Purpose:
The purpose of the Arizona Paleoindian & Paleoarchaic Projectile Point Survey is to document the occurrence and distribution of distinctive projectile point (spear/dart point) types in order to better understand the prehistoric human colonization of Arizona.

Scope:
The Arizona Paleoindian & Paleoarchaic Projectile Point Survey is a long-term project to locate public and private artifact collections containing projectile point types that are radiocarbon dated between roughly 11,500 and 8,000 years ago. These include fluted Paleoindian point types such as Clovis and Folsom, unfluted point types such as Plainview-Goshen, Agate Basin, Hell Gap, Scottsbluff, Eden, and Frederick-Allen, and Paleoarchaic point types such as Lake Mojave, Silver Lake, and San Dieguito. Examples of these projectile point types are provided on Page 2 of this information sheet.

Methods and Background:
The Arizona Paleoindian & Paleoarchaic Projectile Point Survey is unique in the history of projectile point surveys in Arizona because it is based on public outreach and voluntary disclosure rather than word-of-mouth or literature reviews. This systematic, “bottom-up” approach is facilitated by the widespread distribution and on-line presence of a Paleoindian & Paleoarchaic Projectile Point Data Form at http://pidba.utk.edu/arizona.htm.

Persons who are interested in the use of state-wide and continental Paleoindian projectile point databases to reconstruct human colonization are referred to the Paleoindian Database of the Americas (PIDBA) at http://pidba.utk.edu/main.htm.

Scientific Ethics:
The survey organizers flatly discourage the unauthorized collection of cultural resources from public, tribal, or private lands. The applicable state and federal laws regarding archaeological discoveries and historic preservation can be found at the links provided below. The information gathered by this survey is intended for academic research purposes only, however, and will not be shared with agents of the local, state, or federal government without the express consent of the survey participant. Anonymous reports (recorder contact information withheld) will not be included in the survey in order to minimize the potential for fictitious claims.

Arizona State Museum:
http://www.statemuseum.arizona.edu/crservices/legal_links.shtml

Arizona State Historic Preservation Office:
http://azstateparks.com/SHPO/etiquette.html

Bureau of Land Management: