

UTAH ARCHAEOLOGY SITE FORM

PART A – Administrative Data

- 1. **Smithsonian Trinomial:** 42GR935
- 2. **Temporary Site No.:**
- 3. **Site Name:** D&RGW Narrow Gauge RR

- 4. **Date Recorded:** August 18 and 25-30, 2020
- 5. **Type of Recording:** First Recording Full Re-record Update
- 6. **Project Name:** A Cultural Resources Inventory of the Cisco Spring 2D Seismic Project in Grand County, Utah
- 7. **State Project Number:** U20HP0620
- 8. **Land Status:** BLM (Moab Field Office); State (SITLA); Private
- 9. **USGS 7.5' Quad Map Name and Date:** Danish Flat (1970), Cisco (1970)
- 10. **Township:** 20S, **Range:** 24E, **Section(s):** 18 and 19, **(1/4):** Linear **County:** Grand
Township: 20S, **Range:** 23E, **Section(s):** 25 and 36
Township: 21S, **Range:** 23E, **Section(s):** 1, 11, 12, and 15

- 11. **Meridian:** Salt Lake Uintah
- 12. **UTMS:** Zone 12 417665 mE 14214003 mN **NAD:** 83 See table in Part A, No. 30
- 13. **Site Dimensions:** **Length:** 13,909 m **Width:** 8.5 m **Area:** 118,226 m2 GIS Estimate

- 14. **Site Class^a:** Prehistoric Protohistoric Historic

- 15. **Site Type:** Prehistoric/Ethnohistoric Historic
 - Long-Term Residential
 - Task Specific
 - Domestic
 - Transportation/Communication
 - Temporary Camp
 - Specialty Site
 - Agriculture/Subsistence
 - Defense
 - Unknown (sites in which the primary pattern of Use is prehistoric or ethnohistoric, but the nature of Use cannot be confidently determined)
 - Industry/Processing/Extraction
 - Unknown
 - Other
 - Other^b

- 16. **Site Characteristics^a:** Artifact Scatter Rock Art/Inscription Lithic Source/Quarry Rock Shelter/Cave
 Architectural Feature(s) Non-Architectural Feature(s) Linear

- 17. **Impacting Agents:** None Erosion Livestock Concentration Recreation Road/Trail Vandalism/Looting
 Other: Abandonment

- 18. **Site Condition:** Stable Deteriorating Imminently Threatened Destroyed

19. **Description (as needed):** This historic railroad grade was abandoned in 1890 and has been deteriorating since.

20. **Recorded by:** Sandy Pagano **21. Organization:** Commonwealth Heritage Group, Inc. (CHG)

22. **Material Collected:** No Yes (describe in Site Description) **Repository:** N/A

NRHP Evaluation

- 23. **Is the Site Significant:** No Yes, under criterion^a:
 A (event) B (person) C (design/construction) D (important information)

- 24. **Does it Retain Integrity:** No Yes, aspects present^a:
 Location Design Setting Materials Workmanship Feeling Association

- 25. **NRHP Status:** Not eligible Eligible Listed

26. **Justification (include discussion of historic context, significance, and integrity):** This site has been previously recommended and determined Eligible to the NRHP under Criterion A. Despite some areas of this long linear site being in differing condition states since it was abandoned around one hundred years ago, the overall site remains visible and all aspects of integrity can be found in various locations along the corridor. The current segment retains integrity of location, setting, feeling and association, as well as some integrity of design (the berm location) and materials (also the berm). The site lacks integrity of workmanship and design, and materials have been impacted with the dismantling of the railroad tracks. This site was previously determined Eligible under Criterion A due to its importance of the transportation corridor that facilitated the ranching expansion in the area during the 1880s and 1890s, as well as allowing mining to occur in the region. Commonwealth agrees with this determination. This site cannot be associated with an important person in history, nor does it embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction. Further, the site is not likely to contain intact cultural deposits that could yield information important in the history of the region. Therefore, Commonwealth recommends this site Not Eligible to the NRHP under Criteria B, C or D, while agreeing with the determination of Eligible under Criterion A.

