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☒ New Submission ☐ Amended Submission

A. Name of Multiple Property Listing

Archaic Sites of the Northwestern Jemez Mountains, New Mexico

B. Associated Historic Contexts

(Name each associated historic context, identifying theme, geographical area, and chronological period for each.)

Settlement and subsistence patterns of the Archaic Period

C. Form Prepared by

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D. Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this documentation form meets the National Register documentation standards and sets forth requirements for the listing of related properties consistent with the National Register criteria. This submission meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60 and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Evan J. DeBlasio  
Signature and title of certifying official

10/28/93  
Date

Forest Service  
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I hereby certify that this multiple property documentation form has been approved by the National Register as a basis for evaluating related properties for listing in the National Register.

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number E Page 1

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## Archaic Sites of the Northwestern Jemez Mountains, New Mexico

### Statement of Historic Contexts

The Jemez Mountains region has a tremendous wealth of prehistoric and historic cultural resources. Regional research reports have contributed broad characterizations of the cultural chronology and research context in the Upper Rio Grande Valley. The reader is referred to Baker and Winter (1981), Cordell (1978), Elliott (1982), Elliott, Marshall, and Darling (1988), Gauthier and Elliott (1989), and Stuart and Gauthier (1981) for excellent overviews.

The settlement history of the region ranges from Paleoindian to recent Historic period, and includes sites ranging from ephemeral camps to large pueblo villages. Historic period sites preserve a record of Historic puebloan, Athapaskan, and Spanish Colonial sites dating from as early as Coronado's entrada in 1541-2. Recent Historic period sites include homestead and logging and ranching settlement of the region. This wealth of cultural resources makes the region one of the most significant in the nation for the quality and number of sites and for the range of site types and cultural groups. Table 1 (on the following page) summarizes the principal Native American settlement chronology for the region.

This multiple property nomination to the National Register of Historic Places focuses on Archaic sites in the [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]. Individual sites that will be nominated are linked by their participation in a logistical round of cyclical resource use by mobile peoples who scheduled their movement through the landscape according to the seasonal and climatic oscillations in their environment. The sites that have been preserved and recorded reflect this lifeway that has been well documented in neighboring regions and somewhat in local studies. The site typology presented in this nomination was derived from review of previous investigations and from expectations developed from ethnographic and ethnohistoric analogies.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number E Page 2

## Archaic Sites of the Northwestern Jemez Mountains, New Mexico

## Statement of Historic Contexts (continued)

Table 1: Cultural Chronology for the Jemez Mountains (Adapted from Gauthier and Elliott 1989)

PERIOD	AGE	DIAGNOSTIC ARTIFACTS
Paleoindian	12,000-9,000 BP	Clovis, Folsom Projectile Points
Early Archaic	9,000-5,000 BP	Jay Complex
Middle Archaic	5,000-3,000 BP	Bajada Complex and San Jose Complex
Late Archaic	3,000-1,350 BP	San Pedro Complex
Early Developmental	AD 600-900	Lino Gray, White Mound B/W, Piedra B/W
Late Developmental	AD 900-1200	Kwahe'e B/W, Wingate B/R
Coalition	AD 1200-1325	Santa Fe B/W, St. John's B/R, indented corrugated
Vallecitos	AD 1250-1350	Vallecitos B/W, Santa Fe B/W, Glaze A
Early Jemez	AD 1325-1515	Early Jemez B/W, Biscuit A, Glaze A, B, and C
Late Jemez	AD 1515-1650	Late Jemez B/W, Biscuit B, Glaze D and E

## The Archaic

The Archaic period in the American Southwest is characterized by great diversity and dispersed settlement of small bands of people. The archaeological record is spotty and often uncertain; ephemeral activities of Archaic peoples may have left little trace while even longer term or repeated occupations may not include clear temporal markers. Despite these difficulties, it is clear from the site

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number E Page 3

## Archaic Sites of the Northwestern Jemez Mountains, New Mexico

## Statement of Historic Contexts (continued)

data in the Southwest that settlement during this period is marked by considerable mobility and a wide range of resource use.

The Archaic period site record in the [redacted] is particularly notable. There is broad variability in landscapes, ranging from low elevation fluvial floodplains and terraces to the highest elevations in the Jemez Mountains. There is a remarkable concentration of some of the highest quality lithic material resources in the entire [redacted]. There is a range of microenvironments that include suitable locales for a great diversity of plant materials from piñon nuts to succulents to disturbance floodplain grasses and forbs. There is a potential for abundant wild game including deer, elk, rabbits, and many other mammals and reptiles. And finally, all of this variability and diversity of potential resources is within a relatively confined landscape that is nurtured by the hospitable climate of northern New Mexico. In short, there is, within a relatively small area, all the requisites for a high quality and dependable lifeway.

