

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Geochemical Data for the Fossil Springs  
Roadless Area,  
Yavapai, Gila, and Coconino Counties, Arizona

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This report is preliminary and has not been reviewed for conformity with U. S. Geological Survey standards and stratigraphic nomenclature.

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## STUDIES RELATED TO WILDERNESS

### Mineral Surveys Related to U.S. Forest Service Roadless Areas

The Wilderness Act (Public Law 88-577, September 3, 1964) and related acts require the U. S. Geological Survey and the U.S. Bureau of Mines to survey certain areas of Federal lands to determine their mineral resource potential. Results must be made available to the public and be submitted to the President and Congress. This report presents data of a geochemical survey of the Fossil Springs Roadless Area, in Coconino, Yavapai, and Gila Counties, Arizona. The Fossil Springs Roadless Area was classified as a further planning area, Forest Service Number 03046, during the Second Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE II) of the U.S. Forest Service, January 1979.

### INTRODUCTION

This report presents geochemical data determined for 94 samples of stream sediments and rocks collected from the Fossil Springs Roadless Area of about 22 sq. mi, in Yavapai, Gila, and Coconino Counties, central Arizona.

The geology, aeromagnetism, and geochemistry and mineral resource potential of the Fossil Springs Roadless Area are discussed in reports by Weir and Beard (in press), Davis and Weir (in press), and Weir, Beard, and Ellis (1983). The latter report shows in detail the location of all samples but lists data only for samples that were judged to show anomalous trace element concentrations. Table 2 of this report is a complete listing of the analytical data for all 94 samples by sample type and in order of increasing sample number. Missing sample numbers represent specimens collected for other than geochemical purposes.

### GEOLOGIC SETTING

The study area includes part of the canyon of Fossil Creek and several tributary canyons that cut the margin of the Colorado Plateau in central Arizona (figure 1). Sedimentary rocks of Paleozoic age, totalling about 3,000 ft, form the chief outcrops north of Fossil Springs (Weir and Beard, in press). The Paleozoic rocks are overlain locally by Cenozoic surficial deposits and volcanic rocks. South of Fossil Springs the volcanic rocks, chiefly basalt and dacitic tuff, thicken abruptly to more than 2,000 ft, covering an ancestral plateau rim, and form the entire canyon wall (Twenter, 1962). The rocks for the most part dip gently north to northeast. Several steep normal faults bound fault blocks in which the rocks dip south or west.

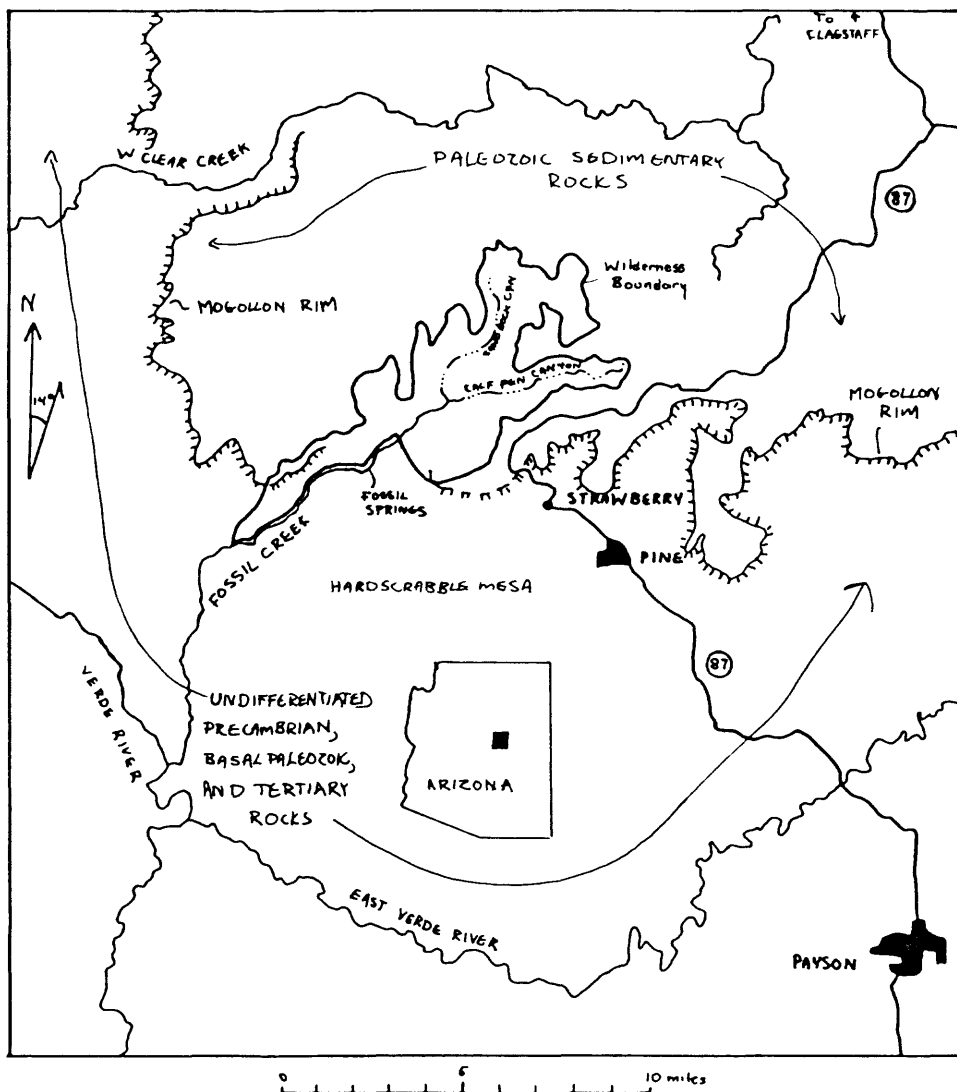


Figure 1. Map showing location and simplified geology of the Fossil Springs Roadless Area, Ariz. North of the Mogollon Rim, outcrops are mainly near-horizontal Paleozoic sedimentary rocks and Tertiary volcanic rocks. South of the Rim outcrops are chiefly Precambrian igneous and metamorphic rocks, Paleozoic sedimentary rocks, and Tertiary volcanic and sedimentary rocks.

## METHODS

A total of 94 samples from 59 locations (table 1, fig. 2) were collected in the Fossil Springs Roadless Area with the objective of detecting major anomalies that indicate potential mineral resources (Weir, Beard, and Ellis. 1983).

### Sampling procedures

Fifty-one (51) samples of modern sediment were collected from stream beds at 33 sites in the area. The heavy minerals of 16 of these samples were concentrated by panning in the field. Thirty-two (32) rock samples were collected from outcrops to represent the variety of sedimentary and volcanic rocks in the area. In addition, 11 samples of weakly radioactive, copper-bearing carbonaceous rock were collected from prospects in and near the area. Four of these samples of mineralized rock were concentrated in the field by hand picking for visible copper mineralization.

### Analytical methods

Semiquantitative spectrographic analyses of the silt fraction (less-than-80 mesh) of the 94 samples of stream sediments, panned concentrates (non-magnetic fraction) and rocks were made by D. E. Detra using the six-step, semi-quantitative emission-spectrographic technique of Grimes and Marranzino (1968) for 31 elements. The spectrographic data were reported to the nearest number in the series 1, 0.7, 0.5, 0.3, 0.2, 0.15, 0.1 ..., which represent approximate midpoints of group data on a geometric scale. The radioactivity of the 52 samples was measured in terms of eU by J. C. Negri.

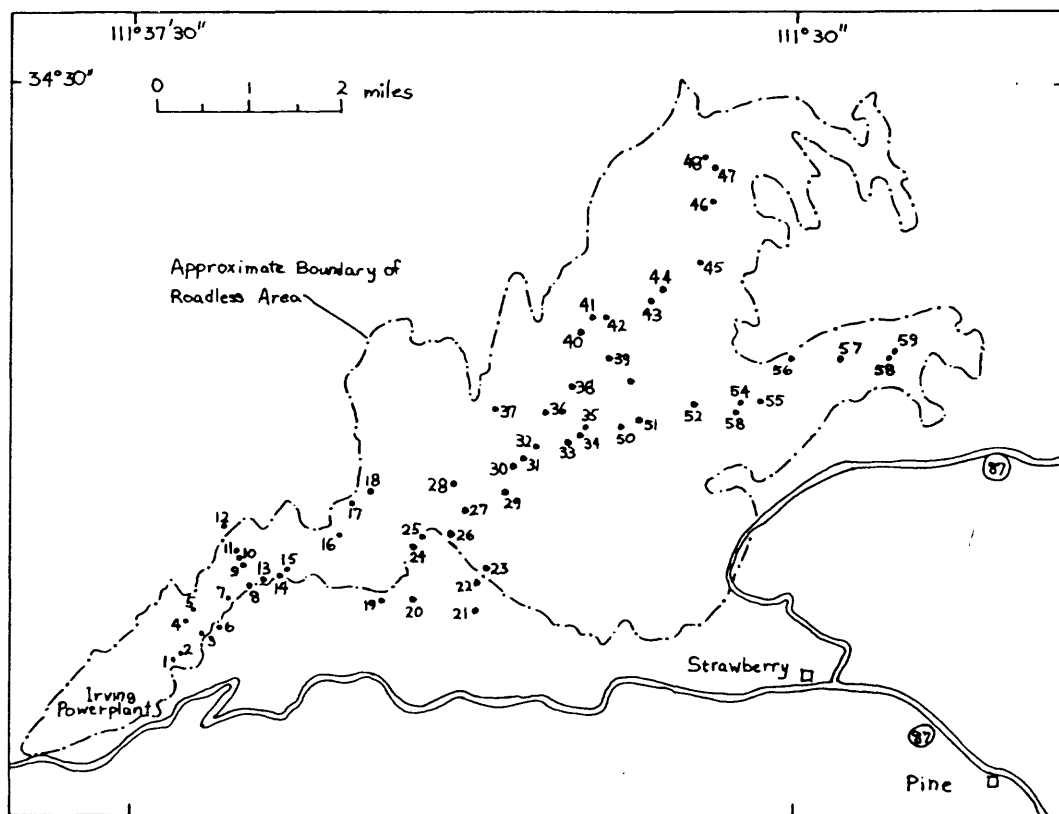


Figure 2. Sample location map of the Fossil Springs Roadless Area, Ariz. (See Weir, Beard, and Ellis, 1983, for details).

Table 1. Index of sample location shown on figure 2.

Location		Location		Location	
Nos.	Sample Nos.	Nos.	Sample Nos.	Nos.	Samples Nos.
1.	FC71S	26.	FC61S, FC61P	51.	FC8S, FC8P
2.	B8TU, B8TM, B8TL	27.	FC62S, FC62P	52.	FC7S
3.	R1	28.	FC36M, FC37M, R9L, R9L2, R9c1, R9c2	53.	FC6S
4.	B6D	29.	FC63S, FC63P	54.	FC4S, FC4P
5.	B7TU, B7TM, B7TL	30.	FC64S	55.	FC5S, FC5P
6.	FC72S	31.	FC65S	56.	R7
7.	FC73S	32.	FC66S, FC66P	57.	FC3S, FC3P
8.	FC74S	33.	FC67S	58.	FC2S, FC2P
9.	R2	34.	FC10R	59.	FC1S, FC1P
10.	R3	35.	FC70S		
11.	R4	36.	FC11R		
12.	R5	37.	FC12R		
13.	FC75S, FC13P	38.	FC68S		
14.	FC76S	39.	B5T		
15.	R8m, R8a, R8c, Rcm	40.	FC58S		
16.	B1T, B2T	41.	FC57S		
17.	B3T, B4T	42.	FC56S		
18.	BTG	43.	FC55S, FC55P		
19.	BTB, BTC, BTD	44.	FC54S		
20.	FC38R	45.	FC53S		
21.	FC31M, FC32M	46.	FC52S, FC52P		
22.	FC35M	47.	FC51S		
23.	FC33M, FC34M	48.	FC50S, FC50P		
24.	FC59S, FC59P	49.	R6		
25.	FC60S, FC60P	50.	FC9S		

## DISCUSSION

The mineral resource potential of the Fossil Springs Roadless Area, central Arizona, is low (Weir, Beard, and Ellis, 1983). Analyses of samples obtained during the study show unresolved geochemical anomalies in the area; the anomaly suites suggest possible barite vein deposits and contamination from an unknown ultramafic source. Light-gray conglomerate and carbonaceous shale in the Supai Formation, near the central part of the roadless area, contain discontinuous, spotty copper mineralization, and coaly layers within the shale are radioactive. Construction materials present within the roadless area--chiefly basalt, sandstone, limestone, and dolomite--are readily available in abundance in adjacent areas. The oil and gas potential is low; the only producing wells in Arizona tap formations not present in the Fossil Springs Roadless Area.

## REFERENCES

- Weir, G. W., Beard, L. S., and Ellis, C. E., 1983, Mineral resource potential map of the Fossil Springs Roadless Area, Yavapai, Gila, and Coconino Counties, Arizona: U.S. Geological Survey Miscellaneous Field Studies Map MF-1568-A, scale 1:24,000.
- Davis, W. E. and Weir, G. W., in press, Aeromagnetic map of the Fossil Springs Roadless Area, Yavapai, Gila, and Coconino Counties, Arizona: U.S. Geological Survey Miscellaneous Field Studies Map MF-1568-B, scale 1:24,000.
- Grimes, D. J. and Marranzino, A. P., 1968, Direct-current arc and alternating-current spark emission spectrographic field methods for the semiquantitative analysis of geologic materials: U.S. Geological Survey Circular 591, 6 p.
- Twenter, F. R., 1962, The significance of the volcanic rocks in the Fossil Creek area, Arizona, in Guidebook of the Mogollon Rim region, east-central Arizona, New Mexico Geological Society, 13th Field Conference, 1962, p. 107-108.
- Weir, G. W. and Beard, L. S., in press, Geologic map of the Fossil Springs Roadless Area, Yavapai, Gila, and Coconino Counties, Arizona: U.S. Geological Survey Miscellaneous Field Studies Map MF-1568-C, scale 1:24,000.





TABLE 2. SEMIQUANTITATIVE SPECTROGRAPHIC AND RADIOMETRIC ANALYSES OF SAMPLES OF STREAM SEDIMENTS AND ROCKS FROM FOSSIL SPRINGS ROADLESS AREA, ARIZONA

