



## Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument Long-Range Interpretive Plan



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Front cover: Spectacular view from Twin Point

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Map of Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument

# Introduction

## Vast, Rugged, and Wild

Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument, a land area larger than the state of Rhode Island, epitomizes much of the “Wild West” – a vast, wild landscape of desert cactus and sheer canyon walls, soaring raptors and tall ponderosa pines, isolated cattle corrals and line shacks, lone cowboys, and rugged rock formations set against endless blue skies.

The monument is located in Mohave County, Arizona, immediately north of Grand Canyon National Park and the Colorado River and east of the state of Nevada. Altogether, it encompasses 1,048,321 acres: 208,449 acres administered by the NPS; 810,661 acres administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM); 23,206 acres administered by the Arizona State Trust; and 6,005 acres of private land. The federally administered lands lie within the Arizona Strip BLM District and the Lake Mead National Recreation Area (NPS), co-managed under a Service First agreement. These lands include the ponderosa pine forested areas of Mt. Trumbull, Mt. Logan, and Mt. Dellenbaugh; the Mojave Desert in the Grand Wash and Pakoon areas; Kelly and Twin Points overlooking the Grand Canyon; and the Shivwits and Uinkaret plateaus.

With the Grand Canyon plunging thousands of feet deep along the south perimeter and only rough, unpaved roads providing entry from the north, west, and northeast, Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument is one of the most remote areas within the 48 contiguous states. No towns or communities lie within its boundaries. The nearest towns, all at least two hours’ drive away, are Littlefield, Beaver Dam, Scenic, Fredonia, Colorado City, and Centennial, Arizona; Mesquite and Bunkerville, Nevada; and St. George, Utah. To travel anywhere in the monument except its outermost edges requires slow driving over rough terrain, often in a high-clearance, four-wheel drive or off-highway vehicle.

Some 300,000 acres of the monument are designated or eligible for designation as wilderness areas. Approximately 791,017 acres are allotted and/or leased for livestock grazing. Today more than 14,000 head of cattle roam the monument. Few signs of civilization mar the splendid isolation of this vast landscape.

The charge – and the challenge – of this document is to present a Long-Range Interpretive Plan (LRIP) for Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument that will guide its interpretive program and services for the next seven to ten years.

## Creating a Long-Range Interpretive Plan

Interpretive planning is an exercise unique to recreational and public lands, museums, and cultural/historical sites open to visitation by the general public. Unlike management planning, resource planning, or maintenance planning, interpretive planning focuses on visitors and what they need in order to enjoy, appreciate, learn about, and become engaged with – or perhaps, completely fascinated by – a given historical, cultural, or natural site. Interpretive planning asks what visitors can do during their visit; what they think, feel, and learn; what they enjoy or disdain; what sensibilities they themselves bring to the experience; and how volunteers and staff members at the hosting site can make visitors' experiences better.

The programs and activities a site provides to help its visitors understand and experience the site to the fullest are known as “interpretive” programs, and the employees and volunteers who deliver those programs are called “interpreters.” In the broadest sense, interpretation of a site such as Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument will encompass almost any information or storytelling about the monument. In a narrower and more defined sense, interpretation is defined by the National Association for Interpretation as “a mission-based communication process that forges emotional and intellectual connections between the interests of the audience and the meanings inherent in the resource.”

In practical terms, interpretive planning is a strategic exercise that guides staff and volunteers in communicating the “main messages” of a place to its visitors in a creative, consistent, and meaningful way that gets them interested and makes them care. Using primary themes and desired visitor experiences as a guide, an interpretive plan connects a place's stories and activities directly and concretely to its main purpose and significance – its reason for being.

This long-range interpretive plan for Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument has been developed by a consultant team working closely with the NPS and the BLM, with assistance and input from many individual stakeholders and partners who participated in planning workshops in 2011 and 2012.

Barring legislative changes, the foundation elements in this plan are expected to remain constant over the life of the monument. Specific recommendations about interpretive programs or media may need to be updated as staffing, funding, technology, or resource conditions change. In addition, further design documents must be produced to implement some of the recommendations set forth in the plan.

## Executive Summary

How can visitors best understand the sheer size and range of opportunities when they set out to explore Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument?

For the interpretive staff and volunteers working with monument visitors, this question arises in various forms with every new visitor encounter. Clearly, visitors can benefit from informed assistance as they explore the monument – but what kind of visitor experience do they seek? What are their interests? What aspects of this vast terrain will appeal most to this particular group of visitors?

To guide interpretive offerings and enhance visitor experiences over the coming decade, the planning team and stakeholders identified six primary topics for interpretation throughout the monument. Each topic is summarized in a short, memorable slogan with a themed message. These theme topics, numbered for convenience, are all equally important in telling the monument’s multiple stories. Together, the topics and their associated themes and potential storylines (see pages 4 to 11) provide baseline guidance for developing a comprehensive interpretive program for the monument, including interpreter-led personal programs, interpretive media, and new facilities, training, and staffing in support of interpretation.

The Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument **Interpretive Theme Topics** in this plan are as follows:

1. Rock of All Ages: Geology and Paleontology of Parashant
2. The Human Touch: People’s Presence on the Land
3. The Wild West: Getting Back to Nature at Parashant
4. Variety Is the Spice of Life: From Desert to Mountain Ecosystems
5. A Monumental Effort: People and Parashant Today
6. Go With the Flow: Water Is the Lifeblood of the Land



One of many corrals and windmills found on the Monument portrays the rich ranching history of Parashant

## Summary of Recommendations

Since acquiring national monument status in 2000, Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument has made significant strides in providing interpretive programming for a huge expanse of remote, very challenging terrain. Yet profound logistical challenges remain, and no amount of planning will alter the fundamentally wild character of this magnificent site.

With these unique circumstances in mind, the planning team first surveyed the existing sites and facilities available for interpretation (see page 18) and then looked for practical, economically feasible ways to enhance and expand interpretation to a broader audience, including both on-site visitors and audiences who might be fascinated with the monument but unable to visit in person.

Accordingly, the team's recommendations identify a baseline set of flexible, multi-platform, theme-driven interpretive approaches for both on-site and off-site audiences. The recommendations are designed in phases for short-term (one to three years), mid-term (four to six years), and long-term (seven to ten years) implementation over the coming decade.

### Personal Services

Recommendations for enhancing face-to-face, personal interpretation include:

- increasing the public presence and visibility of interpreters, volunteers, Southern Paiute representatives, working scientists, and others (including special events and commercial operators such as the Bar 10 Ranch) on-site in the monument, thereby enhancing the possibilities for visitor engagement;
- expanding programming locally outside the monument through short programs, special events, community-based programming, a speakers bureau, and other outreach activities; and
- expanding and enhancing the monument's educational programming and outreach in local schools and on the web.

### Interpretive Media

Interpretive media recommendations range from basic print and web materials to an ambitious plan to create a combination indoor-outdoor visitor center. In a special session devoted to this new visitor facility – already on the horizon to replace the existing Interagency Information Center – the planning team envisioned a compact, highly functional indoor space with visitor services/administrative functions, a large interactive topographical relief map, and cultural history exhibits, complemented by extensive outdoor grounds. In this vision, the outdoor space would be used to provide a sampling of an immersive “Parashant experience” in an interpretive landscape illustrating and engaging visitors in the monument's geology, natural history, and water-related themes. This outdoor immersive environment could become a popular destination for introducing the monument and its stories to a much larger audience of potential visitors, supporters, and stewards through the years.

In addition to the proposed exhibits in the future visitor facility, the planning team recommended small-scale exhibits for the Mt. Dellenbaugh and Nixon administrative centers and several theme-based portable or temporary exhibits for use at local venues.

Other interpretive media recommendations include the following:

- a rack card for wide distribution in display racks throughout the region;
- wider dispersal of monument information in other federal and state public lands;
- a series of in-depth site bulletins supporting the monument's newly developed theme topics;
- a series of self-guided itineraries (including detailed maps) to aid visitors in exploring the monument; and
- continued updating and development of a limited number of wayside exhibits throughout the monument, in accordance with the existing monument sign plan.

Wherever feasible, each of these newly created materials should also be placed on the monument website.

The planning team also recommended a close look at web-based media, including social media and mobile applications. Significantly, the team also recommended the creation of a single, unified website for Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument to serve all monument audiences. Although the challenges of launching a unified, interagency site cannot be overlooked, the team agreed that the benefits of a one-stop site for visitors should be strongly considered.

### **Training and Staffing**

An interpretive program is only as good as the people who deliver it – and in a place as large and diverse as this one, ongoing interpretive training is essential. This plan recommends that the two federal agencies and the Dixie/Arizona Strip Interpretive Association (D/ASIA) staff and volunteers all have regularly scheduled opportunities for collaborative training in interpretation.

With visitation expected to increase in the coming decade, the planning team also recommended additional interpretive staff. Specifically, the team advised adding one full-time interpretive ranger and one full-time education and outreach coordinator, one or two visitor use assistants to help staff the new visitor facility, two or more seasonal interpretive rangers, and two or more teacher-ranger-teacher positions. Ideally, at least one of these new hires will be of American Indian heritage, and another will have Spanish language skills.



President Clinton signing the proclamation creating Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument on January 11, 2000 (Photo credit: William Jefferson Clinton Presidential Library)



## **Foundation for Planning**

## Legislative Background

President William Jefferson Clinton signed Presidential Proclamation 7265 to create Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument on January 11, 2000. The proclamation was issued under the Antiquities Act of 1906 (34 Stat. 225, 16 U.S. Code 431) and governs the joint BLM and NPS management of how the provisions of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 and the Organic Act of 1916 are to be applied within the monument.

The name “Parashant” (pronounced “Pair-a-SHAUNT”) likely derives from a Southern Paiute Indian family name, spelled “Parashonts” in early pioneer-era translations. One of the monument’s large canyons draining into the Colorado River was named for this family. The new monument was named Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument to incorporate both the historical reference to the Southern Paiutes and a geographical reference to the Grand Canyon watershed included in the designation.

Today, most visitors and monument staff refer to the monument as “Parashant National Monument,” dropping the Grand Canyon reference to avoid confusion. Except where the formal name is used in legislation and documentation, the current preference for the more common, abbreviated name (Parashant National Monument) has been followed in this plan.

## Purpose, Significance, and Mission Statements

The following purpose statement, significance statements, and mission statements were developed when the monument was established in 2000 and formalized as part of the Records of Decision/Resource Management Plan/General Management Plan for the monument, published in February 2008.

### Purpose Statement

The purpose of Parashant National Monument is :

To retain, for public interest (scientific inquiry, long-term preservation, and public use and enjoyment for present and future generations), well-preserved examples of scientific and historic objects of interest and to protect those objects from unauthorized location or settlement and from unauthorized appropriation, injury, destruction, or removal of any features. Those objects include:

- The exposed Paleozoic and Mesozoic sedimentary strata on the boundary between two major geologic provinces: the Basin and Range and the Colorado Plateau
- The abundant fossil record
- The ecological diversity resulting from the junction of two physiographic ecoregions, the Basin and Range and Colorado Plateau, and three floristic provinces, the Mojave Desert, Great Basin, and Colorado Plateau, including a diversity of wildlife
- The undisturbed archaeological evidence, displaying the long and rich human history spanning more than 12,000 years
- Areas of importance to existing Indian tribes
- The colorful and engaging scenery, natural splendor, and a setting that provides for rugged recreation opportunities

- The historic resources, including evidence of early European exploration, Mormon settlements, historic ranches, sawmills, and old mining sites
- Remote and unspoiled landscapes with limited travel corridors

### Significance Statements

- The Monument contains relatively intact ecosystems and spring/water sources in public ownership that can provide sites for restoration and re-introduction of species.
- The Monument's engaging scenery and inspirational landscape provide for rugged recreation opportunities.
- The ponderosa pine ecosystem in the Mt. Trumbull area is a biological resource of scientific interest, which has been studied to gain important insights regarding tree-ring climatic reconstruction, fire history, forest structure change, and the long-term persistence and stability of pine communities.
- The vastness and isolated location of the Monument provides for solitude, natural quiet, dark night skies, and wilderness characteristics.
- The Monument is one of the larger sparsely developed, isolated land areas in the contiguous 48 states.
- The exposed rock layers from the Paleozoic, Mesozoic, and Cenozoic eras provide an unobscured view of the geology of the Colorado Plateau and Basin and Range physiographic provinces.
- The Monument is an important watershed for the Colorado River.
- Historic remnants of Euro-American exploration and settlement exist in nearly their original context, relatively undisturbed by vandalism and development, and are connected with contemporary uses.
- The Monument has irreplaceable archaeological resources, primarily of the Archaic, Ancestral Puebloan, and Southern Paiute occupations. These resources are significant because of

their good condition, their connection with contemporary American Indians, and their location adjacent to the Grand Canyon – a place sacred to past and present peoples.

- A dramatic elevation change (1,200 to 8,000 feet) in a relatively compact area creates rich ecological diversity where the Colorado Plateau and Mojave Desert merge.
- The vastness of the Monument allows for large-scale ecological processes, combined with low levels of resource conflicts, providing unprecedented opportunity for ecological research.

### Mission Statement

Parashant National Monument is a model for Service First joint land management for the BLM and NPS that conserves the natural, scientific, and historic resources and includes ecological restoration and protection in a broad ecosystem context, while honoring the history and living traditions of the people who came before us: "The place where the West stays wild." The goal of Parashant management is to achieve the following:

1. Natural and cultural resources and associated values of Parashant are protected, restored, and maintained in good condition and managed within their broader ecosystem and cultural context. The protection of cultural, biological, and physical resources and human values for which the Monument was created receives the highest priority in planning and management.
2. Management decisions about resources and visitors are based on scientific information. The Monument is a model of scientifically based ecological restoration, research, and investigative studies that guide the restoration of healthy native ecosystems, natural fire regimes, and cultural landscapes.
3. The variety of natural and social settings are managed to preserve the remote and essentially unspoiled landscape character while providing opportunities for people and communities, to experience adventure, beautiful vistas,

a sense of discovery , and retreat from the pressures of modern life, through a variety of appropriate and sustainable backcountry activities.

4. New planning direction (developed through a collaborative process) and an accumulation of valid existing decisions provide clear direction for the management of Parashant.
5. The infrastructure footprint is the minimum necessary and is of consistent quality to provide for visual enjoyment, public safety, and protection of Monument values.
6. Sustainable, traditional ranching operations and associated interpretive activities showcase the Monument’s historical lifestyles and enhance visitor experience.
7. Conservation and restoration of habitats that support sustainable populations of a full range of native species, including predators, are emphasized. Recovery and protection of special status species are a primary focus.
8. A variety of backcountry driving experiences are provided to key destinations and features via a system of designated roads while protecting Monument objects, the context that supports them, and other natural and cultural resources.
9. The preservation of natural quiet is emphasized in wilderness areas and other remote settings.
10. The public understands and appreciates the purposes and significance of the Monument and its resources for this and future generations.
11. Contemporary management practices, systems, and technologies are used to effectively accomplish the joint mission.
12. The Monument serves as a model of efficient interagency coordination, incorporating the strengths of each agency. The Monument increases its managerial resources through initiatives and support from other agencies, organizations, and individuals.

## Interpretive Topics and Themes

Identifying the main messages – the primary interpretive themes - for an area as big and diverse as Parashant National Monument may well seem to be a “monumental” undertaking that can never be complete or comprehensive. Yet the exercise of developing themes, even with their inevitable limitations, helps clarify the universal human touchstones to be found in the stories of this wild land.

In developing interpretive themes for this one-million-acre site, the planning team determined that the first step was to reach consensus on the primary topics or subject areas for interpretation. In the course of extensive stakeholder and core team discussions, six primary topics for interpretation rose to the surface, based on participants’ in-depth knowledge of monument sites and stories. Next, each topic was summarized by a short, memorable slogan designed to help the monument’s many volunteers and multi-disciplinary, multi-agency staff members identify and support the essential messaging of each of topic quickly and easily, whatever their expertise, location, or affiliation. Finally, more conventional interpretive themes were developed to complement and elaborate on each theme topic. Each theme, in turn, has several suggested storylines that interpreters may “bring to life” to illustrate the main interpretive topic and its key themes.

## Theme Topic 1: Rock of All Ages: Geology and Paleontology of Parashant

### Themes:

- The exposed stratigraphy within the monument reveals the slow ravages of time and the ancient age of the earth.

#### *Potential storylines:*

- Ancient and ongoing collisions: visible evidence in the monument where the Colorado Plateau and the Basin and Range provinces collide
- A strong foundation: the layers of Paleozoic, Mesozoic, and Cenozoic rock deep beneath your feet
- Rocks with personality: characteristics and origins of some of the vast numbers of rock types around you (sedimentary, metamorphic, igneous, plutonic, volcanic etc.)

- The vast acreage of undisturbed, unsurveyed geological formations provides an unsurpassed classroom for geological and paleontological research.

#### *Potential storylines:*

- New discoveries such as the fossilized remains of a prehistoric mammals
- How the landscape was formed and sculpted
- Volcanic rocks, cinder cones, and basalt flows ranging in age from nine million to only about 1,000 years old tell of ancient volcanic activity throughout the monument.

#### *Potential storylines:*

- How to identify basalt and other volcanic rocks
- Tracking lava flows
- Impacts of volcanic activity
- Pottery sherds found in lava flows date this as fairly recent geologic activity



Pearce Canyon displays the full geologic strata of the monument from Missippian Redwall (lowest) to Kaibab Limestone (highest)

**Theme Topic 2:**  
**The Human Touch: People's Presence on the Land**

**Themes:**

- Explorations in the Parashant have much to teach us about humans who lived in the region, beginning some 12,000 years ago.

