

HERITAGE RESOURCE  
MANAGEMENT IN RED RIVER  
GORGE TODAY

- ◆ Archaeologist field surveys
- ◆ Modern recreation use



# RED RIVER GORGE NATIONAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISTRICT DESIGNATED 2003:

- Located Wolfe, Powell and Menifee Counties – 39,000 acres on Forest Service
- Nationally significant Historical District by National Register of Historic Places
- National Register is this country's primary means of acknowledging those cultural resources that are worthy of preservation
- 442 contributing archaeological resources that possess special values or roles for the development of our country





ARCHAEOLOGISTS  
PERFORM 2 TYPES  
OF SURVEYS:

Phase I – simple shovel tests  
Phase II – detailed digs







## Phase I Investigations in Rockshelters

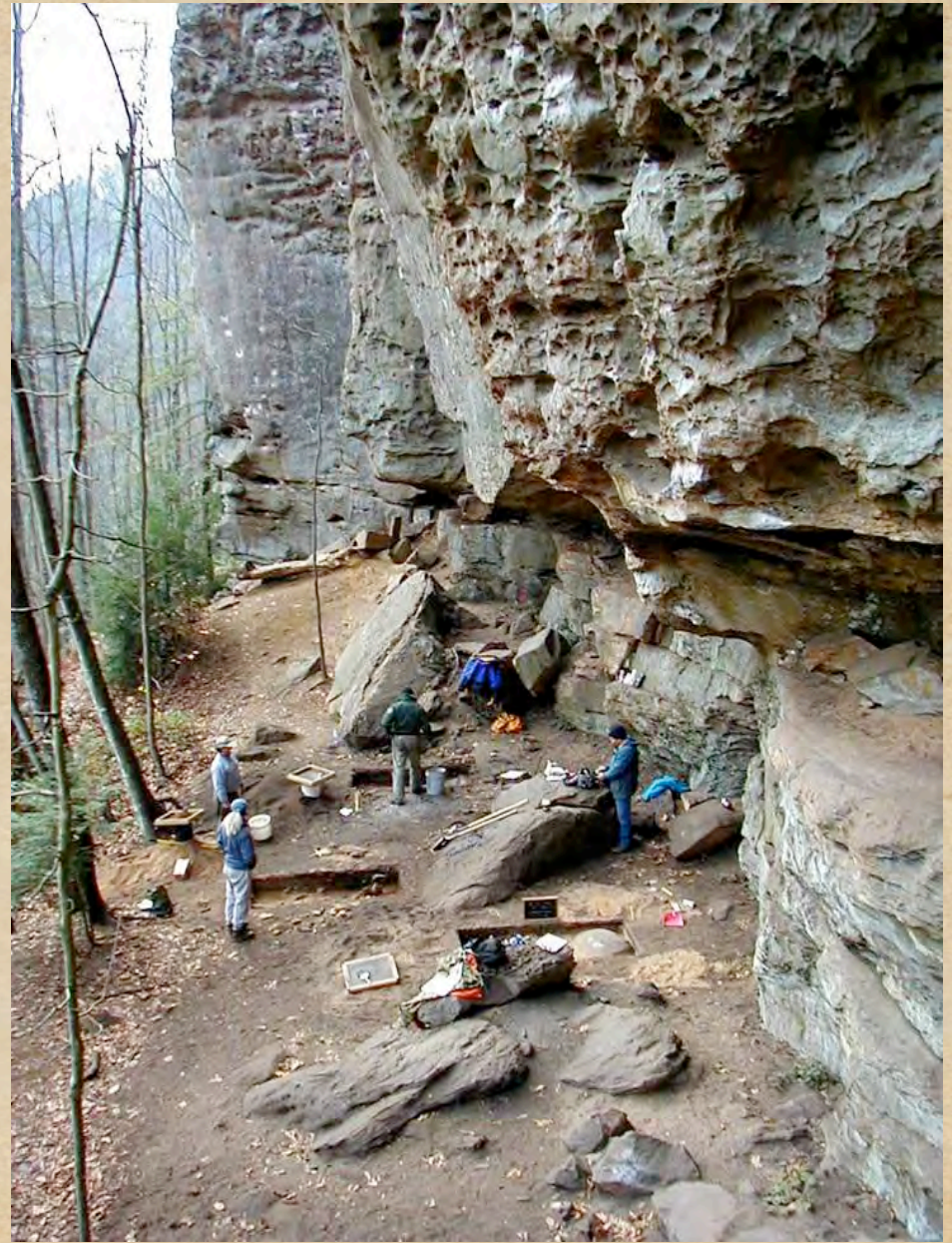


PHASE 1  
Shovel Tests  
Used To Determine  
Cultural Deposits





PHASE II  
Investigations

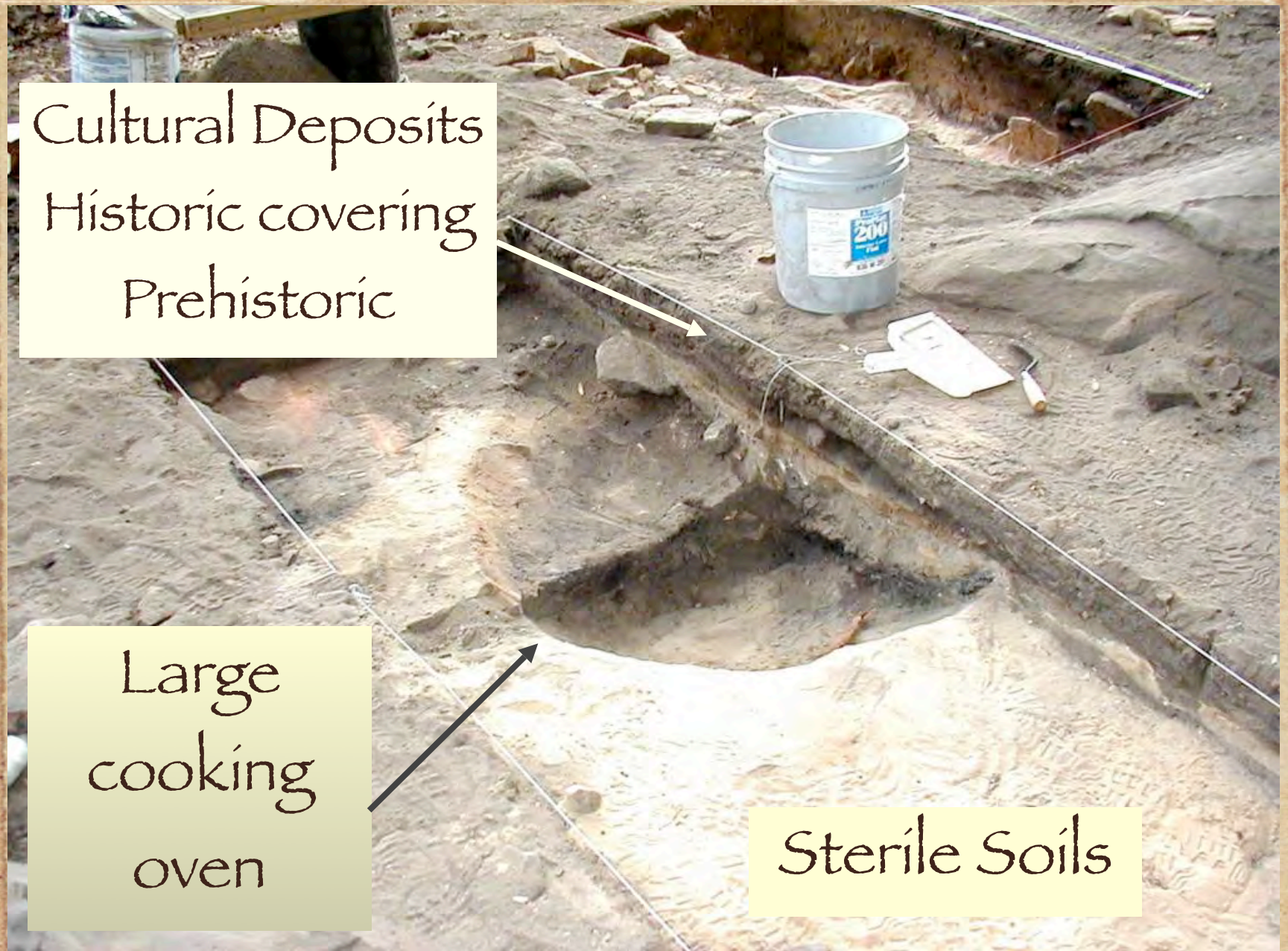




Cultural Deposits  
Historic covering  
Prehistoric

Large  
cooking  
oven

Sterile Soils





# Modern Times - Recreation



Camping Impacts to Rockshelter Sites



Miles and miles of  
user-developed  
trails to remote  
cliffline







Numerous user  
created trails  
along clifflines by  
hikers, campers  
and rock  
climbers.



# Damage to Cultural Deposits

Two-thirds of sites in Gorge are estimated to be impacted from relic digging or dispersed recreational activities.





Modern Campers in 2002 dug out  
a large portion of floor for ease  
of camping at this rockshelter





Campers make rockshelters  
their temporary homes.





Many party campers leave behind trash





A Forest Supervisor's  
Closure Order  
prohibiting camping  
and fire building in  
rockshelters was  
implemented in  
April of 2000



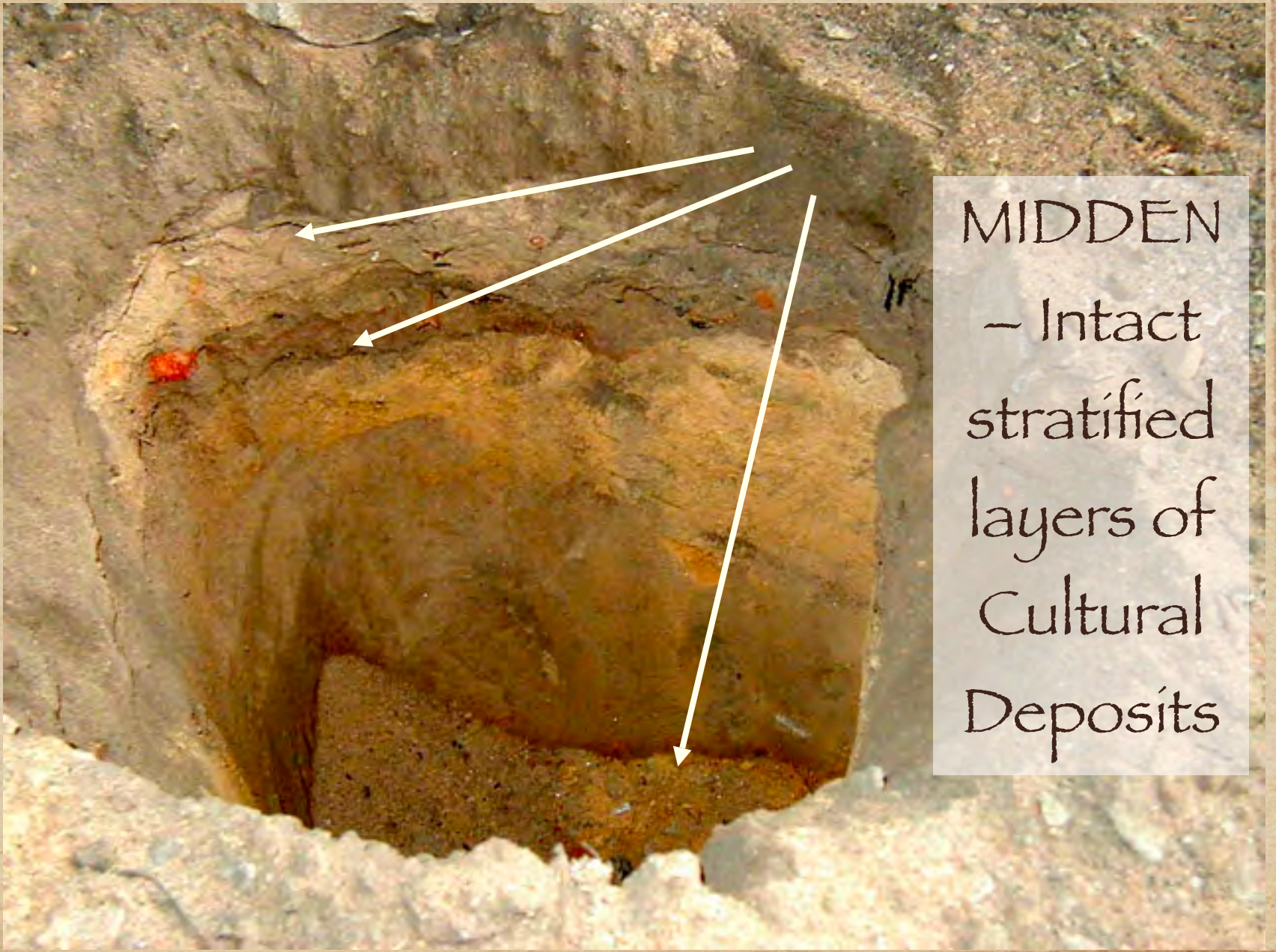


Camping in rockshelters has diminished,  
but still continues

Damage to  
Cultural  
Deposits  
(midden) by  
large fire on  
floor - 2003







MIDDEN  
– Intact  
stratified  
layers of  
Cultural  
Deposits

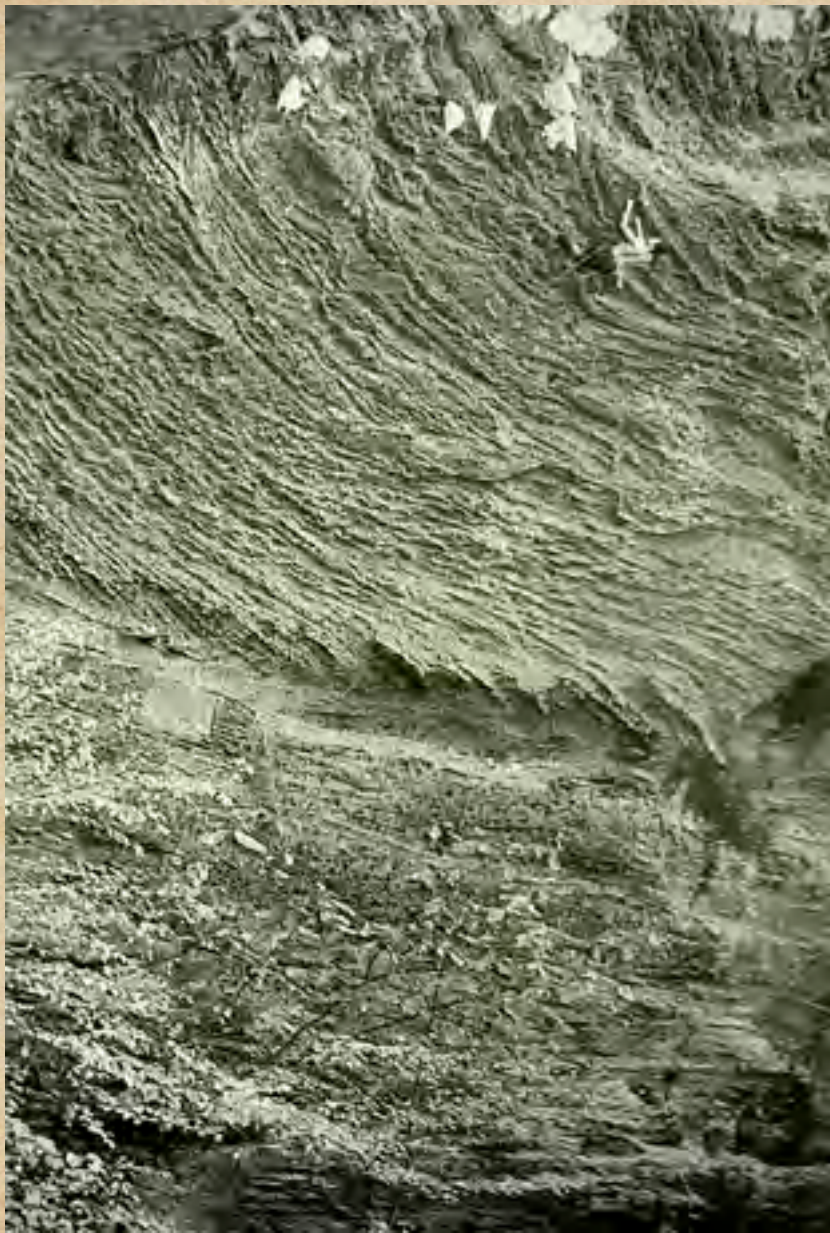


Some campers remove artifacts when camping in rockshelters



Spearpoint



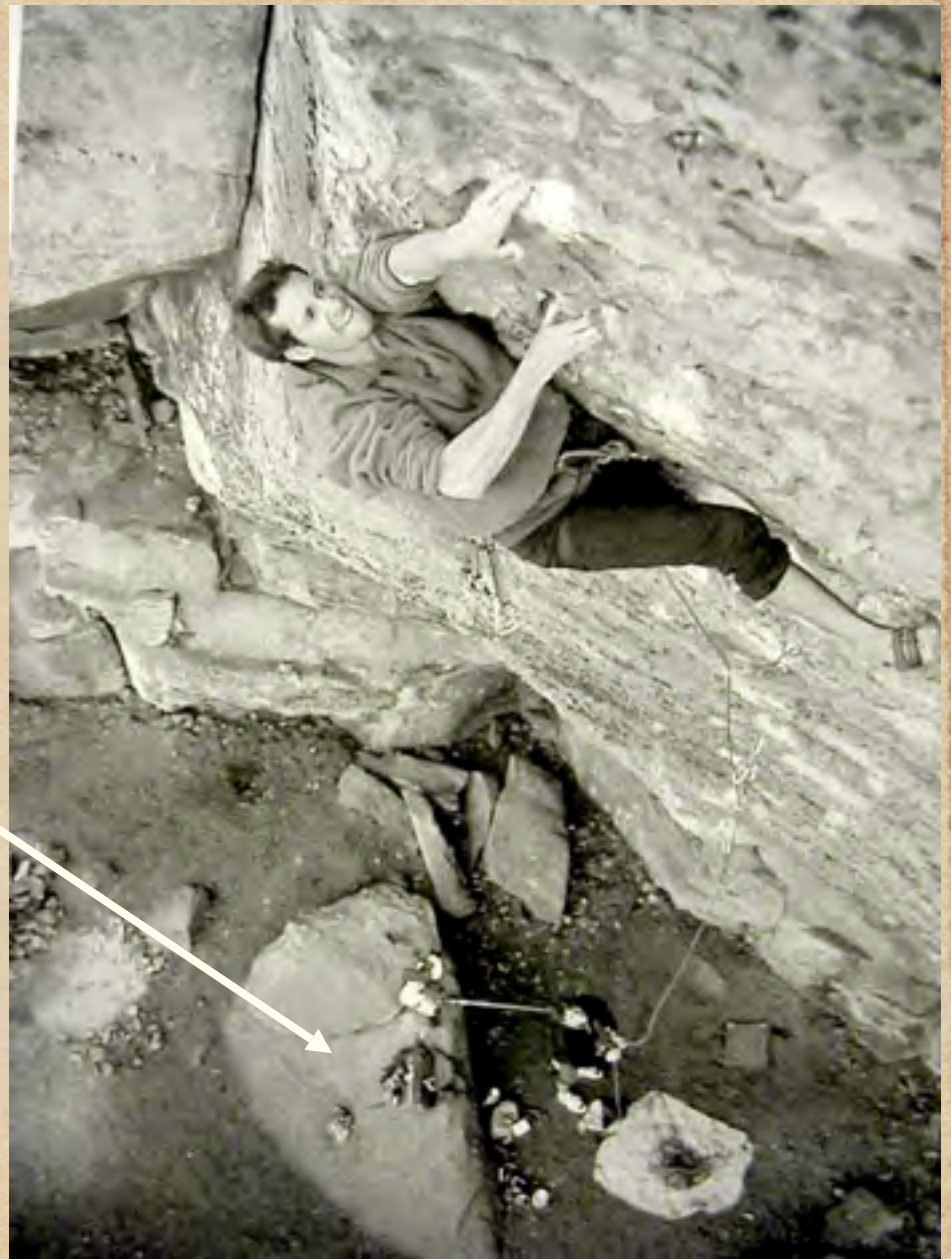


# ROCK CLIMBING

Brian Maslyar photo



Rock Climbing  
impacts  
Human caused  
erosion &  
trampling on  
cultural deposits



Harrison Shull photo



# BOULDERING IN ROCKSHELTERS




Rocks removed  
and floor  
smoothed for  
placement of  
pads






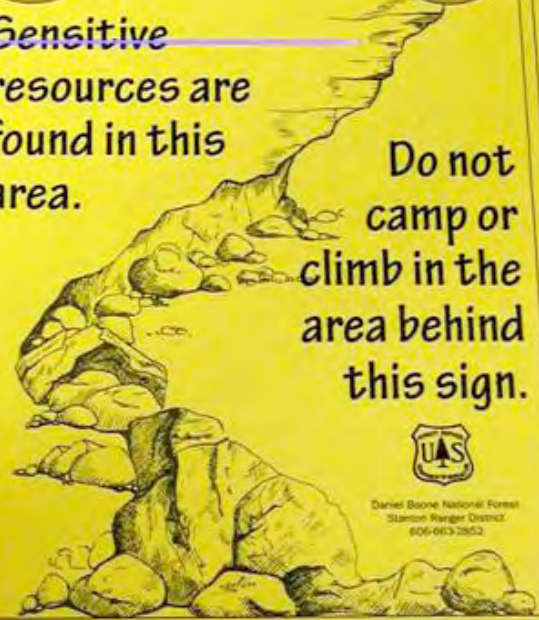


PROTECT OUR FRAGILE RESOURCES



*Sensitive*  
resources are  
found in this  
area.

Do not  
camp or  
climb in the  
area behind  
this sign.



Daniel Boone National Forest  
Stanton Ranger District  
806-613-2852







Heavy Duty Fence to Protect Salt Peter Mine



Over 25  
Archaeological Sites  
fenced at heavy use  
camping and rock  
climbing areas





ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE MONITORING  
Backcountry Rangers