Sample No.	Lower limit of determination																	Parts per million																	Remarks
	Fe	Mg	Ca	Ti	Mn	Ag	As	Au	B	Ba	Be	Bi	Cd	Co	Cr	Cu	La	Mo	Nb	Ni	Pb	Sb	Sc	Sn	Sr	Th	V	W	Y	Zn	Zr	eU			
	.05	.02	.05	.002	10	.5	200	10	10	20	1	10	20	5	10	5	20	5	20	5	10	100	5	10	100	100	10	50	10	200	10				
Stream Sediments																																			
FC1S	2.0	1.0	1.5	.3	200	L	N	N	70	300	1.5	N	N	20	100	15	20	N	70	L	N	N	N	5	N	100	N	50	10	200	700	L(20)	Unmapped	modern stream sediment	
FC2S	1.7	1.5	2.0	.3	100	N	N	N	100	300	1.5	N	N	7	30	10	20	N	20	15	10	N	N	5	100	N	50	10	200	200	L(20)	Unmapped	modern stream sediment		
FC3S	1.0	1.5	3.0	.3	200	N	N	N	150	300	1.5	N	N	15	50	10	20	N	50	L	L	N	N	5	100	N	50	10	200	500	L(20)	Unmapped	modern stream sediment		
FC4S	1.5	1.0	1.5	.15	200	N	N	N	70	200	1.5	N	N	7	70	15	N	20	50	15	10	N	N	7	L	N	50	20	200	300	L(20)	Unmapped	modern stream sediment		
FC5S	1.5	2.0	2.0	.3	150	N	N	N	100	200	1.5	N	N	10	50	10	20	N	20	10	10	N	N	5	100	N	50	10	200	500	L(20)	Unmapped	modern stream sediment		
FC6S	1.5	1.0	2.0	.5	200	N	N	N	150	300	1.5	N	N	7	70	10	20	N	20	10	10	N	N	7	150	N	50	10	200	200	L(20)	Unmapped	modern stream sediment		
FC7S	1.5	1.5	2.0	.3	200	N	N	N	100	300	1.5	N	N	50	150	70	30	N	100	20	20	N	N	10	150	N	30	100	15	500	500	L(20)	Unmapped	modern stream sediment	
FC8S	3.0	1.0	1.0	1.3	100	.5	N	N	100	300	1.5	N	N	20	150	10	20	N	50	L	L	N	N	L	N	100	N	20	200	150	500	L(20)	Unmapped	modern stream sediment	
FC9S	7.0	7.0	7.0	.5	700	L	N	N	70	200	1.5	N	N	10	50	7	N	20	10	10	10	N	N	100	N	20	20	200	10	500	500	L(20)	Unmapped	modern stream sediment	
FC10S	5.5	7.0	7.0	.15	100	L	N	N	70	200	1.5	N	N	20	100	10	20	N	20	15	10	N	N	100	N	20	20	200	10	500	500	L(20)	Unmapped	modern stream sediment	
FC11S	7.0	7.0	7.0	.3	200	L	N	N	70	200	1.5	N	N	10	50	10	L	20	20	20	10	N	N	100	N	20	20	200	10	500	500	L(20)	Unmapped	modern stream sediment	
FC12S	5.5	7.0	7.0	.3	200	L	N	N	70	200	1.5	N	N	10	50	10	L	20	20	20	10	N	N	100	N	20	20	200	10	500	500	L(20)	Unmapped	modern stream sediment	
FC13S	5.5	7.0	7.0	.3	200	L	N	N	70	200	1.5	N	N	10	50	10	L	20	20	20	10	N	N	100	N	20	20	200	10	500	500	L(20)	Unmapped	modern stream sediment	
FC14S	5.5	7.0	7.0	.3	200	L	N	N	70	200	1.5	N	N	10	50	10	L	20	20	20	10	N	N	100	N	20	20	200	10	500	500	L(20)	Unmapped	modern stream sediment	
FC15S	5.5	7.0	7.0	.3	200	L	N	N	70	200	1.5	N	N	10	50	10	L	20	20	20	10	N	N	100	N	20	20	200	10	500	500	L(20)	Unmapped	modern stream sediment	
FC16S	5.5	7.0	7.0	.3	200	L	N	N	70	200	1.5	N	N	10	50	10	L	20	20	20	10	N	N	100	N	20	20	200	10	500	500	L(20)	Unmapped	modern stream sediment	
FC17S	5.5	7.0	7.0	.3	200	L	N	N	70	200	1.5	N	N	10	50	10	L	20	20	20	10	N	N	100	N	20	20	200	10	500	500	L(20)	Unmapped	modern stream sediment	
FC18S	5.5	7.0	7.0	.3	200	L	N	N	70	200	1.5	N	N	10	50	10	L	20	20	20	10	N	N	100	N	20	20	200	10	500	500	L(20)	Unmapped	modern stream sediment	
FC19S	5.5	7.0	7.0	.3	200	L	N	N	70	200	1.5	N	N	10	50	10	L	20	20	20	10	N	N	100	N	20	20	200	10	500	500	L(20)	Unmapped	modern stream sediment	
FC20S	5.5	7.0	7.0	.3	200	L	N	N	70	200	1.5	N	N	10	50	10	L	20	20	20	10	N	N	100	N	20	20	200	10	500	500	L(20)	Unmapped	modern stream sediment	
