

Fremont Indian State Park

Fremont Indian State Park is located in Clear Creek Canyon in west, central Utah. The park was formed after the construction of Interstate 70 through the canyon. During the initial construction, a very large Fremont Indian settlement was discovered. The state park was formed to protect this important archaeological site and to house the artifacts collected during the various excavations.

The park also contains one of the largest concentrations of rock art in Utah. It is also the largest and most important rock art site within the territorial limits of the Sevier variant of the Fremont culture. There are 43 sites containing 697 panels with over 3000 elements over a distance of about 5 miles from the junction of Mill Creek and Clear Creek to the mouth of Clear Creek Canyon.

The canyon is made of cream colored welded tuff (volcanic ash and rock fragments) that slowly browns with time. Much of the rock art, but not all was made in the darker stone surfaces. The rock art has been characterized into type summarized in the following table (Reference 1).

Rock Art Styles	No. of Elements	% of Elements	No. of Panels	% of Panels
Sevier Style A	1194	32	70	10
Western Utah Painted	108	3	25	4
Great Basin Abstract	162	4	21	3
Fremont (General)	261	7	59	9
Unkn. Aboriginal	1870	49	461	68
Historic	142	4	52	8
Historic (Ute)	38	<1	7	1

The oldest recorded date of occupation is at the sheep cave which dated to 3700 BC.

The information about the various images is from Reference 2.

Area #1 – The Rim Trail

The shots for this area are telephoto shots taken from the road up onto about a 200 foot cliff face.



