

## Archaeological Resources

A total of 170 sites have been recorded on the South Unit as of January 26, 2007. Thirty-one sites have historic components, 153 have prehistoric components, for a total of 184 components, which means 14 sites are multi-component and have historic and prehistoric components. The sites consist of 120 lithic scatters, 24 rockshelters, 9 corral sites, 3 cabin sites, 3 prehistoric lithic quarry sites, 3 historic trash scatters, 3 historic campsites, 1 fireplace, 1 guard station, 1 prehistoric hunting blind, 1 tin can scatter, and 1 reported historic trail. This represents a diversity of activity and site types for the region. The historic sites generally represent Anglo cattle grazing at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century or Ute wild horse management. Not represented in this count are several Culturally Modified Trees (CMTs) that have been recorded by avocational archaeologists and reported in Utah Archaeology (DeVed and Loosle 2001), but lack formal IMACS site records, GPS positions and have not been incorporated into the heritage database.

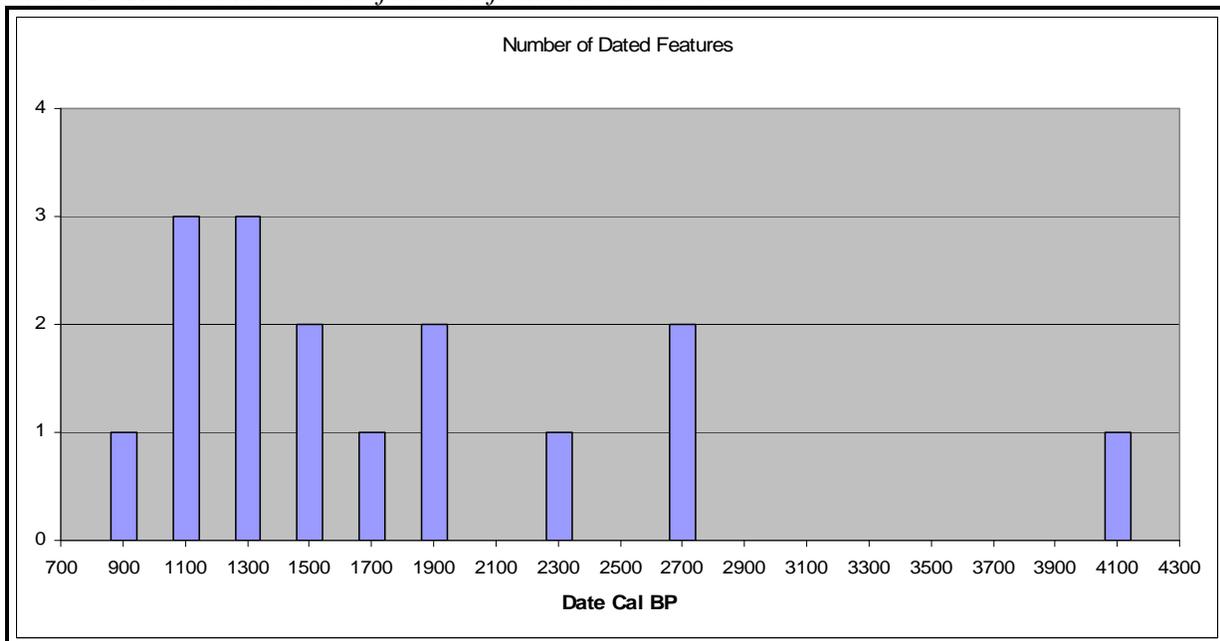
One site, the Indian Canyon Guard Station, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. In addition, 84 other sites are considered eligible for the National Register, 71 sites have been determined to be ineligible for the Register and 14 sites are unevaluated and must be treated as eligible until they can be evaluated. Fifty-three sites were recorded with old forms that have little or no information. Many of these sites were reported as completely collected and may lack field integrity. Forty-three of these sites have been revisited and rerecorded.

