

# CHAPTER 2

## RESOURCE DECISIONS

### INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the planned actions for the Book Cliffs Resource Management Plan. It covers all of the issues, objectives, and actions that were analyzed in the Book Cliffs Final RMP/EIS. It provides priorities and a schedule for completing the intended actions.

This plan also includes a plan for monitoring the actions to determine their effectiveness. The monitoring program is essential to the BLM's ability to effectively determine whether the forage allocations, off-road vehicle designations, oil and gas categories and numerous other resource trade-off decisions, are going to produce the desired results in land management.

This plan is presented by programs. The plan discusses programs which include issues and resource management programs which were not issues, but are, however, important functions of the BLM's administrative responsibility. Each program states an objective, and intended actions, priorities, schedule for accomplishment, a monitoring method and cost estimates (to the extent possible).

The approval of this RMP is the first step in the plan implementation process. This RMP presents the resource allocation decisions and provides directions for development of more specific activity and project planning. The activity and project planning phase generally provides the guidance on implementing the RMP decisions, actions, cost phasing, scheduling, maintenance, and monitoring, involving areas where extensive capital expenditures are required. The program specific activity plans (i.e., Allotment Management Plans, Habitat Management Plans, Watershed Management Plans) will be prepared as outlined under the specific actions for each program. When several program priorities require activity plans in a common geographic area, a coordinated activity plan may be prepared. The final step will be on-the-ground implementation, including appropriate mitigation. Maintenance of any improvements will be continued as directed in the appropriate plans.

## MINERALS

### Objective:

Oil and gas, tar sands, oil shale, and gilsonite will be leased while other resource values will be protected or mitigated. Sand, gravel and building stone will be provided where compatible with other resource uses. Locatable minerals will be administered according to the 43 CFR 3809 regulations.

### Actions:

#### Oil and Gas

Approximately 552,000 acres will be available for oil and gas lease using standard stipulations.

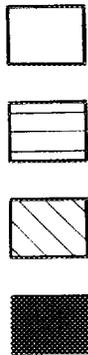
About 460,000 acres will be managed with special mitigating measures required to protect various renewable resource values. Wildlife values include: Deer fawning and elk calving areas, the Monument Ridge Deer Migration Corridor, crucial winter elk habitat such as old chainings and burns, crucial antelope habitat, and sage grouse leks. Watershed values include: One hundred year floodplains, severe and critical erosion areas, and public water reserves. Recreation values include Visual Resource Management (VRM) Class II areas, and three scenic travel corridors. The Green River Corridor, from the boundary of the Dinosaur National Monument to Ouray, and the White River Corridor, upstream from the proposed damsite, will receive special mitigation to protect important wildlife, watershed, and recreation values.

Surface occupancy will be precluded on approximately 16,000 acres to protect wildlife, watershed, and recreation values along the Green River Corridor, adjacent to the Dinosaur Monument, from Ouray to Tabyago canyon, and the White River Corridor, downstream from the proposed damsite. In addition, two scenic overlooks, five campsites, two geological features, the Boulevard Ridge Watershed Study Area, and the Book Cliffs Natural Area, will be fully protected. Oil and gas leases will not be issued within the Naval Oil Shale Reserve (Figure 2-1).

A listing of the stipulations that will be applicable to future leases has been developed, and is presented in the microfiche entitled "Oil, Gas, and Combined Hydrocarbon Lease

# LOCATION OF WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS, NAVAL OIL SHALE RESERVE II, RECLAMATION AND POWER SITE WITHDRAWALS

Figure 2 - 1



Wilderness Study Areas

Leased Oil Shale Tracts

Naval Oil Shale Reserve II

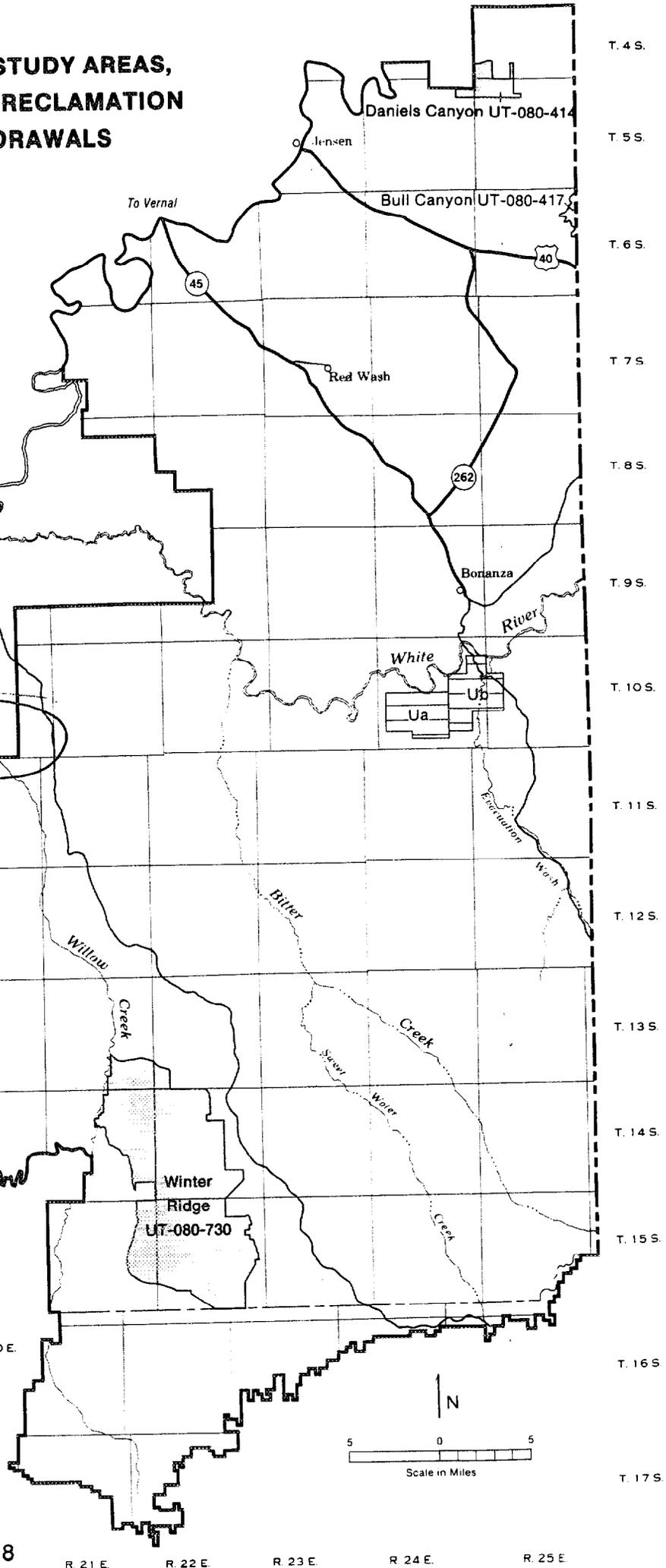
Reclamation and Power Site  
Withdrawals

This only shows Naval Oil Shale  
Reserve on BLM managed land.

Uinta and Ouray  
Indian Reservation

R. 17 E. R. 18 E. R. 19 E. R. 20 E.

**BOOK CLIFFS RESOURCE AREA**



Stipulations", found inside the back cover of this document. An example of the information contained in the microfiche is shown (Illustration 2-1). In addition, a list of the lease stipulations and notices with associated maps, is included at the end of the minerals section. These stipulations may also be reviewed at the Vernal District and Utah State Offices.

Future oil and gas activities will continue to be subject to further environmental review. Applications for permits to drill (APD), sundry notices, other applications to perform work, and compliance reports will be processed at both the district and area levels. Onsite inspections, environmental review determinations, conditions of approval, and other aspects of the processing of APDs and sundry notices will be handled at the district and area levels. Drainage determinations and delineation of Known Geologic Structures (KGS) will be handled at the state office and district levels.

