
Obsidian Haskett Point Base Found in the Boise River Has Been Geochemically Sourced

By Larry Kingsbury
Payette NF & Salmon River Chapter

In the March 2003 issue of ARTIFACTS, it was stated... "On a hot summer day, Donald "Moose" Droulard, while sitting on a rock, cooling his feet in the Boise River saw obsidian reflecting sunlight under the water." What he found was a base of a lanceolate shaped Haskett point. The find location was about a half mile upriver from the Fair Grounds and adjacent to Garden City, off Chinden Blvd. This is right downtown in a metropolitan area with a population of about 200,000 people.

This Haskett point base is of dark black semi-translucent obsidian, revealing some water abrasion on the flake scars. This point base has large collateral flaking, ground edges, and a hinge fracture. In June of 2004 this artifact was sent to Richard E. Hughes, Ph.D., Director of the Geochemical Research laboratory in Portola, California. A request was made to have this obsidian artifact analyzed using energy dispersive x-ray fluorescence to generate geochemical data.

The results suggest that the geochemical type of this artifact has a trace element composition congruent with geological samples from Gregory Creek, Oregon (Hughes, Letter Report 2005-51). Gregory Creek, Oregon is approximately 40 linear miles west by northwest of Boise, Idaho. Haskett lanceolate projectile points in Idaho have been dated at 10,000 +/-300 years BP (WSU 1396, Sargeant 1973:63, Butler 1978:64-65).



Length:	55.7 mm incomplete
Width:	22.4 mm
Thickness:	11.7 mm
Weight:	17.65 grams

Illustration provided by
Gayle Dixon

Butler, B. Robert

1978 A Guide to Understanding Idaho Archaeology (Third Edition): The Upper Snake and Salmon River Country, Idaho State Historic Preservation Office, Boise, Idaho.

Hughes, Richard E.

2005 Geochemical Research Laboratory Letter Report 2005-51, Portola Valley, California.

Sargeant, Kathryn E.

1973 Haskett Tradition: A View from Redfish Overhang, Master's Thesis in Anthropology, ISU, Pocatello, Idaho.

Dating American Indian Culturally Modified Ponderosa Pine Trees on the Payette National Forest

By Larry Kingsbury
Payette NF & Salmon River Chapter

On the Payette National Forest (NF) some American Indian traditional cultural properties are identified by the presence of culturally modified ponderosa pine trees. On the South Fork of the Salmon River there are several mature stands of ponderosa pine trees displaying culturally modified cambium peeled scars. Nez Perce and Shoshone – Bannock Tribal members annually visit some of these sites.

On July 1, 2005, the author visited with Shoshone-Bannock Tribal members while they were harvesting chinook salmon in the South Fork of the Salmon River and camping at a ponderosa pine grove containing more than 20 culturally modified trees (CMT).

Since 1989, Payette NF heritage staff has been monitoring this ponderosa pine CMT grove (10VY954), and noted when a CMT died. In 2005, heritage staff with a chainsaw certified tree faller obtained two cross-section samples from two dead trees. The cross-sections were sanded smooth and the rings were counted. Both samples were culturally modified to circa 1855.

On August 1, 2005 Salmon River Chapter members accompanied the author on a historic properties evaluation in the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness. During this time a Salmon River Chapter member identified a large ponderosa pine CMT grove. This grove contained as many as 22 CMTs, one of which was standing dead. A two-person cross-cut saw was acquired and the dead tree was felled. A cross-section was removed, sanded smooth and the rings were counted. This tree was over 300 years old and it was culturally

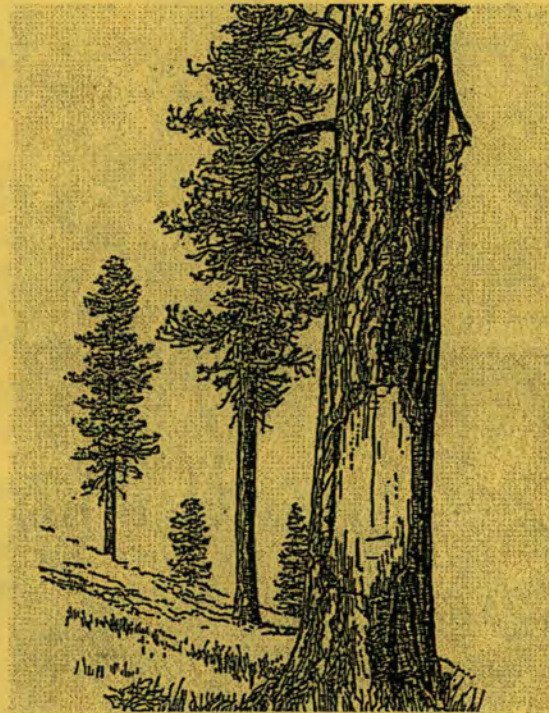


Illustration
of a
Culturally
Modified
Tree.

modified in circa 1830.

To date, heritage staffs have sampled five CMTs. All of the CMTs dated between circa 1830 and 1888. It is likely that these ponderosa pine trees were culturally modified by Nez Perce and Northern Shoshone Tribal members in the 19th century during their seasonal subsistence rounds.

For further reading on this subject the following reference can be acquired upon request:

Ready, Sheila D.

1993 Peeled Trees on the Payette National Forest, Inner Bark Utilization as a Food Resource by Native Americans, USDA Payette National Forest, Supervisor's Office, McCall, Idaho 83638