

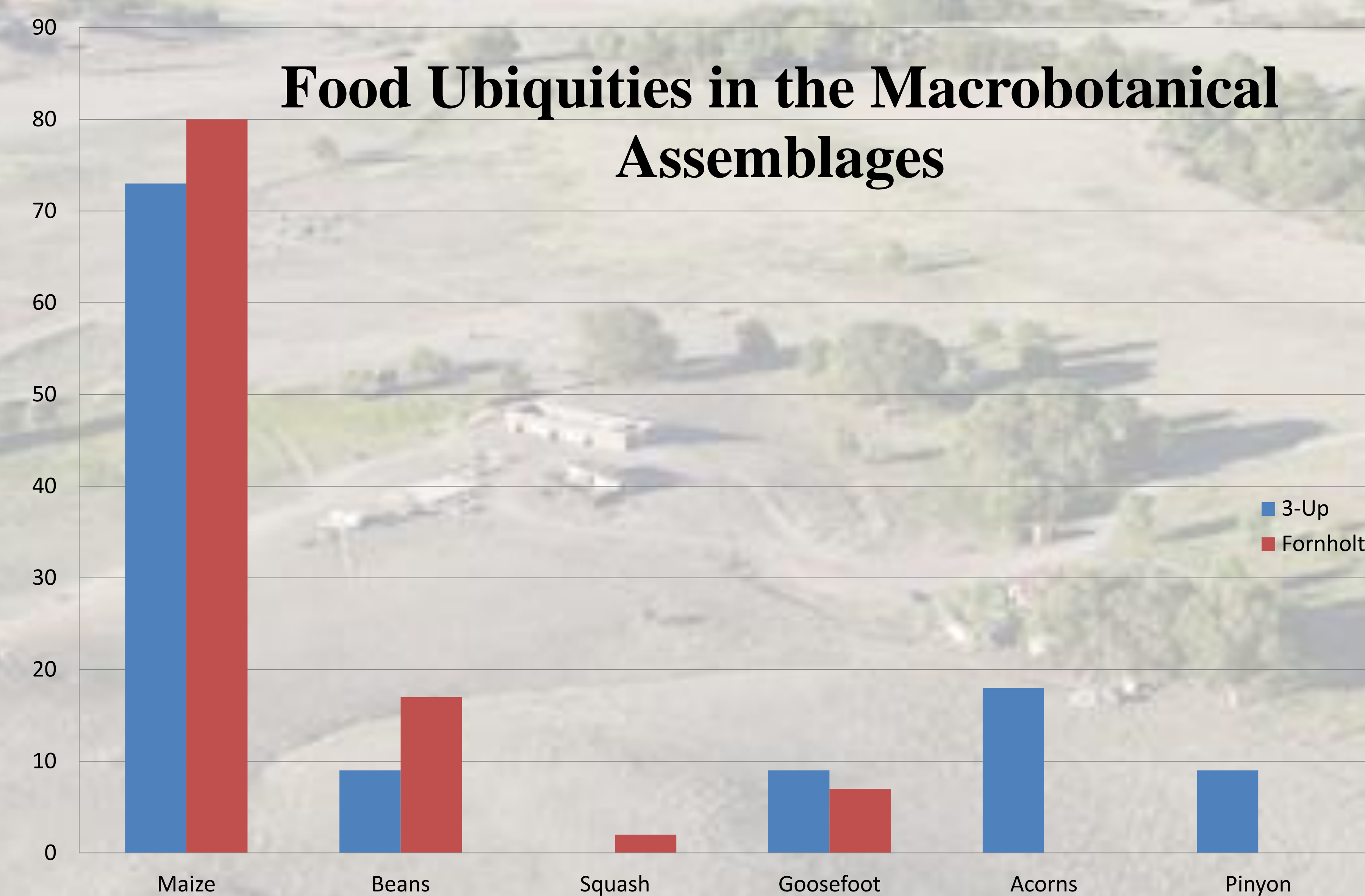
Late Prehistoric Farming and Food Harvesting along Mule Creek, New Mexico



Michael W. Diehl
Desert Archaeology, Inc.
mdiehl@desert.com



Apparently, the Kayenta enclave at 3-Up ranged farther afield to harvest wild foods, and to maintain or control access to the nearby Mule Creek obsidian source. Other Archaeology Southwest researchers have shown that this resource was very important to the Kayenta, and Mule Creek obsidian traveled hundreds of miles southwest to the San Pedro Valley east of Tucson.



Food plant remains from 3-Up and Fornholt indicate that these contemporary villages used the landscape in different ways. The Kayenta enclave at 3-Up combined agriculture with extensive harvesting of nut masts from acorn, pinyon pine, and walnuts. The Tularosa phase community at Fornholt depended exclusively on agriculture.

Further research is required to ascertain the origin of the Fornholt fire and to determine whether they really ignored important local wild resources or, alternatively, we have not sampled enough rooms to identify the full range of food plants used at the site.



A catastrophic fire at Fornholt may have started from the spontaneous combustion of bulk-stored maize. With no wild resource base on which to fall back, the occupants of the Fornholt probably had to leave the area.



Illustration by Catherine Gilman

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