

**CHACO ROCK ART REASSESSMENT PROJECT**

Lay Report for  
Western Nation Parks Association Grant # 04-04  
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The goal of the 2004 Chaco Rock Art Reassessment Project was to record the rock art along the Penasco Blanco Trail beginning at Clys Canyon up to the "Super Nova" site in Chaco Culture National Historical Park (CCNHP) and compare the results to the documentation produced in the 1970s by the Archaeological Society of New Mexico's Rock Art Field School.

Field sessions were held in the spring and fall. By mid October of 2004, we recorded 18 sites and completed the field work for this grant project greatly expanding the amount of recorded rock art in the Park. Changes to existing recorded panels were noted. Graffiti and erosion continues to increase. On the north side of Chaco Wash, we surveyed, but did not record, the area paralleling the trail which contained only a few panels.

Scale drawings from this project have been adapted for inclusion in an expanded version of the "Backcountry Trail Guide." Because we were working in places open to the public, we had many opportunities to talk to visitors. They displayed much curiosity and many expressed a good knowledge of rock art and interest in its preservation. In addition to the recording work, we collected two pieces of broken off petroglyph rocks, one in south Gap and the other above Wijiji. We had recorded them in previous sessions and had reported them to the Cultural Resource Officer, who instructed us to collect them.

In the spring we were able to take the leading pictograph dating expert to "Atl-Atl Cave" to see about the possibility of dating it. Dr. Marvin Rowe of Texas A&M University took a

sample of the background rock and found it to contain too much carbon ,making it impossible to date the pictographs.

As a result of recent vandalism, a site steward program has been set up in Chaco using our records as a basis for monitoring.

Analysis of the information gathered in this project will be incorporated with the findings of the other years' CRARP materials in preparation for producing a book on Ancient Chacoan rock art. We have already been promised about half of the needed funds by a private individual. The Superintendent, the Cultural Resource Officer and the Chief of Interpretation at Chaco have all shown interest and support for this publication. I met with each of these individuals during this past season to keep them current on our progress and accomplishments.

We have now completed the Chaco Rock Art Reassessment Project work for the WNPA Grant #04-04. Our records of informational data, which have been entered into a database, photography with accompanying data sheets, original slides with copies scanned onto compact disks and scale drawings have been submitted to the Cultural Resource Officer and added to the existing records of these sites. Currently we are working with the present grant to try to complete the sites in the areas along the north wall of the canyon which have not been recorded. We sincerely appreciate all the support and cooperation of the staff at Chaco Culture National Historical Park and at the Western National Parks Association.