
Reports

A FINAL TABULATION OF SITES RECORDED IN THE GREATER GLEN CANYON AREA BY THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH DURING THE GLEN CANYON PROJECT

Alan R. Schroedl and Daniel K. Newsome,
P-III Associates, Inc., 2759 S. 300 W. Salt Lake
City, UT 84115-2932

The Glen Canyon Project was, and still is, the largest cultural resource management project ever completed in Utah. Jennings's (1966) summary of the Glen Canyon Project indicates that more than 2000 sites in southern Utah and northern Arizona were recorded by the University of Utah as part of the project between 1956 and 1963. A literature review, archival research, and a file search completed as part of a database compilation project demonstrate that fewer than 1700 archaeological and historical sites were actually recorded by the University of Utah between 1956 and 1963. More recent inventory data suggest that there were biases in the field recording procedures during the Glen Canyon Project.

In the 1950s and 1960s, the University of Utah (UU), the Museum of Northern Arizona (MNA), the University of New Mexico (UNM), and the University of Colorado (UC), in cooperation with the National Park Service (NPS), performed archaeological and historical investigations in the Upper Colorado River Basin region in response to the threat of cultural resource losses posed by the construction of several dams in the region. This project was collectively and officially called the

Upper Colorado River Basin Archeological Salvage Program (UCRBASP). The UC worked at Curecanti Reservoir, the UNM at Navajo Reservoir, MNA in Glen Canyon, and the UU in western and southern Utah, eastern Colorado, southwestern Wyoming, and northeastern Arizona. Most of the UU investigations were conducted in southern Utah in response to the plans for the construction of Glen Canyon Dam. The portion of the UCRBASP project conducted by the UU and MNA in southern Utah and northern Arizona became known colloquially as the Glen Canyon Project (GCP).

In his final summary of the Glen Canyon Project, Jennings (1966:43) reports "the precise location of over 2000 [archaeological] sites is now known." However, a complete tabulation of sites recorded by the UU and MNA was never prepared during the GCP. In 1998, P-III Associates, Inc., compiled management data on all the archaeological and historical sites investigated by the UU on the GCP. MNA is currently compiling a similar database for sites originally investigated by its teams on the GCP.

METHODS

The identification of cultural properties recorded during the GCP by the UU was initiated with a review of the University of Utah Anthropological Papers (UUAP), the principal publication medium used by the university to disseminate data on the GCP. The review of the university's anthropological series revealed 31 salient publications (Table 1). Next, P-III Associates compiled a Microsoft Access database of the sites identified in the UUAP. The database includes 27 fields: Smithsonian site number and other site designations, site locational data and legal descriptions, the general types of cul-

Table 1. List of References in the UUAP that Contain Information on Sites Identified and Documented by the University of Utah in the Greater Glen Canyon Area During the UCRBASP.

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- 1959b *The Glen Canyon Archeological Survey, Part III*. Anthropological Papers No. 39, Glen Canyon Series No. 6. University of Utah Press, Salt Lake City.
- 1961 Appendix II: Lake Canyon Survey. In *1960 Excavations, Glen Canyon Area*. Anthropological Papers No. 52, Glen Canyon Series No. 14. University of Utah Press, Salt Lake City.
- 1963 *1961 Excavations, Harris Wash, Utah*. Anthropological Papers No. 64, Glen Canyon Series No. 19. University of Utah Press, Salt Lake City.
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- 1960 *1958 Excavations, Glen Canyon Area*. Anthropological Papers No. 44, Glen Canyon Series No. 11. University of Utah Press, Salt Lake City.
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Table 1. (Continued) List of References in the UUAP that Contain Information on Sites Identified and Documented by the University of Utah in the Greater Glen Canyon Area During the UCRBASP.

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 1958 *The Glen Canyon Survey in 1957*. Anthropological Papers No. 30, Glen Canyon Series No. 1. University of Utah Press, Salt Lake City.
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 1959b The Waterpocket Fold: A Distributional Problem. In *The Glen Canyon Archeological Survey, Part I*, pp. 285-317. Anthropological Papers No. 39, Glen Canyon Series No. 6. University of Utah Press, Salt Lake City.
 1959c *The Coombs Site (Part I)*. Anthropological Papers No. 41, Glen Canyon Series No. 8. University of Utah Press, Salt Lake City.
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tural remains noted at each property, the collection status of each property (i.e., whether the site was surface collected, tested, or excavated), the land owner, the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) number(s) under which the site was investigated, the respective report citation, and comments. In addition to developing the database of the sites, accurate site plots, when available, were marked on a set of U.S.G.S. 7.5' maps covering the GCP area.

Whenever possible, information presented in the UUAP was used to complete the database fields. In many instances, however, the UUAP did not provide site-specific locational information. In an attempt to obtain the requisite data, both the original UU field maps and base maps and site forms at Utah State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) were examined. To insure that all sites recorded by the UU on the GCP were included in the database, a complete search of SHPO site records for all counties in southern Utah was conducted. All available site records that were recorded prior to 1963 were inspected. This effort located another 72 sites that were investigated during the GCP, but not documented in any of the UUAP publications.

RESULTS

A total of 1563 sites were listed in the 31 UUAP publications for the Glen Canyon area. As noted above, an additional 72 sites not included in any UUAP publications, were subsequently discovered in the SHPO files and added to the database. Many of these 72 sites are historic Paiute sites that were recorded by Catherine Sweeney (Fowler) (cf. Sweeney and Euler 1963). The remaining sites are small prehistoric sites located near Boulder City, Utah.

