

Location

The proposed caliche pit is located 0.25 miles south of Loco Hills, New Mexico, near the Querecho Plains. The pit measures 200 X 600 feet and is situated in the:

SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 21, T17S, R30E, NMPM, Eddy County, New Mexico (BLM)

Map Reference: USGS Maljamar Quadrangle, 15 minute series, 1963
(see Figure 11).

Terrain

The proposed caliche pit is located near the Querecho Plains and is 4 miles west of Cedar Breaks. It is situated on a gently undulating plain which is overlain by a dune field. The elevation is 3630 feet.

The soils encountered in the area are predominantly calcareous sands. No lithic inclusions were encountered in the soil. Taxonomically, this soil can be classified as a member of the Haplargid-Torrripsammet association.

Floristics

ACA encountered a sparse floral assemblage in this vicinity. The density of the ground cover in the area is approximately ten percent, consisting mainly of shrubs. Among the species present are: mesquite (Prosopis juliflora), and broom snakeweed (Gutierrezia sarothrae).

Cultural Resources

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

Recommendations

ACA recommends clearance for the proposed caliche pit and suggests that construction be allowed to proceed as currently planned.