

American Perlite Quarry, Inyo County, California

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Acknowledgement and Disclaimer

The information in this paper is taken largely from published and public sources. I have reproduced this material and present it pretty much as we found it, not trying to harmonize discrepancies in mine or geologic descriptions. I have changed verb tenses for readability and have used some paraphrase. I have expanded abbreviations or special characters with full text (e.g. feet instead of ft., inches instead of ") *Italics indicate quotations*. Authors of the original information are indicated at the end of each paragraph. Paragraphs without a citation are our own materials. The maps in this report have been compiled and rectified from digital and paper copies of original sources that were made at different scales and in different geographic projections. Therefore, many of the maps had to be adjusted or stretched. They do not fit perfectly. Most are accurate to within 100 feet, but reproduction and projection errors can be as much as 300 feet for some maps. PLSS means Public Land Survey System. That survey data was obtained from the U.S. Bureau of Land Management website.

MRDS, 2011, Mineral Resources Data System, U.S. Geological Survey, <https://mrdata.usgs.gov/mrds/>. This database relies on records that, in many cases, are inaccurate or imprecise. For example, if a report describes a mine as being in "Section 9", with no other information, MRDS plots the mine location in the center of the section. If a mine is reported in "SW ¼" of a section, MRDS plots the mine in the center of that SW quarter-section. Where I could confidently adjust an MRDS location of a mineral deposit to features identifiable in aerial photographs or topographic maps, I did so.

Help me make this report better. If you have any photographs, memories or reports for this mine that you can share, please send them to yosoygeologo@gmail.com so that I can incorporate that information and material into this paper.

LOCATION (MRDS, 2011)

10S 34E Sec. 30 MDM 37.05415 -118.29783
The mine has disturbed an area of 5470 acres.

OWNERSHIP

Bishop Pearlite Corporation, 2605 Goodrick Ave., Richmond, CA 94801, API No. 018-350-06-00; <https://www.american-perlite.com/>

GEOLOGY

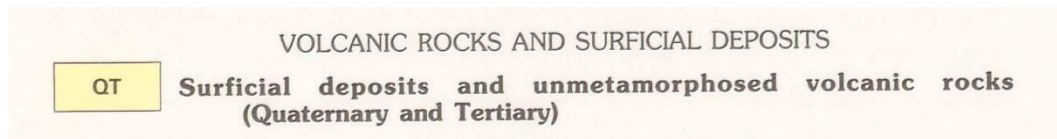
The American Perlite mine is unique in that it is hosted by a rhyolite plug surrounded by basalt cones, flows and dikes. This circumstance was identified and studied in detail by Mayo (1944). Mayo (1944) showed that the location of the rhyolite plug is tectonically

controlled as an intersection of high-angle faults with thrust faults. I speculate that the bimodal volcanism (rhyolite and basalt in the same area) may be a relic of tectonic slab underplating.

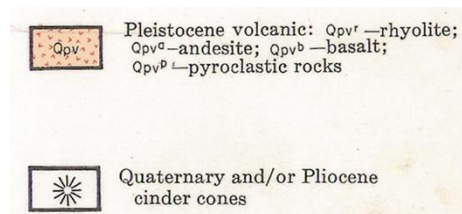
GEOLOGIC MAPPING

1:250,000

The geologic map by Matthews and Burnett (1965) showed only Quaternary-Tertiary sediments and undifferentiated lava (QT) in the area of the American Perlite Mine

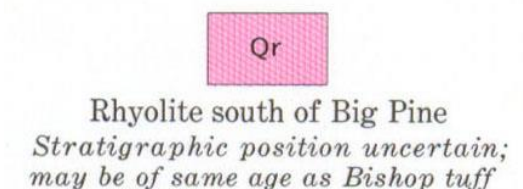


The geologic map by Strand (1967) showed the area of the American Perlite Mine as Pleistocene rhyolitic volcanics (Qpvr).



1:62,500

Bateman (1964) mapped the area of the American Perlite Mine as Quaternary rhyolite (Qr) and speculated that it could be the same age as Bishop tuff..



DEVELOPMENT

The mine has been active for decades. The plant is no longer operational. Materials are mined and crushed on site for transport to other sites for processing

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MAPS

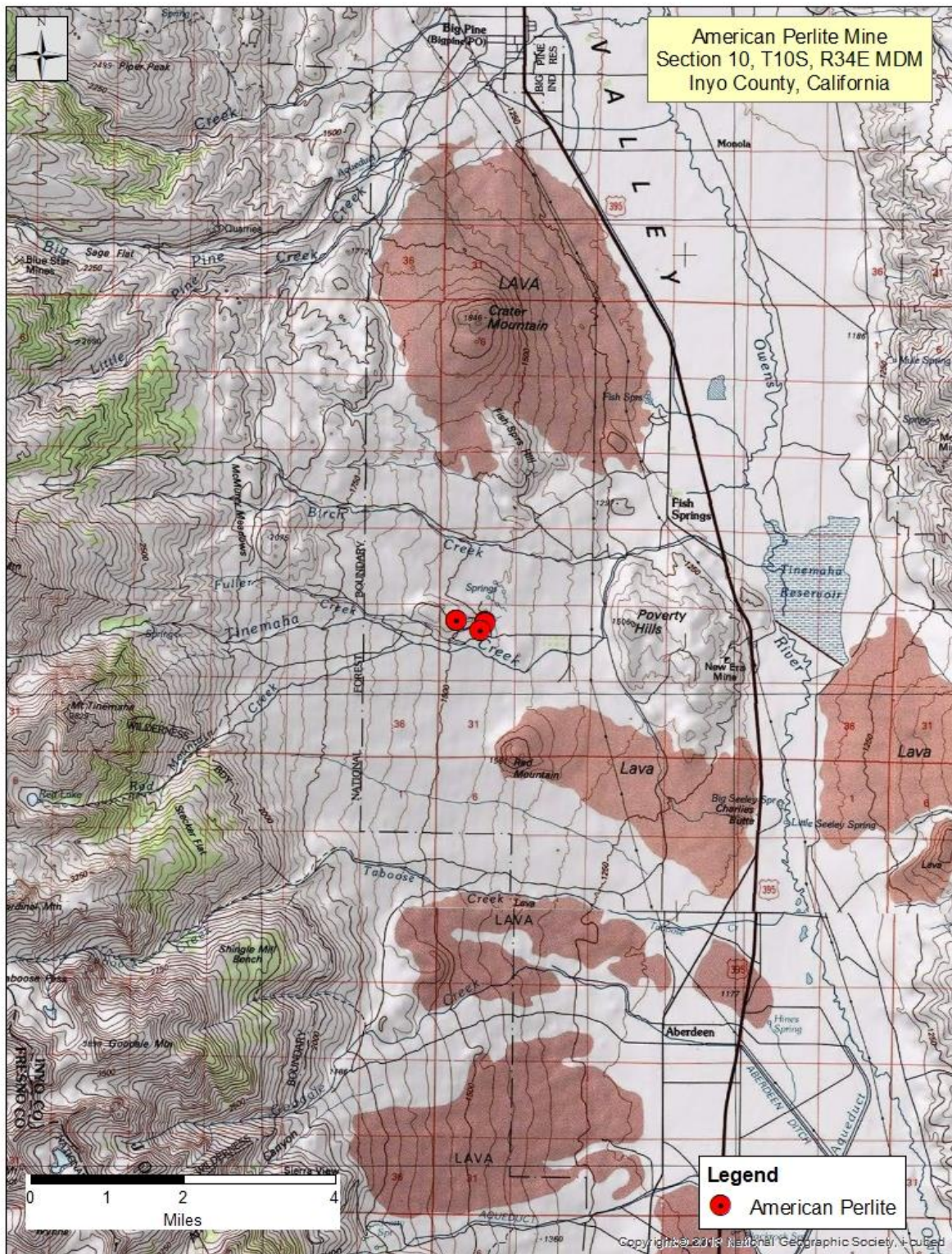


Figure 1. Regional topographic map of the American Perlite Mine and surrounding areas.

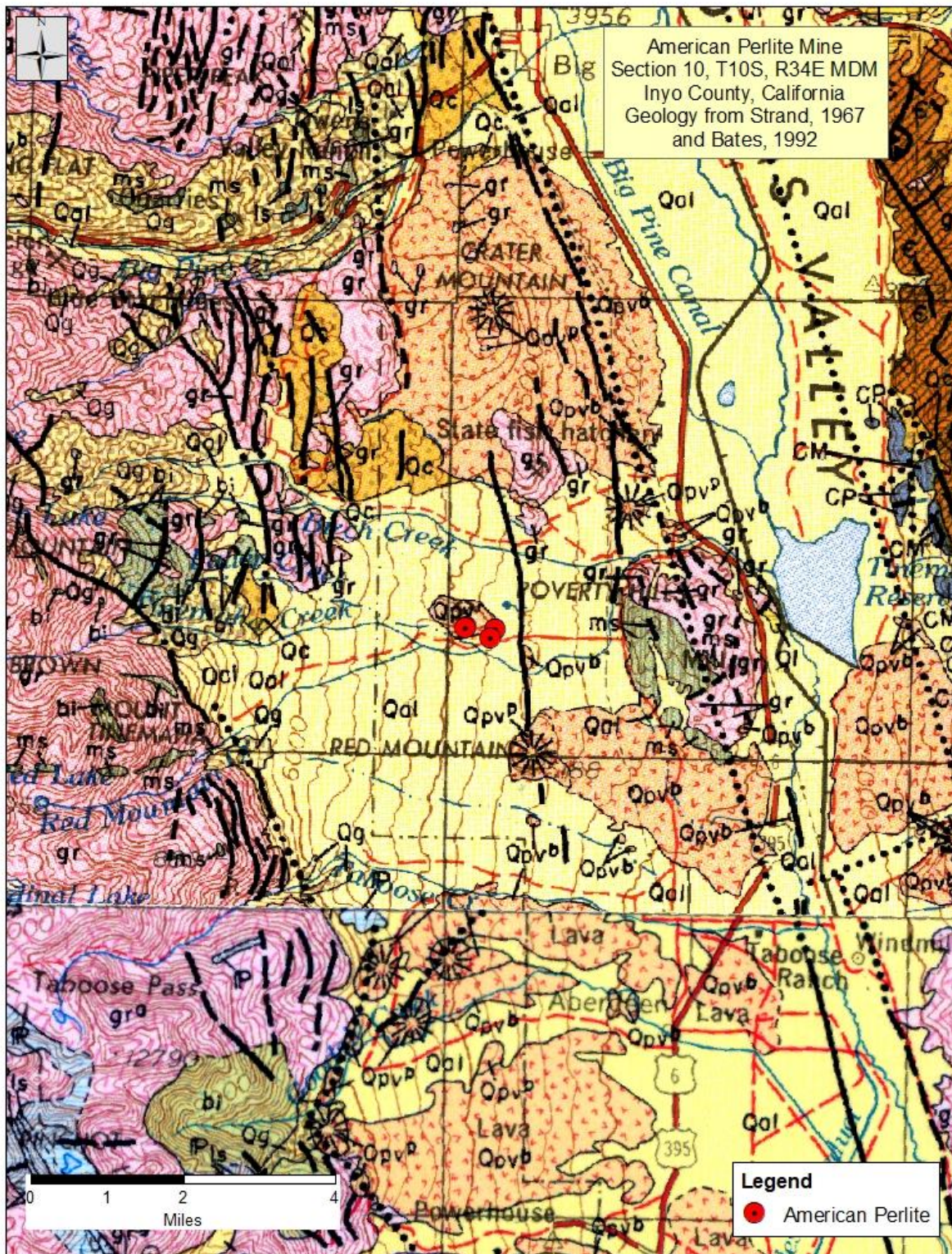