Figure 1 – The figure is the largest in the park



Figure 2 – Newspaper rock – over 250 elements often superimposed

Area #2 – Canyon of Life



Figure 3 – the beginning of life panel

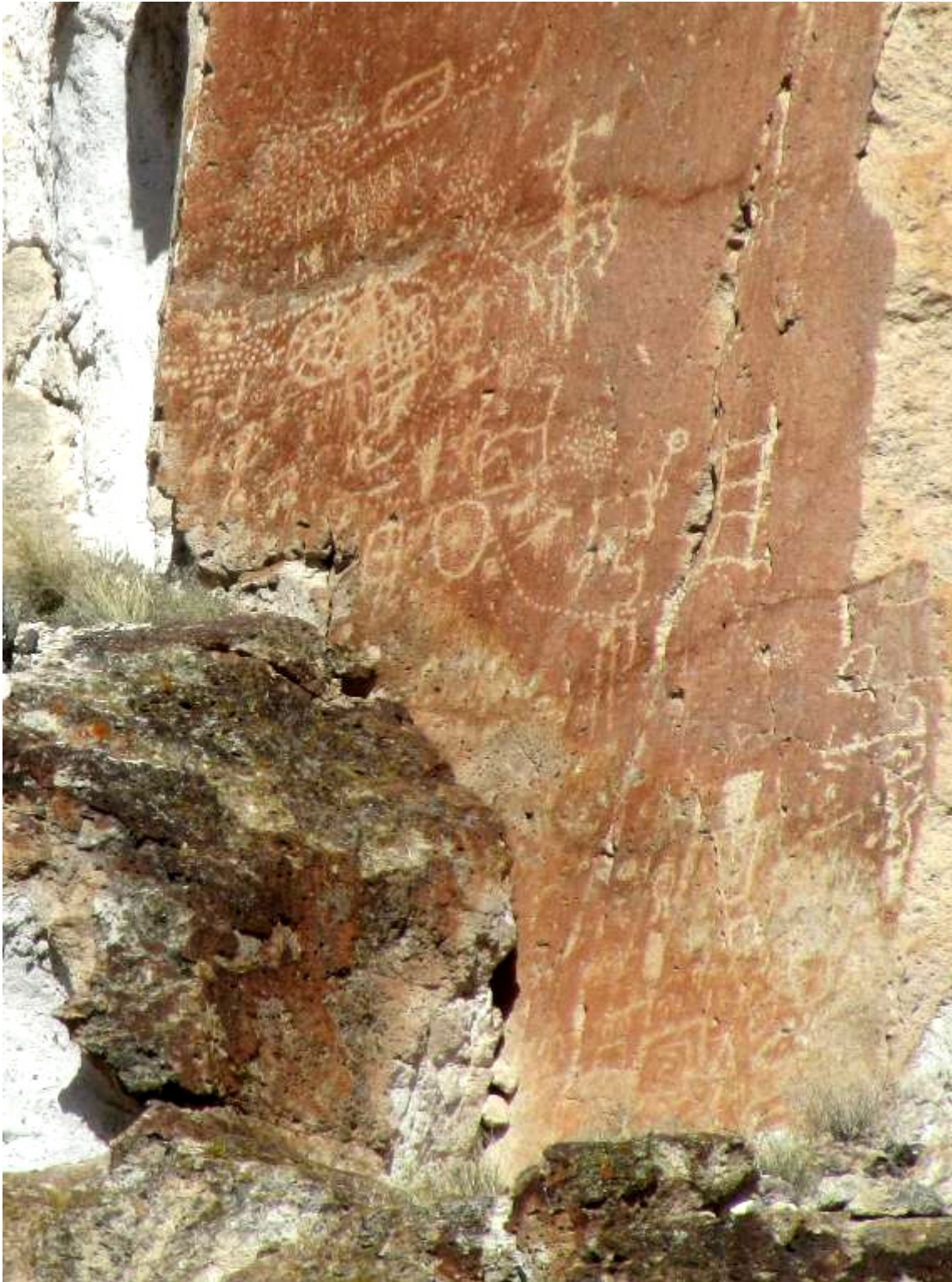


Figure 4 – the Marao Panel – Paiutes and Hopi say this panel represents the “circle dance” for rain. This panel is high on the rock face. The photo was taken with a telephoto lens.

