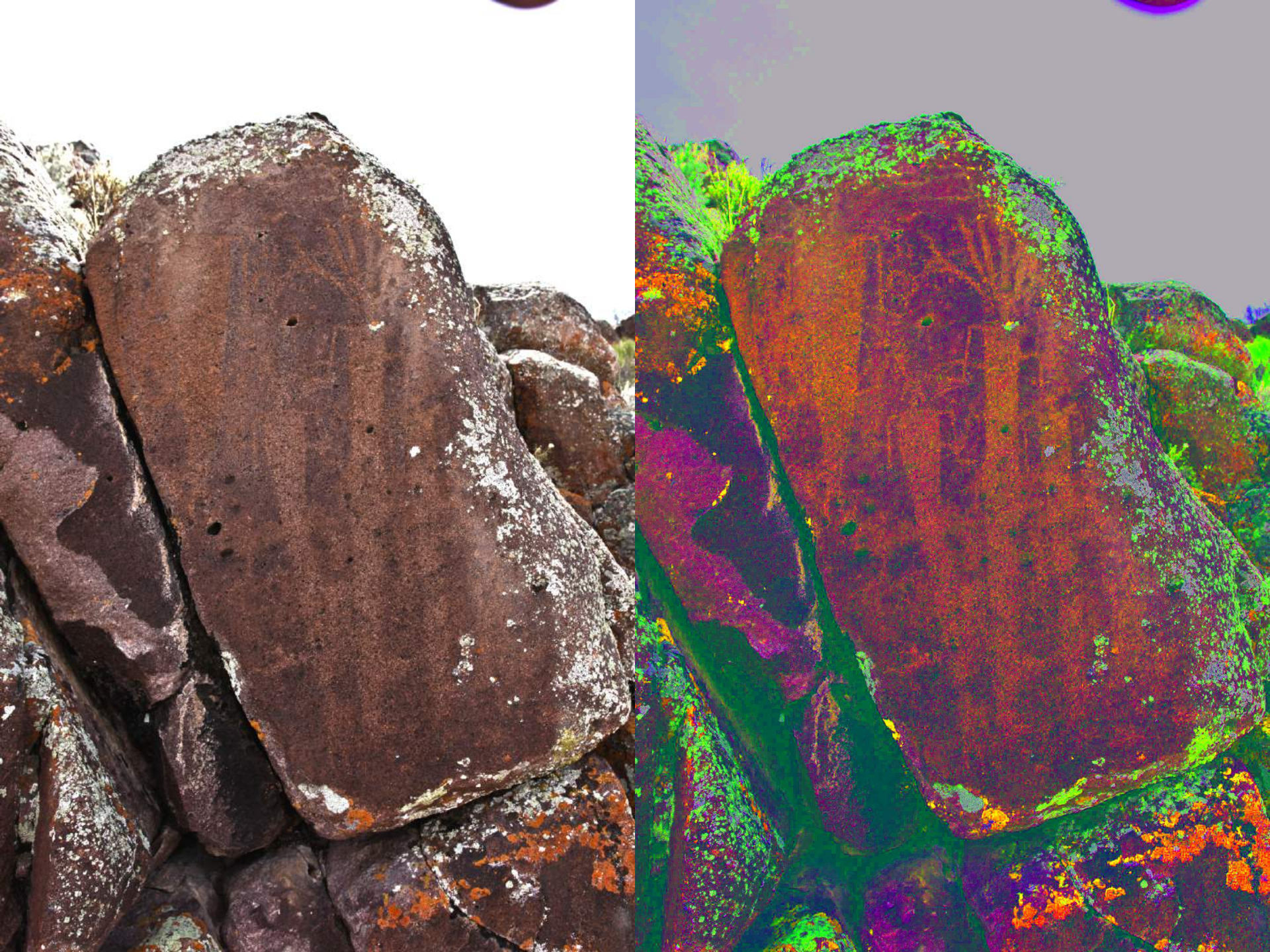
Visitors Or Migrants?

Barrier Canyon Style Rock Art in the West Desert / Eastern Great Basin

David Sucec, BCS PROJECT
www.bcsproject.org

Nancy Mason: "most westerly BCS figures"



Christy Turner, *Petrogylphs of the Glen Canyon Region*

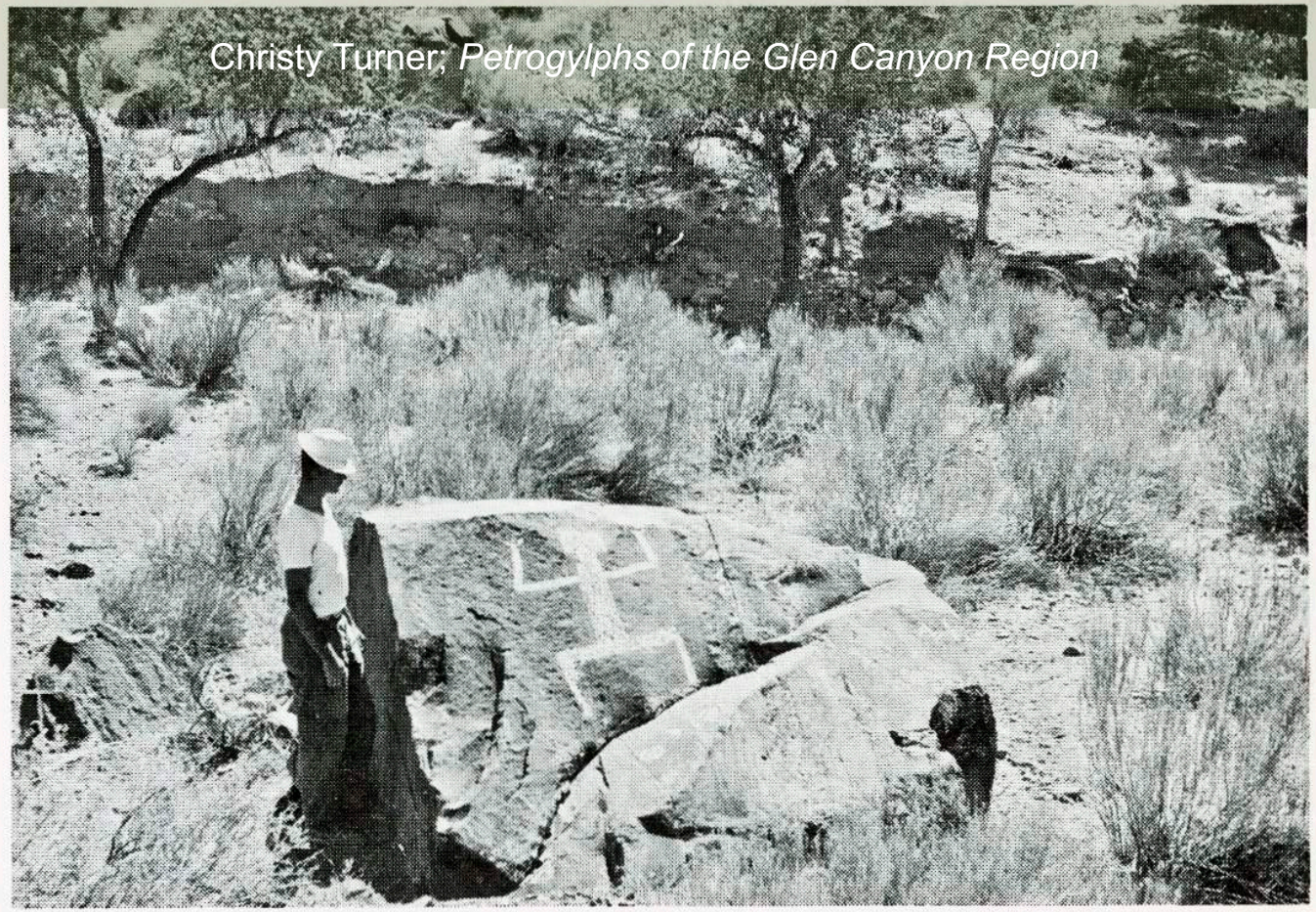
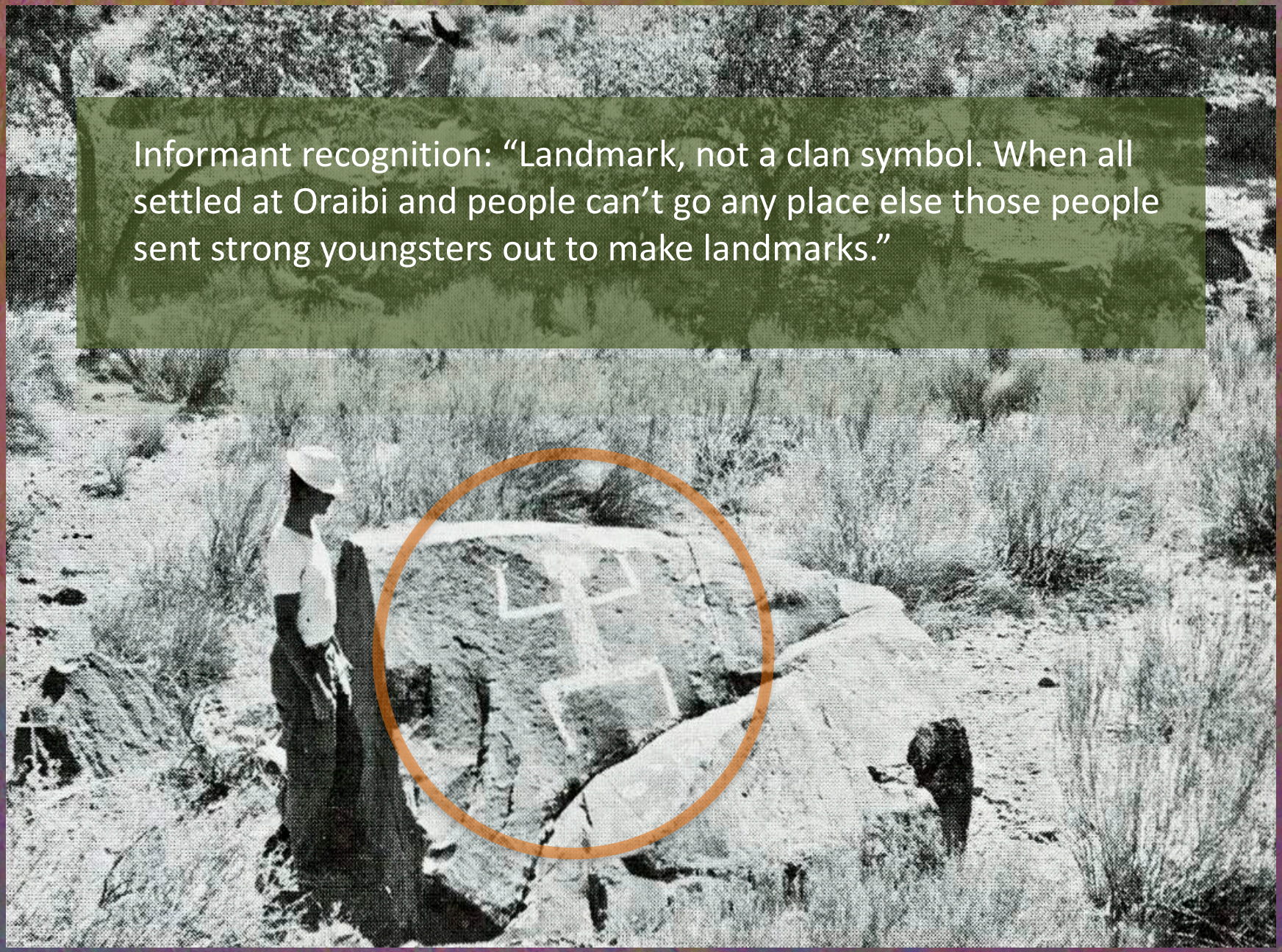


