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ARCHAEOLOGY DATA CENTERS PROJECT, SOUTHWEST INDIANA

In 1983 the ISU Anthropology Laboratory undertook a long-range project for the identification and study of archaeological resources in the region. A pressing need was recognized for an adequate data base in order to improve CRM decisions, and to generate meaningful and testable research hypotheses. To this end 21 data centers were selected to sample the region, each consisting of 5 square miles. An initial 4 year effort was planned to examine by reconnaissance (in 5 meter or less paths) approximately 1,000 acres in each of the data centers, with each center to include a sample of major physiographic features. As fieldwork produces a substantial standardized data base for each center, predictive models are to be constructed, tested and revised accordingly. Eventually, cultural models for the larger region are anticipated. By mid-summer of 1986, 15,669 of an initial 21,000 acres had been examined, with the remaining acreage scheduled to be completed by mid-summer of 1987. A total of 1,576 sites had been added to the state inventory, an average of 1 site per 9.9 acres. Thirty or more sites and 4 districts, with additional data, may qualify for the State and National registers. Major dividends to date include contributions to CRM decisions and initial testing of previously suggested settlement models. To facilitate use of the data in the future, steps are being taken to establish a computer bank, available to other institutions.
