

May 1988

# Statement for Management

## Colorado National Monument



**STATEMENT FOR MANAGEMENT**  
**COLORADO NATIONAL MONUMENT**

**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:

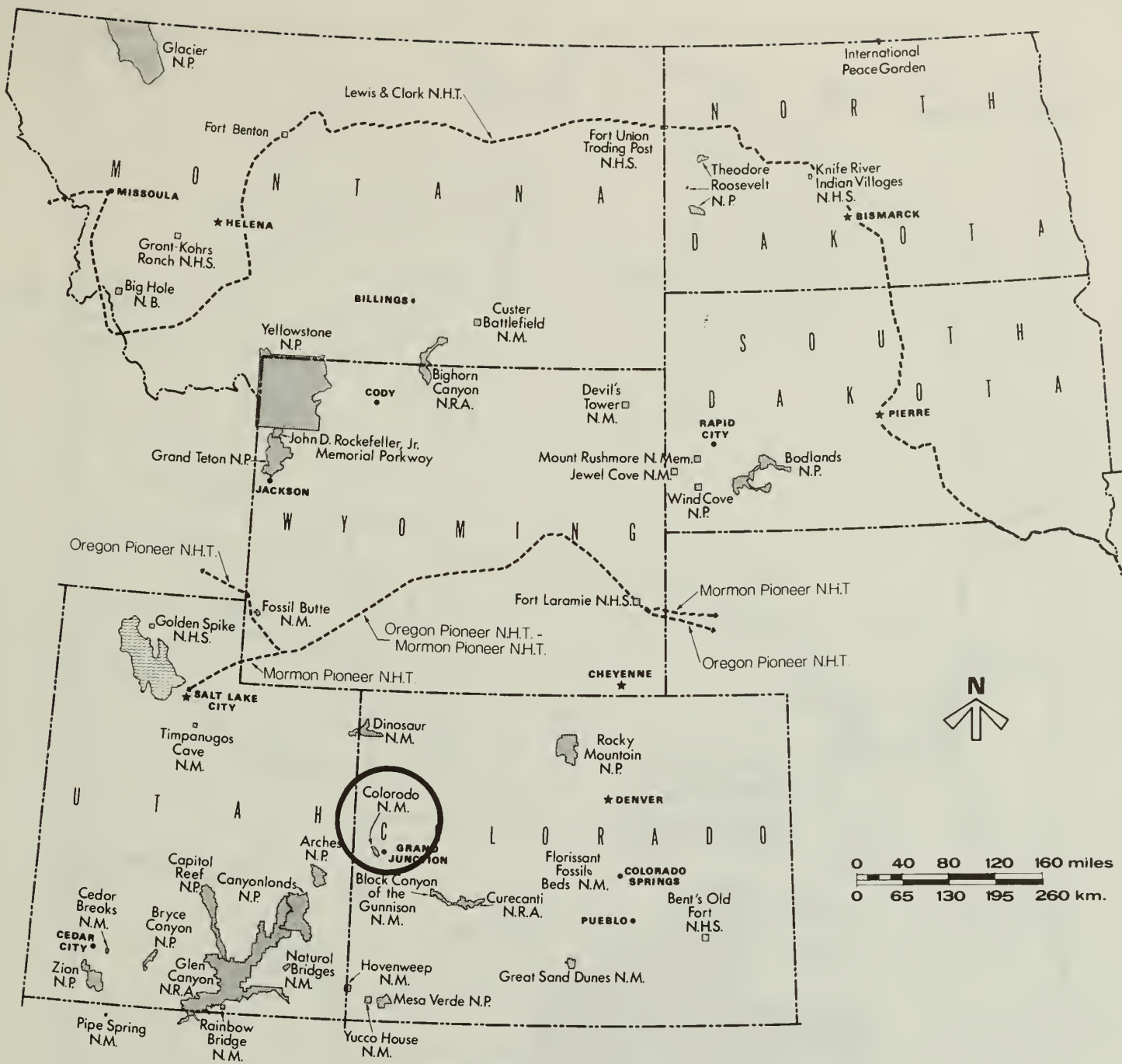
s/Bob Reynolds  
Superintendent, Colorado NM

2/22/88  
Date

Approved by:

Lorraine Mintzmyer  
Regional Director, RMR

5-13-88  
Date



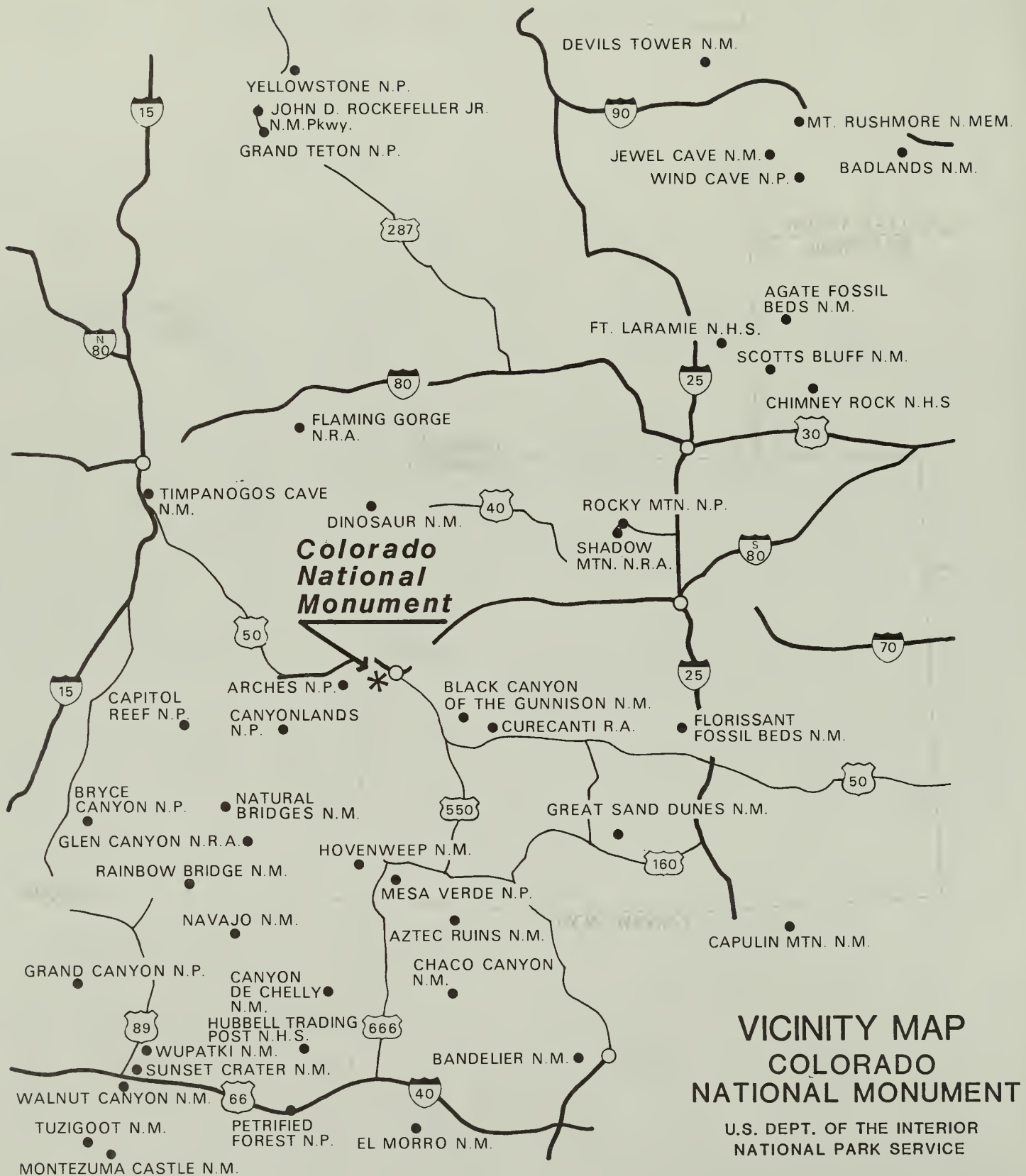
### Legend

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

# ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION

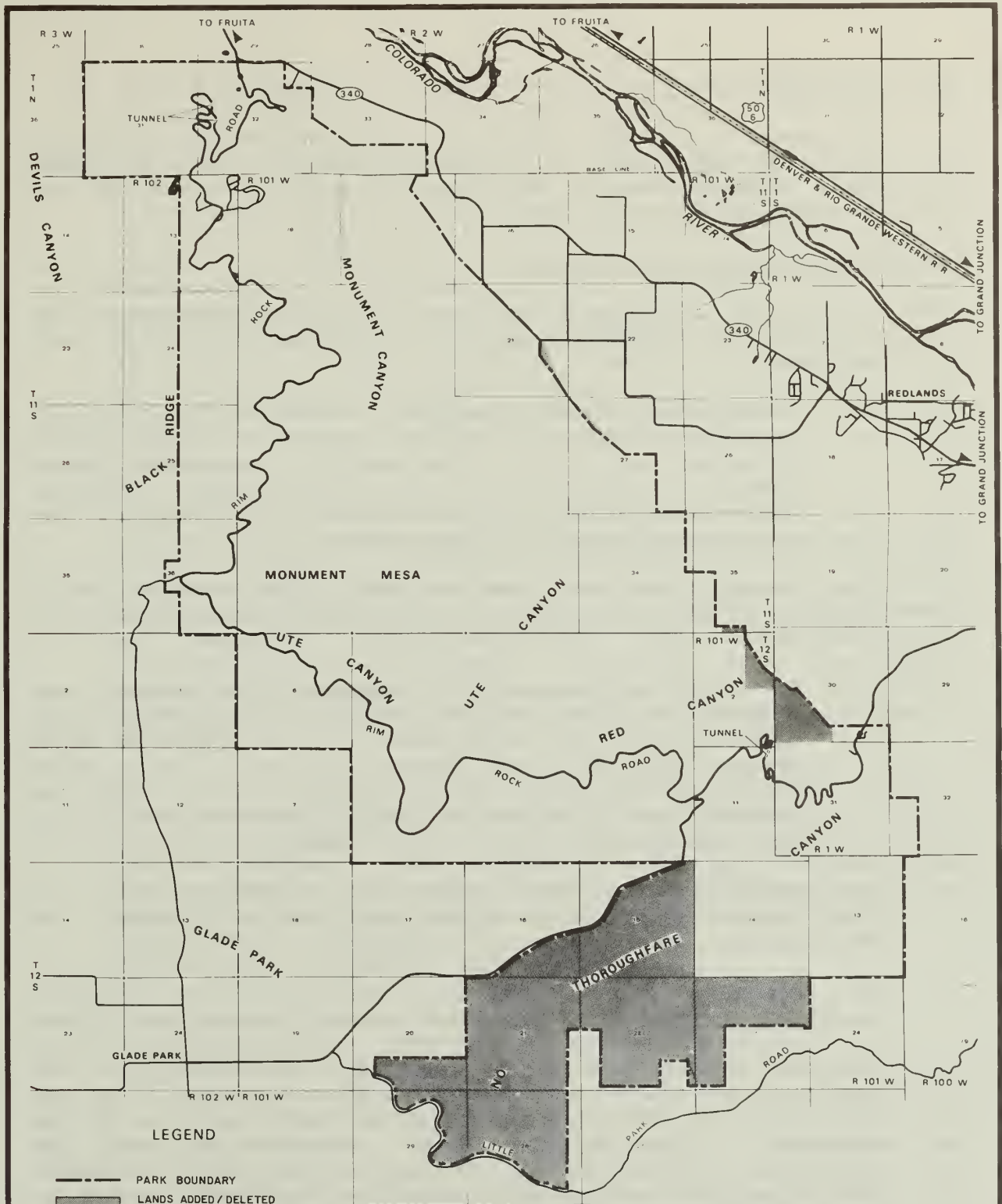
National Park Service  
 United States Department  
 of the Interior

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## VICINITY MAP COLORADO NATIONAL MONUMENT

U.S. DEPT. OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



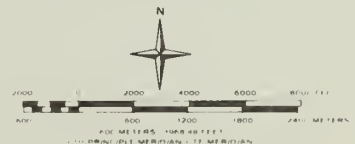
**LEGEND**

-  PARK BOUNDARY
-  LANDS ADDED / DELETED  
PER PL 94-578 & PL 95-42  
DELETION 13.10 ACRES  
ADDITION 2,801.83 ACRES

20,470.35 ACRES      TOTAL MONUMENT  
ACREAGE

**BOUNDARY MAP  
COLORADO  
NATIONAL MONUMENT**  
Mesa County  
COLORADO

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
MARCH 1978      119-80006 A  
ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGIONAL OFFICE



## I. Location

Colorado National Monument is located in western Colorado near the city of Grand Junction. The monument lies entirely within Mesa County and is a part of the Third Congressional District.