#### **Tar Sand**

Approximately 118,000 acres in areas identified for combined hydrocarbon leasing will be available for future tar sand development, using standard mining plans and stipulations. In addition to the oil and gas stipulations which have been indicated, approximately 72,000 acres of combined hydrocarbon leases used for development of the tar sand resource will include mitigation for the following resource values. Wildlife values include: Deer fawning and elk calving areas, the Monument Ridge Deer Migration Corridor, and crucial winter elk habitat such as old burns and chainings. Watershed resources will include severe and critical erosion areas and one hundred year floodplains along perennial streams. Recreation values will include VRM class II areas that are within moderate potential areas for tar sand development. Mitigation will be developed during an environmental analysis of a proposed mining project. Mitigation could include such things as habitat development prior to project initiation.

Surface occupancy will not be allowed on approximately 27,000 acres because of conflicts with certain renewable resource values. This designation will preclude tar sand development although conventional oil and gas may still be developed. Protected wildlife habitat will include McCook Ridge winter deer and elk habitat and sage grouse leks. Public water reserves, four campsites, and the Book Cliffs

Divide Scenic Corridor will also be closed to occupancy. Class II visual resource management areas that are within low potential tar sand areas and the Boulevard Ridge Watershed Study Area, will not be available for development.

Leases will not be issued within the Naval Oil Shale Reserve.

Combined hydrocarbon leases (competitive and conversion) will be issued subject to lease stipulations and notices shown at the end of this minerals section and in the microfiche contained in the inside back cover of this document.

An approved CHL will provide the leaseholder the opportunity to develop either oil and gas and/or the tar sand resource. Combined hydrocarbon leases could be obtained in two possible ways, one is through applications filed prior to November 16, 1983, wherein existing oil and gas leases in Special Tar Sand Areas (STSA) could be converted to a combined hydrocarbon lease (CHL) (Figure 2-2). Applications to convert existing oil and gas leases to CHL's within the BCRA totalled approximately 35,000 acres within PR Spring STSA and 4,000 acres within Hill Creek STSA. Eight hundred acres within Raven Ridge-Rim Rock STSA have been converted. A second method will be through a competitive leasing program. A schedule to offer tracts for competitive lease will be developed when sufficient demand develops.

Tar sand development will be managed in accordance with the 43 CFR 3140 regulations. These regulations promote orderly prospecting, exploration, testing, development, mining and processing operations and require operating procedures which will avoid, minimize, or correct damage to the environment.

Administrative and technical capabilities for managing tar sand operations are presently at the Utah State Office, although these responsibilities could be delegated to the Vernal District in the future.

Site specific environmental documents will be prepared prior to any development.

#### **Oil Shale**

Five separate areas within the BCRA have been delineated as priority management areas for future oil shale leases. This designation does not limit the development of other resource values (it is not a withdrawal), but defines an

ILLUSTRATION NO. 2-1

The following stipulations apply to the development of conventional oil and gas resources and to the exploration of tar sand resources.

1. In order to protect crucial winter elk habitat, surface disturbing activities will be allowed only during the period from April 1 to November 1.

This limitation does not apply to maintenance and operation of producing wells. This stipulation may be waived by the authorized officer if either the resource values change or the lessee/operator demonstrates that adverse impacts can be mitigated.

T14S, R22E

- Sec. 13:  $S\frac{1}{2}NE\frac{1}{4}$ ,  $S\frac{1}{2}SW\frac{1}{4}$ ,  $SE\frac{1}{4}$
- Sec. 22:  $NE\frac{1}{4}SE\frac{1}{4}$
- Sec. 23:  $NE\frac{1}{4}$ ,  $S\frac{1}{2}NW\frac{1}{4}$ ,  $S\frac{1}{2}$
- Sec. 24: All
- Sec. 25:  $N\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $NW\frac{1}{4}SW\frac{1}{4}$
- Sec. 26:  $N\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $N\frac{1}{2}SE\frac{1}{4}$