*Potential storylines:*

- Archeological evidence of Paleoindians
  - Evidence of Archaic and Puebloan cultures
  - The significance of petroglyph sites such as Nampaweap
- Southern Paiute and other Indian tribes developed lifestyles that enabled them to thrive in this harsh landscape for centuries before European settlers arrived.

*Potential storylines:*

- Southern Paiute lifeways, then and now
- Southern Paiute views of the relationship between humans, the earth, and earth's plants and animals
- Southern Paiute agriculture at Tassi Springs during period of contact with settlers



- Early white settlers utilized the land's vast natural resources for economic gain and community development.

*Potential storylines:*

- The arrival of the first pioneer settlers in the region
  - Impact on native Southern Paiutes as white settlers arrived and began homesteading
  - Stories of the sawmill at Mt. Trumbull and the harvesting of timber to build the Mormon Temple in St. George
  - Stories and livelihoods of early homesteading families and ranchers
  - Transportation within and connecting the area to the "outer world." This could include how transportation has changed through time including horse, wagon, ferry, automobile, amphibious vehicle, and airplane
  - Mormon settlers travelling on the Pearce Ferry road
- In the early 20th century, entrepreneurs competed to find and extract the mineral riches of the Parashant.

*Potential storylines:*

- Stories of early 20th-century copper mining at Grand Gulch Mine
- How copper mining worked; how copper was extracted; what copper was used for

Petroglyphs etched into basalt rocks can be found at Nampaweap just south of Mt. Trumbull

- Modern ranching within the monument, made by allotment through long-term grazing leases, represents a continuum of generations of ranching.

*Potential storylines:*

- Explanation and history of grazing allotments and the role of the federal agencies and the leaseholders in managing the land
- How cattle survive in this barren landscape: food sources, water supplies, herding and care
- Tassi Springs Ranch as an example of water rights, land ownership, grazing allotments, etc.
- Early sheep grazing and eventual changeover to cattle
- Line shacks and the “cowboys” who use them

- The vast majority of monument visitors now come for recreation, and recreational uses of the monument continue to increase in areas such as eco-tourism, hunting, OHV riding, hiking and camping, and wildlife/scenic photography.

*Potential storylines:*

- Strong emphasis on recreating safely in the monument
- The monument’s best hikes
- The monument’s best drives
- The monument’s best 360-degree panoramic views
- Tips on what to expect when finding and photographing Parashant wildlife



Parashant contains numerous evidence of cultures dating as far back as 12,000 years ago

### **Theme Topic 3: The Wild West: Getting Back to Nature at Parashant**

#### **Themes:**

- Parashant National Monument offers spectacular scenery with unobstructed viewsheds and visual resources that preserve the natural character of the landscape.

#### *Potential storylines:*

- Areas of the monument with 360-degree views with no signs of human habitation
- Unobstructed visibility for hundreds of miles over multiple ecozones (desert to mountain)
- A sense of awe and wonder, and sometimes a sense of human insignificance, in this vast landscape
- The monument is a place with dark night skies – ideal for star-gazing – and natural soundscapes, undisturbed by the lights and ambient noises of human activity.

#### *Potential storylines:*

- Experiencing a completely dark night sky
- How early travelers navigated by the stars visible in dark night skies
- Listening for the sounds of nature – wind, rustling vegetation, raptors
- Human intrusions - how introduced light and sounds impact wildlife
- Experiencing a deafening silence

- The monument offers more than one million acres and almost endless opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation.

#### *Potential storylines:*

- The challenge of remoteness: self-sufficiency and self-safety in the backcountry
- Experiencing an adventure of a lifetime in a unique setting that is rapidly disappearing in our modern society
- How to observe wildlife... without being observed
- Practicing navigation and mapping skills
- Wilderness – what it means and why it is important



Enjoying the serenity and scenery of Parashant Canyon

## Theme Topic 4: Variety Is the Spice of Life: From Desert to Mountain Ecosystems

### Themes:

- Elevations in the Parashant vary from less than 2,000 feet to more than 8,000 feet above sea level, with corresponding changes in ecosystems and animal life from desert to riparian zones to shrub steppes, pinyon-juniper woodlands, and high-altitude ponderosa pine forests.

#### *Potential storylines:*

- Stories of different ecosystems: which plants and animals live where
- Animal and plant adaptations
- Species details: how to recognize raptors, how mammals survive in the desert, territorial roaming by mountain lions, winter habits of bighorn sheep, etc.
- Animals that thrive across multiple zones (mule deer, wild turkeys)
- The Parashant is home to a number of endemic, threatened, endangered, and recovering species of plants and animals.

#### *Potential storylines:*

- Desert tortoise habitats and protection
- Survival stories such as the Grand Wash springsnail at Tassi Springs
- Threats from invasives: cheatgrass, bullfrogs, and other non-native species and how they disrupt native ecosystems
- Relict leopard frog reintroduction

- Evidence of climate change can be seen in many public lands, including Parashant National Monument.

#### *Potential storylines:*

- Effects of climate change in the monument: visible examples
- Ripple effects – how small temperature changes will affect the fragile environments of Parashant over time
- The long view: Parashant a hundred, thousand, or million years from now?



Joshua trees are common in the lower elevations of the Mojave Desert

**Theme Topic 5:  
A Monumental Effort: People and  
Parashant Today**

**Themes:**

- Preserving and protecting the monument requires cooperation among state and federal agencies, Indian tribes, private landowners and leaseholders, local communities, and visitors.

*Potential storylines:*

- Who does what: roles of different agencies and personnel in managing the monument
  - Challenges, opportunities and intent of Service First joint management
  - The special role and relationship of historic American Indian tribes in the region with Parashant, their ancestral homeland
  - Ecosystem habitat management in the monument
  - How local residents and communities can get involved and support the monument through volunteerism and advocacy
- The public lands making up the monument are an invaluable resource for all Americans.

*Potential storylines:*

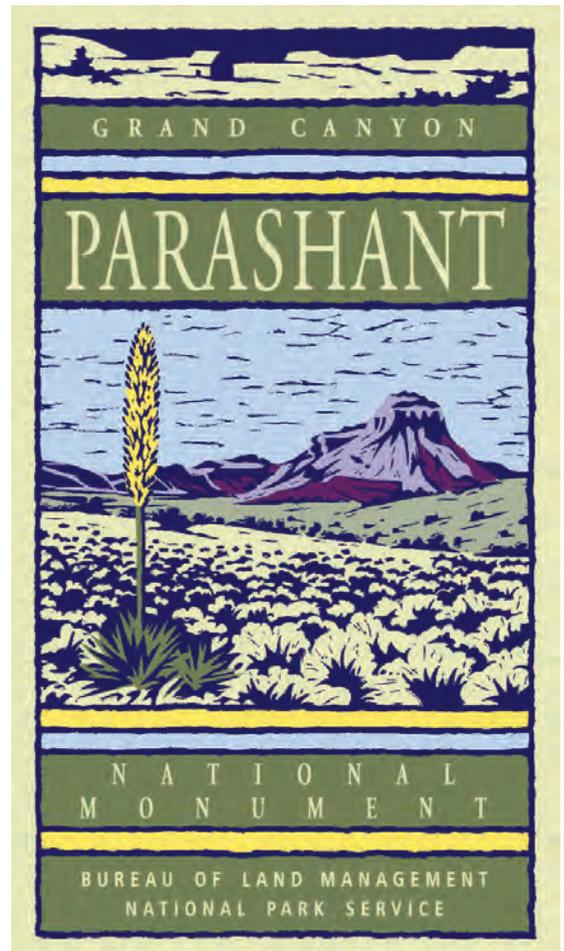
- Economic benefits of national and international recreational visitors
- Researchers, students, and fascinating research projects
- New scientific and cultural history findings
- Discovery of new plant and animal species
- Past and contemporary economic uses in the monument
- Story of monument establishment
- National Landscape Conservation System – BLM’s crown jewels

Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument is co-managed by BLM and NPS under a Service First agreement

- Fire management in the monument seeks to balance the natural role of fire in monument ecosystems with the need to protect human life and property.

*Potential storylines:*

- History of fire management/suppression
- Use of prescribed fire to manage fuel build-ups and maintain fire adapted ecosystems such as ponderosa pine forests
- Managing wildfire – a look at the critical role of fire management and modern techniques for managing fires and fuels on the monument
- Mt. Trumbull ecosystem restoration project
- The Mojave Desert Initiative – an interagency effort seeking ways to reduce fire damage in the non-fire adapted ecosystem in the region
- Forested areas on AZ Strip that were once part of the National Forest Service



## **Theme Topic 6: Go With the Flow: Water Is the Lifblood of the Land**

### **Themes:**

- The water resources of Parashant National Monument are an important part of the watershed for the Colorado River and the Grand Canyon area.

#### *Potential storylines:*

- Hydrology of the region: springs, aquifers
- Unique hydrology, riparian vegetation, and wildlife in the Mojave Desert at Tassi and Pakoon Springs

- Human activities on and near the monument, including historical uses, renewable energy projects, rainwater collection, extraction mining, and other uses, can dramatically affect the water resources of the region.

#### *Potential storylines:*

- How human activity through the centuries can be tracked to water sources in the monument
- Southern Paiute views of water sources
- How early settlers' water use such as impounding Pakoon Springs and diverting and impounding the springs at Tassi Ranch altered ecosystems
- Southern Paiute agriculture uses at Tassi Springs, in comparison to white settlement agricultural practices
- How modern water use activities affect resources on the monument



Pakoon Springs, the largest spring system on the monument, displays an abundance of plants, wildlife and cultural history

## Visitor Experience Goals

Visitors to Parashant National Monument seek out this rugged, remote place for many reasons: adventure, solitude, history, scenic vistas, visiting cultural sites, camping, hiking, hunting, OHV riding, wildlife observation, scientific inquiry, rock climbing, and countless other outdoors activities. For many visitors, the isolated expanse of Parashant offers an unparalleled sense of freedom – self-directed touring with no obligatory stops, no schedules, and little to no contact with the outside world. A visitor’s experience in this extraordinary place can create the memories of a lifetime.

Whatever their abilities or preferred activities, all visitors should be able to explore key resources and appreciate the unique, intrinsic qualities of this vast, wild land. Ideally, the monument’s interpretive program will provide Parashant visitors with multiple opportunities for meaningful experiences as they engage with and enjoy the site.

One way for interpreters to encourage high-quality visitor experiences is to set multiple goals in four distinct categories. For most visitors, a park experience is a seamless combination of doing, thinking, feeling, and reacting. An interpretive program’s visitor experience goals can be identified in a similar manner:

- experiential goals (what visitors do during a visit);
- cognitive goals (what visitors learn);
- emotional goals (what visitors feel); and
- behavioral goals (how visitors behave or react in response to their visit).

Based on analysis of the park’s resources and input from workshop participants, the following visitor experience goals have been identified for Parashant National Monument.

### Experiential goals:

What should visitors have the opportunity to **do** when they encounter Parashant National Monument?

Visitors will be able to:

- Drive, ride horseback, or walk on monument roads and trails according to designated uses for each route.
- Explore the monument on their own terms.
- View unobstructed scenic vistas in the monument.
- See dark night skies and stars with minimal light pollution.
- Listen and hear nature’s sounds without interference from human activities.
- Observe native plants and wildlife, including endangered and endemic species.
- Visit specific historic and cultural sites within the monument, including Grand Gulch Mine, Nampawep, Mt. Trumbull sawmill, Waring Ranch, and other sites identified for public access.
- Hunt in accordance with applicable state laws.
- Camp in a primitive setting.

**Cognitive goals:**

What should visitors have the opportunity to **learn** when they encounter Parashant National Monument?

Visitors will have the opportunity to:

- Learn about the underlying geology and physiology of the monument, including its location at the junction of the Colorado Plateau, the Mohave Desert, and the Great Basin and its unique geology including exposed rock formations, land forms, mountains, and other features as displayed in Pakoon Basin, Grand Wash Cliffs, and Shivwits Plateau.
- Explore the history of human habitation on the land, from Paleoindians to historic Paiute bands, early Euro-settlers, past mining operations, and present-day ranching.
- Learn about past and contemporary Southern Paiute and other Indian cultures in and around the monument.
- Discover the diversity of monument ecosystems, from the Mojave Desert to the ponderosa forests.
- Learn how the monument and its springs are part of the watershed of the Colorado River and the Grand Canyon.
- Gain an understanding of the natural role of fire and fire management in this landscape.
- Learn how the monument is managed today, and the importance of continued stewardship and respect for the land.
- Practice personal safety in the monument.

**Emotional goals:**

What will visitors **feel** when they encounter Parashant National Monument?

Parashant National Monument's interpretive program will seek to foster feelings such as:

- A sense of awe at the size, scale, and wildness of the landscape.
- A sense of adventure and discovery.
- A feeling of freedom and escape from the routines of daily existence.
- Respect for earlier generations of people who lived in a harsh environment.
- Respect for the monument's cultural, historical, and archeological sites.
- Contemplative, meditative, spiritual, or religious feelings inspired by the monument's natural beauty.
- Empathy for ecological and cultural disruptions related to changes in land and resource use.
- Feelings of being challenged, physically and mentally, by the grandeur and isolation of the landscape.
- Inspiration to see and learn more.
- A sense of pride and responsibility in public ownership of this magnificent landscape.
- A sense of stewardship, love, appreciation of the monument's value, and camaraderie/kinship with others who also love and care for this place.

**Behavioral Goals:**

How will visitors behave, react, or change their behavior during or after encountering the monument?

Visitors will have the opportunity to:

- Become stewards of the monument through educational and volunteer activities.
- Share their experiences in the monument with friends and family and encourage others to visit.
- Practice “Leave No Trace” behaviors in the monument and on other public lands.
- Communicate the value of public lands to others.
- Practice respectful behaviors toward past cultures and ancestral sites in the monument and elsewhere.
- Learn more about the natural world – weather, wildlife, desert plants, geology, etc. – as a result of visiting Parashant.
- Become more tolerant of multiple or different culturally based uses and views of land.
- Take a leadership initiative in the care and preservation of the monument and other public lands.

**Visitor Data**

The estimated annual visitation in FY 2011 was 72,655, based on data recorded in the BLM Recreation Management Information System (RMIS). Obtaining accurate visitation counts in Parashant is difficult at best, however these statistics do indicate a steady rise in visitation each year as the Monument becomes better known and more popular.

The primary types of activities these visitors participated in are charted below in order of popularity. Although visitors chose more than one category, and several categories clearly overlap, the numbers indicate that off-highway vehicle travel and hunting are relatively small primary uses of the monument. If these figures are an accurate reflection of monument use, a surprising 36,287 of an estimated 72,655 total visitors come to hike or use other non-motorized travel.

<b>FY2011 Recreational Activity</b>	<b>Estimated # of participants</b>
Viewing scenery, wildlife and cultural sites	109,047
Driving for pleasure	48,914
Hiking and other non-motorized travel	36,287
Camping	30,916
Hunting	13,433
Off-highway vehicle travel	5,765

According to the FY2011 NPS Service Interpretive Report (SIR), a total of 59,524 visitors made contact with staff or volunteers at Interagency Information Center in St. George. It is unknown how many of these visitors request information specific to Parashant or actually end up travelling into the monument.

Stakeholders participating in workshops for this interpretive plan identified a wide range of visitors and visitor types known to frequent the monument. Among those identified were a variety of four-wheel drive, OHV, and motorcycle individual visitors and organized groups; hunters seeking deer in the fall, quail in winter, and mountain lions year-round; archeology, geology, and astronomy groups and field schools; back country hikers; visitors heading for Toroweep in Grand Canyon National Park; photographers, birders, and other naturalists; river visitors; Pink Jeep and Bar 10 commercial tour groups; scenic air tours and fly-in visitors; special events visitors; and local and regional residents, including Southern Paiute and other tribal members.

Workshop participants also identified several categories of off-site audiences, including virtual (web) visitors, local elementary schools, environmental education teachers, field school and distance learning audiences, the Tonaquint Nature Center in St. George, the Color Country Natural Resource Camp for teens, and site stewards who monitor key sites several times a year.



The Grand Walsh Cliffs provide a backdrop for hikers seeking a sense of solitude and isolation

## Other Plans and Planning Considerations

### A Call To Action: Preparing for a Second Century of Stewardship and Engagement

The NPS Call to Action, issued on the eve of the 2016 Centennial of NPS, sets forth four broad themes with action items calling on employees and partners to advance a shared vision for the Service in its second century. According to this strategic document, a “second century” National Park Service:

- **Connects People to Parks** and helps communities protect what is special to them, highlight their history, and retain or rebuild their economic and environmental sustainability.
- **Advances the Education Mission** by strengthening the NPS role as an educational force based on core American values, historical and scientific scholarship, and unbiased translation of the complexities of the American experience.
- **Preserves America’s Special Places** and is a leader in extending the benefits of conservation across physical, social, political, and international boundaries in partnership with others.
- **Enhances Professional and Organizational Excellence** by adapting to the changing needs of visitors, communities, and partners; encouraging organizational innovation; and giving employees the chance to reach their full potential.

The plan lists 36 specific action items the NPS will engage in to advance its mission in the coming years. Many of these recommended actions can have direct relevance to interpretive programming at Parashant National Monument.

### **The National Landscape Conservation System 15 Year Strategy 2010 -2025**

The Bureau of Land Management's National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS), begun in 2000 and codified in 2009, contains 886 federally recognized areas and approximately 27 million acres of National Monuments, National Conservation Areas, Wilderness Areas, Wilderness Study Areas, Wild and Scenic Rivers, National Scenic and Historic Trails, and Conservation Lands of the California Desert. The NLCS mission is "to conserve, protect, and restore national significant landscapes and places that have outstanding cultural, ecological, and scientific values for the benefit of current and future generations."

NLCS strategies include building a model in which "landscape-scale conservation can be achieved through shared stewardship." The BLM and NPS Service First co-management of Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument falls squarely within this mandate.

The NLCS is developing an implementation plan for its national strategy in FY2012. Education and interpretation are prominent components of this plan.

### **Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument Resource Management Plan/General Management Plan**

The Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument Records of Decision and Resource Management Plan/General Management Plan, the guiding management document for the monument, was completed in February 2008. A joint project of the BLM and the NPS, the plan was approved by the NPS and the BLM as well as ten cooperating agencies: Mohave and Coconino counties in Arizona, Washington and Kane counties in Utah, the Kaibab Paiute Tribe, the towns of Fredonia and Colorado City, the Arizona Game and Fish Department, the Arizona Department of Transportation, and the Federal Highway Administration.

### **Travel Management Plan and Designated Routes**

A comprehensive Travel Management Plan for the monument, including detailed tables and maps of each designated management unit and corresponding routes, is in the final stages of completion. The plan will direct travel management on designated routes, recommend closure methods, and identify appropriate monitoring actions.

Notably, a number of cultural and historic sites within the monument are located on routes designated in the travel management plan as "primitive" travel areas. Roads in this category are not scheduled to be improved at any time in the foreseeable future, if ever. Consequently, the interpretive recommendations in this plan recognize that the challenges of visitor access to many Parashant cultural and historic sites are unlikely to change or improve during the plan's projected ten-year span.



# Existing Conditions

Only twelve years after its establishment, Parashant National Monument has made significant strides in providing baseline interpretive programming for a huge expanse of remote, very challenging terrain. Many of the tools and strategies commonly used in interpretive programming face a list of uncommon obstacles here – starting with a minimum two-hour drive from the monument’s only information center to its nearest entry point. Once within the monument, visitors have no electricity, no running water, no cell phone or Wi-Fi signals, no developed campsites, and no food or lodging (with the exception of one privately owned commercial establishment). These conditions are among the many factors affecting existing and potential interpretation within the monument.

In addition to these concerns, certain places deep within the monument are not interpreted out of respect for the culturally sensitive nature of the site.



The Grand Gulch Mine Smelter was used to extract copper in the late 1800's

## Sites and Facilities for Interpretation

Attempting to list “the best” sites for interpretation within the Parashant will inevitably omit important details. As anyone starting out to explore Parashant National Monument will quickly recognize, the journey itself is an unforgettable experience. Scenery throughout the monument is breathtaking, with grand vistas of desert, mountain, and sky at every turn. While the sites listed below are notable destinations, many visitors enjoy traveling in the monument for its own sake, with no specific destinations in mind.

Sites appear in alphabetical order, with ownership/management details and geographical notations where appropriate.

### **Cedar Pocket Campground (BLM outside the monument)**

Located on the Arizona Strip along Interstate 15, this 75-site campground is in the spectacular Virgin River Gorge. The recreation area is surrounded by colorful cliffs and rocky canyons. The Virgin River Canyon Recreation Area offers a developed campground, picnic/day use area, access to the Virgin River and two wilderness areas, and two hiking trails. In the past, the interpretive association has hosted evening programs and Dutch oven dinners at the campground.

### **Grand Gulch Mine (BLM and Private Property)**

This abandoned copper mine, located approximately 90 miles southwest of St. George via very rough roads, dates from the late 1800s and was once considered one of the richest in Arizona. At the peak of production in the early 1900s, the site employed nearly 80 people. The original stone buildings, their walls now shored up and preserved, include a bunkhouse, a cookhouse, and a large kiln-like structure. (A fire in the 1950s damaged most of the interiors beyond repair.) The mine shaft also survives. Old steam engine parts rust in the yard, and chunks of malachite (copper) litter the ground. One interpretive sign has been installed at the site.

### **Grand Wash Cliffs Wilderness Area (BLM)**

The trailhead to enter this 37,030-acre, twelve-mile-long wilderness area, one of four designated wilderness areas within the monument, lies off the Pigeon Canyon Road 1002 in the vicinity of Grand Gulch Mine. The trail is marked but has no interpretation or orientation sign. An area of rugged canyons, towering cliffs, and sandstone buttes, the wilderness marks the transition zone between the Colorado Plateau and the Basin and Range geologic provinces. The cliffs are important habitat for the desert tortoise, Gila monster, and desert bighorn sheep. Vegetation is a mix of Mojave desert shrubs, annual grasses, and Pinyon -juniper woodlands.

### **Hells Hole (BLM)**

A short hike on an unmaintained trail in the Mt. Logan Wilderness leads to a natural rock amphitheater with colorfully eroded cliffs of the reddish and white Moenkopi Formation.

### **Interagency Information Center, St. George, Utah (BLM, NPS, USDA Forest Service)**

The Interagency Information Center in St. George, Utah (345 E Riverside Drive) is the primary visitor contact station for the monument. This information center is located in a large lobby-like area within the federal office complex housing employees for the BLM Arizona Strip District and St. George Field Offices. Visitor services include an information desk, maps, publications, a multimedia touchscreen computer, and artifact displays, as well as access to the BLM and USFS rock and wood permitting section and a retail area featuring books and other items sold by the Dixie/Arizona Strip Interpretive Association. Limited interagency personnel and BLM volunteers staff the center. The information center is open Monday through Friday from 7:45 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. It is closed on Sundays.



The Grand Wash Cliffs at sunset mark the transition zone between two geologic provinces, the Basin and Range and the Colorado Plateau

### **Lower Kent Ranch (BLM)**

The Tuweep valley was used by ranchers seasonally in the early 1900s, but the first year-round homestead was the Lower Kent Ranch, built in 1927, located in the monument just north of Grand Canyon National Park. There is no directional signage or interpretation on site.

### **Mt. Dellenbaugh (NPS)**

This 7,072-foot-high mountain is a distinctive landmark and a popular hiking destination. The trailhead is the starting point for a strenuous hike through towering evergreens to the peak, named for Frederick Samuel Dellenbaugh, an artist and topographer who explored the Green and Colorado Rivers with John Wesley Powell. The trailhead was relocated in 2012 so it no longer leads through the NPS administrative site, a collection of cabins at the base of the mountain. The Mt. Dellenbaugh trail is one of only two marked and maintained hiking trails in the monument.

### **Mt. Logan Wilderness Area (NPS)**

Located off Mohave County Road 5 (Mt. Trumbull Road) about 45 miles south of Colorado City, Mt. Logan Wilderness Area spans 14,650 acres and displays numerous examples of ancient volcanic activity – basalt ledges and cinder cones – from the peak. An overlook off Road 1044 offers spectacular long-range views. A hike upward through pinyon -juniper woodlands and a ponderosa pine and aspen forest yields a view of Hells Hole, a large natural amphitheater with colorfully eroded cliffs.

### **Mt. Trumbull (BLM)**

The Mt. Trumbull area is the site of several points of interest.

- The 7,880-acre **Mt. Trumbull Wilderness Area** includes the peak itself, a large, basalt-capped mesa topped with ponderosa pine and sloped with pinyon pine and juniper interspersed with aspen and Gambel oak. The Mt. Trumbull and Sawmill trailheads here are equipped with vertical trail markers and wooden fencing to discourage OHV entry. An interpretive sign at this clearing provides an overview of the Mt. Trumbull area.
- The **Nixon Sawmill**, the first sawmill on Mt. Trumbull, was built here in 1872 to provide lumber for construction of the Mormon Temple in St. George. The historic sawmill site and a remnant of the Temple Trail are located up the trail a few hundred yards off the road (somewhat obscured by a privately installed large stone monument placed on the roadside by members of the Blake family, whose ancestors were involved in the timber trade). An agency interpretive sign, “From Forest Cathedral to Desert Temple,” is installed at the historic site, well out of view from the road. The Temple Trail, identified with a trail marker installed by a Scout group, is also somewhat confusing, in that it is marked but apparently not currently maintained as a hiking trail. (Although there is no indication on the site, the Temple Trail at Mt. Trumbull was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1978 as entry # 78003472.)
- The **Uinkaret Pueblo** site also lies in the Mt. Trumbull area. Archeological evidence indicates that this site was once a lively, fully engaged domestic setting with cooking and food storage. Due to its sensitive nature, there are no markers or interpretative signs at the site. A wayside sign was fabricated but has not been installed, pending discussions with tribal representatives.

### **Mt. Trumbull Schoolhouse (BLM and Private Property)**

Located just outside the monument boundary on property owned by the BLM, the small, white-frame Mt. Trumbull Schoolhouse is maintained by members of the Bundy family, who settled the region in the early 1900s. The schoolhouse, outfitted with desks, scrapbooks, photographs, and memorabilia, presents a warm, upbeat view of one-room schoolhouse education in this isolated territory. Unstaffed and unlocked, the building is an appealing stop after many miles of isolation on rough roads. An exterior interpretive sign provides background on the schoolhouse and the community it served. A public restroom is located at the site but drinking water is not available. (The current schoolhouse is actually a replica, built to replace the original building after an arson fire several years ago.)

### **Nampaweap Petroglyph Site (BLM)**

Approximately three miles east of the Mt. Trumbull trailhead, visitors can park and hike a half-mile down into a small canyon to see outcroppings of basalt covered in ancient petroglyphs. Most of the major prehistoric cultures known to have inhabited this area over the past 10,000 years have left symbols on the rocks here. Archaic, Ancestral Puebloan, and Paiute petroglyphs have all been identified. An agency upright interpretive sign welcomes visitors at the parking lot and offers details on petroglyph motifs.

### **Oak Grove Cabin (BLM)**

In 1879, the Canaan Company established a dairy ranch at Oak Grove. The remains of Oak Grove are an abandoned house in a clearing amid a forest of Gambel oak. The house has been somewhat shored up and the ground is littered with homesteading debris. Due to its deteriorated condition, this site was removed from the 2012 unigrid brochure.



The Mt. Trumbull Schoolhouse, once used as an educational institution and a meeting place for community events

### **Paiute Wilderness Area (BLM)**

The Paiute Wilderness, which begins only a few miles southwest of St. George, spans 87,900 acres and includes the region's highest peak, Mt. Bangs, at 8,012 feet. The Wilderness is divided into two sections by Road 1004 with the southern portion located within the monument. The area's vegetation ranges from tall ponderosa pines on Mt. Bangs downward through pinyon forests, scrub oak and sagebrush, and Joshua trees, yucca, and barrel cactus at lower elevations. The ecosystems support more than 250 animal species, including mule deer, mountain lion, desert bighorn sheep, and desert tortoises. The deep canyons have several beautiful and secluded places with water that attract campers and backpackers.

### **Pakoon Springs (BLM)**

Pakoon Springs is the largest spring system in Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument. Located in the Mojave Desert off County Road 111 a few miles north of the intersection with BLM Road 1007, Pakoon Springs has been used by people seeking water in the desert since ancient times. The area was privately owned and used for livestock, irrigation, and homesteading for at least a century, with the springs channeled into a series of small ponds. Many non-native species (including, most notably, an alligator) have been introduced here. A major trash cleanup was conducted in the area in 2006.

A conservation team is in the process of rehabilitating Pakoon Springs and restoring the springs and riparian zone to a more natural state; discouraging invasives, including tamarisk and bullfrogs; and potentially establishing an interpretive trail and a campground on an already disturbed area near the springs. The area is also popular for hunting quail, a use that may conflict with non-hunters wishing to hike or camp. Another challenge for the site is configuring fencing that will allow people in to the immediate springs and pond surroundings, while discouraging cattle, wild burros, and OHVs that might damage the resource.

### **Pa's Pocket Line Shack (NPS and State of Arizona)**

This small line shack is managed as part of a "range improvement" in a grazing allotment held by a private leaseholder. Inside the cabin are an old wooden cook stove, a few camp furnishings, and lots of handwritten messages on the walls, some as recent as 2010. Outside is a weather-damaged non-agency interpretive sign describing the cabin's early history. Located uphill from the line shack on Arizona state trust lands, is an extensive stone wall water-control system for livestock.

### **Pine Ranch (BLM)**

Pine Ranch is an early 1900s wood cabin that was originally built by the Mathis family and served as a ranch headquarters for many years before the lands were acquired by the federal government. Recent projects to stabilize and restore Pine Ranch have been implemented. Road access is seasonal and subject to spring flooding. Currently there is no interpretation at Pine Ranch.



Once owned by the Mathis family, Pine Ranch served as a ranch headquarters for many years

### **Pipe Spring National Monument (NPS; outside the monument)**

This small NPS site, a historic fort, farmstead and springs, frequently serves as an eastern portal or information point for visitors heading into Parashant. The visitor center contains a small but impressive museum, a collaborative effort between the NPS and the Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians. The visitor center offers a selection of literature on Parashant.

### **Snap Canyon Line Shack (BLM)**

Like other line shacks scattered throughout the monument, this small rough cabin was built for cattle herdsman to camp in while monitoring or rounding up grazing leaseholders' cattle. The cabin has a sign-in register and is sometimes used by campers, despite the large sign warning about hantavirus. The route along Gulch Road past the cabin offers great views of some of the monument's most scenic and "textbook" examples of exposed geology, including the Kaibab displacement and good examples of faults and hydrology.

### **Tassi Ranch (NPS)**

Located on Road 1213 on the Grand Wash, Tassi Ranch consists of a 1930s-era stone ranch house, a barn, a corral, and a grove of huge cottonwoods beside a seasonal stream called Pigeon Wash. The spring nourishes thriving green watercress and endemic species such as tiny Grand Wash springsnails and reintroduced relict leopard frogs. The remains of a holding pond and irrigation canal can be seen a short walk from the house. Tassi Ranch is currently being documented by the NPS Historic American Landscapes Survey (HALS).

Two interpretive signs, "Hard Living" and "Water Is Life," are well-written and designed in conformance with the NPS HFC standards; unfortunately, these signs are showing age and corrosion although they are only a few years old. The porcelain enamel material appears to be a thinner grade than usual and has no backing, and the text and images are marred by streaks of rust from the weathered steel frames.

### **Toroweap/Tuweep Area, (NPS, Grand Canyon National Park; outside the monument)**

Toroweap lies outside the boundaries of Parashant National Monument; the legendary Tuweep Ranger Station and Toroweap Overlook and campground are on the North Rim of the Grand Canyon. To reach Toroweap, visitors must pass through the monument.

### **Twin Point (NPS)**

This large overlook juts out from the North Rim of the Grand Canyon so visitors are surrounded by extraordinary canyon views – the Sanup Plateau, Burnt Canyon, and Surprise Canyon – on three sides. This area is popular for dispersed camping as evidenced by vehicle turnarounds and several campfire rings. Several places along the drive out to the point have been blocked with fencing to discourage multiple OHV paths to the rim.



A majestic vista overlooking the Grand Canyon from Twin Point

**Waring Ranch (NPS)**

This remote homestead and ranch in Horse Valley (near Kelly Point) on the Shivwits Plateau was established by Jonathan Deyo Waring in 1925. The site, stabilized and partially restored by an NPS cultural resources team several years ago, includes cabins, corrals, fence lines, water tanks, two holding ponds, and a log outhouse. A family-placed brass plaque on the grounds memorializes Mr. Waring (1892-1982). The site has a sign-in box, a large warning sign about hantavirus, and vertical markers identifying it as part of Parashant, but no interpretation on the site. This property, currently being documented by HALS, was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1984 (#84000781) as “Horse Valley Ranch, also known as Waring Ranch,” a part of the Lake Mead National Recreation Area, prior to monument establishment.

**Witch Pool (BLM)**

Witch Pool is a public use site located on the northeast side of Mt. Trumbull. It may be the location of John Wesley Powell’s visit with Southern Paiutes in 1870 when he was inquiring about the three missing members of his historic expedition down the Colorado River in 1869. Several petroglyphs are also found at the site. Road access is poor and there is no on-site interpretation.

**Whitmore Canyon Overlook (NPS)**

A short drive from the Bar 10 Ranch, this overlook is absolutely spectacular: completely wild, with no fencing, great views of the Colorado River, and amazing geological formations at close range. A short, easy trail loops around a hill amid desert plants that flower colorfully in the spring. Another trail leads down the canyon to the river in Grand Canyon National Park. The Whitmore Overlook has one agency interpretive sign at the driving entrance/parking area (although its orientation makes it easy to miss).

**Whitney Pockets (BLM, Las Vegas Field Office; outside the monument)**

This large, scenic outcropping of red and white sandstone along Gold Butte Road (about 30 miles from Mesquite) serves many visitors as an informal entryway into Parashant National Monument. A historic CCC-era water impoundment, undeveloped campsites, and unpaved roads attract campers and OHV enthusiasts. An information kiosk is planned with the BLM Las Vegas Field Office for installation in 2012 at the road junction here.

The drive from Whitney Pockets to Tassi Ranch in the monument is an excellent place to see the privately owned “Seven Springs” – green oases in the hills where springs arise from the cliffs. The drive from Whitney Pockets towards Pakoon Springs leads to impressive vistas at Whitney Pass before entering the monument.

## Other Sites and Facilities For Interpretation

There are also other private and public sites and facilities in or near the monument that may provide interpretive opportunities.

### Bar 10 Ranch (Private Property)

The Bar 10 Ranch is a cattle ranch and lodge located within the monument boundary nine miles from Whitmore Point on the north rim of the Grand Canyon. With a lodge and restaurant, outdoor sleeping wagons, and self-contained electrical, heating, and water systems, the Bar 10 hosts some 13,000 visitors a year. Many are Colorado River rafters who fly in or out by helicopter and stay over at Bar 10 while embarking or disembarking from river trips; others fly in by fixed-wing plane from Las Vegas. The ranch offers guided hikes, horseback riding, and OHV tours, as well as helicopter tours and other activities. The ranch is owned and operated by the Heaton family, ranchers on the Arizona Strip for five generations.

### Tonaquint Nature Center (City of St. George)

Tonaquint Nature Center is located about a mile from the Parashant administrative office in St. George in a city park along the Santa Clara River. Parashant staff and interagency partners have conducted several youth and family programs at the center. The park contains a nature center, pond and walking trails.



NPS and BLM staff lead an archaeology program at Tonaquint Nature Center in St. George

## Interpretive Programming

### Personal Services Programming

Rough roads, erratic weather, logistics, time requirements, and transportation costs due to immense distances to and within the monument combine to make traditional personal services such as ranger-led interpretive tours impractical. Instead, the Parashant interpretive team has focused on hosting youth camps, organizing group tours, staging special events, participating in the interagency brown bag lecture program and presenting off-site programs to interpret the monument to visitors. For example:

- Group tours into the monument are organized for volunteers who work at the St. George Interagency Information Center.
- A special event to commemorate the tenth anniversary of establishment of the monument was held at Dixie State College in St. George in January 2010.
- A special event at the Mt. Trumbull Schoolhouse, including oral history video recordings and speakers, drew some 200 visitors in September 2011.

### Educational/Youth Programming Geological Adventures at Parashant Curriculum

This hands-on, inquiry-based curriculum developed in partnership with the Geological Society of America uses the Parashant setting to help students understand fundamental geology concepts and skills in a fun and engaging way. Each lesson has color photographs, maps, hands-on activities, and a detailed teacher guide and student text. Curriculum materials are available for download from the NPS website.

### Southern Paiute Cultural History Curriculum Guide

In 2010-11, drawing on Southern Paiute cultural resource specialists from the Kaibab, Shivwits, Koosharem, and Moapa bands and teachers from Washington County, Utah, monument staff developed a Southern Paiute Cultural History curriculum for middle grades 7 through 9. Funded through the NPS “Parks as Classrooms,” the program focuses on the cultural history and traditions of the Southern Paiute people of Southwest Utah, Northwest Arizona, and Southern Nevada. Curriculum materials are available for download from the NPS website.

### Southern Paiute Youth Camp

The three-day Southern Paiute Youth Camp brings youth from tribal bands in Arizona, Utah, and Nevada together near Mt. Trumbull to camp and learn about their culture from respected tribal elders. The camp program is designed to immerse participants in their traditional practices, ancestral and cultural ties to the land, monument resources, and stewardship responsibilities. Camp activities range from making tools, rope, moccasins, and brush huts to playing with Skumpa dolls and the hockey-like Que’pauck game. Language skills, cultural beliefs and sampling of native foods are also part of the experience.



A Southern Paiute elder demonstrates making medicine bags at the Southern Paiute Youth Camp

### Partners in the Parks

In cooperation with Southern Utah University, the monument staff hosts an experiential learning camp for honors students from across the United States during the last week in May. The six-day camping program is a unique “immersion” experience with monument resource specialists providing information and assistance.

### Junior Ranger Program

A Junior Ranger Program for Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument, funded by the NPS Centennial Program and a BLM Take It Outside grant, was introduced in 2009. Upon completing six learning activities in the 16-page Junior Ranger booklet, children are eligible to become Junior Rangers and receive a badge for their efforts. Junior Ranger booklets are distributed at the Interagency Information Center and in local schools. Because of the monument’s remote location and difficult access, the activities are designed so that they can be completed off the monument.

### National Park Week/Junior Ranger Day

In recognition of National Park Week and Junior Ranger Week, Parashant staff and a variety of interagency partners conduct a mid-April event hosted at the Tonaquint Nature Center. Approximately 100 local fourth-grade students have participated in a variety of hands-on activities and earned badges since 2008.

### Junior Ranger Family Night

Since 2010, this children’s event is held on a Friday evening in late September at the Tonaquint Nature Center. Ten to twelve stations staffed by interagency personnel are set up in the park for family groups to visit and participate in various activities and earn badges.

### Get Outdoors Day Family Expo

Started up with great success in 2012 to celebrate National Get Outdoors Day and Great Outdoors Month, the expo is likely to become an annual event. Staff from Parashant, Pipe Spring NM and Lake Mead NRA, along with partners from various federal, state and local land management agencies and affiliated organizations, welcomed an estimated 750 people to the event that included the official debut of the Parashant interactive caving challenge, a simulated cave exhibit and fun learning activity.



Swearing in a new recruit at the interagency Junior Ranger Family Night in St. George

## Interpretive Media

### Audiovisuals

D/ASIA has produced two film features, one specifically on the monument and the other on the Arizona Strip as a whole:

- High, Wild and Lonesome: Parashant National Monument
- The Arizona Strip: A Land Apart

These films, each about 30 minutes long, are available for purchase in the center or on the D/ASIA website.

The monument also features a multimedia virtual tour of the monument, available on a touchscreen monitor in the Interagency Information Center in St. George and on the NPS website.

### Exhibits/Signage – Exterior

The monument has an approved sign plan proposing a hierarchy of signage for portals and wayfinding. In addition, about a dozen topical wayside exhibits have been installed at historic and cultural sites within the monument. (This list includes agency signs only; commemorative markers created and installed by family members or as Boy Scout projects are excluded.)

Large stonemasonry portal signs mark many of the monument entrances. Directional road signs are also installed throughout the monument

Monument trails are marked with vertical trail markers depicting the Parashant logo and universal symbols for allowed and prohibited activities (i.e., hiking and horseback riding; no motorized vehicles). The half-mile Nampaweap trail has carved wooden arrowhead petroglyph design markers.

Wayside interpretive exhibits include:

- 1 low-profile wayside at Grand Gulch Mine
- 1 low-profile wayside at Mt. Trumbull trailhead
- 1 low-profile wayside at the historic sawmill site at Mt. Trumbull
- 2 low-profile wayside signs at Tassi Ranch
- 1 low-profile wayside at Whitmore Canyon River Overlook

### Exhibits – Interior

At present, the only space used for interior exhibits on the monument is the Interagency Information Center, a crowded space with multiple uses. Currently, exhibits include displays featuring a few artifacts (pottery and lithics) recovered from archeological research in the region. A spatial redesign to improve visitor service and staff efficiency is being implemented in 2012.

### Publications/Printed Materials

- The Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument unigrid brochure was initially produced in 2007 and last updated in 2012. The brochure includes a map, a brief history, and selected cultural and natural highlights.
- The interpretive association also produced several attractive posters for sale in the Interagency Information Center bookstore.
- The interpretive association offers a number of detailed route, trail, and topographical maps for sale.
- Rack Card: None developed.
- Site Bulletins: None developed.

## Websites

- The NPS website for Parashant National Monument ([www.nps.gov/para](http://www.nps.gov/para)), which has provided basic information on the monument in the accepted NPS format, is undergoing a thorough redesign and upgrade in 2012. While some entries, such as a listing of native plants, are being repurposed within the new design, other components of the site represent new offerings such as additional curricula, greater emphasis of safety and preparedness within the monument, and up-to-date news and events. This website also includes an online version of a high-quality, very informative multimedia presentation about the monument that is available on a large touchscreen monitor in the Interagency Information Center.
- Also available on the NPS website is an online version of a high-quality, very informative multimedia presentation about the monument that is available on a large touchscreen monitor in the Interagency Information Center. Listed on the NPS website as a virtual tour, this excellent interpretive piece may be overlooked by many visitors because its link is not immediately visible; to find it, visitors must scroll down to the very bottom of the page.
- The BLM website ([www.blm.gov/az/st/en/prog/blm\\_special\\_areas/natmon/gcp.html](http://www.blm.gov/az/st/en/prog/blm_special_areas/natmon/gcp.html)) on the monument offers detailed descriptions and multiple links to different aspects of the area, including cultural sites, wilderness areas, trails, maps, and partner organizations. The site also links to a full translation into Spanish.
- The Dixie-Arizona Strip Interpretive Association (D/ASIA) website ([www.d-asia.org](http://www.d-asia.org)) promotes tourism and support for the Arizona Strip, including the monument. The website includes an inventory of books, maps, and DVDs for sale; calendar listings of “Brown Bag” lunch programs, Junior Ranger activities, and other events in St. George

related to the Strip; and links to the BLM, NPS, and USDA Forest Service websites serving the Arizona Strip and Southwestern Utah.

## Media Assets

- A joint NPS/BLM research library has been established for the monument.
- A joint NPS/BLM image library for the monument is in process of being inventoried and digitized.

## Archival and Archeological Collections

Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument currently has limited archival facilities on-site. Artifacts, objects, and archival materials, including objects awaiting cataloging, are housed at Lake Mead National Recreation Area, Southern Utah University and various federal, state and private collections in the area.

To date, the monument’s collections consist largely of cultural artifacts, vascular plants, lichens and mosses, historic documents, photographs, manuscripts, documentation of the administrative history of the park, and related materials.

## Monument Volunteers

In FY 2011, Parashant National Monument benefited from the services of 114 volunteers. Of these volunteers’ total of 10,343 volunteered hours, 277 hours were devoted to interpretation. The remainder were dedicated to cultural resource management (6,404 volunteer hours), natural resource management (3,501 volunteer hours), and protection/operations/law enforcement (153 volunteer hours).

In addition to these volunteer hours, the monument benefits from the BLM volunteers, and D/ASIA employees who help staff the Interagency Information Center, plan and host special events, and provide some interpretive programs.

## Stakeholders in the Monument

Many different individuals and groups have vital concerns and interests in the lands, uses, and future of Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument. While some of these interested parties are “partners” in the traditional sense – with or without formal memoranda of agreement – others are best described as stakeholders. The monument does not have a traditional organized friends group. A group called the Parashant Partners is currently organizing with a focus on ecological restoration issues.

The following entities are among the most active participants and stakeholders in the monument. Groups delivering interpretive programs are indicated with a plus sign (+).

- +Arizona Game and Fish Department
- Arizona Historic Preservation Office
- Arizona Site Stewards
- +Bar 10 Ranch
- +Bureau of Land Management (Arizona State Office; Arizona Strip District; St. George Field Office)
- Chambers of Commerce
- +City of St. George Parks and Recreation Department – Tonaquint Nature Center
- Conservation community
- +Dixie/Arizona Strip Interpretive Association
- +Dixie National Forest - Pine Valley Ranger District
- Dixie State College
- Friends of the Arizona Strip
- +Friends of Gold Butte
- Great Basin Institute
- Hunting guides and outfitters
- Interagency volunteers
- Kaibab Band of Southern Paiute Indians
- +Kaibab National Forest
- Local historical societies
- Local residents of Mohave County, Arizona
- Local residents of St. George, Utah
- Local residents of Mesquite, Nevada
- Moapa Band of Southern Paiute Indians
- +National Park Service (Pipe Spring, Grand Canyon, Zion, Mojave Network parks, Intermountain Regional Office, Pacific West Regional Office)
- Northern Arizona University (Ecological Restoration Institute)
- Off-highway vehicles clubs
- Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah
- Parashant Partners
- Private property owners within the monument
- +Snow Canyon State Park
- Southern Utah University (Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Universities/CESU)
- Special recreational permit/personal use permit holders
- Tourism industry
- Washington County School District
- +Washington County Habitat Conservation Plan – Red Cliffs Desert Reserve



## Issues and Influences

## Size and Remoteness

The sheer size and remote nature of Parashant National Monument present major logistical challenges for visitors and the interpreters who wish to serve them.

Visitors must make long, slow journeys to visit key sites within the monument; few of these journeys can be accomplished within one day. Although journeying through the monument is often fascinating, unprepared or uninformed visitors may feel overwhelmed and unable to “process” the variety of natural splendors in front of them. Consequently, much that might be interpreted will be missed.

For interpreters, many of the standard interpretive tools, from ranger-led tours to roving to downloadable podcasts, are unavailable or impossible in this vast, isolated place. The monument’s one shared Interagency Information Center is located about two hours and many rough miles from the resource, and multiple entry points mean many visitors never come in contact with interpreters or other monument staff. Even the possibility of arranging guided tours is daunting; few monument roads can carry large-capacity passenger vehicles, and the monument’s suitable four-wheel drive vehicles are generally in use for other resource management and administrative projects.

Size and remoteness also have significant impacts on the content of interpretive programming, primarily because many of the sites are extremely remote.

On a more positive note, monument interpreters have an extraordinary range of topics, interests, and fascinating stories to draw from in interpreting the vast and complex universe that is Parashant. The monument’s stories are rich, varied, and continually developing and changing as biologists uncover previously unknown species, as archeologists learn more about ancient peoples here, as native ecosystems are restored, and as weather and other natural phenomena continue their inexorable work on the landscape.

## Visitor Safety

Visitor safety is a paramount concern within Parashant National Monument, and any interpretive programming must always take a back seat to safety advisories.

- Monument roads – hazardous at best – can change to disaster zones in an instant due to flash flooding.
- Rough roads often create unanticipated mechanical problems and flat tires.
- Directions and wayfinding, misjudging travel time on rough roads, and over-reliance on GPS technology may also increase the risk of an unsafe visit.
- Rough trails, steep inclines, rocky terrain, venomous reptiles, and attractive but risky personal challenges at every turn await all monument visitors, whether they are prepared and physically fit, or ill-prepared and inexperienced in the ways of the backcountry.
- The arid climate, soaring temperatures, and lack of water can (and have) led to tragedy for some monument visitors.
- Perhaps most critically, visitors who get into trouble inside the monument have few options for getting help. Gasoline, spare tires, water, food, cell phone access, and first-aid are unavailable in the monument.

Remarkably, the vast majority of the monument’s 70,000+ annual visitors suffer few serious problems – perhaps because at present, the typical Parashant visitor is an experienced off-roader, primitive camper, or backcountry hiker who arrives well-prepared. As the monument grows in popularity, this visitor profile may change, bringing less-experienced adventurers to this beautiful but difficult terrain.

## Multiple Jurisdictions, Multiple Uses

As most visitors soon learn, Parashant National Monument is managed by two separate but cooperating entities – the National Park Service and the Bureau of Land Management. In addition, the monument lies within the state of Arizona, with some areas owned by the state trust, and other areas owned or leased by private entities or individuals. Still other areas are of special concern to American Indian tribes.

What visitors may not understand is that these different entities within the monument can have different rules and are allowed to use the land in different ways.

- The most obvious non-recreational use of Parashant lands is for cattle grazing. Today, there are 117 cattle permit holders and about 15,000 cows on Arizona Strip public lands administered by the BLM and NPS. Depending on their destinations, visitors to the monument must navigate their way through numerous private gates. Many long-term leaseholders have “run cattle” in the Parashant for generations and have built fences, corrals and cattle chutes, line shacks and other dwellings within the boundaries of the monument. In general, the relationships between leaseholders and recreational visitors display mutual respect, although occasional tensions arise.
- Hunting, especially for trophy mule deer, is allowed in the monument. Hunting in some areas, such as Pakoon Springs, can become a conflict with non-hunting recreational uses such as hiking, photographing wildlife and camping.
- Other usage conflicts stem from the need to protect the monument’s resources. For example, complex gate systems discourage cattle and wild burros from tramping through the grounds at Tassi Ranch and Pakoon Springs. Similarly, gate structures at certain trailheads aim to reserve those trails for hikers and/or equestrians only, excluding OHVs.
- Some portions of the monument, though administered by the NPS or the BLM, survive as sacred, spiritual, or ancestral sites for Southern Paiute and other American Indians. Such sites may be outstanding cultural resources, but interpretation or visitation is limited out of respect for the tribes.

## Management Challenges

Interpretation or interpretive infrastructure within the monument can sometimes be a sensitive issue among local groups.

- Southern Paiute and other American Indian groups have a vested interest in interpretation of their history and culture within the monument.
- Ranching leaseholders bring multiple (and sometimes conflicting) perspectives to their relationship with the federal agencies overseeing the monument, because the federal government is simultaneously the ranchers’ landlord and their public servant.
- Current and former property owners continue to place non-agency approved interpretive signs regarding local history at various places within the monument. These signs vary widely in durability, level of upkeep, and relevance to the interpretive themes of Parashant National Monument.

- Gates through leaseholder lands, gates restricting OHV access, and gates protecting park resources from cattle and wild burros are essential to monument management but may be subject to misuse and misinterpretation.

Some areas that are appropriate for interpretation, such as the Grand Gulch Mine or the Oak Grove site, may also be quite hazardous for visitors due to rough, rocky ground, rusted industrial debris, downed timbers and tin roofs with nails, uncovered holes or shafts, and natural hazards such as hantavirus, rattlesnakes and scorpions.



Parashant interns hiking through Pigeon Canyon



## Recommendations

Parashant National Monument – vast, remote, and untamed – presents unique challenges and opportunities for interpreters and interpretation. First, many audiences for interpretive programs and materials about Parashant may seldom or never have opportunities to set foot on the monument. No matter how compelling future interpretive presentations may be, the demands and restrictions of backcountry exploring will limit on-site visitation to supervised groups or to self-selected independent travelers who perceive themselves able to handle the rigors of the trip.

At the same time, Parashant National Monument and its themes and stories reflect not only the specific land area of the monument, but also those of the region as a whole. In a regional context, Parashant stands as the quintessential wild west, the ancient, unspoiled backcountry – and for many who live and travel here, the history, nature lore, and scenic beauty of the region remain fascinating and compelling. For a large, diverse potential audience curious to learn more about this remote landscape, well-documented, reliable interpretation derived from the monument can fire the imagination and nurture public lands stewardship, even though an on-site Parashant visit may be unlikely or far in the future.

Accordingly, this plan offers guidance for developing a long-range interpretive program that can reach both of these broad categories of visitors seeking a “Parashant Experience”:

1. Visitors engaged in or planning an immersive on-site Parashant journey.
2. Visitors whose Parashant experience may depend on interpretive outreach in the form of personal services, interpretive media, educational outreach, or even immersive exhibits and activities outside the physical landscape of the monument itself.

These recommendations also identify a baseline set of flexible, multi-platform interpretive materials that will support the newly developed monument theme topics and subthemes presented in this long-range interpretive plan on pages 37-46.

Recommendations are categorized as short-term (the next one to three years), mid-term (four to six years), and long-term (seven to ten years), to be phased in over the coming decade. A suggested implementation chart follows on pages 49-50.

## Personal Services

How can a small staff of monument interpreters deliver timely, well-attended personal programs in a land area of more than a million acres? At first glance, the short answer is: They cannot. Such a goal is impossible!

Yet as stakeholders and the planning team explored this conundrum, they determined that a strategic, multi-faceted approach developed over time could accommodate a surprising range of programming opportunities and audiences.

## In the Monument

The following personal programming recommendations address opportunities on-site within the monument itself:

- Create and publicize short travel schedules for interpreters and volunteers to be present at specific places on the monument to provide programs or walking tours on relevant topics.
  - To start, the monument might arrange for two individuals to travel into the monument at the most easily accessible sites, for a day or two each season or quarter.
  - Even if few visitors arrive for programs at first, this strategy will help educate and inspire employees and volunteers themselves, many of whom seldom get a chance to see the monument first-hand.
- Work with Southern Paiute tribal members to create on-site activities for the tribe and other visitors interested in learning more about Paiute culture and Paiute ancestral lands.
- Promote public visitation whenever any BLM or NPS staff, volunteers, or researchers are scheduled to be inside the monument, and ask key individuals on work team to be prepared to provide a limited number of short programs or other public interaction at specified intervals.
  - While the individuals working on monument projects may not be interpreters by training, the interpretive team can assist by providing interpretive materials, short programs, and general guidelines.
  - If necessary, an interpretive staff member can join the team on-site for a specified time period.
- Continue to work with the Bar 10 Ranch to provide interpretive materials (films, podcasts) or specialized expertise as needed.
- Continue to explore possibilities for a limited number of guided tours within the monument through outsourced tour companies.
  - Interpretation and safety messaging (with initial training provided by monument staff) can be a required part of all outsourcing agreements.
  - Monument rangers or subject-matter experts can work with private tour operators or other groups to “step on” some tour vehicles and provide personal interpretation for certain tours by prior arrangement.

- Explore the feasibility of placing interpreters-in-residence (perhaps a seasonal employee or a team of student interns) at selected sites within the monument for short stays of perhaps one week per month to provide visibility and interpretation.
  - One possibility for such an arrangement might be the Bar 10 Ranch, if the owners approved. Other possibilities might include the Nixon and Dellenbaugh administrative sites.
- Schedule and promote an annual theme-related special event at some location on the monument every year. Examples include a ranch-themed event, a minerals and mining event, or a geology tour.
  - To the extent possible, seek to minimize expenses for the event by drawing on volunteer resources, grants, or existing groups or activities such as OHV clubs, youth camps, or other residence programs at Mt. Dellenbaugh or Nixon administrative facilities.
  - Use event publicity as another opportunity for outreach and interpretation – even among audiences who will not be participating in this specific event. For example, plan programming for Brown Bag lunches, school visits, local festivals, photography exhibits, and other venues to tie into and complement the special event theme.

### Outside the Monument

- Develop a series of short “pocket programs” (lively one- to two-minute talks) on theme-related topics for use by staff and volunteers on an impromptu basis whenever feasible. These quick topical talks should be viewed as similar to the seemingly impromptu talks delivered to visitors by a roving park ranger – except the venue usually will not be within the monument.
  - Typical audiences may include a family group within the Interagency Information Center, a small gathering at a school or community event, or on-site visitors within Parashant or other public lands.
  - The basic scripts for these pocket programs should be disseminated widely – preferably in an easily identified loose-leaf notebook – among interpretive and allied staff and volunteers to serve as informal talking points or conversation starters with visitors and potential visitors. Over time, the collected series of pocket programs can become a reliable, relevant content guide for new and seasonal volunteers and staff.
- Continue to plan and execute special events programming, incorporating a Parashant angle, every year. Successful examples to date include Junior Ranger Day, Youth Camps, and National Public Lands Day.
- Continue to partner with local community venues such as Tonaquint Nature Center and Snow Canyon State Park. in St. George and expand opportunities with Mesquite locations to conduct programs that feature Parashant.

- Begin building a consistent community outreach partnership with the Cities of St. George and Mesquite, and the respective Chambers of Commerce to enhance the monument’s visibility in these communities.
    - Seek inclusion of Parashant National Monument in chamber publicity and tourist materials and community events such as the Senior Games and St. George Marathon. (Both Chambers’ 2012 webpages highlight Zion and Bryce Canyon National Parks, Cedar Breaks National Monument, and other federal and state sites; Parashant is not mentioned.)
  - Create a speakers bureau, including Southern Paiute speakers as well as monument staff and volunteers, on a selection of theme-related topics unique to Parashant.
    - Speakers bureau members can present topics of interest about the monument before civic and community groups, historical societies, youth groups, and similar gatherings.
  - Plan interpretive activities highlighting the monument’s four designated Wilderness Areas in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act in 2014.
  - Plan interpretive activities around regional and national events celebrating the NPS Centennial in 2016.
  - Consider expanding the service hours of the Interagency Information Center to include more weekend hours, especially as visitation to the monument increases in the coming years.
- ### **Educational/Youth Programming**
- Continue to support the successful Southern Paiute Youth Camps within the monument.
  - Continue to assess and develop K-12 curriculum materials, working closely with educators to determine local school system needs, content appropriateness, and likely patterns of use.
    - Post all curricula on the NPS website for downloading.
    - Assess existing curricula (via teacher survey) every three to five years for effectiveness and frequency of use in schools.
  - Develop “traveling trunks” with hands-on educational materials to support different curricula as they are developed.
    - These packages may be used as checkout materials available to teachers as well as to interpreters and volunteers.
  - Create two small libraries of Parashant theme-related materials for the public rooms of the Mt. Dellenbaugh and Nixon administrative sites for use by numerous groups using those sites for lodging throughout the year.
    - Because these mini-libraries will be used on the honor system, permanent/reference holdings should be stamped “Property of Parashant National Monument; please do not remove.” (Nonetheless, attrition should be expected.)
    - Bibliographies for take-away use should be provided.
    - As site bulletins or pocket program scripts are developed, these materials may also be placed in the libraries.
    - A scheduled check of holdings should be conducted annually to replace missing or damaged materials.

- Provide wildlife identification card files and phenology logs for the Mt. Dellenbaugh and Nixon administrative sites. Visiting groups can review wildlife cards and previous sightings, as well as document plant and wildlife sightings of their own.
- Explore additional on-site youth camp possibilities with NPS-approved outside providers (such as NatureBridge at Yosemite) that already have experience in offering youth programs in national parks.
- Re-evaluate the existing Junior Ranger booklet (first developed in 2009) at three-year intervals, updating as necessary.



BLM mascot Seymour Antelope joins the NPS superintendent for a Junior Ranger Day ceremony

## Non-Personal/Interpretive Media

As anyone with a smartphone knows, interpretive media no longer falls neatly into traditional categories of print, audiovisuals, or exhibits. Instead, cost-effective, high-impact media must be planned and developed for multiple platforms. Visitors can then choose their own preferred media – smartphones, computer downloads, podcasts, video, or traditional print brochures and handouts – to access interpretive materials, follow their own interests, and customize their experiences.

However, in most cases the baseline materials for any type of interpretive media must begin with well-researched printed documents that can be circulated, reviewed for accuracy, and archived for future reference. With those criteria in mind, this plan proposes that the additional interpretive media to be developed for Parashant (besides the existing web texts and the unigrid brochure) should begin with a series of theme-based site bulletins. In general, site bulletins are simple, inexpensively produced documents (usually broadsheets) offering visitors in-depth interpretation on a single topic or theme. A large, complex site such as Parashant may produce a number of site bulletins on diverse topics ranging from a broad overview of geological formations to a narrow focus on a colorful historic personality, or a closer look at petroglyphs. Whatever the subject, the site bulletin serves as an authoritative background and reference document upon which other programs and interpretive materials can be built.

A comprehensive list of interpretive media recommendations appears below, listed by media types in alphabetical order. As discussed above, specific recommendations for Parashant site bulletins are listed under Printed Publications.

## Audiovisuals

- Initiate a screensaver project to capture examples of the extraordinary scenery of Parashant. Using staff and volunteer photography, the scenes could be loaded into a software package that could be purchased in the Interagency Information Center or distributed as a promotional item to news media and monument supporters.
- Plan and create a series of podcasts that will complement monument site bulletins and other related interpretive materials, by topic or theme, as each is completed.
  - Use the audio capability of podcasting to deliver a part of the story that cannot be delivered by interpreter-led programs, printed publications, or photography. With creativity and minimal off-the-shelf technology, podcasts can draw from oral histories or first-person interviews, birdcalls, desert night sounds, or stories told in the Southern Paiute language with alternating English translations.
- Seek funding and produce a new, theme-based 10- to 15-minute film on Parashant National Monument.
  - With planning and multiple-use permissions/rights, theme sections from the master film can be excerpted in short segments online as downloads to computers or smartphones.

### Exhibits

With only one large, undivided room in a multi-use visitor center located two hours' drive from the monument boundary line, Parashant National Monument currently has little space for interpretive exhibits. A new Interagency Information Center is under discussion, with location and parameters yet to be determined. However, indications from the General Services Administration are that the square footage allocated for visitor use in the new facility may not be significantly expanded (although spatial configuration and traffic flow should improve).

In conjunction with this discussion, the monument commissioned a concept plan for the new Interagency Information Center that envisions an outdoor interpretive environment to be built adjacent to the new visitor information facility. (To review the concept plan, see Appendix D.) In this vision, a small interior exhibit space within the Interagency Information Center could be devoted to human/cultural history, while the outside grounds could be used to provide a sampling of an immersive "Parashant experience" in an interpretive landscape illustrating aspects of the monument's geology, natural history, and water-related themes.

With the proposed new Interagency Information Center still some years in the future, the stakeholders and planning team focused on devising creative near-term options for exhibits and displays that could illustrate facets of the monument and engage visitors in meaningful interpretive experiences.

- Create small-scale exhibits at the Mt. Dellenbaugh and Nixon administrative centers to display relevant objects and artifacts for the enjoyment of the many groups using these facilities.
  - For economy of scale, these two exhibits should be created at the same time, with modular elements and matching/complementary designs. After six months or a year in each location, some elements can be swapped to refresh the exhibits. For example, panels and artifacts of plant and animal life can be crafted to be appropriate at either location.
  
- Create a series of theme-based portable or temporary exhibits about the monument for use at schools, festivals, and other community events as well as more permanent installations at local libraries, colleges and universities, historical societies, and other local or regional visitor centers and tourism spots.
  - Some of these exhibits should be child-friendly, with hands-on or immersive elements such as a crawl-through cave structure, touch tables, and other engaging activities.
  - Again, for complementary design and economy of scale on the creative costs, exhibits should be developed together in pairs or triplets, with modular units that can be interchanged to fit different occasions or settings.
  - Once the exhibits are developed (i.e., designed and ready for production), fabrication and/or duplication can wait until additional funds are available.

- Acquire a large topographical relief map as a central element in the Interagency Information Center. Depending upon funding and the future space, this installation can be a large, touchable, static topographical relief display with segments that light up on demand; a unit built in under glass for use as a map-viewing tabletop; or dynamic high-tech system with interactive capabilities and audiovisual programming built into reader rails around the sides.
  - In designing this unit, the interagency team will need to delineate Parashant National Monument and reach consensus on how much of the larger region should be encompassed on the map.
- Plan and develop human/cultural history exhibits to be installed in the new Interagency Information Center when it is completed. Due to space constraints, these exhibits must have a small, narrow footprint.
  - Among the many possibilities were a replicated wall/porch from a ranching line shack, with the porch creating a small stage for storytelling or craftwork; a dimensional photo wall showing petroglyphs; and a dress-up corner for children to try on American Indian or pioneer clothing, mining gear, or firefighter equipment.

### Printed Publications

- Develop a rack card for the monument and distribute it widely for display racks in public and private recreational sites, visitor centers, and chambers of commerce throughout the region.
- Ensure that all federal and state public lands visitor sites have Parashant information, including the unigridd brochure and the rack card when it is completed. At a minimum, these sites include Pipe Springs National Monument, Lake Mead National Recreation Area, Grand Canyon National Park, Zion National Park, Grand Staircase/Escalante National Monument, Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, Dixie National Forest/Pine Valley Ranger District, and Kaibab National Forest.
- Develop a series of in-depth site bulletins to tell the stories of the monument and to serve as the basis for creating other interpretive support materials.
  - The first series should include at least six site bulletins, with each bulletin addressing some aspect of one of the monument's six primary interpretive themes. If desired, a common look or color per theme could be used to aid in identifying and maintaining adequate supplies for each theme area.
    - For example, a site bulletin on geology and paleontology – printed on pale gray paper – could describe the dominant rock types found in the monument and explain their origins.
    - Site bulletins addressing People's Presence through history – always printed on pale yellow – could look at archeological finds, Southern Paiute lifeways, historical and modern ranching, or cooper mining.

- A bulletin illustrating the Wild West/Back to Nature theme (tan paper) might emphasize safety and self-sufficiency in remote monument terrain, recreational opportunities and beautiful scenery, dark night skies, or other avenues of exploring the monument as a retreat into nature.
  - A site bulletin focusing on ecosystems (printed on pale green paper) could focus on endangered species, on the dramatic variations within the monument, or on how climate change is affecting the fragile environments here.
  - A bulletin on water in the monument (on light blue paper) might explain the basics of watersheds and identify the region as within the watershed of the Colorado River through Grand Canyon.
  - A bulletin representing People and Parashant Today (printed on white) might focus on fire and fire management within monument ecosystems.
  - The second series of site bulletins should follow the same approach: another set of six, divided among the six interpretive themes. Again, the focus of the bulletins can vary greatly, but all will relate to the primary themes and subthemes, and all will use the theme-based paper colors for easy identification.
  - With the development of a third series of site bulletins, Parashant National Monument will have built a well-documented library of interpretive materials that, collectively, will provide in-depth coverage of most of the major points of interest expressed in the monument's detailed list of primary and secondary interpretive themes.
  - Create a series of self-guided itineraries enabling visitors to explore segments of the monument according to their individual interests, time available, preferred activities, and/or geographical locations. For example:
    - Itineraries spanning one day, a weekend, or a week;
    - Itineraries focusing on pre-history and archeology;
    - Itineraries illustrating ranching on the Strip;
    - Itineraries focusing on geology, minerals, and mining; or
    - Itineraries for hiking, horseback riding, or OHV use.
- As the content and routes for each itinerary are developed, these materials can be provided in multiple formats, including maps and printed handouts and online downloads in both print and audio (i.e., podcasts). In addition, these materials can be distributed widely to employees and volunteers as promotional and training aids to inform and improve off-site interpretation.
- Develop detailed maps of monument hiking trails for distribution at the Interagency Information Center and for download on the web.
  - Explore creation and publication of a staff- and volunteer-produced photography book featuring some of the more spectacular scenes from the monument. The book could possibly be published by the Western Parks and Monuments Association or D/ASIA and sold, with proceeds to support interpretive programming on the monument.
  - Develop specialized interpretive materials for different user groups, such as OHV riders or backcountry hikers, and distribute/promote through user organizations and websites.

- Develop a quarterly newsletter on the monument and distribute it by email to visitors, friends, volunteers, and local and regional tourism bureaus and news media.
  - Print a small number to archive and to use for pick-up at the Interagency Information Center.

### Wayside Exhibits

- Develop a multi-panel overview/outreach kiosk about Parashant National Monument and install it at key downtown locations in St. George and Mesquite.
- Continue with development of trailhead waysides or kiosks at selected trailheads within the monument, in accordance with the monument sign plan.
- Create and maintain a cross-populated NPS/BLM database of all agency interpretive wayside signs within or concerning the monument, including a photograph, text transcription, approximate date of installation, materials (i.e., porcelain enamel with weathered steel frame, phenolic resin with wooden posts, etc.), condition/date, and general location with GPS coordinates if possible. This database can be electronic, or it can be a simple loose-leaf notebook with plastic sleeves, but it will prove extremely helpful to interpretive staff in determining the need for future interpretive waysides.
- Replace all sign references to rock art and rock writing with the more accurate terms of petroglyphs or pictographs, as appropriate. Continue to review and identify other sensitive sites that should be removed from public references.

### Websites and Web-based Media

- Continue to work on upgrading the NPS Parashant website, adding new interpretive materials such as site bulletins and podcasts as they are developed.
- Provide links on the NPS website to relevant BLM web pages interpreting BLM lands in the monument, such as Grand Gulch Mine.
- Remove references to the Uinkaret Pueblo from the BLM Parashant website, since it is a culturally sensitive site. Continue to review and identify other sensitive sites that should be removed from public references.
- Work with D/ASIA to enhance its website to provide more visitor information and interpretation on the monument and ensure that the site is consistently maintained with frequent updates and current events.
- Explore options to create and host a single, integrated website for Parashant National Monument that will enable visitors and potential visitors to find all the pre-visit information, trip-planning assistance, and thematic interpretive materials about the monument in one place. Although the planning team recognizes that BLM and NPS website guidelines differ, the benefits of having a unified monument website should be carefully considered.
- Continue to expand Parashant's profile in interactive social media – Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, blogs, and photo-sharing sites such as Flickr. Use staff strategically and assess results to determine the effectiveness of different social media and the investment of staff time.

- Develop mobile applications to enable quick downloading of most web materials to electronic devices.
- Update and adapt the BLM Parashant website’s library catalog/reading list for the NPS monument website.
- Explore options for installing webcams or motion-activated still cameras at selected sites on the monument, such as Pakoon Springs, and post the resulting wildlife images on the website.

