CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY FOR THE TABLE MOUNTAIN PLATEAU FLOOD CONTROL GAUGE, MOHAVE COUNTY, ARIZONA

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Project No. 10-139

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ABSTRACT

Client: Mohave County

Land Agency: United States Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Project Title: Mohave County Flood Control–Table Mountain Plateau Gauge

Project Description: Mohave County plans to install flood control gauges in several locations around Kingman, including the Table Mountain gauge within the White Hills north of Dolan Springs. The gauge will occupy less than 10 square feet, but the Area of Potential Effect (APE) encompasses a 50 ft^2 area around the proposed gauge location.

Project Location: The project area is located on BLM land in the SW1/4 of the SW1/4 of the SW1/4 of Section 30, T27N, R18W, Mohave County, Arizona. (Map reference: USGS White Hills East 1989 Arizona, 7.5' series quadrangle). More specifically, the centerpoint for the Table Mountain Plateau gauge is at UTM 748354E, 3953178E, Zone 11.

Number of Acres Surveyed: 50 square feet.

Number of Newly Identified Sites: 0

Number of AZ/NRHP Eligible Sites: 0

Comments: A Class I records review of the project area was conducted prior to the survey. The records review indicated that one cultural resources survey had been conducted within one mile of the project area. Although this previous survey recorded several sites, no cultural resources were recorded within one mile of the current project area.

A full-coverage (100%) Class III cultural resources survey was conducted of the 50 ft^2 project area. Ground within the project area was inspected for significant cultural remains and/or modifications. Visibility in the survey area was greater than 95 percent. No cultural materials were observed during the current survey. Northland recommends that no additional investigations are necessary at this time.

In the event that unanticipated cultural resources are encountered during subsurface construction activities, an archaeologist from the Bureau of Land Management Kingman Field Office should be contacted pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800, Section 106, the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). If human remains are encountered, work should cease and a BLM archaeologist from the Kingman office should be contacted pursuant to 43 CFR 10, the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA).

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INTRODUCTION

Under contract to Mohave County, Northland Research, Inc. (Northland) has completed a Class III cultural resources survey of 50 square feet on easement land administered by the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Kingman Field Office. The project area is located north of Dolan Springs within the White Hills (Figure 1). The purpose of the survey was to identify and record cultural resources in and around the proposed Table Mountain Plateau flood control gauge location. Northland archaeologist Gina S. Gage, accompanied by Northland biologist Sandra Nagiller, conducted the survey on November 15, 2010 under BLM permit number AZ-000431, Kingman Field Office Authorization number BLM-AZ-310-11-11.

PROJECT SETTING

The project area consists of a 50-foot easement associated with a flood control gauge on land administered by the BLM in the White Hills north of Dolan Springs, Mohave County, Arizona. The project area is located in the SW 1/14 of the SW1/4 of the SW1/4 of Section 30, T27N, R18W, Mohave County, Arizona. (Map reference: USGS White Hills East 1989 Arizona, 7.5' series quadrangle). More specifically, the centerpoint for the Table Mountain Plateau gauge is at UTM 748354E, 3953178E, Zone 11. The elevation of the project area is 4,560 feet (1,390 meters) above mean sea level.

The White Hills fall within the Mohave Desert and are part of the Transition Zone physiographic province, located between the Basin and Range Province and the Colorado Plateau (Wilson 1962). The White Hills are composed primarily of Precambrian metamorphic rock (gneiss and monzogranite), but contain also Tertiary volcanic and sedimentary rock. (Chronic 1983:110; Rangeland Consulting Service 2004). Soils within the Table Mountain Plateau project area consisted of sandy silt with basalt boulders and cobbles prevalent. The project area falls within the Mohave Desertscrub biome (Turner 1982), with characteristic vegetation including Joshua tree, brittle-bush, snakeweed, cholla, and opuntia. Figure 2 shows an overview of the Table Mountain Plateau APE.

CULTURAL SETTING

Western and northwestern Arizona has a long history of human occupation and settlement. Cultural remains have been documented in the region from about 10,000 B.C. to the present (Stone 1991). Historical remains dating to the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries have also been recorded. A brief summary of the major trends in each of the main periods of occupation is provided below. This discussion is general in nature and does not consider the many divergent opinions and interpretations that exist among specialists.

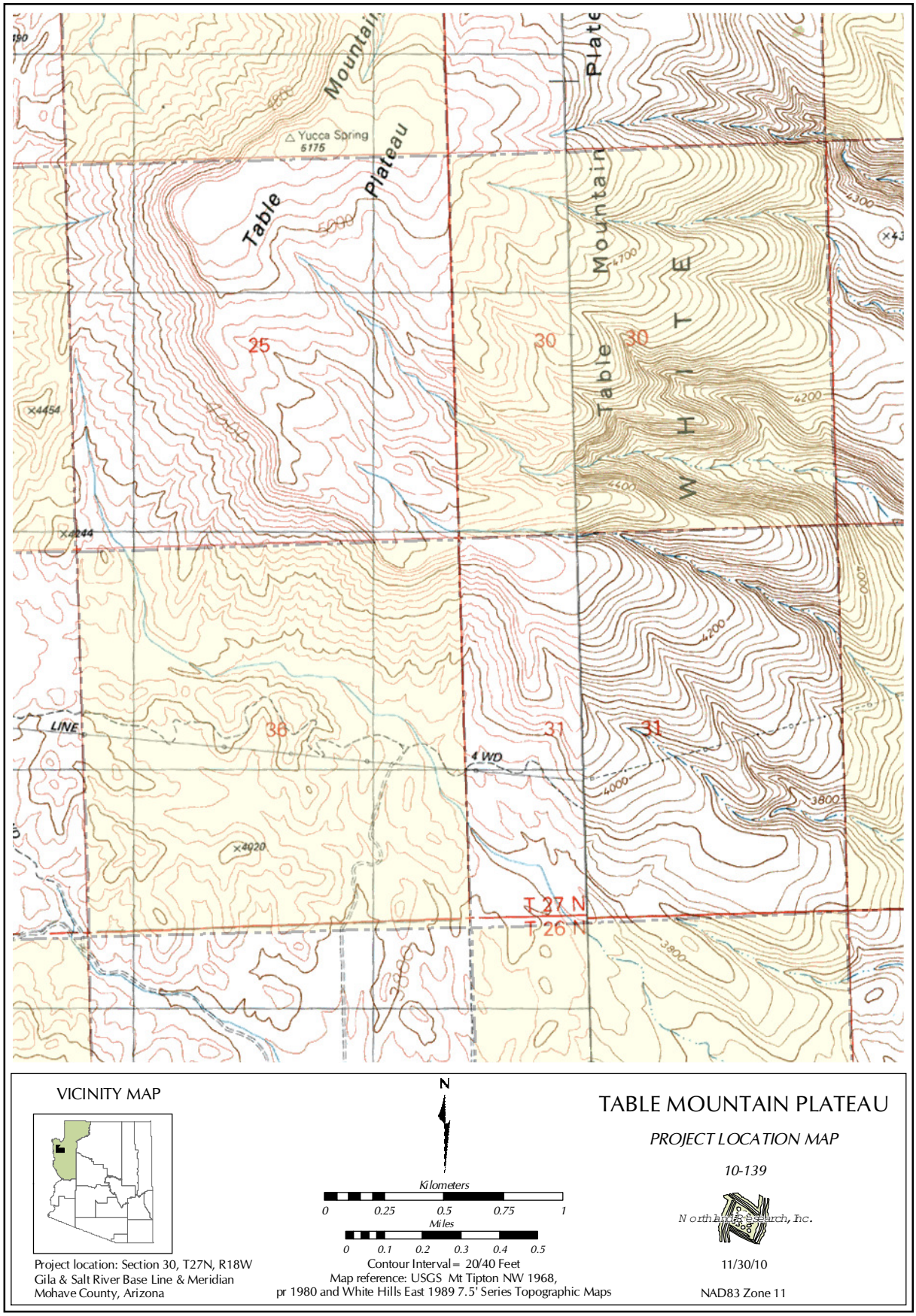

Figure 1. Location of project area.

Figure 2. Overview of the Table Mountain Plateau flood control gauge location.

Paleoindian (ca. 11,500–6000B.C)

Paleoindian sites with intact cultural deposits are exceptionally rare, in part because of the material culture and nomadic lifestyle as well as thousands of years of geomorphological processes that have deeply buried most sites. No Paleoindian sites with intact cultural deposits have been investigated in the regions of western Arizona. However, the Hualapai Valley east of the project area is a likely area for the discovery of exposed Paleoindian deposits. The Hualapai Valley is the location of the Pleistocene-era Red Lake (Keller 1986:6, cited in Dosh et al. 1999:8). Paleoindian sites are often found in association with lakes and marshy areas that would have attracted large game. Unfortunately such strata are rarely exposed; it is more common to detect a Paleoindian presence by isolated flaked stone tools that are diagnostic to the time period. For example, Clovis points are well-crafted lanceolate points with distinctive basal fluting. Several Clovis points have been documented in parts of western Arizona, including the Aquarius Mountains (Wright 1993:14) and Placeritas Creek near U.S. Highway 93 (William Marmaduke personal communication 2000).

Archaic Period (ca. 6000 B.C.–A.D. 1 to 600)

The Archaic Period is characterized by a shift to diverse subsistence strategies revolving around wild plant gathering and small-game hunting. This shift correlates with a climatic change that brought about warmer, drier conditions beginning around 9000 B.C. and resulting in essentially modern conditions by approximately 6000 B.C. During the Early and Middle Archaic periods, land-use patterns are characterized by a high degree of residential mobility. In recent years, the term “Early Agricultural” has replaced the term “Late Archaic”

in many areas of the southwest, reflecting the apparent emphasis on agriculture in southern and southeastern Arizona after 1000 B.C. (Huckell 1990, 1995; Wills and Huckell 1994). However, the Archaic tradition and hunter-gatherer nomadic way of life appears to have persisted longer in western Arizona than in many other areas of the Southwest.

Western Arizona is better characterized by the Desert Culture, or Desert Tradition, which represents a lifestyle and adaptation particular to the Great Basin (Jennings 1957; Steward 1938). The Archaic lifeways of the Desert Culture consist of nomadic bands that seasonally migrated across a loosely defined territory, exploiting resources as they became available.

Ceramic Period (ca. A.D. 600–1450)

Patayan Cultures

After A.D. 600, ceramic production and agriculture became more widespread to varying degrees in west-central Arizona. As sedentism and cultural diversity were increasing, three distinct cultural complexes developed. Harold Colton (1939) applied the term "Patayan" to this complex of cultural traits. The Cerbat Branch occupied areas around the Cerbat Mountains including the Bill Williams Basin, the Big Sandy River, Trout Creek, Cross Mountain, the Aquarius Mountains, and the Hualapai Mountains (Dobyns 1956; Stone 1987). The ceramic tradition associated with the Cerbat is Tizon Brown Ware. The Prescott Branch adhered to the area around Copper Basin, Kirkland Junction, Bagdad, and parts of Burro Creek. Prescott Gray Ware is the defining ceramic type for the Prescott Branch (Keller 1986). The Lowland Patayan groups are located primarily along the lower Colorado River Valley. The Lowland Patayan relied more heavily on agriculture and typically produced buffware pottery.

Only limited knowledge exists about the Patayan cultures because few Patayan sites have been excavated (McGuire and Schiffer 1982). The group occupied western Arizona, including the lower Colorado River basin, as well as the peripheral desert regions (Waters 1982). Unfortunately, a sound chronology for the Patayan is lacking for a variety of reasons. No tree-ring or archaeomagnetic dates can be assigned due to various environmental and cultural parameters, and settlement types. There is also an absence of multi-component or otherwise deeply stratified sites, and this is compounded by confusion associated with ceramic typologies. Site types typically identified include trails, rock shrines, and habitation sites that have rock rings, rock piles, clearings in the desert pavement (including intaglios[1]), and artifact scatters (Stone 1991; McGuire 1982).

