

Tribal Zone (TZ)

(Map 5)

Desired Future Condition

The Tribal Zone is an interface between the Visitor Zone and the Shrub/grassland Zones, which exists outside the Monument boundaries where management responsibilities are shared. Proposals discussed below will require a cooperative partnership between PISP and the tribe.

Desired future conditions include:

- Creating an appropriate “fit” of the visitor center within the surrounding landscape context.
- Reducing the visual intrusion of surrounding development within park area

Condition of Existing Vegetation

The condition of existing vegetation on tribal land east of the entry road has not been studied. Condition of the lawn and shade trees east of the visitor center are in good condition. Trees in the parking lot appear stressed and several decadent trees were recently removed.

Actions

- 1- Visual screening of Red Hills housing area
- 2- Remove or reduce lawn panels on east side of visitor center and replace with native species, following one of three options:
 - 2A Option: immediate removal of the lawn and replacement with native shrub-steppe species
 - 2B Option: Phased removal and revegetation
 - 2C Option: Removal of the lawn except for patches left beneath existing shade trees (area that could be used for picnics)
- 3- Improve screening of utility installations adjacent to visitor center (propane tank on northwest side of visitor center, propane tank behind ZNHA shop, and dumpster south of visitor center).

1 Action: Visual screening of Red Hills housing area

PISP would enter into discussion with the tribe to explore the possibility of plantings on tribal land on the western edge of the Red Hills housing complex. Screening plants would include pinyon pine and Utah juniper. These species would be planted in drifts that reflect the spacing pattern they exhibit in existing native stands in the region.



Positive Impacts

From PISP, views of the Red Hills development would be screened and the native plant contextual setting of the Fort would be enhanced. The proposed screen planting would benefit both the tribe and PISP. Screening would block views from Red Hills to the PISP visitor center parking lot and other areas within the monument without blocking longer views to the south and west across tribal land. Plantings on the west side of the housing units would also provide afternoon shade and shield living areas from the wind. The screen planting would sequester carbon and would provide additional habitat for pinyon/juniper-woodland bird species.

Negative Impacts

Implementing the screen planting may involve the removal of some shrubs and would disturb the soil surface at each planting site. Weed control would be required and thus soil surfaces could continue to be disturbed or chemicals applied. These activities would retard BSC development. Although not a negative impact, it is important to note that it will likely require over 20 to 30 years before tree heights will provide the desired level of screening.