

# Colorado Archaeological Society

## 2020 YEAR-END 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.*

Colorado's rich cultural heritage is a living history that reminds us of who we are and helps us build bridges between our disparate cultural communities. To promote and facilitate this, the Colorado Archaeological Society (CAS) collaborates with like-minded organizations to conduct responsible and respectful archaeological research, conserve existing cultural landscapes and resources, and inform the public of our work and its importance.

Twenty-twenty was a challenging year for us. Although it is now in our rearview mirror, the changes it left behind aren't. The pandemic made it unsafe to gather in groups and conduct our mission, social activities as usual. Consequently, virtual activities are now the norm. Like many other CAS activities, archaeological research and conservation are mostly place-centered, group activities with few virtual participation opportunities. Despite this limitation, many projects adapted to pursue outdoor and selected indoor activities that effectively incorporate state and local public health guidelines. These changes enabled CAS members to conclude a successful year and continue activities into 2021.

This report summarizes the archaeological research and cultural resource conservation opportunities pursued and reported by CAS chapters and members during 2020. The Science Advisory Committee compiles the report from project information submitted by CAS chapters. It organizes submitted information 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. The report briefly describes projects associated with participating chapters within each science interest area and designates each by type. Project types reflect sponsorship and fall into three possible categories – CAS, Partner, or External. CAS or one of its chapters lead and conduct CAS project types. CAS or its chapters jointly manage partner projects with external agencies under informal or formal partnering agreements. Individual CAS members participate in external projects managed by other organizations.

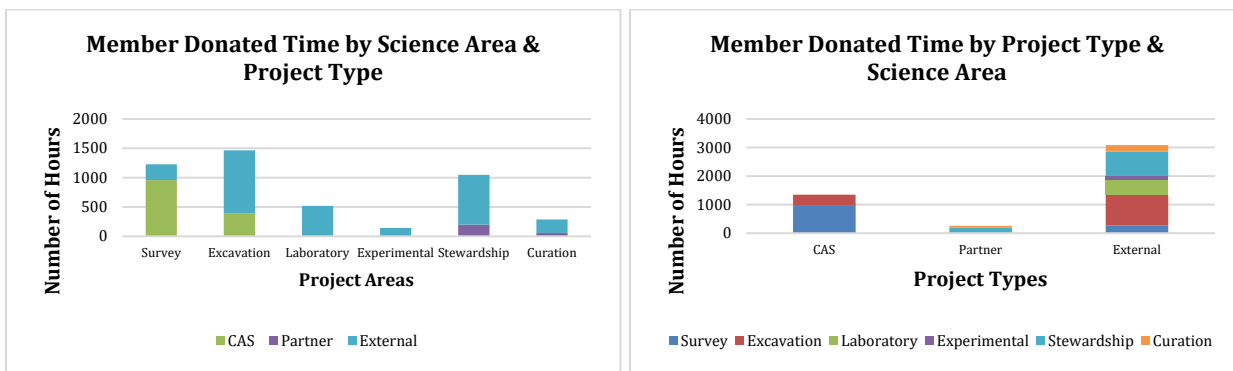
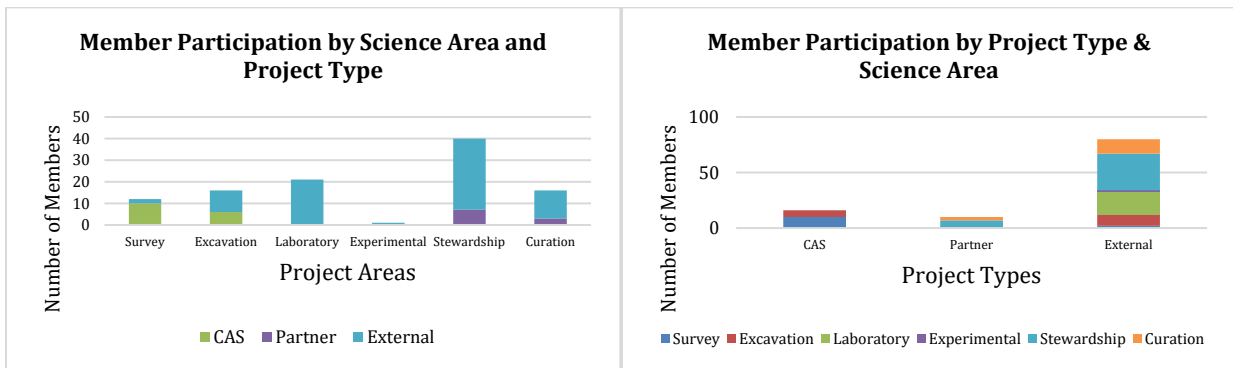
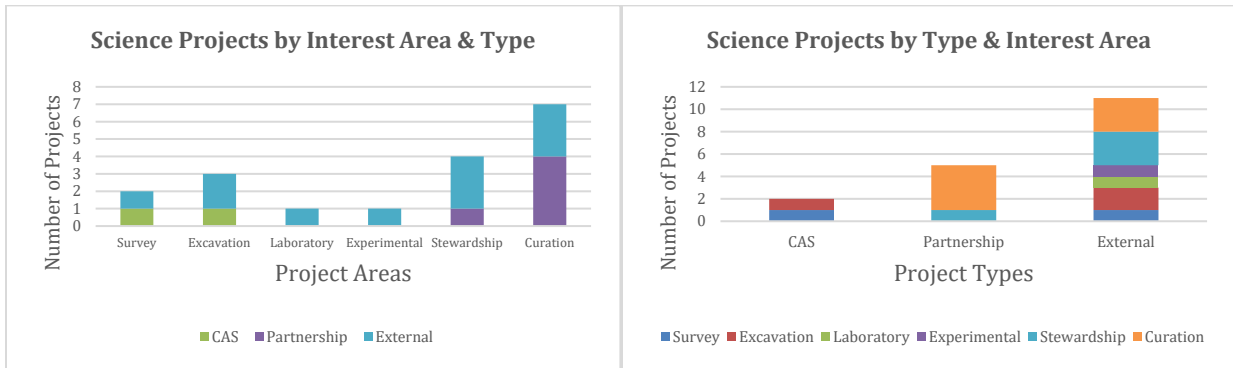
Research projects represent the leading edge of our mission activities, providing opportunities for our members to responsibly participate in generating new knowledge about Colorado's rich cultural heritage. This work provides new data for the archaeological community to analyze and interpret. While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

Pandemic-driven restrictions have hit indoor laboratory and curation projects particularly hard. Despite this, members are currently and safely conducting 19 projects while complying with public health guidelines. We report these projects here.

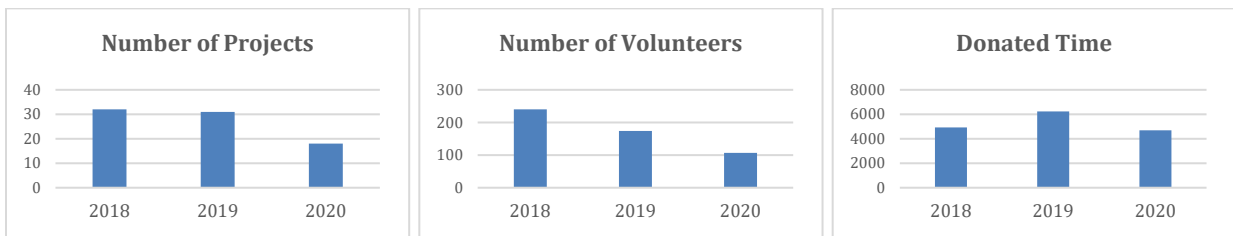
Three of nine chapters report member participation in archaeological research and conservation projects this year. The graphs below summarize the statistics of their contributions.

# Colorado Archaeological Society

## 2020 YEAR-END SCIENCE ADVISORY REPORT



The 18 archaeological research and conservation projects conducted this year involve 107 members contributing 4,691 hours. These statistics compare to 31 projects involving 174 members contributing 6,306 hours last year. This year's contributions represent reductions of 42% in projects, 38% in volunteers, and 26% in hours donated by our members compared to last year. The graphs below show the three-year trend in CAS member science project participation.



The twenty-twenty pandemic makes it challenging to determine definitive trends. However, qualitatively both the number of science projects CAS members participate in and the number of

# Colorado Archaeological Society

## 2020 YEAR-END SCIENCE ADVISORY REPORT

participating members are trending down while, accounting for the 2020 COVID downturn, the time donated seems to be trending up.

Of our 18 projects two are survey projects, with 12 members contributing 1,228 hours. Three are excavation projects with 22 members contributing 1,466 hours. One is a lab project with 21 members contributing 520 hours. One is an experimental archaeology project with one member contributing 141 hours. Four are site stewardship projects with 40 members contributing 1,047 hours. And 7 are curation projects with 16 members contributing 288 hours. Two projects are CAS-managed projects, 5 are partnerships, and external organizations manage 11.

More members participated in cultural site stewardship projects than other interest areas but they spent the most time working on excavation projects.

### PROJECT SUMMARIES

The remainder of this report summarizes projects reported by our chapters in 2020. The projects are organized by science area and provide a brief project description and information on the project type, participating chapters, and contact points. 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 in 2020. One long-term project includes a sequence of multiple surveys. We describe these surveys below.

***Mesa Verde Region Survey ([Hisatsinom: Chapter Project](#))***. This year Hisatsinom continues its Mesa Verde Region Survey Project started in 2008. This year, the survey team changed its procedures to protect members and comply with COVID-19 driven public health guidelines, including distancing, masks, and sanitization measures when on a survey. The project consists of a series of pedestrian surveys to record and date the prehistoric and historic archaeological surface records on private landholdings in the Mesa Verde Region while educating landowners about the importance of preservation archaeology. The survey team identifies and records all artifacts in the field and makes no collections. The team uses diagnostic pottery artifacts and a Bayesian model developed by Ortman, Varien, et al. to estimate site occupation dates. This year, ten members conducted 18 outings to complete the fieldwork on one extended survey. 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 conducted at the end of last year. During the current survey, the team surveyed 400 acres, recording 38 new sites and 8,897 artifacts. Most of the surveyed sites were Basketmaker III. In prior surveys, the team recorded habitations, check dams, pottery and lithic scatters, points, field houses, rock art, and camps created by ancestral indigenous communities. Recordings of more recent occupations include farmhouses, 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. The team submits all required Colorado state recording forms, maps, scaled site drawings, and photos to the [Office of the State Archaeologist](#), who enters them in the Compass database for use by qualified researchers. When the team records ten or more sites on a property, they prepare a bound summary report to address community formation processes and population estimates through time. The team provides copies of these summary reports to the landowner and the

## Colorado Archaeological Society

### 2020 YEAR-END SCIENCE ADVISORY REPORT

Canyons 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 to avoid disturbing or damaging sensitive sites. Some landowners have contacted the Archaeological Conservancy looking to place their land in the Conservancy. Most now preserve their sites as personal outdoor museums for future generations. This year, CAS awarded Bob and Diane McBride its prestigious Ivor K. Hagar Award for their many years of outstanding leadership of this critical project. 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. Vince MacMillan, the BLM Canyons of the Ancients National Monument Archaeologist, oversees this project. 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: 1228*

*Sponsors & Partners: Private Landowners, CAS, BLM/CANM, Jagiellonian University*

### Excavation Projects

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

**Swallow Excavation ([CAS](#): CAS Project).** State CAS has formed an Oversight Committee (OC) to facilitate the Swallow Site report's completion. The OC is gathering the completed and partially completed chapters to determine what analyses remain and how to organize the site records and paperwork, and work with the Denver University Museum on artifact Swallow Site records curation. 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 are part of this community: the Ida Jean Site and the Haynie Site. Also present are several small hamlets, a reservoir, and a Great Kiva. Also, two non-architectural earth mounds are southwest of Wallace Ruin that may be road entry features. The research performed so far has identified two major and one minor construction phases: Phase 1 circa AD 1040, Phase 2 circa AD 1090, and Phase 3 circa AD 1120. The structure seems to have been abandoned in the mid-1100s with reuse in the 13<sup>th</sup> century (Phase 4). Bruce and Cindy Bradley have supervised intermittent research

## Colorado Archaeological Society

### 2020 YEAR-END SCIENCE ADVISORY REPORT

excavations and analysis since 1969, frequently using volunteers. In 2020, five CAS volunteers worked on excavating the site. For more information, contact [Karen Kinnear](#).

