

INTRODUCTION

Senate Bill 302, New Mexico Laws of 1963, Chapter 240, designated Fort Selden as a State Park. On January 1, 1972, the State Parks and Recreation Commission agreed that Fort Selden would be administered more appropriately by the Museum of New Mexico (MNM), and on July 2, 1973, Gov. Bruce King proclaimed Fort Selden a State Monument.

The State provided funds for construction of a visitor center in 1973 in NM Senate Bill 449. The fort site was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1974. In 2000, however, the New Mexico Heritage Preservation Alliance placed historic Fort Selden on its Most Endangered List.



Figure 1

PURPOSE OF THE PLAN

The New Mexico State Monuments (NMSM) intends to prepare management plans for each monument in the system. The purpose of these plans is to specify desired resource conditions and visitor experiences to be achieved and to provide a basic foundation for decision making.

The Fort Selden Ruins Preservation Capital Project bill, New Mexico Laws of 1998, Chapter 118, directed the New Mexico State Monuments to prepare a design plan for an addition to the museum and exhibits honoring the Buffalo Soldiers and to plan for the preservation and interpretation of the ruins at Fort Selden State Monument. However, without first describing the specific resource conditions and visitor experiences to be achieved, expansion of the museum exhibits would be premature as would be the methods of preservation and interpretation of the fort's ruins; hence the need for a management plan. The specific purposes of the management plan are as follows.

- identify and describe the cultural resources and their conditions and the desired visitor experiences; referred to as desired futures.
- identify the management, use, preservation, and development appropriate to achieving and maintaining those conditions.

The archaeology, ruins, and site of the historic Fort Selden Military Reservation are recognized as finite and nonrenewable. Priority is given to preservation of the remaining prehistoric, historic, and other cultural resources.

NEED FOR THE PLAN

Fort Selden State Monument has been without a General Management Plan (GMP) since it was added to the State Monuments program in 1973. The GMP is needed to identify what is to be achieved at the monument based on the monument's purpose, values, significance, and administrative commitments, and the laws and policies directing the State Monuments.

The GMP is needed also for making decisions about the future for Fort Selden State Monument. The monument staff, in consultation with technical experts, scholars, current and potential visitors, other agencies, regional residents, and the general public has identified desired futures for the monument. Decisions offered in the GMP are based on these desired futures tempered with analysis and evaluation of the resources and consideration of the long-term economic costs.

The GMP addresses the monument's preservation needs for its cultural and natural resources as well as the types and general development desired for public enjoyment and use. The document explains the process State Monuments used in preparing the Management Plan.

THE STATE MONUMENTS SYSTEM

The State Monuments Unit of the Museum of New Mexico represents our state heritage and includes a collection of the state's most outstanding and significant cultural resources. Each active and inactive monument contains resources and values that make it significant on a statewide basis. The State Monuments program recognizes the importance of carefully balancing the need for conserving each monument's cultural and natural resources with the needs of the public specific to that monument.

Mission Statement

The mission of the New Mexico State Monuments is to protect and preserve those culturally significant properties designated as state monuments and to provide for their interpretation, use, and enjoyment by present and future generations.

Strategic Plan

Management of the State Monuments is guided by a Strategic Plan developed in 2001. The Strategic Plan outlines a general foundation for such management pending the development of individual management plans for each monument's Long Term Goals.

Long Term Goals

The Monuments' Long Term Goals, as outlined in the Strategic Plan, are as follows.

- I. **Preserve Monument Resources:**
Natural and cultural resources are protected, restored, and maintained in good condition and managed within their broader ecosystem and cultural context.
- II. **Provide for Public Enjoyment and Visitor Experience:** Visitors safely enjoy and are satisfied with the availability, diversity, and quality of monument facilities, services, and appropriate recreational opportunities.

III. Ensure Organizational Effectiveness:

The State Monuments uses current management practices, systems, and technologies to accomplish its mission.

IV. Perpetuate Resources and Enhance Visitor Enjoyment Through

Partnerships: State Monuments increases its managerial capabilities through initiatives and support from other agencies, organizations, and individuals.

Desired Futures

In addition, the Strategic Plan identified a number of general Desired Futures for each Long Term Goal.

