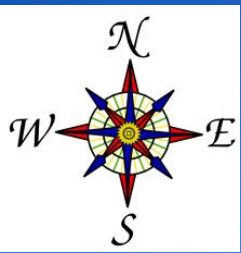


AZSITE

ARIZONA'S CULTURAL
RESOURCE INVENTORY

Annual Report to the Governor

Fiscal Year 2012



AZSITE Consortium Annual Report to the Governor's Office For the period July 1, 2011, Through June 30, 2012

Introduction

In 1995, three state agencies—the State Historic Preservation Office (a division of Arizona State Parks), the Arizona State Museum, and Arizona State University—and one private museum—the Museum of Northern Arizona—signed a memorandum of agreement that created the AZSITE Consortium, with the perpetual goal to computerize and share electronically archaeological and historical site files for the State of Arizona. This information is extremely important to private companies and municipal, state, and federal agencies in order to comply with historic preservation laws. The AZSITE Consortium goals are detailed in Table 1. In 2006, Governor's Executive Order 2006-03 named the Consortium, and the original four founding agencies as the official decision-making and planning body within Arizona's Executive Branch for the AZSITE database and Geographic Information System (GIS) inventory of Arizona's historical and archaeological properties. The integration now permits AZSITE users to have up-to-date information on a property's eligibility status to the Arizona and National Registers of Historic Places (A/NRHP), project sponsors, and other related information that was heretofore scattered among many separate locations. This report summarizes AZSITE's activities during 2011-2012 and the latest five years of operation under the Executive Order.

Table 1. AZSITE Goals

- To serve as Arizona's inventory of known historic and archaeological cultural resources.
- To provide information about cultural resource surveys and projects for historic and archaeological sites and surveys.
- To assist state and local agencies to meet federal and state mandates.
- To serve as a tool for the preservation of resources through planning, for the review of projects for compliance with federal and state preservation legislation, and as a research tool for qualified researchers.
- To provide data for improved review of state agency planning processes.
- To provide security for data related to location of archaeological sites.

A Brief History of AZSITE – Arizona’s Cultural Resource Inventory

Following its creation in 1995, the Consortium spent several years in planning and meeting with private, state, federal, tribal, and municipal land use planners, archaeologists, and cultural resource managers to consider what type of information the database needed to include and who should have access to it. It was quickly clear that archaeological and historical site data were maintained in over two dozen municipal, state, federal, and private agencies across the state. This caused considerable delays and cost for companies and agencies that conducted archaeological research. Furthermore, the centralized database would need to be electronic and internet accessible, it needed to be very secure to protect sensitive archaeological information, and that it would have to be based on a fee for service because no single agency had the necessary funding. The planning phase itself was funded by grants from federal and state agencies (see Table 2). The database went on-line in 1998 as a test product. Private contract agencies quickly began to apply to use it, even though data were not complete, and were willing to pay for the services electronic data could offer. Initially the database held records from the Arizona State Museum, Arizona State University, and the Museum of Northern Arizona. Data from the United States Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and from the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) were soon added. In 2000, AZSITE began charging for access to the database. Over the past several years, AZSITE has developed a funding base that includes annual user fees and grants from federal and state agencies. These fees cover on-going development of the system and annual operating expenses for staff, equipment, software licenses, and travel.

Table 2. Planning Phase Grants
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• National Center for Preservation Training and Technology (National Park Service)• Federal Geographic Data Committee• Transportation Enhancement Funds (Arizona Department of Transportation)

Consortium Structure Under Executive Order 2006-03

The Executive Order created an Executive Management Board (Board), comprised of the director (or designee) of the four entities that manage AZSITE (see Table 3). The Chair is selected from among these four entities on an annual rotating basis. The Executive Order also created a Standing Advisory Committee (Advisory

Committee), which may be composed of representatives from the Governor’s Office, a state agency, a federal agency with an Arizona presence, a tribal preservation office, and a private cultural resources consulting firm.

