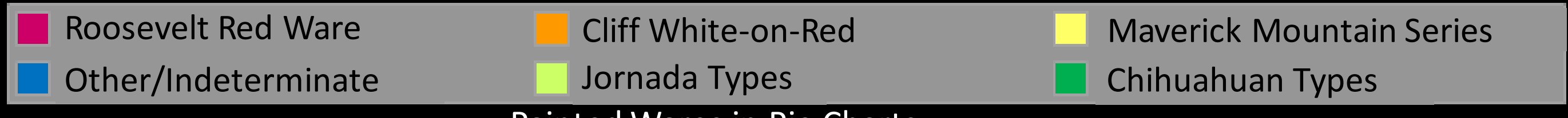


# The Gila River Farm Site and Salado Coalescence during the AD 14<sup>th</sup> Century in the Upper Gila

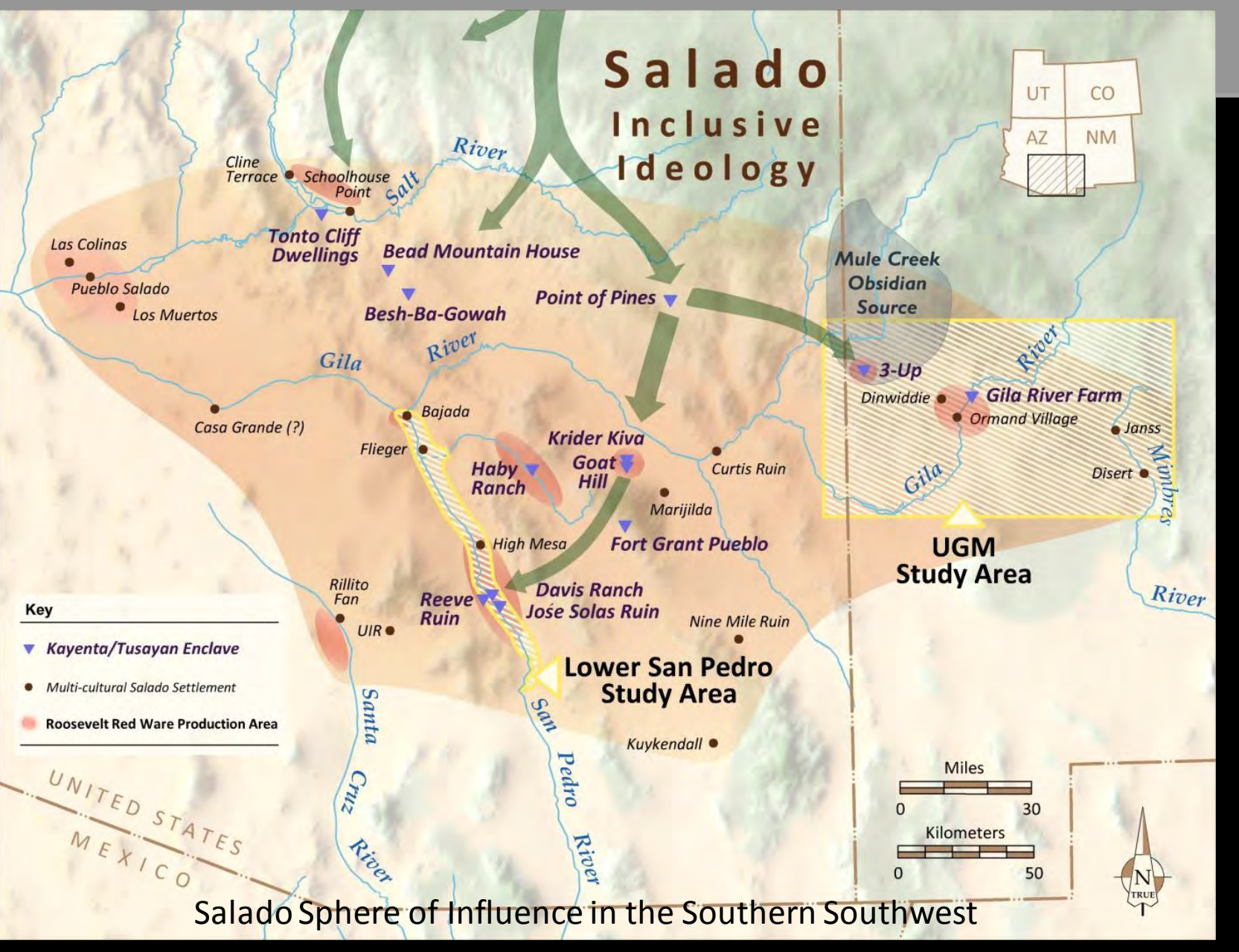
Christopher E. La Roche (The University of Arizona) and Jeffery J. Clark (Archaeology Southwest)



