

**Conclusions
Government-hired Scientists***

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Plaintiffs Taphonomic Team****

Burial

“Quickly buried at death” natural fluvial processes or cultural interment cannot be determined
Rose & Powell

“..the skeleton originally rested on its side in a flexed position...”
Walker& Larsen

Intentionally buried flat on his back, arms at his sides, palms down, with head elevated about 5 degrees, parallel to the river, with left side eroding out first. Clearly patterned post-mortem fracture patterns and ancient calcium carbonate concretion patterns on ‘down’ side of bones.

Erosion from terrace

“Initial episode of erosion ...may have been followed within a period of several weeks or months by a second riverbank collapse.” Walker & Larsen

Bones eroded from the terrace during an identifiable high water period in late June/July. (Graph of 1996 water levels shows peak event in that time period)

Sun bleaching

Light areas described as sun bleached from several weeks exposed to the sun

Areas of “sun bleaching” largely assessed as corrosion (abrasion from sandy water repeatedly lapping against the bone)

Rodent gnawing

“A few bones have tooth marks produced by rodent gnawing...” “... gnawed areas are clearly of considerable antiquity since the color ... in most cases clearly approximates the rest of the bone surface”

No evidence of rodent tooth marks. Marks were likely made by debris (e.g., a branch or other material) abrading against the bones as waves lapped against them after eroding onto the bank.

Strata where buried

From a vertical strata location of ~80mm in the river terrace (Huckleberry & Stein)

Narrowed the vertical strata location to less than 30mm layer

Age at death

45-50 (Rose & Powell)

Under discussion. The scientists participating in the Phase 3 studies represent a wide range of specialties. Variables used to establish age give conflicting answers. Preliminary assessment: Age at death likely in his mid- to late-30s.

Entry wound

“The point came from the rear and slightly below horizontal entering the iliac blade through the posterior edge.” Rose & Powell

Projectile point entered from the front and slightly to the side. The point entered at an angle of approximately 77 degrees, shearing off a portion of the auricular surface of the iliac crest. The force was great enough to suggest his attacker may have used an atlatl, from a significant distance away

Age: projectile injury

15-20 years (Rose & Powell)

Under discussion. Key variables indicate he may have been older when injured.

Point type

Cascade (Fagan)

Under discussion. Suggestions it may be a Western Stem Tradition (precursor to Cascade). Prototype shows base and tip are both broken.

*National Park Service Kennewick Reports 1999, 2000 Department of the Interior website

**Owsley presentation to the American Academy of Forensic Sciences 2/23/06