

2026 UPAC WINTER MEETING

**March 19 – 21, 2026
Uintah Conference Center
Vernal, Utah**



**UTAH PROFESSIONAL
ARCHAEOLOGICAL COUNCIL**

WELCOME FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

On behalf of the UPAC Executive Committee, I'd like to welcome each one of you to the 2026 UPAC meeting.

The Executive Committee has been dedicated to making this meeting one that is productive, relevant and that meets the needs of our professional community. This year's meeting will include a diverse range of presentations, posters, job fairs, and lightning round presentations from agencies and consultants.

It has been another challenging year for the archaeological record and the archaeological community here at home and the United States as a whole. As a result, we believe it is more important than ever to stay engaged with colleagues and friends. We are hopeful that this meeting will allow you to find encouragement, support, and inspiration for the coming year.

Finally, remember that UPAC is your organization, and we will do everything we can to support you and our field. We are committed to this work, now and moving forward. Do not hesitate to reach out to any of us with your thoughts and concerns.

Thanks again for all that you do.

Sincerely,

Joel Boomgarden, UPAC President

UPAC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

UPAC PRESIDENT

Joel Boomgarden

VICE PRESIDENT OF MEMBERSHIP AND ETHICS

Lindsey Evenson

TREASURER

Bill Reitze

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WEBMASTER

Deb Miller

WINTER MEETING – SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2026

1:00pm – 5:00pm PLPCO Consultants Meeting

6:00pm – 7:00pm Dr. Judson Finley Lecture

7:00pm UPAC Social

FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 2026

9:00am – 5:00pm UPAC Winter Meeting (Papers, Posters,
Business Meeting, Election Results)

5:00pm UPAC Happy Hour

SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 2026

9:00am – 12:00pm UPAC Winter Meeting (Papers, Posters)

WINTER MEETING – SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2026

1:00pm – 5:00pm	PLPCO Consultants Meeting
6:00pm – 7:00pm	Dr. Judson Finley Lecture <i>Placing the Uinta Basin in Southwest Archaeology: Insights from the Leo C. Thorne Collection</i>
	Location: Museum of Uintah County
7:00pm	UPAC Social: Little B's

FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 2026

9:00am – 9:15am	Welcome
9:15am – 10:15am	Lightning Round
10:15am – 11:15am	Poster Session
11:15am – 12:15pm	Paper Session
12:15pm – 1:30pm	Lunch Break
1:30pm – 2:30pm	Job Fair
2:30pm – 4:00pm	Paper Session
4:00pm – 5:00pm	Business Meeting
5:00pm	UPAC Happy Hour: Little B's

SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 2026

9:00am – 10:00am	Job Fair
10:00am – 11:15am	Paper Session
11:15am – 11:30pm	Closing Remarks

BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER – Joel Boomgarden

MOTION TO APPROVE 2025 MINUTES – Joel Boomgarden

UPAC BOARD UPDATES

- UPAC President – Joel Boomgarden
- Vice President of Membership and Ethics – Lindsey Evenson
- Treasurer – Bill Reitze
- Vice President of Government Affairs – Michael Ligman
- Secretary – Jacob Wilks
- Media Coordinator – Shelley Szeghi
- Webmaster – Deb Miller

ELECTIONS

- Thank Outgoing Officers
- Announce Nominees
 - UPAC President
 - Vice President of Membership and Ethics
 - Treasurer
- Introduce New Officers

COMMITTEE UPDATES

- Tribal Relations ad-hoc committee updates
 - UPAC Native American Student Scholarship

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR UPAC FELLOW

NEW BUSINESS

MEETING ADJOURN

UPAC OFFICER NOMINEES



UPAC PRESIDENT

Nominee: Tina Hart

Tina Hart, a Principal with Logan Simpson in Salt Lake City, has more than 25 years of experience working in cultural resource management across the Southwest and Great Basin. Her career has focused on practical problem-solving, collaboration, and

supporting high professional standards in archaeology. Tina's hands-on approach to leadership is reflected in her work as Chair of the UPAC Tribal Relations Committee, where she helped organize the 2025 Winter Meeting keynote symposium and led the creation of UPAC's first Native American scholarship. As a candidate for President of the Utah Professional Archaeological Council, Tina wants to focus on action—strengthening UPAC's ability to serve its members, advocate for the profession, and meaningfully advance the organization's mission and goals. She believes UPAC should be an active, responsive, and credible voice for professional archaeology in Utah, and she is committed to helping the organization deliver meaningful results.



