

**The Results of a Class I Cultural Resources Site File Search
at the BLM-San Juan Field Office and the Utah Division of State History
for the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance
in San Juan County, Utah**

by

Rand A. Greubel
Staff Archaeologist

Under the Direction of
Susan M. Chandler
Principal Investigator

Alpine Archaeological Consultants, Inc.
PO Box 2075
Montrose, CO 81402
(970) 249-6761

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Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance
1471 South 1100 East
Salt Lake City, Utah 84105

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MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

Cultural resource site records and inventory reports pertaining to eight land parcels totaling 6,979 acres in San Juan County, Utah, were examined at the BLM-San Juan Field Office in Monticello, Utah, on June 12, 2002, and the Utah Division of State History on June 14, 2002. All of the parcels are on lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management that have been leased for oil and gas development. The file searches revealed that past cultural resource inventories within and near the parcels, conducted between 1975-1993 and mostly related to geophysical exploration, have resulted in the discovery of a variety of prehistoric and historic cultural resource sites, a subset of which have been evaluated as eligible to the National Register of Historic Places, primarily because they retain scientific research potential. The areas within the parcels that have been intensively inventoried for cultural resources range from less than 1 percent to 100 percent.

INTRODUCTION

A review of archaeological site records and maps for eight parcels in San Juan County, Utah was undertaken by Alpine Archaeological Consultants, Inc. (Alpine) at the request of the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance (SUWA) at the BLM-San Juan Field Office in Monticello, Utah, on June 12, 2002. The parcels, which have been leased for oil and gas development by the BLM, range in size from 280 to 1879.12 acres, averaging 872.34 acres and totaling 6,978.75 acres. The purpose of the file searches was to gather information on past archaeological work within or in the immediate vicinity of the parcels and, based on these data, to characterize in a general sense the cultural resources present or likely to be present within the parcels. The file search at the BLM-San Juan Field Office were performed under the terms of Alpine's BLM Survey and Limited Testing permit, number 02UT62700 (issued 3/11/02; expires 3/31/03). Because information regarding site location is confidential, no specific site location data or maps are included in this report. No fieldwork is associated with this Class I project.

The records at the San Juan Field Office are five years or more out of date, making them virtually useless for the purposes of most site file searches, which require the most up-to-date information. A key map needed for this file search could not be found, few project areas are plotted on the maps, and project reports have been moved to the Edge of the Cedars Museum in Blanding. Consequently, Alpine subcontracted with SWCA Inc. Environmental Consultants of Salt Lake City to complete the file search at the Division of State History (Utah SHPO) offices, which was accomplished on June 14, 2002. The following summaries and descriptions of the cultural resources and archaeological inventories within each parcel are presented with the caveat that they are only as complete as the records from which they were derived.

CULTURE HISTORY

Humans have occupied the region now known as southeastern Utah for at least 12,000 years; evidence of this lengthy occupation is ubiquitous across the landscape. The earliest inhabitants of this region are known to archaeologists as Paleoindians. Their lifeway was largely centered around the pursuit of mammoth and other megafauna of the late Pleistocene. Sites dating to the Paleoindian period are present but rare in the region. Sometime between 9,000 to 10,000 years ago, near the end of the Pleistocene era, the extinction of many of the large mammal species that provided the main source of sustenance for Paleoindian people resulted in a shift in adaptation to a broader-based diet consisting of plant foods and a variety of modern mammal species. This shift to a more generalized subsistence pattern ushered in the Archaic period, which persisted for the next 7,000 years or more. Archaic-age sites are common and well represented across southeastern Utah and the northern Colorado Plateau in general (Matson 1991). Sometime between 2,000 to 2,500 years ago, maize made an appearance in the region. Maize agriculture was slow to catch on, but its eventual acceptance marked the beginning of the Formative period. The resulting farming-based subsistence system culminated in the well-known Anasazi culture of the Four Corners area as well as the Fremont culture that spanned most of Utah and portions of adjacent states. At about the same time as, or possibly even before, the demise (at least in Utah) of these agricultural societies around A.D. 1200-1300, native peoples ancestral to the historical Ute and Paiute entered the region, initiating the Protohistoric period. These were the people encountered by the first European explorers — the Spanish — in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Sites dating to the Formative and Protohistoric periods are common across the entire northern Colorado Plateau, including southeastern Utah. Euroamericans began exploiting the natural resources of the region after 1812, beginning with fur trapping (1812-1830s) and continuing with mining (late 1860s to present); farming, ranching, and logging (1880s to present); and tourism (early 1900s to present). Sites related to Historic Euroamerican occupation or resource extraction are frequently encountered in the region.

DESCRIPTION OF PARCELS

Parcel UT 067

Parcel UT 067 is approximately one mile west of Cottonwood Wash, on BLM lands administered by the San Juan Field Office. The legal description of this parcel is in Table 1. The parcel is on the USGS Bluff 7.5-minute quadrangle map. The file search at the Utah Division of State History revealed that the project areas of five linear cultural resource inventories bisect or extend into Parcel UT 067. Four of these inventories were conducted in response to seismic lines and one to the construction of a water pipeline. The inventories were conducted between 1978-1984. No cultural resource sites associated with these surveys were documented within the parcel. Several sites have been recorded just outside the parcel to the east, however. Three of these sites, within one-half to one-quarter mile of the parcel, consist of a lithic scatter, a rubble mound with associated lithic artifacts, and a sherd and lithic scatter. One of these sites is evaluated as not eligible to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP); one appears to be eligible and the eligibility of the third is uncertain. The density of sites in an area so close to the parcel suggests the likelihood that the parcel contains many more prehistoric sites than might be thought based on the negative results of the linear surveys. Because they are so narrow — generally 15 m (50 ft) wide — the corridors surveyed during seismic line inventories often miss sites entirely. Based on the site file search, less than 8 percent of the parcel has been inventoried for cultural resources.

Parcel UT 068

Parcel UT 068 is approximately one-half mile west of Cottonwood Wash, on BLM lands administered by the San Juan Field Office. The legal description of this parcel is in Table 1. The parcel is on the USGS Bluff 7.5-minute quadrangle map. The file search at the Utah Division of State History revealed that the project areas of four linear cultural resource inventories bisect or extend into Parcel UT 068. These include three seismic lines surveyed in 1984 and one unknown linear survey conducted in 1978. These projects documented no cultural resource sites within the parcel. One site was recorded in Parcel UT 068 in 1975. It consists of two concentrations of prehistoric artifacts including fire-cracked rock, lithic tools and debitage, ground stone implements, cores, and Anasazi pottery sherds. The site is clearly eligible to the NRHP, unless it has been destroyed or heavily disturbed in the past 27 years. Clearly there is the potential for additional eligible sites within the parcel. Based on the site file search, less than 3 percent of the parcel has been inventoried for cultural resources.

Parcel UT 069

Parcel UT 069 straddles the upper end of Black Rock Canyon between Black Mesa and Little Black Mesa, on BLM lands administered by the San Juan Field Office. The legal description of this parcel is in Table 1. The parcel is on the USGS No-Man's Island 7.5-minute quadrangle map. The file search at the Utah Division of State History revealed that three seismic lines and a large (1,920-acre) block area have been inventoried for cultural resources within and surrounding the parcel. The seismic lines were surveyed in 1978 and 1982 and discovered a number of prehistoric sites but apparently none within the parcel. The block survey was conducted in 1977 and encompassed all 280 acres of Parcel UT 069. A total of 82 prehistoric sites were documented within the entire 1,920-acre project area, for a density of 27.3 sites per square mile. Some of these sites were evaluated as significant. Because standards for NRHP eligibility have changed, it is likely that more of these sites would be considered eligible for the NRHP if recorded today than in 1977. The relatively high site density as demonstrated by the 1977 inventory indicates that prehistoric sites — some of which undoubtedly retain scientific research potential — can be expected within the parcel. Based on the site file search, 100 percent of the parcel has been inventoried for cultural resources. Because the inventory is 25 years old, however, its adequacy and completeness are uncertain.

Table 1. Parcel Descriptions.

