Floristics

Typic Torripsamment soils support an overstory largely dominated by Quercus havardii and Andropogon-Stipa. The Quercus-Andropogon-Stipa association also is closely linked to a diverse array of forbs other grasses as well as additional members of the overstory. These latter plants include occasional specimens of Prosopsis juliflora, Artemisia filifolia, Yucca glauca, and Chrysothamnus pulchellus. Forbs are represented by Monarda sp., Dalea lachnostachys, Phyllanthus abnormis, Helianthus sp., Shrankia occidentalis, Euphorbia sp., Suaeda sp., Erigeron sp., Eriogonum sp., Oenothera rhombipetala, Machaeranthera sp., and Senecio sp. In addition, to Andropogon spp. and Stipa neomexicana observed grasses include: Muhlenbergia arenicola, Sporobolus spp., Cenchrus incertus, Setaria macrostachys, Aristida spp., and Boutleoua hirsuta.

Cultural Resources

No archaeological resources were recorded during this reconnaissance. Prehistoric land usage of this district during Archaic and Jornada Mogollon times appears to have been restricted to occasional short term, occupancies aimed at tapping local faunal resources. Quarrying, food processing, and other maintenance-type activities were conducted elsewhere, e.g., in the large dune fields situated below the Llano Estacado and hence lying to the northeast.

Recommendations

NMAS recommends clearance for the proposed road project and suggests that work-related activities proceed in accordance with General Exploration Company's proposed plans.