Fig. 42. NA7247, Middle Cha Canyon. Style 4. Moderate composite obliteration. Chalked in for photography. Moderate to abundant patination. Informant recognition: "Landmark, not a clan symbol. When all settled at Oraibi and people can't go any place else those people sent strong youngsters out to make landmarks."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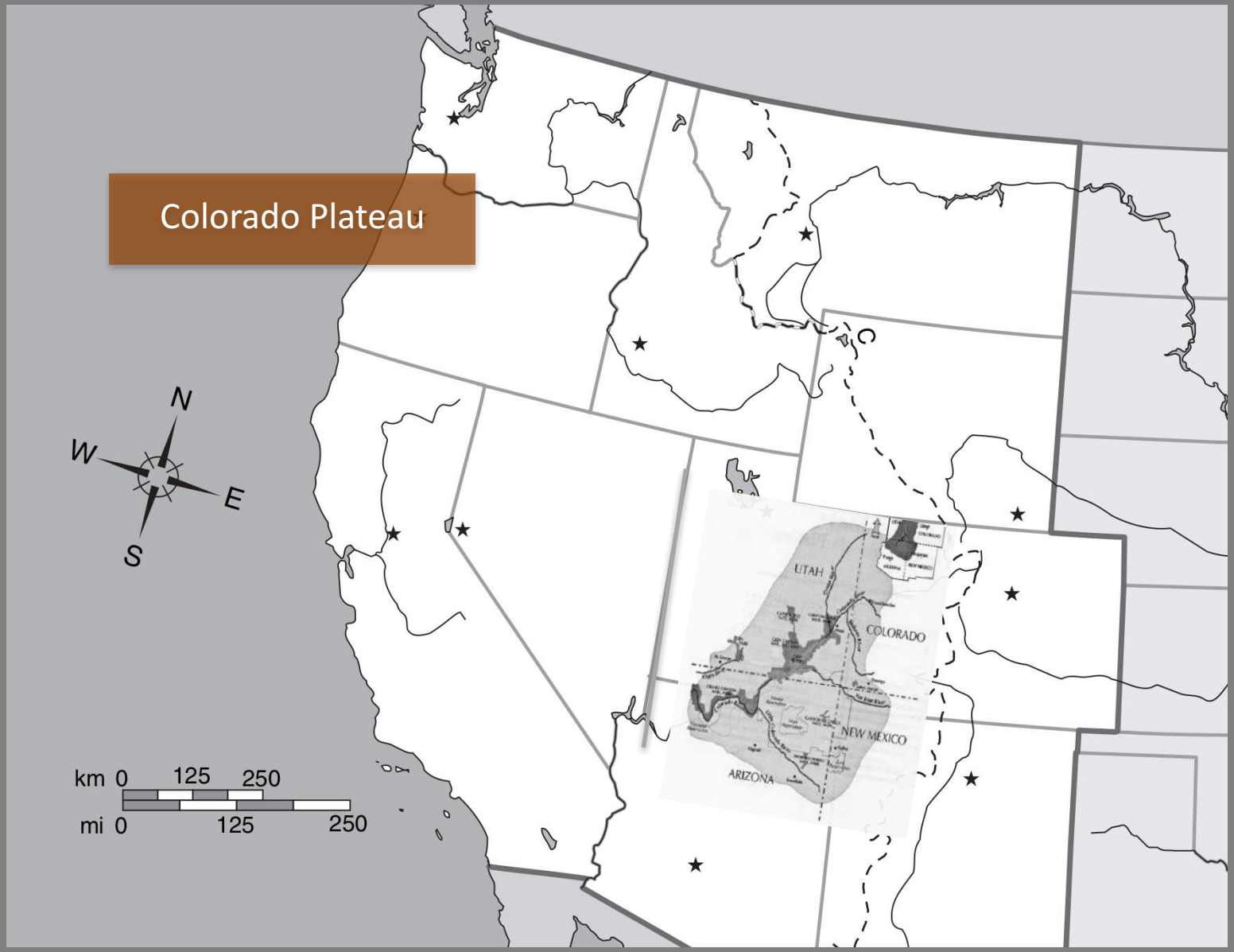
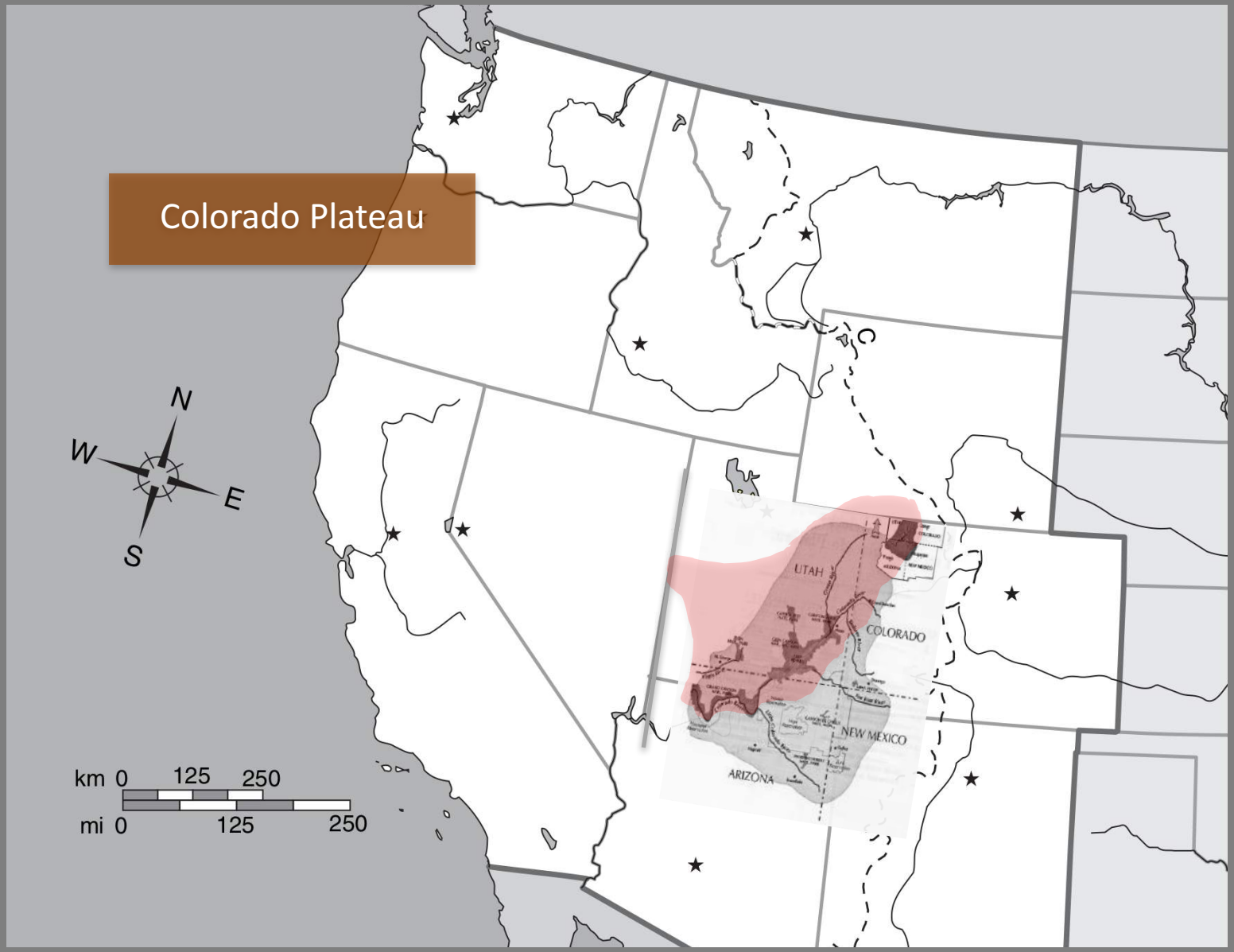
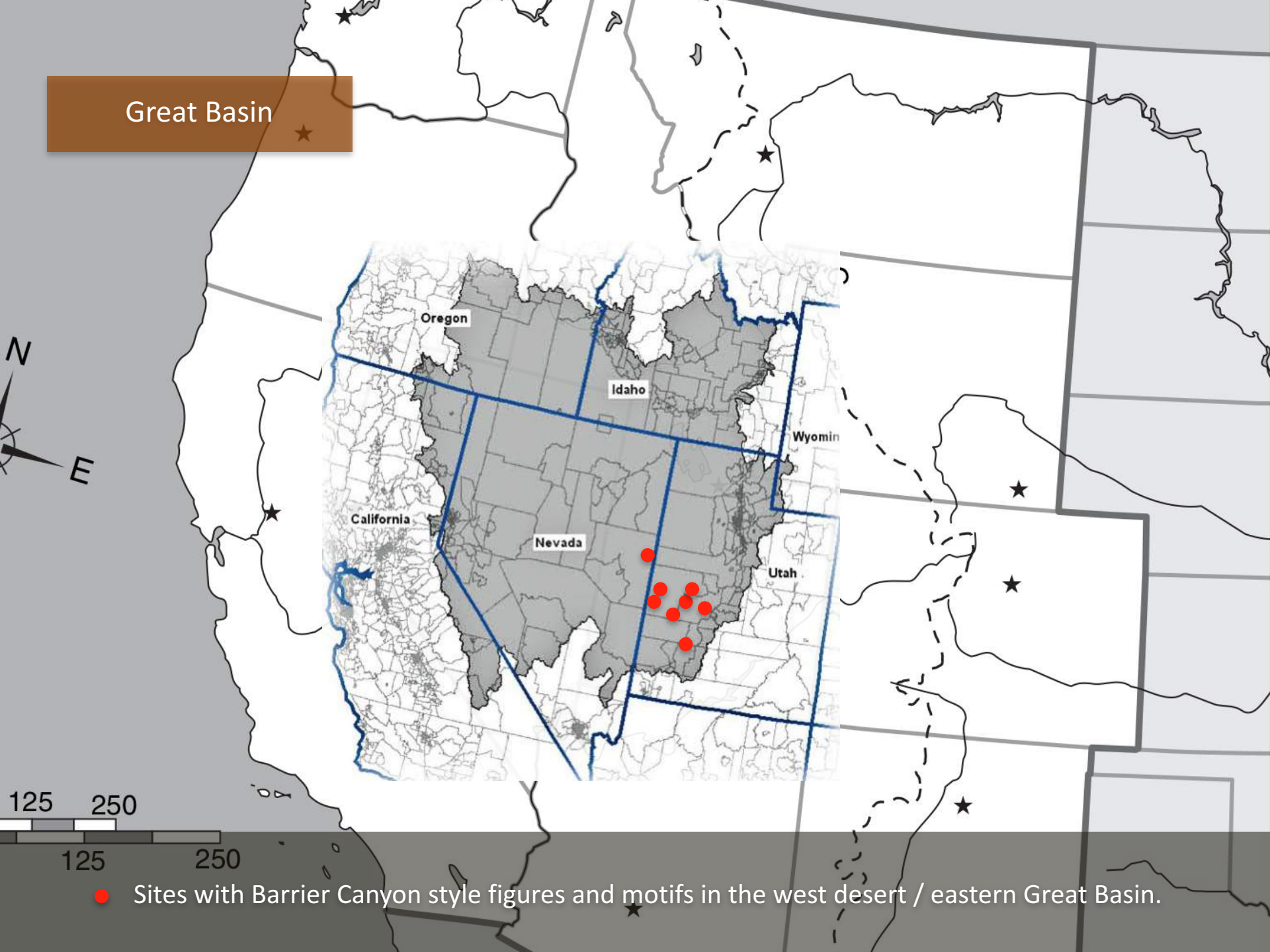


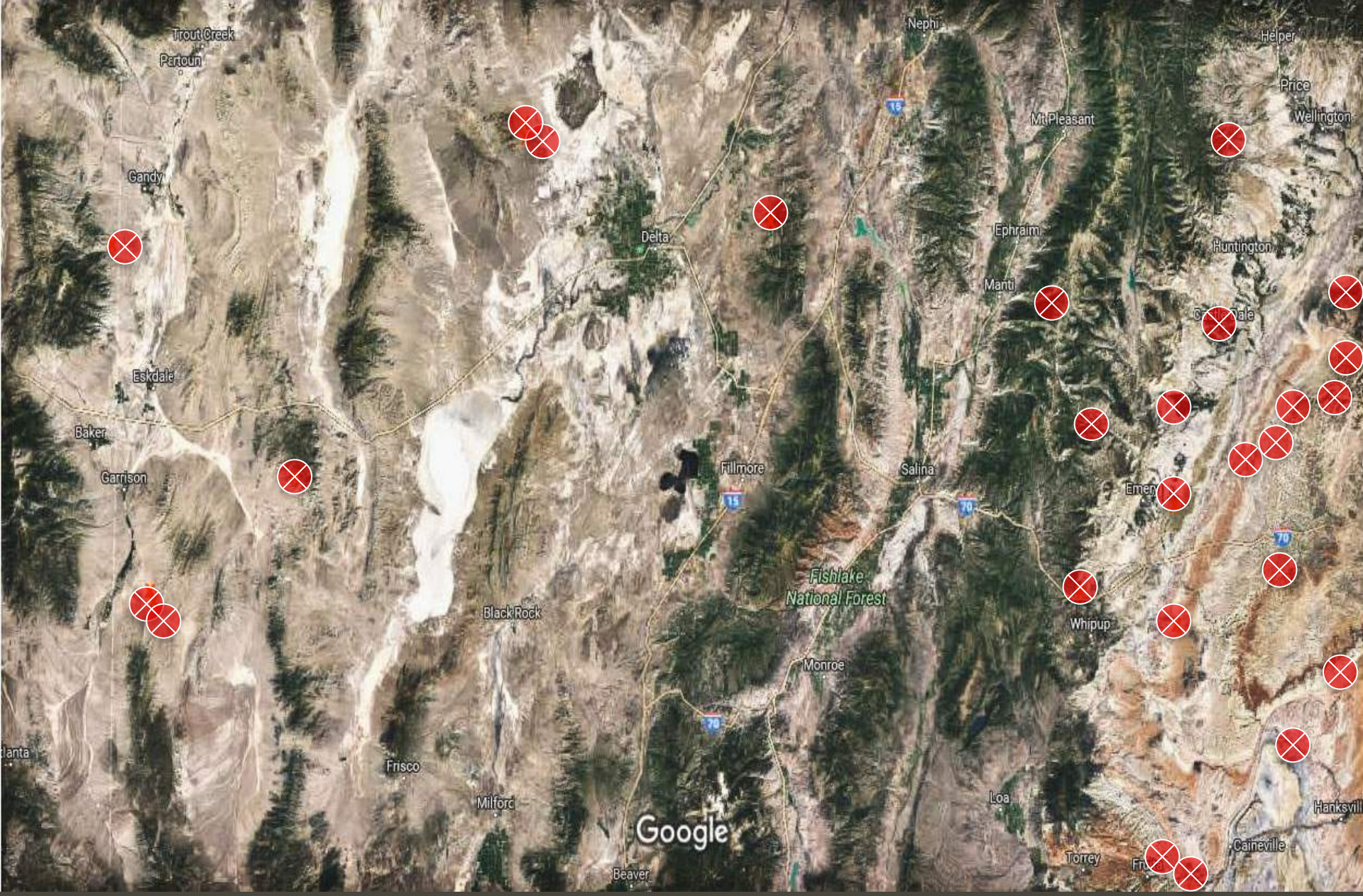
Roughly to scale



Red area: sites with figures in the Barrier Canyon style, 2017.



- Sites with Barrier Canyon style figures and motifs in the west desert / eastern Great Basin.



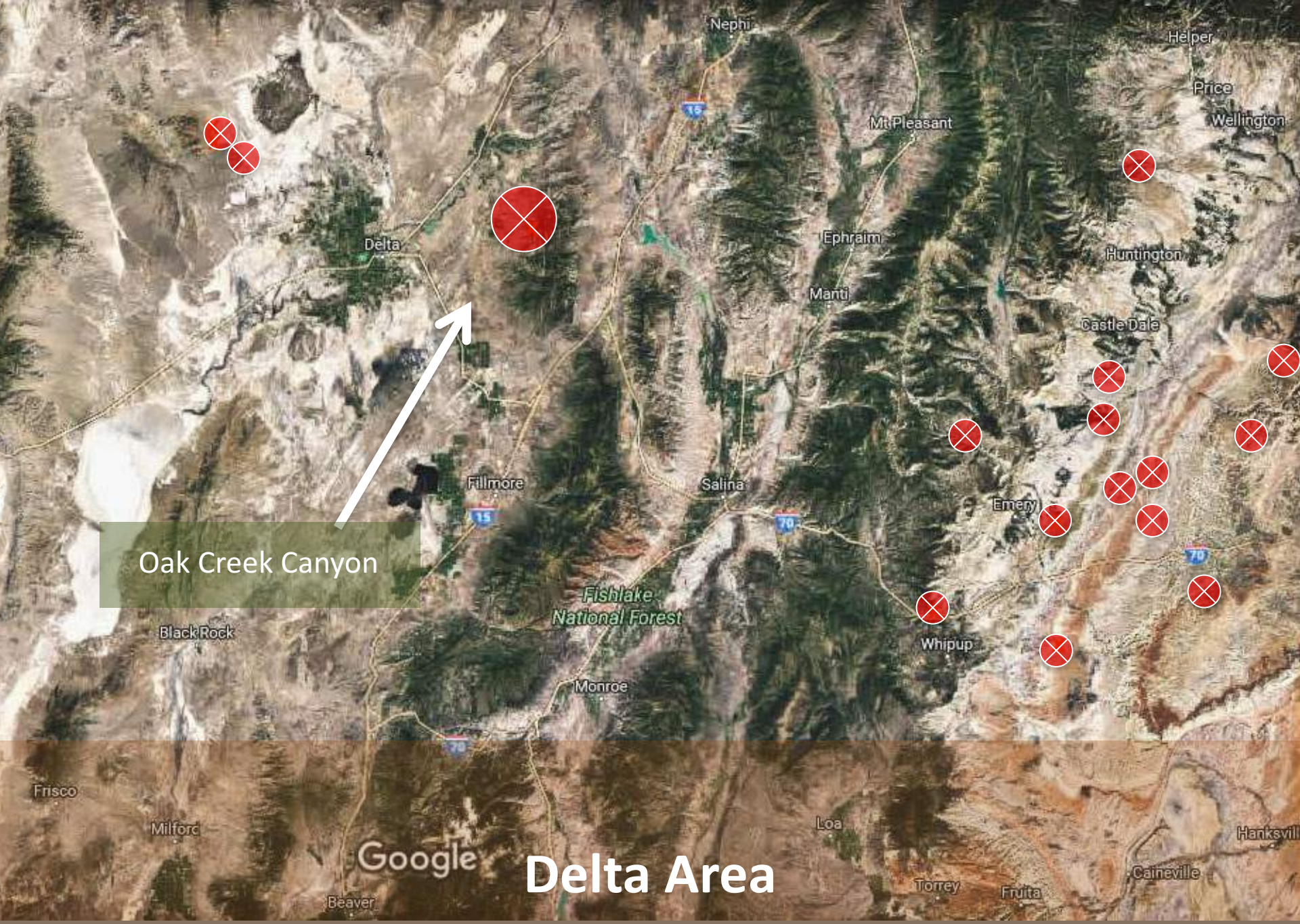
Eastern Great Basin

Western Colorado Plateau

ca. 150 miles

Trout Creek
Nephi
Helper
Price
Wellington
Mt Pleasant
Ephraim
Huntington
Manti
Salina
Fishlake National Forest
Whipup
Black Rock
Monroe
Frisco
Milford
Beaver
Loa
Torrey
Caineville
Hanksvill
Google

Highest point Tusher Range ca. 12, 000 feet


Nephi
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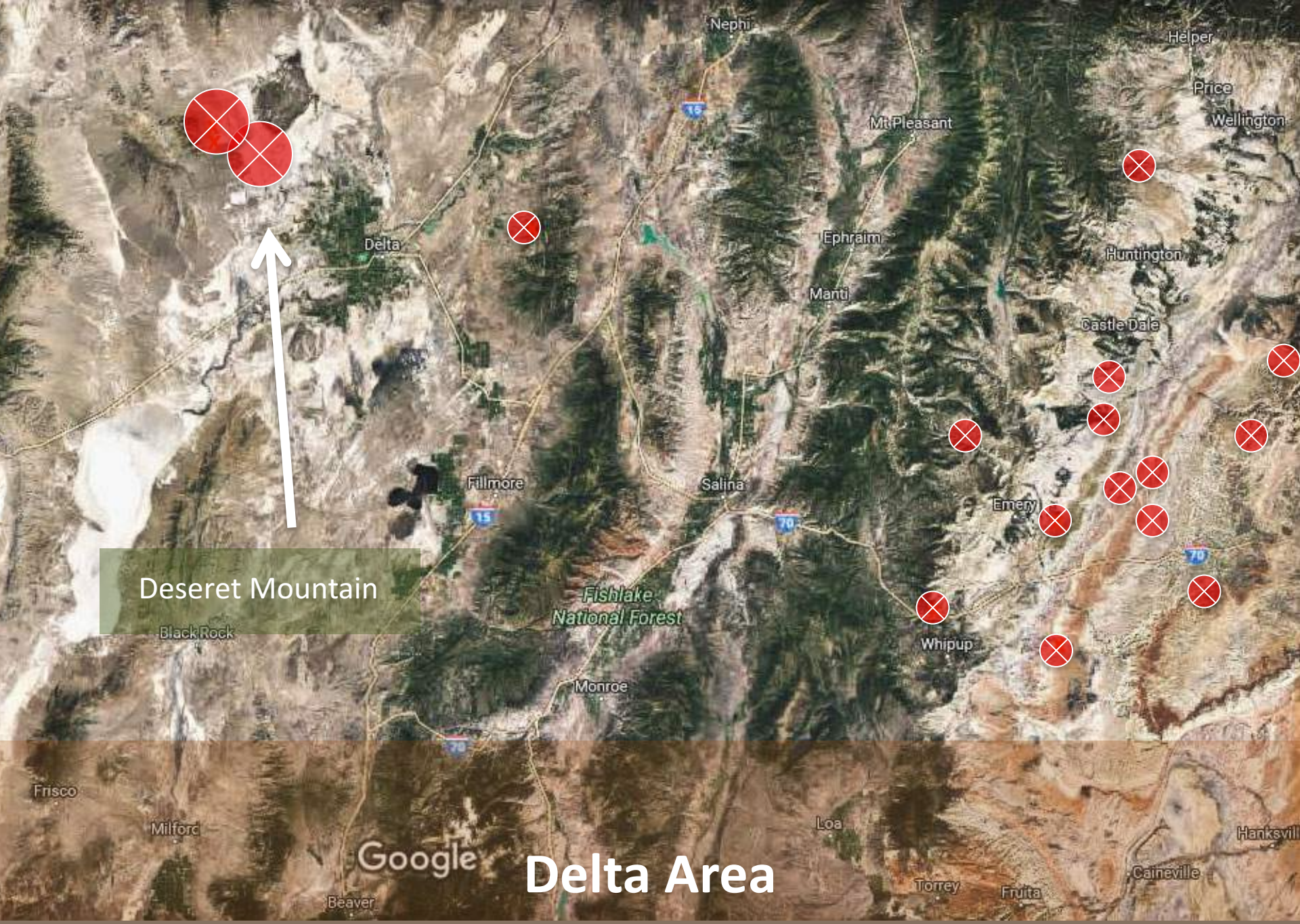
Fillmore
Salina
Emery
Oak Creek Canyon
Fishlake
National Forest
Black Rock
Whipup
Monroe
Frisco
Milford
Loa
Hanksvill
Google
Caineville
Torrey
Fruita
Beaver

Delta Area

Figures standing on pedestals or bases of the figures?


