The people of the Perry Mesa Tradition were small-scale agriculturalists who lived in masonry structures in a semi-arid region. They used dry farming techniques including terraces to grow maize, beans, and squash, and rockpiles to grow agave. Major occupation of the area appears to have only lasted about 120 years (ca. A.D. 1280-1400). There are several theories but it is still unknown how and why these people came to Perry Mesa or why they appear to have abandoned their homes and where they may have gone.

Surface data about architectural and artifact variables were collected from small architectural structures surrounding the La Plata Pueblo. These data are analyzed to determine small site function and infer how land-use was organized. Additionally, the spatial relationship between the small architectural structures and key resources of this particular survey area are examined in order to better understand the spatial organization of the land-use. Through an enhanced knowledge of past land-use this research will help the larger Legacies on the Landscape project comprehend the human impacts of prehistoric land-use on Perry Mesa.