## II. Purpose and Significance

Colorado National Monument was established by Presidential Proclamation No. 1126 on May 24, 1911, that stated:

"The extraordinary examples of erosion are of great scientific interest, and it appears that the public interest would be promoted by reserving these natural formations as a national monument, together with as much public land as may be necessary for the proper protection thereof."

The Organic Act for the National Park Service (NPS) further defined the purpose of all parks administered by the NPS:

". . . which purpose is to conserve the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations." An act to Establish a National Park Service, August 25, 1916 (39 Stat. 535)

The monument's purpose, therefore, is preservation of its resources for scientific and public interest, as well as the general use and enjoyment of the public.

The monument's most significant resource is its colorful and picturesque display of geological formations. Even in a land abounding in canyons, the slab-sided maroon canyons of Colorado National Monument are unusual. The process of erosion and the enormity of earth's time are the two great geological lessons so well revealed in the monument. Geologically, the monument presents an important chapter in the canyon country story, because it is part of an abrupt transition from the plateau to the Rocky Mountain province. Located at the northeast edge of the Colorado Plateau, the monument is ideally situated for the traveler to meet the canyonland country. From a number of points within the area, the visitor can see excellent examples of rocks representing the many periods of geologic time - from ancient rocks dating from the Precambrian period over a

billion years ago, to the 10-million-year-old lava flows capping Grand Mesa east of the monument.

Secondary to the geologic story, but still of significance in the overall monument story, are other human and natural history themes. Human history in the monument is only partially understood, but may date back 10,000 or more years to the time of Paleo-Indians. Archeological surveys of the monument have been cursory, but sites recorded indicate use by archaic hunting-and-gathering people. This is the earliest use identified by actual physical evidence. Later, the area was used by Uncompahgre-complex, and more recently, by Fremont peoples. Ute Indians were dominant in the area until the arrival of European man in the late 19th Century.

The story of the early historic use of the area now within the monument, and its subsequent development and establishment as a national monument, as well as John Otto's role in the monument's establishment and early history are significant. Later cultural resource themes are monument development under the CCC and other Depression era development programs, and the NPS's Mission 66 program. The monument contains excellent examples of architecture from both of these development programs.

The flora and fauna of the monument are similar to those found across the Colorado Plateau to the west and as such are valuable for introducing visitors to that vast natural region. The monument's location, between the canyon country and the mountains, makes it valuable for scientific and lay studies of the natural history.

### III. Influences: Inventory and Analysis

#### A. Legislative and Administrative Requirements

1. Colorado National Monument was established by Presidential Proclamation No. 1126 on May 24, 1911. The proclamation established boundaries and recognized "...the extraordinary examples of erosion ... of great scientific interest, and [that] it appears the public interest would be promoted by reserving these natural formations as a National Monument...."
2. The boundaries were enlarged by Presidential Proclamation No. 2037 on March 3, 1933. That proclamation stated that the NPS should "... 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. 535-536), and acts additional thereto or amendatory thereof."

3. The monument boundary was subsequently modified by Presidential Proclamation in 1959, and finally by a boundary revision published in the Federal Register pursuant to the Act of June 10, 1977, Public Law 95-42 (91 Stat. 210) Section 5 (ii), and accompanied by boundary map 119-80,006-A, dated March 1978.
4. A proposal to designate 7,700 acres of Colorado National Monument as wilderness was submitted to Congress in 1972. Subsequently an additional 7,435 acres were identified as potential wilderness. This latter acreage is still under consideration and will be managed as wilderness in the same manner as the 7,700 acres until both are formally designated by Congress.
5. Mountain Bell holds a Special Use Permit issued October 23, 1946, for the construction, operation and maintenance of a telephone and telegraph line to provide service to Glade Park for a period not to exceed fifty years.
6. The Town of Fruita holds a valid revocable right-of-use to a waterline crossing the monument between Glade Park and the monument's west entrance. The NPS has assured Fruita that this right-of-use is anticipated to be available as long as the pipeline is serviceable for their needs; and that the NPS has no objection to repairs or reconstruction of the waterline, so long as the work is done in a reasonable and environmentally sensitive manner, consistent with NPS mandates to preserve and protect Colorado National Monument.
7. The Ute Water Conservancy District provides domestic water to Colorado National Monument at the monument's north boundary near the Fruita entrance and to the developments near the Grand Junction entrance pursuant to a contract entered into between the NPS and the district August 9, 1979.
8. Power is provided to the monument by the Grand Valley Rural Electric for west entrance and headquarters developments and by Public Service of Colorado for east entrance developments.



