

Little Creek Mesa

DAS visited Little Creek Mesa in September 2010.

Little Creek Mesa is located above 5000 ft and is composed of slick rock sandstone interspersed in a juniper forest. It has a number of ponds and natural drainages. It has been reported that early pioneers found this area to have a number of natural springs. In current times, this area will receive more rainfall than the surrounding St. George basin.

This area has numerous archaeology sites including individual pit houses and pit house villages as well as a number of rock art sites. The rock art on Little Creek Mesa is unique in that it is located on the flat sandstone slick rock rather on vertical rock wall faces. Pottery shards indicate that the locale was populated as late as 1125 to 1175 by the evidence of corrugated pottery. It is thought that the mesa was a last refuge from the severe draught in the 1000's. The anasazi and others from the "lowlands" of southern Nevada and St. George converged in this region in the early 12th century because of the increased rainfall at the higher elevation. This may have prolonged their stay in the area for perhaps another 50 years until the final migration away from the area in the late 12th century.

The rock art is generally unique to this area. There are a number of clan symbols, some curvilinear designs, geometric designs, unique anthropomorphic designs and "symmetrical" designs.

Site 1:

Rock Art:



Typical of the area – slick rock and juniper



Geometric Designs – note symmetrical "JP" Design



Clan Symbol (Road Runner tracks)



Clan Symbol (Turkey tracks)



Curvilinear Design typical of the Great Basin – shows intermingling of groups



Anthropomorphs (?)



Anthropomorph (?)



Geometric Design



Anthropomorph showing symmetry



Geometric Design



Geometric Design

Pit house:

Adjacent to the rock art of site 1 is a well defined pit house and evidence of a pit house complex.



Well defined pit house



Pit house complex

Site 2:



Foot print + a pair of Anthropomorphs



Geometric Design



Symmetrical Design (Anthropomorphs ?)



Geometric Design



Thunderbird and foot prints



Direction marker (?)



Anthropomorph



Serpent



Symmetrical Anthropomorph

Site 3:

Rock Art:



Giant serpent – note the tick marks at each of the bends



Symmetrical design

Pit House Village:

Adjacent to the rock art in the Juniper forest is located a large pit house complex. It is in the form of a large horse shoe around a central courtyard. There is an abundant number of pot shards showing a corrugated motif, typical of the 1125 – 1175 period.



Extent of the pit house structures



Detail of the wall structure at one location.



Corrugated pottery shards

Site 4:

Rock Art:



Hunting Scene – note detail on the bow,
bow string and arrow



Rams Head (Dodge truck symbol)



Anthorpomorph



Geometric Design



Geometric Design



A long story panel



Part 1



Part 2



Part 3



Part 4



Part 5



The end

Pit House:

There was a “single” pit house immediately adjacent to the rock art at site 4. Perhaps the rock art author / shaman lived here.



Pit house at site 4

Site 5:

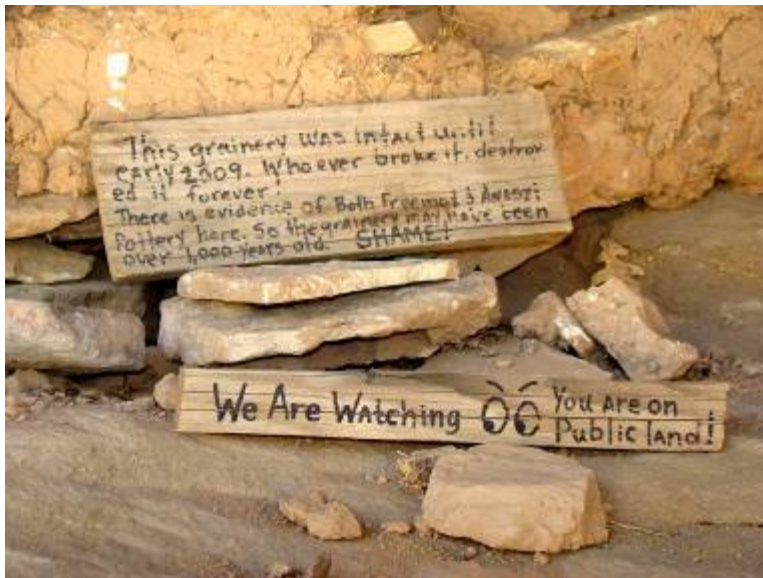
Site 5 consisted of a granary that had been vandalized over the past few years. Mel said that he remembers about 10 years ago when the granary was completely intact with all the walls and even the entry hole covered.



Sept 2010



May 2010 with and insert from 2005



Sign saying the granary was intact in 2009

Site 6:

Water Glyph #1



Site 7:

Water Glyph #2



Note the double circle in the pointing direction

Video Tour

The attached link is to a video tour of Little Creek Mesa by Kat and Bom Johnson.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=tENv8wtQ6KQ&feature=related