

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED FEB 28 1980
DATE ENTERED FEB 12 1980

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Challis Archaeological Spring District

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

VICINITY OF

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Final Report on Archaeological Inventory of the Challis Planning Unit, BLM

DATE

1977

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR

SURVEY RECORDS BLM, Salmon; Idaho State University Museum, Pocatello, Idaho

CITY, TOWN

Idaho State Historic Preservation Office, Boise, Idaho

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT

GOOD

FAIR

DETERIORATED

RUINS

UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED

ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE

MOVED

DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Environment:

The Challis Archaeological Spring District [REDACTED] in [REDACTED]. Some of the area receives less than 7 inches of precipitation yearly and is quite arid. The vegetation is xeric; below 6,000 feet sagebrush and grass are dominant while above this elevation Douglas Fir grows in the better watered areas. Minor streams flow discontinuously, and natural springs are important sources of water. In prehistoric and historic times these springs attracted bison, bighorn sheep, antelope and deer. Today the springs are used intensively by stockmen to provide water for cattle and sheep.

Context:

The archaeological sites in this district are the remnants of seasonally occupied camps. The sites are different in size and depth, and are situated in somewhat different environmental settings, but they have similar lithic assemblages. Large bifacial choppers, knives, scrapers and projectile points are the most common tools. These tools reflect the hunting and butchering of large game animals. Based on historic records, the ELM test excavations, and information from adjacent areas of Idaho, the animals hunted were primarily bison and bighorn sheep (Butler 1978, Swanson 1972, Williams 1979). Two sites included in the district (10-CR-414 and 10-CR-451) have stone structures present that were most likely used as blinds to hunt game attracted to the springs.

The extensive erosion along [REDACTED] has exposed [REDACTED] profiles useful for mapping subsurface archaeological deposits. During a 1978 project thirty-two station markers were established indicating stratified cultural deposits. In addition to these station markers five test pits were excavated which ranged from depths of 150-200 cm (Williams 1979). Two volcanic ash horizons were identified, a St. Helens ash dating at 3500 BP and a Mazama Ash dating at 6700 BP. Artifacts and faunal remains were observed in place below the Mazama ash deposit. Diagnostic projectile points (Elko Series, Pinto Series, Desert Side Notched, Cottonwood Triangular) were located. These studies indicate the Challis Spring sites were occupied before 6700 BP to historic times. One PaleoIndian Hasket point was found on the surface of site 10-CR-60 (Epperson 1977: Appendix 2). These points generally date to 10,000 BP. Other PaleoIndian points (Folsom) have been found in the general area indicating some of the sites may be older yet.

Site 10-CR-478, which was tested in 1978 (Williams 1979), clearly demonstrates the stratified nature of the deposits at many of these sites. Four deposits containing stone tools and faunal remains were identified, each separated by soils devoid of any archaeological materials. Cultural Level A occurred from 0-40 cm; Level B from 80-120 cm; Level C from 140-160 cm; and Level D from 180-200 cm. A Mazama layer was present at 220 cm and unidentified bone fragments occurred below this ash layer.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Challis archaeological sites are composed of deposits containing stone artifacts, pottery, floral and faunal remains, and features such as hearths and activity areas. These data when properly studied will contribute important information on environmental change, Native American culture history, settlement patterns, and the nature of big game hunters in the Intermountain West.

The stratified deposits occurring in many of the sites will allow studies of changes in tool types and styles that when coupled with sound radiocarbon dating will refine the chronological placement of specific tool types in the Challis area. The datable volcanic ash layers will help considerably to establish good chronological controls of such changes in material culture. Such a chronology can then be compared with others produced in nearby areas, such as Swanson's (1972) for the Birch Creek Valley, to develop a regional chronology.

Information contained in these sites will contribute to studies of prehistoric settlement patterns in central Idaho. It is apparent that the Challis Springs were seasonally used by prehistoric peoples in order to hunt large game. Most likely this large game was bison and bighorn sheep (Butler 1978). But it is not known at what times of the year these sites were occupied. Also the demographic composition of peoples utilizing these sites and the specific activities that took place are not known. The test excavations conducted by the ELM clearly indicate that these sites contain information on the seasonal community patterns, areal settlement patterns, and how these patterns changed through time. By their nature settlement pattern studies required areal research designs incorporating numerous individual archaeological sites (Streuver 1968) and for this reason the Challis sites are collectively significant.

It is important for understanding prehistoric settlement patterns to have a detailed knowledge of the climatic change occurring in the past. Based on Antev's (1948) studies of climatic change in the Great Basin and Swanson's (1978) studies in the Birch Creek Valley in eastern Idaho it has been suggested that during altithermal times (circa 7500-4500 BP) there was a movement of peoples from areas of low elevation to areas of higher elevation in the Intermountain West (cf Swanson 1972, Fagan 1974). The reasoning is that game would be more plentiful in higher elevations during the warm and dry altithermal climatic period.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

see continuation sheet

UTM NOT VERIFIED

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 167.2

QUADRANGLE NAME _____			QUADRANGLE SCALE _____				
UTM REFERENCES							
A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

see continuation sheet

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
none			
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Thomas J. Green, Idaho State Historical Society,
208-334-3847

Nancy Vaughn 1-16-80
 ORGANIZATION DATE

Salmon District Office, BLM 208-756-2201
 STREET & NUMBER TELEPHONE

P. O. Box 430
 CITY OR TOWN STATE

Salmon Idaho 83467

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE *Merle Wells*

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer DATE 26 February 1980

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
<u><i>John S. Bush</i></u>	DATE <u>2-12-81</u>
ATTEST: <u>John S. Bush</u>	DATE
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION	

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR HCRS USE ONLY

RECEIVED FEB 28 1980

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 2

No archaeological phases have been defined in the Challis area. Following B. Robert Butler (1978), the sites belong to various time periods in what he calls the Archaic Tradition. Butler considers Early Archaic to begin around 8000 BP and the Late Archaic to begin at 1300 AD. The Middle Archaic is still not well defined in eastern Idaho.

Archaeological Research:

The twenty-eight sites nominated for inclusion in the Challis Archaeological Springs District were located primarily during two surveys. Both surveys were funded by the Bureau of Land Management and conducted by the Idaho State Museum of Natural History, one in 1966 (Swanson, King, and Chatters 1969) and one in 1975 (Epperson 1977). The 1966 survey was general reconnaissance. The 1975 survey strategy included stratified random sampling, transect survey, intensive surveys of selected drainages, and general reconnaissance. From these efforts, and work by BLM archaeologists, 282 archaeological sites have been recorded in or near the Challis Planning Unit.

In addition to the archaeological survey, the BLM conducted test excavations at five sites near Long Pine Creek. The purpose was to better understand the subsurface nature of the Challis sites, and to evaluate their potential for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (Williams 1979). These excavations clearly demonstrated that sites associated with springs have stratified deposits dating from at least 6700 BP containing extensive artifactual, faunal and floral remains. The two distinct and datable volcanic ash horizons identified will be useful as area wide stratigraphic markers.

Intrusions and data limitations

Natural and man caused erosion has had some effect on the sites in the district. The sites along [REDACTED] and other intermittent drainages have been most damaged by erosion. Another serious problem has been amateur collectors who have caused disturbances by collecting artifacts from the surface of the sites, and more seriously, by digging for artifacts. Also, some damage has occurred as a result of water development projects. Despite these effects the sites still contain important and meaningful scientific information.

FOR HCRS USE ONLY

RECEIVED FEB 28 1980

DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 3

Site Summary Data
Challis Archaeological District

Data Categories

Site #	Size in Meters	Depth	Flakes	Tools	Ceramics	Groundstone	Fauna	Feature	Cultural Affiliation/Age
10CR50	15x30	30cm+	x	x			x		Archaic
10CR60	30x60	*	x	x		x		x	PaleoIndian, Early-Middle Archaic
10CR68	15x20*	120cm	x	x			x		Archaic
10CR69	40x60*	*	x	x					Archaic
10CR70	60x15	*	x	x					Archaic
10CR75	70x30	*	x	x					Archaic
10CR94	70x30	*	x	x					Early-Middle Archaic
10CR95	80x20*	*	x	x					Late Archaic
10CR96	85x50*	*	x	x					Early-Middle-Late Archaic
10CR99	70x60*	*	x	x					Archaic
10CR151	100x40*	*	x	x					Archaic
10CR152	100x40*	*	x	x					Archaic
10CR167	50x20*	*	x	x					Archaic
10CR172	800x200	*	x	x					Archaic
10CR344	100x80*	*	x	x				x	Early-Middle Archaic
10CR363	90x120	130cm+	x	x			x	x	Early-Middle-Late Archaic
10CR370	395x120	240cm	x	x			x	x	Early-Middle Archaic
10CR414	3x2	1m					x	x	Archaic
10CR439	150x100	*	x	x					Archaic
10CR451	4x4	1m						x	Archaic
10CR467	30x25	*	x	x					Archaic
10CR469	1600x 120-600	195cm	x	x			x	x	Early-Middle-Late Archaic
10CR472	10x5	*	x	x					Archaic
10CR478	425x210	278cm	x	x			x	x	Early-Middle Archaic
10CR487	15x15	*	x	x				x	Archaic
10CR498	210x210	150cm+	x	x	x		x	x	Early-Middle-Late Archaic
10CR506	180x100	*	x	x					Early-Middle Archaic
10CR515	40x60*	*	x	x					Archaic

*Estimated

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR HCRS USE ONLY

RECEIVED FEB 28 1980

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 2

B. Robert Butler's (1978) study of small animal remains from Owl Cave in eastern Idaho suggests a somewhat different picture of climatic change than presented by Antevs. Butler concludes that the climate has become progressively warmer and drier during the past 12-14,000 years. This occurred in cyclic manner with cool moist periods alternating with warmer drier periods. An extremely warm or dry period occurred ca. 4000-3800 years ago followed by a brief return to glacial conditions. The changes Butler sees are subtle, long term trends, and not dramatic changes as suggested by Antevs. Because of the flora, fauna, and geological information contained in the Challis Spring sites and the opportunities for good chronological control presented by preserved volcanic ash deposits, studies of these sites would produce extremely valuable data to check and define these various climatic models. In turn testable hypothesis on settlement pattern changes could be generated.

Individual archaeological sites can contribute important information on climatic change and its effects on settlement patterns. However, each locality was used by prehistoric peoples in different ways, for different purposes, and at different times. Also, the preservation is different at each site. It is important to study a number of sites to accurately determine the climatic sequence in a region or to describe the settlement systems occurring in a 10,000 year period. Hence the sites are more important collectively than individually.

The widespread perception of the prehistoric and historic peoples in the Desert West is that they subsisted on small game, numerous plant foods and insects (Jennings 1957; Stewart 1938). Archaeological evidence from the Northern Rocky Mountains, however, contrasts sharply with this current view of aboriginal life. The prehistoric archaeology of the Northern Rockies in Wyoming (Frison 1978) and eastern Idaho (Butler 1978, Swanson 1972) indicates that big game hunting was the dominant economic pursuit for nearly 10 millenia.

Since the tool assemblages found at Challis spring sites reflect a big game hunting focus that has persisted throughout the prehistoric period and into historic times, these sites were apparently part of an extinct cultural system(s) that was associated primarily with what can be broadly termed the Northern Rocky Mountain ecosystem. The stratified artifactual materials and the faunal remains contained in the Challis spring sites should demonstrate the long-term persistence of this seemingly widespread big game hunting tradition and also shed considerable light on the evolution of this tradition in the Challis area.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED FEB 28 1980

DATE ENTERED

FEB 12 1981

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

Anteys, Ernest

- 1948 Climatic Changes and Pre-White Man in "The Great Basin with emphasis on glacial and post-glacial times," Bulletin of the University of Utah, Vol. 38, No. 20, Biological Series, Vol. 10, No. 7, pp. 168-191. Salt Lake City.

Butler, B. Robert

- 1978 A Guide to Understanding Idaho Archaeology (Third Edition): The Upper Snake and Salmon River Country. Idaho State Historic Preservation Office. Boise, Idaho.

Epperson, Terrence W.

- 1977 Final Report on Archaeological Inventory of the Challis Planning Unit, Bureau of Land Management, Archaeological Reports N. 11 of the Idaho State University Museum of Natural History, Pocatello.

Fagan, John Lee

- 1974 Altithermal Occupation of Spring Sites in the Northern Great Basin, University of Oregon Anthropological Papers, No. 6.

Franzen, John G.

- 1978 Lemhi Shoshone Subsistence and Settlement Patterns: A Systemic Approach, Masters Thesis. Idaho State University.

Frison, George

- 1978 Prehistoric Hunters of the High Plains. Academic Press, New York.

Jennings, Jesse D.

- 1957 Danger Cave, University of Utah Anthropological Papers, No. 27, Salt Lake City.

Steward, Julian H.

- 1938 Basin Plateau Aboriginal Sociopolitical Groups, Bureau of Ethnology Bulletin, 120, Washington, D.C. (Reprinted by University of Utah Press, Salt Lake.)

Struever, Stuart

- 1968a Problems, Methods, and Organization: A Disparity in the Growth of Archaeology. Anthropological Archaeology in the Americas. Edited by B.J. Meggars. Anthropological Society of Washington. Washington, D.C.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED FEB 28 1980

DATE ENTERED

FEB 12 1981

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE 2

Swanson, Earl H. Jr.

1966 Summary Report for the Salmon District Survey at the Bureau of Land Management.

Swanson, Earl H. Jr.

1972 Birch Creek: Human Ecology in the Cool Desert of the Northern Rocky Mountains, 9000 BC-AD 1850. Idaho State University Press, Pocatello.

Swanson, Earl H. Jr., Chester King and James Chatters

1969 A Settlement Pattern in the Foothills of East-Central Idaho, Tebiwa, 12(1):31-38.

Williams, Barry G.

1979 Long Pine Project: Unpublished Manuscript. Salmon District Office, BLM. Salmon, Idaho.

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR HCRS USE ONLY

RECEIVED FEB 28 1980

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10

PAGE 1

The district is discontinuous and includes only the limits of the archaeological sites. The land between the sites is not significant for the district and is not included.



1. Challis Arch. Spring District
Site No. 10CR60
2. near Challis, Idaho
3. King and Chatters
4. 6/22/66
5. Salmon District BLM office,
Salmon, Idaho
6. general view of site 10CR60
showing spring development
occurring at site - viewing North
7. No. 1

FEB 28 1980

FEB 12 1981



1. Challis Arch. Spring
District Site No. 10CR68

2. near Challis, ID

3. King and Chatters

4. 6/23/66

FEB 12 1981

5. Salmon BLM District

6. Photo shows general site
area of 10CR68 - viewing
northeast

FEB 28 1980

7. No. 2



1. Challis Arch Spring
District - Site 10CR498
2. Near Challis, Idaho
3. Barry Williams
4. 8/15/1978
5. Salmon District BLM Office
6. View shows volcanic
ash layers in 10CR498
facing east
7. Photo No. 3

FEB 12 1981

FEB 28 1980



1. Challis Arch. Spring
District Site #10CR469
2. Near Challis, Idaho
3. Barry Williams
4. 8/15/78
5. Salmon BLM District
Office, Salmon, Idaho
6. View shows volcanic
ash layer in 10CR469
facing east
7. Photo No. 4

FEB 12 1981

FEB 28 1980