

# 4

## The Goodman Point Historic Land-Use Study

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### Introduction

The Goodman Point community, located approximately 16 km (10 mi) west of Cortez, Colorado, consists of the residents of a number of widely dispersed homes and farms. Homesteading in the Goodman Point area began in 1911 and continued into the 1960s, though at a decreasing rate after 1925. Between 1911 and 1925, Goodman Point developed into a farming community supporting over 160 people. These settlers cleared the sagebrush, pinyon, and juniper and supported their families with dry-land crops.

On U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) topographic maps, the label "Goodman Point" is applied only to the area between Sand and Goodman canyons, but residents of the area apply the term somewhat more broadly. Locally, the Goodman Point area is defined on the south by the rims of McElmo Canyon and lower Sand and Goodman canyons, and on the north by Yellow Jacket Canyon and Dawson Draw (Figure 4.1). The eastern boundary begins at the western rim of Trail Canyon, and the western boundary is located past Sand Canyon, where private lands give way to lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management. Thus defined, the Goodman Point area encompasses approximately 75 km<sup>2</sup> (29 mi<sup>2</sup>).

The Goodman Point study area ranges in elevation from approximately 1750 m (5750 ft) in the bottom of Goodman Canyon at the southern edge of the study area to approximately 2180 m (7160 ft) on the divide between Sand and Goodman canyons, near the McElmo Canyon rim. The study area is centered on the McElmo dome, a structural uplift with a north-northeast dipping axis. The surface of this feature is formed on the Lower Cretaceous Dakota Sandstone, which is locally overlain by eolian-deposited silts and dissected by canyons draining south to McElmo Creek or northeast to Yellow Jacket Canyon. Elevations on

the McElmo dome are highest on Goodman Point proper—the divide between Goodman and Sand canyons, just north of where the uplifted rocks are truncated by McElmo Canyon. From this point, the surface of the dome slopes both east and west, and more gradually along its axis to the north-northeast.

Deep, rich eolian soils and an average annual precipitation exceeding 14 in per year make the Goodman Point area one of the most productive farming locations in Montezuma County. When Anglo settlement began, it was an area of open sage parks on the deeper upland soils, surrounded by stands of pinyon and juniper trees occupying the canyon rims as well as some of the deep soil areas.

In 1983, the Crow Canyon Archaeological Center began a long-term archaeological research program that focused on the Sand Canyon locality, an approximately 200 km<sup>2</sup> area around Sand Canyon and Goodman Point pueblos (Figure 1.2). The Sand Canyon locality includes the Goodman Point study area defined for this report (Figure 4.1). Prehistoric Anasazi communities occupied the Goodman Point area for at least 700 years (Adler, this volume)—from the A.D. 500s or 600s through most of the 1200s. Surveys by Crow Canyon Center archaeologists and other researchers in the study area have revealed abundant evidence of habitation and limited-activity sites, as well as prehistoric reservoirs, agricultural features such as checkdams, and traces of a road that appears to have extended from near the head of Sand Canyon to the area just north of the Goodman Point Ruin (Adler, this volume; Adler 1988, 1990). These sites are located on privately owned farms and on public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management and the National Park Service.

In 1989, the Crow Canyon Archaeological Center initiated an oral history project involving older residents of Goodman Point. It was expected that these residents'

