

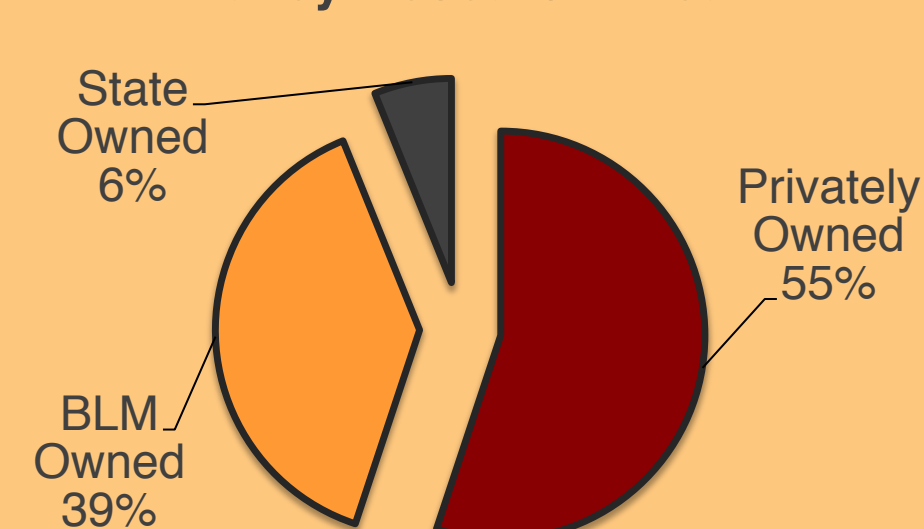
Archaeological Survey in Southeastern Arizona: *Partnering with Land Owners and Local Informants*

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Overview

- ❖ Southeastern Arizona is an understudied area of the American Southwest once broadly occupied by prehistoric groups. *Historically*, many Native American sites in the Duncan-York Valley were extensively looted or systematically destroyed often in relation to activities such as agricultural leveling or construction. Particularly hard hit were the large, late prehistoric, aggregated communities famous for their ceramic culture. The majority of these sites lie on private property.
- ❖ How do we communicate to local residents the importance of preserving and recording the valley's cultural resources without appearing to threaten their ownership, or condemn past pot-hunting activities?
- ❖ In our goal to document, and ideally, preserve the remains of vulnerable sites, the University of Texas at San Antonio and Colinas Cultural Resource Consulting have attempted to establish relationships of trust and respect with valley residents during their 2014 – 2017 field seasons.
- ❖ Contacts with local community leaders, one-on-one engagement, and public outreach have enabled productive dialogue and access.
- ❖ The valley's archaeology remains highly vulnerable to human disturbance, heightening the need for strong local partnerships to preserve the sites that make up its remarkable occupational pattern.

Recorded Sites in the Gila River Valley Research Area



❖ Four field seasons and a total of 47 sites recorded

❖ Only 5 had been previously documented, 90% of the sites were identified as a direct result of our relationships with local land owners and informants

❖ Of the 47 sites recorded, 25 or 55% of the sites are located on private property, and would not have been documented without permission from the land owners

- ❖ The 14 sites on this reach of the Gila River are situated in an ideal setting heavily utilized in the prehistoric period
- ❖ The Gila River constricts just north of the cluster of sites, forming a reach boundary that offers a dependable source of moisture ideal for farming
- ❖ Five early agricultural sites on private land are testament to its attraction as early as the late Archaic period

Kaywood Wash-Barney Collection



Kaler Family Helping to Excavate at the Duncan Donut Site

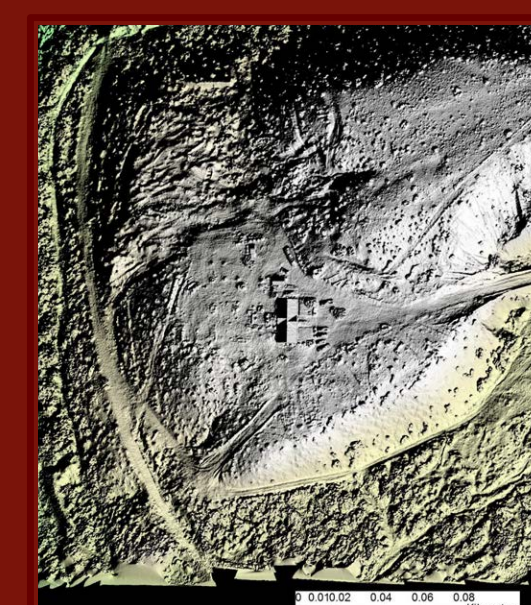
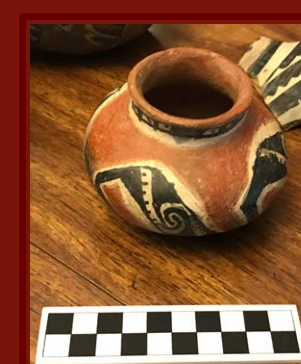


