THE PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT OF MONUMENT VALLEY TRIBAL PARK

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Conservation Planning and Wildland Recreation
2012 Nov. 6th
Outline

- Introduction
- History of development
- Establishment of the park
- Facilities and recreational opportunities
- Management
- Opinion from local people
- Visiting experience
Monument Valley

- Locates on the AZ-UT border
- Historical site of ancient Anasazi
- Is a region of the Colorado Plateau
History

- Herded sheep and other livestock and raised small quantities of crops
1930s: Harry Goulding promoted the idea of Monument Valley as a setting for a “western film”
Icon of west

- John Ford’s “Stagecoach” was filmed in the area, for which John Wayne won an Academy Award.
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<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1939</td>
<td>Stagecoach</td>
<td>1973</td>
<td>Il Mio Nome E Nessuno (My Name is Nobody)</td>
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<td>1940</td>
<td>Kit Carson</td>
<td>1973</td>
<td>Electra Glide in Blue</td>
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<td>1941</td>
<td>Billy The Kid</td>
<td>1974</td>
<td>The Trial Of Billy Jack</td>
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<td>1946</td>
<td>My Darling Clementine</td>
<td>1975</td>
<td>The Eiger Sanction</td>
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<td>1948</td>
<td>Fort Apache</td>
<td>1979</td>
<td>The Villain</td>
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<td>1949</td>
<td>She Wore A Yellow Ribbon</td>
<td>1981</td>
<td>The Legend of The Lone Ranger</td>
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<td>1956</td>
<td>The Searchers</td>
<td>1983</td>
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<td>1962</td>
<td>How The West Was Won</td>
<td>1983</td>
<td>National Lampoon's Vacation</td>
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<td>1964</td>
<td>Cheyenne Autumn</td>
<td>1983</td>
<td>Thunder Warrior II</td>
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<td>1968</td>
<td>2001: A Space Odyssey</td>
<td>1990</td>
<td>Back To The Future II &amp; III</td>
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<td>1969</td>
<td>Again A Love Story</td>
<td>1992</td>
<td>Sognando La California (California Dreaming)</td>
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<td>1969</td>
<td>Easy Rider</td>
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<td>Once Upon A Time in the West</td>
<td>1993</td>
<td>Pontiac Moon</td>
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<td>1969</td>
<td>Mackenna's Gold</td>
<td>1993</td>
<td>The Ride</td>
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<td>1970</td>
<td>Joshua</td>
<td>1993</td>
<td>Forrest Gump</td>
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<td>1971</td>
<td>Wild Rovers</td>
<td>1994</td>
<td>Too Wong Foo</td>
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Monument valley tribal park

- 1930s: the NPS recommend monument valley be protected from development
- 1957: Navajo tribal park commission established
  - Increasing visiting
  - Fear of further U.S. government take over
- 1958: Established (91,696 acres) - the first tribal park on American Indian reservation lands
Monument valley tribal park

- The missions: to protect, preserve and manage tribal parks, monuments and recreation areas for the perpetual enjoyment and benefit of the Navajo Nation
- To protect specular landscape and cultural significance
Environments
Wildlife

- Navajo Nation Endangered Species

Photo 11: Ferruginous Hawk

Photo 12: Peregrine Falcon

Photo 13: Pronghorn

Photo 14: Coyote
Monument valley tribal park

- 1968: failed to get grant
- 1974: seek help from NPS but not favor by local people

“
We do not wish for the NPS to take over the management of the tribal park and do not disturb the matter any further
”

- 1983: Monument valley tribal park master plan
  - Improve visitor center, exhibits, maintenance, staff residence facilities
- 2008: Over 4 million visitor/year
Facilities

- Visitor center
- The View hotel
- Restaurant & trading post
- Campground
Recreational activities

- Scenic drive: 17 mile unpaved loop road
- Hiking & camping
- Photography
- Experience Navajo culture
- Star viewing
- Hunting
Recreational activities
Three Sister
Ear of the Wind
Management

- No climbing
- Permit for operating guided tour (Navajo preference)
  - Guide
  - Vehicle tours
  - Horseback
  - Hiking
  - Location scout
  - Aircraft
Management

- Backcountry hiking permit
- Camping permit
- Photography & filming permit
- Special use permit (weddings, workshops, etc)
- Hunting & fishing license required
- Pets & livestock
- Gathering is prohibited
Management

- Budget: over 100 million in 1994
- Employee: all Navajo
- No management statement

The harmonious balance between man and nature, will be maintained.
Local community

- Most Navajo in the region earn their living from visitor
- Important to incorporate valley residents in early decision stage
What do valley residents say?

- 6 families live in the valley
- No tap water, no electricity
- Split in attitude:
  - Family engaged tourism favor the park: like
  - Family not participated tourism: dislike
- Promise of better living quality: never happened
- Loss of privacy
- Video
Visiting experience

- No visitor flow control
- Conflicts between visiting groups
- Ineffective communication
- Park employee and tour guide
- Developing pressure outside the park
References

• The Navajo Parks and Recreation Department http://navajonationparks.org/
• Kayenta-Monument Valley Scenic Road Corridor Management Plan
• The View hotel http://monumentvalleyview.com/
• Trip advisor http://www.tripadvisor.com/
Use priority or protect priority?