



United States Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
MONTEZUMA CASTLE & TUZIGOOT NATIONAL MONUMENTS
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Memorandum

To: Director, Intermountain Region

From: Superintendent, Montezuma Castle and Tuzigoot National Monuments

Subject: Annual Report FY2005 for Montezuma Castle and Tuzigoot National Monuments

Following is the annual narrative report of FY2005 for the monuments:

Management

Operations and Partnering

The GPRA response was completed on time. We exceeded 6 goals, met 22 goals, and did not meet 6 goals.

We have established relations with the eight affiliated tribes and have more interaction with tribes than any time in the past. Most interaction was with the Hopi, Yavapai-Apache, and Yavapai-Prescott with two meetings with each group. We hosted a visit by representatives of the Four Southern Tribes, i.e., Gila River Pima-Maricopa, Salt River Pima-Maricopa, Ak Chin, and Tohono O'odham and also met with them in Phoenix. With the Zunis, our contact is primarily by letter or phone. Following discussions with the Hopi we drafted an MOU to facilitate compliance, cultural demonstrations, and other activities. The draft MOU was sent to each tribe for review and consideration. The Yavapai-Apache signed the MOU and Hopi are reviewing through tribal council. We continue to communicate with the other tribes about their interest in the MOU.

We implemented most of the management assistance review recommendations.

The GMP is moving forward with public meetings and staff involvement. The plan and compliance document will be out for public review in 2006 and finalized next year.

We are part of a civic tourism initiative with the Chamber of Commerce of Camp Verde and Sharlot Hall Museum in Prescott participating in regional meetings and as a panel member. In December 2005, we will assist the partners to host a town hall meeting about civic tourism. In March 2006 there will be a national conference in Prescott that includes NPS speakers.



Relations with Western National Parks Association (WNPA) are excellent. In 2002 I asked if they could help us design a riparian book. WNPA liked the idea and did it on its own with our collaboration. The book was published in fall 2005. Sales in the monuments have increased by 25% in the past three years due more selection of items

An accessibility survey was started in fall 2005 and will be completed in winter 2006. Arrangements were made with experienced volunteers via connections with IMR.

All report requirements for law enforcement, fees, and interpretation were met. A fee remittance backlog problem was rectified and a more thorough monitoring process set up. We were major partners in the annual Verde River Days, Verde Birding and Nature Festival, and March Archeological Awareness Month activities with staff participation, exhibits, and donations through WNPA funds. Interpretation and education activities continued to grow with twice the number of programs and roves than three years ago. Special programs were given, such as night sky, riparian walks, and bird watching walks. Plans have been made for the 2006 celebration of the Antiquities Act to include cultural demonstrations, memorabilia, special presentations, exhibits, and more. For the first time, we hosted a visit by fifth graders from an intercity school in Phoenix. Sixty students with teachers were bussed to Montezuma Well for outdoor activities and lunch. WNPA funds were used to cover expenses.

Numerous personnel actions were done by administration to hire routine seasonal ranger and maintenance hires and recreation fee projects. Background investigations were done within deadlines. Our diversity hires have increased through connections made by the administration officer with the Yavapai-Apache Tribe student employment program and through using the STEP hiring authority with colleges. The housing management plan was completed by the deadline and is in IMR for review.

We are current with FMSS reports and requirements. FMSS is integrated into the PMIS process. Housing repair and rehabilitation work is moving forward. The administration officer, facility manager, and others did the annual housing inspection. Prior to 2004, no inspection had been done for more than six years. Three recreation fee projects were completed and five were initiated. The facility manager is working with the Flagstaff facility manager to learn program planning and implementation.

