

“Buckhorn Wash Panel Restoration Project”

by

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The Buckhorn Wash Panel Restoration Project was a project undertaken by Emery County as part of the 1995 Utah Centennial Celebration. Reed Martin was the chairman of the project.

The Buckhorn wash Rock Art Panel is a large pictograph panel composed of image in the “Barrier Canyon” style. It is thought that the archaic people created these images 200 to 5000 years ago (Figure 1).



Figure 1 - Buckhorn Wash Panel – Restored

This rock art panel was thought by many to be one of the most damaged rock art panels in Utah and even the entire US. The damage included vandalism, bullet holes and many names, even pioneer names (Figure 2). There was also a large amount of “chalking” that was done by prior archaeologists.

The project goals were:

1. REMOVE ALL NAMES AND GRAFFITI AND REPAIR VANDALISM
2. LANDSCAPING AND SITE INTERPRETATION
3. HAVE AN EDUCATION PROGRAM
4. DEVELOP A SITE MAINTENANCE PLAN

The program took over two years to plan and organize. The majority of the time involved getting all the various organizations to “sign off” on the plan and approve the project. The project also raised over \$100,000 and thousands of hours of community volunteer time to execute.

Restoration experts were hired to work on the rock art panel and volunteer time was spent to landscape the site.

One of the controversial part of the project was the removal of the pioneer names because many of the decedents still lived in the area. But his was deemed very important because it was felt that if the names were left, they would encourage other to leave their names as well.

The “landscaping “part of the project involved the building of new fences, a shade shelter, a parking area and the moving of the access road away from the panel and the creation of a berm between the road and the viewing area. This created a sense of “importance” to the panel which was though wold deter future vandalism of the site.

In the 20 years since the project completion in 1995, there has been only one case of vandalism, and that person was caught and arrested and forced to pay to repair his damage. This high success rate was credited to the large amount of community involvement and the educational aspects of the project – both at the site and in schools and community programs.

References

[http://www.utahrockart.org/pubs/proceedings/papers/14-11_Martin -
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