

Stephen E. Nash, PhD

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Education

1997 University of Arizona, PhD
1991 University of Arizona, M.A.
1986 Grinnell College, B.A.

Employment

2006 – present Deputy Chief Curator, Chair, Department of Anthropology,
Curator of Archaeology, Denver Museum of Nature & Science
2000 – 2009 Adjunct Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology,
University of Illinois at Chicago
2003 – 2009 Lecturer, Illinois Department of Humanities “Roads Scholars”
Speaker’s Bureau, Chicago

Research Goals

I am an archaeologist who uses tree-ring dates to understand how people built the spectacular cliff dwellings of Mesa Verde National Park, and to learn why they abandoned the region in the late 1280s. As a father, I often wonder how children survived so close to those sheer, dangerous cliffs!

Current Research Projects

Tree-Ring Dating at Mesa Verde National Park

Mesa Verde National Park is a World Heritage Site containing the well-known and spectacular cliff dwellings like Cliff Palace. Using a database of nearly 4,600 archaeological tree-ring dates from sites in the Park, since 2007 I have been seeking a better understanding of how the cliff dwellings were built, used, and ultimately abandoned.

Martin Sites Relocation Project

Archaeologist Paul Sidney Martin of the Field Museum excavated more than 70 sites during a 43-year career at the Field Museum in Chicago. Unfortunately, he did not properly record most of those sites, and in order to preserve them properly, we must re-locate, re-record, and register them with appropriate state authorities.

Five most recent scientific publications:

Nash, Stephen E. 2010. A Conflicted Legacy: Paul Sidney Martin as Museum Archaeologist 1925 – 1938. *American Anthropologist* 112(1):104-121.

Nash, Stephen E. and Paul R. Sheppard. 2009. Climate and Natural Environment of the Southwest. Chapter in encyclopedia *Archaeology in America*, Volume 3, pp. 17 – 21. Francis P. McManamon, Linda S. Cordell, Kent Lightfoot, and George R. Milner, Editors. Greenwood Publishing. With Paul R. Sheppard.

Nash, Stephen E. 2009. Dendrochronology. In Nash, Stephen E., compiler, *Readings In Chronometric Analysis: Selections from American Antiquity and Latin American Antiquity, 1935 – 2006*, pp. 9 – 14. Society for American Archaeology Press, Washington D.C.

Nash, Stephen E. 2008. Dendrochronology. In Pearsall, Deborah, *Encyclopedia of Archaeology*, pp. 1083-1088. Academic Press, New York.

Nash, Stephen E. and Jeffrey S. Dean, 2005. Paleoenvironmental Reconstructions and Archaeology: Uniting the Social and Natural Sciences in the American Southwest and Beyond. With Jeffrey S. Dean. In *Southwest Archaeology in the Twentieth Century*, edited by Don Fowler and Linda Cordell. The University of Utah Press, pp. 125 – 141.