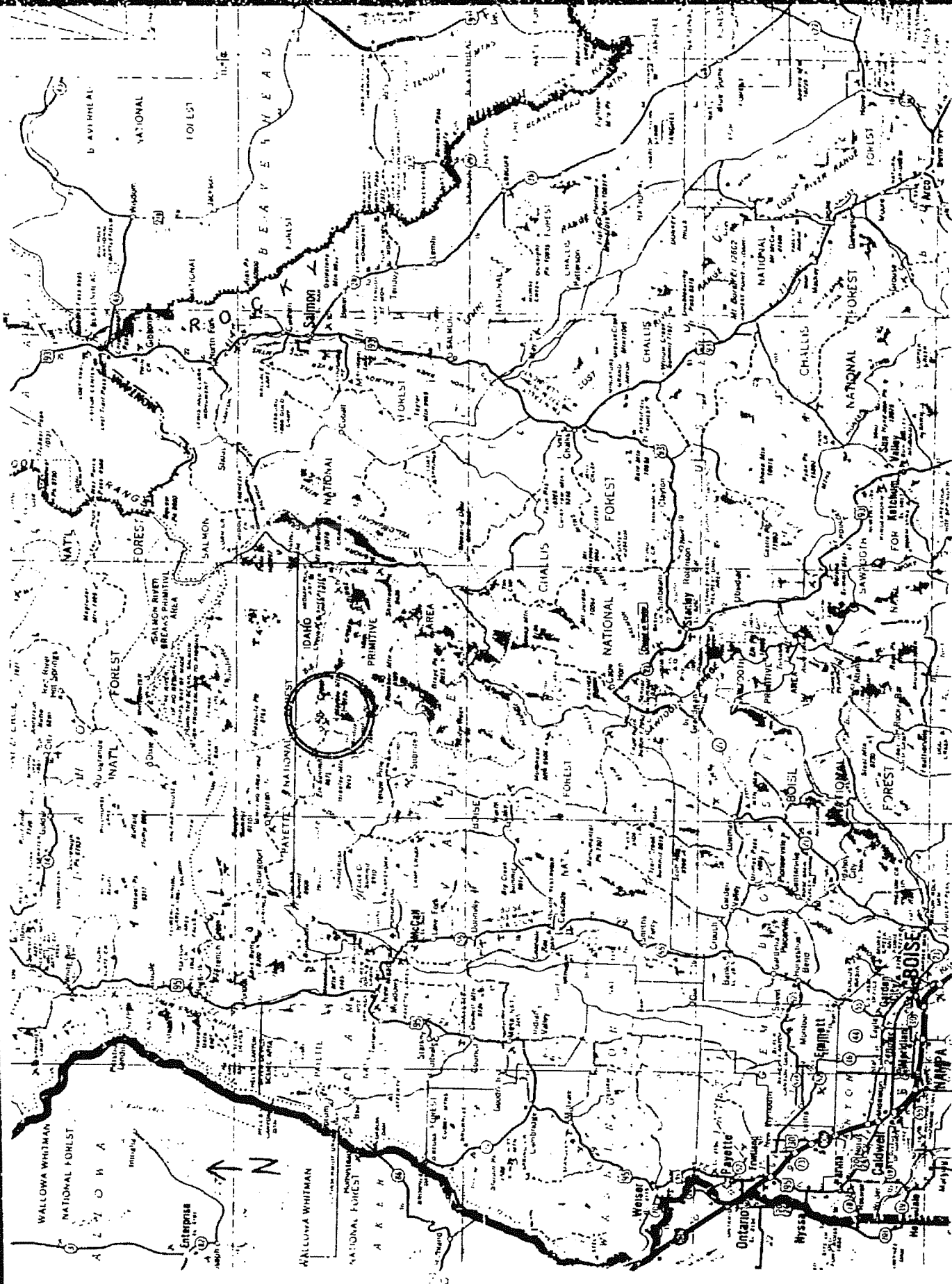


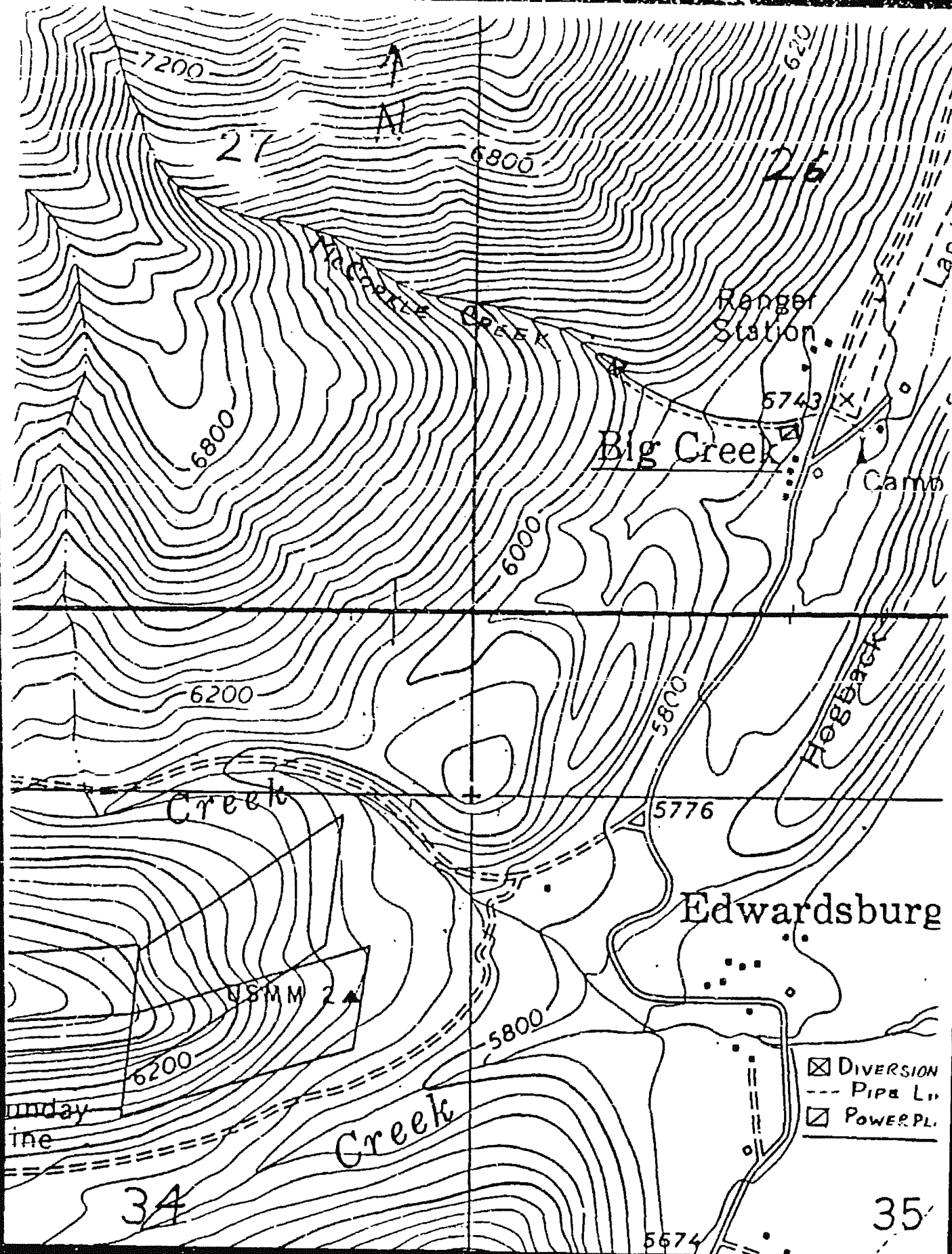
18440

Population 944,858
(1991 Estimate)
Land Area 12,411 Sq. M.

