



AWA News

Association for Washington Archaeology

Volume 10, Number 4

President's Message

Greetings and happy holidays to you all! I received a lot of member input on many of the issues I discussed in my last President's Message. I received more comments than ever before; thanks for your efforts!

The first comment I received expressed concern that characterizing events at Blaine and Port Angeles as "archaeological disasters" overly simplified the context for what happened at the Port Angeles Graving Dock. When archaeology is portrayed at the core of a politically charged issue the AWA has a unique opportunity to participate in the process as an advocate for preservation and protection of the archaeological record in Washington. That is why I discussed the need to have a workshop/symposium on what happened at Port Angeles, how it was different than Blaine, and how to avoid these situations in the future. The 'disaster' reference was to the public view of Blaine, Port Angeles, etc. I apologize to anyone whom I offended with my 'disaster' characterization.

I also received several questions about various archaeological projects in the state and forwarded all the comments anonymously to the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP). DAHP submitted a column to our newsletter that addresses questions they received from me. Please see the *Communications from DAHP* column inside (pages 8-10). This column is part of a very important communication loop between AWA and DAHP.

Here is a chance to participate in the AWA. The AWA is a member of the Preservation Collaborative, a group that developed and wrote the Washington State Preservation Plan (<http://www.dahp.wa.gov/pages/AboutUs/Mission.htm>). In that plan, various objectives were laid out through 2008. The AWA was identified as a lead group for several of these objectives. One of those was to develop information about existing tax incentives for private land owners to protect and preserve archaeology on their lands. Please see inside the call for volunteers (page 3) to form a sub-committee to develop an information package on the available tax incentives. This package will be transmitted to the Preservation Collaborative.

For the 2007 NWAC, the AWA board has decided not to pursue a workshop on Port Angeles Graving Dock. I communicated with several of you regarding actually participating in a workshop, and while some are willing, others are

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President's Message

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not available to participate yet. Instead, the board is discussing a skill building student workshop writing, reviewing, and evaluating proposals for fieldwork in a CRM context.

Finally, I invite you to attend the next AWA Annual General Meeting at the NWAC in Pullman, March 14 to 17, 2007. The exact date has not been set. The web link for the conference is listed with the Events Calendar (page 4). I encourage you to attend and volunteer your services to AWA by serving on the Board of Directors or sitting at the AWA table in the exhibitor's room. Most officer positions are up for election and some of us have been on there for a long time. So, please consider participating. Thanks!

Sincerely,

Pat McCutcheon, AWA President

AWA News

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Newsletter Policies

AWA does not review or evaluate the literature in its newsletter, though manuscripts may be edited for length and format. The views expressed herein are those of the author(s) and not necessarily those of AWA, its Board of Directors, staff, or the editor.

It is assumed that articles reporting on any aspect of a project under contract have been submitted in accordance with the provisions of the contract and with the knowledge and permission of the project's PI.

Submission deadlines are the 1st of March, June, September, and December. We welcome any relevant submissions. Please send them to the Editor via email.

Missing Members

We never received any address information for Lisa Clayton, Nicholas Moore, or Shane Sparks, all new student members for 2006. We also lack address information for Cheryl Miller, a regular member who joined in 2005. If you know the whereabouts of these missing members, or if you need to update your contact information (mailing address, email address, etc.), please contact AWA Treasurer Pam Trautman at pamtrautman@comcast.net.

Is Your Membership Current?

A new year is again upon us! Please consider renewing your membership for 2007 by mail using the form on the back of this newsletter. Your mailing label indicates the last year for which your dues are paid.

You may pay for multiple years at once if you wish, just be sure to note that on your form. If you are renewing and check the "Address Unchanged" box, you need not write in your address. Thanks for your support!

The AWA website is at <http://www.cwu.edu/~mccutchnp/archaeology/index.html>

Update on AWA Journal

Volume 11 of the AWA journal, *Archaeology in Washington*, has been completed and is now in production. It will be published and mailed to 2005 members in a few months. For Volume 12, the Editor has received several submissions, but is looking for one more. Please consider supporting your journal by making a submission for Volume 12! The journal cannot be a success without regular manuscript submissions.

The journal is an annual, peer-reviewed publication with a target length of about 60-70 pages per issue. Typically, it has consisted of summary-length articles on work in progress or recently-completed research relevant to Washington archaeology. We encourage smaller articles, but will happily consider monographs up to the length of a journal issue. Please direct questions to Jerry R. Galm (jgalm@mail.ewu.edu), and send manuscripts via email or by mail to: Jerry R. Galm, AWA, c/o Curator of Archaeology, Burke Museum, Box 353010, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195-3010.

As noted in previous newsletters, Volume 12 will be the last journal produced by Editor Jerry Galm. Thanks for all your hard work Jerry! A new Editor will be starting with Volume 13.

AWA Members: Initiate Programs to Protect Sites!– Submitted by Guy Moura

In January of 2004 the Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development published *Strengthening Communities through Historic Preservation: The Washington State Historic Preservation Plan - 2004*. Then AWA President Linda Naoi Goetz participated as a member of the Plan Steering Committee. Among their contributions, the Steering Committee created the Preservation Collaborative charged with overseeing the implementation of the plan. AWA President Pat McCutcheon continues to sit on the Preservation Collaborative board and AWA is a Preservation Collaborative member organization.

The plan has six goals: use preservation for economic development, advocate to preserve heritage, strengthen connections inside and outside the preservation communities, apply preservation principles to land use, identify and preserve cultural resources, and increase knowledge of historic preservation. Copies of the Historic Preservation Plan are on-line at <http://www.dahp.wa.gov/pages/Documents/PreservationPlanning.htm>. When you visit the web site and read the plan you will realize all the areas of the Preservation Plan goals that we contribute to, but the Preservation Plan specifically charges AWA with the following responsibilities:

Goal 1 C(iii) Archaeological Site Protection Incentives. Examine and promote existing property tax incentives for owners of archaeological sites. If appropriate, expand existing property tax abatement programs for owners of archaeological sites. Lead implementer: Association for Washington Archaeology (AWA) with OAHP. Target completion year: 2007.

