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Storied Rocks: American Indian Inventory and Interpretation Of Rock Art on the Nevada Test Site

Final Report

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A government-to-government consultation between the Department of Energy, Nevada Operations Office (DOE/NV) and the Consolidated Group of Tribes and Organizations (CGTO) focused on the interpretation of 10 rock art sites; seven on the Nevada Test Site (NTS), and three on the Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Office (YMSCO).

The consultation entailed a systematic ethnographic study of petroglyphs, pictographs, and other rock art manipulations. The objective of the project was to gain an understanding of the cultural significance of rock art for contemporary American Indians and its place in their traditional cultural landscapes. Research activities involved visits to rock art sites by tribal elders and tribal cultural experts. During the field visits, Indian consultants responded to standardized interviews and provided observations, comments, and recommendations regarding each of the sites under study.

The project involved 14 American Indian tribes and two Indian organizations that represent Indian people having aboriginal and historic ties to lands currently occupied by the NTS. The study was initiated as part of the overall DOE/NV American Indian Program, which includes a decade of project-specific and general consultation efforts. This study builds upon previous efforts and will contribute to DOE/NV's understanding of American Indian cultural resources on the NTS.

Participating American Indian Tribes and Organizations

Participating tribes and Indian organizations sent their more knowledgeable representatives to evaluate, interpret, and make recommendations regarding the preservation, management and protection of 10 rock art sites on the NTS and in the YMSCO. Participating tribes and organizations were:

Southern Paiute

Kaibab Paiute Tribe, Arizona
Chemehuevi Indian Tribe, California
Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah