



On our way to Utah, we stopped at “Mr. Burro”, a cafe in Fairplay, CO. This was posted in the restroom. You’re invited to create an appropriate caption.



At Devil's Creek after a 1-mile trek over a 7/8th-lane "road". The SWA (State Wildlife Area) is accessed off US-160 a few miles west of Pagosa Springs.



The Devil's Creek SWA entrance. The area goes a good way into the distance. The man was the first of three to show up to go wild turkey hunting.



Echo Canyon Reservoir is located a few miles south of Pagosa Springs. We arrived late afternoon after barely making it over Wolf Creek Pass through heavy snow near the summit. This shot was just after closing up and the heavy rain started.



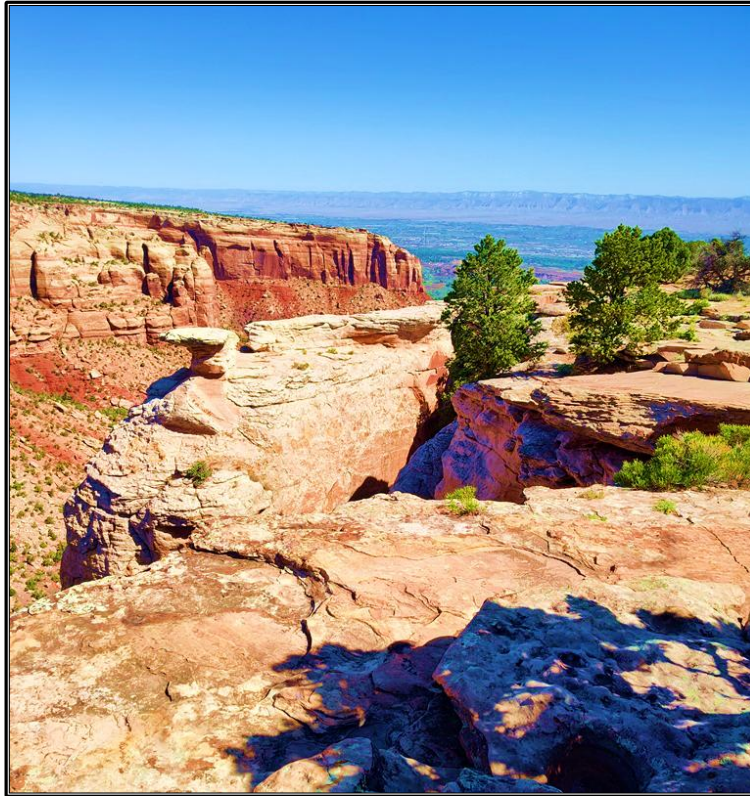
This view from Echo Canyon Reservoir is looking east from the same spot as the first picture.



Our lovely guide and POTA partner, Margaret, shows the display that tells the story behind the Colorado National Monument, located just outside Grand Junction, CO.



If you stand on one of the gray rocks to the left, the next step is 1,000 feet down.



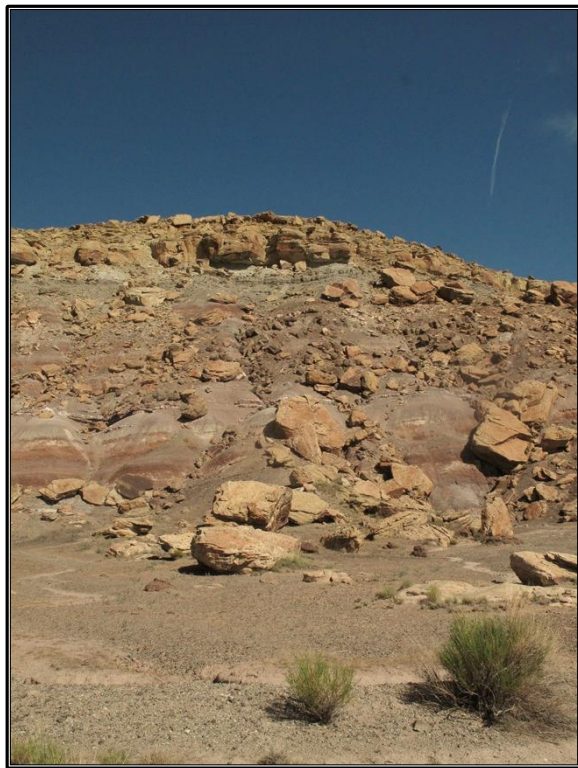
This is looking the other direction (right) of the image above. These were taken at “Cold Shivers Overlook,” which is where we made a POTA stop.



