

SPOKANE BASIN

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT BRANCH

**INVENTORY AND ASSESSMENT OF SOLID
WASTE DISPOSAL SITES IN SPOKANE
COUNTY, WN. AND NORTHERN IDAHO**

**ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION
AGENCY
REGION X
SEATTLE, WA**

WORKING PAPER NO. 85

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REPLY TO
ATTN OF:

10CSW - M/S 533

DATE: October 19, 1972

SUBJECT:

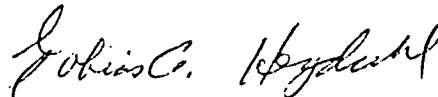
Final Report - Inventory and Assessment of Solid Waste Disposal Sites
in Spokane County, Washington and North Idaho

TO:

- Lester E. Blaschke, Chief, Solid Waste Management Branch

Attached are two copies of the subject report. This information serves as an August 1972 baseline inventory and should be utilized to measure future progress in the area.

It was readily apparent that the recently awarded EPA solid waste planning grant is largely responsible for the rapid progress being made in the North Idaho area. Within the past five years, the number of dumps in Spokane County has been cut in half. More progress will be made following the official adoption of the solid waste plan this fall.



Tobias A. Hegdahl
Engineer, Solid Waste
Management Branch

Enclosures

SPOKANE COUNTY AND NORTH IDAHO SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL SITE INVENTORY AND ASSESSMENT

This inventory and assessment covers Spokane County, Washington and the five northern counties in Idaho which are Benewah, Kootenai, Shoshone, Bonner and Boundary. This information, which is current as of August 1972, should be used as a baseline for future comparison of solid waste management progress in the area. The north Idaho information and data was gathered through Mr. Ken Lustig, the solid waste coordinator for the recently awarded EPA solid waste planning grant. The Spokane County data was obtained from Mr. Mike Senske in the County Engineers Office and from Mr. Rodger James in the Spokane City Engineering Department. The north Idaho information is presented first.

NORTH IDAHO

The information in this report is aimed primarily at an inventory of solid waste disposal sites in the area where residential and commercial waste is deposited. Agricultural wastes present little problem as there are few feedlots in the area and most of the topography is mountainous and covered with forests. Of course, the usual problems with forest harvesting, slash disposal, etc., are encountered but no attempt was made to address them in the short time allotted for this work. These aspects should be adequately investigated during the ongoing solid waste planning grant. Many wood waste teepee burners were observed in the area but increasingly stringent state air pollution regulations can be

expected to lead to their demise. The only significant industrial waste problem revolves around the many mining operations in the area. Severe water pollution problems have been created by these activities and work is in progress to help alleviate this situation. Once again, investigation of these mining activities was not attempted but the ongoing work in water pollution abatement should provide necessary data to interested parties.

With the exception of Coeur d'Alene, Kellogg, Wallace, Mullan, Osburn and the small towns of Sandpoint, St. Maries and Bonners Ferry, the area is extremely rural in nature. Characteristics of each county are as follows:

<u>County</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Per Square Mile Population Density</u>	<u>Topography</u>	<u>Principle Industries</u>
Benewah	6,230	7	Mountainous	Lumbering, Mining, Agriculture
Bonner	15,560	9	Mountainous	Lumbering, Mining, Agriculture
Boundary	6,371	4	Mountainous	Lumbering, Mining, Agriculture
Kootenai	35,332	26	Mountainous	Lumbering, Mining, Agriculture
Shoshone	<u>19,718</u>	7	Mountainous	Lumbering, Mining
Total	83,211			

The area abounds with lakes and forests and a large tourist and recreation population is experienced during the summer months. This adds greatly to the solid waste load experienced in each of the counties. As an example, the Priest Lake area of Bonner County has a normal population of 500 but this swells to 15,000 during the summer months. Large increases can be anticipated in the future as more recreational areas are developed and new summer homes are constructed.

A county by county assessment of solid waste practices follows:

Benewah County - Benewah County is extremely rural in nature with the largest town being St. Maries with a population of about 2,600. The county is served by two private collectors with Plummer the only town requiring mandatory collection. The sites currently in operation and those recently closed are shown on the enclosed map. It is hoped all sites in the county can be closed and a new sanitary landfill opened near the present St. Maries dump. A site has been located and inspected for the purpose. The sites in Emida, Santa and Fernwood will be closed and drop boxes installed in September. Mr. Lustig will forward Mission 5000 forms after he is satisfied that they have been properly covered and access closed. A site is located at Tensed on an Indian Reservation and some problems may arise in getting it closed. The waste from Plummer goes to a site in Worley located in Kootenai County. The dump at Big Eddy is on railroad property and it should be closed this fall.

