Aztec Ruins National Monument
Superintendent's Compendium

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Superintendent's Compendium
Of Designations, Closures, Permit
Requirements and Other Restrictions
Imposed Under Discretionary Authority.

Approved By: _____ Date: 4-17-2015
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COMPENDIUM of designations, closures, permit requirements and other restrictions imposed under the discretionary authority by the Superintendent of Aztec Ruins National Monument

In accordance with regulations and the delegated authority provided in Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations ("36 CFR"), Chapter 1, Parts 1-7, authorized by Title 16 United States Code, Section 3, the following provisions apply to all lands and waters administered by the National Park Service, within the boundaries of Aztec Ruins National Monument. Unless otherwise stated, these regulatory provisions apply in addition to the requirements contained in 36 CFR, Chapter 1, Parts 1-7.

I. 36 CFR §1.5 – VISITING HOURS, PUBLIC USE LIMITS, CLOSURES, AND AREA DESIGNATIONS FOR SPECIFIC USE OR ACTIVITIES

(a)(1) The following visiting hours and public use limits are established for all, or for the listed portions, of the park. The following closures are established for all or a portion of the park to all public use, or to a certain use or activity:

Visiting Hours:

- The park is open year-round during the core hours of 8:00 am – 5:00 pm. These hours may be extended based on staffing levels. The park is closed on the federal holidays of Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's days.
- Open hours are the same for all resources within monument boundaries, including the visitor center, archeological sites, picnic area, and trails.
- No park use of any kind is permitted when the park is closed except official, park-sponsored events, programs, and activities.
- Overnight camping/parking is not allowed.

Closures:

- Public use is restricted to established trails, roads, parking areas, and the visitor center. East Ruins is open only when accompanied by a park employee or through obtaining a Special Use Permit from the Superintendent.
- The service access road is open to government vehicles and/or contractors for official business purposes only.

These restrictions serve to protect the Monument's fragile archaeological resources and their surrounding natural features from damage due to concentrated use and to protect sensitive infrastructure.

Vehicles, Powered and Non-Power Flight:

- All vehicles operated within the boundaries of Aztec Ruins National Monument must have a valid state registration, display a valid state license plate(s), and meet any other requirements for motor vehicles operated on highways within the State of New Mexico. 36 CFR §4.2.

- No use of vehicles is allowed off designated roads. 36 CFR §4.10(a), (b).

- Segways and motorized scooters are prohibited from all areas within the park including all park roads, trails and sidewalks. However, any park visitor with a disability is permitted to use Segways and motorized scooters in parking lots and trails, when such devices are used for the sole purpose of mobility assistance. Use of any mobility assistive device, as outlined above, must also adhere to the following:

    (a) A person shall operate any mobility assistive device in a safe and responsible manner, and maximum speeds will not exceed more than 8 M.P.H., so as not to endanger one's self or any other park visitor.

    (b) A person riding any mobility assistive device upon the parking lots or trails will remain on the trail at all times and shall have all the rights and duties applicable to a pedestrian under the same circumstances, except that the mobility assistive device operator must always yield to pedestrians (park visitors).

These restrictions are intended to protect fragile archaeological sites, native vegetation and wildlife.

- Launching, landing, or operating and unmanned aircraft from or on lands or waters administered by the National Park Service within the boundaries of Aztec Ruins National Monument is prohibited except as approved in writing by the superintendent. 36 CFR §1.5(a)(2)

  Definition: Unmanned Aircraft
  The term "unmanned aircraft" means a device that is used or intended to be used for flight in the air without the possibility of direct human intervention from within or on the device, and the associated operational elements and components that are required for the pilot or system operator in command to control or operate the device (such as cameras, sensors, communication links). This term includes all types of devices that meet this definition (i.e. model airplanes, quadcopters, drones) that are used for any purpose, including recreation or commerce.

The compendium closures required to implement this interim policy are necessary to maintain public health and safety in units of the National Park System and to protect park resources and values until the NPS can determine whether specific uses of unmanned aircraft on lands and waters administered by the NPS are appropriate and will not cause unacceptable impacts on the park resources and values. This closure by

the superintendent implements Section 1.5 of NPS Management Policies 2006 and Director's Policy Memorandum 14-05 dated June 19, 2014, which determines that unmanned aircraft is a new form of park use requiring further study.

- Aztec Ruins National Monument is closed to the use of all forms of non-powered flight including hang gliders, paragliders, and parachutes.

This restriction is intended to protect visitors and natural/cultural resources from injury or damage due to the use of various forms of powerless flight.

Passenger Carrying Buses:

- Operators of passenger-carrying buses are prohibited from idling their engines in parking lots and developed areas within the boundaries of Aztec Ruins National Monument.

This restriction serves to protect visitors from unnecessary noise and exhaust fumes while visiting the Monument.

II. 36 CFR §1.6 – ACTIVITIES THAT REQUIRE A PERMIT

The following is a compilation of those activities for which a permit from the superintendent is required**:**

- **§2.5(a)** Specimen collection (The taking of plant, wildlife, rocks or minerals)

This restriction is intended to protect natural resources that should be available for the enjoyment of future generations.