A. Resources Management:

- Significant examples of prehistoric and historic cultures are properly preserved and managed.
- Monument museum collections are managed effectively for research and educational programs.
- Monuments contain a native complement of biological diversity that is sustained by natural processes and receives minimal human manipulations.

B. Visitor Experience and Services:

- All visitors feel comfortable and safe at all of the monument facilities, and all facilities meet accessibility standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- The interpretation of all sites is expanded to provide the visitor a variety and depth of experiences and also a better understanding of the site's history in connection with the land, the environment and the context of the time during which each site existed.
- Entrance fee possibilities are expanded by looking into agreements for site annual passes and multi-day/multi-site passes.

C. Organizational Effectiveness:

- Monument facilities are properly maintained, sustainably designed or rehabilitated, efficiently and effectively used and meet accessibility requirements.
- Facilities reflect the minimum number of non-historic structures, buildings and infrastructure necessary to meet monument objectives.
- Management and development of monuments are properly carried out.
- Monuments are properly funded and staffed to support adequate levels of service to the public and to maintain resources.
- Employees are well trained and ready to assume the challenge of new positions.
- The Monument System reflects the broad thematic history of the State.
- The Monument System is supported by an appropriate statutory authority.

D. Partnerships:

- Partnerships are explored with known stakeholders proximate to each facility to achieve financial and operational stability through common goals and benefits.
- Opportunities are provided for partnerships with surrounding communities to enhance cooperative relationships and to promote the area around each site as tourist destinations.



Figure 2

FORT SELDEN STATE MONUMENT

Fort Selden State Monument is on State Highway 157, 1 mile west of Interstate Highway 25. Fort Selden is located east of the Rio Grande and north of the Robledo Mountains in the community of Radium Springs, New Mexico, and is 13 miles north of Las Cruces, New Mexico. Fort Selden State Monument represents the United States' post-Civil War westward expansion and the heart of a middle-to-late nineteenth-century U.S. military fort. The monument preserves historic ruins associated with the Fort Selden Military Reservation (1865–1878 and 1880–1891) and interprets them to the public.

Monument Purpose

Each monument in the NMSM system is established for a specific purpose. Because the authorizing legislation and legislative history for Fort Selden do not clearly spell out its purpose, the planners and monument staff have defined Fort Selden's purpose as follows:

- Preserve the cultural resources of Fort Selden State Monument.
- Educate the public about the influence of the Fort Selden Military Reservation on the continuum of development, settlement, and economics of the area as well as the impact of military operations on the Native Americans.

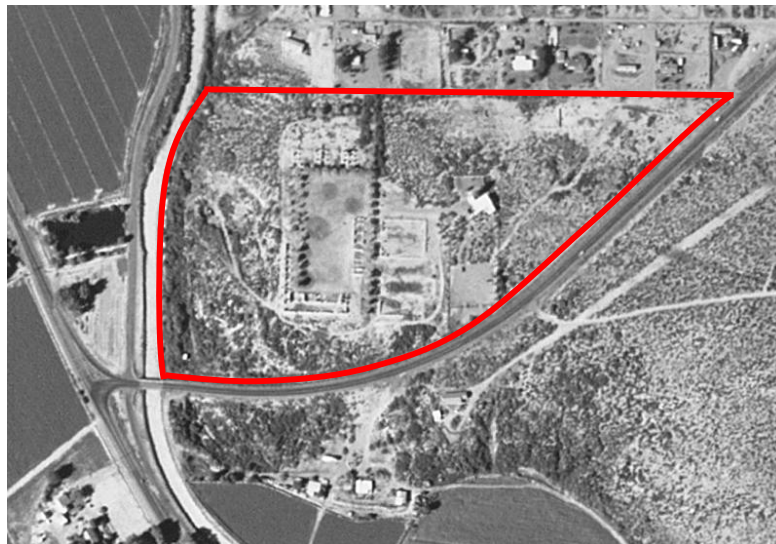


Figure 3

Monument Mission

The mission of the Fort Selden State Monument is to interpret the history of Fort Selden and its contribution to the post–Civil War settlement of New Mexico while protecting and preserving the historical and structural fabric to the best of our ability.

