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July 6, 1990

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES

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Hank Meduna
Texaco, Inc.
P.O. Box 1629
Rock Springs, WY 82902-1629

RE: North Lone Pine Prospect cultural inventory (90-WWC-127)

Dear Hank:

Enclosed is the final report documenting our Class III inventory on the proposed North Lone Pine Prospect in Jackson County, Colorado. One prehistoric site was recorded. This site, 5JA718, is recommended as a nonsignificant property. However, note that the area along the bank of Dead Horse Draw was identified as an archaeologically sensitive area which should be avoided to insure that no other archaeological sites are encountered. With the stipulation that all activities avoid the area from Dead Horse Draw to the west 100 ft (30 meters), we have recommended that the project be granted cultural resource clearance.

Call if you have questions about this project.

Sincerely,

Steven D. Creasman
Director

Kevin W. Thompson
Project Manager

SDC:KWT:dab

Enclosures

cc: F. Rupp, BLM - Kremmling Resource Area (2)

**Western Wyoming College
Affidavit of Cultural Resource Inventories**

Project Reference No: 90-WWC-127

Report Date: July 6, 1990

Project Identification: Texaco, Inc.; North Lone Pine Prospect, Class III inventory

Project Location: The general project area is located in the northwest portion of North Park in northcentral Colorado, several miles south of the Wyoming border. Specifically, the project location is in the SW1/4 SE1/4 SW1/4, S1/2 NW1/4 SE1/4 SW1/4, S1/2 N1/2 SW1/4 SW1/4, and the S1/2 SW1/4 SW1/4 Section 27 (SW section corner as template anchor), and the NW1/4 NW1/4 and W1/2 W1/2 NE1/4 NW1/4 Section 34, T11N, R81W, Jackson County, Colorado. Figure 1 illustrates the project area.

The surface is privately owned. The federal government retains mineral rights. Management of the federal interests in this project is administered by the Colorado Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Craig District, Kremmling Resource Area.

Description of Undertaking: Texaco, Inc. proposes to develop oil and gas leases at the location described above. To avoid any possible conflicts with any cultural resources in the area, Texaco requested that Archaeological Services of Western Wyoming College (AS-WWC) perform a Class-III inventory prior to Texaco's submission of a notice of staking for the prospect. This procedure would insure that no redesigning of the project would be required due to a conflict with cultural resource concerns. Development of the North Lone Pine Prospect will entail construction of a pad ca. 400 ft x 400 ft for drilling and production facilities. Construction techniques will include cut and fill activities to create a level surface. Access to the new well will occur via an existing two-track road which will be upgraded to a crowned and ditched road with a roadway ca. 20 ft wide. Federal involvement in the undertaking will consist of approval of the Texaco, Inc., Application for a Permit to Drill (APD).

Field Crew: Linda W. Thompson and Kevin W. Thompson

Date of Survey: June 18, 1990

File Search: A file search of the baseline maps on file at the Kremmling Resource Area office was conducted on June 13, 1990, through Frank Rupp, Resource Area Archaeologist. Mr. Rupp indicated that no sites have been previously recorded in Sections 27 and 34, T27N, R111W. Only one previous cultural resource inventory is recorded in the area. A five acre gravel pit was inspected at an unknown location within the project area.

Environment: North Park is one of a series of intermontane basins within the central and southern Rocky Mountains of Colorado. The Never Summer and Medicine Bow ranges are on the eastern edge and the northern end of the park is defined by the Independence Mountain fault block. The Park Range lies to



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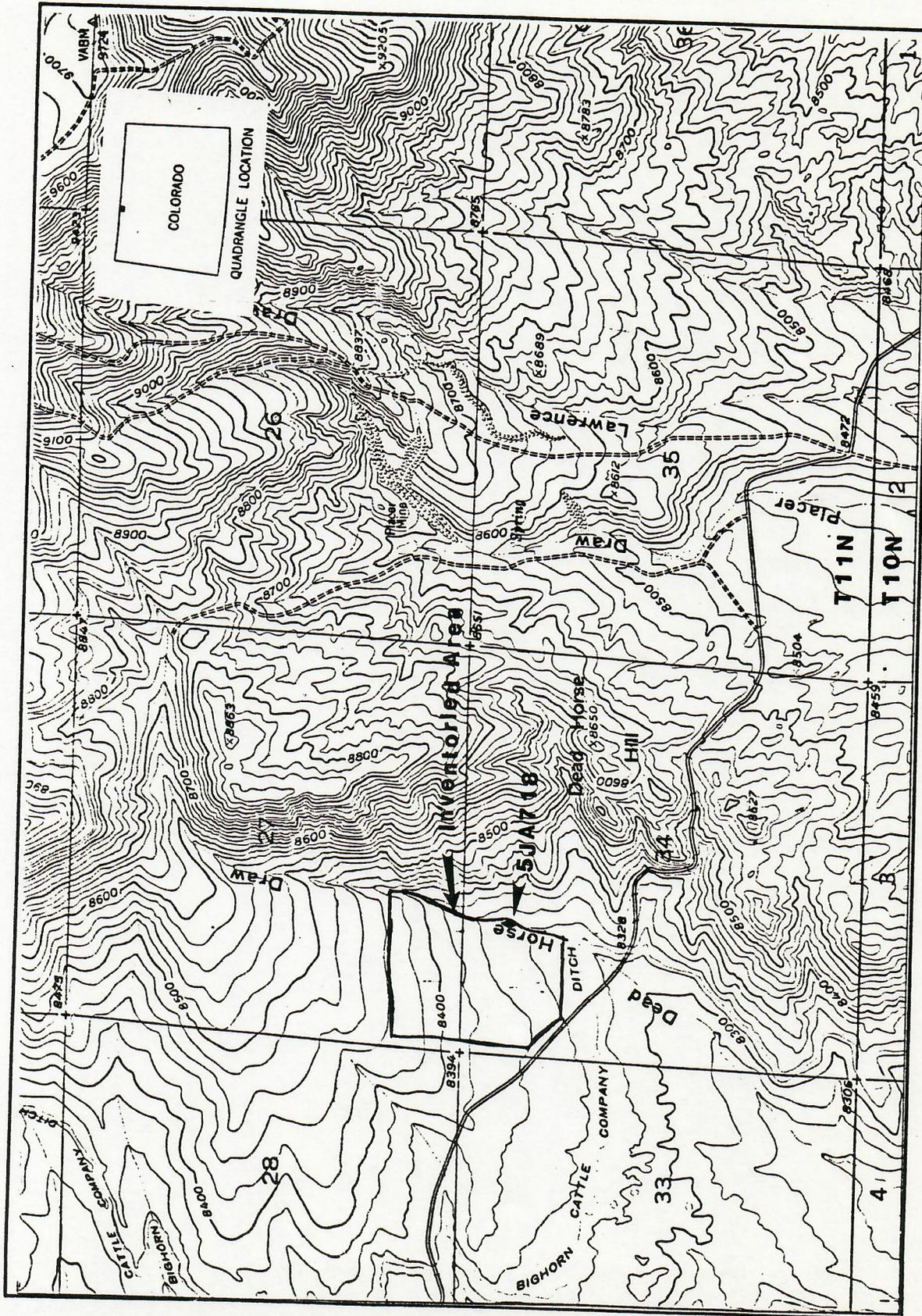


Figure 1. Topographic map showing the area inventoried and the location of Site 5JA718. Taken from Independence Mountain, Colo., 7.5', 1955, USGS map.

the west and the Rabbit Ears Range forms the southern boundary of the park. Access to the southern end of the Park is limited to several mountain passes. Cameron Pass allows access and egress to the Front Range through Cache la Poudre Canyon. Willow Creek Pass connects North Park with Middle Park to the south. Muddy Pass provides access to the west and south. North Park is ca. 50 miles north to south and 30 miles east to west. Drainage occurs to the north via the headwaters of the North Platte River. The major North Park drainages include the Canadian, Michigan, and Illinois rivers, and Grizzly, Little Grizzly, and North Fork creeks. Elevation in the Park ranges from 7900 ft (2408 m) on the floor to more than 12,000 ft (3658 m) in the surrounding mountains. Extensive past glaciation is evidenced by various geological features.

