



**THE NEWSLETTER OF THE IDAHO  
PROFESSIONAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL COUNCIL**

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**SPRING 2010 Vol. 3 No. 1**

### **About IPAC**

The Idaho Professional Archaeological Council, Inc. (IPAC) was formed in 2004 to represent the interests of professional archaeology in Idaho. IPAC encourages and welcomes the participation of State, Federal, and Tribal archaeologists; professors and students; consultants and private sector archaeologists; retirees; and those with archaeological avocation. IPAC is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to promoting high standards of archaeological research, reporting, and management; representing professional archaeological interests in political and public forums; fostering communication within the archaeological community; promoting public education and interest in the fields of archaeology and cultural resource management; providing advice to professional archaeologists and regulatory agencies; and encouraging the publication of archaeological research.

### **Upcoming Meetings and Events**

- ***IPAC Annual Meeting – Friday October 1, 2010 in Boise***
- ***IAS Annual Meeting – Saturday, October 2, 2010 at Boise State University;***
- ***“Rock Art Perspectives” – Grand Opening May 27 and through August 22, 2010 at the Idaho State Historical Museum in Julia Davis Park***
- ***Concluding events of Idaho Archaeology Month – May 2010  
see <http://www.idahohistory.net/archmonth.html>***

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### SHPO Procedures for 2010

As the 2010 field season approaches, the office of the Idaho State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and Archaeological Survey of Idaho (ASI) would like you to review the following to make sure your field and recording methodologies will meet the standards for Idaho:

- All archaeological site forms submitted to our office must comply with the format of the ASI Site Form. The IMACS form is no longer accepted. This includes re-recordings of sites.
- All ASI and Idaho Historic Sites Inventory (IHSI) site forms must include UTM coordinates based on the North American Datum of 1983 (NAD83). Site form recordings that use NAD27 will no longer be accepted. This applies to older recordings that are just now being submitted as part of National Historic Preservation Act – Section 106 review or for the purpose of obtaining an ASI or IHSI number assignment. Also, make sure these forms appropriately note the UTM as NAD83. Please call SHPO/ASI if you need assistance in changing your site form format accordingly.
- Site forms (including any photo sleeves) must be stapled. ASI site forms must be submitted in duplicate. Original photos or printed digital photos need to be included with one of those copies for archival purposes. Photos attached to the second form may be photocopies of the originals. All photos (including digital photos) submitted with IHSI site forms or with the first copy of the ASI form must be in archival photo sleeves. (For further details, please consult the Photographic Standards located in the SHPO section [www.history.idaho.gov](http://www.history.idaho.gov).)
- Linear sites (0.5 mile or more long) must be recorded on ASI site forms or IHSI site forms depending on the type of resource. Trails, old wagon roads, mining features, livestock trails, and timber harvesting features (including logging railroads) must be recorded on ASI forms. Main (named) agricultural canals and primary laterals, named roads and highways, and railroads and railroad grades must be recorded on IHSI forms. Legal descriptions and attached maps for all linear sites must include all sections crossed by the site in the county of record, whether field checked or not.
- On the ASI form, meters are the standard of measure with the exception of elevation which is recorded in feet; historic artifacts may be measured using the English or metric standards. Archaeological site area, whether prehistoric or historic, must be recorded in square meters.
- When recording buildings and/or structures, the IHSI form must include references to and brief descriptions of all existing buildings, structures, and features on the property.
- IHSI site forms have a less guarded status in our office and are subject to Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and Idaho Public Records Law. Please mark them as restricted in the appropriate check box if you have confidentiality concerns and would like them to be treated the same as ASI site forms. A separate sheet briefly explaining the reason for the restriction, including the nature of the threat, must be submitted with the site record.
- Survey reports must be submitted in duplicate. The survey legal description (township, range, section) must be listed in the undertaking location section of the report. If the undertaking includes sections not surveyed, label and list these separately.
- All survey reports must include the number of acres surveyed and be signed by the principal investigator.

For those doing record searches, please check our Record Search Guidelines regularly. The availability of a new product and a minor fee change are expected this spring.

*Submitted by Glenda King, Office of the Idaho SHPO.*

### **Historic Preservation Field School Coming to Boise: August 8 – September 17, 2010**

In August and September, the University of Oregon (U of O) will bring its Pacific Northwest Preservation Field School (PNPFS) to Boise's Old Penitentiary. This is the first ever offering of the program in Boise. The school is organized as part of a cooperative partnership between the Idaho, Oregon and Washington SHPOs and State Parks Departments, as well as the U of O and the National Park Service.

Now in its 16<sup>th</sup> year, the PNPFS provides students from any and all walks of life the opportunity to learn hands-on a wide range of preservation and restoration techniques from master crafts people, outside professionals, and university professors. Participants typically include university students, agency personnel (including archaeologists!), contractors, and others interested in preserving historic structures. Previous preservation and building conservation skills are not required—just a love of heritage and desire to learn!

The Idaho State Historical Society will host the five-week event at the Old Penitentiary (running August 8-Sept. 17 with a one-week break). Sessions are one week long, and students may register for as many sessions as desired. Given the abundance of sandstone at the site, some emphasis will be placed on masonry maintenance and restoration, but other topics will be addressed as well, including: window restoration, wood structures, and metal work. Each week will include nightly speakers on topics related to local history or walking tours; these are free and open to the general public.

The Field School costs \$900 per week, including instruction, academic and/or continuing education credits (AIA); study materials; room and board; and field trips. Local students who do not require room and board will pay a lesser fee (to be determined). More information about the Field School and application forms can be found at: <http://hp.uoregon.edu/fieldschools>.