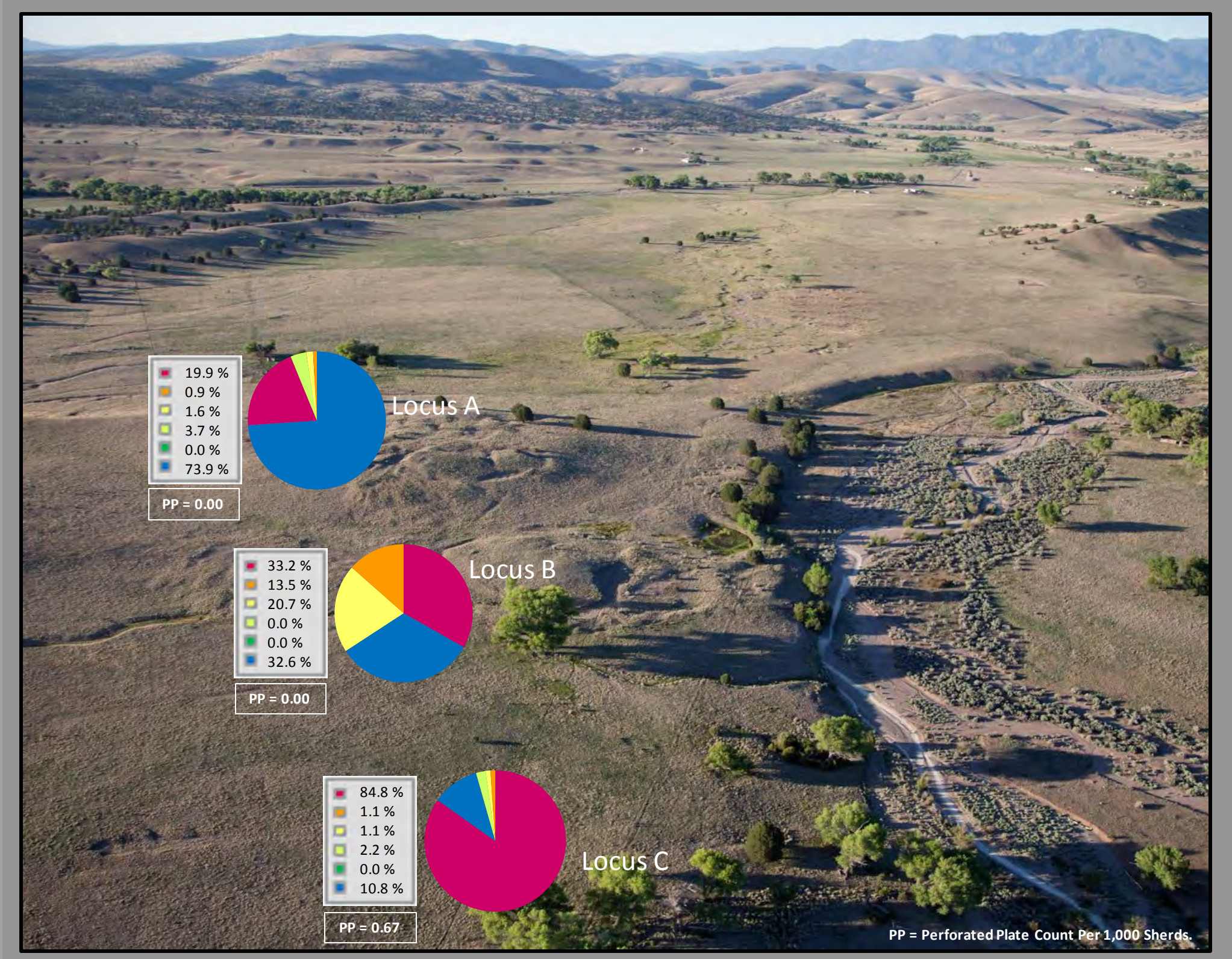
**Coalescence** is the coming together of groups from different cultural backgrounds to form new communities, inclusive ideologies, and expanded networks. Using previous data and recent data collected by the Upper Preservation Archaeology (UGPA) program we compare painted ceramics, ground stone attributes, and domestic installations among room blocks at four 14<sup>th</sup> century Salado settlements in southwestern New Mexico to examine intra-site cultural diversity and the extent of coalescence. Specifically, Kayenta immigrant markers include Maverick Mountain Series ceramics, perforated plates, full-grooved axes, and manos with finger grips. Local Mogollon groups used grinding facilities with bowls inset into floors and may have had more access to Jornada ceramics such as El Paso Polychrome. Local influence can also be seen on late Roosevelt Red Ware (RRW) types such as Dinwiddie Polychrome and Cliff White-on-red.



