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# Source Water Assessment

A Hydrogeologic Susceptibility and  
Vulnerability Assessment for the  
Chilkat Village of Klukwan

PWSID #110562.001

August 2004

DRINKING WATER PROTECTION PROGRAM REPORT #1558

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

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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.

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# Source Water Assessment for the Chilkat Village of Klukwan Drinking Water System

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## Drinking Water Protection Program Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Chilkat Village of Klukwan operates a Class A (community) water system that obtains water from an infiltration gallery located along a stream on Iron Mountain, approximately 0.5 miles north of Klukwan. There is an upper infiltration gallery located at an elevation of approximately 383-feet and a lower infiltration gallery located at an elevation of approximately 318-feet. The infiltration gallery received a susceptibility rating of **Low** and the aquifer received a susceptibility rating of **Very High**. Combining these two produces a rating of **Medium** for the natural susceptibility of the infiltration gallery. Potential and existing sources of the following contaminants were evaluated for the Source Water Assessment: bacteria and viruses, nitrates and/or nitrites, heavy metals, cyanide, and other inorganic chemicals, synthetic organic chemicals, volatile organic chemicals, and other organic chemicals. Identified potential and current sources of contaminants for the well intake area include: landslide potential. This evaluation included all available water sampling data submitted to ADEC by the system operator. The samples may have been collected from either raw water or post-treated water. Combining the natural susceptibility of the well with the contaminant risks, the wells received a vulnerability rating of “**low**” for all 6 contaminant categories. This assessment can be used as a foundation for local voluntary protection efforts as well as a basis for the continuous efforts on the part of Klukwan to protect public health.

### DRINKING WATER SYSTEM AND AREA OVERVIEW

Klukwan (Sec. 33, T028S, R056E, Copper River Meridian) is located on the north bank of the Chilkat River, about 22 miles north of Haines, off the Haines Highway. It lies at the junction of the Kleheni and Tsirku Rivers, 100 miles northeast of Juneau (Please see the inset of Map 1 in Appendix A for location). The current population of Klukwan is approximately 115 (ADCED, 2004). The water system is a Class A (community) water system that serves the residential population year-round and obtains water from an infiltration gallery located along a creek on Iron

Mountain, approximately 0.5-miles north of the city (See Map 1 of Appendix A).

Klukwan has a maritime climate characterized by cool summers and mild winters. Average summer temperatures range from 42 to 66; winter temperatures average from 4 to 31. Klukwan receives much less precipitation than is typical of Southeast Alaska. Total precipitation averages 23 inches a year, with 104 inches of snow (ADCED, 2004).

According to the 2001 sanitary survey, the infiltration gallery produces approximately 230 gpm (this number is highly variable) and has a storage capacity of 80,000 gallons. Both infiltration galleries are approximately 10-feet deep.

The system has been categorized as “ground water under the direct influence of surface water” by ADEC in 2002.

### KLUKWAN INFILTRATION GALLERY 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 groundwater. These areas are determined by looking at the characteristics of the soil, groundwater, aquifer, and well.

The most probable area for contamination to reach the drinking water well is the area that contributes water to the well, the groundwater recharge area. This area is designated as the drinking water protection area. Because releases of contaminants within the protection area are most likely to impact the drinking water well, this area will serve as the focus for voluntary protection efforts.

An outline of the immediate and adjacent watershed was used to determine the size and shape of the protection area for the infiltration gallery. Available geology was also considered in accounting for uncertainties in groundwater flow and aquifer characteristics to arrive at a meaningful protection area

(Please refer to the Guidance Manual for Class A Public Water Systems for additional information).

The protection areas established for wells by the ADEC are usually separated into four zones, limited by the watershed. These zones correspond to differences in the time-of-travel (TOT) of the water moving through the aquifer to the well. An analytical calculation was used to determine the size and shape of the protection area. The input parameters describing the attributes of the aquifer in this calculation were adopted from a 1979 groundwater publication by Allan Freeze and John A. Cherry.

The time of travel for contaminants (TOT) within the water varies and is dependent on the physical and chemical characteristics of each contaminant. The following is a summary of the four protection area zones for wells and the calculated TOT of the water for each:

**Table 1. Definition of Zones**

Zone	Definition
A	¼ the distance for the 2-yr. TOT
B	Less than the 2 year TOT
C	Less Than the 5 year TOT
D	Less than the 10 year TOT

The protection area for the infiltration gallery is limited by its immediate watershed and does not include Zone D (See Appendix C).

#### 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 protection area. This inventory was completed through a search of agency records and other publicly available information. Potential sources of contamination to the drinking water aquifer 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 A public water system assessments, six categories of drinking water contaminants were inventoried. They include:

- Bacteria and Viruses;
- Nitrates and/or Nitrites;
- Volatile Organic Chemicals;
- Heavy metals, cyanide, and other inorganic chemicals;

- Synthetic Organic Chemicals; and
- Other Organic Chemicals.

The sources are displayed on Map 2 of Appendix C and summarized in Table 1 of Appendix B.

#### 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. Only “Very High” and “High” rankings are inventoried within the outer Zone D due to the probability of contaminant dilution by the time the contaminants travel to the well.

Tables 2 through 7 (if necessary) in Appendix B contain the ranking of potential and existing sources of contamination with respect each contaminant source.

#### VULNERABILITY OF THE DRINKING WATER SYSTEM

Appendix D contains fourteen 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 Wellhead’ to contamination by looking at the construction of the well and its surrounding area. Chart 2 analyzes the ‘Susceptibility of the Aquifer’ to contamination by looking at the naturally occurring attributes of the water source and influences on the groundwater system that might lead to contamination. Chart 3 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 well. Chart 4 contains the ‘Vulnerability Analysis for Bacteria & Viruses’. Charts 5 through 14 contain the Contaminant Risks and Vulnerability Analyses for nitrates and nitrites, volatile organic chemicals, heavy metals, cyanide, and other inorganic chemicals, synthetic

organic chemicals, and other organic chemicals, respectively.

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

- Natural susceptibility; and
- Contaminant risks.

A score for the Natural Susceptibility is reached by considering the properties of the well and the aquifer.

Susceptibility of the Wellhead (0 – 25 Points)  
(Chart 1 of Appendix D)

+

Susceptibility of the Aquifer (0 – 25 Points)  
(Chart 2 of Appendix D)

=

Natural Susceptibility (Susceptibility of the Well)  
(0 – 50 Points)

A ranking is assigned for the Natural Susceptibility according to the point score:

Natural Susceptibility Ratings	
40 to 50 pts	Very High
30 to < 40 pts	High
20 to < 30 pts	Medium
< 20 pts	Low

Table 2 shows the Susceptibility scores and ratings for the basin.

**Table 2. Susceptibility of the Wells**

	Score	Rating
Susceptibility of the Wellhead	0	Low
Susceptibility of the Aquifer	20	Very High
Natural Susceptibility	20	Medium

Contaminant risks to a drinking water source depend on the type, number or density, and distribution of contaminant sources. This score has been derived from an examination of existing and historical contamination that has been detected at the drinking water source through routine sampling. It also evaluates potential sources of contamination. Flow charts are used to assign a point score, and ratings are assigned in the same way as for the natural susceptibility:

#### Contaminant Risk Ratings

40 to 50 pts	Very High
30 to < 40 pts	High
20 to < 30 pts	Medium
< 20 pts	Low

Table 3 summarizes the Contaminant Risks for each category of drinking water contaminants.

**Table 3. Contaminant Risks**

Category	Score	Rating
Bacteria and Viruses	0	Low
Nitrates and/or Nitrites	7	Low
Volatile Organic Chemicals	0	Low
Heavy Metals, Cyanide, and Other Inorganic Chemicals	0	Low
Synthetic Organic Chemicals	0	Low
Other Organic Chemicals	0	Low

Finally, an overall vulnerability score is assigned for each water system by combining each of the contaminant risk scores with the natural susceptibility score:

Natural Susceptibility (0 – 50 points)

+

Contaminant Risks (0 – 50 points)

=

Vulnerability of the  
Drinking Water Source to Contamination (0 – 100).

Again, rankings are assigned according to a point score:

#### Overall Vulnerability Ratings

80 to 100 pts	Very High
60 to < 80 pts	High
40 to < 60 pts	Medium
< 40 pts	Low

Table 4 contains the overall vulnerability scores (0 – 100) and ratings for each of the six categories of drinking water contaminants. Note: scores are rounded off to the nearest five.

**Table 4. Overall Vulnerability**

Category	Score	Rating
Bacteria and Viruses	20	Low
Nitrates and Nitrites	25	Low
Volatile Organic Chemicals	20	Low
Heavy Metals, Cyanide, and Other Inorganic Chemicals	20	Low
Synthetic Organic Chemicals	20	Low
Other Organic Chemicals	20	Low

**Bacteria and Viruses**

The contaminant risk for bacteria and viruses is “low” (See Chart 3 – 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. After combining the contaminant risk for bacteria and viruses with the natural susceptibility of the well, the overall vulnerability of the well to contamination is “low”.

**Nitrates and Nitrites**

The contaminant risk for nitrates and nitrites is “low” (See Chart 5 - Contaminant Risks for Nitrates and/or Nitrites in Appendix D). Nitrates are very mobile, moving at approximately the same rate as water.

Sampling history indicates that low concentrations of nitrate have been detected in samples collected in 2000-2003. The Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for nitrate is 10 milligrams per liter (mg/L). 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.

It is unknown how much of the existing nitrate concentration can be attributed to natural or human-made sources. Nitrate concentrations in uncontaminated groundwater are typically less than 2 mg/L, or 20% of the MCL, and are derived primarily from the decomposition of organic matter in soils [Wang, Strelakos, Jokela, 2000].

After combining the contaminant risk for nitrates and nitrites with the natural susceptibility of the well, the overall vulnerability of the well to contamination is “low”.

**Volatile Organic Chemicals**

The contaminant risk for volatile organic chemicals is “low” (See Chart 7 – Contaminant Risks for Volatile Organic Chemicals in Appendix D).

Volatile organic chemicals have not been detected in significant levels during recent sampling. After combining the contaminant risk for volatile organic chemicals with the natural susceptibility of the well, the overall vulnerability of the well to contamination is “low”.

**Heavy Metals, Cyanide, and Other Inorganic Chemicals**

The contaminant risk for heavy metals is “low” (See Chart 9 – Contaminant Risks for Heavy Metals, Cyanide, and Other Inorganic Chemicals in Appendix D).

Lead and copper have been detected in levels below the MCL in sampling performed during 2000 – 2002. After combining the contaminant risk for heavy metals with the natural susceptibility of the well, the overall vulnerability of the well to contamination is “low”.

**Synthetic Organic Chemicals**

The contaminant risk for synthetic organic chemicals is “low”. After combining the contaminant risk with the natural susceptibility of the well, the overall vulnerability to synthetic organic chemicals of the well remains “low” (See Chart 11 – Contaminant Risks for Synthetic Organic Chemicals in Appendix D).

Review of the historical sampling data indicates that no synthetic organic chemicals have been detected in amounts exceeding the MCL within the past 5 years.

**Other Organic Chemicals**

The contaminant risk for other organic chemicals is “low”. After combining the contaminant risk with the natural susceptibility of the well, the overall vulnerability to other organic chemicals of the well remains “low” (See Chart 13 – Contaminant Risks for Other Organic Chemicals in Appendix D).

Review of the historical sampling data indicates that no other organic chemicals have been detected in amounts exceeding the MCL within the past 5 years.

### **Using the Source Water Assessment**

This assessment of contaminant risks can be used as a foundation for local voluntary protection efforts as well as a basis for the continuous efforts on the part of Klukwan to protect public health. It is anticipated that Source Water Assessments will be updated every five years to reflect any changes in the vulnerability and/or susceptibility of the drinking water source.



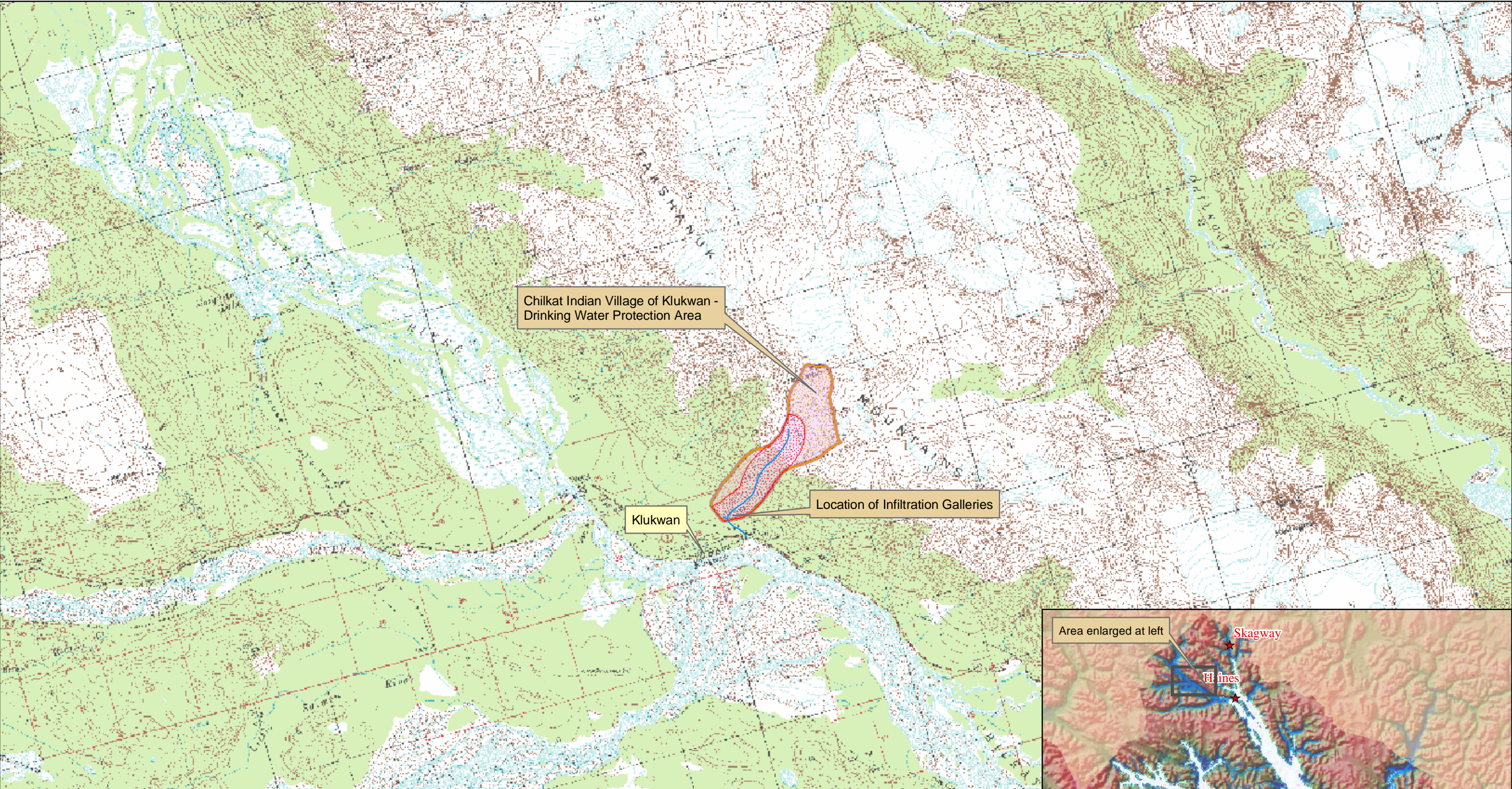
## REFERENCES

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[http://www.dced.state.ak.us/mra/CF\\_BLOCK.cfm](http://www.dced.state.ak.us/mra/CF_BLOCK.cfm)
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- United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), 2004 [WWW document]. URL:  
<http://www.epa.gov/safewater/mcl.html>

## **APPENDIX A**

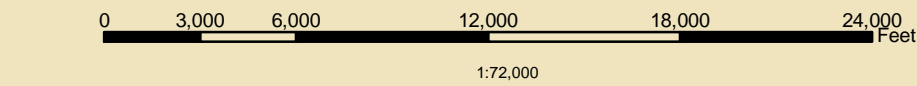
### **Chilkat Village of Klukwan - Drinking Water Protection Area Location Map (Map 1)**





Map 1: Chilkat Indian Village of Klukwan - Drinking Water Protection Area

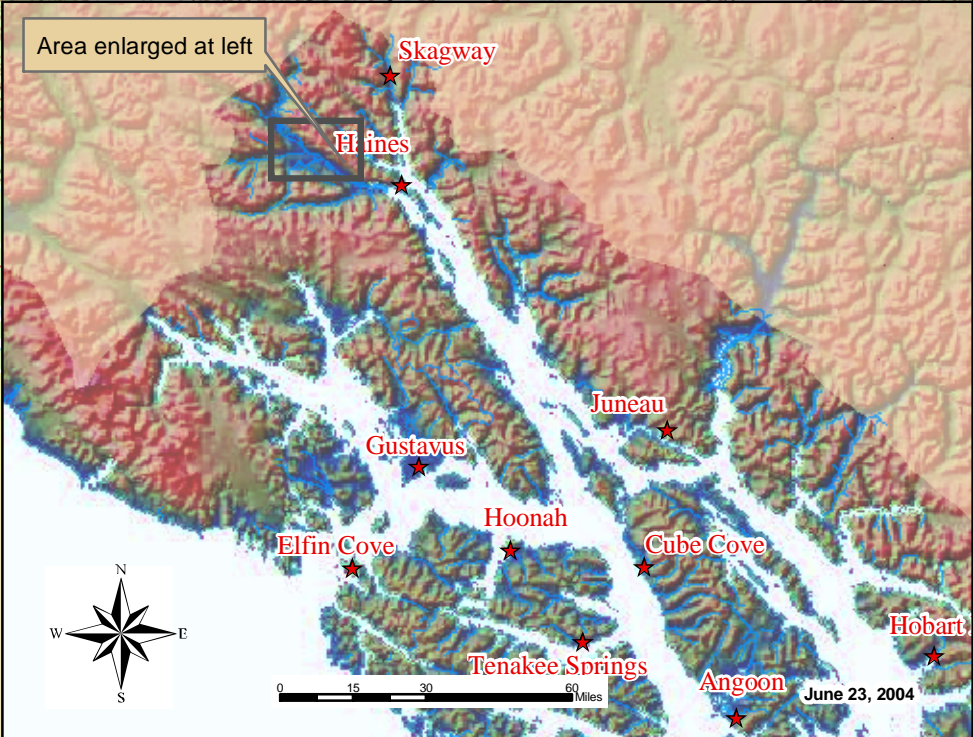
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Data Sources:  
Background image  
- USGS 1:63,000 mapping

Protection zones were delineated based upon  
groundwater flow data, well information, and  
streams noted on USGS 1:63,000 mapping.

- Legend**
- Klukwan IRA Council - Infiltration Gallery
  - Zone A Protection Area
  - Zone B Protection Area
  - Zone C Protection Area





## **APPENDIX B**

### **Contaminant Source Inventory and Risk Ranking**

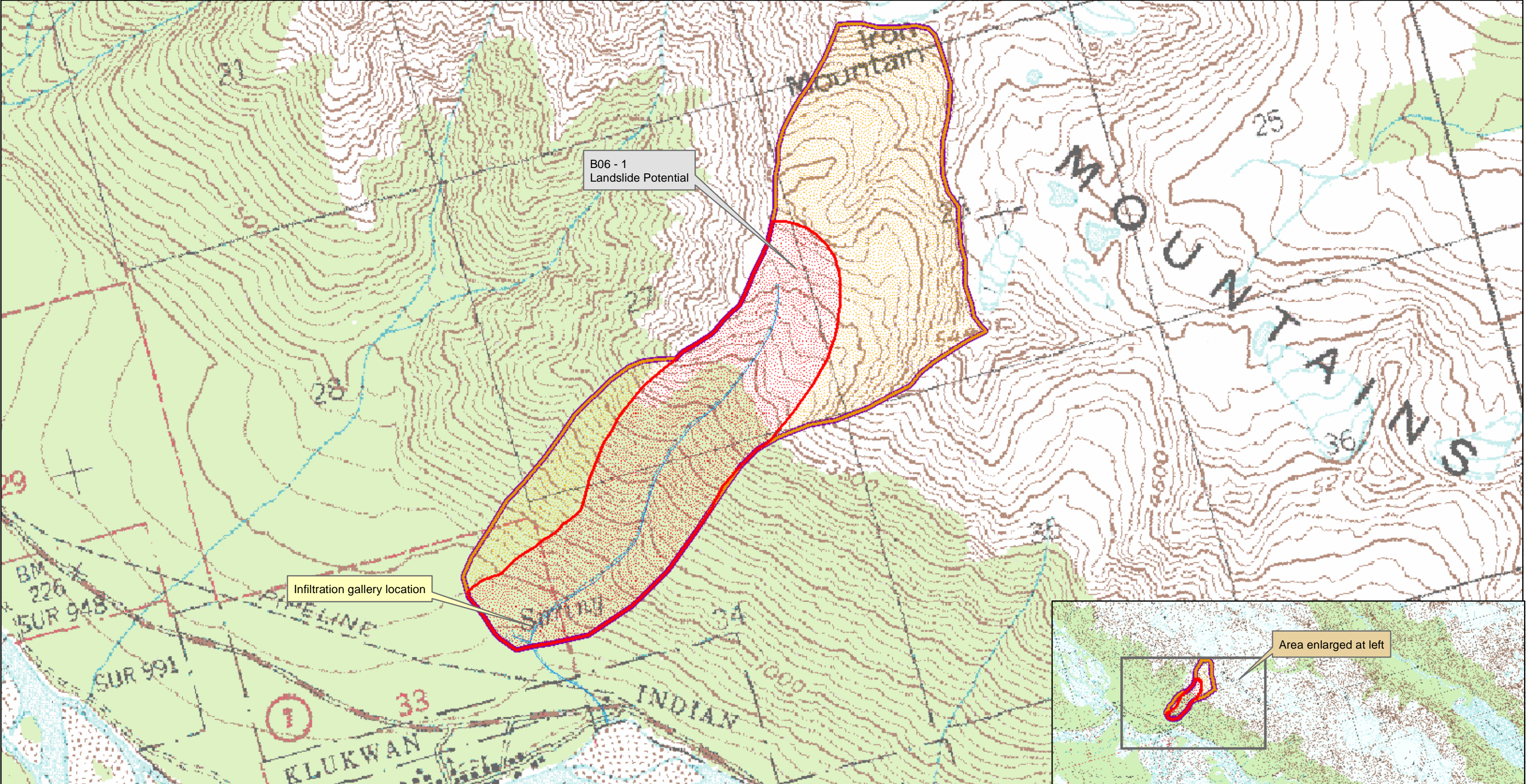
**(Table 1)**

<i>Contaminant Source Type</i>	<i>Contaminant Source ID</i>	<i>CS ID tag</i>	<i>Zone</i>	<i>Map Number</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Landslides or other hillside areas subject to significant erosion	B06	B06-1	A	2	From 2001 sanitary survey information

## **APPENDIX C**

### **Chilkat Village of Klukwan - Drinking Water Protection Area and Potential and Existing Contaminant Sources (Map 2)**





Map 2: Potential and Existing Contaminant Sources

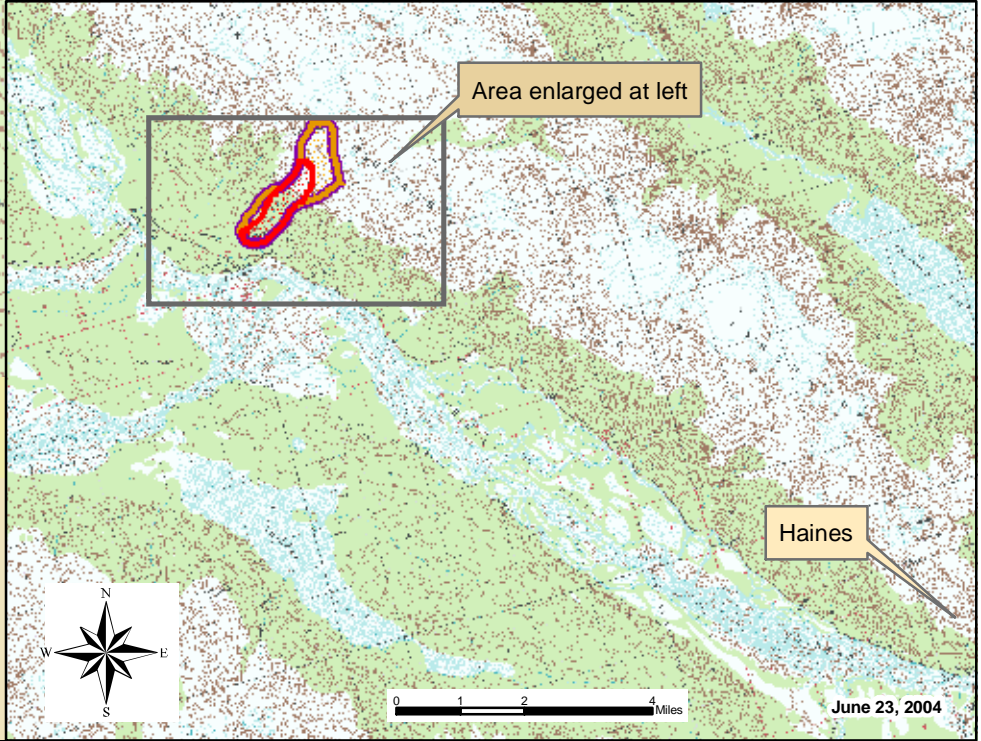
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**Data Sources:**  
1:63,000 mapping  
- USGS

*Protection zones were delineated based upon streams noted on USGS 1:63,000 mapping.*

- Legend**
- ⊕ Klukwan - Infiltration Gallery
  - Zone A Protection Area
  - Zone B Protection Area
  - Zone C Protection Area





