



**United States Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**

Montezuma Castle and Tuzigoot National Monuments

Post Office Box 219

527 S. Main Street

Camp Verde, Arizona 86322



IN REPLY TO:
N50

February 13, 2012

Dear Interested Party:

In March 2009, the National Park Service requested input on a multi-park (Casa Grande Ruins National Monument, Tonto National Monument, Montezuma Castle National Monument, and Tuzigoot National Monument) Integrated Pest Management Plan/Environmental Assessment. We retained the comments related to the Montezuma Castle and Tuzigoot National Monuments at this time, but are reopening public scoping for a two-park Montezuma Castle and Tuzigoot National Monuments' Integrated Pest Management Plan/Environmental Assessment as the original multi-park environmental assessment was never completed. This new two-park environmental assessment is expected to be released in the spring/summer 2012 and will finalize the NEPA process for this proposed program.

Montezuma Castle and Tuzigoot National Monument have identified concerns and problems with pest species that seriously threaten cultural and natural resources as well as park facilities. Additionally, interaction of these pests with visitors and staff poses human health and safety risks that require mitigation. Both monuments are preparing an Integrated Pest Management Plan/Environmental Assessment (EA) to address these issues.

Park-specific pest evaluations and pest management response plans are being completed for Montezuma Castle and Tuzigoot National Monuments, since similar pests and problems appear to occur in both parks, to assess potential impacts of the proposed plans the monuments. This Environmental Assessment will reference the pest management action plans and include a variety of integrated pest management treatments to control pests, reduce risks to health and safety, reduce damage to the cultural and natural resources, and promote a more balanced ecosystem.

The monuments are encouraging public participation throughout the planning process. There will be two opportunities to comment formally on the project; once during this project scoping period and again following release of the EA. We are currently in the scoping phase of this proposed project, and invite the public to submit written suggestions, comments, and concerns regarding the proposed project. Please send comments through the "Open for Comments" link at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/moca>.

If you are not able to submit comments electronically through this website, you may submit written comments at the address on this letterhead. Please provide comments by March 13 in order to insure that they are included for consideration during the preparation of the EA. If you have any questions, please contact Sharon Kim, Chief of Resources, at (928) 649-6195, x 226.

Sincerely,

Kathy Davis
Superintendent