Backcountry Ranger documenting  
recent relic digging activity







Cattle Pen destroyed by party campers



**HELP PRESERVE  
OUR  
CULTURAL  
HERITAGE**

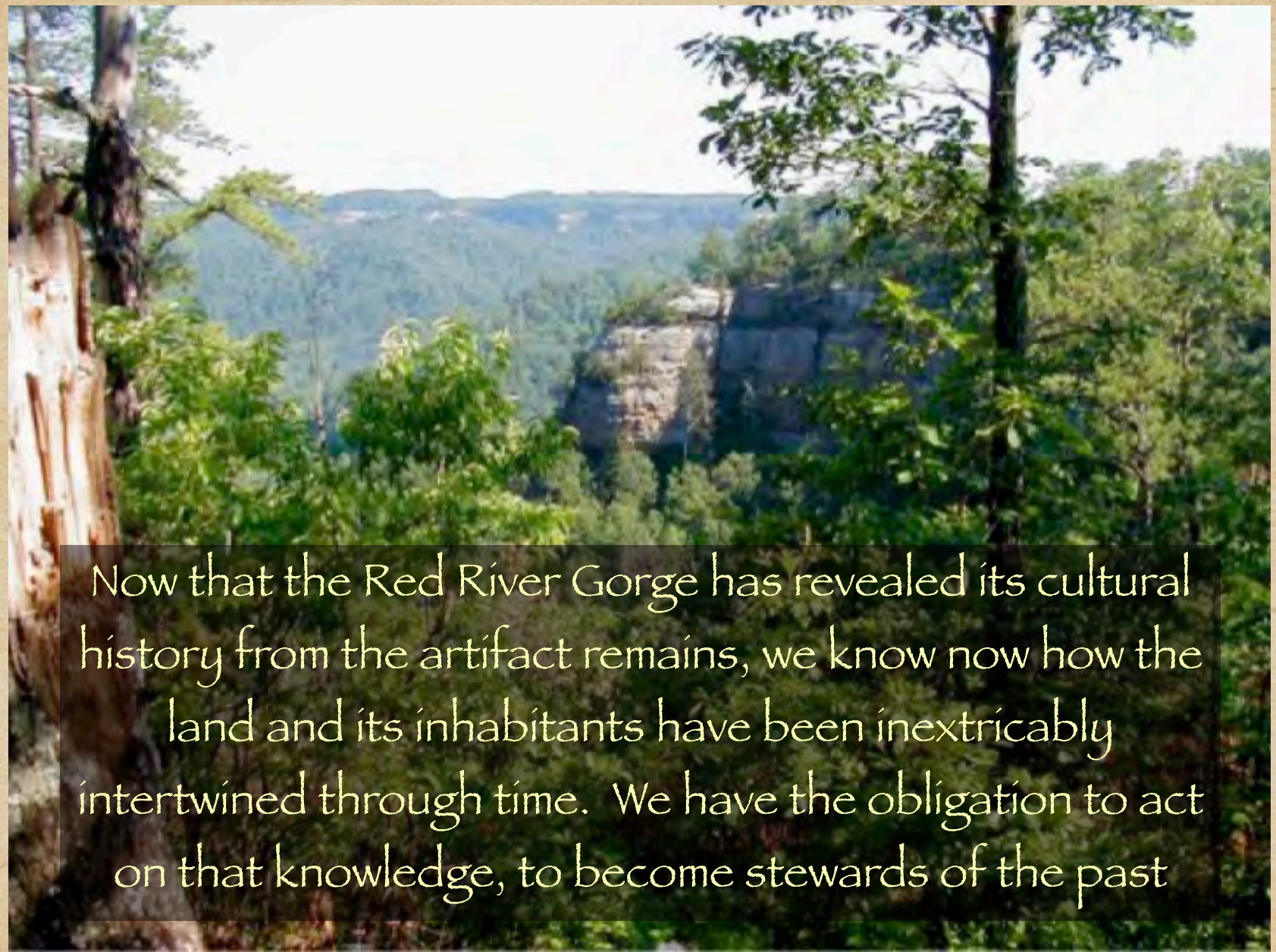


**BY LEAVING ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
HISTORICAL REMAINS UNDISTURBED**

**REMOVAL OF ARTIFACTS  
PROHIBITED BY LAW**







Now that the Red River Gorge has revealed its cultural history from the artifact remains, we know now how the land and its inhabitants have been inextricably intertwined through time. We have the obligation to act on that knowledge, to become stewards of the past