

Table of Contents

List of Figures	v
List of Tables.....	ix
Acknowledgments.....	xi
Introduction	1
Chapter I. An Historical Outline of the Archaeology of the Snake River Plain.....	5
Chapter II: The Natural Setting.....	11
Chapter III: The Ethnographic Context	15
Chapter IV: Snake River Plain Chronologies.....	23
Chapter V: Holocene Environmental Change on the Eastern and Western Snake River Plains	27
Holocene Environments of the Eastern Snake River Plain.....	27
Holocene Environments of the Western Snake River Plain	29
Chapter VI: Paleoindian Traditions	31
Early Discoveries at Wilson Butte Cave	32
The Clovis Subperiod	34
Possible Clovis Age Materials from Jaguar Cave	35
The Simon Clovis Site	36
Pleistocene Age Deposits at Kelvin's Cave.....	37
The Buhl Burial: An Early Paleoindian Woman	38
Diversion Dam Cave: A Paleoindian Site Near Boise, Idaho?.....	40
The Folsom Subperiod	41
Folsom Points and Elephants at the Wasden Site (Owl Cave)	42
The Western Stemmed Tradition.....	43
Summary	45
Chapter VII: The Archaic Period	47
Early Archaic Components.....	48
Eastern Snake River Plain	49
Early Archaic Assemblages at Bison and Veratic Rockshelters.....	49
Jackknife Cave	51
Hunting at Malad Hill.....	53
Early Archaic Bison Hunting at the Wasden Site (Owl Cave)	54
Weston Canyon	55

Early Archaic Deposits at Jimmy Olsen Rockshelter	57
Wilson Butte II Assemblage.....	58
Rock Creek: Little Lake Technology Upland Land Use	58
Middle and Late Archaic Components at Milner Rockshelter (10-JE-47), Southern Idaho.....	60
Western Snake River Plain.....	61
Early Holocene (Archaic) Occupations at the Hetrick Site	61
Bachman Cave.....	63
Summary	65
Chapter VIII: The Middle Archaic Period.....	67
Eastern Snake River Plain	67
The Dean Site: Human Occupations on Brown's Bench.....	67
Kueney Site: Little Lake Technology and Mussel Collecting in the South Hills	69
Warm Creek Spring: A Prehistoric Lithic Workshop.....	70
Bobcat, Scaredy Cat and Tomcat Caves: Evidence of Prehistoric Cold Storage on the Eastern Snake River Plain.....	70
Middle Archaic Occupations in Willow Creek Canyon	74
Western Snake River Plain	75
Middle Archaic Components at Nahas Cave	75
Dry Creek Rockshelter	78
Midvale and Mesa Hill: Evidence of Lithic Quarrying	80
Early Middle Archaic Components at 10-OE-128 and 10-OE-129.....	80
Danskin Rockshelter.....	81
Middle and Late Archaic House Structures at Givens Hot Springs.....	85
Middle Archaic Occupations in the Payette River Drainage	89
Montour: A Middle Archaic House	89
Horseshoe Bend.....	90
The Western Idaho Archaic Burial Complex: Evidence of Hunter-Gatherer Social Differentiation	91
Test Excavations at 10-OE-2296: A Possible House Structure Near Hammett	94
Summary	96
Chapter IX: The Late Archaic Period.....	97
Western Snake River Plain	97
Jump Creek Cave.....	100
Big Foot Bar	101
Excavations at Site 10-AA-15	103
The Midden Site	104
Archaeological Test Excavations at Swan Falls (10-AA-17)	106
Cromwell: A Mussel Collecting Station.....	107
Archaeological Test Excavations at 10-CN-1	107
Archaeological Excavations at 10-CN-5	112
The Archaeology of Site 10-CN-6.....	114