Parcel	USGS 7.5 Minute Quadrangle Map	Township	Range	Sections	Acres
UT 067	Bluff	39S	21E	W $\frac{1}{2}$ of Section 26	320
UT 068	Bluff	39S	21E	W $\frac{1}{2}$ of Section 35	320
UT 069	No-Man's Island	39S	21E	N $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, & SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 3	280
UT 081	Hatch Rock	30S	23E	Lots 1-3, E $\frac{1}{2}$, & E $\frac{1}{2}$ W $\frac{1}{2}$ of Section 7; S $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, & W $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 8	921.87
UT 082	Hatch Rock	30S	23E	All of Sections 17 & 20; N $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 18	1360
UT 083	Photograph Gap	31S	23E	Lots 3 & 4, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, & W $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 5; all of Section 6; SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ & SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 8	1077.56
UT 084	Photograph Gap	31S	23E	All of Sections 7, 17, & 18	1879.12
UT 085	Photograph Gap	31S	23E	All of Section 19; SW $\frac{1}{4}$ & NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 20	820.20

Parcel UT 081

Parcel UT 081 is on the northeast side of Rone Bailey Mesa at the western edge of Dry Valley, on BLM lands administered by the San Juan Field Office. The legal description of this parcel is in Table 1. The parcel is on the USGS Hatch Rock 7.5-minute quadrangle map. The file search at the Utah Division of State History revealed that at least three cultural resource inventories have been conducted within or partly within the parcel. These include two seismic transects and one irregular block survey for a Hollywood filming location. The seismic line inventories were conducted in 1983 and 1988. The movie location survey was conducted in 1993 for the film *Geronimo* (Fetterman and Honeycutt 1993). No cultural resource sites were documented within the parcel for the seismic inventories, but 4 sites were discovered and recorded for the film location survey. They comprise prehistoric sites containing flaked and ground stone artifacts, reflecting short-term camping and the use of local Summerville formation chalcedony for tool-manufacture. All of the sites are evaluated as eligible to the NRHP. Their locations strongly suggest that unsurveyed areas nearby in similar topographic settings within the parcel almost certainly contain similar sites. Based on the results of the site file search, it is estimated that between 30-40 percent of the parcel has been previously inventoried for cultural resources.

Parcel UT 082

Parcel UT 082, immediately south of and contiguous with Parcel UT 081, abuts Rone Bailey Mesa at the western edge of Dry Valley, on BLM lands administered by the San Juan Field Office. The legal description of this large parcel is in Table 1. The parcel is on the USGS Hatch Rock 7.5-minute quadrangle map. The file search at the Utah Division of State History revealed that at least seven cultural resource inventories have been conducted within or partly within the parcel. These include four seismic transects, one irregular parcel in two non-contiguous pieces for a Hollywood filming location, one oil well pad, and one small survey prior to the construction of some type of structure. These seismic line inventories were conducted from 1982-1988. The small block surveys were done in 1978 and 1981. The movie location survey was conducted in 1993 for the film *Geronimo* (Fetterman and Honeycutt 1993). No cultural resource sites were documented within the parcel for any of these inventories. The parcel, however, encompasses topographic settings very similar to those where eligible prehistoric sites were found in adjoining Parcel UT 081. It is highly likely, therefore, that similar sites are present in this parcel. Based on the results of the site file search, less than 10 percent of the parcel has been previously inventoried for cultural resources.

Parcel UT 083

Parcel UT 083 lies on both sides of Harts Spring Draw west of Dry Valley, on BLM lands administered by the San Juan Field Office. The legal description of this parcel is in Table 1. The parcel is on the USGS Photograph Gap 7.5-minute quadrangle map. The file search at the Utah Division of State History revealed that two linear cultural resource inventories for seismic transects have been conducted through the parcel. These inventories, completed in 1982 and 1988, documented no cultural resource sites within the bounds of the parcel. One historic Euroamerican site consisting of an early twentieth-century stock corral has been recorded in the parcel. In addition, prehistoric sites have been recorded immediately to the south in Parcel UT 084. The presence of these cultural resources indicates that there is a high probability that archaeological sites associated with prehistoric and historic occupations are present within the parcel. Based on the results of the site file search, less than 1 percent of the parcel has been previously inventoried for cultural resources.