Table 3. Membership of the Board and Advisory Committee

Calendar Year	Executive Management Board	Standing Advisory Committee
2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • C. Michael Barton, Arizona State University, Chair • Robert Breunig, Museum of Northern Arizona • Carol Griffith, State Historic Preservation Office • Beth Grindell, Arizona State Museum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • James Cogswell, Private Consultant, Chair • Scott Kwiatkowski, Yavapai Prescott Indian Tribe • Jeremy Haines, U.S. Forest Service • Katherine Neustadt, Arizona Department of Transportation • Lori Faeth, Governor’s Office • Barnaby Lewis, Gila River Indian Community
2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robert Breunig, Museum of Northern Arizona, Chair • C. Michael Barton, Arizona State University • Barnet Pavao-Zuckerman, Arizona State Museum • Carol Griffith, State Historic Preservation Office 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jeremy Haines, US Forest Service, Chair • Julie Hoff, Arizona Library, Archives, and Public Records • Barnaby Lewis, Gila River Indian Community • Christine Markussen, EnviroSystems Management
2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carol Griffith, State Historic Preservation Office, Chair • Robert Breunig, Museum of Northern Arizona • C. Michael Barton, Arizona State University • Barnet Pavao-Zuckerman, Arizona State Museum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Michael Anable, Governor’s Office • Julie Hoff, Arizona Library, Archives, & Public Records • Gerald Kelso, Natural Resources Conservation Service • Barnaby Lewis, Gila River Indian Community • Christine Markussen, EnviroSystems Management
2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barnet Pavao-Zuckerman, Arizona State Museum, Chair • James Cogswell, State Historic Preservation Office • Robert Breunig, Museum of Northern Arizona 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gerald Kelso, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Chair • Kevin Kinsall, Governor’s Office • Julie Hoff, Arizona Library, Archives, & Public Records

2011 (cont.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arleyn Simon, Arizona State University 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barnaby Lewis, Gila River Indian Community • Christine Markussen, EnviroSystems Management
2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barnet Pavao-Zuckerman, Arizona State Museum, Chair • James Cogswell, State Historic Preservation Office • Kelley Hayes Gilpin, Museum of Northern Arizona • Arleyn Simon, Arizona State University 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Julie Hoff, Arizona Library, Archives, & Public Records, Chair • Kevin Kinsall, Governor's Office • Barnaby Lewis, Gila River Indian Community • Christine Markussen, EnviroSystems Management • Federal Representative (vacant)

Recent Consortium Activities Under Executive Order 2006-03

July 2007 – June 2008

- Board and Advisory Committee reviewed plans for Growth Initiative sensitivity maps that went on-line in fall, 2007.
- Advisory Committee discussed potential for and difficulties with collaboration with U.S. Forest Service to incorporate their data into AZSITE.
- Board distributed user fees to agencies to support AZSITE functions (staff, equipment, software licenses, travel).
- At request of Advisory Committee, Board issued data sharing protocols to guide archaeological contractors in working with their clients in a way that will not compromise data security.

July 2008 – June 2009

- Board approved Database Manager's plan to develop United States Bureau of Reclamation Historic Canal data layers.
- Board distributed user fees to agencies to support AZSITE functions (staff, equipment, software licenses, travel).
- Board approved work schedule and funding to validate and update Museum of Northern Arizona data layers in AZSITE.
- Board approved switch to Virtual Servers to provide better data management and security.

July 2009 – June 2010

- Board reviewed and approved initial plan for the AZSITE map application (AZmap) upgrade.

July 2009 – June 2010 (cont.)

- Board discussed and defined procedures for noncompliance large dataset requests.
- Advisory Committee recommended and Board approved a new short-term user group to accommodate out-of-state user's minimal needs.
- Board approved further funding to complete Museum of Northern Arizona data entry.