*Have an old house that needs work, but can't really take a whole week to attend the field school? New this year, in conjunction with the PNPFS, the program's cooperative partners will offer two, one-day Saturday workshops for local area residents: one focusing on wood window repair and one focusing masonry maintenance and repair. These workshops will provide hands-on instruction and experience. Led by master crafts persons, the one-day events will offer the opportunity to roll up your sleeves and dig into some real restoration work—and leave the students with practical knowledge and skills they can bring back to their own historic building. Details are still being developed; please contact Suzi Pengilly or Tricia Canaday at 334-3861 after June 1 for more information.*

*Submitted by Suzi Pengilly, IPAC and the Office of the Idaho SHPO.*

### **The Archaeological Conservancy and Idaho**

Idaho is the only state in the Western Region of The Archaeological Conservancy that doesn't have at least one site set aside for conservation. The Archaeological Conservancy is the only national non-profit organization that protects archaeological sites on private land in perpetuity. The Archaeological Conservancy accomplishes this through direct negotiations with land owners and developers.

Idaho has notable sites on private lands that have contributed enormously to the archaeology of the state and region. The Standing Rock Overhang site (10FR5) is one notable existing example, recent work at which was recently published by the U.S. Forest Service (Arkush 2008). The Forest Archaeologist membership of IPAC also kindly distributed copies of that publication at our Fall 2009 meeting. The Standing Rock landmark presents strong connections to Idaho's history as well as its archaeology, and work conducted here by Weber State University was greatly acknowledged to depend on the interest and support of the family owning the site lands.

IPAC leaves it to USFS folk who also supported and facilitated work on this site to suggest whether 10FR5, in particular, may be appropriate for Archaeological Conservancy consideration and how

landowner sentiments may lie in relation to conservation in perpetuity. However, if the professional community knows of any notable archaeological sites (historic or prehistoric) where the land owner may be approachable and potentially amenable, let's please start exchanging ideas on the IPAC listserv (IPAC-list@idarchaeology.com), and assemble an assortment of the possibilities. Or just send your ideas directly to Julie Clark (jclark144@att.net) the Western Field Representative of The Archaeological Conservancy (<http://www.americanarchaeology.com/western1.html>). She is also on the IPAC listserv. The Archaeological Conservancy has supported IPAC since its founding, with the first regional field representative joining in 2004.

*Submitted by Scott Phillips, IPAC.*

## Reference

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## Sandpoint Archaeology Project Collection Management Protocol

An archaeological collection management protocol (Warner et al. 2009) was developed in response to an Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) archaeological data recovery excavation project conducted in Sandpoint, Idaho (US 95 Sandpoint, North and South DHP-NH-IR-CM-F-5116[068], Key Number 01729, Agreement Number 7282). The project was conducted for ITD to mitigate adverse effects of the construction of the Sand Creek Byway Project to relocate US 95 around Sandpoint, Idaho.

## Introduction

Archaeological investigations at Sandpoint yielded large assemblages of artifacts associated with the turn of the nineteenth to twentieth century. Established in 1881, during the construction of the Northern Pacific transcontinental railroad, Sandpoint started as a labor camp linked with the railroad.

Mining and sawmill industries soon followed. The original town site was settled on a north-south strip of land that ran along the railroad line with Sand Creek to the west and Lake Pend Oreille to the east. With the geographical boundaries of both a lake and a creek, Sandpoint's early development was constricted. Over the next 20 years, Sandpoint expanded within its constructed boundaries and with this initial growth came hotels, saloons, dancehalls, and other commercial businesses. Soon, social mores of respectability motivated some Sandpoint residents to relocate the town across the creek, thus segregating "rowdier" tendencies to the original settlement along the tracks.

This project is arguably the largest archaeological data recovery project in the state's history, resulting in an artifact collection filling over 1000 boxes (of standard archival "banker" size). These excavations addressed the first 50 years of the town, from the wilder "old town" to the main economic anchor, the Humbird lumber mill. The resulting artifact assemblages are evidence of these early days in Sandpoint; shedding light on the railroad worker housing, machine shop, jail, Chinese district, commercial district and the subsequent "Restricted District" (where bordellos were allowed to operate). It is estimated that some 600,000 to 800,000 artifacts will be cataloged and databased by mid 2010.

Field investigations were conducted by CH2M HILL, the Environmental History Company, Vanguard Research and the University of Idaho. The analysis and report team which includes these same plus the University of Idaho and other consultants, is currently being led by SWCA Environmental Consultants under the direction of Dr. James C. Bard.

## Curation Challenge

Since at least the early 1990s archaeologists and collections managers have actively wrestled with the growing challenges associated with the management of archaeological collections (Childs 1995, 1999, Sonderman 1996). Generally speaking, the collections management framework that archaeologists have worked with for many years is based on the assumption that all materials recovered from archaeological excavations are to be kept in perpetuity, thereby preserving the materials and providing opportunities for further learning from those artifacts as new technologies and methods are developed. The reality, however, is that curation facilities are being overwhelmed by archaeological collections and most facilities now charge curation fees to store these collections. The challenge of managing archaeological collections is particularly problematic with assemblages recovered from excavations conducted on historical sites where the volume of materials recovered can be both overwhelming in size and repetitive in the artifacts collected (Praetzellis and Costello 2002).

The analysis and report team recognize that collection curation will be problematic. When completed in November of 2008, the excavations had generated approximately 1057 boxes of artifacts representing several hundred thousand artifacts. Put into perspective, the collection would take up approximately 1500 cubic feet of storage space (not including numerous large metal objects that were also recovered). In its current condition, the entire assemblage would cost at least \$500,000 in curation fees at the University of Idaho, Alfred W. Bowers, Laboratory of Anthropology (Northern Repository) for the State of Idaho.

