

All too frequently our cultural heritage is disappearing without any record. For this reason we must be vigilant and limit our impact on the landscape in the event of discovery or while visiting archaeological sites in general and rock art sites in particular. The Wyoming Site Stewardship Program is composed of volunteers, sponsored by the Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office and the Bureau of Land Management, that have a commitment to cultural resource protection and preservation. As site stewards, there are many good reasons for adopting an attitude of respect. Rock art is sacred to many Native Americans, and it is a part of prehistory for everyone. We should aspire to protect the past for future generations to study and enjoy. Enjoy rock art sites in a spirit of respectfulness, and connect with the past. This handout offers some general recommendations for rock art site visitation.

To learn more about site stewardship or how you may become a trained Wyoming Archaeological Site Steward volunteer, contact:

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The Wyoming Site
Stewardship Program

Help Protect Wyoming's Rock Art

BECOME A
SITE
STEWARD



Things to Consider When Visiting a Rock Art Site

1. Please do not touch rock art. Your hands leave oil and dirt on the surface of anything you touch.
2. Please do not smoke, camp, or build fires within one-quarter mile of a rock art site or archaeological site. Building a camp fire near a rock art site can cause heat damage and blackening of rock surfaces.
3. Do not collect or disturb any archaeological remains. Do not remove vegetation such as lichens, moss, leaves, roots, or trees. Collecting artifacts or disturbing archaeological features (such as hearths or rock arrangements) can destroy the context of the site.
4. Tread lightly and minimize your impact on the environment. Do not litter or leave behind anything.
5. Never alter rock art sites, even though someone else may have done so. Engraving, scratching, or rubbing can permanently damage rock art sites. Do not attempt to remove graffiti.
6. You should not apply any substance to enhance photography or drawing. Despite the ability to enhance photography, application of materials to rock art surfaces may forever alter its integrity.
7. You should not allow your children or pets to conduct themselves in a manner that may damage rock art sites.
8. Do try to limit the number of vehicles when visiting a rock art site. Stay on existing roads and trails. Do not create your own trail or road. Where possible stay at least 10 to 15 feet from rock art panels.
9. Specific locations and directions to rock art sites shall not be posted or published unless the sites are fully known and open to the public or managed for visitation.
10. Contact the appropriate authorities when damage or vandalism to rock art is noticed. Archaeological sites on public land belong to us all, not to any single individual.

Medicine Lodge State Archaeological Site



Relevant Laws:

American Antiquities Act
(16 USC 431-433)

Archaeological Resources
Protection Act
(16 USC 470aa-mm)

Native American Graves Protection and
Repatriation Act
(25 USC 3001 et. seq.)

Wyoming Antiquities, State Lands
(Statutes 36-1-114 through 36-1-116)

Above: BLM Cody Archaeologist Kierson Crume lecturing at a Stewardship training. Photo courtesy of Joseph Daniele
Below: Artwork courtesy of Marge McCre

