Source Water Assessment

A Hydrogeologic Susceptibility and Vulnerability Assessment for Bear Track Inn, Gustavus, Alaska PWSID #111472

DRINKING WATER PROTECTION PROGRAM REPORT NO. 707

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

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Bear Track Inn
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The Drinking Water Protection Program (DWPP) is producing Source Water Assessments in compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1996. Each assessment includes a delineation of the source water area, an inventory of potential and existing contaminant sources that may impact the water, a risk ranking for each of these contaminants, and an evaluation of the potential vulnerability of these drinking water sources.

These assessments are intended to provide public water systems owners/operators, communities, and local governments with the best available information that may be used to protect the quality of their drinking water. The assessments combine information obtained from various sources, including the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC), public water system owners/operators, and other public information sources. The results of this assessment are subject to change if additional data becomes available. It is anticipated this assessment will be updated every five years to reflect any changes in the vulnerability and/or susceptibility of public drinking water source. If you have any additional information that may affect the results of this assessment, please contact the Program Coordinator of DWPP, (907) 269-7521.

CONTENTS

		Page
SECTION	Executive Summary	1
	Bear Track Inn Public Drinking Water System	1
	Bear Track Inn Drinking Water Protection Area	1
	Inventory of Potential and Existing Contaminant Sources	2
	Ranking of Contaminant Risks	2
	Vulnerability of Bear Track Inn Drinking Water System	2
	References	4

TABLES

TABLE	1. Definition of Zones	2
	2. Susceptibility	2
	3. Contaminant Risks	2
	4. Overall Vulnerability	3

APPENDICES

APPENDIX

A. Bear Track Inn Drinking Water Protection Area (Map 1)

B. Contaminant Source Inventory for Bear Track Inn (Table 1)
   Contaminant Source Inventory and Risk Ranking for Bear Track Inn - Bacteria and Viruses (Table 2)
   Contaminant Source Inventory and Risk Ranking for Bear Track Inn – Nitrates/Nitrites (Table 3)
   Contaminant Source Inventory and Risk Ranking for Bear Track Inn – Volatile Organic Chemicals (Table 4)

C. Bear Track Inn Drinking Water Protection Area and Potential and Existing Contaminant Sources (Map 2)

D. Vulnerability Analysis for Contaminant Source Inventory and Risk Ranking for Bear Track Inn Public Drinking Water Source (Charts 1 – 7)

Source Water Assessment for Bear Track Inn, Gustavus, Alaska

Drinking Water Protection Program
Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The public water system for Bear Track Inn is a Class B (transient/non-community) water system consisting of one surface water intake from Homestead Creek, located at 255 Rink Creek Road, Gustavus, Alaska. The surface water intake received a susceptibility rating of **Very High**. A rating of High to Very High is typical for all surface water systems. Identified potential and current sources of contaminants for Bear Track Inn public drinking water source include domestic wastewater collection systems; and aboveground heating oil tanks. These identified potential and existing sources of contamination include sources of bacteria and viruses, nitrates and/or nitrites, and volatile organic chemicals. Contaminant sources could potentially contribute bacteria and viruses, nitrates and/or nitrites, and volatile organic chemicals into the source waters. Overall, the public water sources for Bear Track Inn received a vulnerability rating of **High** for bacteria and viruses and nitrates and nitrites; and **Medium** for volatile organic chemicals.

BEAR TRACK INN PUBLIC DRINKING WATER SYSTEM

Bear Track Inn public water system is a Class B (transient/non-community) water system. The system consists of one surface water intake at 255 Rink Creek Road, in Gustavus, Alaska (See Map 1 of Appendix A). The population of Gustavus is approximately 380.

Gustavus averages about 75 inches of precipitation per year; and approximately 103 inches of snow. The groundwater sources underlying the area are recharged through the infiltration of precipitation and surface water. Groundwater sources in the region generally occur in the fractured bedrock and unconsolidated sediments deposited by glaciers and/or rivers.

The Gustavus area topography varies from near sea level along Icy Strait on one side to 4,300 feet to the Chilkat Range and Fairweather Mountains surrounding the other three sides.

According to a Site Plan dated November 16, 1997, the surface water intake was adequately constructed. An adequately constructed intake may provide protection against debris and contaminants from entering the system. Additional information indicates the raw water is treated by filtration and chlorination. There is a potential for runoff within the area surrounding the surface water.

This system operates seasonally from May through October and serves approximately 34 non-residents through one connection.

BEAR TRACK INN DRINKING WATER PROTECTION AREA

In order to evaluate whether a drinking water source is at risk, we must first evaluate what are the most likely pathways for surface contamination to reach the creek. These areas are determined by looking at the characteristics of the creek, surrounding contaminant sources, and the intake.

The most probable area for contamination to reach the drinking water system is the area that contributes water to the surface water body that water is being drawn from. This area is designated as the Drinking Water Protection Area (DWPA). Because releases of contaminants within the DWPA are most likely to impact the drinking water system, this area will serve as the focus for voluntary protection efforts.

The size and shape of the DWPAs were established based on aerial distances from the surface water body, and the watershed that recharges the surface water body. Please refer to the Guidance Manual for Class B Public Water Systems for additional information.

The DWPAs established for surface water systems by the ADEC are separated into three zones. These zones correspond to different distances from the surface water body, and the entire watershed that recharges the surface water body. The following is a summary of the three DWPA zones and their definitions.

Table 1. Definition of Zones

Zone	Definition
A	1,000 feet from the Surface Water Body
B	1 mile from the Surface Water Body
C	Entire Watershed

The DWPA for Bear Track Inn extends over the entire watershed. Development in the vicinity of the surface water intake is limited to only Zone A (See Map 1 of Appendix A).

INVENTORY OF POTENTIAL AND EXISTING CONTAMINANT SOURCES

The Drinking Water Protection Program has completed an inventory of potential and existing sources of contamination within the Bear Track Inn DWPA. This inventory was completed through a search of agency records and other publicly-available information. Potential sources of contamination to the drinking water source include a wide range of categories and types. Potential drinking water contaminants are found within agricultural, residential, commercial, and industrial areas, but can also occur within areas that have little or no development.

For the basis of all Class B public water system assessments, three categories of drinking water contaminants were inventoried. They include:

- Bacteria and viruses;
- Nitrates and/or nitrites;
- Volatile organic chemicals

RANKING OF CONTAMINANT RISKS

Once the potential and existing sources of contamination have been identified, they are assigned a ranking according to what type and level of risk they represent. Ranking of contaminant risks for a "potential" or "existing" source of contamination is a function of toxicity and volumes of specific contaminants associated with that source. Rankings include:

- Low;
- Medium;
- High; and
- Very High.

The TOT for contaminants within the water varies and is dependent on the physical and chemical characteristics of each contaminant. Bacteria and Viruses are only inventoried in Zones A and B because of their short life span.

VULNERABILITY OF BEAR TRACK INN DRINKING WATER SYSTEM

Vulnerability of a drinking water source to contamination is a combination of two factors:

- Natural susceptibility; and
- Contaminant risks.

