

Domestic Spaces at the La Prele Site, Converse County, Wyoming

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Dating to around 12,900 BP, the La Prele site in Converse County, Wyoming preserves a remarkable record of Late Pleistocene human behavior. Over ten years, we have excavated five contiguous blocks preserving a mammoth kill and four nearby hearth-centered activity areas within the context of a large camp. In this presentation, we explore variability among the four domestic spaces we have excavated, all of which appear to have been occupied contemporaneously. These activity areas exhibit significant variation in a number of key characteristics, including artifact density and types, lithic raw material, diagnostic artifacts present, faunal assemblages, and spatial organization. As a well-preserved single component site buried by low energy overbank deposits, La Prele provides the opportunity to look at social and economic aspects of Early Paleoindian lifeways rarely afforded by the archaeological record.