Memorandum

To: Superintendent, Mesa Verde National Park

From: Associate Regional Director, Planning and Resource Preservation, RMR

Subject: Statement for Management, Yucca House National Monument

Enclosed is a copy of the Statement for Management for Yucca House National Monument, as reapproved by the Acting Regional Director on February 6, 1979. Changes made are noted by an asterisk on the pertinent pages. (This is in accordance with the NPS-2 Guidelines.) You may want to distribute copies of the statement to concerned interests involved in the original distribution so that they will have the current status of the statement for management for the area.

Enclosure

cc:
WASO-Management and Operations (500), w/3 encs.
Midwest Archeological Center, w/c of enc.
Harpers Ferry Center, w/c of enc.
Denver Service Center, w/c of enc.
STATEMENT FOR MANAGEMENT

YUCCA HOUSE NATIONAL MONUMENT

Prepared by: Ronald R. Jaffe
Superintendent 12-2-75

Reviewed and Recommended: Glenn Bean
Acting Regional Director 12/31/75

/s/ John E. Cook
Acting Deputy Director 2/26/76

APPROVED BY: Glenn Bean
Acting Regional Director, Rocky Mountain Region 10/1/76

Anniversary Approval: Glenn Bean
Acting Regional Director, Rocky Mountain Region 11/28/77

Anniversary Approval: Glenn Bean
Acting Regional Director, Rocky Mountain Region 2/4/79

Amended as necessary
YUCCA HOUSE NATIONAL MONUMENT

Statement for Management

I. PURPOSE OF THE MONUMENT

Presidential Proclamation 1549, December 19, 1919 (41 Stat. 1781), states in part "Whereas there is in Montezuma County, Colorado, on the eastern slope of the Sleeping Ute Mountain an imposing pile of masonry of great archeological value, relic of the prehistoric inhabitants of that part of the country...there is hereby reserved and set apart as a national monument, to be known as the Yucca House National Monument...". *The park is located in Montezuma County, Colorado, in that state's Third Congressional District.

II. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE MONUMENT'S RESOURCES

Yucca House National Monument is a possible major trade center of the pre-Columbian Indians. The monument, when excavated in the future, may reveal tremendous archeological data and information concerning the Mesa Verde Branch of the Anasazi Culture.

Yucca House is a large Pueblo III or Great Pueblo Period community with a formal, walled ceremonial plaza. The main pueblo was at least three stories high and appears to be well preserved. Archeologists consider that the prospects for preservation of antiquities within the core of the ruin rival those at Aztec Ruin National Monument, New Mexico.

Yucca House is situated in a historically semi-desert area, but encloses a permanent spring that must have been a focus for travelers in this dry region. In addition, Yucca House appears to be located on a major artery of travel between the cultural centers to the south and the farmlands of the Mesa Verde Branch of the Anasazi on the north. Some day its excavation will undoubtedly shed major light on trade and cultural relationships in the northern Southwest during the twelfth and thirteenth centuries.

III. *EXISTING LAND MANAGEMENT and USE

The entire 9.6 acres of Yucca House National Monument is classified as a historical zone.

*Amended 01/15/79
IV. INFLUENCES ON MANAGEMENT

A. Legislative and Administrative Constraints

*1. Yucca House National Monument is operated under the management policies of the National Park Service.

*2. Yucca House is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as a historic site. All area undertakings affecting cultural resources will be implemented in compliance with provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, Executive Order 11593, and all other applicable regulations.

3. Lands surrounding Yucca House are entirely in private ownership and access to the monument is over private lands. Title to the adjacent private land grants the National Park Service right to access by reasonable means acceptable to the title holder.

4. The monument contains an active spring; however, all rights to the water belong to the local land owner. The title to adjacent lands does provide for use of such water by water rights holder as is necessary for domestic needs.

*5. The National Park Service exercises proprietary jurisdiction over the lands within the monument.

B. Regional Influences

1. Yucca House National Monument is located 10 miles south of Cortez, Colorado, and two miles west of U.S. 160-666.

2. Yucca House is located at the base of the Sleeping Ute Mountain on the extreme periphery of farm lands in the Montezuma Valley. Less than one mile to the south and west is the boundary line of the Ute Mountain Reservation. The lands immediately adjacent to the monument are entirely agricultural with grazing and raising hay as primary uses, none of which intrude on the monument or its setting.