VICE PRESIDENT OF MEMBERSHIP AND ETHICS

Nominee: Jessica DelBozque

Hello! My name is Jessica DelBozque, and I am running for VP of Membership and Ethics. I have been a professional archaeologist for the last (nearly) 16 years and am currently a Project Archaeologist / Principal Investigator at Eocene Environmental Group. I am a remote employee and share a home office with a delightful 12-year-old corgi, Lucy. I grew up in western Oregon, graduating with a BA in Anthropology from Oregon

State University in 2010 and moving out to Utah the following year. Since 2011, I have primarily worked in Utah and have kept a home base in the

eastern part of the state. I've spent most of my Utah years in Moab but have been based in Price since 2023. I previously served on the UPAC Executive Committee as the Secretary from 2019-2021. I dove from that experience immediately into graduate school, completing an MA in CRM from Adams State University in 2024. After recovering from that experience, I became a Utah Cultural Site Stewardship Program volunteer in May 2025. The Utah archaeological community is the best and I am so grateful I have been able to build my career in this amazing state. I would be honored to serve on the Executive Committee again and give back to the community in this way if elected.



TREASURER

Nominee: Brandy Webster

Hello, my name is Brandy Webster and I am running for the UPAC Treasurer position. Since receiving my BS in Anthropology from the University of Utah in 2023, I have had the opportunity to work in the public and private sectors of cultural resource management. I have been working for Logan Simpson for the past year where I perform extensive Class I research, data management, serve as a field crew member, and sit on one of the committees for the Salt Lake Office. Previously, I was an archaeological technician for the Uinta-

Wasatch-Cache National Forest where I was tasked with the organization and management of multiple digital and analog databases. I also conducted archaeological fieldwork, site documentation, eligibility determinations for cultural resources, and worked collaboratively on public heritage initiatives. My research interests include Great Basin archaeology, advancing public engagement in cultural resources, historic archaeology, and the intersection of environmental change and human adaptation. I am committed to ethical stewardship and collaborative preservation. I enjoy hiking, reading, and volunteering with a diverse portfolio of communities.

PRESENTATION SCHEDULE – POSTERS

FRIDAY MORNING, MARCH 20

Poster Session 10:15am – 11:15am

Jeremy Bennett	Building Backgrounds by Bottles
Maura Boley	The Price of Progress: Nails and Status in Terrace, Utah
Carys Brumbaugh	Frontier Living in a Sand Dune Dugout of Terrace
Carlee Coles	Snares of the Great Basin and Colorado Plateau: Cost and Function
Sofia Eyring	Chinese Leisure and Identity in the American West
Talia Gulch	2025 Excavations in Terrace: Insights into the Living Quarters of Chinese Railroad Laborers in Utah
Damon Ludlow	XRF Sourcing of Non-local Toolstone in Range Creek Canyon
William Maughan	High Elevation Sites in Southwestern Utah
Jessi Olsen	Macrobotanical Remains: What They Tell Us About the Food Consumed in Terrace
Jo Peterson	Historic Pottery: What are the Stories it can Tell Us?
Jacob Robinson	From Celebrations to Silence: A Comparative Look at the Historical Records of Four Pioneer Era Irrigation Diches Across Utah
Kalli Yost	Scavenged Dwellings, Quality Goods: Socioeconomic Complexity in the Terrace, Utah Dugout Neighborhood

PRESENTATION SCHEDULE – PAPERS

FRIDAY MORNING, MARCH 20

Paper Session 11:15am – 12:15pm

11:15am – 11:30am Abby Baka

Targeted Survey for Pleistocene-Holocene
Transition Archaeology on the Colorado
Plateau

11:30am – 11:45am Jeremy Bennett, James Hall, Scott Ure, and
Richard Talbot

Mapping Mobility: Modeling Fremont
Movement and Material Exchange

11:45am – 12:00pm Shannon Boomgarden

Using GIS Models of Creek Level Variation to
Explore the Past and Present Costs of
Irrigation Farming in Cherry Meadows, Range
Creek Canyon

12:00pm – 12:15pm Christian Minton

Methodology of Starch Extraction from
Ground Stone

PRESENTATION SCHEDULE – PAPERS

FRIDAY AFTERNOON, MARCH 20

Paper Session 2:30pm – 3:45pm

2:30pm – 2:45pm Jessica DelBozque

Between the Black Rocks: Rock Writing Sites of the Sevier Desert, Millard County, Utah

2:45pm – 3:00pm Ian Farrell

Braiding Access: Experimental Juniper Bark Rope and Cliffside Architecture in Utah

3:00pm – 3:15pm Judson Byrd Finley

Bridging Site-Based and Landscape-Scale Archaeological Reconstructions: An Example from Castle Valley, Utah

3:15pm – 3:30pm Thomas Flanigan

Where Bison Rode on the Backs of Crocodiles: A Palimpsest of Prehistory on Shores of Strawberry Reservoir

3:30pm – 3:45pm Aaron Whittenburg

Archaeology at Altitude: Summary Results of Three Field Seasons of Archaeological Survey at Brian Head Resort in Southern Utah

3:45 – 4:00pm Stefania Wilks

Rooted in Spring: Wild Vegetables and Underground Economies

PRESENTATION SCHEDULE – PAPERS (CONT.)