The scale of this project clearly presents extraordinary curatorial issues, the primary one being that there is a great deal of repetition in the collection. To address the challenge of a collection this size, it is appropriate to cull a portion of the collection prior to placing it in the Northern Repository. The Sandpoint Archaeology Project Collection Management Protocol outlines the principles and practices guiding the deaccessioning of artifacts from the collection and the distillation of the artifacts that would be permanently curated to the Repository. This protocol is a dynamic document and its latest version (December 2009) is available by contacting Marc Munch/ITD (Marc.Munch@itd.idaho.gov) or Jim Bard/SWCA (jbard@swca.com).

## Guiding Principles

Strategies to deaccession and permanently curate artifacts outlined in the Sandpoint protocol are intended to serve as a general guideline for archaeologists and collections managers to work from, *but they are not to be uncritically applied to, other historical assemblages*. Each archaeological site has a unique set of properties that must be considered prior to deaccessioning artifacts. Not *all* materials from *all* archaeological sites have similar research potential. For example, in the case of Sandpoint, a much larger percentage of materials will be curated that are associated with the Chinese residents of Sandpoint. The rationale being that while Chinese immigrants were integral to the settlement of Idaho, they are under-represented in the historical narratives of the region and state, and the objects recovered represent a unique opportunity to address that shortcoming. All artifacts associated with precontact lifeways of American Indians living in the region are being curated and are categorically exempt from deaccessioning under this protocol.

Similarly, the Sandpoint project archaeologists are not imposing absolutely uniform guidelines for deaccessioning metal objects across the entire project area due to the variation in frequencies of artifact types. When metal objects comprised approximately 75 percent of the items recovered from excavation of the former Humbird Mill Blacksmiths Shop, it was reasonable to assume a higher level of redundancy in the recovered metal artifacts. Consequently, the protocol allows culling the metal objects more extensively in comparison to another excavated site in the project area where metal objects comprised a relatively small percentage of the total artifact assemblage.

The primary issue affecting deaccessioning decisions is the research potential of the artifact(s). What is the likelihood that a particular object can contribute to further understandings of human behavior?

Archaeologists at the Kentucky Heritage Council drafted guidelines for deaccessioning based on three criteria: artifact type, artifact condition, and artifact context (Kentucky Heritage Council n.d.). The protocol authors (Warner et al. 2009) found their criteria to be particularly useful for framing a policy for the Sandpoint collection. Throughout fieldwork, archaeologists made a concerted effort to focus excavations on areas where the objects recovered would be associated with particular structures, events or people; thus, the question of archaeological *context* was largely addressed in the field. Upon analysis, however, it may be determined that some materials were recovered from disturbed sediments or from locations that cannot be associated with a particular building or group; in which case artifacts that are determined to be from uncertain contexts would be discarded.

Of particular significance in determining materials subject to deaccessioning is artifact type. In precontact (prehistoric) contexts, each artifact is a unique product representing individual craftsmanship; a projectile point represents an individual manufacturing effort. In historical contexts, and particularly in more recent times, the objects recovered are the result of mass production technologies. The bottles and ceramics recovered were commonly mass-produced by the thousands, if not by the millions. Consequently, the research potential of many mass produced objects lies in their presence or absence and not in objects themselves. Recognizing this point, one of the primary criteria is redundancy in the assemblage. The expectation is that when multiple copies of the same object are identified, only a single example or a small sample of the object will be curated.

The recognition that deaccessioning of artifacts as a part of this project was factored into the design of the project database. The database allows staff to record a greater number of manufacturing and use variables than is typically found in historical coding systems. All artifacts are being recorded in the artifact database. The level of detail incorporated in the artifact database provides a thorough record of the collection after artifacts are deaccessioned.

The policies outlined in the protocol to deaccession materials from the collection are not intended to be inflexible guidelines from which no deviation can be made. The protocol authors recognize the centrality of archaeological context to understanding the potential significance of particular artifacts and emphasize that these policies are likely to be modified. All modifications are made in consultation with project staff and all deaccessioning decisions are made through joint consultation between principal investigators and supervisory lab staff.

*Submitted by James C. Bard on behalf of the authors: Mark Warner, University of Idaho; Robert M. Weaver, Environmental History Company; James C. Bard, SWCA Environmental Consultants; Amanda Haught and Jamie Emmick, CH2M HILL; and Marc Munch, Idaho Transportation Department.*

