

The Shég' Xdaltth'í' Site in Central Alaska and Its Contribution to the Peopling of Beringia

Kelly E. Graf

University of Kansas

The Shég' Xdaltth'í' site is a new multicomponent site located in the Tanana Flats wetland area of central Alaska about 55 km south-southeast of Fairbanks. It rests on an ancient glaciofluvial terrace of the Tanana River that is mantled by more than 3 meters of unconsolidated sands and silts. The site preserves three major archaeological components in these deposits, component 1 dating to nearly 14,000 years ago, component 2 dating from about 13,000-12,700 years ago, and component 3 dating to about 5,000 years ago. This presentation will concentrate on the earliest component, describing the wide array of materials (lithic, bone, and osseous) and features found and discussing the processes and behaviors leading to archaeological signatures observed. The data, so far, suggest the site was used as a base camp, and site inhabitants were not among the region's first explorers, but they knew the landscape. Findings will be discussed in the context of the peopling of Beringia and the Americas.