

# CHAIRMAN'S AWARD FOR ACHIEVEMENT IN HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Tennessee Valley Authority

University of Tennessee

Stratum Unlimited

University of Alabama

Southeastern Climbers Coalition

Painted Bluff Graffiti Removal and  
Camouflage Project  
Marshall County, Alabama



Photo by Alan Cressler

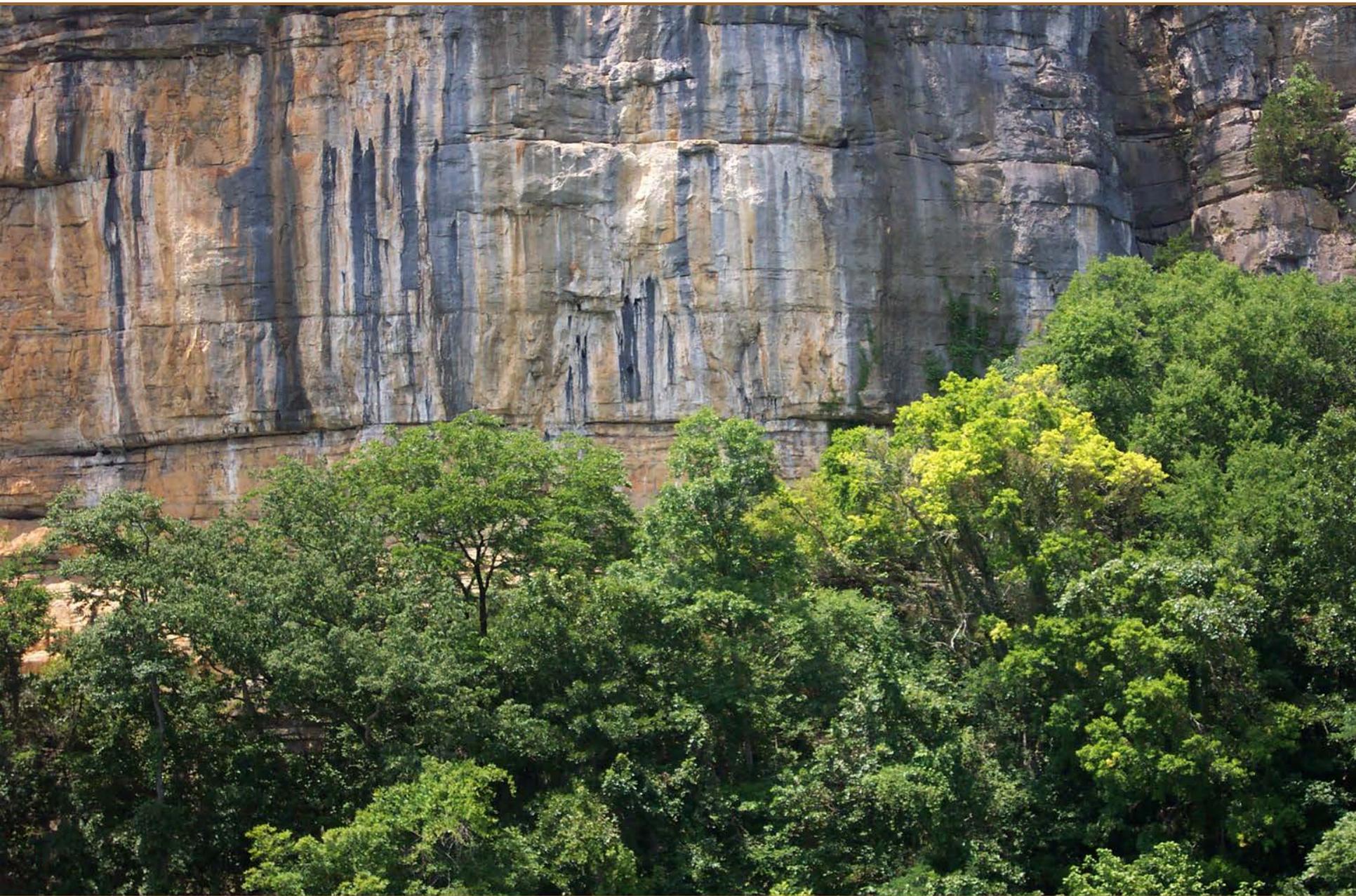
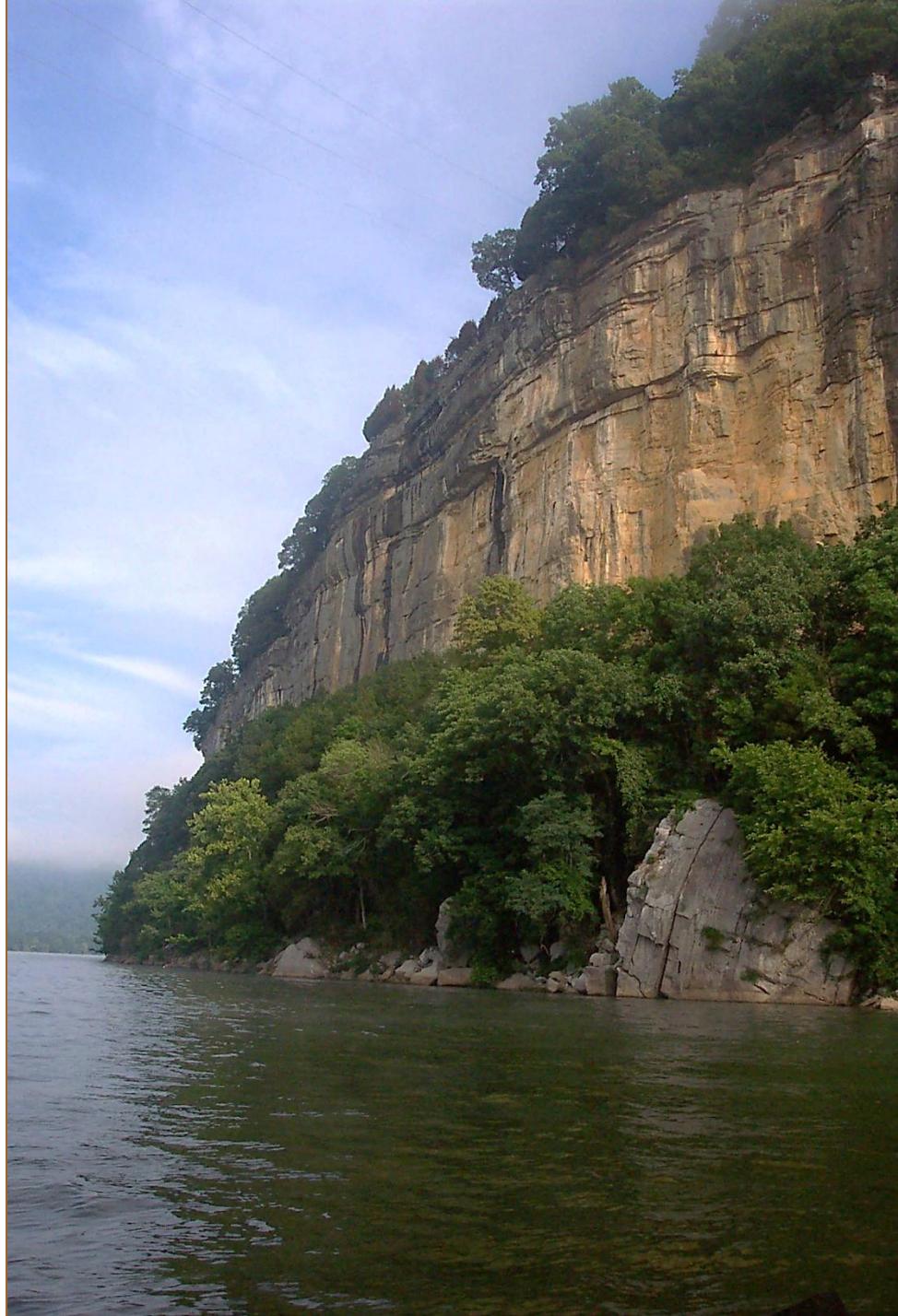
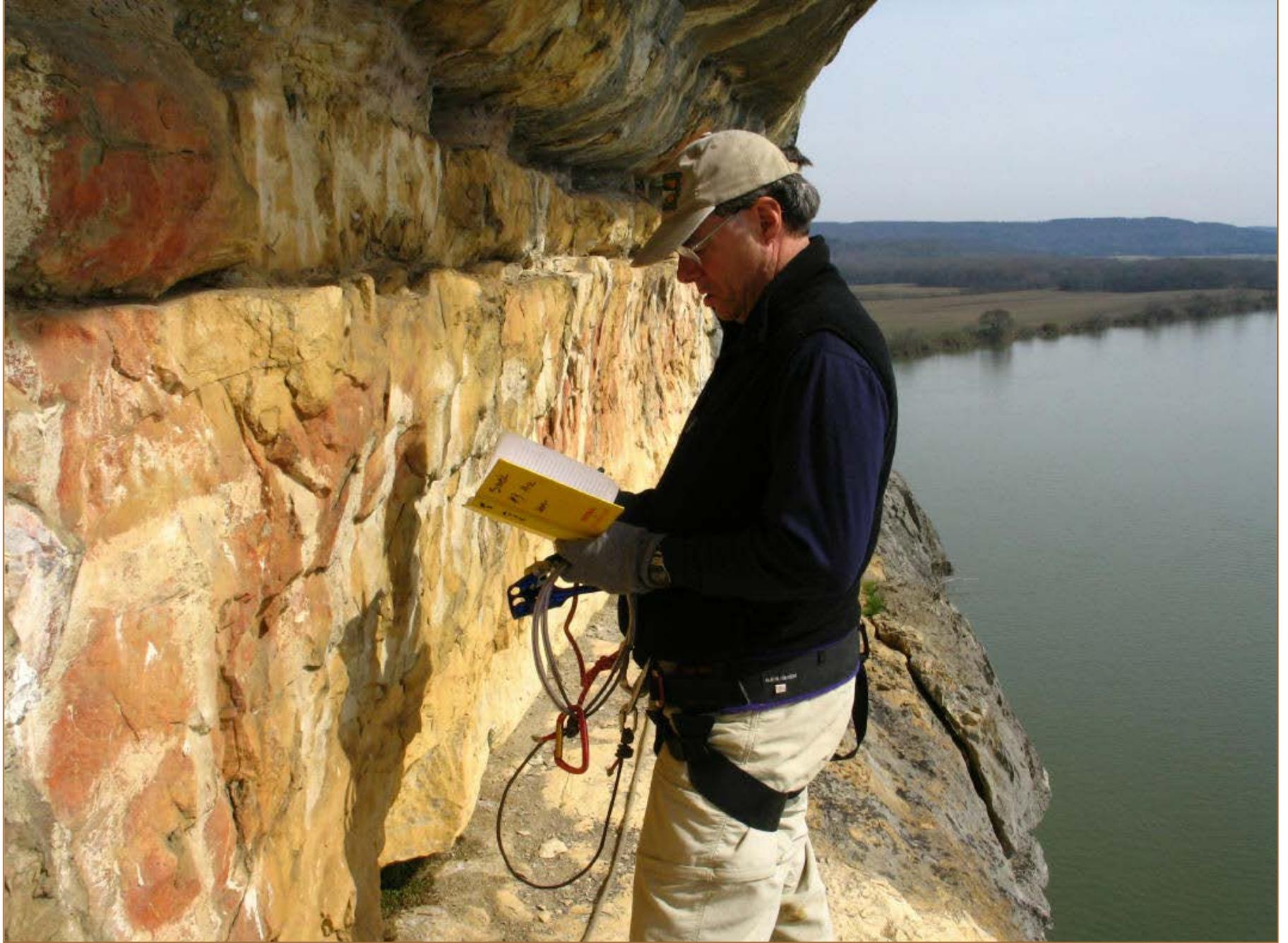




