

3.7 Cultural Resource Plan

The Rosemont Project area has a ranching and mining past, and many relics of these enterprises remain. In addition, evidence from past archaeological surveys indicates that prehistoric sites are present as well. A preliminary records search has shown that as many as 50 archeological surveys have been conducted on or near the Project area.

As a part of the NEPA analysis, CNF, with the help of a qualified archaeological contractor, will determine the adequacy and coverage of previous archaeological work as it relates to the proposed new mine plan. A new Class III (100%) cultural resources survey will be conducted on any lands that are within the Project analysis area where previous survey coverage is determined to be inadequate or incomplete.

CNF has the responsibility of consulting with interested tribal entities and the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) as part of the NEPA review, as well as for compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Section 106. During these consultations, SHPO and interested tribes will participate in the preparation of a plan for the treatment of the cultural resources which may be affected by the Project. Rosemont project personnel will participate in this effort as directed by CNF.

Rosemont Project planning has included efforts to reduce the overall footprint of the project to the minimum possible area, thereby avoiding cultural resources to the extent practicable.