July 2010 – June 2011

- AZmap was upgraded to an ArcGIS Server providing better ability to develop user tools. Three new tools added to enhance the usability of AZSITE – UTM Search Tool, Multiple Point Search Tool and Enhanced Buffer Query Tool.
- A data-transfer test of the AZSITE/SHPO integration project was successfully accomplished.
- Completed the digitizing and uploading of the Museum of Northern Arizona cultural resource data. Started the scanning project to bring scanned copies of the Museum of Northern Arizona original data online.
- Board approved the purchase of a new server to begin the Report Scanning Project – an initiative to scan all non-collection survey reports and make them available through AZSITE.
- Board approved a new user category to allow small CRM businesses an affordable option to use AZSITE in their work.

July 2011 – June 2012

- The first data-transfer for the AZSITE/SHPO integration project was made and available through the AZmap application.
- SHPO paper map data was uploaded and linked to the NRHP determinations and SHPO documentation; made available via the AZmap application
- "New Sites" layer was generated providing the base location of newly recorded cultural resources within the last 30 days.
- Initial transfer and consolidation of all web-based searches to new servers was made.
- AZSITE web presence was remodeled with a new web page design.
- Webinar tutorials begun to teach use of AZmap application and proper data submission.
- Implemented a 30 non-consecutive day user account for occasional users of AZSITE.
- Reduced backlog on entering negative surveys into AZSITE. (These are surveys that recorded no sites.) Current lag time is about 90 days from time of delivery to availability on AZSITE.

Recent Database Usage

At the end of fiscal year 2012, the AZSITE database contained 85,688 records; the majority are archaeological sites but a substantial minority are historic properties (buildings, railroads, telegraph, roads, etc.). An additional 22,590 projects, primarily cultural resources surveys, are also in the database. Approximately 500 sites and 200 surveys either had their attribute data enhanced or boundary corrected or updated. The websites, attribute files, and the AZmap application receive on the average 119 “hits” per day combined from users who are checking data on-line. Table 4 details the number of user agreements, individual users, and electronic data requests over the past three years. Table 5 provides information on the breakdown of user agreements by agency type. By far the largest number of user agreements is provided to private companies that are usually archaeological consulting firms or engineering firms with archaeologists on staff. State and federal agencies are also significant users of the database. The number of users decreased in 2012, which probably reflects the economic downturn. However, the use of AZSITE (indicated by website “hits”) increased slightly, and the number of in-house record searches conducted by ASM personnel decreased considerably. Both of these facts indicate an increase in users reliance on the AZSITE system rather than paying an additional fee to have ASM conduct the records search. Though the record searches decreased, those being done are considerably larger and require greater detail than the AZSITE system could provide.

Table 4. Database Users and Data Requests*			
Fiscal Year	# User Agreements Issued	Total # Users	# Requests for Data
2008	83	278	263
2009	74	260	242
2010	81	261	291*
2011	85	314	339*
2012	79	265	188

* Only includes requests for spatial data, not copies of documents.

Table 5. Details on User Agreements by Institution Type					
Fiscal Year	# Private Companies	# State & Local Agencies	# Federal Agencies	# Tribal Agencies	# Educational Institutions
2008	54	7	11	3	8
2009	47	7	10	3	7
2010	48	8	10	4	11
2011	50	9	11	4	11
2012	51	8	9	2	9

AZSITE Funding

AZSITE users are required to pay user fees for access to the database. The fees are graduated depending on the number of users an institution wishes to access the database. They range from \$1125 per annum for one to three users, \$2,700 per annum for four to nine users, and \$4,500 per annum for ten or more users. AZSITE users were offered a 10% discount if user fees were paid in advance before January 1, 2011. Starting this year, occasional users were permitted access for 30 days throughout the calendar year for a \$300 fee. This will allow smaller companies the use of AZSITE. These are companies who do a modest business of a few projects annually and cannot afford the higher “anytime access” that the large companies can justify. The income from all these fees is presented in Figure 1. It does not cover the full expenses of running AZSITE and each of the four managing institutions contributes staff and operational funds annually, as well as occasional grant funds. Table 6 provides operating expenses, by agency, for FY 2011–2012. User fees cover approximately 30% of AZSITE costs. Member agencies and annual funding from the BLM provide the remaining expenses.