T15S, R22E

- Sec. 25:  $SE\frac{1}{4}SW\frac{1}{4}$ ,  $SE\frac{1}{4}$
- Sec. 28:  $SW\frac{1}{4}$ ,  $S\frac{1}{2}SE\frac{1}{4}$
- Sec. 29:  $S\frac{1}{2}SE\frac{1}{4}$
- Sec. 33: All
- Sec. 34:  $SW\frac{1}{4}NW\frac{1}{4}$ ,  $SW\frac{1}{4}$ ,  $W\frac{1}{2}SE\frac{1}{4}$ ,  $SE\frac{1}{4}SE\frac{1}{4}$
- Sec. 35:  $SW\frac{1}{4}SW\frac{1}{4}$

T14S, R23E

- Sec. 5:  $SE\frac{1}{4}SE\frac{1}{4}$
- Sec. 7:  $SE\frac{1}{4}SE\frac{1}{4}$
- Sec. 8:  $N\frac{1}{2}NE\frac{1}{4}$ ,  $SW\frac{1}{4}NE\frac{1}{4}$ ,  $S\frac{1}{2}NW\frac{1}{4}$ ,  $N\frac{1}{2}SW\frac{1}{4}$ ,  $SW\frac{1}{4}SW\frac{1}{4}$
- Sec. 17:  $S\frac{1}{2}SW\frac{1}{4}$
- Sec. 18: Lots 2, 3, 4,  $NE\frac{1}{4}$ ,  $SE\frac{1}{4}NW\frac{1}{4}$ ,  $S\frac{1}{2}$
- Sec. 19: All
- Sec. 20:  $W\frac{1}{2}$
- Sec. 29:  $NW\frac{1}{4}$ ,  $NW\frac{1}{4}SW\frac{1}{4}$
- Sec. 30: Lots 1, 2,  $N\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $NE\frac{1}{4}SW\frac{1}{4}$ ,  $N\frac{1}{2}SE\frac{1}{4}$ ,  $SE\frac{1}{4}SE\frac{1}{4}$
- Sec. 31:  $NE\frac{1}{4}NE\frac{1}{4}$

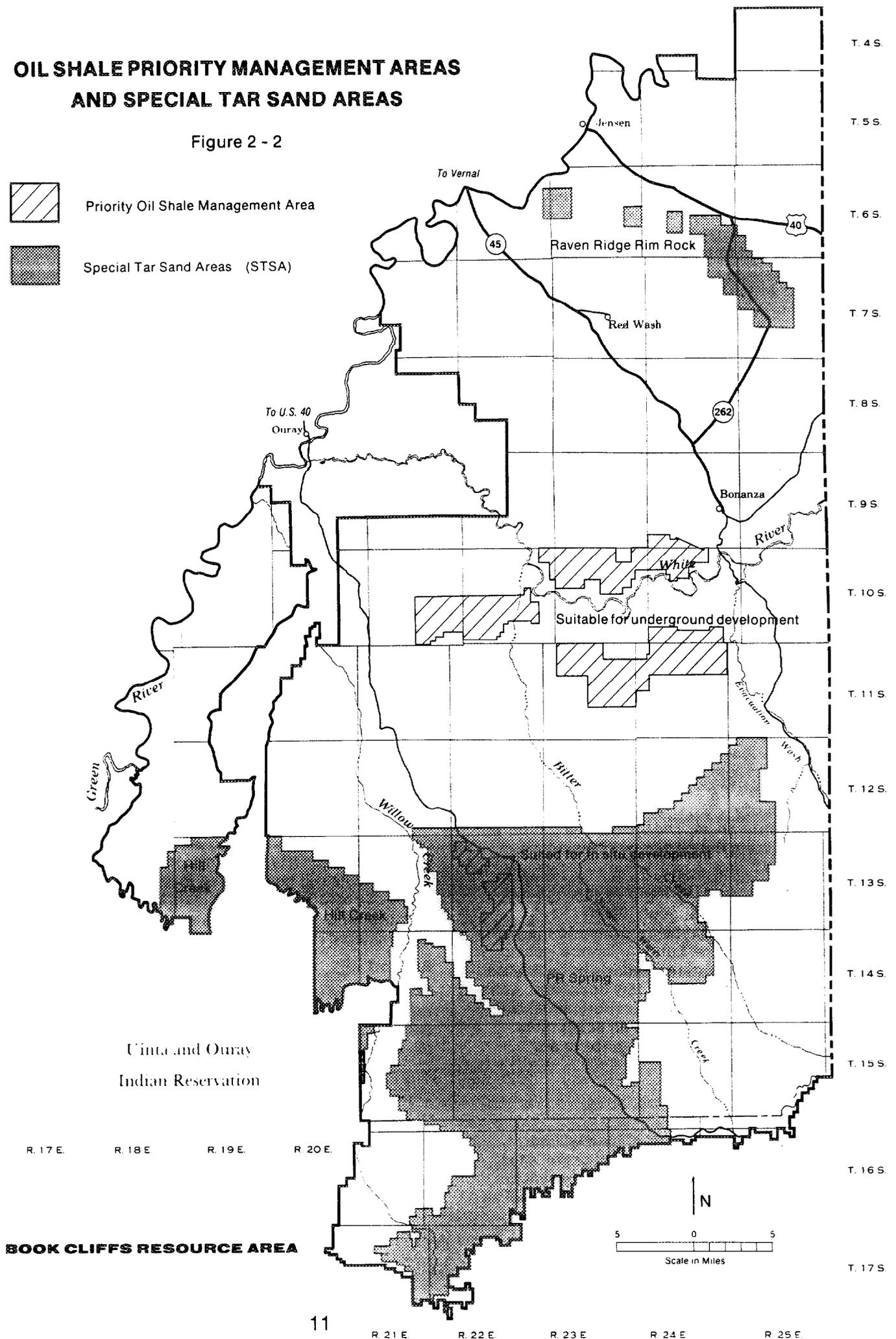
T15S, R23E

- Sec. 1: Lots 1, 2, 3, 4,  $S\frac{1}{2}NW\frac{1}{4}$ ,  $NW\frac{1}{4}SW\frac{1}{4}$
- Sec. 4:  $W\frac{1}{2}SW\frac{1}{4}$
- Sec. 5:  $SE\frac{1}{4}$
- Sec. 8:  $E\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $S\frac{1}{2}NW\frac{1}{4}$ ,  $SW\frac{1}{4}$
- Sec. 9:  $NW\frac{1}{4}NW\frac{1}{4}$ ,  $W\frac{1}{2}SW\frac{1}{4}$
- Sec. 17:  $NW\frac{1}{4}NE\frac{1}{4}$ ,  $N\frac{1}{2}NW\frac{1}{4}$
- Sec. 30: Lot 5
- Sec. 31: Lots 1, 2, 3, 4,  $NE\frac{1}{4}SW\frac{1}{4}$

# OIL SHALE PRIORITY MANAGEMENT AREAS AND SPECIAL TAR SAND AREAS

Figure 2 - 2

-  Priority Oil Shale Management Area
-  Special Tar Sand Areas (STSA)



**BOOK CLIFFS RESOURCE AREA**

environmentally acceptable area with high quality oil shale values.

Approximately 42,000 acres within three separate areas could be made available for underground mining and 6,000 acres within two areas, could be made available for in situ development (Figure 2-2). Two to four oil shale tracts consisting of 10,500 to 21,000 acres could be leased within these areas under current legislation. Additional information on oil shale resource values will be required on approximately 9,500 acres, which are outside of Known Oil Shale Lease Areas, before a competitive leasing program could occur. The actual size of the tracts could vary due to offsite disposal considerations or other legislation that may be forthcoming. Detailed environmental documentation which defines specific mitigation will be required for any lease proposal. The procedures and policies will probably involve tract delineation; environmental review; a competitive lease program, including local and state government input; and a lessee's submittal of a detailed development plan (43 CFR 3570).

Lease administration of U-a and U-b (White River Shale) will be handled through the BLM Office in Vernal, Utah (Figure 2-1). Technical assistance will be provided by the BLM Oil Shale Office in Grand Junction, Colorado.

#### **Gilsonite**

Land will be leased for gilsonite subject to special mitigation. A determination of the acreages to be leased will be based upon completion of a classification of known gilsonite lease areas. The special mitigation will be derived from the oil and gas leasing stipulations.

Gilsonite leases will be handled through the Utah State Office, although these responsibilities could be delegated to the Vernal District in the future. Future gilsonite leasing will be made through regulations to be finalized subsequent to issuance of this document. Lease approval will be subject to environmental review and will require submittal of an acceptable mining and reclamation plan prior to any development.

#### **Sand and Gravel**

Approximately 8,500 acres of land will be designated as potential sand and gravel sites. The community pit and free use areas will be retained in their present locations. Sales will be

conducted within designated areas or on a case-by-case basis outside of the identified areas (Figure 2-3). Environmental review will be required prior to any development with sales and compliance administered at the resource area level.

#### **Building Stone**

Building stone will be sold in accordance with an activity plan that will be developed following the RMP.

The Nutters Hole collection area will be enlarged to include an additional 24,500 acres. Disposal will continue from Johnson Draw and Buck Canyon areas for a total of 46,000 acres (Figure 2-4).

#### **Locatable Minerals**

Approximately 25 percent of Federal lands will remain open to entry under provisions of the Mining Law of 1872, as amended. The acreages and locations are on file at the Utah State Office. The remaining lands are under protective oil shale withdrawal and will not be open to entry.

Mineral exploration and development will be regulated in accordance with the 43 CFR 3809 regulations. These regulations apply to mining activities from claims made under the authority of the 1872 mining law, as amended. These regulations establish procedures to prevent unnecessary or undue degradation of public lands. A notice giving a description of the operation and a reclamation plan, will be required for disturbances of 5 acres or less per year. A detailed plan of operations, including a reclamation plan will be required for disturbances of more than 5 acres per year or in areas closed to ORV use. Environmental assessments will be prepared in response to all plans of operations. Environmental review, approval of plans, and compliance will be administered at the area level.

#### **Support**

The minerals program will require support from renewable and cultural resource programs for development of mitigation of mineral development actions.