Goal VI B(ii) Archaeology Month. Encourage more participatory events during Washington Archaeology Month. Lead implementer: AWA and OAHP. Target completion year: Annually

We participate actively in Archaeology Month every year, but we have done little toward examining and promoting tax incentives for archaeological sites. One idea forwarded suggested it might be appropriate to provide landowners a tax incentive for conducting archaeological surveys on their properties before sale or ground disturbing activities, but that is only one possibility. We welcome anyone interested to join a committee to review existing incentives and propose new programs. We will formalize the committee during the next annual meeting at the Northwest Anthropological Conference in Pullman. Just in case you are unable to attend the annual meeting, please submit your name if you wish to be a member of the committee, or feel free to submit ideas or comments as well to our address at the Burke Museum, newsletter editor or to any of the officers or directors-at-large. Address and email information is provided on page 2 of this newsletter.

Qwu?gwes Prepares for 9th Field Season – Submitted by Dale Croes, Rhonda Foster and Larry Ross

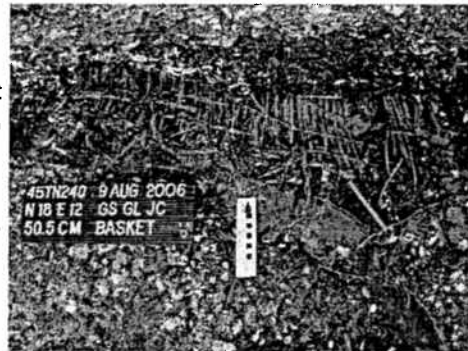
We have finished our 8th season of the Qwu?gwes wet/site field school program, and once again we were blessed with basketry, netting, and wooden artifacts within the 1x1 m excavation units. One of the highlights of the field school happened at the end of the season, when, at the very bottom of an excavation unit, we began uncovering a large piece of basketry rim. Rhonda Foster, Director of the Cultural Resources Department at the Squaxin Island Tribe and site co-manager, and Cultural Resource Technician and weaver Margaret Seymour Henry joined us that day, as did Ed Carrier, master Suquamish basket weaver. But, instead of a basketry fragment, the rim has looped rope handles extended across the whole square, is flattened or double layered, measures 6 feet (2 m) around the mouth, and may be a fish trap rather than a basket! This basket or fish trap rim is woven of splint cedar boughs and the open twined body extends some distance into the bottom of the next unexcavated square. Rhonda and I had to decide whether to cut it off or leave it to be excavated next summer. We agreed to cover it with porous cloth and backfill the squares with clean sand, as is the usual procedure for the winter. After all, it had been there for 700 years and one more year would not make much difference. It awaits those participating in the 2007 field school!

Please alert your students about this summer field school opportunity. Rhonda and I assure that all students will have a part in the excavation of the two 1x1 m squares that the fish trap or basket might extend into. It will be quite an experience for everyone. The fish trap or basket will be conserved for eventual display in the Squaxin Island Tribe's museum.

The Qwu?gwes archaeological project has just been featured in two new archaeological textbooks for 2007. If you'd like to see the articles, recent published research papers, additional information on the 2007 field school, and/or the application form, see the "Field School" link on our web site at: <http://www.library.spscc.ctc.edu/crm/crm.htm>



Left: Squaxin Cultural Resource Specialist Margaret Seymour-Henry helps student Jason Channel expose basketry trap or basket.



Right: Trap or basket as it had to be left for the 2007 season.

Events Calendar

Editor's Note: If you would like your conference, meeting or other event announced in the newsletter, please email the Editor by the submission deadline. The next deadline is March 1.

Alaska Anthropological Association (March 14-17, 2007) Fairbanks, Alaska. For more information, contact Dan Odess (ffdpo@uaf.edu).

Northwest Anthropological Conference (March 15-17, 2007) Pullman, Washington. Symposium submission deadline is January 15, and individual submission deadline is February 16, 2007. For more information, see <http://www.emmps.wsu.edu/2007.AC/INDEX.html>

Society for American Archaeology (April 25-29) Austin, Texas. For more information, see <http://www.saa.org/meetings/index.html>

2007 Langara College/Katzie Nation Archaeology Field School

In association with the Katzie First Nation, Langara College is offering a 15 university-credit field school in Archaeology during the Summer 2007 term. The focus of the school will be on excavations of the Park Farm site, an important pre-contact site (about 4000 years old) in the Pit Meadows region of Maple Ridge, near Vancouver, British Columbia. In addition to the excavations, the field school will undertake site surveys in the study area, and include laboratory methods, geospatial analyses (mapping) and ethnoarchaeology. The program will cost about \$2000 (Canadian) and run from May 7 through August 3, 2007. Applications are due March 21, 2007. For more information, contact Dr. Stanley Copp at scopp@langara.bc.ca or see the field school web page at: <http://langara.bc.ca/anthropology/archaeology/info.html>

2007 Wenas Creek Mammoth Field School – Submitted by Pat Lubinski

The Wenas Creek Mammoth investigation will hold a third annual field school for eight weeks from June 25 to August 17, 2007, near Selah, Washington. The focus of the investigation will be recovery of Pleistocene mammoth and other faunal remains, searching for associated artifacts, and providing geological context for the finds. In previous seasons, the site has yielded primarily mammoth bones, including humeri, scapula, vertebrae, ribs, a metapodial, and a phalanx. In the 2006 field season, we also recovered two hooved mammal bones (probably bison, although analysis is not yet complete) closely associated with the mammoth, and also a single chipped stone flake with unclear associations.

The field school meets weekdays, commuting daily from Ellensburg, and counts for 12 academic credits (quarter system) from Central Washington University. Additional information and application materials are on the website: <http://www.cwu.edu/~masters/mammoth.html>. Priority deadline for applications is April 1, 2007.

New Tribal Historic Preservation Offices Approved by NPS

The National Park Service recently approved six new Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPOs) - the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California; the St. Regis Mohawk; the Confederated Tribes of the Yakama Nation; the Coeur D'Alene Tribe; the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nation Three Affiliated Tribes; and the Seminole Tribe of Florida. THPOs assume national historic preservation program responsibilities on tribal lands. Among the responsibilities assumed are: conducting historic resource surveys; identifying and nominating properties to the National Register of Historic Places; and reviewing federal agency undertakings under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The total number of THPOs now stands at 64.

In Washington state, there are now seven offices (Confederated Bands and Tribes of the Yakama Nation, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Lummi Nation, Makah Tribe, Skokomish Indian Tribe, Spokane Tribe of Indians, Squaxin Island Tribe,). In Idaho there are now two offices (Coeur D'Alene Tribe and Nez Perce Tribe). In Oregon there are also two offices (Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon).

(From <http://www.preservationaction.org/states/10.13.2006.htm> and http://www.nathpo.org/THPO_Members/state_list.htm)

2007 Archaeology First Thursdays at Portland State University

Portland State University will continue its Archaeology First Thursday Presentations for 2007. All talks begin at 4:00 pm and are in Cramer Hall Room 41 (Department of Anthropology, 1721 SW Broadway, Portland). Speakers scheduled for the remainder of the academic year are as follows:

- ◆ Julie S. Field (U.Hawai'i-Manoa) January 11. GIS-based investigation of the Southern Dispersal Hypothesis: Africa to Australasia at 70,000 years BP
- ◆ Amitava Chowdhury (Washington State University) February 1. TBA
- ◆ Dennis Jenkins (University of Oregon) March 1. Evidence for Pre-Clovis human occupations at Paisley Caves in the northern Great Basin
- ◆ Ken Ames (Portland State University) April 5. TBA
- ◆ Catherine Foster (University of Washington) May 3. TBA
- ◆ Wendy Wright (Portland State University) June 7. Town Hall: On the development of cultural resources protection regulations in the City of Portland

For additional information please contact Virginia Butler (butlerv@pdx.edu; 503/725-3303) or Ken Ames (amesk@pdx.edu; 503/725-3318).

Park Service Offers Grants for NAGPRA Activities

Applications for the National Park Service's National Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act grants are now being accepted. NAGPRA Grants are awarded to Indian tribes, Alaska Native villages and corporations, Native Hawaiian organizations, and museums for financial assistance in carrying out projects associated with NAGPRA compliance. The National NAGPRA program administers two types of awards, each with a different application process. Both grants use the same proposal form.

Consultation/Documentation Grants provide support for consultation, collections documentation, and other activities and range from \$5,000 to \$75,000. They are awarded competitively once per fiscal year. (The deadline is March 1, 2007.) Collaborative documentation and consultation proposals are especially encouraged.

Repatriation Grants of up to \$15,000 are awarded to defray the costs associated with the repatriation of Native American human remains and other cultural items. They are awarded on a continuing basis throughout each fiscal year. Proposals are accepted October 1 through June 30.

Guidelines and application information are online at <http://www.cr.nps.gov/nagpra/grants>

An Overview of Current Research in the Pacific Northwest

—Submitted by Darby C. Stapp

I sat down last weekend to read a new book from WSU Press, *Tracking Ancient Footsteps: William D. Lipe's Contribution to Southwestern Prehistory and Public Archaeology*. I started with Chapter 9, "A Conversation with Bill Lipe," where the book editors, R.G. Matson and Tim Kohler, ask Dr. Lipe a series of questions about his career before and after he came to Washington State University. I particularly liked his descriptions of the early days in cultural resource management, but what really hit a chord was his observations on current research in Southwest archaeology.

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An Overview of Current Research in the Pacific Northwest

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One of the research areas Dr. Lipe talks about is his interest in macro-topics such as the large-scale movement of peoples in prehistory. Why did the Four Corners area depopulate? What happened to the Fremont people? Why do populations increase in some areas while other areas depopulate? Few archaeologists in the Southwest are apparently working on the macro-questions these days. Instead, most are focused on their own mesas and valleys.

The discussion made me wonder about the state of archaeological research in the Pacific Northwest. Living in the hinterlands of the Tri-Cities, I must admit that I am out of touch with much of what goes on in Washington. So to see what has been happening archaeologically, I went through the abstracts from the 2005 Northwest Anthropological Conference as published in the *Journal of Northwest Anthropology* (Vol. 40(2):241-291) and categorized each archaeological abstract that pertained to the Pacific Northwest (see Table 1).

Table 1. Types of Archaeological Research conducted in the Pacific Northwest in 2005 ^a

Cultural	Site	Locality	Region	Total
Artifacts - Synchronic	11	11	1	23
Artifacts - Diachronic	2	2	6	10
Features - Synchronic	5	1	1	7
Features - Diachronic	1	-	1	2
Assemblage - Synchronic	13	11	-	24
Assemblage - Diachronic	2	8	1	11
Phase - Synchronic	-	-	1	1
Phase - Diachronic	-	2	2	4
Methods				
Artifacts	3	6	4	13
Geoarchaeology	-	1	1	2
Geophysical Methods	-	1	-	1
Interpretive	1	-	-	1
Paeleoenvironmental	-	1	-	1
Preservation	-	3	1	4
Public Archaeology	1	3	-	4
Spatial Patterning	1	7	1	10
Totals	40	58	20	118

^a Assignments based on abstracts of papers presented at the 2005 Northwest Anthropological Conference (*Journal of Northwest Anthropology* 40(2):241-291).

I first broadly categorized each paper as either methodological in nature or cultural in nature. I then determined the primary subject and area of focus (site, locality or region). This was not always easy, and more refinement of the categories is needed, but this first cut allows us to make some generalizations.

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An Overview of Current Research in the Pacific Northwest

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Out of the 118 papers in my data set, 28% were methodological in nature, while 72% attempted to make observations about prehistoric or historic life in the Northwest. The methodological papers were dominated by two categories, those involving artifacts (36%) and those involving spatial patterning (31%). Artifact studies included new ways to measure artifacts or experimental approaches to understanding artifact patterns. Spatial patterning studies were largely ways to apply GIS to archaeological settings.

Research in the cultural category was dominated by research on artifact assemblages (43%), most of that on single assemblages (i.e., single time periods). Single artifact type studies were a close second representing 40% of the studies, again, with most of those focused on single time periods.

I also assigned the research into categories based on the scale of the study (i.e., the site, the locality, or the region). We see that 49% of these papers focused on the locality, here generally defined as an area larger than sites but smaller than the Northwest Coast or Plateau regions. 34% of the papers were focused at the site level, with only 16 focused on regional settings.

What do these numbers say about the state of archaeological research in the Pacific Northwest? Good question. One observation is that there does not appear to be a lot of regional analysis going on. Another observation is that most of our research appears to be synchronic in nature. From a subjective standpoint, I was struck in reading the abstracts by the apparent absence of macro-level questions guiding the research. What are the macro-questions in Pacific Northwest prehistory and history? Are we all stuck in our own little valleys and mesas like those in the Southwest, working on our micro-level questions? If we don't have these macro-level questions, we need them, otherwise our micro-level research will remain disjointed.

One thing I learned from this exercise was that there is heck of a lot of archaeological research being done in the Northwest. That begs the question, where does all this research go? I don't see much Northwest research published in archaeological journals or in books. Is it in the gray literature? I hope so.

I plan to compare the 2005 data with those from earlier decades to see how the nature of research has changed over the years. This will also identify the various macro-level questions that researchers have asked over the years. If anyone wants to help or share some insights, please contact me.

Darby Stapp (Ph.D., RPA) lives in Richland, Washington and can be reached at 509-554-0441 or dstapp@charter.net.

Communications from DAHP

In this issue the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) would like to address some commonly asked or unasked questions about current topics in Washington archaeology, CRM, and DAHP's position.

Question: How have things changed since OAHP became DAHP?

Answer: DAHP went from being a unit of a division in a large cabinet agency (Community, Trade and Economic Development) where the SHPO reported to multiple managers, to a cabinet agency on equal footing with other cabinet agencies such as DOT, Ecology, Fish and Wildlife, etc. The SHPO/Director now reports directly to the Governor. The visibility and voice of the agency has changed dramatically. The changes reflected by the creation of DAHP are mostly internal to government. As an independent agency DAHP can develop budget proposals and submit them directly to the Governor's Office of Financial Management (funding not guaranteed however), suggest legislative

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Communications from DAHP

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changes, and advance policy proposals directly to the Governor's Policy Office. OAHF as a unit of a division of a department had limited ability to propose budget enhancements, suggest legislation or voice policy directly.

Question: What changes has DAHP instituted since the DOT Graving Dock Audit?

Answer: The independent audit (www.jlarc.leg.wa.gov) recommended a number of key changes in archaeological procedures. Recommendation 23 addressed DAHP directly by stating: "guidelines should be adopted for the application of geology in all archaeological investigations and evaluations. Trained earth scientists should be required or highly recommended in all phases of archaeological investigations. The DAHP should revise the archaeological guidelines and standards on how to perform fieldwork, laboratory work and report writing. Geologic fieldwork and documentation both need to be standardized among projects that are presented to DAHP." DAHP in response to the independent audit concurred with Recommendation 23 and revised DAHP Reporting and Survey Standards accordingly. Other Recommendations addressed other aspects of archaeology and are critical reading material for any consultant. One key finding of the audit was that field conditions during the initial survey were not documented in the report and the field conditions may have had an impact on the findings. In response, DAHP revised its reporting standards to all require field weather conditions be included in survey reports.

Question: Why do we need to complete National Register of Historic Places Nomination/ Determination of Eligibility Form for a Determination of Eligibility as part of the Section 106 process?

Answer: The short answer is that under Section 106 the federal agency must determine whether a site is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The legally correct method of determining eligibility is through documentation on the National Register form. In case of a disagreement between parties over site eligibility, documentation on the National Register form is required for the Keeper of the National Register's review and final determination. This requirement is not new. For many years DAHP has required completed NRHP forms to be completed for archaeological resources. This is to ensure that we have a procedurally and legally correct and complete record, including the signature of the responsible federal or delegated official. Please remember that unless you are an archaeologist employed by a federal agency and designated as the responsible federal official, the consulting archaeologist only makes recommendations to the federal agency. The legally binding decision concerning eligibility and effect is the responsibility of the federal official. DAHP expects a signature of that official in order for the form to be included in the documentation with the site inventory records for archiving and future research.

Question: Why does DAHP recommend scientific peer review on projects?

Answer: DAHP has recommended scientific peer review on major data recovery and cultural resource projects for many years. We believe that peer review provides a robust scientific oversight and review of archaeological work. Peer review provides a way to draw on the tremendous strength and depth of our regional archaeological community to evaluate archaeological work. DAHP sees peer review as a necessary part of maintaining scientific rigor, which is the standard for cultural resource management archaeology. Peer review is routinely conducted for other scientific fields and our standards should be no less.

Question: Why did DAHP approve the xxxx Project by the xxxxx Agency ???

Answer: First, it is important to understand that DAHP does not approve any federally funded or permitted project. Section 106 mandates that the responsible federal agency or its designee is the decision maker. The state historic preservation office (DAHP) acts in an advisory capacity to the federal agency or the federal agency's designee.

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Communications from DAHP

(Continued from page 9)

The state historic preservation office may offer comment but as the independent Graving Dock audit noted, all DAHP concerns or comments are not required to be addressed, nor incorporated. The federal agencies, state agencies and local governments are the decision makers for their proposed projects under both federal and state law. Part of the legislative reason for the creation of DAHP was to increase the voice and recognition of DAHP's technical expertise to both federal and state agencies.

Question: Why does DAHP allow xxx to work in that Agency or in Washington State? Why don't you take away his/her license?

Answer: DAHP maintains a list of consultants that meet the Secretary of Interior Professional Standards but we have no legal ability to tell any client or agency whom to hire or not to hire. This list is compiled as a courtesy for landowners and agencies who need the services of an archaeologist, but wouldn't otherwise know where to look. Under recent amendments to RCW 27.53, DAHP now has the ability to level fines against archaeologists that violate permit conditions and the authority not to issue new permits. However, for the purposes of Section 106, DAHP has no ability to recommend or not recommend the hiring of consultants by federal agencies as long as the consultant meets federal standards. And because archaeologists are not licensed in Washington State, either by DAHP or the Department of Licensing, we have no authority to require that someone stop working in Washington.

Question: Why did the permit applications rules change? Why are there more items required?

Answer: Because we became a separate state agency in 2005, we were required to update all of our rules. In addition, the civil penalty authority granted by the legislature in 2002 needed rules for implementation. DAHP held three public hearings across the state. We specifically notified the archaeological community, tribal governments and other interested parties about the times, dates and locations of the hearings. We also notified everyone that they could comment in writing. We had very low turnout at the public hearings. We had one attendee in Spokane, and another six in both Seattle and Vancouver. We received some written comments, and made changes to the draft rules accordingly. Everyone who submitted draft comments received a response. The items required are more specific than the previous requirements, because many commenting parties requested that we require more detailed information about data gaps and require better research designs.

Question: How can I get my questions answered from DAHP?

Answer: Just pick up the phone!! All staff phone numbers are listed on our web site, www.dahp.wa.gov. For archaeological information call Rob Whitlam 360-586-3080, or Stephenie Kramer 360-586-3083, or Allyson Brooks 360-586-3066. For transportation related archaeological questions contact Matthew Sterner at 360-586-3062. Also, feel free to ask us questions by e-mail. All e-mail addresses are also listed on our web site.

Question: What if I want to ask something anonymously?

Answer: In order to assist those who would prefer to remain anonymous, DAHP is going to start a new column in the AWA newsletter called Ask DAHP. Just send questions into Pat McCutcheon or the current AWA President and they will forward them anonymously on your behalf. DAHP will then respond and submit a response to the current AWA President.

Research Notes

Editor's Note: We welcome submissions on current research relevant to Northwest archaeology, including but not limited to: field-work updates, notations of report completion, article abstracts, thesis or dissertation summaries, requests for assistance.

Similkameen Archaeology (1993-2004), by Stanley Copp, Ph.D. Dissertation, Department of Archaeology, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, B.C. (2006)

This thesis provides the first synthesis of Similkameen First Nations prehistory. It is based upon archaeological overview, inventory and impact assessment projects (1993–2004). Three main topics are investigated; 1) construction of a cultural chronology encompassing 200 to 10,000 years of valley prehistory, 2) a critical examination of the Plateau Microblade tradition (PMt) , and 3) a discussion of the problem of determining and/or assigning ethnicity to the archaeological record, specifically with regard to protohistoric and pre-contact Similkameen–Athapaskan and Salish-speaking populations.

The construction of a culture history sequence is a necessary prerequisite to an examination of the Plateau Microblade tradition and its relationship to the ethnohistoric presence of Athapaskan-speaking populations in the Nicola and Similkameen River Valleys. The Plateau Microblade tradition is examined and validated as an important technological Plateau material culture complex. Additional material, and non-material, culture indices are examined in terms of whether ethnicity can be constructed for pre-contact populations in the Similkameen Valley.

The results of investigations indicate that 1) pre-contact populations first inhabited the Similkameen Valley between 7,500 and 10,000 BP, 2) the Plateau Microblade tradition is a valid theoretical construct, and 3) determination of ethnicity for Plateau hunter-gatherer and hunter-gatherer-fisher (“foraging”) groups within the Similkameen Valley cannot be verified based on current evidence.

Preliminary Field Report for Wet Site 35MU4, commonly called Sunken Village Site, Sauvie Island, Portland, Oregon

– Submitted by Dale Croes, John Fagan and Maureen Zehendner

Summary of Fieldwork: In response to a request for proposals, on 8/17/06, South Puget Sound Community College (SPSCC) and Archaeological Investigations Northwest (AINW) submitted a joint proposal for archaeological work at 35MU4 to the Sauvie Island Drainage Improvement Company (SIDIC). To obtain a Section 10/404 permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, SIDIC was required to conduct an evaluation of their proposed bank protection work and we were awarded the contract for the investigations at the National Historic Landmark site 35MU4 on 8/26/06. The work was designed to provide a limited evaluation of the portion of the site that would be potentially impacted by riprap repair of 1,060 linear feet (320 meters) of earthen levee. Fieldwork was undertaken 9/5/06 and completed 9/20/06.

With time and funding limitations, and following the provisions of the scope of work, the wet site work at 35MU4 consisted of the excavation of 4 1x1 meter test units, drainage trenches 10 cm wide extending from three of the test units to the edge of the footprint (dug in 10cm levels), the cross-sectioning of 5 round acorn pit features in these drainage trenches within the footprint, cross-sectioning and bulk sampling of one fairly complete acorn pit feature, surface mapping of (a) the in situ wooden stakes, (b) in situ and numerous (60 mapped) acorn pit features (following hydraulic surface cleaning and retaining any encountered cultural surface debris by pit), and (c) surface cultural materials, including lithics, animal bone, wood chips, basketry strips, and split wood. To provide better linear control along the main area of the shoreline, ten transects were established, each 25 meters wide. Test Units, trenches,

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surface finds, acorn pit features, and wooden stakes were all mapped using a Nikon total station DTM-A20 LG instrument in relation to these 25-meter-wide transects (Figure 2).