The vast majority of sites have been recorded on ridge tops, or ledges, terraces and cliffs near the top of ridges. Only 17 sites have been recorded in the valley bottoms of the region. These canyon bottom sites are predominately historic. Prehistoric sites in the valley bottoms include five lithic scatters, three of which have historic components, a rockshelter, and quarry site. I doubt the valley bottoms were sparsely occupied prehistorically. Perhaps the highly erosive sediments in the region have buried many of the earlier sites, or limited survey in this topographic setting has biased our results. In one area it appeared that cultural differences or activities dictated site placement. In the lower end of Nutter's Ridge area it appeared that early 20<sup>th</sup> century cattle camps were in valley bottoms, while late 19<sup>th</sup> century Ute wild horse corrals were on ridge tops. However, we have not seen this pattern anywhere else in the unit.

There is little vegetation diversity in site placement. Nearly 74% of sites (125) are in pinyon-juniper woodland. Three sites with grass vegetation probably represent treated areas within the woodland. Thirty-seven sites (23%) are in sagebrush (including one rabbitbrush) and represent high elevation sagebrush steppe and low elevation sagebrush in the valley bottoms. Only five sites (two aspen and three mixed conifer) represent occupation beyond the sagebrush and pinyon-juniper. Three of those four sites are historic, and historic sites have the most diversified placement. Most Forest Service management activities have occurred in the pinyon-juniper belt. However, as new prescribed burn and oil and gas survey data has been gathered in the past two to three years relatively few prehistoric sites have been identified beyond this vegetation type. However, a prescribed burn survey in 2007 noted numerous sites and dramatically alters our view of the occupation of the upper elevation sagebrush steppe. There is a clear preference for the pinyon-juniper zone by prehistoric inhabitants of the region. There is an unusual situation in the eastern South Unit, whether from topography or orientation, that the pinyon-juniper zone is extensive and also extends well beyond its typical elevation zone. It is unclear if these factors had influence on prehistoric occupation.

A number of prehistoric sites contain diagnostic artifacts (Appendix 1). Five sites contain Archaic era projectile points, usually McKean or Pinto style. Other sites contain partial points that might be Archaic, but are too fragmentary to be certain. Twenty sites contain Elko Series points, usually corner-notched. These points, which are often assumed to be atlatl spear points, occur in the late Archaic through Fremont periods in the Uinta Basin area (Johnson and Loosle 2002:271-273). The abundance of Fremont material culture on the South Unit suggests the majority of Elko points were made during the Fremont era. As further illustration of this, two Elko points were found on sites with other Archaic points, four Elko points were found on sites with other Fremont diagnostic artifacts, and an additional three Elko points were found on sites with Numic artifacts. Sixteen sites contain Fremont diagnostic material. These diagnostics include Rose Spring projectile points (including one Uinta side-notch), Uinta grayware, two-handed manos, trough metates, and Fremont style rock art. Four sites had non-diagnostic arrow point fragments that are from the Late Prehistoric period, either Fremont or Numic. Ten sites contain Numic material culture. The diagnostics include Desert side-notch points, Intermountain brownware, rock art with horse images, and wild horse corrals. Several sites contain multiple occupations, including historic Anglo components. A Cody knife, Late Paleoindian lanceolate points, and a Northern Side-notch projectile point found during the 2007 field season indicate and even greater diversity of occupation.

*Chart 1. Radiocarbon dated features from the South Unit.*



The surface remains suggest the South Unit was occupied for at least the last 8000 years. However, the most visible occupants of the plateau were Fremont era individuals. The Ute are well represented, but at least half of the diagnostic items (rock art and corrals) are associated with the historic period. A limited number of radiocarbon dates from excavations on forest lands buttress this discussion. These dates also show a preponderance of activity during the Fremont era, with more limited activity during the Archaic period (Chart 1). Four of the sixteen dates are from before 2000 years ago (Table 1). However these should not all be considered Archaic because the 2340 BP date at Dc316 is associated with maize and coincides with other early

maize dates from the Uinta region (Loosle 2005a). A surprising absence is that no dates after 900 BP have been obtained. A similar problem occurred in the Uinta Mountains (Johnson and Loosle 2002). Very few dates have been obtained between AD 1450 and 1850 and none of them are associated with diagnostic material culture. So although there are numerous surface finds of Numic material culture, the earliest radiocarbon dated Numic diagnostic items in the Uinta Mountains are only AD 1850. This evidence may suggest a late arrival for Numic occupants. This is one of the questions that needs to be addressed further.

Another interesting pattern is that the South Unit dates peak between 1100 and 1300 Cal BP, while in the Uinta Mountains the occupations peak at 900 Cal BP (Johnson and Loosle 2002:253). The dataset is small enough that no firm conclusion can be drawn, but it does present some interesting possibilities.

*Table 1. Radiocarbon dates from the South Unit.*

Site	FS#	Feature	Conventional 14C BP	1 Sigma	Cal BP (intercept)	Calendar (intercept/s)	Elevation (ft)	Beta#	Type	Year
42Dc316	8	rockshelter Hearth F3, 35-38 bd	1080	70	970	AD 980	7100	203074	std	2005
42Dc1859	78	F7 charcoal layer, R.S. A	1150	50	1060	AD 890	7200	210156	std	2005
42Dc1861	69	F4 hearth, Area A	1200	50	1110	AD 810/ 840/ 860	7350	210161	std	2005
42Dc1211	39.1	rockshelter bedrock hearth	1260	40	1180	AD 770	7000	203079	std	2005
42Dc1424	97.1	storage feature	1290	40	1250	AD 700	8840	175134	ams	2003
42Dc316	3	Square 1 L4, rockshelter Hearth (F4)	1400	50	1300	AD 650	7100	203073	ams	2005
42Dc1861	56	F5 large roasting pit (upper), Area A	1510	60	1390	AD 560	7350	210159	std	2005
42Dc1861	79	F11 hearth, Area A	1570	60	1530	AD 420	4350	210162	std	2005
42Dc1211	23.1	rockshelter Hearth F4	1670	40	1550	AD 400	7000	203077	ams	2005
42Dc1211	27	rockshelter bedrock hearth	1820	40	1730	AD 220	7000	203078	std	2005
42Dc1859	46	F10 hearth, R.S. B	1970	40	1900	AD 40	7200	210155	ams	2005
42Dc1861	57	F13 (lower F5 basin-shaped hearth), Area A	1970	60	1900	AD 40	7350	210160	std	2005
42Dc316	19	rockshelter Hearth F5, 62-68 bd	2300	40	2340	390 BC	7100	203075	std	2005
42Dc1859	95	F4 large pit, R.S. A	2590	40	2740	790 BC	7200	210157	ams	2005
42Dc1861	15	F3 hearth, Area B	2610	60	2750	800 BC	7350	210158	std	2005
42Dc1859	27	F6 hearth, R.S. B	3760	60	4170	2150/2170/2190 BC	7200	210154	std	2005

The site data just outlined is remarkable when contrasted with the amount of the South Unit that has been surveyed for cultural resources. As of January 2007, only 17,629 (8.7%) of the Unit's total 202,123 acres has had on the ground reconnaissance (Table 2). Less than 2% has

had intensive level survey (0 to 15 meter survey interval). The intuitive level inventories generally represent Passport in Time (PIT) projects with volunteers or early surveys where no record of the survey intensity was documented. The PIT surveys were often intensive, but could be quite variable in coverage. Probably over half of the sites recorded to date on the South Unit were documented during these volunteer intuitive surveys. These numbers show there are many more sites yet to be documented.

*Table 2. Inventoried Acres on the South Unit.*

Survey Interval	Acres
0 to 15 meters	3354
15 to 30 meters	3699
30 to 50 meters	3771
50 to 80 meters	575
Intuitive	6230
Total	17,629