



Montezuma Castle

Montezuma Castle and Tuzigoot National Monuments Alternatives Newsletter

Draft General Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Friends:

As most of you know, we have been working on a general management plan (GMP) for Montezuma Castle and Tuzigoot National Monuments. When completed, the plan will guide the monuments' management direction for the next 15 to 20 years. We have been making progress on key steps in the planning process and would like your comments on what we have accomplished thus far.

Since our last newsletter the National Park Service has met with the public and consulted with federal, state, and local government agencies and American Indian tribes to obtain ideas and concerns regarding the monuments. Using the foundation of the monuments' enabling legislation, the purpose and significance of the monuments, and the information provided by the public, the planning team has developed preliminary alternatives.

This newsletter provides you with an opportunity to review and comment on the preliminary alternatives the National Park Service has developed. We want to emphasize that the alternatives are "works in progress," and we would like your input. There are two action alternatives that would modify current management of the monuments and a "no-action" alternative that would continue current management practices. The no-action alternative is required by law and will serve as a baseline for comparing and contrasting the other alternatives.

Open houses have been scheduled in the communities near the monuments. Dates and times for the meetings are included in this newsletter. We have also included a comment form as another way for you to provide input. Based on the comments received we will reevaluate the alternatives and make necessary modifications.

We sincerely value your input regarding the future of Montezuma Castle and Tuzigoot National Monuments. Thank you in advance for your time and participation. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Kathy M. Davis
Superintendent



Montezuma Castle

PLANNING FOUNDATION

Many factors guide and direct planning for units in the national park system. The most important of these is the legislation that established the monuments, as well as the 1916 Organic Act that established the National Park Service and current NPS Management Policies. In addition, to ensure protection of resources, the monuments must comply with a variety of other federal laws, such as the National Environmental Policy Act, National Historic Preservation Act, Endangered Species Act, Archaeological Resources Protection Act, and American Indian Religious Freedom Act. These laws and policies provide broad management guidance for the monuments as well as the context for this planning effort.

Purpose of the Monuments

Purpose statements provide the foundation for the management and use of each unit in the national park system; they also reaffirm the reason why each area was established as a unit of the national park system. These statements help neighbors, visitors, cooperating agencies, and other users understand the framework in which park managers make decisions. The following purpose statements have been refined over time and are based on the monuments' establishing legislation as well as laws and policies governing management of all national park system units. The purposes of Montezuma Castle and Tuzigoot National Monuments are to

- preserve and manage prehistoric and historic structures and their related resources within Montezuma Castle, Montezuma Well, and Tuzigoot
- protect and manage ecological processes and conditions

related to the mix of desert and riparian habitats to sustain desired cultural and natural landscapes

- promote stewardship through education and interpretation of continuing cultural adaptations to a desert environment
- provide opportunities for the exploration of appropriate ethnological and scientific interests

Significance of the Monuments

Significance statements build on the monuments' purpose and clearly state why, within a national context, the monuments' resources and values are important enough to warrant designation as units of the national park system. These statements identify the resources and values that are central to managing the areas and express the importance of the areas to our natural and cultural heritage. The following are the significance statements for Montezuma Castle and Tuzigoot National Monuments:

These statements identify the resources and values that are central to managing the areas and express the importance of the areas to our natural and cultural heritage. The following are the significance statements for Montezuma Castle and Tuzigoot National Monuments:

- Montezuma Castle is the largest and best preserved Sinaguan cliff dwelling in the Southwest.
- Tuzigoot is one of the largest known pueblos of Sinaguan origin and serves as a benchmark of the Tuzigoot Phase of the archeological record.
- The excavation and restoration of Tuzigoot is one of the best examples of 1930s-era pioneering archeological efforts in the Southwest.
- The monuments' archeological collections constitute the largest artifact assembly of the Southern Sinaguan culture of the Verde Valley, including the Tuzigoot Phase of prehistory and tradeware.
- Montezuma Well is a unique spring-fed limestone sink connected to remnants of an extensive prehistoric irrigation system via a natural outlet.
- Montezuma Well has incredible scientific value since it contains several species of plants and animals not found in any other waters in the world due to its constantly warm waters and high levels of dissolved carbon dioxide.
- The monuments preserve a mixture of riparian and desert landscapes that sustain a biological system that is rich in diversity. This system supports life on a local, national, and global scale by providing migratory routes and important habitat.
- The major and several smaller cliff dwellings, numerous other sites, artifacts, and the surrounding desert landscape have enormous potential for teaching about native peoples and how they adapted and thrived in an arid environment.
- The monuments represent the continuum of land use from Sinagua to historic farming since the 1860s.

Primary Interpretive Themes

Interpretive themes are ideas, concepts, or stories that are central to the monuments' purpose, significance, identity, and visitor experience. The primary interpretive themes define concepts that every visitor should have the opportunity to learn. Primary themes also provide the framework for the monuments' interpretation and educational programs, influence the visitor experience, and provide direction for planners and designers of the monuments' exhibits, publications, and audiovisual programs. Below are the primary interpretive themes for Montezuma Castle and Tuzigoot National Monuments:

Land use patterns and human settlements of the Verde Valley illustrate the continuum from prehistory to contemporary human influence in the West and serve as a link to our living cultural heritage.

The cultural integrity of Montezuma Castle, Montezuma Well, and Tuzigoot (including quality and quantity of original fabric, historic records and artifacts, and the cultural/natural landscapes) showcase the successful occupation of the Verde Valley by a large community for over 300 years.

