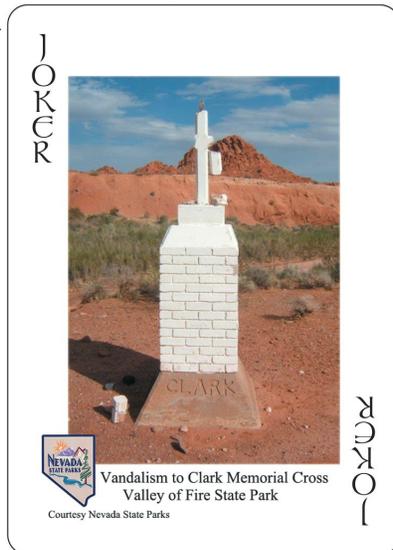
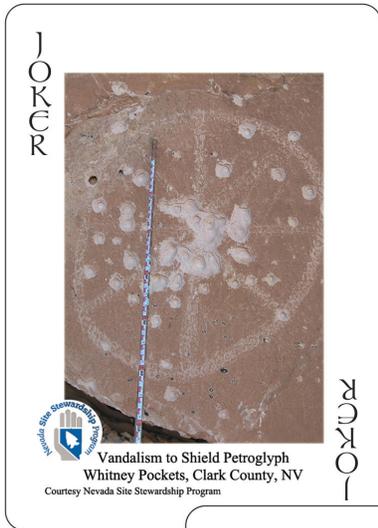


Destruction of our precious heritage



Nevada has a rich and intriguing past, including more than 10,000 years of cultural history and 540 million years of paleontological deposits. As Nevada's population continues to press into public lands, it is more important than ever to protect Nevada's cultural and paleontological resources from vandalism, looting, natural damage, and other inadvertent activities. Federal and state land managers need your help to monitor and protect archaeological and paleontological sites so they are preserved for future generations to enjoy.

Looting or vandalism destroys our precious Nevada heritage and forever separates the artifacts of past Nevada occupants from their important contexts. Context, to an archaeologist, means the place where an artifact is found. Not just the place, but also the soil, the site type, the layer the artifact came from, and whatever else was in that layer. The importance of where an artifact is found is profound. A site, properly excavated, tells you about the people who lived there, what they ate, what they believed, and how they organized their society. The whole of Nevada's past is tied up in the archaeological remnants, and it is only by considering the entire archaeological site that we can even begin to understand how early Nevada residents lived. Take an artifact out of its context and it is reduced to no more than pretty knick-knack gathering dust on a shelf. Ultimately, the citizens of Nevada are poorer for its loss.

For more information on how you can help to protect Nevada's vulnerable heritage:

<http://www.nvshpo.org/stewards.html>

