Hogback Surfers: A Synchronic Test of Transhumance Mobility Patterns at the Fossil Creek Site in Northern Colorado

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The Fossil Creek Site is located just south of Fort Collins along the foothills of the Front Range in winter, crossing into North Park and Middle Park in the fall (Benedict, 1988). However, many sources identified as construction stone at Fossil Creek were classified as lithic materials for use in the project, and once these were discarded. The discard of mountain stone materials may indicate anticipated movements into the higher elevations to resupply raw materials needed to pursue these types of archaeological explorations. Additionally, high transportation costs would have limited the ability to resupply raw materials during the occupation of this site. The near dominance in mountain lithic sources suggests a cultural complex utilizing higher elevation environments, perhaps as a base camp for hunting activities or a winter encampment for storage purposes. Interestingly, research into this topic is limited by the presence of high elevation mountainous sites within the higher blaze of the site.