SATURDAY MORNING, MARCH 21

Paper Session 10:00am – 11:15am

10:00am – 10:15am Seth Button and Sarah MacSparran

Investigations at the Historic Storrs/Spring
Canyon Townsite in Carbon County

10:15am – 10:30am Jacob Robinson

From Celebrations to Silence: A Comparative
Look at the Historical Records of Four Pioneer
Era Irrigation Diches Across Utah

10:30am – 10:45am Jeffrey Rust

Ute Brush Fence Structures in the Uinta Basin

10:45am – 11:00am Aaron Woods

It's Medicinal! A Discussion of a Prohibition-
era Whiskey Container Lid

11:00am – 11:15am Jason Chuipka

Betwixt and Between: The Liminal State of
Cultural Resource Management

MUSEUM OF UINTAH COUNTY LECTURE

THURSDAY, MARCH 19 6:00 – 7:00pm

***PLACING THE UINTA BASIN IN SOUTHWEST ARCHAEOLOGY:
INSIGHTS FROM THE LEO C. THORNE COLLECTION***

Dr. Judson Finley—Utah State University

The Leo C. Thorne Collection is among the most unique assemblages of Native American archaeological objects that has been a centerpiece of Vernal culture for nearly a century. Understanding where the artifacts originated from now requires returning to the early years of settlement in the Vernal area, which is possible through a rich archive of photographs, field notes, correspondence, and other sources held in the Uintah County History Center. Join us we discuss ongoing studies of the Thorne Collection and what it reveals about Native American life in the Basin more than a 1,000 years ago.

LIGHTNING ROUND

FRIDAY, MARCH 20 9:15am – 10:15am

Eocene Environmental Group, Inc.

High Desert Heritage and Research

Logan Simpson

Metcalf Archaeology, a Terracon Company

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

JOB FAIR

FRIDAY, MARCH 20 **1:30pm – 2:30pm**

SATURDAY, MARCH 21 **9:00am – 10:00am**

Eocene Environmental Group, Inc.

Logan Simpson

Metcalf Archaeology, a Terracon Company

Tetra Tech

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Utah Trust Lands Administration

VENDORS & BOOTHS

THURSDAY, MARCH 19 **1:00 – 5:00pm**

FRIAY, MARCH 20 **9:00am – 5:00pm**

SATURDAY, MARCH 21 **9:00am – 12:00pm**

Eocene Environmental Group, Inc.

High Desert Heritage and Research

Metcalf Archaeology, a Terracon Company

Prehistoric Museum, Utah State University Eastern

Utah State Historic Preservation Office / Utah Cultural Site
Stewardship

Utah Trust Lands Administration

ABSTRACTS – POSTERS

BUILDING BACKGROUNDS BY BOTTLES

Jeremy Bennett—Brigham Young University

Through an extensive survey and artifact collection at Terrace, Utah conducted by the Utah SHPO and BLM offices, we have a large descriptive and spatial data set of bottles used and disposed of by the community members. By combining the spatial and descriptive data of the bottles we can create a chronology through a kernel density analysis of the bottles found across the site.

THE PRICE OF PROGRESS: NAILS AND STATUS IN TERRACE, UTAH

Maura Boley—Brigham Young University

During the latter half of the nineteenth century, the United States entered what would be known as the “Gilded Age” and began westward expansion and growth at unprecedented rates, due to the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad connecting the country in one vital line of transportation. Previous archaeological work done at Terrace, one of the many railroad towns in Utah, has uncovered new findings concerning the site’s Chinatown and other residential sectors, but recent excavations done at the Terrace Library sector may prove to be the material representation of socioeconomic disparities in railroad towns of the Gilded Age. In this research, I will present an analysis of construction materials found in the Terrace Library, and explore how and why they differ from those recovered from the residential areas of the town. In my examination of the nails at various sites around Terrace, results indicated unusually preserved and more varied types in the Library than other spaces that showed signs of constant reuse of materials. Building off the well-documented historical sources of the construction, habitation, and later deconstruction of Terrace, I will show how a simple nail can set the scene for the struggle of pioneer idealism versus the wealth of westward expansion in Gilded Age America. Keywords: Nails, Buildings Archaeology, Reuse and Recycling, Railroad Towns

FRONTIER LIVING IN A SAND DUNE DUGOUT OF TERRACE

Carys Brumbaugh—Brigham Young University

Some buildings are constructed by professionals with formal plans while others are constructed by ordinary people without any formal plans, and such is the story of a railroad dugout. In 1869, the Transcontinental Railroad town of Terrace, Utah was founded as a key stopping point along the train tracks. During the summer of 2025, the author attended Brigham Young University's Archaeology field school at Terrace and excavated at a dugout north of the railroad tracks. Following archival research and an analysis of the artifacts and features found, this paper serves to draw attention to the knowledge uncovered about historic dugouts, revealing the construction and life associated with these structures in nineteenth-century railroad towns. It contributes new data to this field of study through a coherent, summative description of the dugout at Terrace. Built out of a sand dune and furnished with recycled materials, the dugout at Terrace was created to temporarily house Euro-American railroad workers.