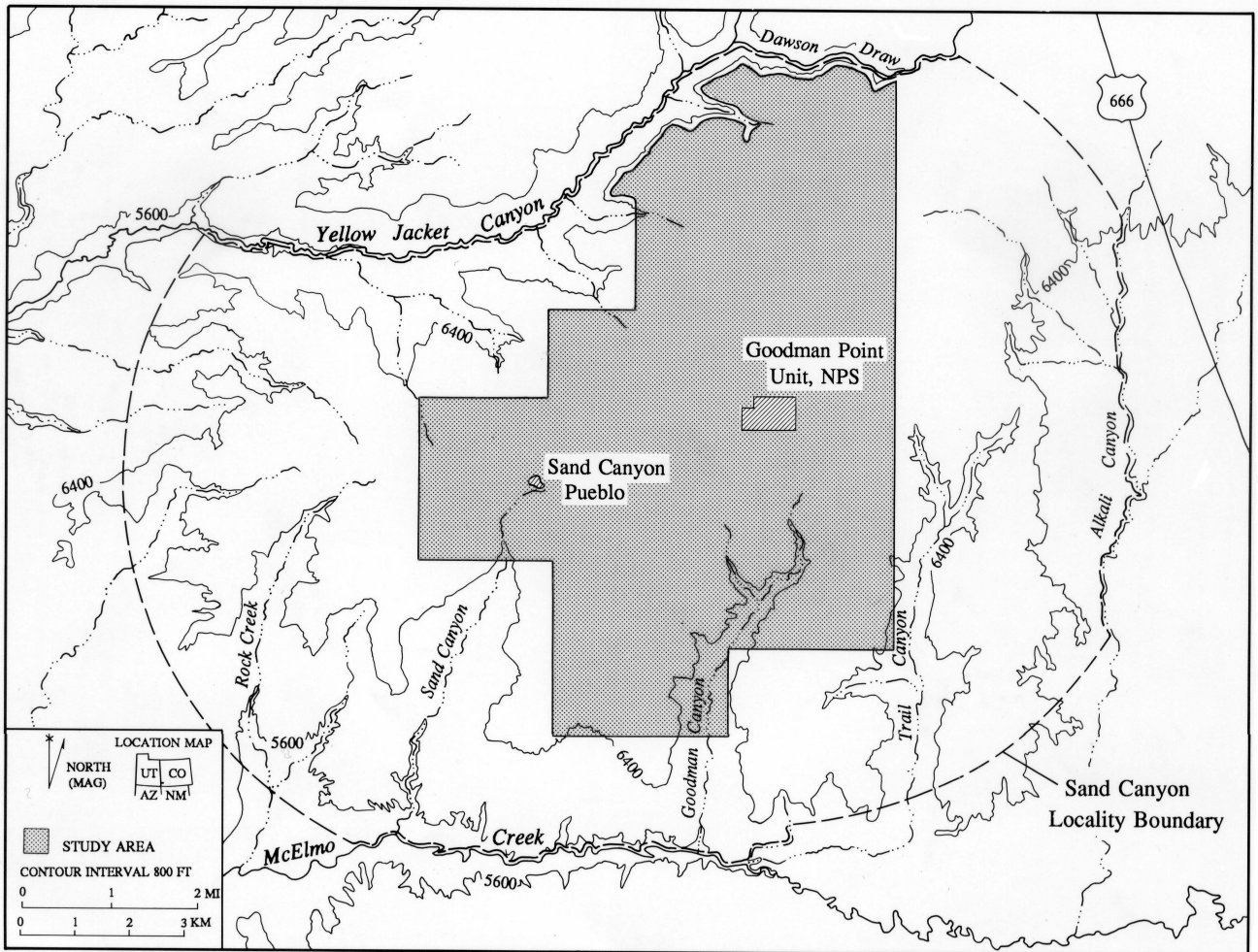


Figure 4.1. Goodman Point historic land-use study area.

recollections of homesteading and dry farming in the area would be helpful in understanding the earlier response of Anasazi farmers to the same challenges—finding suitable soil, farming in a semiarid region with a highly variable climate, and finding reliable domestic water sources. Furthermore, since 1911, historic land use has significantly altered the archaeological resources of the area. No one knows more about this transformation than the residents of Goodman Point. The older residents gained an intimate understanding of the archaeological resources when they cleared the lands for agricultural use. Through informal meetings, questionnaires, and taped interviews, the Center hoped to accomplish the following goals:

- Understand the criteria and techniques farmers used in selecting their land for homesteading and for farming
- Document the location of early homesteads and the identities of the families that settled them
- Learn about crop selection and successes and failures in farming

- Identify local water sources
- Document the impact of farming on archaeological sites
- Record current residents' perceptions of archaeology

## Methods

The Goodman Point oral history project was carried out during 1989 and early 1990, under the direction of the author (Connolly 1990). Funding assistance was provided by the Colorado Endowment for the Humanities, the Ballantine Family Charitable Fund, and the Crow Canyon Archaeological Center. An initial search for literature on Anglo settlement in the Goodman Point area provided few sources of information. No reference to early farming practices on Goodman Point was found. Documents at the Cortez office of the Soil Conservation Service and at the Center for Southwest Studies at Fort Lewis College in Durango contained no specific reference to the immediate study area. However, climate and crop production records

for Montezuma County as a whole were located at the Soil Conservation Service office, and these records served as reliable cross-checks for information obtained from the informants.

The fieldwork for this study was conducted from December 1989 through February 1990. A questionnaire (Connolly 1990: Appendix A) was developed by the project director and reviewed by the Crow Canyon staff. The questionnaire was designed to gain insight into three areas: early homesteading, farming practices, and land use effects on archaeological sites.

The project director conducted all interviews in the informants' homes. For each interview, USGS topographic maps were used to record the location of homesteads, springs, and ruins. Every individual from the Goodman Point community who could recall the early days in the study area and who was still living in Montezuma County was contacted. Everyone who was contacted agreed to be interviewed and was friendly and helpful. Fifteen people were interviewed: Leslie Black, Steve Chappell, Lucile Everett, Edith Flanagan, Laura Fulks, Marie Graves, Lois Hearne, Alex Martin, Oscar Martin, Birney Seitz, Luther Shields, Catherine Stanley, Ford Stanley, Theron Story, and Dorothy Willbanks. Eight of these individuals are children of the first homesteaders. Six others moved to Goodman Point in the late 1920s with their parents, who had purchased land from the original homesteaders. One respondent was born in the 1940s. Although the people interviewed represent only a small number of the families who lived on Goodman Point prior to 1930, they were able to contribute a great deal of information about the early years of settlement, farming, and community formation. In the material that follows, these informants are often referred to collectively as "residents." This implies that they represent the larger group of early-day (pre-1930) residents of the Goodman Point community, many of whom are now deceased or have moved away.

Interviews with nine of the informants were tape-recorded. The tapes and transcriptions are permanently stored at the Montezuma Valley Historical Society, the Crow Canyon Archaeological Center, and the Cortez Public Library. A file was established for each person interviewed. The file includes a biographical data sheet, an interview release form, and a map.

After each interview, the responses to the questions were recorded in numerical order on a chart. The chart organized the data so that responses could more easily be compared. Below, responses to the questions are summarized in a descriptive manner, although occasionally direct quotes from individuals are provided. The chart and field notes are archived at the Crow Canyon Archaeological Center. The interview results are reported here by subject category: homesteading, farming practices, and archaeological sites.

## Homesteading

From the late 1870s to 1900, a large portion of the land in Montezuma County was used for grazing. The earliest land applications on Goodman Point were made by cattlemen. Goodman Point was named after Henry Goodman, a rancher from Dolores who lived in the area in the late 1800s. Although Goodman never legally applied for any land, his name appears on the first surveyors' maps of Goodman Point in 1889. James P. Gallaway, a prominent rancher from Paradox Valley, applied for land north of Sand Canyon in 1892. By 1910, the cattle industry had been restricted to private and federally approved public lands, and new areas were opened to homesteading in Montezuma County.

The Homestead Act of 1862 allowed anyone who was 21 years of age or the head of a household to homestead up to 160 acres of public land. The Rio Grande Southern Railroad and the irrigation projects sponsored by the Montezuma Valley Water Supply Company attracted new settlers to Montezuma Valley. Between 1911 and 1925, over 62 people filed for land on Goodman Point. The dry-farming successes of the initial settlers encouraged their friends and relatives to settle in the area as well. The community grew quickly; by 1920 the population was approximately 160 people. Figure 4.2 shows the locations of homesteads settled in the period 1911–1925. This map is adapted from one kindly prepared for the oral history project by Ford Stanley, a resident of the Goodman Point community. The names of the homesteading families are given in Table 4.1.

The Goodman Point Archaeological Reserve (Figure 4.2) was a full section of land that had been set aside in 1889 to preserve the Goodman Point Ruin and other sites located close to it (National Park Service 1990). Consequently, it was not available for homesteading in the early period of settlement in the Goodman Point area. This was one of the first instances of archaeological preservation by the U.S. government. Approximately 143 acres of the original 640-acre Reserve were designated as a unit of Hovenweep National Monument in 1951 and 1952 (National Park Service 1990). Of the nearly 500 acres removed from the Reserve at that time, the majority was retained in public ownership under the Bureau of Land Management, but approximately 160 acres located just south and west of the monument unit were released for acquisition by private landowners.

As land in the Goodman Point area was settled, families arrived from Arkansas, California, Kansas, Michigan, Oklahoma, Texas, Washington, and West Virginia. The first priorities of the homesteaders were to construct a home, cistern, and root cellar and to plant a garden. Ten to 20 acres were quickly cleared to meet the requirements of the Homestead Act. The approximate locations of the earliest houses are shown in Figure 4.2.

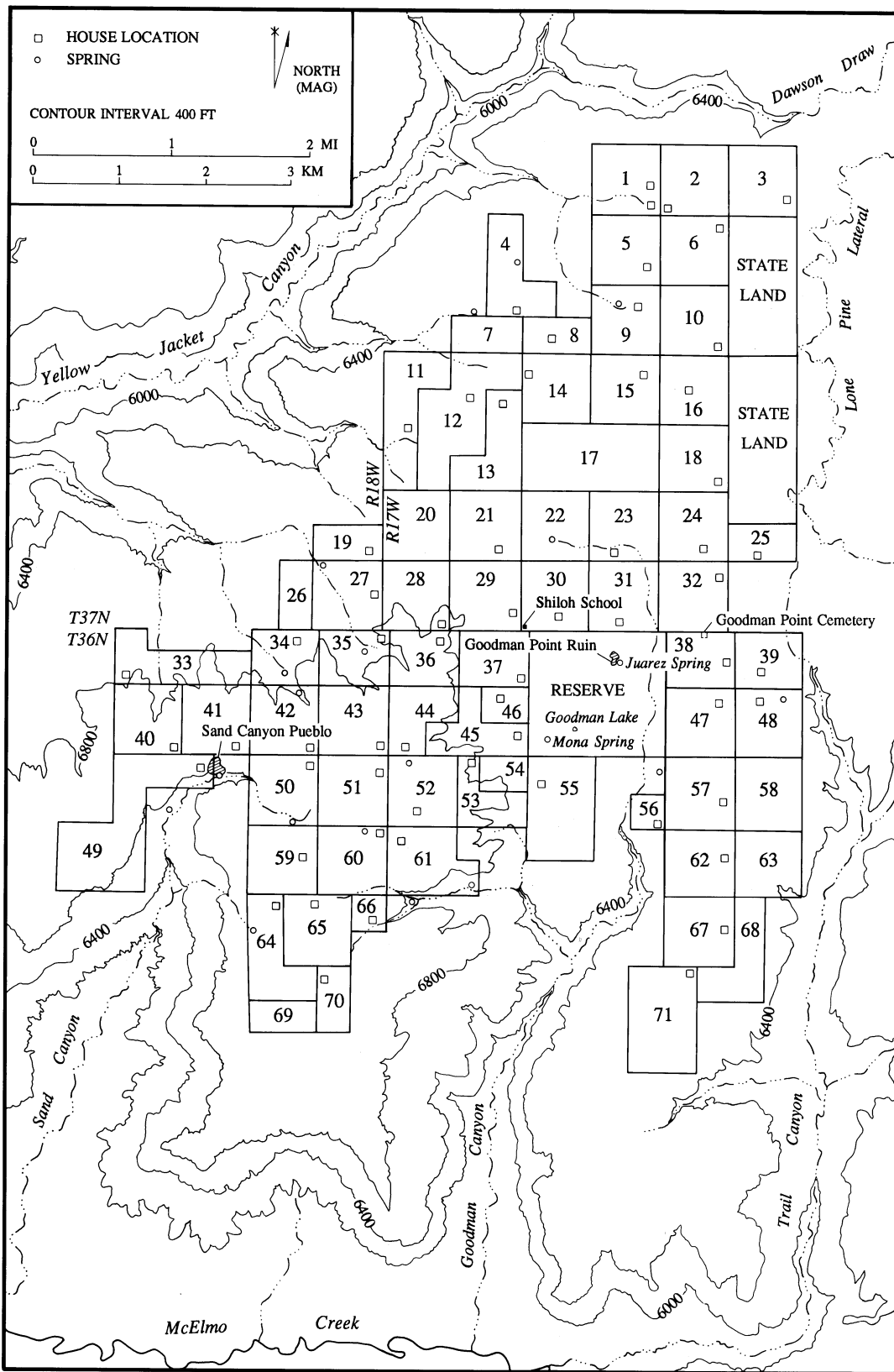


Figure 4.2. Homesteads of Goodman Point, 1911–1925. See Table 4.1 for the names of homesteading families.