9. The NPS holds a right-of-way across Bureau of Land Management (BLM) administered lands in the SE1/4 of the SE1/4 of Section 27 for construction of a parking lot, trailhead and trail access to the Liberty Cap and Ute Canyon Trails. (BLM reservation C-36742)
10. The NPS has concurrent jurisdiction with the State of Colorado over all lands within Colorado National Monument.
11. U.S. District Court Judge Richard P. Matsch rendered a decision in 1986 in the long-running civil law suits related to the use of the Rim Rock Drive for travel to areas outside the monument's boundaries - notably Glade Park and Pinon Mesa. He ruled that a right-of-way did exist along the contemporary Rim Rock Drive by virtue of historical access that existed prior to the establishment of Colorado National Monument. His ruling left the administrative authority and maintenance responsibility with the NPS, but prohibited the monument from charging entrance fees to anybody traveling the easternmost four miles of the Rim Rock Drive. In addition, he ruled that entrance fees required under current Federal regulations could not be charged for anyone traveling monument roads for non-recreational purposes, i.e., traveling from the Grand Valley to Glade Park or Pinon Mesa. He also ruled that the monument could not prohibit commercial vehicles from traveling the easternmost section of the Rim Rock Drive, but could regulate matters related to public safety, such as weight limits, hazardous cargos, etc. His ruling also upheld NPS regulations prohibiting commercial vehicles on the remainder of the Rim Rock Drive.
12. Two stock driveways - Gordon Toll Road and Fruita Dugway - cross Colorado National Monument and have been used to provide stockmen with a convenient route for trailing cattle and sheep to and from the Glade Park/Pinon Mesa environs. This use has been allowed under conditional special use permits which allowed the NPS to maintain a suitable level of control over this activity. There has been no use of the Gordon Toll Road in the last decade. Only one permittee who could demonstrate a tradition of use on the dugway has been permitted to use that route. He went out of the stock business a few years ago and the trail hasn't seen stock use

since.

13. The Colorado National Monument Association operates within the monument under the provisions of a Cooperative Agreement (CA 1378-78-01), originally consummated January 18, 1978, and just renewed to expire September 30, 1992. The Association operates a sales outlet providing educational and interpretive items for the benefit of the visiting public and in order to assist the historical, scientific, educational and interpretive activities of the Service.
14. Under the Clean Air Act of 1977 (as amended), the monument is designated a Federal Class II airshed. This affords the monument modest protection of its air quality related values.
15. The State of Colorado has designated the monument "Category I" for air quality, which provides a level of protection from in-State sources of sulphur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) equal to the protection afforded under Federal Class I standards.

B. Resources

Natural Resources

Colorado National Monument lies on the northeast edge of the Uncompahgre Plateau where it abruptly terminates and adjoins the Grand Valley. The steep-walled sandstone canyons and the lofty monoliths dominate the landscape and tell the story of erosional and geological processes that continue to unfold.

The monument's canyon landscape contains outstanding geologic features, exposed and sculpted by erosion. The massive escarpment that forms the northeast edge of the Uncompahgre Plateau is a product of a general uplift in association with faulting along the southwestern edge of the Grand Valley. Geologic history, ranging from the Precambrian (over a billion years ago) to less than a million years ago, is recorded in the exposed cliffs. The core of the Uncompahgre Highlands is composed of crystalline rock (granite, gneiss, schist and pegmatite) formed during Precambrian time. As much as 200 vertical feet of Precambrian rock is exposed at the base of the scarp, forming the deepest defiles of the monument's half-dozen significant canyons. A major unconformity separates the nearly horizontal sediments of the Triassic and above from the much older Precambrian metamorphics.

The crystalline base was covered alternately with stream and lake deposits and with windblown sand dunes forming a vertical rock sequence. The Chinle formation, a soft basal siltstone, which crumbles easily underfoot, was deposited on top of the Precambrian rock. It was covered by a broad expanse of harder rock, the Wingate sandstone, which tends to retain its integrity as a single mass and to fracture vertically across most of its full 300 to 600 feet. An even harder capstone, the thinner Kayenta formation, resists erosion and protects the expanse of sandstone cliffs below. Above the Kayenta, slanting "slick-rock" slopes of the rose-colored Entrada sandstone contribute a natural ornamentation of mesa tops such as is found at Saddlehorn. Above this, the mixed shales and sandstones of the Summerville and Morrison Formations form buff-colored wooded hills of only moderate relief that stand as a relatively neutral backdrop for the cliff and canyons of the escarpment area.

At about the time the Rocky Mountains were formed, tremendous earth forces lifted the Uncompahgre Plateau and cracked the crust of the earth to form a 10-mile-long fault. This fault forms a conspicuous escarpment that runs the length of the monument and separates the escarpment from the Grand Valley. Although formation of cliffs along most of the Redland's front was originally due to faulting, erosion has formed a deeply scalloped line of massive sandstone cliffs.

A number of dinosaur fossils have been discovered near, but outside of the monument, in the Morrison Formation. Skeletal remains may also be buried in this formation within the higher elevations of the monument.

Elevation ranges from 4,620 to 7,107 feet with attendant variables in precipitation and habitat.

A semi-desert upland climate prevails in the monument area with an average of less than 11 inches of annual precipitation. Temperatures vary greatly with summer highs ranging into the mid-90's and winter lows occasionally dipping into the sub-zero range. The annual mean high temperature is 61° F. and the mean low temperature is 39° F. Snowfall averages 38 inches, with heaviest accumulations generally in January.

The high quality of the summer season air shed contrasts sharply with the frequent poor air quality experienced in the winter when the Grand Valley is affected by recurrent temperature inversions. Long,

clear vistas combined with the extraordinary natural scenery enhances and accentuates the visitor's enjoyment of the natural resources of the monument and the surrounding region.

Winds are generally light, with prevailing winds coming from a westerly direction. Down-canyon drainage flow is typical at night with reversing up-canyon flow created from daytime solar heating.

There is no permanent water in the monument and streams flow intermittently after storms or following snow melt. A number of small seeps and springs as well as pot holes supply water for wildlife throughout most of the year, but are not recommended for human consumption.

The dominant vegetation type found in the monument is a pinon/juniper woodland that densely covers the higher elevations. Trees in this dwarf forest - Colorado pinon pine and Utah juniper - rarely grow more than 20-30 feet high, with juniper dominating lower elevations and pinon dominating above 6,000 feet. Gambel oak is found in small pockets within some of the upper sheltered canyons, such as Ute Canyon. Associated shrubs include serviceberry, mountain mahogany, and cliff rose. Open areas dominated by big sagebrush and rabbit brush are scattered throughout the woodland-covered mesa tops. In addition, there are relict populations of Douglas fir and aspen, and two or three ponderosa pines.

At lower canyon elevations, scattered pinon and juniper are interspersed with big sagebrush and a variety of grasses. The valley floor on the northeast edge of the monument supports a grassland ground cover that is predominantly exotic cheatgrass. A more accurate native assemblage would include sand dropseed, Indian rice grass, galleta grass and western wheatgrass.