Historic Period

There is a strong cultural continuum between the prehistoric and historic period aboriginal groups (Schwartz 1989). The Hualapai are the likely descendents of the Cerbat

[1] Intaglios "are large naturalistic, anthropomorphic and geometric designs produced by scraping aside desert pavement to expose lighter colored underlying sediments. Their creation has been attributed to nearly every aboriginal group believed to have occupied the western Arizona desert through time" (Stone 1986:115).

Branch based on cultural similarities. The Yavapai and the Havasupai are most likely related to the Prescott Branch, while the modern Mohave (Yuman) can be associated with the prehistoric Lowland Patayan (McGuire 1983).

Archaeological and ethnohistoric data indicate trade, warfare, alliance, and migration among all of the groups. Yumans tended to rely more heavily on agriculture for subsistence, though floods were somewhat unpredictable, limiting reliance on agriculture. A large portion of the diet was derived from hunting and gathering in the surrounding foothills, mountains, and valleys (McGuire 1983).

As is evidenced by the prehistoric record, protohistoric and historic Native American settlements in the region are typified by ephemeral, seasonal structures along the rivers following the summer rains, and temporary camps in the surrounding marginal areas throughout the winter and spring. More permanent *rancherias* were typically constructed with a pole framework covered with brush, mats, or mud daub. Ephemeral structures associated with seasonal camps for resource procurement consisted of *jacals.* Material culture consisted of pottery, blankets, baskets, and mats (Kroeber 1935; McGuire 1983).

Although contacts with Spanish explorers and missionaries were brief, Yumans were quick to adopt horses and wheat. It was not until the California gold rush of the mid-1800s that European-Americans regularly traversed the territory.

Gold and silver mining in the region brought the first European Americans to the region. New homestead laws enticed many Americans to settle Arizona in the late 1800s. The Desert Land Act of 1877 was designed to encourage irrigation in the arid western states. This act increased the amount of land that could be claimed under the homestead, but did not require residency on the claimed parcel. The Enlarged Homestead Act of 1909 and the Stock Raising Homestead Act of 1916 allowed larger plots of land to be claimed and provided additional incentives for homesteading in the southwest. Copper mining, cattle raising, and cotton cultivation eventually became three of the economic stables for much of Arizona during the first half the twentieth century.

RECORDS REVIEW

Northland staff, as part of the cultural resources survey, conducted a records search and literature review of the project area and the surrounding area up to one mile away. The AZSITE database, the Arizona State Museum, the Arizona State Historic Preservation Office, the Bureau of Land Management, and Northland's archival materials were consulted during the records search. Results of the current investigation indicate that one known cultural resources survey has been conducted in the vicinity of the project area (Figure 3). The linear survey was conducted by Environmental Planning Group (EPG) of Tucson for the Navajo Transmission Project (Chapin-Pyritz et al. 2004). The EPG survey was located just south of the current project area. Although EPG recorded several sites along the Navajo Transmission Line, none were located within one mile of the current project area. No historic properties were shown on the 1920 GLO map, and no patents were listed for the APE.

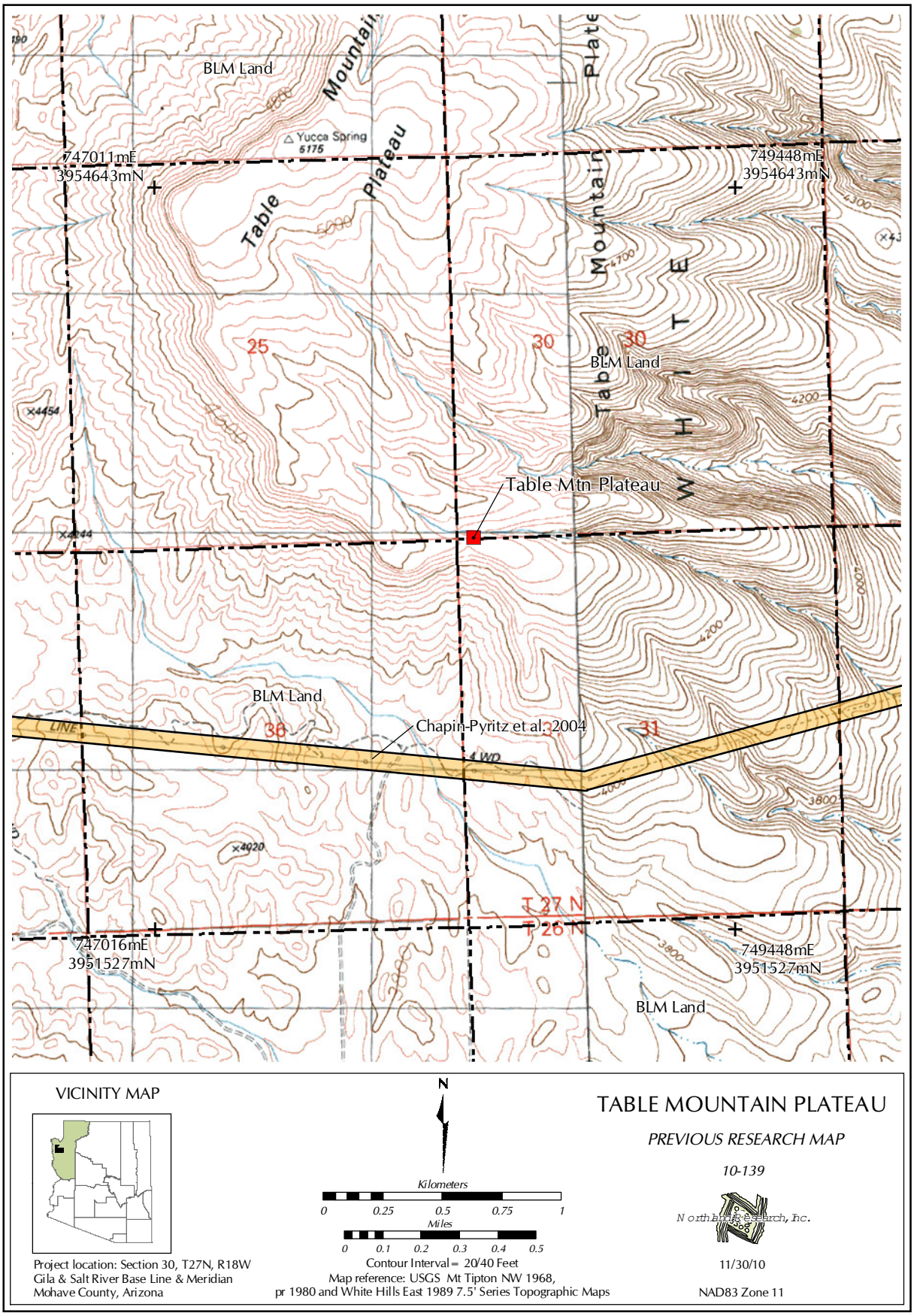

Figure 3. Location of previous research.

FIELD METHODS AND RESULTS

A full-coverage (100%) cultural resources survey was conducted of the 50 ft^2 project area. Ground within the project area was inspected for significant cultural remains and/or modifications. Visibility in the survey area was greater than 95 percent. No cultural resources or isolated occurrences were identified by Northland during the current survey.

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Northland Research, Inc. has completed a Class III cultural resources survey of the Table Mountain Plateau flood control gauge location. No cultural resources were identified as a result of the survey. A records review of the project area was conducted prior to the survey. The records review indicated that one cultural resources survey had been conducted within one mile of the project area. Although this previous survey recorded several sites, no cultural resources were recorded within one mile of the current project area.

Northland recommends that no additional investigations are necessary at this time. In the event that unanticipated cultural resources are encountered during subsurface construction activities, an archaeologist from the Bureau of Land Management Kingman Field Office should be contacted pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800, Section 106, the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). If human remains are encountered, work should cease and a BLM archaeologist from the Kingman office should be contacted pursuant to 43 CFR 10, the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA).

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