27. **Site Description (interpretation, context, size, artifact and feature assemblage, dating, previous works and curation, etc.):** This site is the abandoned Denver & Rio Grande Western Narrow-Gauge Railroad (DRGW) line through Grand County, Utah. The railroad was constructed in Utah in 1882-1883 and it operated until 1890, when the standard gauge line (south of the

^aCheck all that apply

^bSee manual for additional categories

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current project area) was completed. At that time, the narrow-gauge line was abandoned, and the rails and railroad infrastructure were removed (Pierson and Jamison 1993:34-37; Johnson 2016:27). This linear site winds through the current study area and is crossed by the project seismic survey lines 16 times (Table 1). The condition of the grade varies, but it generally exists as a low deflated berm on Danish Flat and then has occasional shallow cuts as it crosses through the hilly terrain dropping southeast to the Sagers Flat area. There are some culverts and remnants of trestles in the area, but no features were observed within the current project area. The observed locations are all expressed as a low, rounded berm or a shallow linear depression. Previously recorded segments within the current study area were revisited and each was found as previously described (Montgomery 1994; Patterson 2006; Russell 2008).

Segments of this site have been previously documented across Grand County at least 29 different times since 1979; most recently in 2019 on a Utah Archaeology Site Form (Jordan 2019). In addition to these multiple site forms, two reports detailing the history of the DRGW line have been completed (Pierson and Jamison 1993; Johnson 2016). The 2016 report was completed by Western Archaeological Services as a mitigation project and details the railroad’s history in both Utah and Colorado, as well provides an historic context and synthesis of previous documentations in both states.

- 28. **Environmental Context** (topography, vegetation, ground visibility, depositional context): The current study area is a desert shadscale community with low vegetation, and greasewood and tamarisk in the larger washes. Sediments are soft silty sands and the area is prone to erosion.
- 29. **Notes Regarding Access** (as needed):
- 30. **Additional Part A Comments:**

ID	Location Description	UTMs (NAD83)	
		Easting	Northing
RR1	Location crosses a previously recorded segment (Montgomery). Revisit to this site observed as described. Includes sandstone culvert. The railroad berm in the area is extremely disturbed by road construction and oil & gas activity in the area. It is barely discernable at these crossings.	646311	4324438
RR2		346269	4324282
RR3	Smoothed and rounded berm	645977	4323166
RR4	Smoothed and rounded berm	645964	4323130
RR5	Smoothed and rounded berm	645819	4322997
RR6	Smoothed and rounded berm	645362	4322910
RR7	Smoothed and rounded berm, visible cuts through low hills	645462	4322627
RR8	Smoothed and rounded berm, visible cuts through low hills	645879	4322242
RR9	Smoothed and rounded berm, visible cuts through low hills	645663	4321852
RR10	Smoothed and rounded berm	645484	4321836
RR11	Smoothed and rounded berm	645080	4321414
RR12	Smoothed and rounded berm, visible cuts through low hills	645272	4320793
RR13	Smoothed and rounded berm, visible cuts through low hills	645648	4320366
RR14	Smoothed and rounded berm, visible cuts through low hills. Dirt road cuts through at this location	645644	4319542
RR15	At Cisco Wash. Smoothed and rounded berm, completely washed away in some areas. Berm is deeply cut and washed away completely in main wash channel to southwest.	642413	4316192
RR16		642166	4315937

^aCheck all that apply
^bSee manual for additional categories

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References Cited

Johnson, David

- 2016 *Historical Investigations of Segments of the Denver & Rio Grande Railway Narrow Gauge Line Along the Enterprise Mid-America Pipeline Company Western Expansion Project (5ME7351 & 42GR935).*

Jordan, A

- 2019 *Utah Archaeology Site Form for Site 42GR935.* Inventory files, Division of State History, Utah State Historic Preservation Office, Salt Lake City.

