

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
MONTANA STATE SENATE

April 22, 1987

The meeting of the Senate Natural Resources Committee was called to order by Chairman Thomas Keating on April 22, 1987, at 1:00 p.m., in Room 405 of the State Capitol.

ROLL CALL: All members were present with the exception of Senators Lynch and Halligan who were absent.

CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 59: Rep. Hannah, co-sponsor of HJR 59 which requests the reevaluation of the feasibility of developing the Calamity Jane Reservoir, explained that chief sponsor of the bill, Rep. Ramirez was unable to attend hearing because of pressing business in the House.

Rep. Hannah explained that HJR 59 really stems from Sen. Manning's proposal for off-stream storage. Past evaluations looked at hydro-electric and irrigation uses, but not recreation. There will be no state money involved in the study, but if the development is found feasible, there would be a possibility of matching state funds in the future. Rep. Hannah said that the federal government does have the study funds, but needs request from the state. Rep. Hannah said there is a vast need for water recreation opportunities around the Billings area which has 1/7 of Montana's population there. Rep. Hannah presented a handout on two proposed projects-- Calamity Jane (Exhibit 1) and Valley Creek (Exhibit 2) Maps were included as well as a narrative of each project.

PROPOSERS: There were no proponents present.

OPPOSERS: There were no opponents present.

QUESTIONS (AND/OR DISCUSSION) FROM THE COMMITTEE: Sen. Gage asked what kind of land is in the area and Rep. Hannah said there are sandstone bluffs, scrub pines, and sagebrush. The land is neither good for agriculture nor for grazing purposes.

After looking at both maps, Sen. Weeding asked if the same canal could be used for either site, and Rep. Hannah explained that the sites are very close to one another.

He told of his excitement in considering the Valley Creek proposal. Calamity Jane would cover 550 acres, but Valley Creek Project which is located three or four miles outside of Park City would cover 2,600 acres. Rep. Hannah mentioned that once water leaves our state, we lose it.

Sen. Keating asked how people became aware of the availability of the money for the study, and Rep. Hannah's answer was vague--during the Carter Administration, money was not available, but it seems to be now. It is unclear just how much money is available for the study, but if Montana doesn't ask for it, Montana won't get it.

Sen. Keating asked if the Bureau had some sites on the list and Rep Hannah answered yes, and they were prioritized with Calamity Jane first, Frozen to Death Creek, Starve to Death Creek, Valley Creek, and Bridger Creek. These areas were prioritized to specific criteria for irrigation and electricity purposes. However, these sites were never studied for recreational purposes.

For the record, Sen. Keating asked the location of the Ramirez property, and the committee was shown on the map where the property was located. In other words, it was determined that the principals of the proposal do not have a vested interest on the proposed sites.

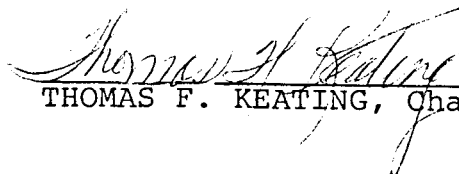
Sen. Hofman asked about seepage, etc. Rep. Hannah reported that the study will be made to determine all of those things, but he did assure Sen. Hofman that the area was in an alkali basin.

During the discussion, there was speculation that there may result some side benefits such as hydro-electric power.

CLOSING: Rep. Hannah reminded the committee that the study would focus on Calamity Jane and/or Valley Creek Projects for water storage and recreation purposes.

DISPOSITION OF HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 59: Sen. Severson moved that HJR BE CONCURRED IN. Motion CARRIED unanimously.

There being no more business before the committee and only one day before the session ended, Sen. Keating adjourned the meeting at 1:30 p.m.


THOMAS F. KEATING, Chairman

ROLL CALL

NATURAL RESOURCES

COMMITTEE

50th LEGISLATIVE SESSION -- 1987

Date April 22

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
Sen. Tom Keating, Chairman	✓		
Sen. Cecil Weeding, Vice Chairman	✓		
Sen. John Anderson	✓		
Sen. Mike Halligan			
Sen. Delwyn Gage	✓		
Sen. Lawrence Stimatz	✓		
Sen. Larry Tveit	✓		
Sen. "J.D." Lynch			
Sen. Sam Hofman	✓		
Sen. William Yellowtail	✓		
Sen. Elmer Severson	✓		
Sen. Mike Walker			

Each day attach to minutes.

OFF-STREAM HYDROPOWER POTENTIAL

YELLOWSTONE RIVER BASIN

NARRATIVE

CALAMITY JANE

SENATE NATURAL RESOURCES

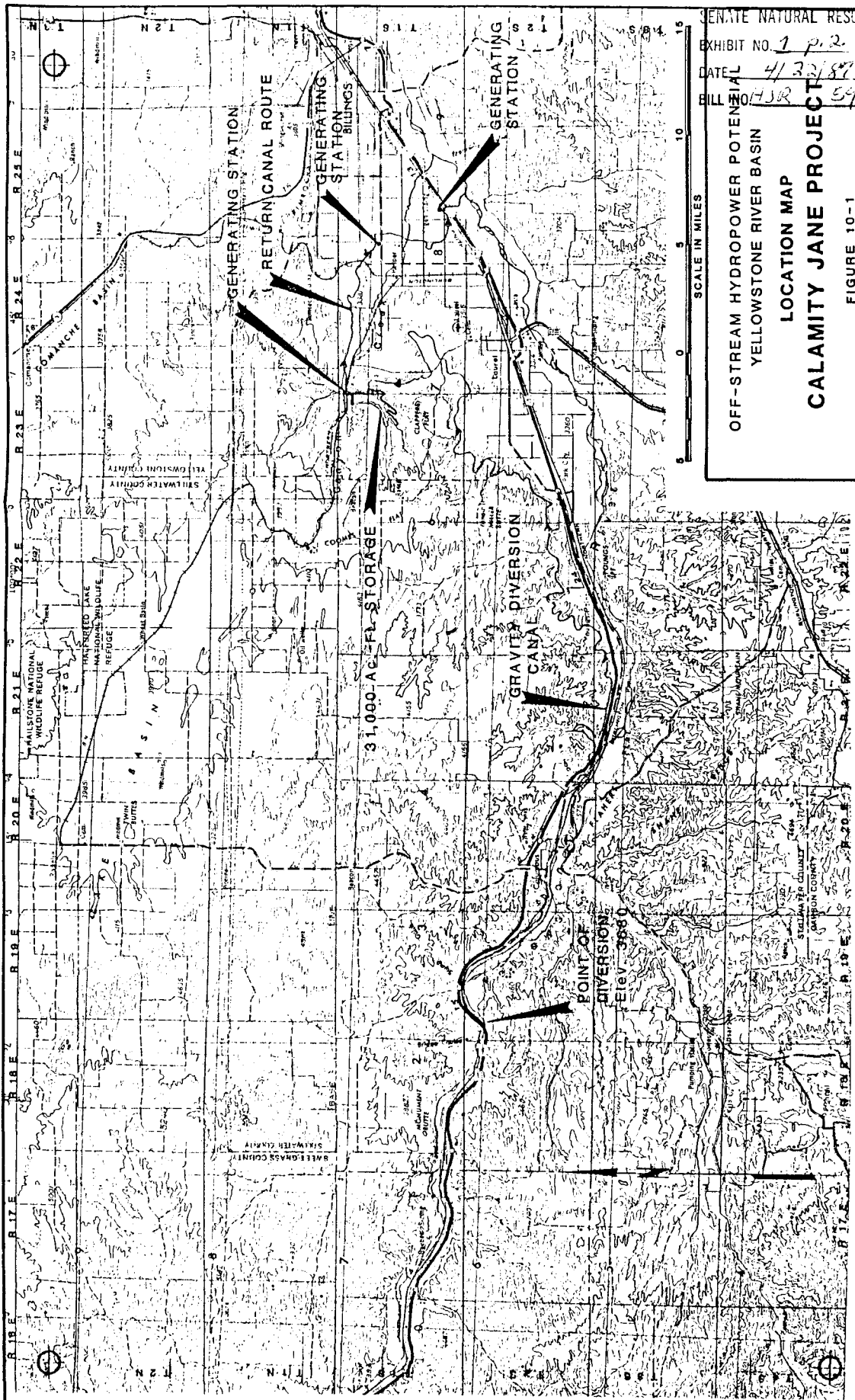
EXHIBIT NO. 1DATE 4/23/87BILL NO. HJR 59

The Calamity Jane project is a proposed off-stream storage reservoir, municipal water supply for the City of Billings and hydropower complex. Water to fill this reservoir would be conveyed through a 109 mile long canal with a design capacity of 2,000 cubic feet per second. The proposed point of diversion, elevation 3660 feet, is located in Section 6, Township 1 South, Range 19 East in Yellowstone County, between the towns of Reed Point and Columbus.

