

**2012 ABSTRACTS**  
**Gillette, Wyoming**  
**April 27-29**

Adams, Richard (Frison Institute and Colorado State University)

**THE ROLE OF THE MATHEWS BOWL SITE (48SW17902) IN UNDERSTANDING THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN SOAPSTONE INDUSTRY AND HIGH ALTITUDE ARCHAEOLOGY**

A soapstone bowl recently discovered at the Mathews Site (48SW17902) was radiocarbon dated in 2010, thanks to a grant from the Wyoming Archaeological Foundation. Thick sooty residue coated the exterior of the bowl fragments and this residue was AMS radiocarbon dated to 160+/- BP (Beta 282441), an age which intercepts the calibrated radiocarbon curve between AD 1670 and 1800. The bowl was found in a hearth-related feature at a Late Prehistoric habitation site with artifacts and features consistent with occupation by Shoshone Indians. In 2011, professional and avocational archaeologists surveyed and tested the Mathews Site. The feature that contained the bowl was dated to 110+/- 30 BP (Beta 302874). This modest program of inquiry at 48SW17902 answered questions about the antiquity of Wyoming's indigenous soapstone bowl industry and linked high altitude summer occupations in the Wind River Mountains with low altitude winter camps in the Wyoming Basin.

Amundson, Larry (Fremont County Chapter, WAS)

**PETRIFIED WOOD IN THE ABSAROKA RANGE**

This presentation will identify prehistoric high altitude camping and tool making sites in the Southern Absaroka Range utilizing petrified wood. Human occupation is evidenced by the presence of surface lithic flakes created during tool production. Sites are located in close proximity to high quality petrified wood sources. Exploration of the region commenced in the summer of 2007 and continues each summer.

Becker, Rory (Eastern Oregon University)

**2011 GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY OF PORTUGUESE HOUSES**

Through support from the Wyoming Archaeological Foundation, a continuation of the 2007 geophysical survey for the Portuguese Houses site located near Kaycee, WY was conducted in August of 2011. The goal of the 2011 survey was to explore areas of the hayfield that lie beyond the palisade walls of the fortification structure. The 2011 survey produced evidence of archaeological deposits well beyond the walls of the fur trade outpost. The poster presentation provides the results of the 2011 survey and makes a strong case to continue subsurface remote sensing in the area around the Portuguese Houses site to more accurately define the site boundaries.

Black, Jennifer (University of Wyoming)

**DISCERNING CULTURAL IDENTITY AND CULTURE CHANGE IN THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORD, OR, WHOSE POT IS IT REALLY?**

In Wyoming, anthropologists are familiar with ideas regarding the exchanges of culture between native peoples and encroaching powers moving into their lands. Two thousand years ago, native European peoples faced similar situations as their homelands became the frontiers and provinces of the Roman Empire. After becoming part of Rome, these provinces allegedly became increasingly acculturated, taking on various aspects of Roman culture and cultural identity – a process known as “Romanization.” This presentation will examine the historical accounts of Romanization, as well as secondary literature today critiquing the concept. The presentation will also be opened as a forum to discuss the issues in discerning shifts in perception of cultural identity based on changes in artifact types in the material record.

Blewer, Mac (University of Wyoming)

### **THE BARRACKS OF HEART MOUNTAIN: VANISHING STRUCTURES OF A CONTESTED LANDSCAPE**

At the height of WW II, Heart Mountain (WY) Internment Camp held over 10,000 Japanese-American prisoners. After the war, the Camp's barracks were sold and used by homesteaders, mostly veterans, as residences and ranch structures. To some, the barracks and Heart Mountain proper represent the hardships and extreme injustice of wartime internment while to others they symbolize the pride and optimism of post-war settlement. This talk is based on field research (2010-11) – photographs, interviews and documentation of existing barracks – and is supported by a larger project on the contemporary Heart Mountain landscape sponsored by the American Studies Department of the University of Wyoming.

Brow, Gale (University of Wyoming)

### **STATE EXPERIMENTAL RESEARCH ROOT CELLAR AT THE SINKS CANYON**

In the continuing survey and historical research of this site, this year's focus was on the root cellar. The center's staff wants to reconstruct this structure after all the archaeological and historical data are ascertained. Information on this particular structure has been limited. Location of the structure has been well guarded by the natural setting and this year a survey of the structure was undertaken producing more questions, as well as interesting findings. How old is it, what research was undertaken in this structure and how long was it in service? Historical research was conducted to help answer some of these questions.

