

# *2023 Annual Report*



**PCRG**

PaleoCultural Research Group

## State of the Organization

---

The techniques archaeologists use to present their findings are changing, and the pace of change is increasing.

For decades, archaeologists worked in offices surrounded by books. Bookcases lining the walls. Books piled on tables. Books in boxes under the desk. Some of those volumes were published by university presses: widely distributed site monographs, thematic edited volumes, or methodological primers. But a greater proportion were technical reports—the infamous “gray literature”—produced by federal and state agencies, professional societies, anthropology departments, and cultural resource management firms. In many cases, only a few hundred copies of those technical volumes were printed, and archaeologists spent a lot of time building their personal libraries.

It is a great paradox of twenty-first century archaeology that as the number of technical reports has increased—surely a measure of the professionalization and institutionalization of the discipline—the availability of printed books has declined. Newly minted professionals in their 20s and 30s may not find this paradox too troubling, but it is clear that the shift away from printed materials as the primary source of archaeological data has changed how archaeologists work.

Several factors are responsible for that shift. Printing and distribution costs have increased. PCRG's experience is probably typical: ten years ago, we routinely printed project reports but now only rarely can afford the cost. Digital publishing offers a lower-cost alternative, but also has revolutionized what is possible by, for example, enabling direct dissemination of large datasets or the creation of three-dimensional models of sites and artifacts. Of course, the so-far-unresolved fly in the ointment is the very real need to protect the confidentiality of site location data.

The final demise of the book is not imminent. But the new ways to present data that digital publishing offers undoubtedly will only increase and so PCRG is exploring new ways to present and disseminate our research findings. One emerging venue is ArcGIS StoryMaps, an online

product developed by Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI). StoryMaps combine interactive maps with multimedia content and text to tell stories about the past, present, or future of a place. PCRG currently is building several StoryMaps in conjunction with recent and ongoing research projects, but you can see examples on the “History of Water in the West” page hosted by PCRG's Online Resources for Colorado Archaeology and Historic Preservation (ORCA) site at <https://archaeologycolorado.org/resources>.

PCRG is also exploring the possibilities of 3D modeling. You can see an example created for the Vogel Canyon project on page 9 of this report. Several digital reports PCRG is currently producing will incorporate interactive models of sites, features, and artifacts that readers can manipulate. To enable these new ways of presenting data, PCRG has acquired a variety of new tools, including photogrammetric software, more powerful computers, specialized cameras, and an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV).

PCRG's adoption of these new technologies would not have been possible without your generosity. During the past three years, PCRG's Colorado Gives Day campaigns have raised over \$40,000, some of which has been spent on upgrading our technical capabilities. We are grateful for your support and look forward to finding new ways to tell you about—and show you—the results of our research.

Mike Metcalf, President  
Carl Falk, Vice President  
Craig Lee, Secretary  
Kimberly Spurr, Board Member  
David Purcell, Board Member  
Rob Bozell, Board Member

Mark Mitchell, Research Director  
Chris Johnston, Operations Director  
Kelsy Kreikemeier, Lab Technician

**On the Cover:** A Windy Ridge quartzite biface found near the quarry pits. Bifaces of this size are common throughout the site.

# Revisiting Windy Ridge

*Chris Johnston*

The Colorado mountains are home to over 220 stone tool sources that were used by Native Americans over the past 13,500 years. Many of these sources are relatively small, and produced only modest amounts of stone. Only a few sites have more than 10 quarry pits, and even fewer show evidence of intensive extraction of stone tool raw material. One such intensively used source is the Windy Ridge Quartzite Quarry near Steamboat Springs in northwest Colorado.

Sitting atop a tree-covered ridge on the Routt National Forest, with the famous Rabbit Ears faintly visible to the north, Windy Ridge is the largest quarry site in northern Colorado. The site has over 180 pits within a roughly 2-hectare area. The quartzite miners dug through over 2

meters of sandstone to reach the high-quality orthoquartzite. Quarry debris carpets the entire area, indicating the industrial level of effort expended. Knowing the miners lacked modern tools makes the endeavor even more impressive.

Dakota formation orthoquartzites are one of the more common raw material source types in Colorado; however, Windy Ridge is very fine-grained and silicious, unique qualities that improve the ease and predictability of its fracture, making it more like chert and obsidian. Like other quartzites though, it is still quite durable and suitable for a variety of tasks.

