

28 April 1976



Laboratory of Anthropology

University of Idaho

Department of Sociology/Anthropology
Moscow, Idaho 83843


To the members of the Idaho Advisory
Council of Professional Archaeologists:

I have just received a grant from the University of Idaho Research Council to conduct the bibliographical and archival review necessary to construct a proposal for a statewide survey of prehistorically exploited lithic resources, and would like you to know about it and to ask for your assistance. As several of you know, during the last year the University of Idaho has been working with Prichard argillite from the Harvey Mountain quarry (10BY12) in northern Idaho. This work is serving as a pilot project for the proposed statewide survey. We have subjected the argillite to neutron activation, standard petrographic, and x-ray fluorescence analyses to date, and hope to have some differential thermal and materials analyses completed this summer. The goal is the identification and thorough description of as many prehistorically exploited lithic materials as we can find and process around the state, so that we may all have a better background for identifying the materials in artifact assemblages.

This summer we are going to go through all the published archaeological and geological literature that has any mention of exploited or exploitable lithic materials, and begin to make up a survey file comparable to the archaeological site survey records. We would like to supplement this with personal information from each of you, if you have such, and we are going to talk to any amateur archaeologists, geologists, or rockhounds we can find who might be of help. Once the currently available information on kinds of materials and their locations, or potential locations, is collected we are proposing to put together a major project to collect, analyze, and describe for publication all possible exploited Idaho lithic materials. Could you help?

Mary Collins, a graduate student in our department, will be working on this all summer, both in our library and around the state. Do you have information that you might provide that would help broaden our resource catalog, or could you suggest someone who might? Could Mary make an appointment to talk to you this summer, perhaps in late July or early August? If you have any questions about this project, or suggestions, we'd appreciate it if you would pass them along. We have an excellent set of facilities here in the Moscow/Pullman area for this project, and are getting excellent cooperation from the geologists, materials engineers, and nuclear physicists. If you can help provide the basic information for the survey, we eventually may be able to provide you with a broad, solid base for your lithic materials identifications in the future. It won't work without lots of cooperation.

Sincerely,


Ruthann Knudson
Assistant Research Professor

cc: Advisory Council members
David Fortsch
Keo Boreson
Sharon Metzler
J. Pat Green
Don Crabtree

The University of Idaho is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

Ce.6.3.39