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THE MULTIPLE-USE MINING LAW - SUCCESS OR FAILURE

On July 23, 1955, the President signed H.R. 5891, thus establishing Public Law 167, commonly referred to as the Multiple-Use Mining Law (see Ore.-Bin, August 1955). The law, which had the support of the American Mining Congress, the American Forestry Association, and the U.S. departments of Agriculture and Interior, was designed to curb abuses of the mining laws without disturbing their basic principle. Its purpose, according to the U.S. Forest Service, was "to bring the greatest good from our natural resources to the greatest number of people in the long run." The law was designed to do this by restricting the use of a mining claim, located after passage of the law, to activities related only to mining, authorizing the government to manage the surface rights including timber cutting, forage, and access, and allowing the mining claimant to use only that part of the surface of the claim required in mining operations. Also, it set up a procedure whereby the government bureaus could examine existing claims to determine their validity and, if proved invalid, to manage the surface resources (see Ore.-Bin, August 1955). In other words, Public Law 167 stopped mining claimants from withdrawing land exclusively for their own use and allowed a reappraisal of land withdrawn as mining claims before passage of the law.

Areas of examination and status of government bureau activities in Oregon in reappraising lands held by mining claims are given on following pages where it will be noted that more than 400,000 acres of U.S. Forest Service land has been examined or is in the process of examination and, in addition, a total of nearly 700,000 acres has been approved for examination. The Forest Service anticipates completion of examination of all its lands by 1965. Acreage examined to date by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management is not as great but is appreciable. In the coming months the examined land will be advertised and hearings will be held. The manner in which the government bureaus and the mining men approach the hearings and conduct themselves might well determine whether or not the Multiple-Use Mining Law will be a success and whether "the greatest good to the greatest number of people" will accrue.

It is believed that Public Law 167 is a good law and that it is in the public interest. It is hoped that all parties will accept the spirit of the legislation that legitimate mining is to be encouraged and that varied interests in the use of the land are compatible.

Since correction of the mining laws which allowed tying up of public land for a claimant's exclusive use, other special uses of public land distinctly stand out. Withdrawal of public land through various legal procedures seems contrary to the purpose of the Multiple-Use Mining Law, as such withdrawals limit use of the land to special interests. New discovery and development of mineral deposits, whether of minerals long known to industry or whether of the new "wonder" minerals such as uranium, zirconium, titanium, and the so-called rare earths, depend upon land being open to search. The greater the amount of land open to prospecting, the greater the chance of finding the minerals urgently needed for national security and for our modern "way of life." From the mineral industry standpoint, withdrawals undermine the basic principle behind the new law and could jeopardize the region's economy and national security.

If the Multiple-Use Mining Law is to serve its purpose, all parties concerned must realize now that public land use is for all interests. Special interests, even government bureaus, could seriously weaken this law before it has ever had a chance to be tried by insisting that withdrawals made for their purposes are in the public's interest while all other withdrawals are not.

H. M. D.

U.S. FOREST SERVICE LAND DETERMINATION AREAS

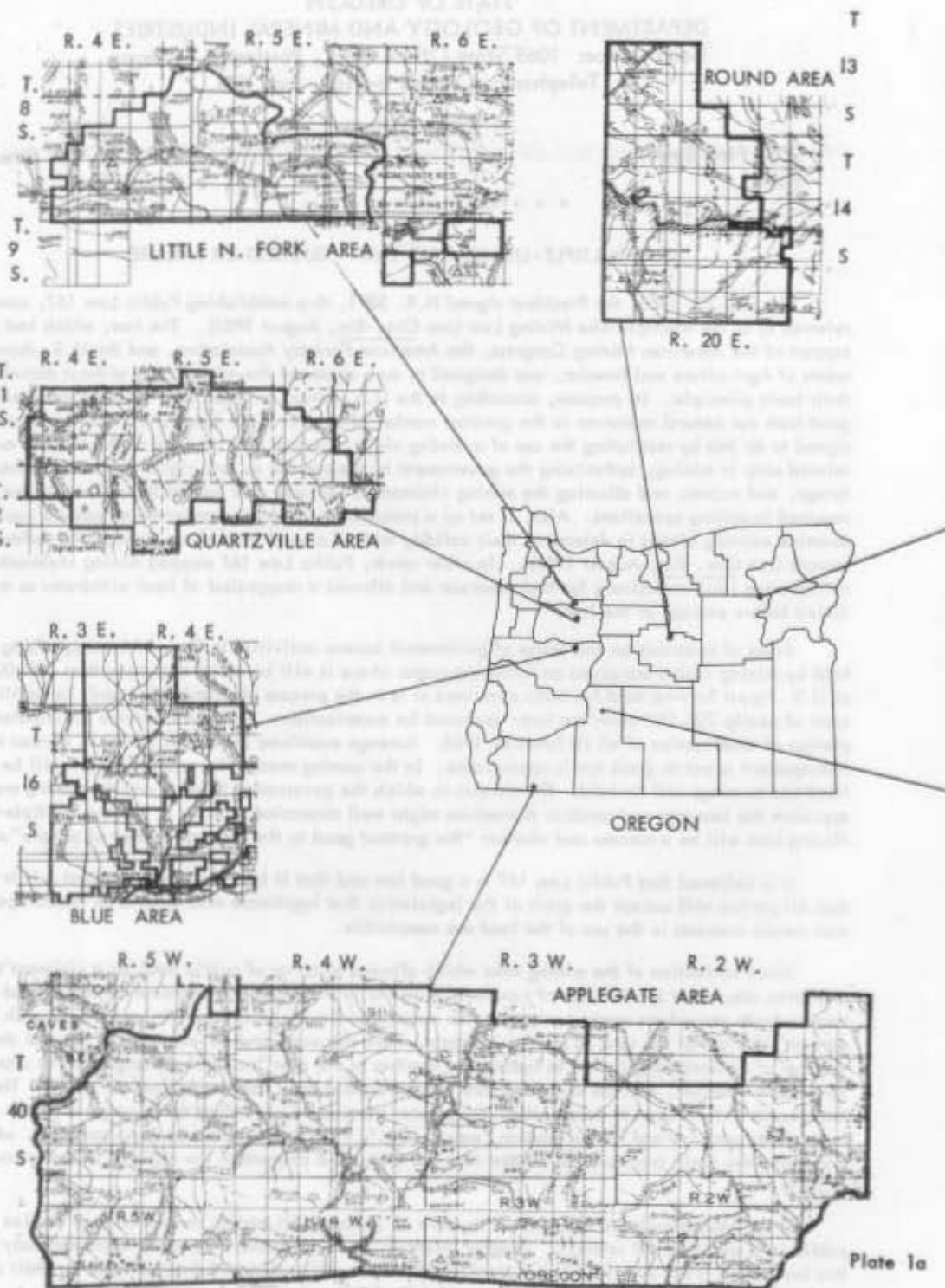


Plate 1a

U.S. FOREST SERVICE LAND DETERMINATION AREAS

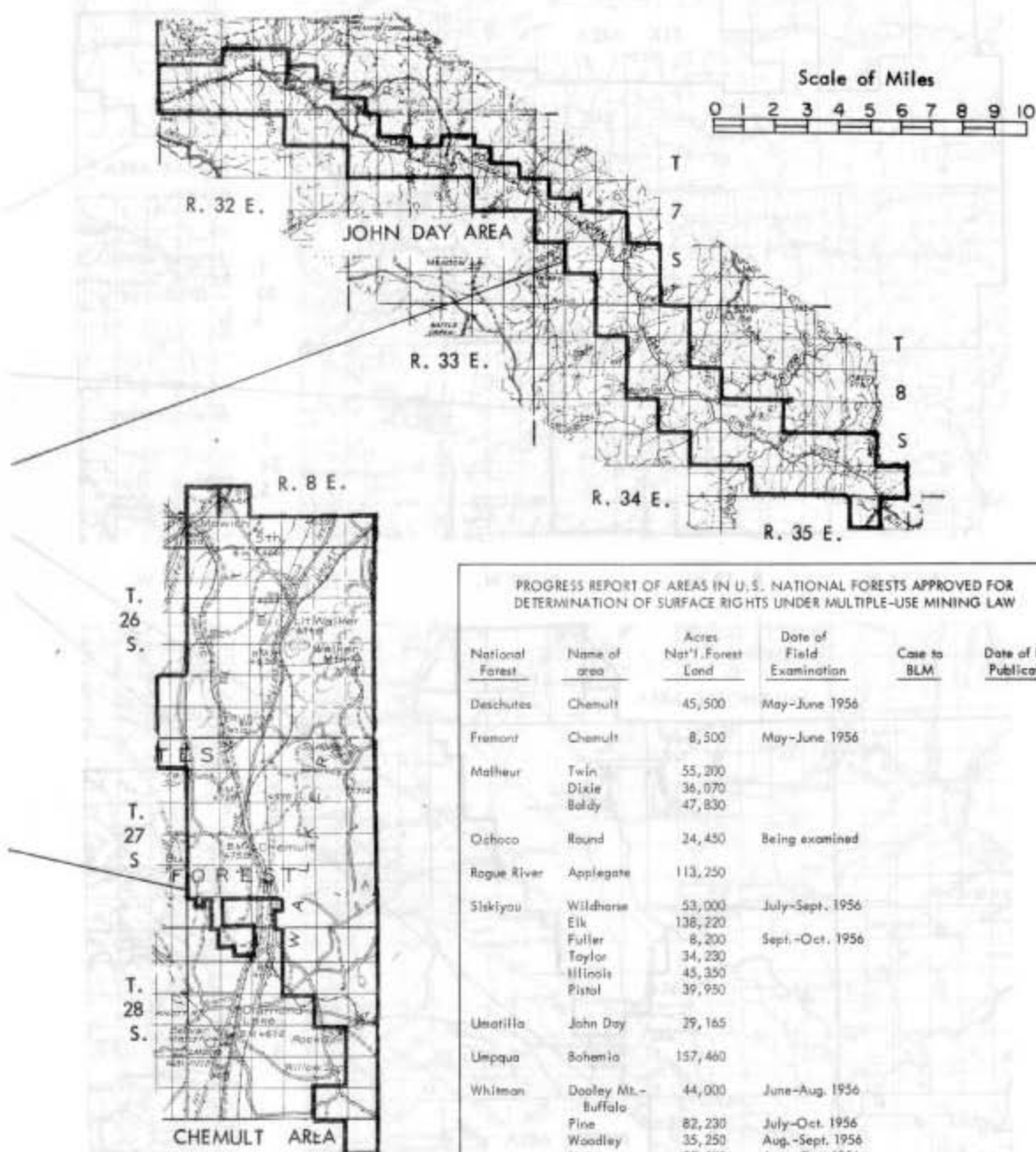
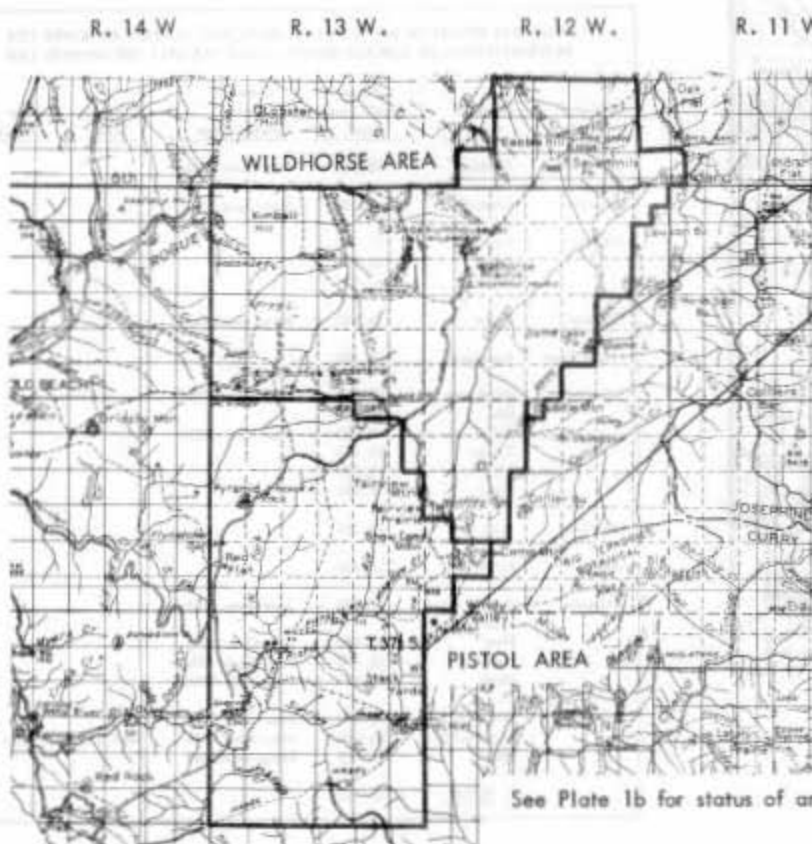
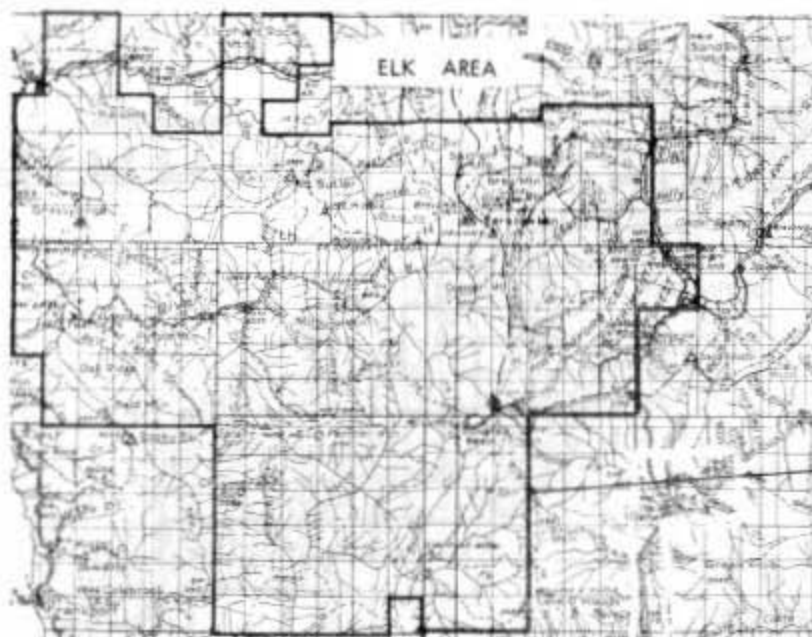


Plate 1b

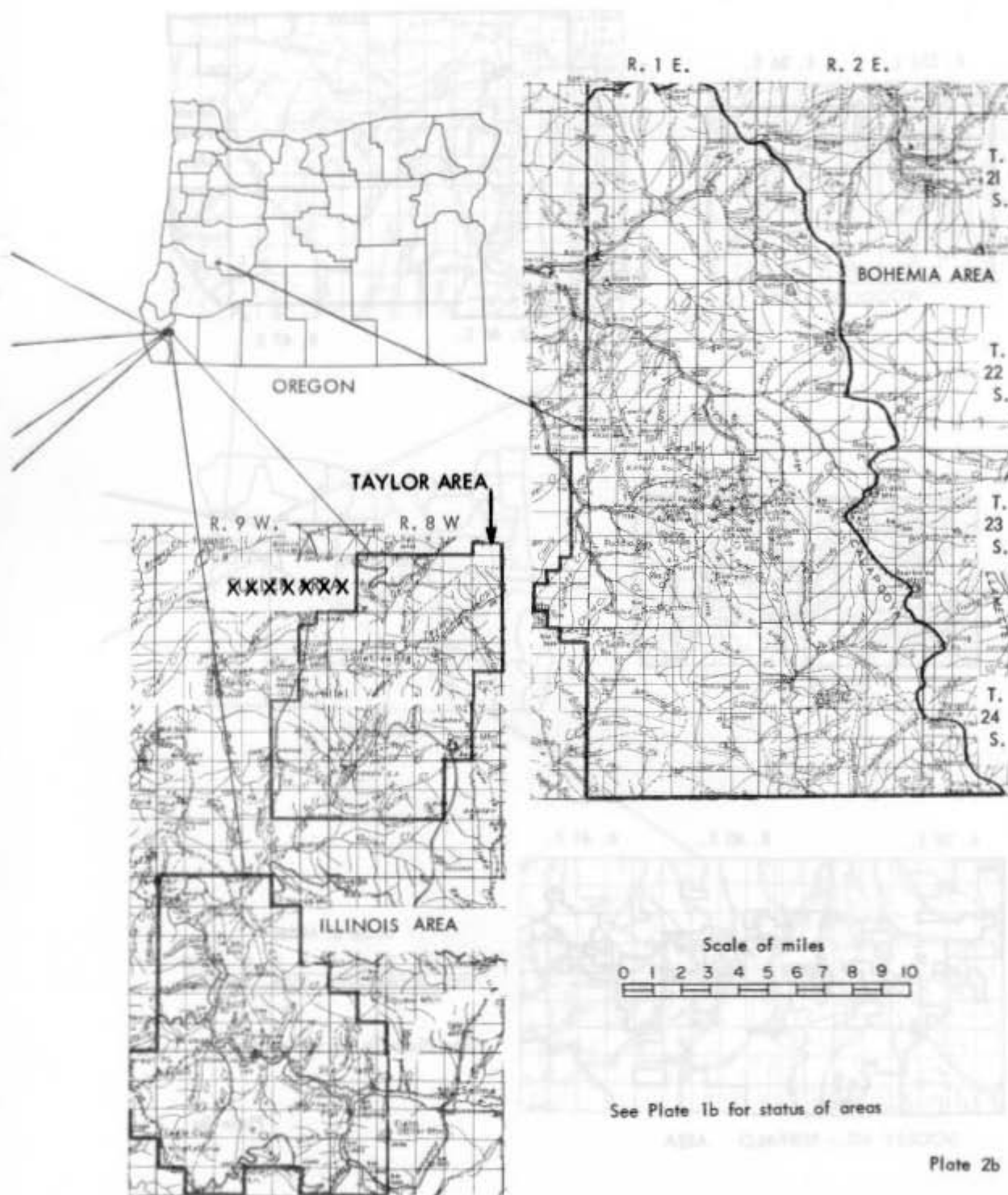
U.S. FOREST SERVICE LAND DETERMINATION AREAS