Each of the three categories of drinking water contaminants has been analyzed and an overall vulnerability score of 30 to 100 is ultimately assigned:

Natural Susceptibility (30 – 50 points)

+

Contaminant Risks (0 – 50 points)

=

Vulnerability of the
Drinking Water Source to Contamination (30 – 100).

A score for the Natural Susceptibility is achieved by analyzing the properties of the surface water source.

Natural Susceptibility
(Susceptibility of the Surface Water Source)
(30 – 50 Points)

The surface water intake for Bear Track Inn is from Homestead Creek. Because the creek is recharged by surface water runoff and precipitation, contaminants at or near the creek have the potential to adversely impact this drinking water source. Table 2 shows the Overall Susceptibility score and rating for Bear Track Inn.

Table 2. Natural Susceptibility

	Score	Rating
Natural Susceptibility	45	Very High

Contaminant risks to a drinking water source depend on the type, number or density, and distribution of contaminant sources. This data has been derived from an examination of existing or historical contamination that has been detected at the drinking water source through routine sampling. It also evaluates potential sources of contamination. Table 3 summarizes the Contaminant Risks for each category of drinking water contaminants.

Table 3. Contaminant Risks

Category	Score	Rating
Bacteria and Viruses	15	Low
Nitrates and/or Nitrites	28	Medium
Volatile Organic Chemicals	12	Low

Appendix D contains seven charts, which together form the 'Vulnerability Analysis' for a source water assessment for a public drinking water source. Chart 1 analyzes the 'Susceptibility of the Surface Water Source' to contamination by looking at the construction of the intake and its surrounding area and naturally-occurring attributes of the water source and influences on the groundwater system that might lead to contamination. Chart 2 analyzes 'Contaminant Risks' for the drinking water source with respect to bacteria and viruses. The 'Contaminant Risks' portion of the analysis considers potential sources of contaminants as well as a review of contamination that has or may have occurred, but has not arrived or been detected at the surface water. Chart 3 contains the 'Vulnerability Analysis for Bacteria and Viruses.' Charts 4 through 7 contain the Contaminant Risks and Vulnerability Analyses for nitrates and nitrites and volatile organic chemicals, respectively.

Table 4 contains the overall vulnerability scores (30 – 100) and ratings for each of the three categories of drinking water contaminants. Note: scores are rounded off to the nearest five.

Table 4. Overall Vulnerability

Category	Score	Rating
Bacteria and Viruses	60	High
Nitrates and Nitrites	75	High
Volatile Organic Chemicals	55	Medium

Bacteria and Viruses

The contaminant risk for bacteria and viruses is **Low** with the domestic wastewater collection systems representing the risk to this source of public drinking water (See Chart 2 – Contaminant Risks for Bacteria and Viruses in Appendix D).

Only a small amount of bacteria and viruses are required to endanger public health. Bacteria and viruses have not been detected during recent water sampling of the system at the Bear Track Inn. Combining the contaminant risks with the overall natural susceptibility of the surface water source, the vulnerability of the surface water source to contamination by bacteria and viruses is **High**.

Nitrates and Nitrites

The contaminant risk for nitrates and nitrites is **Medium** with the domestic wastewater collection systems representing the risk to this source of public drinking water (See Chart 4 - Contaminant Risks for Nitrates and/or Nitrites in Appendix D).

Sampling history for Bear Track Inn indicates that nitrates have been detected in the water, but only in very low concentrations (most recently at 0.549 mg/L on 8/11/1998) or 5% of the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL). The MCL is the maximum level of contaminant that is allowed to exist in drinking water and still be consumed by humans without harmful health effects. Due to the high solubility and weak retention by soil, nitrates are very mobile, moving at approximately the same rate as water.

After combining the contaminant risk for nitrates and nitrites with the natural susceptibility of the surface water source, the overall vulnerability of the surface water source to contamination by nitrates and nitrites is **High**.

Volatile Organic Chemicals

The contaminant risk for volatile organic chemicals is **Low** with the domestic wastewater collection systems; and aboveground heating oil tanks creating the only known risk for volatile organic chemicals (See Chart 6 – Contaminant Risks for Volatile Organic Chemicals in Appendix D).

Sampling history indicates that volatile organic chemicals have not been detected in the water. Combining the contaminant risk for volatile organic chemicals with the natural susceptibility of the surface water source, the overall vulnerability of the surface water source to contamination by volatile organic chemicals is **Medium**.

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United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), 2002 [WWW document]. URL: http://www.epa.gov/safewater/mcl.html.

APPENDIX A

Bear Track Inn
Drinking Water Protection Area Location Map
(Map 1)

APPENDIX B

Contaminant Source Inventory and Risk Ranking for Bear Track Inn (Tables 1-4)

Table 1 *Contaminant Source Inventory for* ***PWSID 111472.001***

Bear Track Inn

Contaminant Source Type	*Contaminant Source ID*	*CS ID tag*	*Zone*	*Map Number*	*Comments*
Domestic wastewater collection systems (sewer lines or lift)	D01	D01-1	A	2	Sewer Lift Station for Bear Track Inn
Domestic wastewater collection systems (sewer lines or lift)	D01	D01-2	A	2	Sewer Lines to Lift Station for Bear Track Inn
Tanks, heating oil, nonresidential (aboveground)	T14	T14-1	A	2	Heating Oil Tank for Bear Track Inn

Contaminant Source Inventory and Risk Ranking for

Table 2 ***PWSID 111472.001***

Bear Track Inn

Sources of Bacteria and Viruses

Contaminant Source Type	***Contaminant Source ID***	***CS ID tag***	***Zone***	***Risk Ranking for Analysis***	***Map Number***	***Comments***
Domestic wastewater collection systems (sewer lines or lift stations)	D01	D01-1	A	Medium	2	Sewer Lift Station for Bear Track Inn
Domestic wastewater collection systems (sewer lines or lift stations)	D01	D01-2	A	Medium	2	Sewer Lines to Lift Station for Bear Track Inn

Contaminant Source Inventory and Risk Ranking for

Table 3 ***PWSID 111472.001***

Bear Track Inn

Sources of Nitrates/Nitrites

Contaminant Source Type	***Contaminant Source ID***	***CS ID tag***	***Zone***	***Risk Ranking for Analysis***	***Map Number***	***Comments***
Domestic wastewater collection systems (sewer lines or lift stations)	D01	D01-1	A	Medium	2	Sewer Lift Station for Bear Track Inn
Domestic wastewater collection systems (sewer lines or lift stations)	D01	D01-2	A	Medium	2	Sewer Lines to Lift Station for Bear Track Inn

Contaminant Source Inventory and Risk Ranking for

Table 4 ***PWSID 111472.001***

Bear Track Inn

Sources of Volatile Organic Chemicals

Contaminant Source Type	*Contaminant Source ID*	*Risk Ranking CS ID tag*	*Map Zone*	*for Analysis*	*Number*	*Comments*
Domestic wastewater collection systems (sewer lines or lift stations)	D01	D01-1	A	Low	2	Sewer Lift Station for Bear Track Inn
Domestic wastewater collection systems (sewer lines or lift stations)	D01	D01-2	A	Low	2	Sewer Lines to Lift Station for Bear Track Inn
Tanks, heating oil, nonresidential (aboveground)	T14	T14-1	A	Low	2	Heating Oil Tank for Bear Track Inn

APPENDIX C

Bear Track Inn
Drinking Water Protection Area
and Potential and Existing Contaminant Sources
(Map 2)

APPENDIX D

Vulnerability Analysis for Bear Track Inn Public Drinking Water Source

(Charts 1-7)

Chart 1. Susceptibility of the surface water source - Bear Track Inn

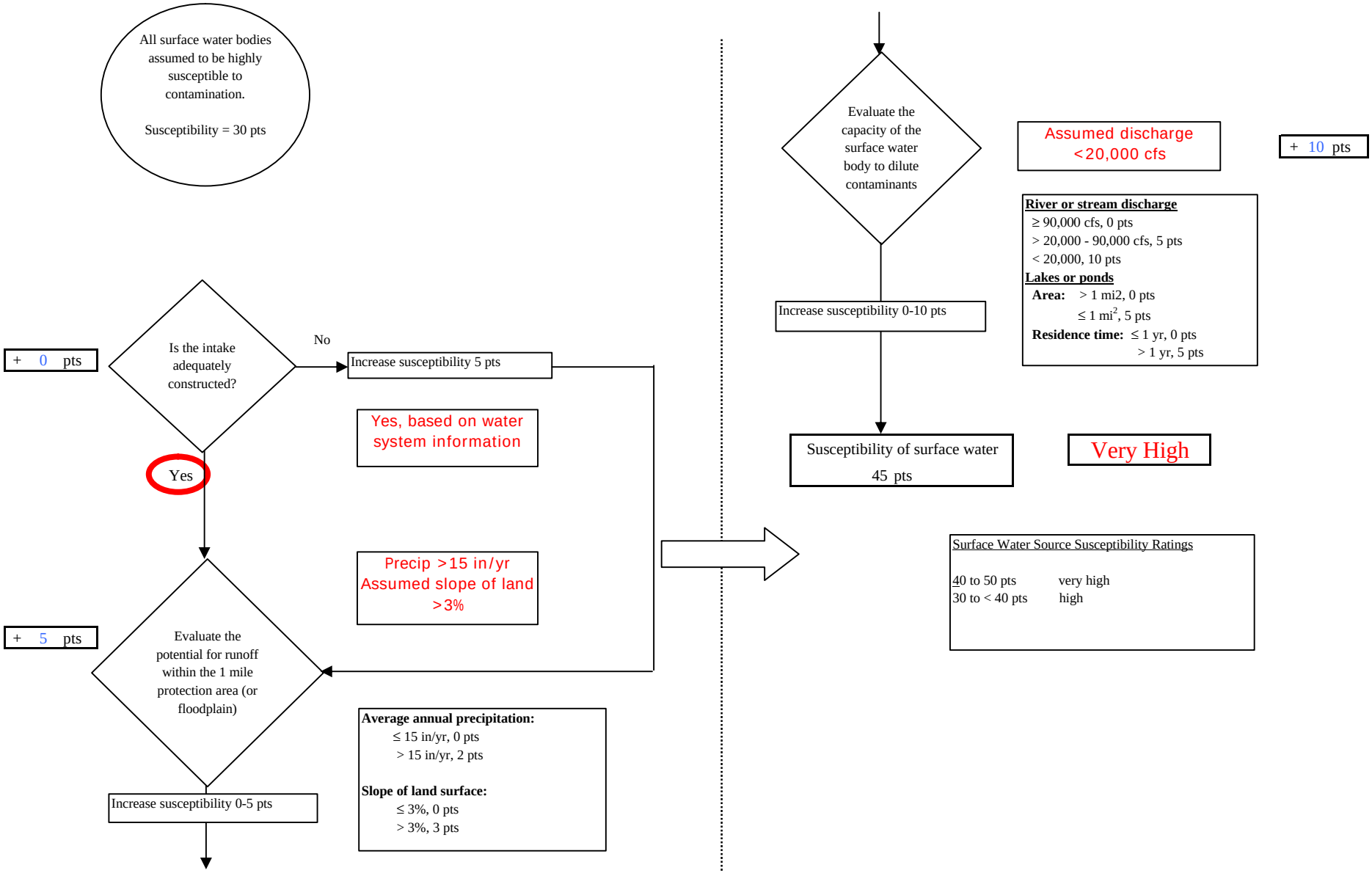
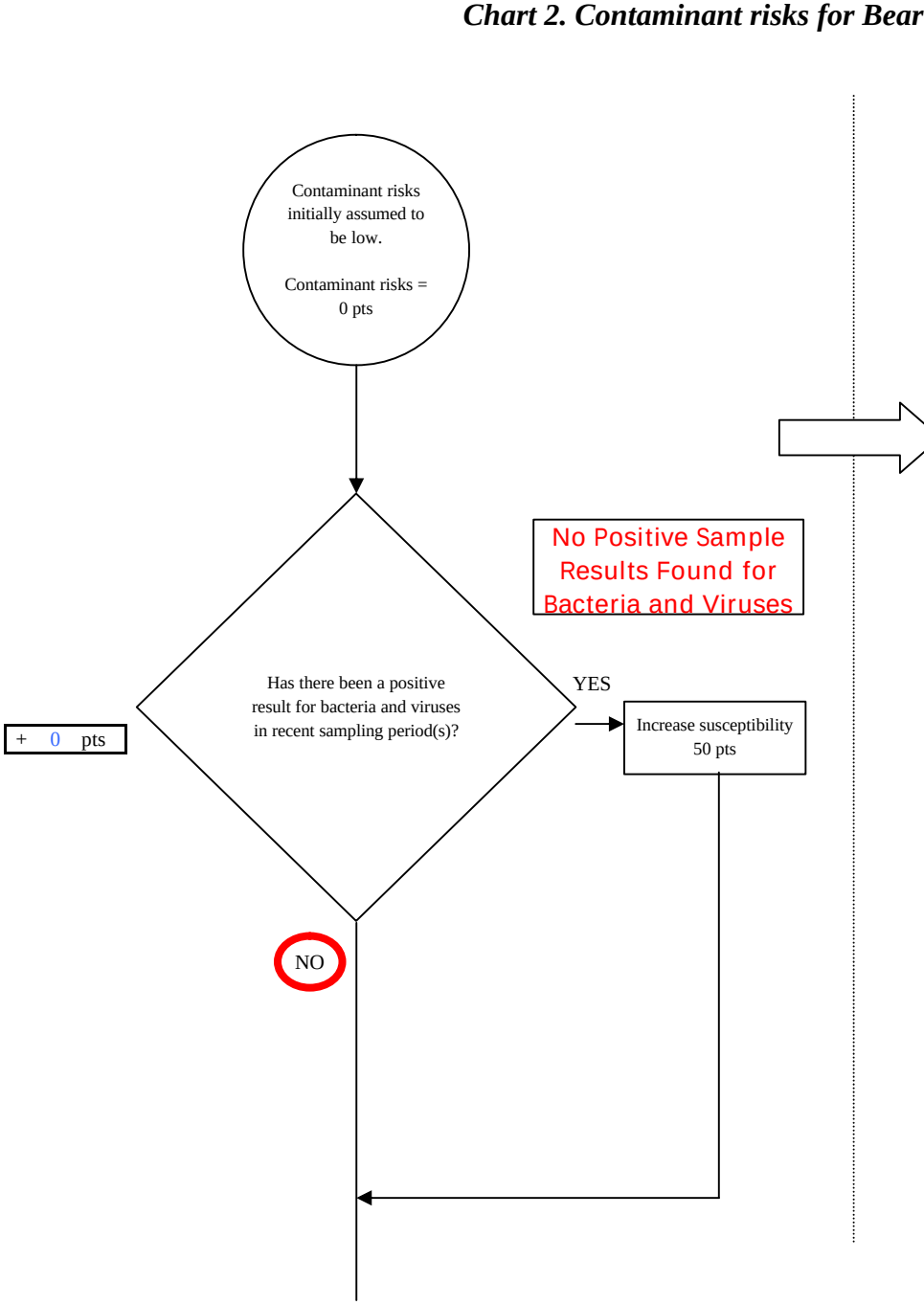
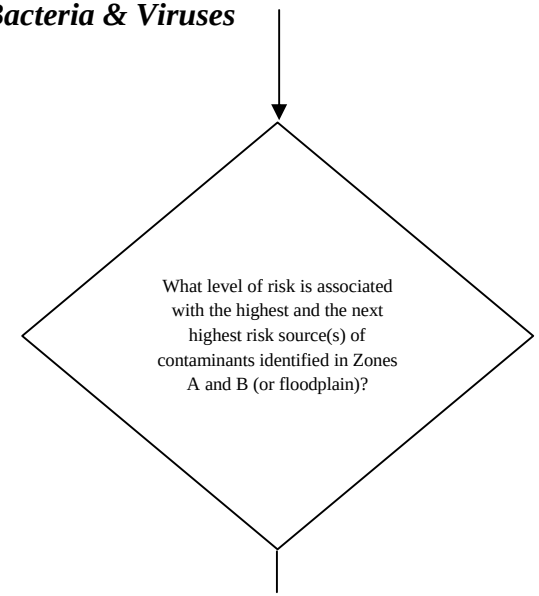


