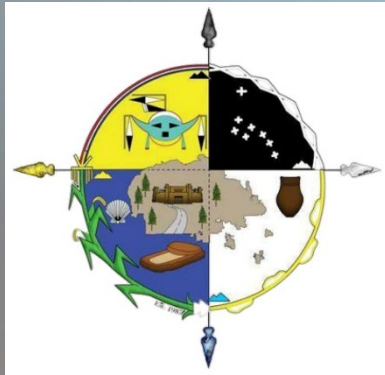
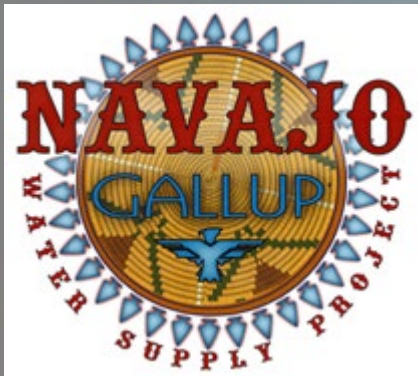


Cultural Resources along the Navajo Gallup Water Supply Project

History, Location, and Overview of Cultural Resources



History of the Navajo Gallup Water Supply Project [Origins: 60 yrs in the Making]

- **1958: Congressional Hearing – NIIP** New Mexico State Engineer testifies that the Navajo Indian Irrigation Project would supply water to Navajo communities and the City of Gallup – the earliest federal record linking the San Juan River to Gallup's future water supply.
- **1960: Banner & Associates Preliminary Report** Proposed a 20-inch pipeline delivering 5 MGD to Gallup and 1.5 MGD to Navajo communities along the route — the first engineering blueprint for a San Juan River diversion project.
- **1962: NIIP Authorized – Public Law 87-483** Congress formally authorizes the Navajo Indian Irrigation Project, establishing the legal precedent for large scale federal water delivery infrastructure serving the Navajo Nation and adjacent communities.
- **1971: Public Law 92-199** provided authority to conduct feasibility studies for the “Gallup Project, New Mexico” which culminated in a reconnaissance report in October 1973.
- **1975-76 NTUA & BOR Partnership** MOU between the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority and Bureau of Reclamation established. Turney & Associates prepare a comprehensive Navajo water needs report — quantifying demand across dozens of communities.
- **1980s Decade of Regional Water Studies** Multiple state and federal studies throughout the 1980s repeatedly confirm the need for a large-scale pipeline from the San Juan River southward — building an irrefutable evidence base for eventual congressional authorization.

Legislative Milestones (1990s–2009)

From Studies to Law: A 50-Year Road to Authorization



1980s–90s

Extensive federal studies documented the urgent, growing need for a large-scale water delivery system — building the evidentiary case for congressional action.



1990s

Navajo Nation water rights negotiations with the **United States and State of New Mexico** commenced in earnest — a prerequisite for any construction authorization.



July 2009

Bureau of Reclamation completes the **PR/FEIS** — a comprehensive Planning Report and Final Environmental Impact Statement establishing the project's preferred alternative.



March 30, 2009

Omnibus Public Land Management Act

Public Law 111-11, Title X, Part III — officially authorizes the Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project for construction after 50+ years of advocacy and planning.



Oct 1, 2009

The **Record of Decision** formally approves Reclamation's preferred project alternative — completing the authorization framework and clearing the path for construction.

AUTHORIZATION KEY DATES

50+
YEARS OF
PLANNING

PL 111-11
AUTHORIZING
LEGISLATION

2009
YEAR OF
AUTHORIZATION



BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
UPPER COLORADO REGION

Project at a Glance

SCALE & SCOPE



~300 Miles

OF PIPELINE

Longest rural water delivery system in the U.S. Southwest

1



19+

PUMPING PLANTS

Elevate water across rugged high-desert terrain from the San Juan River southward

2



2

WATER TREATMENT PLANTS

Cutter Lateral plant complete; San Juan Lateral plant under construction

3



37,764 AF/yr

ANNUAL DIVERSION

Acre-feet diverted annually from the San Juan River to serve all beneficiaries

4

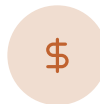


40-Year

DESIGN HORIZON

Infrastructure engineered to meet regional demand through 2040 and beyond

5



\$800M+

FEDERAL INVESTMENT

One of the largest water infrastructure investments for Native American communities in U.S. history

6



Key Infrastructure Components

SAN JUAN LATERAL SYSTEM



San Juan River Intake & Pumping Plant

Draws raw water from the San Juan River near Farmington, NM — headworks for the entire western branch of the system.



Frank Chee Willetto Reservoir

Primary storage facility on the San Juan Lateral — named in honor of a Navajo Nation leader. Serves as the central holding reservoir for the western branch.



