

Christopher M. Johnston
Chris.Johnston@paleocultural.org
585 Burbank St. Unit A
Broomfield, CO 80020
303-439-4098

Education

Master of Arts, Anthropology	Colorado State University, Fort Collins	2016
Thesis:	<i>Running of the Buffalo: Investigations of the Roberts Ranch Buffalo Jump (5LR100), Northern Colorado.</i> Advisor: Dr. Jason LaBelle	
Bachelor of Arts, Anthropology	University of Colorado, Boulder	2010

Professional Experience

May 2018-present	Paleocultural Research Group Operations Director & Project Archaeologist
June 2016-May 2018	History Colorado, Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation Assistant State Archaeologist
April 2014-June 2016	Paleocultural Research Group Lab Supervisor & Assistant Field Supervisor
Jan. 2012-April 2016	Center for Mountain and Plains Archaeology, Colorado State University Project Archaeologist
June 2013-July 2013	Colorado State University Archaeological Field School Senior Graduate Teaching Assistant
Aug. 2011-May 2012	Colorado State University, Department of Anthropology Graduate Teaching Assistant
June 2011-Aug. 2011	Metcalf Archaeological Consultants, Inc. Archaeological Field & Lab Technician
May 2010-July 2011	Paleocultural Research Group Lab Supervisor & Assistant Field Supervisor
May 2009-Oct. 2009	U.S. Forest Service, Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest Archaeological Field Technician
Jan. 2009-May 2010	Paleocultural Research Group Archaeological Lab Technician

Professional Summary

Chris has served as a Field Supervisor on numerous projects in Colorado and North Dakota since 2010. He has trained numerous volunteers and students in field and laboratory methods throughout his career with PCRG and History Colorado. Chris has technical lab experience in artifact analysis from a variety of settings, including the Rocky Mountains region and Plains Villages, with an emphasis on lithic analysis. Chris maintains broad research interests, including Front Range and Colorado mountain archaeology, the archaeology of Middle Missouri Plains villagers, landscape archaeology, lithic technology and quarrying, hunter-gatherer archaeology, and archaeological theory. Chris also manages the daily business operations for PCRG in his role as Operations Director and Treasurer for the organization.

Current Research Projects

Project Lead

- Lithic quarrying and site distribution in Kings Canyon, northern Jackson County, Colorado
- Analysis of the Windy Ridge quartzite quarry workshop (5GA872), northern Colorado
- Evaluation and documentation of the Mr. Peat Relic Wetland site, Alamosa County, Colorado
- Modified stone analysis of the Magic Mountain (5JF223) assemblage
- Curation and Ethnographic Context for the Routt National Forest

Project Support

- Sakakawea Village investigations, Knife River Indian Villages NHS, North Dakota
- Harmon Village testing project, North Dakota
- Holt Canyon testing and evaluation, Baca County, Colorado

Other Professional Activities & Service

2015-present **Treasurer**, Paleocultural Research Group

2014-present **Treasurer & Ex-Officio Board Member**, Plains Anthropological Society

2018 **Conference Chair**, 40th Annual Colorado Council of Professional Archaeologists Meeting, Longmont, Colorado

2015-2019 **Webmaster**, Plains Anthropological Society

2013 **Conference Co-Organizer, Program Chair**, 71st Annual Plains Anthropological Conference, Loveland, Colorado

Publications

Peer-reviewed Articles

Breslawski, Ryan P., Tomasin Playford, and **Christopher M. Johnston**

2020 Foetal Bison Long Bones and Mortality Season Estimates at the Early Holocene Casper and Horner II Sites, North America. *International Journal of Osteoarchaeology* 30:425-434. [DOI.org/10.1002/oa.2869](https://doi.org/10.1002/oa.2869).

Johnston, Christopher M., and Halston F. C. Meeker

2015 The Perry Cache: A Large Chipped Stone Assemblage Found Along the Little Thompson River, Larimer County, Colorado. In *The Lithic Caches of Colorado*, edited by Jason M. LaBelle and Christopher M. Johnston, *Southwestern Lore* 81(2&3):25-38.

LaBelle, Jason M., **Christopher M. Johnston**, and Michelle M. Glantz

2013 The Lutes site, a Middle Archaic Burial Locale Along the South Platte River of Logan County, Colorado. *Southwestern Lore* 79(2):13-36.

Edited Volumes

LaBelle, Jason M. and **Christopher M. Johnston** (eds)

2015 The Lithic Caches of Colorado. *Southwestern Lore* 81(2&3):3-149.

Technical Reports

Johnston, Christopher M.

2022 Modified Stone. In *Archaeological Investigations at the Magic Mountain Site, Jefferson County, Colorado*, edited by Mark D. Mitchell. Research Contribution 122. Paleocultural Research Group, Broomfield, Colorado. Submitted to the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, Denver, Colorado.

Johnston, Christopher M.

2021 *Projectile Points from the Scott Miller Site, Rio Grande County, Colorado*. Research Contribution 120, Archaeological Investigations in the San Luis Valley 8. Paleocultural Research Group, Broomfield, Colorado. Submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Lakewood, Colorado.

Johnston, Christopher M. (editor)

2020 *Historical Trails Research on the West Side of the San Luis Valley, Saguache and Rio Grande Counties, Colorado*. Research Contribution No. 117, Archaeological Investigations in the San Luis Valley No. 7. Paleocultural

Research Group, Broomfield, Colorado. Submitted to the Bureau of Land Management, San Luis Valley Field Office, Monte Vista, Colorado.

Johnston, Christopher M. (contributing author)

2020 *High Altitude Archaeology in the Mount Zirkel Wilderness, Jackson and Routt Counties, Colorado*, edited by Christopher A. Davis. Research Contribution 112, North Park Archaeological Research 1. Paleocultural Research Group, Broomfield, Colorado. Submitted to the Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests, Laramie, Wyoming.

Johnston, Christopher M. (editor)

2019 *Historic Trails Research in the Miranda Valley, Taos County, New Mexico*. Paleocultural Research Group, Research Contribution No. 109. Submitted to the Carson National Forest, Taos, New Mexico.

Johnston, Christopher M., Amy Nelson, and Britni V. Rockwell

2019 *Archaeological Investigations in the Rio Grande Natural Area and Punche Valley, Conejos County, Colorado*. Paleocultural Research Group, Research Contribution No. 113, Archaeological Investigations in the San Luis Valley 5. Submitted to the Bureau of Land Management, San Luis Valley Field Office, Monte Vista, Colorado.

Johnston, Christopher M.

2016 *Letter Report Summarizing the Results of a Class III Cultural Resource Survey of the Fremont Special Interest Area, Rio Grande National Forest*. Paleocultural Research Group, Research Contribution No. 101. Submitted to the Rio Grande National Forest, Monte Vista, Colorado.

Johnston, Christopher M., Jason M. LaBelle, and Halston F. C. Meeker

2015 *A Class III Archaeological Survey of the Nivot Ridge UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, Boulder County, Colorado*. Paleocultural Research Group, Research Contribution No. 98. Prepared for the Institute of Arctic and Alpine Research, University of Colorado, Boulder.

Johnston, Christopher M., and Mark D. Mitchell

2015 *2013 Archaeological Survey of the Indian Creek Drainage, San Isabel National Forest*. Paleocultural Research Group, Research Contribution No. 96. Submitted to the Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands, Pueblo, Colorado.

Johnston, Christopher M.

2014 *Summary Report of Archaeological Monitoring of the NEON Tower Site Location on Nivot Ridge, Boulder County, Colorado*. Paleocultural Research Group, Research Contribution No. 95. Prepared for the National Ecological Observatory Network, Boulder, Colorado.

Mitchell, Mark D. and **Christopher M. Johnston**

2014 *An Archaeological Assessment of the Stillwater Site, Garfield County, Colorado*. Paleocultural Research Group, Research Contribution No. 93. Submitted to the U.S. Forest Service, Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests.

