

MEMORANDUM

TO: Shelli Swanson and Patty Rost
FROM: Kate Swift
RE: Kobuk River Raptor Survey

September 20, 1991

KOBUK RIVER RAPTOR SURVEY SUMMARY

Goal

To determine the distribution, abundance and productivity of cliff nesting raptors along the the Kobuk River from Walker Lake to the confluence of the Pah River. This survey was done in conjunction with a study of abundance and diversity of small mammals in different habitat types along the Kobuk.

Study Area

The study was conducted along the Kobuk River from Walker Lake to confluence of the Pah River.

Procedure

Previously located raptor nests were recorded on maps, relocated and checked for occupancy/chicks. In addition, a search for new nest sites was conducted by surveying cliff areas with good potential for nests and practical walking distance from the river. Nests were observed using binoculars and spotting scopes at a distance to minimize disturbance to the nesting birds. Species name, number of young, a description of the nest and bird behavior was recorded on raptor nest cards and are filed within the Gates of the Arctic NP raptor files. Photos were taken of each nest and are filed accordingly.

Results and Discussion

Ten nest structures were observed on the raptor survey; all but one were within the Gates of the Arctic National Preserve. Due to the lack of cliffs, except in the upper and lower canyons of the Kobuk, nine of the nests were located in trees. The lone nest sighted on a cliff was falling apart and hadn't been used in several seasons. No previously located nests were located, except for the nests observed by Dave Schmitz earlier this season; this is either due to birds moving their nest sites, inaccuracies in mapping nest locations especially the ones recorded by air, and/or our survey missing nest sites due to poor weather. Compiled raptor nest observations are as follows:

Raptor Nest Observations:

Active Nests:

Osprey - 5 w/ ?#young or eggs
each nest but 1 had 2 adults at the nest site
Harlan's Hawk - 1 w/1 nestling aged 30-40 days and
2 adults at the nest site

Inactive Nests:

Unidentified Nests - 3 including 1 cliff nest

Bald Eagle - 1 outside the GAAR National Preserve

Twenty nine raptor observations were made including birds associated with nests. The most significant sighting was a Peregrine Falcon in the Lower Kobuk Canyon; it's nest was not located. Compiled observations are as follows:

Raptor Observations:

Peregrine Falcon - 1 (Continental variety)
Bald Eagle - 3 adults
Ospreys - 12 total; 9 adults associated w/5 nests
Harlan's Hawk - 4 total; 2 adults and 1 nestling
associated with 1 nest
Rough Legged Hawk - 3; 2 adults and 1 juvenile
Northern Harrier - 2; 1 female and 1 male
Goshawk - 1
Great Horned Owl - 1
Short Eared Owl - 1

