Session A6a
Human Occupations in Mountain Environments

A “Total Archaeology Project” on the uplands of San Vito di Cadore (Dolomites, Belluno province, Italy)

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The Project

- Started in 2011 and still on-going
- Funded by San Vito di Cadore Municipality

AIMS:
- Recording and interpreting the evidence of human occupation of an upland area of the Dolomites from Prehistoric to Modern times
- building up a learning centre of the upland landscape (Cednea – Centro espositivo e di documentazione naturalistica, etnografica ed archeologica)

www.cednea.it/
The study area

- Uplands, mostly above the timberline
- Between 1800 and 2700 m of elevation
- Focus on Giau pass, Mondeval de Sora and Malga Prendera areas
Preliminary data collection

Remote sensing

Bibliographical research
Survey strategy

- Positioning with handheld GPS
- Information recording
- Graphical documentation
Chronological span

- Prehistory: e.g. a lithic scatter
- (Post-)Medieval age: e.g. a dry stone hut
- Contemporary age: e.g. a still-used hut
Multiscalar approach

- Micro-scale: e.g. a lithic scatter
- Meso-scale: e.g. an engraving
- Macro-scale: e.g. an hut
Data management

A screenshot of the Archaeological Information System
Archive survey

Cadastre of Mondeval, 1816

Mines of Col Piombin, 18th century
Results: the last hunter-gatherers

- Sauveterrian: 24 sites
- Castelnovian: 12 sites
- Sauveterrian + Castelnovian: 8 sites
- Unspecified: 57 sites
- Undetermined: 2 sites

Total: 103 sites
Results: the first farmers and herders

Lastoni di Formin

Monte Cernera
Results: pastoral sites

Piani di Possolive
16th – 17th century?
Mining exploitation

Col Piombin
17th – 18th century
Rock engravings

Cup marks

Cross-shaped marks

Writings

Circular engravings
World War I structures

Melei – Monte Pore

Col Duro
Results: Modern exploitation
Concluding remarks

- Long-time occupation of high altitudes characterized by many persistent places
- Similar settlement strategies and mobility, influenced by environmental/morphologic features
- A particularly rich and interesting Mesolithic evidence
- High number of engraved circles, whose abundance is unique in the alpine

Future perspectives

- Excavation of the most interesting evidence
- Support for tourism and territorial planning
- Development of touristic itinerary