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BIRCH CREEK

Human Ecology in the Cool Desert of
The Northern Rocky Mountains 9,000 B.C. - A.D. 1850

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IV. Stone bead (1) (fig. 60m)

Outside diameter: 0.6 cm; Inside diameter: 0.4 cm

Material: crinoid stem plate (?) (Identified by Wakefield Dort, August 28, 1968)

Provenience: Phase II - 1 in 29

Catalog Number: 26084

V. Seed beads (13)

Description: These look like Russian olive, but aren't. They are silverberry or wolfberry which is distributed from Quebec to the Yukon line south to South Dakota, Utah, British Columbia, and Oregon. In Idaho it is found along the Snake River in Madison County to Sunnysvale. Some are complete. Some are drilled with ends cut off. The specimens are black either from charring or from weathering. Breakdown of some of the charred specimens has reduced the number from thirteen to nine (fig. 60n, o).

Average Size: 0.7 x 0.4 x 0.4 cm

Material: seed beads of the plant, *Eleagnus commutata*

Provenience: Phase II - 1 in 29, 12 in feature 11 (29)

Catalog Numbers: 25064, 26189, 25691, 25745, 28306, 24858 (Some of the catalog numbers are collective numbers.)

VI. European trade beads (5)

Description: There is one cylindrical brown glass bead. Also there are one white and three blue seed beads of glass. In size and appearance the blue seed beads closely resemble the silverberry or wolfberry beads found in Phase II in 10-CL-3. One specimen lists layer 20b as a measured depth which indicates layer 19, the base of which has a sixteenth century A.D. date and extends upward in time into the nineteenth century.

Diameter Range: 0.2-0.6 cm

Material: glass

Provenience: Phase V - 3 in 18; Phase IV - 1 in 19, 1 in 20b

Catalog Numbers: 23747, 24307, 18560 (collective number for three beads)

VII. Dentalium shell bead (1)

Description: This specimen (47621) from layer 16 is closely matched by a small long bird bone bead (catalog number: 20102) from layer F4. It is possible that trade in dentalium was based partly on its resemblance to early bird bone beads. If so, it is another example of change in materials but not in style from prehistoric into historic times in this area.

Length: 1.5 cm; Diameter: 0.3 cm

Provenience: Phase V - 1 in 16

Catalog Number: 47621

VIII. Triangular shell pendant (1)

Description: This specimen cannot be identified as to the type of shell since all of the identifiable features have been cut away to produce a triangular pendant hung from one side. The pendant is smooth but whether from deliberate polishing or simply from wear is not clear. This specimen has a portion of the hole on one side still remaining.

Length: 1.3 cm; Width: 1.1 cm; Thickness: 0.1 cm

Provenience: Phase V - 1 in 17

Catalog Number: 18007

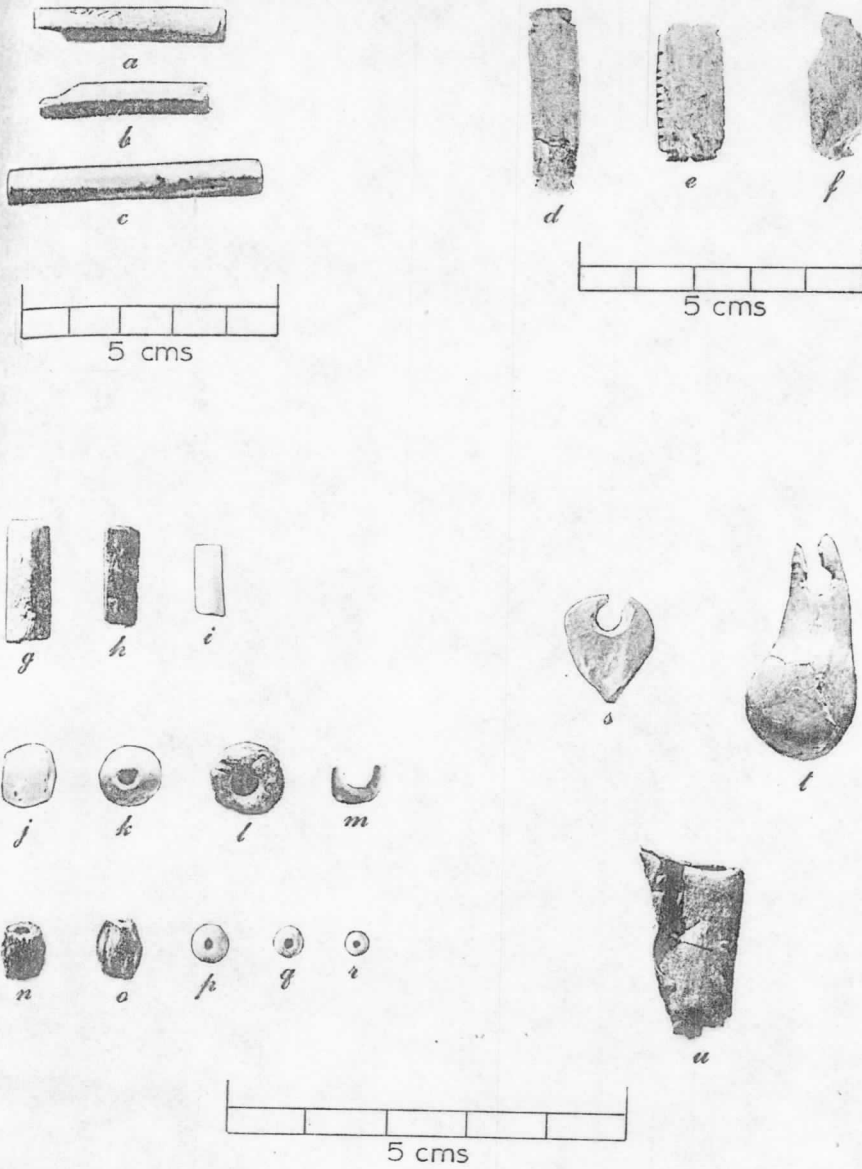


Figure 60. a-c, tubular bone beads; d-f, worked shell; g-r, beads; s-t, pendant; u, bark roll