



# South Park Site Stewards

## Newsletter – December 2020

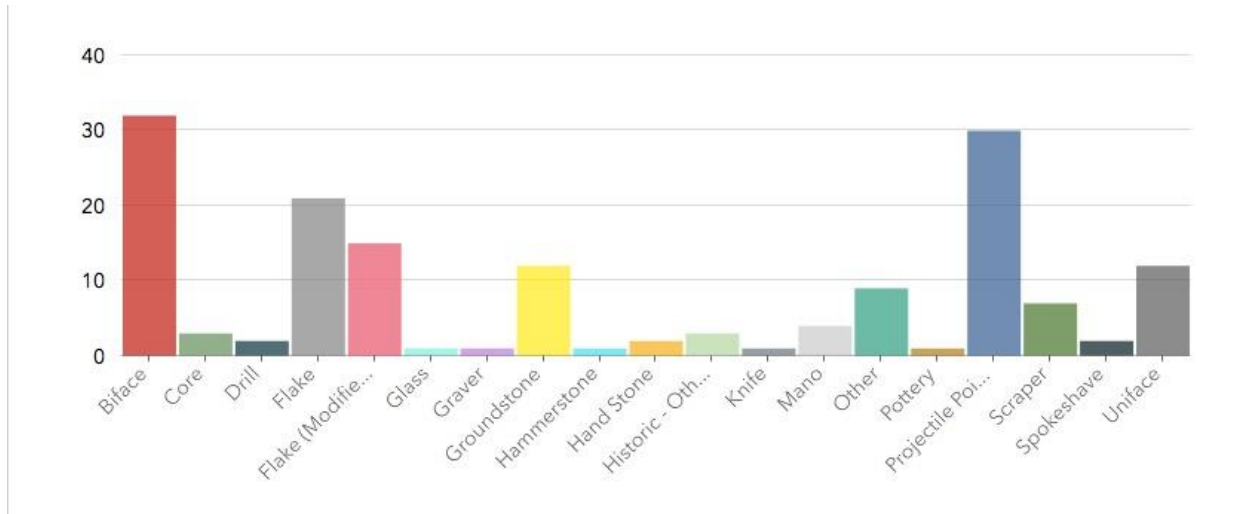
### What a Year!

The Covid Pandemic changed everything in 2020, including SPSS. We wore masks, sanitized equipment, socially distanced, and virtually attended trainings and seminars. Unlike many others, we were able to be outdoors in the field, performing site visits and collecting data.