Kevin Black, current PCRG member and former Colorado Assistant State Archaeologist, first documented the site in 1981. Douglas

**Right:** *The view from the pinnacle, the northernmost end of the quarry. The open meadow in the distance is the primary workshop area where the 2019-2021 PCRG and 1993 CU Boulder crews conducted survey and testing. The high peak in the distance is Baker Mountain, and on the horizon are the Rabbit Ears.*





**Left:** A view of the side of the pinnacle, note the 2 meters of sandstone capping the quartzite (photo by Jim Rible). **Below:** A Cody complex point, one the oldest known projectile points made from Windy Ridge quartzite. **Upper right:** One of the many large broken bifaces recovered from the workshop area north of the quarry. **Lower right:** PCRG volunteer Ben Allen, all the way from the U.K., excited about a giant Windy Ridge biface he found during the 2023 survey.



2 cm

Bamforth and the University of Colorado-Boulder archaeological field school conducted the first major research endeavor at the site in 1993. The CU team mapped the location of quarry pits and partially excavated one pit. An important finding from this work is that what appear to be discrete pits are inter-connected horizontal trenches. The team also conducted limited testing in the workshop, about 1 km north of the quarry.

Subsequent documentation in 2008 by the Forest Service expanded the boundary to include the workshop and adjacent areas, a boundary that encompassed over 56 hectares. Much of the workshop area, however, could not be effectively surveyed due to limited surface visibility.

In partnership with the Routt National Forest, PCRG began a multi-year research effort in 2019 with the goals of defining the site boundary, learning about the age of quarrying activities, and understanding the technology of stone tool production at the site. To combat the poor surface visibility problem, PCRG staff and citizen-science volunteers sampled rodent backdirt piles in the workshop area as a proxy for subsurface artifact density. This helped define the final site boundary. Three high-density areas and one lower density area were tested in 2021.

Testing data overwhelmingly show that Windy Ridge quartzite was primarily used to manufacture large bifaces, like the one seen here collected during the 1993 testing. Collections from all years have

numerous broken—but still very useable—bifaces. People had an overabundance of high-quality material and were not concerned about exhausting their supply; large bifaces and many useable flakes were simply abandoned on site and only the best were selected for transport and future use.

Although the extensive rodent disturbance at the site helped to define variations in artifact density throughout the workshop, it also made identifying stratified intact archaeological deposits impossible. No dateable materials or temporally diagnostic artifacts were recovered, aside from two small unidentifiable pottery sherds. Without these data, the chronological history of Windy Ridge would need to be studied in another way.

Diagnostic artifacts made from Windy Ridge quartzite are prevalent across the region and show it was a sought-after raw material for millennia. The oldest site containing Windy Ridge quartzite is Barger Gulch, a Folsom campsite dating to around 12,800 years ago that is about 50 km southeast of the quarry. A few other sites contain slightly more recent Paleoindian artifacts made from Windy Ridge quartzite, like the Cody complex point illustrated on the facing page (about 11,600-9,000 years old) from a site near Steamboat Lake, about 60 km northwest of the quarry.

Several research questions still loom for Windy Ridge, such as how far the material traveled? At present, we do not know! In 2023, PCRG began a project examining all the collections from the Routt National Forest to help understand the distribution of the material. Also in 2023, PCRG returned to the area to look for additional workshop sites south and east of the quarry. The research team also examined other aspects of the quarry, including the extent of quarry pits. These data will help us plan for this summer's work, write a National Register of Historic Places nomination for the site, and create public interpretive media, which will be the final phases of our research at Windy Ridge.



2 cm



# Amid the Ice: High Elevation Clovis Occupations in the Beartooth Mountains

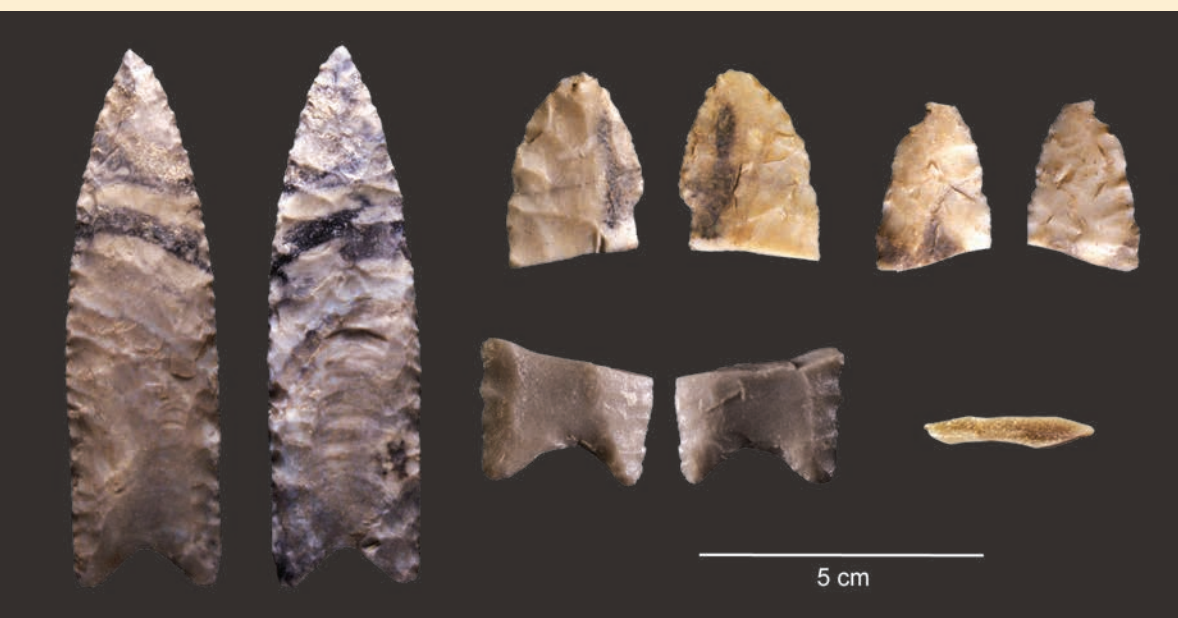
*Scott Dersam*

The Beartooth Ecosystems Alpine Archaeological Research (BEAAR) Project has been studying hunter-gatherer use of alpine environments across the Beartooth Mountains of Montana since 2018. Over the six seasons spent in the Beartooth Range, the BEAAR Project has documented the presence of multiple Early Holocene culture groups representing several Paleoindian technocomplexes, including Goshen, Angostura, Fishtail, Pryor Stemmed, Lovell Constricted, Alberta, and Windust. Like most Paleoindian mountain-use examples in North America, the Paleoindian-associated artifacts in the Beartooth range are primarily isolated projectile points. A few localities in the Beartooth Range have displayed more concentrated evidence of Late Paleoindian mountain occupations by Foothill-Mountain culture groups, but these are rare.

Decades of archaeological research have demonstrated that systematic cultural use of

mountains on the North American continent has existed for at least 11,000 years. Mountain occupations and mountain-influenced adaptations (behavioral and technological) are observable as early as the Folsom culture. To date, only in the Colorado and Wyoming Rockies have Early Holocene occupations by Folsom culture groups been documented at or above 10,000 feet in elevation. The Late Pleistocene Clovis culture (13,050–12,750 cal B.P.) has long been seen as the exception to this pattern of habitual mountain use, apart from transient lithic raw material acquisition forays.

During the summers of 2021 and 2022, BEAAR Project and PCRG volunteers documented large bifacial and blade-like tools in three discrete localities. While monitoring these localities over the 2022 season, multiple 5 to 7 cm unifacial flakes with retouched margins, common in Early and Middle Paleoindian technocomplexes, were recovered. A thorough



*Complete and fragmentary Clovis points from a single locality in the Beartooths.*

*Blade and flake tools from a single locality in the Beartooths.*



survey of one locality revealed a complete Clovis point, a fragmentary Clovis base, and several associated Clovis technocomplex tools, such as a complete prismatic wedge blade core. Continued monitoring and reconnaissance in the region resulted in additional Clovis complex tools being recorded in 2023, including additional blade tools, blade core fragments, discoidal core fragments, preforms, fluting failures, and overshot flakes.

To date, the three Clovis localities have produced seven Clovis points—two complete and five fragmentary point portions (proximal base, midsection, and distal tip). The points and point fragments recovered demonstrate a wide range in morphology but also display continuity in reduction strategies shared between other western Clovis sites surrounding the Rocky Mountains. The basal morphologies exhibit typical western Clovis variation, ranging from slightly basally concave with basal thinning to minimal fluting, similar to several projectile points from the Anzick site in central Montana. Other points exhibit deep V-shaped basal concavities, similar to several Clovis points recovered from Wally's Beach in southern Alberta and Powars II in eastern Wyoming.

These three localities are the first known high-elevation occupations associated with the Clovis technocomplex, ranging in elevation

between 2930 and 2979 meters above sea level. The localities form a linear association ascending a glacially carved corridor from a subalpine to an alpine ecotone on a path spanning 4.4 km. The localities are evenly spaced along this corridor yet are all at about the same elevation, potentially demonstrating a constrained mountain landscape use pattern associated with a still glaciated environment.

The localities exhibit many known lithic tools and accompanying reduction debris related to the Clovis technocomplex. Initial investigations suggest that bifacial reduction, point production, and point finalization were occurring on-site. The breadth of formal tools and blade technology indicates a variety of domestic and resource acquisition behaviors taking place.

