



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGIONAL OFFICE

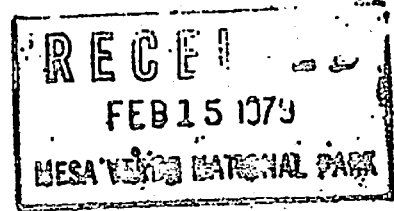
655 Parfet Street
P.O. Box 25287

Denver, Colorado 80225

IN REPLY REFER TO:

D18 (RMR)PP

FEB 12 1979



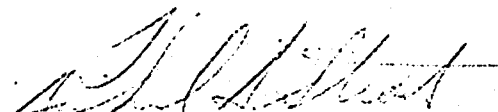
Memorandum

To: Superintendent, Mesa Verde National Park

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

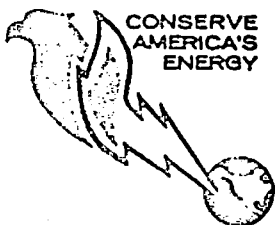
Subject: Statement for Management, Yucca House National Monument

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.


Richard A. Strait

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.



Save Energy and You Serve America!

STATEMENT FOR MANAGEMENT

YUCCA HOUSE NATIONAL MONUMENT

Prepared by:

Ronald K. Lintz
Superintendent

12-2-75
Date

Reviewed and
Recommended:

Glen T Bean
Acting Regional Director

12/31/75
Date

/s/ John E. Cook

2/26/76

Acting Deputy Director

Date

Date

Date

APPROVED BY:

Glen T Bean
Acting Regional Director, Rocky Mountain Region

10/1/76
Date

Anniversary Approval:

Glen T Bean
Acting Regional Director, Rocky Mountain Region

11/23/77
Date

Anniversary Approval:

James B. Thompson
Regional Director, Rocky Mountain Region

2/6/79
Date

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

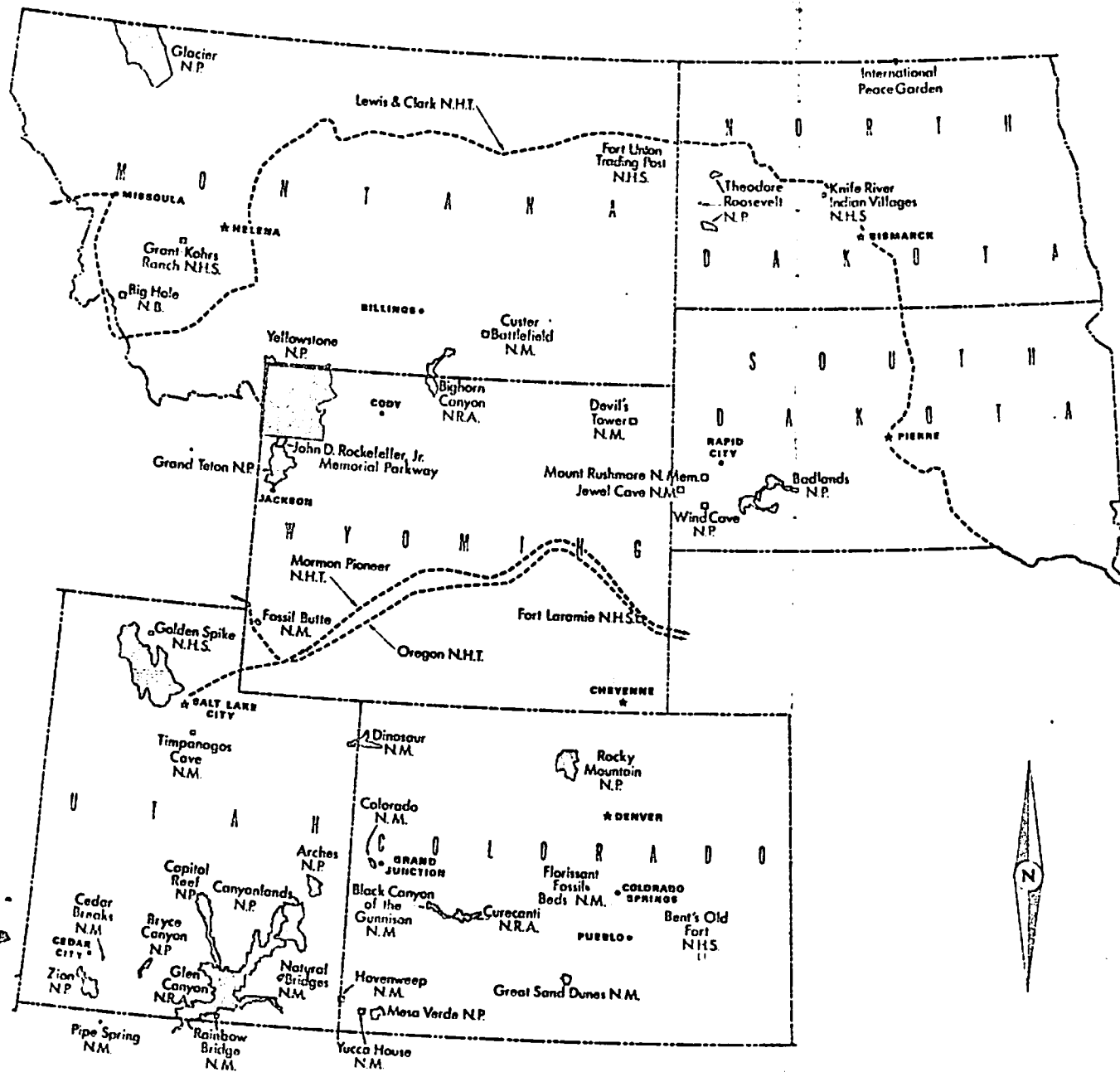
The entire 9.6 acres of Yucca House National Monument is classified as a historical zone.

