Stoneworking at Anderson Lodge, Washakie Wilderness, Wyoming

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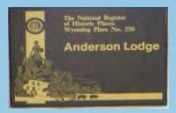
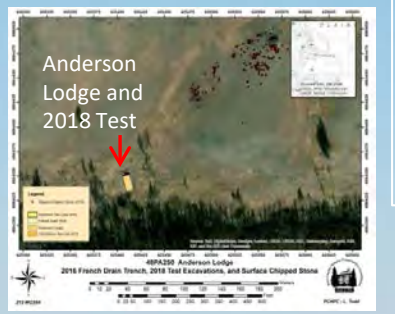
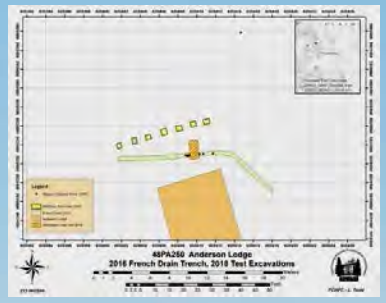
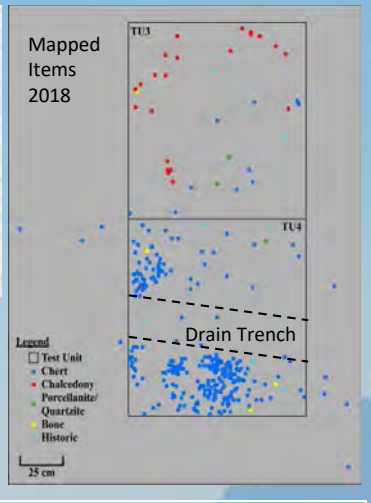
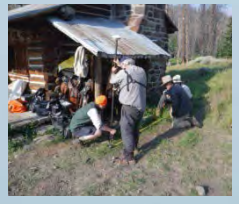




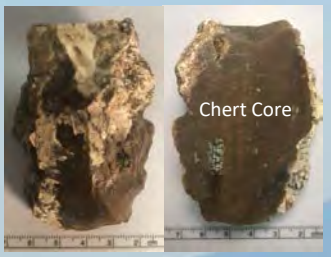
This study documents a small chipped-stone assemblage from Anderson Lodge (48PA250) in the Washakie Wilderness, Park County, Wyoming. Stabilization efforts in 2016 at this National Historic Site included excavation of a 30 cm wide trench upslope from the lodge for installation of a French drain. While excavating this trench, chipped stone artifacts were encountered. Sediments from the trench were screened and some artifacts were found in place. This unusual concentration of artifacts led to a follow-up study in 2018.

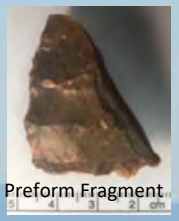




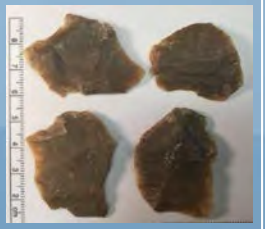


Materials representing a single chert nodule are the focus of technological and refitting analyses. The dense concentration of material may represent a dump of lithic waste, the location where a nodule was reduced, and/or an insurance cache in an area with few lithic sources.





Core Reduction Flakes Refit Set



Biface Thinning Flakes

Pieces of chalcedony and quartzite were found near the chert concentration, and include retouched flake tools. One chert tool was also found outside the chert concentration. Processing or maintenance activities are suggested for this location, in addition to biface and flake blank production.

Material	TU 3	TU 4	Trench	Surface	totals
Chert	13	351	94	9	467
Chalcedony	25	5	0	0	30
Quartzite	1	4	1	0	6
Other stone	5	5	5	0	15
Bone	2	7	7	0	16
Historic	4	15	3	0	22
	50	387	110	9	556

The brown mottled chert (N=467 pieces) nodule was used to produce a biface, core, and flake blanks. Large flakes and refits indicate considerable variation in the nodule's mottling and cortex. The source of the chert is unknown. Some pieces exhibit matrix cortex, or residual cortex not weathered by stream action. The nodule was split resulting in blocky pieces with flat surfaces. These flat surfaces served as a platform for core reduction and probably as one surface for at least one bifacial preform.

Chalcedony, quartzite, and chert tools found near brown chert concentration

Plains Anthropological Conference, San Antonio, TX. Oct. 24-27, 2018.

http://www.grsle.org/Conferences/Crable_et_al_48PA250_2018.pdf

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Acknowledgements: Special thanks to the Park County Historic Preservation Commission, U.S. Forest Service, Alan Potter, William Dooley, Jonah Buxton, Matthew Neff, Rachel Channell, Kyle Wright, Becky Thomas, Tau, Ron Ostrum, Kent Houston.