

**Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument
Superintendent's Report
Fiscal Year 2003**

Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument, established on January 11, 2000 by Presidential Proclamation, is jointly managed by the National Park Service and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The monument is located in the northwestern corner of Arizona, bounded by the Grand Canyon on the south, Nevada on the west, and Utah on the north. It covers over one million acres, with approximately 200,000 acres under the jurisdiction of the NPS (Lake Mead National Recreation Area). The remaining 800,000 acres are under the jurisdiction of the BLM Arizona Strip Field Office (ASFO). An interagency, interdisciplinary monument staff of 23 NPS and BLM employees work out of St. George, Utah.

This report covers primarily the NPS staff's involvement in monument-wide resource and visitor management. The exception to this is the addition of material submitted by the BLM staff involved in cultural resource management, wilderness, and recreation, as these staff are more involved in monument management on both jurisdictions, and are also directly supervised by the NPS Manager.

Establishing the Organization/Partnerships

FY03 was characterized largely by continuing efforts to establish the "seamless" interagency organization. Because the organization is new and the Parashant is the *only* NPS/BLM unit with a single, integrated staff, a great deal of time was spent learning each other's cultures, laws, regulations, policies, and procedures. The NPS and BLM have very different missions and cultures, and it is an ongoing effort to establish and understand the "niche" that this interagency monument was designed to fill. Since the goal is to manage the monument as seamlessly as possible, the staff is continually looking for ways to select best practices and integrate operations as efficiently as possible. This often results in processes and procedures that require additional time and effort.

Quarterly interagency coordination meetings were held with Lake Mead NRA, Parashant, BLM Arizona Strip, Pipe Spring NM, and Grand Canyon NP management and staff. Numerous teleconferences and meetings were held at all levels within both the NPS and BLM local, regional, state, and Washington offices. Coordinated meetings between the BLM National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS) Washington Office and NPS Harper's Ferry Center to set up an interagency sign initiative (design charette scheduled for April 2004).

General Management Planning/Partnerships

One of the primary focuses in FY03 was to develop alternatives for the combined NPS/BLM Management Plan (General Management Plan/Resource Management Plan). The monument's plan is being developed in conjunction with the remainder of the BLM Arizona Strip lands, consisting of the Vermilion Cliffs National Monument and over two million acres of additional BLM public lands. It is a very large, complex planning effort with a wide range of diverse and controversial issues and interested publics. Plan development in FY03 included the development of preliminary alternatives, and a route evaluation analysis for each of the 2,000 miles of routes on the Parashant. Five public meetings were held in Arizona, Nevada, and Utah, resulting in over 7,000 public comments.

In addition, nine Cooperating Agencies were formally designated for the planning effort, and draft MOU's were prepared. The cooperating agencies include four counties, two tribes, Arizona Game and Fish Department, and two towns. Quarterly meetings were held to solicit the input of the cooperating agencies and other adjacent federal agencies. A Draft GMP/RMP/EIS is expected to be distributed to the public by the end of fiscal year 2004.

Geographic Information Systems

The NPS GIS Technician is one of three on the Interagency GIS team. Provided general GIS and cartographic support to both NPS and BLM staff for the Monument and the Arizona Strip. Supported the Arizona Strip (BLM) GIS Specialists in data development and analysis for the GMP/RMP & EIS. Accomplishments included evaluating existing data for completeness and accuracy, creating and updating numerous datasets, and compiling maps for various field and display purposes. Completed data evaluation and development for many datasets including wildlife, lands, geologic resources/minerals, Native American historic boundaries, range, recreation, and many others. Coordinated with resource specialists and managers to determine data needs and plan the best method of acquiring the data. Worked closely and frequently with computer specialists to resolve hardware, software, and network problems.

Datasets:

- Withdrawals across ASFO
- Historic Native American tribe boundaries
- Rights of Ways across ASFO
- Springs (water developments) across ASFO
- Abandoned Mines across ASFO
- Karst (caves, sinks) across ASFO – still needs final verification
- PJ Stands & woodcutting areas across ASFO
- Misc. recreation & administrative datasets (trails, kiosks, traffic counters, admin facilities, etc.) across ASFO
- Airstrips (authorized and not) across ASFO
- Vertically integrated various admin boundary datasets (state, county, field office...)
- Obtained wild horse & burro polygon boundary from Arizona State Office (AZSO)

Maps:

- OHV Map (in progress)
- South Zone Interagency Fire Area Lookout Map
- South Zone Interagency Fire Management Area Hazard Map
- Aerial/Flight Hazard Map
- Verification maps for various datasets
- Mule Deer hunt map
- Very large format wall maps for GMP/RMP alternative development process
- GMU 13A Pronghorn Habitat & Grazing Allotments (for BLM Resource Advisory Council (RAC) field trip)
- Abandoned Mines on Arizona Strip