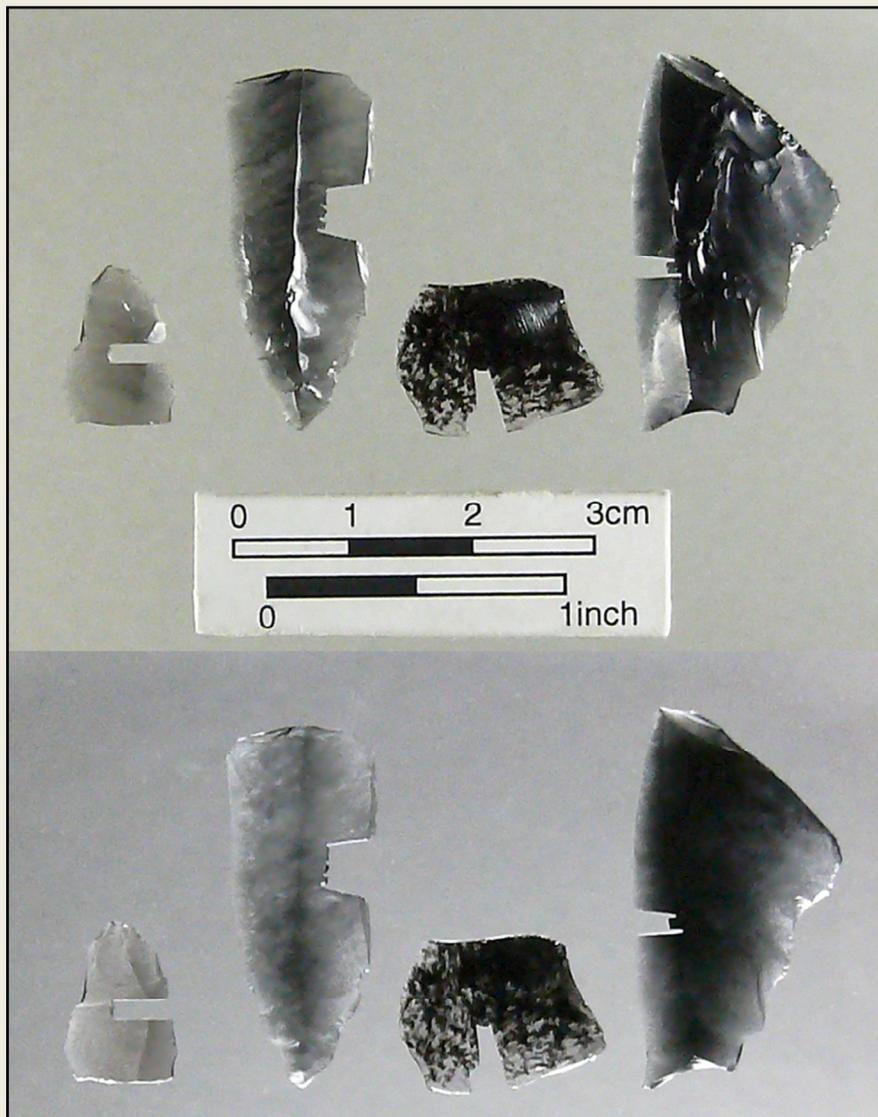
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### Snake River Plain Obsidian in Northwest Colorado and Southwest Wyoming Archaeological Sites

Archaeologists from Metcalf Archaeological Consultants, Inc. and Alpine Archaeological Consultants, Inc. spent much of 2004-2008 in Northwest Colorado and Southwest Wyoming working on two 100-plus-mile-long parallel pipelines. This brief provides a synopsis of the obsidian studies conducted as a part of these projects. Additional data can be found in Reed and Metcalf (2009).

Nine of the archeological sites investigated during the project yielded obsidian artifacts. Obsidian assemblage size varied from one to nearly 1000 artifacts. Nine geochemically distinct obsidians were identified in the assemblages, including four Idaho sources (Owyhee, Big Southern Butte, Bear Gulch, and Malad) and two Wyoming sources (Teton Pass and Obsidian Cliff), as well as sources in New Mexico and Arizona (see Photo Figure). The obsidian artifacts submitted for trace element analysis were selected based on: 1) association with datable features and/or discreet stratigraphic units; 2) association with unique materials (e.g., fauna); and 3) unique macroscopic characteristics (e.g., opacity, banding, color). In some situations, macroscopic variation can be an effective means of differentiating obsidian from distinct sources (e.g., Lee 2001; Levine et al. 2007). Hydration measurements were made on several obsidian artifacts to bolster a regional database and to provide an independent assessment for the relative age of certain occupations.



#### Photo Figure

Macroscopic variation; four representative examples of Malad obsidian under direct lighting (top) and backlit (bottom).

The images are slightly enlarged. The scale is proportionate to both the top and the bottom image.

*Photographs by Gail Lincoln (Metcalf Archaeological Consultants, Inc.).*

The oldest obsidian recovered in the project area is a single flake from the Big Southern Butte source recovered in a site dating from circa 7190 radio carbon years before present (RCYBP) and with three house pits (Slaughter 2010). This is the only piece of material from this source present in the project area. Other Archaic-era occupations along the pipeline corridors contained obsidian primarily from the Malad and Bear Gulch sources. In Formative-era occupations, obsidian sources on the Snake River Plain continue to be well represented; however, two northwest Wyoming sources are also present. During the Protohistoric era, the obsidian recovered within the study area comes exclusively from the Snake River Plain. This could represent either a contraction in direct or peripheral trading partners or the replacement of obsidian as an item of significance by different materials. Of the Protohistoric sites, the approximately 1000 pieces of obsidian at 5MF5827 does not fit with general assumptions about distance decay or regression for use of obsidian in expected procurement strategies. The presence of cortical obsidian nodules is striking, and it is possible there was a planned activity at the site that necessitated the use of this material; however, a more parsimonious explanation might be direct procurement with some enhanced form of transport, such as horses.

The preponderance of the Snake River Plain obsidians in the project area could invoke the presence of a trade route east of the Wasatch Mountains along the Bear Lake travel corridor; however, the obsidian could also result from seasonal transhumance between the areas as has been suggested by Park (2010) and others. The use and discard of transported obsidian at the project sites could indicate its use as a referent for affirming social affiliations with other groups, individuals and meaningful points on the landscape (e.g., Basso 1996; Thornton 2000). Although obsidian from Southwestern sources is extremely rare—a total of four were recovered for all time periods—there is enough obsidian present to posit the existence of a similar relationships and conduits connecting the general project area with the northern edge of the Southwest region.

