

KINSHIP TO THE CANYON: HUALAPAI TEK IN THE GRAND CANYON



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BACKGROUND

The Hualapai Tribe's Reservation includes 108 miles of the Colorado River in the western Grand Canyon, and contains many cultural sites located within a landscape affected by the operation of the Glen Canyon Dam.



BACKGROUND

In addition to quarterly involvement in the AMWG, the Hualapai Tribe's Cultural Resources Department conducts annual monitoring river trips down the Colorado River to conduct studies of the natural and cultural resources.

Results derived from ongoing tribal monitoring are utilized in part to provide management and policy decision making input regarding Grand Canyon and Colorado River resources through an Adaptive Management framework with other key stakeholders.

The inclusion of a TEK based study is a recent outcome of stakeholder meetings as a means to support research the Hualapai and other tribes deem relevant to their involvement.



Hualapai Natural and Cultural Resource Monitoring in the Grand Canyon

- Botanical Studies
- Archaeological
Monitoring
- Cultural
Activities
- Ethnobotany &
TEK



BOTANICAL STUDIES

-Line Intercept
Method

-3 Transects each at
Granite Park and
National Canyon

-20 Years of
consistent study

-4 Major Findings
From Vegetation
Studies



1. Increase in Riparian
Vegetation Along Colorado
River: Granite Park



2. Side Canyon Influences
Over Vegetation: National
Canyon



3. Establishment of
Mesquite along
NHWZ: Granite Park

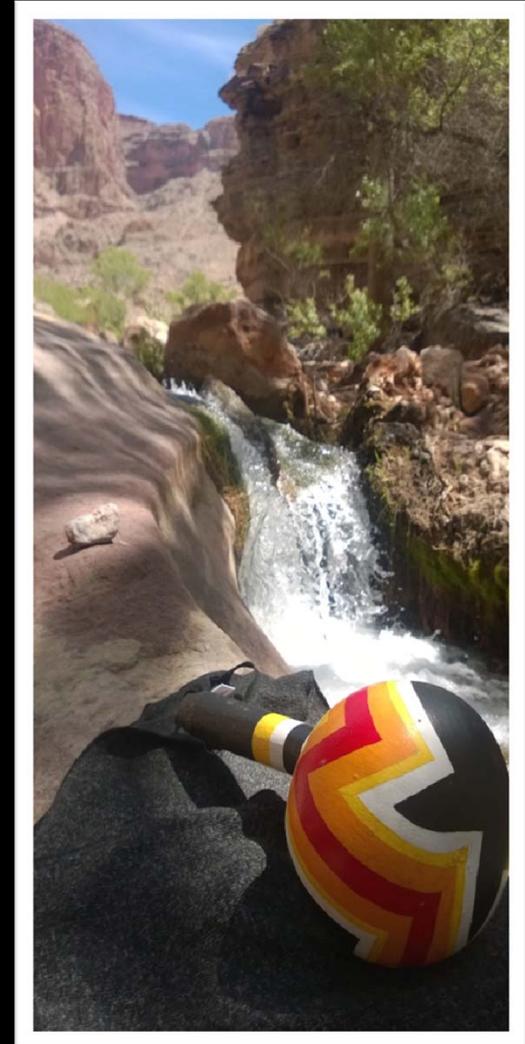


4. New Study
Monitoring
Loss of
Tamarisk and
Establishment
of Other
Species:
Mohawk
Canyon



ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING

- Pictographs & Petroglyphs
- Roasting Features
- Artifact Scatters
- Springs
- Traditional Cultural Properties
- Sacred Sites



