



The Ranger Review

Montezuma Castle, Montezuma Well, & Tuzigoot National Monuments

Who is Protecting Your Public Lands?

By Ranger Anne Worthington

Understanding Federal Land Use Agencies

In 1915, Ranger Alston Morse would saddle up his horse once a month at the Beaver Creek Ranger Station and head down the old trail to check on Montezuma Castle. He worked for the U.S. Forest Service, but Montezuma Castle National Monument was technically administered under another federal agency, the General Land Office of the Department of the Interior.

Morse loved the ancient cliff dwelling, so it did not matter which agency had the oversight — the Camp Verde resident was responsible for reporting vandalism, erecting signs and replacing rotting ladders. It was noted by the Land Office administrators that Alston Morse represented a strong ethic of stewardship and cooperation that transcended whatever agency was paying him five dollars a month. Caring for one of the nation’s first of four national monuments was his top priority.

Complexity of Management

What is the difference between a national monument and a national park? Why is it called a national forest when so many areas don’t have trees? The intricate network of federal land use agencies is as complex today as it was in the early nineteenth century when vast tracts were purchased, explored, and promoted as new opportunities for those farming a crowded Eastern seaboard, or arriving from other continents in search of a homestead.

Jurisdiction of the country’s public lands reflects deep roots in the founding of the nation, and an early recognition that an orderly process was required for the settlement of acquired territories. In 1812, the General Land Office was formed, overseeing the survey, platting, and sale of public lands. In 1849, the GLO was placed under the Department of the Interior, a new agency charged with handling domestic affairs: parks, exploration of the West, patents and pensions, and the indigenous people.

Oversight of public lands was a primary mis-

sion of the Interior Department; like a vast jigsaw puzzle, tracts were acquired, refitted, added or broken away. In the Southwest, areas controlled by Mexico were realigned after the 1847-49 war between the two countries and the subsequent Gadsden Purchase, which added holdings below the Gila River. The redistribution of traditional cultural boundaries into political and governmental units between different countries created tension and divisions that persist today.

Spirit of Conservation

After the disruption of the Civil War, Americans looked for more positive ways to visit and enjoy the land around them. There was a great rebirth of interest in the sciences, and the government sent numerous expeditions to map, explore, and research what was popularized as the “Wild West”.

The wonderful discoveries — Grand Canyon, Yellowstone, Mesa Verde, Yosemite — were reported in the popular newspapers of the time, encouraging Americans to explore their country. But at the same time, large areas of timber were being stripped from public lands by destructive logging practices, with little oversight or control. Hydraulic mining began eroding the banks of rivers and streams. As pristine archeological sites were discovered, looters and vandals soon followed. Objects removed from government lands often represented 100 percent profit with no legal means to recover priceless artifacts or prosecute for the destruction.

Photographs and accounts of the widespread destruction rallied citizens into a new spirit of activism — the preservation of America’s natural resources and archeological sites. Fortunately in the early 1900’s, a leader with the same vision was in office, and Theodore Roosevelt also had the political skills to achieve his goals.

The first nationally elected American leader to emphasize conservation of natural and cultural resources, President Theodore Roosevelt was advised by two charismatic, forceful conservationists; John Muir and Gifford Pinchot.

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Although Mr. Roosevelt liked and respected both men, Muir and Pinchot had opposing views of how public lands could be best managed.

John Muir was an ardent preservationist who believed the land should stay in as natural a state as possible. Areas of pristine wilderness should never experience commercial activity, grazing, or development. Gifford Pinchot, a German trained forester, believed in the utilitarian ‘conservation’ or wise use of natural resources for controlled timber, grazing, and other uses. He studied and admired the German model of forest conservation —selected trees were cut and replaced with seedlings.

Theodore Roosevelt and Congress saw merit in each land use philosophy, creating the U.S. Forest Service in 1905 to reflect both preservation and conservation policies but with a more utilitarian conservation approach to management.

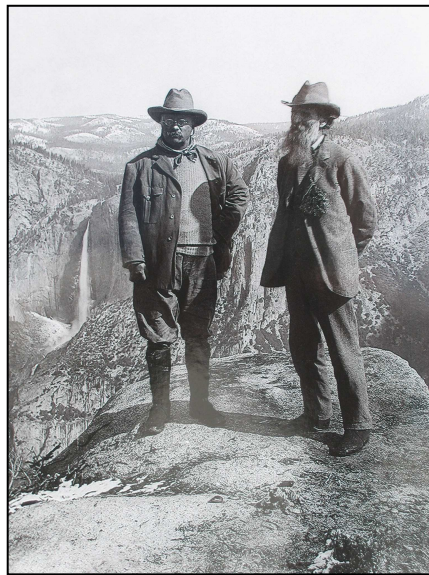
In 1906, responding to widespread looting of prehistoric sites, concerned citizens led a grassroots movement to pass the Antiquities Act. This law protected archaeological sites, provided for artifacts to be on display or curated in public museums, and authorized the President the right to establish National Monuments without the approval of Congress. Devil’s Tower in Wyoming was the nation’s first National Monument. Montezuma Castle National Monument was enacted on December 8, 1906 along with El Morro and Petrified Forest.

A New Agency

Ten years later, several leading citizens argued that the utilitarian conservation philosophy of management was well represented by the U.S. Geological Survey, Forest Service, and Reclamation Service, but the 14 National Parks and 21 National Monuments received little or no attention.

Stephen Mather and Horace Albright, assistants to Secretary of the Interior Franklin Lane, addressed land preservation but also emphasized the economic value of parks as tourist destinations, a relatively new concept in part tied to the railroad development. Lavish portfolios with expansive photographic imagery were forwarded to members of Congress and other influential citizens. The strategy worked: on August 25, 1916, President Woodrow Wilson created the National Park Service under the Department of the Interior.

To this Day, the mission of each federal land management agencies remains slightly different, but complimentary to each other, best serving the heritage and land of the American people. This is demonstrated in the National “America the Beautiful” pass along with the Senior and Access



passes designed to link Federal recreational areas across the United States through cooperation. Reflecting the spirit of Camp Verde Ranger Alston Morse almost 100 years ago. The boundaries have again been blurred to facilitate visitation and connect stewardship initiatives to benefit sites across the country. For many visitors, the National Parks and Monuments and open public lands function as areas of peace, contemplation, and a refuge from the areas of daily life. A mission that remains at the core of the National Park Service as it celebrates 100 years of

President Theodore Roosevelt and John Muir standing in front of the falls at Yosemite National Park.

service in 2016.

“There is nothing more practical in the end than the preservation of beauty... We are not building this country of ours for a day. It is to last through the ages.”

—Theodore Roosevelt, 1903

View Through the Lens

Upcoming Events: September 12th -25th, 2010

September 23rd, 2010
President Theodore Roosevelt's
Birthday

September 25th, 2010
Celebration of Theodore Roosevelt's
Birthday at Montezuma Castle National
Monument



A Rock Squirrel (*Otospermophilus variegates*) eating creosote seeds at Montezuma Castle National Monument. Photo by Sharlot Hart.

Did you know?



NPS employee staffing the Tuzigoot Visitor's Center. NPS archives.

The museum at Tuzigoot National Monument opened its doors in 1936. The building as you see it today at one point housed a caretaker and a laboratory for processing artifacts in the back where offices now reside. All of the display cases and chairs in the museum were actually made by the local high school in Clarkdale.

Jr. Ranger Page

Connect the Dots

Connect the dots see what plant helped the Ancient Sinaguan People survive and write the name of this plant below.





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U.S. Department of the Interior

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Park Happenings & Funny Pages

By Ranger Laura Albert

The Ranger Review is designed to give you more information about what to see and do while visiting our sites. We hope that you enjoy seeing our parks from a Ranger's point of view!

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