Eagle Cave South Trench 2015: Initial Observations from Profile Section 15
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The 2015 field season of the ASWT Project in Eagle Cave revealed interesting stratigraphy and preservation in the south trench profile. This poster presents the preliminary findings from PS15, a fiber-rich profile section located on the east side of the trench close to the dripline. The profile has unique preservation of mixed fiber and other organic remains, a stark contrast to the remains of later depositional events further towards the back wall of Eagle Cave. Within the PS15 fiber zone are dense concentrations of fire cracked rock layered almost entirely throughout. Interestingly, PS15 revealed numerous coprolites, several nearly complete lechugilla central stems, and other perishable artifacts—such as faunal remains and fiber artifacts, but very little chipped or ground stone tools. PS15 may represent a different suite of activities than what is preserved at other sections of the trench. Various samples—CA, geomorph, soil—were collected as the profile was described and photographed for 3D modeling.

Excavation Methods
Half of PS15 was sampled by units 66 and 63. All matrix was collected; any artifacts were shot in and collected. Both units were excavated followed the strats defined on the profile face. For record keeping and maintain proper provenience between the two units, Unit 66 strats were excavated as “layers” rather than “strats.” The profile face was sampled by collecting targeted spot, geomatrix, and 14C samples, before the sampling column units were excavated.

Sampling Procedures

PS15 Strat Definitions
- **06262**: Compact, broken down fiber with cut unraveled FCR.
- **06263**: Tapering, thin gray ashy layer.
- **06264**: Muddy compact matrix with larger pieces of fiber, charcoal, and some FCR present.
- **06265**: Thin strat of ash and charcoal present in only the eastern 1/3 of profile.
- **06266**: Western FCR zone; large pieces of botanic remains (seeds, lechugilla, sotol), charcoal, and coprolites.
- **06267**: Central FCR zone; pieces of botanic remains (seeds, lechugilla, sotol), charcoal, and coprolites. This section is more compact than 06266.
- **06268**: Eastern FCR zone; more gritty, fine fiber matrix and mixed FCR with pieces of botanic remains than 06266 or 06267.
- **06269**: Fine, sandstone stratum of semi-compact gritty, broken down fiber matrix; small amounts of FCR mixed with pieces of fiber and charcoal.
- **06270**: Charcoal-forming seeds and wood— and pieces of flat fiber, possibly sotol or lechugilla cut leaf bases.
- **06271**: Compact organic, broken down fiber layer present only in the SE corner.

Collected Artifacts

Preliminary Data

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<th>Rocksort (kg)</th>
<th>Fiber &amp; Wood (g)</th>
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Field annulation (field versus digital annulation) (bottom) of PS15. The field annulation fits all the sample locations (geographic, CA, spot, and coprolites) placed.

Assigning Strat Numbers
Strat (stratigraphic layer) numbers were assigned following the natural stratigraphy seen in the profile face. If a strat is identified in one profile section is clearly present in adjacent profile section, it was assigned the same strat number. The thick FCR zone that slopes down towards the dripline was subdivided into three strats, in order to sample visible content variation. During analysis, strats can be combined as necessary.

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Victoria working with little rocksort.

Ornithopod of a sandy brownish reconstruction (top left). influx of sample locations (geographic, CA, spot, and coprolites) placed.

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Total mass of FCR removed from each of the strats sampled in PS15 (plane).

The amount of fiber and wood recovered from 1/4" sieve.

Preliminary Data

PS15 represents a different set of activities than what we see in other sections of the South Trench, and is characterized by higher densities of plant materials, charcoal, and FCR, as well as coprolites. The location of the profile so near the dripline at the front of the shelter in combination with so much organic material and semi-decent preservation, adds an interesting twist to the story of Eagle Cave.