

# A Compendium of Radiocarbon Dates for Southern Idaho Archaeological Sites

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This report is a compilation of known radiocarbon dates reported from archaeological sites in southern Idaho. Its purpose is to provide an inventory of previously published and unpublished dates to facilitate use by researchers and cultural resource managers. Contemporary professional demands have created a surge of antiquities management and assessment studies which are quickly outpacing traditional research reports. Management decisions often rely on outdated chronologies which have not been critically evaluated. In addition, many radiocarbon dates are not readily available to scholars working in Idaho and adjacent areas. As systematic archaeological studies continue in Idaho, the need for usable research tools has increased (e.g., Pavesic, Plew, and Sprague 1979). The report attempts to expand the base of current archaeological interpretation and analysis. While the report does not evaluate individual published dates (e.g., Arundale 1981), it does provide an initial step toward reevaluation of the chronologies of the Upper Snake and Salmon River Country (Butler 1978) and forms a basis for generating chronologies for such areas as Southwestern Idaho (Plew, Pavesic, and Green n.d.).

The format of the compendium is based on Boszhardt (1977), Breternitz (1969), and Tiffany (1981). Tabulations include site

names and accompanying Smithsonian trinomial designations, dates, types of samples, and references. Additionally, sites are listed alphabetically by county (see Fig. 1). Dates are given as Before Present (B.P.), unless otherwise noted. Sites listed in the compendium have northern Great Basin culture area affiliations; for this reason, sites such as Bernard Creek Rockshelter and Big Creek Cave in the central Idaho Mountains are included. Site types are given under site name or number. These are generally self-explanatory and readers should consult individual references. The designation "open" site includes single and multicomponent sites, and house features on the western Snake River Plain. With the exception of early Paleo-Indian dates reported at Veratic and Bison Rockshelters, and at Jaguar, Owl (Wasden), and Wilson Butte Caves (see Table 1), all radiocarbon dated deposits belong to the Archaic Tradition. Though Butler (1978) has tentatively defined Early, Middle, and Late Archaic periods for the Upper Snake and Salmon River Country (eastern Idaho), they are not well defined and do not presently appear applicable across southern Idaho. Owing to unresolved questions concerning exact cultural affiliations of some southern Idaho archaeological sites (see Butler 1979; Plew 1979), no attempt is made to culturally align each radiocarbon determination beyond the general Archaic designation. The Archaic Tradition in southern Idaho extends from ca. 7000-150 B.P.

Though this compilation is presently complete, radiocarbon dates from several Idaho sites are currently being processed and will be published at a later date. Researchers are encouraged to critically evaluate all referenced radiocarbon dates. Some dates reported in this compendium are based upon bone and shell samples (e.g., Wilson Butte Cave [Gruhn 1965], Owl Cave [Butler 1971a], and Shoup Rockshelters [Swanson and Sneed 1966]),

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Fig. 1. Location Map of Idaho Sites Listed in Radiocarbon Compendium, See Table 1.

and many that were processed during the early 1960s have significantly large sigmas (e.g., Ranere 1971). Further, relevant data (e.g., laboratory number and sample type) are unavailable from some sites (Epperson 1977). A particularly confusing case is Bighorn Shelter in the Birch Creek region (Ranere 1968). Subsequent publication of Ranere's (1971: 18-21) master's thesis inadvertently omitted an additional series of dates. Therefore, the final dates reported here are based on the radiocarbon records on file at the Idaho Museum of Natural History.

Hopefully, the archaeological community will continue to maintain and update this compendium as is being done with the *Bibli-*

*ography of Idaho Archaeology* (Pavesic, Plew, and Sprague 1979, 1981) and the statewide obsidian/vitrophyere resource identification project (Sappington 1981a).

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Table 1

## RADIOCARBON DATES FOR SOUTHERN IDAHO

Site Name and Number	Radiocarbon Dates <sup>a</sup>	Laboratory Number	Type of Sample	Reference
Swan Falls 10-AA-17 (open site)	650± 60	BETA 3901	Charcoal	Ames, personal communication
	2,310± 70	BETA 3902	Charcoal	
	5,680± 50	BETA 3900	Shell	
Dry Creek Rockshelter 10-AA-63	1,410± 70	WSU 1513	Charcoal	Webster 1978
	1,710± 75	WSU 1514	Charcoal	
	2,090± 80	WSU 1503	Charcoal	
	3,270±110	WSU 1574	Bone	
	3,530± 85	WSU 1486	Bone	
Lydle Gulch 10-AA-72 (open site)	790±100	WSU 2061	Charcoal	Sappington 1981 <i>b</i>
	1,010± 90	WSU 2063	Charcoal	
	1,170± 90	WSU 2062	Charcoal	
Poison Creek 10-BM-50 (open site)	450± 80	WSU 1441	Charcoal	Neudorfer 1976
	720± 70	WSU 1478	Charcoal	
Jackknife Cave 10-BT-46	160±135	WSU 135	Charcoal	Swanson and Sneed 1971
	380±125	WSU 138	Charcoal	
	840±125	WSU 134	Charcoal	
	6,200±155	WSU 136	Charcoal	
	8,130±105	UCLA 704	Charcoal	
Wasden (Owl Cave) 10-BU-30	3,340±575	WSU 561	Charcoal	Butler 1978
	7,100±350	M 1853	Bone	Butler 1969
	7,750±210	WSU 641	Charcoal	Dort 1968
	8,000±N/A	WSU 750	Bone	Butler 1969
	8,160±260	WSU 560	Bone	
	9,735±115	WSU 2483	Bone	Miller, personal communication
	10,145±170	WSU 2485	Bone	
	10,470±100	WSU 2484	Bone	

Table 1 (cont'd.)