***Mitchell Springs Excavation ([Hisatsinom](#): External Participation Project)***. This year five CAS volunteers participated in two field schools at the [Mitchell Springs Ruin Group](#) run by [Four Corners Research](#). A significant component of this research is to explore the processes that created Chaco outlier communities in the Montezuma Valley. Members excavated, screened, assisted in training other participants, tracked/logged in artifacts, mapped locations of critical artifacts, and other miscellaneous tasks. For more information, contact [Karen Kinnear](#).

*Excavation data summary for all participating chapters:*

*Projects: 3*

*Excavators: 16 Advisors: 6*

*Hours: 1390*

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

### Laboratory Processing & Analysis Projects

CAS members participated in one external laboratory project this year. We briefly describe this project below.

***Northern Chaco Outliers Laboratory ([Hisatsinom](#): External Project)***. Working as volunteers in the [Crow Canyon Archaeological Center](#) Research Laboratory, CAS members are processing and analyzing artifacts from the Haynie and Wallace sites. Ida Jean, Haynie, and Wallace form the Lakeview Group – a predominantly 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](#). Crow Canyon is conducting the Wallace artifact analysis in collaboration with Bruce and Cindy Bradley. CAS member contributions include washing, classifying, and recording pottery, lithic, and ground stone artifacts; conducting pottery design analysis; processing float samples; and performing pottery temper analysis. Crow Canyon scaled back laboratory operations in March as a COVID-19 public health measure. Limited research conforming to public health guidelines continues. For more information, contact [Dave Melanson](#).

*Laboratory data summary for all participating chapters:*

*Projects: 1*

*Analysts: 21*

*Hours: 520*

*Sponsors: Crow Canyon Archaeological Center, Bruce & Cindy Bradley*

### Experimental Archaeology Projects

Experimental archaeology is a potential growth area for CAS. 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](#), begun in 2006, collaborates between the [Crow Canyon Research Institute](#) and the [Hopi Cultural](#)

## Colorado Archaeological Society

### 2020 YEAR-END SCIENCE ADVISORY REPORT

[Preservation Office](#), to understand ancient maize agriculture in the Mesa Verde region by documenting traditional ecological knowledge, experimental gardens, and genetic analysis. The project has produced an [electronic report](#) and [video](#). Fieldwork continues this year. Read Brugger, a CAS member, participates in this project. For more information on CAS member participation in this project, contact [Dr. Mark Varien](#).

*Experimental archaeology data summary for all participating chapters:*

*Projects: 1*

*Experimenters: 1*

*Hours: 141*

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

### Site Stewardship Projects

CAS chapters report member participation in four cultural site stewardship programs this year. These programs are summarized below.

***Tres Rios Cultural Site Stewardship ([Hisatsinom](#): External Project)***. The Cultural Site Stewardship Program includes 63 volunteers who monitor 105 sites within the Tres Rios BLM Field Office lands, containing Canyons of the Ancients National Monument. This year, 28 CAS members serving as site stewards contributed 579 hours monitoring 36 sites. Stewards attend annual training (which this year they conducted on Zoom due to COVID-19) and take annual baseline photos to monitor sites on a prescribed basis (typically every two months) for damage caused by humans, animals, or natural causes. Damage can be caused inadvertently by inappropriate visitation, wildlife or livestock, or natural elements taking their toll. It can also be caused deliberately by looters seeking artifacts to sell or vandals intent on defacing cultural sites. 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/fieldwork. For more information, contact [Diane McBride](#).

***Canyons of the Ancients National Monument Spring Fire Area Monitoring Project ([Hisatsinom](#): External Project)***. Concerned about potential pot hunting at archaeological sites exposed in a recent wildfire, the BLM recruited two CAS members, Ross and Maiya Gralia, to monitor the fire-exposed area of the Monument signs of looting. Contact [Ross and Maiya Gralia](#) for more information.

***Utah Site Stewardship Program ([Hisatsinom](#): External Project)***. [Friends of Cedar Mesa](#) is partnered with the BLM to build a statewide site steward program in Utah. Three Hisatsinom members are part of a four-member team monitoring important Pueblo habitation sites. For more information, contact [Susan Montgomery](#).

