Background: The alpine site 48PA2874 is characterized by slope and basin landscape. The site is located at an altitude of 3100 meters and is subject to frequent snowmelt and extreme climatic conditions. The site is located near the closest climatological data from the nearest station, at an altitude of 2200 meters. The climate is characterized by cool summers and severe winters, with mean annual temperatures ranging from -1 to 3°C, and annual precipitation ranging from 700 to 800 mm. The site is located in a region with a high potential for archaeological recovery due to the presence of cultural materials from the prehistoric period.

Climatological data from the nearest station, at an altitude of 2200 meters, is examined for patterns indicative of cultural and geomorphic processes. Climatological data from the nearest station, at an altitude of 2200 meters, is examined for patterns indicative of cultural and geomorphic processes. In this alpine setting, it is possible that the artifacts on the surface have been affected by natural processes such as: cultural forces, fluvial forces, solifluction, and frost creep. The objective of this study is to determine the context of the artifact clusters and their relationship to cultural processes affecting site formation.

Figure 1: The slope and basin landscapes.

Methods: The focus of this research is on an area encompassing an ephemeral pond on site 48PA2874. The pond center coordinates were used to construct a sample area one hectare in size for this study. The pond center coordinates were used to construct a sample area one hectare in size for this study. The site has been divided into 10x10 meter units and the defined hectare is located around the pond center (545, 325). The surrounding landscape slopes inward toward the pond. In this alpine setting, it is possible that the artifacts on the surface have been affected by natural processes such as: cultural forces, fluvial forces, solifluction, and frost creep. The objective of this study is to determine the context of the artifact clusters and their relationship to cultural processes affecting site formation.

To gain a better understanding of the interplay between hunter-gatherer ecology and landscape dynamics in the Rocky Mountains, this research analyzes cultural materials from a lithic scatter on a site in the Absaroka Basin, Wyoming, USA, using 2541 pieces of lithic artefacts from the site.

Results: The site has a history of human occupation dating back to the late Paleoindian period. The site has been subdivided and the defined hectare is located around the pond center (545, 325). The surrounding landscape slopes inward toward the pond. In this alpine setting, it is possible that the artifacts on the surface have been affected by natural processes such as: cultural forces, fluvial forces, solifluction, and frost creep. The objective of this study is to determine the context of the artifact clusters and their relationship to cultural processes affecting site formation.

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Potential Problems: Using the mean as the primary statistical method for this study is problematic as it is affected by outliers and sample sizes. (If n=1, it could mislead the researcher into assuming that the mean is representative of a larger population). Vegetation coverage greatly affects the success of hillwash erosion, documentation should focus on detailed examination of their impacts to the site's soil profile, their burrowing locations within and around the site, and the artifacts that they resurface will yield better understanding of their fingerprint on the record. It is only with a careful documentation program that we can begin to understand how hunter-gatherers lived in this landscape.