The Archaic sites that have been recorded within [redacted] range from ephemeral lithic scatters to dense concentrations of fire burned rock and lithic materials. The area includes quarry sites on the slopes of the higher mountains, as well as hunting sites that include permanent hunting blind features overlooking seeps and cienegas in mountain meadows. Diagnostic Archaic period artifacts are found as well as components of sites later occupied by Basketmaker and Pueblo peoples. Despite this variety of sites, there are probably many more that are not visible in the landscape today. The activities at these sites were so ephemeral that no evidence was left or perhaps this evidence has been eroded from the terrain.

Until very recently, the majority of Archaic sites that have been discovered in the northwestern Jemez Mountains date during the Late Archaic. They have been identified on the basis of projectile point styles and seldom consist of more than a lithic scatter. Few hearths have been found from any elevation, but features are especially lacking in the high elevation areas. Baker and Winter (1981) note that Late Archaic lithic scatters lack any features, and their distribution appears to be consistent with the range of modern elk populations [redacted].

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number E Page 4

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## Archaic Sites of the Northwestern Jemez Mountains, New Mexico

### Statement of Historic Contexts (continued)

Outside of this, Archaic sites have been rarely reported in the Upper Rio Grande. Stuart and Gauthier (1984:47) note that only 7 percent of a selected study of 600 sites are attributable to this period. Wendorf and Miller (1959) and Ungnade (1963) discuss types of prehistoric sites in the Sangre de Cristo area to the east of the project area. Henderson (1977) notes that hunting camps are probably the largest single class of sites in high elevation locales in the northern Rio Grande area. Use of this area for hunting, while clearly evident as early as the Middle to Late Archaic, no doubt persisted through subsequent periods of visitation. Along the Rio Grande, Chapman (1977) documents a number of sites in the area of the present Cochiti Reservoir which demonstrates a greater diversity of site types in the region than just those associated with hunting.

provided evidence of Late Archaic period occupance, with a radiocarbon date on corn from the cave of approximately 881 B.C. (Ford 1985). This indicates that domesticates had been introduced in the Late Archaic period, although their role or significance in subsistence regimes is unknown.

### Previous investigations

#### Archeological

The Archaic Period (5000 B.C. to A.D. 400) for the western United States in general is defined by a wide variety of small, crudely manufactured projectile points (stemmed, side-, and corner-notched) and the appearance of ground stone implements (Jennings 1974). The tool technology of the period reflects a shift in the subsistence pattern marked by an increase in the utilization of small game and plant resources. Lithic scatters, both with and without associated hearths and groundstone, are the most common type of site associated with this period. In the Upper Rio Grande Valley, the Archaic Period has been termed the Oshara Tradition by Irwin-Williams (1973).

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number E Page 5

## Archaic Sites of the Northwestern Jemez Mountains, New Mexico

## Statement of Historic Contexts (continued)

The chronological subdivisions of the Oshara Tradition are:

Jay	ca. 5500 B.C. to 4800 B.C.
Bajada	ca. 4800 B.C. to 3200 B.C.
San Jose	ca. 3200 B.C. to 1800 B.C.
Armijo	ca. 1800 B.C. to 800 B.C.
En Medio	ca. 800 B.C. to A.D. 400
Trujillo	ca. A.D. 1100 to A.D. 600

The Archaic Period in the area of [REDACTED] Jemez Mountains is best represented between 1800 and 400 B.C. Archaic utilization [REDACTED] is well documented from ca. 1800 B.C. (Schaafsma 1976; Warren 1974). Middle and Late Archaic occupations have been found [REDACTED]

According to Schaafsma, the Archaic occupation of [REDACTED] appears to have been relatively intensive and this area may have been an intensively reused locale in a seasonal round of a much larger area (Cordell 1978).

Recent work in the San Juan Basin and the Chuska Mountains, using lithic material distributions and resource exploitation zones derived from ethnographically documented hunter-gatherer groups as interpretive keys (Elyea and Hogan 1983:401, Vierra 1985; and Banks and Brancard n.d.), has suggested the possibility that settlement patterns during the Archaic were characterized by the apparent reduction, through time, in the land area available for seasonal transhumance. The exploitation zone utilized in the early and middle Archaic may include the Jemez and San Juan Mountains as well as the San Juan Basin and the Chuska Mountains to the west. The Chuska Mountains are located on the western edge of the San Juan Basin, [REDACTED]. This pattern of use of this immense area is apparently reduced over time, presumably by population packing, to one in which populations in specific areas of the San Juan Basin are intensively reutilizing the upland resources of specific mountain ranges. In the Jemez Mountains this reduction of available area appears to have culminated, by the En Medio period, in a splitting of the montane resources into

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number   F   Page   6  

## Archaic Sites of the Northwestern Jemez Mountains, New Mexico

## Statement of Historic Contexts (continued)

eastern and western halves. The western half of the Jemez Mountains was used predominantly by groups from the southern San Juan Basin; the eastern half, by groups from the upper Rio Grande area. During this time, groups from the northern San Juan Basin are apparently utilizing the Chuska slope and San Juan foothills for late season (autumn/winter) habitation and resource extraction (Vierra 1987). Despite numerous problems (identified by Vierra) with this construct, it is among the first regional perspectives on transhumant patterning proposed for northern New Mexico.

