

Introduction

- Quartz Lake/Shaw Creek Flats (QL/SCF) Multidisciplinary Project: landscape evolution and human paleoecology within lowland settings of interior Alaska since the earliest occupations (~14,000-13,000 cal. yrs. B.P at Broken Mammoth, Mead and Swan Point) (Refs 1-2)
- 2014 field season: limited testing and excavation at two deeply buried, well-stratified sites in SCF: Keystone Dune site (KDS) (Fig. 1-2, 4-7) and Cook site (Fig. 1, 3, 8-9)
- Goals: 1) expand previous archaeological excavations (see Acknowledgments) and geoarchaeological research; 2) collect faunal and charcoal remains to refine current chronologies of human occupation and environmental change in the region (Fig. 6-8) (Refs 1-5)
- Major findings at KDS: cultural hearth dug into buried Ab4 soil horizon (Fig. 5. 7), lithic artifacts and Cervus elaphus remains (extinct elk [wapiti]) recovered from and adjacent to the hearth → the first *in situ* archaeological materials from this locale (Fig. 7)
- Major findings at Cook site: new component associated with older soils (dating to ~9300 cal. yrs. B.P.), large ungulate long bone fragments and charcoal in close association (Fig. 9)



Summer at the Lake: New Carbon-14 (¹⁴C) Dates on "Old" Cultural Components near Quartz Lake, Interior Alaska

Contributors: Jennifer Kielhofer, University of Arizona (UA), Josh Reuther, University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) Museum of the North, Francois Lanoë, UA, Dave Plaskett, UAF, and Jason Rogers, Northern Land Use Research Alaska, LLC.

- at Cook site





Figure 5. Sequence of burned, buried soils at KDS

Figure 6. KDS stratigraphic sequence, showing provenience of ¹⁴C and OSL dates (OSL italicized).

discovered cultural component at 85-90 cmbs. Large mammal bones were found in situ.



Conclusions

- Elk and large ungulates = typical of mTV archaeological sites at Pleistocene/Holocene transition. our faunal data fit this pattern
- New ¹⁴C dates add to existing Shaw Creek chronologies...KDS occupation is same period as CZ3 at Broken Mammoth, Mead, and Swan Point; the Cook site adds another rare data set at ~9,000 cal. yrs. B.P.
- This study contributes more data to better understand human paleoecology and environmental change within lowland subarctic settings since the earliest human occupations ~14,000 cal. yrs. B.P.

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Ecology of Beringia

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