## **APPENDIX D**

### **Vulnerability Analysis**

**(Charts 1-14)**



**Chart 1. Susceptibility of the Wellhead / Infiltration Gallery - Chilkat Indian Village of Klukwan**

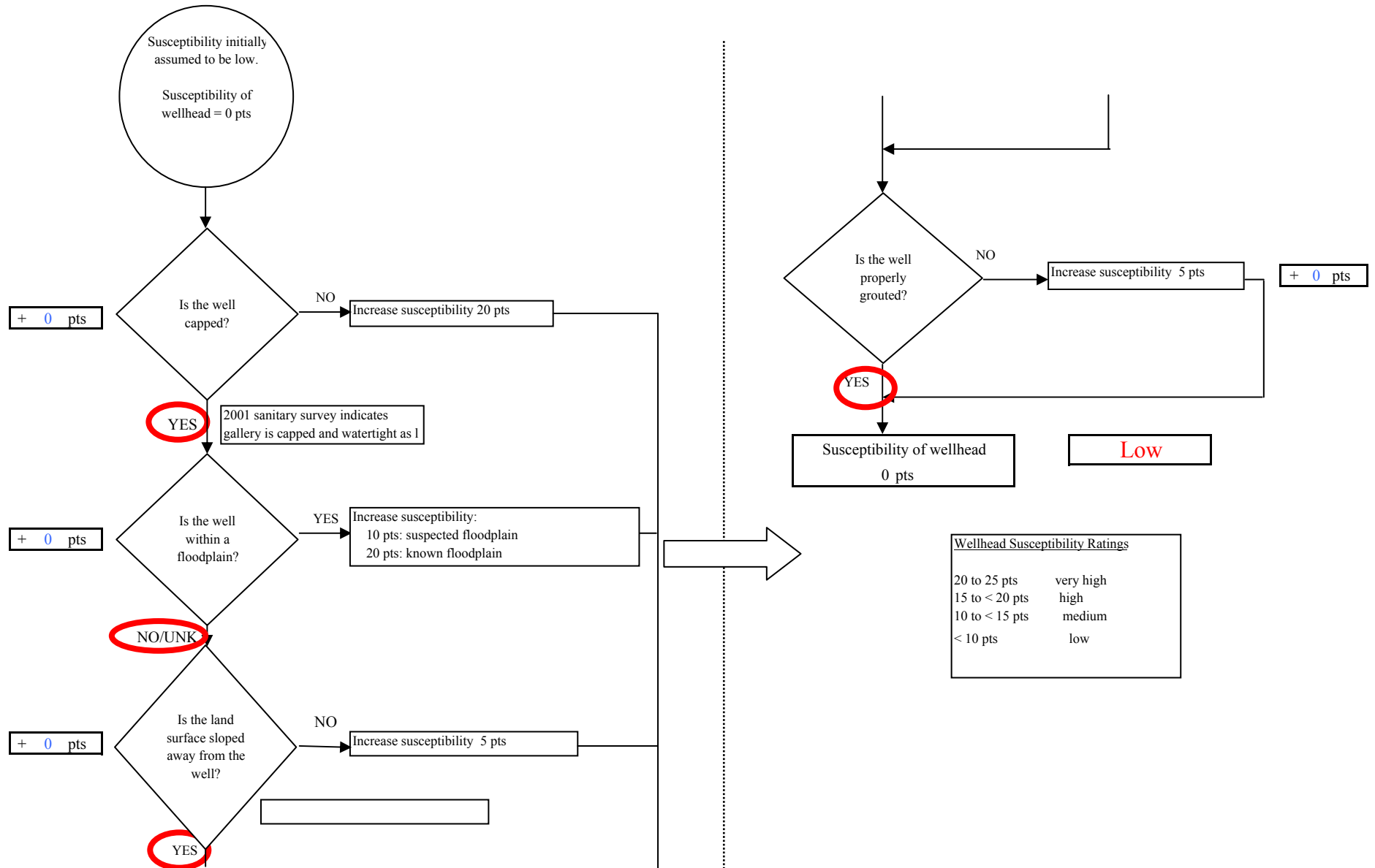


Chart 2. Susceptibility of the Aquifer - Chilkat Indian Village of Klukwan

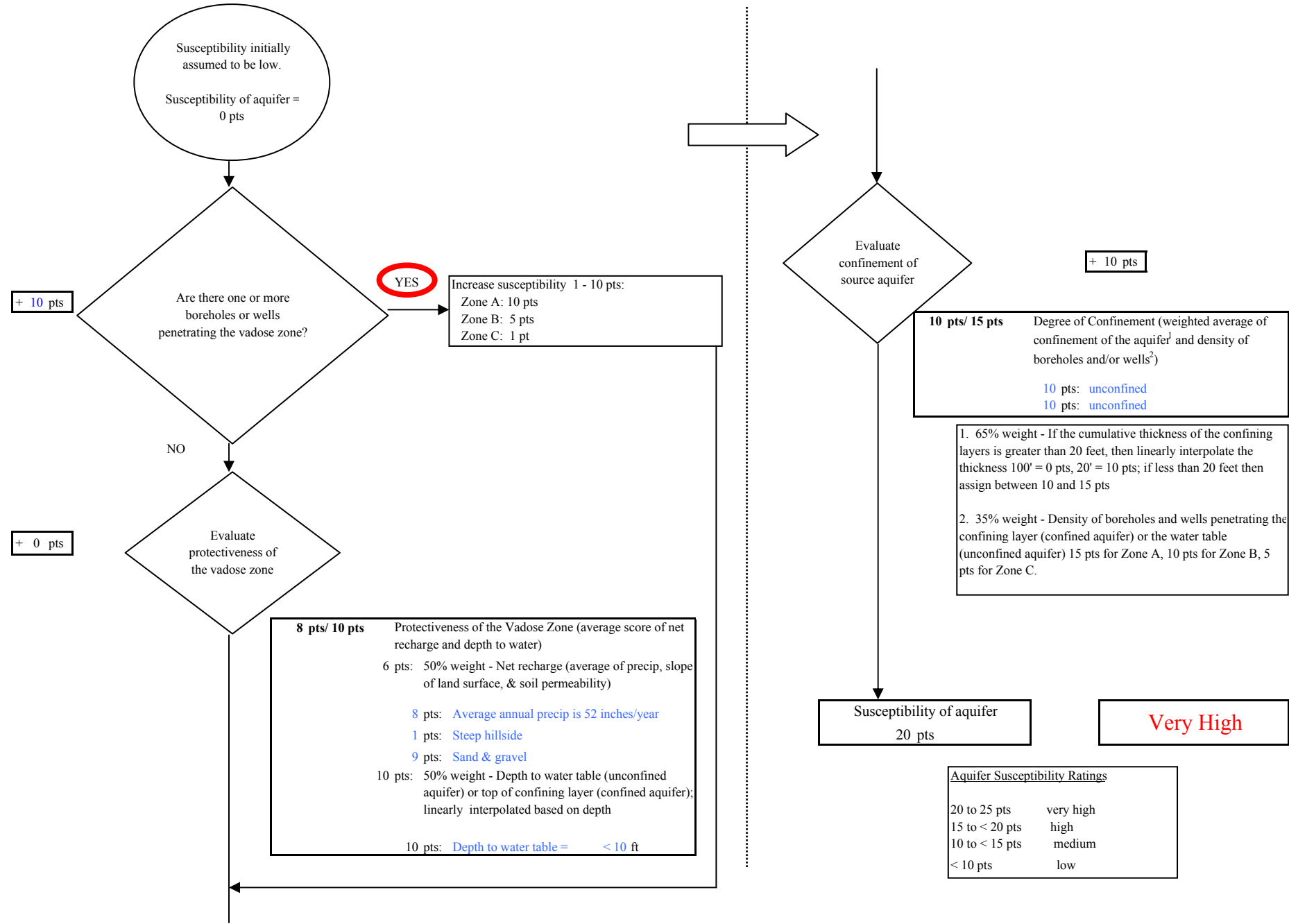


Chart 3. Contaminant Risks for Chilkat Indian Village of Klukwan - Bacteria & Viruses

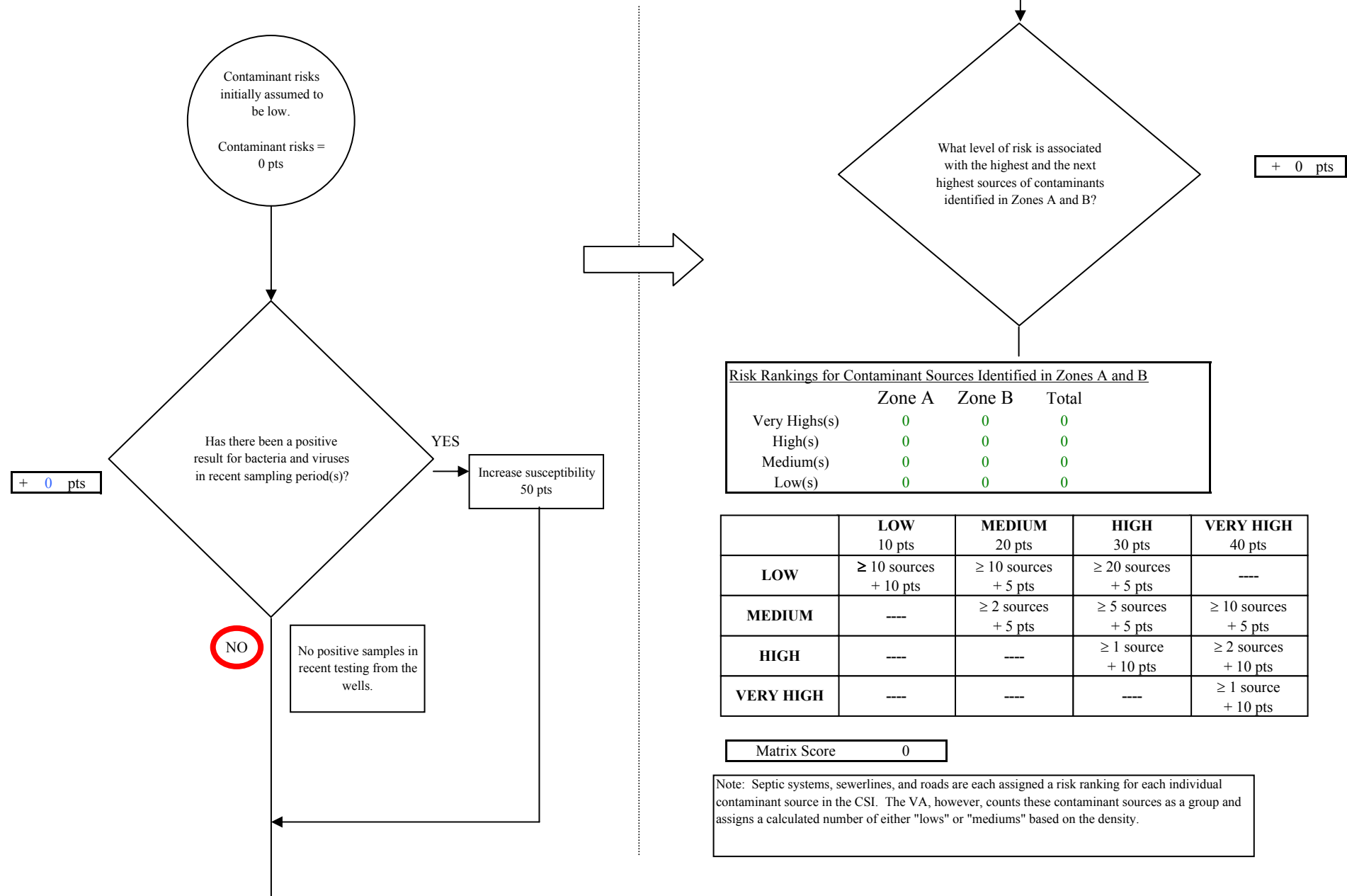
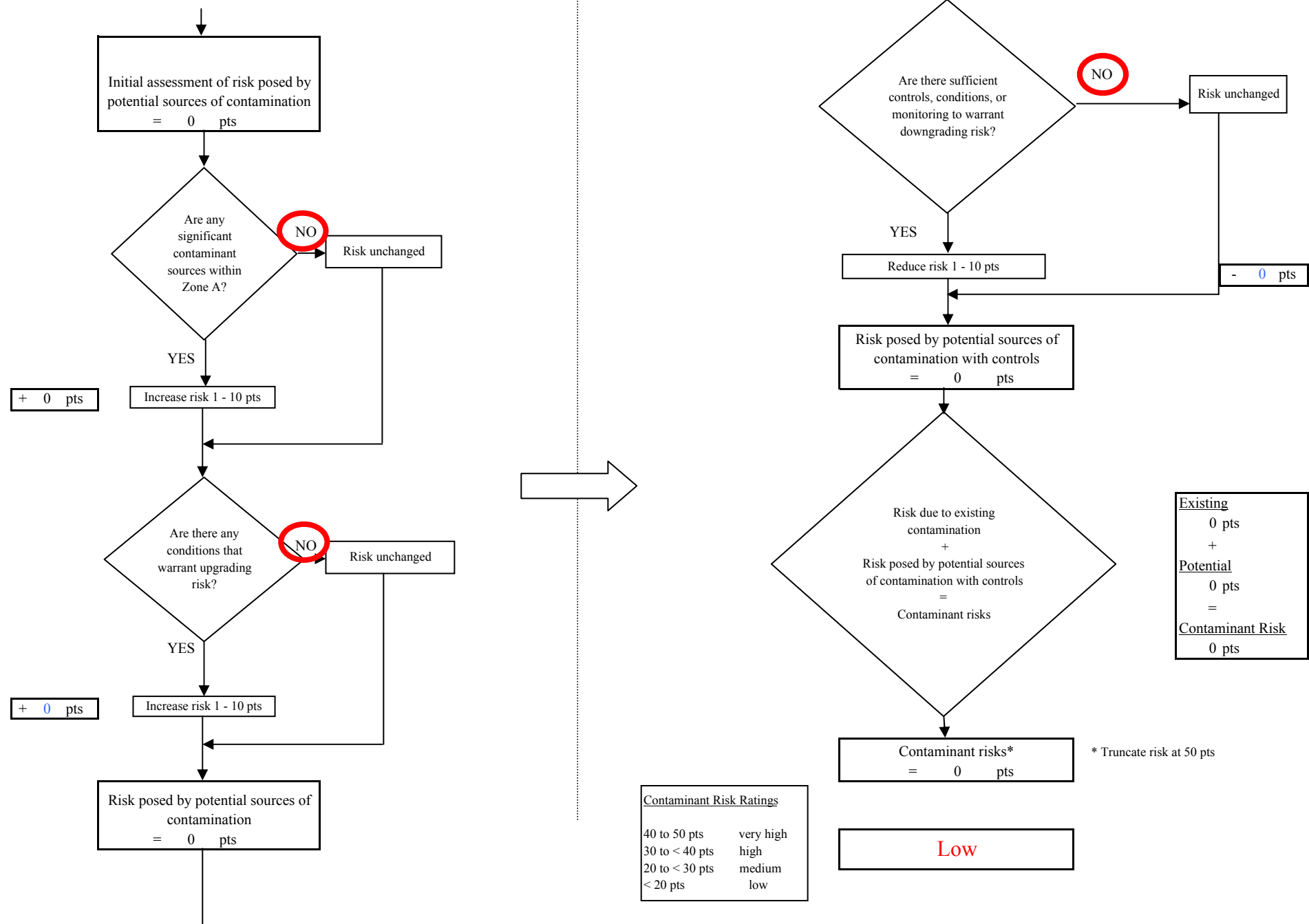


Chart 3. Contaminant Risks for Chilkat Indian Village of Klukwan - Bacteria & Viruses



**Chart 4. Vulnerability Analysis for Chilkat Indian Village of Klukwan - Bacteria & Viruses**

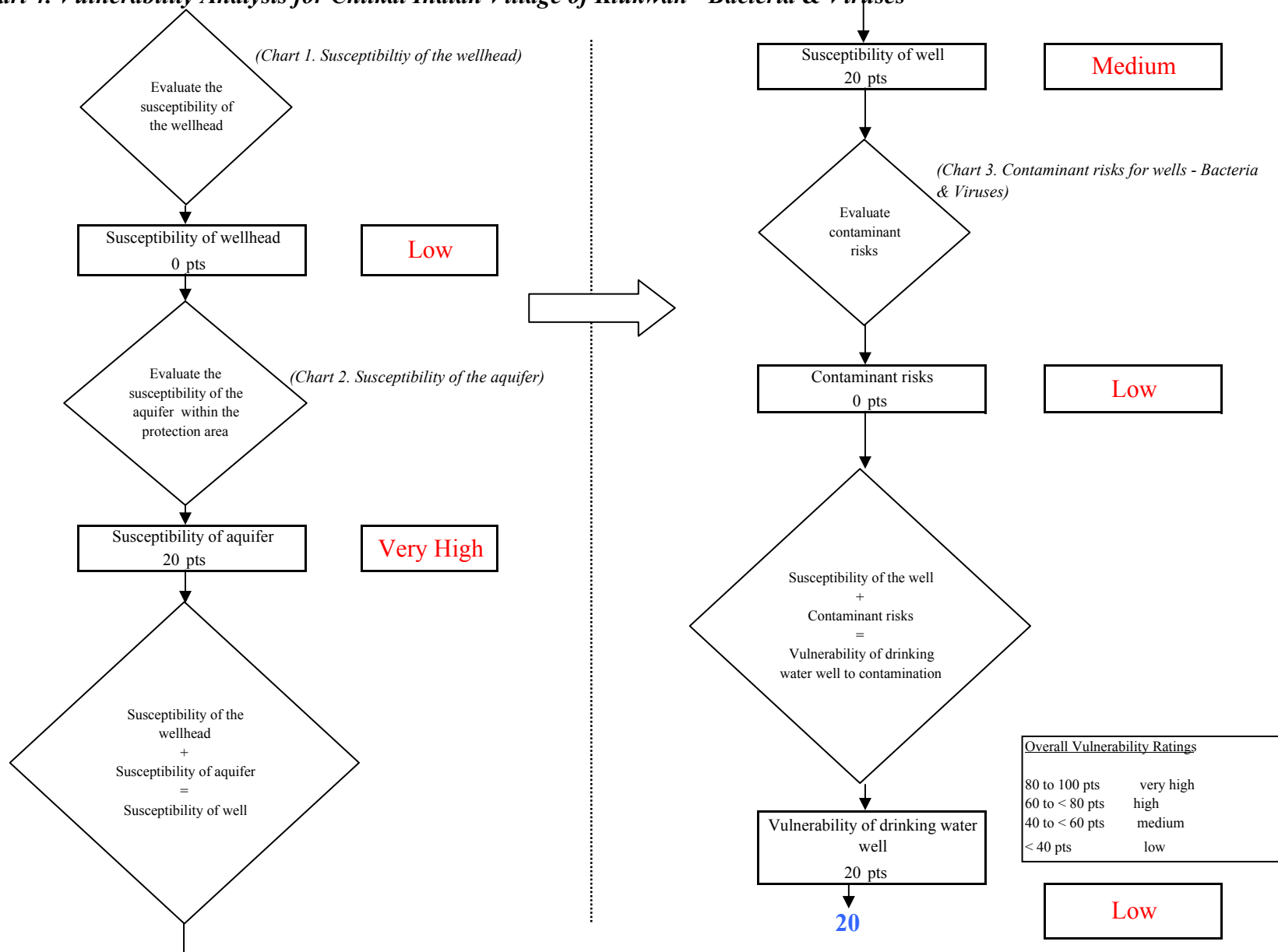


Chart 5. Contaminant Risks for Chilkat Indian Village of Klukwan - Nitrates and Nitrites

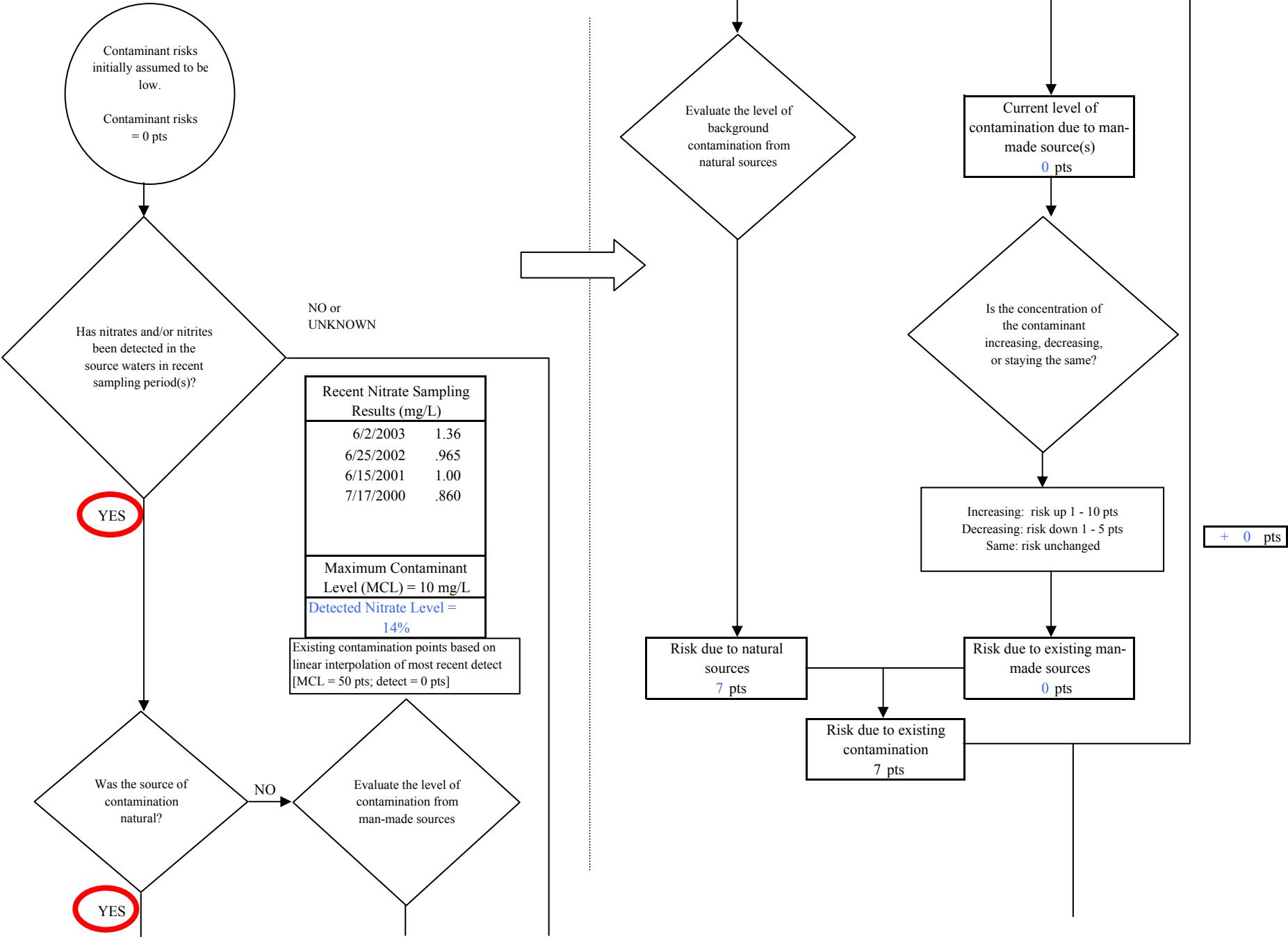


Chart 5. Contaminant Risks for Chilkat Indian Village of Klukwan - Nitrates and Nitrites

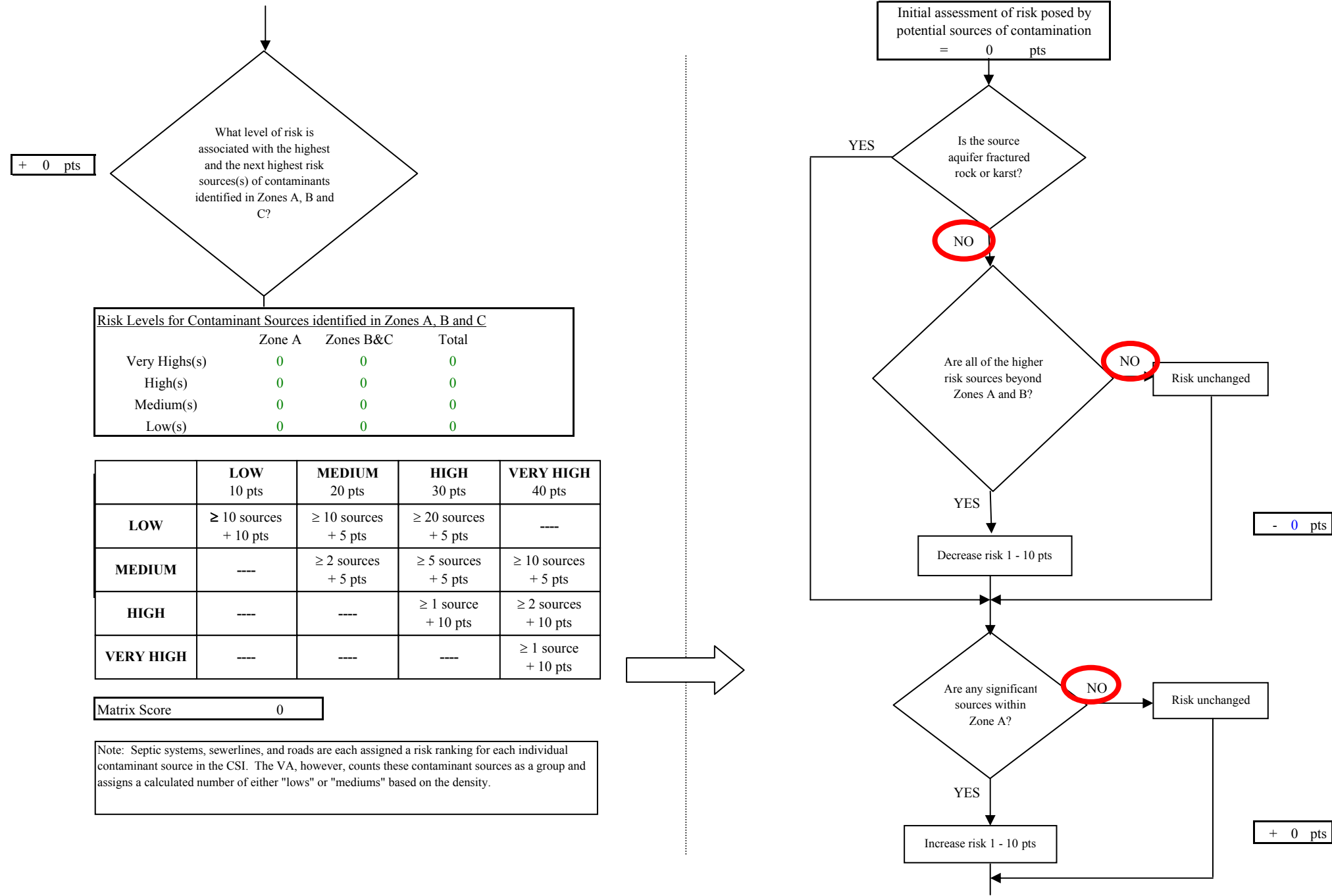
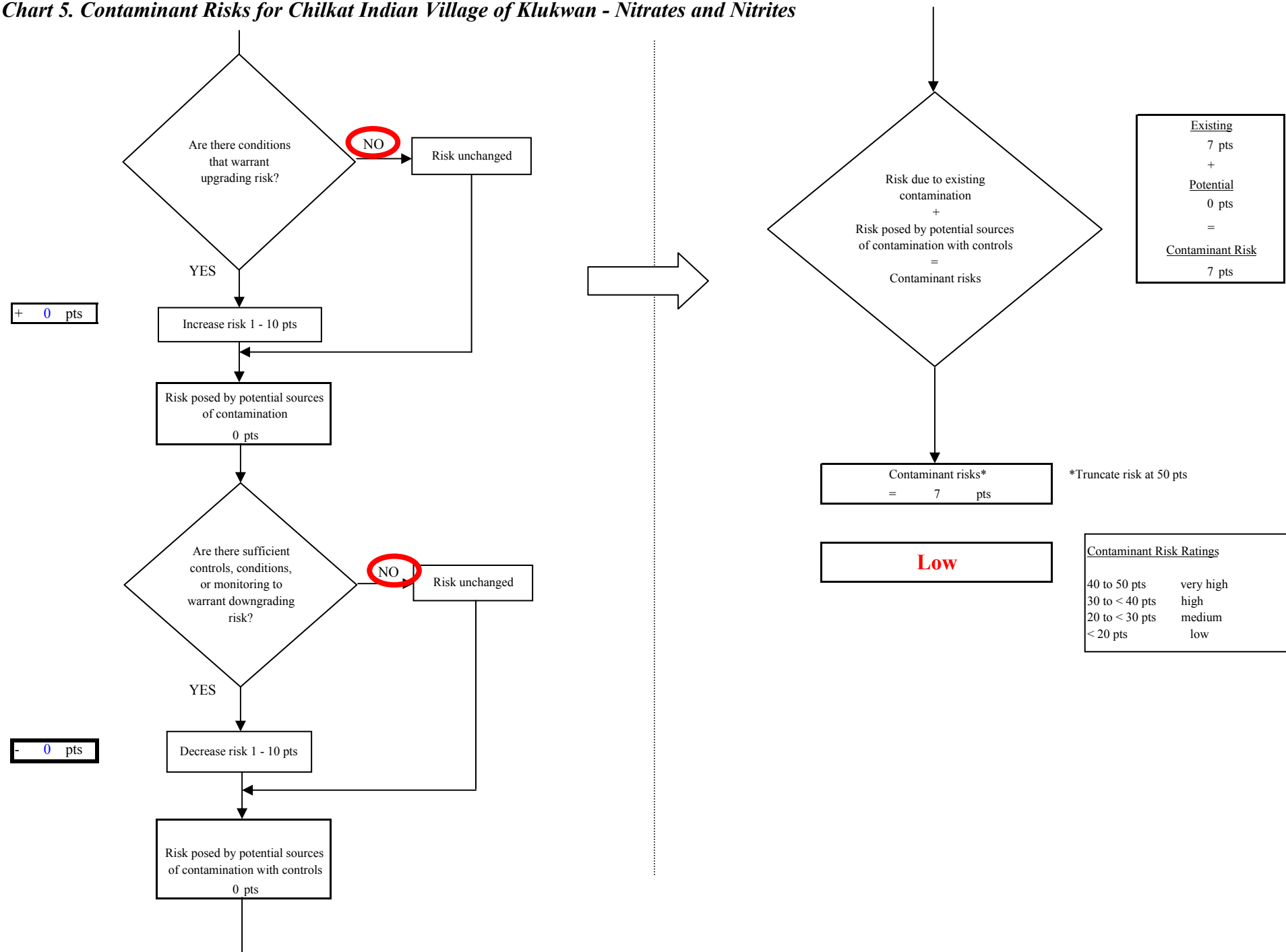


Chart 5. Contaminant Risks for Chilkat Indian Village of Klukwan - Nitrates and Nitrites





**Chart 6. Vulnerability Analysis for Chilkat Indian Village of Klukwan - Nitrates and Nitrites**

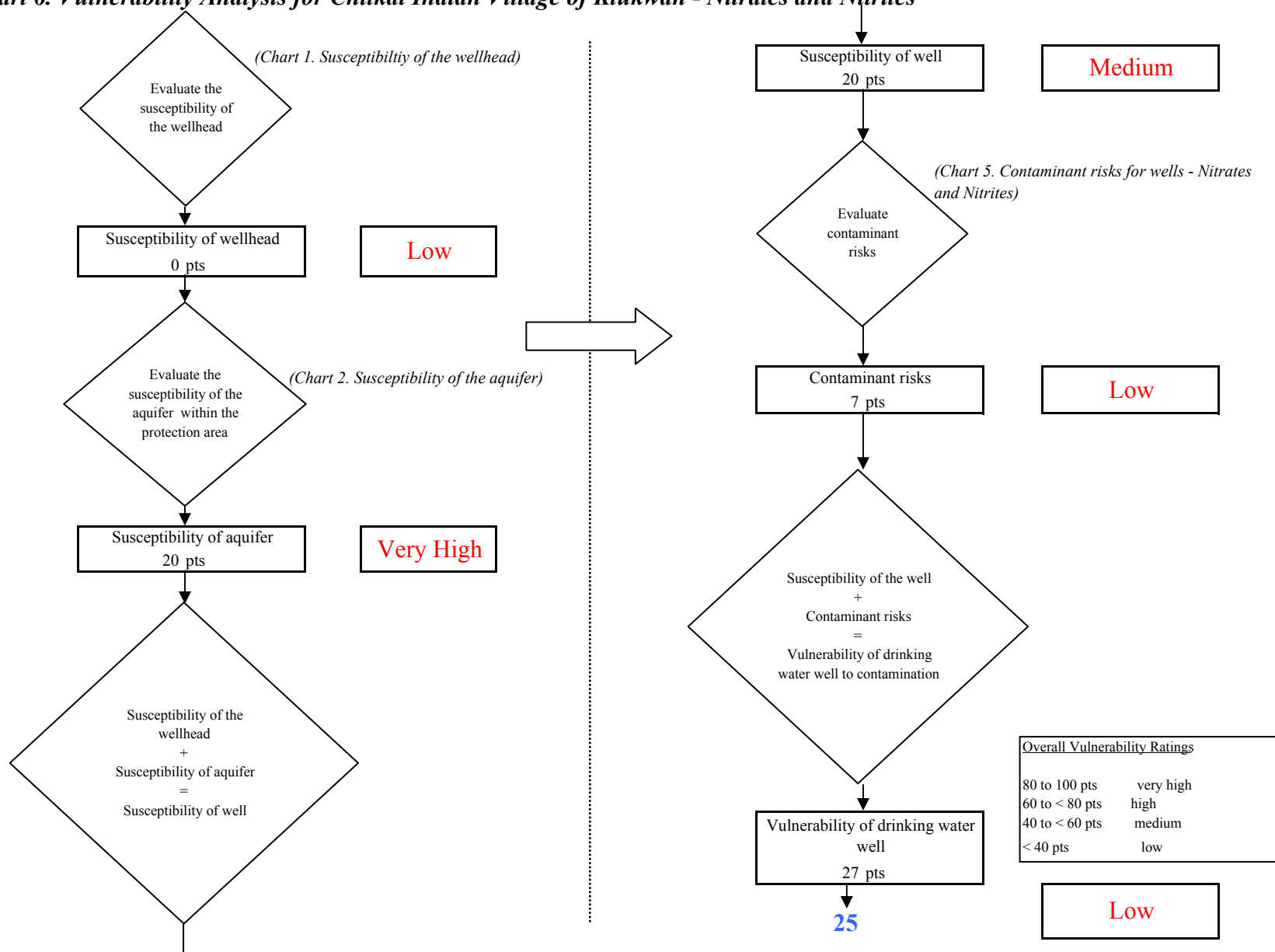


Chart 7. Contaminant Risks for Chilkat Indian Village of Klukwan - Volatile Organic Chemicals

