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**APPENDIX A    CULTURAL RESOURCES BACKGROUND  
DOCUMENTS**

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Marstel-Day Site Visit  
Rolling Hills Ranch, El Paso County Colorado  
October 20, 2015

Pursuant to the recommendations made in the Programmatic EA, six previously identified archaeological sites located within the Rolling Hills Ranch Site Option A were revisited and evaluated for changes in condition. The evaluation presented here identifies changes in the conditions of these sites from those recorded in state files and also considers the inventory report of the original survey. Sites 5EP5103, 5EP5104, 5EP5107, 5EP5108, 5EP5109, and 5EP5121 were visited October 20-22, 2015 by archaeologist Mark Durante from Marstel-Day. These sites were located using Colorado state site file information and spatial data, relying on a GPS unit.

The weather during this site visit ranged from partly cloudy with a slight breeze, with temperatures in the mid-60s to low 70s on Tuesday October 20, to cloudy with sporadic to heavy rainfall, and temperatures in the upper 40s to low 50s on Wednesday October 21 and Thursday October 22. The general topographic conditions of the project area include rolling hills with low ridges and gentle slopes and several deeply incised dry streambeds with associated terraces. Soil appeared very dry and extensively cracked. Ground visibility was poor due to ground cover vegetation. Common vegetation observed included grasses, small bushes, yucca, prickly-pear cactus, and cottonwood trees. Observed fauna comprised rabbits, prairie dogs, a rattlesnake, and cattle. Slight disturbance from aeolian erosion, slope wash, and cattle grazing was evident.

Site 5EP5103 is recorded as an isolated find consisting of three flakes at the bottom of a northwest facing slope. This site is classified as a prehistoric lithic reduction site of unknown cultural affiliation and ineligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Present conditions include a moderate ground cover of grasses, small bushes, and some cactus; and evidence of cattle grazing. Evidence of slight disturbance from animal burrows is present. The site is in good condition. A large prehistoric ceramic sherd, two smaller sherds, and a flake were observed within 15 meters east of the site, in the backdirt piles of two animal burrows.

*For site 5EP5103, we recommend that the site boundary be redrawn to include these artifacts, the designation as an isolated find reconsidered, the large ceramic sherd analyzed for its potential to provide a date range, and consideration be given to subsurface testing, as the observed artifacts were found in backdirt piles. We advise that subsurface testing take place according to a systematic grid and the soil matrix screened. If new data are recovered, reconsideration of NRHP eligibility would be warranted.*

Site 5EP5104 is recorded as an isolated find consisting of two flakes and one biface on the northwest slope of a small ridge. This site is classified as a prehistoric lithic reduction site of unknown cultural affiliation and ineligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

Current conditions include moderate ground cover of grasses, small bushes, and some cactus; and evidence of cattle grazing. A dirt two-track road passes through the site. Aside from the impact of the two-track road, the site is in good condition. No cultural material was observed in the vicinity of 5EP5104. *No further work is recommended.*

Site 5EP5107 is recorded as an open lithic scatter site consisting of 18 debitage, bone, and two biface fragments located on the western slope of a gentle ridge. This site is classified as a prehistoric lithic reduction and resource procurement/processing site of unknown cultural affiliation and ineligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Current conditions include moderate ground cover of grasses, small bushes, and some cactus; and evidence of cattle grazing. The site is in good condition. No cultural material was observed in the vicinity of site 5EP5107. *No further work is recommended.*

Site 5EP5108 is recorded as an open lithic scatter consisting of 22 debitage, one tested cobble, one biface, and a single shard of glass on the west and northwest facing slope of a small bench. This site is classified as a lithic reduction and resource procurement site of unknown cultural affiliation and ineligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Current conditions include moderate ground cover of grasses, small bushes, and some cactus and evidence of cattle grazing. Cattle have worn a thin trail across the site. Despite this impact, the site is in good condition. A single quartz flake was observed, photographed, and left *in-situ* at site 5EP5108. *No further work is recommended.*

Site 5EP5109 is recorded as an open lithic scatter consisting of 17 debitage and one core on the crest and western slope of a prominent low ridge. This site is classified as a prehistoric lithic reduction site of unknown cultural affiliation and ineligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Current conditions include moderate ground cover of grasses, small bushes, and some cactus and evidence of cattle grazing. The site is in good condition. No cultural material was observed in the vicinity of site 5EP5109. *No further work is recommended.*

Site 5EP5121 is recorded as a historic ranch/farm or short-term habitation site consisting of five architectural features and an artifact collection containing historic ceramics, nails, cans, construction material, and farming/agricultural material located on a terrace adjacent to a significantly incised drainage. This site is classified as farming/ranching, or habitation in origin, dating to the late 1800s or early 1900s, and is ineligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Current conditions include several cottonwood trees, dense ground cover of grasses, some small bushes and cactus and evidence of cattle grazing. As noted in the original report, the buildings are collapsed and in ruin, likely due to neglect. Each of the five features of the site was relocated and observed. Extant portions of foundations at features one and five were observed as well as large piles of milled lumber at features two and three. No distinct evidence of vandalism was observed. The site is immediately adjacent to a dirt two-track road allowing access to the property. Due to the conditions of the buildings this site was originally recorded as heavily disturbed. This assessment is still accurate; the site is in poor condition. However, it is

worth noting that there is little evidence of subsurface disturbance. No previously unrecorded features or cultural material were observed at site 5EP5121. *No further work is recommended.*

*The archaeological sites relocated during this field evaluation all appear to be in similar condition to that which was originally recorded. No site appears to have endured severe disturbance since their original recordation. No further work is recommended for sites 5EP5104, 5EP5107, 5EP5108, 5EP5109, and 5EP5121. For site 5EP5103 we recommend that the site boundary be recalculated, the isolated find designation be reconsidered, analysis of the larger ceramic sherd be considered, and subsurface testing considered. We advise that subsurface testing take place according to a systematic grid and the soil matrix screened. If new data were recovered or the potential to recover additional significant data evident, we would recommend that eligibility for NRHP listing be reviewed.*