

SOUTHWEST CHAPTER OF THE NEW MEXICO
VINE AND WINE SOCIETY
Rt. 15 Box 3115
Mimbres, NM 88059
Phone (505) 546-9306

April 17, 1984

Mr. Ed Reisman, ATF Specialist
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20226

Dear Mr. Reisman:

In accordance with 27 CFR 4.25a regarding the labeling of wine with an appellation of origin, the Southwest Chapter of the New Mexico Vine and Wine Society is submitting this petition to establish a viticultural area in Luna and Grant counties. The proposed viticultural area would be called the "Mimbres Valley."

Enclosed, please find the following:

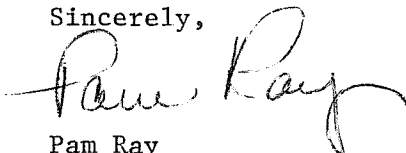
- 1) A description of the proposed boundary for the Mimbres Valley viticultural area.
- 2) A brief history of the name and of the grape industry in the Mimbres Valley.
- 3) A description of the soil in the Mimbres Valley.
- 4) A description of the climate in the Mimbres Valley.
- 5) A photocopy of Index to U.S.G.S. Quadrangle Maps, NM area.
- 6) Twenty-eight U.S.G.S. quadrangle maps showing the proposed boundary of the Mimbres Valley viticultural area.
- 7) A U.S.G.S. "Hydrological Unit Map - 1974 State of New Mexico."
- 8) A photocopy of "Hydrologic Unit Codes," showing Cataloging Unit 13030202 -- Mimbres, New Mexico.
- 9) A photocopy of "Hydrologic Unit 13030202," Mimbres, New Mexico.
- 10) A map of "Mimbres Valley Underground Water Basin," New Mexico State Engineer, 1970.
- 11) Four "Key Maps of Mimbres River Hydrographic Survey," New Mexico Office of State Engineer, 1979.

Mr. Ed Reisman
April 17, 1984
page 2

- 12) A copy of Historial Map 6801, New Mexico State University Historical Map Collection, "County and Township Map of Arizona and New Mexico", circa 1850, showing location of Mimbres River.
- 13) An "Important Farmlands Map, Luna County, New Mexico", U.S.D.A., Soil Conservation Service, 1979, showing the proposed boundaries of the "Mimbres Valley" viticultural area.
- 14) A location map indicating size and location of Deming area vineyards.
- 15) A location map indicating size and location of Grant county vineyards.
- 16) A copy of "General Soil Map, Luna County, New Mexico", U.S.D.A., Soil Conservation Service.
- 17) A "Soil Associations and Land Classification for Irrigation Luna County" Agricultural Experiment Station Research Report 176, 1970.
- 18) A "Soil Associations and Land Classification for Irrigation Grant County" Agricultural Experiment Station Research Report 200, 1971.
- 19) A letter dated March 26, 1984, from Kenneth Kunkel, State Climatologist.
- 20) Ten articles, copies from journals and local newspapers, concerning winemaking in proposed viticultural area entitled:
 - "Tasting New Mexico's Wines"
 - "Swiss Winemaker Buys 2,000 Acres in Luna County"
 - "Grapes Becoming New Cash Crop for New Mexico"
 - "The Wines of Deming: Coming Soon"
 - "New Mexico Wineries You Can Visit"
 - "New Mexico's Grape Expectations"
 - "Swiss Winemakers Opening Vineyard Near Deming"
 - "New Winery Will Open Near Deming"
 - "Winemaker: Deming Area Best in U.S."
 - "New Mexico Grape Acreage Triples in One Year"
- 21) A copy of comments by Governor Tony Anaya at Uvas Farming Corporation Winery, Deming, NM, 12-14-83.

The Southwest Chapter of the New Mexico Vine and Wine Society would appreciate your consideration of the Mimbres Valley as a viticultural area. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Pam Ray
President

xc: Dorene Brown
Dr. Greg Baker

enclosures

PROPOSED BOUNDARY

The area known as the Mimbres Valley begins at the headwaters of the Mimbres River between Reeds Peak and McNight Mountain, near the Continental Divide and in the Black Range, located in Grant County, New Mexico. The northern valley is a narrow channel for the river and is bordered by foothills. As the river enters Luna County to the south, the valley widens into a broad, gently sloping flood plain. The course of the river winds around scattered foothill areas until it sinks from sight northeast of Deming, New Mexico. The river is an intermittent stream and is usually dry except for rainfall periods. The Mimbres River has no definite channel in the southern part of Luna County. Water from rainfall drainage has reached as far south as the Mexican border.

At one time, the primary river course was west of Deming and proceeded south through the pass separating the Florida Mountains and the Tres Hermanas Mountains. At that time, the river sank east of Columbus, New Mexico (U.S.G.S. Bulletin 618, 1916).

The Mimbres Valley includes the valleys surrounding the Florida Mountains and the Tres Hermanas Mountains and extends south to the International Border with Mexico.

The proposed "Mimbres Valley" viticultural area boundary begins near Bear Canyon Dam where the valley begins to widen and proceeds south to the New Mexico-Mexico border, excluding the Florida and Tres Hermanas Mountains. (Please see figure 1, Index to U.S.G.S. Quadrangle maps for approximate boundary.) Elevations within the proposed area range from approximately 4000-6000'. The proposed viticultural area includes approximately 970 square miles.