Stiger's (1986) work on Abiquiu Lake pithouse sites which were radiometrically dated from the Bajada/San Jose interface (5050±80 BP - from site LA 47940) into Pueblo I times (1120±70 BP - from site LA 25358), in addition to providing some support for Vierra's regional analysis, has raised numerous questions about the validity of the types of temporal and settlement system assessments made when habitation structures are found on aceramic sites. While it is not the purpose of this nomination to delve deeply into the meaning of the archeological record, it is felt that the implications of the Abiquiu lake work done by Stiger are important to any initial attempts to comprehend the Archaic settlement and subsistence systems in and around the Jemez Mountains. Eschewing the more exotic ethnological work on desert adaptations (notably that of the ¡Kung San: Lee and DeVore 1968; 1976; Yellen 1977; Ware 1982) and returning to the more local settlement pattern identified ethnologically by Steward (1938), Stiger postulates a pattern of winter seasonal residential sedentism. This pattern has been established in the archeological record in Nevada (Thomas 1971; Thomas and Bettinger 1976) and Colorado (Buckles 1968), and is implicit in Vierra's (1985, 1987) work. He further utilized Gilman's (1983) review of world-wide ethnographic material on pithouse use to support his argument for this settlement pattern in the American Southwest during the Archaic period. Use of the region prior to 1800 B.C. is represented, with the above exception, by an occasional projectile point associated with the Jay and Bajada phases of the Early Archaic (4800 to 3200 B.C.). The association of pithouses and other residential structures with Archaic sites clearly challenges normative assumptions regarding the Archaic as a strictly "hunting-gathering" lifeway.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number E Page 7

## Archaic Sites of the Northwestern Jemez Mountains, New Mexico

## Statement of Historic Contexts (continued)

Archaeological studies of high elevation locales (Benedict and Olson 1978; Ungnade 1963; Wendorf and Miller 1959) in the southern Rocky Mountains region have contributed considerable data for Archaic site distribution analysis. The majority of these sites appear to have been hunting blinds and opportunistic hunting sites around seeps, springs, and other water sources. They are seldom associated with substantial occupational debris, and in fact usually have only trimmed flakes, which suggests sharpening of tools rather than manufacture, and the occasional whole or shear-fractured projectile point. The latter, of course, indicates breakage from impact, which further supports the hunting function of these high elevation sites. Benedict and Olson (1978) also describe wing walls and other features used as game drives, none of which have been reported in the Jemez Mountains, but which are possible site types for that area too.

A study conducted [REDACTED] (Baker and Winter 1981), located in the Jemez Mountains, [REDACTED], recorded twenty-one prehistoric lithic scatters in a survey of 1,984 acres. Several of these sites were subject to mitigation excavation and obsidian hydration dates from lithic specimens collected from the sites clustered in the Late Archaic period (1981:368). All the sites were found to be shallow, with most cultural materials within 30 cm of the surface. Sample excavation units were placed within and outside of surface scatters as recorded in the survey. In several instances these excavations demonstrated a greater extent of site area than was apparent on the surface. The authors concluded that the absence of living features and utilized flakes supported the premise that these were all used for very short periods of time. Organic residue analysis of lithic specimens indicated that both plant and animal resources had been processed (1981:373-376). X-ray fluorescence analysis indicated that of 100 flakes, all but one came from the nearby Jemez source. The one foreign flake correlated with the source near Polvadera Peak (1981:371). Their study is an excellent approach to the study of cultural adaptations to high elevation environments.

Archaic period occupance of the Jemez Mountains, while obviously adaptive to diverse environments, ranging from riverine to alpine, and seasonal cycles, also was modified by long term climatic trends which tended generally toward drier conditions from the end of the Pleistocene 10,000 years before present (Hall 1985).



**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**Section number E Page 8

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**Archaic Sites of the Northwestern Jemez Mountains, New Mexico****Statement of Historic Contexts (continued)**

There may also have been severe droughts during the hypothetical Altithermal climatic period from 5,000 to 3,000 ybp which notably affected Archaic settlement in the Southwest and in the Southern Plains. Benedict and Olson (1978) and Reeves (1973) discuss population trends in the eastern Rocky Mountains of Eastern Colorado. They determine from analysis of regional radiocarbon dates that the middle Holocene was characterized by settlement shifts from the plains during Altithermal drought to upland settings, and vice versa during more mesic periods. They adduce a mid-Altithermal mesic interval based on the radiocarbon chronology of sites.