1. St. Maries

2. Tensed - Indian Reservation

3. Emida

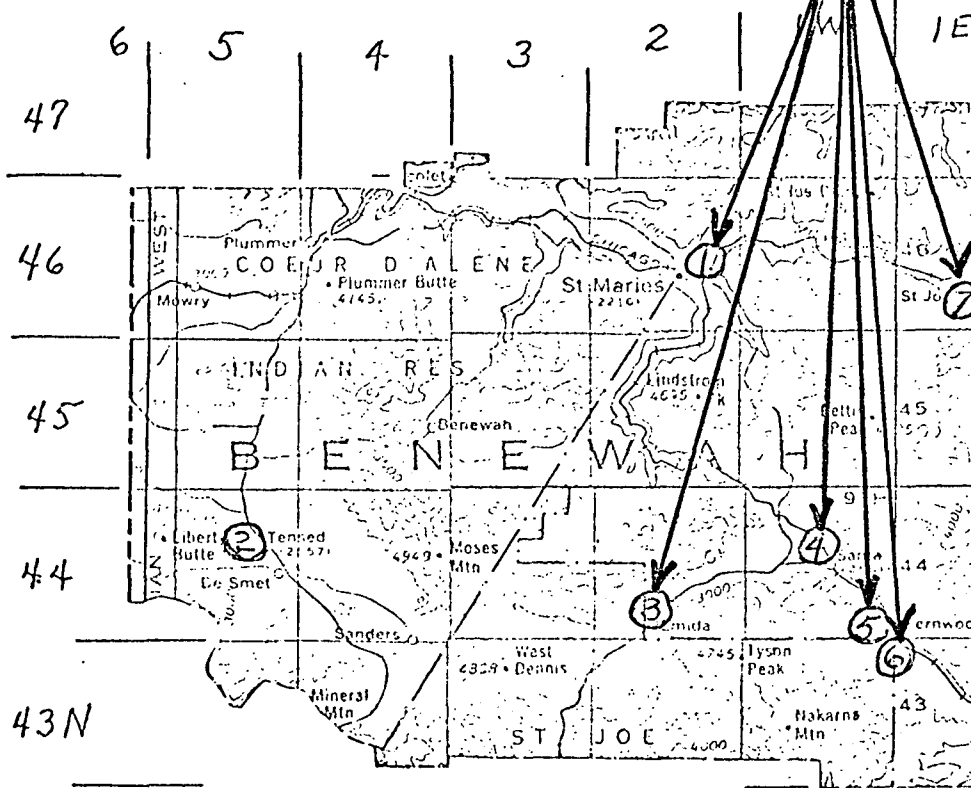
4. Santa

5. Fernwood

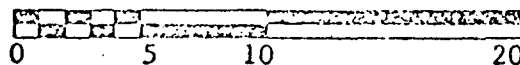
6. Fernwood

7. Big Eddy

Mission 5000
Potential



Scale of Miles



○ - Dump

○ - Modified Landfill

○ - Sanitary Landfill

Mr. Lustig is hopeful that all current sites will be closed before October 1 and that the new sanitary landfill will be in operation. He anticipates that a contractor will provide the drop boxes and operate the sanitary landfill under contract.

Bonner County - Bonner County is a heavily used recreation area during the summer months with the Priest Lake area being a popular attraction. The sites currently operating and those recently closed are shown on the enclosed map.

Dump closure activity has been rapid in the Priest Lake area, largely because of the positive action taken by the U. S. Forest Service. The Corners, Outlet, Binarch, Coolin, and Kalispel dumps have been closed and covered. The first three have been reported on Mission 5000 and we anticipate the other two will follow soon. Observation of the latter two indicates very satisfactory results. The waste from all the closed sites is going to the new Dickensheet sanitary landfill with the exception of Corners which is being placed in the Priest River dump.

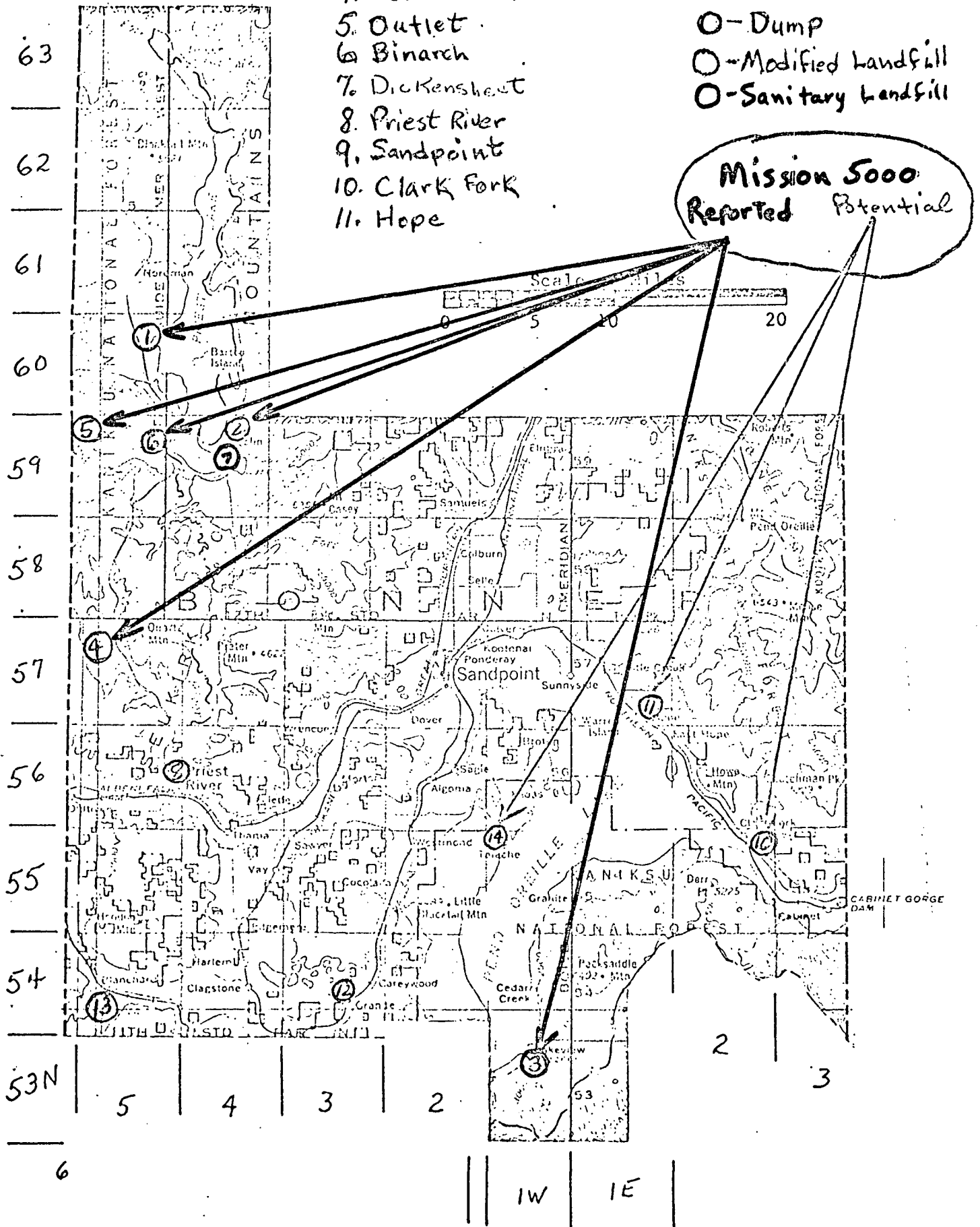
Plans are to close the Priest River dump and the Sandpoint modified landfill and establish a new sanitary landfill south of both towns. At that time the small dumps at Clark Fork and Hope would also close and the waste will be sent to this new sanitary landfill. The U. S. Forest Service also hopes to have the small dump at Taloche closed soon. The dumps at Granite and Blanchard are privately owned and work on closing them will continue.

Two private haulers serve Bonner County with only Sandpoint having mandatory collection. The hauler for Sandpoint also operates the landfill.

1. Kalispel
2. Coolin
3. Lakeview
4. Corners
5. Outlet
6. Binarch
7. Dick Kenschert
8. Priest River
9. Sandpoint
10. Clark Fork
11. Hope

12. Granite
13. Blanchard
14. Talache

- - Dump
- - Modified Landfill
- - Sanitary Landfill



Boundary County - Boundary County is served by one private collector. Four open dumps and one modified landfill are currently in operation. Work to close the four dumps and replace them with one sanitary landfill located just south of Bonners Ferry is actively underway. A potential site has been purchased and it is hoped that the private collector will establish a drop box system and operate the new sanitary landfill under contract.

The two mill levy for solid waste operation that was approved by the Idaho legislature provides little monetary base as it only brings in \$20,000 per year for Boundary County. The only feasible plan appears to be for the county to pay the contractor the \$20,000 and let him make up the difference with user fees. The fees would have to be reasonable and approved by the county.

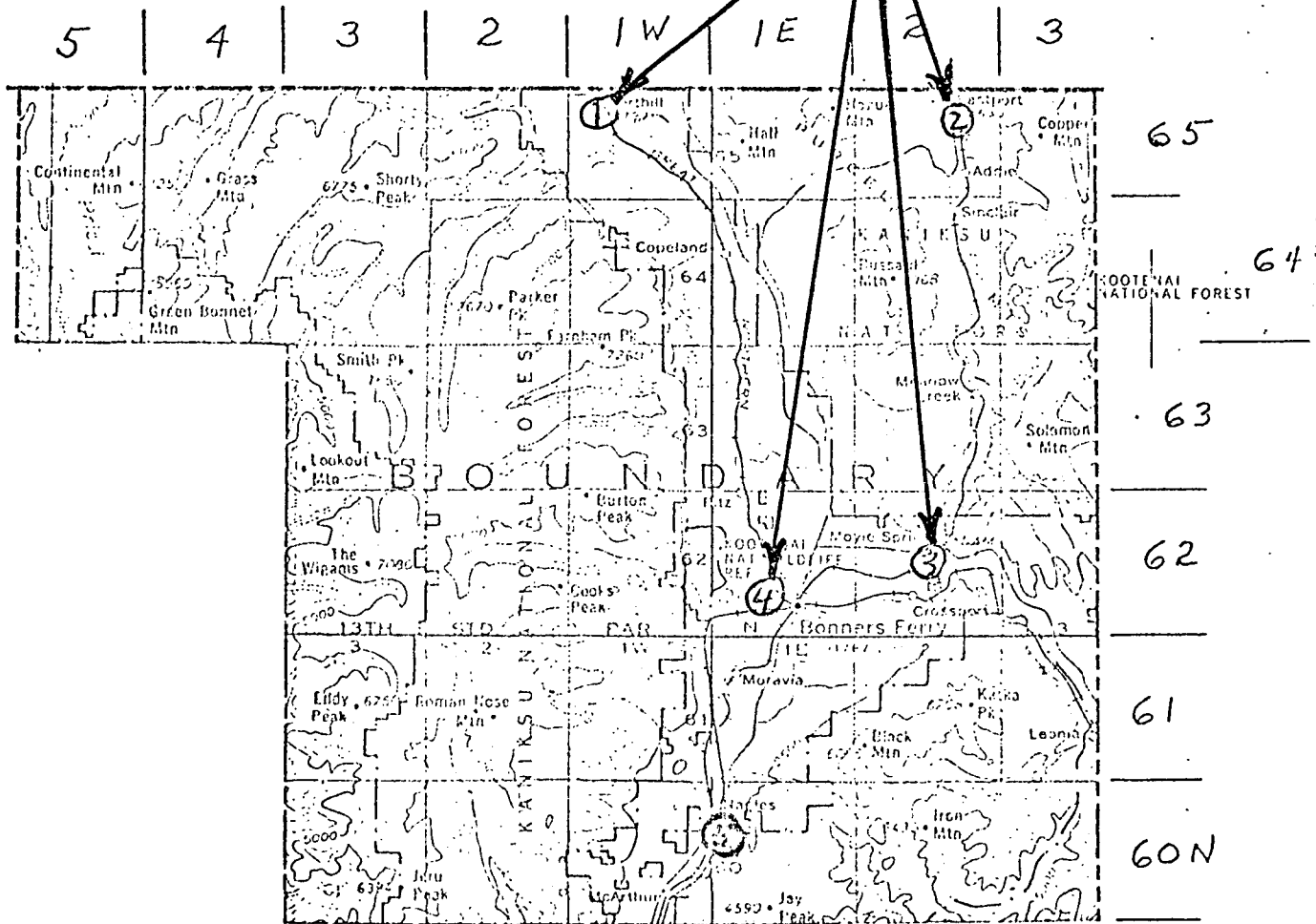
Regardless of the success of closing all the sites, the dump at Eastport, which is on federal land, will be closed by the Forest Service. The Naples dump has been recently converted to a modified trench landfill and appears to be much improved over the previous operation. If it is not upgraded to a sanitary landfill, it may be closed and the waste hauled to the new site that will be established near Bonners Ferry.

Kootenai County - Kootenai County encompasses the Coeur d'Alene area and contains nearly half of the population in the north Idaho area. The enclosed map shows all existing or recently closed disposal sites.

The site at Dudley has been closed and reported for Mission 5000. The site at Twin Lakes has been closed and covered while the site at

1. Porthill
2. Eastport
3. Moyie Springs
4. Bonners Ferry
5. Naples

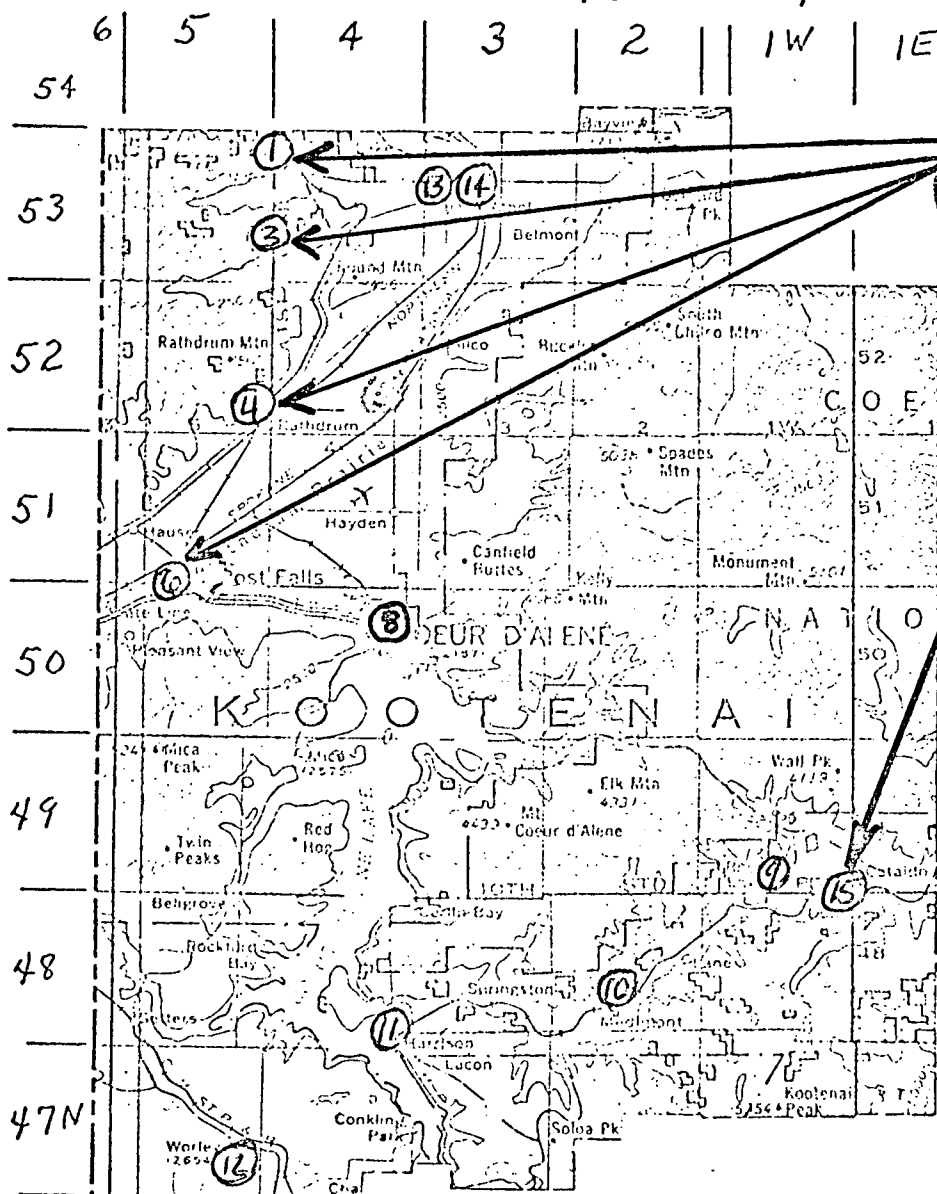
**Mission 5000
Potential**



- - Dump
- - Sanitary Landfill
- - Modified Landfill

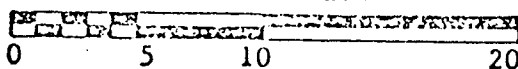
1. Spirit Lake - Closed
2. Farrigut State Park
3. Twin Lakes - Inactive
4. Rathdrum
5. Garwood
6. Milwaukee Railroad
7. Post Falls

8. Coeur D'Alene
9. Rose Lake - Semi Active
10. Medimont - Semi Active
11. Harrison
12. Worley
13. Athol
14. Athol
15. Dudley - Closed



Potential
Mission 5000
Reported

Scale of Miles



- Dump
- Modified Landfill
- Sanitary Landfill

Spirit Lake is closed and will be covered soon. Both are anticipated to be reported as Mission 5000 sites in the near future. The Rathdrum dump should be closed in September and the waste hauled to the modified landfill at Garwood.

The Coeur d'Alene site is one of two true sanitary landfills in the five county area, the other being at Dickensheet in Bonner County. A modified landfill is operated at Post Falls and the Milwaukee Railroad dump nearby is being strongly pressured to close. Harrison, Rose Lake and Medimont all have dumps which will close and be replaced with drop boxes when a sanitary landfill is established in the area east of Lake Coeur d'Alene. The possibility of utilizing the Coeur d'Alene sanitary landfill or the new sanitary landfill to be established near St. Maries is also being investigated as an alternative in getting the three dumps closed. The dump at Worley will probably be upgraded and will continue to take the waste from northwest Benewah County as well as serving the immediate area. The two small dumps near Athol will be also closed when an alternative is worked out.

Collection service in Kootenai County is provided by seven different private collectors with only Post Falls and Coeur d'Alene requiring mandatory collection. Some of these firms are small and will probably cease to operate when an organized system of drop boxes and a sanitary landfill are implemented.

