HERITAGE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT IN RED RIVER GORGE TODAY

- Archaeologist field surveys
- Modern recreation use

RED RIVER GORGE NATIONAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISTRICT DESIGNATED 2003:

- Located Wolfe, Powell and Menifee Counties – 39,000 acres on Forest Service
- Nationally significant Historical District by National Register of Historic Places
- National Register is this country's primary means of acknowledging those cultural resources that are worthy of preservation
- 442 contributing archaeological resources that possess special values or roles for the development of our country

ARCHAEOLOGISTS PERFORM 2 TYPES OF SURVEYS:

Phase I – simple shovel tests

Phase II – detailed digs

Phase I Investigations in Rockshelters

PHASE 1

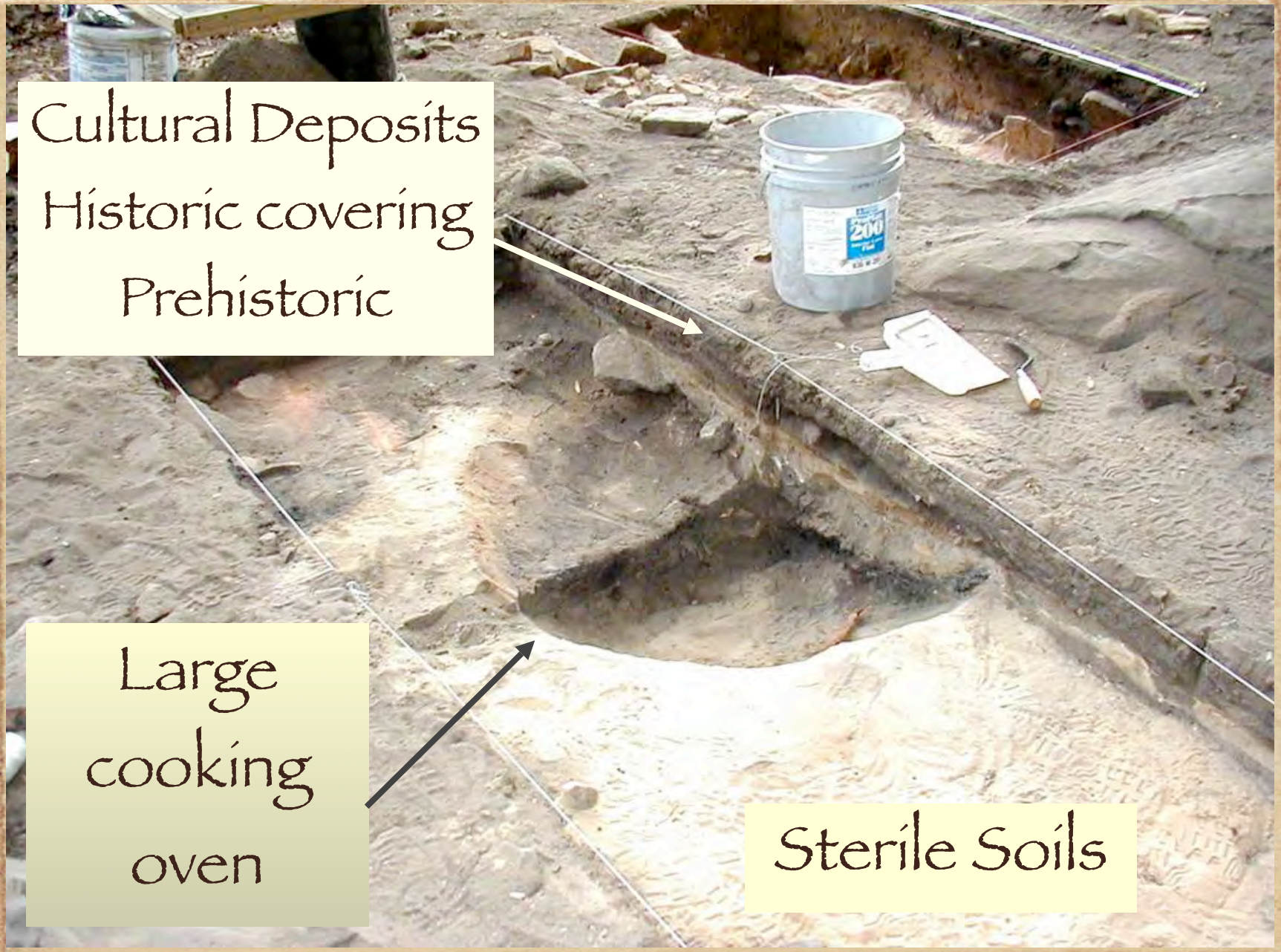
Shovel Tests

Used To Determine

Cultural Deposits

PHASE II

Investigations


Cultural Deposits
Historic covering
Prehistoric
Large
cooking
oven
Sterile Soils

Modern Times - Recreation

Camping Impacts to Rockshelter Sites

Miles and miles of user-developed trails to remote cliffline

Numerous user created trails along clifflines by hikers, campers and rock climbers.

Damage to Cultural Deposits

Two-thirds of sites in Gorge are estimated to be impacted from relic digging or dispersed recreational activities.

Modern Campers in 2002 dug out a large portion of floor for ease of camping at this rockshelter

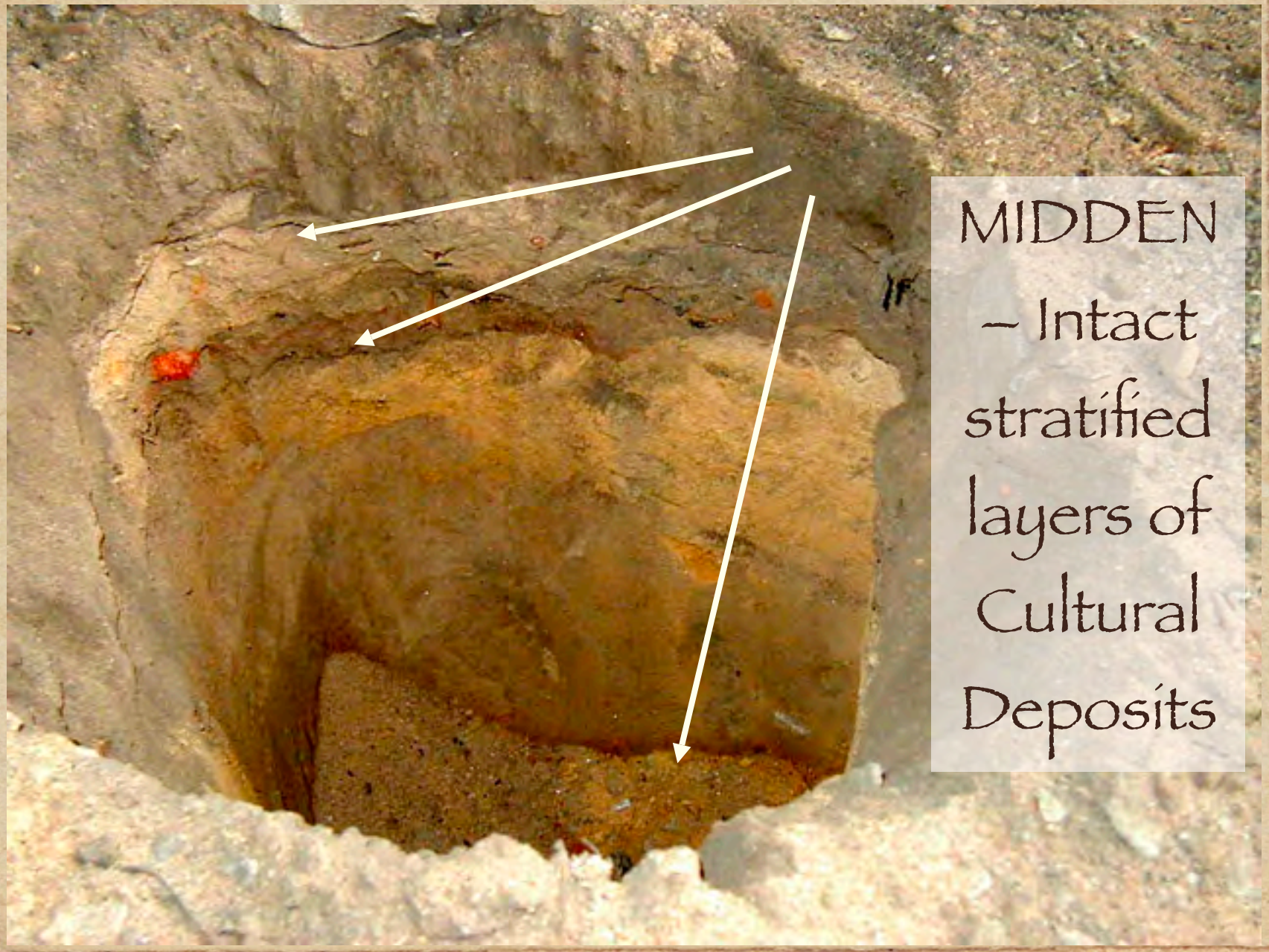
Campers make rockshelters their temporary homes.

