

SRI to aid search

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WHITE SANDS, N.M. — A Florida company hopes to conduct an electronic search in southern New Mexico this fall for the fabled Victorio Peak treasure, which some say contains \$250 billion worth of gold and artifacts.

The scientific survey had been planned in August, but was postponed at the request of the company.

Norman Scott, president of Expeditions Unlimited in Pompano Beach, said the company was preparing to file an amended request with the Army to allow the search this fall.

The Army, which controls the

land where Victorio Peak is located, gave its permission for the search earlier this year. But Scott said Expeditions Unlimited is preparing a different request.

Scott said he could not discuss the changes made in the request.

Victorio Peak, a small rocky hill in the southern New Mexico desert, is located on state-owned property leased to the Army for the White Sands Missile Range. The state already has given its permission for a search.

The treasure reportedly is located in a lost cave in Victorio Peak. One man, the late Doc Noss, claimed to have found the gold in 1937. He said he took samples of the treasure and then sealed the cave.

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for lost treasure

Noss died in 1949 without finding the lost cave again.

Scott said the amended request for the search would be filed with the Army shortly. He said the Army has required a 30-day notice of the search, which would mean the search might be conducted in late October or early November.

Scott, his brother Sam of Fort Worth, and Lambert Dolphin, chief geophysicist for the Stanford Research Institute, were at the range during the summer to plan the search.

Scott, using the expertise of SRI, has proposed a 48-hour electronic search of Victorio Peak to determine if there is evidence of any treasure. A majority of the six

groups claiming ownership of the gold have agreed to the search.

Among the groups is one represented by attorney F. Lee Bailey. That group presented former Gov. Bruce King with a candy bar sized bar of gold purportedly taken from the treasure.

Scott said the search would use instruments to determine if a cave or underground tunnel is located in Victorio Peak and if there is any high density material, such as gold or silver, within such an opening.

Only one official search has been made of Victorio Peak for any treasure. In 1963 a mining company hired by the state explored for two months and found no treasure.