

UTAH ARCHAEOLOGY SITE FORM

PART A – Administrative Data

- 1. Smithsonian Trinomial: 42GR4097
- 2. Temporary Site No.:
- 3. Site Name: CCC Erosion Control Site

- 4. Date Recorded: 9/01/2020
- 5. Type of Recording: First Recording Full Re-record Update
- 6. Project Name: A Cultural Resources Inventory of the Cisco Spring 2D Seismic Project in Grand County, Utah
- 7. State Project Number: U20HP00620
- 8. Land Status: BLM (Moab Field Office); State (SITLA)
- 9. USGS 7.5' Quad Map Name and Date: Danish Flat (1970), Cisco (1970), Cisco Springs (1970)
- 10. Township: 20S, Range: 23E, Section(s): 33 and 34, (1/4): multiple County: Grand
Township: 21S, Range: 23E, Section(s): 2-4, 9-11, and 14-1,
- 11. Meridian: Salt Lake Uintah
- 12. UTMS: Zone 12 641310 mE 4321268 mN (north boundary) NAD: 83
UTMS: Zone 12 643107 mE 4318643 mN (east boundary)
UTMS: Zone 12 642533 mE 4316184 mN (south boundary)
UTMS: Zone 12 640571 mE 4318397 mN (west boundary)
- 13. Site Dimensions: Length: 5,064 m Width: 2,520 m Area: 8,756,350 m2 GIS Estimate
- 14. Site Class^a: Prehistoric Protohistoric Historic
- 15. Site Type: Prehistoric/Ethnohistoric Historic
 Long-Term Residential Task Specific Domestic Transportation/Communication
 Temporary Camp Specialty Site Agriculture/Subsistence Defense
 Unknown (sites in which the primary pattern of Use is prehistoric or ethnohistoric, but the nature of Use cannot be confidently determined) Industry/Processing/Extraction
 Unknown
 Other Other^b Erosion Control, CCC
- 16. Site Characteristics^a: Artifact Scatter Rock Art/Inscription Lithic Source/Quarry Rock Shelter/Cave
 Architectural Feature(s) Non-Architectural Feature(s) Linear
- 17. Impacting Agents: None Erosion Livestock Concentration Recreation Road/Trail Vandalism/Looting
 Other:
- 18. Site Condition: Stable Deteriorating Imminently Threatened Destroyed
- 19. Description (as needed): This site is a large landscape of small erosion control berms likely constructed by the CCC ca. 1937-1941. The berms are in varying states of condition. Time, erosion, oil & gas development, and animal burrowing have altered many of the berms.
- 20. Recorded by: Sandy Pagano and John Rasmussen 21. Organization: Commonwealth Heritage Group, Inc. (CHG)
- 22. Material Collected: No Yes (describe in Site Description) Repository: N/A
- NRHP Evaluation**
- 23. Is the Site Significant: No Yes, under criterion^a:
 A (event) B (person) C (design/construction) D (important information)
- 24. Does it Retain Integrity: No Yes, aspects present^a:
 Location Design Setting Materials Workmanship Feeling Association
- 25. NRHP Status: Not eligible Eligible Listed
- 26. Justification (include discussion of historic context, significance, and integrity): This site was previously recommended Eligible to the NRHP based on its association with the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and the important role they played in the state and in the nation. The site retains integrity of location, design, setting, feeling, association, and materials. This site cannot be associated with a specific person important in history, nor does it represent a unique style of construction. Further, the site is not likely to contain intact cultural deposits that could yield information important to the history of the region. However, this site was likely constructed by the CCC, a group that made significant contributions to the broad patterns of history. Therefore, Commonwealth agrees with the previous recommendation of Eligible to the NRHP under Criterion A.
- 27. Site Description (interpretation, context, size, artifact and feature assemblage, dating, previous works and curation, etc.): This site is a large landscape of erosion control features. The site was originally documented in 2008 by Montgomery Archaeological Consultants (MOAC) and described as “an extensive network of earthen check dams bound on the west and south by Cisco Wash, on the north by Cisco Mesa, and on the east by an unnamed large ephemeral wash north of the town of Cisco, Utah” (Russell 2008). MOAC documented a sample area of the site and provided an

^aCheck all that apply

^bSee manual for additional categories

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estimate of the overall site area based on what was directly observed in the sample area and by using satellite imagery. A portion of the southern site area was revisited by Commonwealth in 2020. The berms at this site are all low earthen berms. They average in size from 10 to 30 feet long and 5-10 feet wide, although several were up to 70 ft long. The berms appear to be constructed by hand as well as machine excavated, basically a dozer push. These berms are all simple construction with no signs of any reinforcement such as rip-rap or stonework.

The site area is massive, and the investigation of the full site area is beyond the scope of regular surface documentation outside the project area. The portion inside the current study area was investigated by expanding the 100 ft wide linear survey corridor through the site boundary to include a 200 ft wide sample corridor that crosses into the site on 7 different lines. Of the original 8,756,350 sq. meter area (2,163 acres), this sample area includes 42,851 sq. meters (10.6 acres), or approximately 5% of the site area. Although several berms were also included that fall outside these sample corridors, the general sample included in this site form update is approximately 5% of the site area. Within this 5% sample area, 638 berms were documented. The original documentation of this site sampled a 200 x 200 m area and estimated the site boundaries based on walking across the site to see the extents of the berm distribution as well as viewing of satellite imagery of the site area. Although the entire site area was not transected during this revisit, Commonwealth agrees with the estimated site boundary, and has expanded a small area of the boundary on the northeast portion of the site. Based on the results of this 5% sample area, it is likely the previous estimate of “well over 1000 check dams” could be significantly expanded, possibly even up to several thousand.

Site History

During the Great Depression, CCC camps had a large presence in Grand County with five camps located in and around the county seat, Moab. These camps included: F-20, Warner Lake Camp, a US Forest Service camp; DG-32, the Dalton Wells Camp (1935-1941); NP-7, Arches National Monument (1940 to 1942) (Firmage 1998:283-85). When the CCC was first established, enrollees were required to be unmarried, unemployed men from 18 to 25 years of age. In 1937, Congress extended the program and changed the age to 17 to 23. However, there was no age limit for Veterans or Native Americans, and they could be married. Throughout the existence of the CCC, around 3.5 million men served in its ranks. The young men lived in camps with about 200 workers in tents, and later barracks. There was a total of about 4,500 camps during the nine years the CCC existed. Nine hundred and three of these camps were Soil Conservation Service (SCS) camps (Association of Retired Conservation Service Employees [ARCSE] 2020).

This site was likely constructed by SCS-6 Company 1256. Although the records of exactly what projects this Company worked on are stored at the National Archives in Denver and the research is not within the scope of this project, it can be extrapolated that it was this Company that constructed site 42GR4097. Much of the work done by the SCS camps was on private lands where camp members “demonstrated the value of contour and strip farming, shelterbelts, stock dams and pasture furrows to reduce erosion, prevent runoff and better utilize grazing land” (Derschied 1986).

The local Moab newspaper, The Times Independent, published a column on SCS-6 Company 1256. These small articles mainly discussed the basketball games, movies, and other recreational activities of the camp members. However, some general projects were mentioned such as: cutting cedar poles for fencing, construction of a rock dam and other methods of flood control, and tree planting (TTI 1938a:2; 1938b:1; 1938c:8). Company 1256 moved to Utah from New Jersey in 1937 and worked on soil conservation projects until they closed in 1941 (ARCSE 2020).

- 28. Environmental Context** (topography, vegetation, ground visibility, depositional context): The site is located in and along the side slopes of Cisco Wash. Sediments are light tan sandy silts with areas of high gravels contents in the Mancos Shale area of Grand County. The area upslope from the berms often has altered vegetation, likely from holding water longer than the surrounding landscape. They are mostly filled with cheatgrass.
- 29. Notes Regarding Access** (as needed):
- 30. Additional Part A Comments:**

^aCheck all that apply

^bSee manual for additional categories

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References Cited:

Association of Retired Conservation Service Employees

2020 The Civilian Conservation Corp: “The Three Cs”. Online document accessed 8 October at <http://www.arcse.org/nCCC.htm>.

