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THE NAVAJO NATION

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PETERSON ZAH
PRESIDENT

MARSHALL PLUMMER
VICE PRESIDENT

June 8, 1992

Mr. Dave Wegner, Manager
Glen Canyon Environmental Studies (GCES)
Bureau of Reclamation (BOR)
P.O. Box 22459
Flagstaff, Arizona 86002

JUN 9 1993
RECEIVED

RE: PROGRESS REPORT FOR THE NAVAJO NATION'S GLEN CANYON
ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES-NAVAJO CULTURAL RESOURCES PROJECT

Dear Dave:

It has been over a year since the Navajo Nation Historic Preservation Department (NNHPD) began work on the Glen Canyon Environmental Studies-Navajo Cultural Resources Project (GCES-NCRP). NNHPD is under contract (Cooperative Agreement # 1-FC-40-10520) with the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) along with the Navajo Natural Heritage Program. Since that time we have completed five months (May-September 1992) of ethnographic fieldwork in the Gap/Bodaway, Cameron and Tuba City chapter communities of the Navajo Nation. We were able to conduct extensive interviews with approximately 20 members of these communities. We were also able to take the majority of the interviewees on field visits and were able to identify numerous types of resources.

Some of the resources that the interviewees identified in and around the Grand Canyon include: trails, burials, subsistence places (Water collection, fields, grazing areas or corrals, homesites, sweathouses, etc.), clan migration places, places associated with Holy People, plants gathered and their uses, places of interaction with non-Navajos, mineral gathering places (i.e. salt mines), prayer offering places, use of wildlife and fish, and places associated with ceremonies. The interviewees identified many resources outside of the river corridor, such as on the rim of the canyon, in the North Kaibab Forest, or on the San Francisco Peaks. The people we interviewed viewed the earth as one and did not separate the canyon as an isolated landform. The canyon has direct links to other surrounding landforms, and these are all tied together by oral history and ceremonies. Although the GCES is to study the canyon environment, the people we interviewed would not separate the inner canyon from the rest of the earth.

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In addition to the ethnographic fieldwork for GCES, Navajo Nation Vice President Marshall Plummer appointed NNHPD as the lead agency on the Glen Canyon Dam Environmental Impact Statement (GCD-EIS) and Alan Downer, Navajo Nation Historic Preservation Officer, as the representative to the Cooperators Agencies. We are also represented on the GCD-EIS Writing Team, and attend all meetings of the Native American Cooperating Agencies, Adaptive Management Planning Committee, and the Cultural Resources Programmatic Agreement. NNHPD has been reviewing all relevant documents generated by the GCD-EIS.

Our program was able to hire Mr. John R. Thomas, Salt Lake City, Utah, as an independent Environmental Consultant (Navajo Nation Professional Services Contract #C30263). Mr. Thomas was hired in September, 1992, until September 30, 1993. Mr. Thomas has since interviewed other tribal departments and divisions, such as Parks and Recreation, Division of Economic Development, the President's Office, and has prepared a Navajo Nation internal position paper on a preferred dam operation alternative for the GCD-EIS. Mr. Thomas has taken the lead on the Navajo Nation's environmental concerns for the GCD-EIS. He has also been attending the meetings of the Writing Team and the Cooperating Agencies providing technical assistance and expertise for the Navajo Nation.

In August 1992, Mr. Sam Spencer, Cameron, Arizona, performed a Blessingway ceremony and made an offering to the Colorado River to benefit the Navajo people, and the people who are working on the GCES. The blessing also reaffirmed that the river is still alive despite the intrusion of Glen Canyon Dam and by virtue of the offering, blessed the river itself. Local community members were invited to this ceremony. You and Mr. John Thomas were also present at this event. The ceremony provided a measure of protection to the Grand Canyon and its resources that no dam operating scenarios is able to provide.