SNARES OF THE GREAT BASIN AND COLORADO PLATEAU: COST AND FUNCTION

Carlee Coles—Natural History Museum of Utah

Snares are rarely found in the archaeological record due to their organic composition. However, caves and rock shelters provide the arid environment necessary for preservation, as this is where archaeologists have identified snare bundles and throughout the southwest. Yet little research is available that calculates the functionality or the cost and return rates of this technology. In this preliminary experiment, snap-back snares will be constructed from *Apocynum* (dogbane) repeatedly until an example is produced that closely resembles those in the archaeological record. The snares then will be tested consecutively to document wear patterns and what deems a snare as unusable or in need of repair. The data gathered will be incorporated into the diet breadth model to provide a better understanding of how snare technology influences cost and return rates in the Great Basin and Colorado Plateau.

CHINESE LEISURE AND IDENTITY IN THE AMERICAN WEST

Sofia Eyring—Brigham Young University

The construction of the Transcontinental Railroad in Terrace, Utah, a place that had no prior occupation before the arrival of the Central Pacific Railroad. Among the diverse populations who lived and worked there, overseas Chinese immigrants have long been characterized in historical narratives as anonymous laborers whose identities were defined by their work. Archaeological research has traditionally reinforced this stereotype by focusing primarily on Euro-American laborers and managerial classes, leaving the daily lives, cultural practices, and leisure activities of Chinese railroad workers understudied. Recent excavations at Terrace however, challenge this narrative and reveal a more complex picture of Chinese immigrant life, one where leisure is a part of cultural expression and identity.

2025 EXCAVATIONS IN TERRACE: INSIGHTS INTO THE LIVING QUARTERS OF CHINESE RAILROAD LABORERS IN UTAH

Talia Gulch—Brigham Young University

This poster presents a preliminary analysis of the work that was conducted in Excavation Area One in the Chinese residential section of Terrace, UT during BYU's 2025 archaeological field school. The findings from this excavation area allow us to better understand how the Chinese enclave of Terrace organized their portion of the community.

XRF SOURCING OF NON-LOCAL TOOLSTONE IN RANGE CREEK CANYON

Damon Ludlow—Utah Valley University

Lithic artifacts made from the colloquially named “pigeon blood” chert have been found in sites across Range Creek Canyon. These lithic artifacts are easily identifiable with their translucent or white body and red inclusions. The sourcing of this toolstone has not been done chemically; the only information of the origin of pigeon blood chert is through word of mouth or old mineral data. Through use of a portable XRF, chemical data and spectra from samples are collected from pigeon blood sources as well as artifacts collected from Range Creek Canyon. Because of a lack of toolstone sources in Range Creek Canyon, the search for preliminary findings can tie artifacts

to sources, reveal sourcing locations elsewhere, or discover that the methodology needs to be revised.

HIGH ELEVATION SITES IN SOUTHWESTERN UTAH

William Maughan and José Chávez—Metcalf Archaeological Consultants

Since 2023, Metcalf Archaeological Consultants has been surveying and recording areas surrounding Brian Head Ski Resort in southwestern Utah. This systematic survey has resulted in several of high elevation prehistoric sites with several kinds of toolstone of various local and non-local material types. Lithics generally consist of Brian Head agate/chert, obsidian, and some non-local quartzites and cherts. This study aims to distinguish sites with local/non-local toolstones and compare site environmental data for any notable similarities.

MACROBOTANICAL REMAINS: WHAT THEY TELL US ABOUT THE FOOD CONSUMED IN TERRACE

Jessi Olsen—Brigham Young University

Terrace Utah was once a bustling railroad town, but after a few years, due to the railroad moving, it became the ghost town it is today. During its prime it had two main parts to it, the Chinatown and the Euro-American side of town. This poster will reconstruct the diet/consumption of overseas Chinese with comparison to Euro-American inhabitants of Terrace to understand their interaction. This was done partly through analysis of the macrobotanical remains, found through doing flotations of the soil samples and partly through historical research of other Chinatowns in the west. I am still waiting on the results from my own analysis but in other Chinatowns we learn that the Chinese people imported food from China and used food from America. They also imported seeds and grew food native to China in gardens. They still partook in food important to their culture and tried to keep that alive, while also adding new foods to their diet depending on where they were living. From the combinations of the results from my analysis and the historical resources that were studied, one can see that coming to America changed the diet of the Chinese people.

HISTORIC POTTERY: WHAT ARE THE STORIES IT CAN TELL US?

