



**Archaeological Consulting Services, Ltd.**  
*Cultural Resource, Environmental Planning, and GIS Services*  
Certified DBE, EDWOSB, Established 1977

424 West Broadway Road  
Tempe, AZ 85282-1339  
(480) 894-5477  
[www.acstempe.com](http://www.acstempe.com)

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February 24, 2021

ACS Proposal No. 21-029

Mr. Steve Sanders  
Gila County Public Works  
745 N. Rose Mofford Way  
Globe, Arizona 85501

RE: Beaver Valley Emergency Access Route and Park Road Cattle Guard Relocation  
Cultural Resources Compliance Surveys  
Tonto National Forest, Payson Ranger District, Gila County, Arizona

Dear Mr. Sanders:

Thank you for contacting Archaeological Consulting Services, Ltd. (ACS) regarding cultural resource assessments for two projects that require archaeological clearance from the Tonto National Forest, Payson Ranger District (TNF), in Gila County, Arizona. ACS understands that the County intends to have both locations cleared at the same time. The Beaver Valley Emergency Access Route project involves vegetation removal and grading a new road to provide emergency access from the Beaver Valley Subdivision to Forest Road 199 (Houston Mesa Road). The Park Road Cattle Guard Relocation project involves installation of a new cattle guard at a yet-to-be-determined location on Park Road north of the existing cattle guard at the entrance to the Meads Collins Subdivision.

Under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, before construction can begin, a cultural resource assessment needs to take place to identify and evaluate any cultural resources that might be present within each of the projects' area of potential effects (APE). The State Historic Preservation Act (A.R.S. §41-861 through §41-864), the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) of 1979, and the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) also apply. ACS' scope of work and assumptions for the two APEs is presented below; at your request, separate cost estimates for each project, as well as a cost for the combined effort, also are provided.

### **Scope of Work**

The cultural resource assessment will involve several tasks.

**Background Research.** For each project, a site file check covering the area identified as the APE and a 0.5-mile study area buffer will need to be conducted. This constitutes a Class I records review, and is required by TNF and other review agencies. Class I data provide information to determine if portions of the APEs have been previously surveyed and the types of sites likely to occur in the vicinity. Given the location of the proposed projects, records held by the following repositories will be checked:

- TNF Supervisor's Office (in-person visit)
- AZSITE, Arizona's Cultural Resource Inventory Database (online)
- General Land Office (GLO) plats and survey records (available online)

GIS shapefiles plotting the location of recorded sites and previous projects will be obtained from online AZSITE. In the meantime, copies of site records and project maps will be obtained from the other repositories; cultural resource locations and project boundaries from these sources will be digitized and incorporated into the AZSITE GIS layers using ArcView. For purposes of this cost proposal, we assume the records research at TNF will be conducted concurrently for both projects; if separate in-person visits to TNF are required, a budget modification may be necessary to complete this task.

TNF reporting standards for Class I literature reviews require that all cultural resources identified and all surveys conducted within 0.5 miles of the APE be discussed in the report. Historically, the **Beaver Valley Road APE** bordered a homestead (HES120/544079) platted in 1916 by Bert Beluzzi; the homestead was replatted in the 1970s-1980s as Beaver Valley Estates; Beaver Valley Road itself was added after 1976. A preliminary review of the online AZSITE Database and cultural resource files at ACS shows that the Beaver Valley Road APE has not been previously examined for cultural resources, and no previous projects or previously recorded sites are plotted within 0.5 miles of this APE. However, this preliminary review does not include records from TNF, which have to be accessed in person. Thus, for purposes of this cost proposal, we assume a maximum of 20 previous projects and recorded sites in total will be identified and summarized in the Class I section of the Beaver Valley Road APE survey report.

Historically, the **Park Road APE** also bordered a homestead (60401) platted in 1909 by Sampson E. Boles; the homestead was replatted in the modern era as Forest Homes; the Park Road alignment was added around 1975. The Park Road APE was previously surveyed in 1993 as part of the Cabin Timber Sale (4.181.SHPO); as a result of this project, at least six archaeological sites were identified, of which five (5) are plotted in close vicinity to this APE; additional information about previous projects and known sites within the 0.5-mile buffer will need to be obtained from TNF. Based on this preliminary research, for purposes of this cost proposal, we assume a maximum of 20 previous projects and recorded sites in total will be identified and summarized in the Class I section of the Park Road APE survey report.

Per TNF reporting requirements, the following attributes will be collected for previous projects: project number, project name, summary of findings, and report reference. The following attributes will be collected for previously recorded cultural resources: site number, site type, summary of artifacts, list of features, brief description of environmental setting, eligibility status, and report reference.

Once all the previous research information has been received, the GIS data will be loaded into a GPS unit for use during the fieldwork. Having all previous research information (i.e., site locations) on hand prior to the fieldwork is critical for avoiding duplicate field visits and budget inefficiencies.

**Fieldwork.** Each APE will be examined by one archaeologist walking parallel transects spaced not more than 15 meters apart; this constitutes a 100 percent (intensive) Class III survey. Per TNF requirements, transect ends will be flagged with pink flagging tape. Cultural resources found during the survey will be documented, mapped using a GPS, photographed, and evaluated for significance using the National Register of Historic Places (National Register) criteria. If sites are found, their boundaries will be marked with pink and white flagging tape tied together, per TNF site recording standards. Isolated artifacts will be recorded in less detail.

For purposes of this cost proposal, we assume the fieldwork for the Beaver Valley Road and Park Road APEs will be conducted concurrently, and no cultural resource sites will be identified in either APE during the Class III survey.

**Report.** If no sites are found, the negative survey results will be presented in Survey Report Summary Form (SRSF) format, as accepted by TNF, the Arizona State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), and Arizona State Museum (ASM). If cultural resource sites are found, a technical report conforming to federal and SHPO

specifications will be prepared discussing the results of the investigation. The technical report will provide the following:

- a brief culture history of the project area
- a summary of previous research following TNF standards
- the results of the fieldwork
- recommendations regarding the National Register eligibility of any cultural resources found
- recommendations regarding the need for further archaeological work.

For purposes of this cost proposal, we assume the results of both surveys will be reported in a single report; as no sites are anticipated, we further assume the report will be in SRSF format. A copy of the draft SRSF will be sent to you for internal review, and any comments arising from the internal review will be addressed in a revised draft SRSF. An electronic copy of the revised draft SRSF will be sent to you for submittal to TNF and other relevant review agencies. Any comments arising from the agency review will be incorporated into a final SRSF. Please note that all copies of the final cultural resources report/SRSF will be sent to you to distribute to TNF.

**Project Closeout.** Once the final report has been accepted by TNF and other review agencies, we request that you provide ACS with copies of all agency consultation letters concurring with the project findings. Project materials will then be submitted to ASM for curation, per the terms of our TNF permit. Copies of all project documentation, including GIS shapefiles, also will be provided to TNF. The final invoice will be provided to you after all project closeout procedures have been completed.

### **Cost Estimate and Schedule**

The time-and-materials cost of the projects as scoped above is as follows:

Combined Class III cultural resource surveys (conducted concurrently) and a single, combined SRSF for both Beaver Valley Road APE and Park Road APE: \$10,899.

Separate cultural resource surveys and individual SRSFs for each APE:

- Beaver Valley Road: \$6,877.
- Park Road: \$6,877.

These cost estimates are based upon the following assumptions:

- The background research at TNF-Supervisor's Office will be conducted in person;
- Background research for both APEs will be conducted concurrently;
- No more than 20 previous projects/previously recorded sites in total will be documented by the Class I research for the Beaver Valley Road APE, and no more than 20 will be documented in the Park Road APE;
- Fieldwork hours include time to complete post-field notes for each APE, and travel between APEs;
- No cultural resource sites will be identified in either APE;
- The survey results, whether reported separately or in a single combined report, will be presented in SRSF format;
- If both APEs are surveyed concurrently, the fieldwork will require an overnight stay in Payson;
- ASM project registration and related fees will not be more than \$462.00 for each APE, for a total ASM fee of \$924.00.

*However, if these assumptions are exceeded, a cost amendment may be necessary to complete the project. A cost estimate is attached. Before we can begin work, we will need a written notice to proceed (NTP) and fees associated with administration of the project through ASM.*

Assuming the above parameters, the project will take approximately 8-12 weeks to complete from NTP and receipt of the following required information:

- Signed contract
- GIS or CADD data of each APE boundary (including information about coordinate system and datum to which the data are referenced)
- Full project description, including limits and depth of proposed disturbance, and proposed construction date (needed to determine cut-off age of historic/potentially historic resources)
- Project funding source(s)
- If the project is part of a larger activity or undertaking, copies of all available previous reports and consultation correspondence that might be of relevance to the current investigation

**The information contained in this scope of work and cost estimate is proprietary and confidential.**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this cost estimate to you. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any issues or questions you may have. We look forward to the possibility of working with you in support of this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lourdes Aguila". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Lourdes Aguila, M.A., RPA  
Principal Investigator