Archaeological Predictive Model: Orchard Combat Training Center

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Abstract
The objective of this research is to help protect cultural heritage resources on Idaho National Guard lands that are protected by law and are significant to Idaho Native Americans and historically associated communities. By utilizing a predictive model previously developed by Michael Bishop, a Boise State University alumnus, with variables specific to the Idaho National Guard's Orchard Combat Training Center (OCTC), a map was successfully produced that identifies areas of high probability for encountering archaeological sites. Working from the variables in Bishop's predictive model, we used ArcGIS mapping software to select only those areas within the area of interest with a specific distance to hydrological features, elevation, and angle to hydrology. This map will be field-tested by conducting pedestrian survey and based on the results, the model will be refined to increase accuracy in future applications. We hope our research facilitates the management of cultural heritage resources within the OCTC and provides further research opportunities.
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WORKING FROM WHAT WE KNOW TO WHAT WE DON’T KNOW

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OVERVIEW

- Predictive models help assess large areas remotely to prioritize, strategize, and allocate resources efficiently.
- Section 106 and 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 provide the legal basis for federal protection of archaeological sites.
- We aim to utilize a predictive model to assist in land management and develop protective measures for cultural resources in the Orchard Combat Training Center (OCTC).

BACKGROUND

Michael Bishop
- BSU Alumnus Michael Bishop developed the predictive model based specifically on the geospatial elements within the region.
- In 2015, Bishop applied the model to an area of 5,500 acres followed by pedestrian survey to test results.

The Study Area: OCTC
- The OCTC is a military training center located within the Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area in Southern Idaho.
- Part of the Snake River Plain and the Great Basin.
- Traditional territory of Shoshone, Bannock, and Paiute peoples.
- Idaho National Guard (IDNG) training grounds.

OBJECTIVES

- Main goal: Apply Bishop’s model to a 24,627-acre area neighboring the 2015 test area to produce a map identifying areas of high probability for encountering archaeological sites within a 30-meter buffer.
- Facilitate land management to help protect cultural resources in the OCTC, which are protected by law and important to descendant communities.

METHODS

- Using GIS software, LiDAR elevation data, and cultural point data from known sites, we created a Hydrology layer and Elevation layer in ArcMap to isolate the spots based on the statistically derived parameters from Bishop’s model shown in Table 1.
- For the Hydrology layer, we used “Stream Order” which ranks hydrologic features.
- In order to eliminate low ranked features such as roads, we kept streams ranked between 8-11, which represent the highest ranked 36% of streams in this area (see Figure 3).
- In the 2015 projection, streams ranked between 5-8 were kept which represent the highest ranked 50% of streams. However, the goal is to test accuracy within each buffer, not to produce more predicted areas.

RESULTS

- A map depicting predicted archeological sites was successfully produced (Figure 4).
- The model’s projection resulted in four major clusters of predicted archeological sites. Each site with a 30-meter buffer.

WHY DO THE 2015 & 2020 PREDICTED AREAS NOT CONNECT?

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CHALLENGES

- Early attempts to process large amounts of data from the 24,627-acre area caused the GIS computer program to crash.
- Due to the computer’s processing capabilities, we were forced to apply a 10-meter grid to run our projection as opposed to the 1-meter grid used by Bishop.

FUTURE STEPS

- Conduct pedestrian field survey to test accuracy while providing field opportunities to fellow students.
- Recommend adjustments to the model such as additional variables to obtain a better prediction in future applications.
- Continue working with IDNG to help identify and protect cultural resources in other areas of the OCTC.

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