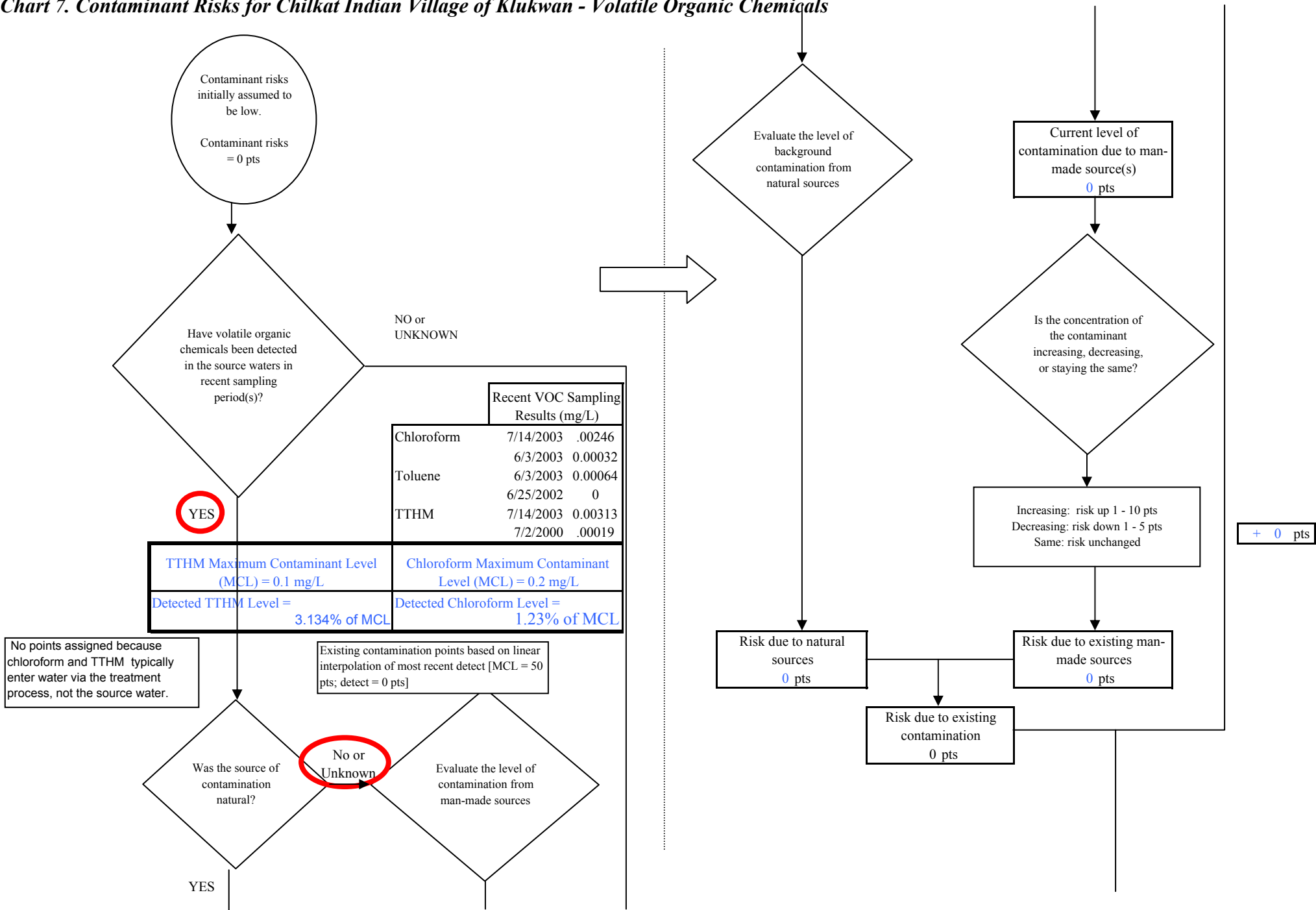


Chart 7. Contaminant Risks for Chilkat Indian Village of Klukwan - Volatile Organic Chemicals

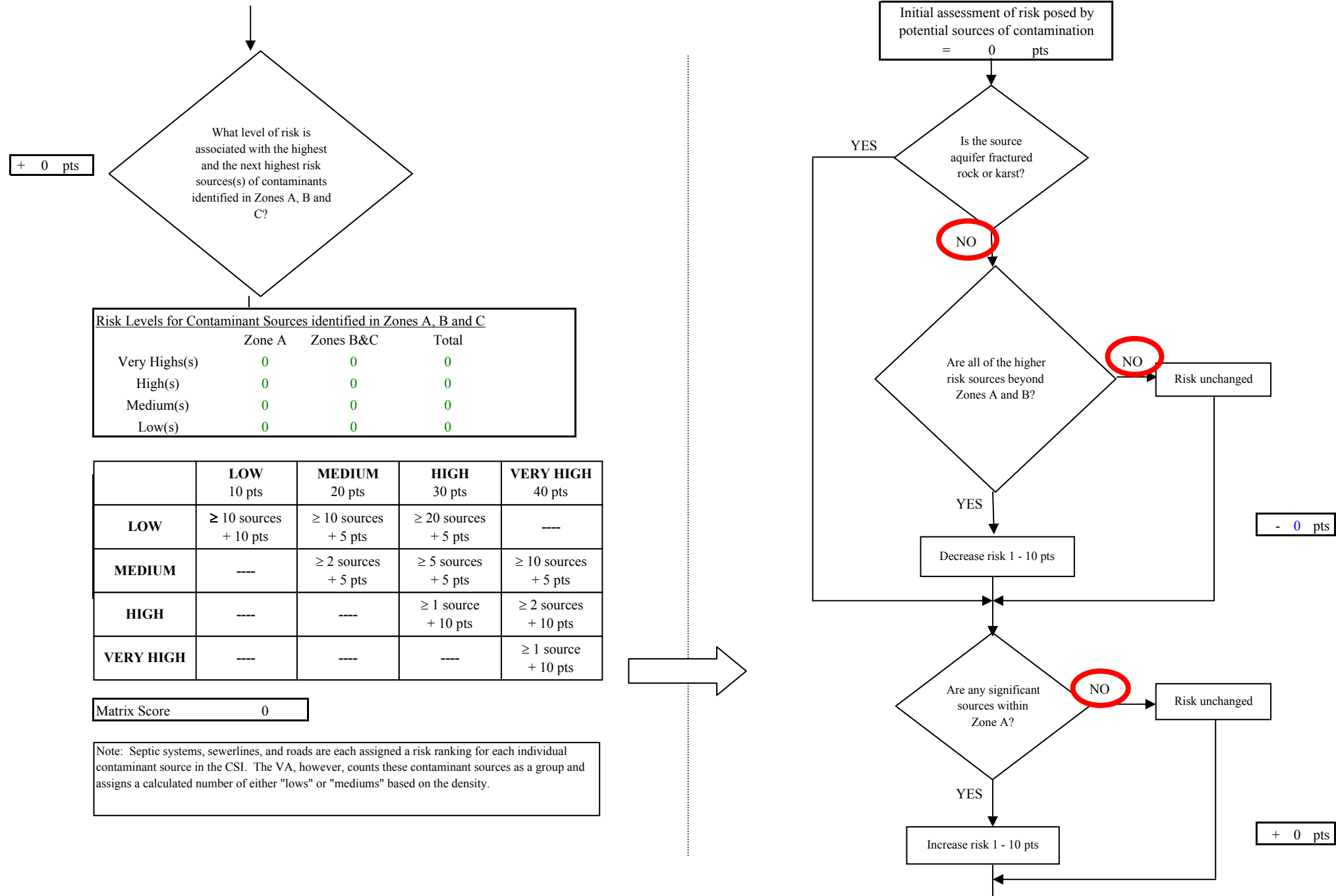
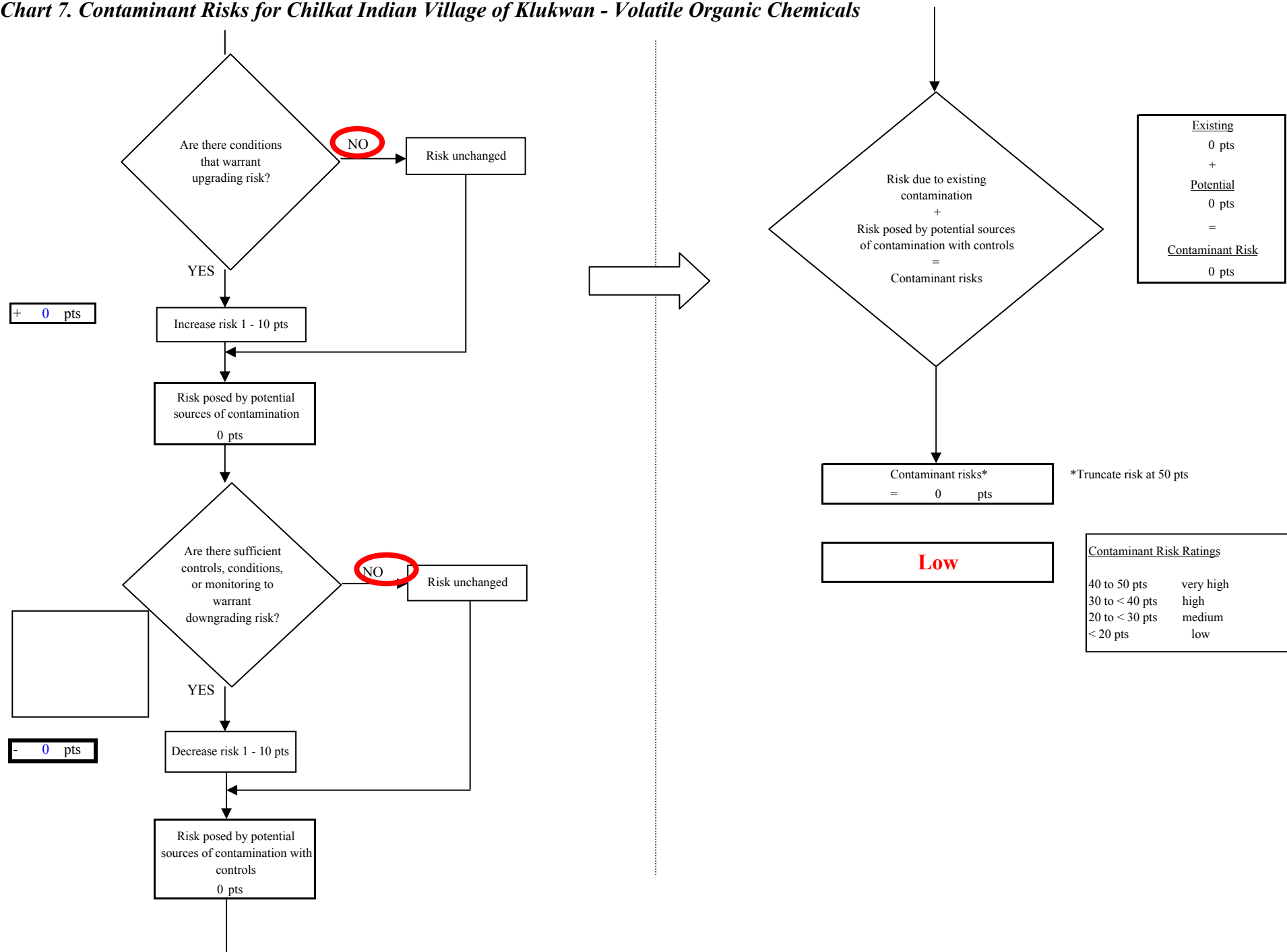


Chart 7. Contaminant Risks for Chilkat Indian Village of Klukwan - Volatile Organic Chemicals



**Chart 8. Vulnerability Analysis for Chilkat Indian Village of Klukwan - Volatile Organic Chemicals**

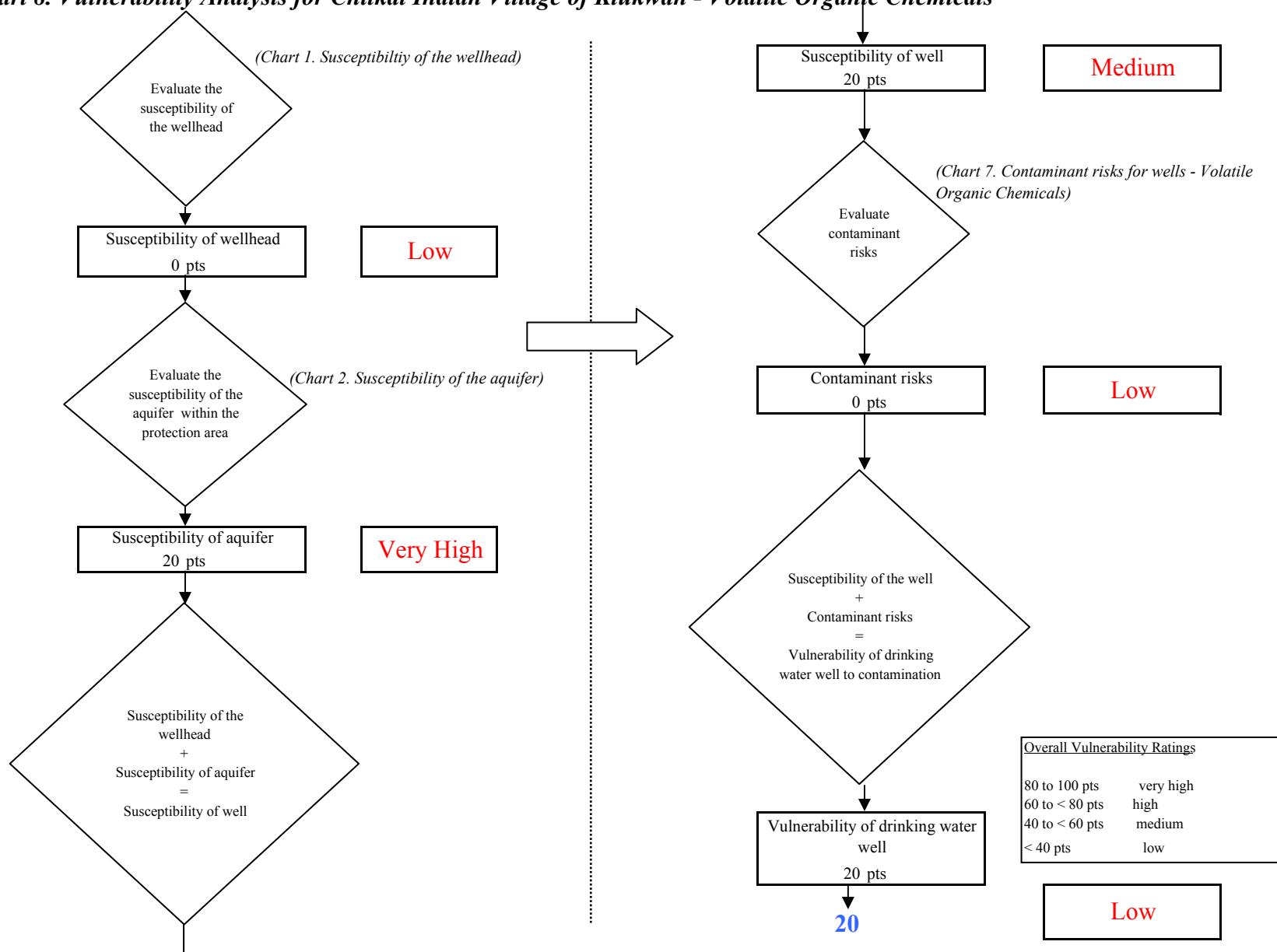


Chart 9. Contaminant Risks for Chilkat Indian Village of Klukwan - Heavy Metals, Cyanide and Other Inorganic Chemicals

