

August 8, 2025

Lauren Clementino
Senior Planner/Heritage Preservation Officer
Comprehensive and Neighborhood Planning
211 West Aspen Avenue
City of Flagstaff
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Re: Cultural resource study letter report of 18.64 acres of undeveloped land on McMillan Mesa for the proposed Shadow Pines Subdivision

Dear Ms. Clementino,

EnviroSystems Management Inc. (EnviroSystems or ESM) conducted a cultural resource study of a proposed 18.64-acre housing development on behalf of Ardurra. The cultural resource study of undeveloped, private land is necessary to comply with Flagstaff Zoning Code Section 10-30.30. The proposed project is located in the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 14, Township 21 North, Range 7 East, Gila & Salt River Meridian, Flagstaff, Coconino County, Arizona (Assessor's Parcel Numbers 10707001F and 10707002J). EnviroSystems' conducted background research and ESM archaeologists Josh Whiting, Blayne Brown, and Dave Hart conducted a pedestrian survey of the parcels on August 5, 2025.

Environmental Setting

The project area is located on the southern end of McMillan Mesa, west of the San Francisco De Asis Catholic Church, east of Switzer Canon, and north of Route 66 (*Figure 1*). An unnamed drainage is located immediately east of the parcels. McMillian mesa is located within the Rocky Mountain (Petran) Conifer Forest Biotic Community (Brown 1995). Overstory vegetation within the parcels primarily included Ponderosa Pine (*Pinus ponderosa sp.*) with an understory of Gambel Oak (*Quercus gambelii*) and trace amounts of juniper largely clustered on the eastern and southern slopes. The flatter mesa top along the western and northern ends of project area were more open and covered in various grasses and forbes, as well as scattered prickly pear and cholla cactus (*Photographs 1, 2, and 3*). The ground surface is primarily composed of Malpais basalt and cinder overlying Moenkopi sandstone (visible along the lower slopes in the south of the project area).

Background Research

EnviroSystems consulted the AZSITE database for information pertaining to previous cultural resource investigations and recorded sites. Several small previous projects have been completed on and around McMillan Mesa, but no previous investigations have been conducted on or adjacent to the current project area. No known archaeological sites are located within or adjacent to the project area. Several sites are located more than 0.5 mile to the northeast and northwest, and Route 66 is located south of the project area. Previously documented sites would not be affected by the proposed development.



Photograph 1. Project overview, facing south.



Photograph 2. Project overview, facing north.



Photograph 3. Project overview of eastern slopes, facing south.

EnviroSystems also consulted General Land Office land patent and plat map records. The original 1878 GLO plat map depicts Flagstaff approximately 2 miles to the west and an overland road (presumably the Beale Wagon Road) more than a mile to the north, but nothing within Section 14 except for trees and contour lines. No other supplemental GLO plat maps had any information pertaining to Section 14. Land patent records show that the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 14 was originally purchased by Charles Begg in 1890 through Sale-Cash Entry (3 Stat. 566), but no other entries were found that covered the current project area.

Fieldwork

The pedestrian survey was conducted on August 5, 2025, employing transects spaced no more than 15 meters apart. The entire 18.64-acre parcel was surveyed by ESM archaeologists. No archaeological sites or historic properties were found within or adjacent to the proposed development. A single isolated occurrence (IO) was found (an unfired Remington – Union Metallic Cartridge Company 30-06 cartridge missing the bullet [IO 1, *Photograph 4*]). The “REM-UMC .30-06 cartridge was manufactured from 1912 through 1970. However, it is difficult to say if this cartridge was “used” prior to more modern development in and around Flagstaff or was deposited more recently. No other cultural resources were found in the project area, except for limited amounts of modern trash and construction-related debris.



Photograph 4. IO 1, unfired rifle cartridge.

Summary and Management Recommendations

On behalf of Ardurra, EnviroSystems conducted a cultural resource study of 18.64 acres for the proposed Shadow Pines Subdivision to meet compliance with Flagstaff Zoning Codes prior to development. EnviroSystems conducted background research and a pedestrian survey of the entire project area. No cultural resources were identified except for a single IO. In the absence of significant cultural resources, EnviroSystems recommends the proposed development will have no effect on cultural resources in or surrounding the project area. If you need any additional information or clarification, please do not hesitate to contact Dave Hart at (928) 226-0236 or dhart@esmaz.com.