Wills (1988) examined the transition toward upland piñon/juniper woodlands by Archaic period peoples beginning circa 8,000 ybp. He characterizes the Altithermal as creating expanded woodlands as the climate became increasingly xeric. This shift to the north and higher elevation of woodland ecozones would have, in fact, reduced the woodland area, as geographical extent decreases upslope in conical mountain settings. However, woodland settings may increase in areal extent as conditions became presumably more mesic during the Late Archaic, as Wills argues. Population expansion during the Late Archaic, which has been noted throughout the Southwest as well as in the Jemez Mountains area, would fit this model.

The interpretation of Archaic data remains problematic. The Oshara Tradition itself has been criticized for its lack of published substantiating and comparative data for each phase (Stuart and Gauthier 1981). In fact, there are notable contradictions where Oshara and Cochise "traditions" overlap and interdigitate considerably. As data increase, there is less certainty about these regional trends (Moore and Winter 1980). Difficulty in differentiating Archaic from Puebloan limited activity sites and a lack of data to support current interpretations continue to pose major problems (Cordell 1978). Information about Archaic demography, social organization and the development and spread of agricultural economies is needed if we are to understand this period and its relationship to the Puebloan periods which followed.

Various models have been proposed for hunter and gatherer lifeways in the Study

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number E Page 9

Archaic Sites of the Northwestern Jemez Mountains, New Mexico

Statement of Historic Contexts (continued)

Area. Those of Schaafsma (1975) and Moore and Winter (1981) are most relevant for the Jemez Mountains area. Schaafsma conducted extensive survey and excavation while Moore and Winter developed a comprehensive model to account for variability in altitude and terrain throughout northern and northwestern New Mexico. Schaafsma made seven assumptions about Archaic period sites:

- (1) In any given territory a set of differentiated sites whose features and artifactual composition reflect the activities formerly carried out in each location will be found....
- (2) Sites of adjacent bands in the same ecological setting where the same tasks were performed and similar tools were used and discarded will be simple....
- (3) The complementary sites of any given band will be situated in a geographic space sufficient in size and variety of resources to provide the primary resources of the resident population....
- (4) Variant technological traditions within each band could lead to unique constellations of artifact attributes which might result in minor attribute variations in artifact classes that might otherwise be similar for adjacent bands....
- (5) The distribution of geological materials is a potentially major way in which to discriminate social groups (in this case bands) in the archeological record....
- (6)...select(ion of ) different lithic types from the available quarries (could have been done) according to culturally regulated patterns....
- (7) While variability between bands may exist in regard to the extraction of material types, variability may also derive from the selection of particular material types for different classes. Patterns of preference may have varied from band to band.... (1975).

Guided by these assumptions, Schaafsma determined eight site types for sites in the Chama River watershed:

- (1) Lithic areas with hearths and fire-cracked rocks.
- (2) Lithic areas without hearths and fire-cracked rock concentrations.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number E Page 10

## Archaic Sites of the Northwestern Jemez Mountains, New Mexico

## Statement of Historic Contexts (continued)

- (3) Collapsed masonry structure with pottery and lithics.
- (4) Cobble ring cluster, lithic area and hearths.
- (5) Slab-masonry structures, historic pottery and lithic areas.
- (6) Historic sherd area.
- (7) Historic structures.
- (8) Petroglyphs (1975:7)

Site types (1) and (2) were frequently associated with diagnostic Archaic period projectile point types, and radiocarbon dates from excavated features corroborated this age determination for the sites. Schaafsma argued that type (1) sites represented main camps situated on the wide alluvial terraces ~~while type (2) sites were kill/butcher sites without fire-cracked rock "situated in broken areas away from the large terraces above" (1975:9).~~

The UII Project of Moore and Winter (1980), in which Vierra (1980) contributed the discussion of site types, worked with a broader geographical area, but their model is inclusive of Schaafsma's riverine sites. Essentially, they proposed two main site types, Base Camps and Task-specific Sites. Base Camps were in turn of two types, the Macroband and the Microband, which are differentiated largely in extent, depth, and density of artifacts of the site. Those with greater area and density of deposits represent macroband camps where larger groups convened in resource rich areas, if only seasonally available. Microband base camps represent smaller bands who may have camped for long periods or repeatedly in select locales. Analysis of the catchment area to determine the local carrying capacity is one method of distinguishing these sites, while generally a comparison within a geographical region of size, content, structure, and distribution of the assemblages are proposed as determinants (Vierra 1980:354-5). Task-Specific Sites are defined as:

"...non-habitational or occasionally an extremely short-term specialized campsite. It exhibits procurement and possibly limited processing activities. Types of task-specific sites include floral, faunal, quarry, sacred, and other. The task-specific sites should reflect a smaller group size, a specialized segment of a group's structure, and extremely short duration of occupation when compared to basecamp and activity-specific remains." (Vierra 1980:355).

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number E Page 11

## Archaic Sites of the Northwestern Jemez Mountains, New Mexico

## Statement of Historic Contexts (continued)

## Ethnographic

There have been several excellent comparative studies between ethnographic groups and Archaic period peoples. Steward (1938), in his analysis of the Great Basin-Plateau Shoshoni, has provided one of the most direct historical links between ethnographic and prehistoric peoples. Gould (1967; 1968), and Lee and Devore (1968; 1976) and Yellen (1976) provided excellent comparative analyses from Australia and the Kalahari, respectively. Vierra (1980) has contributed an overview of the San Juan Valley Archaic where he discusses at length the applicability of ethnographic analogies from each of these sources. While many insights can be gained with much analytical potential, it is important to consider the different contexts of the comparative groups. For example, !Kung San peoples were proposed as archetypal hunter-gatherers by Lee and Devore and Yellen, but recent analyses indicate that they were in fact engaged in a horticultural lifeway before they were marginalized by Bantu-speaking immigrants to the Kalahari (Wilmsen 1991). Nonetheless, their distinctive ways of subsistence in a difficult environment provide interesting parallels to groups who lived in the Southwest before the advent of agriculture.

One of the earliest models of the mobile hunting and gathering lifeways that was proposed for the Southwest was Jennings's Desert Culture. While this was not an ethnographic observation *strictu sensu*, it was based loosely on Steward's masterful analysis of the Great Basin Shoshoni which served as the essential conception of Archaic lifeways by most subsequent investigators:

It is certain, first of all, that the population was sparse. The effective social unit was small. An extended family--man, wife or wives, children and children-in-law, some infants--numbering no more than 25 or 30 in all would constitute a normal, year-round grouping....The pattern of life was a cyclic wandering, but it was not truly a nomadic one. The small groups moved regularly from place to place, from valley to upland, in search of the seasonal animal or plant resources which centuries of experience had taught them were to be had. The wandering was not aimless; it was based on intimate and annually renewed knowledge of a relatively well-defined territory (1957:7).

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**Section number E Page 12**Archaic Sites of the Northwestern Jemez Mountains, New Mexico****Statement of Historic Contexts (continued)**

While several investigators subsequently modified this model (Davis 1963; Thomas 1973; Schaafsma 1975), it has still served as the basic conceptual framework for comparison with ethnographic studies. Data from systematic archeological survey, however, was not compiled until the late 1960s, when Irwin-Williams and others conducted studies in the Arroyo Cuervo area between the Rio Puerco and Jemez River (19677; 1973). This work substantially supported the expectations derived from Jennings' and others work, but was limited to one lowland environment and could not account for the full range of settlement variability in the region.

With the advent of contract archeological studies since the early 1970s, there have been several systematic investigations which have contributed data for analysis of these expectations. Moore and Winter (1980) provided an excellent summary of previous work and integrated their survey and excavation results with previous ethnographic studies; Baker and Winter (1981) combined ethnographic and field studies of sites in the upland Redondo Creek area to contribute a perspective on higher elevation sites. Wendorf and Miller (1959), Ungnade (1963), and Benedict and Olson (1978) have all reported high elevation sites that undoubtedly have played a significant role in the regional Archaic settlement system. These sites are characterized mostly as hunting blinds or lithic material procurement sites. However, some uses of high elevation areas may escape detection in the form of archeological sites. Baker and Winter (1981), for example, conducted intensive ethnographic studies for the determination of sacred sites. While these studies were limited to interviews with living puebloan cultures of the area, they nonetheless shed light on potential uses by possible earlier inhabitants.

The area of Redondo Creek is notable for discovery of high elevation Archaic period sites. Puebloan informants interviewed during the Baca Geothermal Anthropological Project indicated that the higher elevation areas were significant gathering areas for mountain sheep, deer, elk, snowshoe rabbits, bear, bobcat, mountain lion, and smaller game such as beaver and squirrel; birds such as turkeys and other wild fowl; as well as eagles, hawks, magpies and robins (Weslowksi 1981:109-111). Plant gathering included numerous wild food supplements, building supplies, fuel, herbs and medicines, and ceremonial greens. Informants also

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number E Page 13

## Archaic Sites of the Northwestern Jemez Mountains, New Mexico

## Statement of Historic Contexts (continued)

reported gathering acorns, seeds of white pine, flower blossoms of the New Mexico locust, among many others. In addition to these organic materials, obsidian and other flaked stone as well as flat stones for baking Piki bread were gathered. While a less direct analogy, nonetheless it indicates the potential sources of materials from high elevation locales (Weslowski 1981:114-115). Studies conducted among puebloan groups at lower elevations are also useful for comparison of Native American land use, though they may not be directly comparable to Archaic lifeways (Ford, Schroeder, and Peckham 1972).

Davis (1963), based on his work with the Owens Valley Paiute, defined the Desert Culture as a mobile lifeway where bands moved to resource areas as they were seasonally available. This transhumant lifeway required deep local knowledge for scheduling their movement through the landscape, as different plant materials mature and animals migrate in response to altitudinal and microenvironmental seasonal changes. The apparently large number of Archaic sites on the landscape, Davis argued, is not from large populations but rather from the frequent re-occupations of mobile small bands. While these many gathering and hunting locales were probably restricted in the number of individuals that they could support, some areas produced sufficient surplus that larger groups or macrobands could be accommodated. There was potential for fluctuation in group size, therefore, as regulated by seasonal and geographic constraints and opportunities.

Simply put, the hunters and gatherers of the Archaic period:

1)...live in small groups and (2)...move around a lot. Each local group is associated with a geographical range but these local groups do not function as closed social systems. Probably from the very beginning there was communication between groups, including reciprocal visiting and marriage alliances, so that the basic hunting society consisted of a series of local "bands" which were part of a larger breeding and linguistic community (Lee and DeVore 1968:11)

In summary, then, both the archaeological and the ethnographic records contribute data for the determination of a site typology for the mobile, transhumant

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number E, F Page 14

## Archaic Sites of the Northwestern Jemez Mountains, New Mexico

## Statement of Historic Contexts (continued)

lifeways of northern New Mexican Archaic period peoples. While the settlement and subsistence patterns may have changed gradually throughout the period, there was relative stability of lifeway from the end of the Paleoindian big-game tradition up to the increasingly horticultural and later agricultural lifeways of Basketmaker and Puebloan peoples. The remarkable resilience of Archaic or Desert Culture tradition is demonstrated by the long and extensive occupation throughout the Southwest and northern Mexico. ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ was an especially suitable locale given its variability of microenvironments ranging from riverine to high elevation, and its abundance of diverse floral, faunal, and geological resources. The archaeological discoveries in the area support the purported resource exploitation and settlement. Models for settlement that have been derived from the ethnographic record, provide a means for distinguishing the functions of Archaic period sites in different locales and environmental contexts.

## Associated Property Types

As demonstrated in the correlation of the ethnographic and the regional archaeological record, there is clearly a division among macroband, microband, and task-specific sites in the northwestern Jemez Mountains area (Vierra 1980; Legare 1992). Environmental diversity of the region includes dramatic shifts from riverine to high elevation locales as well as a wealth of microenvironments determined by slope, aspect, and elevation. These latter offer tremendous resource variability and an extension of seasonality patterns. Clearly there are opportunities in the environment for scheduled and mobile subsistence and settlement patterns of pre-agricultural peoples.

The site record reflects that this variable landscape has in fact been fully utilized by Archaic period peoples. Occupational evidence from all periods of the Archaic has been discovered in ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ of the northwestern Jemez Mountains. Furthermore, the archaeological record demonstrates an increasing number of sites and perhaps greater population density during the Late Archaic, which suggests that the area was the host of increasing populations throughout the Archaic period. While there may have been hiati conditioned by climatic cycles and population fluctuations, still there was a determined trend

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**Section number F Page 15**Archaic Sites of the Northwestern Jemez Mountains, New Mexico****Associated Property Types (continued)**

toward greater occupancy of the area from 8,000 to 2,000 ybp. Following these periods, horticultural and agricultural pursuits of Basketmaker and Puebloan peoples supported rapid population increases over the next 1,500 years. European colonization promoted even more intensive settlement in the region since that time 500 years ago.

**General Statement of Significance**

We propose two general property types for this nomination; base camps and task-specific sites. The category "base camps" is further divided into macroband and microband camps.

These Archaic period site types are parts of a seasonal and cyclical subsistence round practiced by mobile peoples who inhabited the northwestern Jemez Mountains from 8,000 to 2,000 years ago. The Archaic peoples of the region utilized a variety of floral, faunal, and mineral resources in this diverse landscape, and developed an apparently very successful lifeway that persisted for these 6,000 years. They followed the Paleoindian lifeway that has been associated with the exploitation of large game animals such as giant bison and mammoth elephants and preceded horticultural peoples who gradually perfected agricultural practices and greatly increased their productivity and population in the region.

Their lifeway has been characterized as consisting of numerous and diverse settlement nodes within the broad landscape. They apparently utilized many specialized resources that occurred seasonally in unique environments within the altitudinal and latitudinal range of the mountains of northern New Mexico. Because they depended on scheduling of resource availability throughout their subsistence round, mobility and deep knowledge of the environment was required.

The site types proposed here for the Archaic period occupancy of the northwestern Jemez Mountains encompass the known Archaic period sites and the potential sites of hunting and gathering peoples as extrapolated from the ethnographic record. The site types consist of macroband base camps, microband base camps, and task-specific sites which include lithic quarry sites, high elevation



**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number F Page 16

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**Archaic Sites of the Northwestern Jemez Mountains, New Mexico**

**Associated Property Types (continued)**

hunting sites such as hunting blinds, rock shelter sites, and sacred and other extremely ephemeral or landscape sites in the region.