Pictographs & Petroglyphs

Artifact Scatters



Roasting Feature

Springs

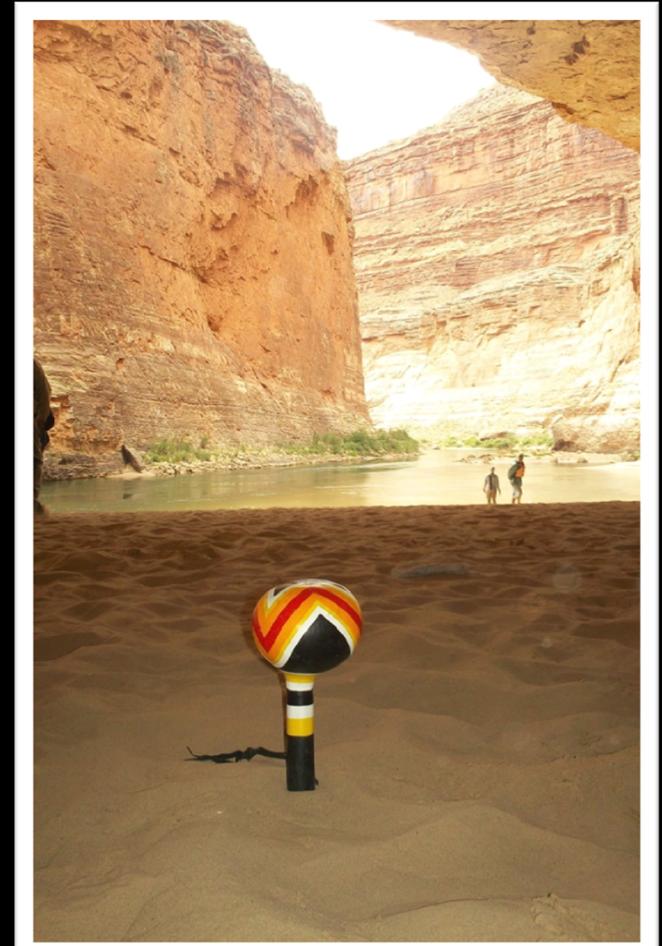
Sacred Sites



Traditional Cultural Properties



CULTURAL ACTIVITIES



Hualapai TEK Study

“Words and places carry meaning. Morals, identity, and culture are embedded in the streams and fields of Native landscapes. . . . Places serve as cultural mnemonic devices that remind people of events and the significance of those events for morality, behavior, and identity.”