In September 1992, the Navajo Nation was provided a research trip on the Colorado River by the GCES Office. The Grand Canyon National Park normally was in charge of providing cultural resources research trips, but for various reasons would not facilitate a Navajo Nation trip (Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, through the efforts of Ms. Pauline Wilson, Tribal Liaison, provided two trips: one between Glen Canyon Dam and Lee's Ferry, and one above the dam on Lake Powell to Rainbow Bridge). We offer our sincere thanks to the GCES office for accommodating the Navajo Nation on the river. On the trip were: Richard M. Begay and Alexandra Roberts (GCES-NCRP Anthropologists, principal investigators); Alan Downer (NNHPD Director); Klara Kelley (NNHPD Ethnohistorian); Stanley Pollack (Navajo Nation Department of Justice Natural Resources Attorney); Adrian Hansen (Navajo Nation Minerals Department Geologist); Stanley Robbins (Navajo Nation

Council Delegate for the Gap/Bodaway and Cameron Chapters); Mr. John Thomas (Navajo Nation Consultant); Henry Lane (local Navajo consultant from Gap/Bodaway area); and Chris Coder (Northern Arizona University-National Park Service Archeologist).

There was a lot of discussion whether or not the Navajo Nation trip was truly a research trip. To "justify" the participants on the river trip, we will describe the function of each person on the trip. Both Dr. Alan Downer and Dr. Klara Kelley have extensive experience in the fields of Navajo archaeology, and anthropology. They were essential in the further identification of Navajo cultural resources in the canyon. For Dr. Downer, as the GCD-EIS Cooperating Agencies Representative, understanding the relationship between the river and its resources and the EIS decision making process was crucial to understanding the development of the EIS. As a result of the trip, Dr. Kelley will be providing input to our final report regarding the Navajo sacred landscape in and around the Grand Canyon. Stanley Pollack is the primary attorney dealing with the issues surrounding the boundary dispute between the National Park Service and the Navajo Nation. He is also concerned with the Navajo Nation's water rights in the Colorado River basin. Adrian Hansen advised us on the potential antiquity of certain archaeological resources based on their geologic associations. Stanley Robbins, as the representative to the Navajo Nation Council, is responsible for translating local Navajo needs and wants into tribal policy. As a legislator, Mr. Robbins was extremely important in the issues surrounding the Navajo Nation role in the GCES and the GCD-EIS. John Thomas as the Navajo Nation consultant provided expertise on all GCD-EIS issues. Mr. Lane as a local traditionalist was essential in identifying Navajo resources in the Canyon. Chris Coder was familiar with all the locations of the archaeological sites we wanted to revisit. Alan, Klara, John and Chris were able to hike out at Phantom Ranch, where Adrian and Stanley P. were able to join us.

During the Grand Canyon river trip we were able to revisit some of the archaeological sites recorded by the National Park Service (NPS). The Navajo Nation was concerned that only six of the 475 sites recorded were identified by NPS as Navajo or as having Navajo components. During this trip we were able to: identify several Traditional Cultural Places (TCP's), pinpoint locations of Navajo subsistence activities in the canyon, identify plants and their uses, gather more ethnographic information of the significance of the canyon to the Navajo people, identify a "prehistoric site" as possibly Navajo, and verify some trails pointed out to us.

On the Glen Canyon trip (with Pauline Wilson), we verified some sites as Navajo, located new Navajo sites and TCPs, and verified others as non-Navajo. All of the site identifications will be provided in our final report.

GCES-NCRP has been fortunate to obtain the services of Mr. Dave Brugge, Albuquerque, New Mexico. We were able to obtain his services through Mr. Thomas, the Navajo Nation Consultant. Mr. Brugge is a retired NPS and Navajo Nation anthropologist and in the 1950's documented early Navajo sites around the Grand Canyon region for Navajo land claims before the Indian Claims Commission. He has extensive expertise in Navajo ceramics and was able to identify some ceramic "nips" from several archaeological sites in Glen Canyon and the Grand Canyon. His information will be provided in our final GCES-NCRP report.

In the past year, we have given several public presentations of our project to various audiences, both Navajo and non-Navajo. These are as follows:

1. "Navajo Use of the Grand Canyon", Presentation, Richard M. Begay, and Alexandra Roberts. Grand Canyon River Guides Training Seminar, Marble Canyon, Arizona, April 1992.
2. "The Glen Canyon Environmental Studies Navajo Cultural Resources Project", Paper, Richard M. Begay. Respecting Traditions: A Conference on Tribal Management of Cultural and Historic Resources, in a session entitled "Knowing Where We Are: Collaborative Projects", Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona, May 1992.
3. "Navajo Culture and History" and "Navajo Use of the Grand Canyon", Presentations, Richard M. Begay. Elder Hostels, sponsored by Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, and Greyhills High School, Tuba City, Arizona, May 1992.
4. "Navajo Use of the Grand Canyon and Use of Plants In and Around the Grand Canyon", Exhibit, Richard M. Begay and Alexandra Roberts. Flagstaff Festival of Science, at Sinagua High School, Flagstaff, Arizona, September 1992.
5. "Navajo use of Plants In and Around the Grand Canyon", Presentation, Richard M. Begay. Staff Development Series, Navajo Nation Historic Preservation Department, Window Rock, Arizona, December 1992.
6. "Navajo Sacred Places and Navajo Use of the Grand Canyon", Presentation, Richard M. Begay. Staff Development Series, Navajo Nation Archaeology Department-Northern Arizona University Branch, Flagstaff, Arizona, March 1993.
7. "Navajo Use and History of the Grand Canyon", Presentation, Richard M. Begay. Grand Canyon River Guides Training Seminary, Marble Canyon, April 1993.

8. "Early Navajo Occupation of the Grand Canyon Region", Paper, Richard M. Begay and Alexandra Roberts. Society for American Archaeology, 58th Annual Meeting, in a symposium entitled "Changing Perspectives of the Navajo Culture: Research on Navajo Archaeological Site", St. Louis, Missouri, April 1993. This paper will be published next year in a volume on Navajo archaeology.
9. "Navajo History in the Grand Canyon", Future interview, Richard M. Begay. KOBF television program: "Voice of the Navajo", Farmington, New Mexico, June 1993. This program is broadcast in the Navajo language every Sunday morning.
10. "Navajo Nation Research Activities for the Glen Canyon Dam Environmental Impact Statement", Future presentation, Richard M. Begay, and Alexandra Roberts. The National Research Council, Flagstaff, Arizona, June 1993.
11. "Navajo History of the Grand Canyon", Ongoing poster exhibit the Crystal Chapter House, Crystal, New Mexico.

We have also authored several articles for various publications. These are listed below:

1. "The Historical and Cultural Significance of the Grand Canyon to the Navajo Nation, Richard M. Begay and Alexandra Roberts, in Glen Canyon Environmental Studies Update, Summer 1992, Flagstaff, Arizona.
2. "The Glen Canyon Environmental Studies-Navajo Cultural Resources Project (GCES-NCRP)", Richard M. Begay and Alexandra Roberts, in Navajo Preservation Newsletter, December 1992, Window Rock, Arizona.
3. "Navajo, Hualapai, and Hopi Involvement in the Glen Canyon Environmental Studies", Richard M. Begay, Loretta Jackson, and Kurt Dongoske in CRM Bulletin, (National Park Service), in press, Washington, DC.
4. "Early Navajo Occupation of the Grand Canyon Region", Richard M. Begay and Alexandra Roberts, in an edited volume on Navajo Archaeology, edited by Ronald Towner, in preparation.

These publications and the public presentations have done much to dispel the "myths" about the late Navajo arrival into the Grand Canyon region and have demonstrated the significance of the canyon to the Navajo people. We can be sure that more publications and presentations on Navajo history in the Grand Canyon will be forthcoming.

PAGE 06
JUNE 08, 1993
GCES-NCRP PROGRESS REPORT

We are currently working on the final technical report for the GCES-NCRP. We have completed a detailed outline and have begun writing in earnest. The report will contain five chapters: 1) Introduction, 2) Field Methods, 3) Navajo History in the Grand Canyon, 4) Resources Identified by GCES-NCRP, and 5) Recommendations for the Future. In conjunction with the report writing, Alexa is reviewing the historical and archaeological literature.

As an issue related to the report writing, we wish to hire Dr. Klara Kelley, now an independent private consultant, to review literature specifically related to Navajo ceremonialism and the Navajo sacred landscape. We will need GCES approval to enter into this sub-contract. Dr. Kelley has over 20 years experience working on Navajo lands and most of the literature she will be reviewing is in her possession. Her contribution to the final GCES-NCRP report will be invaluable.

Other than our obligations to GCES-NCRP, we have been involved in NNHPD activities. These include the American Indian Religious Freedom Act hearings in Albuquerque, New Mexico; various National Park Services meetings and consultations (at Wupatki National Monument, Grand Canyon National Park, Chaco Culture National Historical Park); consultation with Kaibab National Forest; and the Annual Navajo Studies Conference. All of these relate in subject to our work in the Grand Canyon.

Finally, some contract and financial information for you. Our original award from BOR for FY 1992 was \$90,000.00. We requested additional 1992 funds and were able to carry over \$71,914.70 into FY 1993. We received our original award in April 1992 and we were unable to commit all of '92 funds in the short time we had. In addition to the carry over monies, we received \$154,357.00 in new funding for FY 1993. The GCES-NCRP has been awarded a total of \$308,00.00. We expect our final report to be completed by September 30, 1993. We will soon be sending a proposed budget for FY 1994. The budget will request funds to retain John Thomas on contract until the Record of Decision is made, travel monies for Alan Downer, funding for Klara Kelley, plus misc. other expenses. We (Richard and Alexa) do not expect to remain on GCES monies for very long after September 30 (we may request funding for a month or two to ensure our report is completed). We will have a proposed FY 1994 budget to submit upon your request.

The GCD-EIS and GCES has set a precedent in involving Native Americans in managing America's natural resources. Based on the Navajo Nation's experience in the GCD-EIS process, the Nation is attempting to become involved in the Navajo Transmission Project as a full partner in the development of the Navajo Transmission Project Environmental Impact Statement.

PAGE 07
JUNE 08, 1993
GCES-NCRP PROGRESS REPORT

We apologize that our Progress Report has taken so long to produce. We have enjoyed working in the Grand Canyon region and we look forward to finishing our report.

Sincerely,



Richard M. Begay, and Alexandra Roberts, Anthropologists
Glen Canyon Environmental Studies-
Navajo Cultural Resources Project (GCES-NCRP)
Navajo Nation Historic Preservation Department (NNHPD)
P.O. Box 2898
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(602) 871-7699

cc: The Honorable Marshall Plummer, Navajo Nation Vice President,
Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President
Mr. Stanley Robbins, Navajo Nation Council Delegate, Cameron
and Gap/Bodaway Chapters
Mr. Anderson Morgan, Executive Director, Navajo Nation
Division of Natural Resources
Mr. Byron Huskon, Deputy Director, Navajo Nation Division of
Natural Resources
Dr. Alan Downer, Director, Navajo Nation Historic Preservation
Department
Ms. Georgia Benally, Deputy Director, Navajo Nation Historic
Preservation Department
Mr. Stanley Pollack, Natural Resources Attorney, Navajo Nation
Department of Justice
Mr. Mike Tremble, Program Manager, Navajo Nation Natural
Heritage Program
Mr. John Thomas, Environmental Consultant, Navajo Nation