

Sheriff's office seeks charges against three men in pictographs graffiti case --Lewiston Tribune

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Sheriff's investigators are seeking charges against three Lewiston men for the alleged defacing of American Indian pictographs near Hells Gate State Park.

Freddie M. Bernal, 19, Tyler J. Carlson, 21, and Jerad L. Bovencamp, 22, were identified today by the sheriff's office as suspects in the case. Chief Deputy Alan Johnson said the Nez Perce County Sheriff's Office is requesting the Nez Perce County prosecutor's office file felony malicious injury to property charges against all three men.

Pictographs at the Red Elk Rock Shelter, which is part of a rock formation known as Hen and Chicks, were defaced with gold-painted graffiti sometime in the last month. The basalt wall contains red pigmented rock art featuring animal figures and geometric shapes dating back 2,500 years.

The sheriff's office has not said how much it will cost to repair damage from the vandalism.

If charged and convicted, the men face up to five years in prison and a \$1,000 fine.

For more on this story see Saturday's Tribune.