*Amended 01/15/79

ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION NATIONAL PARK SERVICE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

LEGEND

- Locations of Major Cities
- * Locations of State Capitals
- State Boundary Lines
- National Park Service Areas
- National Park Service Historical Trails



0 50 100 150
SCALE IN MILES



985 80,000 A
17 10 70 RMR

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

*3. As of November 7, 1978 Montezuma County had the following land uses:

MONTEZUMA COUNTY

1,332,888 Acres

Located in the Southwest Corner of Colorado

POPULATION — 16,505

ACREAGE

Farm and Mining Lands	347,363 acres
Ute Indian Land	432,996 acres
National Forest Land	243,288 acres
Mesa Verde National Park Land	51,632 acres
BLM Land	179,460 acres
State Land	11,890 acres
Towns and Cities Land	3,660 acres
Miscellaneous Other Land	47,857 acres

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

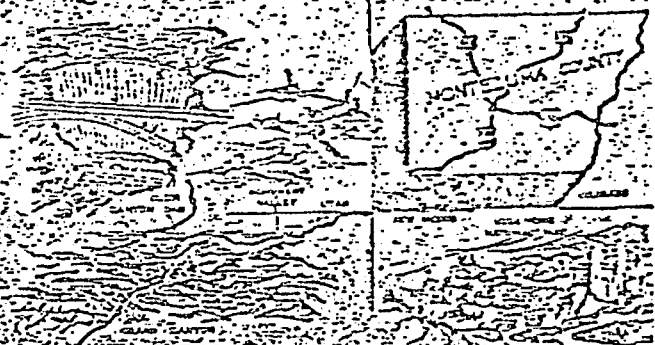
Skiing and Snow Machining

MAJOR HIGHWAYS

U.S. 160 U.S. 556 Colorado 789 Colorado 145

MANUFACTURING

Lumbering Matches
Processing Agricultural Products
Jewelry and Pottery
Campers and Stockracks



Abstract of Assessments and Levies

1977

PREPARED BY

Montezuma County Assessor's Office

Wayne Denny — Assessor

Helen Dierendaffner — Deputy Assessor

Van Willis — Appraiser

Glen Hanson — Appraiser

Irma Powell — Appraiser

Mining Property, Transfers

Marjorie Durall — 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 6200
Dolores	Population 997	Elevation 5950
Manitou	Population 905	Elevation 7000