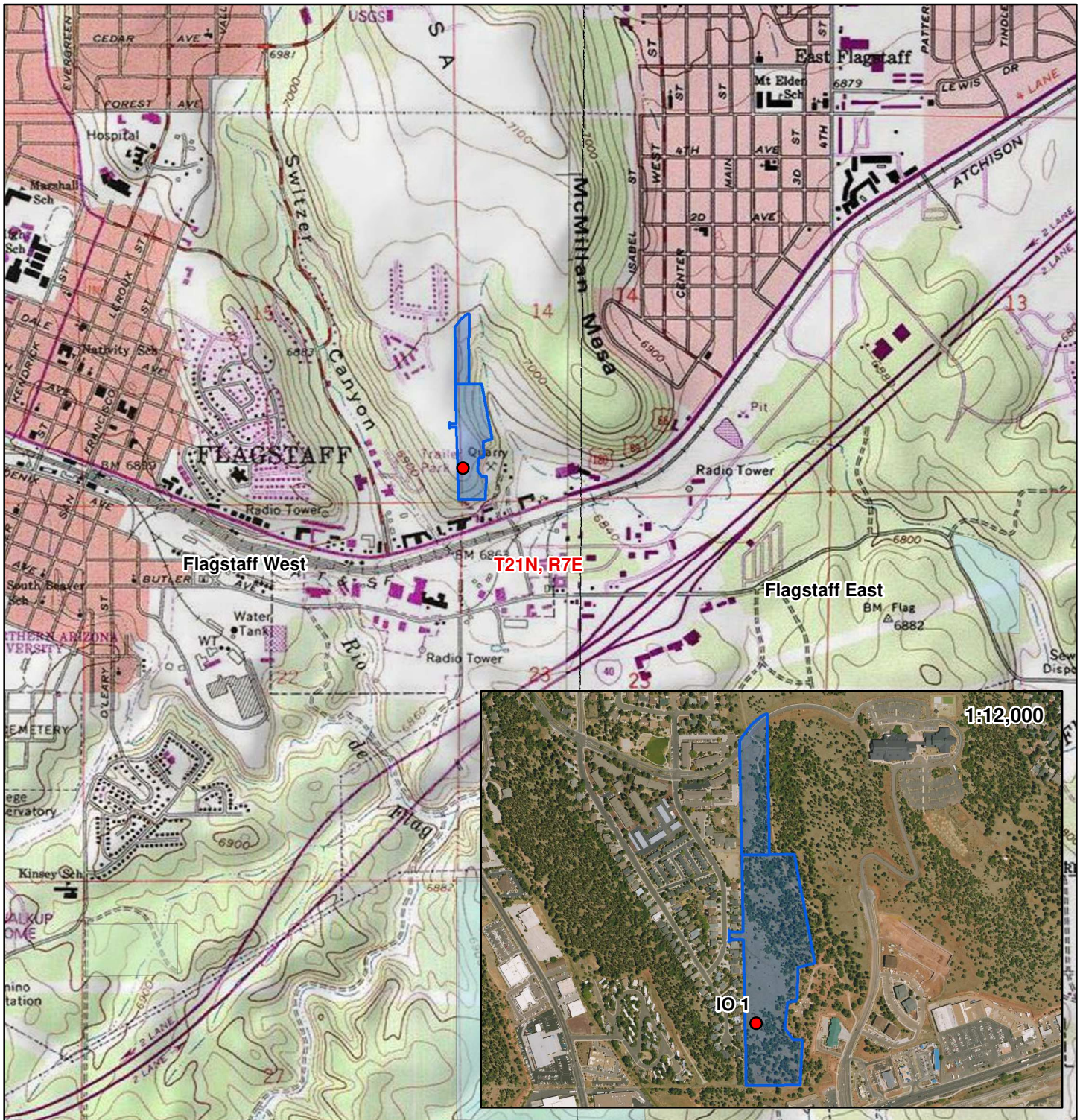
Respectfully,



David R. Hart
Vice President / Cultural Resources Division Director

References Cited

Brown, David E. (editor)
1995 *Biotic Communities Southwestern United States and Northwestern Mexico*. University of Utah Press, Salt Lake City.



**Shadow Pines
Cultural Resources Inventory**

EnviroSystems Project No. 2307-25

**Figure 1. Project area and
survey results.**

0 0.25 0.5 Miles



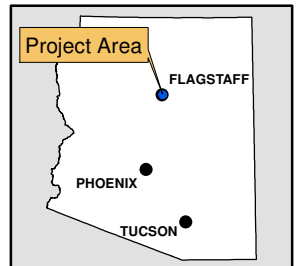
0 0.25 0.5 Kilometers



1:24,000

Legend

- Project area
- Isolated occurrence
- Private
- State
- US Forest Service



Base map is National Geographic
Society, i-cubed (web accessed 2025).