The resource management division was created in FY05 blending VT staff and temporary natural and cultural staff. With this division we are now able to be active participants in professional resource management activities, such as PEPC compliance, proposal writing, research and management, I&M, and projects. Without this division, we would need to seek outside help for resource activities and severely limit resource activities due to lack of staff. The current chief position is held by a VT employee, which is a temporary arrangement until position management options can be enacted to have a permanent non VT chief. This situation has been discussed with and supported by the deputy ARD cultural resource division and VT program manager. VT staff has helped other parks including Organ Pipe Cactus, Tumacacori, Casa Grande, Saguaro, Tonto, and Flagstaff areas. We have paid for staff from Flagstaff to work on projects. We became part of a joint GIS plan with Flagstaff area parks and Tonto. Through fee demo with coordination with IMR we have been able financially support preservation projects in other southern Arizona parks with a cultural lineage to the monuments.

Personnel, Staffing, and Position Management

The chief ranger was hired and will enter on duty in January. IMR ranger staff was helpful in working the certificate of applicants and subsequent actions for hiring. The recreation fee assistant was hired to monitor projects, facilitate coordination with IMR and internally, and prepare reports. A term ecologist was hired for fee projects. A term exhibit specialist was picked up at the end of her term at Flagstaff area

and will work primarily on Montezuma Castle and Tuzigoot projects yet be available for Flagstaff. We are also supporting her to assist southern Arizona parks on a consultant or small project basis. A variety of seasonal staff was hired for maintenance, interpretation, archeology, and biology work.

All performance plans were in place by the deadline. Evaluations were completed by mid November. One employee has an individual development plan.

Several personnel issues were addressed in close counsel with human resource staff from Southern Arizona Office and IMR staff. SOAR and IMR responded to a request for assistance with an issue in spring, and continues to work us. We responded to the US Attorney Office, DOI Office of the Solicitor, and IMR actions for a civil suit from a long running EO situation.

In addition to meeting annual supervision requirements, I took classes in conflict management, emotional intelligence, and ethics, and had coaching with Sarah Conlon. I am part of the Transformation Leadership and will also have coaching through that program. All supervisors met the required supervision training, and all staff received diversity training. The division chiefs started leadership coaching that will continue into 2006.

Recreation Fee

The comprehensive plan was completed as a planning tool and later drawn on as a deferred maintenance target. While we did not reach the target, we made great strides in building the program foundation in FY05 that will enable us to meet future deferred maintenance targets and adapt to the ever changing processes and requirements. At the end of FY05 we had 21 projects ongoing from the planning stage to completion, which covered work for deferred maintenance, interpretation, and archeological and natural resource preservation.

With completion of the second version of the comprehensive plan, there were more projects than anticipated funds for the first time in the program history for the monuments. Staff prepared and prioritized quality PMIS statements for maintenance, safety, interpretation, and resource management. For contrast in 2003 there was no current list of projects, fewer projects than funds, no interpretation or resource projects, inadequate narrative and cost details in statements, no prioritized list, and no strategy to implement the recreation fee program.

In FY05 we hired a term recreation fee assistant to monitor projects, coordinate with IMR, do quality control, prepare reports, and clean up the project list. We created an internal process to prepare and review quality PMIS statements and change requests. Microsoft Project is being used to plan and track projects, sequence work phases, and coordinate with others. A compliance process was established. The project lead role was defined to clarify responsibilities. There is at least one meeting monthly devoted to the fee program, and in certain times of the year two to three meetings to plan and strategize.

Lands and Water

Land transfers continued to move along adding 157 acres to Montezuma Castle (private land via US Forest Service exchange) and 324 acres encompassing Tavasci Marsh to Tuzigoot (private land via Bureau of Land Management exchange). These acres add archeological sites and valued riparian habitat. The IMR Santa Fe skilled lands staff has been invaluable in the exchange process. BLM is planning a media event with NPS in spring 2006, possibly March.

Soda Springs Ranch adjacent to Montezuma Well in being purchased by Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD). AGFD has approached us and the Coconino National Forest to share in some

management and recreation opportunities. Meetings on this matter will take place once AGFD has ownership.

The water rights process continues by the WASO water resources branch and with support from park staff. Gauges were installed and field measurements continue to be taken to assess and monitor water usage.

Administration

Fiscal

The park operating base enacted budget was \$1,127,400.00. These funds were supplemented by a variety of other funding sources including fee demonstration, volunteer in parks, donations, water resources, and Western National Parks Association. The fiscal year budget was closed within the required amount.

Personnel

The FY2005 park staff consisted of 13 permanent employees, 2 SCEP employees that will be converted to permanent subject to furlough positions as soon as they complete the school requirement, 16 seasonal employees, 6 STEP employees, 1 SCA, and 2 term employees. Both of the student programs have utilized one local university and three local community colleges.

Housing

Housing inspections were performed and work was accomplished in priority order to assure that all housing was listed in good condition. The housing plan was updated and sent into IMRO for review. Few comments were received that will be incorporated in order to finalize the plan.

Property

All property was surveyed. Two new computers were purchased. Montezuma Well and Maintenance Shop were both converted from dial-up to wireless connection.

Tribal Relationships

Tribal relations continue to be advanced with the Yavapai Apache Unity Group (high school and college youth group) with the continued employment of a GS-03 cash clerk through the STEP authority. One other student from the group is being considered for positions.

Training

We have increased Telnet training being provided to park employees on subjects such as Safety, Interpretation, and Law Enforcement skills. The telnet has been used by other local parks as well as one other government agency. We have taped eight courses for the use of MOCA employees, and taped courses for three parks that do not have Telnet stations.

Visitor Services and Resource Protection

Cooperating Associations

Montezuma Castle and Tuzigoot are affiliated with the Western National Parks Association, which has a field manager, one full time employee, and five part-time sales clerks working in the park. The field manager and superintendent continued to increase the variety of sales items, including a new interactive 360 degree virtual tour of Montezuma Castle. To showcase the interactive CD a plasma television was purchased and installed, creating a best seller and an excellent interpretive tool for the interpretive staff. The sales for these monuments were the highest of WNPA's 64 areas. Gross sales for each outlet in 2005 were:



Montezuma Castle	\$522,049.52
Montezuma Well	\$ 1,179.14
Tuzigoot	<u>\$ 89,674.52</u>
Total	\$612,903.18

Many park projects and services were completed through the Interpretative Support Account funds. They included the visitor guide newspaper, volunteer support and appreciation, contributions to the Verde Valley Birding and Nature Festival, Educator’s Guide, Junior Ranger program, site bulletins, upgrade website information, hands on exhibits, research, and more.

Interpretation

Staff at Montezuma Castle, Montezuma Well, and Tuzigoot contacted 797,606 visitors during all personal services activities offered. Interpretive programs consisted of walks, talks, outreach, demonstrations, exhibits, and the Junior Ranger program. The results of the 2005 Visitor Survey Card indicated that monument visitors were satisfied overall with appropriate facilities, services, and recreational opportunities 98% at Montezuma Castle (includes Montezuma Well) and 98% at Tuzigoot. Additionally, the survey indicated that 92% of Montezuma Castle visitors and 91% of Tuzigoot visitors understood the significance of the sites.

The monuments continued to publish a winter and summer edition of the Visitor Guide newspaper. The five site bulletins created in fiscal year 2004 by the interpretive staff for Montezuma Castle and Montezuma Well continued to be well received by visitors. Four of the five site bulletins on formation and history of Montezuma Well, plants of the Verde Valley, and wildlife and insects commonly observed at the Castle will be reprinted, while the fifth bulletin on ethnobotanical uses of desert plants is being updated. Our Educator’s Guide was edited and printed, and will be distributed to schools within Arizona and out of state in 2006. Regularly scheduled programs at all three units totaled 747 formal programs. We also offered to visitors and local communities a number of special interpretive programs, including riparian hikes, bird watching, and night sky (see table below). Montezuma Well served as an outdoor classroom for a local environmental education partnership. Finally, our expanded park website from last year is being converted to a new system, offering more photographs and multi-media video.