A number of research themes could be pursued at any of these types of sites, individually as well as collectively, as parts of an integrated system. Investigations could profitably address the theme of transhumance patterns from low to high elevation resource zones in the Jemez Mountains; chronological studies could be developed to model changing Archaic period occupancy by phase; paleoenvironmental information, where available, could be correlated with site chronologies to investigate changing settlement systems through time, perhaps reflective of responses to changing climate and paleoenvironments. Further survey strategies, anchored to these site types, could be developed to attempt to discern mobility patterns that could in turn perhaps aid in recognition of other, ephemeral task-specific sites in the region.

**Macroband Base Camps**

**Property Type Description**

Macroband base camps can be identified on the basis of size, depth of deposit, and diversity of lithic tools and debris in the artifact assemblage. In addition, macroband camps will often contain a number of burned rock features such as hearths and burned rock middens. The density of artifacts, the presence of a variety of lithic materials, and the horizontal and vertical extent of the site suggest relatively dense and possibly long-term settlement. This type of site may have been occupied in the winter when high elevation locales were buried in snow. Certainly the current climate of [REDACTED] would be conducive to settlement year-round.

**Property Type Significance**

Macroband base camps are significant because they represent one facet of the subsistence-settlement of Archaic period occupancy of the Jemez Mountains area. They demonstrate that Archaic peoples occupied suitable locales for fairly long

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number F Page 17

## Archaic Sites of the Northwestern Jemez Mountains, New Mexico

## Associated Property Types (continued)

periods of the year and used them as an anchor to a wider-ranging and more occasional and ephemeral subsistence round. These base camps may have been the site of pithouse or other habitation structures which would provide invaluable data for assessing our normative models of sedentism and nomadism. The location and size of these sites may provide data for investigation of resource exploitation riverine terrace contexts and for evaluating Archaic demography. While it is difficult to identify contemporaneity of most ephemeral sites, investigation of these base camps may provide a basis for estimating prehistoric population density and trends in population in the region.

## Property Type Registration Requirements

- a) National Register criteria: "d".
- b) Areas of Significance: **archaeology, prehistoric archaeology.**
- c) Data Requirements: **Archaic macroband base camps must be likely to yield data in one or more of the following categories in order to qualify for the National Register of Historic Places under criterion "d".**

1. A site must contain undisturbed deposits sufficient to demonstrate culturally meaningful spatial relationships among artifacts, features, floral remains, and faunal remains.
2. A site must contain structures, features, or artifactual materials that will permit inferences regarding site function.
3. A site must contain structures, features or artifactual materials that will permit inferences regarding technology, and settlement characteristics.
4. A site must contain datable material such as wood, charcoal, baked clay, or obsidian that will permit chronological placement.
5. A site must contain either macrobotanical, microbotanical, or faunal remains indicative of subsistence practices.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number F Page 18

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## Archaic Sites of the Northwestern Jemez Mountains, New Mexico

### Associated Property Types (continued)

#### Microband Base Camps

##### Property Type Description

Microband camps are different in quantity of material, diversity, and are smaller in horizontal extent and, generally, lack the depth of deposits of the macroband sites. These sites represent short term occupations and, while they may have been repeatedly/seasonally utilized, each occupation was probably of such short duration that material deposition would have been minimal.

Microband base camps occur as both open sites and as small rock shelters. Archaic settlement has apparently increased throughout the period, as noted by many investigators (Schaafsma 1975; Moore and Winter 1980:360), but is thought to have been relatively low during the earliest Jay and Bajada phases of the Oshara Tradition. This is especially apparent in the San Juan Valley to the west and in the Upper Rio Grande region as a whole. Populations appear to have increased through the San Jose phase of the Late Archaic. Before that time, rock shelters appear not to have been densely occupied.

##### Property Type Significance

Microband base camps are significant because they represent nodes of the seasonal and cyclical subsistence round practiced by mobile peoples who inhabited the northwestern Jemez Mountains from 8,000 to 2,000 years ago. The locations as well as the recovered structural, feature, artifactual, and eco-factual data recovered from these occasional use habitation sites can provide essential data for investigation of the whole subsistence-settlement system of the Archaic peoples of the Jemez Mountains region.

##### Property Type Registration Requirements

- a) National Register criteria: "d".
- b) Areas of Significance: **archaeology, prehistoric archaeology.**
- c) Data Requirements: **Archaic microband base camps must be likely to yield**

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number F Page 19

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**Archaic Sites of the Northwestern Jemez Mountains, New Mexico**

**Associated Property Types (continued)**

**data in one or more of the following categories in order to qualify for the National Register of Historic Places under criterion "d".**

1. A site must contain undisturbed deposits sufficient to demonstrate culturally meaningful spatial relationships among artifacts, features, floral remains, and faunal remains.
2. A site must contain structures, features, or artifactual materials that will permit inferences regarding site function.
3. A site must contain structures, features or artifactual materials that will permit inferences regarding technology, and settlement characteristics.
4. A site must contain datable material such as wood, charcoal, baked clay, or obsidian that will permit chronological placement.
5. A site must contain either macrobotanical, microbotanical, or faunal remains indicative of subsistence practices.

