

**Valsetz Water Storage Concept Analysis
Appendix F - Cultural Resources Desktop Analysis**

Submitted to

ENVIRON

Submitted by



Portland, Oregon

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February 2011

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Introduction

Polk and Lincoln counties are seeking to identify solutions for long term water needs throughout the local region. The Valsetz Water Storage Project is an effort by Polk County to assess the potential for a storage reservoir on the South Fork Siletz River (centered in Section 34 of Township 8 S, Range 8 W). The project area of interest (AOI) consists of the extent of the largest alternative for the proposed reservoir. Eight alternative pipeline routes to divert water from the reservoir to the Luckiamute Basin are also evaluated (Figure 1). A feasibility study is being conducted for the project, the goal of which is to collect biologic, hydrologic, and environmental information to help evaluate the project's feasibility and environmental issues. To aid in this effort, ENVIRON subcontracted Historical Research Associates, Inc. (HRA) to conduct a preliminary desktop analysis for cultural resources. The analysis includes a summary of the pertinent regulatory context, a records search at the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), a review of publically available historic maps, an assessment of the project's potential to affect cultural resources, and recommendations for further work.

Regulatory Context

Should any portion of the Valsetz Water Storage Project receive federal funding, require a federal permit, or be carried out on behalf of a federal agency, the project must comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and 36 CFR 800. The Section 106 process requires federal agencies to take into account the effect the project will have on historic properties, which are cultural resources that are on or are eligible to be on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). 36 CFR 800 is a step-by-step process for identifying historic properties and resolving adverse effects caused to them by the project. It requires that the federal agency official identify and consult with the appropriate tribes and other interested parties. If the project were determined to be subject to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), it would also require an assessment to determine whether cultural resources would be impacted. 36 CFR 800 and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation provide guidance for integrating NEPA and Section 106 studies.

The Valsetz Water Storage Project will also need to comply with Oregon state laws concerning cultural resources and human remains. Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) 97 and 358 contain several sections that seek to protect cultural resources in the state of Oregon. ORS 97.740-760 protects Native American graves, cairns, and associated cultural items and provides procedures to follow when encountering such items. ORS 358.905 to 955 detail procedures to follow when encountering archaeological objects and sites. ORS 358.905 defines archaeological sites as being 75 years of age or older, and ORS 358.920 makes it unlawful to "excavate, injure, destroy or alter an archaeological site or object or remove an archaeological object located on public or private lands in Oregon unless that activity is authorized by a permit issued under ORS 390.235." Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR) 736-051-0080 and -0090 describe the process for obtaining a permit for excavation of archaeological sites on private lands. Specific details on each of these and other laws can be found on the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office's (SHPO) webpage at http://www.oregon.gov/OPRD/HCD/ARCH/arch_laws.shtml. The SHPO webpage also provides guidelines for conducting and reporting on archaeological field investigations (Oregon SHPO 2007, 2009), as well for conducting above-ground historic resource surveys (Oregon SHPO 2008).

