

Introduction

The Division of Conservation Archaeology of the San Juan County Archaeological Research Center and Library has completed an archaeological survey of one gas well location and associated access road in the La Plata River basin on lands under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management.

The project was initiated at the request of Mr. Perry Brasher, Senior Drilling Supervisor of Enserch Exploration, Inc., Dallas, Texas on March 29, 1979. The survey was conducted on April 3, 1979 by Meade Kemrer of the Division of Conservation Archaeology under provisions of a Federal Antiquities Permit No. 78-NM-107. Mr. Brasher accompanied the archaeologist in the field. The project was administered by Brasher and Kemrer.

Legislation enacted by the Congress of the United States requires compliance with laws designed to protect archaeological resources. Laws such as the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (PL 91-852) and Executive Order No. 11593 entitled "Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment" prevent enterprises which might result in the destruction or alteration of cultural resources. Federal and State governments and the professional scientific community have come to realize that the material remains of a prior culture are a limited, non-renewable part of the environment. As such, the State of New Mexico has enacted legislation regulating archaeological resources. The Cultural Properties Act is analogous in content to the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (PL 89-665), which provides for preservation of significant archaeological sites.

Survey Procedures

The areas of proposed impact were inspected on foot. The proposed access road was examined en route to and from the well location. The well pad was examined in a series of parallel transects spaced approximately 20 feet. All areas were flagged and staked. In addition to the search for materials and features of prehistoric/historic significance, observations pertaining to the biotic and abiotic environments were made.

#1 Federal 1-31

Legal Description: 1810' F/NL 2340' F/EL Section 31, T32N, R13W, N.M.P.M., San Juan County, New Mexico

Map Source: USGS 7.5' La Plata Quadrangle (1963)

Areas Surveyed: 300' x 325' (2.24 acres) -- well pad; 2100' x 20' (0.96 acres) -- access road