### Interpretive Training

- Create collaborative training opportunities in interpretation for all agency employees who interface with visitors as they encounter Parashant National Monument. Ideally, this training would occur annually in early spring as an overnight retreat within the monument at one of the administrative sites.
  - At a minimum, seek to introduce fundamental concepts of interpretation to agency employees through short annual “spring training” workshops in St. George.
- Establish well-defined standards for interpretive services to be provided by D/ASIA staff and agency volunteers working in the Interagency Information Center in St. George.
- Provide interpretive training to all D/ASIA staff and agency volunteers to assist them in providing the best possible service to Parashant visitors.
- Incorporate an on-site monument visit as a regular part of interpretive training, preferably before each newcomer’s second season with the monument.

### Staffing Needs

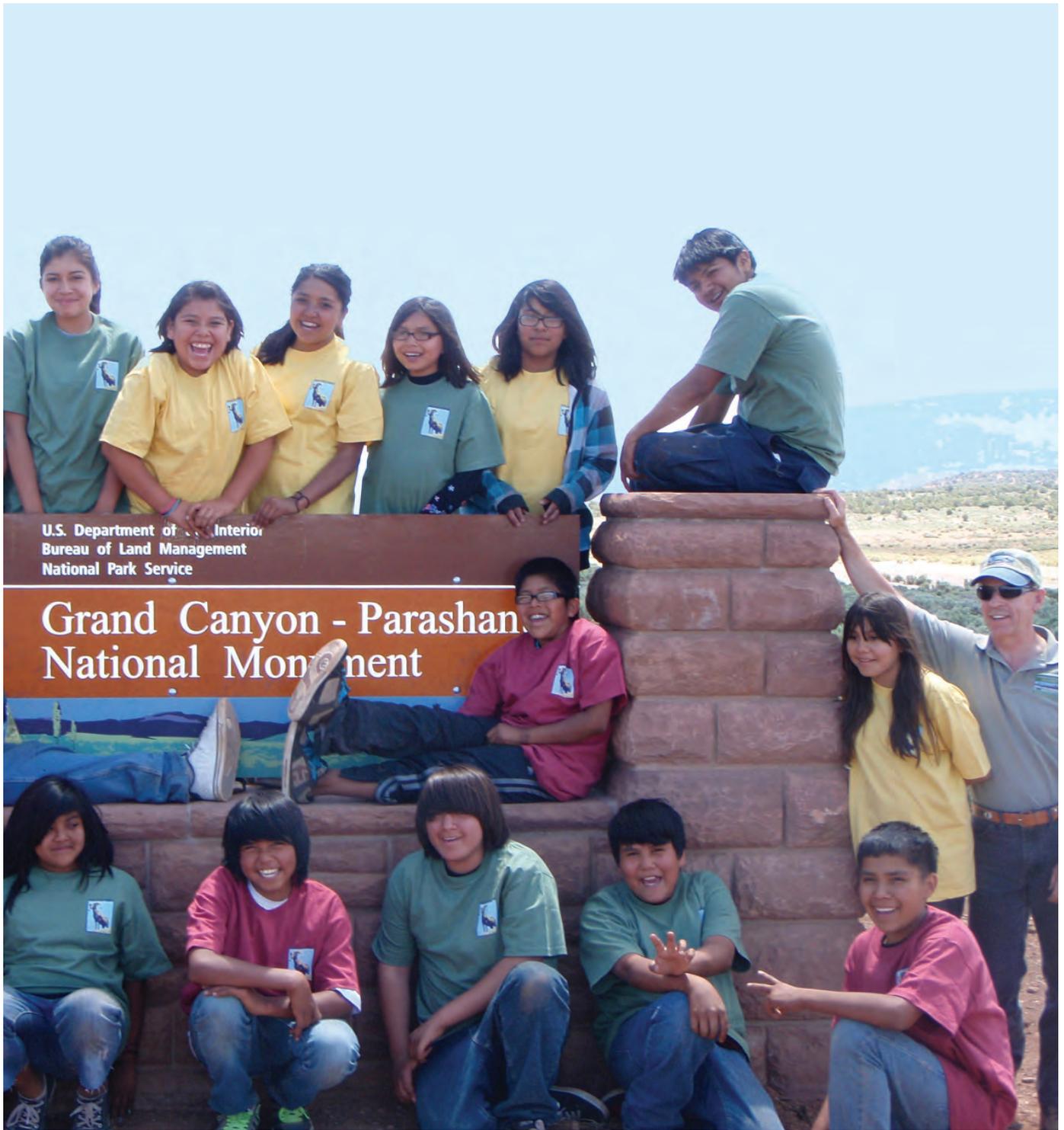
Over the coming decade, Parashant National Monument will almost certainly experience a significant increase in visitation. The St. George region’s population and tourism statistics continue to climb. In the coming years, Parashant and other relatively new public lands in the region will doubtless become better known and more attractive to adventurous travelers seeking America’s most remote places.

Currently the interpretive staff consists of a Chief of Interpretation & Partnerships and a Student Trainee Park Ranger Interpretation, supplemented with several interns. To develop a comprehensive interpretive program and serve an increasing number of visitors, the monument will need to expand its interpretive staff.

This plan recommends the following interpretive staffing additions over the next ten years:

- 1 interpretive ranger
- 1 education and outreach coordinator
- 1 or 2 NPS visitor use assistants to help staff the new Interagency Information Center (or the equivalent under BLM or the Forest Service)
- 2 or more seasonal interpretive rangers
- 2 or more teacher-ranger-teacher positions

Ideally, at least one of these staff additions will be of American Indian heritage and another will have Spanish language skills.



## Implementation Guide

Implementing the recommendations in a Long-Range Interpretive Plan is a gradual process that depends greatly on the funding and staffing levels available to carry out the recommended projects. At a relatively “young” entity like Parashant National Monument, many critical management and other planning decisions, including a proposed new Interagency Information Center, have yet to be made.

This implementation guide offers a rough schedule to help Parashant National Monument set priorities and make concrete, measurable progress toward strengthening its interpretive program, even as circumstances change.

The chart below presents step-by-step sequences for each major category of recommendations. Indicators (xx) mark each action as short-term (within the next three years), mid-term (within the next four to six years), or long-term (seven to ten years away). Entries with indicators across all three timeframes should be considered as continuous, ongoing activities.

The cost projection column provides a rough estimate of the projected costs of each recommendation, using the symbol \$ to indicate comparative costs per year, inclusive of staffing, supplies, and related expenses.

<b>INTERPRETIVE PLANNING RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	<b>Short-term 1-3 years (2012-15)</b>	<b>Mid-term 4-6 years (2016-18)</b>	<b>Long-term 7-10 years (2019-22)</b>	<b>Cost Projection</b>
<b>Personal Services</b>				
<b>In the Monument</b>				
Create and publicize travel schedules for interpreters and volunteers to be on-site to provide programming at intervals in the monument.	XX	XX	XX	\$
Work with the Southern Paiute tribe to create on-site activities for and by the tribe and other visitors.	XX	XX	XX	\$
Promote public visitation and set aside some program time when BLM or NPS staff, volunteers, or researchers are present on the monument.	XX	XX	XX	\$
Continue to work with the Bar 10 Ranch to provide interpretive materials (films, podcasts) or specialized expertise as needed.	XX	XX	XX	\$
Continue to explore possibilities for guided tours within the monument through outsourced tour companies.	XX	XX	XX	\$
Explore placing interpreters-in-residence at selected sites in the monument.		XX	XX	\$
Schedule and promote an annual theme-related special event on the monument.		XX	XX	\$
<b>Outside the Monument</b>				
Develop pocket programs for use by staff and volunteers.	XX			\$
Continue with successful special events programming such as Earth Day, Tribal Lands Day, and National Public Lands Day.	XX	XX	XX	\$
Build a consistent community outreach partnership with St. George and the local chamber of commerce.	XX			\$
Create a speakers bureau.	XX			\$
Plan activities for the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act.	XX			\$
Plan activities for the NPS Centennial.		XX		\$\$
Consider expanding service hours of the Visitor Information Center to include more weekend hours.			XX	\$\$
<b>Educational/Youth Programming</b>				
Continue to support Southern Paiute Youth Programs in the monument.	XX			\$\$
Continue to work on K-12 curriculum materials.	XX	XX	XX	\$\$
Develop traveling trunks with hands-on materials to support curricula.	XX	XX	XX	\$
Create two small libraries of Parashant theme-related materials for Mt. Dellenbaugh and Mt. Trumbull administrative sites for use by visiting groups.	XX			\$
Provide wildlife identification card files and phenology logs for Mt. Dellenbaugh and Mt. Trumbull administrative sites for visitor use.	XX			\$
Explore addition youth camp possibilities with NPS-approved outside providers.		XX		\$
Re-evaluate the Junior Ranger booklet at three-year intervals, updating as necessary.		XX	XX	\$
<b>Non-Personal/Interpretive Media</b>				
<b>Audiovisuals</b>				
Initiate a screensaver project using staff and volunteer photography.	XX			\$
Create a series of theme-based podcasts to complement monument site bulletins as they are developed.		XX		\$\$
Seek funding and produce a new film on the monument.		XX	XX	
<b>Exhibits</b>				
Create small-scale exhibits at the Mt. Dellenbaugh and Mt. Trumbull administrative centers to display relevant objects and artifacts	XX			\$\$
Create a series of theme-based portable or temporary exhibits about the monument for a variety of uses.	XX			\$\$
Acquire a large topographical relief map as a central element in the Visitor Information Center.		XX		\$\$\$
Plan and develop human/cultural history exhibits to be installed in the new interagency Visitor Information Center when it is completed.		XX	XX	\$\$\$

<b>INTERPRETIVE PLANNING RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	<b>Short-term 1-3 years (2012-15)</b>	<b>Mid-term 4-6 years (2016-18)</b>	<b>Long-term 7-10 years (2019-22)</b>	<b>Cost Projection</b>
<b>Printed Publications</b>				
Develop a rack card for the monument and distribute it widely throughout the region.	XX			\$\$
Ensure that all federal and state public lands visitor sites have Parashant information, including the unigrid brochure and the rack card.	XX			\$
Develop a series of in-depth site bulletins to tell the stories of the monument and to serve as the basis for creating other interpretive support materials.	XX	XX	XX	\$\$
o Develop the first set of six site bulletins.	XX			\$
o Develop the second set of six site bulletins.		XX		\$
o Develop the third set of six site bulletins.			XX	\$
Create a series of self-guided itineraries enabling visitors to explore segments of the monument according to their individual interests, time available, preferred activities, and/or geographical locations.		XX		\$\$
Develop detailed maps of monument hiking trails.		XX		\$
Explore creation and publication of a staff- and volunteer-produced photography book.		XX		\$\$
Develop specialized interpretive materials for different user groups, such as OHV riders or backcountry hikers.			XX	\$
Develop a quarterly newsletter on the monument and distribute it by email.			XX	\$\$
<b>Wayside Exhibits</b>				
Develop a multi-panel overview/outreach kiosk and install it at key downtown locations in St. George and Mesquite.	XX			\$\$
Continue with development of trailhead waysides or kiosks at selected trailheads within the monument.	XX			\$\$
Create and maintain a cross-populated NPS/BLM database of all agency interpretive wayside signs within or concerning the monument.		XX	XX	\$
<b>Websites and Web-based Media</b>				
Continue to upgrade the NPS Parashant website, adding new materials as they are developed.	XX			\$\$
Provide links on the NPS website to relevant BLM web pages interpreting BLM lands in the monument.	XX			\$
Remove references to the Uinkaret Pueblo from the BLM Parashant website.	XX			\$
Continue to expand Parashant's profile in interactive social media.	XX			\$
Explore options for a single, integrated monument website containing all pre-visit, trip-planning, and interpretive materials.		XX		\$
Develop mobile applications to enable quick downloading of most web materials to smartphones.		XX		\$\$
Update and adapt the BLM Parashant website's library catalog/reading list for the NPS monument website.		XX		\$
Explore options for installing webcams or motion-activated still cameras at selected sites on the monument.			XX	\$
<b>Interpretive Training</b>				
Create collaborative training opportunities in interpretation for all agency employees who interface with visitors.	XX	XX	XX	\$\$
Establish well-defined standards for interpretive services to be provided by D/ASIA staff and volunteers working in the Visitor Information Center in St. George.		XX		\$
Provide interpretive training to all D/ASIA staff and volunteers to assist them in providing the best possible service to Parashant visitors.		XX	XX	\$\$
Incorporate an on-site monument visit as a regular part of interpretive training.		XX	XX	\$
<b>Staffing Needs</b>				
Add 2 or more teacher-ranger-teachers.	XX			\$\$
Add an education and outreach coordinator.		XX		\$\$
Add 2 or more seasonal employees.		XX		\$\$
Add one interpretive ranger.			XX	\$\$
Add 1 or 2 NPS visitor use assistants to help staff the new VIC.			XX	\$\$



## Appendices

## Appendix A: Presidential Proclamation

**Establishment of the Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument (#7265)  
By the President of the United States of America  
A Proclamation  
January 11, 2000**

The Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument is a vast, biologically diverse, impressive landscape encompassing an array of scientific and historic objects. This remote area of open, undeveloped spaces and engaging scenery is located on the edge of one of the most beautiful places on earth, the Grand Canyon. Despite the hardships created by rugged isolation and the lack of natural waters, the monument has a long and rich human history spanning more than 11,000 years, and an equally rich geologic history spanning almost 2 billion years. Full of natural splendor and a sense of solitude, this area remains remote and unspoiled, qualities that are essential to the protection of the scientific and historic resources it contains. The monument is a geological treasure. Its Paleozoic and Mesozoic sedimentary rock layers are relatively undeformed and unobscured by vegetation, offering a clear view to understanding the geologic history of the Colorado Plateau. Deep canyons, mountains, and lonely buttes testify to the power of geological forces and provide colorful vistas. A variety of formations have been exposed by millennia of erosion by the Colorado River. The Cambrian, Devonian, and Mississippian formations (Muav Limestone, Temple Butte Formation, and the Redwall Limestone) are exposed at the southern end of the lower Grand Wash Cliffs. The Pennsylvanian and Permian formations (Calville Limestone, Esplanade Sandstone, Hermit Shale, Toroweap Formation, and the Kaibab Formation) are well exposed within the Parashant, Andrus, and Whitmore Canyons, and on the Grand Gulch Bench. The Triassic Chinle and Moenkopi Formations are exposed on the Shivwits Plateau, and the purple, pink, and white shale, mudstone, and sandstone of the Triassic Chinle Formation are exposed in Hells Hole.

The monument encompasses the lower portion of the Shivwits Plateau, which forms an important watershed for the Colorado River and the Grand Canyon. The Plateau is bounded on the west by the Grand Wash Cliffs and on the east by the Hurricane Cliffs. These cliffs, formed by large faults that sever the Colorado Plateau slicing north to south through the region, were and are major topographic barriers to travel across the area. The Grand Wash Cliffs juxtapose the colorful, lava-capped Precambrian and Paleozoic strata of the Grand Canyon against the highly faulted terrain, recent lake beds, and desert volcanic peaks of the down-dropped Grand Wash trough. These cliffs, which consist of lower and upper cliffs separated by the Grand Gulch Bench, form a spectacular boundary between the basin and range and the Colorado Plateau geologic provinces. At the south end of the Shivwits Plateau are several important tributaries to the Colorado River, including the rugged and beautiful Parashant, Andrus, and Whitmore canyons. The Plateau here is capped by volcanic rocks with an array of cinder cones and basalt flows, ranging in age from 9 million to only about 1000 years old. Lava from the Whitmore and Toroweap areas flowed into the Grand Canyon and dammed the river many times over the past several million years. The monument is pocketed with sinkholes and breccia pipes, structures associated with volcanism and the collapse of underlying rock layers through ground water dissolution.

Fossils are abundant in the monument. Among these are large numbers of invertebrate fossils, including bryozoans and brachiopods located in the Calville limestone of the Grand Wash Cliffs, and brachiopods, pelecypods, fenestrate bryozoa, and crinoid ossicles in the Toroweap and Kaibab formations of Whitmore Canyon. There are also sponges in nodules and pectenoid pelecypods throughout the Kaibab formation of Parashant Canyon. The Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument contains portions of geologic faults, including the Dellenbaugh fault, which cuts basalt flows dated 6 to 7 million years old, the Toroweap fault, which has been active within the last 30,000 years, the Hurricane fault, which forms the Hurricane Cliffs and extends over 150 miles across northern Arizona and into Utah, and the Grand Wash fault, which bounds the west side of the Shivwits Plateau and has approximately 15,000 feet of displacement across the monument.

Archaeological evidence shows much human use of the area over the past centuries. Because of their remoteness and the lack of easy road access, the sites in this area have experienced relatively little vandalism. Their good condition distinguishes them from many prehistoric resources in other areas.

Prehistoric use is documented by irreplaceable rock art images, quarries, villages, watchtowers, agricultural features, burial sites, caves, rockshelters, trails, and camps. Current evidence indicates that the monument was utilized by small numbers of hunter-gatherers during the Archaic Period (7000 B.C. to 300 B.C.). Population and utilization of the monument increased during the Ancestral Puebloan Period from the Basketmaker II Phase through the Pueblo II Phase (300 B.C. to 1150 A.D.), as evidenced by the presence of pit houses, habitation rooms, agricultural features, and pueblo structures. Population size decreased during the Pueblo III Phase (1150 A.D. to 1225 A.D.). Southern Paiute groups replaced the Pueblo groups and were occupying the monument at the time of Euro-American contact. Archeological sites in the monument include large concentrations of ancestral Puebloan (Anasazi or Hitsuksinom) villages, a large, intact Pueblo II village, numerous archaic period archeological sites, Ancestral Puebloan sites, and Southern Paiute sites. The monument also contains areas of importance to existing Indian tribes.

