



US Army Corps of Engineers



Preserving the Paragonah Fremont Site: A Model Public / Private Partnership



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The Archaeological Conservancy

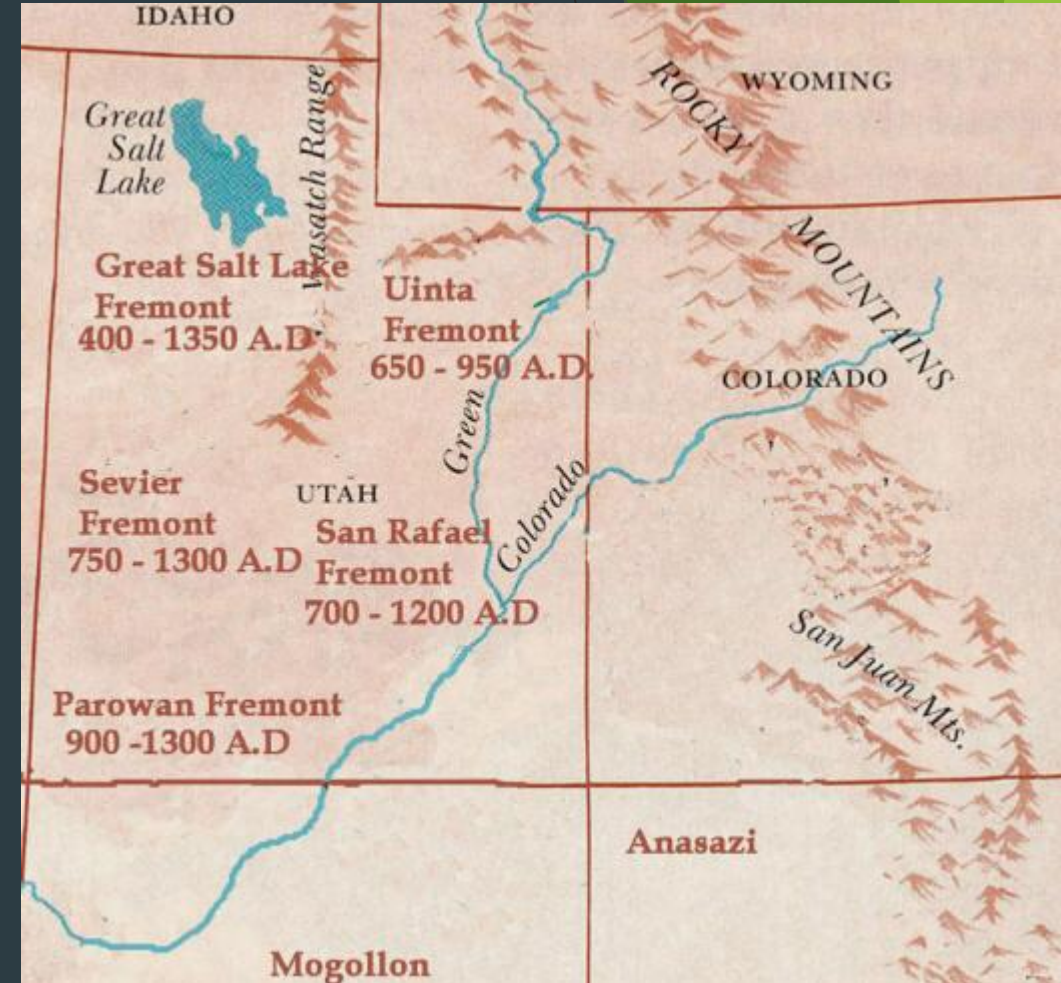
Preserving the past...for the future.

Overview

- ▶ Fremont Culture
- ▶ Site History
- ▶ The Site
- ▶ SUU / BYU / UTA / Army Corps /
Archaeology Conservancy
- ▶ Tourism and Educational Outreach

Fremont Culture (AD 700-1300)

- ▶ Great Basin mobile agriculturalists
- ▶ Contemporaneous with the Anasazi
- ▶ Sophisticated, irrigation-based maize agriculture
- ▶ Seasonal hunting and gathering
- ▶ Snake Valley Black on Grey tradeware
- ▶ Mounded sites



