



Cultural Resource Management Program

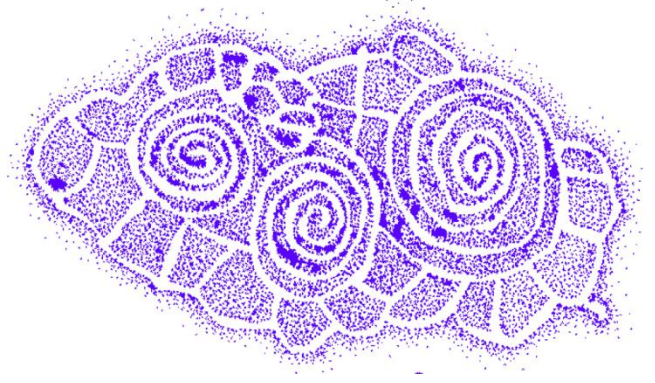
Introduction

Saguaro National Park's (SNP) Cultural Resource Management Program (CRM) is responsible for the protection and preservation of the park's cultural resources, compliant with the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA), and the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) (among others).

Cultural resources include: archeological sites (both prehistoric and historic), buildings and structures, landscapes, museum objects, and historic documents. These items form tangible links with our past (for examples of the park's cultural resources see the Cultural Resources Brief).

The NHPA requires the Park Service to inventory the historic properties under our control, evaluate them in terms of eligibility for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places, and nominate those that are determined eligible for the National Register. Section 106 of the NHPA requires that we consider the effects of our actions on historic properties and provide the regulatory agencies an opportunity to comment on potential impacts from those actions. This requirement safeguards against inadvertent impacts to historic properties from park actions. Under this requirement Cultural Resource staff consult with the Arizona State Historic Preservation Office as well as affiliated Native American tribes. The National Register of Historic Places is the Nation's official list of cultural resources worthy of preservation. Authorized under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the National Register is part of a national program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect our historic and archeological resources.

State Historic Preservation Officers (SHPOs) administer the national historic preservation program at the State level, review National Register of Historic Places nominations, maintain data on historic properties that have been identified but not yet nominated, and consult with Federal agencies during Section 106 review.



The Archaeological Resources Protection Act protects archeological resources and establishes penalties. The act "secure(s), for the present and future benefit of the American people, the protection of archeological resources and sites which are on public lands and Indian lands..."

The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act describes the rights of Native American lineal descendants, Indian tribes, and Native Hawaiian organizations with respect to the treatment, repatriation, and disposition of Native American human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, and objects of cultural patrimony, with which they can show a relationship of lineal descent or cultural affiliation

This statute provides greater protection for Native American burial sites and more careful control over the removal of Native American human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, and items of cultural patrimony on Federal and tribal lands.

Cultural Resources at Saguaro National Park

Saguaro National Park's cultural resources include over 450 archeological sites, over 60 historic structures, one cultural landscape (the Cactus Forest Drive), one traditional use area (for the collection of saguaro fruit), as well as many museum objects.

SNP's museum collections include cultural collections that document both prehistoric and historic human activity in the park and include archeological holdings, history collections and ethnology collections.



Historic red ware sherd in SNP's museum collection.

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The collection totals 12,469 cataloged objects and includes written documentation, photographs, and oral histories.

CRM staff are also responsible for the park's natural history collection, which includes a diverse number (5059 cataloged objects) of flora and fauna specimens as well as geological and paleontological collections. The park also has an archival collection that includes photographs, administrative documents, project documentation, and historical documents. (36,000 cataloged objects).

Examples of some of the activities performed by Cultural Resource Management Program staff include:

- Review permits to insure compliance with applicable federal laws and protection of cultural resources.
- Review internal park projects within a multi-disciplinary setting to insure compliance with applicable federal laws, Park Service directives and protection of cultural resources.
- Review, edit and/or write cultural resources documents, including Determinations of Eligibility, Cultural Landscape Reports, Historic Structure Reports, Environmental Assessments, Environmental Impact Statements, among others.
- Manage park's archeological site database (part of a service-wide data base).
- Initiate Native American consultation and participate in consultation along-side members of the park leadership staff.
- Work with the park's educational and visitor service staff. Partipate in educational programs that help the young visitor understand and appreciate cultural resources.
- Train non-cultural resource staff (biologists, maintenance, etc...) as well as seasonal personnel, in the recognition of cultural resources and on-site archeological site etiquette.
- Conduct archeological surveys in accordance with Section 106 and 110 of National Historic Preservation Act.
- Perform archeological site condition assessments: monitoring environmental changes and vandalism as well as making recommendations on mitigating disturbances.

- Make recommendations and oversee stabilization activities; ensure historic resources within the park retain structural integrity.
- Serve as the park's museum collection manager and oversee collection documentation and manage park's museum collection database.
- Supervise CRM volunteers.



Petroglyph site: one of many archeological sites that are monitored for vandalism and environmental changes.



Park Service staff stabilizing lime kiln at Saguaro National Park

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