

# Murray Springs Clovis Site

**Murray Springs** is located in southern Arizona near the San Pedro River and once served as a Clovis hunting camp approximately 11,000 years BP. The site is unique for the massive quantity of large megafauna processing and extensive tool making. Archaeologists identified five buried animal kills and processing locations and a Clovis camp location. The site is located in the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area, administered by the Bureau of Land Management.

## Archaeology

In 1966, archaeologists C. Vance Haynes and Peter Mehringer of the University of Arizona discovered the site while extending the mapping of the area of the Lehner Mammoth Kill Site 19 kilometers to the south.<sup>[1]</sup> The archaeologists located two concentrations of mammoth bones that day.<sup>[1]</sup> They were convinced the area was a Clovis site based on the bones and because Murray Springs shared the same geologic characteristics as the Lehner site.<sup>[1]</sup> Funding by the National Science Foundation and the National Geographic Society enabled excavations from 1967 to 1971.<sup>[1][2]</sup> Some of the significant artifacts found during the excavations included hearths, a bone tool, projectile points, lithic tools, and debitage.<sup>[1]</sup> The bone tool is believed to be a shaft straightener.<sup>[3]</sup> The five buried animal kills and processing locations contained bones of mammoth, bison, horses, camels, canids and rodents.<sup>[1][4]</sup> A worker found a single pot sherd on the surface of the site that was associated to use approximately 1300 to 1450 CE.<sup>[1]</sup> The archaeologists noted peoples have used the spring over an extended period. An analysis of the site is interpreted as leaning against the extraterrestrial impact theory of the Pleistocene Extinction.<sup>[5]</sup>

The San Pedro River Valley is rich in discovered Clovis culture sites. Within a 50-mile radius are nearly a dozen Clovis sites including the Lehner Mammoth Kill Site, the Naco Mammoth Kill Site, the Escapule Clovis Site and the Leikem Clovis Site. The Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management oversees Murray Springs and in 2012, the U.S. Government declared the site a National Historic Landmark.<sup>[6]</sup> The site has a parking area and an interpretive trail.

## See also

- List of National Historic Landmarks in Arizona

### Murray Springs Clovis Site

U.S. National Register of Historic Places

U.S. National Historic Landmark

Ramada on interpretive trail

Location within Arizona

<b>Nearest city</b>	<u>Sierra Vista, Arizona</u>
<b>Coordinates</b>	<u>31.570804°N</u> <u>110.178697°W</u>
<b>Website</b>	<u>Murray Springs Clovis Site (https://www.blm.gov/visit/murray-springs-clovis-site)</u>
<b>NRHP reference No.</b>	<u>12001019 (https://npgallery.nps.gov/AssetDetail/NRIS/12001019)</u>
<b>Designated NHL</b>	2012

- [National Register of Historic Places listings in Cochise County, Arizona](#)

## References

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1. Haynes, C. Vance Jr., editor. (February 2007) *Murray Springs: A Clovis Site with Multiple Activity Areas in the San Pedro Valley, Arizona*. ISBN 978-0-8165-2579-9
  2. Woodward, Susan L., "Spontaneous Vegetation of the Murray Springs Area, San Pedro Valley, Arizona", *Journal of the Arizona Academy of Science*, vol. 7, no. 1, pp. 12–16, 1972
  3. Haynes, C. Vance, and E. Thomas Hemmings, "Mammoth-Bone Shaft Wrench from Murray Springs, Arizona", *Science*, vol. 159, no. 3811, pp. 186–87, 1968
  4. Agenbroad, Larry D., and C. Vance Haynes, "Bison Bison Remains at Murray Springs, Arizona", *Kiva*, vol. 40, no. 4, pp. 309–13, 1975
  5. Haynes, C. Vance, et al., "The Murray Springs Clovis Site, Pleistocene Extinction, and the Question of Extraterrestrial Impact", *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*, vol. 107, no. 9, pp. 4010–15, 2010
  6. "Interior Designates 27 New National Landmarks" (<https://www.doi.gov/news/pressreleases/Interior-Designates-27-New-National-Landmarks>). *www.doi.gov*. October 17, 2012.
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