Site Name and Number	Radiocarbon Dates <sup>a</sup>	Laboratory Number	Type of Sample	Reference
	10,970±150	WSU 1786	Bone	Miller and Dort 1978
	12,250±200	WSU 1259	Bone	Butler 1971a
	12,850±150	WSU 1281	Bone	
Ashtrap Rockshelter 10-CA-17	A.D. 720± 80	TX 4268	Ash?	Skinner 1981
	A.D. 790± 80	TX 4267	Ash?	
Bison, 10-CL-3, and Veratic, 10-CL-10, Rockshelters	370± 80	UCLA 217	Charcoal	Swanson 1972
	948± 75	I 454	Charcoal	
	1,580± 80	UCLA 160	Charcoal	
	2,350±120	UCLA 220	Charcoal	
	2,920±120	UCLA 218	Charcoal	
	2,960±100	UCLA 219	Charcoal	
	3,360±100	UCLA 130	Charcoal	
	3,995±470	WSU 502	N/A	
	4,500±170	I 452	Charcoal	
	5,670±120	UCLA 162	Charcoal	
	5,870±120	UCLA 161	Charcoal	
	6,030±190	WSU 503	Charcoal	
	6,282±229	TBN 304-2	N/A	
	6,925±200	I 453	Charcoal	
	10,340±830	WSU 760	Bone	
Cottontail Rockshelter 10-CL-23	150±125	WSU 133	Charcoal	Swanson, Butler, and Bonnichsen 1964
	4,420±145	WSU 137	Charcoal	
10-CL-100 (rockshelter)	365± 80	UCLA 253	Charcoal	Swanson, Butler, and Bonnichsen 1964
	385± 65	UCLA 257	Charcoal	On file at the Idaho Museum of Natural History, Pocatello
	1,420± 80	UCLA 252	Charcoal	Swanson, Butler, and Bonnichsen 1964
	1,703± 75	UCLA 258	Charcoal	On file at the Idaho Museum of Natural History, Pocatello
	1,820± 80	UCLA 254	Charcoal	Swanson, Butler, and Bonnichsen 1964

Table 1 (cont'd.)

Site Name and Number	Radiocarbon Dates <sup>a</sup>	Laboratory Number	Type of Sample	Reference
	3,170± 80	UCLA 256	Charcoal	
	4,500±100	UCLA 255	Charcoal	
Challis Bison Jump 10-CR-196	1,030±159	SM 1354	Charcoal	Butler 1971 <i>b</i>
Quill Cave 10-CR-197	1,270± 90	GX 2131	Charcoal	Butler 1971 <i>b</i>
Redfish Overhang 10-CR-201	670±130	WSU 1410/ 1410B	Charcoal	Sargeant 1973
	8,060±285	WSU 1397	Charcoal	
	9,860±300	WSU 1395	Charcoal	
	10,100±300	WSU 1396	Charcoal	
Challis Bison Jump Rockshelter 10-CR-322	2,080± 70	N/A	N/A	Epperson 1977
	4,170± 90	N/A	N/A	
	5,330± 90	N/A	N/A	
East Fork Lookout 10-CR-358 (rock structure)	A.D. 1,340± 70	WSU 1587	Wood	Butler 1978
	A.D. 1,510± 70	WSU 1705	Wood	
Jimmy Smith Lake 10-CR-547/552 (rock structure)	1,290± 70	WSU 1704	Wood	Butler
Big Boulder Creek 10-CR-768 (open site)	165± 75	WSU 2663	Charcoal	Sappington, personal communication
	1,843± 74	WSU 2664	Charcoal	
Weston Canyon Rockshelter 10-FR-4	3,740±147	ISU 1591/7 <sup>b</sup>	Charcoal	Miller 1972
	7,216±198	ISU 1591/3 <sup>b</sup>	Charcoal	
	7,320±243	ISU 1591/6 <sup>b</sup>	Charcoal	
10-GG-1 (open site)	250±110	RL 1501	Charcoal	Plew 1981 <i>a</i>
	300±110	RL 1498	Charcoal	
	500±100	RL 1503	Charcoal	
	630±110	RL 1505	Charcoal	

Table 1 (cont'd.)