In 1776, the Escalante-Dominguez expedition of Spanish explorers passed near Mount Trumbull. In the first half of the 19th century, Jedediah Smith, Antonio Armijo, and John C. Fremont explored portions of this remote area. Jacob Hamblin, a noted Mormon pioneer, explored portions of the Shivwits Plateau in 1858 and, with John Wesley Powell, in the 1870s. Clarence Dutton completed some of the first geological explorations of this area and provided some of the most stirring written descriptions. Having traversed this area by wagon at the request of the territorial legislature, Sharlot Hall recommended it for inclusion within the State of Arizona when it gained Statehood in 1912. Early historic sawmills provided timber that was hauled 70 miles along the Temple Trail wagon road from Mt. Trumbull down the Hurricane Cliffs to St. George, Utah. Ranch structures and corrals, fences, water tanks, and the ruins of sawmills are scattered across the monument and tell the stories of the remote family ranches and the lifestyles of early homesteaders. There are several old mining sites dating from the 1870s, showing the history of mining during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The remote and undeveloped nature of the monument protects these historical sites in nearly their original context.

The monument also contains outstanding biological resources preserved by remoteness and limited travel corridors. The monument is the junction of two physiographic ecoregions: the Mojave Desert and the Colorado Plateau. Individually, these regions contain ecosystems extreme to each other, ranging from stark, arid desert to complex, dramatic higher elevation plateaus, tributaries, and rims of the Grand Canyon. The western margin of the Shivwits Plateau marks the boundary between the Sonoran/Mojave/Great Basin floristic provinces to the west and south, and the Colorado Plateau province to the northeast. This intersection of these biomes is a distinctive and remarkable feature. Riparian corridors link the plateau to the Colorado River corridor below, allowing wildlife movement and plant dispersal. The Shivwits Plateau is in an arid environment with between 14 to 18 inches of precipitation a year. Giant Mojave Yucca cacti proliferate in undisturbed conditions throughout the monument. Diverse wildlife inhabit the monument, including a trophy-quality mule deer herd, Kaibab squirrels, and wild turkey. There are numerous threatened or endangered species as well, including the Mexican spotted owl, the California condor, the desert tortoise, and the southwestern willow flycatcher. There are also candidate or sensitive species, including the spotted bat, the western mastiff bat, the Townsend's big eared bat, and the goshawk, as well as two federally recognized sensitive rare plant species: *Penstemon distans* and *Rosa stellata*. The ponderosa pine ecosystem in the Mt. Trumbull area is a biological resource of scientific interest, which has been studied to gain important insights regarding dendroclimatic reconstruction, fire history, forest structure change, and the long-term persistence and stability of presettlement pine groups.

Section 2 of the Act of June 8, 1906 (34 Stat. 225, 16 U.S.C. 431) authorizes the President, in his discretion, to declare by public proclamation historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest that are situated upon the lands owned or controlled by the Government of the United States to be national monuments, and to reserve as a part thereof parcels of land, the limits of which in all cases shall be confined to the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected.

WHEREAS it appears that it would be in the public interest to reserve such lands as a national monument to be known as the Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM J. CLINTON, President of the United States of America, by the authority vested in me by section 2 of the Act of June 8, 1906 (34 Stat. 225, 16 U.S.C. 431), do proclaim that there are hereby set apart and reserved as the Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument, for the purpose of protecting the objects identified above, all lands and interests in lands owned or controlled by the United States within the boundaries of the area described on the map entitled "Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument" attached to and forming a part of this proclamation. The Federal land and interests in land reserved consist of approximately 1,014,000 acres, which is the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected. For the purpose of protecting the objects identified above, all motorized and mechanized vehicle use off road will be prohibited, except for emergency or authorized administrative purposes. Nothing in this proclamation shall be deemed to enlarge or diminish the jurisdiction of the State of Arizona with respect to fish and wildlife management.

The establishment of this monument is subject to valid existing rights.

All Federal lands and interests in lands within the boundaries of this monument are hereby appropriated and withdrawn from all forms of entry, location, selection, sale, or leasing or other disposition under the public land laws, including but not limited to withdrawal from location, entry, and patent under the mining laws, and from disposition under all laws relating to mineral and geothermal leasing, other than by exchange that furthers the protective purposes of the monument. Sale of vegetative material is permitted only if part of an authorized science-based ecological restoration project. Lands and interests in lands within the proposed monument not owned by the United States shall be reserved as a part of the monument upon acquisition of title thereto by the United States.

This proclamation does not reserve water as a matter of Federal law nor relinquish any water rights held by the Federal Government existing on this date. The Federal land managing agencies shall work with appropriate State authorities to ensure that water resources needed for monument purposes are available.

The Secretary of the Interior shall manage the monument through the Bureau of Land Management and the National Park Service, pursuant to applicable legal authorities, to implement the purposes of this proclamation. The National Park Service and the Bureau of Land Management shall manage the monument cooperatively and shall prepare an agreement to share, consistent with applicable laws, whatever resources are necessary to properly manage the monument; however, the National Park Service shall continue to have primary management authority over the portion of the monument within the Lake Mead National Recreation Area, and the Bureau of Land Management shall have primary management authority over the remaining portion of the monument.

The Bureau of Land Management shall continue to issue and administer grazing leases within the portion of the monument within the Lake Mead National Recreation Area, consistent with the Lake Mead National Recreation Area authorizing legislation. Laws, regulations, and policies followed by the Bureau of Land Management in issuing and administering grazing leases on all lands under its jurisdiction shall continue to apply to the remaining portion of the monument. Nothing in this proclamation shall be deemed to revoke any existing withdrawal, reservation, or appropriation; however, the national monument shall be the dominant reservation. Warning is hereby given to all unauthorized persons not to appropriate, injure, destroy, or remove any feature of this monument and not to locate or settle upon any of the lands thereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this eleventh day of January, in the year of our Lord two thousand, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty fourth.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

## Appendix B: Planning Team

### Long-Range Interpretive Plan Participants

#### National Park Service and Bureau of Land Management Participants

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#### Partner and Stakeholder Participants

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 Spence Esplin, Local citizen/rancher  
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### **Consultant Team**

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## Appendix C: References

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## **Appendix D: Future Interagency Visitor Information Center Concept Plan (June 2012)**



# Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument Interagency Visitor Information Center Concept Plan

June 2012

# Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument Interagency Visitor Information Center Concept Plan

June 2012

Prepared by:  
Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument  
Pond | Ecos  
Goolrick Interpretive Group

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

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## Introduction

In FY 2012, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the National Park Service (NPS) units headquartered in St. George, Utah, began exploring options for a new interagency headquarters facility to accommodate increasing workloads and visitor services. The new facility will house administrative and operational activities for the several federal agencies engaged in managing public lands in the region. These agencies are expected to include:

- the Arizona Strip District of the BLM,
- St. George Field Office Utah BLM,
- the Pine Valley Ranger District, Dixie National Forest, USDA Forest Service,
- the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and
- the NPS - Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument.

In addition to its back-office functions, the new facility is also expected to serve as the “public face” of the agencies: a one-stop, interagency visitor contact/information center for local, national, and international visitors and users exploring a combined total of some 4 million acres of public lands. At a minimum, these lands include the 1.1 million acres of Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument, the 2 million additional acres managed by AZ Strip Field Office, 635,000 acres managed by the St. George Field Office, and 480,000 acres of USDA Forest Service lands. In addition, the interagency visitor center will frequently be tasked with offering ad hoc information and referrals to other local, state, and sovereign nation (i.e., Southern Paiute) lands throughout the region.

At present, locations and spatial allocations for the interagency headquarters and visitor information center have not yet been determined. Three possibilities are under discussion:

- A GSA-funded lease and adaptation of an existing office complex in St. George;
- A new facility constructed by and on property (including outdoor interpretive spaces) already owned by the Bureau of Land Management; or
- A separate, freestanding visitor center located explicitly for visitor convenience and high visibility – perhaps even in collaboration with another visitor-oriented site in the area – without regard to the location of the new interagency headquarters facility.

As will be demonstrated in this document, this plan recommends Option 2 as the most desirable approach. Only Option 2, with the possibility for both indoor and outdoor spaces devoted to visitor services, can provide optimum spatial flexibility, affordability, and memorable visitor experiences that directly support the complementary missions of the agencies, as well as a set of compelling interpretive themes reflecting the unique recreational, cultural, and historical offerings of the region.

## Purpose of the Plan

This concept plan addresses the vision and potential functions of the future interagency visitor information center. As such, it focuses specifically on visitor needs and the visitor experience – that is, what are the desirable outcomes when local or non-local members of the public arrive at an interagency center seeking interaction, access, services, information, and interpretation regarding the region’s public lands?

## Planning Background

At present, visitor services are handled in a 2,200-square-foot space in the existing headquarters facility at 345 East Riverside Drive in St. George. The existing center is managed by a USDA Forest Service employee with joint funding from the Forest Service, NPS, and BLM. Staff from the Dixie/Arizona Strip Interpretive Association (D/ASIA), a longtime cooperating association with the BLM, agency employees, and volunteers operate the information and retail functions. The large, open room is used not only for visitor information, but also for recreation and commercial passes and permits for all three agencies, retail sales (including maps) from the D/ASIA store, and telephone and reception duties for the entire office headquarters complex. Efforts continue to streamline operations and procedures and improve the visitor experience in this space.

To develop this concept plan for the new visitor facility, the Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument hosted a planning charrette for NPS, BLM, and D/ASIA participants on March 23, 2012. Facilitated by outside consultants working on a long-range interpretive plan for the Monument, the planning charrette challenged participants to identify and prioritize visitor needs within the new space, as well as suggest appropriate interpretive media.

As background for the charrette, participants were directed to the interpretive theme topics under development as part of the NPS Long-Range Interpretive Plan for Parashant National Monument. These theme topics are as follows:

- Rock of All Ages: Geology and Paleontology of Parashant
- The Human Touch: People's Presence on the Land
- The Wild West: Get Back to Nature at Parashant
- Variety Is the Spice of Life: From Desert to Mountain Ecosystems
- A Monumental Effort: People and Parashant today
- Go With the Flow: Water Is the Lifeblood of the Land



Discussion on the future spatial needs for the Interagency Visitor Center addressed creative options for providing a visitor experience of the Monument.

## Identifying Audiences and Their Needs

Like most visitor centers representing recreational, cultural, and/or historic sites, the new interagency visitor space must work as a multi-functional facility serving a diverse public with differing needs and expectations. Typically, a visitor center simultaneously must serve as a local welcome center or fee station with basic amenities (bathrooms, water, seating) for all visitors; an information and orientation area with maps, brochures, suggested activities, and a staffed reception desk for visitors touring the area; a gathering or meeting place for specialized visitor groups such as extended families, schoolchildren, or an organized tour; and an interpretive center capable of offering more in-depth learning or experiences regarding the site. Beyond these basic offerings, visitor centers may also wish to provide an auditorium or other viewing space for audiovisual programming and special events, as well as classroom capacity for educational programming.

Charrette participants identified a number of existing and potential audiences and audience needs for the new St. George interagency visitor center:

- A growing number of tourists and newcomers to the St. George area need a “global picture” of the region’s public lands, supported by real-time information, maps, and trip planning assistance in selecting among and accessing the many recreational, natural, cultural, and historical sites.
  - One indicator of tourism demand in the area is the success of the nearby St. George Welcome Center, now the busiest welcome center in Utah. This county/municipal facility has seen its visitation almost double in the past four years, from 240,000 visitors in 2007 to 470,183 in 2011.
- Given the realities of backcountry exploring, many current and potential audiences of the new visitor center may never be able to travel into the more remote areas of the region and experience its unique qualities first-hand. Engaging interpretive offerings at an accessible visitor center could enable many potential visitors to make memorable, enjoyable connections with the region’s public lands, even if they cannot go there.
  - Among the target audiences for these interpretive offerings are young families, seniors, persons with disabilities, and newcomers or tourists without access to four-wheel drive vehicles or OHVs.
- Local visitors need quick access to permitting and other local information, without standing in line behind others who are first time visitors requiring more detailed information.
- School and youth groups constitute a large potential audience that is currently underserved by the federal agencies overseeing public lands in the region. At present, there are few school-bus-friendly places for field trips or experiential learning on federally managed public lands within a reasonable school-day drive time from St. George. The lack of K-12 programming space within the current interagency center is an opportunity missed for numerous interagency goals, such as building stewardship, supporting natural sciences education, and much more. This critical need should be addressed in the new center.
- More broadly, participants also identified children, in or out of K-12 groups, as an important potential audience for rich visitor experiences within the new visitor space. As with K-12 programming, non-structured children’s activities and experiences have not heretofore been an area of emphasis for visitor services.

## Logistical and Administrative Concerns

Other important “audiences” to be considered in the new visitor information center design are the agencies themselves, including all the affected BLM units, D/ASIA, and the employees and volunteers who will work in and with the center. These constituencies and their concerns are important and should not be disregarded. However, most visitors will perceive the new facility as a cohesive, indivisible whole representing all the agencies. With the exception of well-informed locals, visitors will likely not distinguish between or among agencies having a presence in the center, and the intricacies of “multiple missions, multiple uses” among agencies will be of little interest. Rather, each agency and unit involved in the new interagency visitor information/contact center must put “visitor experience” at the facility first and foremost if it is to succeed.

These specific concerns must be addressed in spatial planning:

- The visitor welcome/reception area should be separated from the permitting and retail areas in order to avoid wait times and to encourage a visitor-friendly, welcoming approach.
- Currently, the logistics of accepting fees and other business transactions require separate computer workstations with different software for each agency. While cumbersome, this reality is likely to remain for some time.
- The computerized BLM Collection and Billing System (CBS) process for permitting can be handled only by authorized personnel. While separation of the CBS process would be desirable, relocation of that employee would make them unavailable to perform other visitor services when not busy with CBS procedures.
- As in the current building, some types of future visitor programming (such as the popular brown-bag lunch lectures) will require meeting space. The square footage submitted to GSA for the new interagency headquarters includes a large conference room, which potentially can be used for occasional indoor visitor services. A professional audio visual system designed for this area would be desirable.
- After hours restrooms should be provided for visitors.
- All entrances and exits, reception desks/counters, restrooms, and exhibits must meet ADA standards for accessibility.
- Currently, visitor center staffers serve as phone receptionists for the entire headquarters building – an arrangement that saves personnel costs but severely impacts the visitor experience. In a new facility with higher visitation, the office switchboard should be rerouted to another location.
- In addition to space for delivering visitor services, the new facility should include storage space for interpretive materials and an employee/ volunteer break room.
- Externally, the new visitor information/contact center must have ample parking for increasing visitation, including pull-through spaces for RVs and parking with turnarounds for buses.
- Another external need for visitors is a “wash-down” space for cleaning camping gear, etc., to remove potentially harmful invasive organisms before entering the region’s remote natural areas.

## The Visitor Experience

Imagine this scene at an interagency visitor information center created as part of the new interagency headquarters constructed on BLM land on the outskirts of St. George:

The Williams family – Mom, Dad, their four children (aged 4 to 13), and the children’s grandmother (aged 75) – have recently moved to St. George. They arrive at the interagency visitor information center one day in early summer, looking for things to do in the great outdoors in the region.

As they approach the building, Sarah, aged 8, is immediately attracted by the sculpted rock garden, cacti, bright flowers, and reproduction petroglyphs of human figures near the entrance. She and her grandmother opt to follow the path under the mist-maker and through the gate where the sculptural rock forms continue. As they walk, they notice that the rock formations gradually change shapes, colors, and textures; occasionally they notice a colorful sign interpreting the ancient geological formations the rocks represent.

Meanwhile, the rest of the family enters the visitor center, where they are greeted by a friendly desk attendant who directs Dad to the permitting desk and steers the rest of the family to the large “magic map” that extends like a quadruple-sized dining room table in the center of the room. The map, a colorful 3-D topographical installation, is framed by interactive touch screens with overlays and push-buttons that highlight portions of the map complete with video stories, as the visitor explores the terrain. Soon the group is immersed in the experience, showing and sharing their discoveries in the amazing natural landscape of the region. The older children and their father move to the adjacent flat map displays and pullout drawers, using their newfound “birds-eye perspective” to zero in on the best areas for short day trips and future hiking and camping excursions. They select the best maps and a guidebook, ringing up their purchases in the adjacent retail area before rejoining their group.



An example of products that could be sold within the retail area of the Interagency Visitor Center.

After working their way around the entire interactive map – a virtual tour from St. George all the way to the far reaches of the Grand Canyon’s North Rim and back again – the family’s attention is caught by the façade of a rough “line shack” built out along the back corner of the space. A giant mural shows a lone cattle herder on horseback, surrounded by a scattered herd of scruffy-looking cows. The line shack itself is primitive but intriguing, with touchable artifacts, an audio wand to listen to an old-timer tell his story, and a few historic photos and lines of text.

Next to the line shack display, the family finds a campsite with a tent to crawl into, a soundscape of motion-activated night noises, and a telescope device that reveals panoply of bright constellations against a dark desert sky. Behind the tent, a photomural shows an OHV driving down a rough track leading into the distance.

By now, the group is ready to join Grandmother and Sarah outside. They exit by a side door into an unexpected treat: a fascinating “interpretive landscape” with curving pathways, layers of rocks, a spring surrounded by greenery, a crawl-through cave, sun-screened open spaces with Ponderosa pine benches and interpretive panels, and a small, shaded natural-stone amphitheater, where a member of the Southern Paiute tribe has just begun a presentation before an audience that includes drop-in visitors as well as a local Scout troop. A schedule posted nearby promotes a “live raptor” show next week, followed by rodeo rope tricks – and 10-year-old Brandon is hooked. After a thoroughly enjoyable two-hour visit, this multi-generational family group leaves, with plans to return frequently to explore other parts of the facility, including a one-mile interpretive trail. Dad and the older children are even more ambitious: They leave ready to bring their friends back to consult the visitor center staff about planning a camping trip into the heart of Parashant National Monument and other nearby public lands.



Map and Trip Planning Areas provide visitors opportunity to learn safety information and to increase their knowledge of other accessible landscapes regionally.

## Spatial Allocation

The scenario described above presents just a few examples among a range of possibilities for creating a dynamic visitor experience in the new interagency visitor center. A flexible combination of indoor and outdoor spaces can allow ample room for multiple levels of visitor services, as well as interpretive programming for varying age and interest groups. The essential components are highlighted here:

**Welcome/reception area:** A smiling, uniformed staff member at an attractive, uncluttered reception desk should be the first thing visitors see when they enter the facility. At the reception area, visitors can gather basic information, ask questions, and find out what the center has to offer.

Suggested space allocation: 15% of interior total

**Passes and permits area:** This space accommodates all business transactions for all agencies, including commercial permits, recreational permits, and America the Beautiful National Parks and Federal Recreation Lands passes. Operationally, these activities can all be conducted at a one-person window or desk and do not require expansive square footage.

Suggested space allocation: 10% of interior total

**Mapping/trip planning area:** In this large area – a key, mission-critical function of the new interagency visitor information/contact center -- visitors can explore the region and chart their proposed travels using multiple kinds of flat, dimensional, and interactive maps. (Printed maps may be purchased in the retail area a few feet away.)

It should be noted that, in addition to its usefulness as a planning tool, a large 3-D interactive topographical map is also a high-profile, high-usage, one-of-a-kind interpretive exhibit. This unique installation has the potential to draw in local and repeat visitors as a destination attraction.

Suggested space allocation: 25% of interior total

**Retail area:** Located adjacent to the map area, the retail space offers maps, books, posters, and other interpretive items that help visitors learn about and enjoy the natural and cultural history of the region.

Suggested space allocation: 20% of interior total

### Interpretive areas:

(1) **Interior:** In a small interior interpretive area devoted to human/cultural history themes, visitors can explore exhibits and artifacts that depict lifeways in the region through the ages. With planning, these small-footprint exhibits can be mounted on low platforms and changed out periodically at minimum expense; an empty corner platform can become a mini-stage for occasional story-telling, artisans, living history, or dress-up games.

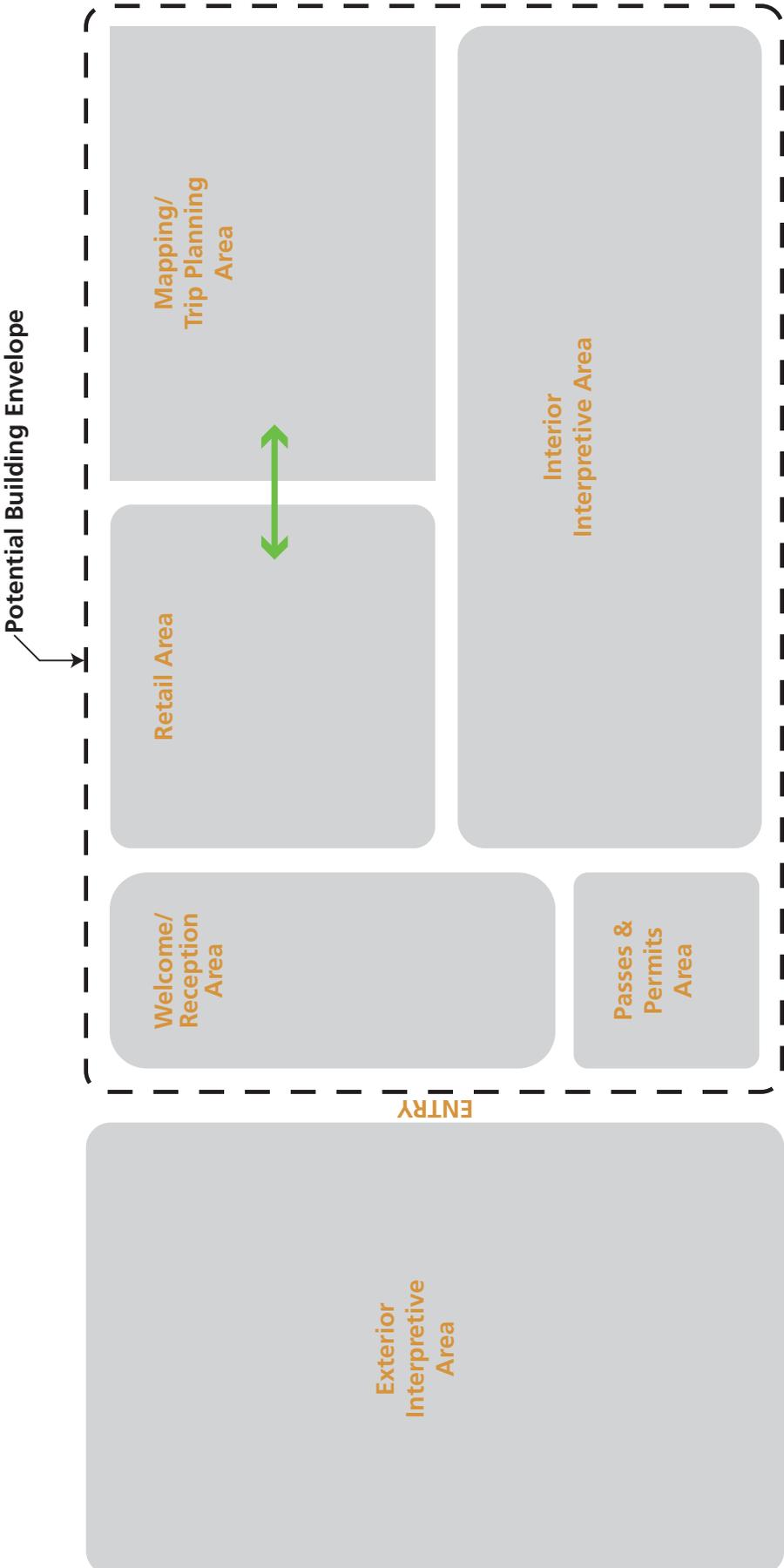
Suggested space allocation: 30% of interior total

(2) **Exterior:** This plan recommends significant additional interpretive space outside the building. Here, a planned landscape encourages visitors to explore the region's outdoor recreational and natural history theme topics: geology and paleontology, the wild remoteness of the region, its diverse ecosystems, and the critical role of water.

Suggested space allocation: 100% of exterior total

The attached diagram depicts the allocation of space for each functional area as a percentage of the total space. While the exact square footage may ultimately be less than desired, the proportional allocations and contiguities should remain roughly the same.

# Spatial Allocation Plan



**Legend**  
Proposed Use Zones  
Proposed Adjacency

## Conclusion

At this juncture it is very difficult to predict future funding prospects for the proposed new space for the interagency visitor information/contact center. In a worst-case scenario, the center will be relegated to an interior space smaller than the 2,200-foot room currently in use at 345 East Riverside Drive. Spatial calculations based on GSA guidelines do not address the need for additional square footage based on visitation, even for a facility designated for visitor services.

Currently, some 60,000 people a year visit the existing interagency visitor information center. If the center's visitation increases by only 5% a year for the next five years – far less than the annual visitation increases at the St. George Welcome Center – visitation will top 70,000 people annually. As Grand Canyon-Parashant and Vermilion Cliffs National Monuments (established in 2000) and Red Cliffs and Beaver Dam Wash National Conservation Areas (established in 2009) become better known, more visitors can be expected, many of them acquiring permits and information at the visitor facility in St. George. Tourism expenditures have continued to rise in Washington and Kane counties despite the recent recession.

A new Interagency Visitor Information Center combining interior and exterior spaces can accommodate the necessary administrative functions, regional information and trip planning, and interpretation in a cost-effective way, while offering high-quality visitor experiences for all.

## **Appendix A: Concept Plan Charrette Participants**

March 23, 2012

Paula Branstner (NPS Interpretive Specialist/retired) Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument

Gay Boman, D/ASIA member and BLM visitor information center volunteer

Jennifer Fox, Biological Science Technician, NPS, Mojave Network & Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument

Amber Franklin, Interpretive Park Ranger, NPS Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument

Paul Fuselier, Outdoor Recreation Planner, BLM Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument

Milton Hokanson, Research Associate, Great Basin Institute

Eathan McIntyre, Physical Sciences Technician, NPS Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument

Rosie Pepito, NPS Superintendent, Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument

Iris Picat, American Conservation Experience Non-personal Interpretation, Saint George Field Office BLM

Scott Sticha, Chief of Interpretation, Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument

Peggy Scherbaum, Contracting Officer's Representative, Harpers Ferry Center, NPS

Denis Sylvia, Deputy District Manager, Arizona Strip, BLM

Shannon Kettering, ASLA, AICP, Certified Charrette Facilitator and Planner, Pond | Ecos (contractor)

Faye Goolrick, Certified Interpretive Planner, Goolrick Interpretive Group (contractor)

## Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument

# MINUTES OF MEETING

## Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument

### Future Interagency Visitor Information Center Workshop

Friday, March 23, 2012  
(Location: BLM District Office, 345 East Riverside Drive St. George, UT 84790)

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#### Agenda:

#### **Welcome, Introductions and Meeting Purpose**

#### **Workshop Exercise**

- Future building and uses
  - What space is needed to best serve your visitor needs?
- Future building contiguities and circulation needs
- Future building themes: What can be interpreted?
- Area of exploration: Can the future building provide the visitor experience?

#### **Wrap Up and Next Steps**

#### Attendees:

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#### Meeting Outcomes:

The following are agenda items with corresponding feedback from attendees.

#### Welcome, Introductions and Meeting Purpose

The workshop is intended to facilitate the Monument in making future decisions concerning needs for building functions and media choices (such as indoor and outdoor exhibits, audiovisual programs, publications, sales items, and digital hand-held media) for the future Interagency Visitor Information Center. The workshop provides a forum for all agencies involved to provide feedback and to offer assistance in the planning and development stages of the Visitor Center

#### Workshop Exercise

- Recommended Building Uses/functions:
  - Information Desk with work station capacity
  - Trip planning area (with map area)
  - Retail area
  - Indoor interpretive area (includes area for small children)
  - Outdoor interpretive area
  - Meeting/classroom/presentation space

# Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument

- Detailed needs:
  - Permits and passes
  - Visitor facility space (restrooms)
  - Storage space (interpretive)
  - Outdoor 'First Amendment' space
  - 1 office (locked)
  - Break room
  - Bus turnaround, bus & vehicle parking, RV pull-through area
  - Bicycle racks
  - Electric plug-in
  - Outdoor, covered gathering and picnic area
  - Outdoor pet area
  - Outdoor interpretive/rec trail (nature trail)

## Who is our audience?

- People relocating to St. George
- Visitors to St. George
- Elderhostel bus tours
- Occasional school groups
- Bus tours from Las Vegas
- Visitors seeking senior pass or facilities
- International visitation
- Locals (purchasing permits and recreation)
- Visitors to public lands
- Families / Children

## Visitor Center Discussion

- Permit area should be separated from retail and information desk
- Need an outdoor 'wash area'
  - Could be necessary for a vehicle
- Offer a 'water bottle' refill area (indoor or outdoor)
- Employee area – need separate computer sections
- CBS – need space for this activity
- Permits and passes can be located together
- How many people are necessary for the 'front/information desk'? This is important or layout/circulation planning: they would need to be able to manage the different computer stations (for all the agencies)
  1. Cubicle work station (current manager)
  2. CBS area (BLM permit)
  3. Volunteer work station (volunteer)
  4. Phone area (or consider alternatives)
- Opportunity to use technology for the map area – include projection space
- Desire for more meeting/conference room space, especially one large room that can then be partitioned into smaller spaces; main: 1010sf (w/ smaller, internal conference space totaling 1500sf)
- Ideally, would need to house space for 150 (i.e. 2000sf )
- An outdoor amphitheater space (120-150 capacity)
- Desire a space for viewing of presentations
- Could have a circular, interior space for a planetarium (for "Dark Sky" interpretive programming)
- Discussion on congruity of the buildings - admin and info/visitor center

# Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument

- Separating admin from visitor needs appears to be a necessity due to complexities of admin roles and potential increase of visitor needs
- Options for visitor circulation should be considered carefully between permits/business needs and interpretive opportunities
- There should be an opportunity to have an ‘immersive’ visitor experience separate from the retail sale
  - OR could make the retail area more interpretive
- One option is to have interpretive out of doors so that the permits walk through or optionally take another route
- Trip planning area – could include self-service kiosk for camping/recreational permits; ideally, all permits
- “Digital Rack Cards” with touch screen; can scan onto smart phone or print the actual rack card
- “After Hours” information kiosk for 24 hr/7 days a week accessibility
- An afterhours drop box
- LEED Gold or better; use of native materials, especially Parashant wood; “dark sky” exterior lighting; day lighting for the building itself
- Provide bio infiltration system; consider misting area and use of recyclable system; use catchment
- Building to be fully ADA accessible and outdoor areas
- Consider use of air doors/curtains; blending the indoors with the outdoors
- Ability to darken windows for presentation purposes, i.e. to allow many uses within a space
- “Dual-Purpose” spaces within the building
- Curatorial needs to be climate-controlled and has specific requirements and is an administrative use (to occur at an alternate location)
- Following Dep. Manual 411 for exhibit/curatorial needs/requirements (UV lighting, safety, etc)
- External and internal access for restrooms
- Specific space for small children
- Outdoor amphitheater could be designed for multiple seasons
- Solar would be photovoltaic and thermal
- An outdoor interpretive nature trail opportunity
- “OHV training space” nearby for consideration (perhaps with a partner)
- Will need mitigation efforts for sound control on site due to potential location and proximity to other uses (i.e. adjacent industrial properties)
- Prefer a site that allows better access to public land, with less negative site consequences (exit 13); should be within the natural setting of the area
- Facility security considerations
- Info desk should be contiguous to weather and road forecasts
- Way finding and signage along major corridors; need improved communication with Utah DOT
- Coordinate future planning with Utah Welcome Center
- Determining phone system – potential alternatives and options (and impacts to the staff)
- Need to determine staffing options – or use of volunteers, interns, etc to improve operational capacity (i.e. phone service)
- Opportunity to partner with Dept of Defense
- Opportunity to offer visitor services at alternate locations (i.e. stakeholder/partner sites)
- Need to correlate scope of sales with interpretive services

# Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument

- Could designate some area that could be more temporary, include a “community space”
- Indoor ‘flex’ meeting spaces should also be dual purpose (and could also include gallery space)
- Using technology, i.e. digital maps, etc, to keep the ability to be changeable
- Need permanent, professional exhibit space (with an exhibit plan), and another need for temporary exhibits (to remain dynamic – like a map for instance)
- Outdoor cooking area (cooking fire pit, etc) could do demonstrations, use for special events
- An opportunity for food vendors/concessions of local culture
- Interpretive area:
  - Outdoor children’s area – with play elements
  - Indoor small children’s area – with tactile, demonstrations, hands-on area
  - Outdoor demonstration area
- Fire pit as a part of the outdoor gathering/auditorium space
- Live animal exhibit (tortoise habitat) or opportunity to have visiting/traveling animal exhibit area
- Two concepts discussed:
  - Concept A:
    - 1 building – Administration and Orientation
    - Interpretation – relocated:
      - A. New building with outdoor interpretive space
      - B. Interpretation dispersed to other locations
  - Concept B:
    - New administration and Interpretation located in one building with outdoor interpretive space
- Option with GSA 1800sf limit: (Concept A)
  - Orientation site
  - Trip planning
  - Raised topographic relief maps
  - Small exhibit – on points of interest
  - And then interpretive services in a separate building
- Could have a small outdoor interpretive opportunity at Option A admin building
- Need ‘baseline’ interpretation services yet rely on the staff to provide personal service (this is a critical component of BLM)
- There exists a challenge with dispersing interpretive services at a distance from the administration location (due to the expectation of high level of staff providing personal service)

## Interpreting Themes at the Interagency Information Center

Potential Interpretive Themes (*still to be confirmed*):

- Rock of Ages: Geology and Paleontology of Parashant
- The Human Touch: People’s Presence on the Land
- The Wild West: Get Back to Nature
- Variety is the Spice of Life: From Desert to Mountain Ecosystems
- A Monumental Effort: People and Parashant Today
- Go With the Flow: Water is the Lifeblood on the Land
- Multiple Uses, Multiple Missions

# Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument

- Would interpret broader than Parashant; would encompass the region
- Emphasize interpreting the 'breadth of history'
- Emphasize interpreting the 'multiple use' due to the interagency presence
  - Multiple Use, Multiple Missions (*potential incorporation as a primary theme*)
- There should be an opportunity/exhibit that offers the 'tribal voice'
- There could even be a space the tribes have management of with regards to messaging
- All themes can be interpreted both out of doors and indoors
- Exhibit ideas: homesteading, safety

## Spatial Needs

- Information desk/area (includes Passes)
  - 4+ capacity
  - In close proximity to weather and road forecasts
  - Workstation with 1+ desktop computer
- Trip planning area with Map area / map layout area
  - Display Arizona Strip map & Interagency Region map
  - Several tables (include ADA); (3) 36" x 48" tables with map storage
  - Topographic relief map (20' x 10')
  - Include different time zones; clocks
  - High priority to BLM
- Retail Area
  - Size should be maximum of 30% (1/3 of max space) and may be dependent on # of buildings/location of interpretive with Administration and Orienteering
- Permits – separate
  - Own access with views to a future tick window with bell
- Back room employee area
  1. Storage space
  2. Break room

## Main Concepts

- Information and Orientation
  - "You Are Here"
  - Interior priority
    - 2<sup>nd</sup> priority cultural history interpretation – central to this concept would be a topographic relief map
- Interpretation
  - Exterior priority



Harpers Ferry Center  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



## Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument

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