Area #5 – Parade of Rock Art



Figure 5 – Spider woman



Figure 6 – A hunting scene

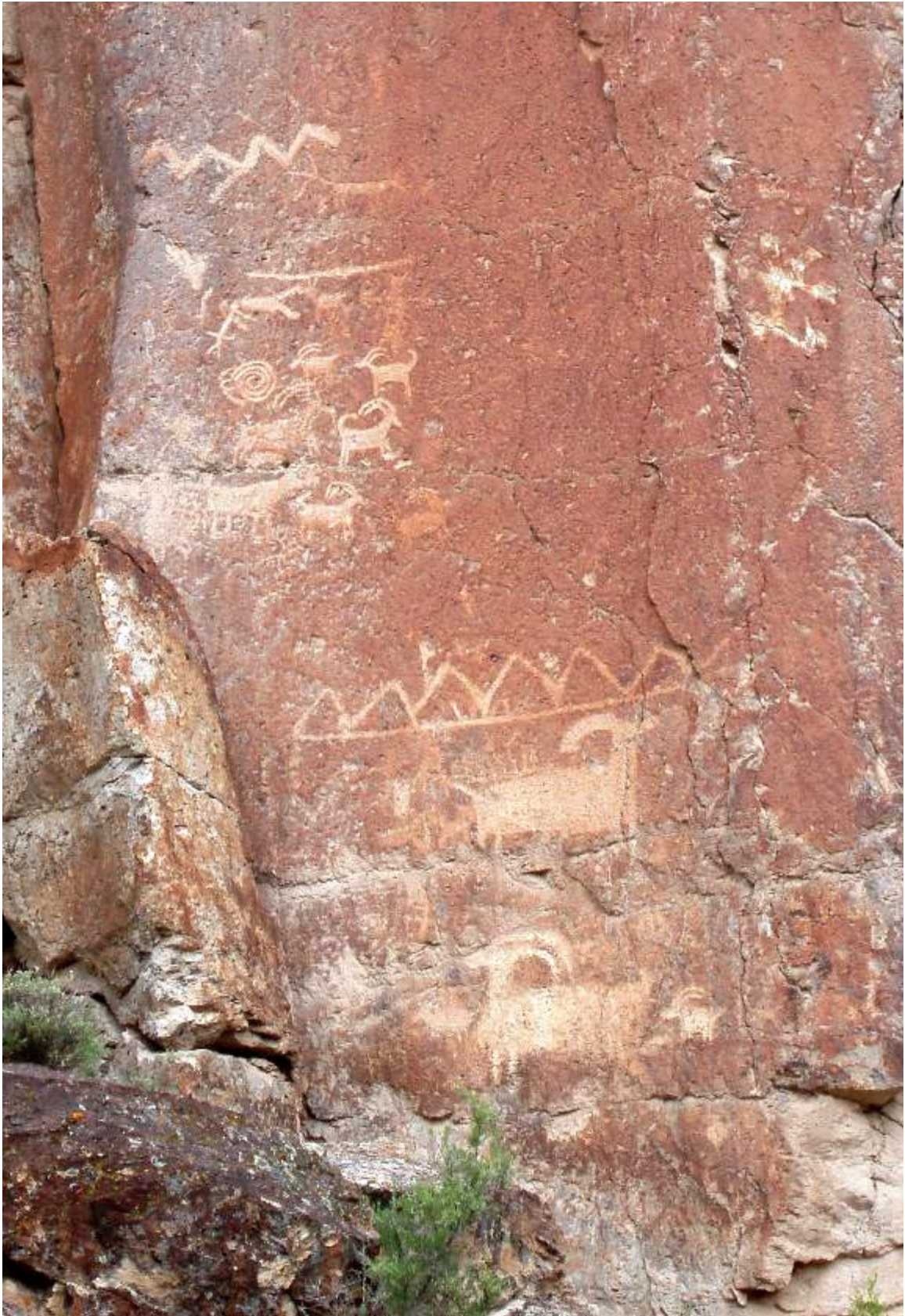


Figure 7 – Hunting map – note the superposition of the newer glyphs over the old ones



Figure 8 – an alien (?)



Figure 9 – Fremont drawing

Area #6 – Court of Ceremonies



Figure 10 – Perhaps a map and hunting scene



Figure 11 – Hunting scene with sheep and deer



Figure 12 – Trilobite (?)



Figure 13 – Fremont shamans – note the necklaces



Figure 14 – Cyclops – thanks to a bullet hole

Area # 9 – Cave of a Hundred Hands



Figure 15 – Pictograph of hands on a cave wall in red and yellow. The cave is on the south wall of the canyon facing north

Area #10 – Arch of Art

This area has 61 panels and extends for about 200 yards. We took telephoto shots from the road.



Figure 16 –



Figure 17 – Panel 19 – the initiation panel – important to the badger clan and the Hopi



Figure 18 – Blanket “pictoglyph” – both pecked and colored glyph. A tree of life symbol (or corn) is to the right.



Figure 19 – a rug pattern high up on the cliff face



Figure 20 – a Fremont warrior with some pictographs on the left

Area #12 – The Sheep Shelter



Figure 21 – this was another telephoto shot. The shot was taken from the north canyon wall looking across the canyon at the south wall. The blanket pictograph is 4 foot tall x 16 ft long. Another blanket pattern is on the right. It is thought that the glyph was painted about 250 years ago, based on an analysis of the paint.



Figure 22 – this was taken with a mirror looking at the ceiling of the sheep shelter. Habitation in the sheep shelter was dated to 3700 BC, the oldest in the park. Note the “crab” shaped figure.



Figure 23 – a hunting scene – 4 sheep going up a trail with an atlatl at the top of the scene, denotes a possible hunting spot. Note the one sheep drawn from the back.



Figure 24 –



Figure 25 – the Emergence Story according to the Hopi's



Figure 26 – the Emergence story continues



Figure 27 -

The theme of many of the panels according the Hopi's and Paiutes is one of creation and emergence and initiation. This was a teaching site among other things. This may make sense considering its close proximity to a very large Fremont village.

References:

- 1) "Archaeology of Clear Creek Canyon" by Joel C. Janetski, Brigham Young University, 1997
- 2) Fremont State Park Trail Guides
- 3) "The Rock Art of Utah" by Polly Schaafsma, University of Utah Press, 1994
- 4) "Petroglyphs and Pictographs of Utah – Volume 2" by Kenneth B. Castleton, Utah Museum of Natural History, 1987

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