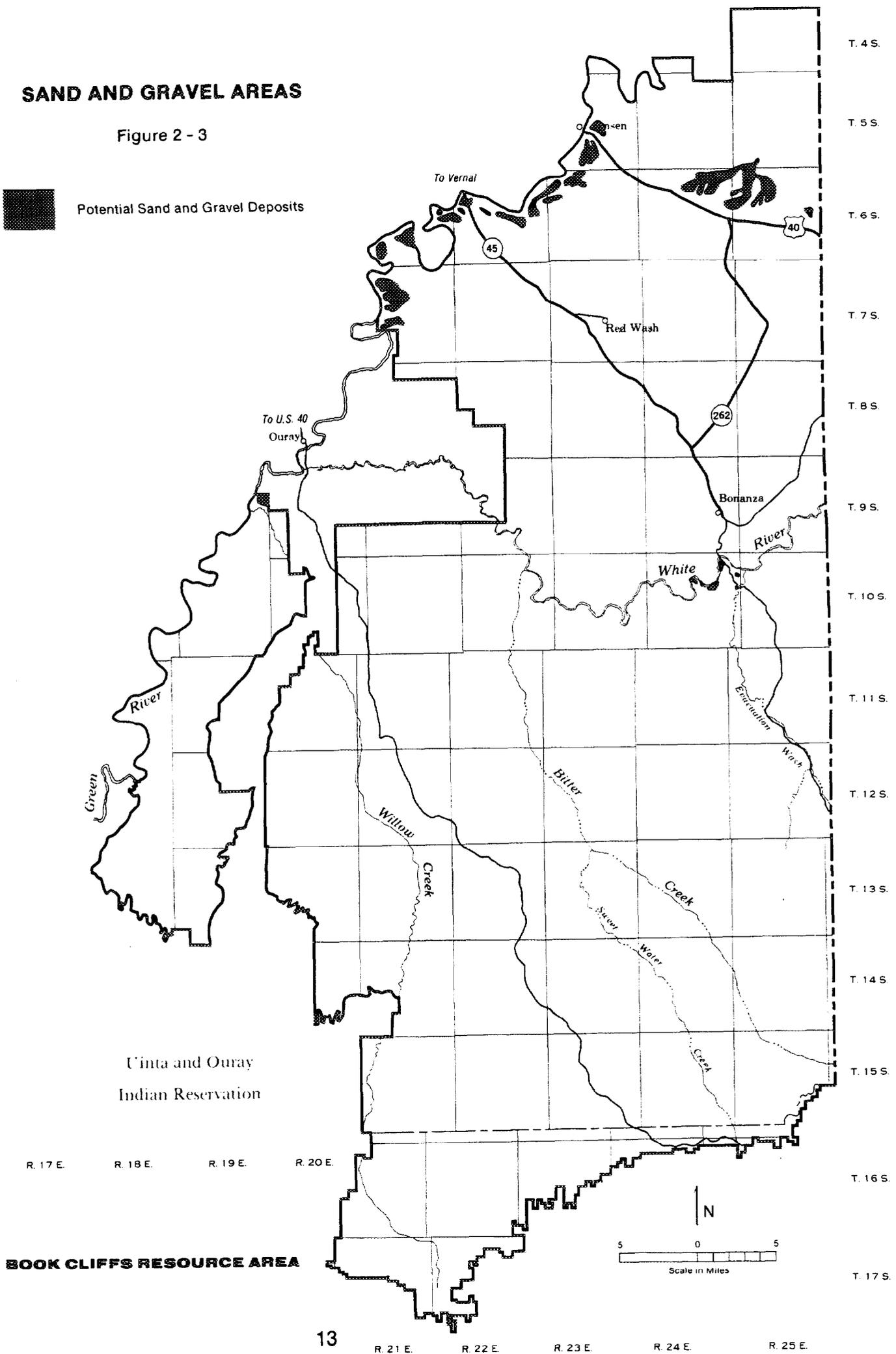
The Utah State Office and the Washington Office will provide policy, review, and approval of the oil shale and combined hydrocarbon leasing programs.