The riparian areas of the Verde Valley represent a green ribbon of life, which set the stage for ongoing human survival in a harsh desert environment by providing rich biological resources, opportunities for irrigation and agriculture, and a network of travel routes.

Tuzigoot and Montezuma Castle National Monuments serve as benchmarks of pioneering archeological efforts in the Southwest and demonstrate improved, ongoing archeological efforts, including restoration and preservation field techniques and research related to chronologies of prehistoric settlement.

The Verde Valley's geology, topography and climate support unusual ecosystems that have local, national, and global significance.

Montezuma Castle and Tuzigoot National Monuments, along with ruins at Mesa Verde National Park, Casa Grande Ruins National Monument, and similar national parks and monuments, rank as some of the most significant and enduring symbols of prehistoric cultures in North America.

The monuments' primary archeological resources comprise a significant sample of prehistoric Sinagua sites and features that represent the broad pattern of community aggregation and interactive networks occurring not only in the Verde River Valley but also throughout the Southwest from approximately AD 900 to AD 1400.

Public Involvement

The planning team held public meetings in September 2003 in Camp Verde and Clarkdale. People attending these meetings told us what issues (opportunities, problems, or concerns) the National Park Service should address in the general management plan. The National Park Service has also met with other federal, state, and local governmental representatives, American Indian tribes, local organizations, and businesses to obtain input regarding the future of the monuments. In addition, the National Park Service has partnered with Arizona State University to conduct a visitor use survey and gather data on visitor characteristics and preferences. The following issues and concerns were raised in response to the 1st newsletter, in public meetings, and at meetings with other agencies and groups.



Observation deck at Tuzigoot Pueblo

Issues to be Addressed by the General Management Plan

There are lands within the existing legislated boundaries and adjacent to the monuments that need to be reviewed. These areas need to be evaluated and determine if the boundaries should be adjusted.

The monuments need to be evaluated to determine if additional opportunities exist to expand the story being told at the monuments, link the prehistoric cultures with contemporary people, and expand the areas that are available within the monuments for visitors to explore.

The monuments need to evaluate how the visitors currently interact with the resources of the monuments.

The monuments need to evaluate the character and level of development within the monuments and evaluate if existing facilities need to be expanded or additional facilities are needed at the monuments to accommodate visitors and operations.

The monuments existing headquarters and maintenance facilities are outside the monuments. The plan should examine how best to accommodate these management functions.

The monuments are a small portion of the Verde Valley. The National Park Service needs to work in partnership with the other land management entities, local communities, tribes, and organizations within the Verde Valley on resource management and visitor use issues and opportunities.



View of Tuzigoot Visitor Center from the pueblo

ALTERNATIVES

The alternatives, which are based on the monuments' mission, purpose, and significance, present different ways to manage the resources and visitor use and to improve the monuments' facilities and infrastructure. The no-action alternative is included as a baseline for comparing the environmental consequences that could result from implementing each alternative. Regardless of what alternative is selected and approved for implementation, the monuments still would be managed according to servicewide mandates, policies, and special mandates.

Management Prescriptions

As part of this phase of the GMP process, the planning team has developed management zones that describe the desired future condition of cultural and natural resources, the desired visitor experience, and appropriate types of facilities. All areas of both monuments were placed into one of these zones (see alternative zoning maps). The management zones helped guide the development of the draft management alternatives presented in the next section of the newsletter.

Park Operations

Park operations would be emphasized, with no visitor use. Resources may be modified to accommodate facilities needed for management.

Interpretive Historic

Formal, structured education and visitor services would be emphasized, with high public use. Cultural resources in these areas would be stabilized, and intensive preservation maintenance of historic fabric associated with national register-listed properties would be a high management priority. Some minor modifications of cultural resources would be made to accommodate visitor activities. Natural resources may be manipulated in small areas to minimize impacts from high levels of visitor use.

Interaction & Discovery

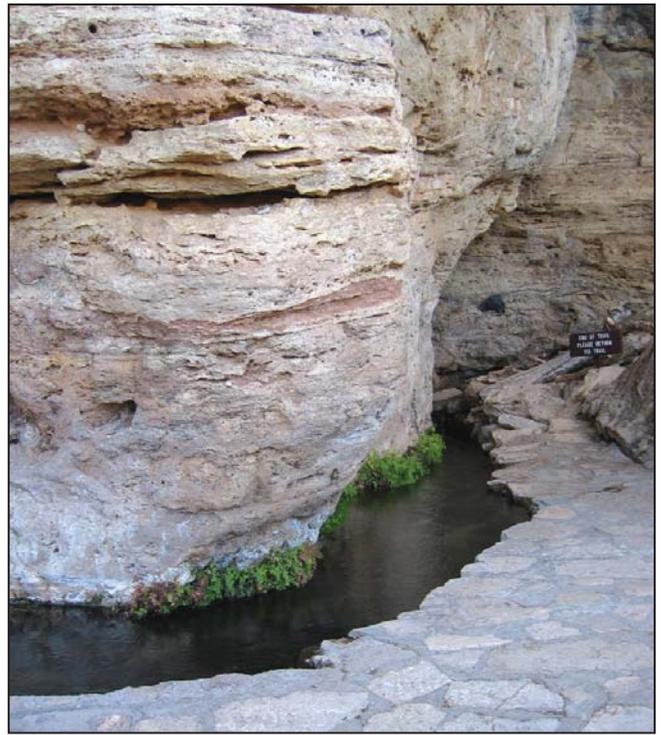
Self exploration and interactive education would be emphasized, with moderate visitor use. Cultural resources in these areas would be stabilized and intensive preservation maintenance of historic fabric associated with national register-listed properties would be a high management priority. Natural resources may be manipulated to include features to tell the history of the area.

Sensitive Resources

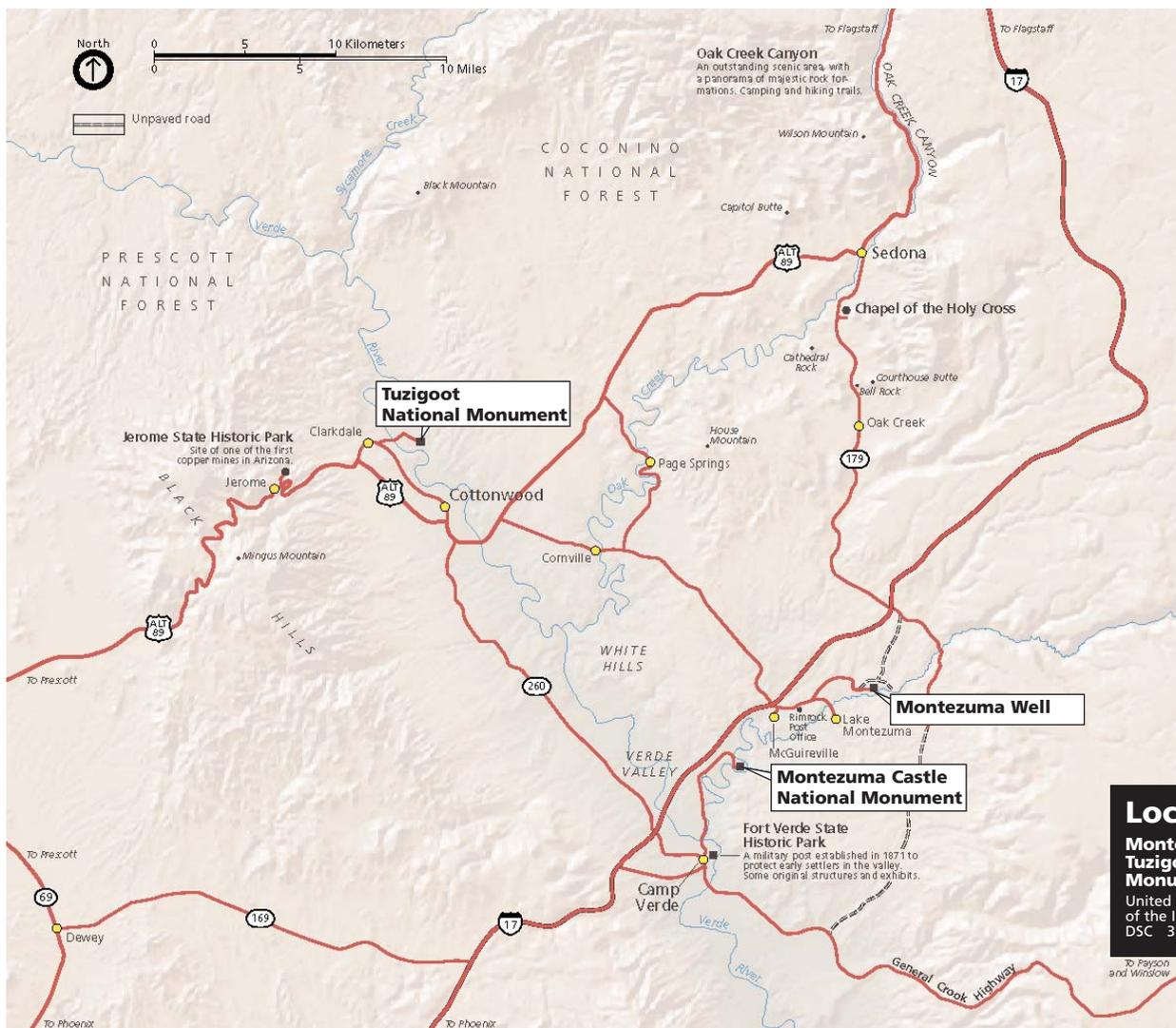
Protection of natural and cultural resources would be emphasized, with limited visitor use. Resource management and research would focus on sensitive natural and cultural resources. Visitor use would be limited to special guided tours.



Tuzigoot Pueblo



Outlet of Montezuma Well



ACTIONS COMMON TO ALL ALTERNATIVES

Natural and cultural resources will be protected and preserved as dictated by policy and the monuments purposes.

Facilities, including trails and other visitor facilities, will be sited away from sensitive archeological and natural resources.

Partnerships with surrounding landowners and public land managers will be sought for resource management purposes.

Partnerships with surrounding public land managers will be sought to share staff, facility, and programming services.

Partnerships will be sought to improve and enhance heritage preservation, environmental education, and resource protection.

Alternative A: No Action – Continue Current Management

The emphasis under this alternative would be to continue current management of the monuments. The no-action alternative is required by the National Environmental Policy Act and will serve as a baseline for comparison with the other alternatives.

Interpretation would continue to focus on the three primary sites (Montezuma Castle, Montezuma Well, and Tuzigoot pueblo) within the monuments. Resource management activities would

continue to emphasize stabilization of the primary sites. Natural resource management activities would continue to be limited. The principal archeological resources, such as the Tuzigoot pueblo and Montezuma Castle, would continue to receive intensive preservation treatment and regular cyclic maintenance. The following activities would continue at the monuments.



Cliff Dwelling at Montezuma Well

- Other archeological resources are stabilized or allowed to molder pursuant to section 106 consultation.
- Natural resources are protected by virtue of being in the monuments. However, management of these resources is limited due to the lack of staff and funding.
- Hydrologic resources, such as Beaver Creek, are managed in some areas to control erosion and deposition to protect cultural sites and landscapes.
- Much of the monuments' lands are off-limits to visitors to protect sensitive cultural resources.
- There is little connection between the sites in terms of interpretation and activities.
- Most of the areas accessible to visitors have hardened facilities with physical and regulatory barriers to manage visitor use. There are limited opportunities for close contact between visitors and the natural and cultural resources at the sites.
- Interpretation is conducted at the visitor centers by roving interpreters and via limited off-site programs. There are limited opportunities for group programs and/or cultural demonstrations.
- The visitor stay at each site is relatively short, and only a few people visit more than one site. Primarily, the monuments are secondary destinations on the way to other sites in the region, such as Sedona, Phoenix, and Grand Canyon National Park.

Alternative B

The main emphasis of this alternative would be to connect the three sites with a central orientation facility in the Verde Valley area. Visitors would be introduced to all three sites and their related interpretive themes. Visitors would then travel to the sites to learn first-hand about elements of the pre-historic and historic stories associated with human settlement in the Verde Valley. Montezuma Castle would highlight the perspective of life in a cliff dwelling, providing spectacular views from below and above the castle. Montezuma Well would highlight the prehistoric and historic farming activities that were possible in the verdant Verde Valley due to the presence of water. Tuzigoot would highlight the perspective of daily life in a hilltop pueblo, providing demonstrations and programs associated with socioeconomic activities in the area.



Montezuma Well

ACTIONS COMMON TO ALL THREE UNITS

Protection of cultural resources would not change from the no-action alternative.

Protection of natural resources would change little from the no-action alternative. The development footprint would remain relatively the same as the no-action alternative.

The majority of changes in this alternative would be off-site or programmatic rather than structural. Formal and structured orientation and educational opportunities would be greatest in this alternative.

The main orientation would occur at a centralized visitor center located near the main access route through the region. Visitors would learn about prehistoric and historic human settlements in the Verde Valley and how each of the sites provides further opportunities to experience these stories first hand. At each site, interpretation (through signage, programs, and cultural demonstrations) would highlight the major themes associated with the particular sites.

The visitor stay would be extended slightly at each of the sites but not for as long as under alternative C. The overall visitor stay in the Verde Valley area would be expanded due to more people visiting all three sites as part of their visit to the region.

Most of the lands within the legislated boundaries would be acquired from willing sellers.

Montezuma Castle: *Opportunities to view the cliff dwelling from across the river and to view the river valley from above the cliff dwelling would provide visitors with a better perspective of the architecture of the dwelling and what life might have been like living in a cliff dwelling during prehistoric times.*

Montezuma Well: *The prehistoric and historic farming activities would be highlighted. Access to the site would be reoriented so the visitor would first visit the resources associated with historic farming, followed by a walk along the prehistoric irrigation ditch to a final stop at an overlook with trails extending around the well.*

Tuzigoot: *The activities associated with daily life in a hilltop pueblo and its association with other communities (i.e., hilltop pueblos and river communities) would be the main focus of visitor opportunities. Some of the opportunities available for visitors would include cultural demonstrations in and around the pueblo, craftsmanship and social activities, river access to interpret prehistoric trade activities, and participation in interactive farm plots.*

Alternative C

The main emphasis of this alternative would be to provide increased opportunities for visitors to self-discover the beauty and wonder of the natural and cultural resources of the monuments. In this alternative cultural and natural resources would receive the highest level of protection, and visitors would be given access to interact with and explore a wider range of the resources found in the monuments. Visitor contact facilities would be located at each of the three sites.

Further, in this alternative the monuments would be considered just a piece of the region's public land resources, emphasizing partnerships with surrounding public land management agencies to provide connections for off-site recreational and educational opportunities.

ACTIONS COMMON TO ALL THREE UNITS

Protection of cultural resources would not change from the no-action alternative.

Protection of natural resources would change little from alternative B. Visitor services and administrative facilities may be expanded in selected areas (e.g., new visitor center/headquarters at Montezuma Castle, new visitor center at Montezuma Well, and amphitheater at Tuzigoot), thus leaving a slightly larger development footprint.

More of the monuments' cultural and natural resources would be available for visitors to explore via trails. Visitors would have more personal contact with resources, including access to the major water features of the sites.

Trail connection opportunities with surrounding public lands would be explored to increase recreational and educational activities.

Visitors would be able to learn about the cultural resources of the monuments, as well as participate in other recreational and educational opportunities such as nature hikes along the water, photography, birdwatching, picnicking, and group educational programs.

