

Location (Cont.)

the:

NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 20, T17S, R29B, NMPM, Eddy County, New Mexico (BLM)

Map Reference: USGS Red Lake SE Quadrangle, 7.5 minute series, 1955
(see Figure 3).

Terrain

The proposed caliche pit is located on the Nimenim Ridge complex and is 8000 feet north of USGS Bench Mark 3593. It is situated in a low spot between hills. The elevation in the area is 3615 feet.

The soils encountered in the area are predominantly red sandy loams. Lithic inclusions within this soil consist of 24% caliche and quartzite pebbles. Taxonomically, this soil can be classified as a member of the Paleorthid-Haplargid association.

Floristics

ACA encountered a moderate floral assemblage in this vicinity. The density of the vegetation in the area is approximately 25 percent, consisting mostly of shrubs. Among the species present are: mesquite (Prosopis juliflora), false buffalograss (Munroa squarrosa), and broom snakeweed (Gutierrezia sarothrae).

Cultural Resources

The Agency for Conservation Archaeology did not encounter any archaeological sites or isolated manifestations either within or near the proposed facility. A review of ACA's site files and the National Register did not find any properties listed for this location.

Recommendations

The Agency for Conservation Archaeology recommends clearance for the proposed caliche pit and suggests that construction be allowed to proceed as currently planned.