

SECTION 2.0 RESEARCH GOALS AND DESIGN

The goal of the Phase I archaeological survey is to identify historic and/or prehistoric archaeological sites within the APE. In the event that previously documented archaeological sites are located within the APE, or a high probability for significant cultural resources exists, archaeological testing is conducted to determine the presence or absence of potentially significant archaeological resources.

The first step of the Phase I archaeological survey is to identify the areas where project activities have the potential to affect archaeological sites through below ground disturbance, referred to as the APE as described in Section 1.1. After defining the APE, documentary research is conducted to determine which locations people could have used during the prehistoric (i.e. Native American) or historic periods, and to identify areas where intact archaeological evidence, such as foundations, structural remains, or Native American artifacts and activity areas may be present. A site reconnaissance is then undertaken to observe the existing conditions and to determine the extent to which the original topography is still present, and the effects that subsequent landscape alterations may have had on potential archaeological resources. Archaeologically sensitive areas based on topographic features, vegetation and soils are noted, as are disturbances that would have compromised archaeological resources. The results of the site visit are used to determine whether archaeological testing is necessary and, if so, to develop an appropriate testing strategy.

The second step is to conduct subsurface archaeological testing in archaeologically sensitive locations and elsewhere in the APE and to identify whether potentially significant archaeological resources are present. Unless avoidance is possible, the presence of a Native American or historic period site requires a subsequent survey to evaluate the significance or importance of the identified site. Typically, an archaeological site must have the potential to yield important new information in history or prehistory to be considered significant (National Register of Historic Places Criterion D).

