

Siskiyou Utility Ware: A Late Prehistoric Southern Cascades Horizon Marker

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Abstract

Siskiyou Utility Ware can be recognized as a horizon marker of the Late Prehistoric period for the Cascade Ranges of northern California and southern Oregon. The pottery has been identified at many pre-contact sites within the upper or middle drainages of three major rivers in northern California and southern Oregon: the Rogue, the Klamath, and the Pit. Detailed analyses of several collections of the pottery indicate a great deal of similarity in manufacturing techniques, vessel shape, and use. All pottery collections dated by radiocarbon determinations fall within a 1,600-year period ending by AD 1850 and are found associated with other ceramic objects, Gunther barbed projectile points, and pit house villages.

Introduction

First defined and named in 1978 using a collection of pot sherds from Border Village (35KL16) on the Upper Klamath River, Oregon (Mack 1979), Siskiyou Utility Ware is found in the Cascade Ranges of California and Oregon. The name Siskiyou signals the fact that the first sherd of this ware was excavated from a small rockshelter (CA-SIS-13) in northern California's Siskiyou County by William Wallace and Edith Taylor in 1952. Over the last 60 years the spatial and temporal extent of this low-fired, hand-modeled brownware has been defined and can be considered a horizon marker for a group of late period phases within the Cascades of California and Oregon.

The pre-contact cultures of California and the Pacific Northwest are not generally considered pottery using cultures with the exception of those in the southern California desert and the southern extreme of California (Kroeber 1925; Heizer and Whipple 1971; Koerper

et al. 1977; Chartkoff and Chartkoff 1984; Griset 1996). Most of these southern California assemblages date to the most recent pre-contact period associated with the movement of peoples from the southern Great Basin and the Colorado River (Euler 1959; Warren 1984), though evidence for earlier pottery exists in coastal (Drover 1975; Drover et al. 1979; Warren 1984) and interior southern California (Griset 2008).

A less well-known pottery tradition also exists within the lower Sacramento River Valley in Central California (Ragir 1972; Moratto 1984; Johnson 1990; White and Crawford 2002). Therefore, the presence of pottery in northern California and southern Oregon forces a re-evaluation of the assumptions concerning ceramics in pre-contact cultures of the Pacific Northwest. Siskiyou Utility Ware becomes especially interesting because the dates of the pottery assemblages span at least fifteen hundred years from about AD 350 to 1850.

Moreover, Siskiyou Utility Ware is not found within the pre-contact assemblages of the groups recognized as having a rich material culture in this area, those of the coast and lower courses of salmon-rich rivers. Instead, the pottery has a limited distribution within the interior of northern California and southern Oregon in areas not usually considered resource rich or culturally elaborated.

Distribution

The geographic distribution of Siskiyou Utility Ware is centered within the Cascade Ranges of southern

Oregon and northern California. The pottery is found primarily within the drainages of three major rivers: the Rogue, the Klamath, and the Pit. Sites containing pottery seem limited to the upper or middle courses of these rivers' drainages (Figure 1). These areas fall within the historically recorded territories for four groups: the Northern Takelma, the Latagwa (Upland Takelma), the Shasta, and the Achomawi.

Drainage Area

Presently, the greatest number of known sites and the greatest number of sherds come from the Upper Rogue River drainage (Table 1). There are potsherds from more than 15 pre-contact sites. Seven of these collections are in private hands and are from sites along Big Butte Creek, McNeil Creek, and Snider Creek. Of the remaining sherds, most were collected from a single site along Elk Creek excavated in 1986 for the Army Corps of Engineers by Infotec (Mack 1987).

Additional excavated sites along Elk Creek, the Rogue River, and Lost Creek also contained sherds. The Elk Creek collections have undergone a detailed analysis, and the information from these analyses forms the bulk of the knowledge about Siskiyou Utility Ware on the Upper Rogue River drainages (Mack 1987). Analysis has also been completed on sherds from 35JA189 and Lost Creek (35JA23) (Mack 1991b, 1994). None of the private collections have yet been completely studied, but a preliminary analysis has been made of a sherd sample from five archaeological sites along Big Butte Creek and the Snider Creek site. The sherds from all the sites within the Upper Rogue River drainage appear nearly identical (Table 2).

The Upper Klamath River drainage also contains many sites that have produced sherd collections (Table 1). The largest comes from Border Village (35KL16) within the Klamath River Canyon in the Salt Cave locality (Mack 1983). Other sites within the Upper Klamath River Canyon are represented by much small-

er collections. Further west within the Klamath River drainage, pottery has been recovered from a rockshelter, SIS-13. Recently CA-SIS-331 near Willow Creek, just two miles south of the Klamath River, produced 55 Siskiyou Utility Ware sherds from just three 1 x 1 m units (Mack 1988b). Paradise Craggy Village (CA-SIS-1066/H) is the site located farthest west within the Klamath River drainage to have produced Siskiyou Utility Ware sherds (Mack 2005).

Within the Middle Pit River drainage near the southernmost edge of the Cascades, there are four excavated sites that contain Siskiyou Utility Ware (Table 1). The two largest collections come from the Lorenzen site, CA-MOD-250, though this collection is incomplete (Mack 1988a; 1990a), and a recently excavated site on Cayton Creek (CA-SHA-726/H) has produced a much larger collection (Tiley et al. 2007).

The two other sites are on the margins of Lake Britton; one of these is a house pit village, CA-SHA-386, where sherds were recovered from a test pit in a house depression (Kelly et al. 1987; Cleland 1997).

Description

Siskiyou Utility Ware is a low-fired, crude, hand-modeled brown ware. From the reconstruction of approximately one-half of a vessel's rim from the Border Village site, the vessel was recognized as being wide-mouthed and probably shallow (Mack 1979). In 1986 from 35JA100, a house pit hamlet along Elk Creek, Oregon, an almost complete vessel (Figure 2) was recovered from a house floor, confirming the vessel shape as a wide-mouthed, shallow bowl with a gently rounded, flattened base and rims which are slightly incurved, irregularly rounded, and uneven (Mack 1987).

Physical Characteristics

Form: The vessels range in diameter from 11 to 32 cm and are less than 9 cm in depth. The almost complete

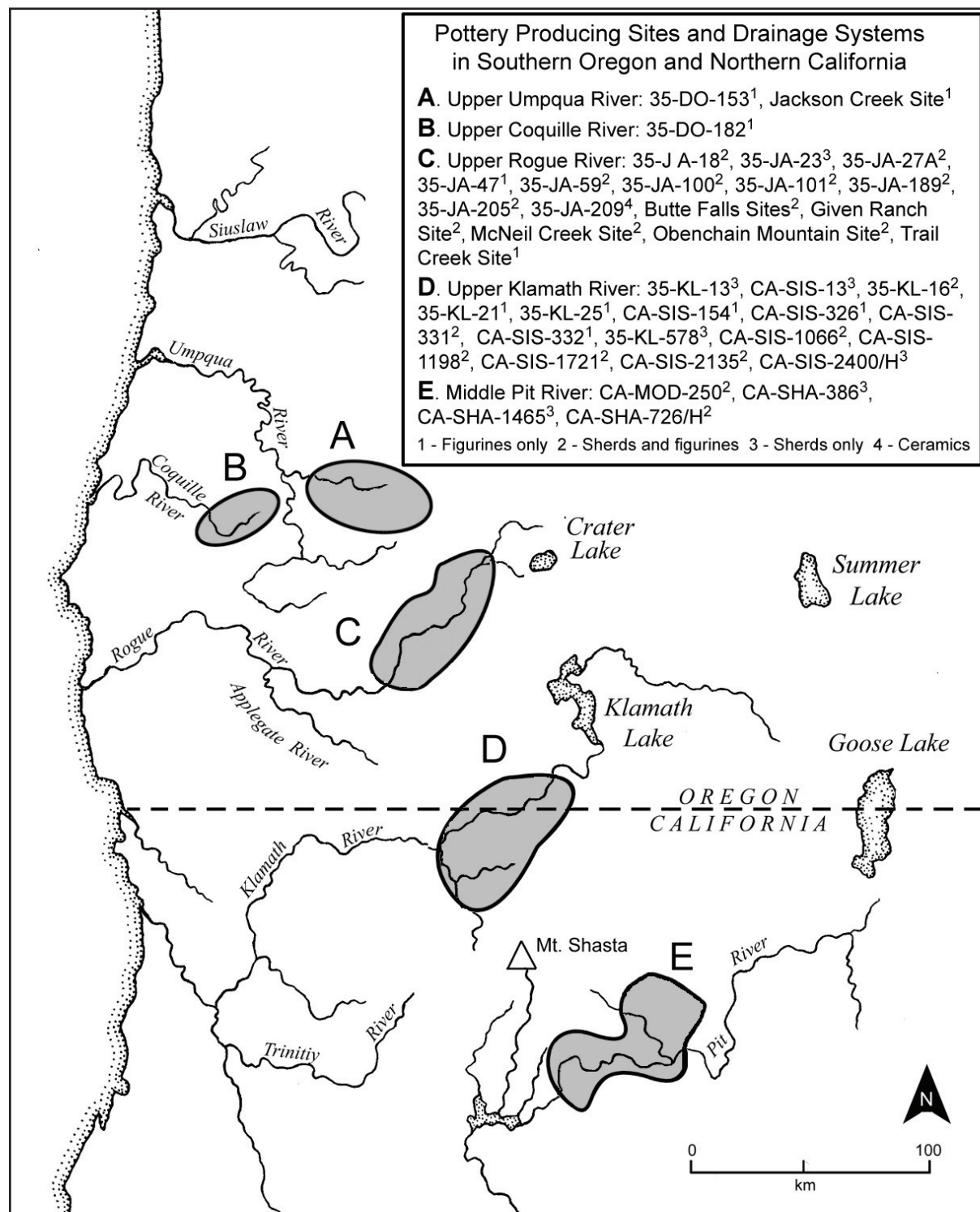


Figure 1. Distribution of Siskiyou Utility Ware and ceramic figurines in northern California and adjacent southern Oregon (Mack 1991a:101, Figure 1). Map by Joanne M. Mack, Rusty van Rossmann, and Matthew A. Box.

