The timing of the introduction and spread of the bow and arrow and its replacing the atlatl are important research questions in North American prehistory. In the Northwest the accepted date is within the last 2000 years with the atlatl and bow being used together for several centuries. However Webber (1984) suggests a date in southeastern Idaho as early as 3500 B.P.

### Problem:

The timing of the introduction and spread of the bow and arrow and its replacing the atlatl are important research questions in North American prehistory. In the Northwest the accepted date is within the last 2000 years with the atlatl and bow being used together for several centuries. However Webber (1984) suggests a date in southeastern Idaho as early as 3500 B.P.

### Methods:

Investigating this requires distinguishing between archaeological dart and arrow points. To do this, we used discriminant functions developed first by Thomas (1979) and refined by Shott (1997). Shott found maximum width most effective. Hughes (1993) developed new methods including weight, tip sectional area and perimeter.

### Materials:

We applied these methods to raw, mean and high values from a sample (n = 276) of Early to Mid-Holocene projectile points from Hantel (10NPI-43) in central Idaho and to reported projectile point assemblages (n = 713) from the Lower Snake River Region spanning the Holocene.

### Results:

For ease of presentation results are color coded.

### Conclusions:

- Windust points are likely em fletched darts.
- Hantel Cascade points are small dart/large arrow in size—probably small dart points.
- Hantel eared points are consistently arrow points in size.

### Regional Chronology:

- Bow and arrow was present on Plateau by the Middle Holocene. - or -
- Plateau dart and arrow points consistently smaller than those in surrounding areas. - or -
- The methods don't work.