Along stream beds and near seeps and springs, Rio Grande cottonwood and tamarisk are found, indicating areas where sub-surface water is consistently present.

Faunal species characteristic of the foothills of the Rocky Mountains, the arid Colorado Plateau and the Great Basin Desert are all found in Colorado National Monument. Mule deer are the most common large mammal, but mountain lion, bobcat, desert bighorn sheep and bear are also found in the monument. Smaller mammals include porcupine, squirrel, rabbit, fox, prairie dog and a variety of rodents.

Bird life is profuse and includes the endangered

peregrine falcon, golden eagle, great horned owl, red-tailed hawk, pinon jay, white-throated swift, magpie and raven, plus many others.

The monument contains habitats suitable for amphibians and reptiles. A variety of lizard species is commonly seen by nearly all visitors. The yellowheaded, collared lizard, commonly found in the monument, is protected by the State of Colorado.

### Cultural Resources

The history of human endeavor at Colorado National Monument is only partially understood, but there are indications that occupancy of the area may date back 10,000 or more years, to a time when Paleo-Indians still stalked giant Pleistocene mammals in the twilight of the last glacial age. Though no direct evidence of their existence in the monument has yet been uncovered, carefully crafted Clovis and Folsom points found nearby suggest that these ancient nomads could have frequented the area on a fairly regular basis.

To date, more than 80 prehistoric sites have been recorded in the monument. Numerous others are known to exist but have not yet been recorded, and there are doubtless many more that await initial discovery. Some of the known sites appear to be the camps of archaic hunting and gathering people, small groups of which made temporary use, over the centuries, of the numerous natural rock shelters that punctuate the monument's massive sandstone cliffs, or visited the extensive exposures of Brushy Basin quartzite presumably in search of lithic materials. Successive layers of charcoal, distinctive styles of rock art and even evidence of limited agriculture suggest later occupancy, in a few sites, by Uncompahgre-complex and the more recent Fremont peoples. A cluster of scaffold-trees and at least one rock-art site are of Ute origin.

The Shoshonean groups that we now identify as Utes were dominant in the region from perhaps 1300 A.D. until 1881, when the pressures of westward expansion forced the last of them out of the Grand Valley onto reservations in Utah. Shortly thereafter, the area was formally opened to settlement, and in September 1881, the townsite of Grand Junction was established and surveyed. A year later, the bustling little town welcomed the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad.

As Grand Junction grew, other communities were founded nearby. Soon, land was cleared, irrigation canals were

dug, and the area quickly developed a thriving farm economy. Access to the remote uplands south of town was limited, however, and the area now encompassed by the monument remained the exclusive province of large cattle outfits until around the turn of the century, when the first homesteaders gained access to Glade Park via the steep and winding Jacobs Ladder Road.

It was about this time that an eccentric wanderer and visionary named John Otto first arrived on the scene. A powder-man, he came to work on the Fruita waterline, an ambitious project to provide the town of Fruita with water from the high ground on Pinon Mesa some twenty miles south. Working along what was to become the western boundary of the monument a decade later, Otto fell in love with the majesty of the rugged redrock canyons, towering monoliths and forested mesas and began a personal involvement with the area that lasted for more than thirty years.

During his stay, Otto built miles of trails which made the area accessible to the public, worked vigorously to promote community support for its establishment as a National Park, and, after President William Howard Taft proclaimed it a national monument on May 24, 1911, became - at a dollar a month - the area's first custodian. Following its establishment, Otto led the effort to build a road from the Grand Valley to the uplands of the monument. Called the "Serpents Trail", it was envisioned by Otto as the first link in a national scenic highway connecting Grand Junction with the Pacific coast. But his idea never caught on, and the road served only to improve access to the monument and the homesteads on Glade Park a few miles to the south.

Now replaced by a high standard road, the Serpents Trail has been closed to vehicular traffic. It survives as a part of the monument's network of hiking trails, as do most other trails Otto constructed. The Fruita waterline was realigned and replaced during the 1930's, but a few segments of the original redwood pipe still exist in the monument.

Always eccentric, Otto became ever more difficult to deal with over the years and was thus relieved of his responsibilities as custodian in 1927. His interest in the area remained strong, however, and he stayed in and around the monument to contribute his services until 1934, when inner voices beckoned him to California. Of Otto's accomplishments, only the Serpents Trail is included on the List of Classified Structures.

In June 1933, the first of three Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camps was established in the monument. Over the next eight years, the CCC and related agencies constructed - among other things - the 23-mile-long Rim Rock Drive, four maintenance shops, a residence and garage, a comfort station and picnic shelter (all of native stone) and miles of boundary fence. They also replaced the six mile segment of the Fruita waterline that traversed the monument. All of their projects have endured, and the eight stone structures and Rim Rock Drive in its entirety are included on the monument's List of Classified Structures, and are in the process of being nominated to The National Register of Historic Places.

The next significant wave of development occurred during the interval from 1956 to 1966, when a number of major structures were built in conjunction with the NPS's Mission 66 Program. Since then, virtually all buildings of every vintage have been modified in some manner to adapt them for modern living and work practices.

### C. Land Uses and Trends

Colorado National Monument includes 20,454 acres, all within Mesa County, Colorado. The land inside the boundary is in Federal ownership. Along the northeast boundary, the NPS owns a few small parcels (approximately 44 acres total), which are outside the official boundary.

Historically, Colorado National Monument has been a small rural oriented national monument. In recent years, it has become a focal point for recreation for the Grand Valley area (estimated population 81,500+). Suburban development over the past 15 years along the northeast boundary has resulted in resource conflicts. This suburban development is expected to continue. Colorado National Monument has become a suburban park with many problems normally associated with an urban area.

Interstate 70 and U.S. 50, major arteries leading to many recreational resources, join at Grand Junction, Colorado. Access from these arteries to the monument is via State Highway 340 to the West entrance, and Highway 340 and Mesa County DS Road to the East entrance. The Rim Rock Drive connects the two entrances.

Commercial transportation to Grand Junction is excellent. Several major airlines provide regularly

scheduled service. Amtrak provides rail service, and Continental Trailways provides bus service. Rental cars are readily available in Grand Junction. Mesa Cab taxi company provides escorted tours of the monument.