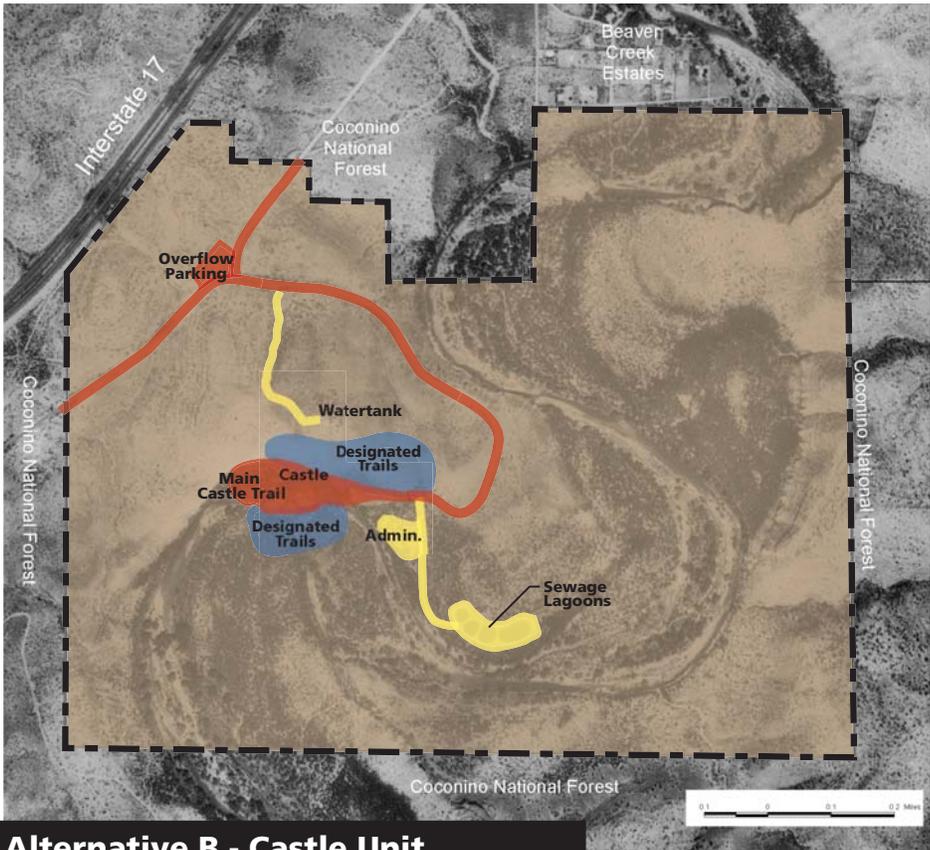
The visitor stay would be extended at each of the three sites. The monuments could become the primary destination for a larger number of visitors, especially local and regional residents.

Most of the lands within the legislated boundaries would be acquired from willing sellers.

Montezuma Castle: *Opportunities to explore the riparian areas along Beaver Creek via trails would emphasize to visitors the important connections between humans and water. Monument headquarters would be constructed within the Castle Unit.*

Montezuma Well: *This alternative would expand opportunities for visitors to connect with the natural environment by providing additional trails. The trails would emphasize the connections between humans and water. A visitor center would be established to provide visitors with more information about the resources of the Well unit.*

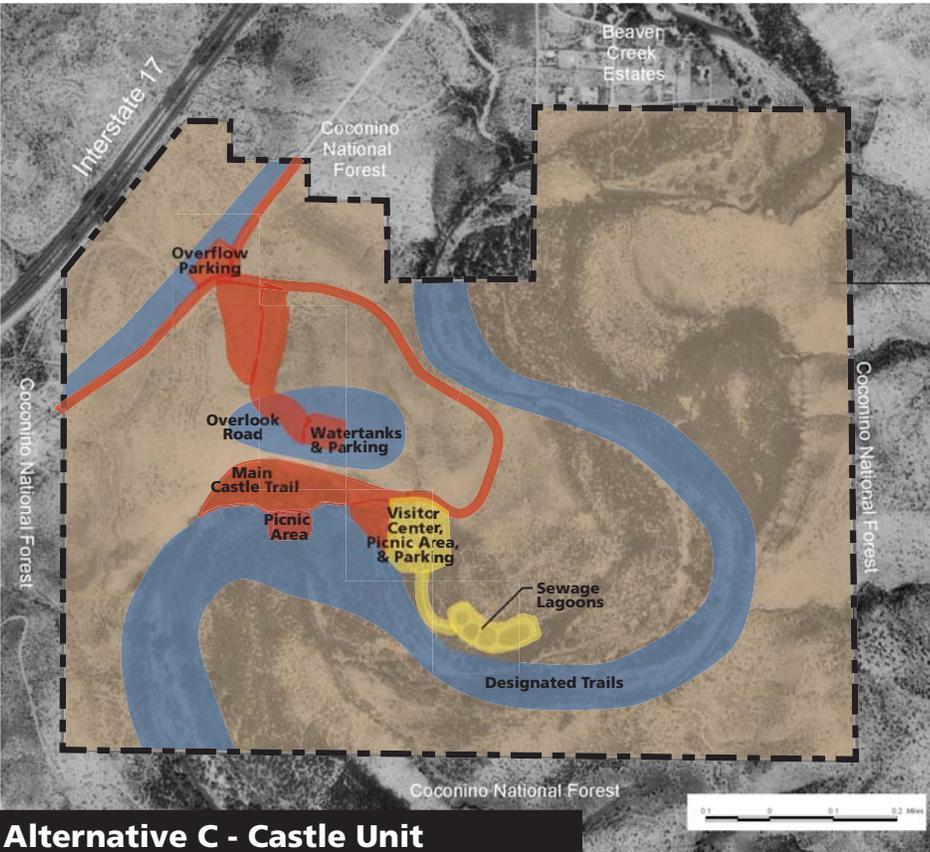
Tuzigoot: *This alternative would expand opportunities to explore additional areas of the monument. Connections with neighboring federal and state lands would be emphasized when lands within the monument's existing boundary were acquired. Partnerships with Dead Horse State Park and the Verde River Greenway would be expanded.*



