

Figure 5: PLANT LIST

Cactus Ruin Paper Excavation
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Preparation: Make multiple copies of the plant list pages (several student groups may select the same excavation unit, and each group will need its own copy.) Cut the lists apart on the dotted lines, and laminate them if you desire. Organize the lists from one excavation unit together (for example, by clipping them together), and put the lists in order by excavation unit number. Lists can then be put in a box, notebook, or folder for use in the lesson.

Background: Most plant remains recovered from

archaeological sites are burned and most frequently are found in two contexts: in fire hearths, where plants were being prepared as food or used as fuel, and in midden areas, where the ash and charcoal from fire hearths was discarded. Burned plants last indefinitely, whereas unburned plants, such as those used for medicine, dye, and baskets, will have decomposed. Archaeologists interpret reproductive plant parts, for example seeds, as food and stems, branches, and woody parts as fuel. Also note that domestic and wild plants were used both as food and fuel.

P EXCAVATION UNIT 14 (fire hearth, roomblock) – Charred Plant Remains

Food Resources

1 goosefoot/pigweed seed (*wild*)

Fuel Resources

1 piece sage wood (*wild*)

1 piece serviceberry wood (*wild*)

2 pieces corn cob or stalk (*domestic*)

P EXCAVATION UNIT 19 (fire hearth, plaza) – Charred Plant Remains

Food Resources

1 prickly pear cactus seed (*wild*)

1 tomatillo seed (*wild*)

Fuel Resources

1 piece bitterbrush wood (*wild*)

2 pieces juniper wood (*wild*)

1 piece pinyon wood (*wild*)

1 piece sage wood (*wild*)

1 piece serviceberry wood (*wild*)

P EXCAVATION UNIT 25 (fire hearth, plaza) – Charred Plant Remains

Food Resources

2 goosefoot/pigweed seeds (*wild*)

1 corn kernel (*domestic*)

Fuel Resources

1 piece juniper wood (*wild*)

2 pieces pinyon wood (*wild*)

2 pieces sage wood (*wild*)

1 piece corn cob or stalk (*domestic*)

P EXCAVATION UNIT 29 (fire hearth, kiva) – Charred Plant Remains

Food Resources

2 goosefoot/pigweed seeds (*wild*)

1 prickly pear cactus seed (*wild*)

3 tomatillo seeds (*wild*)

3 corn kernels (*domestic*)

Fuel Resources

3 pieces bitterbrush wood (*wild*)

6 pieces juniper wood (*wild*)

8 pieces pinyon wood (*wild*)

4 pieces sage wood (*wild*)

3 pieces serviceberry wood (*wild*)

2 pieces corn cob or stalk (*domestic*)

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P EXCAVATION UNIT 41 (midden) – Charred Plant Remains

Fuel Resources

- 1 piece juniper wood (*wild*)
- 2 pieces pinyon wood (*wild*)

P EXCAVATION UNIT 42 (midden) – Charred Plant Remains

Food Resources

- 1 goosefoot/pigweed seed (*wild*)
- 1 tomatillo seed (*wild*)

Fuel Resources

- 2 pieces juniper wood (*wild*)
- 1 piece pinyon wood (*wild*)
- 1 piece serviceberry wood (*wild*)

P EXCAVATION UNIT 44 (fire hearth, tower) – Charred Plant Remains

Food Resources

- 1 goosefoot/pigweed seed (*wild*)
- 1 prickly pear cactus seed (*wild*)
- 1 Tomatillo seed (*wild*)
- 1 corn kernel (*domestic*)

Fuel Resources

- 1 piece bitterbrush wood (*wild*)
- 3 pieces juniper wood (*wild*)
- 2 pieces pinyon wood (*wild*)
- 1 piece sage wood (*wild*)
- 1 piece serviceberry wood (*wild*)
- 2 pieces corn cob or stalk (*domestic*)

P EXCAVATION UNIT 46 (midden) – Charred Plant Remains

Food Resources

- 1 corn kernel (*domestic*)

Fuel Resources

- 1 piece bitterbrush wood (*wild*)
- 2 pieces juniper wood (*wild*)
- 1 piece pinyon wood (*wild*)
- 1 piece serviceberry wood (*wild*)

P EXCAVATION UNIT 47 (midden) – Charred Plant Remains

Food Resources

- 1 goosefoot/pigweed seed (*wild*)
- 1 tomatillo seed (*wild*)

Fuel Resources

- 2 pieces juniper wood (*wild*)
- 1 piece pinyon wood (*wild*)
- 1 piece sage wood (*wild*)
- 2 pieces corn cob or stalk (*domestic*)

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P EXCAVATION UNIT 48 (midden) – Charred Plant Remains

Food Resources

- 1 prickly pear cactus seed (*wild*)
- 1 corn kernel (*domestic*)
- 1 common bean (*domestic*)

Fuel Resources

- 1 piece bitterbrush wood (*wild*)
 - 2 pieces pinyon wood (*wild*)
-

P EXCAVATION UNIT 49 (midden) – Charred Plant Remains

Food Resources

- 1 prickly pear cactus seed (*wild*)
- 1 tomatillo seed (*wild*)

Fuel Resources

- 1 piece bitterbrush wood (*wild*)
 - 2 pieces juniper wood (*wild*)
 - 1 piece pinyon wood (*wild*)
 - 1 piece corn cob or stalk (*domestic*)
-

P EXCAVATION UNIT 50 (midden) – Charred Plant Remains

Food Resources

- 1 corn kernel (*domestic*)

Fuel Resources

- 1 piece bitterbrush wood (*wild*)
 - 1 piece juniper wood (*wild*)
 - 1 piece sage wood (*wild*)
 - 1 piece serviceberry wood (*wild*)
-

P EXCAVATION UNIT 51 (midden) – Charred Plant Remains

Food Resources

- 1 tomatillo seed (*wild*)

Fuel Resources

- 1 piece juniper wood (*wild*)
 - 1 piece pinyon wood (*wild*)
 - 1 piece sage wood (*wild*)
 - 1 piece serviceberry wood (*wild*)
 - 1 piece corn cob or stalk (*domestic*)
-

P EXCAVATION UNIT 52 (midden) – Charred Plant Remains

Food Resources

- 2 goosefoot/pigweed seeds (*wild*)
- 1 prickly pear cactus seed (*wild*)
- 1 tomatillo seed (*wild*)

Fuel Resources

- 1 piece bitterbrush wood (*wild*)
- 3 pieces juniper wood (*wild*)
- 2 pieces pinyon wood (*wild*)
- 1 piece corn cob or stalk (*domestic*)

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P EXCAVATION UNIT 53 (midden) – Charred Plant Remains

Food Resources

- 1 goosefoot/pigweed seed (*wild*)
- 2 tomatillo seeds (*wild*)
- 1 corn kernel (*domestic*)

Fuel Resources

- 2 pieces juniper wood (*wild*)
- 2 pieces pinyon wood (*wild*)
- 1 piece corn cob or stalk (*domestic*)

P EXCAVATION UNIT 54 (midden) – Charred Plant Remains

Food Resources

- 1 goosefoot/pigweed seed (*wild*)
- 2 corn kernels (*domestic*)

Fuel Resources

- 1 piece bitterbrush wood (*wild*)
 - 1 piece juniper wood (*wild*)
 - 2 pieces pinyon wood (*wild*)
 - 1 piece sage wood (*wild*)
 - 1 piece serviceberry wood (*wild*)
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