

## GOSHUTE CREEK

Goshute Creek lies in north central White Pine County, Nevada, and covers some 6250 acres (see attached maps). It is located in the Cherry Creek Resource Area of the Ely (BLM) District. Stream flow originates in the Goshute Basin located in the northern portion of the Cherry Creek Mountains. The Goshute watershed is composed primarily of paleozoic deposits (limestones, shales & quartzites). The area is composed of three basic segments, the upper basin, the canyon area and alluvial fan. The upper basin is underlain primarily by shale bed rock. The canyon area is composed primarily of limestone and some quartzite rock formations and the fan is composed of a conglomerate of gravels and other alluvial materials, aggrading from coarse to fines from the head to the toe of the fan.

Topography is characterized by a narrow steep canyon which opens into a rather broad high mountain basin which is typically white and snow covered during the winter period. Elevation ranges from 6,000 to 10,500 feet.

The average precipitation is about 15-20 inches, occurring primarily as winter snow and fall and spring rains. The stream derives its water from springs fed by limestone aquifers. This is supplemented by runoff from snow melt and occasionally from summer thunderstorms.

Vegetation on the canyon slopes is composed predominantly of pinyon and juniper. This type changes to curl-leaf mahogany and white fir at the higher elevations. The basin proper is dominated by sagebrush with a forb grass understory. Riparian vegetation occupies the stream course along the canyon bottom and along the recent channel across the fan.

Vegetation type on the fan is largely low sage with some big sage. Soils on the upper fan area are shallow and underlain by a hard-pan.

The entire area adjacent to the creek is composed of national resource lands. In 1970 the area was classified and withdrawn as a scenic area, which segregates the area from agricultural and other types of entry except mining.

The stream was probably occupied by Beaver, but devoid of fish at the time white man entered the scene. Fish have, periodically been planted in the creek since early settlement times. The most recent plant was made by Nevada Department of Fish and Game (1960) in an effort to cultivate an endangered species of Cutthroat trout.

The stream is basically fertile as a fishery due to the limestone formations, soils and riparian vegetation. However, the quality of the fisheries has been reduced consequent to flood action head cutting and erosion along the stream channel. Erosion along the stream channel has been aggravated by activities of man. The most significant of which are construction and washout of detention and diversion structures, eradication of beavers and domestic livestock grazing practices.