LEGEND

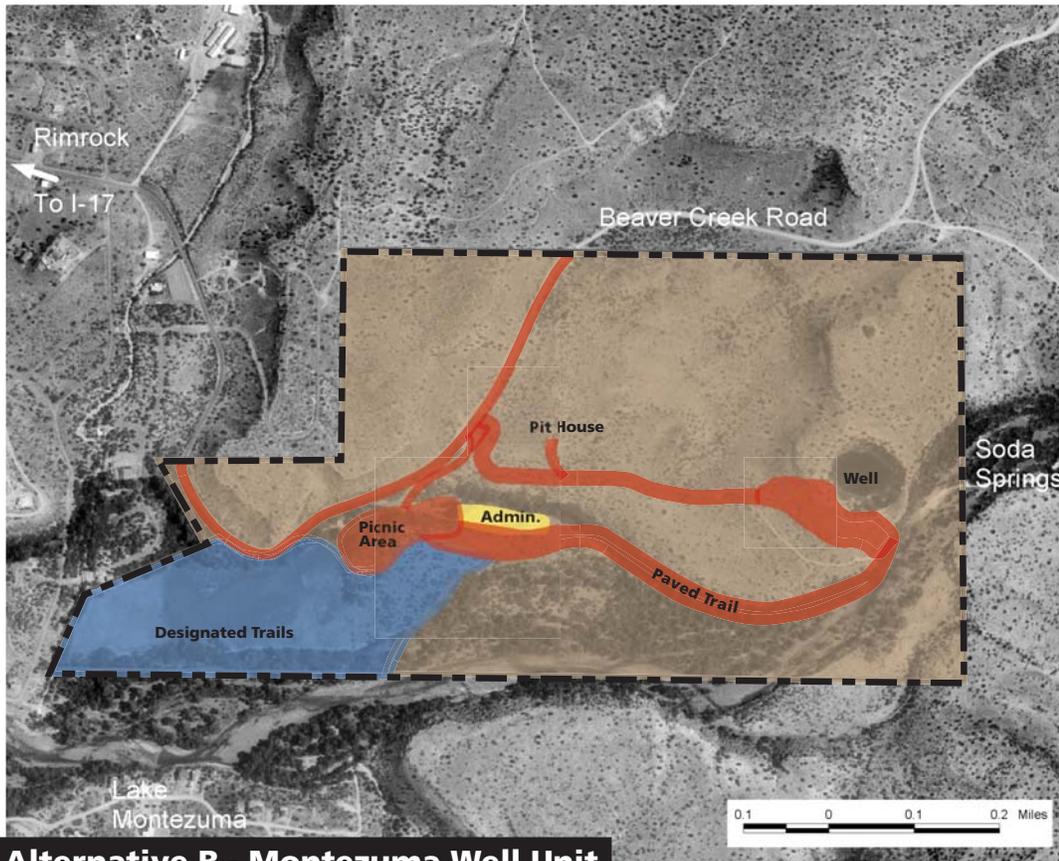
- INTERPRETIVE HISTORIC
- INTERACTION & DISCOVERY
- PARK OPERATIONS
- SENSITIVE RESOURCES
- MONTEZUMA WELL

Alternative B - Castle Unit
Montezuma Castle National Monument
 United States Department of the Interior / National Park Service
 DSC • 309 • 20017 • July 2004



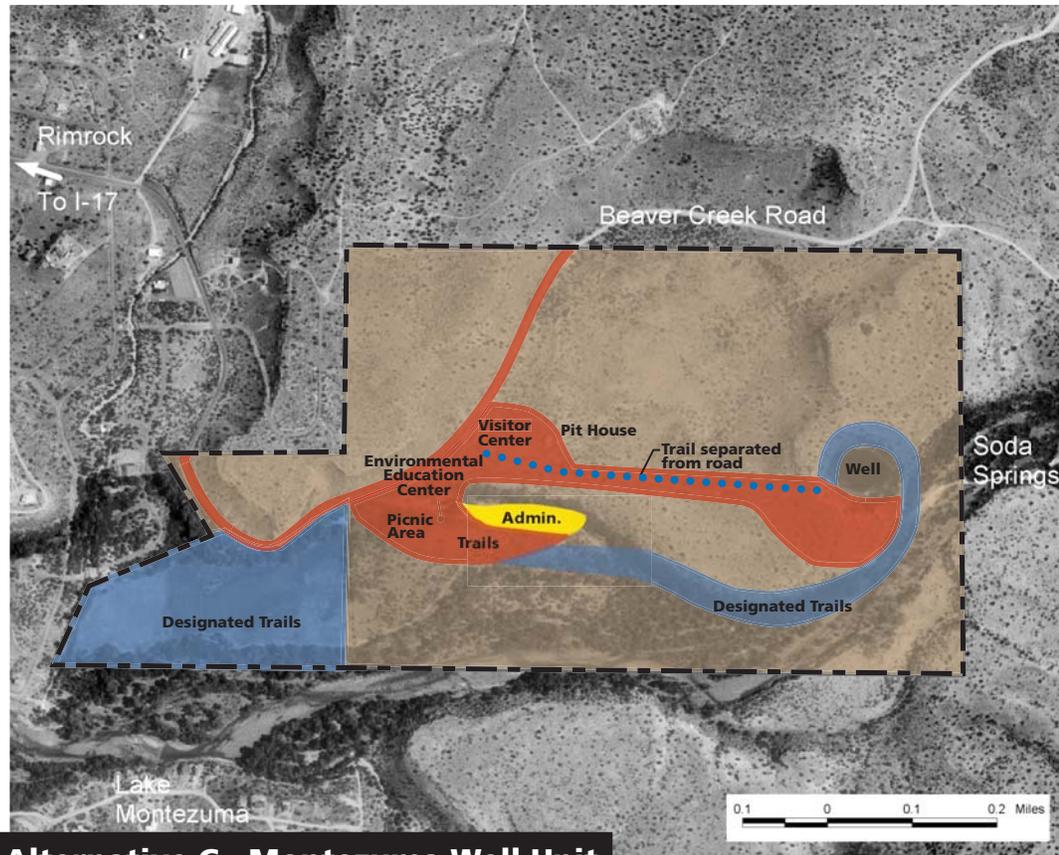
Alternative C - Castle Unit
Montezuma Castle National Monument
 United States Department of the Interior / National Park Service
 DSC • 309 • 20018 • July 2004