San Juan Lateral — Western Branch

Delivers approximately 33,119 AF/year to Navajo Nation communities and the City of Gallup.

~100 mi installed (2024)

5 Pumping Plants

33,119 AF/yr

CUTTER LATERAL SYSTEM



Cutter Reservoir — Eastern Branch Storage

Eastern branch storage facility serving Navajo and Jicarilla Apache communities via the Cutter Lateral.

4,645 AF/yr diversion



Cutter Lateral — Eastern Branch

Serves eastern Navajo Nation chapters and the Jicarilla Apache Nation (Teepee Junction area). Active and delivering water.

Navajo deliveries: 2020

Apache deliveries: 2022



Water Treatment Plants

One plant per lateral branch — treating raw San Juan River water to drinking standards before community delivery.

Cutter WTP: Complete

SJ WTP: Under Construction

\$ Cost savings milestone: Reclamation acquired the former PNM/San Juan Generating Station water conveyance system for **\$8 million** — saving an estimated **\$70 million** in construction costs compared to building equivalent infrastructure from scratch.

Construction Timeline

20 years of progress — from authorization to full project completion



● Completed milestone ● In progress / current ○ Upcoming

🕒 20-year journey from PL 111-11 (2009) to full completion 2029

Bureau of Reclamation
Upper Colorado Region

National Historic Preservation Act of 1966

Establishes a national policy to support the identification, evaluation, and protection of historic properties that hold cultural, architectural, archaeological, or traditional significance.

The Act ensures that Federal agencies consider the effects of their undertakings on historic properties and work collaboratively with tribal, state, and local governments to protect shared cultural heritage.

36 CFR Part 800 implements the procedures to define how Federal agencies meet the Section 106 through consultation among agency official and other parties within an interest in the effects of an undertaking on historic properties.

Navajo Nation Laws and Policies

Navajo Nation Cultural Resources Protection Act (NNCRPA)
1988, CMY-19-88 and 19 NNC 1001 *et seq.*

Policy for the Disposition of Cultural Resources Collection,
2008

Policy for the Protection of Jischaa': Gravesites, Human
Remains, and Funerary Items.

Programmatic Agreement

- Agreement among the Bureau of Reclamation, The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, New Mexico State Historic Preservation Officer, The Navajo Nation, Bureau of Land Management, and Bureau of Indian Affairs.
- The agreement considers and manages the “Effects on Historic Properties” arising from construction of the Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project in New Mexico and authorized by Public Law 111-11, the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009.
- The Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) is the Lead Agency for NHPA and NAGPRA compliance.