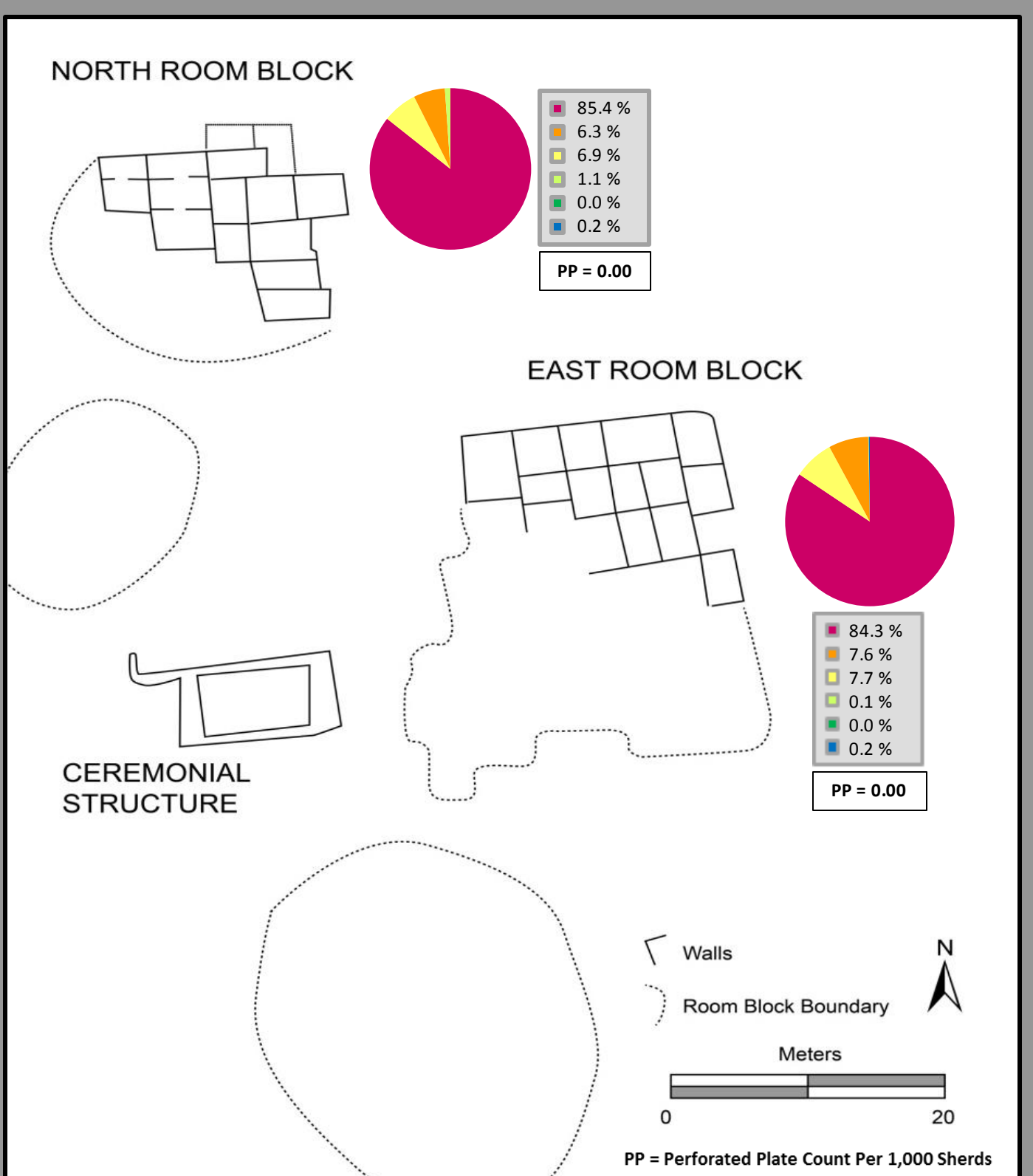
Painted Wares in Pie Charts



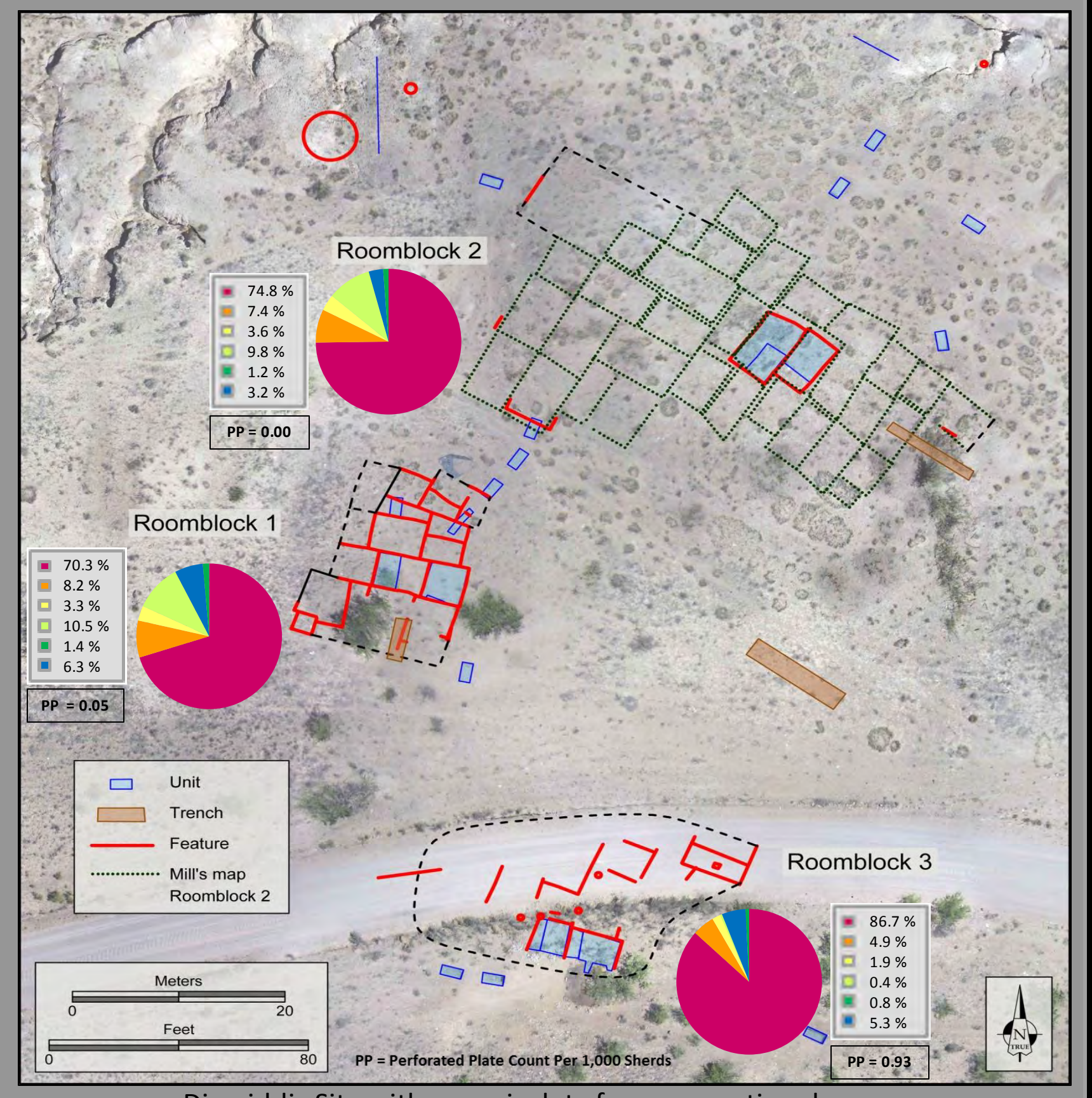
The **Cliff Valley** contains the largest concentration of Salado sites in southwestern New Mexico, including large sites with excavation data such as Ormand Village, Dinwiddie, and recently the Gila River Farm Site. The 3-Up site is in the Mule Creek drainage within one of the largest deposits of obsidian in the Southwest.



