

Archaeological Inventory for a Proposed Expansion of the City of Francis Wastewater Lagoons, Summit County, Utah

by

Richard K. Talbot

OFFICE OF PUBLIC ARCHAEOLOGY

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Richard K. Talbot

Office of Public Archaeology
Museum of Peoples and Cultures
Brigham Young University
Provo, Utah 84602

prepared for

Utah Division of Water Quality
Salt Lake City, UT

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Utah State Project Authorization No. U-12-BC-1001s

ABSTRACT

The Office of Public Archaeology (OPA), at the request of the Utah Division of Water Quality (DWQ), completed an intensive archaeological survey of a proposed expansion of the City of Francis wastewater lagoons, located just west of Kamas in Summit County, Utah. Field work was carried out on November 8, 2012, wherein a total of 12 acres were surveyed in two separate parcels next to the existing lagoons and a connecting route between them. No archaeological sites or isolated artifacts/features were located.

MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

Project Title: Archaeological Inventory for a Proposed Expansion of the City of Francis Wastewater Lagoons, Summit County, Utah

Utah State Project Number: U-12-BC-1001s

Agency: State of Utah Division of Water Quality (DWQ)

Project Description: The project consisted of a Class III intensive level archaeological survey of ca. 12 acres of existing pasture land planned to be used for expansion of the City of Francis, Utah, wastewater lagoons.

Location: T2S R3E Sec. 20 (Kamas Quad 7.5’)

Dates of Fieldwork: November 8, 2012

Acres Surveyed: 12

New Sites Recorded: 0

Previously Recorded Sites

(not re-recorded): 0

Previously Recorded Sites

(re-recorded): 0

NRHP Eligible Sites: 0

Summary of Sites: No archaeological sites or isolated artifacts/features were located in the project area.

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PROJECT OVERVIEW

At the request of Mr. Carl Adams of the Utah Division of Water Quality (DWQ), the Office of Public Archaeology at Brigham Young University (OPA) carried out an archaeological survey of a proposed expansion of the City of Francis wastewater lagoons in Summit County, Utah (Figure 1). The project area is within the Francis city limits, and ca. 1/2 mile west of Kamas, Utah. It includes two proposed areas for expansion, one on the north side and one on the east side of the existing wastewater lagoons, with a route for a connector road between them also surveyed. Fieldwork was carried out on November 8, 2012, wherein a total of ca. 12 acres was surveyed. The inventory was carried out by Richard Talbot, OPA Director, under authority of State of Utah Project Number U-12-BC-1001s and Principal Investigator Permit No. 67. Field conditions were good, although the project area is pasture land consisting of short but rather dense grass, and so ground visibility was very poor.

CONTEXT

Environment

The project area environmental context is straightforward, being located in the alluvial deposits at the bottom of Rhodes Valley, in pastureland that is heavily grazed by cattle and horses. The land is covered with short but dense grasses. Native species of animals are those common to this high mountain valley

area, primarily small mammals but with deer and other larger animals common.

Cultural Context

The culture history of the area as currently known has been described in various sources and will not be repeated here (see Jennings 1978 and Simms 2008 for adequate overviews). In general the project area, as with the rest of Utah, has been the home to humans of variable mobility/sedentism for over ten thousand years. Most were hunter-gathers who moved to various resources across a broad landscape. From about AD 1 to AD 1300, however, Fremont farmers lived in the project area and elsewhere throughout Utah, farming the best arable lands but also exploiting the rich natural floral and faunal resources. Permanent Euroamerican settlement following the early visits of Spanish and Euroamerican explorers/traders was initiated by pioneer settlement throughout this region, almost entirely by members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS) under Brigham Young in the latter half of the 1800s. Growth since then has been on a steady basis and consistent with Western North America historic demographic patterns.

PREVIOUS RESEARCH

An online literature review and file search was conducted through the Utah State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) by Richard Talbot prior to the commencement of

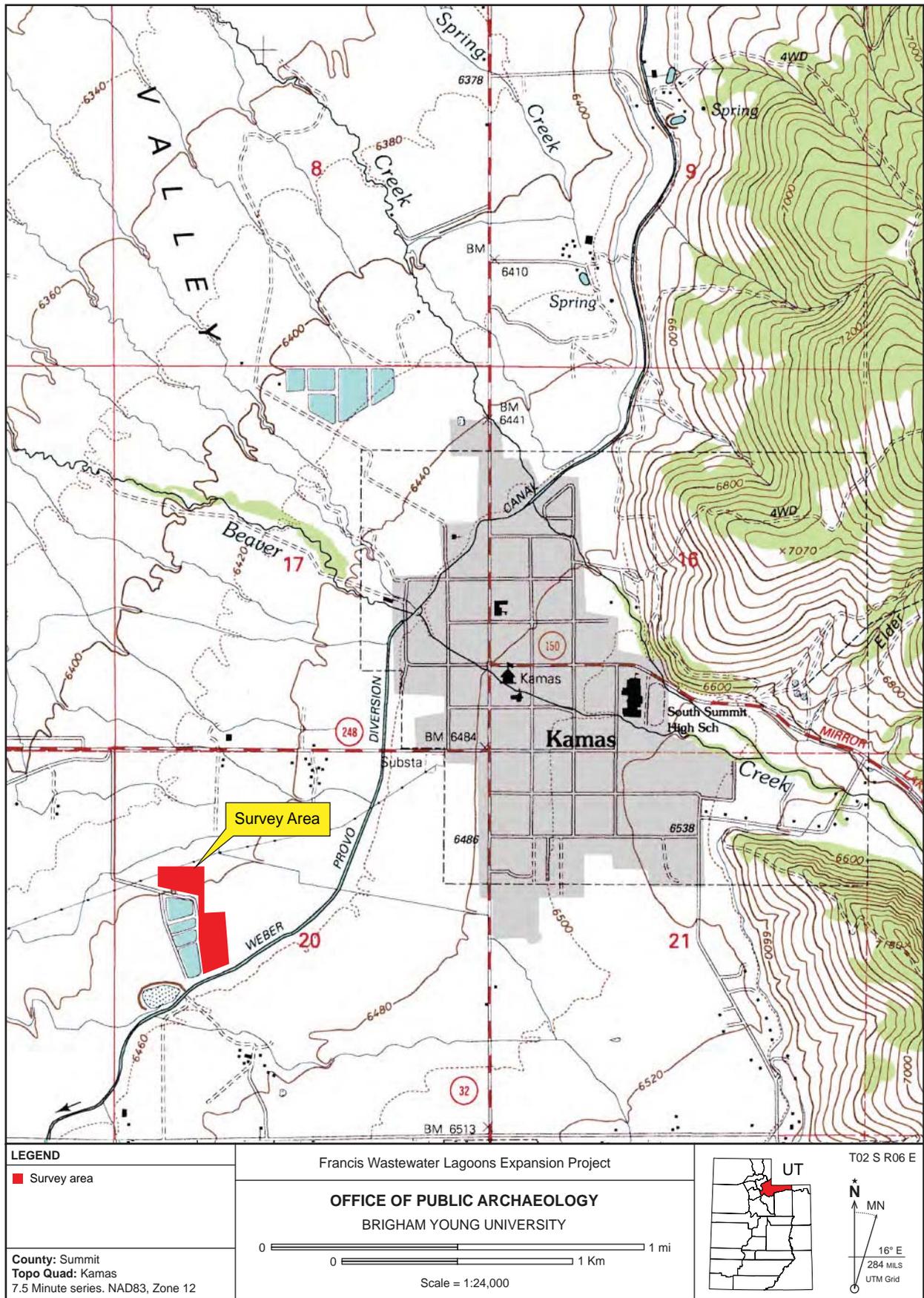


Figure 1. Map of project area, survey area in red.

fieldwork. GLO records were also examined. Only one previous inventory has been carried out within one-half mile of the current project area, that a survey by Weber State University in 1986 of SR-248 well north of the wastewater lagoons (State Project No. U86WC0689). No previously recorded sites are within this one-half mile zone. The original road from Heber City to Kamas was noted on the GLO maps as passing just south of the project area.

SURVEY METHODS AND RESULTS

The northern area measured ca. 650 by 350 ft (200 by 100 m) in size, while the eastern area was ca. 800 by 350 ft (250 by 100 m) in size. These were surveyed by a single individual walking back and forth transects to thoroughly cover both areas. In addition a ca. 30 ft (10 m) connecting route between the two areas was also inventoried.

As mentioned above, the vegetation in the project area is low but very dense pastureland grass (Figures 2 and 3). The ground visibility was very poor as result, and the area has been thoroughly trampled by grazing animals.

No archaeological sites or isolated finds were located in any of the project area.

SUMMARY

Inventory of two proposed expansion areas for the City of Francis wastewater lagoons, and a connecting route between them, failed to locate any cultural resources, including isolated finds. OPA recommends a finding of No Historic Properties for the project.



Figure 2. View of northern survey area.



Figure 3. View of eastern survey area.

REFERENCES

Jennings, Jesse

1978 Prehistory of Utah and the Eastern Great Basin. Anthropological Papers No. 98. University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Simms, Steven R.

2008 Ancient Peoples of the Great Basin and the Colorado Plateau. Left Coast Press, Walnut Creek, California.