**PROJECT ABSTRACT**

**Colorado Plateau Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit**

**(Cooperative Agreement # H1200-09-0005)**

**Park:** El Morro National Monument

**Project Title:** Cultural Affiliation Study of Atsinna and El Morro in Cibola County, New Mexico

**Funding Amount:** **$91020.00** (FROM: $77,468 [7410-9091-UGZ] and $13,552 [7410- -CZY].

**CPCESU Partner Institution:** Museum of Northern Arizona.

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**Start Date:** September 1, 2009

**End Date:** May 31, 2012

**Abstract:**

This project will investigate relevant lines of evidence for the cultural affiliation of the NAGPRA collection from Atsinna Pueblo and its setting in the El Morro valley, thereby enabling El Morro National Monument to make a determination of cultural affiliation based on the best available evidence, and to publish its Notice of Inventory Completion as mandated by NAGPRA.

El Morro National Monument is located adjacent to or near the Navajo Nation, the Pueblo of Zuni, the Pueblo of Acoma, and the Pueblo of Laguna. The Hopi Tribe, today located about 100 miles northwest of El Morro, also claims common ancestry with other Pueblos, and migration and pilgrimage histories in or near El Morro. Located within El Morro National Monument, Atsinna is a thirteenth to fourteenth century pueblo structure that contains over 800 rooms. The Western Archeological and Conservation Center in Tucson currently holds the remains of 17 individuals and 63 funerary objects that were collected at Atsinna in the course of archaeological investigations at the site in the 1950s and 1960s. These are subject to NAGPRA and El Morro wishes to proceed with completion and publication of its required Notice of Inventory Completion. The first step toward this goal is systematic examination of the lines of evidence for cultural affiliation specified in NAGPRA and its regulations. The 1995 regulations for implementing NAGPRA specify that the following types of evidence should be used to determine cultural affiliation: geographical, kinship, biological, archeological, anthropological, linguistic, folklore, oral tradition, historical, and other relevant information or expert opinion. The project will include a compilation and synthesis of existing relevant evidence, as well as results of previous and new consultation. The result will be a key document used to determine cultural affiliation and to finalize and publish the notice of inventory completion. This project will be designed to provide a model procedure for other parks and monuments.

**Keywords:**

**Native American; Archeology**