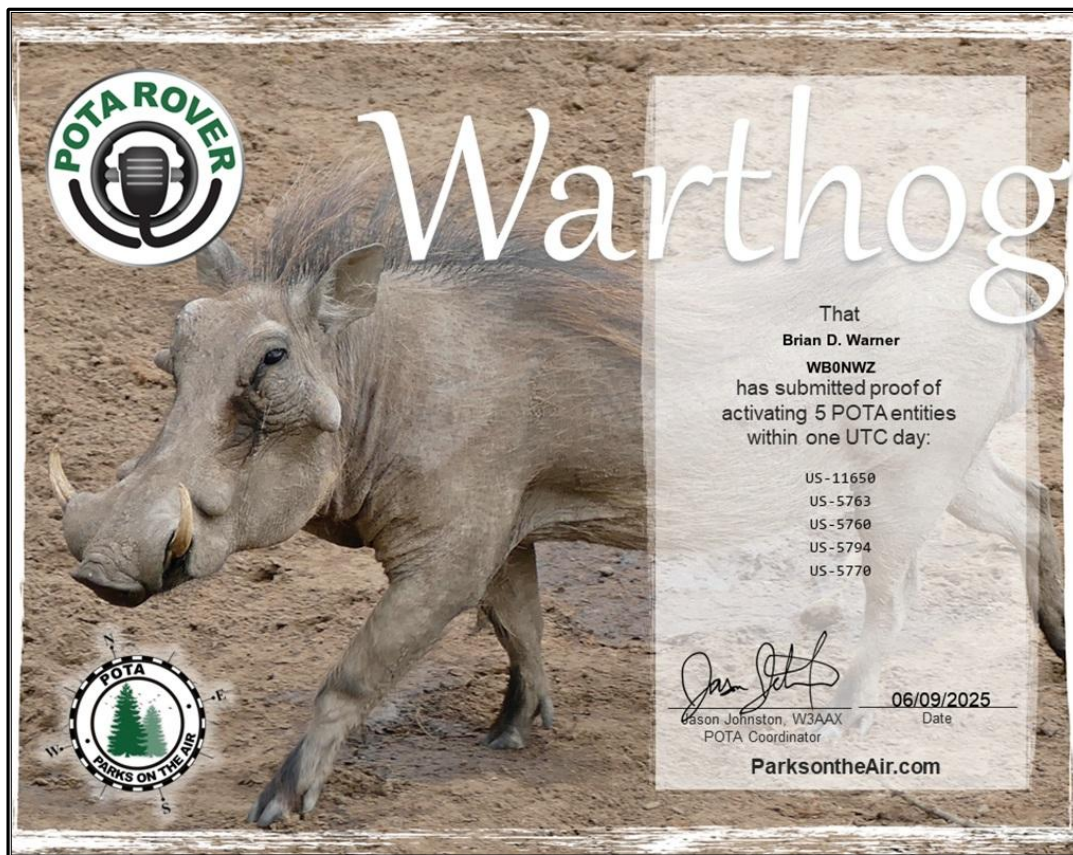
We made two POTA stops just north of Mancos, CO. This was the scene on the road to get to them and shows why southwest Colorado is a favorite of ours.



Our first POTA stop in Utah was at the Westwater access to the Colorado River.



South of I-70 in Utah, there is an exit to near-ghost town, Cisco. A couple miles away is the Colorado River. This shot is near the Cisco Takeout access to the river, the first of several POTA stops on a single day, which earned the Warthog Rover award.



Hakuna Matata, everyone.



The second stop after Cisco Takeout was Fish Forde. All of the stops on this day followed the Colorado River.



After working Cisco Takeout and Fish Forde spots, we reversed track and got to Utah 128 and started going south to Moab and towards this towering thunderstorm.



The third stop of the day was at Dewey Bridge. It seems that there was a sports car rally going on that day. We were frequently pulling over on the narrow two-lane road to give way to cars that thought the speed limit was warp, not MPH.



As I said, every POTA stop this day was an access point to the Colorado River. This is Hittle Bottom. The temp was well into the 90's by this time, at it wasn't quite noon.



A shot of the Rocky Rapids area. Margaret is out of uniform! No POTA shirt. Punishment was only Miller Ultra-Lite Non-Alcoholic beer and Boone's Farm wine that night.



Another shot of the Rocky Rapids area.



More shots from the Rocky Rapids area. There were many formations reminiscent of Monument Valley. We expected Johns Ford and Wayne to come up the road any second.



