

NSF grant awarded to UAF archaeologists.

A National Science Foundation research grant was awarded to UAF archaeologists Dr. Ben Potter (PI) and Dr. Josh Reuther (co-PI) in collaboration with Dr. Francois Lanoe (co-PI, University of Arizona) to analyze archaeological materials in central Alaska. The \$931,466 grant will also support a post-doctoral fellow, graduate and undergraduate student research assistants, and incorporate a robust consultation process with local Native communities.



Photo of the Broken Mammoth Site Courtesy of Dr. Josh Reuther

Exploring subsistence economies, technological organization, and site structure in eastern Beringia: Legacy of the Broken Mammoth Site

Understanding human adaptation associated with the peopling of the Americas is inextricably linked with climate change (the transition from the last Ice Age to the modern environment), animal extinctions (like mammoth), and human responses to these changes in Beringia, connecting Asia and North America. The Broken Mammoth site has figured heavily in debates about First American lifeways, with a vast repository of artifacts and butchered animal bones – far more diverse and numerous than other early Beringian sites. However, only minimal information has been published for the site

despite 20 years of research. We will analyze this large collection to understand human adaptation from initial human settlement to the recent past, particularly exploring changes in foraging ecology and seasonal land use strategies, subsistence economy, and site activities through time. Broader impacts include providing primary data to address human-environmental interactions and broadening our understanding of this major human population expansion into the Americas. The project has a strong educational component, enhancing opportunities for underrepresented groups including a summit with regional Native leadership and tribal members. The primary benefit to society at large is to produce and analyze data that help address profound questions about how humans have interacted with their environment during periods of global climate change.