

United States Department of Energy



**ANNUAL REPORT ON THE
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY'S
CULTURAL RESOURCE ACTIVITIES AT
COLORADO UMTRA PROJECT SITES
FOR OCTOBER 1995 THROUGH
SEPTEMBER 1996**

September 1996

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Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action Project

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CULTURAL RESOURCE ACTIVITIES AT COLORADO
UMTRA PROJECT SITES FOR OCTOBER 1995
THROUGH SEPTEMBER 1996**

September 1996

**Prepared for
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
Colorado State Historic Preservation Officer**

**and the
U.S. Department of Energy
Environmental Restoration Division
UMTRA Project Team
Albuquerque, New Mexico**

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

<u>Acronym</u>	<u>Definition</u>
DOE	Department of Energy
EA	environmental assessment
EIS	environmental impact statement
FONSI	finding of no significant impact
HBIR	Historic Building Inventory Records
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
PMOU	programmatic memorandum of understanding
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Officer
UMTRA	Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action
VP	vicinity property

CHANGE HISTORY

Document version	Date	Pages/comments
Rev. 0, Ver. 1	9/24/96	Initial version.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report summarizes the results of cultural resource activities conducted by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) at Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action (UMTRA) Project sites in Colorado for the period of October 1, 1995 through September 30, 1996. The inactive uranium mill tailings sites in Colorado are at Durango, Grand Junction, Gunnison, Maybell, Naturita, Rifle, and Slick Rock.

On December 6, 1984, the DOE, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the Colorado State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) entered into a programmatic memorandum of understanding (PMOU) (DOE, 1984). This PMOU requires the DOE to fulfillment of its obligations under various state and federal regulations for the protection and preservation of cultural resources. This report provides the state of Colorado with an annual report on the cultural resource activities performed for all UMTRA Project sites in Colorado.

Due to the completion of surface activities at the UMTRA Project sites, this will be the last annual report to the state of Colorado. Cultural resources activities subsequent to this report will be reported to the state through site-specific correspondence.

2.0 DURANGO

The final environmental impact statement (EIS) for the Durango UMTRA Project site was published in October 1985 (DOE, 1985). The remedial action selected was to relocate all contaminated materials by truck to the Bodo Canyon disposal site. Remedial action began in 1987 and was completed in 1990.

2.1 CULTURAL RESOURCE ACTIVITIES

Remedial action at the Durango UMTRA Project site was completed in 1990. No cultural resource activities were conducted from October 1995 to September 1996 and no future activities are anticipated.

2.2 HISTORIC BUILDING INVENTORY RECORDS

Remedial actions for the vicinity properties (VP) associated with the Durango site have been completed. No additional Historic Building Inventory Records (HBIR) are anticipated for this UMTRA Project site.

3.0 GRAND JUNCTION

The final EIS for the Grand Junction UMTRA Project site was published in December 1986 (DOE, 1986). The remedial action selected was to relocate all contaminated materials by train and truck to the Cheney disposal site. Remedial action began in 1991, and cleanup of the Grand Junction processing site was completed in 1994. Cleanup of the Grand Junction vicinity properties (VP) is expected to be completed in 1998; the Cheney disposal site will remain open to receive contaminated materials from the VPs.

3.1 CULTURAL RESOURCE ACTIVITIES

Remedial action cultural resource activities at the Grand Junction UMTRA Project site were completed in 1990. No cultural resource activities were conducted from October 1995 to September 1996 and no future activities at the processing site are anticipated. VP activities will continue to be monitored for cultural resources.

3.2 HISTORIC BUILDING INVENTORY RECORDS

Seven buildings over 50 years old were identified in Fiscal Year 1996. All were exempted from review by SHPO (MACTECH, 1996).

DOE ID No.	Address	Submitted	Year Built
GJ-01042-RS	938 White Avenue	03-15-96	1900
GJ-3760-RS	834 Elm Avenue	02-02-96	1937
GJ-06361-MR	2303 North 1st Street	11-17-95	1888
GJ-06362-RS	2227 North 1st Street	01-25-96	1922
GJ-06559-RS	1223 North 7th Street	10-06-95	1910
GJ-10886-RS	227 Belford Avenue	09-26-95	1940
GJ-14639-MR	3142 F Road	11-15-95	1921

4.0 GUNNISON

The final environmental assessment (EA) for the Gunnison UMTRA Project site was published in 1992 (DOE, 1992). The remedial action selected was to relocate all contaminated materials by truck to the Landfill disposal site. Remedial action began in 1992 and should be completed in December 1995.