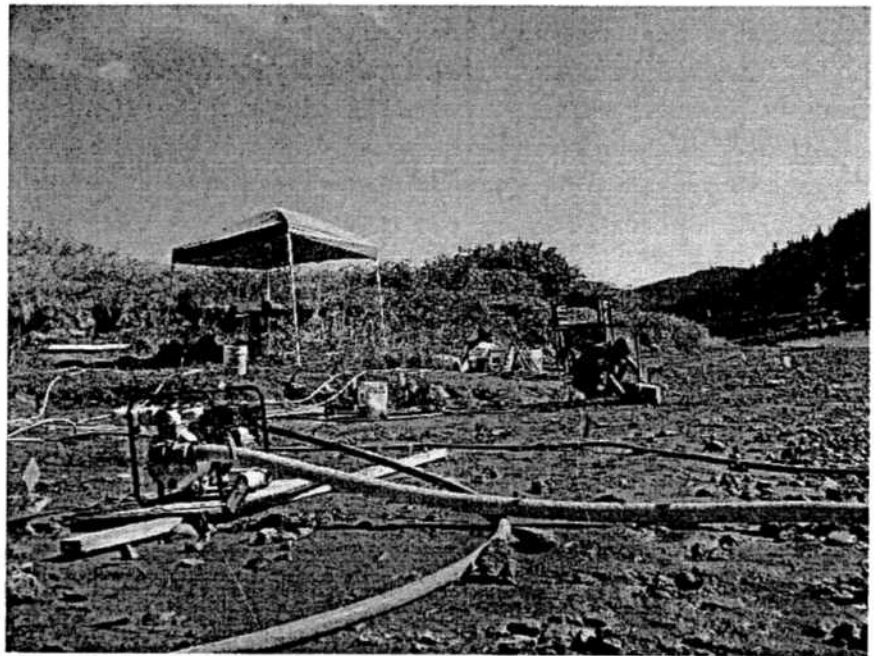
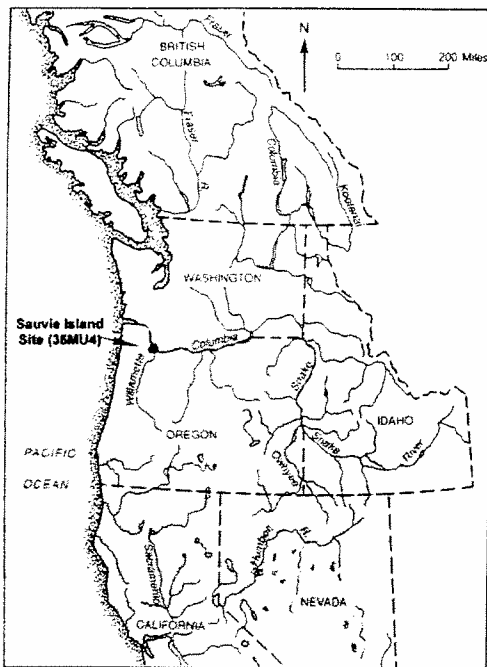


Figure 1 (Left). Location of the Sauvie Island site (35MU4) at the confluence of the Columbia and Willamette Rivers in Portland, Oregon, USA. **Figure 2 (Right).** Hydraulic excavation and screening for a two-week, limited evaluation of the site.

The subsurface testing at site 35MU4 was initiated with trowels in Test Units (TU) 1-3 in separate transects (T4-6) in consultation with Grand Ronde and Siletz co-managers. The Test Units were 1x1 M and excavated in 10 cm levels to a depth of from 40 to 90 cm. Trenches were established from each Test Unit in 1 meter intervals by 10 cm wide and excavated in 10 cm levels. These were excavated to allow water drainage from the Test Units when and if we encountered vegetal mat layers and needed to hydraulically excavate the wood and fiber materials. Each excavated drainage trench in Transect 4-6 were designed to dissect at least one acorn pit within the footprint to better record these in situ features (Figure 3). The trenches also provided a 10 cm wide transect perpendicular to the bank from the Test Unit down to the edge of the tide line.

To expand our perpendicular exposure and evaluation of the beach to the bank deposition, a 1 Meter wide by 50 cm deep exposure was excavated into the bank in line with Test Unit 2 and TU2 trenches in 10 cm levels. Also in line with this exposure and Test Unit 2, a series of 4 cores were taken to a maximum depth of 25 feet on top of the levee using a Geoprobe 6620 DT, which is a direct push corer mounted on the back of a small, track mounted rig. The cores are approximately 2 inches in diameter, providing enough sediment for litho-and bio-stratigraphic studies.

After consultation with the Grand Ronde and Siletz representatives, a fourth Test Unit (TU4) was initiated in the second week of limited excavation, when a distinct area of vegetal mat preservation was seen along the exposed bank in Transect 6. Aquifers flowing through these deposits vary in rate of discharge, and, in this area of the site, it was obvious that this was a location of considerable water flow and preservation. This exposure required hydraulic excavation because of the density of vegetal mat (wood and fiber) layers (Figure 4). We also initiated a cross-section of a pedestaled acorn pit found in situ in this well preserved area of the site.

