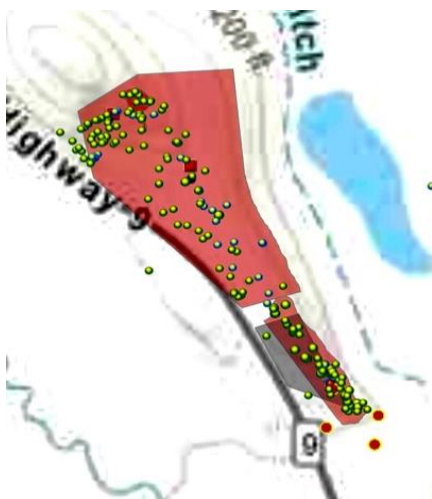




Newsletter December 2021

Buffalo Peaks Ranch

SPSS was awarded a State Historical Grant to conduct an extensive 6 day archaeology reassessment survey at Buffalo Peaks Ranch, a Colorado Registered Historical Site.



Gray is original site. Red is revised site.
Yellow dots are new artifacts and features.

Under the direction of Dr. Susan Bender and Tom Lincoln, the fieldwork yielded....

- 677 Volunteer Steward Hours
- 1500 Pieces of Lithic Debitage
- 129 Formal Tool Types
- 33 Features including culturally modified trees, cairns, pre and post horse stone circles, a thermal feature, linear and arc alignments
- Extended the time frame for the site by at least 2000 years into the Paleoindian period

A lot of work, learning and FUN!



This is what we're going to do today



What a great site

Paleobotanical Research Project



Stewards began the rigorous cataloging and preparation of soil samples taken from the house floors of a previously excavated archaeological site. What will the Paleobotanical analysis show? A similar project in Utah recovered charred tobacco plant seeds, along with bones and projectile points, from the remnants of an ancient hearth suggesting that early Americans may have been using the plant

12,300 years ago. Based on the context, researchers believe early hunter-gatherers may have sucked or smoked wads of the plant with its nicotine addictive properties while cooking or toolmaking.....BBC reference.



Only 85 more bags of soil samples to go!

Table 2. Macrofloral Remains in Samples from Feature 7 at Site 5PA2332, Colorado.

Bag			Charred		Uncharred		Weights/
Number	Identification	Part	W	F	W	F	Comments
14	Liters Floated						2.0 L

Level 1	Light Fraction Weight						17.265 g
	<u>Floral Remains:</u>						
	Parenchymous tissue				16		0.016 g
	Vitrified tissue				X		0.024 g
	<i>Astragalus</i> sp.	Seed			1		
	<i>Chenopodium</i> sp.	Seed			1		
	Rootlets					X	Moderate
	Sclerotia				X	X	Few
	<u>Charcoal:</u>						
	Total charcoal \geq 2 mm						0.264 g
	<i>Pinus</i> spp.	Charcoal		40			0.186 g
	<u>Non-Floral Remains:</u>						
	Insect	Chitin				53	
	Lithic flake \geq 1 mm					9	0.136 g
	Lithic flake $<$ 1 mm					X	Few
	Rock/Gravel					X	Moderate
	Worm castings				X	X	Few

Stewardship

“By protecting cultural heritage we honor the history and culture of living descendants” Institute for Heritage Education

Much of our site visit monitoring is routine without major change. We’ve documented conditions after wildfires and erosion and unfortunately vandalism. This year Magnolia Mill was hit with major amounts of offensive graffiti. Site leader, Kathy Reeves, and her team monitor the Mill six times throughout the year and discovered the graffiti on the structures in late summer. Kathy’s report with photos to SPNHA and USFS resulted in an immediate clean up of the buildings on a site that is heavily visited site by families and children. Thanks Kathy!



Most site visits are typical with a chance to noodle around and look for other noteworthy artifacts. With the excessive and sometimes heavy rains this year, many sites experienced dense vegetation and erosion. While some known artifacts moved downhill or disappeared completely, new artifacts were uncovered and found.



Take a look at this



Checking out Three Mile with Paleobotanist



Ice cream after a long day in the field

Tom Moran found a point



So did Tom Lincoln





Lunch at Yellowbark Camp



End of season picnic at Fairplay Beach

Moving Forward – 2022

As the field of Archaeology advances, it's no longer just about digs and research. It's also about enhancing public interaction with education and outreach that convey the meaning of our shared heritage.

SPSS promotes archaeology through stewardship and our special projects can enable us to become a better proponent for archaeological education through interactive community outreach. We are in the early stages of planning an event that showcases how prehistoric stone tools were made and how Indigenous people hunted and survived as they migrated through South Park. A group of dedicated flint knappers have volunteered to conduct a demonstration of how early hunters worked stone to produce spear points and other tools. Networking and collaborating with other educational and heritage groups will help us bring archaeology to the community with interactive events that enhance public awareness and respect for our shared past.

Preliminary plans include:

- Possible Location – Lawn of Old Courthouse on Main Street Fairplay
- Possible Time – August/September 2022
- Possible Partners – SPNHA, History Colorado, Park County Heritage and Tourism, Institute for Heritage Education, Park County Schools K-12

Purchases = Donations

Amazon Smile has donated \$70 to SPSS in 2021

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
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 to make it even easier every time you shop. South Park Site Stewards, Inc. will be automatically designated to receive the donations

Start shopping!

Kroger/King Soopers/City Market has donated \$211 to SPSS in 2021

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.

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.