Monument Significance/Values

The significance statements capture the essence of Fort Selden State Monument’s importance to our state’s cultural and natural heritage. The significance statements identify the exceptional values and resources that must be preserved and maintained to achieve the monument’s purpose. These statements also help the monument managers set resource protection priorities and identify primary interpretive themes and desirable visitor experiences. Fort Selden is significant for the following reasons:

- Fort Selden was located strategically at the southern end of the Jornada del Muerto to protect travelers and Mesilla Valley settlers. Also because of its location, Fort Selden was reactivated in 1881 after its abandonment in 1878, to provide protection for development of the railroad in southern New Mexico.
- Fort Selden provides an opportunity for understanding and appreciating the role played by blacks in the military in the years immediately following the Civil War. Particularly significant is the black 125th infantry, which was part of the first regular army assigned to and that helped establish Fort Selden as well as other southern New Mexico posts.

Fort Selden State Monument has archaeological, historical aesthetic, spiritual, educational, and economic values. The planning team obtained information used to determine the areas of value from on-site inspections, extensive research including examination of previous studies and documents, input from New Mexico State Monuments staff and input from participants in the public meeting held in Las Cruces on September 20, 2000.

Archaeological Values

- The monument contains archaeological resources that will contribute to our understanding of the prehistory of the area
- Further research will determine if the site has the potential to yield information about historic Native American use of the area
- The ruins of the fort and their remaining archaeology contain information that will contribute to our understanding of nineteenth-century military history in southern New Mexico
- The fort's archaeology has the potential to contribute to our knowledge of blacks, both former slaves and free men, who served in the military after the Civil War
- The monument archaeology has the potential to yield information about historic travel and traffic patterns on the Camino Real, including the Robledo *paraje*; by the military; and by stage
- The archaeological collections represent military life from the mid-1860s to early 1890s
- Important archaeological sites, including petroglyphs, are within the boundaries of the former military reservation but outside the monument property boundaries

Historical Values

- Fort Selden Military Reservation once encompassed the significant Robledo *paraje* dating from the late sixteenth century, which marks early beginnings of Spanish colonization in New Mexico
- Fort Selden represents nineteenth-century military reservations in southern New Mexico during United States expansion into the West and during Reconstruction
- Fort Selden is representative of a network of nineteenth-century military forts in New Mexico, Texas, and Arizona

- Fort Selden was established to protect Hispanic and Euro-American settlers in the Mesilla Valley and travelers through the Jornada del Muerto
- Fort Selden maintained a ferry across the Rio Grande, providing an important transportation accommodation for travelers
- Fort Selden marks the end of traditional Native American use and access to the region patrolled by the fort's troops
- Fort Selden fostered the development of the communities of Leasburg and Radium Springs
- Fort Selden perpetuates the name of Col. Henry R. Selden, who commanded a regiment at Valverde during the Civil War and died while commander of Fort Union
- Black soldiers served at Fort Selden after the Civil War, providing them economic, educational, and cultural opportunities
- Fort Selden offered an opportunity for men of different races, classes, and backgrounds to intermingle in the middle-to-late nineteenth-century military environment
- Fort Selden represents southern New Mexico forts that exposed military men from the United States, as well as their families and others associated with the military, to the environment of the desert Southwest
- Fort Selden represents life at southern New Mexico forts for military wives and children
- The outposts maintained by Fort Selden at Alemán Station in the Jornada del Muerto and at Shedd's Ranch near San Agustín Pass provided travelers and ranchers protection from hostile Native Americans
- Fort Selden contributed to the local economy and the development of the Mesilla Valley by Hispanics and Euro-Americans

- Fort Selden provided protection to railroad crews constructing new transportation links across the United States
- Native Americans, and particularly Apaches, may have placed values on this area
- The fort's ruins represent the challenges associated with preserving adobe structures

Cultural Values

- Fort Selden represents the multicultural heritage of Native Americans, Hispanics, blacks, and Euro-Americans who used the land, served in the military, and benefited or suffered economically from the fort's presence
- Fort Selden represents a multinational military and Native American history that spans the New Mexico Territory, state of New Mexico, United States, state of Chihuahua, and Mexico

Aesthetic Values

- Fort Selden Military Reservation once encompassed parts of the beautiful Rio Grande, Robledo Mountains, and Faulkner Canyon
- The monument has scenic views of the Robledo Mountains to the south and the Rio Grande to the west
- The adobe ruins evoke a picturesque image of nineteenth-century military life in the Southwest

Educational Values

- The staff and the Friends of Fort Selden provide educational opportunities for visitors through on-site interpretive programs dealing with the nineteenth-century military history of the site

- The staff and the Friends of Fort Selden provide educational opportunities for schoolchildren through on-site interpretive programs and outreach programs dealing with the nineteenth-century military history of Fort Selden
- Additional museum collections represent Fort Selden as it appeared when it was active as well as military life at the fort
- Public programs such as lectures and special events increase awareness of the history of the fort and the area
- The Friends of Fort Selden newsletter provides excellent quality research to assist in the accurate interpretation of the site's military history
- The Fort Selden publication provides background historical information that expands on the interpretation provided in the visitor center and by on-site interpreters
- A partnership with other museums of the Mesilla Valley offers visitors exposure to a wide range of educational opportunities
- The monument has the potential to educate visitors on the failure of communication and commitment between peoples and applying the lessons learned to the need for tolerance and acceptance in our increasingly multicultural nation
- The monument has the potential to educate visitors on past oppression of ethnic groups (both Native American and black) and a better understanding of and appreciation for their cultures
- The adobe ruins provide an opportunity to educate visitors on adobe construction and conservation techniques
- A partnership with other museums in the Mesilla Valley advertises the many cultural and educational opportunities for visitors to the Las Cruces and La Mesilla area
- The monument has the potential to provide additional tourist business for Radium Springs as well as to Las Cruces and La Mesilla
- The presence of the historic site increases the property values of adjacent landowners
- The state monuments are advertised and promoted by the larger Museum of New Mexico, which encourages visitors to the areas of the monuments
- The Museum of New Mexico encourages private financial donations to the State Monuments program, increasing their potential to attract visitors

Special Mandates

Fort Selden State Monument is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as a historic site. The National Historical Preservation Act requires the New Mexico State Monuments to ensure that any federally funded or licensed undertaking is implemented only after careful consideration of its possible impacts on properties listed on the National Register.

Laws and Policies

Many laws, regulations, policies, and guidelines govern the management and operations within New Mexico State Monuments. The following apply to this planning effort:

- The Secretary of the Interior's "Standards for Archeology and Historic Preservation"
- Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act
- Endangered Species Act
- Clean Air Act
- Architectural Barriers Act
- Americans with Disabilities Act

Economic Values

- The site generates revenues, which reach local inhabitants of the second-largest city in New Mexico as well as residents of the smaller communities and rural areas in its immediate vicinity

Planning Process

The monument planning process proceeds from general to specific and establishes a framework for decisions based on law, policy, objectives, and resource characteristics and use. Because no management plan has been prepared for Fort Selden, elements of this essential process are included in the GMP.

The plan identifies the purpose of Fort Selden State Monument as well as legislative and administrative constraints, requirements, and authorities affecting planning and management. Existing surveys and studies have been identified, reviewed, and evaluated, and additional data needs are defined. The monument's resources are identified and evaluated based upon historic contexts, and areas needing additional interpretation and resource management are identified. Based on the above information, objectives are established for the management of the resources.

The planning process began with an initial scoping meeting with the monument staff at the site on June 20, 2000. A public meeting of targeted participants with special interests in Fort Selden was held in Las Cruces on September 20, 2000. A meeting summary was sent to all participants and other interested stakeholders for additional comments. General issues considered by the plan include:

- How can we best protect and preserve the monument resources and at the same time provide a quality visitor experience?
- What kinds of management, use, and development are appropriate to achieve these conditions?

Consultation with the New Mexico State Historic Preservation Officer and staff was part of the planning process.

Issues

Major issues pertaining to the management of the monument are identified below. The issues are listed in no particular order of priority.

Interpretation of Fort Selden State Monument

The underlying reason for the location of a military reservation at the Fort Selden site was its position on the Río Grande, at or near the site of the Robledo *paraje* that dates to the late sixteenth century, as well as its position at the southern end of the Jornada del Muerto. Interpretive information to visitors regarding the military fort's association with its historic setting presently is limited, and visitors may find it difficult to place the fort within its cultural and natural environments.

Fort Selden's military occupation spanned two separate time periods, 1865 to 1878 and 1880 to 1891. The military presence differed greatly during the two periods. The first occupation saw the building of the fort, and military activity was directed primarily at the protection of Hispanic and Anglo settlers and travelers. The post was reestablished in the second period as a sub-post and supply depot for nearby Fort Bayard to the West. During this time the post also provided protection for construction workers on the railroad. Most post buildings had deteriorated and some but not all were rehabilitated. Primarily white soldiers rebuilt the post while black soldiers served on detached service.

The monument property contains the ruins of the main fort structures but is only a fraction of the original Fort Selden Military Reservation.

As the fragile adobe ruins dissolve and the historic setting disappears in the wake of development, interpretation of the site through exhibits in the visitor center becomes increasingly important.

Interpretation of the Buffalo Soldiers and Others

The service of black soldiers at Fort Selden is representative of the military experience of black soldiers in the Southwest, and particularly southern New Mexico, after the Civil War. Their employment by the U.S. military provided them important economic, educational, and cultural opportunities during their crucial transition from slaves to free men.

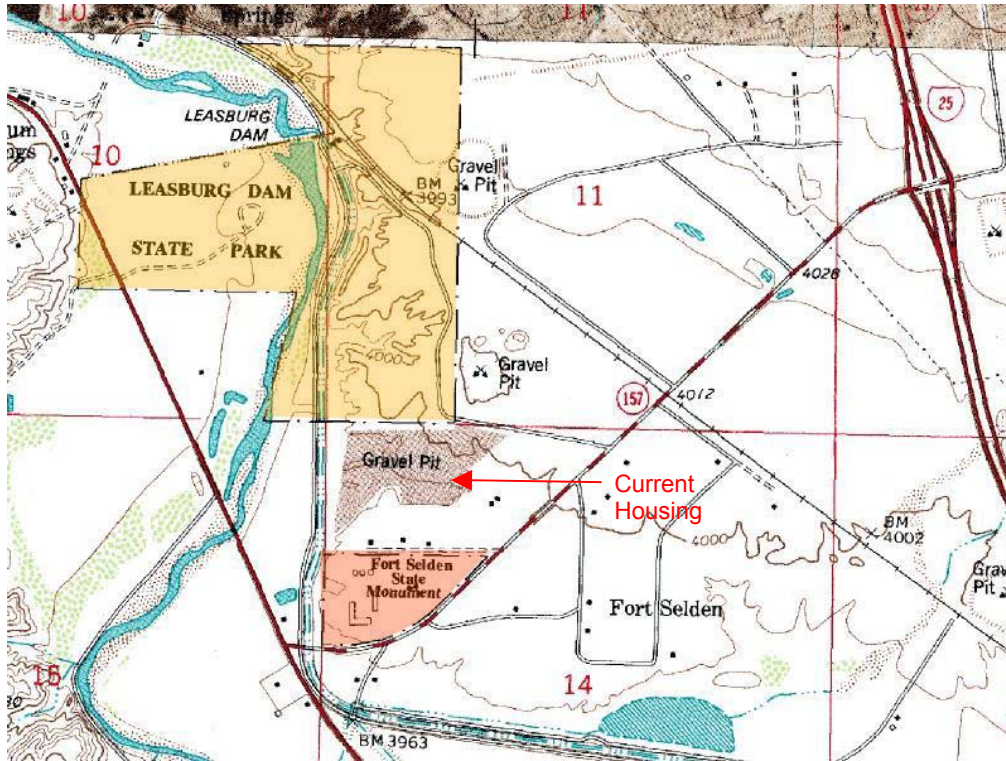


Figure 4
1978 USGS Map

north ↑

In addition to the black experience, the military impacts on the native peoples as well as other ethnic groups are under-interpreted at Fort Selden. Apache groups in particular were removed from their traditional homelands and displaced by mostly Hispanic and Anglo settlers. Today's world events continue to illustrate the need for understanding differences in cultures and ethnic and religious groups. Many important lessons can be demonstrated using the nineteenth-century military experience in southern New Mexico.

Interrelationship of Fort Selden State Monument and Leasburg Dam State Park

Leasburg Dam State Park is located approximately one-quarter mile north of Fort Selden State Monument. (See fig. 4) The land between them is privately owned and largely occupied by private residences, the majority of which are mobile homes. Fort Selden State Monument and Leasburg Dam State Park both are New Mexico properties, but are administered by two different government agencies. Although Leasburg Dam State Park is on the former Fort Selden Military Reservation and contains important historic aspects of Fort Selden, such

as the cemetery, its primary purpose is recreation.