Six distinct vegetation communities have been identified in the area, including sagebrush steppe, montane forest, sub-alpine forest, meadow, streamside thicket, and talus/tundra. The project area was in a sagebrush steppe. Soils are primarily sand and sandy loams. Modern impacts in North Park are related to ranching and irrigation of hay meadows. Ranch buildings, fences, and irrigation ditches comprise the majority of the modern structures.

Research Orientation: In their overview of the archaeology of the Colorado Mountains, Guthrie, Gadd, Johnson, and Lischka provided baseline data and identified several general research domains. Additionally, specific research topics pertinent to each of the major cultural units (Paleoindian, Archaic, Formative, and Protohistoric/Historic) were described (Guthrie et al. 1984).

Current research topics germane to the entire Mountain Region include: construction of a dependable cultural chronology; documentation of the various subsistence strategies practiced through time to identify changes in adaptation; identification of settlement and seasonal occupation patterns to determine if the area was occupied by indigenous mountain-oriented groups or seasonally utilized by groups from the surrounding culture areas; identification of resources specific to the Mountain Region; and paleoenvironmental studies to identify climatic changes and the effects on the human populations. Areas identified for future research efforts include discussions of social organization, exchange systems, and group interaction.

The research orientation at AS-WWC is most completely described in the Exxon LaBarge Project Treatment Plan (Creasman et al. 1985:2.7 - 2.14). In summary, this document outlines the phased approach in effect at AS-WWC. Phase I (intra-site) investigations consist of identifying and characterizing different types of activity areas. Phase II (inter-site) investigations deal with more synthetic and regional problem domains such as chronology building, settlement and subsistence patterns, and change in prehistoric subsistence as correlated to environmental change. Note that the Phase II topics closely parallel those postulated by Guthrie et al. The field methods used by AS-WWC crews during the inventory of the proposed Texaco, Inc., North Lone Pine Prospect were designed to locate and evaluate cultural resources within the framework of these regional research questions.

Previous archaeological work in North Park is limited. Most of the data referenced for North Park by Guthrie et al. was gathered by Lischka et al. (1983) during a Class III inventory of potential coal lease areas in the southern and central portions of the basin. Due to problems with sampling caused by the exigencies of the project, the data collected are not representative. However, Lischka et al. made some intriguing propositions regarding the prehistoric use of North Park. Temporally diagnostic artifacts

indicate that North Park was inhabited from Paleoindian times through Historic Contact. Predictably, most residential sites were located near critical resources, including water, wood for fuel, and floral and faunal resources. Special task sites were located near the target resource. Most notable, however, is the possibility that North Park was a favored place for prehistoric winter occupations. The combination of big game herds, firewood, and snow-free areas would make the area attractive to aboriginal people looking for a winter camp. Further work in the area, particularly block excavations, is necessary to fully evaluate this hypothesis.

The proposed location of the Texaco, Inc., North Lone Pine Prospect on a gently sloping, south to southeast facing, sage-covered slope is considered to have low archaeological sensitivity. The eastern edge of the survey area, near the banks of Dead Horse Draw, has a higher potential to contain significant archaeological materials due to the proximity to water, a critical resource in this arid area. The determination of a low archaeological sensitivity for most of the project area is partially attributable to the presence of much higher sensitivity areas nearby, especially associated with permanent water sources such as the North Platte River further east.

Survey Methods: Figure 1 shows the area which was inspected at the Class III level as a result of this fieldwork. The area was inspected by a two-person crew walking roughly parallel north to south transects. Spacing between individuals never exceeded 30 m. In this manner, an area approximately 80 acres in size was subjected to a 100% pedestrian inventory. The entire survey area was on private surface with mineral rights retained by the federal government.

Results: One prehistoric site was documented during the fieldwork.