Problems

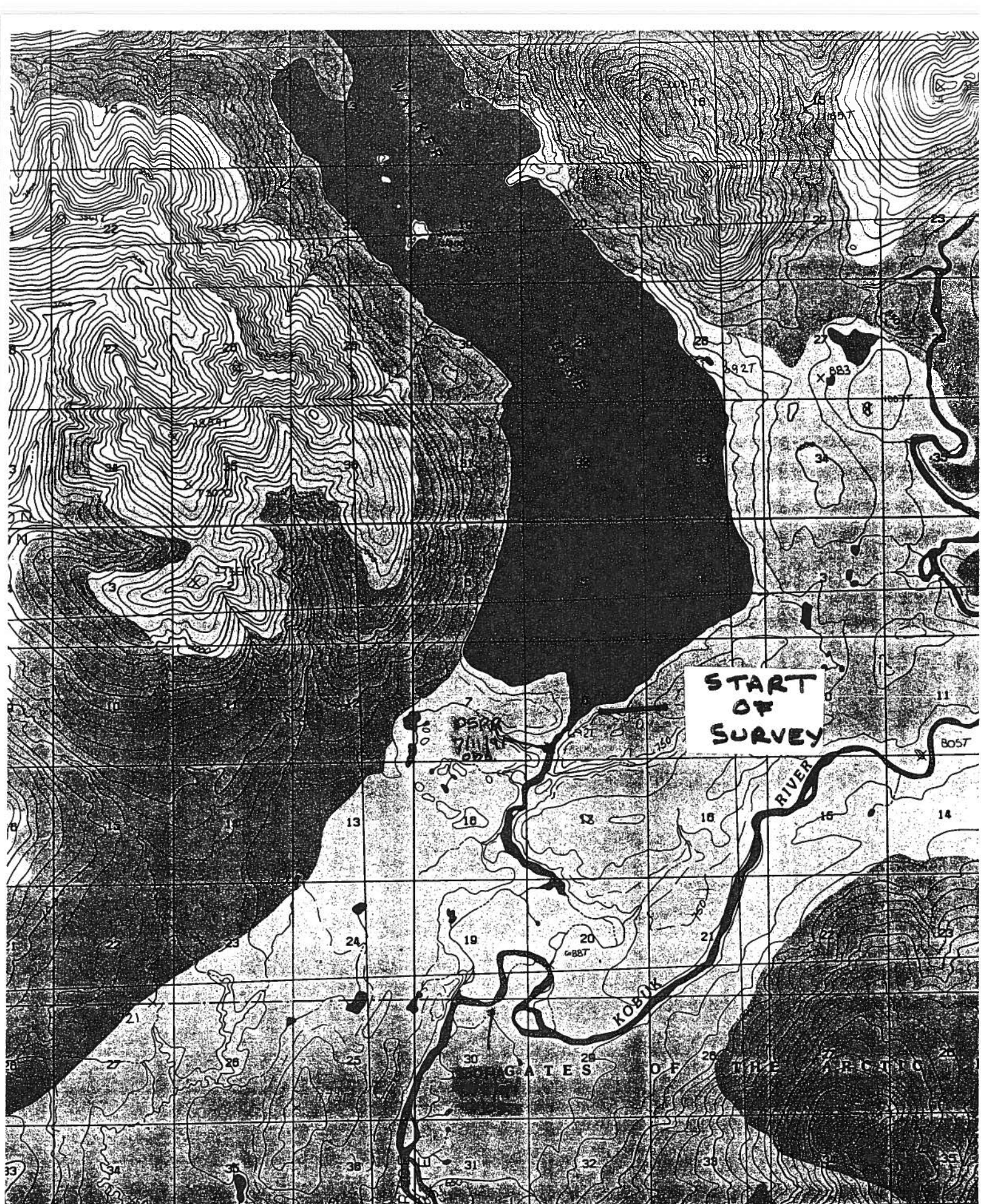
Since there were few area with cliffs, prioritizing cliff nesting raptors left little work to be done. Observations of tree nesting raptor species along with measurements and descriptions of their nests were made. Due to the whitewater, we did not extensively survey the Lower Kobuk Canyon for raptor nests; in the future this could be done. My temptation would have been to hike around the areas where hawks were showing defensive behavior to locate nests, but since these species were not a priority and the weather was so lousy, this was not worth the effort. Rainy weather the entire trip may have hampered our viewing potential; birds otherwise seen may have remained on nests unobserved.

Conclusions

The Kobuk River should not be included as an important river for study and management for cliff nesting raptors. A more likely choice would be the Noatak with accessible cliff areas if a west running river is what is needed.

KOBUK RIVER RAPTOR SURVEY

Nine pages of maps follow this page locating the raptor observations and nest sites.



GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

154°30'
67°00'

440000E

20'

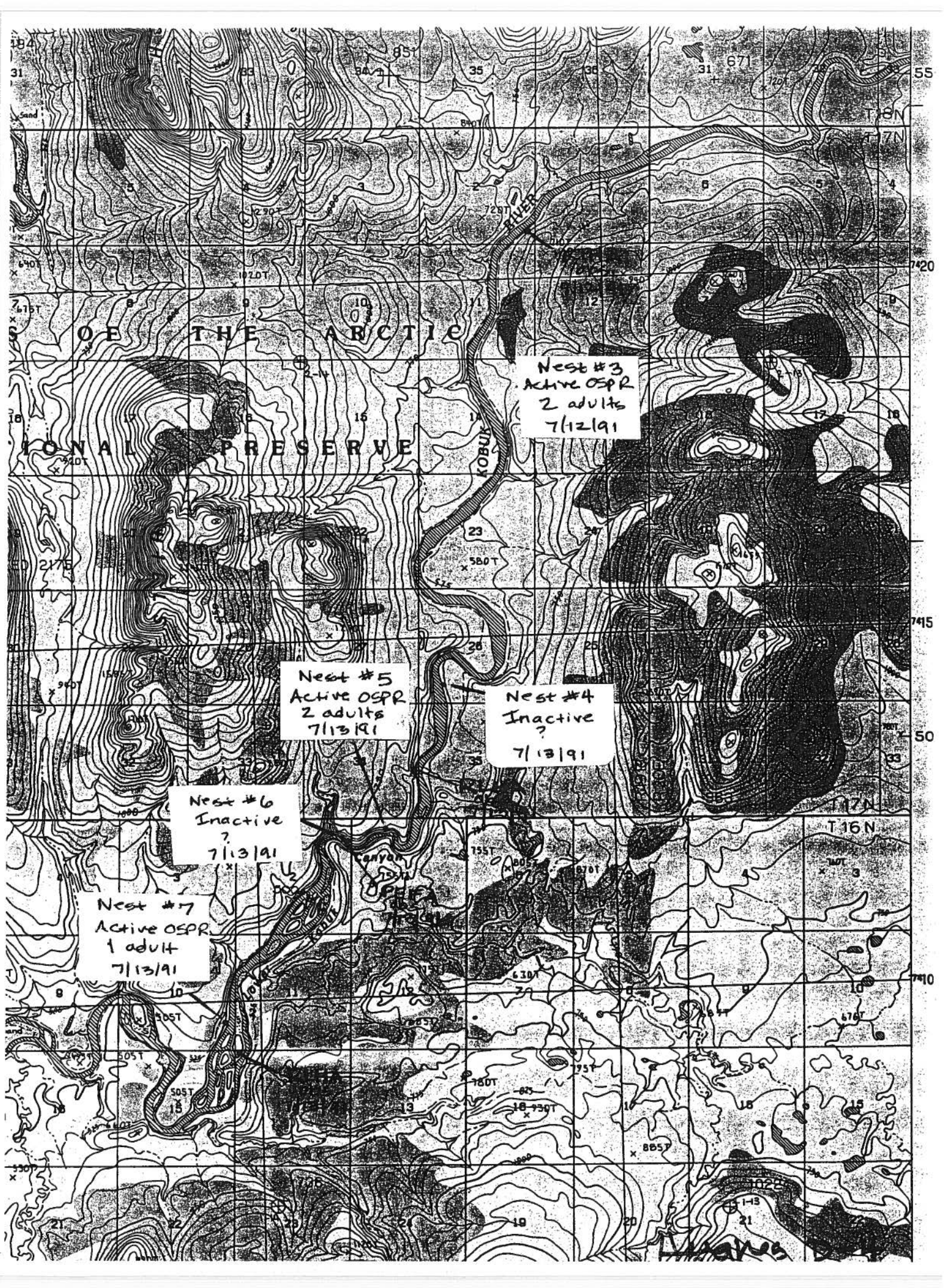
45

Nest #1
Active OSPR
2 adults
7/11/91

Nest #2
Active OSPR
2 adults
7/12/91

GATES OF THE ARCTIC
NATIONAL RESERVE

HUGHES D-3



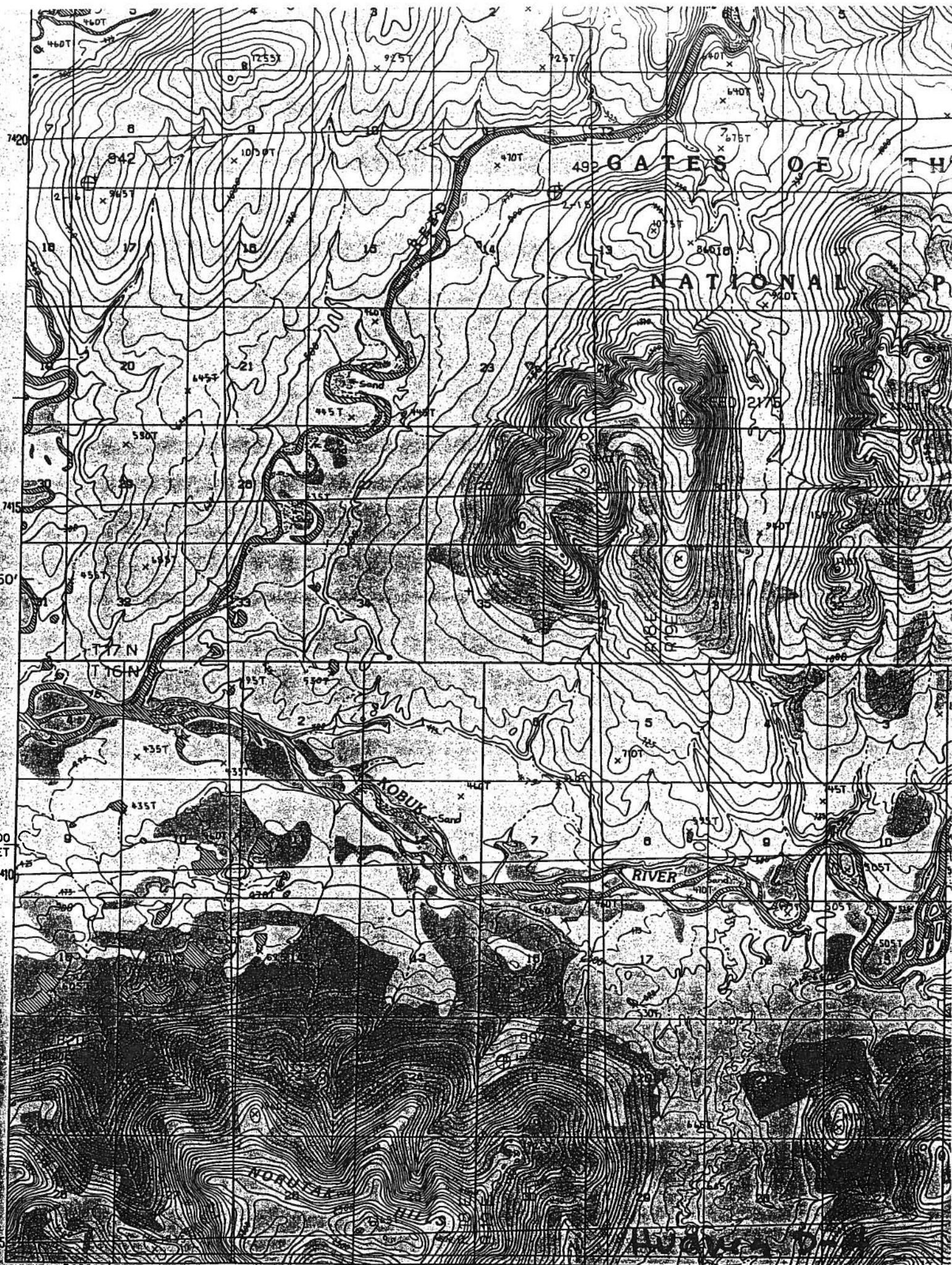
