



Foundation Document Overview

Pipe Spring National Monument

Arizona



Contact Information

For more information about the *Pipe Spring National Monument Foundation Document*, contact: pisp_superintendent@nps.gov or 928-643-7105 or write to: Superintendent, Pipe Spring National Monument HC 65 Box 5, 406 North Pipe Spring Road, Fredonia, AZ 86022

Purpose



The purpose of PIPE SPRING NATIONAL MONUMENT is to preserve and protect a natural water source and resources associated with human history in the remote high-desert of the Arizona Strip, and to interpret complex historic interactions between Mormons, American Indians, and the US Government.



Significance

Significance statements express why Pipe Spring National Monument resources and values are important enough to merit national park unit designation. Statements of significance describe why an area is important within a global, national, regional, and systemwide context. These statements are linked to the purpose of the park unit, and are supported by data, research, and consensus. Significance statements describe the distinctive nature of the park and inform management decisions, focusing efforts on preserving and protecting the most important resources and values of the park unit.

1. The 19th century Mormon fort, ranch, and enterprise at Pipe Spring National Monument is directly representative of, and key to the organizational, political, economic, and societal complexities and strategies of Brigham Young's leadership of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and its relationships and/or conflicts with American Indians, and relationships and struggles with the federal government.
2. The large-scale 19th century ranching enterprises at Pipe Spring—both Mormon, and subsequently private—were connected to and influenced the cattle business of the American West, reaching throughout the Intermountain West and as far as markets in Chicago, Omaha, and the Pacific Coast.
3. The monument preserves an assemblage of 19th century historical Mormon structures and artifacts, including the massive and remarkably intact Winsor Castle, other historic stone buildings and artifacts related to day-to-day living, westward expansion, western ranching, and the first telegraph station in Arizona.
4. Emerging at the foot of the towering Vermillion Cliffs of the Grand Staircase of the Colorado Plateau, a significant and year-round spring has both attracted and provided for flora and fauna and multicultural transit and human occupancy for thousands of years in a remote, rugged, and sparsely populated region of the Intermountain West.
5. Pipe Spring National Monument's geographic location between early iconic and scenic national parks, its role in the promotion of the newly established National Park Service under Director Stephen Mather's leadership, and Mather's personal involvement in the site's establishment, are important in the history of the service.
6. Pipe Spring National Monument's continued partnership with the Kaibab Band of Southern Paiute since the establishment of the monument, and its location within their reservation lands, offers unique opportunities to preserve, explore, and interpret the tribe's culture and history.

Fundamental Resources and Values

Fundamental resources and values are those features, systems, processes, experiences, stories, scenes, sounds, smells, or other attributes determined to merit primary consideration during planning and management processes because they are essential to achieving the purpose of the park and maintaining its significance.

- **Archeological Sites and Resources.**
- **Historic Structures.**
- **Cultural Landscape.**
- **Springs and Water.**
- **Museum Collections.**

Pipe Spring National Monument contains other resources and values that are not fundamental to the purpose of the monument and may be unrelated to its significance, but are important to consider in planning processes. These are referred to as “other important resources and values”. These resources and values have been selected because they are important in the operation and management of the monument and warrant special consideration in park planning.

- **Partnerships.**
- **Natural Landscape.**
- **Ethnographic Resources.**



Interpretive Themes

Interpretive themes are often described as the key stories or concepts that visitors should understand after visiting a park—they define the most important ideas or concepts communicated to visitors about a park unit. Themes are derived from—and should reflect—park purpose, significance, resources, and values. The set of interpretive themes is complete when it provides the structure necessary for park staff to develop opportunities for visitors to explore and relate to all of the park significances and fundamental resources and values.

- The various lifeways and subsistence strategies used at Pipe Spring and their impacts offer diverse opportunities to experience and reflect on the difficulties of survival and adaptation in an arid environment and the results of our day-to-day decisions about where and how we live.
- Winsor Castle, East Cabin, and other significant aspects of Pipe Spring’s history attest to the complex approaches of the US government and Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in interacting with American Indians—inviting us to explore and appreciate US history and build understanding and acceptance of differing cultural viewpoints.
- The US government’s 19th century perception that the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints might threaten the integrity of the young nation and the church’s perception that the United States might imperil its communal organization and religious freedom created a unique relationship that challenges us to compare and contrast past and present conflicts between religious freedom and organizations and separation of church and state.
- National Park Service Director Stephen Mather’s personal involvement in Pipe Spring National Monument’s establishment and related leadership and promotion of the national park system serves as an example of personal vision and inspires conservation and enjoyment of our shared heritage.



Description

Pipe Spring National Monument was established by President Warren G. Harding's proclamation No. 1663 (43 Stat. 1913) of May 31, 1923, and is a testament to former NPS Director Stephen Mather's promotion and development of the early parks of the western United States. The 40-acre national monument is situated in the northeast part of Mohave County, Arizona. It lies 10 miles south of the Arizona-Utah border in part of the vast, isolated region known as the Arizona Strip, and is entirely surrounded by the Kaibab Paiute Indian Reservation. Primary access is provided by Arizona State Highway 389.

The geologic processes, which produced these desert springs, have made the site a focal point for area plants and wildlife, and these waters have supported human habitation for millennia. The springs were well known by ancestral people and bands of Southern Paiutes long before the arrival of Mormons in 1858. James Whitmore, a Texas convert to Mormonism, received a land certificate for 160 acres around Pipe Spring in 1863 and established a ranch. In 1866, Whitmore and his ranch hand, Robert McIntyre, rode out of the ranch to check on reports of stolen cattle and sheep, and their bodies were later found by the Mormon militia about four miles south of Pipe Spring. Following the ill-fated ranching efforts of James Whitmore, in 1870 Brigham Young and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (sometimes known as the Mormon Church) constructed a fort (Winsor Castle) for protection from American Indians and as a potential strategic outpost related to its struggles

with the federal government. It also established a tithing ranch enterprise based at the site. The monument thus provides opportunities to understand the Mormon colonial expansion into southern Utah and Arizona and its complex interchange with American Indians and the federal government.

The springs also support a variety of plants and wildlife. Several vegetative communities are present, including woodlands, shrublands, and grasslands. About 166 species of birds are present in the monument, including bald and golden eagles, peregrine falcons, and occasionally the endangered California condor. Reptiles, amphibians, and a number of mammals are also present, including bighorn sheep, deer, mountain lions, and bobcats.

The monument today has a close relationship with the Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians. The two share several facilities, including a museum collections storage facility and visitor center / cultural museum, which, in partnership, interprets the full spectrum of monument history and Kaibab Paiute culture and history.

Visitors to the park can walk several short trails, take self-guided tours of the grounds (including cabins, ponds, corrals, orchard, and garden), and take a guided tour of Winsor Castle. The joint tribal-NPS visitor center / cultural museum offers information on the monument, other public lands (with specific partnerships and information on the remote northern stretches of Grand Canyon National Park, and all of Grand Canyon – Parashant National Monument), and the Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians.

