DOLORES ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROGRAM TECHNICAL REPORTS

REPORT NUMBER: DAP-041

Excavations at Climbing Cactus Camp (Site 5MT4682), an Anasazi Limited Activity Site

ANASAZI HERITAGE CENTER
LIBRARY

by

Richard Wilshusen

Prepared for
Cultural Resources Mitigation Program: Dolores Project
Bureau of Reclamation, Upper Colorado Region
Contract No. 8-07-40-S0562

Under the supervision of
David A. Breternitz, Senior Principal Investigator

Final Submission
18 May 1982

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page Number
LIST OF FIGURES	ii
LIST OF TABLES	iii
ABSTRACT	iv
INTRODUCTION	1
Location	1
Labor Expended	1
ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING	2
Climate	2
Local Geography	2
Flora	5
Fauna	5
Soils	6
Historic Land Use	6
SOCIAL SETTING	7
SURFACE EVIDENCE	9
MATERIAL CULTURE	10
Flaked Lithics	10
Nonflaked Lithics	19
Ceramics	19
Faunal Remains	20
CONCLUSIONS	21
APPENDIX A - FAUNAL REMAINS FROM CLIMBING CACTUS CAMP	23
REFERENCES CITED	26

LIST OF FIGURES

Page Number

Figure 18.1 Photograph of Climbing Cactus Camp, looking toward the southeast. 3

Figure 18.2 Topographic view of Climbing Cactus Camp 4

Figure 18.3 Surface distribution of flaked lithics, Climbing Cactus Camp 13

Figure 18.4 Selected projectile points recovered at Climbing Cactus Camp 16

LIST OF TABLES

Page Number

Table 18.1 Lithic Analysis Data Summary for Climbing Cactus Camp, Flaked Lithic Tools 11

Table 18.2 Lithic Analysis Data Summary for Climbing Cactus Camp, Flaked Lithic Debitage. 12

Table 18.3 Projectile Point Measurements, Climbing Cactus Camp . . 17

Table 18.4 Summary of Descriptive Frequencies of Ceramics, Climbing Cactus Camp. 20

Table 18.A.1 Faunal Taxa Identified at Climbing Cactus Camp. 25

ABSTRACT

Site 5MT4682, Climbing Cactus Camp, was intensively surface collected in 1979 as part of the Dolores Archaeological Program. The site was identified during initial inventory survey as being a hunting camp with multiple temporal components. Based on a high percentage of projectile points and bifaces recovered in the 10 percent collection during this survey, it was decided that an intensive surface collection of the site in 8 by 8 m grid units might produce data for a more precise interpretation of the site. Of particular concern was the possibility of an Archaic component. The only temporally diagnostic artifacts from the site are 13 sherds which date the site to the Anasazi period, between A.D. 600-900. The main portion of the collection is lithic tools and debris. The site is located on a small knoll immediately north of present-day Sagehen Marsh; assuming the marsh existed prehistorically, it might have served as a natural attraction for animals. The high percentage of projectile points also suggests a functional interpretation of the site related to hunting activities.

INTRODUCTION

Location

Climbing Cactus Camp was recorded by the 1979 Dolores Archaeological Program (D.A.P.) survey as a large lithic scatter located on a small hillock just to the north of the marsh in Sagehen Flats Locality. On the Trimble Point Quadrangle, Colorado, U.S.G.S. 7.5 Minute Series 1965 Topographic Map, the site can be found in the Southwest Quarter of the Northeast Quarter of Sec 36, T38N, R16W. In terms of the Universal Transverse Mercator grid system it is in zone 12, 715,300 mE, 4,154,240 mN.

Labor Expended

A 10 percent collection of the site surface was done by survey personnel on 29 June 1979, and on the basis of the number of lithic implements recovered, it was decided that an intensive surface collection might reveal additional significant information on this special use site. On 15 October 1979, a grid was set up over the main part of the site and on 17 October 1979, a 100 percent surface collection of cultural materials within the gridded area was conducted. A total of 2.5 person-days was spent accomplishing all operations at the site. The intensive surface collection was conducted by G. Brown, J. Subler, M. Varien, and R. Wilshusen.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Climate

The overall character of the site's environmental setting is largely determined by the climate of the area. Today, southwest Colorado is a semiarid area with long, cold winters and mild, dry summers. Much of the annual precipitation falls as winter snow; this winter weather is largely controlled by Pacific Coast frontal systems. Summers are usually dominated by stationary high pressure zones that occasionally draw warm, moist air from the Gulf of Mexico and produce afternoon thunderstorms. The average annual precipitation is 460.5 mm at the United States Weather Bureau (U.S.W.B.) station at Dolores. The mean July temperature is 19.7°C and the mean January temperature is -3.1°C (Kane [1]).

Local Geography

Climbing Cactus Camp occupies a small ridge at the south foot of the southerly dipping Dakota Sandstone Formation in Sagehen Flats Locality. Sagehen Marsh is located 200 m to the south and east of the site (Figure 18.1). Small hillocks border the site to the west. As can be seen in Figure 18.2, the center of the intensively collected area, which approximates the center of the site, is at 2099 m above sea level. A shallow arroyo is forming at the western edge of the gridded area, and a deeply dissected drainage is 100 m to the northeast of the site. These arroyos do not carry water other than for a short time in the spring when the snow is melting. One of the more major, but still ephemeral, drainages of Sagehen Flats is located approximately 200 m to the west and drains into Sagehen Marsh just to the south of the site.

Figure 18.1 Photograph of Climbing Cactus Camp, looking toward the southeast. Sagehen Marsh and the Dolores River valley are in the background (D.A.P. 013708).

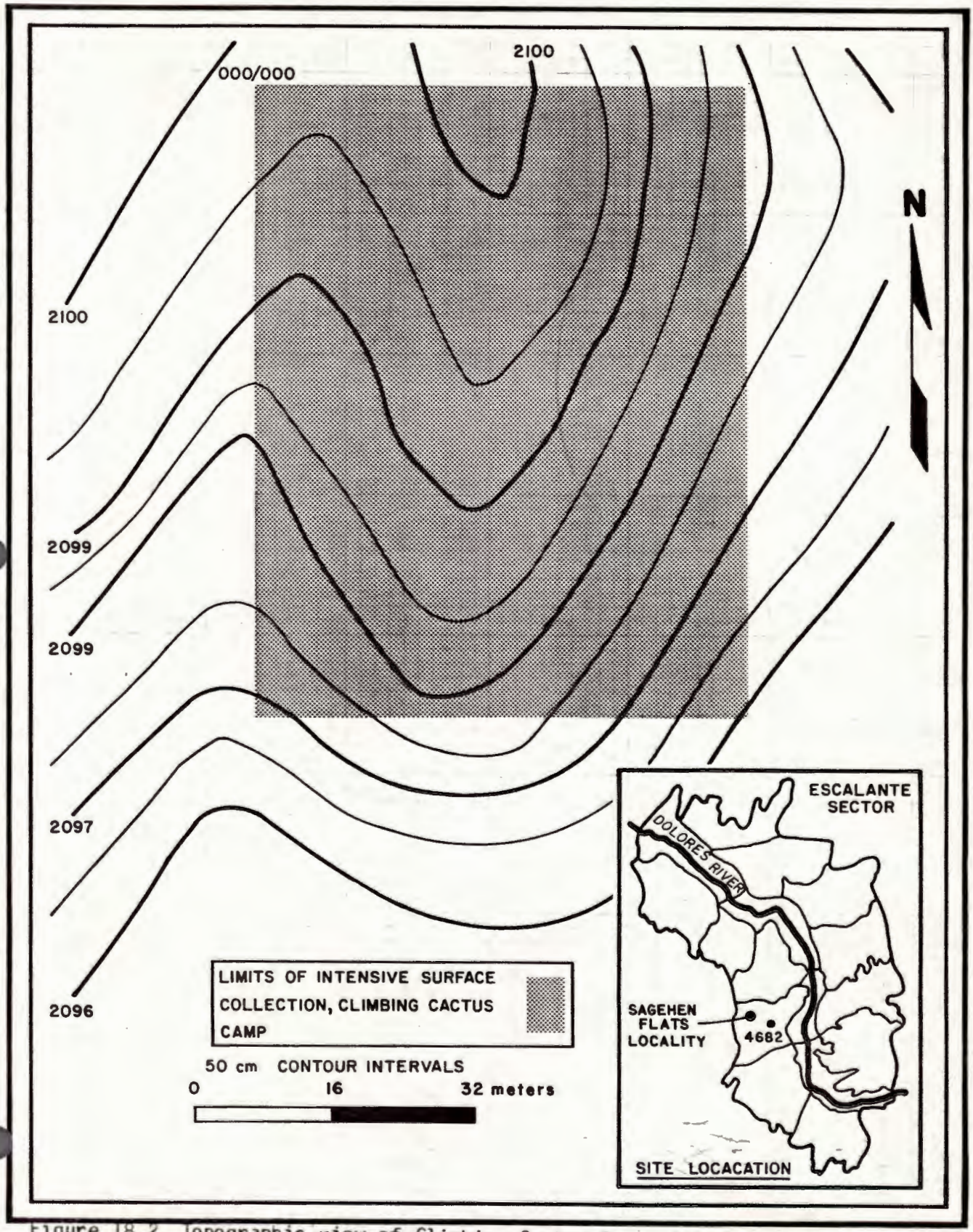

Figure 18.2 Topographic view of Climbing Cactus Camp, intensively collected area only. Actual site boundaries, based on limits of artifact scatter, extend beyond area shown on map and are discussed in text.

Flora

The flora at the site, as through most of Sagehen Flats Locality, is dominated by big sagebrush (Artemisia tridentata) and rabbitbrush (Chrysothamnus nauseosus). During the survey and surface collection, prickly pear (Optunia sp.), Indian Ricegrass (Oryzopsis hymenoides), and lupine (Lupinus sp.) were observed on the site proper. Numerous grasses and forbs were on the site and in the vicinity, but because of the late fall season (at the time of the surface collection) they were not sufficiently preserved to be identified. There are a few scattered juniper (Juniperus osteosperma) and pinyon (Pinus edulis) within 100 m of the site, but the majority are over 1 km to the north of the site. The flora of the marsh consists largely of bulrushes (Scirpus sp.), sedges (Carex sp.), and cattails (Typha sp.). For a detailed description of the flora of the D.A.P. project area, refer to Bye [2].

Fauna

The most common animals in the area of the site today are cottontail (Sylvilagus sp.), black-tailed jackrabbit (Lepus californicus), deer mouse (Peromyscus maniculatus), prairie dog (Cynomys sp.), ground squirrel (Sciuridae), and an occasional coyote (Canis latrans). In late fall, mule deer (Odocoileus hemionus) and American elk (Cervus canadensis) migrate down into the flats from the mountains.

Due to the proximity of the marsh, avifauna are particularly abundant close to the site. Common species include marsh hawk (Circus hudsonius), American kestrel (Falco sparverius), red-tailed hawk (Buteo jamaicensis), common raven (Corvus corax), black-billed magpie (Pica pica), mountain bluebird (Sialia currucoides), western meadowlark

(Sturnella neglecta), and great blue heron (Ardae herodias). Ducks and numerous other waterfowl use the marsh seasonally during migration through the area. Refer to Emslie [3] for a more detailed discussion of fauna in the project area.

Soils

The soil on the small ridge that Climbing Cactus Camp occupies is classified as part of the Batterson-Gladel-rock outcrop complex (Leonhardy [4, 5]). The soil is approximately 10-30 cm thick and has developed from the weathered sandstone bedrock. Because of the steepness of the slope, the soil has been completely deflated in some places. The lack of depth and complex horizon development in the soil cause it to be classified as an Entisol (Soil Survey Staff [6]). The soil on the site and the soil groups immediately surrounding the site are basically shallow, excessively drained, and not particularly suitable for dryland agriculture.

Historic Land Use

No patent was ever issued on the land occupied by the site, and no historic artifacts were found on the site. The land to the southwest and west of the site was "ripped" with a one-way plow and used for lambing grounds in the 1950s.

SOCIAL SETTING

There are a number of limited activity sites within 1 km of Climbing Cactus Camp. Sites 5MT4687, 5MT4688, 5MT4689, and 5MT4690 are all lithic scatters between 300 and 600 m to the southeast of Site 5MT4682, and are located on hillocks on the southeast border of Sagehen Marsh. All of these sites have been transect-sampled by survey, but have not been excavated or intensively surface collected. Four excavated or bladed sites are also within 1 km of Climbing Cactus Camp. Site 5MT2242 is 400 m to the north; Site 5MT4681 is 200 m to the north; and Site 5MT2235 and Site 5MT4513 are 200 m and 700 m, respectively, to the west and slightly to the north. Of these four excavated sites, three (Sites 5M2242, 5MT4513, and 5MT4681) are multicomponent limited activity or limited occupation sites, and one is a multicomponent limited activity and habitation site (Site 5MT2235). At Site 5MT2242, two small hearths were the only features that were discovered (Southward [7]). At Site 5MT4513, five rock-lined or rock-filled firepits were excavated and stratigraphy in the firepits argues for reuse of the features (Greenwald [8]). The major occupation at Site 5MT2235 is represented by a small Sundial Phase hamlet, but a concentration of surface-collected flaked lithic debris and two hearths at the western periphery of the site suggests a separate limited activity component. There was also another limited activity component represented by a hearth with a number of associated flaked lithic materials located in the fill of the pithouse at this site (Wilshusen [9]). Site 5MT4681 has a small unfinished structure interpreted as a hunting blind (Brown [10]). Because it is difficult to date the use of Climbing Cactus Camp with any precision, the diverse temporal settings for

the various components of the mentioned sites are not discussed. The main emphasis here should be that all of the above-mentioned sites within 1 km have at least one component interpreted as a limited activity locus.

It should also be noted that McPhee Community is lcoated within 1.5 km of Climbing Cactus Camp. This community consists of an estimated 15-20 individual residence units, believed to date from the late 700s through the mid-900s A.D. (A. Kane, personal communication). The proximity of Climbing Cactus Camp to McPhee Community raises the possibility that during the Anasazi period the prehistoric inhabitants of the latter used Climbing Cactus Camp for special activities.

SURFACE EVIDENCE

Climbing Cactus Camp, as defined by survey personnel, is 180 m north-south and 140 m east-west. For purposes of the intensive surface collection, a grid 72 m north-south and 56 m east-west was set up in the center of the site as defined by survey. This small area encompassed the area of the densest concentration of lithics at the site and is essentially the crest of the ridge which is the main landform of the site. The grid was divided into 63 8 by 8 m squares and was set up according to D.A.P. standard procedures using a transit and metric measuring tapes. The survey site pin and several landmarks on the survey map of the site were located on the grid in order to replot survey point-located artifacts (PLs) in relation to the intensive surface collection grid. All cultural artifacts and special materials such as bone were collected by grid square and submitted for analysis.

MATERIAL CULTURE

Flaked Lithics

Materials recovered during initial survey which fell within the gridded area of the subsequent intensive surface collection, and materials recovered during the intensive surface collection itself, consist of 25 flaked lithic tools (FLT), 2 nonflaked lithic tools (NFLT), and 589 flaked lithic debitage (FLD) items. An additional 21 FLT from the initial survey collection were associated with the site but were outside of the intensive surface collection grid. Results of the FLT and FLD analyses are presented in Tables 18.1 and 18.2, respectively. Results for FLT are presented for both the gridded area (including initial survey and intensive surface collection materials) and for the total site (including the 21 additional FLT collected outside of the grid during initial survey). All statements about the spatial distribution of various artifacts use the total for the gridded area, and all statements about the general characteristics of the site lithic assemblage use the site total. All the debitage collected for the site came from the gridded area.

Figure 18.3 shows the density by grid unit of flaked lithic artifacts for the site. Because 96 percent of all flaked lithics from the gridded area are debitage, Figure 18.3 essentially shows the densities of debitage. The distribution of FLD was examined from the standpoint of striking platforms, material type, and simply the number of items, and only one exception to uniform patterning was noted. A noticeable concentration of debitage was apparent in the northeast corner of the grid, but was likely the result of exceptionally severe and recent erosional deflation in this area. Distributions of FLT were also examined for patterning that might

Table 18.1 Lithic Analysis Data Summary for Climbing Cactus Camp, Flaked Lithic Tools

	Gridded Area of the Site (N = 25)		Total Site (N = 46)		Archaic-Anasazi Limited Activity Site Group (N = 419)	Anasazi Group (N = 7048)
	#	%	#	%	%	%
MORPHO-USE FORM						
Indeterminate	1	4.0	1	2.2	5.0	0.5
Utilized flakes	1	4.0	7	15.2	21.2	43.6
Cores	-	-	2	4.3	1.7	19.0
Choppers, scraper planes	4	16.0	6	13.0	2.1	10.4
Thick scrapers	1	4.0	1	2.2	11.9	6.4
Thin scrapers	1	4.0	5	10.9	8.6	10.1
Bifaces	12	48.0	15	32.6	26.7	3.9
Projectile points	5	20.0	9	19.6	17.2	3.7
Specialized forms	-	-			5.5	2.3
THINNING STAGE: DORSAL						
Indeterminate	1	4.0	2	4.3	0.5	0.3
Nonfacial item	-	-	2	4.3	3.6	19.8
Tnthinned item, w/cortex	1	4.0	2	4.3	10.5	31.7
Unthinned item, no cortex	2	8.0	10	21.7	21.0	31.4
Prelim shaping, w/cortex	-	-			5.7	3.7
Prelim shaping, no cortex	4	16.0	6	13.0	11.0	2.6
Primary thinning	3	12.0	4	8.7	5.0	1.2
Secondary thinning	7	28.0	12	26.1	5.5	1.1
Well-shaped	7	28.0	8	17.4	33.9	7.5
Highly stylized	-	-			3.3	0.7
THINNING STAGE: VENTRAL						
Indeterminate	1	4.0	2	4.3	0.5	0.2
Nonfacial item	-	-	2	4.3	2.9	19.5
Unthinned item, w/cortex	1	4.0	1	2.2	2.6	1.9
Unthinned item, no cortex	4	16.0	13	28.3	42.2	64.4
Prelim shaping, w/ cortex	-	-			1.0	1.4
Prelim shaping, no cortex	2	8.0	3	6.5	11.0	3.4
Primary thinning	3	12.0	5	10.9	4.5	1.2
Secondary thinning	5	20.0	10	21.7	4.8	1.0
Well-shaped	9	36.0	10	21.7	27.2	6.4
Highly stylized	-	-			3.3	0.7
GRAIN SIZE						
Medium (coarse)	-				2.9	2.1
Fine	-		1	2.2	4.8	6.2
Very Fine (detrital)	14	56.0	25	54.3	54.4	65.3
Microscopic (nongranular)	11	44.0	20	43.5	37.9	26.3

Table 18.2 Lithic Analysis Data Summary for Climbing Cactus Camp, Flaked Lithic Debitage

	Total Site (N = 589)		Archaic-Anasazi Limited Activity Site Group (N = 8117)	Anasazi Group (N = 66095)
	#	%	%	%
GRAIN SIZE				
Medium (coarse)	1	0.2	1.6	3.2
Fine	64	10.9	9.6	21.4
Very Fine (detrital)	358	60.8	54.7	51.6
Miscroscopic (nongranular)	166	28.1	34.1	23.7
Items with Cortex	35	5.9	11.4	25.9
Items with Platform	211	35.8	48.8	38.8
Obsidian Items				
Mean Weight (grams)	2.7		1.9	7.9

suggest possible separate components or use areas. An area between 16E and 56E and 24S and 40S had 13 of the 25 tools from the gridded area. All of these tools, with the exception of one chopper, were projectile points or bifaces. Unlike the area with the high density of FLD, this area of FLT concentration did not show any exceptional evidence of recent deflation. Though clustered spatially, there is no evidence to suggest that the tools represent the same temporal component.

The majority of tools from Climbing Cactus Camp are either projectile points or bifaces; 52.2 percent, or 24, of the tools fell into one of these two categories. The other major morpho-use categories of tools at the site were thin scrapers (5), choppers and scraper planes (6), and utilized flakes (7). Most of the tools are highly thinned, "curated" items, in stark contrast to the more expediency-oriented lithic industries of habitation sites in the project area. Almost all of the tools are from high quality very fine or microscopic-grained lithic materials. While there is not sufficient data to discuss the temporal integrity of the materials, the relative homogeneity of tool types and lithic materials does suggest a use history that saw the same functional tasks repeated at the site.[1] The predominance of highly thinned tools and the uniform high quality of the lithic material suggest a limited, nonhabitational use of the site.

---

[1]At the time of the writing of this report certain analytical information was not available to the author. Although the flaked lithic tools are "relatively homogeneous," it is within the two grain sizes of "very fine" and "microscopic" that the collection may have some significance. The grain size distribution noted in the flaked lithic tool assemblage from Climbing Cactus Camp suggested a similarity to the Archaic-plus-Anasazi control data group (Tables 18.1 and 18.2) (Editor).

To place the site generally in time, the tools were examined for possible chronological diagnostics. While point typologies are not extremely well developed in the Southwest, there is general agreement among most researchers that evidence of the bow and arrow is rare in the Southwest before A.D. 500 (Woodbury and Zubrow [11]). Large dart points are generally regarded as Archaic and arrow points as Anasazi. Given the large number of projectile points from Climbing Cactus Camp, it was deemed useful to try to separate the arrow points from the dart points for general chronological purposes. A discriminant function analysis devised by D. H. Thomas [12] was used to objectively discriminate between dart and arrow points. Six projectile points were sufficiently complete to allow measurement of length, width, thickness, and neck width. These points are illustrated in Figure 18.4. The measurements were then put into Thomas' equations for dart and arrow points and the equations completed. Thomas specified that the equation that produced the higher number of the two equations (i.e., dart equation and arrow equation) was the most likely candidate. As can be seen in Table 18.3, all six points produced results that suggest them to be more like arrow points than dart points for the variables that were measured. It is possible, of course, for some of these points to have functioned as knives or dart points, and the above test is meant to illustrate, not fully explain, the data. Three of the above points also met Hayes and Lancaster's [13] definitions of either a Style A or Style B projectile point (PLs 7 and 11 - Style A, PL 31 - Style B). These styles have generally been associated with Basketmaker III or Pueblo I occupations.