Derscheid, Lyle A.

1986 *The Civilian Conservation Corps in South Dakota, 1933-1942*. Brookings, S.D. South Dakota State University Foundation Press.

Firmage, Richard A.

1996 *A History of Grand County*. Utah State Historical Society, Utah Centennial County History Series. Salt Lake City.

Russell, Hannah

2008 *Intermountain Antiquities Computer System (IMACS) Form for Site 42GR4097*. Inventory files, Division of State History, Utah State Historic Preservation Office, Salt Lake City.

The Time Times Independent (TTI) [Moab, Utah]

1938a Moab CCC Camp CSC-6U Company 1256. 17 February:2. Moab, Utah.

1938b Moab CCC Camp CSC-6U Company 1256. 17 March:1. Moab, Utah

1938c Moab CCC Camp CSC-6U Company 1256. 14 April:8. Moab, Utah

^aCheck all that apply

^bSee manual for additional categories

1. **Primary date of site use:** 1937-1941
2. **Secondary dates of site use:** The site has likely continued to perform its intended purpose of erosion control by slowing storm run-off since the time of its construction.

3. **Architectural Features:**

Type	Description

4. **Non-Architectural Features:**

Type	Description
Berms	638 earthen berms average in size from 10 to 30 feet long and 5-10 feet wide were documented in the 5% sample area

5. **Feature Comments:** The 5% site area sample yielded 638 erosion control berms. The berms at this site are all low earthen berms. They average in size from 10 to 30 feet long and 5-10 feet wide, although several were up to 70 ft long. The berms appear to be constructed by hand as well as machine excavated, basically a dozer push. These berms are all simple construction with no signs of any reinforcement such as rip-rap or stonework observed. The berms are varying state of condition from good to completely delated or washed away. Several have been impacted by animal burrows.

6. **Cans – Total Quantity:** N/A

Quantity	Type	Description

7. **Can Comments:** N/A

8. **Glass Bottles – Total ENV:**

ENV	Manufacturing Method	Description

9. **Glass Bottle Comments:** N/A

10. **Ceramics – Total ENV:**

ENV	Ware	Description

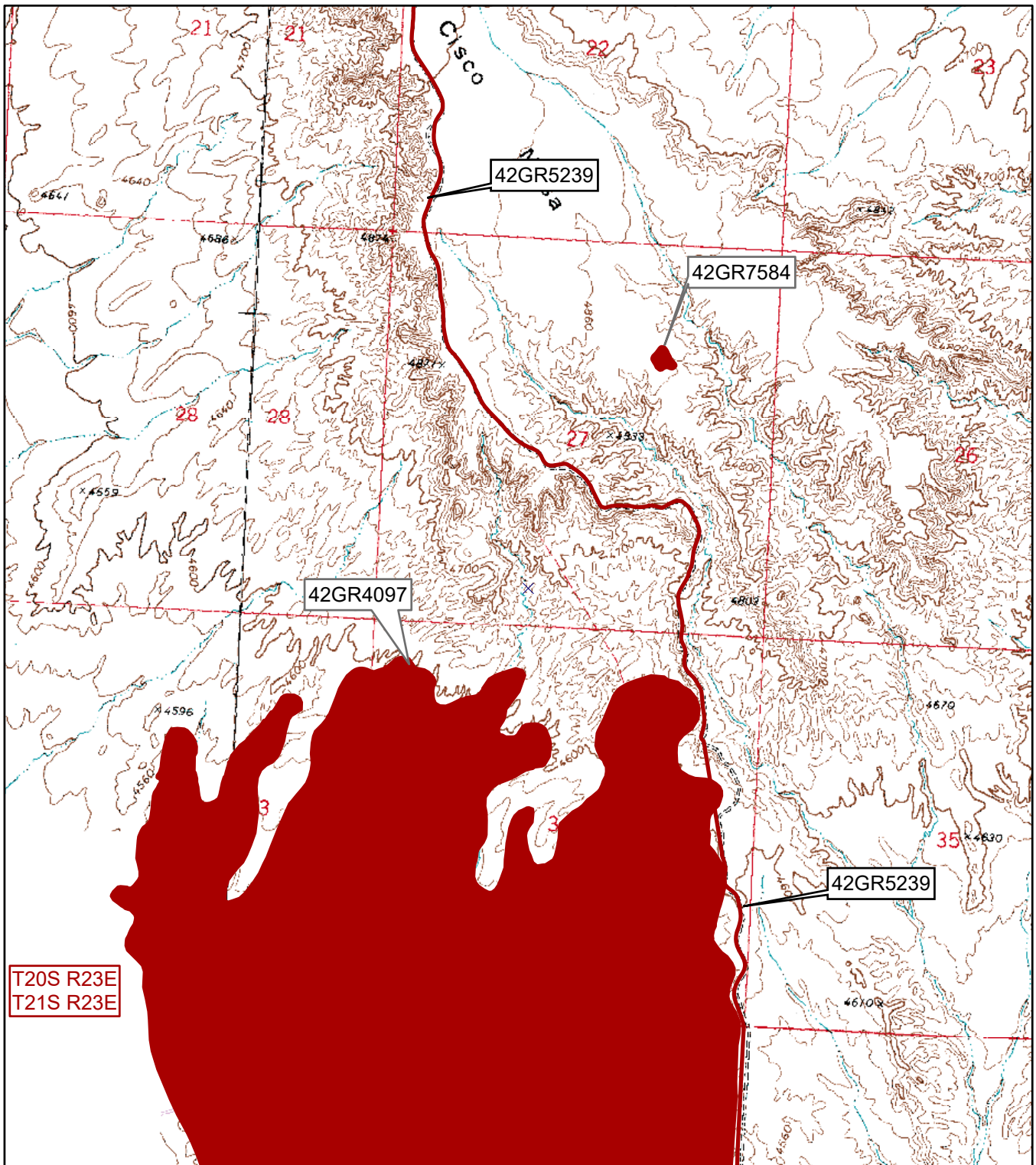
11. **Ceramic Comments:** N/A

12. **Additional Artifacts/Debris:**

- | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ammunition/Firearms | <input type="checkbox"/> Car/Car parts | <input type="checkbox"/> Glass (non-bottle) | <input type="checkbox"/> Nails (wire) | <input type="checkbox"/> Toys |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bone | <input type="checkbox"/> Ceramics (non-tableware) | <input type="checkbox"/> Hardware | <input type="checkbox"/> Plastic | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Building Materials | <input type="checkbox"/> Clothing | <input type="checkbox"/> Nails (cut) | <input type="checkbox"/> Stove Parts | |

