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Cultural Resources Survey of the Proposed \pm 20,810-Foot Conan to Conan SWD 10-Inch Water Line Loving County, Texas

Reign Clark

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Cultural Resources Survey of the Proposed ±20,810-Foot Conan to Conan SWD 10-Inch Water Line Loving County, Texas

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**CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY OF THE
PROPOSED ±20,810-FOOT CONAN TO CONAN SWD 10-INCH WATER LINE
LOVING COUNTY, TEXAS**

Authors:


Reign Clark

Report Prepared for:

EOG Resources, Inc.
19100 Ridgewood Parkway
San Antonio, Texas 78259

Report Prepared by:

Goshawk Environmental Consulting, Inc.
P.O. Box 151525
Austin, Texas 78715



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MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

Goshawk Environmental Consulting, Inc. (Goshawk) conducted a cultural resources survey of the proposed ±20,810-foot (6,343-meter [m]) Conan to Conan SWD 10-inch Water Line right-of-way (ROW) in Loving County, Texas at the request of EOG Resources, Inc. The Area of Potential Effect (APE) consisted of a 75-foot (23-m) wide ROW. The ROW consisted of a 50-foot (15-m) wide permanent water line easement and a 25-foot (8-m) wide temporary construction easement. One review area was identified within the proposed ROW located within the due diligence review radius of previously documented archeological site 41LV18. The field investigation was conducted by Goshawk archeologist Reign Clark with Mitch Juenke on 31 March 2015. Reign Clark served as author for the report of investigations. Zach Stark provided Geographic Information Systems (GIS) figures and Erin Keenan provided quality control for the report of investigations.

This survey was performed in compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (PL 89–665), as amended in 1974, 1976, 1980, and 1992; the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (PL 91–190, 83 Stat. 915 USC 4231, 1970); the Procedures for the Protection of Historic and Cultural Properties (36 CFR 800); the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979; as well as the guidelines set forth by the Council of Texas Archeologists (1995).

Site 41LV18 was mapped on the apex of a coppice dune ridge and the proposed ROW was routed to the south of the dunes to avoid the landform. Exposures of native caliche and nearly 100 percent ground surface visibility allowed a thorough investigation of the proposed ROW which yielded entirely negative results. However, while attempting to identify the southern site boundary in relation to the north boundary of the staked ROW, a single large prehistoric ceramic sherd was located. The artifact was located near the center of the documented site boundaries. None of the artifact classes identified by the original site recorders were observed during the survey and no other cultural materials were identified within the mapped boundaries of site 41LV18. No shovel tests were conducted within the proposed ROW due to caliche exposures and very favorable surface visibility. No shovel testing was conducted within the boundaries of site 41LV18 as the site falls completely outside of the proposed ROW.

Although no materials were identified within the proposed ROW, the singular diagnostic find validated a National Register of Historic Places eligibility determination of “Undetermined” issued by the Texas Historical Commission in 2000. Based on its physical properties, the ceramic sherd dates the site to 1200 to 1400 A.D. and places the deposits in affiliation with the Casas Grandes/Jornada Mogollon cultures. The site’s eligibility for inclusion to the NRHP and designation as a SAL remains unknown. Any further impacts to the site vicinity should be avoided (Figure 3). If construction impacts and vehicular/machinery traffic are confined to the ROW as proposed, no disturbance of site 41LV18 is anticipated.



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1.0 STUDY AREA

Goshawk Environmental Consulting, Inc. (Goshawk) conducted a cultural resources survey of the proposed ±20,810-foot (6,343-meter [m]) Conan to Conan SWD 10-inch Water Line right-of-way (ROW) in Loving County, Texas at the request of EOG Resources, Inc. The Area of Potential Effect (APE) consisted of a 75-foot (23-m) wide ROW. The ROW consisted of a 50-foot (15-m) wide permanent water line easement and a 25-foot (8-m) wide temporary construction easement. One review area was identified within the proposed ROW located with the due diligence review radius of previously documented archeological site 41LV18.

The western terminus of the proposed Conan to Conan SWD 10-inch Water Line ROW is located approximately 0.4 miles (0.6 kilometers [km]) east of the intersection of Farm-to-Market (FM) 652 and just south of the Texas/New Mexico state line (Appendix A, Figure 1). The APE was located within open desert terrain currently used for grazing and oil and gas industry. The proposed ROW traverses undulating terrain within areas sparsely vegetated with grasses and scrub. The APE crosses a two-track ranch road in several locations. There was no evidence of open water areas or streams along the ROW.

The cultural resources survey, including shovel testing and surface inspection, was conducted along the APE within the single review area established near previously documented site 41LV18. The APE was located on the Kyle Ranch, Texas, United States Geological Survey (USGS) topographic quadrangle (Appendix A, Figure 2). Representative photographs of the APE are provided in Appendix B.

The dominant local land-use was pasture for limited livestock operations and oil and gas industry. Disturbances were common in the vicinity of the review area and within the boundaries of site 41LV18. A caliche road and a radio tower pad were located atop a coppice dune to the north of the review area, the construction of which likely impacted site 41LV18 to some degree. The proposed water line is to be placed south of the coppice dune in an area where caliche subsoils are commonly observed on the surface. Vegetation within the APE consisted of greasewood and very sparse grasses. Surface visibility was excellent ranging between 90 and 100 percent (see photos, Appendix B).

2.0 RESEARCH DESIGN

The cultural resources survey, conducted within the Conan to Conan SWD 10-inch Water Line APE, was performed according to Council of Texas Archeologists (CTA) survey standards, in compliance with the Texas Historical Commission's (THC's) Rules of Practice and Procedure, Chapter 26, Section 27 (CTA 1995, THC 2015a), and under the general guidelines of the Register of Professional Archaeologists (RPA) (2015). Prior to commencement of the field effort, site files for La Salle County and the Los Angeles, Texas topographic quadrangle on the THC's Archeological Sites Atlas (Atlas) online database (THC 2015b) were consulted for previously recorded site locations, references to previous archeological surveys undertaken, and place names of interest in the vicinity of the proposed pipeline ROW. Streams potentially under United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) jurisdiction which encroached upon the proposed APE were assessed by an ecologist via desktop review prior to commencement of the cultural resources



survey. As per the established procedure of due diligence, any segment of an APE that falls within an area potentially under federal jurisdiction or any portion of an APE situated within a radius of 328 feet (100 m) of a known cultural site would be subjected to cultural resources survey. Within National Register Districts (NRD), the protocol dictates that portions of an APE falling within a radius of 984 feet (300 m) of a previously recorded archeological site (regardless of the site's National Register of Historic Places [NRHP] or State Antiquities Landmark [SAL] status) would be reviewed. Any segment of an APE to be surveyed under this protocol would be labeled as a "review area."

The field investigation (pedestrian survey and shovel testing) was performed on 31 March 2015. The ground surface of the proposed ROW was visually inspected on foot within one established review area. No shovel tests were conducted within the proposed ROW due to the presence of caliche exposures and very favorable surface visibility. The locations of any artifact distributions were recorded with hand-held Global Positioning System (GPS) units and transferred to topographic maps. If present, newly discovered or revisited sites were documented using standard State of Texas site recording forms and plotted by GPS coordinates for entry into the Atlas database. Shovel testing was conducted to ascertain the horizontal and vertical limits of any cultural manifestation discovered within the area of review. Hand-drawn sketch maps were produced for each cultural site recorded or revisited. The current field effort was performed on private property and was funded by a private source. No artifacts were collected during the survey. Artifact assemblages were photographed in the field and left where found.

3.0 RESULTS

3.1 ARCHIVAL SEARCH

Archival research conducted using the THC's Atlas online database resulted in the identification of two previously recorded archeological sites (41LV17 and 41LV18) situated within a 1.2-mile (2.0-km) radius of the APE (THC 2015b). According to the Atlas, the proposed ROW passes in close proximity to previously documented archeological site 41LV18. Site 41LV18 is located approximately 75 feet north of the ROW. The next nearest site (41LV17) was plotted approximately 0.5 mile east-northeast of the proposed ROW. The next nearest sites were located 3 miles (4.8 km) to the east of the APE.

