



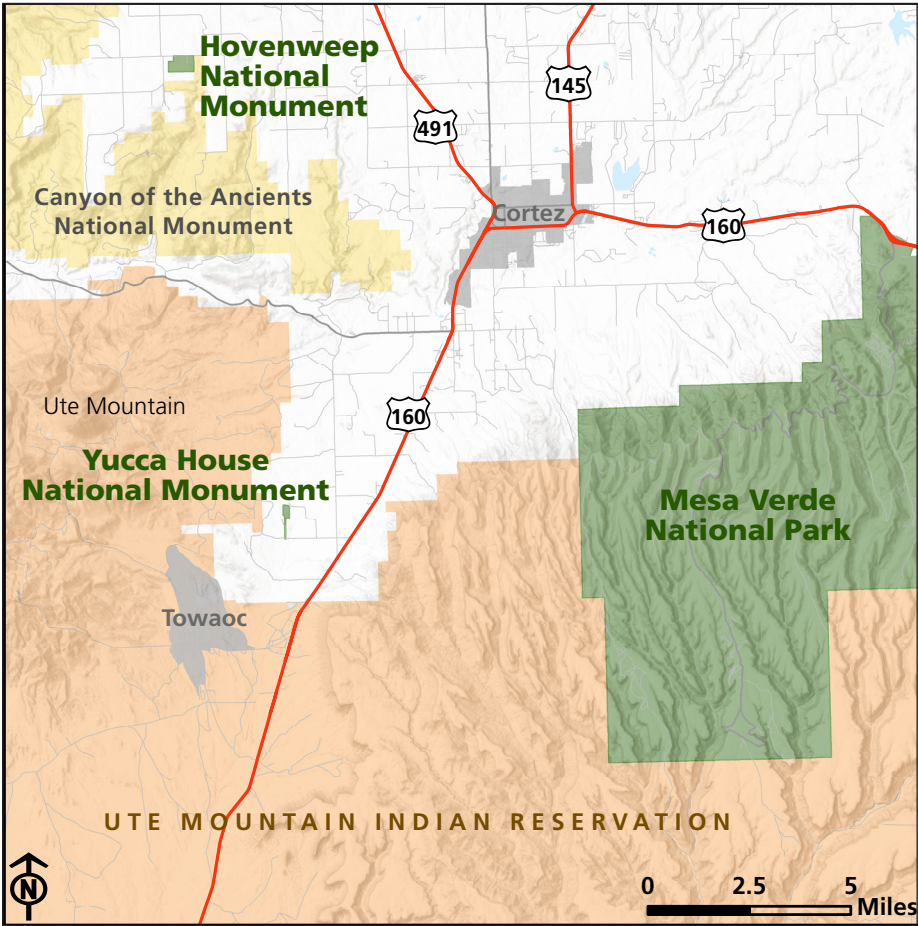
Foundation Document

Yucca House National Monument

Colorado

October 2015





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Mission of the National Park Service

The National Park Service (NPS) preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the national park system for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations. The National Park Service cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world.

The NPS core values are a framework in which the National Park Service accomplishes its mission. They express the manner in which, both individually and collectively, the National Park Service pursues its mission. The NPS core values are:

- **Shared stewardship:** We share a commitment to resource stewardship with the global preservation community.
- **Excellence:** We strive continually to learn and improve so that we may achieve the highest ideals of public service.
- **Integrity:** We deal honestly and fairly with the public and one another.
- **Tradition:** We are proud of it; we learn from it; we are not bound by it.
- **Respect:** We embrace each other's differences so that we may enrich the well-being of everyone.

The National Park Service is a bureau within the Department of the Interior. While numerous national park system units were created prior to 1916, it was not until August 25, 1916, that President Woodrow Wilson signed the National Park Service Organic Act formally establishing the National Park Service.

The national park system continues to grow and comprises more than 400 park units covering more than 84 million acres in every state, the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. These units include, but are not limited to, national parks, monuments, battlefields, military parks, historical parks, historic sites, lakeshores, seashores, recreation areas, scenic rivers and trails, and the White House. The variety and diversity of park units throughout the nation require a strong commitment to resource stewardship and management to ensure both the protection and enjoyment of these resources for future generations.



The arrowhead was authorized as the official National Park Service emblem by the Secretary of the Interior on July 20, 1951. The sequoia tree and bison represent vegetation and wildlife, the mountains and water represent scenic and recreational values, and the arrowhead represents historical and archeological values.

Introduction

Every unit of the national park system will have a foundational document to provide basic guidance for planning and management decisions—a foundation for planning and management. The core components of a foundation document include a brief description of the park as well as the park’s purpose, significance, fundamental resources and values, other important resources and values, and interpretive themes. The foundation document also includes special mandates and administrative commitments, an assessment of planning and data needs that identifies planning issues, planning products to be developed, and the associated studies and data required for park planning. Along with the core components, the assessment provides a focus for park planning activities and establishes a baseline from which planning documents are developed.

A primary benefit of developing a foundation document is the opportunity to integrate and coordinate all kinds and levels of planning from a single, shared understanding of what is most important about the park. The process of developing a foundation document begins with gathering and integrating information about the park. Next, this information is refined and focused to determine what the most important attributes of the park are. The process of preparing a foundation document aids park managers, staff, and the public in identifying and clearly stating in one document the essential information that is necessary for park management to consider when determining future planning efforts, outlining key planning issues, and protecting resources and values that are integral to park purpose and identity.

While not included in this document, a park atlas is also part of a foundation project. The atlas is a series of maps compiled from available geographic information system (GIS) data on natural and cultural resources, visitor use patterns, facilities, and other topics. It serves as a GIS-based support tool for planning and park operations. The atlas is published as a (hard copy) paper product and as geospatial data for use in a web mapping environment. The park atlas for Yucca House National Monument can be accessed online at: <http://insideparkatlas.nps.gov/>.



Part 1: Core Components

The core components of a foundation document include a brief description of the park, park purpose, significance statements, fundamental resources and values, other important resources and values, and interpretive themes. These components are core because they typically do not change over time. Core components are expected to be used in future planning and management efforts.

Brief Description of the Park

Yucca House National Monument is a prehistoric ruin generally referred to as “valley pueblo” located on the eastern slope of Sleeping Ute Mountain in Montezuma County, southwestern Colorado.

Archeologists classify Yucca House as belonging to the Classic or Great Pueblo Stage of the Mesa Verde Branch of the Ancestral Pueblo Cultural Tradition. Site chronology includes an initial occupation ranging from AD 1050–1150 followed by a later occupation from AD 1225–1300. Overall, Yucca House is composed of a multistory masonry pueblo that includes a well-preserved Great House, multiple towers in small plazas, a bi-wall structure, a significant number of kivas, and a well-delineated ceremonial plaza containing a great kiva, partially enclosed by an imposing wall just to the north.

Because of the size of Yucca House and the physiographic location at the southern end of Montezuma Valley, archeologists and historians surmise the site played an important role along a trade route of undetermined extent. It likely connected large and small centers throughout the Colorado Plateau with the large and small villages in the Montezuma Valley and is considered to be the “gateway” to Montezuma Valley. The site offers unparalleled potential to add significant information to the understanding of the interactions among three major groups of the Ancestral Pueblo—the Mesa Verde, Chaco, and Kayenta branches.

Because of its significance as an excellent example of a valley pueblo, Yucca House was made a national monument by a Presidential Proclamation of Woodrow Wilson on December 18, 1919. In 1996, a 24-acre parcel of land owned by Ms. Hallie Ismay since 1948 was donated to the monument for the purposes of including important portions of the Yucca House archeological site and providing areas for potential visitor access and services. The 33.6-acre monument is managed by the staff of nearby Mesa Verde National Park. The National Park Service allows the public to visit Yucca House National Monument freely and independently.



