

More recently, an archaeological survey conducted by the Agency for Conservation Archaeology, Eastern New Mexico University, Portales, New Mexico, located one site, LA67454, just over 1 mile south of the present survey area. This site was recorded by James Bowman in April, 1988:

LA67454 Prairie Spring USGS 7.5' topographical map T4S, R3E, Sections 12 & 13
This is a large lithic scatter located on a hillslope approximately 1/2 mile southwest of Prairie Spring. Within this scatter two ceramic sherds, one Plain Grayware and an Agua Fria Glaze-on-red probably represent pot breaks.

Environmental Setting:

The well location and access road are situated along the southern edge of a series of low hills that extend southeast from the northern rim of the Jornada del Muerto basin. Drainage is generally to the south-southeast and the soil ranges from gravelly to sandy to caliche, with limestone bedrock exposed in some areas. The area is characterized by low vegetation density and diversity, and includes creosote bush, prickly pear, broom-snakeweed, Ephedra, bush muhly, and an occasional juniper. The vegetation is part of the Desertscrub Community. Elevations range from 5430 to 5460 ft. The nearest permanent available water source is Prairie Spring.

Survey Methods:

This investigation consisted of on-ground coverage of the proposed well location and access road by one archaeologist. The well location was inspected by walking parallel transects, 10 meters apart, across the entire area. The access road was examined by walking from the county maintained road to the proposed well pad location in a single transect down the center of the proposed roadway. Weather conditions during the survey were mild, warm and sunny.