No NRHP-listed properties or SALs have been recorded in the vicinity of the proposed water line ROW. According to the Atlas, the nearest NRHP-listed property is the Loving County Courthouse located 19.4 miles (31.2 km) south-southeast of the proposed ROW in Mentone, Texas.

3.1.1 41LV17

Site 41LV17 was documented as a Late Archaic to Late Prehistoric (Early Ceramic) lithic scatter. The site measures approximately 351 feet north-to-south by 705 feet east-to-west. The site was mapped along the ridges and slopes of a sandy upland landform. The artifact assemblage included hundreds of scattered burned caliche gravels, eight pieces of lithic debitage of various materials, four core reduction flakes, three biface thinning flakes, one pressure flake, a complete two-handed mano, a one-handed mano fragment, and six ground stone fragments. The initial investigation nominated the site for inclusion to the NRHP and designation as a SAL.



3.1.2 41LV18

Site 41LV18 was documented in 1999 as an undifferentiated prehistoric artifact scatter. The site measures approximately 187 feet north-to-south by 377 feet east-to-west. The site was mapped across the apex of a discreet sandy ridge oriented east-to-west along its long axis. The artifact scatter was observed atop unstable dunes and dune field blowouts. The artifact assemblage included six pieces of lithic debitage, one unifacial scraper, one bifacial scraper, three one-handed mano fragments, four indeterminate groundstone fragments, and hundreds of scattered burned caliche fragments. The recording archeologists determined that no further fieldwork was necessary and the site was deemed ineligible for inclusion to the NRHP or designation as a SAL. One year later and seemingly with no additional information, the THC issued an eligibility determination for the site which contradicted the determination given by the documenting archeologists; giving the site an unknown eligibility status.

3.2 PEDESTRIAN SURVEY

Goshawk conducted a pedestrian survey of the proposed Conan to Conan SWD 10-inch Water Line ROW within a 328-foot (100-m) radius of previously documented archeological site 41LV18. A surface inspection was conducted within the proposed ROW near the mapped boundaries of the site to determine if any portion of the site extended into the APE.

3.2.1 Review Area (Site 41LV18)

Site 41LV18 was generally plotted along the apex of a coppice dune ridge located at least 75 feet (23 m) north and east of the review area near the eastern terminus of the APE (Photo 1). Soils mapped within the review area consisted entirely of the Wickett-Pyote complex. Wickett-Pyote series soils are deep wind-blown sands or loams that exhibit a moderate probability for containing significant cultural materials in areas of deposition. While sands were very deep in the vicinity of the site at the apex of the dunes, the proposed ROW was situated on the toe slope and base of the sandy landform where exposures of caliche subsoils were commonly visible on the surface.

Exposures of native caliche and nearly 100 percent ground surface visibility (Photo 2) allowed a thorough surface investigation of the proposed ROW, which yielded entirely negative results. However, when attempting to identify the southern site boundary in relation to the north boundary of the staked ROW, a single large prehistoric ceramic sherd was located (Photos 3 and 4). The artifact was located near the centroid of the site, as mapped. None of the artifact classes identified by the original site recorders were observed during the survey and no other cultural materials were identified within the mapped boundaries of site 41LV18. No shovel tests were conducted within the proposed ROW due to caliche exposures and very favorable surface visibility. No shovel testing was conducted within the boundaries of site 41LV18 as the site falls completely outside of the proposed ROW.

Although no materials were identified within the proposed ROW, the singular diagnostic find validated the eligibility determination issued for the site by the THC in 2000 (THC 2015b). Based on its physical properties, the ceramic sherd dates the site to 1200 to 1400 A.D. and places the deposits in affiliation with the Casas Grandes/Jornada Mogollon cultures (Robinson 2015). The site's eligibility for inclusion to the NRHP and designation as a SAL remains unknown. Any further



impacts to the site vicinity should be avoided as represented on Figure 3. If construction impacts and vehicular/machinery traffic are confined to the ROW as proposed, no disturbance of site 41LV18 is anticipated.

