

Archaeological Clearance Report

for

CONOCO, INCORPORATED

Lockhart "B" Well No. 9

Prepared

By

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Submitted

By

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Introduction

On 28 February 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, an associated access road, and an associated 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's proposed location and electrical power line easement were reconnoitered for evidence of man's past activities by walking them 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.

Definitions used by NMAS

As used by NMAS, a "site" is defined as any concentration of cultural material containing clear evidence of other than en passant

human occupation. Sites are generally larger than 16 square meters and contain at least one localized concentration with an artifact density higher than one artifact per square meter. Cultural remains must include more than one type of artifact exclusive of burned stone. Manifestations separated by a hiatus of 20 m or more between concentrations are assigned separate site designations while those within 20 m of each other are subsumed within a single site.

An "isolated manifestation" or "occupation zone" is any artifact or concentration of cultural material separated by more than 20 m from any other manifestation. Isolated manifestations are generally smaller than 16 square meters and have concentrations of less than one artifact per square meter exclusive of burned stone. An isolated manifestation can be attributed to en passant activities.

Lockhart "B" Well No. 9

Location

The proposed location will measure 400 X 400 ft on federal lands and will be situated 1980 ft from the south line and 660 ft from the west line of:

Section 13, T21S, R36E, NMPM, Lea County, NM

Thus it will be situated in the:

NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 13, T21S, R36E, NMPM, Lea County, NM

The associated access road will measure 20 X 1215 ft and will be situated in the:

NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 13, T21S, R36E, NMPM, Lea County, NM

NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 14, T21S, R36E, NMPM, Lea County, NM

Map Reference: USGS EUNICE QUADRANGLE, 7.5 Minute Series, 1969

Terrain

The proposed location is situated on an undulating plain over-

lain by deep aeolian deposits. The locale is relatively flat and featureless with a stabilized surface. Occasional deflation basins are shallow and poorly defined. Soils are loose, non-calcareous sandy loams and loamy sands which locally contain no lithic inclusions. Peds are representative of intergrades of the Typic Torripsamment subgroup.

Floristics

The local floral overstory is predominantly *Quercus havardii* and occasional specimens of *Prosopis juliflora* and *Yucca glauca*. Areal forbs include: *Eriogonum annuum*, *Monarda punctata*, *Gutierrezia sarothrae*, *Ephedra* sp., *Oenothera* sp., *Suaeda* sp., *Zinnia acerosa* and *Astragalus* sp. Observed grasses are: *Aristida* sp., *Muhlenbergia arenacea*, *Bouteloua hirsuta*, *Andropogon* sp., *Cenchrus incertus* and *Sporobolus* sp. Owing to seasonal conditions, shrubs, forbs and grasses are typically browned and desiccated.

Cultural Resources

No archaeological resources were observed during the course of this reconnaissance. Camping activities by small social units in the past would have been very transitory and ephemeral owing to local environmental conditions. In general, camping was situated near to a source of potable water and within an area which provided natural shelter from the elements.

Recommendations

NMAS recommends clearance of CONOCO, INCORPORATED's proposed Lockhart "B" Well No. 9 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.

Electrical Power Line to
Lockhart "B" Well No. 9

Location

As proposed, CONOCO's easement will measure 50 X 2775 ft on federal lands and will be situated in the:

NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 13, T21S, R36E, NMPM, Lea County, NM
NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 14, T21S, R36E, NMPM, Lea County, NM
SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 14, T21S, R36E, NMPM, Lea County, NM

Map Reference: USGS EUNICE QUADRANGLE, 7.5 Minute Series, 1969.

Terrain

The proposed power line easement crosses an undulating plain which is generally flat and featureless. The contemporary surface is overlain by generally stabilized, deep aeolian deposits. As a whole, the areal drainage is toward the south. Soils are loose, non-calcareous sandy loams and loamy sands containing no lithic inclusions. Peds are intergrades of the Typic Torripsamment subgroup.

Floristics

Quercus havardii dominates the floral overstory in association with *Yucca glauca* and *Prosopis juliflora*. Forbs include: *Zinnia acerosa*, *Gutierrezia sarothrae*, *Eriogonum annuum*, *Monarda punctata*, *Ephedra* sp., *Oenothera* sp., *Suaeda* sp., and *Astragalus* sp. The Graminae are represented by: *Aristida* sp., *Boutleoua hirsuta*, *Muhlenbergia arenacea*, *Cenchrus incertus*, *Andropogon* sp. and *Sporobolus* sp.

Cultural Resources

No archaeological resources were observed during the course of

this reconnaissance. This can be attributed to the open- and wind swept nature of the terrain, the lack of proximity of a sources of potable water, and the local dearth of lithic materials suitable for stone tool manufacture.

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.