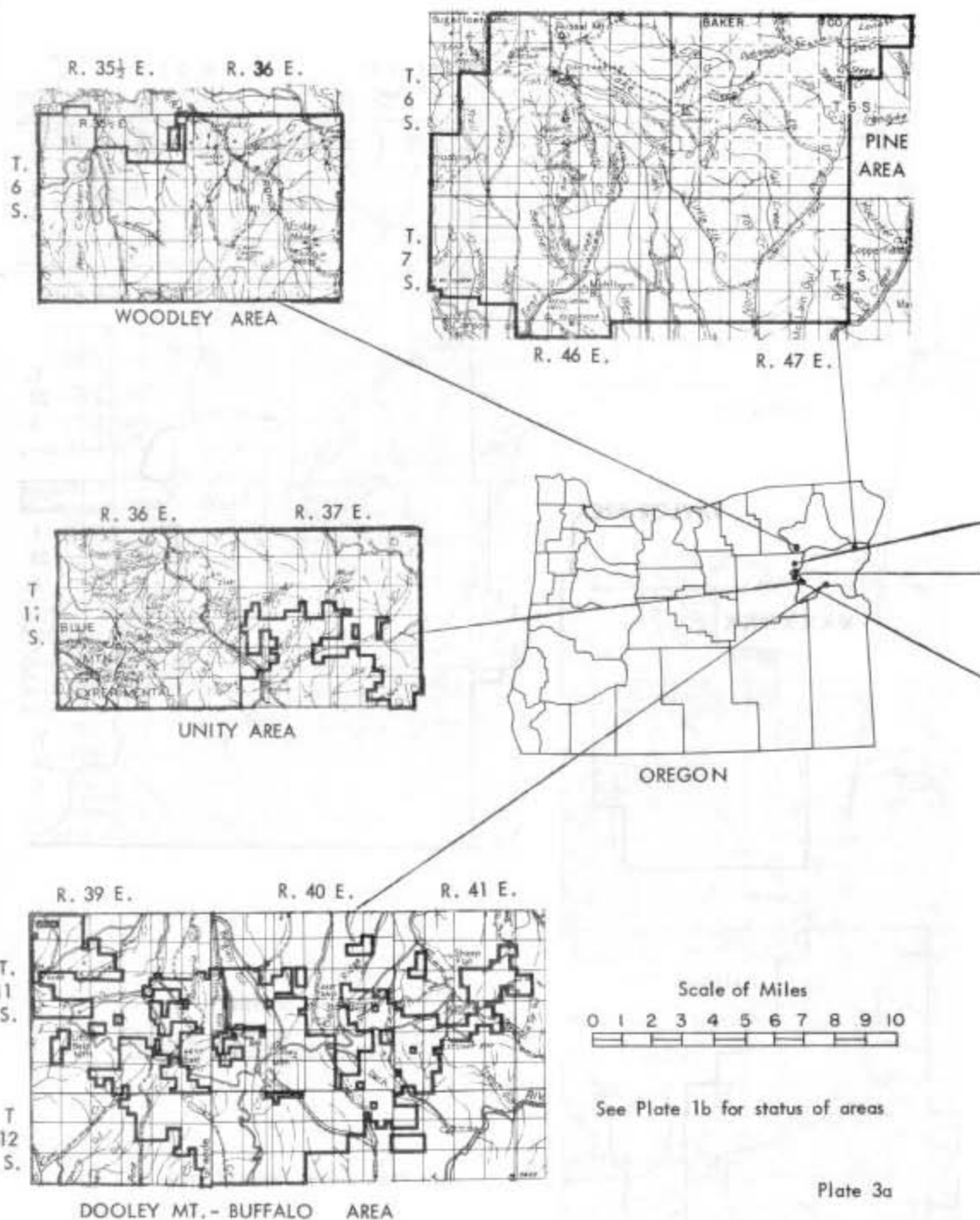
See Plate 1b for status of areas

Plate 2a

U.S. FOREST SERVICE LAND DETERMINATION AREAS



