HANDOUT 1 — Colorado Archaeology

Annotated Bibliography & Glossary

Ahler, Stanley A., and Marvin Kay (editors)

Beck, Charlotte, and George T. Jones

Benedict, James B., and Byron L. Olson
1978 The Mount Albion Complex. Center for Mountain Archaeology, Research Report #1, Ward, CO. [possible effects of the Altithermal]

Benedict, James B.

Black, Kevin D.

Bonnichsen, Robson, Bradley T. Lepper, Dennis Stanford, and Michael R. Waters (editors)

Breternitz, David A., Christine K. Robinson, and G. Timothy Gross (compilers)

Brunswig, Robert H., and Bonnie L. Pitblado (editors)
2007 Frontiers in Colorado Paleoindian Archaeology: From the Dent Site to the Rocky Mountains. University Press of Colorado, Boulder. [eight papers on the early archaeology of Colorado, with a focus on Dent]
Cameron, Catherine M., and Andrew I. Duff  

Cassells, E. Steve  

Condie, Carol J., and Don D. Fowler (editors)  

Cordell, Linda S., and Maxine E. McBrinn  
2012 Archaeology of the Southwest. 3rd ed. Left Coast Press, Walnut Creek, CA. [easy-to-read summary of southwestern cultures, including the Ancestral Pueblo (Anasazi)]

Cordell, Linda S., and Don D. Fowler (editors)  
2005 Southwest Archaeology in the Twentieth Century. University of Utah Press, Salt Lake City. [history of archaeological research]

Crow Canyon Archaeological Center  

Crum, Sally  
1996 People of the Red Earth. Ancient City Press, Santa Fe, NM. [non-technical summary of Colorado archaeology and Historic period tribes]

D’Azevedo, Warren L. (editor)  

DeMallie, Raymond J. (editor)  
Eighmy, Jeffrey L., and Jason M. LaBelle

Fagan, Brian M.
2005 Ancient North America: The Archaeology of a Continent. 4th ed. Thames and Hudson, New York. [readable summary, arranged by region and time period]

Fowler, Catherine S., and Don D. Fowler (editors)
2008 The Great Basin: People and Place in Ancient Times. School for Advanced Research Press, Santa Fe, NM. [diverse and comprehensive tome from deserts to mountains]

Gilmore, Kevin P., Marcia Tate, Mark L. Chenault, Bonnie Clark, Terri McBride, and Margaret Wood

Gunnerson, James H.
1987 Archaeology of the High Plains. Bureau of Land Management-Colorado, Cultural Resources Series #19, Denver. [culture history of the central plains, including an appendix on projectile points]

Hoard, Robert J., and William E. Banks (editors)
2006 Kansas Archaeology. University Press of Kansas, Lawrence. [first comprehensive overview of Kansas archaeology in nearly fifty years]

Huckell, Bruce B.

Huckell, Bruce B., and J. David Kilby (compilers)
2004 Readings in Late Pleistocene North America and Early Paleoindians: Selections from American Antiquity. SAA Press, Washington, D.C. [a compendium of articles on the peopling of the New World]
Hughes, J. Donald
1987 **American Indians in Colorado.** 2nd ed. Pruett Press, Boulder, CO. [emphasizes Historic period tribes in the state]

Kantner, John
2004 **Ancient Puebloan Southwest.** Case Studies in Early Societies No. 5. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, UK. [based on a range of archaeological data, historical accounts, oral history and ethnographic records]

Kohler, Timothy A., Mark D. Varien, and Aaron M. Wright (editors)
2010 **Leaving Mesa Verde: Peril and Change in the Thirteenth-Century Southwest.** Amerind Studies in Archaeology. University of Arizona Press, Tucson. [synthesis of recent research in SW Colorado]

Kornfeld, Marcel
2013 **The First Rocky Mountaineers: Coloradans before Colorado.** University of Utah Press, Salt Lake City. [Paleoindian archaeology based on his research in Middle Park]

Kornfeld, Marcel, George C. Frison, and Mary Lou Larson
2010 **Prehistoric Hunter-Gatherers of the High Plains and Rockies.** 3rd ed. Left Coast Press, Walnut Creek, CA. [summary of northwestern plains including northern Colorado]

Larson, Mary Lou

Larson, Mary Lou, Marcel Kornfeld, and George C. Frison (editors)
2009 **Hell Gap: A Stratified Paleoindian Campsite at the Edge of the Rockies.** University of Utah Press, Salt Lake City. [report on a premier Paleoindian site in southeastern Wyoming]

Lekson, Stephen H. (editor)
2006 **The Archaeology of Chaco Canyon: An Eleventh Century Pueblo Regional Center.** School of American Research Press, Santa Fe, NM. [summarizes the latest thinking about this important cultural center]
Lekson, Stephen H.  

