

The Folsom Complex represents a cultural tradition more distinct than the Clovis and Western Stemmed complexes. The Folsom Complex dates to between 11,000 and 9,500 B.P. The Folsom Complex displays a wider geographic and temporal range than that of Clovis, supporting theories that Folsom culture branched from the older fluted tradition. Folsom sites are associated with bifacially fluted projectile points that are smaller, thinner, and more refined than those identified at Clovis sites. Burins, denticulate tools, gravers, scrapers, and fine bone and antler tools are also associated with Folsom artifact assemblages. Folsom hunters appear to have focused on extinct forms of bison for their primary subsistence. Larger megafauna such as mammoths are absent from Folsom sites. Folsom points have been noted as isolated artifacts across Utah, and have been identified at the Montgomery habitation site near Green River, Utah (Davis' 1985).

The terminal Pleistocene, or Bonneville Period, ranges from 11,000 to 9,500 B.P. (Aikens and Madsen 1986:154). This time frame overlaps with the Paleo-Indian Period and is considered a transitory stage between Paleo-Indian and Early Archaic lifestyles. In this chronology, Western Stemmed is seen as following Clovis chronologically, rather than a contemporaneous complex. Stone flakes and milling stones from Danger Cave dating to around 9,800 B.P. (Jennings 1957) provide early evidence for plant processing and indicate a broad spectrum subsistence strategy utilizing animal and plant resources.

Archaic Period

The Archaic Period (10,000 to 1,600 B.P.) represents a long span of time distinguished by a steady transition of lifeways and technologies. An increased focus on small game and the exploitation of plant resources marks the Archaic Period. Nevertheless, the transition between the Paleo-Indian and Archaic periods is poorly defined. Both the Folsom and Western Stemmed complexes existed into the Archaic. Folsom culture during the Archaic does not seem to have changed dramatically from what is understood for the Paleo-Indian Period. However at sites such as Hogup Cave and Danger Cave, Western Stemmed assemblages display an increased exploitation of a variety of resources consistent with the time of transition defined loosely as the Archaic Period (Aikens and Madsen 1986; Jennings 1978). Archaic cultures expanded across the Great Basin, resulting in a multitude of projectile point forms, sites, and lifeways. Several periods of the Archaic have been defined in order to illustrate these cultural shifts.

The Wendover Period ranges from approximately 9,500 to 6,000 B.P. as defined by Aikens and Madsen (1986:154) and roughly corresponds to the Early Archaic Period described for other regions. Sites are found at many different elevations and in a wide variety of environments. Excavation of dry caves in western Utah recovered basketry, cloth, cordage, digging tools, snares, buckskin, and fire drills (Jennings 1978:41, 49). Grinding implements for plant processing and implements such as atlatls and traps for hunting small game are common. These artifact assemblages are indicative of the wide variety of activities engaged in by prehistoric inhabitants, who most likely followed a seasonal round of hunting and gathering. Projectile points common to the Wendover Period are the Elko Series, Pinto Series, Bitterroot Side-notched, and Humboldt Concave-base (Figures 4.3 and 4.4).