10/17/2016 Living Landscapes

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## **Archaeological Investigations at the Salmon Beds**

## **Research Questions**

The excavations at the Salmon Beds were designed to answer the following questions:

- How long has the site been occupied?
- What kinds of tools are present at the site, are they specifically for salmon processing or did other activities occur at the site as well?
- Both bear and bison bones have been identified in the Swindell collection. Did the salmon attract bears as they do in so many other places and are these represented in the faunal assemblage?
- Does the bison bone represent a local bison population in the past from the Upper Columbia Valley?
- If so, when did bison populations become extirpated?
- Can a sample of DNA be found for salmon at the site and are the salmon related to those from other river systems such as the Fraser/Thompson?
- In the larger ecosystem what is the relationship of aboriginal utilization in the Columbia Trench to that of the Central Canadian Rockies?
- How large an area was occupied by the peoples utilizing the upper Columbia area?
- Has the ecosystem of the Columbia Trench changed significantly over the span of occupation of the Salmon Beds?

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