4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

Goshawk conducted a cultural resources survey consisting of an intensive surface inspection within the proposed ±20,810-foot (6,343-m) Conan to Conan SWD 10-inch Water Line ROW. The survey was conducted within a single review area established within the due diligence review radius of previously documented archeological site 41LV18. The cultural resources survey yielded entirely negative results within the proposed ROW. However, previously documented site 41LV18, located just north of the proposed ROW, contains rare, sensitive, and potentially significant cultural materials. Goshawk recommends avoidance of the site within its documented boundaries. Construction of the Conan Site to Conan SWD 10" Waterline can proceed as planned. In the unlikely event that cultural resources (including human remains) are discovered within the ROW, all construction or maintenance activities should be immediately halted and a qualified archeologist should be notified.



5.0 REFERENCES CITED

Council for Texas Archeologists (CTA)

- 1995 Council of Texas Archeologist Guidelines: Guidelines for Cultural Resources Management Reports, Distributed by the Council for Texas Archeologists, Austin.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

- 2015 <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/WebSoilSurvey.aspx>, (accessed March and April 2015).

Register of Professional Archaeologists (RPA)

- 2015 Code of Conduct and Standards of Research Performance. Register of Professional Archaeologists website. www.rpanet.org/displaycommon.cfm?an=2 (accessed February 2015).