Nephi
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Emery
Deseret Mountain
Fishlake
National Forest
Black Rock
Whipup
Monroe
Frisco
Milford
Loa
Hanksville
Google
Beaver
Torrey
Fruita
Caineville

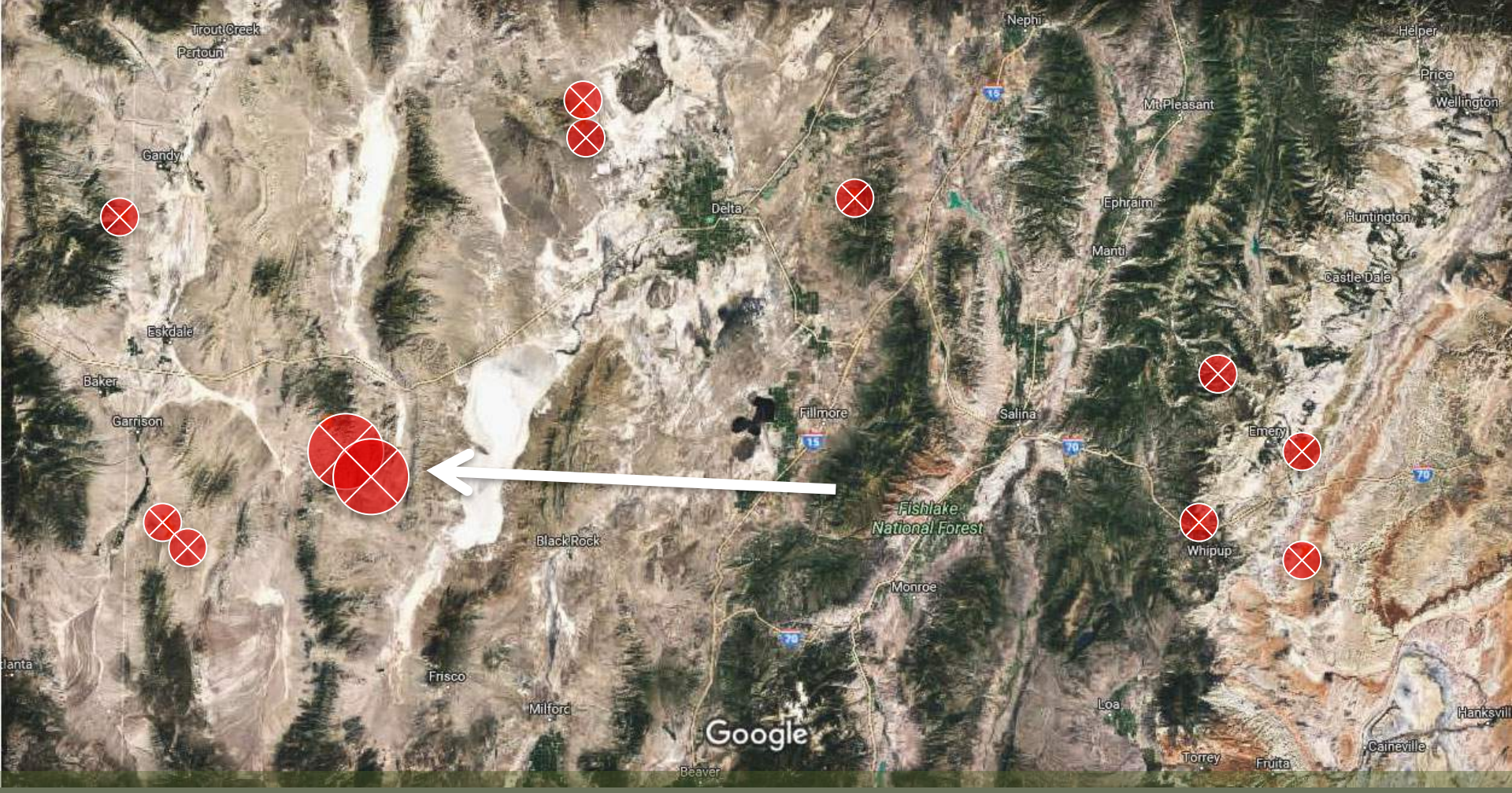
Delta Area

Pan Archaic Figures?

Figure in the Barrier Canyon style, Horseshoe Variant…with legs.

Mixed style figure: BCS body, head and figure proportion motifs with Fremont motifs: bulb base and curved horns.

Small boulders, Deseret Mountain, Western Study Area.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Emery
Fishlake
National Forest
Black Rock
Whipup
Monroe
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Milford
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Hanksville
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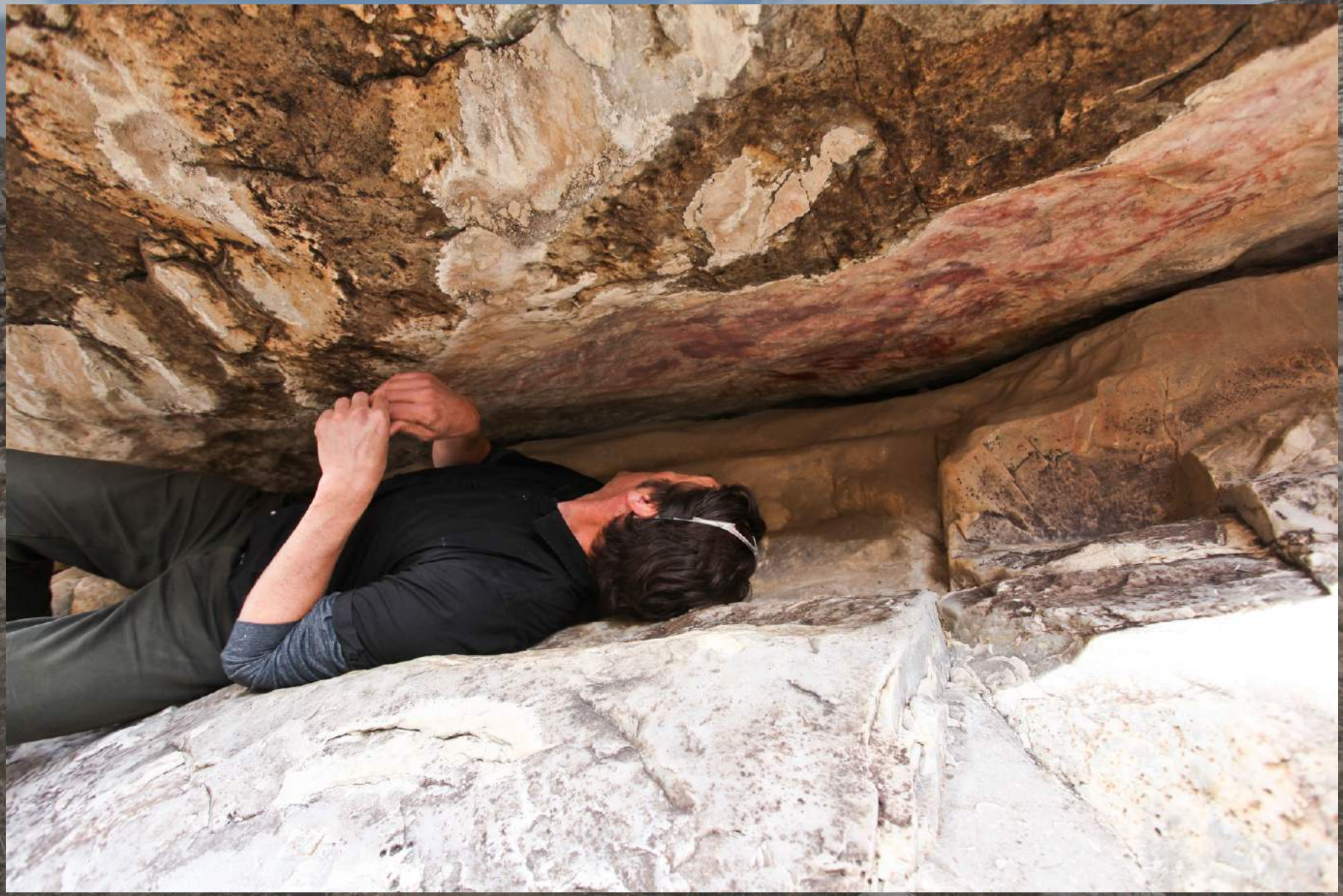
Torrey
Fruita
Caineville
Beaver