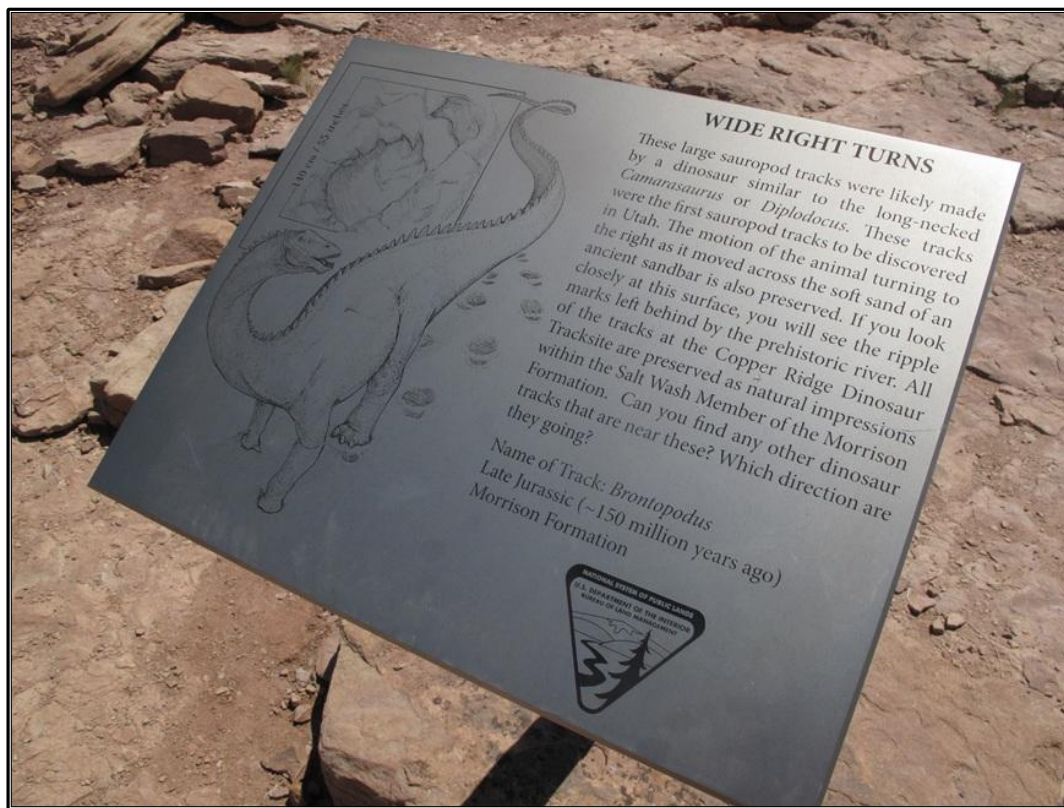
The final stop on the Warthog Rover Award run was at Big Bend.



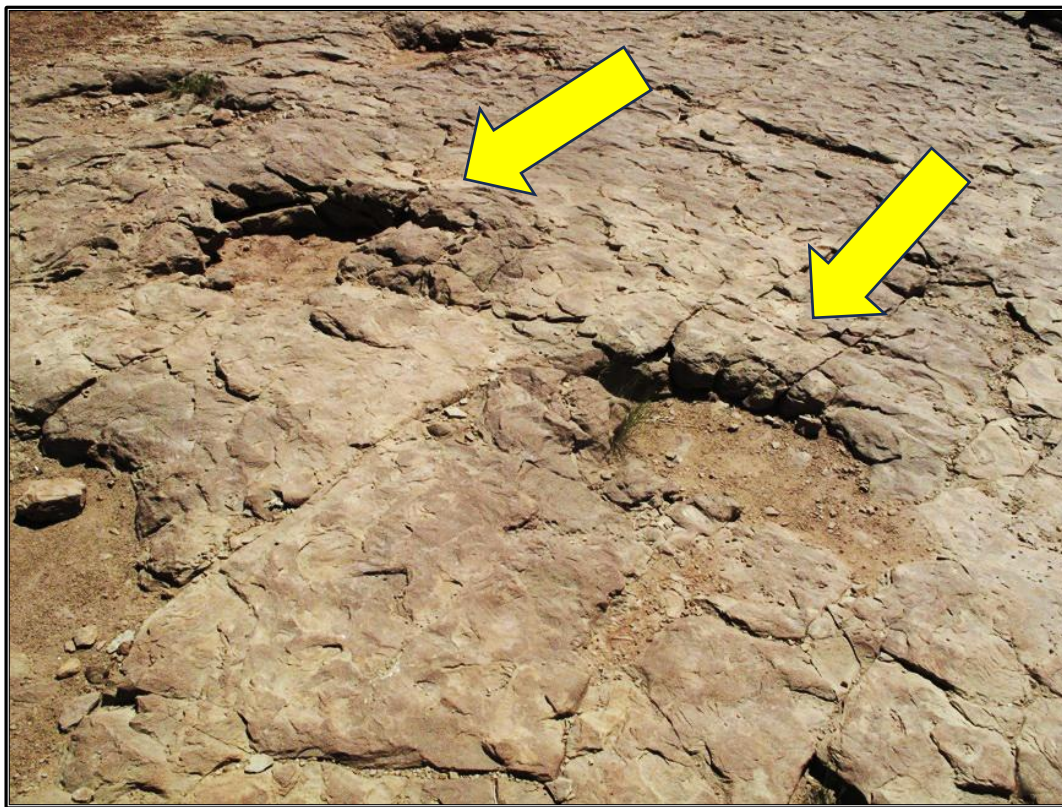
On a map, it's easy to see why this is called Big Bend. It's not as spectacular and dramatic as the famous Horseshoe bend in the Grand Canyon, but one of the more picturesque areas along Hwy 128.