Figure 1. AZSITE User Fee Income

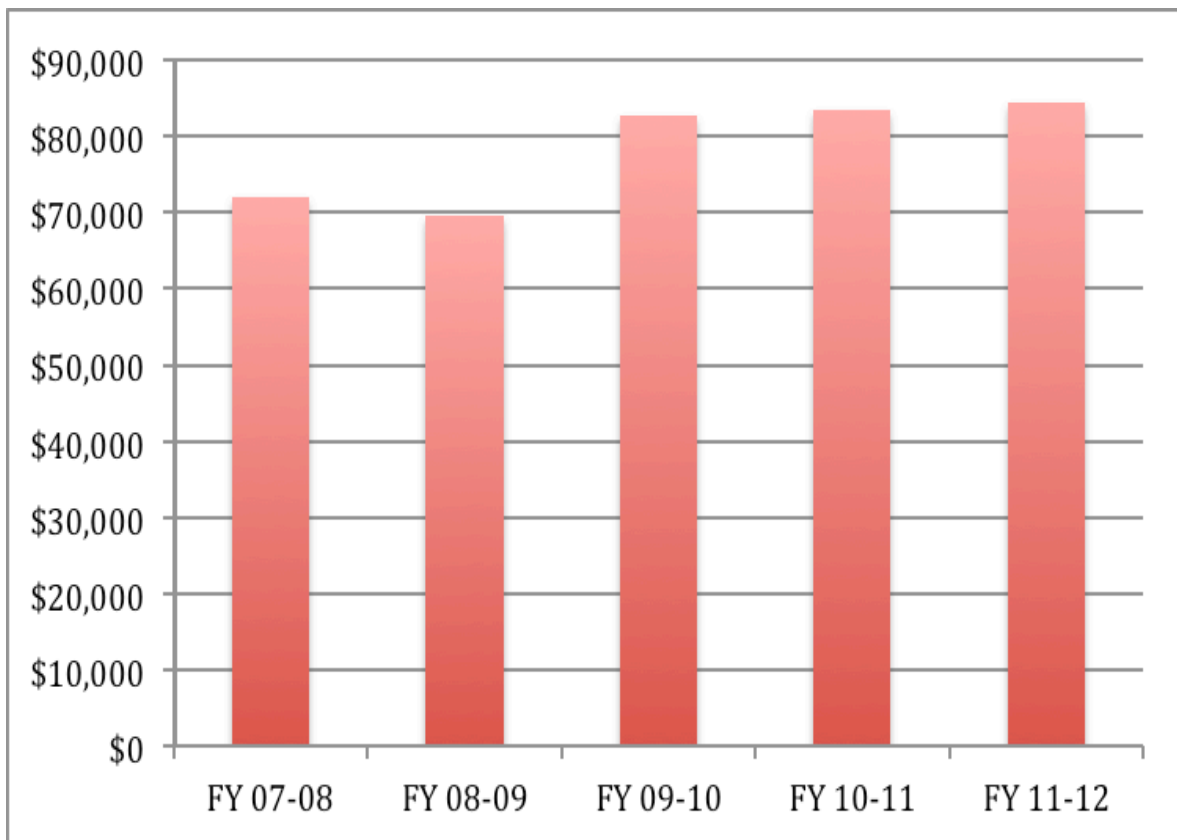


Table 6. AZSITE Operations Budget, FY 2011-12				
Agency	Personnel	Budget Item		Total Expenses
		Travel	Operations	
Arizona State Museum	\$198,667	\$5,047	\$7,722	\$211,436
Arizona State University, ISSR ¹	\$20,000			\$20,000
Arizona State University, School of Human Evolution and Social Change	\$4,000			\$4,000
State Historic Preservation Office	\$12,450			\$12,450
Museum of Northern Arizona ²	\$10,800			\$10,800
Total Expenses	\$245,917	\$5,047	\$7,722	\$258,686

¹ Entire funding provided under national programmatic agreement with of BLM and SHPO.