***Ute Mountain Ute Tribal Park Site Maintenance Project ([Hisatsinom](#): Partnership Project)***. This project is a continuing Hisatsinom collaboration with the Crow Canyon Archaeological Center and the Ute Mountain Ute Tribal Park to improve public access to cultural sites. This year seven Hisatsinom members opened a 2.5-mile section of trail to three Nordenskiöld Sites in Pool Canyon to prepare for tours in 2021. For more information, contact [Sissy Pittenger](#).

# Colorado Archaeological Society

## 2020 YEAR-END SCIENCE ADVISORY REPORT

Site stewardship data summary for all participating chapters:

Projects: 4

Stewards: 33 Sites: 37+

Hours: 10xs47

Sponsors & Partners: BLM Tres Rios Field Office, BLM Canyons of the Ancient National Monument, Southwest Colorado Canyons Alliance, Ute Mountain Ute Tribal Park, Crow Canyon Archaeological Center

### Cultural Resource Curation Projects

CAS chapters report work on seven curation projects in 2020. We report these 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 work 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. The BLM suspended volunteer CAVM curation work in March, and most volunteer data is not currently accessible. However, two CAS members report contributing 75 hours to document curation before closing and an additional 11 hours of subsequent support. 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 the museum suspended volunteer operations 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 processing included inventorying and transferring artifacts from bags to numbered and marked boxes. Volunteers entered the data was into a database, which researchers can query to support their projects. For more information, contact [Karen Kinnear](#).

***Projectile Point Projects ([Grand Junction](#): Partnership Project)***. In collaboration with Coal Creek Research, chapters set up teams to document private projectile point collections. This project intends to develop a database of projectile points for Colorado. It compiles information from museums and private collectors used for large area studies such as regional projectile point typologies, movement of materials, movement of projectile point types, the evolution of projectile point variations over time and region. The database will be available to researchers and eventually also be available on selected internet sites. When available, the database will contain images of each projectile point, point types, material, color, ultraviolet fluorescence, general

## Colorado Archaeological Society

### 2020 YEAR-END SCIENCE ADVISORY REPORT

location, weight, thickness, and other descriptive information such as serration and flaking pattern. The database keeps private collectors anonymous. The Smithsonian number of the site will identify the collection for museum collections. The database records additional information such as within site location and associated C14 results for collections from excavations. The database records both private and excavation site locations as the seven-mile by eight-mile grid area that contains the site. This year the Grand Junction Chapter reported that seven of its members donated 34 hours to this project before standing down in March due to the pandemic. Primary advocational project participants included Geoff Peterson, Pat Schniederjan, and Clint Driscoll. Curtis Martin, Sonny Shelton, and Mike Piontkowski advised the Grand Junction team. This project is a cooperative effort between archaeologists at Coal Creek Research Inc., Montrose, and CAS chapter members. For more information, contact [Clint Driscoll](#).

***Pueblo City County Library, Special Collections, Bill Buckles Collection (PAHS: Partnership Project)*** A CAS member continues creating the archival database for the Buckles materials housed at PCCLD. These materials include work done in preparation for survey and excavation work in Colorado, as well notes from field work sessions. During 2020, a PAHS volunteer contributed 26 hours to this curation. For further information, contact [Georgine Booms](#).

***Pueblo City-County Library Colorado Rock Art Association (CRAA) Archives (CRAA, PAHS: Partnership Project)***. This project curates and makes the CRAA collection (books, pamphlets, CRAA reports, slides, photographs, rock art tracings, field notes and drawings) available to qualified researchers. With the library having virtual access most of the year, two CAS members contributed 18 hours. The Sally Cole collection has been digitized and is now available online. For further information, contact [Anne Whitfield](#).

***Pueblo City County Library, Special Collections, Myron Wood Collection (PAHS: Partnership Project)*** A PAHS member assists staff with western research materials by indexing and organizing archival material. During first quarter, she contributed 14 hours to rehousing mid-20<sup>th</sup> Century Southwest American Photographer Myron Wood photos. For further information, contact [Carla Hendrickson](#).

*Cultural curation data summary for all participating chapters:*

*Projects: 7*

*Curators: 16*

*Hours: 276*

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

Respectfully submitted for the Colorado Archaeological Society's Science Advisory Committee,  
[David Melanson](#), Chair