

Township 17 South, Range 67 East

Chains

General Description

The northeast corner of T. 17 S., R. 67 E. is located approximately $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles south of the town of Overton, Nevada and approximately 2 miles west of the west shore of Lake Mead. The general elevation of the township ranges from about 1800 to 2200 feet above sea level; the highest point (2982 ft.) in the township is on a sandstone dome which lies along the west boundary of section 20.

There are a considerable variety of land forms within the township. A red sandstone formation covers most of the area of sections 6, 7, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22 and 23. The formation has a slight north and east dip. The sandstone of the formation is deeply eroded forming a distorted surface of knobs, narrow ridges, spurs, pinnacles and various other forms. There are several small areas, scattered throughout the township covered with limestone cap rock, which form narrow ridges, small mesas and buttes. The largest such formation is Baseline Mesa located in section 14. The remainder of the land ranges from nearly level to hilly.

The drainage system of the township consists of intermittent streams and washes, which drain easterly into Lake Mead. Valley of Fire Wash enters the township at the west boundary near the $\frac{1}{4}$ section corner of section 19, draining southeasterly to leave the township approximately 20 chains north of the southeast corner of the Tp. Kaolin Wash enters the township at the west boundary approximately 15 chains south of the corner of sections 6 and 7, draining northeasterly to leave the township at the north boundary near the $\frac{1}{4}$ section corner of section 1. The remainder of the drainage system is for the most part tributary to the two larger intermittent streams noted above. There are two springs in the township; one in the southeast corner of section 36 and one in the northeast corner of section 2. Both springs were flowing a fair stream of water at the time of this survey. No other source of water was noted during the survey.

The soil is mostly an undeveloped, residual, sandy silt of poor quality having only a very small amount of humus. The soil varies in depth from exposed parent material to 33 or 41 feet in some of the more level areas.

The vegetative cover is composed of catclaw, creosote bush, mountain rush and several species of cacti, with the cholla family predominating. The catclaw is found along the drainage, varying in density from a few scattered trees to thickets. The creosote bush, mountain rush, and cacti are interspersed and scattered over the entire township.

There are two black topped roads in the township, as well as numerous bulldozed access roads. Nevada State Highway No. 12 enters the township at the east boundary approximately 10.00 chains south of the northeast corner, bearing southwest to a point near the center of the southwest $\frac{1}{4}$ section 1, where it curves southeast to leave the township at the east boundary near the $\frac{1}{4}$ section corner of section 12. Nevada State Highway No. 40 enters the township at the east boundary near the corner of sections 19, 24, 25 and 30, bearing westerly to a point near the center of section 30, where it curves southwest to leave the township at the west boundary near the $\frac{1}{4}$ section corner of section 31. An access road, graded and gravelled for approximately 1 mile and the rest being only a bulldozed trail, bears southwest from a junction with Nevada State Highway No. 12 in the northwest $\frac{1}{4}$ of section 12 to about the center of section 16. The remainder of the roads are either jeep trails or bulldozed trails and are for the most part passable only in vehicles with four-wheel drive. Other developments in the township are the mining of silica sand, recreation areas and limited stock grazing. The silica sand mines, which are open pit operation, are located in sections 1, 2, 11 and 12, on file as placer claims and are not patented. The red sandstone formation in the township is an unusual formation for the area and the fantastic formations created by erosion are a big tourist attraction and bring hundreds of people to the area each year. The State