Statement for Management

Yucca House

National Monument

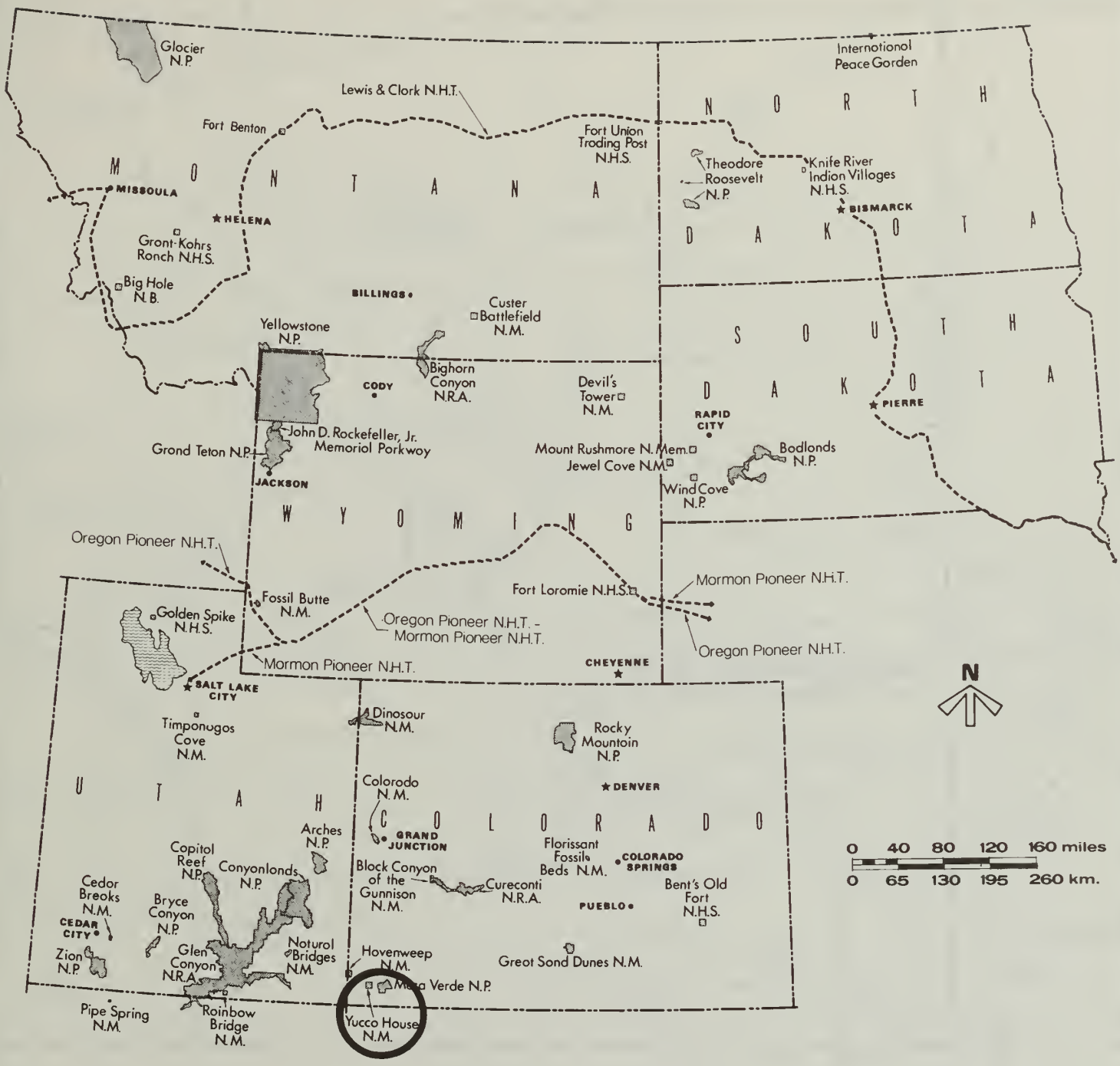
June 1987

Definition

The statement for management (SFM) provides an up-to-date inventory of the park's condition and an analysis of its problems. It does not involve any prescriptive decisions on future management and use of the park, but it provides a format for evaluating conditions and identifying major issues and information voids.

Recommended by: _____ 06/09/87
Superintendent
Yucca House National Monument
Date

Approved by: Lorraine Mintzmyer _____ 6-17-87
Regional Director
Rocky Mountain Region
Date



Legend

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

ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION

National Park Service

United States Department of the Interior

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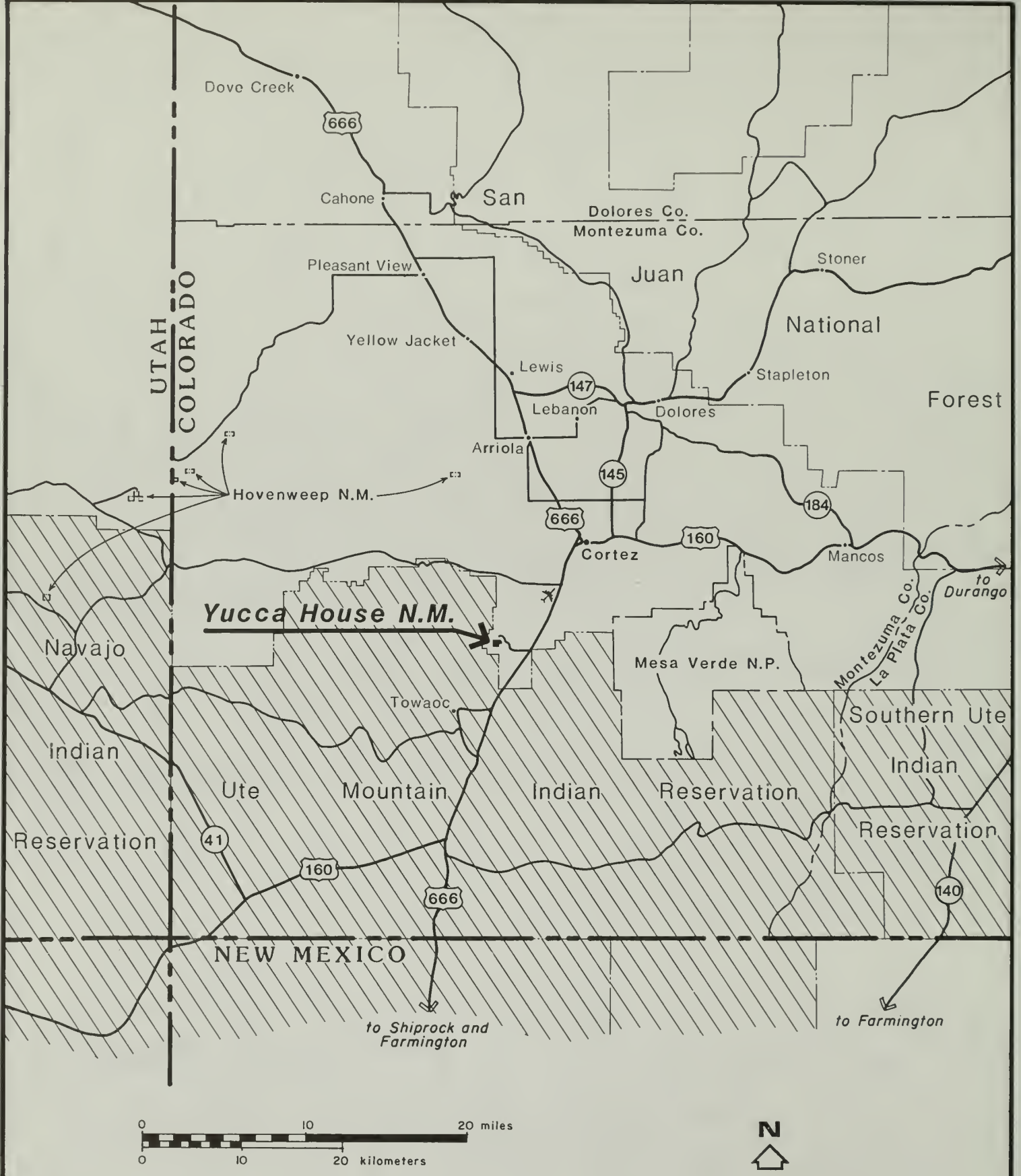

Vicinity Map

Yucca House National Monument

United States Department of the Interior – National Park Service

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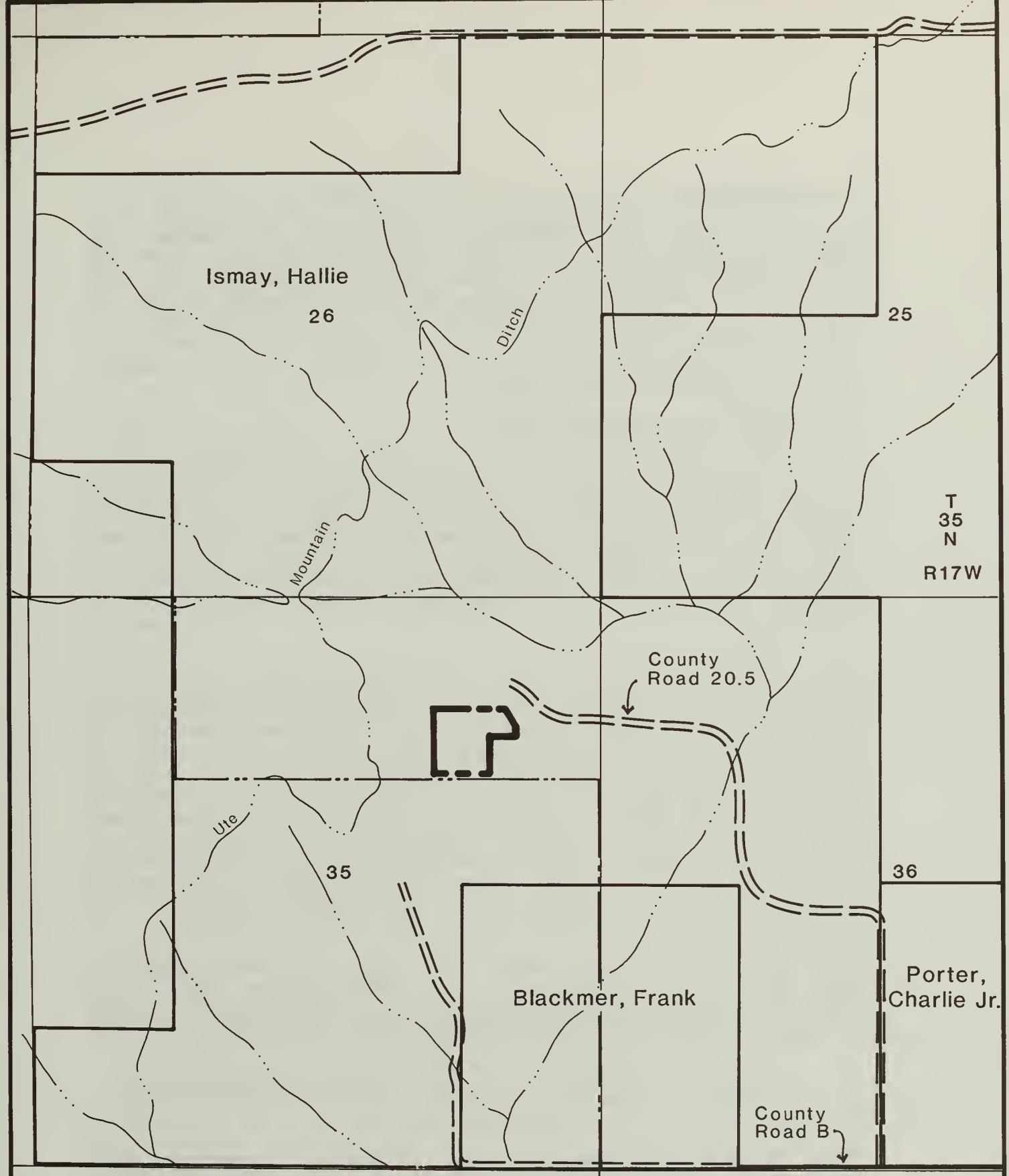

Legend

national monument boundary

Ute Mtn. Indian Res. Bdy.

unpaved road

N

0 .5 mile

Boundary Map

Yucca House National Monument

U.S. Dept. of the Interior - National Park Service

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I. LOCATION

Yucca House National Monument consists of 9.6 acres (the authorized area is 10 acres) situated at the base of Sleeping Ute Mountain, at the extreme periphery of farm lands in the Montezuma Valley, in the southwest corner of Colorado. Located in Montezuma County, Colorado, in the Third Congressional District, the monument is 10 miles south of Cortez and 2 miles west of U.S. Highway 666 via County Road B -- a graded dirt road.

II. PURPOSE AND SIGNIFICANCE

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. . .." (See Appendix A for the entire proclamation.)

Yucca House National Monument is a significant resource to the National Park Service mission. The National Park System has long been recognized as an important means of communicating American history to the public. The extent to which the national parklands illustrate the American past is understood through a thematic framework. This framework classifies the nation's history and prehistory in nine broad themes, which are further divided into subthemes and facets--more precise topical and chronological categories. How any cultural resource sites may be significant to the National Park Service is determined through its representation or illustration of any thematic element.

Yucca House National Monument represents the major theme of "The Original Inhabitants." As described in the 1982 booklet, History and Prehistory in the National Park System and National Historic Landmarks Program, this theme

> covers the prehistory and history of the peoples who originally inhabited the areas comprising the present United States and its possessions.

Yucca House National Monument may be further classified into the subtheme "Native Villages and Communities." This subtheme

> is concerned with the appearance of domesticated plants and the slow evolution of hunters and gatherers into farmers over much of the area. It deals with the ways

> in which a change in the principal food supply modified the social, cultural, and economic development of prehistoric man in the area now comprising the continental United States. . ..Its culmination is seen in large communities developed in areas favorable to agriculture. . ..The subtheme is best illustrated by the great pueblos of the Southwest. . ..

While the National Park Service currently manages a number of ruin sites associated with the Anasazi culture in the American southwest, Yucca House is unique. It is unlike any other site now in the National Park System. To understand its significance, one must consider its part within the whole network. The ruins of the Anasazi culture cannot be studied as isolated communities; rather, they must be understood as interacting units. Many of the unanswered questions relating to the occupation of the culture in this region and their abrupt egress are hoped to be better comprehended with the discovery of more solid evidence corresponding to the connections and interactions between communities.

Yucca House National Monument offers unparalleled potential to add significant information to the understanding of the interactions between two major groups of the Anasazi culture--the Chaco Branch and the Mesa Verde Branch. Because of its size and its physiographic location at the southern end of the Montezuma Valley, it is assumed that the site played an important role along a trade route extending north from the large centers of Chaco Canyon and Aztec Ruin to the farmlands of the Montezuma Valley and the major ruins of Mud Springs, Goodman Point (part of Hovenweep National Monument), Yellowjacket, Ackman/Lowry, and Escalante, as well as a large number of smaller ruins scattered throughout the farmlands of the Montezuma Valley. It is important to recognize that the focal point of the Mesa Verde Anasazi is not nearby Mesa Verde itself, where the spectacular, although anomalous cliff dwellings occur, but the poorly-studied and little-understood Montezuma Valley that served as the Anasazi "bread basket." Yucca House is considered to be the "gateway" to Montezuma Valley.

Architecturally, Yucca House National Monument also represents a significant resource. The ruins evidence spectacular, and fairly unique and extensive multistory characteristics. Recognized from a style basis to be among the northernmost of the Chacoan outliers, it is unlike any structure now in the National Park Service system.

