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A Proposed Research Framework for the Archaeology of The Dalles

Abstract

The Dalles area is famous for its dense and extraordinarily rich prehistoric archaeological remains. Even with large numbers of sites recorded and excavated, however, our understanding of prehistoric settlement and subsistence for the area is largely non-existent. Little older work has been integrated into more recent research in a systematic or quantitative manner. More recent work lacks explicit research frameworks identifying basic questions and the data needed to address those questions. We maintain that remedying these issues is paramount to understanding prehistoric land-use, issues of sedentism, and cultural complexity for The Dalles area. We use data from 19 sites excavated over the past 50 years to identify site types and diachronic trends in economic organization and foraging efficiency. We hope to provide a basic land-use model and identify research gaps as a framework for future work.