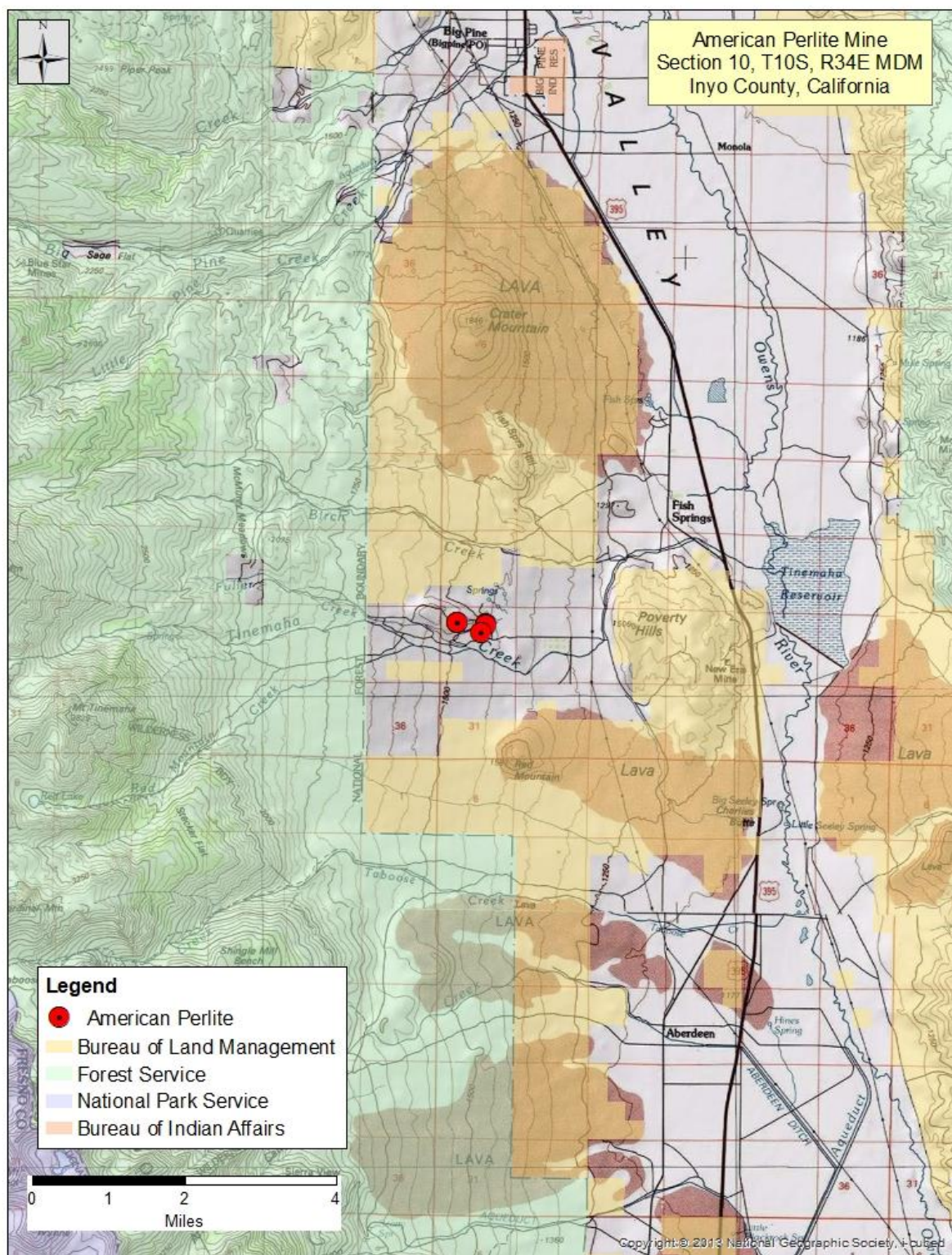