The scientific and interpretive value of Yucca House National Monument is further augmented by its unique preserved condition. Many of the larger ruins have

disappeared through urban development or have been irreparably damaged by vandals. The further value of those ruins which have already been excavated is irrecoverable. Archeological research methods employed at the time of their excavation determined the limit to the information they revealed. As emphasized previously, the preserved Yucca House offers unparalleled potential to contribute significant information, upon its excavation. The site is basically pristine and unvandalized, and has been protected for a long time. It is felt that the potential for preservation of antiquities in its interior is great.

III. INFLUENCES: INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

A. LEGISLATIVE AND ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS

Yucca House National Monument is operated under the management policies of the Executive Branch of Government.

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. A detailed list is contained in the draft Cultural Resource Management Plan for Yucca House, which is available at Mesa Verde National Park.

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 the right to access by reasonable means acceptable to the titleholder. Any future development of the site may increase visitation which then might not be acceptable to the titleholder.

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

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

B. RESOURCES

1. Cultural

Yucca House National Monument is a prehistoric ruin of the type known as "valley pueblo" and belongs to the Classic or

Great Pueblo Stage of the Mesa Verde Branch of the Anasazi Cultural Tradition. Architecturally, the site is recognized to be among the northernmost of the Chacoan outliers. It is a large, Pueblo III (A.D. 1100-1300) multistory, stone masonry pueblo that includes a number of kivas as well as a formal, walled, well-preserved ceremonial plaza containing a great kiva. The main pueblo was at least three stories high, and the potential for the preservation of antiquities in its interior is great. Although the structures appear today only as massive sage-covered piles of fallen building stone, the dimensions of the mounds suggest considerable intact portions beneath the rubble. The ruins cover more than 9.6 acres of land--the designated monument area.

The imposing pile of rubble, originally known as Aztec Springs, attracted the attention of the earliest explorers in southwestern Colorado because of its large size and its obvious prehistoric significance. In 1874, William H. Jackson reported "the very important. . .extensive group of ruins about 'Aztec Springs.'" Jackson also estimated that the "town built around this spring is nearly a square mile in extent. . .." Although his estimate is too large today, before the outlying portions of the site were converted into modern agricultural fields and ranch lands, the occupied area surrounding the "town" center probably did cover the mile around the site.

Several years later, William H. Holmes observed that the ruins, still referred to as Aztec Springs, "form the most imposing pile of masonry yet found in Colorado. . .the pile is from 12 - 15 feet in height and its massiveness suggests an original height at least twice as great. . .the stone used is chiefly the fossiliferous limestone that outcrops along the base of the Mesa Verde a mile or more away, and its transportation to this place has doubtless been a great work for a people so totally without facilities."

Jessie W. Fewkes, in his famous "Prehistoric Villages, Castles, and Towers" declares that "The author saw no ruined prehistoric village in the Montezuma Valley that so stirred his enthusiasm to properly excavate and repair as that at Aztec Spring. . .." Fewkes, more impressed with Yucca House than with any other site in the Montezuma Valley, worked diligently with the site's owner, Henry VanKleeck, to effect donation of the site to the government of the United States. As early as 1919, the site's significance was formally recognized under Presidential Proclamation 1549, which set it aside as a national monument. The proclamation 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 archeologic value, relic of the prehistoric inhabitants of that part of the county; and

Whereas the ground. . . has been donated to the United States. . .with a view to the preservation of said ruins, and such preservation is deemed to be in the public interest. . .there is hereby reserved and set apart as a national monument. . .."

At the time of the site's donation, Dr. Fewkes, who was intimately involved in negotiations with Mr. VanKleeck for acquisition of the ruins for a national monument, suggested the name Yucca House for the ruins. This name was selected for the monument because the Indians of Montezuma Valley called Sleeping Ute Mountain "Papin," which means Yucca Mountain. The Peva Indians, a tribe from Rio Grande, so named the mountain for the abundance of the Yucca plant which grows on it. The name Yucca House was adopted by the Department of the Interior as the official designation when the ruins were made a national monument.

The donator of the site, Mr. VanKleeck, desired to have the ruins excavated. Funds were never appropriated though, and over the years, plans for excavation were shelved and the site remained in a status of archeological reserve. Limited archeological work was done at Yucca House in the spring of 1964 by Albert Shroeder, the Archeologist for the Southwest Region. With the assistance of James A. Lancaster and the ruins stabilization crew of Mesa Verde National Park, several test trenches were dug in both major room blocks and in the open plaza area between them. Several tree-ring specimens were collected at that time also, which (together with surface collections obtained earlier) provided some tentative dates for the ruins. The dates conform to the designation, based on other archeological indications, of the site as dating from the Great Pueblo Period (ca. A.D. 1100-1300).

As mentioned earlier, it is assumed that Yucca House played an important role along a trade route extending north from the large centers of Chaco Canyon and Aztec Ruin to the farmlands of the Montezuma Valley and the major ruins of Mud Springs, Goodman Point, Yellowjacket, Ackman/Lowry, and Escalante, as well as a large number of smaller ruins scattered throughout the farmlands of the Montezuma Valley. Early authors report a "road" from Chaco Canyon to Lowry Ruin which had to pass Yucca House. Situated in a historically semidesert area, Yucca House must have been a

focus for travelers in this dry region.

