

I was privileged to work with Tom Stefani in the summer of 2006 while I was working as the Forest Range Archaeologist for the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest. I was conducting research for my thesis which was based on assessing cattle grazing impacts on archaeological sites in the Eastern Great Basin. My supervisor Alyce Branigan, made arrangements for me to meet with Tom in the field at the Jarbidge Ranger District and he would take me to areas of concern. Tom was genuinely concerned about the cattle grazing impacts on the archaeological sites and was determined to resolve any existing problems. Tom introduced me to many of the ranchers and their families in the Jarbidge area and help explain to them what I was doing and how it would benefit them, as well as the Forest. The ranchers showed a great deal of respect for Tom and agreed to discuss their concerns with me. Because of Tom's working relationship with the ranchers I was able to gain the ranchers perspective. This is rare for an archaeologist and I am sure that the only reason the ranchers agreed to meet with me was because they trusted Tom and his judgment. Tom and his dogs spent four days in the field taking me to numerous sites where cattle grazing occurred. Of the 22 sites we visited, only one site showed any serious problems with cattle grazing impacts. The conditions of the rangeland under Tom's management was as pristine as any on the Forest and his dedication to the preservation and conservation of the Jarbidge District reflected greatly in his day to day efforts to maintain the rangeland. Tom and I continued to discuss the problems of cattle grazing impacts throughout the summer and he was instrumental in assisting me with information for my master's thesis. I found Tom to be an honest, hardworking, friendly fellow with a great disposition and a passion for what he was doing. It is no surprise that he volunteered for such an important project in Afghanistan. He was that kind of person. It is certain that Tom will be missed by the ranchers and Forest Service employees alike. The Humboldt-Toiyabe is a better place because of his efforts. Because of Tom's assistance I was able to complete my thesis research and gain a better understanding of the perspectives of the ranchers, rangers, and range ecologists. I owe him great thanks for that.

By Stephen Anderson

