

AZSITE Ad Hoc Advisory Committee Report

April 2021

Prepared by Daniel Garcia, AHAC Chair

New Advisor

I am pleased to report that Ms. Reyllynne Williams has joined the AZSITE Ad Hoc Advisory Committee (AHAC) to fill the vacant Tribal Advisor role. Ms. Williams serves as a Cultural Resources Specialist at the Gila River Indian Community Tribal Historic Preservation Office where she has worked since 2005. On behalf of the advisors, I'm very happy to have Ms. Williams on board and the committee has already benefitted from her perspective.

Meetings

AHAC has met once following the last AZSITE Executive Board Meeting in January 2021. Our April 1, 2021 committee meeting was again held via zoom. Scott Courtright, archaeologist from the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) in Flagstaff joined the group to discuss how NRCS, Range Managers, and producers currently consume AZSITE data and what types of modifications or improvements could benefit this sector.

The bulk of the meeting was spent reviewing AHAC's previously developed strategic goals and suggested improvements, with the intent of prioritizing and providing rationale for the suggestions. Since many of these suggestions were already shared with AZSITE, Gabe McGowan also gave AHAC an update on progress towards accomplishing some of these improvements.

Improvements

To recap, AHAC's suggested improvements fell within three broad strategic goals:

- Increased functionality/usability: this is where the bulk of priority improvements are, and where AHAC intends to focus near term efforts.
- Expansion of authorized user base: the improvements that fall under this goal would be addressed by a CLG/Public AZSITE, so further discussion about these will be deferred pending action by the Executive Board.
- Flexibility to accept other outside data: The majority of improvements suggested under this goal require coordination with other agencies and will be addressed in the future.

A spreadsheet of the committee's full recommendations is attached to this report, and highlights are summarized below:

- Several improvements are already in the queue and require ASU support staff actions to fully implement. We understand that it may soon be possible for AZSITE staff to implement some changes without ASU assistance.
- AZSITE modernization-type improvements (for instance, improved search, image and print quality) could be addressed during development of the CLG/Public AZSITE, if approved by the board, and rolled out to the professional version of AZSITE afterwards.
- ALRIS Land Ownership/Jurisdiction layers will be updated in AZSITE shortly, but there is a need for other county, municipal, and allotment lands subject to ARS 41-841 et seq. not depicted in ALRIS but of value to Arizona's cultural resource community. **This is a place where AHAC can**

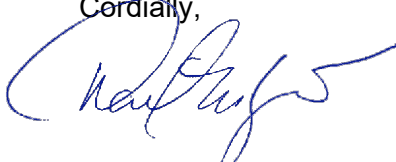
work with AZSITE staff to research and develop a plan for a useful data set, if so requested by the board.

- Adding well known archaeological sites not currently in AZSITE is an important goal that could help avoid impacts from development to sites lacking an ASM site designation. Accomplishing this requires research, data gathering, coordination with site stewards, cities, and agencies, on such well-known sites as well as coordination with ASM ARO in the event that the museum has data that for some reason has not been entered in AZSITE. **This is a place where AHAC can coordinate and gather data plan, if so requested by the board, and provide to ARO for review.**
- Updating long-neglected data layers to include new or revised information on ancient and historical canals in the Phoenix metropolitan area. Updating of ancient canals would require coordination and agreement by canal experts and may be accomplished through a Huhugam Canal Symposium, tentatively to be coordinated by the Arizona Archaeological Council and the Pueblo Grande Museum this fall (pending AAC, City, and COVID approvals). Updating of historical canals would require coordination with the Bureau of Reclamation, the owner of the data layer. **This is a place where AHAC can coordinate with the City of Phoenix, AAC, Canal Experts, and Reclamation, if so requested by the board.**

Recommendations

AHAC has no firm agenda for future meetings, so we are looking to the Executive Board for guidance on what areas would be the best focus our efforts. I recommend the Board task AHAC with one or more of the recommended projects listed above – assisting with Land Ownership/Jurisdiction layer development, adding well-known archaeological sites to AZSITE, and coordinating to update long-neglected data layers.

Cordially,



Daniel Garcia, M.A., RPA
Chair, AZSITE Ad Hoc Advisory Committee

AZSITE AHAC
Recommended AZSITE Enhancements

Strategic Goal	Enhancement	Priority	Rationale	Status
Increased Functionality				
	Revise map attribute tables	1	Revise AZSITE map attribute tables so that data returned match ASM/SHPO report requirements. Include eligibility. Makes report compliance simpler and less transcription error	Pending ASU attribute improvements
	Fix NRHP eligibility	1	Add accurate NRHP information to properties. Add to exported shapefile.	Have updated information from SHPO in listings. Correction in the works at ASU. Need for shapefile export may be solved by Mercator access for all.
	Off by default	1	On mercator, On loading the AZSITE service, could make them all default to off, or just sites and projects on, having all layers load overwhelms those of use with slower computers.	Requested change with ASU.
	Add known archaeological sites	1	Add legacy archaeological sites without ASM site numbers or boundaries to AZSITE. These include things like Midvale and Jerry Howard sites that are not currently in AZSITE and are imperiled by development. Both Reyllynne Williams and Michael O'Hara support this. Also, can look into some AZSITE projects, like the inventory of Maricopa County archaeological sites, that may contain some of this information stored as projects, not sites.	Requires research on known sites. If ASM site numbers could be complicated. Should inquire with cities, site stewards. Sites from private lands too, possible outreach effort. Recommend AZSITE Board task AHAC with this project
	Update land ownership/jurisdiction layer	1	Update data used to determine if an AZ Antiquities Act permit is required	Requires research to determine what lands are AAA land. Recommend AHAC to assist in outreach efforts.
	Link project to sites	2	Add links to project records to show all sites related to a project. Knowing if a survey is negative is useful.	Rudimentary version exists. Future improvements pending ASU access
	Link to LARC	3	Improve bibliographic references by linking directly to the ASM LARC document catalog. Makes report compliance simpler and less transcription error.	In progress
	PRF and Site Card Link	3	Link project and site records directly to legacy site card and ASM Project Registration scans. Build html link to site cards and PRF's from site/project look up. Site cards and PRF's often contain information and maps not in AZSITE. Makes research simpler	In progress
	Update some non-ARO data layers like canals	3	Update long neglected data layers to include new or revised information. Specifically prehistoric and historic canals in central AZ are problematic and better data may exist	Discuss with BOR, Cities, Canal experts, etc. Likely not an AZSITE issue but an agency issue. AHAC can play a role here
	SHPO project and library data	4	SHPO Topo Projects, link the SHPOOldLibraryDoc.pdf (OCR and turn it into a table) and join it to the SHPO Topo map projects. Would reduce the amount of blank SHPO project name and year data when exporting those projects. Unsure how well referenced or complete SHPO data is	Have updated information from SHPO
	Better print output	4	Create easy-to-use print service formatted for use in standard reports (SRSF's, SHPO standard reports, Permit NOIs, etc.) for maps that can easily be created for report use. A lot of 'map comments' from agency reviewers would go away.	
	Modernize Interface	5	Bring AZSITE in line with current ESRI webmap products	Could be based on CLG/Public model
	Historic structures	5	Historic structure (green dots) has non-historic structures in it. See 'year built' and you will see a lot of 2000+ homes listed. This information does not exist anywhere else and data set is valuable if cleaned up	Needs research
	Historical basemaps	5	Add historical topos, historic aerials (Maricopa County if accessible, others?) and other basemaps to AZSITE.	Needs research
	Add assessor parcel data	5	Link Statewide parcel database (if this exists) to AZSITE to help users determine exact project area boundaries for in-Metro area projects	Needs research
	Endnote compatibility	4	Add Endnote export for bibliographic records. Format an export to EndNote formatted link for bibliographic entries, or make a selection query that exports all known bibliographic references around an area of interest (very helpful with records reviews).	
Expansion of User Base				
	CLG/Public AZSITE	1	Provide survey and density data to non-archaeologist CLG, Developer, Planner, Producer, Utility, Range Management, etc. Promotes awareness and visibility of cultural resources and encourages compliance. Only archaeologists have access to AZSITE, but NRCS range conservationists need access to sites information. Also private property owners should know what is on their land.	Provided proposal to AZSITE Board January 2021
	Range Staff		Expand AZSITE access to qualified and trained NRCS range conservationists. Note NRCS has said they do not want to do this.	Not pursued. Discuss with NRCS or public AZSITE may be useful here
External Data Flexibility				
	Add HSIF coverage	4	Add in-use historic structure documentation records as a layer in AZSITE. Not archaeological data	Requires SHPO coordination

Import/link to NRM	4	Add ability to accept other heritage records like those being developed by USFS NRM system and replace outdated USFS information in AZSITE	Requires USFS Coordination
Import/link to NRIS	4	Add National Register locations to AZSITE	Note NRIS data does not include archaeological sites. Is this of use?
Export data		<i>Automate clipping and export of GIS data from AZSITE Map. Add a clip and ship script to the AZSITE service like NVCRIS has, where area of interest is used to clip out and/or select and export shapefiles to TMP directory. Likely unnecessary with new Mercator</i>	<i>No longer necessary</i>
Export limit warning		<i>If 500 record limit is reached on a selection query for larger (say linear) project, there should be a warning to indicate that the record limit has been reached and a popup/direction to formally request AZSITE staff make the query (may be irrelevant with new mercator)</i>	<i>No longer necessary</i>