

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DIVISION OF AERONAUTICS – M.S. #40

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*Serious drought!
Help Save Water!*

April 1, 2015

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL

Howard N. Dashiell, Director
Department of Transportation
County of Mendocino
340 Lake Mendocino Drive
Ukiah, CA 95482-9432

Dear Mr. Dashiell:

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), Division of Aeronautics, conducted a State permit compliance inspection and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Airport Master Record (Form 5010-1) update of the Little River Airport, FAA Site No. 01778.*A, on March 19, 2015. We appreciate the cooperation Mr. Bob Morgan, Mr. Dave Thorpe, and you provided to us during our inspection. The updated information will be entered into State and FAA Airport Master Records.

The airport was evaluated using the current Airport Layout Plan, State Airport Permit, and previous inspection letters. Our inspection revealed the following items, which we bring to your attention:

1. A line of trees 1,250 feet west of the Runway 11 displaced threshold penetrate the Federal Aviation Regulation (FAR) Part 77, 20:1 Approach Surface by approximately ten feet (please refer to Photo 1). Several other trees under the approach must be monitored and trimmed or removed, if they penetrate the Approach Surface.
2. Trees along Runway 11/29 penetrate the FAR Part 77, 7:1, Transitional Surface at five distinct locations on the airfield. These trees must be removed or trimmed as shown in the enclosed respective photograph(s), so that they do not penetrate the Transitional Surface. In addition, numerous other trees currently under the Transitional Surface must be monitored and trimmed or removed if they penetrate the Transitional Surface.
 - a. Trees located approximately 250 feet southeast of the Runway 11 displaced threshold and 750 feet southwest of the runway centerline penetrate the FAR Part 77, 7:1 Transitional Surface by approximately five feet (please refer to Photo 2).
 - b. Trees located approximately 1,000 feet southeast of the Runway 11 displaced threshold and 700 feet southwest of the runway centerline penetrate the FAR Part 77, 7:1 Transitional Surface by approximately ten feet (please refer to Photo 3). This is a repeat discrepancy.
 - c. Trees located approximately 750 feet southeast of the Runway 11 displaced threshold and 700 feet northeast of the runway centerline penetrate the FAR Part 77, 7:1 Transitional Surface by approximately five feet (please refer to Photo 4). This is a repeat discrepancy.
 - d. Trees located just north of the hangars at midfield penetrate the FAR Part 77, 7:1 Transitional Surface by approximately three feet (please refer to Photo 5).
 - e. Trees abeam of the Runway 29 threshold and 750 feet northeast of the runway centerline penetrate the FAR Part 77, 7:1 Transitional Surface by approximately five feet (please refer to Photo 6). This is a repeat discrepancy.

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to enhance California's economy and livability"*

There are a substantial number of penetrations of the Transitional Surface, which are obstruction hazards. The Little River Airport is required to maintain obstruction-free FAR Part 77 imaginary surfaces to the airport, to preserve public-use of the facility. The California Public Utilities Code (PUC) states, in part, the following:

Hazards Near Airports Prohibited

21659. (a) No person shall construct or alter any structure or permit any natural growth to grow at a height which exceeds the obstruction standards set forth in the regulations of the Federal Aviation Administration relating to objects affecting navigable airspace contained in Title 14 of the Code of federal regulations, Part 77, Subpart C, unless a permit allowing the construction, alteration, or growth is issued by the Department.

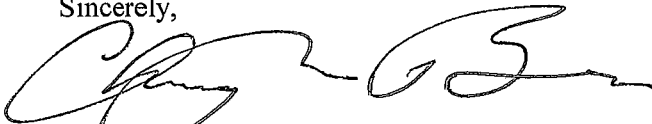
With the exception of items a and d, Caltrans recognizes that this condition has existed and increased over a period of time. Caltrans requests a definitive plan within 90 days of receipt of this letter to address and maintain obstruction-free FAR Part 77 imaginary surfaces to the airport to continue to allow operations at night. Failure to comply may lead to initiation of action to suspend night operations.

3. Small trees and shrubs intermittently penetrate the full length of the Primary Surface along the south side of Runway 11/29 and must be removed (please refer to Photo 7). We understand that this clearing will take place as part of your annual agreement with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire).
4. The windsock at the segmented circle was missing at the time of the inspection and should be replaced as soon as possible. In addition, windsocks at both the west and east ends of the field are faded and in need of replacement.

It is Caltrans' objective to ensure that airports and heliports meet all applicable FAA minimum design safety standards and AC criteria, FAR, the PUC, section 21001 et seq., California Code of Regulations, Title 21, sections 3525-3560, and all required conditions depicted in your State Airport Permit issued by Caltrans. Airport permit criteria, including many FAA ACs, may be found on our website at www.dot.ca.gov/aeronautics.

We are pleased to support and assist you in enhancing safety and utility at your airport and look forward to having a cooperative relationship with the Little River Airport. Please notify us by May 4, 2015, of your intended or completed action concerning the above items, and provide us with photographic evidence documenting the results of the completed items. If you have questions or require assistance, please contact me at (916) 654-5450 or via email at christopher.brooks@dot.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



CHRISTOPHER BROOKS
Aviation Safety Officer

Enclosures

c: FAA, SFO, ADO

Photo 1 - Trees penetrate the Runway 11, FAR Part 77, 20:1 Approach Surface.

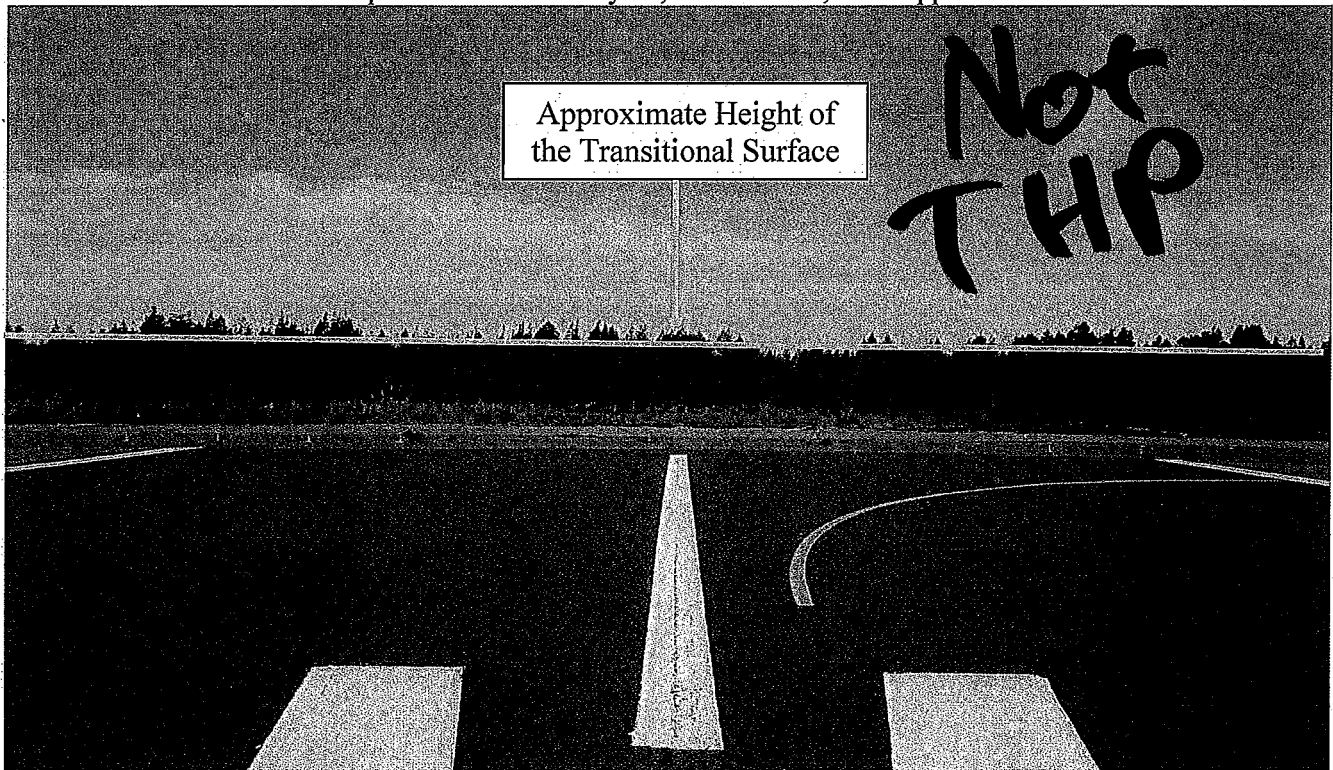


Photo 2 - Trees penetrate the FAR Part 77, 20:1 Transitional Surface.

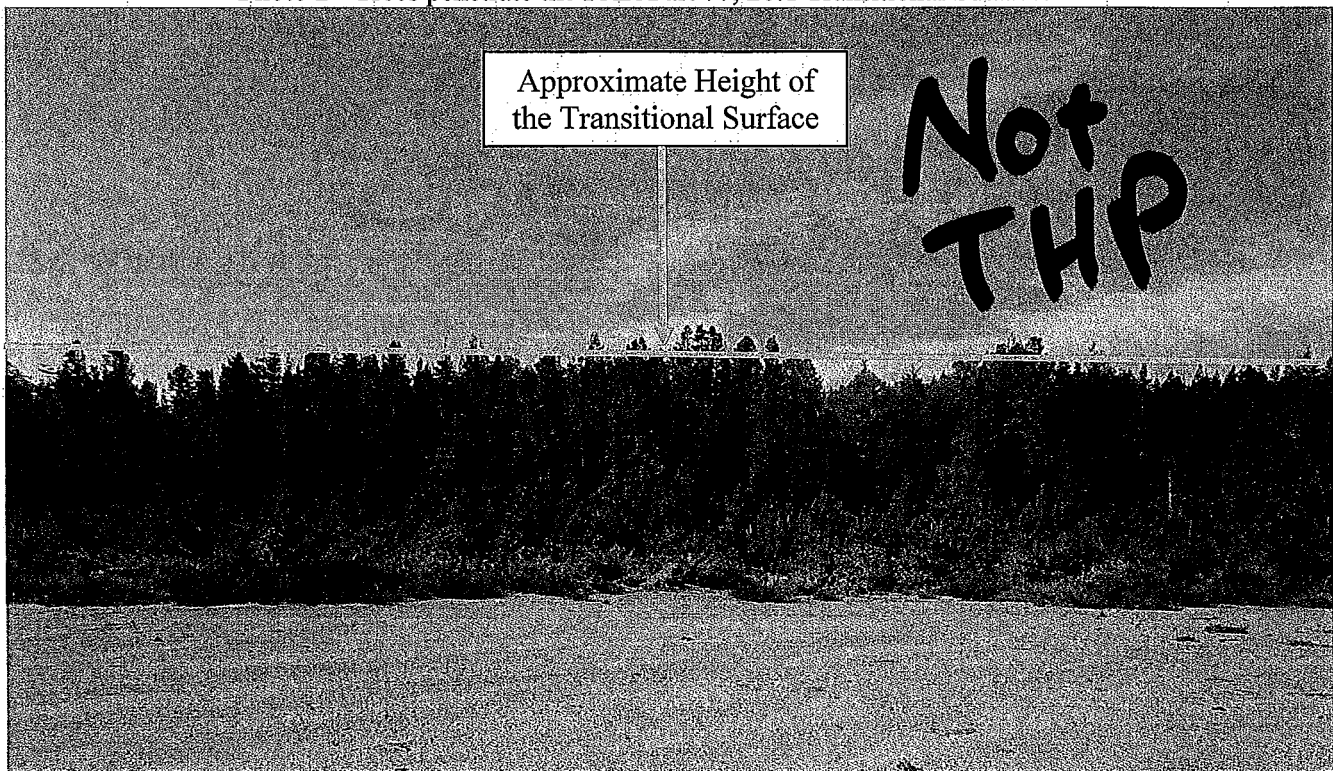


Photo 3 - Trees penetrate the FAR Part 77, 20:1 Transitional Surface.

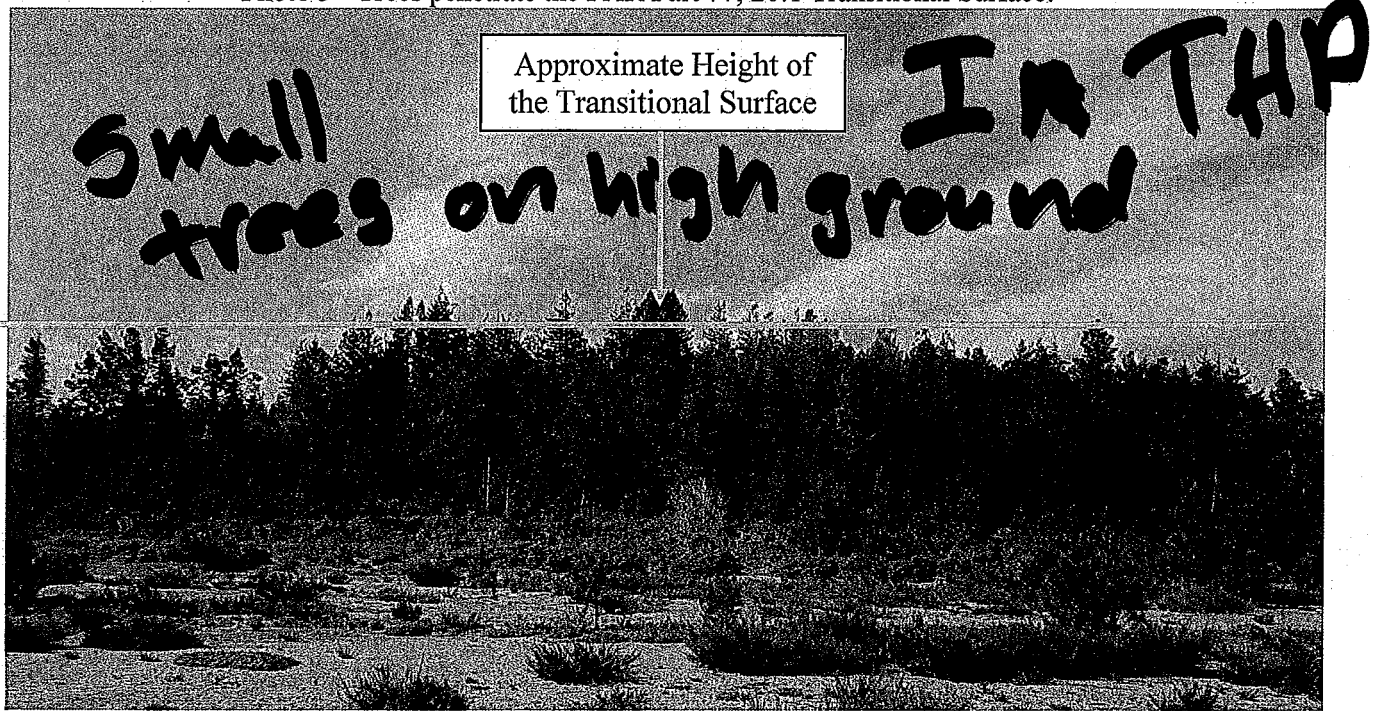