Lipe, William D., Mark D. Varien, and Richard H. Wilshusen (editors)  
1999  **Colorado Prehistory: A Context for the Southern Colorado River Basin.** Colorado Council of Professional Archaeologists, Denver. [detailed summary for southwestern Colorado including the Ancestral Puebloans]

Madsen, David B.  
1989  **Exploring the Fremont.** Utah Museum of Natural History, Salt Lake City, UT. [well-illustrated summary of Ancestral Puebloan neighbors]

Madsen, David B., and Steven R. Simms  

Martorano, Marilyn A., Ted Hoefer III, Margaret (Pegi) A. Jodry, Vince Spero, and Melissa L. Taylor  

McManamon, Francis, Linda S. Cordell, Kent Lightfoot, and George Milner (editors)  

2009b  **Archaeology in America: An Encyclopedia. Volume 3, Southwest and Great Basin/Plateau.** Greenwood Publishing, Westport, CT. [all 4 volumes have site descriptions, prehistoric and historic summaries, and address current research; not listed are Volume 1: Northeast and Southeast, and Volume 4: West Coast and Arctic/Subarctic]

Metcalf, Michael D., and Kevin D. Black  
Neusius, Sarah W., and G. Timothy Gross

Noble, David Grant
2000 **Ancient Colorado: An Archaeological Perspective.** Colorado Council of Professional Archaeologists, Denver. [your Handout 8]

2006 editor. **The Mesa Verde World: Explorations in Ancestral Pueblo Archaeology.** SAR Press, Santa Fe, NM. [experts on Southwestern archaeology summarize recent research in the Four Corners area]

2014 editor. **Living the Ancient Southwest.** SAR Press, Santa Fe, NM. [18 articles on southwestern cultures, both prehistoric and historic]

Ortiz, Alfonso (editor)

Pauketat, Timothy R., and Diana DiPaolo Loren (editors)

Plog, Stephen
2008 **Ancient Peoples of the American Southwest.** 2nd ed. Thames and Hudson, New York. [includes early first-person accounts]

Reed, Alan D., and Michael D. Metcalf

Sagstetter, Beth, and Bill Sagstetter
2010 **The Cliff Dwellings Speak: Exploring the Ancient Ruins of the Greater American Southwest.** BenchMark Publishing, Denver, CO. [general overview with good illustrations of artifacts and features]

Shaw, Ian, and Robert Jameson (editors)
Simms, Steven R.
2008  *Ancient Peoples of the Great Basin and Colorado Plateau*.  Left Coast Press, Walnut Creek, CA.  [broad overview, including a chapter on the Fremont]

2010 *Traces of Fremont: Society and Rock Art in Ancient Utah*.  University of Utah Press, Salt Lake City.  [blends a narrative of everyday life with rock art]

Stanford, Dennis J., and Bruce A. Bradley

Stiger, Mark

Stone, Tammy
1999 *The Prehistory of Colorado and Adjacent Areas*.  University of Utah Press, Salt Lake City.  [more concise summary than Cassells’ book]

Wedel, Waldo R.
1961 *Prehistoric Man on the Great Plains*.  University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, OK.  [still a classic, Canada-to-Texas coverage]

1986 *Central Plains Prehistory*.  University of Nebraska Press, Lincoln.  [focuses on the Republican River basin, incl. northeastern Colorado]

Willey, Gordon R., and Phillip Phillips

Wood, W. Raymond (editor)
1998 *Archaeology on the Great Plains*.  University Press of Kansas, Lawrence.  [14 chapters, many directly relevant to Colorado]

Wormington, H. Marie
1957 *Ancient Man in North America*.  Denver Museum of Natural History Popular Series #4, Denver.  [classic on Paleoindians, esp. artifacts]
Wormington, H. Marie  
1961 **Prehistoric Indians of the Southwest.** Denver Museum of Natural History Popular Series #7, Denver, CO. [better description of Ancestral Puebloan artifacts than in most modern texts]  

Zier, Christian J., and Stephen M. Kalasz  
1999 **Colorado Prehistory: A Context for the Arkansas River Basin.** Colorado Council of Professional Archaeologists, Denver. [detailed summary for southeastern Colorado and the mountainous Upper Arkansas Valley]  

**GLOSSARY**  

A. Basic Archaeological Units:  

1) **Artifact** – Any portable object manufactured and/or used, or simply present indirectly, from the presence of people in the past (bone bead, stone waste flakes, etc.).  

2) **Assemblage** – Grouping of artifacts normally occurring in a single site or cultural level, consisting of a single artifact class or all classes (lithic assemblage at Cliff Palace, total artifact assemblage from Dent, etc.).  

3) **Class** – A group of artifacts believed to have been used for a similar purpose (awl, scraper, projectile point, mano, etc.).  