Nest #3
Active OSPR
2 adults
7/12/91

Nest #5
Active OSPR
2 adults
7/13/91

Nest #4
Inactive
?
7/13/91

Nest #6
Inactive
?
7/13/91

Nest #7
Active OSPR
1 adult
7/13/91





Nest #8
Inactive
Small?
7/14/91

Nest #9
Inactive
1000's Hawk
HAD
quite a few
7/14/91

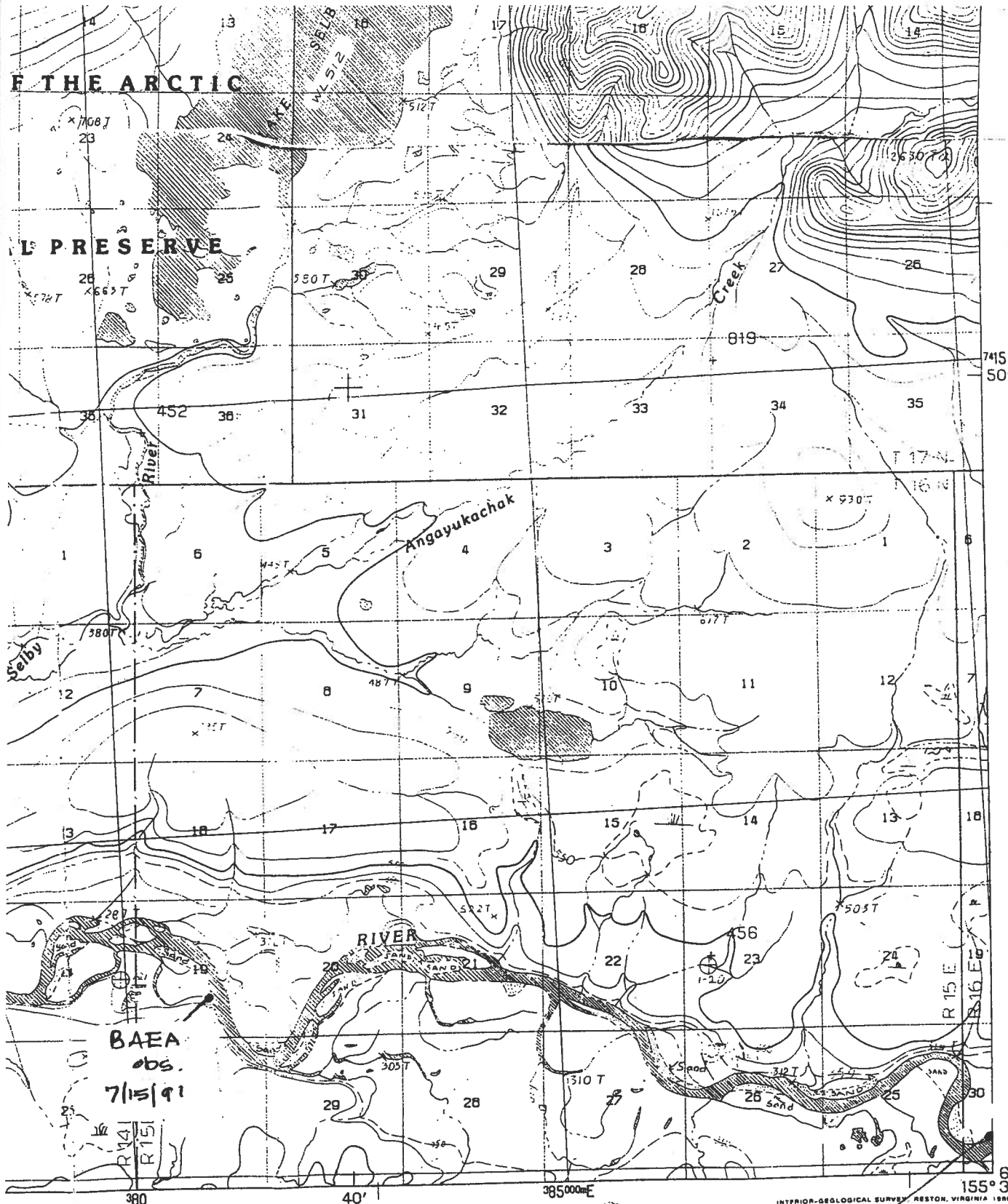


CONTOUR INTERVAL 100 FEET
SUPPLEMENTAL CONTOUR INTERVAL 50 FEET

QUADRANGLE LOCATION

ROAD LEGEND
No roads or trails in this area





SCALE 1:63,500
 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 KILOMETERS
 0 1 2 3 MILES
 6000 9000 12000 15000 FEET