U.S. FOREST SERVICE LAND DETERMINATION AREAS



U.S. FOREST SERVICE LAND DETERMINATION AREAS

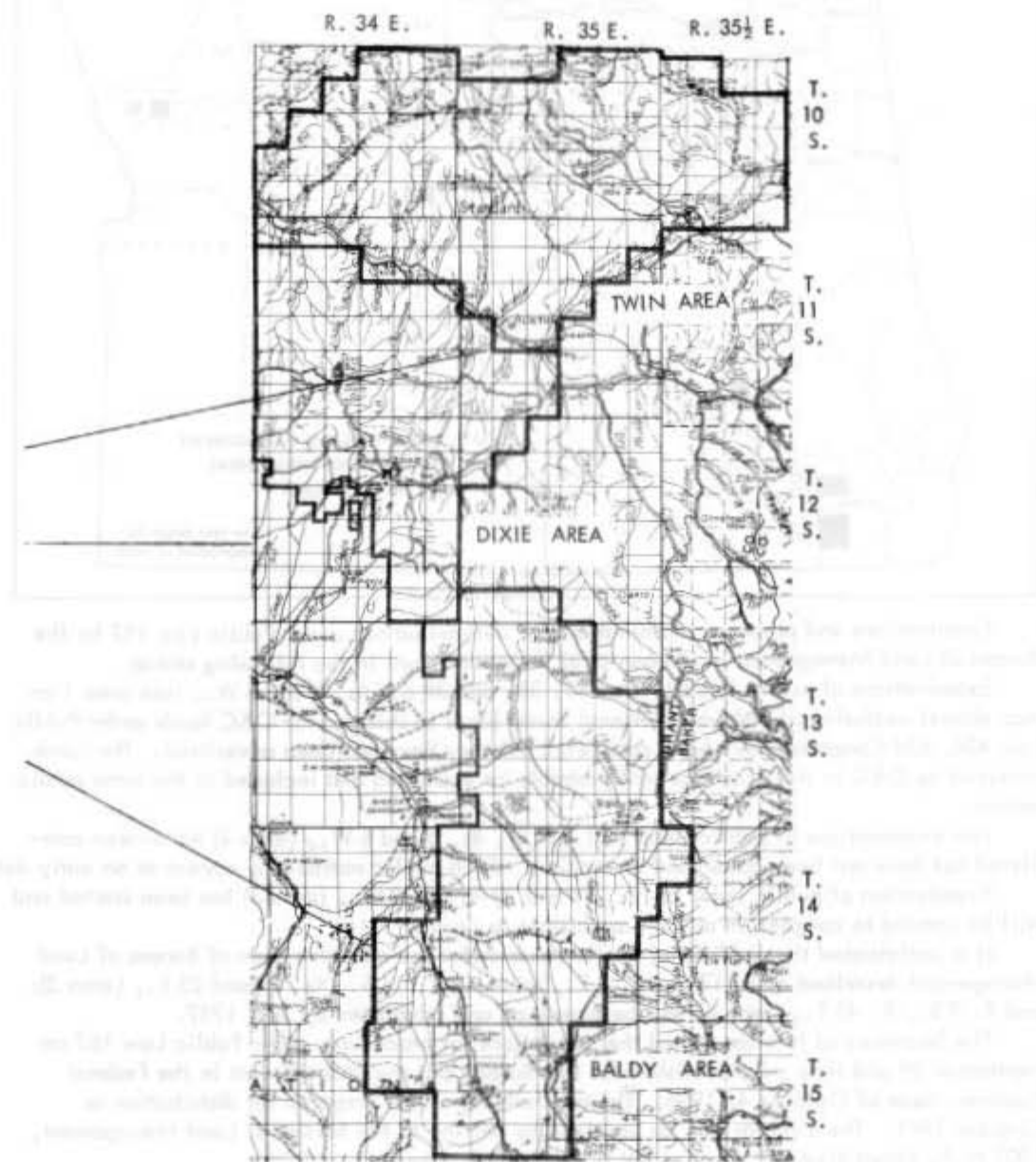
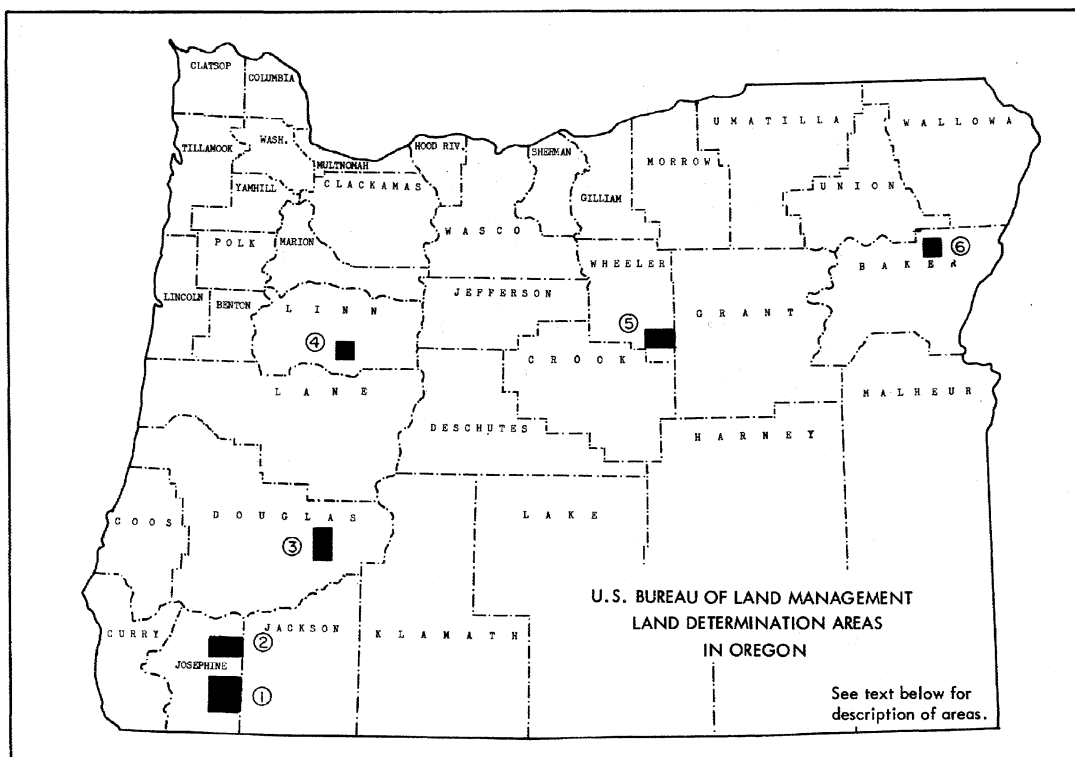