Many party campers leave behind trash

A Forest Supervisor's Closure Order prohibiting camping and fire building in rockshelters was implemented in April of 2000

Camping in rockshelters has diminished, but still continues

Damage to Cultural Deposits (midden) by large fire on floor - 2003


MIDDEN
– Intact
stratified
layers of
Cultural
Deposits

Some campers remove artifacts when camping in rockshelters

ROCK CLIMBING

Brian Maslyar photo

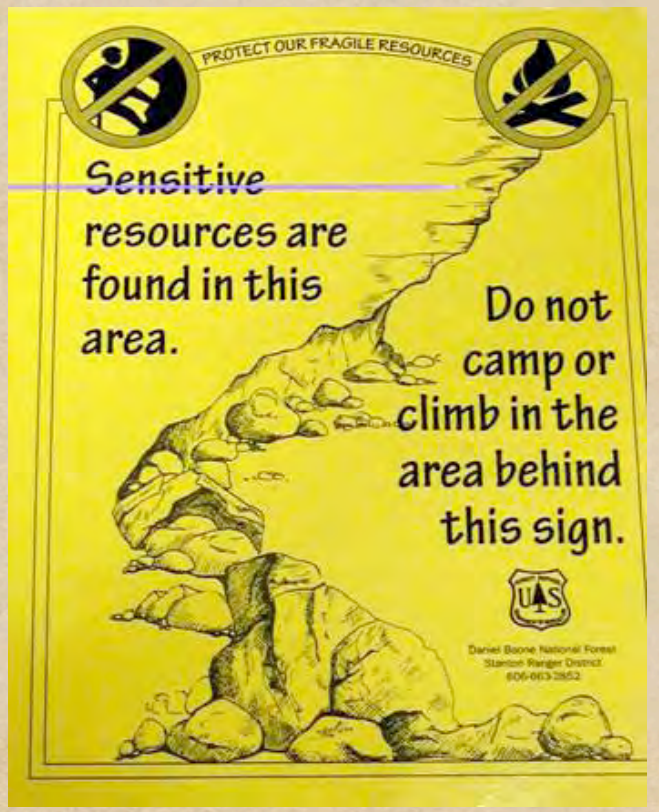
Rock Climbing impacts Human caused erosion & trampling on cultural deposits

Harrison Shull photo

BOULDERING IN ROCKSHELTERS

Rocks removed and floor smoothed for placement of pads

NO
CAMPING


PROTECT OUR FRAGILE RESOURCES
Sensitive resources are found in this area.
Do not camp or climb in the area behind this sign.
Daniel Boone National Forest
Stanton Ranger District
606-663-2852