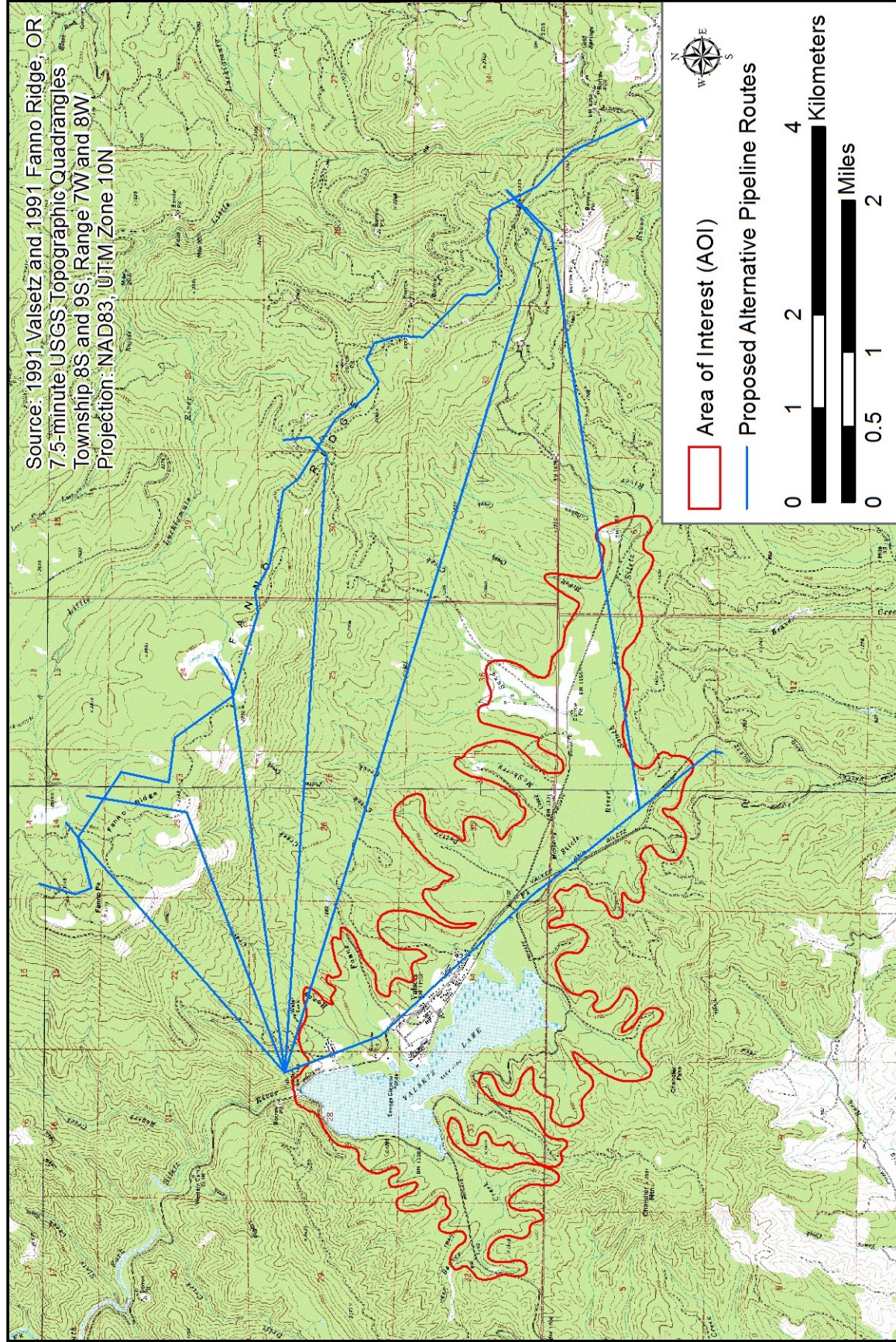


Figure 1. Modern topographic map (USGS 1991a, 1991b) showing the project AOI and the proposed alternative pipeline routes.

Background Research

HRA staff conducted a review of the archaeological site and survey records on file at the Oregon SHPO and searched the SHPO's Oregon Historic Sites Database on January 27, 2011. The SHPO's records indicate that no sites or surveys have been recorded or undertaken within the project AOI or along any of the proposed alternative pipeline routes, and only five surveys and one site (a historic logging-related site) have been recorded within one mile of the AOI/pipeline routes (Table 1). Due to these low numbers, the records search radius was extended to a distance of approximately two miles in order to obtain more information about what types of cultural resources could be present in the general area. An additional 8 surveys were identified; however, none of these surveys resulted in the identification of cultural resources within the search radius. Furthermore, the Oregon Historic Sites Database did not include any above-ground historic resources or historic cemeteries in the project AOI or within two miles of the AOI and proposed alternative pipeline routes.