Chart 2. Contaminant risks for Bear Track Inn - Bacteria & Viruses





+ 20 pts

Risk Rankings for Contaminant Sources Identified in Zones A and B

	Zone A	Zone B	Total
Very Highs(s)	0	0	0
High(s)	0	0	0
Medium(s)	1		1
Low(s)	0		0

	LOW 10 pts	**MEDIUM** 20 pts	**HIGH** 30 pts	**VERY HIGH** 40 pts
LOW	[3] 10 sources + 10 pts	≥ 10 sources + 5 pts	≥ 20 sources + 5 pts	----
MEDIUM	----	≥ 2 sources + 5 pts	≥ 5 sources + 5 pts	≥ 10 sources + 5 pts
HIGH	----	----	≥ 1 source + 10 pts	≥ 2 sources + 10 pts
VERY HIGH	----	----	----	≥ 1 source + 10 pts

Matrix Score 20

Note: Septic systems, sewerlines, and roads are each assigned a risk ranking for each individual contaminant source in the CSI. The VA, however, counts these contaminant sources as a group and assigns a calculated number of either "lows" or "mediums" based on the density.

Chart 2. Contaminant risks for Bear Track Inn - Bacteria & Viruses

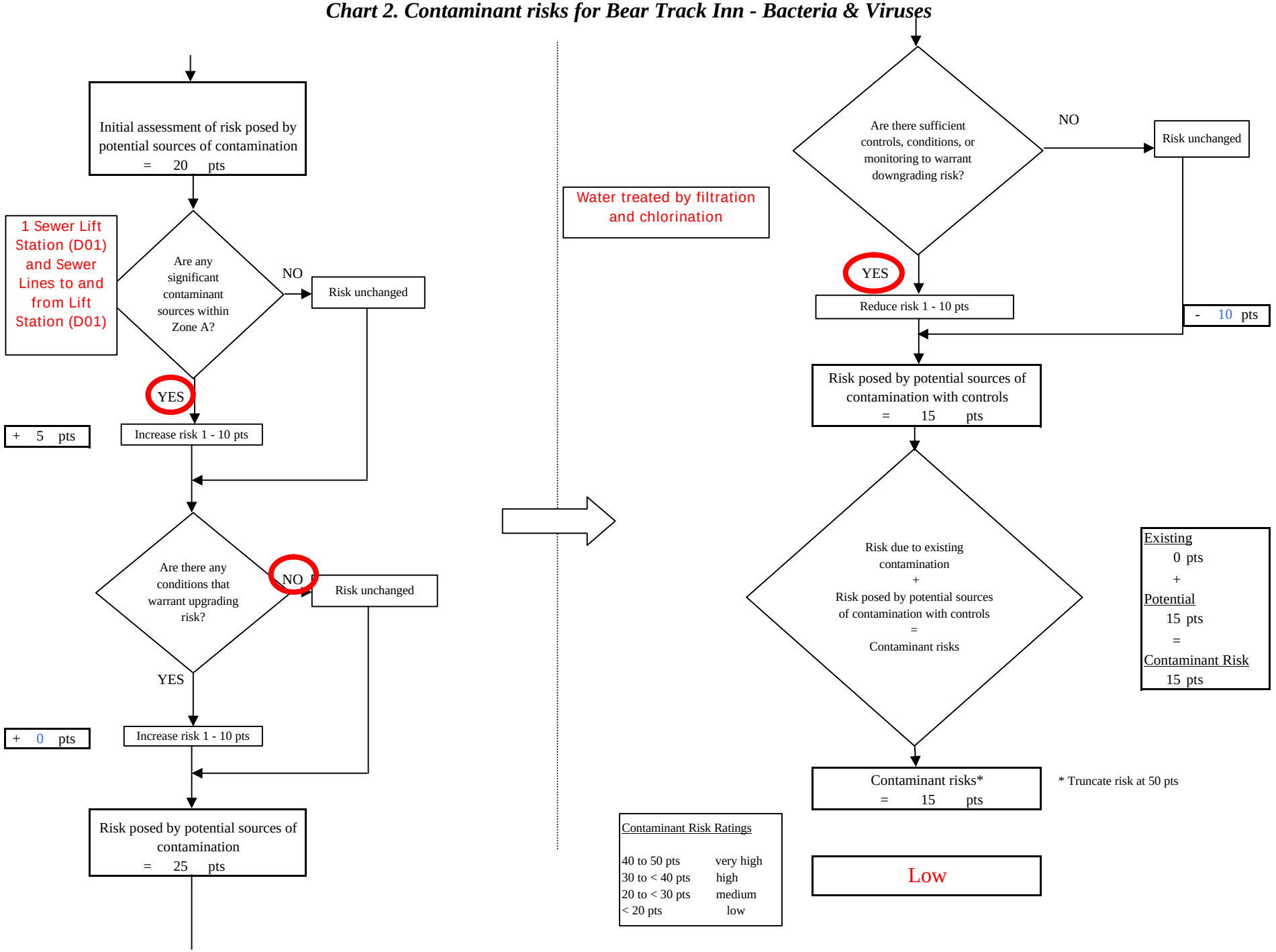


Chart 3. Vulnerability analysis for Bear Track Inn - Bacteria & Viruses

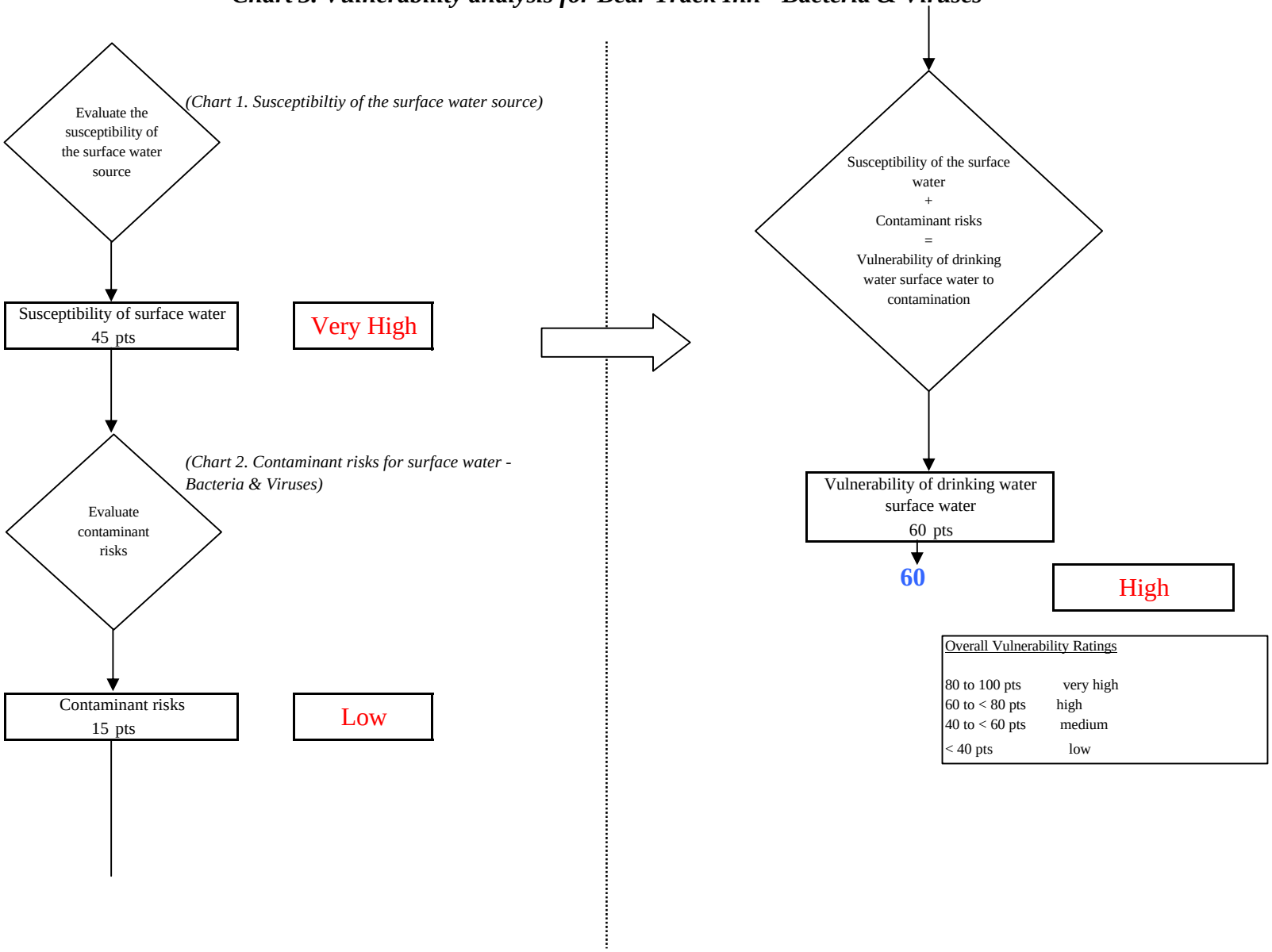


Chart 4. Contaminant risks for Bear Track Inn - Nitrates and Nitrites

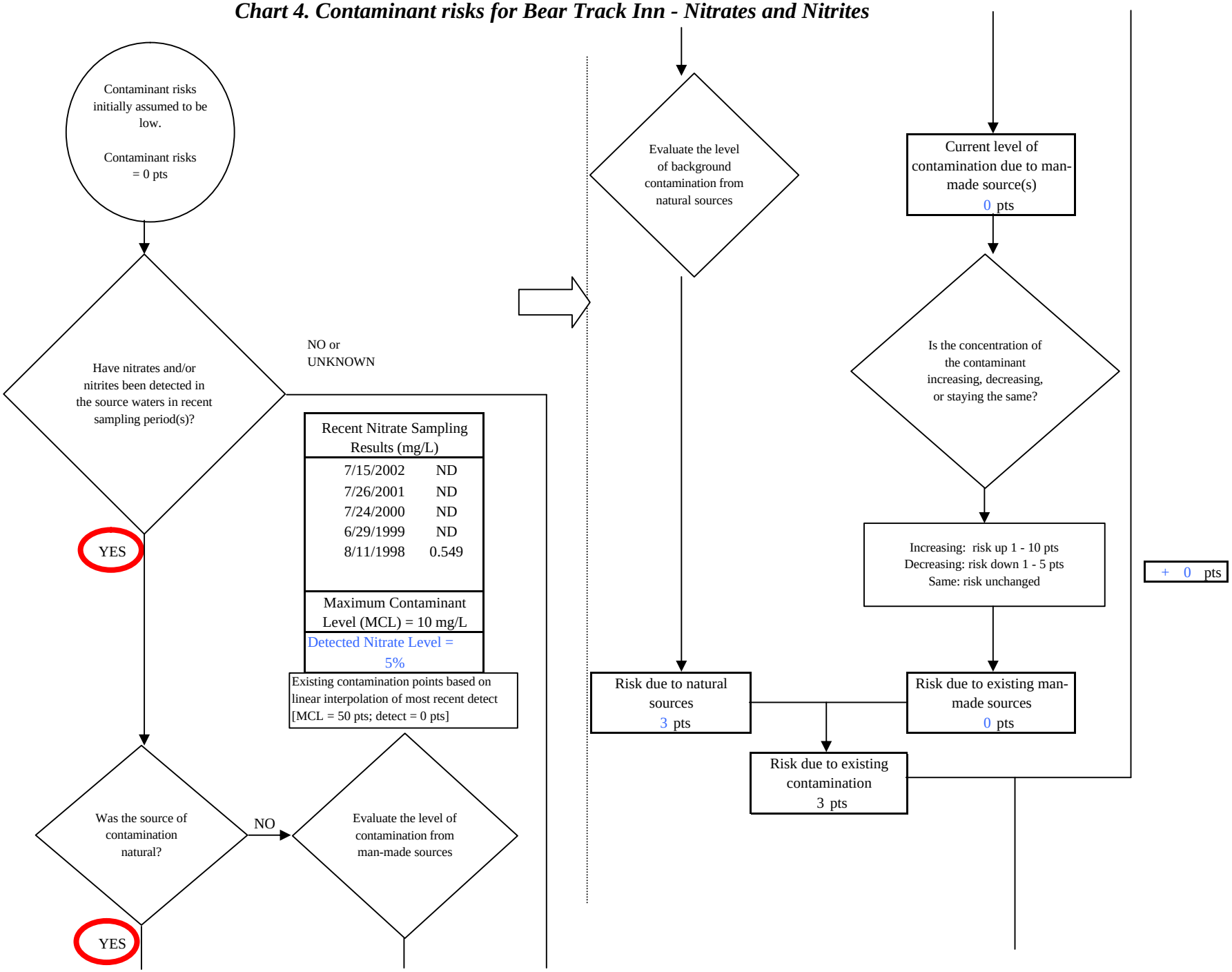


Chart 4. Contaminant risks for Bear Track Inn - Nitrates and Nitrites

+ 20 pts

What level of risk is associated with the highest and the next highest risk sources(s) of contaminants identified in Zones A and B? (see Risk Matrix below)

Initial assessment of risk posed by potential sources of contamination = 20 pts

Are any significant sources in Zone A?

NO → Risk unchanged

YES → Increase risk 1 - 10 pts

1 Sewer Lift Station (D01) and Sewer Lines to and from Lift Station (D01)

+ 5 pts

Risk Levels for Contaminant Sources identified in Zones A and B

	Zone A	Zone B	Total
Very Highs(s)	0	0	0
High(s)	0	0	0
Medium(s)	1		1
Low(s)	0		0

	LOW 10 pts	**MEDIUM** 20 pts	**HIGH** 30 pts	**VERY HIGH** 40 pts
LOW	[3] 10 sources + 10 pts	≥ 10 sources + 5 pts	≥ 20 sources + 5 pts	----
MEDIUM	----	≥ 2 sources + 5 pts	≥ 5 sources + 5 pts	≥ 10 sources + 5 pts
HIGH	----	----	≥ 1 source + 10 pts	≥ 2 sources + 10 pts
VERY HIGH	----	----	----	≥ 1 source + 10 pts

Matrix Score 20

Note: Septic systems, sewerlines, and roads are each assigned a risk ranking for each individual contaminant source in the CSI. The VA, however, counts these contaminant sources as a group and assigns a calculated number of either "lows" or "mediums" based on the density.

