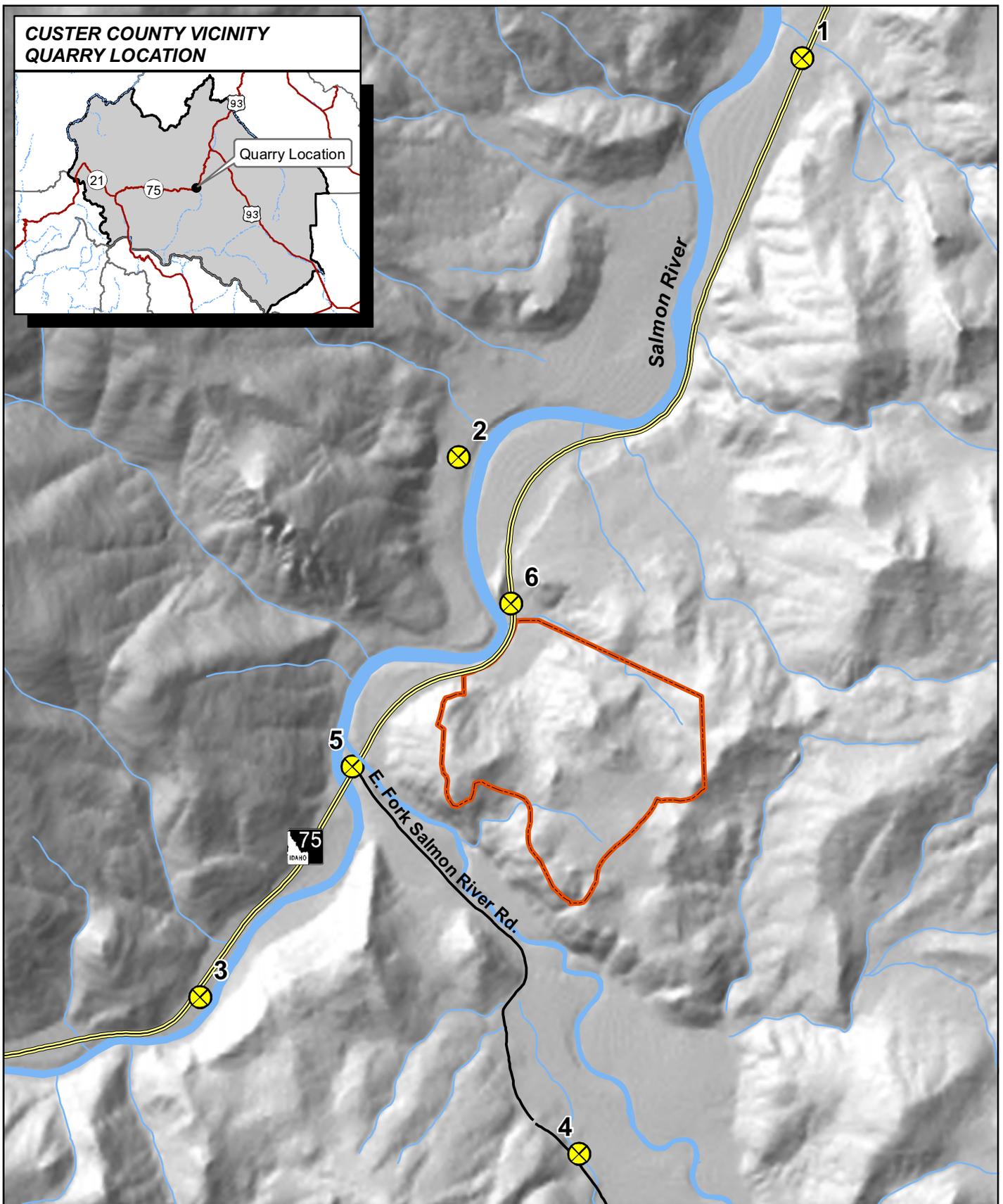
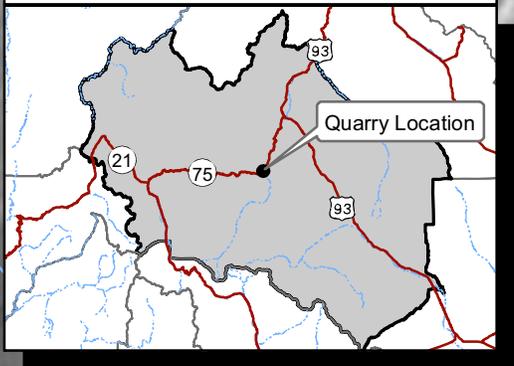