Copp-LaRocque, Claran (University of Wyoming)

### **GRANDMOTHER'S HEIRLOOMS OR THE WEALTH OF THE NOUVEAU RICHE?**

In the late 1990s, a young woman's burial was found south of Jackson Hole. In the grave with her were a couple of scraps of velvet, some embroidered silk loops, and over two hundred elk tooth beads. As these teeth represent at least one hundred individual elk, this is a significant amount of wealth for a 14-16 year old girl. In addition, there are relatively few known kill sites with significant elk remains. Were these two hundred plus teeth collected over many generations and passed down through the family, or were they collected during a single life-time? An analysis of the wear within the drilled hole of each tooth may hold the key to understanding the value of these artifacts.

Crawford, Jesi (Central Wyoming College)

### **48FR1270 PACIFIC SPRINGS STATION**

The large complex of historic and prehistoric sites at Pacific Springs is located just west of South Pass summit where the Oregon Trail crosses the Continental Divide. This area was called the Gateway to the West and enabled the United States to annex the Pacific watershed. Thus, the United States attained continental proportions. Pacific Springs became nationally significant after two proper, young missionary women crossed the Divide en route to Oregon in 1836 and thereby catalyzed the Great Migration. Yet Pacific Springs is remembered regionally for its whiskey and wild women. Never previously recorded, the Wyoming SHPO suggested this trading post, Pony Express, telegraph and stage-station as a Central Wyoming College field school project for the 2011 season.

Freeland, Nick (University of Wyoming)

### **SOUTHSIDER SHELTER (48BH364): A PROPERTY OF LOCAL SIGNIFICANCE IN THE BIGHORN MOUNTAINS**

Southsider Shelter (48BH364) is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under criterion D, at the local level of significance. Initial excavations in 1976 revealed well-

stratified deposits demonstrating occupation spanning the Late Paleoindian to Late Plains Archaic periods. Southsider has been one of many important sites in defining local chronologies and adaptive strategies in the Bighorn Basin. It is argued the remaining deposits at the site have the potential to contribute to understandings of prehistoric behavior and local Holocene climates.

Grunwald, Allison (University of Wyoming)

#### **FRACTURE PATTERNS ON FROZEN AND THAWED CATTLE FEMORA**

Bone-breakage experiments lead to a better understanding of human subsistence activities. The more we know about the behavior of bone under various conditions, the more objective assessments of bone assemblages can be. The following paper details an experiment of marrow extraction from frozen and thawed cattle bones. The experiment simulated three scenarios that might occur as a result of various subsistence practices. The periosteum and a thin layer of muscle tissue were left intact following the suggestions by Todd et al. (1997) that bones from the Casper bison kill were cracked for marrow with some muscle tissue remaining. Results showed a difference in both fragmentation amount and fracture morphology. All bones exhibited a mix of characteristics generally considered to come from breaking fresh bone, as well as a mix of characteristics from breaking dry bone. The presence and state of the periosteum influenced the amount and type of fragmentation.

Hayes, Mallory Ann (Central Wyoming College)

#### **WORLDS AT WAR: THE PROSPECT MOUNTAIN SITES**

During the 1860s and 1870s, the Northern Arapahoes sometimes camped on the Prospect Mountains overlooking the Lander Cutoff Trail along the Upper Sweetwater. According to local tradition, though not documented in any known written records, when small wagon trains or lone travelers passed by on the trail, warriors swept down and raided them. The large stone circle sites on the shoulders of the peaks were littered with wagon train plunder into the early 1950s. This paper discusses the results of archaeological survey and metal detecting of these Native American sites and the segment of the Lander Cutoff below, and interprets both as physical remnants of the philosophy of Manifest Destiny and Native resistance.

Hovendick, William (Central Wyoming College)

#### **PROPOSED MODEL FOR QUARRY-RELATED OCCUPATION SITES IN THE SOUTHERN WIND RIVER MOUNTAINS**

Steatite quarries and lithic sources have been documented on the southern end of the Wind River Mountains. Research in the northern Wind River Mountains has documented high-elevation habitation sites in the vicinity of raw material sources. Similar campsites should exist in the southern Wind Rivers. I have seen evidence suggesting this area contains numerous undocumented archaeological sites. This paper refers to quarry and settlement patterns from the northern Wind Rivers, then, based upon known quarries and documented sites at the southern end, proposes likely locations for related campsites.