FC21S	5.5	7.0	7.0	.3	200	L	N	N	70	200	1.5	N	N	10	50	10	L	20	20	20	10	N	N	100	N	20	20	200	10	500	500	L(20)	Unmapped	modern stream sediment	
FC22S	5.5	7.0	7.0	.3	200	L	N	N	70	200	1.5	N	N	10	50	10	L	20	20	20	10	N	N	100	N	20	20	200	10	500	500	L(20)	Unmapped	modern stream sediment	
FC23S	5.5	7.0	7.0	.3	200	L	N	N	70	200	1.5	N	N	10	50	10	L	20	20	20	10	N	N	100	N	20	20	200	10	500	500	L(20)	Unmapped	modern stream sediment	
FC24S	5.5	7.0	7.0	.3	200	L	N	N	70	200	1.5	N	N	10	50	10	L	20	20	20	10	N	N	100	N	20	20	200	10	500	500	L(20)	Unmapped	modern stream sediment	
FC25S	5.5	7.0	7.0	.3	200	L	N	N	70	200	1.5	N	N	10	50	10	L	20	20	20	10	N	N	100	N	20	20	200	10	500	500	L(20)	Unmapped	modern stream sediment	
FC26S	5.5	7.0	7.0	.3	200	L	N	N	70	200	1.5	N	N	10	50	10	L	20	20	20	10	N	N	100	N	20	20	200	10	500	500	L(20)	Unmapped	modern stream sediment	
FC27S	5.5	7.0	7.0	.3	200	L	N	N	70	200	1.5	N	N	10	50	10	L	20	20	20	10	N	N	100	N	20	20	200	10	500	500	L(20)	Unmapped	modern stream sediment	
FC28S	5.5	7.0	7.0	.3	200	L	N	N	70	200	1.5	N	N	10	50	10	L	20	20	20	10	N	N	100	N	20	20	200	10	500	500	L(20)	Unmapped	modern stream sediment	
FC29S	5.5	7.0	7.0	.3	200	L	N	N	70	200	1.5	N	N	10	50	10	L	20	20	20	10	N	N	100	N	20	20	200	10	500	500	L(20)	Unmapped	modern stream sediment	
FC30S	5.5	7.0	7.0	.3	200	L	N	N	70	200	1.5	N	N	10	50	10	L	20	20	20	10	N	N	100	N	20	20	200	10	500	500	L(20)	Unmapped	modern stream sediment	
FC31S	5.5	7.0	7.0	.3	200	L	N	N	70	200	1.5	N	N	10	50	10	L	20	20	20	10	N	N	100	N	20	20	200	10	500	500	L(20)	Unmapped	modern stream sediment	
FC32S	5.5	7.0	7.0	.3	200	L	N	N	70	200	1.5	N	N	10	50	10	L	20	20	20	10	N	N	100	N	20	20	200	10	500	500	L(20)	Unmapped	modern stream sediment	
FC33S	5.5	7.0	7.0	.3	200	L	N	N	70	200	1.5	N	N	10	50	10	L	20	20	20	10	N	N	100	N	20	20	200	10	500	500	L(20)	Unmapped	modern stream sediment	
FC34S	5.5	7.0	7.0	.3	200	L	N	N	70	200	1.5	N	N	10	50	10	L	20	20	20	10	N	N	100	N	20	20	200	10	500	500	L(20)	Unmapped	modern stream sediment	
FC35S	5.5	7.0	7.0	.3	200	L	N	N	70	200	1.5	N	N	10	50	10	L	20	20	20	10	N	N	100	N	20	20	200	10	500	500	L(20)	Unmapped	modern stream sediment	
FC36S	5.5	7.0	7.0	.3	200	L	N	N	70	200	1.5	N	N	10	50	10	L	20	20	20	10	N	N	100	N	20	20	200	10	500	500	L(20)	Unmapped	modern stream sediment	
FC37S	5.5	7.0	7.0	.3	200	L	N	N	70	200	1.5	N	N	10	50	10	L	20	20	20	10	N	N	100	N	20	20	200	10	500	500	L(20)	Unmapped	modern stream sediment	
FC38S	5.5	7.0	7.0	.3	200	L	N	N	70	200	1.5	N	N	10	50	10	L	20	20	20	10	N	N	100	N	20	20	200	10	500	500	L(20)	Unmapped	modern stream sediment	
FC39S	5.5	7.0	7.0	.3	200	L	N	N	70	200	1.5	N	N	10	50	10	L	20	20	20	10	N	N	100	N	20	20	200	10	500	500	L(20)	Unmapped	modern stream sediment	
FC40S	5.5	7.0	7.0	.3	200	L	N	N	70	200	1.5	N	N	10	50	10	L	20	20	20	10	N	N	100	N	20	20	200	10	500	500	L(20)	Unmapped	modern stream sediment	
FC41S	5.5	7.0	7.0	.3	200	L	N	N	70	200	1.5	N	N	10	50	10	L	20	20	20	10	N	N	100	N	20	20	200	10	500	500	L(20)	Unmapped	modern stream sediment	
FC42S	5.5	7.0	7.0	.3	200	L	N	N	70	200	1.5	N	N	10	50	10	L	20	20	20	10	N	N	100	N	20	20	200	10	500	500	L(20)	Unmapped	modern stream sediment	
FC43S	5.5	7.0	7.0	.3	200	L	N	N	70	200	1.5	N	N	10	50	10	L	20	20	20	10	N	N	100	N	20									