-Jeff Sheppard

ETHNOBOTANICAL &
TRADITIONAL ECOLOGICAL
KNOWLEDGE WORK

1. Intergenerational Harvesting and
Processing Activities

2. Ethnographic Interviews and Oral History
Approach

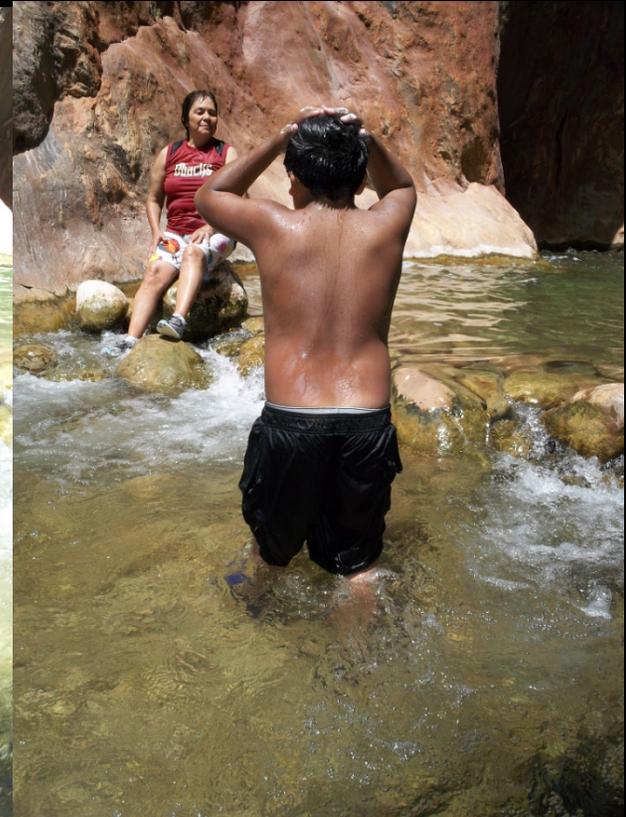
3. Hualapai Talking Dictionary

1. Intergenerational Harvesting and Processing Activities:

Indian Tea: Jumway



Banana Yucca: Manad



Prickly Pear Cactus: Alav



Agave/Yucca Rope Twining



Red Berry Sumac Juice & Yucca Fiber



Wild Tobacco Harvest: Uv



1. Intergenerational Harvesting and Processing Activities:

For the Hualapai people, culture and nature are inextricably linked. It has only been approximately 140 years since members of the Hualapai tribe were living entirely off the land. Even after Hualapai tribal members were forced to take up wage labor employment beginning in the late 1880s, it was not uncommon for members of households to continue many traditional subsistence practices well into the 20th century to supplement livelihood. In addition to knowledge of plant species identification, elders have cultural knowledge about plants that tie certain species to stories in their oral traditions, ceremonies, and other relevant knowledge regarding their landscape. This invaluable knowledge links Hualapai culture with their land and must be kept alive in the Hualapai tribal community as a living tradition. Engaging in harvesting activities on the river trips serves to maintain the continuity of this knowledge.



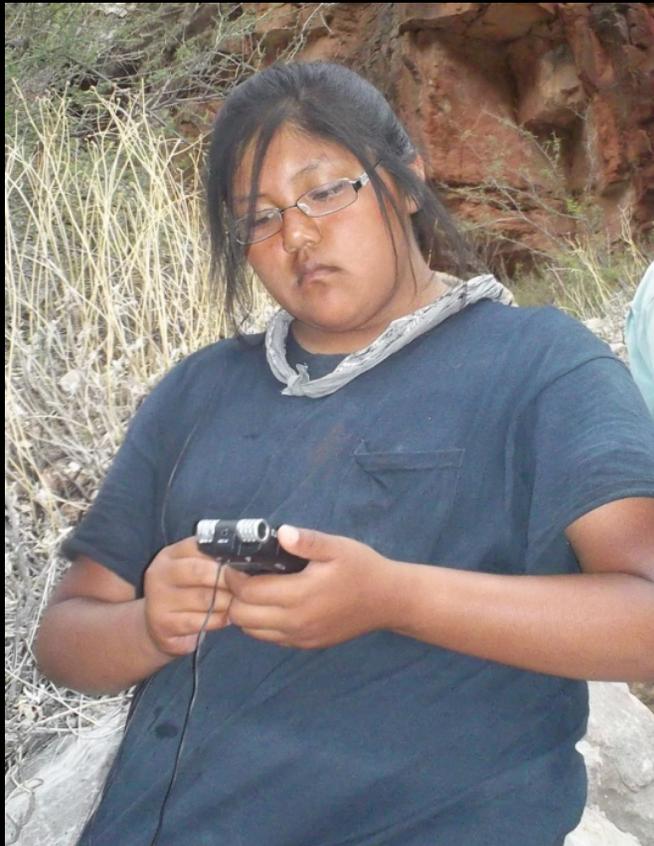
2. Ethnographic Interviews and Oral History Approach



Formalized Interviews



Oral History Approach



TEK is empirically based knowledge, tested and adapted through time and experience and interpreted by local indigenous peoples rooted in local places.

This knowledge has most often been passed on orally from one generation to the next via tribal elders. This form of knowledge transmission is at the crux of TEK. Should TEK and associated ethnobotanical knowledge begin to lose its foothold within its original Native communities, which is in effect its home base, it loses the majority of its power, because as it is disseminated it becomes decontextualized.

The Hualapai Department of Cultural Resources therefore recognizes the specific need for Hualapai TEK studies centered around the intergenerational transmission of knowledge about the Grand Canyon that in turn promotes the largest degree of dissemination among the tribal community. In this modern era, the customary continuity of TEK transmission from elder to youth is highly at risk.

Oral History; Showing By Doing, Hands on Knowledge Transmission



Pinon Butter



Red Berry Sumac Juice

3.Hualapai Talking Dictionary

- Digital Camera Documentation
- Audio Reordering
- Video Recording
- GPS

Hualapai Talking Dictionary

Hualapai - Lexique Pro

File Edit View Tools Help

Back Forward Home Pronounce Edit More Info

Hualapai Search English

Lexique Pro

Nyaga - adjective.
awhatiga - adjective.
quathiga - adjective.
vesuuga - adjective.



Hualapai

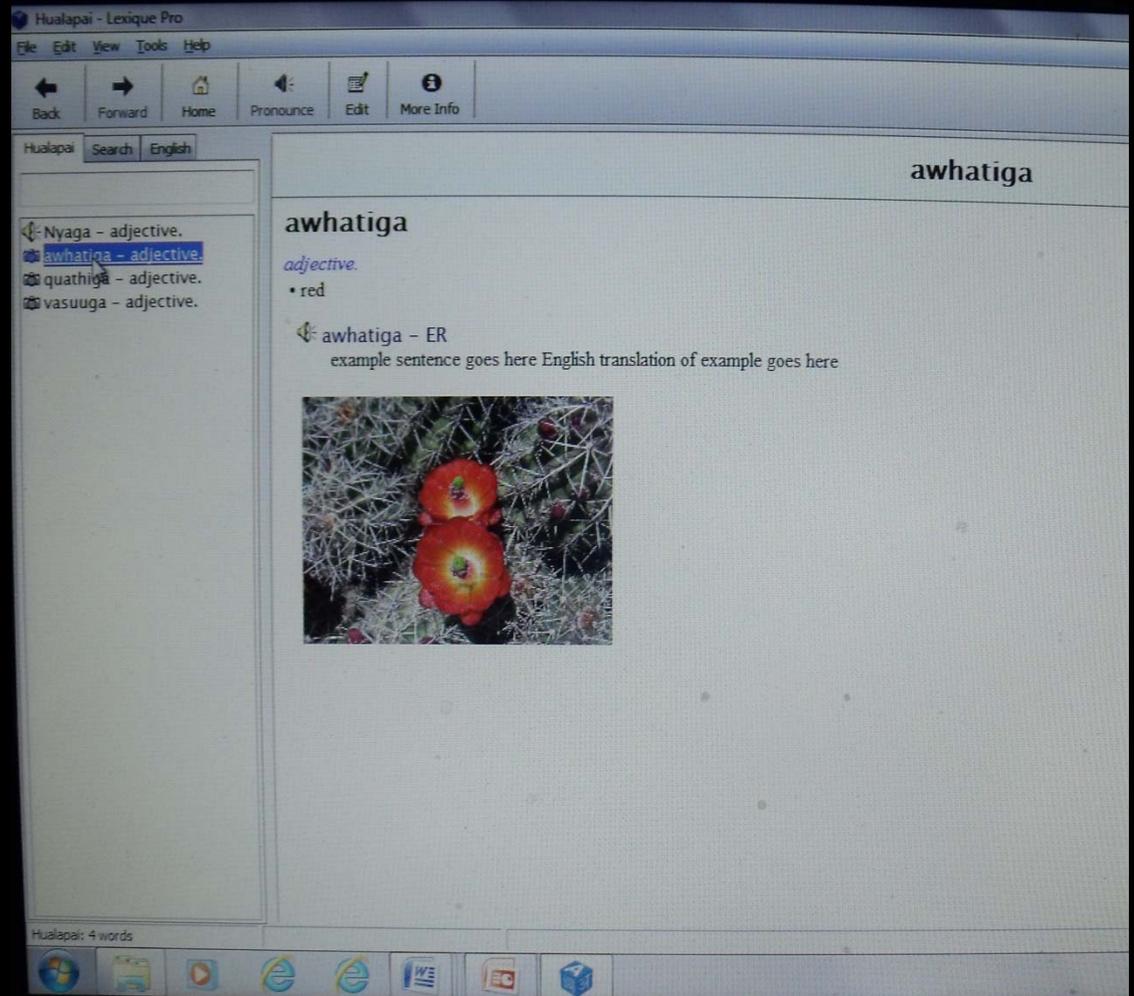
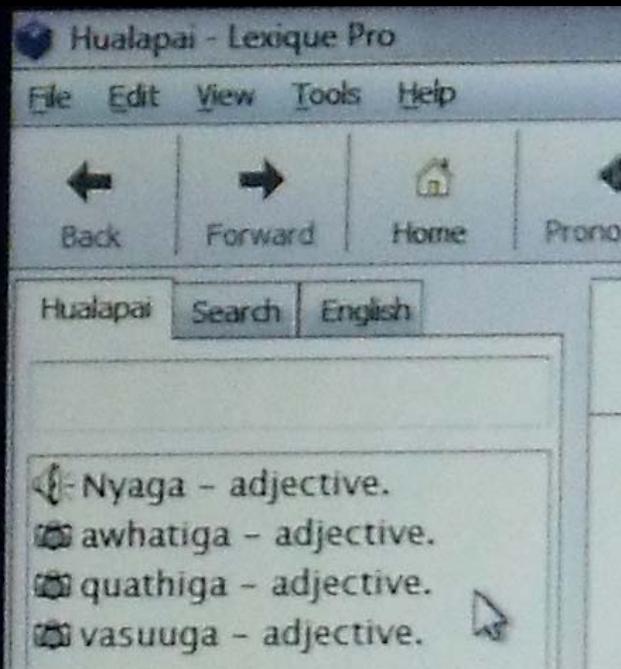
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Hualapai: 4 words

