

# Cultural Resource

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## Households and Farms in Early Zuni Prehistory: Settlement, Subsistence, and the Archaeology of Y Unit Draw, Archaeological Investigations at Eighteen Sites Along New Mexico State Highway 602 - PART 1

### ABSTRACT

Archaeological investigations were conducted at 18 sites along New Mexico State Highway 602 during the winter and spring of 1998. Thirteen of these sites were excavated, while analysis of surface artifacts was conducted on five other sites. Late Archaic, Basketmaker II, late Basketmaker III/early Pueblo I, Pueblo II, and early Pueblo III components were identified at the sites investigated. Data recovered from these investigations significantly contribute to our understanding of Zuni prehistory prior to the thirteenth century AD.

The Late Archaic and Basketmaker II sites examined during this project represent the oldest archaeological sites yet excavated on the Zuni Indian Reservation. These sites provide insight into a poorly known period of prehistory in this region. Three site types for the Basketmaker II period were identified: habitations, storage and/or resource processing sites, and agricultural fields (including irrigation ditches). Data from these sites indicate maize agriculture was a subsistence focus, rather than supplemental to other subsistence strategies and that irrigation technology was introduced into the Zuni area more than 3000 years ago.

Numerous Pueblo II and early Pueblo III sites are located along the slopes above the valley floor of Y Unit Draw. Both habitations and small seasonal or short-term sites (fieldhouses) are also located in the project area (only one masonry structure, however, was excavated during our testing and data recovery activities). These sites were contemporaneous with the occupation of Village of the Great Kivas, a well-known Chaco-style great house located approximately 6 km (3.8 mi) to the east in the Nutria River Valley. In this volume we compare the sites within the project and Y Unit Draw in general to Village of the Great Kivas. Pueblo II and early Pueblo III settlement dynamics are explored in relation to Village of the Great Kivas and changing strategies for agricultural production.



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