The Antiquities Act and Montezuma Castle NM centennial project for 2006 was begun. Centennial activities will include a lecture series in honor of the Antiquities Act and Montezuma Castle NM’s Centennial, special exhibits, an official Centennial logo, a special edition newspaper commemorating the Antiquities Act and our Centennial, a special commemorative cancellation stamp for Passports, a junior researcher program for young audiences, and on-site “Saturdays in the Park – A Celebration of Living Culture in Honor of Montezuma Castle’s Centennial” involving American Indian demonstrations, storytelling, and dances.

Interpretative services are shown from FY02 through FY05.

Interpretation statistics for the Montezuma Castle, Montezuma Well, and Tuzigoot National Monuments from FY02 through FY05.				
	FY02	FY03	FY04	FY05
Talks	MOCA 299 MOWE 8 TUZI 241	MOCA 442 MOWE 95 TUZI 260	MOCA 498 MOWE 222 TUZI 324	MOCA 431 MOWE 94 TUZI 222
Roves	MOCA 2092 MOWE 1336 TUZI 683	MOCA 2278 MOWE 1103 TUZI 624	MOCA 1967 MOWE 1026 TUZI 731	MOCA 1694 MOWE 631 TUZI 580



Schools	MOCA 32 MOWE 5 TUZI 24	MOC 30 MOWE 6 TUZI 31	MOCA 37 MOWE 21 TUZI 31	MOCA 12 MOWE 22 TUZI 29
Out reach	MOCA 3 MOWE na TUZI 4	MOCA 19 MOWE na TUZI 7	MOCA 17 MOWE na TUZI 13	MOCA 15 MOWE na TUZI 10

Monument staff participated in several special events including March Archeological Awareness Month, Verde Valley Birding and Nature Festival, and Verde River Days. During the March Archeological Awareness Month the SALT group returned to Montezuma Well to demonstrate traditional crafts and skills, such as fire starting, flint napping, agave roasting, and more.

The Tuzigoot Museum Project initiated in fiscal year 2004 lost its original project lead through a promotion. The superintendent was successful in hiring a new project lead late this fiscal year. The project, funded through fee demo, continues to focus on refreshing the visitor center museum exhibits.

A professional artist offered to create a one-of-a-kind sculpture of Montezuma Castle and donate the artwork to Montezuma Castle NM. The artwork is in the last stages of completion.

Public Use and Fee Collection

In 2004 a re-survey of visitation patterns at both monuments was completed. The persons-per-vehicle (PPV) survey validated the 2.7 PPV at Tuzigoot and reflected a change in PPV from 3.57 to 2.8 for Montezuma Castle. The new PPV of 2.8 for Montezuma Castle became effective January 2005.

Visitation totals reflected a decrease in overall visitation. Visitation figures for each management unit were:

	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>
Montezuma Castle (includes Montezuma Well)	730,887	644,066	634,965	656,409	622,912
Tuzigoot	119,695	112,167	116,361	115,321	108,830

Entrance fees are collected from all visitors to Montezuma Castle and Tuzigoot units. A comparison with FY01 shows the following:

	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>
Montezuma Castle	\$750,653	\$823,149	\$780,597	\$781,811	\$902,599
Tuzigoot	\$ 94,063	\$126,741	\$123,050	\$142,017	\$142,264
Total	\$844,716	\$949,890	\$903,647	\$923,828	1,044,863

Law Enforcement

The chief ranger position remained vacant throughout the fiscal year. The supervisory park ranger filled in as acting chief ranger during this time. In 2004 the IMRO agreed to assist us with funding for a GS-12 chief of operations position. The superintendent advertised and selected a new chief ranger, who will enter on duty on December 11, 2005. This individual will assist the superintendent in community relations and partnering and oversee interpretation, protection, and fee collection for the ranger division.