Plate 3b



Examinations and proposed examinations for determinations under Public Law 167 by the Bureau of Land Management in Oregon as of October 19 are in the following status:

Examinations of public lands in Tps. 37, 38, and 39 S., Rs. 5 and 6 W., (see area 1 on map above) exclusive of Siskiyou National forest lands exchanged for O&C lands under Public Law 426, 83d Congress, have been completed but they have not been advertised. The lands received by O&C in the exchange will probably be examined and included in the same public notice.

The examinations of public lands in T. 34 S., Rs. 5 and 6 W., (area 2) have been completed but have not been advertised as required. Such public notice may appear at an early date.

Examination of public lands in Tps. 29 and 30 S., R. 2 W., (area 3) has been started and will be carried to completion as soon as possible to do so.

It is anticipated that additional public lands under the administration of Bureau of Land Management described as T. 12 S., R. 3 E., (area 4); T. 13 S., Rs. 24 and 25 E., (area 5); and T. 7 S., R. 43 E., (area 6) will be examined and advertised by July 1957.

The Secretary of Interior signed the regulations for procedures under Public Law 167 on September 28 and they were published for the Bureau of Land Management in the Federal Register, issue of October 4, 1956. The regulations will be prepared for distribution as Circular 1961. The circular may be obtained by writing to the Bureau of Land Management, 1001 N.E. Lloyd Blvd., P.O. Box 3861, Portland 8, Oregon.

An explanation of Public Law 167, the Multiple-Use Mining Law, was given in the August 1955 issue of the Ore.-Bin. The procedures under which the U.S. Forest Service is conducting land determinations and the rights of claim holders were discussed in the April 1956 Ore.-Bin. Persons desiring copies of these Ore.-Bins may obtain them at no charge by writing to the Department of Geology and Mineral Industries, 1069 State Office Building, Portland 1, Oregon.

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ROGUE RIVER WITHDRAWAL HEARING ANNOUNCED

The State Office of the Bureau of Land Management has announced Tuesday, November 20, 1956, as the hearing date on the proposed withdrawal from prospecting and mining of 23,358 acres of public land along the Rogue River (see Ore.-Bin, pp. 7-8, January 1956, for map and description). The hearing will be held in the Circuit Court Room, Josephine County Courthouse in Grants Pass and will begin at 9:00 a.m.

The announcement on the hearing for the proposed withdrawals states: "The proposals would withdraw national forest lands from appropriation under the general mining laws and the remaining public lands from all forms of appropriation under the public land laws, including the general mining laws, except designated areas which may be classified for lease under the Small Tract Act and, if authorized, lease and sale under the Recreational Act of 1926, as amended."

The hearing will be open to all interested persons who desire to be heard. Those who desire to be heard in person at the hearing and those who desire to submit written statements should file notice not later than November 13, 1956, with the State Supervisor, Bureau of Land Management, 1001 N.E. Lloyd Blvd., P.O. Box 3861, Portland 8, Oregon.