Park Purpose

The purpose statement identifies the specific reason(s) for establishment of a particular park unit. The purpose statement for Yucca House National Monument was drafted through a careful analysis of its enabling legislation and the legislative history that influenced its development. The monument was established when the enabling legislation was signed into law by Executive Order on December 18th, 1919 (see appendix A for enabling legislation and subsequent amendments). The purpose statement lays the foundation for understanding what is most important about the monument. The purpose is:

YUCCA HOUSE NATIONAL MONUMENT preserves an unexcavated 13th century Ancestral Pueblo community center of the Montezuma Valley in southwest Colorado that offers opportunities for archeological research and interpretation.



Park Significance

Significance statements express why a park's resources and values are important enough to merit designation as a unit of the national park system. These statements are linked to the purpose of Yucca House National Monument, and are supported by data, research, and consensus. Statements of significance describe the distinctive nature of the park and why an area is important within a global, national, regional, and systemwide context. They focus on the most important resources and values that will assist in park planning and management.

The following significance statements have been identified for Yucca House National Monument. (Please note that the sequence of the statements do not reflect the level of significance.)

1. Existing archeological models and technology, combined with the unexcavated state of Yucca House National Monument, provides uncommon opportunities for investigating and interpreting social dynamics, hierarchy, ceremonial spaces, and migrations of the 13th century Ancestral Pueblo community.
2. Yucca House is an example of a valley Ancestral Pueblo community center that includes a distinctive mix of architectural features suggesting different groups occupied the same site contemporaneously.

Fundamental Resources and Values

Fundamental resources and values (FRVs) are those features, systems, processes, experiences, stories, scenes, sounds, smells, or other attributes determined to warrant primary consideration during planning and management processes because they are essential to achieving the purpose of the park and maintaining its significance. Fundamental resources and values are closely related to a park's legislative purpose and are more specific than significance statements.

Fundamental resources and values help focus planning and management efforts on what is truly significant about the park. One of the most important responsibilities of NPS managers is to ensure the conservation and public enjoyment of those qualities that are essential (fundamental) to achieving the purpose of the park and maintaining its significance. If fundamental resources and values are allowed to deteriorate, the park purpose and/or significance could be jeopardized.

The following fundamental resources and values have been identified for Yucca House National Monument:

- **Yucca House Archeological Landscape** – The central component of the Yucca House archeological landscape consists of an Ancestral Pueblo village or community center exhibiting a Chacoan great house (Upper House), kiva with enclosing plaza (Lower House) and associated structures and features. Other important contributing features of the archeological landscape include the site's physiographic location on the Montezuma Valley floor, expansive 360-degree views, proximity to the primary routes of north/south travel (i.e., trails), and the springs and other significant water resources that supported the community.
- **Research Values of Yucca House** – Because Yucca House remains largely unexcavated, the site holds outstanding potential to answer key questions regarding the development of communities that lived in the Montezuma Valley and the broader Four Corners region. Further research at the site may also illuminate the relationship of Yucca House with other contemporary sites in the region.

Other Important Resources and Values

Yucca House National Monument contains other resources and values that are not fundamental to the purpose of the park 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” (OIRV). These resources and values have been selected because they are important in the operation and management of the park and warrant special consideration in park planning.

The following other important resources and values have been identified for Yucca House National Monument:

- **Yucca House Museum Collections and Archives** – The Yucca House National Monument museum collection totals 32 cataloged records. The archeological collection consists of prehistoric artifacts (ca. AD 500–1275) related to the Ancestral Pueblo occupation including potsherds, corn cobs, stone tools, and stone pendants. The natural history collections include 70 paleontological specimens and entomological specimens curated at Mesa Verde National Park and other nonfederal repositories. The park archival records consist of approximately 6 linear feet and record the efforts to establish the monument and manage the cultural and natural resources. Combined, these are primary resources of information essential for park planning, resource management, research, interpretation, and education programs.
- **Scenic Views** – While the view of the surrounding landscape and night skies from Yucca House National Monument is visually impressive in and of itself, it also provides key opportunities to interpret the prehistoric regional context from varying perspectives.
- **Natural Resources** – Yucca House National Monument is home to a range of ecotypes including wetlands (supported by the Aztec Spring), pinyon-juniper woodland, and sage and upland grassland areas that fit into a broader ecosystem. With few exceptions, the valley pueblos/community centers all relied on water sources within diverse landscapes. These resources provided a moderately resilient landscape capable of sustaining agriculture and the lifeways of the Ancestral Pueblo.
- **Tribal Significance** – Yucca House National Monument archeological site and the surrounding natural landscape continues to serve as an important culturally significant site for many southwestern tribes. Please see appendix D for a list of American Indian tribes (as listed in the *Federal Register*) that have traditional associations with Yucca House National Monument.



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 park significance statements and fundamental and other important resources and values.

Interpretive themes are an organizational tool that reveal and clarify meaning, concepts, contexts, and values represented by park resources. Sound themes are accurate and reflect current scholarship and science. They encourage exploration of the context in which events or natural processes occurred and the effects of those events and processes. Interpretive themes go beyond a mere description of the event or process to foster multiple opportunities to experience and consider the park and its resources. These themes help explain why a park story is relevant to people who may otherwise be unaware of connections they have to an event, time, or place associated with the park.

The following interpretive themes have been identified for Yucca House National Monument:

- **Yucca House in the Context of a Broader Archeological Region.** Archeological evidence and the site's strategic location suggest the builders of Yucca House maintained vibrant links to contemporary communities throughout the region.
- **Yucca House Provides Insights into Social Hierarchy and Structure.** The building materials and distinctive architectural features of Yucca House reveal the ingenuity and artistry of the Ancestral Pueblo—offering insights into social hierarchy and structure.
- **Fertile Field for Future Investigation.** Yucca House may hold the keys to many unanswered questions surrounding the tumultuous 13th century in the Montezuma Valley. Investigative techniques of today and the future may offer glimpses into that era.
- **Yucca House Exemplifies the Importance of Private Stewardship.** The vision of local landowners helped Yucca House become a national monument in 1919 and retain its integrity, providing an early example of private stewardship for nationally significant resources—actions from which we all benefit.
- **Living in an Arid Environment.** The Aztec Spring on the Yucca House site provided a reliable water source, which contributed to the success of the prehistoric community and continues to be a valuable water source for local and migrating wildlife, exemplifying the importance of a stable water source shared by all living things.



Part 2: Dynamic Components

The dynamic components of a foundation document include special mandates and administrative commitments and an assessment of planning and data needs. These components are dynamic because they will change over time. New special mandates can be established and new administrative commitments made. As conditions and trends of fundamental and other important resources and values change over time, the analysis of planning and data needs will need to be revisited and revised, along with key issues. Therefore, this part of the foundation document will be updated accordingly.

Special Mandates and Administrative Commitments

Many management decisions for a park unit are directed or influenced by special mandates and administrative commitments with other federal agencies, state and local governments, utility companies, partnering organizations, and other entities. Special mandates are requirements specific to a park that must be fulfilled. Mandates can be expressed in enabling legislation, in separate legislation following the establishment of the park, or through a judicial process. They may expand on park purpose or introduce elements unrelated to the purpose of the park. Administrative commitments are, in general, agreements that have been reached through formal, documented processes, often through memorandums of agreement. Examples include easements, rights-of-way, arrangements for emergency service responses, etc. Special mandates and administrative commitments can support, in many cases, a network of partnerships that help fulfill the objectives of the park and facilitate working relationships with other organizations. They are an essential component of managing and planning for Yucca House National Monument.