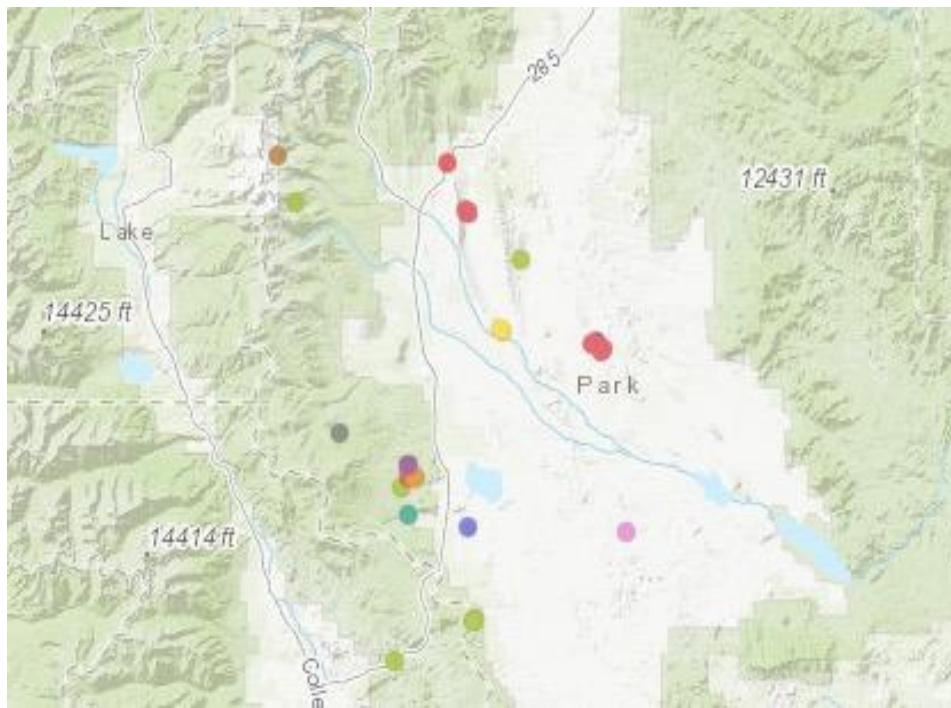


We began year two of the transition from paper records to digital tablets and were thrilled to see how efficiently data was retrieved for immediate use in the field. GPS maps and tracking actively displayed site boundaries and locations of previously recorded artifacts. A click onto a GPS location instantly brought up the data record and photos. Berta spent the winter streamlining the functionality of the tablets which enabled us to not only monitor sites accurately and efficiently but also allowed more time to explore beyond the site boundaries laying the groundwork for further reconnaissance and classification. In five months we

performed 28 site visits, logged 1050 field hours, and recorded 70 new artifacts. The chart below shows how many different types of artifacts we've found. We are definitely increasing the archaeological record of South Park!



Artifacts Recorded in the SPSS Database



Map of Monitored Archaeological Sites in South Park



Covid restrictions and early safe at home guidelines gave us the opportunity to update administrative infrastructure while remote educational seminars replaced in-person trainings.

- Revamped the SPSS website at [southparkstewards.com](https://southparkstewards.com) with new content and a fresh design.
- Implemented Aplos cloud-based fund accounting platform for non-profits.
- Purchased ZOOM Pro video conferencing for our meetings and trainings.
- The Western Regional Stewardship Conference in Las Vegas reorganized as a two day virtual event attended by Linda Carr and Beth Parisi, and featured a presentation of the SPSS digital reporting system.
- The Colorado Archaeological Society annual event was remotely attended by several SPSS Board members and stewards.
- SPSS Consulting Archaeologist Tom Lincoln developed and presented a virtual seminar on the migration of Indigenous People into North America and South Park.
- SPSS Consulting Archaeologist Dr. Susan Bender developed and presented a virtual seminar on the history and findings of archaeology in South Park.
- SPSS Tech Team presented an interactive virtual training on field tablet use and reporting procedures.



## Linda Carr



Linda retired in November after six years as Director leading SPSS to become the strong and thriving organization we are today. Seeking greater balance in her professional, personal, and family life, Linda also wanted to pursue other priorities. Not only will Linda continue participating with the various archaeological organizations to which she belongs but will also join Partners for Archeological Site Stewardship, a grassroots organization collaborating and sharing ideas and opportunities to assist site stewardship programs in all parts of the country. She's definitely not leaving SPSS and hopes to have lots more time doing what she loves, hiking and joining us on many site visits. Thank you Linda!!!

## Moving Forward – 2021

The Board has been redistributing administrative duties and project management as we move forward in 2021. We anticipate Covid restrictions and practices will continue and that works for SPSS. As we strengthen our partnership with the US Forest Service, the South Park Ranger District has requested that we monitor an additional 5 archaeological sites for 2021. The sites have significant artifact history and are a priority for field activities...just the way we like them.

### Special Projects

Plans for next season include several new and exciting special projects. Training and hands-on field work with professional consultants will add new dimensions to our skills and provide opportunities for partnerships and collaborations with other organizations. The special projects include:

- **Archaeobotanical Research Project**  
The purpose of the research is to recover and identify plant remains in soil samples taken from archaeological features associated with the house floors found at a previously excavated archaeological site in Three Mile Gulch. We will contract and work with a professional paleobotanist for consultation, flotation processing and analysis. This information will increase the understanding of lifestyles of the site's Indigenous inhabitants, how they used local resources and, importantly, the time of year when they camped in South Park. Future plans may promote an educational community event that includes comparisons of plants then and now.
- Recent discovery of a significant artifact concentration at a site we have been monitoring in Park County has initiated preliminary planning for a research and educational project for stakeholders. A proposed formal survey of the site will be

conducted by professional archaeologists and SPSS volunteer stewards. It will lay the groundwork for collaborative learning experiences and active community involvements that connect the story of Indigenous People with the land as they migrated in South Park.

- **Obsidian Sourcing and Recordation**  
Obsidian is not a natural rock to South Park and artifacts made of obsidian were brought in through the potential trade and/or migration routes of Indigenous people. Obsidian is unique in that it can be chemically analyzed to determine its origin. The project is to collaborate with land agencies and private land owners to determine the origin of various obsidian artifacts and integrate the data with our mapping software to analyze and visualize the findings for further research by the archaeological community.

### ArcGIS Technology

Berta, Mitch, and Diane volunteered many hours as we replaced a paper based data collection system with digital tablets and interactive mapping and analytic software. Now it's time to update our reporting with easier, more accessible, and sustainable apps. We have contacted Alpine Archaeological Consultants to provide much needed IT support that will take our systems to the next level for our internal use as well as that of external stakeholders and researchers.

#### Example of Field Report

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>*** CONFIDENTIAL ***</b><br><b>South Park Site Stewards</b><br><b>Field Report by Lori [REDACTED]</b><br><br><b>Site Visit at [REDACTED]</b><br><b>09/28/2020</b>                            |   |
| <b>Arrival:</b> 10:15<br><b>Departure:</b> 16:15<br><b>Person-Hours on Site:</b> 39   | <b>Travel Hours:</b> 26.6<br><b>Travel Mileage:</b> 519 |
| <b>Stewards Participating:</b> [REDACTED]   |   |
| <b>NEW ARTIFACTS FOUND?</b> Yes<br><b>List of new artifacts:</b> Several broken points, intact mano, broken mano, possible historic hunting blind. This trip combined [REDACTED].               |   |
| <b>SITE CONDITION:</b> Unchanged since last visit   |   |
| <b>COMMENTS:</b> We visited [REDACTED] since they are in very close proximity. We were able to refind the point found in the drainage. We all agreed there is a lot of potential for this site. |   |



## Purchases = Donations

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way to support SOUTH PARK SITE STEWARDS INC. Every time you shop, at no cost to you, AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible purchases to the SOUTH PARK SITE STEWARDS. Signing up is easy!



1. Visit [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)
2. Sign in with your Amazon.com credentials
3. Choose SOUTH PARK SITE STEWARDS, INC. to receive donations
4. Add a bookmark for [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) to make it even easier every time you shop. South Park Site Stewards, Inc. will be automatically designated to receive the donations
5. Start shopping!

So far we have earned \$70 in 2020.

City Market/King Soopers/Kroger gives us another way to earn money for SPSS! Most of us already have a loyalty/reward card and now SPSS is registered to earn money based on purchases every time we shop. But each of us has to sign up to link our cards to the program. Here's how.....Click on the appropriate link below..



- For King Soopers Stores - go to <http://www.kingsoopers.com>
- For City Market Stores - go to <http://www.citymarket.com>

Once you are logged into your King Soopers or City Market account search for South Park Site Stewards, Inc. either by name or our Non-Profit Number - GI031 - and then click Enroll. New users will need to create an account which requires some basic information, a valid email address and a loyalty card.

You must swipe your registered King Soopers or City Market loyalty card or use the phone number that is related to your registered King Soopers or City Market loyalty card when shopping for each purchase to count. If you do not have a loyalty card, you can get one at the customer service desk at any King Soopers or City Market.



Donations are distributed quarterly and we will receive our first in January 2021.

## What a Year!

Economic hardships caused by the Covid pandemic affected so many families in Colorado. Elk and deer hunters took to the hills in record numbers this fall. We had to cancel our field work when a group of hunters set up camp near our archaeological site at West Buffalo Creek. Mary wisely reminded us that the spirit of South Park continues.....

*....we would not want to spoil someone's hunt. These days meat is very expensive and organic meat hard to come by. Interesting to think that the same camp is still being used thousands of years later for the same purpose.*

## Happy Holidays

*Our heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you for your contributions and friendships.*

*Best wishes for a happy, healthy, and safe holiday season.*



The South Park Site Stewards program's (SPSS) mission is to promote the protection and preservation of prehistoric, historic, archaeological, and paleontological resources within the South Park National Heritage Area (SPNHA). The SPSS is composed of volunteer site stewards who work in collaboration with public land agencies and private land owners to monitor, protect, and report on the condition of these resources.