

Wells Petroglyph Preserve
Tour #6 – Lightning Rock Trail
 Docent Guidelines 1-1½ hours

SIGN #		
TIPS	Use of a shade will be helpful on this tour.	
	Tour 6 is the easiest tour on the Preserve to walk. The distance walked is about ½ mile; the trail is quite clear and easy to follow. Several low hills are climbed in route; rest areas are available for those who need them.	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walk up road from the locked gate past the mail box and first home. • Docents can describe the rock images along the route. • Tour 6 begins at the left of the first home. Enter the area where marked and walk through the parking area. Continue behind the home, climbing the low rise to the arroyo on the right. • SPEAKING POINTS • As you cross the arroyos, point out the erosion dams constructed by MPPP volunteers to slow down the passage of water and reduce erosion at trail crossings. Discuss how fragile the topography of the mesa is today, largely due to overgrazing for hundreds of years. • Mention that the numerous junipers on the Preserve and mesa are resultant of overgrazing in the 17, 18 and early 1900s, thousands of sheep were grazed on the mesa. Hundreds of years ago, the junipers were widely spread out and fires that occurred would burn and kill the smaller junipers. Today, with little grass on the mesa, fires are unable to spread and the junipers thrive. • Cross the arroyo and continue on the trail towards stop #1. 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please note the cairns along this trail that are on the right side walking out, on the left side returning. • This area is highly subject to erosion; clearing the trail of rocks would enhance erosion. Please take care; while the trail is easy to walk, hazards exist. 	

Wells Petroglyph Preserve
Tour #6 – Lightning Rock Trail
 Docent Guidelines 1-1½ hours

<p>MARKER #1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walk a short distance to marker #1. A small, low cluster of boulders have Ancestral Puebloan images on several sides. • On the south side are an anthropomorph and a block of joined rectangles. The anthropomorph is deeply and fully in-pecked; the hands are overly large and raised for a purpose we do not know. Note the lovely and colorful lichen on this and many of the rocks in the area. • On the other side of the boulder are a possible mammal, another anthropomorph, a mask and a snake. All are fully and deeply in-pecked and carefully designed. 	
<p>MARKER #2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walk to right (east) from this boulder to a cluster of three low boulders. • On the right, see a very elaborate ceremonial figure; he appears to be holding a club in his right hand and a large pouch or bag in his left. • A spear or possible recurve bow appears to be suspended over his head and his very elaborate head dress, possibly made of feathers. • The figure's body is deeply and completely pecked with emphasis on his elbows and knees and leg muscling. • To the left of this image is a very well made form of unknown nature. Several other images are on this boulder. • Boulder to the left an image of a flute player fills half of the boulder. • The third boulder has a large, well-formed footprint and other images on several sides. 	
<p>MARKER #3</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow the path around to the left about 30 meters. A very large boulder under a juniper tree on your left has a number of Ancestral Pueblo images including a possible shield, deeply pecked bird track, a long, two horn serpent, several carefully pecked abstract images and, on the left, a possible feathered human. 	

Wells Petroglyph Preserve
Tour #6 – Lightning Rock Trail
 Docent Guidelines 1-1½ hours

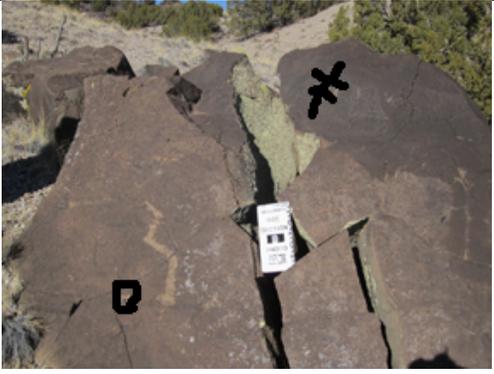
<p>MARKER 4</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue on the main path a short distance to the next image, a long, low rock with several crosses. • The Christian Cross was introduced by the Spanish after 1598 when the Spanish introduced Christianity to the Ancestral Puebloans. • Christian crosses of many styles abound on the mesa, many made by Ancestral Puebloan people, others by sheep herders – both Christianized Puebloans and Spanish - who worked on the mesa in the 1700 and 1800s. • Christian crosses are differentiated from a “cross” or “x” figure made by the Ancestral Puebloans in that the former has an elongated vertical line under the cross bar. • To date, over 1100 crosses > 20 styles have been recorded on the mesa. 	
<p>MARKER 5</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walk about 10 meters to the boulder with two male anthropomorphs. • Gender is often indicated on human figures; most are male. • Both of these images are Ancestral Puebloan. • On the opposite side of the trail is a human figure with an oversized head, one or two eyes, a short torso and legs and feet angulated outwards. A large tailed circle seems to emerge from between its legs, perhaps a birthing figure? 	
<p>MARKER 6</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walk about 30 meters taking care to stay on the trail. This is a particularly fragile area where erosion channels have started. The trail leads around these channels. When you get to the small arroyo, turn right towards the rim of the bowl. Facing the bowl is a low boulder on your left with a mask, possible shield and gridded rectangle. • The mask has carefully executed horns, perhaps representing a buffalo head dress still used in Pueblo dances today. Notice the vertical lines between the horns; these may have been added at a later date. 	