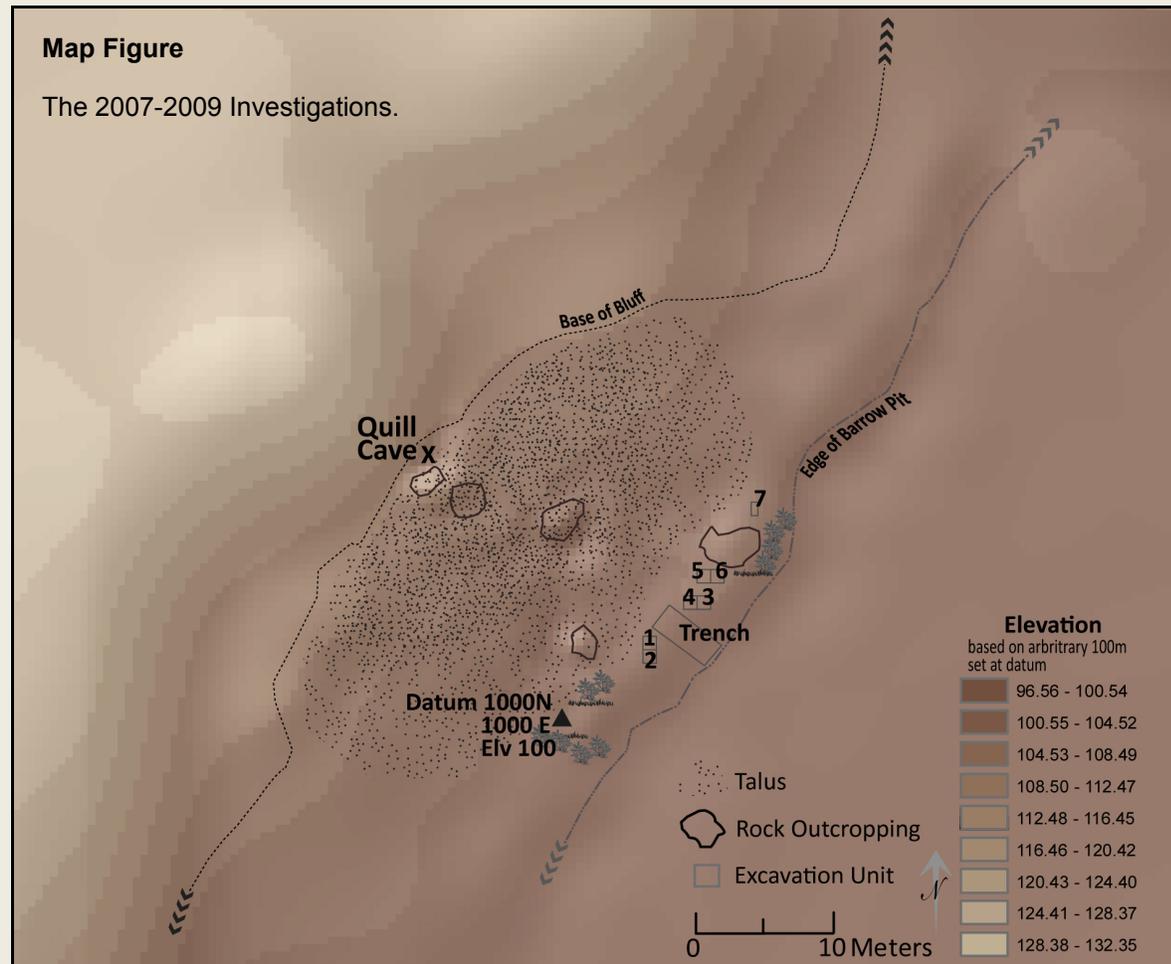
*Submitted by Dr. Craig Lee, Metcalf Archaeological Consultants, Inc.*

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## Reinvestigation of the Challis Bison Kill Site: Is It Really that Old?

Field investigations at the Challis Bison Kill site in Custer County was completed in 2009 with 2010 to be spent in analysis and write-up phase (see Map Figure). This work has been funded by a number of entities—the Bureau of Land Management, the Idaho Heritage Trust, the Earthwatch Institute, and Patagonia, Inc.—and we are grateful to the many individuals that have enthusiastically been involved, particularly Carol Hearne of the Challis Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management.



To recap, B. Robert Butler of Idaho State University excavated the Challis Bison Kill site in 1970 and it became integral to his models of bison ecology and hunting in eastern Idaho (Butler 1971a, 1971b, 1978a, 1978b). Butler argued that the site was a historic jump utilized by mounted Shoshoni. It has since become one of the best known archeological complexes in central Idaho, emphasized by its inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. However, a number of uncertainties concerning the site history, function, and bison numbers place serious doubt on the original interpretation, hence those models derived from it (cf. Plew and Sundell 2000).

The site complex consists of two components, the *Kill Area* (10CR196) and *Quill Cave* (10CR197). The Kill Area is down slope of the bluff on the talus, while Quill Cave is a small cavity at the base of the bluff and is where the majority of faunal remains were recovered. One of the most important results of our reanalysis is the much older date for the deposits. Our direct dating of bison bone and blowfly puparial cases suggests a single event and an older age. The age of around AD 1155 is based on four samples from the 1970 and our excavations (Cannon et al. 2010). These ages are statistically the same at the 95 percent level ( $T=0.78$ ;  $\chi^2_{.05}=3.84$ ).

### **Fieldwork in 2007 through 2009 Had the Following Research Goals**

Do any of the original deposits exist, or were they completely excavated? Minimally, we should be able to view stratigraphic profiles exposed in excavation trenches.

What is the effect of stream erosion on the site?

What is the relationship of the cultural deposits to the geomorphic history? For example, are there any deposits of Layer 1a/b still intact that might lead to a better understanding of the site use?

Assess the presence of cultural deposits in layer 1c and collect appropriate environmental and radiocarbon samples.

How does the geomorphic and cultural stratigraphy relate to other sites in the region?

Are there still blowfly puparia present at the kill site? Samples analyzed by Dr. Neal Haskell indicate a cool season death of the bison, but the sample collected by Butler is small and indicates at least two species may be present. This is key for assessing season of death.