Shoshone County - Because of very mountainous terrain, there are very few areas suitable for disposal sites. Dumps in Mullan, Osburn, Smelterville and Kingston have been closed and one modified landfill has been established at Polaris near Osburn. The Osburn and Smelterville dumps have been reported for Mission 5000 and closure forms for the others should be submitted as soon as they are verified as being properly closed by Mr. Lustig. The Polaris site will be upgraded in the future.

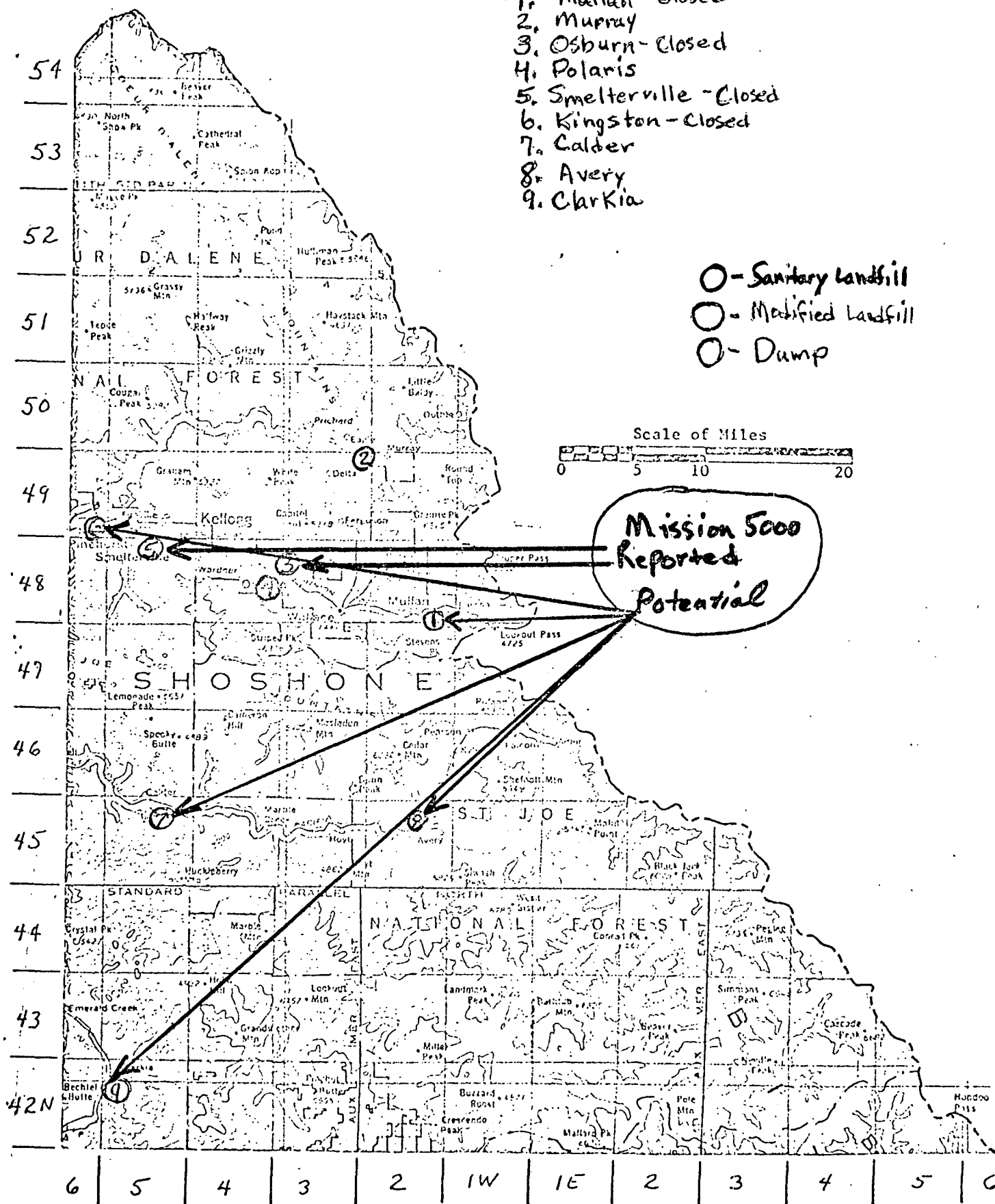
The dump near Murray on Forest Service land will be investigated for closure by Mr. Lustig within the following year. The dump at Avery is on Forest Service land and will be closed by September 1, 1972 and replaced by a drop box as will those at Calder and Clarkia. A very active contractor has agreed to provide the drop boxes and service them provided he is granted a long term contract to protect his investment. The waste from these three sites will be hauled to St. Maries.

In addition to the contractor who will service the drop boxes in southern Shoshone County, six other private collection firms operate in the corridor from Pinehurst to Mullan. Competition among them is very strong and overlapping routes exist in many areas. Mr. Lustig hopes to alleviate this situation by developing an organized approach for collection service in the area.

