


OAHP Use Only: OAHP Doc. No. _____ OAHP Project No. _____

Colorado Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation
LIMITED-RESULTS CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY FORM

(Page 1 of 3)

Small scale limited results projects include block surveys under 160 acres with linear surveys under four miles. Additionally, there should be no sites and a maximum of four Isolated Finds. This form must be typed.

I. IDENTIFICATION

1. Report Title (include County): New Elk Coal Bore Hole NE-03-20 Location and Access Road, Intensive Cultural Resources Inventory, Las Animas County, Colorado.
2. Date of Field Work: January 16, 2021
3. Form completed by: Robert J. Mutaw Date: January 18, 2021
4. Survey Organization / Agency: A&B Cultural Consultants, LLC
Principal Investigator: Robert J. Mutaw, Ph.D.
Principal Investigator's Signature: 
- Other Crew: Anne M. Mutaw
Address: 1608 Sunset Drive, Louisville, CO 80027
5. Lead Agency / Land Owner: Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (DRMS)/State of Colorado
Contact: Bosque del Oso State Wildlife Area
Address: Weston, CO 81091
6. Client: New Elk Coal Company LLC, 2250 State Highway 12, Weston, CO 81091
7. Permit Type and Number: CO #77421
8. Report / Contract Number: 2021-001
9. Comments:
-

II. DESCRIPTION OF UNDERTAKING / PROJECT

10. Type of Undertaking: Construction of an access road and a well pad and pit.
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11. Size of Undertaking (acres): ~0.179 acres Size of Project (if different) 0.197
12. Nature of the Anticipated Disturbance: The specific project activities will include grading of an access road, pad, and storage pit to support the drilling a single bore hole for geological assay purposes.
-
13. Comments: An area approximately 25 ft wide area was surveyed for the 14 ft wide access road resulting in the difference in the above acreages.
-

III. PROJECT LOCATION

Please attach a photocopy of USGS Quad. clearly showing the project location. The Quad. should be clearly labeled with the Prime Meridian, Township, Range, Section(s), Quad. map name, size, and date. Please do not reduce or enlarge the photocopy.

14. Description: The Study Area is an irregularly-shaped parcel that covers approximately 0.197 acres that is bound along the north by a graded road and on the other three sides by forest land (Figure 1).

15. Legal Location: Quad. Map Vigil, Colorado Dates: 1971
Principal Meridian: 6th X NM Ute

NOTE: Only generalized subdivision ("quarter quarters") within each section is needed.

Township: 33S Range: 68W Sec.: U 1/4s

If section(s) is irregular, explain alignment method: Beaubien Miranda Land Grant

16. Total number of acres surveyed: Approximately 0.197

17. Comments: Study Area UTM's (NAD 83):

13, 505119, 4111969, northeast corner	13, 505036, 4111931, turn point
13, 505106, 4111973, northwest corner	13, 505049, 4111947, turn point
13, 505046, 4111928, southwest corner	
13, 505053, 4111938, southeast corner	

IV. ENVIRONMENT

18. General Topographic Setting: The Study Area is at an elevation of approximately 7760 feet (ft) above mean sea level. It is currently undeveloped, densely forested, rugged land with slopes as steep as approximately 60°. It is situated in the Raton Section of the Great Plains Region that is characterized by volcanic mountains, high mesas, dissected plateaus, and deep canyons (Fenneman 1931). The Study Area is situated along a steep (40°) south-facing slope that extends downward from an existing graded road and it follows along an area that appears to have been previously graded sufficiently long ago that a few small trees have taken root along it. A relatively flat area along this previously graded area was selected for the bore hole location and this area also appears to have been previously disturbed as evidenced by the cut-banks along the west and south sides.

Current Land Use: Wildlife habitat and oil and gas production.

19. Flora: The site is covered mainly with Douglas fir, ponderosa pine, common juniper, Gamble oak and grasses and forbs.

20. Soils/Geology: Soils are shallow well-drained, brown stoney silty loam formed in slope alluvium and residuum with a A-Bw-Cr1-Cr2 profile. The underlying geology consists of the early Tertiary/late Cretaceous-aged Raton formation that consists of arkosic sandstone, siltstone, and shale with major coal deposits (Tweto 1971).

21. Ground Visibility: The lower 20% of the Study Area was covered in snow at the time of the survey but visible cutbanks demonstrate that area was previously disturbed along with the rest of the Study Area, which has little ground cover and near 100% surface visibility.

22. Comments:

V. LITERATURE REVIEW

23. Location of File Search: COMPASS Date: January 15, 2021

24. Previous Survey Activity

In the project area: None.

In the general region: Four surveys have been conducted in the area surrounding the Study Area.

Three of these were for coal mining operations and the other for two bridge replacements along SH 12.

25. Known Cultural Resources

In the project area: None.

In the general region (summarize): Eight cultural resources have been recorded in the area surrounding the Study Area. These include two historic ranches, two highway bridges, one church, a coal mine, a residence, and a prehistoric open camp. The open camp is located on a bench overlooking the Purgatoire River, north of the river approximately 1 mile to the west-northwest. The prehistoric archaeological context for the Arkansas River Basin does include any sites from any cultural periods this far west up the Purgatoire River (Zier and Kalasz 1999).

26. Expected Results: The limited surveys in the area found mainly historic artifacts or historic structures with one known prehistoric site in the vicinity of the Study Area, it was expected to be unlikely that anything would be found from either the prehistoric or historic periods given the small size of the survey area and the steepness of the setting.

VI. STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES

27. Identify any cultural resources within the Area of Potential Effects that are over fifty years old and, if found, record them and evaluate them for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

VII. FIELD METHODS

28. Definitions: Site Four or more cultural artifacts or a single cultural feature.

IF Three or fewer artifacts.