4.1 CULTURAL RESOURCE ACTIVITIES

As recorded in the 1994 through 1995 annual report, prehistoric cultural resources site 5GN2556, an open campsite, was recorded in April 1995 at the Panaview Pit. The site had been distributed in 1996 during excavations at the pit. The site was evaluated in the field as eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). It was recommended that the disturbed portions of the site be salvaged and that the remainder of the site be avoided (GRI, 1995A).

A draft treatment plan for archaeological site 5GN2556 at the Panaview Borrow Area, was submitted to DOE and is being modified in response to DOE's comments. The plan will be forwarded to the landowner for concurrence, and if concurrence is received, it will be sent to the SHPO for concurrence (MK-Ferguson, 1996).

4.2 HISTORIC BUILDING INVENTORY RECORDS

No HBIRs for Gunnison VPs were submitted during the period of record.

5.0 MAYBELL

A finding of no significant impact (FONSI) for the Maybell UMTRA Project site was published in 1994 (DOE, 1994a). The final EA for the Maybell site also was published in 1994 (DOE, 1994b). The proposed remedial action was to stabilize all the contaminated materials at the location of the existing tailings pile. Remedial action began in 1995 and is expected to be completed in late 1996.

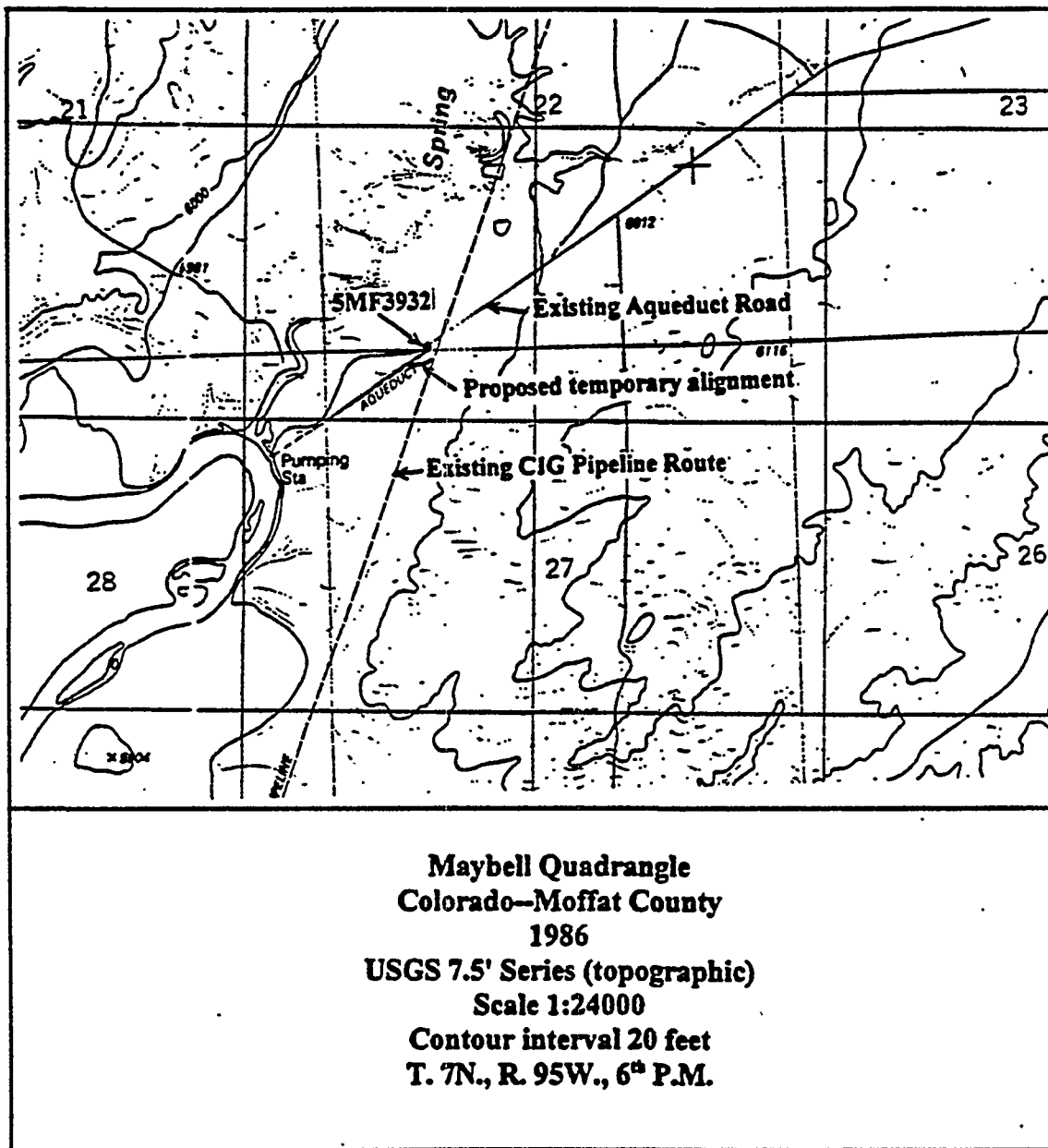
5.1 CULTURAL RESOURCE ACTIVITIES

