

EXPLANATION OF DIRECT UTILIZATION POTENTIAL EVALUATION TECHNIQUE FOR THE STATE OF NEVADA GEOTHERMAL ASSESSMENT MAP

Prepared by

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INTRODUCTION

The major problem that must be addressed in any attempt to define the potential for direct utilization of Nevada's geothermal resources is the diversity of the resources in both areal distribution and character. While some resources are closely spaced and can be easily grouped, others cannot be readily associated.

Many geothermal occurrences, for instance, are inaccessible by land vehicles. Temperatures may vary from 20° C to over 200° C, and resources may discharge at the surface or be confined to a reservoir at a depth of 2 km or more. In addition, geothermal fluids range in total dissolved solids (TDS) from 150 ppm (drinking water quality) to over 6000 ppm (saline solution).

The facts that various direct-use applications place differing constraints on the nature of the required resource and that, in many specific geothermal resource areas, detailed data are not yet available, present additional problems to the question of resource assessment. Therefore, any method used to evaluate geothermal potential should be: a) generally applicable, b) sufficiently flexible to allow for future data input or changing priorities in resource requirements, and c) be of limited complexity, yet produce a semiquantitative basis for area to area comparisons.

APPROACH—RATIONALE

To overcome the problems and meet the requirements discussed above, a numerical scheme was developed. The basis of the method is a simple function called the probability function (PF) defined as follows:

$$PF = \sum R_i W_{Fi}$$

where R_i = Rank i^{th} parameter
(3⁰–3⁴)

W_{Fi} = Weighting factor of i^{th} parameter
(0,1,2)

Several parameters could be viewed as useful for defining potential, a partial list includes: temperature, land vehicle accessibility, rock type, rock age, depth to resource, population centers, geophysical data, fluid chemistry, areal extent, flow rate, permeability, recharge, economics, structure, and environmental considerations. Although the potential function could accommodate any number of parameters, the quantitative data necessary to establish limits for the weighting factors is unavailable in many instances. Such data are presently available for the following parameters: temperature, fluid chemistry, population centers, land vehicle accessibility, depth to resource, and areal extent. These parameters were selected for use with the function.

The direct-use applications selected for evaluation using the scheme are industrial process heat (IPH) and residential/commercial space heating (RSH). Potential for agriculture/aquaculture applications was not evaluated because the nature of the resource required and the method of exploitation are currently in a developmental stage. Having chosen the parameters to be used and the applications to be evaluated, the tasks remaining included establishing an order of importance for both IPH and RSH parameters and defining the limits to be associated with the weighting factor values.

Industrial process heat (IPH) evaluation parameters, in their order of importance are:

| Parameter | Rank |
|--------------------|------|
| Temperature | 81 |
| Water chemistry | 27 |
| Accessibility | 9 |
| Population centers | 3 |
| Depth to resource | 1 |

where "accessibility" refers to land vehicle access to the resource. Note that the "rank" of the parameters is in terms of decreasing powers of 3. Use of powers of 3 preserves the established order of importance. This will be demonstrated in a later hypothetical application of the scheme. The weighting factors (WFi) associated with these parameters and the limits established for the factors are illustrated in figure 1. A weighting factor of "2" indicates the most desirable range for a parameter, "1" intermediate, and "0" the least desirable range. When judging the value to be assigned to the "water chemistry" weighting factor, consideration was given collectively to pH, TDS, and the presence or lack of corrosives, scaling compounds, or toxins. For example, although a fluid might have a pH between 5 and 6.5 and a total dissolved solids value of 450 ppm, the solids may consist of three hundred ppm dissolved silica which could cause scaling problems and thus the weighting factor used is "0".

The parameters used for the residential/commercial space heating (RSH) potential evaluation are similar, but they assume a different order of importance. Additionally, the weighting factor ranges have been adjusted to values more appropriate to the application. Note that areal extent is now considered because this parameter would be important to the development of a residential area where individual wells are used at each residence (as is the case in Reno, Nev., and Klamath Falls, Oreg.). Accessibility is no longer used because it is assumed to be tacitly accounted for by the presence of a population center. A listing of the residential/commercial space heating (RSH) parameters in their order of importance are:

| Parameter | Rank |
|--------------------|------|
| Population centers | 81 |
| Depth to resource | 27 |
| Temperature | 9 |
| Water chemistry | 3 |
| Areal extent | 1 |

Ranges and limits used in weighting factor evaluations are given in figure 2. Arrows on the horizontal bars indicate that certain factors (for example TDS) have ranges that extend beyond those used in evaluating the weighting factor. However, once the established limit is exceeded the weighting factor value does not change.

