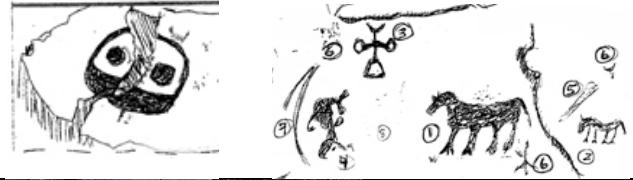
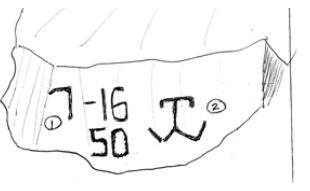
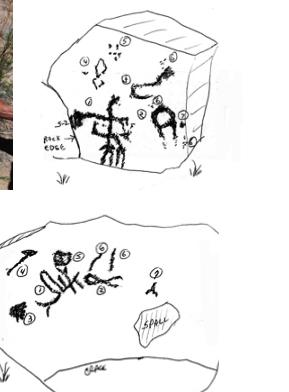
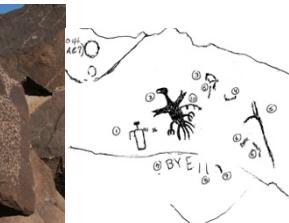
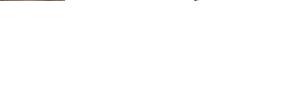
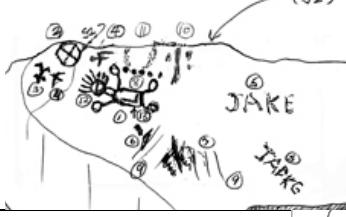
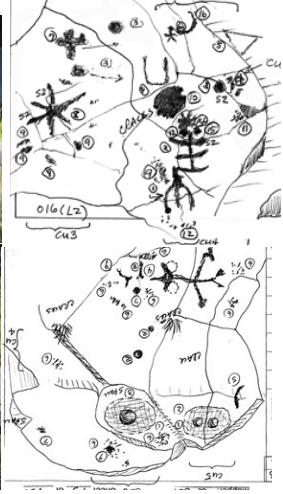
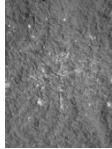


Wells Petroglyph Preserve
Tour #1 – Wells Walk
 Docent Guidelines 1½ - 2 hours

SIGN	DESCRIPTION	
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enter the locked gate (7827) and proceed to the left along the flat area. Stand in a clearing and discuss the river bosque, mesa, sounds and geology of the mesa. Point out the alluvial river stones covered by dirt and layers of dark basalt boulders. Discuss the river cobbles are representative of the Santa Fe Formation that resulted from erosion over millions of years from the Sangre de Cristo Mountains to the east of the mesa. Discuss how the mesa was formed by the Taos Plateau volcanic field, describe the Servilleta basalt cap that was deposited at ground level about three million years ago with subsequent erosion by the Rio Grande that made the present Rio Grande Valley. Give a brief description of the four time periods represented in images on the Wells Preserve – Archaic, Ancestral Pueblo, Post-Contact and American Colonial Period. 	
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue straight ahead along the fence, bear left at the trail junction. 	
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Careful examination of this boulder shows that the break occurred prior to the image being made. One can see that the edges are pecked. Utilization of rock features were often incorporated into images. Point out the large vugs that resulted from gas bubbles that formed as the lava was cooling and hardening in nearby boulders at left. Point out Post-Classic Period images on large boulder to left including a horse and human, joined circles on the top and snake and trisected circle on the south face. 	 
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notice the recent markings on this boulder. Culturally, additions to petroglyph panels have been made for thousands of years. We do not use the term "graffiti" but describe these as "additions" if they do not impact the original images or "defacement" when they damage pre-existing petroglyphs or images. These Post-Contact and American Period images are placed respectfully to the side of the pre-existing images. 	 

5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Images on this boulder are mostly Pueblo IV / Ancestral Pueblo with Post-Contact and Anglo American additions. A quadruped is in the center of the boulder with a possible frog to its right. Several anthropomorphic figures are skillfully pecked in this Pueblo IV panel. On the lower left is an anthropomorph in what appears to be dance apparel with feathers or turtle shell rattles on his knees, overly large hands, feather head dress and a large club in his right hand. To his right is what appears to be a horned shield bearer. These images are often viewed in Pueblo dances today. The third figure on the right is a delightful flute player appearing anthropomorph. With what looks like a flute lifted above his head, this figure may actually be a cloud blower as a flute is difficult to play with one hand and lifted above one's head. The left hand is on his hip. In the upper left are two Christian crosses. MPPP recorders have recorded over 3000 crosses to date and identified more than 24 cross styles. The Post-Contact images to the right are hard to discern; it is often not until recorders make a drawing that the images are clear. 	 
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look up slope and see what is fondly called the "lady bug shield". The large shield has a central broad line that is bridged on both sides by equal sized circles. 	 

7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This panel displays a quadruped, possibly a deer (note the cloven hooves). A variety of Post-Contact Christian crosses are superimposed over the earlier images. American period lettering is above the deer. Note all these images have similar repatination and were likely made during the Post-Contact Period. Note the Post-Contact date and image on the boulder to your left and other recent additions. T-over-W on the right could possibly be a livestock brand. 	   
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Just beyond this boulder are two similar sized boulders with Archaic images. Archaic images are the oldest found to date on Mesa Prieta and date from 7500 BCE to 600 CE. The images are simple and geometric; these are typical of the Archaic time period. The repatination on both boulders is very dark making the images difficult to see. Discuss repatination The designs are non-representational, note the “ice tongs” feature on the left. 	   
9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look upslope to see a bird, possibly a turkey, taking flight. Turkeys existed in the wild as well as in domesticated flocks in the Pueblo IV time period. We see a number of turkey petroglyphs on the mesa – or turkey tails with the broad bands of white emphasized. To its left is a nucleated circle and a possible infilled partial figure. This image is carefully crafted and infilled with pecking. 	   

10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The sidewise anthropomorph on this panel may be associated with the Pueblo Revolt of 1680. Native American guests to the Preserve have indicated this figure may represent Po'pay, one of the leaders of the Pueblo Revolt. The figure has a feathered head dress and what appears to be a knotted rope or connected disks in the left hand. The knotted cord was used to time the uprising: each day a knot was undone and at the end, all the tribes rose up together to expel the Spanish. The circle with the equilateral cross and other equilateral crosses likely represent the Venus Star – a war symbol. This is a powerful panel. Note the possible letters and “tagging” style images elsewhere on the panel are Post-Contact. 	 
11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The large boulder to the left has several totally repatinated Archaic features. Talk about the Archaic Period images and later time periods. Look closely to see a one poled ladder, cupules and an asterisk form, common geometric motifs in Archaic rock images. The large cupule on this boulder is one of the largest found on the Preserve. Surrounding the cupules is a grinding slick – these are the result of a stone or river cobble being forcefully rubbed against a basalt boulder and are likely ceremonial features. Note the carefully added cross as well as a large moon-like disk. Fortunately, this important boulder is out of sight and above the road and has incurred no vandalism. The boulder is likely a shrine as evidenced by the large cupules, slicks, multiple time periods of use. 	 
12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look very closely at this image that is difficult to see under bright lighting. Note the cross that is a possible crucifix. A head, arms and outstretched fingers are apparent. A possible brand is at the left. 	 

13

- Continue south out of the arroyo. On your right is an amazing boulder with images on three sides.
- On the top face of this boulder is a large Awanyu – a two horned mythological serpent that is associated by the Native Americans as a water symbol. A small bird is at its left side. A possible venus star symbol sits below.
- On the right side of the boulder near the arroyo is an outstanding, skillfully crafted shield with what might represent feathers as triangles and circles.
- On the front face of the boulder is an anthropomorph without legs. This image could represent a female. The feature is well defined by cracks along the head, arms and body; the image is beautifully infilled. What appears to be a duck is on the left.