² \$5,000 of funding provided under national programmatic agreement with BLM and SHPO.

Conclusions and Priorities for the Next Year

Through the cooperation of the AZSITE Board, land managing agencies within the State of Arizona, and private cultural resource management companies working within the state's boundaries, AZSITE has become the nationwide benchmark for other state-level digital archaeological and historic information systems. The system receives, processes, and distributes data electronically while successfully integrating its data management with state mandates. AZSITE is doubly successful; its users hold it in high regard, and the system is largely self-supporting. With state and federal monies, institutional subsidy of the Board and Advisory Commission salaries, and user fees, AZSITE maintains a sophisticated, accessible, and secure digital archive. However, with the increasing demands on the system, the need for constant software and hardware upgrades along with the necessity of hiring qualified personnel to manage the system, the income generated by AZSITE is merely holding its own and is unable to develop and advance as much as it could.

Required upgrading of the systems delivery mechanisms such as servers and updating of new incoming data place high demands on the personnel involved. Of primary importance, AZSITE works toward getting the new incoming data into the system and available to its constituents as quickly as possible. With only user

and project fees to support it, the number and quality of personnel working the system is handicapped. The quicker these new data are processed and made available for research and infrastructure development, the better the cultural history of Arizona can be preserved.

During the upcoming fiscal year emphasis will be on five areas. The first will be to continue to work with various land managing agencies in Arizona to include their data in AZSITE, synchronizing their in-house systems with AZSITE, and persuading them that contributing ongoing funding for AZSITE's maintenance and development would be in their best interest.

The second focus will be to introduce municipal planning departments to the value of AZSITE for their purposes. Provided that access to sensitive information is controlled, the archaeological and historical information in AZSITE could be a significant asset to municipalities in planning for growth, avoidance of archaeological sites, and compliance with state and federal preservation requirements. Preliminary discussions with municipal planners indicates that many of them are unaware of AZSITE, but would be very interested in using it and would pay for this service.

Thirdly, the AZSITE personnel will focus their efforts on "catching up" on the backlog of data. Approximately 5 years' worth of data requires processing and inclusion into the system. While great strides have been made during the previous fiscal year to reduce the backlog of certain data types such as negative surveys, much work is still to be done. The AZSITE personnel will strive to reduce the backlog by two years during this next fiscal year. This work can only be achieved if our first goal comes to fruition, which would provide additional sources of consistent funding to hire more personnel to process the data.

The fourth priority for fiscal year 2011-12 is to provide more types of data in a more user-friendly manner. The AZSITE System has always looked toward its users for ideas on what are useful additions to the system. At least three projects have been identified during AZSITE's annual User Group meetings. Number one is to provide quick and easy access to the original survey/project reports. To this end, a new server has been brought online to accommodate these scanned documents. Also, a change in submission protocols allows the data submitters to help the AZSITE personnel expedite this goal by requesting scanned documents along with the hard copies required by law. The second project most requested by the users was quick access to up-to-date A/NRHP information. This project is underway now. A new inter-agency protocol has been put into place whereby

A/NRHP data from the State Historic Preservation Office is delivered to the technical assistants at the Institute of Social Science Research at Arizona State University where it is processed and retrieved by the database manager at the Arizona State Museum on the University of Arizona Campus. It is then pushed to the AZmap application where the users have quick access, which is updated monthly.

The fifth project for the year will be to deliver the long awaited geographic information layer of historic districts. It has been intended from the beginning of AZSITE to include these data, however, given budget constraints, the historic districts had to be removed from the system's initial design. This new data set should soon be available for the users' purposes.

Despite its considerable accomplishments, there is much more the AZSITE cultural resource information system can provide in support of preserving of Arizona's heritage and to furthering research of the early occupants of this state. All those associated with AZSITE look forward to challenging but exciting opportunities to developing the system in the future.