The Montezuma Well ranger initiated a PARKWATCH program with neighbors in early 2004. In 2005 a monument neighbor utilizing the PARKWATCH program notified the Montezuma Well ranger on three separate occasions, ranging from feral animals running at large to hunting.



Protection workload consisted of parking violations, closure violations, recreation fee violations, vandalism, intrusion alarms, boundary patrols, archeological resource protection, and visitor accidents.

Volunteer In Parks

Montezuma Castle and Tuzigoot National Monuments had 18 active volunteers participating in a wide range of activities. These activities included interpretation of the cultural and natural resources, fee collection, telephone line repair, administration support, maintenance work, computer and programming services, and safety inspections at all sites. These volunteers conducted 1,130 interpretive roves and contacted 72,923 visitors. Our Volunteers presented 77 formal interpretive talks on cultural and natural history topics reaching 1,613 park visitors. A total of 1,722 hours were donated for these activities.

Additional volunteer activity consisted of a number of special events throughout the year. Several projects were completed by Volunteers for Outdoor Arizona (VOAZ), a group that specializes in offering skilled volunteers for selected projects. This group donated over 300 hours on projects that included the maintenance and repair of the pre-historic irrigation ditch at Montezuma Well.

The third annual volunteer day with Wal-Mart, Unilever Corporation, and the NPS was a success. Over 500 hours of donated service was provided at the three sites. Projects included painting hand rails, trash pickup, and removal of concrete debris, water sealing an observation deck, removing exotic vegetation, and obliterating social trails off the established path. This work day resulted in over 500 hours of donated service at all three sites.

Another special event during fiscal year 2005 was the monuments' involvement in the statewide March Archeological Awareness Month event. Several volunteers presented programs dealing with archeology themes including programs on ethnobotany and pre-historic archeology of the Verde Valley. Additionally, a special demonstration by the Society for Aboriginal Life Styles and Technologies volunteer group presented programs on traditional lifestyle skills; over 500 visitors attended the two day event.

Several other project highlights included a re-vegetation project at Montezuma Well. Prickly Pear cactus were harvested for planting in areas of erosion and where off trail use was impacting the area, 17 volunteers donated 51 hours for this task. A special interpretive night walk and astronomy program was enhanced with the participation of several volunteers. Over 150 visitors attended these programs.

The Volunteer in Parks program at Montezuma Castle and Tuzigoot National Monuments has provided much needed help to monument staff in providing special interpretive programs for tour groups, school groups and other special visitors. The expertise of our many volunteers was crucial to providing assistance for monument projects and needs. The monuments continue to encourage and recruit additional volunteers to move the program to further heights.

Maintenance

Fee Demonstration Projects

Fee demo projects continue to be the core of the maintenance operation. Some projects were completed, some were initiated and new ones were identified and prepared for submittal on 2006. An architect from Denver continued to assist the park with the design of a maintenance facility building for Montezuma Well. A geo-tech firm was contracted out to conduct soil testing. The Southern Arizona Office provided contracting assistance. A civil engineer from Denver assisted the park with design and specifications for a new lift station. This project was awarded to an 8a contractor and is scheduled for construction in January 2006. The Southern Arizona Office provided contracting assistance.



An architect from Santa Fe assisted the park with design, specifications, and scope of work on roofing projects at Montezuma Castle and Tuzigoot VC's and old maintenance shops. This project was awarded and slated to start in May 2006. This same architect is also assisting us with the design/specs/scope of work on the Chief Ranger's Office Building at Montezuma Castle. The project calls for rehabbing the historic adobe building. This building was tested for mold, lead based paint and asbestos. The Southern Arizona Office is providing contracting assistance.

A civil engineer from the Southern Arizona Office provided assistance with scope of work and specifications on the replacement of furnace and cooling units at Montezuma Castle Visitor Center. Work is scheduled to begin in February 2006.

Road guide signs were ordered through Harpers Ferry. These signs will replace the faded and deteriorated signs found throughout all three monuments. The visitor centers at Montezuma Castle and Tuzigoot were both tested for mold with minimal findings. Fire hydrants were replaced at Tuzigoot and Montezuma Castle. The monuments main roads were restriped by Glen Canyon's road crew.

Routine Maintenance

At Montezuma Well the irrigation ditch was maintained with vegetation removal and removing silt buildup. The Volunteer for Outdoor Arizona group worked on the ditch. Custodial duties were performed on a daily basis in the visitor centers and contact station. All trails and roads were maintained. Two laborers were hired for routine and project work. The division continued providing support to other divisions. Throughout the year staff procured necessary supplies and materials.

Staff kept the monuments in compliance with ADEQ requirements for water quality. Staff worked with IMRO consultants on the Compliance Information Management System. Energy and fleet report were compiled and submitted to the en

Training

Two employees attended required water certification credit trainings. All FMSS requirements were met. Two employees attended FMSS training. One employee attended supervisory training at Page, Az. One employee attended Fundamentals II training in Grand Canyon. ergy and fleet managers.

Safety

Safety practices were improved with the following:

1. Upgrade safety equipment such as masks, vests, and respiration aids.
2. Replaced/refilled all first aid kits in all areas.
3. All fire extinguishers were recharged and/or replaced.
4. Unsafe tools and equipment were replaced.

Housing

Work was done on several housing units.

MOCA Residence # 5

1. The scuppers and gutters were repaired.
2. A small section on one of the interior walls was replastered and painted.

MOCA Apartments

1. Apartments 10A – Mold testing was conducted. Testing turned out positive so eradication had to be conducted. The bathroom and kitchen were rehabbed. The old heater was removed.

2. Apartment 10B – A new range was installed. The bathroom had some minor repairs to the plumbing.
3. The bathroom was painted.

TUZI Residence # 5

1. Electrical fixtures and smoke detectors were replaced.
2. The old furnace broke down and had to be replaced.
3. A couple of window screens were replaced.

TUZI Residence # 7

1. Window screens were replaced.
2. The old refrigerator was replaced with a new one.

MOWE Residence # 12

1. A new evaporative cooler was installed.
2. A new refrigerator was procured for this unit.

MOWE Residence # 17

1. A local contractor repaired the garage door.
2. New plumbing fixtures were installed.
3. A new evaporative cooler was installed.

Resources Management

Administration

In June of 2004 Montezuma Castle and Tuzigoot began serving as the host site for a historical architect who serves all Vanishing Treasures parks. With the creation of the Montezuma Castle and Tuzigoot Resource Management Division beginning October 1, 2005, the historical architect assumed the responsibilities of division chief in addition to his Vanishing Treasures duties. In its first year, the division has moved aggressively to fill many longstanding gaps in the area of resource management.

Creation of Resource Management Division

In accordance with a recommendation made in the management assistance review of June 2004, FY 2005 saw the creation of a Resource Management Division to plan and oversee the management of natural and cultural resources.

Serving as the core of the new division are the VT archaeologist, historical architect, and mason. Natural resources were to have been administered by an ecologist hired in a term position; however that position was vacated in the summer of 2005 after only 10 months. For the remainder of the year, that gap was filled with the able assistance of a SOAR ecologist (?). The division was rounded out with a seasonal masonry assistant and four STEP archaeological technicians all hired through FRLEA funded projects.

The presence of a new division focused exclusively on resource management allowed the park to begin to address many longstanding issues. Among these are:

1. Compliance: The archaeologist is functioning as the park compliance coordinator and all new projects are now entered into PEPC assuring full compliance with SHPO, tribal and NEPA requirements.
2. Collection Management: Collection management for all three units of the Park has been consolidated in the resource division. A collection management review team visited the park in the summer of 2005 and made many recommendations to update and improve the park's records.