Montgomery, Keith and Jackie Montgomery

- 1995 *Cultural Resource Inventory of PacifiCorp/Utah Power's Proposed 345 kV Transmission Line Green River to Grand Junction Section, Grand County, Utah and Mesa County, Colorado, Vol. I.* Abajo Archaeology. Utah State Antiquities Project No. U94AS443bps. Colorado Resource Use Permit No C-40158.

Patterson, Jody

- 2006 *Intermountain Antiquities Computer System (IMACS) Form for Site 42GR935.* Inventory files, Division of State History, Utah State Historic Preservation Office, Salt Lake City.

Pierson, Lloyd M., and Lyle E. Jamison

- 1993 *Nothing But Desert: The Denver and Rio Grande Western Railroad Narrow Gauge Between Grand Junction, Colorado and Desert Switch, Utah, 1880-1890.* Grand Resource Area. Moab District, Utah Bureau of Land Management.

Russell, Hannah

- 2008 *Intermountain Antiquities Computer System (IMACS) Form for Site 42GR935.* Inventory files, Division of State History, Utah State Historic Preservation Office, Salt Lake City.

^aCheck all that apply

^bSee manual for additional categories

- 1. **Primary date of site use:** 1880-1890
- 2. **Secondary dates of site use:**
- 3. **Architectural Features:**

Type	Description
Railroad grade	Abandoned railroad grade

- 4. **Non-Architectural Features:**

Type	Description

- 5. **Feature Comments:** All segments of the railroad berm, which was crossed 16 times at different locations during the survey of the seismic lines for the current project, consist of a low berm or shallow linear depression in the project area. No features were observed within the survey area. Two features in the area are visible from the survey lines, including a large sandstone culvert and the footing for a trestle. These features were both previously recorded and described (Montgomery 1994; Russell 2008).

- 6. **Cans – Total Quantity:** N/A

Quantity	Type	Description

- 7. **Can Comments:**

- 8. **Glass Bottles – Total ENV:** N/A

ENV	Manufacturing Method	Description

- 9. **Glass Bottle Comments:** N/A

- 10. **Ceramics – Total ENV:**

ENV	Ware	Description

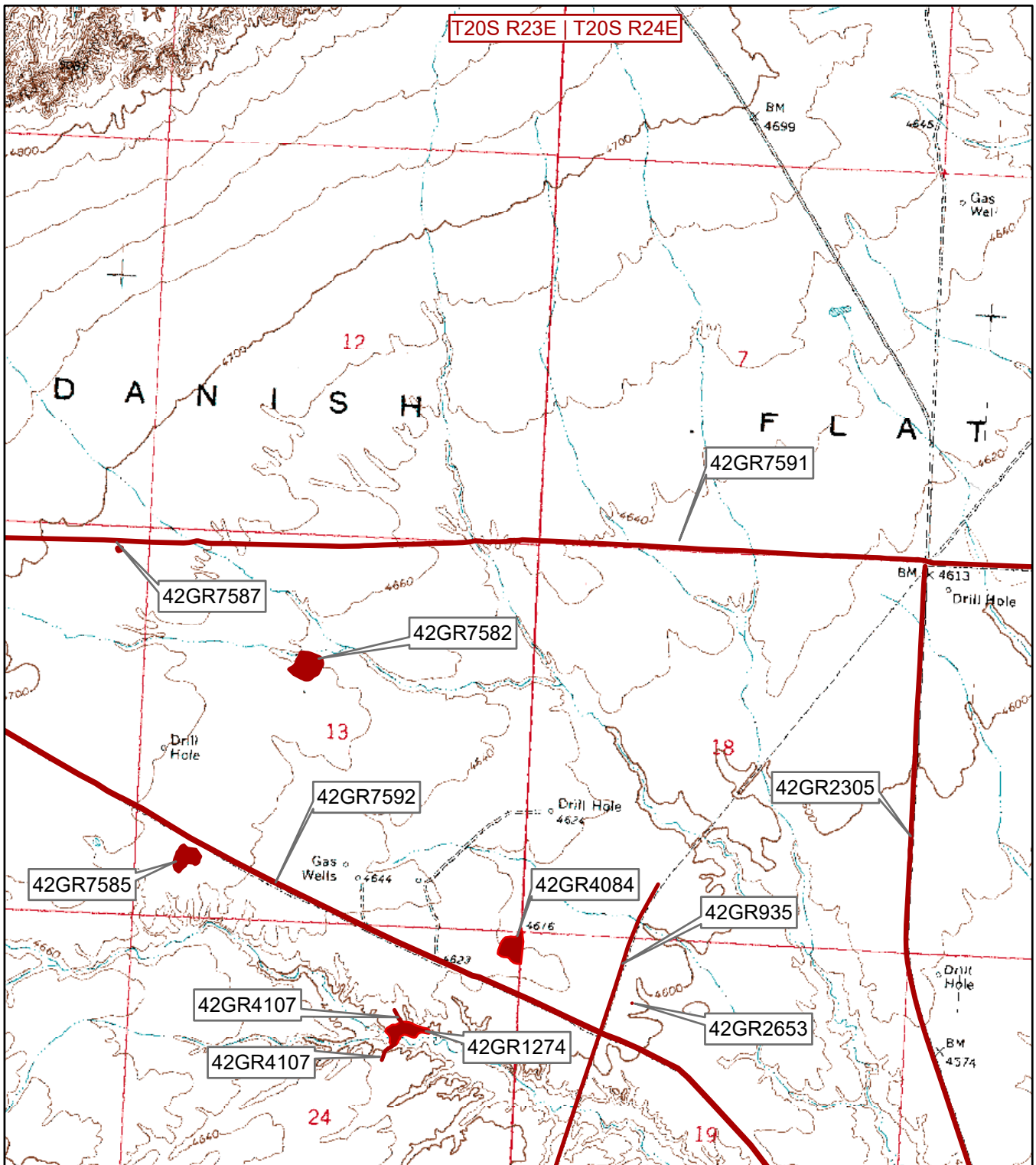
- 11. **Ceramic Comments:**

- 12. **Additional Artifacts/Debris:** N/A

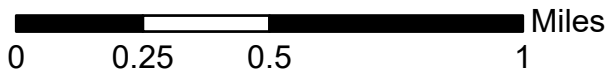
- Ammunition/Firearms
- Car/Car parts
- Glass (non-bottle)
- Nails (wire)
- Toys
- Bone
- Ceramics (non-tableware)
- Hardware
- Plastic
- Other
- Building Materials
- Clothing
- Nails (cut)
- Stove Parts

- 13. **Additional Artifact/Debris Description:**

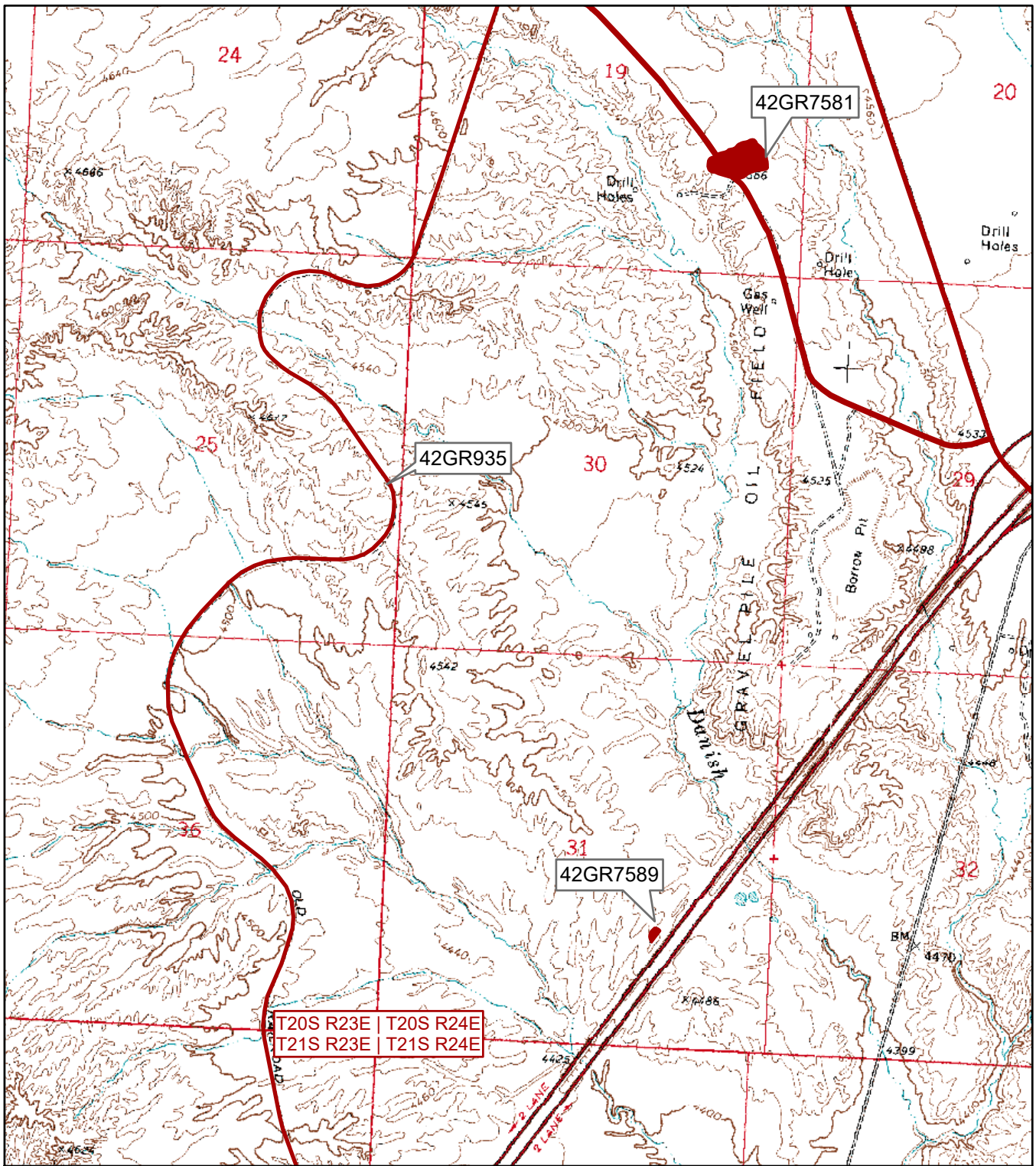
- 14. **Additional Part C Comments:**



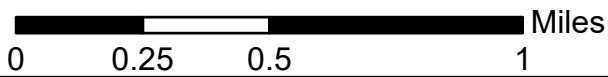
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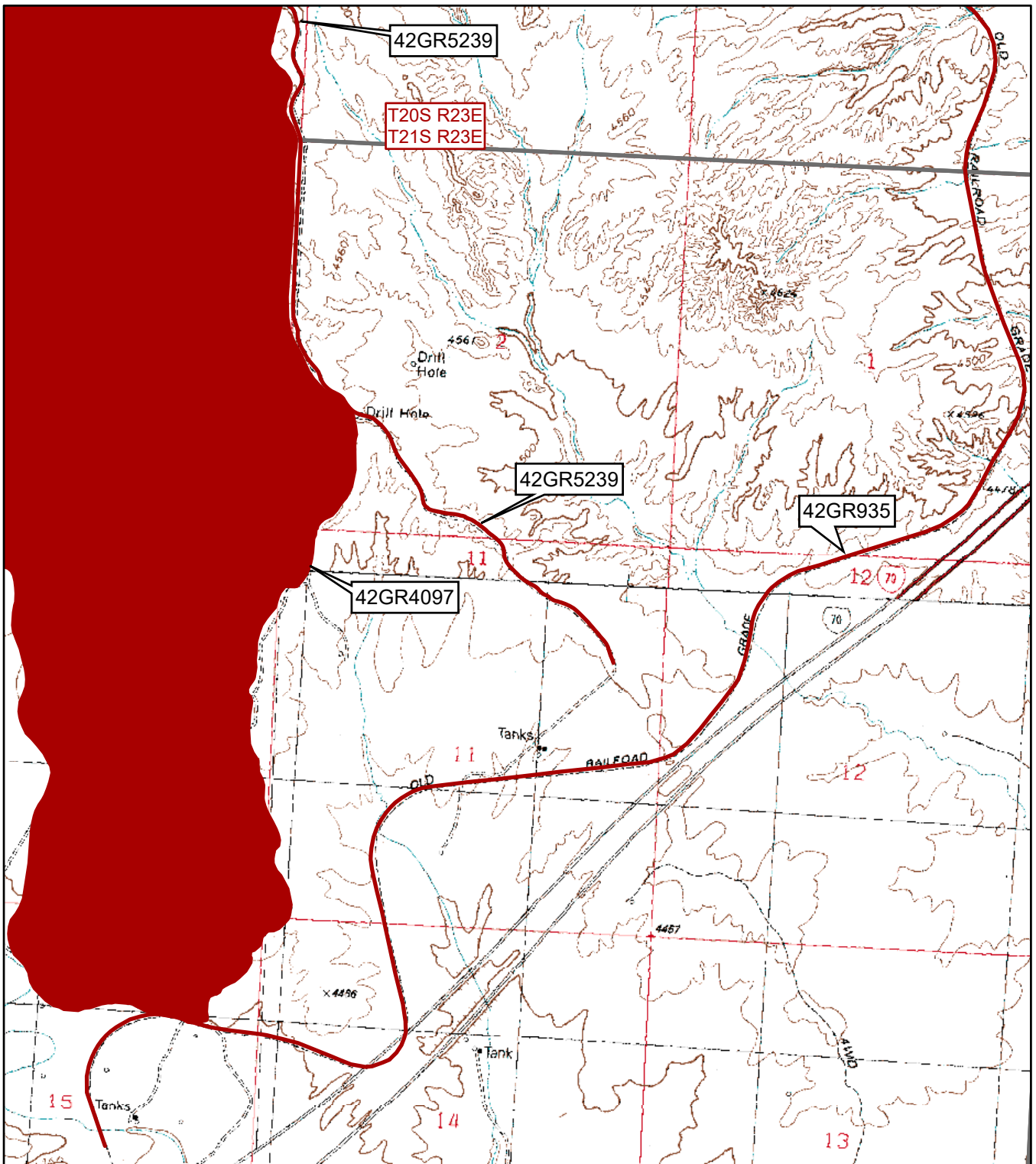
Location of sites located during the Cisco Spring 2D Seismic Project. Taken from the USGS 7.5' Quadrangle Danish Flat, Utah (1970).



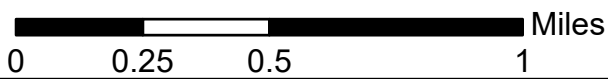
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Location of sites located during the Cisco Spring 2D Seismic Project. Taken from the USGS 7.5' Quadrangle Danish Flat, Utah (1970).



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Location of sites located during the Cisco Spring 2D Seismic Project. Taken from the USGS 7.5' Quadrangled Danish Flat, Utah (1970) and Cisco, Utah (1970).



Location of sites located during the Cisco Spring 2D Seismic Project. Taken from the USGS 7.5' Quadrangled Danish Flat, Utah (1970); Cisco, Utah (1970); White House, Utah (1970); and Cisco Springs, Utah (1970).



Site 42GR935. Site overview showing railroad berm at RR1 crossing. Cut in berm is historic *Cisco Springs Road* (42GR7592); view to the west.



Site 42GR935. Representative site overview showing railroad berm at RR4 crossing; view to the south.



Site 42GR935. Representative cut in the rolling hills at RR7 crossing; view to the west.



Site 42GR935. Representative site overview showing railroad berm at RR15 crossing; view to the west.



Site 42GR935. Site overview showing trestle footings visible outside of project area from survey line 17 at UTM 643293mE/4317011mN; view to the southeast.



Site 42GR935. Site overview showing sandstone culvert visible outside of project area from survey line 12 at UTM 646221mE/4324017mN; view to the west.