



United States Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
MONTEZUMA CASTLE & TUZIGOOT NATIONAL MONUMENTS
527 S. Main Street
P.O. Box 219
Camp Verde, AZ 86322



H4217/N76

October 27, 2009

Dear Interested Party:

In order to address staffing and equipment space needs, Montezuma Castle and Tuzigoot National Monuments are proposing to build an interdisciplinary maintenance facility at Montezuma Castle National Monument. The parks' Maintenance Division is currently leasing a building through General Services Administration (GSA). The lease will officially expire in 2009, but we are negotiating to extend it into 2012 with the option to vacate earlier. The lessor has other designs for the location, and the current building will not be available indefinitely. Starting four years ago, we began working with GSA, but did not find a suitable replacement building in the Camp Verde area, and GSA would not custom-build a facility. Furthermore, the National Park Service nationwide is striving to reduce the number and costs of GSA leases. Additionally, at the Montezuma Castle visitor center, there is no place to take visitors for first aid treatment. Park supplies, tools, equipment, and vehicles are scattered throughout the three monument units in rundown structures with makeshift add-ons, unsightly old sheds, and domestic water pump houses, or left outside to weather in the elements.

To address these issues, the National Park Service is proposing to build a modest-size interdisciplinary maintenance facility at Montezuma Castle National Monument near the residential area, where the ranger offices, old maintenance shop, add-on storage units, and materials boneyard are already located. The new facility will provide office space for the Maintenance Division and have adequate, contemporary storage for park supplies, tools, and equipment. The building will also make available a place for staff to administer first aid treatment to visitors in a space that allows privacy from the general public.

The park will be preparing an Environmental Assessment in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to provide the decision-making framework that 1) analyzes a reasonable range of alternatives to meet project objectives, 2) evaluates issues and impacts to park resources and values, and 3) identifies mitigation measures to lessen the degree or extent of these impacts.

The park encourages public participation throughout the planning process. There will be two opportunities to comment formally on the project; once during initial project scoping, and again following release of the Environmental Assessment. The park is currently in the scoping phase of this proposed project, and invites the public to submit written suggestions, comments, and concerns regarding the proposed project. This can be done online at the NPS Planning, Environment, and Public Comment (PEPC) website at: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/>.

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 November 27, 2009. These comments will be considered during preparation of the Environmental Assessment. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Kathy Davis
Superintendent