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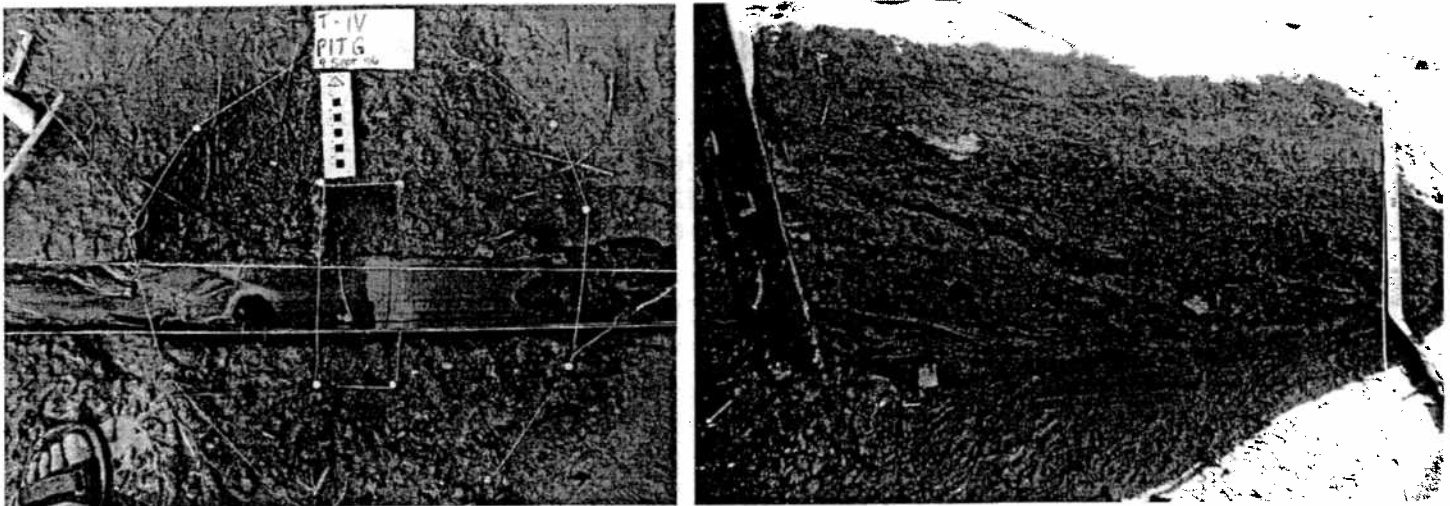


Figure 3 (Left). An example of an acorn pit lined on its base with western hemlock boughs (upper right) and containing acorns (lower right). It is being cross-sectioned and baulk sampled for analysis. **Figure 4 (Right).** East to west vegetal mat layering in TU 4 south wall showing the accumulation of wood and fiber in sequential layers on the remnant ancient beaches. We were not able to reach bottom of these deposits. They must exist here because of especially good waterlogging from aquifers coming through these layers from below the natural levee. See Figure 2 to see the general area of TU4.

The excavation units, the 10cm wide drainage trench excavations, and the bank half test unit (HTU) were excavated in 10-cm levels, by the use of trowel, shovel, and/or water spray from fine adjustable nozzles. All excavated soils were water screened through nested $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{1}{8}$ inch metal screens. Measurements, observations, and collected items were recorded on standardized level forms, specialized in situ acorn pit forms, in situ wooden stake forms, feature forms, and unit summary forms.

The main features encountered were on the exposed surface of the beach, and included both (a) in situ circular pits averaging 80 cm. in diameter and containing whole acorn remnants (Figure 3) and (b) in situ wooden stakes averaging 5 cm in diameter and driven into the beach surface. Approximately sixty pits were mapped in transects 2 through 6. These pit features were hydraulically surface cleaned, photographed and sampled. One half of one of the dissected acorn pits was excavated revealing a western hemlock bough lined basin, and remnants of whole acorns.

The other in situ features were the wooden stakes, of which 32 were recorded. After consultation with Grand Ronde and Siletz representations, two stakes were hydraulically excavated showing that they are long (approximately 1 meter), adze sharpened at their ends, and one had its bark still adhering to the pole. Many of the acorn pits had a stake on their south edge, no doubt marking the location of a pit.

In the bank half test unit (HTU) a fire-cracked rock feature was found, mapped, and recovered for analysis. A charcoal sample from the hearth feature was collected for radiocarbon dating.

Brief Description of Site Stratigraphy, Cultural Features, and Artifacts: Stratigraphic analysis of sediments from the site revealed relatively fine-grained sands and silty loams that were emplaced over time as levee deposits on a riverine point bar. Sediment size varies across the site both vertically and horizontally, and the exact nature of these stratigraphic changes is being investigated through the analysis of sediments from tests units, pit features, profile descriptions, and extracted sediment cores. Distinct changes in strata morphology and constituent sediments will be

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used to create a representative east-west cross section of the site. This cross section will be used to recreate original depositional conditions and to determine the nature and extent of erosion and destruction of cultural strata.

Within the cutbank exposure at the back edge of the present-day beach can be seen an occasional fire-cracked rock feature and charcoal deposits. The sediments immediately in front of the eroded cutbank, and where TU 1-3 were excavated, appear to be in situ riverine deposits containing little cultural material. Originally, these deposits likely were located directly beneath the culturally occupied land surface, and this cultural deposit has since been removed through looting and/or erosion. The largest intact cultural deposit is present within the lower beach surface, where acorn pits were excavated throughout transects 2 through 6, across 125 meters of visible beach deposits. In Transect 6 the best preserved area of remnant beach was located, with the most complete acorn pits encountered (one containing a wooden wedge with a rope collar still attached). TU 4 exposed a distinct area of aquifer waterlogging, containing multiple altering layers of vegetal mat (both cultural and natural wood and fiber) deposits separated by flood-event silty sand layers (Figure 4). A braided cedar bark belt or tumpline strap, cedar bark strings, grass braided cordage, a beaver tooth chisel, bone point/awl, and bone chisel tip, along with thousands of wood chips, split wood, basketry waste elements, cherry bark curls, and other cultural materials were found in TU-4.

The extensive in situ acorn pits are the most remarkable features at this Landmark site. During surface exposure and mapping, all such pits contained remnants of whole acorns. Also wood and fiber artifacts were observed in and around these pits, including a shredded cedar bark cape/skirt fragment, a broken wooden wedge, wooden arrow shafts, and a well-preserved basket distinctive of the region's fine basket work. The basket piece was found with intact base and sides (no rim remained) all carefully cross-warp twined of split cedar root (identified by Bud Lane, master weaver, Siletz, and Patricia Gold, master Wasco weaver, Warm Springs; Figures 5 and 6). The style of this basket is definitely from this region and demonstrates an ancient continuity of this style of basketry. Baskets found from northern ancient wet sites are of a very different style, and themselves demonstrate at least 3,000 years of basketry cultural continuity in Salish, Makah, and Tsimshian traditional territories.

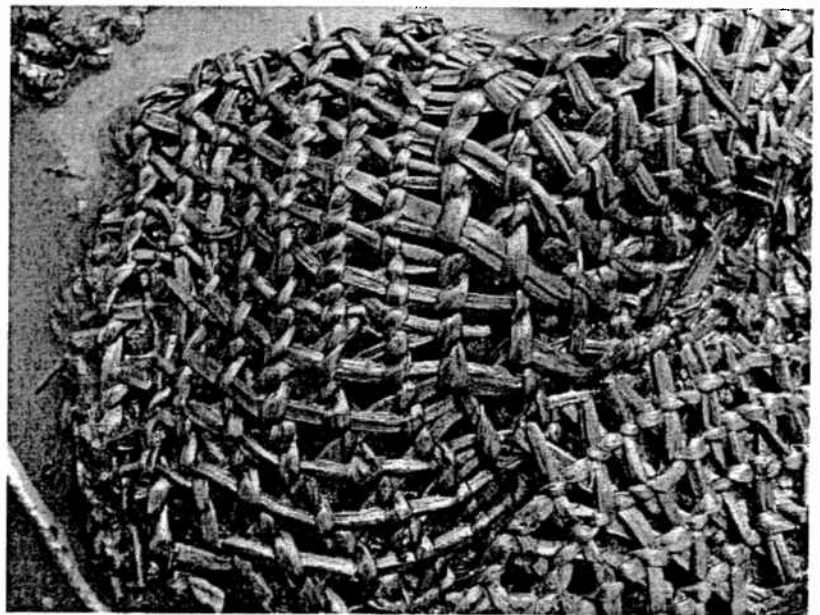


Figure 5 (Left). Clay Arden (Siletz) and Mel Schultz (Grand Ronde) help uncover basket found on surface of an acorn pit.

Figure 6 (Right). Close up of fine cross-warp open twined weave of cedar root (material and construction of base and body of basket identified by Bud Lane, Master Weaver, Siletz and Patricia Gold, Master Wasco Weaver, Warm Springs)

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Fortunately, sixty identified pits were mapped, but it was clear from our observations that many more pits actually are scattered across, and concentrated in, transects 2 through 6. We just did not have time to expose less obvious pits throughout the beach area.

Approximately 7,828 artifacts (items that are the result of human activity) were recovered from inside the maximal footprint for the proposed bank protection rip rapping at site 35MU4. The collection included 2,550 wood chips, 1,238 pieces of lithic debitage, 950 split wood pieces, 55 basketry waste elements (both bark and bough/root splints), 275 acorns, 460 hazelnuts, 12 cherry bark curls, 6 bone artifacts, 17 stone artifacts, 20 wood or fiber artifacts, 738 faunal elements (both shell and animal bones), and 5,939 pieces of charcoal (larger than a thumb nail pieces). The exact counts of the artifact types may likely change after further cleaning and analysis. The tools included wooden wedges (Figure 7), bone chisels, bone points/awls, projectile points, scrapers, knives, and flake tools. The 13 projectile points (within the footprint) recovered during the testing are in good condition and are typically made of fine grain chalcedony. However two examples of obsidian artifacts were found within the footprint, a thumbnail scraper and a knife found in the baulk sampling of acorn pit Feature 2 next to TU4.

Samples Collected: (rough wood and fiber debitage count, C-14, bulk samples, etc.) The excavations produced a preliminary total of 3,555 wood and fiber debitage elements (wood chips, split wood and basketry waste elements). Due to the abundance of wood and fiber in the excavation units, samples were taken of the western hemlock bough twig linings from at least two acorn pits for dating, and a charcoal sample from the 50 cm deep bank excavation were removed from in situ layers for C14 dating, and dates should be available in January 2007.

Summary of Preliminary Findings: The TU 1-3 excavations, into primary beach deposits were basically culturally sterile. Since we started TU4 late (2nd week of explorations), the actual depth of these wood and fiber-rich vegetal mat layers could not be determined. The density of cultural materials and in situ acorn pits and stakes is highest in transects 2 through 6, or over 125 linear meters of the 320 meter levee repair area.

Our two week limited evaluation of a very large area clearly demonstrates why this has been designated a National Historic Landmark site and considered, before any professional excavations, one of the most famous such sites in the Western United States. The site appears to have progressively eroded away, as is often mentioned by persons who have visited the site through the past 40 years, so what's left becomes increasingly more important as a Landmark cultural resource. We found a few large remnant areas that are better preserved (Transect 6 below TU 1) and remain fairly intact.

We plan to update AWA on our research as it progresses in future reports.

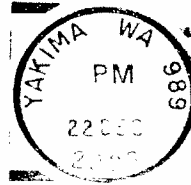


Figure 7. Large wooden wedge with rope collar found in TU 1 Trench 7 in remnant beach area shown in Figure 2. Collar thought to be of a root material (Bud Lane, Master Weaver, Siletz).



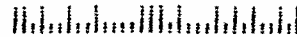
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