Chart 4. Contaminant risks for Bear Track Inn - Nitrates and Nitrites

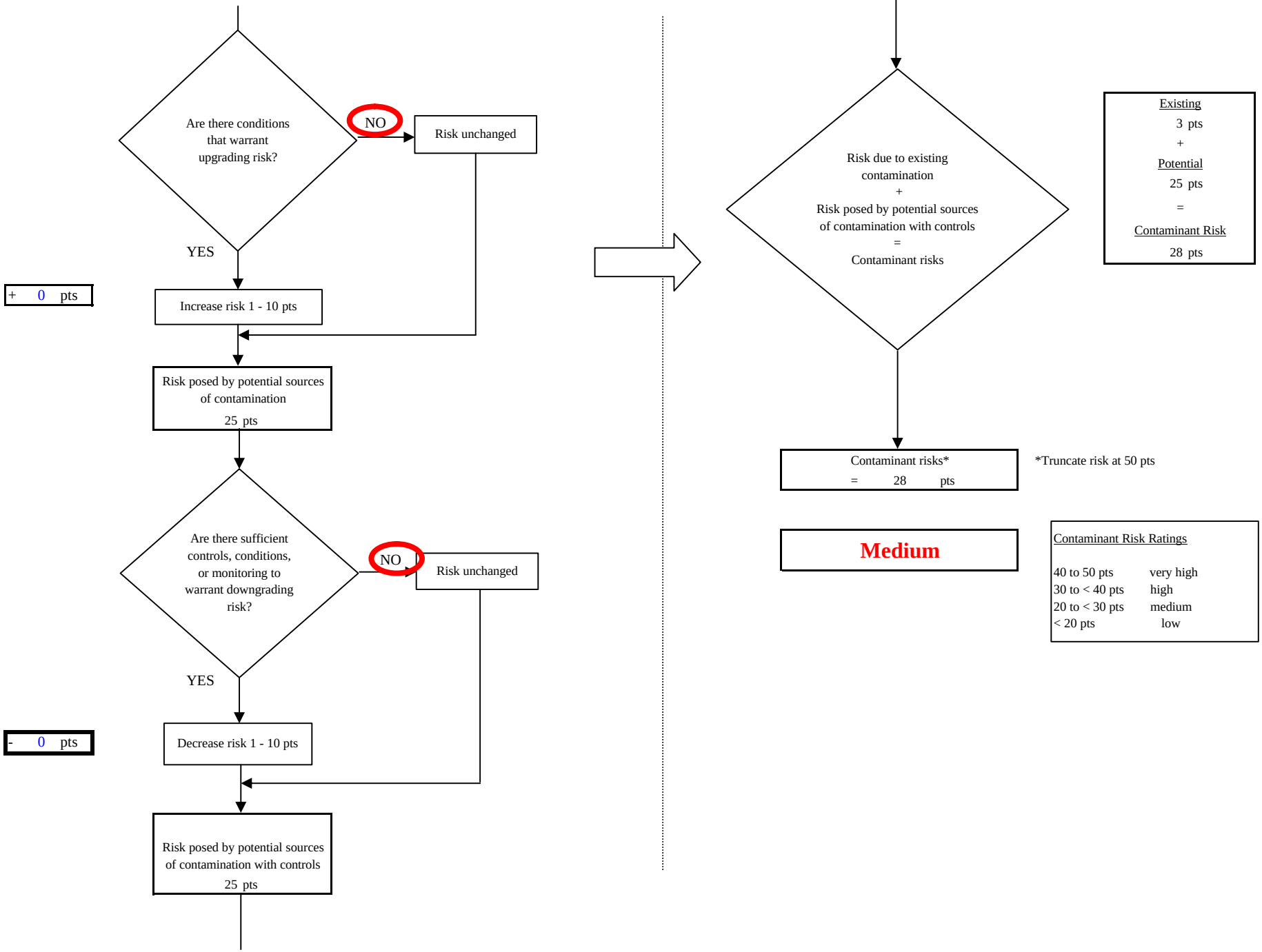


Chart 5. Vulnerability analysis for Bear Track Inn - Nitrates and Nitrites

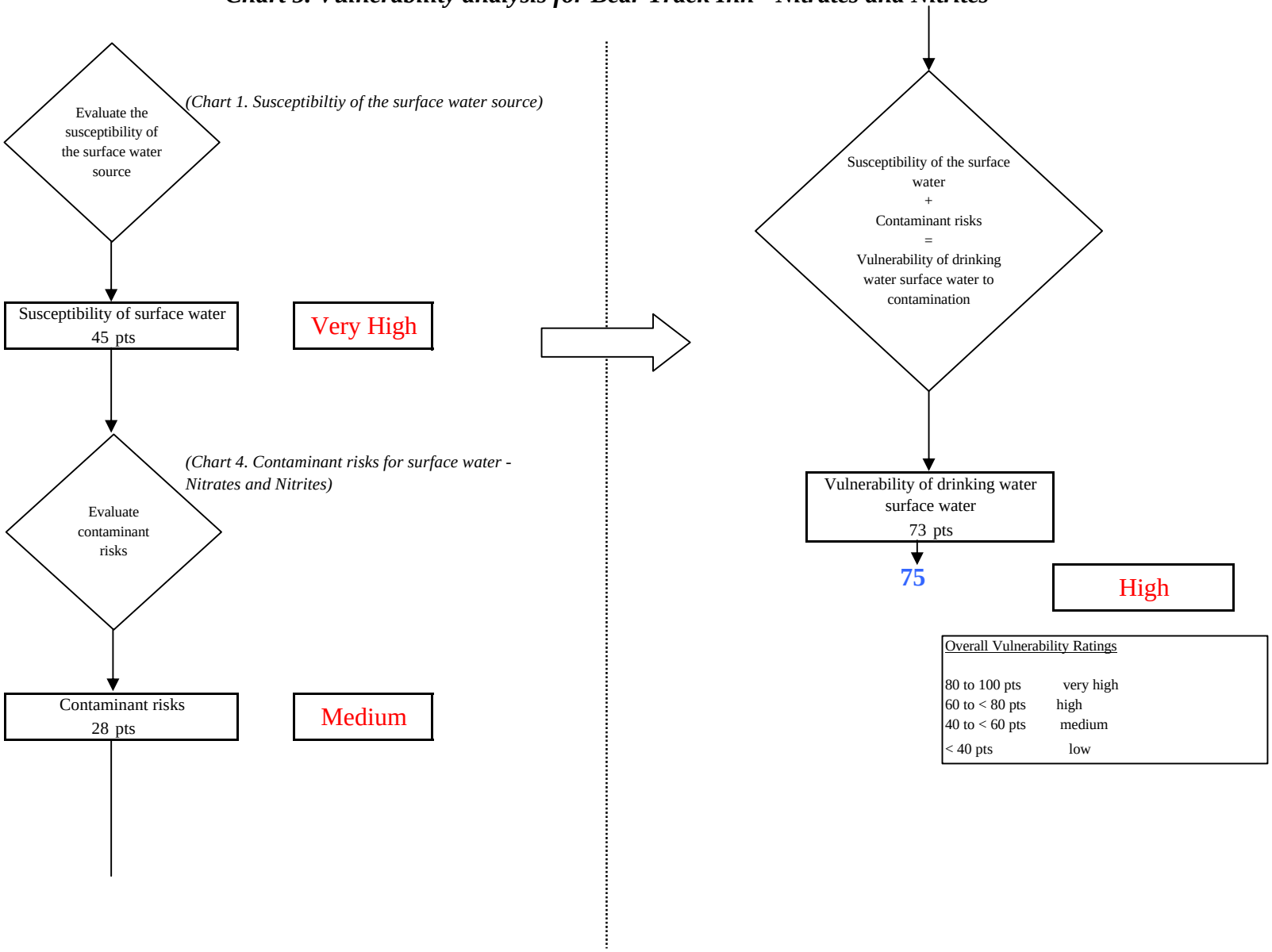


Chart 6. Contaminant risks for Bear Track Inn - Volatile Organic Chemicals

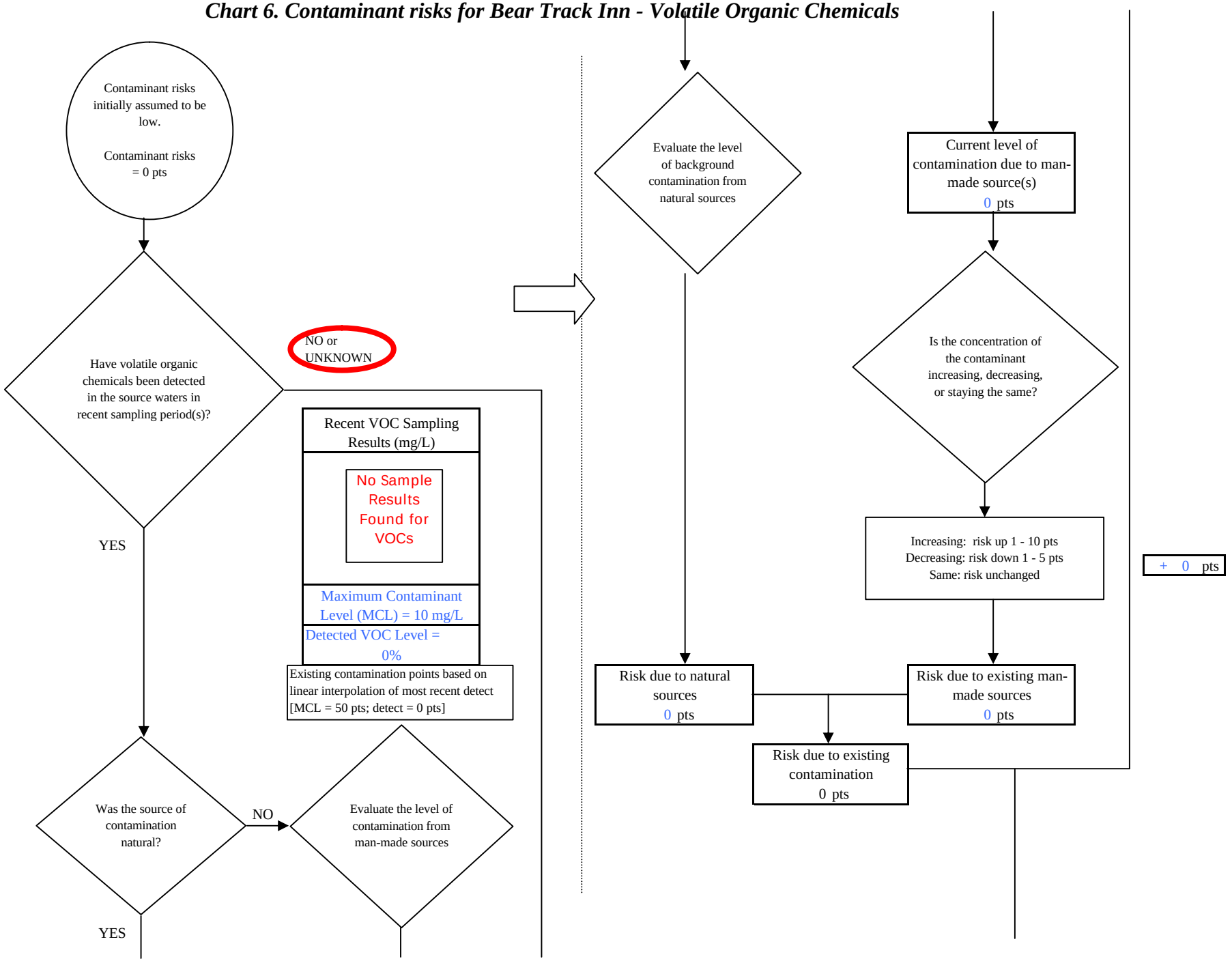


Chart 6. Contaminant risks for Bear Track Inn - Volatile Organic Chemicals

+ 10 pts

What level of risk is associated with the highest and the next highest risk sources(s) of contaminants identified in Zones A and B? (see Risk Matrix below)

