

**Results of a Class III Survey at Tub Spring,
Reitmann Seep, and Captain Jack Spring,
Nevada Test Site, Nye County, Nevada**

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ABSTRACT

This report presents the results of Class III archaeological surveys at Tub Spring, Reitmann Seep, and Captain Jack Spring on the Nevada Test Site in southern Nevada. This work was conducted from September 6 through September 29, 1994 by the Desert Research Institute for the Department of Energy, Nevada Operations Office. It was performed in order to comply with inventory requirements of the National Historic Preservation Act, Section 110.

Research questions focused on understanding the importance of water for people living in arid environments and on determining the role that availability of water played in determining use of the landscape regarding settlement pattern, subsistence strategies and resources selection. The relationship between sites that served as residential bases or long-term camp sites and those that are representative of specialized procurement or processing activities on the NTS is not well understood. Study of cultural resources at springs provide the opportunity to broaden our knowledge regarding such relationships.

Each of the spring areas was recorded using close interval pedestrian survey. All artifacts and features were recorded as they were encountered, and each discrete area, or division, within each of the

spring sites was further characterized by conducting a complete recording of all artifacts within one or more sample areas. Each site was mapped and photographed to provide the most complete documentary evidence possible. The amount of land surveyed as a result of this work was 288.39 hectares (714.5 acres).

Approximately 8,000 years of cultural activity are represented by the sites at the three springs. Diagnostic artifacts indicate initial occupation of two of the springs during the Early Archaic at ca. 8,000 B.P. and continuing until the 1930's. Historic occupations relate to mining, support industries for the miners, and American Indians. The third spring appears to represent later periods of prehistory; evidence of interaction with or visits from Anasazi people was found along with evidence of ritual activities during the late prehistoric to Shoshonean time periods. Results indicate that spring sites served as residential bases or camps from which prehistoric people could venture forth to procure various kinds of plant and animal foods in the surrounding environmental zones. Recommendations for the protection of the spring sites include avoidance during any Department of Energy, Nevada Operations Office activities and monitoring to assess any inadvertent impacts.