Thus, the total number of cultural properties recorded by the UU as part of the GCP is 1635 (Figure 1). Of these, 286 are in Garfield County, Utah; 3 are in Grand County, Utah; 648 are located in Kane County, Utah; 622 are in San Juan County, Utah; 29 are in Washington County, Utah; 16 are located in Wayne County, Utah; and the remaining 31 properties are in Coconino County, Arizona. A total of 1354¹ of the properties are prehis-

toric and the remaining 281 are historic sites or landforms and topographic features. Prehistoric artifacts were collected from 1173 of the properties.

The 1635 sites include all 281 historic sites reported in the UUAP. Only a few of these historic sites have been assigned Smithsonian site numbers and recorded on site forms in the SHPO files. The UUAP publications provide the information necessary to create site forms for the remainder of these sites. Many of these historic sites are actually landforms or topographic features rather than cultural manifestations. For example, the historical researchers recorded buttes, mouths of canyons, sand bars, river rapids, and other natural features as historic sites because they were places where historic events occurred, or were place names referenced in historical documents. We have included these landforms and topographic features in the database to assist the SHPO in updating its records.

Every effort was made to record accurate locational information for each site. Specific location data could not be obtained for 134 of the sites because the sources used to compile the database either contained information that was so generic that the sites could not be plotted with any degree of confidence, or they lacked locational information altogether. Furthermore, although specific location data were compiled for the remaining 1501 sites, much of it is also rather dubious.

Only 51 sites have locational information considered to be precise, as these sites have been field checked within the last few years. Location data for another 558 of the sites were compiled from site plots on the original University of Utah field maps. These data are assumed to be relatively accurate because these are original plots not subject to transposition errors. Location data for 543 of the sites were compiled from the SHPO base maps which contain secondary plots. The location data for many of these sites are suspect because of possible transposition errors. Finally, location data for the remaining 349 properties is based only on general locational information provided in the UUAP. The accuracy of these plots is questionable and efforts should be made to field check these site locations in the future.

SUMMARY AND DISCUSSION

More than 30 years after the end of the GCP, a final tabulation of sites recorded and investigated by the UU is now available. A total of 1635 archaeological and historical sites, including some landforms and topographic features, were investigated during the GCP by the UU. A computer database of information about these sites was prepared and submitted to the Bureau of Reclamation, the NPS, and the Utah SHPO.

A comparison of the database of sites recorded by the UU on the GCP with subsequent inventories in the Glen Canyon region enables us to make some observations about the quality and utility of the site inventory data from the GCP. In 1976, Schroedl (1976) reassessed more than 150 sites recorded by the UU in Lake and Moqui canyons during the GCP. This area of Glen Canyon was heavily occupied prehistorically and about 10 percent of all the sites recorded by the UU during the GCP were situated in Lake and Moqui canyons. Schroedl discovered a number of site recording problems by the UU inventory teams in these two canyons.

First, three recorded "sites" were not sites because they did not exhibit any cultural remains. Also, five of the sites recorded in Moqui Canyon by the GCP teams were recorded twice and assigned a second set of site numbers. But most importantly, Schroedl (1976, 1981a, 1981b) demonstrated that certain site types and categories were systematically missed and not recorded by the UU.

Several of the sites that were missed in these two canyons were small, open Anasazi structural sites located on small prominences within the canyon. These sites were missed by the GCP inventory teams because the crews were focused on searching for Anasazi sites in alcoves and overhangs along the canyon walls. A similar site recording bias by the UU teams occurred in Canyonlands National Park (Tipps et al. 1996:196-197) in the early 1960s where the GCP inventory procedures were also used (cf. Sharrock 1966). In Upper Salt Creek and Big Pocket of Canyonlands National Park, the UU inventory teams focused their efforts along the canyon walls and within alcoves and overhangs. Small- and

medium-sized open Anasazi sites not located along the canyon walls but situated within the wide canyon bottom environments were consistently overlooked and not recorded.

Not only were certain Anasazi site types often missed by the UU during the GCP, but the Archaic occupation of the benchlands and uplands surrounding Glen Canyon also went unrecognized. As Tipps (1987:3) and later Geib (1996:195) note, the GCP focused on the Anasazi occupations in the canyon environment ignoring the uplands because they were considered dry and unsuitable for human habitation. Jennings (1966:66) states "The Glen Canyon Area cannot certainly be shown to have been much utilized by man prior to the Christian era." According to Tipps (1987:3), most researchers believed that the area was uninhabited prior to Basketmaker II except for a small enclave of Archaic people in the highland plateaus surrounding Navajo Mountain.

Schroedl (1981b) and Tipps (1983) were among the first to point out that the GCP failed to identify Archaic occupation in the area. In the late 1980s during investigations by Northern Arizona University, Geib (1996) recorded numerous open lithic scatters of Archaic age in outlying areas in Glen Canyon. Geib's research culminated in the publication of an extensive discussion of Archaic occupation in the area (Geib 1996) with the recognition that Archaic sites are one of the most abundant site types in the region.

In summary, the database of sites recorded by the UU during the GCP is biased and incomplete. It is not suitable for rigorous hypothesis testing about the prehistory of the region and is largely of historical interest only. The true achievement of the UU on the GCP is not the number of sites recorded, but the massive quantity of high quality data recovered from more than 100 tested and excavated sites, mostly Anasazi sites, reported on in the UUAP. This is the lasting legacy of the GCP.

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NOTE

¹ A total of 120 prehistoric sites in the UU GCP database have associated MNA site numbers. Gene Foster of MNA may have initially recorded a few of these sites in the early 1950s prior to the start of the GCP (Adams et al. 1961). The final tabulation of GCP sites recorded by MNA should clarify which sites were actually recorded by MNA. The Glen Canyon series reports published by MNA indicate that more than 600 sites were recorded during the GCP by MNA.