# SAND AND GRAVEL AREAS

Figure 2 - 3



Potential Sand and Gravel Deposits



Uinta and Ouray  
Indian Reservation

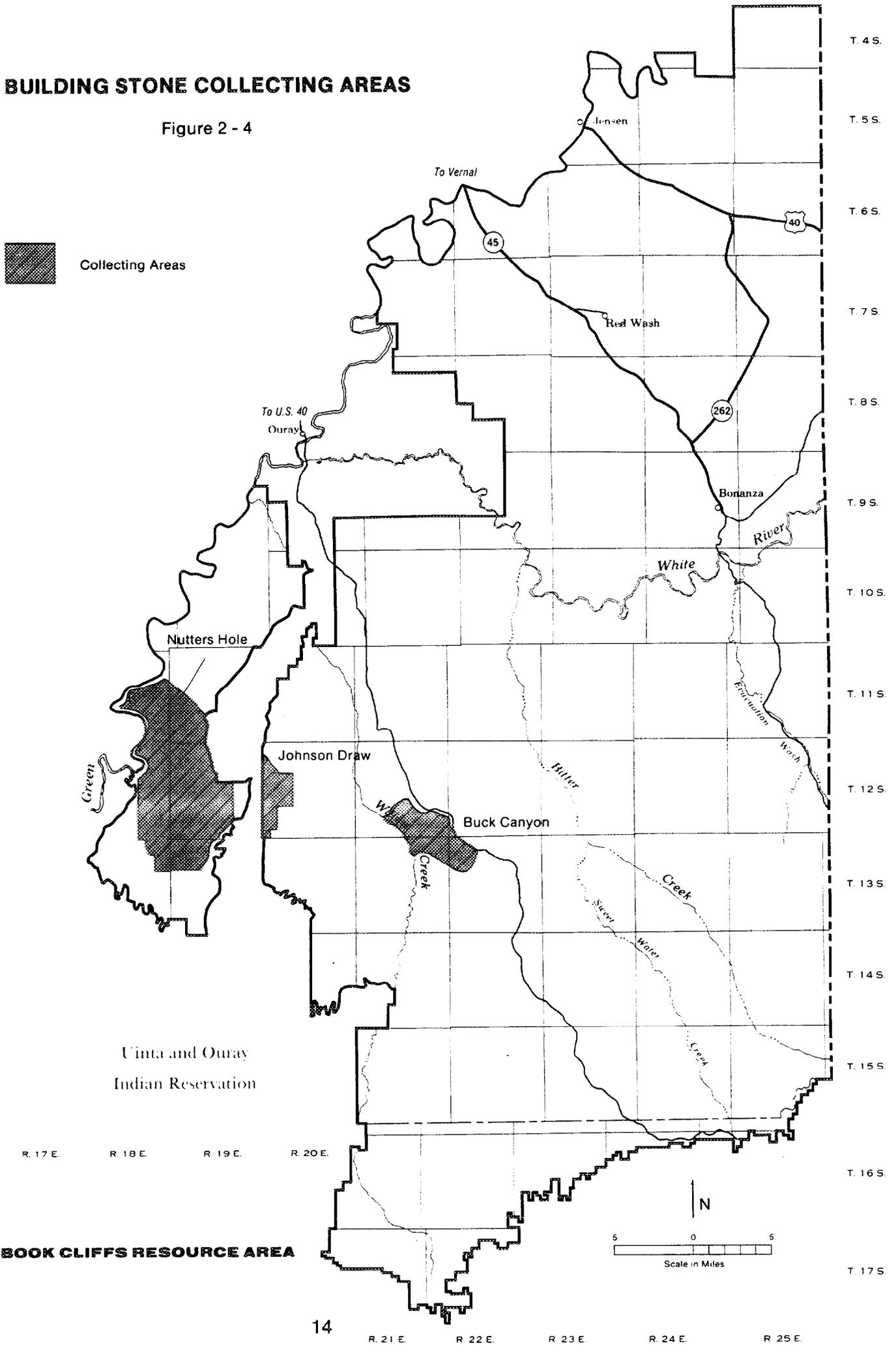
**BOOK CLIFFS RESOURCE AREA**

# BUILDING STONE COLLECTING AREAS

Figure 2 - 4



Collecting Areas



**BOOK CLIFFS RESOURCE AREA**

Specific Management Actions

Action	Priority	Year to Begin	Time Required In Work Months	Cost Estimate	Monitoring Method
Oil and Gas Leasing Program	1	1 (Annually)	65 WM	\$158,000	District review and compliance with lease stipulations.
Combined Hydrocarbon Leasing Program					
Conversion Applications	1	1	45 WM	\$300,000	Compliance with an approved mining plan.
Competitive Leasing	2	Function of the market	50- 160 WM	\$300,000- \$1,000,000	Compliance with an approved mining plan.
Oil Shale Leasing Program	1	Function of the market	70- 140 WM	\$400,000- 800,000	Compliance with an approved mining plan.
Gilsonite Leasing Program					
Classification of Known Gilsonite Lease Areas	1	1	6 WM	\$35,000	District and State Office review.
Administration of Leases	2	2 (Annually)	2 WM	\$6,000	Field observations and compliance checks
Sand and Gravel Sales					
Preparation of Activity Plan	1	2	2 WM	\$12,000	District review.
Sales Administration	2	(Annually)	1 WM	\$3,000	Compliance with an approved environmental analysis.

Action	Priority	Year to Begin	Time Required		Cost Estimate	Monitoring Method
			In	Work Months		
<b>Building Stone Sales</b>						
Preparation of Activity Plan	1	2	2	WM	\$10,000	District review.
Sales Administration	2	(Annually)	1	WM	\$3,000	Field compliance checks.
<b>Locatable Minerals</b>						
Administration	1	1	1	WM	\$3,000	3809 regulations.