

ENVIRONMENT

The project area will be located on the rolling plains east of Eddy Co. Rd. 798, north of Bootleg Ridge. This undulating landform is characterized by stabilized sand dunes which range from 0.5-1 meters in height. These dunes are interspersed with deflation basins which have been formed by aeolian action. Local soils in the region consist of loamy sands which belong to the Kermit-Berino association. These soils are drained internally. Elevation in the project area is between 3600 ft and 3650 ft above sea level.

These plains are part of an environmental zone called the Lower Sonoran Life Zone. The most common plant varieties in the region are shin oak (Quercus havardii), mesquite (Prosopis juliflora), plains yucca (Yucca glauca), broom snakeweed (Gutierrezia sarothrae) and various grasses. Some of the common faunal types in area are mule deer (Odocoileus hemionus), pronghorn antelope (Antilocapra americana), jackrabbit (Lepus sp.), cottontail rabbit (Sylvilagus sp.), coyote (Canis latrans), as well as other small mammals, birds and reptiles. Bison (Bison bison) also ranged in the region prior to their near-extinction in the nineteenth century.