Table 4.1. Homesteading Families of Goodman Point

Homestead <sup>a</sup>	Homesteading Family	Offspring
1	Bill and Viola Ferguson	Dorothy
2	Walker	
3	Carl Hinman	
4	Theodore and Lilly Belle Walton	Pearl, Max, Noble, Flossie, Earl, Sallie
5	Max Walton	
6	Dunn	
7	Kenneth Rowley	
8	Rowley	
9	Tom Tyghe	Sydney, Anne, Harry, Tommy
10	Hoyt	
11	Cook	
12	Thomas and Margaret Martin	May, Lenard, Lela, Alex, Oscar (O.J.), Elbert, Claude, Edith
13	Lovell and Annie Chastain	Hugh
14	Earl Walton	
15	Clark	
16	Scot	
17	Zane	
18	Scot	
19	Cook	
20	Annie Chastain	
21	Jake and Sally Plemons	Basil, Zelma, Ernest, Cicero, Lewie, Joe
22	Elmer and Madia Mays	Kenneth, Ivan
23	Rena Cook	
24	Robert and Ida North	Niles, Ruth
25	Carraway Rice	
26	George and Earl Cook	Rena, Jim, Goff, Betty
27	McEwen	
28	Washington Fulks	
29	Ray Rowley	
30	William and Ethel McGechie	Bill, Onis
31	John and Liberty Fulks	Ione, Jim, Lyod, John, Joe
32	Thomas and Isabelle Rice	Carraway, Minnie
33	Harles	
34	Shelby and Ava Harles	
35	Gus Lightfoot	
36	Seitz	
37	Eldarado and Nellie Seitz	Merle, Mona, Eva, Ralph, Birney
38	Lige and Linnie Phillips	Opal, Clyde, Royal, Johnny
39	Samuel Stone	
40	Jim and Dot Johnson	
41	Don and Blanche Johnson	Paul, Lucile
42	Dacus Wallace	
43	Emma Berryman	
44	Comisky	
45	Charlie Flagg	
46	Shelby and Ava Harles	
47	Minnie Rice	
48	John and Leona Gregory	Marie, Johnny, Gladys, Norma Jean, Ermadine, Uyla Belle
49	Everett and Mary Williams	Wilbert
50	Rayford Berryman	
51	Pearl and Mina Black	Mary, Marshall, Clyde, Ruth
52	Eagen	
53	Conoley	
54	Flagg	
55	Jim and Fannie Layman	Mollie, Linnie, Dole, Cole, Gole, Clyde, Harvey, Bessie
56	Lewis Matson	
57	William and Donye Conoley	Eloise, Malcom, Orrel, Lois
58	Thurogh North	
59	J.H. Farmer	
60	Effie Berryman	
61	Alcy Baker	
62	Glen Fields	John
63	Elsie Finley	
64	John and Audra Stanley	Omar, Harry, Ollis, Ford, Leslie, Dean
65	Straton and Sally Hutchinson	
66	Lawrence Mahon	
67	Joe and Mollie Phillips	
68	Frederick Schnauffer	
69	Howard Hutchinson	
70	Lewis and Edith Hutchinson	
71	James and Frances Finley	Lela, Mildred, Virgil, Bessie

<sup>a</sup> See Figure 4.2 for the location of each homestead.

By 1913, the first schoolhouse was constructed on land donated by the McGeachie family. It was named the Shiloh School (Figure 4.2). Forty-six students attended classes the first year. The schoolhouse also functioned as a Baptist church and as a community center for such activities as Ladies' Club meetings and school programs. The Goodman Point Baseball Team games were played at Goodman Lake. Although dances were not common on Goodman Point, residents often met to play music and sing songs at neighbors' homes. A post office was established in 1915 at Bud Fulks's home. It was named the Renaraye Post Office in honor of Rena Cook and Raye Rowley, two Goodman Point residents.

Informants were asked six questions about homesteading. The goals of the questions were to develop a chronology of the homesteads, to understand where the people came from, to learn how they heard of Goodman Point and why they moved there, and to record the criteria used in selecting a homestead.

*1. When did your family first move to Goodman Point?*

The Seitz family arrived in 1911. The Terrys, Fulkses, and Blacks came in 1912. The Conoleys, Gregorys, and Martins homesteaded in 1913. The Stanleys and Hutchinsons arrived in 1914. The Johnson family homesteaded in 1915. The Shieldses and Storys settled in 1926, buying land from previous homesteaders.

*2. What was your family's background?*

The Fulks, Terry, and Gregory families moved from Texas. The Martin, Story, and Shields families came from Arkansas, and the Seitzes from Oklahoma. The Stanley family came from West Virginia via Kansas. The Johnsons moved from Kansas and the Blacks from Missouri.

Through the course of the interviews, information was noted concerning the origins of other families whose relatives could not be located. The Chastains and Walkers came from Arkansas. The Finleys and Hutchinsons moved from Kansas. Lewis Matson arrived from Michigan. The Harles and Zane families moved from Oklahoma. From Texas came the Baker, Berryman, Conoley, Cook, Field, Lightfoot, Phillips, and Plemons families. The Waltons moved from Washington, and the Rowleys from West Virginia.

*3. How and why did your family pick Goodman Point as a place to live?*

Three of the individuals responding to this question had no recollection of why their families moved. The remaining twelve said that their families moved to Goodman Point at the suggestion of a relative. News spread quickly of the good soil and the opportunity for a more prosperous life. The county records show that by 1915 the Black, Chastain, Comisky, Eagen, Gregory, Rowley, Stone, and Seitz men had all filed on the land.

Eldarado Seitz moved his family to Colorado in 1908, looking for a better climate for his children's health. They first homesteaded south of Cortez, but in 1911, after noting the storm clouds building up on Ute Mountain and the rain falling on Goodman Point, Seitz became one of the first men to homestead on Goodman Point.

The Johnson family was inspired to move to Colorado by an uncle, who was a prospector. He visited Montezuma County and wrote home to his relatives, encouraging them to come out.

*4. Why did your family pick its homesite?*

The earliest homesites were chosen to receive protection from the north wind and for their proximity to water. The families who arrived after 1915 chose homesteads wherever the land wasn't already claimed.

*5. What were the dependable water sources in the early days?*

Informants located 20 springs in the study area (Figure 4.2). All the early residents hauled water from Goodman Lake or the Lone Pine Lateral. Goodman Lake, located south of the Goodman Point Ruin, was a good source for livestock water. Residents drove their teams into the lake and filled water barrels. No one could recall a time when Goodman Lake dried up.

