

## Introduction

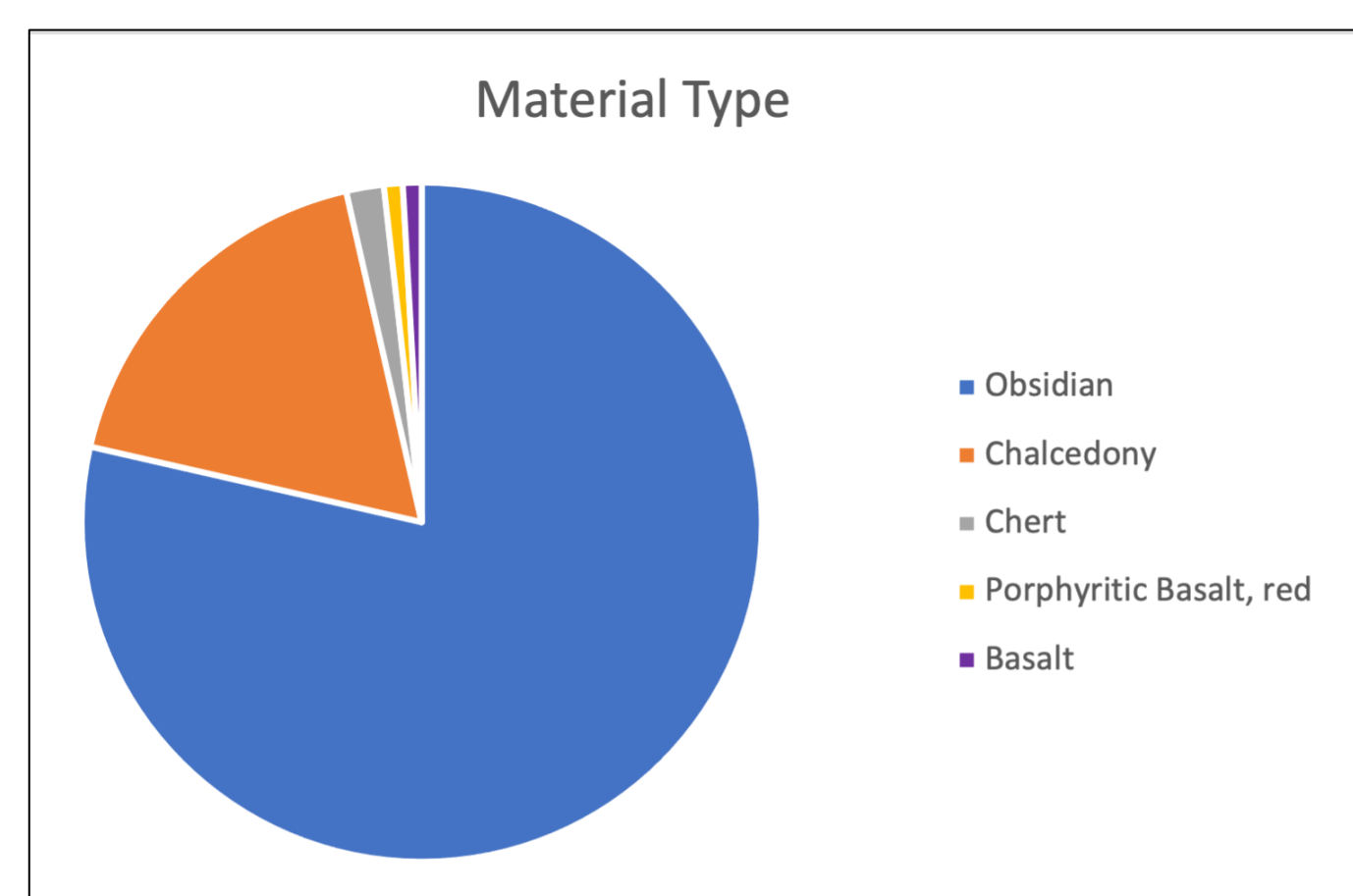
During Archaeology Southwest (ASW) and the University of Arizona's 2016 through 2022 field school seasons, one hundred and twelve projectile points were recovered from the Gila River Farm site, a Cliff phase (A.D. 1300-1450) Salado site. The site is located in the Upper Gila region in southwestern New Mexico.

## Research Questions

- What projectile point types are represented at Gila River Farm?
- What are the spatial patterns within the Gila River Farm site?
- How do point styles and materials compare to other Cliff phase sites within the Upper Gila region?

## Raw Material

A variety of raw material types were used for the projectile points found at the Gila River Farm site. The most common material was obsidian, followed by chalcedony and chert.



- Obsidian makes up approximately 79% of the projectile point assemblage. There are multiple potential source locations within the Mule Creek area including Mule Mountain or Antelope Creek, both about 50 km from Gila River Farm.

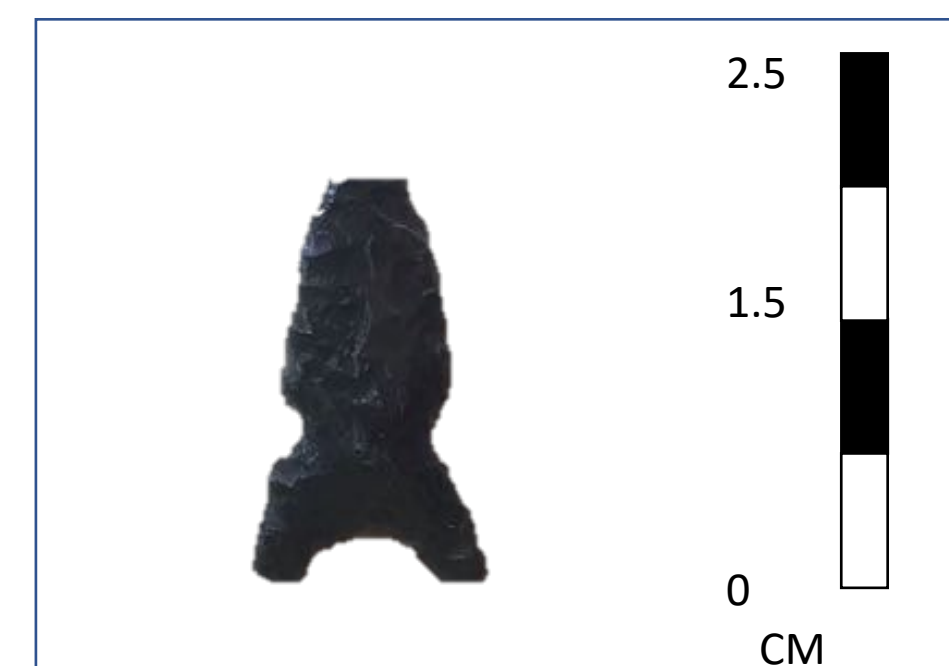
Raw Material	Projectile Point Type	Count	
Basalt		1	
	Dart	1	
Chalcedony		20	
	Corner-notched	3	
	Dart	3	
	Late Classic Side-notched	3	
	Southwest Concave-base Triangular	1	
	Southwest Short Triangular	2	
	Southwest Triangular	5	
Unclassified	3		
Chert		2	
	Corner-notched	1	
Obsidian		88	
	Basel-notched ear	1	
	Corner-notched	1	
	Dart	1	
	Late Classic Side-notched	8	
	Southwest Concave-base Triangular	11	
	Southwest Short Triangular	24	
	Southwest Triangular	34	
	Unclassified	7	
	Uniface, no description	1	
	Porphyritic Basalt, red		1
	Unclassified		1
	<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>112</b>

- Locally sourced raw materials found during the six field seasons included chalcedony (17.9%), chert (0.018%), and basalt variations (0.009%).

## Projectile Points

There were one-hundred and twelve points recovered during the six field school seasons at the Gila River Farm site.

- Southwest Triangular and Southwest Short Triangular points made up 67.9% of the assemblage. These points are small (2 to 3 cm), unnotched, and can have a straight or concave base. These types of points are seen throughout the Southwest and from A.D. 1150-1350 (Sliva 2006).



- Side-notched points were the next most common at 0.11%. These points range in size from 1.4 cm to 2.5 cm in length. Two types of side-notched points were found. The most common is distinguished by a shallow c-shaped side notch, along with their base-to-blade ratio. These points are similar to late Hohokam and Salado sites in southern Arizona, and Cliff phase (A.D. 1300-1450) sites in the Mimbres Valley (Nelson 1986). The other side-notched type has a high notch placement; only one was found at the Gila River Farm Site. These points are usually associated with post A.D. 1150 sites in southern Arizona and the Mogollon Highlands (Moore 1999, Sliva 2006).