Location of the NGWSP Pipeline

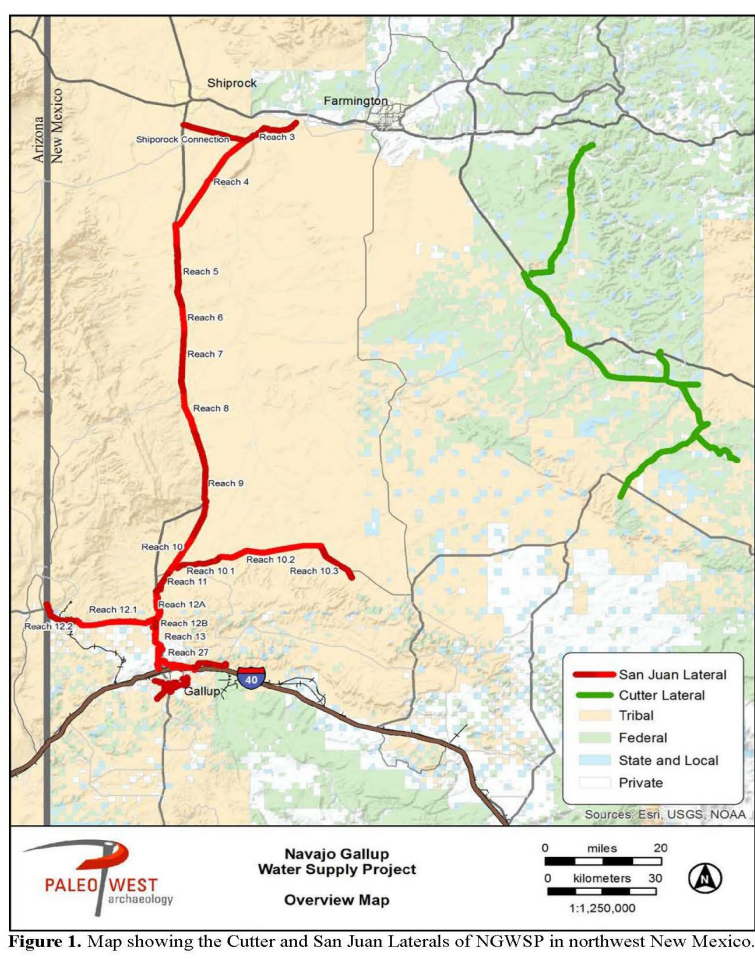
