

2018 LOVELAND STONE AGE FAIR

BIOGRAPHY

Dr. Todd Surovell

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Dr. Surovell is a Professor and Department Head of the Department of Anthropology at the University of Wyoming. He is a former Director of the George C. Frison Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology. He received a B.A. in Anthropology and Zoology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1995 and an M.A. (1998) and Ph.D. (2003) from the University of Arizona. Although most of his fieldwork has been in Wyoming and Colorado, he has worked throughout the American West and in Israel and Denmark. From 2012 to 2017, he completed a five year ethnoarchaeological project with Dukha reindeer herders in northern Mongolia. Over a ten year period, he excavated Barger Gulch, Locality B, a

Folsom site in Middle Park, Colorado, and is currently focusing his efforts on the La Prele Mammoth site, a Clovis kill and campsite in Converse County, Wyoming. He has published more than 50 articles on Paleoindian archaeology, lithic technology, geoarchaeology, Pleistocene extinctions, ethnoarchaeology, and other topics. He is also the author of a book on the economics of stone tool use titled *Toward a Behavioral Ecology of Lithic Technology*. Originally from northern Virginia, he feels at home in the high plains and mountains of Wyoming where he has now lived for 15 years and last year finally felt it was okay to buy a pair of cowboy boots.

Title of Presentation:

Wyoming's Second Mammoth Kill Site

Program Description: Originally discovered in 1986 and tested by George Frison in 1987, the La Prele Mammoth site contains the remains of a subadult mammoth spatially associated with chipped stone artifacts. A dispute with the landowner at that time halted excavations after one season. Some 15 years after Frison's excavations, Dave Byers analyzed the collection and field notes and argued that the artifacts were deposited after the mammoth, and thus there was no true behavioral association between human activity and the death of the animal. In 2014, with colleagues Bob Kelly, Matt O'Brien, and Madeline Mackie, I reopened excavations to test the hypothesis of association between the mammoth remains and cultural component, and we have since returned for three more seasons of excavation. Not only are we confident that the mammoth and archaeology are truly associated, but the site has continued to produce surprises every year we return.