

Poplar tree screens along the north and south sides of the AZ are presently configured in an unnatural lineal configuration, creating forced lines on the visual landscape. Selective removal of some trees from the north row with additional planting of a few more to form clusters will result in a more natural landscape pattern while conserving the screening value from higher elevation view points. A similar approach can be taken along the southern row for provision of shade. Naturalized drifts of pinion pine and junipers will provide visual screening at ground level from both sides. Existing poplars can remain in place until new plantings are partially established to minimize impact of change. The placement of new trees will be adjusted based on the location of archaeologically significant land.

Positive Impacts

The proposed actions for both the north and south tree lines would eliminate historically incongruous lineal elements from the landscape. The trees have lost their screening function from eye level because the bottom branches are eight to ten feet above grade. In time, the pinion and juniper trees would provide year round visual screening of the AZ both from the Monument and from highway 395, add additional shade and provide wind screening.. Consultations with the tribe will be necessary because some of the screen plantings will have to be planted on tribal land to create an effective screen that appears natural.



Need for visual screening of Administrative Zone as viewed from Visitor Zone

Negative Impacts

Removal of trees would temporarily reduce the carbon sequestering capacity of the monument, and bird habitat would be temporarily reduced until new plantings become established. Short term disturbance to soil and accompanying noise/dust pollution would occur as described elsewhere.

Pinion and juniper trees are relatively slow growing, consequently it may require over 30 years before they fully screen the AZ at ground level. The pinyon/juniper plants would likely require temporary irrigation until they became established.



Pinion/juniper in naturalized drifts near park