

**SITE NUMBER:** NC-R6-01  
**LOCAL NAME:** Grindstone Creek  
**WRIA:** 20.0191A

**NORTH COAST OFF CHANNEL SITE INVENTORY DATA**

**RIVER SYSTEM:** N.F. Calawah **DATE:** 5/1/90 **OBSERVER:** Young

**CHANNEL TYPE:** Unnamed, unnumbered low gradient valley wall trib.

**TRIBUTARY TO:** N.F. Calawah - 20.0177

**SITE LOCATION:** R.B. @ River Mile: 14.6 (WDF)

**LEGAL DESCRIPTION:**

	<b>UPPER END</b>	<b>LOWER END</b>	<b>RIVER TEMP</b>
<b><u>WATER TEMP:</u></b>	8.0 - 9.0 C	8.5 C	8.0 C
<b><u>FLOW (CFS):</u></b>	< 0.25	1.0 - 1.5	

**SUBSTRATE TYPE:** Mostly small to medium sized gravel with some sand and cobble in the lower 400 m. Boulder, cobble and some gravel from 400 to 600 m above the mouth. Mostly sand, silt and sandy gravel in the upper 300 to 400 m.

**SITE SIZE:** **Length-** 800 - 1000 m  
**Width-** Surface = 4 - 10 ft (excluding beaver ponds)  
Channel = 10 - 15 ft (excluding beaver ponds)  
**Depth-** 4-8 in. avg. Pools to 2 ft (excluding ponds)

**WATER SOURCE:** Small valley wall tribs and some springs water.

**DIRECTIONS TO SITE:** Head north from the town of Forks on Hwy 101. Continue on Hwy 101 about 20 miles. Turn right (south) 0.9 miles beyond M.P. 211 onto the Cooper Ranch Rd. Proceed south 0.3 miles until coming to a major fork. Stay left at the fork and proceed south on U.S.F.S. Rd. 29 for about 1.5 miles until coming to a junction with F.S. 2922. Veer right (south) onto the F.S. 2922. Proceed about 1.6 miles south on 2922 and then veer right (west) onto F.S. 015. Follow the 015 for about a mile until coming to the concrete bridge which crosses the N.F. Calawah at river mile 15.0 (the Albion Bridge). Park at the bridge and walk downstream along the right bank of the river about 0.4 miles to the mouth of the first right bank trib. This is NC-R6-01.

**FISH ACCESS AND CURRENT USE:** NC-R6-01 enters perpendicular to the flow of the river on a deep glide. A small debris jam is located just below the mouth. While not ideal entrance conditions, NC-R6-01 does appear to have fairly good fish access. Despite water plunging over and through woody debris in a few places, 0+ coho were seen up to 650 m above the mouth. Fry were quite abundant in the lower reaches. Most of the fry appear to be recently emergent from the gravel. The channel appears to provide very good spawning area in the lower to middle reaches. No fish were seen above the high beaver dam located 800 meters above the mouth of the channel.

**FLOODING POTENTIAL:** Low.

**LANDOWNER:** Unknown at this time. Probably U.S. Forest Service.

(Continued on next page)

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**COMMENTS & RECOMMENDATIONS:** Grindstone Pass is a low pass (1000 ft elev.) lying along the SW flank of Bigler Mountain (elev. 2383 ft). It is situated between Bigler Mountain and another unnamed mountain (elev. 1900 ft). Remnants of an old grade can be found crossing this low pass. NC-R6-01 is a medium-sized valley wall trib which originates near the top of Grindstone Pass. Water from both hillsides converge in a small flat just below the summit of the pass and then runs in a SE direction, through mixed forest, for about a half mile before joining the N.F. Calawah. A number of small, steep, right and left bank tributes enter along the way.

NC-R6-01 has a flat gradient as it enters the N.F. Calawah. Except for a short reach above the mouth, the lower 200 m of NC-R6-01 is rather incised. The channel here is 8 to 15 ft wide and has 5 to 10 ft high banks. Good gravel was seen along most of this lower reach.

The channel of NC-R6-01 becomes very incised about 200 m above its mouth. In this 50 m reach the channel narrows to 4 to 6 ft wide and the near vertical banks are some 10 to 12 ft high. A good deal of large woody debris has partially plugged this small "canyon". Water cascading over and through the debris may at times greatly restrict fish passage. Fry were seen above this point, however.

In the 200 m reach upstream of the "canyon" the gradient flattens and the channel is much less incised. Good spawning gravel is again prevalent here. For a relatively small creek, the valley seems quite wide along this reach (some 50 to 60 ft from the toe of the hill on the left bank to the toe of the hill on the right bank).

In the next 200 m reach the gradient increases. Cobble and boulder become more predominant in the substrate. No restrictions to fish passage were seen along this reach.

In the upper 400 m reach of NC-R6-01 the valley widens and flattens considerably and the canopy opens. A series of old beaver ponds is found in this reach. The elevation of these ponds is about 150 ft higher than the mouth of the channel. The ponds are quite evident on the 1985 aerial photos. The dam at the lower pond (660 m above the mouth of NC-R6-01) has failed and the large pond no longer exists. The old pond appears to have been 50 to 60 m in diameter with a maximum winter depth of at least 3 to 4 ft. It appears that the pond has not held water for the last 2 to 3 years. Coho fry were seen in the channel that now runs across the old pond.

The second beaver pond in the series is formed by a 10 ft high beaver dam "dike". This dam is still intact and forms a 20 by 60 meter "heart" shaped pond. Water in this pond is very clear and appears to have a maximum depth of 2 to 3 ft. The substrate of this pond is a fine, gray silt. No fish were seen in this pond or up-stream of the high beaver dam.

A third beaver pond is located about 200 meters above the second pond. The beaver dam forming this shallow pond has also partially failed. This pond used to be 40 to 50 m in diameter and 2 to 3 ft deep. Its current maximum depth appears to be about 1 to 1.5 feet. This pond is fed by a small, steep, right bank valley wall trib and a number of small seeps near the upper end. The summit of Grindstone Pass is located a short distance beyond the third pond.

With a general lack of good, off-channel rearing areas along the N.F. Calawah, a habitat improvement project on NC-R6-01 may be feasible. Development of stable and accessible rearing ponds at the site of the existing beaver ponds might be possible. Construction of small earthen dams built with provisions for fish passage and replacing the old beaver dams could result in a gain of high quality rearing habitat. Removal of woody debris in the middle reaches of NC-R6-01 would insure unrestricted accessibility to the ponds. Controls along the lower and middle reaches of the creek would create pools and also increase accessibility to the ponds in the upper reaches. With considerable work the old grade could provide machine access to the upper reaches of NC-R6-01.

Grindstone Pass

(Elev. ~ 950')

Bigler Mountain

(Elev. 2383')

Upper shallow pond  
(Max. = 70 x 40m)

Heart-shaped pond  
(20 x 60m)

Old beaver pond  
(Dia. = 50-60m)

10' Ft High dam

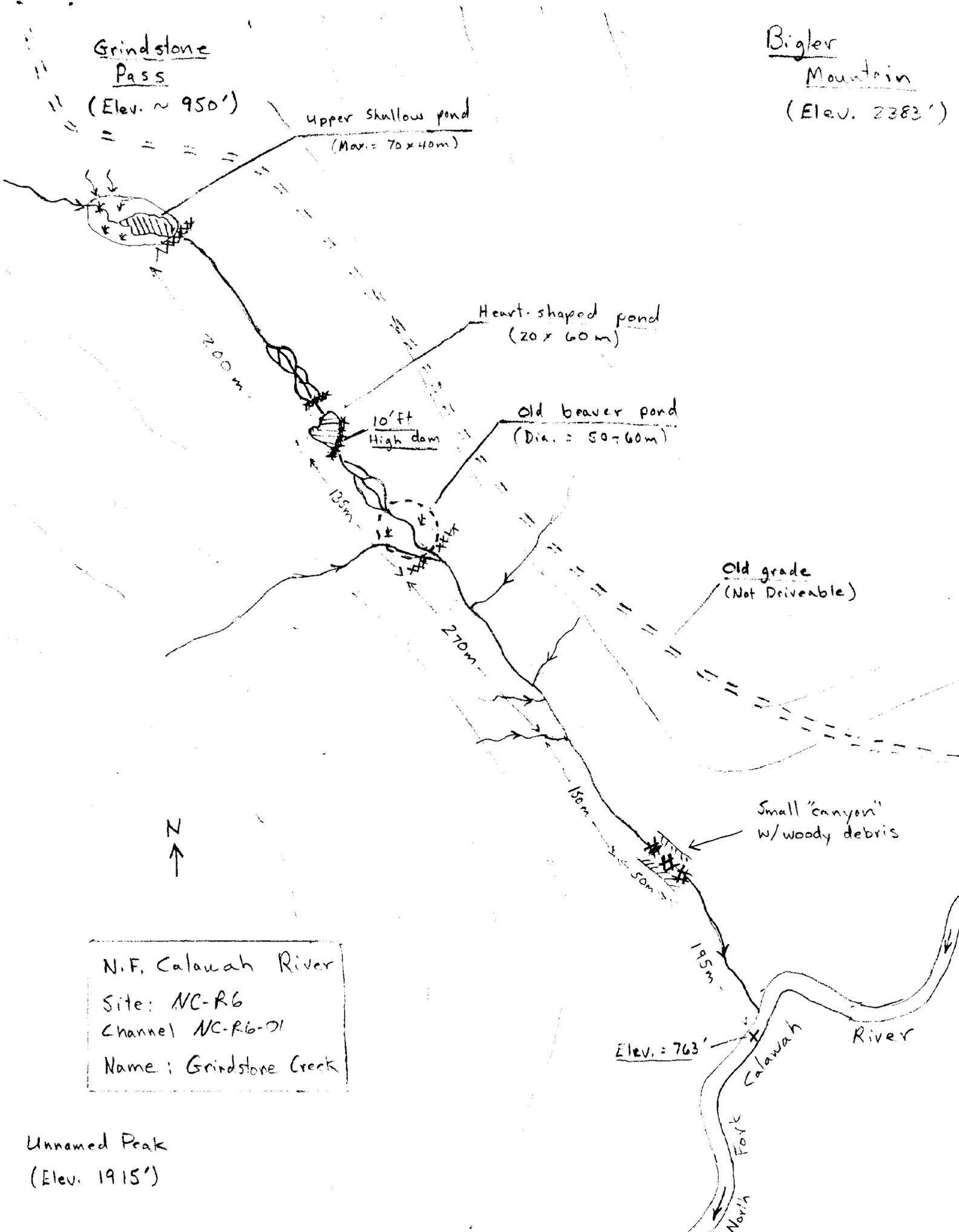
Old grade  
(Not Drivable)

Small "canyon"  
w/woody debris

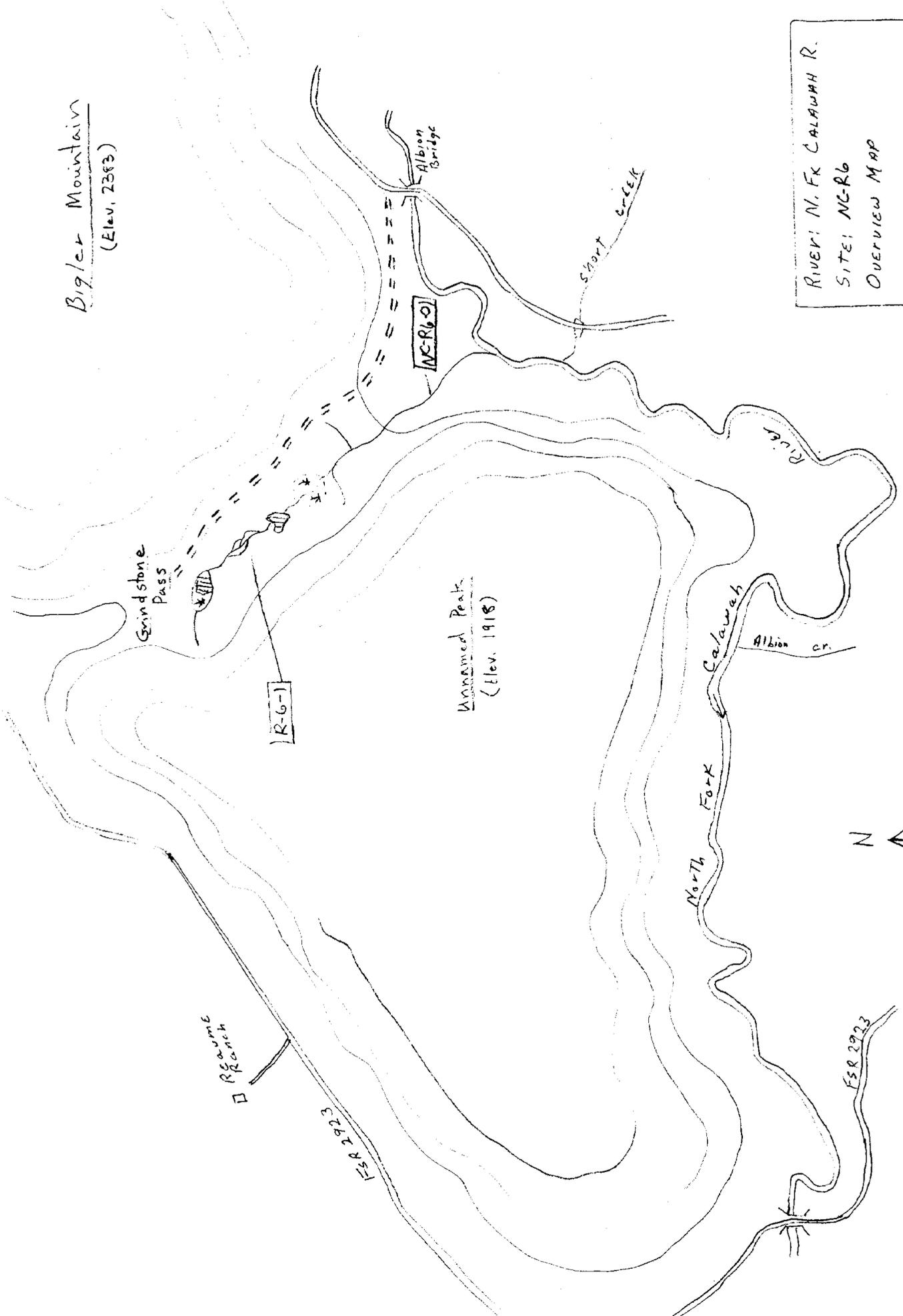


N.F. Calawah River  
Site: NC-R6  
Channel NC-R6-01  
Name: Grindstone Creek

Unnamed Peak  
(Elev. 1915')

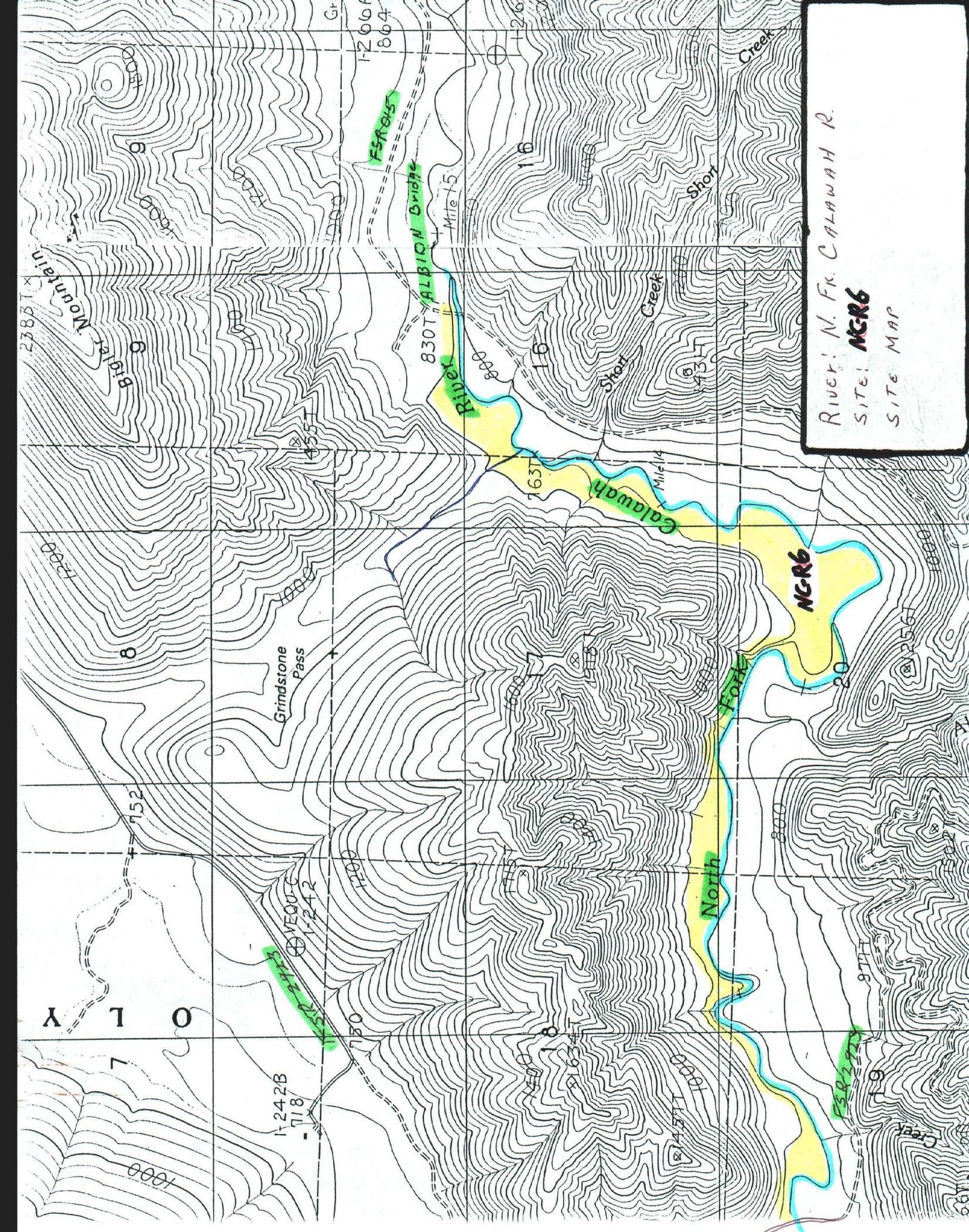


Bigler Mountain  
(Elev. 2383)



RIVER: N. FK CALAWAH R.  
SITE: NC-R6  
OVERVIEW MAP  
5/90





River: N. Fk. CALAWAH R.  
SITE: **NGR6**  
SITE MAP