

SAN JUAN BASIN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Chapter of Colorado Archaeological Society



FIELD TRIP REPORT

Date: **April 2, 2011**

Destination: **Pictured Cliffs at Waterflow, NM**

Leader: **Gail LaDage**

Number of Participants: **11**

On April 2, eleven SJBAS members visited the Pictured Cliffs, a 2.3-kilometer-long petroglyph site, which predominantly represents P-II and P-III imagery, including geometric, zoomorphic and anthropomorphic imagery. Being located along Route 64, a busy four-lane highway linking Farmington to Shiprock, has resulted in graffiti and other human damage to the spectacular site, including more recent chiseling of images (most likely Navajo, as the "power" of anthropomorphic figures has been blamed for illness among local tribal residents).

After enthusiastic viewing of many panels, we found a quiet canyon retreat for lunch and a presentation by John Sanders on the geologic history of the site. We toured the "museum" of local prehistoric artifacts and traditional Native American textile and ceramic art at the nearby Big Rock Trading Post. A stop for ice cream refreshed SJBAS members after the 83-degree sunny hike.

A few of us stopped along the La Plata Highway to view the apparent remains of a hilltop kiva and a possible associated tower overlooking the backfilled ruins of a large pueblo village.

- Prepared by Gail LaDage

Participants: Gail LaDage, Jerri Lincoln, Kathleen and Jim Shadell, Bev and John Moore, Linda and Richard Robinson, Bob Estes, Bob Powell, John Sanders