Table 1. Inventory of Siskiyou Utility Ware and Ceramic Figurines by Site and Region.

River System	Site Name	Site Number	Context	Total Sherds	Total Figurines
Klamath	Border Village	35KL16	Excavated	418	20
	Boulder Village	35KL18	Excavated	1	0
	Cash Creek Rockshelter	CASIS13	Tested	1	0
	Coyote's Paw	CASIS1198	Excavated	58	2
	Freedom site	CASIS1721	Excavated	6	0
	Geese Flying	CASIS2135	Tested	3	2
	Orchard Camp	35KL578	Tested	1	0
	Paradise Craggy Village	CASIS1066	Tested	3	0
	Rainbow site	CASIS331	Tested	55	1
	Twice Found Village	CASIS2400/H	Surface	1	0
	–	35KL13	Tested	2	0
	Klamath totals				549
Middle Pit	Cayton Creek Bridge	CASHA726/H	Tested	~46	4
	Lorenzen site	CAMOD250	Excavated	25	6
	Lake Britton Village	CASHA386	Tested	9	0
	Lake Britton	CASHA1465	Surface	1	0
	Middle Pit totals				81
Upper Rogue	Big Butte Creek sites (5) ^a	–	Surface	~80	10
	Blue Gulch site	35JA204	Excavated	10	10
	Elk Creek sites	35JA27A	Excavated	87	5
		35JA59	Tested	1	1
		35JA100	Excavated	488	15
		35JA101	Tested	41	2
	Fawn Bench	35JA209	Tested	3	0
	Given Ranch	–	Excavated	514	2
	MacNeil Creek ^a	–	Surface	~12	10
	Pot Springs	35JA23	Tested	2	0
	Snider Creek	35JA18	Excavated	800	79
	Trail Creek site	35JA189	Tested	15	9
Upper Rogue totals				2053	143

^a Private collection.

Note: Tested refers to limited test excavation; excavated indicates extensive excavation.

Table 2. Characteristics of Siskiyou Utility Ware Sherds from the Upper Rogue River.

Site ID	SA	D ^a	Th ^b	Luster	Finish	Color ^c	Paste Color ^c	Texture	H	Fracture	%NP	Rim Curve	%RD
35JA18	450	4–36	.3–2.0 .8/.7	dull	pitted, wiped, eroded	reddish-yellow, <u>reddish-brown</u> , reddish-gray, yellowish-red, brown	<u>red</u> , pink, <u>reddish-brown</u> , yellowish-red, reddish-yellow, light brown	medium coarse, very coarse	3–4	irregular	50–65	slightly incurved	73
35JA23	2	–	.3–1.0	dull	eroded	–	reddish-brown	medium coarse	3–4	irregular	–	–	–
35JA27A	87	13–23	.3–1.2 .63/.7	matte	pitted, wiped, eroded	red, <u>brown</u> , reddish-brown, reddish-gray, pinkish-gray, pinkish-white, gray-brown	reddish-brown, red, pink, <u>reddish-yellow</u> , yellowish-red, gray	medium coarse	2– 3.5	irregular	10–40	slightly incurved	25
35JA59	1	–	.6–.7	matte	pitted eroded	brown	red	medium coarse	3.0	irregular	28	–	–
35JA100	375	5–23	.2–1.5 .66/.6	matte	pitted, wiped, eroded	yellowish-red, <u>brown</u> , pinkish-gray, reddish-gray, reddish-brown, grayish-brown	brown, pink, red, <u>reddish-yellow</u> , yellowish-red, reddish-brown, reddish-gray	medium coarse	2.5– 4.0	irregular	25–45	slightly incurved	56
35JA101	41	–	.3–1.0	dull- matte	eroded	yellowish-red	reddish-brown	medium coarse	3–4	irregular	?	slightly incurved	2
35JA189	15	–	.3–.9	matte	pitted, eroded	brown, gray, <u>grayish-brown</u>	brown, reddish- brown, <u>yellow- ish-red</u> , red	coarse, very coarse	3.5	irregular	30–40	slightly incurved	0
Big Butte Creek 1	none	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Big Butte Creek 2	14	–	.4–1.4	matte	–	red	red	medium coarse	–	irregular	40	slightly incurved	75
Big Butte Creek 3	17	–	.4–.9	matte	–	reddish-brown	reddish-brown	medium	–	irregular	55	slightly incurved	25
Big Butte Creek 4	2	–	.4–1.0	matte	–	red	red	medium coarse	–	irregular	90	slightly incurved	0
Big Butte Creek 5	6	–	.4–1.5	matte	–	–	–	medium coarse	–	irregular	–	slightly incurved	0
Givan Ranch	none	–	–	matte	–	–	–	–	–	irregular	–	–	–
McNeil Creek	4	–	.9–1.1	matte	–	–	–	–	–	irregular	–	slightly incurved	100