Cities and Towns

[illegible]





U.S. Department of Agriculture
Forest Service

TERM SPECIAL USE PERMIT

Act of March 4, 1915, as amended July 28, 1936,
or Act of March 30, 1948
(Ref. FSA 2710)

a. Record No. (1-2)	b. Use (3-4)	c. Forest (5-6)
70	04	12
d. District (7-8)	e. Use as-Ver (9-12)	f. Kind of Use (13-15)
05	4069	133
g. State (16-17)	h. County (18-20)	i. Card No. (21)
16	085	1

Permission is hereby granted to Big Creek Recreation Unlimited, Inc.
of Yellowpine, Idaho
hereinafter called the permittee, to use subject to the conditions set out below, the following described
lands or improvements for the period of 14 years from the date thereof:

as shown on attached "Maps" and "Description of Area" which are made part of
this permit

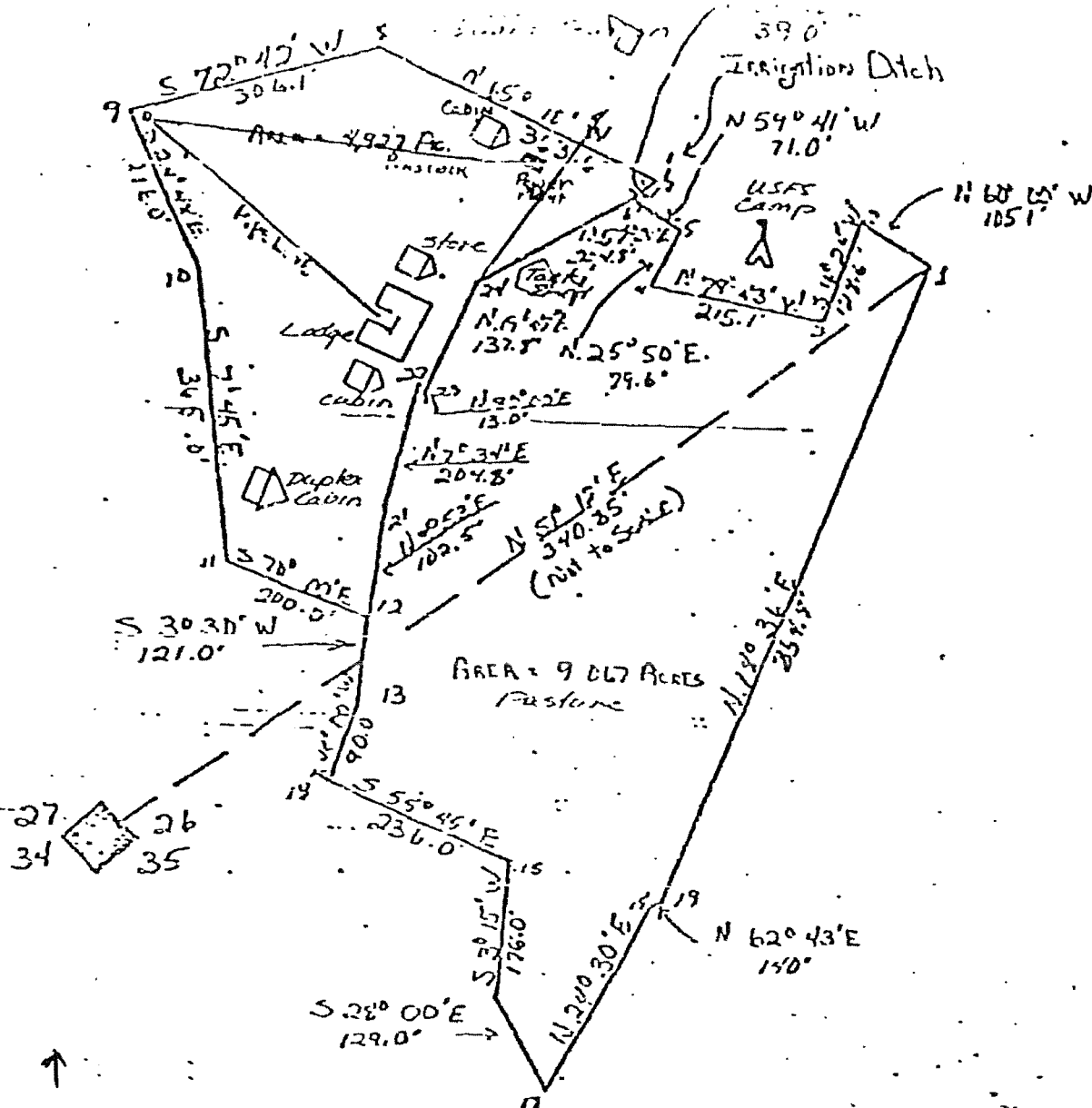
This permit covers 13.994 acres and is issued for the purpose of:
Operating and maintaining a resort enterprise consisting of a store and service
station, hotel, dwelling, cabins, saddle and storage building, parking space
including sewer, electrical and water connections for three house trailers, and
pasture.

1. Construction or occupancy and use under this permit shall begin within N/A months, and
construction, if any, shall be completed within N/A months, from the date of the permit. This
use shall be actually exercised at least 365 days each year, unless otherwise authorized
in writing.

2. In consideration for this use, the permittee shall pay to the Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agri-
culture, the sum of * Thirty-two and 26/100 Dollars (\$ 32.26) for the period from October 1, 1976, to December 31, 1976, and thereafter
annually on January 1st
One Hundred Forty Dollars (\$ 140.00 not subject to refund);
*Provided, however, that the charges for this use shall be annually adjusted as of and effective on the beginning
of each 5-year period for the due date of the first annual payment in accordance with the change in the
commodity price index for the value of the land authorized by this permit. * Includes transfer fee of \$25.00*

3. This permit is accepted subject to the conditions set forth herein, and to conditions 19 to
58 attached hereto and made a part of this permit.

PERMITTEE	NAME OF PERMITTEE BIG CREEK RECREATION UNLIMITED, INC.	SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICER <i>Bruce G. Minter</i>	DATE 11/8/76
ISSUING OFFICER	NAME AND SIGNATURE <i>Harold M. Bolt</i>	TITLE W. B. SENDT Forest Supervisor	DATE 11/15/76



BIG CREEK HEADQUARTERS

PAYETTE NATIONAL FOREST

Big Creek Administrative Site

Big Creek Recre

Case Designation: Unlimited, Inc.

Scale: 2 1/2 inches = 1 mile

T. 21 N. R. 9 E. Sec. 26

Map. Dec. 20-00

Field work by: Polser and Bonds

Plotted by: Bonds

Traced by: Reckst

Date: 8 / 13 / 71

SUMMATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL FINDINGS

The general environmental setting is a conifer forest in the backcountry of Idaho with year round use of the Lodge and occasional year-round residents in Edwardsburg area. Summer and fall are the seasons of highest use and with the greatest population. The good weather in the summer encourages people to escape the cities for solitude and cool climate of the high mountain valleys. In the fall, Big Creek is deluged by big game hunters wanting to try their skill and luck at harvesting a North American Elk. Big Creek Lodge is the primary commercial facility to provide services to the public during these high use periods. Big Creek Lodge is also open during the winter months to house and feed snowmobile excursions into the backcountry area around Big Creek.

Vegetation is conifer forest with light shrub under growth with some grasses. Since the diversion box was constructed more than 20 years ago, natural vegetation has grown up around the area and mosses cover the rocks and logs in the stream reach (see pictures in Exhibit F). No additional disturbance of the stream or surrounding area will be necessary.

Fish and wildlife resources will not be adversely affected by the hydro plant as it is to be operated. There are no fisheries of a sport or commercial nature. The stream is not used by spawning fish. The stream is used by large and small game for drinking. The diversion box provides a small pool of water that is easily accessed and generally undisturbed for use as a drinking source for these animals.

Water quality will not be adversely affected since the check box was established so many years ago that the stream and banks around the box have no loose soil to erode. The water will flow naturally back into the stream bed just above the road (see diagram in Exhibit F) and then flows into a culvert under the road. On the far side of the road, the water is diverted into a meadow pasture area for irrigation. The meadow acts as a natural filter for any sediment that might be carried in the water. McCorkle Creek flows another mile over its natural stream bed before reaching Big Creek. As stated by Shawn Miller, Aquatic Biologist, in his letter, "use of the creek (McCorkle Creek) by the hydro plant is benign and does not affect water quality." This satisfies concern number 2 (two) in the letter from Idaho Fish & Game dated June 6, 1988.

Water quantity will not be significantly changed for the 1340+ feet of stream bed that the 4" PVC pipe will divert the needed water to drive the Pelton Wheel. Even in recent years when snow pack and rainfall was at its lowest, sufficient stream flow was available to "...maintain existing riparian vegetation." in the stream. This meets concern number 1 (one) in the letter from Idaho Fish & Game dated June 6, 1988.

The hydro plant sits on U. S. Forest Service land under Special Use Permit to Big Creek Lodge. The Forest Service has applied for and received permission from the State of Idaho to divert water on McCorkle Creek for the hydro project once approval is granted by FERC. The letter dated August 17, 1988, from the U.S.F.S. has given a Categorical Exclusion for the hydro project on McCorkle Creek.

The U. S. Forest Service Categorical Exclusion addresses all other environmental concerns associated with this project as it was operated and as it will be operated in the future with FERC authority under Sections 4.60 and 4.61.

The alternative to hydro generated electric power is either a gas or diesel engine driven generator. The alternative would generate both noise and air pollution that is not associated with hydropower. The additional cost would limit the quantity and quality of services that Big Creek Lodge could provide the public.

SUMMARY OF CONSULTATION

Big Creek Lodge has consulted thoroughly with the regulatory and environmental agencies having jurisdiction in the area. All have been extremely cooperative and have found no problems with the installation of the Hydro Plant as it is planned.

