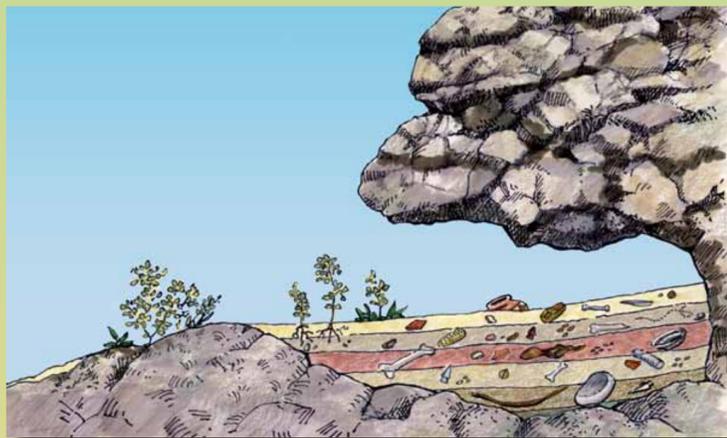


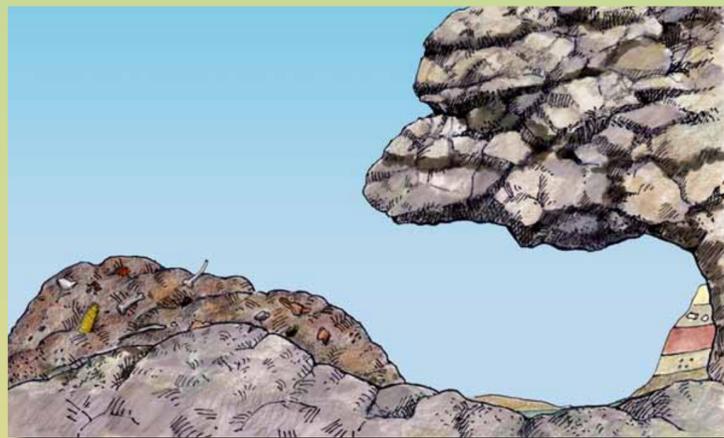
# Taking Care of Archaeology at Black Point Draw

American Indian families began living in the Rush Lake and Black Point Draw area more than 2,000 years ago. They made their homes in small shelters and caves in the lava rock. As time passed, windblown dust, ash from campfires, and decaying plants and food scraps formed layers of soil in these spaces. The ancient inhabitants left many artifacts behind, such as pottery, grinding stones, arrowheads, and other projectile points. They also covered the rocks in the draw with symbols and designs, called petroglyphs.



The soil builds up gradually, with the oldest layers at the bottom and more recent layers at the top. Each one contains its own artifacts and leftover food remains, like seeds and animal bones. Archaeologists can learn how people's way of life changed through time by comparing these different layers.

Archaeologists dig very carefully. They painstakingly record everything they find and where it came from. They look for clues—as small as a chip of obsidian or as large as a deer bone—which tell them what kind of tools people used, the animals they hunted, and plants they ate.



If the digging is done carelessly, no one can tell which layer the artifacts came from.

Unfortunately, someone who was not an archaeologist dug up the shelters and caves in Black Point Draw. As a result, we lost valuable information about the American Indian people who once lived here.

## What Can You Do?

Archaeological sites are part of our heritage. They belong to everyone, and it is everyone's responsibility to protect them. If you visit an archaeology site, always leave it just the way you found it.



The BLM and Forest Service help protect sites, and they supervise archaeological studies on public lands. In 2010, students and archaeologists from the Three Peaks Elementary School Archaeology Day-Camp examined the damage caused by the illegal excavations in Black Point Draw and helped restore one of the cave floors to its original appearance.

*Prehistoric and historic archaeological sites and artifacts on land administered by the Bureau of Land Management and the USDA Forest Service are protected by the Archaeological Resource Protection Act of 1979. Disturbing them is against the law.*



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