

averaging 1.5 m, which is associated with sporadic Condalia ericoides, Koeberlinia spinosa, and Opuntia macrocentra. Krameria grayi, Shrankia occidentalis, Dalea formosa, Croton pottsii, Croton texensis, Pectis sp., Psilostrophe villosa, Senecio spectoides, Zinnia acerosa, Eunhorbia spp., Hilanthus spp., and Solanum rostratum. Several specimens of Ipomopsis longiflora were also observed on the access road. Principal grasses include Muhlenbergia porteri, Sporobolus cryptandrus, Sporobolus flexuosus, Aristida sp., Bouteloua erionoda, and Munroa squarrosa.

Cultural Resources

No archaeological sites, or isolated manifestations, were observed on Mobil's proposed pad or its access road. On the ridge to the south, there is a light lithic scatter associated with burned caliche cobbles and two hearths. The lack of cultural resources within the bounds of the reconnoitered pad and access road is not surprising in light of the fact that this area as a whole is subject to sheetwash. Usage of these areas by man would have been limited to en passant activities, i.e., tasks associated with hunting. Actual camp sites, however, were confined to the crests of ridges. It seems likely that this area has been occupied by man since Archaic times (10,000 to 900 BP) and possibly earlier. Jornada Mogollon sites (A.D. 900-1400) are known to occur to the north. In the historic period, it has been occupied by the Lipan Apache and the Comanche who practiced a way of life based on the exploitation of bison.

Recommendations

NMAS recommends clearance for Mobil Oil's proposed Latham Federal Well No. 1 and its access road and suggests that work-related activities proceed according to existing plans.