Special Mandates

Yucca House National Monument has no special mandates.

Administrative Commitments

For the inventory of existing administrative commitments and special designations for Yucca House National Monument, please see appendix C.

Assessment of Planning and Data Needs

Once the core components of part 1 of the foundation document have been identified, it is important to gather and evaluate existing information about the park's fundamental and other important resources and values, and develop a full assessment of the park's planning and data needs. The assessment of planning and data needs section presents planning issues, the planning projects that will address these issues, and the associated information requirements for planning, such as resource inventories and data collection, including GIS data.

There are three sections in the assessment of planning and data needs:

1. analysis of fundamental and other important resources and values
2. identification of key issues and associated planning and data needs
3. identification of planning and data needs (including spatial mapping activities or GIS maps)

The analysis of fundamental and other important resources and values and identification of key issues leads up to and supports the identification of planning and data collection needs.



Analysis of Fundamental Resources and Values

The fundamental resource or value analysis table includes current conditions, potential threats and opportunities, planning and data needs, and selected laws and NPS policies related to management of the identified resource or value. Please see appendix B for the analysis tables for Yucca House National Monument fundamental resources and values and other important resources and values.

Identification of Key Issues and Associated Planning and Data Needs

This section considers key issues to be addressed in planning and management and therefore takes a broader view over the primary focus of part 1. A key issue focuses on a question that is important for a park. Key issues often raise questions regarding park purpose and significance and fundamental and other important resources and values. For example, a key issue may pertain to the potential for a fundamental resource or value in a park to be detrimentally affected by discretionary management decisions. A key issue may also address crucial questions not directly related to purpose and significance, but still indirectly affects them. Usually, a key issue is one that a future planning effort or data collection needs to address and requires a decision by NPS managers.

The following are key issues for Yucca House National Monument and the associated planning and data needs to address them:

- **Administrative and Visitor Access.** The existing county road that provides access to the monument does not have signs that identify it as a county or public road. The road traverses private property resulting in a confusing situation for visitors since “no trespassing” signs are posted on the adjoining private property. On arrival to the monument, parking is limited to only several car spaces along the road shoulder, which is in proximity to the residence and out buildings of an adjoining ranch. Alternatives to the present road access to and parking at the monument are needed to clarify administrative access and eliminate visitor confusion.

Associated Planning Needs: Site development concept plan and environmental assessment

Associated Data Needs: Comprehensive visitation study

- **Developments and Uses Adjacent to the Monument.** The monument is bordered entirely by private lands that are used primarily for agricultural purposes including forage and grain production and livestock grazing and ranching. However, residential and other developments are increasing in Montezuma Valley. Private developments and management practices may affect soil erosion, water quantity and quality, scenic views, the acoustic environment, air quality, night sky, cultural resources, the composition of native plant and animal communities, and wildlife migration/habitat corridors within monument boundaries. A plan is needed to address these developments and uses to ensure monument resources are protected.

Associated Planning Need: Land protection plan

- **Minimal Visitor Services and Programming.** Visitor services and interpretive programming at the monument are minimal. There is a visitor register, entrance sign, gate, and fence that identify the monument for visitors, but after passing through the gate there is little other than the existing social trails to aid in navigating the landscape and there is no explanation or interpretation of the monument's resources. The absence of wayfinding and interpretation limits visitor understanding and appreciation. Planning is needed to establish visitor experience goals, identify fundamental visitor experience opportunities, and begin to address a variety of needs with respect to visitor services, supporting infrastructure and facility improvements, wayfinding, and interpretive programming. Yucca House provides an ideal opportunity to use digital technology to enhance the interpretation of complex archeological data. This information could include maps of surface structures and features, site chronology, types of structures/features, conjectural reconstructions of major occupational phases, and the range of conservation concerns. Fully operational, this approach would allow a visitor to "design" their own digital exploration(s) of Yucca House National Monument.

Associated Planning Needs: Site development concept plan and environmental assessment; long-range interpretive plan

Associated Data Needs: Comprehensive visitation study

- **Untapped Research Potential.** While the research potential of Yucca House National Monument is undeniably significant, any proposal to excavate portions of the site would require conservation planning and management. The site lacks an assessment of heritage and tribal values, a research design embedded within the regional context, a comprehensive inventory of extant museum collections along with protocols for collection of new material, and precise guidelines regarding the use of invasive and noninvasive field methods. Equally important is the immediate need to stabilize site surfaces/structures and delineate a visitor trail through the monument. This effort would also entail considerable research and experimentation to select the most suitable methods for accomplishing the task.

Associated Planning Needs: Archeological site conservation plan; updated scope of collections statement

Associated Data Needs: Light detection and ranging (LIDAR) data and coincident high resolution, multispectral imagery; addendum or update to the ethnographic overview and assessment; integrate archeological data from Crow Canyon Archaeological Center with monument databases; develop predictive models to assist in preparation of an archeological site conservation plan and on-site preservation efforts; process archival collection and produce a finding aid

- **Site Stewardship.** At present, the National Park Service does not have a permanent on-site staff presence at the monument, although NPS personnel regularly visit the monument. In the past, an adjacent landowner volunteered as the site steward. This example of private stewardship was successful and the desire is to continue to foster this type of stewardship at the monument. An opportunity exists to encourage private citizen involvement and stewardship of the monument.

Associated Planning Need: Park partner action strategy

Planning and Data Needs

To maintain connection to the core elements of the foundation and the importance of these core foundation elements, the planning and data needs listed here are directly related to protecting fundamental resources and values, monument significance, and purpose, as well as addressing key issues. To successfully undertake a planning effort, information from sources such as inventories, studies, research activities, and analyses may be required to provide adequate knowledge of monument resources and visitor information. Such information sources have been identified as data needs. Geospatial mapping tasks and products are included in data needs.

Items considered of the utmost importance were identified as high priority, and other items identified, but not rising to the level of high priority, were listed as either medium or low priority needs. These priorities inform monument management efforts to secure funding and support for planning projects.

Planning Needs – Where a Decision-Making Process is Needed			
Related FRV or OIRV	Planning Needs	Priority (H, M, L)	Rationale and Need for Priority
Archeological Landscape, Research Values	Site development concept plan and environmental assessment	H	To define and analyze a range of alternatives for development of the infrastructure and facilities necessary to protect monument resources, inform visitor use planning, support future visitor services and programming, and address administrative and public access options to the monument. This plan would identify best management practices for trail design and maintenance.
Archeological Landscape, Research Values, Scenic Views, Natural Resources	Archeological site conservation plan	H	To effectively design and implement comprehensive site management. This would include a long-range conservation strategy based on a condition assessment and analysis of site formation processes, alternative visitation models, facility requirements, research design, funding strategy, and decision-making framework for all management actions.
Natural Resources	Land protection plan	H	To define and develop strategies to address developments and uses adjacent to the monument.
Scenic Views	Site-specific invasive plant/animal management strategy	H	To define and develop site specific strategies to address invasive plants and animals that exist in or may enter the monument.
Archeological Landscape, Research Values	Long-range interpretive plan for Yucca House	M	To define future visitor services and programming.
Parkwide	Park partner action strategy	M	To define partnership and stewardship opportunities with a variety of entities including private citizens.
Archeological Landscape, Research Values	Ethnographic program strategy	M	To consult about the significance of Yucca House to the 26 tribal communities that claim cultural affiliation or traditional association. Free prior and informed consent would occur before conducting research with tribes or tribal members.
Scenic Views	Resource stewardship strategy	M	To provide a 20-year plan for the monument to achieve the desired cultural and natural resource conditions.