Of the projectile point fragments not illustrated, only one item suggested a form other than an arrow point, and this fragment was the proxi-

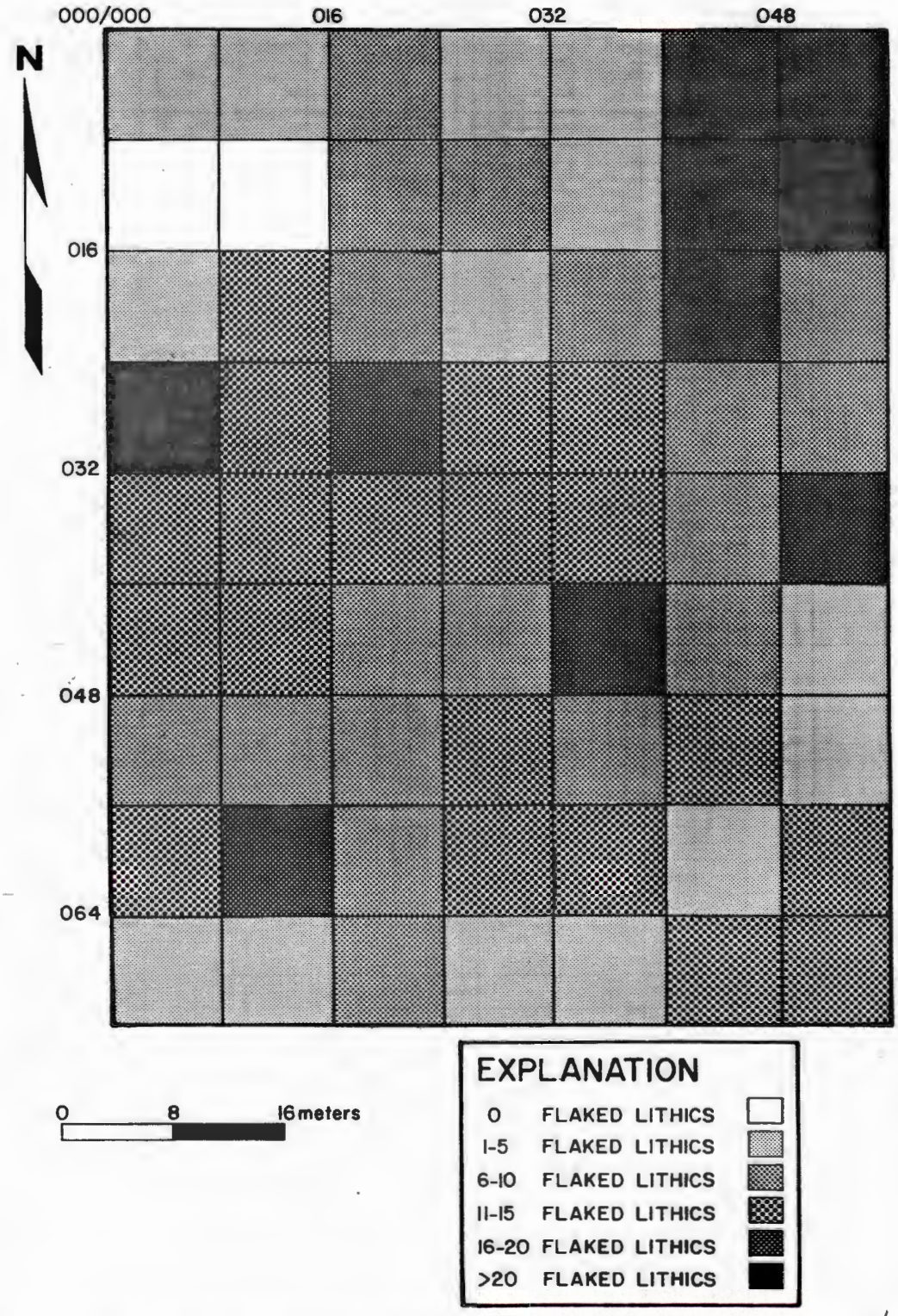

Figure 18.3 Surface distribution of flaked lithics, Climbing Cactus Camp.

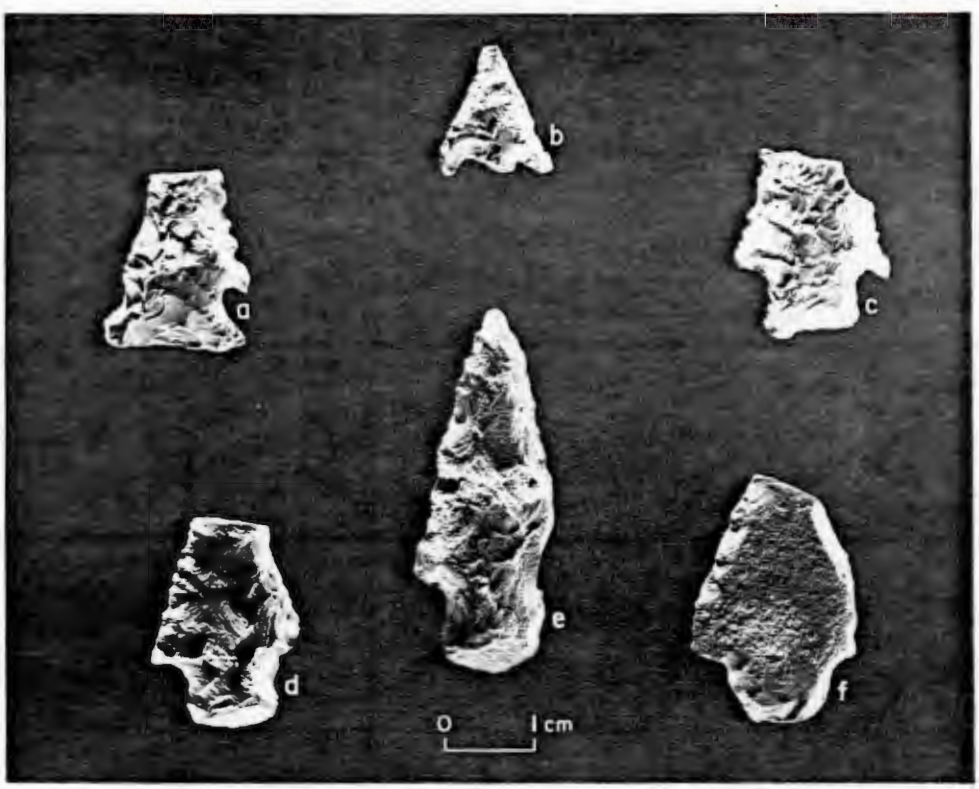

Figure 18.4 Selected projectile points recovered at Climbing Cactus Camp: (a) PL 31, (b) PL 32, (c) PL 11, (d) PL 7, (e) PL 21, (f) from FS 4 (D.A.P. 116502).

Table 18.3 Projectile Point Measurements, Climbing Cactus Camp

Point Location (PL) or Field Specimen (FS) #	Length	Width	Thickness	Neck Width	Result
PL #7	33 mm	18 mm	6 mm	11 mm	
Dart Point					10.241
Arrow Point					11.64
PL #11	28.5 mm	17.5 mm	5.5 mm	10 mm	
Dart Point					8.819
Arrow Point					10.273
PL #21	40.5 mm	18 mm	7 mm	11 mm	
Dart Point					12.043
Arrow Point					13.314
PL #31	29.5 mm	18 mm*	5 mm	11 mm	
Dart Point					9.191
Arrow Point					10.497
PL #32	16.5 mm*	13 mm	3 mm	4.5 mm	
Dart Point					1.388
Arrow Point					3.525
FS #4	35.5 mm*	19 mm	5.5 mm	12 mm	
Dart Point					11.497
Arrow Point					12.162

* Approximate measurements

Dart point equation: 0.188 (length) + 1.205 (width) + 0.392 (thickness) - 0.223 (neck width) - 17.552

Arrow point equation: 0.108 (length) + 0.470 (width) + 0.864 (thickness) + 0.214 (neck width - 7.922)

(Thomas [12:470])

mal end of a small lanceolate-shaped implement. It is made of fine quartzite, measures 28 mm long (fragmentary) and 14 mm wide (widest point is evident in fragment), and has a slightly beveled base. However, it is too fragmentary to be typed.

While none of the projectile points can be typed as diagnostic of the Archaic, there is one alternative argument that suggests the possibility of an Archaic element at the site. The Lithic Task Specialist has proposed a system for partially differentiating Anasazi and Archaic sites on the basis of assemblage differences (Phagan [14]). In Tables 18.1 and 18.2 there are the analysis results for two separate groups of sites. One group represents tool analyses from D.A.P. Anasazi sites and the other represents tool analyses from a group of limited activity sites with mixed Archaic-Anasazi assemblages. The utility of these comparative groups is of course hindered by the lack of any "pure" Archaic assemblages, but the tables may be useful in suggesting the possibility of an Archaic element at Climbing Cactus Camp.

A quick comparison of the FLT data shows that the FLT from Climbing Cactus Camp is very obviously not "typical Anasazi," and it demonstrates several similarities with a grouping of D.A.P. mixed Arcahic-Anasazi material (Table 18.1). These similarities, however, are far from complete, and suggest that Climbing Cactus may be some unusual expression of either Archaic or Anasazi activity, or both.

Among the lower production input items there is a rather low proportion of utilized flakes, even for Archaic-Anasazi situations, and relative proportions of heavy chopper/scraper planes and thick scrapers are approximately reversed. Among higher production input items there are very

high proportions of bifaces and projectile points resembling the Archaic-Anasazi context, but there is a complete absence of specialized forms.

The flaked lithic debitage (Table 18.2) also suggest a situation similar to Archaic-Anasazi, particularly for grain size proportions and mean weight. The proportions of items with cortex and items with platforms, however, are both low and may indicate an unusual pattern of tool production or maintenance at the site.

While these comparisons do suggest that there are similarities between the lithics at Climbing Cactus Camp and the sample from the Archaic-Anasazi sites, it is not possible to specify that the site has an Archaic occupation. The comparisions do highlight possible functional, if not temporal, similarities.

Nonflaked Lithics

There are only two nonflaked lithic items for the whole site and only one of these was complete enough to be analyzed as to morpho-use type. The item is a river cobble of igneous material that has some evidence of grinding and battering on its edges. It was classified in analysis as an unworked cobble hammerstone.

Ceramics

As can be seen in Table 18.4, a summary of ceramic data, a total of 13 sherds, including 4 from initial survey, was recovered from the site. All of the ceramic types identified in this collection belong to the Mesa Verde Culture Category (Lucius [15]) and date between A.D. 600-900. Eight sherds are gray ware body sherds from utilitarian vessels and five are white ware body sherds from serving vessels. With the exception of one

white ware bowl sherd, the ceramic items represent jar forms. Although the sherds date to a time period compatible with the time period suggested by the projectile points, the sherds are so few in number and fragmentary in size that interpretaion is not appropriate.

Table 18.4 Summary of Descriptive Frequencies of Ceramics, Climbing Cactus Camp

Ware Traditional Type	By Count						Weights	
	Bowl		Jar		Total			
	#	%	#	%	#	%	g	%
Mesa Verde Gray Ware Early Pueblo			8	66.7	8	61.5	37	54.4
Mesa Verde White Ware Early Pueblo White	1	100	4	33.3	5	38.5	31	45.6
TOTALS	1		12		13		68	

Estimated age: Range - A.D. 600-900
Occupation - A.D. 600-900

Faunal Remains

The variety of animal bones (a discussion and listing by taxa appear in Appendix A) collected from the surface serves as an interesting example of why caution is necessary in the interpretation of faunal remains. Bones from Lepus sp. (jackrabbit), Rodentia, and Artiodactyla (probably mule deer) were recovered from various proveniences across the site. The Artiodactyla skeletal remains were relatively concentrated in two 8 by 8 m squares, but were obviously still being dragged away by various animals. None of the bones showed any evidence of being in a cultural context or of having been cut or worked, yet, if the bones had come from an excavated site, there is little doubt that at least some, if not all, would have fit into some cultural explanation. Obviously there can be a considerable number of animal deaths that can bias the interpretation of a site.

CONCLUSIONS

The material culture data obtained from the surface collection argues for interpreting Climbing Cactus Camp as a limited activity site. The high degree of specialization in the flaked lithic implements and the high percentage of fine-grained materials, when combined with the relative lack of ceramic and nonflaked lithic materials, suggest the limited activity loci debris of a hunting group. Many of the sites immediately surrounding the marsh in this locality are interpreted from survey or excavated materials as having components that represent limited activity sites. Although the marsh, if it existed prehistorically, was probably not as large as today, it was still probably the lowest point in the Sagehen Flats Locality, and would have been the last source of water to dry up. It might have served, as it does presently, as a watering place for animals and birds. In late fall and winter it might have served as a gathering place for the large animals such as elk and deer that migrate down from the mountains.

In terms of the larger social setting that the site might have been a part of, the site was certainly utilized between A.D. 600-900, a time when the Sagehen Flats Locality was most heavily populated by Anasazi. At this time, the people lived in nuclear family unit pithouses and, after A.D. 800, they lived increasingly in pueblos; it would be expected that they would have special use sites for the collecting of special, seasonal resources (see Flannery [16] and Ford [17] for discussions of the area and limits of catchment that villagers exploit in addition to the land necessary for agriculture). The concentration of artifacts at Climbing Cactus Camp and their relatively high production input contribute to the

interpretation of the site as being a limited activity site. The differences in assemblages between Anasazi habitation sites and Climbing Cactus Camp can be explained in one of two ways. They either represent temporal or functional differences. While there is the possibility of an obscured Archaic occupation, the most obvious occupation at the site is Anasazi. In the specialization at the site, one may be seeing not temporal differences with Anasazi habitation sites, but instead the full range of Anasazi activities.

APPENDIX A

FAUNAL REMAINS FROM CLIMBING CACTUS CAMP

by

Steven D. Emslie

This report discusses analysis of faunal remains recovered from Climbing Cactus Camp during the 1979 intensive surface collection. Faunal remains were identified using modern comparative skeletons collected in the D.A.P. region. All bones were identified to species when possible or to other taxonomic categories. Minimum number of individuals (MNIs) for each species were calculated by counting the most numerous element of the same side.

A total of 36 bones, representing two species and six taxonomic categories, was identified from the site (Table 18.A.1). The most numerous bones are of unidentifiable mammal, followed by unidentifiable Artiodactyla, Gunnison's prairie dog, black-tailed jackrabbit, and unidentifiable rodent. No worked bone or bone displaying cut marks were recovered from the site.

The small size of this faunal collection allows few ecological or cultural interpretations. The rabbit and rodent remains may be intrusive to the site and not related to prehistoric deposits. These species are common in the D.A.P. region today and prefer areas with deep, light soil as found near this site. However, these species also commonly occur in archaeological sites in the Southwest and their use for food and skins by modern tribes is known. Comparison of this site with other sites in the D.A.P. region, once all analyses are completed, may reveal further information on prehistoric faunal utilization at Climbing Cactus Camp.

Table 18.A.1 Faunal Taxa Identified at Climbing Cactus Camp

Taxon	Number of Bones	MNI*
Mammal, large	23	
Mammal, small	1	
Black-tailed jackrabbit (*Lepus californicus*)	1	1
Sciuridae	1	
Gunnison's prairie dog (*Cynomys gunnisoni*)	4	1
Artiodactyla	6	
TOTAL	36	

*MNI caluclated only for species level identifications.

REFERENCES CITED

[1] Kane, Allen E. 1979. Sagehen Flats Archaeological Locality. In Field investigations: 1978. Dolores Archaeological Program Technical Reports I(3). First draft submitted to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Upper Colo. Region, Salt Lake City, in compliance with Contract No. 8-07-40-S0562.

[2] Bye, Robert A., Jr. 1981. Environmental studies report. In Laboratory Analysis: 1979. Dolores Archaeological Program Technical Reports VI(6). First draft submitted to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Upper Colo. Region, Salt Lake City, in compliance with Contract No. 8-07-40-S0562.

