

Preservation on the Verde

The weekend of cultural resource preservation hosted by the Tonto National Forest and the Arizona Rock Art Coalition had a two-fold purpose. Its purpose was first to document, for the archeological files of the Tonto National Forest, the rock art around a 12th-14th century village on the Verde River. Second it was to measure the effectiveness of these documentation efforts as performed by a typical group of volunteers.



Participants in the weekend were typical of an atypical population that has the skills and equipment to support itself in the field over a 24-hour period. They were diverse in background and in their previous contact with rock art. They were diverse in geographic location within the state, representing the northern and southern portions as well as the central Phoenix section. The group shared a common interest in Arizona's past and in being outside and in touch with the country.

Participants volunteered a total of 284 man-hours to the preservation of rock art but spent only about a quarter of this time actually working with rock art. Most of the volunteered time was spent in travel and in personnel maintenance. The following chart indicates the proportion of time spent by participants on major activities over the weekend.

**Volunteer Activities
During the Preservation Weekend**

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Percent of Time</u>
Motorized travel	20%
Dismounted Travel	6%
Demonstration & directions	6%
Rock Art Related tasks	24%
Rest & Recreation	45%
Undefined Activity	5%

Only 24% of the time volunteered can be directly related to the documentation of rock art. This time spent by volunteers in the work of rock art documentation produced three items for the archeological files of the Tonto National Forest. It produced a list of rock art panels, in the village area, with distance and compass bearing for each from a known point. It produced a map (digital elevation model) of the village area showing the location of the rock art. Finally, volunteered time produced photographs of the rock art and a ceramic analysis verifying the Tonto's estimate of the likely age of the village and associated rock art.

Preparation of each of these items required that volunteers perform a specific set of tasks. Production of the list required volunteers to physically search the village area for rock art panels and then record GPS and compass data for each. Photography involved physically getting to the rock art panels, setting up the shot with information board and scale and getting the shot of all the rock art panels found in the area.

Production of the map required construction of a precise north-south line through the area with flags at 10-meter intervals. Volunteers then recorded GPS elevation, at 10-meter intervals, for 50 meters east and west of the primary flagged line. The resulting 10-meter grid of terrain elevations served as input for the digital elevation model or map of the area.

Validating the Tonto's estimate of the village age, and thereby the probable age of the rock art, involved volunteers in taking a sample of potsherds from a meter circle around each of the elevation model's 10-meter grid points. Volunteers recorded "ware", "Temper", "polish" and the application of "red-slip" for each sherd. The Tonto's "Ceramic Dating" formula was applied to data recorded on 240 potsherds to determine the age. Volunteers were fortunate to have the use of the Tonto's ceramic dating formula and the advice on its use from the Tonto's Senior Archeological Officer.

**Volunteer Time on Rock Art Related
Tasks**

<u>Task</u>	<u>Percent of Time</u>
Listing rock art panels	55%
Mapping area	7%
Photography	12%
Ceramic analysis	9%

It is the nature of rock art that far more time is required getting to it than is ever required to do anything with it. This is reflected above in the proportion of the 65 man-hours (24% of total time volunteered) of actual rock art documentation that was completed in the individual tasks. More than half of the volunteered time was used in locating the rock art. The effectiveness with which volunteers performed this rock art work is suggested by a comparison with the number of panels completed. Over the total 'Preservation Weekend' volunteers documented a total of 27 rock art panels at a rate of 7.5 man-hours per panel. During the time actually working with rock art volunteers produced at a rate of 1.75 man-hours per rock art panel.