Wells Petroglyph Preserve
Tour #6 – Lightning Rock Trail
 Docent Guidelines 1-1½ hours

<p>MARKER 7</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Now turn towards the edge of the rim and carefully make your way down the path to the RIGHT. A platform has been constructed where you may view and photograph the images below. • SOME PARTICIPANTS MAY NOT WANT TO DO THIS. NO ONE SHOULD GO BELOW THIS POINT OR ALONG THE RIM TO TAKE PHOTOS!!!! • Below is what is called by MPPP volunteers a “Star Shield Bearer” or “Star Man”. The shield has a well arranged array of “stars” that may represent the planet Venus. The figure has earrings and a face as well as a feather head dress; he may have a quiver on his back. • Also note the large canine figure, another shield and a very large bird. • Looking to the left, you will see a very well made small flute player and bird. • Looking down one can see a big boulder that has become very smoothed by water over centuries or millennia. One can make out much worn petroglyph images on it including a bisected circle. • Numerous other well-made images are seen across the slope, mostly made by the Ancestral Pueblo people. Carefully return to the main path.
<p>MARKER 8</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turn right on the main path and walk about 10 meters. • This low boulder has a number of abstract images. A possible partial human is at the top center and a figure of a possible canine or feline head and face may be at the right. The figure is partially covered by lichen. Look carefully and you can see the light outline of the animal's body. • Lichen grows abundantly on the north face of most of the boulders on the mesa. The plant seems to be attracted to the depressions associated with the rock images; perhaps those depressions retain more moisture that attracts the lichen. • It has been observed that lichen causes deterioration of the rock images. Lichen can live as long as 400 years.



Wells Petroglyph Preserve
Tour #6 – Lightning Rock Trail
Docent Guidelines 1-1½ hours

MARKER 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continue along the main trail about 20 more meters and turn left just before the small arroyo (drainage).• Walk up towards the large boulder ahead of you.• The most obvious image on this boulder is a large snake with his head facing the ground.• Look up to the right and you will see an older image, possibly made in the late Archaic time period. The image is dark as it has repatinated over thousands of years (Explain repatination). The image is called a “one-pole ladder” by recorders. Archaic images are typically abstract or geometric and do not represent figures known in the world today.• Observe the three lighter images in the same area that were applied at a later time.• To the left below the snake is a worked natural hole. Natural holes that have been abraded or pecked around the rim are common on the mesa. It is thought they may represent emergence of spirits from the boulders.	
MARKER 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• If any of our guests would prefer not to walk across the arroyo or up the hill, there are several flat topped boulders on the south side of the arroyo with no petroglyphs that could serve as benches.• Return to the main trail, turn left and cross the arroyo, then immediately turn right due east to the rim of the ridge.• Here are two images, one of a horse with a rider, the other an unidentified mammal.• You can see this horse is carrying a rider with a broad brim hat; a bridle is on the horse's head and the rein is being carried in the rider's hand. Horse and rider appear to be relaxed, standing still, a well-executed image. This is an excellent depiction of an equestrian image.• Horses were brought to North American by the Spanish; Coronado passed through the area in 1540 with hundreds of horses and they may have become known in the	

Wells Petroglyph Preserve
Tour #6 – Lightning Rock Trail
 Docent Guidelines 1-1½ hours

