

THESE PETROGLYPHS (ROCK CARVINGS) WERE MADE BETWEEN 900 AND 1300 AD. BY THE JORNADA BRANCH OF THE MOGOLLON INDIAN CULTURE. THE DESIGNS ARE SIMILAR TO THE MIMBRES STYLE WHICH IS FOUND THROUGHOUT SOUTHWESTERN NEW MEXICO. THE PEOPLE WHO MADE THESE PETROGLYPHS MOVED INTO THIS AREA FROM THE WEST AND REMAINED UNTIL THE LATE 1300'S. WHY THEY CHOSE THIS SITE IS UNKNOWN. PERHAPS IT WAS A RELIGIOUS SHRINE. OR A GOOD CAMPSITE ON A WELL TRAVELED TRADE ROUTE OF THE TIME. PERHAPS THE HILLTOP OFFERED A GOOD LOOKOUT TO LOCATE GAME OR TO WATCH FOR ENEMIES.

Created in 1849, the Department of the Interior — a Department of Conservation — is concerned with the management, conservation, and development of the Nation's water, wildlife, mineral, forest, and park and recreational resources. It also has major responsibilities for Indian and Territorial affairs.

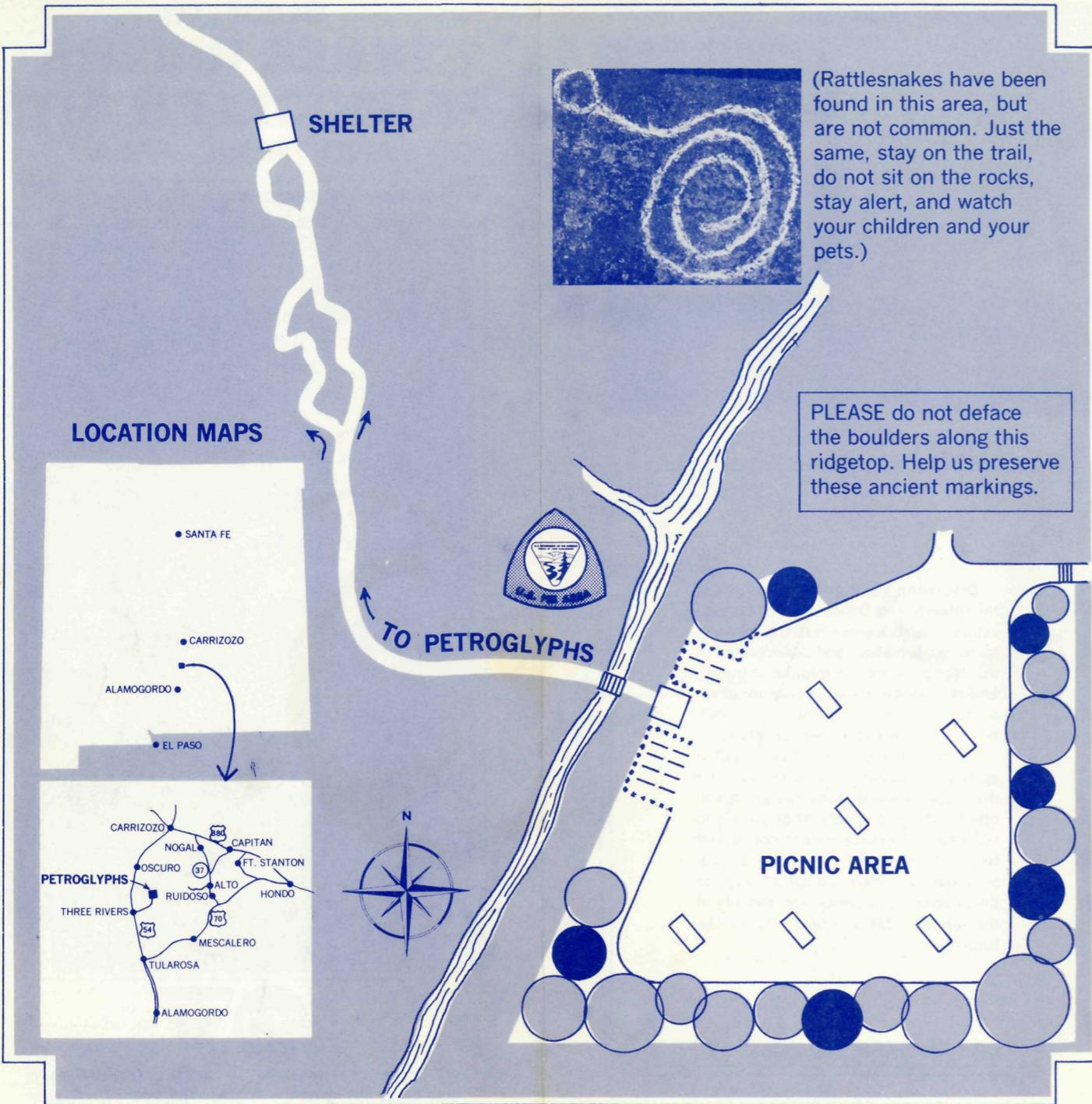
As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department works to assure that nonrenewable resources are developed and used wisely, that park and recreational resources are conserved for the future, and that renewable resources make their full contribution to the progress, prosperity, and security of the United States — now and in the future.

AFPS / OGDEN, UTAH

GUIDE TO THREE RIVERS PETROGLYPH SITE AND PICNIC AREA



U.S. Department of the Interior • Bureau of Land Management
New Mexico State Office • P. O. Box 1449, Santa Fe, N.M. 87501



To reach Three Rivers Petroglyph and Recreation Site, leave U.S. 54 at Three Rivers, N.M., and travel east five miles on gravelled road, following signs. Firewood and water are not available at the site. There are six family picnic units with tables, barbecues, shelters and concrete floors. Toilets for men and women, garbage and refuse containers, guest register and interpretive sign-board are located within the picnic compound. There is ample parking. Trailers and pickup campers are welcome overnight.



MESSAGES CARVED IN ROCK . . .

The Three Rivers Petroglyph Site is an outstanding example of early American Indian "rock" art. These carvings were made with stone tools, between 900 and 1400 AD, by the Jornada branch of the Mogollon culture. The Museum of New Mexico reports the Jornada people moved into this area from the West as part of what is believed to have been a migration to seek better homes and fewer enemies.

This site contains more than 500 petroglyphs covering about 50 acres along a ridgetop that rises 150 feet above its surroundings. An asphalt trail 1400 yards long links many of the more interesting carvings. It takes about 45 minutes to make the

round trip from the picnic grounds. The slopes are gentle and there is a shaded lookout with benches about mid-point on the trail. You are invited to stroll along this winding trail, and to imagine, if you can, the Indians who recorded these symbols. Did they do it to report successes in the hunt? Or were they serving as lookouts who whiled away long hours with ancient games of tick-tack-toe? Perhaps these markings once held religious meaning. There are similar drawings on rocks found throughout the Southwest. Perhaps the people came here to trade with other Indians and these were "billboards" advertising their wares. Let your eyes take in the horizons from east to west — from 12,003-foot Sierra Blanca on the East, once a volcano, to the lava flows and glistening white sands in the West— and then you may know the meanings of the symbols graven here.