**CUSTER COUNTY VICINITY  
QUARRY LOCATION**

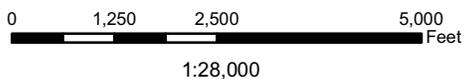


**Legend**

- Key Observation Points
- Project Area
- Streams and Rivers



Figure 3.3-6. Key Observation Points



**Three Rivers Stone Quarry  
L & W Stone**



KOP 1

This observation point is approximately 2.5 miles northeast of the Proposed Project Area and is positioned to characterize the landscape conditions that motorists experience when traveling southwest on SH-75. From this point the quarry is visible in the middleground zone of the landscape (Figure 3.3-7).



**Figure 3.3-7. KOP 1 – View Looking Southwest (2006).**

From this perspective the landscape can be classified according to two major features – the Salmon River floodplain and the surrounding uplands. Natural contrasts between the floodplain and the adjacent uplands present different patterns of landscape form and complexity. The floodplain is relatively simple with gentle horizontal slopes and lines. The uplands appear more complex, with irregular slopes more vertical than horizontal, prominent rock outcrops, and talus toe slopes. The floodplain displays a greater concentration of cultural modifications (e.g. roads, fences, houses) than the surrounding uplands. The colors tend to be less muted in the floodplain than the surrounding uplands during the growing season due to irrigated vegetation and cottonwood trees. This color distinction between floodplain and the surrounding uplands is seasonal, with less contrast in the winter.

Mining activity at the Proposed Project Area would have been less visible from this KOP in 1992. No historic photographs of the quarry site are available from this perspective.

However, photographs of the Proposed Project Area taken in 1992 from other perspectives (Figure 3.3-1) show less surface disturbance at the quarry site than what is presented in Figure 3.3-7. For example, the Pit 1 waste rock storage pile did not exist in 1992. Also, what is now referred to as the Pit 1 footwall was not relatively apparent in 1992. Some surface disturbance was present at what is now Pit 1; however that disturbance was not likely to be noticed by the casual observer from this KOP. The feature of the quarry that may have been visible in 1992 would have been the mining road. The mining road at that time had several switchbacks and allowed vehicles to ascend the steep slope visible from this perspective at the quarry. This road cut may have been visible at this distance but would have presented a minor visual contrast in a localized area. The duration of observation from this perspective is approximately 2 minutes if traveling by automobile along SH-75. Farmers who work the fields adjacent to this KOP may experience this view for several hours.

### KOP 2

This observation point is located approximately 0.5 mile north of the Proposed Project Area and is positioned in an attempt to characterize the landscape relative to the Salmon River (Figure 3.3-8).

The duration of observation from this perspective depends on the type of recreational activity. Recreational activities at this location result in view durations from several minutes to several hours depending on activity type. The Salmon River represents a destination point for many recreational activities such as boaters or fishermen. Boaters traveling down the Salmon River would experience view durations of several minutes, while fishermen could experience view duration of several hours, depending on length of stay.

From this perspective (Figure 3.3-8) the Salmon River is the dominant feature of the landscape partially due to its presence in the foreground. Cultural modifications associated with the floodplain (e.g. highway, transmission lines, etc.) are not visible here due to the line of sight obstruction. Therefore, the naturalness of the landscape is greater at this perspective than from other KOPs along the highway. Cultural modification of the landscape is visible from this KOP in the middleground distance zone at the Proposed Project Area where rock piles form evenly spaced talus slopes instead of the irregularly spaced talus slopes found in the surrounding landscape. Mining roads appear to form contrasts in line as they trend horizontally in the middleground zone where vertical lines are most common. The reflectivity of the Pit 1 footwall presents some isolated contrast in brightness from this perspective, though not to the extent of KOP 1 or KOP 6.