	<p>area then. The first Spanish colony in New Mexico was established at the south end of the mesa near Ohkay Owingeh in 1598. Pueblo people would have seen and admired these fine animals.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The images made by Ancestral Pueblo people are not always anatomically correct but depict their admiration of what the animal is capable of doing. 	
<p>MARKER 11</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look beyond the boulder with the horses and view a boulder with writing. The image says “Jose Hilario” and “1909”. Other writing is on the boulder is difficult to discern. The date on this image would indicate the writing was made in the Historic time extending from 1600 (marking the arrival of the Spanish) until about 50 years before present. In 1598 Juan de Oñate traveled from Mexico with about 450 settlers, 125 soldiers, many priests and more than 1000 Mexican Indians and 5000 European animals. He chose to settle at the small village of Ohkay Owingeh at the south end of the mesa. This was the earliest European settlement in the Southwest and preceded Jamestown by about nine years. The importance of this event cannot be overstated. The collision of two totally different world views reverberates to this day. The making of traditional Native American petroglyph imagery decreased sharply at that time and petroglyphs representing European culture began to appear. The Christian cross is the dominant image. Teams have recorded 24 distinct European cross types including the Altar Cross, the Calvary trio, the Triumphant Cross and the Pommee Cross. There are many images of horses, equestrians, churches, women in skirts, soldiers and carts. The most interesting images are heraldic lions. Volunteers have found more than a dozen of these. Most have curved backs and tails curling over their backs and their heads are facing out. Some wear crowns. They are unique in petroglyph form to Mesa Prieta so far as is known. Also from this period are animal pens, complex trail networks, glass, ceramics and metal objects. Historic inscriptions are common on the mesa. Return to the main trail 	

Wells Petroglyph Preserve
Tour #6 – Lightning Rock Trail
Docent Guidelines 1-1½ hours

MARKER 12

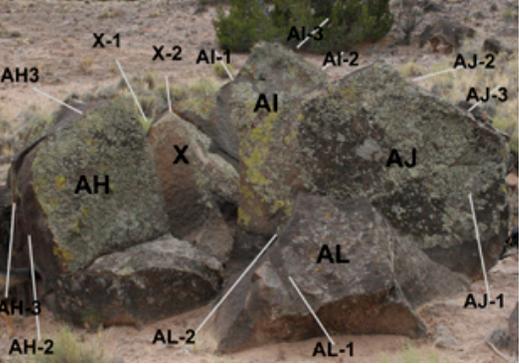
- Turn right and make your way up this small incline. Please stay on the trail as it is designed to traverse the slope to avoid erosion from occurring.
- Turn left at the crest of the hill and approach the cluster of boulders ahead. Walk around this cluster of boulders as there are a number of Historic inscriptions on the faces.
- The Works Progress Administration conducted many projects in this area in the late 1930s. This area of the Preserve has about 15 images referring to the WPA that are often associated with the date 1938.
- It has been noticed that a number of workers applied their initials on boulders along with WPA and the date. “JVJ” is the most frequently applied set of initials.
- **SPEAKING POINT:** The Chili Line Railroad followed the same route as the County Road below the Preserve. Officially known as the Santa Fe Branch, it was a narrow gauge branch of the Denver and Rio Grande Western Railroad (D&RGW). It ran 125.6 miles (202.1 km) from Antonito, Colorado, to Santa Fe, New Mexico. The Denver and Rio Grande Railway (D&RG) began construction of the line in 1880 and completed the line from Antonito to Española, New Mexico, but could not build any further because of an agreement with the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad (AT&SF). The Texas, Santa Fe and Northern Railroad were incorporated to complete the line, and the line between Española and Santa Fe opened in 1886 and was transferred to the Denver and Rio Grande shortly thereafter. The D&RGW closed the Chili Line in 1941 because of competition from road transportation, and the line was abandoned shortly thereafter. All of the rails have been removed prior to or during WWII
- We do not know if the dates of the WPA work on the Preserve and existence of the Chili Line are related. A WPA camp site was in the nearby town of Velarde.
- Look to the pasture on the north side of these boulders. You see five or six rows of rocks extending away from you across the pasture. These are pre-historic grid gardens or terraces. The rocks were placed to hold back rain water or snow melt as it moved down the mesa. Crops would have been placed up-slope of the grids to take advantage of the moisture. These dry farming efforts included beans, squash and corn (maize).



Wells Petroglyph Preserve
Tour #6 – Lightning Rock Trail
 Docent Guidelines 1-1½ hours

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We are about to descend a steeper, rock strewn slope. For those who would prefer to remain here, there are two flat topped boulders with no images on them that can serve as resting places for our guests. 	
<p>MARKER 13</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make your way carefully down the slope to the east; please stay on the trail. On your left is an extraordinary crafted animal flute player. The Wells Petroglyph Preserve has the largest collection of these unusual images in the South West. The images are made by the Ancestral Pueblo people. Note the long tail of the image that curves around the edge of the rock. The flute player image is otherwise typical in that it has a hump on its back, feathers on its head and a long flute held in both hands. Note the other images on the rock including a cross, possible bird and other abstract images. Now look towards the boulder at the left under the juniper tree. On the right are possibly two abstract human figures; the center one is densely pecked and could be a female. What appears to be a long snake spreads across the lower boulder. Look closely at the left side of the boulder to see a number of fully repatinated, likely Archaic images including a large cupule, lines, branched lines, abstract forms, etc. 	
<p>MARKER 14</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to the east and notice the low rock wall in front of you. Please take care not to step on or disturb this feature. This wall represents a small pre-historic shelter or perhaps a shrine. Walk to your right around the structure to the large boulders ahead of you. On your left is a dark boulder with a half dozen bird tracks on it. The tracks are heavily repatinated. 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Step around the light colored boulder and look at the east facing surface. The images on this boulder are very difficult to discern due to the lightness of the rock. Two very elaborate ceremonial figures are deeply pecked into the surface. The one on the left has overly large hands, a horned head dress and a triangular figure on his head. He has a three strand necklace around his neck. 	

Wells Petroglyph Preserve
Tour #6 – Lightning Rock Trail
 Docent Guidelines 1-1½ hours

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Note the 5 worked holes in a straight line across the image. In the upper left are two turtle figures. Many other figures are pecked into the surface. 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On the right of this boulder is a large boulder with a human turned sidewise with overly large hands; several bird figures can be seen, a partial human with a sunburst head and a figure of a vulva in the upper left. Genitalia of both genders are frequently depicted in Ancestral Pueblo and Historic rock images. 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Return to the main trail by walking back up the hill. Turn left before the WPA rocks and walk back down the hill, cross the first arroyo and walk to the trail leading right before the second arroyo. 	
<p>MARKER 15</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Turn right and walk along the arroyo up the gentle slope. As you approach the large cluster of very dark rocks ahead of you, you will see that at one time they were a single large boulder. It is thought that the rock may have been struck by lightning, breaking it into three large and several small pieces. Study the rock surfaces – what do you see? Use of a shade and / or reflector is useful on these images. Approach the rock. Eleven Archaic rock image panels have been carved into most faces of the rock. All are totally repatinated and are the same color as the boulder. Many are overgrown with lichen. The Archaic images are almost all geometric and abstract in design. They are called “non-representational” meaning they do not represent images known in today’s world other than geometric forms. 	

Wells Petroglyph Preserve
Tour #6 – Lightning Rock Trail
 Docent Guidelines 1-1½ hours

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They are deeply carved and in early morning and late evening light, will cast a shadow across themselves. • On the east faces, large one-pole ladders are evident as well as extensive grids and crossed lines. • As you walk around the cluster, you may see human footprint images, the only representational images on the rocks. The cluster of boulders and Archaic images are some of the most remarkable on the Preserve. 	
<p>MARKER 16</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turn to the north and climb a slight rise. • Next to the juniper on the east side are three images of mammals. One could be a deer or elk, another possibly a buffalo; all are difficult to see. • To date, 4 buffalo images have been found on the Preserve. While it is unlikely that buffalo existed in this immediate area, they certainly were known by the Ancestral Pueblo people. 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This completes Tour 6 on the Wells Petroglyph Preserve • Please return to the main trail and walk back to the parking lot. <p>THANK YOU FOR VISITING US!</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
	<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. If the gate across the driveway is locked, inform the dispatcher that the key to the gate is in a sock at the left end of the top gate bar. • Proceed to the first house, enter the driveway on the right and follow the marked trail around the back of the house to the north. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •