



NEW MEXICO HIGHLANDS UNIVERSITY®

Introduction

Through the efforts of CRM archaeologist and NMHU graduate student, Jeremy Begay, Tamara Billie, senior archaeologist at the Navajo Nation Heritage and Historic Preservation Department (NNHHPD), and Victoria Evans, NMHU Laboratory Director, NMHU students were allowed to conduct archaeological research on a precolumbian pueblo site on Navajo Nation land. The pueblo has a strong Mesa Verde component, nearby farmsteads, and a neighboring great kiva. Diagnostic pottery includes Mesa Verde, Cibola Black-on-white, Chuska ware, and White Mountain Red Ware. Students also learned about the living culture of the Navajo people and their archaeological practices. In the future, the NMHU archaeological field methods class will continue working with the NNHHPD.



900 Years at Gadii'ahi: Investigations of an Anasazi BMIII-PIII Habitation Complex in the Gadii'ahi/To'koi Chapter, Navajo Nation

Jeremy Begay, Carrizo Archaeological Group, Victoria Evans MA NMHU Anthropology, Victoria Bibb NMHU graduate student, Lily Ewing Anthropology graduate student, Elena Jimenez, NMHU graduate

Artifacts

Diagnostic ceramics found on all sites were used to roughly date the chronology of the site. These included Mesa Verde, Cibola black-on-white and various corrugated ceramics. Out of all the ceramics identified, there were several trade wares including Tsegi Orange ware, White Mountain Red Ware, and various types from the Chuska Valley. Ceramics dated from Basketmaker III through Pueblo III.



Tchamahias



Late PII-PIII point



La Plata Black-on-white



Mancos Black-on-white



Puerco Black-on-red



McElmo Black-on-white



Cibola Black-on-white (exterior/interior)

The Gadii'ahi sites had various types of lithic material including chert, quartzite, quartz, basalt, chalcedony, Brushy Basin Chert, Narbona Pass chert, and petrified wood. Tools and unusual artifacts include a late PII – PIII projectile point, two possible Tchamahia artifacts.

Sites

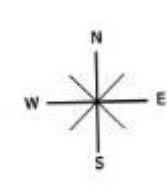
NMHU-NN-Gadii'ahi Site 1 Location 1 is the large multi-room Anasazi pueblo, complete with a plaza area, a midden and at least one kiva. Pottery on this site ranges from Pueblo I through Pueblo III. Nearby sites (Site 2 and 3) revealed crescent shaped jacal constructed structures. Artifacts in Site 2 were similar to those in Site 1. Site 3 had nine roomblocks and one Mesa Verde Corrugated potsherd. A large kiva sits on a rise southeast of Site 3 and will be investigated during the summer field session of 2020.

Site 2 lies northwest of NMHU-NN-Gadii'ahi Site 1, approximately 322.850 meters away and consists of five room blocks and a mound of masonry cobbles. The site sits fairly close to the bluff over the San Juan River. The assemblage is very similar to NMHU-NN-Gadii'ahi Site 1 Locations 1 and 2, indicating that Site 2 could have been connected to the main pueblo site. Due to the presence of burnt jacal it is possible that the roomblocks catastrophically burned. The site will be investigated further in 2020 in order to look for agricultural features.

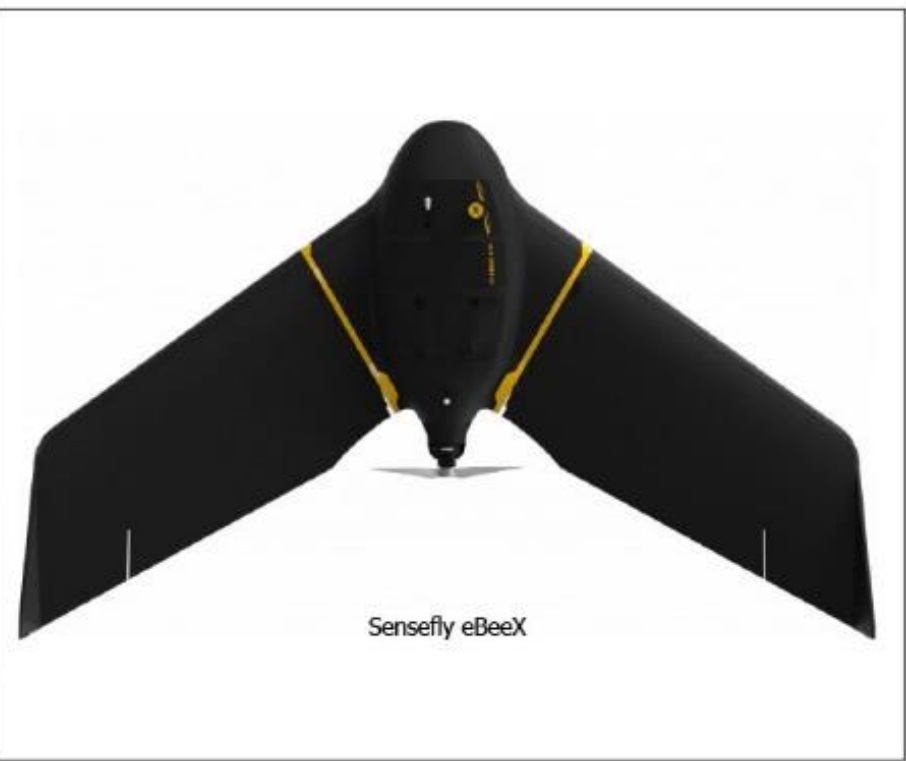


Gadii'ahi Sites

October 12, 2019



Imagery collected October 12, 2019 with a commercially collected using a S.O.D.A. camera. Imagery processed in Photo. Imagery collected and processed by Katie Withnall, New Mexico Forest and Watershed Restoration Institute in collaboration with the NMHU Anthropology Department.



Drone Use

Katie Withnall, from the New Mexico Forest and Watershed Restoration Institute at NMHU flew a Fixed wing survey grade drone SenseFly eBee X with the S.O.D.A. 3D Camera. It was used with RTK (Real Time Kinematic) and a Geobase base station to get 3 centimeter accuracy (1.2 inches).

Eric Alarid, from DesertGate Internet also came out with their company drone, a Mavic pro 2.