Figure 2. Regional geologic map of the American Perlite Mine and surrounding areas.



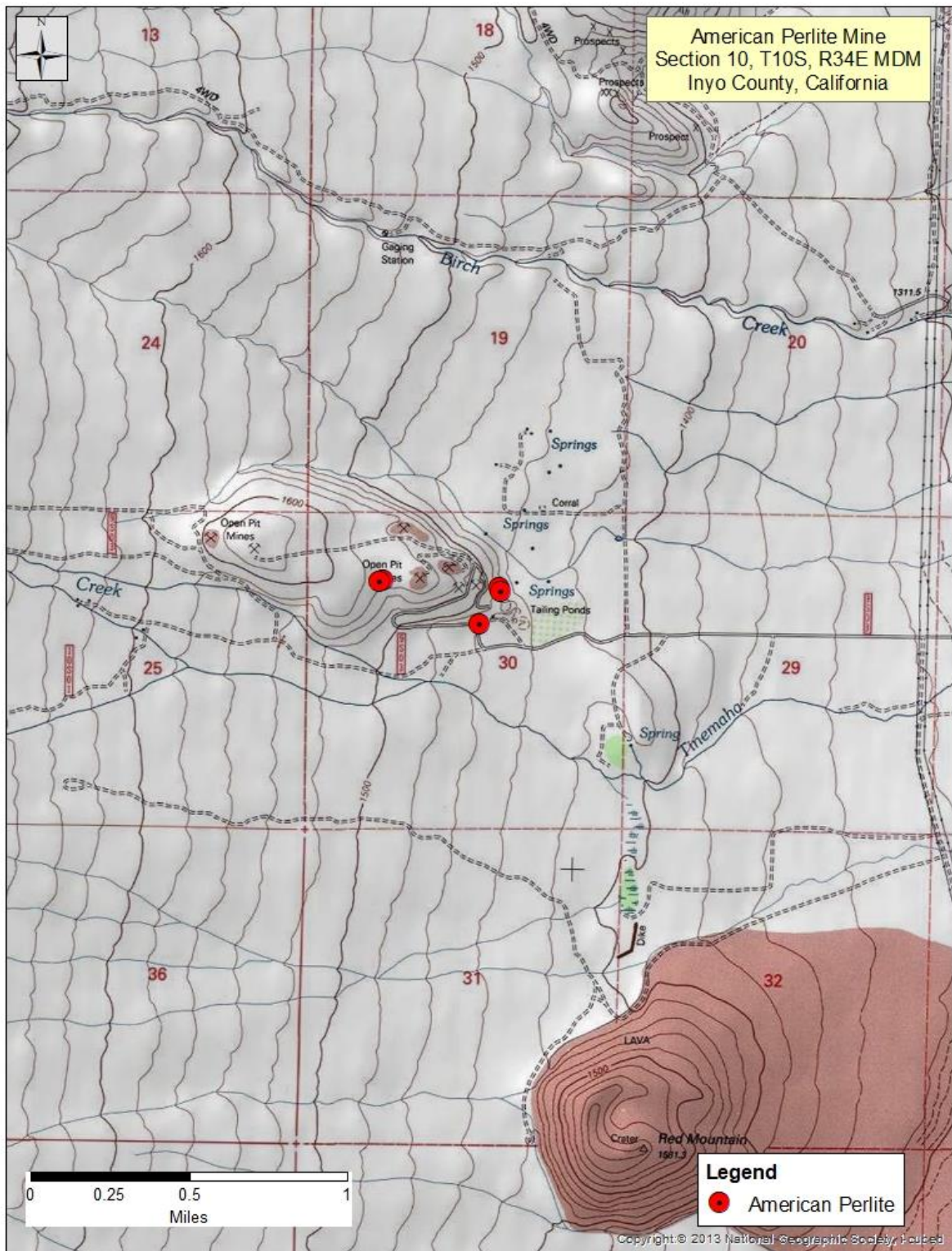


Figure 3. Area topographic map of American Perlite Mine and surrounding areas.