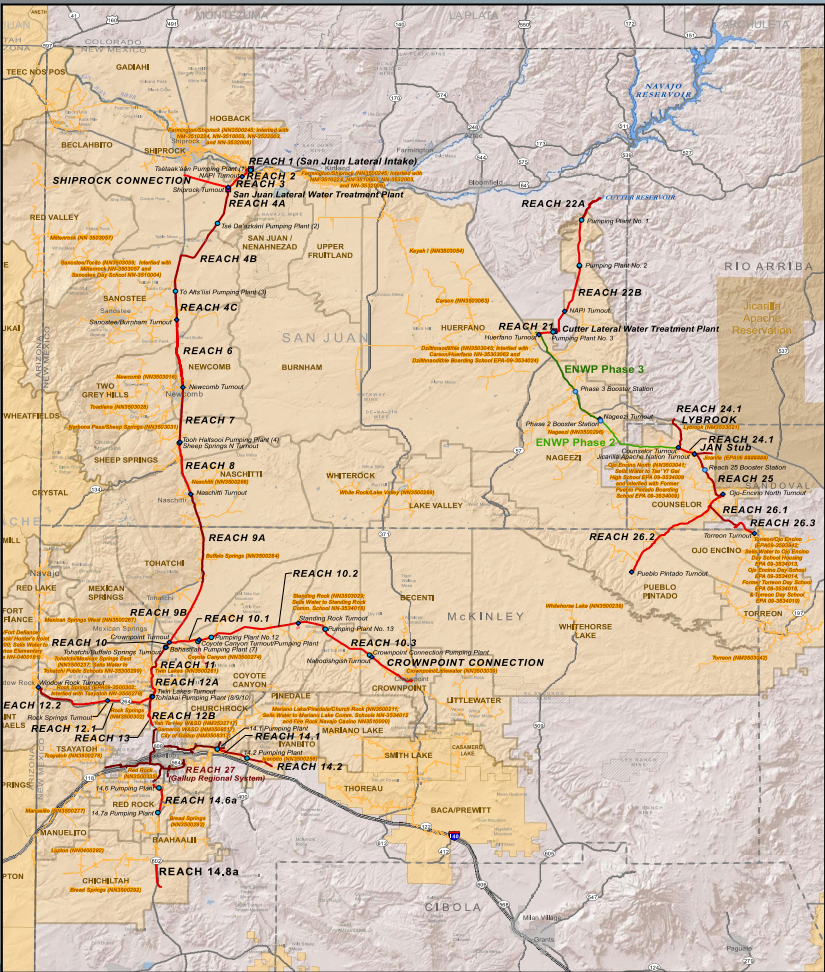
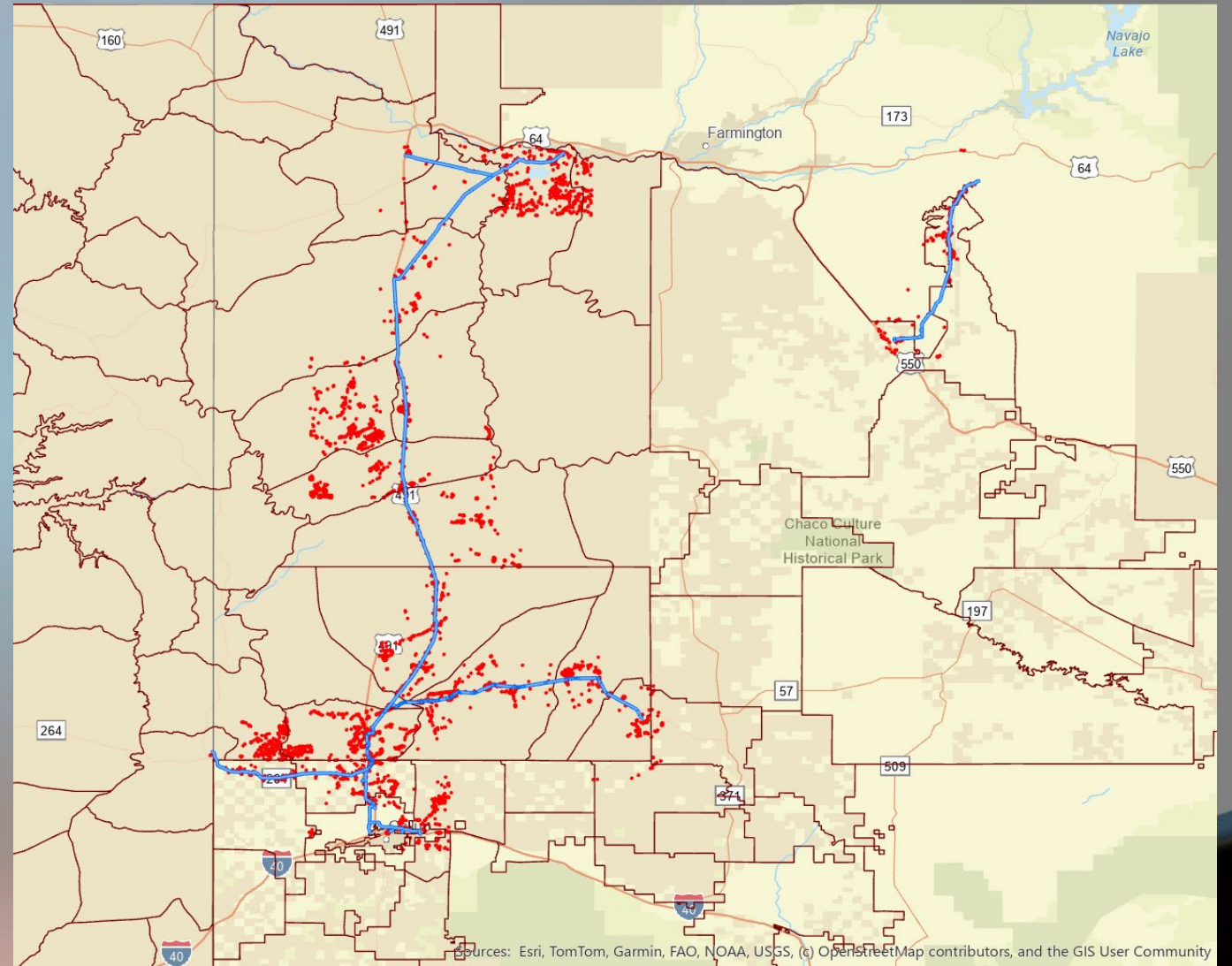


