Kane, Allen E.
1979b The Dolores Archaeological Program. Paper presented at the 1979 annual meeting of the Society for American Archaeology. Handwritten manuscript on file, Dolores Archaeological Program archive, Anasazi Heritage Center, Dolores, Colorado (Sample Type 802, Sample Number 0021).

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VANCOUVER 1979

SAA TALK

Good morning, I am Allen E. Kane of the University of Colorado Mesa Verde Regional Research Center and the Dolores Archaeological Project

- My talk this morning will be a description of the project and the work we have accomplished to date

- First, a little background information concerning the project:

in the spring of 1978, the Bureau of Reclamation awarded the contract for the Dolores Cultural Resources Mitigation Program to the University of Colorado. The contract involves archaeological and historical fieldwork and analysis to mitigate the impact of construction activities by the bureau of reclamation on cultural resources in the project area.

- the contract is the largest, monetarily-wise, to be underwritten by a U.S. government agency. Allotted funding for the period 5 June 1978 - 30 September 1979 is roughly 1.5 million dollars; total funding for the project should be in the neighborhood

of 7.5 million $ for 5-7 years of actual work.

The mitigation team includes the U of Colorado as the primary contractor responsible for administration and coordination of project efforts. Sub-contractors include Washington State University which shares archaeological field work and analysis operations with CU; Woodward-Clyde Consultants (San Francisco) who are responsible for designing and implementing the data management system and who also are involved with general project management; Centuries Research, Inc. of Montrose, Colo. who are responsible for history and historical archaeology and

Western Audio-Visual, Durango Colorado who are preparing VIDEO records and presentations.

- The Senior Principal Investigator for the project is Dr. David A. Breternitz; co-principal investigators are Dr. William Lipe, Dr. Robert Bye and Myself. Mr. Steven E James is the Project Manager.

The Dolores Project is located in the Four Corners area of Southwestern

Colorado, generally north and east of the Town of Cortez and north of Mesa Verde National Park.

~~Major~~ Facilities planned by the Bureau as part of the water project include 2 ~~mg~~ major dam and reservoir on the Dolores River, secondary water impoundments on Dawson Draw and Dove Creek and 2 major canals and secondary canal ~~lines~~ networks. The project will provide water to the Ute Mountain Ute Tribal lands and to the Montezuma Valley Water Conservancy District for irrigation purposes.

In an archaeological context, the project area is located in the Mesa Verde Region of the Southwest culture area. Southwest Colorado is probably best known for its numerous remains of the Anasazi (Formative Stage) culture which include architecturally spectacular towers and cliff dwellings.

- The Four Corners also contains evidence of occupation and use by Paleoindian, Archaic and recent Shoshonean-Athabascan peoples. To date about 850 sites have been recorded in areas to be affected ~~m~~ by project construction and we expect ~~and~~ an eventual total of close

of 1300.

Implementation of the Mitigation Program.

- Separate research designs have been formulated for the historic and archaeological programs.

- The main research focus of the archaeological studies is Anasazi communities in the northern portion of the Mesa Verde Region. This ~~was~~ particular orientation was chosen because the available site universe in the study area was favorable to such an orientation and (2)

the project presented the opportunity to study prehistoric communities on a regional rather than local basis; ~~such~~ it was felt such a study would be a significant contribution to Anasazi archaeology and the area of formative cultures in general.

5 major problem domains

were designed to help structure the research. These are (1) economy and adaptations, (2) demography, (3) social organization, (4) foreign relations and (5) cultural process.

- The first four problem areas are conceived as static studies; that is, research connected with these domains will treat data as a synchronic phenomenon.

- Combining these data areas into a diachronic system and then interpreting temporal variability is organic to problem domain 5 (cultural process).

STEP 1

- To implement the research design, each problem domain was presented as a set of SPECIFIC questions, each with actual research implications

- For example, ~~the in Problem Domain 1, (Economy and adaptations)~~ the following set of questions is endemic to Problem Domain 1 (economy and adaptations):

(1) What resources were available to Anasazi communities?

(2) What resources were actually exploited by these prehistoric groups

3. ~~How was each resource~~ How were these resources used by community members (that is, how was each ~~each~~ resource procured, processed, stored, ~~consumed~~ distributed, consumed, discarded, etc.)

4. How were these use models combined to form subsistence systems?

5. What were the technological and social attributes of these systems?

STEP 2

Once the question sets were defined, the next step was to formulate ~~models~~ more specific models and hypotheses that were amenable to field testing. These formulations are based on previously designed models for southwestern cultural systems and pertinent ethnographic research.

STEP 3

Field operations must be designed to provide adequate data to test the models and hypotheses. Once acquired, field data is subjected to preliminary analysis; the goal of this first analysis

STEP 4

step is to ~~quantify~~ ~~quantify~~ sort the data into formalized archaeological typologies and ~~[illegible]~~ modify this basic quantitative

material into a form amenable to statistical manipulation (usually involves entry into projects automatic data processing system,
- advanced analysis

STEP 5

will then be performed using the modified data base or specialized analytical techniques on a sample of the raw data. This last step will have direct bearing on the specific hypotheses and models in Step 2.

Step 6 is to modify the original models as a result of the field work and analyses and to re-test the modified products

The project manager has the main responsibility of directing efforts in model formulation, field work and analysis to insure we are adhering to the original research AND MITIGATION goals; and assigning individual and group effort to priority research areas;

The 1978 Field season.

Field operations in 1978 were directed to two ends:

(1) the recovery of a ~~[illegible]~~ diversified data base that had general application to all problem domains and

(2) recovery of data that could be used to design formalized spatial and temporal classification systems

for the project.

A site universe of approximately 50 sites was available for summer 1978 - spring 1979 operations.

This was stratified according to site type and period;

- the rationale is that each Anasazi community probably used a particular site set consisting of one or more residences, several seasonal loci (field houses, procurement and processing camps, etc) and many limited activity sites. In order to reconstruct the full range of community activities, a representative sample of each type in the site set for each cultural period should be investigated.

7 sites were excavated in 1978; these included

1000 BC - AD 800 (1) a seasonal camp or limited activity locus with Archaic, BM III and PI components

AD 650 - 800 (2) 2 BM III - PI small habitations or Hamlets

AD 800 950 (3) a site exhibiting a PI habitation component and a later occupation during which the site may have functioned as a hunting and/or agricultural camp

AD 800 - 900 (4) A PI field house

AD 750 - 950 (5) a large PI - PII habitation or village

AD-1050BC-AD500
AD 1050-1200

(6) a small PII-PIII habitation with an earlier archaic component.

Data from the 1978 Field season was used to design formal project classification systems including

(1) a temporal system based initially on a phase ~~sys~~ scheme for the 1978 study area (escalante Sector) - 3 tentative phases have been defined for the Anasazi occupation

(2) a spacial system using the "community cluster" or the space occupied by a community as the basic analytical unit

(3) a formalized site typology and site sets for each phase defined for the study area.

In 1979, ~~Field operations~~ Excavation will be directed toward collection of arch data in different localities in the project area to permit a regional overview. We are planning to excavate approximately 20 sites.

To expand the viable site universe and to gather settlement data

Other operations will include arch. surveys, botanical and geological surveys for environmental reconstruction, areal mapping of large Anasazi villages and magnetometer survey of unexcavated sites for intrasite settlement pattern analysis.

We regard the project as a milestone in cultural resource mitigation and applaud Bureau of Rec efforts