



Utah Rock Art Research Association
www.utahrockart.org
STOP VANDALISM PROGRAM



In Cooperation with the UTAH PUBLIC ARCHEOLOGY NETWORK



Organized by Utah Division of State History to STOP the Vandalism of Utah's cultural sites

- Partners dedicated to stopping vandalism along with URARA are:
 - **Statewide BLM, National Park Service, Forest Service, other agencies**
 - **Tread lightly and other outdoor recreation groups**
 - **Friends of Cedar Mesa, So. Utah Wilderness Alliance, and other non profits**
 - **Local communities, counties, State Representatives, military conservation groups..**
 - **Utah State History, State Tourism, and other state agencies**
 - **Cultural resource contractors, archeologists, anthropologists, geologists...**
 - **Educators at all levels, including private schools & academies**
 - **Local, state, and military law enforcement**
 - **Navajo, Hopi, Ute, Piute, Goshute tribes of Native People**
 - **Businesses, Individuals, AND OTHERS**

**Hundreds of us working to find a way to stop the vandalism of Rock Art
.....But it is not enough.**

Serious Concerns

- **Graffiti at rock writing/imagery/art sites increasing in larger numbers**
- **Curious rock art seekers digging out the soils at ground level to see the imagery**
- **Walking on surfaces that have imagery, not watching where they are stepping**
 - **Scratching over historic inscriptions**
 - **Using the imagery as targets**

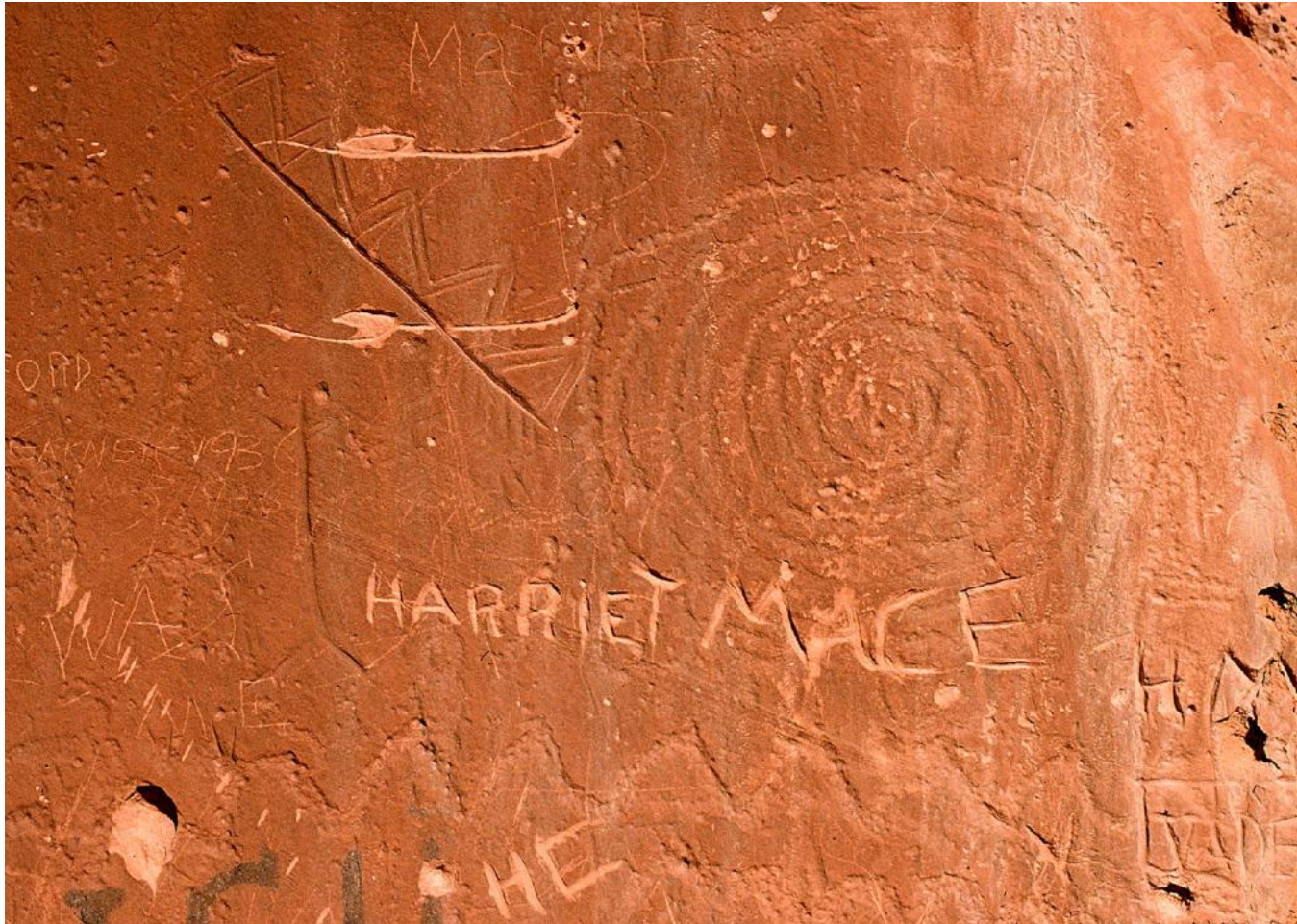
Who are we Targeting with our Message?



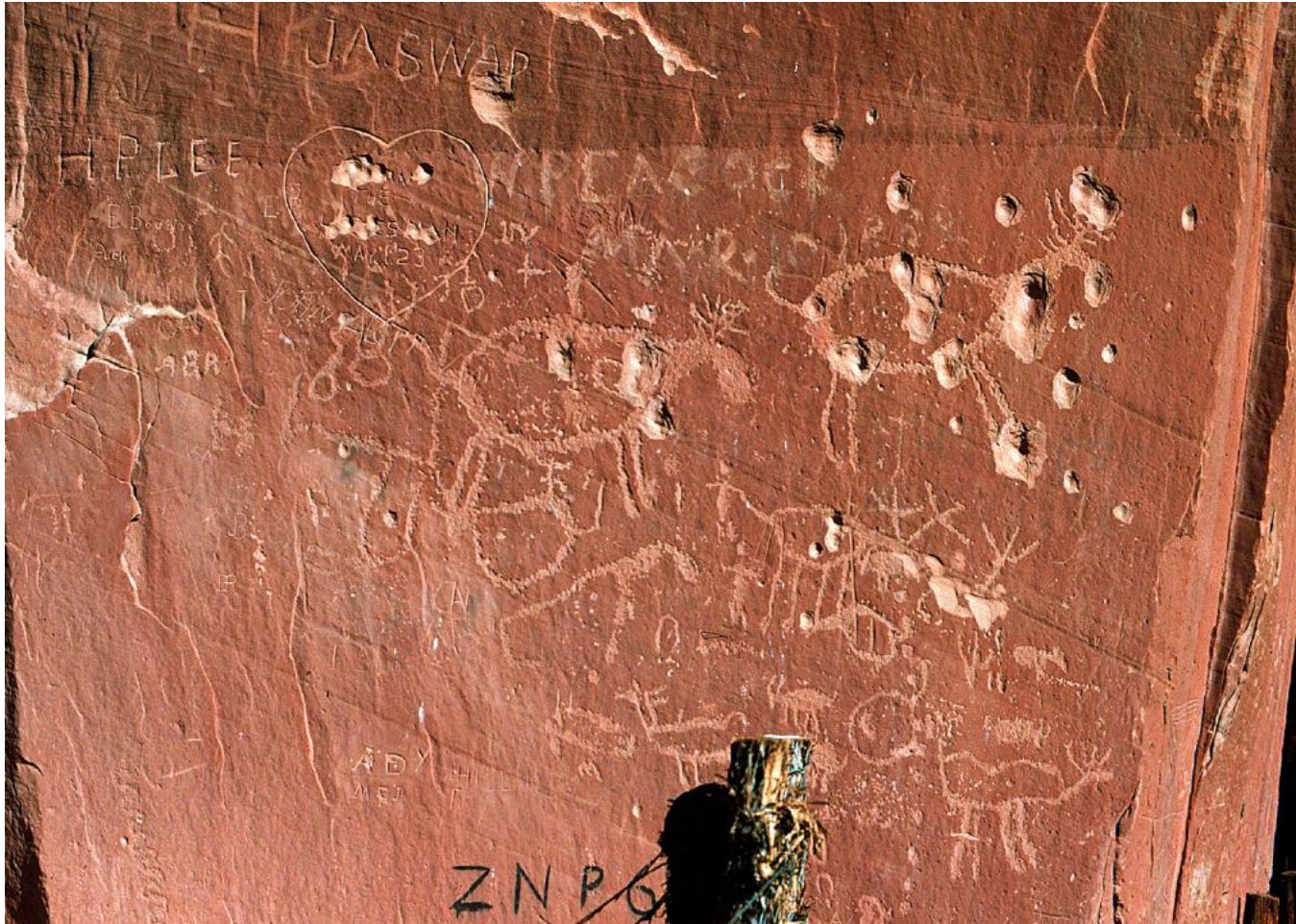
- **Community Leaders**
- **Families who live here**
- **Visitors**
- **Tourists**
- **Ultimately Everyone!**

It Truly Takes a Village

05/21/2017



Kanab Area Vandalism



Kanab Area Vandalism




NEW
DEVELOPMENTS

\$10K REWARD IN PETROGLYPH VANDALISM

BLM LAW ENFORCEMENT: 435-259-2131 OR 800-722-3998



51°

A young girl with long brown hair in a ponytail, wearing a green dress, is shown in profile, looking towards a large rock wall covered in ancient, colorful paintings of human figures. The scene is set in a natural, rocky environment. The text is overlaid on the lower left portion of the image.

**We want to educate not only the
Public at large, but to teach our
Children why these images are
so important to protect.**

WHY IS ROCK ART IMPORTANT?



- **Utah's "official" state Art Form**
- **Evidence man has been here for thousands of years**
- **Sacred to the Native People whose ancestors created it**
- **They were humans struggling to survive, having the same emotions and natures as we do, just different life circumstances**
- **Rock art is getting to be all that is left of the ancient Peoples existence**
- **Visitors help the local economies by staying longer to see it**

RESPECT AND PROTECT



Once these images are vandalized, destroyed, or taken from their sites, they and their stories are lost forever.

Rock Art is Vandalized or Destroyed in various ways:

- **Target Shooting**
- **Paint balls**
- **Painting over it**
- **Scratching and defacing (graffiti)**
- **Cutting or carving it out**
- **Rubbing against it (animals/trees and shrubs)**
- **Applying chemicals**
- **Wild fires, camp fires**
- **Natural environmental conditions such as lichen growth and weather**