Further investigations and testing are planned at the three localities over the 2024-2027 field seasons, with preliminary geoarchaeological and geophysical studies commencing over the 2024 season. BEAAR Project founder Scott Dersam will present on these sites and their contributions to the North American archaeological record at the 2024 meeting of the Society for American Archaeology. The BEAAR project has ongoing permissions and funding to continue investigations at these sites for years to come, with the goal of illuminating the earliest known high-elevation adaptations in North America.

# 2023 Fieldwork

2023 marked our 26<sup>th</sup> field season and even after all of that time, you would think we had seen it all! But we still encountered some firsts like torrential storms flooding roads, bear attacks, and forest fires bearing down on camp. (Maybe that's all embellished just a tad, but we've got you wondering!) Despite some challenges, we had another fantastic field season and welcomed several new volunteers to the PCRG family. Thanks to all of our volunteers and partners. Here are just a few highlights from last field season. We are excited to create more (bear and wildfire-free) memories in the 2024 field season!

## Vogel Canyon Slough Site

We kicked off the field season in southeastern Colorado at the Vogel Canyon Slough site in early June, a site previously identified as a potential Santa Fe Trail-era stage stop dating to the mid-1870s. The site is in a State Register District but was left unevaluated and our work will help determine the age and function of the site. We opened five excavation units, including one unit each in three different architectural features. We also mapped the site, did a metal detector survey, and recorded one previously unidentified feature. Despite difficult road conditions that prevented us from leaving camp one day (the flooding part), the field effort generated ample data to address the research questions.

We also took thousands of photos to make structure from motion (SfM) photogrammetric models of selected features. On the adjacent page, you can see some of the steps for this process for Feature 6, where excavations yielded window glass, ceramics, and metal artifacts. Using a software called Metashape Pro, photos are matched and tied together creating a wire framework mesh of the subject, which forms the base of the 3D model. The software then models points from the photos to fill in gaps, creating a 3D image we can manipulate, measure, and see from every angle. Lastly, "texture" is applied to provide a near life-like image, like the lower image on the facing page. The models are a way to digitally preserve features and offer several valuable research and presentation tools.



## Peeled Trees

In late June, we continued our multi-year partnership with the San Juan National Forest documenting peeled ponderosa pine trees. We moved further west this season, documenting 74 peels at 11 sites, more sites than we have previously done. However, the real challenge of this project wasn't the work. After our first field day, we returned to camp to discover that a bear had made quick work of a volunteer's tent while we were gone. Thankfully, everyone was ok and the tent was semi-liveable. Two days later, we returned to a smoke-filled camp with a wildfire just a few miles away. After quickly breaking camp, we bivouacked for the night and thanks to



our partners at the SJNF and staff with the Capote Lake Campground, we found new accommodations. We decided to treat ourselves to a trip up to Chimney Rock after a stressful and trying 24 hours. We were able to finish off the project thanks to an amazing crew of volunteers.

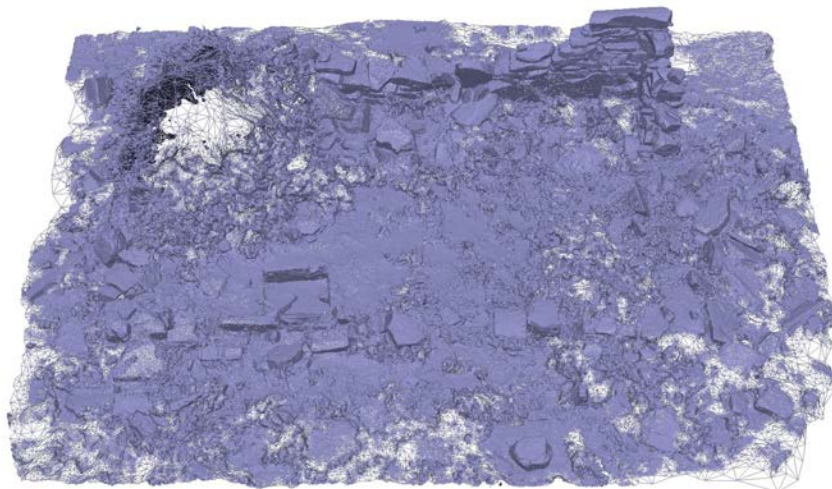
### Bunker Site

In late July, we returned to one of our favorite spots, the Bunker Site, near Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve. Previously, our work at the site has mainly focused on the Old Spanish Trail component. This year, we opened excavation units on the north end of the site where earlier testing revealed an extensive Native American component. We gathered some really great data and look forward to sharing more.

