

2020 MID-YEAR SCIENCE ADVISORY REPORT

INTRODUCTION

The [Colorado Archaeological Society](#) (CAS) is a non-profit organization committed to the stewardship of archaeological resources in Colorado. We achieve this through public education, research, conservation, advocacy, and enhanced opportunities for responsible participation in archaeology for interested individuals and organizations.

This report summarizes the archaeological research and cultural resource conservation opportunities pursued and reported by CAS chapters and members so far in 2020. The report is compiled by the Science Advisory Committee from project information submitted by CAS chapters and organized in sections aligned with the CAS science interest areas of archaeological survey, excavation, laboratory processing and analysis, experimental archaeology, cultural site stewardship, and cultural resource curation. Within each science interest area, projects are briefly described, associated with participating chapters, and designated by type. Designated project types reflect project sponsorship and fall into one of three possible categories – CAS, Partner, or External. CAS project types are led and conducted by CAS or one of its chapters. Partner projects are conducted under informal or formal partnering agreements between CAS or its chapters and one or more external agency. External projects are those where individual CAS members participate in projects managed by other agencies.

Research projects represent the leading edge of our mission activities; providing opportunities for our members to responsibly participate in generating new knowledge about Colorado's rich cultural heritage. This work provides new data for the archaeological community to analyze and interpret. While research generates new data and knowledge, cultural conservation projects curate Colorado's cultural resources on the landscape, in museums, and in other curation facilities. It preserves these resources and their associated research materials for current and future researchers and the public. It also helps to preserve the living history of descendent populations.

This year, like many other organizations, CAS faces challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and associated necessary restrictions aimed at its control. Indoor laboratory and curation projects are particularly hard hit. Despite this, members are currently and safely conducting 10 projects while complying with public health guidelines. These projects are reported here.

The 10 archaeological research and conservation projects conducted so far this year involve 65 members contributing a total of 2,251 hours. This compares to 18 projects involving 96 members contributing 2,411 hours at this point last year. This represents reductions of 44% in the number of projects, 32% in the number of volunteers, and 7% in the number of hours donated by our members compared to last year at this time. Despite these COVID-19 driven reductions in the totals, donated time per project and per member have actually gone up so far this year.

Of our 10 projects, two are survey projects with 12 members contributing 416 hours, two are excavation projects with 13 volunteers contributing 847 hours, one is a lab project with 20 members contributing 355 hours, one is an experimental archaeology project with one member contributing 74 hours, one is a site stewardship project with 21 members contributing 374 hours, and three are curation projects with 6 members contributing 185 hours. With regard to type, two

projects are CAS-managed projects, while 8 are managed by external organizations. We have no partnership projects to report at this time.

PROJECT SUMMARIES

The remainder of this report summarizes projects reported by our chapters so far in 2020. The projects are organized by science area and provide a brief project description along with information on the project type, participating chapters, and points of contact. We conclude each science area section by listing project partners and sponsors and member participation data.

Survey Projects

Chapters report conducting, or member participation in, two survey projects so far this year. One long-term project includes a sequence of multiple surveys. These surveys are described below.

Mesa Verde Region Survey ([Hisatsinom](#): Chapter Project). This year Hisatsinom continues its Mesa Verde Region Survey Project started in 2008. To protect members and comply with COVID-19 driven public health guidelines, this year the survey team changed its procedures to include distancing, masks, and sanitation measures when on survey. The project consists of a series of pedestrian surveys to record and date the prehistoric and historic archaeological surface record on private land holdings in the Mesa Verde Region while educating landowners about the importance of preservation archaeology. No collections are made, and all artifacts are identified and recorded in the field. The team uses diagnostic pottery artifacts and a Bayesian model developed by Ortman, et al, to estimate dates of site occupations. Through the end of June this year, a team of 10 members have conducted 8 outings on one extended survey. Also, this year, the team lead, Bob McBride, assisted by Diane McBride, completed and submitted site forms and other documentation along with a CD to the Colorado State Archaeologist and the property owner for a survey completed at the end of last year. During the current survey, the team has surveyed 227 acres, recording 19 new sites and 3,092 artifacts. Through the years the team has recorded prehistoric habitations, check dams, pottery and lithic scatters, points, field houses, rock art, and camps. Historic recordings include farm houses, barns, trash dumps, flumes, and root cellars. Cultural affiliations include Ute, Navajo, Paleo Indian, Archaic, Basketmaker, the Pueblo sequence through Pueblo III, and early homesteaders. Required Colorado state recording forms, maps, scaled site drawings and photos are submitted to the [Office of the State Archaeologist](#) and entered in the Compass database for use by qualified researchers. When ten or more sites are recorded on a property, a bound summary report is prepared to address community formation processes and population estimates through time. The team provides copies of these summary reports to the landowner and to the Canyon of the Ancients Visitor Center and Museum and Crow Canyon Archaeological Center libraries. These reports guide landowners in developing their land including the placement of buildings, roads, underground utilities, irrigation and land clearing operations so as to avoid disturbing or damaging sensitive sites. Some landowners have contacted the Archaeology Conservancy looking to place their land in the Conservancy. Most now preserve their sites as personal outdoor museums for future generations. For more information contact [Bob McBride](#).

CANM Solstice Project ([Hisatsinom](#): External Project). Two CAS members, Ross and Maiya Gralia, working as volunteers at the Canyons of the Ancients National Monument, observe and photograph petroglyphs at sites on the Monument to determine if sunlight-shadows interact with panel elements during the 2020 Summer Solstice period. This survey confirms prior observations

of interactions during an ongoing series of Solstice and Equinox photo surveys conducted over the last two years. These surveys are part of a continuing larger research project at Canyons of the Ancients National Monument led by Dr. Radoslaw Palonka of the Jagiellonian University, Krakow, Poland. The project is overseen by Vince MacMillan, the BLM Canyons of the Ancients National Monument Archaeologist. Contact [Ross and Maiya Gralia](#) for more information.

Survey data summary for all participating chapters:

Surveyors: 12

Pedestrian Surveys: 1 Rock Art Surveys: 0 Photographic Surveys: 1

Hours: 416

Sponsors: Private Landowners, CAS, BLM/CANM, Jagiellonian University

Excavation Projects

CAS members report work on two excavation projects this year. One is currently focused on documenting a prior excavation, while the other is under active excavation. These projects are briefly described below.

Swallow Excavation ([CAS](#): CAS Project). State CAS and Denver CAS have formed an Oversight Committee (OC) to facilitate completion of the Swallow Site report. The OC is gathering the finished chapters and partially completed chapters to determine what analyses remain to be done and determine how the analyses will be completed; organizing the site records and paperwork; and is working with the Denver University Museum on curation of the artifacts and Swallow Site records. The OC consists of avocational CAS members, the Colorado State Archaeologist, and professional archaeologists from academia and cultural resource management firms. Contact [Pete Gleichman](#) for more information on this project.

Wallace Ruin Excavation: ([Hisatsinom](#): External Project). The Wallace Ruin is a multistory, multicomponent, pueblo site located near Cortez, Colorado. It is situated in a valley bottom and is one of several sites that make up the Lakeview community. Two other large sites have been or are being recorded as part of this community: the Ida Jean Site and the Haynie Site. Also present are a number of small hamlets, a reservoir and a Great Kiva. In addition, two non-architectural earth mounds are present southwest of Wallace Ruin that may be road entry features. Two major and one minor construction phases have been identified: Phase 1 circa AD 1040, Phase 2 circa AD 1090, and Phase 3 circa AD 1120. There seems to have been an abandonment of the structure in the mid-1100s and then a reuse of the building in the 13th century (Phase 4). Since 1969, intermittent research excavations and analysis have been supervised by Bruce Bradley and have frequently used volunteers. In 2020, five CAS volunteers are working with Bruce to excavate the site. Field work is now suspended until September to avoid the peak summer heat. Artifact processing continues, however. For more information contact [Karen Kinnear](#).

Excavation data summary for all participating chapters:

Projects: 2

Excavators: 5 Advisors: 8

Hours: 747

Sponsor: CAS, History Colorado/OAHP, Native Cultural Services, Metcalf Archaeological Consultants, PCRG, Front Range Community College, Colorado College, Bruce Bradley

Laboratory Processing & Analysis Projects

CAS members participate in one external laboratory project so far this year. This project is briefly described below.

Northern Chaco Outliers Laboratory ([*Hisatsinom: External Project*](#)). CAS members, working as volunteers in the [Crow Canyon Archaeological Center](#) Research Laboratory, are processing and analyzing artifacts from the Haynie and Wallace sites. Ida Jean, Haynie, and Wallace form the Lakeview Group – a largely Pueblo II multicomponent complex of at least four great houses and a great kiva. Laboratory analysis of artifacts from this complex is part of Crow Canyon's ongoing [Northern Chaco Outliers Project](#). The Wallace artifact analysis is conducted in collaboration with Bruce Bradley. Laboratory operations were largely scaled back in March as a COVID-19 public health measure. For more information contact [Dave Melanson](#).

