

Iron Arrowpoint From the Payette National Forest

by Larry Kingsbury, Salmon River Chapter

In 1983, the USDA Payette National Forest issued a Special Uses Permit to Frank C. Leonhardy, professor of Anthropology at the University of Idaho, Moscow, to do archaeological investigations in the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness. During that summer, an iron projectile point was found within and on the surface of a house pit feature at 10VY31.

The point is made of flat iron, it is small and flat with a lenticular blade outline and measures and is illustrated as follows:



Length	33 mm
Width	11 mm
Thickness	1.4 mm
Weight	.97 grams

* note: illustration not to scale

This rare iron point is the first of its kind to be identified on the Payette National Forest. Iron arrowpoints were Fur Trade items, and represent acculturated change from the use of stone, primarily obsidian in this area, to metal. The artifact tentatively dates from 1819-1830 AD.

For more information on the Archaeology of the Payette National Forest contact Forest Archaeologist Larry Kingsbury at the following:

Phone: (208) 634-0750

Evidence of Bison in Adams County, Idaho USDA Payette National Forest

By
Lawrence A. Kingsbury
Idaho Archaeological Society
Salmon River Chapter
August 2, 2003

In March 2001, a sample of stone tools from an American Indian occupation (10-AM-399) located east of Indian Valley on the Payette National Forest (PNF) was sent to Archaeological Investigations Northwest, Inc. for testing ancient blood residue proteins. The action was part of mitigation results from an Archaeological Resource Protection Act (ARPA) violation. Five obsidian tools yielded positive results for having bovine anti-serum. This was the first scientific evidence suggesting the presence of bison on the PNF.

At another ARPA investigated American Indian occupation (10-AM-266) located adjacent to Crooked River, a tributary of the Snake River Canyon, Eastern Washington University (EWU) in October 2001 uncovered what they thought were domestic cow bones. The bones were found in buried archaeological context directly associated with several late period arrowpoints and other stone tools. EWU archaeologist Stan Gough suspected that the bones were bison, and had one bone radiocarbon dated in March 2003. The bone dated to 335 +/- 35 before present (BP) or 300 to 370 calibrated years BP or 1580 to 1650 A.D. The Indians at this time did not have horses, and hunted bison on foot. The horse did not appear among the Nez Perce Indians until circa 1740. This is the first time bison bones have ever been found in a dated archaeological context on the PNF.

Analysis of ancient blood proteins and radiometric dating are indispensable archaeological techniques in demonstrating that bison were once present on the PNF. Civil penalties under ARPA provided or encouraged the funding for mitigating damage to these archaeological sites.