Initial assessment of risk posed by potential sources of contamination = 10 pts

Are any significant sources in Zone A?

NO → Risk unchanged

YES → Increase risk 1 - 10 pts

1 Sewer Lift Station (D01), Sewer Lines to and from Lift Station (D01), and 1 Nonresidential Heating Oil Tank (T15)

+ 2 pts

Risk Levels for Contaminant Sources identified in Zones A and B

	Zone A	Zone B	Total
Very Highs(s)	0	0	0
High(s)	0	0	0
Medium(s)	0		0
Low(s)	2		2

	LOW 10 pts	**MEDIUM** 20 pts	**HIGH** 30 pts	**VERY HIGH** 40 pts
LOW	[3] 10 sources + 10 pts	≥ 10 sources + 5 pts	≥ 20 sources + 5 pts	----
MEDIUM	----	≥ 2 sources + 5 pts	≥ 5 sources + 5 pts	≥ 10 sources + 5 pts
HIGH	----	----	≥ 1 source + 10 pts	≥ 2 sources + 10 pts
VERY HIGH	----	----	----	≥ 1 source + 10 pts

Matrix Score 10

Note: Septic systems, sewerlines, and roads are each assigned a risk ranking for each individual contaminant source in the CSI. The VA, however, counts these contaminant sources as a group and assigns a calculated number of either "lows" or "mediums" based on the density.

Chart 6. Contaminant risks for Bear Track Inn - Volatile Organic Chemicals

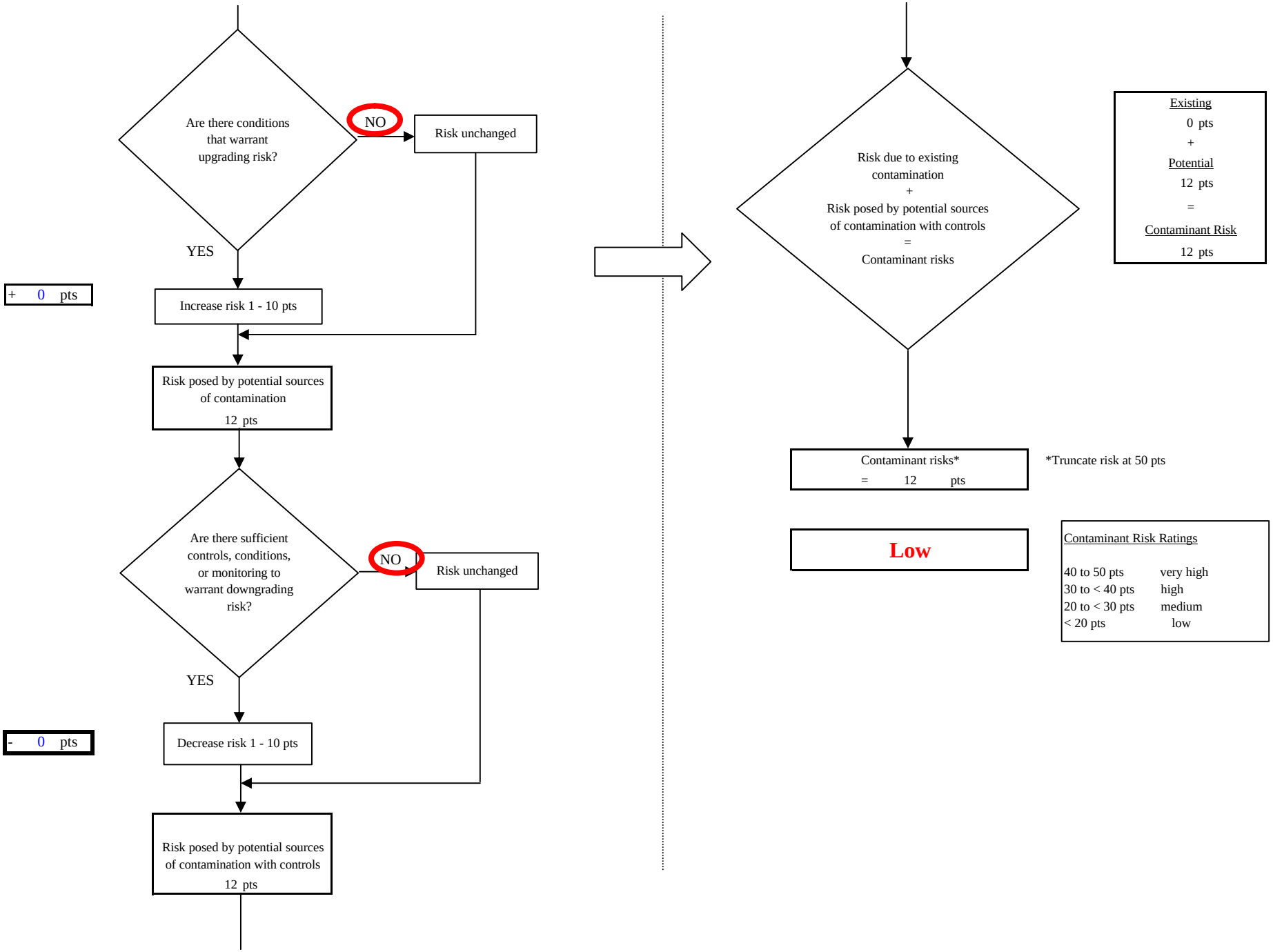


Chart 7. Vulnerability analysis for Bear Track Inn - Volatile Organic Chemicals