Cultural Resources Survey of the Springerville Marsh Wildlife Area, Apache County, Arizona

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Reviewed by

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Submitted to

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ABSTRACT

DATE: 12 May 2005

AGENCY: Town of Springerville

REPORT TITLE: Cultural Resources Survey of the Springerville Marsh Wildlife Area, Apache County, Arizona.

CLIENT PROJECT NAME: Springerville Marsh Survey

LAND OWNERSHIP: State of Arizona Game and Fish Department

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Survey to aid in planning future activities.

PERMIT NUMBER: Arizona Antiquities Act Blanket Permit No. 2005-007bl, Arizona State Museum Accession No. 2005-0219.

LOCATION:

County: Apache

Description: SE ½ of Section 27 and the NE ½ of Section 34, Township 9 North, Range 29 East on the USGS 7.5-minute topographic quad Springerville, Ariz. (1969) (AZ Q:15 [NW]).

NUMBER OF SURVEYED ACRES: 163

NUMBER OF SITES: 3

LIST OF POTENTIALLY ELIGIBLE SITES: AZ Q:15:108 (ASM), AZ Q:15:109 (ASM), AZ Q:15:110 (ASM)

LIST OF INELIGIBLE SITES: 0

RECOMMENDATIONS: Avoidance is recommended for the three sites found within the survey area. If that is not feasible, a treatment plan addressing direct and indirect impacts to cultural resources should be developed.

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CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY OF THE SPRINGERVILLE MARSH WILDLIFE AREA, APACHE COUNTY, ARIZONA

INTRODUCTION

The town of Springerville requested a cultural resources survey of approximately 163 acres of property leased by the town from the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGF). The property is on the east side of Springerville, north of Highway 60. The survey was conducted to record the presence of significant cultural resources that might impact future activities on the property. Under the direction of Dr. William H. Doelle, as Principal Investigator, the survey was completed in four person days, on 3 March and 4 March 2005, by Jenny Adams, Jenny Waters, Ellen Ruble, and Patti Cook of Desert Archaeology, Inc. Fieldwork was conducted under the authority of the Arizona Antiquities Act Blanket Permit No. 2005-007bl (Arizona State Museum Accession No. 2005-0219). All project records are curated at the Arizona State Museum (ASM).

This report includes a description of the study area, cultural and environmental background information, a summary of previous research in the area, the methods and results of the survey, an assessment of the findings, and recommendations.

PROJECT AREA LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The study area is located about two miles east of Springerville, in Apache County, Arizona in the S ½ of the SE ¼ of Section 27 and the N ½ of the NE ¼ of Section 34 of Township 9 North, Range 29 East as depicted on the USGS 7.5-minute topographic map Springerville, Arizona (1969) (Figure 1). Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) coordinates of the parcel's four corners are: E 661159, N 3779299; E 660353, N 3778463; E 660353, N 3779284; and E 661157, N 3778476. The elevation at the northern end of the project area is approximately 2,164 m (7,100 ft) above mean sea level (amsl) and on the southern end it is approximately 2,134 m (7,000 ft) amsl. Nutrioso Creek runs through the southern quarter of the parcel.

The cultural resources survey area is a rectangular parcel of approximately 163 acres bounded by AGF barbed wire fence. The area has been designated as the Springerville Marsh Wildlife Area (SMWA) by the AGF. Earthen berms and duck islands have been created for the management of waterfowl and other marshland resources in the western half of the parcel. Springerville operates a wastewater treatment plant in the east central part of the parcel and more than 300,000 gallons of treated water are fed daily into the marsh. A public landfill was leveled in the southeastern quarter of the parcel and a city sewer line runs through the parcel south of Nutrioso Creek. The northeastern quarter and a small area in the southwestern quarter are the only areas that have not been disturbed by modern activities.

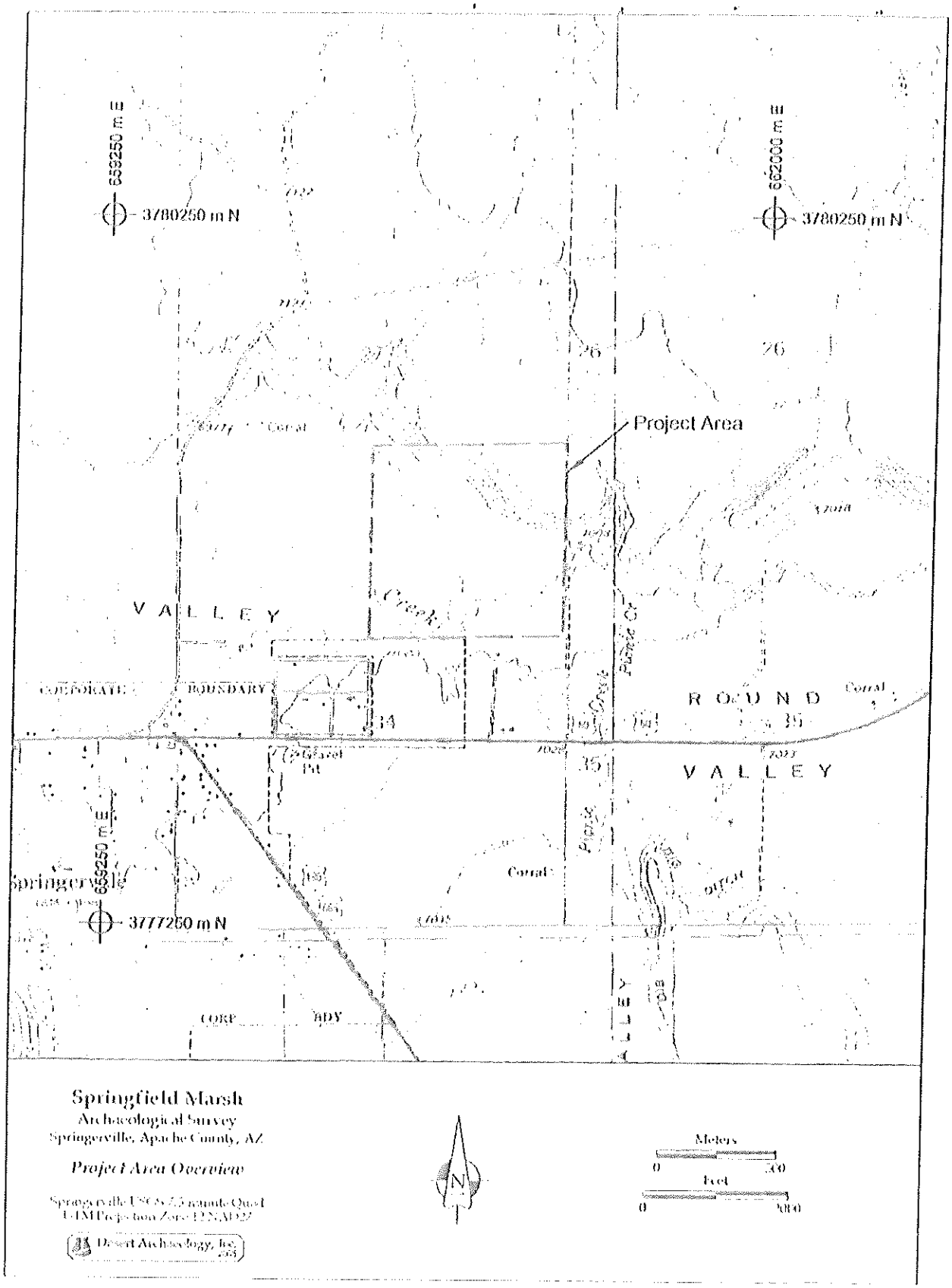

Figure 1. Reproduction of USGS 7.5-minute topographic quad Springerville, Ariz. (AZ Q:15 [NW]), showing location of project area.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING OF THE PROJECT AREA

The project area is within the upper Little Colorado River watershed in east-central Arizona. Nutrioso Creek, which cuts through the southern quarter of the AGF parcel, drains into the Little Colorado River about 5 miles to the northwest. Both streams have their headwaters to the south, in the White Mountains, before they pass through and converge in Round Valley. Round Valley is a broad, level expanse of deep alluvial soils with an average elevation of 2,135 m (7,005 ft) (Duff 1999:5.4; Martin et al. 1961:151). The valley opens up on the north and east onto the broader grassland expanse of the Colorado Plateau. The Colorado Plateau slopes gradually northward from the Mogollon Rim and the White Mountains. Round Valley is bordered on the south by the White Mountains where the second (Mount Baldy, 3,476 m, 11,403 ft) and third (Escudilla Mountain, 3,315 m, 10,877 ft) highest peaks in Arizona are located. The Apache National Forest and various Apache reservations now share most of the heavily wooded mountains. To the west, over 400 vents have been counted in the 3,000 km² (1160 mi²) area known as the Springerville Volcanic Field (Robinson 2000:7). The rich grasslands covering the cinder cones have been grazed by domesticated cattle and sheep, in addition to the native wildlife.