Conflicting reports exist as to the presence of drive features on the top of the bluff. This area will be surveyed.

How bison were hunted and dispatched? Visual inspection of the top of the bluff, detailed mapping, remote sensing, and geographic information systems (GIS) will all be incorporated to assess the potential that bison were driven over the bluff in a plains-style bison jump (e.g., Byerly et al. 2005).

Our more lofty anthropological goals have aspired to reconstructing land use patterns within a larger cultural context. One attempt has been to utilize the geochemistry of obsidian artifacts found at the site. Dr. Richard Hughes conducted the geochemical analysis of 64 obsidian artifacts. The results are quite compelling and indicate at least seven geochemical sources are represented. These sources are widely distributed from the Yellowstone Plateau to the western Snake River Plain and have important implications for the study of landscape use, lithic procurement, and group aggregation at the Challis site (see the Map of Geochemical Types on the following page).

### **Future Directions for Our Research Include the Following**

Stable isotope analyses are underway to assess if single or multiple herds are present.

Stable isotope results will also provide clues for bison ecology and paleoenvironmental conditions.

Provide larger environmental and cultural context for Challis Bison Kill site. This work is being conducted in collaboration with William Eckerle of Western GeoArch Research (Salt Lake City) and Andrea Brunelle of the University of Utah.

How do carnivores use dens and can we derive a reasonable model for the relationship of the Quill Cave material and the Kill Area.

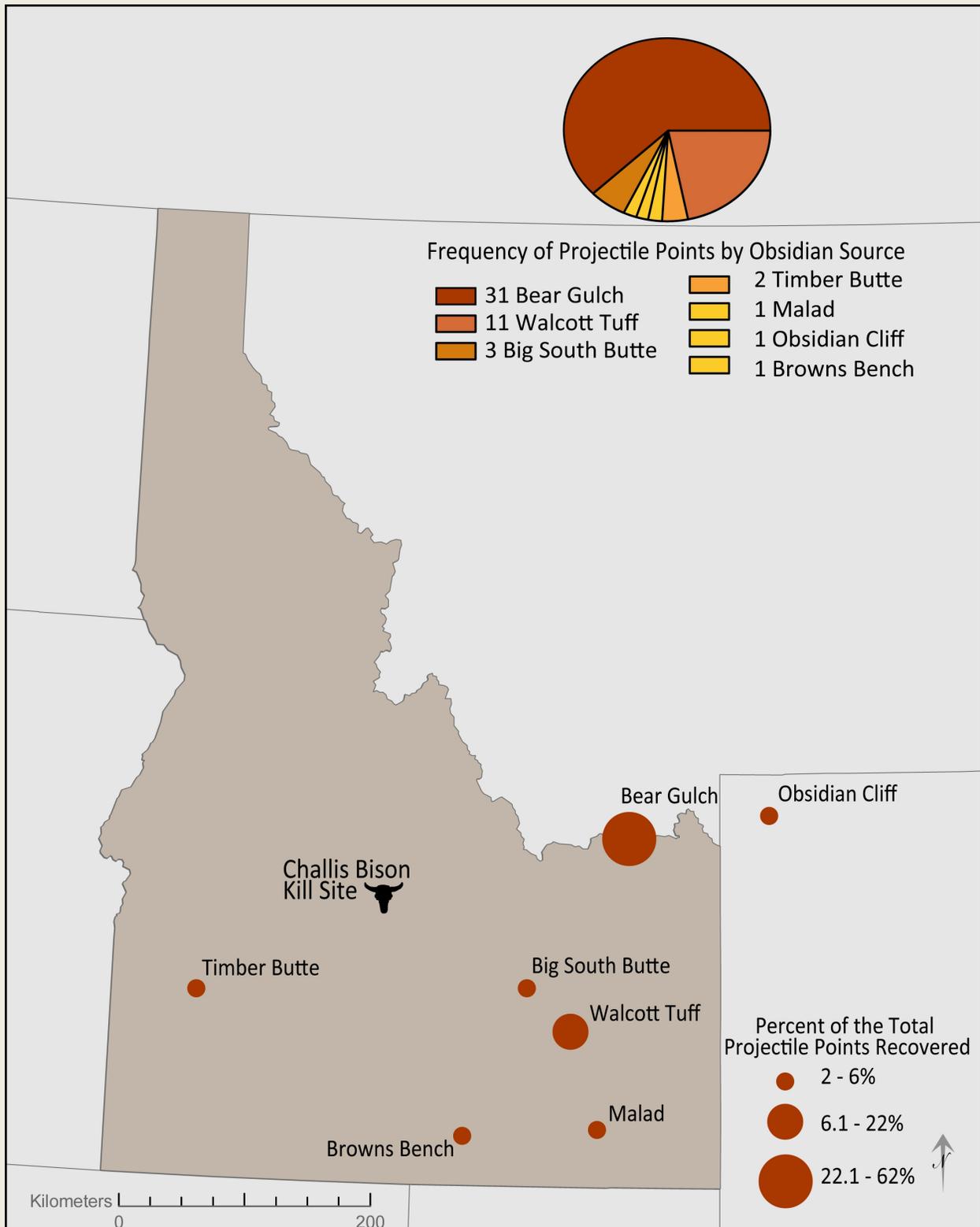
Taphonomy of the site based upon the ecology of blowfly assemblage.

Does the blowfly represent a new species? Continued work with blowfly genetics.

Is the perinatal assemblage part of the human kill event or do they represent carnivore kills?

Geochemical analysis of the obsidian artifacts from the Challis Bison Campsite (10CR322) which is on the same landform as the kill site.