Jo Peterson—Brigham Young University

This poster examines different pottery types found in 19th century Terrace, Utah within four excavated sectors, Chinatown block 1 (CT1), Chinatown block 2 (CT2), the dugout, and library. Identifying the pottery types and makes can help us learn about what these sectors were used for and the lives of those who lived there. Terrace, Utah was used as a railroad town that housed those of European descent as well as a Chinese work force. The diversity of those living there and daily activities caused many pottery types to be left behind including pieces used for storage, alcohol, decoration, and kitchenware. Pottery can tell us about peoples class, daily activities, long term settlements, and pottery preferences. From this we found evidence to support CT1 as a Chinese-housing, CT2 a workplace or storage unit, dugout as Euro-American residential living or saloon, and the library as a gathering place.

FROM CELEBRATIONS TO SILENCE: A COMPARATIVE LOOK AT THE HISTORICAL RECORDS OF FOUR PIONEER ERA IRRIGATION DICHES ACROSS UTAH

Jacob Robinson—Natural Resources Conservation Service

Between 2021 and 2024, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provided technical and financial assistance for proposed piping projects affecting four historic earthen irrigation ditches in Utah: the Pioneer Ditch (42MD4321) in Millard County, the Furnace Ditch (42BE5466) in Beaver County, the Coyote & East Fork Canal (42GA7167) in Garfield County, and the Hammond East Branch Canal (42BO1507) in Box Elder County. All four resources are eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), and the undertakings were determined to result in adverse effects under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). As part of mitigation, historical research was conducted to document each ditch's construction, use, and significance. This presentation compares the historical accounts of the four systems to examine how pioneer communities with different levels of settlement, environmental conditions, agricultural priorities, shaped the historical record of each irrigation feature. The study demonstrates how Section 106 mitigation can contribute meaningful interpretation of regional irrigation history while meeting regulatory compliance requirements.

SCAVENGED DWELLINGS, QUALITY GOODS: SOCIOECONOMIC COMPLEXITY IN THE TERRACE, UTAH DUGOUT NEIGHBORHOOD

Kalli Yost—Brigham Young University

Terrace, located in Box Elder County, Utah, was a significant settlement along the Transcontinental Railroad during the late nineteenth century and is now preserved as a ghost town. Although Terrace has been the subject of previous archaeological and historical research, excavation and analysis on the north side of the site have been limited. A dugout structure and an associated midden deposit on the north side of Terrace were excavated, providing new data for examining domestic life and refuse practices within a dugout neighborhood. This study analyzes the artifact assemblages recovered from both the dugout and the midden to address questions concerning refuse disposal behavior and socioeconomic variation among residents, as well as evaluates whether the midden represents refuse generated by the excavated dugout alone or whether it functioned as a communal refuse deposit for multiple households within the dugout neighborhood. The primary goal of this research is to address the gap in knowledge of the north side of Terrace by applying comparative artifact analysis to better understand community organization and social differentiation in railroad-era settlements. The results indicate that the midden assemblage reflects refuse generated by multiple households rather than a single dugout, and suggests that many residents of the dugout neighborhood occupied a higher socioeconomic status than the inhabitants of the excavated dugout.

ABSTRACTS – PAPERS

TARGETED SURVEY FOR PLEISTOCENE-HOLOCENE TRANSITION ARCHAEOLOGY ON THE COLORADO PLATEAU

Abby Baka—University of Utah

The Pleistocene-Holocene transition (PHT) archaeological record on the Colorado Plateau is poorly understood and has been interpreted as sparse, especially compared to the neighboring Great Basin and Rocky Mountains/Great Plains. To explore whether this apparent sparsity is due to low regional PHT populations, insufficient PHT-targeted research on the Plateau, taphonomy, or cross-regional differences in lifeways, we surveyed ~2,400 acres of the San Rafael Desert on the Colorado Plateau in south-central Utah. A predictive model was used to determine the survey area. We present the results of this targeted survey, which encountered three sites and one isolate of likely PHT age, for a total of five diagnostic PHT points, including unfluted lanceolate points, a fluted point, a Scottsbluff point, and a stemmed point. In comparing the point types and PHT locality densities from our survey to those in areas of PHT-targeted survey in surrounding regions, we conclude that, while the San Rafael Desert's PHT record may be sparse, it demonstrates that the Colorado Plateau's PHT record is worthy of study given its potential to elucidate interaction between the Western Stemmed Tradition characteristic of the Great Basin and the fluted and lanceolate traditions characteristic of the Plains and Rockies.