Photo by Alan Cressler





**Dr. Jan Simek documents rock art images on the upper ledge at Painted Bluff**





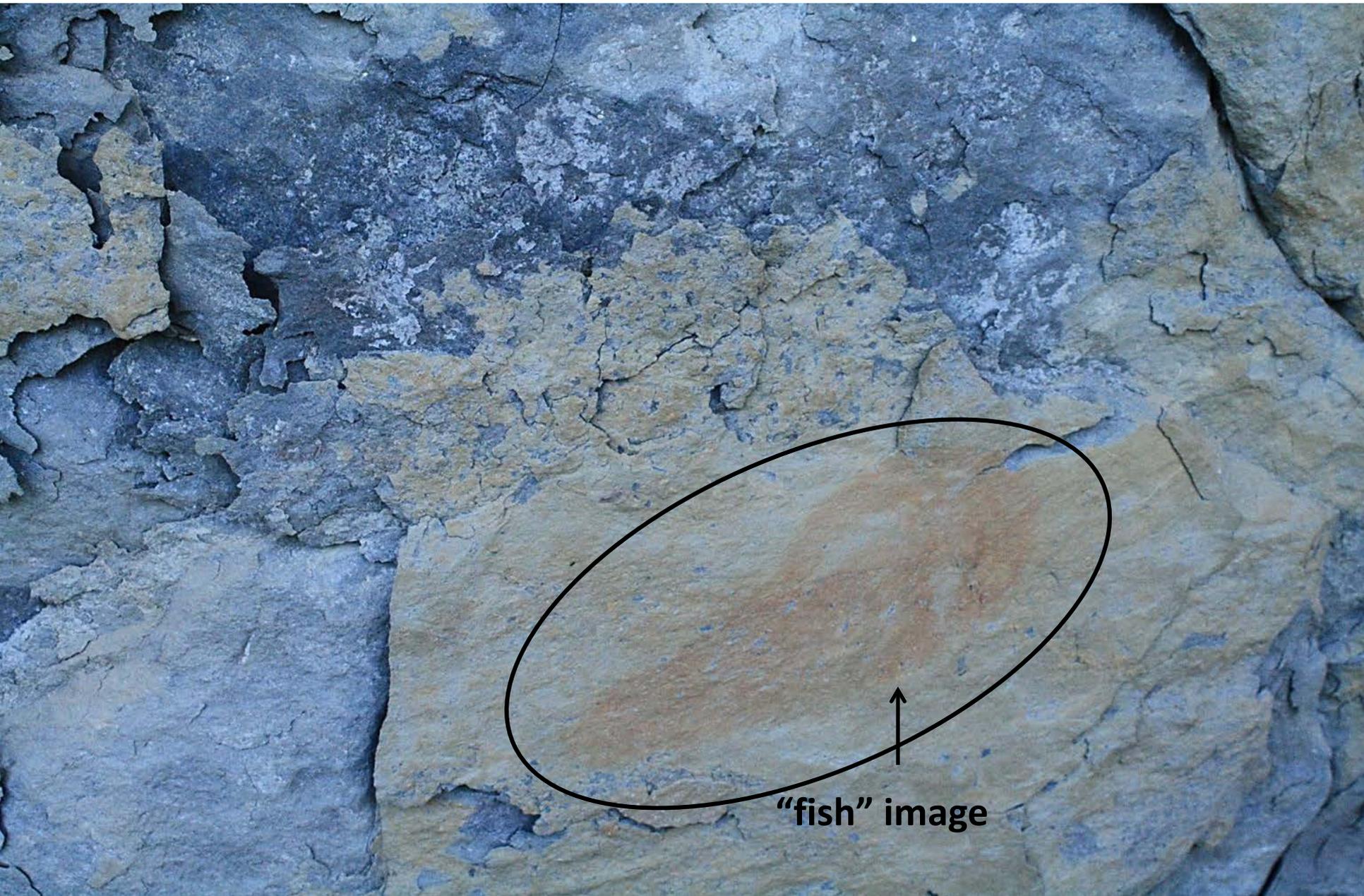
**Floating man (with a weeping eye) over the cross and circle motif**

Photo by Alan Cressler



Photo by Alan Cressler





"fish" image

Natural weathering of surface near "fish" image



Eddie Son H



Climbing route marked by rock climber. (These did not impact any of the rock art.)