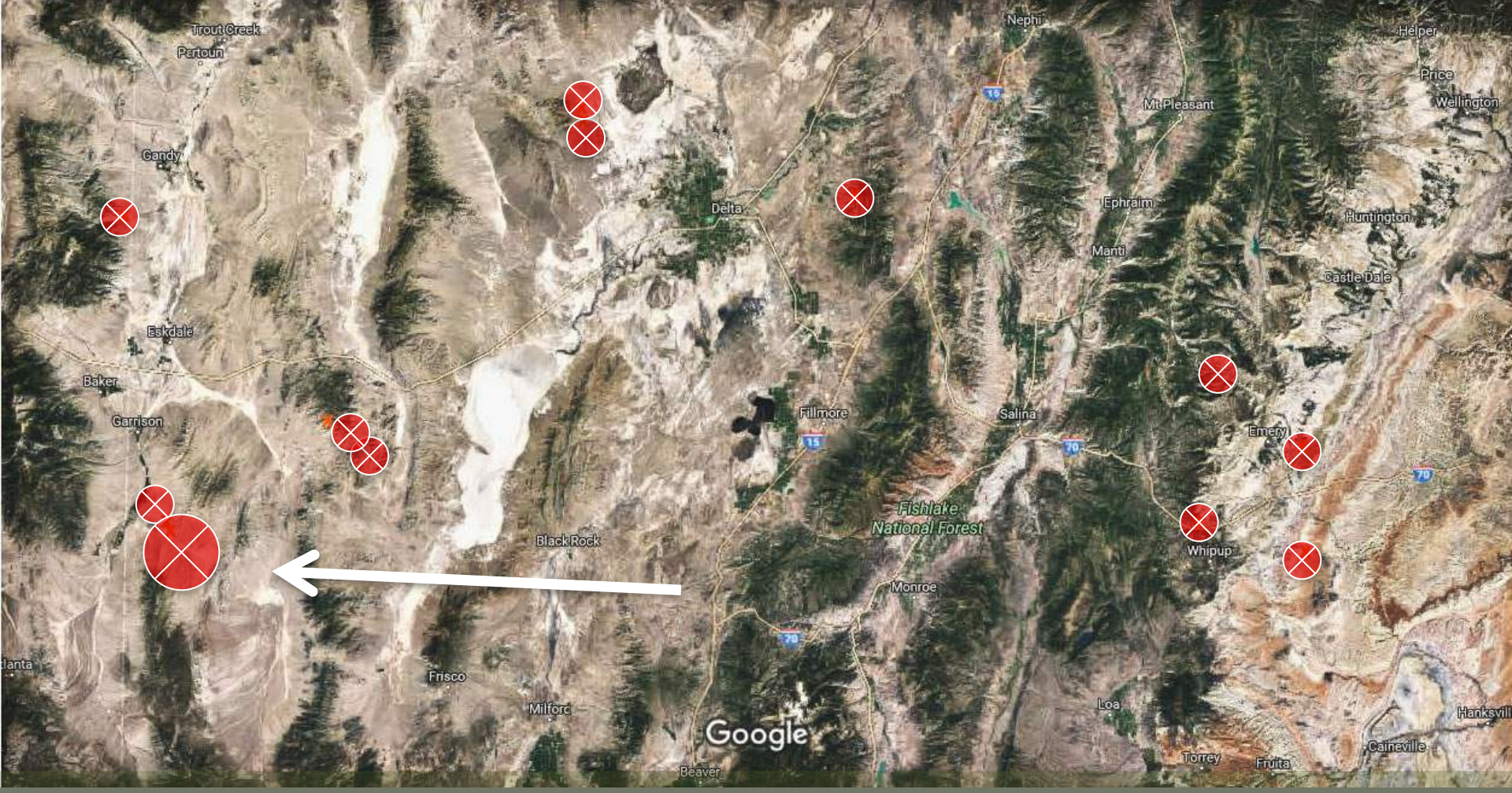
IBEX SITES

Upper Ibex Cluster



Upper Ibex Mushroom Site

Lower Ibex Cluster



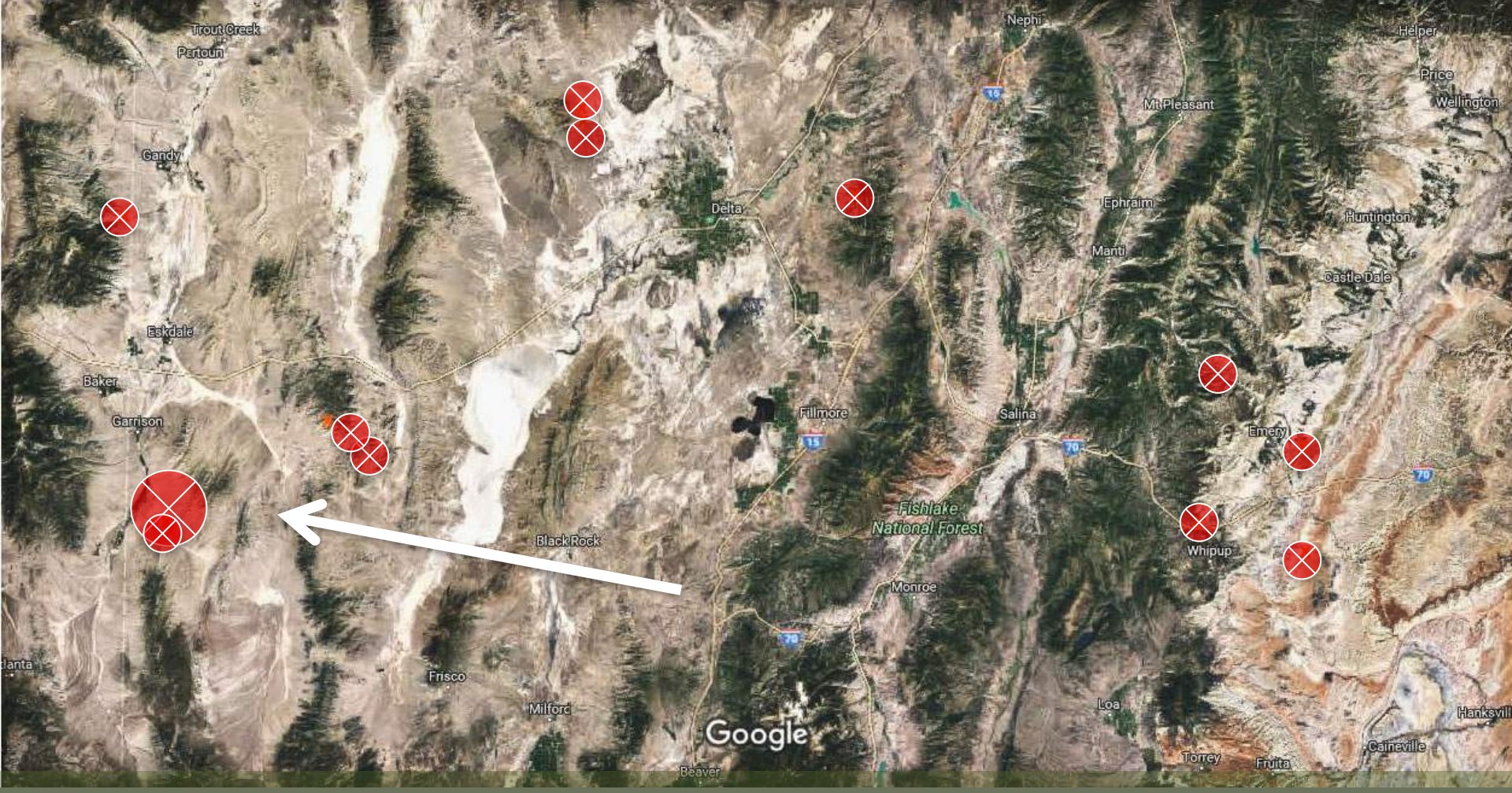
LITTLE CANYON

LITTLE CANYON

LITTLE CANYON
Old figures with multiple head extensions

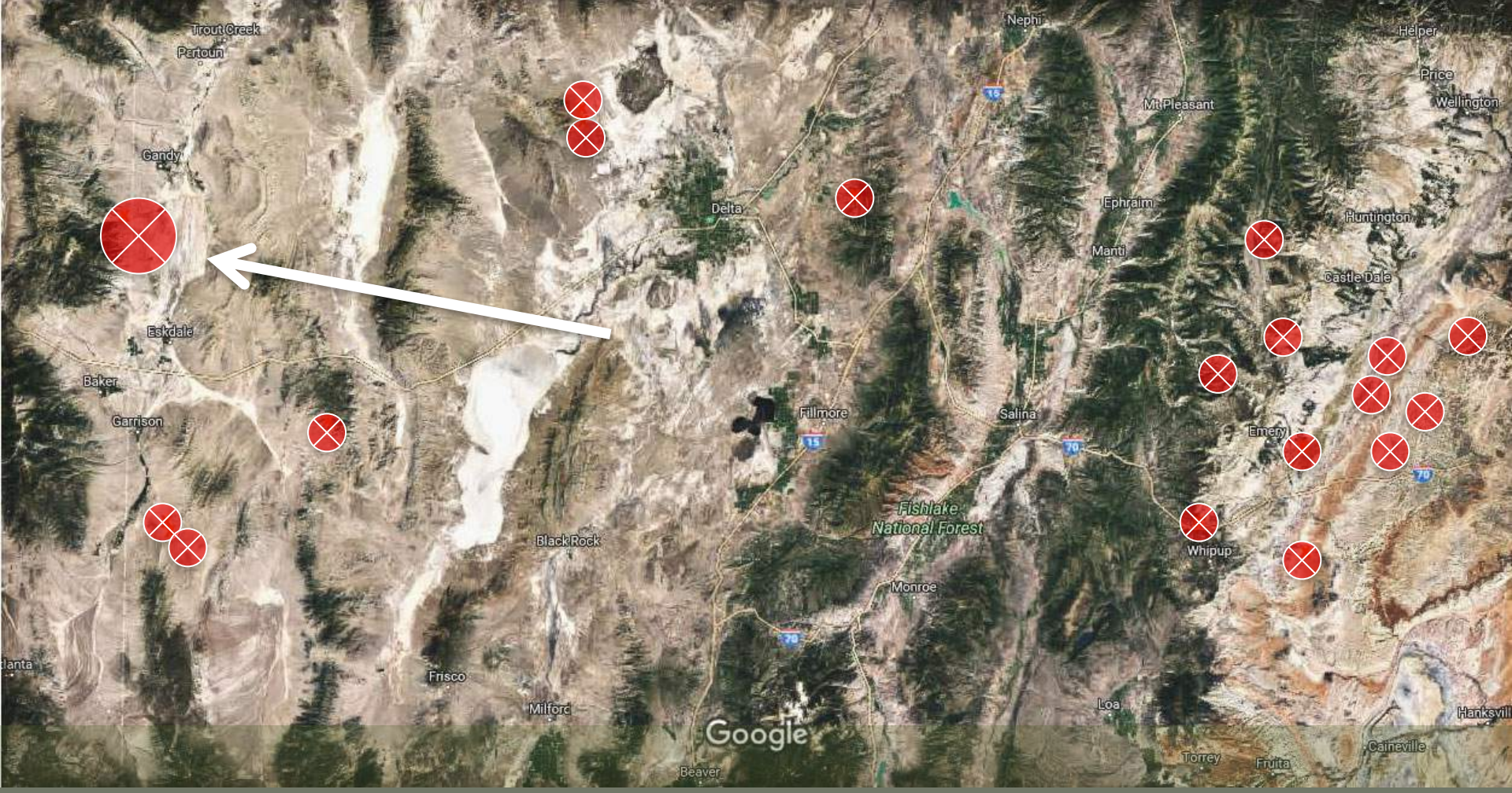
LITTLE CANYON
Superimposed figure

LITTLE CANYON
Elegant animal form



COTTONWOOD WASH

Cottonwood Wash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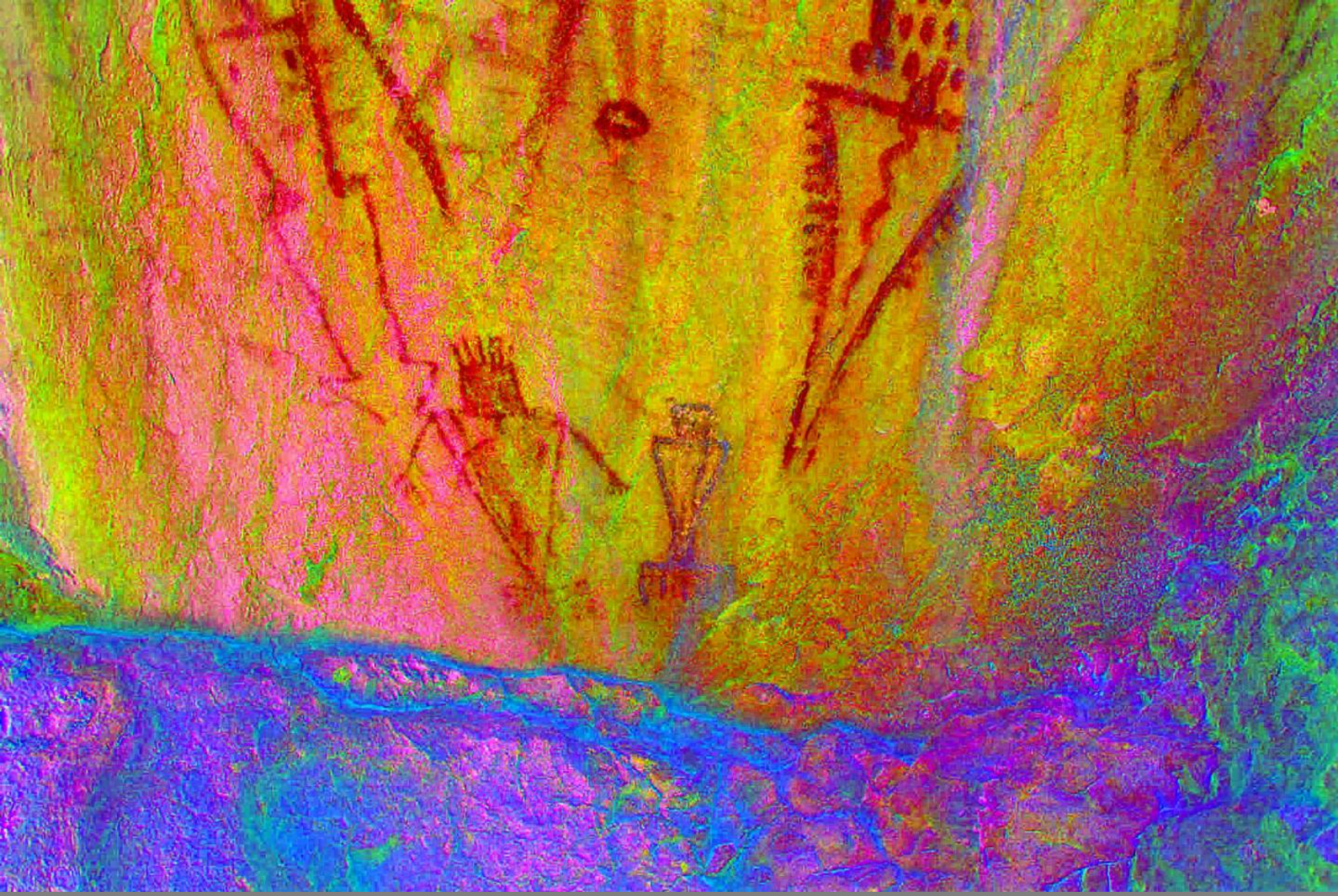
Emery
Fishlake
National Forest
Black Rock
Whipup
Monroe
Frisco
Milford
Loa
Hanksville
Google
Beaver
Torrey
Fruita
Caineville

SMITH CREEK

Smith Creek, Western Study Area

Lower wall, North Panel



Upper wall, North Panel

Upper wall, North Panel

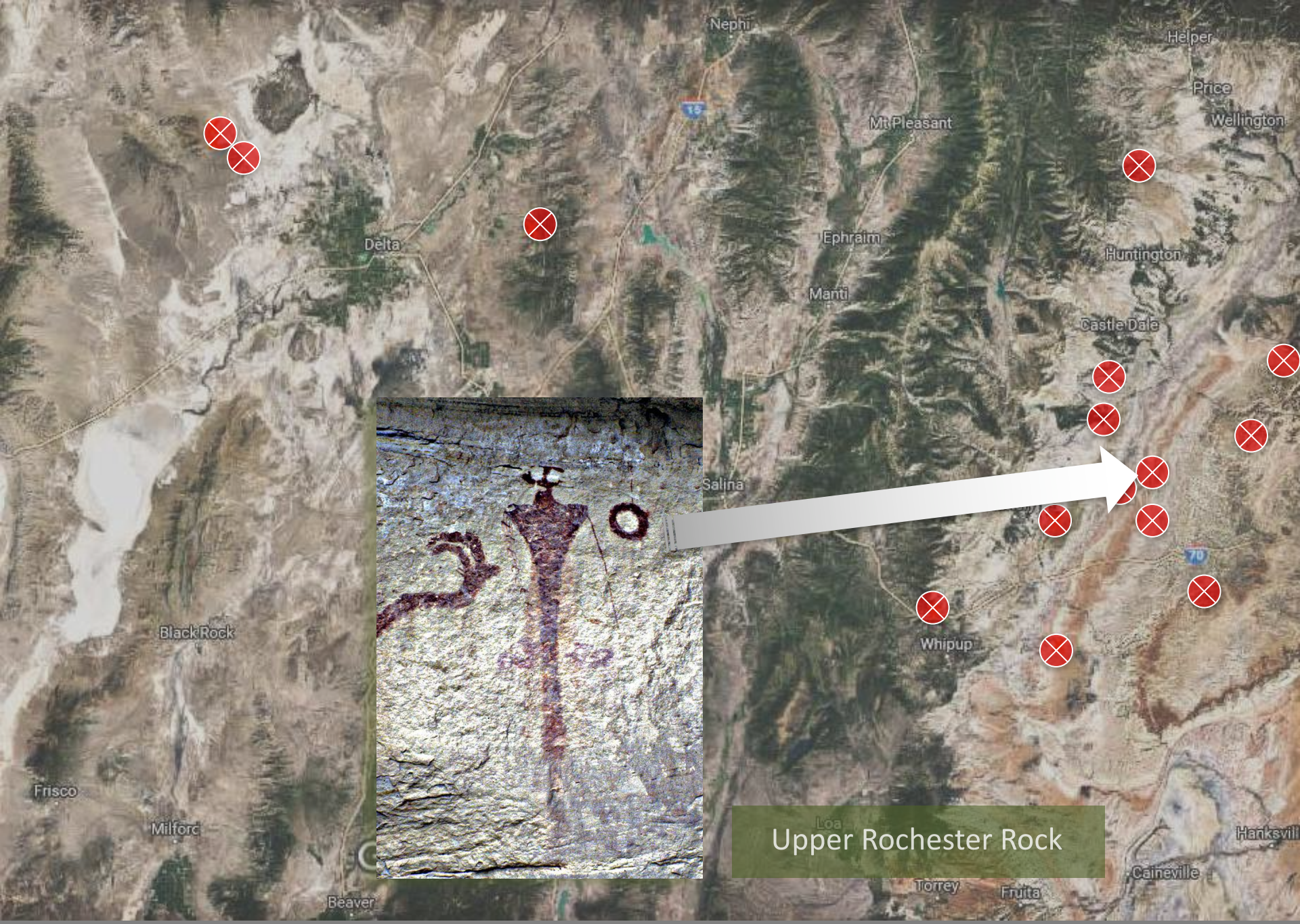
Lower left wall, North Panel

Lower wall, North Panel

Painted figures on "rake" pedestals

CROSSING THE TUSHER MOUNTAINS

The San Rafael Variant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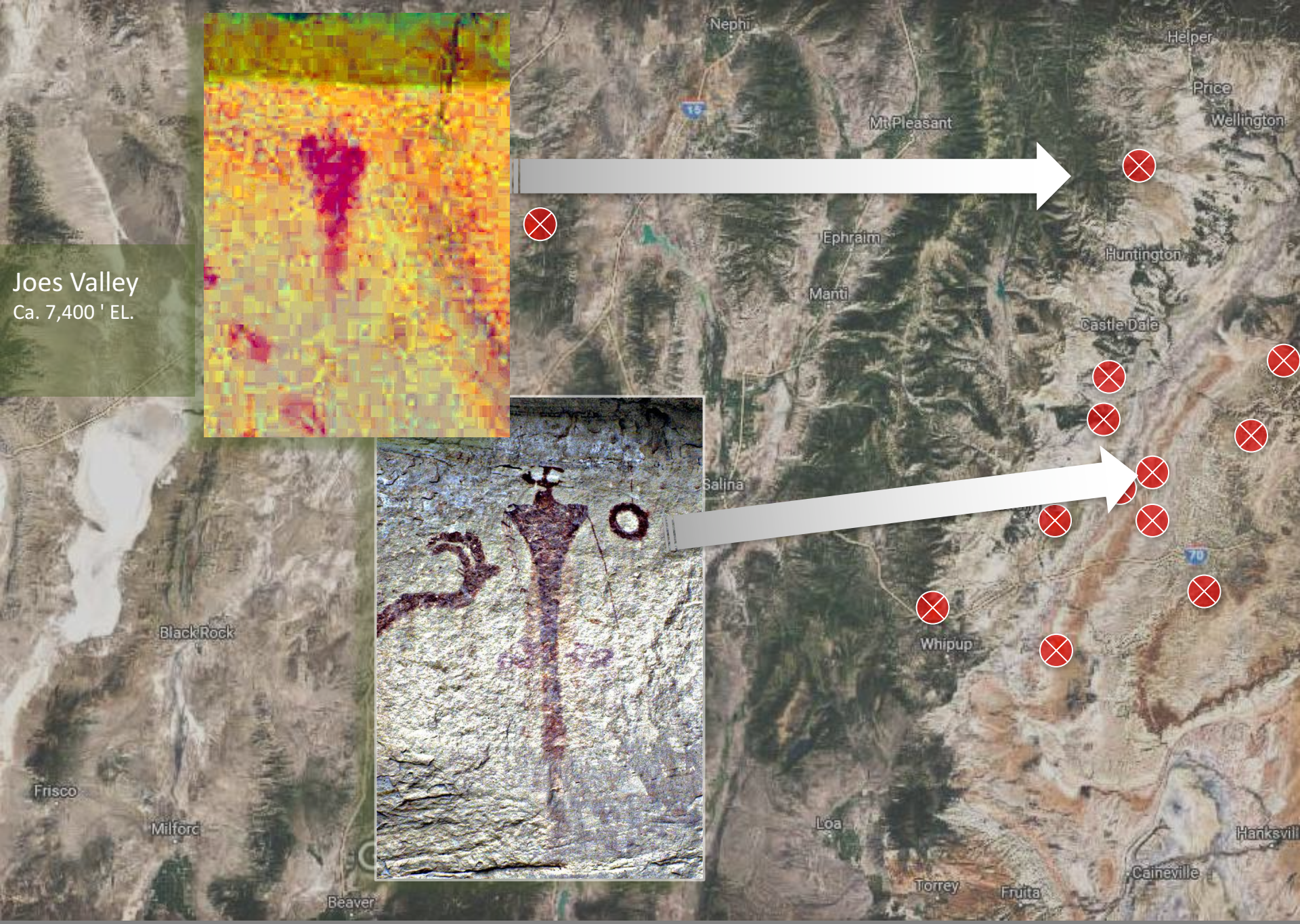
Frisco
Milford
Beaver
Loa
Torrey
Fruita
Caineville
Hanksvill
Upper Rochester Rock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Huntington
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Torrey
Fruita
Caineville
Hanksvill
Black Rock
Frisco
Milford
Beaver
70
15

Virgin Spring

Nephi
Helper
Price
Wellington
Mt Pleasant
Ephraim
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Fruita
Caineville
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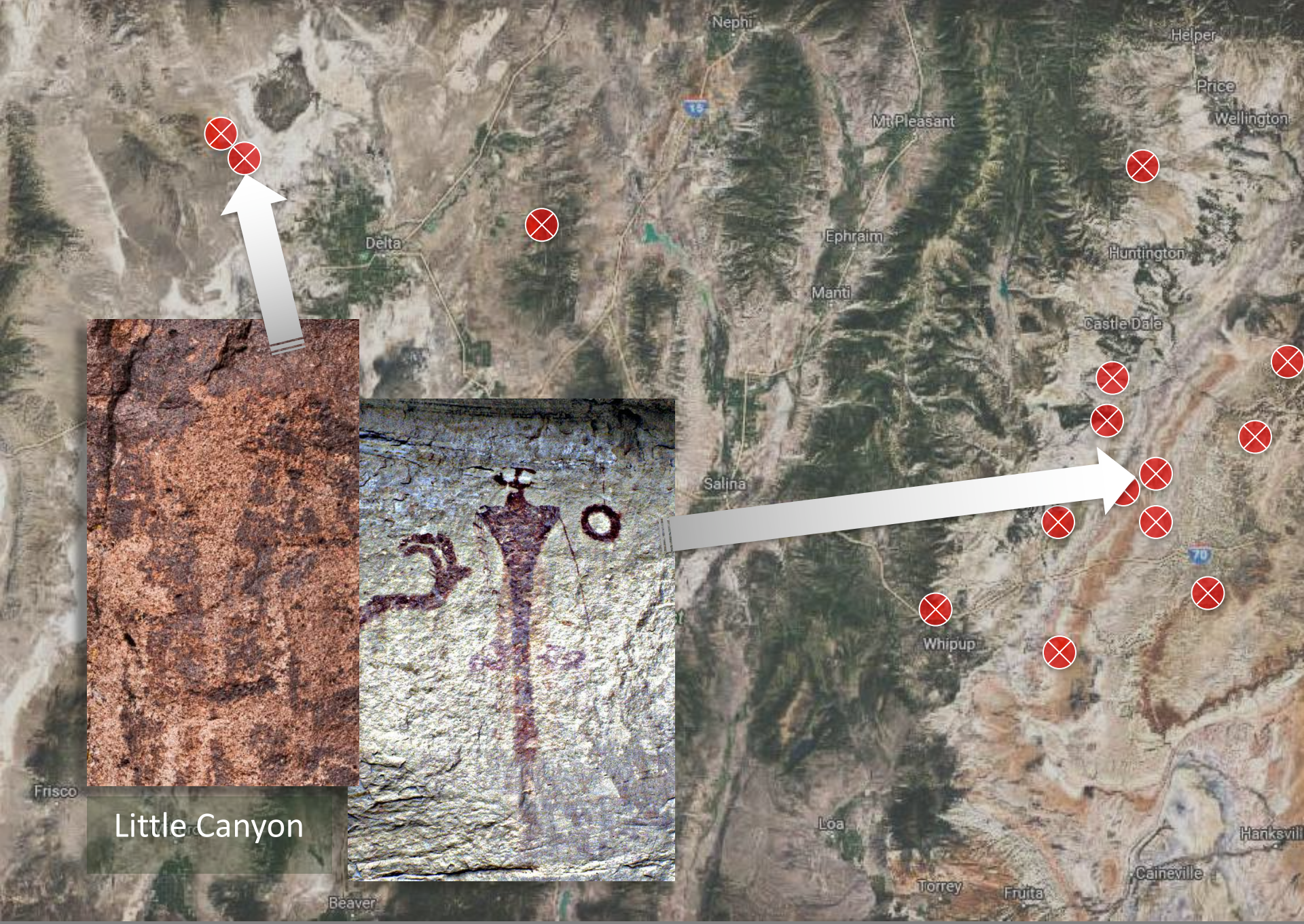
Frisco
Milford
Beaver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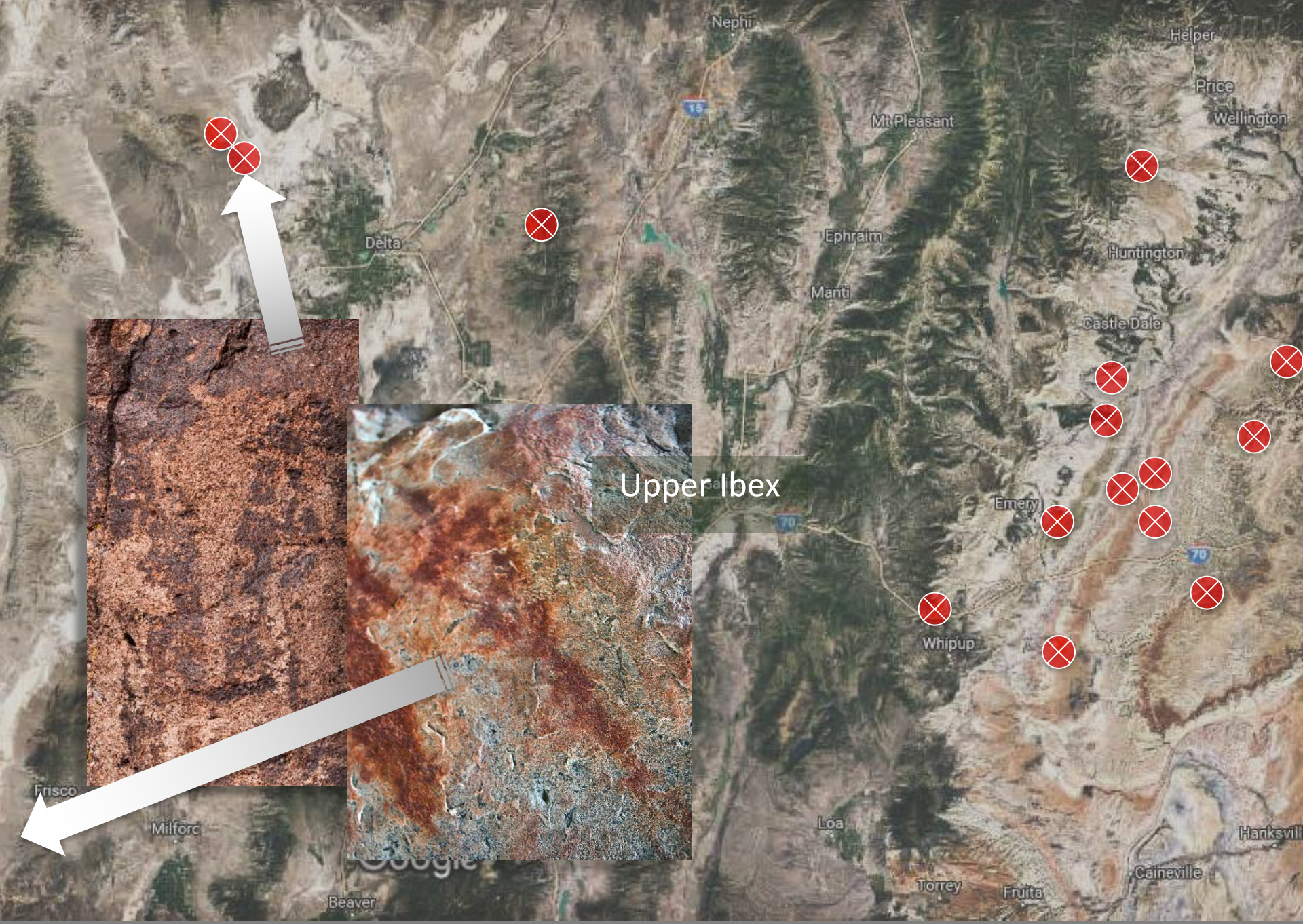
Fruita
Caineville
Beaver
Little Canyon


Upper Ibex
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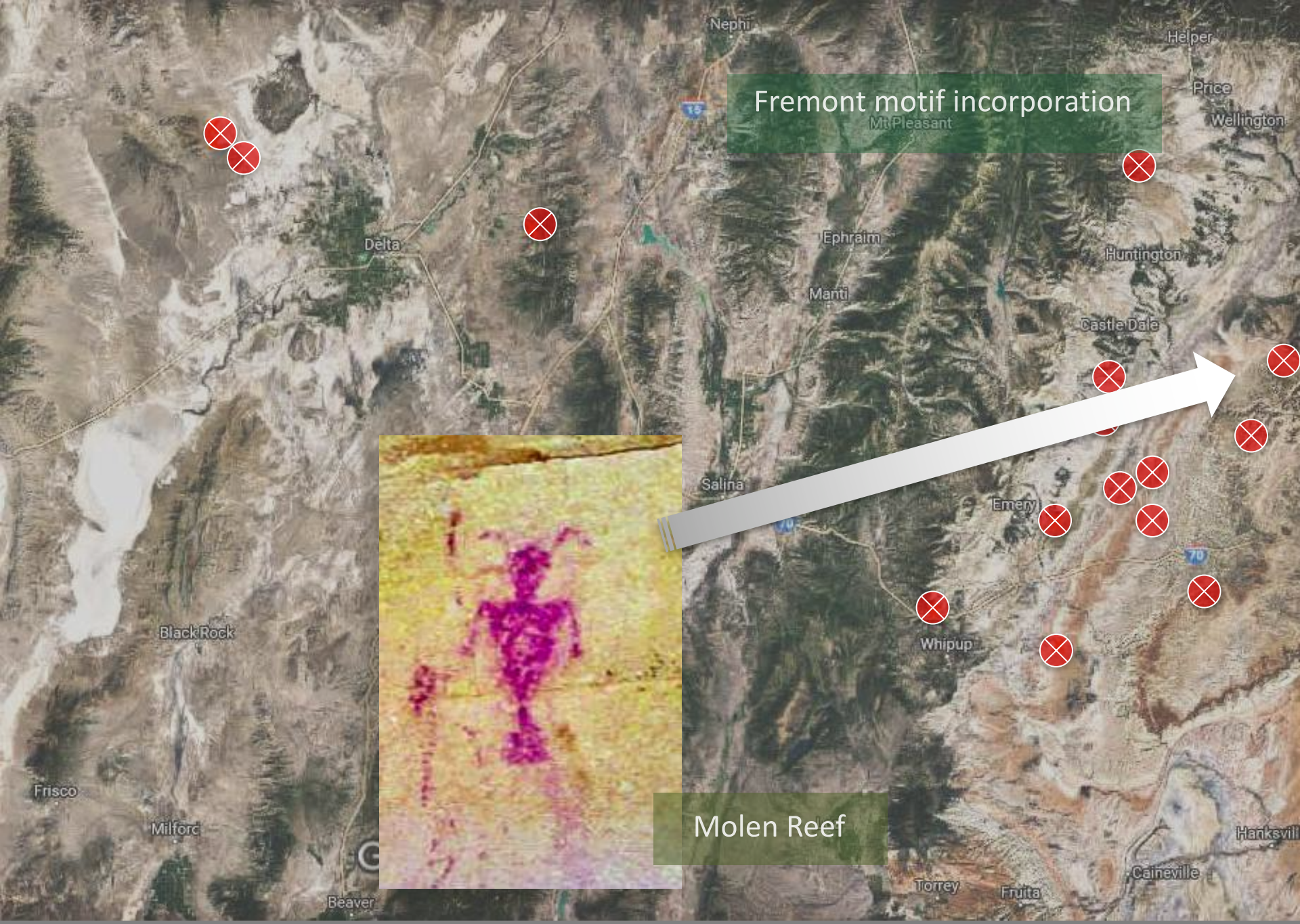
Frisco
Milford
Beaver


Fremont motif incorporation
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Nephi
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Huntington
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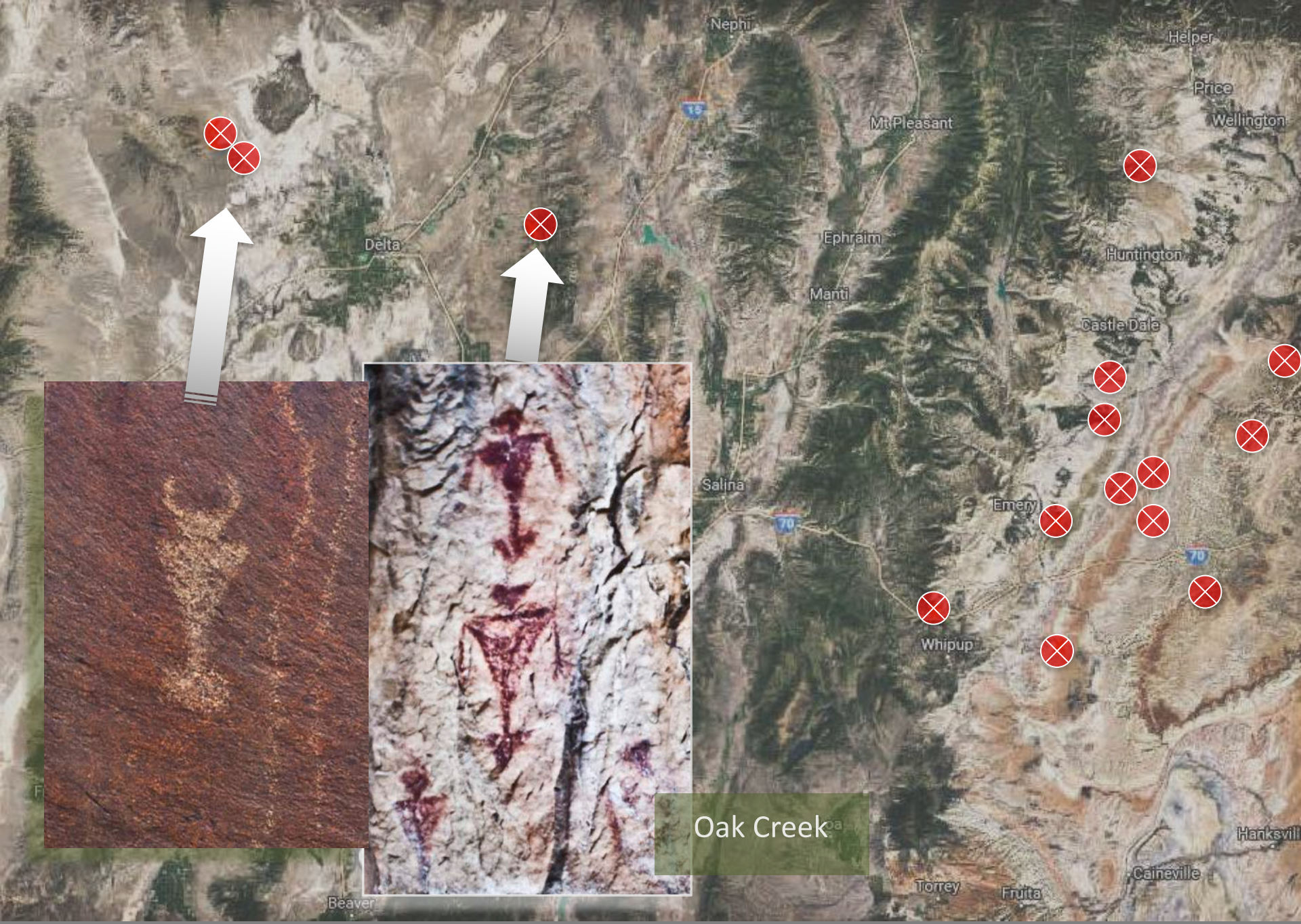
Castle Dale
Salina
Emery
Whipup
Black Rock
Frisco
Milford
Beaver
Torrey
Fruita
Caineville
Hanksvill

Fremont motif incorporation

Deseret Mt.

Nephi
Helper
Price
Wellington
Mt Pleasant
Delta
Ephraim
Huntington
Manti
Castle Dale
Salina
Emery
Whipup
Loa
Torrey
Fruita
Caineville
Hanksvill
Beaver
15
70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Oak Creek
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Torrey
Fruita
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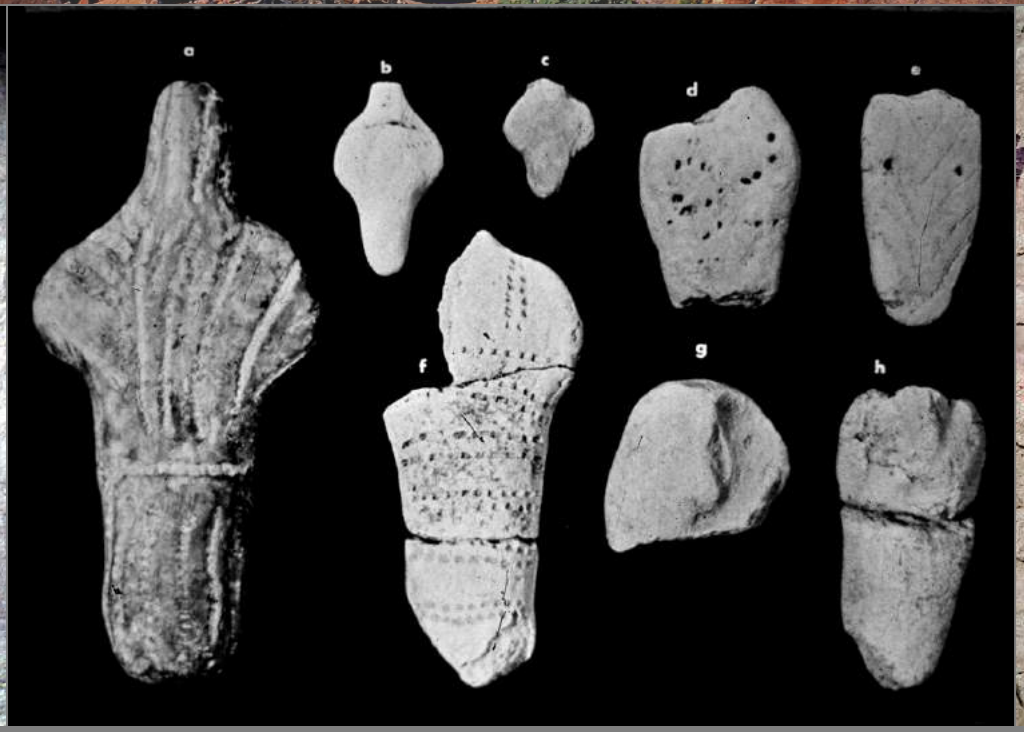
a
b
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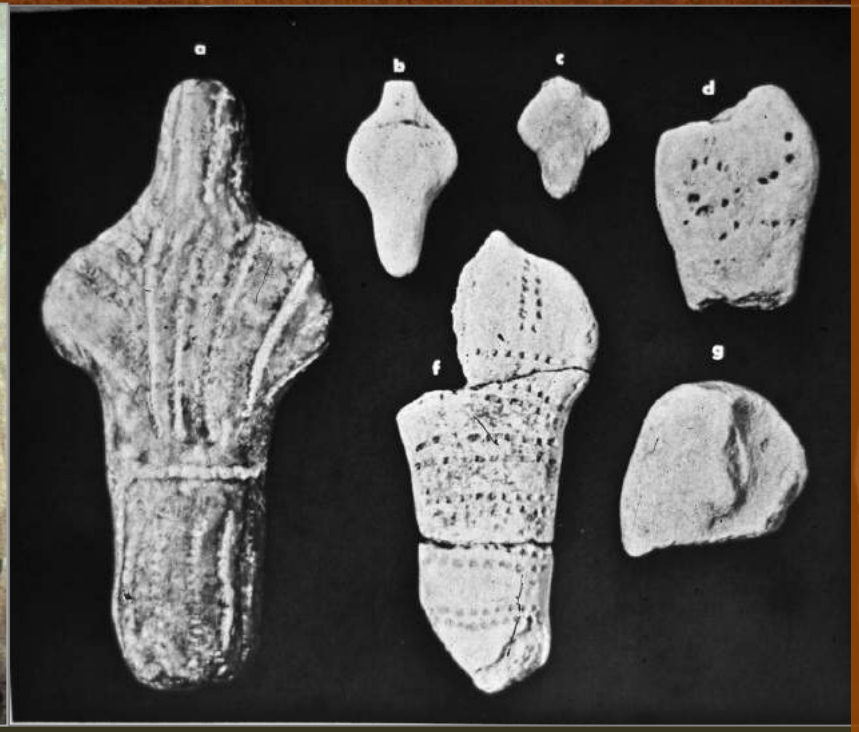
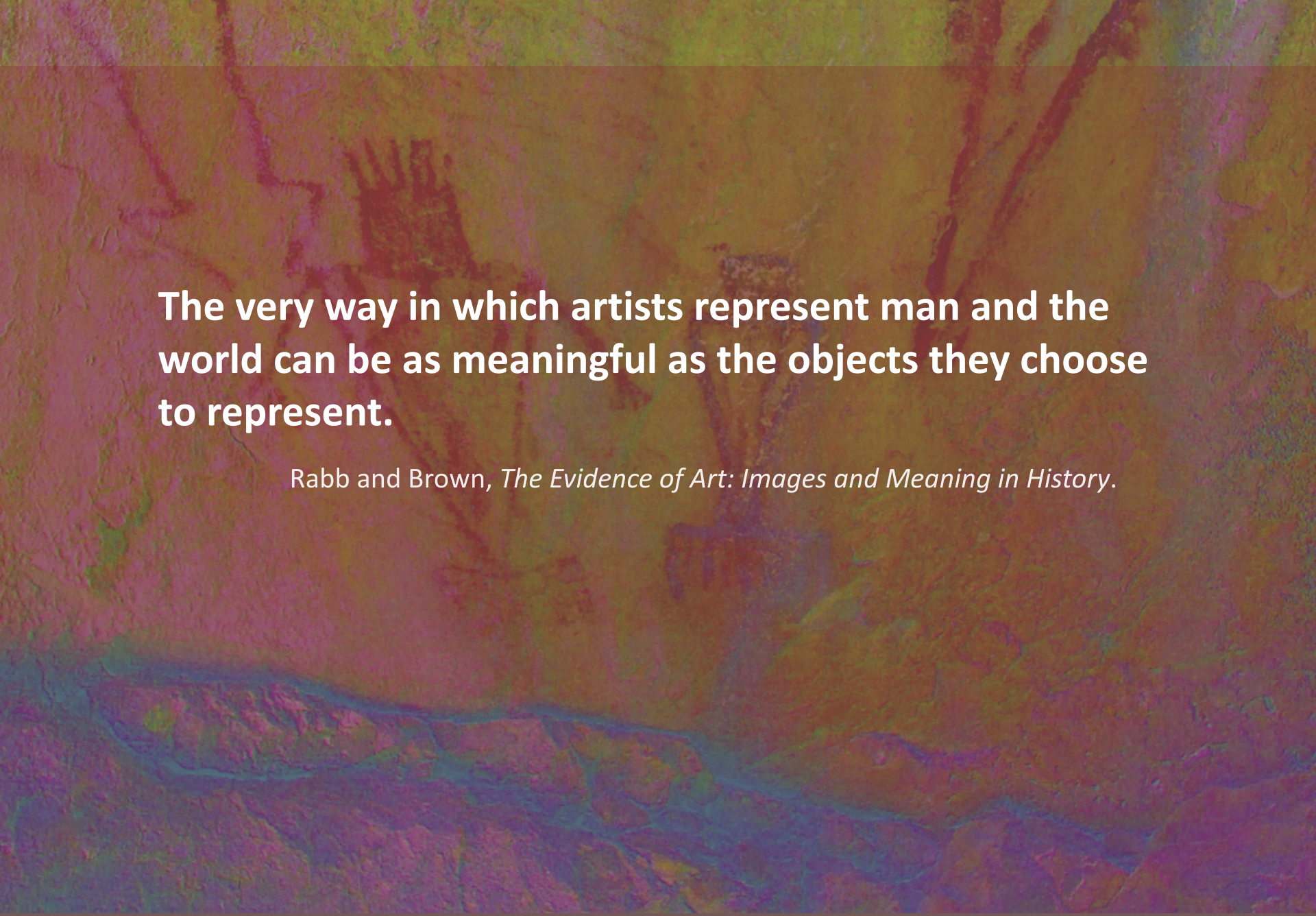
h

Above:
Pilling Figurines, tree ring dates of ca., C.E. 990 – 1005.



Below:
BCS figurines: ca. strata dates of 5,600 – 4,800 B.C.E.



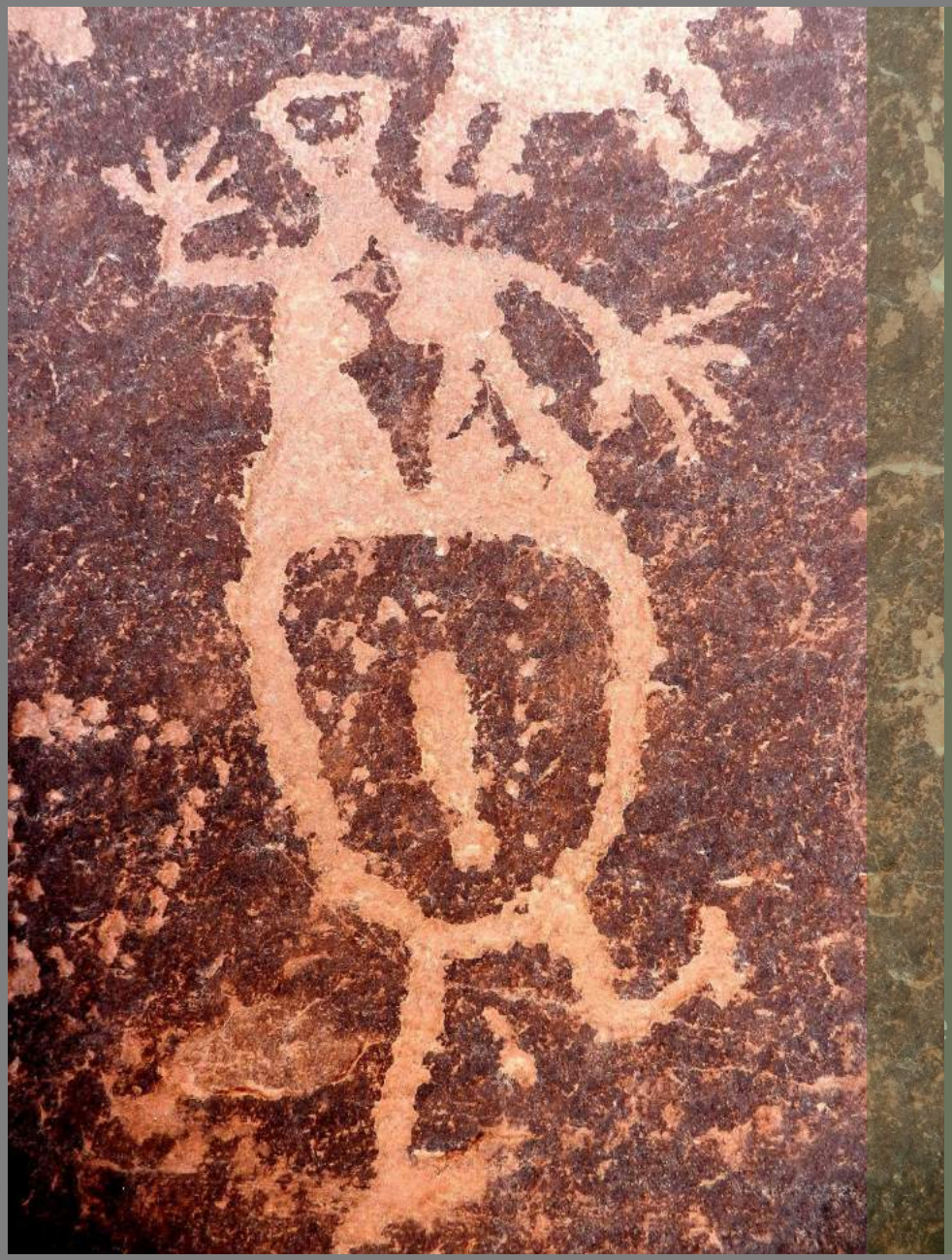
The very way in which artists represent man and the world can be as meaningful as the objects they choose to represent.

Rabb and Brown, *The Evidence of Art: Images and Meaning in History*.

Wyoming, courtesy Mavis Greer

Nephi
Helper
Delta
Piegan Spirit Tipi
Fillmore
15
Black Rock
70
Frisco
Milford
Google
Beaver

INUIT Shamans (with arms) and Spirits (in corners)



Courthouse Rock

Ute pecked figure with BCS figure (San Rafael Variant), in upper torso, formed by the pecking.

Nearby Baker Village, ca. 1220 to 1295 AD.