

Archaeological Clearance Survey Report

for

Oklahoma Oil Company

December 29, 1976

Locations

French Wash #1
French Wash #2
French Wash #4
French Wash #3

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Submitted by
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Introduction

The Agency of Conservation Archaeology of the San Juan County Museum Association and Eastern New Mexico University recently completed an archaeological clearance survey on lands on Crow Mesa near Nageezi, New Mexico, to be impacted by the proposed construction of four well pads and associated access roads by Oklahoma Oil Company represented by 3E Company, Farmington, New Mexico.

The survey project was initiated at the request of Mr. Jack Cook of 3E Company on December 27, 1976. It was administered by Mr. Cook and Dr. J. Loring Haskell of the Agency of Conservation Archaeology, Portales.

The field work was conducted by Mrs. Nancy S. Hewett of the Agency of Conservation Archaeology, Farmington, on December 29, 1976 under provisions of Federal Antiquities permit No. 76-NM-023 which expires on March 7, 1977. Representing Oklahoma Oil Company in the field were Mr. Jack Cook and Mr. John Alexander of 3E Company. Others in the field included Mr. M. L. Seelinger of the U. S. Geological Survey; Mr. Bob Moore of the Bureau of Land Management; and Mr. Rocky Vendette, contractor.

Survey

The requested archaeological clearance survey involved four well pads and four access roads described below and located on lands under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management. For specific details of location, please see the attached topographic map and the Recommendations section of this report.

The general survey procedure employed was to walk the area of the proposed construction in a zig zag manner. Visual inspection was made of the ground surface for evidence of any artifactual remains of historic or prehistoric origin. Erosional gullies were checked for any outwash debris from higher terrain. Floral, faunal and geological observations were made to briefly describe the environmental situation.

French Wash #1

Environment: The terrain of the access road and location is hilly with drainage at the location to the east by sheet wash and shallow erosional gullies. The principal vegetation is big sagebrush (Artemisia tridentata), scattered juniper (Juniperus sp.) and pinon (Pinus edulis), snakeweed (Gutierrezia sarothrae) and various grasses. The soil is a light brown sandy clay loam. There is evidence of deer, small game and grazing animals.

Cultural Resources: No artifacts were noted.

French Wash #2

Environment: The terrain and vegetation of the access road and location are the same as that noted for French Wash #1. The location will be constructed on a north facing slope, and access road brought in from the well pad of #1 over hilly terrain. The location is partially snow covered at the time of the survey, but the construction site is considered an unlikely place for prehistoric sites to occur. Deer, small game and grazing animals frequent the area.

Cultural Resources: No artifacts were noted in the route of the access road or well pad. On a ridge to the south of the well pad, a thin scatter of lithic waste flakes were found. No specific locus of activity or hearth was visible on the surface.

French Wash #4

Environment: The access road will branch off the route to French Wash #2 and cross a flat topped mesa to the location on the northern edge. The vegetation is the same as previously noted. No snow was encountered at this location. The soil is a brown sandy clay loam, and the faunal evidence is similar.

Cultural Resources: One waste flake was noted in the route of the access road with no other evidence of prehistoric activity. This appears a likely place for sites to occur and the entire area was intensively surveyed.

French Wash #3

Environment: The well pad will be located on a north facing slope with drainage into a large arroyo to the north. The access road will enter the location from the south from an existing power line road. The vegetation is similar to that noted above, and the soil is a brown sandy clay loam.