13. **Additional Artifact/Debris Description:** N/A

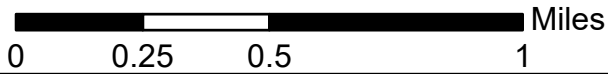
14. **Additional Part C Comments:**



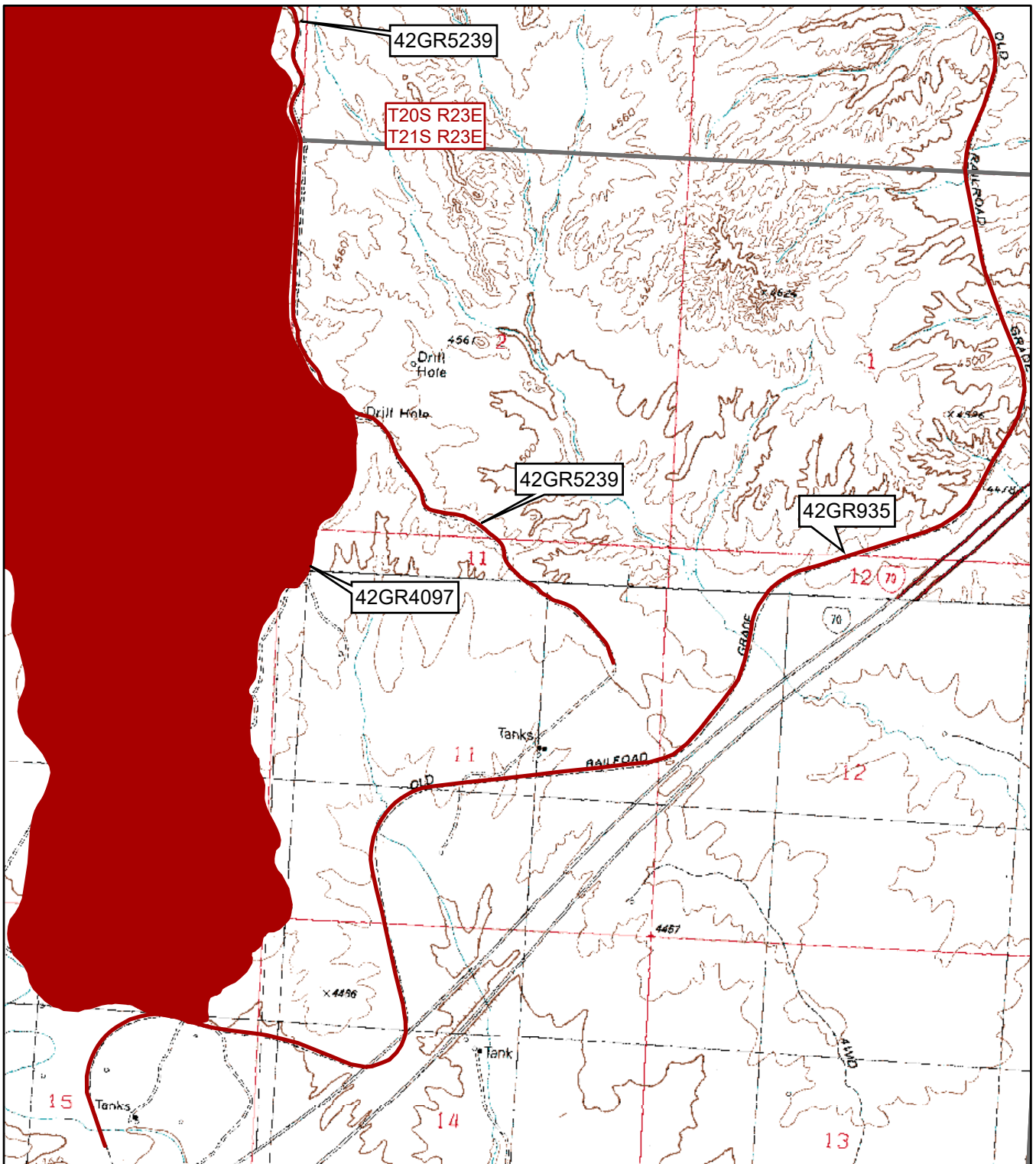
T20S R23E
T21S R23E



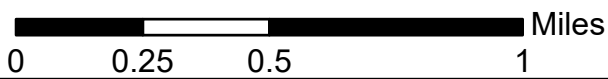
1:24,000



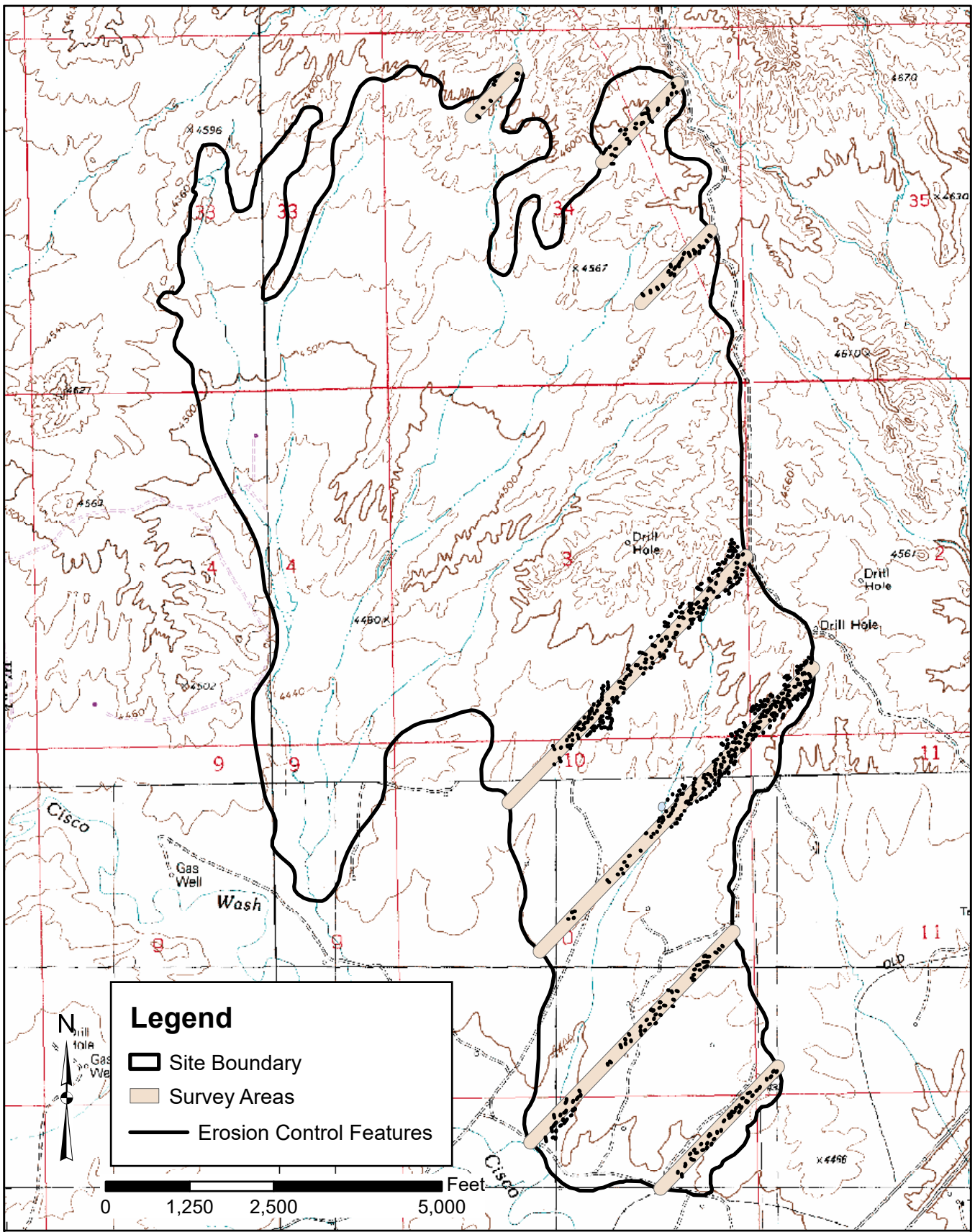
Location of sites located during the Cisco Spring 2D Seismic Project. Taken from the USGS 7.5' Quadrangles Cisco Spring, Utah (1970) and Danish Flat, Utah (1970).



1:24,000



Location of sites located during the Cisco Spring 2D Seismic Project. Taken from the USGS 7.5' Quadrangled Danish Flat, Utah (1970) and Cisco, Utah (1970).



Site 42GR4097 CCC Erosion Control



Site 42GR4097. Representative site overview; red circles and arrows showing berms locations along slope.



Site 42GR4097. Site overview from southwest end of site looking across Cisco Wash; view to the southwest showing abandoned railroad grade in background.



Site 42GR4097. Representative berm; view to the east.



Site 42GR4097. Representative view showing 3 berms in a row; view to the southwest.



Site 42GR4097. Representative erosion-cut berm; close-up view with 4 ft high scale.



Site 42GR4097. Overview showing line of berms running upslope; view to the north with 4 ft high scale.



Site 42GR4097. Representative berm; close-up view.



Site 42GR4097. Representative view showing deflating berm.



Site 42GR4097. Representative overview showing multiple berms on slope; note vegetation changes where cheat grass fills in the areas behind berms.



Site 42GR4097. Representative view showing vegetation change behind berm.