



News Release

Date: June 16, 2002

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For Immediate Release

ROCK ART IS ONE-OF-A-KIND ROADSIDE ATTRACTION

(RENO, Nevada) – Desert highways hold many mysteries, but day-trippers and commuters are probably not aware that if they pull off Highway 50 in Nevada to stretch their legs, ancient cultural history is only a stone’s thrown away.

Grimes Point, 12 miles east of Fallon, Nevada, skirts the Stillwater Range and Carson Sink and amidst its black basalt boulders are nearly 200 petroglyphs. Though the upper margin of the images have been disturbed by bulldozing and once served as a dumping ground for Fallon, the Nevada Rock Art Foundation sees the site as an opportunity to educate the general public.

“Rock art is a unique and beautiful relic and is one of the keys to understanding our natural, cultural and local history,” Alanah Woody, executive director of the Nevada Rock Art Foundation said.

Woody and a handful of Reno professionals formed the Foundation in order to document and preserve sites for posterity and utilize findings for education and research. The Foundation also offers tours of Lagomarsino near Virginia City, Nevada, where hundreds of panels can be viewed, as well as training sessions that allows anyone with such interests the opportunity to learn how to record panels and drawings.

A second site accessible and convenient to driver-bys is through a mountain pass called Hickison Summit, halfway between the towns of Austin and Eureka, both in Nevada. Petroglyphs can be found at three different locations at the summit, some with lightly scratched hatching and crosshatching, others with elaborate grooves and other design elements. Some markings may even include red paint.

Positively attributing, dating and translating these markings is a feat taking into account all the schools of science and history. One theory popular in the past on the Hickison Summit site according to Woody, is that it was a migration route for deer and the rocky terrain was an ambush site for its inhabitants many years ago.

Though there is signage on the highway and trails, with parking and picnic areas (at both sites) visitors are requested to be respectful of these historical wonders in order to preserve the remains for future generations of scientists and curious travelers.

The Nevada Rock Art Foundation is a private, non-profit organization, created in October 2001. With a mission to raise funds through membership, grants and individual contributions, the Foundation aims to document and preserve the more than 1,000 rock art sites in Nevada for prosperity by recording them in the field and utilizing their findings for education, research, scientific and cultural heritage studies.

To learn more about the Nevada Rock Art Foundation, membership, donations, volunteering and related activities, call 775-284-1529 or email info@nevadarockart.org or log on to www.nevadarockart.org.

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