



TRC Research Center

Joint Investigation Report

Field Location CTA 18-450

Organ Mountains Study

Joint Investigation with the Citizens for the Truth About Aliens (CTA)

Status: Active Investigation

Location: Eastern foothills of the Organ Mountains, Southern New Mexico

Primary Investigation Dates: March 18, 2024 – July 12, 2026

Executive Summary

One of the primary goals of the recent cooperative agreement between the **TRC Research Center** and the **Citizens for the Truth About Aliens (CTA)** is to compare investigations where both organizations have examined the same location but reached significantly different conclusions.

Field Location **CTA 18-450** represents one such investigation.

Although both organizations documented the same physical evidence—including scorched ground, dead vegetation, disturbed soil, and an isolated location near the base of the Organ Mountains—they interpret that evidence in dramatically different ways.

CTA believes the site represents a probable landing location for an unidentified aerial craft.

The TRC Research Center believes the site is consistent with locations previously associated with ritual activity connected to recurring "Symbols in the Sand" events documented throughout southern New Mexico.

This report preserves both interpretations without attempting to declare either conclusion correct.

Location Description

The site lies several miles from established hiking trails along the eastern base of the Organ Mountains.

The immediate area consists of rocky desert terrain, sparse vegetation, and numerous shallow washes.

There are no maintained roads leading directly to the location.

According to both organizations, the area receives relatively little recreational traffic.

The location has long been associated with unusual reports involving unexplained lights, strange markings, and isolated burn areas.

CTA Field Report

Initial Discovery

March 18, 2024

The location first came to CTA's attention after several hikers reported an unusual circular burn area while traveling through the Organ Mountains.

One of CTA's field investigators happened to be conducting unrelated work nearby and responded shortly after the report was received.

Within several days a formal field team arrived.

Observations

Investigators documented:

- Extensive burned soil
- Heat-damaged vegetation
- Numerous dead desert plants
- Circular discoloration of surface material
- Absence of visible animal remains
- No obvious campfire evidence
- No evidence of recent human occupation

Numerous photographs were taken.

Investigators collected:

- Soil samples
- Burned surface material
- Plant specimens
- Environmental measurements

At the time of the investigation no reliable estimate could be made regarding when the damage occurred.

CTA Assessment

CTA investigators noted similarities between this location and several other sites documented throughout southern New Mexico.

Common observations included:

- Circular heat damage
- Vegetation killed by intense localized temperatures
- Minimal disturbance beyond the immediate burn area
- Lack of conventional explanations

CTA investigators reported no evidence suggesting prolonged human activity.

Statement by Amy Wright

Executive Director

Citizens for the Truth About Aliens

"My examination of the site was observational but supported by comparisons with numerous locations previously investigated by CTA.

Based upon the available evidence, I believe this location represents a probable landing site for an unidentified aerial vehicle.

We found no evidence suggesting a wildfire, campsite, controlled burn, or ceremonial gathering.

Likewise, we found no indications that occupants remained on the ground for any significant period of time.

The limited disturbance to surrounding vegetation suggests a brief event involving extreme heat.

Our current working theory is that an unidentified craft temporarily landed, collected environmental samples—including soil and plant material—and departed.

While additional evidence would always be welcomed, the characteristics of this site are remarkably consistent with several others documented by CTA over the past decade."

CTA Status

Active Investigation

No additional field work currently scheduled.

File remains dormant pending new evidence.

TRC Research Center Report

Historical Background

Unlike CTA, the TRC Research Center had maintained an active file on this location for several years prior to the CTA investigation.

The area appears repeatedly within older field journals connected to multiple independent investigators.

Among those familiar with the location were:

- Theo Ray Mercer
- T.J. Clayton
- Jeremiah "Jeb" Crow

According to Mercer, Jeb Crow delivered a handwritten message indicating that unknown individuals had been working within the area several weeks before anyone from TRC arrived.

No identities were ever established.

Site Investigation

July 12, 2026

TRC investigators revisited the location as part of a broader study involving recurring burn sites near the Organ Mountains.

Although the original burn scars had partially weathered, several areas remained distinguishable.

Investigators documented:

- Residual burned ground
- Evidence suggesting two distinct disturbed areas
- Possible remnants of geometric markings beneath accumulated sand
- Localized damage consistent with intense but focused heat

Nearby terrain also matched several locations historically associated with recurring reports of "Symbols in the Sand."

Historical Comparisons

TRC researchers compared the site with older records dating back decades.

Several historical observations described:

- Temporary geometric symbols appearing overnight
- Burn marks occurring near those symbols
- Reports of unusual electrical discharges
- Witnesses describing brilliant flashes resembling lightning without storms

Although no definitive explanation exists, these observations appear repeatedly throughout the historical archive.

Statement by T.J. Clayton

"There appear to have been two separate locations where symbols may once have existed.

Unfortunately, increasing human traffic has significantly disturbed much of the original evidence.

What remains strongly resembles other locations we've investigated where burn marks appear alongside recurring symbolic formations.

Several historical witnesses described intense flashes of light immediately before these burn patterns appeared.

Whether those flashes represented unusual atmospheric activity or something else remains unknown.

I respectfully disagree with CTA's conclusion that this represents the landing site of a spacecraft.

Neither Theo Mercer nor I found evidence requiring that explanation.

Instead, we believe the available evidence more closely resembles locations associated with ritual activity documented throughout the TOX Archive and supported by historical witness accounts."

Theo Ray Mercer Notes

Mercer emphasized that many of the older records describe ceremonial gatherings conducted near unusual symbols rather than encounters with unidentified aircraft.

He also noted similarities between this location and several forgotten sites referenced in portions of the TOX Archive currently undergoing review.

According to Mercer:

"The burn marks aren't the mystery.

The mystery is why they appear wherever these symbols are found."

Comparative Analysis

Observation	CTA Interpretation	TRC Interpretation
Burned ground	Landing heat	Ritual fire or unexplained energy discharge
Dead vegetation	Heat from aerial craft	Heat associated with ceremonial activity
Circular disturbance	Landing zone	Ceremonial site
Lack of animal remains	Supports brief landing	Consistent with isolated ritual location
Remote location	Suitable for covert landing	Historically associated with symbols in the sand
Possible soil disturbance	Sample collection	Ceremonial preparation or later human activity
Historical records	Similar to previous CTA landing sites	Matches multiple historical reports within the TOX Archive

Joint Investigation Findings

Although the TRC Research Center and CTA disagree regarding the interpretation of the evidence, investigators from both organizations agree on several important facts:

- The burn area is genuine.
- The vegetation experienced significant heat exposure.
- The site is unusual and worthy of continued study.
- Additional evidence is required before definitive conclusions can be reached.
- Future discoveries may support—or challenge—the current interpretations of both organizations.

Closing Statement from Amy Wright

"Partnership does not require agreement. CTA will continue evaluating this site through the lens of aerial phenomena and comparative landing-site investigations. We welcome the historical perspective offered by the TRC Research Center, even when our conclusions differ. Every investigation benefits when multiple viewpoints are willing to examine the same evidence."

Closing Statement from Dylan Carrillo

"This investigation demonstrates exactly why the partnership between the TRC Research Center and CTA is valuable. We looked at the same location, documented many of the same physical facts, and reached different conclusions. That's not a weakness—it's the strength of independent investigation. At TMF, our responsibility is to continue examining the TOX Archive, historical records, witness accounts, and field evidence without forcing the facts to fit a predetermined theory. Whether this site ultimately proves to be something extraordinary or something entirely unexpected, only continued research will bring us closer to the truth."

TRC Research Center

Collect Everything. Verify What You Can. Question Everything Else.

The records have been preserved. The investigation continues.