

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Logan Drain Ditches

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number Approximately 2 miles north of the intersection of Waldo Road and BLM Road 40-8-28  N/A for publication

city or town Cave Junction (USDI BLM Medford District)  vicinity

state Oregon code OR county Josephine code 033 zip code 97523

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] 8/14/01  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Preservation Officer, Bureau of Land Management  
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] 12/18/00  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Oregon State Historic Preservation Office  
State of Federal agency and bureau

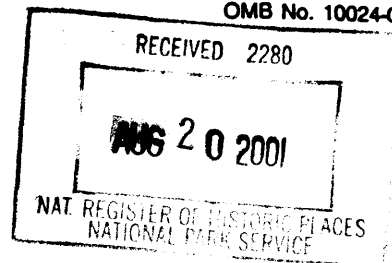
4. National Park Service Certification

- I hereby certify that the property is:
- entered in the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.
  - determined eligible for the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.
  - determined not eligible for the National Register.
  - removed from the National Register.
  - other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper [Signature] Date of Action 10-4-01  
entered in the National Register

United States Department of the Interior  
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# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



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## 1. Name of Property

historic name Logan Drain Ditches

other names/site number N/A

## 2. Location

street & number Approximately 2 miles north of the intersection of Waldo Road and BLM Road 40-8-28  not-for publication  
city or town Cave Junction (USDI BLM Medford District)  vicinity  
state Oregon code OR county Josephine code 033 zip code 97523

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

State of Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

## 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

Signature of the Keeper \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Action \_\_\_\_\_

- entered in the National Register.
  - See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
  - See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Logan Drain Ditches  
Name of Property

Josephine Oregon  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
_____	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
2	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
2	_____	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Mining Resources of the Upper Illinois Valley  
OREGON

**Number of contributing resources previously listed  
in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

NOT IN USE

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

NO STYLE

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation \_\_\_\_\_  
walls \_\_\_\_\_  
roof \_\_\_\_\_  
other EARTH

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Please See Continuation Pages

Name of Property

County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- Criteria A, B, C, D with checkboxes and descriptions.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- Criteria A through G with checkboxes and descriptions.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- Documentation checkboxes: preliminary determination, previously listed, designated landmark, recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey, recorded by Historic American Engineering Record.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

INDUSTRY

Period of Significance

1910-1942

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Primary location of additional data:

- Location checkboxes: State Historic Preservation Office, Other State agency, Federal agency, Local government, University, Other.

Name of repository:

USDI BLM Medford District

Logan Drain Ditches

Josephine

OREGON

Name of Property

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property 6.449

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

UTM grid 1: Zone, Easting, Northing

UTM grid 3: Zone, Easting, Northing

UTM grid 4: Zone, Easting, Northing

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Katherine C. Atwood (with) Dr. Ward Tonsfeldt

organization (for) USDI Bureau of Land Management Medford District date August 22, 2000

street & number 365 Holly Street telephone (541) 482-8714

city or town Ashland state OR zip code 97520

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional Items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Please See Continuation Page

street & number telephone

city or town state zip code

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Mining Resources of the Upper Illinois Valley  
Logan/Esterly Drain Ditches

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Summary Description

The Logan/Esterly Drain Ditches, among the six resources associated with the Logan/Esterly placer mine operations that are contained in this nomination, comprise two channels, one-quarter mile long and forty feet wide each, constructed about 1910 in conjunction with hydraulic placer mining in the Llano de Oro mines. The Logan/Esterly Drain Ditches served the mining operations between 1907 and 1917 under ownership of James T. Logan and subsequently those of George Esterly and lessees between 1917 and 1942. The Logan/Esterly Drain Ditches enable us to clearly understand the technology employed in varying periods to extract gold from soils in the Waldo vicinity. It retains integrity of location, design, setting, workmanship and feeling, and accurately conveys the historic associations for which they are significant.