Flowing from Narraguinnep Reservoir in a westerly direction and then south to Trail Canyon, the Lone Pine Lateral was the most reliable drinking water source. This canal was built about 1907 by the Montezuma Valley Water Supply Company. Other water sources frequently cited were Mona Spring, close to Goodman Lake, and Juarez Spring, located at Goodman Pueblo. Other springs located at the heads of small canyons were used throughout the year by families. One example is the spring located within the confines of Sand Canyon Pueblo, used by the Johnson family, which homesteaded the land just north of the site.

At most homes, cisterns were built in order to store rainwater and melted winter snows. The Martin and Shields families, on homesteads located close to Dawson Draw, dug wells by hand. They hit water between 10 and 30 ft below the surface.

*6. Was the land altered significantly before 1920 by the cattlemen?*

This question drew the least response. Some of the residents could recall sheep and cattle roaming freely, but their first impression of the land was that it was almost all sagebrush with scattered pinyon and juniper trees. Luther Shields said, "Years ago, I talked to the old-timers who lived out in this country. They brought in herds of cattle from Texas and overgrazed the grassland. It was nearly all sagebrush when we came in."

## Summary

Between 1911 and 1925, 62 people filed for land in the Goodman Point area, and a dry-land farming community rapidly developed that supported over 160 people, a school, a church, and a post office. People moved to this area from their previous homes for economic reasons. The factors that made Goodman Point their destination were generally social, usually word-of-mouth recommendations from one relative to another.

Once in the Goodman Point area, both economic and social factors were considered in choosing a homestead location, along with the availability of land, proximity to water, and protection from the weather. Goodman Lake and the Lone Pine Lateral were the most dependable water sources. In addition, residents identified 20 springs. At most homes, cisterns were used to store rainwater and melted winter snow.

## Farming Practices, 1911–1930

Early farms on Goodman Point were small, self-sufficient family operations. The land was cleared by hand, using a grubbing hoe and an axe. After some land had been cleared, a large garden, fruit trees, and a small amount of corn were planted. The corn was for livestock feed. Although the family farms were self-sufficient, it was common for a family member to work in town or out of state for wages.

From 1910 through 1930, corn, cane, potatoes, and pinto beans were grown for sale or trade. Corn was the most abundant crop in the early years. Two varieties, Swadely Yellow Dent and Australian White Flint, were successful. In 1918, the county agricultural agent located a market for pinto beans and arranged for a carload of beans to be shipped to the East by train. Gradually, pinto beans became established as the main cash crop.

By the end of the 1920s, the Goodman Point farmers began using tractors, and the amount of land under cultivation again increased. As people turned to tractors, corn production declined because there were fewer farm animals to feed. In the 1930s, modern farm machinery was introduced, including large threshers, combines, and tractors.

Today the land is prepared in the same manner as in the early days of farm machinery. After fall harvest the ground is tilled 8 in deep. In the following spring, when the ground is dry enough to work, the farmers prepare the soil by disking it twice before planting. This works the soil to a depth of 4 to 5 in and breaks it up into clods. The thin layer of dust and small lumps of soil that are left on top help preserve the moisture in the soil. This process creates what is referred to as a clod mulch. Corn is planted between May 1 and 15. Beans are planted in early June because they are less resistant to frost. Corn and bean seeds are planted 3 to 4 in deep. The land is cultivated and harrowed to keep

it loose and free of weeds. A good yield for beans is 10 to 12 sacks per acre. A sack is equal to 100 pounds. During a poor year, each acre will produce only ½ to 3 sacks of beans. Forty bushels of corn per acre is considered a good yield.

*1. What were the best lands for farming? Pinyon and juniper? Sagebrush? What were the best locations?*

All but 3 of the 15 informants believed that sage and timber lands produce equal yields. The three who disagreed believed that the organic matter deposited by the trees makes the timber land soil more productive than the sage land. Corn and potatoes were always planted on the newest ground cleared. Beans need “cleaner” ground that has been tilled longer. Residents believe that north-sloping fields and land at the bottom of hollows produce the greatest yields.

*2. When Goodman Point was first settled, how was the land cleared? With tools? Fire? How long did it take?*

In the 1910s, the land was cleared with a grubbing hoe and a shovel. The roots of the sagebrush, pinyon, and juniper were dug out. The children would help the farmers by piling the sagebrush and timber, which then was burned. The Stanley brothers dug up 600 trees in two months. A good hard worker could grub an acre a day. Only three men, Lewis Matson, Ken Rowley, and Shelby Harles, were known for that type of stamina. More commonly, it would take two people to clear an acre of land in one day.

Teams of horses were also employed. A drag, such as a railroad tie, would scrape the vegetation. The material that didn't loosen would be grubbed out and burned.

*3. If you had your choice, what lands would you clear?*

Everyone questioned felt that the sage-covered land was the best choice because it was easiest to dig out the roots.

*4. What were the first crops that were planted on a new homestead?*

The first crops planted were in the family garden. They included cabbage, corn, carrots, green beans, onions, radishes, rhubarb, squash, turnips, and potatoes. These vegetables all stored well in a root cellar.

*5. What were the early sources for seeds?*

The most common seed source was the Henry Fields Company in Shenandoah, Iowa. Seeds were ordered from this company from the 1910s to the present. Harry Rogers's store in Arriola also was a seed source. Additionally, many people saved corn, bean, and watermelon seeds from their own crops. Two people had samples of beans that they have been growing since their families moved out on the Point. One bean was an “Arkansas” bean and the other a brightly colored “Anasazi” bean.

6. *What are the requirements for a good crop? Can it ever be too wet?*

The overwhelming response to the first question was that adequate winter snow and summer rain are required for a good crop. Moisture is considered the most important element in dry-land farming. Rain in the fall can hurt a crop because it delays the harvest. In 1957, it rained all spring and summer. The beans were not planted until the middle of June. The crop is usually cut in early to middle September and left to "cure," or dry, for a week before the beans are threshed. In 1957, several of the farmers were three to four weeks late cutting the crop, because of the wet weather. The vines were so heavy that it took twice as long for the beans to cure out. When they finally could be harvested, the farmers reaped 12 sacks to the acre, but many could not finish harvesting before the snow came. In January of 1958, they returned to the fields during a dry spell. The unharvested beans had to be removed for the next season. The farmers plowed the beans up onto the top of the snow and harvested them. They averaged 6 sacks to the acre. The beans had swelled as big as a person's thumb and sold for only about half the normal price.

