



STANDING ROCK SIOUX TRIBAL TOURISM

LADONNA BRAVE BULL ALLARD
Tribal Tourism Director

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February 28, 2007

LaDonna Brave Bull Allard
Tribal Tourism Office
Standing Rock Sioux Tribe
Fort Yates, North Dakota

RE: Comment on the Missouri River from the Tribal Tourism Office.

The Standing Rock Tribal Tourism Office is official objecting to the Missouri River project to pipe the water to the Fargo area. The low water in Lake Oahe has affect the quality of life for the tribal people on Standing Rock.

The Tribal Tourism efforts on the Missouri Rive has been affect by the low water, the boating, fishing and other water sport are down due to the low water. Prairie Knight Marina numbers are down due to the low water.

Here are a few fact of the Great Missouri River today:

- The Missouri River is one of the most endangered rivers in the United States.
- It is put on the 10 Most Endangered Rivers in American on June 6, 2002.
- The drought has dried up more than 60 miles of the giant Oahe Reservoir on the Missouri.
- The 231 miles long river, where once was a lake that was five miles across is just a narrow channel today.
- The longest river in America is no longer navigable due to the drought.
- Farmers cannot irrigate their crop due to the low water.
- The wells water in the area now drying up even the ones close to the river.
- It found that current Missouri River dam operations increase extinction risk for three species - the interior least tern, piping plover, and pallid sturgeon.
- The Missouri River is fed by seven major tributary rivers and streams: the Grand, Moreau, Cheyenne, Bad, White, James, and Big Sioux rivers all which are major water supplies for tribes..
- The Winter's Doctrine, established after a 1908 lawsuit, states that tribes have the rights to all the water that lies within the reservation and on its boundaries.
- The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe has established a claim for 1.2 million acre feet of water.
- Low water levels are costing communities large amounts of money as fishermen are having problems getting their boats into the water.
- The lower levels of water are affecting the spawning of walleye and salmon in the lakes created by the dams. The fish are not reproducing at the rate they did before the low water, and are not growing as large as they used to.

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- The current low water levels make it too expensive for the small farmers to extend their irrigation pipes to the water
- Drinking water for most of the Dakotas is an issue that water flow affects.
- Fort Yates, North Dakota in 2004 did not have water for about two weeks as their line was extended to water. Water had to be trucked in from the Bismarck area.
- The tribes stated position goal is to get drinking water to their reservations. The Treaty of Fort Laramie of 1868 in Article 2 states that the Great Sioux Reservation begins on the east bank of the Missouri River. Therefore all Lakota people are entitled the Missouri River water today.
- Tribes that live by the river are a second major stakeholder. They had lost land that was their best farmland and contained culturally and historically important sites.
- Culturally the river and water is sacred, we called it the water of life.
- This 1,500-mile river has long been central to the life and worship of 26 local Native American cultures, including the Lakota, Dakota and Nakota Sioux tribes and the Three Affiliated Tribes of North Dakota.

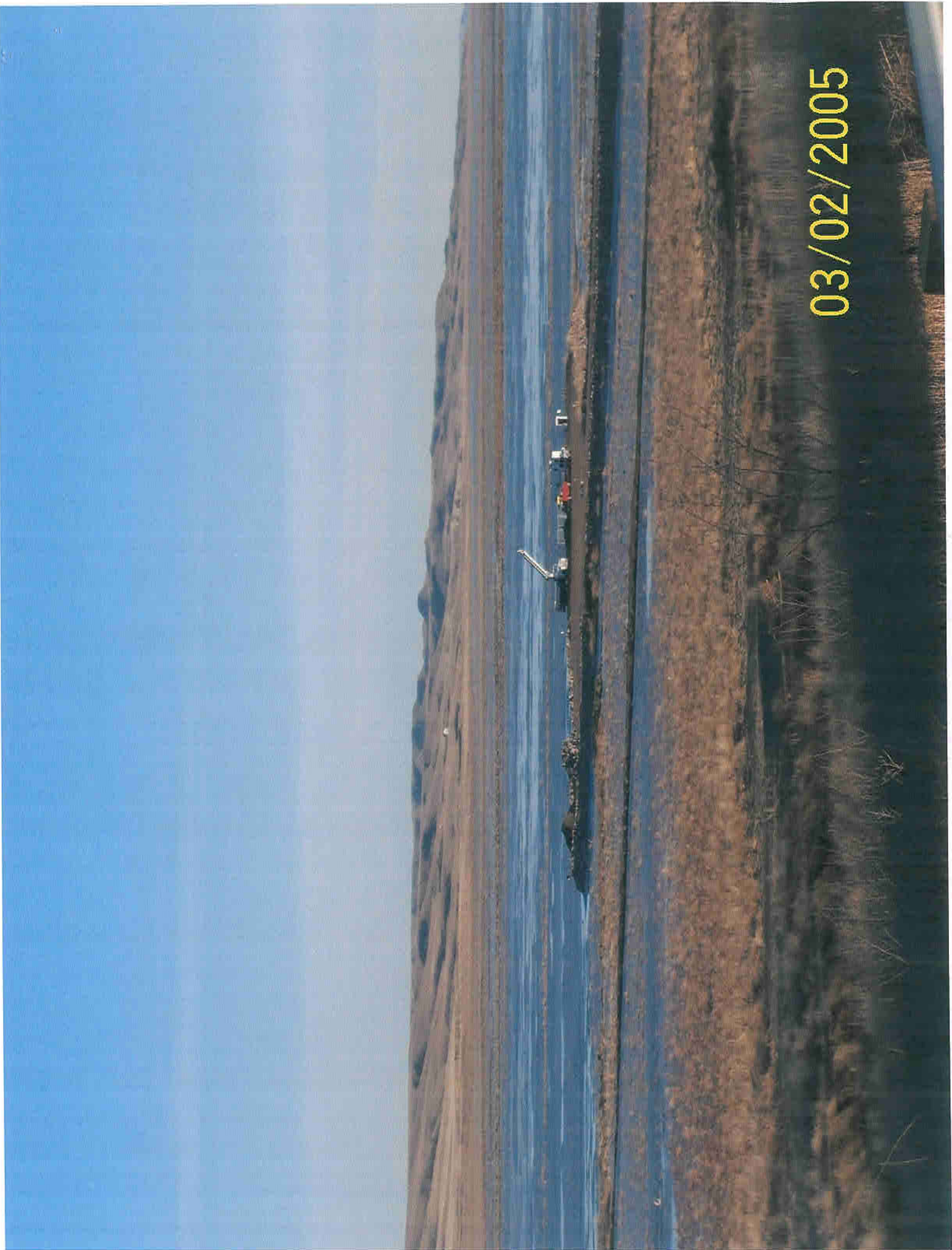
The Standing Rock Tribal Tourism Office say NO to the project. This project will affect our cultural way of life.

LaDonna Brave Bull Allard

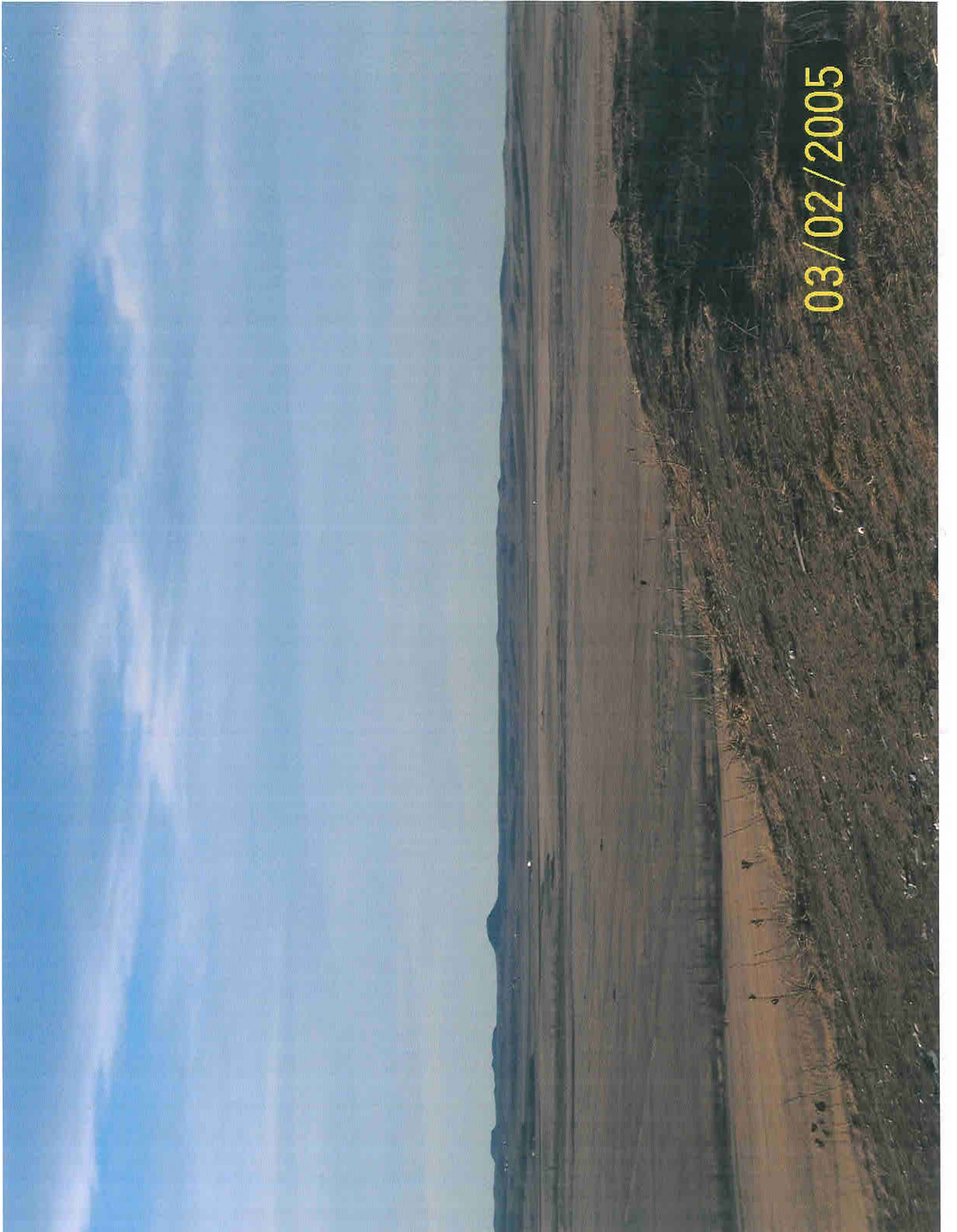
Included some pictures:



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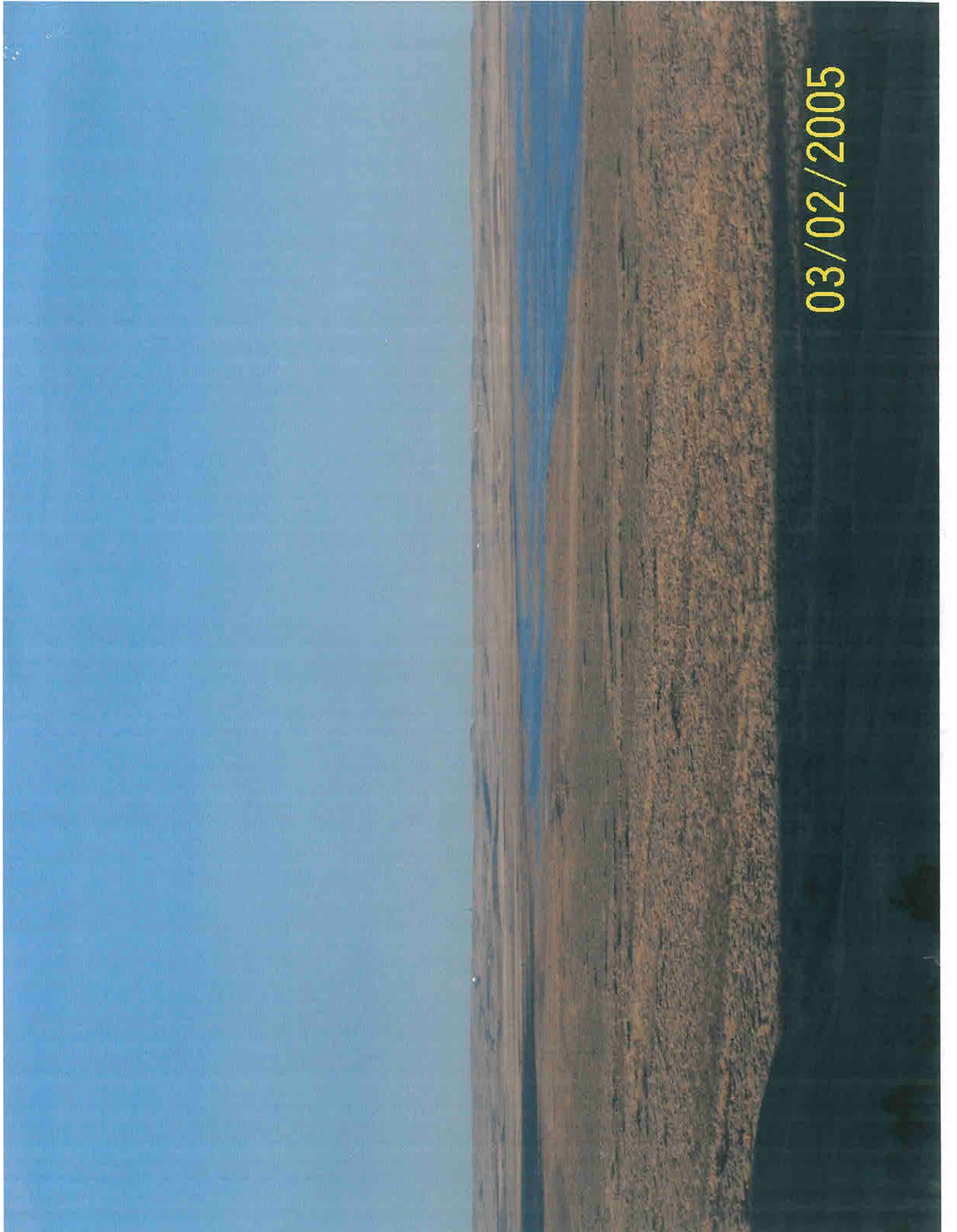