Table 1. Cultural resource surveys conducted within two miles of the project AOI and proposed alternative pipeline routes.

Year	Report Title	Author	Survey Type	Distance (miles) from AOI/Pipeline routes	Resources Identified within 2 Miles
1986	BLM Cultural Resources Survey Report	Gauthier	Timber Sale	1 to 2	none
1988a	Boise Cascade Neg. R/W Sale Pre-Harvest Survey	Vanderhoof	Timber Sale	0 to 0.5	none
1988b	Valsetz Exchange-Camp Walker Parcel Pre-Exchange Survey	Edwards	Land Exchange	0 to 0.5	none
1988c	Valsetz Exchange-Burbank Creek Parcel Pre-Exchange Survey	Edwards	Land Exchange	1 to 2	none
1988	Valsetz Exchange-Rock Creek Parcel Pre-Exchange Survey	Edwards	Land Exchange	0.5 to 1	Historic site
1989	Peedee Bar Timber Sale Pre-Harvest Survey	Vanderhoof	Timber Sale	1 to 2	none
1990	Quick Silver Timber Sale Unit-1 Pre-Harvest Survey	Vanderhoof	Timber Sale	1 to 2	none
1992	Cultural Resources Surveys of Selected BLM Land Exchange parcels in Lane, Linn, and Polk Counties, Oregon	Oetting	Land Exchange	1 to 2	none
1993	Glazed Teal Thinning Cultural Resource Survey Report: Timber Sale Pre-Project Survey	Vanderhoof	Timber Sale	1 to 2	none
2004	Roads Decommissioning Cultural Resource Inventory Report Post-Project Survey Area	Vanderhoof	Road Maintenance	1 to 2	none
2005	Center Line Right-of-Way Cultural Resource Inventory Report Post-Project Survey	Calver	Road Survey	1 to 2	none
2005	Cold Springs Negotiated Right-of-Way Cultural Resources Inventory Report Post-Project Survey	Calver	Road Survey	0 to 0.5	none
2007	Little Boulder Creek Thinning T.S. Cultural Resource Inventory Report Post-Project Survey	Calver	Timber Sale	0.5 to 1	none

HRA staff also reviewed several publically available historic maps on January 28, 2011 to identify features within the project AOI or near the proposed alternative pipeline routes. The earliest available maps are General Land Office (GLO) maps, which date to the late nineteenth century. The 1895 GLO map shows “O.A. Fanno’s House” in the immediate project area in the northwest corner of Section 34 of Township 8 South, Range 8 West (Figure 2). A road leading to the house cuts through the valley from the southeast. The surrounding mountainside is timbered, and a trail is shown running northwest to southeast along what is now Fanno Ridge. The various alternative project pipeline routes lead to the top of this ridge to a pipeline running northwest-southeast along the ridge. The remaining GLO maps (1880, 1881, 1892a, and 1892b) do not depict any structures or other features, but simply show the surrounding areas as timbered.

By at least the 1920s, the area was the headquarters for intensive logging operations. *Metsker's Atlas of Polk County* (Metsker 1929) shows that the project area was largely owned by two logging companies: William W. Mitchell Company and the Spaulding Logging Company. Notably, the maps show that the now-drained Valsetz Lake was used as a log pond, and that the town of Valsetz was located within the project AOI, on the northeast shore of the pond (Figure 3). The Metsker (1929) map also shows the Valley & Siletz Railway running to the town from the southeast along the South Fork Siletz River.

