

Introduction

On 28 March 1980, New Mexico Archaeological Services, Inc., (NMAS), Carlsbad, undertook for BELCO PETROLEUM COMPANY, Midland, an archaeological reconnaissance of federal lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management in Lea County, New Mexico. Reconnoitered areas will be impacted by the construction of a drill location and an associated access road. This project was advanced by Mr. Dave Cooper, Drilling Engineer, BELCO PETROLEUM COMPANY, and administered by Dr. J. Loring Haskell, Principal Investigator, NMAS, Inc. This reconnaissance was undertaken by Dr. J. Loring Haskell.

Survey Technique

For this investigation, BELCO PETROLEUM COMPANY's proposed location was reconnoitered for evidence of man's past activities by walking it in a series, of 20 ft wide, close interval (15° or less), zigzag transects. In addition an added zone embracing to 20 ft on each side of the staked 400 X 400 ft locations, and hence lying outside the bounds of the proposed work area, was reconnoitered by a similar means as was the access road. Methodologically, this procedure served to promote optimal conditions for the visual examination of areas to be impacted by the construction-related activities.

Evaluation of Cultural Resource

Utilizing a scale of 0 to 4, cultural resources are evaluated on the basis of the following criteria: (1) Density, (2) Preservation, (3) Stratigraphy, (4) Rarity, (5) Aesthetics, (6) Restoration, and (7) Research.