Kornfeld, Marcel, Mary Lou Larson, and George C. Frison

#### **HELL GAP PROGRESS REPORT, 1980S TO THE FUTURE: COLLECTIONS, FIELD STUDIES, AND SPECIAL EVENTS**

Hell Gap has played a significant role in Paleoindian studies since the 1960s. The primary purpose of the renewed investigations in the 1980s was to curate and publish the results of the 1960s studies, much of which was still in field bags at the time. Publication required renewed limited field studies that were carried on during the 1990s. Completion of several analyses of the 1960s collections, as well as over 30 years of Paleoindian research, raised questions about the context and formation of the archaeological record at the site. The current project tackles these

questions in conjunction with incorporating Hell Gap into one of Wyoming's public education facilities.

Page, Michael K. (Office of the Wyoming State Archaeologist)

**THE MOUNTAIN REFUGIA HYPOTHESIS REVISITED: LATE PALEOINDIAN - ARCHAIC TRANSITION DURING THE EARLY TO MID HOLOCENE IN NORTHWESTERN WYOMING AND THE BIRTH OF THE MCKEAN CULTURE COMPLEX**

The apparent discontinuity between Late Paleoindian and post-Altithermal cultural complexes in the northwestern Plains and Rocky Mountains has long troubled archaeologists. The morphological similarities between Pryor and McKean complex projectile points has repeatedly been cited as evidence for a cultural transition of the former into the latter during the Altithermal in the mountainous refugia of the central and northern Rockies. However, only limited and controversial evidence of the mountain refugia hypothesis exists to account for the nearly 2,500 year gap between dated components of the Pryor and McKean Complexes. The last two years of excavation at the Game Creek site in Jackson Hole Wyoming, may fill the gap and reveal stratified evidence for the direct transition of the Mountain-Foothills Paleoindian Pryor Stemmed complex into the McKean complex.

Pettigrew, Devin, Krista Evans and Joanna Wurst (University of Wyoming)

**HELL GAP: RESUMED EXCAVATIONS – WHERE ARE WE NOW? (POSTER PAPER)**

Hell Gap is a deeply stratified prehistoric campsite located in the Hartville Uplift north of Guernsey, Wyoming. Initial excavations carried out between 1959 and 1967 yielded nine cultural complexes in datable stratigraphic context and sealed the site significance to Paleoindian studies. Subsequent Paleoindian research has questioned the sequence of complexes recovered at Hell Gap, requiring renewed field investigations to focus on site geomorphology and formation processes. The site was reopened in the mid 1990s and excavations are now reaching the Hell Gap component in the central block. This poster reviews the most recent field studies at the site, and provides results of the preliminary analysis.

Pool, Kelly J., Gail Lincoln, Jennifer Borresen Lee, Amy Nelson, Naomi Rintoul, Nicki Sauvageau Rockwell, John M. Scott, and Garrett Williams (Metcalf Archaeological Consultants, Inc.)

**RUBY PIPELINE EXCAVATIONS: ARCHAIC GREAT DIVIDE PHASE THROUGH PROTOHISTORIC PERIOD OCCUPATIONS IN LINCOLN AND UINTA COUNTIES, WYOMING (POSTER PAPER)**

Excavations conducted by MAC in 2010-11 for the Ruby Pipeline resulted in identification of occupations ranging in age from the Archaic Great Divide Phase (7830 BP) through the Protohistoric Period (80 BP). Great Divide Phase dates were recovered from a deeply buried camp (48LN4114) along the Hams Fork near Opal and an isolated hearth (48UT2696) beside Little Muddy Creek in Cumberland Flats. On the eastern slope of Oyster Ridge, sites 48LN1301 and 48LN3997 preserved Opal and Uinta Phase occupations, with houses in both components at 48LN3997. An Archaic Bridger chert chipping station (48LN2043) was found in the Dry Muddy Creek drainage. Finally, a Protohistoric camp and antelope processing site lacking trade goods (48LN2041) was found along Dry Muddy Creek southwest of Opal. Results were notable for the large number of diagnostics and decorative items found project-wide as well as for the collection of Shoshonean artifacts and antelope bone recovered from 48LN2041.

Reynolds, Crystal (Central Wyoming College/University of Arizona)

**THE PACIFIC BUTTE COMPLEX (POSTER PAPER)**

Pacific Butte is a prominent landmark overlooking South Pass, the upper Sweetwater, and Wind River Mountains to the north. Continental Peak stands to the east. The Oregon Buttes

dominate the southern horizon and the vast expanse of the Red Desert opens in the west. A Dave Reiss Memorial Grant-funded survey of the top of Pacific Butte suggests this dramatic landscape was important to prehistoric peoples. The survey revealed one, perhaps two, possible medicine wheels, possible vision quest structures, numerous cairns, rock alignments, and nearly one hundred stone circles. At least one apparent Oregon Trail-related grave overlooks the nineteenth century emigrant campsites below the west end of the Butte. This paper provides an overview of the Pacific Butte sites and suggests a possible relationship to similar sites in the area.

Rust, Jeffrey (Ashley National Forest)

#### **MAPPING AND MANAGING THE HISTORIC CARTER MILITARY ROAD (1882 - 1884)**

The Carter Military Road was constructed in 1882-1884 to transport supplies between Fort Bridger, Wyoming and Fort Thornburg, Utah. The 91 mile long route across the Uinta Mountains is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and cuts across the center of Ashley National Forest. The Forest began a concerted effort to find and document the exact location of the historic route in 2000. With the help of hundreds of volunteers, through Passport-In-Time projects, we have been able to map the entire length of the road across the Forest. To facilitate our documentation efforts, we developed a classification scheme to divide the entire route into segments based on condition and current use. The classification process then provided us the information needed to determine National Register Integrity for each segment and to guide future management of each segment. The resulting "Carter Road Management Plan" will help Ashley National Forest protect and manage this unique historic resource.

Scott, Douglas (University of Nebraska, Lincoln)

#### **ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSIGHTS TO THE SAND CREEK MASSACRE AND CONTEXT FOR THE INDIAN WAR OF 1865 (BANQUET SPEAKER)**

While the Civil War raged in the eastern states, citizens of Colorado Territory and the West faced an uneasy existence facing harassment by Cheyenne and Arapaho warriors bent on preserving their traditional way of life. Colorado Governor John Evans placed former Methodist minister and Colonel John Chivington in charge of the 1st and 3rd Colorado Volunteer Cavalries with orders to subdue the hostile Cheyenne and Arapaho bands. In the early morning hours of November 29, 1864 about 900 Colorado volunteers attacked the camp of about 100 lodges. Using cannon and small arms the Colorado volunteers charged the camp killing around 160 Indians, mostly women and children.

The actual site of the event was lost to memory over the years. However, the Cheyenne and Arapaho considered the site sacred and wanted it memorialized. In the mid-1990s the National Park Service undertook a total reassessment of the documentary records and concluded that the traditional monumented location was, in fact, incorrect. Using the new historical assessment archeologists sought and found physical evidence of the village and ordnance materials expended during the attack. Analysis of the physical evidence using traditional archeological methods coupled with criminalistic based firearms identification techniques revealed much about the event. The physical evidence shows the line of attack by the Colorado volunteers and their extensive firepower. The Cheyenne and Arapaho related evidence shows almost no evidence of resistance, rather a complete disintegration of organization and a chaotic flight for survival in the face of the attack. The physical evidence supports the contention that the Indian camp suffered a surprise attack and the evidence is consistent with the conclusion the attack was, indeed, a massacre.

On Feb. 4, 1865, only nine weeks after the tragedy of Sand Creek in southeastern Colorado Territory, Cheyenne and Sioux warriors attacked a small detachment of volunteer cavalymen guarding the telegraph station at Mud Springs near present-day Bridgeport, Nebraska in part as retaliation for Sand Creek and in an effort to resupply. Cavalry units from Fort Laramie rushed to

the rescue and pursued Native fighters who withdrew to protect their community as it moved away from the combat. The two sides met again at the mouth of Rush Creek, northwest of present-day Oshkosh, Nebraska on February 8. Using the techniques of battlefield archeology, the archaeological investigations revealed specific information on the tactics used in these engagements. Using ideas developed by modern military planners, this presentation will consider how the values and organization of the sides influenced the way they fought.

Stapley, Jordan (Central Wyoming College)

#### **48FR6484 COAL GULCH ROCK SHELTER**

The Coal Gulch Rock Shelter south of Lander, Wyoming, has probably been occupied repeatedly since at least 6,000 years ago. The west end of the 25 meter long main shelter contains two substantial, circular stone structures which may be remnants of lodges. Prehistoric living floors in and around the structures are protected beneath 25cm – 50cm deep undisturbed deposits of colluvium and a “pavement” consisting of over one hundred years of compressed livestock manure. The floor of the east half of the shelter has been disturbed by livestock milling and looters but contains a variety of lithic materials, fire cracked rock, and bone of undetermined age. The shelter wall and adjacent cliff faces contain a variety of pecked and in-cised petroglyphs and black and red paint and pictographs. The creek in front of the shelter runs open water year round. Pioneer names inscribed in the cliff face, homestead foundations at the mouth of the canyon, and a small coal mine just up the canyon provide evidence of the earliest white settlers in the area.