**Figure 3.3-8. KOP 2 – View Looking South (2006).**

Surface disturbance and landscape alteration would have been less visible from this perspective in 1992. There are no historic photographs of the Proposed Project Area from this perspective available. However, photographs of the Proposed Project Area taken in 1992 from other perspectives (Figure 3.3-1 and Figure 3.3-4) show much less surface disturbance at the quarry site than what is presented in Figure 3.3-8. The quarry would have appeared more natural than it does now and visual contrasts would have been relatively low from this perspective in 1992. The mining road would have presented some contrast in a localized area of this view as it traversed the slope to what is now called Pit 1. Vehicles may have been present along this road infrequently. Color and texture contrasts would have been relatively low vegetation which occupied much of the site where waste rock piles exist today. Lines would have trended more vertically than horizontally in the Proposed Project Area due to the natural landscape form and absence of terraces. The slot cut visible on the right-hand side of Figure 3.3-8 would appear as a concave depression of undeveloped rangeland vegetation and rock outcrops, and would have obscured more of the background view which is now visible.

### KOP 3

This observation point is approximately 1 mile southwest of the Proposed Project Area and is positioned to characterize the landscape conditions that motorists experience when traveling

northeast along the SH-75 corridor (Figure 3.3-9). The quarry is just visible in the middleground zone from this perspective.



**Figure 3.3-9. KOP 3 – View Looking Northeast (2006).**

The Salmon River Valley is narrow from this perspective and complex topography in the surrounding uplands dominates the view. The colors in the uplands are more muted than that of the Salmon River Valley but complex geologic formations and rock outcrops draw the attention of the casual observer to the uplands. Only a very small portion of the Proposed Project Area is visible from this perspective. The top of the Pit 1 highwall is visible from this perspective as a thin light brown strip in the middleground distance zone. This surface disturbance may not be noticeable to a passerby who is not aware of current operations at the quarry. The majority of people who see the Proposed Project Area from this perspective are traveling by motorized vehicle on SH-75. The rate of travel along this corridor results in short duration views of approximately 30 seconds by most observers.

Visual baseline conditions would have been similar to those depicted in Figure 3.3-9 with one distinction. The top of the Pit 1 highwall would have been more visible from this perspective, because it was taller in 1992. The visual effect would have been minor but did result in a slightly more complex view than that presented in Figure 3.3-9 because of the additional feature in the middleground distance zone. There are no historic photographs available from this perspective. It is likely that the portion of the highwall visible from this

perspective in 1992 was also darker than it appears in Figure 3.3-9 due to exposed rock outcrops and sparse vegetation. The Salmon River itself was also a sub-dominant feature of the landscape relative to the surrounding uplands due to the effects of scale and perspective. Viewing angles were concentrated along SH-75 (floodplain). Cultural modifications such as roads, structures, and residences were concentrated along the floodplain and sparse in the uplands.

#### KOP 4

This observation point is approximately 1 mile south of the Proposed Project Area and is positioned to characterize the landscape conditions that motorists experience when traveling northwest on East Fork Salmon River Road (Figure 3.3-10). The quarry site would appear in the middle ground zone when viewed from this point.



**Figure 3.3-10. KOP 4 – View Looking North (2006).**

The landscape can be described according to differences in the floodplain versus the surrounding uplands. Cultural modifications are common in the valley bottom which is wide and flat from this perspective. The landscape of the uplands displays greater complexity than that of the floodplain due to topography, vegetation types, and colors. Colors in the uplands are generally more muted browns and greens where bright greens dominate the floodplain during the growing season. Color contrasts between the floodplain and the uplands may be

less apparent in the winter although more snow would accumulate in the floodplain. Most activity associated with current mining operations is not directly visible from this perspective due to obstructions in the line of site. There is a localized area of surface disturbance visible in the middleground distance zone where an old mining road was reclaimed. Vegetation has not yet become fully established along this localized area and appears as a localized contrast in line and color. View duration at this location is varied based on the presence of the East Fork Salmon River Road and residences along the East Fork Salmon River. Motorists traveling along SH-93 experience view durations of approximately 1 to 2 minutes. The residences scattered along the East Fork Salmon River valley experience prolonged view durations from this perspective. This KOP attempts to characterize the Proposed Project Area for those residences.