NO CAMPING

Heavy Duty Fence to Protect Salt Peter Mine

Over 25
Archaeological Sites
fenced at heavy use
camping and rock
climbing areas

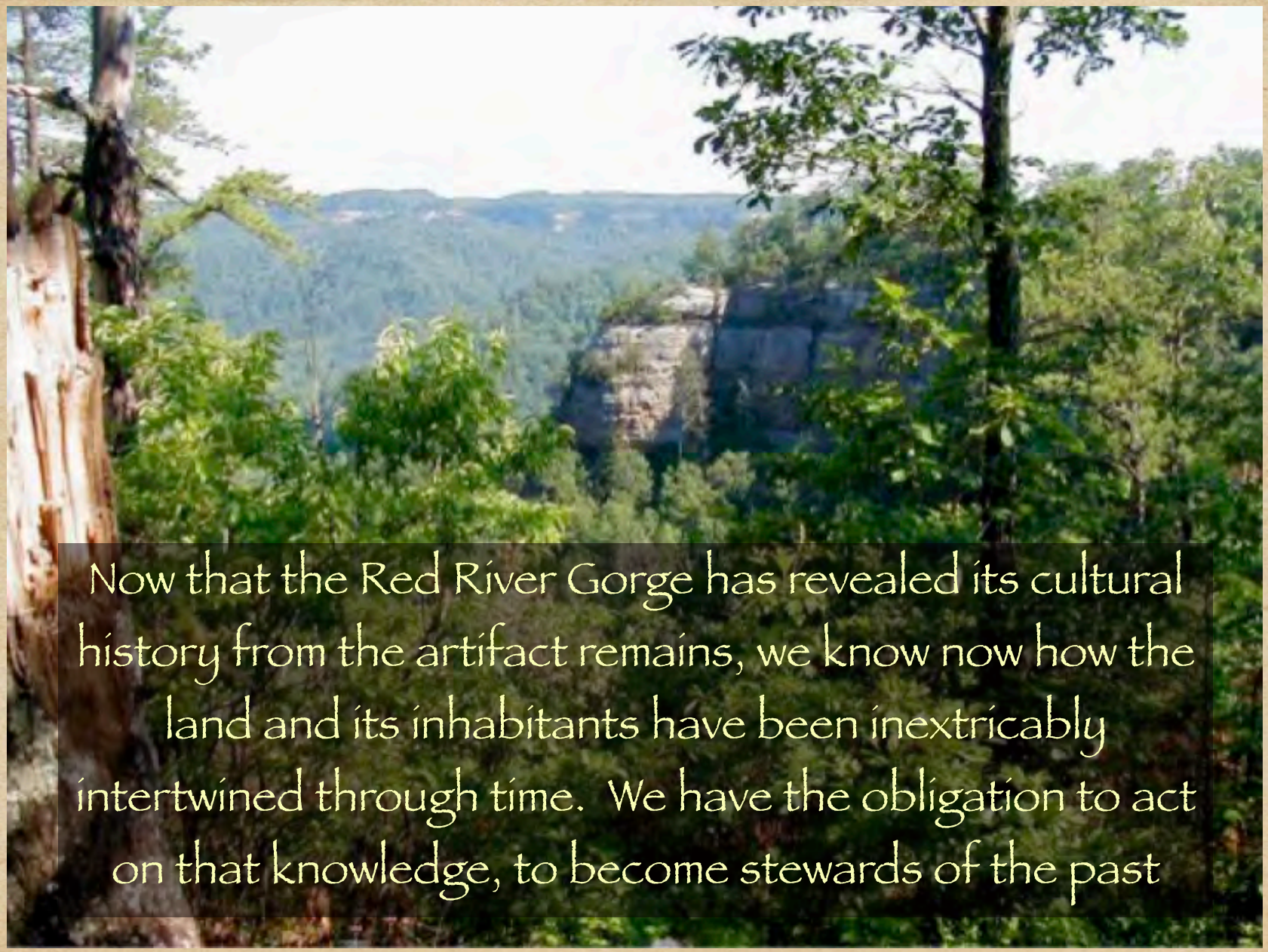
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE MONITORING

Backcountry Rangers

Backcountry Ranger documenting recent relic digging activity

Cattle Pen destroyed by party campers

HELP PRESERVE
OUR
CULTURAL
HERITAGE
BY LEAVING ARCHAEOLOGICAL
HISTORICAL REMAINS UNDISTURBED
REMOVAL OF ARTIFACTS
PROHIBITED BY LAW
FOREST SERVICE
U S
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE


Now that the Red River Gorge has revealed its cultural history from the artifact remains, we know now how the land and its inhabitants have been inextricably intertwined through time. We have the obligation to act on that knowledge, to become stewards of the past