

Dawn Daw

Casa Grande Ruins National Monument

“Here at Casa Grande Ruins National Monument vegetation and the landscape has changed quite a bit over the years. When the Hohokam used to live here, the landscape was much different. Today we have a creosote flat with mainly creosote bushes here on the monument. When the Hohokam lived here, there were actually a lot more trees – the same types of trees that we have today – the desert trees. Mainly, they had mesquite trees, but the mesquite trees were in much larger stands. They were much bigger groves of trees, so it was what we call a mesquite bosque. Looking out into the landscape today you can see the dead tree stumps that were once alive. The main reason for the change in the landscape over the years is the lowering of the ground water table.”