7. *How were the crops protected? Did your family use scarecrows? Pesticides? Fertilizers?*

Three people recalled the use of scarecrows in gardens. Only one early use of pesticides was noted. Strychnine mixed with flour was employed to kill pinyon jays. The birds were a problem because they ate the tops of the corn husks. No one used fertilizers in the early days. In later years when combines came into use, the bean hulls were placed back into the soil. Chemical fertilizers have been used with wheat, but haven't proven to be cost effective.

8. *What types of insect and animal problems were there? What wild animals were seen in the early days?*

In the early years, problems with insects were minimal. Since the 1950s, people have had problems with grasshoppers and cutworms. The animals most commonly seen in the early days were coyote, mountain lion, bobcat, fox, jackrabbit, and porcupine. Of all the animals mentioned, porcupines caused the most damage, as they would eat the blossoms off the beans closest to the edges of the fields. Porcupines were frequently shot. Jackrabbits also caused crop damage, and in the 1930s a few communal jackrabbit drives were organized. The farmers would spread out across the country, drive the rabbits into a designated area, and then shoot them. Other pest animals included deer, prairie dogs, owls, and hawks. The large birds would eat the chickens.

9. *How did dry beans become established as a major crop?*

Helen Martin (Alex's wife) grew up in the Yellow Jacket area. She says her father, Floyd Cummings, was the first

person to plant pinto beans in the Montezuma Valley. In the early 1910s, he ordered garden beans from Henry Fields, but they were out of that particular variety so the company substituted the order with pinto beans. They produced so well that he planted a larger patch the next year.

Pearl Black is credited as the first person to grow pinto beans on Goodman Point. The Blacks homesteaded in 1912. The Stanleys planted ½ acre of pinto beans in 1916, and by 1922 they had enlarged their plot to 10 acres. In 1927, Eldarado Seitz planted 70 acres of beans. The first bean planted was called a San Juan pinto or a Mexican bean. It had spots on it and a definite stripe up the side. It was the predominant bean planted until a few years ago, when the farmers switched to the Cahone variety. They always save seed to be planted for the following year's crop.

Red, white, and black beans were also grown on Goodman Point. Half of the informants recalled their parents growing a variety now referred to as "Anasazi beans" in the family garden. They were brighter than the present-day Anasazi beans. Leslie Black has been growing a bean of this type all her life. [Author's note: What has recently come to be called the "Anasazi bean" in Montezuma County appears to be the same as a variety called "Jacob's pole bean" elsewhere.] Yearly, Edith Flanagan plants an "Arkansas bean" that her parents brought out with them. It looks like a small pinto bean.

10. *What were the best and worst years for farming?*

Oscar Martin summed up the best years for farming by stating, "The best years were the sevens. It started in 1927, and it followed through every [tenth] year until 1977. [The years] 1927, 1937, 1947, 1957, and 1967 were all good years."

The years 1927 and 1947 were cited as the best ones for farming. The beans produced 10 to 12 sacks per acre. The women interviewed could easily recall 1947 because it was the year that they could afford to buy extra household items.

The years 1934 and 1951 were the driest years anyone could remember. Birney Seitz said, "In 1934, we had to sell our livestock except our work animals. It was so dry, we didn't raise anything. It was worse than last summer [1989]. All the springs—everything went dry. You could walk across the Dolores River without getting your feet wet. It didn't rain or snow."

For all those questioned, 1951 was a year of almost total crop failure. The fall of 1950 was dry and the winter produced little snow. By spring, only 1½ in of moisture had been received since the beginning of the previous fall. Beans came up, but they never produced. When harvest came, in most areas the farmers didn't even make back their seed. Oscar Martin recalls harvesting a total of 10 sacks of beans from 30 acres.



*11. How and when were new farm machines introduced?*

A team of one to three horses pulling a walking/turning plow could plow 3 acres a day. The land was harrowed 6 to 8 in deep. The seeds (beans and corn) were planted 3 to 4 in deep.

Luther Shields recalled the first time he ever saw a bean harvest. It was in 1925 at Pearl Black's house. "I can remember how they tried to cut the beans with an old horse cutter. It drug them down. So, the farmers jumped in and pulled them by hand [about 30 acres]. Then, they hauled the beans up to a big spot of hard ground by the original Black place. They hooked an old disk to the horse team. They drove round and round over those beans. Next, they took pitchforks and tossed the hulls up in the air. That's how they winnowed those beans! They sacked them up, and it ended up to be 300 sacks. That was my first experience in the bean business!"

A few families had purchased tractors and brought them to Goodman Point by the late 1920s. The first tractor on the Point was an International Farm-All Regular with spade lugs. At the same time, small Wade threshing machines arrived. They were powered by automobiles. The rear wheel of the car was removed, and a pulley was attached to the axle so the car powered the threshing machine. The beans were scooped into the threshing machine by hand and then sacked.

By the mid-1930s, almost all the farmers had tractors. The International Farm-All F-20 Row Crop tractor and the John Deere Row Crop tractor were the most popular models. These tractors had rubber tires and two-row planters. Although several families moved off Goodman Point during the Great Depression, it is interesting to note that all the remaining families purchased tractors in the 1930s.

The Universal Thresher, a larger machine, was used in the early 1930s. The beans were shocked (cut) and left to dry in the field. They were then loaded onto wagons pulled by teams or a tractor and taken to the threshing machine, which separated the beans from the hulls.

At threshing time, approximately 20 neighbors and relatives worked together. The work party was organized by the landowner and machine operator. When they were finished at one farm, they would move on together to the next field. In the early days, beans were threshed, sacked, and loaded all at the same time by the work party. Today, the beans are sacked by the warehouses.

