

Introduction

On 5 November 1986, New Mexico Archaeological Services, Inc., (NMAS), Carlsbad, undertook for MERIDIAN OIL COMPANY, Midland, an archaeological survey of federal lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management in Eddy County, New Mexico. The reconnoitered areas will be impacted by the construction of a drill location and its associated access road. This project was advanced by Mr. Bill Dawson, MERIDIAN OIL COMPANY, and administered by Dr. J. Loring Haskell, Principal Investigator, NMAS, Inc. This survey was undertaken by Dr. Haskell. Field work was conducted under clear, sunny conditions with light winds during the afternoon. Ground visibility ranges between 80 and 85%. Field time 2½ hours.

Survey Technique

For this investigation, MERIDIAN OIL COMPANY's proposed location was reconnoitered for evidence of man's past activities by walking it in a series of 25 ft wide, close interval (15° or less), zigzag transects. In addition, an added zone extending 20 ft on each side of the staked 400 X 400 ft location, and lying outside the bounds of the proposed work area was reconnotiered by a similar means. The access road was walked in two, 50 ft wide transects. Lathe is considered to be the center of the proposed road. Methodologically, these procedures served to promote optimal conditions for the visual examination of the areas to be impacted by construction-related activities.

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