Ute Encampments from the 1850s and 1890s:

5EA2740
and
5MF5216

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The Colorado Wickiup Project

- review existing knowledge of wickiups
- create centralized statewide database
- refine and expand recording techniques
- document all types of aboriginal wooden features throughout the state
- expand our understanding regarding all aspects of Ute Protohistory and Early History and disseminate findings
Colorado Wickiup Project
(2004 – 2011)

- 406 wooden features on 78 sites
- 225 wickiups/shelters (55%)
- 181 other types of features
5EA2740 Wickiup Village
5EA2740 WICKIUP VILLAGE

28 expedient aboriginal wooden features

- 10 “leaner” wickiups & 2 freestanding wickiups
- 2 brush enclosures
- 4 horizontal beams & 3 leaning “utility poles”
- 1 windbreak (or firewood cache)
- 3 firewood caches
- 2 groups collapsed poles: undetermined purpose
Fig. D.24. Components of a Mexican-style ring bit: a. coscojos; b. rein chain; c. rein chain ring; d. headstall plate. Adapted from Simmons and Turley, *Southwestern Colonial Ironwork*, fig. 1, p. 101.
Preliminary Dating Estimates for 5EA2740 = ca. 1830s to 1860s, rather than 1870s or later

BASED ON…

➢ Presence of lithic and groundstone artifacts
➢ Presence of metal projectile points (as opposed to firearms)
➢ Percussion cap for muzzleloader (as opposed to fixed ammunition)
➢ Overall large size of glass seed beads
Preliminary Dating Estimates for 5EA2740 (based solely on artifactual remains) = ca. 1830s to 1860s, rather than 1870s or later

21 metal ax-cut tree-ring samples were submitted

The results of the tree-ring dating demonstrated occupation of the site in the fall/winter of 1853
5MF5216: Disappointment Draw Lodge
Chief Winnemucca, the Paiute who helped bring an end to the Shoshoni uprisings.

Courtesy Nevada Historical Society
Artifacts from Disappointment Draw Lodge: 209 historic trade-ware artifacts recovered

- Approximately 50% are ammunition related (styles indicating 1894 or later)
  - Five to six separate weapons represented (Phil Born & Colorado CBI)
  - 25 spent bullet primers (Boxer and Berdan) plus 2 unspent
  - 17 brass cases
  - 13 bullet leads (incl. 3 full metal jackets)
  - 12 globules of melted lead (sprue)
  - 1 apparent shotgun pellet
  - 1 gun powder can

- Tin cans (8) (not common on Ute sites in western Colorado until 1860s or later)

- Bottle glass (58 fragments of amethyst/purple glass)

- Buttons (4) and rivets (2)
  - Incl. a 3-piece brass U.S. Union military button w/ embossed eagle (1875 or later)

- Buckle (possible sling for gun, canteen or bullet pouch)

- Leather artifacts (boot or shoe fragments plus a saddle or saddlebag fragment)

- Nails, tacks, screws, and brads (post 1830s and post 1850s types)

- Glass and metal beads (incl. 11 small glass seed beads…probably 100s or 1000s on site!)
Preliminary Dating Estimates for 5MF5216 (based solely on artifactual remains) = 1875 or later

Nine metal ax-cut tree-ring samples were submitted

The results of the dendrochronological dating demonstrated occupation of the site after 1893 (40 years after the 5EA2740 Wickiup Village)
Glass “seed” beads

5EA2740 Wickiup Village (1853)

Disappointment Draw (1893+)
"Final removal of Utes from Colorado:"

"1881"
Tree-ring dates prior to AD1800
   (2 sites)

Dates between 1800 and the 1881 “final removal”
   (9 sites)

Post-“removal” dates between 1882 and 1916
   (8 sites)
Of the 15 Colorado Wickiup Project sites that have produced tree-ring dates...

8 were occupied after the “final removal” in 1881
(and undoubtedly more)