The combine came into use in the 1930s. The earliest one on the Point was the International Combine Model #42. The threshing machine continued to be used into the early 1950s. It was preferred by farmers who used the bean hulls for cattle feed.

*12. What clues to the weather were used?*

All the people interviewed looked to the Ute Mountain as a weather guide. "Mom said you couldn't plant corn

until all the snow was off Ute Mountain." It was time to plant beans when there was "a warm feeling in the air." One farmer said he waits until the deerbrush (cliffrose, *Purshia stansburiana* [Torrey] Henrickson) starts to bloom on the McElmo Canyon rim, then he knows it's time to plant beans.

Three of the project participants said their parents were "moon planters." Birney Seitz said that his dad wouldn't plant anything that grew below the ground unless it was by the dark of the moon (new moon).

*13. Does the length of time a field is in use affect crop production?*

Everyone replied yes. Some responses included:

"The land gets sorrier over time."

"This land has worn out."

"The land goes downhill."

"Yes, that's why I switched to alfalfa."

"If I ever wanted a piece of land, I'd rather have the new land than any other. It would raise better crops, and it was weed-free."

"If you grow beans on the same land year after year, it wears out in about 25-30 years."

The early farmers didn't rotate their crops or rest their fields often. Today farmers rotate their fields, and some have placed their land in the Federal Land Bank Program.

*14. What do you consider the most important factors for successful farming? Winter snows? Rainfall? Depth of soils? Timing of frosts?*

Everyone responded that winter snows and summer rainfall were the most critical factors.

*15. Annually, what affected crop production levels the most?*

Again, the answer was winter snows and summer rain. Good farming practices, such as knowing when and how to prepare the soils, were also mentioned.

## Summary

In historic times, portions of the Goodman Point area have been farmed since 1911. The amount of land cleared for farming grew rapidly in the initial period of settlement, and more slowly thereafter, though some new lands continue to be brought into cultivation. For example, pinyon-juniper forest on the edges of fields is still being cleared today as fields are expanded. The questions asked of residents dealt with some of the important details of dry-land farming and focused on the production of corn and beans because these crops were also grown in prehistoric times.

Early settlers preferred sagebrush-covered lands because they were easiest to clear, though most informants did not think they were necessarily more productive than the pinyon/juniper-covered lands. The most productive

lands were thought to be those on north-facing slopes or in hollows, presumably because of greater retention of soil moisture in these locations.

When a homestead was established, family vegetable gardens were planted first. The crops grown by the first homesteaders included corn and potatoes, in addition to the vegetables grown in family gardens. Corn was necessary for livestock feed, potatoes were grown for food or trade, and the family vegetable garden provided food to live on. Problems with insects, disease, and animal pests were minimal on the newly cleared lands.

During the early 1910s, pinto beans were introduced into the area. Gradually, with the establishment of eastern markets for the beans and the advent of tractors, pinto beans became the principal cash crop.

Although crop yields have varied over the years, it is significant that 1951 was the only year of virtually total crop failure. Residents agree that the land is being exhausted by repeated seasons of growing beans. New farming techniques, which include rotating crops and resting fields, are now employed. There is general agreement that moisture is the most important factor in crop success, and that both winter and summer moisture are essential.

## Archaeological Sites

The questions in this section were designed with two goals in mind. The first was to acquire specific data from the Goodman Point residents regarding site locations and the clearing of prehistoric sites from agricultural land. The second goal was to better understand attitudes toward the archaeological sites and to determine how these attitudes may have changed over time in the Goodman Point community.

### 1. *Where are the archaeological sites on your land?*

Residents were able to mark the locations of 100 sites on USGS 7.5 minute quad maps of the study area (Connolly 1990: Figure 5). Everyone identified the location of the sites by the presence of rubble mounds. From residents' descriptions, these sites date to the Pueblo II and III (A.D. 900 through 1300) time periods. Isolated finds that were mentioned included arrowheads, axeheads, whole pots, canteens, mugs, manos, and metates.

### 2. *Have you ever seen any evidence of prehistoric roads, lakes, or farms?*

All the residents knew of the prehistoric road (Connolly 1990: Figure 6) which ran from "the large site above Sand Canyon" (5MT3925—named the Casa Negra site by Crow Canyon archaeologists [Adler, this volume; Adler 1988, 1990]) to the "ruins east of the schoolhouse" (and just north of the present Goodman Point Unit of the National Park Service; see Adler 1988, 1990). It is possible that this road

had a branch. Two residents said that the road ended at Goodman Point Ruin (5MT604) itself rather than in the cluster of sites north of it. One resident mentioned that the prehistoric road ended at Goodman Lake.

Of the main road Ford Stanley said, "It's probably 12 to 14 feet wide by about 1½ to 2 feet deep." Birney Seitz noted, "It was a big scooped-out place as wide as this room [about 12 ft wide]. It went right across from that big ruin south of Fulks's old homestead [Goodman Point Ruin, 5MT604]. It went right across from that ruin, just as straight as you could go. Across our place and up across Stanley's, Marshall Black's, and up to that big ruin over there [Casa Negra, 5MT3925]."

Leslie Black said that the road goes right under her house. Her son Stanley, a former employee of the Soil Conservation Service, generously shared his October 27, 1954, aerial photo of the Black farm. The photo clearly depicts the prehistoric road running northeast from Casa Negra across the Black and Seitz properties toward the ruins east of the schoolhouse (5MT3807).

The possible existence of two other prehistoric roads was noted. The first is a road that may run from a spring south of Casa Negra to the McElmo Canyon rim. The second possible road runs in a northwesterly direction from Goodman Point toward Dawson Draw (Yellow Jacket Canyon).

Two prehistoric lakes were mentioned. Goodman Lake is believed by many, but not all, residents to have been constructed prehistorically. It consists of an earthen dam that floods approximately 1 acre and holds water year around. Moqui Lake (5MT1736), located 5 mi west of Sand Canyon, consisted of a low rock and earthen dam. Residents stated that the reservoir was largely destroyed by Bureau of Land Management chaining in the 1960s. Everyone who responded to this question believed that Moqui Lake was a prehistoric reservoir.

