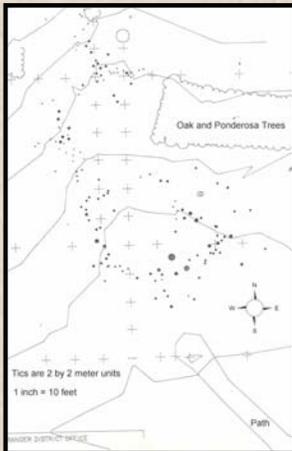




Unearthing the Past at Clover Ruin: The 1993-1994 Passport In Time Project



Volunteers screened all the dirt to unveil artifacts buried for over 1000 years.

On the surface many Cohonina sites are difficult to see. At Clover Ruin archaeologists noticed concentrations of rubble that also included scattered artifacts. Because of the historic impacts to the site and its proximity to the Ranger Station, archaeologists determined that Clover Ruin would be a valuable site to excavate. It would be a good way to interpret the history of the area for the public.

Archaeologists mapped all the rubble and had volunteers collect all the artifacts from the surface of the entire area. Volunteers carefully excavated 2 by 2 meter grid squares and collected all artifacts found during screening. In this manner, they created a detailed map that showed wall rubble and concentrations of artifacts.



After screening and bagging the artifacts found at each level, volunteers washed all ceramic, stone and historic artifacts so that archaeologists could analyze them in the lab.



To determine the original foundation, archaeologists removed stones that were on top of *fill* (soil deposited after the Cohonina abandoned the site). Archaeologists left the foundation stones that Cohoninas originally dug into the *sterile* surface (the level at which there are no cultural deposits) in place. You can examine these foundation stones at the base of the wall. In the middle of the photo you can see a section of wall that fell eastward (to the left). Examining this section of *wall fall*, archaeologists determined that the original structure stood about 4 feet tall.

Archaeologists have long sought to better understand the ancestral Puebloan people who lived west of the San Francisco Peaks between AD 700 and AD 1100. The 1993-1994 Passport in Time project offered volunteers and archaeologists an opportunity to explore the ancient lifestyles of people that archaeologists call the Cohonina. The Cohonina are distinguished by their San Francisco Mountain Gray Ware ceramics (whose decorated types were generally analogous to ancestral Puebloan styles of the same time periods). Early sites are small and of variable architectural lay out. They include pithouses and above ground storage structures. Clover Ruin is typical of a seasonally occupied Cohonina above ground structural site. By AD 900, around the time Cohoninas lived at Clover Ruin, they were probably growing crops such as corn, beans and squash. Cohonina sites extended north of the San Francisco Peaks at this period, as well as to the south rim of the Grand Canyon and into the Inner Gorge. The Cohonina abandoned their "heartland area" around present day Williams by the late 1000s. Evidence suggests the vast majority of Cohoninas migrated eastward after the eruption of Sunset Crater around AD 1070. At that time there was a notable rise in populations in the Wupatki area north and east of the San Francisco Peaks. Remnant Cohonina populations probably remained in the western portion of the area, i.e., from Seligman west to the Kingman area and including areas currently occupied by Hualapai and Havasupai.



The descendants of Clover Ruin's occupants still live in Northern Arizona. The Bill Williams Mountain area is important to the Hopi, Navajo, Hualapai, Havasupai and Yavapai. Members of the Hopi tribe visited the site to help archaeologists interpret their findings. During the project, volunteer Nick Cureton found Jeddito Yellow Ware in the field north of the site. Ancestral Hopis began making this pottery after AD 1300.



The Clover Ruin Passport in Time Project took place over three weeks in the Summers of 1993 and 1994. Thirty volunteers contributed over 2000 hours of work to helping uncover the past. Since then volunteers and District personnel have maintained the structure. In the coming years we hope to conduct dry-farming experiments and build interpretive displays.



During the second year, Passport in Time volunteers began reconstructing the wall at Clover Ruin. Studying the wall rubble, archaeologists determined that the structure stood about four feet high and fell eastward. The *ramada* area (a shaded work area) had few rocks, leading archaeologists to believe that this area was mostly constructed of wood.