

**Name:**

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**Proposed Title**

Exploring Mid to Late Holocene Economic Shifts and Cultural Change at Swan Point, Tanana Valley, Alaska

**Abstract**

The Swan Point Archaeological Site contains multiple components from all major periods of Tanana Valley prehistory. This study will first excavate and examine a single site collection recovered from the greater Tanana River valley, and second create a native Athabascan spatially-projected place name dataset to test for regional correlations between material-cultural patterns in the archaeological record and the symbolic patterns conveyed through the place name record. I will focus my study on the middle and latter Holocene occupations (8400 BP-1900 AD) of the site and regional datasets I will use for comparison needs. These occupations represent the Northern Archaic and Athabascan traditions in the Alaskan Interior record. The primary objectives of my study are thus: 1: to enhance the understanding of traditional Alaskan Athabascan lifeways by creating a comprehensive spatially-projected dataset of traditional place names. 2: to enhance the interpretation of the Northern Archaic tradition through the excavation and analysis of a residential house pit feature. 3. To study if differences in the material cultural record of the Northern Archaic tradition and later Athabascan tradition assemblages at Swan Point suggest cultural variation consistent with population change.