



National Park Service  
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## Flagstaff Area National Monuments News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – November 21, 2014  
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### Walnut Canyon National Monuments Kicks-Off a Year of Celebration on December 4, 2014

**Flagstaff, AZ.** – Walnut Canyon will celebrate 100 years as a National Monument in 2015. Walnut Canyon National Monument was established by President Woodrow Wilson on November 30, 1915, to preserve its ancient cliff dwellings. The Monument was enlarged in 1938, and again in 1996. Today, a variety of archeological and natural resources are preserved on approximately 3,600 acres.

With the construction of the railroad nearby in the 1880s, Walnut Canyon became a popular destination; scores of “pot-hunters” streamed into the canyon. Armed with shovels and dynamite, these souvenir-seekers upturned ancient floors, toppled enduring walls, and desecrated sites.

The theft and destruction alarmed local citizens and led to establishment of Walnut Canyon National Monument in 1915. Remnants of the canyon’s past were protected first by the US Forest Service, then (since 1934) by the National Park Service.

The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) played a major role in the late 1930s, stabilizing walls, conducting guided tours and constructing many of the buildings and trails we use today.

“We look forward to a year-long celebration of Walnut Canyon National Monument as a place protected for its special cultural and natural history,” said Superintendent Kayci Cook Collins. “Our staff and volunteers are very proud of the work we do daily to care for monument resources and to help visitors learn about and enjoy them. We hope to have lots of new and returning visitors join us for programs and activities in the coming year.”

**A Kick-Off Celebration is scheduled for Thursday, December 4, 2014, from 6:00 pm- 8:00 pm, at the Museum of Northern Arizona, in the Branigar Chase Hall, 3101 N. Fort Valley Road, Flagstaff, AZ 86001. Guest speakers and poster presentations on "Walnut Canyon Then, and Walnut Canyon Now" will be part of this reception which is free and open to the public.**

To learn more about Walnut Canyon National Monument please check out our website at [www.nps.gov/waca](http://www.nps.gov/waca) or call the visitor center at (928)526-3367.

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