Aerial of 3-Up site with ceramic data from testing conducted by ASU (Schollmeyer 2007) and ASW (Huntley 2014), courtesy of Henry D. Wallace.



Ormand Village with ceramic data from the 1965-1966 Highway Salvage Project and published by Wallace (1998).

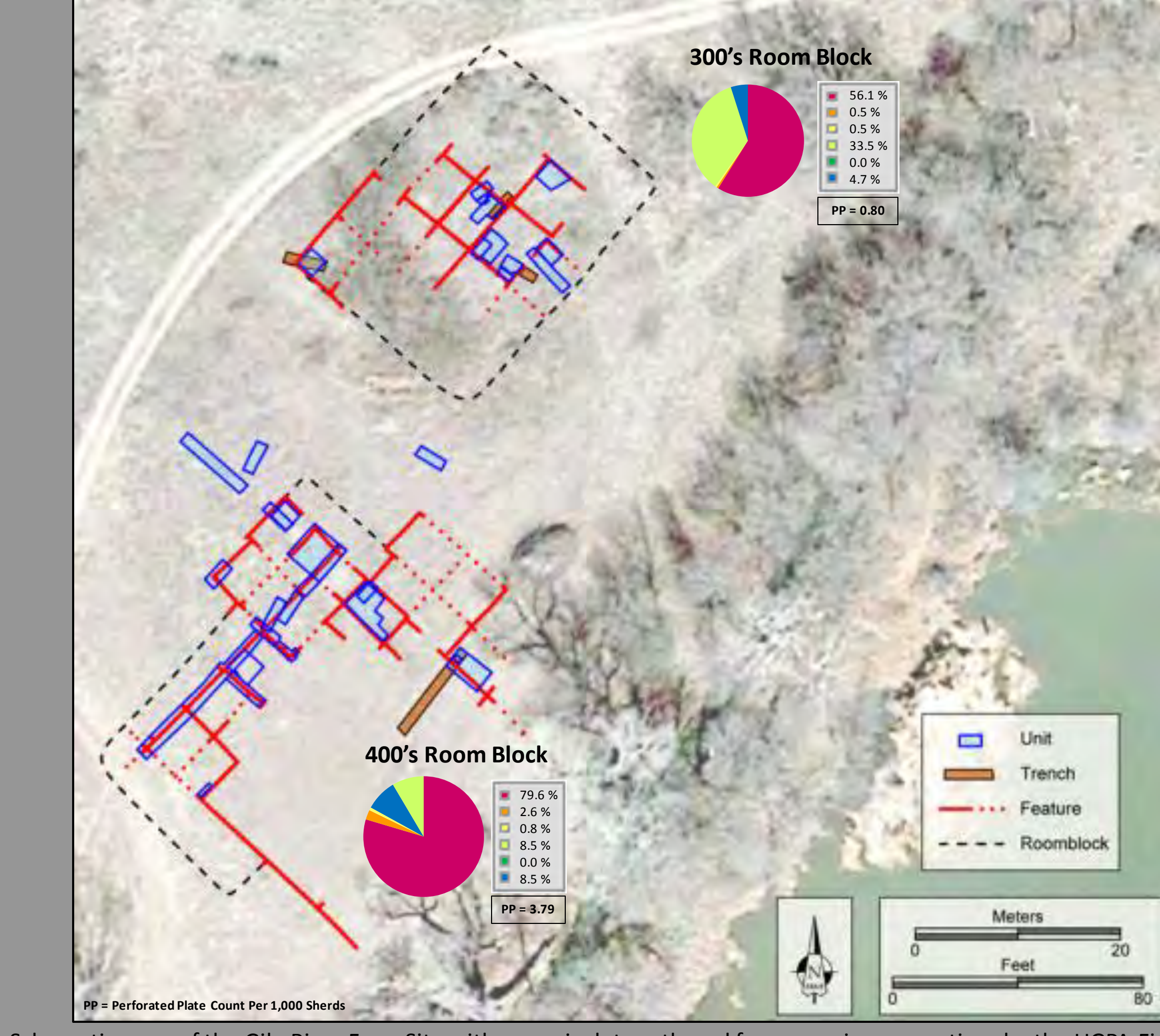


Dinwiddie Site with ceramic data from excavations by the Mills (1972) and UGPA Field School 2013-15.

