

## PRIVATE COLLECTIONS

### Colorado Projectile Point Database

Neil Hauser Coal Creek Research, Inc.

---

Contact **Neil Hauser** to discuss including your collection in the Colorado Projectile Point Database:

<https://p3.coalcreekresearch.org/>

---

#### PURPOSE

Collections from private collectors contain information that could be useful for some types of research, particularly where large numbers of projectile points can provide trends. In similar efforts in other geographic areas, new projectile point types have been discovered that had not been seen in excavated sites.

#### BACKGROUND

A majority of projectile points, over 90%, and many other artifacts have been and continue to be collected by private collectors. Many people have had this hobby for well over a century in Colorado, particularly in rural areas. Collecting on public land (state and federal) is against the law, but collecting is allowed on private land. In Eastern Colorado most of the land is private, while in Western Colorado a large amount of the land is public.

THIS PROJECT IS NOT ABOUT LAW ENFORCEMENT. It is about OBTAINING INFORMATION. The success of the project is dependent on trust established with the collector.

The approach that I have taken is to tell people: "Digging (pot hunting) destroys irretrievable information, even if it is on their own land (which is legal), and I am not interested in collections that were obtained that way."

Beyond that, the recording of information for the database is designed not to expose a collector's name or the exact location where a projectile point was found. The collector's name remains anonymous and the projectile point is located only within a 49 square mile area — the area covered by a single 7.5' USGS topographic map. If the point was found in a broader area, 2, 3, or 4 topographic map areas can be assigned to the location.

#### PROCEDURE

Images of points are recorded by photography or flatbed scanner. Observations and measurements are recorded for the projectile points, as well as the general location where a projectile point was found. For recording, physical access to the projectile points and collector is necessary.

#### TEAMS

We have found that two-person teams seem to be most efficient. One person can make labels and record information while the other person makes observations and takes measurements.

We have also found that no more than two teams (four people) should be used when recording in a collector's home or other location. The goal is to minimize the impact to the collector but still get things recorded in a reasonable time. An experienced team can process about 40-50 projectile points in a 3-4 hour session.



*Typical Flatbed Scanner image for the projectile points.*