Prehistory of the Jonah Field

Stephanie L. Bartlett and Manocy M. Klein, Current Archaeological Research, Inc.

The Jonah Field

The Jonah Field is a massive 3000BC are natural gas field located in Concho County, Texas. Beginning in 1999, a series of techniques including geophysical and geotechnical surveys were used to locate the Jonah Field and one made in it one of the nation’s natural gas fields to the lower 48 states. A Jonah Research Plan was developed, to part, to manage and preserve the cultural resources encountered in the Jonah Field and to help provide further understanding of past human activities by closing the gaps in our archaeological records. Another purpose of the Research Plan is to inform and assist people with the further information gained through the work of the cultural resources in the Jonah Field.

The Chronology of the Jonah Field

Over the last 15 years, information about the prehistory of the Jonah Field has increased exponentially. Approximately 3,700 prehistoric sites have been identified. This number has now surpassed 500,000 prehistoric sites. Approximately 350,000 prehistoric sites are located in the Jonah Field. Additionally, the Energy Site in Concho County, Texas, contains 350 prehistoric sites. These have been collected from the Jonah Field by Current Archaeological Research Inc. (CAR). From these data, geological points and their associated sites, the prehistory of the Jonah Field can be estimated through time.

The Paleoindian Period

• Seven radiocarbon dates (CAO-Mo-16912, 16913, 16914, 16915, 16916, 16917, 16918) from the Energy Site have been identified. These dates suggest that the Jonah Field contained Pleistocene and Holocene-era prehistoric sites.

The Early Archaic Period

• Separated into the Great Plains Phase (15000-10000 years BP) and the Early Archaic Phase (10000-6000 years BP). The Early Archaic Phase dates from the Cairns Site to the researchers.

The Late Archaic Period

• Divided into the Late Archaic Phase (5000-4000 years BP) and the Early Archaic Phase (4000-2000 years BP). The Late Archaic Phase dates from the Cairns Site to the researchers.

The Late Prehistoric Period

• Divided into the Late Prehistoric Phase (2000-1000 years BP) and the Early Prehistoric Phase (1000-500 years BP). The Early Prehistoric Phase dates from the Cairns Site to the researchers.

The Late Prehistoric Period

• Divided into the Late Prehistoric Phase (3000-2000 years BP) and the Early Prehistoric Phase (2000-1000 years BP). The Early Prehistoric Phase dates from the Cairns Site to the researchers.

The Paleoindian Period

• Seven radiocarbon dates (CAO-Mo-16912, 16913, 16914, 16915, 16916, 16917, 16918) from the Energy Site have been identified. These dates suggest that the Jonah Field contained Pleistocene and Holocene-era prehistoric sites.

The Early Archaic Period

• Separated into the Great Plains Phase (15000-10000 years BP) and the Early Archaic Phase (10000-6000 years BP). The Early Archaic Phase dates from the Cairns Site to the researchers.

The Late Archaic Period

• Divided into the Late Archaic Phase (5000-4000 years BP) and the Early Archaic Phase (4000-2000 years BP). The Late Archaic Phase dates from the Cairns Site to the researchers.

The Late Prehistoric Period

• Divided into the Late Prehistoric Phase (3000-2000 years BP) and the Early Prehistoric Phase (2000-1000 years BP). The Early Prehistoric Phase dates from the Cairns Site to the researchers.

The Paleoindian Period

• Seven radiocarbon dates (CAO-Mo-16912, 16913, 16914, 16915, 16916, 16917, 16918) from the Energy Site have been identified. These dates suggest that the Jonah Field contained Pleistocene and Holocene-era prehistoric sites.

The Early Archaic Period

• Separated into the Great Plains Phase (15000-10000 years BP) and the Early Archaic Phase (10000-6000 years BP). The Early Archaic Phase dates from the Cairns Site to the researchers.