

FOUNDATION STATEMENT

for Planning and Management



The Casa Grande (Great House) from the parking lot.

CASA GRANDE RUINS NATIONAL MONUMENT

October 2007

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OVERVIEW

Purpose of the Foundation Statement

As the Casa Grande Ruins National Monument staff plans for the future, it is imperative that everyone has a shared understanding of what is most important about the national monument. A foundation statement provides a common set of definitions for the national monument's purpose, significance, primary interpretive themes, and fundamental resources and values. The statement also identifies the constraints of special mandates that provide sideboards to planning and management. The foundation statement helps ensure that planning and management stay focused on what is most important.



Casa Grande at sunrise.

LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION OF CASA GRANDE NATIONAL MONUMENT

Casa Grande Ruins National Monument is in Pinal County, Arizona, just north of the town of Coolidge. It is 472.5 acres, all in federal ownership.

Casa Grande Ruins Reservation was set aside by President Benjamin Harrison on June 22, 1892, to protect the "Casa Grande" or Great House, a multistoried, earthen-walled structure surrounded by the remains of smaller buildings and a compound wall. The Great House was constructed by the Hohokam people, who farmed the Gila Valley of south-central Arizona from ca. AD 300-1450. Casa Grande Ruins Reservation was both the first prehistoric site and the first cultural site to be set aside by the United States government. The site became a national monument on August 3, 1918, under the authority of the Antiquities Act and was transferred to the National Park Service on that date.

The Hohokam were a mostly sedentary agriculture-based people who became increasingly dependent upon the development of a canal system to exploit the water from the Gila River basin. Four periods in Hohokam culture are generally recognized by

archeologists. The Pioneer Period (AD 300-750) was the transition from a hunter-gatherer culture to an agriculture-based society. During the Colonial Period (AD 750-950), the population increased, social networks expanded, and trade increased beyond Hohokam settlements. Increased social complexity and stratification occurred during the Sedentary Period (AD 950-1175). Hohokam craftsmanship and trade flourished and expanded to distant Anasazi and Mogollon sites, to the Pacific Coast, and as far south as Mesoamerica. The Classic Period (AD 1175-1450) was a period of great change. Small settlements gave way to large irrigation-based communities with increased social stratification. The society experienced a period of environmental instability toward the end of the Classic Period and the large settlements were abandoned. Several factors may have contributed, including soil salinization, disease, warfare, floods, droughts, and climatic changes.

The area within Casa Grande Ruins current boundaries was occupied from about 1100 to 1450, from the late Sedentary through the Classic Period.

CASA GRANDE RUINS NATIONAL MONUMENT PURPOSE

The National Park Service tasks parks with developing a purpose statement. The statement must be grounded in a thorough analysis of the establishing legislation and legislative history, including studies prior to authorization.

The "purpose" is the specific reason for establishing a particular national park system unit.

"The Casa Grande Ruins National Monument was set aside for the preservation and interpretation of the Casa Grande ruins and other ancient buildings and objects of prehistoric interest."

CASA GRANDE RUINS NATIONAL MONUMENT SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENTS

Significance statements express why the park unit's resources and values are important enough to warrant national designation. Statements of significance describe why the national monument is important within a global, national, regional, and system-wide context and are directly linked to the purpose of the park unit. These statements are substantiated by data or consensus, and reflect the

most current scientific or scholarly inquiry and cultural perceptions, which may have changed since the park unit's establishment.

Significance statements for Casa Grande Ruins National Monument begin on page 4.

CASA GRANDE RUINS NATIONAL MONUMENT, FUNDAMENTAL RESOURCES

Fundamental resources and values are the most important resources, ideas, or concepts to be communicated to the public about Casa Grande Ruins National Monument. These resources warrant primary consideration during planning and management because they support and contribute to the monument's significance and are critical to achieving the purpose for which the monument was established. They may include systems, processes, features, stories, scenes, sounds, or scents.

Other important resources and values may have particular importance that warrants special consideration during planning, even though they do not contribute directly to the purpose and significance of the park unit.

Fundamental Resources and Values and Other Important Resources and Values associated with Casa Grande Ruins National Monument begin on page 4.

History of Science

1. Significance

Casa Grande Ruins National Monument was the first archeological site to be set aside by the U.S. government and sparked the beginning of the archeological resource preservation movement in America. The integrity of the resources remains high due to the early date of the site's establishment (1892).

Fundamental Resources and Values

- the Casa Grande Ruin (the great house)
- compounds and associated archeological sites
- museum collections

Other Important Resources and Values

- 15 structures constructed 1314-1339
- museum archives



The Casa Grande in the late 1800s prior to preservation treatment.

Landmark in Westward Migration

2. Significance

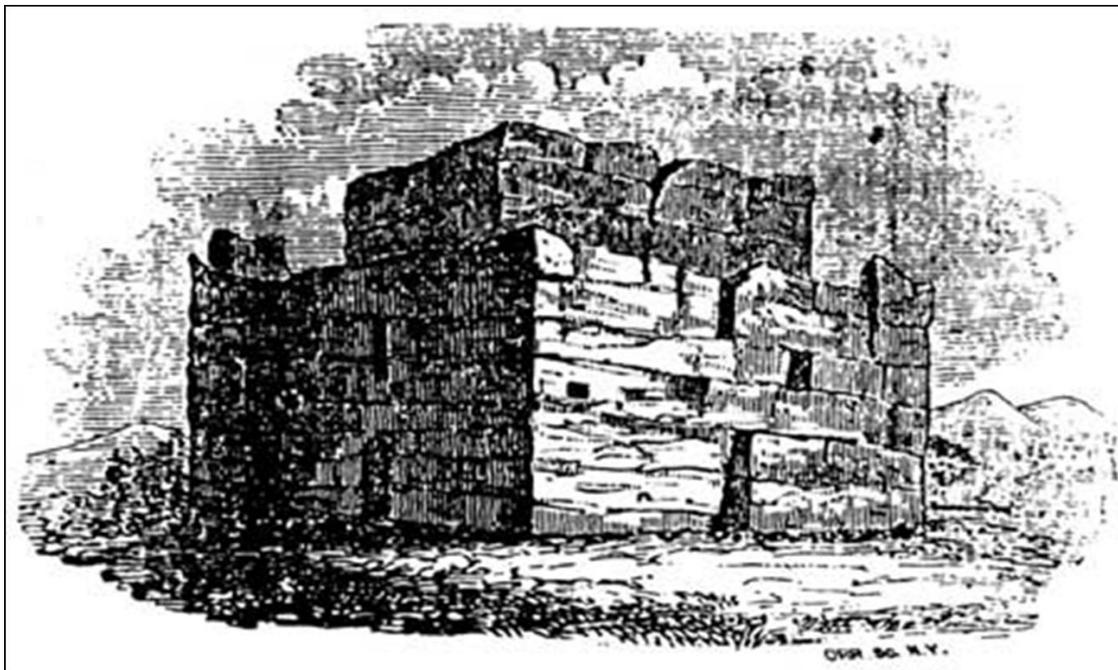
The physical prominence and sophisticated construction of the Casa Grande made it a dominant landmark in early European exploration and western migration.

Fundamental Resources and Values

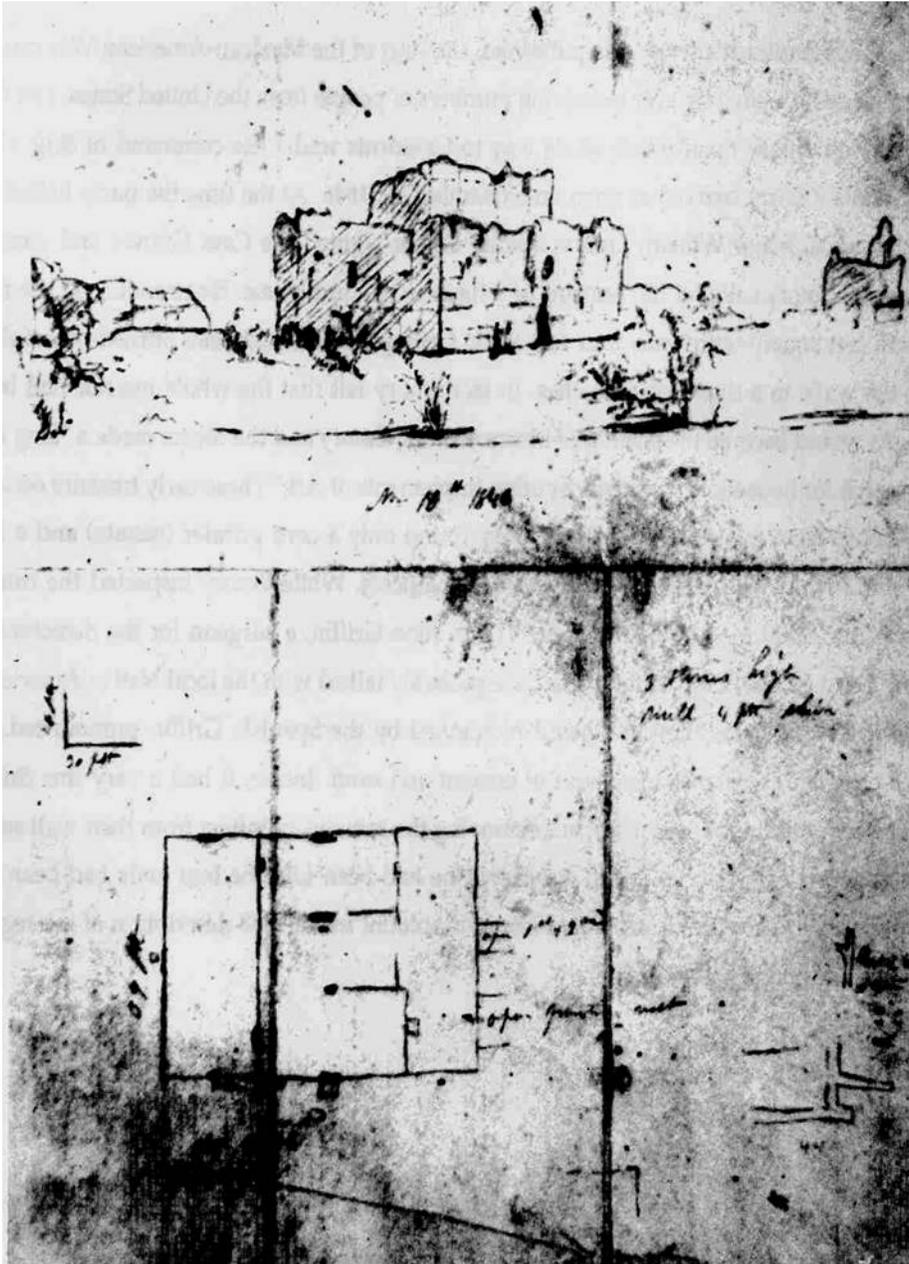
- the Casa Grande Ruin (the Great House)
- museum archives (original records of historical stories/accounts of sightings and exploration of the Casa Grande)
- the viewshed/setting (seeing the Casa Grande from across the desert, views to the mountains and the river are important for telling the story; includes air quality and regional land use)

Other Important Resources and Values

- historic wagon trail and Butterfield stagecoach route through the national monument



Drawing of Casa Grande by E.G. Squire, "New Mexico & California," *American Review*, November 1848.



1846 sketch of the Casa Grande by Stanley of the Kearney Expedition.

Sacred Site

3. Significance

Casa Grande Ruins National Monument is a sacred place for many American Indians. The Tohono O'odham Nation, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, Gila River Indian Community, Ak-Chin Indian Community, Hopi Tribe, and Pueblo of Zuni all claim an ancestral affiliation to the Hohokam and this site.

Fundamental Resources and Values

- archeological sites (including burials)
- museum collections
- ethnographic resources (e.g., stories/songs about the site, petroglyphs, ceremonies)
- sacred animals and plant life (e.g., owls, coyotes, badgers, saguaro, datura)
- natural soundscape and natural night skies viewshed/setting



Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community traditional dancers perform at “Gathering in the Desert,” January 2005.

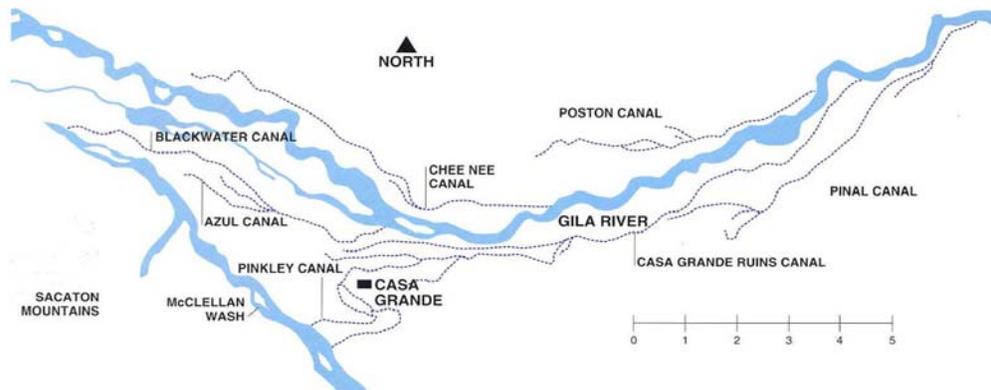
Desert Adaptation

4. Significance

Casa Grande Ruins National Monument exemplifies Hohokam adaptation to the Sonoran desert environment by the Hohokam, including utilization of nearby Gila River for creating the most extensive irrigation-based agricultural desert society in North America.

Fundamental Resources and Values

- museum collections
- compounds and associated archeological sites (for example, potential inclusion of some portions of irrigation canals in pending boundary expansion)
- native Sonoran Desert plants and animals
- viewshed/setting (Gila River)



**Irrigation canals of the Gila River, A.D. 300-1400
(from *Casa Grande Ruins* by Rose Houk, 1996, p. 21).**



Compound A from the south, including the Great House (background) and the South West building (foreground). Both structures retain evidence of multistory earthen construction.

The Great House

5. Significance

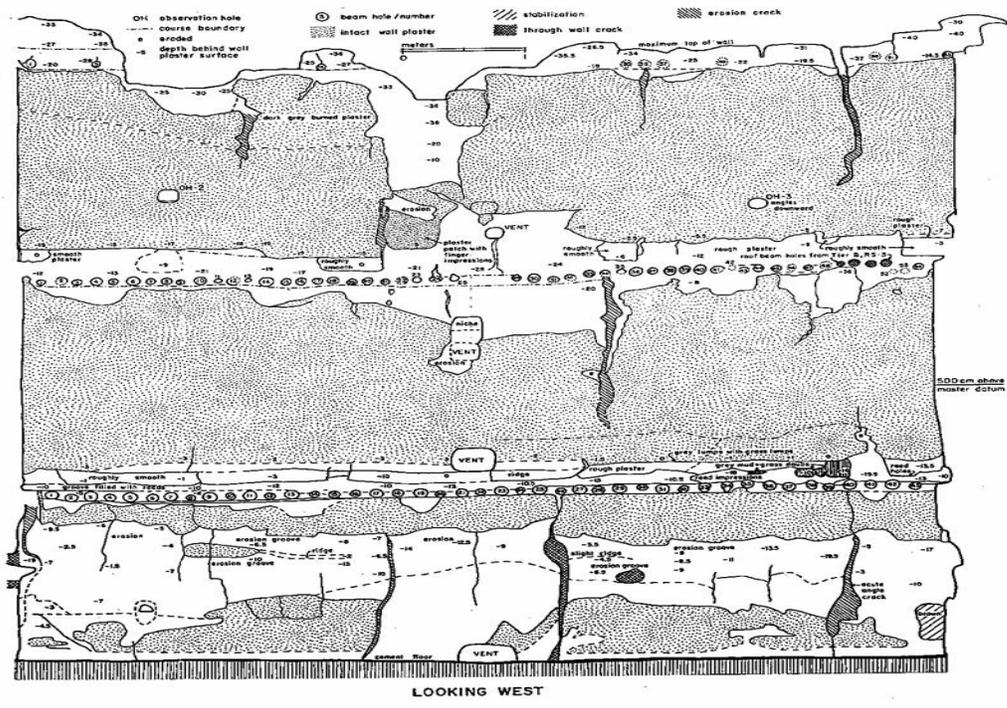
The Casa Grande is the only surviving example of a multi-story, freestanding earthen "great house" structure from the Hohokam culture. It represents the final evolution of architectural tradition of the late Classic Period.

Fundamental Resources and Values

- the Casa Grande Ruin
- compounds and associated archeological sites
- architectural features associated with astronomy
- museum collections (artifacts collected from the Great House and Compound A)

Other Important Resources and Values

- the shelter over the Great House ruin
- museum archives (treatment and preservation history)



Detailed architectural drawing of the west interior elevation of Tier C within the Great House. The documentation was published in "The Architecture of the Casa Grande and its Interpretation" by David R. Wilcox & Lynette O. Shenk.

Architecture of the Site

6 Significance

Hohokam architecture preserved by Casa Grande Ruins National Monument demonstrates architectural sophistication with its earthen construction methods, orientation, desert setting and architectural features such as platform mounds, ballcourts, and plazas. Classical Period workmanship is testament to an organized and productive society and represents the peak of Hohokam culture.

Fundamental Resources and Values

- the Casa Grande Ruin
- compounds and associated archeological sites (including back-filled architecture, borrow pits, post holes, ballcourt, plaza, platform mounds, plastered surfaces, petroglyphs, roof timbers, lintels)
- museum collections (e.g., building tools, dendrochronological specimens)
- viewshed/ setting(mountain views)
- museum archives (treatment and preservation history)



Hohokam ballcourt as seen from viewing platform.



The ruins shelter was constructed in 1943 to protect the Great House. Temporary scaffolding required for repainting of the ruins shelter, 2003.

Development of Scientific Methods and Techniques

7. Significance

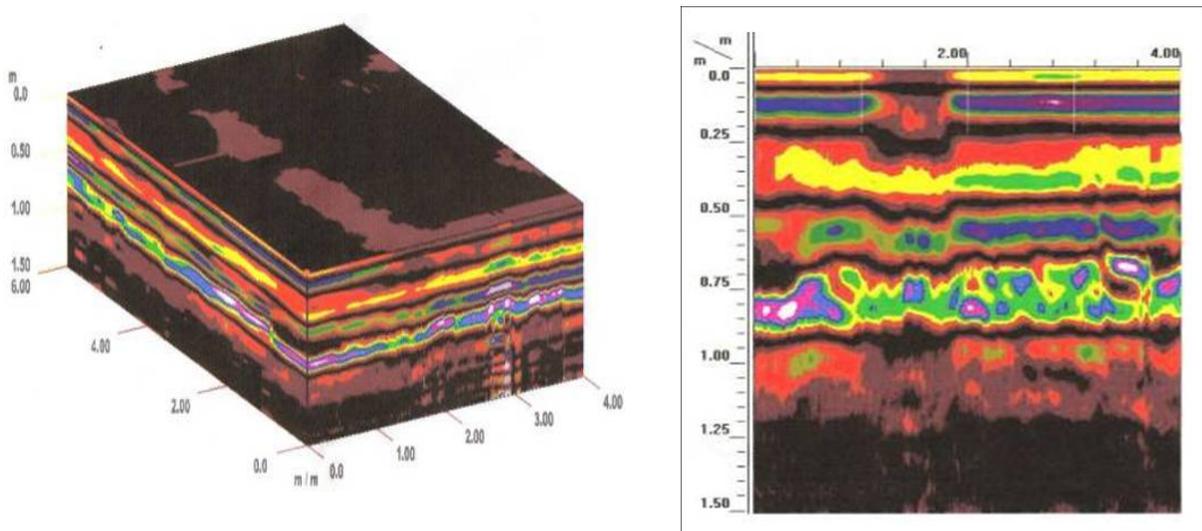
Research conducted at Casa Grande Ruins National Monument was pivotal in the development of archeological analysis and advanced the later archeological and architectural conservation movements.

Fundamental Resources and Values

- museum archives records and excavation manuscripts
- archeological collections



Facsimile earthen walls constructed 1977 as part of an accelerated weathering experiment to test Various stabilization treatments without impacting the preservation of original prehistoric architecture.



3-D application of ground radar data collected in Compound A in 2007.

PRIMARY INTERPRETIVE THEMES

The following interpretive themes are based on the purpose and significance of Casa Grande Ruins National Monument. The themes connect the monument's fundamental resources and values to relevant ideas, meanings, concepts, contexts, and beliefs. These themes support the desired interpretive outcome which is to increase visitor understanding and appreciation of the significances of monument resources and encourage stewardship of these resources.

Theme A. The ancient, evocative Casa Grande and the adaptive changes made to it over time provides opportunities for us to contemplate the permanence of our own infrastructure and our ability to successfully adapt to changing natural and cultural conditions.

Theme B. The successful, sophisticated culture of the Hohokam – exemplified by advanced architecture, engineering, and astronomical knowledge while only using relatively simple technology and extensive trade networks – defies our expectations about the ability of people to thrive in desert conditions without modern conveniences.

Theme C. Home to the Hohokam people for more than 800 years, this place is sacred to many American Indians; it speaks of ancestral homeland, identity, and tradition.

Theme D. The pre-monument history and the establishment of Casa Grande Ruins Reservation in 1892 sparked the beginning of America's archeological resource preservation efforts, led to later archeological and architectural conservation movements, and helped create a national ethic from which we all benefit today.



Visitor center front garden.

ANALYSIS OF FUNDAMENTAL RESOURCES AND VALUES

The following analysis articulates the importance of each fundamental resource or value, current condition, potential threats, and the issues that need consideration in planning and management. Included under each fundamental resource are the relevant laws and NPS policies related to the preservation and management of the resource. In addition, the stakeholders who have a substantial interest in the preservation or management of a particular resource are identified.

This section is intended to be dynamic. It will require periodic review and updating as monitoring, research, and discovery improve understanding of each resource and value.

Fundamental Resource:	THE CASA GRANDE RUIN
Importance	This is the only standing example of a Classic Period Hohokam "Great House." It was the focus of the decision to make Casa Grande the first federal archeological reserve (1892). The structure and surrounding ruins illustrate the evolution of ruins preservation techniques. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places with a national level of significance.
Current Conditions, Related Trends, and Potential Threats	The Great House is built of course-adobe which is essentially caliche mud stacked in layers. It is a three story multiple-room structure built on a raised platform mound. Since 1892 a variety of preservation treatments have been employed. Occasional "calving" of large chunks of the walls occurs. The structure cannot be preserved indefinitely; deterioration can only be retarded. Visitors cause damage both intentionally and accidentally. Other damage is caused by weather and by animal pests—primarily rodents and birds. Special uses and events draw many visitors and put resources at risk of damage if not carefully managed.
Stakeholder Interests	Traditionally Associated Peoples – Six American Indian tribes claim ancestral affiliation to the Hohokam. The ruins are considered to be sacred. American Indian groups occasionally hold ceremonies at the site. NPS preservation efforts and scientific research may be counter to the beliefs of some American Indians, who believe the site should be allowed to return to nature. Community--includes the cities of Coolidge and Florence, and Pinal County – There is an economic interest and support for the national monument as a tourist attraction. Visitors spending time at the site will be more likely to use other local businesses such as restaurants, gas stations, and convenience stores.

	<p>State –The Arizona State Historic Preservation Office’s mission is to identify cultural resources and provide guidance and assistance with preservation.</p> <p>Archeological Community–Archeologists study Hohokam culture and undertake archeological research.</p> <p>Historic Preservationists–Profesionals who develop and study preservation techniques.</p>
<p>Relevant Laws, Regulations, and Policies</p>	<p>National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended Antiquities Act of 1906 Archeological Resources Protection Act Advisory Council on Historic Preservation <i>Regulations for the Protection of Historic and Cultural Properties</i> <i>Secretary of the Interior’s Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation</i> <i>Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties, with Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes</i> NPS Management Policies 2006 National Park Service Act of August 25, 1916 EO 13007, “American Indian Sacred Sites” EO 13175, “Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments” American Indian Religious Freedom Act Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act DO-28, <i>The Cultural Resources Management Guideline</i> National Environmental Policy Act</p> <p><u>Policy Direction</u> When impacts on cultural resources are likely or unavoidable, the State Historic Preservation Officer is consulted through the Section 106 process to determine the best approach to minimizing any loss or damage to resources.</p> <p>Ethnographic resources must be identified and maintained/preserved for their significance, for their cultural relationship and importance to past inhabitants of the area, and for their scientific value.</p> <p>Encourage public understanding and appreciation of the significance of national monument resources and values and their connections to them.</p> <p>Consult with tribal entities when management actions are likely to affect cultural resources.</p> <p>Periodically evaluate the condition of all resources to document changes/deterioration through time.</p> <p>Consult frequently with tribes regarding the NPS interpretive messages presented.</p>

Fundamental Resources and Values:	COMPOUNDS AND ASSOCIATED ARCHEOLOGICAL SITES (includes back-filled structures, borrow pits, post holes, ballcourt, plazas, platform mounds, plastered surfaces, and petroglyphs)
Importance	The archeological features at Casa Grande are listed on the National Register of Historic Places with a national level of significance.
Current Conditions, Related Trends, and Potential Threats	Numerous archeological sites/structures are in varying conditions. Construction of the perimeter fence in 1998-99 has limited access for pothunters and vandals. Vandalism is an ongoing concern as the national monument is quickly being surrounded by housing developments, but to date little damage has occurred. Invasive plant encroachment is changing the appearance of landscapes and impacts archeological sites. The declining water table is resulting in vegetation loss/change and impacts archeological sites. Special uses and events draw many visitors and put resources at risk of damage if not carefull managed. Climatic conditions and flooding cause damage to sites. Burrowing animals threaten sites and must be managed through the Integrated Pest Management process.
Stakeholder Interests	Traditionally Associated Peoples – Six tribal entities consider themselves the descendents of the Hohokam. The ruins are considered to be part of a sacred area. These peoples occasionally hold ceremonies at the site. NPS preservation efforts and scientific research are, to some extent, counter to the beliefs of these peoples, who believe the site should be allowed to melt back into nature. Also, they are sensitive to the presence of burials and their treatment once burials are identified. Community and Pinal County – There is an economic interest as a tourist attraction. Visitors spending time at the site will be more likely to use other local businesses such as restaurants, gas stations, and convenience stores. State –The Arizona State Historic Preservation Office’s mission is to identify cultural resources and provide guidance and assistance with preservation.

<p>Relevant Laws, Regulations, and Policies</p>	<p>National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended Antiquities Act of 1906 Archeological Resources Protection Act Advisory Council on Historic Preservation <i>Regulations for the Protection of Historic and Cultural Properties</i> <i>Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation</i> <i>Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties, with Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes</i> NPS Management Policies 2006 EO 13007, "American Indian Sacred Sites" EO 13175, "Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments" American Indian Religious Freedom Act Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act DO-28, <i>The Cultural Resources Management Guideline</i> NPS Museum Collections Management NPS Museum Handbook National Environmental Policy Act 36 CFR National Park Service Act of August 25, 1916</p> <p><u>Policy Direction</u> All archeological resources, historic structures, and landscapes would be evaluated for the National Register of Historic Places and preserved and maintained to the highest standard possible consistent with their significance and interpretive value.</p>
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Fundamental Resource or Value:	VIEWSHED (SETTING)
Importance	The surrounding mountains and the nearby Gila River were important to the Hohokam. The mountains were the source of building timbers, minerals for tools and ornaments, and provided large game. The Gila River was the source of water for irrigation upon which Hohokam agriculture and building techniques relied. Mountain views provide a frame of reference for the story of the Hohokam and are featured in regular interpretive tours.
Current Conditions, Related Trends, and Potential Threats	<p>The "long views" remain, but cell towers and radio/TV towers and planned housing developments make their loss imminent.</p> <p>Development along park boundaries results in the loss of archeological features that are part of the park story.</p> <p>Only a portion of the larger Hohokam complex is within current park boundaries.</p> <p>The declining water table and the damming of the Gila River have had severely detrimental effects on key cultural and natural setting components.</p>
Stakeholder Interests	<p>NPS and Community – Loss of the national monument setting is a major concern for NPS staff and for the community that depends upon tourism as an economic generator; explaining the geographic context and relationships to other sites would become more difficult without the unobstructed views of these features and resources.</p> <p>Traditionally Associated Peoples – The site is of great significance to American Indians and would continue to be significant. However, development around the site could diminish the use of the site for ceremonial purposes.</p>
Relevant Laws, Regulations, and Policies	<p>National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended</p> <p>Advisory Council on Historic Preservation <i>Regulations for the Protection of Historic and Cultural Properties</i></p> <p><i>Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties, with Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes</i></p> <p>NPS Management Policies 2006</p> <p>EO 13007, "American Indian Sacred Sites"</p> <p>American Indian Religious Freedom Act</p> <p>DO-28, <i>The Cultural Resources Management Guideline</i></p> <p>National Environmental Policy Act</p> <p>36 CFR</p> <p>National Park Service Act of August 25, 1916</p>

Policy Direction

Work with the local community, the county, the state, and the tribes to protect the viewshed, using all available means.

Encourage public understanding and appreciation of the significance of national monument resources and values and their connections to them.

The national monument's viewshed and setting should be maintained to preserve and interpret the national monument for future generations.

Fundamental Resource or Value: NATURAL SOUNDSCAPE AND NATURAL NIGHT SKY	
Importance	<p>The night skies are an important component of the national monument during night programs and when American Indians conduct evening ceremonies at the site.</p> <p>The natural soundscape is an important component of the visitor experience/setting and allows the visitor to absorb the site, contemplate its lessons, and engage in personal or spiritual reflection.</p> <p>The natural soundscape is important to the American Indians, as it indicates respect for the sacred nature of the site and affects the quality of ceremonial activities conducted on the site.</p>
Current Conditions, Related Trends, and Potential Threats	<p>NPS staff conduct occasional evening programs that take advantage of the dark to set the mood for the talk.</p> <p>American Indians conduct occasional ceremonies at the site that require a dark night sky and natural soundscape.</p> <p>As development on the national monument periphery increases (with the sound of construction, engines, sirens, etc.), the natural quiet that has been a part of the site for hundreds of years is being lost.</p> <p>As development around the national monument builds, the quality of the visitor experience and the ability of the NPS staff to conduct night programs diminishes. The ability of the Native Americans to conduct evening ceremonies also becomes diminished.</p> <p>Visitors will be less and less able to focus on the site because visual and audible distractions diminish the experience.</p>
Stakeholder Interests	<p>Community – The community is concerned about its tourist economy and about the quality of life for residents.</p> <p>NPS – NPS staff are concerned about maintaining the quality of the visitor experience.</p> <p>Traditionally Associated Peoples –American Indians are concerned about degradation of sacred aspects of the site and about the quality of experience for ceremonial events.</p>

<p>Relevant Laws, Regulations, and Policies</p>	<p><u>Policy Direction</u></p> <p><i>NPS Management Policies 2006, Section 4.10 (Lightscape Management)</i> NPS staff will restrict the use of artificial lighting to only those areas where security, basic human safety, and specific cultural resource requirements must be met. NPS staff will use minimal-impact lighting techniques. NPS staff will shield artificial lighting where necessary to prevent the disruption of the night sky. NPS staff will work with the local community to understand the issue of protecting the view of the night sky and to develop criteria for lighting that minimizes fugitive light in the national monument.</p> <p><i>NPS Management Policies 2006, Section 4.9 (Soundscape Management)</i> NPS staff will monitor human activities that generate noise caused by mechanical or electronic devices. NPS staff will take action to prevent or minimize all noise that through frequency, magnitude, or duration adversely affects the natural soundscape or other national monument resources or values, or that exceeds levels that have been identified through monitoring as being acceptable to or appropriate for visitor uses at the sites being monitored. NPS staff will work with the town of Coolidge and with neighbors and businesses to understand the impact of noise on the soundscape of the national monument.</p>
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Fundamental Resource or Value: SACRED ANIMAL AND PLANT LIFE	
Importance	Animals and plants sacred to American Indians exist in the national monument. These plants and animals figure in tradition and stories, are used in medicines and ceremonies, and are an important part of the national monument ecosystem.
Current Conditions, Related Trends, and Potential Threats	<p>As the water table has dropped, much of the plant life has also changed, favoring plants and trees with longer roots and that survive on less moisture.</p> <p>Indigenous animal life has remained but has become less diversified and may become isolated, leave or die out as development around the national monument continues and/or the plant life these animals depend on changes.</p> <p>There is potential for an increase in nonnative species that have adapted to a drier climate.</p>
Stakeholder Interests	<p>NPS – The National Park Service is concerned about the appropriate setting and environment of the site.</p> <p>Traditionally Associated Peoples –American Indians may be concerned about the loss of animals and plant life they consider sacred.</p>
Relevant Laws, Regulations, and Policies	<p>EO 13007, American Indian Sacred Sites National Environmental Policy Act 36 CFR National Park Service Act of August 25, 1916</p> <p><u>Policy Direction</u> Superintendent's <i>Compendium</i> No collection of plant or animal species is permitted on the site. NPS staff should work with the tribes to identify plant and animal species within the national monument that are considered sacred to American Indians. Areas containing such species should be monitored and protected. NPS management actions should be designed to preserve the Sonoran Desert habitat of Casa Grande Ruins to the extent possible. Because the water table is continuing to drop, the variety of plant and animal species appears to be changing resulting in a very different landscape appearance.</p>

Fundamental Resource or Value:	MUSEUM COLLECTIONS AND ARCHIVES
Importance	<p>The collections document the excavations that have occurred at the national monument.</p> <p>The collections provide valuable data for research and comparison with similar sites.</p> <p>The collections provide examples for display in the museum.</p> <p>The archives contain original documents.</p>
Current Conditions, Related Trends, and Potential Threats	<p>There are about 25,000 objects in museum collection.</p> <p>Because of the desirability of Hohokam artifacts and the age of the structures, the potential for theft is increasing.</p> <p>Interpretive messages in the museum are accurate but do not serve populations that cannot read English. Audible, Braille, or tactile interpretation does not exist.</p> <p>The national monument does not have collections/archival storage that meets NPS standards for security or climate control. Collection items not on display are housed at the Western Archeological Center.</p> <p>There is a need for waysides dealing with ethnography and natural history (wildlife and botanical species) throughout the site.</p>
Stakeholder Interests	<p>NPS and Traditionally Associated Peoples – Continued preservation of the collections is of paramount interest to these entities.</p> <p>NPS –Use of the collections should be only by qualified professionals.</p> <p>Traditionally Associated Peoples – Protection of ethnographic and archeological resources is of concern to Native Americans.</p> <p>State –The Arizona State Historic Preservation Office’s mission is to identify cultural resources and provide guidance and assistance with preservation.</p> <p>Researchers–The ability to study the museum collection and archives for archeological, ethnographic, historical and preservation purposes needs to be protected.</p>

**Relevant Laws,
Regulations, and
Policies**

National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended
Antiquities Act of 1906
Archeological Resources Protection Act
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation *Regulations for the Protection
of Historic and Cultural Properties*
*Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and
Historic Preservation*
NPS Management Policies 2006
EO 13007, "American Indian Sacred Sites"
EO 13175, "Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments"
American Indian Religious Freedom Act
Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act
DO-28, *The Cultural Resources Management Guideline*
NPS Museum Collections Management
NPS Museum Handbook
National Environmental Policy Act
36 CFR
National Park Service Act of August 25, 1916

Policy Direction

Consultation with tribes should be ongoing to ensure appropriate treatment and/or display of museum collections.

Museum and archeological collections must be maintained to the highest possible standard consistent with their significance and with their interpretive and scientific value.

Ethnographic resources must be identified and maintained/preserved for their significance, for their cultural relationship and importance to past inhabitants of the area, and for their scientific value.

Objects of sacred significance to tribal entities must be identified and repatriated (if descendents can be identified) or properly maintained in a sensitive manner.

Encourage public understanding and appreciation of the significance of national monument resources and values and their connections to them.

Ensure compatibility of interpretation with the preservation of objects on display.

Ensure that objects are protected from theft, properly stored, and if on display that objects are safe, properly maintained, and protected from the elements.

Periodically evaluate existing management strategies; change strategies when needed to protect the collections/archives.

Other Important Resources and Values	15 STRUCTURES CONSTRUCTED 1931-1939, which compose a potential historic district
Importance	The structures were originally built between 1931 and 1939. They have been rehabilitated at various times since; some have been enlarged. The structures are on the National Register of Historic Places with a local significance designation. (All are national register criteria A and C.)
Current Conditions, Related Trends, and Potential Threats	<p>Fourteen historic adobe structures are being maintained; exterior stabilization is ongoing.</p> <p>The cultural landscape around the structures is maintained. Deferred maintenance on historic structures increases future maintenance/stabilization costs and jeopardizes funding for other structures needing maintenance.</p> <p>Vegetative (invasive and native) encroachment is changing the appearance of landscapes and historic structures.</p> <p>There are special uses and events that draw many visitors; resource damage is a potential result.</p> <p>There are levels and types of staff/public use of these structures that could result in possible impacts.</p> <p>Actions need to be taken to continue the historic use of these structures; these could also result in damage to historic fabric.</p> <p>Termites and rodents pose threats to the historic buildings and require constant management through the IPM process.</p>
Stakeholder Interests	<p>NPS and Community – These entities are interested in the continued preservation of historic structures and cultural landscapes.</p> <p>American Indians – The tribal entities are concerned about the protection of ethnographic and archeological resources in the historic visitor center facility and in storage.</p> <p>American Indians – These peoples are sensitive to the discovery of human burials during any ground disturbance around structures and the treatment once burials are identified.</p> <p>American Indians – Six tribes claim ancestral affiliation to the Hohokam. The ruins are considered sacred. They occasionally hold ceremonies at the site. Some American Indians do not believe that scientific research or preservation treatments should be conducted at archeological sites.</p> <p>NPS – The structures should be maintained and should serve the national monument’s needs.</p> <p>Community and Pinal County – There is an economic interest as a tourist attraction. Visitors spending time at the site will be more likely to use other local businesses such as restaurants, gas stations, and convenience stores.</p> <p>State –The Arizona State Historic Preservation Office’s mission is to</p>

	<p>identify cultural resources and provide guidance and assistance with preservation.</p>
<p>Relevant Laws, Regulations, and Policies</p>	<p>National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended Archeological Resources Protection Act Advisory Council on Historic Preservation <i>Regulations for the Protection of Historic and Cultural Properties</i> <i>Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation</i> <i>Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties, with Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes</i> NPS Management Policies 2006 EO 13007, "American Indian Sacred Sites" American Indian Religious Freedom Act Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act DO-28, <i>The Cultural Resources Management Guideline</i> NPS Museum Collections Management NPS Museum Handbook National Environmental Policy Act 36 CFR National Park Service Act of August 25, 1916</p> <p><u>Policy Direction</u> All archeological resources, historic structures, and landscapes would be evaluated for the National Register of Historic Places and preserved and maintained to the highest standard possible consistent with their significance and interpretive value. All historic structures and landscapes would be evaluated for the National Register of Historic Places and would be preserved and maintained to the highest standard possible consistent with their significance and interpretive value. Museum and archeological collections would be maintained to the highest possible standard consistent with their significance and their interpretive and scientific value. Ethnographic resources would be identified and maintained/preserved for their significance, for their cultural relationship and importance to past inhabitants of the area, and for their scientific value. Encourage public understanding and appreciation of the significance of national monument resources and values and their connections to them. Historic Structures Reports and Preservation Guides will document and structure appropriate maintenance practices.</p>

Other Important Resources and Values	The shelter over the Casa Grande ruin
Importance	The shelter is also historic and individually significant for its design and its association with landscape architect Frederick Law Olmstead Jr. (national register criteria A and C) at a local level of significance. The structure is the National Register of Historic Places with a local significance designation. (national register criteria A and C.)
Current Conditions, Related Trends, and Potential Threats	<p>The shelter over the ruins is a steel frame and concrete structure that is in good condition.</p> <p>The cultural landscape around the structures is maintained. There are special uses and events that draw many visitors; resource damage is a potential result.</p>
Stakeholder Interests	<p>NPS and Community – These entities are interested in the continued preservation of historic structures and cultural landscapes.</p> <p>American Indians – The tribal entities are concerned about the protection of ethnographic and archeological resources on the National Monument.</p> <p>NPS – The structure should be maintained and should serve the national monument’s needs.</p> <p>Community and Pinal County – There is an economic interest as a tourist attraction. Visitors spending time at the site will be more likely to use other local businesses such as restaurants, gas stations, and convenience stores.</p> <p>State –The Arizona State Historic Preservation Office’s mission is to identify cultural resources and provide guidance and assistance with preservation.</p>
Relevant Laws, Regulations, and Policies	<p>National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended</p> <p>Archeological Resources Protection Act</p> <p>Advisory Council on Historic Preservation <i>Regulations for the Protection of Historic and Cultural Properties</i></p> <p><i>Secretary of the Interior’s Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation</i></p> <p><i>Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties, with Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes</i></p> <p><i>NPS Management Policies 2006</i></p> <p>EO 13007, “American Indian Sacred Sites”</p> <p>American Indian Religious Freedom Act</p> <p>Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act</p> <p>DO-28, <i>The Cultural Resources Management Guideline</i></p> <p><i>NPS Museum Collections Management</i></p>

	<p>NPS <i>Museum Handbook</i> National Environmental Policy Act 36 CFR National Park Service Act of August 25, 1916</p> <p><u>Policy Direction</u> All archeological resources, historic structures, and landscapes would be evaluated for the National Register of Historic Places and preserved and maintained to the highest standard possible consistent with their significance and interpretive value. Encourage public understanding and appreciation of the significance of national monument resources and values and their connections to them. Historic Structures Reports and Preservation Guides will document and structure appropriate maintenance practices.</p>
--	--

Other Resource or Value:	The Historic Wagon Trail and Butterfield Stage Coach Route
Importance	The archeological features at Casa Grande are listed on the National Register of Historic Places with a national level of significance. The historic wagon trail and Butterfield Stage Coach route are not individually listed on the national register.
Current Conditions, Related Trends, and Potential Threats	<p>The historic wagon trail and Butterfield Stage Coach Route are not actively maintained.</p> <p>Construction of the perimeter fence in 1998-99 has limited access for pothunters and vandals. Inadvertent damage is an ongoing concern. Invasive plant encroachment is changing the appearance of landscapes and the trail route.</p> <p>The declining water table is resulting in vegetation loss/change that may be affecting the trail integrity.</p> <p>Special uses and events draw many visitors and may put the trail at risk of damage if not carefully managed.</p> <p>Climatic conditions and flooding cause damage to the trail.</p> <p>Burrowing animals threaten the trail and must be managed through the Integrated Pest Management process.</p>

Stakeholder Interests	<p>Traditionally Associated Peoples – May have no interest other than that these historic resources intrude upon their sacred site.</p> <p>Community and Pinal County – There is an economic interest as a tourist attraction. Visitors spending time at the site will be more likely to use other local businesses such as restaurants, gas stations, and convenience stores.</p> <p>State –The Arizona State Historic Preservation Office’s mission is to identify cultural resources and provide guidance and assistance with preservation.</p>
Relevant Laws, Regulations, and Policies	<p>National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended</p> <p>Antiquities Act of 1906</p> <p>Archeological Resources Protection Act</p> <p>Advisory Council on Historic Preservation <i>Regulations for the Protection of Historic and Cultural Properties</i></p> <p><i>Secretary of the Interior’s Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation</i></p> <p><i>Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties, with Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes</i></p> <p><i>NPS Management Policies 2006</i></p> <p>EO 13007, “American Indian Sacred Sites”</p> <p>EO 13175, “Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments”</p> <p>American Indian Religious Freedom Act</p> <p>Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act</p> <p>DO-28, <i>The Cultural Resources Management Guideline</i></p> <p><i>NPS Museum Collections Management</i></p> <p>National Environmental Policy Act</p> <p>36 CFR</p> <p>National Park Service Act of August 25,1916</p> <p><u>Policy Direction</u></p> <p>All archeological resources, historic structures, and landscapes would be evaluated for the National Register of Historic Places and preserved and maintained to the highest standard possible consistent with their significance and interpretive value.</p>

SPECIAL MANDATES AND PERMITTED USES

Special mandates are legal requirements and administrative commitments that apply to a specific national park system unit. They are either mandated by Congress or developed through signed agreements with other entities.

Over the years since establishment, Casa Grande Ruins National Monument has granted a limited number of land use permits and easements. Current agreements follow:

1. Highway Easement Deed from National Park Service to Arizona Department of Highways, 2/2/99 – From the entrance road north to the intersection of SR 87/287 the national monument boundary is the fenceline. From the entrance road south to the canal, the property line extends to the highway centerline, all of which is within the 75-foot legal highway right-of-way as granted in the Easement Deed.
2. Right-of-way permit # IMR-CAGR-02-01 allows overhead and underground transmission lines along highway right-of-way.
3. Special use permit (WRO CAGR 5100 001) granted to city of Coolidge to erect a sign. The permit is out of date and needs to be renegotiated.
4. An overflight permit was published in the *Federal Register* 6/23/05 allowing DBA Southwest Safaris authority to fly over the National Monument.



Round tailed ground squirrels are a native species that challenge park management. A lack of natural predators and an abundance of food and water has greatly increased their numbers. Their intensive burrowing threatens archeological sites.

SUMMARY OF SERVICEWIDE LEGAL AND POLICY REQUIREMENTS

Much of basic national monument management is specified in laws, policies, and regulations intended to protect environmental quality, preserve historic resources, promote the public's enjoyment of the national monument's natural and cultural heritage, and ensure that the benefits and costs of federal actions are equitably shared by all citizens. A few of the laws that are of particular interest to planning and management in the National Park Service are summarized below.

The National Park Service and its mandates are authorized under the NPS Organic Act (16 USC 1, 2-4) and the General Authorities Act (16 USC 1a-8). These acts direct the agency to conserve the scenery, the natural and historic objects, and the wildlife, and to provide for the enjoyment of those resources in such a manner as to leave them unimpaired for future generations.

Amending the NPS Organic Act, the Redwood Act (March 27, 1978, 16 USC 1a-1) further defines that the National Park Service may not allow derogation of the values and purposes for which the various areas were established. This act also affirms that if a conflict occurs between visitor use and protection of resources, the intent of Congress is to favor resource protection.

The National Environmental Policy Act establishes the format and process the National Park Service must use in preparing the environmental analyses that are incorporated into a general management plan.

The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, establishes as federal policy that the historical and cultural foundations of the nation's heritage be preserved. Section 106 of the act requires that federal agencies that have direct or indirect jurisdiction over undertakings take into account the effect of those undertakings on cultural resources listed in, or eligible for inclusion in, the National Register of Historic Places.

Repatriation, disposition, and protection of Native American human remains and other defined cultural items are provided by the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act. This act also prohibits the intentional excavation and removal of Native American human remains and defined cultural property from federal or tribal lands without consultation with Indian tribes.

Executive Order 13175 governs the conduct of consultations between government agencies and Indian tribal governments.

The Endangered Species Act requires federal agencies, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior, to use their authorities in the furtherance of the purposes of the act and to carry out programs for the conservation of listed endangered and threatened species (16 USC 1535 Section 7(a)(1)). The National Park Service interprets Section 7(a)(1) as an affirmative restoration mandate and will comply through positive habitat protection and restoration programs that are integral to the proposed action.

LEGISLATION

The following pages show the following pieces of legislation.

National Park Service Act of August 25, 1916

June 22, 1892 – Executive Order to reserve the Casa Grande Ruins

December 10, 1909 – Presidential proclamation revising the boundary of Casa Grande Ruins Reservation.

August 3, 1918 – Presidential proclamation declaring Casa Grande Ruins a national monument under the Antiquities Act and placing it under the supervision of the National Park Service

June 7, 1926 – “An Act to restore to the public domain certain lands within the Casa Grande Ruins National Monument, and for other purposes”

June 13, 1930 – “An Act to authorize the use of a right of way by the United States Indian Service through the Casa Grande Ruins National Monument in connection with the San Carlos irrigation project”



The saguaro cactus, hallmark of the Sonoran Desert, stands in stark contrast to the otherwise low-lying vegetation.

Executive Order to Reserve the Casa Grande Ruins

14. Casa Grande National Monument

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Reservation of the Casa Grande ruin: Executive Order of June 22, 1892.....	140
Revision of boundaries: Proclamation (No. 884) of Dec. 10, 1909.....	140
Establishment of the national monument: Proclamation (No. 1470) of August 3, 1918	142

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,

WASHINGTON,

June 20, 1892.

Sir:

I have the honor to recommend that the SW. $\frac{1}{4}$ SW. $\frac{1}{4}$, SE. $\frac{1}{4}$ SW. $\frac{1}{4}$, SW. $\frac{1}{4}$ SE. $\frac{1}{4}$ section 9, NW. $\frac{1}{4}$, NW. $\frac{1}{4}$ NE. $\frac{1}{4}$, SW. $\frac{1}{4}$ NE. $\frac{1}{4}$, NW. $\frac{1}{4}$ SW. $\frac{1}{4}$, NE. $\frac{1}{4}$ SW. $\frac{1}{4}$ and NW. $\frac{1}{4}$ SE. $\frac{1}{4}$ section 16, all in township 5 south, range 8 east, Gila and Salt River Meridian, Arizona, containing 480 acres more or less, and including the Casa Grande Ruin, be reserved in accordance with the authority vested in you by the act of March 2, 1889—25 Stat., 961, for the protection of the ruin.

The Director of the Bureau of Ethnology requests that the reservation be made and the Acting Commissioner of the General Land Office knows of no objection to such action.

Very respectfully,

JOHN W. NOBLE,
Secretary.

The President.
6144-'92.

(The following appears on the back of this letter)

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

June 21, 1892.

Recommends the reservation of certain lands in Arizona for the protection of the Casa Grande ruin.

(E. O. of June 22, 1892—No. 28-A)

EXECUTIVE MANSION

June 22, 1892.

Let the lands described within be reserved for the protection of the Casa Grande ruin as recommended by the Secretary of the Interior.

BENJ. HARRISON.

Presidential Proclamation Revising the Boundary of Casa Grande Ruins Reservation

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

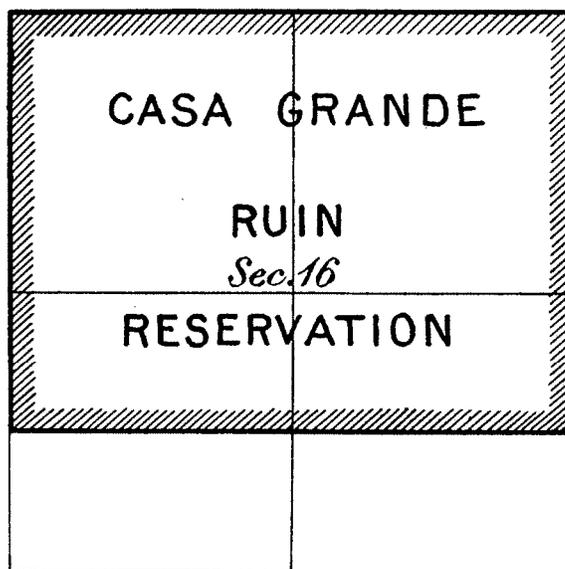
[No. 884—Dec. 10, 1909—36 Stat. 2504]

WHEREAS, by Executive Order of June 22, 1892, certain lands in Sections nine and sixteen, Township five South, Range eight East, Gila and Salt River Base and Meridian in the Territory of Arizona, were withdrawn under the Act of Congress approved March 2, 1889, entitled, "An Act to make appropriations for sundry civil expenses of the Government for the fiscal year ending June thirty, eighteen hundred and ninety, and for other purposes", and it appears that the land located in said Section nine does not contain any of said Ruin, and that the additional land in said Section sixteen contains a part of said Ruin and should be reserved for the protection thereof;

CASA GRANDE RUIN RESERVATION ARIZONA

Embracing the north half, the north half of the south-west quarter and the north half of the south-east quarter of Section sixteen, Township 5 South, Range 8 East, Gila and Salt River Mer.

/////// Reservation boundary



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GENERAL LAND OFFICE
Fred Dennett, Commissioner

NOW, THEREFORE, I, William H. Taft, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the power in me vested by said Act of March 2, 1889, do restore to the public domain the southwest quarter of the southeast quarter and the south half of the southwest quarter of said Section nine, and do hereby reserve from appropriation and use of all kinds under the public land laws, subject to any valid adverse claims, the north half, the north half of southwest quarter and the north half of the southeast quarter of said Section sixteen, as shown upon the diagram hereto attached and made a part of this proclamation.

Warning is hereby expressly given to all unauthorized persons not to excavate, appropriate, injure or destroy any of the objects hereby reserved, nor to settle upon any of the lands contained within the boundaries of this reservation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

DONE at the city of Washington this 10th day of December in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and nine, and of the [SEAL] Independence of the United States the one hundred and thirty-fourth.

WM. H. TAFT.

By the President:
P. C. KNOX,
Secretary of State.

Presidential Proclamation Declaring Casa Grande Ruins a National Monument

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

[No. 1470—Aug. 3, 1918—40 Stat. 1818]

WHEREAS, by authority of the Act of Congress approved March 8, 1889 (25 Stat., 961), there was set aside and reserved by Executive Order dated June 22, 1892, certain land in the State of Arizona on which is located the prehistoric ruin known as Casa Grande, the boundaries of which reservation were later amended by proclamation of December 10, 1909 (36 Stat., 2504); and

WHEREAS it is in the public interest that this reservation be made a national monument under authority of the Act of Congress entitled "An Act for the preservation of American antiquities," approved June 8, 1906 (34 Stat., 225), in order that better provision may be made for the protection, preservation and care of the ruins of the ancient buildings and other objects of prehistoric interest thereon;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Woodrow Wilson, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the power in me vested by section two of the aforesaid Act of Congress, do proclaim as the Casa Grande National Monument the land heretofore reserved and set aside as aforesaid, to-wit: the northwest quarter, the northeast quarter, the north half of the southwest quarter, and the north half of the southeast quarter of section sixteen, township five south, range eight east, Gila and Salt River meridian, State of Arizona, the boundaries of said national monument being as shown on diagram annexed to said proclamation of December 10, 1909 (36 Stat., 2504), which diagram is made a part hereof.

Warning is hereby expressly given to all unauthorized persons not to appropriate, injure, remove, or destroy any feature of this national monument, or to locate or settle on any of the lands reserved by this proclamation.

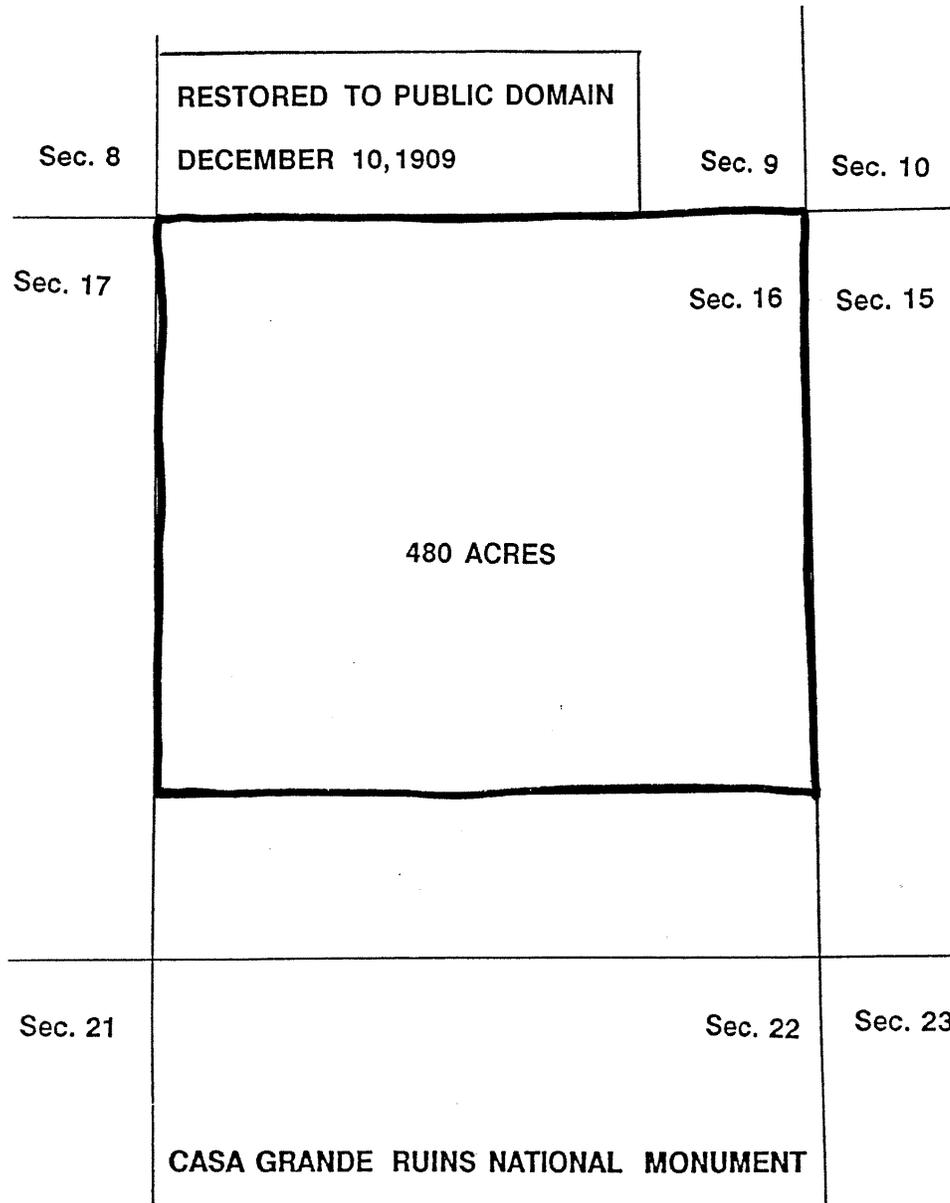
The Director of the National Park Service, under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior, shall have supervision, management and control of this monument, as provided in the Act of Congress entitled "An Act to establish a National Park Service, and for other purposes," approved August 25, 1916 (39 Stat., 535).

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

DONE in the District of Columbia This 3d day of August in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and eighteen, and of the [SEAL] Independence of the United States of America the one hundred and forty-third.

WOODROW WILSON.

By the President:
FRANK L. POLK,
Acting Secretary of State.



PROCLAMATION 36 STAT. 2504, DECEMBER 10, 1909

(and)

PROCLAMATION 40 STAT. 1818, AUGUST 3, 1918

**An Act to Authorize the Use or a Right of Way by the United States Indian Service
through the Casa Grande Ruins National Monument in Connection with the
San Carlos Irrigation Project**

BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

CASA GRANDE RUINS NATIONAL MONUMENT

. . . "NOW, THEREFORE, I, Woodrow Wilson, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the power in me vested by section two of the aforesaid Act of Congress, do proclaim as the Casa Grande National Monument the land heretofore reserved and set aside as aforesaid, to-wit: The northwest quarter, the northeast quarter, the north half of the southwest quarter and the north half of the southeast quarter of section sixteen, township five south, range eight east, Gila and Salt River meridian, State of Arizona, the boundaries of said national monument being as shown on diagram annexed to said proclamation of December 10, 1909 (36 Stat., 2504), which diagram is made a part hereof." . . .

An Act To restore to the public domain certain lands within the Casa Grande Ruins National Monument, and for other purposes, approved June 7, 1926 (44 Stat. 698).

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That there is hereby restored to the public domain the west half and the southeast quarter of the southwest quarter of the northwest quarter of the southwest quarter of section 16, township 5 south, range 8 east of the Gila and Salt River principal meridian, a part of the Casa Grande Ruins National Monument, Arizona, needed for right of way in constructing a canal to provide irrigation facilities for lands of the Pima Indians.

An Act To authorize the use of a right of way by the United States Indian Service through the Casa Grande Ruins National Monument in connection with the San Carlos irrigation project, approved June 13, 1930 (46 Stat. 582).

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That for the purpose of carrying out the San Carlos project the Secretary of the Interior is hereby authorized to use a right of way for an irrigation canal across the northeast quarter northeast quarter section 16, township 5 south, range 8 east, Gila and Salt River meridian, within the Casa Grande Ruins National Monument, Arizona, to the extent of the ground occupied by such canal and not to exceed fifty feet on each side of the marginal limits thereof.