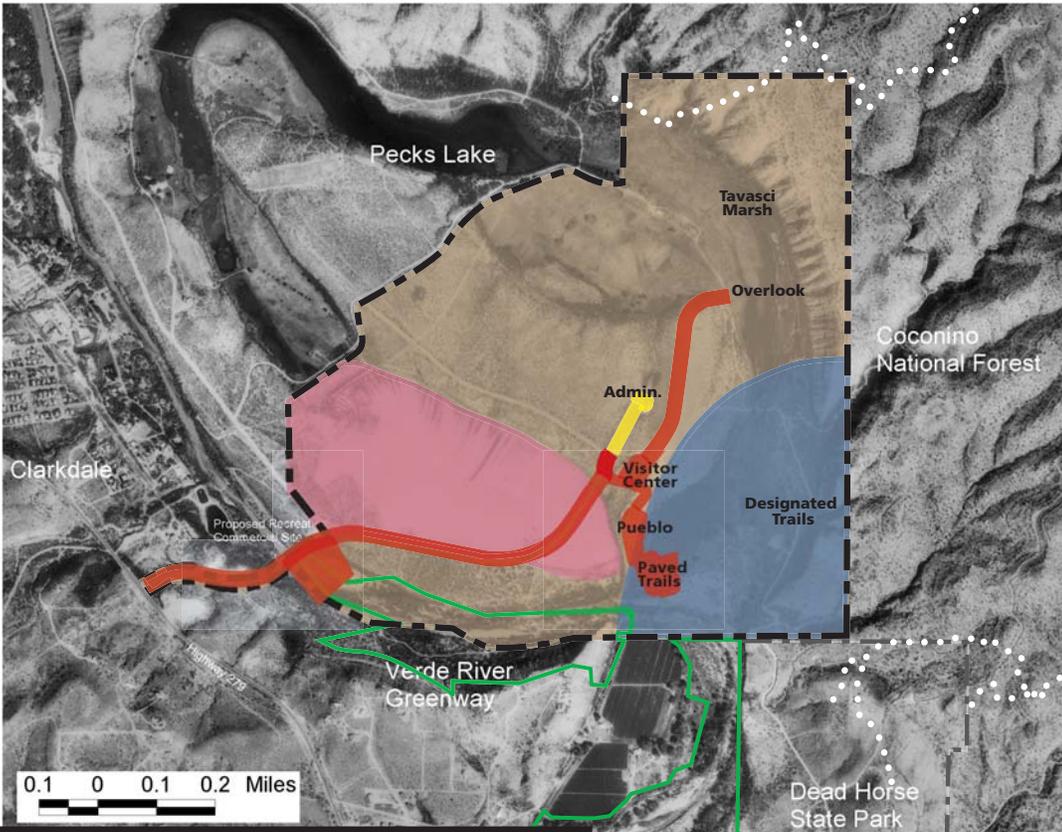
- LEGEND**
- INTERPRETIVE HISTORIC
 - INTERACTION & DISCOVERY
 - PARK OPERATIONS
 - SENSITIVE RESOURCES
 - MONTEZUMA WELL

Alternative B - Montezuma Well Unit
Montezuma Castle National Monument
 United States Department of the Interior / National Park Service
 DSC • 309 • 20019 • July 2004