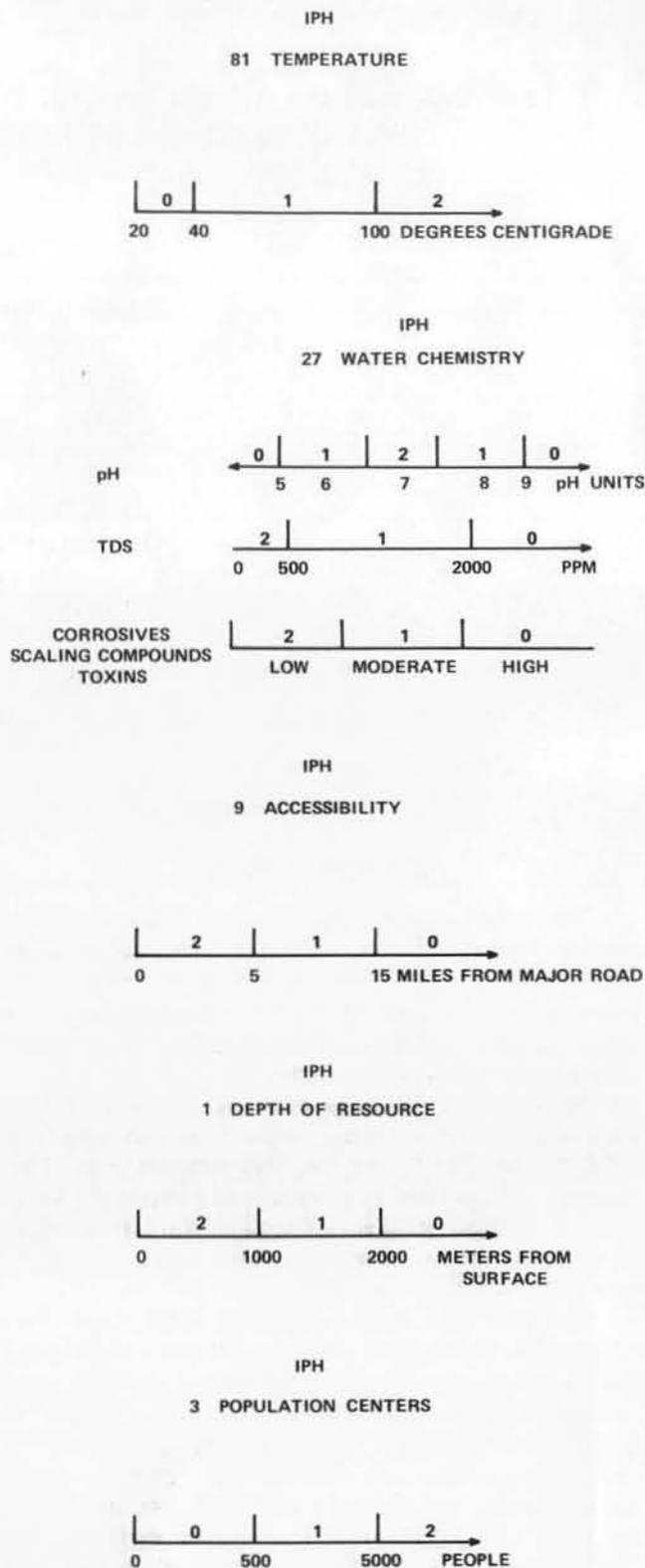


FIGURE 1. Weighting factors and their limits for industrial process heat applications.