Figure 1. Map showing the Cutter and San Juan Laterals of NGWSP in northwest New Mexico.

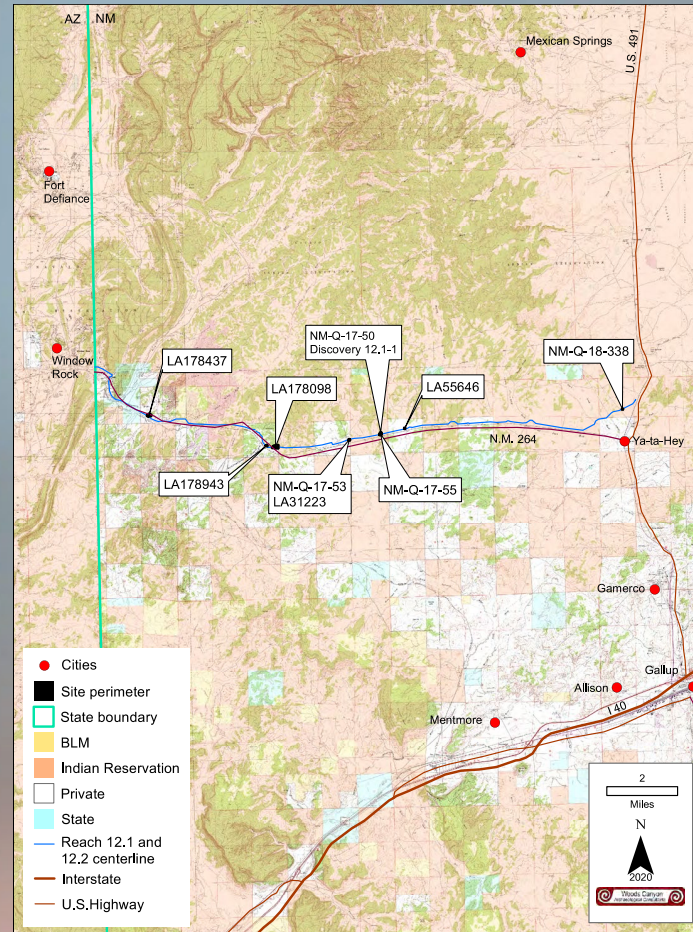
Cultural Resources on the San Juan Lateral and the Cutter Lateral (red dots)

approximately 2963 Sites

Documented along the NGWSP



Archaeological Survey Map showing Cultural Resources along Project Area



Archaeological Survey Map Showing Project Area and Sites Documented

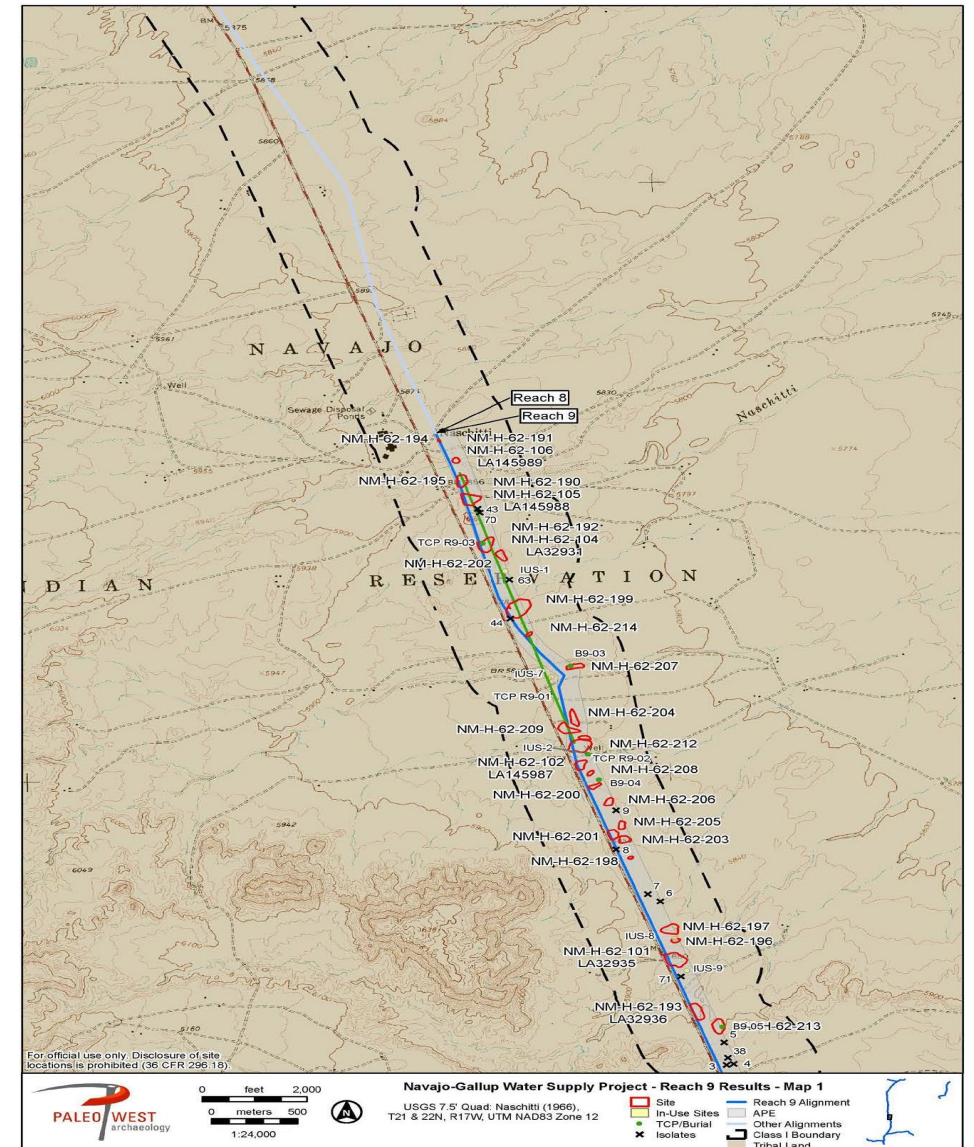
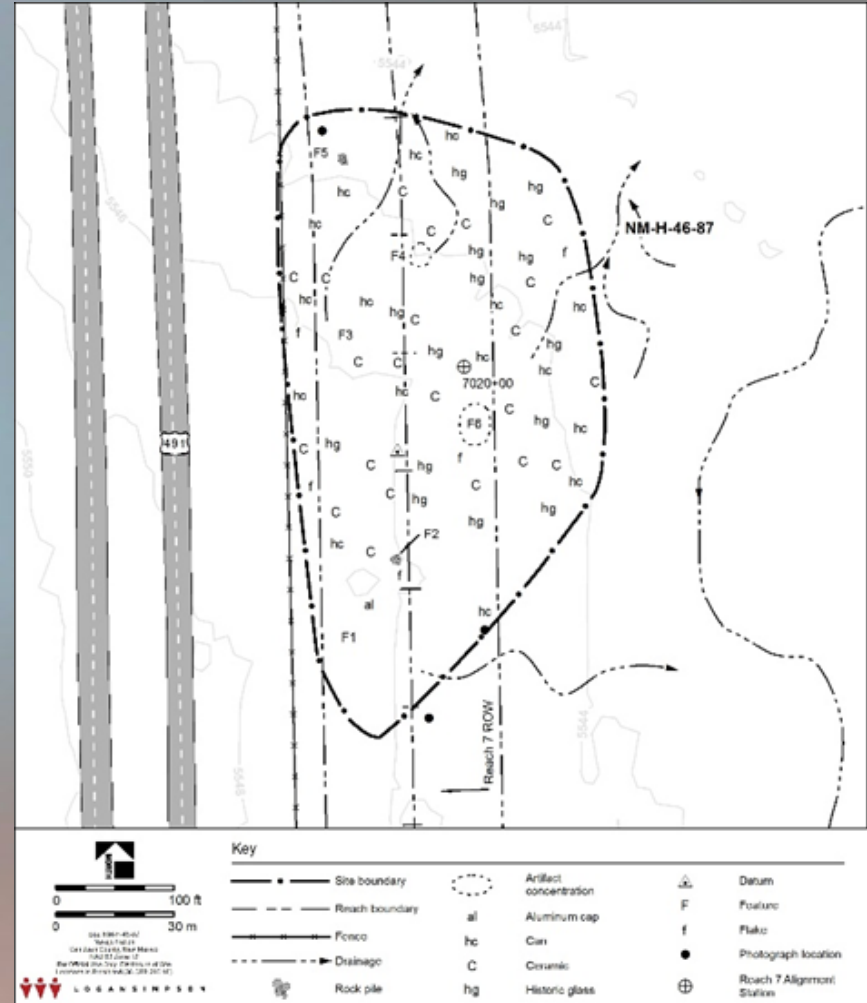
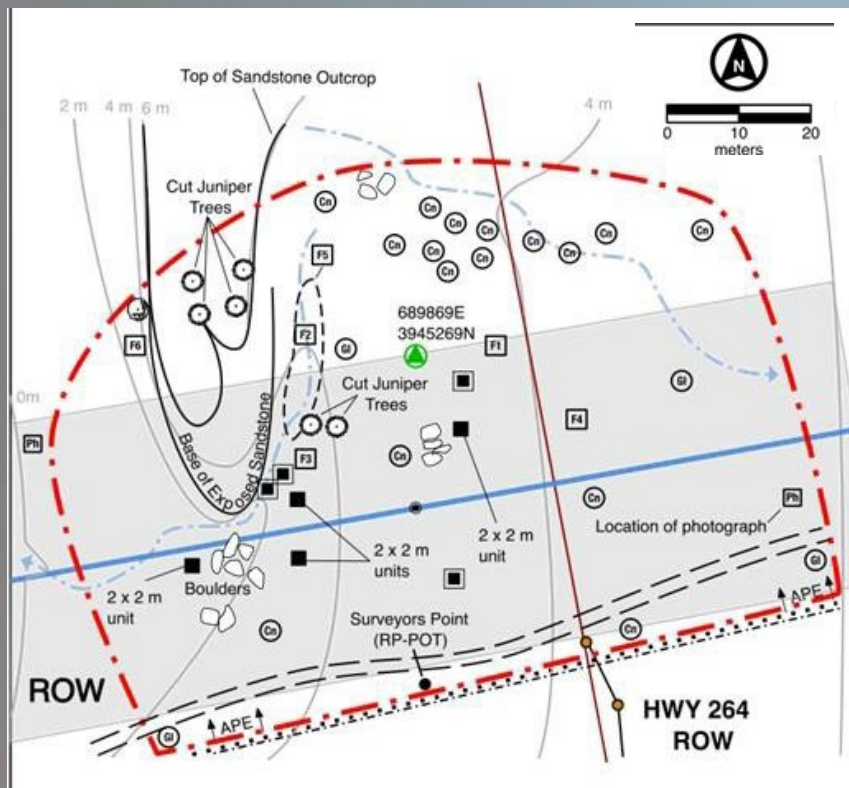