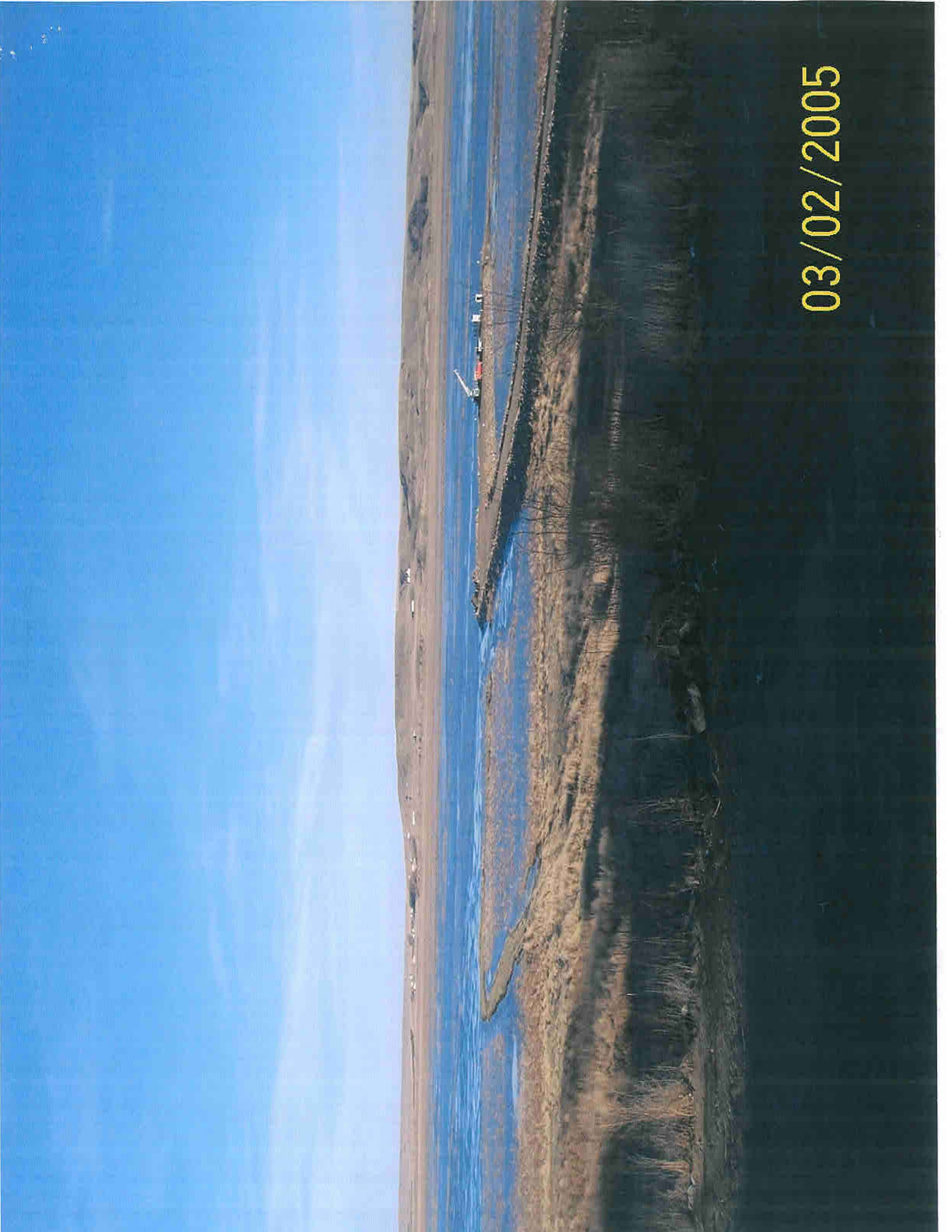
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