Kaler Site



Kaler Site-Sexton Collection

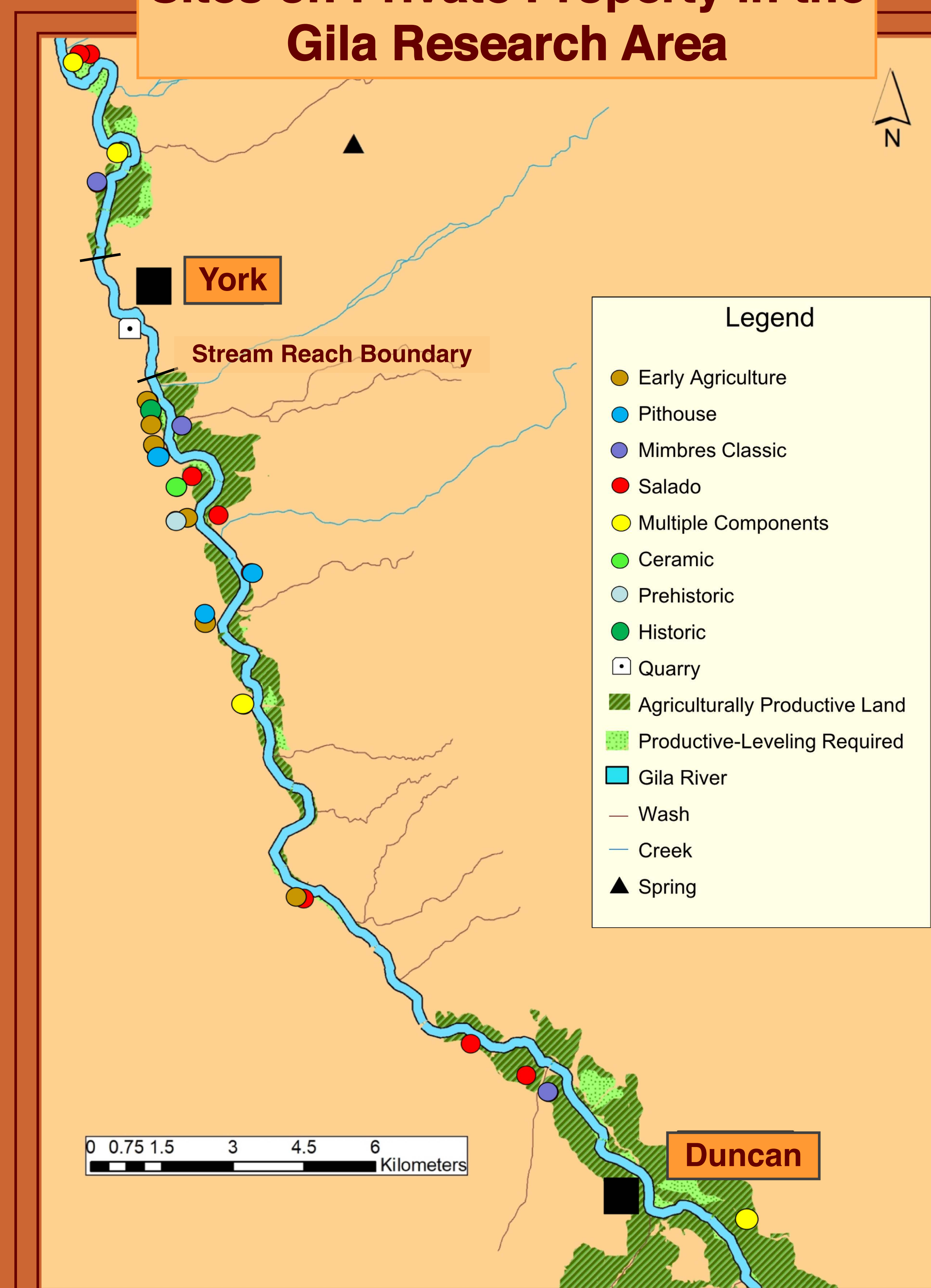
Sexton Place Site



Public Outreach, Duncan AZ



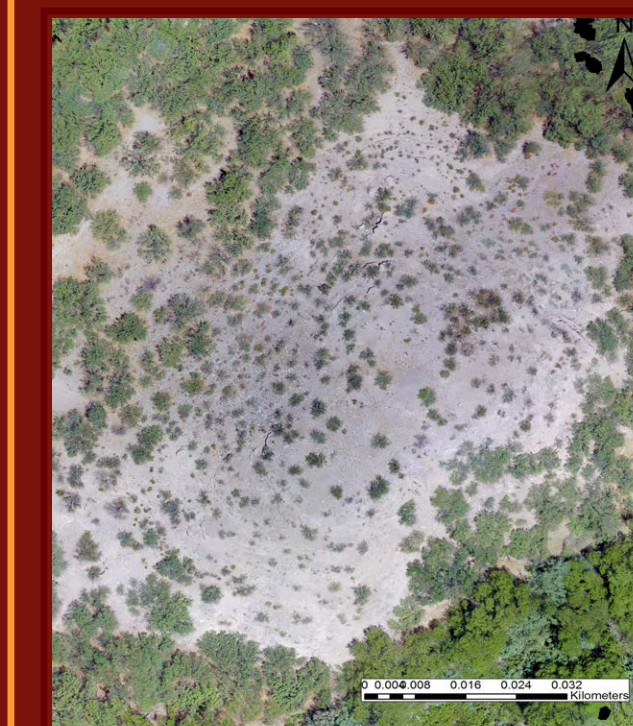
Sites on Private Property in the Gila Research Area



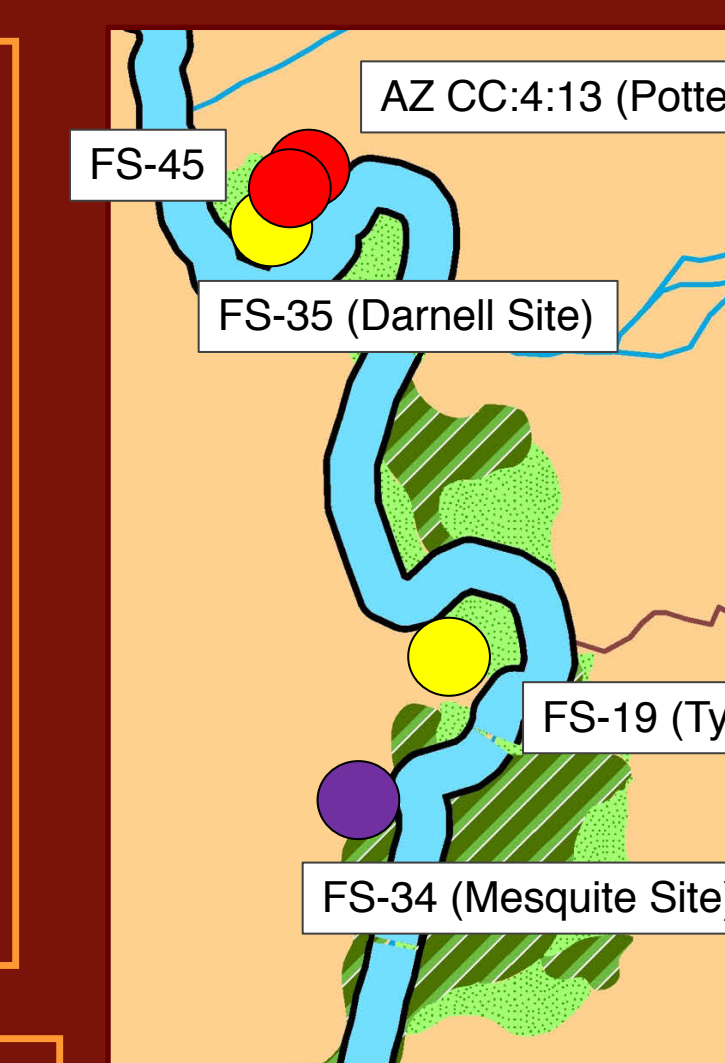
Valley Occupation Through Time



Pottery Hill



Mesquite Site



Tyler Site



- ❖ Pottery Hill, FS-45, and the Darnell Site are a cluster of sites ranging from at least the Late Pithouse to the Salado periods
- ❖ The Tyler Site was completely destroyed by hydraulic pot hunting in the 1980s, but remaining artifacts and items in local private collections suggest it was an extensive, multi-component site
- ❖ The Mimbres Classic Mesquite site will be mapped and recorded in 2018

- ❖ Two substantial Salado sites (Clark and Richards) and one probable multi-component site (Lunt Farm) on private property are located near extensive agriculturally productive soils in the Duncan Basin
- ❖ Both the Richards and Lunt Farm sites will be formally recorded in 2018

Clark Site
AZ:CC:8:16 (ASM)



Richards Site



Lunt Farm Site Panorama



Lunt Farm

Acknowledgments

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