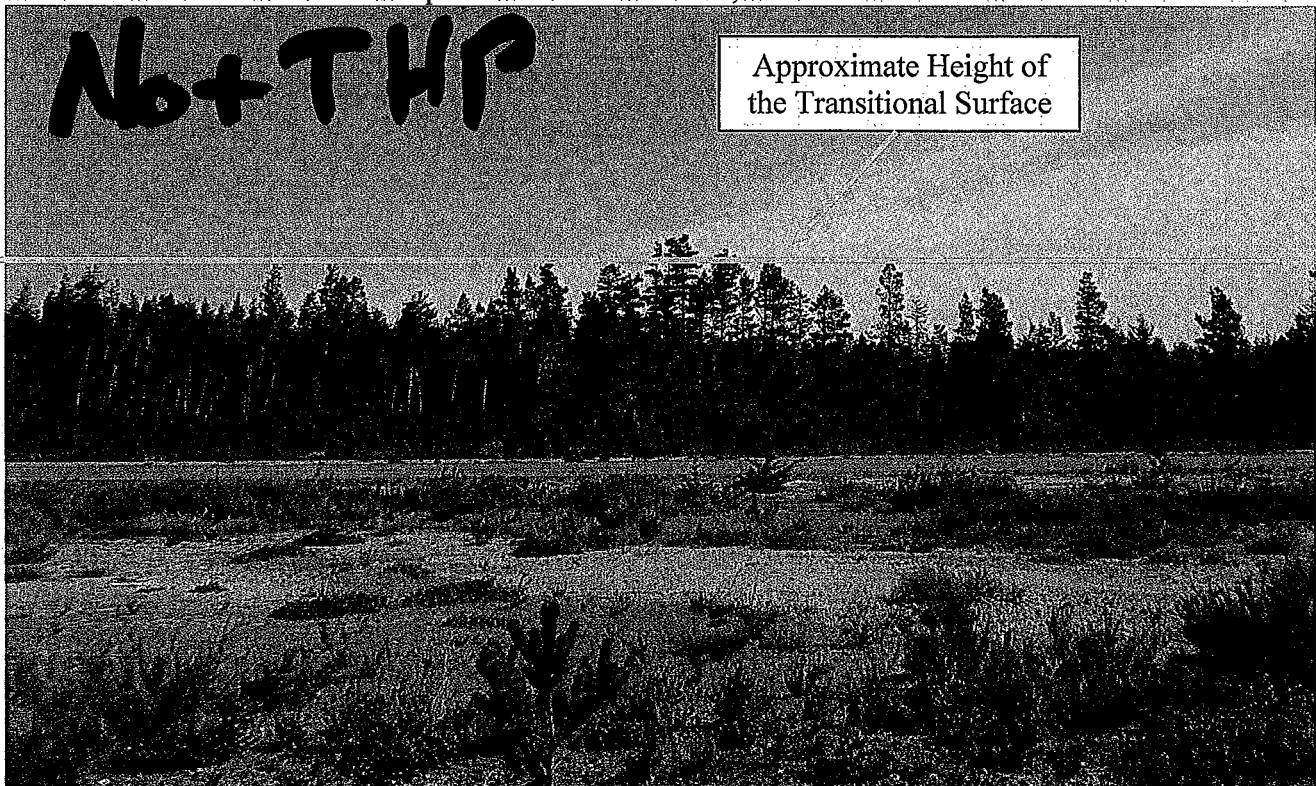