Developing a cooperative approach to establish long-range goals that are in the best interest of the properties, and that provide the most benefit to the monument and to park visitors must be achieved. Such combining of resources to reach common goals will enhance not only the visitors' experience but also will expand opportunities for increased interpretation, marketing, community involvement, and financial responsibility.



Figure 5

Conservation of the Fort Ruins

The conservation of adobe ruins that continue to deteriorate over time is the major issue facing the monument. An estimated 85% of the actual adobe wall mass has been lost since the fort was abandoned in 1891. Some of this loss has been in the form of adobe walls that have collapsed, but the majority has been in the form of the erosion from the sides and the tops of walls. The walls remain to define the basic building form, although they are much reduced in size.

The causes of the deterioration have been natural erosion processes caused by wind, rain, and snow that began with abandonment and the subsequent removal of roofs and other wood features. The greatest percentage of loss took place within the first few years. By the establishment of the site as a State Monument in 1973 approximately 75% of the adobe was lost and over the past approximately 30 years another 10% has been lost. Today the adobe ruins vary from standing walls 10 feet above grade to some that are only inches high. Stone remains include above grade foundations as well as sub-surface features.

Deterioration will continue, but sound adobe preservation practices and adequate funding will ensure that the present character will remain into the foreseeable future. It is estimated that 75% of the existing adobe walls will remain to the second half of the 21st century. The continuing deterioration will result in changes and decisions of the presentation and interpretation of the ruins associated with the changes will be a continuing process as well.

Enlargement or Replacement of the Visitor Center

In order to properly address the interpretative needs of the Fort, consideration should be given to expanding the visitor's center beyond the mandate of the appropriation act. The expansion could be achieved by either an addition and renovation of the existing structure, or by complete replacement.

The 2,972 square foot visitor center was completed in 1974. It is comprised of a single open exhibition room and one small staff office.



Visitor Center - Front View



Visitor Center - Rear View

Figure 6

Located at the front entry are two restrooms that are not compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Severe cost constraints limited the design and construction of the original building. As described in Appendix C, there were numerous problems during and immediately after construction of the building.

Major limitations of the building include visual contact with the ruins, lack of adequate office and storage space, lack of proper space for audio/visual presentations, and lack of space for traveling exhibits or community meetings. The building was sited at what was, at the time, the eastern edge of the site, as far removed from the ruins as possible. The State subsequently acquired additional land to the east of the building. Both the visitor center and its parking lot visually intrude on the ruins (see fig. 2). The site of the powder magazine is hidden from view behind the building.

The role of the visitor center in the interpretation of the fort must first be made, and then a

determination can be made as to the adequacy of the existing center to carry out that role. Factors in that determination are whether it is cost effective to renovate and expand the visitor center in its current location versus complete replacement in a new location, and the extent that the current visitor center and parking area intrude on the historic scene of the fort.

Low Visitation Numbers

Fort Selden State Monument is a major component of the history of southern New Mexico, but its location outside metropolitan Las Cruces isolates it from the city's other attractions. In addition, Las Cruces and southern New Mexico have numerous destinations that compete for tourists and tourism dollars. Unfortunately, marketing of Fort Selden thus far has concentrated on reaching visitors approaching the site from Interstate Highway 25, and while its exit from the highway is well marked, few travelers make the stop. As a result, Fort Selden averages an annual visitation of approximately 8,000, while the next door Leasburg State Park averages over 40,000 visitors annually.

External Encroachments

Only a very small portion of the original military reservation was originally acquired with the fort ruins. A few small tracts of land have been added through the years, but today residential development rapidly encroaches on the fort ruins destroying the historic scene that has survived since the abandonment of the site.

Two issues are involved. One is protection of the historic core of the fort. The other is to provide for a buffer zone to protect that core.

For State Monuments to make sound decisions about needed boundary protection, a better understanding of the extent of the historic military reservation and its cultural resources is needed. The locations of several significant structures, features, and activities related to the fort are known presently but remain outside the monument boundary. Other areas outside the immediate fort core may provide for protection

of the remaining archaeological resources, and for protecting the viewshed.

