
UPAC Winter Meeting

Highland Auditorium

March 20 - 22, 2025



Welcome from the Executive Committee

On behalf of the UPAC Executive Committee, I'd like to welcome each one of you to the 2025 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 keynote symposium sponsored by the UPAC Tribal Relations Committee, a diverse range of presentations and posters, a job fair, lightning round presentations from agencies as well as consultants and coffee...lots of coffee.

As we all know, this year has been extremely challenging 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.

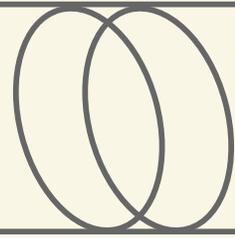
Thanks again for all that you do.

Sincerely,
Joel Boomgarden

UPAC President - Joel Boomgarden
Vice President of Membership and Ethics - Lindsey Evenson
Treasurer - Bill Reitze
Journal Editor - Tim Riley
Vice President of Government Affairs and Research - Peter Steele
Secretary - Erin Root
Media Coordinator - Maisie Schwartz
Webmaster - Elizabeth Hora



Winter Meeting Schedule

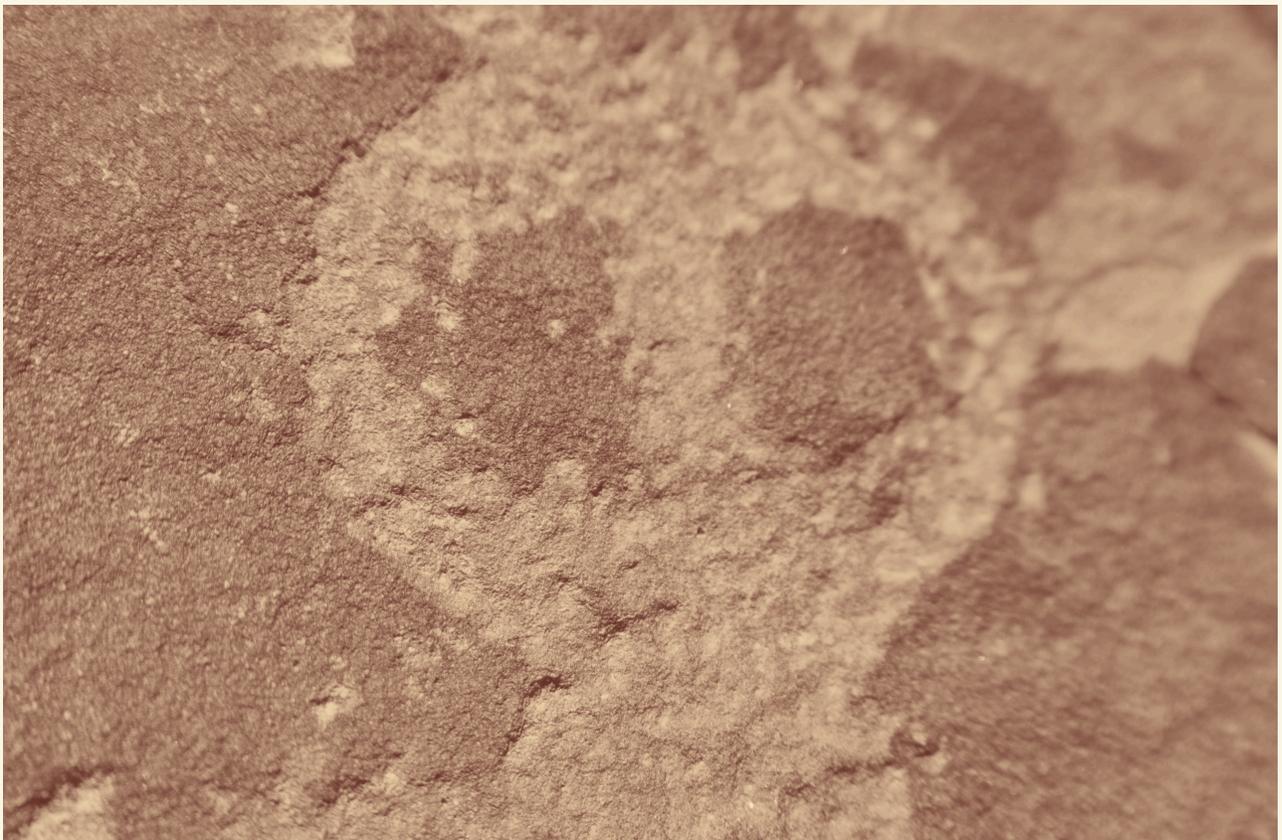


Thursday, March 20

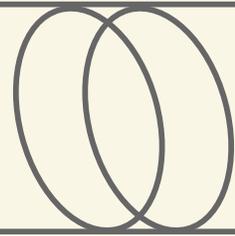
12:00 – 4:00pm. PLPCO Consultants Meeting

4:00 – 5:00pm. UPAC Business Meeting and Awards

5:00pm. Social Event



Winter Meeting Schedule



Friday, March 21

9:00 – 9:15am. Welcome

9:15 – 10:30am. Tribal Relations Committee
Keynote Symposium

10:30 – 11:00am. Poster Session

11:00am – 12:00pm. Paper Session

12:00pm – 1:30pm. Lunch Break

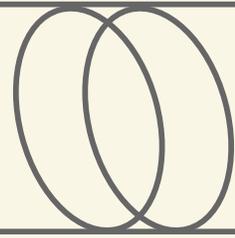
1:30pm – 2:30pm. Job Fair

2:30pm – 3:30pm. Papers

3:30pm – 5:00pm. Lightning Round

5:00pm. Social Event

Winter Meeting Schedule



Saturday, March 22

9:00am – 11:15am. Papers

11:15am – 11:30am. Closing Remarks

11:30am – 2:00pm. Lunch Break

2:00pm – 4:00pm. Historic Pub Crawl



Business Meeting Agenda

Welcome and Call to Order - Joel Boomgarden

Motion to Approve 2024 Minutes - Joel Boomgarden

UPAC Board Updates

President - Joel Boomgarden

Treasurer - Bill Reitze

Journal Editor - Tim Riley

VP of Government Affairs and Research -
Peter Steele

VP of Membership and Ethics - Lindsey Evenson

Secretary - Erin Root

Media Coordinator - Maisie Schwartz

Curriculum Director/USAS Liason - Tim Riley

Webmaster - Elizabeth Hora

Elections

Thank Outgoing Officers, Announce

Candidates, Open Floor to New Nominations

VP of Gov't Affairs and Research

Media Coordinator (Social Media)

Secretary

Webmaster

Committee Updates

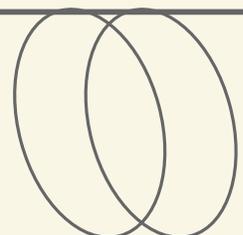
Tribal Relations ad-hoc committee update

Non-sites ad-hoc committee updates

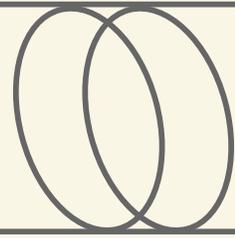
Call for Nominations for UPAC Fellow

New Business

Meeting Adjourn



Presentation Schedule



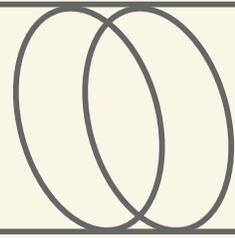
Keynote Symposium

Tribal Relations in Archaeology. Tina Hart, Renee Collins, Autumn Gillard, Judson Finley, Tessie Burningham, Tara Beresh, and Don Montoya

The UPAC Tribal Relations Committee (TRC) was formed in 2023 out of a collective desire to establish a plan to ensure a more collaborative and inclusive future for archaeological work with Tribal communities. In this session, we report to the UPAC membership about what we have learned and best practices for Tribal relations from the perspectives of various roles within professional archaeology.



Presentation Schedule



Friday Morning, March 21

11:00 - 11:15am. Joey LaValley. Mushroom Clouds over Three Peaks: Cedar City's Contributions to the Cold War

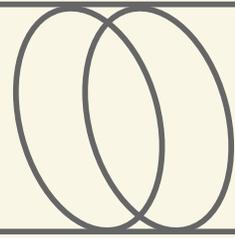
11:15am - 11:30am. Sarah Stewart. Rock Imagery Documentation in Manning and Dry Creeks, Piute County

11:30am - 11:45am. Karlee Stauffer. Empowering Landowners and Preserving Utah's Past: Success Stories from Utah's Archaeology Grant

11:45am - 12:00pm. Ron Rood. Smoke in the Cockpit: The 1954 Crash of Captain Johnson's F-86 Fighter Jet near Wendover, Utah



Presentation Schedule



Friday Afternoon, March 21

2:30pm - 2:45pm. Jake Yoder. Just Use Those Stones: The Archaeology of Archaeologists

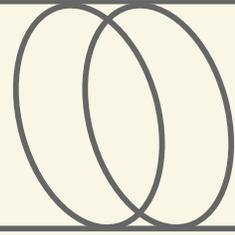
2:45pm - 3:00pm. Ken Cannon. Chinese Gold Mining in the Snake River Canyon: The 2024 Field Season

3:00pm - 3:15pm. Scott Dersham. Initial Insights from Five Fremont Localities in Skull Valley, Tooele County, Utah.

