

**Supplemental Table 1: List of Parfleche characters** (full description of all characters available in Morrow, 1975: 164-165)

Character label	Character name	Coding
A	Holes for closing upper flaps	0 = no holes; 1 = 1 pair; 2 = 3 pairs; 3 = SPS (single-pair-single)
B	Size of parfleche*	1 = small; 2 = small-to-medium; 3 = medium; 4 = medium-to-large
C	Shape of upper-flap decoration	1 = square; 2 = rectangle; 3 = trapezoid
D	Design outline	0 = absent; 1 = present
E	Small Brown-Black units	0 = absent; 1 = present
F	Design type A	0 = absent; 1 = present
G	Design type B	0 = absent; 1 = present
H	Design type C	0 = absent; 1 = present
I	Design type D	0 = absent; 1 = present
J	Design type E	0 = absent; 1 = present
K	Design type F	0 = absent; 1 = present
L	Design type G	0 = absent; 1 = present
M	Design type H	0 = absent; 1 = present
N	Design type I	0 = absent; 1 = present
O	Curved lines	0 = absent; 1 = present
P	Border type 1	0 = absent; 1 = present
Q	Border type 2	0 = absent; 1 = present
R	Border type 3	0 = absent; 1 = present
S	Border type 4	0 = absent; 1 = present
T	Border type 5	0 = absent; 1 = present
U	Border type 6	0 = absent; 1 = present
V	Bands joining design areas	0 = no; 1 = yes
W	Side-flap decoration	0 = absent; 1 = present

\*The character of “size” for the Sarcee parfleches was not recorded by Morrow (1975) in a form that allowed ready comparison with other the other groups considered here (she recorded it as “short, wide”). Hence, this character was most appropriately recorded as missing (?) for the Sarcee. Conservatively, this character was dealt with by pairwise deletion in computing the intertribe distances; that is, wherever the data point was coded as questionable for one the variables in a pair of tribes being considered, that variable was excluded from the calculation of the total distance between those groups.