In April 1996, the adjacent property block survey of the main access road was completed by Grand River Institute. No prehistoric sites were discovered, apparently due to the adjacent tree ridges that provided a more attractive camping locality. The survey area had been previously disturbed by erosion, road construction and ranching activities (GRI, 1996a).

On August 15, 1996, Grand River Institute conducted a shovel test excavation of site 5MF3932, a prehistoric open camp (Figure 5.1). Results of the site testing indicate the site contains significant undisturbed prehistoric cultural deposits. A temporary road realignment around site 5MF3932 has been surveyed for use by the trucks transporting residual radioactive material from near the Yampa River (GRI, 1996b).

5.2 HISTORIC BUILDING INVENTORY RECORDS

There are no known historical buildings or structures associated with the Maybell site; therefore, no HBIRs are anticipated for this UMTRA Project site.



REF: GRI, 1996b.

FIGURE 5.1
CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEYS
MAYBELL, COLORADO, SITE

6.0 NATURITA

The final EA and FONSI for the Naturita UMTRA Project site were published in 1994 (DOE, 1994c; 1994d). The proposed remedial action was to relocate all of the contaminated materials by truck to the Uravan Project disposal site. Existing structures at the Naturita processing site were demolished in 1994. The remainder of the remedial action is scheduled to begin in 1996 and to be completed in 1997.

