

**2006 Abstracts
Cheyenne, Wyoming**

Adams, Richard (Wyoming State Archaeologist's Office)

THE GREATER YELLOWSTONE ECOSYSTEM, SOAPSTONE BOWLS AND THE MOUNTAIN SHOSHONE

Protohistoric and probably Late Prehistoric Mountain Shoshone (sometimes known as Sheepeaters) who lived in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem and surrounding environs made soapstone bowls in the mountains at the time of Euroamerican contact. The Rocky Mountain soapstone bowl industry is characterized by undecorated, flower pot shaped bowls that generally hold more than one liter. Using ethnographic and ethnohistoric data, and archaeological evidence, I examine how the distribution of soapstone "also known as steatite" vessels refines ideas about Mountain Shoshone territory, which in turn makes it possible to delineate a Protohistoric seasonal mobility system that included summer use of alpine mineral, floral and faunal resources.

Basgall, Ashly LoBurgio (University of Wyoming) and Dewey Baars (Wyoming Archaeological Society)

EVIDENCE FOR LONG DISTANCE EXCHANGE: AN EXAMINATION OF A BARBED AXE FOUND IN WYOMING

Extensive prehistoric and historic native trade networks enabled trade goods to travel between virtually every region of the United States. A polished groundstone axe-head, discovered in eastern Wyoming, forms the basis for an examination of long distance exchange in the Northwest Plains. Based on stylistic traits and material type, the axe is classified as a barbed axe from Michigan. The known distribution and cultural affiliation of barbed axes is examined, as are trade networks that linked Wyoming with the Great Lakes region. Other reported exotic artifacts discovered in the Northwest Plains are considered as further evidence for long distance exchange in the region.

Cox, Shanna Marie (University of Wyoming)

RECOGNIZING GENDER IN THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORD: SPATIAL ANALYSIS OF HEARTH 4 AT THE BUGAS-HOLDING SITE (48PA563)

There has been little research explicitly investigating gender systems for Plains and Rocky Mountain prehistory. To investigate gender, one needs a well excavated site with detailed analyses. Bugas-Holding (48PA563), a late Prehistoric Shoshone site in northwestern Wyoming, is such a site. I try to determine if methods exist to derive gender roles from Hearth 4 of Bugas-Holding. I visually examine the spatial patterning of artifacts around Hearth 4 and compare these patterns of artifacts to patterns of artifacts found in hunter-gatherer ethnoarchaeological studies to interpret the different gender roles producing these patterns.

Eakin, Dan (Wyoming State Archaeologist's Office)

A CULTURAL AND TEMPORAL CONTEXT FOR SHEEP TRAPPING FROM THE ABSAROKA MOUNTAINS, NORTHWEST WYOMING

Recent investigations in the Absaroka Mountains of northwest Wyoming reveal prehistoric base camp and other sites in close proximity to features interpreted as mountain sheep traps. A suite of artifacts, long regarded as Shoshonean, provide evidence pertaining to the age and origin of these and other trap features in the region.

Ewing, Sara, Victoria Rose and Jenny Wurtz (University of Wyoming)

PROPOSAL FOR AN OUTDOOR MUSEUM AND SELF-GUIDED TOUR OF THE HELL GAP SITE

Since 1992, University of Wyoming archaeologists have been excavating the Hell Gap site in southeastern Wyoming. On-going research has proven vital to understanding the history and prehistory of the Northwestern Plains and presents an educational opportunity both for archaeologists and the public. An outdoor museum and self-guided tour of the Hell Gap site and surrounding areas is one way to educate the public and raise awareness about archaeology. The proposed museum and tour will provide a direct interaction between the public and the archaeologists working at the site, giving the public an opportunity to understand the holistic aspect of the research performed at Hell Gap. The goals of the proposed museum are to: 1) present information and current understanding of prehistory and history of the region, 2) provide a better understanding and awareness of archaeological resources and processes using the importance of Hell Gap, and 3) simultaneously promote a sense of stewardship among the public. This proposal will present a possible tour route with exhibits and will discuss some of the financial and legal considerations.