Training/Meetings:

- AZ GIS Specialist Meeting
- NPS Data Manager Workshop
- ArcGIS training
- Resource Management Tools Conference (formerly National GIS Conference), which included various GIS workshops and Conflict Resolution Workshop

- Microsoft Office Training (Word, Excel, and Access)
- IT Security Training, online
- LAME/ASFO/PARA Coordination meetings
- Monthly AZ GIS conference calls

Miscellaneous:

- Installed new version of Maps on Demand on three PC's
- Wrote instruction manual for new Maps on Demand
- Wrote instructions for various procedures (how to print maps, etc.)
- Trained a GIS Specialist from another Field Office in the use of Vertical Integration Arc/Info procedure
- Provided general GIS/GPS assistance to resource specialists as requested
- Performed calculations to obtain tortoise habitat/Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)/monument and wilderness acreage
- Provided GIS/mapping support for current EIS as required
- Provided general IRM/computer support to Parashant staff as needed, including coordinating with BLM IRM Staff
- Coordinated with GRCA regarding AZG&F GMU boundaries
- Employees' Association duties

Vegetation

Planning

Attended meetings, reviewed and commented on draft documents, and provided vegetation and ecological information for numerous planning tables and charts. Participated on the interagency Ecological Team with other natural resource specialists to develop the ecological/vegetative classification for the GMP/RMP. Also developed desired community conditions for the natural resources in those ecosites.

NPS Inventory and Monitoring Program

As the Parashant representative on the Mojave Network Technical Committee, attended meetings, commented on documents, helped develop the contract for the datamining on the monument, and assisted with the planning for the Vital Signs Scoping Workshop (to be held May 25-27, 2004 in Las Vegas, NV)

Research and Partnerships

- Developed a CESU agreement with Dr. Tom Nash of Arizona State University to do the first lichen surveys in Arizona north of the Grand Canyon. This resulted in 174 species in 58 lichen genera from 17 collection sites on the Monument. This information is extremely valuable baseline data for future studies, and a great addition to the Inventory and Monitoring species lists. Highlights include only the second sighting in the State of *Letharia vulpina*. This was year 1 of a proposed 3 year study.
- Developed a CESU agreement with Dr. Leila Shultz of Utah State University to identify areas of unique and relict vegetation, and to develop a model for identifying areas with good potential for relict or unique vegetation in the office to maximize use of field time. This was the preliminary year of a proposed 2 year study. Preliminary results indicated that after at least 140 year of grazing relict areas are almost non-existent, making

locating them even more critical. Finding these areas should result in new, rare, or unsuspected plant species, and act as a model for what the species composition in existing vegetation communities in similar sites should look like, and as a seed/propagule source for restoration.

Grants

Successfully applied for a NRPP Regional Small Parks Grant to complete Dr. Shultz's work in 2006. Attended the NPS Grant writing workshop, and am learning both the NPS grant process and PMIS, as well as the BLM grant process and their Budget Processing System (BPS).

Other

Participated in Range Standards and Guides field visits and meetings, field trips for the Mt. Trumbull Restoration Project, and meadow restoration in the area with the BLM Restoration Team. Joined a weekend excursion with the Cedar Band of the Paiute Tribe to the Parashont area of the monument. Established a Monument herbarium.

Major Training

GIS/Vegetation (DOD, Desert Manager's Group), Sagebrush Management and restoration (BLM), Natural Resources Data Managers' Workshop (NPS), Arid Southwest Restoration Conference (Interagency), Rangeland Health (BLM), Writing Proposals for Misc. Stewardship Funding (NPS)

Law Enforcement, Resource Protection, and Visitor Services

- First time submittal of the Law Enforcement Needs Assessment (LENA), Visitor Management-Resource Protection Assessment Program (VRAP) and associated OFS request for the National Law Enforcement Needs Initiative.
- Continued to develop information referencing All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) use and regulations pertaining to its use on NPS, BLM and County roads. Major initiative is to educate the specific user of the regulations associated with the jurisdictional locations- - NPS vs. BLM vs. Arizona State/County regulation/statutes. Research state regulations for Arizona, Nevada and Utah for specific applicable ATV statutes, as the primary user of the monument resides in Utah and Nevada.
- Developed a Public Use Reporting Program to collect visitor use data across the Monument, and installed traffic counters and site specific registration boxes located at strategic locations. Data will assist Resource Protection staff of visitor trends, enhance patrols for visitor contacts, and curtail illegal activities. Overall program meets NPS and BLM Public Use statistical databases.
- Continued to develop search and rescue and emergency medical services program by personal contact with adjacent associated agencies, and specific helicopter ambulance services for pre-incident preparedness. On four separate occasions, assisted in operations to locate overdue backpackers starting within the Parashant and hiking into Grand Canyon National Park. Since Grand Canyon NP requires a

Backcountry Permit for overnight use, contacts were made with the GRCA Backcountry Permit Office to forward permit information of use occurring on or immediately adjacent to the Parashant National Monument. Both NPS Resource Protection staff members attended the NPS Search and Rescue Technical Rock Rescue course in March 2003.

