



PNWAS NEWS BULLETIN 163

**WELCOME TO
PNWAS *Fall/Winter* talks!!!!**

A DOUBLE HITTER this fall/winter with two of the most exciting and current archaeological discoveries in the Americas: 16,000 year old Cooper's Ferry, Idaho and 18,000 year old Rimrock Draw Rockshelter, Oregon! These upcoming talks directly apply to examining our Chehalis River Hypothesis—the entrance into the Second Earth/American Continents via the Chehalis River drainage (see announcements!!!!)

***AND if you missed past PNWAS **ZOOM** talks we have set up a PNWAS **YouTube** Channel at:
<https://www.youtube.com/user/SeattlePNWAS>***

The outstanding recent in-depth introduction to the Pacific Northwest's most beloved bivalve, the oyster began with the earliest evidence of oyster aquaculture from 11,500 years ago and concludes with contemporary efforts to cultivate oysters, both native and introduced, along our Northwest coasts. **It is now available on our YouTube channel (above):**

June 1st, 2023:

***The Story of Oyster in the Pacific Northwest
By Authors David George Gordon and Samantha Larson***

If a current member (2023-2024 (Please renew now for 2024!)), see PWNAS schedule/membership form attached), you will get an invitation to join the ZOOM meeting through an e-mail shortly before

each talk. Talks are on Thursday evenings and start at 6:30 pm.

***FALL PNWAS, Thursday,
October 26th, 2023***

***Archaeological Evidence of
Early Peoples at Cooper's
Ferry/Nipéhe in Western Idaho***

***By Dr. Loren G. Davis, Anthropology,
Oregon State University***



The fourteen projectile points found are razor-sharp and range from half an inch to two inches long. They are stemmed points, which means the base of the point was shaped into a squared-off stem to attach to a spear or arrow shaft. Compare these points to those made by later Clovis culture (below) and they are different.

Archaeological excavations conducted at the Cooper's Ferry/Nipéhe site in Western Idaho's lower Salmon River canyon revealed a long record of repeated occupation beginning by ~16,000 years ago. This record includes pit features containing the earliest stemmed projectile points in the Americas. In this presentation, we discuss how the archaeological record at the Cooper's Ferry/Nipéhe site tells us about the early

ancestors of the Nez Perce peoples and what their world of the Pacific Northwest was like.



LOREN DAVIS / OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY

Points found at Cooper's Ferry (above) could be up to 16,000 years old and are stemmed, meaning the base is fashioned for a spear. Compared to Clovis points (below) which are fluted and about twice as large, the points use different tool-making traditions and technologies.

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Examples of Cooper's Ferry stemmed points (upper) and later Clovis points (lower) with concave bases and flutes—that is, a groove extends from the base a third or halfway up the blade—rather than stemmed.



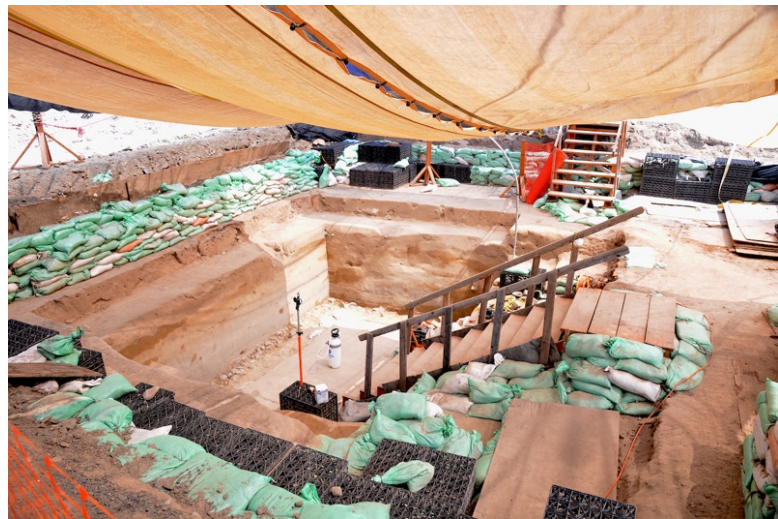
Paleoenvironmental conditions in the Pacific Northwest during glacial conditions at ~16,000 calibrated years before the present.

JAN UNERWOOD

Map showing location of Coopers Ferry on the Snake River and the Lakes Missoula and Columbia floods that missed this upriver site. Note how the Chehalis River Drainage was also unaffected and we at PNWAS view this drainage as the original entrance area of people into the American Continents, eventually reaching Cooper Ferry (and Rimrock Draw Rock Shelter).



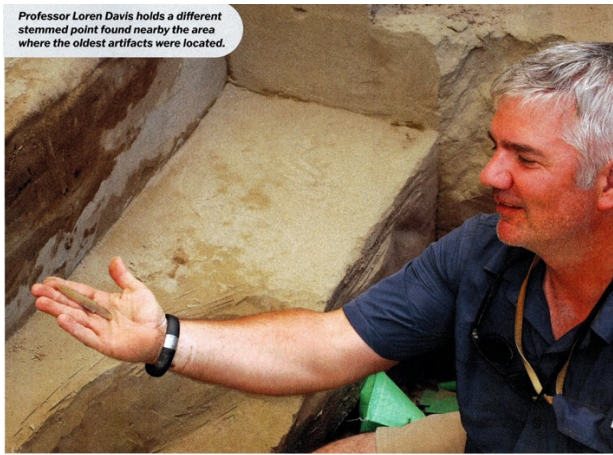
Cooper's Ferry site locality on Snake River in Western Idaho



Overview of Excavations



Excavator at work recording artifacts at Cooper's Ferry Site.



Director, Dr. Loren Davis, Oregon State University, holding a recently found stemmed point; this Fall's PNWAS speaker.



Featured on cover of Spring American Archaeology magazine, they state that "Adding to a growing body of evidence people settled in North America long before Clovis sites, artifacts found at Cooper's Ferry indicate humans arrived at least 16,000 years ago."

WINTER PNWAS, Thursday, December 14th, 2023

Oldest Human Artifacts (18,000 year old) with Camel teeth from the Rimrock Draw Rockshelter, Oregon

By Dr. Patrick O'Grady, Anthropology, University of Oregon

Archaeologists just concluded their 2023 field school season at Rimrock Draw Rock Shelter, Eastern Oregon, continuing to push back North America's timeline through recovery of stone tools and megafauna dating back to 18,000 years ago.

Discoveries, in lower layers, include platelets of camel teeth fragments (camels originally evolved in North America and eventually migrated to the Old World). The teeth found at the site were from Camclops, which was native to North America until it became extinct about 11,000 years ago at the end of the last Ice Age.



Camel teeth fragments found at Rimrock Draw Rockshelter.

Below the teeth an orange chalcedony stone tool was found with extinct *Bison antiquus* blood found on it during lab analyses using residue analysis (a bison twice as large as today's bison/buffalo!). This tool represents the oldest stone artifact in North America at the present, dating to be 18,000-years-old.



18,000 year old chalcedony stone tool found with extinct bison blood residue on it.



Dr. Patrick O’Grady, right, observes work at the bottom of the 2023 Rimrock Draw Rockshelter excavations. Dr. O’Grady, University of Oregon, will be the PNWAS Winter speaker

***LATE WINTER PNWAS, Thursday,
February 29th, 2024***

***Generationally-Linked Archaeology:
“Living-Off-The-Land” for 4,000 Years
on the Salish Sea***

***By Dr. Dale Croes, WSU/PNWAS and Ed
Carriere, Suquamish Elder***



Pacific Northwest Archaeological Society

1219 Irving Street SW Tumwater WA 98512

Join at <http://www.pnwas.org> and PayPal



***Join us on ZOOM Thursday, October 26th, 2023 at 6:30 pm for
Archaeological Evidence of Early Peoples at Cooper’s
Ferry/Nipéhe in Western Idaho***

By Dr. Loren G. Davis, Anthropology, Oregon State University