

Artifacts and other Traces of the Past at Clover Ruin



Stone Tools

In the picture on the left, Jocelyn Docherty finds an obsidian "Cohonina" style projectile point. The Cohonina made these small arrowheads to hunt game such as deer, rabbits and squirrels. Obsidian is found locally in the Ash Fork and Parks areas. To the right, Jack Young measures a stone axe *in situ* (in its original place). Archaeologists found two stone axes during their excavations. The Cohonina probably used this stone axe to cut wood.

Archaeologists uncovered 18 formal tools such as projectile points and 120 informal tools (pieces of stone with sharpened edges), and seven cores (original stone that a tool maker struck with a hammerstone to remove a smaller usable piece). Archaeologists found that the majority of flaked stone (n=472) were small pieces of debitage (waste debris from producing tools). The ratio of debitage (472) to tools (138) is relatively low at 3.4 to 1. Informal tools (n=120) outnumber formal tools (n=18) by a ratio of 6.6 to 1, suggesting that the Clover Ruin inhabitants relied heavily on the use of informal tools.

Within the flaked stone assemblage, the dominant raw material types are cherts from the Kaibab and Redwall limestone formations (31.7%). They are followed by Government Mountain obsidian (17.3%), chalcedony (15.7%), fine-grained basalt (10.5%), RS Hill obsidian (9.2%), Perkinsville Jasper (7.9%), Presley Wash obsidian (1.6%) and Partridge Creek obsidian (0.8%). Many of these materials come from 10 to 30 miles from Clover Ruin. How do you think they arrived at the site?



Photos of pots from Kathryn Kang's Interactive Field Guide to Northern Arizona Ceramics. Upper left photo of sherds taken by Don Christensen.

Pottery

Archaeologists recovered and analyzed 3,861 sherds (broken pieces of pottery) at Clover Ruin. While they found no whole vessels, archaeologists studied these important fragments to determine that the Cohonina occupied the site between AD 900 and AD 1000. Almost 90% of the sherds were types of San Francisco Mountain Gray Ware. The Cohonina used the paddle-and-anvil method to create these large gray pots. Based on the curvature of the pottery, it appears that many of the pots were large jars, important for the storage of water and foods such as beans, corn and squash. In addition to the local produced pottery, Clover Ruin exhibited a range of types believed to have been imported from the Flagstaff area, and western and northeastern Arizona.



Historic Clover Ranger Station, Then and Now

The Clover Ranger Station was built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1933. The photo on the left depicts the original Clover Ranger Station as it looked in about 1910. During their excavations at Clover Ruin, archaeologists recovered a variety of historic artifacts that included purple glass, insulators with 1910 and 1909 patent dates, and horse tack items. Based on their finds, which included numerous horse tack items, archaeologists concluded that the structure in the right portion of the left photo may have been a barn.



Rock Art

While no rock art is present at Clover Ruin, the Cohonina made *petroglyphs* (images pecked in stone) at nearby locations such as at Laws Spring (left) and Keyhole Sink (right). Archaeologists are uncertain about the meaning of petroglyphs. Some of these petroglyphs may represent clan symbols or depict actual events. Archaeologists often find petroglyphs along drainages and especially where there is standing water. Do you recognize any symbols at Laws Spring or Keyhole Sink?

You can easily visit Keyhole Sink and Laws Spring. It is a short trail hike to each site. Visit the Williams District Ranger Station 200 yards to the east of here to pick up an information sheet on these hikes. And remember, when you visit archaeological sites take only pictures and leave only footprints. It is against the law to remove or damage archaeological materials. Please do not touch the petroglyphs as oils from your fingers can damage the rock art.