14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ascend upwards into a complex assemblage of rock images that depict a raptor, birthing scene, Awanyu, grinding slicks and large finely made cupule. Birds are common motifs in rock images. This exceptional example of an eagle likely has ceremonial connotations to the Ancestral Puebloans. Note the smooth grinding slick and cupule on the top of this boulder and a lesser defined slick on the left. These are likely ceremonial features. Grinding slicks can be used for ceremonial purposes, stone sharpening areas or for agricultural use. Three large morteros or metates are nearby. It is likely that agricultural fields existed in the area to the east of the Preserve and the grinding of maize and other grains may have occurred. A well-made water bird and a swallow are also on this boulder. Other images in this area include several serpents and a possible anthropomorphic birthing scene. Below the possible birthing scene is a very dark, wide, pecked zig zag line that might represent the body of a two horned serpent. 	
15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This boulder face possesses images that are difficult to see. Stand at the right side to obtain cross lighting and see a bird figure, hand and animal prints and several apostrophe images thought to be representative of a sprouting seed or fertility. Although this panel is totally repatinated, it is unknown if the image is an Archaic representation as animals are not commonly depicted during the Archaic period. Heavy repatination could be caused by exposure of water running over the surface. 	
16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As you pass back through a shallow drainage, note the boulder in the arroyo on your left. Although the images have been damaged by centuries of water and gravel cascading over the panel, you can see a thunderbird like figure on the left and a right facing flute player on the right. Note the small, lightly scratched mammal on the lower left. 	
17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look high above on the ridge to the left at the horizontal serpent reaching from side to side on the suspended boulder above you. A serpent is a water feature, is this a beacon for water? Note we are standing in a significant, rugged water way; it is common to see clusters of petroglyphs around water ways. 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cross back over the small drainage and start climbing the trail up on your left. 	

18

- Ahead of you is a very fine, fully infilled image of what is likely a mountain lion. On the top of the boulder is an anthropomorph with two horns, also fully infilled.
- On the upside or back of the boulder are a cross in a circle, opposing bird tracks and bullet marks.
- The large boulder on the left has tumbled down the slope. Note the lighter repatination on the top where the boulder was once buried in earth, darker on the bottom. A deeply patinated, upside-down mammal can be seen near the base.



19

- As you ascend the trail, on the left you see a beautifully made shield with spoked, concentric circles.
- The boulder hosting this image is very light from running water. While the shield appears to be heavily repatinated, it is an Ancestral Pueblo image, so defined by the subject matter.
- The image on the boulder to the right may represent a shield bearer; the head of the shield bearer spalled away from the boulder leaving behind the right corner of the head with a feather or horn.
- A few steps further, note the finely made, fully infilled shield bearer.



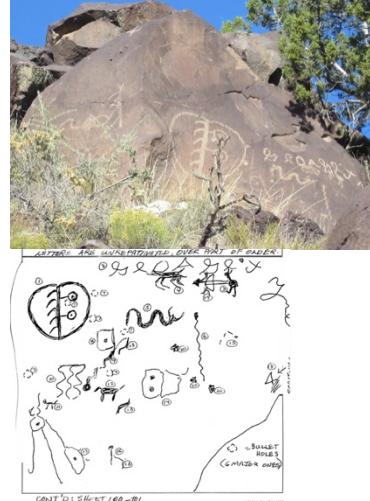
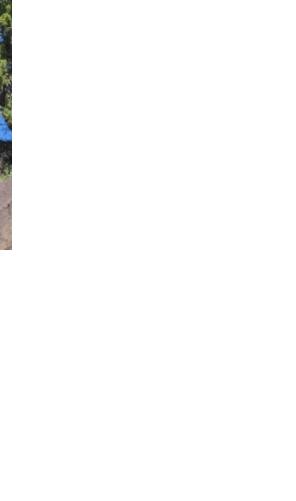
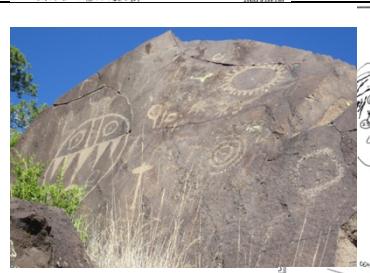
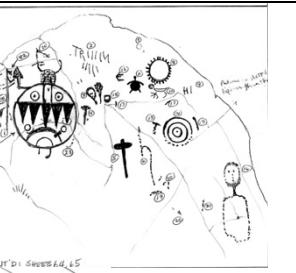
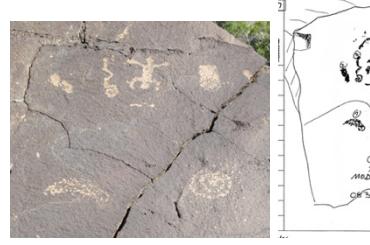
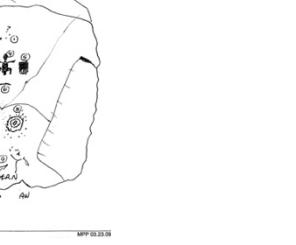
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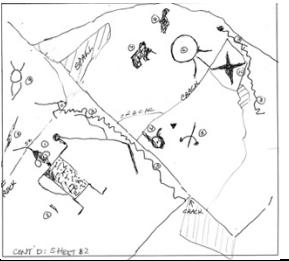
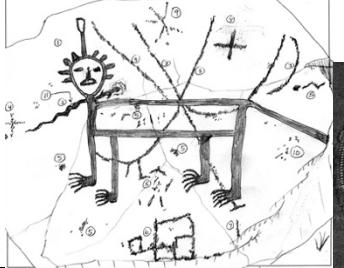
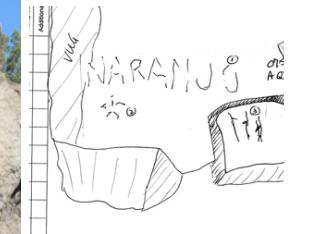
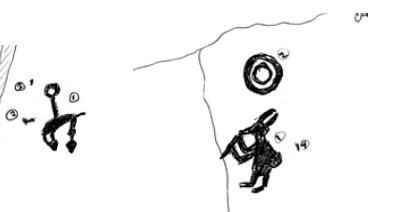
- Continue up the steep trail; note the turkey tracks hopping from boulder to boulder as they ascend the slope. It is thought that bird or turkey tracks were used as trail markers by the Ancestral Puebloans.
- A number of trails on the mesa are marked with these tracks, including this ancient route.



21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Note this heavily altered rock now under a tree. The surface is almost totally pounded; a female figure can be seen underneath the other features. Note the dozen or more cupules (circular scalloped shaped depressions in the rock, perhaps used for grinding seeds for spiritual use, consumption or dyes). The dust from the cupules was thought to be used for ceremonial purposes. Note the top of the boulder that has been worked along the upper edge. Evidence suggests this rock had frequent Ancestral Pueblo visitation and is likely a shrine. There is no evidence it continues to be used a shrine today. Please remember to not touch the images. 	 
22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As you continue along the trail, note efforts being made by MPPP volunteers to combat erosion. The long rope-like tubes filled with straw are called wattles. Notice how dirt has back-filled above the wattles to slow the flow of water and subsequent erosion. In 2014, the Wells Preserve was named one of eleven most threatened Landscapes in the country, due to erosion. 	
23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Note the large boulder to your right and upslope. Two well made, outlined anthropomorphs are on the very top of this huge boulder. The figure on the left may be a birthing figure; on the right is a female without a head. The figures are almost amphibian like. It is likely that erosion has impacted the base of the boulder, making the top difficult to reach today. In that the Ancestral Puebloans had ladders; it is possible one was used here. 	 
24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As you reach the top of the arroyo trail look left at the image at the top of the arroyo of a long legged water bird with a long graceful neck and wings stretched. From here, one can imagine a wild slurry of water and gravel cascading down the water way. 	

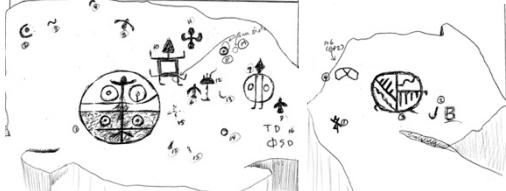
<p>25</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Go straight ahead up a short, steep trail to the Ancestral Pueblo Classic images above You first see a long wavy line that may represent a snake; note the natural hole within the image. An infilled disk is to the right and small, infilled bird lower right. A quadruped that may represent a mountain lion (note the large, round feet and long, horizontal tail) has what may represent lightning coming out of or striking its head and arrows on its back. Other images on the front of this boulder include a set of crossed lines with a disk on top and what may be a bird. Move to the left and see a very elaborate shield with what appears to be a frog attached. To the left, a feathered human figure holds a huge, ceremonial staff. The hour glass figures possibly resemble scalps. This evocative carefully made image is atypical for the assemblages found thus far on Mesa Prieta. Further to the left is a large water bird; note the fully pecked head and finely depicted tail and feet. Turkey tracks are at the left. Continuing left are two more ceremonial staffs, an ovoid circle and a heavily pecked nucleated circle with curious fine pecking on the perimeter. Historic initials are above. Please carefully return to the main trail. 	
<p>As you step down from this area, look across the valley, the bosque to the mountains. Discuss how this rugged topography and landscape, home to the early people, may have appeared in pre-historic times. Looking across the Bosque to the barrañas, gravel mulch fields and associated water management features can be found.</p>	
<p>26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make your way carefully along the trail, note the erosion control features on both sides of the trail. Please stay on the trail. <u>Docent walk past sign number 26 and stop.</u> Point out the multicolored lichens on all sides of this boulder. Some are very old. Lichen encroachment can consume the rock. When the lichen die, they leave eroded patterns in the rock that often are mistaken by recorders as petroglyphs. 	

27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An extremely well made flute player is ahead of you; knees are flexed, the humped back is evenly depicted and the long curved flute is in carefully made hands. His knees are slightly bent in an animated stance. Below the flute player is an excellent two horned serpent; could the round object within its body represent a recently ingested rodent? Other features include a sandal track, a bear track, an equilateral cross or star, Historic markings and a curious newer "T" shaped feature with an older net-like extension. 	 
28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look up-slope to see a very large boulder with a large circular shield; the inner design of the shield may represent corn or maize; another similar depiction is to the left. The name "George" is written in large cursive letters. Some of the earliest European people on Mesa Prieta were sheepherders who herded huge flocks of sheep during the Spanish Colonial period of the 1700s. Most of the sheepherders were illiterate, they possibly could etch their initials on the boulders but could not write. Note the several wavy lines that may represent snakes. This complex boulder with a large shield has served as target practice for people passing below; a number of bullet holes have damaged the panel. 	 
29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This large, imposing Ancestral Puebloan Classic panel has many features of the time period. The large shield bearer on the left has a horned head and hand holding a spear that are thought to have been added by a different hand perhaps at a later time. Other features on the boulder include a war club, a beautifully executed rayed circle that may represent a solar calendar, concentric circles and 3 possible turtles. Native American Sun Watchers observed patterns on rocks over many years to determine the exact spot to mark important times like the solstices and equinoxes. The people would then know important days such as the shortest day of the year – the day when the sun would begin to return, when to plant or harvest and when to do certain ceremonies. A partial human is on the lower right with full facial features depicted including a possible beard; this image was likely added in the Historic period. On the right is a well-made panel with a number of finely made small images. A serpent-like figure starts in a spiral and ends in a detached disk or head. To the right is a reptile-like figure that may be a birthing scene and an oval/rectangle. Below is another pecked spiral with deliberately placed fine pecking around the perimeter. 	   

30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This image appears to be an infilled female, as depicted by hair whorls worn by unmarried females, particularly in the Hopi culture. She appears to be holding what might be a whip or snake in her left hand that connects to a zig zag vertical line, perhaps depicting lightning. An image very similar to this one is elsewhere on the mesa. Other images can be seen on the boulder. 	 
31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A number of Historic lions exist on the Wells Preserve. This outstanding image has a full human-like face with rays radiating from its head. Long claws extend from its four paws, a serpent is across his neck and an equilateral cross is above him. The long curved lines are older than the lion. This image is thought to be Historic, similar depictions of the lion's head and face are found on a Historic metal buckle at the School of American Research in Santa Fe. The lion image may be related to the Pueblo Revolt; families from nearby Ohkay Owingeh took refuge on the mesa during the Revolt. Note the possible "Venus Star" in the upper right; this may or may not have been placed at the same time as the lion image. This stylized lion is one of the most photographed images on the Preserve. 	  
32	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The name "Naranjo" is popular in the Northern Rio Grande Valley. This name may have been here for decades or over a hundred years. 	 
33	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Turn up the short trail to your left. Ahead of you is a very small, infilled, well made flute player with heavily pecked concentric circles above. In front of that image is a bright, deeply pecked abstract feature. 	 

34

- Again, step up onto the trail to the left and view the huge panel in front of you. The large shield has pecking across the lower hemisphere with four heavily pecked circles within.
- To the right is a finely made bird that is known as a “knife wing” - an image that has a foreboding impact on children, especially those that misbehave! Two additional birds, a hash-knife like object, a square bodied anthropomorph and what may be a shield bearer.
- Note the bullet holes on the panel; unfortunately circular shaped images often serve as targets for people with rifles on the road below.
- The boulder on the left has another shield that is not as pronounced; the image in the lower left was made with metal. The edges are precise and deep, the bright white color indicates it was recently made, perhaps in the last several hundred years. The image may represent a brand.



35

- Another large panel, this one is often difficult to see in bright lighting. A large shield has an almost perfect circle above; to the left is a bird on what appears to be a stick or arrow. To the right are a war club, human figures, a turtle, a swallow, a snake and other images.
- Look at the interior of the large shield; 2 parallel lines with arrow heads face opposite directions and a wavy horizontal lines have alternate infilling. This is an extremely unusual and carefully designed feature.
- On the far right is a spiral that is a solar calendar. Ron Barber, a Los Alamos scientist, has done extensive studies on the Wells Preserve of images that are computer modeled and found to coincide with the summer or winter solstices or the spring or fall equinoxes.



36	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Christian cross is superimposed over an anthropomorphic shield figure possibly holding two spears; most often crosses are respectfully placed to the side of earlier images 	 
37	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take care as you continue down the trail. 	
37	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low on the boulder to your left are three spear points. Images of war artifacts are common on Mesa Prieta. On the right just below the trail are three round-headed snakes. Lighting may not allow viewing. 	 
38	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Although the images on this boulder are not easily seen, look closely for detail of technique; the trident is abraded as are one set of initials; the second set of initials are scratched. 	
39	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You enter a narrow passage way with panels on both sides. On the right are two long two-horn serpents or Awanyus. A more recent (brighter) disk is on the right. Horned serpents are mythological and are often depicted as emerging from a crack in the rock, the ground or a natural hole. Serpents are associated with water and fertility. Note the darker and lighter repatination on both of these panels. On the opposite side, a complex panel represents several time periods. The bright, crab-like figure is likely Historic; it is brighter and newer than the initials below. To the right are two two-horned serpents and four club-like features, all Ancestral Pueblo images. The vertical row of connected disks are likely Historic, as are the Christian cross and lettering. Look to the south behind you, note the large grinding slicks that may be ceremonial or used for stone sharpening surfaces. See the ax cut tree stump; recorders document these features as Cultural Landscape artifacts that help to portray early use of the mesa. As you pass by the boulder with the crab-like feature, turn and look on the back. You will see several heavily repatinated disks and a war club with brighter, a faint later image below left is a human head and face. 	   

40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Looking back, you see a shield bearer with a "Pac Man" like face. Recorders have found a number of ceremonial figures with this open mouth feature. Up high is an image resembling a "Dodge Ram Charger" symbol, not so. Mountain sheep were at one time indigenous to the mesa. 	  
41	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As you descend and pass through this open area, in the fore ground see several small boulders with a two horned serpent emerging from ground level, a round headed snake with a more recent abstract feature, in the rear a beautifully made shield and a turtle like feature. At the upper left are two mammals and a vertical tailed disk. At the upper right is an abstract and a possible reptile. The figure may represent a person who has fallen or who had died. <p>Final comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review the time periods: Archaic, Ancestral Pueblo, Historic and American Emphasize that we DO NOT KNOW WHAT THE IMAGES MEAN; we were not there when they were made. In describing the images, we strive to use objective terms. MP Project brochures, give one to each guest or set of guests. Explain that there are seven tour routes on the Wells Petroglyph Preserve; a minimum of four visits are required to visit all seven tour routes. 	     
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thank you for visiting the Wells Petroglyph Preserve; we hope you have enjoyed your tour. 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For an emergency, dial 911. Give dispatcher the following directions: Turn west off Highway 68 at the Lyden/La Canova turn off between mile markers 11 and 12. Proceed 2.2 miles on County Road 0057 continuing south around the 90 degree turn. The Wells Petroglyph Preserve is at a large turn-out on the left side of the road. Park in the turn out and look uphill for group. 	