

FLORISTICS

ACA encountered a sparse floral assemblage in this vicinity. The density of the vegetation in the area is approximately 10 percent, consisting primarily of shrub species. Among the species present are: acacia (Acacia constricta), Christmas cactus (Opuntia leptocaulis), rabbit bush (Chrysanthomum nauseosus), blue grama (Bouteloua gracilis), sideoats grama (Bouteloua curtipendula), 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 show 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.

Caliche Pit No. 2

LOCATION

The proposed pit is located 9 miles east of Oil City, New Mexico, on Burton Flats. The caliche pit measures 475 X 600 feet and is situated in the:

SE1/4NW1/4, Section 34, T18S, R29E, NMPM, Eddy County, New Mexico (BLM)

Map Reference: USGS Oil City Quadrangle, 15 minute series, 1943
(see Figure 3).

TERRAIN

The proposed caliche pit is located on Burton Flats and is 2.5 miles southwest of Millman Ranch. It is situated in a low dune field on a gently rolling plain. The elevation is 3420 feet.

The soils encountered in the area are predominantly sandy clayish loams. Lithic inclusions within this soil consist of caliche gravel. Taxonomically, this soil can be classified as a member of the Paleorthid-Haplargid association.

FLORISTICS

ACA encountered a moderate floral assemblage in this area. The density of the ground cover in the area is approximately 23 percent, consisting mostly of grasses. Among the species present are: creosote bush (Larrea tridentata),