MAPPING MOBILITY: MODELING FREMONT MOVEMENT AND MATERIAL EXCHANGE

Jeremy Bennett, James Hall, Scott Ure, and Richard Talbot—Brigham Young University

To understand portions of the socioeconomic landscape of the Fremont people in the Eastern Great Basin and northern Colorado Plateau, our study reconstructs the pathways traders used to transport objects, ideas, and identity across the Intermountain West. Building on Joel Janetski's (2002) model of Fremont trade and the Least Cost Path Analysis of Richens et al. (2022), we developed a model of potential trade routes linking prominent Fremont village sites across the eastern Great Basin and the Colorado Plateau. Variables incorporated into the analysis include slope, proximity to water, locations of obsidian sources, and sites with large integrative

structures. Using ArcGIS Pro, we generated least cost paths estimating routes the Fremont may have traveled. Elevation and snowpack data further allowed us to assess which routes were seasonally accessible, particularly in winter. Comparisons of these modeled routes reveal a significant divide between Fremont groups in the eastern Great Basin and those on the Colorado Plateau—a distinction also reflected in material culture. Analysis of obsidian source procurement and exchange among key sites reinforces the presence of regional variation within the broader Fremont identity. Our results highlight the value of GIS-based least cost path analysis for understanding Fremont mobility, trade, and intergroup relationships.

USING GIS MODELS OF CREEK LEVEL VARIATION TO EXPLORE THE PAST AND PRESENT COSTS OF IRRIGATION FARMING IN CHERRY MEADOWS, RANGE CREEK CANYON

Shannon Boomgarden—Natural History Museum, University of Utah

Reconstructions of past environmental conditions during the occupation of Range Creek Canyon by Fremont maize farmers suggest that access to reliable irrigation sources would have significantly improved maize productivity beyond what is possible through precipitation alone (Boomgarden 2015, Knight et al. 2010). Supplying more water to crops is always beneficial in arid environments, but that water comes at a cost to farmers. Range Creek, a perennial water source, would have been extremely attractive to farmers willing to invest in surface irrigation techniques designed to divert water from the creek to the adjacent fields. Farming experiments conducted over the last 10 years in Range Creek Canyon have replicated simple and efficient irrigation strategies to move water from Range Creek onto farm fields using only materials and technology available to Fremont farmers 1,000 years ago (Boomgarden et al. 2019). The experiments have shown that Fremont farmers would have been unlikely to build weirs and ditches in locations along the creek that were entrenched over 2 meters deep. The creek is currently heavily entrenched, making irrigation extremely difficult even with modern equipment. This research uses ArcGIS Pro to model costs of irrigating a field in Cherry Meadows, with Fremont irrigation techniques at the current level of creek entrenchment before estimating the costs of irrigating field locations as if the creek were not entrenched over 2 meters.

INVESTIGATIONS AT THE HISTORIC STORRS/SPRING CANYON TOWNSITE IN CARBON COUNTY

Seth Button and Sarah MacSparran—Logan Simpson

The town of Storrs (later called Spring Canyon) was one of the most important of the company coal mining towns in Carbon County. It was established at the same time as Jesse Knight's Spring Canyon Coal Company, and from 1914 until the town was finally abandoned around 1970 most of the residents were miners and their families.

Most of the mine, commercial, and residential buildings at Storrs/Spring Canyon were demolished in the 1960s and 1970s. Early reclamation projects addressing coal mining hazards also removed many of the surface infrastructure at the related mines in Spring Canyon and Sowbelly Gulch. Historic sources have alluded to the town of Storrs/Spring Canyon as "completely destroyed" and previous archaeological recordings of the townsite area have been targeted and/or limited in scope.

In November of 2025, Logan Simpson, working for the Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining, documented over a hundred features and a scatter of thousands of artifacts belonging to the town of Storrs/Spring Canyon. Through a combination of intensive GPS mapping, aerial imagery, and terrestrial archaeology we were able to identify individual structures, and, where post-depositional processes permitted, their associated artifact assemblages. Documentary sources, photographs, oral history, and ethnobotany were also integrated with the archaeological recording. The results of this investigation provide new information about the town, its residents, and the landscape of coal mining in Spring Canyon ca. 1914-1970.

BETWIXT AND BETWEEN: THE LIMINAL STATE OF CULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Jason Chuipka—Woods Canyon Archaeological Consultants, Inc.

Liminality is a transitional state between "what was" and "what's next." Liminal states are characterized by ambiguity and uncertainty, the alteration of traditional hierarchies, and the formation of new ways of doing things. It may be argued that CRM is currently in a liminal state. The first generation of CRM archaeologists have retired, and many firms have either closed with them or been reorganized as part of much larger enterprises. At the same time, changes in policies and regulations have altered the way that

archaeology is practiced. The hegemony of the Western scientific paradigm in archaeological practice is being re-evaluated while the traditional knowledge of descendant communities has gained influence in shaping the management of cultural resources. The old patterns of CRM have not yet gone away, but the new ones have not yet fully formed. This paper examines possible future outcomes for CRM in Utah and beyond.

BETWEEN THE BLACK ROCKS: ROCK WRITING SITES OF THE SEVIER DESERT, MILLARD COUNTY, UTAH

Jessica DelBozque—Eocene Environmental Group, Inc.