The boundaries of the proposed "Mimbres Valley" appellation are indicated on the following U.S.G.S. quadrangle maps (28 enclosed):

Series U.S.G.S. Topographic Quadrangle Maps

7.5'	Faywood Station
15.0'	Dwyer
15.0'	San Lorenzo
7.5'	Goat Ridge
"	Deming West
	Deming East
	Carne
	Myndus
	Akela
	Sibley Hole
	Gym Peak
	Florida Gap
	Capital Dome
	South Peak
	Columbus NE
	Columbus SE
	Columbus
	Hermanas
	Malpais Hill
	North Peak
	West Lime Hills
	Midway Butte
	Bisbee Hills
	Red Mountain
	Bowlin Ranch
	Williams Ranch
	Spalding
	Antelope Hill

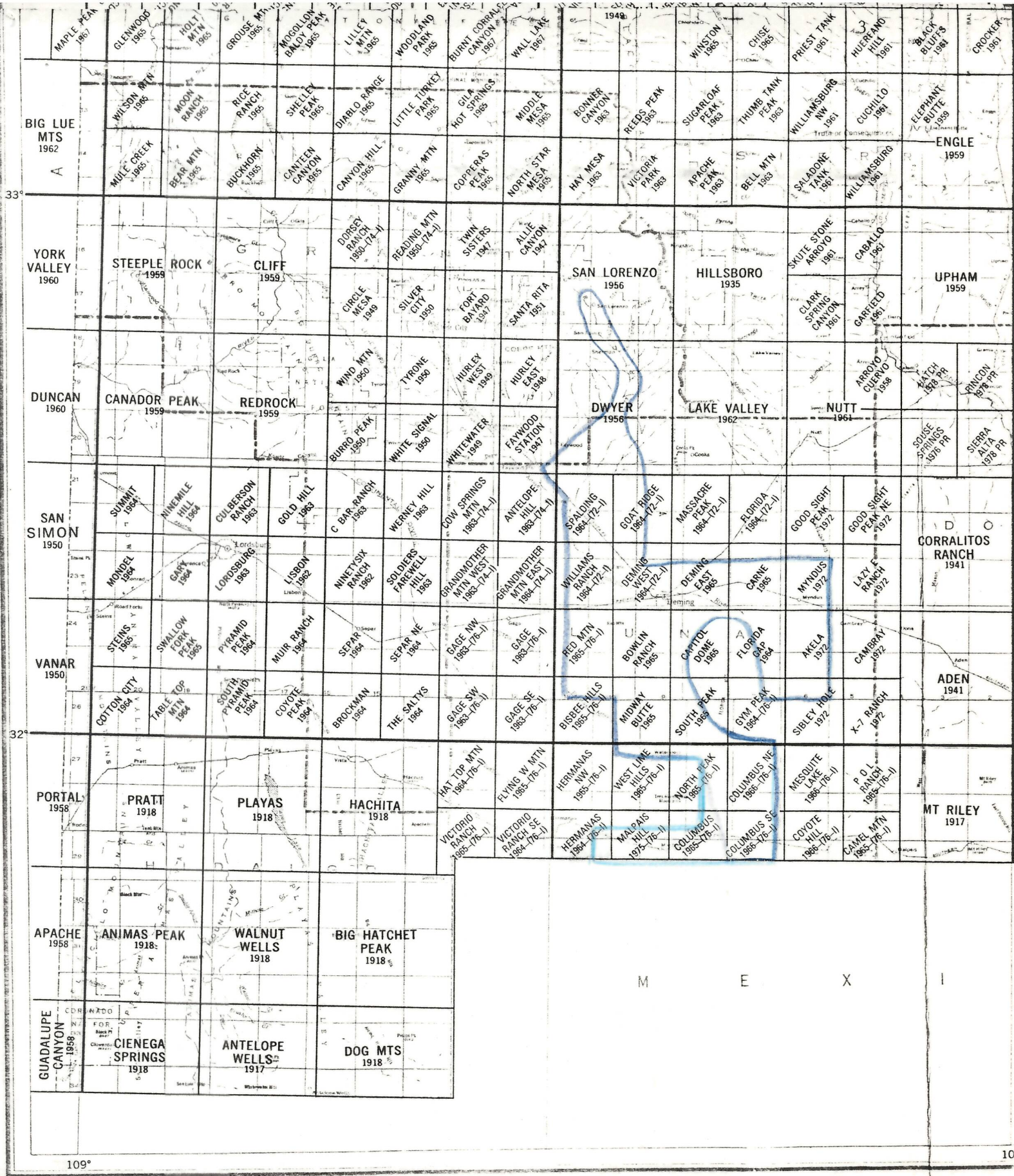


Figure 1. Index to U.S.G.S. Quadrangle maps with approximate boundary

BOUNDARY
NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The beginning point is located at Faywood Station, Luna County, New Mexico, Section 2, T21S, R12W, on U.S.G.S. Faywood Station Quadrangle map. From the beginning point, the boundary runs northeast 6 miles to NM Hwy 61 and then approximately 22 miles to U.S. 180, shown on San Lorenzo Quadrangle map. Boundary runs northeast on U.S. 180 to rejoin NM Hwy 61 and then proceeds northwest approximately 6 miles to Bear Canyon Dam Road (Section 29, T16S, R11W).

The boundary then proceeds due east across the Mimbres River to meet the 6000' contour line, then southeast on contour line approximately 4.5 miles to southwest corner of Section 12, then east 1.7 miles on section line to dirt road in Faulkner Canyon, Section 18. Boundary then proceeds south approximately 2 miles on dirt road to intersection with NM 180, then southeast 1 mile to junction NM 180 on northern boundary of Section 31, T17S, R10W, to the northeast corner, then southeast on 5600' contour line approximately 6 miles to Juniper Canyon dirt road, (Section 31, T18S, R10W) on Dwyer Quadrangle map, approximately one mile to 5400' contour line.

The boundary then proceeds southeast on 5400' contour line to northern section line boundary of Section 26, T19S, R10W, then south .25 mile to 5200' contour line approximately 5 miles to NM Hwy 61 at northeast corner of Section 17, T20S, R10W, Dwyer Quadrangle map.

Boundary proceeds south on Hwy 61 (through Goat Ridge Quadrangle) 16.5 miles to southwest corner of Section 33, T22S, R9W, Deming West Quadrangle map. Boundary turns east on section line dividing T22S and T23S, then proceeds east 10 miles (through Deming East Quadrangle) to northeast corner Section 1, T23S, R8W, Carne Quadrangle map. Boundary turns south on

section line 1.5 miles to dirt road, southeast 1.75 miles to Carne Windmill, Section 17, T23S, R7W, then southeast one mile to northwest corner of Section 22, Tw 23S, R7W, then east 8.5 miles on section line to northeast corner of Section 24, T23S, R6W, Myndus Quadrangle map.

Boundary then proceeds south on section line dividing R6W and R5W (through Akela Quadrangle) sixteen miles to southeast corner of Section 36, T25S, R6W, Sibley Hole Quadrangle map. Boundary proceeds west eight miles on section line dividing T25S and T26S to 4200' contour line at southeast corner Section 35, T25S, R7W, Gym Peak Quadrangle map.

