Surface artifacts were found on exposed soils roughly in the center of the clearing. Artifacts consist of four gray chert flakes, which were collected due to danger of destruction (UA2013-70-001 through 004). One shovel test was excavated to examine stratigraphy. Although negative, the test showed intact, if truncated, soils. A yellowish brown silt deposit from 0-15 cmbs is above decaying schist bedrock mixed with silt, which was excavated from 15-17 cmbs before termination at that depth.

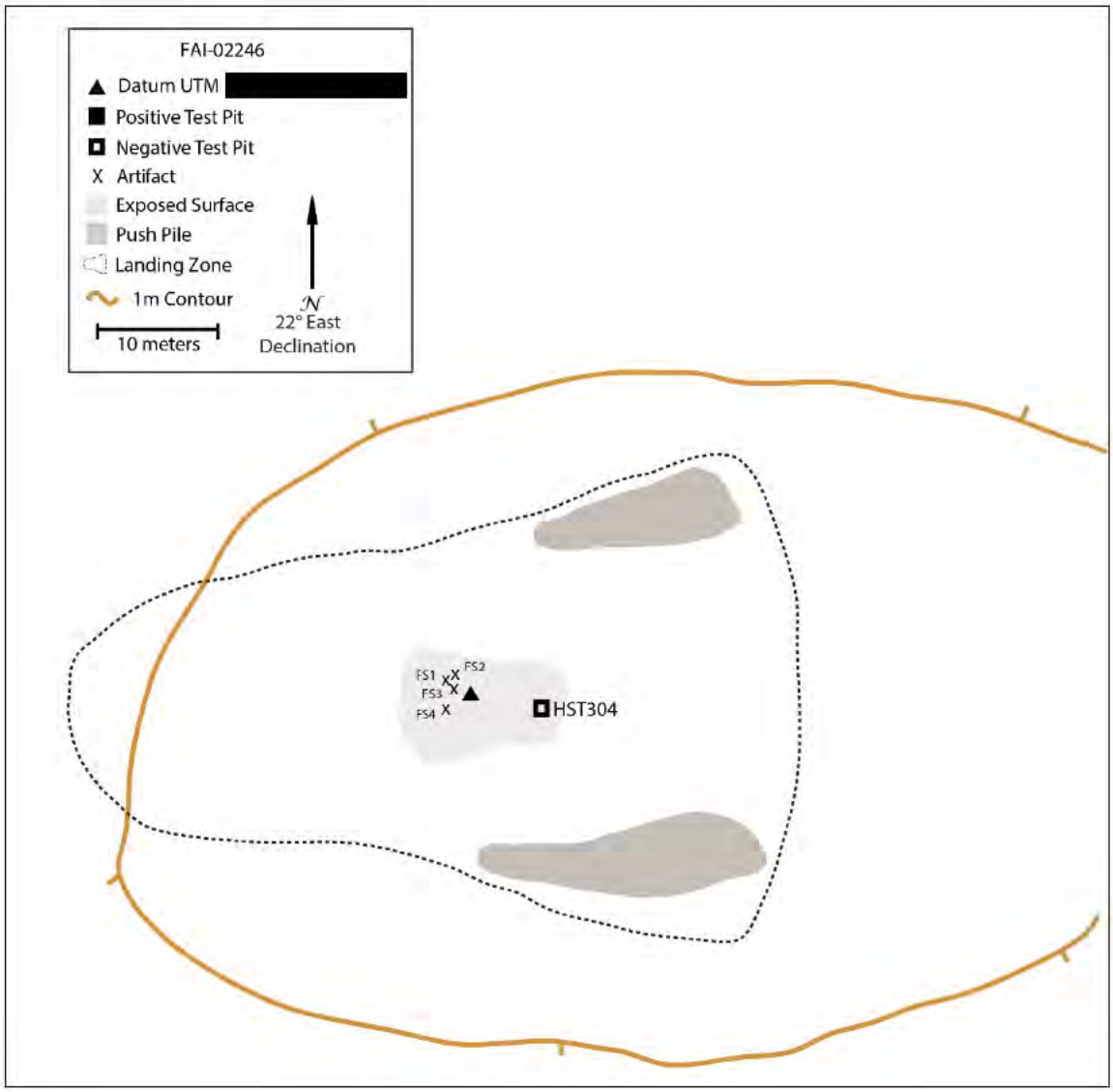

Figure 65. FAI-02246 site map.

Figure 66. FAI-02246 site overview.

FAI-02247
Latitude: [redacted]
Longitude: [redacted]
UTM: [redacted]
Determination of Eligibility: Not evaluated

FAI-02247 is located on a high point where the northern branch of the Blair Lakes ridge system splits in a Y, 50 km southeast of Fairbanks (Figure 10, Figure 67). The summit of the ridge is wide and flat, rising gently to the north. The closest water source is a small lake, 2 km to the northwest, near the base of the ridge.

Vegetation blocks views of the surrounding territory (Figure 68). The upland moist mixed forest is typified by birch, spruce, alder, willow, rose, deadfall, Labrador tea, bunchberry, fireweed, high and low bush cranberry, grasses, and moss. There is no surface visibility. A 30 x 40 m area 15 m southwest of datum has been disturbed by military use and is now overgrown with saplings.

One of eight shovel tests produced cultural material. Two gray chert flakes were found between 0-46 cmbs, and one gray chert flake was found at a depth of 46-55 cmbs (UA2013-071-001 through 002).

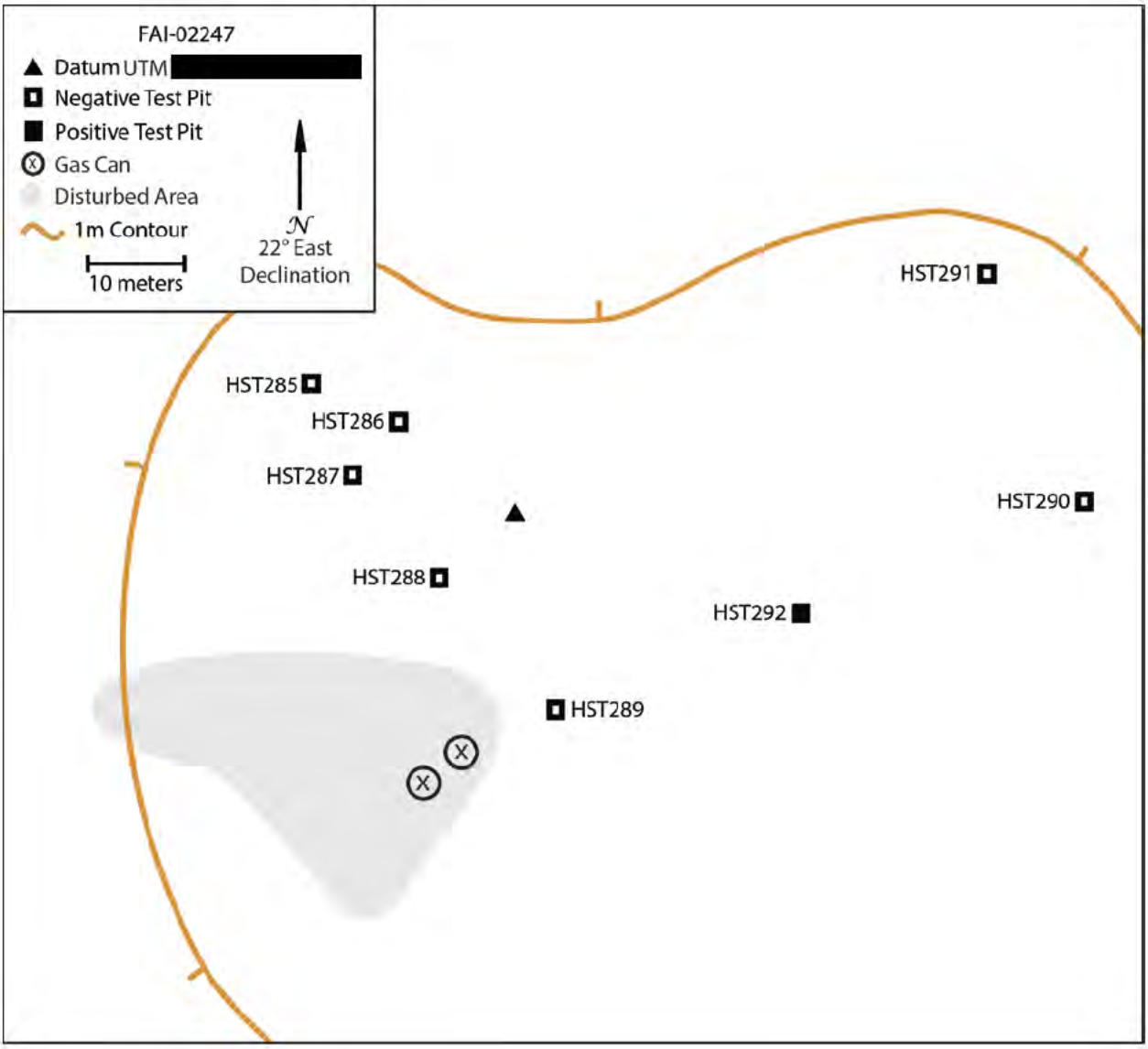

Figure 67. FAI-02247 site map.

Silt deposits across the site reached a depth of 51-75 cmbs above decaying schist bedrock (Figure 69, Figure 70). Soil development was noted with a 4-7 cm thick layer of organic material above an eluviated A horizon. The B horizon is thin but prominent.

Figure 68. FAI-02247 site overview.

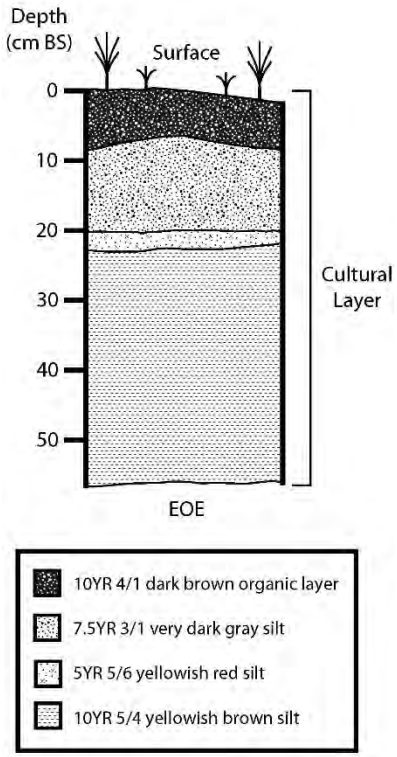

Figure 69. FAI-02247 stratigraphic profile.

Figure 70. FAI-02247 test pit.

FAI-02248
Latitude: [redacted]
Longitude: [redacted]
UTM: [redacted]
Determination of Eligibility: Not evaluated

FAI-02248 is located on a high ridge in the Blair Lakes ridge system, 400 m south of Blair Lake South and approximately 56 km southeast of Fairbanks (Figure 10, Figure 71). The site, on a hilltop on the southeast arm of the ridge system, is level with a 12° slope on all sides. Blair Lake South is the closest water source.

Views of surrounding terrain are blocked by thick vegetation (Figure 72). The aspen, birch, willow, spruce, deadfall, leaf litter, rose, high and low bush cranberry, fireweed, Labrador tea, and moss vegetation is characteristic of the upland moist mixed forest ecosystem. There is no surface visibility and no evident disturbances.

A single test pit on the high point of the hill produced 33 gray chert flakes and 5 rhyolite flakes from 0-38 cmbs (UA2013-072-001 through 005).

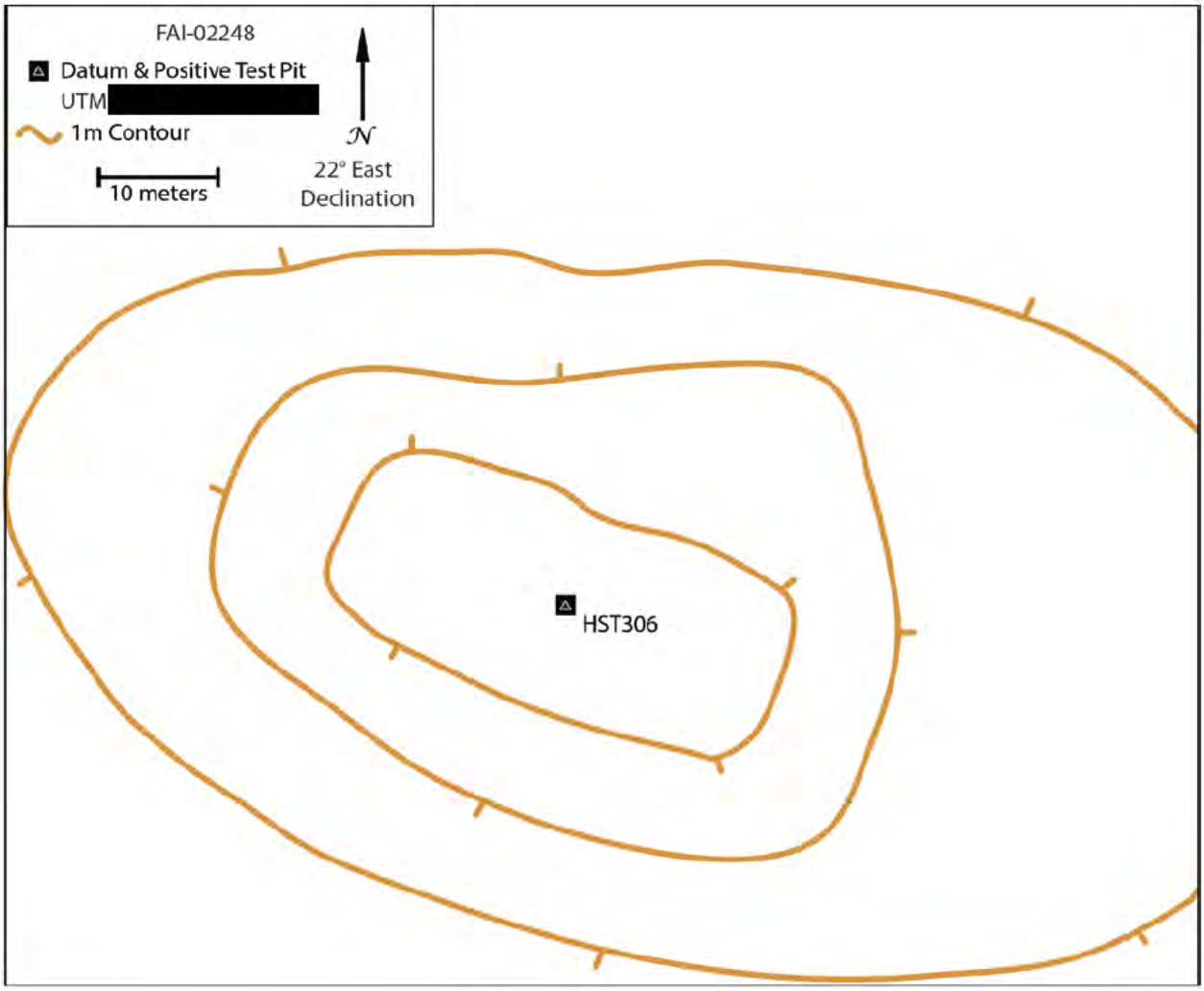

Figure 71. FAI-02248 site map.

A shallow organic layer (0-6 cmbs) was found over silt to a depth of 42 cmbs (Figure 73, Figure 74). The test pit ended at glacial outwash gravels. Soil development is very weak. The B horizon is located immediately under the organic horizon to a depth of approximately 10 cmbs.

Figure 72. FAI-02248 site overview.

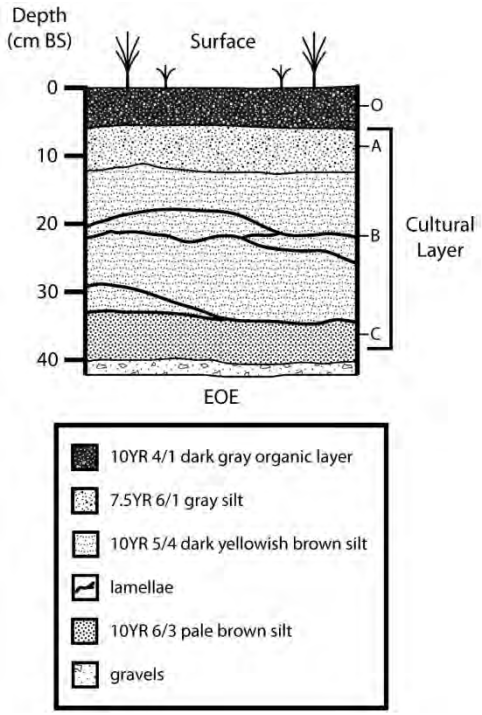

Figure 73. FAI-02248 stratigraphic profile.

Figure 74. FAI-02248 test pit.

FAI-02250
Latitude: [redacted]
Longitude: [redacted]
UTM: [redacted]
Determination of Eligibility: Not evaluated

FAI-02250 is located on the southern shore of Blair Lake South, 56 km south of Fairbanks (Figure 10, Figure 75). The site stretches for 800 m along the lake shore. Artifacts were all discovered underwater at the shallow edge of the lake. The Blair Lakes ridge system and a nearby hill are visible from the shore. An active ATV trail follows the lake edge for 50 m and turns inland.

Vegetation in the area consists of birch, alder, cottonwood, rosebush, and other various low scrub, moss, and lichen (Figure 76). There is zero surface visibility. Water erosion is evident along the lake shore and on artifacts. Locations for underwater artifacts were recorded using a GPS device. Three shovel tests were excavated along the shore near the locations of artifacts in the water. No artifacts were found in the shovel tests.

Artifacts, including 44 flakes and 23 tools (bifaces, scrapers, microblade cores, large choppers, and utilized/retouched flakes), were collected from the shallow shore waters (UA2013-085, Table 2). Material types include chert, rhyolite, and basalt. A rhyolite notched projectile point and a black chert microblade core from this site are shown in Figure 77.

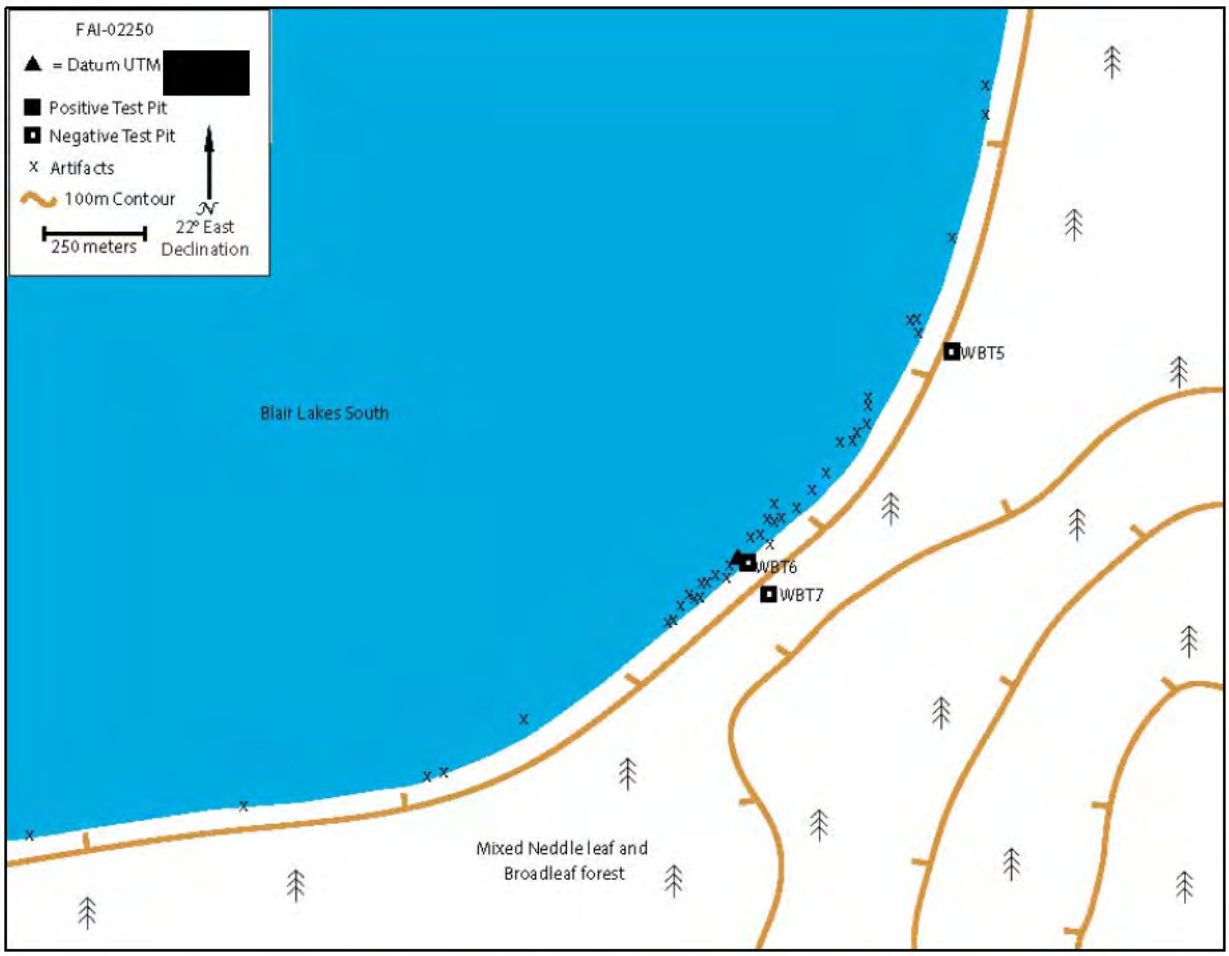

Figure 75. FAI-02250 site map.

Figure 76. FAI-02250 site overview.

Table 2. FAI-02250 2013 accession log.

Accession Number	Artifact	Northing	Easting	Material Type	Lot Count
UA2013-085-001	Flakes	[redacted]	[redacted]	Chert, basalt	2
UA2013-085-002	Flakes, hammerstone	[redacted]	[redacted]	Chert, basalt	5
UA2013-085-003	Biface, lanceolate point	[redacted]	[redacted]	Chert	2
UA2013-085-004	Biface	[redacted]	[redacted]	Chert	1
UA2013-085-005	Flakes, bone fragment	[redacted]	[redacted]	Chert, bone	2
UA2013-085-006	Notched point	[redacted]	[redacted]	Rhyolite	1
UA2013-085-007	Flakes	[redacted]	[redacted]	Rhyolite	1
UA2013-085-008	Lanceolate point, flakes, biface fragment, bone fragment	[redacted]	[redacted]	Chert, basalt, rhyolite, bone	5
UA2013-085-009	End scraper, flake	[redacted]	[redacted]	Chert	2
UA2013-085-010	Chopper, flakes	[redacted]	[redacted]	Chert, basalt	5
UA2013-085-011	Biface fragments	[redacted]	[redacted]	Chert	2
UA2013-085-012	Biface fragments	[redacted]	[redacted]	Chert	1
UA2013-085-013	Flake, bone fragment	[redacted]	[redacted]	Chert, bone	2
UA2013-085-014	Bone fragment	[redacted]	[redacted]	Bone	1
UA2013-085-015	Bone fragment	[redacted]	[redacted]	Bone	1
UA2013-085-016	Flakes	[redacted]	[redacted]	Basalt	1
UA2013-085-017	Uniface, biface fragment	[redacted]	[redacted]	Chert, rhyolite	2
UA2013-085-018	Flakes	[redacted]	[redacted]	Chert	1
UA2013-085-019	Bone fragment	[redacted]	[redacted]	Bone	1
UA2013-085-020	Flakes	[redacted]	[redacted]	Chert	3
UA2013-085-021	Flakes, bone fragment	[redacted]	[redacted]	Chalcedony, chert, rhyolite, bone	6
UA2013-085-022	Basalt biface, scraper, flakes, bone fragments	[redacted]	[redacted]	Chert, basalt, rhyolite, bone	6
UA2013-085-023	Flakes, biface, bone fragments	[redacted]	[redacted]	Chalcedony, chert, rhyolite, bone	7
UA2013-085-024	Flake, uniface	[redacted]	[redacted]	Chert, rhyolite	2
UA2013-085-025	Flakes, bone fragments	[redacted]	[redacted]	Chert, basalt, bone	7
UA2013-085-026	Scraper, cobble spall, flakes	[redacted]	[redacted]	Chert, basalt	4
UA2013-085-027	Flake	[redacted]	[redacted]	Rhyolite	1
UA2013-085-028	Flake	[redacted]	[redacted]	Chert	1
UA2013-085-029	Microblade core, tooth	[redacted]	[redacted]	Chert, bone	2
UA2013-085-030	Biface fragment, scraper, bone fragment	[redacted]	[redacted]	Chert, bone	3
UA2013-085-031	Bone fragment	[redacted]	[redacted]	Bone	1
UA2013-085-032	Flake	[redacted]	[redacted]	Rhyolite	1
UA2013-085-033	Flake	[redacted]	[redacted]	Rhyolite	1
UA2013-085-034	Flake	[redacted]	[redacted]	Chert	1
UA2013-085-035	Flake	[redacted]	[redacted]	Chert	1
UA2013-085-036	Flake	[redacted]	[redacted]	Rhyolite	1
UA2013-085-037	Flake	[redacted]	[redacted]	Chert	1
UA2013-085-038	Bone fragments			Bone	7

The onshore stratigraphic profile included a 6 cm thick organic layer above a thin A horizon (6-10 cmbs) (Figure 78, Figure 79). The B horizon reaches approximately 27 cm below surface. Silt deposits exist from the surface to 100 cmbs. Below this, the sediment becomes much sandier. The excavation units ended at 150 cmbs. All three test pits were negative for cultural materials.

Figure 77. FAI-02250 notched projectile point and microblade core.

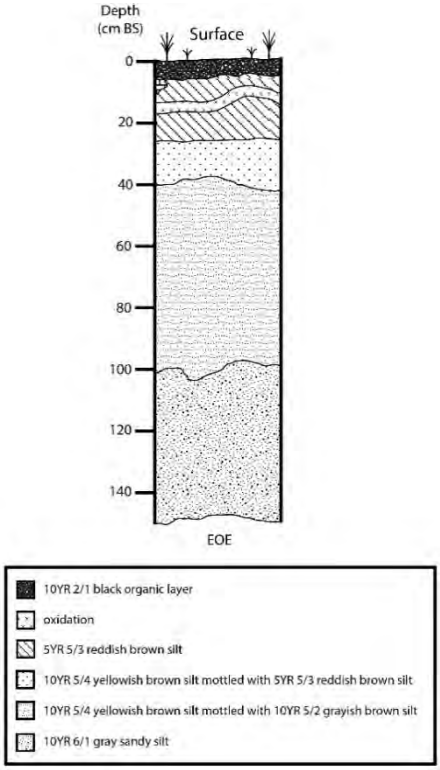

Figure 78. FAI-02250 stratigraphic profile.

Figure 79. FAI-02250 test pit.

TFTA DOEs

No sites were evaluated for NRHP eligibility in the TFTA in 2013. Some minor testing was conducted at FAI-02043 to determine whether the site was large enough for scientific excavation by Texas A&M University archaeologist Dr. Ted Goebel. Results of those testing activities are described below.

FAI-02043 McDonald Creek Site
Latitude: [redacted]
Longitude: [redacted]
UTM: [redacted]
Determination of Eligibility: Eligible 09/09/2012

The McDonald Creek site is located near the foot of a large bedrock knoll, approximately seven kilometers east of the Blair Lakes in Fort Wainwright's TFTA, 53 km south of Fairbanks. The site was identified by subsurface testing along the prominent ridge line. During the initial discovery of the site, 94 flakes were recovered from four test pits (Figure 80). Two of these test pits also yielded fragments of faunal materials (Esdale et al. 2012c, Gaines et al. 2011).

Additionally, a 1 x 2 m unit located further back from the bluff edge was excavated to a depth of 135 cmbs to explore the site stratigraphy and potential archaeological deposits. The excavation unit uncovered 1106 pieces of lithic debitage related mainly to late stage bifacial projectile point finishing and resharpening and 538 osseous fragments including bison, hare, and waterfowl. Lithic and faunal material was recovered from two distinct concentrations at depths of approximately 10-30 cmbs and 75-125 cmbs.

The shovel tests and excavation unit demonstrated thick loess deposits with possible weak palaeosol development to a depth of approximately 100 cmbs. At this depth, grain size increased and well sorted sand deposits were found until the unit was terminated at 150 cmbs. Auger testing indicated that the sands extended to approximately 3 m below surface, where glacial outwash gravels were encountered.

A charcoal piece associated with lithic flakes was recovered in the lower loess unit of test pit AT50 and was radiocarbon dated to 10,730 ± 50 radiocarbon years before present (Beta-281235). The upper cultural component at the site was radiocarbon dated using dispersed charcoal recovered 22 cm below the surface and yielded a date of 6,460 ± 40 (Beta-283427), indicating a late Pleistocene and a middle-Holocene occupation at FAI-02043.

Results of 2013 Testing (information and figures from Goebel et al. 2014)

In order to further investigate the potential of the McDonald Creek site to contribute to the archaeological understanding of interior Alaskan prehistory, additional test investigations were made during the 2013 field season. A collaboration of CEMML crew members and archaeologists from Texas A&M University returned to the McDonald Creek site and excavated four 1 x 1 meter test units to further develop site boundaries and concentrations of archaeological and faunal materials at the site, as well as to confirm the presence of two discrete archaeological components occurring in sealed, dateable stratigraphic contexts.

Unit N494 E101

Unit N494 E101 was placed two meters south (downslope) of the previously excavated 2 x 1 m test unit and geologic trench at FAI-02043 (Figure 80). The unit is located closest to the bluff edge of any 1 x 1 in the 2013 testing, but the limited excavations failed to reveal any compression of the stratigraphy. The O horizon in the unit is relatively shallow, <5 cm, but contains a number of large roots that extend into the furthest depth reached in the excavation (99.32 cm). Underlying the O horizon is an upper loess depositional package recognized across the site. Excavations into this package reached >30 cm with no discernible change in stratigraphic deposition. Cultural material was encountered throughout the upper loess package.

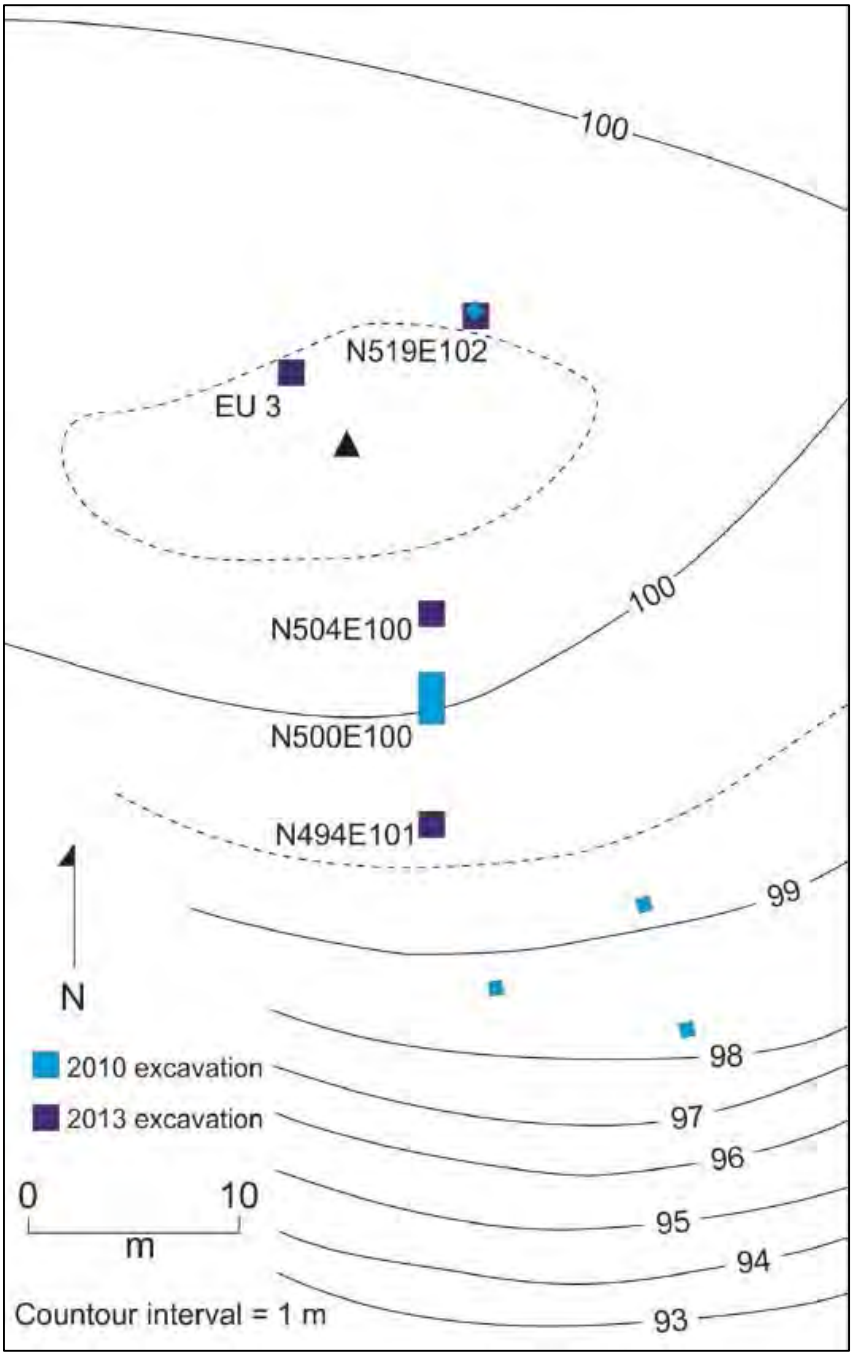

Figure 80. McDonald Creek site map with 2010 and 2013 excavation areas.

Cultural materials encountered in N494 E100 include flakes, flake fragments, utilized flakes, and a surprisingly large number of microblades (UA2013-076). *In situ* cultural material was piece plotted and all cultural materials were collected. No charcoal was collected in N494 E100. Artifacts were recovered from the opening levels of the upper loess through the deepest extent

of the excavation with no clear vertical separation. Microblades were encountered throughout the unit, but there appears to be a discrete cluster of microblades in the southeastern quadrant near the eastern wall of the unit at a depth of 99.37 cmbs, where the excavation was ended.

Time constraints required the unit to be abandoned in favor of concentrating on stratigraphically deeper and more informative units further to the north at the site. It is likely that the concentration of cultural materials, particularly microblades, at the base of the 2013 excavations will continue in the upper loess until a new stratigraphic contact is reached.

Unit N504 E100

Test unit N504 E100 was excavated two meters north of the large test unit established in 2010 (N500-N502 E100) to confirm the continuation of distinct archaeological deposits and to evaluate the geological stratigraphy at FAI-02043 as one continues upslope on the terrace. The stratigraphy of this unit consists of a 5-8 cm thick O horizon, a 15 cm thick upper B horizon of a reddish yellow silt, a 5-10 cm thick C horizon of yellow silt which contains the uppermost cultural deposits, underlain by a 30 cm thick fine pale yellow slit deposit that rests on a lower stratigraphic unit of sand that extends to 80 cmbs. This sand unit yielded the largest concentration of artifacts, and charcoal recovered from this strata produced a radiocarbon date of 11,865 ± 45 RCYBP. Time constraints during the 2013 testing of FAI-02043 prevented excavation to the bottom of this basal sand unit.

Cultural material encountered in N504 E100 includes flakes, flake fragments, small pressure flakes/fragments, microdebitage, and faunal fragments. *In situ* cultural material was piece plotted and all cultural materials were collected. Artifacts were recovered from the upper loess deposits and the lower sand deposit, with significantly more artifacts coming from the lower sand deposit. At the contact of the B and C horizons, a small concentration of 14 artifacts were recovered ~40 cm below the datum. All lithic materials recovered in the upper component were produced on CCS, consisting of small flakes or microdebitage.

The lower archaeological component is concentrated in the lower sand unit ~80 cm below the datum, but a small number of artifacts were present throughout the lower half of the pale-yellow silt strata starting at ~60 cm below the datum. Three hundred and seventy pieces of lithic debitage were recovered from this lower component, mainly small flakes and pressure flaking debitage. All lithic debitage in the lower component was produced on CCS.

Unit N519 E102

Test Unit N519 E102 was placed directly on top of the 2010 shovel test AT291, oriented to the north (Figure 80). The stratigraphy of this unit consists of a 10-15 cm thick O horizon, a 60-70

cm thick upper loess deposit interbedded with a 2-5 cm discontinuous band of sand, a 10-15 cm thick lower sand deposit, and a lower loess deposit. The upper loess/sand and lower sands contain charcoal staining throughout the deposits, and preserved dispersed charcoal found in these strata were collected. All artifacts, charcoal, and bone were piece plotted and collected.

Cultural materials were found only in the upper loess and the lower sand deposits, with the majority of artifacts coming from the lower sand deposit dating to the late Pleistocene. Lithic debitage was found in the upper loess. In the lower sand stratum, lithic debitage and multiple bone fragments were found in high numbers. This artifact concentration was found at 90-100 cmbs. It begins at the upper loess/lower sand contact and dissipates before the lower loess/lower sand contact. Additionally, there seems to be a lithic reduction activity area in the south quadrants of the unit where excavators identified a discrete lithic scatter consisting of small pressure flakes and microdebitage.

The northern half of this unit was excavated approximately 10 cm into the lower sand; however, there was not time to excavate through the sand unit in the southern quadrants, leaving the unexcavated lithic scatter and bone from the lower sand/loess contact in place.

EU 3

EU 3 was the deepest and most archaeologically complex of all the test units excavated in the 2013 testing of FAI-02043. EU 3 was opened to a full 1 x 1 m test unit that encompasses a previously excavated shovel test established early in the summer of 2013. The unit has a stratigraphic profile similar to the other test units established at FAI-02043. The stratigraphy consists of a 5 cm thick O horizon underlain by a 20 cm thick silt B horizon, resting on a 10-20 cm thick silt C horizon across the unit. This C horizon is underlain by a buried silt strata that extends 80 cmbs and is interbedded with the sand strata. This was the deepest excavated unit during the 2013 testing of the site. In EU 3, excavation efforts were concentrated on the deep sand deposit. A second and distinct sand unit was discovered at 130 cmbs. This was the only test unit at the McDonald Creek site to reach this depth or to encounter this lower unit of sand.

The first archaeological materials in EU 3 were found at the contact of the lowest silt component and the upper sand strata. Raw material variably in the lithic debitage of the upper component at EU 3, corresponding with the lower component in other test excavation units, is the highest observed at FAI-02043. Four hundred seven pieces of lithic debitage, produced mainly on gray chert, were recovered in this component, as well as flakes, microdebitage, and pressure flakes made from obsidian, quartzite, other cherts, and fine grained volcanic rock. Fragments of faunal material were also found in the component. This material occurs in a similar stratigraphic position as the lower components in other test units across FAI-02043.

Charcoal samples collected in association with lithic debitage at the lowest silt/upper sand contact yielded radiocarbon dates of 10,615 ± 60 and 10,850 ± 60.

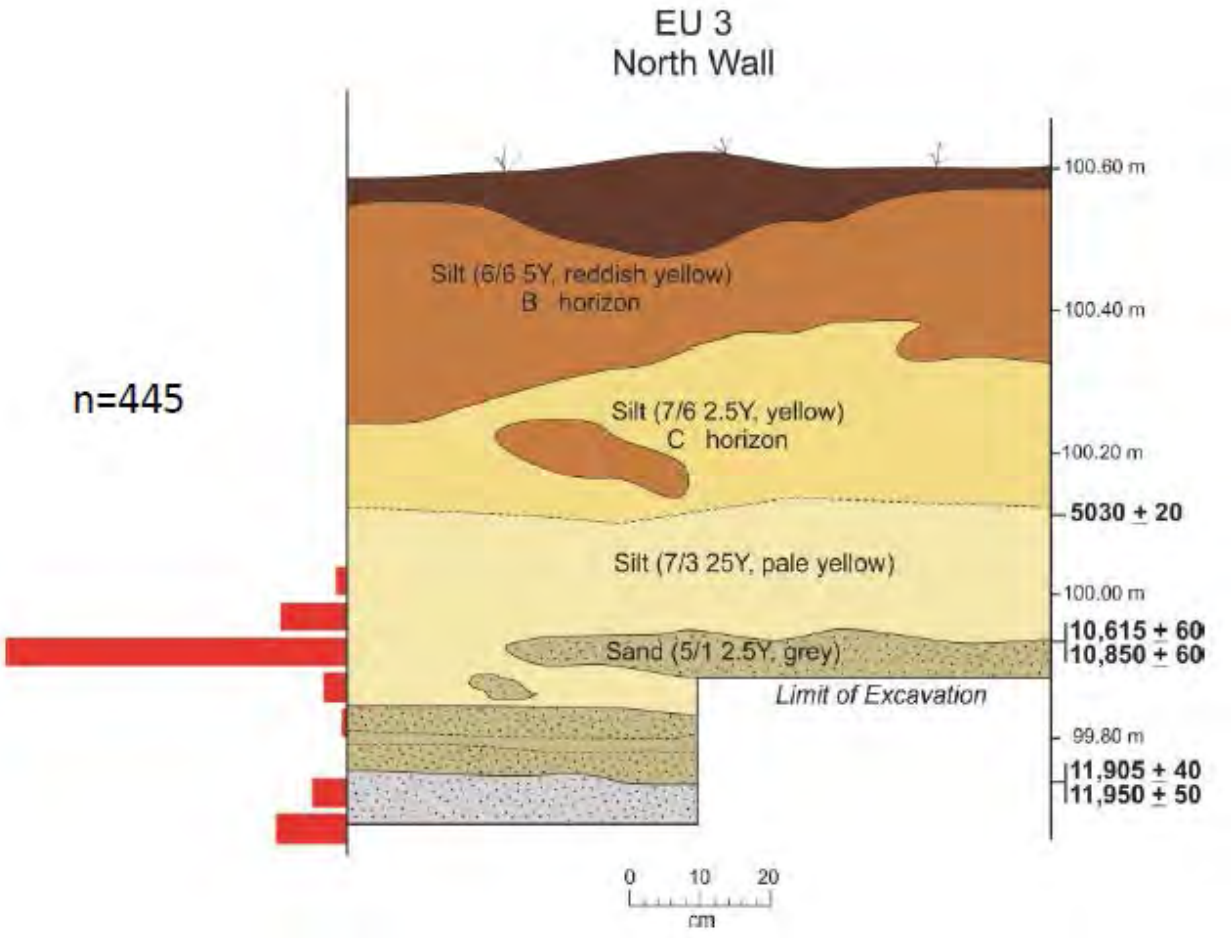

Figure 81. EU 3 stratigraphic profile and radiocarbon dates.

A second archaeological component was encountered in the lowest sand unit exposed at EU 3. This lower archaeological component occurs stratigraphically lower than any other cultural deposit observed at FAI-02043, and charcoal samples recovered in association with lithic and faunal material yielded dates of 11,905 ± 40 and 11,950 ± 50, indicating that this component is also chronologically distinct from the stratigraphically discrete upper component. Thirty-eight pieces of lithic debitage were recovered in the lower component in EU 3, with the majority produced on varieties of gray chert and volcanic rock. The debitage consists of small to very small flakes, flake fragments, and bifacial pressure flakes. Faunal fragments were also recovered from this component. Time constraints limited the excavation of this lowest sand unit/lowest cultural component, and the unit was abandoned with lithic and faunal material, as

well as large areas of charcoal staining, unrecovered in the floors and walls of the northeast quad and totally unexcavated in the remainder of the unit.

Discussion of the 2013 testing at FAI-02043

Additional testing of FAI-02043 conducted during the 2013 field season was brief and limited, but extremely informative. Controlled test excavation of four 1 x 1 m test units allowed for the confirmation of archaeological deposits at the site that occur further up on the terrace than encountered in the 2010 testing and produced a better understanding of the sedimentary history at the site. Additionally, a new cultural component was encountered in the deeply buried lower sand unit in EU 3. These four test units allowed the CEMML/Texas A&M team to isolate and date the upper and middle cultural components identified during the 2010 testing, as well as recognize a discrete, previously unidentified, lower cultural component producing radiocarbon dates of 11,905 ± 40 and 11,950 ± 50. These dates indicate a sealed archaeological deposit that contains *in situ* lithic and faunal materials that may represent the second oldest archaeological site in eastern Beringia. Continued excavations of FAI-02043 are now planned for the 2014 field season to establish firm boundaries of all three archaeological components at the site and to further investigate the character of the oldest component.

2013 Yukon Training Area Fieldwork

YTA Section 106 Activities

Surveys for two undertakings that required Section 106 consultation were completed in the YTA in 2013 (Figure 82). The Husky Drop Zone Foxhole Excavation and Transmitter Road Bivouac Upgrade undertakings were surveyed in June and August of 2014. No archaeological sites were discovered in the project areas, and the SHPO concurred with a finding of No Historic Properties Adversely Affected on 20 October 2013. Surveys for Timber Sales in the YTA took place in June and August of 2014. No archaeological sites were found in the project area, and the SHPO concurred with a finding of No Historic Properties Affected on 4 December 2013.

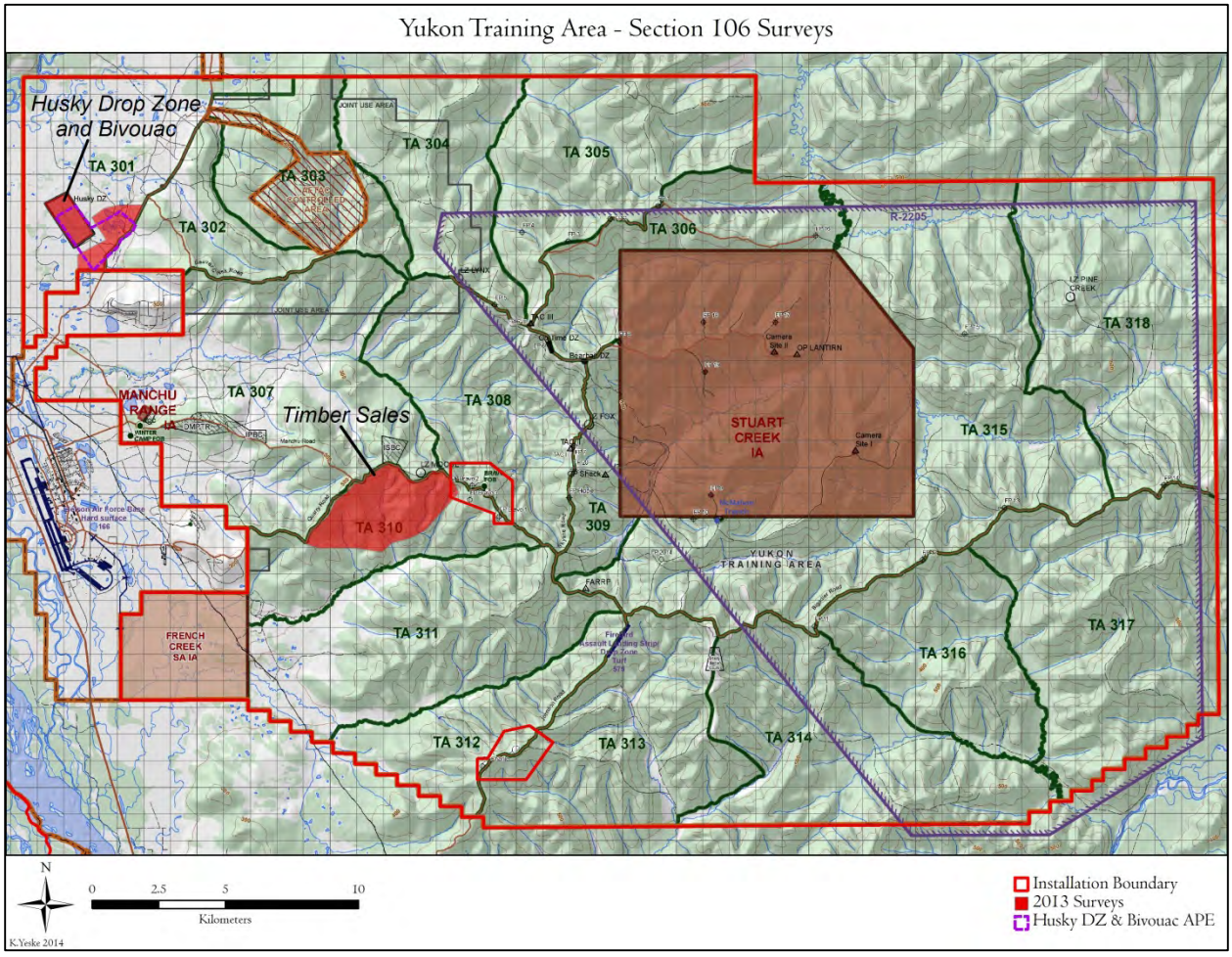

Figure 82. Section 106 projects in YTA during 2013.

YTA Surveys

All archaeological surveys in the YTA in 2013 were directly tied to Army undertakings and have already been discussed in reference to Section 106 activities. A total of 3,898 acres of land were

surveyed for archaeological sites by CEMML crews under the direction of Julie Esdale, Ph.D., RPA. All highlighted areas in Figure 83 were covered by pedestrian transects, and shovel testing occurred on upland locations. No new archaeological sites were discovered during these surveys.

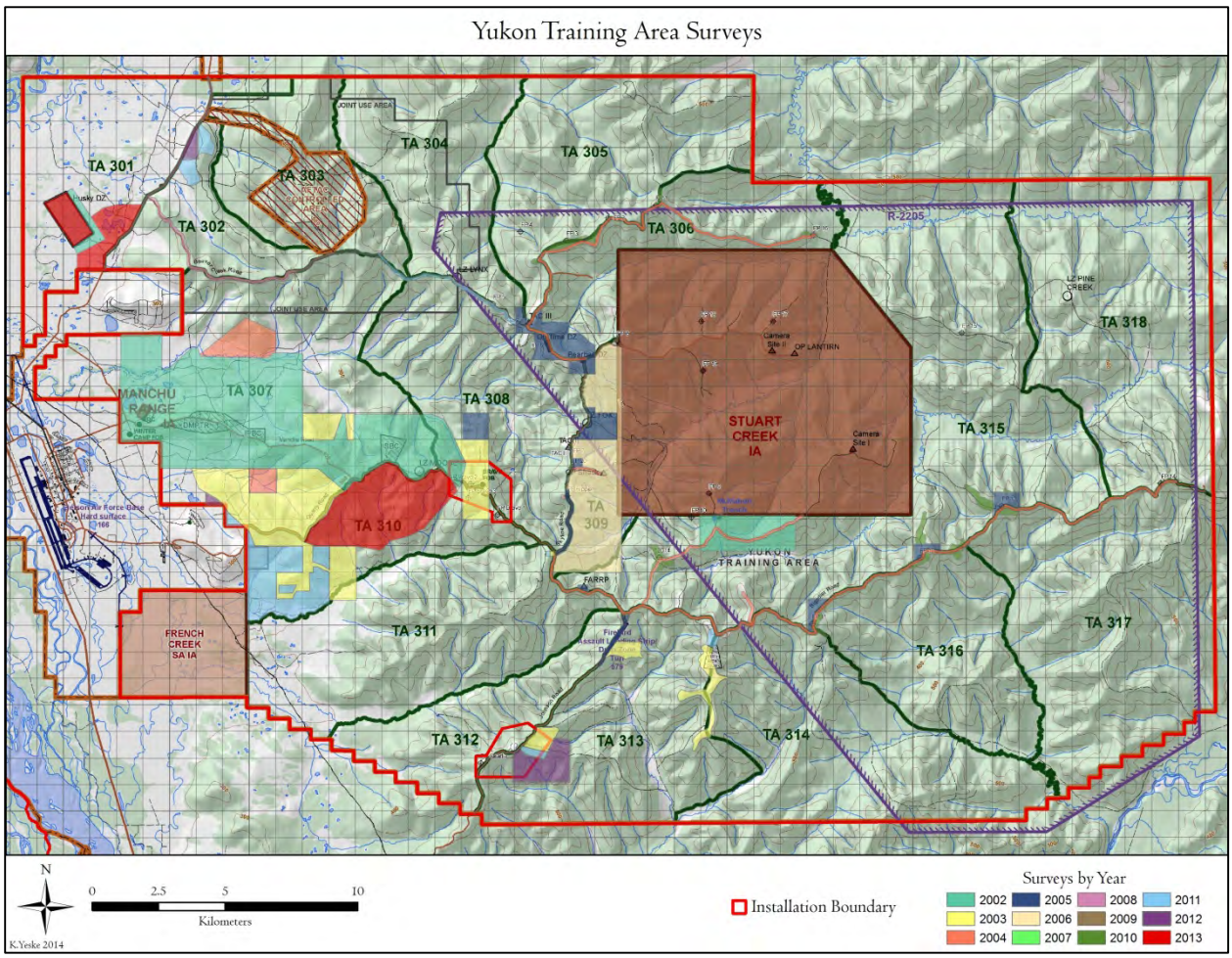

Figure 83. All surveys in YTA by year. Red areas were surveyed in 2013.

YTA New Sites

No new archaeological sites were discovered in the YTA in 2013.

YTA DOEs

Four sites in the YTA were evaluated for NRHP eligibility during the 2013 field season (Figure 84). One site (XBD-00369) was determined to be not eligible for the NRHP. The other three sites (XBD-00364, XBD-00368, and XBD-00370) could not fully be evaluated at this time. Although some work was completed to determine their significance, the nature of the sites did not allow for full determination; therefore, USAG FWA's finding of the sites remains "not evaluated".

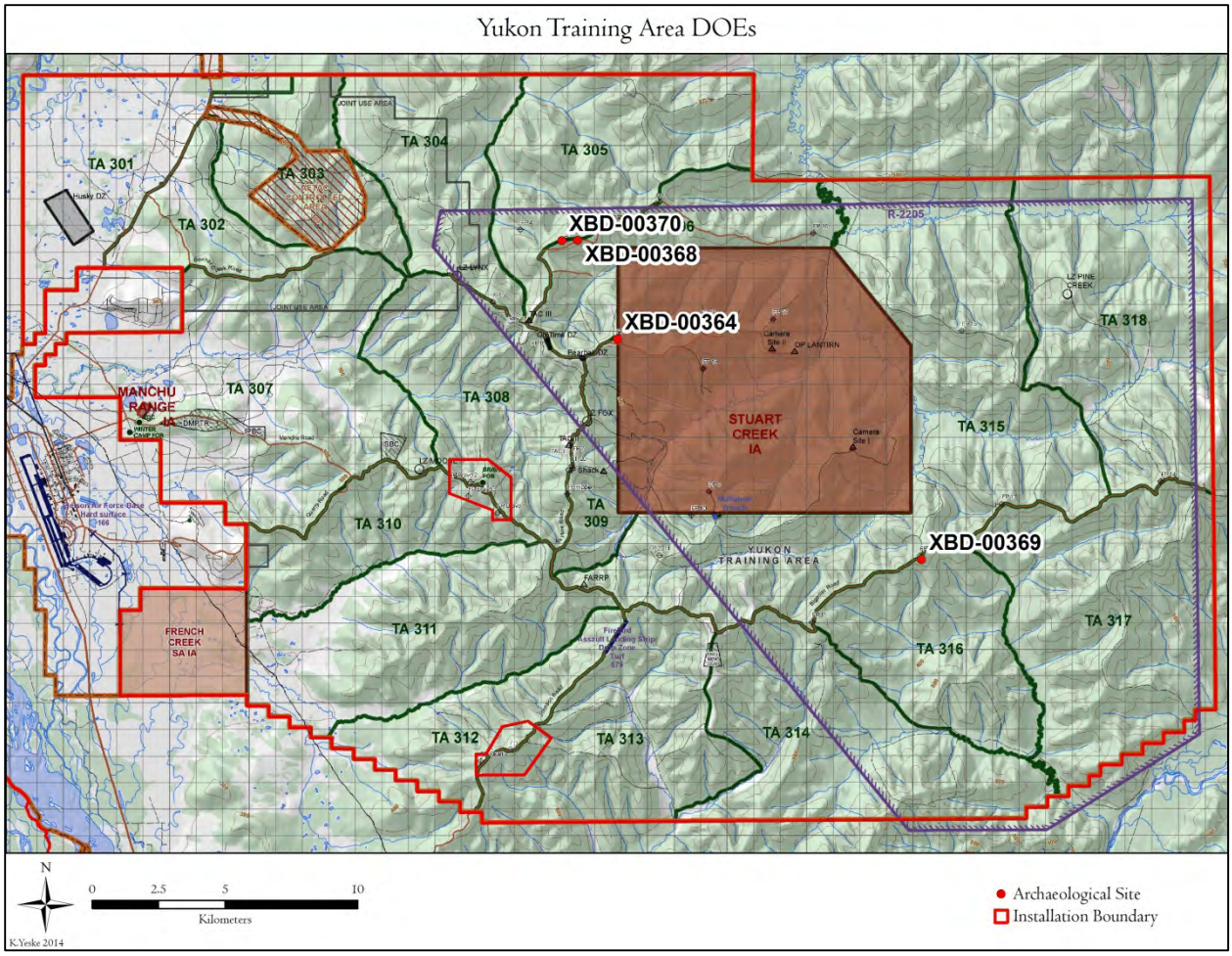

Figure 84. YTA 2013 DOE sites.

XBD-00364
Latitude: [redacted]
Longitude: [redacted]
UTM: [redacted]
Determination of Eligibility: Not evaluated

Site XBD-00364 is located at the crest of a hill off of Beaver Creek Road in the YTA, 50 km east of Fairbanks (Figure 84). The site is situated at the base of a schist bedrock outcrop on a hill that is the highest point amongst the surrounding hills in the vicinity. The outcrop is roughly 4 m in height and overhangs at roughly 50 degrees. Several large boulders, rock debris, and eboulis cover the base of the overhang.

The site was originally discovered by subsurface testing during a 2009 survey of the area. Two green-gray chert flakes were found in two separate test pits at a depth of 15-30 cmbs. Because

of the structure of the surrounding rock, the site was thought to be a collapsed rock shelter (Figure 85).

The site was revisited for more extensive shovel testing and to excavate a larger unit for a DOE during the fall of 2012. The surrounding terrain was mapped and a second possible rock shelter location was tested on the eastern side of the landform (Figure 86). None of the new shovel tests on either side of the landform contained cultural material.

A 1 x 2 m excavation unit was established at the base of the main outcrop over a positive test pit from the 2009 investigations (Figure 87). Excavations of the unit proceeded by unit quadrant in 10 cm levels. One green-gray chert flake was found in the eastern part of the unit at 26 cmbs and one green-gray chert flake was found in the western portion of the unit at 35 cmbs (UA2012-117-001 and 002).

Figure 85. XBD-00364 site overview in 2012, facing south.

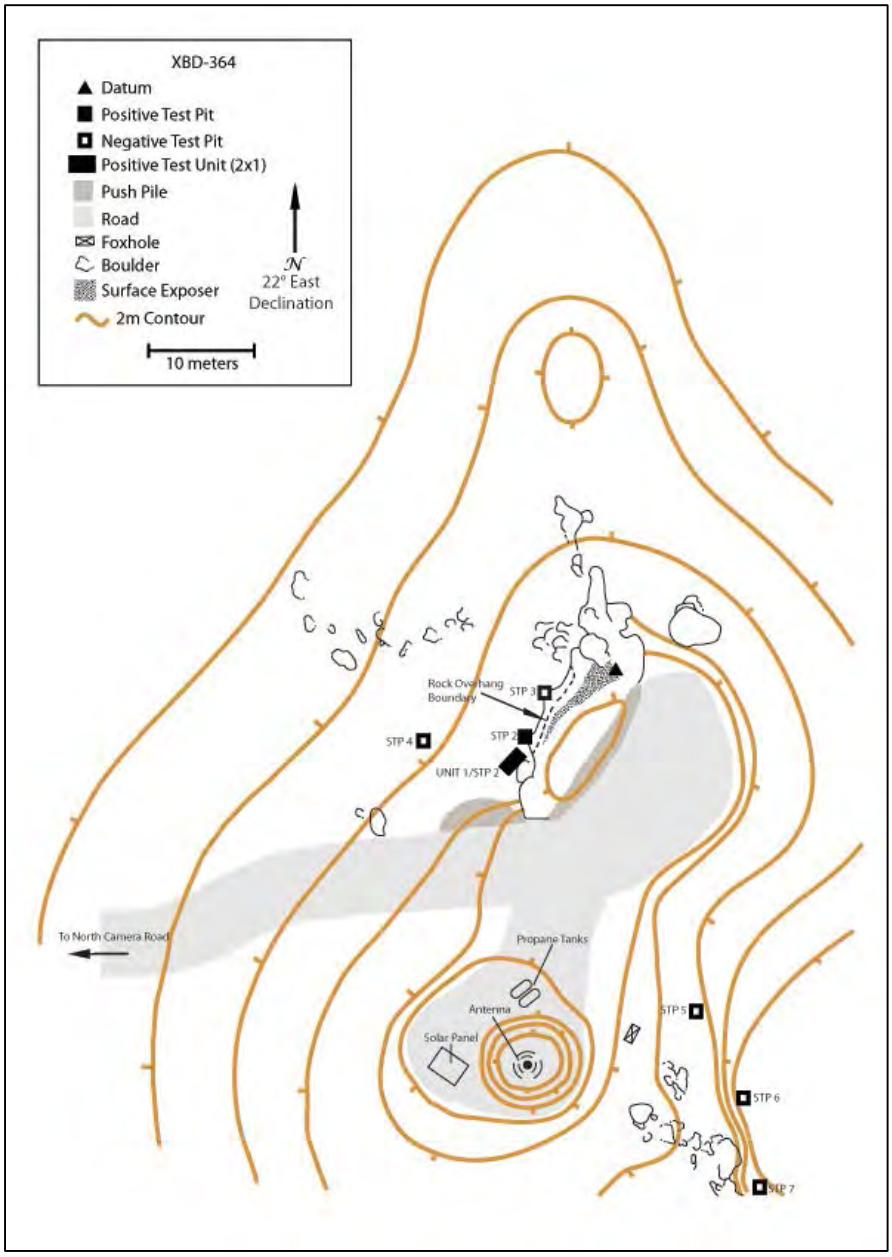

Figure 86. XBD-00364 site map.

The site matrix is made up of an O horizon covering silt and sandy silt deposits that are presumably a mixture of windblown sediments and deteriorating bedrock (Figure 88, Figure 89). Excavations were difficult because of all of the collapsed rock in the unit. There was a lot of evidence of recent military use of the site. Two-dozen drink and food cans were excavated under rock debris.

Although subsurface testing for site depth, boundaries, and significance was attempted during this fieldwork, the large number of schist rocks collapsed on top of sediment made it impossible

to figure out whether prehistoric cultural remains were limited to near-surface deposits or whether collapsed portions of the bedrock outcrop could be covering more archaeological material. To fully answer this question, a wide area would need to be uncovered and angular cobbles and large boulders would have to be removed. It is unclear from our investigation the depth at which firm bedrock would be encountered.

Figure 87. XBD-00364 excavation unit.

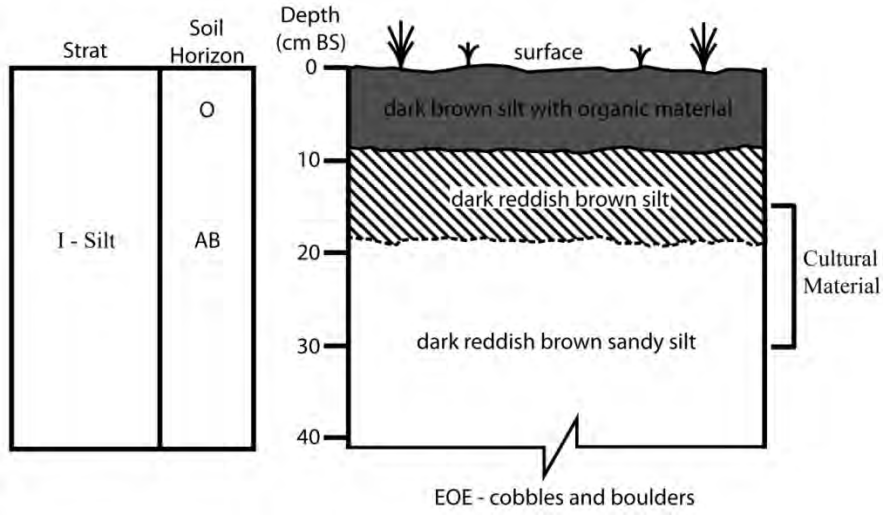

Figure 88. XBD-00364 stratigraphic profile.

Although these investigations made an honest effort to determine the nature and expanse of the cultural occupation at the site, little cultural material was found and significant resources would have to be put forward to reliably determine the significance of this site and its eligibility for the NRHP. Therefore, USAG FWA is leaving the status of this site as "not evaluated" until a future date when the site is threatened by development. Because the deposits are covered by rockfall, they are naturally protected from general use of the area.

Figure 89. XBD-00364 excavation unit profile.

XBD-00368
Latitude: [redacted]
Longitude: [redacted]
UTM: [redacted]
Determination of Eligibility: Not evaluated

Site XBD-00368 is located at the crest of a hill off of Beaver Creek Road in the YTA, 50 km east of Fairbanks (Figure 84). The site is at the base of the southern side of a large hill, approximately 2 m north of North Beaver Creek Road (Figure 90). The site boundaries are fairly restricted by an abandoned two-track 2-3 m northeast of the site, push piles 3-5 m west and southwest of the site, and North Beaver Creek Road 4 m south of the site datum. North of the site the terrain begins to climb at a 25° slope to the crest of the hill, approximately 50 m above the site. The terrain drops sharply (35°) to the south to the valley below. The nearest water source is a branch of Moose Creek, approximately 2.5 km north of the site. The location is south-facing with a limited viewshed due to topography and vegetation.

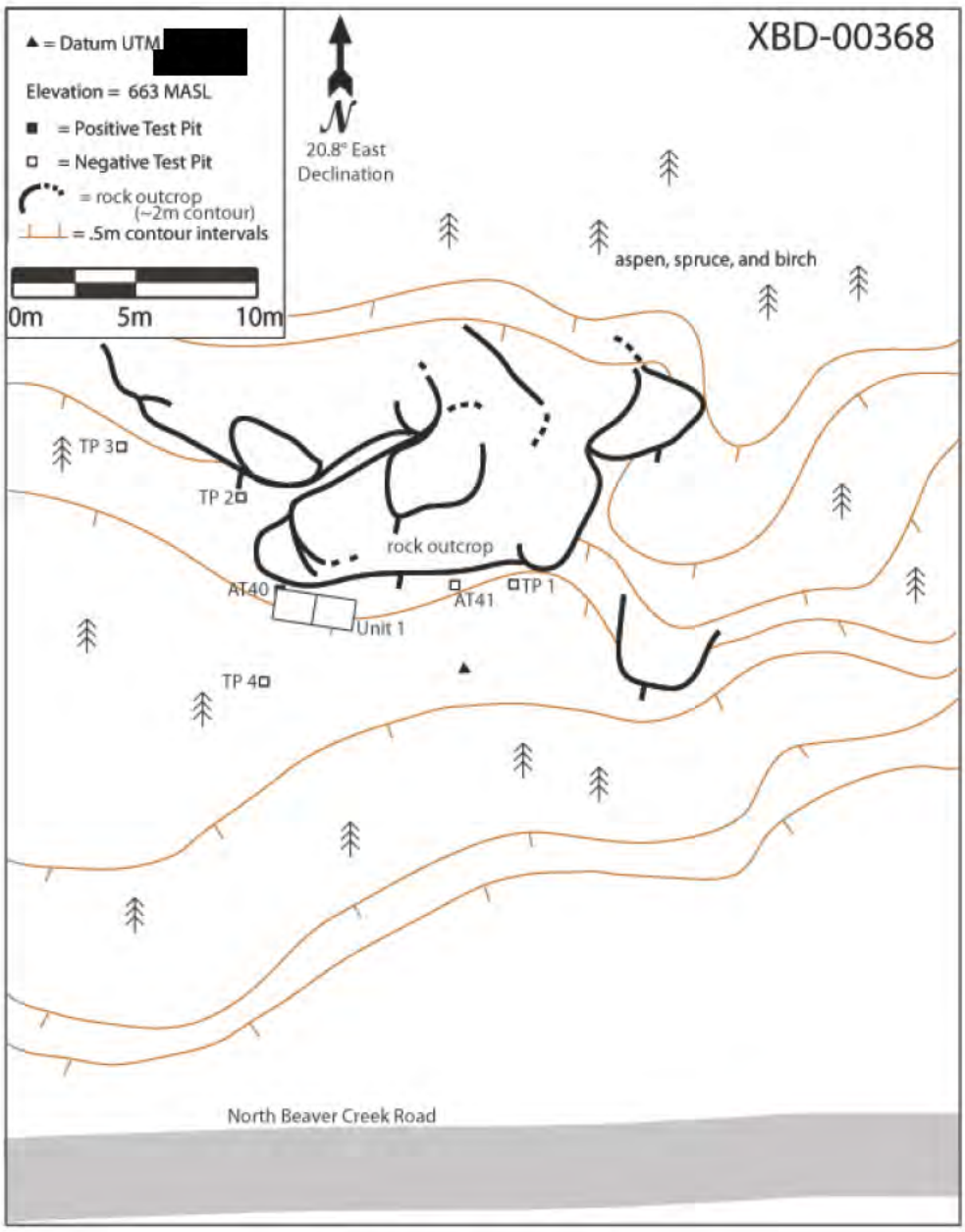

Figure 90. XBD-00368 site map.

Site XBD-00368 was identified though subsurface testing during a 2010 survey. One dark gray chert flake fragment was found in a test pit. The test pit was located at the base of a schist/quartz rock outcrop that rises approximately 2 m above the surrounding ground surface. It is possible that the site represents the remains of a collapsed rock shelter.

The site was revisited for more extensive shovel testing and to excavate a larger unit for a DOE during the fall of 2012. The surrounding terrain was mapped and shovel test pits were situated around the base of the schist outcrop (Figure 90). A 1 x 2 m excavation unit was placed over the

location of the previous positive test pit (Figure 91). No artifacts were found in the test pits, but 13 gray chert flakes were found in the excavation unit (UA2012-118-001 through 005). The flakes were all found in the north half of the unit from 15-45 cmbs. Nine of the flakes were found at a depth of 38 cmbs.

The stratigraphic profile in the excavation unit and test pits shows a 10 cm organic horizon overlying silt deposits (Figure 92, Figure 93, Figure 94). Soil development is very weak, and the matrix is interrupted by schist cobbles and boulders. The excavation unit reached 45 cmbs, where large rocks prevented further digging. However, test pits show that silt deposits reach at least 60 cmbs in some areas.

Although subsurface testing for site depth, boundaries, and significance was attempted during this fieldwork, the large number of schist rocks collapsed on top of sediment made it impossible to figure out whether prehistoric cultural remains were limited to near-surface deposits or whether collapsed portions of the bedrock outcrop could be covering more archaeological material. To fully answer this question, a wide area would need to be uncovered and angular cobbles and large boulders would have to be removed. It is unclear from our investigation the depth at which firm bedrock would be encountered.

Figure 91. XBD-00368 excavation unit.

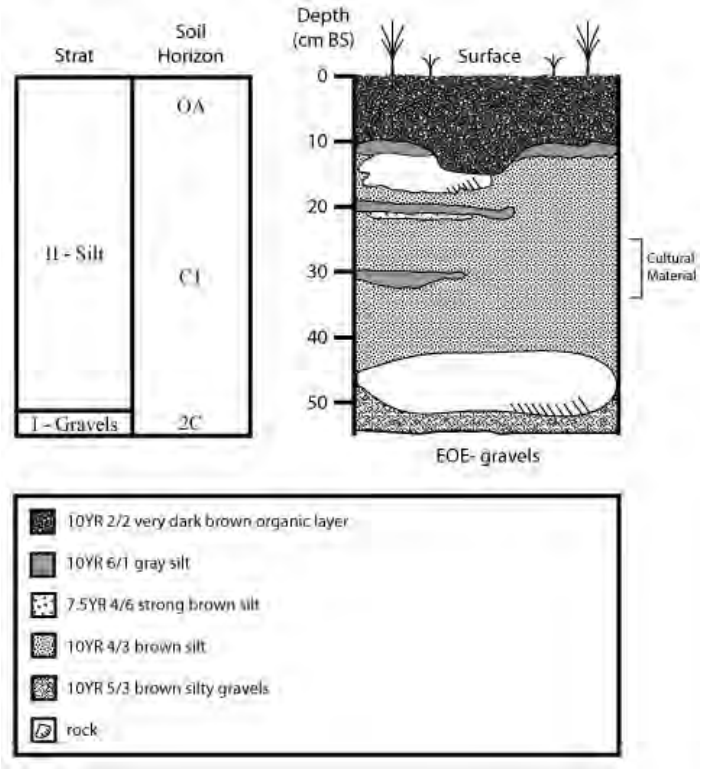

Figure 92. XBD-00368 stratigraphic profile.

Figure 93. XBD-00368 excavation unit profile.

Figure 94. XBD-00368 test pit.

Although these investigations made an honest effort to determine the nature and expanse of the cultural occupation at the site, little cultural material was found and significant resources would have to be put forward to reliably determine the significance of this site and its eligibility for the NRHP. Therefore, USAG FWA is leaving the status of this site as “not evaluated” until a future date when the site is threatened by development. Because the deposits are covered by rockfall, they are naturally protected from general use of the area.

XBD-00369
Latitude: [redacted]
Longitude: [redacted]
UTM: [redacted]
Determination of Eligibility: Not eligible

Site XBD-00369 is located on the southern slope of Brigadier Road in the YTA, 65 km east of Fairbanks. The site is situated on a narrow knoll which slopes steeply to the south and west (Figure 84, Figure 95). Brigadier Road is approximately 150 m north of the site. The nearest water source is an unnamed creek 1 km to the west. Spruce, birch, willow, lichen, and moss cover the site area (Figure 96).

The site was discovered during a road survey in 2010. One of two excavated test pits contained a white and black chert flake from 30-40 cmbs.

The site was revisited to evaluate its eligibility for the NRHP in September of 2013. A shovel test grid was set up over the site (Figure 95). No artifacts were found in any of the test pits. A thick (10 cm) organic horizon with sphagnum moss overlies a 10 cm thick B horizon made up of silt. Fractured bedrock increases towards the bottom of the test pits 30-40 cmbs (Figure 97, Figure 98).

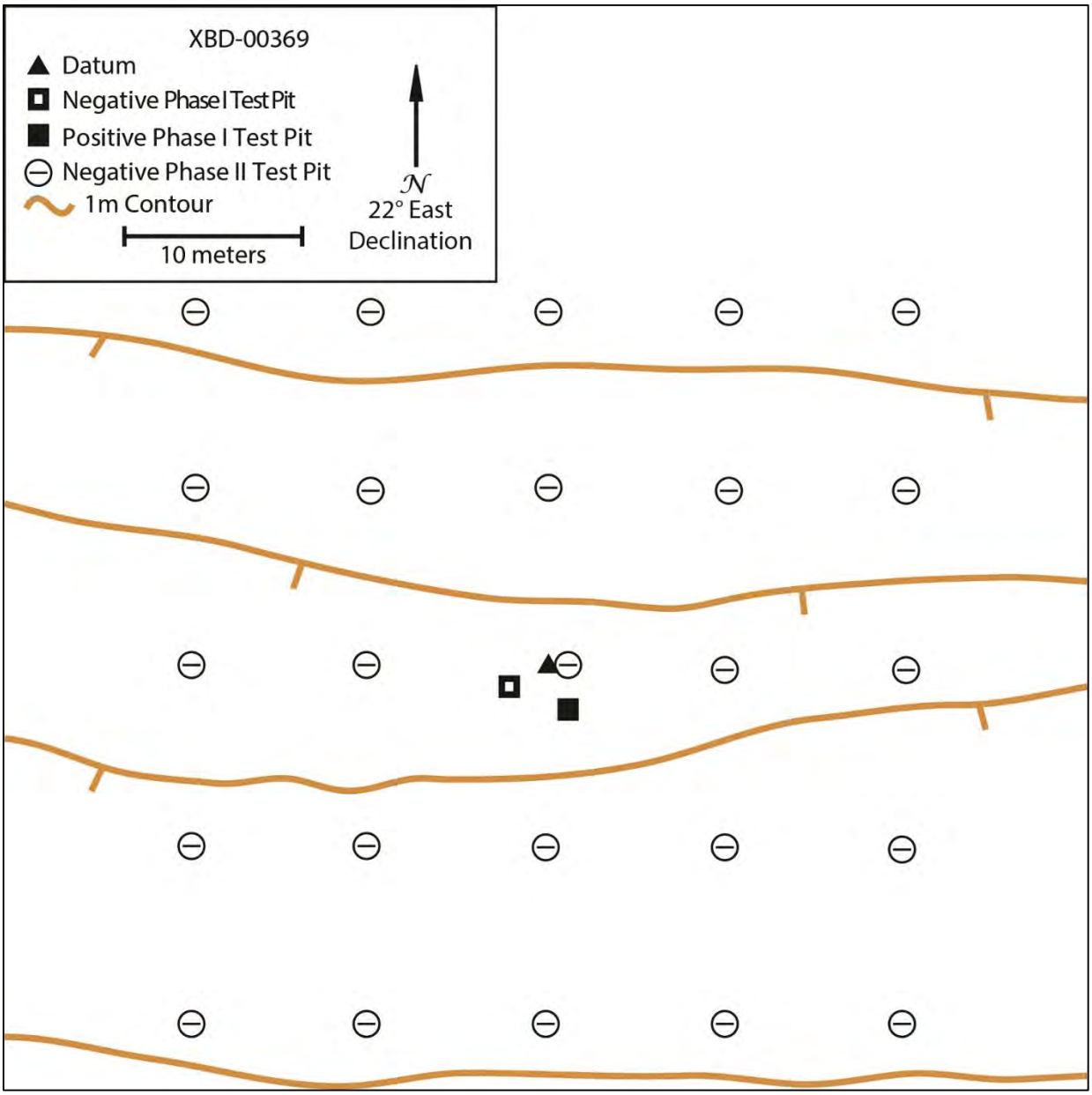

Figure 95. XBD-00369 site map.

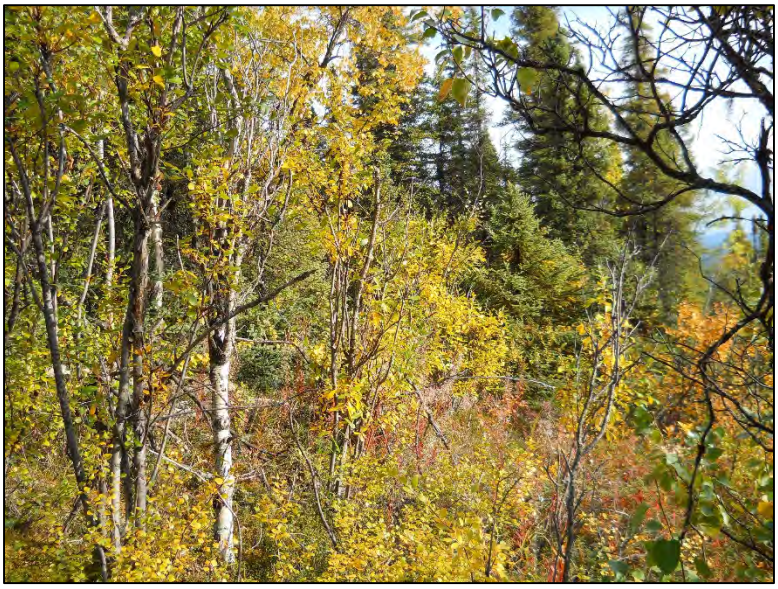

Figure 96. XBD-00369 site overview.

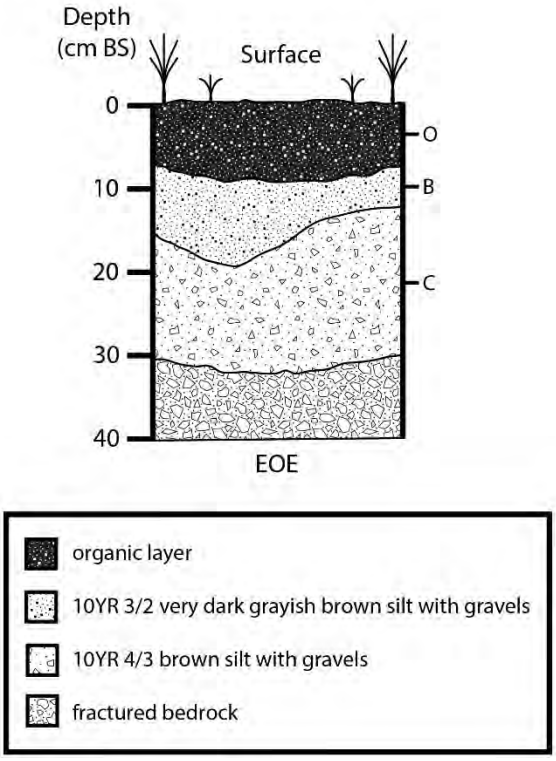

Figure 97. XBD-00369 stratigraphic profile.

Figure 98. XBD-00369 test pit.

Because only one flake was discovered upon original discovery of the site and no other flakes were found upon subsequent testing, USAG FWA finds XBD-000369 not eligible for inclusion in the NRHP.

XBD-00370
Latitude: [redacted]
Longitude: [redacted]
UTM: [redacted]
Determination of Eligibility: Not evaluated

Site XBD-00370 is located near the crest of a large hill north of North Beaver Creek Road in the YTA, 47 km east of Fairbanks (Figure 84). The site is situated at the base of a Birch Creek schist rock outcrop near the western crest terminus, 15 m south of a gravel two-track that splits off North Beaver Creek Road and bisects the hill west-east.

The site occupies a fairly level bench in surrounding terrain that slopes sharply down to North Beaver Creek Road. North of the site, the terrain climbs briefly to the crest of the hill before dropping down to the Hunts Creek drainage. Hunts Creek is approximately 1 km east of the site, is seasonally wet, and is the closest source of water. The site location provides a good viewshed to the south despite being partially obstructed by trees.

XBD-00370 was identified through subsurface testing in 2010. A single black chert flake was found in one of two excavated test pits.

The site was revisited to evaluate its eligibility for the NRHP in September of 2012. Four additional test pits and a 1 x 1 m unit were excavated at the base of the outcrop (Figure 99, Figure 100). The excavation unit was placed near the positive shovel test from the 2010 investigations. No artifacts were found in any of the test pits or the excavation unit.

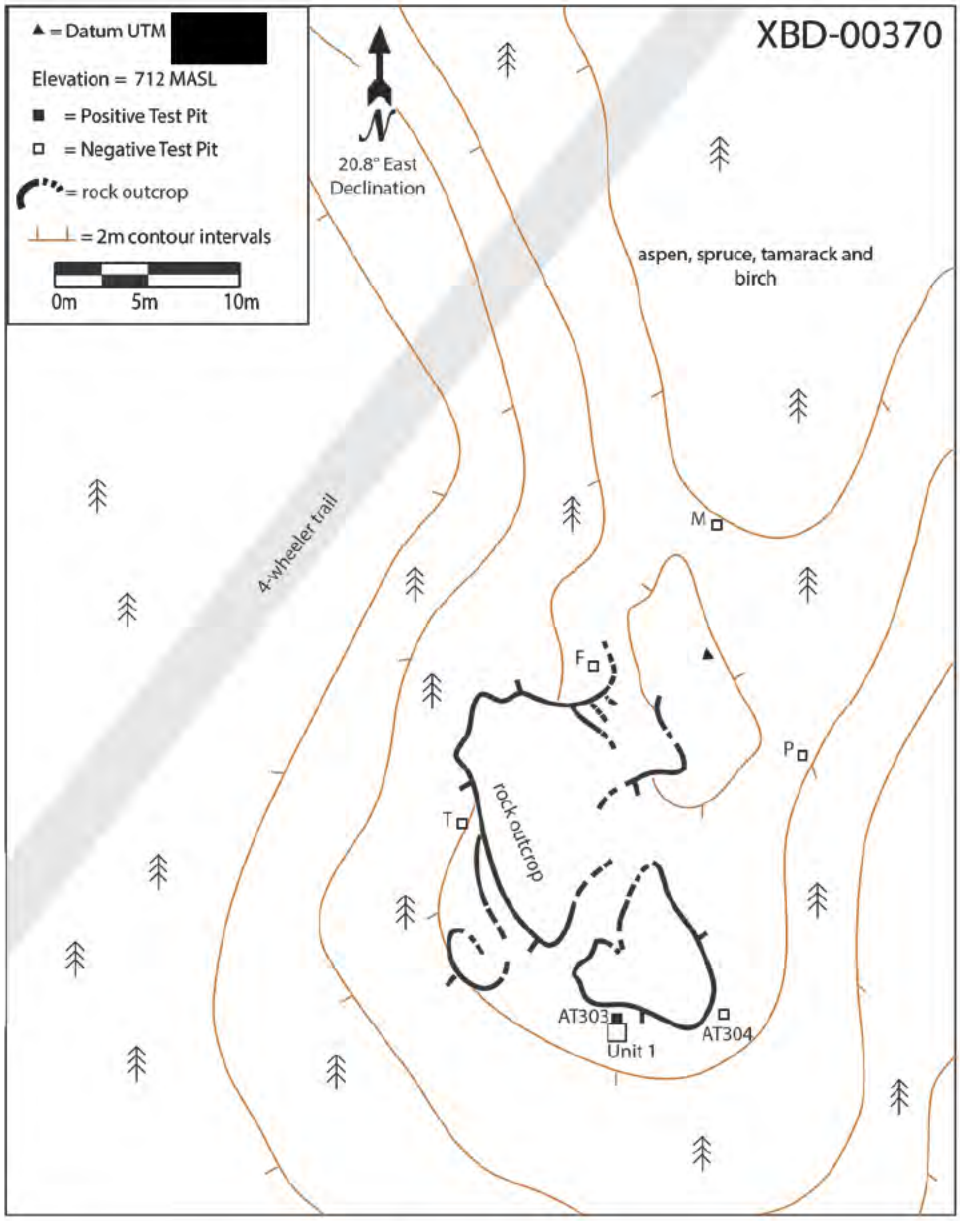

Figure 99. XBD-00370 site map.

The stratigraphic profile in the excavation unit and test pits show a thin 6 cm organic horizon overlying silt deposits (Figure 101). Soil development is very weak, and the matrix is interrupted by schist cobbles and boulders. The excavation unit reached 10-20 cmbs where large rocks prevented further digging. Test pits ended at bedrock between 20 and 67 cmbs.

Although subsurface testing for site depth, boundaries, and significance was attempted during this fieldwork, the large number of schist rocks collapsed on top of sediment made it impossible to figure out whether prehistoric cultural remains were limited to near-surface deposits or whether collapsed portions of the bedrock outcrop could be covering more archaeological material. To fully answer this question, a wide area would need to be uncovered and angular cobbles and large boulders would have to be removed. It is unclear from our investigation the depth at which firm bedrock would be encountered.

Although these investigations made an honest effort to determine the nature and expanse of the cultural occupation at the site, little cultural material was found and significant resources would have to be put forward to reliably determine the significance of this site and its eligibility for the NRHP. Therefore, USAG FWA is leaving the status of this site as “not evaluated” until a future date when the site is threatened by development. Because the deposits are covered by rockfall, they are naturally protected from general use of the area.

Figure 100. XBD-00370 excavation unit.

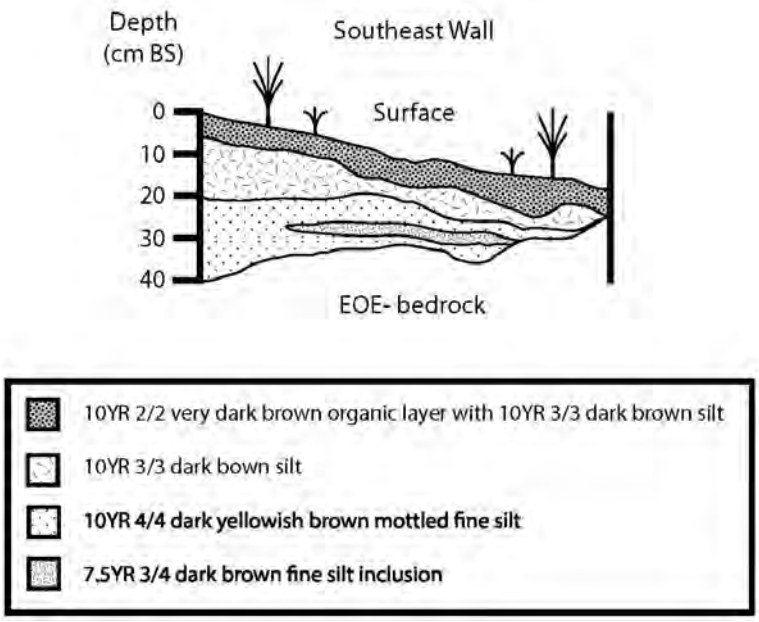

Figure 101. XBD-00370 stratigraphic profile.

2013 Donnelly Training Area Fieldwork

DTA Section 106 Activities

Much of the eastern portion of the DTA has been thoroughly surveyed for cultural resources over the past decade. Because of that, Army undertakings and trainings are often found in previously surveyed areas and Section 106 consultation is covered by USAG FWA's Operations and Maintenance Programmatic Agreement (Thomas 2014). New archaeological surveys for one undertaking requiring Section 106 consultation was completed in the DTA in 2013. Three hundred forty-five acres of land west of the Delta River in the northern portion of the DTA were surveyed for archaeological sites in 2013. This area is scheduled for vegetation removal through a timber sale. No archaeological sites were discovered and the SHPO concurred with a finding of No Historic Properties Affected for the undertaking on 19 November 2013.

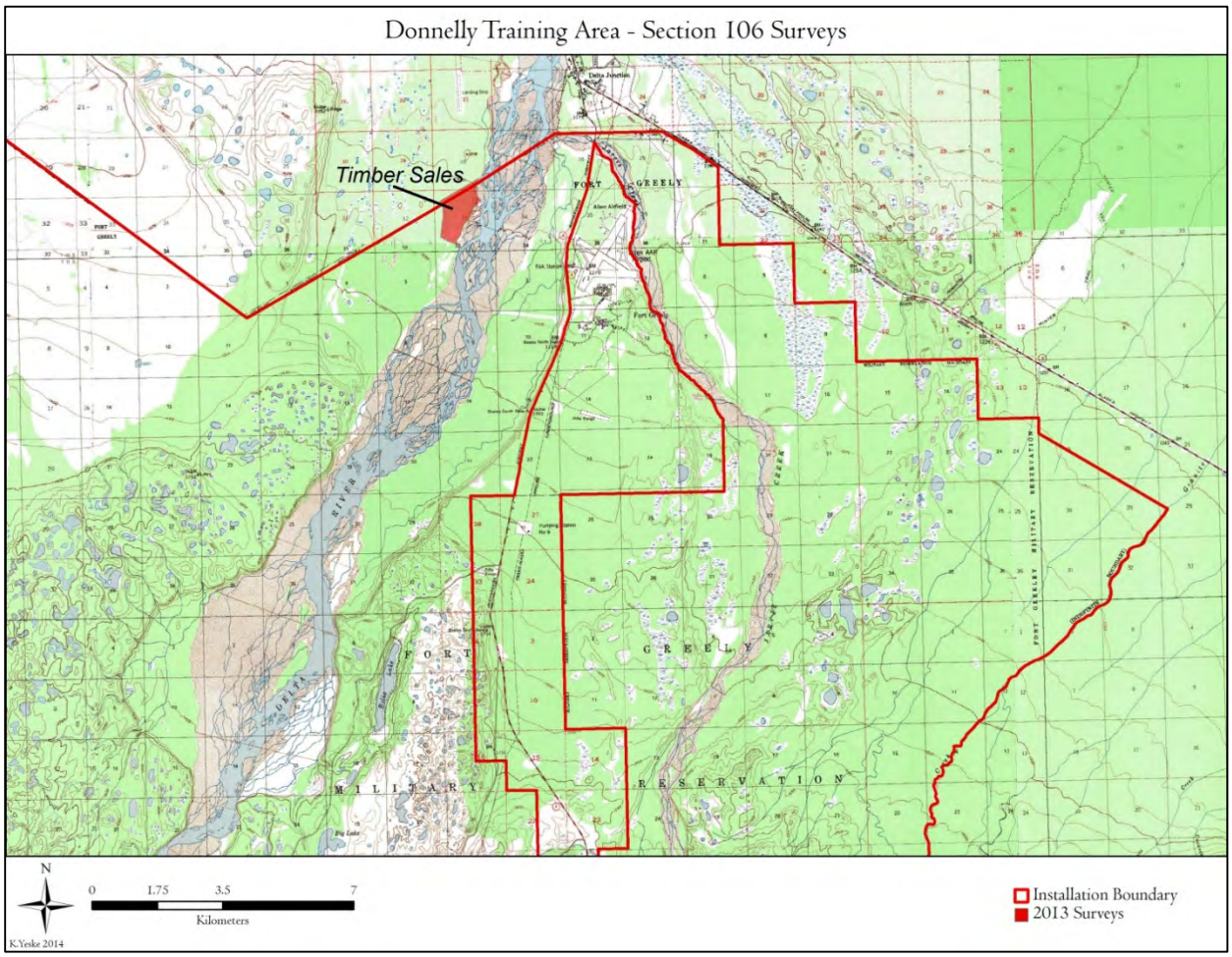

Figure 102. Section 106 projects in DTA during 2013.

DTA Surveys

A total of 1,696 acres of land were surveyed for archaeological sites by CEMML crews in the DTA during the 2013 field season. All highlighted areas in Figure 103 were covered by pedestrian transects, and shovel testing occurred on upland locations. Surveys were along an airstrip in DTA West, a timber survey west of the Delta River, and in DTA East in the southern portion of the BAX SDZ. Two new archaeological sites were discovered during these surveys.

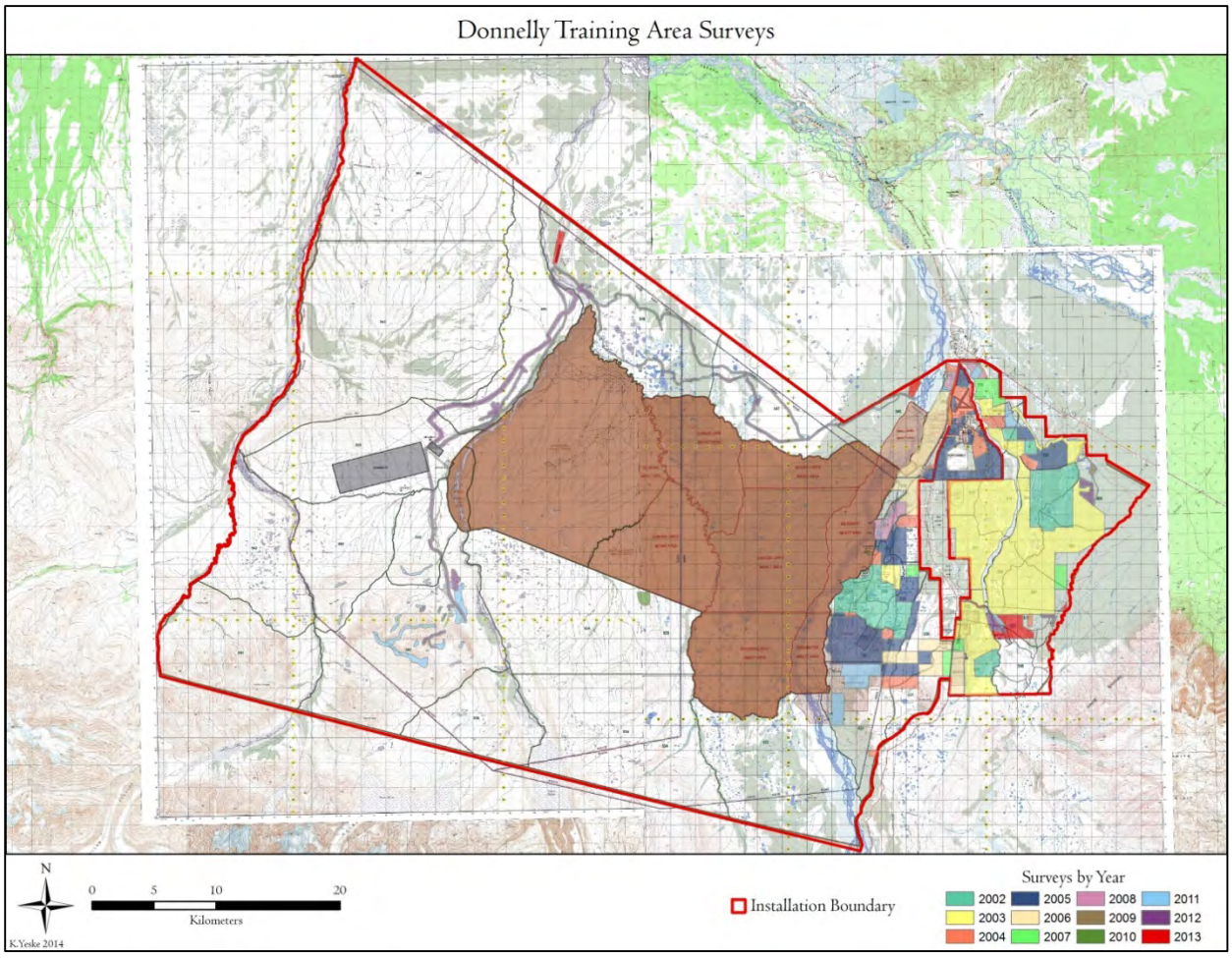

Figure 103. All surveys in DTA by year. The red areas were surveyed in 2013.

DTA New Sites

Two new archaeological sites were discovered in the DTA in 2013. Both were found during the BAX SDZ expansion surveys east of Jarvis Creek at the southern portion of 33 Mile Loop Road (Figure 104). Both new sites, XMH-01495 and XMH-01496, are small prehistoric lithic scatters.

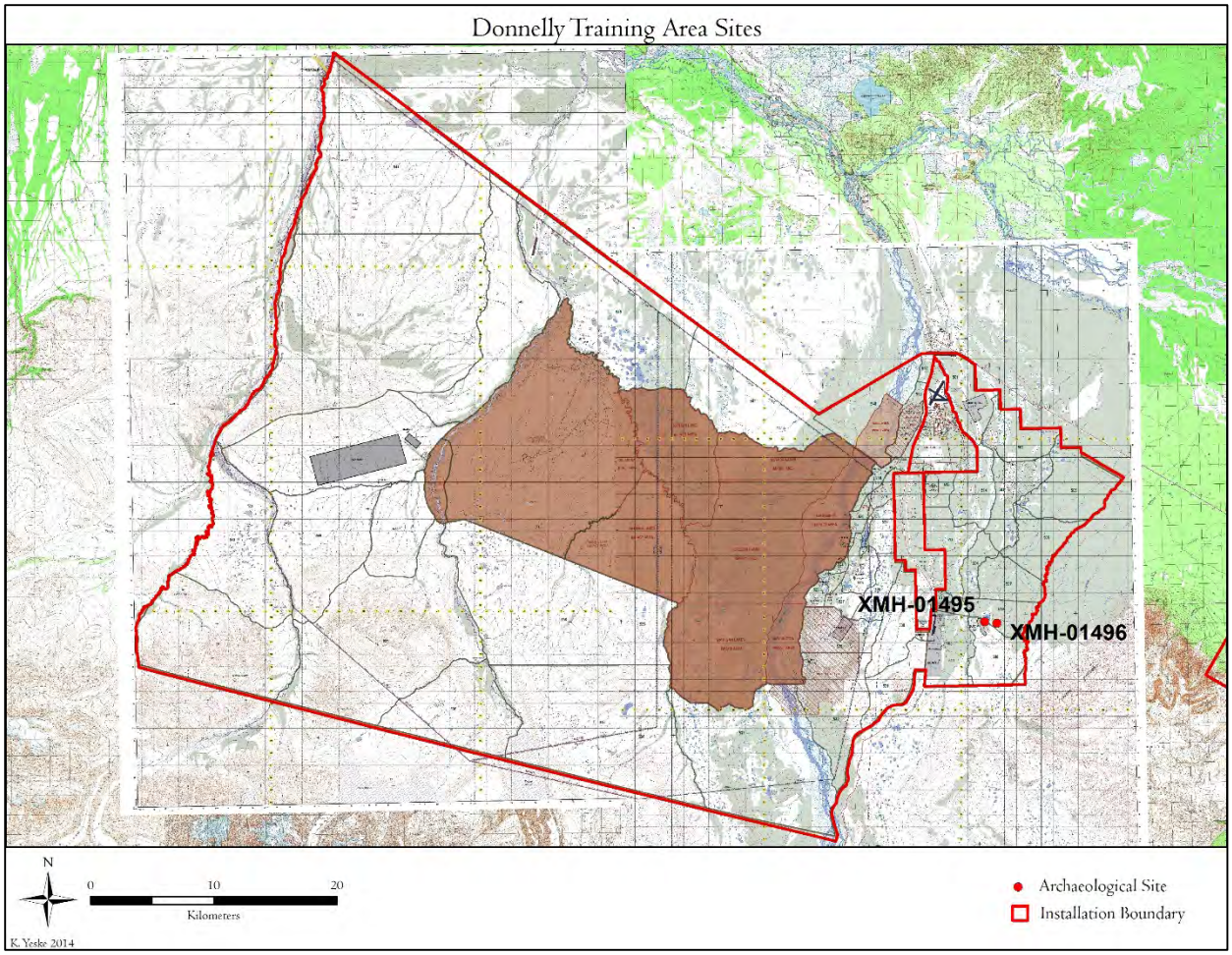

Figure 104. Sites discovered in DTA in 2013.

XMH-01495
Latitude: [redacted]
Longitude: [redacted]
UTM: [redacted]
Determination of Eligibility: Not eligible

XMH-01495 is located on a small glacial kame at the southern end of 33 Mile Loop Road, approximately 24 km south of Delta Junction (Figure 104). The knoll rises 10 m above the surrounding area and overlooks Butch Lake 200 m to the north (Figure 105). The viewshed includes Butch Lake to the north, the Granite Mountains to the east, and Donnelly Dome and the Alaska Range to the south and east. Vegetation includes crowberry, cranberry, scrub birch, and lichen (Figure 106).

A single chert uniface with retouched lateral edges was found on the surface and collected (UA2013-54-001). Eleven shovel test pits were excavated across the top of the knoll, but none

contained additional cultural material. The site appeared to be minimally disturbed by erosion and animal digging. The uniface appears to be an isolated artifact.

Shovel tests at the site reached approximately 38 cmbs and were terminated once glacial gravels were reached. The upper deposits are made of windblown silts with weak soil development. A thin elluvial horizon underlies a 5 cm thick organic horizon. Glacial gravels are increasingly mixed with aeolian deposits with depth in the profile (Figure 107, Figure 108).

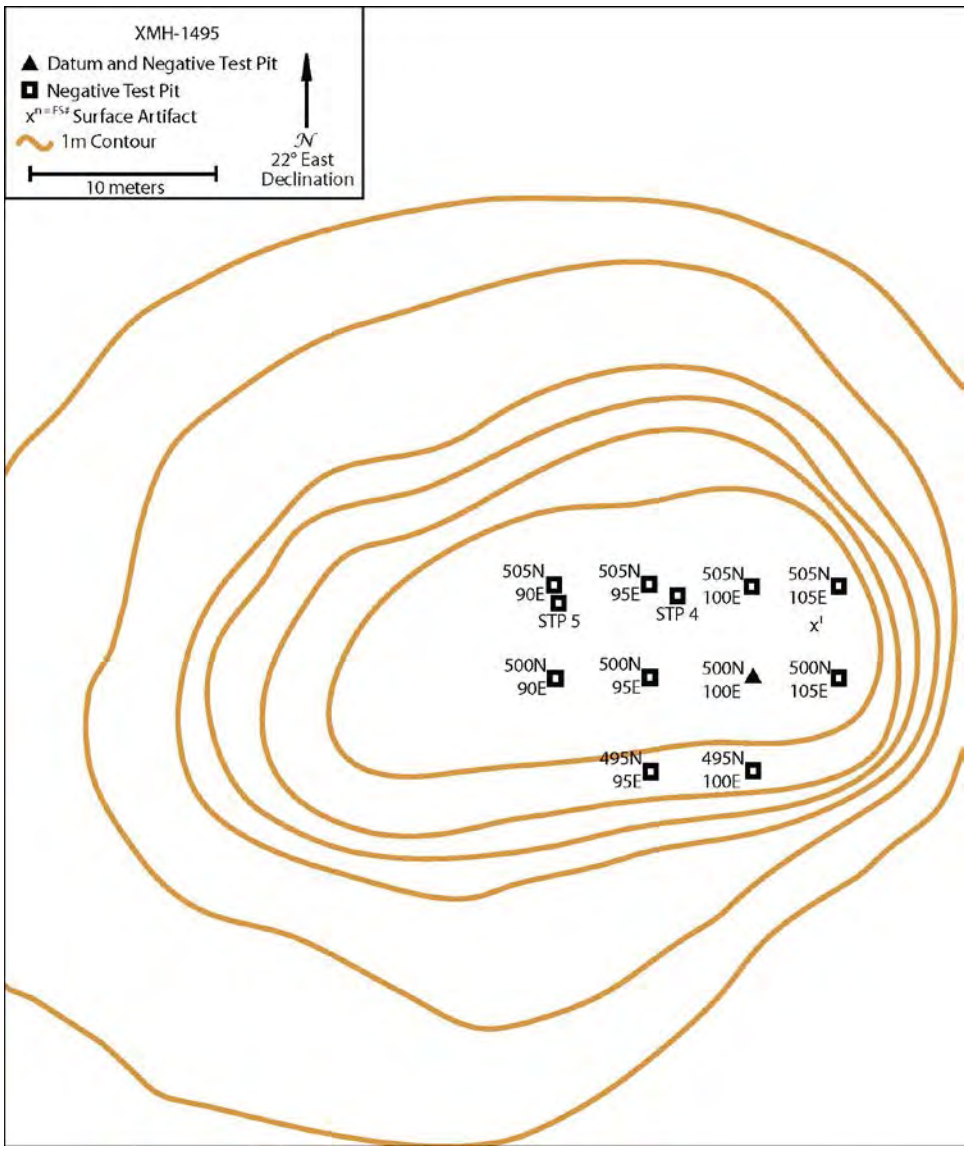

Figure 105. XMH-01495 site map.

Figure 106. XMH-01495 site overview.

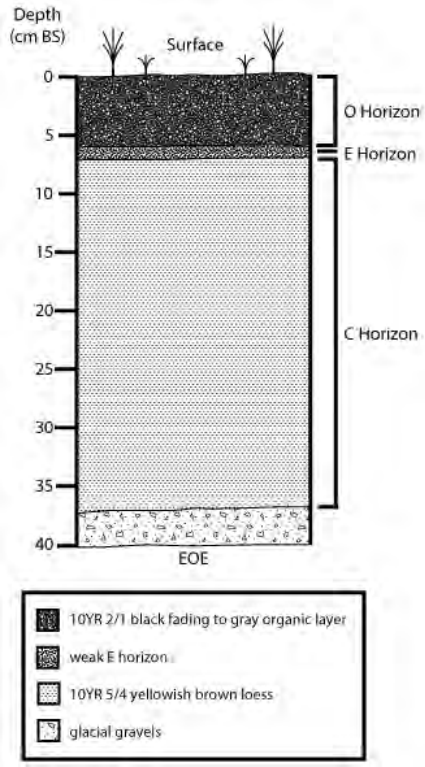

Figure 107. XMH-01495 stratigraphic profile.

After extensive surface and subsurface investigations over the top of the knoll on which the side scraper was discovered, no other archaeological material was found. The kame is a confined area and has been thoroughly examined. Because the site has no research potential

and the artifact is not unique and is out of context, USAG FWA has determined that XMH-01495 is not eligible for the NRHP.

Figure 108. XMH-01495 test pit

XMH-01496
Latitude: [redacted]
Longitude: [redacted]
UTM: [redacted]
Determination of Eligibility: Not eligible

XMH-01496 is located on a glacial kame deposit at the southern end of 33 Mile Loop Road, approximately 24 km south of Delta Junction (Figure 104). The knoll rises 10 m above the surrounding area and overlooks Butch Lake 600 m to the northwest (Figure 109). The viewshed includes Butch Lake to the northwest, Jarvis Creek 1 km to the west, the Granite Mountains to the east, and Donnelly Dome and the Alaska Range to the south and west. Vegetation includes crowberry, cranberry, scrub birch, and lichen (Figure 110). The surface visibility at the site is high.

A broken chert biface and 11 flakes were found on the surface in a 2 x 8 m area and collected (UA2013-55-001 through 010). The biface and nine of the flakes were made from a purple and white cryptocrystalline silicate. The remaining two flakes are gray chert. Eleven shovel tests pits were excavated across the top of the knoll but none contained additional cultural material.

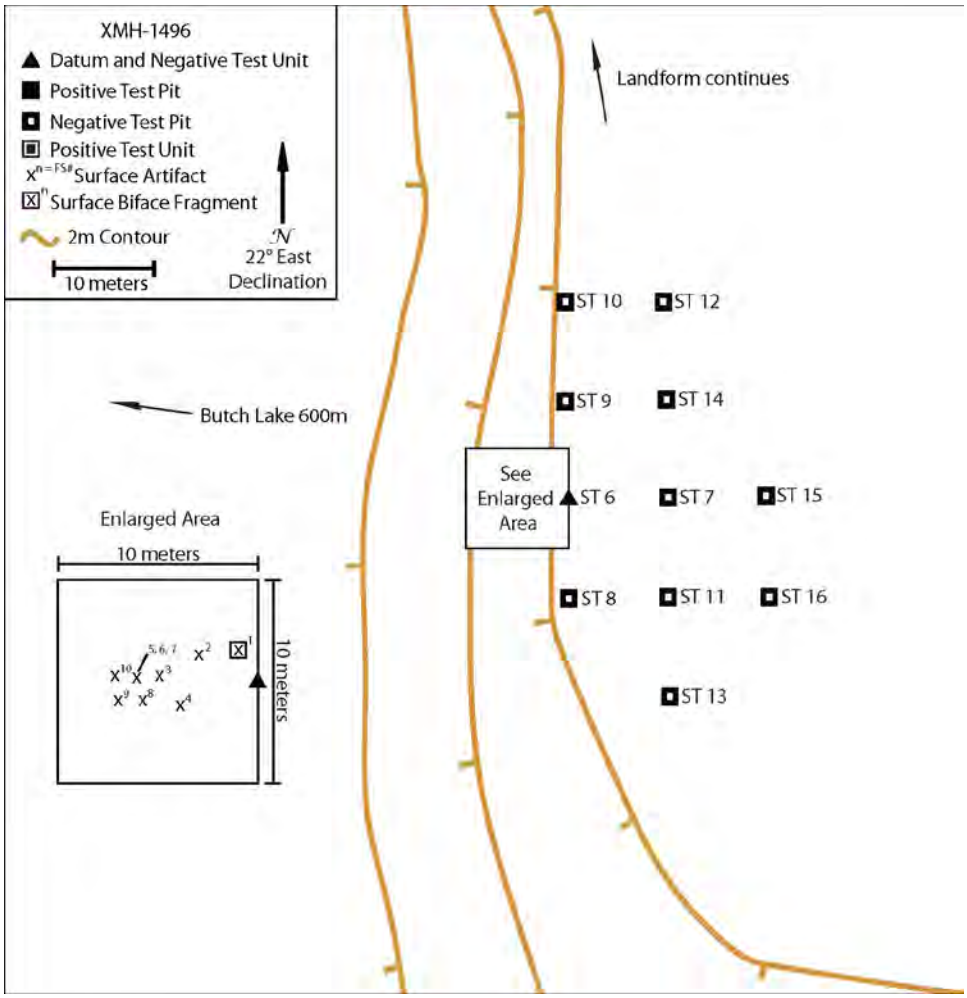

Figure 109. XMH-01496 site map.

Shovel tests at the site reached 38-52 cmbs and were terminated once glacial gravels were encountered. The upper deposits are made of windblown silts with weak soil development. A thin elluvial horizon underlies a 5 cm thick organic horizon. Glacial gravels are increasingly mixed with aeolian deposits with depth in the profile (Figure 111, Figure 112).

After extensive surface and subsurface investigations over the top of the knoll on which the biface and flakes were discovered, no other archaeological material was found. Because the site was thoroughly examined and has no further research potential, and the artifacts are not datable, unique, or in context, USAG FWA has determined that XMH-01496 is not eligible for the NRHP.

Figure 110. XMH-01496 site overview.

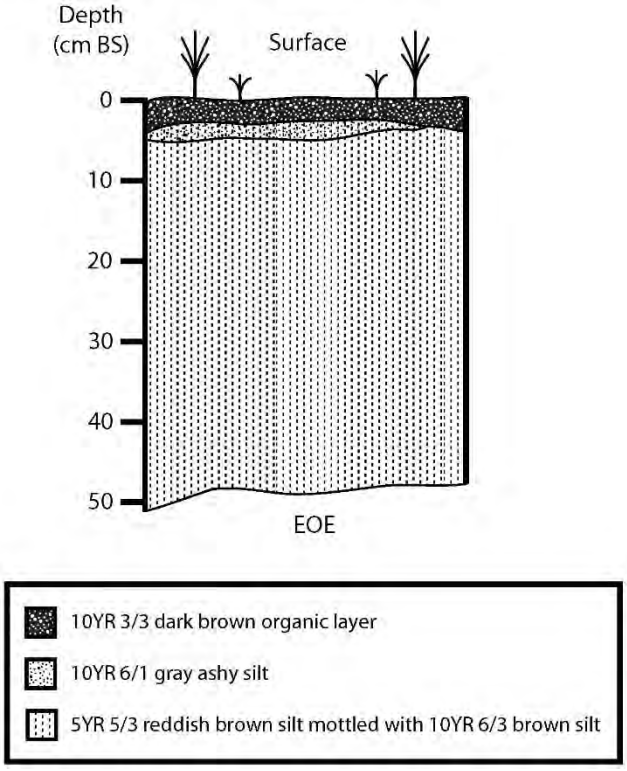

Figure 111. XMH-01496 stratigraphic profile.

Figure 112. XMH-01496 test pit.

DTA DOEs

Thirteen sites were evaluated for NRHP eligibility in the DTA during the 2013 field season (Figure 113). One of the sites, XBD-00110, was previously found eligible, but new boundaries for the site were established during the current investigation. Two of the sites, XMH-01495 and XMH-01496, were newly found and determined ineligible for the NRHP at the same time (see previous section, “DTA New Sites”). Of the remaining ten sites, one was found to be eligible for the NRHP and nine were found to be ineligible.

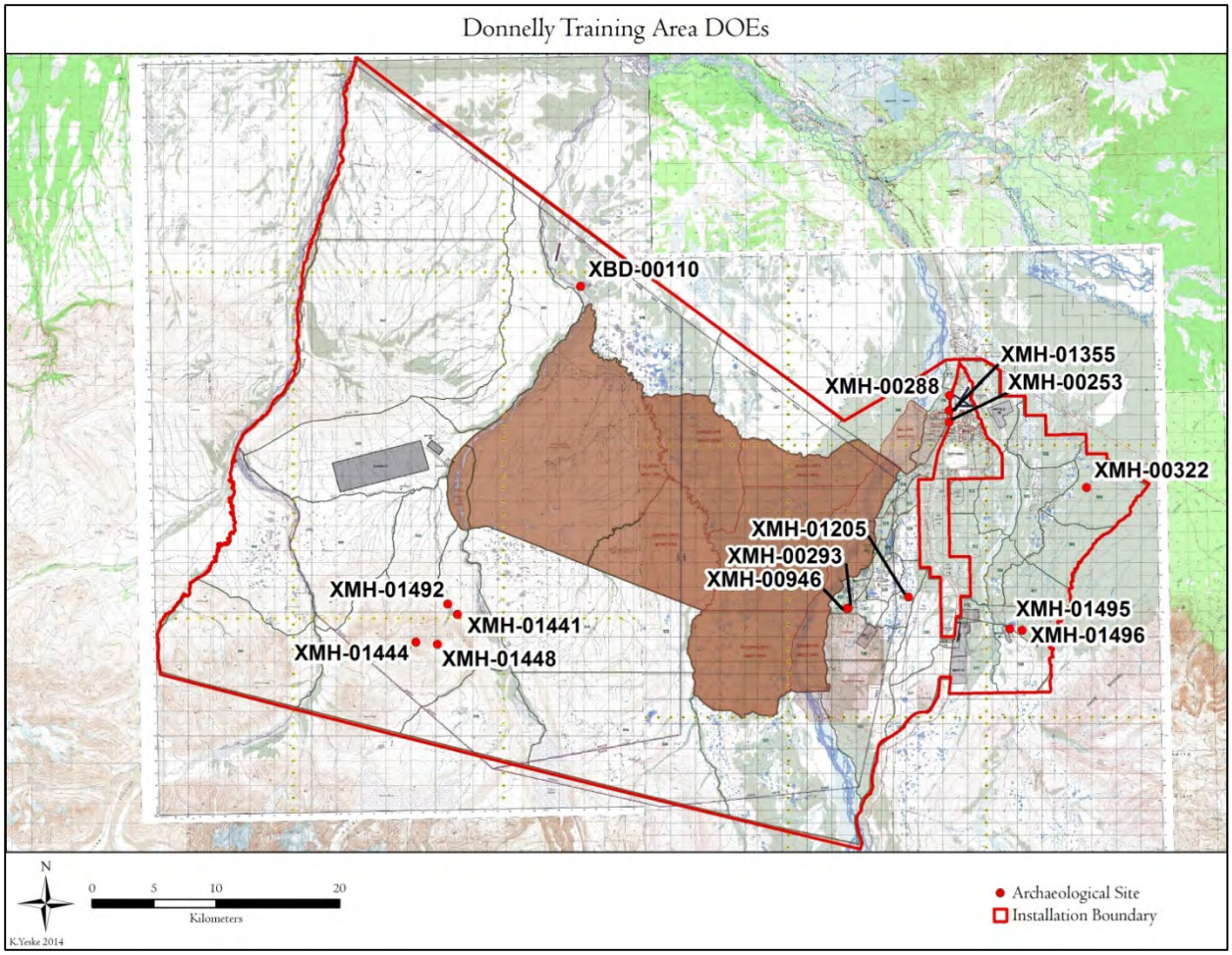

Figure 113. DTA 2013 DOE sites.

XBD-00110
Latitude: [redacted]
Longitude: [redacted]
UTM: [redacted]
Determination of Eligibility: Eligible 10/02/1984

XBD-00110 is located on a 30 m high bluff overlooking Delta Creek to the south, approximately 20 km west of Delta Junction (Figure 113). The site was originally discovered during a 1978 survey when chert flakes and animal bone were found eroding out of at least three localities along the bluff edge over a span of 150 m. (Bacon and Holmes 1980) (Figure 114). Charcoal samples taken from the site yielded dates of 2,645 and 4,030 radiocarbon years BP. The site was later relocated, mapped, and tested by NLUR in 1998 (NLUR 1999). NLUR found flakes eroding out of the bluff edge and determined that the 1978 excavation areas had suffered little

erosion over the intervening two decades. They excavated a small test unit but found no additional cultural information.

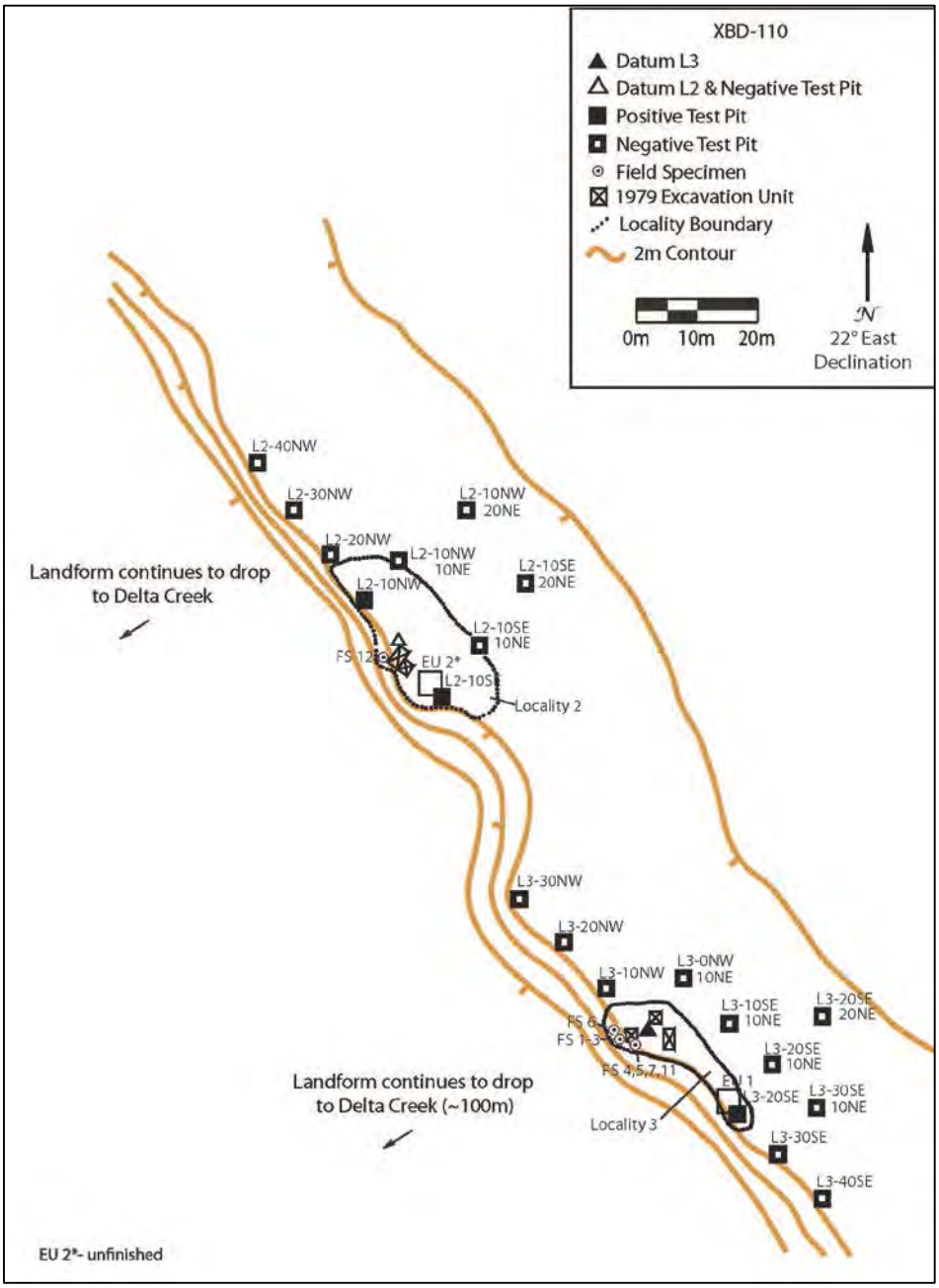

Figure 114. XBD-00110 site map.

In order to establish boundaries for the existing eligible site, XBD-00110 was revisited again during the 2012 field season. Views to the southwest beyond the bluff edge and over Delta Creek are largely unobstructed, but spruce forest covers the site north and east of the bluff edge (Figure 115). Two localities were relocated (Locality 2 and 3) and the site was

photographed and mapped. Twenty-one shovel tests were excavated in intervals of 10 m away from the bluff edge (Figure 114). Three shovel test pits were positive for cultural material yielding 112 additional gray chert flakes (Table 3). Two of these shovel tests were near Locality 2 (92 flakes) and the third was in the proximity of Locality 3. All artifacts cluster very close to the bluff edge. Although artifacts were found in the sediment at the bluff edge, the bluff does not appear to be undergoing any significant erosion.

Figure 115. XBD-00110 site overview.

Table 3. XBD-00110 accession log.

Accession Number	Artifact	Provenience	Depth (cmbs)	Material Type	Lot Count
UA2012-087-0001	Flake	NW bluff	47	Chert	1
UA2012-087-0002	Flake	NW bluff	47	Chert	1
UA2012-087-0003	Flakes	NW bluff	47	Chert	2
UA2012-087-0004	Flake	SE bluff next to Loc 3	n/a	Chert	1
UA2012-087-0005	Flakes	SE of Loc 3 on bluff	40-50	Chert	8
UA2012-087-0006	Flakes	NW bluff Loc 3	35-45	Chert	2
UA2012-087-0007	Charcoal	SE bluff Loc 3	81	Charcoal	1
UA2012-087-0008	Flakes	EU1 20S 5E	50-60	Chert	10
UA2012-087-0009	Flakes	EU1 20S 5E	60-70	Chert	9
UA2012-087-0010	Flake	EU1 20S 5E	70-80	Chert	1
UA2012-087-0011	Flake	SW bluff	49	Chert	1
UA2012-087-0012	Flakes	EU1 20S 5E	55-60	Chert	24
UA2012-087-0013	Flakes	EU1 20S 5E W1/4	55-60	Chert	26
UA2012-087-0014	Flakes	EU1 20S 5E	55-60	Chert	27

UA2012-087-0015	Flakes	EU1 20S 5E W1/4	60-65	Chert	69
UA2012-087-0016	Flakes	EU1 20S 5E E1/4	60-65	Chert	16
UA2012-087-0017	Flakes	EU1 20S 5E S1/4	60-65	Chert	13
UA2012-087-0018	Flakes	EU1 20S 5E N1/4	65-70	Chert	4
UA2012-087-0019	Flakes	EU1 20S 5E E1/4	65-70	Chert	3
UA2012-087-0020	Flakes	EU1 20S 5E SE	1-20	Chert	5
UA2012-087-0021	Flake	EU1 20S 5E W1/4	70-75	Chert	1
UA2012-087-0022	Flake	EU1 20S 5E S1/4	70-75	Chert	1
UA2012-087-0023	Charcoal	EU1 20S 5E	69	Charcoal	1
UA2012-087-0024	Charcoal	EU1 20S 5E	89	Charcoal	1
UA2012-087-0025	Charcoal	EU1 20S 5E	65	Charcoal	1
UA2012-087-0026	Bone	L2 10SE	30	Rodent bone	1
UA2012-087-0027	Flakes	L2 10SE	115-125	Chert	49
UA2012-087-0028	Flakes	L2 10SE	125-135	Chert	24
UA2012-087-0029	Flakes	L2 10SE	135-145	Chert	3
UA2012-087-0030	Flakes	L2 10SE	155-159	Chert	1
UA2012-087-0031	Flakes	L2 10SE	wall flakes	Chert	14
UA2012-087-0032	Charcoal	L2 10SE	59	Charcoal	1
UA2012-097-0033	Flake	L2 10NW	50-60	Charcoal	1
UA2012-087-0034	Flakes	L2 trench profile cleaning	NW wall	Chert	17
UA2012-087-0035	Flakes	L2 unit on bluff edge	NW wall	Chert	9
UA2012-087-0036	Flake	L3 unit on bluff edge		Chert	1
UA2012-087-0037	Flake	L2 NW wall	10-39	Chert	14
UA2012-087-0038	Charcoal	L2 NE wall, 1978 unit profile	77	Charcoal	1
UA2012-087-0039	Charcoal	L2 NW wall, 1978 unit profile	85-90	Charcoal	1

One unit was excavated from each of the two relocated artifact localities. EU1, in Locality 3, was excavated to 90 cmbs. Excavation stopped due to time constraints and the unit was not completed. Only 10 cm of EU2, in Locality 2, was excavated. Most of the information about natural and cultural strata at the site comes from the three positive shovel test pits. EU1 contained flakes from 50-90 cmbs. Test pit 20SE, also in Locality 3, had 20 gray chert flakes in the same depth range. Flakes in two shovel tests in Locality 2 (10NW and 10SE, contained flakes significantly deeper, 110-160 cmbs. Test pit 10SE was excavated through the thick loess cap to glacial gravels at 160 cmbs (Figure 116).

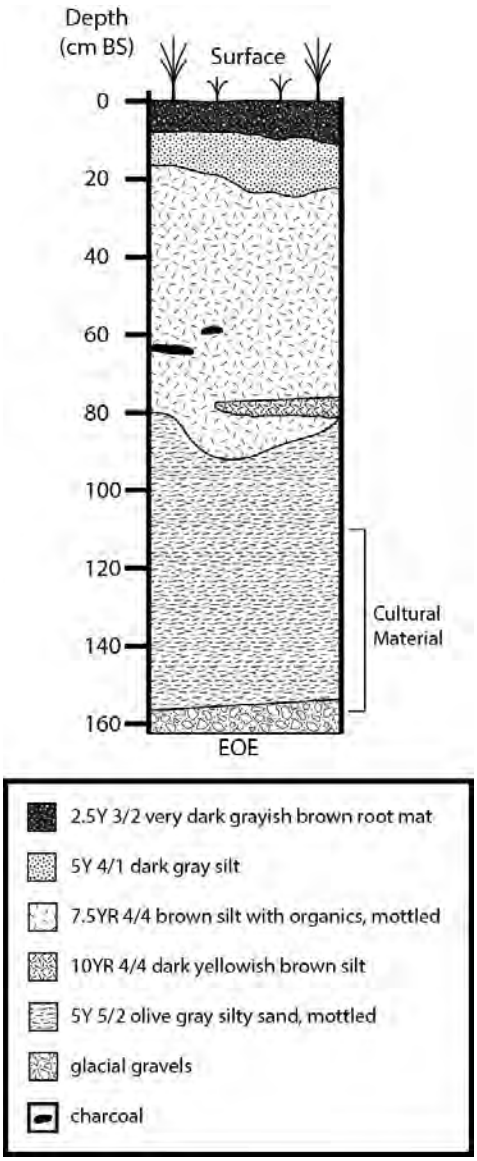

Figure 116. XBD-00110 stratigraphic profile from test pit 10SE.

A thick loess cap overlies glacial gravel deposits at XBD-00110. Weak palaeosols may be present but are difficult to see within the small excavation unit profiles (Figure 117). Silts are capped with a 10 cm thick organic horizon, and a B horizon of the modern soil is evident in the first 20 cm from the ground surface (Figure 116).

Test pits and excavations demonstrate that there is a significant amount of cultural material still buried deeply in multiple localities at the site. The site appears to be restricted to very near the bluff edge. Test pits even 10 m back from the edge contained no cultural material. The presence of stratified silts and charcoal preserved within the deposit makes it very likely that the cultural deposits could be dated in future investigations. The site has multiple raw material

types and a large number of flakes. USGA FWA finds no change in integrity or status of XBD-00110 and the site is still eligible for the NRHP.

Figure 117. XBD-00110 excavation unit/test pit/bluff edge stratigraphy.

XMH-00253
Latitude: [redacted]
Longitude: [redacted]
UTM: [redacted]
Determination of Eligibility: Not eligible

Site XMH-00253 was found on a glacial outwash terrace overlooking the Delta River during a 1976 survey of the Richardson Highway (Rabich and Reger 1978). The site was located on a small rise approximately 150 m west of the highway across from the main gate of Fort Greely, 6 km south of Delta Junction (Figure 113). The site was investigated in 1977 and numerous artifacts were found on the surface of a clearing. The outwash gravels were exposed and very little in the way of silt deposits remained in the cleared area. These artifacts included flakes, scrapers, microblade cores, microblades, core rejuvenation flakes, a core tablet, a burin, and burin spalls, some of which were made from an uncommon dark red chert or jasper (UA77-057;

UA78-484; and UA82-148) (Holmes 1979b, Rabich and Reger 1978). In 2003, the site was revisited. Although the exact location of the site could not be determined, no artifacts were found near the described area or the coordinates. A gravel pit in the vicinity of the coordinates had been developed since 1977 and may have completely destroyed the site.

The site was revisited for a DOE on 10 June 2013. Four test pits were excavated close to the coordinates in an undisturbed portion of land just outside of the gravel pit. No artifacts were found. It was determined that the site was probably located where the gravel pit exists today and has been completely destroyed (Figure 118, Figure 119). Test pit stratigraphy in the area demonstrated no Holocene deposits. Modern vegetation is growing directly over glacial gravels (Figure 120).

Because this site was completely destroyed sometime between 1977 and 2003, USAG FWA finds XMH-00253 not eligible for the NRHP. The artifacts recovered from the site in 1977 seem very significant, however, and USAG FWA plans to try to find the original site notes and analyze the collection for a poster presentation at an Alaska Anthropological Association meeting to take advantage of these potentially valuable data while they are still relevant.

Figure 118. Gravel pit at XMH-00253 facing west.

Figure 119. Gravel pit at XMH-00253 facing north.

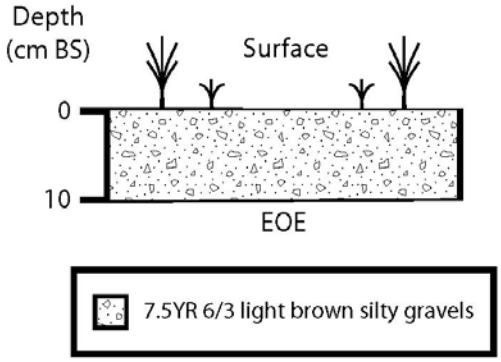

Figure 120. XMH-00253 stratigraphic profile.

XMH-00288
Latitude: [redacted]
Longitude: [redacted]
UTM: [redacted]
Determination of Eligibility: Not eligible

XMH-00288 is located on a cleared glacial outwash terrace on the east side of the Delta River, 4 km south of Delta Junction and 175 m west of the Richardson Highway (Figure 113). Two chert flakes were located on the disturbed surface of the terrace and no cultural material was discovered in test pits when the site was found in 1978 (UA78-450) (Holmes 1979b).

The site was revisited for a DOE during the 2013 field season. The coordinates are in a heavily disturbed powerline corridor and there were no signs of an archaeological site (Figure 121). No shovel testing was conducted because sediments had been removed to glacial deposits, which was also noted in the 1979 report (Holmes 1979b). Because of the high degree of disturbance and complete destruction of site deposits, USAG FWA finds XMH-00288 not eligible for the NRHP.

Figure 121. XMH-00288 overview of powerline corridor.

XMH-00293
Latitude: [redacted]
Longitude: [redacted]
UTM: [redacted]
Determination of Eligibility: Not eligible

Site XMH-00293 is located on the disturbed edge of a gravel pit off of Meadows Road in DTA east, 23.5 km south of Delta Junction (Figure 113). The gravel pit was formerly the top of an east-west trending ridge of glacial outwash gravels. The nearest water source is a small, unnamed lake located 200 m to the southwest. The viewshed at the site is limited due to surrounding vegetation, but the Alaska Range can be seen to the southwest. Surface visibility is estimated to be about 25%. The site was originally discovered in 1978 and consisted of an isolated side scraper found in a disturbed area on the edge of the gravel pit (Holmes 1979b) (UA78-454). A relocation of the site during the 2005 field season found the same highly

disturbed surface and no new artifacts (Figure 122). No shovel tests were excavated at the site due to the lack of soil and high degree of disturbance.

The site area was revisited during 2013. The site location did appear to be destroyed by the gravel pit (Figure 122), but an undisturbed high spot 30 m from the site coordinates was tested for cultural material (Figure 123). No artifacts were discovered in four test pits. Undisturbed deposits contained aeolian silts overlying glacial outwash gravels at 42 cmbs. A thin (5 cm) root mat was found over a 15 cm B horizon (Figure 124, Figure 125).

Figure 122. Disturbed surface near gravel pit.

Figure 123. Undisturbed area tested near gravel pit.

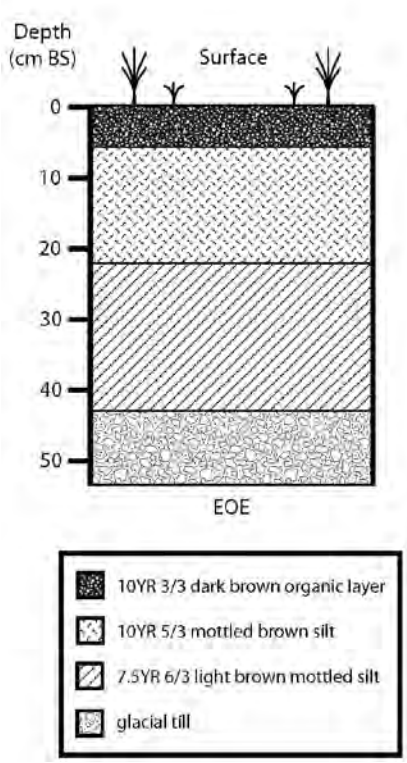

Figure 124. XMH-00293 stratigraphic profile.

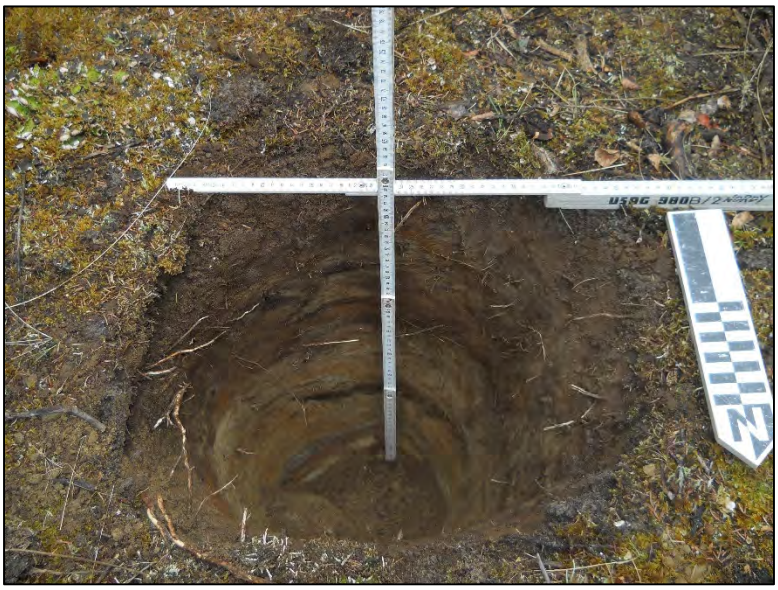

Figure 125. XMH-00293 test pit.

Because of the high degree of disturbance by the gravel pit, likely complete destruction of site deposits, and lack of cultural material in undisturbed deposits, USAG FWA finds XMH-00293 not eligible for the NRHP.

XMH-00946
Latitude: [redacted]
Longitude: [redacted]
UTM: [redacted]
Determination of Eligibility: Not eligible

Site XMH-00946 is located on an east-west trending ridge 23 km southwest of Delta Junction and 1.5 km east of the Delta River (Figure 113). The nearest water source is a small, unnamed lake located 100 m to the south. The site is situated approximately 10 m south of a gravel road (Figure 126, Figure 127). The site was originally discovered in 2002. Nine shovel tests produced one rhyolite flake.

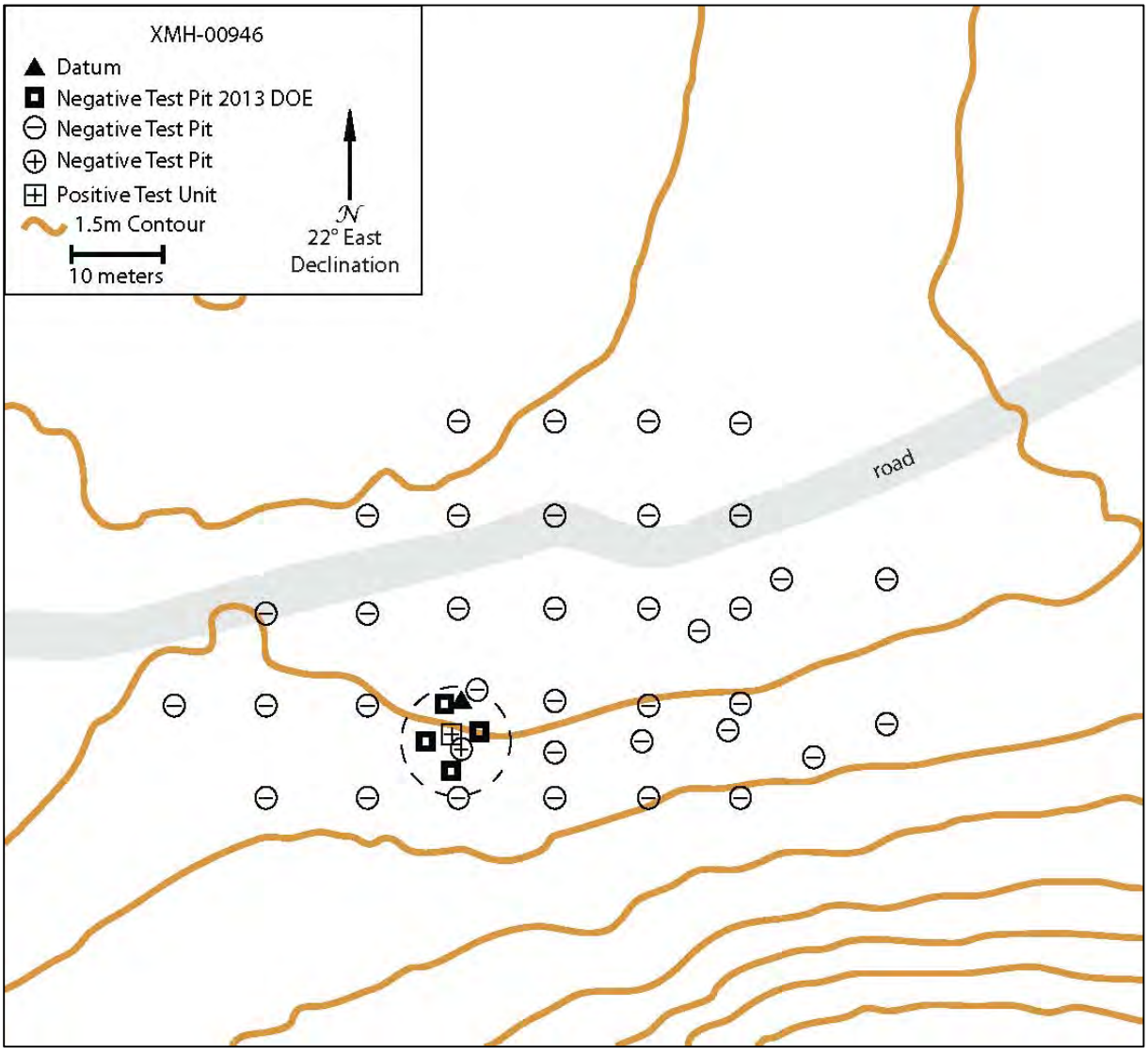

Figure 126. XMH-00946 site map.

In 2005, the site was revisited and a shovel test grid and excavation unit were set up surrounding the positive test pit. No artifacts were found in the 28 shovel tests, although a basalt cobble spall scraper and another rhyolite flake were found in the excavation unit (UA2011-212-001, 2). Artifacts were found in windblown silts above glacial gravels, 16-30 cmbs.

Although DOE work was completed in 2005, the site record was never updated with the SHPO. During the 2013 season, four additional test pits were excavated within 5 m of the positive excavation unit (Figure 126). No other artifacts were found. The tci tho and flakes appear to be restricted to a small area which was completely excavated in 2005.

Test pits reached glacial gravels at 50 cmbs (Figure 128, Figure 129). Silt deposits were covered by a 10 cm thick organic layer. Weak soil development was evident.

Because the entire cultural component of the site (cobble spall scraper and two flakes) have been excavated and no other artifacts were found, the site retains no research potential. USAG FWA finds the site not eligible for the NRHP.

Figure 127. XMH-00946 site overview.

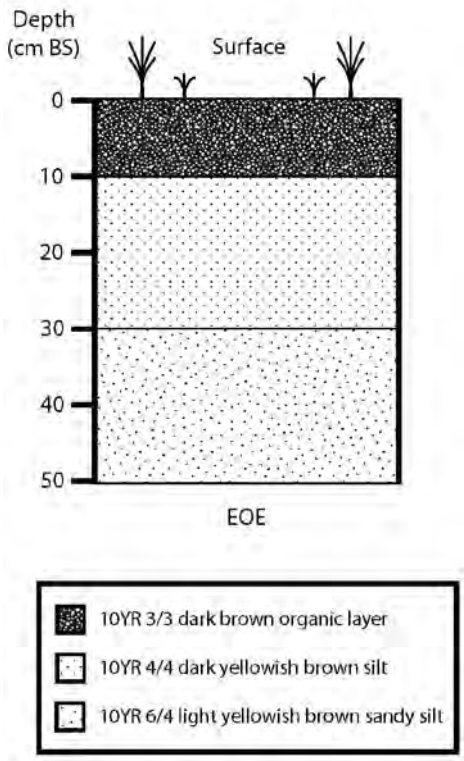

Figure 128. XMH-00946 stratigraphic profile.

Figure 129. XMH-00946 test pit.

XMH-01205
Latitude: [redacted]
Longitude: [redacted]
UTM: [redacted]
Determination of Eligibility: Not eligible

XMH-01205 is located at the north end of Windy Ridge in DTA East, approximately 21 km south of Delta Junction (Figure 113). The elevation of the site provides a complete view of the surrounding country side including the Granite Mountains and the Alaska Pipeline to the east, Donnelly Dome to the south, the Alaska Range to the southwest, and the Delta River to the west. Beaver Lodge Lake is located 500 m to the northwest and various kettle lakes are visible to the north and west. Surface visibility at the site is 75%. The site stretches approximately 5 m along the north end of the ridge (Figure 130, Figure 131).

The site was found during a 2002 survey (Hedman et al. 2003). Two chert flakes were found but not collected, and no subsurface testing was done. During the 2012 survey, an additional 28 chert and rhyolite flakes were found (UA2012-093-001 to 006). Eleven shovel test pits were excavated to glacial deposits at the northernmost end of the site, where Holocene sediments are present. One shovel test pit yielded two additional artifacts that were located at 0-12 cmbs.

A 1 x 1 m test unit was excavated directly adjacent to the positive shovel test. Glacial deposits were encountered at 30-40 cmbs. No subsurface artifacts were found in the unit. The sediments in the excavation unit were covered by a dark grayish brown organic root mat. Under the root mat was a layer of mottled silts mixed with organic material (Figure 132, Figure 133).

Because of the lack of sedimentary deposits on the landform, the majority of the site was situated on the surface. Most of the shovel tests lacked cultural material. It is very likely that the whole site has been recovered and the locality retains no more research potential. The flakes are not datable and the raw materials are common in the region. This site will not contribute any further information to the archaeological record of the area; therefore, USAG FWA finds the site not eligible for inclusion in the NRHP.

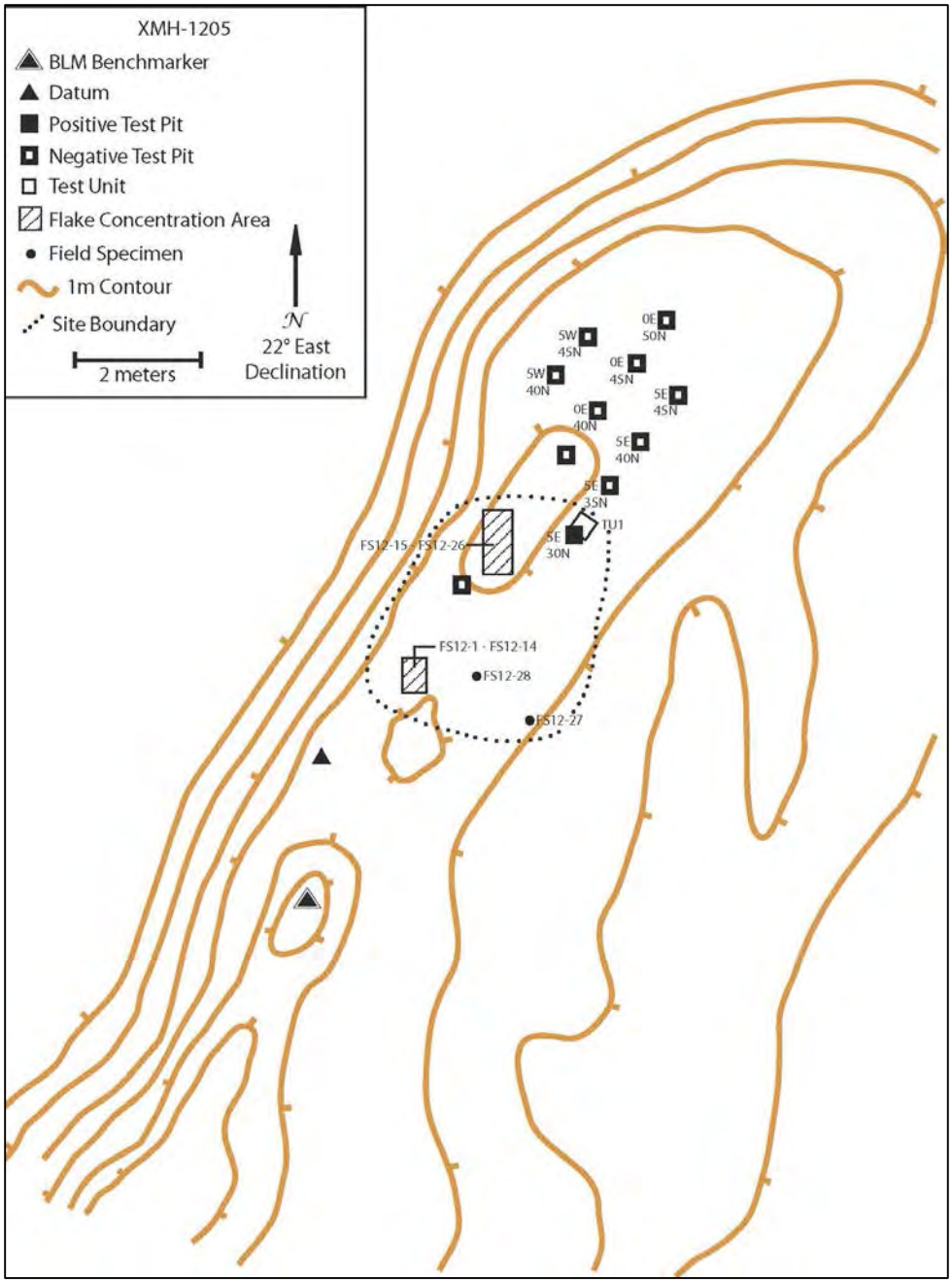

Figure 130. XMH-01205 site map.

Figure 131. XMH-01205 site overview.

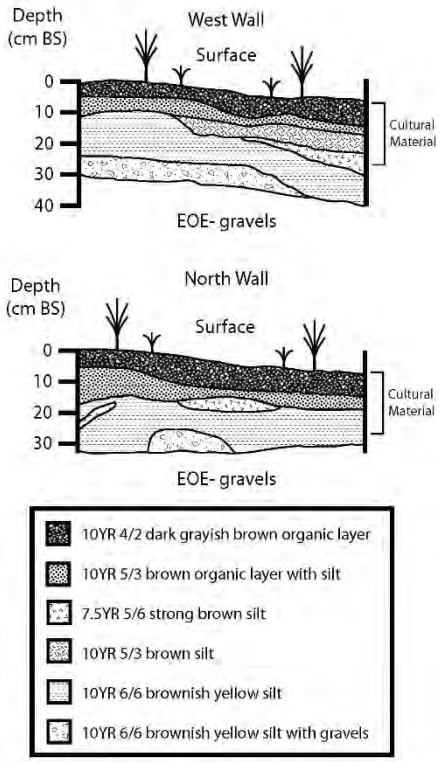

Figure 132. XMH-01205 test unit stratigraphic profile.

Figure 133. XMH-01205 excavation unit.

XMH-01355
Latitude: [redacted]
Longitude: [redacted]
UTM: [redacted]
Determination of Eligibility: Not eligible

XMH-01355 is located on a ridge 100 m west of the Richardson Highway, 5 km south of Delta Junction (Figure 113). The ridge trends north-south approximately 300 m east of the Delta River. The site slopes steeply to the west (Figure 134) and has an open view of Donnelly Dome and the Alaska Range to the south. The surface visibility is up to 75% in some areas due to the removal of vegetation from two old roads that run eat-west from the highway to the site. Vegetation includes spruce, birch, alder, low bush cranberry, crowberry, grasses, moss, lichen, and dwarf birch (Figure 135). The site was discovered in 2008 when a grey chert flake was found on the surface (Robertson et al. 2009).

In 2013, the site was revisited for a DOE. A shovel test grid was set up over the top of the landform. Three flakes were found on the surface and one flake was found in a single shovel test pit (UA2013-84-001 through 004). The flakes were made from gray chert (2), argillite, and rhyolite. A recent fire pit is located 10 m north of the flake concentration (Figure 134). No other artifacts were found in the other 24 excavated test pits.

The single subsurface artifact was found in the 7 cm thick root mat at the site (Figure 136, Figure 137). Forty centimeters of windblown silts overlie glacial gravels. Weak soil development is evident.

Although this site has a small subsurface component, there is only a small number of cultural items, a lack of diagnostic artifacts, and a paucity of contextual information. USAG FWA finds XMH-01355 not eligible for inclusion in the NRHP.

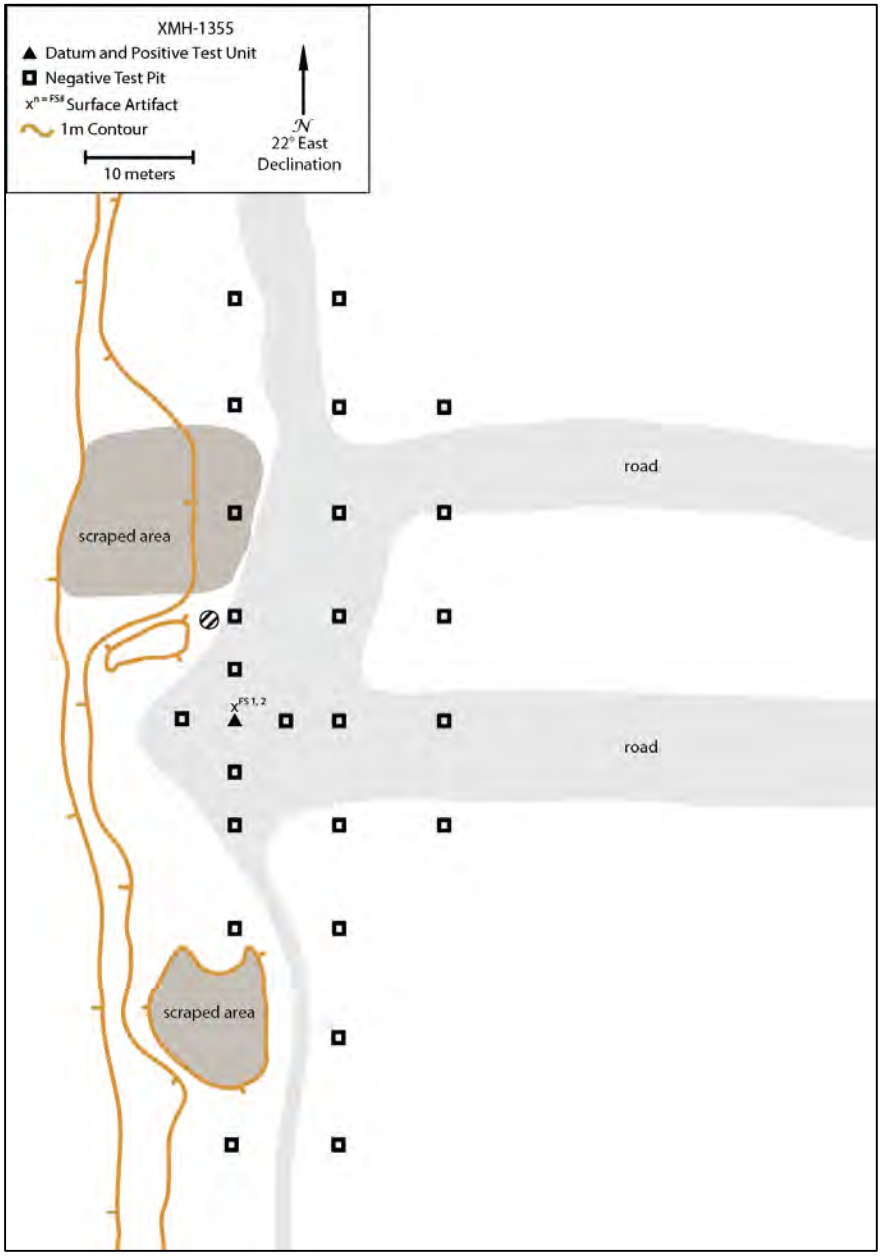

Figure 134. XMH-01355 site map.

Figure 135. XMH-01355 site overview.

