



# LAS IMÁGENES

News and events from  
Petroglyph National Monument

Summer 2000 Volume Four

## PETROGLYPH NATIONAL MONUMENT CELEBRATES 10<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY



*View of the Sandia Mountains from Petroglyph National Monument*

### Greetings From The Superintendent

As we celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Petroglyph National Monument, we can not help but reflect on the many accomplishments and changes. The monument was established by an act of Congress on June 27, 1990 to protect and preserve "the nationally significant West Mesa Escarpment, the Las Imágenes National Historic District, a portion of the Atrisco Land Grant, and other significant natural and cultural resources." As managers of these resources, I am proud to say the National Park Service and the City of Albuquerque Open Space Division staff have worked diligently to educate our visitors and local community about the congressional intent and the need for us all to act as stewards of these resources. All we have done and plan to do will help protect the resources for future generations.

Highlights of our accomplishments over the first decade include: establishing an interim visitor center and Southwestern Parks and Monuments bookstore outlet; publishing a history of the Atrisco Land Grant heirs; 95% completion of federal land acquisition; removal of thousands of tons of trash; inventorying and monitoring petroglyph images and cultural sites; developing connections with the local community through educational materials and participation in local community events; consultation with the 19 Pueblo tribes and the Hispano community; additional staff and funding; creating educational wayside exhibits; upgrading facilities; constructing the Rinconada trailhead and contact station and welcoming over 100,000 visitors a year. Future plans include constructing a visitor contact station and trailhead at the volcanoes, developing a comprehensive trail plan, and expanding the information on our website.

I am proud of the contributions and hard work of our dedicated staff and volunteers. While it is difficult to predict what will take place at Petroglyph National Monument during the next ten years, our desire is to keep moving in a positive direction. Above all, we will continue to protect and preserve this wonderful resource and build strong personal connections so that we can pass on to the next generation a sense of ownership and caring.

*Judith Córdova, Superintendent*

### Ten Years At Petroglyph National Monument

**1990:** Petroglyph National Monument was established on June 27th as the 356th unit of the National Park system. Congress identified the monument as a partnership park to be jointly managed by City, State and National Park Service. City owned 2,346 acres, State owned 641 acres and Federal government owns no land within boundary.

**1991:** Land Protection Plan approved making way for Federal land acquisition. Memorandum of Understanding signed by City, State and Federal governments to establish land purchase programs and ensure that management is consistent with the enabling legislation. General Management Plan started. Steve Whitesell became the first Petroglyph National Monument Superintendent.

**1992:** First federal land acquisition, home of Dr. Sophie Aberle acquired as Las Imágenes Visitor Center. Secretary of the Interior Manual Lujan appoints members of the Petroglyph National Monument Advisory Commission. Visitor Center opened. Archaeological survey of monument started.

**1993:** Petroglyph National Monument established a Parks as Classrooms program. Junior Ranger Program started and administered by both City and National Park Service.

**1994:** Over 180 tons of trash and debris removed from mouth of Rinconada Canyon. Two boundary expansion areas acquired. Monument headquarters established at the park. Archaeological Resources Inventory completed.

**1995:** Petroglyph National Monument co-hosted 22<sup>nd</sup> annual American Rock Art Research Association conference in Albuquerque. Protocol for removing graffiti created. Petroglyph National Monument Teachers Guide completed. Judith Córdova becomes second Petroglyph Superintendent.

**1996:** Petroglyph Inventory Crew created to inventory entire escarpment; two kilometers inventoried and 20% more petroglyphs found along escarpment.

**1997:** General Management Plan and Federal Environmental Impact Statement for Petroglyph National Monument was approved. Rinconada Canyon contact station and trailhead completed. Wayside exhibits designed and installed at Boca Negra and Rinconada Canyons. NPS volunteers commit over 4,000 hours to protect resources and educate visitors.

**1998:** 8.5 acres deleted from monument boundary for construction of non-park road. Site bulletins on geology, flora, fauna, mammals, reptiles and visiting area pueblos completed. Cultural demonstration program started at Las Imágenes Visitor Center.

**1999:** 87% of visitors to the monument are satisfied with facilities and services and recreational opportunities, according to a formal visitor survey. 42 cultural demonstration programs conducted. City of Albuquerque acquires Piedras Marcadas Pueblo Visitor Center.

**2000:** National Park Service fencing of southern boundary completed. 640 acres of New Mexico State Trust Lands transferred to the National Park Service. 95% of monument lands are in public ownership. City begins remote sensing of Piedras Marcadas Pueblo. Annual visitation to the monument exceeds 100,000.

*Diane Souder, Chief of Interpretation and Outreach*



***"As stewards of this rich, ever changing tapestry, we must think not only in terms of what we will preserve for this generation, but what also we will pass on for the benefit of countless generations to come."***

**Robert Stanton, Director  
National Park Service**



### **Dogs?**

By Michael Quijano,  
Chief of Resource Protection and Management

**D**ogs, coyotes and wolves are all members of the canine family and each has a unique place in history regarding their interaction with humans. Within the monument there are numerous petroglyphs that resemble dogs, coyotes or wolves. Although the coyotes are an indigenous species within the monument, dogs are not.

As a unit of the National Park Service mandated with protecting all natural and cultural resources in perpetuity, dogs create some unique challenges and management problems. It is forbidden to change, alter or harass the indigenous wildlife within a park unit. Dogs are of special concern to us, since it is their nature to run around doing their business (urinating and defecating to mark their territory), chasing anything that moves, digging holes and sometimes even trying to meet and tag along with humans that are not their owners. It is for all these reasons that existing regulations state that all dogs must:

- Be kept on leash at all times
- Be attended to by their masters, which means cleaning up after them
- Not be allowed to chase and harass any wildlife or other persons at any time or in any form
- Not be left alone unattended or tied to a post, vehicle or tree within the park

Petroglyph National Monument maintenance crews are spending an average of 8 hours per week, cleaning up after dogs whose owners are not following these regulations and allowing their dogs to defecate along our trails. Local hikers, bikers and walkers have complained about dogs running free, chasing wildlife and

even harassing them. All of this is unacceptable. We are attempting to address this situation through active community education, and are making preparations to start issuing federal and city citations for violations.

We ask for your assistance with this matter by keeping your dog leashed at all times and cleaning up after your dog while in the monument. Some people do not like dogs and many times are frightened by them, so please be courteous to everyone by giving them the right of way on the trails and not allowing your dog to walk up to them. If you do see anyone allowing their dogs to be a problem, please report it to our staff so we can take appropriate action.

In 2001, a multi-year Trail Management Plan will begin that will evaluate and incorporate aspects of the monument's General Management Plan, which states that horseback riding, bicycling, and dog walking will be prohibited from petroglyph concentration areas.

### **Erosion: Is Petroglyph National Monument Being Washed Away?**

By Mike Medrano,  
Natural Resource Specialist

**W**hile many people view erosion as a negative impact to resources, there are some instances where erosion is part of a natural system, as is found here at Petroglyph National Monument. The dominant soil found throughout the monument is sand, with the bulk either carried in by the winds or deposited by seasonal storm runoff. What we have discovered in the last year, is that at least a portion of the erosion is part of a natural cycle in which sand, soil and organic material is deposited and washed away with seasonal storms. Petroglyph National Monument is committed to maintaining these natural processes whenever possible.

What about erosion that is not part of a natural cycle? There is also a fair amount of this type of erosion taking place in the monument. The vast majority of "unnatural" erosion is due to human impacts, which range from people walking off established trails and creating social trails, to off-road vehicle use (including mountain bikes). In either case, the social trails and dirt roads act as ditches which allow water to be concentrated or channeled and then deposited in locations and in volumes which are not natural. This creates erosion problems. Please do your part to protect and preserve *your* National Monument by observing trail signs and remaining on established trails. This will ensure it will be around (and in good shape) for years to come.



*Evidence of water-cutting erosion; a natural process*

### **Fee Demonstration Money At Work**

**A**t Petroglyph National Monument, funds from the National Park Service Fee Demonstration Program are being used to enhance the Las Imágenes Visitor Center, create interpretive signs, and construct a trailhead and contact station at the volcanoes.

These funds are generated from a portion of the sale of the National Park Passes and entrance fees at other National Park Service units.



*Visitor contact station at Rinconada Canyon*

### **National Park Service Employment Facts**

By Christie Porter,  
Administrative Technician

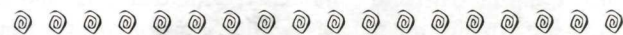
**F**or permanent employment, federal agencies generally fill positions by using either of the following methods:

- Internal merit promotion vacancy announcements for which current Federal employees or special employment program candidates are eligible to apply.
- External announcements for which anyone is eligible to apply (open to all qualified persons).

To apply for internal merit promotion vacancy announcements, candidates must be current or former permanent employee of the Federal government (be a "status" candidate), or eligible candidate for a special appointment such as severely disabled persons or 30% disabled veterans.

Temporary employment job vacancies and on-line application information may be accessed at website [www.sep.nps.gov](http://www.sep.nps.gov).

For internal or external jobs, you must apply for specific vacancies. You may locate vacancy announcements by accessing the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) website at [www.usajobs.opm.gov](http://www.usajobs.opm.gov). General information about NPS employment may be accessed in the NPS website at [www.nps.gov/pub\\_aff/jobs.htm](http://www.nps.gov/pub_aff/jobs.htm). You may also find out about vacancies by contacting OPM's USA Jobs by phone at 912-757-3000 or TDD 912-744-2299.



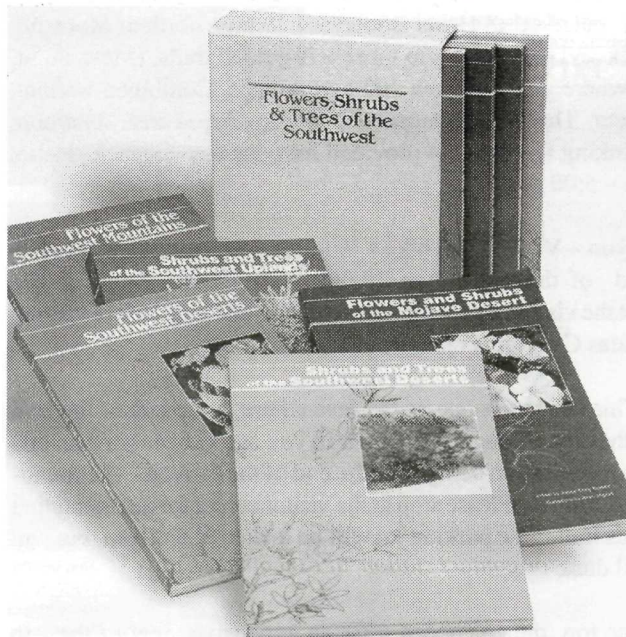
*In the past year, Petroglyph National Monument has seen visitors from 69 foreign countries.*

***"Everyday we hold in our hands a past that makes us what we are, and a future that will shape our children, and their children."***

**Karen Wade, Regional Director  
National Park Service**



# SOUTHWEST PARKS AND MONUMENTS ASSOCIATION



Our SPMA bookstore now carries over 100 titles. Visit us in the Las Imágenes Visitor Center.

## Taking a Broader Look

By Diane Souder,  
Chief of Interpretation and Outreach

A fundamental cornerstone of resource protection is an understanding of *stewardship* of public lands. Stewardship is the act of holding something in trust for another. Historically stewardship was a way to govern for an underage king or while those in charge were away. For the National Park Service the "underage king" is the next generation.

The National Park Service and the Rio Rancho High School Humanities Academy have created a partnership which will both help protect the resources of Petroglyph National Monument and enhance the understanding of public land stewardship by local high school students.

This program will focus on researching the complex natural and cultural resources of Petroglyph National Monument, monitoring base line resources (the escarpment) on a regular basis, and developing a variety of educational outreach projects. Thanks to the students who are today's stewards for our public lands.



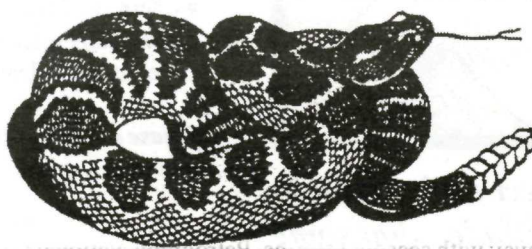
One of our young "stewards" helping with trash cleanup

## RATTLESNAKES ALIVE!!

By Mike Medrano,  
Natural Resource Specialist

While it is not likely you will run into a rattlesnake during your visit, it is possible since you are traveling through the space they call home. Here are some things to remember when dealing with rattlesnakes:

- Rattlesnakes will not attack, but if disturbed or cornered, they will defend themselves, just like any other wild animal.
- If encountered on the trail, the best thing to do is give them plenty of room.
- When visiting the park, be aware of where you are walking, and do not put your hands, feet, face or any other part of your body where you cannot see them.
- Listen well, you will often hear a rattlesnake before you see it. Rattlesnakes have a built in warning system—when you are getting too close for their comfort, they will let you know.



In the **highly** unlikely event of a snake bite:

- **STAY CALM!**
- **Do not** try to cut into the bite
- **Do not** use a tourniquet
- Send someone for help and stay as still and calm as possible

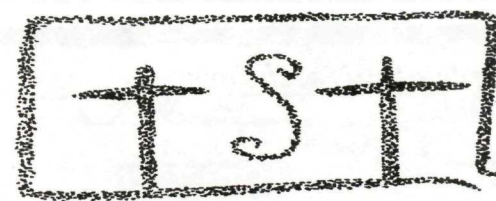
If you are within 2 hours of medical care, your chances for survival are excellent. Most rattlesnake bites are "dry" bites in which venom is **not** injected. It is physiologically costly for a rattlesnake to waste venom on something other than a meal.

Rattlesnakes are wild animals and demand your respect. Give it to them along with plenty of room. Have a safe and happy visit to Petroglyph National Monument.



EXPERIENCE  
YOUR  
AMERICA

The civilian park service came into being in 1916 with the passing of the Organic Act. At that time the new direction of the NPS, included providing "for the enjoyment" of the parks in such a way as to leave them "unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations." Meeting the needs of visitors and educating them became a new priority.



## Help Protect Petroglyph's By Becoming a Junior Ranger

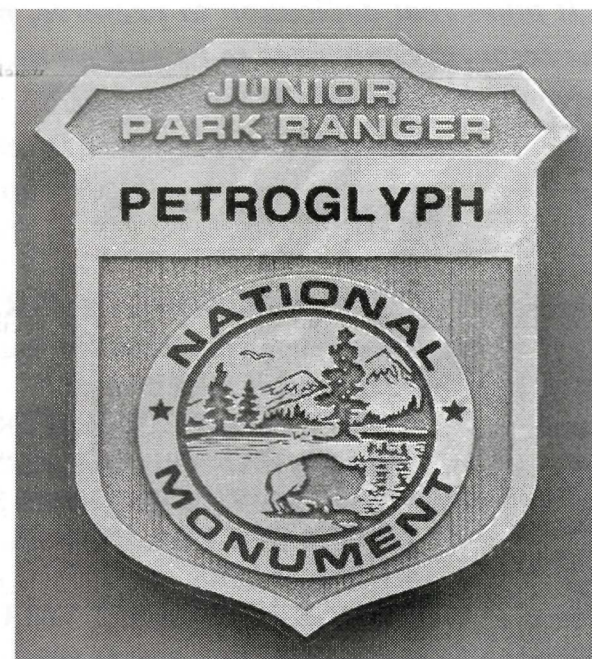
By Susanna Villanueva,  
Park Ranger Interpretation

The National Park Service was established "...to preserve and protect the natural and cultural resources of national parks for the enjoyment of future generations," and that is the job of all park rangers in the National Park Service. Rangers have such a big job to do that anytime we can get help, it is greatly appreciated. That is where you come in.

Have fun while learning more about the important natural and cultural resources at Petroglyph NM. Complete the fun activities in the Junior Ranger booklet then show your booklet to a park ranger and earn your official Petroglyph National Monument Junior Ranger badge and certificate. As a Junior Ranger it is your responsibility to help preserve and protect Petroglyph National Monument and any other National Parks you may visit.