- Established relationships with park neighbors and ranchers of grazing allotments. Worked closely with rancher/Incidental Business Permit holder for ATV Tours within the Monument. Continued to deal with specific issues related to road maintenance and the encroachment of an established airstrip that illegally crosses onto NPS jurisdiction. Developing written agreements or permits for such use.
- Built rapport with local Arizona Game and Fish Department Officers. Continued to work closely on incident specific issues like off-road vehicle travel and poaching.
- Posted roads both inside and outside the Monument with signage and numbered carsonite markers, to assist the visiting public with directional and regulatory information which provides a proactive means of helping visitors from getting lost and keeping vehicles on roads.
- Served as facility manager for NPS administrative cabins. Conducted monthly facility and utility inspections. Worked closely with the BLM on specific maintenance needs. Purchased and implemented a variety of improvements, including cabin furniture, rail fencing, and parking lot gravel. Facilitated concrete contract for flammable storage building and handicap and chair landing pads.

Visitor Education and Interpretation

Planning

- Wrote alternatives (multiple versions) for interpretation/education and socioeconomic
- Developed Land Use Plan decisions for interpretation/education, safety, and socioeconomics
- Wrote "desired conditions" statement
- Participated in public planning meetings in Mesquite, St. George, Fredonia, Kingman, & Flagstaff
- Evaluated and classified public comment letters - approximately 3,600
- Assisted with text and edit of 2nd and 3rd planning bulletin

Partnerships/Interpretation/Education

- "Views" – (ongoing) The monument is partnering with the Natural Resource Information Division in Denver, CO. Began development of a virtual tour computer program to reach a greater number of people, including park visitors that do not have

the time or proper vehicle to visit this remote monument, handicapped visitors who cannot reach park sites, or members of the public unable to visit the area.

A computerized "Knowledge Center", located at the Interagency Information Center, will present general information and principles on a variety of natural and cultural resource themes. A series of virtual experiences, providing multimedia gateways to the monument, will be based on educational experiences.

- Park Brochure – Researched and designed an interagency information brochure for interim use until official unigrid can be developed by Harpers Ferry.
- Web Site – Submitted graphics and web site edit materials to webmaster at LAME.
- Route Packet – Researched, wrote, and developed an informational packet to be used as a guide to media and administrative visitors.
- Cooperating Association - Continued as an active member of the Arizona Strip Interpretive Association located in the BLM Interagency Information Center in St. George, UT. Represented Grand Canyon Parashant and National Park Service. Worked with the executive director to approve new publications on the monument and to develop appropriate sales items.

Recreation and Wilderness

This position was vacant for much of FY03. The incumbent reported to duty in September, 2003, so accomplishments reflect one month of employment.

Visitor Use/Recreation

- Started becoming familiar with the visitor data collection and reporting systems used by the BLM and NPS on the monument.
- Became familiar with the current priorities for recreation and visitor services by the BLM and the ASFO.
- Reviewed current/interim management plans related to the monument.
- Used and became familiar with planning and management tools used to map specific features and desired conditions in the monument such as Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS), Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC), Visitor Capacity Framework (VCF) and Visual Resource Management (VRM).

Wilderness

Became familiar with management goals, objectives, issues and action items outlined in individual wilderness management plans.

Cultural Resources

The Parashant BLM Archaeologist assumed additional duties for the entire Arizona Strip Field Office (~ 3 million acres) when the other archeologist vacated his position. Accomplishments shown in this section reflect only that portion of the work completed on the Parashant, and therefore only a portion of the incumbent's actual time.

- Inventoried 665 acres for Section 110.
- Recorded sites for the following historic structures:
 - Lower Kent Ranch AZ A:12:116 (ASM). Detailed plan and structure drawings.
 - Grand Gulch Mine AZ A:9:8 (BLM). Condition Assessment by NPS.
 - Pine Well Ranch AZ A:14:24 (BLM). Condition Assessment by NPS.
- Sierra Club Service Project: Recorded rock art sites in Hidden and Jump Canyons. Completed documentation for three additional sites.
- Coordinated volunteer Site Steward program to patrol and monitor sites for vandalism.
- Completed seven additional Section 106 projects not previously planned.
- Recorded twenty new sites, with three considered potentially eligible to NRHP

