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Detecting Unmarked Graves using GPR at the Mescalero Apache Reservation

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In Mescalero, New Mexico, on an Apache Indian Reservation, we were asked to survey the Mescalero Cemetery in order to locate unmarked graves. Back in the late 1800's, proper documentation of graves was never made. As a result, what is thought to be a new potential burial site is discovered to be an old undocumented grave. Reservation officials have asked us to survey the cemetery and document exact locations of unmarked graves. To achieve this goal, we will use ground penetrating radar (GPR) and a differential global positioning system (DGPS). The collected data will be processed by using EKKO-Mapper and EKKO-View Deluxe. These data processing programs will allow us to view our collected data, edit noise out of the data, and enable us to view our surveyed area in Google Earth by applying DGPS points obtained during the survey. From the processed data, we will identify possible grave sites and inform the reservation officials of the findings. There are three cemeteries in the region and our initial study will only cover part of one of the cemeteries. This project could continue for many years and generate a number of research projects.