



# **Zuni Monitoring Program in Grand Canyon**

**Prepared by  
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and  
Zuni Cultural Resource Advisory Team**

**Presented at  
GCMRC's Annual Reporting Meeting  
23 January 2013**

# ZCRAT Members Involved in Presentation

## ZCRAT Member

- Octavius Seowtewa
- George Yawakie
- Ben Kallestewa
- Cornell Tsalate
- Ronnie Cachini
- Eldred Quam
- Harry Chimoni

## Religious Affiliation

- Leader Newe:kwe Fraternity
- Koko leader; Small Group Kiva
- Kiva Group headman; Shumakwe
- Bow Priest for Ooh'hu'hu'kwe
- Kwa'kwe mo-si, Head Rain Priest
- Small Group Kiva
- Head Spokesman Elder Upt'sana:kwe

# Purpose of Zuni Monitoring

- Provide opportunity to experience and reconnect with place of emergence
- Assess the health and wellbeing of the Colorado River ecosystem
- Renew relationship with shrines, springs, and ancestral homes (archaeological sites)
- Collect water, minerals, and plants for ceremonial use
- Zuni history written in petroglyphs; river trips strengthen Zuni history
- Provide recommendations to BOR and NPS

# Zuni and Grand Canyon Sacred Landscape

- Place of emergence; reconnect with underworld
- Place received instructions to search for Middle Place
- Place where medicine bundles created; still in use today
- Historical events occurred (relationship with aquatic beings; migrations; creation of religious societies)
- Maintain umbilical spiritual connection facilitated by waterways and trails
- Central to Zuni never ending ceremonial cycle

# Zuni Traditional Cultural Properties in Grand Canyon



- Ancestral homes (archaeological sites)
  - Are physical manifestations of Zuni knowledge
  - Represents knowledge about how to build and live within the Canyon
  - Reaffirms belief that Zuni ancestors resided here and the Zuni heritage
  - Demonstrates that Zuni religion is as strong now as it was back then; Zuni religion directed site design and how structures built

# Zuni Traditional Cultural Properties



- **Petroglyphs & Pictographs**
  - **Petroglyphs validate and substantiate Zuni's historical and on-going relationship to the Grand Canyon**
  - **information passed on from Zuni great grandfathers and grandfathers**

# Zuni Traditional Cultural Properties



- **Shrines and Offering Places**
  - **Shrines on landscape act as cognitive maps**
  - **Maintain spiritual connection between Grand Canyon and Zuni**
  - **Protect individual Zuni on river trip; protect all Zunis**
  - **Offering places: river, entire canyon, springs, collection areas**

# Zuni Traditional Cultural Properties



- Trails
  - Lead to shrines and offering places
  - Considered sacred; facilitate and maintain spiritual umbilical connection between Zuni and Grand Canyon

# Zuni TCPs Continued



- **KYA:WE: Water, River, Springs**
  - All water sacred; springs most precious thing on earth
  - Colorado River /K'yawan A:honanne: sentient being. Associated with emergence, migrations, home to aquatic life important to Zuni, and water from the river used in ceremonies

# Zuni Traditional Cultural Resources



- **Plants**
  - **Used in religious ceremonies**
  - **Indicators of health of ecosystem**
- **Animals (includes aquatic and insect life)**
  - **Assist in Zuni ceremonies**
  - **Indicators of health of ecosystem**
  - **Indicators of a Zuni good year**
  - **Zuni ancestors take animal form (visitation)**
- **Minerals**
  - **Used only in religious ceremonies**
  - **Collecting minerals in canyon since time immemorial (Cushing 1890s)**
  - **Continuation of Zuni traditions**

# Zuni Monitoring Methodology



- Selection of monitoring sites
  - Archaeological sites determine if ancestral (NPS inventory)
  - Shrines always visited
  - Collection areas (springs, plants, etc.)
- Monitoring activities
  - First make offering
  - Assess health of environment (qualitative assessment)
  - Discuss condition among Zuni monitors at site/end of day/share with NPS representative

# Zuni Monitoring Methodology



- Evaluation of condition
  - Resource(s) dwindling / degrading = negative consequences at Zuni
  - Resource(s) flourishing/ stable = positive sign for Zuni

# Summary of 13 Years of Zuni Monitoring



- Zuni Monitoring Trips
  - 1997
  - 1999
  - 2001
  - 2007
  - 2010 \*
- Total 61 sites monitored

# 2010 Monitoring Results

- 31 TCPs monitored during 2010
- 21 are Zuni ancestral archaeological sites
- 8 Zuni collection areas
- 7 contain Zuni springs
- 6 contain Zuni shrines that require protection and spiritual attendance by Zuni religious practitioners
- 3 places contain resources of Zuni importance
- 1 is consider a uniquely sacred place (LCR confluence)

# Zuni 2010 Recommendations to Bureau of Reclamation

- **cease mechanical removal**
- **consider funding a Zuni educational program for implementation at Zuni**
- **with NPS to design and fund educational program that utilizes the ZCRAT to inform river guides, NPS personnel, boatmen, and researchers about the importance of the Grand Canyon and Colorado River to Zuni**

# 2010 Zuni Recommendations to National Park Service

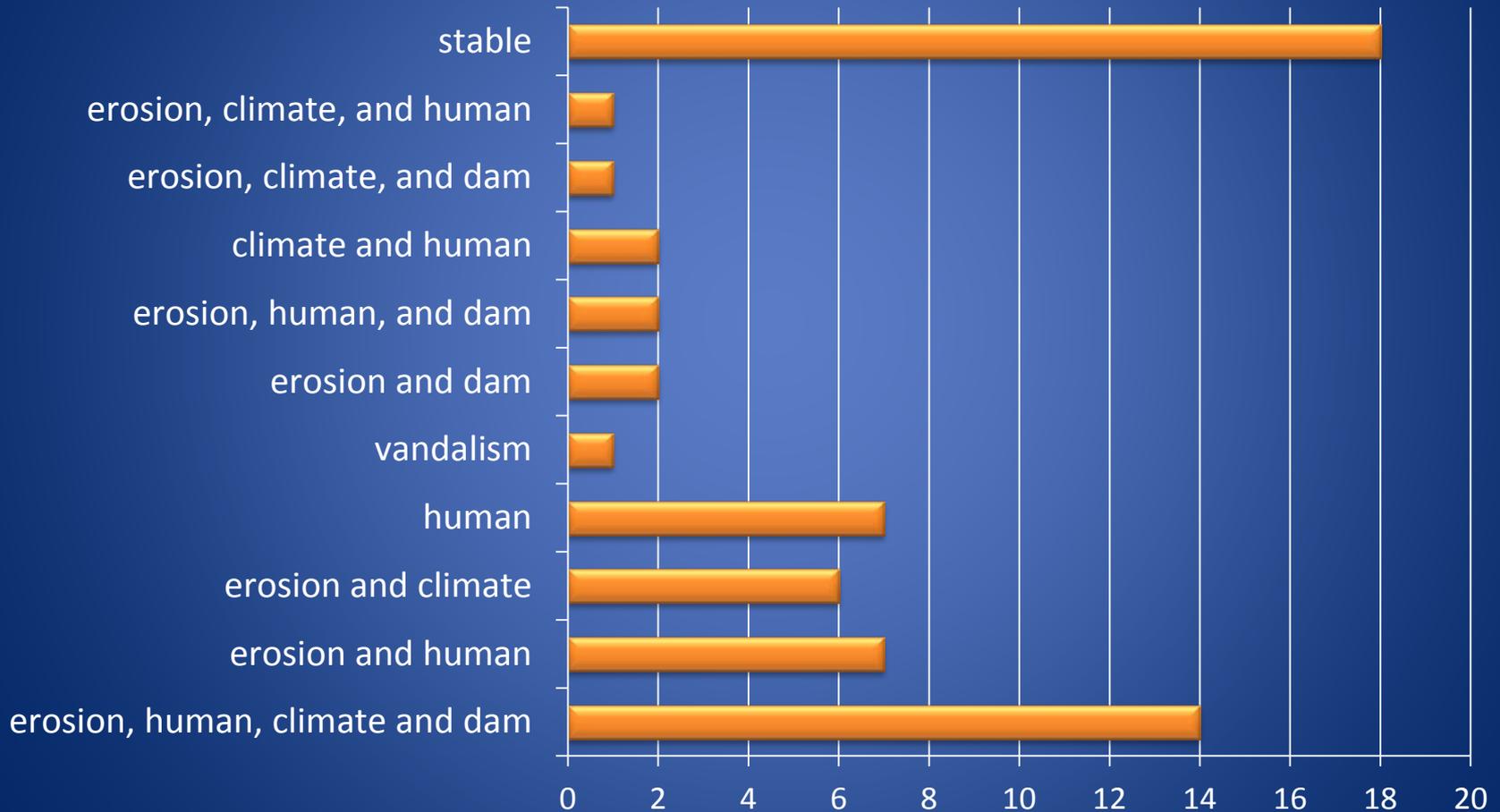
- Consult ZCRAT prior to issuing research permits for work at Zuni ancestral sites
- monitor recreationist impacts at AZ:C:9:32
- Protect shrine at AZ:C:9:1 (Nankoweap)
- Protect shrines at Kwahgunt
- Facilitate privacy for Zunis visiting Duton Spring
- Restrict public visitation to Lava Rapids petroglyphs.
- Plant cacti in front of pictographs at AZ:A:16:01

# 13 Years of Zuni Monitoring

Place	1997		1999		2001		2007		2010		Impacts
	V	E	V	E	V	E	V	E	V	E	
AZ:C:6:3(SoapCreek)	X	D	X	D	X	D					Erosion, human, climate and dam
AZ:C:6:5 (Supai Man Petroglyph)	X	D	X	D	X	D			X	D	Erosion, human, climate and dam
AZ:C:5:5 (rock shelter)							X	D			Erosion, human, climate and dam
AZ:C:5:35	X	D									Human vandalism
South Canyon Site/Stanton's Cave	X	I	X	I	X	I			X	D	Erosion, human, climate and dam
Vasey's Paradise	X	I	X	I	X	I	X	I	X	I	No serious threats
Quartz Crystals	X	I	X	I	X	I			X	D	Human caused impacts
Saddle Canyon	X	I									Human caused impacts
AZ:C:9:28							X	D			Erosion, human, climate and dam
AZ:C:9:32							X	D			Erosion and climate
AZ:C:9:50	X	D									Erosion and human
AZ:C:9:54							X	D			Erosion, human, climate and dam
AZ:C:9:1(Nankoweap Granaries)	X	I	X	I	X	I	X	I	X	D	Human caused impacts
Kwahgunt Site									X	D	Erosion, human, climate and dam
AZ:C:13:365 (Malagosa Canyon)			X	D	X	D	X	D	X	D	Erosion, human, climate and dam

ZCRE:Zuni Monitoring in Grand Canyon.  
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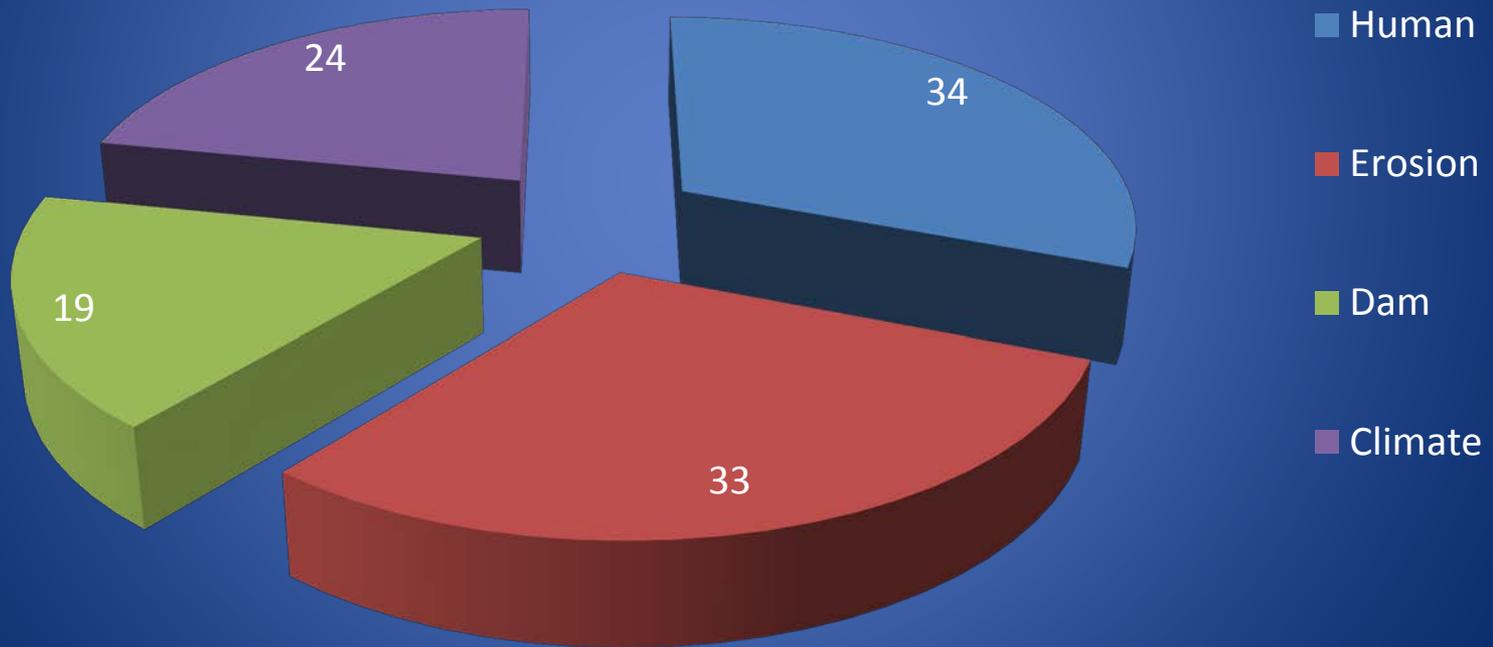
# Results of 13 Years of Zuni Monitoring



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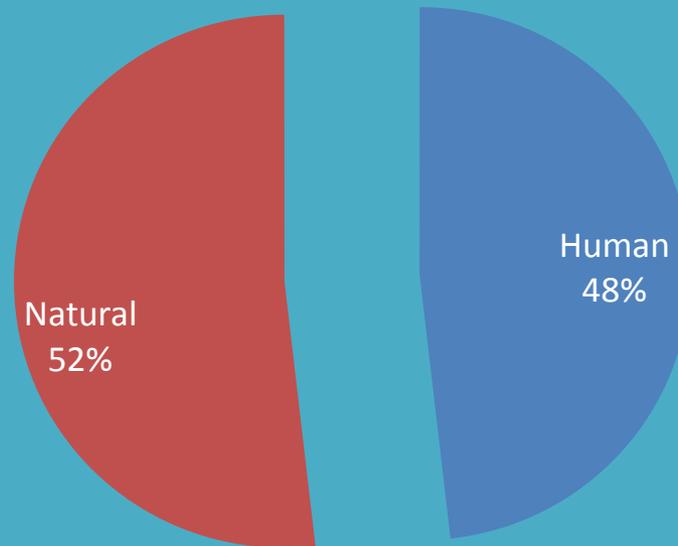
# Results of 13 Years of Zuni Monitoring

## Sources of Effects



# Results of 13 Years of Zuni Monitoring

## Human versus Natural Impacts



# Closing Comments from ZCRAT

- **Zuni environment management philosophy: Do no harm; Allow Nature to take its course; Maintain mindfulness of Stewardship**
- Continued manipulation of canyon resources (aquatic, biological, and physical) by resource managers and researchers will result in Negative effects on Canyon and ultimately on Zuni
- **Supai man, petroglyphs at Lava & Whitmore are specifically Zuni**
- **Petroglyph boulders at Tanner: figures with intertwined tails; specifically mentioned in all Zuni prayers**
- Petroglyphs and ancestral sites validate and substantiate Zuni's historical and on-going relationship to the Grand Canyon
- **Zuni long term monitoring: like reading a book more than once; Zuni achieves more information and understanding each monitoring trip**

**THANK YOU  
FOR  
YOUR ATTENTION**

**QUESTIONS?**



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