

Neil Puckett

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EDUCATION

- 2013-Present Ph. D. program in Anthropology at Texas A&M University (Degree expected by Fall 2017).
- 2012 MA in Anthropology, Texas A&M University, Nautical Archaeology Program
- 2006 B.A. in Anthropology and Philosophy, University of Nevada, Reno

RESEARCH INTERESTS

My current research interests focus on peopling of the New World and late Pleistocene and early Holocene Native American archaeology. I am working to better understand paleoindian landscape use associated with fluvial systems in the Great Basin that include still extant natural lakes.

My other area of interest is the identification of late Pleistocene sites off the Pacific Coast of North America. The steep continental shelf off this coast creates difficulties for site preservation and identifying accessible areas where archaeological remains may be accessed. Modeling and bathymetric GIS will help to identify likely locations to focus remote sensing, coring, and testing.

PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT

- 2012-Present Writing Consultant, Texas A&M University Writing Center
- 2010, 2012-2013 Project Archaeologist, Jessi Halligan and Dr. Mike Waters, *Center for the Study of the First Americans*. Aucilla River Research Project and Page Ladson Excavation
- 2009-2012 Graduate Assistant. Donny Hamilton, *Anthropology Department, Texas A&M University*
- 2006–2009 Staff Archaeologist. *Far Western Anthropological Research Group, Inc.*

PUBLICATIONS

- 2012 The Phoenician Trade Network: Tracing a Mediterranean Exchange System. Unpublished Master's Thesis, Department of Anthropology, Texas A&M University, College Station.
- 2008 A Class III Cultural in Specified Locations North of Reno, Washoe County, Nevada. BLM Project Number CRR 3-2404 (P). Coauthored with Vickie Clay and Sarah Rice.
- 2007 Archaeological Inventory for Unit A Components of the Ely Energy Center Project, in Elko and White Pine Counties, Nevada. Ely BLM Report Number: 8111 (NV 040) 2007-1640 Part B. Elko BLM Report Number: 1-2588 Volume C. Coauthored with Gregory Seymour, Amy Gilreath, Kim Carpenter, Daron Duke, and D. Craig Young.

PRESENTATIONS AND POSTERS

- 2014 Diving in the Dark: Underwater Excavation Methods in Jefferson County, FL. Society for Historical Archaeology, 2014. Quebec City, Canada. Poster author and presenter.
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- 2013 Sourcing Redeposited Projectile Points at McFaddin Beach, TX. Paleoamerican Odyssey Conference, 2013. Santa Fe, NM. Coauthor and presenter.
- 2012 Is There Anybody Out There?: Building Invisible Bridges in the Writing Center. South Central Writing Center Association, 2012. Corpus Christi, Texas. Coauthor and Presenter with Anthony Pannone and Laura Smith.
- 2010 Internal Phoenician Trade Networks: An Environmental Analysis. Society for American Archaeology, 2011. Sacramento, California. Poster author and presenter.
- 2010 The Spatial Dilemma: The Potential of Autonomous Underwater Vehicles for Mapping Shallow Water Sites. Society for Historical Archaeology, 2011. Austin, Texas. Author and presenter.
- 2008 An Opalized Diatomite Toolstone Source near Buffalo Canyon in Association with Late Archaic Production Strategies in the Desatoya Mountains, Churchill County, Nevada. Presented Paper. Great Basin Archaeological Conference, 2008. Portland, Oregon. Coauthored with Vickie Clay.

GRANTS AND AWARDS

- 2013 Texas A&M Department of Anthropology Travel Grant. Awarded to assist with travel to the 2014 Society for Historical Archaeology Conference in Quebec City, Canada. \$1100 grant.
- 2011 Texas A&M Department of Anthropology Travel Grant. Awarded to assist with travel to the 2011 Society for Historical Archaeology Conference in Austin, TX and the 2011 Society for American Archaeology Conference in Sacramento, CA. Two \$500 grants.
- 2010 First Place: "Deep-Submergence Archaeology Project Proposal Contest." Developed a project proposal that was judged by professors and industry professionals for completeness and research potential. \$500 grant.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2012-2013 Page Ladson Excavation, Jackson Co, FL. Assisted in the excavation of a potential pre-Clovis underwater archaeology site in the Aucilla River. Work included work area setup, site setup, equipment maintenance, excavation, and screening. Work overseen by Jessi Halligan and performed with support of the Center for the Study of the First Americans.
- 2011-10 Bajo De La Campana Shipwreck Excavation, La Manga, Spain. Assisted the excavation of a 7th century BC shipwreck 60 feet below the Mediterranean Sea. Work included site set up, site excavation, artifact cataloging, artifact photography, and managing the site dive log. Work overseen by Mark Polzer and the Institute of Nautical Archaeology.
- 2010 Aucilla River Paleoindian research, Jackson Co, Florida. Assisted with the excavation of late Pleistocene sediments at the bottom of the Aucilla river. Work included excavation, barge maintenance, and equipment troubleshooting. Work was overseen by Jessie Halligan as part of her dissertation research and done under the auspices of the Center for the Study of the First Americans.
- 2009 Dixie Valley Geothermal Survey Project, Churchill County, NV. Thirty-meter transect surface survey and 0.5 x 0.5 meter test probe excavations on potentially eligible sites. Survey was performed to determine the potential impact on cultural materials resulting

- from the construction of numerous geothermal plants in the Dixie Valley area. Work performed by Far Western for NV Energy.
- 2009 Baker Solar Energy Survey, San Bernardino County, CA. Thirty-meter transect survey on proposed locations in San Bernardino County near Baker, CA. Survey was performed to determine the potential impact on cultural materials that would result with the construction of a large solar panel field on the location. Work performed by Far Western for the State of California and PG&E Energy.
- 2009 Part II of the USBR Humboldt Conveyance Project, Humboldt County, NV. Thirty-meter transect surface survey including 25 x 50 cm testing probes at most sites. Worked in field on surface survey as well as site recordation. Included both historic and prehistoric sites. Work was performed by Far Western for the Department of Reclamation.
- 2009 NV Energy Pole Replacement Monitoring, Washoe County, NV. Observed and noted replacement work for a number of power poles south of Reno in the Gallena area. Monitoring was done to assure that no previously unidentified sites or cultural materials were damaged during the replacement of these poles. No new sites were noted.
- 2009 East Truckee Meadows Power line Site Mitigation, Washoe County, NV. Excavated 0.5 x 0.5, 1 x 1 and 2 x 1 meter units in selected areas on a large site situated on top of the Pah Rah Range. Excavation was undertaken in order to test the potential subsurface damage to the site by replacing a power line located within the site's boundaries. Work was performed by Far Western for NV Energy.
- 2009 UTTR Dugway Air Force Base Block Survey, Tooele County, UT. Thirty-meter transect survey including 0.5 x 0.5 meter probe excavation of previously identified block sections on a range for the Dugway Air Force base. This project was undertaken by Far Western for the United States Air Force.
- 2008-2009 Sonora Phase 2 site testing, Tuolumne County, CA. Excavated multiple 1 x 0.5, 1 x 1, and 2 x 1 units in order to test areas along a proposed by-pass for Highway 49. These areas included both sites and isolated finds. Excavation in these areas was undergone in order to check for unidentified subsurface cultural material and features. Work performed by Far Western for the California Department of Transportation.
- 2008 Superior Valley Mitigation, San Bernardino County, CA. Excavated features from 32 potentially eligible sites in the Superior Valley, south of China Lake Naval Base and west of Fort Irwin Army Training Facility. Excavated 0.5 x 0.5, 1 x 1, 2 x 1, and 2 x 2 meter units in order to check potentially eligible sites for preserved datable and culturally significant features and artifacts. Recorded and collected all pertinent information as well as multiple flotation, C14, and pollen sample. Excavation was performed prior to Fort Irwin adopted the BLM land these sites are located on for training purposes.
- 2008 Airport Substation Mitigation excavation, Washoe County, NV. Excavated 1 x 1 meter and 2 x 1 meter control units in order to identify subsurface cultural material and preserved features. Project attempted to excavate pertinent cultural material from the proposed site of a future power relay substation. Collected multiple soil, flotation, and C14 samples.
- 2008 Rim to Reno Survey, Washoe County, NV. Thirty-meter transect surface survey from the eastern facing slope of the Sierra Nevada Mountains overlooking Reno, NV, to Reno proper. Recorded all prehistoric and cultural material identified. Single day survey.
- 2008 Buffalo Canyon survey project, Churchill and Lander Counties, NV. Thirty meter transect survey about 450 acres on the west and east side of the Desatoya Range in central

