



Petroglyph National Monument

INTRO TO ARCHEOLOGY PRESENTATION BY GEOFF KROLL

Object Lesson

- ▶ Draw an image or set of images that describe your life and beliefs.



Why Petroglyphs?

- ▶ Significance to culture and beliefs.
- ▶ A historical key to many other discoveries
- ▶ A way of connecting the present with the past



Photo by Geoff Kroll

Where???



Photo By Geoff Kroll

- ▶ Located west in Albuquerque New Mexico.
- ▶ 17 miles long
- ▶ Prominent volcanoes mark the area
- ▶ Black stones and Valleys

A Brief History

- ▶ The Site was known to have historical significance
- ▶ 1960 Petroglyphs discovered in Piedras Marcadas Canyon
- ▶ Over 15000 Petroglyphs discovered
- ▶ Open to public

History provided by the National Parks Service Website



Photo By Geoff Kroll

Map of Area over Time.

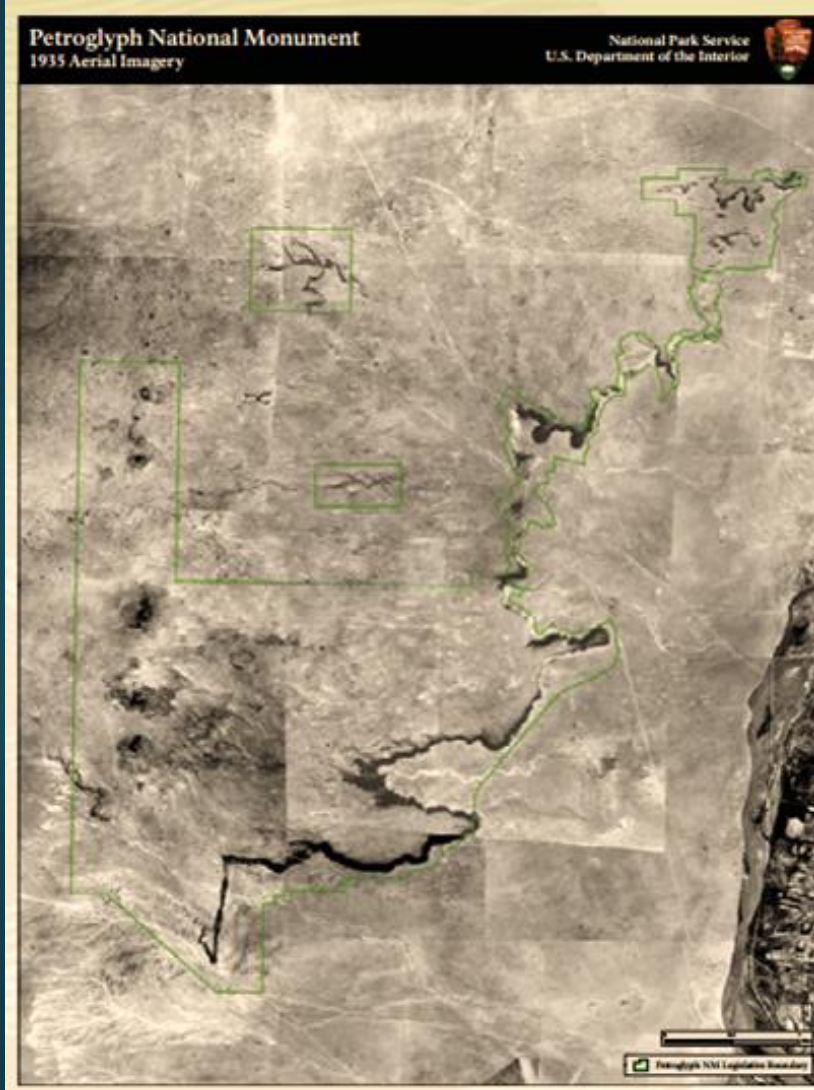


Photo Courtesy of the National Parks Service

Modern Day Excavations

- ▶ The Site has been excavated annually by Central New Mexico Community College students since 2014.
- ▶ Purpose is to locate artifacts revealed during flooding and new trial building.
- ▶ The Goal of the department is to maintain the historical value of the Monument.
- ▶ Artifacts found have been grind stones, Fire cracked rocks, pottery and evidence of short term housing.
- ▶ Major artifact found at the site was a 10000 year old spear head called a midland point.

Information courtesy of cnm.edu "Central New Mexico Community College"



Photo By cnm.edu

Photos by Geoff Kroll

Ongoing Discovery

By Ronald C.D. Fields
Archaeological Technician

Frequently we think of our local National Parks or National Monuments as static, changeless and little to nothing new happening. Yet nothing could be further from the truth. At Petroglyph National Monument we are always making new discoveries and adding more to the rich and diverse cultural history of the area.

A case in point is when one of the Monument's buildings was affected by rainwater. It was decided that some alterations to the landscape may deflect the rain water away from the building. Given the location of the building and its modern use as a residence, it was thought that the likelihood of discovering any historic or prehistoric cultural material would be nonexistent.

However, such was not the case. During the review or survey of the area we discovered a basalt projectile point. This point is classified as a Jay or Rio Grande and dates from around 11,000 B.P. to 8,000 B.P. (years before the present). This projectile point dates back 8,000 years! It is not an arrowhead. This point was used on a spear-shaft and was thrown using a device called a spear-thrower or atlatl.

Shortly thereafter, we discovered other

chipped stone artifacts suggesting that this point wasn't lost during a hunt but rather was left behind in a camp or a site where the prehistoric

First Americans were manufacturing stone implements. What is known about sites of this period is that they, "...are thought to be seasonal occupations. Most are on cliff tops at canyon head locations with others established at mainly basalt raw outcrops. The overall technology expressed in assemblages linked to the Jay phase requires future study..." as stated by Noel Justice in his 2002 *Stone Age Spear and Arrow Points of the Southwestern United States*.

Fortunately for us, we have this projectile point to tell us how old the site is, without it we would be clueless. This shows how important it is to leave artifacts in place or *in-situ* in their original *context* so that they may provide all of us a complete narrative of our ancestors and the use of the landscape at that moment in time. The Monument staff has subsequently registered this site with the State's Archaeological Records Management Section and will avoid disturbing the site in the future. Who knows what other stories this site may provide to us in the future regarding our past?



Jay Projectile Point
Ca. 11-8,000 B.P.

Article Courtesy of
National Parks
Service.



Boca Negra Canyon

- Developed trail system
- Restrooms and drinking fountain
- 3 short trails, partly paved
- Trails are not wheelchair or stroller accessible
- Pets are not allowed on the trails
- Parking fee per vehicle:
\$1 weekdays/\$2 weekends
- Interpretive trail guide available at the monument's visitor center for \$0.75.

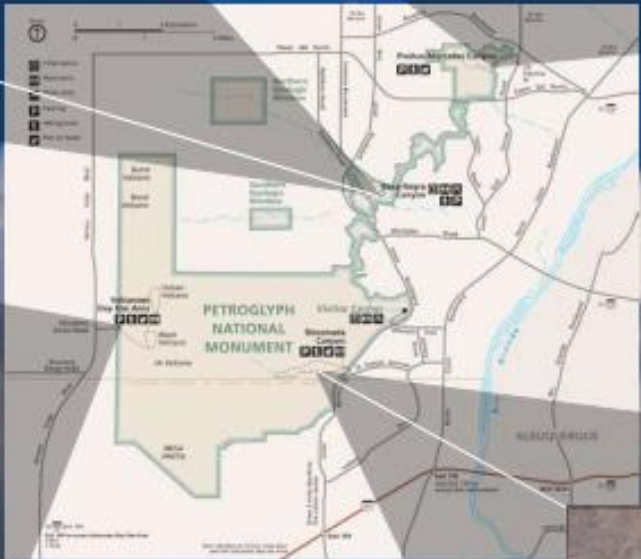


Piedras Marcadas Canyon

- Undeveloped trail system
- 1.5 miles round-trip on a sandy, dirt path
- Takes approx. 1.5 hours to complete the out and back trail
- Water is not available, carry plenty of water
- No restroom facilities
- See approx. 400 petroglyphs
- Pets allowed but must be on leash at all times
- Free trail guide available at the visitor center

Volcanoes Day Use Area

- Unpaved trail system with several scenic miles of hiking
- Water is not available, carry plenty of water
- Pit restroom facilities available at the trail head
- Pets allowed but must be on leash at all times
- Free trail guide available at the visitor center
- There are no petroglyphs at the volcanoes
- Hikes range from one to three miles round trip



Rinconada Canyon

- Undeveloped trail system
- 2.2 miles round-trip on a sandy, dirt path
- Takes 1 1/2 to 2 hours to complete the loop
- See approx. 500 to 700 petroglyphs
- No water is available, carry plenty of water
- Pit restroom facilities at the trail head
- Lock vehicles; set alarms, do not leave valuables in your vehicle.
- Pets allowed but must be on leash at all times
- Parking lot gate locks at 5 pm.
- Free trail guide available at the visitor center



Photo Courtesy of the National Parks Service

How I would excavate, interpret and date the site

- ▶ The main purpose of the Park's staff is to preserve the historical significance of the site.
- ▶ I would Perform regular monthly excavations in the developing areas of the park during good weather seasons.
- ▶ With the constant weather erosion there is a continuous change in the park soil layout.
- ▶ With a constant monthly excavation of the park I believe there would be a higher chance of finding new artifacts that were shifted around because of the weather erosion.
- ▶ After a record of the artifacts has been compiled I would perform a yearly more extensive excavation in a site of the park that has the highest density of artifacts.
- ▶ The dating of the site relies heavily on the placement of artifacts and petroglyphs. With the weather constantly shifting the soil its not as accurate in dating it through soil analysis.

Works Cited

- ▶ United States. National Park Service. "NPS.gov Homepage (U.S. National Park Service)." *National Parks Service*. U.S. Department of the Interior, n.d. Web. 06 Oct. 2016.
- ▶ "Petroglyph National Monument." *New Mexico True*. N.p., n.d. Web. 06 Oct. 2016.
- ▶ "Central New Mexico Community College." *Central New Mexico Community College*. N.p., n.d. Web. 06 Oct. 2016.
- ▶ DesertUSA.com. "Petroglyph National Monument." Petroglyph National Monument - DesertUSA. N.p., n.d. Web. 17 Nov. 2016.