Archaeological Investigations at Bonus Cove Ranch.....	117
Schellbach Cave No. 1: A Late Archaic Fishing Cache	118
Activity Area Archaeology in the Birds of Prey Natural Conservation Area....	121
Archaeological Investigations at 10-EL-392	122
Site 10-EL-438	125
Test Excavations at the Medbury Site Near Hammett.....	126
Three Island Crossing: A Fishing Station on the Middle Snake River	129
Three Island Crossing and Prehistoric Salmon Fishing	137
Archaeological Excavations at the Knox and Swenson and King Hill Creek Sites.....	143
Clover Creek.....	153
Archaeology of Site 10-EL-15	154
Archaeology of Site 10-EL-216	157
Late Archaic Prehistory of the Hagerman Valley.....	161
Bliss: Late Archaic Occupations in the Eastern Hagerman Valley	161
10-TF-352.....	165
Hagerman National Fish Hatchery Locality	166
Early to Late Archaic Components at the Crutchfield Site.....	169
Burials and Funerary Practices on the Snake River Plain.....	171
Middle and Late Archaic Occupations at Lydle Gulch	177
Late Archaic Prehistory of the Owyhee Uplands	179
Camas Creek II-III Phase Settlement Pattern	179
Five Fingers and "Y" Buffalo Jumps: Possible Middle and Late Archaic Bison Hunting in the Eastern Owyhee Country?	184
Eastern Snake River Plain	185
The Dietrich Phase at Wilson Butte Cave: Late Archaic Evidence of a Possible Fremont Presence on the Snake River Plain?.....	185
Kanaka Rapids.....	193
Kwahadu Rockshelter.....	193
Pence-Duerig Cave: Evidence of Perishable Material Culture	194
Milner Rockshelter	198
Bison Heights: A Late Holocene Bison Kill Site?.....	200
Late Archaic Occupations at Aviator's Cave	201
Baker Caves I and III: Late Archaic Bison Hunting on the Eastern Snake River Plain	203
Excavations at Raptor and Roadside Caves.....	208
Rock Springs: Late Archaic Evidence of Bison and Pronghorn Procurement.....	209
Wahmuza: Late Archaic Shoshonean Occupations in the Fort Hall Bottoms.....	210
Middle and Late Archaic Occupations at Corn Creek and Dagger Falls: Great Basin Culture in the Northern Rocky Mountains.....	213
Late Archaic Horizons at Meadow Creek Rockshelter.....	215
Bobcat Rockshelter.....	216
Cottontail Shelter.....	217
Prehistoric Site Structure at Poison Creek	218

Ashtrap Rockshelter	219
Kitty's Hot Hole	221
Columbet Creek Rockshelter.....	222
Hemmert: Late Archaic Fishing In Southeastern Idaho	225
The Archeology of Trapper Cliff Shelter	226
Standing Rock Overhang.....	230
Summary	252
Chapter X: Protohistoric and Early Historic Archaeology of the Snake River Plain.....	257
17 th Through 19 th Century Occupations at Bliss.....	259
18 th and 19 th Century Occupations at Wahmuza.....	265
Historic Challis Bison Jump	265
Archaeology of the Bear River Massacre Site.....	267
Summary	268
Chapter XI: Summary	269
References Cited	271
Index	317

List of Figures

Figure 1.	Map showing Snake River Plain.....	12
Figure 2.	Map showing location of ethnographic villages on the Eastern Snake River Plain.....	16
Figure 3.	Chart showing major chronologies of the Snake River Plain.....	24
Figure 4.	Projectile point chronology.....	25
Figure 5.	Chart summarizing climatic, ecological, geological and cultural changes in the Upper Snake and Salmon River country.....	28
Figure 6.	Map showing distribution of Paleoindian sites on the Snake River Plain.....	32
Figure 7.	Sketch of Wilson Butte Cave with associated artifacts.....	33
Figure 8.	Jaguar Cave during original excavations.....	35
Figure 9.	The Simon Site Clove cache.....	37
Figure 10.	Folsom points from Southeastern Idaho.....	41
Figure 11.	The Wasden site.....	42
Figure 12.	a-l. Haskett points from the type locality.....	44
Figure 13.	Map showing location of early archaic sites on the Snake River Plain.....	49
Figure 14.	Cross-section of the deposits at Bison Rockshelter.....	50
Figure 15.	Jackknife Cave.....	52
Figure 16.	a-r, Late Plano points from Wasden found in association with 8000-year-old <i>Bison antiquus</i>	55
Figure 17.	Projectile point types. a-f, Little Lake series; g-j, Weston Canyon Rockshelter; k-m, Rock Creek.....	59
Figure 18.	Bachman Cave.....	64
Figure 19.	Map showing location of Middle Archaic sites on the Snake River Plain.....	68
Figure 20.	a-i, Humboldt and Pinto Series projectile points from Kueney site.....	69
Figure 21.	Plan view of Area A, Bobcat Cave with sagebrush and juniper feature.....	71
Figure 22.	Antler tines <i>in situ</i> at Bobcat Cave (after Henrikson 1996).....	72
Figure 23.	Nahas Cave.....	76
Figure 24.	a-i, Elko points from Nahas Cave.....	77
Figure 25.	Danskin test excavations in 1989.....	82
Figure 26.	House No. 1, 10-OE-1689 at Givens Hot Springs.....	86
Figure 27.	Map showing the distribution of sites with residential structures.....	88
Figure 28.	Profile of house structure at 10-GM-61	90
Figure 29.	a-q, Diagnostic artifacts from the Western Idaho Burial Complex	93
Figure 30.	Map showing the location of Late Archaic sites on the Snake River Plain.....	98
Figure 31.	Plan view of Big Foot Bar structure.....	102
Figure 32.	Photo of Feature 1, site 10-CN-1.....	108
Figure 33.	Block excavation at 10-CN-5.....	112

Figure 34.	Stone lined fire hearth, Feature 4, 10-CN-6.....	115
Figure 35.	Map showing distribution of faunal remains.....	117
Figure 36.	Selected Artifacts from Schellbach Cave	120
Figure 37.	Overview of Three Island Crossing.	129
Figure 38.	Storage features 7a and 7b at Three Island structure.....	130
Figure 39.	Plan map of Three Island structure.	131
Figure 40.	a-1, Stemmed and large flake knives.	133
Figure 41.	a-d, Pipe fragments; e-f, Incised rodent incisors	134
Figure 42.	Hearth feature, Knox site.	144
Figure 43.	Block excavation at 10-EL-215.	155
Figure 44.	Excavation of purported “Fremont” house. Dashed line delineates area of depression.....	160
Figure 45.	Major block excavation at Bliss.	162
Figure 46.	a-f, Knives and end scrapers from the Bliss site	163
Figure 47.	a-d, Southern Idaho Plain pottery from the Bliss site.....	164
Figure 48.	Distribution of artifacts and cultural debris from Feature 1	167
Figure 49.	a-l, Shell ornaments from Rattlesnake Canyon.	175
Figure 50.	Stratigraphic profile, Lydle Gulch.	177
Figure 51.	Owyhee Uplands chronology chart.....	179
Figure 52.	Catchment model for Camas Creek.	181
Figure 53.	Hypothetical settlement model for the Owyhee Uplands.....	183
Figure 54.	Shoshone ware (from Butler 1983).	186
Figure 55.	Great Salt Lake Gray ware from Wilson Butte Cave.	187
Figure 56.	Great Salt Lake Gray ware and Promontory ware from near American Falls Reservoir.....	188
Figure 57.	a-g, Painted arrow shafts; h-j, Basketry fragments.	196
Figure 58.	a-b, Moccasins from Pence-Duerig Cave.....	197
Figure 59.	Plan map of Aviator’s Cave	202
Figure 60.	Artifacts from Aviator’s Cave: a, Hair bundle wrapped in sagebrush strips; b, Snare rig fragment.	203
Figure 61.	Interior view of Baker Cave III.	204
Figure 62.	Plan map of Baker Cave III showing cultural and natural features.....	205
Figure 63.	a-o, Small side-notched points from Baker Cave	206
Figure 64.	a-b, Stone pendants; c, Hafted knife	207
Figure 65.	a-b, Stone pipes from Baker Caves	208
Figure 66.	Wahmuza dwellings.....	213
Figure 67.	Artifact chronology at Wahmuza.	214
Figure 68.	Ashtrap Cave.....	219
Figure 69.	a-c, Anthropomorphic figures; d, zoomorphic figurine from Columbet Creek	223
Figure 70.	Representative artifacts from Columbet Creek	224
Figure 71.	West side of Locus 1 house structure with six chokecherry frame posts partially exposed.....	227
Figure 72.	Great Salt Lake Grey jar.	229
Figure 73.	Pictographic rock art at Danskin Rockshelter.	234
Figure 74.	Rock art elements from Pole Creek.....	237

Figure 75.	Anthropomorphic and zoomorphic figures at Camas Creek.....	237
Figure 76.	Fremont-like motifs from southcentral Idaho.	240
Figure 77.	Pole Creek rock alignment.....	242
Figure 78.	Stone “hunting blind” with rock wall.....	243
Figure 79.	Location of major obsidian sources on the Snake River Plain.....	248
Figure 80.	The Rock Creek cache.	250
Figure 81.	Model of Late Archaic settlement.....	253
Figure 82.	Late Archaic material culture	255
Figure 83.	Map showing the location of Protohistoric and Early Historic sites... .	257
Figure 84.	Metal projectile points from the Middle Snake River	258
Figure 85.	Fire hearth associated with the Protohistoric occupation at Bliss.	260
Figure 86.	Feature 4, Bliss site, Area A1.....	261
Figure 87.	Historic Challis Bison Jump.....	266