## PAINTED BLUFF

Marshall County

"Painted Bluff" is one of Alabama's most special and historic places. Native peoples created colorful carvings and drawings on bluffs and in caves. On two bluffs overlooking the Tennessee River, approximately 80 orange, red and yellow drawings are an estimated 600 years old. These symbolic images include people, snakes, birds and other animals.

"Rock art was an important part of prehistoric people's religion. It helped link people to their faith and to nature," according to Dr. Jan Simek, President Emeritus and Distinguished Professor of Anthropology, University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

Survival is uncertain. These paintings are exposed to the elements. Nature is slowly eroding the paint, posing a long-term threat, while modern graffiti and rock climbers are a more immediate concern.

The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) manages the area with these irreplaceable art works. Currently, the TVA is researching ways to maintain the images and carvings for the future.

For more information, contact Erin Pritchard with the TVA at (865) 632-2463.



## OLD GREENSBORO HOTEL

Hale County



Once an elegant downtown structure, the Greensboro Hotel remains a local landmark. The hotel has great potential for driving economic development with an owner committed to preservation.

Impressive brickwork is its most significant feature. Brick-arched doors and windows stand out prominently. The hotel began

as a two-story building with "Flemish bond" bricklaying, a decorative pattern created by alternating short and long sides of brick. This type of brickwork indicates an early construction date, possibly as early as 1830. When the third story was constructed (circa 1890s), an elaborate brick cornice and pressed metal cornice caps displaying the hotel's name were added.

At a later date, owners added two-story cast iron balconies on the front and side streets. While the hotel guests and cast iron balconies are gone, the old Greensboro Hotel is ready for new uses. Redevelopment options include housing, offices, restaurant or retail space.

For more information, contact Mickey Harrow at (334) 624.3074.

FIRST ALERT

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# Painted Bluff named one of AL's Places in Peril

By WAFF 48 Digital Staff  CONNECT



Painted Bluff is actually two bluffs overlooking the Tennessee River.

MARSHALL COUNTY, AL (WAFF) - An endangered landmark in Marshall County was named one of Alabama's "Places in Peril."

Painted Bluff is actually two bluffs overlooking the Tennessee River.

There are nearly 80 orange, red, and yellow drawings are on the rocks.

The symbolic images of people and animals were made around 600 years ago.

The Alabama Historical Commission and the Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation named Painted Bluff as a Place in Peril in its annual list.

The list is meant to make people aware about endangered sites and can help generate support to preserve them.

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Alabama Historical Commission