On a different day, we visited some barren spots west of the highway between Green River and Moab. This is looking back down the path that leads to the dino footprints at the Cooper Ridge Dinosaur Tracks site.



Read the sign and then move on.



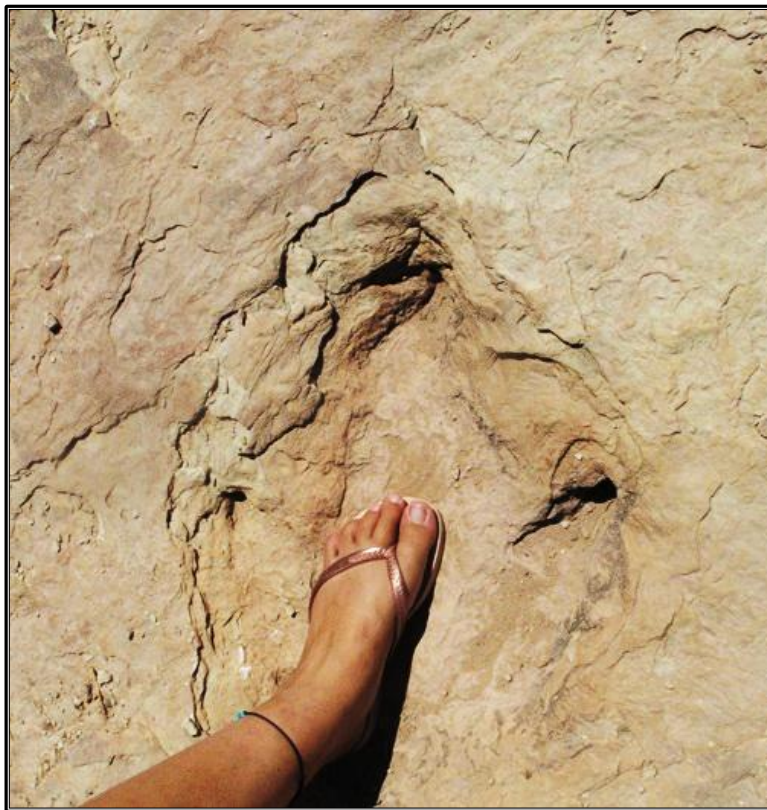
The arrows point to the two foot steps mentioned in the sign.



The cell phone gives an idea of the size of the dino foot print (right-hand in photo above). I'm guessing size 32 in dino shoes.



Read the sign and then move on.



The foot print mentioned in the sign in comparison to the foot of a lovely French woman who was visiting with her family. Their 5-year-old son was in Dino Heaven.



Along the road into Canyonlands, you'll see the USS Monitor and CSS Virginia (Merrimack) forever frozen in battle.



Back in full uniform, Margaret got out of the car into the near 100-degree day at Canyonlands National Monument. I went to go get more pictures while she immediately went back to the car with the air conditioner running.



One of many beautiful views in Canyonlands.



This shot is meant to give some scale to things. The canyons are deep and the formations tall.



Arches National Park is not all arches. Unfortunately, none of the famous arches were within walking distance for us, the hordes of sightseers notwithstanding.



There's no lack of pretty sights in Arches. It's hard to drive more than a few hundred feet before stopping to get the next of the thousands of pretty pictures of pretty rocks.



On I-70 just west of Green River, UT, is the great San Rafael Swell, a huge area comprised of many subsections under BLM jurisdiction. This is the eastern face of the Swell, known as the San Rafael Reef.



This is on eastbound I-70, just as the final descent off the San Rafael Swell begins. The grade reaches up to 6% (a 6-foot drop per 100 feet travel). It's a bit dangerous because many folks are going too fast on the curvy road. Why would anyone be in hurry to zip past such beautiful sights? That's another danger: people looking at the sights and not the road.