Training

Word XP and Excel XP programs, DISC, ROS meeting and examples, Statewide BLM Cultural Resource Workshop, Federal Information Systems Security Awareness Training, Mandatory Drivers safety course

Research Projects/Partners

- Dr. Mark Elson of Desert Archaeology, Inc, Tucson. Began conducting volcanic - prehistoric Indian associations – sample inventory of sites along Little Spring Basalt lava flow. Work done under an NPS Western Parks and Monuments Association grant applied for by DA, Inc. Report due in July 2004.
- Dr. Paul Buck of DRI and Nevada State College. Conducted inventory, site mapping, and C14 sampling on Mt. Trumbull as a field school. No report yet.
- Arizona State Parks Site Steward Program: Performed as the Land Managing Agencies Advisor to the local Arizona Site Steward Program board. In addition to formal meetings, responded to numerous calls from the Regional Coordinators and Stewards on a wide range of related issues.
- Provided information to site stewards, Arizona Strip Interpretive Association personnel, and members of the public about cultural resource issues, collecting artifacts, rock art sites, etc.

- Provided field information to BLM and NPS staff regarding a variety of issues such as water in tanks, cattle in areas when there shouldn't be, dead animals in or along roads, habitat conditions, damaged wildlife catchments, unusual animal sightings, potential legal violations, etc.
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Cultural Resources—NPS Assistance from Lake Mead NRA

Archeology

- 7 Fire Surveys completed on NPS burn plots within the monument, including the monitoring of prescribed fires and vegetation treatment plots on both NPS and BLM lands.
- Monitored ARPA violation sites in Andrus Canyon. Assisted LE Rangers in recording site damage.
- Assisted BLM in contracting the Little Springs Research Project through Western National Parks and Monuments Association.

Historic Preservation

- Stabilized cultural landscape trees around main structures at Tassi Ranch. Removed hazardous limbs from original cottonwood trees. Trimmed dead cottonwood trees into wildlife habitat to allow for sprouts to replace dead trees in landscape.
- Completed the final drafts of the Cultural Landscape Reports for Tassi Ranch and Waring Ranch. Reports are being prepared to send the AZ State Historic Preservation Office for approval.
- NPS Sante Fe Office completed the Condition Assessment Report for Grand Gulch Mine and Pine Valley Ranch through a BLM contract.

Museum Curation

- Issued 1 accession for the Little Springs Research Project
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Physical Resources

Abandoned Mine Inventory

Continued work on and completed the Arizona Strip AML Inventory and report. Inventory consisted of mine site evaluation for public safety, environmental hazards and closure ranking. Work consisted of photo documenting, GPS/GIS work, and written reports.

Gates for Mines/Caves

Placed a gate over the main shaft on the Copper Mountain Mine and a gate in an adit that contained ANFO while working with LAME.

Cave Inventory

- Continued maintaining cave inventory and updating records. Continued to document and inventory new caves.
- Worked with graduate students from BYU in identifying a type of cave adapted millipede found in a cave on the Arizona Strip.
- Placed and maintained cave data loggers to record Temp/RH.
- Created maps of surveyed caves.

Springs

Created new data base for springs on the Arizona Strip and updated older data bases. Data bases consisted of all attributes that pertain to springs such as water quality, conveyance, development, etc. There are 174 attributes created for this database with 261 springs.

Paleontological Inventory

Continued work with Dr. Jim Mead from NAU on the paleontological work on the Monument. Visited numerous caves and conducted studies for paleo resources and collected many packrat middens. Jim Mead has provided an interim report and a fossil resource report.

Public Education

Gave several public talks and presentations on caves and karst at schools and at the BLM Interagency office.

Training

Pathways: Drawing on the Past to Shape the Future, Writing Proposals for Resource Stewardship Funding, Fire training: S-130, S-190, I-100 certification.

Recreation Planning Assistance

- Assisted in evaluation and data collection for the Arizona Wilderness Coalition Proposal, including GPS/ GIS work and photo documentation.
- Assisted in the route inventory--used GPS to map the roads on the monument and the remaining ASFO lands, created maps in GIS.

Administrative/Fiscal/General Management

- Tracked and closed out Park budget in the amount of \$796,000; prepared year end status report
- Projected FY04 budget
- Established 20+ new accounts for FY04 Activity Based Costing/Management (ABC/M) program
- Tracked reimbursable agreements between National Park Service and the Bureau of Land Management

- Prepared, updated, and submitted ONPS and PMIS funding requests
- Established annual work plans and employee performance standards; tracked progress and conducted mid-year and annual reviews
- Responded to numerous data calls and requests from the NPS and BLM Regional, State, and Washington offices
- Attended regular Mohave Network Board of Director meetings, provided guidance to Inventory and Monitoring Program
- Prepared and reviewed all travel for Park employees
- Procured supplies, materials and equipment