

Albuquerque's petroglyphs vandalized

by UPI

ALBUQUERQUE - The Petroglyph National Monument in Albuquerque was vandalized by suspected gang members who tagged rocks with illegible scrawls of paint.

The vandals reportedly used spray paint to write on the black basalt boulders, although the words were not legible, The Albuquerque Journal reported Thursday.

The silver-colored graffiti popped up late last week and was reported to monument spokeswoman Diane Souder, who said that graffiti has been an issue on the monument from time to time.

"It looks like gang tags but it was not anything you could easily read," Souder told the Journal.

She said that the residents of a housing development near the monument spotted the tags.

"The residents in the developments have become our eyes and ears," she said. "And we have seen less and less vandalism and graffiti."

Souder said that the paint had to be removed by specialists in conservation of natural resources using a biodegradable cleaning process that would not further damage vegetation or boulders, the Journal reported.

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