Boundary proceeds northwest on 4200' contour line to northwest corner of Section 8, T24S, R7W, Florida Gap Quadrangle. Boundary contour line meets I 70/80/180 and proceeds west 4.5 miles to northwest corner Section 2, T24S, R8W, Capitol Dome Quadrangle map. Boundary proceeds south on section line four miles to southeast corner of Section 22, west two miles to northwest corner of Section 28, T24S, R8W. Boundary proceeds south two miles to southwest corner of Section 33, T25S, R8W, then east to northwest corner of Section 5, T24S, R8W, then south six miles to Crawford Ranch, on boundary between T25S and T26S, South Peak Quadrangle.

Boundary then proceeds southwest on dirt road to intersect section line dividing section 5 and 6 and proceeds south 2.5 miles to southwest corner of Section 17, T26S, R8W, then east one mile to northeast corner Section 20, then south two miles to southeast corner of Section 28, then east 5 miles to northeast corner Section 31, T26S, R7W, Gym Peak Quadrangle. Boundary turns south 7 miles to southwest corner Section 32, T27S, R7W, Columbus NE Quadrangle.

Boundary then proceeds east four miles on section line to northeast corner Section 2, T28S, R7W, at Oney Tank. Boundary proceeds south on dirt

road from Oney Tank 4.5 miles to Dean Well, then due south on section line to New Mexico-Mexico International Border at Section 14, Columbus S.E. Quadrangle map.

Boundary then follows International Border west for 23 miles (through Columbus Quadrangle, Malpais Hill Quadrangle) to southwest corner of Section 18, T29S, R10W, Hermanas Quadrangle map.

Boundary proceeds north 3.5 miles on section line dividing R10W and R11W to northeast corner Section 31, R10W, T28S, Hermanas Quadrangle. Boundary turns east on section line and proceeds fourteen miles (through Malpais Hill Quadrangle) to southeast corner of Section 29, T28S, R8W, Columbus Quadrangle, then north nine miles to Northeast corner Section 19, T27S, R8W, North Peak Quadrangle.

Boundary then proceeds west 11 miles (through West Lime Hills Quadrangle) to southwest corner Section 16, T27S, R10W, West Line Hills Quadrangle. Boundary proceeds north 9 miles to northwest corner Section 4, T26S, R10W, Midway Butte Quadrangle. Boundary proceeds west 6.5 miles on section line to southwest corner Section 33, T25S, R11W, Bisbee Hills Quadrangle. Boundary proceeds north 26.5 miles (through Red Mountain Quadrangle, Williams Ranch Quadrangle) to intersect with Atcheson, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad at eastern boundary of Section 21, T21S, R11W, Spalding Quadrangle.

Boundary then follows railroad northwest approximately 5 miles (through Antelope Hill Quadrangle) to the point of origin at Faywood Station, Section 2, T21S, R12W, Faywood Station Quadrangle.

HISTORY

Mimbres Valley derives its name from the Mimbres Indians who inhabited the valley between 1100 and 1300 A.D. These primitive hunters and farmers made their houses of wood and adobe. Ruins of their houses are still found in the valley. The pottery they made is valued for the beauty of designs done in black and white. The bowls are decorated with drawings of men, animals and geometrics. After the Mimbres Indians disappeared about 1300 A.D., the Mimbreno Apaches moved in from the Southern Great Plains. The Apache became famous under the leadership of the war chief, Mangus Colorado. The area was also the scene of raids by other warrior leaders, Nana, Chato, Victorio, and Geronimo.

During the period that the Apaches were moving in, the Spanish began their first explorations into New Mexico. De Vaca crossed this area as early as 1535. Coronado explored most of New Mexico, nine years before Jamestown and twenty-two years before the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth. The Spanish left a strong cultural imprint upon the area and many locations are named for Spanish or Indian identities. The mountain peak north of Deming was first called Picacho del Mimbres until renamed Cook's Peak by the Americans. The valley in which Deming is located is named Mimbres, which means "willow", or osier tree.

Maps of the area dated 1850 indicate the Mimbres Mountains, Camp Mimbres (U.S. Cavalry), and the Rio Mimbres extending south to Mexico. See Figure 2.

Viticulture in the area is documented in *The History of Luna County*, 1978, published by the Luna County Historical Society. Vineyards were located east of Deming at the turn of the century in Chinese gardens. The Holy Family Church was established in Deming in 1913 and grape vines, shade

trees, shrubbery and peach and apple trees were planted on the Catholic church grounds. The first irrigated farms in the Mimbres Valley are documented in 1909.

Emanuel Vocale is residing on property near Deming where he grows tokay grapes, approximately 220 vines. He reports tending vines his father planted on the property in 1932. Mr. Vocale reports only 2 years of frost damage in the last 25 years he has been making wine.

SOIL

The soil associations within the boundaries of the proposed viticultural area are based upon U.S.D.A. Soil Conservation Service and Water Resources Research Institute information. Soils include Mimbres-Verhalen, Mohave Stellar, Hondale-Mimbres-Bluepoint, Mimbres and Mimbres-Verhalen associations. These soils were formed on flood plains and stream terraces. Soils range from sandy to loamy alluvium, generally fine, mixed and deep. Soils are level to gently sloping.

These soil associations are evaluated by the Soil Conservation Service as having a high percentage of tracts that are very well suited to irrigation.

Attached are New Mexico State University Agricultural Experiment Station Research Reports: Soil Associations and Land Classification for Irrigation, Luna County, Research Report 176; and Soil Associations and Land Classification for Irrigation, Grant County, Research Report 200. Also see attached Important Farmlands Map of Luna County. The corresponding map for Grant County has not been printed.

CLIMATE

The proposed viticultural area is characterized by an arid continental climate, light precipitation totals, low humidity, plentiful sunshine and large diurnal and seasonal temperature changes.

The area is between 4000-6000 feet in elevation. Temperatures may be expected to be a few degrees cooler and precipitation a little greater at the higher elevations.

Average annual precipitation totals are between 9 and 10 inches, with 50% of the rainfall occurring from July to September during brief, heavy thunderstorms. Average annual snowfalls range from 1-4 inches and are soon melted.

Refer to attached Research Report 200 (Grant County) and Research Report 176 (Luna County) for detailed climate information. Enclosed is a letter dated March 26, 1984, from state climatologist Ken Kunkel, with tables documenting information from available weather stations in the viticultural area.

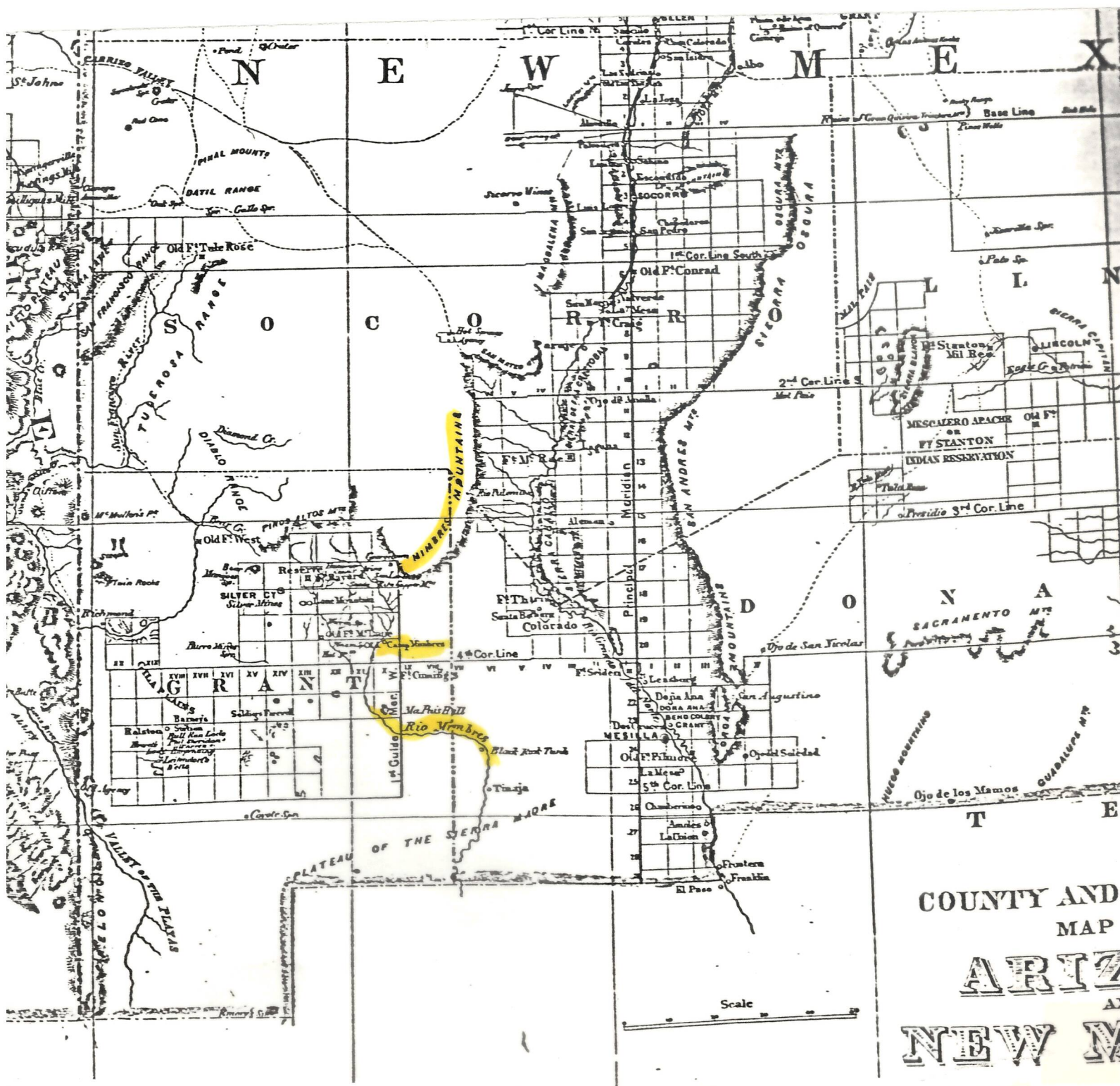


Figure 2. County and township map of Arizona and New Mexico, circa 1850

Source: NMSU Historical Map Collection

OFFICE OF STATE CLIMATOLOGIST

NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Box 5702/Las Cruces, New Mexico 88003
Telephone (505) 646-2642



March 26, 1984

03.07 reisman

Mr. Ed Reisman, ATF Specialist
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms
1200 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20226

Dear Mr. Reisman:

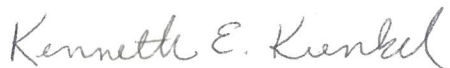
I wish to give you information on the climate in the Deming, New Mexico area in support of the request for a "Mimbres Valley" viticultural area appellation. There are three locations in this area with reasonably long weather records--Deming, Columbus and Faywood. Table 1 shows averages of various climatic elements for these locations and two other locations outside of the area--Fort Bayard and Lordsburg.

Within the area, elevation varies from about 4,000 feet at the southern end to near 6,000 feet at the northern end. These elevation differences are the major cause of some climatic differences within the area. Temperatures are somewhat cooler at the northern end, as shown by the data at Faywood (elevation 5,050 feet) than at the southern end as shown by the Columbus data (elevation 4,027 feet). The mean annual maximum temperature is about 4° lower at Faywood than at Columbus. The growing season varies from 180 days at Faywood to 207 days at Columbus. The number of growing degree days varies from 3,826 at Faywood to 5,049 at Columbus.

Precipitation is similar for all locations within the area. Faywood receives slightly higher amounts. This is due to its proximity to the mountains to the north and to its slightly higher elevation.

The data for Fort Bayard (elevation 6,152 feet) and Lordsburg (elevation 4,245 feet) illustrate some of the climatic differences in the areas surrounding the appellation area. Fort Bayard, at the south end of the Gila Wilderness, has significantly higher precipitation and lower temperatures. At Lordsburg, to the west of the Continental Divide, precipitation is somewhat higher than for locations within the area. This is caused by higher winter precipitation amounts.

Sincerely,



Kenneth E. Kunkel
State Climatologist

KEK/dj

Enclosures: Table 1

TABLE 1

COLUMBUS

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	ANN
Tmax	58.8	63.4	70.4	79.0	87.2	96.1	95.1	93.2	88.1	78.9	67.1	58.7	78.0
Tmin	27.2	30.1	36.3	43.7	51.9	62.0	66.2	64.2	57.6	45.8	33.3	27.3	45.5
Degree Days Growing Season	17	42	151	347	606	871	951	889	685	387	88	14	5049
#Days < 32	21.0	15.9	8.3	1.4	0	0	0	0	0	0.6	11.8	21.8	81.2
#Days < 10	0.6	0.1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	0.4	1.2
#Days < 0													
Precip.	0.38	0.45	0.31	0.12	0.21	0.23	2.23	1.52	1.49	0.79	0.45	0.50	8.68

DEMING

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	ANN
Tmax	57.1	62.3	68.5	78.0	86.8	95.7	96.1	93.4	88.8	78.9	66.2	57.8	77.5
Tmin	25.0	28.2	33.3	40.3	48.5	58.7	65.4	63.0	56.2	44.2	32.1	26.2	43.4
Degree Days Growing Season	9	30	105	284	549	814	953	874	675	363	68	7	4731
#Days < 32	24.6	18.8	11.6	2.8	0.4	0	0	0	0	1.1	14.4	23.3	96.2
#Days < 10	1.1	0.2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.4	1.7
#Days < 0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.1
Precip.	0.40	0.45	0.34	0.17	0.11	0.28	1.96	1.65	1.13	0.65	0.30	0.53	7.96

FAYWOOD

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	ANN
Tmax	55.6	59.5	65.8	73.7	82.7	91.1	92.1	89.2	83.8	75.5	64.6	55.9	74.1
Tmin	24.3	26.0	31.5	37.2	45.6	54.5	61.2	59.1	52.9	41.7	30.6	24.7	40.8
Degree Days Growing Season	4	10	71	182	440	684	826	749	550	274	41	5	3836
#Days < 32	26.0	21.4	14.9	5.0	0.6	0	0	0	0	2.3	17.3	25.0	112.8
#Days < 10	1.2	0.4	0.3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	0.3	2.3
#Days < 0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Precip.	0.59	0.43	0.36	0.15	0.16	0.50	2.08	2.17	1.43	1.01	0.39	0.71	10.00

FORT BAYARD

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	ANN
Tmax	51.6	55.2	60.1	68.4	76.6	86.4	86.5	84.3	80.0	71.0	60.2	52.5	69.4
Tmin	25.0	27.3	31.1	36.9	44.3	53.6	58.5	56.9	51.4	41.8	31.2	25.8	40.3
Degree Days	2	6	30	122	330	600	698	637	471	215	29	2	3142
Growing Season													178
#Days < 32	25.6	20.4	15.9	5.8	0.8	0	0	0	0	2.0	14.1	24.6	109.8
#Days < 10	1.0	0.4	0.1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.2	0.4	2.0
#Days < 0	0.1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.2
Precip.	0.82	0.83	0.73	0.38	0.40	0.76	3.05	3.27	2.06	1.14	0.68	0.96	15.07

LORDSBURG

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	ANN
Tmax	57.8	63.2	69.2	78.7	86.8	96.2	96.8	94.1	89.4	79.7	67.0	59.4	78.2
Tmin	25.7	28.1	33.8	40.1	48.0	58.8	65.6	62.9	56.8	44.4	31.6	25.8	43.5
Degree Days													
Growing Season													
#Days < 32	24.2	19.4	11.0	2.9	0.5	0	0	0	0	0.8	13.7	24.1	96.0
#Days < 10	1.1	0.3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.5	1.9
#Days < 0	0.1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	0.2
Precip.	0.82	0.75	0.60	0.25	0.17	0.52	1.75	2.13	1.41	0.84	0.50	0.79	10.52

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
AND AGRICULTURAL BUSINESS
Box 3169/Las Cruces, New Mexico 88003-3169
Telephone (505) 646-3215

5315



May 9, 1984

Mr. Ed Reisman, ATF Specialist
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms
12000 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20226

Dear Mr. Reisman:

Please attach the enclosed article from the Las Cruces Sun-News to the petition for the viticultural area appellation "Mimbres Valley."

This article dated May 6 entitled 'Vintner expects to sell large amounts of high quality wine' will provide information regarding wine-making activity within the Mimbres Valley.

Please keep us advised regarding the status of this appellation.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Dorene Brown'.

Dorene Brown
Research Asst.

Enc.

xc: Pam Ray

Business

Sunday, May 6, 1984

Vintner expects to sell large amounts of high quality wine

By
MARVIN TESSNEER
Of The Sun-News

Work on the Uvas Farming Corp. winery near Deming is keeping pace with its wine grape production, corporation officers said.

Construction started on the winery in December, and the plant should be ready for the fall grape harvest, Vincent Vuignier of Switzerland, president, said.

This year, the plant will have a 400,000-gallon capacity, and plans call for a 800,000-gallon volume next year. The corporation goal is to expand to a 2.5 million-gallon annual production, Vuignier said.

The base of the entire operation is 600 acres of several grape varieties, 400 planted last year and 200 more this year.

Uvas (Spanish for grapes) Farming plans to introduce on the

American market "premium" wines. The corporation wants to offer wines that consumers can order by specific grape variety. For example — a Pinot Noir wine produced in the Mimbres Valley, is not just a common red wine or blend, Vuignier said.

The winery operation also will include bottling. Uvas Farming wines will come in three-quarter or 1½-liter bottles with a distinct label.

The wine grape group has planted more than 10 varieties. But some may be eliminated if they do not catch on in the market, Vuignier said.

The varieties the farm is working with now are French Colombard, Sauvignon Blanc, Pinot Chardonnay, Malvasia Bianca, Muscat Canelli, Ugni Blanc, Zinfandel, Barbera, Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Ruby Cabernet, Pinot

Noir, Grenache and Chenin Blanc. The farm's grape vines are grown on a modified bi-lateral cordon system. Two vines are planted per stake, and they are kept trimmed so new shoots and grapes can be trained to grow on the wire laterals, Esteban Herrera, New Mexico State University Extension horticulturist, explained.

The stakes are set eight to 10 feet apart, depending on the growth vigor of the different varieties. The first lateral is about 4½ feet from the ground and the second is about six feet.

One reason for eliminating the lower foliage and the lateral heights is to reduce the chances of winter damage. The lower part of grape vines break buds about 15 days ahead of the higher laterals. When there is a late freeze the heavier cold air settles above the

ground, and lower vegetation would be more susceptible to freeze, Vuignier explained.

The vines are watered with a trickle irrigation system, which is supplied by underground pipes. The pipes supple water hoses with emitters that run along the lines of vine stakes.

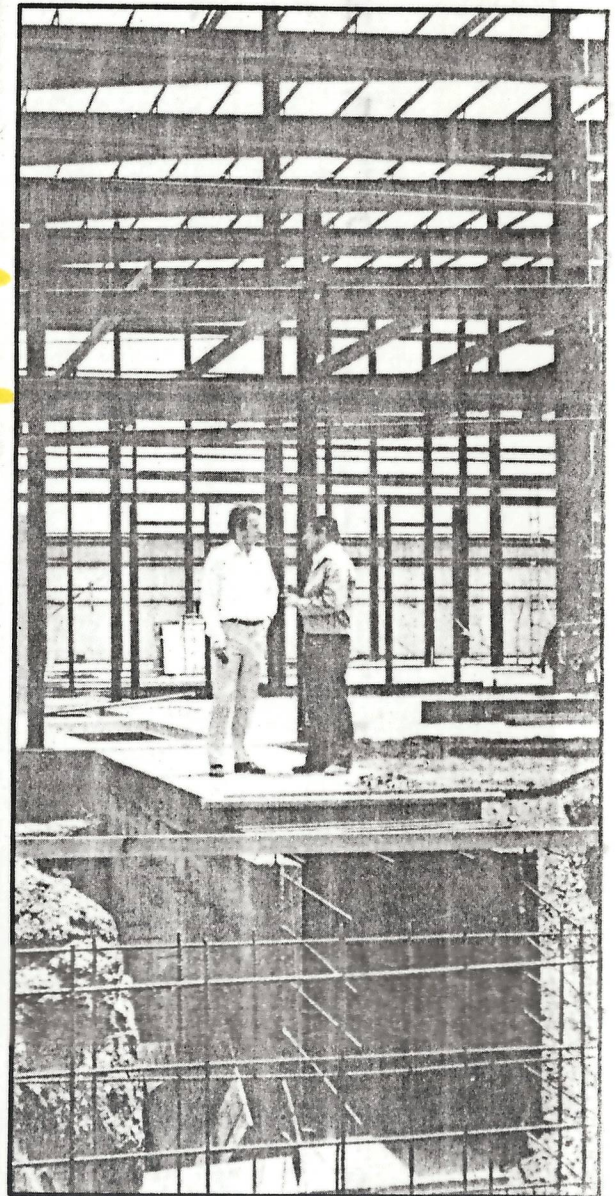
Wells supply the system, and the water is passed through filters to remove sand and avoid plugging the emitters at the delivery end, Vuignier said.

The trickle hoses are supplied at intervals so pressure throughout the system is constant to maintain same rate of supply at each emitter.

And scheduling and volumes of irrigation water are controlled through a computer. The computer also has the capability to store temperature, wind, humidity and vine water consumption data.



Vine progress is checked in the Uvas Farming Pinot Noir vineyard. From left, Esteban Herrera, NMSU Extension horticulturist, and Vincent Vuignier, corporation president. The irrigation hose can be seen horizontal to the vine.



Vincent Vuignier, left, and Esteban Herrera inspect winery construction near Deming.

Sun-News photos by Marvin Tessneer

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
AND AGRICULTURAL BUSINESS
Box 3169/Las Cruces, New Mexico 88003
Telephone (505) 646-3215



July 3, 1984

Mr. Ed Reisman, ATF Specialist
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20226

RECEIVED
7/19/84
CAP

Dear Mr. Reisman:

This is in response to your letter of May 31, 1984 to Pam Ray, President of the Southwest Chapter of the New Mexico Vine and Wine Society, regarding the application for a viticultural area known as "Mimbres Valley."

The following information is organized to address your specific concerns by letter:

(a) The geographical features within the proposed boundary of this viticultural area are level to gently sloping alluvial soils as documented by the Soils Bulletin accompanying the application, item 3.

Rainfall and climate within the boundary is uniform and considered to differ from the surrounding or nearby weather station data as indicated by the letter dated March 26, 1984 from the state climatologist. The letter is also with the original application materials of March 29, 1984, item 19.

(b) There are currently no bonded wineries within the boundary; however, one application is pending. One winery, to be owned by Luna County Wine Development Corporation and with a planned capacity of one million gallons, is proposed to be constructed in July 1984. Uvas Farming Corporation expects their 800,000 gallon capacity winery to produce the first bottling in 1984. Both wineries are adjacent to the City of Deming. There are 12 grape growers within the viticultural area. The location of Grant County growers and Deming area growers are indicated on maps submitted with the original application, items 14 and 15. Please note the addition of two growers to the Deming area map; Dan Stromei with five acres in T24S, R10W, and Jerry Zachek with 20 acres planted in T25, R9W near Sunshine. He plans to plant an additional 60 acres over the next two years.

Mr. Zachek owns approximately 12,000 acres on the Mexican border 14 miles west of Columbus in T29S, R10W. He is considering planting some of this acreage to grapes. At this time, there are no established vineyards in the Columbus area.

(c) Surrounding areas excluded from the boundary are generally steep and rocky and unsuited to viticulture, either because of soil type or availability of water. Some areas were excluded from the actual boundary due solely to considerations of water availability. Areas for which water rights are no longer available have no potential for viticulture regardless of soil, climate, or location. Rainfall in this desert area is insufficient to support this type of agriculture and viticulturalists must depend on underground supplies of water delivered to the vines either by flood or drip irrigation. There are approximately 1,500 acres of vines with 683 acres under drip irrigation.

Virtually all of New Mexico's surface water is fully appropriated, meaning the right to use nearly every acre foot of surface water already belongs to

Mr. Ed Reisman, ATF Specialist
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someone. Rights to ground water are vested rights if existing and recognized at the time a ground water basin is declared and no permit is needed to continue use under those existing rights. The state engineer must review applications for permits to withdraw or use surface or ground water. Decisions are based on evidence that unappropriated water is available, the new use is not detrimental to existing water rights, and the proposed use is beneficial and in the public interest. Water rights may be transferred only within basin boundaries. There are currently 31 declared basins as indicated on attached map issued by State Engineer September 17, 1982.

