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**Western National
Parks Association**

Press Release

Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument

Who built these homes high in the Mogollon Mountains?

By the year 1300, these cave-sheltered masonry structures were all but abandoned, their builders scattered throughout other prehistoric Indian cultures. Yet traces of their achievements remain – foundations of pit houses, turquoise jewelry, obsidian arrowheads, and especially the intricate black-on-white Mimbres pottery, among the most striking and well-crafted of all southwestern prehistoric pottery.

Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument explores the prehistory of the Mogollon people as revealed through archeological study, and the subsequent movements of other groups through the area, including the Apache and Spanish turquoise miners. Discovery of the dwellings in the late nineteenth century prompted calls for their protection, and the ruins were declared a National Monument by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1907.

Famed naturalist and forester Aldo Leopold was among the early proponents of preservation of the surrounding wilderness. Learn how his advocacy created the 500,000+ acre area we enjoy today as the Gila Wilderness, where one can walk the mountains and canyons once trodden by the ancient Mogollon people.

Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument by Laurence Parent
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