4) **Component** – Manifestation of a given archaeological focus or phase at a specific site. May include one or more individual occupations (Basketmaker II component, etc.).  

5) **Feature** – Any non-portable human construction, either architectural or non-architectural (hearth, midden, stone circle, rock art panel, rubble mound, etc.).  

6) **Industry** – Cluster of artifact types believed to represent the remains of a prehistoric society; a group of assemblages in one region (Olduwan industry, etc.).  

7) **Phase** – Collection of traits limited in space to a locality or region, and chronologically limited to a relatively brief interval of time (Sopris phase, Ackmen phase, etc.).
8) **Trait** – Elements of a culture that are mutually exclusive within a culture, but are not limited to that culture (e.g., incest taboo, painted pottery, etc.).

9) **Type** – A group of artifacts sharing similarities in shape that are interpreted by archaeologists as having cultural significance (Utah metate, Cody knife, etc.).

**B. Spatial Units:**

1) **Activity Area** – Portion of a site or component of a site where related functions were carried out (obsidian workshop, etc.).

2) **Area** – Cultural area, often conforms to physiographic limits; can include contiguous regions sharing roughly similar culture histories (Southwest culture area, Plains culture area, etc.).

3) **Locality** – Spatial unit larger than site, smaller than region, and small enough to permit the working assumption of complete cultural homogeneity at any given time (Canyon Pintado, etc.).

4) **Locus** – Several spatially confined activity areas within a site or component of a site; often used on survey, rarely used in final reports/analyses (5GN402-locus A, etc.) [*from Latin locus, place*].

5) **Region** – A geographical space in which, at a given time, a high degree of cultural homogeneity may be expected, but not counted on (Mesa Verde region, etc.).

6) **Site** – Three-dimensional, single- or multiple-activity area of past human use; may be buried or exposed at surface (Vail Pass site, Dent site, etc.).

**C. Temporal Units:**

1) **Period** – Refers solely to chronology; denotes when a specific developmental stage was represented in a given area (Late Prehistoric period, etc.).

2) **Regional Sequence** – Chronological series of phases or subphases within geographical limits of a region (Northern Colorado Plateau sequence, etc.).
D. Integrative Units:

1) Complex – A group of artifact assemblages represented at several contemporaneous components within geographical limits of a cultural area (Cody complex, etc.).

2) Culture – Group of people sharing similar technologies, economy, social & religious views, style of dress, etc., and who recognize each other as belonging to their “group” (Ute culture, etc.).

3) Stage – Segment of an historical sequence in a given area, characterized by a dominating pattern of economic existence (Archaic stage, etc.).

4) Tradition – A group of complexes having primarily temporal continuity, represented by persistent configurations in single technologies or other systems of related forms (Plano tradition, etc.).

E. Other Terms

1) Atlatl – “Spear thrower”; a tool usually made of wood and used for at least 8000 years, designed as a kind of lever to enhance the range and power of throwing spears [an Aztec term (Nahuatl language)].

2) Debitage – Debris from flintknapping; unused stone flakes or “chips.”

3) Kiva – Subterranean ceremonial chamber—usually circular—found in Ancestral Pueblo sites of the Pueblo II-III era (AD 900–1300) [a Hopi term].

4) Lithic – Of or pertaining to stone, describes any category of flaked stone, pecked & ground stone, or carved stone artifacts [from Greek lithos, stone].

5) Manuport – An artifact with no evidence of use or modification by people, but found “out of place” and assumed to have been carried there sometime in the past (crystal, fossil, river cobble, etc.).
6) **Megafauna** – Large bodied animals of the Pleistocene (Ice Age) epoch adapted to the cold climates of that era, extinct by 10,000 BP; some herbivores among the group were commonly hunted by Paleoindians (mammoth, bison, American camel, etc.).

7) **Metate** – Aztec word *[metlatl]* for a seed-grinding slab, as for milling corn; the stationary lower rock slab used as a set with the hand-held mano for grinding seeds, pigments, clay for pottery, etc.

8) **Ossuary** – Type of burial site containing multiple human remains *[from Latin ossuārius, of bones).*

9) **Petroglyph** – Type of rock art made by pecking, incising, carving, abrading or other means *not* involving painting *[from Latin petra, rock + Greek gluphein, to carve).*

10) **Taphonomy** – Study of the cultural and natural processes that contribute to the preservation or destruction of an archaeological site *[from Greek taphos, grave, + nomos, law].*

11) **Transhumance** – The scheduled movements of nomadic peoples across a variable landscape to take advantage of seasonally available resources; similar to the concept of the “annual round,” and borrowed from a French term applied to pastoralists and their livestock *[from Latin trans, from one place to another, + humus, earth].*

12) **Wickiup** – Preserved log frame of a tipi or hut *[from Fox wikiyapi, house].*