29. Describe Survey Method: Two transects were walked in and out along the access road and parallel transects spaced no more than 15 m apart were walked through rest of the Study Area not covered in snow. Cutbanks along the west and south sides were closely examined for evidence of buried materials.

VIII. RESULTS

30. List IFs if applicable. Indicate IF locations on the map completed for Part III.

None.

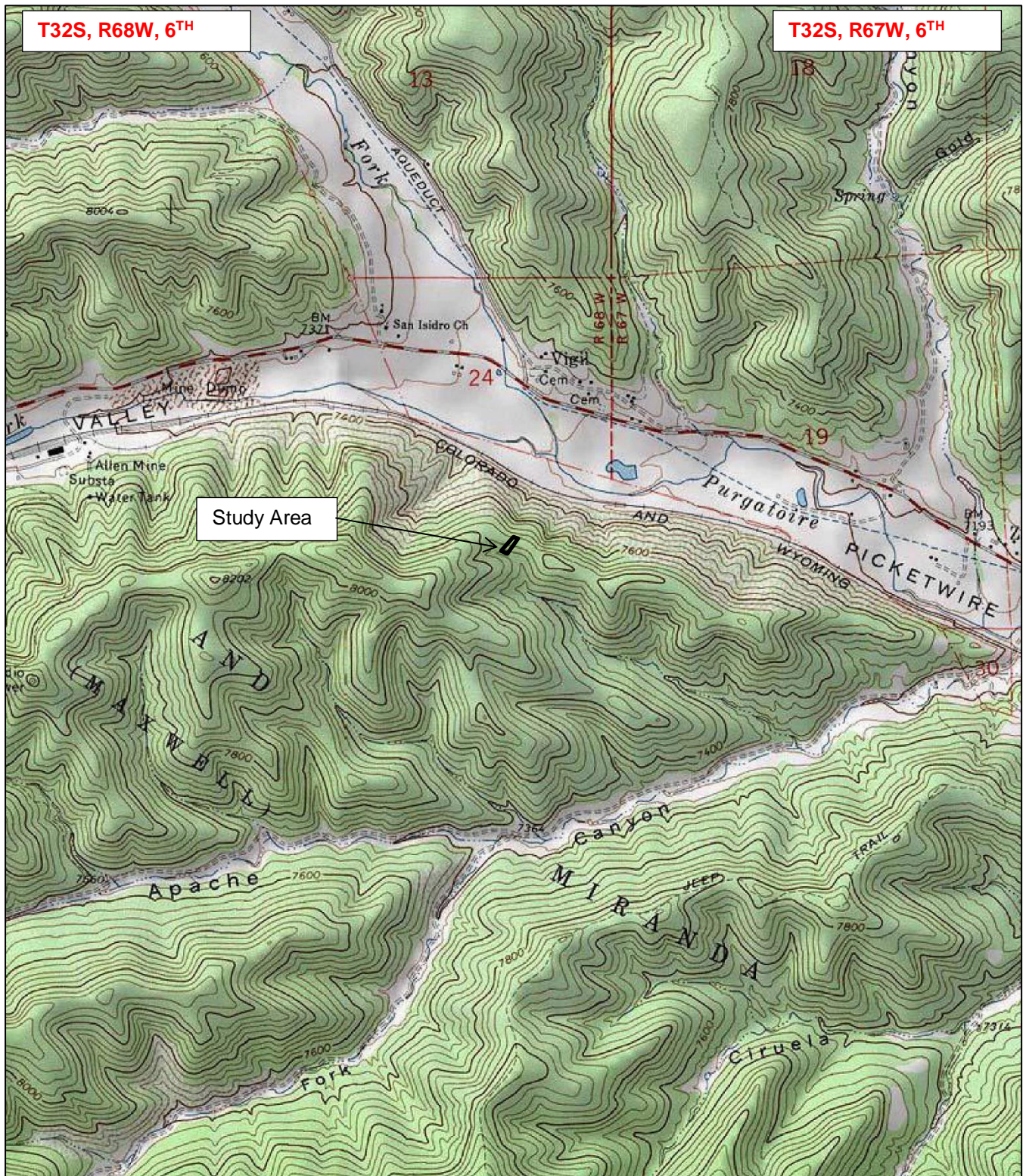
31. Using your professional knowledge of the region, why are there none or very limited cultural remains in the Project area? Is there subsurface potential? The Study Area is in a steep setting with limited potential for prehistoric or historic utilization. The steep slope and shallow forest soils make subsurface deposits unlikely.

IX. REFERENCES

Fenneman, Nevin M., 1931, *Physiography of Western United States*. McGraw-Hill, New York.

Tweto, Ogden, 1979, *Geologic Map of Colorado*. U.S. Geological Survey, Reston, Virginia.

Zier, Christian J., and Stephan M. Kalasz, 1999, *Colorado Prehistory: A Context for the Arkansas River Basin*. Colorado Council of Professional Archaeologists. Denver.



*A & B Cultural
Consultants, LLC*

Study Area Boundary



1:24,000

USGS 7.5' Topographic Quadrangle Map:
Vigil, Colorado (1971)

**Figure 1.
Study Area Location Map**

New Elk Coal NE-03-20
Bore Hole, Las Animas
County, Colorado.

A & B Cultural Consultants, LLC

Client Name: New Elk Coal

Project: New Elk Coal NE-03-20 Bore Hole

Project No.: 2021-001

Photo No.:

100-0078

Date:

1/16/2021

Site Number:

N/A

Description:

Overview of Study Area from along graded road at north looking southwest along access road.



Client Name: New Elk Coal

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100-0079

Date:

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Site Number:

N/A

Description:

View of south end of pad area showing cutbank exposures looking southwest.

