



THOUGHTLESS DESTRUCTION

Whether malicious or simply misguided, modern humans have left their mark on Utah's ancient art. A figure near Temple Mountain (top) bears bullet holes as well as carved initials and a date, both common kinds of damage. Like many travelers in the late 1800s and early 1900s, someone recorded a trip to petroglyphs near Rochester Creek (above right); today such vandalism on public and Indian lands can result in a prison sentence, a fine, or an order to perform public service—if the perpetrator is caught. Decades ago a rancher stenciled a misspelled warning over a painted elk in Nine Mile Canyon (above left). "There was nothing illegal about it," says archaeologist Jerry Spangler, "but it reflects the growing conflict between private landowners and tourists who traipse over their property without permission." So far, the sites at the Wilcox ranch are unscarred. The question now is how to keep them that way.