The **3-Up Site** is a multi-component site that has only been subjected to limited excavation. Locus A is the largest and oldest part of the settlement, containing Classic Mimbres (AD 1000–1130), Post-Mimbres (AD 1130–1300), and Cliff Phase (AD 1300–1450) components. Locus B is a Cliff Phase room block with some spatial separation from Locus A. The near absence of El Paso Polychrome and a high frequency of Maverick Mountain Series ceramics suggests that Locus B contained some Kayenta immigrants. Locus C lies farther to the south and is a late Cliff Phase adobe room block with a high frequency of RRW. A single perforated plate fragment was recovered from the only test unit here, suggesting RRW production and at least one potter of Kayenta descent.

The **Ormand Village Site** has four Cliff Phase (AD 1300–1450) Salado room blocks. Portions of two were excavated in the mid 1960s as part of a highway salvage project. The room blocks enclose a central plaza with a large, possibly ceremonial, structure. The North and East Room Block assemblages are remarkably similar and dominated by RRW with significant quantities of Cliff White-on-Red. Both contain slab lined hearths and a number of bowl-in-floor grinding facilities associated with local groups. Despite having some Maverick Mountain pottery, no perforated plate fragments have been recovered from the intensive excavations.

The **Dinwiddie Site** is a Cliff Phase (AD 1300–1450) site excavated by the UGPA field school 2013–2015, consisting of three room blocks. Room Blocks 1 and 2 contain similar ceramic assemblages with Maverick Mountain Series, Cliff White-on-Red and Dinwiddie Polychrome types all represented. Room Block 1 has a slightly higher percentage of El Paso Polychrome. Room Block 2, intensively excavated by the Mills, contains both ¾ and full groove axe heads. Room Block 3 contains the highest percentage of RRW as well as perforated plate fragments indicating RRW production by Kayenta potters.



Schematic map of the Gila River Farm Site with ceramic data gathered from ongoing excavations by the UGPA Field School

The **Gila River Farm Site** currently being investigated by the UGPA program contains both Classic Mimbres (AD 1000–1130) and Cliff Phase (AD 1300–1450) components. The Cliff Phase occupation consists of four room blocks. Excavations have focused on Room Blocks 3 and 4. **Room Block 4** has the highest abundance of perforated plates of any Cliff Phase (AD 1300–1450) site in the Cliff Valley with 14 recovered to date. This suggests a Kayenta presence and pottery production. One room contained a single bowl-in-floor grinding station. The ground stone assemblage contains a single miniature full groove maul and two manos with pronounced finger grooves. **Room Block 3** is associated with a substantial amount of El Paso Polychrome, a Jornada Mogollon type. As of 2018 a single perforated plate fragment has been recovered. Two rooms each contained two bowl-in-floor grinding stations. Two additional pits that were plastered over may have also once held similar bowls. A central and perhaps early room contained a rich ground stone assemblage including four ¾ groove axes. Also 13 trough manos (all without pronounced finger grooves) were recovered from Room Block 3. Overall, this room block has a local Mogollon signature.



Cliff White-on-Red, Eastern Arizona College (Neuzil and Lyons 2005)



Inset Bowl from bowl-in-floor grinding station UGPA 2018



Perforated Plate San Tan Historical Society Museum, Queen Creek, AZ



El Paso Polychrome Partial Vessel UGPA 2017

**CONCLUDING REMARKS:** The Upper Gila is associated with complicated archaeological patterns in the 14<sup>th</sup> Century that are primarily linked by the widespread use of RRW. RRW types such as Cliff White-on-Red and Dinwiddie Polychrome suggest the resurgence of local Mogollon influences late in the Cliff phase. The ubiquity and frequency of RRW within and among these four settlements attest to its integrative role within the Salado World. Local RRW production has been identified at 3-Up and Gila River Farm, which is supported by petrographic and NAA results.

- 3-Up in Mule Creek contains the only substantial concentration of Maverick Mountain Series ceramics in the Upper Gila recorded to date. The dearth of Maverick Mountain in the Cliff Valley suggests this region was not substantially settled by initial Kayenta immigrants, but by their descendants. Perforated plates indicate the presence of potters with a Kayenta heritage, especially at Gila River Farm. Jornada and Chihuahuan types indicate exchange relations with groups to the east and south
- Ormand village, with its strong local signature, suggests a continued Mogollon presence in the Upper Gila through the 14<sup>th</sup> century
- While well underway, room blocks at Dinwiddie and Gila River Farm that have either more local Mogollon or Kayenta signatures suggests coalescence was not complete

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