Johnston, Christopher M., Spencer R. Pelton, and Jason M. LaBelle

2014 *2012-2013 Class II Archaeological Survey of Chimney Hollow Open Space, Larimer County, Colorado*. Center for Mountain and Plains Archaeology, Department of Anthropology, Colorado State University. Report No. 2014-1. Prepared for the Larimer County Open Lands Program.

Mitchell, Mark D., and **Christopher M. Johnston** (contributing author)

2012 *High Altitude Archaeology in the Uncompahgre Wilderness: Archaeological Investigations During 2010 at the Uncompahgre Cirque Site, Hinsdale County, Colorado*. Paleocultural Research Contribution No. 87. Submitted to the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forest Service Office.

Mitchell, Mark D., and **Christopher M. Johnston**

2012 Technological Analysis of the Modified Stone Assemblage. In *Agate Basin Archaeology at Beacon Island, North Dakota*, edited by Mark D. Mitchell, pp. 113-156. Paleocultural Research Group, Research Contribution No. 86, prepared for the State Historical Society of North Dakota.

Conference Presentations

2022 **Christopher M. Johnston.** *Projectile Points and the Oscura Tradition at the Scott Miller Site*. Paper presented at the 44th Annual Meeting of the Colorado Council of Professional Archaeologists, Denver.

2021 **Christopher M. Johnston** and Mark D. Mitchell. *Chipped Stone Raw Material Utilization During the Early Ceramic at the Magic Mountain Site*. Paper presented at the 78th annual Plains Anthropological Conference, Boulder, Colorado. In the symposium "Recent Research at the Magic Mountain Site, Jefferson County, Colorado, organized by Mark D. Mitchell.