*Amended 01/15/79

SFM-2
As of November 7, 1978 Montezuma County had the following land uses:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Land Use</th>
<th>Acres</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Farm and Mining Lands</td>
<td>347,363 acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ute Indian Land</td>
<td>432,996 acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Forest Land</td>
<td>279,000 acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mesa Verde National Park Land</td>
<td>51,342 acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLIM Land</td>
<td>179,460 acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Land</td>
<td>11,990 acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Towns and Cities Land</td>
<td>8,660 acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous Other Land</td>
<td>47,357 acres</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Highest Elevation — 13,232 feet
Lowest Elevation — 4,700 feet
Mean Temperature — 48.8 Degrees
Mean Rainfall — 13.2 Inches
Mean Snowfall — Lower Elevations — 39.2 Inches

INDUSTRIES
Agriculture — Livestock, Pinto Beans, Small Grains, Fruits and Forage, Oil, Gas and Minerals

TOURISM AND RECREATION
Mesa Verde National Park, Hovenweep National Monument, San Juan National Forest, Ute Mountain Ute Reservation, Stream and Lake Fishing, Small and Big Game Hunting, Sking and Snow Machinery

MAJOR HIGHWAYS

MANUFACTURING
Lumbering, Matches, Processing Agricultural Products, Jewelry and Pottery, Campers and Stockrooms

Abstract of Assessments and Levies — 1977
PREPARED BY
Montezuma County Assessor's Office
Wayne Danny — Assessor
Helen Duhenderfer — Deputy Assessor
Van Willis — Appraiser
Glen Hanson — Appraiser
Ima Powell — Appraiser
Mining Property, Transfers
Mancha Durell — Personal Property
Bob Teague — Appraiser
Lynn Kinney — Transfers and Mapping
Helen Williamson — Files and Machines

INCORPORATED TOWNS AND CITIES IN COUNTY
- Cortez: Population 7750; Elevation 2200
- Dolores: Population 997; Elevation 5950
- Mancos: Population 905; Elevation 7000

AVERAGE TOTAL COUNTY LEVY — 77.75 MILES
ABSTRACT OF ASSESSMENT

1977 TAXES ARE DUE JANUARY 1, 1978

REAL ESTATE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Assessed</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>woodland and irrigated pasture</td>
<td>1,578.9</td>
<td>$1,079.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>improved farm land</td>
<td>3,217.4</td>
<td>$2,118.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>grazing land</td>
<td>3,452</td>
<td>$2,184.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>unimproved residential land</td>
<td>1,137 acres</td>
<td>$1,136.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>improved commercial land</td>
<td>5,430.2</td>
<td>$5,430.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>unimproved commercial land</td>
<td>2,773.2</td>
<td>$2,773.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>improved industrial land</td>
<td>4,601.2</td>
<td>$4,601.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>investments, farm</td>
<td>15,150.0</td>
<td>$15,150.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>improvements, residential</td>
<td>15,150.0</td>
<td>$15,150.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>improvements, commercial</td>
<td>15,150.0</td>
<td>$15,150.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>improvements, non-producing</td>
<td>2,616.0</td>
<td>$2,616.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mineral reserves</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>$1,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>oil and gas (severed)</td>
<td>1,000.00</td>
<td>$1,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>oil and gas production</td>
<td>5,091.0</td>
<td>$5,091.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>producing livestock</td>
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<td>$1,000.00</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

PERSONAL PROPERTY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>industrial — equipment, furniture, etc.</td>
<td>$1,500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>industrial — machinery</td>
<td>$1,500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>farm machinery</td>
<td>$1,500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>household goods</td>
<td>$1,500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>commercial equipment, furniture, etc.</td>
<td>$6,500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>agricultural equipment</td>
<td>$6,500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>commercial merchandise</td>
<td>$6,500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>commercial freight</td>
<td>$6,500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>commercial supplies</td>
<td>$6,500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>personal property (farm)</td>
<td>$6,500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>personal property (non-farm)</td>
<td>$6,500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>livestock</td>
<td>$6,500.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CITIES AND TOWNS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>city of Cortez</td>
<td>$1,500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>town of Dolores</td>
<td>$1,500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>town of Montes</td>
<td>$1,500.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

