

“Community Connections to the Past”

Marion Jacklin

Archaeologist and Heritage Program Manager for the Dixie National Forest in Cedar City

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The National Forest Service was initially established in the early 1900's by President Teddy Roosevelt. The Dixie National Forest was established as a combination of five national forests in the 1940's. These included the Powell/Sevier, Aquarius, Markaquit (?sp) Plateau, and the Dixie Forests. It also included Mount Charleston and the Sheep Range in Nevada and the much of the Arizona Strip, including Mount Tumble. It also originally included Cedar Breaks and Bryce Canyon. It now contains 2 million acres and has one archaeologist.



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Within the Dixie Nation Forest, there are sites from:

Paleo Indians – 8000+ years BCE

Archaic – 8000 – 2000 years BCE

Formative Cultures (Anasazi & Fremont) – 500 – 1700 AD

Numic Cultures (Ute, Paiute, Gosute) –

Spanish – 1700- 1840's AD

Anglo – 1840 - present

The first portion of Marion's talk covered the archaeology of the “High” country – over 8000 feet. Initially she was told by “experts” that there would be no ancient sites above 8000 feet. However she has found spear points dating to paleo times and an extremely large site composed of lithic scatter dating to paleo and archaic time. This later site began with the investigation of a 300 acre site near Brian Head. Over time the site was expanded to include an area 13 miles long by 2 miles wide with 13 areas with a high concentration of artifacts. The scatter of the sites is due to the topography and soil conditions which caused the artifacts to spread by natural erosion.

She described the National Forest's initial goals; to protect water sheds and live stock. In the 1930's that goal was expanded to include campgrounds and recreation. Much of the development of recreational sites can be attributed to the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC).

She discussed programs that have been successful, including one that got 3-5th graders involved in an Archaeology Camp with the support of local teachers and the Dixie National Forest. This program has run from 1998 through 2010.

She showed numerous photos, past and present, that document the activities of the Dixie National Forest Programs. Many of the photos compared the "Old" scene with "Current" photos from the 2000's. These photos are in the SUU archives and can be found online at www.li.suu.edu/library/digitization/DNF.html.

John Mangels