- **§2.12(a)** Audio Disturbance

- **§2.50(a)** Conducting a sports event, public spectator attraction, entertainment, ceremony, or other similar events.

- **§2.51(a)** Public assemblies, meetings, gatherings, demonstrations, parades and other public expressions of views are permitted during visiting hours in designated park areas incidental to the terms and conditions of a permit. First Amendment activities will be conducted during visitation hours in the administrative/overflow parking lot or a designated section of the picnic area. Groups of less than 25 may convene without a permit but must use these designated areas. The size of permitted assemblies will be limited to 200 people per area. No assembly may interfere with access to any park facility, pedestrians along a trail, or vehicle travel along a road. Vehicles may not be approached.

- **§2.52(c)** Sale or distribution of printed material that is not solely commercial advertising

These restrictions serve to maintain a natural, peaceful and enjoyable atmosphere for visitors.

- **§2.60(b)** Livestock use.

This restriction is intended to protect the fragile soil crusts and vegetation found within the boundaries of the Monument.

- **§2.62** Memorialization

  (a) Erection of monuments (requires approval from Regional Director)

These restrictions serve to ensure positive visitor experience as well as the protection of natural resources in the Monument.

- **§5.1** Advertisements (Display, posting or distribution.)

- **§5.3** Engaging in or soliciting any business (Requires a permit, contract or other written agreement with the United States, or must be pursuant to special regulations).

- **§5.5** Commercial Photography/Filming.

  (a) Commercial filming of motion pictures or television involving the use of professional casts, settings or crews, other than bona fide newsreel or news television.

  (b) Still photography of vehicles, or other articles of commerce or models for the purpose of commercial advertising.

These restrictions are intended to ensure a natural, tranquil and unimpaired experience for visitors to the Monument.

III. GENERAL REGULATIONS
36 CFR §2.1 – PRESERVATION OF NATURAL, CULTURAL, AND ARCHEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

(a)(4) It is unlawful to gather or cut firewood anywhere within the Monument.

This restriction serves to protect the high desert ecosystem within the Monument. Dead and downed wood is part of the natural and scenic landscape and an essential survival component for many species.

(a)(5 & 6) No archeological sites in Aztec Ruins National Monument may be entered, walked on or otherwise disturbed.

(c)(1), (c)(2) Reasonable small quantities of fruits, berries and nuts may be gathered for immediate personal consumption. The use of bush rakes or other harvesting devices is prohibited.

This restriction serves to protect natural ecological processes within the Monument as harvesting fruits, berries and nuts depletes food supplies for wildlife.

36 CFR §2.2 - WILDLIFE PROTECTION

(e) All lands within the boundary of the monument are closed to viewing wildlife with an artificial light.

This restriction serves to protect the natural and peaceful habitat of wildlife.

36 FR §2.10 – CAMPING AND FOOD STORAGE

(a) Camping is not allowed in the Monument.

(b) All food must be kept out of the reach of wildlife at all times. Supplies must be kept in a vehicle or contained in proper containers.

These restrictions serve to protect natural resources in the Monument. The restrictions also protect the recreational experience of all visitors.

36 CFR §2.11 – PICNICKING

Picnicking is allowed only in the picnic areas and parking lots. Picnicking is prohibited in the rest of the monument.

This restriction serves to protect the cultural resources from harmful pests.

36 CFR 2.12 – AUDIO DISTURBANCES

(a)(1)(ii) Any noise level from a radio, tape deck, compact disk, or other mechanical device which is more audible than conversational voice at a distance of 50 feet from the source is prohibited.

This restriction is intended to ensure the natural and peaceful enjoyment of the Monument for its visitors.

36 CFR 2.13 – FIRES

(a)(1) The lighting or maintaining of fires is permitted only under the following conditions:

- Fires are restricted to the picnic area and only in metal fire grills provided.
- Gathering wood and making ground fires are prohibited.
- Burning trash or other waste is prohibited.
- During periods of extreme fire danger, as established by fire weather data, all fires within the Monument will be prohibited with the exception of gas-burning stoves.

These requirements are intended to ensure that the visual and environmental impacts of cooking fires are limited to picnic use areas. These restrictions also serve to minimize the risks of wildland fires during extreme weather conditions.

36 CFR 2.14 – SANITATION AND REFUSE

(2.14) In non-developed areas, toilet paper must be carried out. Burning or burying toilet paper is prohibited.

This restriction serves to protect public health, natural resources and water quality.

36 CFR §2.15 – PETS

(a)(1) Dogs (except guide dogs), cats and other pets are prohibited on any monument land, including buildings, except for those locations identified below:

- Pets on a leash (max.6') are allowed on all monument parking areas and picnic area.

(a)(3) Pets may be left unattended if they are secured in a location where they will not become a nuisance, interfere with wildlife, impede normal travel by visitors or cause other resource damage. Pets may not be left unattended when weather or other conditions could endanger the pet's health.

(a)(5) Pet excrement must be immediately collected by the pet handler and disposed of in the nearest trash receptacle or toilet.

