



PaleoIndian Endowment

Continuing a Legacy of Excellence in Research

Leaders in PaleoIndian Research

The Museum of Natural and Cultural History holds a long tradition of excellence in PaleoIndian research, establishing itself as a leader in the field in the 1930s, when Luther Cressman recovered the world's oldest footwear – 10,000-year-old sagebrush bark sandals – from Oregon's Fort Rock Cave, and reported the association of cultural tools with the remains of now-extinct ice-age animals at the Paisley Caves. Today, MNCH archaeologists are internationally recognized as authorities in PaleoIndian studies. Their work is helping to broaden – and even redefine – theories about how and when early humans migrated to North America. Recent and current research projects include:

- **Paulina Lake** in central Oregon, where the remains of one of North America's oldest houses were discovered beneath a layer of volcanic pumice.
- **Fort Rock Cave** in central Oregon, where research continues on the sagebrush bark sandals, and plans are in progress to attempt recovery of human DNA from sandal fibers.
- **Paisley Caves** in south-central Oregon, where evidence has revealed a human occupation that predates the Clovis tradition - long regarded as the oldest cultural tradition in the Americas - by 1,000 years.
- The **Channel Islands** in California, where research continues to provide important clues about humans' early use of seacraft and of marine and aquatic animals.
- Upper **North Umpqua** basin in southwest Oregon, where a number of sites have been discovered beneath a layer of volcanic debris from an eruption that occurred 7,600 years ago.
- A **fiber artifact dating project** conducted by a consortium of researchers throughout the West and focusing on the radiocarbon dating of artifacts such as cordage, basketry, and sandals from dry cave sites in Oregon and Nevada.



The Endowment Challenge

The PaleoIndian Endowment was created to support MNCH's ongoing tradition of excellence in archaeology – emphasizing research, publication and field school work in Oregon's Great Basin region, but also extending throughout the far western United States.

In the fall of 2012, a member of the museum's advisory council dedicated a \$250,000 gift to the PaleoIndian Endowment – but she also threw down a gauntlet, challenging friends of MNCH to match her gift within one calendar year. We are on our way to meeting the challenge. With your support, the museum can reap the full amount of the matching gift, helping us stay on the cutting edge of PaleoIndian research well into the future.

*To donate to the PaleoIndian
Endowment, call the museum at
(541) 346-5089
or email Patricia Krier:
pkrier@uoregon.edu*