

Patrick Lair
Public Affairs Specialist
North Kaibab Ranger District
(928) 643-8172
plair@fs.fed.us

Archaeologist Gathering Focused on the Arizona Strip

FREDONIA, Ariz. — More than 120 people attended a first-of-its-kind symposium in Page, Ariz. Nov. 12 - 13 that focused on the vast cultural resources of northern Arizona.

Titled “Discovering the Arizona Strip: Learning from the past, planning for the future,” the event brought together archaeologists and enthusiasts from universities, government agencies, Native American tribes and other organizations to share the results of various research projects and to generate ideas for future study.

“Basically, it was a look at all the work that’s taken place on the Arizona Strip, what’s been learned and what things we still don’t understand,” said Connie Zweifel, archaeologist on the North Kaibab Ranger District of the Kaibab National Forest.

Presenters came from universities in Oregon, Utah, Arizona, Nevada and the Museum of Northern Arizona, in addition to a variety of government agencies. Archaeologists who worked on the original Glen Canyon Dam project in the 1960s were also present to share their perspectives. Ideas resulting from the event will be gathered by a Ph.D. candidate and summarized into a general plan to guide future research work on the Arizona Strip.

Nearly 8,000 square miles, the Arizona Strip describes all lands in Arizona north of the Colorado River and generally west of Page to Colorado City, Ariz. The area includes Grand Canyon National Park, the Kaibab National Forest, Pipe Spring National Monument, the Kaibab Paiute Indian Reservation, the Arizona Strip District of the Bureau of Land Management, Lake Mead National Recreation Area, Vermilion Cliffs National Monument and Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument, in addition to the towns of Fredonia, Colorado City and Beaver Dam. The area is bordered to the east by the Navajo Indian Reservation and to the north and northeast by the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument and Glen Canyon National Recreation Area.

The presentations included studies of different pottery types, rock art sites, results of excavations, discussions of ancient settlements and agriculture, assessments of information collecting methods and overviews of different geographic areas, in addition to updates on archaeological surveys in support of the Lake Powell Pipeline Project.

Evening sessions were open to the public, in addition to an interpretive event held for students in the Page Unified School District.

The event was organized by the Kaibab Vermilion Cliffs Heritage Alliance, a historic preservation organization which focuses on the cultural resources of the Arizona Strip and is

supported by federal land management agencies, the Grand Canyon Trust, Coconino County, the Museum of Northern Arizona and Northern Arizona University. Other event sponsors included the Arizona Strip Interpretive Association, the Grand Canyon Association, the Glen Canyon Natural History Association, Coconino County, and surrounding federal land management agencies.

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