These restrictions serve to protect park natural/cultural resources, wildlife and visitors from the negative impacts of domestic animals.

36 CFR §2.16 – HORSES AND PACK ANIMALS

(a) Horses, mules, burros, llamas, and other animals used as pack stock are not permitted within the boundaries of Aztec Ruins National Monument with the following exceptions:

- Removal of trespassing livestock
- Search and rescue activities
- Law enforcement incidents
- Other emergency operations

These restrictions serve to protect natural/cultural resources from excessive large animal impacts.

36 CFR §2.20 – SKATING, SKATEBOARDS AND SIMILAR DEVICES

The use of roller skates, rollerblades, roller skis, skateboards, coasting vehicles, or similar devices are allowed on paved roads only. Use of these devices must comply with the same traffic regulations that apply to bicycles.

This restriction serves to provide for visitor safety and to protect biological soil crusts and other natural resources.

36 CFR §2.21 – SMOKING

Smoking is prohibited in all government buildings, within archeological sites and around the fuel and flammable materials storage area.

Smoking is permitted only in parking lots.

Smoking is not permitted in government vehicles.

During periods of extreme fire danger, as established by fire weather data, all smoking within the Monument will be prohibited.

These restrictions are intended to protect public/employee health and government property from the effects of smoking and minimize the risk of fire/explosions in fuel storage areas. They also serve to minimize the risks of wild land fires during extreme weather conditions.

36 CFR §2.22 – PROPERTY

(a)(2) Geocaching is prohibited. Geocaching is defined as the placement of a concealed cache within the park boundaries and then disseminating the coordinates/location, or clues to the coordinates/location, for the purpose of enticing third parties to search for the cache at a later date.

This restriction serves to protect natural and cultural resources within the Monument from unnecessary impacts.

36 CFR §2.23 – RECREATION FEES

(b) Recreation fees, and/or permits, in accordance with 36 CFR Part 71, are established for the following entrance fee areas, and/or for the use of the following specialized sites, facilities, equipment or services, or for participation in the following group activity, recreation events, or specialized recreation uses:

Entrance Fee Areas:

Individual Day Pass = $5.00
Interagency Annual Pass = $80.00
Interagency Senior Passport = $10.00
Interagency Annual Military Pass = Free
Interagency Access Passport = Free
Interagency Annual Volunteer Pass = Free
Children 15 years of age and younger = Free

36 CFR §2.35 –ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AND CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES

(a)(3)(i) The possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages is prohibited in all public use buildings when the building is open to the general public with the exception of officially sanctioned activities.

This restriction serves to protect visitors in public use buildings from the effects of alcoholic beverage consumption.

36 CFR §2.38 – EXPLOSIVES

(b) The possession or use of fireworks is not permitted in the Monument.

This restriction serves to eliminate unnecessary fire danger and ensure peaceful and safe enjoyment of the Monument for visitors.

36 CFR §2.4 – WEAPONS, TRAPS AND NETS

(c) The carriage of firearms within the boundaries of Aztec Ruins National Monument is allowed pursuant to New Mexico State Law.
(d) Firearms are prohibited in all federal facilities.

In the State of New Mexico you must be 19 years of age to carry a firearm "open carry" and must be 21 years of age to obtain a Concealed Weapons permit to "carry concealed." All other weapons, traps and nets remain prohibited to possess or use in the Park.
As of February 22, 2010, the federal law was changed to allow the carriage of firearms in the national parks and monuments pursuant to state law. While that section of the CFR has changed, it remains prohibited to use that firearm within NPS boundaries.

Firearm means a loaded or unloaded pistol, rifle, shotgun or other weapon which is designed to, or may be readily converted to, expel a projectile by the ignition of a propellant.

Weapon means a firearm, compressed gas or spring-powered pistol or rifle, bow and arrow, crossbow, blowgun, speargun, hand-thrown spear, slingshot, irritant gas device, explosive device, or any other implement designed to discharge missiles, and includes a weapon in the possession of which is prohibited under the laws of the State in which the park area or portion thereof is located.

36 CFR §2.62 – MEMORIALIZATION

(b) The scattering of human ashes at Aztec Ruins National Monument is prohibited.

The Monument was created for preservation and interpretation, and to facilitate research activities associated with the resources. By introducing outside cremated remains, it contaminates park resources, which impacts the ability to conduct research now or in the future. Modern cremations can also disturb the visitor experience. Past experience

shows that cremations are scattered in archeological sites. The park contains numerous archeological sites, some of which are not apparent on the surface.

36 CFR §3.21 – SWIMMING AND BATHING

(a)(1) All springs, seeps, and other natural water sources are closed to swimming, bathing, wading, or immersion of humans or domestic animals.

This restriction serves to protect the natural water quality within the Monument.

36 CFR §4.30 – BICYCLES

(c) The use of bicycles is permitted on all public roads and parking lots within the park. The possession of a bicycle off a public roadway is prohibited.

This restriction is intended to protect fragile soil crust and other natural resources within the monument.