Our Junior Ranger program is for children, kindergarten through sixth grade.

**Petroglyph National Monument Junior Ranger Pledge**  
I give my pledge as a Petroglyph National Monument Junior Ranger to save and faithfully defend the cultural and natural resources of this park.



*"It will be through our efforts that today's children will learn what wonderful places their parents and grandparents have set aside for them."*

**Karen Wade, Regional Director  
National Park Service**

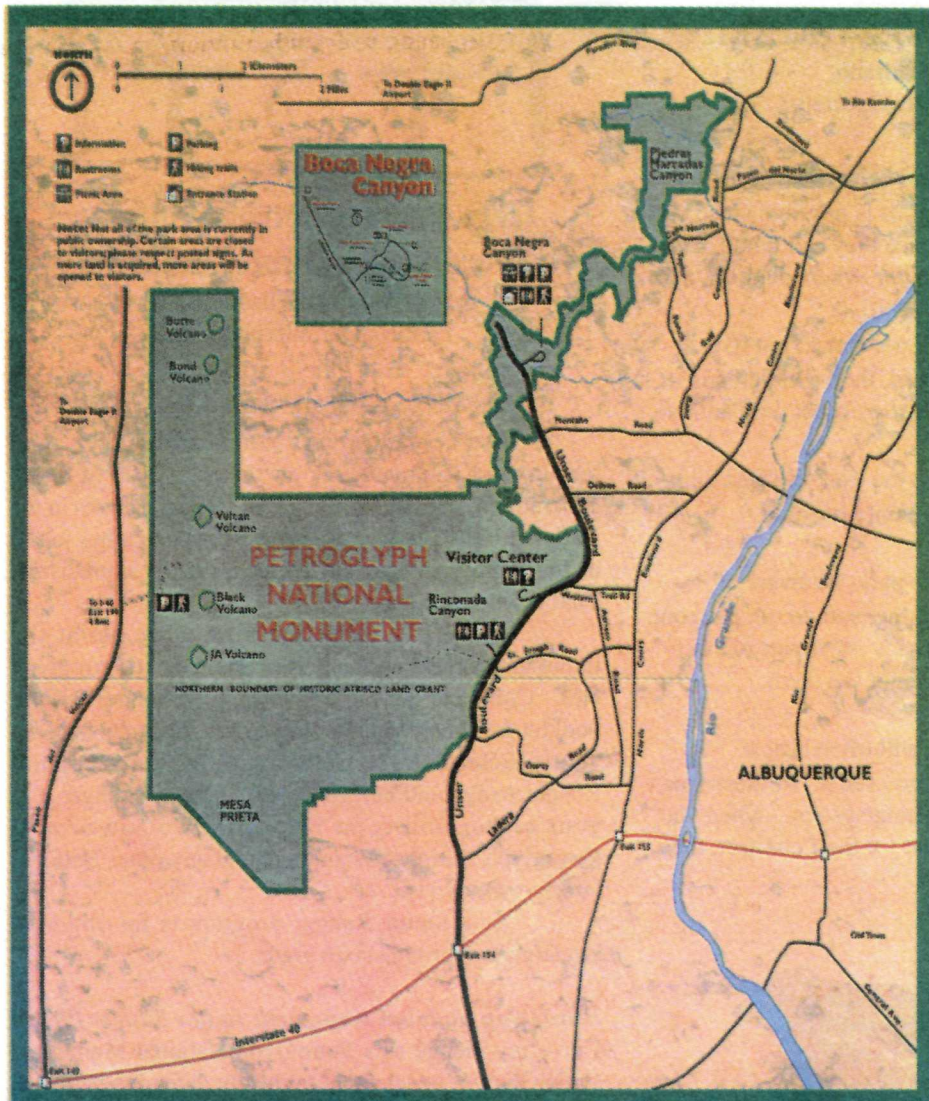
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Editor and Design.....Cheryl Ford

### Editorial Board

Diane Souder, Michael Quijano, Christie Porter,  
Philip LoPiccolo, and Cheryl Ford  
Visit us on the web at: [www.nps.gov/petr](http://www.nps.gov/petr)





## PARK AREAS TO VISIT

**Las Imágenes Visitor Center** – Located at Unser Boulevard and Western Trail, can provide you with maps and information about the park. In the visitor center is the Southwest Parks and Monuments Association bookstore, which carries books, postcards, maps, posters and other educational items. Open seven days a week from 8:00 am – 5:00 pm. (The visitor center and bookstore are closed Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day).

**Boca Negra Canyon** – Located off of Unser Boulevard, 1/4 mile north of Montañito, the canyon provides quick and easy access to three self-guided trails, (Mesa Point, Macaw and Cliff Base) where you can view 200 petroglyphs. Combined walking time is approximately 1 hour. This is the monument's only developed area. Restroom facilities, shade and a drinking fountain are provided for your convenience. Hours of operation are 8:00 am – 5:00 pm.

**Piedras Marcadas Canyon** – Visitors can hike 1 1/2 miles over sandy trails to view approximately one-third of the more than 20,000 petroglyphs found in the monument. Please stop at the visitor center for an orientation and map before visiting this area. Piedras Marcadas Canyon is open from dawn to dusk.

**Rinconada Canyon** – This canyon is one of the few, where at the end of the trail you can be out of site of the city. Along this sandy trail you can view more than 800 petroglyphs, the largest concentration being near the end of the canyon. The round-trip walk is between 2 1/2 to 3 miles. Please stop at the visitor center for an orientation and map before hiking this trail. The parking lot will be locked at 5:00 pm, but you can be in the canyon until dusk.

**Volcanoes** – On the mesa top, the volcanoes offer an expansive view of the Rio Grande Valley. The five spatter cones that so prominently mark Albuquerque's western skyline, last erupted 130,000 years ago. Although this area is still considered geologically active, geologists believe that these volcanic cones will no longer erupt. Gates at the Volcano parking area are open between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm.

*Please inquire at the Visitor Center for directions and current information about these park areas.*

## PARK HOURS

**Visitor Center 8:00 am – 5:00 pm**  
**Boca Negra Canyon – 8:00 am – 5:00 pm**  
**Rinconada Canyon – 8:00 am – 5:00 pm**  
**Volcanoes – 9:00 am – 5:00 pm**

*“It takes real dedication to preserve, protect and maintain the resources entrusted to us and we are reminded that some have given their life in that pursuit.”*

*Karen Wade, Regional Director  
 National Park Service*

## THINK SAFETY FIRST!

When visiting Petroglyph National Monument and hiking our trails, please keep these few simple rules in mind:

- Ⓢ CARRY PLENTY OF WATER
- Ⓢ WEAR A HAT AND SUNSCREEN
- Ⓢ WEAR STURDY WALKING SHOES
- Ⓢ WATCH OUT FOR SNAKES
- Ⓢ HIKE IN PAIRS
- Ⓢ PLEASE SECURE ALL VALUABLES

Following these rules will help ensure you have a safe and pleasant experience during your visit to our monument.

## Special Events At Petroglyph National Monument

From Memorial Day to Balloon Fiesta, a variety of special events take place at Petroglyph National Monument. Events range from ranger-guided hikes and talks, to our weekend cultural demonstration program where you can visit with native artisans as they work on their crafts. Since schedules vary from week to week, please call us at the Las Imágenes Visitor Center to find out what special activities are going on during your visit: 505-899-0205 ext. 335.

Volunteers have donated over 2,600 hours in 1999 to document and record petroglyphs.

Petroglyph National Monument is jointly managed by the National Park Service and the City of Albuquerque Open Space Division.

## PROTECTING PETROGLYPH NATIONAL MONUMENT

Federal laws and regulations protect all natural and cultural resources found within the monument boundary. Removing, damaging, altering, or defacing petroglyphs is a violation of the Archaeological Resource Protection Act (ARPA).

We need everybody's help to protect our history. Please do not engage in activity that might damage the natural and cultural beauty of Petroglyph National Monument.

To report a violation call: 505-873-6632  
 505-242-COPS

Petroglyph National Monument Phone Numbers  
 Visitor Center: 505-899-0205 ext. 335  
 Administration: 505-899-0205 ext. 221

