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**Results of Historic Research and Archaeological Investigations
at Cane Spring, Nevada Test Site, Nye County, Nevada**

by
Robert C. Jones

with contributions by
Barbara Holz and Thomas Bullard
Division of Earth and Ecosystem Sciences

ABSTRACT

This report presents the results of a Class III cultural resources reconnaissance at Cane Spring, Areas 5 and 27, on the Nevada Test Site (NTS) in Southern Nevada. The field work was conducted from April 3, 2000 through May 15, 2000 by the Desert Research Institute for the U.S. Department of Energy, Nevada Operations Office. It was performed as a continuation of investigations at spring sites on the NTS 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, the role that availability of water played in determining use of the landscape regarding settlement pattern, subsistence strategies and resources selection, and the relationship between springs and historic activities. The relationship between sites that served as residential bases or long-term camp sites and those representative of specialized procurement or processing activities on the NTS is not well understood. This and the proceeding study of cultural resources at springs provide the opportunity to broaden the knowledge regarding such relationships.

Cane Spring, site 26NY4, was recorded using a 30-m interval pedestrian survey. Historic structures were drawn, photographed, mapped, and described by an archaeological historian. Rock ring features were drawn, photographed, and mapped and rock cairns were photographed and mapped. Prehistoric artifacts were recorded within a sampling design that visually counted only 200 artifacts in each division with no artifacts collected. All lithic artifacts were described as to artifact and material type. The area surveyed was 38.4 hectares (95 acres).

Diagnostic prehistoric artifacts indicate the initial occupation of the spring by American Indians as early as 10,000 B.P. Results indicate that the prehistoric occupants of the area used the site as a residential base. Historic documents indicate use by American Indians continuing until the late 1800s and the beginning of the historic occupation of the site by groups other than American Indians. The early historic occupation was related to travelers and mining activities at the site and in the surrounding area.