[3] Emslie, Steven D. 1980. Summary of activities by the faunal task specialist. In Laboratory analysis: 1979. Dolores Archaeological Program Technical Reports VI(7). First draft submitted to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Upper Colo. Region, Salt Lake City, in compliance with Contract No. 8-07-40-S0562.

[4] Leonhardy, Frank C. 1979. Reconnaissance soils map of the Dolores Archaeological Project area. Ms. of file, Bureau of Reclamation, Upper Colo. Region, Salt Lake City.

[5] Leonhardy, Frank C. 1981. Geology of the Dolores Project area. In Laboratory analysis: 1979. Dolores Archaeological Program Technical Reports VI(9). First draft submitted to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Upper Colo. Region, Salt Lake City, in compliance with Contract No. 8-07-40-S0562.

[6] Soil Survey Staff 1975. Soil taxonomy: a basic system of soil classification for making and interpreting soil surveys. U.S. Department of Agriculture. Agricultural Handbook 436.

[7] Southward, Jude n.d. Excavations at Ridgeline Camp (Site 5MT2242), a multiple occupation site. In Field investigations: Sagehen Flats Locality, 1979. Dolores Archaeological Program Technical Reports V(16). In preparation.

[8] Greenwald, David H. 1981. Lee Side Camp (Site 5MT4513). In The 1979 site testing program: operations in the Sagehen Flats Locality. In Field investigations: Sagehen Flats Locality, 1979. Dolores Archaeological Program Technical Reports V(13.5). First draft submitted to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Upper Colo. Region, Salt Lake City, in compliance with Contract No. 8-07-40-S0562.

[9] Wilshusen, Richard 1981. Excavations at Marshview Hamlet (Site 5MT2235), a Pueblo III habitation site. In Field investigations: Sagehen Flats Locality, 1979. Dolores Archaeological Program Technical Reports V(12). First draft submitted to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Upper Colo. Region, Salt Lake City, in compliance with Contract No. 8-07-40-S0562.

[10] Brown, Gary 1981. Excavations at Hawk House (Site 5MT4681), an Archaic-Anasazi limited activity site. In Field investigations: Sagehen Flats Locality, 1979. Dolores Archaeological Program Technical Reports V(17). First draft submitted to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Upper Colo. Region, Salt Lake City, in compliance with Contract No. 8-07-40-S0562.

[11] Woodbury, Richard B. and Ezra B.W. Zubrow 1979. Agricultural beginnings, 2000 B.C. - A.D. 500. In Handbook of North American Indians, Volume 9: Southwest, edited by Alfonso Ortiz, pp. 43-60. Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.

[12] Thomas, David H. 1978. Arrowheads and atlatl darts: how stones got the shaft. American Antiquity 43: 461-472.

[13] Hayes, Alden C. and James A. Lancaster 1975. Badger House Community, Mesa Verde National Park, Colorado. National Park Service Publication in Archaeology 7E.

[14] Phagan, Carl 1980. More on the Archaic. Ms. on file, Dolores Archaeological Program, Dolores, Colorado.

[15] Lucius, William A. 1981. Additive Technologies. In Laboratory analysis: 1979. Dolores Archaeological Program Technical Reports VI(2). First draft submitted to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Upper Colo. Region, Salt Lake City, in compliance with Contract No. 8-07-40-S0562.

[16] Flannery, Kent 1976. The early Mesoamerican village. Academic Press, New York.

[17] Ford, R.I. 1968. An ecological analysis involving the population of San Juan Pueblo, New Mexico. Unpublished Ph.D. dissertation, Department of Anthropology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

DAP-V(18)

Dolores Archaeological Program
Technical Reports: Excavations at Climbing Cactus Camp (Site 5MT4682), an Anasazi Limited Activity Site

June 1982 (Submitted)

Richard Wilshusen

University of Colorado - DAP
Rural Route 1, 17219 CR 26
Dolores, Colorado 81323

8-07-40-S0562

Contractual
FY 1979

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
P.O. Box 11568
Salt Lake City, Utah 84147

Dolores Archaeological Program,
SW Colorado, Anasazi, Archaeology,
(Archaeological method)

Figure 18.1 Photograph of Climbing Cactus Camp, looking toward the southeast. Sagehen Marsh and the Dolores River valley are in the background (D.A.P. 013708).

Figure 18.2 Topographic view of Climbing Cactus Camp, intensively collected area only. Actual site boundaries, based on limits of artifact scatter, extend beyond area shown on map and are discussed in text.

Figure 18.3 Surface distribution of flaked lithics, Climbing Cactus Camp.

Figure 18.4 Selected projectile points recovered at Climbing Cactus Camp: (a) PL 31, (b) PL 32, (c) PL 11, (d) PL 7, (e) PL 21, (f) from FS 4 (D.A.P. 116502).

Site 5MT4682, Climbing Cactus Camp, was intensively surface collected in 1979 as part of the Dolores Archaeological Program. The site was identified during initial inventory survey as being a hunting camp with multiple temporal components. Based on a high percentage of projectile points and bifaces recovered in the 10 percent collection during this survey, it was decided that an intensive surface collection of the site in 8 by 8 m grid units might produce data for a more precise interpretation of the site. Of particular concern was the possibility of an Archaic component. The only temporally diagnostic artifacts from the site are 13 sherds which date the site to the Anasazi period, between A.D. 600-900. The main portion of the collection is lithic tools and debris. The site is located on a small knoll immediately north of present-day Sagehen Marsh; assuming the marsh existed prehistorically, it might have served as a natural attraction for animals. The high percentage of projectile points also suggests a functional interpretation of the site related to hunting activities.