Summary - The Panhandle Health District and the Forest Service are taking very positive action in eliminating unacceptable dumping practices in the five county north Idaho area. Barring unsurmountable political

1. Mullan - Closed
2. Murray
3. Osburn - Closed
4. Polaris
5. Smelterville - Closed
6. Kingston - Closed
7. Calder
8. Avery
9. Clarkia

- - Sanitary Landfill
- - Modified Landfill
- - Dump



obstacles, nearly all open dumps should be eliminated and an organized solid waste management systems established by the summer of 1972.

Ideally Mr. Lustig would like to have one sanitary landfill operated in each county in conjunction with rural transfer station systems.

Realistically, at a minimum, about seven disposal sites will probably be established. Also an organized and controlled method of solid waste collection should result as the planning progresses in this area. It was readily obvious that without the EPA solid waste planning grant which enabled the Panhandle Health District to hire Mr. Lustig, little or no progress would have been made.

SPOKANE COUNTY, WASHINGTON

As with the north Idaho report, the Spokane County information is meant to be an inventory of solid waste disposal sites where residential and commercial waste is deposited. Any other desired information on special wastes should be available in the solid waste plans developed by the city and county as directed by state law. The City of Spokane elected to plan separately an option that was allowed by the law. However, the two plans will be combined into one package before they are officially adopted this fall. The plans essentially recommend rural transfer operated in conjunction with central sanitary landfills. Many small dumps have been closed in the past few years but lack of capital has forstalled implementation of the rural transfer system.

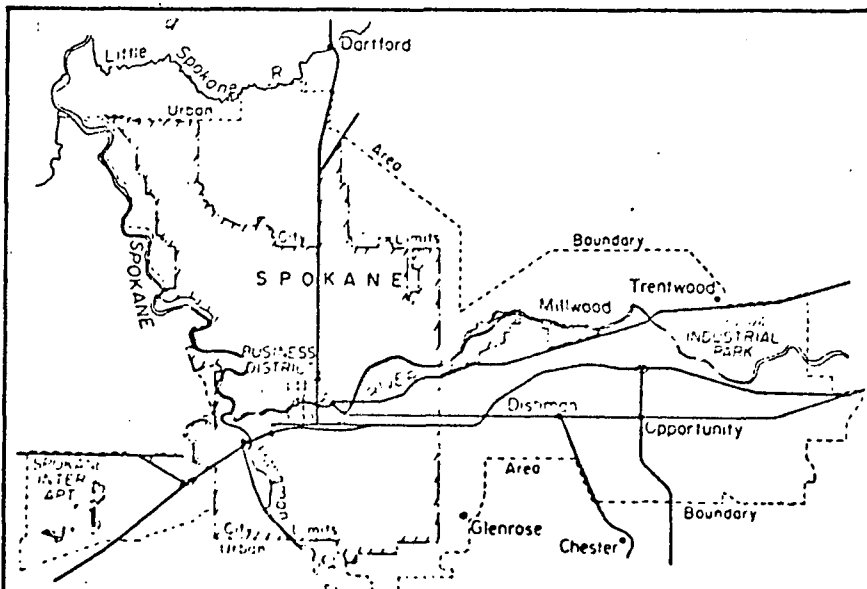
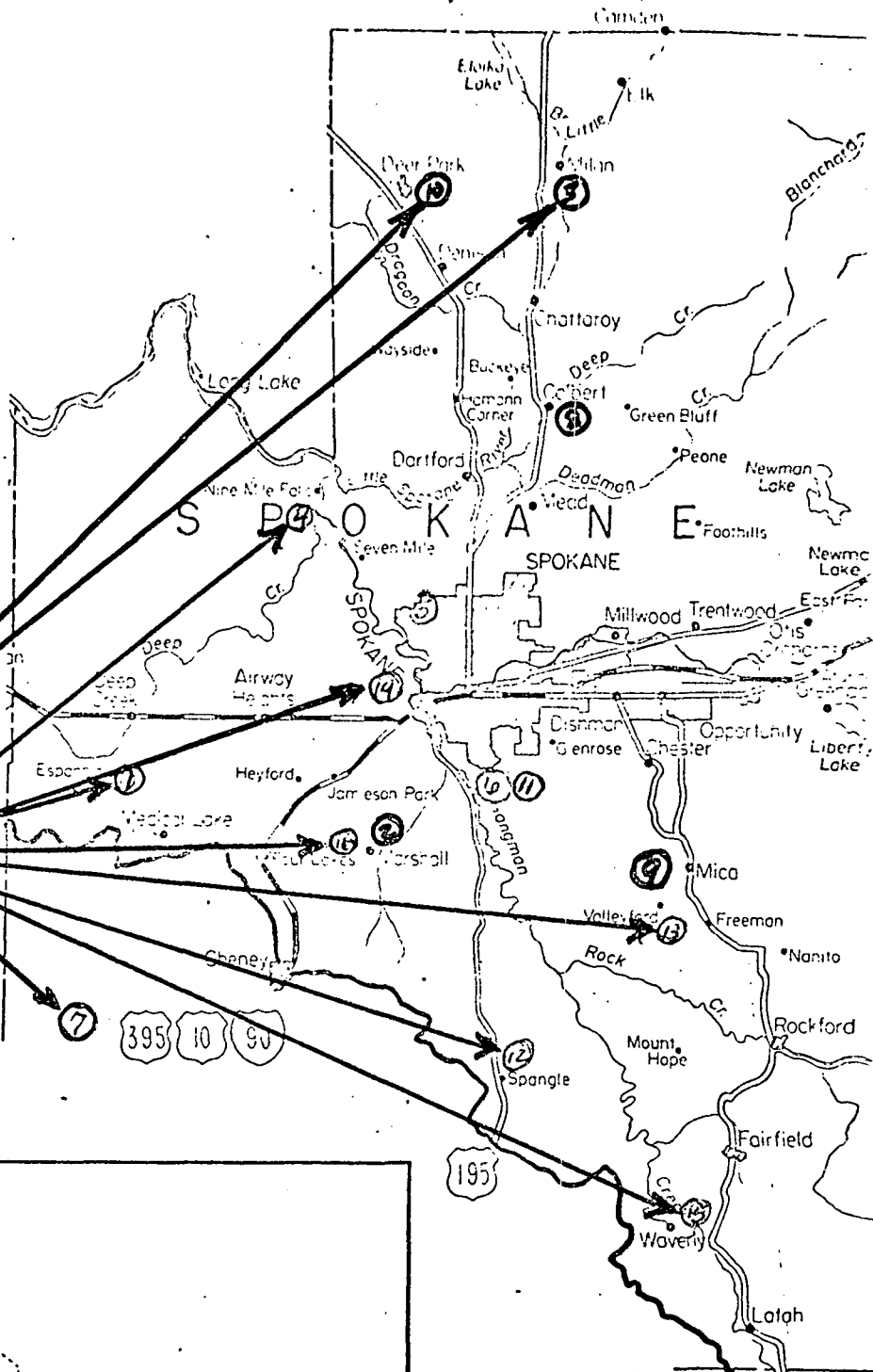
Approximately 275,000 people reside in Spokane County with the City of Spokane having a population of 171,000. The City of Spokane is considered the "capital" of the Inland Empire and serves as a service and trade center for a large portion of the northwest.