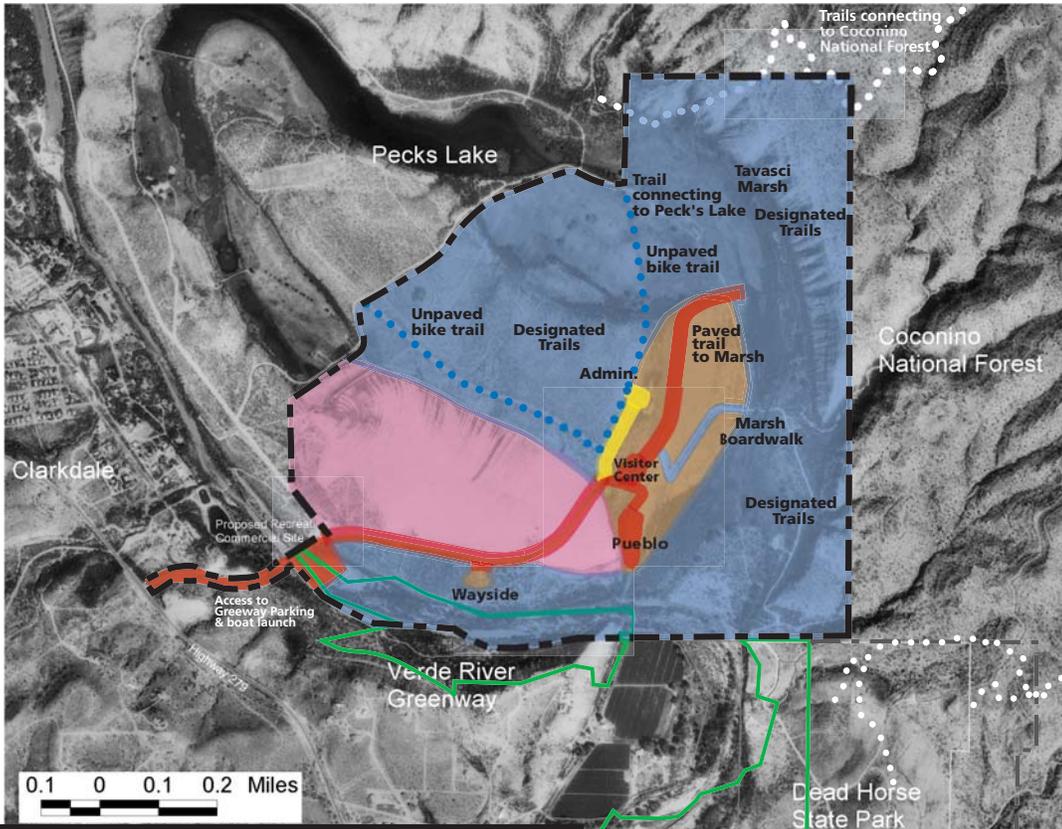
Alternative C - Montezuma Well Unit
Montezuma Castle National Monument
 United States Department of the Interior / National Park Service
 DSC • 309 • 20020 • July 2004





- LEGEND**
- MINE TAILINGS
 - INTERPRETIVE HISTORIC
 - INTERACTION & DISCOVERY
 - PARK OPERATIONS
 - SENSITIVE RESOURCES
 - TUZIGOOT NATIONAL MONUMENT
 - VERDE RIVER GREENWAY
 - DEAD HORSE RANCH STATE PARK
 - EXISTING TRAILS

Alternative B
Tuzigoot National Monument
 United States Department of the Interior / National Park Service
 DSC • 378 • 20018 • July 2004



Alternative C
Tuzigoot National Monument
 United States Department of the Interior / National Park Service
 DSC • 378 • 20019 • July 2004



PLANNING TIME FRAME

The general management planning process for Montezuma Castle and Tuzigoot National Monuments is expected to take several years to complete. A summary of the process and anticipated time frame are shown in the table below. The public will have opportunities to share ideas and comments throughout the process.

Following this newsletter, the park and planning team will begin to expand the alternative concepts. Comments from the public will help guide the team in the preparation of alternatives, including the preferred, in the Draft General Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement.

STEP	PLANNING ACTIVITY	WHAT YOU CAN DO
1	SUMMER 2003 / Initiate Project The planning team assembles, begins to identify the project's scope, customizes the planning process, and begins to establish contacts with participants.	
2	FALL-WINTER 2003 / Define Planning Context & Foundation The team examines <i>why</i> the monuments were established and affirms the mission, purpose, and significance. Team members collect and analyze relevant data.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read the newsletter • Send us your ideas and comments • Attend public meetings
3 WE ARE HERE	SUMMER 2004 / Develop and Evaluate Alternatives Using staff and public input, the team explores what the monuments' future should look like and proposes a range of reasonable alternatives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read the newsletter • Send us your ideas and comments
4	FALL 2004-SPRING 2005 / Prepare a Draft Document <i>A Draft General Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement</i> is published. The draft document describes the alternatives and impacts of implementing each. Based on the impacts and public input, a preferred alternative is identified in the document.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read the draft plan • Send us your ideas and comments • Attend public meetings
5	WINTER 2005 / Publish Final Document Based on review by the National Park Service and the public, the team revises the draft plan and distributes a final plan. The GMP/EIS is approved via a published Record of Decision.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read the final plan, including NPS responses to substantive public comments and official letters
6	Implement the Approved Plan After the Record of Decision is issued, the plan will be carried out as funding permits.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with the National Park Service to implement the plan

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

The planning team welcomes your comments anytime in the planning process. Right now we would like to hear your ideas, suggestions, and recommendations on the management zones and the preliminary alternatives. Please comment through any one of the following methods:

1. Submit written comments to:

National Park Service
Attn: Patrick Kenney
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, CO 80225

2. Email your comments to:

pat_kenney@nps.gov

3. Attend the following public open houses to provide comment:

Tuesday, September 7, 2004

4:00 P.M.- 6:30 P.M.
Cottonwood Public Safety Facility
199 South Sixth Street
Cottonwood, Arizona

Wednesday, September 8, 2004

4:00 P.M.- 6:30 P.M.
National Park Service Headquarters
527 South Main Street
Camp Verde, Arizona

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Pat Kenney / DSC / Planning
12795 W. Alameda Pkwy.
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, CO 80225-0287

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