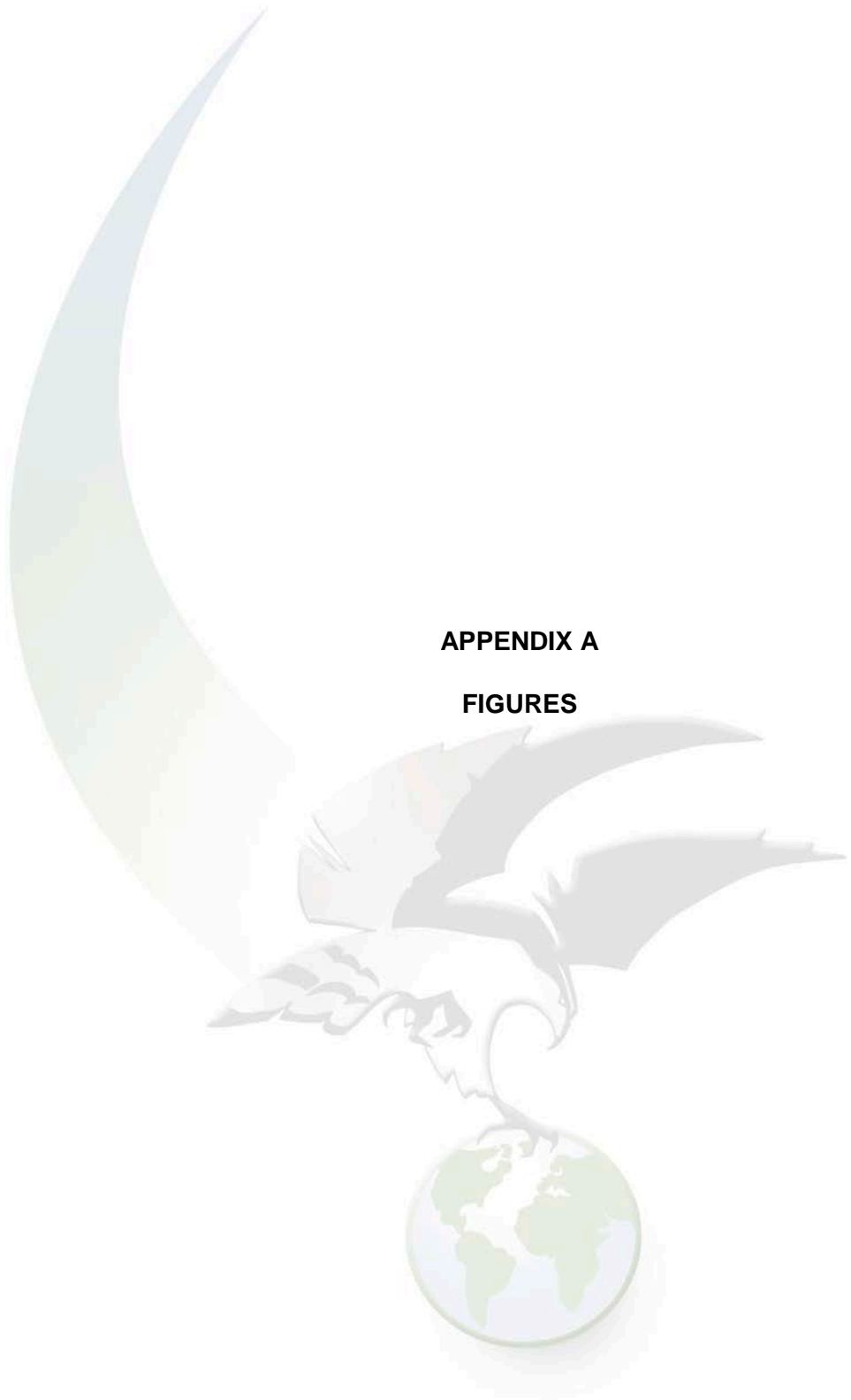
Robinson, David

- 2015 Personal Communication for the purpose of prehistoric ceramic sherd identification. Discussion by phone and e-mail in April 2015.

Texas Historical Commission (THC)

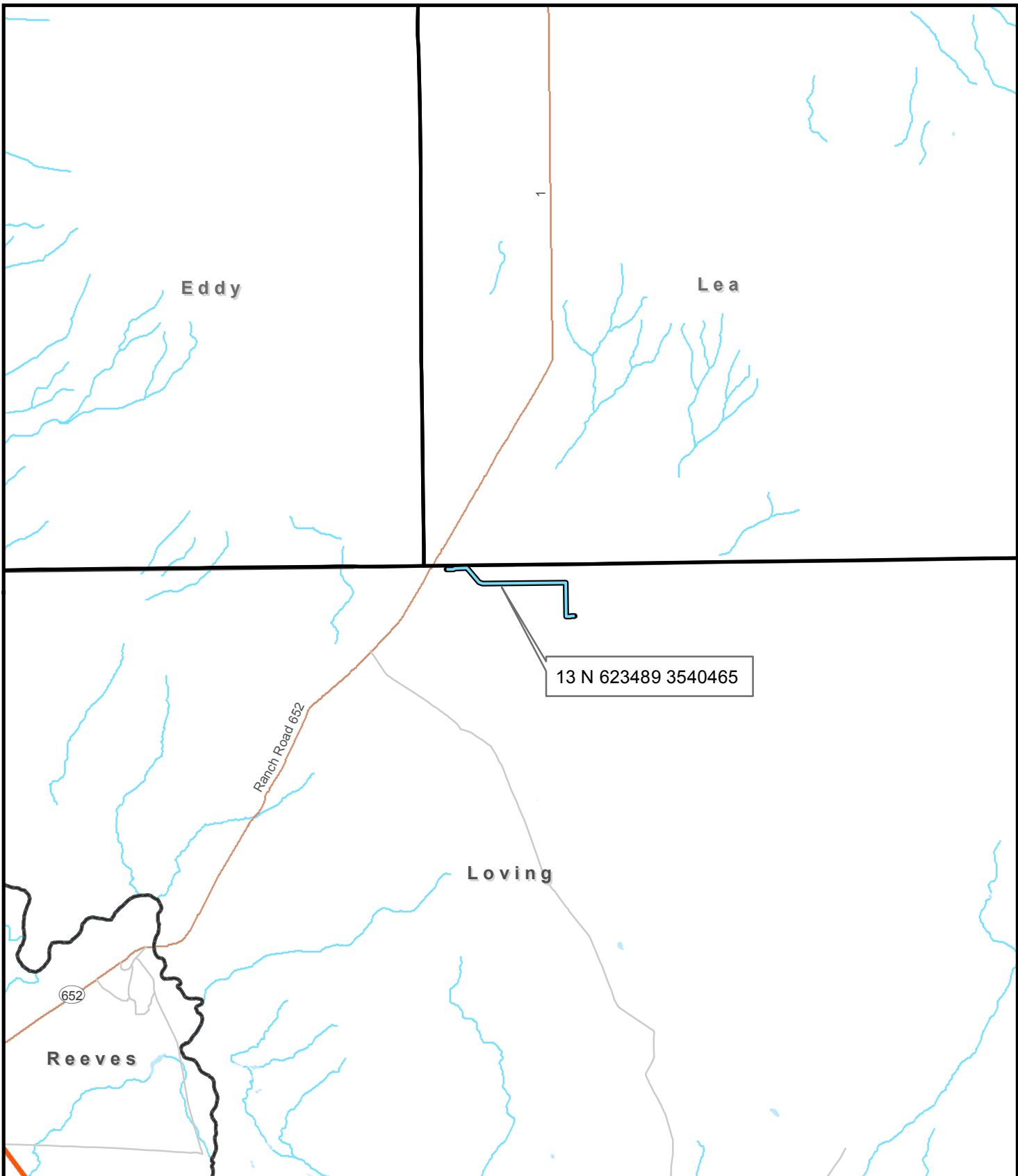
- 2015a s.v. "Rules and Regulations" <http://www.thc.state.tx.us/rulesregs/rrdefault.shtml> (accessed January 2015).
- 2015b Texas Archeological Sites Atlas, "Loving County and Site 41LV18", <http://nueces.thc.state.tx.us/>, (accessed March and April 2015).