Within the county, the responsibility for solid waste management lies with the County Engineers Office. The Spokane Public Works Department is responsible for all collection and disposal within the City limits. Private collectors serve the various other smaller communities within the county. Currently there are 11 land disposal sites receiving municipal waste from the city and county. Two modified landfills and one dump (which receives only tin cans) serve the city, while the other eight sites serve the remainder of the county. All the operating sites within Spokane County are located on the enclosed map along with sites eliminated or converted to sanitary landfills since 1970. In addition to the sites indicated, there are three private landfills that handle demolition material and the Kaiser Aluminum landfill which handles industrial waste from the Trentwood Works.

Dumps at Elk, Rockford, Mead and Fairfield were eliminated during 1968-1969. The Colbert dump was converted to a sanitary landfill during the same period. The Milan and Deer Park dumps were converted to small sanitary landfills in 1970-71 and included in Mission 5000. The Waverly and Fort Wright dumps were closed, but rejected for Mission 5000 because of insufficient final cover. The Fort Wright dump should now be eligible and Waverly is gradually being covered as material becomes available.

1. Espanch
2. Marshall
3. milan
4. Ninemile
5. North Spokane
6. South Spokane
7. Tyler
8. Colbert
9. mica
10. Deer Park
11. Moran
12. Spangle - closed
13. Valleyford - closed
14. Fort Wright - closed
15. Waverly - closed
16. Marshall - closed

Reported
Mission 5000
Potential



- Dump
- Modified Landfill
- Sanitary landfill

Dump closures at Marshall, Spangle and Valleyford will soon be formally reported for Mission 5000. Spokane County has opened a large sanitary landfill near Mica in 1972 which is exceptionally well operated. Within the next six months it is anticipated that the dumps at Ninemile, Espanola, and Tyler will be closed and replaced by drop boxes.

Summary - Twelve open dumps have been closed or converted during the past five years. With the adoption of the city and county solid waste plans this fall, a permit system for all disposal sites in the county will be initiated. The approval of such a permit would be based on compliance with the state minimum functional standards which are to be adopted in October 1972. The county can adopt the state standards or develop their own version which would be at least as stringent. Only sanitary landfills are allowed in the minimum functional standards; therefore, more improvements can be expected. However, a phasing in period will be authorized based largely upon the implementation schedule outlined in the plan.