Visual baseline conditions would have been similar to those depicted in Figure 3.3-10. A localized area of the middleground distance zone would have appeared more massive because it has been laid back and reduced in height since 1992. Under visual baseline conditions the backside of the Pit 1 highwall would have obscured slightly more of the background distance zone. Also, the reclaimed mining road would not have been visible in 1992.

#### KOP 5

This observation point is approximately 1,500 feet west of the Proposed Project Area and is positioned to characterize the landscape conditions that recreational visitors experience when camping at the East Fork Campground (Figure 3.3-11).

Recreational activities at the campground result in prolonged view durations for the majority of observers of approximately 1 to 2 days based on a typical weekend camping trip. Current operations at the quarry site are not visible from the East Fork Campground located at the confluence of the East Fork Salmon and Salmon Rivers due to the landform and perspective. From this perspective riparian vegetation associated with the East Fork Salmon River appears in the foreground with cultural modifications associated with the campground and road. The upland geology and vegetation dominate the middleground zone. Cultural modifications are generally absent in the middle ground zone, colors are more muted, and textures are finer than the foreground. Vegetation associated with the foreground is coarse with brighter hues than the middleground. Visual baseline conditions would have been the same as those presented in Figure 3.3-11 with the exception of some picnic tables and other structures in the foreground at the campground.



**Figure 3.3-11. KOP 5 – View from the East Fork Campground, Looking Southeast (2006).**

#### KOP 6

This observation point is less than 500 feet from the northern boundary of the Proposed Project Area and is positioned to characterize the landscape conditions that motorists experience when passing the quarry on SH-75 (Figure 3.3-12). The quarry appears in the foreground from this point. From this perspective the scale of current operations dominates the field of view. Surface disturbance and alteration of rock outcroppings appear lighter in color relative to the surrounding landscape. Motorists passing the administration area would observe surface disturbance, equipment, and structures that give the area an industrial appearance.

The Proposed Project Area displays disturbed and undisturbed areas. Disturbed areas include bare ground, altered rock outcrop patterns, areas of waste rock and fill material, and unpaved roads. Structures and equipment are visible at dispersed locations throughout the quarry site. An important consideration from this KOP is view duration, which is relatively short. Motorists would experience this view for approximately 30 seconds based on the general rates and direction of travel along the highway at this location. Visual contrasts at the quarry site are relatively high due to the appearance of surface disturbance and modifications to landscape form in the foreground.



**Figure 3.3-12. KOP 6 – View Looking Southeast (2006).**

Visual contrasts in 1992 would have been lower than those depicted in Figure 3.3-12, though not altogether absent. Although no photograph from this perspective is available from 1992, Figure 3.3-1 gives the reader some idea of the landscape at that time. The most obvious difference between visual baseline conditions and current conditions is the amount of waste rock visible. Very little waste rock would have been visible in 1992. In its place, would have been natural vegetation more continuous at the toe slope than near the ridge. The landform would have appeared as a concave slope increasing in pitch toward the top where rock outcrops mingled with sparse vegetation. Surface disturbance at the administration area was visible in the foreground in 1992 and would have appeared lighter in color relative to the surrounding landscape. Also, there would have been fewer vehicles and structures visible at the administration area relative to current conditions. Contrasts in line would have been visible at the administrative area where roads existed. The Spar Canyon Powerline Road, visible in Figure 3.3-12 in the middleground distance zone just above the administration area, was present in 1992 and presented the same visual contrasts as it does now.

### **3.3.5 Transportation, Access and Public Safety**

Several roads (gravel and dirt) currently exist within the Proposed Project Area and were created to facilitate operations at the quarry (Figure 3.3-13). The mine area road system is dynamic with old roads reclaimed and new roads constructed as needed.