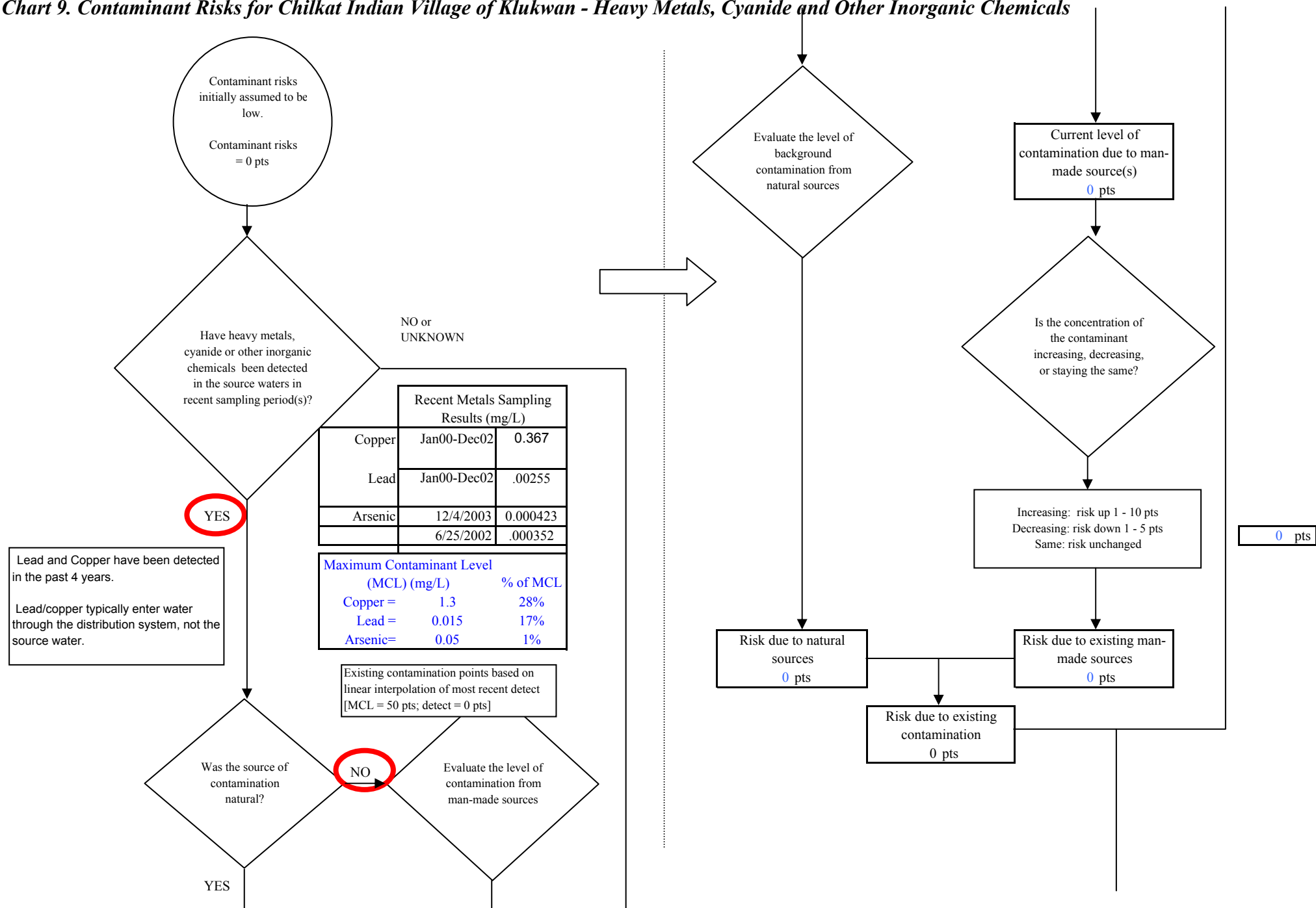


Chart 9. Contaminant Risks for Chilkat Indian Village of Klukwan - Heavy Metals, Cyanide and Other Inorganic Chemicals

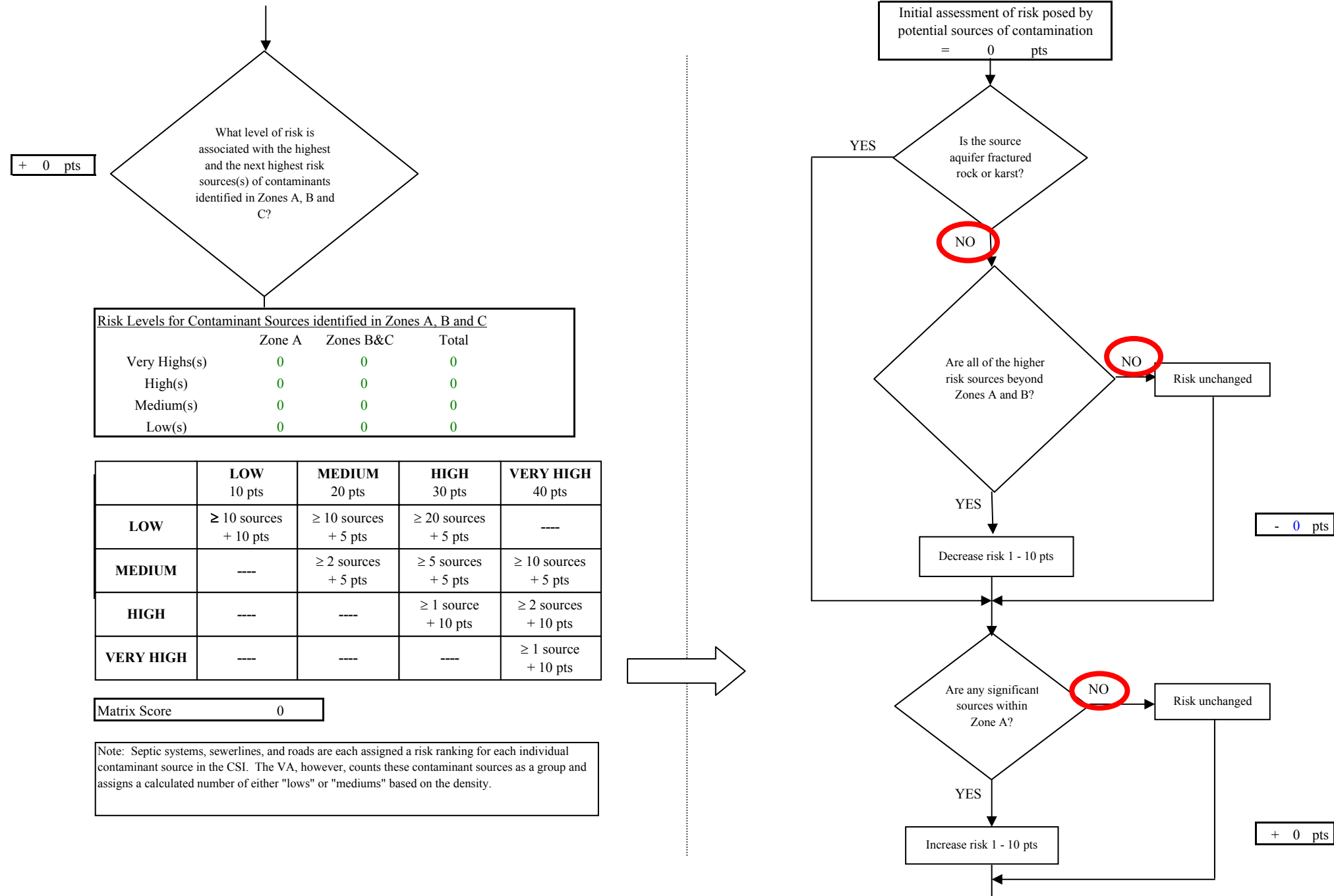
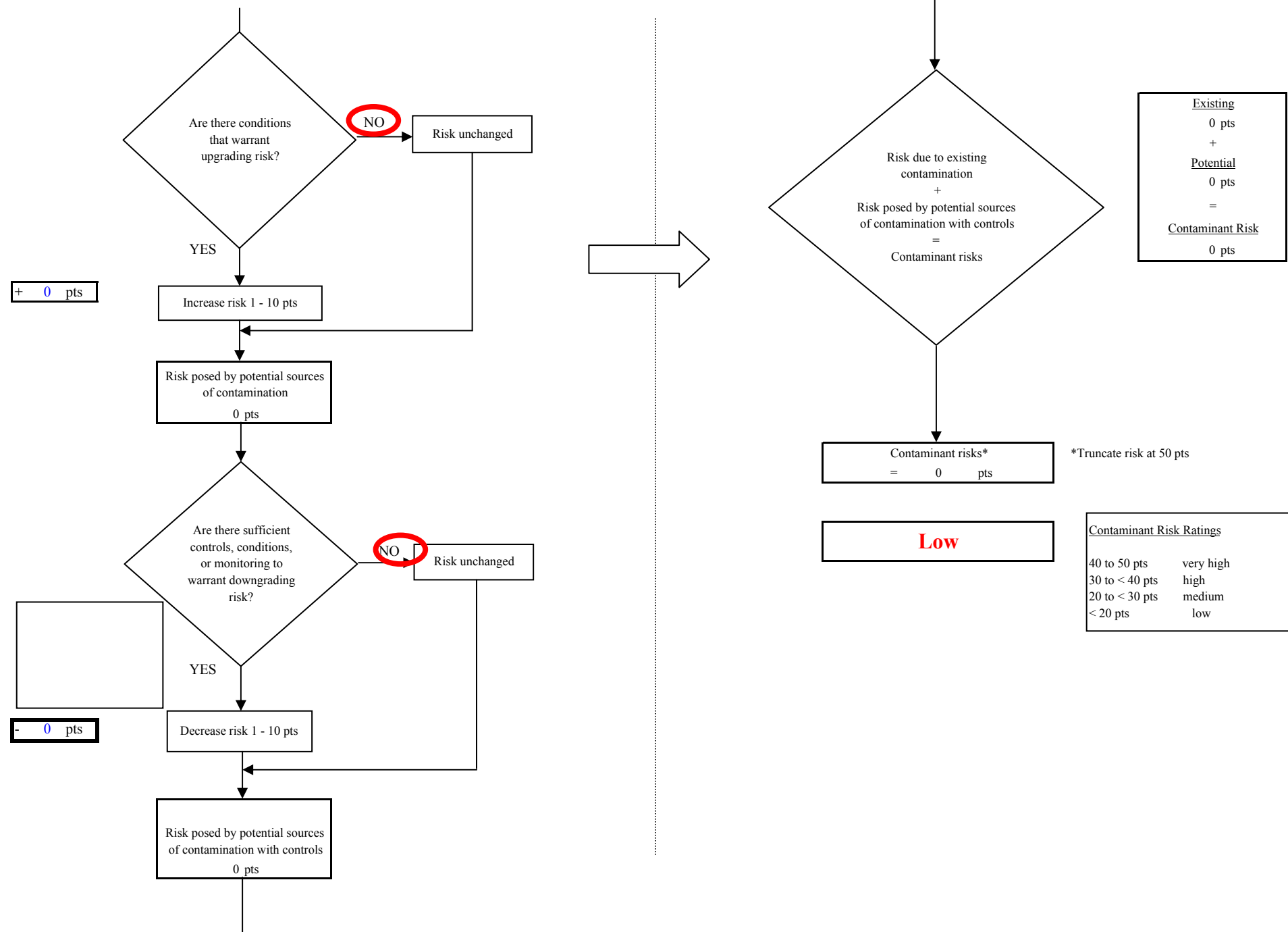


Chart 9. Contaminant Risks for Chilkat Indian Village of Klukwan - Heavy Metals, Cyanide and Other Inorganic Chemicals





**Chart 10. Vulnerability Analysis for Chilkat Indian Village of Klukwan - Heavy Metals, Cyanide and Other Inorganic Chemicals**

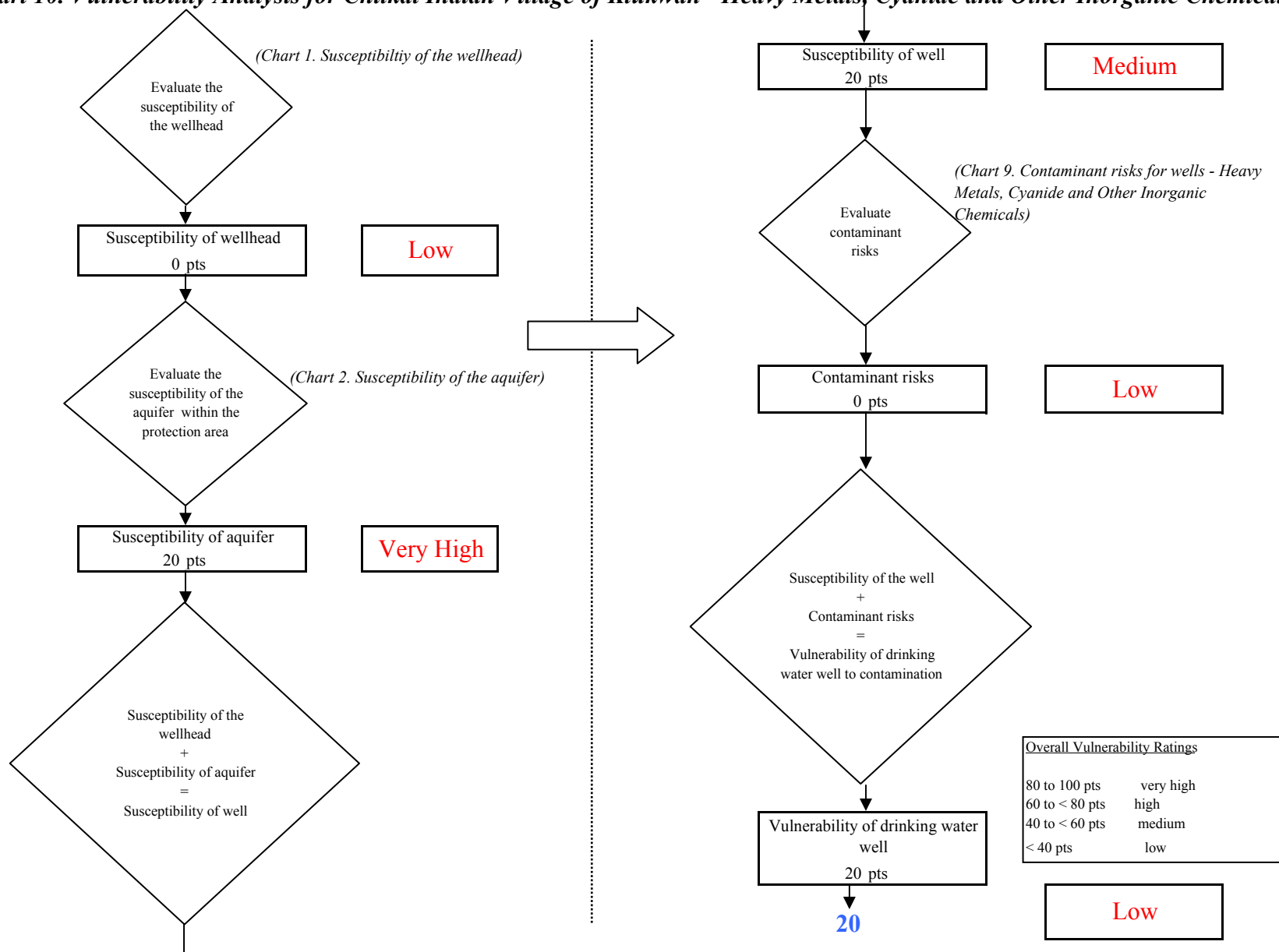


Chart 11. Contaminant Risks for Chilkat Indian Village of Klukwan - Synthetic Organic Chemicals

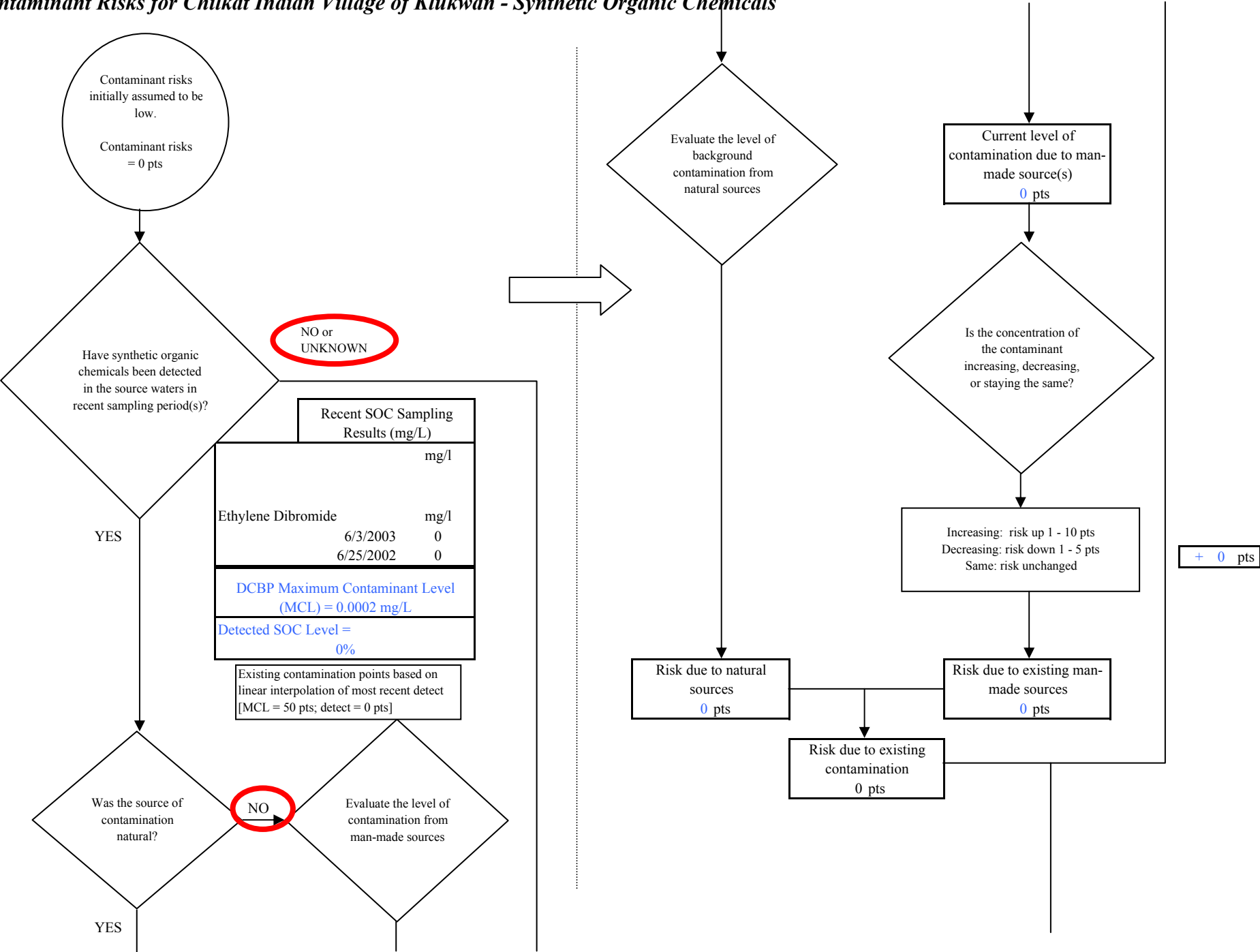


Chart 11. Contaminant Risks for Chilkat Indian Village of Klukwan - Synthetic Organic Chemicals

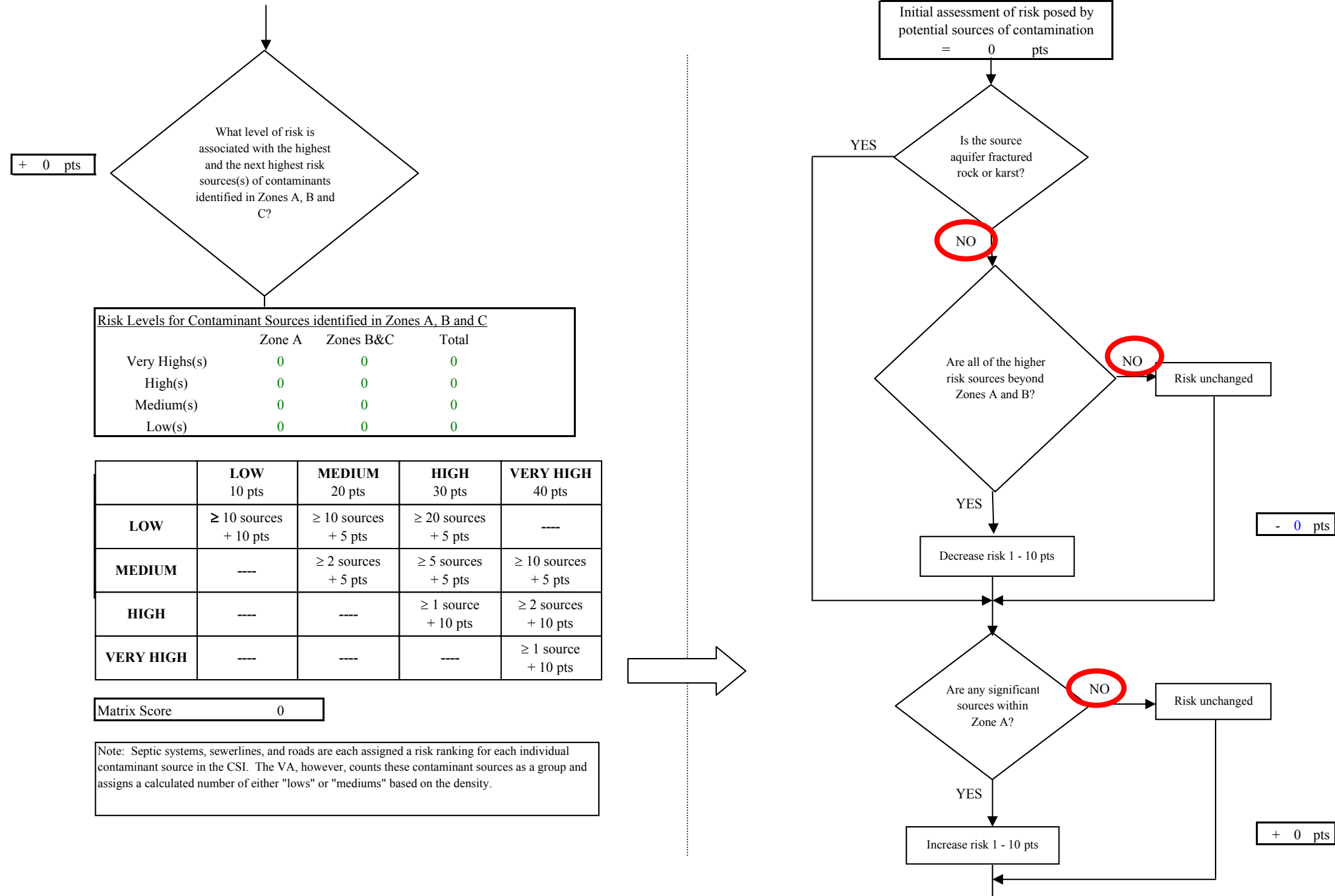
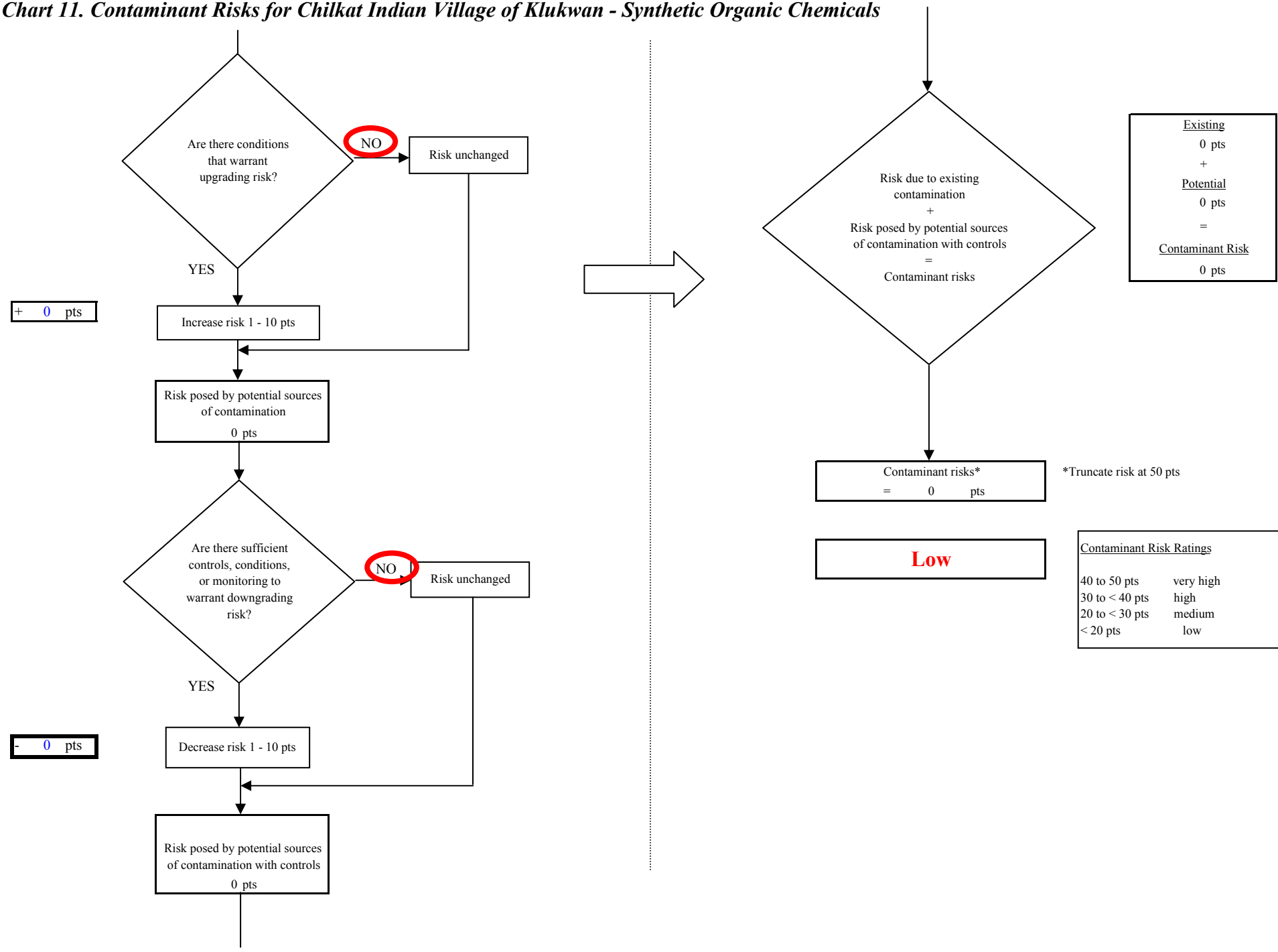


Chart 11. Contaminant Risks for Chilkat Indian Village of Klukwan - Synthetic Organic Chemicals



**Chart 12. Vulnerability Analysis for Chilkat Indian Village of Klukwan - Synthetic Organic Chemicals**

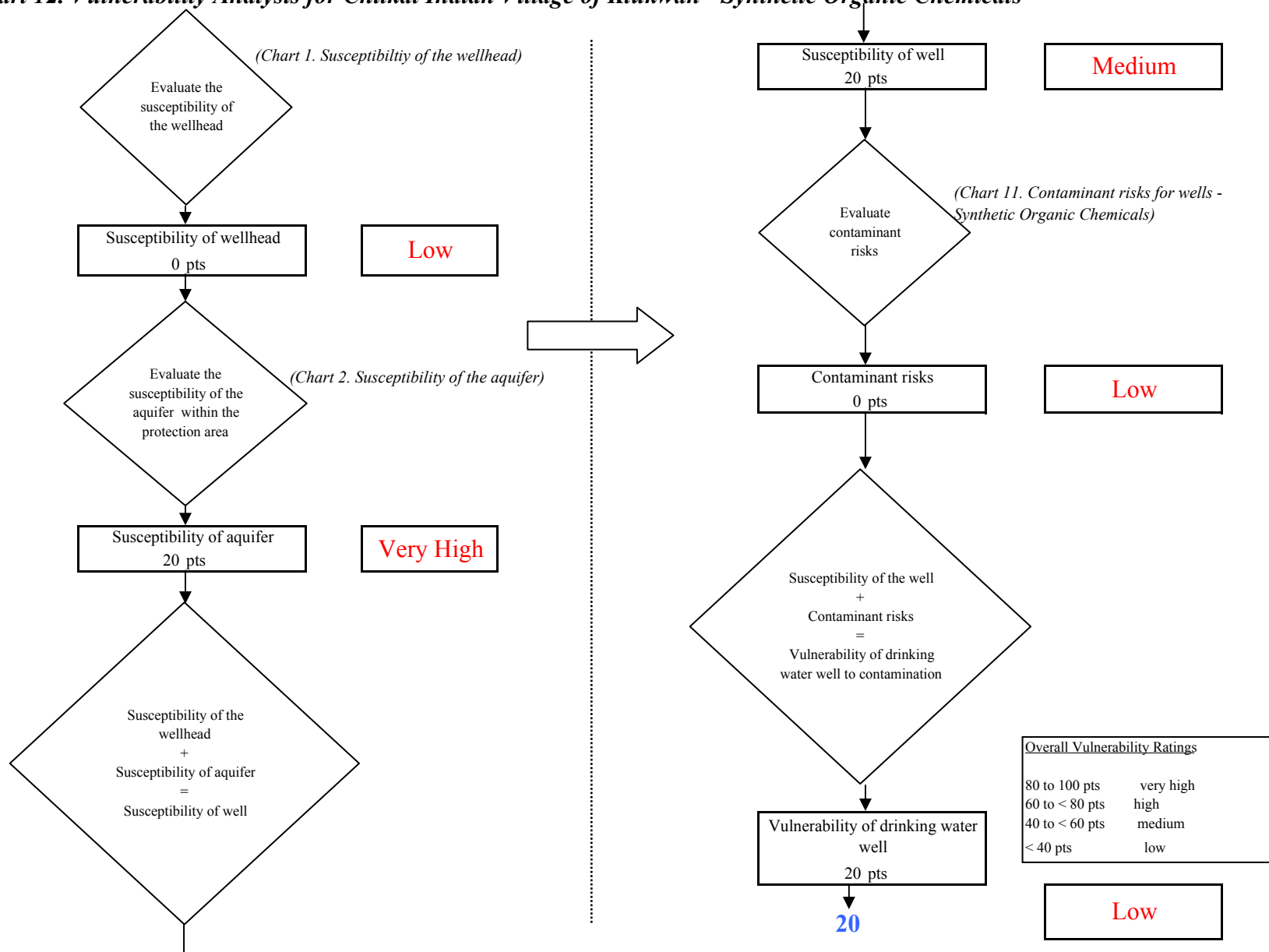


Chart 13. Contaminant Risks for Chilkat Indian Village of Klukwan - Other Organic Chemicals

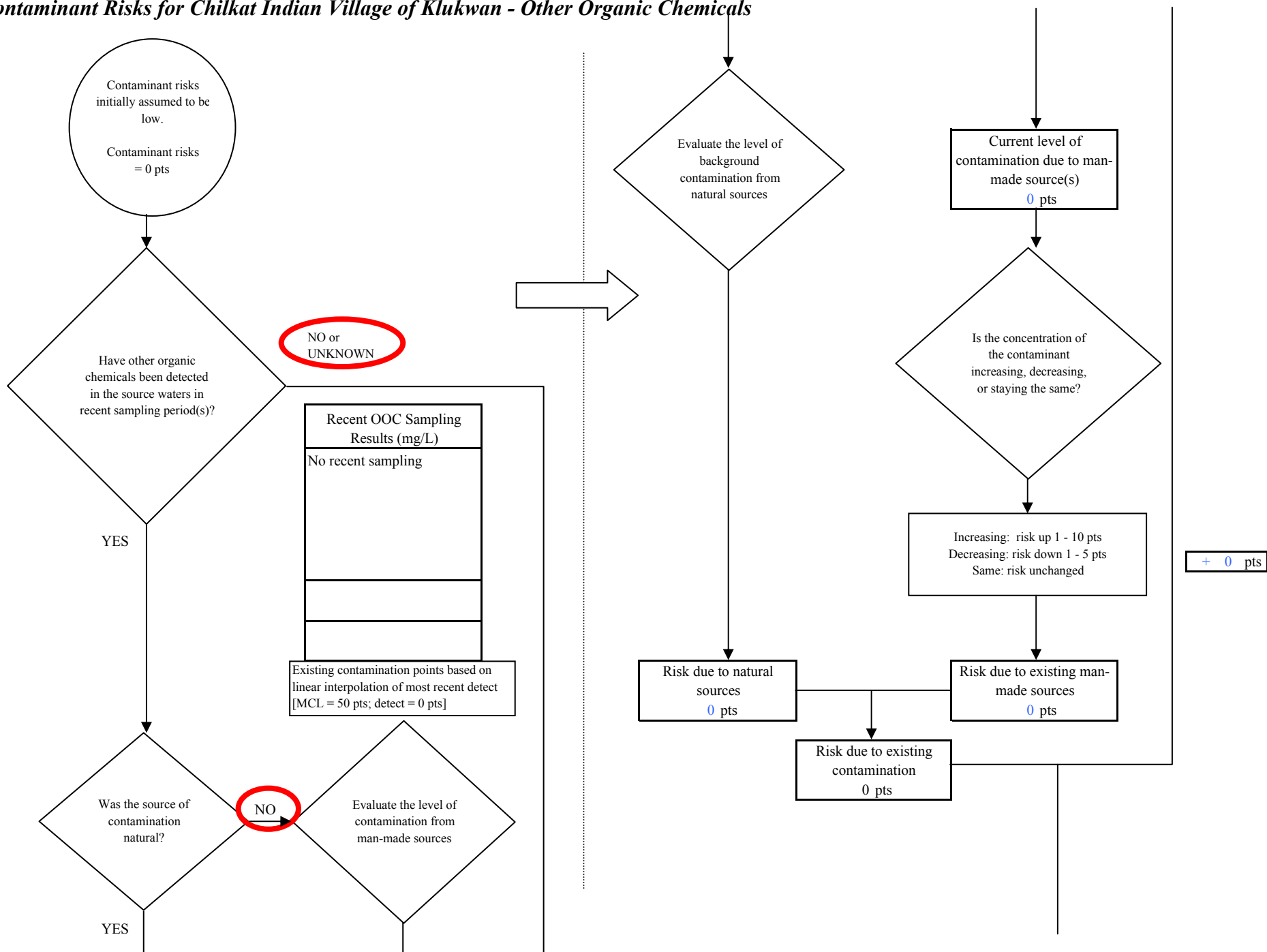


Chart 13. Contaminant Risks for Chilkat Indian Village of Klukwan - Other Organic Chemicals

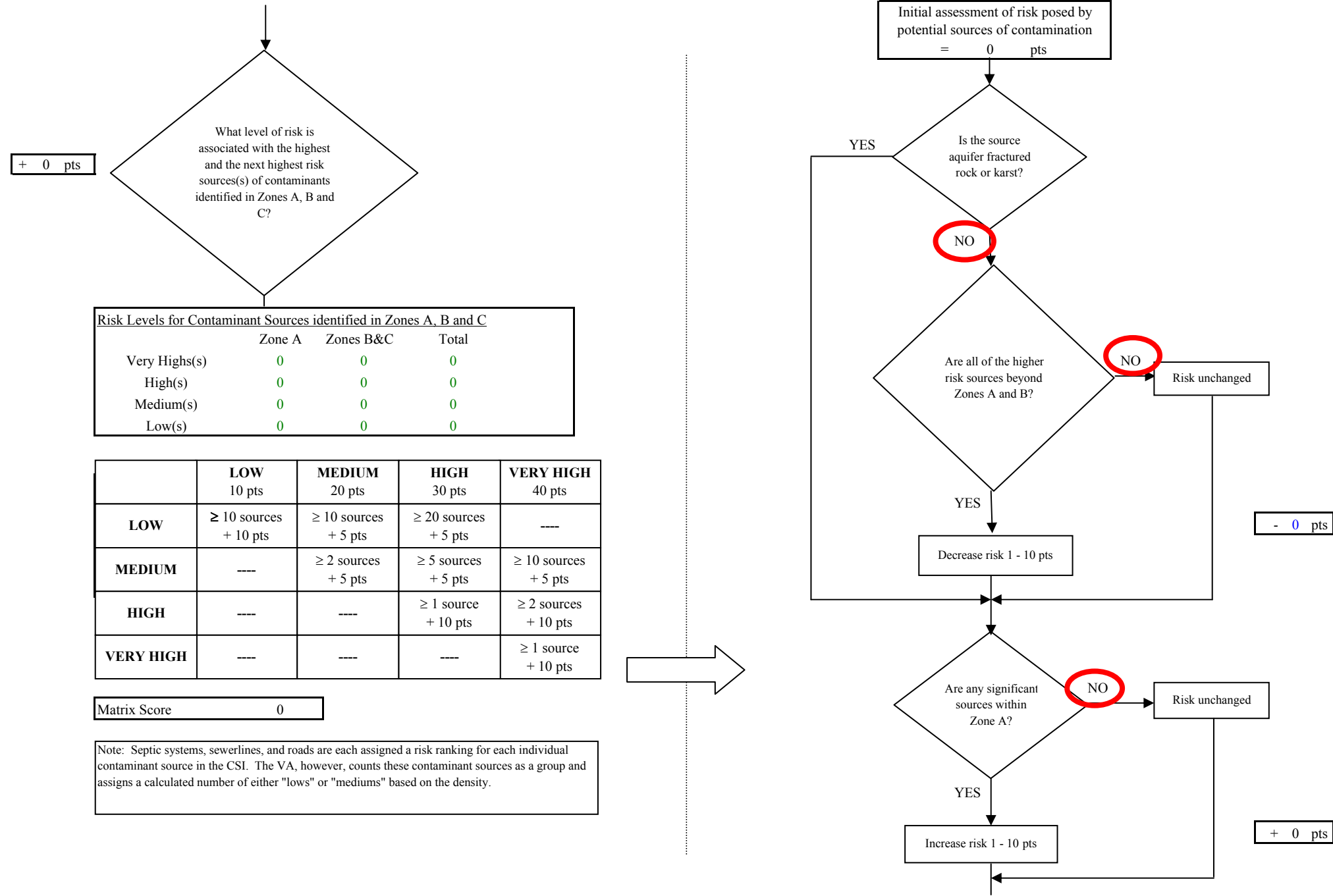
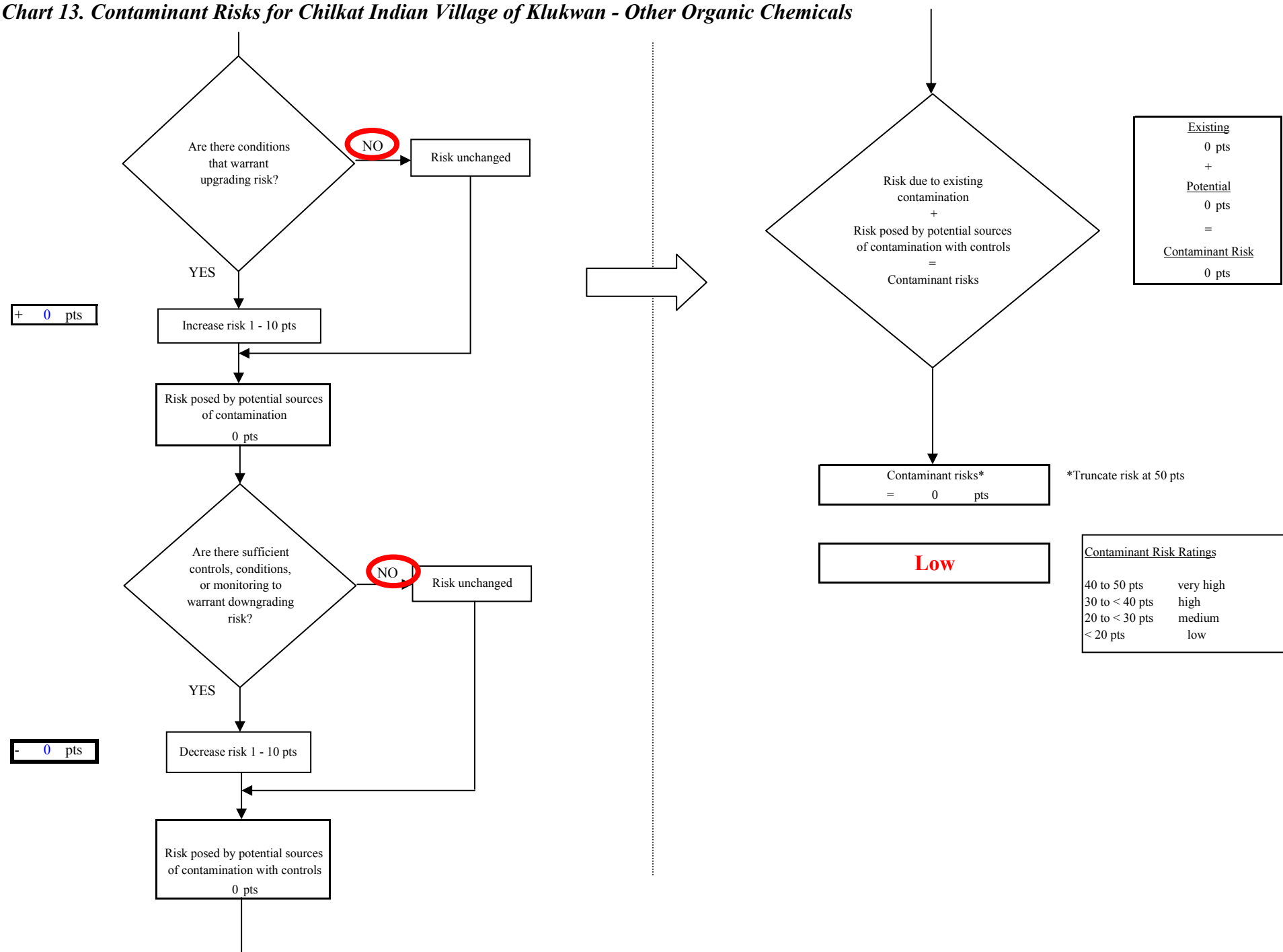


Chart 13. Contaminant Risks for Chilkat Indian Village of Klukwan - Other Organic Chemicals





**Chart 14. Vulnerability Analysis for Chilkat Indian Village of Klukwan - Other Organic Chemicals**

