

Historic Preservation “What’s Out There”

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Golden Valley County Road Superintendent



Reaching New

34th Annual North Central Local Roads Conference

Heights

Rapid City, SD - October 16-17, 2019

Historic Preservation

- Historic Preservation started with the Antiquities Act of 1906 and was redefined with the Historic Preservation Act of 1980.
- President Jimmy Carter adds the “Carter Claus” excluding surface finds of arrowheads from prosecution.

From amateur collector to County Superintendent my interests go full circle.



Project Development

- Federal funded projects are uniform but state and local project requirements may differ substantially.
- Class I survey starts with historical records search with SHPO determining the level of survey needed based on registered area sites and Historical happening in the geographical area.

- Class III survey starts with a field walk through that may also involve metal detection, shovel probes, and or site specific 1x1 meter pit excavation and 6” bores.



- Project monitoring may be required in some cases.



Project Development II

- Typically Counties have 100% of the costs associated with preliminary surveys.
- When Historically significant findings occur what happens when Counties choose to realign the project and not excavate?
- What happens when a project is cleared and artifacts are uncovered mid project construction?
- What if human remains are encountered?
- What are the requirements for 100% local projects?

Mitigation and Resolution

- Federal and State DOT projects usually will be cost shared mid construction on archaeological finds.
- Projects usually continue in an unaffected area while being surveyed.
- Most findings are minor and very quickly resolved.
- Human remains will be determined as recent or prehistoric and go through appropriate channels.
- The single biggest factor involved is if due diligence was performed and protocol is followed.

What's the big deal, it's just an arrowhead.

“Sometimes we have a tendency to avoid involvement and don't appreciate the science of what is to be found.”



Alan Miller finds cache in 1970



Alan digs up 50 preform bifaces



Landowner Don and Rella Abernethy dig more in 1975



Beach Cache

- Archaeologists in the area were unsure of the significance.
- In 2005 an in-law of Alan Miller contacts his college professor from the University of New Mexico who is one of the nations leading authorities on pre-clovis man.
- In 2006 Bruce Huckell from the University of New Mexico visits Alan Miller.



Bruce Huckell and Grad Student David Kilby gather from other collections.



A part of the Landowners Collection.



A biface given to me by the landowner years before.



Bruce explains his hypothesis of the Beach Cache site.



Artifacts are documented, shipped to NM, 3D imaged and replicated.



National Geographic Society funds surveys in 2007-2008.



Maxwell Museum of Anthropology UNM
funds surveys in 2009-2014.



Iron Hematite used to make red ochre
(red paint) often used in ceremony's.



Blade tool fragment and red ochre.



More fragments of tool manufacture.

Native American Cultural Periods

- Paleo 14,000-9,000 years B.P.
- Archaic 10,000-3,000 years B.P.
- Woodland 3,000-1,300 years B.P.
- Developmental and Historic 1,600-170 B.P.

Beach Cache Site Radio Carbon dated at 13,550 years B.P.

Beach Cache Site Facts

- In 1970 only 7 known Clovis Cache Sites existed, now 20-25 known Clovis Cache sites exist.
- Most Clovis sites are identified as kill sites containing finished tools, mammoth bones or prehistoric bison.
- The 135 Beach Cache artifacts had materials from 7 different sources ranging in distance from 8 miles to over 300 miles distance.

Beach Cache Site Facts

- Beach Cache is one of the largest in number of artifacts found.
- Although no finished Clovis tools were found, the Beach Cache artifacts show evidence of overshot percussion flaking typical of other known Clovis sites.
- With the finding of charcoal the Beach Cache site is one of only two sites to be positively Carbon 14 dated. It is dated at 13,550 years old.

What else is there to learn?

- If the artifacts had been discovered professionally a more forensic approach could have been utilized.
- If the caches were segregated by material types it could have indicated several different trips to the site from different material sources.
- If they were comingled in the cache pits it is likely from one trip and planned to be utilized at a later trip.
- Previous excavators report more caches yet exist.

Learning more

- Recent professional digs have relied on memories of previous excavation areas to focus on. Is it accurate?
- Was this a one time event?
- Is this a major campsite used annually and still buried?
- What was the reason to cache the material, to hide it from competitive tribes, or the fact that they were migrating back south through the quarry areas?
- What is the identifying feature to relocate the site?

Other Clovis Point Forms



More Information/Resources

- Bruce Huckell-Senior research coordinator, Maxwell Museum of Anthropology University of New Mexico
bhuckell@unm.edu
- UNM Anthropologist Investigates New Clovis Site in North Dakota by Karen Wentworth.
kwent2@unm.edu
- Clovis Caches-Recent Discoveries & New Research, edited by Bruce Huckell and David Kilby

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