Final Project Report

Cooperators completed the following tasks related to NAGPRA consultation at the Western Archeological and Conservation Center (WACC). Cooperators assisted with arranging and preparing for eight consultations during this project. The consultations included visitation of human remains and associated funerary objects (AFO) for Glen Canyon National Recreation Area (July 2007), El Morro National Monument (2008), and Tumacacori National Historical Park (2008). Consultations also included viewings of summary items for Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument (2008 and 2010), joint visitations for Wupatki National Monument and Walnut Canyon National Monument (June 2008 and June 2010), Casa Grande Ruins National Monument (2009), and Grand Teton National Park (August 2010). For these consultations, cooperators worked alongside WACC and park staff to prepare working spaces and visitation spaces for consultation by moving furniture, covering tables with foam and muslin, and securely moving collections to visitation rooms. Cooperators assisted with visitation by taking notes during consultation. Following the conclusion of the consultation visits, cooperators rehoused items and returned collections to holding locations while awaiting repatriation requests. For this project cooperators were supposed to arrange travel and other arrangements related to consultations at WACC, however this task was handled by park staff and cooperators were not asked for assistance with facilitating these arrangements.

Cooperators Iverson and Bilyeu prepared documentation for the repatriation and deaccession of human remains and AFOs for three parks. In August 2009, collections from Casa Grande Ruins National Monument were repatriated to the Gila River Indian Community. In September 2009, collections from Saguaro National Park were repatriated to the Tohono O‘odham Nation. In October 2010, collections from Tumacacori National Historical Park were repatriated to the Tohono O‘odham Nation. Cooperators completed all required paperwork for the deaccession and repatriated of NAGPRA collections for the three parks. Even though the task agreement specified that cooperators would prepare deaccession documentation for an estimated five repatriations, only three repatriation requests were made during this period. Repatriation requests for material from other parks were processed by park staff.

Cooperators also assisted WACC and park staff with the return of collections to parks for repatriation. In February 2007, collections were returned to Fort Union National Monument for repatriation to Jicarilla Apache and Ute Mountain Ute tribes. In June 2009, collections from Gila Cliff Dwellings National
Monument were prepared for moving and were picked up by the park’s superintendent. In August 2010, two collections from Grand Teton National Park were packed and prepared for repatriation. NAGPRA items were sent to the park for repatriation to the Seneca Nation and members of the Kickapoo Tribe travelled to WACC to pick up NAGPRA collections. For these three parks, cooperators completed all loan return documentation for the collections.

Cooperators also assisted WACC and park staff with research related to resolving issues for park Notices of Inventory Completion. Cooperators provided access, pulled collections from storage, and researched records related to NAGPRA collections housed at WACC. For Casa Grande Ruins National Monument, cooperators compared reports with catalog records and photographs to identify associated funerary objects. Cooperators also assisted with providing access to physical anthropologists to study and identify human remains from Lake Mead NRA, Casa Grande Ruins NM, Canyon de Chelly NM, Gila Cliff Dwellings NM, Fort Bowie NM, Petrified Forest NP, and Organ Pipe Cactus NM by pulling boxes of faunal bone to be analyzed and returning collections to storage when analysis was completed.

During this project cooperators also conducted a 100% inventory of all items in NAGPRA storage and updated storage locations in ICMS as needed.

This project also included operations money to arrange travel and consultation fees for tribal participants. However, these fees were either not necessary or were covered via other means. Because the operations money was not used for these purposes, cooperators purchased equipment and supplies to prepare for future consultations and other NAGPRA processes. Equipment was purchases to address tribal concerns for securing collections being moved within the building. Other supplies and equipment were acquired to facilitate research and documentation of NAGPRA items. Tribes had expressed a need to be able to bring photographs of summary items to tribal elders and other tribal members that aren’t able to travel to consultations. Purchases with the project’s operations budget were used to address these concerns.