6.1 CULTURAL RESOURCE ACTIVITIES

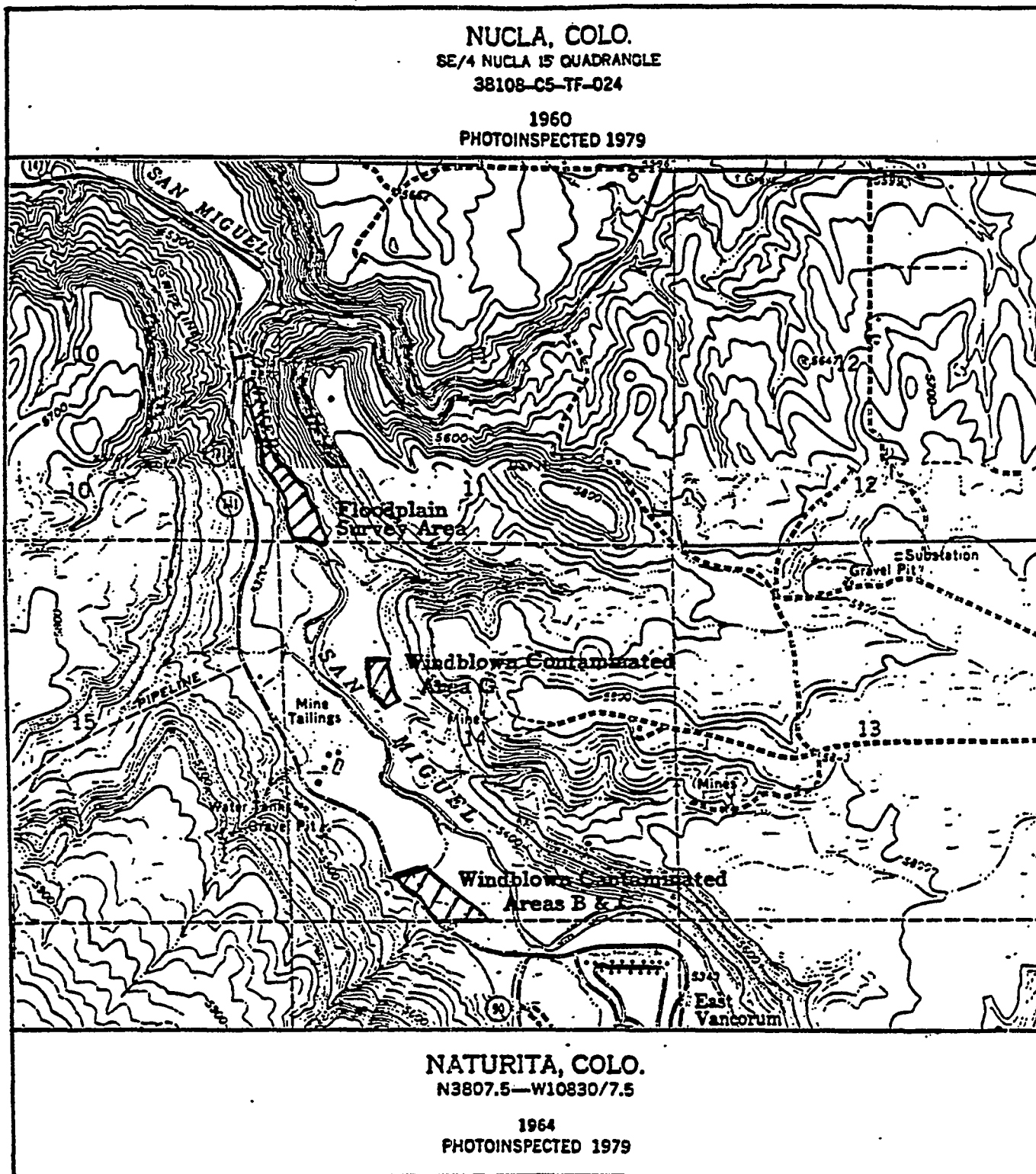
Due to the change of the proposed disposal site from the Dry Flats area to the Uravan disposal site, DOE requested the Colorado SHPO to concur on DOE's determination that disposal at the site would not effect historic properties. On April 8, 1996, the Colorado SHPO Officer concurred with DOE (CHS, 1996).

A Class III cultural resource inventory of approximately 50 acres (20.2 ha) was carried out for several windblown contaminated areas along the San Miguel River valley and the upper Burbank disposal site and adjacent Club Mesa borrow areas above Uravan (Figure 6.1). All are privately owned. These areas may be affected by the Naturita UMTRA Project near Naturita and Uravan, Montrose County, Colorado. The survey was undertaken on April 1 and 4, 1996. Because of the disturbed nature, only a small area was surveyed at the upper Burbank and Club Mesa location.

One new site (5MN4679) was recorded and one previously-recorded site (5MN3037) was reevaluated during the inventory. All of the sites consisted of lithic scatters of unknown age or cultural affiliation. Site 5MN3037 has been recommended as possibly eligible for nomination to the NRHP based on additional site area and materials recorded during the present survey. Due to the site disturbance from field clearing and plowing, testing is recommended to determine whether intact subsurface deposits or features are still intact. Site 5MN4679 has been recommended as not eligible for nomination to the NRHP (CASA, 1996a).

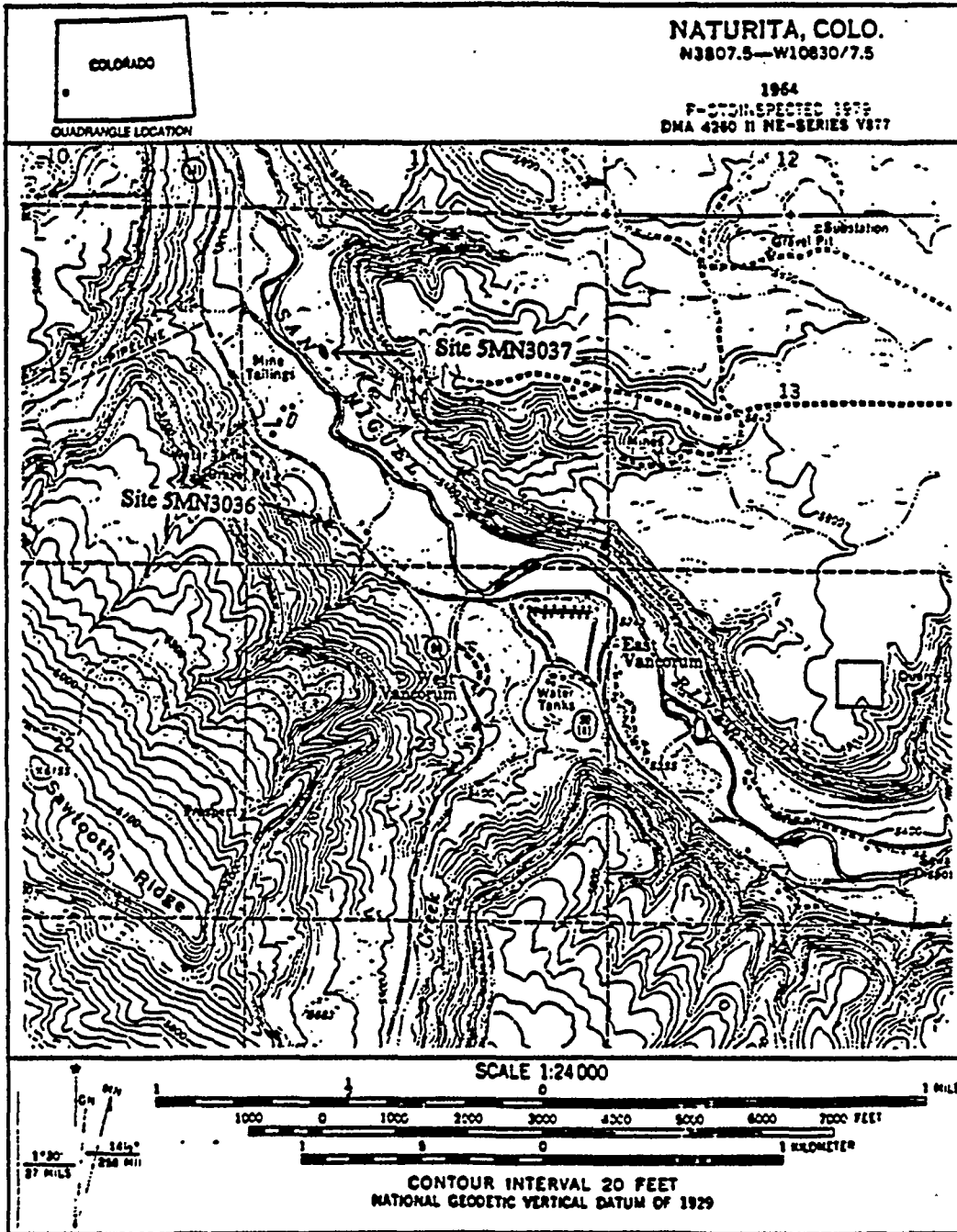
In May of 1996 archaeological testing at two additional sites was conducted (Figure 6.2). The sites tested were in areas where windblown contaminants will be cleaned up from sites on private land. Testing was designed to evaluate the sites potential for nomination to the NRHP.

Site 5MN3036 was partially on private land and primarily located on BLM land. The small portion of this site on private land that will be impacted by the cleanup, does not contain subsurface cultural remains. This portion of believed to be a noncontributing part of the site that is recommended as not eligible. The BLM portion will not be impacted by the Naturita UMTRA Project. Based on these negative findings, there should be no effect to the integrity of the site. The majority of the site will remain intact, and it is recommended that the site is eligible for nomination to the NRHP. Additional recommendations are made to



REF: CASA, 1996a.

FIGURE 6.1
SURVEY AREA LOCATIONS
NATURITA, COLORADO, SITE



REF: CASA, 1996b.

FIGURE 6.2
MAP OF TESTED SITES LOCATIONS
NATURITA, COLORADO, SITE

fence or flag the BLM portion of the site during contaminated soil removal to assure no inadvertent damage occurs to the remainder of the site.

Site 5MN3037 showed that the two loci had been damaged by plowing and the integrity of the site was seriously altered. Testing revealed no intact subsurface features or deposits with dateable materials, and the research potential of this site has been exhausted. Based on the negative findings, it is recommended that this site is not eligible for nomination to the NRHP and no further work is recommended (CASA, 1996b).