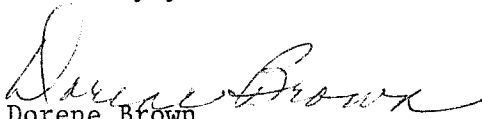
In December 1983, the U.S. Tenth District Circuit Court of Appeals returned to the U.S. District Court for "fresh consideration" the water suit between El Paso, Texas and New Mexico regarding export of water. Until that case is decided, no new well permits can be granted because El Paso's application was filed before all other pending applications in the disputed basins of Mesilla and Hueco. Only water rights transfers, domestic, supplemental or replacement wells may be considered at this time in those basins. Please refer to attached booklet entitled New Mexico Water Rights. Although this suit has no direct effect on the Mimbres Valley appellation, there will be indirect effects on the allocation of water from all New Mexico basins.

Land areas to the south near Columbus and west of Columbus are part of the ancient Mimbres River flood plains, have climate, elevation and soil type similar to the entire viticultural area, and most importantly have potential for irrigation with existing water rights. Refer to enclosures submitted with the original application: 3) soil description, 4) climate description, 10) map of "Mimbres Valley Underground Water Basin," 12) copy of historical map 6801 showing 1850 location of Mimbres River, 13) Important Farmlands map, 16) 17) 18) relate to soils.

(d) All of the area within the viticultural boundary is historically known as the Mimbres Valley. The name is derived from the Mimbres Indians who inhabited the area around 1200 A.D. and for the subsequent Mimbreno Apaches. Many identities in the area (Mimbres Peak, Mimbres River, Camp Mimbres, soil associations of Mimbres, Mimbres-Verhalen, Hondale-Mimbres-Bluepoint, and Mimbres Underground Water Basin) have been long established to clearly and closely associate the identity of Mimbres Valley to the land within the proposed boundary. The name of Mimbres Valley is in widespread usage and appears in literature and maps of the area since 1850. Please refer to item 2 of the original application which provides a brief history of the name Mimbres.

We hope this satisfactorily answers your questions. Please keep us advised.

Sincerely yours,


Dorene Brown
Research Specialist

11d

Enclosure

cc: 

75 VINES

M. VOCALE
280 VINES

100 VINES

MIMBRES VALLEY WINERY CORP.

UVAS FARMING CORP.

UVAS FARMING CORP.

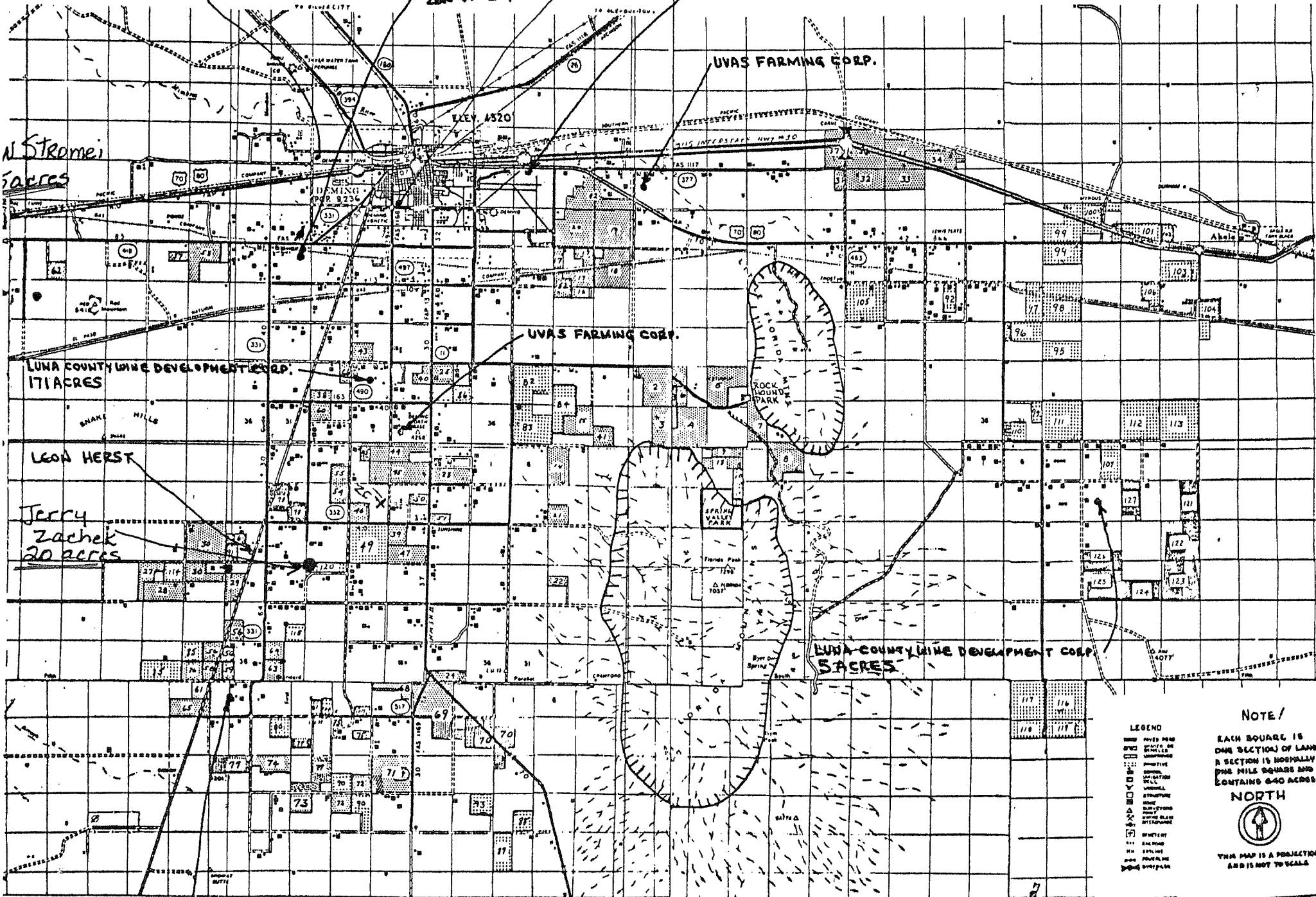
LUNA COUNTY WINE DEVELOPMENT CORP.
171 ACRES