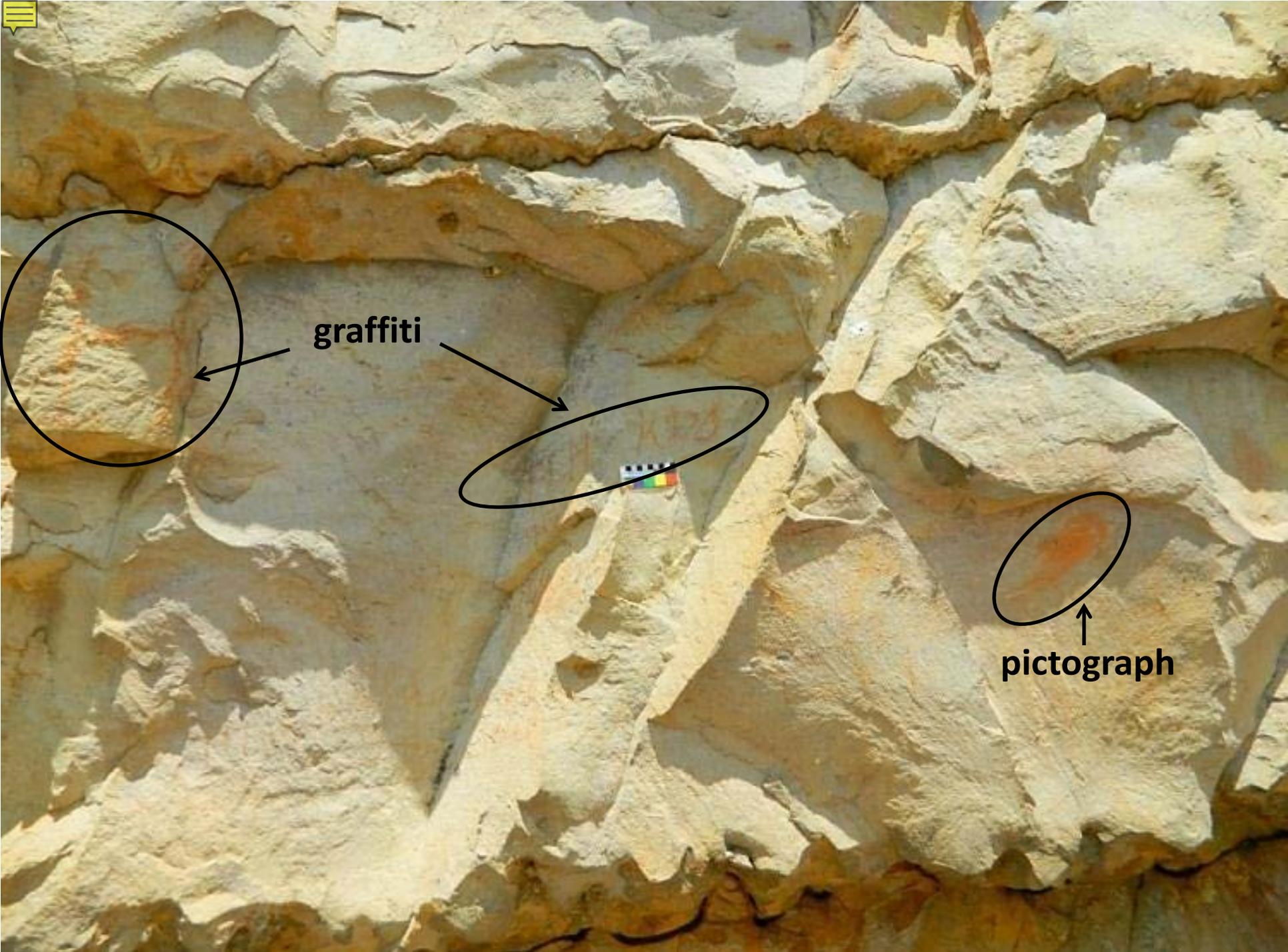
www.preserveal.org



Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation



www.alabamatrust.info



graffiti

pictograph



## **CONSULTING TRIBES**

**Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma**

**Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas**

**Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town of the Creek Nation of Oklahoma**

**Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma**

**Chickasaw Nation**

**Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians**

**Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma**

**Kialegee Tribal Town**

**Muscogee (Creek) Nation of Oklahoma**

**Poarch Band of Creek Indians**

**Seminole Nation of Oklahoma**

**Seminole Tribe of Florida**

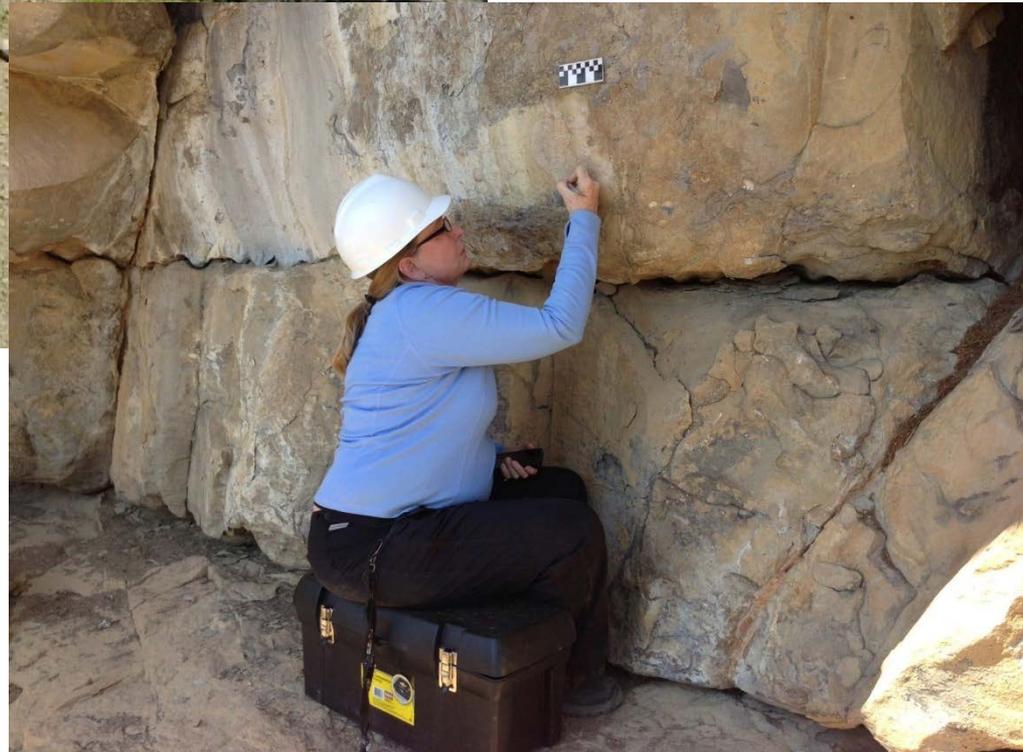
**Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma**

**Thlopthlocco Tribal Town**

**United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma**



**LaDonna Brown (The Chickasaw Nation) visiting Painted Bluff**



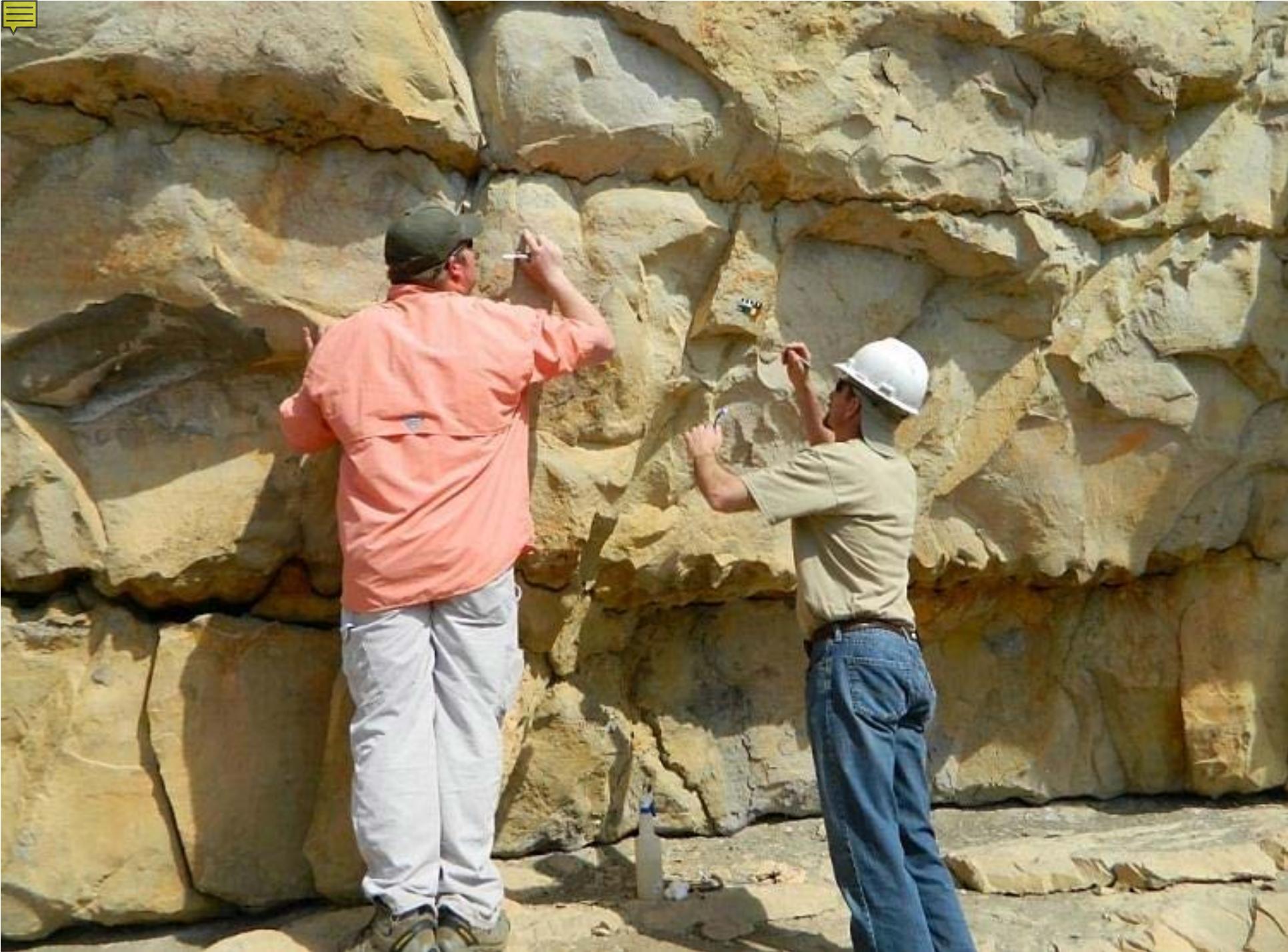


**Directly applied ochre - historic graffiti**













**Dr. Johannes Loubser removes spray paint graffiti at Painted Bluff**



**Application of wet earth pigment to discolored removal surfaces**



**Application of pigment using fingers**



AREA 3-41





AREA 3-012





NAMASTE

8A

IFRAO 10 cm  
November 2001





(enhanced color image)





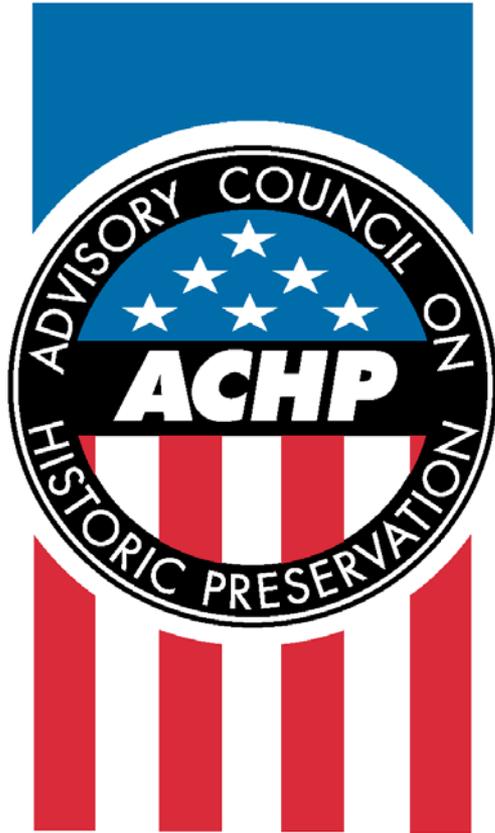
**PLEASE HELP PROTECT  
PAINTED BLUFF**

**This route is currently  
closed to climbing.**





**Volunteers, TVA staff, and Tribal representative Emman Spain at the pilot Thousand Eyes Workshop at Painted Bluff**



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