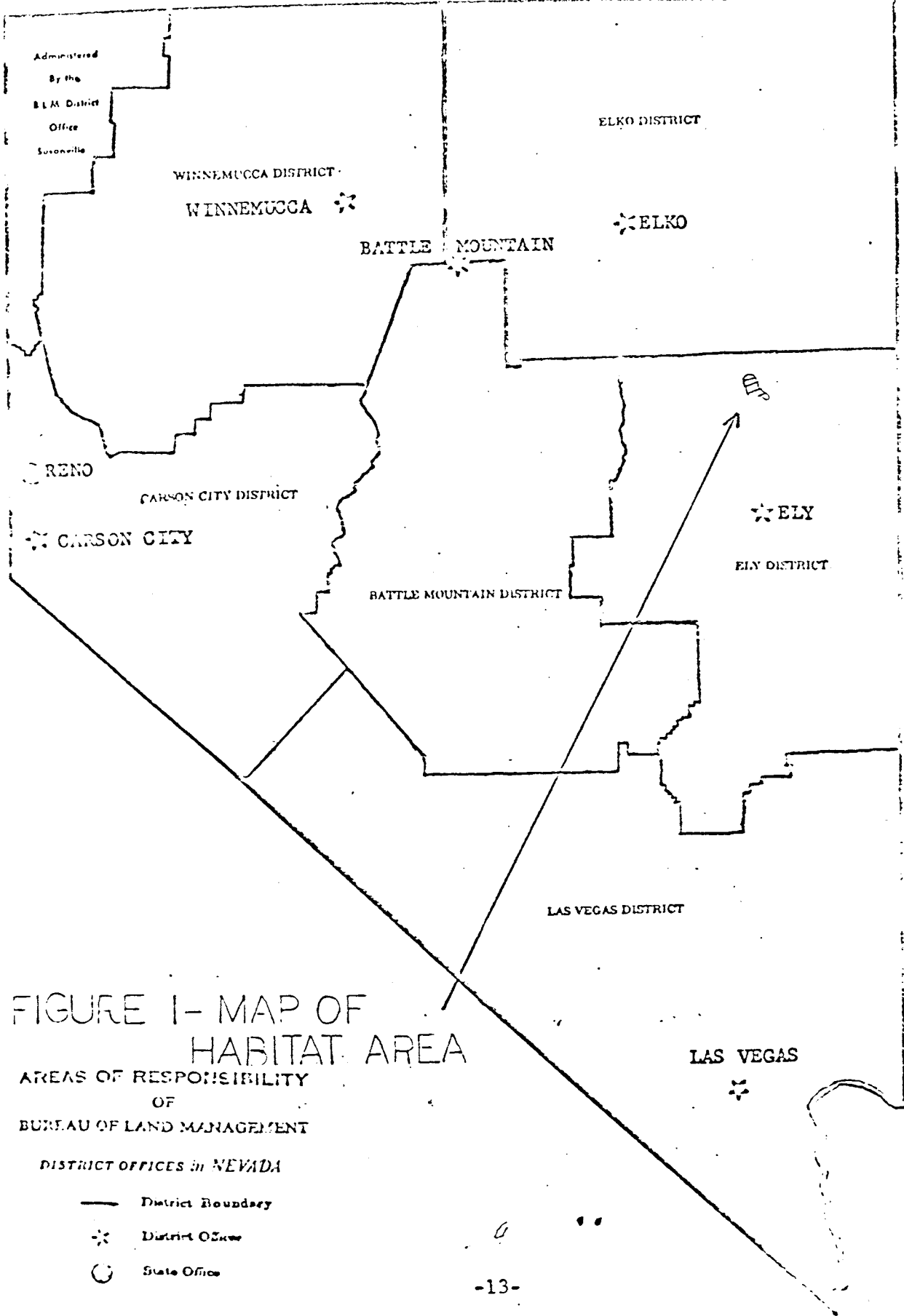
Current use of the creek and surrounding area is centered on agriculture, livestock grazing, recreation and wildlife. Water from the stream is used for irrigation by the owners of the Cherry Creek Ranch. Cattle from five locally based ranches are grazed in the area. The area has fairly significant scenic attractions. The nearby Goshute Cave adds to the interest of the area, and as mentioned, the Nevada Department of Fish and Game is endeavoring to cultivate an endangered native cutthroat trout. Deer, mountain lion, and other native species are relatively abundant in the canyon and upper basin areas.

In 1968 BLM initiated a wildlife or habitat management plan (HMP) for the area. The Plan has since undergone two revisions. A number of factors have deterred implementation of the Plan, the most significant of which have been the 1973 wash out and uncertainty over water status user agreements etc. Questions arose as to the feasibility of the original objectives which required additional study and investigation.

Items of most significance requiring attention are:

1. Head cutting and erosion of the stream channel.
2. Delivery of water across the alluvial fan to satisfy fishery and agricultural needs.
3. Implementation of grazing practices in the upper watershed designed to increase & sustain vegetative cover at an optimum level.
4. Management and protection of riparian vegetation.
5. Development structures and practices to increase and sustain the cutthroat population.

*The above items are the primary  
concerns of the project and should  
be given high priority in the  
development of the plan and in relation to the  
feasibility study.*



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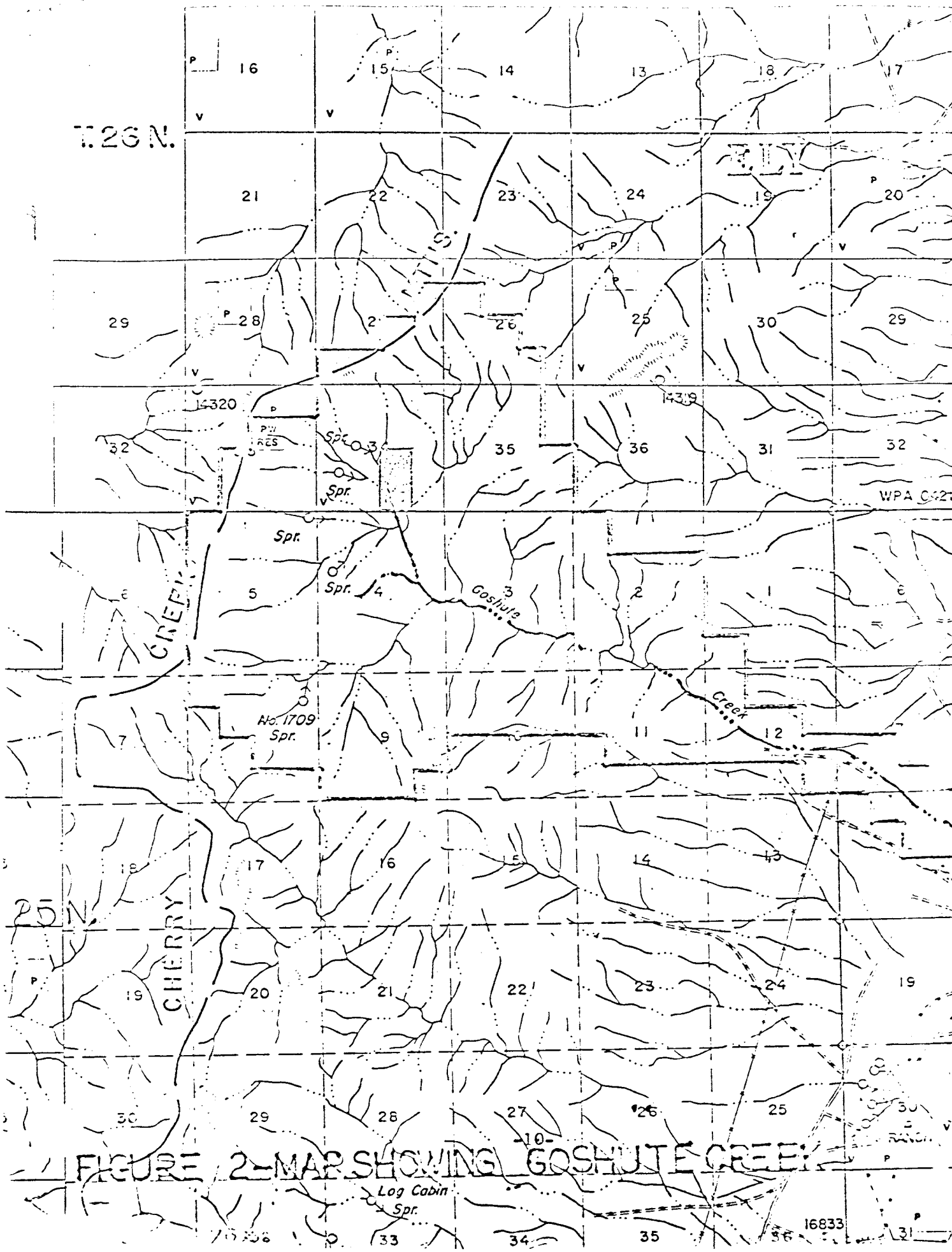


FIGURE 2-MAP SHOWING GOSHUTE CREEK

GOSHUTE CREEK WATERSHED

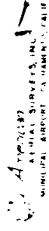
WHITE PINE COUNTY

NEVADA

ELY DISTRICT

(SEMI-CONTROLLED MOSAIC)

APRIL 2001



NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

— "NEW" CHANNEL

..... "ORIGINAL" CHANNEL

- - - ALLUVIAL FAN BOUNDARY

UPPER WATERSHED

LOWER WATERSHED

CANYON DAM

STREAM RECORDER

ALLUVIAL FAN

"ORIGINAL" CHANNEL

"NEW" CHANNEL