Financial Responsibility

Because of staff shortages, Fort Selden is only open six days a week. The staff of three employees is insufficient to carry out the variety of tasks required by the site. This is particularly critical in the maintenance of the fort's ruins.

Shortages in staff also affect the off-site relations with nearby communities, such as Las Cruces, that might produce increases in visitation to the monument.

The current operation of six days was instituted on July 2001 to correct a situation where the existing seven-day operation was resulting in days when only one employee was on duty. This posed problems for resource protection, visitor services and affected the security of the one employee. The present six-day schedule is a minor improvement but still results in days when only one employee remains on duty.

Shortages in operational funding also affect the monument's ability to provide a regular schedule of cyclic preservation maintenance of the fort ruins. The small staff must take time from visitor service duties to carry out needed maintenance and stabilization of the deteriorating ruins. Often this does not provide sufficient time to do the necessary cyclic work that will address all of the preservation needs. This lack of regular preservation maintenance does not keep up with the ongoing rate of deterioration of the adobe ruins.

Desired Future Conditions

Within the broad parameters of the monument's mission and goals, various approaches to resource protection, use, and development may be possible. This planning element narrows the range of possible approaches to a specific agreed upon prescription for each element of monument operation. These prescriptions, or desired futures, have two components. First, they clearly define the specific resource condition and visitor experience which are to be achieved and maintained over time. Secondly, they identify the kinds and levels of visitor use, management

activities, and development that are appropriate for maintaining the desired conditions.

Resources Management

The historic resources, features, and objects are considered the prime cultural resources of the monument.

- A. The fort's historic fabric is protected and preserved to the extent feasible.

Strategy: Improve the management and protection of the ruins and the cultural landscape elements.

- B. All remaining archaeological resources are preserved and protected.

Strategy: Improve the management and protection of the monument's subsurface cultural resources.

- C. The fort's cultural landscape is well documented.

Strategy: Provide opportunities to interpret the fort's missing cultural landscape elements.

- D. The fort's historic scene is protected from incompatible development.

Strategy: Provide protection to those elements of the fort's historic scene that may remain beyond the monument's boundary.

Strategy: Determine the need to expand the monument boundary.

- E. All monument resources and administrative facilities are secured and protected.

Strategy: Provide the necessary security and protection to resources and to visitors.

- F. High-quality preservation of artifacts and exhibits is provided.

Strategy: Utilize exhibits and artifacts to better interpret the fort's history to the public.

Organizational Effectiveness

- A. The monument is adequately staffed to provide for the necessary protection, preservation, and interpretation of the fort's history to the public.

Strategy: Staff the monument with a sufficient number of employees who are well trained in the functions of interpretation and preservation.

- B. Facilities are properly developed and maintained, efficiently and effectively used, and meet accessibility requirements where feasible and compatible with the integrity of the historic scene.

Strategy: Provide facilities that meet visitor and staff needs with minimal impacts on the historic scene.

Visitor Services

- A. The interpretation of the monument is expanded to provide visitors with a greater variety and depth of experiences, resulting in a better understanding of the fort's history in its broader cultural and natural contexts through time.

Strategy: Provide high-quality interpretive services that expand visitors' understanding of the role of the fort in the history of present-day New Mexico.

Strategy: Include an enhanced interpretation of the role of the Buffalo Soldiers at Fort Selden and other military forts in the West.

- B. Permanent and temporary exhibits place the fort's ruins in context through an accurate story of the fort and its cultural and natural history.

Strategy: Develop an exhibit plan for vital permanent and temporary exhibits that meet visitor needs.

Strategy: Expand the visitor center to accommodate the new exhibits.

- C. The story of the fort's role in the history of New Mexico is communicated beyond the monument.

Strategy: Provide effective and quality outreach to the general public.

Partnerships

- A. Partnerships with known stakeholders are explored in an effort to achieve financial and operational stability of the monument's operations.

Strategy: Develop a broad community-based partnership program.

- B. Opportunities for partnerships with surrounding communities to enhance cooperative relations and to promote the area as a tourist destination are explored.

Strategy: Market Fort Selden State Monument in cooperation with nearby public attractions to increase public awareness of the area's resources.

Among those to have an active role are the New Mexico Farm and Ranch Museum and the Las Cruces Lodgers Association.

Strategy: Develop a joint ticketing agreement with the Leasburg Dam State Park that will provide access to both sites.