Planning Needs – Where a Decision-Making Process is Needed			
Related FRV or OIRV	Planning Needs	Priority (H, M, L)	Rationale and Need for Priority
Archeological Landscape, Research Values	Updated scope of collections statement	L	To define the scope of the monument's present and future museum collections. The current scope of collections statement was completed in 1986 and is not current. Policy requires review and update of the scope of collections statements every five years at a minimum.
Scenic Views, Natural Resources	Climate change adaptation strategy	L	To understand the range of potential climate futures for the national monument and associated vulnerability of priority resources and values and defining a range of appropriate climate change adaptation strategies to implement.
Archeological Landscape, Research Values	Climate change vulnerability assessment	L	To provide the degree to which resource(s) or system(s) are susceptible to the adverse effects from a changing climate.

Data Needs – Where Information Is Needed Before Decisions Can Be Made			
Related FRV or OIRV?	Data and GIS Needs	Priority (H,M,L)	Rationale, Including Which Planning Need This Data Need Relates To
Archeological Landscape, Research Values	Integrate archeological data from Crow Canyon Archaeological Center into monument resource databases	H	Augment the data and information contained in the existing monument cultural resource databases. These data support the site development concept plan, archeological site conservation plan, and resource stewardship strategy.
Archeological Landscape, Research Values	Conduct archeological inventory and condition assessment of entire monument	H	Provide a current and comprehensive inventory and condition assessment for the entire monument to determine relative vulnerability of archeological resources to existing and new agents of deterioration. These data support the site development concept plan, archeological site conservation plan, and resource stewardship strategy.
Parkwide	Comprehensive visitation study	H	Information on visitor use patterns would inform the development concept plan, including trail development at the site.
Archeological Landscape, Research Values, Natural Resources	LIDAR data and coincident high resolution, multispectral imagery	M	Provide baseline topographic data and imagery needed for improved analysis and modeling. These data support all planning needs.
Tribal Significance	Addendum or update to the ethnographic overview and assessment	M	Augment the data and information for the monument contained in the existing ethnographic overview and assessment. These data support all planning needs.
Archeological Landscape, Research Values, Museum Collection	Process Yucca House archives and produce a finding aid	M	Improve access and use of this information in management of the monument. These data support the site development concept plan, archeological site conservation plan, and resource stewardship strategy.

Data Needs – Where Information Is Needed Before Decisions Can Be Made			
Related FRV or OIRV?	Data and GIS Needs	Priority (H,M,L)	Rationale, Including Which Planning Need This Data Need Relates To
Archeological Landscape, Research Values, Museum Collection	Scanning and digitizing the Yucca House photograph collection	M	Improve access and use of this information in management of the monument. These data support the site development concept plan, archeological site conservation plan, and resource stewardship strategy.
Archeological Landscape, Research Values	Develop predictive models to assist in development of archeological site conservation methods and on-site preservation efforts	M	Develop models to examine a variety of conservation and preservation methods or techniques to assist with planning and implementation of preservation activities. These data support the site development concept plan, archeological site conservation plan, and resource stewardship strategy.
Natural Resources	Hydrology study	M	Provide data on the underlying aquifer and surrounding surface and subsurface hydrology to augment the subsurface hydrologic study completed in 2006. Further analysis of Aztec Spring's viability for public use and the water rights associated with the springs in the monument is also needed. These data support all planning needs.
Scenic Views, Natural Resources	Visual resource inventory and viewshed analysis study	M	Inventory visual resources, establish baseline viewshed conditions, and determine historic/cultural visual values. These data support the site development concept plan, archeological site conservation plan, resource stewardship strategy, land protection plan, and climate change adaption strategy.
All FRVs and OIRVs	Collection of continuous weather data from long-term sites	L	The collection of continuous weather data (temperature and precipitation at a minimum) from existing long-term stations (or evaluating weather summaries for the region from credible sources on a scheduled frequency) will assist in validating regional climate change projections. To provide the key monitoring data to develop alternative models to examine short- and long-term resilience of FRVs and OIRVs. These data support all planning needs.
Natural Resources	Acoustic study	L	This study will determine baseline acoustic data and establish trends.
Natural Resources	Monitoring of air quality and air quality resource values	L	Monitoring would include special studies to examine nitrogen pollution dose-response relationships in sensitive ecosystems (e.g., shrublands, grasslands) and studies that assess air pollutant effects in ecosystems.

Part 3: Contributors

Yucca House National Monument

Cliff Spencer, Superintendent
Bill Nelligan, Deputy Superintendent
Allan Loy, Project Manager – Planning and GIS
Carol Sperling, Chief of Interpretation and Visitor Services
Tara Travis, Curator – Ethnohistorian
Scott Travis, Chief of Research – Resource Management
Frank Cope, Facility Manager
Jessie Farias, Chief of Resources and Visitor Protection
Sue Johnson-Erner, Concessions Management Specialist
Betty Lieurance, Management Specialist

NPS Intermountain Region

Wendy Berhman, Regional Liaison – Planning Division and Planner, WASO Park Planning and Special Studies
Erica Cole, Primary Regional Liaison – Planning Division
Michele D’Arcy, Regional Liaison – Planning Division

NPS Denver Service Center

Carrie Miller, Project Manager – DSC Planning
Brenda Todd, Project Specialist – DSC Planning
Scott Babcock, Project Specialist – DSC Planning
Kelly Donahue, Project Specialist – DSC Planning
John Paul Jones, Visual Information Specialist – DSC Planning
Laura Pernice, GIS Specialist – DSC Planning
Rebecca Corning, Contract Librarian – DSC Planning
Pam Holtman, Quality Control and Quality Assurance (WASO Park Planning and Special Studies Program)
Nancy Shock, Foundation Coordinator – DSC Planning
Tabitha Carver-Roberts, Contract Editor – DSC Planning
Wanda Gray Lafferty, Contract Editor – DSC Planning

Appendixes

Appendix A: Enabling Legislation and Legislative Acts for Yucca House National Monument

ENABLING LEGISLATION AND LEGISLATIVE ACTS FOR YUCCA HOUSE NATIONAL MONUMENT

Presidential Proclamation creating Yucca House National Monument, December 19, 1919

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

December 19, 1919.

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

Yucca House National Monument, Colo. Preamble.

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 north 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.

National Monument, Colorado. Vol. 34, p. 225.

Description.

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.

Reserved from settlement, etc.

The Director of the National Park Service, under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior, shall have the supervision, management

Supervision, etc., by Director of National Park Service.

PUBLIC LAW 104-333—NOV. 12, 1996

110 STAT. 4105

TITLE II—BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS AND CONVEYANCES

SEC. 201. YUCCA HOUSE NATIONAL MONUMENT BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The boundaries of Yucca House National Monument are revised to include the approximately 24.27 acres of land generally depicted on the map entitled "Boundary—Yucca House National Monument, Colorado", numbered 318/80,001-B, and dated February 1990.

(b) MAP.—The map referred to in subsection (a) shall be on file and available for public inspection in appropriate offices of the National Park Service of the Department of the Interior.

(c) ACQUISITION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Within the lands described in subsection (a), the Secretary of the Interior may acquire lands and interests in lands by donation.

(2) The Secretary of the Interior may pay administrative costs arising out of any donation described in paragraph (1) with appropriated funds.