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Summary

Casa Grande Ruins National Monument is undergoing extensive change due to population pressure and natural environmental changes. When set aside in 1892, it was a landmark in the Sonoran Desert, a lonely, deserted reflection of man's temporary hold on the environment. Today, the landscape of Casa Grande Ruins is changing rapidly.

First, the Arizona population boom has caused the population of the nearby city of Coolidge to expand rapidly, 18% between 1990 and 2005. Pinal County has seen a 133% increase in population over the same period. The national monument's eastern boundary (State Highway 87) is now lined with commercial development, including businesses such as Wal-Mart, Safeway, Taco Bell, and Blockbuster Video. Housing exists right up to the south boundary along the canal and is clearly visible from the national monument. The north boundary (State Highway 87/287/387) has not yet been developed; however, the City of Coolidge is favorably considering rezoning to high end commercial/residential to allow development of a master-planned community. Work on a new housing development along the monument's west boundary has already begun.

Increasing population and continued urban development along park boundaries increase pressures on park resources and present new management concerns, including; increased risk of trespass and vandalism, increased litter and trash, destruction of the ecosystem due to loss of indigenous vegetation within the monument, loss of native animal species, loss of cultural and natural view-shed,

loss of night sky qualities, and diminution of natural quiet.

Increase of Trespass and Vandalism, Trash ,and Litter. The City of Coolidge has experienced a dramatic increase in crimes involving trespass and in cases of vandalism. Gang activity and consumption and sale of illegal drugs are on the rise in the Coolidge community. This is also manifested, in part, by an increase in crimes involving trespass and vandalism. Gang activity is accompanied by "tagging" (spray painted graffiti on fences and buildings) and other types of vandalism. The park boundary fence has already been tagged. If the Great House or other archeological features were targeted, irreversible damage could occur. Litter and trash collection activities along park boundaries consume an increasing amount of personnel resources.

Loss of Indigenous Vegetation within the National Monument.

Monument vegetation suffered during an approximately fifty-year period of open range cattle grazing in the area. The vegetation suffered from grazing and trampling and the lack of grass allowed mesquite and creosote bush to spread and dominate. Despite this damage; however, a 1912 description stated that the desert around Casa Grande was covered with mesquite, catclaw, creosote bush, and salt bush, and a variety of wild flowers in spring. Cactus were not prominent. Several decades of intensive agricultural pumping, beginning in the 1930s, followed by dramatic increases in population have reduced the groundwater level several hundred feet over the past century and, over time, has resulted in a loss of native vegetation. Roots of many species are unable to reach

water level. Vegetation changes became especially noticeable with the death of mesquite trees and diminished numbers of salt bush. This created a favorable environment for the creosote bush that now dominates the natural landscape of the monument. The changes in vegetation have profoundly altered the appearance of the site and make it difficult to interpret or visualize the natural setting of the prehistoric Hohokam culture. Continuing drought can only worsen the problem.

Loss of Animal Species. Animal species at the monument have also been affected by grazing, by agricultural fields surrounding the monument area, and by local development. Because of its small acreage, the monument cannot sustain a complete desert ecosystem. Before the development of modern agriculture and subsequent urban development, its desert vegetation blended with the surrounding area to provide a niche for many birds and animals. According to early accounts, even the period of open-range grazing did not seem to harm wildlife. Today, however, the natural corridors large mammals traveled in and out of the monument are lost. Eventually, surrounded by development, species will leave or die out. Nonnative predators such as feral cats and dogs may also have a deleterious effect on native animal species.

Loss of Viewshed In prehistoric times the Casa Grande Ruins area was a part of a larger interconnected system of Hohokam communities. The surrounding mountains and the nearby Gila River were important to the Hohokam. The mountains were the source of building timbers, minerals for tools and ornaments, and provided large game. As development on the monument's west side proceeds, the

views of the mountains that help visitors to visualize the original Hohokam landscape will be lost and the interconnectedness of Hohokam communities more difficult to explain and visualize. As Coolidge development surrounds the monument, light from streetlamps, houses, vehicles, sporting events, and businesses dim the night skies. Star formations are more difficult to identify. Opportunities to explain the astronomical importance of the site with nighttime interpretive programs are adversely affected, as well as American Indian ceremonial events and nighttime story telling.

Loss of Natural Quiet. New commercial development on the national monument's south and east borders has also resulted in more traffic noise. With this loss, visitors lose the sense of peacefulness and quiet that has here-to-fore been a part of the site experience.

Other. Expansion of staff and administrative/interpretive/maintenance space is constrained by the National Register of Historic Places designation of all the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) buildings that house park operations. These are buildings that were constructed between 1931 and 1935 that have been designated for their local level of significance. Plumbing and electrical systems are dated. Office spaces are cramped, storage space is minimal, conference space is lacking, and the visitor center is small.

The park lacks an auditorium to host guest speakers, presentations, performers, or to screen visitor orientation films. The room that currently serves this purpose can comfortably seat no more than thirty people (a bus holds 48-54 people). At times one hundred people or more will arrive to hear

a guest presenter or attend an American Indian flute performance and cannot be accommodated.

Regular visitation to the monument has dropped in recent years, yet the tour bus industry is thriving. The monument would like to attract these groups, however, current facilities are inadequate to support groups of fifty visitors or more that come at one time, in addition to independent visitors. Visitor center restrooms are too small, the visitor center museum is crowded with more than fifty people at one time and the temporary auditorium is inadequate. Other limits to increased visitation include the limited capacity of the parking lot.

Recommendations

Public Law 95-625 (1978) requires the National Park Service to prepare and revise in a timely manner general management plans for each unit of the National Park System. The general management plan is to "... include, but not be limited to:

- "(1) measures for the preservation of the area's resources;
- "(2) indications of types and general intensities of development (including visitor circulation and transportation patterns, systems and modes) associated with public enjoyment and use of the area, including general locations, timing of implementation and anticipated costs;
- "(3) identification of and implementation commitments for visitor carrying capacities for all areas of the unit; and
- "(4) indications of potential modifications to the external

boundaries of the unit, and the reasons therefore."

Since 1978, no new general management plan for Casa Grande Ruins National Monument has been attempted. Prior to that date the latest master plan was 1964. The Natural and Cultural Resources Management Plan/EIS is more than 20 years old. The Cultural Landscape Inventory is 10 years old. Numerous archeological reports documenting work accomplished at the site have been written and guide both interpretation and maintenance activities. However, an updated general management plan would provide direction for management and staff, lend additional focus to a park mission, quantify facility deficiencies, and coordinate efforts to work with Indian Tribes and national monument neighbors.

Visitation has declined more than 50% since 1995. Only during special events or when tour buses arrive is there any likelihood of crowding.

The national monument desires to more fully tap into the visitor pool presented by the bus tour industry but the specifics of that industry, whether it is seasonal, how much time riders would be allotted at the site, whether it could be accommodated without new infrastructure needs to be clarified and articulated. At present one bus of ca. 50 people overwhelms the park's restrooms, museum, and theater. No visitor carrying capacity studies have been undertaken.

As long as visitation continues to decline, the national monument will have difficulty explaining a need for new facilities. This will be especially difficult considering the impact that could occur on the National Register CCC buildings both visually and physically.

The national monument urgently needs a land protection plan to determine what can and should be done to protect the long view west of the monument. The view-shed north may already be lost. More than most NPS areas, this national monument depends to a high degree upon the landscape outside the boundary to tell its story (e.g., no prehistoric canals exist within the national monument, yet the canal system is what allowed the Hohokam to flourish). The current agricultural uses to the west are appropriate, but current plans to develop the lands to the west into a high density residential area with one and two-story houses, will greatly harm the monument's ability to interpret the context of the Hohokam community.

Likewise, the national monument needs to work with the City of

Coolidge to encourage use of streetlights and other commercial lighting that minimizes fugitive light and protects the night skies. A GMP is unlikely to solve this issue or those of trespass, vandalism, site looting, theft, litter, or invasive plants and animals. But working with the City of Coolidge could provide some solutions.

Should the national monument be expanded to include noncontiguous resources that will be open to the public, a general management plan would be of great benefit to identify infrastructure needs, transportation access, and staffing/maintenance requirements for the new addition. A land protection plan should be completed and folded into any new GMP undertaken.

**Planning Team
September 5-7, 2006**

Casa Grande Ruins NM

Rebecca Carr
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Richard Kohen

Denver Service Center

Kerri Cahill
Craig Cellar

Pinal County

Kent Taylor

City of Coolidge, AZ

Sue Laybourn



As the nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering sound use of our land and water resources; protecting our fish, wildlife, and biological diversity; preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historical places; and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to ensure that their development is in the best interests of all our people by encouraging stewardship and citizen participation in their care. The department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in island territories under U.S. administration.