INTERVAL 30 FEET
 CONTOUR INTERVAL 50 FEET

QUADRANGLE LOCATION



INTERIOR GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 1986

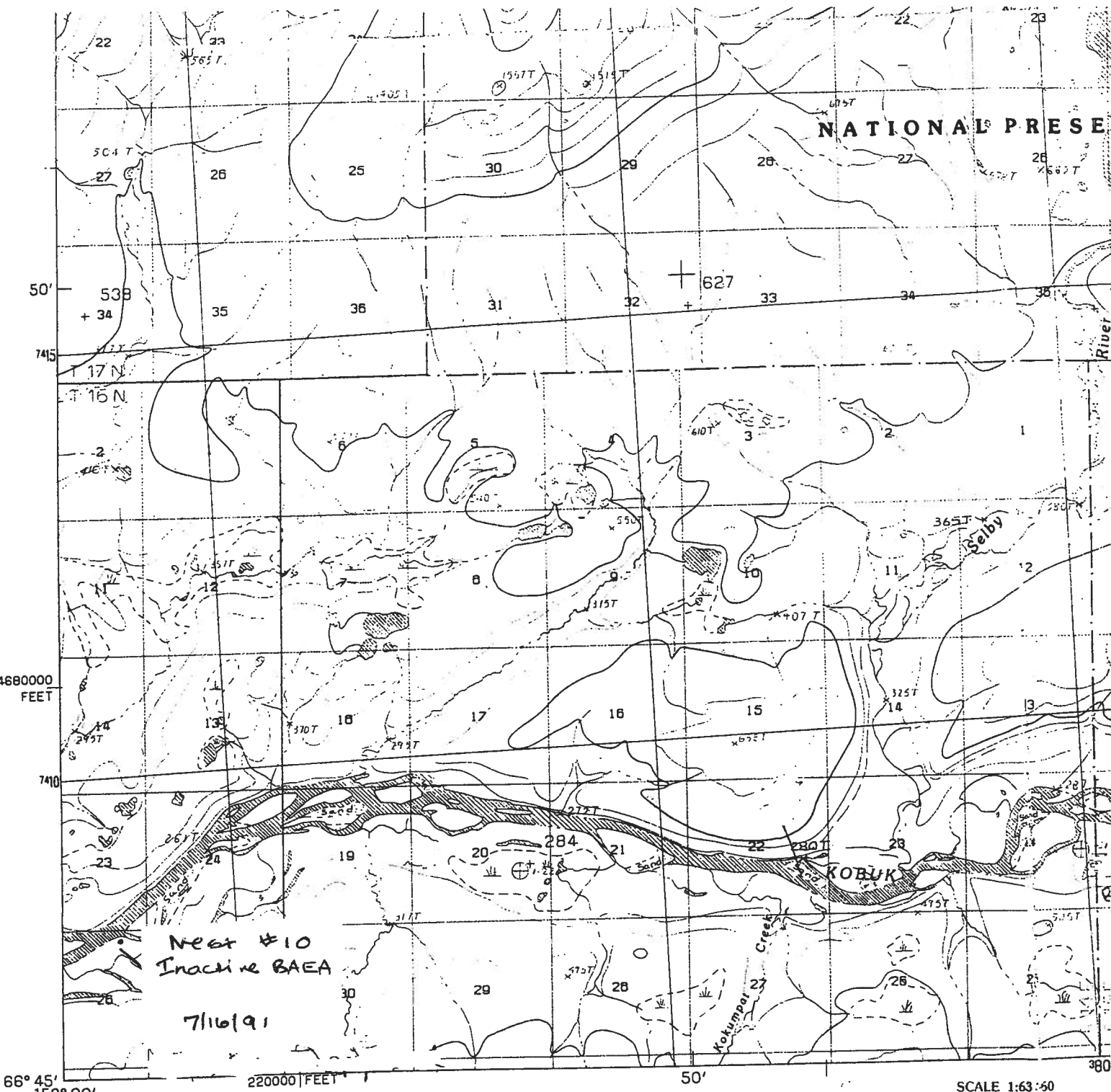
BAEA
 obs.
 7/15/91

LEGEND
 sils in this area

meters to feet multiply by 3.2808
 feet to meters multiply by .3048

1	2	3
1 Ambler River (A-1)	2 Survey Pass (A-6)	3 Survey Pass (A-5)
4 Shungnak (D-1)		

Hughes D-6



66° 45' 156° 00'

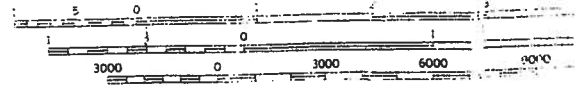
220000 FEET

50'

SCALE 1:63,400

PRODUCED BY THE UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
 CONTROL BY USGS, NOS/NOAA
 COMPILED FROM AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN 1970 AND 1971
 MAP NOT FIELD CHECKED. MAP EDITED 1986
 PROJECTION UNIVERSAL TRANSVERSE MERCATOR
 GRID: 5000-METER UNIVERSAL TRANSVERSE MERCATOR ZONE 5
 20,000-FOOT STATE GRID TICKS ALASKA, ZONE 5
 UTM GRID DECLINATION 2°32' WEST
 1986 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION 23°30' EAST
 VERTICAL DATUM NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
 HORIZONTAL DATUM 1927 NORTH AMERICAN DATUM
 To place on the predicted North American Datum of 1983, move the
 projection lines 62 meters north and 124 meters east
 Land lines represent unsurveyed and unmarked locations pre-
 determined by the Bureau of Land Management, Folios K-2 and K-8,
 Kotel River Meridian
 There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of any Federal
 and State Reservations shown on this map
 Federal Reservation boundaries established by the Alaska National
 Interest Lands Conservation Act, PL 96-487, Dec. 2, 1980 are
 shown as compiled by the administering agencies
 All streams and lakes are perennial
 Swamps, as portrayed, indicate only the wetter areas, usually of low
 relief, as interpreted from aerial photographs

PROVISIONAL MAP
 Produced from original
 manuscript drawings. In-
 formation shown as of date
 of photography 3

