Native American Interpretation of Cultural Resources in the Area of Yucca Mountain, Nevada

Author
Stoffle, Richard W.
Evans, Michael
Harshbarger, Camilla

Affiliation
Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan

Issue Date
1989-03

Keywords
Cultural Resources
Yucca Mountain
Southern Paiute
Owens Valley Paiute
Western Shoshone
Nuclear Waste

Description
The Yucca Mountain region was used by Owens Valley Paiute, Western Shoshone, and Southern Paiute people for thousands of years. The area contains numerous plants, animals, and sacred resources traditionally used by these people. This report presents the location and interpretation of these resources in the context of Yucca Mountain.
Nevada is among the most mountainous states in the contiguous United States. The state's ranges all trend north-south, and most display typical basin geography, with one ecosystem giving way to another as elevation changes. While the Sierra Nevada make a brief foray into Nevada -- creating the famous ski resorts at ... The area around Cave Lake State Park, at an elevation of 7,300 feet 15 miles east of Ely, draws campers, hikers, and mule deer and elk hunters. Fishing for native German brown trout and stocked rainbow attracts open water and ice anglers year-round. The park also has developed campgrounds with showers and flush toilets.


Deposits of calcite and opal are present as coatings on open fractures and lithophysal cavities in unsaturated-zone tuffs at Yucca Mountain, Nevada, site of a potential high-level radioactive waste repository. Outermost layers of calcite and opal have radiocarbon ages of 16,000 to 44,000 years before present and thorium-230/uranium ages of 28,000 to more than 500,000 years before present. Study Area. Additional publication details. Publication type.

Native American cultural resources on or near Yucca Mountain, Nevada. This work built upon the archaeological reconnaissance and identifications of cultural resources by the Desert Research Institute. Interpretations provided by Native American Indian people are not intended to refute other scientific studies, such as botanical, wildlife, and archaeological studies. Rather, they provide additional hypotheses for future studies, and they provide a more complete cultural understanding of the Yucca Mountain area. Representatives of sixteen American Indian tribes identified the cultural value of these resources as part of a consultation relationship with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). This interim report is to be used to review research procedures and findings regarding (1) initial consultation with the sixteen tribes, (2) in-depth interviews with tribal elders, and (3) findings from the first on-site visit with representatives of the sixteen tribes.

Collections
Yucca Mountain Ethnographic Studies