Valsetz was the company logging and sawmill town established by the William W. Mitchell Company in 1919, although it was occupied informally by loggers as early as 1912. The town took its name from the already established Valley & Siletz Railroad. Valsetz and other company logging towns marked a change in working conditions for loggers. As an alternative to traveling logging camps, Valsetz provided modest family housing for workers with families, as well as dormitories for single men (Figure 4). Valsetz offered the conveniences of town living, with a post office, churches, stores, a gas station, and a school, but was an isolated community controlled by the logging company (Engeman 2005). There is no indication that the town had a cemetery. At its peak, Valsetz had a population of over 1,000 people (Carlson 2003). Around this time, in the 1940s and 50s, the Valsetz complex also included a series of structures in two areas that are labeled on the 1942 historic topographic map (USGS 1942) as Fanno West Base and Fanno East Base. These bases are in the eastern portion of the project AOI, between 2 to 3 miles southeast of the main core of town of Valsetz (Figure 5). Valsetz was eventually razed and the lake drained between 1984 and 1988, after the mill was shut down (Engeman 2005).

The Metsker (1929) map and the USGS (1942 and 1956) maps also show additional historic features of some interest. All three of these maps show the Valley & Siletz Railway running along the Luckiamute River, which is the alignment of the proposed pipeline route 1-6 (see Figures 3). Although apparently not on file at the Oregon SHPO, remnant railroad trestles and train cars have been informally documented along the entire length of the former rail line as recently as 2007 (Wolford 2007). The USGS (1942) map also shows a lookout tower on Fanno Peak, near the northwestern-most of the proposed alternative pipeline routes (route 1-1). By 1956, two structures were situated at this location (USGS 1956). The USGS (1956) map also shows an additional cluster of 13 structures near the far northern end of Valsetz Lake within the project AOI.