Figure 3. Map showing cultural resources on Reach 9 of the NGWSP San Juan Lateral (Map 1 of 4).

Archaeological Site Plan Map within Project Area



Documentation of Archaeological Site



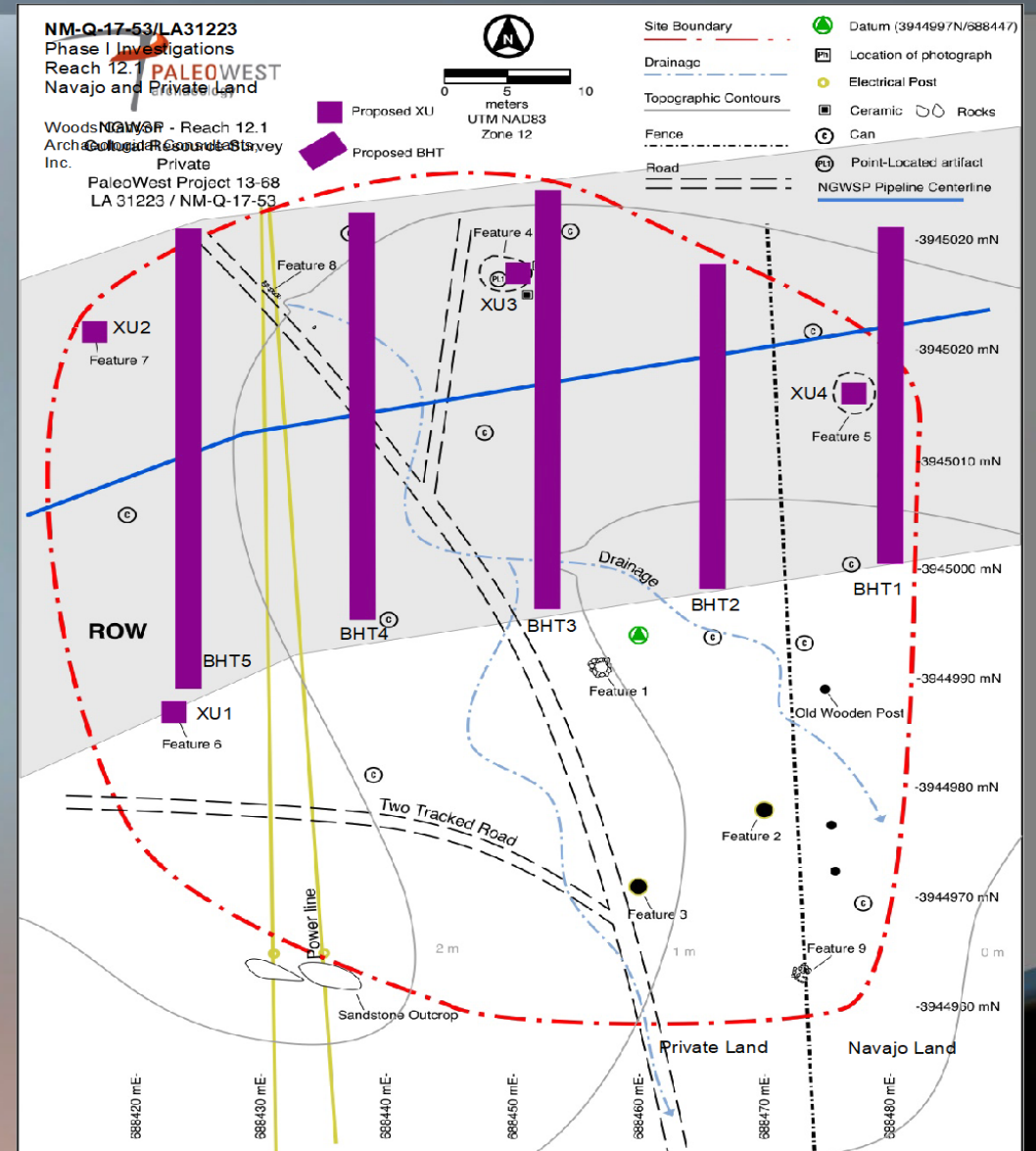
Site LA178437 site overview.



Pumphouse at LA178437.