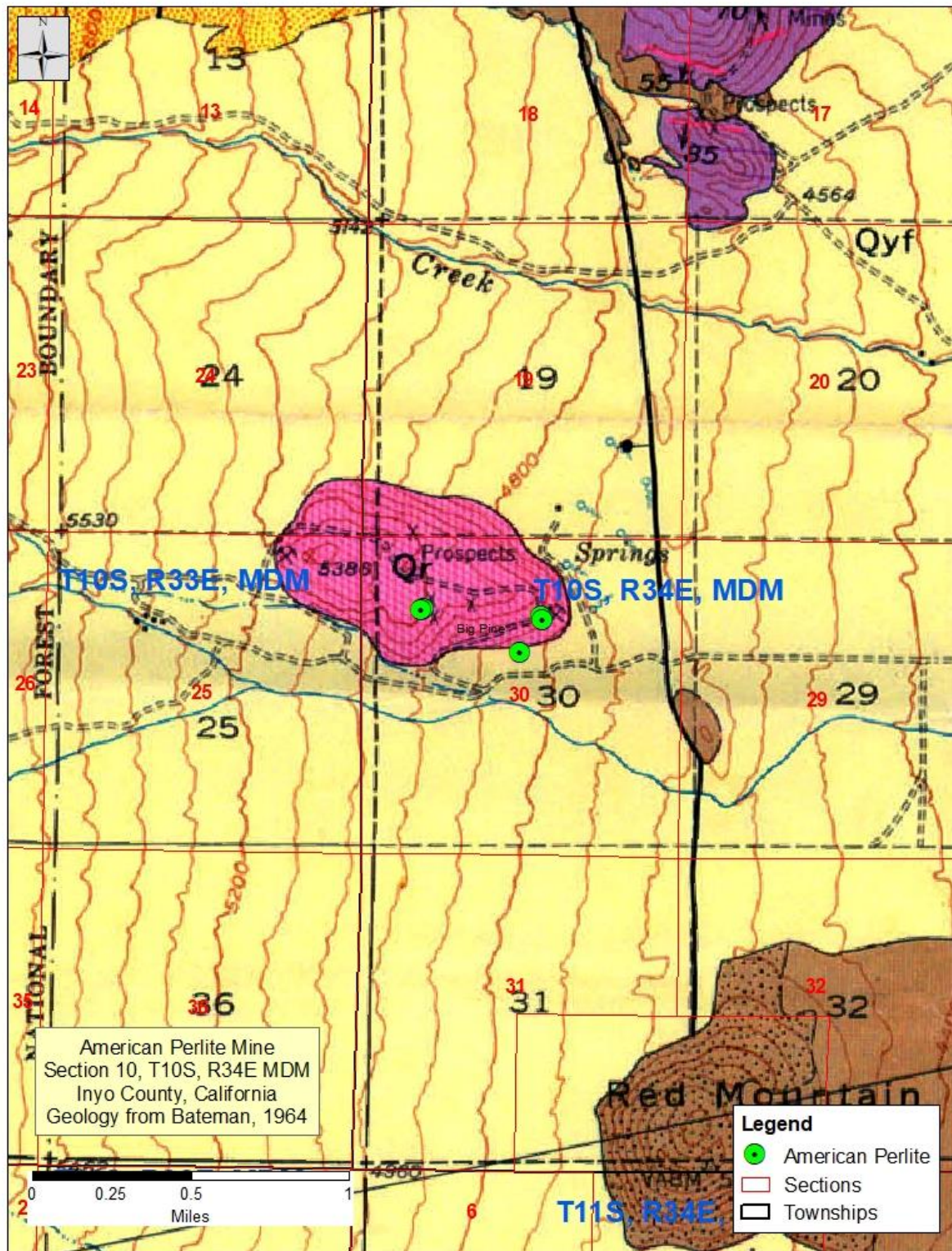


Figure 4. Area Geology of the American Perlite Mine and surrounding areas.

Figure 5. Site topographic map of the American Perlite Mine.