AVERAGE TOTAL COUNTY LEVY — 77.76 MILLS

ABSTRACT OF ASSESSMENT

1977 TAXES ARE DUE JANUARY 1, 1978

REAL ESTATE

	Average Assessed Per Acre	Assessed Value
Meadow and Irrigated Pasture	15,977	\$14.70
Irrigated Farm Land	29,767	\$5.10
Dry Farm Land	77,517	21.40
Grazing Land	22,543	3.70
Unimproved Residential Land	1,177 parcels	1,435,450
Improved Residential Land	3,028 parcels	2,314,420
Unimproved Commercial Land	81 parcels	203,120
Improved Commercial Land	477 parcels	1,412,320
Unimproved Industrial Land	5 parcels	12,780
Improved Industrial Land	231 parcels	1,601,140
Improvements, Farm		2,242,530
Improvements, Residential		10,590,750
Improvements, Commercial		4,776,250
Improvements, Industrial		150,240
Mining Claims, Non-Producing	2,433 Acres	10.00
Mining Reserves		24,770
Oil and Gas (Severed)	122,712	1.00
Oil and Gas Production	6,071 parcels	122.00
Producing Leaseholds	25 parcels	257.30
Mineraliferous Improvements		1,300

PERSONAL PROPERTY

Industrial - Equipment, Furniture, Etc.	322,760
Industrial - Merchandise	75,400
Industrial - Freepart	160
Industrial - Supplies	28,140
Farm Machinery	224,270
Household Goods	11,990
Commercial Equipment, Furniture, Etc.	1,523,730
Oil and Gas Personal Property	6,490
Agricultural Products	2,290
Commercial Merchandise	429,810
Commercial Freepart	2,550
Commercial Supplies	29,560
Mineraliferous	4,000
Oil and Gas Personal Property (Leasehold)	532,830

LIVESTOCK

Cattle	167,190
Sheep	31,500
Horses	24,660
Pigs	500
Other Livestock	3,150
TOTAL ASSESSMENT BY ASSESSOR	24,451,540
TOTAL STATE ASSESSMENT	4,102,170
TOTAL ASSESSMENT	28,572,050
DEFEAT PROPERTIES	24,048,565
GRAND TOTAL ASSESSED VALUATION	72,420,910

COUNTY LEVIES

	Assessed Valuation	MU Levy	Revenue
County General Fund	28,572,050	12.501	497.4
Contingent Fund	28,572,050	.500	14.3
Road and Bridge Fund	28,572,050	.500	14.3
Public Welfare Fund	28,572,050	2.550	112.2
TOTAL LEVY FOR COUNTY PURPOSES	28,572,050	14.551	648.2

SPECIAL DISTRICTS

Arnold Cemetery District	1,025,970	.24	24.6
Cortez Cemetery District	22,745,510	.50	11.4
Cortez Sanitation District	15,045,470	5.50	122.6
Dolores Cemetery District	4,702,450	1.50	7.1
Dolores Water Conservancy District	28,572,110	1.415	40.4
Fairview Cemetery District	1,674,570	1.00	1.7
Lebanon Cemetery District	221,330	.750	1.7
Lewis Cemetery District	1,067,330	1.008	1.1
Manitou Cemetery District	4,014,050	.552	2.2
Manitou Water Conservancy District	2,237,560	.575	1.3
Montezuma Mesquite Control District	24,273,760	1.430	47.6
Montezuma Water District No. 1	1,144,050	12.50	21.3
Flamingo View Fire District	2,370,120	1.56	3.7
Sylvan Cemetery District	1,734,510	.50	0.9
Southwest Water Conservancy District	22,572,050	.420	16.2
Lewis - Arnold Fire District	3,424,940	4.231	14.5
Montezuma County Hospital District	38,572,050	.573	22.1

SPECIAL LEVIES AND FEES

Sheep License Fee	6,308	.14	0.9
Pre-natal Animal Fund	31,550	40.00	1.2
Special Manages Water	7,553	1.50	2.9

CITIES AND TOWNS

City of Cortez	15,127,900	3.00	45.4
Town of Dolores	1,237,060	17.700	21.8
Town of Mancos	1,300,040	14.257	18.5

VALUATIONS, LEVIES AND TAXES OF SCHOOL DISTRICTS

RE-1 School District	28,707,910	42.85	1,230.9
Old No. 1 Bond	20,851,420	1.000	20.9
RE-4A School District	5,574,050	48.370	267.2
Old No. 4 Bond	4,377,400	2.97	12.9
RE-6 Bond and Interest	4,237,550	44.150	206.4
TOTAL COUNTY	28,572,050	2.979	279.9

MONTEZUMA COUNTY OFFICIALS

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Curtis Honaker, Clay Eader, Floyd Ray

COUNTY CLERK - Jean DeGraff

COUNTY TREASURER - Russell Hindmarsh

COUNTY SHERIFF - Bobby Hampton

COUNTY JUDGE - Hon. George Z. Armstrong

DISTRICT JUDGE - Hon. Wilford 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

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.