The Nutrioso floodplain is bordered by low-lying mesas formed by old lava flows, which have eroded into sloped terraces covered with fallen basalt boulders. Soils were formed from the erosion of the basalt terraces mixed with the silts, clays, and sands deposited by floodwaters from Nutrioso Creek. The result is well-drained, deep deposits of clay loams and sandy clay loams formed in alluvium (Robinson 2000:8).

Round Valley in general is classified as part of the Great Basin Grasslands with Conifer Woodlands (Robinson 2000:9). Plants common to these biotic communities are fourwing saltbush, snakeweed, barberry, wolfberry, various gramma grasses, and occasional cactus species. The higher terraces and hills have sparse stands of pinyon and juniper. The project area was surveyed during a dormant time of year making it difficult to identify specific plants. Fourwing saltbush and willows were obvious along the banks of Nutrioso Creek. Grasses covered the undisturbed flats in the southwestern and northeastern corners of the AGF parcel. The areas modified for the SMWA were sparsely covered with low-growing disturbance weeds. Dried cattail stalks were thick where treated wastewater was being released into the wetlands. The terrace in the northeastern corner of the AGF parcel was covered with leafless, thorny bushes. Pinyons and junipers grew among the larger boulders along the upper reaches of the terrace.

CULTURAL BACKGROUND OF THE PROJECT AREA

The Upper Little Colorado River area has long been of interest to Southwestern archaeologists, historians, and ethnographers beginning with the visits of Frank H. Cushing (in the 1880s) and Adolf F. Bandelier (in the late 1890s) and followed by Nels C. Nelson and Leslie Spier who separately visited the area in the 1910s (Duff 1999:5.8). These early researchers probably recorded all of the large locally known prehistoric sites while later regional surveys sought out the previously unknown sites. The Gila Pueblo surveys, under the direction of Harold S. Gladwin, recorded sites in the area during the 1920s and 1930s.

Edward B. Danson surveyed along the drainages of the Little Colorado River, Nutrioso Creek, and Coyote Creek between 1947 and 1949. During the 1950s, surveys were conducted around St. Johns by William J. Beeson, and in a broader area by John B. Rinaldo and William A. Longacre for the Chicago Museum of Natural History (Duff 1999:5,8).

Excavations were conducted in the Upper Little Colorado River area in the late 1950s until 1960 under the auspices of the Chicago Museum of Natural History. This research has provided the foundation for our current understanding of the prehistoric occupation of the area with references published by Paul S. Martin, Rindaldo, and others (Martin and Rinaldo 1960a, 1960b; Martin et al. 1961, 1962). More recent work has been spotty and primarily in response to the requirements of Federal, State, and local cultural resource protection laws (Table 1). The most recent and useful references were generated by doctoral dissertation research (Duff 1999) and a planning document about Casa Malpais prepared for presentation to the National Park Service and the town of Springerville (Robinson 2000).

The following sections briefly summarize the culture history surrounding the project area, as it is currently understood. Details are available from the cited references. Relatively well-dated environmental periods are used to structure the discussion of cultural complexes present in east-central Arizona. Subsistence adaptations can be correlated to some degree with these climatic subdivisions and are most useful in discussing the early cultural complexes, prior to the introduction of pottery into the archaeological record. The level of information obtained from pottery generally allows for more refined categorization of archaeological sites. While time periods are discussed for each cultural complex, explicit date ranges are only given for ceramic era manifestations. Environmental period dates are presented in years "b.p.", referring to uncalibrated radiocarbon years before present.

Table 1. Previous surveys in the vicinity of the Springerville Marsh Wildlife Area.

ASM Project No.	Project Name	Recording Organization
1948-1.ASM	An Archaeological Survey of West Central New Mexico and East Central Arizona	Peabody Museum
1984-66.ASM	Shell Western E & P Survey	Northland Research
1985-107.ASM	Grant-Norpac Survey	Northland Research
1991-265.ASM	Casa Malpais Road Survey	Louis & Berger Associates
1991-270.ASM	US 60 & SR 260 Through Springerville	Plateau Mountain Desert Research
1993-317.ASM	Eagar Telephone Line Survey	Plateau Mountain Desert Research
1997-22.ASM	Ridgeway State 9-22, 10-16 and 12-15	CSWTA, Inc.
1997-42.ASM	Ridgeway State 9-22, 9-28, 10-26-29 and 13-36-29	CSWTA, Inc.
1998-230.ASM	US 60 at MP 391 Emergency Slope Repair	Plateau Mountain Desert Research
1999-387.ASM	Springerville/US 60	Archaeological Consulting Services
2001-518.ASM	Big Ditch survey	Kinlani Archaeology

Paleoindian Adaptation (Clovis Complex)

In the Southwest, the deglacial period was characterized by lower temperatures and greater winter rainfall than today. Temperatures began to increase as early as 15,000 b.p., and this trend accelerated during the "terminal Wisconsin" dated between about 11,500 and 10,500 b.p. The terminal Wisconsin was characterized by dramatically fluctuating environmental conditions, beginning with a significant drought.

Paleoindians are traditionally viewed as small, highly mobile groups of big-game hunters; a perception fostered by the excavation of kill sites, including ones in southeastern Arizona (Haury 1953, 1956). This perspective has been modified by the recognition that plant resources and smaller game also played a role in their diet. A low population size during the Paleoindian adaptation has contributed to the rarity of their material remains, along with a tool kit containing few diagnostic artifacts. In addition, the extreme antiquity of the era reduces the number of sites that have survived.

The current environment of the Upper Little Colorado River watershed is not an accurate reflection of the environment during the late Pleistocene, when the makers of large spear points hunted mammoths and other large mammals that are now extinct. The Clovis points after which these people are named are distinctive because of their size and a small manufactured feature called a flute, that thins the point for hafting into the spear shaft (Mabry 1998:Figure 1.4a). Even though Paleoindian sites have not been recorded in the upper Little Colorado River watershed, a few Clovis points found scattered in east-central Arizona are evidence that these hunters at least pursued their game there sometime between 11,600 and 10,900 b.p. (Mabry 1998:Figure 3.3).

Paleoindian Adaptation (Folsom Complex)

The early Holocene (about 10,700 – 7,000 b.p.) climate was generally cool, but temperatures rose and summertime monsoonal rainfall increased to a Holocene maximum. Montane conifer forests were replaced by pinyon and oak woodlands. Many of the megafauna species became extinct, and modern faunal communities began to be established. Hunters combed a wide geographic area following herd animals.

The Folsom complex follows the Clovis Complex, with differences in the tool kit and geographic distribution (Mabry 1998:44). Folsom Complex hunters are recognized by a smaller projectile point (Folsom Point) that has a longer flute for hafting into the spear shaft (Mabry 1998:Figure 1.4b). No Folsom Complex sites have been found in east-central Arizona, however, as with Clovis points, a few Folsom points have been found scattered across the landscape that date to sometime between 10,900 and 7,500 b.p. (Mabry 1998: Figure 3.4).

Paleoindian Adaptation (Other Complexes)

Other Paleoindian complexes are contemporary with Folsom age sites and some post date them (Mabry 1998:45-49). Evidence for these complexes is also sparse in east-central Arizona

and includes only a few projectile points classified as belonging to Plainview, Agate Basin, and Cody Complexes. The Plainview and Agate Basin complexes are distinguished by projectile point shapes called lanceolate (Mabry 1998:Figure 1.4e-h). A change in hafting techniques created the stemmed/shouldered points that distinguish the Cody Complex (Mabry 1998:48-49).

Archaic Adaptation

Archaic adaptations are distinctive by developments in tool kits and features related to the processing of seeds and grains, such as food grinding tools, roasting pits, and storage pits. The absence of extinct megafauna from the remains of Archaic settlements have been interpreted as a chronological factor derived from changes in the environment, but early radiocarbon dates from some Archaic settlements may be evidence that Paleoindian and Archaic adaptations were at least partially contemporaneous (Mabry 1998:53). New projectile point designs were incorporated into hunting technology although some of the same projectile point designs may have continued in use. Whichever projectile design was used, it appears that Archaic hunters began supplying meat from smaller game animals. The presence of early Holocene Archaic hunters is noted in east-central Arizona, primarily represented by Pinto Points between 10,700 and 7,000 b.p. (Mabry 1998:Figure 4.2). Middle and Late Holocene Archaic sites on the Colorado Plateau (Mabry 1998:Figures 6.1 and 6.2) reflect subsistence changes to reliance on seasonally available seed and grain resources that tie people to specific locations during different times of the year between 8000 and 1000 B.C.

Generally, land use patterns began to change in the Southwest, with horticultural practices along the floodplains of perennial rivers. Together, the transition to agricultural dependence, the establishment of the first settlements, the introduction of the bow-and-arrow, and the beginning of pottery use across most of the Southwest by about 1500 b.p. (ca. A.D. 600) mark the end of Archaic adaptations and the beginnings of farming village lifeways (Mabry 1998). However, hunter-gatherer strategies did not completely disappear in the Southwest.

Formative Period Adaptation

Formative period adaptations in the Upper Little Colorado River area are visible as artifact scatters, mostly consisting of pottery, ground stone, and flaked stone, and sometimes pithouse depressions. Even from this early time period, it is possible to see evidence of more than one cultural or ethnic group by the broken pieces of gray ware and brown ware pots. Gray wares originated with potters who lived north of the Upper Little Colorado River area and brown wares by potters who lived to the south. Formative Period occupations perhaps date as early as A.D. 500, although little is known about them through excavation (Duff 1999:5.10). Whether or not these early residents were permanent or seasonal, and their cultural or ethnic identity at any time in prehistory, have long been subjects for debate by archaeologists.

Puebloan Period Adaptation

Between A.D. 950 and 1050 masonry structures began appearing in the area and, given their size and the number of rooms in each village, there was apparently an increase in population. Settlements are primarily composed of pithouses and masonry rooms, as are common in other areas of the Southwest during this time period.

Additional population increase is postulated for the time period A.D. 1050-1150, when there is evidence for the immigration of households from the Chaco area in modern day New Mexico (Duff 1999:5.11). Settlements were larger than previous occupations, composed of one or more contemporaneously constructed room blocks. Chacoan great house communities have not been recorded within the immediate Upper Little Colorado River area, but are not too distant at Bean Patch (AZ Q:8:12 ASM) and Garcia Ranch (AZ Q:8:5 ASM) (Duff 1999:5.11). Evidence for inhabitants of both northern and southern derived culture groups continues and is most obvious in pottery types and in architectural details, such as round and square great kivas (Duff 1999:5.14).

The Upper Little Colorado River area continued to be inhabited after A.D. 1150, although the settlements were fewer in number and larger in size. Multiple room block Pueblos continued to be similar in configuration to those occupied in the northerly regions designated as Anasazi. Other settlement patterns more closely resembled those of Mogollon settlements that developed to the south, such as Coyote Creek Pueblo and Slade Ruin, and portions of Hooper Ranch and Raven Ruin (Duff 1999:5.16).

After A.D. 1275 or slightly later, a major shift in settlement strategy moved people closer to the drainages of the Little Colorado River and into nucleated villages where masonry structures were organized around plazas (Duff 1999:5.18). Rattlesnake Point, Baca, Raven Ruin, and Casa Malpais are examples of such settlements. Some inhabitants may have moved out of the region altogether, perhaps to areas south of the Mogollon Rim or to the Zuni area in New Mexico, which witnessed population increases (Duff 1999:5.23). Population shifts continued throughout the fourteenth century, with some pueblos increasing or decreasing in size, and some abandoned either permanently or temporarily. By about A.D. 1400 the Upper Little Colorado River area appears to have been uninhabited, although not unused by Puebloans.

Historic Native American Adaptation

The Upper Little Colorado River area continues to be an area of great importance in modern times to Native American groups including the Hopi, Zuni, and Apache. The prehistoric settlements are part of their traditional ancestral landscape. Many of their trails pass through the area, some leading to specific resources such as the Zuni Salt Lake. Others follow landforms and are perhaps the linkages between specific settlements. Spaniards made their way onto and across the Colorado Plateau using Native American trails known by their native guides (Robinson 2000:22). Reservations were established by the U.S. Government in the late 1800s, which left open the Upper Little Colorado River area for non-Indian settlement.

Historic Non-Indian Adaptation

Other than a Spanish presence at the large pueblos of Zuni, Hawikuh, and those on the Hopi Mesas between 1540 and 1690, there is little evidence of non-Indian adaptation on the Colorado Plateau until the 1800s. The Upper Little Colorado River area was considered part of the Mexican territories, where there were only trappers and traders until after the U.S.-Mexican War (1846-1848). After the Arizona territory came under the jurisdiction of the U.S. government, the Colorado Plateau continued to be a magnet for groups of many ethnicities. Hispanics from New Mexico were among the first post-Spanish settlers in the Upper Little Colorado River area as early as the 1860s, followed by Basque herders, and Anglo trappers and traders. The largest immigration into the area, however, was enacted by Mormon settlers. Utah Mormons followed the Little Colorado River up into the St. Johns and Springerville/Eagar area. What began with bold explorers in the 1870s, gave way to determined settlers by the 1880s. The completion of the transcontinental railroad in the early 1880s opened all of northern Arizona to settlers from both coasts.

ARCHIVAL RESEARCH

Prior to fieldwork, a search of archaeological site and survey records was conducted online through the Arizona Cultural Resources Inventory (AZSITE). Eleven cultural resource surveys were previously conducted in the area, recording seven sites in the vicinity of the project area (Figure 2). Although a large regional survey conducted in the late 1940s covered part of the SMWA parcel, no sites were previously recorded within the boundaries. Six projects were conducted within linear rights-of-way and four were small area surveys (see Table 1). Four of the seven previously recorded sites are historic, two are prehistoric, and one could have been either a historic road or a prehistoric canal.

One of the historic sites, AZ Q:15:25 (ASM), is the townsite of Springerville. Originally called Omer, the town name was changed to Springerville when the Mormons moved to Eagar in 1885 (Trimble 1986). Henry Springer was a trader who came to Round Valley in 1875 and opened a store that quickly went broke. The post office was named after him and, from 1880 until 1882, Springerville served as the Apache County seat.

A second historic site, AZ Q:15:51 (ASM), is known as the Wahl Homestead. When recorded in 1991, visible features included a stone foundation, a dump, and a stone-lined well.

The third historic site, AZ Q:15:53 (ASM), is a stone foundation with attendant trash scatter. Artifacts in the trash place the occupation of the structure sometime between 1915 and 1940.

The fourth historic site, AZ Q:15:89 (ASM) (Big Ditch), is a bridge and series of water control devices which were originally recorded as part of AZ Q:15:77 (ASM) that included Amity Ditch and a series of small unnamed ditches near Springerville and Eagar. Big Ditch was constructed in the 1880s by the Eagar Ditch Company, to bring water across 5 miles from the Little Colorado River. When recorded in 2001, the ditch terminated south of Springerville, where the unused water drained through a field and into Nutrioso Creek. Records of ditch maintenance have been identified for the years 1949, 1972, and 1986.

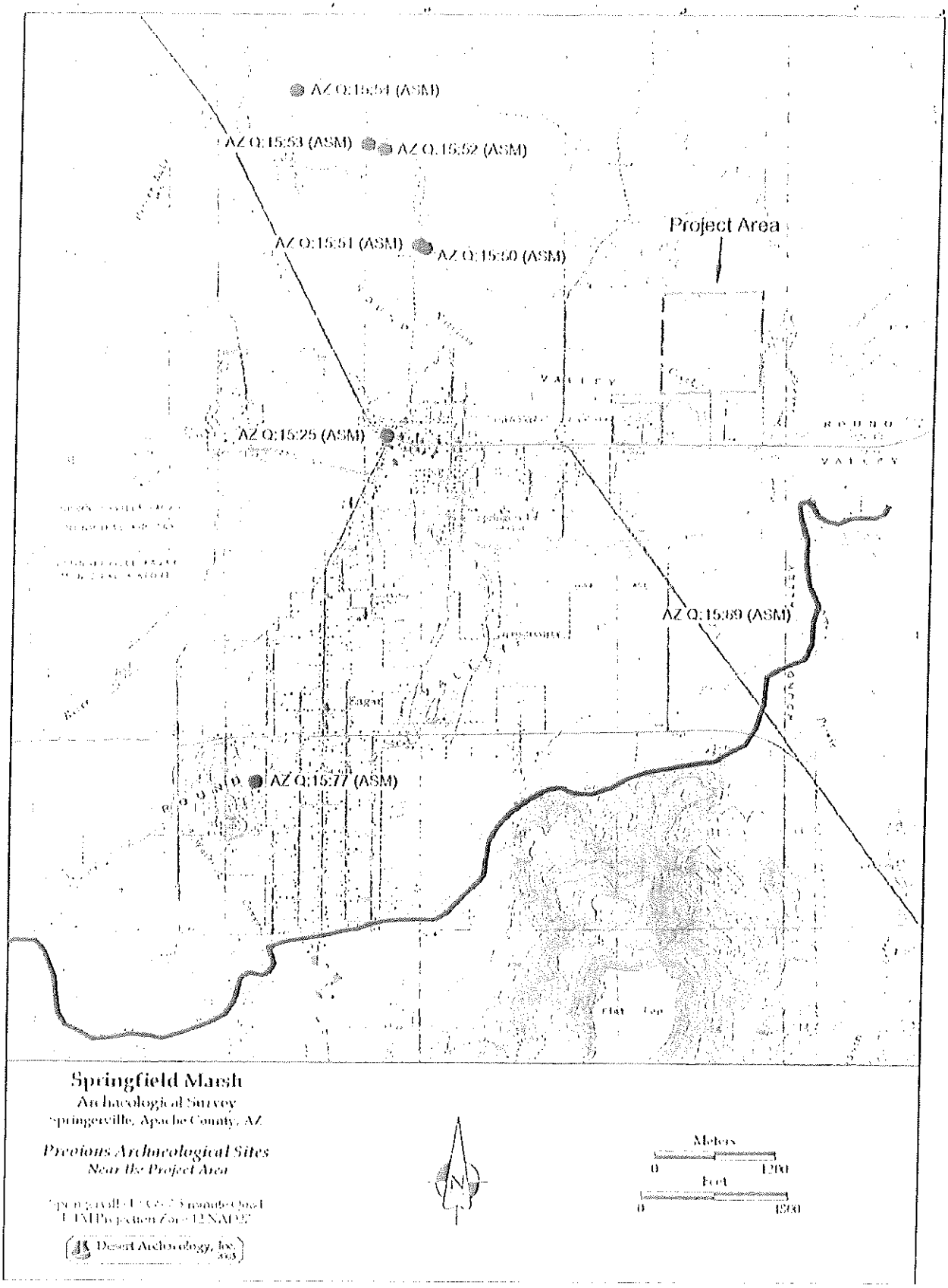

Figure 2. Overview of the Springerville Marsh Wildlife survey area with known sites in the vicinity of the survey area.

AZ Q:15:54 (ASM) is a linear depression the could have been either a historic road or a prehistoric canal. No artifacts were associated with the feature to aid in its interpretation.

Two prehistoric sites previously recorded in the area are rock art locations. AZ Q:15:52 (ASM) has two small basalt boulders with a petroglyph panel on each boulder. The petroglyphs consist of anthropomorphic figures and geometric spirals. The petroglyphs may have been associated with a nearby compound site that was not identified by the recorders. Three petroglyph panels on basalt boulders were found at AZ Q:15:50 (ASM). These also had anthropomorphic figures and geometric spirals, as well as representations of paws and feet. A cylindrical mortar hole was associated with one of the basalt boulders.

SURVEY METHODS

Approximately 163 acres were surveyed for cultural resources within the boundary of the Springerville Marsh Wildlife Area. The area was surveyed systematically with the survey crew walking four transects at a time. Each transect was spaced 20 m apart, resulting in optimal coverage of the entire survey area. Ground surface visibility was generally very good throughout most of the study area. However, in a small area west of the wastewater treatment plant, visibility was hampered by marshy conditions and thickets of dried cattails and marshland grasses.

All archaeological remains were recorded according to ASM standards (Arizona State Museum 1993). These guidelines define an archaeological site as containing the physical remains of past human activity at least 50 years old and consisting of at least one of the following: (1) 20 or more artifacts from at least two material classes in a 15-m-diameter (50-ft-) area; (2) 30 or more artifacts from a single material class in a 15-m-diameter (50-ft-) area; (3) one or more feature in association with any number of artifacts; or (4) two or more associated features without artifacts. Cultural manifestations satisfying any of these criteria are considered archaeological sites. All sites identified within the study area are documented with the ASM.

Archaeological features and artifacts not meeting ASM site standards were recorded as isolated occurrences (IOs). Whenever IOs were observed, the landscape surrounding the finds was intensely surveyed to ensure that it did not contain an archaeological site.

Global Positioning System (GPS) receivers were employed throughout the course of the project. Prior to fieldwork, digital line data depicting the study area boundaries were integrated with geo-referenced raster images of the USGS 7.5-minute Springerville topographic quadrangle using AutoCAD Map 2004 and Alltopo software programs. This image data was uploaded onto a Trimble GeoXT GPS receiver and used to guide the survey crew throughout the study area. Whenever IOs and sites were encountered, the Trimble GeoXT unit was utilized to record relevant location and attribute information. Survey transect spacing was controlled and recorded by the survey team using Magellan SporTrak Map GPS receivers. Both types of GPS receivers were equipped with Wide Area Augmentation System (WAAS) correction technology, which gave the survey team confidence that they were within 3 m (10 ft) of their accurate global position 95 percent of

the time. All spatial data were recorded relative to the 1927 North American Datum (NAD27), Zone 12. All of the post-field maps created for this report were generated with AutoCAD Map 2004 software.

SURVEY RESULTS

Three new archaeological sites were identified within the survey area during the cultural resources survey (Figure 3).

AZ Q:15:108 (ASM)

This site is a trailhead and trail of unidentifiable age. The trailhead is marked by a stack of rocks (Figure 4) measuring about 75 cm high, with a triangular top rock that points south toward the mesa edge. A natural hole (Figure 5) in the bedrock at the edge of the mesa has been pecked into a circular shape about 15 cm in diameter and marks the beginning of the trail's decent over the edge of the mesa. A second natural hole (Figure 6), enlarged to about the same size and shape, is located about 10 m below the mesa edge and marks where the trail turns to the southeast. A portion of the trail is visible for about 30 m through the basalt boulders below the first terrace of the mesa edge. No material culture is associated with the trail and it is unclear if this is a prehistoric or historic trail. It is possible that it is both. Footprints on the trail indicate that it is currently used by large and small animals.

The site location is marked on the mesa top by the largest Juniper tree in the area. Thorny bushes are scattered among the boulders on the first terrace. The bushes, grasses, and other low growing vegetation in the area were dormant at the time of the survey making more detailed identifications impossible.

AZ Q:15:109 (ASM)

This site is a rock shelter with a mesa edge marker. The rock shelter is positioned below the mesa edge at the base of the first terrace, which is comprised of large basalt boulders. A semi-circle of large and small basalt rocks encloses a small cleared area in front of a shallow alcove in the boulders (Figure 7). This structure would have provided shelter from wind but is probably not deep enough to keep out wet weather. The cleared area is only large enough to accommodate a single sitting, or perhaps sleeping, individual. There is no evidence of a hearth or of burning on the boulders to suggest a campfire. No historic or prehistoric trash is visible in the area except for a piece of yellow, nylon rope, which was about 3 m to the southwest of the shelter. Above the shelter, a large natural hole was pecked to a rectangular shape and probably served as a marker visible from the mesa top for the position of the shelter below. Access to the shelter from the mesa top is easily accomplished through a break in the rocks to the west of the shelter. It is possible to walk along the base of the first terrace between the shelter and the previously described trailhead features at Q:15:108 (Figure 8). These two sites may have been contemporaneously used. The low bushes and grasses in the site area are identical to those described for Q:15:108.

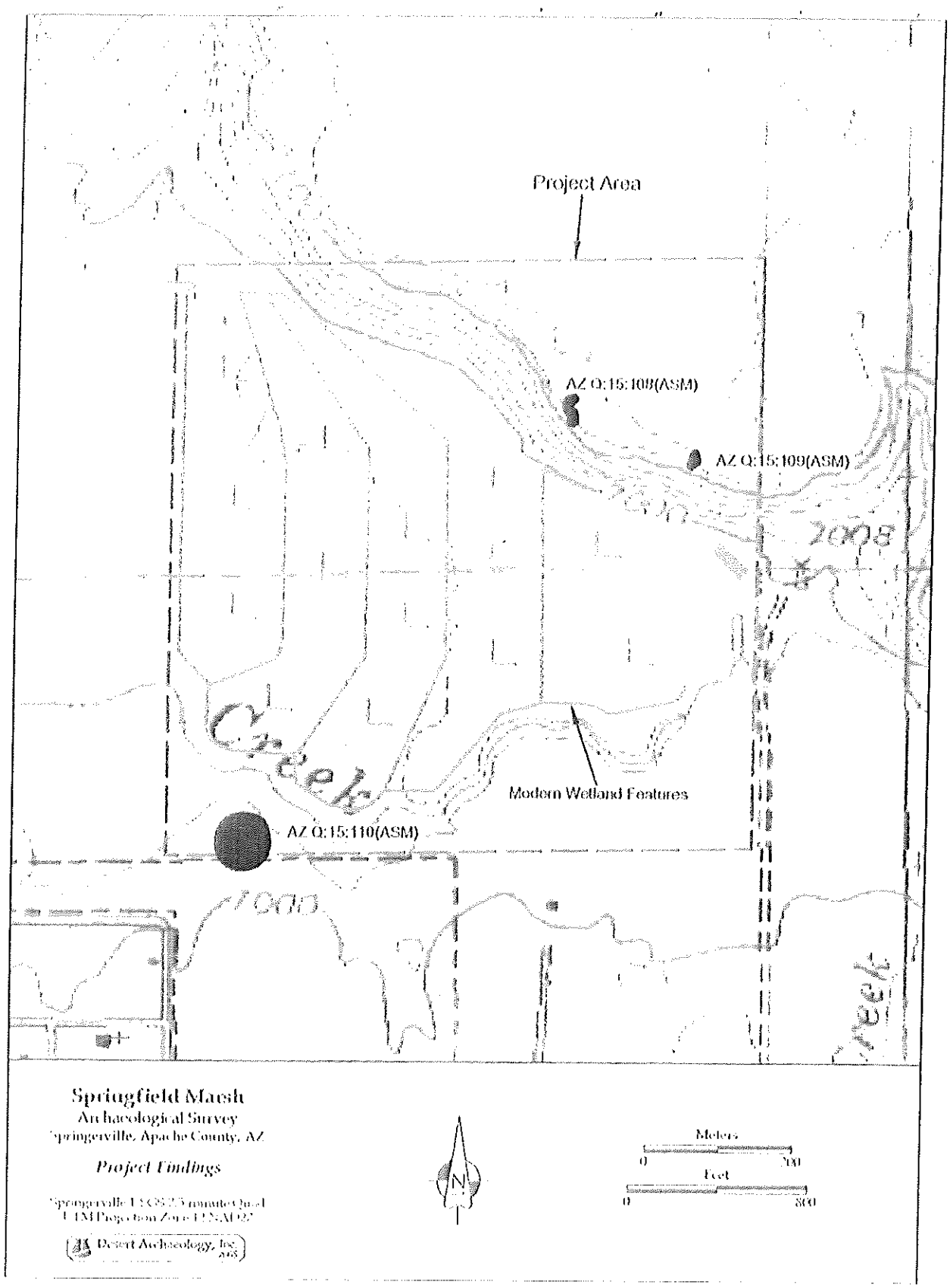

Figure 3. Map of survey area illustrating the locations of three discovered sites

Figure 4. View east of mesa top rock cairn portion of trailhead site recorded as AZ Q:15:108 (ASM).

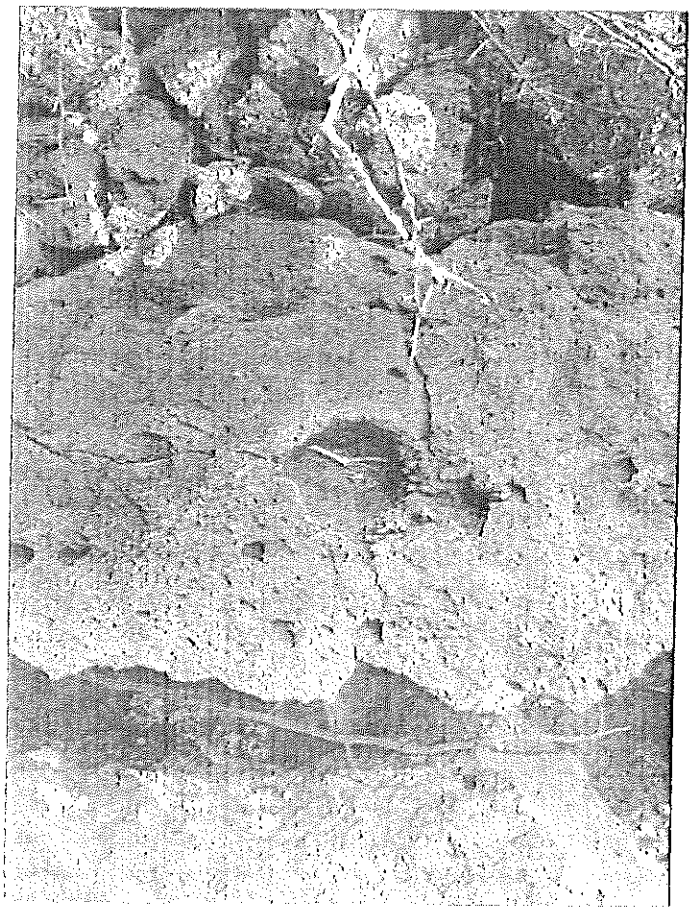

Figure 5. Bedrock feature that marks beginning of trail portion of AZ Q:15:108 (ASM).

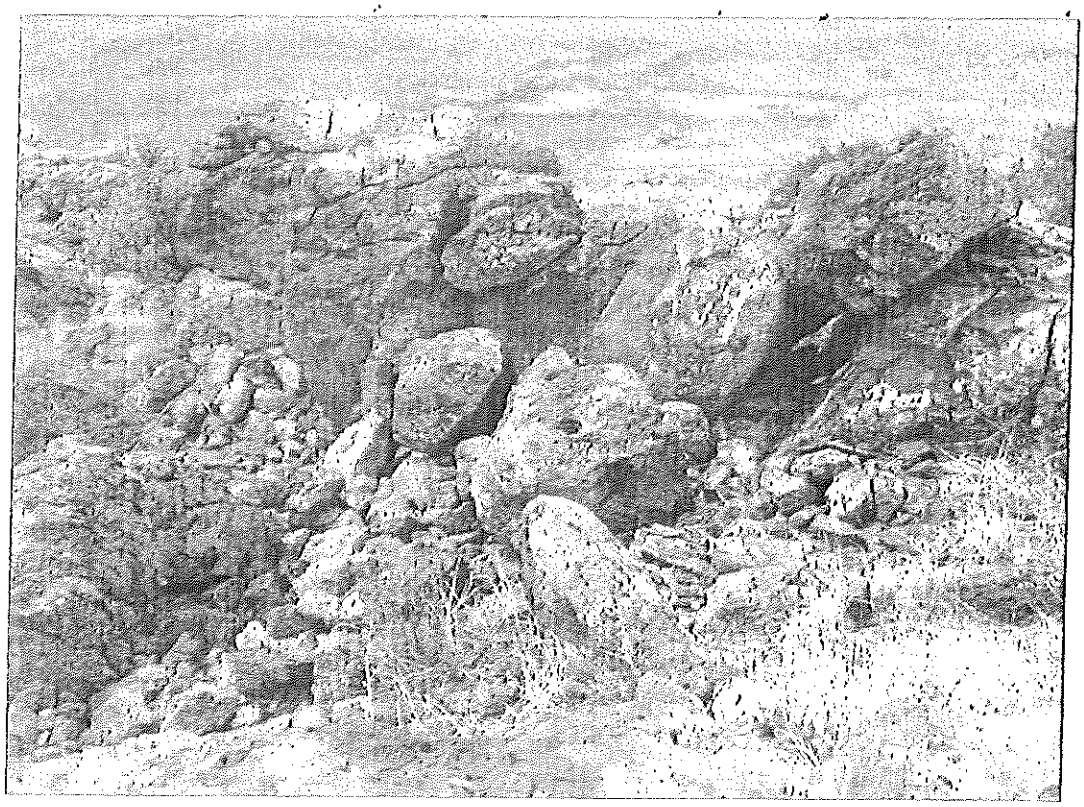

Figure 6. View over south edge of mesa to the second trail marker recorded at AZ Q:15:108 (ASM).

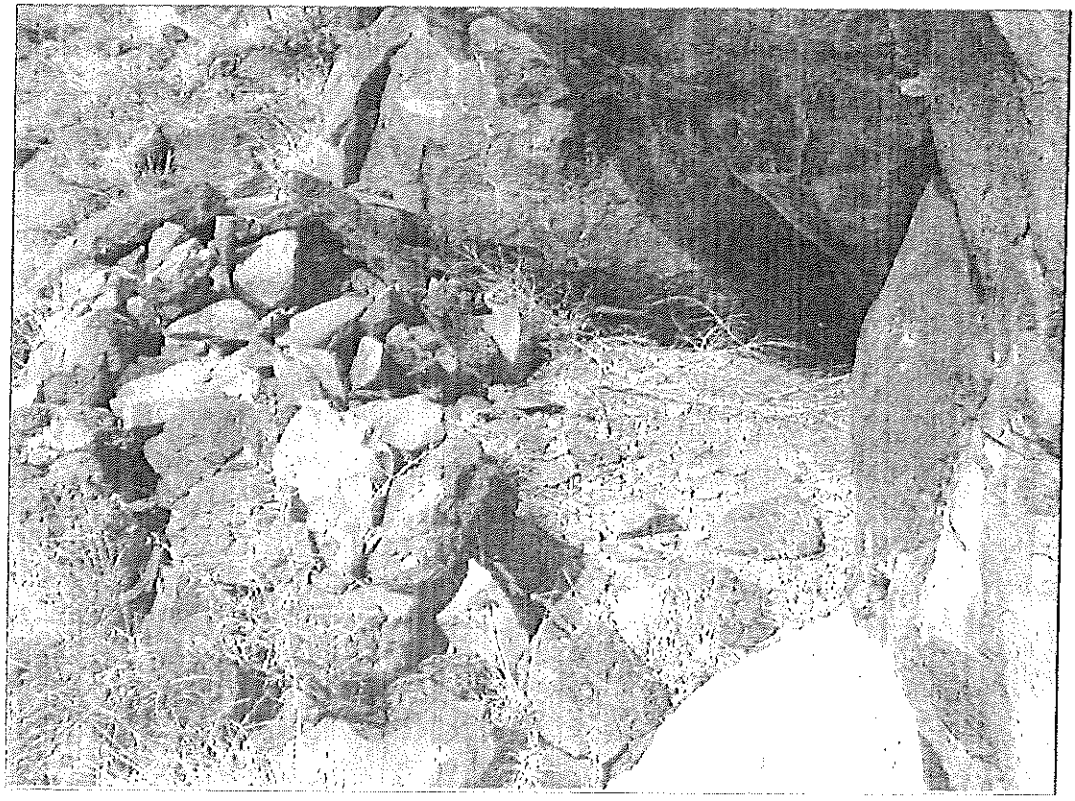

Figure 7. View north of the rock shelter recorded as AZ Q:15:109 (ASM).

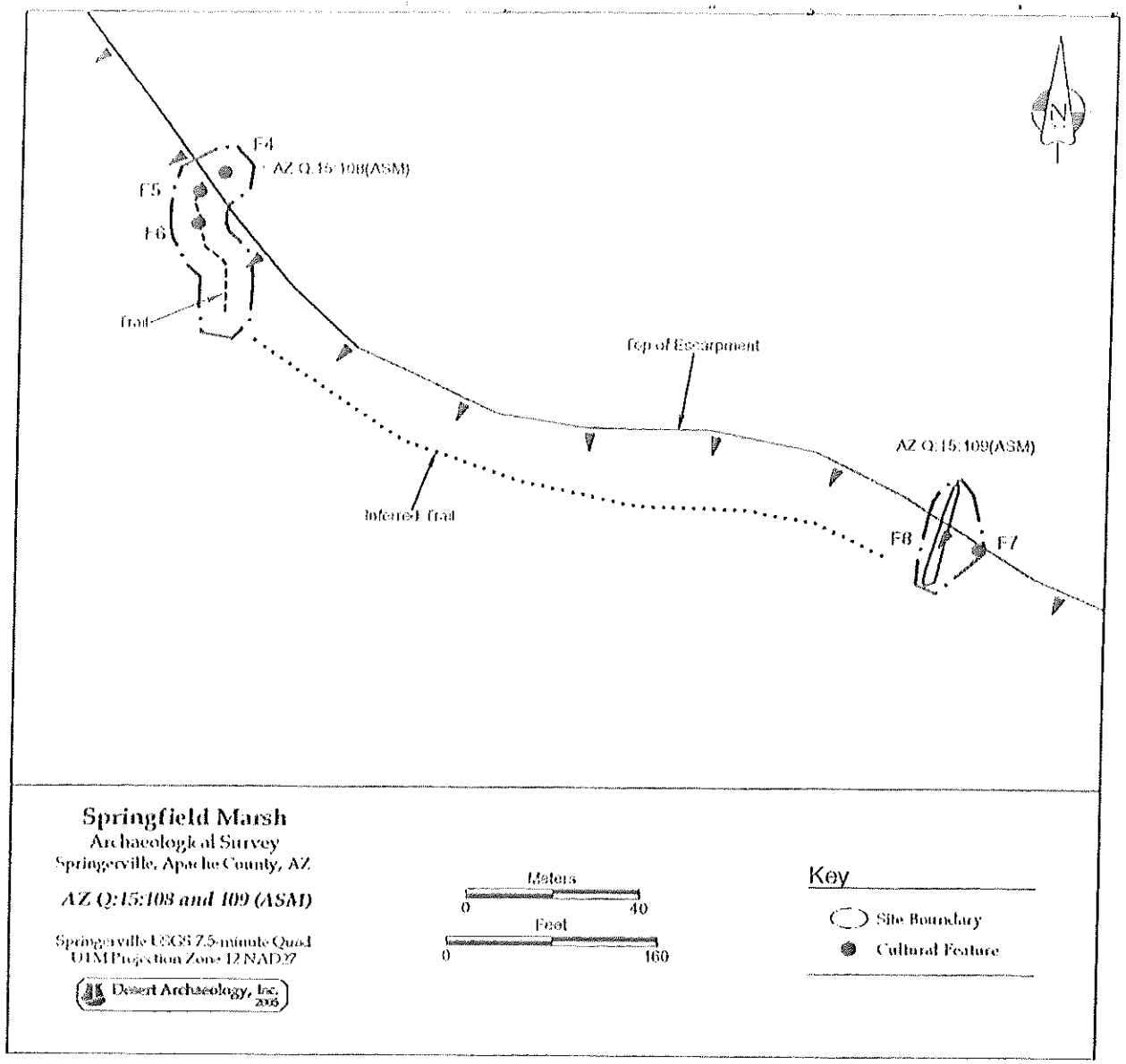

Figure 8. Schematic map illustrating the relationship along the first terrace of the trailhead site (AZ Q:15:108 [ASM]) and the rock shelter (AZ Q:15:109 [ASM]).

AZ Q:15:110 (ASM)

This is a historic home site consisting of the shell of a log cabin, a fenced yard, and a trash dump (Figure 9). The fence-enclosed area is 1.19 acres and the property is covered with modern (post-1970s) trash from a former landfill located to the east. A trash dump in the northeastern corner of the fenced area is most likely related to the occupation of the log cabin. Broken clear and bluish-green glass constitute most of the trash. Large rusty metal buckets are also in the trash. One has a handle and the words "BOYCO 26 5 35" embossed into the metal. Smashed and square buckets were also associated with the trash.

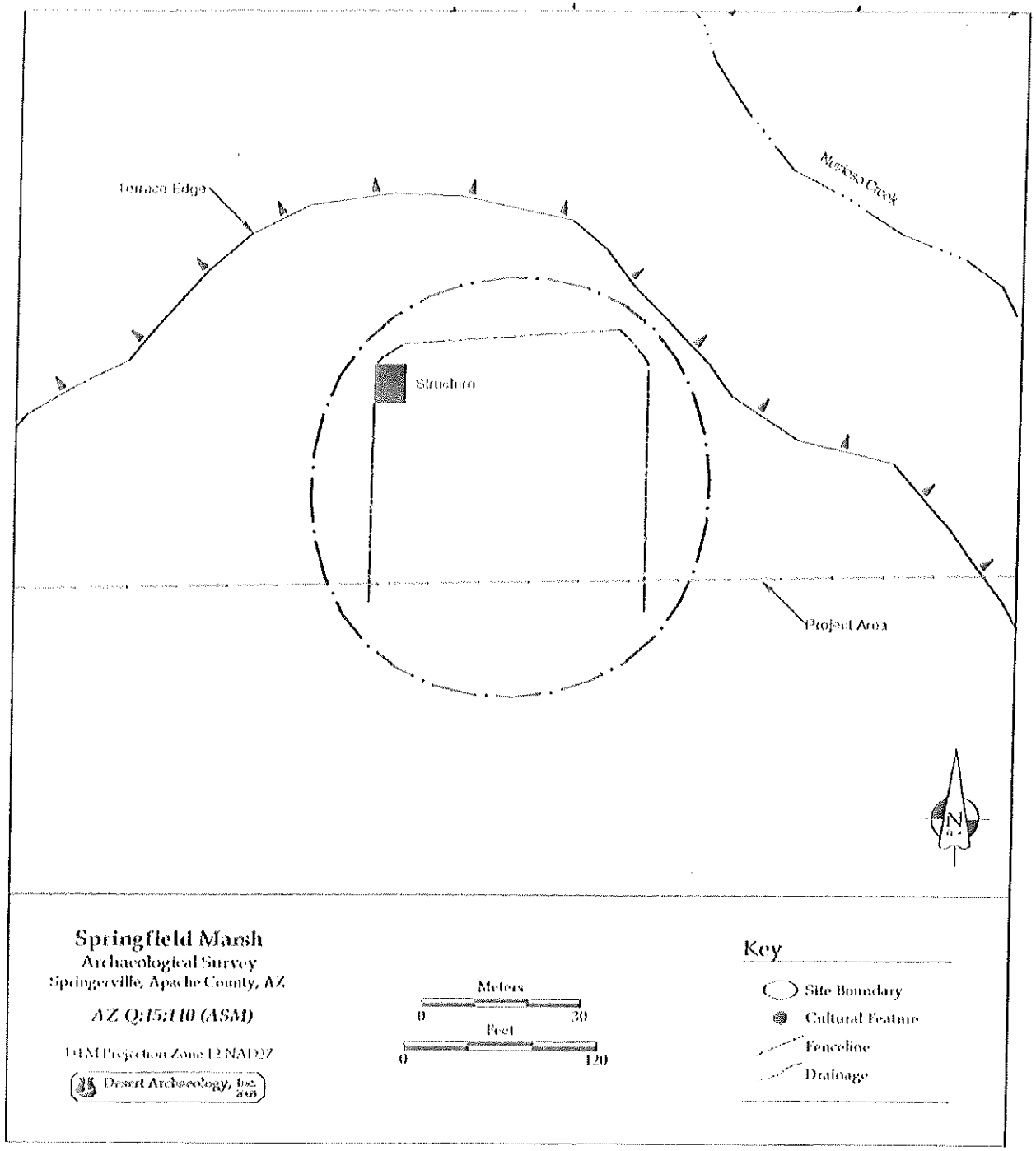

Figure 9. Schematic map of the cabin, fence line, and historic dump recorded as AZ Q:15:110 (ASM).

The cabin walls were constructed from prepared logs and mortared with cement (Figure 10). They remain approximately 8 ft high. Nothing remains of the roof. A door in the east wall and a window in the south wall were framed with milled wood. The cement on the inside of the cabin was colored brown. The walls are set on large rocks with no apparent permanent foundation for the cabin. The floor is dirt and trash is scattered around the inside of the

cabin including broken pieces of transfer print ceramic, paint or lard buckets, soldered cans, and stove parts.

A four-strand barbed wire fence encloses the property and is attached to the cabin on the northwestern and southwestern corners. Wooden fence posts support the wire around the perimeter.

The vegetation inside the barbed wire fence was dormant at the time of this survey, but the dried remains of low growing plants and grasses are spotty.

An online records search of the Bureau of Land Management Patent records (online at <http://www.glorecords.blm.gov./>, viewed on 7 April 2005), and of the 1900 census records (1900 US Census, Arizona Territory, Apache County, Springerville Precinct, Sheet 6A) indicates that Township 9 North, Range 29 East, Section 34 where the cabin is located was originally homesteaded by five men: Walter Winsor (1897), Edmond Nelson (1901, 1918), Allen Burk (1898), Henry Bulter (1898), and Albert Miller (1891). Albert Miller homesteaded the property where the cabin is currently located. Without further research, it is unknown whether or not the property was owned by Miller when the cabin was occupied.

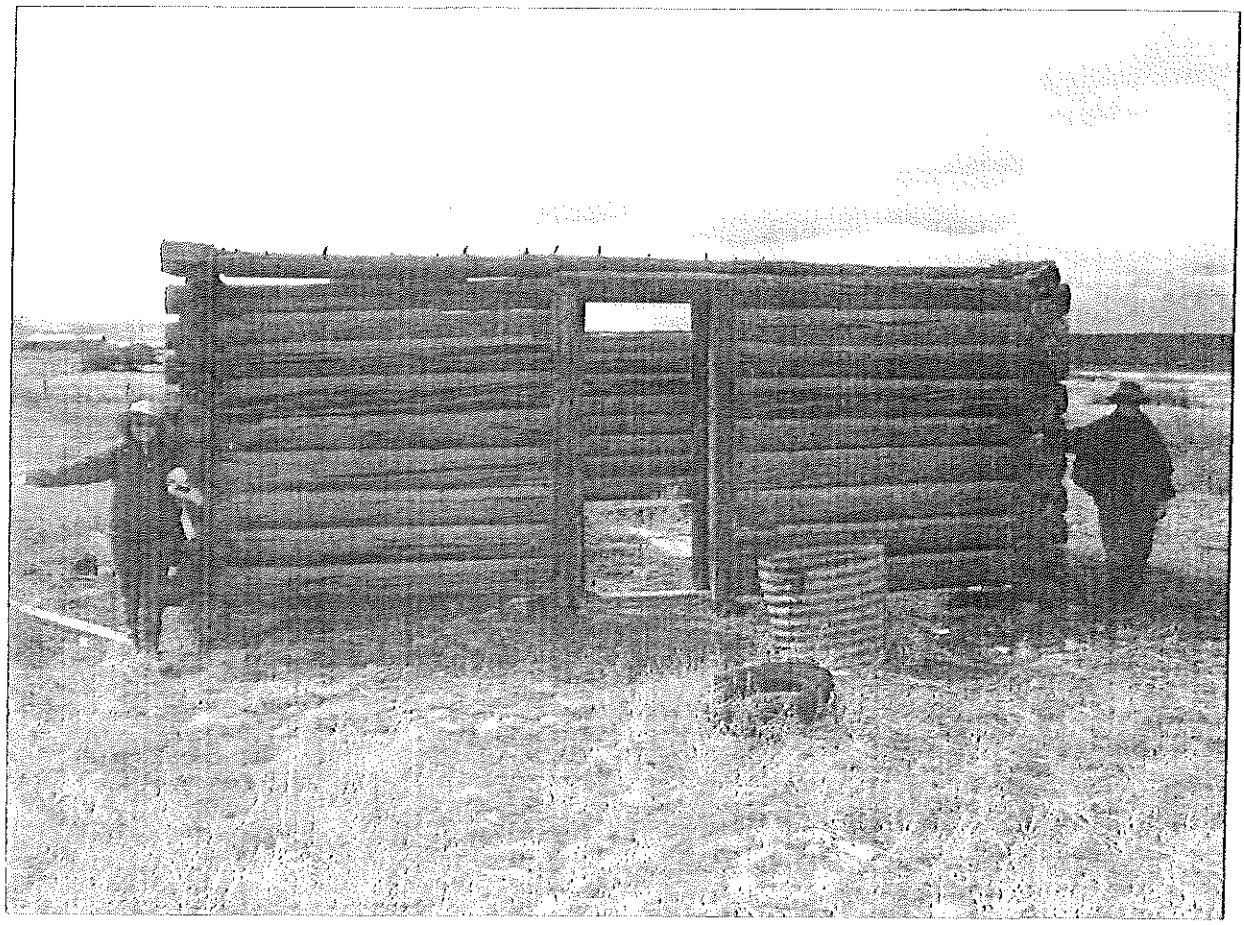

Figure 10. View west of the log cabin portion of the home site recorded as AZ Q:15:110 (ASM).

SUMMARY

The cultural resources survey within the parcel owned by AGF and leased by the town of Springerville, discovered three new archaeological sites. Two of the sites were located on the south terrace of a low mesa that borders the Nutrioso floodplain. Neither site can be assigned to either the historic or prehistoric time period. Q:15:108 is a trailhead and trail marked by a rock cairn and two enlarged holes in the bedrock. Q:15:109 is a rock shelter and associated mesa top marker. A historic home site (Q:15:110) consists of a cabin, fence line, and associated trash dump. Historic homesteading in this township and range began in the 1890s; however, this home site was more recently occupied, at least as recently as the first half of the twentieth century.

SIGNIFICANCE ASSESSMENT

National Register of Historic Places

The National Register of Historic Places (National Register) is the nation's inventory of historic sites. It was established after the passage of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 to promote preservation and study of historic resources. Most projects involving federal agencies, federal land, or federal funds require evaluation and mitigation of their impacts on properties eligible for the National Register. In addition, many state and local laws, ordinances, and regulations require similar evaluations.

In order for a property to be listed in the National Register, it must meet integrity requirements and at least one of four significance criteria. These criteria are summarized in Table 2. An important aspect of significance is a property's historic context (cultural affiliation and dates of use). If a historic context cannot be established, or if the property cannot be shown to be significant within its historic context, then it does not meet eligibility requirements for the National Register. Furthermore, except in special circumstances, properties must be at least 50 years old to be considered for inclusion in the National Register.

Table 2. National Register eligibility criteria (Code of Federal Regulations, Title 36, Part 60).

The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archeology, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and:	
A.	That are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad pattern of our history; or
B.	That are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or
C.	That embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
D.	That have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Significance Assessment of AZ Q:15:108 (ASM)

This site has three features associated with a trailhead. Prehistoric and historic trails are known to have been used to cross Round Valley, providing access through the area to valued resources or between settlements. The role played by this particular trail is unknown.

Because it cannot presently be discerned whether Q:15:108 is historic or modern, the site is considered potentially eligibile for inclusion in the National Register under Criterion D. Archaeological remains could contribute information related to site function, cultural affiliation, cultural chronology, economic subsistence, and patterns of land use.

Significance Assessment of AZ Q:15:109 (ASM)

A small rock shelter and associated bedrock marker are the only cultural features associated with this site. The shelter may have been used by someone departing from the trailhead recorded as Q:15:108.

Because it cannot presently be discerned whether Q:15:110 is historic or modern, the site is considered potentially eligibile for inclusion in the National Register under Criterion D. Archaeological remains could contribute information related to site function, cultural affiliation, cultural chronology, economic subsistence, and patterns of land use.

Significance Assessment of AZ Q:15:110 (ASM)

What remains of the cabin is protected within the boundary of the AGF property and within the barbed wire fence that marks the edge of the site. The exact age of the home site is unknown and could be either historic or modern. The trash dump located to the northeast of the cabin could have datable material remains.

Because it cannot presently be discerned whether Q:15:110 is historic or modern, the site is considered potentially eligibile for inclusion in the National Register. If the site can be shown to be of historic age, it will meet eligibility requirements for inclusion to the National Register under Criterion D. Archaeological remains could contribute information related to site function, cultural affiliation, cultural chronology, economic subsistence, and patterns of land use.

ASSESSMENT OF PROJECT EFFECT

Because there are no current project proposals defined for this property, there are no immediate impacts to the cultural resources identified above. The historic cabin site is bounded by a fence, that separates it from the nearby landfill. The trailhead, trail, and rock shelter are among the boulders at the edge of the mesa. There is nothing currently threatening these sites, other than the natural decay process.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Q:15:108 is a trailhead and trail that has the potential to meet National Register eligibility requirements. No action is recommended at this time. However, should land modification projects be proposed in the future, it is recommended that potential impacts be evaluated and a treatment plan developed for evaluating National Register eligibility.

Q:15:109 is a rock shelter that has the potential to meet National Register eligibility requirements. No action is recommended at this time. However, should land modification projects be proposed in the future, it is recommended that potential impacts be evaluated and a treatment plan developed for evaluating National Register eligibility.

Q:15:110 is an historic home site that has the potential to meet National Register eligibility requirements. No action is recommended at this time. However, should land modification projects be proposed in the future, it is recommended that potential impacts be evaluated and a treatment plan developed for evaluating National Register eligibility.

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