APPENDIX A
FIGURES





Source: ESRI, Maps & Data 10.2, 2013
 Projection: NAD 1983 UTM 13N

Date: 14 May 2015

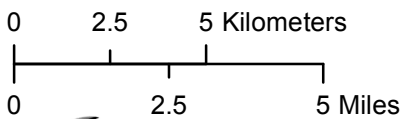
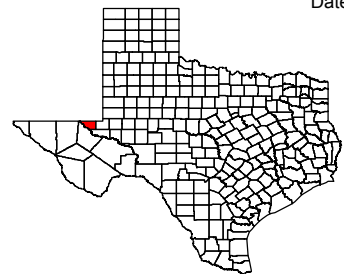
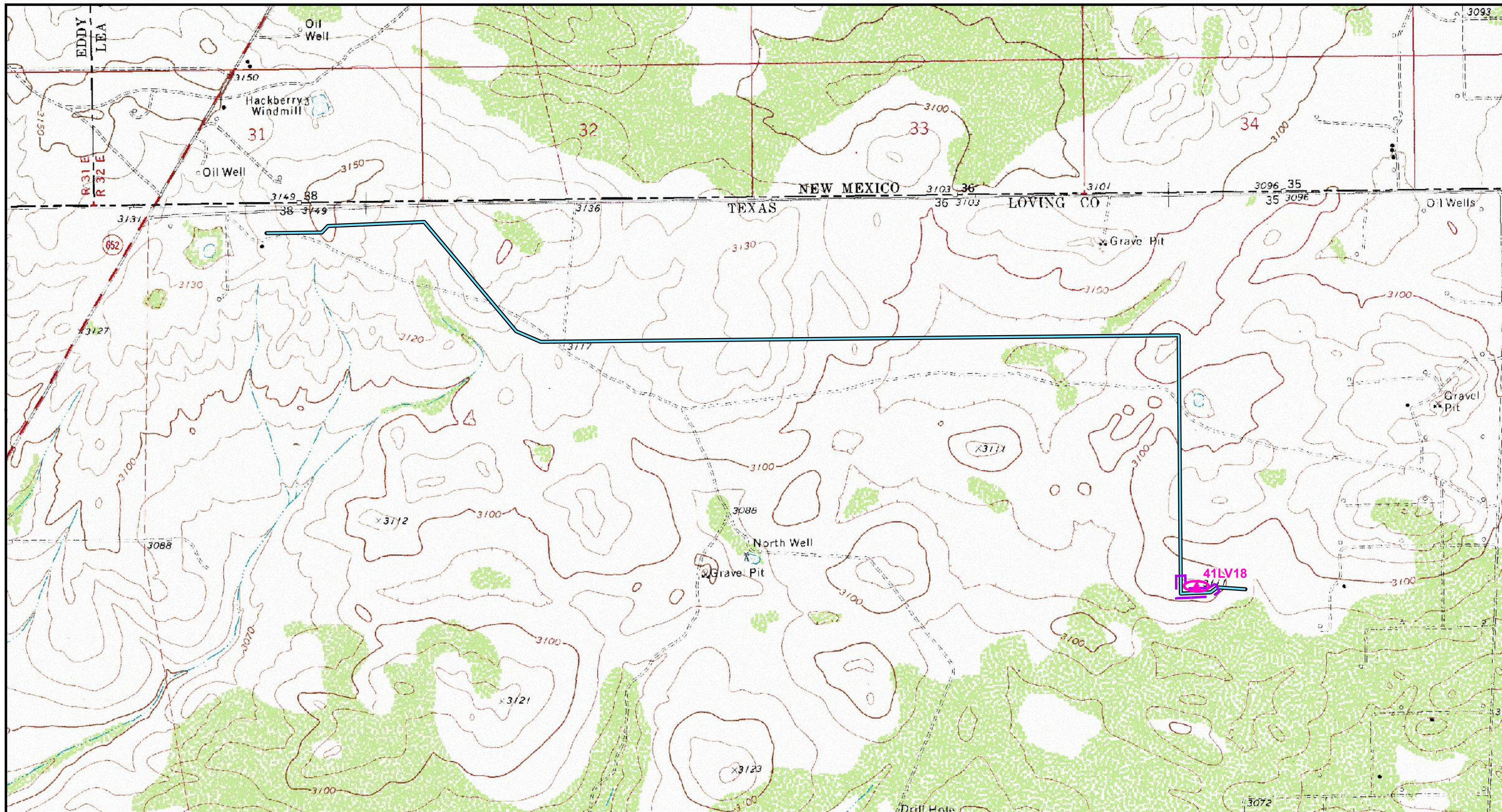


Figure 1
 Vicinity Map
 Loving County, Texas



Conan to Conan SWD 10" Water Line



Map Source: USGS, Kyle Ranch, Texas Quadrangle.

Date: 15 May 2015

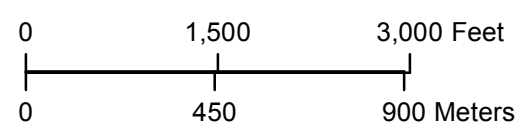





Figure 2
Project Area Map
Loving County, Texas

Conan to Conan SWD 10" Water Line



- LEGEND**
-  Water Line
 -  Review Area
 -  Site 41LV18





Map Source: USDA, 2014 NAIP Natural Color Imagery for Texas.