Key to data types: SA: number of sherds analyzed; D: diameter (cm); Th: thickness (cm); H: Hardness (Mohs Scale); %NP: percent of non-plastics; %RD: percent of rim sherd with inner rim decorated.

^a Calculated from rim sherds only.

^b Range: mean/median.

^c Most common color underlined.

bowl from 35JA100 is 20 cm in diameter and slightly less than 9 cm deep (Figure 2). There are also a few small, cup-shaped containers 3.5–6 cm in diameter and approximately 3–4 cm deep (Figure 3). One fragment of a tray rim has also been noted, 5 cm in diameter and 2 cm deep. These last two forms may have functioned as toys rather than household utensils.

Rim: The rims slightly curve inward, though they are irregularly rounded and uneven at the lip.

Base: Only one complete base has been recovered; however, this complete base, plus the partial bases recovered, indicate a gently rounded, flattened base.

Wall Thickness: The wall thickness of the bowls ranges from 2 to 16 mm, with the walls being thinnest near the rim and thickening toward the base where the thickness is often over 11 mm.

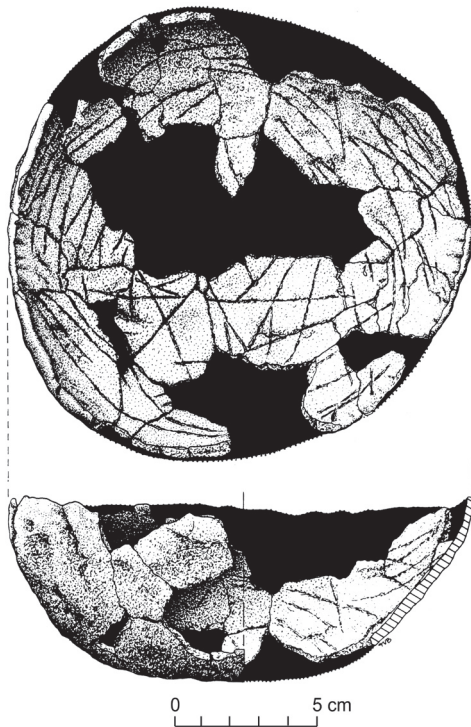


Figure 2. Reconstructed Siskiyou Utility Ware bowl from 35JA100 (Mack 1991c:42, Figure 2).

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Hardness: The hardness of the vessel walls ranges from 2.5 to 4.0 on the Mohs Scale of Hardness.

Surface and Core Color: The surface color of the walls varies widely, even on sherds from the same vessel. The most common surface colors are brown (7.5YR5/4, 5/2, 4/2), grayish-brown (10YR4/2), reddish-brown (5YR5/3), and reddish-gray (5YR 5/2, 4/2). The core colors also vary but not as widely. The most common colors are reddish-yellow (5YR6/6, 7/6 and 7.5YR 6/6), yellowish-red (5YR4/6, 5/6), and reddish-brown (5YR6/4). The variation in surface and core color is due to firing irregularities on single vessels and to different clay sources used at different sites.

Luster and Surface Texture: Both sherd surfaces are dull to matte with a grainy texture.

Paste Texture: The texture of the paste ranges from fine silt to medium coarse in size. The non-plastic inclusions, or temper, range from silt to pebble size. The rock fragments range from 0.8 to 5.0 mm and from well-rounded to sub-angular in shape. The mineral inclusions are smaller, ranging from 0.01 to 1.75 mm.

Eighty sherds from eight site collections were thin-sectioned to determine mineral and rock constituents of the non-plastic inclusions, the texture, the percentage of non-plastic inclusions, or temper, and the percentage of paste. Uniformity characterized the kinds of mineral and rock constituents in the sherds. The rock fragments are almost all igneous in origin, primarily basaltic, silicic, and tuffaceous rocks, with small amounts of pumice, volcanic glass, and sedimentary volcano-clastics frequently present. Feldspar, frequently zoned plagioclase, is the most abundant mineral in all the sherds, comprising from five to ten percent of the sherds' constituents. This uniformity of the rock and mineral constituents of the clay and non-plastics reflects the local lithology of igneous origin.

