

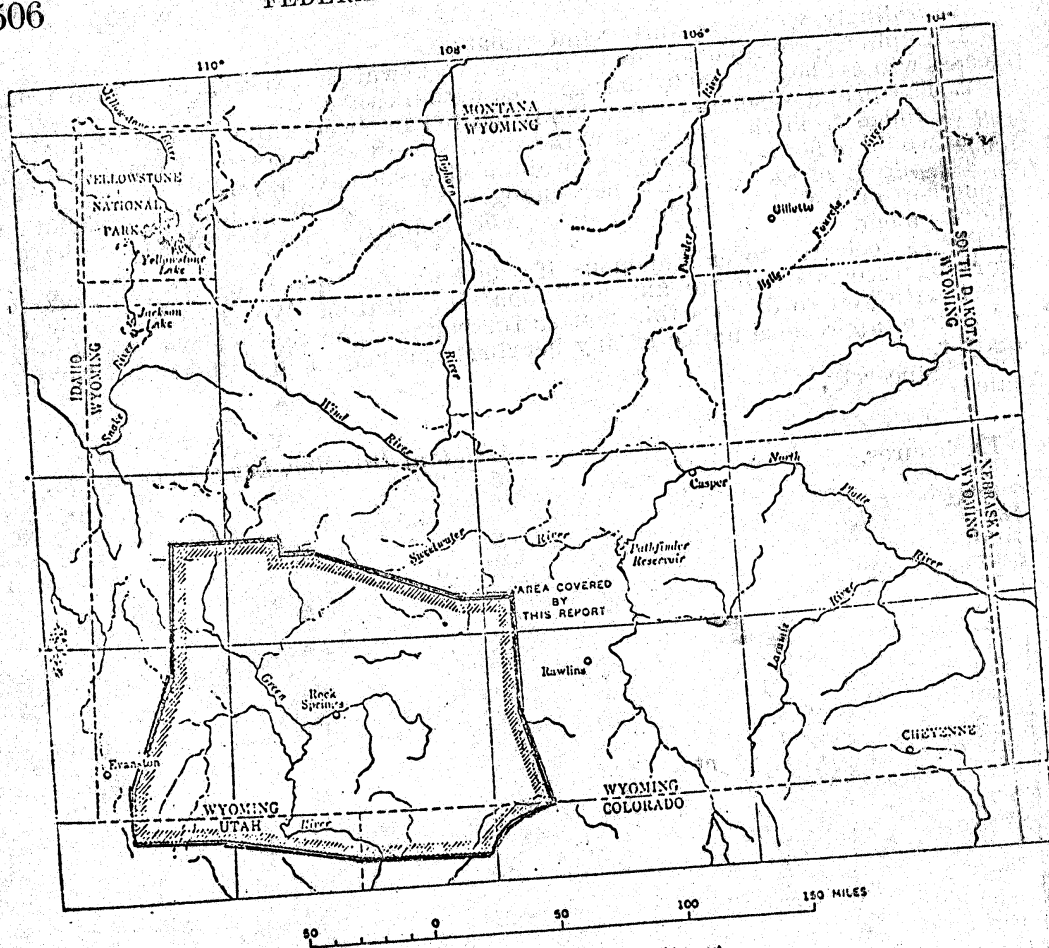


FIGURE 1.—Location of the area discussed in this report.

EXHIBIT C

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, D.C., March 22, 1967.

Hon. WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. HARRISON: Dr. William T. Pecora, Director of the Geological Survey, tells us that at its budget hearings before your Subcommittee on March 2 you asked whether or not the new withdrawal application for oil shale lands filed January 27 would affect present trona operations in Wyoming. You were receiving inquiries and have noted a good deal of misunderstanding on this point.

We understood that Dr. Pecora explained that trona operations in Wyoming under previously issued sodium leases are conducted in relatively clean trona beds that can be mined separately from the oil shale beds above and below. On the other hand some of the sodium minerals in the Piceance Creek basin in Colorado are intimately intermixed with oil shale.

The Press Release of February 6, copy enclosed, was issued to explain to the general public the effect of the withdrawal order on leasing as well as on mining claims on oil shale lands. The order does not affect existing sodium leases or leasing operations, or prospecting under sodium prospecting permits already issued.

It does not preclude the issuance of new sodium prospecting permits or leases when development of the sodium deposits would not adversely affect in any significant way the oil shale values of the land. We do not anticipate that this proposed withdrawal would adversely affect development of trona deposits in Wyoming.

Sincerely yours,

J. CORDELL MOORE,
Assistant Secretary of the Interior.