

## INTRODUCTION

On January 4 and 5, 1979, Mark Bond and Floyd Geery of the Cultural Resources Management Division, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, New Mexico State University, conducted an intensive archaeological survey of eight proposed oil well locations and accompanying vehicle and powerline access routes in Lea County, New Mexico. In addition, powerline access routes for two other proposed drilling locations were surveyed. These surveys were performed at the request of Mr. Phillip Bodman of the Continental Oil Company. Mr. Allen Fredrickson, of the Continental Oil Company, accompanied the archaeologists to the general field areas and pointed out the access routes. The work was accomplished under authority of Bureau of Land Management Antiquities Permit Number 78-NM-102.

## METHODOLOGY AND PROCEDURE

All of the proposed drill locations and access routes are located within surficial eolian deposits or sand dunes. The dunes are stabilized by vegetation although deflated areas occur frequently. Elevation changes are not great and are localized representing the crests of occasional tall dunes and the bottoms of basins within the dunes deflated by the wind. Previous archaeological surveys in nearby similar topographic situations have indicated that prehistoric cultural manifestations, when present, will be most readily observable within the deflated basins in the dunes (cf. Beckett 1975; Beckett 1976).

Parallel transects were walked over each drill location and an effort was made to observe the bottoms and sides of all deflated areas whether