

Map Reference: USGS Kerlin Hill, N. Mex. Quadrangle, 7.5 minute series, 1971 (Figure 2)

Terrain

The proposed well pad and access road are on the High Plains, 1 mi (1.6 km) south of Minnesota Creek. They are on gently rolling topography. The land surface drops quickly to the north and northeast toward the Minnesota Creek drainage, and rises gradually toward to the west and south. The elevation varies from 4552 to 4562 ft (1387.4 to 1390.4 m) above mean sea level. The soil in the area is predominantly a sandy loam. Taxonomically it can be classified as a member of the paleustalfs-ustipsamments association. Lithic inclusions consist of caliche fragments from small pebble- to cobble-size, which are common to abundant on the surface of the proposed pad area.

Vegetation

The ACA archaeologist observed a moderate floral assemblage at this location. The density of the vegetation in the area varies from 20% to 60%, consisting primarily of shrubs. The dominant species is broom snakeweed (Gutierrezia sarothrae). Among the species present are Engelman pricklypear (Opuntia phaeacantha), plains yucca (Yucca campestris), buffalo grass (Buchloe dactyloides), and various other small forbs and short to mid-sized grasses.

Cultural Resources

The ACA archaeologist did not find any archaeological sites or isolated manifestations within or near the proposed facilities.

Recommendations

No cultural materials were located on the surfaces of the surveyed areas. Therefore, clearance is recommended for the proposed well pad and access road, and construction should be allowed to proceed as currently planned. In the unlikely event that cultural materials are uncovered during construction, the BLM archaeologist for the Roswell Resource Area should be contacted immediately. This report contains professional opinions about the cultural resources in the project area. It should not be considered permission to proceed with construction, but should be submitted to the proper review agencies for comments prior to the initiation of land-altering activities.