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Environmental Resource Consultants

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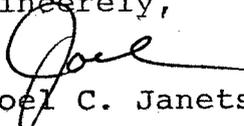
Mr. Bob Lauman
Plateau Mining Company
P.O. Drawer PMC
Price, Utah 84501

**DIVISION OF
OIL, GAS & MINING**

Dear Bob,

Here is a copy of the text of our report to clarify any confusion. I checked with Les Wikle to be sure his copies were in good order. They were. Look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,


Joel C. Janetski

A CULTURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY OF A
MINE VENTILATION BREAKOUT AREA ON THE
WASATCH PLATEAU, CARBON COUNTY, UTAH

By

Steven R. Simms

Submitted to
Plateau Mining Co.
Price, Utah

Submitted by

P/S Scientific, Inc.
Salt Lake City, Utah

November 6, 1982

P/S Scientific Technical Report No. 82-2
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ABSTRACT

An archaeological survey was conducted of a ventilation breakout area in Carbon County, Utah for historic and prehistoric cultural resources. The ground was covered with several inches of unexpected snow, thus no cultural resources could be observed. It was determined from on site inspection, a records search, and consideration of other factors that the probability that cultural resources will be endangered is extremely low.

INTRODUCTION

This reports is submittted in partial fulfillment of an agreement between P/S Scientific, Inc. and Plateau Mining Company, for the survey of cultural resources in a 76 m by 152 m (250 x 500 feet) area (see map 1) in Corner Canyon of the Wasatch Plateau of Carbon County, Utah. The survey area is to be affected by ventilation breakout locations associated with underground mining. The survey area is located on land administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Manti-La Sal National Forest. The survey was conducted by Steven R. Simms for P/S Scientific, Inc. on October 28, 1982. The archaeologist accompanied Floyd Tucker, mine manager, and Joel Cort, geologist from Plateau Mining Company to the survey area.

SETTING AND LOCATION

The survey area is located in the Wasatch Plateau physiographic region. The plateau rises abruptly several thousand feet from the Mancos Shale Lowlands of Castle Valley to the east. The plateau consists of superimposed formations of sandstones, fresh water limestones, and shales dissected by steep, narrow cayons. The ventilation breakout area is located in the bottom of and along the lower eastern slopes of Corner Canyon (see fig 1). This canyon begins approximately one kilometer above the survey area on the Wasatch Plateau and descends sharply to the east into Castle Valley. The stream in Corner Canyon is intermittant. The elevation of the survey area ranges between 2682 m and 2731 m (8800-8960 feet). The survey area is entirely forested with lodgepole pine (Pinus contorta), and quaking aspen (Populus tremuloides). The composition of the understory was undetermined due to the time of year of the survey. The slope ranges between 28 and 32 degrees over most of the area and up to 40 - 42 degrees near the bottom of the canyon.

The legal description of the survey area is: 2nd Main NW breakout area- NW 1/4, NE 1/4, section 12, T15S; R7E.

LITERATURE AND RECORDS SEARCH

Prior to the initiation of the field examination, a record search was conducted at the Utah State Historical Society, Antiquities Section. There are no sites in or near the survey area and no sites on or nominated to the National Register of Historic Places in the Vicinity of the Survey area.

SURVEY PROCEDURE

The night before the area was to be surveyed, a storm blanketed the Wasatch Plateau with 3-5 inches of snow. As the area is inaccessible, company personnel did not know if the survey area would be affected by this storm or not. Upon our arrival, it was clear that the snow level was 50-75 m below the survey area and that the snow was not going to melt quickly. Regardless, the survey area was investigated to ascertain the probability of the present cultural resources. The recommendations from this investigation are presented below.

SURVEY RESULTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

No cultural remains were observed in the survey area or along the one kilometer access walk to the area. However, 100% snow cover prevented actual ground inspection. Although the survey methods used are not acceptable by the Forest Service set standards, the probability of the occurrence of cultural resources is considered low for the following reasons:

- (1) The steep slopes (20 to 42 degrees) severely limit the use potential of the area (fig. 1). A search of the University of Utah computer site files reveals that over 97% of all cultural resources are found on slopes less than 18 degrees. The remaining 3% of all sites includes rock art. No rock art was observed in the survey area or vicinity.
- (2) The canyon where the survey area is located steepens sharply above the survey area and is essentially boxed in at the head. For this reason, the canyon would be an unlikely corridor for aboriginal access.

Only a small percentage of the survey area will actually be affected by the proposed breakouts and the installation of fans will be accomplished from inside the mine, limiting outside activity.

For the above reasons, it is concluded that no cultural resources will be endangered by the proposed breakouts. However, if cultural resources are encountered during mining related activities, all work should halt immediately and an archaeologist notified.