VALUATIONS, LEVIES AND TAXES OF SCHOOL DISTRICTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>K-12 school district</td>
<td>$6,500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>old no. 1 bond</td>
<td>$6,500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>old no. 4 bond</td>
<td>$6,500.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TOTAL COUNTY                         | $6,500.00 |

MONTEZUMA COUNTY OFFICIALS

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
- Curtis Hasker, Clay Salse, Dave Ray

COUNTY CLERIC — Jean DeSear

COUNTY TRESORER — Russell Hindman

COUNTY SHERIFF — Bobby Hampton

COUNTY JUDGE — Hon. George P. Armstrong

DISTRICT JUDGE — Hon. William Rusk
Livestock in the county include cattle, sheep and horses. Major cultivated crops are pinto beans, wheat and hay.

*4. The Four Corners Power Plant, a coal-burning electrical generator designed to produce 2,085-megawatts of electrical energy, is located approximately 40 miles south of Yucca House near Shiprock, New Mexico. Additionally, a 360-megawatt generating plant is located adjacent to the Four Corners Power Plant with another 360-megawatt plant scheduled to be producing in 1978. Nitrogen oxides, fly ash and other suspended particulate matter can often be observed from the monument.

5. Considerable public recreation lands surround the monument. Northeast of the monument lies the Mancos Valley, to the north and northwest, the Montezuma Valley with views of the LaPlata and San Miguel Mountains (about 30 miles away), whose peaks tower over 14,000 feet. South of the monument is a portion of the great southwest desert. Yucca House is thus situated between extremely high mountains, only 30 miles to the north, and the desert, 25 miles to the south. In the San Juan National Forest, 30 miles northeast of Yucca House, substantial recreational facilities attract over 500,000 visitors to the 2,086,462-acre preserve, who camp, picnic, hunt, fish, ski, hike, and sightsee.

6. National Park Service areas in the vicinity of Yucca House National Monument include Mesa Verde National Park about 12 miles east and Hovenweep National Monument about 43 miles west. Aztec Ruins is about 68 miles southeast and Chaco Canyon is about 132 miles southeast. Canyonlands National Park, a scenic and geological area, is about 140 miles northwest. It contains sites and ruins of cultures similar to those at Mesa Verde. Arches National Park (135 miles distance) and Natural Bridges National Monument (138 miles away) are of considerable geological importance and possess great scenic appeal, while Canyon de Chelly (154 miles away) preserves outstanding Indian ruins, as well as present day Indian culture. Extensive water-oriented recreation activity occurs at Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, 285 miles west of Yucca House and at Curecanti National Recreation Area on Blue Mesa Reservoir, 100 miles northeast of the monument.

7. North and west of the monument and extending into Utah lie large acreages of national resource lands administered by the Bureau

*Amended 01/15/79

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of Land Management. These lands are managed for multiple use resource values, including open space, outdoor recreation, wildlife habitat, and domestic livestock grazing. Some of these natural resource lands contain great numbers of ruins from the same prehistoric culture that occupied the monument.

8. Approximately 110 miles southeast of the monument, on the San Juan River, is Navajo Reservoir; here the State of New Mexico manages Navajo Lake State Park. The Colorado Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation operates the water-based recreation site at Arboles, also on Navajo Reservoir 100 miles southeast of the monument.

Another reservoir/diversion project northeast of the monument is the Dolores Project. It would involve the diversion of water from the Dolores to the San Juan Basin. The project includes McPhee Reservoir on the Dolores River, the smaller monument Creek and Dawson Draw Reservoirs in the San Juan River Basin, and two major conveyance systems. An average of 126,000 acre-feet of water annually would be developed for the irrigation of 26,300 acres of supplemental service land and 35,360 acres of full service land, for municipal and industrial use, and for fish and wildlife enhancement. Part of the water would be provided for the Ute Indian and acquisition and development of land for wildlife. Snowmelt floods on the Dolores River would be controlled. A 9-year construction period is anticipated.

9. Population in the immediate vicinity of the park is sparse. Montezuma County had a population of 16,505 as of January 1, 1977. Nearly half of this population (8,000) resides in the City of Cortez. The population rose early in the 1960's in the Cortez area, stabilized, and subsequently experienced a decline since oil and mineral prospecting decreased. The Cortez population declined from 6,764 to 6,032 between 1960 and 1970. Population growth since 1970 is attributed to oil, gas, coal, and uranium exploration. Land around the monument is used mostly for grazing and dry farming.

Lands within and adjacent to the monument are not within a known oil or gas producing geological structure; however, there are several existing oil and gas leases on lands in the area. At the present time, Shell Oil Company is actively exploring an apparently rich CO₂ field in the McElmo Canyon area about 10 miles
northwest of the monument. In addition, Mobile Oil Company is exploring for uranium in the southwest portion of the Ute Mountain Ute Reservation south of Towaoc, Colorado. Anaconda Uranium and other fossil fuels industries are working in the Montelores area at the present time. These explorations are expected to continue for some time in the future. Currently there are no known metallic or non-metallic mineral resources of significant value on lands within or adjacent to Yucca House National Monument.


*11. The Ute Mountain Ute Indian Reservation, comprising 557,878 acres, contains many significant archeological sites, but is used primarily for ranching. These Indian lands are mostly undeveloped. With the exception of the Mancos Canyon access road and some minor range improvement, this area remains in a nearly natural state. Visitation to the lands and ruins by the general public is by reservation only. Proposed facilities include food, information and overnight accommodations.

*12. The Clean Air Act as amended in 1977 resulted in Yucca House National Monument being designated as a Class II area with regard to air quality.

C. Within Monument Influences

1. Public visitation to Yucca House National Monument is not encouraged. There are no road signs or directional signs indicating its location. A few visitors, numbering approximately 100 annually, seek out and visit the monument. The monument is enclosed by sheep fence.

*2. The long time rancher owning the lands surrounding the monument is now deceased. It is anticipated his spouse will be employed by the National Park Service as caretaker.

*Amended 01/15/79

SFM-5
3. The only government facilities at the monument consist of the boundary fence, a stile that provides access over the fence, a sign identifying the monument, and a visitor registration box.

4. Local residents have expressed mild interest in having the National Park Service develop Yucca House.

5. Since Yucca House has no stream, stream beds or wetlands, Executive Orders 11988 and 11990 have no applicability.

V. MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

Protection of Park Resources

Preserve and protect the monument's cultural and scientific resources from deterioration by either natural forces or human activities in such a manner as will preserve the original material and workmanship.

Operations

Revise the boundary of Yucca House National Monument in order to provide adequate land base for future access, administrative facilities, and improved management and protection of the resource and its setting.

*Amended 01/16/79
BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

Whereas there is in Montezuma County, Colorado, on the eastern slope of the Sleeping Ute Mountain an imposing pile of masonry of great archaeological value, relic of the prehistoric inhabitants of that part of the country; and

Whereas the ground on which said structure stands has been donated to the United States for the establishment of a national monument with a view to the preservation of said ruins, and such preservation is deemed to be in the public interest:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Woodrow Wilson, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the power and authority in me vested by section two of the act of Congress entitled "An Act for the Preservation of American Antiquities," approved June 8, 1906 (34 Stat., 225), do proclaim that there is hereby reserved and set apart as a national monument, to be known as the Yucca House National Monument, all that piece or parcel of land in the County of Montezuma, State of Colorado, shown upon the diagram hereto annexed and made a part hereof, and more particularly described as follows: Beginning at a point that bears south 46°45' east from the north quarter corner of section 35, township 35 north, range 17 west, New Mexico principal meridian, 1513 feet; thence south 600 feet; thence east 600 feet; thence south 300 feet; thence east 230 feet; thence north 100 feet; thence north 28°53' west 228.4 feet; thence west 719.7 feet to place of beginning, containing 10 acres, more or less.

Warning is hereby expressly given to all unauthorized persons not to appropriate, injure, destroy or remove any of the features or objects included within the boundaries of this Monument and not to locate or settle upon any of the lands thereof.

The Director of the National Park Service, under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior, shall have the supervision, management and control of this Monument, as provided in the Act of Congress entitled "An Act to establish a National Park Service, and for other purposes," approved August 25, 1916 (39 Stat., 535).

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done in the District of Columbia this 19th day of December in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and nineteen, and [seal] of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred and forty-fourth.

Woodrow Wilson.

By the President:
ROBERT LANSING,
Secretary of State.
YUCCA HOUSE
NATIONAL MONUMENT

T.35N., R.17W., N.M.P.M.

N.E. 1/4 of Sec.35

National Monument Boundary

YUCCA HOUSE
NATIONAL MONUMENT