



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

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National Park Service News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – DECEMBER 18, 2008
ED CUMMINS, CHIEF RANGER, MOCA/TUZI, 928-567-3322 x27

New Federal Firearms Law Takes Effect Monday. Montezuma Castle and Tuzigoot National Monuments subject to Arizona firearms law.

PARK DATELINE – A change in federal law effective February 22, allows people who can legally possess firearms under federal, Arizona, and local law, to possess those firearms in Montezuma Castle and Tuzigoot National Monuments.

The new federal law makes possession of firearms in national parks also subject to the firearms laws of the state and communities where the parks are located.

“We have been working closely with local, state, and federal officials to ensure that we clearly understand the provisions of the laws that will now apply to our visitors when they are in the park,” said Montezuma Castle and Tuzigoot National Monuments Superintendent Kathy Davis. “We encourage every visitor who may wish to bring firearms to the park to do their research ahead of time and ensure that they are aware of and abide by the laws that apply. Our goal is to provide safe, enjoyable park visits for everyone, and to preserve this very special place for people today and for future generations.”

The new federal law has no effect on existing laws and regulations regarding the use of firearms in national parks for hunting. Hunting still is not allowed in any part of Montezuma Castle and Tuzigoot National Monuments, including Montezuma Well. Federal law continues to prohibit firearms in certain facilities, such as park visitor centers, headquarters, and other federal buildings; these facilities are posted with appropriate notices at public entrances.

National Park Service Director Jon Jarvis said, “We will administer this law as we do all others – fairly. For nearly 100 years, the mission of the National Park Service has been to protect and preserve the parks and to help all visitors enjoy them. The parks belong to all Americans, and our commitment to the American people is to ensure the safety of our visitors and the special places that have been entrusted to our care.”

For more information about firearms laws that apply to Montezuma Castle and Tuzigoot National Monuments, please visit <http://az.gov>. For more information about Montezuma Castle and Tuzigoot National Monuments, visit www.nps.gov/moca and www.nps.gov/tuzi.

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