

RUNNING BEAR STATE PARK: A PROPOSAL

There are very few places in the world of rock art where it may be viewed by the handicapped. Two places that can be viewed easily that come to mind are east of Fallon and Valley of Fire—both in Nevada. These are viewable if you have binoculars or a telescope. I have yet to meet a person who is powerful enough to get a wheelchair over sloping blow-sand or up a steel stair.

Stansbury Island, Tooele County, Utah is unique. It is only a short drive from Salt Lake City, north of I-80, exit 84. Of approximately 200 panels, over half can be made accessible. This particular half is the best preserved and presents a historical spread from the Archaic to the present. Each succeeding culture has left its story on the same rocks. About 500 acres could include parking lots, picnic areas, walks and driveways with access to rock art.

The land is privately owned, but desirable BLM land is adjacent, and negotiations might be possible. However, there is a spring below one site that would have to be preserved, and vital cattle access be maintained.

One of our physically impaired members visited the site and said: “Mr. Rauer, I have never in my life seen anything like this! Not just a few battered glyphs but hundreds—and I have been able to go right to them and study them!”

Many photos have been taken that show the range that is available for study. Mr. Running Bear, be he Ute or Shoshone, went to a lot of trouble to leave his name at one site (this panel is the source for the sug-

gested parks name). The caretaker, a magnificent collared lizard, is on duty at site number six every sunny day.

URARA Comment: It's about time we started to consider areas that could be made more accessible (to foot traffic). Both older and physically impaired individuals often find it difficult to reach many sites as they now exist. Sites such as Three Rivers State Park, New Mexico; Petroglyph State Park, Albuquerque, New Mexico; Newspaper Rock State Park, Utah; Horse Thief Lake State Park, Washington; the rock art at Roosevelt, Washington; and Hueco Tanks State Park, Texas are just a few excellent examples of what can be done to improve accessibility at rock art sites. When properly managed there has been very little additional vandalism at these sites since their improvement.