Site Name and Number	Radiocarbon Dates <sup>a</sup>	Laboratory Number	Type of Sample	Reference
	900±140	RL 1502	Charcoal	
	1,140±120	RL 1500	Charcoal	
Bernard Creek Rockshelter 10-IH-483	7,190±135	WSU 1676	Charcoal	Randolph and Dahlstrom 1977
	7,250± 80	WSU 1675	Charcoal	
Wilson Butte Cave 10-JE-6	425±150	M 1088	Wood	Gruhn 1961
	940±120	M 1144	Charcoal	
	2,940±200	M 1143	Wood	
	6,850±300	M 1087	Charcoal	
	14,500±500	M 1409	Bone	Gruhn 1965
	15,000±800	M 1410	Bone	
Jaguar Cave 10-LH-15	3,930±390	N/A	Charcoal	Sadek-Kooros 1972
	10,370±350	N/A	Charcoal	Sadek-Kooros 1965
	11,580±250	N/A	Charcoal	
Alpha Rockshelter 10-LH-23	4,730±202	WSU 358	Shell	Swanson and Sneed 1966
	7,150±231	WSU 359	Shell	
	12,410±115	WSU 416	Shell	
Polly's Place 10-LH-44 (rockshelter)	1,730±230	WSU 539	Charcoal	Ranere 1968
	2,520±150	WSU 540	Charcoal	
	2,685±370	WSU 461	Charcoal	
Bighorn Shelter 10-LH-45	240±390	WSU 458	Charcoal	Ranere 1968
	470±460	WSU 457	Charcoal	
	1,250±400	WSU 755	Wood	On file at the Idaho Museum of Natural History, Pocatello
	1,660±500	WSU 460	Charcoal	Ranere 1968
	1,900±185	WSU 932	Charcoal	On file at the Idaho Museum of Natural History, Pocatello
	2,000±285	WSU 931	Wood	

Table 1 (cont'd.)

Site Name and Number	Radiocarbon Dates <sup>a</sup>	Laboratory Number	Type of Sample	Reference
	4,773±357	WSU 752	Charcoal	
	5,775±550	WSU 754	Charcoal	
	6,725±600	WSU 751	Charcoal	
	7,150±400	WSU 459	Charcoal	Ranere 1968
Beta Rockshelter 10-LH-63	5,600±175	WSU 403	N/A	Swanson and Sneed 1966
	5,675±175	WSU 404	Shell	
	8,175±230	WSU 402	Charcoal	
Malad Hill 10-OA-2 (open site)	6,860±659	WSU 759	Bone	Swanson and Dayley 1968
Bachman Cave 10-OE-565	1,360± 80	WSU 2135	Charcoal	Metzler, personal communication
	2,020± 80	WSU 2136	Charcoal	
	2,250± 70	WSU 2132	Charcoal	
	3,140± 65	WSU 2133	Charcoal	
	5,690±100	WSU 2134	Charcoal	
Nahas Cave 10-OE-1674	260± 50	TX 3646	Charcoal	Plew 1981 <i>b</i>
	350± 70	TX 3635	Charcoal	
	400± 70	TX 3638	Charcoal	
	1,100± 80	TX 3642	Charcoal	
	1,410±200	TX 3643	Charcoal	
	2,920± 70	TX 3637	Charcoal	
	5,990±170	TX 3644	Charcoal	
Givens Hot Springs 10-OE-1689 (open site)	2,030± 60	TX 4310	Charcoal	Green, personal communication
	2,160± 70	TX 4312	Charcoal	
	2,570±100	TX 4309	Charcoal	
	2,780± 70	TX 4311	Charcoal	
	4,020±100	TX 4308	Charcoal	
	4,060±100	TX 3655	Charcoal	

Table 1 (cont'd.)

Site Name and Number	Radiocarbon Dates <sup>a</sup>	Laboratory Number	Type of Sample	Reference
	4,180±110	TX 4307	Charcoal	
	4,280± 70	TX 3652	Charcoal	
	4,620±270	TX 3656	Charcoal	
	5,120±100	TX 3653	Charcoal	
	5,510±600	TX 3649	Charcoal	
	6,240± 90	TX 3651	Shell	
	6,610±120	TX 3650	Shell	
	7,300±110	TX 3654	Shell	
Big Creek Cave 10-VY-67	580± 70	BETA 3395	Charcoal	Wylie, Gallagher, and Scott 1982
	1,050± 80	BETA 3392	Charcoal	
	1,100± 60	BETA 3391	Charcoal	
	1,230± 70	BETA 3396	Charcoal	
	2,010±160	BETA 3393	Charcoal	
	2,600±330	BETA 3399	Charcoal	
	3,220± 80	BETA 3398	Charcoal	
	3,290±120	BETA 3394	Charcoal	
	3,900± 90	BETA 3397	Charcoal	
Waterfall Village 10-VY-N/A (open site)	750± 70	BETA 3400	Charcoal	Wylie, Gallagher, and Scott 1982
10-WN-30 (open site)	600± N/A	WSU N/A	N/A	Bowers 1967
Braden Burial 10-WN-117	5,790±120	WSU 1487	Bone	Harten 1975

<sup>a</sup>Years B.P. unless given as B.C./A.D.

<sup>b</sup>Sample run by Mobile Radiocarbon Laboratories.

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