Location and Setting

The two Logan/Esterly Drain Ditches, of which twelve-hundred feet are preserved on Bureau of Land Management property, are located along the base of a serpentine knoll on the north edge of French Flat, in the northeast quarter of Section 22, Township 40 South, Range 8 West, W.M. (Josephine County Assessors Plat 40-8-22, Tax Lot 200), about six miles south of Cave Junction, Oregon. Situated in a valley at an elevation of 1,540 feet above sea level, these drain ditches are accessible from Bureau of Land Management Road 40-8-28 approximately two miles from that road's intersection with the Waldo Road. Soils in the vicinity of the ditches are coarse sand and sandy loam. The onsite plant community consists of Douglas fir, ponderosa pine, cedar, manzanita, buckbrush, and poison oak. Water to operate the mines in French Flat was from the Logan/Esterly Middle Ditch, among others, diverted from the East Fork Illinois. Runoff from the mines was channeled through the drain ditches (Budy 1999 35HS11-494).

The Logan/Esterly Drain Ditches are part of the vast system used to channel runoff from the hydraulic mines in French Flat through the Logan Cut to the West Fork Illinois River. The Logan Cut, a large, deep tailrace constructed in the 1880s

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and expanded after 1900, initially served to drain off waste water and tailings from the mines. Just below the drain ditches, a dam (extant today on private lands) controlled flow through the drains. Runoff from the Esterly pits was stored in the reservoir and drained through the two channels to Logan Cut and then to the West Fork Illinois River. After the drain ditches leave Bureau of Land Management property, they course through private lands and connect via a tunnel and a deep cut feature to the south edge of Logan Cut in Carroll Slough (Shenon 1933:Plat 11). Although once considerably deeper, the drain ditches have a flattened central profile and the present functional channel is about six feet wide and two feet deep (Budy 1999: 35HS11-494).

Integrity

The segments of the Logan/Esterly Drain Ditches on Bureau of Land Management lands are well preserved, although the depth of the drainage ditches has eroded today and some vegetation has been re-established. Clearly visible in length and width, the Logan/Esterly Drain Ditches retain integrity of location, setting, design, and feeling and convey the associations with placer mining activities throughout the Waldo vicinity. The ditches, together with the Logan Cut and other features associated with the Logan/Esterly operations in the Waldo vicinity, enable the observer's to understand the mining technology that significantly affected development in the Upper Illinois Valley.

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### Significance

The Logan/Esterly Drain Ditches, constructed after 1900 and in use until about 1940, are locally significant for their association with mining technology and water manipulation in the Upper Illinois Valley, Waldo vicinity. Submitted as part of a multiple property submission, "Mining Resources of the Upper Illinois Valley, Oregon," the Logan/Esterly Drain Ditches represent their associated historic context, "Gold Placer Mining and Development of the Waldo Vicinity, 1851-1942." The Logan/Esterly Drain Ditches meet the registration requirements outlined in the registration document. They were developed in the historic period and retain of integrity of location, setting, design and feeling to evoke direct historic associations with mining in the Upper Illinois Valley. The Logan/Esterly Drain Ditches are eligible to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A as important, tangible representatives of historic mining activities in the Upper Illinois Valley.

### History

In 1883 George Simmons acquired extensive mining property formerly the Samuel Scott Donation Land Claim. He also acquired ownership of an intermittent waterway known as Carroll (Carron) Gulch from the Carron estate. Simmons soon sold a half-interest in the property to Frank Ennis and Theodoric Cameron and mining records show that Frank Ennis et. al. established the placer location on February 26, 1883 (Josephine County Mining Records 4:368). In 1887 Theodoric Cameron located additional mining ground (Josephine County Mining Records 5:135). Holding 900 acres, the firm was known as Ennis, Simmons and Co. (Josephine County Deeds 3:300; *Rogue River Courier* July 30, 1886; Chapman Publishing Company 1904:229).

James T. Logan, mine superintendent for the Simmons-Cameron operations, developed the Logan Wash Ditch shortly after 1900 and initiated the use of hydraulic elevators to lift gravels from pits that were more than fifteen below the ground surface in French Flat. Logan, who in 1900 married Ella Simmons, daughter of George and Jane Simmons, assumed management of operations following his father-in-law's death on October 6, 1901. Gradually the mines and



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ditches Logan acquired took his name (Josephine County Marriage Records; Chapman Publishing Company 1904: 986; *Grants Pass Daily Courier* December 31, 1927, 1:6; *Grants Pass Bulletin* January 29, 1937, 1:6; Josephine County Mining Records, 4:457).