3:15pm - 3:30pm. Jaydee Dolinar. Advancing Archaeological Understanding through the Environmental Archaeology Heuristic (EAH): Biogeographic Scaling of Prehistoric Human Adaptive Strategies in Late Holocene Southwest Wyoming (SWWYO)



Presentation Schedule



Saturday Morning, March 22

9:00am – 9:15am. Cassandra Holcomb. Caves of the Vernal Area Revisited: Archival Records

9:15am – 9:30am. Judson Finley. Caves of the Vernal Area Revisited: Archaeological Records

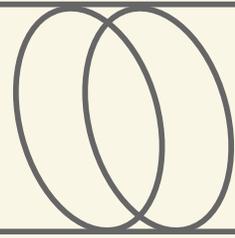
9:30am – 9:45am. Molly Cannon. Creative Mitigation: Historic Preservation Strategies from the Water Heritage Anthropological Project

9:45am – 10:00am. Jason Chuipka. Perspectives on Private Equity in Cultural Resource Management

10:00am – 10:15am. Rachel Blumhardt. Utah’s Cultural Site Stewards: Actively Striving Towards a Common Goal



Presentation Schedule



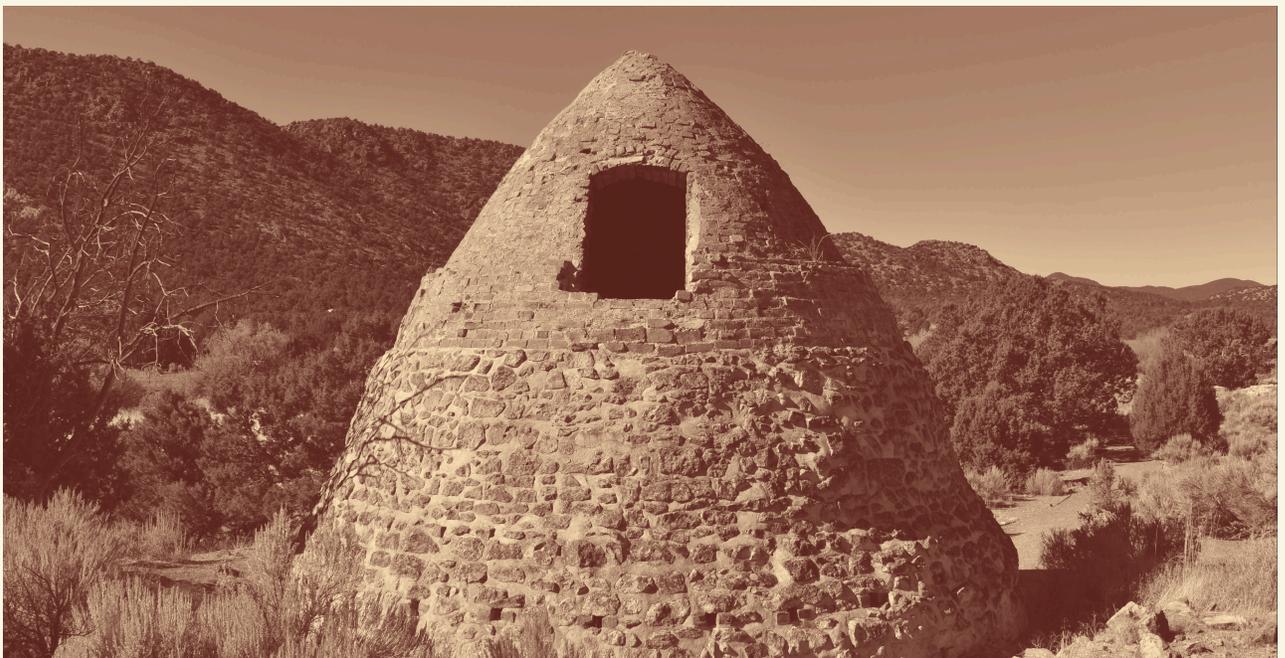
Saturday Morning, March 22

10:15am – 10:30am. Marcos Van Dalen. The Buffalo Soldiers Heritage Trail Project Presentation

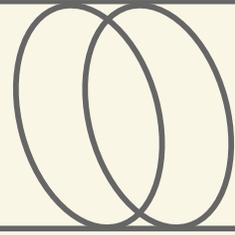
10:30 – 10:45am. Break.

10:45am – 11:00am. Eli Lyon. The Monticello Uplands: A Cultural Resource Survey in The Lands Between

11:00am – 11:15am. Paul Santarone. Landscape Use and Organization on the Edge of the Bonneville Basin: Insights from Site 26EK16689



Poster Session



Friday, March 21

All in the Family: Arborglyphs in the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forests. Tiffany Collins

Optimal Paths to Granaries in Range Creek Canyon. Ian Farrell

Landscape Perspectives on Dryland Agriculture: The Trough Hollow Project. Tanner Gittens

Alternative Trajectories of Food Production. Matthew Jensen

A GIS Approach to Predicting Wildfire Risk to Archaeological Sites in Range Creek Canyon, UT. Madalyn Johnson

A Wok in the Woods: Archaeological Evidence of Chinese Timber Workers in the Northern Carson Range. Jacob Wilks, Lexi Williams, and Sam Miller

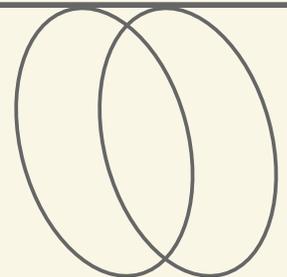
Paper Abstracts

The Future of Collection Stewardship and Exhibition in Small-Town Museums: A Case Study from Southeastern Utah. Tara Beresh

Tara Beresh, Public Archaeologist and Curator for the Moab Museum presents a case study of challenges facing rural museums across the North American Southwest. Many of these museums house some of the most valuable and irreplaceable items in our nation's history but often lack the resources to care for these collections in a manner consistent with the best practices required by accredited museum standards. In this session, excerpts from Beresh's chapter in the upcoming anthology, *Public Archaeology for the 21st Century* (edited by Brooks and Moss), will highlight these challenges and pose questions for the future of preservation and accurate historic storytelling.

Utah's Cultural Site Stewards: Actively Striving Towards a Common Goal. Rachel Blumhardt

Utah has a rich cultural heritage to which all the people who live in the state are connected. The materials left behind by those who came before us are an integral piece of the puzzle that tells our state's story. The cultural resource professionals who work to protect these sites understand the importance of the connection between the past and the present and how monitoring and safeguarding our cultural history is paramount in preserving those connections. Many of the residents of the state and the surrounding area feel the same way and are willing to donate their time and personal resources to work towards this common goal. In order to utilize the passion these dedicated volunteers have, Utah has a site stewardship program in which people from all backgrounds can participate. This presentation will explore the ways in which the Utah Cultural Site Stewardship program recruits, retains and engages with the people who volunteer with us, along with sharing the reasons behind their passion for participating in the program. In order to ensure stewards are successful in their role, feel appreciated and have the tools necessary for gathering high quality data, we work hard to build meaningful, trusting relationships with each person. We strive to keep stewards active and engaged by providing them opportunities to learn, participate in projects, and further their connections with the state and its history. These stewards are an incredibly valuable asset and they each make a significant contribution to the field and provide numerous benefits to the associated cultural resources and the people who manage them.



Paper Abstracts

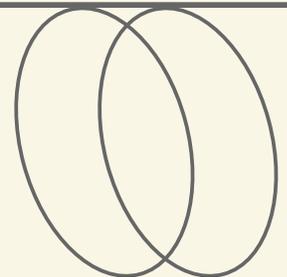
Tribal Consultation Policies for Agencies of the State of Utah.

Tessie Burningham

In 2014 Governor Gary Herbert issued an executive order (EO/2014/005) titled “Executive Agency Consultation With Federally-Recognized Indian Tribes” that established a Tribal consultation policy for agencies of the State of Utah. Under this executive order each agency is required to establish its own Tribal consultation policy and must consult with Tribes on a regular basis. This paper discusses the executive order and its impact on cultural resource management.

Creative Mitigation: Historic Preservation Strategies from the Water Heritage Anthropological Project . Molly Cannon and Anna Cohen

After nearly six decades of American compliance archaeology, archaeologists have developed a robust toolset for addressing historic preservation, including documentation through archival research, archaeological excavation, ethnography, and National Register of Historical Places nominations. Other tools construct public education programs that raise awareness of heritage resources and their importance within communities. This paper reflects on best practices for historic preservation and meeting the mission of the agency, the academy, and the discipline using the Water Heritage Anthropological Project as a case study. In partnership with the Bureau of Reclamation, the WHAP investigates human water relationships in the arid West. We recognize that water shapes our institutions and communities, creating landscapes and important parts of our cultural heritage. A long-term perspective is valuable for highlighting past techniques for managing water, but equally important are conversations with current water users that can pair past and present water heritage. We offer examples from the project that use archaeological, geospatial, ethnographic, and archival data for investigating how water has shaped communities in the American West. As part of the research process, we create widely available products to educate and collaborate with the public about this history, deriving insight for contemporary water management.



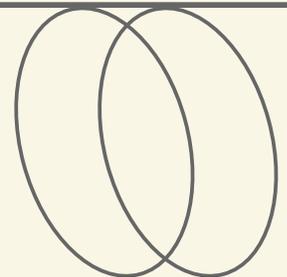
Paper Abstracts

Chinese Gold Mining in the Snake River Canyon: The 2024 Field Season. Ken Cannon

The discovery of gold near Shoshone Falls in 1869 provided newly discharged Chinese workers from the Central Pacific Railroad with a new economic opportunity. Records indicate that at least one of those claims was purchased by Ah Mon Mong and the Tung Toek Tong from Relf Bledsoe in November 1871. This transfer became possible following a repeal in the Autumn of 1870 of the ban on "Chinese emigration" enacted the previous May. In 2024, CHC began an intensive pedestrian inventory of the canyon focused on the area between the Hansen Bridge and the Perrine Bridge in Jerome and Twin Falls Counties. While a continuation of earlier survey work in the 1990s, our efforts updated five previously recorded sites and recorded six new sites. The latest effort expanded the inventory of habitation features to those associated with the placer mining industry, such as adits, rocker platforms, and raceways for processing sediments. Additional work is planned for 2025, with the nomination of the Snake River Canyon Historic Mining District as the ultimate goal.

Beyond Acknowledgement: Strengthening Tribal Relations in Cultural Resources Management. Renee Collins and Tina Hart

Archaeologists play a vital role in fostering Tribal relations by integrating Indigenous perspectives into cultural resource management (CRM). Tina Hart explores how agencies can apply 36 CFR 800.8(c) to incorporate Tribal feedback early in project planning and include consultation assistance in their scopes of work. These strategies can help promote more inclusive decision making. Renee Collins explores how CRM can go beyond performative acknowledgments by embedding genuine collaboration into their work. By prioritizing long-term relationships over transactional interactions, CRM professionals can support Indigenous sovereignty and ensure archaeological investigations serve as platforms for Indigenous leadership in heritage management. These efforts help create a more equitable, culturally responsive field that honors Indigenous knowledge and stewardship of ancestral lands.



Paper Abstracts

Perspectives on Private Equity in Cultural Resource Management. Jason Chiupka

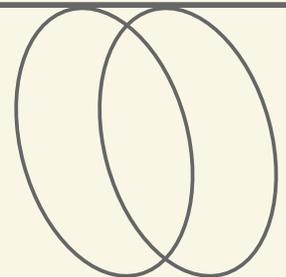
In the past decade, private equity (PE) firms that manage billions of dollars have begun to acquire cultural resource management firms across the western United States. They promise that they can help small companies grow and innovate, and that PE will help support companies to hire and develop staff. This paper presents perspectives gained from experiences with PE firms that have approached Woods Canyon. Is this really a great deal for small CRM firms and the future of the profession, or is it a Faustian Bargain?

Initial Insights from Five Fremont Localities in Skull Valley, Tooele County, Utah. Scott Dersham

Over the 2024 field season, Cannon Heritage Consultants, Inc. (CHC) completed data recovery excavations on five localities known to host Fremont complex artifacts in Skull Valley, Utah. Defining and interpreting the palimpsest of shared behaviors between these five Fremont sites guided CHC research design over the course of the data recovery. This presentation details initial insights and spatial data collected over the 2024 season.

Each of the five localities demonstrate spatial associations with seasonal foothill drainages, ungulate or artiodactyl migration routes, and accessible foothill forage species. Additionally, three of Fremont localities investigated exhibit spatial patterning indicative of prolonged occupations, rodent predation, and gathering/processing of non-domesticated seeds. No evidence of maize, basketry, textiles, or exotic good were recovered during fieldwork. Furthermore, no evidence was found that indicates a connection between the five localities and the sedentary Fremont village sites found across the Stansbury Range near Tooele and Grantsville, Utah.

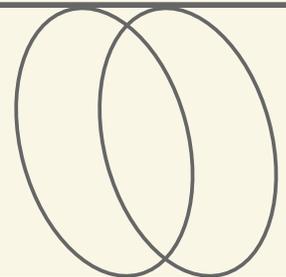
The five Skull Valley Fremont localities assessed by CHC over the 2024 field season provide a unique opportunity to clarify multiple facets of the Fremont behavior complex. How the five Skull Valley localities interact or interrelate with one another and with the surrounding Fremont village and foraging sites regionally may aid in future interpretations and understanding of the Fremont complex in the eastern Great Basin.



Paper Abstracts

Advancing Archaeological Understanding through the Environmental Archaeology Heuristic (EAH): Biogeographic Scaling of Prehistoric Human Adaptive Strategies in Late Holocene Southwest Wyoming (SWWYO). JD Dolinar and Mitchel Power

Some proponents of traditional Optimal Foraging Theory (OFT) contend that hunter-gatherer subsistence decisions can be reduced to calculations of immediate energetic returns. However, such models frequently overlook the broader ecological and sociocultural matrices that fundamentally shape adaptive strategies. In contrast, Niche Construction Theory (NCT) posits that humans actively modify their environments to enhance resource availability, thereby challenging OFT's reductionist assumptions. Yet, while NCT accounts for transformative processes, it often falls short of capturing the full complexity of human behavioral ecology. The Environmental Archaeology Heuristic (EAH) framework advanced in this study transcends these limitations by integrating multi-scalar analyses that encompass both the proximate processes of resource exploitation and the enduring legacies of human-environment interactions. Empirical evidence from the Late Holocene Uinta Phase Hunter-Gatherers (UPHG) of southwestern Wyoming demonstrates that foraging decisions—such as prioritizing a diverse array of wild plant resources with comparable nutritional yields to cultivated alternatives—are best interpreted as strategic adaptations emerging from active niche construction rather than as mere responses to scarcity. Moreover, the EAH framework elucidates that Late Holocene climatic stratification and stationarity, which fostered persistent floral and faunal refugia within the complex ecological mosaic of southwestern Wyoming, was instrumental in driving both population expansion and technological innovation among the UPHG. By synthesizing insights from OFT and NCT, the EAH framework reveals the intricate interplay between immediate energetic constraints, enduring ecological modifications, and cultural agency, thereby offering a robust interpretive model for understanding the economic and adaptive contexts of prehistoric lifeways.



Paper Abstracts

Caves of the Vernal Area Revisited: Archaeological Records.

Judson Finley

The northern Uinta Basin has long been known for its record of early agriculture in Utah, although much of that record has been destroyed by early collecting and looting. In this presentation, we continue our focus on the Leo C. Thorne Collection, a major assemblage of basketry, clothing, weaponry, tools, and food remains curated at the Uintah County Heritage Museum in Vernal. We used the archival record to confirm the location of six rockshelters associated with the Thorne Collection. In some instances, we can match the exact locations of recovered objects to the features from which they were recovered. We report the results of 48 AMS radiocarbon ages on Thorne Collection perishable materials that provide remarkable new insights into the history of the region's Indigenous agricultural communities culminating in the Dry Fork-Ashley Creek area between AD 1080-1100. The emerging picture of the northern Uinta Basin reveals a highly dynamic cultural environment shaped jointly by social, demographic, and ecological pressures while maintaining distinct connections to Ancestral Pueblo communities in the Four Corners region. Legacy collections like the Throne Collection are vital to this story.

Strategies for Successful Tribal-University Collaborations.

Judson Finley

Archaeological training with Tribal communities is an ongoing opportunity because of the dual need of workforce development for Tribal monitors paired with the policy and regulatory expertise required for Tribal leaders to effectively participate in compliance reviews. In this presentation, I share experiences from a Tribal archaeology training program conducted with the Crow and Northern Cheyenne Nations in Montana. Strong support from community leaders is a key to success, as is a flexible and inclusive pedagogy that prioritizes the instruction of Tribal elders and knowledge keepers over otherwise standard archaeological field methods. Reciprocal relationships are essential as is an expanded view of field camp and crew that involves extended families and multigenerational learners. I identify challenges to funding models for this type of training. Agency involvement plus private sector support promotes the long-term sustainability of Tribal training programs. I also discuss an approach that uses Utah State University Continuing Education and Statewide Campus resources as a viable and cost-effective mechanism for delivery of Tribal training programs across Utah.

Paper Abstracts

Tribal Relations in Archaeology. Autumn Gillard

The UPAC Tribal Relations Committee (TRC) and the recognition and importance of working with tribal communities. The topics covered are best practices when consulting with tribes, cultural awareness around sacred cultural sites. Correct verbiage to use when in reference to indigenous cultural places. Attendees will also learn about the idea of site interpretation from westernized archaeological and anthropological methodology. As well as the importance of hiring or contracting out a tribal heritage resource monitor or cultural interpretive specialists. And the active habit of collective data recovery and the impacts it causes to indigenous cultural resources. As well as appropriate behavior and handling of NAGPRA sites.

Tribal Relations in Archaeology. Tina Hart

The UPAC Tribal Relations Committee (TRC) was formed in 2023 out of a collective desire to establish a plan to ensure a more collaborative and inclusive future for archaeological work with Tribal communities. In this session, we report to the UPAC membership about what we have learned and best practices for Tribal relations from the perspectives of various roles within professional archaeology.

Session presenters include Tina Hart, Renee Collins, Autumn Gillard, Judson Finley, Tessie Burningham, Tara Beresh, and Don Montoya

Caves of the Vernal Area Revisited: Archival Records. Cassandra Holcomb

In the early 1930s, a local photographer, Leo C. Thorne, documented 13 rockshelters in the Ashley-Dry Fork and Steinaker Draw area northwest of Vernal, Utah. Thorne amassed a substantial artifact collection from these sites around the Uintah Basin, now displayed at the Uintah County Heritage Museum (UCHM) in Vernal, Utah. The need to re-evaluate and document these rockshelters is driven by UCHM's ongoing NAGPRA compliance, conducted in collaboration with Utah State University. My research into the Thorne Collection offers new insights, specifically addressing critical knowledge gaps about early maize agriculture in the northern Uintah Basin. By re-evaluating historical site forms, archival newspaper articles, historic field notes, and journals, alongside a comprehensive analysis of the artifacts and an un-curated photograph collection, this study reconnects artifacts with their original sites and adds critical data to the space-time context of legacy collections.

Paper Abstracts

Mushroom Clouds over Three Peaks: Cedar City's Contributions to the Cold War. Joey LaValley

In 1968, the United States Defense Atomic Support Agency selected Three Peaks, 10 miles west of Cedar City, for Cold War-era weapons testing. Referred to as Operation Mine Shaft, this series of tests researched the feasibility of installing missile silos in solid rock formations. While no missile silos (that we know of) were built into Three Peaks, the data gathered between 1968 and 1969 proved critical to America's arms race. Operation Mine Shaft included geological investigations, calibration tests, ground motion surveillance, ejecta studies, concrete construction experiments, and several large above and below ground detonations. At least 24 technical reports were produced from Operation Mine Shaft. The largest detonations, three 100-ton blasts (Mine Under, Mine Ore, and Mineral Rock), produced mushroom clouds visible from Cedar City and beyond, while a smaller detonation (Mineral Lode) was also conducted 100 feet below the surface. The residual dangers from Operation Mine Shaft have been mopped up, but signs of these events are still present throughout the Three Peaks area, creating a highly unique archaeological record from the not-too-distant past.

The Monticello Uplands: A Cultural Resource Survey in The Lands Between. Eli Lyon

Between September 2023 and April 2024, Woods Canyon Archaeological Consultants, Inc. (Woods Canyon) conducted a Class III cultural resource inventory of 6,485 acres of land for the BLM Canyon Country District in San Juan County, Utah. These acres were broken across 23 separate survey areas on both sides of the Montezuma Canyon drainage. More recently, this area has come to be called the "Lands Between" as it falls between the culturally-rich areas of the Bears Ears National Monument in Utah and Canyons of the Ancients National Monument in Colorado. The survey area included well-known landforms such as Alkali Ridge, Brushy Basin, Cedar Park, and Bug Point. A total of 778 archaeological sites were recorded during the project, 602 of which were new recordings. Cultural affiliation was primarily Ancestral Puebloan, ranging from Basketmaker II – Pueblo III, but included Archaic, Historic Navajo, and Euroamerican sites as well. This presentation will attempt to provide a synopsis of the project's findings, shedding some new light on the extensive temporal and areal use of The Lands Between, and highlighting the potential for new research opportunities identified by recent inventory work.

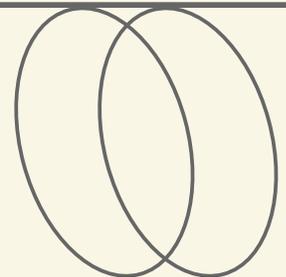
Paper Abstracts

Smoke in the Cockpit: The 1954 Crash of Captain Johnson's F-86 Fighter Jet near Wendover, Utah. Ron Rood

On September 14, 1954, Capt. Vanley T. Johnson, assigned to the 388th Fighter Bomber Wing based in Clovis, New Mexico, was the pilot of this F-86 Saber and was the lead aircraft for a group of four F-86 aircraft. They were participating in air-to-air gunnery practice and were completing the third such mission for the day. During the mission, Capt. Johnson reported smoke in the cockpit of his aircraft while engaging in the training mission at an elevation of 18,000 to 23,000 feet. Upon noticing smoke, Capt. Johnson was advised of two suitable landing areas in the vicinity; one at Dugway and the other at Wendover. Unfortunately, Capt. Johnson did not quite make the landing strip at Wendover.

Landscape Use and Organization on the Edge of the Bonneville Basin: Insights from Site 26EK16689. Paul Santarone, Kenneth P. Cannon, Kathryn Puseman, William Eckerle

Site 26EK16689 is an important precontact archaeological site in West Wendover, Nevada. Data recovery excavations conducted by Cannon Heritage Consultants recovered a large assemblage from multiple precontact components. These excavations also identified 10 precontact cultural features. This paper focuses on the analysis of a subset of these features including associated artifacts and the results of radiocarbon dating and sediment floatation. We close with a discussion of the implications of this research for our understanding of people's landscape use and organization in the Bonneville Basin (and similar environments) c. 2000 years ago. We also touch on implications from this research on expectations of site encounter and site type in similar environments.



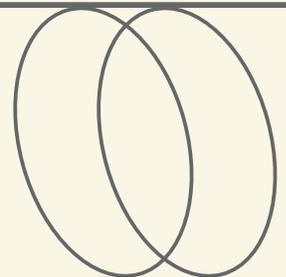
Paper Abstracts

Empowering Landowners and Preserving Utah's Past: Success Stories from Utah's Archaeology Grant. Karlee Stauffer

In 2023, Utah's Legislature allocated \$500,000 to the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) to support private landowners in surveying, recording, protecting, and interpreting archaeological sites. Since then, the Archaeology Grant program has fostered successful collaborations between SHPO, archaeological contractors, and landowners, as well as city and county governments. This presentation will highlight key success stories, showcasing how the grant has preserved Utah's rich cultural heritage while empowering property owners to protect and interpret archaeological resources.

Rock Imagery Documentation in Manning and Cry Creeks, Piute County. Sarah Stewart

The Utah SHPO partnered with Logan Simpson to document selected rock imagery sites in Piute County, Utah, on Bureau of Land Management Richfield Field Office land. While four sites had been recorded in the 1940s and 1970s, their plotted locations did not match GPS points collected by the Utah Rock Art Research Association (URARA). The project aimed to update site documentation to modern standards to provide accurate records in the state's archaeological database and recommend site protection measures. Additionally, the SHPO sought to engage the public in cultural resource stewardship to combat increasing archaeological vandalism. Two volunteers from the Utah Cultural Site Stewardship program assisted in the documentation efforts.



Paper Abstracts

The Buffalo Soldiers Heritage Trail Project Presentation.

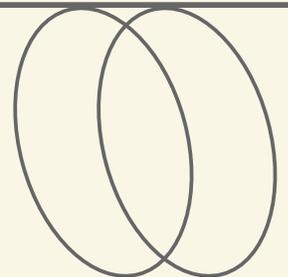
Marcos VanDalen

This presentation would showcase the ongoing research that has gone into the development of the Utah Buffalo Soldier Heritage Trail. To highlight the process of exploring relevant late 18th and 19th century documents such as census reports, post returns, and U.S. Army correspondence along with the extraction of relevant data. Furthermore, this presentation seeks to showcase the tremendous amount of history that has been unearthed through this difficult process. Examples of which have been discovered through the transcribing of documents, investigating leads, sifting through photos, correspondence, maps and other relevant resources. Through this presentation the hope is to provide a foundational insight into the unique history of the Buffalo Soldiers in Utah and the project as a whole.

Just Use Those Stones: The Archaeology of Archaeologists .

Jake Yoder

In late 1931, John Otis Brew took a ragtag group of colleagues and locals 10 miles outside of Blanding. He used Harvard funds to pay \$1.50 an hour plus grub to keep his crew happy during the Peabody Museum's Southeastern Utah Expedition to Alkali Ridge. The three field seasons spent on Alkali Ridge helped dial in the still evolving Pecos Classification and began a lifetime's worth of work for Brew. His dedication to the field cemented himself as a legendary figure in archaeology of the American Southwest. As we come another year closer to 100 years since that early expedition, archaeology students may feel isolated from important early archaeological figures. A turn towards historical archaeology, specifically the archaeology of archaeologists, is a crucial lens to teach the history of the field. This presentation will explore some factors that influence the site formation for archaeological camps and what it can teach us about archaeology's heritage. Perhaps you can even imagine old Jo Brew telling his crew, "Just use those stones over there."



Poster Abstracts

All in the Family: Arborglyphs in the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forests. Tiffany Collins

Arborglyphs in Utah National Forests tend to be attributed to either individual shepherds, or to families using the area recreationally. In the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forests we find an example of a family that ran their sheep on USFS lands as a group each summer, with arborglyphs from the 1930s through the 1970s, challenging that dichotomy.

Optimal Paths to Granaries in Range Creek Canyon. Ian Farrell

In Range Creek Canyon, Utah (RCC), Fremont maize farmers invested in storage facilities distant from residential sites, often built on cliff edges and overhangs nearly inaccessible without modern climbing equipment. While building and accessing their stores certainly represent massive costs, the benefit of the strategy was worthwhile. Previous experimental studies have provided quantitative data on the time costs of building Fremont granaries on the canyon floor, not in the dramatic archaeological locations. Using GIS, it is possible to estimate the costs, both in time and energy, of transporting materials to granaries. This data may be used in conjunction with experimental data to understand the complete costs of storage in RCC, and patterning in path costs may be indicative of shifting storage strategies in the canyon.

Landscape Perspectives on Dryland Agriculture: The Trough Hollow Project. Tanner Gittens

Fremont archaeology in Utah has largely focused on excavation of large settlements and villages, or to a lesser extent on landscapes such as Range Creek and Nine Mile Canyon. The focus on Fremont villages may skew interpretations of local archaeological records because those sites represent relatively brief occupations of a few decades to a few centuries in what is otherwise a millennium of mixed foraging and farming activities. Here we present preliminary data from the Trough Hollow study area in Castle Valley south of Price, Utah. Snake Rock Village is the focal village site that was occupied between AD 970–1240, although there are other known significant local village sites. We summarize a sample of approximately 300 sites from >1,300 documented in the area since 1957 to determine common site, feature, and artifact types that collectively inform us about the nature of land use potentially related to Fremont agricultural activities. This research guides fieldwork that will be conducted as part of the 2025 USU archaeological field school and creates a framework for considering the scope of archaeological sites that may be expected in large dryland agricultural landscapes across the northern Colorado Plateau.

Poster Abstracts

A Wok in the Woods: Archaeological Evidence of Chinese Timber Workers in the Northern Carson Range . Jacob Wilks, Lexi Williams, and Sam Miller

To follow the story of lumber in the northern Carson Range is to follow the story of Nevada, from boom to bust – an extractive industry and the communities and stories it created and left behind. One group that is often underrepresented or excluded in this story, in both the historical and archaeological records, is the Chinese workers who were frequently employed in this industry. Historians like Sue Lee Chung note that although thousands of Chinese workers were employed in the timber industry, their presence in the historical record can be sparse, with timber owners and employees hiding the presence of Chinese workers due to bigotry or fear of retaliation from anti-Chinese movements. Despite this exclusion from the record, the presence of these workers can be materially demonstrated in association with the activities of the Pacific Wood, Lumber and Flume Company (PWLFC) between 1875 and 1880 in the northern end of the Carson Range southwest of Reno. Recent survey in this area has identified material evidence that strongly suggests a Chinese ethnic component at five sites associated with mid- to late nineteenth century timber extraction activities likely associated with PWLFC activities at or near their mill at Hunter Creek. These include artifacts such as Chinese ceramics, possible opium tin remnants, and wok fragments in conjunction with temporary campsite-related artifacts such as stove parts, potential structure remnants, and domestic debris, all of which indicate the presence of Chinese workers at the sites. Such archaeological remains suggest Chinese workers may have not only worked in town factories or rail depots in the Reno area but also played a significant role in the physical extraction of timber in the northern Carson Range.

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