**Award Number:**

**PR/J Number:** R1242100030

**PROJECT ABSTRACT**

**Colorado Plateau Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit**

**(Cooperative Agreement # H1200-09-0005)**

**Park:** Petrified Forest National Park

**Project Title:** Test Excavations at a Multi-component Paleoindian Site in Petrified Forest National Park, AZ (PMIS Number 165714).

**Funding Amount:** $21,761

**CPCESU Partner Institution:** Northern Arizona University

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**Start Date:**08/01/2010

**End Date:** 12/31/2011

**Abstract:**

AZ:Q:01:103/PEFO-00395 (also known as the Horse Barn Site) is a multi-component Paleoindian site in Petrified Forest National Park. It is the only multi-component Paleoindian site known of in northern Arizona, and potentially in the entire state. Consequently, the Horse Barn Site is incredibly important to Southwestern prehistory and is recommended eligible to the National Register as the *only* prehistoric site in the park of National significance. The site is situated around a playa within an existing horse pasture, and repeated horse grazing and trampling has and will continue to damage the site. Considering the importance of this site to Southwestern and North American prehistory, preservation efforts must be made in the form of test excavation, survey, and collection.

Dr. Francis Smiley of Northern Arizona University will conduct test excavations at 4 loci within the Horse Barn Site. Planned excavations include twenty 1m² units placed randomly and deliberately about the site and an additional five 2m² pits, some of which will be concentrated at Locus C, a well-preserved lithic scatter outside the pasture area. AMS dating samples will be collected and analyzed, and researchers will attempt to establish a chronology. This project will help the park design more effective preservation and monitoring methods for this site, while providing invaluable information to researchers

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**Keywords:**

**Cultural Resources:** Management, Native American, Historic Sites

**Anthropogenic Issues:** Archeology, Land Use, Grazing (horse pasture, not cattle)

**Vegetation:** Wetlands, Grasslands