

Three Rock Writing Sites

Green Springs Summit Campsite

A traveler ascending the steep grade up from the eastern edge of the Rogue Valley would have been pleased to arrive here. Sweet water springs and conifers for shade provided for a pleasant rest. A deeply grooved petroglyph atop a rock has these symbols: a circle denoting "Holding" or "Staying" with a dot in its middle ("Here") and double lines conveying "Good." They combine to state: "We are camped here in this good place."



Woman's Cave

In northeast California, at the summit of a mountain in the heart of the Modoc homeland, is the rock writing symbol for communication: two circles connected by a line (two heads speaking to one another). The carved symbols point the way to more communication. "Go this way for more writing." Nearby is the ceremonial site known as the Woman's Cave. Inside are dozens of symbols that tell the story of this sacred place.

Shapasheni

Near the entrance to a lava tube in northeast California are several pictographs (paintings). One of these dramatizes a scene from a story. In Modoc mythology, the sun and moon rise in the east and spin west across the sky to a crescent-moon-shaped ridge called Shapasheni, "Where the Sun and Moon Live." There they rest before rolling through lava tubes to rise again in the east. The symbols show the sun traveling through a lava tube.