Letters of clearance include:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>ORGANIZATION</u>	<u>CLEARANCE</u>
07-26-88	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Services	Fish & Wildlife
03-17-82	U. S. Forest Service	Categorical Exclusion
06-06-88	Idaho Fish & Game	Fisheries/Water Quality
09-01-83	Farm To Market Enterprises Water Quality Consultants	Fisheries/Water Quality
07-15-82	Idaho Department of Water Resources	Approved Application for Water Permit



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

BOISE FIELD OFFICE
4696 Overland Road, Room 576
Boise, Idaho 83705

RECEIVED AUG 9 1988

July 26, 1988

Mr. Howard F. Manly
Big Creek Lodge and Outfitters, Inc.
707 North 8th Street
P.O. Box 967
Boise, Idaho 83702

Re: McCorle Creek Hydro Project
Early Consultation for
Exemption

Dear Mr. Manly:

Thank you for your letter of May 15, 1988 concerning the referenced existing project. The Fish and Wildlife Service has previously (October 19, 1983) reviewed the proposal to continue the operation of the project along with documents enclosed with your recent inquiry and has the following comments. Provided that the project is operated as in the past and no new construction is required, we have no objection to the issuance of an exemption by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. If you propose changes in operation or any new construction, we wish to review and comment on those proposed changes as they may relate to fish and wildlife habitat or riparian values.

To the best of our present knowledge we have no concerns about possible effects of the project on Federally listed threatened or endangered species. If you have any questions or comments you may contact Roy Heberger (334-1931) of my staff.

Sincerely,

Walter D. Ray
for John P. Wolflin
Field Supervisor

cc: IDFG, Hdqtrs., Boise
IDFG, McCall
NMFS, Portland
FRRC, OHL, Washington, D.C.
FRRC, Portland
Payette N.F., McCall
FWS-SR, Boise (1-4-88-SP-230)
FWS-SR, Portland



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Payette
National
Forest

Krassel Ranger District
P.O. Box 1026
McCall, ID 83638

Reply To: 2720

Date: August 17, 1988

Mr. Howard F. Manly
Big Creek Lodge and Outfitters, Inc.
707 North 8th Street
P.O. Box 967
Boise, ID 83701

CHECKED AUG 20 1988
RECEIVED AUG 26 1988

Dear Howard:

This is followup with regard to the Forest Service position pertaining to the hydroelectric power plant you wish to restore to service in connection with the operation of the Big Creek Lodge.

The Forest Service has no objections to the proposed use providing the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) grants the necessary written exemption or clearance. We anticipate the project will have little or no impact on the environment provided the conditions listed in the enclosed document and the terms set forth in the permit are met.

With regard to condition #2 in the enclosed categorical exclusion document, we can foresee no difficulties over water uses between the Lodge uses and the adjoining Forest Service work station. However, in the possibility that conflicts do develop over use of the available water, the Forest Service shall exercise its water rights in the best interest of the public and the needs of the work station.

Sincerely,

EARL C. KIMBALL
District Ranger





CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

Big Creek Lodge
Minor Hydropower Plant

U.S.D.A., Forest Service
Payette National Forest

CHECKED AUG 26 1988

RECEIVED AUG 26 1988

Big Creek Lodge and Outfitters, Inc., 707 North 8th Street, P.O. Box 967, Boise, Idaho 83701, Mr. Howard F. Manly, President, has submitted an application to restore a minor hydroelectric plant to provide electrical power to the Big Creek Lodge. The plant was in service for many years until destroyed by fire. Due to a change in rules, further special use authorization was denied until the operator could obtain a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) license or exemption from licensing. Work is presently underway to obtain FERC authorization.

The proposed facility would occupy approximately .20 acre of National Forest System lands in Township 21 North, Range 9 East, Section 26, B.M. in the Krassel Ranger District.

Considering the resources affected and the National Forest Management Plans for the involved area, it is my determination that the proposed activity, if conducted under the conditions listed below, would be in the public interest. This decision will have no significant effect on the human environment, either individually or cumulatively. Because there will be no significant effect, this decision is categorically excluded from NEPA documentation, and an Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared.

This determination is based on the following factors:

1. The stream involved (McCorkle Creek) is small and has no fish. The Idaho Department of Fish and Game have inspected the site and concur with this observation.
2. The project is a reconstruction of a system which operated for a period of more than 10 years with no noticeable adverse impacts on water quality.
3. There are no known threatened and/or endangered plant or animal species within the permit area.
4. The project will not have any impact on flood plains and wetlands.
5. The project will not have any impact on cultural resources in the project area.





Forest Service approval of the project would be conditioned on the following:

1. That no additional quantity of water would be removed from the stream than was used in the past for power production. Since the same transmission pipe would be used there should be no change in capacity. This would require a power plant properly sized to the available head and flow.
2. The water rights for the water used from McCorkle Creek in connection with the operation of the Big Creek Lodge rest with the Forest Service as the Lodge is located on National Forest.
3. Should demand for water exceed supply, particularly in an emergency situation, the Forest Service shall exercise its water rights in the best interests of the public and the work station.
4. Power produced by the facility will be used on the lodge site. No transmission facilities will be constructed.

VETO J. LASALLE
Forest Supervisor
Payette National Forest

Date





IDAHO FISH & GAME

REGION 3
180 West 14th Street
Boise, ID 83711
(208) 334-3725

RECEIVED

JUN 10 1988

MIKE E. DAILY
ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

June 6, 1988

Mr. Howard F. Manly
Big Creek Lodge and Outfitters
707 North 8th Street
Boise, ID 83701

Re: McCorkle Creek Hydroelectric Project Early Consultation Application
for Exemption from FERC Licensing Bruce Minter

Dear Mr. Manly:

After inspecting McCorkle Creek, we have determined this stream does not contain fish populations or significant fish habitat. It does, however, contribute high quality water to Big Creek which is the largest tributary to the Middle Fork of the Salmon River. Based on our investigation of McCorkle Creek and our meetings, we suggest you be prepared to address the concerns listed below.

1. Instream maintenance flows sufficient to maintain existing riparian vegetation.
2. Measures to prevent sediment delivery to Big Creek.
3. We request that you provide to the Idaho Department of Fish and Game a complete project description, including maps and drawings when you submit your application to the FERC.

Sincerely,

Stacy Gebhards
Regional Supervisor
Region 3/Boise

SG:DA:jrw
c: Program Coordination
Fisheries Bureau

Cecil D. Andrus, Governor
Jerry M. Conley, Director

503

FARM TO MARKET ENTERPRISES
fresh and hot water consultants
Rt. 1 box 116 A
McCall Idaho 83638

September 1, 1983

Big Creek Recreation Unlimited, Inc.
Big Creek Lodge
3 Cascade, Idaho 83611

Gentlemen:

I would first like to establish my credentials as may be appropriate. I currently hold a B.S. in Biology from Central College in Pella, Iowa. This is a 50 hour major that focused upon freshwater fisheries studies. I also hold an M.S. degree in Aquatic Biology from Idaho State University. Again, my studies focused upon freshwater; principally invertebrates; specifically caddis flies (genus: Hydropsyche).

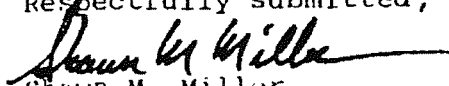
I was requested to provide an opinion and observations as to the suitability and feasibility of the existing placement of a small (22 KW) hydroelectric plant on Mc Corkle Creek located in Valley County, Idaho; most specifically adjacent to Big Creek Lodge, Big Creek, Idaho. The hydro plant is used to produce electricity for the lodge facility.

I have inspected Mc Corkle Creek as well as the hydro generator system. My conclusion is that there are no deleterious environmental consequences from the placement of the hydro plant system or the utilization of Mc Corkle Creek for the generation of electricity by that system.

Mc Corkle Creek is barely three feet across at it's mouth. At the plant site, the creek is barely two feet across. The creek has no fisheries of a sport or commercial nature. It is not used by anadromous fishes as a spawning stream. It's primary use is as a watering stream for resident livestock and big and small game animals. Use of the creek by the hydro plant is benign and does not affect water quality.

Mc Corkle Creek is a freestone stream, consequently aquatic invertebrate life is typical in terms of quantity and quality found in area waters. The nutrient base is low thereby limiting numbers of aquatic life in the creek. It is not anticipated that there would be a significant change in water quality resulting from plant siting. It is therefore my recommendation that Mc Corkle Creek be used for generation of hydroelectric power by the Big Creek Lodge company as planned.

Respectfully submitted,


Shawn M. Miller

cc: U.S. Forest Service, Big Creek District
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Boise office
Idaho Fish & Game, Region III

378

STATE OF IDAHO
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
APPLICATION FOR PERMIT

APPROVED

COB-107
COB-012
COB-013

To appropriate the public waters of the State of Idaho

U. S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE
Forest Service

Phone 801-626-3561

1. Name of applicant

Post office address 324-25th Street, Ogden, Utah 84401

2. Source of water supply McCorkle Creek

which is a tributary of Big Creek

3. Location of point of diversion is SW 1/4 of NW 1/4 of Section 26

Township 21N

Range 9E B.M.

Valley

County, additional points of diversion if any

4. Water will be used for the following purposes:

Amount .75 cfs for Power purposes from 1/1 to 12/31 (both dates inclusive)
Amount .05 cfs for Domestic purposes from 1/1 to 12/31 (both dates inclusive)
Amount .08 cfs for Irrigation purposes from 4/15 to 10/15 (both dates inclusive)
Amount for purposes from to (both dates inclusive)

5. Total quantity to be appropriated:

a. .83 cubic feet per second and/or b. acre feet per annum.

6. Proposed diverting works:

a. Description of ditches, flumes, pumps, headgates, etc.

Wooden cut-off wall with 2 pipes, one for domestic and irrigation uses, the other for power generation. (See Remarks)

b. Height of storage dam feet, active reservoir capacity acre feet, total reservoir capacity acre feet, materials used in storage dam:

Period of year when water will be diverted to storage to inclusive.

c. Proposed well diameter is inches; proposed depth of well is feet.

7. Time required for the completion of the works and application of the water to the proposed beneficial

use is years (minimum 1 year - maximum 5 years) (Development completed in 1972).

(Development completed in 1972)

8. Description of proposed uses:

a. If water is not for irrigation

(1) Give the place of use of water: NE 1/4 of SW 1/4 of Section 26 Township 21N

Range 9E B.M.

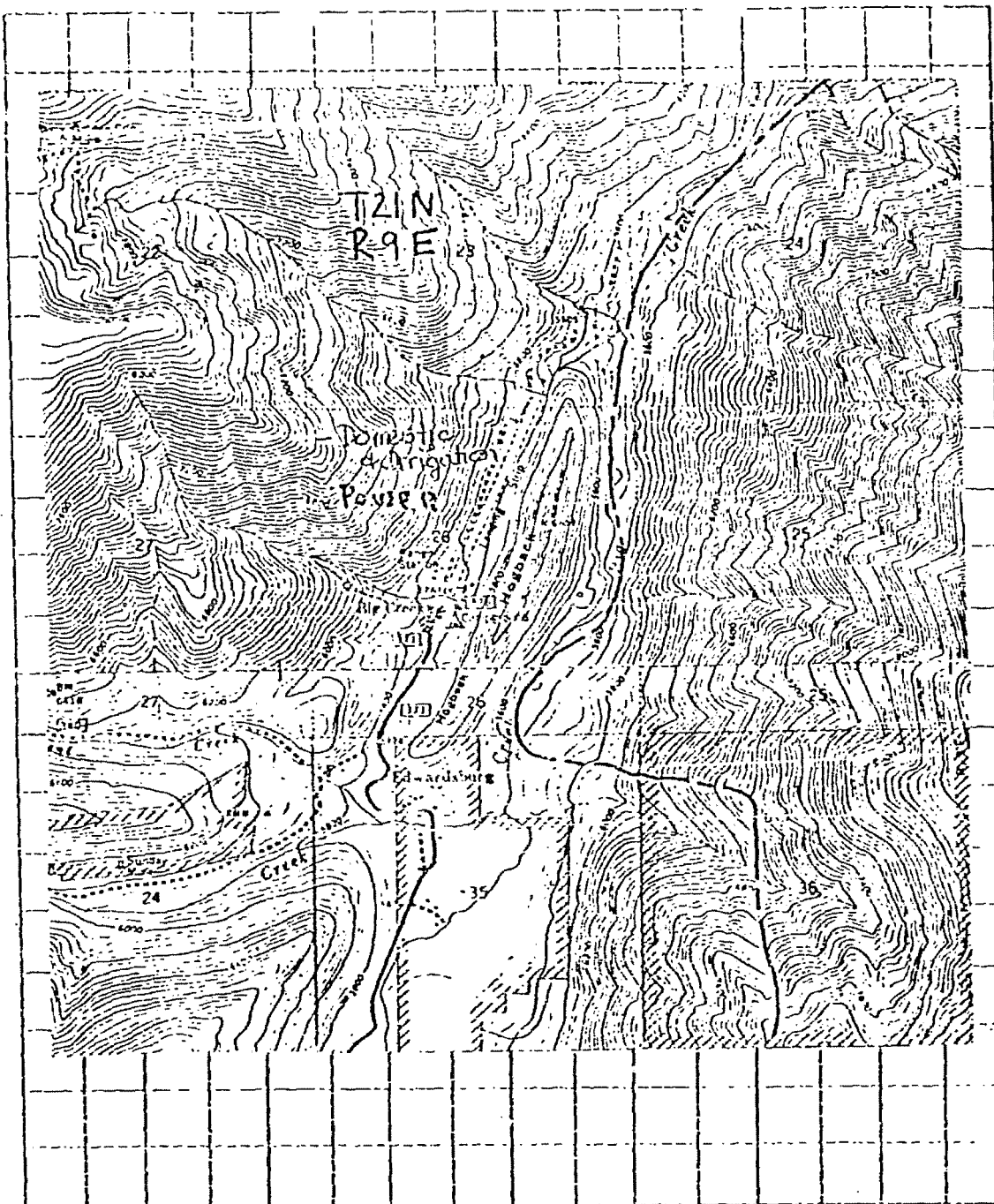
(2) Amount of power to be generated: 13 1/3 horse power under 250 feet of head.

(3) List number of each kind of livestock to be watered

(4) Name of municipality to be served or number of families to be

supplied with domestic water 1 plus 25 guests for Big Creek Inn

(5) If for other purpose, state the purpose



Scale: 2 inches equal 1 mile.

BE IT KNOWN that the undersigned hereby makes application for permit to appropriate the public waters of the State of Idaho as herein set forth. United States of America - Forest Service

Richard L. Anderson
(for) L. FINE HAYS, JR. (Alphacott) DRP, POWELL CO.

Received by _____ Date _____
Preliminary check by _____ Fee \$ 400.00
Received by _____ Date _____
Publication prepared by _____ Date 2/25/82
Published in _____ The Star News
Publication dates 3/4 & 3/11/82
Publication approved _____ Date 3/16/82
Protests filed by: 1/6/82

Copies of protests forwarded by _____
Hearing held by _____ Date _____
Recommended for approval denial by DRS _____ RC

ACTION OF THE DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

This is to certify that I have examined Application for Permit to appropriate the public waters of the State of Idaho No. 77-7157, and said application is hereby APPROVED

1. Approval of said application is subject to the following limitations and conditions:

a. SUBJECT TO ALL PRIOR WATER RIGHTS.

b. Proof of construction of works and application of water to beneficial use shall be submitted on or before August 1, 1981.

c. The rate of diversion, if water is to be used for irrigation under this permit, when combined with all other water rights for the same land shall not exceed 0.02 cubic feet per second for each acre of land.

d. Other: This permit is subject to the provisions of Sections 42-205 through 42-210, Idaho Code, restricting the sale, transfer, assignment, or mortgage of this permit. Failure to comply with these provisions is cause for immediate cancellation of this permit.

This project shall be operated in a manner that will not conflict or interfere with the future diversion of water for irrigation or other beneficial consumption.

This permit does not constitute Idaho Public Utilities Commission or Federal Energy Regulatory Commission approval that may be required.

An access port or other device as specified by the Department shall be installed by the permit holder to provide for the installation of measuring device equipment and the determination of the rate of diversion by the Department.

Witness my hand this 15th day of July, 1982.

L. New Sayton
Chief, Operations Bureau

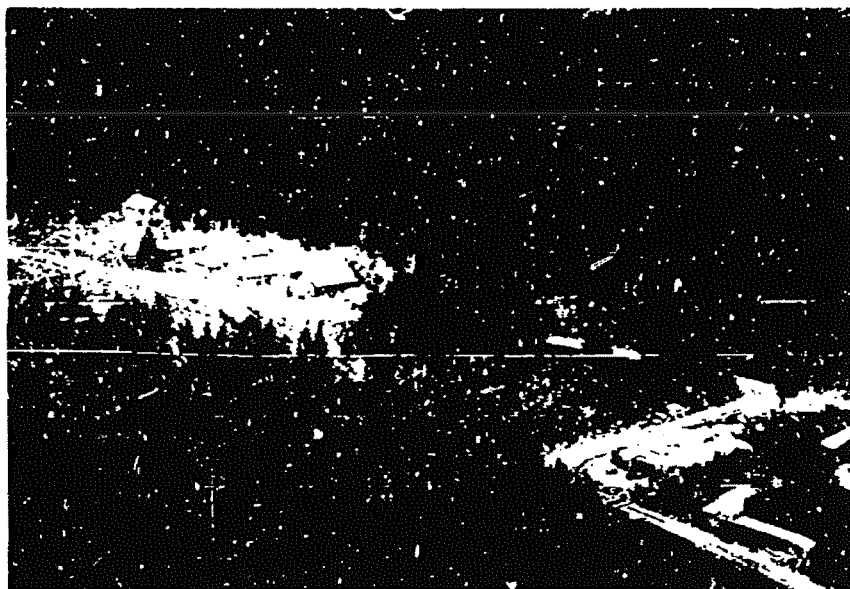
LX1

Photos of Big Creek Lodge, Facilities and Activities

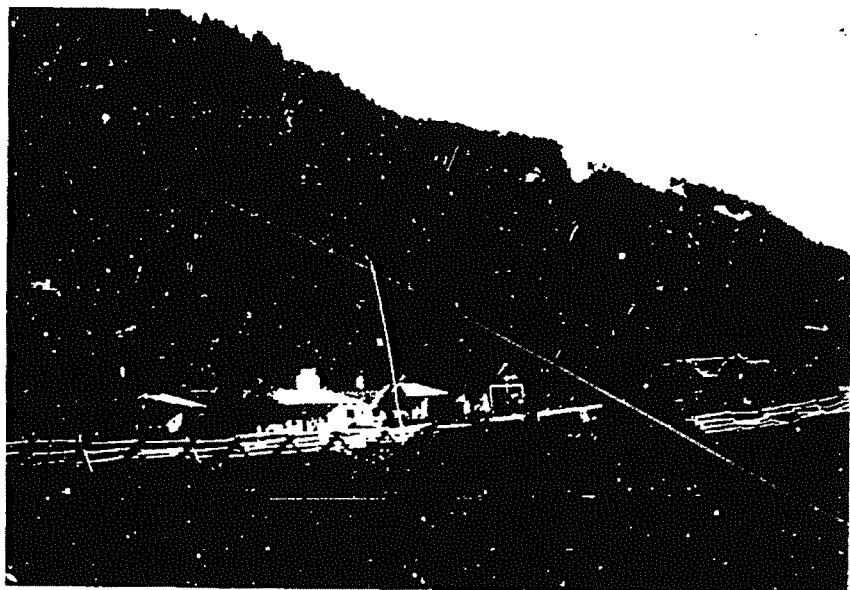
FINAL APPROACH TO
BIG CREEK AIRSTRIP



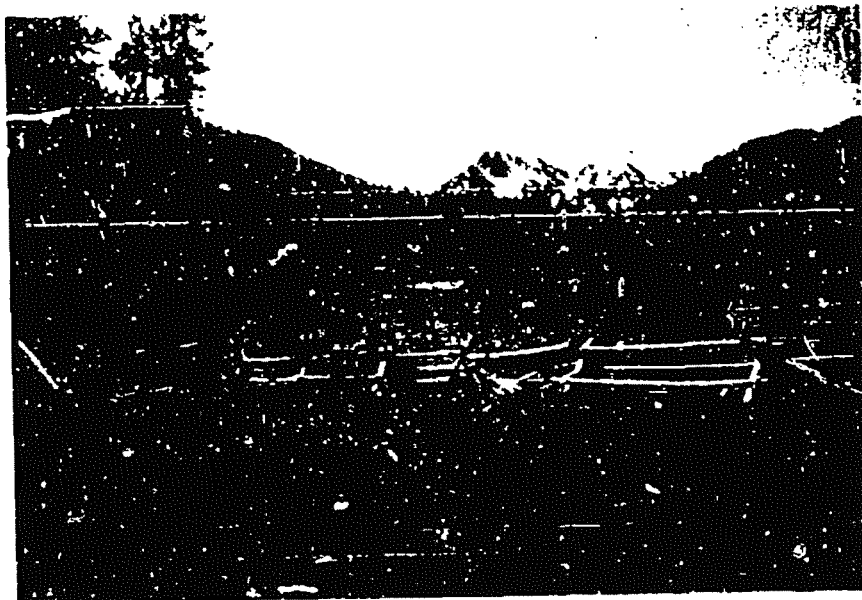
BIG CREEK COMPLEX
AND AIRSTRIP



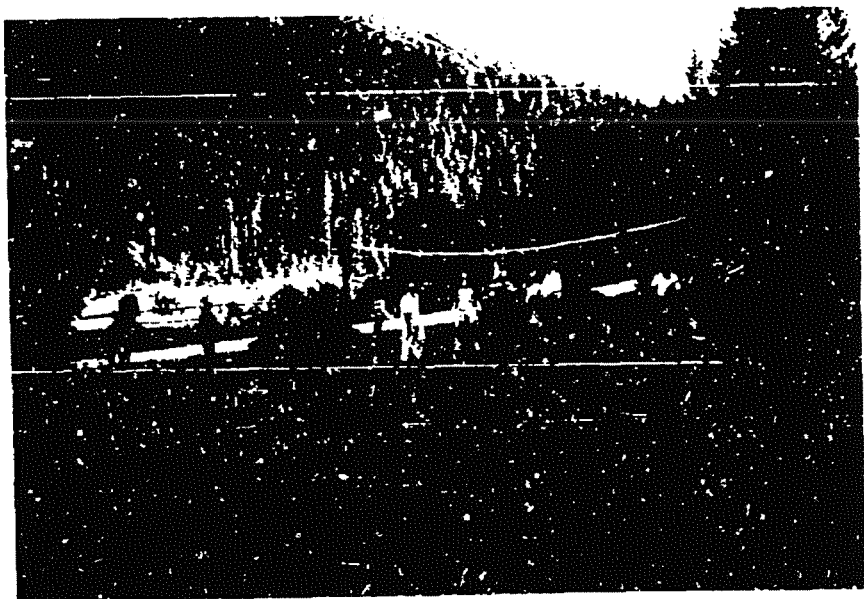
WELCOME TO
BIG CREEK LODGE



MEADOW VIEW
FROM THE LODGE



FAMILY FUN AT
BIG CREEK LODGE



A HAPPY FISHERMAN



FAMILY ROOM IN
THE LODGE



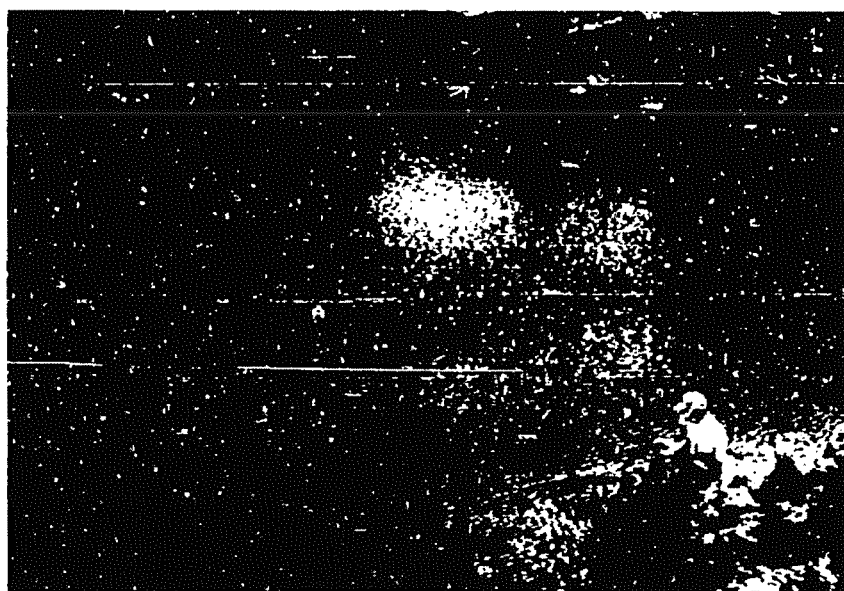
LIE SWAPPIN'



SUMMER PACK TRIP



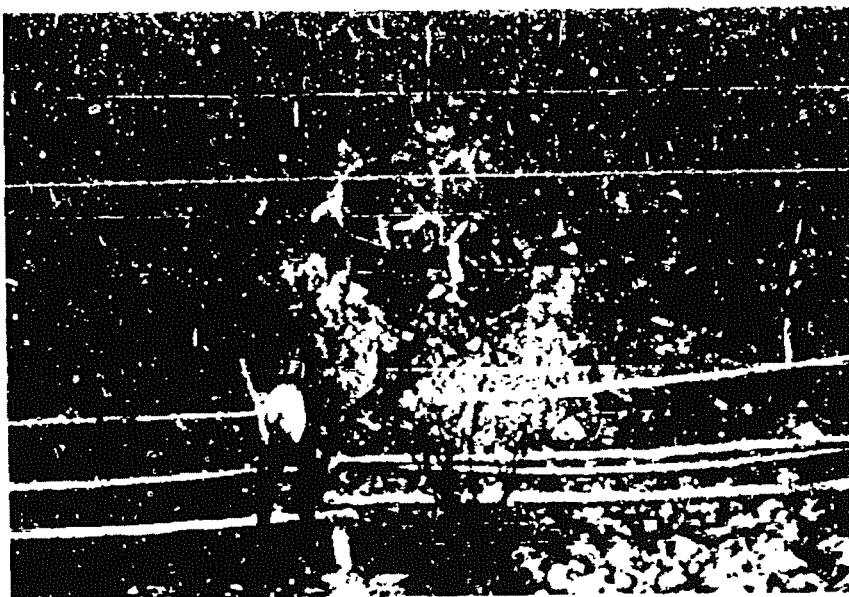
FISHING AT
LOGAN LAKE



PACK STRING HEADED
INTO HUNTING CAMP



ELK IN FRONT OF
BIG CREEK LODGE



CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING
AT BIG CREEK



SNOWMOBILING AT
THE LODGE



EXHIBIT F

DRAWINGS:

Relationship of Existing Facilities to
Lodge and Special Use Permit Area F1

Existing Facilities at Power Plant F2

PICTURES F3

Diversion Box from McCorkle Creek

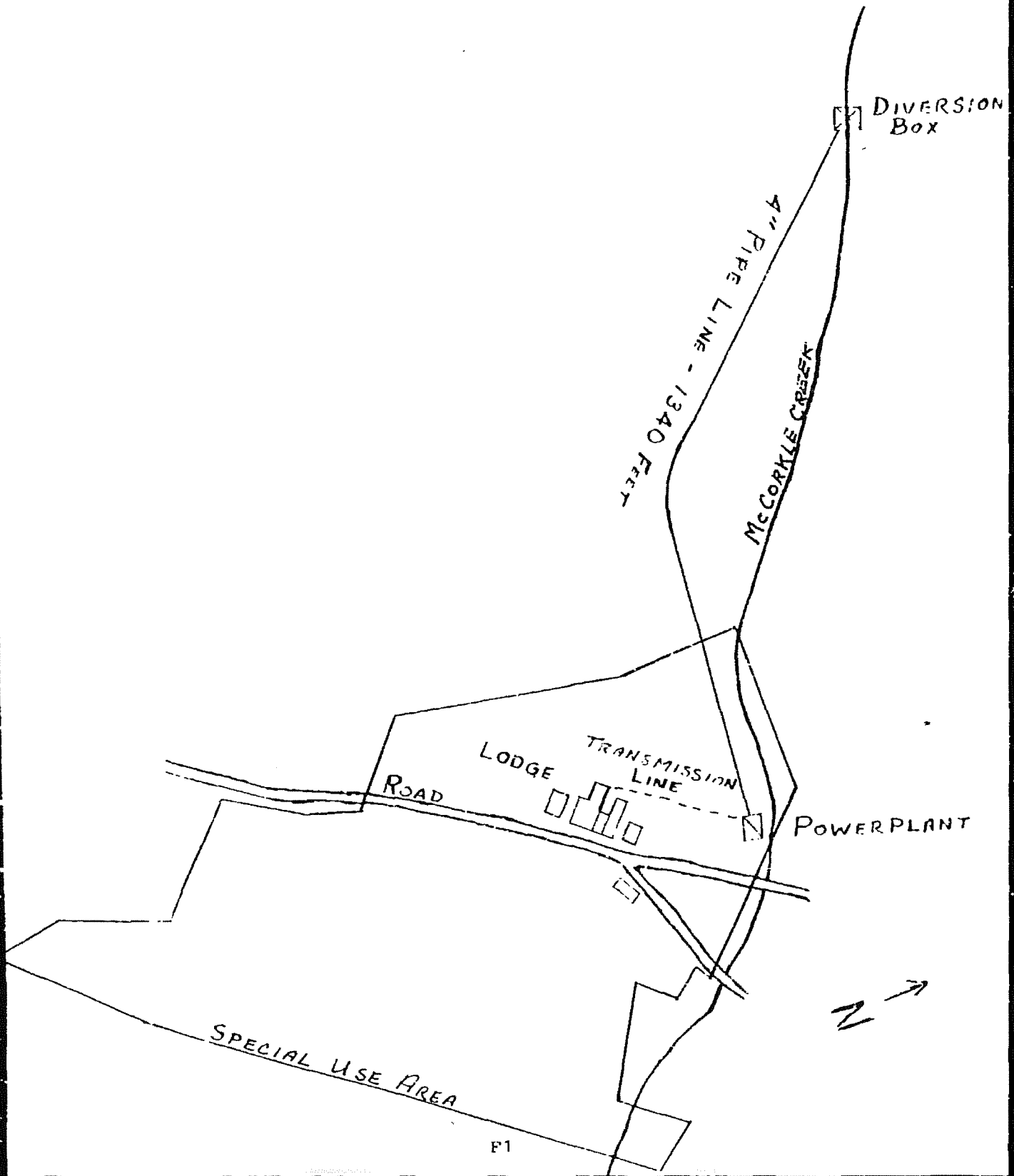
Diversion Box and Pipe

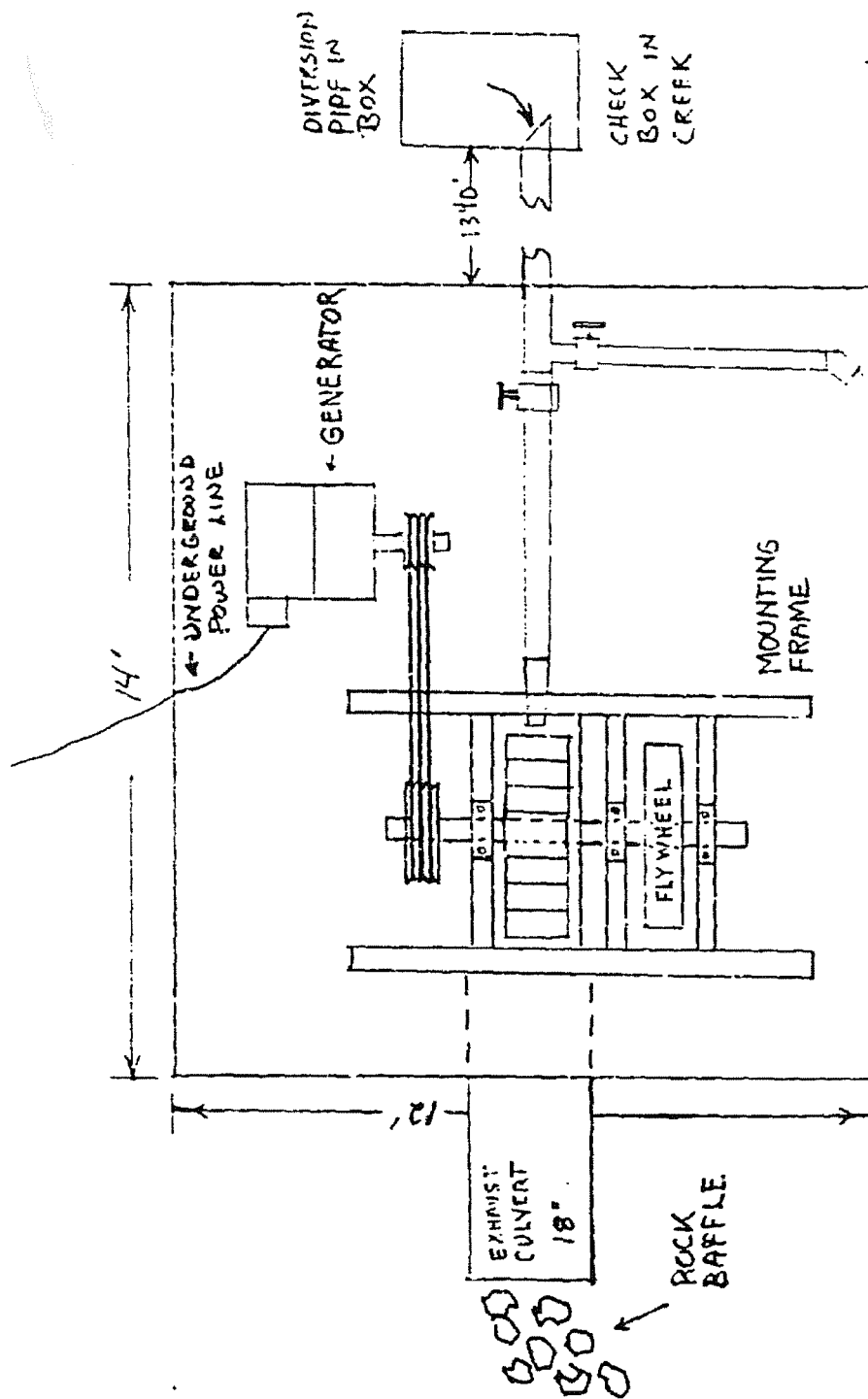
Pelton Wheel Assembly

Pelton Wheel and Flywheel Exposed

Penstock In-take and By-Pass, Flywheel,
Pelton Wheel Turbine and Dyna Generator

Dyna Generator (22 KW) in Pump House

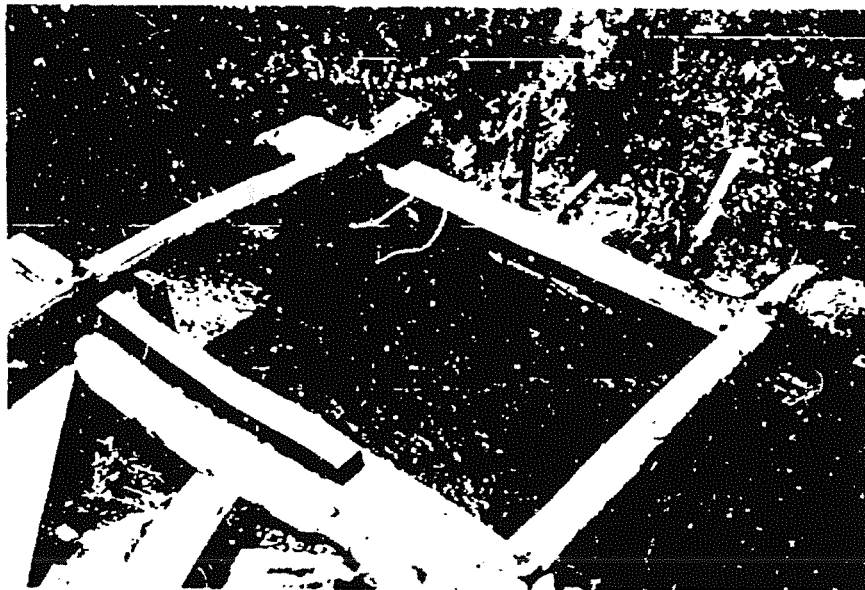




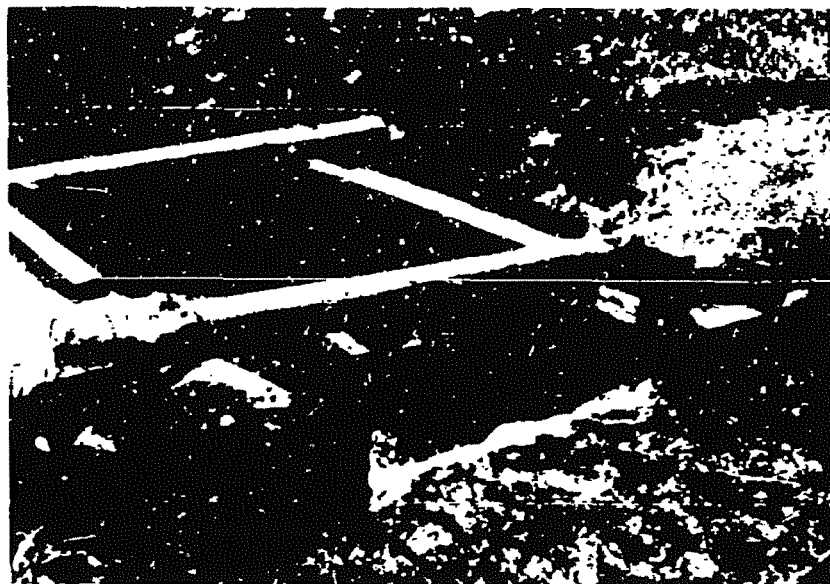
McCORKLE CREEK

Photos of the Project

PENSTOCK DIVERSION
FROM MCCORKLE
CREEK



CLOSEUP OF
PENSTOCK INTAKE



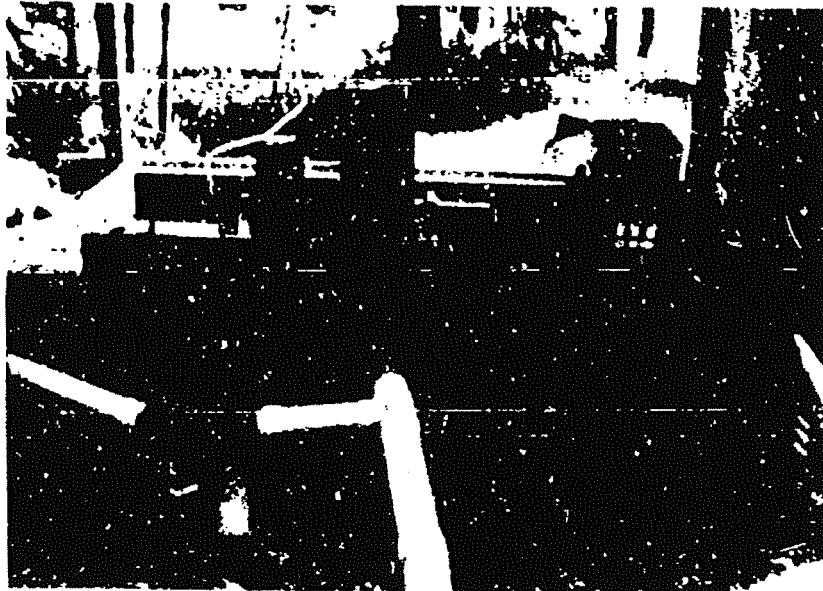
PELTON-WHEEL ASSEMBLY



FLYWHEEL AND PELTON
WHEEL (EXPOSED)



PENSTOCK INTAKE, BY-PASS,
FLYWHEEL, PELTON WHEEL
AND DYNA GENERATOR IN
PUMP HOUSE



20 KW
DYNA GENERATOR

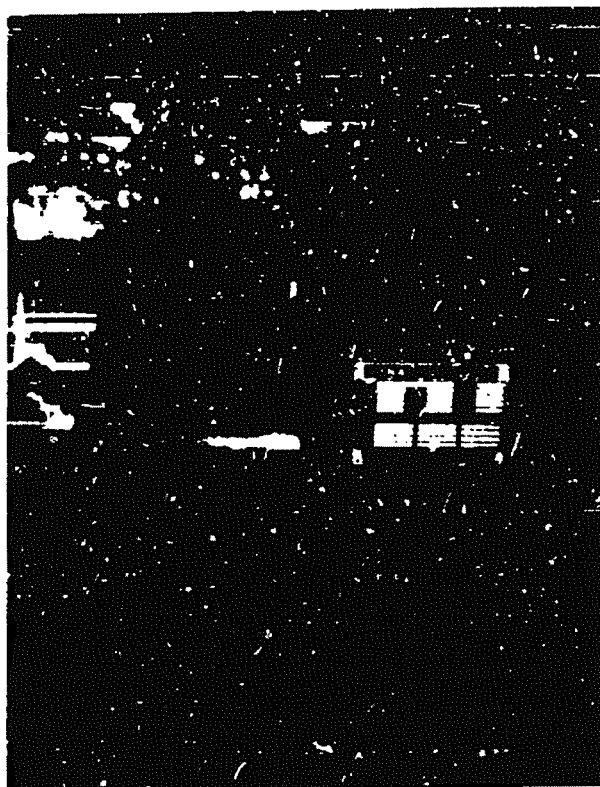
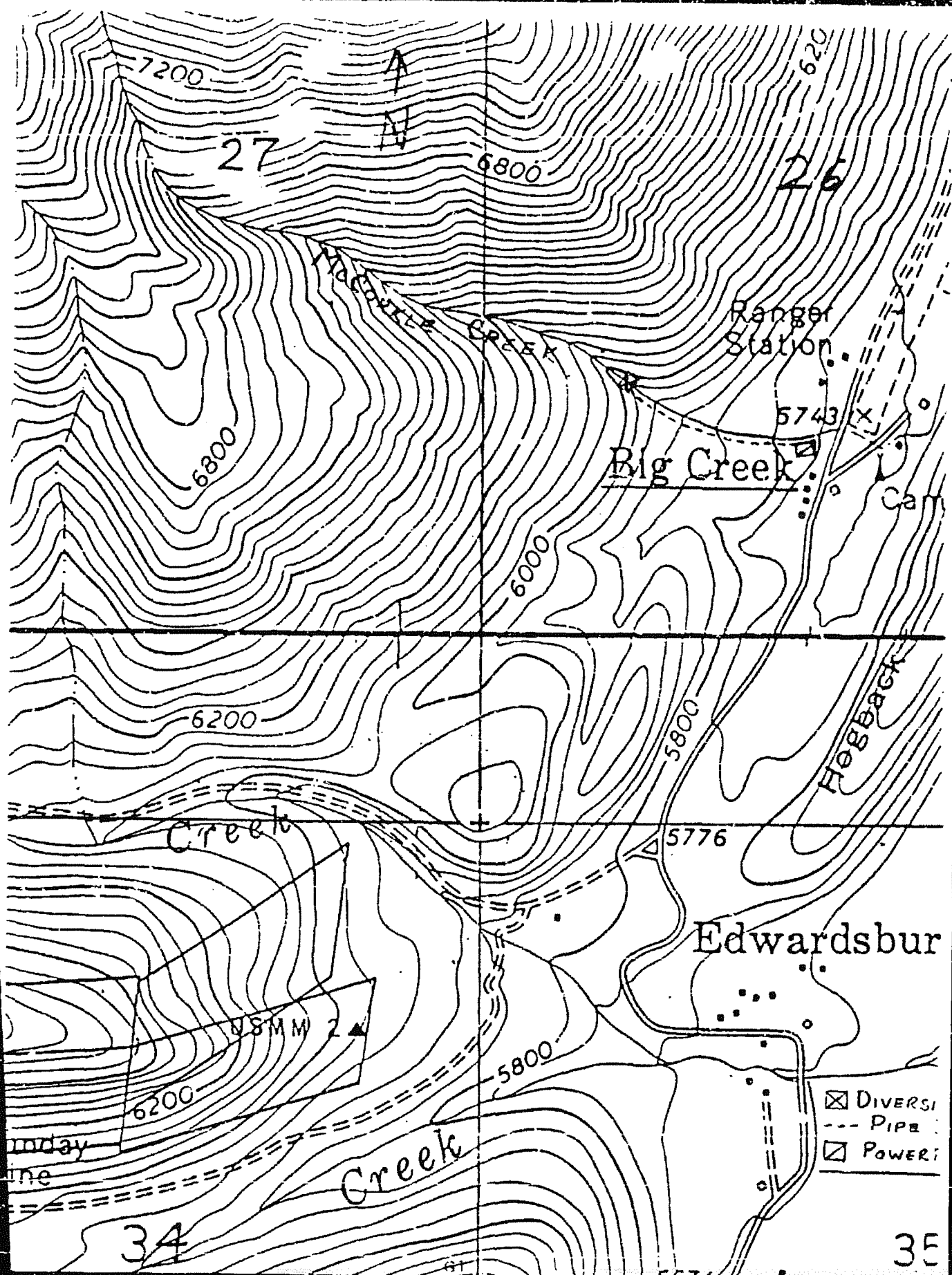
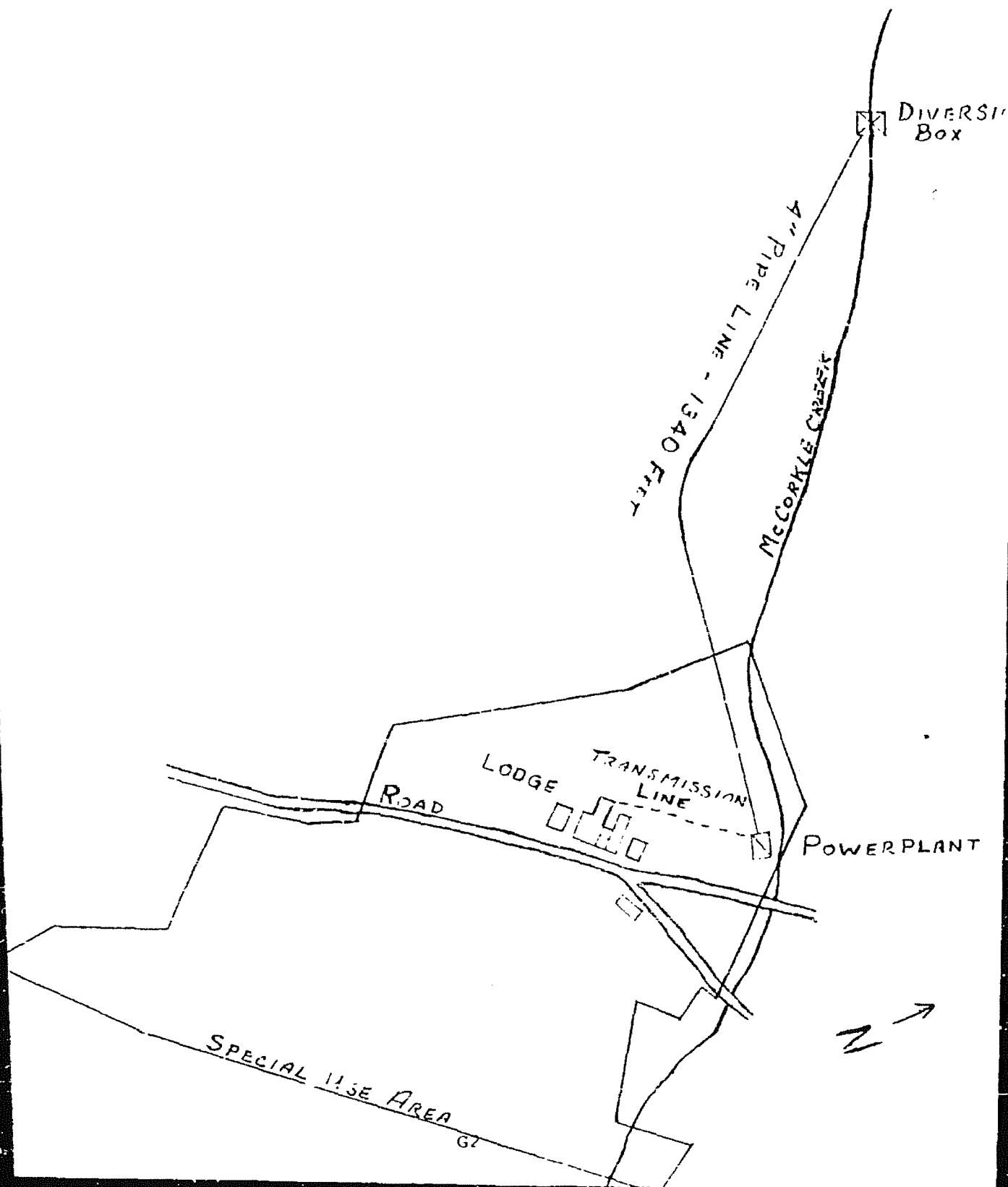


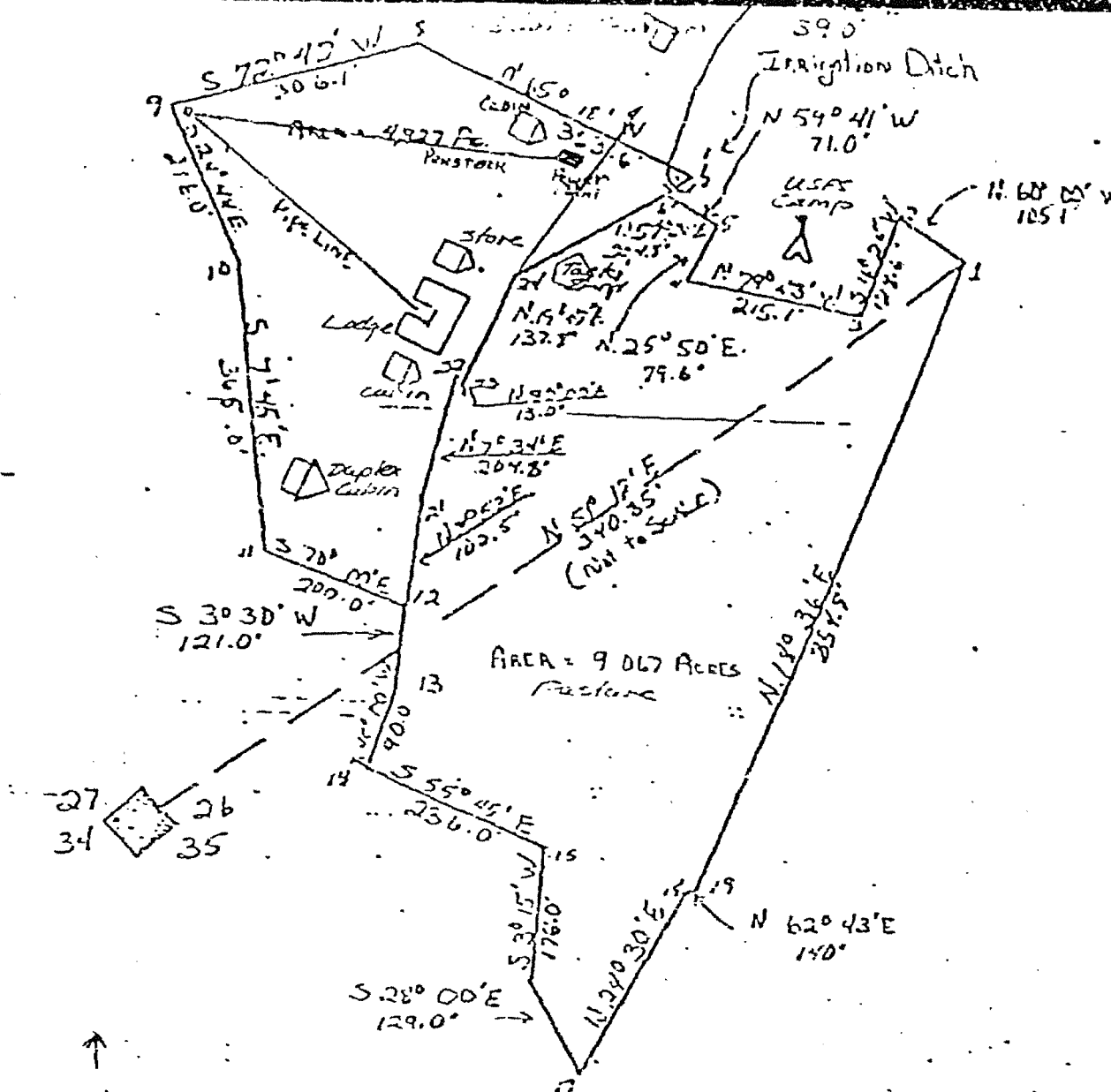
EXHIBIT G

MAPS OF THE PROJECT:

Map of Big Creek Area	G1
Relationship of Existing Facilities to Lodge and Special Use Permit Area	G2
Plat of Special Use Permit	G3







BIG CREEK HEADQUARTERS

PAYETTE NATIONAL FOREST

Big Creek Administrative Site

Big Creek Rec
Case Designation: Unlimited, Ir
Scale: 2 1/2 inches = 1 mile
T. 21 N. R. 9 E. Sec. 26
Map. Rec. 20-06
Field work by: Holzer and Bod
Plotted by: Nodds
Traced by: Wadsworth
Date: 8 / 17 / 71