Some of these issues are being addressed through a FRLEA funded project begun in 2005 by the Western Archeological and Conservation Center.

3. GPRA: With its focus on resource related issues, the division carefully evaluated the park's existing GPRA goals. The result was the abandonment of some inappropriate goals, the adoption of new goals, and the reformulation of park objectives. As a result, we were able to meet or exceed all resource related goals, except for one that was negatively impacted by the premature departure of the new ecologist.

Tribal Relationships

Building on the work of the previous two years, significant progress was made in our work to both improve existing Tribal relations and to establish new relationships with additional affiliated Tribes. Productive meetings with the Hopi continued and, working in concert with the superintendents from Tonto and Casa Grande National Monuments, considerable progress has been made in strengthening relationships with the Salt River Pima-Maricopa, Gila River Pima-Maricopa, Ak Chin, Tohono O'odham, Zuni, Yavapai Prescott, and Yavapai Apache.

With the new archaeologist assuming collateral duties as compliance coordinator, we have been scrupulous in allowing affiliated tribes the opportunity to review and comment on all proposed projects that have the potential to impact cultural or ethnographic resources. This has gone a long way toward fostering an atmosphere of trust and inclusion on the part of the tribes. In addition, we distributed a draft Memorandum of Understanding to our affiliated tribes that will streamline the compliance process and establish formal cooperating relationships. We have signed such an agreement with the local Yavapai Apache Nation and we are close to signing agreements with two additional tribal organizations. Efforts will continue throughout the coming year to encourage the remaining tribal entities to review and endorse the Memorandum.

In addition, we proposed a program to develop ethno-botanical interpretive exhibits that will show tribal names and traditional uses for indigenous plants. A number of tribes responded favorably to our offer to participate and have welcomed the opportunity to share with us literature they have developed for intra-tribal distribution.

Finally, we are working with several tribes to begin cultural arts demonstrations within the parks.

Vanishing Treasures

The addition of the VT historical architect and staff archaeologist (both Vanishing Treasures funded positions), along with the creation of the Resource Management Division has allowed us to really focus our efforts on our Vanishing Treasures resources. Numerous resource related NRLEA funded projects were written and approved in FY 2005 allowing us to hire four STEP archaeological technicians who, working with the staff archaeologist, addressed issues at all three units of the park.

The ongoing project at Tuzigoot National Monument continued to document and record the condition and preservation histories of rooms in the pueblo there. This included recording existing mortar types and identifying areas with basal erosion, voids, rodent or insect damage, and original Sinaguan mortar. Scaled floor plans and wall elevations were produced using AutoCAD incorporating a standardized key to show the many different mortar types as well as special features. Wall elevations were documented with color slides and large-format black and white photographs.

Upon completion of this documentation, stabilization work was carried out by our VT mason and a seasonal masonry assistant. The result of these efforts is a site that satisfies contemporary standards for

preservation documentation and treatment, while providing our visitors with a site that is visually consistent with its original, historic appearance.

At Montezuma Castle, a project to record and assess a series of cavate sites yielded a wealth of interesting artifacts including a completely intact basket, sewing needles, cordage, and projectile points. After clearing the floors of the cavates they were photographed and mapped, and the condition of each recorded. Photographic documentation and plans similar to those produced in the Tuzigoot project were the end result. Because these sites remain in nearly pristine condition, the plaster floors are to be covered with sterile fill and only essential stabilization work conducted.

Condition assessments were also carried out at several sites at Montezuma Well. These sites, although long a part of the interpretive program, were poorly documented and had received little maintenance. As with the Tuzigoot and Castle sites, conditions were documented and maps and plans prepared. In preparation for stabilization work, different mortar samples have been prepared and left to weather to determine the most appropriate mortar formulation.

All of these projects are continuing into FY 2006 when additional projects will be executed to further improve the condition of our Vanishing Treasures resources.