- *10. Access to Yucca House National Monument via graded road is directly from U.S. 160, an east-west highway designated as the Navajo Trail. U.S. 666 from Gallup, New Mexico, intersects U.S. 160 at Cortez, Colorado, 10 miles north of the monument and continues to Monticello, Utah, where it joins the north-south U.S. 163. The north-south U.S. 550 intersects U.S. 160 at Durango, Colorado. Limited public transportation is available in the area. The closest rail service is at Gallup, New Mexico, 150 miles, and Grand Junction, Colorado, 200 miles. Frontier Airlines provides air service between Cortez and Denver, Durango, Alamosa, Albuquerque, Phoenix and Farmington. Continental Trailways buses serve Cortez daily.
- *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.

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

82. Yucca House National Monument

Establishment: Proclamation (No. 1549) of December 19, 1919..... Page 327

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

[No. 1549—Dec. 19, 1919—41 Stat. 1781]

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 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.

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

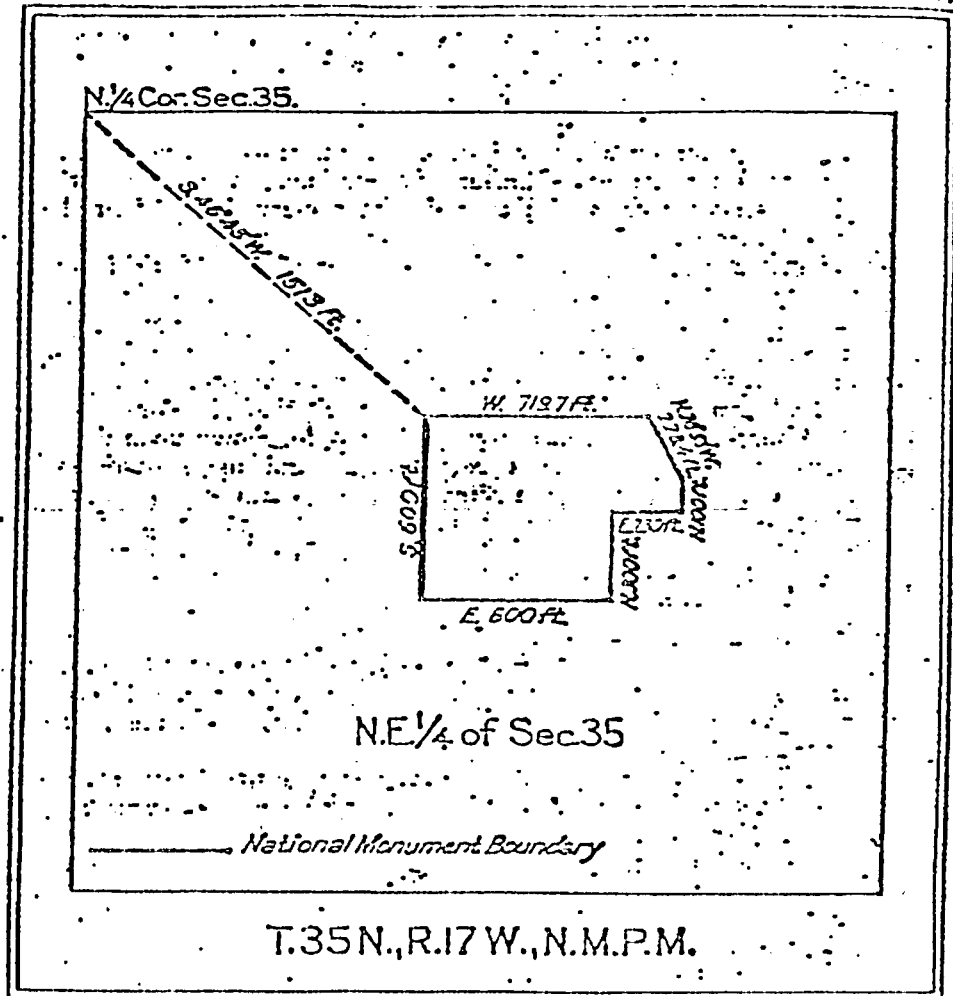
By the President:

ROBERT LANSING,

Secretary of State.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FRANKLIN K. LANE, SECRETARY
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
STEPHEN T. MATHER, DIRECTOR

COLORADO
(MONTEZUMA COUNTY)



YUCCA HOUSE
NATIONAL MONUMENT