### Windy Ridge

We closed the season at Windy Ridge, which you can read more about on page 3. Sadly, we bid farewell to Will Kane on his last project but not before surveying east and south of the quarry where we found some large workshops and also areas with little to no artifacts. It was a great way to end our 2023 field season!

*Left: The peeled tree crew atop Chimney Rock National Monument. Top right: The initial wire framework mesh produced for the 3D model. Bottom right: A still image of the final 3D model that can be measured and viewed from any angle.*



## 2023 by the Numbers

53

*Volunteers*

2,936

*Volunteer Hours*

\$100,900

*Labor Value*

# PCRG Members' Activities

Rob Bozell

Much of 2023 was spent slowly chipping away at some old excavation reports and working on the text for a book on Nebraska archeology to be published by History Nebraska in early 2025. The volume is being developed with fellow PCRG member Courtney Ziska and the general interested public is the target audience. Hopefully it will be of some interest to the professional community as well. I am also working part-time on various small-scale cultural resource management projects in eastern Nebraska and northern Kansas. These are mostly pipeline repairs and transportation improvement projects. Although retired, it is fun to still be able to get out and wander around fields and stream valleys looking for archaeological sites.

Identification and analysis of animal bone is always enjoyable. Carl Falk (PCRG Vice

President) and I revised an old manuscript on bone from the Deadwood, South Dakota Chinatown District after incorporating additional samples. Similarly, I added datasets and significantly updated a report on fauna from the Kansas Monument site (14RP1), an early 1800s Pawnee village in north-central Kansas. That project is under the overall direction of Mary Adair and Jack Hofman.

Travel in 2023 included a wonderful Plains Anthropological Conference in Rapid City. I took an afternoon and toured Historic Deadwood. It was fun to see some of the areas of this historic town as they relate to our ongoing work with Chinatown faunal remains. My wife and I also spent a few days in Mexico City over Thanksgiving. The National Museum of Anthropology and Teotihuacan were absolute highlights. It's fun to enjoy amazing places and objects I had only seen in textbooks during my younger days.

Carl R. Falk

The past year was a busy one, personally and professionally. On the latter front, I concluded an analysis of vertebrate materials from PCRG's 2021 investigation of Harmon Village, a late eighteenth-century occupation overlooking Square Butte Creek and the Missouri River floodplain in central North Dakota. The recovered sample is noteworthy due in part to the near-absence of bison bone (2.3 percent of the identified assemblage) and the comparative abundance of specimens representing a variety of fish, birds, and small- and medium-sized mammals. The scarcity of bison is striking and a remarkable contrast to faunal assemblages reported from virtually every village community throughout the region. The Harmon investigation is detailed in PCRG Research Contribution 126.



**Bozell:** *Visting Teotihuacan. Note: the contour of this pyramid was intentionally built to mirror the mountains in the background.*

In addition to Harmon, major blocks of time were directed toward examination of vertebrate materials from PCRG's 2019 and 2021 investigation of Awatixa (Sakakawea) Village, Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site. Analysis of a diverse assemblage of fish, bird, and mammal remains was completed in 2023 and final project reports are anticipated in 2024.

Other activities in 2023 included review of contributions to a final report on PCRG's 2021 investigation of the Holt Canyon site in Baca County, Colorado. In addition to work with Mark Mitchell and Chris Johnston in Broomfield, collaborations with PCRG members Rob Bozell, Dale Henning, Craig Johnson, and Paul Picha have continued in areas of shared interest. Finally, I was privileged to serve as PCRG's Vice President for the past year and as a member of our organization's Board of Directors.

Amy Gillaspie

Hello PCRG Members! I hope you are all well. I'm glad to share that 2023 was a wonderful year for me! I continued working with volunteers and my colleague Natalie Patton on organizing and rehousing the Jones-Miller bison kill collection at Denver Museum of Nature & Science (DMNS). We had the help of 35 volunteers sharing an astounding 3,330 hours of their time helping to catalog 32,780 *Bison antiquus* bones, charcoal, shell, lithics, and other objects from the site. The collection, excavated between 1972-1975, had been at the Smithsonian on a long-term loan from DMNS with Principal Investigator Dennis Stanford, and returned to DMNS in 2017. This year, we also conducted additional studies, including radiocarbon dating, macrobotanical analysis, and preliminary lithic analyses. In December, I started working with two master's students from the University of Colorado who

will conduct zooarchaeological analyses and thesis research on the collection.

Additionally, I was invited to join the Paisajes Arqueológicos de Pañamarca project as Project Archaeologist in the Napeña Valley in northern Peru. The project leaders and their team, including Peruvian archaeologist Jessica Ortiz Zevallos, Lisa Trever of Columbia University, and Michele Koons of Denver Museum of Nature & Science, have been working at the Moche site of Pañamarca, exposing, recording, conserving, and reburying murals and painted pillars. In 2023, I assisted in excavating a pillared room adjacent to the main plaza. The work was fascinating. We will return in the following years. To learn more, visit [www.panamarca.org](http://www.panamarca.org).



*Gillaspie: Michele, Alex, Amy, Dionisio, Justo, and Jose working at Pañamarca, summer 2023.*

Pete Gleichman

We continued the high-density digital scanning project on Cedar Mesa, Utah for the BLM. Native Cultural Services in conjunction with True Position Surveying – Nevada conducted scans of cliff dwellings using a Trimble X7, which does 500,000 survey points/second, creating a point

# PCRG Members' Activities



**Gleichman:** A Navajo wickiup found during the Cedar Mesa scanning project.

cloud of many million survey points. The point cloud produces extremely accurate 3D images and plan views. For the spring excursion we were joined by Curtis Martin of the Wickiup Project, and somehow managed to locate a Navajo Wickiup on a hike into a side canyon off Butler Wash. Scans were completed of Ceremonial Cave, Ballroom, Mudhouse, and Fishmouth. The fall expedition was centered on exploring Slickhorn Canyon.

Other efforts in 2023 were focused on compiling and editing chapters for the Swallow site report, scheduled to be completed and published in 2024.

Craig Johnson

My 2023 archaeological activities involved several projects. In May, a small PCRG crew consisting of Ken and JoAnn Kvamme, Will Kane, Mark Mitchell, and me completed a magnetometer survey of the Sommers site (39ST56), a very large Initial Middle Missouri Plains Village site located 30 miles east of Pierre, South Dakota along the Missouri River reservoir of Lake Sharpe. Results indicate that a village of about 14 houses, encompassed within

a fortification ditch, expanded to include an additional 86 houses located outside of the ditch. Evidence for this includes a house superimposed over one section of the ditch and substantial amounts of cultural material at many locations in the ditch.

In August, I volunteered for the third PCRG season at the Windy Ridge site complex in Colorado. The field work focused on a pedestrian survey to find new lithic scatter sites and verify the location of previously recorded ones. The weather cooperated, but at the end of each day I was tired, having walked 3-5 miles.

I continued to work on my various Missouri River Plains Village site reports, all involving the manual transfer of information on numerous fauna ID sheets recorded in the 1950s by Theodore White to computer databases. One of these reports is on the Sully site (39SL4), which is nearing completion and will be published in the *Plains Anthropologist* in the fall of 2024. My paper describing my involvement in the 1971 joint University of Nebraska/University of Minnesota field school excavations in southwest Minnesota was published in 2023 in *The Minnesota Archaeologist*. The field school was under the overall direction of Dale Henning.



**Johnson:** Transferring information from fauna ID sheets from computer on left to another on right.

Will Kane

Ahoy, PCRG friends! I moved to Washington State this fall. I am living in a small town on the Kitsap Peninsula called Poulsbo, across the Puget Sound from Seattle.

Three miles down the road from my house Chief Sealth (aka Seattle) is buried. If you ever find yourself in this neck of the woods, it is a deeply moving site to visit and, whether as a refresher after some years or for the first time, his famous speech is well worth the short read. It can be found on the Suquamish Tribe's website. It has been a poignant but rich source of reflection as I begin to settle into the Pacific Northwest. (And if you do find yourself in the area, please reach out!)

I have taken a non-archaeology job as a field technician position in the world of post-harvest agriculture for the time being. I am learning about international logistics, the storage of perishable goods (from the plant sciences side), and practicing some Spanish language skills. I hope to make the most of these experiences and take what I learn back to the field of archaeology as soon as possible. Meanwhile, I am enjoying the pace of life in the rainy, sleepy little town where I live and looking forward to the summer and the sunshine. Wishing all PCRG members a happy 2024 and a great field season!

Chris and Allison Kerns

I (Chris) continue to work for TMHC Inc. based out of London, Ontario where I was recently promoted to Archaeological Special Projects Lead. This role will see me transitioning away from my past role as a report writer and having me manage those complicated, different, and sometimes difficult projects that come into our office, including developing archaeological management plans for local municipalities.

Last summer I was elected President of the London Chapter of the Ontario Archaeological Society (OAS) and I have been slowly working on reinvigorating the chapter. I have a new board of directors and we're in the initial stages of developing a research program for the Chapter. Starting this spring we're going to be doing some fieldwalking targeting some of the blank spots in the local area where few, if any, sites have been recorded. It will involve working with local Indigenous communities, landowners, and (hopefully) some students from Western (Ontario) University. We're hoping to build a base of volunteers and avocational archaeologists so we can take on some more exciting excavations in the future. If anyone ventures this way and you want to participate in some fieldwork, please feel free to get in touch!

I am continuing as one of the editors of the *Proceedings of the 2021 Annual Symposium of the Ontario Archaeological Society*. We're hoping to finally get this publication wrapped up this year! Finally, in the fall I had the opportunity to present some of my research at the Neolithic Studies Group meeting at the British Museum in London, England. It was a fun talk on how the local community has driven archaeological research in the Orkney Islands Scotland. The talk was recorded and is available on YouTube.

Allison is currently on maternity leave from her job at the National Trust for Canada where she is the Manager of Communications and Public Affairs. The National Trust is an independent charity that works to empower communities to protect and renew heritage places.

Elizabeth Lynch

Greetings from Portales, New Mexico. This past year has seen many exciting changes in my research AND teaching application. I've moved

# PCRG Members' Activities

from my post-doctoral/adjunct position at the University of Wyoming to an Assistant Professor position in Applied Archaeology at Eastern New Mexico University. I was also awarded a four-month Fulbright to The Bahamas to teach in the Sociology Department and expand research efforts of the Natural Infrastructure for Caribbean Resilience (grant) on Grand Bahama.

The Hell Gap National Historic Landmark digital collections, where I've been conducting post-doctoral work in digital archiving, is thriving. As we near the end of the Save America's Treasures Grant, we have digitized more than 10,000 maps, 3,000 slides and 5,000 photographs from all periods of excavation since 1960. We've also begun to upload the content through the University of Wyoming libraries page: <https://rb.gy/uw35wu>. All the field reports since the 1990s are available, and we should soon have all the field director notebooks uploaded soon. We now have 3D models of most of the critical artifacts from the site, although it may be a bit before these are available directly to the public. In the meantime, those interested can contact Dr. Marcel Kornfeld ([anpro1@uwyo.edu](mailto:anpro1@uwyo.edu)) or myself ([Elizabeth.m.lynnch@enmu.edu](mailto:Elizabeth.m.lynnch@enmu.edu)) for more information.

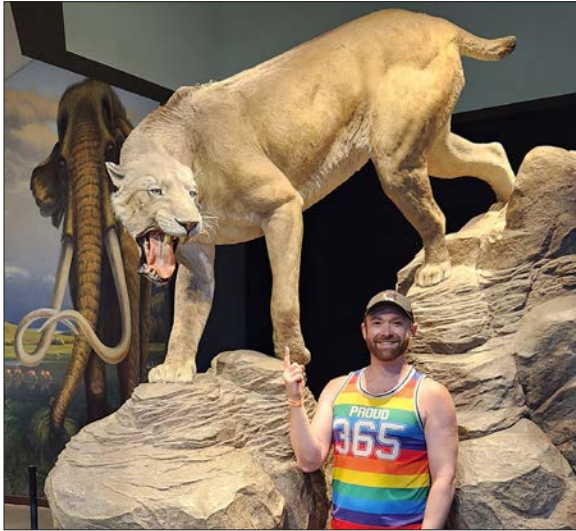
For the Fulbright, I will be working with the University of The Bahamas North faculty to teach ethnographic methods related to citizen science and community outreach. We are interested in how the community perceives scientific research and resource recovery conducted after the devastating effects of Hurricane Dorian in 2019. Our research is part of a wider focus on resilient communities on Grand Bahama.

I am excited about joining the ENMU community, although I still feel connected with the one I leave behind in Laramie. My research on High Plains bedrock ground stone features continues. I've just published (Winter 2024)

an article on the features at Trincheras Cave for *Southwestern Lore* that presents some 3D models but also a brief comparison with features described in my previous research. I've been privileged to mentor a McNair Scholar and UWyo Honors College Student, whose current research builds upon methods and descriptions published in my 2021 book. As researchers continue to describe and analysis these features, I am hopeful bedrock ground stone research will contribute greatly to our understanding of ancient lifeways on the Plains.

Obi Oberdier

Hi y'all, this is Obi Oberdier. I volunteered for several sessions with PCRG in 2018, and have been working full time in cultural resources management ever since! This year, I worked as a staff archaeologist at Alpine Archaeological Consultants. I got to excavate in Utah (where I encountered several scorpions!), and I surveyed in Colorado, Wyoming, Minnesota, Montana, and Oklahoma. I was a contributing author on eight technical reports, including my first-ever lead authorship. I also had exciting opportunities to visit the Mammoth Site in South Dakota and the La Brea Tar Pits in California (where I took this picture with the *Smilodon*). I earned my drone pilot's license in January, and have since documented several NRHP-nominated places using aerial photography. Despite all of these "roses," I also experienced the terrible "thorn" of personal loss this year, including the recent loss of my father. I'm ready to embrace the year 2024, and all the new opportunities and challenges that it brings. I was accepted into the Maya Research Program field school in Belize, and I've been working on grad school applications. Good luck to all my PCRG friends! I hope to see you at the CCPA, Pecos, and Plains conferences.



