

## Archaeological Investigations at the Salmon Beds

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### Fire Broken Rock

Fire Broken Rock results from plunging super heated rocks into water to cause the water to boil. Native people utilized this technique for cooking foods and for extracting fats and oils. The rock used as the Salmon Beds is likely derived from the east bank of the river where glacial or post-glacial gravel deposits are exposed in the bank. Without human intervention the rocks exposed on the east bank could not have been transported to the west side of the river. Most of the rock utilized for stone boiling were roughly fist sized. Most of these were quartzites or silicified siltstones. The large amount of fire broken rock recovered from the Salmon Beds indicates that food processing was a major activity at the site. Extensive cooking or boiling of fish may be the reason so few fish bones were recovered at the site. Cooking or boiling of fish bones may have softened or altered them so that they rarely survived.

A total of 127.775 kilograms of fire broken rock was recovered in the excavations. Table 5 shows that fire broken rock was recovered in 15 units for an average of 8.518 kilograms of fire broken rock per 1 meter square. Units 8n1e, 8n0, 7n0, and XU2 contained the largest amount of fire broken rock (Figure 28). Fire broken rock was most commonly found in level 8 (35-40 cm) followed by levels 4 (15-20 cm), 3 (10-15 cm) and level 2 (5-10 cm)(Figure 29).

**TABLE 5: WEIGHT OF FIRE BROKEN ROCK**

LEVEL	DEPTH	Unit	WEIGHT (Kg.)	WEIGHT BY LEVEL		
LEVEL 1	0-5 cm	XU 2	2.363			
		XU 7 (6n2w)	0.500			
		1n19e	0.031			
		1n26e	0.018			
		2n26e	0.109			
		3n26e	0.144			
		6n1w	0.200			
		6n2w	0.053			
		7n0	0.487			
		8n0	0.893			
		8n1e	0.786			
		SUB TOTAL				5.584
		LEVEL 2	5-10 cm	XU 1	0.392	
XU 3	0.101					
XU 7	1.000					
1n4e	0.007					
1n12e	0.275					
1n19e	0.025					
1n26e	0.107					
2n26e	0.919					
3n26e	0.457					
5n0	0.152					
6n0	0.250					
6n1w	4.000					

## Living Landscapes

		0n2w	0.2U1	
		7n0	0.500	
		8n0	1.768	
		8n1e	1.950	
SUB TOTAL				12.104
LEVEL 3	10-15 cm	XU 1	0.022	
		XU 2	4.000	
		XU 3	0.097	
		1n12e	0.664	
		1n19e	0.175	
		3n26e	0.144	
		5n0	0.046	
		6n0	0.100	
		6n1w	2.500	
		6n2w	0.161	
		7n0	0.250	
		8n0	2.881	
		8n1e	2.000	
SUB TOTAL				13.04
LEVEL 4	15-20	XU 1	2.986	
		XU 3	0.179	
		XU 7	3.000	
		1n4e	0.496	
		1n12e	0.027	
		1n19e	0.403	
		1n26e	0.101	
		5n0	0.752	
		6n0	0.200	
		6n1w	0.500	
		6n2w	0.148	
		7n0	0.500	
		8n0	2.458	
		8n1e	5.500	
SUB TOTAL				17.25
LEVEL 5	20-25	XU 3	0.163	
		1n12e	0.032	
		1n19e	0.012	
		3n26e	0.196	
		5n0	1.728	
		6n0	0.100	
		6n1w	2.500	
		7n0	1.000	
		8n0	0.130	
SUB TOTAL				5.861
LEVEL 6	25-30	XU 1	0.131	
		XU 3	0.026	
		1n19e	0.177	
		3n26e	0.734	
		6n0	1.435	

		6n1w	1.500	
		7n0	3.000	
SUB TOTAL				7.003
LEVEL 7	30-35	XU 1	0.035	
		XU 3	0.285	
		2n26e	0.185	
		6n0	1.555	
		7n0	0.200	
		8n0	0.335	
		8n1e	4.000	
SUB TOTAL				6.595
LEVEL 8	35-40	XU 2	11.000	
		XU 3	0.195	
		8n0	18.000	
		8n1e	10.500	
SUB TOTAL				39.695
LEVEL 9	40-45	2n26e	0.057	
		8n1e	6.500	
SUB TOTAL				6.557
LEVEL 11	50-55	7n0	9.000	
SUB TOTAL				9.0
LEVEL 13	60-65	XU 3	1.001	
		6n0	3.500	
		6n1w	0.500	
SUB TOTAL				5.001
LEVEL 14	65-70	XU 3	0.085	
SUB TOTAL				0.085
TOTAL				127.775

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