

Community Deforesting Practices In the Pre-Colonial Settlement at Millstone Bluff

Data Collection

What data will you collect or create?

Being an already extensively excavated site, Millstone Bluff should have some prior research into tools, housing, hunting/gathering processes, etc. that should provide some baseline into what is at these communities' disposal. I also want to collect data on traces of burning on the forest floor or pieces of charred wood over a large area. I will also collect maps of the site and surrounding area in order to plan potential geological features that might hinder or allow deforesting distances.

How will the data be collected or created?

Files of compiled research from prior excavations and analysis of human practices in the area. My own excavations marked in various distances from the bluff itself following elevation and rock formations. Field notes taken during the excavations and maps marked with each site and their deforestation status. Lab analysis of charcoal and/or wood fragments with carbon dating from pieces recovered that could be tied to large scale burning over time. Files will be titled according to each of the data types. Titles for prior works, tools/possible deforesting practices, map catalogs, charcoal/wood fragments recorded and their lab results.

Documentation and Metadata

Ethics and Legal Compliance

How will you manage any ethical issues?

This research will be discussed with the Illinois Forest Service and park recreational management by the city of Vienna and its park authorities. We will also contact NAGPRA coordinators in order to obtain authorization to excavate in respect to indigenous remains and their suggestions for handling in case of such discoveries. The data will be shared with the Center for Archaeological Investigations in Carbondale to corroborate with prior studies and comparison of artifacts.

How will you manage copyright and Intellectual Property Rights (IP/IPR) issues?

Data will be available to the School of Anthropology at Southern Illinois University Carbondale and its Center for Archaeology and uploaded to a school database along with the

research essay. This data does not fall under the seeking of patents or any publishing restrictions.

Storage and Backup

How will the data be stored and backed up during the research?

Field notes will be transposed unto a text management software such as Obsidian after every week of excavations as long as the service is in line with the institution and the funders. My research assistant will compile the files and copy them to multiple flash drives amongst ourselves as well as the data files being shared with each other from the text management software.

How will you manage access and security?

Access to notes will be restricted to me and my research assistant as well as a central repository in which the flash drives are stored and time in which they are removed is accounted for.

Selection and Preservation

Which data are of long-term value and should be retained, shared, and/or preserved?

Maps of the excavated sites and their status as potentially being deforested areas is to be retained above all else. If this data and the method of collecting such is successful, then the mapped data can be compared to future studies into other community deforestation patterns.

What is the long-term preservation plan for the dataset?

The data will be archived through the Southern Illinois University Carbondale research archives as well as being shared with catalogues in the Center for Archaeological Investigations.

Data Sharing

How will you share the data?

This research will be shared with the School of Anthropology and submitted to their archives as well as their attachment to the school library if deemed useful in their collections. Links to

the data archives will also be posted with the research essay connecting readers to the primary data directly.

Are any restrictions on data sharing required?

Data will not be shared until after the research essay is finished and submitted to the School of Anthropology, yet the links to the data will be valid at the discretion of university oversight.

Responsibilities and Resources

What resources will you require to deliver your plan?

Notebooks and flash drives will be needed for primary note taking and data compiling. Text management and archive making tools may need payed access for their accounts depending on the software we need. Contracting additional excavation workers will also be needed due to the need for many excavation sites. Fees may also need be payed for lab results regarding the charcoal/wood fragments and subsequent dating.
