

Implement Excavation of 10 Threatened Prehistoric Sites along the Colorado River

- Testing, Excavation, Interpretation and Stabilization of 10 National Register eligible properties (B:15:138, C:02:096, C:13:010, C:13:070, C:13:099, C:13:100, C:13:291, C:13:347, C:13:371, and G:03:020) located along the Colorado River corridor.
- Monitoring and consultation background. As early as April, 1999 GRCA archaeologists took PA representatives on a river trip and assessed several of these sites for testing and excavation. A trip report was drafted and sent to PA river trip participants for review. After the review process, a formal memo was sent to all PA representatives indicating which sites required excavation (5-28-99). The 10 sites discussed in this draft were included in that memo. The Science Advisor Board (SAB) for the AMP program reviewed this memo and showed support for the recommendations in their 2002 report (SAB 2002). **FIRST CONSULTATION WAS PRIOR TO THE SURVEY IN 1990.**
- Preservation efforts. Because the NPS is mandated to preserve sites for future generations, it should be understood that excavating a site is a management action viewed as a last resort. Efforts have been made at some sites for preservation. Other sites have been assessed for preservation treatment by Zuni Conservation personnel and NPS resource specialists and it was determined that no matter what actions are taken, the erosion at these sites are so advanced that archaeological resources cannot be preserved in place. **GOAL IN EIS IS TO PRESERVE THE PROPERTIES.**
- Monitor observations of sediment depletion and visitation. Frequent observations by technical specialists regarding the cause of irreversible deterioration of these nonrenewable resources include sediment depletion. There is not enough sediment in the Grand Canyon ecosystem to cover/protect the sites. Many scientists theorize that this is due to Glen Canyon Dam because it does not allow for 95% of the sediment to flow through the system. As such, the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) has an NHPA Section 106 responsibility to these sites due to the undertaking of the dam. A second component advancing site damage is visitation. As such, the NPS has NHPA Section 106 and 110 responsibilities to these sites.
- Inherent overlap between Reclamation and NPS NHPA responsibilities. These sites were chosen specifically to assist in fulfilling Reclamation's PA responsibilities and GRCA's preservation responsibilities as land manager. Reclamation and GRCA realize that the coordination of this project is crucial and that this information will supplement a river-wide monitoring and mitigation process that will ensure NHPA legal compliance for both agencies. The information will also supplement AMP cultural activities. **SPEAKS TO RELIEVING THE BURDEN. EMPHASIZE OVERLAP.**
- GRCA funding source. NPS Recreation Fee Demonstration program. Cooperative venture between GRCA and the Museum of Northern Arizona (MNA) through a Colorado Plateau Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (CPCESU) agreement.
- Review schedule. Research design = summer 2006; Fieldwork = fall 2006-2008; analysis and write up = 2008-2010. Reviewers include: Internal NPS archaeologists, tribal representatives (11), and PA representatives (SHPO AND ADVISORY COUNCIL). **PRELIMINARY DRAFT SENT OUT TO TRIBES IN MARCH.**
- Tribal participation. Participate in the research design, field and laboratory interpretations, and public education. **MOU FOR 106 WITH SHPO, COUNCIL AND TRIBES.**
- Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act. Use GRCA Agreement or follow the regulations verbatim.