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Use of a Quadcopter to Document Rock Alignments and Geoglyphs

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With GoPro Camera



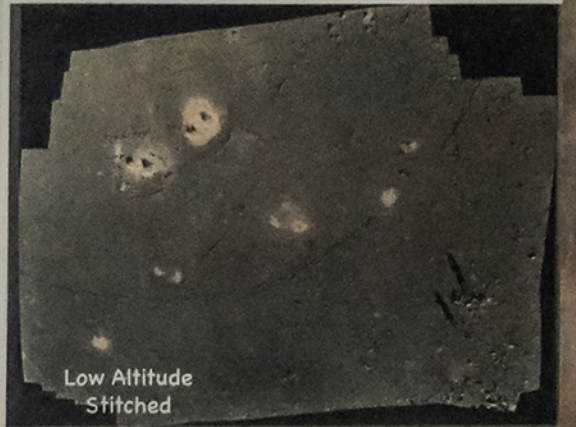
The use of a radio-controlled DJI Phantom quadcopter with a GoPro camera has proved to be a valuable tool to help document features best seen from the air. The GoPro camera can be set for interval photography (e.g. every 5 seconds) and the fisheye image distortion can be corrected in Photoshop. This approach minimizes impact on sensitive sites by eliminating the need to walk all over them.



Phantom Quadcopter



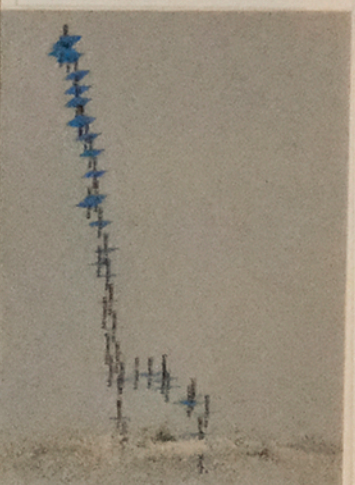
Sears Point Area, AZ



Low Altitude
Stitched



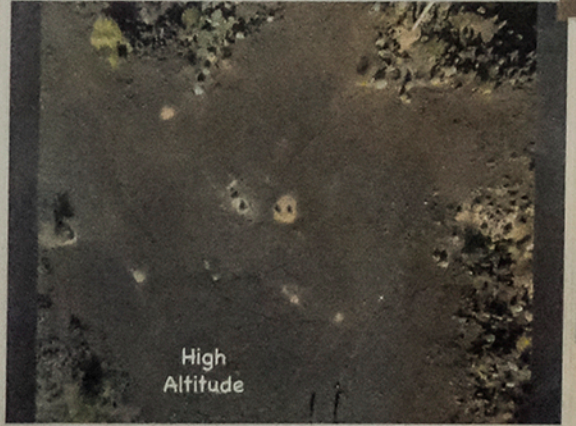
Modeled camera positions using PhotoScan software



Three
Coconino
National
Forest
Sites



A portion of the petroglyph design depicts a line of animals going into (or already in) a keyhole-shape trap. Perhaps the irregular curved outer line is a general "map" of the local cliff and drainages?



High
Altitude

Blythe Intaglios

According to Mohave and Quechan tribes of the lower Colorado River area, the human figures represent Mastamho, the Creator of Earth and all life. The animal figures represent Hatakulya, one of two mountain lions/persons who helped in the Creation. In ancient times, sacred ceremonial dances were held in the area to honor the Creator of life. These intaglios are best viewed from the air.

Under current FAA regulations, drones cannot be used commercially in US airspace.

Fisherman Intaglio

The human figure with a spear in his hand, fish swimming below the water, and the sun shining above, creates a distinct image. According to Native Americans, this image may represent their Creator carving the Colorado River with his spear.

