

**WHY FORAGERS CHOOSE ACORNS BEFORE SALMON:  
MODELING BACK-LOADED VS. FRONT-LOADED RESOURCES**

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*Despite the abundance and apparent potential of salmon, it is not until very late in the record when northwestern California foragers mass-extract and store the resource in quantity. Acorns, however, were an important staple by Mendocino pattern times. Salmon are traditionally viewed as a low-cost (high-ranking) resource, while acorns are viewed as a high-cost (low-ranking) food. Yet if this were true, why are salmon not taken and stored en masse earlier? A solution employing Bettinger's front- and back-loaded resources model is offered.*

To view this poster presentation, go to the Center for Archaeological Research at Davis webpage at. [http://anthropology.ucdavis.edu/publications/card/research-1/Salmon vs. acorns poster.pdf](http://anthropology.ucdavis.edu/publications/card/research-1/Salmon%20vs.%20acorns%20poster.pdf)