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Hualapai Talking Dictionary



The Hualapai names for the many different species of prickly pear cactus correlate to the animals that have been observed to feed on them. During ethnographic interviews, elders have translated some of the Hualapai prickly pear cacti names into English. These different species' names in the Hualapai language directly reference the primary animal species which feed on the cacti fruits as shown in the list below:

- a) *quaq h'de* (deer fruit),
- b) *de g'se h'de* (buzzard fruit).
- c) *gul h'de* (jack rabbit fruit),
- d) *hlo h'de* (cottontail rabbit fruit), and
- e) *g'squala* (chicken hawk fruit).

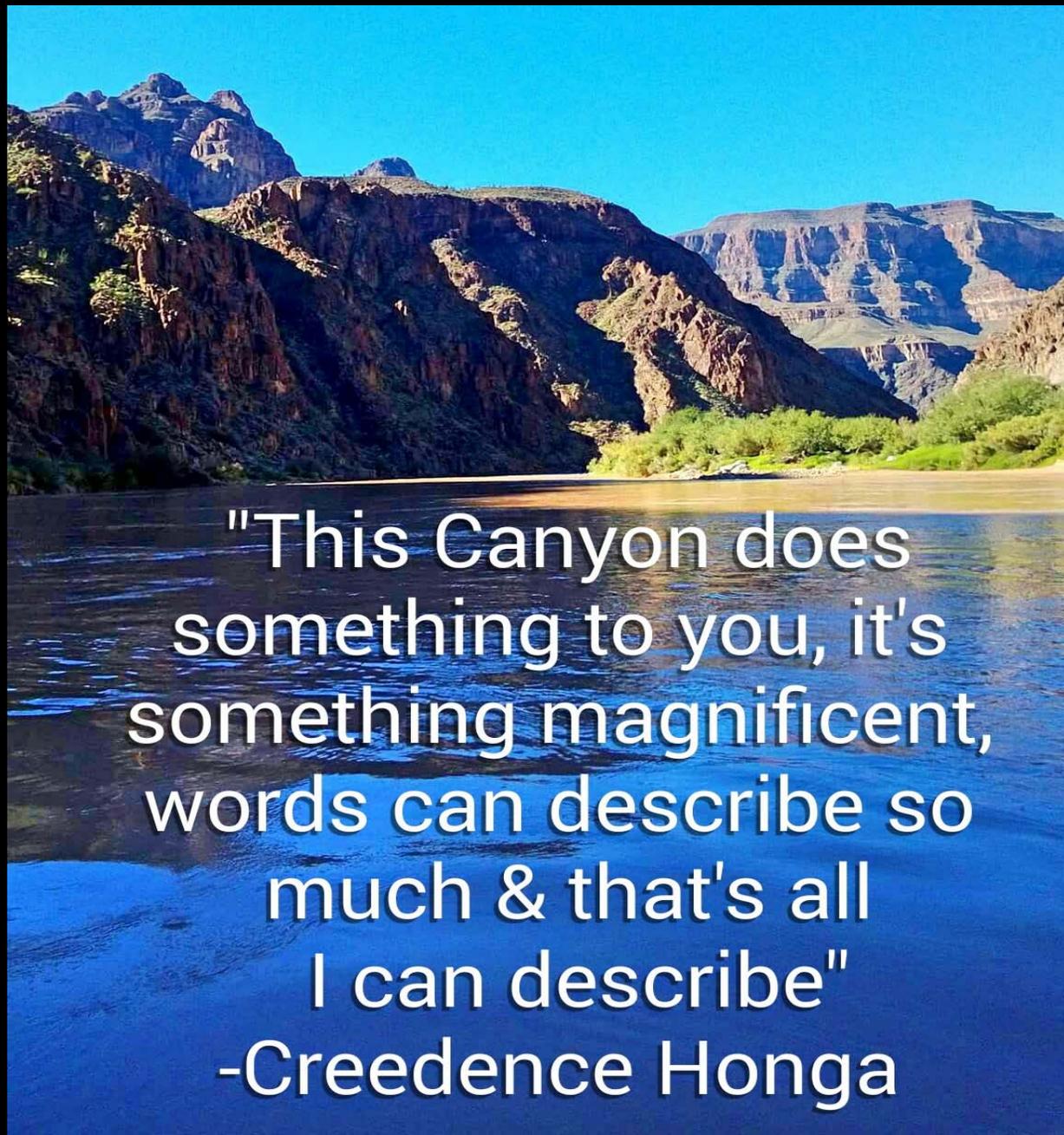


The name for cattail is *hams'iv*, which means “star” in Hualapai, and refers to the star shape of the cattail fluff when it goes to seed. Although this detail may be esoteric to an English speaker, its significance in the Hualapai language is that the name teaches the speaker something about the plant. The Hualapai name for cottonwood is *A'ha*, “ha” meaning water; the name for this plant derives from the fact that it grows near the water.

Although lists of Hualapai plant names translated into common and scientific forms have been acquired already through traditional Linear means, and are available in multiple texts, there has not been sufficient inquiry into Hualapai folk taxonomic classification systems. Hualapai folk plant classification systems have not been examined and provide only one example of the type of further inquiry that is needed in documenting and disseminating Hualapai TEK as we continue to add to the “Hualapai Talking Dictionary.”



“Languages aren't different words for the same thing, languages are different words for entirely different ways of seeing and conceptualizing the world. The words we use largely determine how we perceive the world, but the words we use also determine how we perceive each other.”



"This Canyon does something to you, it's something magnificent, words can describe so much & that's all I can describe"
-Creedence Honga

“I would like to thank the Hualapai Cultural Department for taking me on their annual river trip. If it wasn't for them I wouldn't have been able to take the trip of a lifetime, and to walk in the steps of my ancestors and where they once roamed. Being a descendant of Paiute and seeing where they once lived at Deer Creek and from the Hualapai side, I got to see where my family lived in Mohawk Canyon which was probably only less than 150 years ago. That canyon protected my family from capture from the U.S Cavalry, which is why I'm here to this day. ”-Jewel Honga