6.2 HISTORIC BUILDING INVENTORY RECORDS

No HBIRs for Naturita VPs were submitted during the period of record.

7.0 RIFLE

The final EIS (DOE, 1990) and Record of Decision (56 FR 2166) for the Old and New Rifle UMTRA Project sites was published in March 1990. The selected remedial action was to relocate all of the contaminated materials by truck to the Estes Gulch disposal site. Remedial action began in 1992 was completed in 1996.

7.1 CULTURAL RESOURCE ACTIVITIES

No cultural resource activities were conducted for the Old Rifle and New Rifle, and Estes Gulch UMTRA Project sites during the period October 1995 through September 1996.

7.2 HISTORIC BUILDING INVENTORY RECORDS

No HBIRs for Rifle VPs were submitted during the period of record.

8.0 SLICK ROCK

The final EA and FONSI for the North Continent and Union Carbide Slick Rock UMTRA Project sites were published in 1995 (DOE, 1995b; 1995c). The proposed remedial action was to relocate all of the contaminated materials by truck to the Burro Canyon disposal site. The remedial action began in 1995 and is scheduled to be completed in late 1996.

8.1 CULTURAL RESOURCE ACTIVITIES

In March and April of 1996 Durango Archaeological Consultants conducted monitoring, surface documentation, and surface collection at three archaeological sites in the areas of the Slick Rock sites, UMTRA Project Area, San Miguel County, Colorado. Additional rock art documentation was conducted (Site 5SM1941), surface collection of a sample of a small lithic scatter was accomplished (5SM1942), and surface documentation and monitoring of contaminated materials removal from the historic Poulet and Vollique Mill site occurred (5SM1944) (CASA, 1996c).

Detailed recording at 5SM1941 indicated that additional graffiti had been added to the petroglyph panel in the last nine years since it's initial recording. Recommendations for this as a site not eligible for nomination to the NRHP has not changed.

Site 5SM1942, a sparse lithic scatter, was determined in consultation with the Colorado SHPO to be not eligible for inclusion in the NRHP. Following recommendations by the BLM a sample of the lithics on this site was collected, and a more detailed analysis of the surface artifacts was undertaken. A more detailed record of the site now exists, but it's status as a non-eligible site to the NRHP has not changed.

Monitoring of contaminated tailings removal from Site 5SM1944 proved that the site was the location of the historic Poulet and Vollique Mill. Limited structural remains, radioactive materials, and historic artifacts indicated a crude laboratory was present in association with the mill which was in operation from 1901-1904. The historic and Ute petroglyphs also found at the site were protected through the placement of protective fencing prior to earth moving activities.

The site was initially determined to be eligible to the NRHP based on the unique Ute petroglyphs present, but additional significance for the site is derived from the later historic mill remains. The mill was one of the first uranium processing facilities in southwest Colorado, and may have been one of the first such operations in the United States. Unfortunately, the mill was highly radioactive from the early processing activities so this portion of the site was not preserved, and were removed with the remainder of the contaminated materials at the site. A portion of the contaminated materials at this site extended beneath an active gas pipeline and could not be removed during the removal project. In the future if these materials are removed it is recommended that a qualified archaeologist

be present to monitor the removal. While the mill portion of this site is no longer present, the site is still a significant site because of the presence of the petroglyphs which should be preserved and protected (CASA, 1996c).

In a separate activity, a water line that has been incorrectly installed through an archaeological area at the Burro Canyon site was relocated.

8.2 HISTORIC BUILDING INVENTORY RECORDS

No HBIRs for Slick Rock VPs were submitted during the period of record.

9.0 LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

The following individuals contributed to the preparation of this report.

Name	Contribution
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A. Holm, E. Artiglia	Reviewer
L. Maez, S. Portlock	Text processing
T. Bond	Graphics

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Navajo Nation, 1996. Addendum to Cultural Resource Inventory: Cane Valley Frog Ponds and Old Mill Site Haul Road; Monument Valley UMTRA Project, Navajo Nation, Apache Country Arizona; attachment to letter from Arizona State Parks, UPDCC file location 19.15.4.

FEDERAL REGULATIONS

56 FR 2166, *Compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act: Record of Decision for Remedial Action at the Former Union Carbide Corporation Uranium Mill Sites, Rifle, Garfield County, Colorado*, U.S. Department of Energy, January 22, 1991.