Accepted Manuscript

Revisiting Paleoindian Exploitation of Extinct North American Mammals

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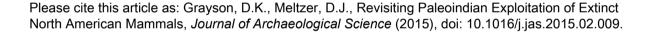
PII: S0305-4403(15)00047-3

DOI: 10.1016/j.jas.2015.02.009

Reference: YJASC 4339

To appear in: Journal of Archaeological Science

Received Date: 8 December 2014
Revised Date: 2 February 2015
Accepted Date: 8 February 2015



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Revisiting Paleoindian Exploitation of Extinct North American Mammals 1 2 Donald K. Grayson 3 Department of Anthropology and Quaternary Research Center, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195 USA 4 5 David J. Meltzer Department of Anthropology, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX 75275 USA 6 7 **ABSTRACT** 8 In 2002, we assessed all sites known to us that had been suggested to provide evidence for the association 9 of Clovis-era archaeological material with the remains of extinct Pleistocene mammals in North America. 10 We concluded that, of the 76 sites we assessed, 14 provided compelling evidence for human involvement 11 in the death and/or dismemberment of such mammals. Of these sites, 12 involved mammoth (Mammuthus), the remaining two mastodon (Mammut). Here, we update that assessment. We examine 12 Clovis-era, and earlier, sites reported since 2002, as well as sites examined previously but for which 13 additional information has become available. Our assessment leads us to exclude Hebior (Wisconsin) 14 15 from the list of accepted sites, and to add El Fin del Mundo (Sonora) and Wally's Beach (Alberta). There 16 are now 15 sites on our list, providing what we find to be compelling evidence for human involvement in the death and/or dismemberment of five genera of now-extinct late Pleistocene mammals: Equus, 17 18 Camelops, Cuvieronius, Mammut, and Mammuthus. As in 2002, however, we note this is a small fraction 19 of the 37 genera that disappeared at the end of the Pleistocene, and for this and other reasons we remain 20 highly skeptical that human overkill was responsible for their extinction. 21 22 Corresponding author: Donald K. Grayson; grayson@u.washington.edu; Department of Anthropology and Quaternary Research Center, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195 USA; +1 (206) 543-5587 23 24

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