Major metropolitan areas are within an easy day's drive of Colorado National Monument. Three major population centers lie within a 350 mile radius: The Colorado Front Range including Fort Collins, Denver, Colorado Springs and Pueblo; the Wasatch Front in Utah consisting of Salt Lake City, Provo and Ogden; and the Santa Fe/Albuquerque area of New Mexico. The total population of these three areas is well in excess of 4 million.

Outdoor recreation is popular in the vicinity of the monument. The western half of Colorado is covered with national forests and BLM administered public lands. High mountain recreational opportunities are extensive in this area. There are numerous streams, lakes and reservoirs, and camping is associated with many of them. Lake and stream fishing is a major attraction, and pleasure boating is popular on reservoirs and lakes. This region is a prime hunting area for elk and deer. Winter sports activities are popular throughout the area. White water rafting on region rivers has become very popular.

The Grand Valley, north and east of the monument, is a wide, rather flat area used extensively for farming and ranching. In the last 15 years, residential development close to Grand Junction and Fruita has taken over much formerly agricultural land. Public lands south and west of the monument are primarily used for grazing and dispersed recreation. Residential development has grown slowly but steadily in the Glade Park region south and west of the monument.

Energy development in western Colorado and eastern Utah is presently stagnant, but there are extensive coal, oil, tar sand, and oil shale resources that could be developed within 150 miles of the monument.

#### D. Visitor Use Analysis

A typical recreational visit to Colorado National Monument consists of a leisurely drive across the 23-mile Rim Rock Drive with stops at a few overlooks and the visitor center to view the exhibits and the introductory slide program. Such a visit will average 2.2 hours. This auto-sightseeing is the primary visitor activity in the monument. A lesser number of visitors



will picnic in one of the two picnic areas or hike on one of the trails. Overnight visitors (19,210 in 1987) generally stay in the Saddlehorn Campground and remain in the monument an average of 14.2 hours.

Most visitors arrive in a personal vehicle, although a percentage arrives by bus or as part of a formal tour.

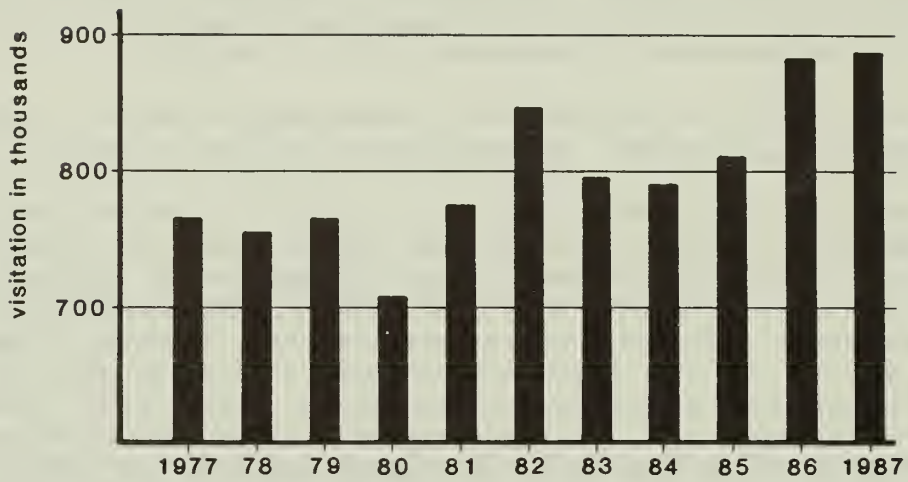
Visitation has been climbing slowly but erratically over the last decade culminating in a total of 881,108 for 1987. This is a record for the monument, although only 0.7% above 1986. Of that total, recreational visits numbered 368,250, or 41.5% of the total. The vast majority of the non-recreational visitors are traveling through the monument to the Glade Park/ Pinon Mesa area to the west. A large proportion of that is commuter traffic from residential developments in Glade Park. The large non-recreational component generates a major workload for the monument staff in terms of law enforcement and protection (46% of accidents from 1983 to 1985 were on the east four miles of the Rim Rock Drive) and road maintenance, including snow removal.

Visitation peaks during the summer travel season, but due to the proximity of Grand Junction and the heavy local non-recreational component, it is not nearly as variable on a seasonal basis as many other western parks. The heaviest month for visitation is August (109,590 in 1987), and February is the lowest (43,239 in 1987), though it is still 40% of August visitation. The five main travel months of May through September account for only 54% of the total visitation (60% of the recreational component). Seasonally, visitation breaks down as follows:

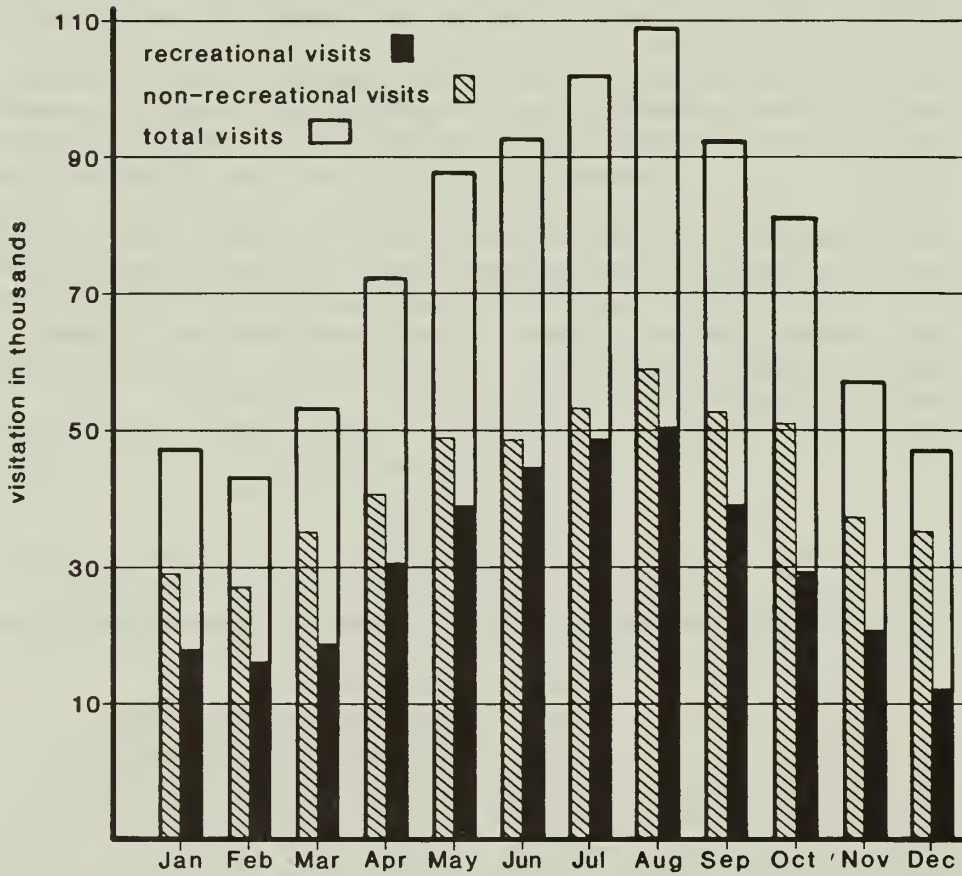
30%	Summer
27%	Fall
16%	Winter
27%	Spring

Visitor origins during summer months are as follows:

45%	Out-of-State
30%	Local (Mesa County)
25%	Colorado other than Mesa County



**Annual Visitation**



**Monthly Visitation - 1987**  
Colorado National Monument

## Analysis of Park Users and Use Patterns

No formal study of visitor use patterns has been done at Colorado National Monument, but the following estimated analysis of park users and use patterns was generated for the Statement for Interpretation:

A. Visitation analysis by selected categories of users:

1. Breakdown by age:

Summer

11%	Children	0 - 12 years
18%	Teenagers	13 - 17 years
58%	Adults	18 - 61 years
13%	Senior Citizens	62+

2. Breakdown by special population:

Summer

3%	Handicapped
20%	Non-English speaking
20%	Minority

B. Visitation analysis by origin - destination patterns:

1. Breakdown by point of origin

Summer

75%	Local residents
15%	Regional residents
8%	National residents
2%	International

2. Breakdown by destination/duration of stay

Summer

80%	Based day users
15%	Through visitors
90%	Day use only
10%	Overnight
5%	Extended users

### Picnicking

Local visitors are the main users of the monument's two

picnic areas. The Devils Kitchen is heavily used by groups and families from the Grand Junction area. This picnic area has tables, a CCC-era masonry shelter, restrooms and grills. Parking capacity is limited and group size is therefore limited to 25 persons. The Saddlehorn Picnic area has a much larger capacity and is heavily used by local groups, some up to 300 persons.

### Hiking and Backcountry Use

Some 42 miles of trails exist in the monument at the present time. Trails range in length and difficulty from nearly level trails of less than half a mile in length to strenuous backcountry trails of over 6 miles in length. This system provided access to floors of several major canyons, Monument Mesa and The Black Ridge area. Several trails constructed during the John Otto era of the monument that have fallen into disrepair are being considered for improvement and reopening.

Hiking is popular primarily in the spring and fall. During summer, high temperatures and biting midges in the early summer severely curtail use. During 1987, 6,581 registered hikers used the trails. Actual use was almost certainly much higher. Although hiking is done primarily on the established trail system, visitors aren't restricted to the trails and may use any of the monument for hiking.

Overnight backcountry use is very limited, probably due to the size of the monument, its proximity to town and its lack of water. In 1987, 75 overnight backcountry stays were recorded.

Cross-country skiing has recently become increasingly popular in winters with sufficient snowfall. Most cross-country use is on the Black Ridge and Liberty Cap trails.

Horseback riders make use of the lower Monument Canyon Trail, the Black Ridge Trail and the upper Liberty Cap Trail.

### Rock Climbing

Rock climbing on the cliffs and spires of the monument is engaged in primarily by a few local enthusiasts, though the monument has been written up in some climbing publications and occasionally is the focus of non-local climbers. Seventy-nine registered climbers used the monument in 1987. Many more climbed in the monument but did not register.

## E. Facilities and Equipment Analysis

### 1. Non-historic Roads and Trails

Park roads include 26 miles of paved and 1 of unpaved roadway. The major public use roadway is the 23-mile long Rim Rock Drive (listed on the LCS and being nominated to The National Register) which provides access to viewpoints, trailheads, picnic and campgrounds, and the visitor center. The road condition ranges from fair to good. The east four miles of the Rim Rock Drive and the two miles of the East Glade Park Road receive heavy commuter traffic and truck traffic resulting in significantly higher maintenance costs. Road design often does not meet modern standards.

Twenty-seven parking areas and viewpoints make most of the monument's scenic attractions visible and accessible to visitors.

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### 2. Non-historic Buildings and Facilities

There are approximately 30 non-historic buildings and other structures in the monument including the visitor center/administrative office, restrooms, maintenance facilities, and residences. Employee residences consist of five single family residences, a duplex and a four-unit apartment building.

### 3. Utility Systems

The Ute Water Conservancy District provides domestic water to Colorado National Monument at the monument's north boundary near the Fruita entrance and to the developments near the Grand Junction entrance. The NPS owns and operates the water treatment and distribution systems within the monument. The system meets all health standards.

Sewage from the headquarters developments is collected via mains and four lift stations, and treated in an

aerated lagoon. East side sewage is treated by means of septic tanks and leach fields.

Electric power is provided by Grand Valley Rural Electric for west entrance and headquarters developments and by Public Service of Colorado for east entrance developments.

The NPS owns the internal telephone systems and external lines within the monument servicing the headquarters developments.

The monument has an adequate radio system.

#### 4. Historic Structures

Nine historic properties are identified on the monument's List of Classified Structures, including eight stone buildings constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps and the remnants of an abandoned roadway -- the Trail of the Serpent -- that was constructed by volunteer labor between 1913 and 1920. Seven of the structures are located near headquarters, including:

1. Caretaker's Residence
2. Caretaker's Garage
3. Campground Comfort Station
4. Roads and Trails Shop
5. Buildings and Utilities Shop
6. Vehicle and Equipment Storage Shed
7. Oil House

Together, these structures comprise the Saddlehorn Historic District, which was nominated in early 1987 for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. For the most part, the exterior appearance of structures in the Saddlehorn District is historically accurate, but interiors have been extensively modified to adapt them for modern work practices.

