



ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES
by
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AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL CLEARANCE SURVEY OF THE PROPOSED
RED WALT 10 FEDERAL #1 WELL PAD LOCATION
AND ACCESS ROAD WEST OF CARLSBAD,
EDDY COUNTY, NEW MEXICO

by

Laura Michalik
Principal Investigator

Performed under BLM Permit No. 84-2920-93-G

NEW MEXICO
OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

EXHIBIT 8

CASE NO: 10823

A REPORT PREPARED BY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES BY LAURA MICHALIK
AND SUBMITTED TO NEARBURG PRODUCING COMPANY
MIDLAND, TEXAS

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES BY LAURA MICHALIK
CULTURAL RESOURCES REPORT NUMBER 242

August 3, 1993

ABSTRACT

On July 26 and August 2, 1993, an archaeological clearance survey of a proposed well pad location and access road was conducted by Joseph Martin of Archaeological Services by Laura Michalik. The proposed project area consists of the Red Walt 10 Federal #1 Well (990 FNL, 990 FWL). The area surveyed for the well pad consists of a square parcel of land measuring 400 by 400 feet (3.67 acres). The proposed use area measures 250 by 250 feet (1.43 acres). The area surveyed for the proposed access road consists of a corridor of land measuring 1730 feet in length by 100 feet in width (3.97 acres). The actual proposed right-of-way measures 1730 feet in length by 20 feet in width (.79 acres). The total area surveyed for this project equals 7.64 acres. The proposed well pad and road are located on land administered by the Bureau of Land Management, Roswell District, Carlsbad Resource Area in Eddy County, New Mexico. The proposed well pad is located in the SE 1/4 of the NW 1/4 of the NW 1/4 of Section 10, T-22-S, R-24-E. The proposed access road is located in the N 1/2 of the NW 1/4 of Section 10 and the SW 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of the SW 1/4 of Section 3, T-22-S, R-24-E. The survey was conducted under BLM Permit No. 84-2920-93-G. The project was initiated at the request of Mr. Bob Shelton of Nearburg Producing Company, 1 Petroleum Center, Building 8 Suite 100, 3300 North A Street, Midland, Texas 79705 (ph. 915-686-8235).

No prehistoric archaeological or historical sites were identified during the course of this survey. One isolated occurrence was recorded along the length of the proposed ROW. Archaeological clearance is recommended for the proposed undertaking.

MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

Location: Well pad - SE 1/4, NW 1/4, NW 1/4, Section 10, T-22-S, R-24-E (990 FNL, 990 FWL)

Access road - SE 1/4, NW 1/4, NW 1/4 and NE 1/4, NW 1/4, Section 10, T-22-S, R-24-E; and SW 1/4, SE 1/4, SW 1/4, Section 3, T-22-S, R-24-E

Land Ownership: BLM, Roswell District, Carlsbad Resource Area

U.S.G.S. Quad: Azotea Peak, NM 7.5' (1985)

Area Covered: Well pad - 400 by 400 feet (3.67 acres)

Access Road - 1730 by 100 feet (3.97 acres)

Total Area Covered - 7.64 acres

Cultural Resources: One isolated occurrence

PROJECT LOCATION AND BACKGROUND

This project involves a 100% cultural resource inventory of a proposed well pad location and access road. The project area is located in the central portion of Eddy County, approximately 12 miles west of the town of Carlsbad, New Mexico. The proposed project area consists of the Red Walt 10 Federal #1 Well (990 FNL, 990 FWL). The area surveyed for the well pad consists of a square parcel of land measuring 400 by 400 feet (3.67 acres). The proposed use area measures 250 by 250 feet (1.43 acres). The area surveyed for the proposed access road consists of a corridor of land measuring 1730 feet in length by 100 feet in width (3.97 acres). The actual proposed right-of-way measures 1730 feet in length by 20 feet in width (.79 acres). The total area surveyed for this project equals 7.64 acres. The proposed well pad and road are located on land administered by the Bureau of Land Management, Roswell District, Carlsbad Resource Area in Eddy County, New Mexico. The proposed well pad is located in the SE 1/4 of the NW 1/4 of the NW 1/4 of Section 10, T-22-S, R-24-E. The proposed access road is located in the N 1/2 of the NW 1/4 of Section 10 and the SW 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of the SW 1/4

of Section 3, T-22-S, R-24-E. The proposed well pad and access road are located on the Azotea Peak, NM 7.5' (1985) U.S.G.S. topographic map (Figure 1).

The undertaking calls for the blading of vegetation and leveling of land necessary to establish drilling equipment and conduct drilling operations. The access road will be bladed to connect the well pad to an existing dirt road.

RECORDS SEARCH

A records search of the Carlsbad Resource Area Office of the Bureau of Land Management was conducted on July 26, 1993 by Joseph Martin. A telephone check of the Laboratory of Anthropology site files was conducted on July 14, 1993. An examination of the Azotea Peak, NM 7.5' (1985) U.S.G.S. topographic map revealed a number of sites and projects within a one mile radius of the current project area. These projects include a number of surveys for well pad locations, access roads and pipelines. Several sites have also been identified within a one mile radius of the current project area. The closest of these are located one half of a mile from the proposed project area. They will not be impacted by the current undertaking.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The project area lies in a physiographic province known as the Pecos Valley Section of the Great Plains Province (Hawley 1986). It is characterized on the east side of the river by rolling uplands, valleys and basins, and some areas of rough and broken terrain, and on the west side of the river by undulating hills. Specifically, the project area is located in an area characterized by rolling rock ridges and breaks bisected by a number of small northeast-trending drainages. Little Walt Canyon is the closest named drainage with Little Walt Spring located one half mile west of the proposed project area. Well Canyon is located one half mile to the south.

AZOTEA PEAK, NEW MEXICO

PROVISIONAL EDITION 1985

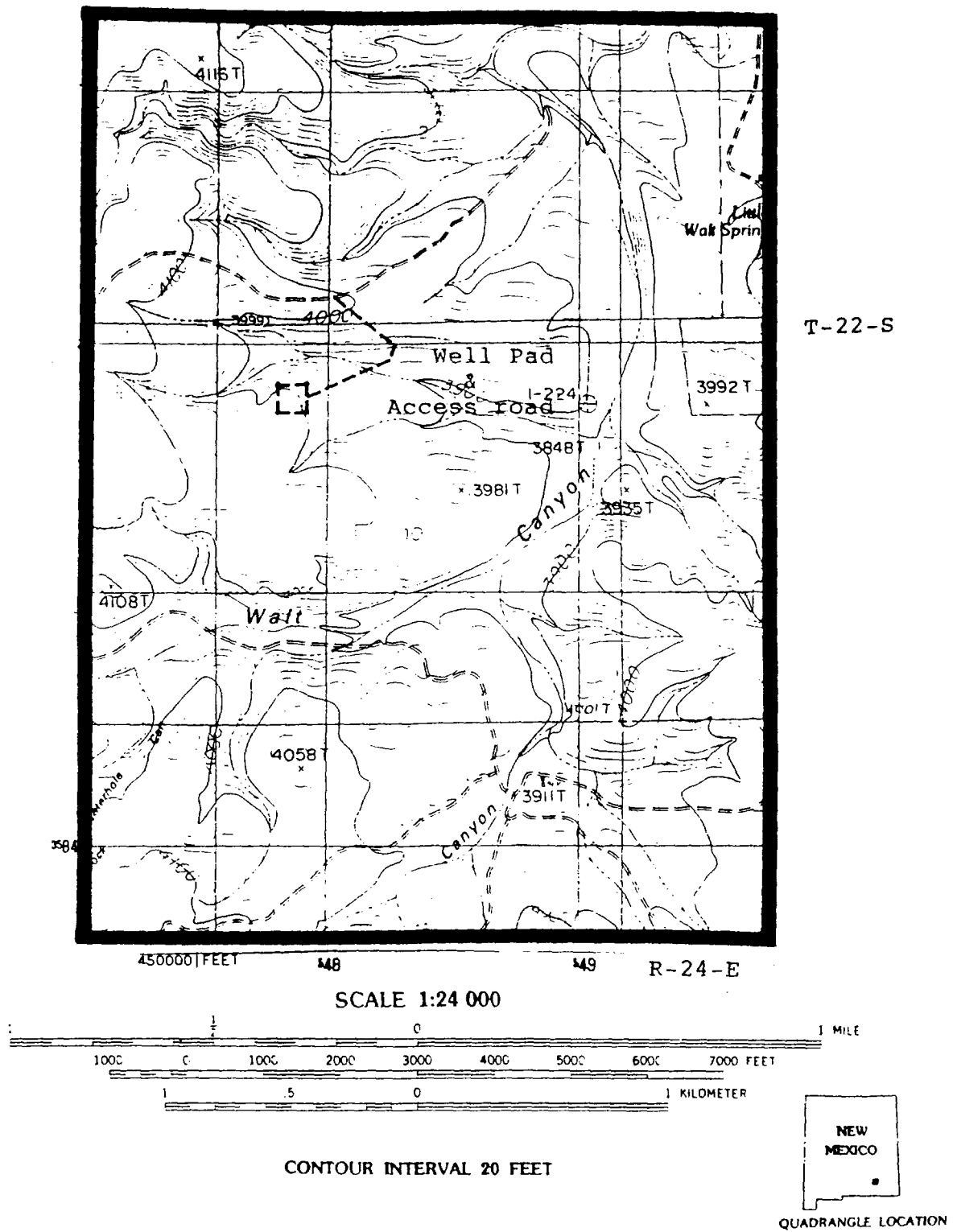


Figure 1. Project location

Slopes within the project area average 5 to 15% with drainage primarily to the northeast. Elevation within the project area ranges from 3920 to 4000 feet above mean sea level. Vegetation is dominated by catclaw acacia, prickly pear, sotol, lechugilla, snakeweed and grasses. Soils consist of aridisols (Maker and Daugherty 1986). These are light-colored, calcareous soils, found predominantly in the lower elevations of New Mexico. Portions of the project area have been disturbed by two-track roads as well as by some well pad work.

REGIONAL CULTURE HISTORY

Southeastern New Mexico is generally considered in terms of the archaeological record, to have encompassed the eastern extension of the Jornada Mogollon culture area. The record of occupation begins around 10,000 B.C. and lasts through historic times, during which a variety of subsistence-settlement strategies were maintained.

The Paleoindian period (10,000-5,000 B.C.) is generally thought to have been a time during which the economic focus was on the highly mobile hunting of large game species. It is well represented in southeastern New Mexico both by isolated artifacts and by major excavated sites which have been radiocarbon dated to this period. The majority of these sites are found along the Mescalero pediment, but whether this is reflective of actual Paleoindian hunting strategies, or just a result of increased erosion near these features, can not yet be determined.

The Archaic period in southeastern New Mexico dates from 5000 B.C. to approximately A.D. 1000. It is much less well known than the Paleoindian period but like elsewhere in New Mexico, is considered to have been a time when there was a shift away from big game hunting to an emphasis on plant gathering and the hunting of smaller game species. The majority of the Archaic sites in this region are generally assigned to this period on the basis of surface remains,

that is, because they are aceramic, or because there are Archaic-style projectile points present. There are, however, a few sites which have yielded C-14 dates from this period, thus supporting the presence of Archaic populations through absolute dates.

The Ceramic period occupations are also poorly documented since they number proportionately fewer than sites of other periods. They begin anywhere from A.D. 750 to 900 and last anywhere from A.D. 1450 to 1550 and are tied to the advent of agriculture in the region. While there is evidence of increased sedentism and trade throughout the region during this period, only the northern portion shows evidence of agricultural pursuits. There is little evidence of agriculture in the south, bringing to question, the actual dependence of the populations upon agricultural activities. In A.D. 1250 there appears to have been a shift back to the hunting of large game. While some groups later returned (after A.D. 1300) to a partial dependence on agriculture, others continued to rely on bison hunting. This is supported by the records of the early Spanish expeditions in the 16th and 17th centuries which document the presence of mobile hunters in the area.

The Historic period begins with the 1583 journey by the Espejo expedition through the Pecos Valley and was followed by de Sosa's unauthorized expedition in 1590. Although they experienced few problems with the native Indians, the increasingly aggressive presence of the Apaches and Comanches served to keep out additional settlers and explorers for years to come. Attempts were made by the Spanish beginning in the 1770s to subdue the Indians but it was not until the 1850s and 1860s that US military troops began to quiet the area. Small Hispanic settlements began to spring up in the 1850s and were followed by the first cattle drives in the 1860s and the establishment of large cattle ranches in the 1870s. Farming was introduced in the

1880s but cattle and sheep ranching, and the oil and gas industry, continue to dominate the economy of the area today.

SURVEY METHODS AND RESULTS

The boundaries of the project area were clearly marked by lathe and flagging. In addition, representatives of Nearburg Producing Company accompanied the archaeologist into the field. The weather was partly cloudy and the general lack of vegetation made ground visibility good. The survey of the proposed well pad was conducted by walking straight transects spaced 7.5 meters apart. The survey of the access road was conducted by the archaeologist walking straight transects spaced 7.5 meters off of the proposed centerline. This allowed the examination of a 100 foot wide corridor.

No prehistoric archaeological or historical sites were identified during the course of this survey. One isolated occurrence was recorded. It is detailed in Table 1. The location is depicted in Figure 2.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

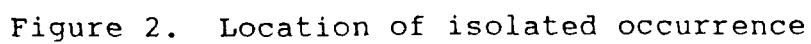
Impact refers to those activities that directly or indirectly affect cultural resources and result in their alteration or destruction. Such impacts can be the result of the immediate effects of construction activities or from the longer term adverse effects that result from modification of the land surface and increased access to site areas.

Since only one isolated occurrence, and no archaeological or historical sites, occurs within the boundaries of the proposed project area, no cultural resources will be impacted by the proposed undertaking.

Table 1. Isolated Occurrences

<u>IO#</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>UTM</u>	<u>T</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>Sec.</u>	<u>1/4.1/4.1/4</u>	<u>Elev.</u>	<u>Topography</u>	<u>Vegetation</u>
1	Circle of fire-cracked limestone, no charcoal or staining, 17 pieces of rock, 1 meter diameter	Zone 13 3586030N 548200E	22S	24E	10	NE, NE, NW	3960	Slope	Acacia

PROVISIONAL EDITION 1985



RECOMMENDATIONS

Since no archaeological or historical sites, and only one isolated occurrence, was located within the boundaries of the proposed project area, archaeological clearance is recommended. However, in the event that subsurface artifacts or features are discovered during the implementation of this project, the Carlsbad Resource Area Office of the Bureau of Land Management shall be notified and all activities having a potential impact shall be halted until a suitable course of action has been determined.

REFERENCES CITED

Hawley, John W.

- 1986 Physiographic provinces. In New Mexico in Maps, Second Edition. Edited by Jerry L. Williams. University of New Mexico Press. Albuquerque.

Maker, H. J. and L. A. Daugherty

- 1986 Soils. In New Mexico in Maps, Second Edition. Edited by Jerry L. Williams. University of New Mexico Press. Albuquerque.