Wild fire crew at rock art site in Utah County

**THIS IS PRIVATE PROPERTY
NO TRESSPASSING**





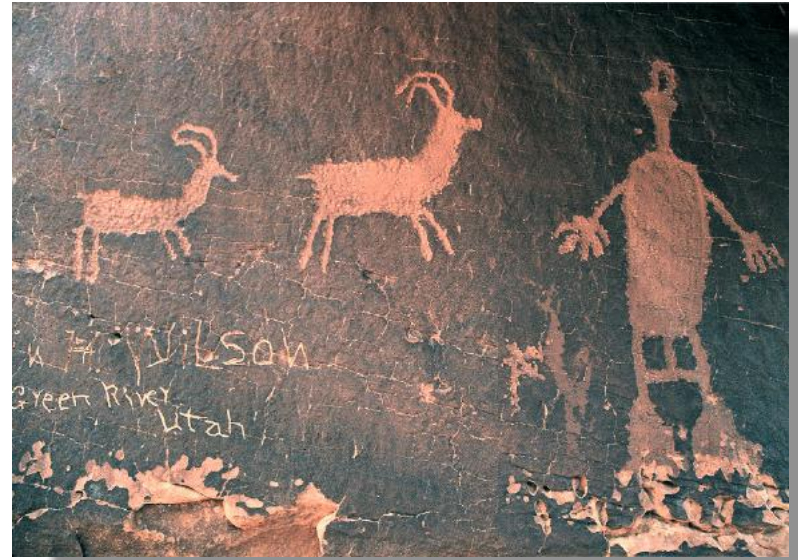
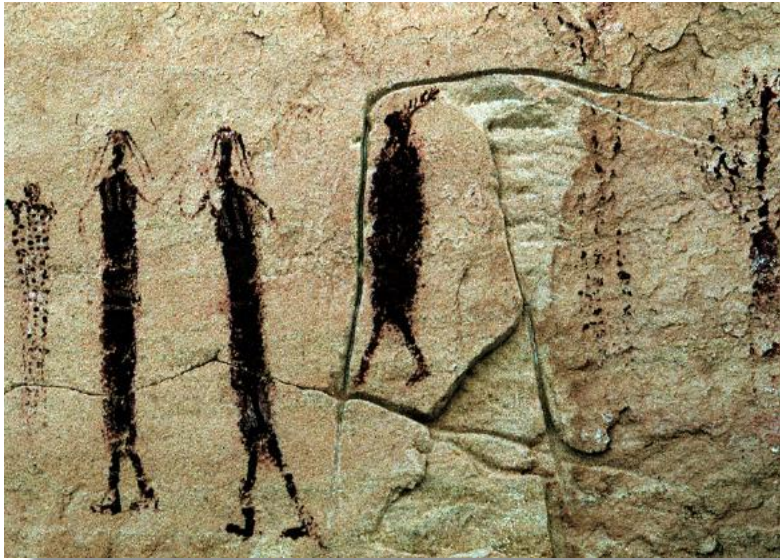
Field work recording sites with cultural resource contractor, Logan Simpson

How can we protect rock art sites?

- **Education efforts on why rock art is important**
 - Teaching children and adults
 - Informing visitors
- **Proper visitation etiquette**
 - How to behave around rock art
- **Field surveys, locating sites**
 - GPS locations
 - Notifying the appropriate land managers
- **Documenting sites** so there will always be a record of them
- **Law enforcement**

Let's make it simple.

The number one action that will help stop the vandalism of rock imagery is knowledge – knowing how to behave when you come upon it.



Then number two – share what you know

BEHAVIOR AND ETIQUETTE AT ROCK ART SITES

- Please do not touch the images. Oil from your hands degrades the rock surface.
- Please do not disturb rock art sites or nearby ruins. Picking up pieces of pottery or digging in soil disturbs the area and leads to erosion.
- Refrain from making fires near the rock art sites.
- Please do not enhance the petroglyphs or pictographs with chalk, liquid, or paint.
- Do not make rubbings, molds or castings of petroglyphs.
- Please do not carve, chisel, scratch, engrave, spray paint or write on panels. This not only mars the petroglyphs but is a federal crime with high fines.
- Do not try to remove or take items from cliffs or boulders. It is vandalism and a federal crime, with stiff penalties including fines and imprisonment.
- Enjoy the ancient petroglyphs, take lots of photos, leave things in place, act responsibly and help preserve our prehistoric legacy and heritage.

It's important to respect the sacredness of these sites still very much recognized by todays Native People.



Escalante Area Site



Historical inscriptions are also protected as rock art



RESPECT AND PROTECT

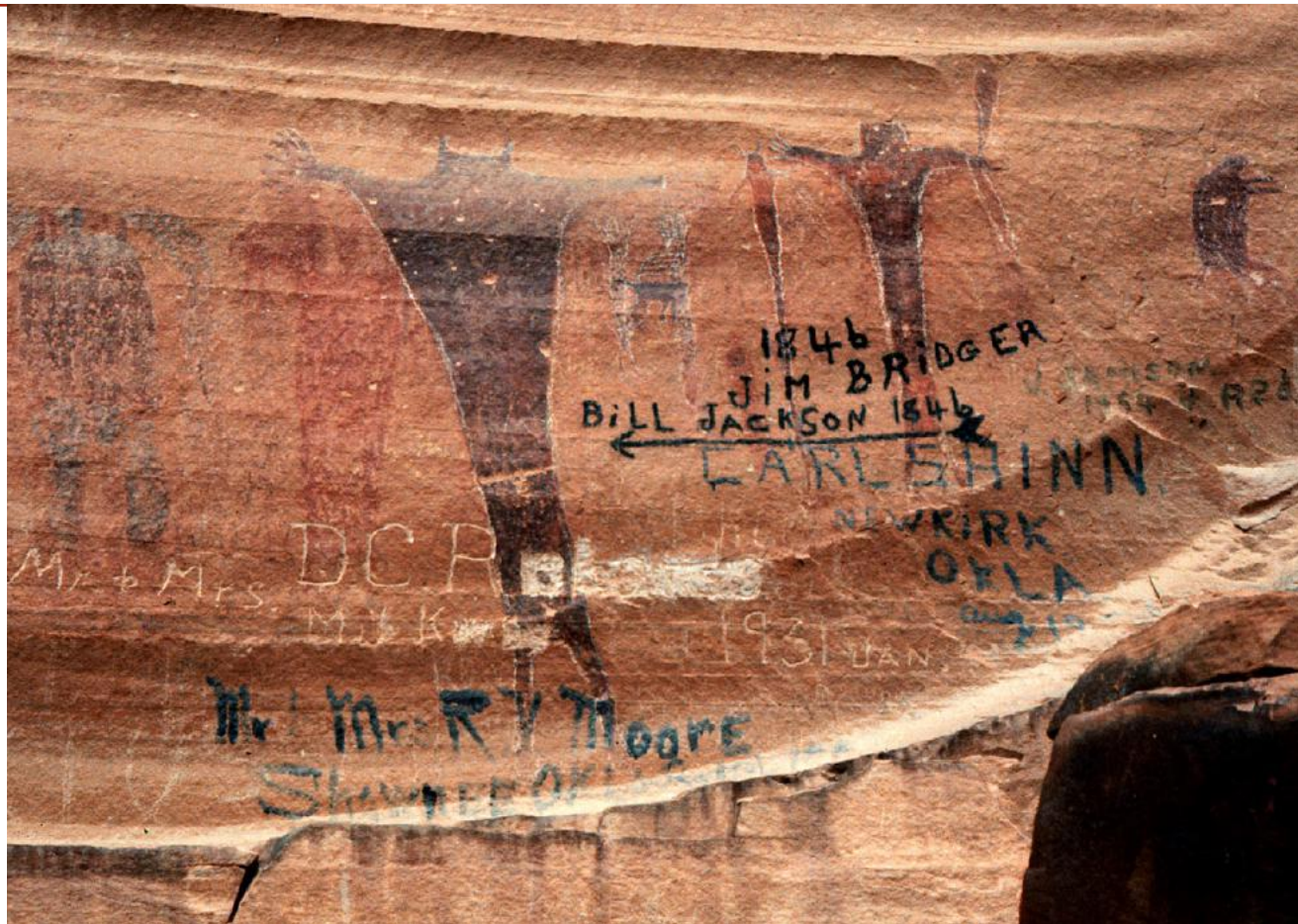


**Protecting rock art isn't just our concern,
it's the law!**

ARPA – Archeological Resource Protection Act:

“ARPA forbids anyone from excavating or removing archeological resources from Federal or Native land without a permit from a land managing agency. ARPA also forbids any sales, purchase, exchange, transport, or receipt. Those who violate can face substantial fines and even imprisonment if convicted, and any relevant archeological resources will be confiscated.”

If you see someone looting or vandalizing a site call
1-800-722-3998 or local law enforcement.



It is going to take a **change in the social attitude** to save this cultural resource from vandalism and destruction.

**LETS ENJOY – TAKE PHOTOS
LEAVE UNTOUCHED**





As a URARA
Member,
Help protect
this important
irreplaceable
cultural
resource.



Be an example and share your knowledge.