In March 1902, James Logan acquired the Cameron share of the mining property known as the 'Simmons and Cameron claims.' The transfer included improvements described as the Upper Ditch, the Upper race, the Lower Main Pipe Ditch and the main sluice ditch (Josephine County Mining Records 4:476). Beginning about 1907, Logan focused much of his mining efforts on four pits in the French Flat area. While ample water was available during the mining season, Logan operated hydraulic giants in the pits, as well as two hydraulic elevators and one giant for stacking tailings (Shenon 1933:187). The Logan/Esterly Upper and Middle Upper Ditches provided water for these operations. At this time, Logan constructed the Logan Wash Ditch, expanded the large cut that had been developed by Simmons and Cameron, and initiated construction of the Logan Drain Ditches.

In 1916 geologists noted that the Logan Simmons and Cameron mine, "commonly known as the Logan Placer," was under option to George Esterly of Seattle, Washington. Engineer L.A. Levensaler of Tacoma had taken charge of investigating the mining prospects of the property (Parks and Swartley 1916:143). On June 26, 1917 George and Marilla Esterly, Louis Levensaler, along with James Logan located a placer claim, and on August 16, 1917 James Logan sold his mining operation to the Waldo Corporation. This newly-formed organization had \$100,000 in capital stock and an office in Seattle. George M. Esterly was the company's general manager (Josephine County Deed Records 28:276; Josephine County Mining Records 23:233-234).

George Esterly was born June 15, 1868 in Wisconsin. Described in the Portland Oregonian as "one of the best-known mining men in the west," Esterly was a mechanical and mining engineer who had developed extensive Alaskan mining interests. He and his wife, Marilla Esterly invested personal funds in a sizeable tract, constructed a large dwelling on the property and, gave the name Llano de Oro or Plain of Gold to their extensive mine. With their purchase the mines and

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associated ditches increasingly became known by the Esterly name. The Esterlys replaced or extensively modified the Logan home near the Waldo road and installed a significant amount of up-to-date mining equipment on the property. Esterly would live out his life at Waldo where he died on December 2, 1931 (*Portland Oregonian* December 4, 1931, 19:5-6).

In December 1920, the Waldo Corporation sold mining property, buildings, barns and equipment, not owned personally by the Esterly family, to Victor H. Elfsendahl and Thad Sweek of Seattle (Josephine County Deeds 52:360). In June 1923, these buyers sold the property to G.W. Hales of Cook County Illinois (Josephine County Deed Records 62:512). In the 1930s, G.W. Hales leased out the mining property to others who worked the property until July 1942 (Hill 1979: 78). The Logan Drain Ditches remained in use by these lessees and other until 1942.

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Logan/Esterly Drain Ditches

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**Bibliography**

Budy, Elizabeth E.

1999 *Logan/Esterly Drain Ditches* Cultural Site Record 35HS11-494 (for  
USDI-BLM Medford District)

Chapman Publishing Company

1904 *Portrait and Biographical Record of Western Oregon*, Chapman  
Publishing Company Portland, Oregon.

Hill, Edna May

1976 *Josephine County Historical Highlights I*. Josephine County Library  
System and Josephine County Historical Society, Grants Pass, Oregon.

Parks, H.M. and A.M. Swartley

1916 *Handbook of the Mining Industry of Oregon*. Oregon Bureau of Mines and  
Geology, Mineral Resources of Oregon, Volume 2, No. 4.

Shenon, Philip J.

1933c *Geology and Ore Deposits of the Takilma-Waldo District, Oregon,  
Including the Blue Creek District*. U.S. Geological Survey Bulletin 846-B  
Government Printing Office, Washington D.C.

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Logan/Esterly Drain Ditches

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A map showing locations of the twenty resources included in this Multiple Property Submission is contained with the cover document. A photocopied section of the USGS map indicating the location of the Logan/Esterly Drain Ditches accompanies the nomination document.