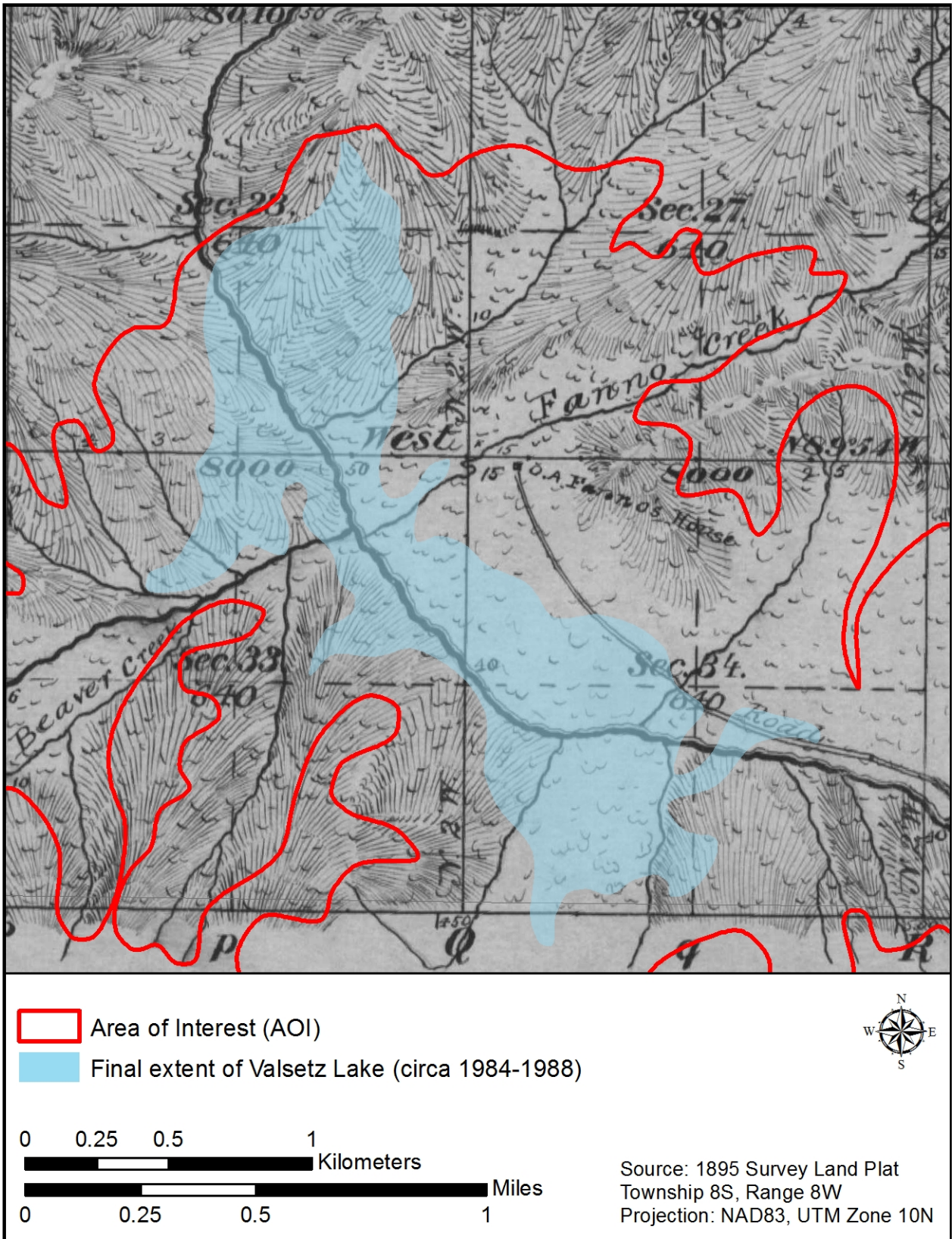


Figure 2. GLO (1895) map showing the O.A. Fanno house within the project AOI.