Appendix B: Analysis of Fundamental Resources and Values and Other Important Resources and Values

Fundamental Resource or Value	Yucca House Archeological Landscape
Related Significance Statements	<p>Yucca House is an example of a valley Ancestral Pueblo community center that includes a distinctive mix of architectural features suggesting different groups occupied the same site contemporaneously.</p>
Current Conditions and Trends	<p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Overall, Yucca House National Monument is in fair condition. Localized variability based on character of resource, location, slope, and stability of underlying strata, size of rodent populations, vegetation cover, and proximity to visitor access routes is evident throughout the site. The site is essentially a “self-stabilized rubble mound” that has sustained a long history of exploration and visitation.• Although not substantially impacting Yucca House National Monument at present, generalized sheet wash and erosion channels have displaced surface and buried artifacts, some structural remains, and stratified site deposits. Vegetation cover has both retarded and accelerated this process throughout the site.• Standing structural walls are in poor to fair condition, with the greatest concern focused on the upper great house and lower great kiva. Exposure to a wide range of site formation processes has resulted in significant loss of integrity. A similar situation exists in those areas that have been disturbed by excavation and ineffective stabilization.• Surface artifact assemblage is somewhat intact, but significantly reduced/ altered by collection and compaction due to livestock grazing and visitation. <p>Trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Although Yucca House National Monument is generally stable, it remains susceptible to the processes noted above. In particular, walls of the upper structure and surrounding kivas, a large bi-wall structure, and the lower plaza great kiva exhibit signs of moderate deterioration due to cumulative effects.• Existing patterns of site formation may change due to increased visitation, climatic variability, and implementation of a comprehensive site conservation plan.

Fundamental Resource or Value	Yucca House Archeological Landscape
Threats and Opportunities	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing impacts from visitors walking throughout the site (e.g., compaction, erosion, degradation of walls of Upper House, etc.). • There are a host of invasive weed species, e.g., Russian knapweed. The spread of these species may lead to the displacement of structural features in specific locations. • There are Illegal hunters accessing the site using an off-road vehicle (ORV). This is known to have occurred on at least one occasion. • Illegal collection of surface artifacts. • If and when the fence breaks, livestock will enter the site. • Erosion of any exposed adobe walls. • The springs could dry up, and the National Park Service does not own water rights. • There are proposals for potential future development on land adjacent to the monument (subdivision of adjacent land). • There are burrowing animals that are disturbing and impacting the structures and subsurface remains. • Climate change projected for the region includes increase in average annual temperature, the number of days of extreme temperature (>95°F), and extreme precipitation events. These changes in climate could impact the Yucca House archeological landscape (e.g., accelerated erosion, increase in invasive species, increase in wildfires, decrease in local aquifer water levels/spring flows). <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop partnerships with research institutions. • Develop working relationships with interpretive partners (other local partners, Canyons of the Ancients National Monument, Chaco Culture National Historical Park, Aztec Ruins National Monument, etc.). • Identify volunteers to serve as site stewards (check for damage, vandalism, etc.). • Continue to foster relationships to engage the tribes. • Continue to foster relationships to engage neighboring landowners. • Explore monument access issues by working with Montezuma County.
Existing Data and Plans Related to the FRV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yucca House scope of collections statement. • Archeological research management plan. • Invasive plant management plan (underway). • Fire management plan (underway).
Data and/or GIS Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LIDAR data and coincident high resolution, multispectral imagery. • Process Yucca House National Monument archives (includes developing a finding aid). • Scanning and digitizing Yucca House National Monument photograph collection. • Conduct archeological inventory and condition assessment of entire monument to determine relative vulnerability of resources to existing and new agents of deterioration. • Integrate archeological data from Crow Canyon Archaeological Center into monument resources databases. • Develop predictive models to assist in preparation of an archeological site conservation plan and on-site preservation efforts. • Climate change vulnerability assessment for select resources. • Collection of continuous weather data from long-term sites. • Park partner action strategy.

Fundamental Resource or Value	Yucca House Archeological Landscape
Planning Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A long-range interpretive plan/strategy for Yucca House National Monument (include digital media strategy component). • Site development concept plan and environmental assessment. • An archeological site conservation plan to help establish research objectives. • An updated scope of collections statement (would help determine future collections and storage strategies). • Park partner action strategy to address partnering opportunities. • Ethnographic program strategy.
Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV and NPS Policy-level Guidance	<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (16 USC 470) • Advisory Council on Historic Preservation regulations regarding Protection of Historic Properties (36 CFR 800) • Curation of Federally-Owned and Administered Archaeological Collections (36 CFR 79) • Archeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974 • Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 • American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978 • Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 • Executive Order 13175, "Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments" • Department of the Interior Policy on Consultation with Indian Tribes • Executive Order 11593, "Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment" • Executive Order 13423, "Federal Leadership in Environmental, Energy, and Economic Performance" • Secretarial Order 3289, "Addressing the Impacts of Climate Change on America's Water, Land and Other Natural and Cultural Resources" <p>NPS Policy-level Guidance (NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> and Director's Orders)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director's Order 28: <i>Cultural Resource Management</i> • Director's Order 28A: <i>Archeology</i> • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 5.3.5.1 Archeological Resources - 5.3.5.1.6 Earthworks • Programmatic Agreement among the National Park Service, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers (2008) • <i>The Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation</i>

Fundamental Resource or Value	Research Values of Yucca House
Related Significance Statements	Existing archeological models and technology, combined with the unexcavated state of Yucca House, provides uncommon opportunities for investigating and interpreting social dynamics, hierarchy, ceremonial spaces, and migrations of the 13th century Ancestral Pueblo community.
Current Conditions and Trends	<p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recent field studies focused on Yucca House National Monument have provided a foundation for further research by compiling all known site data, completing enhanced maps with provenience designations, and the collection of subsurface data using noninvasive remote sensing technology. This information, when combined with extensive comparative data from throughout the Upper San Juan region and compelling research questions derived from nearly 40 years of archeological field studies, provides an effective platform for focused research at Yucca House National Monument. <p>Trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued public and institutional support is expected. The monument has the capacity to carry out substantial archeological and conservation investigations in conjunction with partners including Crow Canyon Archaeological Center and University of Pennsylvania Western Preservation Institute. The monument also has the capacity to properly store and care for any collections and associated archives at the new Mesa Verde National Park Visitor and Research Center.
Threats and Opportunities	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Threats to research potential may emerge due to changes in the character, rate, and magnitude of factors adversely affecting everything from surface artifact assemblages to deeply buried archeological deposits and structural remains. Direct impacts to archeological resources could seriously compromise or destroy the research potential of Yucca House National Monument. <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Threats may be mitigated by carrying out parallel research focused on conservation of archeological sites and landscapes, e.g., combining an understanding of archeological site formation process and methods designed to collect and analyze fragmentary archeological data. The monument has a number of potential partners—Crow Canyon Archaeological Center, University of Pennsylvania Western Preservation Institute, and the Colorado State Historic Fund—capable of providing sources for archeological, conservation, and funding support.
Existing Data and Plans Related to the FRV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Archeological field data from observations, maps, drawings, photographs, surface collections, and limited excavations have resulted in a number of reports detailing the character and condition of Yucca House over the last 130 years. The most recent study, carried out in 2006, provides the most comprehensive investigation of Yucca House National Monument to date.
Data and/or GIS Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct archeological inventory and condition assessment of entire monument LIDAR data and coincident high resolution, multispectral imagery. Process the Yucca House National Monument archives (includes developing a finding aid). Scanning and digitizing Yucca House National Monument photograph collection. Integrate archeological data from Crow Canyon Archaeological Center into monument resources databases.

Fundamental Resource or Value	Research Values of Yucca House
Planning Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long-range interpretive plan / strategy for Yucca House National Monument. • Site development concept plan and environmental assessment. • Archeological site conservation plan. • Updated scope of collections statement. • Park partner action strategy.
Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV and NPS Policy-level Guidance	<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (16 USC 470) • Advisory Council on Historic Preservation regulations regarding protection of historic properties (36 CFR 800) • Curation of Federally-Owned and Administered Archaeological Collections (36 CFR 79) • Archeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974 • Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 • American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978 • Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 • Executive Order 11593, "Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment" • Executive Order 13423, "Federal Leadership in Environmental, Energy, and Economic Performance" • Executive Order 13175, "Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments" • Department of the Interior Policy on Consultation with Indian Tribes <p>NPS Policy-level Guidance (NPS Management Policies 2006 and Director's Orders)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director's Order 28: <i>Cultural Resource Management</i> • Director's Order 28A: <i>Archeology</i> • NPS Management Policies 2006 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 5.3.5.1 Archeological Resources - 5.3.5.1.6 Earthworks • Programmatic Agreement among the National Park Service, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers (2008) • <i>The Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation</i>

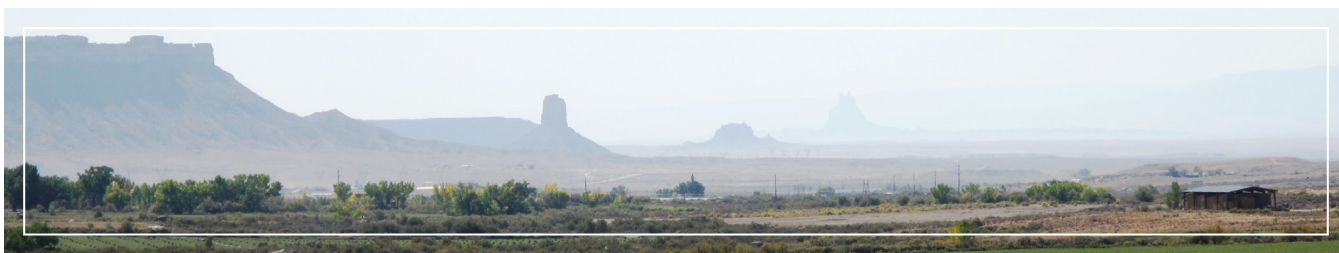


Analysis of Other Important Resources and Values

Other Important Resource or Value	Yucca House Museum Collections and Archives
Current Conditions and Trends	<p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Yucca House National Monument museum collection totals 32 cataloged records. The archeological collection consists of prehistoric artifacts (ca. AD 500–1275) related to the Ancestral Pueblo occupation. The natural history collection includes 70 paleontological specimens and entomological specimens curated at Mesa Verde National Park and other nonfederal repositories. Entomological collections need to be inventoried with the updated locations added to the ICMS database. In addition, there were some Mesa Verde and Yucca House specimens mixed together and the two collections need to be separated. The park archival records consist of approximately 6 linear feet and record the efforts to establish the monument and manage the cultural and natural resources <p>Trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some NPS natural history collections are housed at university museums.
Threats and Opportunities	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Due to incomplete cataloging and insufficient location information the entomological collections are under-utilized by monument staff and researchers. Lack of information curtails the capabilities of the monument and nonfederal repositories to manage the specimens appropriately. The monument archival collections remain unprocessed. Finding information is difficult and restricted to internal use. Out-of-date core documents (such as the scope of collections statement completed in 1986) impacts the use of the collections for scientific, interpretive, and management purposes. <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The trend is for the National Park Service to allow long-term housing of some natural history specimens in university museums via multipark, long-term loan agreements. Yucca House National Monument entomological specimens could remain at Colorado State University if such an agreement were in place. Currently, park management is endorsing regional efforts to pursue a multipark agreement. Like the Mesa Verde National Park digital herbarium project, the Yucca House National Monument entomological specimens are prime candidates for digitization and web hosting at Colorado State University. Because the collection is small, it would require minimal funds and time to complete the processing of the Yucca House archival collection. The benefit of completing the work would be increased due to the persistent need to access these important documents. A multipark, long-term repository agreement should be pursued in the future. An appendix to the updated Mesa Verde National Park scope of collections statement (2012) briefly discussed the Yucca House National Monument museum collection. The recommendations included a systematic approach to future collecting to achieve greater informational integrity.
Existing Data and Plans Related to the OIRV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scope of collections statement (1986).
Data and/or GIS Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Process archival collection and produce a finding aid. Scanning and digitizing Yucca House National Monument photograph collection.
Planning Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated scope of collections statement. Park partner action strategy.

Other Important Resource or Value	Yucca House Museum Collections and Archives
Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the OIRV and NPS Policy-level Guidance	<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the OIRV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Museum Act of 1955, as amended• Historic Sites Act of 1935, as amended• National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (16 USC 470)• Antiquities Act of 1906• Archeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974• Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979• American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978• Historic Sites, Buildings, and Antiquities Act of 1935• Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990• Paleontological Resources Protection Act of 2009• Executive Order 13007, "American Indian Sacred Sites"• Executive Order 13175, "Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments"• Curation of Federally-Owned and Administered Archaeological Collections (36 CFR 79)• Protection of Historic Properties (36 CFR 800) <p>NPS Policy-level Guidance (NPS Management Policies 2006 and Director's Orders)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• NPS Management Policies 2006 (5.3.5.5)• NPS Management Policies 2006 (2.3.1.4, 4.2, 5.1, 8.10, 1.6, 4.1, 4.1.4, 4.4.1, 4.7.2)• Director's Order 24: NPS Museum Collections Management• Director's Order 28: Cultural Resource Management• Director's Order 28A: Archeology• NPS Museum Handbook, Parts I, II, and III





Other Important Resource or Value	Scenic Views
<p>Current Conditions and Trends</p>	<p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The views within the monument from the inside looking out are in good condition. The air quality is good and there are few visual intrusions within the historic viewshed across Montezuma Valley to Sleeping Ute Mountain. • The park's night sky is near natural conditions, with an anthropogenic light ratio modeled to be 0.37, which is just outside the threshold for the State of the Parks program measurement for "good." • The monument has a diversity of scenic values and qualities that contribute to a sense of discovery. • Provides visual opportunities to interpret the prehistoric regional context from varying perspectives. • Yucca House National Monument's high desert valley setting creates a diverse opportunity for unparalleled views, which can be both dramatic and subtle. • Early settlement and agricultural views contribute to scenic quality and cultural heritage of the region. <p>Trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expansion of farmland and ranching in the areas surrounding the monument. • Conversion of agricultural land to residential and other uses. • Average annual temperature for the region has increased during the 20th century and is projected to continue to increase in the 21st century, impacting the local flora/fauna and water resources that are part of the national monument viewshed. The effects of noise and dust and other particulates on air quality are increasing.
<p>Threats and Opportunities</p>	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A warmer and overall dryer landscape projected for the region will increase the potential for wildland fires and nonnative species in the national monument. • Development and other uses around the monument are altering the views. • Dark night skies are threatened by artificial lighting from changes in bordering land uses, private developments, and oil and gas extraction. • Pollution and dust affect vegetation and air quality reducing visibility and affecting the viewshed. • Low-flying aircraft associated with the nearby airport affect soundscapes and the associated viewshed. <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are opportunities to interpret a prehistoric inhabitant's perspective of the views to contemporary visitors. For example, the views from the monument offer interpretation of the surrounding landscape from what may have been a prehistoric inhabitant's perspective such as an archive of community history and knowledge; a series of fixed boundaries that required knowledge and authority to cross; a landscape that provided a visual map, which helped to manage distances and the knowledge required to traverse a challenging environment; and as the stage on which religion and ceremony informed and guided communities. • Climate change interpretation is possible through observations of visual changes in the landscape.