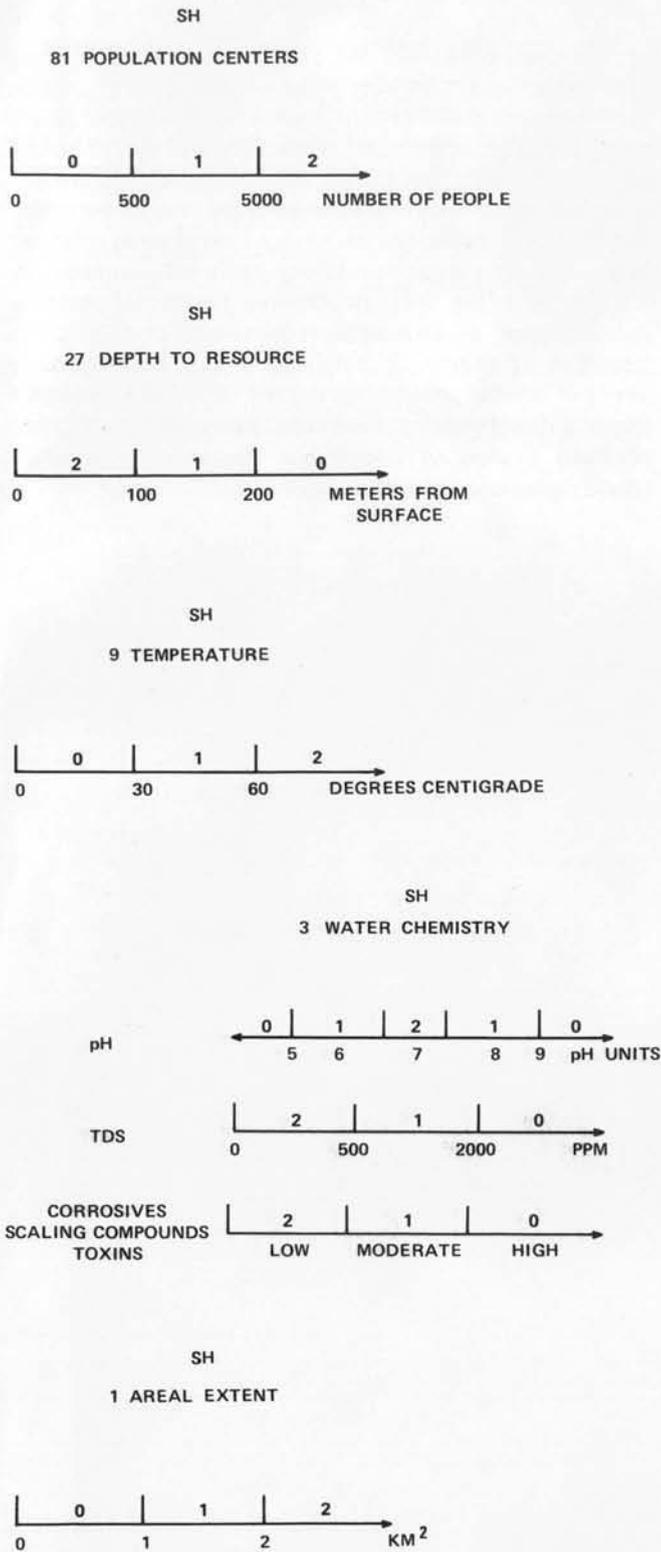


FIGURE 2. Weighting factors and their limits for residential space heating applications.

Numerical values, derived by summing the products of the rank-weighting factor pairs, range from a low of 0 to a high of 242, thus defining the limits of the probability function. This range was divided into three equal parts to obtain the "low", "moderate", and "high" categories of the probability function rating, and are:

| Probability function rating | |
|-----------------------------|-------------|
| PF value | |
| High | (+) 216-242 |
| | (±) 188-215 |
| | (-) 162-187 |
| Moderate | (+) 136-161 |
| | (±) 109-135 |
| | (-) 81-108 |
| Low | (+) 55-80 |
| | (±) 28-54 |
| | (-) 0-27 |

Each category is further divided into thirds and this is represented by the "-", "±", and "+" symbols.

The usefulness of powers of 3 in preserving the selected order of parameter importance can be illustrated by a pair of hypothetical industrial process heat examples (table 1). Case A receives a non-zero weighting factor only for the temperature parameter, thus its probability function value is 162 and its probability function rating (PFR) is *High(-)* (table 1a). In case B, all weighting factor values are 2 except temperature, which receives a 1 because it is less than 100°C. Here the probability function value equals 161 and the PFR is *Moderate(+)* (table 1b). Thus, the importance of temperature above all other parameters in the evaluation scheme is demonstrated.