The proposed canal route is situated along the north bank of the Yellowstone River and would pass by the towns of Columbus, Park City, and Laurel enroute to the reservoir site. The canal would make 18 major stream crossings, one railroad crossing, three crossings of Interstate 90 and nine road or highway crossings between the point of diversion and the reservoir site.

The proposed reservoir is within Township 1 South, Ranges 23 and 24 East. The surface reservoir area would be 550 acres at a normal pool elevation of 3,648 feet, and 710 acres at a maximum pool elevation of 3,648 feet. The reservoir has a significant recreational potential and a limited flood control potential. The dam, 2,600 feet long, 187 feet high would hold 31,000 acre-feet (af) at normal pool elevation and 43,500 af at maximum pool elevation. The embankment volume would contain 4.4 million cubic yards.

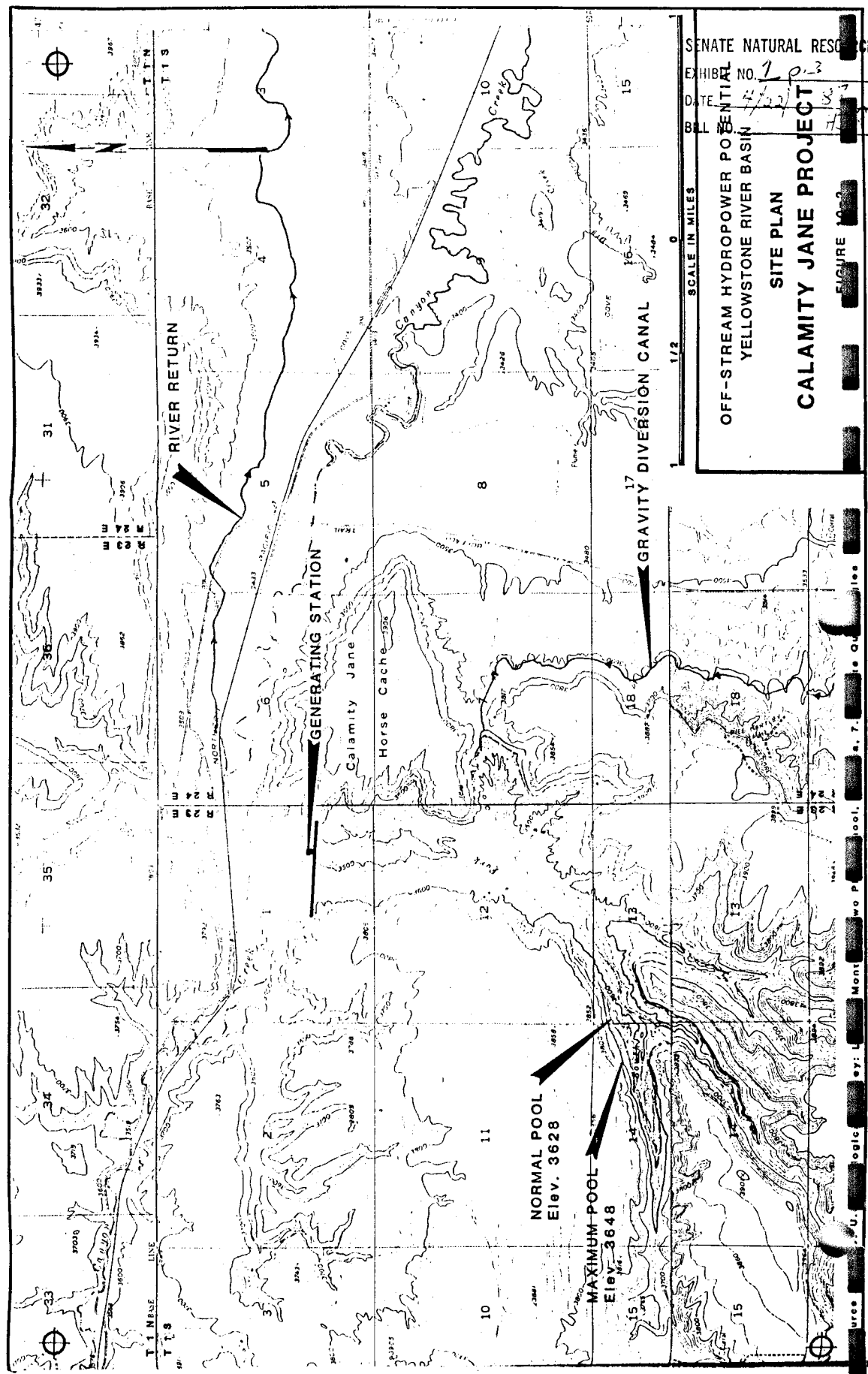
Three power generation sites would be used with the reservoir with one site adjacent to the dam and two sites along the return canal. The site adjacent to the dam would have a hydraulic head of 167 feet with 587,700 af hydropower releases annually. The next power plant along the return canal, situated near Big Ditch and Shiloh Road, would have a hydraulic head of 140 feet. The third power generation site, located adjacent to Yegen Siding midway between Billings and Laurel, would have a hydraulic head of 60 feet. The return canal makes eight major stream or irrigation ditch crossings, three railroad crossings, 14 road or highway crossings, and one crossing of Interstate 90 prior to reaching the point of return.