- Nevada. Recorded historic and prehistoric isolates and sites identified in three distinct areas. Also updated nine sites east of Hawthorn, NV. Lab work included writing site descriptions, building the IMACs database and editing site and area maps.
- 2008 SafeTEA-Lu survey project, Washoe County, NV. Managed the field survey of 702 acres and about 41 miles of routes on BLM land north of Reno NV. Recorded 22 prehistoric and historic sites in the area. Lab work included construction of the IMACs database for the project, writing site description, and organizing collected field data. Performed to check high traffic recreation areas for preserved cultural remnants.
- 2008 Crowley State Lands Survey, Malheur County, OR. Surveyed about 24 miles along Crowley Road in southeastern Oregon in order to check the roadside for surface historic and prehistoric archaeological material. Area checked prior to burial of a fiber optic line along the proposed corridor. Recorded sites and later performed test excavations to check for potentially buried cultural material.
- 2008 USBR Humboldt Conveyance Project, Humboldt County, NV. Thirty meter transect surface survey including 25 x 50 cm testing probes at most sites. Worked in field on surface survey as well as site recordation. Included both historic and prehistoric sites. Lab work including field preparation, IMACs database building, site description writing, and data entry.
- 2008 ENEL Monitoring, Churchill County, NV. Monitored the excavation and construction of the foundation for a geothermal plant in the Salt Wells Basin.
- 2008 Matterhorn Monitoring, Washoe County, NV. Monitored the discharge of water from the completed water pipe constructed by the Vidler Water Company. Observed the discharge area for excessive movement of sediment that may result in artifact excavation or redistribution.
- 2007 Ely Energy Center surface inventory, White Pine County, NV. Thirty meter transect surface survey and site testing. Walked previously identified areas proposed for work relating to the proposed coal fired power plant in Ely, NV. Excavated 1 x 0.5-meter shovel probes on potentially eligible sites to test for sub-surface artifacts. Wrote field reports and built the IMACs database for this portion of the project.
- 2007 Sand Mountain Route and Recreation survey, Churchill County, NV. Thirty meter transect surface survey. Walked previously mapped areas and identified routes of the Sand Mountain Recreation area for the BLM. Survey was designed in order to identify and then protect any prehistoric or historic artifacts preserved after more than 50 years of motorized vehicle recreational activity.
- 2007 Stillwater Conveyance Project, Churchill County, NV. Thirty meter transect surface survey. Walked survey transects and recorded both historic and prehistoric sites in field. Lab work including the building and data entry of the IMACs database and artifact tables.
- 2007 USBR Humboldt Conveyance Project, Humboldt County, NV. Thirty-meter transect surface survey including 25 x 50 cm testing probes at most sites. Worked in field on surface survey as well as site recordation. Included both historic and prehistoric sites. Minor lab work including field preparation and IMACs database building and data entry.
- 2007 Ely Energy Center Project, White Pine and Elko counties, NV. Thirty meter transect surface survey including 100x50cm testing probe excavations on most sites; surveyed parcels are to be used by a planned coal plant. Worked in field recording all sites and isolates, both historic and prehistoric, found. Lab work including analysis of field reports, IMACs recording, and general data organization of sites.