Laboratory data summary for all participating chapters:

Projects: 1

Analysts: 20

Hours: 355

Sponsors: Crow Canyon Archaeological Center, Bruce Bradley

Experimental Archaeology Projects

Experimental archaeology is a potential growth area for CAS. So far this year, we have a report on one continuing experimental project. A brief description of this project follows.

The Pueblo Farming Project ([*Hisatsinom: External Project*](#)). [The Pueblo Farming Project](#) is a collaboration between the [Crow Canyon Research Institute](#) and the [Hopi Cultural Preservation Office](#), begun in 2006, to understand ancient maize agriculture in the Mesa Verde region through documenting traditional ecological knowledge, experimental gardens, and genetic analysis. The project has produced an [electronic report](#) and [video](#). Field work continues this year. Read Brugger, a CAS member, participates in this project. For more information on CAS member participation in this project contact [Dave Melanson](#).

Experimental archaeology data summary for all participating chapters:

Projects: 1

Experimenters: 1

Hours: 74

Sponsor: Crow Canyon Archaeological Center Research Institute, Hopi Cultural Preservation Office

Site Stewardship Projects

CAS chapters report member participation in one cultural site stewardship program this year. This program is reported below.

Tres Rios Cultural Site Stewardship ([*Hisatsinom: External Project*](#)). The Cultural Site Stewardship Program includes 63 volunteers who monitor 105 sites within the lands of the Tres Rios BLM Field Office, which includes Canyons of the Ancients National Monument. So far this year 21 CAS members serving as site stewards contributed 374 hours monitoring 36 sites.

Stewards attend annual training (which this year was conducted on Zoom due to COVID-19) and take annual baseline photos from which they monitor sites on a prescribed basis (typically every 2 months) for damage caused by humans, animals, or natural causes. Damage can be caused inadvertently by inappropriate visitation, by wildlife or livestock, or by the natural elements taking their toll. Stewards report any vandalism directly to BLM Law Enforcement as well as the Site Steward Manager. Stewards are also encouraged to increase their understanding of Southwest Archaeology through classes and additional volunteer/field work. For more information contact [Diane McBride](#).

Site stewardship data summary for all participating chapters:

Projects: 1

Stewards: 21 Sites: 36

Hours: 374

Sponsors: BLM Tres Rios Field Office, BLM Canyons of the Ancient National Monument, Southwest Colorado Canyons Alliance

Cultural Resource Curation Projects

CAS chapters report work on two curation projects so far this year. These are reported below.

Canyons of the Ancients Visitor Center and Museum Curation ([Hisatsinom](#): External Project). CAS volunteers work at the BLM [Canyons of the Ancients Visitor Center and Museum](#) (CAVM) on projects to improve curation efficiency and availability of collections to researchers. This includes packaging, packing, and cataloging whole ceramics, including bowls, jars, dippers, mugs and other items including the entire [Chappell collection](#) with its research and NAGPRA implications; working with CAVM staff on annual Tribal Consultations; cataloging previously (years and decade's worth) uncatalogued collections of various artifacts, especially projectile points, to increase information and availability to researchers and the public; and generally assisting the CAVM in logistics and emerging scientific techniques in conservation and preservation of both artifacts and landscape features at CAVM and Canyons of the Ancients National Monument. Volunteer CAVM curation work was suspended in March and most volunteer data is not currently accessible. However, two CAS members report contributing 75 hours to document curation prior to closing. For more information contact [Susan Montgomery](#).

Museum of the West ([Grand Junction](#): External Project). A CAS member, Clint Driscoll, curates a backlog of surveys from the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forests (GMUG). Clint contributed 62 hours to this work until volunteer operations were suspended in March. For more information contact [Clint Driscoll](#).

Four Corners Research Collections ([Hisatsinom](#): External Project). Three CAS members spent 48 hours in the 2nd quarter processing artifacts collected at Mitchell Springs and Champagne Spring. This included inventorying and transferring artifacts from bags to numbered and marked boxes. The data was entered into a database; which can be queried to support research projects. For more information contact [Karen Kinnear](#).

Cultural curation data summary for all participating chapters:

Projects: 3

Curators: 6

Hours: 185

Sponsors: BLM/CAVM, Four Corners Research, Museum of the West

Respectfully submitted for the Colorado Archaeological Society's Science Advisory Committee,

[David Melanson](#), Chair