SENATE NATURAL RESOURCE
 EXHIBIT NO. 1 p. 2
 DATE 4/30/89
 BILL HJR 59

OFF-STREAM HYDROPOWER POTENTIAL
 YELLOWSTONE RIVER BASIN
 LOCATION MAP
CALAMITY JANE PROJECT
 FIGURE 10-1

SCALE IN MILES
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SENATE NATURAL RESOURCES

EXHIBIT NO. 203

DATE 7/27/87

BY H. J. ...

FIGURE NO. 103

SCALE IN MILES

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OFF-STREAM HYDROPOWER POTENTIAL

YELLOWSTONE RIVER BASIN

SITE PLAN

CALAMITY JANE PROJECT

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OFF-STREAM HYDROPOWER POTENTIAL

YELLOWSTONE RIVER BASIN

NARRATIVE

VALLEY CREEK

SENATE NATURAL RESOURCES

EXHIBIT NO. 2DATE 4/23/87BILL NO. HJR 57

The Valley Creek project is a proposed off-stream storage reservoir and hydropower generation site approximately two miles west of Park City. The proposed point of diversion for the project is located at an elevation of 3680 feet in Section 6, T.2S., R19E. approximately 24 miles west of the damsite. The canal route would be located along the north side of the Yellowstone River and passes north of Columbus.

The proposed canal has a capacity of 2000 cfs, length of approximately 37.5 miles and includes five major stream crossings, three highway crossings, seven road crossings and one railroad crossing.

The reservoir would be located in Township 2 South, Range 22 East. The damsite would be located in Section 24, T.2S., R22E. and the hydropower generating plant in Section 36, T.2S., R22E. The surface area of the proposed reservoir at a normal pool elevation of 3600 feet is 2619 acres and approximately 3300 acres at a maximum pool elevation of 3620 feet. Features within the proposed reservoir area include approximately four miles of county road.

The proposed dam is 3200 feet long, 180 feet high, and requires 5.9 million cubic yards of embankment material. The reservoir capacity at normal pool elevation would be 132,000 acre-feet and 191,000 acre-feet at maximum pool elevation. Annual hydropower releases are estimated at 590,500 acre-feet with an estimated 200 feet of hydraulic head. Project return flows to the Yellowstone River would be carried via a penstock to a hydropower plant located approximately 2200 feet from the River. A 3000 cfs canal would carry the return flow from the hydropower generating site to the River.