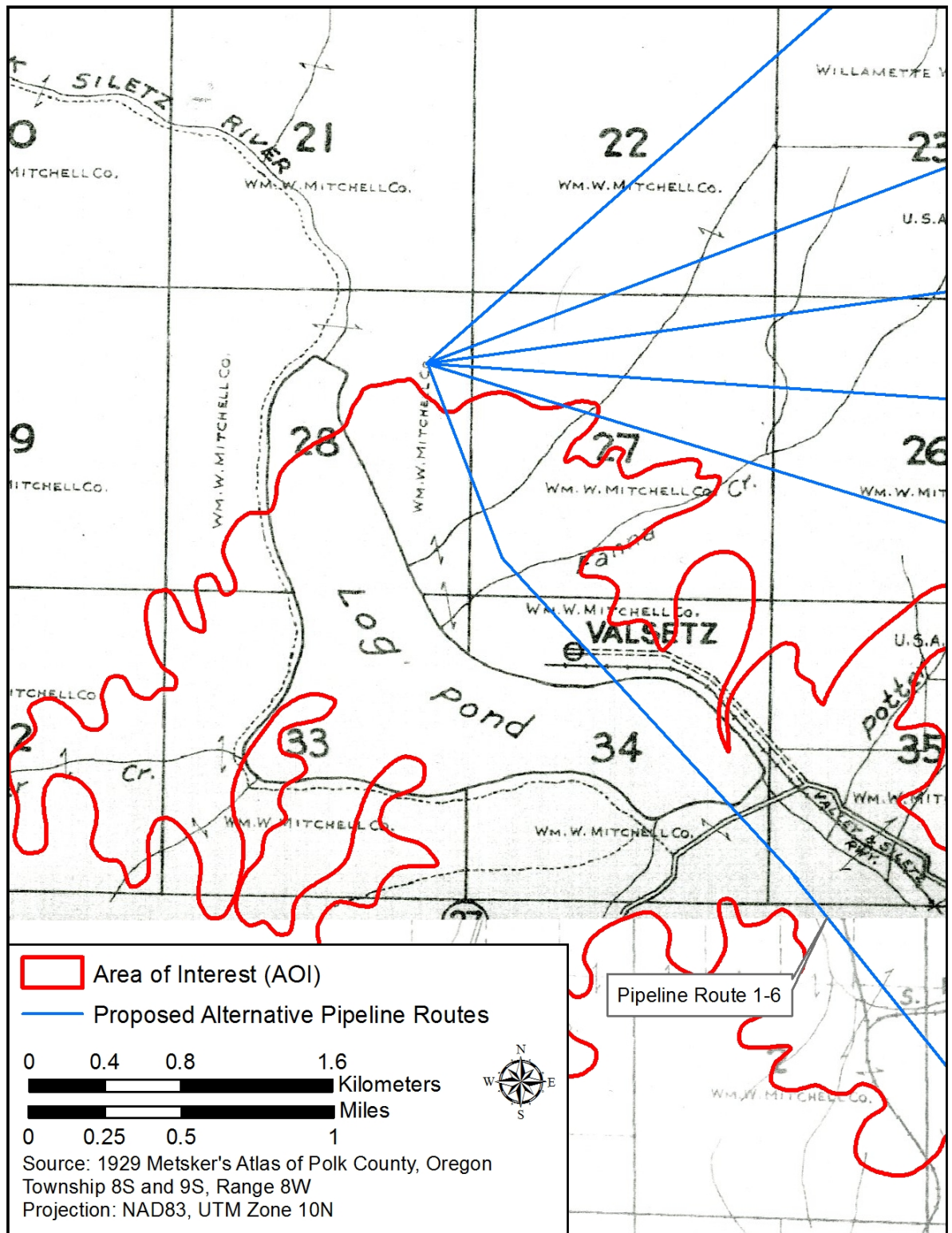


Figure 3. Metsker (1929) map showing the town of Valsetz, the log pond, and the Valley & Siletz Railway within the project AOI¹.

¹ Note that the extent of the log pond may not be fully accurate due to historical mapping error.