Date: 15 May 2015

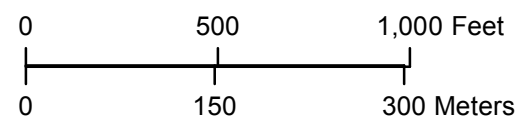





Figure 3
Site Avoidance Map
Loving County, Texas

Conan to Conan SWD 10" Water Line



LEGEND

-  Water Line
-  Review Area
-  Area of Avoidance



APPENDIX B

REPRESENTATIVE PHOTOGRAPHS

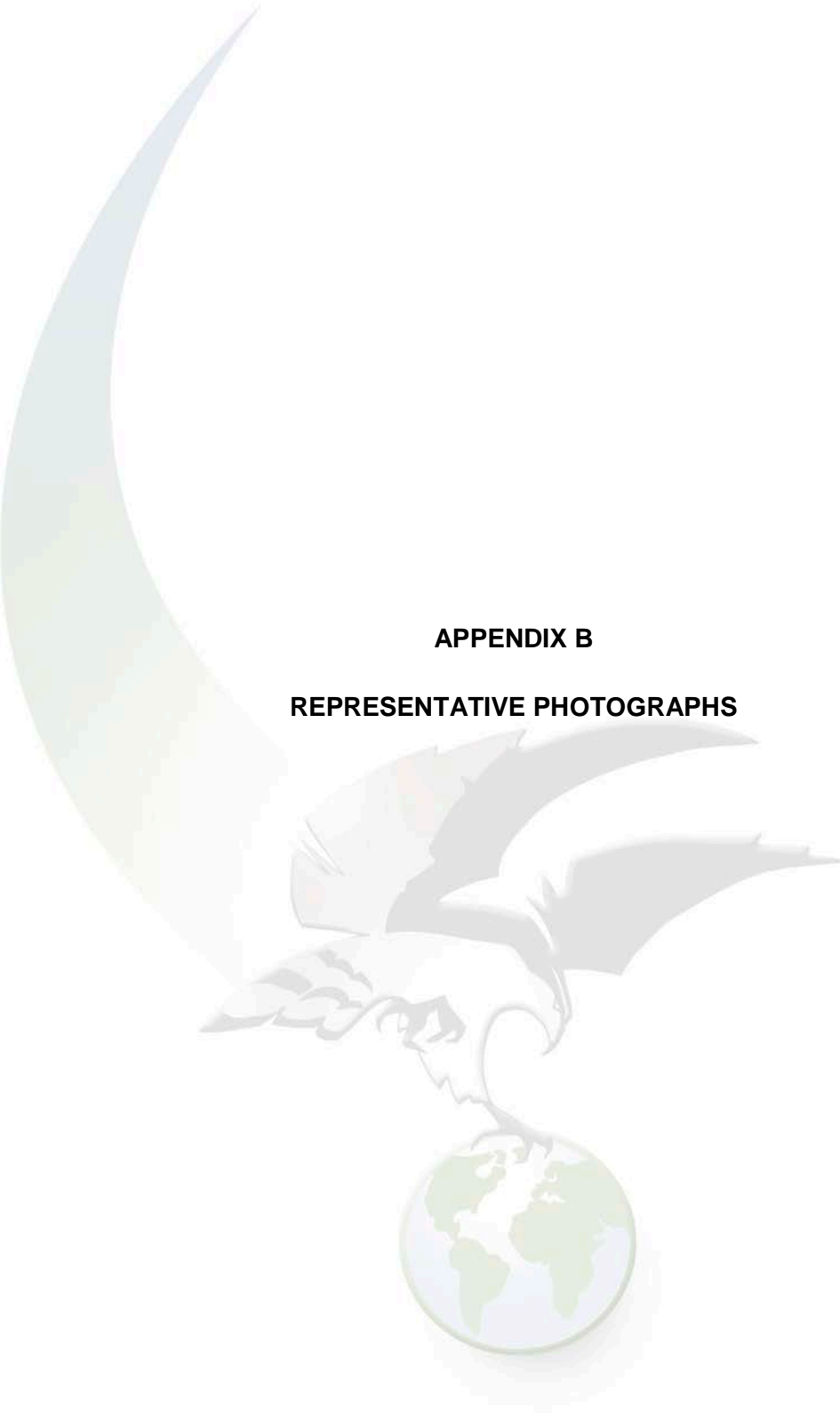




Photo 1: Site Area North of ROW on Ridge, Facing North



Photo 2: Typical Surface Visibility and Vegetation within ROW, Facing West





Photo 3: Prehistoric Ceramic Sherd, Site 41LV18, Exterior



Photo 1: Prehistoric Ceramic Sherd, Site 41LV18, Interior

