

Nampaweap

The Nampaweap site is one of the largest petroglyph sites on the Arizona strip. It is about ½ mile long and it contains thousands of images on hundreds of boulders.

Nampaweap is located on the south side of Mt. Trumble, in a canyon surrounded by a juniper / pinion forest at about 6000ft elevation. Nampaweap means “foot canyon” in Paiute. The canyon (called Billy Goat canyon by locals because of all the images of sheep) eventually connects to the Grand Canyon. Nampaweap was likely located on a route between the Grand Canyon and the resources of ponderosa pine country around Mt. Trumble.

It is thought that the site has been occupied by Archaic, Ancestral Puebloan and Paiute cultures over a period of about 10,000 years.

There are habitation sites in the area. A large pit house pueblo is located a couple miles from the Nampaweap site. The Unikaret pueblo (Figure 1) is a large pit house complex consisting of many rooms blocks in a circular pattern around a center courtyard. This would have been a good “summer home”, with moderate temperatures, water from springs fed from snow run off from Mt. Trumble, and good food sources from hunting, pine nuts, etc.



Figure 1 – Unikaret Pueblo



Figure 2 – Lava Rock Cliff Face

The rock art is located on boulders along the lava cliff face (Figure 2). There are numerous caves in the lava rock cliff face (Figure 3), some of which have petroglyphs surrounding the cave openings. The roofs of these caves have evidence of smoke. The inside wall surfaces are too rough to support rock art.

General Appearance:

The petroglyphs are located on individual lava rock boulders (Figure 4). They are clustered in areas about 100 yards from each other.

The typical rock art is shown in Figures 5 through Figure 9. The rock art appears to be from varying time periods as can be seen in both the amount of patina on the glyphs as well as the differing styles – pecking, rubbing, scratching.



Figure 3 – Lava Cave



Figure 4 – Typical Petroglyph Site



Figure 5



Figure 6



Figure 7



Figure 8



Figure 9

Symbols:

There was no clear theme to the petroglyphs in this area, but there were some common symbols:

Sheep:

The sheep symbol was a dominate image and appeared with many different designs and in many differing configurations.

The sheep in Figures 10 – 12 are conventionally drawn with their legs in rather a “static” position.

The sheep in Figure 13 have their legs showing some “motion”.

The sheep in Figure 14 are “poorly” drawn, especially the one on the left.

The sheep in Figure 15 and 16 are drawn with their heads looking at the viewer rather than in profile. The ones in Figure 16 show a definite perspective view of the sheep.

The sheep in Figures 17 and 18 are very stylized with almost a “modern art” look.



Figure 10



Figure 11



Figure 12



Figure 13



Figure 14



Figure 15



Figure 16



Figure 17



Figure 18

Anthros:

Most of the anthros were mainly stick figure in design, often in the form of “lizard men”, with no hands or feet.

There were, however, some anthros that had very large hands (Figure 19 – Figure 21).

One figure appeared to be wearing a “cape” (Figure 22).

Two panels contained what appeared to be a line of anthros going into either a crack in the rock or behind a rock. They look like “Yei” figures (Figure 23 – 24).



Figure 19



Figure 20



Figure 21



Figure 22



Figure 23



Figure 24

Other Symbols:

There we a number of “portal” symbols. Figure 25 shows an anthro rising from a portal with a spirit helper next to him. Figure 26 shows a sprit person rising from a double portal. Next to him is an anthro with large hands and feet.



Figure 25



Figure 26

Figure 26 shows a long “ladder”.

Figure 27 shows a number of spirals and a “cross” with circles at three of the arms of the cross (lower center of the image). Also shown is web image of the sky.



Figure 27



Figure 28

Figure 29 shows a sun image (lower left) next of a large web image (sky). Someone thought the sun image was a super nova.

Figure 30 – Figure 32 show Venus stars. The Venus stars in Figure 31 and 32 are in a circle – could they be shields?



Figure 29



Figure 30



Figure 31



Figure 32

Figure 33 again shows a cross with circles at three of the arms (portals) – or could it be an anthro?

Figure 34 is unusual – Could it be a anthro with a head dress or is it a double portal?



Figure 33



Figure 34



Figure 35

The image at the top of Figure 35 appears a couple of times – what is it?