The scientific and interpretive value of Yucca House has steadily increased through the years as the surrounding areas have been developed. Many of the larger ruins have disappeared through urban development or have been badly damaged by vandals, which augments the uniqueness of this site that has been preserved. Its current management, which holds it in reserve, serves to continually increase its value. When ultimately excavated and interpreted to the public, Yucca House will have an unparalleled potential for adding significant information to our understanding of the interactions between the Chaco Branch of the Anasazi and the Mesa Verde Branch of the Anasazi.

2. Natural

Hydrology - There are two reportedly active springs. The first is a small and undeveloped spring near the center of the monument with a flow of about one gallon-per-minute. The other spring, Aztec Spring, appears to lie just outside the monument boundary and has a flow of about four gallons-per-minute. Seasonal drainage channels from both sources, as well as from precipitation runoff, traverse the monument.

Vegetation - The following 11 major plant communities are represented:

Greasewood - cheatgrass
Saltbrush - wolfberry - cheatgrass
Rabbit brush - cheatgrass
Sagebrush - native perennial grasses and forbs
Cheatgrass - cranesbill
Poverty weed/western wheatgrass
Russian knapweed
Annual mustards
Native perennial grasses
Rush marsh
Wetgrassland

Two strikingly different habitat types occur side-by-side in the monument. These are the xeric ruins area and the hydric marshes. No rare, threatened, or endangered plant species are known to exist within the monument or its immediate vicinity.

Wilflife - Suited to the native areas associated with this unit are mule deer, cottontail rabbits, and mourning doves. Wildlife suited to irrigated areas are pheasant and mourning

doves. Three species of Western Chorus Frog, Pseudocis triseriata, have been observed. There are no known rare, threatened, or endangered fauna species within or immediately adjacent to Yucca House.

Geology and Soils - The lowest exposed rock type is the Dakota Sandstone. Above the Dakota Sandstone is a layer of Mancos Shale. At the monument, there are no additional bedrock structural types above the Mancos Shale, although the area is covered by calcareous alluvial and reworked Eolian deposits.

Air Quality - The national monument is classified as a Class II airshed. It is located in an area where energy fuels development produces sulphureous oxides and suspended particulate matter, which can often be observed from the monument.

Minerals - Mineral resources abundant in this region include petroleum, natural gas, natural carbon dioxide, and surface mineable coal. While the land within and immediately adjacent to the monument is not within any known mineral producing geologic structure, there is exploration and development activity in the area.

Mineral ownership within the monument's boundaries are all Federal. Mineral ownership on surrounding lands is a mix of private, county, and Federal.

C. LAND USES AND TRENDS

Yucca House National Monument's 9.6 acres are almost entirely occupied by ruin piles. The monument is enclosed by a wire sheep fence. A stile provides access to the site over the fence. All lands within the boundary are owned by the Federal Government and managed by the National Park Service.

Mrs. Hallie Ismay owns the property surrounding the monument, as well as title to the access road leading into the monument. Her home is near the monument and it is felt that her presence has been a strong deterrent to vandalism of Yucca House. Mrs. Ismay has been very supportive of the National Park Service's management of the monument.

Less than one mile to the south and west of the monument is the boundary line of the Ute Mouintain Ute Indian Reservation. The Reservation comprises 557,878 acres--most of which is undeveloped. Grazing and raising hay are the agricultural uses associated with the reservation land adjacent to the monument area. These uses are

representative of the natural-appearing character of the reservation and are compatible with the monument and its historic setting.

Although the Ute Mountain Ute Indian Reservation contains many significant archeological sites, the land and ruins are not presently available to the public. With the exception of Mancos Canyon access road and some minor range improvement, the area is undeveloped. Planning for the development of recreational resources in the Mancos Canyon on the reservation is proceeding at this time. This project is identified as Mancos Canyon Indian Park.

Uses of the private lands surrounding the monument are primarily agricultural. Beef, sheep, hay, corn, silage, dry beans, and winter wheat are produced in the area and are, in fact, leading products of Montezuma County. Agriculture constitutes a major factor in the county economy.

Population in the immediate vicinity of the monument is sparse. Montezuma County had a population of 18,000 in 1980. Nearly half of this population (8,000) resides in the City of Cortez, the county seat, and its commercial hub. Population in the Cortez area has fluctuated with energy fuels development. The population rose early in the 1960's, stabilized, and subsequently experienced a decline when oil and mineral prospecting decreased in the late 1960's. Population growth since 1970 is attributed to oil, gas, coal, and uranium exploration.

Energy fuels development is an important component of the local economy and will continue to be so in the future, despite the "boom and bust" cycles evidenced in years past. Petroleum, natural gas, natural carbon dioxide and surface mineable coal are abundant in the region.

Considerable public recreation lands surround the monument. The Mancos and Montezuma Valleys, the great southwest desert, and the San Juan National Forest are all within 30 miles of Yucca House.

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. Some of these national resource lands contain great numbers of ruins from the same prehistoric culture that occupied the monument.

The Dolores Project is a reservoir/diversion project northwest of the monument and involves the diversion of water from the Dolores River to the San Juan River Basin.

Water from this project will be developed for irrigation of supplemental and full-service land, for municipal and industrial use, and for fish and wildlife enhancement. The project also provides for the development of recreational facilities and for the control of snowmelt floods on the Dolores.

One of the major structures of the water distribution system from the McPhee Dam (a part of the Dolores Project) is the proposed Towaoc Canal. Located to pass within 900 feet of the Yucca House ruins, the canal will supply water to the Ute Mountain Ute Indian Reservation for expanded agricultural projects.

About 900 feet southwest of the current monument boundary, there is an abandoned gravel pit operation which ceased functioning about 20 years ago. Although the quality of the gravel is considered poor, the Soil Conservation Service has indicated an interest in its redevelopment for use in road work in the area.

The majority of land to the north, south, and east of the monument is privately owned. The ownership of mineral rights involves more participants, as those holding rights include not only private individuals, but the Federal, State, and county governments as well. Rights-of-way include that for the Towaoc Canal, 900 feet west of the monument; County Road 20.5, which leads to Mrs. Ismay's residence and the designated access to the monument; and a general right-of-way held, but not exercised, by Empire Electric.

D. VISITOR USE ANALYSIS

Due to the undeveloped nature of the monument, its distance from the more popular ruins at Mesa Verde and Hovenweep, and no encouragement for visitation to the site by the National Park Service, the average number of visitors to the site is only about 100 per year. The only method presently used in determining visitation is the registration book at the stile entrance. Nearly all of the visitation occurs during the summer months, and visitors are primarily archeologists or those with an interest in archeology.

E. FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT ANALYSIS

The only facilities at the monument are a sheep fence, a stile that provides access over the fence, a sign identifying the monument, and a visitor registration box. All of these are maintained by the National Park Service staff located at Mesa Verde National Park.

F. STATUS OF PLANNING

The most detailed plan of Yucca House is a draft Cultural Resource Management Plan which has been approved by the Rocky Mountain Regional Office but still requires some revision.

In 1985 the Rocky Mountain Regional Office and Mesa Verde National Park began preparation of a General Management and Development Concept Plan for the national monument. A public scoping effort was initiated and various resource inventories were completed. Alternatives were also formulated, analyzed, and documented in an environmental assessment (EA). Completion of the planning effort and release of the EA for public review is pending negotiations with the local landowner.

As part of the planning efforts, the Southwest Cultural Resources Center completed photogrammetric mapping of the national monument. Products provide more detailed base information on topographic and above-ground features in the vicinity of current monument boundaries.

G. EXISTING MANAGEMENT ZONING

The entire 9.6-acre monument parcel is designated a National Historic Site and is managed as a Historic Zone.

IV. MAJOR ISSUES

ISSUE A: Current knowledge of the archeological resources at Yucca House National Monument is limited.

Since the national monument was established, management has been oriented towards reserved status; therefore, very little archeological information has been collected.

A somewhat impressionistic sketch map of the monument was prepared in 1875. Subsequently, maps with slightly more detail were prepared in 1918 and 1964. These maps and inventories are inadequate for determining the actual nature and extent of the cultural resources and for planning a realistic program of preservation and management.

The Southwest Cultural Resources Center of the Southwest Regional Office has recently completed photogrammetric mapping of the national monument.

Several surface collections have been made at Yucca House. The location of these collections is scattered and their

condition has not been recently assessed. There is no single source of data discussing the surface collections at Yucca House.

There are also a variety of other studies conducted on Yucca House. Again, the data has not been assembled in one location. In this present scattered and disorganized state, it is difficult to use the data in planning for management and, in particular, development of research strategies for the monument.

ISSUE B: Existing monument boundaries may not encompass the extent of cultural resources and provide sufficient room for visitor use and protection of the resource's physical quality, value, and integrity.

Archeologically, the ruin resources at Yucca House are very valuable. For a number of reasons, they have been relatively unaffected physically by anything other than the natural forces of erosion. Because of their condition, and because the ruins represent one of the few remaining good examples of a valley pueblo community, their potential to contribute to developing a greater understanding of the Anasazi Indian culture is excellent.

Evidence indicates that a small portion of the archeological ruins extends beyond current boundaries. It is also evident that the 9.6 acres of National Park Service-managed land is almost entirely occupied by ruins. There is no space within the current monument boundaries to provide facilities for future research or visitor use without affecting serious disturbance to the ruins.

There is also concern that development activities occurring on adjacent lands could affect the physical quality of the ruin resources. One such development is that of the proposed Towaoc Canal to be sited just 900 feet away from the monument's western boundary. The canal could potentially cause irreparable damage to the ruins by leaking. A change in adjacent land use could also affect the ruin resources suspected of lying outside the current monument boundaries.

The perceived integrity of the resource, as it corresponds to its setting, is also potentially compromised by activities on adjacent lands. The character of the primarily agricultural lands surrounding Yucca House National Monument has remained complementary to the historic scene of the ancient Indian village site. The characteristic topographic and vegetative features of the landscape do not provide screening capabilities and view

distances of more than five miles are common. Because of these features, there is concern that disruptions to this scene could be easily recognized. Activities associated with oil and gas exploration and possible later development and production, for example, could adversely affect the historic scene. With road building and construction of drill pads and production facilities and even with the increased human activity associated with such developments, the quality of the valley as a setting for the national monument could be impaired.

ISSUE C: There is danger of vandalism.

As with any unexcavated, unstabilized, and essentially unprotected archeological resource, there is always the potential danger of vandalism, both intentional and unintentional. Although the construction of an adequate boundary fence and the posting of warning signs seems to have been sufficient deterrent to serious disturbance in recent years, there have been acts of vandalism in the past and there remains the threat of archeological theft and disturbance in the future. The isolated location of the Yucca House unit contributes to this threat, as does the lack of any official site supervision (no resident park personnel are stationed at the monument, although it is periodically visited by personnel from the Division of Research and Cultural Resources Management of Mesa Verde National Park). A local resident, Mrs. Hallie Ismay, informally watches over the monument, but as emphasised earlier, continuation of this situation cannot be guaranteed indefinitely.