- 2006-2007 Vidler Pipeline Project, Honey Lake Valley, Washoe County, NV. Excavated for the Data Recovery process, 2x2 meter surface scrapes, and both 1x1 meter and 1x2 meter control units on four different sites. Sifted all dirt through 1/8th inch screens, collected all cultural material, faunal remains, and diagnostic materials.
- 2006 Kiel Ranch Restoration Project, Las Vegas, Clark County, NV. Monitor for the vegetation clearing process. Protected natural vegetation and historic artifacts on the Kiel Ranch parcel from damage while the brush on the parcel was being cleared.
- 2006 Gold Butte Project, Clark County, NV. Thirty meter transect surface survey of 15% of the Gold Butte Recreation area for the Bureau of Land Management. Recorded all sites and isolates, both historic and prehistoric, found. Included photograph and site record analysis in lab.
- 2006 White Pine County, NV. Thirty meter transect surface survey on various parcels throughout the county for the Bureau of Land Management prior to the implementation of fire control measures. Recorded all sites and isolates, both historic and prehistoric found. Team of 8 people. Summit Envirosolutions.
- 2006 Lost Hills, CA. Thirty meter transect surface survey of various parcels previously used as plowed crop fields for the state of California prior to the fields being restored to wetlands. Recorded all sites and isolates, both historic and prehistoric, found. Team of 8 people.
- 2006 Lauer Dam Redevelopment Project, Modoc County, CA. Excavated 50x50cm test units, Control Units of various sizes, and 2x2meter surface scrapes in numerous sites. Sifted all dirt with 1/8th inch screens and collected and recorded all prehistoric cultural material and faunal remains identified.
- 2006 Graeagle, CA. 25-meter transect surface survey of an 800 acre plot slated for development. Recorded all sites and isolates both historical and prehistorical. Team of 6 people. Archeometrics.
- 2006 Vidler Water Project, Honey Lake Valley, Washoe County, NV. Testing excavations on a number of different sites found along the corridor of impact for the Vidler water pipeline. Excavated two to four 50x50cm test units per site as well as control units and shovel scrapes. Multiple teams of four working on excavating different sites. Data recording of both the excavations and any tools found on the surface.
- 2004 Sundance Archaeological Research, Black Rock Desert, NV. 20-meter transect surface survey of Black Rock playa along contours of Pleistocene water levels and land formations. Recorded and collected debitage samples and stone tools. Emphasis on Paleoindian artifacts (stemmed points, crescents, fluted points, etc.) Team of 5 including 2 graduate students, and 3 undergraduates.
- 2004 Sundance Archaeological Research, Black Rock Desert, NV. 20-meter transect surface survey of Box Canyon, Five Mile Flat and surrounding contours of Pleistocene lake levels. Additional 5-meter transect survey of four sites identified in 1970's by T. Layton for the purpose of readdressing the issue of Paleoindian significance. Each site revealed 30 or more stone tools including scrapers, Elko points, Stemmed points, and various other bifaces. Recorded and collected debitage samples and stone tools. Team of 5 including 2 graduate students and 3 undergraduates.
- 2003 Sundance Archaeological Research, Black Rock Desert, NV. Lab analysis of stone tools from various sites recorded throughout the Great Basin by UNR's Sundance program. Recorded artifact numbers on artifact tags as well as artifacts themselves. Learned

- drawing techniques for stone tools, illustrating some examples of tools to be used in site and research documents.
- 2003 Sundance Archaeological Research, Black Rock Desert, NV. 20-meter transect surface survey of mid-western border of the Black Rock playa. Surveyed areas requested by the Bureau of Land Management. All stone tools recorded and collected. Emphasis on sites including stemmed points and crescents. Field research at Elephant Mountain, including random survey of surrounding area as well as likely Pleistocene lake contours, investigation of the cave itself, and a survey for other possible rockshelters in the surrounding area. Vehicle survey of mountains north of the desert for possible rockshelters. Upon identification, a surface check was done to establish the shelter's significance and its likelihood of holding artifacts. Investigated Hand Print Cave to establish the worth of future excavations. Team of 9 including one professor, 4 graduate students, and 4 undergraduates.
- 2003 Sundance Archaeological Research, Black Rock Desert, NV. 5-meter transect survey of two previously found sites (Moonshadow and Moonshine springs) containing Paleoindian artifacts. Recorded and collected all stone tools and debitage samples. Excavated 1m² test pits at each site to see whether geological deposits on the sites contained any artifacts. Team of 9 including one professor, 4 graduate students, and 4 undergraduates.
- 2003 UNR Field School, Jakes Valley, NV and Bonneville Estates Rockshelter, NV. Week One: Geological and stratigraphic analysis of trenches dug into the playa of Jakes Valley, including the drawing of the stratigraphy and analysis of the causes of observed stratigraphy. Week One: Analysis and identification of flora in and around the vicinity of Jakes Valley from playa to mountainous elevations. Week Two: 20-meter transect surface survey of different areas chosen by various student groups based on contours and Pleistocene lake levels. Recorded all artifacts found, collected all stone tools, and took debitage samples at larger sites. Week Three through final: Excavated in Bonneville Estates Rockshelter. Learned the use of transit, datum and grid setup, excavated through both historic and prehistoric stratigraphic layers, and drew the trench walls of various units. Identified and collected debitage, stone tools, bones, textiles, and other organic/cultural matter. Screened materials using ¼-inch screens, collecting any cultural and organic matter. Entire school included the use of site and layer forms in order to identify and organize the different artifacts and information. Instructors: Ken Adams, David Rhode, Ted Goebel, Kelly Graf, T.A. Barbara Malinky.
- 2002-2003 Sundance Archaeological Research, Black Rock Desert, NV. Lab work in UNR's Sundance archaeology lab. Counted, identified, and separated artifacts such as stone tools, debitage collections, and animal bones collected from various sites throughout the Great Basin. Labeled artifacts with artifact tags and artifact numbers. Entered artifacts and descriptions into data bases for different sites. Sorted artifacts by number and type.
- 2002 Sundance Archaeological Research, Bonneville Estates Rockshelter, NV. Volunteered for the Sundance archaeological program at UNR. Worked on excavation of stratigraphic layers dating from 7,000 BP to 12,000 BP. Identified and collected bones, stone tools, debitage, and all other materials organic or cultural in substance. Screened material using ¼-inch screens, again collecting all cultural and organic matter found. Used a transit to set up a grid and datum to be used for the summer's excavation of the site. Team of 7 including one professor, one BLM archaeologist, 3 graduate students, and 2 undergraduates.
- 2002 Sundance Archaeological Research, Coyote Valley, OR. Volunteered for the Sundance archaeological program at UNR. Used 20-meter transect surface surveys to check areas

previously identified as likely to have Paleoindian artifacts based on topography and land formations. Recorded all flake scatters and tools found. Collection limited to Paleoindian artifacts and sites with multiple tools. Team of 4, including one professor, 2 graduate students, and one undergraduate.

- 2002 Sundance Archaeological Research, Black Rock Desert, NV. Volunteered for the Sundance program at UNR. Worked in the prehistoric lab, counting, identifying, and separating debitage samples, tools, and bones collected in previous excavations on sites throughout the Great Basin. Labeled artifacts and bones with artifact tags and artifact numbers

OTHER EMPLOYMENT

- 2005-2006 Technician, *IATSE*, Reno, NV
Took calls through the *International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees* working for various businesses setting up and removing conventions as live entertainment. Responsibilities include: electrical systems, lighting, and sound set up, loading and unloading of equipment, and setup and removal of various decor.
- 2002-2006 Assistant Manager, *Deux Gros Nez*, Reno, NV.
Responsible for operating the restaurant including cooking, cleaning, making drinks, counting in and out the money in the register, opening the restaurant, closing the restaurant, customer service, maintenance, and entertaining the general public. Also worked as a Prep cook responsible for making mass amounts of food to be used in various dishes.
- 2004-2006 Tutor, *Academic Skills Center*, University of Nevada, Reno.
Tutored various UNR students both in groups as well as one on one through UNR's tutoring program. Subjects tutored included Calculus, Trigonometry, Geology, Philosophy, Archaeology, Anthropology, and the Humanities.
- 2002-2004 Librarian Assistant, *Physical Sciences Library*, University of Nevada, Reno
Worked at the front desk of the UNR physical sciences library. Responsible for checking in books, checking out books, making copies, providing material on reserve for students, and other general library maintenance.

REFERENCES

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| Ted Goebel | Department of Anthropology, Texas A&M
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