

***Appendix H
Agency Response Letters***



***Kayenta Airport
Airport Master Plan***

**AGENCY RESPONSE
LETTER INVENTORY**

For the Kayenta Airport Master Plan

1. Museum of Northern Arizona
2. The Navajo Nation Department of Fish and Wildlife

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Xc Letters JC
Dennis
Keith
Job
orig. Justin

February 25, 2005

Justin Pietz
Airport Planner
Armstrong Consultants, Inc.
861 Rood Avenue
Grand Junction, CO 81501

RE: Confirmation of "No Effect" regarding cultural resources for the Kayenta Airport

Dear Justin,

As per your letter of February 18, 2005 (ACI# 045702) I have reviewed *Archaeological Investigations Carter Associates, Inc. Flagstaff, Arizona Kayenta Airport Survey Navajo Indian Reservation Navajo County, Arizona Amended Final Report, 1986*, prepared by Martha M. Callahan and Submitted by Donald E. Weaver, Jr., with regard to planned improvements at the airport. I also spoke with Ron Maldonado of the Navajo Nation Historic Preservation Department on the morning of February 25, 2005 about this matter. He informed me that another survey was not necessary because no archaeological sites were identified during the 1986 effort. Based on the information provided in your letter our original recommendation of archaeological clearance, or "No Effect", still stands provided all ground disturbing activities take place within the area surveyed in 1986 (see Callahan 1986:2; Figure 1).

Please feel free to contact me if you have any further questions. The Museum of Northern Arizona provides environmental and cultural resources consulting services through MNA Environmental Solutions, Inc. If you have resources consulting needs on the Colorado Plateau please contact us.

Sincerely,

Ted Neff
Cultural Resources Project Manager

Masked For Site Protection

Base Map: USGS 7.5 minute series, Kayenta East, Ariz (1968) Quadrangle

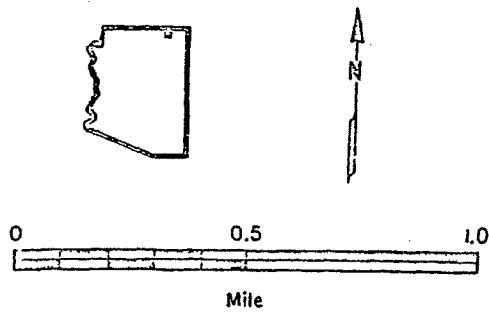


Figure 1. Location of project area showing corners A through F and Isolated Finds 1 through 9.

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**THE
NAVAJO
NATION**

P.O. Box 9000 • WINDOW ROCK, ARIZONA • 86515

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26 April 2005

File#05ARMC01

Justin Pietz, Airport Planner
Armstrong Consultants, Inc.
861 Rood Avenue
Grand Junction, CO 81501

SUBJECT: KAYENTA AIRPORT MASTER PLAN
KAYENTA, APACHE COUNTY, AZ

Mr. Pietz:

The following information on species of concern¹ is provided in response to your 18 February 2005 request concerning the subject project, which consists of an Airport Master Plan for the Kayenta Airport in Kayenta, Apache County, AZ.

Although the Navajo Fish and Wildlife Department (NFWD) has no record of species of concern occurring on or near the project site(s) at this time, the potential for certain species of concern to occur needs to be evaluated.

Species of concern with potential to occur on the 7.5-minute *Kayenta East, AZ* quadrangle(s) containing the project boundaries include the following. Potential is based primarily on quadrangle-wide coarse habitat characteristics and species range information. Your project biologist should determine habitat suitability at the project site(s).

- 1. Charadrius montanus (Mountain Plover); NESL group 4; ESA proposed threatened; MBTA.

