Report of Task Agreement #J8100060215

Park: Western Archeological and Conservation Center

Project: Provide Curation Assistance for Access to Bureau Indian Affairs Collections

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Project Number: UAZCP-51

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Final Project Report

Some work was completed to assist with the curation and accessibility of the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) collections at the Western Archeological and Conservation Center (WACC), in Tucson, Arizona. Collections resulting from the data recovery project at Picacho Reservoir were not received, and thus could not be inventoried, shelved, accessioned, or have information assembled about them. Also because the Picacho collections were never received, there were no access requests from tribal and agency representatives, or researchers, for these collections.

However, tasks were completed to assist with the accessibility of the BIA collections currently held at WACC. The collections have been curated in accordance with Department of the Interior policies and procedures. To maintain these conditions, adequate space was provided for the overall collections through the movement of both collection items and shelving units (such as the creation of mobile furniture units) to avoid overcrowding of collections on existing shelving units. These activities have directly benefited the BIA collections. In addition, all the locations were verified for all BIA collections that came up for the Annual Inventory. The ease of the Annual Inventory results from properly stored collections.

The BIA collections are now more physically accessible, and therefore, more accountable according to DOI policies. Collections that are not crowded on shelving units creates room for the growth of collections, and prevents “rummaging” and other poor curation practices that often unintentionally result from cramped storage spaces. The project was completed in August, 2008.