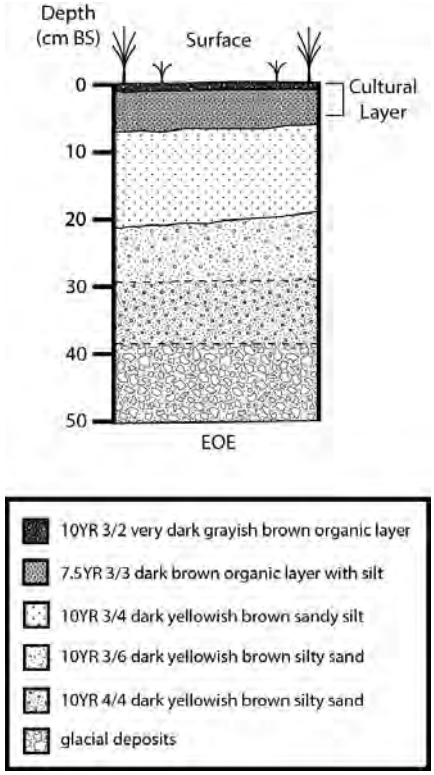

Figure 136. XMH-01355 stratigraphic profile.

Figure 137. XMH-01355 test pit.

XMH-01441
Latitude: [redacted]
Longitude: [redacted]
UTM: [redacted]
Determination of Eligibility: Eligible

XMH-01441 is situated on a north-south trending glacial moraine in the northern foothills of Molybdenum Ridge in DTA West, 48 km southwest of Delta Junction (Figure 113, Figure 138). Water sources include two small lakes approximately 200 m to the north-northwest, and a stream, approximately 200 m to the west, flowing from a saddle of Molybdenum Ridge. Vegetation consists of spruce, scrub birch, mosses, and bearberry (Figure 139, Figure 140).

A surface scatter of ten lithic flakes (a concentration of eight chert flakes with two additional chert flakes approximately 75 m to the south on the same landform) was found during surveys in 2011 (Esdale et al. 2012c). The surface lithic concentration is contained in a 70 x 70 cm area. No artifacts were collected and no test pits were excavated.

In 2012, the site was revisited to determine site boundaries and lithic concentration. Most surface flakes were relocated. A grid was set up along the landform with 10 m spacing north-south and 5 m spacing east-west. One of 30 test pits was positive for cultural material. The positive test pit was located at datum and was expanded into a 50 x 100 cm test unit (1N 1E). Recovered artifacts were all chert flakes of various color. Ten surface flakes were found next to the test unit (1 collected) and 40 subsurface flakes were collected (Table 4).

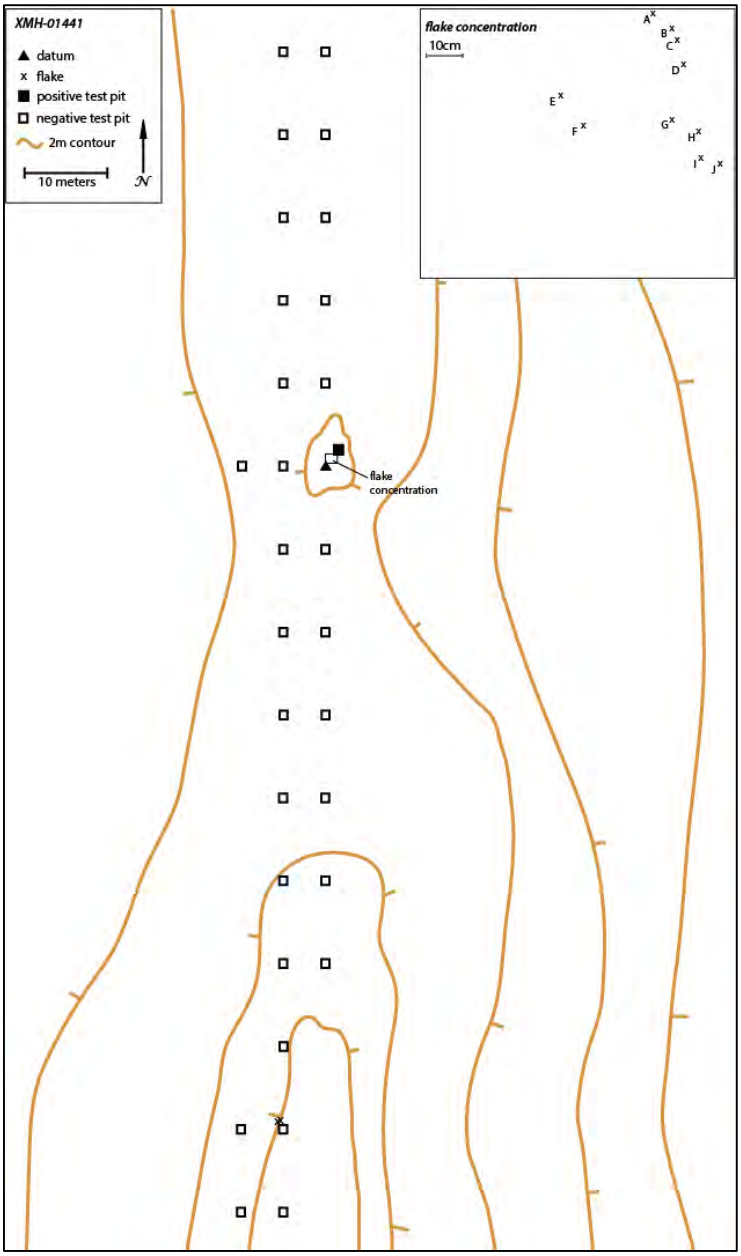

Figure 138. XMH-01441 site map.

Figure 139. XMH-01441 aerial site overview.

Figure 140. XMH-01441 site overview.

Thirty centimeters of silt overlie shallow bedrock at this site. Weak soil development is evident in a 10 cm AB horizon overlying gleyed parent materials (Figure 141, Figure 142). The flake concentration at the site appears to be localized but fairly dense with a large number of subsurface flakes. Flakes are consistent with late-stage bifacial projectile point resharpening. Although the site is small, test excavations have not uncovered all material and the site retains research potential. Most sites in the area are small lithic scatters, and XMH-01441 contains

more cultural material than the majority of local sites. USAG FWA finds XMH-01441 eligible for inclusion in the NRHP because of its unique nature for the area, density, and research potential.

Table 4. XMH-01441 accession log.

Accession Number	Artifact	Provenience	Depth (cmbs)	Material	Lot Count
UA2012-115-0001	flakes	1N 1E	0-5	chert	9
UA2012-115-0002	flake	1N 1E	0-15	chert	1
UA2012-115-0003	flake	1N 1E	5-10	chert	19
UA2012-115-0004	flakes	1N 1E	10-15	chert	9
UA2012-115-0005	flake	1N 1E	10.5	chert	1
UA2012-115-0006	flake	1N 1E	3	chert	1
UA2012-115-0007	flake	1N 1E	surface	chert	1

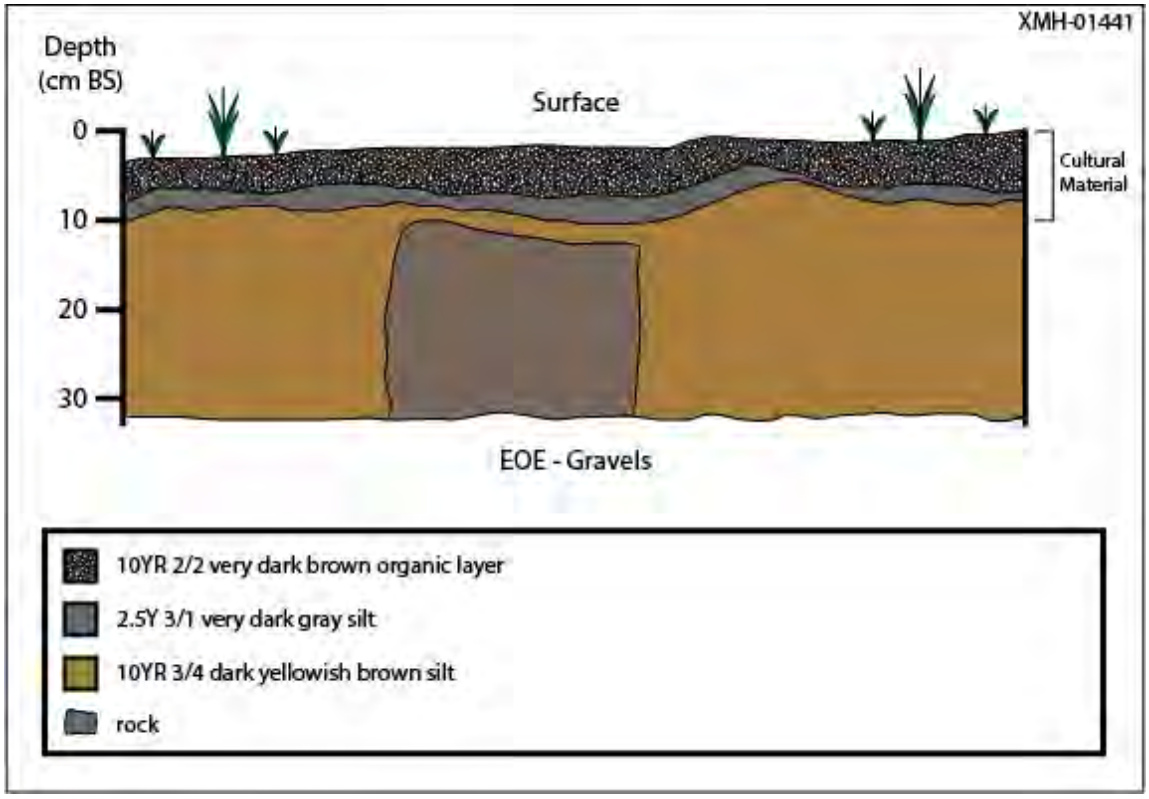

Figure 141. XMH-01441 stratigraphic profile.

Figure 142. XMH-01441 test pit.

XMH-01444
Latitude: [redacted]
Longitude: [redacted]
UTM: [redacted]
Determination of Eligibility: Not eligible

Site XMH-01444 is situated atop a knob on a northeast-southwest trending ridge, which extends from Molybdenum Ridge in DTA West, 50 km southwest of Delta Junction (Figure 113, Figure 143). The site slopes gently in all directions and has unobstructed views of the surrounding countryside (Figure 144). The site was found during a 2011 survey (Esdale et al. 2012c). A notched projectile point base and two chert flakes were found shallowly buried in a test pit (UA2011-425).

In 2012, the site was revisited for a DOE. Nineteen shovel tests were placed in the shallow deposits across the site (Figure 143). All shovel tests reached bedrock within 8-30 cmbs. No other cultural material was found in any of the test pits.

Aeolian silts shallowly cover bedrock at the site (Figure 145, Figure 146). Site stratigraphy consists of a dark brown organic layer (0-3 cmbs) over a very dark brown silt (3-6 cmbs) and dark brown silt (6-8 cmbs), over dark brown sandy silt (8-30 cm).

XMH-01444 appears to be an extremely small lithic scatter. Although the site was well tested, no further archaeological material was discovered during 2012 investigations. The site contains

no further research potential and shallow deposits and lack of organic matter preclude dating. USAG FWA finds XMH-01444 not eligible for inclusion in the NRHP.

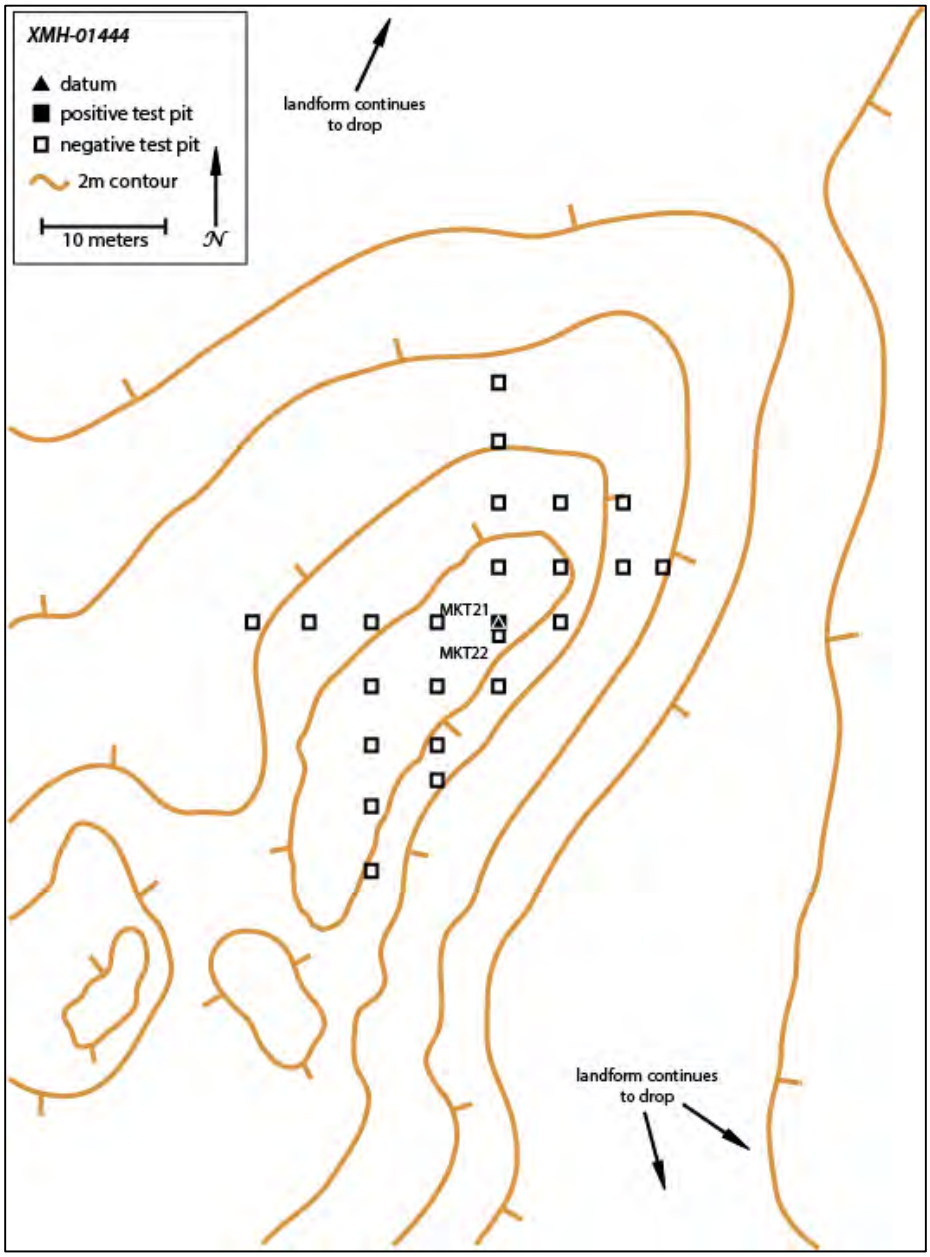

Figure 143. XMH-01444 site map.

Figure 144. XMH-01444 site overview.

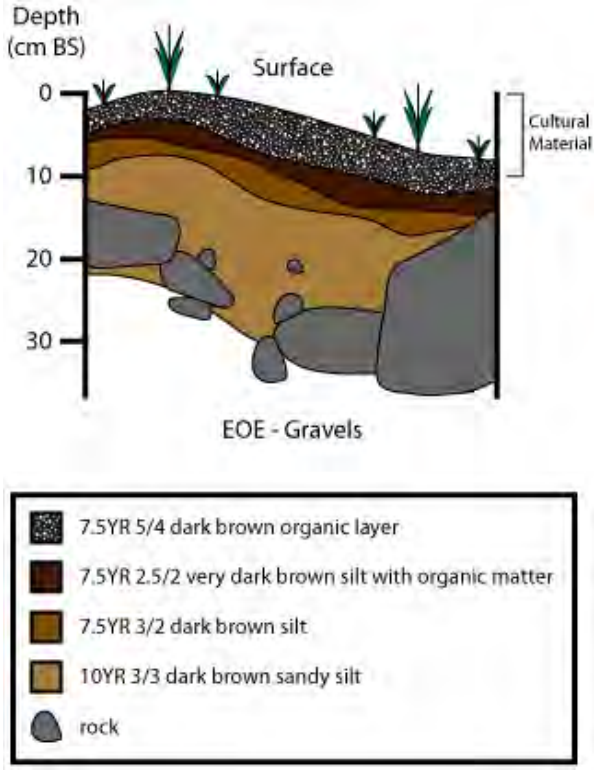

Figure 145. XMH-01444 stratigraphic profile.

Figure 146. XMH-01444 test pit.

XMH-01448
Latitude: [redacted]
Longitude: [redacted]
UTM: [redacted]
Determination of Eligibility: Not eligible

XMH-01448 is situated on the crest of a hill east of Molybdenum Ridge, 48 km southwest of Delta Junction in DTA West (Figure 113, Figure 147). The site is located on a small rock formation that rises above the surrounding area approximately 30 m, spanning a 20 x 40 m area. The landform has a wide viewshed which includes Molybdenum Ridge to the west and large valleys to the north and west that contain streams that flow into Gold Pan Creek, Delta Creek to the northeast, and Ptarmigan Creek to the southeast. No water is in the immediate area, although small drainages are nearby. There is no surface visibility due to the vegetation and massive rocks that cover the site. Vegetation consists of moss, lichen, grasses, and other low scrub (Figure 148).

During site discovery in 2011, three subsurface flakes were found in a single shovel test pit (MWT2), which was excavated in the center of the small rise (Esdale et al. 2012c). Two light brown chert flakes and one dark gray chert flake were recovered and collected from 0-20 cmbs (UA2011-428). The test pit was terminated at 28 cmbs.

The site was revisited for a DOE in 2012. A total of 20 shovel tests were placed across the landform (Figure 147). No additional cultural material was discovered. Deposits on top of the

bedrock ridge are shallow (<20 cm) and contain organic material mixed with aeolian silts (Figure 149, Figure 150).

After a thorough survey of the landform, only three flakes were discovered at XMH-01303. There is no further potential for future research at the site, and USAG FWA finds XMH-01303 ineligible for inclusion in the NRHP.

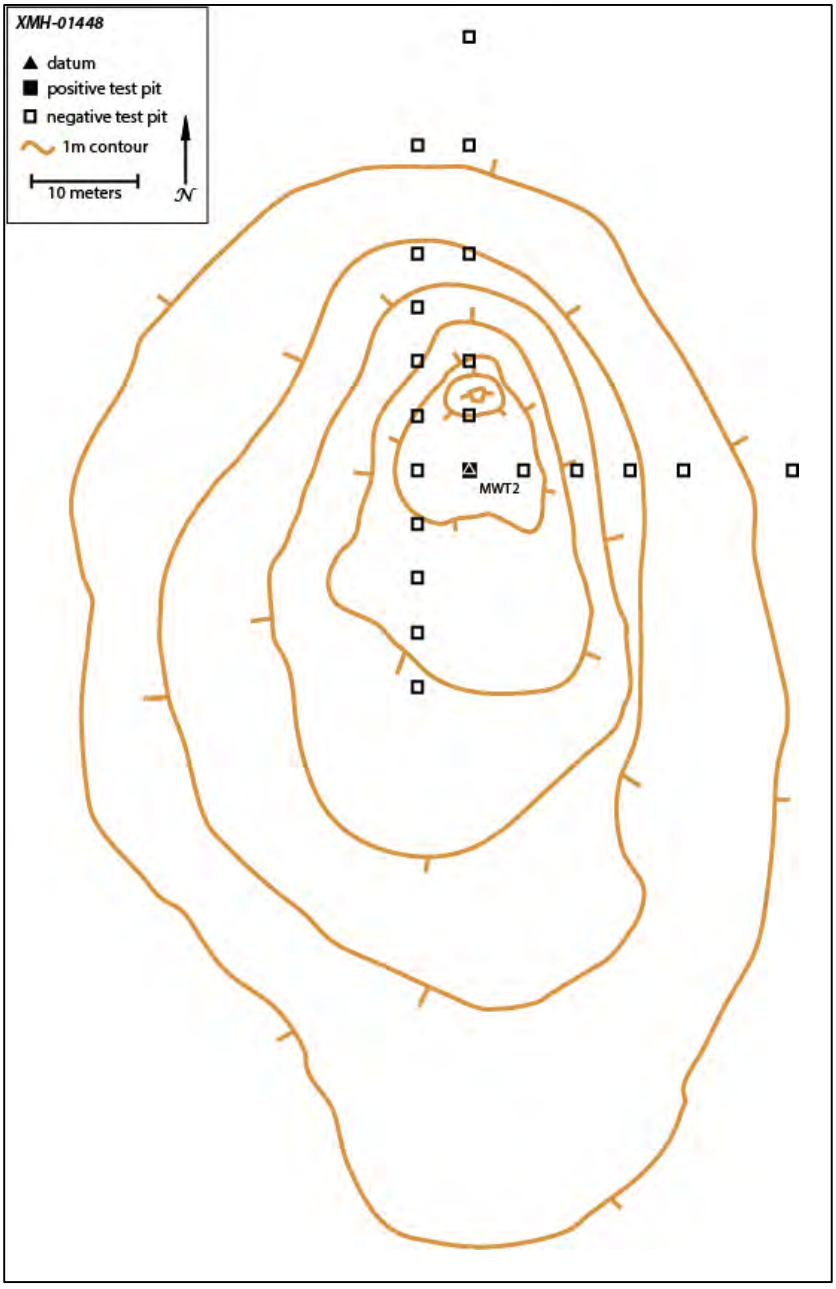

Figure 147. XMH-01448 site map.

Figure 148. XMH-01448 site overview.

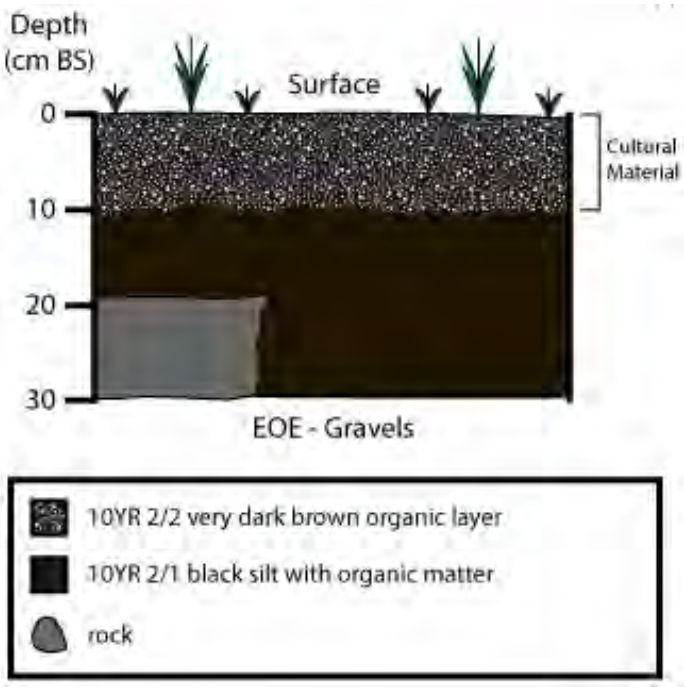

Figure 149. XMH-01448 stratigraphic profile.