

“Balancing Different Perspectives in the Management and Preservation of Rock Art Sites – A View from the Kaibab National Forest”

**by
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Connie Reid is an archaeologist for the Kaibab national Forest.

The Kaibab National Forest comprises 655,000 acres at elevations ranging from 3200 to 9000 feet. This area has over 3200 documented archaeological sites but only 10% of the area has been properly surveyed.

An area rich in cultural resources including rock art in the Kanab Creek region that includes the well-known “Snake Gulch” with its multicolored pictographs.

The laws governing the management of the cultural resources are:

1906 – National Historic Preservation Act

1979 – Archaeological Resources Protection Act

1990 – Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act

Also are the following Executive Orders:

13007 – relating to Tribal Sacred Sites. Here officials must maintain confidentiality on the location of Rock Art sites unless they are already publically known.

13175 – relating to Tribal Consultation.

The challenge is balancing the publics want of access to the area, the ranchers want of the land for grazing and the various tribal wants of privacy and protection for the cultural resources..

The Forest Service has worked to limit grazing to selected areas and limit grazing in areas where cultural resources may be damaged – such as areas containing rock art.

Connie sites their work in establishing relations with various tribes who have claims over the cultural resources in their area including the Hopi, Kaibab Paiutes, Zuni and Navajo. Connie sites various programs that are on going with the tribes and the Forest Service in the preservation of cultural resources. These programs are designed to establish trust between the tribes and the government land managers.

She also noted that various “for profit” projects such as tours, books, etc. must be approved by the Forest Service and have a message of preservation.

References:

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/kaibab>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kaibab_National_Forest

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kanab_Creek_Wilderness

<http://www.archaeologysouthwest.org/2013/07/21/consultation/>

“Rock Art of the Grand Canyon Region”, Don Christensen, Jerry Dickey and Steven Freers, Sunbelt Publications, 2013