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The Logan/Esterly Drain Ditches are located in the northeast quarter of Section 22, Township 40 South, Range 8 West, W.M., (Josephine County Assessor's Plats 40-8-22, Tax Lot 200). The property is identified on USGS map O'Brien quadrangle (7.5 minute series).

This linear site contains two parallel ditches 0.25 miles long, that drained water from the Llano de Oro Mine settling pond into the Logan Cut. The ditches begin on the property boundary line of Tax Lot 200 (where it meets the northern border of Tax Lot 300 near this tax lot's northeastern corner) in the SW ¼ of the NE ¼ of Section 22, T.40 S. R. 8 W., (W.M.) The ditches continue north to the Section 22/15 section line, T. 40 S., R. 8 W., (W.M.).

The portions of the Logan/Esterly Drain Ditches thus described constitute the center line of a linear site. The side boundaries of this linear site are lines of convenience parallel to the ditches extending 50 feet on each side of each ditch, overlapping in places. The resulting site is 100 feet wide, following the contours of the ditch. The Logan/Esterly Drain Ditches contain a total acreage of 6.449 acres.

**Verbal Boundary Justification**

The nominated area includes the Logan/Esterly Drain Ditches and their immediate setting contained on land administered by the Bureau of Land Management and associated with historic placer mining activities in the Waldo vicinity.

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**UTM References**

<b>Zone</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Easting</b>	<b>Northing</b>
10	1 n. end	448062.02065	4658839.94916
	2 s. end	448096.16783	4658429.76517

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Logan/Esterly Drain Ditches

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**Photographs**

Photograph No. 1

- 1) Logan/Esterly Drain Ditches
- 2) NE ¼ Section 22, T. 40 S., R. 8 W., (W.M.)
- 3) Photographer: Elizabeth Budy
- 4) Date of Photograph: November 1999
- 5) Negative holder: Bureau of Land Management, Medford District  
3040 Biddle Road  
Medford, Oregon 97504
- 6) View: Overview of Logan Esterly Drain Ditches, looking northwest
- 7) Photograph number: 1 of 1

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Logan/Esterly Drain Ditches

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**Property Owner Notification**

Bureau of Land Management  
Ron Wenker, District Manager  
Grants Pass Resource Area Manager  
Ann Ramage, Archaeologist  
Medford Field Office  
3040 Biddle Road  
Medford OR 97504