- 2019 **Christopher M. Johnston** and Kevin D. Black. *Lithic Quarries Large and Small: A Comparison from Northern Colorado*. Paper presented at the 77th annual Plains Anthropological Conference, Bloomington, Indiana.
- 2018 **Christopher M. Johnston**. *Better Homes (Without Gardens): A Review of Early Ceramic Period Architecture in Northern Colorado*. Paper presented at the 40th Annual Meeting of the Colorado Council of Professional Archaeologists, Longmont.
- 2017 **Christopher M. Johnston**, Jason M. LaBelle, and Todd A. Surovell. *Picks, Shovel, and Computers: Data Mining the Alpine Archaeological Record of the Colorado Rocky Mountains, USA*. Paper presented at the 13th Biennial Rocky Mountain Anthropological Conference, Canmore, Alberta.
- 2017 **Christopher M. Johnston**. *What's the Point of Public Archaeology: Perspectives on 40 Years of Avocational Training to Prepare for the Next 40 Years*. Paper presented at the 13th Biennial Rocky Mountain Anthropological Conference, Canmore, Alberta.
- 2017 **Christopher M. Johnston**, Amy Nelson, Britni Rockwell, and Mark D. Mitchell. *Preliminary Results of the 2017 PCRG-PAAC Summer Training Survey*. Paper presented at the 82nd Colorado Archaeological Society Annual Meeting, Denver.
- 2016 **Christopher M. Johnston**. *PAAC: Public Archaeology and Education in Colorado Since 1978*. Paper presented at the 74th annual Plains Anthropological Conference, Lincoln, Nebraska.
- 2016 **Christopher M. Johnston**. *Running of the Buffalo: New Investigations of the Roberts Buffalo Jump (5LR100), Northern Colorado*. Paper presented at the 2016 Meeting of the Wyoming Archaeological Society and the Wyoming Association of Professional Archaeologists, Cheyenne.
- 2016 **Christopher M. Johnston**. *Introducing ORCA: A New Online Toolkit for Archaeology and Historic Preservation in Colorado*. Paper presented at the 2016 Meeting of the Wyoming Archaeological Society and the Wyoming Association of Professional Archaeologists, Cheyenne.
- 2016 **Christopher M. Johnston**. *Running of the Buffalo: New Investigations of the Roberts Buffalo Jump (5LR100), Northern Colorado*. Paper presented at the 38th Annual Meeting of the Colorado Council of Professional Archaeologists, Salida.
- 2014 **Christopher M. Johnston**, Jason M. LaBelle, and Todd A. Surovell. *Picks, Shovel, and Computers: Data Mining the Alpine Archaeological Record of the Colorado Rocky Mountains, USA*. Paper presented at the 79th Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, Austin Texas. In the Symposium "Giving Latitude to Altitude (and Vice-Versa): The Archaeology of Human Settlement in Extreme Environmental Settings." Organized by Christopher Morgan and Loukas Barton.
- 2013 Jason M. LaBelle and **Christopher M. Johnston**. *The Long Shot and the Close-Up: Evaluating the Visual Landscape of the Lindenmeier Folsom Site in Northern Colorado*. Poster presented at the Paleoamerican Odyssey Conference, Santa Fe.
- 2013 **Christopher M. Johnston**. *Jumping With New Data: Recent Investigations of the Roberts Buffalo Jump (5LR100), Larimer County, Colorado*. Paper presented at the 71st Annual Plains Anthropological Conference, Loveland, CO, in the Symposium "Twentieth-First Century Advances in Archaeological and Supporting Studies of the Southern Rocky Mountains and their Eastern Foothills." Organized by Robert Brunswig and Jason M. LaBelle.
- 2013 **Christopher M. Johnston**. *Jumping Bison in Northern Colorado: Discussions on the Roberts Buffalo Jump (5LR100)*. Paper presented at the 35th Annual Meeting of the Colorado Council of Professional Archaeologists, Denver.
- 2013 **Christopher M. Johnston**. and Jason M. LaBelle. *A Class I Overview of the Prehistoric Archaeology of the Colorado High Country*. Poster presented at the 35th Annual Meeting of the Colorado Council of Professional Archaeologists, Denver.
- 2012 **Christopher M. Johnston**. *Communal Hunting at Mid-Altitudes in Northern Colorado and Southern Wyoming*. Paper presented at the 70th Annual Plains Anthropological Conference, Saskatoon, in the Symposium "Beyond the Bonebed: Illuminating Diversity in the Practice and Research of Communal Hunting in the Great Plains and Rocky Mountain Regions." Organized by Christopher M. Johnston and Spencer R. Pelton.
- 2012 Halston F.C. Meeker, **Christopher M. Johnston**, and Jason M. LaBelle. *What Once Was Lost, But Now Is Found: The Archaeology of the Upper Boxelder Creek Bison Kill, Laramie County, Wyoming*. Poster presented at the 70th Annual Plains Anthropological Conference, Saskatoon.

- 2012 **Christopher M. Johnston.** *Moving Forward by Looking Back: An Analysis of the Lithic Assemblage from the Lindsay Ranch (5JF11) Site.* Paper presented at the 34th Annual Colorado Council of Professional Archaeologists annual meeting, Durango.
- 2011 **Christopher M. Johnston.** and Mark D. Mitchell. *An Archaic Lithic Workshop in the Southern Rocky Mountains: An Example from the Uncompahgre Cirque Site.* Paper presented at the 10th Biannual Rocky Mountain Anthropological Conference, Missoula.
- 2011 **Christopher M. Johnston.,** Mark D. Mitchell and Angie Krall. *An Update on Excavations at the Upper Crossing Site, A Multi-component Site in Western Saguache County.* Paper presented at the 33rd Annual Colorado Council of Professional Archaeologists annual meeting, La Junta.
- 2010 **Christopher M. Johnston.** *Lithic Refitting and Flaking Debris Analysis of the Agate Basin Assemblage from Beacon Island, ND.* Paper presented at the 68th Annual Plains Anthropological Society Conference, Bismarck, North Dakota, in the symposium “Agate Basin: A view from the North” organized by Mark D. Mitchell.