Other Important Resource or Value	Scenic Views
Threats and Opportunities	<p>Opportunities (continued)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a need for a new hiking trail system to be constructed and accessed along well-traveled “paths” to keep the public off the resources and to provide visitors with opportunities to access a range of scenic views. • Nature or wildlife viewing areas could be identified for visitor use. • Designated scenic view sites could be constructed to allow visitors to sit down and enjoy the varied scenery. • Opportunity to interpret early settlers and their ranching activities in the Montezuma Valley. • There are ongoing opportunities through the regional haze and other air quality programs to work with state and federal air regulatory agencies and other stakeholders to address air quality impacts in parks from sources of air pollution. • Opportunity to interpret the significance of night skies and celestial objects to the Ancestral Pueblo culture.
Existing Data and Plans Related to the OIRV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Archeological research management plan. • Invasive plant management plan (underway). • Fire management plan (underway). • Montezuma County Fire Agreement Memorandum of Understanding. • Local government plans and zoning. • The NPS Air Resources Division’s recommendations for evaluating resource conditions, establishing benchmark conditions, and interpolated air quality data, available at: http://www.nature.nps.gov/air/planning/index.cfm.
Data and/or GIS Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct archeological inventory and condition assessment of entire monument. • Comprehensive visitation study. • Visual resource inventory and viewshed analysis study. • Climate change vulnerability assessment for select resources. • Collection of continuous weather data from long-term sites. • Acoustic study.
Planning Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collection of continuous weather data from long-term sites. • Site-specific invasive plant/animal management strategy. • Archeological site conservation plan. • Resource stewardship strategy. • Long-range interpretive plan. • Park partner action strategy.
Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the OIRV and NPS Policy-level Guidance	<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the OIRV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Clean Air Act (42 USC 7401 et seq.) gives federal land managers the responsibility for protecting air quality and related values, including visibility, plants, animals, soils, water quality, cultural resources, and public health, from adverse air pollution impacts • Executive Order 13175, “Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments • Department of the Interior Policy on Consultation with Indian Tribes • Secretarial Order 3289, “Addressing the Impacts of Climate Change on America’s Water, Land and Other Natural and Cultural Resources.” <p>NPS Policy-level Guidance (NPS Management Policies 2006 and Director’s Orders)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPS Management Policies 2006 (4.7) • NPS Natural Resource Management Reference Manual 77 • NPS Management Policies 2006 (1.4, 1.6, 3.1) • NPS Management Policies 2006 (4.10 Lightscape Management)

Other Important Resource or Value	Natural Resources
Current Conditions and Trends	<p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most of the land base incorporated within Yucca House National Monument has been substantially altered by livestock grazing and adjacent agricultural lands. This has resulted in Yucca House itself being largely inundated with invasive plants ranging from cheatgrass to various species of thistle. Although generally having the appearance of Pinyon-Juniper Woodland, the southern portion of the monument exhibits a similar distribution of invasive plants. • Faunal populations are predominantly composed of burrowing rodents and other mammals, as well as 18 species of bats, reptiles, amphibians, and a variety of birds. • Supporting these populations, as well as the inhabitants of Yucca House National Monument, are a number of ephemeral springs originating on the eastern slope of Ute Mountain. • The sulfate concentrations at historic Aztec Spring exceed state drinking water standards and its discharge has decreased noticeably over the past decade. <p>Trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The long-term outlook for both the springs and flora/fauna populations of the monument area seems uncertain. Both the sustained decade-long drought and the long-term implications of climate change may eventually alter the environment. Average annual temperature for the region has increased during the 20th century and is projected to continue to increase in the 21st century impacting the local flora/fauna and water resources that are an integral part of the monument. • The acoustic environment is increasingly impacted by noise from nearby development and roadways.
Threats and Opportunities	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Despite considerable effort to control invasive species, there is a continued threat of the existing nonnative species expanding throughout the landscape, with additional invasive species moving into the monument via numerous vectors and corridors (e.g., wind, erosion, wildlife, and people). • New technologies in the oil and gas industry are resulting in an extraction boom in nearby shale formations, which can cause atmospheric pollutants and impact air quality. • Atmospheric deposition from air pollution may also impact native plant communities. Certain vegetation communities in the monument, including grasslands, may be vulnerable to excess nitrogen deposition, which can change communities and reduce biodiversity. • A warmer and overall dryer landscape projected for the region will increase the potential for wildland fires and invading nonnative species in the national monument, along with reduction in spring flows. • Changes in nearby land use, private development, and oil and gas extraction can add noise to the acoustic environment. <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The long-term outlook for both the springs and flora/fauna populations of the Yucca House National Monument area seems uncertain. An opportunity to reverse the trend through expanded and enhanced partnerships with adjacent landowners to conserve these resources could be explored. • Continued participation (on behalf of the monument) in the Four Corners Air Quality Group, a collaborative process to improve air quality through regional air quality planning.
Existing Data and Plans Related to the OIRV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invasive plant management plan (underway). • Fire management plan (underway). • Local government plans and zoning. • The NPS Air Resources Division's recommendations for evaluating resource conditions, establishing benchmark conditions, and air quality monitoring and data are available at: http://www.nature.nps.gov/air/planning/index.cfm.

Other Important Resource or Value	Natural Resources
Existing Data and Plans Related to the OIRV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate change vulnerability assessment for select resources. • Geologic resources inventory report. • Soil resources inventory report.
Data and/or GIS Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LIDAR data and coincident high resolution, multispectral imagery. • Hydrology study. • Collection of continuous weather data from long-term sites. • Monitoring of air quality and air quality resource values, including special studies to examine nitrogen pollution dose-response relationships in sensitive ecosystems (e.g., shrublands, grasslands) and studies that assess air pollutant effects in ecosystems. • Visual resource inventory and viewshed analysis study. • Acoustic study.
Planning Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate change adaptation strategies. • Land protection plan. • Archeological site conservation plan. • Park partner action strategy.
Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the OIRV and NPS Policy-level Guidance	<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations that Apply to the OIRV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean Air Act of 1963 (class II airshed designation) • NPS General Authorities Act of 1970 • National Invasive Species Act of 1996 • Federal Noxious Weed Act of 1974, as amended • Executive Order 13112, “Invasive Species” • Secretarial Order 3289, “Addressing the Impacts of Climate Change on America’s Water, Land, and Other Natural and Cultural Resources” • Endangered Species Act of 1973 • Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 USC 703-712) • Colorado statute for aquatic invasive species (Title 33 Parks and Wildlife Parks Article 10 5 Aquatic Nuisance Species) • Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 USC 668) • The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 USC 4321) • Executive Order 13175, “Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments” • The Lacey Act of 1900 (16 USC 3371–3378) • Clean Water Act • Executive Order 11990, “Protection of Wetlands” <p>NPS Policy-level Guidance (NPS Management Policies 2006 and Director’s Orders)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (1.6, 4.1, 4.1.4, 4.4.1, 4.7.2, 4.9) • NPS <i>Natural Resource Management Reference Manual #77</i> • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (4.4.2.3) also requires the agency to survey, protect, and strive to recover all species listed under the Endangered Species Act that are native to park units; additionally, the National Park Service is directed to inventory, monitor, and manage state listed species in a manner similar to the treatment of federally listed species, to the greatest extent possible • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (4.7.2): parks containing significant natural resources will gather and maintain baseline climatological data for reference • Director’s Order 47: <i>Soundscape Preservation and Noise Management</i>