### Map of Geochemical Types



Geochemical Types identified for Challis Bison Kill site projectile points.

## In Summary

New radiocarbon ages suggest a much older age for the bison kill than originally proposed by Butler.

The age of the kill suggests a potentially older age for Desert Side-Notched projectile points.

The bison from Quill Cave may have been scavenged by carnivores from the kill deposit.

Blowfly assemblage suggests a greater ecological range than previously thought.

The Quill Cave bison perinatal assemblage is consistent with a spring kill event, but they may also represent hunting by wolves using Quill Cave as a den.

The Quill Cave bison assemblage suggests a mixed nursery herd, but it still unclear if these specimens represent a single event or are from multiple events.

The geochemistry of the projectile points is diverse and indicates a wide-ranging procurement strategy.

## Postscript: Visualizing the Past – The New Spatial Data Collection (SDCAV) Lab

The Anthropology Program at Utah State University (USU) in northeastern Utah opened the doors to its newly created *Spatial Data Collection, Analysis and Visualization Lab* (SDCAV Lab) last March. The National Science Foundation and USU awarded \$600,000 for the establishment of the geospatial laboratory. The laboratory is a collaboration between USU Anthropology Program, USU Archeological Services, USU Distance Education, and the USU Anthropology Museum to provide access to field and laboratory geospatial equipment. Instruments include a robotic total station, survey grade global positioning systems (GPS), geophysical survey instruments, and a three-dimensional (3D) laser scanner. The SDCAV lab is also partnering with Dr. Robert Pack of the Center for Advanced Imaging LADAR (CAIL) to provide Light Detection and Range (LiDAR) mapping and high resolution orthophotography. The lab will be fully equipped to provide analysis and visualization of geospatial data through the use of geospatial information systems (GIS), 3D viewers, and other graphic design software. On-going projects in northeastern Utah and Idaho, including work under the direction of Dr. Kenneth Cannon at the Challis Bison Kill site in Custer County and Dr. Bonnie Pitblado's Southeastern Idaho & Northern Utah Paleo-Indian Research Program (SINUPRP), will benefit from the establishment of the lab and will be featured projects in the months to come. Watch for us at [www.usu.edu/anthro](http://www.usu.edu/anthro). For more information concerning the SDCAV Lab please contact the director Molly Boeka Cannon at [molly.cannon@usu.edu](mailto:molly.cannon@usu.edu).

*Submitted by Kenneth P. Cannon, Utah State University Archeological Services, Inc., and Molly Boeka Cannon, Utah State University.*

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## **The Hammer Flat Property: A Decision for Wildlife, Archaeology, and Preservation**

In 2006 and past years, articles were written and testimony given at City of Boise meetings by various organizations in support of the preservation of a large plateau of 700-plus acres for wildlife. This land called Hammer Flat plateau and the general area surrounding the land is also important archaeologically in Idaho's prehistory. Hammer Flat sits above high black basalt cliffs in southeast Boise. The area includes Diversion Dam, built in 1909, and the historic New York Canal, important for Idaho valley farm irrigation. Nearby is Barber Valley with its historic mill district, Discovery State Park, and Lucky Peak Dam and State Park with recreation areas managed by the Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). In this area there are also several important sites recorded in the Archeological Survey of Idaho (ASI).

In 2006 permission was given by the landowner to do a reconnaissance and visual survey for the identification of any further archaeological sites or artifacts as the land was slated for development of 1500 new homes. Several sites were found including the adjacent prehistoric areas of the black cliffs rock shelters (already recorded in the ASI). Rock shelters exist on both the north and south sides of the cliffs beneath the plateau and elsewhere in the vicinity. The valleys and ravines of this plateau revealed certain artifacts such as hammer stones, chipped rock, flakes, and obsidian fragments, attesting to the one time prehistoric occupancy of this land by Native Americans. The plateau provides a vantage point, looking out farther to the north, to that Native American sacred site now called Table Rock—a breathtaking view.

Furthermore, below on the Boise River and at its confluence with another stream is a little known, but important archaeological site (on record with the ASI). This prehistoric campsite was investigated by archaeologists prior to a (discarded) USACE project in the early 1940s and again by local professionals in the 1970s, resulting in the advancement of the archaeological and ethnographic records of Southern Idaho. The site land includes the historic Foote House foundation and interpretive signage, and the USACE has protected the area with chain-link fencing.

The Boise River corridor, like the adjacent Hammer Flat plateau, is still used by game herds. Hammer Flat plateau is a most important winter habitat for area wildlife, supporting large winter populations of deer and elk, as well as antelope, bald eagles, hawks, owls, foxes, and miscellaneous small game. Many of the public have preferred to set aside the Hammer Flat land as wildlife preserve. At local meetings throughout the years, issues regarding the area focused on wildlife conservation, Boise River pollution, transportation ingress and egress, historic properties, and fire management, because the plateau had been ravaged by wildfires several times, forcing animals down onto Highway 21. Negotiations involved many government, state and local agencies, and landowners.

On March 9, 2010, an unprecedented decision took place at City of Boise offices. Officials including the Mayor of Boise and Boise City Council members, along with those with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, asked the Boise City Council to approve the purchase of the Hammer Flat plateau property from the land developer. Provisions of Boise's codified Foothills Policy Plan and the Foothills Levy supported the public acquisition of Hammer Flat. This was good news for wildlife and historic preservation. The land will remain a wildlife refuge, keeping animals living on their own terrain and, in general, preserving this area of archaeological sites. The area is now a wildlife refuge and will be managed by the Department of Fish and Game. Negotiations are currently being held to determine the best way to maintain the property.