Photo 4 - Trees penetrate the FAR Part 77, 20:1 Transitional Surface.



Not THP

Photo 5 - Trees penetrate the FAR Part 77, 20:1 Transitional Surface.

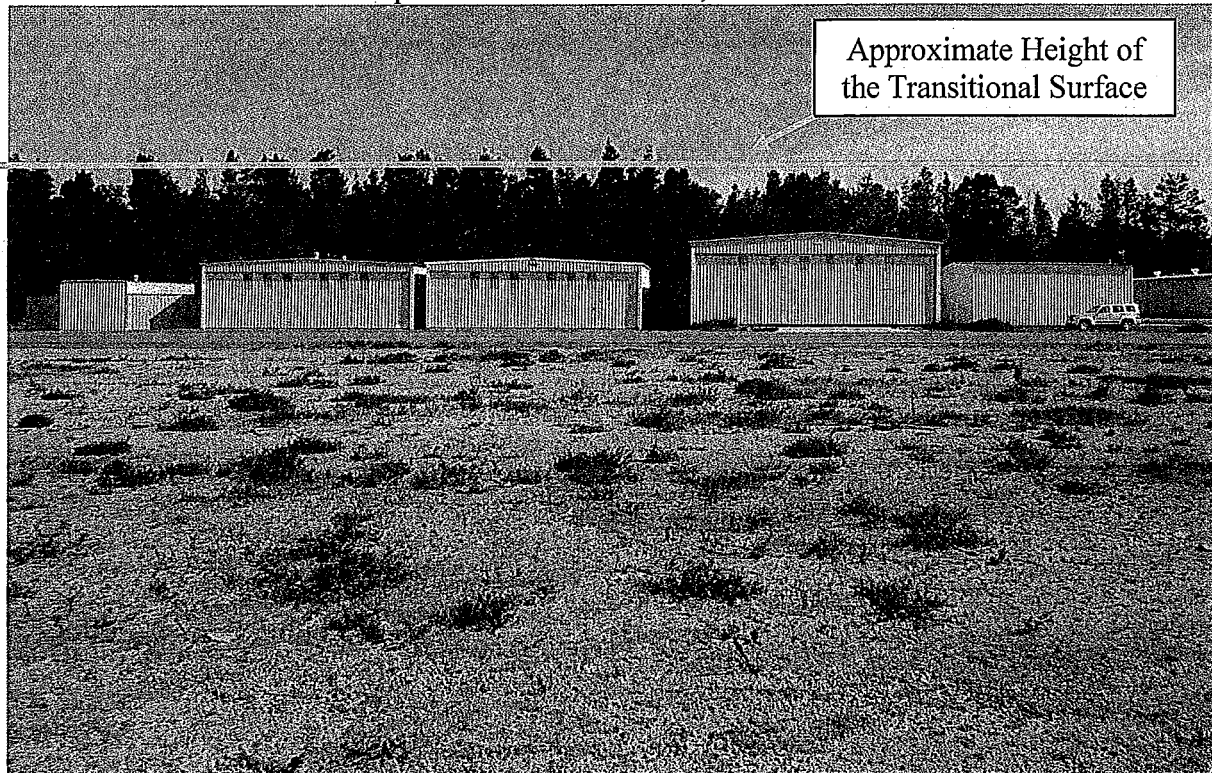


Photo 6 - Trees penetrate the FAR Part 77, 20:1 Transitional Surface.

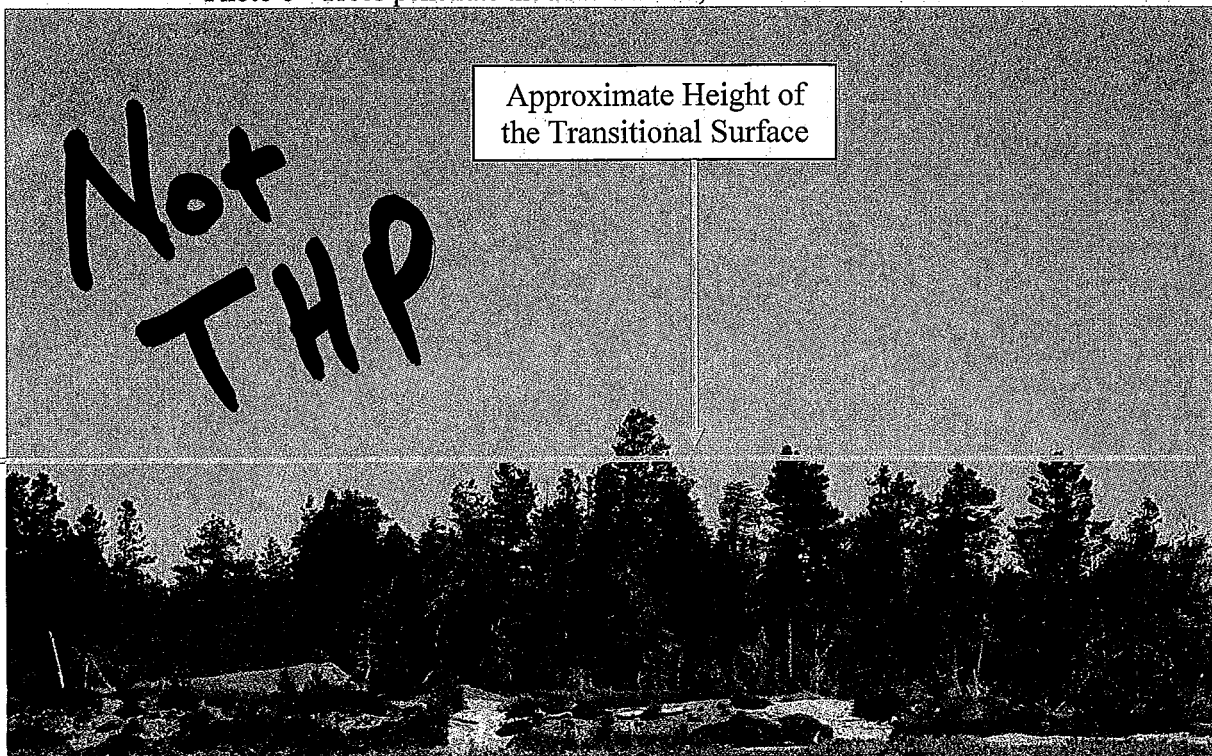


Photo 7 - Small trees and shrubs in the Primary Surface on the south side of Runway 11/29

