

PHONE CALL RECORD

Date: January 5, 2005

Time: 4 pm

Recorder's Name: Diana Hawks

Called/spoke with: Jill Ozarski, The Wilderness Society

Topic of Discussion: Arizona Strip Planning, Wilderness Society's publication on transportation on the AZ Strip, and Cultural Resources Inventory

Additional Comments:

Jill Ozarski called me yesterday to see where we were with Planning and to find out if we were using any of the additional information they have submitted to us in planning. I told her we had just submitted a revised schedule to the state office that morning and so weren't positive about the schedule yet. It looked like we would have the DEIS available to the public the end of July and have public meetings in September.

She asked if we were using the information they had submitted to us on the effects of transportation on wildlife on the Arizona Strip. I told her we had problems with the report and felt that it didn't directly pertain to the AZ Strip because the references in the report primarily pertained to affects to wildlife from travel on paved, high speed roads. Most of the roads we have on the AZ Strip are dirt and have low travel speeds. She asked if anyone had written an analysis of the report and its references and I told her that I thought AZ Game and Fish had done one. I told her she might be able to get a copy of that analysis from Rebecca Davidson of Game and Fish.

I told her that Michael Herder had done some additional follow-up on some of the references they provided on Desert Tortoise and obtained additional reports from a researcher at NAU that they cited. I assured her that we were looking at the information provided in the report even though we felt that it didn't directly pertain to the AZ Strip. She said they had heard that criticism from other areas. They felt that the information portrayed was the best available and that some of it did refer to dirt roads.

She asked me what we thought of the latest IM the Arizona State Office had released on Land Use Plan Consistency. I told her we were glad to get it so that we could now move forward.

She updated me on the press releases on the cultural resources inventory they had done with Circa Cultural Consulting on Parashant and Vermilion in November and asked if what they had released was OK. I told her about our fears on releasing too much information on the cultural resources and that we were always very careful about what we released. Sad experience has taught us that releasing information on cultural resources can lead to their vandalism or to their being 'loved to death.' I told her about Secretary of Interior's visit in the 1980's to the Shinarump Cliffs area to see vandalism of cultural resources and how that led to even more vandalism. I told her that in reality, the cultural resources on the Arizona Strip were no different

from any other sites found in the Southwest and that, in fact, there were more spectacular sites elsewhere. The primary difference being that the sites on the Arizona Strip have comparatively little vandalism because of the remoteness. We were trying to maintain the cultural resources integrity as much as we could by not advertising them. She told me they were sensitive to that issue and were trying to be responsive to it so that they didn't lead to additional vandalism or destruction. She said Peter Bungart had been advocating strongly for protection of the cultural resources as well. I told her they had a good consultant in Peter and that John Herron and I had both worked with him when he came to our office.

She told me that they were hoping to have the results of the cultural inventory to us soon but it probably won't be available until the end of February or March. They wish to conduct additional inventories in the area. The researchers they worked with were anxious to survey additional areas on the Arizona Strip. And they would be looking at similar cultural inventories on other monuments in Arizona.

She asked me if it was OK to work with the National Trust for Historic Preservation to have the cultural resources on the national monuments listed on their annual list of ten most endangered places in the United States. I urged her to work with Gary Stumpf on it. I recommended looking at the budgets and staff historically for all these areas together. And also emphasizing the limited amount of information presently available on cultural resources in some of these areas might be an avenue to pursue. For example, approximately 3-5% of the Arizona Strip has been inventoried for cultural resources but most of the large surveys were conducted in the 1960's and 1970's using 15 minute maps. So the data we have is not entirely accurate. She said they became aware of that when they worked with Peter Bungart on the Arizona Strip in November.

I also urged her not to single out the cultural resources of any particular national monument in light of any subsequent vandalism. I told her it would be a good idea to have a general category of cultural resources for all the BLM national monuments on the National Trust's list. I told her that Federal budgets have been shrinking, and programs such as cultural resources in the BLM have been hard hit. An example I gave was that when I arrived on the Arizona Strip in 1991 we had three archaeologists. Now we only have one. She said she had been talking with staff at Grand Staircase-Escalante NM about their shrinking scientific research budget. So she was aware of the problems we were having with a lack of resources and staff.