Paragonah Fremont Site

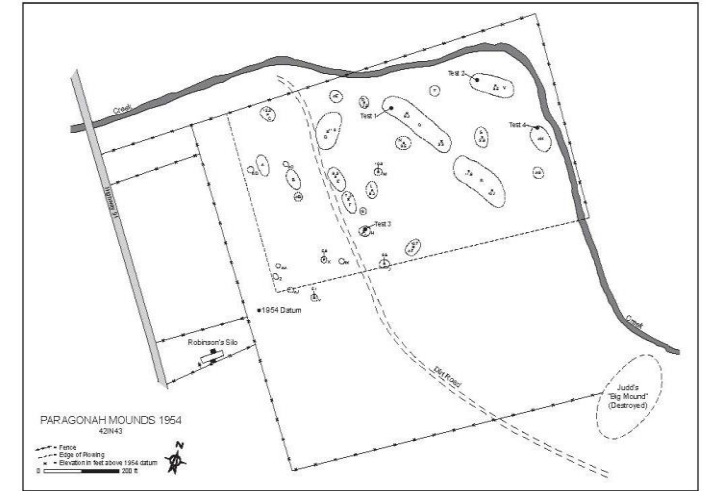
- ▶ 1851 - Brigham Young chronicles the site as two miles long and one mile wide with 120 structures
 - ▶ “We visited the ruins of an ancient Indian village on Red Creek, where we found quantities of broken, burnt, painted earthen ware, arrow points, adobes, burnt brick, a crucible, some corn grains, charred cobs, animal bones, and flint stones of many colors. The ruins were scattered over a space two miles long and one wide. The buildings were about 120 in number and were composed apparently of dirt lodges, the earthen roofs having been supported by timbers, which had decayed or been burned, and had fallen in, the remains thus forming mounds of an oval shape and sunken at the tip. One of the structures appeared to have been a temple or council hall, and covered about an acre of ground” (B. Young quoted in J. Janetski 1997:102).
- ▶ 1870s - Lt. George Wheeler records 400-500 structures
- ▶ Archaeological history
 - ▶ Neil Judd of Chaco Canyon fame (1915-1917)
 - ▶ Clem Meighan out of UCLA (1950s)
 - ▶ BYU (1960s)
- ▶ USU College of Southern Utah Branch acquires the site in 1958 for \$10
- ▶ USU sells the site to the College of Southern Utah in 1966 for \$1

Plowing the Mounds, Back in the Day

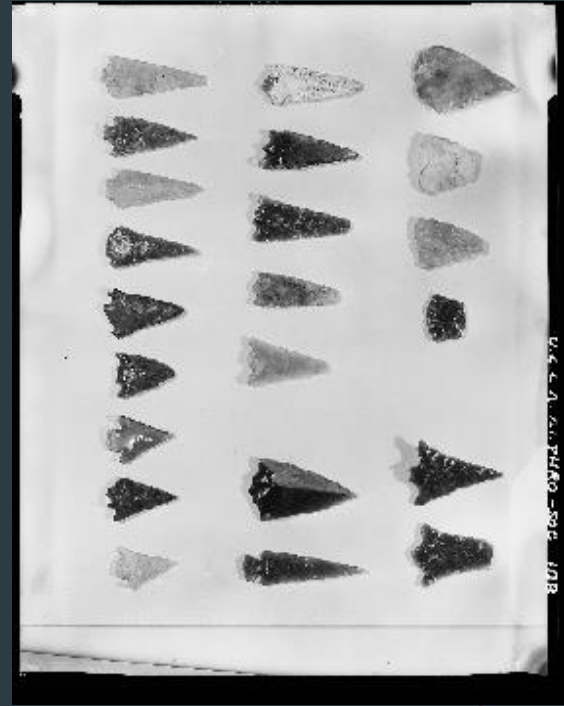


The Site

- ▶ 12.28 acres of the largest and perhaps the last pristine mounded Fremont site along with Wasatch Front
- ▶ 28 mounds



Artifacts



Time Line

- ▶ 2010: Galena Site in Draper, UT partially destroyed by UTA trolley extension
 - ▶ Early Archaic and Fremont site (3,000 years old)
 - ▶ Some of the earliest evidence maize agriculture
- ▶ January 2012 MOU between the UTA, Army Corps, and the Archaeology Conservancy (identify, purchase, and conserve in perpetuity at-risk archaeological sites)
- ▶ SUU contacted August 2012; deal finalized with the AC in August 2013



What is the Archaeology Conservancy?



- ▶ Private non-profit dedicated to acquiring and managing archaeological preserves since 1980.
- ▶ To date they have acquired and manage over 475 sites in 43 states
- ▶ 20,000 members, along with foundation and corporate supporters
- ▶ “Forever” commitment to site conservation and stewardship

Site Management Plan

- ▶ March 2014: Site Management Plan meeting
- ▶ Site stabilization, backfill, fencing, etc
- ▶ Synthesize past research
- ▶ Encourage new non-intrusive methods
- ▶ Create a network of site stewards
- ▶ Provide unaccompanied access for American Indian communities to undertake traditional practices
- ▶ Professional researchers may also visit the site unaccompanied
- ▶ Organize educational tours of the site
- ▶ Create educational outreach materials and an exhibit through SUU and the Frontier Homestead State Park

Tourism and Educational Potential

- ▶ SUU Fremont Heritage Endowment: American Indian and Minority Scholarships; Undergraduate Research; Archaeology Field School
- ▶ Tap into the Utah Office of Tourism
- ▶ Fremont State Park has 85,000 visitors a year
- ▶ Partnership between SUU and the Frontier Homestead State Park in Cedar City
 - ▶ Conservancy / RAP Tax funds
 - ▶ 28,096 visitors and 3,000 school kids in 2016
- ▶ And a quick word on Project Archaeology



SUU / Frontier Homestead Fremont Exhibit



The End: Our Crew Out At the Site