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NEW DRILLING PERMIT

State Drilling Permit No. 20 was issued to Oroco Oil and Gas Company, Payette, Idaho, October 15, 1956, for a test drilling in Lot 1, sec. 18, T. 24 S., R. 33 E., Harney County, Oregon. The lessor is the Portland Company, 6455 S.W. Scholls Ferry Road, Portland, Oregon, and the test is to be called the Portland Co. No. 1.

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BRITISH GEOLOGISTS VISIT LATERITE DEPOSITS OF WESTERN OREGON

Dr. Victor A. Eyles, who retired last year from the Geological Survey of Great Britain, and his wife, who is also a geologist, were recent visitors to Oregon to examine the nickeliferous and aluminous laterite deposits of the western part of the State. Dr. and Mrs. Eyles were official delegates to the International Geological Congress at Mexico City in September and came to this country at the conclusion of the meeting.

During their visit to Oregon, members of the Department showed the Eyles the nickel laterite deposits on Nickel Mountain, currently being mined by the Hanna Coal and Ore Corporation, and the ferruginous bauxite deposits in Washington and Columbia counties and in the Salem Hills, Marion County. Dr. Eyles noted that the ferruginous bauxites of northwestern Oregon are very similar geologically and in composition to the Antrim deposits of Ireland and said that it had been his wish for many years to come to this country to examine these deposits first hand. During World War II, when imports of aluminum from South America were curtailed, Dr. Eyles made a detailed study of the Antrim laterites for the British Geological Survey. Following his investigation, more than 500,000 tons of bauxite ore were mined from the Irish deposits until the end of the war.

Dr. and Mrs. Eyles left Oregon to visit in Vancouver, B.C. From there they will go to the University of Illinois where Dr. Eyles will lecture on laterites of the world, after which they will travel to Jamaica, B.W.I., to study bauxite deposits on that Island.

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NEW MEDFORD QUADRANGLE MAP PUBLISHED

"Geologic map of the Medford quadrangle, Oregon-California," by Francis G. Wells and others, has just been published by the U.S. Geological Survey. A preliminary issue of the map was published in 1939 in cooperation with the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries. The new edition includes a number of minor changes and additional details. Several new formational names have been introduced for Cretaceous and Tertiary units. A revised text and bibliography are included.

The map, designated as GQ 89, is one of the Geologic Quadrangle Map series and is for sale only by the U.S. Geological Survey, Denver Federal Center, Denver, Colorado. Price has not been announced.

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ALBANY, OREGON - THE NATION'S NEWEST METAL-PRODUCING CENTER

Members of the Oregon Section of the American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers who met in Albany, Oregon, October 19, had the opportunity to visit Oregon's two new metallurgical plants operated by the Wah Chang Corporation and the Oregon Metallurgical Corporation for production of zirconium and titanium.

The Wah Chang Corporation is operating the Bureau of Mines zirconium plant and is under a contract with AEC to produce about 300,000 pounds of high-purity sponge annually for at least two years. Demand for zirconium has increased to the extent that Wah Chang is already beginning construction of a larger plant of its own in the Albany area.

The newly formed Oregon Metallurgical Corporation has just completed its plant for the production of titanium and zirconium ingots and castings from sponge. General manager is Stephen M. Shelton, former Bureau of Mines Regional Chief, under whose direction the Kroll process for the reduction and working of the two metals was perfected by the Bureau. The new plant recently began commercial production and may eventually produce ingots and castings of such metals as hafnium, tantalum, and columbium.

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NEW OUTLOOK FOR NORTHWEST ALUMINA CLAY

According to The Wallace Miner (October 11), Anaconda has announced that it will build a \$1,000,000 pilot plant in Latah County, Idaho, to test a new process developed by its research department for the recovery of alumina from clays.

The Pacific Northwest has vast deposits of alumina clay. Idaho deposits in the Moscow-Troy-Deary area of Latah County are estimated to contain as much as 500,000,000 tons averaging 20 to 24 percent alumina. Oregon has clay deposits of considerable tonnage near Molalla in Clackamas County and sizeable deposits in Lane and Douglas counties averaging 27 percent alumina.

Anaconda has long been interested in alumina clay deposits, but early experiments in upgrading the clay failed because processes were too costly. The Company's new process coupled with the recent piping of natural gas into the region has greatly improved the outlook for commercial utilization of Northwest clays. The Anaconda Company has an aluminum reduction plant at Columbia Falls, Montana, and an aluminum fabricating plant at Great Falls, Montana.

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WORLD'S DEEPEST OIL WELL

The world's deepest oil well, located in southern Louisiana, has broken two world records: it is the deepest well, with a total depth of 22,570 feet, and the deepest producing well, producing from a depth of 17,306 feet. In spite of the enormous depth of this well, the bottom of the hole is in Miocene rocks.

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