



TRC RESEARCH ANALYSIS

The El Paso–Mesilla Region 50,000 Years Ago: A Possible Destination

Advanced-Life Migration Hypothesis

One of the persistent problems with theories suggesting that an advanced form of life visited the Mesilla region thousands of years ago is obvious.

Why here?

Today, much of southern New Mexico and northern Mexico is an unforgiving desert environment. Water is limited. Temperatures can be extreme. Large areas support relatively little vegetation.

For a civilization searching for a new home, there would appear to be far more attractive places on Earth.

But that conclusion is based upon what the region looks like **today**.

Fifty thousand years ago, the situation was dramatically different.

And that raises an intriguing possibility.

What if whoever came here wasn't interested in the desert?

What if there wasn't a desert?

THE WORLD THEY WOULD HAVE FOUND

During the Pleistocene epoch, the greater El Paso–Mesilla region would have presented an environment almost unrecognizable to a modern visitor.

The climate was substantially cooler and wetter.

Mountain ranges that today rise from desert terrain supported extensive forests of pine, spruce, fir and oak. Those woodlands descended to elevations considerably lower than where similar vegetation survives today.

Across the valleys were broad grasslands.

Seasonal and longer-lasting bodies of water occupied low-lying basins.

And through the region flowed an ancestral Rio Grande carrying considerably more water than the river we recognize today.

Imagine approaching this region without any knowledge of modern geography.

Below would be an enormous river valley surrounded by mountains.

Forests.

Grasslands.

Abundant water.

And extraordinary biological diversity.

Columbian mammoths moved through these landscapes.

Giant ground sloths inhabited the region.

Ancient horses and camels grazed across the open terrain.

Mastodons could be found in suitable habitats.

Predators including saber-toothed cats, dire wolves and American lions followed the great herds.

To an observer studying Earth from elsewhere, the presence of such large and diverse animal populations would have provided an obvious indication of a productive ecosystem.

There were no cities.

No highways.

No international border.

No fences.

No industrial development.

From horizon to horizon, the region would have appeared to be an enormous uninterrupted habitat.

For something looking for a new home, it might have been remarkable.

WHAT WOULD AN ADVANCED SPECIES LOOK FOR?

We cannot know what environmental requirements an extraterrestrial—or otherwise nonhuman—civilization would have.

But if its biological requirements were even moderately similar to terrestrial life, several characteristics would presumably be valuable.

Water would likely rank near the top.

A stable source of biological material would also matter.

Moderate temperatures would make survival easier.

Geological diversity could provide minerals and construction materials.

Mountains would provide natural shelter.

Open valleys would allow movement and settlement.

The Pleistocene Mesilla–El Paso region offered all of them.

There is another advantage that might have been particularly important.

Isolation.

A technologically advanced civilization looking for a place to establish a small settlement might not want the most densely populated portion of a planet.

It might want the opposite.

A productive environment with abundant resources—but relatively little competition from the planet's dominant intelligent species.

Fifty thousand years ago, this region may have offered precisely that combination.

PERHAPS THEY WEREN'T EXPLORERS

Most theories involving advanced nonhuman visitors assume exploration.

They came to observe.

They came to study.

They came and left.

But there is another possibility worth considering.

Perhaps they were looking for somewhere to live.

That changes the interpretation considerably.

A civilization facing environmental collapse, warfare, astronomical catastrophe or some other existential threat might search for habitable environments elsewhere.

Its scouts wouldn't necessarily be looking for intelligent civilizations.

They would be looking for ecosystems.

Water.

Climate.

Food.

Safety.

Room.

By those standards, the ancient Mesilla–El Paso valley may have been an excellent candidate.

Perhaps Earth wasn't a scientific curiosity.

Perhaps it was **real estate**.

THE X

This possibility becomes more interesting when considered alongside reports of four unusual locations extending from New Mexico into northern Mexico.

The locations reportedly form a rough X.

The northern points are near **San Lorenzo** and **White Sands**.

The southern points extend into Mexico near **La Mota** and **El Sabinoso**.

Near the intersection sits **Mesilla**.

If these locations prove to contain evidence of ancient artificial construction—and at present that remains only an allegation—their geographical arrangement deserves investigation.

What if the X was never intended as a symbol?

Perhaps we're interpreting it backward.

Four installations surrounding a central location could represent boundaries.

Navigation points.

Survey stations.

Observation facilities.

Or markers defining a selected territory.

In that scenario, Mesilla wasn't chosen because four lines happened to intersect there.

The four locations were chosen because Mesilla was already the center.

WHY MESILLA?

The ancient environment provides a possible answer.

The Mesilla Valley offered water through the ancestral Rio Grande.

Mountain systems provided natural landmarks visible from great distances.

The surrounding landscape offered numerous elevated observation points.

The valley provided open terrain.

Forested mountains offered biological resources and shelter.

Large animal populations demonstrated the productivity of the ecosystem.

And the entire region provided access northward and southward through a natural corridor.

For an advanced group conducting a planetary survey, the area might have checked an extraordinary number of boxes.

If they established a central presence near what is now Mesilla, outlying installations could have defined or monitored the surrounding territory.

And 50,000 years of geological and climatic change would explain why little obvious evidence remains today.

THEN THE WORLD CHANGED

There is an important question.

If the region was so attractive, why wouldn't such a civilization remain?

Perhaps it did—for a while.

Then the climate changed.

The Pleistocene ended.

Temperatures increased.

Rainfall patterns shifted.

Grasslands contracted.

Lakes disappeared.

Forests retreated into the mountains.

The great Ice Age mammals vanished.

The river changed.

Slowly, the environment that may have originally attracted these hypothetical settlers disappeared.

A place selected because it was green, cool and abundant gradually became increasingly dry.

Perhaps they abandoned it.

Perhaps only a small population remained.

Or perhaps they adapted.

There is an even more intriguing possibility.

What if some of the strange stories associated with the Mesilla region aren't accounts of **visitors arriving**?

What if they are accounts of something that has been here for an extraordinarily long time?

A DIFFERENT QUESTION

None of this establishes that advanced nonhuman life occupied southern New Mexico 50,000 years ago.

There is currently no verified evidence supporting such a conclusion.

But the ancient environment changes an important assumption.

When someone asks why an advanced civilization searching for a new home would choose a harsh desert surrounding Mesilla, the answer may be surprisingly simple:

They wouldn't.

They might, however, have chosen a cool, green river valley surrounded by forests and grasslands, filled with enormous animals and supplied by abundant water.

And 50,000 years ago—

that is exactly what this place may have looked like.

So perhaps we've been asking the wrong question.

Not:

Why would they come to the desert?

But:

What happened to the world they came here to find?

— **TRC Research Center**
The Mesilla Files