

Terrain

The proposed well pad and access road are located in the Pecos River Valley, and they are 2.5 miles southwest of Monument Draw. They are situated on a gently sloping plain, which declines to the northeast. Locally, this plain is overlain by a field of small to moderate sized sand dunes. The elevation in the area varies from 3660 to 3670 feet.

The soils encountered in the area are predominantly calcareous sands. There were no lithic inclusions found within this soil. Taxonomically, this soil can be classified as a member of the Paleorthid-Haplargid association.

Floristics

ACA encountered a moderate floral assemblage in this vicinity. The density of the vegetation in the area is approximately 45 percent, consisting primarily of grasses. Among the species present are: Engleman pricklypear (Opuntia phaeacantha), mesquite (Prosopis juliflora), oak brush (Quercus havardii), plains yucca (Yucca campestris), sand sage (Artemisia filifolia), black grama (Bouteloua eriopoda), cane bluestem (Andropogon barbinodis), western wheatgrass (Agropyron smithii), gyp sunflower (Helianthus paradoxus), broom snakeweed (Gutierrezia sarothrae), and buckwheat (Eriogonum havardii).

Cultural Resources

During this reconnaissance, ACA did not encounter any archaeological sites; however, two isolated manifestations were recorded:

IM-1: is a chalcedony flake which was found 250 feet north of the southwest corner of the pad, on the west side of the pad.

IM-2: is a core which was found three feet east of the pad center. It is made from a light colored chert.

A review of ACA's site files and the National Register did not show any properties listed for this location.

Recommendations

ACA recommends clearance for the proposed well pad and access right-of-way and suggests that construction be allowed to proceed as currently planned.

South Mattix Unit No. 38

Location

The proposed well pad is located 7½ miles northeast of Jal, New Mexico and 25 miles south of the Mescalero Ridge. The pad measures 450 X 450 feet and is located in the: