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n erhaps the largest-scale archaeological study ever undertaken in the Great Basin, the Ruby Pipeline Project included the investigation of 566 prehistoric sites across northern Nevada. A 13,000 year record of human occupation was documented spanning the first pluvial lake settlements at the close of the last Ice Age to the rise of the Western Shoshone and Northern Paiute. This archaeological record is replete with vast obsidian quarries, upland root-gathering sites, major residential bases, specialized hunting camps, and large-scale antelope traps. We are introduced to a prehistoric world of continual change, one marked by transformed environments, shifts in settlement and subsistence structure, and even wholesale population movements. The result is a work that allows us to chronicle the initial colonization of northern Nevada, monitor the subsequent process of population growth and dispersal, document the evolution of exchange systems, and propose a compelling new version of Numic prehistory.

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