In 2024 and 2025, Eocene Environmental Group (Eocene) documented hundreds of rock writing panels in the Sevier Desert of Millard County, between the unincorporated community of Black Rock to the south and a mesa also named Black Rock to the north. When researching the rock writing styles, Eocene found that several panels are associated with the site designations Black Rock, Pumice, and Deseret, defined in Polly Schaafsma's Rock Art of Utah (Schaafsma 1994). These site designations – Black Rock, Pumice, and Deseret – appear to have been defined by Frank Beckwith when he documented the localities starting in the 1920s. These designations represent type locations for Great Basin Curvilinear and Sevier Style A rock writing styles. This paper will discuss the Black Rock, Pumice, and Deseret localities as well as offer a nearly 100-year comparison between rock writing panels photographed by Beckwith in the 1920s to early 1930s and Eocene's 2024 to 2025 photos.

BRAIDING ACCESS: EXPERIMENTAL JUNIPER BARK ROPE AND CLIFFSIDE ARCHITECTURE IN UTAH

Ian Farrell—University of Utah / Natural History Museum of Utah

Across Utah, there are numerous examples of prehistoric structures built in extremely precarious locations on cliffs and ridges. In some areas entire villages were located under large overhangs near seeps and springs. In others, such as Range Creek Canyon, smaller granaries were built clinging to cliff faces and under sandstone overhangs. While there is evidence of climbing aids in the form of pecked handholds/ footholds to some of these sites, there are fewer examples of prehistoric scaffolding and cordage for climbing. Although there are some examples of rope made from juniper bark,

it is hard to imagine it as being useful for climbing or building cliff structures due to its brittle and papery texture. Recent experimental studies at the Range Creek Field Station have examined the construction costs for granaries seen in RCC, but data on the costs of transporting construction materials or food to granaries is limited. Hauling individual burden baskets up climbing routes would likely have been prohibitively expensive and dangerous for the builders. Using ropes to lift baskets up the cliff could reduce costs depending on the added time to create the ropes. Preliminary results from an experimental study braiding 20 ropes from juniper bark suggest that these ropes could have been an expedient and effective tool for granary construction.

**BRIDGING SITE-BASED AND LANDSCAPE-SCALE
ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECONSTRUCTIONS: AN EXAMPLE FROM
CASTLE VALLEY, UTAH**

Judson Byrd Finley—Utah State University

Fremont archaeology in Utah has long been divided between the site-based University excavations of large, sedentary villages and the expansive landscape surveys of cultural resource management. Villages especially are often considered only in comparison to each other and rarely within a context of the entire landscapes that they operated. Thus, there is a gap in our understanding of landscapes and village sites as *integrated systems*. This study presents preliminary results of fieldwork from the southern Castle Valley that considers the archaeological record as a unified package of local geomorphic systems that were intensively used by Indigenous farmers. Across a short window of time from approximately AD 970–1240, southern Castle Valley saw the emergence of a complex settlement network that included several important villages embedded in a landscape with dense residues of maize agriculture. I offer a working hypothesis for the relationship between agricultural intensification and the emergence of socioeconomic complexity that highlights the significance of dryland systems as a package where village sites and landscapes must be considered in tandem.

WHERE BISON RODE ON THE BACKS OF CROCODILES: A PALIMPSEST OF PREHISTORY ON SHORES OF STRAWBERRY RESERVOIR

Tom Flanigan—U.S. Forest Service

In the summer of 2020, the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest was contacted by a member of the public about a potential hearth feature located in the cut-bank of Strawberry Reservoir. A field visit confirmed that the feature was indeed a cross section of an intact hearth. Archaeologists from Metcalf Archaeology and the U.S. Forest Service identified a number of other artifacts on the Eocene aged bedrock that served as the beachfront property between the cutbank and the water level at the time. Artifacts that had previously eroded, and now lay out of context on the “beach”, included multiple examples of definitive fire cracked rock, ground stone, lithic debitage, and complete projectile points that spanned a date range from the Late Paleoindian Period to the Late Prehistoric Period based on artifact typology.

METHODOLOGY OF STARCH EXTRACTION FROM GROUND STONE

Christian Minton—University of Utah

This study investigates enhanced techniques for recovering starch residues from archaeological ground stone tools through a controlled methodological experiment. It evaluates whether laboratory-based ultrasonic cleaning produces higher starch yields than a previously employed field sonication sampling method. Fourteen ground stone surface artifacts from Range Creek Canyon (RCC), originally analyzed and found to contain minimal starch residues, were reexamined to assess whether residues embedded within surface microfractures could be accessed using alternative laboratory techniques. Results demonstrate increased starch recovery, indicating that earlier low yields likely reflect methodological limitations rather than an absence of plant-processing residues. Using a combination of established and newly applied laboratory protocols, including ultrasonication with and without sodium hexametaphosphate as a deflocculant, the study documented statistically significant increases in starch yield.

FROM CELEBRATIONS TO SILENCE: A COMPARATIVE LOOK AT THE HISTORICAL RECORDS OF FOUR PIONEER ERA IRRIGATION DICHES ACROSS UTAH

Jacob Robinson—NRCS

Between 2021 and 2024, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provided technical and financial assistance for proposed piping projects affecting four historic earthen irrigation ditches in Utah: the Pioneer Ditch (42MD4321) in Millard County, the Furnace Ditch (42BE5466) in Beaver County, the Coyote & East Fork Canal (42GA7167) in Garfield County, and the Hammond East Branch Canal (42BO1507) in Box Elder County. All four resources are eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), and the undertakings were determined to result in adverse effects under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). As part of mitigation, historical research was conducted to document each ditch's construction, use, and significance. This presentation compares the historical accounts of the four systems to examine how pioneer communities with different levels of settlement, environmental conditions, agricultural priorities, shaped the historical record of each irrigation feature. The study demonstrates how Section 106 mitigation can contribute meaningful interpretation of regional irrigation history while meeting regulatory compliance requirements.

UTE BRUSH FENCE STRUCTURES IN THE UINTA BASIN

Jeffrey Rust—USFS, Ashley National Forest

More than 20 brush fence structures have been identified in the pinyon/juniper woodlands of the Uinta Basin. These linear structures were built and utilized by the Ute in the 1700 and 1800s to manage and gather horse herds. The structures are linear arrangements of local pinyon and juniper trees stacked to create drift fences leading to circular entrapment corrals. No man-made materials are used in the construction of the fences and they are often hard to recognize as cultural structures, especially when deteriorated or damaged. Documentation efforts indicate that many of these irreplaceable structures have been and continue to be damaged by lop and scatter projects and other vegetation removal activities in pinyon and juniper woodland areas.

ARCHAEOLOGY AT ALTITUDE: SUMMARY RESULTS OF THREE FIELD SEASONS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY AT BRIAN HEAD RESORT IN SOUTHERN UTAH

Aaron Whittenburg—Metcalf Archaeological Consultants

Across the 2023-2025 field seasons, Metcalf Archaeology conducted archaeological inventory of 2,058 acres for the proposed expansion of Brian Head Resort (BHR) in southern Utah. Planned developments include an expansion of BHR's Special Use Permit (SUP) into two new areas, located adjacent to the east and west side of existing SUP area, new lifts, new runs, snowmaking, supporting infrastructure, access roads, utility lines, parking, and snowmobile trail re-routes. Total field time was 64 days. Inventory resulted in the re-recording or updating of ten previously recorded sites and newly recording of 63 new sites. The 73 sites include 55 Precontact sites, ten historic sites, and eight multicomponent sites. Precontact sites include primarily lithic scatters with no features, though there are several quarry sites, temporary camps, and sites with stone features present. Historic sites are primarily tree inscriptions, though stone features, artifact scatters, and a few linear resources were also present. This presentation summarizes the results of the project and provides background for two additional presentations with a more in-depth analysis of the project results.

ROOTED IN SPRING: WILD VEGETABLES AND UNDERGROUND ECONOMIES

Stefania Wilks—University of Utah

Plants that store excess photosynthetic energy in underground organs, or geophytes, have been a critical, though often invisible, component of Indigenous diets in Utah's Great Basin and Colorado Plateau. This presentation reviews several ethnographically significant geophyte taxa, including early-season roots such as biscuitroot (*Lomatium* spp.) and wild onion (*Allium* spp.), mid-season staples like yampa (*Perideridia* spp.) and the Four Corners potato (*Solanum jamesii*), and late-season high-calorie foods such as camas (*Camassia* spp.) and mariposa lily (*Calochortus* spp.), highlighting their distinguishing features, life histories, habitat preferences, and seasonal availability. While these plants provide substantial caloric resources when harvested en masse, their soft tissues rarely survive archaeologically, leaving them underrepresented in site assemblages. Archaeological starch granule evidence demonstrates their past use throughout the Arid West and underscores the need for careful

documentation during field surveys and site recording. By raising awareness of these taxa, archaeologists will better recognize and record their contributions to past human diets.

IT'S MEDICINAL! A DISCUSSION OF A PROHIBITION-ERA WHISKEY CONTAINER LID

Aaron Woods—Horrocks

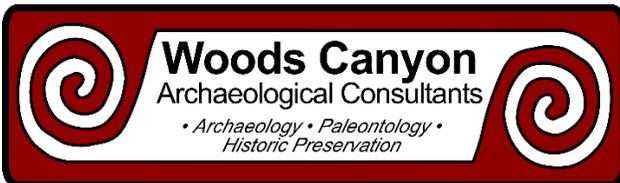
During survey near Cedar City, Utah, a Prohibition-era prescription whiskey container lid was found. After searching archives, this appears to be 1 of 3 found in Utah. Other searches in other Great Basin state databases yielded no data. A previous version of this paper was presented last October at the Great Basin conference in the hopes of expanding the sample size. That yielded no additional data. This paper discusses historic medicinal whiskey containers and seeks collaboration with others who may have encountered them during archaeological surveys in Utah.

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