Organized Symposia

- 2010 **Christopher M. Johnston.** and Spencer R. Pelton. *Beyond the Bonebed: Illuminating Diversity in the Practice and Research of Communal Hunting in the Great Plains and Rocky Mountain Regions.* Symposium organized for the 70th Annual Plains Anthropological Conference, Saskatoon, SK.

Public Talks and Guest Lectures

- 2022 Projectile Points, Chronology, and the Oshara Tradition in the San Luis Valley. Presented to the Hisatsinom chapter of the Colorado Archaeological Society and Crow Canyon Archaeological Center. (Virtual presentation, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qnATHSf88hQ&t=1322s>.)
- 2022 Projectile Points, Chronology, and the Oshara Tradition Valley. Presented to the Indian Peaks chapter of the Colorado Archaeological Society. (Virtual presentation, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9OO2RWwF9wY>.)
- 2017 Running of the Buffalo: Investigations of the Roberts Buffalo Jump (5LR100), Northern Colorado. Presented to the Indian Peaks chapter of the Colorado Archaeological Society.
- 2017 From Golden to Winter Park: An Archaeological Journey of the First Weekend Warriors. Presented to the Grand Junction chapter of the Colorado Archaeological Society.
- 2017 Running of the Buffalo: Investigations of the Roberts Buffalo Jump (5LR100), Northern Colorado. Presented to the Northern Colorado chapter of the Colorado Archaeological Society.
- 2017 Running of the Buffalo: Investigations of the Roberts Buffalo Jump (5LR100), Northern Colorado. Presented to the Denver chapter of the Colorado Archaeological Society.
- 2016 Running of the Buffalo: Investigations of the Roberts Buffalo Jump (5LR100), Northern Colorado. Presented to the Red Feather Lakes Community Library lecture series.
- 2015 Archaeology of Niwot Ridge and Surrounding High-Altitude Landscapes of the Front Range. Presented to the Indian Peaks Chapter, Colorado Archaeological Society, Boulder.
- 2014 Prehistoric Homes and Bison Bones: Recent (and past) Archaeological Investigations of the Livermore Valley. Presented to the Red Feather Lakes Historical Society, Red Feather Lakes, Colorado.
- 2014 Running of the Buffalo: Communal Bison Hunting in Northern Colorado. Presented to the Loveland Archaeological Society, Loveland, Colorado.
- 2013 Communal Hunting: The W’s and an Example from Northern Colorado. Presented to *ANTH 140: Introduction to World Prehistory*, for Mrs. Kim Nichols, Adjunct Faculty, Colorado State University.
- 2013 Introductory Presentation for screening of the documentary *Stone and Steel at the Top of the World*, produced by Jason M. LaBelle and Peter B. Seel, 2012. Presented to the Rollins Pass Restoration Association, Boulder, Colorado.
- 2013 Late Prehistoric Bison Hunting in Northern Colorado and Southern Wyoming. Paper presented at the April meeting of the Cheyenne Chapter of the Wyoming Archaeological Society, Cheyenne.
- 2013 Finding prehistoric bones: Poking around your land, you discover ancient bones. Now what? Radio interview by Jodi Henke for *Living the Country Life*. <http://www.livingthecountrylife.com/homes-acreages/finding-prehistoric-bones/>.

Grants and Scholarships

- 2013 Robert Lundt Memorial Scholarship from the Loveland Archaeological Society. \$300.
- 2012 Ward Weakly Fund from the Colorado Council of Professional Archaeologists. \$750.
- 2012 Karen S. Greiner Grant, Department of Anthropology, Colorado State University. \$950
- 2012 Alice Hamilton Award from the Colorado Archaeological Society. \$600.
- 2011 Grant for tuition and monthly stipend from Department of Anthropology, Colorado State University, for Graduate Teaching Assistantship.
- 2010 Alice Hamilton Award from the Colorado Archaeological Society. \$250

Professional Memberships

- 2009-present: Plains Anthropological Society
- 2011-present: Paleocultural Research Group
- 2013-present: Colorado Council of Professional Archaeologists
- 2013-present: Society for American Archaeology
- 2016-present: Colorado Archaeological Society, Indian Peaks Chapter