Archaeological Site

Site Number: 5JA718 (AS-WWC Lab # Independence Mountain 1)

Site Type: lithic scatter

Legal Location: SE1/4 SE1/4 NW1/4 NE1/4 NW1/4, Section 34, T11N, R81W

Elevation: 8350 ft (2545 m)

Environment: The site is located on a gentle, sage-covered foothill on the southwest face of Independence Mountain overlooking Dead Horse Draw (Figure 1). The slope faces generally to the south and southeast. The eastern edge of the site is the inflection point of the break in slope leading down to the stream channel.

Description: The site is a very sparse lithic scatter located along the west edge of Dead Horse Draw (Figure 2). Cultural material was noted ca. 2-3 m. west of the break in slope down to the drainage channel. The site is located in an area with relatively good surface visibility due to less vegetation. The area surrounding the site is covered by dense sage. Some cultural material may be obscured by vegetation. The eastern site boundary was demarcated by the edge of the drainage. Dead Horse Draw has cut down ca. 3 m below the surface of the surrounding terrain, forming an incised channel. The other site boundaries were defined by the presence of cultural material on the surface. One shovel test was excavated southeast of the site datum in a portion of the site most likely to contain deposition. At ca. 15 cm below the surface, a very dense, blocky reddish clayey sand was encountered. The test was terminated at 22 cm below the surface. The top 15 cm of sediment is



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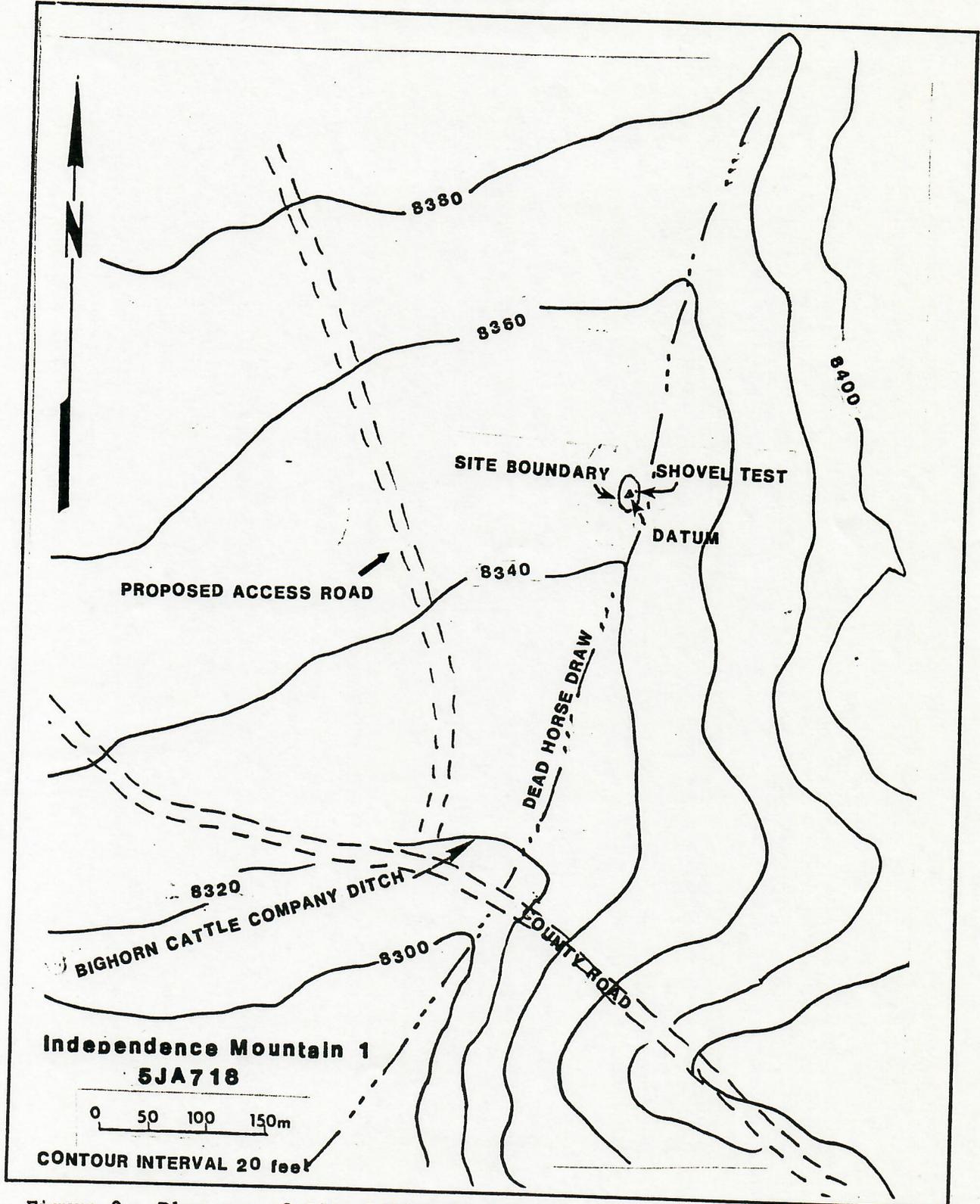