Birney Seitz said you could see the remains of an Anasazi ruin and farm terraces in the SW ¼ of the NE ¼ of Section 6, Township 37N, Range 17W. Birney said, "There was a ruin up there in the southwest corner. I never did clear it up. There was a place that was terraced, about an acre squared. When we cleared it up, you could see the terraces where they had put them, about an acre square—kind of like they do with contouring. They had this little garden spot on the northeast slope where they raised their corn."

These farm terraces were located on top of the mesa and were identified by lines of stone. Steve Chappell, the current landowner, does not recall seeing any of these terraces.

### 3. *How were the sites cleared? When? Where is the masonry?*

Residents recalled removing 25 sites from their property (Connolly 1990: Figure 7). In the early days, the farmers

would plow around the sites. Five people remembered removing a total of seven sites by hand. They would pick up the rocks and haul them off in a wagon. The rocks were used for fences, foundations, dams, and dikes to prevent erosion.

Beginning in the 1940s, bulldozers were used to clear sites. Eighteen sites were identified by residents as having been moved by bulldozers. The rocks were either used in dam construction or pushed off the edge of a field. Two residents recalled burying sites with a bulldozer. They dug a hole and placed all the rocks from the site in the hole.

The ruin located east of the schoolhouse and north of Goodman Point Ruin (SMT3807, now owned by Colorado Mountain College) was bulldozed in the 1960s. Prior to bulldozing, it was described as a large rubble mound measuring 5 to 6 ft in height. Residents said that a large amount of pottery was found at the ruin.

#### 4. *What types of artifacts did people find?*

From talking with residents and viewing private collections, it was learned that people dug most often in the midden areas and masonry-lined pit structures. Shovels and probes were used to examine the ruins. Residents kindly showed their collections, which included Pueblo I through Pueblo III (A.D. 750–1300) gray ware and white ware vessels, arrowheads, other projectile points, pendants, beads, sandals, corn, beans, axes, manos, metates, and bone tools. Arrowheads were found and collected more frequently than any other type of artifact.

Artifacts were frequently unearthed in fields during plowing. Stone axes were the most commonly collected artifacts from the fields. Five private collections consisted of wooden crates filled with axes and manos. Three of the five collections had between 70 and 100 of these artifacts. (In the Mesa Verde area, ground-stone axes are most common in the Pueblo III period [Mills 1987].) The remaining two collections consisted of approximately 30 to 50 axes and manos. Sherds, arrowheads, and an occasional whole pot were also noted in the personal collections. One present-day farmer says he often plows up burnt corn from clay-lined firepits.

Five residents interviewed were particularly knowledgeable about Anasazi prehistory, architecture, artifacts, and pottery types. These residents had whole vessels in their collections and could identify the locations from which they were recovered. The residents all knew and remembered Cliff Chappell, who had often excavated on Goodman Point. He amassed a large collection of artifacts, known as the Chappell Collection, which is now housed at the Anasazi Heritage Center (Olsen 1988). A large percentage of his collection appears to have come from ruins in the Goodman Point area.

#### 5. *What were the first homesteaders' attitudes toward the sites?*

People felt that their parents had a great respect for the ruins. In the beginning years on the farm, people worked so hard clearing the land and planting crops that they really didn't pay much attention to the ruins.

Ford Stanley said, "You know, way back then, when we homesteaded, all summer long we had plenty of work to do. We had a baseball team to play on Saturdays. When you grub sagebrush or trees all week, you kind of want to rest on Sundays."

As time passed and homesteads were established, people's interest in the ruins began to grow. This was particularly true for the younger-generation residents of Goodman Point, who explored the cliff dwellings in Yellow Jacket and Sand canyons.

#### 6. *What do you think about archaeology now?*

No attempt was made to categorize or quantify the responses to this question. The following comments are taken directly from the taped interviews:

"We probably should have preserved more."

"It's okay. I just wasn't interested in it. We didn't know anything about it in those days. It's just new to me now, the digging and the studying."

"I like to go and watch it. Talk to them [the archaeologists]."

"There's a whole lot they're doing nowadays. So much of it is guesswork, but that doesn't keep them from being interested."

"I respect it. I think to a degree we're getting carried away with it, but on the other hand, it's part of history. Now this Sand Canyon deal is supposed to go on for 10 years. It's all right because it's not hurting anybody. The land already belongs to the government. What I object to a lot is what's on an individual's land should be that individual's business. If he wants to turn it over or let the archaeologists dig it, then that's his business. I don't feel he should be harmed by what he does on his own land."

"It's fine for people who like it."

"The Park Service and the oil companies talked about putting a road in Sand Canyon in 1923. That was the last I ever heard about it. I guess that would have been too expensive, because they would have had to protect the ruins and have a guide. I feel sorry that they haven't protected those ruins over the years."

## Summary

Archaeological sites were recognized by residents by the presence of rubble mounds. From the descriptions of these sites, it appears that most if not all date to the Pueblo II and Pueblo III periods. Residents identified 100 sites in the study area. Among the sites recalled by the residents were one prehistoric road, two possible prehistoric roads, one terraced farming area, one prehistoric reservoir, and one possible prehistoric reservoir.

Of the sites identified, residents recalled that 25 were removed by hand or bulldozer in land clearing or farm improvement. The masonry rubble was reused in dams, fences, or foundations or pushed to the edges of fields. Farming has had significant impact on larger, more obvious archaeological sites on Goodman Point. Many smaller or more subtly expressed sites (e.g., limited-activity sites, jacal structures, outdoor hearths) may have been destroyed.

Goodman Point residents have a great deal of respect for the Anasazi culture. Many are knowledgeable about, and interested in, the prehistory of the area. Several people expressed concern over the deterioration of ruins in their lifetimes. These people, and the knowledge they have about dry-land farming and about the area's archaeological sites, represent a human resource that has been underutilized by researchers.