Other Important Resource or Value	Tribal Significance
Current Conditions and Trends	<p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Little information is available regarding visits by members of tribal communities, nor have there been any direct discussions focused on Yucca House at tribal consultations. • Preliminary review of draft information collected during ongoing Mesa Verde – Yucca House ethnographic overview also fails to contain any substantive observations or data. <p>Trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The trends concerning tribal significance are not currently known.
Threats and Opportunities	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of appropriate understanding of Yucca House significance could result in miscommunication or more significant problems that could compromise government-to-government consultations with tribal communities. • Without information from members of tribal communities, the monument will be unable to determine the concern of tribal communities regarding protection, long-term site conservation, and identified research needs. <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessibility of Yucca House would facilitate site visits and in-depth consultation with tribal partners—an essential first step in development of planning documents (e.g., archeological site conservation plan), enhanced understanding of research/visitation potential, and long-range conservation of the site and surrounding landscape.
Existing Data and Plans Related to the OIRV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None identified.
Data and/or GIS Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addendum or update to the ethnographic overview and assessment conducted thorough literature review followed by discussions with tribal representatives to determine significance.
Planning Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ethnographic program strategy.
Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the OIRV and NPS Policy-level Guidance	<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the OIRV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Antiquities Act of 1906 • National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (16 USC 470) • Executive Order 11593, “Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment” • Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 • Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 • Curation of Archeological Collections (36 CFR 79) • 2008 Programmatic Agreement among the National Park Service, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers • Protection of Historic Properties (36 CFR 800) • Executive Order 13007, “Indian Sacred Sites” • Executive Order 13175, “Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments” • American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978 <p>NPS Policy-level Guidance (NPS Management Policies 2006 and Director’s Orders)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPS Management Policies 2006 (5.3.5.2) • NPS Management Policies 2006 (5.3.5.5) • Director’s Order 28: Cultural Resource Management • Director’s Order 28A: Archeology • The Secretary of the Interior’s Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation

Appendix C: Inventory of Administrative Commitments and Special Designations

Administrative Commitments

Agreement Name	Type of Agreement	Start Date / Expiration Date	Stake-holders	Purpose	Notes
Yucca House springs	Non-NPS water right	Prior to 12/19/1919 / N/A	Private	Provide water under valid water right	Point of diversion inside monument, on NPS lands and places of use and storage outside the monument.
Irrigation Ditch	Right-of-way	10/02/1989 / N/A	Private	Transport water under valid right-of-way	Point of diversion outside monument, ditch or pipeline easement crosses monument and places of use and storage are outside the monument.
Loan	NPS loan	2001 / Loan renewal in progress	C. P. Gillette Museum of Arthropod Diversity at Colorado State University, Department of Bioagricultural Sciences and Pest Management, Fort Collins, CO	Curate Natural History collections from Yucca House National Monument	Nonbureau facility agreement / memorandum of understanding (MOU) under consideration.
Loan	NPS loan	2001 / 2014	Denver Museum of Nature and Science	Curate Natural History collections from Yucca House National Monument	Nonbureau facility agreement / MOU under consideration.
Agreement	National repository agreement	05/16/2008 / Extended indefinitely	State —University of Arizona, Laboratory of Tree Ring Research	Curate natural and cultural collections from Yucca House National Monument	
Loan	NPS loan	2011 / 2014	State — Northern Arizona University, Deaver Herbarium	Curate natural history collections from Yucca House National Monument	Intermountain Region (IMR) working on nonbureaus facility agreement for all IMR parks with collections here.
Loan	NPS loan	10/01/2005 / 10/01/2015	State —University of New Mexico, Museum of South-western Biology	Curate natural history collections from Yucca House National Monument	IMR working on nonbureaus facility agreement for all IMR parks with collections here.

Agreement Name	Type of Agreement	Start Date / Expiration Date	Stake-holders	Purpose	Notes
Weather Station	Service agreement contract	10/01/2013 / 09/30/2014	Colorado Agricultural Meteorological Network (CoAgMet)	Collect 30-year weather data set for the monument and contribute to CoAgMet network for computations of evapotranspiration rates and soil moisture levels	No long-term written agreement and no inventory of station equipment ownership.
County Road 20.5	Right-of-way	1936 / N/A	Montezuma County	Provide public (pedestrians and vehicles) and administrative access to the monument	Montezuma County may consider vacating this right-of-way or portions of it in the future if viable alternate access routes to the monument can be determined.
1919 Deed	Right-of-way	07/17/1919 / N/A	Private	Provide public (pedestrians and vehicles) and administrative access to the monument	An express easement from original deed that has taken the route of County Road 20.5. Private landowner can change route but cannot deny access across 630 acres of their property.
1919 Deed	Parking area use	07/17/1919 / N/A	Private	Provide area to park when visiting the monument	Authorized by the 1919 easement.

Special Designations

Designation	Date of Designation	Purpose	Notes
Clean Air Act Class II Area	08/07/1977	Provides an area classification scheme to facilitate implementation of the prevention of significant deterioration of the air quality provisions of the Clean Air Act	Mandatory designation of all national monuments in existence as of 08/07/1977.
National Register of Historic Places	06/23/1993	Identify and encourage long-range preservation of nationally significant historic and archeological properties	9.6 acres administratively listed in 10/1966. The entire monument is listed in 1993 nomination.

Appendix D: Traditionally Associated Tribes

The following is the *Federal Register* list of American Indian tribes with traditional associations with Yucca House National Monument.

Hopi Tribe of Arizona

Jicarilla Apache Nation, New Mexico

Kewa Pueblo, New Mexico (formerly the Pueblo of Santo Domingo)

Navajo Nation, Arizona, New Mexico & Utah

Ohkay Owingeh, New Mexico (formerly the Pueblo of San Juan)

Pueblo of Acoma, New Mexico

Pueblo of Cochiti, New Mexico

Pueblo of Isleta, New Mexico

Pueblo of Jemez, New Mexico

Pueblo of Laguna, New Mexico

Pueblo of Nambé, New Mexico

Pueblo of Picuris, New Mexico

Pueblo of Pojoaque, New Mexico

Pueblo of San Felipe, New Mexico

Pueblo of San Ildefonso, New Mexico

Pueblo of Sandia, New Mexico

Pueblo of Santa Ana, New Mexico

Pueblo of Santa Clara, New Mexico

Pueblo of Taos, New Mexico

Pueblo of Tesuque, New Mexico

Pueblo of Zia, New Mexico

Southern Ute Indian Tribe of the Southern Ute Reservation, Colorado

Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah & Ouray Reservation, Utah

Ute Mountain Tribe of the Ute Mountain Reservation, Colorado, New Mexico & Utah

Ysleta Del Sur Pueblo of Texas

Zuni Tribe of the Zuni Reservation, New Mexico



Intermountain Region Foundation Document Recommendation Yucca House National Monument

September 2015

This Foundation Document has been prepared as a collaborative effort between park and regional staff and is recommended for approval by the Intermountain Regional Director.



RECOMMENDED

Cliff Spencer, Superintendent, Yucca House National Monument

9/30/2015

Date



APPROVED

Sue E. Masica, Regional Director, Intermountain Region

10/27/15

Date



As the nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering sound use of our land and water resources; protecting our fish, wildlife, and biological diversity; preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historic places; and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to ensure that their development is in the best interests of all our people by encouraging stewardship and citizen participation in their care. The department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in island territories under U.S. administration.

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