ISSUE D: Visitor access to and visitor use of the national monument is not guaranteed.

The 9.6 acres of monument land is entirely surrounded by private property. There is no public roadway or other right-of-way which directly accesses the site, although a county right-of-way provides access to the Ismay house. As per the existing deed, ". . .together with a right-of-way for pedestrians and vehicles, subject to reasonable regulations, from said premises to the public roads, over all private ways, the location and regulation of which at any time shall be designated by said party of the first part his heirs or assigns." While the National Park Service is guaranteed limited right-of-way to access the monument, "reasonable regulations" . . . "designated by said party of the first part" (adjacent landowner) is subject to interpretation. The current sole owner of the surrounding adjacent property has been supportive of National Park Service activities and has allowed visitors to use her land

for parking and pedestrian access. An informal agreement such as this cannot be guaranteed in the future. Without ensured ease of access, encouragement of any visitation at Yucca House, much less any development, is questionable.

ISSUE E: The current status of National Park Service water rights and the deteriorating air quality in the Four Corners Area affects development at Yucca House National Monument and the park visitor's recreational experience.

Donation of limited water rights accompanied donation of the land for the Yucca House unit. As specified in the deed, the National Park Service was given right to "sufficient water for domestic use" from Aztec Spring. This right has not been certified with the State, nor has "sufficient water for domestic use" been interpreted to determine specific quantity of water available to the National Park Service. These two actions must necessarily occur before the National Park Service can exercise its right to water at Yucca House. Determination of a specific quantity of water could dictate limits to development at Yucca House.

The presence of acid rain in the Four Corners Area has increasingly become a concern to managers of archeological ruin sites. While specific deterioration rates for exposed ruins are not known, acid rain undoubtedly causes damage over long periods of time.

Air quality in the Four Corners Area is also negatively affected by local industry. The Four Corners Power Plant, a coal-burning electrical generator, is approximately 30 miles south of Yucca House near Farmington, New Mexico. The plant produces sulphureous oxides and suspended particulate matter which, under certain atmospheric conditions, create a "low-hanging brown cloud." This cloud can often be observed from the monument and contributes to the detriment of the historic scene and the sensory quality of the visitor's recreational experience.

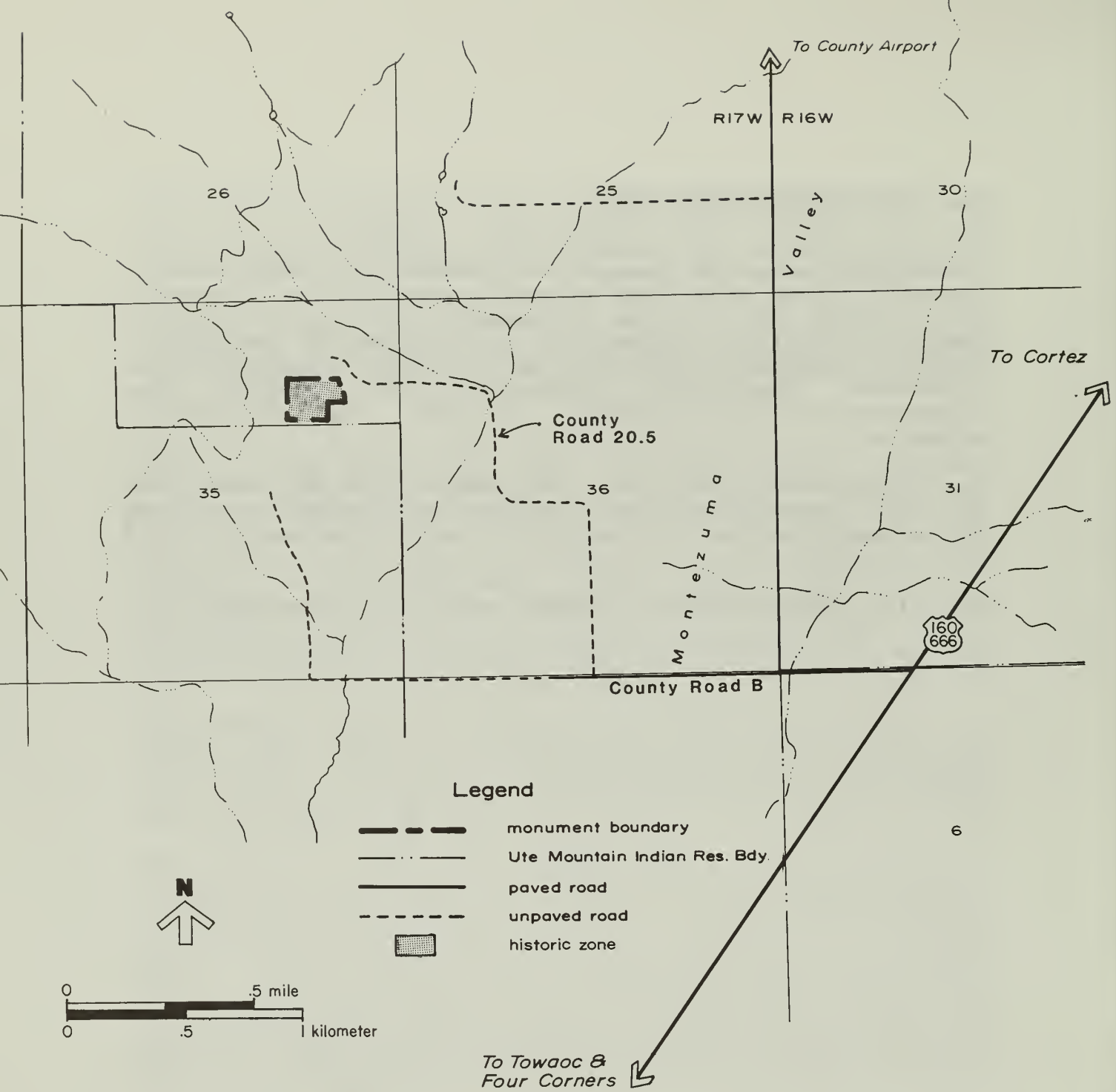
Other sources suspected of contributing to the deteriorating air quality and noted decrease in visibility in the Four Corners Area include other power plants in the region, population increases, tourism, and even metropolitan areas from as far away as Los Angeles (determined by prevailing weather patterns). While some of these influences are at far too macro a scale to be considered within the scope of this study, others may be mitigated.

V. MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

A. To 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. Since archeological research involving excavation is a somewhat destructive process, complete excavation of the site should only be undertaken when the benefits to be derived from archeological investigation outweigh the destructive effects.

B. To provide sufficient land base for future excavation and development of the site, administrative facilities, and an adequate buffer zone for protection of the resource and it's setting.

C. To ensure continued visitor access to the monument.



Existing Management Zoning Map

Yucca House National Monument

United States Department of the Interior - National Park Service

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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.

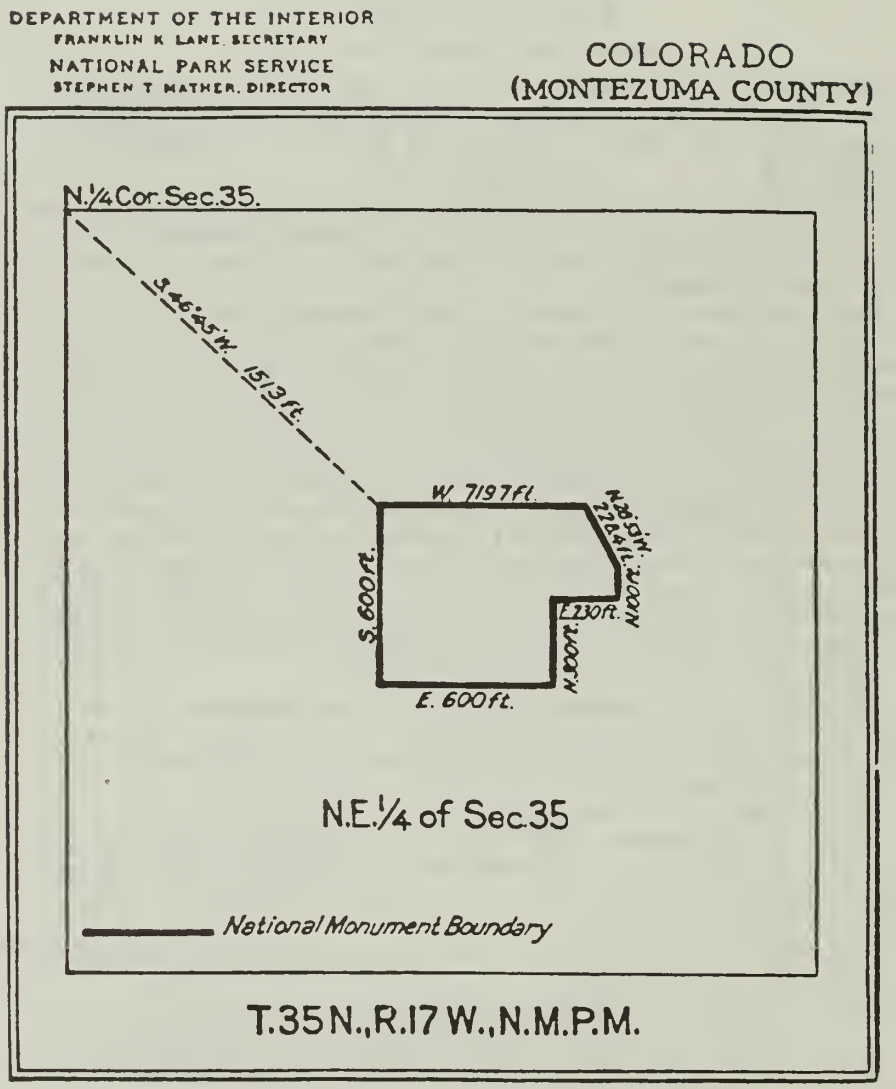
The Director of the Ntaional Park Service, under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior, shall have the supervision, management and control of this Monument, as provided in the Act of Congress entitled "An Act to establish a National Park Service, and for other purposes," approved August 25,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

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

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

WOODROW WILSON.

By the President:
ROBERT LANSING,
Secretary of State.



YUCCA HOUSE NATIONAL MONUMENT

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