

ABSTRACT

Between August 13 and September 10, 2018, TerraXplorations, Inc. (TerraX) of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, performed a Phase I cultural resources survey for proposed mining at the Twin Pines Minerals Keystone Property in Charlton County, Georgia. The Phase I survey was performed by Principal Investigator Shaun E. West, Field Director Matt Lyons, and Field Technicians Shawna Felkel, Stephen Holt, Abigail Peeples, Tyler Reece, Jeff Thompson, and Ashley Weller. The purpose of this study was to determine if any prehistoric or historic properties exist within the limits of the project area, and if so, to document and assess each based on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) criteria. The lead federal agency for this project is the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District.

The project area is located along State Road 94 on Trail Ridge approximately 3.75 miles (6 kilometers) west of Saint George and 2.7 miles (4.3 kilometers) southeast of the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge. The property encompasses three discrete tracts of land (totaling 1,031.60 acres [417.47 hectares]) identified as Area 1, Area 2, and Area 3 in this report. Phase I investigations of this property led to the discovery of six archaeological sites (9CR201-9CR206) and four isolated finds (K1, K2, K4, and K8), which contained multiple cultural components including possible Middle Archaic, post-Archaic, possible Middle Woodland (Swift Creek), unknown aboriginal, and late nineteenth to mid-twentieth century historic with unknown aboriginal and early to mid-twentieth century historic manifestations being most common. Based on the results of the field investigation, none of these resources are considered significant, having been heavily impacted by numerous years of repeated pine cultivation activities. All six archaeological sites are recommended ineligible for NRHP inclusion under Criterion D based on their lack of integrity. As no significant cultural resources will be impacted by the proposed mining operation, TerraX recommends clearance for this project in regards to cultural resource concerns.

In conclusion, there is always the possibility of undetected cultural resources such as graves or other cultural features not discovered through standard survey methods. In the unlikely event that burials or cultural features are revealed during the course of the proposed mining project, all work should be halted and archaeologists with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District and the Georgia State Historic Preservation Office should be alerted of the discovery.