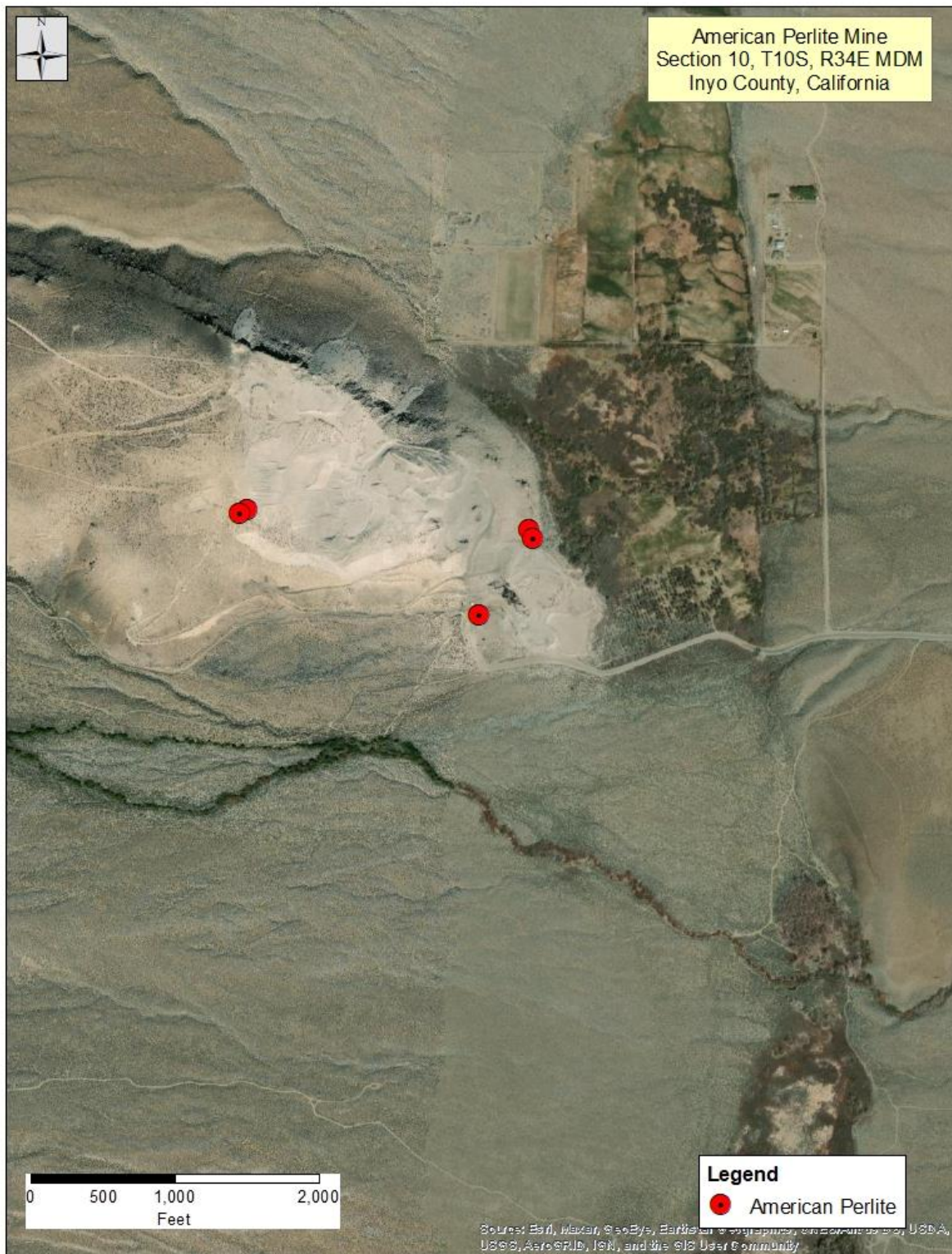


Figure 6. Aerial photo of the American Perlite mine.

PHOTOS



Figure 7. Perlite from Fish Springs (American) Perlite quarry. From Wikicommons. Accessed Feb. 20, 2023



Figure 8. American Perlite Plant. From American Perlite.com. Accessed Feb. 20, 2023.

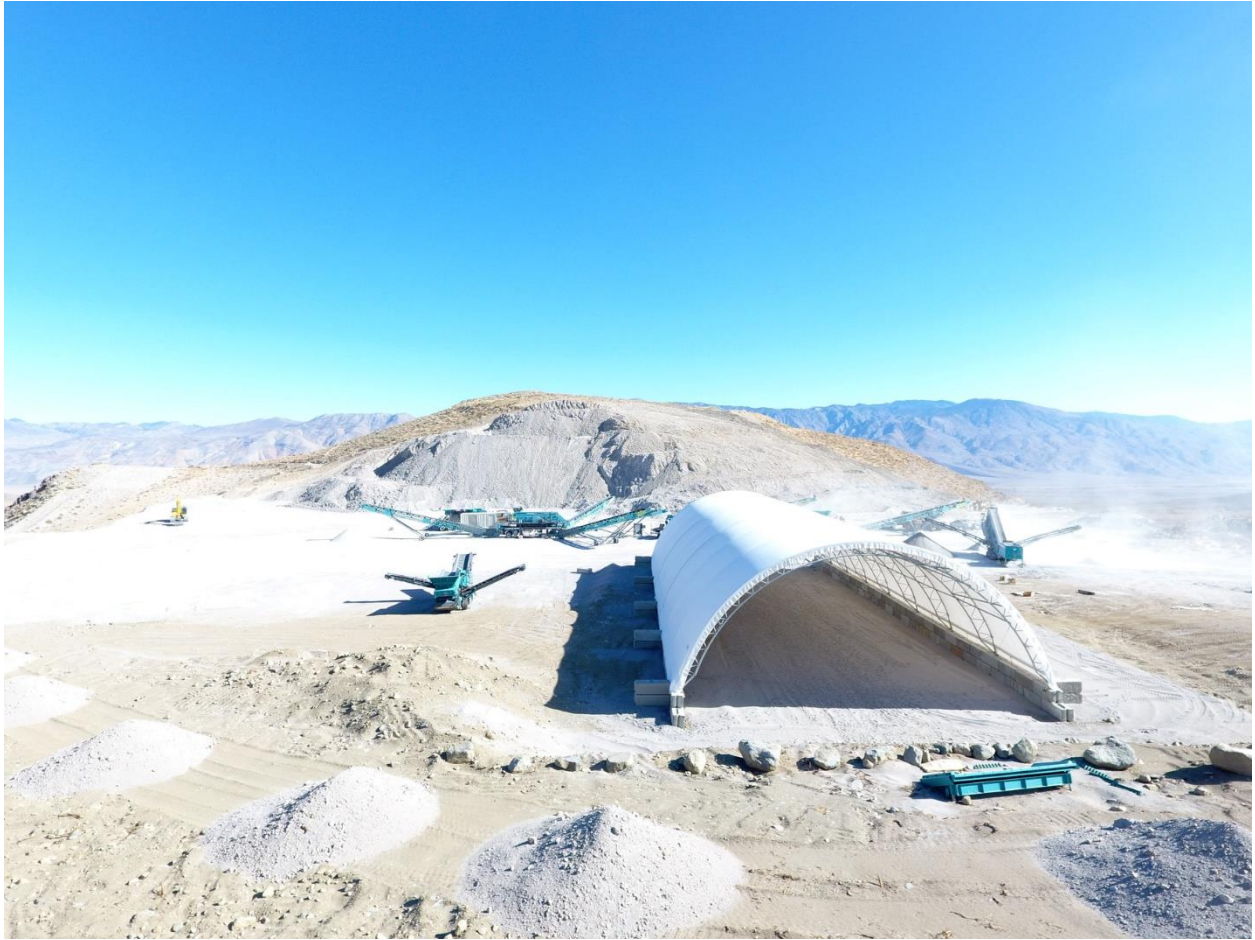


Figure 9. American Perlite Mine. From AmericanPerlite.com. Accessed Feb. 20, 2023.