- A total of 5 corner-notched points were found, one of which includes crazing from fire damage occurring after it was made. Another was notched on one side.



- Five points were classified as dart points, based on the dart-arrow index (max thickness + neck width > 11.8mm) (Hildebrandt and King 2012). Complete points ranged in size from 3.4 to 5.1 cm.

## Comparison with other Upper Gila Sites after A.D. 1150

The projectile points found at the Gila River Farm site are comparable to other sites in the area occupied after A.D. 1130, such as the Dinwiddie site in the Upper Gila area tested by the ASW / University of Arizona field school (2013 – 2014). Other comparable sites are the Cliff phase 3-Up and Tularosa phase Fornholt sites near Mule Creek, New Mexico, tested during the 2008-2010 ASW / Hendrix College and 2011-2012 ASW / University of Arizona field schools.

The types of points found at the Gila River Farm site and these three other sites are similar. Southwest Triangular and Side-notched points are the most dominant type of projectile point found at all four locations.

At all four sites, obsidian was the most utilized raw material, followed by chalcedony and chert.

## Discussion

The Gila River Farm site's projectile point assemblage was primarily Southwest Triangular points, followed by side-notched points, and a small number of corner-notched points and darts. Small triangular unnotched points are common throughout the region and are also dominant in other Cliff phase sites. Obsidian is the most common raw material in the assemblage. At present, no X-Ray Fluorescence analysis (XRF) has been performed on Gila River Farm collection. Samples have been analyzed from other Upper Gila sites, and the Mule Mountains and Antelope Creek were the dominant localities for obsidian procurement for sites such as Dinwiddie, Ormand Village, and Villareal II, all of which are within proximity to Gila River Farm (Ryan 2015, Shackley 2012, Wallace 1998). Although procurement of raw materials may differ, the abundance of good quality obsidian and the similarity of projectile point types may reflect shared social influences and cultural affiliations between the Gila River Farm site and other post A.D. 1130 sites in the area.

## Acknowledgements

The Upper Gila Preservation Archaeology Field School is supported by NSF REU No. 1851763, Archaeology Southwest, University of Arizona, and the Nature Conservancy. Karen Schollmeyer provided helpful comments.

## References

- Hidebrandt, William R., and Jerome H. King  
2012 Distinguishing Between Darts and Arrows in the Archaeological Record: Implications for Technological Change in the American West. *American Antiquity* 77:789-799.
- Moore, James L.  
1999 Projectile Points. In *Archaeology of the Mogollon Highlands: Settlement Systems and Adaptation: Vol 3 Analysis of Chipped and Ground Stone Artifacts*, edited by Yvonne R. Oakes and Dorothy Zamora, pp. 25-82. Museum of New Mexico, Office of Archaeological Studies, Archaeology Notes 232. Santa Fe, New Mexico.
- Nelson, Margaret C.  
1986 Chipped Stone Analysis: Food Selection and Hunting Behavior. In *Short-Term Sedentism in the American Southwest: The Mimbres Valley Salado*, by Ben A. Nelson and Steven A. LeBlanc. Maxwell Museum of Anthropology, University of New Mexico Press, Albuquerque.
- Ryan, Stacy L.  
2018 Flaked Stone Analysis. In *Report on the 2013-2015 Archaeology Southwest / University of Arizona Test Excavations at the Dinwiddie Site (LA 106003; NM S:14:1[ASM]) in Cliff, New Mexico*, pp. 38-82. Report on file, Archaeology Southwest, Tucson.
- Shackley, M. Steven  
2012 Source Provenance of Obsidian Artifacts from LA 5793 and LA 34794, Southern New Mexico. Ms on file, Archaeology Southwest, Tucson.
- Sliva, R. Jane  
2006 Projectile Points in Regional Perspective. In *Sunset Crater Archaeology: The History of a Volcanic Landscape. Stone, Shell, Bone and Mortuary Analyses*, edited by M.D. Elson, pp. 31-63. Anthropological Papers No. 31. Center for Desert Archaeology, Tucson.
- Wallace, Laurel T.  
1998 Ormand Chipped Stone and Ground Stone. In *The Ormand Village: Final Report on the 1965-1966 Excavation*, pp.291-333. Archaeology Notes No. 229. Office of Archaeological Studies, Museum of New Mexico, Santa Fe.