TABLE 1a. Hypothetical IPH example, Case A.

| | Weighting factor | Rank | Product |
|--------------------------|------------------|-------|---------|
| 110°C | 2 | 81 | 162 |
| TDS > 2000 ppm | 0 | 27 | 0 |
| pH > 9 | 0 | 9 | 0 |
| Corrosive | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| > 15 mi. from major road | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| < 500 people | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| > 2000 m | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| | | TOTAL | 162 |

PFR = High(-)

TABLE 1b. Hypothetical IPH example, Case B

| | Weighting factor | Rank | Product |
|--|------------------|-------|---------|
| 60° C | 1 | 81 | 81 |
| TDS < 500 ppm pH 7.0 No corrosives | 2 | 27 | 54 |
| < 5 mi. to major road | 2 | 9 | 18 |
| > 5000 people | 2 | 3 | 6 |
| < 1000 meters | 2 | 1 | 2 |
| | | TOTAL | 161 |

PFR = Moderate(+)

APPLICATION OF THE SCHEME — AN EXAMPLE —

Application of the scheme to the region surrounding and containing Gabbs, Nev. provides a factual example of the probability function's use in evaluating the potential for direct utilization. Data from the geothermal occurrences in the area indicate an average temperature of 51° C, an average pH of 8.7, an average total dissolved solids of 582 ppm, an average depth to resource of 97 meters, an areal extent greater than 2 km², a population greater than 500 but less than 5000, and a distance of less than 8 km (5 mi) from an asphalt highway. Using these data the evaluation scheme applied to Gabbs is as follows:

Probability function ratings are *Moderate(±)* and *Moderate(+)* respectively for industrial process heat and residential space heating applications.

| Application | Parameter | Rank | Weighting factor | Product |
|-------------------------|-------------------|-------|------------------|---------|
| Industrial Process Heat | Temperature | 81 | 1 | 81 |
| | Chemistry | 27 | 1 | 27 |
| | Accessibility | 9 | 2 | 18 |
| | Population | 3 | 1 | 3 |
| | Depth to Resource | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| | | TOTAL | | 131 |
| Residential Space Heat | Population | 81 | 1 | 81 |
| | Depth to Resource | 27 | 2 | 54 |
| | Temperature | 9 | 1 | 9 |
| | Chemistry | 3 | 1 | 3 |
| | Areal Extent | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| | | TOTAL | | 149 |

COMMENTS

As discussed earlier, the evaluation scheme is flexible with respect to the number of parameters it can accommodate; however, modifications are not limited to that aspect of its use. The ordering of parameters and the choice of limits for the weighting factors were based on the characteristics of Nevada and its geothermal resources. This ordering and choice of limits can be changed when using different parameters or a larger or smaller number of parameters to accommodate the data availability, geothermal resource characteristics, or application requirements of non-Nevada resources. It should be emphasized that the scheme is intended to be applied to regions of relatively similar resource characteristics. Geological, hydrological, and other pertinent sources of information should be used when bounding regions for potential evaluation.



INDEX MAP OF NEVADA SHOWING HYDROGRAPHIC REGIONS AND BASINS



- 1. NORTHWEST REGION
- 2. BLACK ROCK DESERT REGION
- 3. SNAKE RIVER BASIN
- 4. HUMBOLDT RIVER BASIN
- 5. WEST CENTRAL REGION
- 6. TRUCKEE RIVER BASIN
- 7. WESTERN REGION
- 8. CARSON RIVER BASIN
- 9. WALKER RIVER BASIN
- 10. CENTRAL REGION
- 11. GREAT SALT LAKE BASIN
- 12. ESCALANTE DESERT BASIN
- 13. COLORADO RIVER BASIN
- 14. DEATH VALLEY BASIN

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <p>NORTHWEST REGION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. BOULDER V. 2. CONTINENTAL LAKE V. 3. COOK LAKE V. 4. GRADY LAKE V. 5. HANBY V. 6. LONG V. 7. MASSACRE LAKE V. 8. MESSERS LAKE V. 9. PUEBLO V. 10. SAGEHEN V. 11. SURPRISE V. 12. WAIN LAKE V. 13. WINDY V. | <p>SNAKE RIVER BASIN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 30. BRUNEAU RIVER AREA 31. CROOK RIVER AREA 32. INDEPENDENCE V. 33. JARVIS RIVER AREA 34. LITTLE OYSTER RIVER AREA 35. OYSTER RIVER AREA 36. SALMON FALLS CREEK AREA 37. SOUTH FORK OYSTER RIVER AREA | <p>WEST CENTRAL REGION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 75. BRADYS HOT SPRINGS AREA 76. FIREBALL V. 77. HARRIS SPRINGS V. 78. KUMBA V. |
| <p>BLACK ROCK DESERT REGION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 28. BLACK ROCK DESERT 29. DRY V. 30. HIGH ROCK LAKE V. 31. HOLLOW FLAT V. 32. KINGS RIVER V. 33. MID MOUNTAIN 34. PRATER FLAT 35. PINE FOREST V. 36. SAN EMUDO DESERT 37. SILVER STATE V. 38. SUMMIT LAKE V. 39. SUNNY RIVER V. 40. THORNTON SUBAREA 41. WINDMILL SUBAREA | <p>HUMBOLDT RIVER BASIN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 57. ANTELOPE V. 58. BOULDER FLAT 59. CARDO LAKE V. 60. CLOVERS AREA 61. OREGON V. 62. DOG CREEK-TENNELA CREEK AREA 63. ELLIOTT CREEK V. 64. HANSCOMB AREA 65. HUMBOLDT RIVER AREA 66. LITTLE CREEK AREA 67. LITTLE HAMBURG V. 68. LOVELOCK V. 69. LOWER PEEDEE RIVER V. 70. MARYS CREEK AREA 71. MARYS CREEK AREA 72. MARYS CREEK AREA 73. MARYS CREEK AREA 74. MARYS CREEK AREA 75. MARYS CREEK AREA 76. MARYS CREEK AREA 77. MARYS CREEK AREA 78. MARYS CREEK AREA 79. MARYS CREEK AREA 80. MARYS CREEK AREA | <p>TRUCKEE RIVER BASIN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 82. DOOLEY FLAT 83. LAKE TADOLE BASIN 84. PLEASANT V. 85. PYRAMID LAKE V. 86. SUN VALLEY 87. TRUCKEE CANYON 88. TRUCKEE CANYON 89. TRUCKEE CANYON 90. WINNEMCCA LAKE V. |
| <p>WESTERN REGION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 42. ANTELOPE V. 43. BUCKLE FLAT 44. COLD SPRINGS V. 45. DRY VALLEY 46. EAST WALKER AREA 47. HANSON VALLEY 48. MASON VALLEY 49. NORTH WALKER AREA 50. WALKER LAKE V. 51. WESTERN PART 52. WALKER LAKE V. 53. WALKER LAKE V. 54. WALKER LAKE V. 55. WALKER LAKE V. 56. WALKER LAKE V. 57. WALKER LAKE V. 58. WALKER LAKE V. 59. WALKER LAKE V. 60. WALKER LAKE V. | <p>CARSON RIVER BASIN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100. CARSON DESERT 101. CARSON V. 102. CHURCHILL V. 103. DARTON V. 104. EAGLE V. | <p>WALKER RIVER BASIN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 106. ANTELOPE V. 107. EAST WALKER AREA 108. HANSON VALLEY 109. MASON VALLEY 110. NORTH WALKER AREA 111. WALKER LAKE V. 112. WESTERN PART 113. WALKER LAKE V. 114. WALKER LAKE V. 115. WALKER LAKE V. 116. WALKER LAKE V. 117. WALKER LAKE V. 118. WALKER LAKE V. 119. WALKER LAKE V. 120. WALKER LAKE V. 121. WALKER LAKE V. 122. WALKER LAKE V. 123. WALKER LAKE V. 124. WALKER LAKE V. 125. WALKER LAKE V. 126. WALKER LAKE V. 127. WALKER LAKE V. 128. WALKER LAKE V. 129. WALKER LAKE V. 130. WALKER LAKE V. |
| <p>CENTRAL REGION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 136. ALKALI WASH 137. ALKALI WASH 138. ALKALI WASH 139. ALKALI WASH 140. ALKALI WASH 141. ALKALI WASH 142. ALKALI WASH 143. ALKALI WASH 144. ALKALI WASH 145. ALKALI WASH 146. ALKALI WASH 147. ALKALI WASH 148. ALKALI WASH 149. ALKALI WASH 150. ALKALI WASH 151. ALKALI WASH 152. ALKALI WASH 153. ALKALI WASH 154. ALKALI WASH 155. ALKALI WASH 156. ALKALI WASH 157. ALKALI WASH 158. ALKALI WASH 159. ALKALI WASH 160. ALKALI WASH 161. ALKALI WASH 162. ALKALI WASH 163. ALKALI WASH 164. ALKALI WASH 165. ALKALI WASH 166. ALKALI WASH 167. ALKALI WASH 168. ALKALI WASH 169. ALKALI WASH 170. ALKALI WASH 171. ALKALI WASH 172. ALKALI WASH 173. ALKALI WASH 174. ALKALI WASH 175. ALKALI WASH 176. ALKALI WASH 177. ALKALI WASH 178. ALKALI WASH 179. ALKALI WASH 180. ALKALI WASH 181. ALKALI WASH 182. ALKALI WASH 183. ALKALI WASH 184. ALKALI WASH 185. ALKALI WASH 186. ALKALI WASH 187. ALKALI WASH 188. ALKALI WASH 189. ALKALI WASH 190. ALKALI WASH 191. 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EXPLANATION
 This map shows estimated annual surface and groundwater flows between hydrographic areas and across state lines. Also shown for each area where data are available are estimates of annual runoff, perennial yield and water stored in the upper 100 feet of the groundwater reservoir. The term runoff refers to the estimated annual amount of surface water which flows from the mountains to the alluvial fan measured where the two meet. Perennial yield is the amount of groundwater which can be removed from a hydrographic area each year without depleting the groundwater reservoir. Where perennial yield was not available system yield is shown followed by the letter Y. System yield is the maximum amount of surface and groundwater which can be removed from a hydrographic area each year for an indefinite period of time.

