

ENVIRONMENT

The project area will be located west of Loco Hills and north of US 82. This is an undulating landform which is characterized by stabilized and coppice sand dunes or mesquite anchored hummocks which range from 1 to 2 meters in height. These are interspersed with deflated areas and basins which have been formed by aeolian action. Local soils in the region consist of loamy sands which belong to the Kermit-Berino association. These soils are drained internally, and they possess inclusions of chert and quartzite gravels, some of which are suitable for chipped stone tool manufacture. Elevation in the project area is between 3600 ft and 3610 ft above sea level.

The project area is part of an environmental zone called the Lower Sonoran Life Zone. The most common plant variety in the region is shin oak (*Quercus havardii*), but other species, such as mesquite (*Prosopis juliflora*) plains yucca (*Yucca glauca*), broom snakeweed (*Gutierrezia sarothrae*) and various grasses. Some of the common faunal types in area are mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*), pronghorn antelope (*Antilocapra americana*), jackrabbit (*Lepus* sp.), cottontail rabbit (*Sylvilagus* sp.), coyote (*Canis latrans*), as well as other small mammals, birds and reptiles. Bison (*Bison bison*) also ranged east of