Fritsche, Becky (University of Wyoming)

USING INDIGENOUS PERSPECTIVES OF THE PAST IN SCIENTIFIC ARCHAEOLOGICAL INQUIRY: AN EVALUATION OF COLLABORATION AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR ARCHAEOLOGY

This paper presents an overview of collaborative efforts between archaeologists and indigenous communities in providing frameworks for understanding the prehistoric past. I explore and evaluate ways in which archaeologists have endeavored to incorporate indigenous histories and views into scientific archaeological inquiry in terms of their success in merging scientific and humanistic concerns and their overall contributions to archaeological knowledge. I present a history of collaboration based on a review of journal articles in *American Antiquity*, *American Anthropologist*, and *World Archaeology* since the initial publication of these journals. Finally, I consider the implications of collaboration for the discipline of archaeology and give special attention to the methodological and theoretical import of what has been termed community archaeology.

Garnett, Rodney A. (University of Wyoming)

THE MUSICAL AND CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE OF A FIVE HUNDRED YEAR-OLD ELK ANTLER RASP

Excavations at the 500 year old Shoshone occupation Bugas-Holding site yielded a variety of faunal and chipped stone material including a grooved elk antler object. The grooved object was likely used as a musical instrument, a rasp. The Bugas-Holding rasp is described and ideas about its possible musical and cultural significance are presented. The rasp is placed in the context of ethnographic and archaeological occurrences of similar musical instruments, including a similar artifact from the Karpinsky site in Alberta, Canada. Comparative studies of musical rasps used in historic cultures in North America suggest this elk antler rasp may have been a powerful item for accompanying singing and dancing. A metaphysical transfer of power, expressed in words and songs, occurs from animals to humans among the Shoshone especially in the vision quest.

Greer, Mavis and John Greer (Greer Consulting)

PREHISTORY AND HISTORY OF SQUAW CREEK, POWDER RIVER BASIN, WYOMING

The Squaw Creek drainage is a main tributary to Horse Creek north of Gillette. Survey of about 6000 acres of this drainage indicates the area has been used at least from Middle Archaic times through the Historic Period. More than 80 recorded cultural localities include large promontory campsites flanking the drainage, a historic Indian camp, possible rifle pits or hunting blinds, and an early historic ranch irrigation system. Sites can be viewed relative to possible relations between site types, particularly smaller prehistoric outlier campsites relative to high promontory base camps. Historic outliers, such as early Native American strips and disks sites and the possible defensive site, can be similarly viewed relative to the historic Indian camp.

Kesterke, Matthew J., Ethan A Epstein, Michael Stites, Asja Tonc, Marcel Kornfeld, Tomislav Pusic, and Jun Hashizume (University of Wyoming)

A SUMMARY OF THE 2005 HELL GAP FIELD EXCAVATIONS

This paper presents preliminary results of the 2005 investigations at the Hell Gap site (48GO305) in Goshen County, Wyoming. The importance of the site lies in the geological stratigraphy and archaeological context of its 11,000 year occupational history. The 2005 field season concentrated on continued excavation of the 5 x 7 meter block separating Localities 1 and 1E. The excavations removed 2.3 cubic meters of sediment, recovering 1,009 mapped artifacts, including 513 pieces of chipped stone, 476 pieces of faunal debris, and 20 charcoal and ochre specimens. Additionally, investigations at Locality II West, an open-air site located 60 meters west of Locality II, produced 389 faunal remains and 436 chipped stone pieces. Finally, geomorphological trenching undertaken by C. Vance Haynes investigated the stratigraphy of Localities I and II. The results add significant information about the chronostratigraphy and site structure of both localities.

McFaul, Michael (LaRamie Soils Service, Inc.), Donna Stubbs (ACR Consultants, Inc.), and Kevin O'Dell (ACR Consultants, Inc.)

GEOARCHAEOLOGY OF BARBER CREEK TERRACES, POWDER RIVER, WYOMING

Barber Creek contains a suite of at least three Quaternary alluvial fill terraces. Segments of these terraces (T1, T2 and T3) were trenched to approximately 2.5- 2.8 mbs. Soil development and radiocarbon dating suggests the T1 and T2 fills represent different alluvial events. Relative age-dating, absolute dating, and interpretation of Leopold and Miller's Powder River Basin investigations show the T1 is a latest Holocene fill, dating >380 BP and correlating with the mesic Little Ice Age. T2 fill is older dating >5,830 BP to < 1,120 BP. Elevation suggests T3 is the oldest terrace, however it is also <287 cmbs mantled with younger alluvium (1,670 BP and 1,790 BP). Correlations with the Leopold and Miller are tentative; Barber Creek terraces do not contain the same sediments. All three Barber Creek terrace fills represent depositional environments favorable to preservation of buried cultural components. Rapid aggradation may have influenced T1 occupation. The paleosols in T2 and T3 fill indicates floodplain stability possibly encouraging human occupation. It is hoped results of this investigation will help unravel perceived differences in interpretations of the Powder River Basin geomorphology. There is a step-like suite of alluvial terraces in the Powder River Basin. Sediments from these terraces are archaeologically important. Understanding their significance will provide archaeologists, land use managers, and developers with an easy-to-use tool to assess the potential of the alluvial terraces in the Powder River Basin to yield buried cultural materials.

Page, Michael K. (University of Wyoming)

ON POTS AND PEOPLE: A STYLISTIC ANALYSIS OF HIGH PLAINS UPPER
REPUBLICAN POTTERY

Middle Ceramic sites located on the high plains of Colorado and Wyoming are typically assigned to the "High Plains Upper Republican;" effectively linking them to the Upper Republican phase of the Central Plains tradition of southern Nebraska and northern Kansas. However, stylistic attributes of ceramic assemblages from the high plains are not homogenous. Rather, detailed quantitative analyses of stylistic attributes reveal a number of affinities between assemblages from the high plains and both the Itskari phase of central Nebraska as well as the Upper Republican phase. These data shed needed light on cultural dynamics during the Middle Ceramic Period and bring to question long held assumptions regarding the "High Plains Upper Republican."

Reher, Charles A. (University of Wyoming)

GRANT WILLSON AND THE LARGE SCALE LANDSCAPE SURVEY

(no abstract)

Schroeder, Bryon (University of Wyoming)

GIVING IT A CHANCE: WARFARE IN PREHISTORIC WYOMING

Prehistoric warfare is a topic that is rarely discussed by archaeologists studying the remains of nomadic hunters and gatherers. The idea that relatively small bands of loosely organized nomads waged calculated attacks on one another directly contradicts ideas relative to hunter-gatherer societies that have become anthropological dogma. The view that egalitarian foragers lived in peaceful ecological balance shielded from warfare dominates the anthropology literature. This research will examine the evidence for warfare within pre-contact nomadic hunter-gather societies in North America centering on Wyoming. The focus will be on two questions: is there evidence for warfare in prehistoric Wyoming and, if so is there any indication of when it occurred. By answering these questions it may be possible to place pre-contact warfare in Wyoming within a broader regional context.

Wiewel, Adam S. (University of Wyoming)

AN EXAMINATION OF SIZE REDUCTION OF THE SKELETAL REMAINS OF SEVEN
HISTORIC INDIVIDUALS

Studies concerned with fluctuations in size of skeletal materials are few and focus primarily on skeletal expansion and contraction as a source of measurement error. The objective of this study is to investigate a noticeable reduction in size of the human skeletal remains of seven individuals curated at the University of Wyoming Human Osteological Repository and to explore implications of these changes. Data for the analysis consist of twelve linear craniometric measurements, five radial measurements, and a single measurement performed on each of three postcranial elements. Statistical tests demonstrate the decrease in size is significant; however, this source of measurement error is not necessarily problematic in determining ancestry.

Wolff, Sarah (University of Wyoming)

THE ANTIQUITIES ACT OF 1906

The American Antiquities Act of 1906 was a major piece of archaeological legislation that has made an impact on the past century of conservation and preservation of the American landscape. One major part of this concise act was granting the presidential power to declare a national monument without the approval of Congress. This presentation will focus on the history of the

bill and its impact on the West. I will specifically address the act's impact on Wyoming discussing the only amendment to the act, which limits the power of the Antiquities Act in Wyoming, the delisting of Shoshone Cave National Monument, and the declaration of Devil's Tower as the first national monument.