Parcel UT 084

Parcel UT 084 lies on both sides of Lone Cedar Draw west of Dry Valley, on BLM lands administered by the San Juan Field Office. It is contiguous to Parcel UT 083 on the south. The legal description of this large parcel is in Table 1. The parcel is on the USGS Photograph Gap 7.5-minute

quadrangle map. The file search at the Utah Division of State History revealed that six seismic line surveys have been conducted through the parcel. These inventories were done between 1977-1988. One very small block survey (less than 5 acres), apparently for a stock tank, has also been completed (1985). No cultural resource sites were found during the course of any of these inventories. Several sites have been documented within the parcel, although it is not clear what types of projects they were associated with. They comprise four relatively small prehistoric lithic scatters that have been evaluated as ineligible to the NRHP (recorded in 1986 and 1987), and one prehistoric campsite evaluated as eligible to the NRHP (recorded in 1988). Based on the presence of these cultural resources, it appears likely that a more thorough and comprehensive survey of the parcel would result in the discovery of additional prehistoric sites, some of which would be capable of yielding additional, important scientific information. Based on the results of the site file search, roughly 2 percent of the parcel has been previously inventoried for cultural resources.

Parcel UT 085

Parcel UT 085 lies on the north side of Harts Draw, one mile northwest of Photograph Gap, on BLM lands administered by the San Juan Field Office. It is contiguous to Parcel UT 084 on the south. The legal description of this parcel is in Table 1. The parcel is on the USGS Photograph Gap 7.5-minute quadrangle map. The file search at the Utah Division of State History revealed that five seismic line surveys pass through or very near the parcel. These inventories were done between 1977-1988. One very small block area (less than 5 acres), for a "catchment/rock tank," was surveyed in 1984. No cultural resource sites were found during these surveys. One site has been documented within the parcel and two more just outside, although it is not clear what types of projects they were associated with. The site within the boundaries of the parcel is a very small lithic scatter evaluated as ineligible to the NRHP. The two nearby sites consist of fairly small prehistoric lithic scatters. One is evaluated as eligible to the NRHP but the eligibility status of the other is unknown. Given the presence of known prehistoric sites within the parcel and in nearby areas (including Parcel UT 084), this area very likely contains numerous other prehistoric sites, some of which would likely be regarded as eligible to the NRHP. Based on the results of the site file search, less than 2 percent of the parcel has been previously inventoried for cultural resources.

SUMMARY

During a visit to the Bureau of Land Management's San Juan Field Office in Monticello, Utah, on June 12, 2002, cultural resource maps covering the eight land parcels described in Table 1 were examined. These maps, comprising 15-minute USGS topographic quadrangles, depict the locations of known prehistoric and historic archaeological sites. The maps, however, are considerably out of date. Sites have not been plotted on them for at least five years, although an examination of them suggests that it may have been even longer in some cases. Furthermore, archaeological project areas are not plotted on these maps. The dismal state of the cultural resource records at the BLM-San Juan Field Office necessitated a file search at the Utah Division of State History in Salt Lake City, which was accomplished by personnel from SWCA Inc. Environmental Consultants, under subcontract to Alpine.

The Division of State History file search, completed on June 14, 2002, revealed that a variety of past cultural resource inventories within and near the parcels have resulted in the discovery of numerous prehistoric and historic cultural resource sites. The majority of the sites have been evaluated as ineligible to the NRHP, but several are regarded as eligible because they have the potential to yield additional, important, scientific information. The records indicate that areas ranging from less than 1 percent to 100 percent of the total acres composing the parcels have been intensively inventoried for cultural resources. Based on the results of previous inventories, the potential for additional cultural resource sites within uninventoried areas of the parcels, including

many that would likely be evaluated as eligible to the NRHP, is high. The estimates of previously surveyed acres and site densities are presented with the caveat that they are only as accurate and complete as the Division of State History records from which they were derived.

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