Biological surveys need to be conducted during the appropriate season to ensure they are complete and accurate please refer to NN Species Accounts.⁴ Further questions pertaining to surveys should be referred to Species Account. Surveyors on the Navajo Nation must be permitted by the Director, NFWD. Contact Jeff Cole at (928) 871-7068 for permitting procedures. Questions pertaining to surveys should be directed to the NFWD Zoologist (David Mikesic) for animals at 871-7070, and Botanist (Daniela Roth) for plants at (928)523-8445. Questions regarding biological evaluation should be directed to Rita Whitehorse-Larsen

¹"Species of concern" include protected, candidate, and other rare or otherwise sensitive species, including certain native species and species of economic or cultural significance. For each species, the following tribal and federal statuses are indicated: Navajo Endangered Species List (NESL), federal Endangered Species Act (ESA), Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA), and Eagle Protection Act (EPA). No legal protection is afforded species with only ESA candidate or NESL group 4 status; please be aware of these species during surveys and inform the NFWD of observations. Documentation that these species are more numerous or widespread than currently known, and addressing these species in project planning and management is important for conservation and may contribute to ensuring they will not be uplisted in the future. Species without ESA or NESL legal protection (e.g., NESL group 4 species) are only included in responses on a regular basis and may not be included in this response. Please refer to the NESL for a list of group 4 species; contact me if you need a copy.

⁴ Available upon request free of charge by contacting Data Manager at 871-6489

(Environmental Reviewer) at 871-7060.

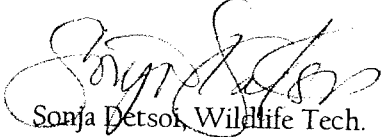
On 21 March 1994 (Federal Register, Vol. 59, No. 54) the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service designated Critical Habitat along portions of the Colorado and Little Colorado Rivers (LCR) for Gila cypha (humpback chub). Within or adjacent to the Navajo Nation this critical habitat includes the LCR and its 100-year floodplain from river mile 8 in T32N R6E, sec. 12 (Salt and Gila River Meridian) to its confluence with the Colorado River in T32NR5E sec. 1 (S&GRM) and the Colorado River and 100-year floodplain from Nautuloid Canyon (River Mile 34) T36NR5E sec. 35 (S&GRM) to its confluence with the LCR. All actions carried out, funded or authorized by a federal agency which may alter the constituent elements of Critical Habitat must undergo section 7 consultation under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. Constituent elements are those physical and biological attributes essential to a species conservation and include, but are not limited to, water, physical habitat, and biological environment as required for each particular life stage of a species.

Potential impacts to wetlands should also be evaluated. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) maps should be examined to determine whether areas classified as wetlands are located close enough to the project site(s) to be impacted. In cases where the maps are inconclusive (e.g., due to their small scale), field surveys must be completed. For field surveys, wetlands identification and delineation methodology contained in the 'Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual' (Technical Report Y-87-1) should be used. When wetlands are present, potential impacts must be addressed in an environmental assessment and the Army Corps of Engineers, Phoenix office, must be contacted. NWI maps are available for examination at the NFWD's Natural Heritage Program (NHP) office, or may be purchased through the U.S. Geological Survey (order forms are available through the NHP). The NHP has complete coverage of the Navajo Nation, excluding Utah, at 1:100,000 scale; and coverage at 1:24,000 scale in the southwestern portion of the Navajo Nation.

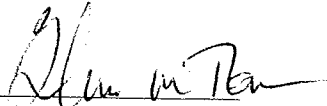
The information in this report was identified by the NFWD's biologists and computerized database, and is based on data available at the time of this response. If project planning takes more than two (02) years from the date of this response, verification of the information provided herein is strongly recommended. It should not be regarded as the final statement on the occurrence of any species, nor should it substitute for on-site surveys. Also, because the NFWD's information is continually updated, any given information response is only wholly appropriate for its respective request.

An invoice for this information is attached.

If you have any questions I may be reached at (928) 871-6472.


Sonja Detsox, Wildlife Tech.
Natural Heritage Program
Department of Fish and Wildlife

CONCURRENCE


Gloria M. Tom, Director
Department of Fish & Wildlife
Division of Natural Resources

xc: file/chrono