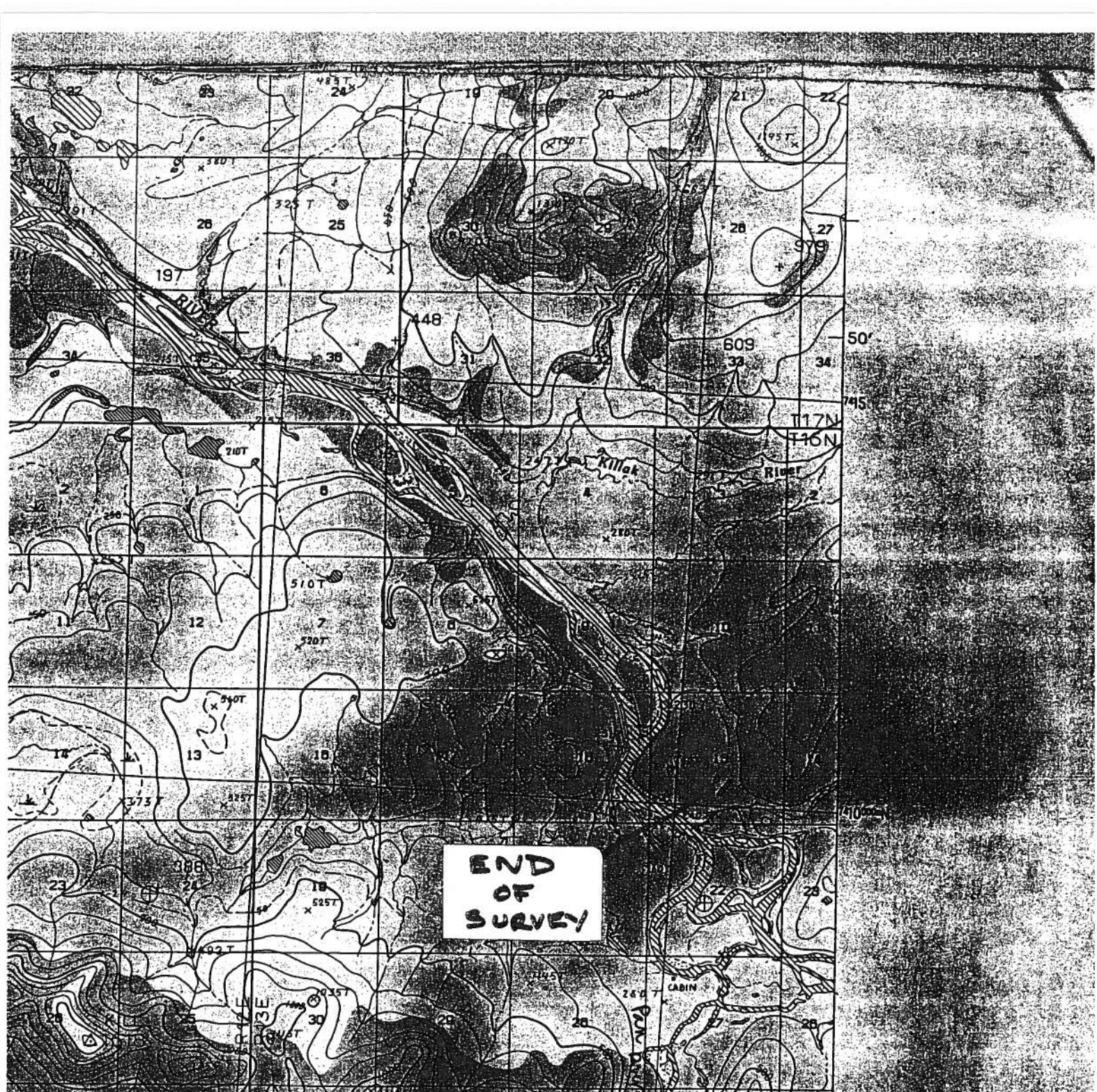


CONTOUR INTERVAL 80 FEET
 SUPPLEMENTAL CONTOUR INTERVAL 50 FEET

To convert meters to feet multiply by 3.2808
 To convert feet to meters multiply by .3048

FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, FAIRBANKS
 DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR REGION VII

Huachos D-61



END
OF
SURVEY

10' 630000E 66° 45' 156° 00'



ROAD LEGEND
No roads or trails in this area

1	2	3	1 Amble River (A-2)
4	5	6	2 Amble River (A-1)
7	8	9	3 Survey Pass (A-6)
10	11	12	4 Shungnak (D-5)
13	14	15	5 Hughes (D-6)
16	17	18	6 Shungnak (C-2)
19	20	21	7 Shungnak (C-1)
22	23	24	8 Hughes (C-6)

Shungnak D-1
SHUNGNAC (D-1), ALASKA
PROVISIONAL EDITION 1985