*Submitted by Jan Summers Duffy, IPAC, The College of Idaho OJ Smith Museum of Natural History, and formerly of the Ada County Historic Preservation Council.*

### **Further Notes**

The City of Boise press release on the Hammer Flat acquisition, including map and photo links, is available at <http://www.cityofboise.org/Departments/Parks/News/2010/page52848.aspx>, dating from March 9, 2010.

### **Honoring a Lifetime of Achievement for Dr. Roderick Sprague**

At our Fall 2009 meeting IPAC formally recognized Dr. Roderick Sprague for his contributions to and advancement of professional archaeology in Idaho by establishing Rick as a fellow of our organization. There are few left in his peerage in the state, and he mentored many of those among our membership who attended the University of Idaho. However, into his academic retirement, Dr. Sprague remains professionally active in Idaho archaeology, not only as Emeritus Director of the Laboratory of Anthropology at the University of Idaho, but continuing to consult, such as on the massive historical archaeological excavation work and analysis produced by Idaho Transportation Department's Sandpoint project. Although it is our honor to have him accept this fellowship, Rick has indicated his desire to stay strongly involved with IPAC where he is able and where most applicable. A fine fellow indeed, Dr. Sprague demonstrates "a level of professionalism seldom seen today," as one of his colleagues has stated of him; let that be an example to us all. Below are two accounts by those benefiting from Dr. Sprague's dedication to the field.

#### **My Memories of Rick Sprague (from Michael A. "Smoke" Pfeiffer)**

I will let the more high-falutin' folks write about Dr. Roderick Sprague in formal presentations. This is personal for me so I write about how Rick Sprague influenced my professional life.

I was an anthropology graduate student at the University of Idaho from January 1976 to December 1982. During that time, Rick Sprague was my major professor. I gradually found that I had a couple of things in common with Rick. First, a love of historical archaeology and secondly, we had both been Army draftees stationed for awhile (at different times) at Fort Bliss, Texas. When I arrived, I had already had one course in historical archaeology taught by Adrienne Anderson at the old National Park Service Midwest Archeological Center on west 27<sup>th</sup> Street in Lincoln, Nebraska. I enjoyed working with the clay tobacco pipes from Ft. Union so much that I became interested in attending the University of Idaho, noted for its program in historical archaeology.

I have never asked him directly but it always seemed to me that Rick taught both in the classroom and by his own example. Some of the things I learned were to work with the Native American Tribes and learn from the local amateurs. Many of these have advanced degrees in their own right. Through his service to the SHA (as long time Parliamentarian and holding other offices), Northwest Anthropological Conference, and publication of NARN/JONA, and the Society of Bead Researchers, I have learned that how I measure myself as an archaeologist is heavily influenced by my service to others. As a federal archaeologist, I do not live in the "publish-or-perish" world of academia. But, am I good enough to contribute beyond my paycheck? Have I the ability to serve archaeological societies, work with amateurs, work with the tribal governments, and contribute to the general knowledge of historical archaeology through conference papers and published research?

These are the kinds of things Rick taught me about how a professional archaeologist should conduct their self. I attended the 2000 SHA meetings in Quebec City mostly just to see Rick win the J.C. Harrington Award. I never thought that seeing a professor win a prestigious award would be so important and personal for me. (I did not even get a free beer out of it!) While I was attending the SHA meetings in 2004 (St. Louis) to present a paper, it was a great pleasure to me when he won the Carol V. Ruppé Distinguished Service Award. In addition to all of the historical archaeology I learned from Rick, I think that the concept of service to the profession was the most important. Thank you, Rick!

#### **Congratulations, Roderick Sprague! (from Karlis Karklins)**

I was very pleased to learn that my old friend Rick Sprague has been made a fellow of the Idaho Professional Archaeological Council. He is certainly deserving of this having devoted most of his life to archaeological research in the Northwest. And he has done it well. Working with Native Peoples groups in

the region, not against them, he has gained their respect and has therefore been able to collect valuable burial data that might have otherwise been lost. He has also been instrumental in disseminating what he has learned as reflected in his substantial bibliography.

Aah! Bibliographies. This brings me to one of Rick's favorite subjects. He loves them and has been compiling them and having his students compile them for decades. It was, in fact, a bibliography that led to my first meeting with Rick. This was back in the early 1970s. I had been preparing a bibliography on trade beads in North America as part of my research work with Parks Canada when I learned that Rick was doing the same thing (Rick also loves beads). We met at the Society for Historical Archaeology meeting in Washington, DC, and found we each had about the same number of entries with a bit of overlap. I wondered how we could resolve this situation, as we were both looking at publishing our bibliographies. He suggested we co-publish and made me the senior author. That is the kind of guy that Rick is—thoughtful of others and willing to help them whenever possible. I also found this to be true when I attended the University of Idaho to complete my graduate studies in anthropology several years later. I learned a lot and, of course, prepared another bibliography as part of Rick's historical archaeology course.

Rick and I have shared a lot of pleasant times and downed quite a few beers in the process. We have also shared knowledge and ideas, and I have always profited from our discussions and look forward to more in the future. I therefore say, Rick, live long and prosper!

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Thanks to everyone who submitted articles and information for the 2010 Newsletter.

*Jan Summers Duffy, IPAC Secretary/Newsletter Editor*

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## Membership Level

- Professional: \$30.00 per year
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The purpose of IPAC is to maintain and promote the goals of professional archaeology in Idaho by:

- Promoting high standards of archaeological research, reporting, and management.
- Representing professional archaeological interests in political and public forums.
- Establishing a mechanism for communication within the archaeological community.
- Promoting public education and interest in the fields of archaeology and cultural resource management.
- Providing advice to professional archaeologists and to State, Federal, and other regulatory agencies.
- Encouraging the publication of archaeological research.