LEON HERST

Jerry
Zachek
20 acres

LUNA COUNTY WINE DEVELOPMENT CORP.
37 ACRES

DARELL McCAULGY
20 ACRES




LEGEND

- FENCE LINE
- ELEVATION
- WATER
- ROAD
- RAILROAD
- POWER LINE
- TELEPHONE LINE
- WIRE
- CONCRETE
- ASPHALT
- GRAVEL
- SAND
- CLAY
- SILT
- LOESS
- SANDSTONE
- LIMESTONE
- GRANITE
- GNEISS
- QUARTZITE
- SLATE
- SHALE
- SANDSTONE
- LIMESTONE
- GRANITE
- GNEISS
- QUARTZITE
- SLATE
- SHALE
- SANDSTONE
- LIMESTONE
- GRANITE
- GNEISS
- QUARTZITE
- SLATE
- SHALE

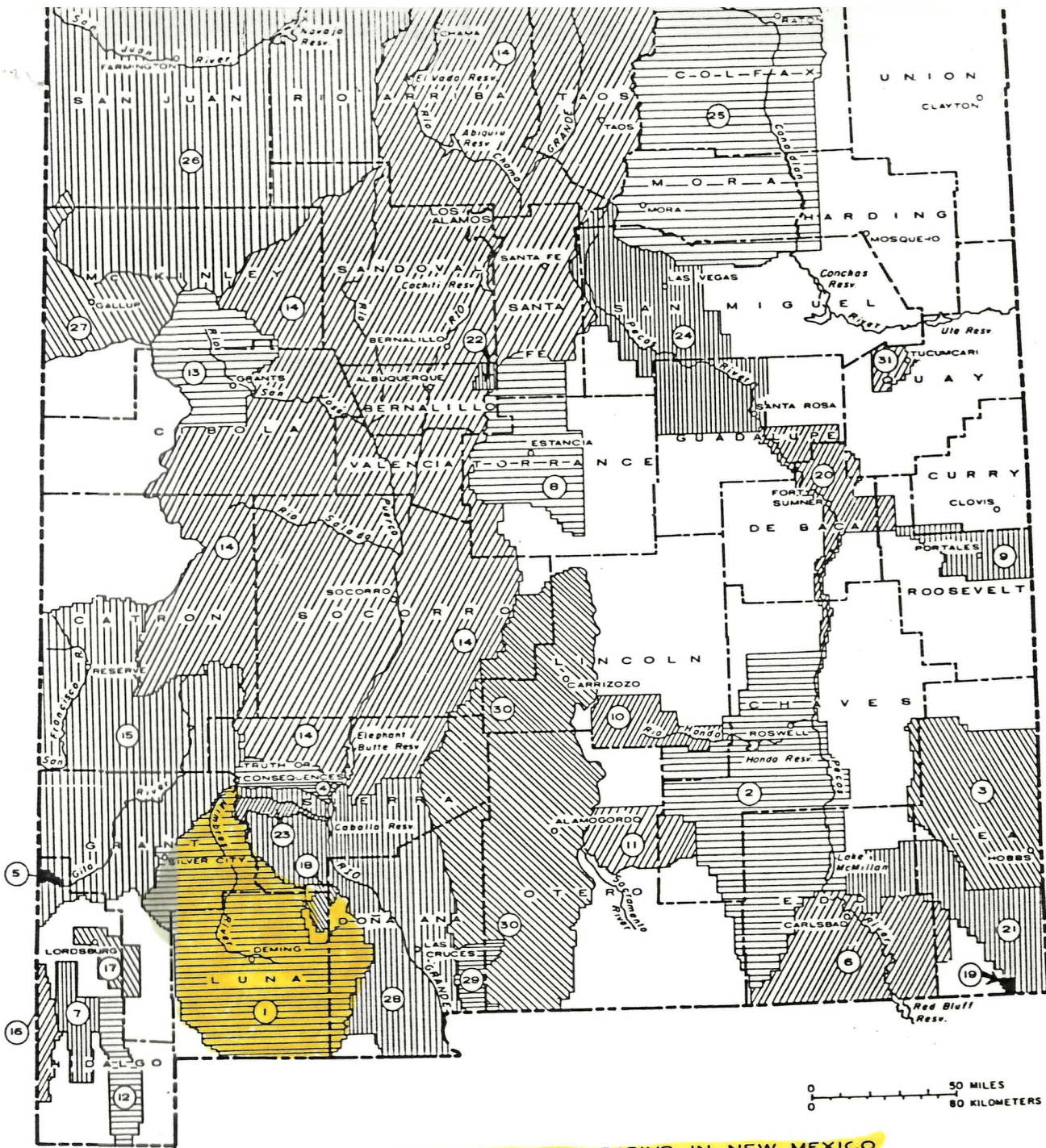
NOTE /

EACH SQUARE IS ONE SECTION OF LAND A SECTION IS USUALLY ONE MILE SQUARE AND CONTAINS 640 ACRES

NORTH



THIS MAP IS A PROJECTION AND IS NOT TO SCALE



DECLARED UNDERGROUND WATER-BASINS IN NEW MEXICO

BASIN	AREA IN SQUARE MI.	BASIN	AREA IN SQUARE MI.
1. MIMBRES VALLEY	4,279	16. SAN SIMON	263
2. ROSWELL	4,281	17. LORDSBURG VALLEY	329
3. LEA COUNTY	2,180	18. NUTT-HOCKETT	133
4. HOT SPRINGS	284	19. JAL	15
5. VIRDEN VALLEY	19	20. FORT SUMNER	1,059
6. CARLSBAD	1,965	21. CAPITAN	73
7. ANIMAS	426	22. SANDIA	131
8. ESTANCIA	1,724	23. LAS ANIMAS CREEK	2,708
9. PORTALES	628	24. UPPER PECOS	5,825
10. HONDO	611	25. CANADIAN RIVER	9,727
11. PENASCO	723	26. SAN JUAN	1,439
12. PLAYAS VALLEY	515	27. GALLUP	3858
13. BLUEWATER	1,318	28. LOWER RIO GRANDE	255
14. RIO GRANDE	26,209	29. HUECO	6,070
15. GILA-SAN FRANCISCO	5,659	30. TULAROSA	177
		31. TUCUMCARI	84,433