LEGEND
 BOUNDARY OF HYDROGRAPHIC REGIONS
 BOUNDARY OF HYDROGRAPHIC AREAS (DOTTED WHERE ARBITRARY)
 Compiled by: F.E. RUSH, R.R. SCOTT, A.S. VAN DENBURGH, B.J. VASEY
 Drawn by: L.M. ROACH JR.
STATE OF NEVADA WATER RESOURCES AND INTER-BASIN FLOWS
 PREPARED BY DIVISION OF WATER RESOURCES STATE ENGINEERS OFFICE
SEPTEMBER 1971

NOTE
 Surface water flows are based on varying periods of record. Man made diversions are estimated 1970 figures except those on the Truckee Canal which are estimates based on historic diversion. Southern Nevada Project is shown as projected first stage level. Inflow from Arizona computed from gaged flow at Hoover Dam (Period of record 1934 to 1969). Outflow from Nevada based on Davis Dam gage (Period of record 1949-1969). Inflow Village diversion estimated for 1971.

LEGEND
 2 → Estimated annual surface water flow
 M → Minor quantity. An amount which is either less than 500 acre feet per year, or small in comparison to other quantities in the particular hydrographic area.
 2 → Estimated annual groundwater flow
 M → Man made diversion. Surface water source - estimated annual amount.
 M → Man made diversion. Groundwater source - estimated annual amount.
 M → Man made diversion. Springs source - estimated annual amount.
 S → Significant size. However, sufficient information is not currently available to make an estimate.
 Quantity uncertain. Figure shown represents annual discharge of springs which this flow is known to supply, at least in part.
 120 → Estimated annual runoff.
 1,200 → Estimated storage.

SCALE
 SCALE 1:750,000
 0 10 20 30 40 MILES
 0 10 20 30 40 KILOMETERS
 CONTOUR INTERVAL 500 FEET
 DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL