

Archaeological Clearance Report

for

Continental Oil Company

Lockhart A-18 Well No.2

Prepared

By

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Submitted

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Introduction

On 21 May 1979, New Mexico Archaeological Services, Inc., (NMAS), Carlsbad, undertook for Continental Oil Company, Hobbs, an archaeological reconnaissance of lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management in Lea County, New Mexico. The project area will be impacted by the re-drilling of a dry hole. This project was administered by Mr. Phillip Bodman, Continental Oil Company, Hobbs, and Dr. J. Loring Haskell, Principal Investigator, NMAS. Dr. Haskell was assisted in the field by Mr. Charles A. Alyward, Staff Archaeologist, NMAS.

Survey Technique

Continental Oil Company's 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 20 ft on each side of the proposed 400 X 400 ft location was investigated by a similar means. Methodologically, this procedure served to promote optimal conditions for the visual examination of areas to be impacted by construction-related activities.

Lockhart A-18 Well No.2

Location

As proposed, Continental Oil Company's location will measure 400 X 400 ft on federal lands and will be situated 660 ft from the south line and 1980 ft from the east line of:

Section 18, T21S, R36E, NMPM, Lea County, NM

Thus it will be situated in the:

SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 18, T21S, R36E, NMPM, Lea County, NM

It is situated on an existing access road.

Map Reference: USGS Oil Center Quadrangle, 15 Minute Series, 1963.

Terrain

The investigated location is situated on the western extension of the Eunice Plain within a district marked by large collapse structures. Locally, drainage is toward the west into a collapse structure of substantial size. The coeval surface is distinguished by a deep deposit of Holocene-aged aeolian material undoubtedly derived from the now-vanished Ogallala Formation. Areal soils belong to the Haplargid-Torripsamment Association with most peds being Typic-Torripsamments. Soils uniformly lack soil inclusions.

Floristics

Locally, Quercus havardii predominates on areal soils where it occurs in often unbroken stands. Larger dunes, however, do support a modicum of Chrysothamnus pulchellus. Yucca glauca is present throughout the project area but is of secondary importance vis a vis Quercus. Important forbs include Solanum elaeagnifolium, Dithyrea wislizenii, Shrankia occidentalis, Calylophus sp., Hoffmansiggia sp., Oenothera sp., Hymenoxys spp., and Mendora sp. Commonly occurring grasses are Aristida sp., Bouteloua sp., Sporobolus cryptandrus, Sporobolus airoides, and Munroa squarrosa.

Cultural Resources

No cultural resources were recorded during this reconnaissance. Locally, the absence of cultural resources can be at-

tributed to the presence of a thick deposit of aeolian material, a lack of water, and the shallow nature of associated deflation basins. Within the immediate vicinity, archaeological sites most typically occur in localities distinguished by deeper deflation basins. These areas typically are marked by occurrences of chert, anhydrous quartz, quartzite, and caliche cobbles.

Recommendations

NMAS recommends clearance for Continental Oil Company's proposed Lockhart A-18 Well No.2 and suggests that work-related activities proceed in accordance with company plans.