Native American Resource Use In the Putah Creek Watershed

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- Archaeology can provide a long view for specialists and managers
- Review of archaeological record for Putah Creek and adjacent areas
- Nature of Native American land and resource use
- Native Americans had an impact on the landscape









Archaeological Sequence

- Early sites (older than 6,000 years) are deeply buried or eroded away.
- 5,000-2,500 years ago—stemmed or notched spear points.
- 2,500-1,000 years ago—leaf-shaped spear points, circular shell beads.
- 1,000-200 years ago—serrated or cornernotched arrow points, square shell beads, then clam shell disk beads and refuse.



Mendocino Contracting-stem Projectile Points.









Excelsior Projectile Points.







Serrated





Rattlesnake Corner-notched



Rattlesnake Triangular







Arrow-sized Projectile Points.











Fig. 4. Stone pipes



Plate 33. Charmstones from the Napa region





Fig. 3. Painted stone tablets from Peripoli site, site Nap-57

CHANGES IN LAND USE IN NAPA VALLEY

• 5000-2500 years ago:

mobile family bands

small campsites with few artifacts

• 2500-1000 years ago:

beginnings of sedentary life, with acorns as the staple food

major villages with abundant artifacts

 1000-200 years ago mix of large villages and small hamlets



Spear points by site type



Changes in Obsidian Use

5,000-2,500 years ago:

artifact production for domestic use

2,500-1,000 years ago peak use of obsidian quarry production of standardized preforms for trade

1,000-200 years ago trading raw cobbles and slightly-worked cores making finished artifacts in Yolo County, East Bay





Stage-1 (a,c) and -2 (b) Whole Bifaces.





CHANGES IN DIET

- Acorns = staple after ~2,500 years ago.
- Major shifts around 1,000 years ago:
 - Use of small seeds spikes
 - Use of small fish spikes
 - Deer hunting stays constant despite greater us of more expensive resources
- There is TENTATIVE evidence for larger seeds of two grasses—incipient horticulture??





Figure 4.11. Sacramento Valley Maygrass and Native Barley Caryopsis Volume by Phase

Conclusion

- How people distributed themselves on the landscape, used obsidian, and gathered and processed food changed markedly at least twice.
- What drove these changes is still uncertain, but population increases were clearly important.
- At least after 2,500 years ago, Native Americans had a significant impact on the landscape.

PUTAH CREEK WATERSHED

LAKE BERRYESSA

Historic Land Uses

By Dean A. Enderlin, P.G. enderlin@sonic.net



North of San Francisco Bay 1855





Rancho Las Putas - Plat of 1859






Springs & Resorts







L-R: Samuels, Napa Rock (Priest), Walters, Priest, Aetna soda waters

Quarries & Gravel Mining







Mining & Oil



Standard 120-foot derrick of Well No. 5 Headquarters of Griffiths Oil Company in middle distance was on site of present Lake Berryessa Park Headquarters. The Park Headquarters pump house stands on the site of the oil well.



Chromite - Knoxville Area



Magnesite - Lower Chiles Valley













Helen Mine



Manganese

Iron

Lake Berryessa







Lessons from the Past -A Bridge to the Future ...



The Napa River Flood Protection Project Update at 50% Construction Complete



Napa County Watershed Symposium

May 22, 2008









Over 22 serious floods in last 100 years

County Courthouse, Napa - 1896



Main Street, Napa -1940

FRUIT VEGETABLES

First Street, Napa - 1955

Water Street, Napa - 1986





Corps of Engineers Flood Protection Plans

Widen, deepen and straighten the river channel create trapezoidal channel



Leave existing bridges, deepen river instead of raising bridges

Avoid contamination – construct sheet pile walls to isolate contamination in place

Community and Stakeholders

"Something needs to be done about flooding in Napa"

After the 1986 flood, with 3 prior flood plans having been rejected over 20 years as environmentally damaging and financially infeasible, a 1995 Corps of Engineers Plan was also deemed unacceptable to resource agencies



We need an "environmental solution"



Living River Principles



Maintain the natural slope, width, and width/depth ratio of the river

Maintain or restore the connection of the river to its flood plain

Allow the river to meander as much as possible

Maintain channel features such as mudflats, shallows, sandbars, and a naturally uneven bottom

Maintain a continuous fish and riparian corridor along the river

The Living River Design

Improvements to 7 miles of the Napa River and 1 mile of Napa Creek

A wider, geomorphic channel design to improve fish habitat, water quality and minimize sedimentation

Restoration of Natural Flood Plain and Creation of South Wetlands

Creation of Marsh and Flood Plain Terraces and Cleanup of Toxic Sites

Construction of Dry Bypass
Geomorphic Channel Design



Project Groundbreaking July 31, 2000



Wetlands Restoration (2000-2002)

Butler Bridge to Imola

South Wetlands Opportunity Area

After













2002...wetlands reborn





Imola to Downtown Reach (2002-2007)

Maxwell Bridge Replacement





Third Street Bridge 2002



Oil Company Road Area – Pre-Project



Created Marsh and Flood Plain - 2003



First St. Bridge over Napa Creek and Future Bypass 2006



Marsh and Flood Plain Upstream of Third Street Bridge Sandbar after 2005 Flood



Hatt to First Floodwall Under Construction July 2006



Created Marsh Plain May 2008 – High Tide



Created Marsh Plain May 2008 – Low Tide



Oxbow and north to Trancas (2008-2016)

First Street Bridge – 2008-2009 Napa Valley Railroad Elevation 2008-2011 Otoow Bypass Napa Creek 2010-2012



End of the Trail...and the slides Questions?