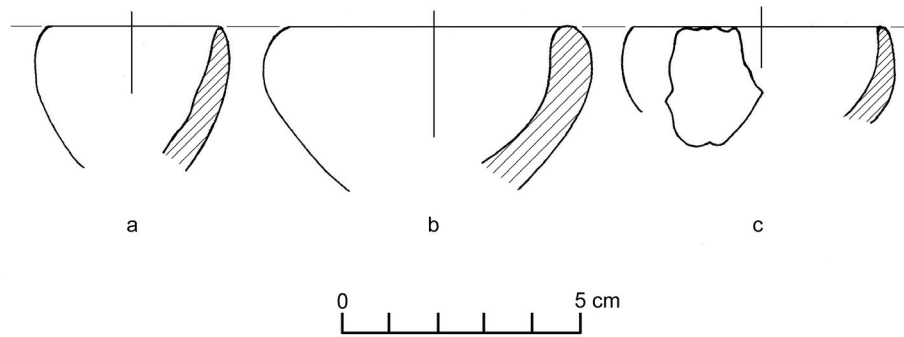


Figure 3. Siskiyou Utility Ware vessel sherd and rim reconstructions from 35KL16 and 35JA100.

In addition to naturally tempered clays, temper was sometimes added to the paste, usually sand or sandy loam. A comparison of the dirt from a house floor at Border Village (35KL16) to non-plastic inclusions in potsherds from that site showed almost identical rock and mineral constituents (Mack 1983). Other sherds contained rock and mineral inclusions, which from the degree of weathering and type indicated they were natural non-plastic inclusions within the clay (Mack 1989).

The percentage of paste stands out as the most striking difference between sherds. Paste content (as opposed to temper) of sherds ranges from a high of 90 percent to a low of only 10 percent. A range of 30 percent variation can be found in sherds from the sites of the Upper Rogue River drainage (Table 2). This difference may be due to idiosyncratic differences in adding temper by potters, or it may reflect differences in function of bowls within the same site. However, for many sherds it likely results from the natural proportion of plastics and non-plastics at the clay source. The degree of mineral and rock weathering shown in many of the thin-sectioned sherds points frequently to this explanation.

Decoration: Fingernail impressions around the inner rim sometimes decorate Siskiyou Utility Ware. A few sherd rims have fingernail indentations on their lips. Some sherds also have incised lines on their inner surface below the rim to the base. These lines are

more irregular than the fingernail impressions and run horizontally, vertically, and diagonally. They may not be decorative in function, as Yokuts and Mono potters incised the surface of pots before drying and firing to improve successful firing of the vessels (Gayton 1929, 1948a, 1948b). The bowl from 35JA100 is an excellent example of both fingernail impressed rims and incised lines on the inner surface (Figure 2).

Manufacturing Techniques: The pottery was made by hand-modeling clay, which was not cleaned or well kneaded. This was evidenced by the presence of occasional leaf impressions and other plant parts within the walls (Figure 4a), surface cracks on the outer walls (Figure 4b), and finger depressions on the surface of inner and outer walls. The pots were sometimes wiped when the clay was still plastic. The inner surfaces of the vessels seem more even and smoothed (Figure 4a). The outer surfaces of sherds were often eroded or severely exfoliated, leaving little of the original surface except near the rims (Figure 4b). The vessels were fired in an uncontrolled firing atmosphere, which did not always fully oxidize the clay and caused frequent surface smudging.

To better understand the manufacturing techniques of Siskiyou Utility Ware, sherds representing five site collections were refired in a bisque kiln at 890°C. All sherds were fully oxidized by this procedure, which produced a surface and core color of yellowish-red (5YR6-7/6) and a hardness on the Mohs Scale from

3.0 to 4.0. The fact the refired pieces could be glued in place to the unfired half revealed no shrinkage on the part of the refired pieces and indicated the sherds were originally fired at near 890°C.

Function: The function of the Siskiyou Utility Ware bowls seems clear (Mack 1990b). Multiple lines of evidence suggest their use as serving and/or eating vessels. Such evidence includes vessel shape, physical structure, use wear, and the context of discovery within the sites at which the ceramics are found.

The shape of the bowls, wide-mouthed and shallow (Figure 2), is associated commonly with serving or eating vessels (Hally 1986). Cooking vessels, while usually somewhat open, are not usually shallow. The tending of cooking foods or liquids requires at least

some stirring. A wide-mouthed, shallow vessel would cause the contents to splash out. The surface alterations do not indicate cooking; the outer surfaces show no blackening from smoke (Figure 4b), and the inner surfaces on most sherds show no evidence of scraping, usually associated with stirring. Such a vessel is not often used for storage because its contents can easily spill, and the wide opening leaves the contents open to contamination.

The presence of decoration on the interior rims points to use in a group setting often associated with eating or serving rather than more non-public uses associated with food processing and preparation. The archaeological context of the sherds is most commonly within house depressions and frequently clustering in one or two quadrants on the floor. Here they are not usually



Figure 4. Partially reconstructed Siskiyou Utility Ware bowl from 35KL16. (a) inner surface; (b) outer surface (Mack 1983:82-83, Plate VII a and b).

adjacent to fire hearths or ash lenses. Sherd concentration proximity to hearths does exist, however, within open campsites.

A functional interpretation of these vessels as serving and/or eating vessels is supported by the surface of the bowls and their morphology. The fact that some vessels are decorated around their inner rims may indicate a public rather than a private function, which is concomitant with food serving and eating. What foods may have been served or eaten from these bowls remains unknown as no residue analysis has as yet been possible, and all sherds were washed before analysis. No visible deposits or residues have been noted on any Siskiyou Utility Ware sherds. It has been proposed that the bowls may have functioned for serving fish oil, an important condiment for many of the indigenous groups of northern California and southwest Oregon (Mack 1986). Steatite bowls were known to have been used for this purpose among several Lower Klamath River groups and have some resemblance in shape to Siskiyou Utility Ware bowls (Goddard 1903; Drucker 1937).

The sherds' archaeological context within houses, on floors as well as in fill, points to a household function probably by family groups. The rather small number of sherds in each house tends to indicate a small number of bowls in use at any one time. Perhaps only individuals of a certain status used these bowls (i.e., adults, women, or men). However, if the bowls were only for serving, individuals within a household would likely share use, resulting in fewer bowls in use at any point in time.

Chronology

The chronology for Siskiyou Utility Ware as presently known falls within roughly a 1,500-year period, AD 350 to 1850, during the Late Prehistoric, Late Archaic, or Pacific period (Table 3 and Figure 5). The collections from the four Elk Creek sites, from 35JA189

on the Rogue River, from the Upper Klamath, from SIS-331 overlooking Willow Creek near the Klamath River, and from four sites in the Pit River drainage have been dated by radiocarbon to this time span. In addition, a single sherd from Snider Creek has been dated to AD 1465 ± 65 by AMS C14 on a piece of charcoal embedded within the sherd when it was fired. The Elk Creek sites have several radiocarbon dates between AD 900 and 1500, which are in association with the pottery. At 35JA189 on the Rogue River the pottery dates from ca. 650 AD to 1350. Three Salt Cave Locality sites have two dates from house pits roughly falling between AD 900 and 1850. The site overlooking Willow Creek, SIS-331, is dated to AD 1100. The Lorenzen Site has one date associated with the pottery, AD 1450, and the Lake Britton house depression, which contained sherds in a pit feature, has been dated to AD 1700. The sherds at Cayton Creek date between AD 900 and 1600.

Discussion

Siskiyou Utility Ware is strongly associated with house pit villages and hamlets. Specifically, there is a close association between potsherds and house depressions. At 35JA100, of 488 sherds recovered, only 27 were in deposits unassociated with house depressions. All the sherds from 35KL16 were from house floors or house fills. Though this association seems quite strong, we do have Siskiyou Utility Ware from at least five sites which are not house pit villages. Three sites (35JA27A, SHA-726/H, and SIS-331) are probably large campsites, and two (35KL13 and SIS-13) are rockshelters. The ceramic inventory from the rockshelters is very small, three sherds total, whereas the sherd assemblages from the campsites are moderate in number. One would consequently expect Siskiyou Utility Ware in large campsites and house pit sites of all sizes.

There are very few variations among the collections of Siskiyou Utility Ware. All but one of these

Table 3. Radiocarbon Dates for Siskiyou Utility Ware.

Site Region	Site Name/Location	Site Number	Date (BP)	Dating Source
Upper Rogue River	Snider Creek	35JA18	525± 65	ASU-AMS
	Elk Creek	35JA27A	790±120 540± 90 580± 70	Pettigrew and Lebow 1987
	Elk Creek	35JA100	750± 80 810± 70 490±120 750± 60 780±120 450± 80 580± 60 700± 80	Pettigrew and Lebow 1987
	Elk Creek	35JA101	950± 90 1210±120 680± 90	Nilsson and Kelly 1991
	Trail Creek	35JA189	740± 80	Connolly 1992
Upper Klamath River	Border Village	35KL16	540±120	Mack 1983
	Big Boulder Village	35KL18	510±110	
	Rainbow site	CASIS331	690± 90	Nilsson 1988
Middle Pit River	Lorenzen site	CAMOD250	510± 70	Baumhoff and Johnson 1968
	Lake Britton Village	CASHA386	240± 60 860± 60	Kelly et al. 1987

variations are minor differences and may be attributable to differences in clay sources. The significant variable is the presence of decoration on roughly 20 percent of the sherds from the Upper Rogue River drainage as opposed to a total lack of decoration on sherds from sites in the Upper Klamath and only few decorated rim sherds from the middle Pit River drainages. This is important enough to consider the possibility of two varieties within the ware. The presence of fingernail impressions around the inner rims of some sherds gives the Upper Rogue collections a distinctive look when compared to collections from the Klamath River drainages. The two varieties cannot be attributed to chronology as they coexist side-by-side on the same house floors in the Upper Rogue River sites.

The sites containing Siskiyou Utility Ware also share some additional characteristics. All the ceramic col-

lections from these sites also contain ceramic figurines and figurine fragments, with the exception of the two rockshelters, two sites on the Upper Klamath, 35KL18 and 35KL578, the site on Lost Creek, 35JA23, and the Lake Britton sites, SHA-386 and CA-SHA-1465. All the sites mentioned above except 35KL18 have small samples recovered from limited testing (Table 1).

Figurines and Pipes

The figurines examined are all solid forms. Most of the fragments are elongated cylinders or flattened, angular cylinders, and they resemble legs and other appendages (Figure 6). The more complete figurines are realistic zoomorphic and anthropomorphic forms (Mack 1983, 1989, 1991a, 2005, 2006). Some sites in the Western High Cascades have figurine fragments in their collections unaccompanied by pottery sherds (Table 4).

Date (AD)	Region		
	Latagwa (Upland Takelma) Northern Takelma Upper Rogue River	Eastern Shasta Upper Klamath River	Atwamsini, Ilmawi Ajumawi (Achomawi) Middle Pit River
1850			
1800			
1750			
1700			
1650			
1600			
1550			
1500			
1450			
1400			
1350			
1300			
1250			
1200			
1150			
1100			
1050			
1000			
950			
900			
850			
800			
750			
700			
650			
600			
550			
500			
450			
400			
350			

Figure 5. Comparative cultural chronology for Siskiyou Utility Ware within its three main use areas.

There are five such sites on the Upper Klamath River, two in the Salt Cave locality, three further down river, two on the Upper North Umpqua River, and one in the Upper Rogue River drainage. There is one site on the Upper Applegate River, 35JA47 (Brauner and MacDonald 1983), west of the Western Cascades but still within the Rogue River drainage, which produced

a few figurine fragments. There is also one site on the Upper Coquille River, 35DO182, also just west of the Western Cascades, with but a single figurine fragment (O'Neill 1989; Mack 1991a).

Ceramic pipes, which are occasionally found in coastal northern California, coastal southwest Oregon,

and the Klamath Basin, are associated with Siskiyou Utility Ware only at the Lorenzen site. Fired clay pipes are reported in the ethnographies of the Wiyot (Loud 1918) and the Klamath (Spier 1930). Archaeological sites on the southern Oregon coast contain fired clay pipes, including sites on the Chetco and Pistol Rivers (Berreman 1935, 1944; Heflin 1966) and at one site at Bandon, Oregon, on the Coquille River (Hall et al. 1990). With the exception of Klamath shamans, who are said to have made fired clay pipes, all other evidence of ceramic pipes comes from an area considerably west of the westernmost location of Siskiyou Utility Ware.

Conclusions

Siskiyou Utility Ware represents a valid horizon marker in southwest Oregon and northern California within the Cascade Ranges. It is consistently found in Late Archaic (Oregon) and Late Prehistoric (California) sites dating roughly between AD 350 and 1850 (Figure 5). It is frequently, though not exclusively, associated with house pit depressions, with realistic ceramic figurine and cylindrical ceramic figurine fragments, and with Gunther or Rogue River Barbed series projectile points. In fact, Gunther Series and Rogue River Barbed

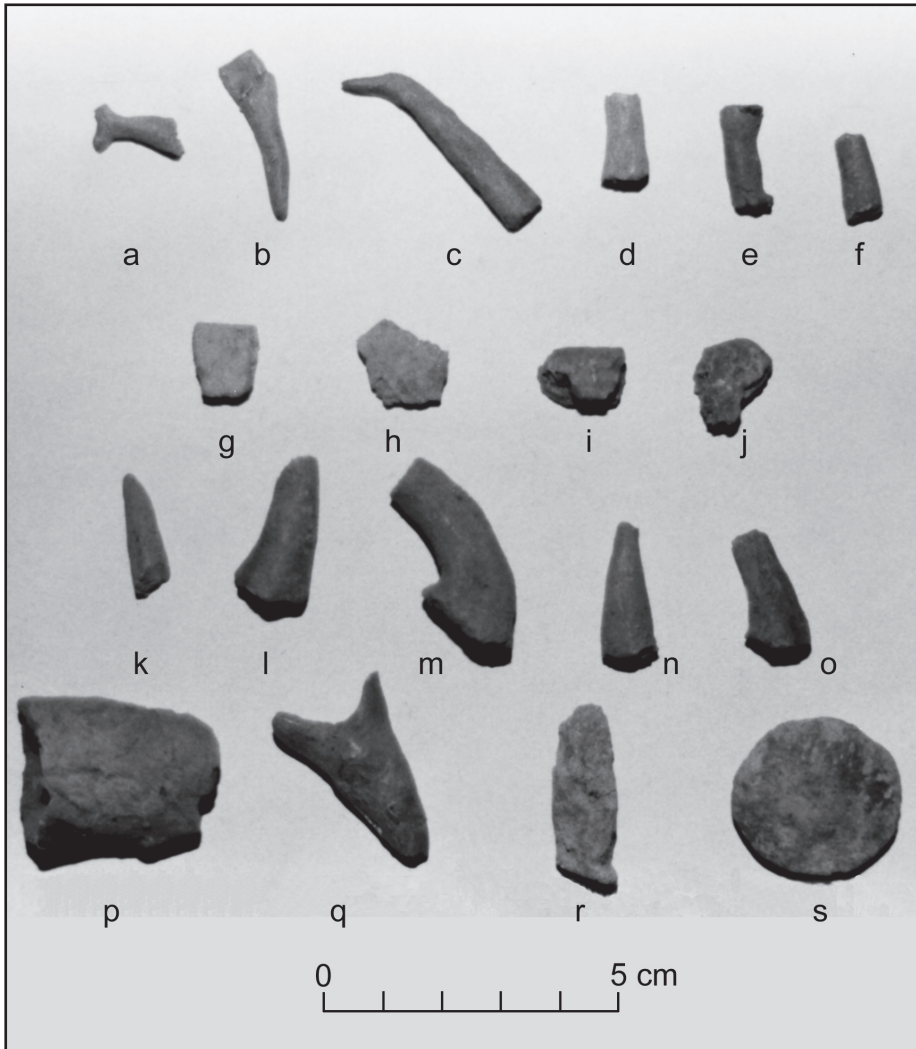


Figure 6. Assorted ceramic figurine fragments from Elk Creek, Oregon.

Table 4. Sites with Figurines But Lacking Siskiyou Utility Ware.

Region	Site Number	Site Name	Number of Figurines and Figurine Fragments
Upper Klamath River	35KL21	Klamath Shoal Midden	4
	35KL25	Aspen Village	3
	CASIS154	Ager site	1
	CASIS332	Ponderosa site	3
	CASIS326	Irongate site	2
Upper Rogue River	35JA189	Trail Creek	15
	–	Obenchain Mountain	1
Upper Umpqua River	–	Jackson Creek	1
	35DO153	Narrows site	2
Outside Western Cascades	35DO182	–	2
	35JA47	–	1

series projectile points, particularly Gunther series, are closely associated with Siskiyou Utility Ware throughout the Cascades. Gunther series comprised 74 percent of the total identifiable projectile points at Border Village from the 1963 excavation (Mack 1983). The Rogue River Barbed and Gunther series together at three Elk Creek sites excavated in 1986 varied from 57.5 to 67.5 percent of the identifiable points (Pettigrew and Lebow 1987). It is also the dominant point type in the Pit River sites, in the private collections from Snider Creek and Big Butte Creek, and in the other Klamath River and Rogue River drainage sites.

Within the Upper Rogue River drainages Siskiyou Utility Ware is considered the defining marker for the Rogue 2 Ceramic period of the Rogue 2 Sub-phase by Pettigrew and Lebow (1987). Within the Upper Klamath River drainage it marks the Canyon Phase (Mack 1991c, 2005). Connolly also uses Siskiyou Utility Ware as a possible marker for his Irongate Complex in southwestern Oregon, and it therefore becomes a part of what he calls the Siskiyou Pattern (Connolly 1986).

The possible relationships between Siskiyou Utility Ware and two other ceramic collections from northern California remain unclear. Pottery sherds from the Dairyville site (CA-TEH-835) may be related, but their provenience is possibly in mixed deposits, and their physical descriptions are not similar to Siskiyou Utility Ware. The other sherd collection comes from the Upper Trinity River at Big Bar (CA-TRI-177). This pottery physically appears much different and at this time remains unanalyzed. It cannot be linked in any direct way to Siskiyou Utility Ware despite its chronological placement in a Late Prehistoric site.

Pottery in Late Archaic (Oregon) and Late Prehistoric (California) period sites in southwestern Oregon and northern California is still not commonly encountered in field archaeological research. However, as more archaeological excavations are done, the number of sites containing both Siskiyou Utility Ware and figurines will continue to increase.

Siskiyou Utility Ware pottery sherds do not stand out from the surrounding soil matrix in the pre-contact sites of the Cascades. Their surface color and low rate

of decoration cause them to blend into the soil, making them difficult to recognize. This notwithstanding, a growing awareness over the last several decades of the temporal and spatial distribution of archaeological pottery has increased its recognition by investigators in both northern California and southwest Oregon.

Clearly, the comparatively recent recognition of Siskiyou Utility Ware as a significant artifact type in Late Archaic and Late Prehistoric period sites in the Cascade Ranges stems from the lack of expectation for prehistoric pottery in this region, coupled with the difficulty in differentiating it from the soil matrix within archaeological sites (Mack 1990a, 2003).

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