**Task-specific Sites**

**Property Type Description**

Task-specific sites is a site type that encompasses a broad range of possible sites. Archaic peoples no doubt made use of a number of different resources, as demonstrated by ethnographic analogy and by the sites that have been recorded in the Jemez Mountains region. These task-specific sites include quarry sites, hunting sites, floral gathering sites, sacred sites, and others. Some of these sites are highly visible and easily found and recorded, such as quarries and hunting blinds. Others, however, such as sacred sites, may just as easily be overlooked. They often consist of only a few rocks placed relatively to each other; of springs or natural features such as rock spires that appear to be unique or distinctive; or perhaps are parts of intricate trail networks such as have been documented for the sacred landscape of the puebloan Tewa in the Jemez Mountains (Weslowski 1981). While there is no direct documentation of sacred sites for the Archaic peoples of the Jemez, there is no reason to assume that they lacked such a relation with their landscape. Sacred sites are known from the Middle Paleolithic in Old World archaeology, dating back tens

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number     F     Page     20    

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## Archaic Sites of the Northwestern Jemez Mountains, New Mexico

## Associated Property Types (continued)

and even hundreds of thousands of years. It would be very surprising if Archaic peoples did *not* have a sacred relation to their environment.

However, visibility is a prerequisite for the designation and the recording of archaeological sites, no matter what we expect or admit as possible. For that reason, task-specific sites for this typology are limited to those that have been observed and recorded in the region. Quarry sites have been found at all of the major lithic source locales in the Jemez Mountains, [REDACTED]. Another distinctive site type known from throughout the region and in the southern Rocky Mountains generally is the high elevation hunting site. While there have been no corrals or wing walls suggestive of game drives reported from the Jemez, they are a possible site type. Even so, hunting blinds are typical of high elevation faunal exploitation which was no doubt limited to seasonal opportunities.

## Property Type Significance

Task specific sites are significant because they represent very specialized exploitation locales of the seasonal and cyclical subsistence round practiced by mobile peoples who inhabited the northwestern Jemez Mountains from 8,000 to 2,000 years ago. The locations of these sites as well as the recovered artifactual, eco-factual, and contextual data recovered from these sites can provide essential data for investigation of the whole subsistence-settlement system of the Archaic peoples of the Jemez Mountains region.

## Property Type Registration Requirements

- a) National Register criteria: "d".
- b) Areas of Significance: archaeology, prehistoric archaeology.
- c) Data Requirements: Archaic task specific must be likely to yield data in one or more of the following categories in order to qualify for the National Register of Historic Places under criterion "d".

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number F, G, H Page 21

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## Archaic Sites of the Northwestern Jemez Mountains, New Mexico

### Associated Property Types (continued)

1. A site must contain undisturbed deposits sufficient to demonstrate culturally meaningful spatial relationships among artifacts, features, floral remains, and faunal remains.
2. A site must contain structures, features, or artifactual materials that will permit inferences regarding site function.
3. A site must contain structures, features or artifactual materials that will permit inferences regarding technology, and settlement characteristics.
4. A site must contain datable material such as wood, charcoal, baked clay, or obsidian that will permit chronological placement.
5. A site must contain either macrobotanical, microbotanical, or faunal remains indicative of subsistence practices.

### Geographical Data

The geographical area encompasses [REDACTED] in the northwestern Jemez Mountains. [REDACTED]

### Summary of Identification and Evaluation Methods

The property types identified for this multiple property listing of Archaic sites in the northwestern Jemez Mountains were derived from a review of previous investigations and from expectations developed from ethnographic and ethnohistoric analogies. For the most part, the previous investigations are made up of archeological surveys that have been conducted on lands of the Santa Fe National Forest. In addition, the site data base at the Laboratory of Anthropology, Museum of New Mexico was utilized in order to provide a larger site sample for study. The sample was compiled in order to provide a more detailed picture of the Archaic settlement pattern in the region. The field work conducted for this nomination consisted of visiting several previously recorded sites in [REDACTED] that are representative of the property types described above. The significant property types are based on function, as representative of the major

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number H. I Page 22

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## Archaic Sites of the Northwestern Jemez Mountains, New Mexico

### Summary of Identification and Evaluation Methods (continued)

archaic site types that occur, or are likely to occur, in the study area. The requirements for site integrity are based on observations made in the course of the site visitations.

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United States Department of the Interior  
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**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number I Page 23

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number I Page 24

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United States Department of the Interior  
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**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number I Page 25

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National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number I Page 26

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number I Page 27

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number I Page 28

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