Native American Monitoring Protocol Development

- AMWG Approved $25K per AMP tribe in FY06 budget for Native American monitoring protocol development.
- After due consideration, it was decided that Reclamation would administer the program to avoid GCMRC burden.

Contracting Process

- Sole source contracting was selected as the most appropriate acquisition instrument.
- Reclamation, GCMRC, CREDA, Western designed draft SOW & deliverables for contracts.
- Tribes were then offered an opportunity to modify and tailor contract specifications to suit their needs.
- Contracts executed and funds obligated for one-year period.
Progress

- Hualapai has submitted a draft which has been reviewed by Reclamation and GCMRC.
- Hualapai has resubmitted a modified version in response to the review.
- No formal submittals from the remaining tribes but I understand that Zuni, Hopi and Kaibab Paiute are approaching draft completion.

Issues

- The MRP suggests that Native American protocols may not qualify as Western Science and, therefore, fit under the rubric of “consultation” rather than core monitoring.
- The Hualapai draft incorporates both TEK & Western Science paradigms, suggesting a possible hybrid approach.
- A third position acknowledges that while Native American perspectives may not qualify as Western Science, anthropological interpretations of that perspective, e.g., ethnography or ethnoscience, do constitute accepted scientific endeavors and therefore deserve a place in core monitoring. This reflects the reality that archaeological modeling is largely dependent upon ethnographic analogy for behavioral hypothesis generation.
Prospect

- Upon completion of all the tribal protocols, we will be in a better position to determine the appropriate role of Native American perspectives in the context of AMP goals.
- Decisions may then be made regarding the intensity & periodicity of tribal monitoring, funding levels for this aspect of long-term monitoring and how best to assess the contribution of this work to the AMP.
- It also remains to be seen how these protocols will articulate with the CRMP & the Native American Consultation Plan now in the final stages of development.