**Oberdier:** Hanging with the Smilodon at the La Brea Tart Pits.

Stephen Perkins

I completed my twenty-first year as the sole anthropologist in the Department of Sociology at Oklahoma State University. Our little program (Sociology with an Anthropology emphasis B.A. degree) continually grows in student enrollment through campus and online courses. Lately, PCRG working with North Dakota's Three Affiliated Tribes and SHSND have provided wonderful fieldwork opportunities for our undergrads at the Hidatsa village sites of Molander (2018) and Awatixa (2019). Covid and scheduling conflicts prevented participation in 2020-2023, but a new batch of OSU students are eagerly lining up for PCRG's June 2024 High Plains project in southeastern Colorado at Chancellor Ranch. We'll be teaming with UCCS faculty and students, and under the direction of PCRG's Chris Johnston. Can't wait!

In related news, in October of 2023 I served as the officiant at a beautiful wedding in Ada, OK. The bride and groom, Kaitlyn Tingle and

Dylan Lambert, met each other on PCRG's field project at Awatixa in 2019. I was honored to officiate.

In 2023, research with my University of Oklahoma colleagues pivoted west to revisit the fifteenth-century Caddoan sites of Duncan (34WA2) & Edwards I (34BK2) near Elk City, Oklahoma. We presented our initial ideas in Rapid City at the Plains Conference.

The year ended with news that our (S. Trabert, S. Perkins, R. Drass, S. Vehik., and S. Savage) book project, *The Deer Creek Site: A Mid-Eighteenth-Century Fortified Wichita Village on the American Southern Great Plains*, will be published by British Archaeological Reports (BAR Publishing). I'm sure it will be found everywhere fine books are sold.

Paul R. Picha

As the title of the famous blues song records, "As the Years Go Passing By," 2023 aptly fulfilled that characterization. Revisiting research, reading and listening to classics, and remembering colleagues were goals and expectations that were at least partially met. Fortunately, this agenda was helped along by the likes of John Steinbeck's *The Log from the Sea of Cortez*, the Grateful Dead's *Live at RFK Stadium 6/10/73*, and New Order's *Substance 1987*.

I continued with PCRG-coordinated research on shell remains from Plains Village sites in North Dakota (Harmon Village, Sakakawea (Awatixa) Village, and Ben Standing Soldier) and their South Dakota counterparts—Sommers Village.

Coincidentally, 'Twenty-twenty-three-2023' coincided with my forty-five-year anniversary of involvement in Middle Missouri archaeology. I am forever grateful and have many people to thank for these being the best years of my life—you know who you are!

# PCRG Members' Activities

## Kim Field Honored with 2023 DMNS Akerley Award

Given primarily for service in anthropology, the Robert L. Akerley Award honors the irreplaceable keeper of the keys and everything else at DMNS. Bob cared for the museum and its contents for over 50 years, becoming part of the Museum's personality and spirit. Longtime curators say every time you find something really cool in the museum, there's a little trail back to Bob.

Kim "had the absolute gift and privilege to have skulked around the museum with Bob, hearing his stories and sharing some of his secrets. I absolutely loved him. I know and have worked with several past recipients of the Akerley award, and am humbled to be among their number. I am quite honored and proud to receive this award."

Kim began volunteering in 2004 in the anthropology department, where she works with museum collections. Kim also interviews prospective volunteers and documents the stories of long-serving DMNS volunteers. She recalls thinking on her first day of volunteering at the museum, "I can't believe they're letting me do this!" (Like how it feels to participate

in projects with PCRG!) In her nearly 20 years at the museum, Kim has made lifelong friends and met fascinating scientists and scholars. The Akerley award is a miniature bronze cast of the bronze grizzly bear and cub statue that has graced the museum entrance since 1930.

Congratulations, Kim, on this well-deserved honor!



*Steve Nash (Senior Curator of Archaeology and Director of Anthropology), Kim Field, and George Sparks (DMNS President and CEO).*

### Donate to PCRG

As a 501(c)(3), your donation to PCRG is tax deductible and is used to support state-of-the-art archaeological research and education in the Great Plains and Rocky Mountains.

Donations can come in all types and sizes:

- One-time donations through our website
- Gifts of stock or similar assets
- Employer matching programs
- Legacy gifts through your estate