We took a 27-mile trek on a road that runs north of I-70 starting at Exit 131 to get to a rarely used POTA spot and to see some pictographs.



Those clouds are the harbingers of a strong thunderstorm that we narrowly escaped on our way back to Green River.



Those clouds are starting to look a little more ominous. This road is nothing but dozens of “Stop! I gotta get a picture!” locations.



Cue the next pretty picture of pretty rocks. This road is really one less-travelled. Should you have the opportunity, take it. There's a great reward ahead.

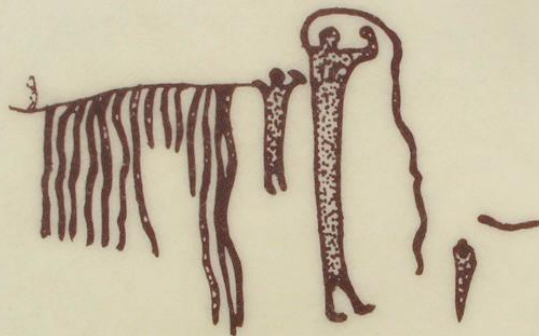


The Buckhorn Panel pictographs are 1,000-2,000 years old. Given the remote location, it's amazing that these artworks were discovered. From here on, no comments. Just enjoy and marvel. Contrast has been increased to make the pictographs easier to see.





We're Losing This Precious Artwork!



Nature is slowly wiping the art off the stone. This area shows three ways in which nature attacks the art:

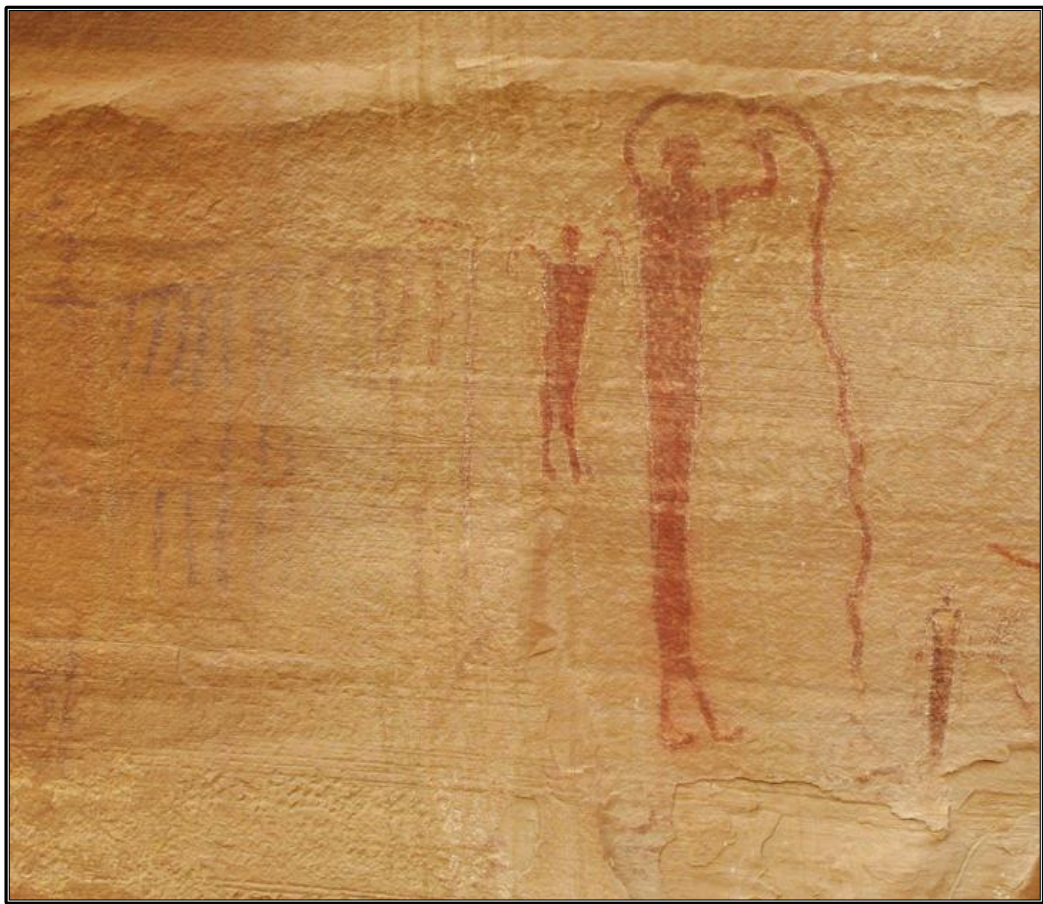
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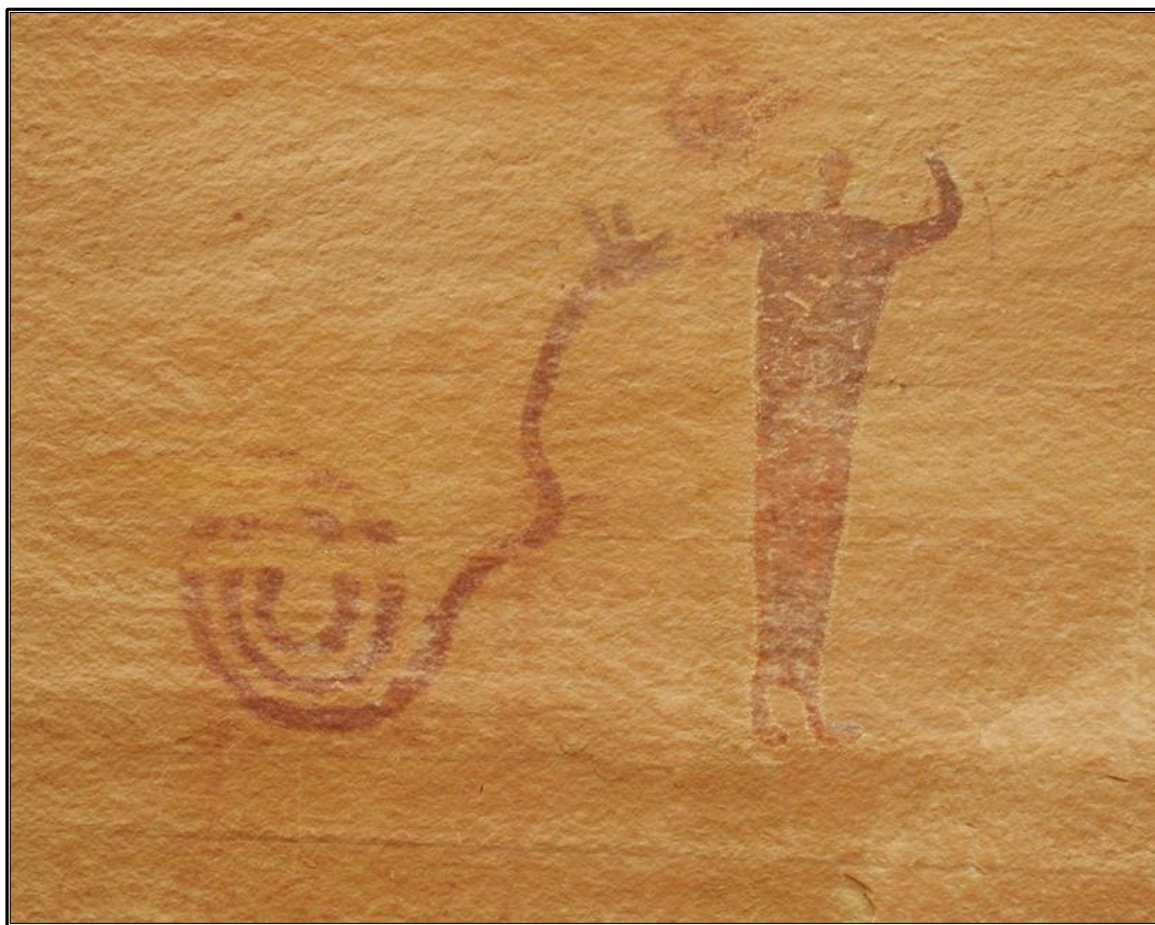
WIND- On the left is a faint art panel sanded off by wind and dust.

WATER- In the center, streaks of rainwater from high on the cliff are slowly covering a painting with mineral deposits.

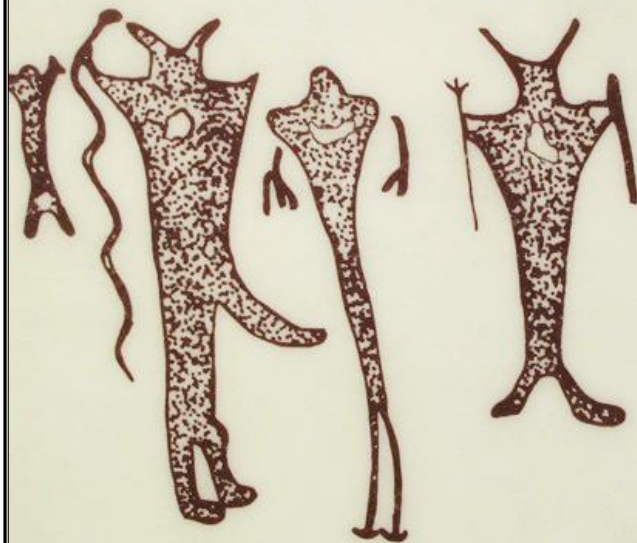
ICE- Under the long row of spots to the right you see a large section of rock which may have broken away from ice forming behind it. Was there art on this panel before it broke away?







Look At The Holes In Their Chests!



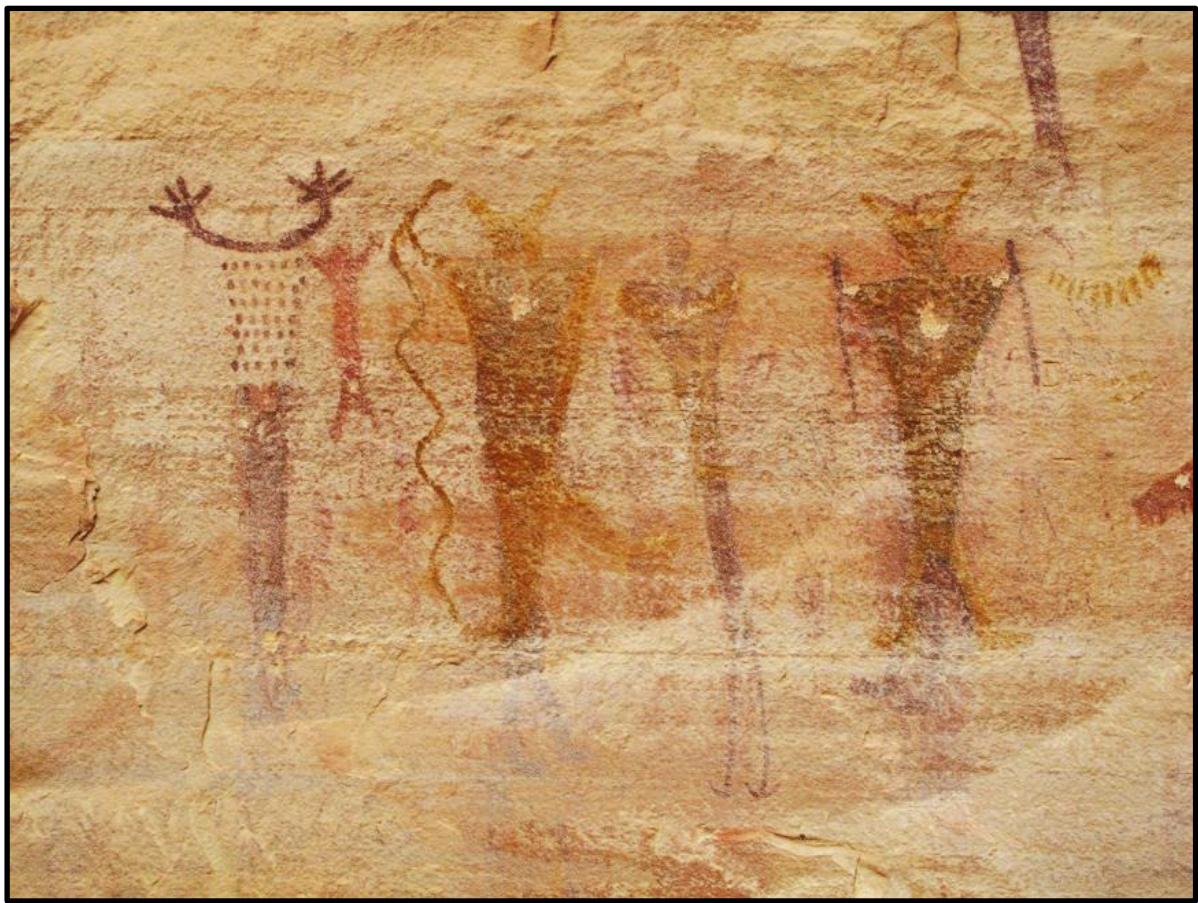
The holes in the chests of these figures were INTENTIONALLY PECKED.

Did someone do this to ceremonially release the power of the art? Were the beings ritually killed?

Notice the yellow paint on some of these figures. Someone painted over the original red paint.

Why? When? Did people change their beliefs, artistic tastes or fashion? Did the later artists have a different culture?







A Gifted Prehistoric Artist Painted Here!



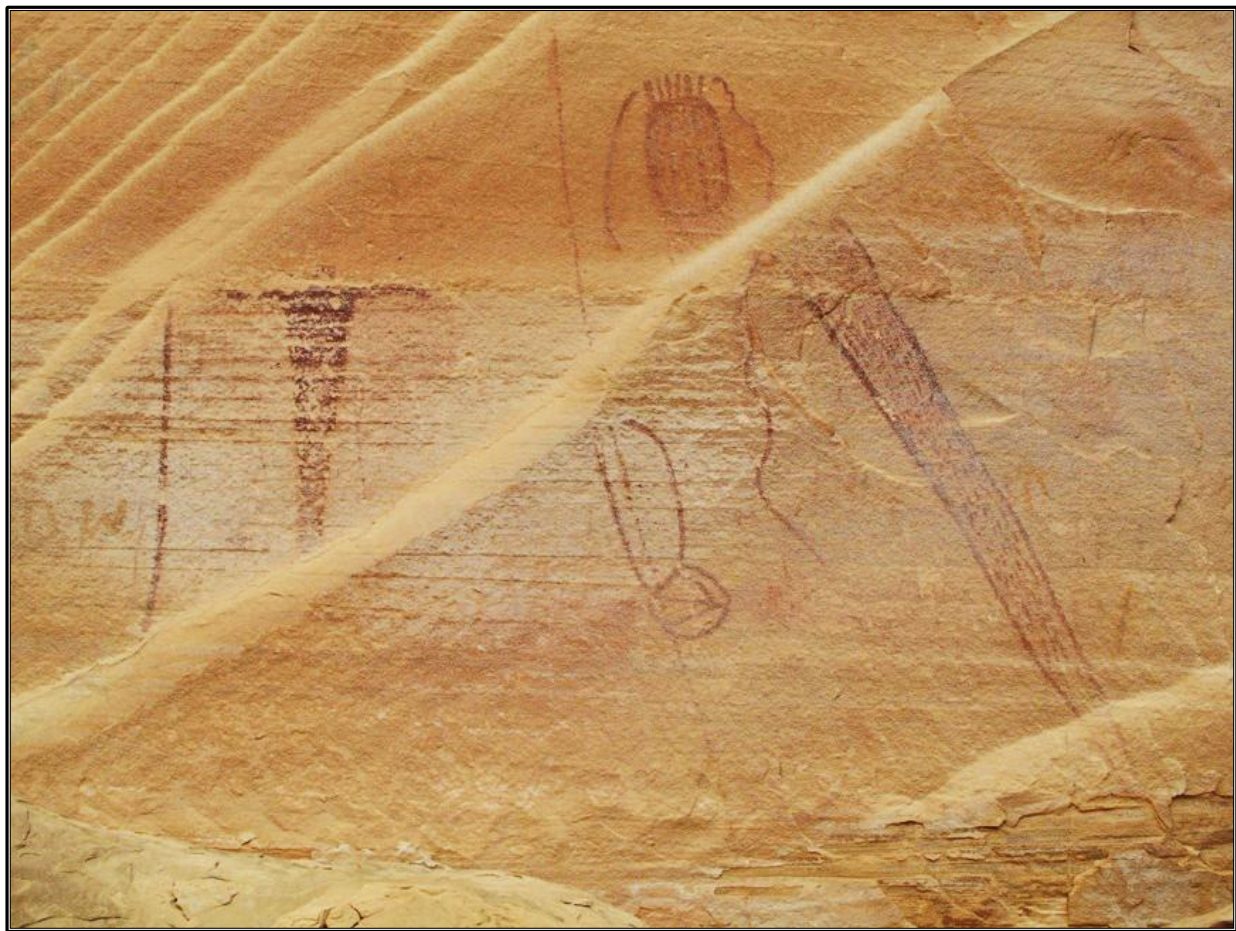
The Buckhorn Panel was painted by different artists, and all were talented. The artist of this intricate panel was especially gifted.

The longer you look, the more details you will see! How long do you think it took to paint this panel?

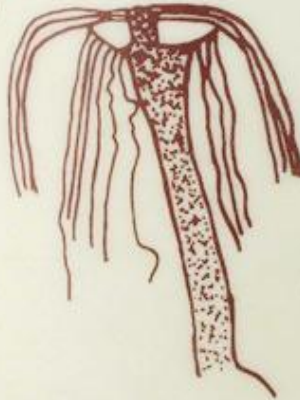
Brushes and tools of different sizes were used. They may have been made of hair, feathers, or yucca.

Was this artist a man or a woman?
Did the community support artists with food or clothing?





Are These Rain Angels ?



The artists and their audience knew what the long designs, or “fringe” meant. Do you think it is rain or lines of power?

We know that the long lines were carefully painted; it is not just dripped paint.

One fringed figure has four pecked holes in the torso. Were these only a decoration?

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