

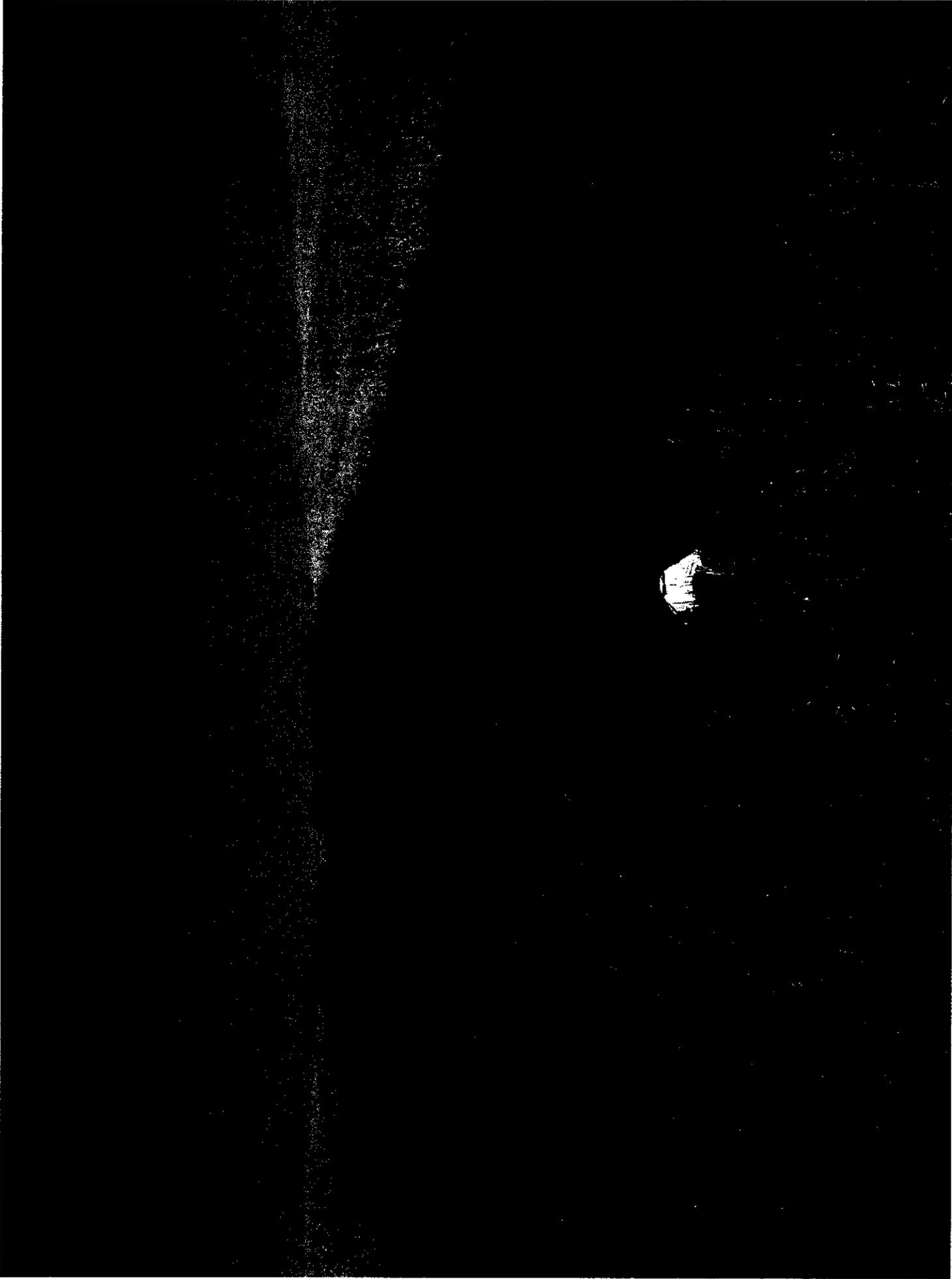
FACT SHEET
SHERIDAN COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT RDGP
PROPOSAL

Protecting Natural Resources by Reclaiming Oilfield-Brine-
Contaminated Soils in Sheridan County, Montana

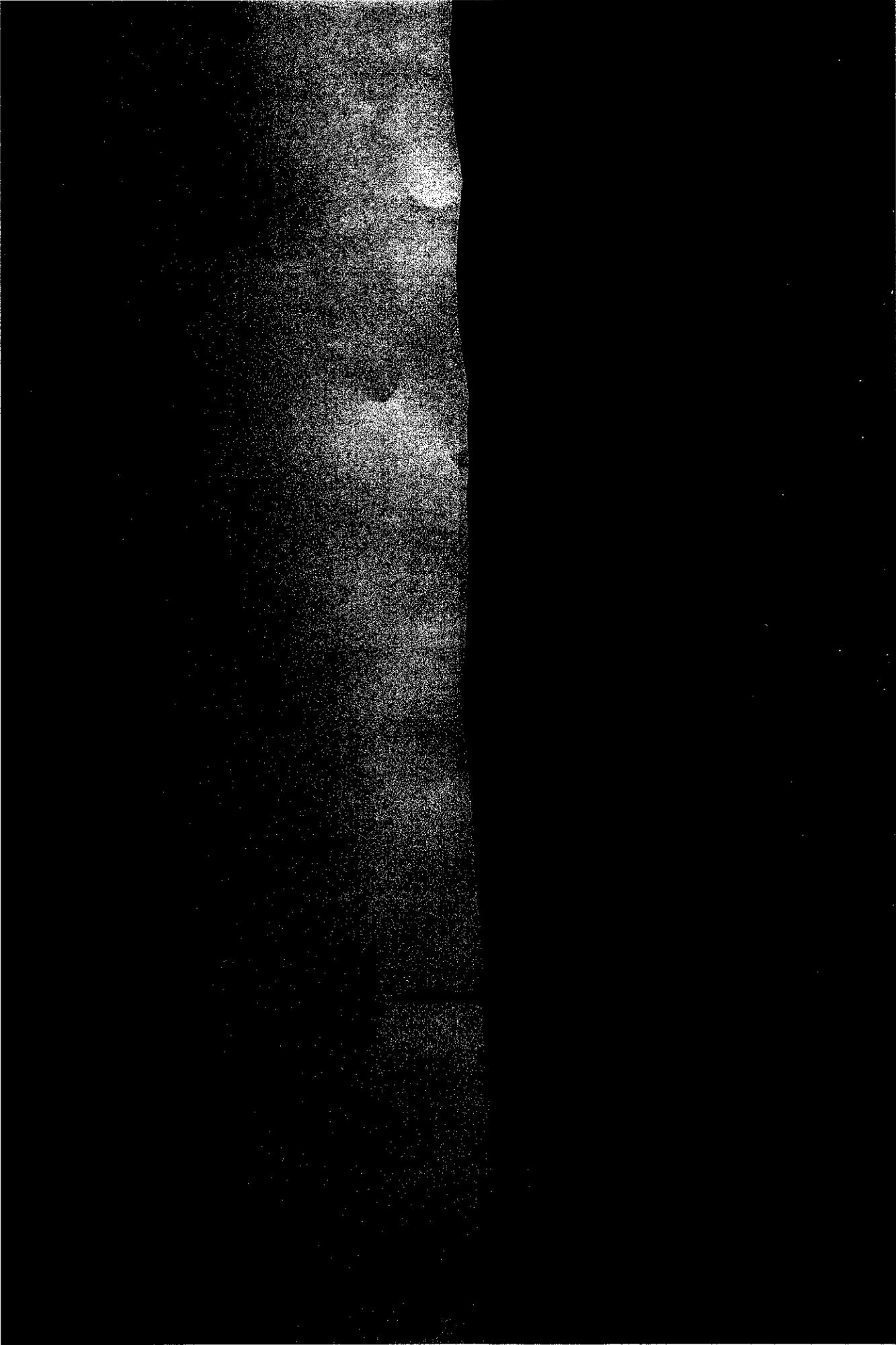
PROBLEM: Migration of oilfield brines, ten-times as concentrated as seawater, has caused serious problems in Sheridan Co.

- On-site disposal of salt-laden drilling wastes is a common practice in this part of the Williston Basin.
- A typical on-site disposal pit contains as much salt as a 260-ton salt block.
- Landowners have reported increased problems near oilfield sites including sterile soils, contaminated wells, sinkholes, and accelerated erosion. All of these problems result in significant economic impacts and have decreased the economic vitality of traditional farming practices.
- Many of these disposal sites appeared stable during the dry times of the 1980's. Wetter climatic conditions during the late 1990's have mobilized the salts making the problems more serious and noticeable.
- The SCCD proposes to clean up as many of these sites as possible to regain the lost productivity and reduce further contamination.
- There are about 900 drilling sites with on-site disposal pits in Sheridan County. Landowners have recently reported significant problems at 22 of these sites to the Sheridan County Conservation District (SCCD).

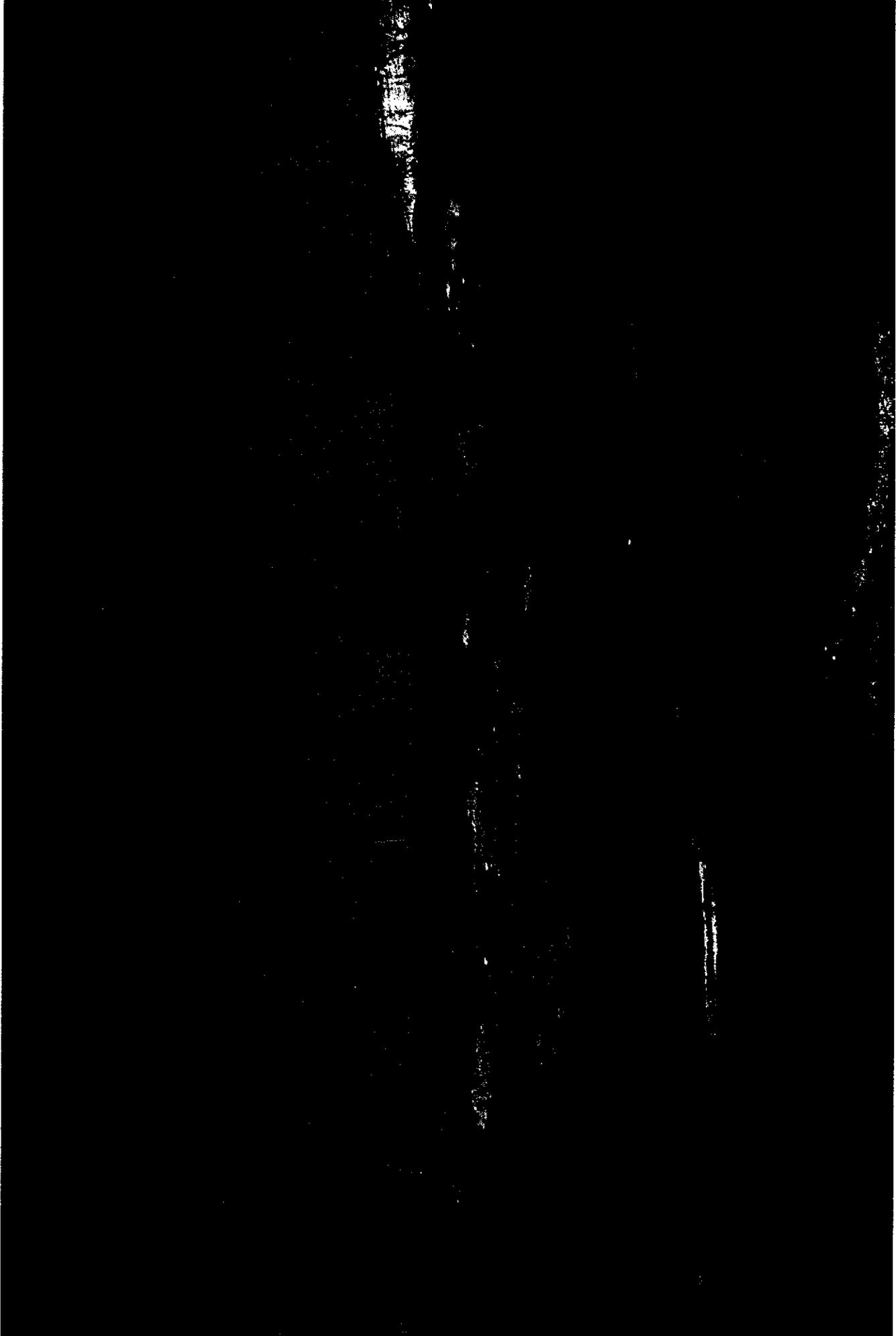
Identified sites are being assessed as part of an ongoing RDGP grant (see map). This funding will primarily be used to clean up these sites and to monitor the results of the clean up.



Trench eroded across wheat field caused by oil field brine seepage



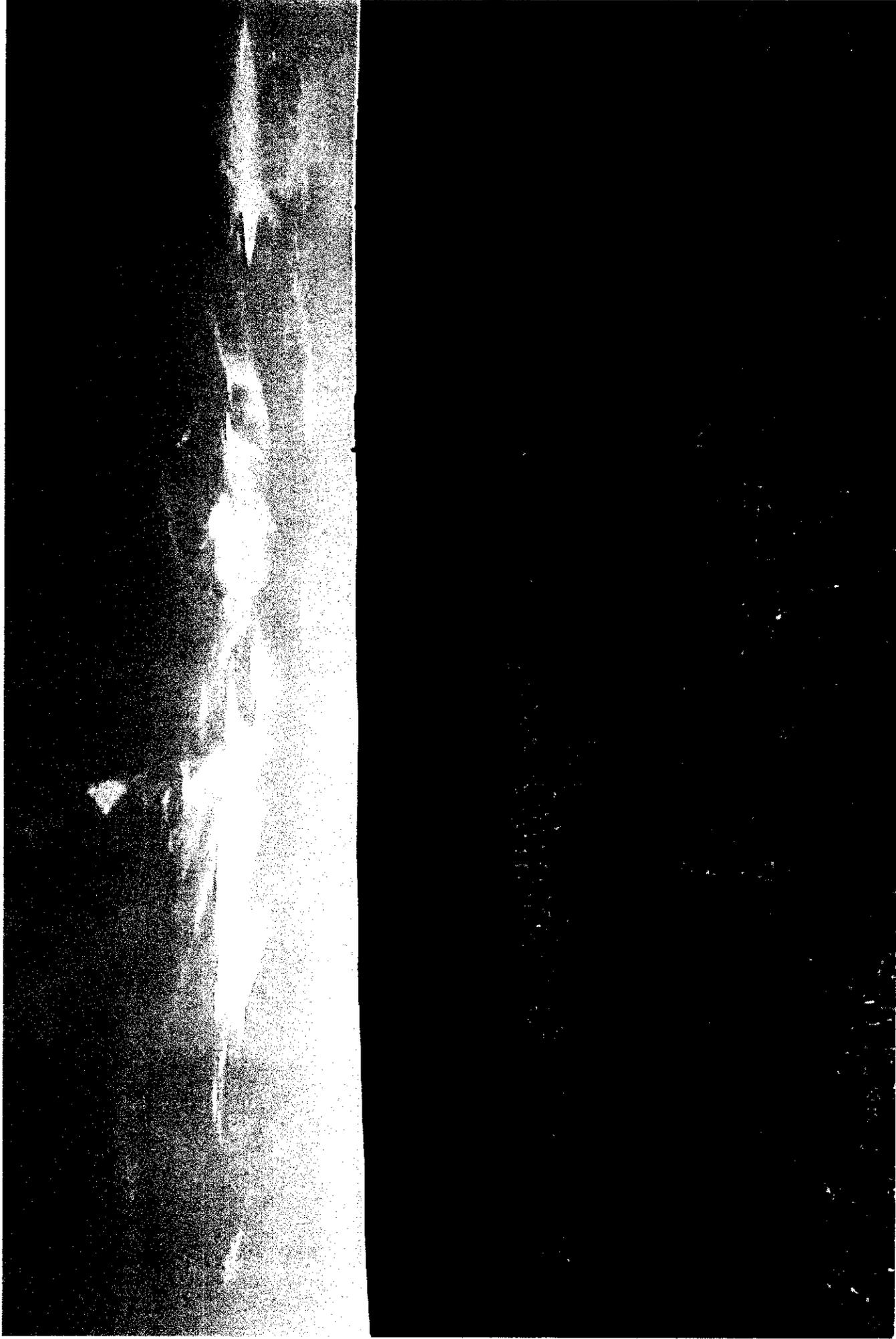
Wetland below trench. Note delta.



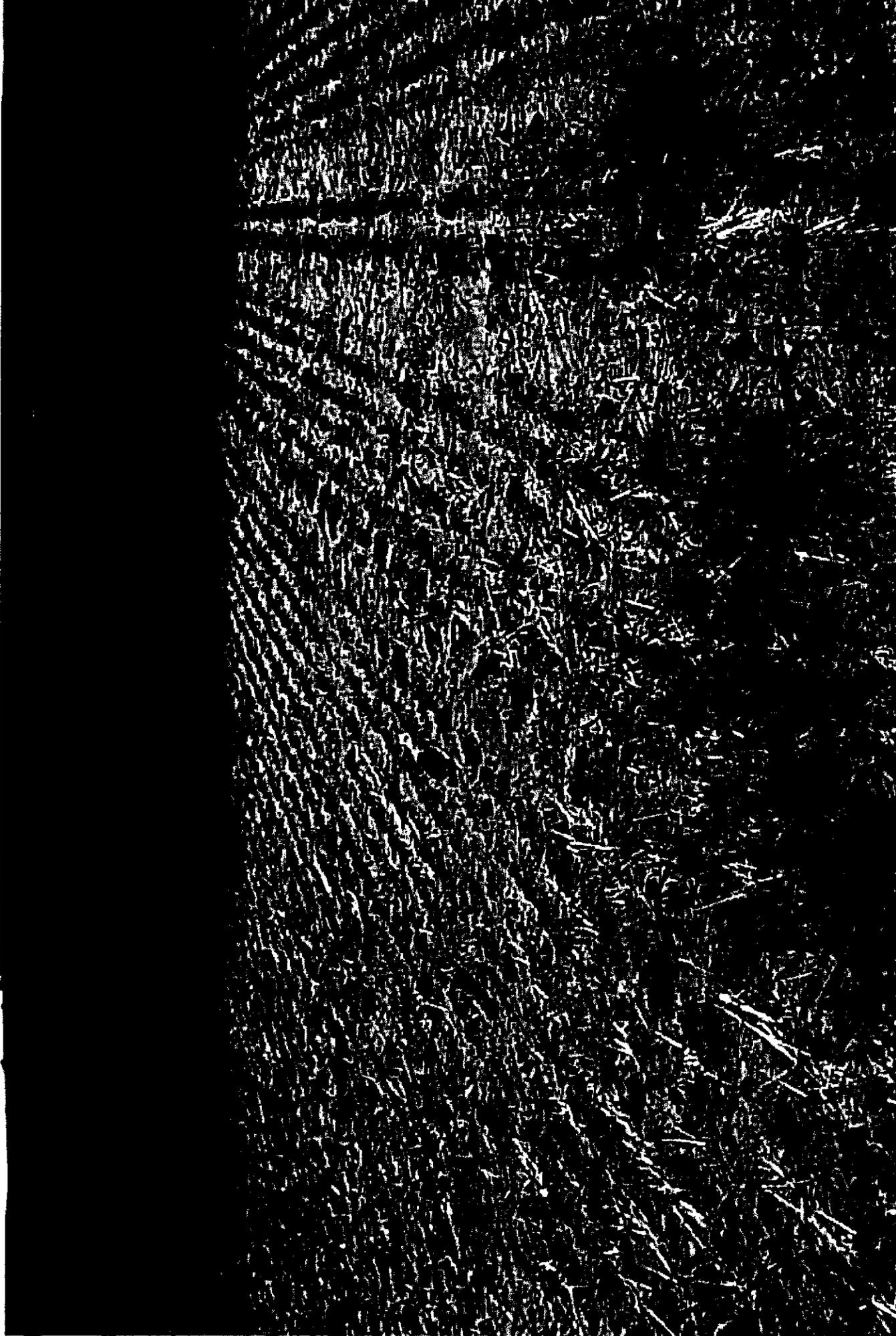
Oilfield brine seep near Redstone. Source is near powerlines above the seep.



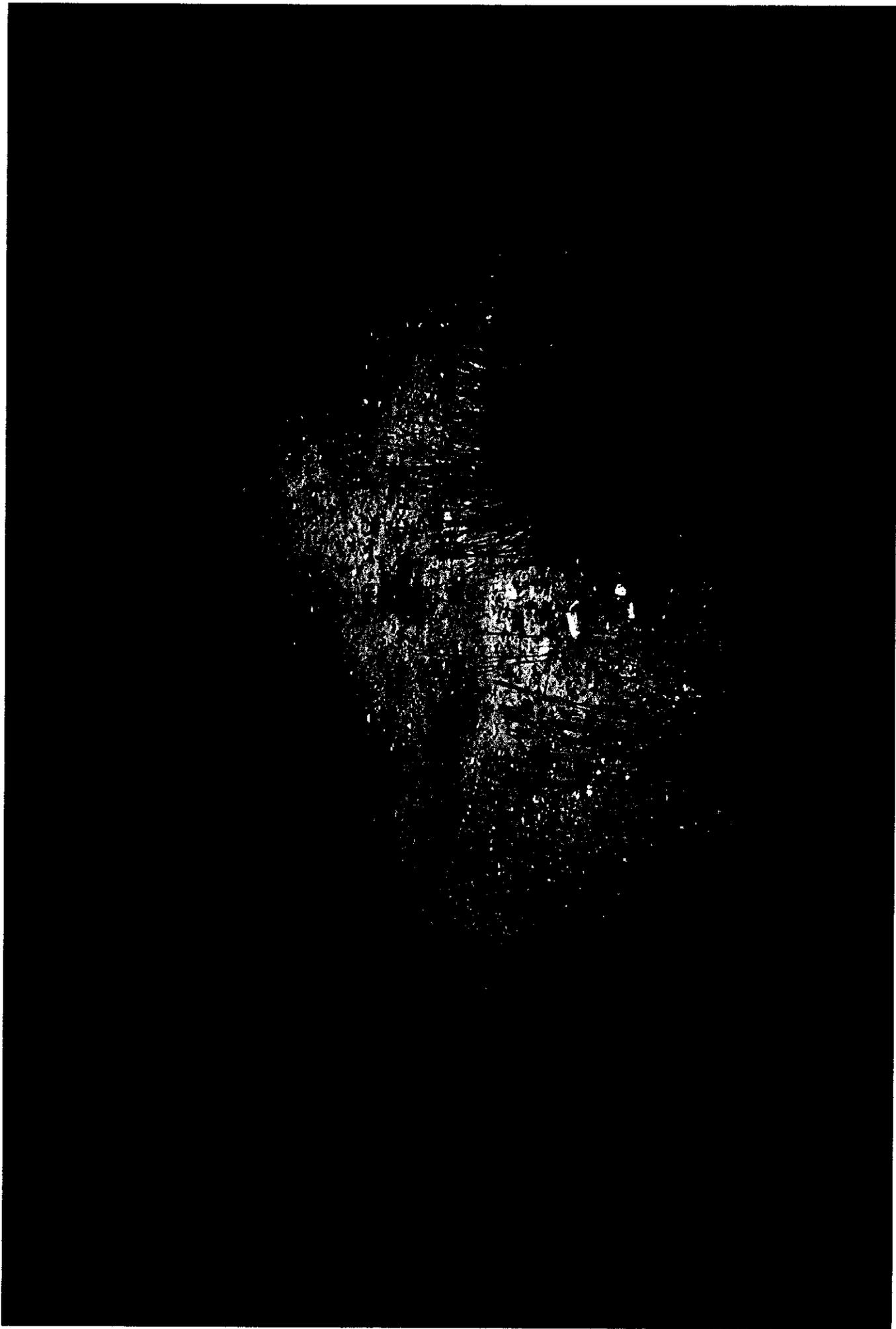
Outlet of Redstone seep draining into Big Muddy Creek.



Salt scar in upland wheatfield.



Close-up of salt scar in wheatfield.



Small salt scar near oilfield site.

Sheridan County Oil Field Reclamation