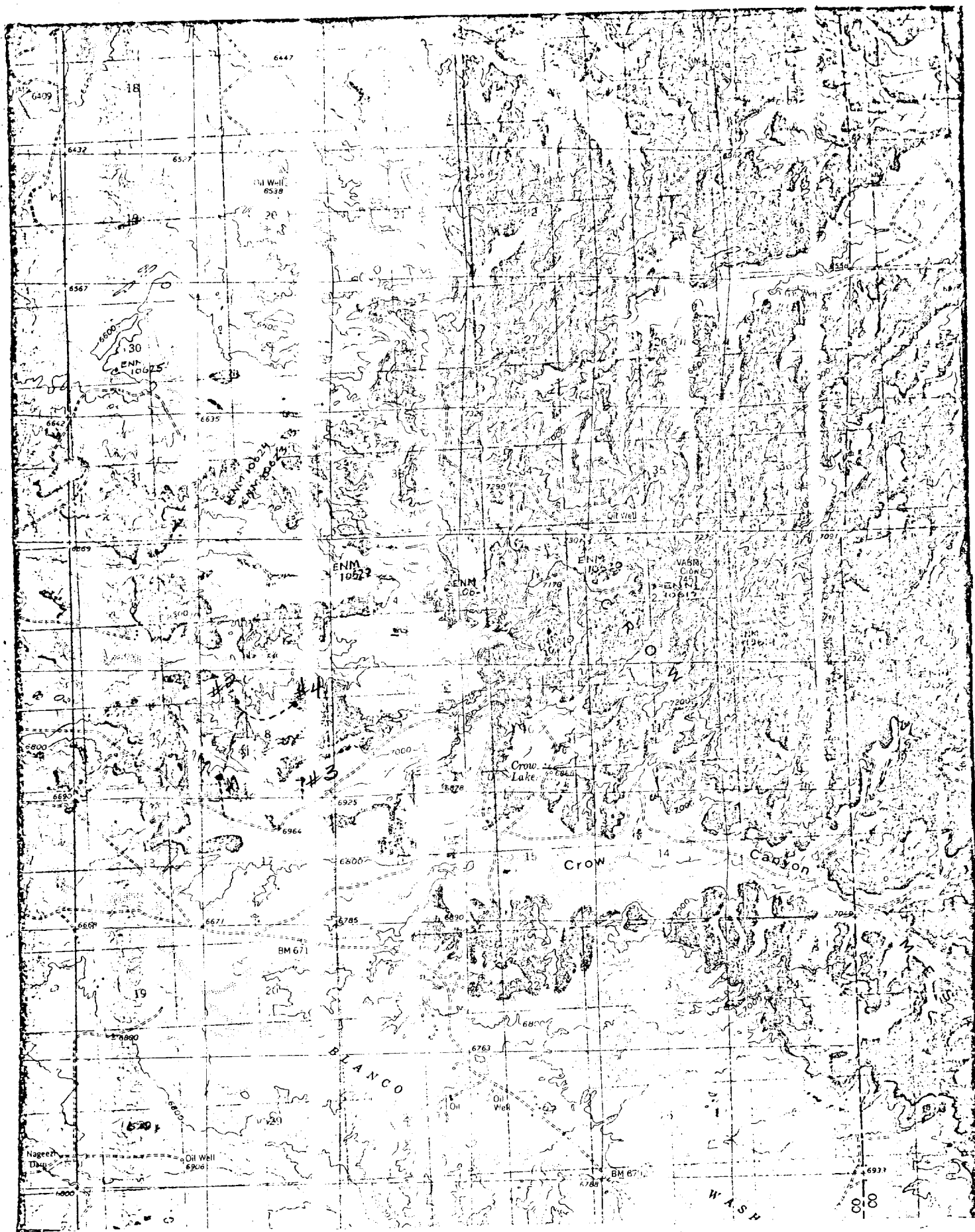
Cultural Resources: No artifacts were noted.

Recommendations

<u>Well</u>	<u>Area Surveyed</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Clearance Status</u>
#1	250' x 250' (pad) approx. 1500' x 20' (road)	1105' F/SL 840' F/WL SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 8 T24N R8W NMPM San Juan County, New Mexico. Map Source: 15' USGS Nageezi Quadrangle	Recommended

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<u>Well</u>	<u>Area Surveyed</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Clearance Status</u>
#2	250' x 250' (pad) approx. 3000' x 20' (road)	1450' F/NL 1500' F/WL center of NW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 8 T24N R8W NMPM San Juan County, New Mexico. Map Source: 15' USGS Nageezi Quadrangle	Recommended
#4	250' x 250' (pad) approx. 2500' x 20' (road)	1480' F/NL 1850' F/EL NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 8 T24N R8W NMPM San Juan County, New Mexico. Map Source: 15' USGS Nageezi Quadrangle	Recommended
#3	250' x 250' (pad) approx. 800' x 20' (road)	790' F/SL 1590' F/WL SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 8 T24N R8W NMPM San Juan County, New Mexico. Map Source: 15' USGS Nageezi Quadrangle	Recommended



Nahezi Quad.