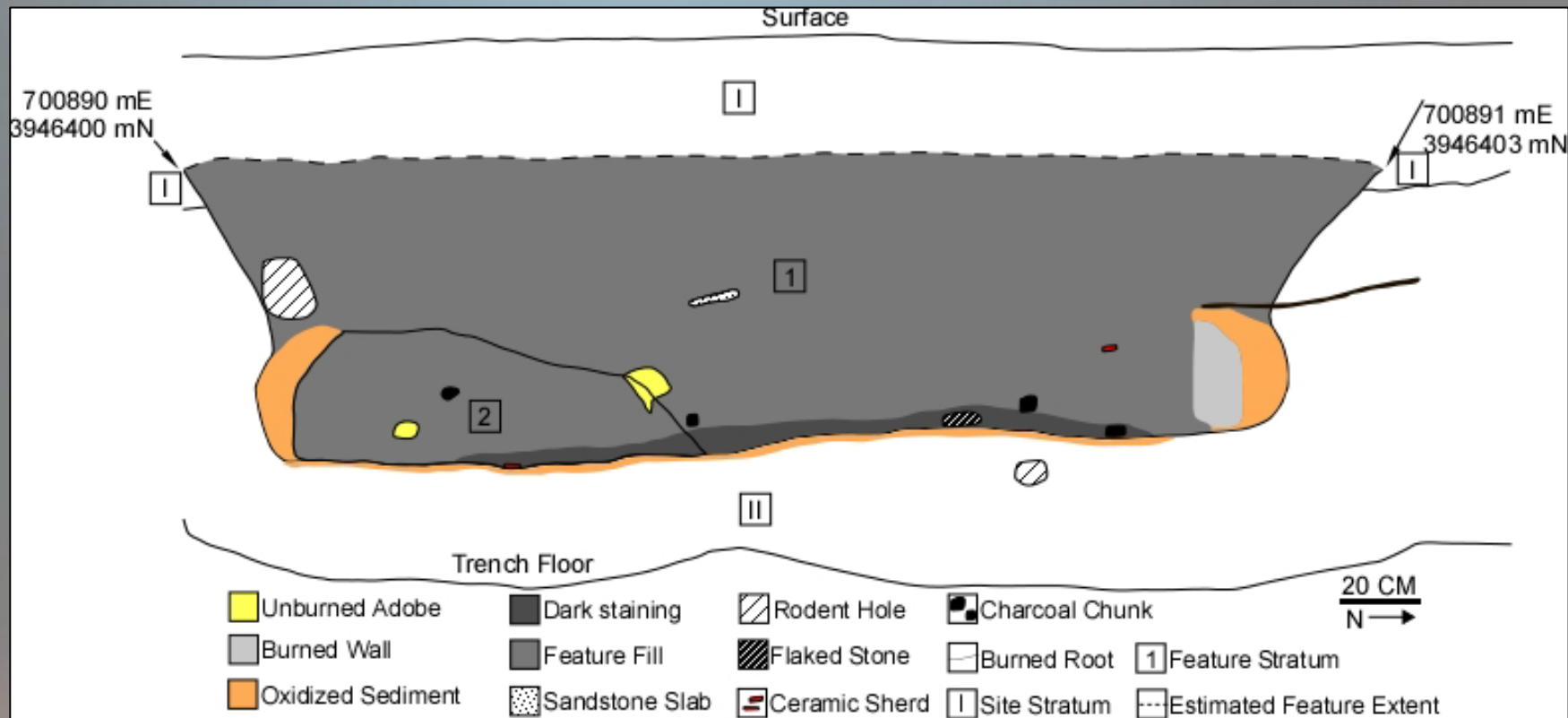
Archaeological Testing



Excavated Archaeological Site



Archaeological Site Plan View



Excavated Archaeological Site



Navajo Nation Policy on Collections of Archaeological Materials Excavated

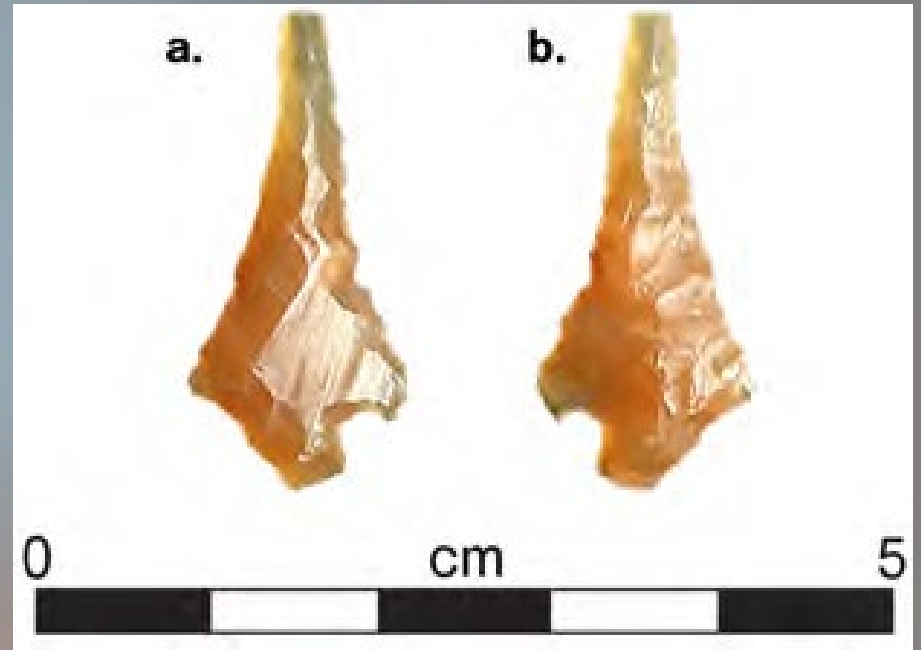
- Include components of structures and features.
- Intact or fragmentary artifacts from human manufacture.
- Intact or fragmentary objects used by humans.
- By-products, waste products or debris.
- Organic material.
- Components of petroglyphs, pictographs, intaglios or other works of artistic or symbolic representation.
- Environmental and chronometric specimens.
- Paleontological specimens that are found in direct physical relationship with a cultural resource.

Navajo Nation Policy on Collections of Archaeological Materials

- Disposition of Cultural Resources Collection: within the project area or outside of established project boundaries.



Artifacts Documented on the NGWSP



Thank you

Rolf J. Nabahe, Sr. Archaeologist/NGWSP

Navajo Nation Heritage and Historic

Preservation Department

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Richard M. Begay, Department Manager