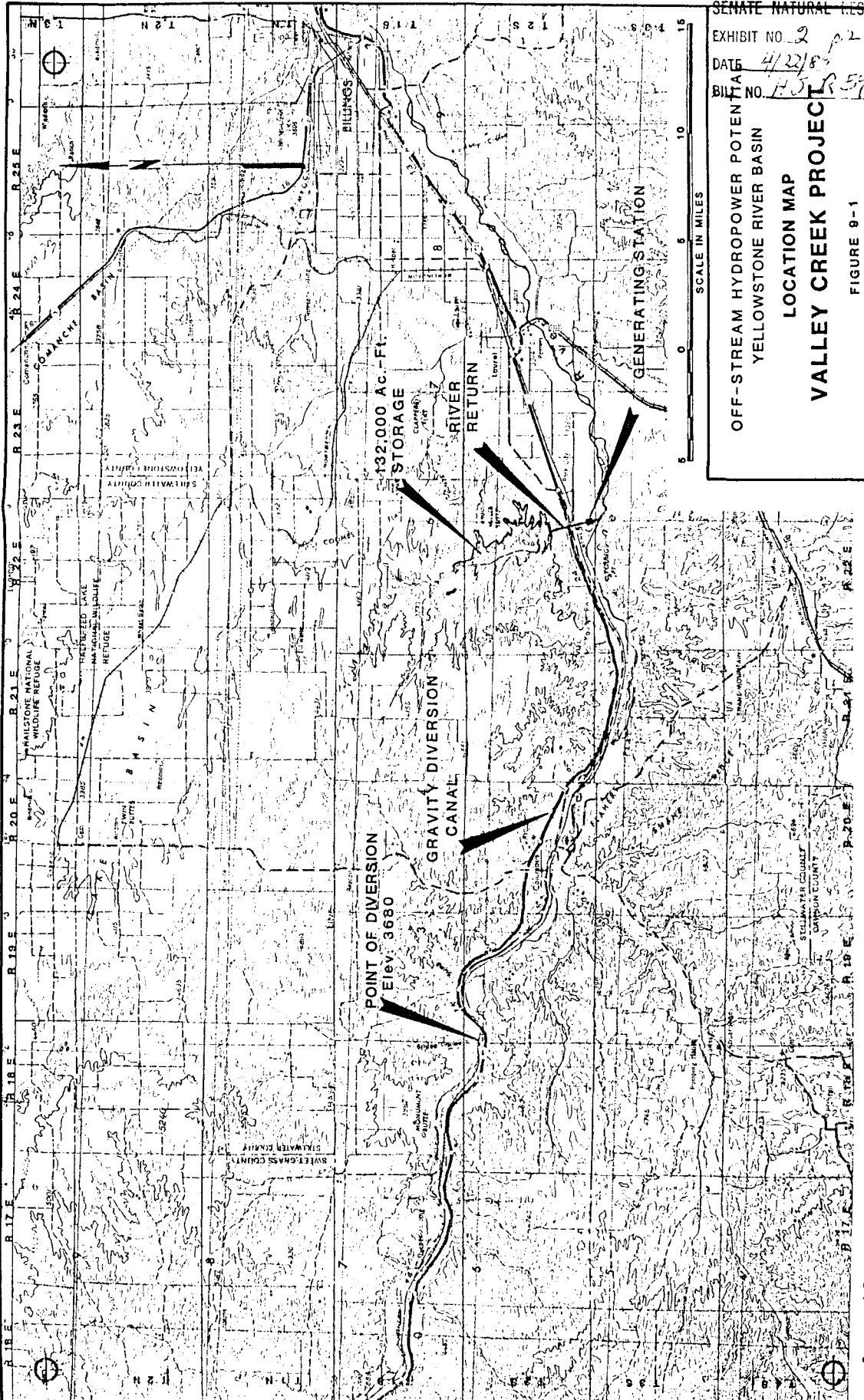
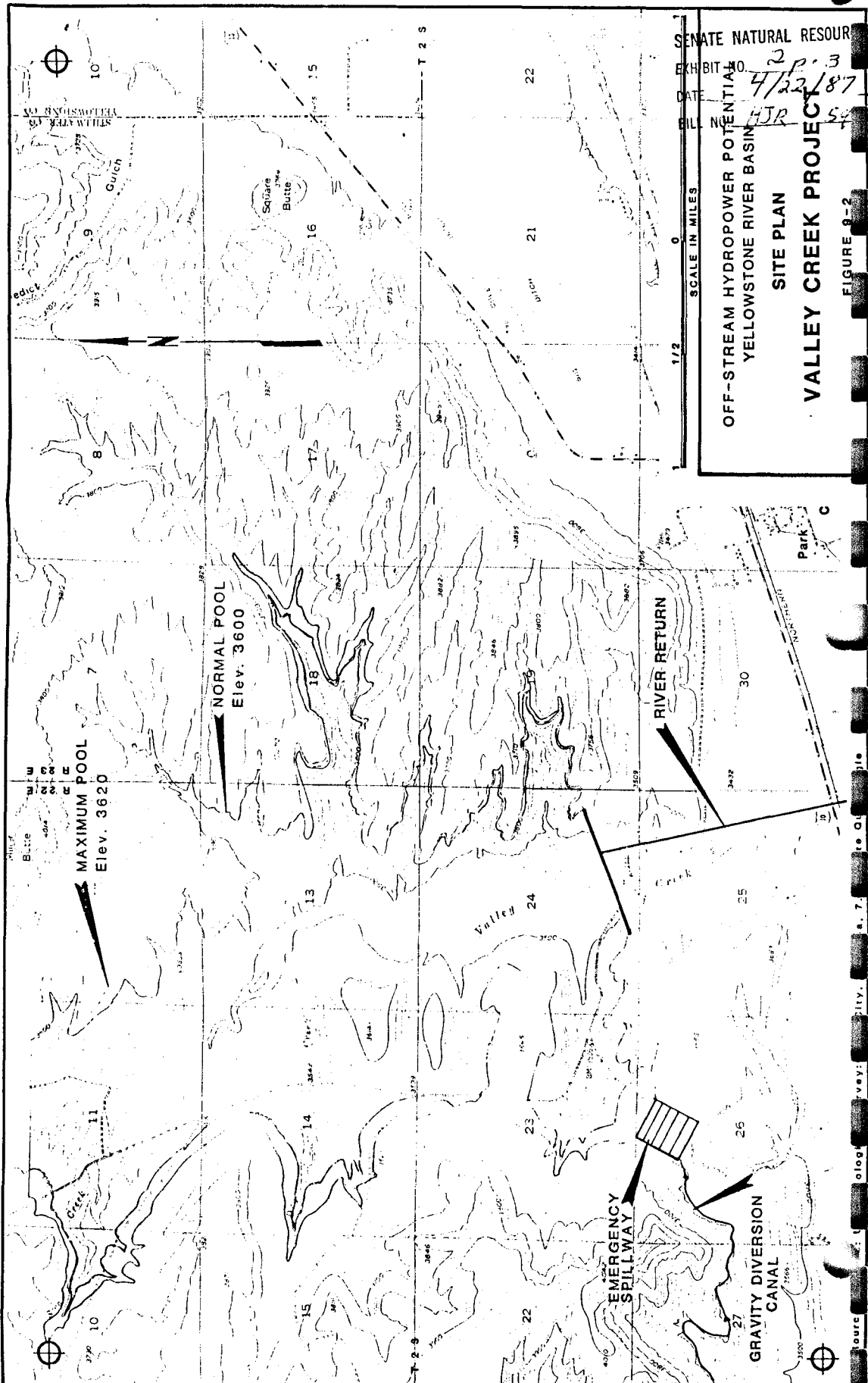


EXHIBIT NO. 2
 DATE 4/22/83
 BILL NO. HJR 59

OFF-STREAM HYDROPOWER POTENTIAL
 YELLOWSTONE RIVER BASIN
 LOCATION MAP
VALLEY CREEK PROJECT

FIGURE 9-1

Source of Base: U.S. Army Map Service: NL-12-9 Billings, Montana, 2 Minute Quadrangle



STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

..... APRIL 22 19 57

MR. PRESIDENT

We, your committee on NATURAL RESOURCES

having had under consideration HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION No. 59

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color

REQUEST FOR REEVALUATING THE FEASIBILITY OF DEVELOPING
THE CALAMITY JANE RESERVOIR

RAMIREZ (HEATING)

Respectfully report as follows: That HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION No. 59

BE CONCURRED IN

~~DO PASS~~

~~DO NOT PASS~~

..... SEN. THOMAS F. HEATING

Chairman.

4/22/57
1:45
JJS