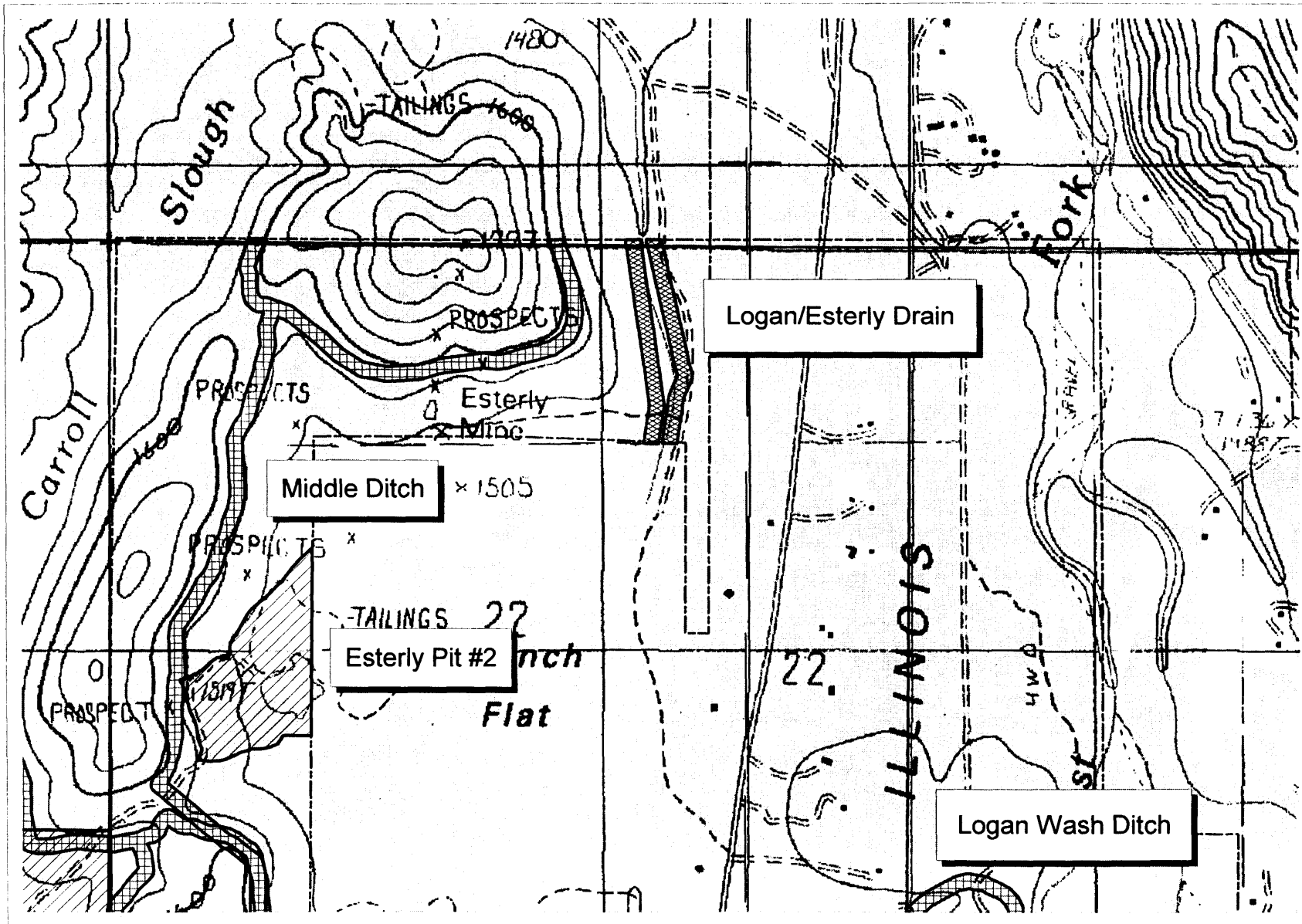
Oregon-Washington State Office  
Bureau of Land Management  
Elaine Zielinski, Director  
Richard Hanes, Cultural Resource Lead  
PO Box 2965  
Portland OR 97208-2965

**Federal Preservation Officer Certification**

Mr. John G. Douglas, Preservation Officer  
Bureau of Land Management (240)  
204-LS  
18<sup>th</sup> and C Streets, NW  
Washington, DC 20240

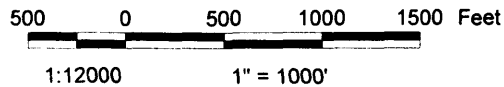
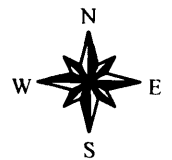
# Logan/Esterly Drain Ditches

Logan/Esterly Drain Ditches  
 35HS11-494  
 A portion of the  
 O'Brien Quad  
 (Sec 22  
 T40S, R8W, Wm)  
 showing  
 Historic Placer  
 Mining Resources  
 in the Waldo Vicinity.



- Ditches**
- Logan Cut
  - Logan Wash Ditch
  - Logan/Esterly Drain
  - Middle Ditch
  - Osgood Ditch
  - Upper Ditch
  - Wimer Ditch

- General Symbology**
- Ditches
  - Mines
  - Town, cemetery
  - BLM boundary
  - Section Lines



Map created August 2000 by Ralph Delamarter  
 Features based on site investigations by W Tonsfeldt, E Budy and others  
 Base images: digital raster graphs (DRG) and digital orthoquads (DOQ)(1995)  
 of O'Brien, Takilma and Broken Rib quads (scale 1:24000).



T405 R8E

SKETCH MAP  
RELATIONSHIP OF  
LOGAN/ESTERLY DRAINS  
35HS11-494 to  
LOGAN CUT  
35HS11-496  
E. Budy

