



GRSLE 2025: Student Research across Alpine and Basin Landscapes

Larence Todd (GRSLE), and Daniel Dalmas (University of Utah)

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The 2025 GRSLE field season brought together a diverse group of student researchers who each pursued distinct projects within a shared framework of systematic artifact-based inventory designed to better understand landscape scale archaeological patterning. While working across alpine ridges, montane valleys, and basin foothills, students developed focused studies on a variety of topics. By combining these individual projects within a long-term cumulative survey effort, the 2025 season provided both comparative data and hands-on research opportunities. This poster highlights the breadth of student-led investigations, showing how diverse topics and approaches contribute to a larger picture of human use of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem by prompting question-driven fieldwork.



Larry Todd (GRSLE)

Alpine and Sage Grasslands – GRSLE Mountain and High Plains Archaeology 2025

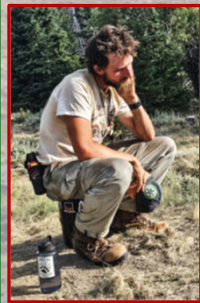
When Metal Replaced Stone: Skill, Learning, and Technological Change on the Plains

Caught on the Wire: Archaeology of Boundaries in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem

Student engagement in post-field research has been one of the hallmarks of the GRSLE Project. During field seasons, students are encouraged to think about research questions they would like to pursue and to develop projects grounded in GRSLE data. Over the years, numerous student-led projects have been presented at the Plains Anthropological Conference (including a 2003 poster symposium – see below), the Society for American Archaeology, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, RMAC, and other professional meetings. GRSLE data have also been central to ten Colorado State University M.A. theses. Links to previous presentations and theses are available via QR codes below and at upper right.

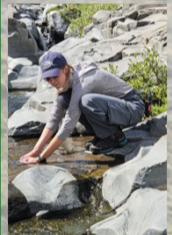
In the early years, most student participants were field school students from Colorado State University (see green-outlined box, left). Since 2012, student volunteers have predominated—and one of those volunteers, Daniel Dalmas (red-outlined box, right), who began in 2016, is now GRSLE co-PI.

This symposium brings together both seasoned researchers and the newest generation of students to showcase our “little big data” approach: context-rich, cumulative, and comparable datasets that challenge old boundaries between sites, isolates, artifact classes, and even centuries. From glass beads to cartridge casings, fences to isotope samples, microfauna to elk migration paths, these studies highlight how rethinking the unit of analysis—and filling the blank spots on the map—reshapes how we understand the Northern Plains and Rocky Mountains



Daniel Dalmas (University of Utah)

Small Animals with Big Data: An Application of Microfaunal Analysis at the Bugas-Holding Site to Interpret Past Environment and Ecology



Emily Milton (Michigan State University)

You Can't Hide Your Drinking Habits: Tracking Elk with Oxygen Isotopes in Wyoming



2009



2010



2012



2013



2014



2015



2025

Charles Orngard (Iowa State University)

From Segregated to Integrated: Rethinking Big Data with GRSLE

Spent but Not Forgotten: Cartridges in the GRSLE Dataset

Not Just Archaeology: Stable Isotopes and the Multifaceted GRSLE Dataset



2025

Riley Hamada (University of Utah)

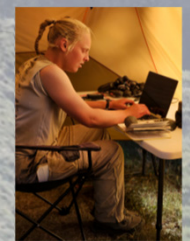
Designing Research with Little Big Data: Lithic Material Studies in Northwestern Wyoming



2025

Susanna Hale (University of Utah)

Modern Disturbance and Artifact Distribution: A Case Study of a Two-Track Road



Naomi Gilmore (University of Utah)

Indigenous Perspectives on Archaeological Practice: Excavation, Survey, and Collaboration



Volunteer Opportunity of a Lifetime: Mountain Archaeology 2026

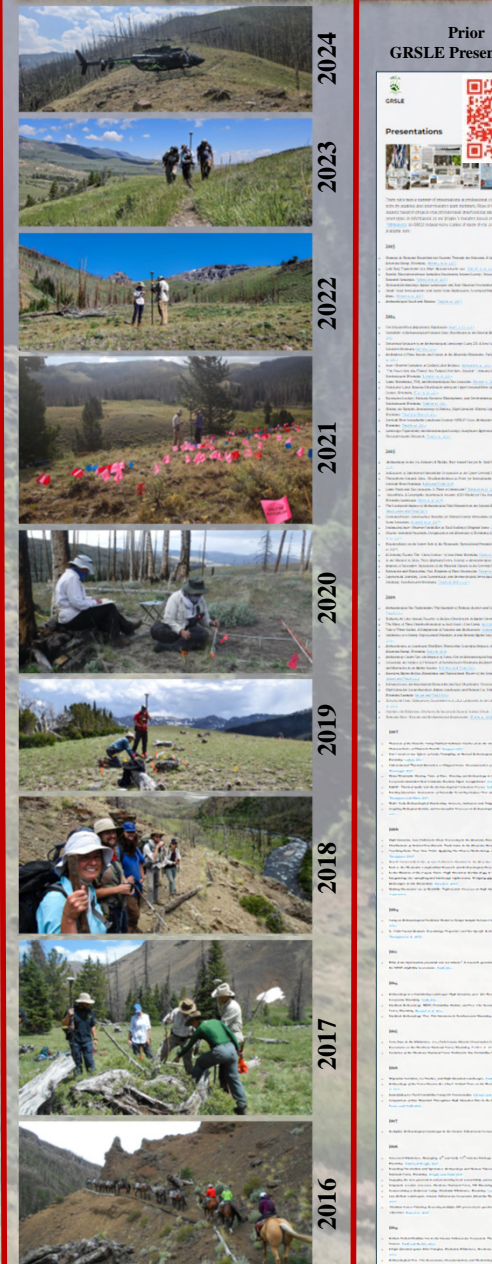
- Long hours
- Not hot water or showers
- Long, steep, difficult, and rocky trails
- Wet, variable weather in areas
- Heavy packs
- Home and family
- High elevation with limited oxygen
- Short return and limited choice of travel options
- You simply are not camping/backpacking gear (30 to 40 kg personal gear limit when fully packed)
- Golden Rules:
 - No pre-trip site prep or field prep activities
 - Long days in the middle, no daylight trails
 - Walls, lighters, salt, and maple cones
 - Leave no trace (LNT) – we will manually clean up after you
 - No alcohol or drugs in the backcountry for our long field seasons
 - No cell phone internet connection
 - Short allowed to combine methods with archaeology
- Periods of isolation, especially in remote areas
- Speculation, but monetary help from the Wyoming Wildlife, Rehabilitation and the eastern side of Yellowstone Park, USA.
 - Wildflowers, sagebrush, unscraped peaks, and abundant wildlife
 - Amazing high-altitude landscapes

If this sounds like how you'd like to spend 30-40 days somewhere in June, July, & August, 2026 and you'd like more information/Applications forms, please contact Larry Field (lfield@grsle.org) or Daniel Dalmas (daniel.dalmas@utah.edu)

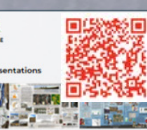
<https://grslearchaeology.org/>

The most common 2025 student response to “why did you apply?” was, “Saw the poster”

2025



Prior GRSLE Presentations



Timeline of GRSLE presentations from 2016 to 2024, including titles and authors.



Copy of Poster