

A2621

April 8, 2003

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Intermountain Region

From: Superintendent, Montezuma Castle and Tuzigoot National Monuments

Subject: Annual Narrative Report Fiscal Year 2002

Administration

There were major staff changes affecting 2002. Sherry Wood arrived in as Administrative Officer in late December 2001, and the Administrative Assistant Don Robertson arrived in October 2001. Superintendent Glen Henderson retired in January after 27 years of service. Facility Manager Lenny Hempsted transferred in May. Tom Ulrich, Chief Ranger of Florissant Fossil Beds NM, was acting superintendent from February through May. Kathy Davis was selected Superintendent by Intermountain Regional Director Karen Wade. Kathy, who entered on duty on June 30, 2002, was formerly Chief of Natural Resources in the Southern Arizona Office. The installation was held August 7.

Community Relations

Phelps Dodge Verde Valley Ranch Development near Tuzigoot The proposal for a 900-acre development adjacent to Tuzigoot National Monument is still pending, but change is afoot. Phelps Dodge eliminated the corporation real estate office a few years ago so representatives said the company would not build a housing development rather look for a buyer who could develop it. Phelps Dodge proposed to cap the mine tailings with dirt and restore arid native landscape. Acting Superintendent Ulrich initiated contact with a group just formed to pursue an open-space alternative. He participated in a meeting and Superintendent Davis continued representation. Members are Trust for Public Lands (lead), The Nature Conservancy, town of Clarkdale, Arizona Game and Fish, Arizona State Parks, National Park Service, and other groups/individuals are being included as appropriate for the stage of planning. Representatives of the group will meet with Phelps Dodge in 2003.

Tavasci Marsh Land Exchange The marsh is a wetland mitigation exchange for mining by Phelps Dodge on BLM lands. After the compliance and plan is done and approved, the intent to transfer ownership of the land to NPS. Discussion with Bill Ruddick, Real Estate Specialist, BLM relayed information that the administrative final environmental impact statement (FEIS) had been completed and sent to the BLM Washington DC office and Department of the Interior. The FEIS would probably be released in spring 2003, but BLM expected opposition to the final decision to allow mining.

Montezuma Castle Boundary Expansion Western Lands Group, Inc., (WLG) a public lands consulting firm, approached Acting Superintendent Ulrich regarding protection of a 157-acre parcel of land adjacent to and upstream from the Castle unit. The addition would add a riparian bottom with adjoining cliffs land viewshed and more habitat and archeological resources protection. Private individuals purchased the land about eight years ago on speculation of exchange with USFS for Forest Service parcels around Payson airport for commercial development. Getting frustrated that the administrative process was not moving, the individuals joined others in consulting with WLG for a legislative agenda. WLG compiled several trades of private for USFS lands, but the package became very controversial in Yavapai and Coconino counties because of details, such as no exchange of water rights and continued grazing privileges, with different larger exchange parcels. There was no dispute about the value of adding more land to Montezuma Castle. In November the bill passed the House, but was stopped in the Senate due to its controversial content. State and national politicians held hearings in the two counties and said a bill would be introduced in the next session.

Other Relations Superintendent Davis began enhancing the partnership with Western National Parks Association by including the field manager on the management team and visiting the main office in Tucson to meet staff and continue discussions to create a kid's book on riparian areas and an interpretative brochure for Montezuma Well. With Western National, staffed a booth for the Verde River Days, which attracted 3000 visitors. The last time NPS participated was 1995.

Furthermore relationships were activated with the Verde Nature Tourism Alliance, Trust for Public Lands, Verde Valley Archeological Society, Verde River Citizen Alliance, Audubon, Audubon Important Bird Area, The Nature Conservancy, and service groups, such as boy Scouts of America. Connected with the Yavapai-Prescott Tribe about restoration work done at the Well pithouse and arranged their participation on the first day. Organized the Verde Valley response to Arizona Archeological Awareness Month for March 2003 by convening a group to network for valleywide participation. Approved using Montezuma Castle as the finish line for a Camp Verde Parks and Recreation Department 10K run and contributed logistical support and bottled water.

Cooperating Association

Montezuma Castle and Tuzigoot are affiliated with the Western National Parks Association, which has a field manager and six part-time sales clerks working in the park. Gross sales for each outlet in 2002 were:

Montezuma Castle	\$435,808
Tuzigoot	<u>61,361</u>
Total	497,169

Aid donation value from Western National totaled \$96,867. FY02 dividend was \$32,316. New exhibits funded by accumulated dividends were installed starting in November 2002. They were nearly completed by late December, but late or unacceptable items on the contractor's punch list kept the project going into 2003. The cost was approximately \$350,000 and the final tally will be made once the installation is completed.

Fiscal

The park operating base budget was approximately \$1,036,699 for FY2002. These funds were supplemented by a variety of soft monies including:

Cost of Collection	\$281,736
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Fee Demo Projects	90,684
Cultural Cyclic	25,000
Repair and Rehab	2,100
VIP	1,100

Donations continue to be successful as \$19,212 was collected in the donation boxes.

### Interpretation

Interpretive staff continued to work towards completing the first Teacher's Guide for the monuments. The draft was submitted to a layout editor through Western National Parks Association and will be printed in 2003.

Visitation has continued to decline over the past several years at the monuments. Still, 644,065 visitors at Montezuma Castle and Montezuma Well and 112,407 visitor at Tuzigoot were contacted in the visitor centers and contact station. Formal and informal interpretive programs, including the Junior Ranger program, were presented plus off site programs. The results of the 2002 Visitor Survey Card indicated that 94% of Montezuma Castle visitors and 97% of Tuzigoot visitors understood the significance of the sites.

The new exhibits at Montezuma Castle have been very popular with visitors. Staff from Harpers Ferry Center oversaw the contract to replace the out dated exhibits were in installed when the visitor center was built in the 1960s.

### Lands

Tavasci Marsh, a 324-acre wetland immediately adjacent to Tuzigoot, continues to be included within a larger land exchange proposed by Phelps Dodge Corporation and the Bureau of Land Management. The marsh would be wetland mitigation for Phelps Dodge's proposed mining in eastern Arizona. The marsh would be transferred to National Park Service ownership to protect unique habitat for sensitive species and to provide an appropriate interpretive setting for the Hohokam and Sinagua at Tuzigoot. The draft Environmental Impact Statement was released to the public for comment and the final is expected in spring of 2003.

### Maintenance

Fee demo projects carried out were replacing the fire pumper and a level 1 HABS assessment of Montezuma Castle structure. We worked with the engineer of the Southern Arizona Office to have new architectural drawings of the Montezuma Well toilets. The drawings received from the Santa Fe Support Office were unacceptable to previous and current management because they were over designed for the location and use. The new drawings will be approved in 2003 and construction completed.

The Quarters program funded several small scoped projects throughout the year.

### Personnel

The 2002 park staff consisted of 16 permanent employees and 14 FTE of temporary workers to operate the three units of Montezuma Castle, Montezuma Well, and Tuzigoot. A total of 14 volunteers consistently provided services to the monuments for a total of 4,044 hours in 2002. We held a VIP

recognition celebration in November, which was the first ever for the program. All VIPs received gift certificates for local stores and gift coupons from Western National Parks Association.

Public Use

Visitation continues to decline at the sites. Tour buses remain a significant part of the overall visitation pattern at Montezuma Castle. In FY 2001, a total of 3,638 tour buses carrying 91,114 visitors were counted at Montezuma Castle. Visitation figures for each management unit were:

	<u>2000</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>
Montezuma Castle National Monument (includes Montezuma Well)	804,415	730,887	644,066
Tuzigoot National Monument	114,494	119,695	112,167

The park continues to collect entrance fees from all visitors to Montezuma Castle and Tuzigoot units. A comparison with FY00 shows the following:

	<u>2000</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>
Montezuma Castle	\$880,672	\$750,653	\$823,149
Tuzigoot	<u>102,200</u>	<u>94,063</u>	<u>126,741</u>
Total	982,872	844,716	949,890

Property

All property was surveyed. No new purchases.

Research

Seven research projects were ongoing in 2002. They include studies on floodplain and alluvial deposits, invertebrates in Montezuma Well, baseline inventories of plant, animals, and water, rattlesnakes, waterfowl parasites, and bats.

A major effort was staged for the baseline inventories for all three monument units through the Sonoran Desert Inventory and Monitoring Network. Initial scoping sessions for identification of vital signs began in FY 2000 and continue progressively for all parks individually and collectively. A Level I survey of water resources was initiated, and Phase II of the water resources inventory and monitoring protocols started in November.

Resource Management

Reviews of the list of classified structures and condition assessment for archeological sites were completed.

A special project under the Vanishing Treasures program allowed funding for a baseline photodocumentation of the Tuzigoot ruin, and a Cultural Cyclic project provided for seasonal laborers to augment the permanent Vanishing Treasures program for 6 months. Accomplishments for the year included 1152 square feet of wall surface repointed, 478 square feet of deteriorated stones replaced, and 287 lineal feet of basal erosion repaired.

The parks have negotiated agreements with the Western Archeological and Conservation Center to bring collections of artifacts, library material, and slide files up to NPS standards. Initial work was completed in FY2001 with additional work scheduled for FY02 and FY03.

### Safety

At the our request a structural fire inspection was conducted by the Regional Structural Fire Officer on all facilities.

One employee attended the HazCom Trainer class

The monument purchased five AED units, provided training to the staff on their use, and distributed AEDs to all work stations. Various safety equipment was purchased including safety road signs and barricades: various components of personal protective equipment (PPE) was purchased which included safety boots, prescription eyeglasses, back braces, gloves, sunscreen, and various types of gloves. Aging ladders were replaced.

Kathy Davis  
Superintendent