

Archaeological Clearance Report

for

CONOCO, INCORPORATED

Hawk B-3 Well No. 24

Prepared

By

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Submitted

By

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8 January 1980

Permit No. 79-NM-166

Introduction

On 7 January 1980, New Mexico Archaeological Services, Inc., (NMAS), Carlsbad, undertook for CONOCO, INCORPORATED, Hobbs, 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. Bob Shirley, Production Foreman, CONOCO, INCORPORATED, and administered by Dr. J. Loring Haskell, Principal Investigator, NMAS, Inc. This reconnaissance was undertaken by Mr. Charles A. Aylward, Research Associate, NMAS.

Survey Technique

For this investigation, CONOCO, INCORPORATED'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 location, 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 construction-related activities.

Hawk B-3 Well No. 24

Location

The proposed location will measure 400 X 400 ft on federal lands and will be situated 2232 ft from the north line and 2310 ft from the east line of:

Section 3, T21S, R37E, NMPM, Lea County, NM

Thus it will be situated in:

Lot 7, Section 3, T21S, R37E, NMPM, Lea County, NM

The associated access road will measure 20 X 100 ft and will be situated in:

Lot 7, Section 3, T21S, R37E, NMPM, Lea County, NM

Map Reference: USGS HOBBS SW QUADRANGLE, 7.5 Minute Series, 1969.

Terrain

The investigated area is situated on an undulating plain overlain by deep aeolian deposits and rests north of Monuement Draw. The contemporary surface is demarcated by occasional stabalized dunes to 2 m in height, which decrease to low rolling hummocks. Soils are loose, non-calcareous sandy loams and loamy sands generally lacking lithic inclusions. Peds represent intergrades of the Typic Torripsamment subgroup.

Floristics

The local floral overstory is predominantly *Quercus havardii* associated with some *Prosopis juliflora* and *Yucca glauca*. *Gutierrezia sarothrae* forms a common ground cover. Areal forbs include: *Zinnia acerosa*, *Penstemon* sp., *Silia* sp., *Eriogonum annuum*, *Oenothera* sp., and *Monarda punctata*. Grasses observed are: *Aristida* sp., *Bouteloua hirsuta*, *Chloris cucullata*, *Andropogon* sp., *Munroa squarrosa*, *Cenchrus incertus*, *Muhlenbergia* sp., and *Sporobolus* sp. Areal foliage is seasonally browned, desiccated and/or sparse.

Cultural Resources

No archaeological resources were observed during the course

of this reconnaissance. Though not found during this investigation, regional archaeological evidence suggests that small social units of hunting and gathering peoples once transited the area, generally pursuing hunting-related subsistence activities. Occupation was at its zenith during Jornada-Mogollon times (c. A.D. 950 to 1350).

Recommendations

NMAS recommends clearance for CONOCO, INCORPORATED's proposed Hawk B-3 Well No. 24 and its access road and suggests that work-related activities proceed in accordance with company plans. Clearance, of course, is granted by the Bureau of Land Management.

Archaeological Clearance Report

for

CONOCO, INCORPORATED

Power Line to
Hawk B-3 Well No. 24

Prepared

By

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Submitted

By

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15 January 1980

Permit No. 79-NM-166

Introduction

On 14 January 1980, New Mexico Archaeological Services, Inc., (NMAS), Carlsbad, undertook for CONOCO, INCORPORATED, Hobbs, an archaeological reconnaissance of lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management in Lea County, New Mexico. The reconnoitered easement will be impacted by the construction of an electrical power line. This project was advanced by Mr. Bob Shirley, Production Foreman, CONOCO, INCORPORATED and administered by Dr. J. Loring Haskell, Principal Investigator, NMAS, Inc. This reconnaissance was undertaken by Mr. Charles A. Aylward, Research Associate, NMAS.

Survey Technique

For this investigation, CONOCO, INCORPORATED's proposed electrical power line easement was investigated for evidence of man's past activities by walking it in two, 35 ft wide, close interval (15° or less), zigzag transects. Methodologically, this procedure served to promote optimal conditions for the visual examination of the area to be impacted by construction-related activities.

Power Line to
Hawk B-3 Well No. 24

Location

As proposed, CONOCO's easement will measure 20 X 990 ft on federal lands and will be situated in:

Lot 7, Section 3, T21S, R37E, NMPM, Lea County, NM

Map Reference: USGS HOBBS SW QUADRANGLE, 7.5 Minute Series, 1969.

Terrain

The investigated area is situated on an undulating plain north of Monument Draw. Areal topography features deep aeolian deposits eroded into stabilized dune fields to as much as 2 m in height. Associated deflation basins are generally shallow and irregularly shaped. Present geomorphology is mostly the result of Pleistocene-aged erosional/depositional cycles. Local soils are loose, non-calcareous sandy loams and loamy sands without lithic inclusions. Peds represent intergrades of the Typic Torripsamment subgroup.

Floristics

The local floral overstory consist of *Quercus havardii*, *Yucca glauca*, *Artemisia filifolia* and *Prosopis juliflora*. *Gutierrezia soarostrae* is a common member of the ground cover. Forbs include: *Oenothera* sp., *Eriogonum annuum*, *Mentzelia* sp., *Monarda punctata*, *Suaeda* sp., *Senecio* sp., *Penstemon* sp., and an unidentified compositae. Grasses observed are: *Sporobolus* sp., *Cenchrus incertus*, *Muhlenbergia arenacea*, *Bouteloua gracilis*, *Aristida* sp., and *Tridens pulchellus*. Forbs, shrubs, and grasses are seasonally browned and desiccated.

Cultural Resources

No archaeological resources were observed during the course of this reconnaissance. Though not evidenced here, archaeology along nearby Monument Draw indicates past populations camped in the area. Economic activities included hunting and gathering-related pursuits. Principal occupation was by Jornada Mogollon peoples (c. A.D. 950-1350).

Recommendations

NMAS recommends clearance for CONOCO's electrical power line easement and suggests that work-related activities proceed in accordance with company plans. Clearance, of course, is granted by the Bureau of Land Management.

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