Figure 2. Plan map of Site 5JA718 (Independence Mountain 1) showing the proximity to Dead Horse Draw.

a moderately dark brown silty sand. The site datum is a white PVC pipe located in the center of the site. A metal tag inside the pipe is marked "90-WWC-127.1", indicating the temporary site number.

Artifacts Observed or Collected: Nine flakes were noted: 1 secondary and 2 tertiary quartzite; 2 primary, 1 secondary, 2 tertiary, and 1 shatter specimen of Troublesome Frm. chert (whitish yellow opaque chert). No was collection was made.

Evaluation: Based on the limited assemblage, the lack of evidence for any subsistence activities on the site, and the low potential for the site to contain intact cultural deposits likely to yield significant data pertinent to regional studies of prehistoric lifeways, Site 5JA718 is recommended as a nonsignificant property which is not eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

Impacts: The site has been disturbed by deflation, wind erosion, and to a limited extent by grazing.

Summary: A two-person field crew from Archaeological Services of Western Wyoming College performed a Class III inventory on 80 acres of private surface for the proposed Texaco, Inc., North Lone Pine Prospect in Jackson County, Colorado. One cultural property (5JA718) was encountered. The site was recommended as nonsignificant and not eligible for inclusion on the NRHP.

Recommendations: The prehistoric lithic scatter (5JA718) was recommended as not significant and not eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places, based on its low potential to yield data pertinent to regional research topics.

The majority of the project area is considered to have a low archaeological sensitivity, based on both cultural and environmental variables. The area immediately beside Dead Horse Draw has a much higher sensitivity due to the proximity to water, at least seasonally. The presence of thick vegetation and surface organic materials along the watercourse precluded making an absolute determination of the presence or absence of cultural materials in other areas along the drainage. Therefore, to avoid the possibility of adversely impacting any undocumented cultural resources, it is recommended that no ground-disturbing activities be allowed within 100 ft (30 meters) of Dead Horse Draw. With that stipulation in mind, cultural resource clearance is recommended for the proposed Texaco, Inc., North Lone Pine Prospect.

References Cited:

Creasman, S. D., J. C. Newberry, A. D. Gardner, T. Hoefer III, K. W. Thompson, and L. J. Scott.

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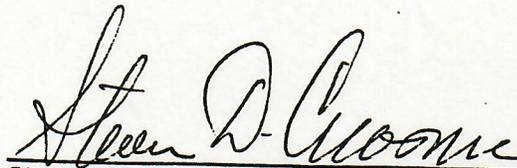
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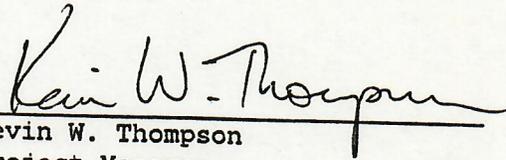
Lishka, J. J., M. E. Miller, R. B. Reynolds, D. Dahms, K. Joyner-McGuire, and D. McGuire

1983 An Archaeological Inventory in North Park, Jackson County, Colorado.
Colorado Bureau of Land Management, Cultural Resource Series No. 14,
Denver.

Certification: This project was conducted under Cultural Resource Use Permit No. C-39473 and complies with Executive Order 11593 and other applicable historic preservation laws.



Steven D. Creasman
Principal Investigator



Kevin W. Thompson
Project Manager