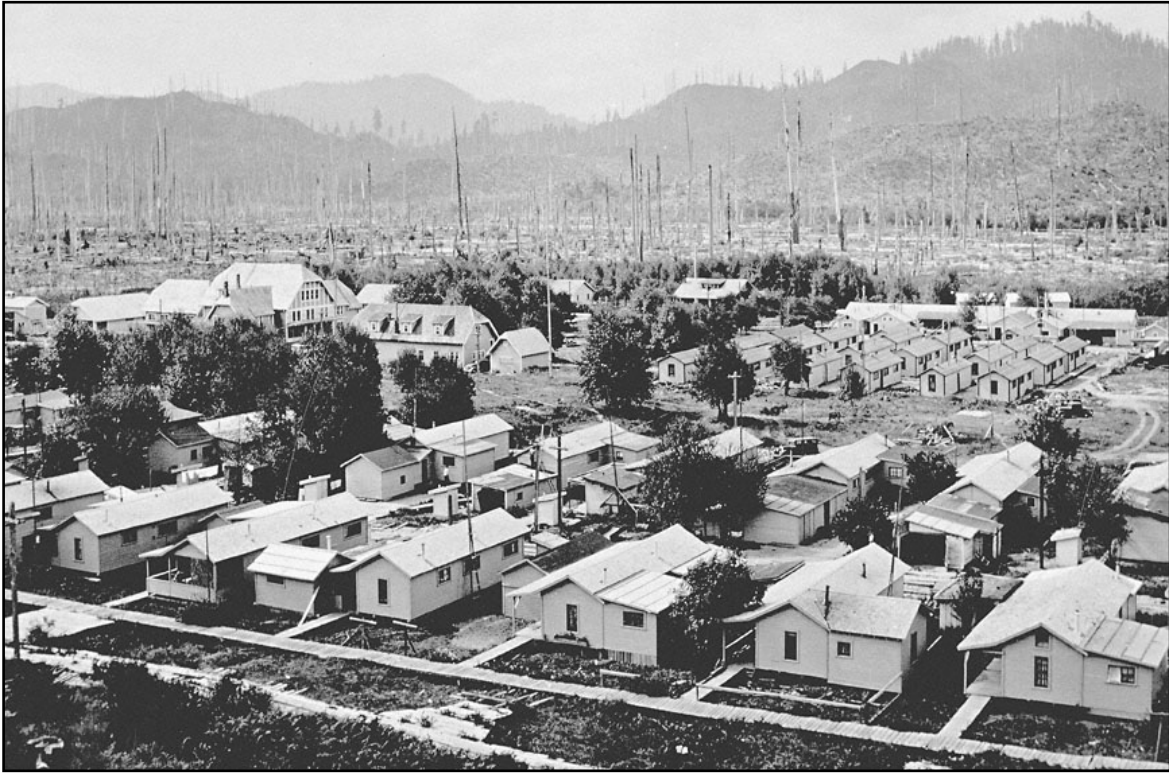


Figure 4. A 1928 photograph of Valseltz depicting the family homes in the foreground, as well as the single men's dormitories in the background. Photo courtesy of the Oregon Historical Society.

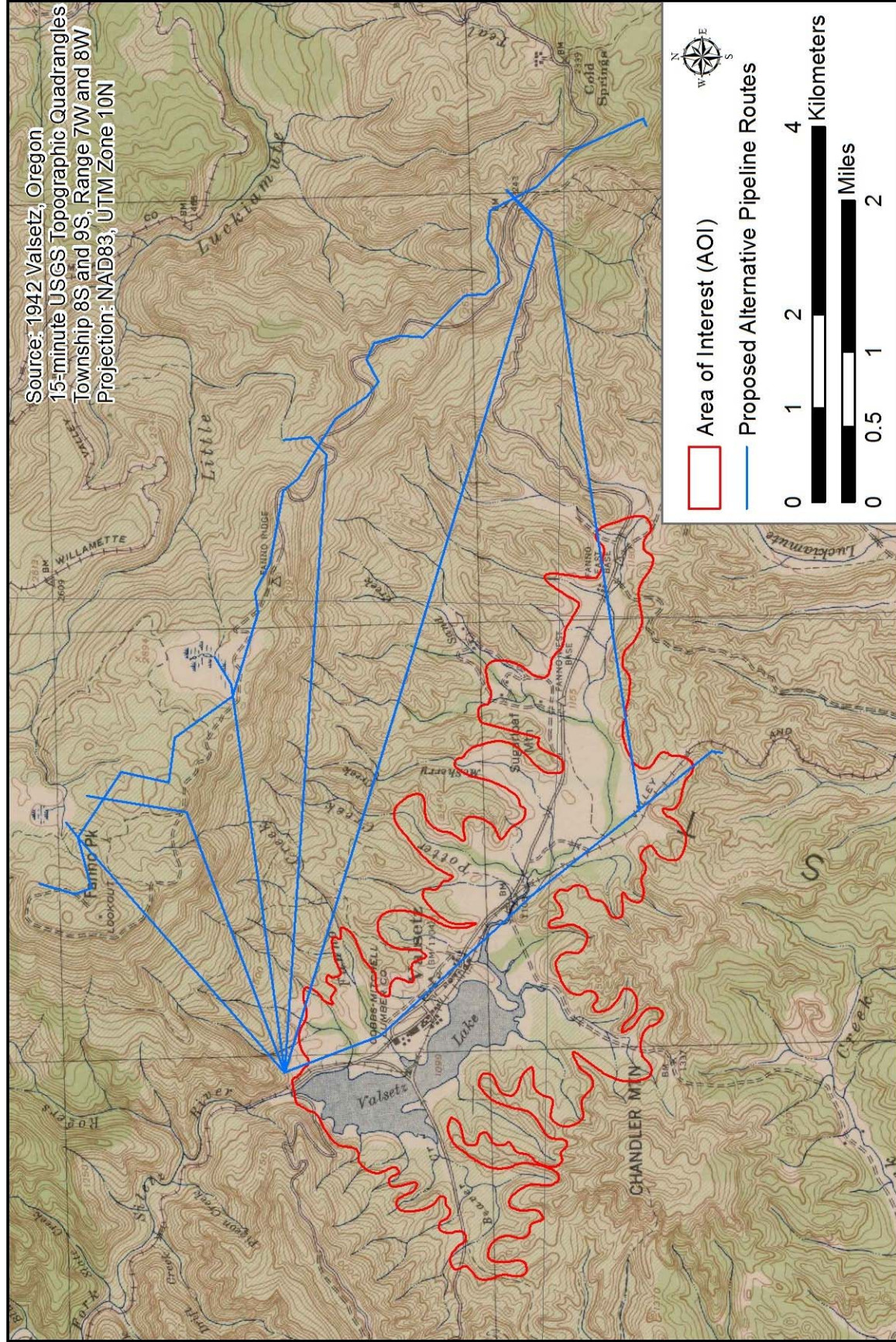


Figure 5. Historic topographic map (USGS 1942) showing the project AOI and the proposed alternative pipeline routes.

Assessment and Recommendations

Given the fact that the town of Valsetz was razed in the 1980s, there is likely a low probability that any above-ground historic resources are present in the project AOI. However, given the intensive use of the area as logging town, there is a high probability for historic archaeological resources. It is possible that there are subsurface artifacts, structural remains, or other railroad related features still present in the immediate town vicinity. Additionally, as the historic maps indicate, logging activities were prevalent in the surrounding area from the early 1900s through modern times. As a result, temporary logging camps, can dumps, railroad trestles and/or grades, lookout towers, and other archaeological sites associated with logging activities may be present, particularly in the upland areas crossed by the proposed alternative project pipeline routes. It is also possible that there are archaeological remains associated with the GLO-era Fanno house in the project AOI; however, the town of Valsetz eventually covered the entire extent of the area where the house was located and the probability of a GLO-era archaeological resource is low due to likely disturbances.

There is also a moderate to high probability that prehistoric archaeological resources are or were once present within the project AOI or in areas crossed by the proposed alternative pipeline routes. The South Fork Siletz River once ran uninhibited through the valley, and there are numerous creeks leading into the basin. These lower elevation areas could have been utilized in prehistoric times, resulting in the establishment of campsites and fishing or other resource procurement sites along the water margins. Disturbances from historic activities may have destroyed such sites, but such disturbances have not yet been fully documented. In addition, the uplands that the proposed alternative pipeline routes cross, particularly Fanno Ridge, also have potential for prehistoric resources, as they may have been used for hunting, gathering, and/or rock quarrying activities.

Other cultural resources that could be present in the project AOI or along the proposed alternative pipeline routes are historic properties of religious and cultural significance to an Indian Tribe. Interested tribes have not yet been consulted, but they may provide information on such resources. Resources of significance to an Indian Tribe are typically sensitive and discussed only on a need-to-know basis, so potential impacts to them cannot be anticipated at this time.

Based on this cultural resource assessment, HRA recommends conducting a cultural resources investigation consistent with the requirements of Section 106 of the NHPA. Though the project may not be subject to Section 106, the Oregon SHPO prefers that cultural resource investigations follow this process. The investigations should meet the Oregon SHPO's 2007/2008 guidelines for conducting archaeological and historical resources investigations. Such investigations would generally consist of consultation with the Oregon SHPO on the scope and area of potential effects (APE) of the project, additional background research and consultation with interested parties and Indian tribes, an archaeological survey including pedestrian reconnaissance and shovel testing, the recordation of cultural resources within the APE, and recommendations concerning the potential for the project to affect or impact historic properties and other cultural resources. Specifically, additional background research regarding the town of Valsetz could prove helpful in identifying specific locations where important historic-era resources could be present. Communications with interested

tribes would help to determine if the project will affect any sensitive tribal resources. The Oregon Commission on Indian Services can help establish the appropriate tribes to contact. It is important to note that if the project is subject to Section 106, the federal agency involved with the project will be required to consult with these tribes. If any cultural resources (architectural, archaeological, or tribal) are identified that cannot be avoided by the project, additional investigations, including determination of significance and mitigation of effects, may be warranted.

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