Located near the monument's East Entrance are the Devils Kitchen Picnic Shelter and a surviving 2.5-mile section of the Trail of the Serpent. Each property has been nominated for inclusion on the National Register.

Among historic properties that have not been nominated are the Gordon Toll Road (ca 1884), the Fruita Dugway (ca 1884), the Fruita Waterline (ca 1906 - 1936), the Corkscrew and other recreational trails, and the remains of a trail-side springhouse and numerous homestead structures that are considered to be moldering ruins.

Of these, only the Fruita Waterline and a few of the homestead structures have been recorded.

### 5. Major Equipment

The monument utilizes both GSA vehicles and agency-owned vehicles. GSA vehicles include one station wagon, three pickups and a dumptruck. Agency-owned vehicles include four law enforcement sedans, a van, a pickup, a road grader, a backhoe and two front-end loaders.

### F. Status of Planning

<u>PLAN/STUDY</u>	<u>PREPARER</u>	<u>APPROVED</u>	<u>ADEQUACY</u>
Master Plan	RMR, DSC, COLM	4/16/76	Outdated
Natural Resource Management Plan and FONSI (revision in draft)	COLM	6/27/83	Outdated
Cultural Resource Management Plan	COLM	Final 2/88	Adequate
Interpretive Prospectus	RMR, COLM	HFC, In-draft	
Statement for Interpretation	COLM	1/88	Adequate
Wilderness Recommendation	WSC	5/71	Adequate
Documented Safety Plan	COLM	In-draft	
Search and Rescue Plan	COLM	6/15/87	Adequate
Structural Fire Plan	COLM	2/85	Adequate

### G. Existing Management Zoning

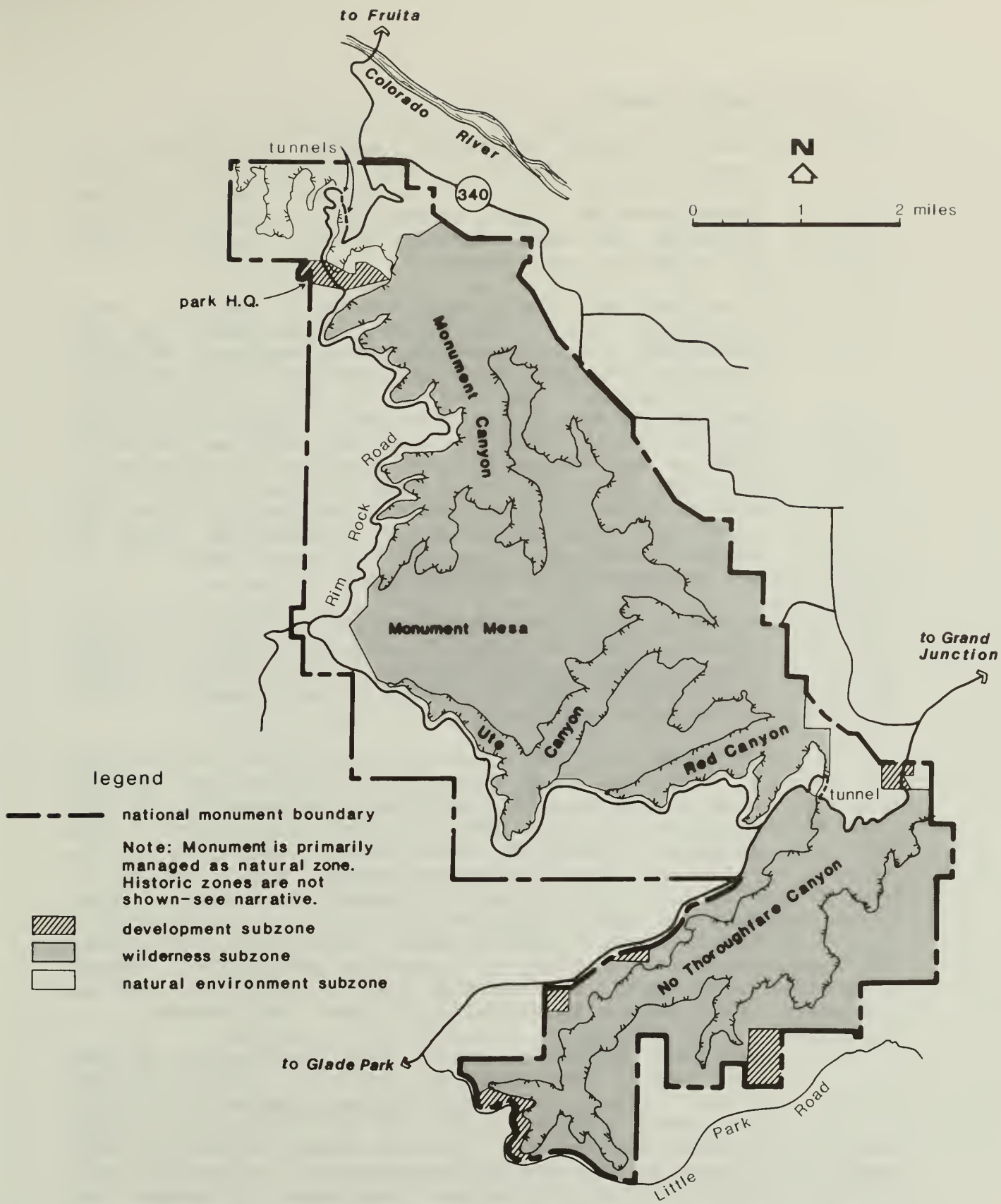
Colorado National Monument is managed primarily as a natural zone. The majority of the parklands is thus further classified as wilderness subzone to reflect the monument's wilderness proposal, and as a natural environment subzone which surrounds three sides of the wilderness area. The wilderness subzone is being managed to protect the wilderness values in accordance with wilderness management policies.

Two areas are classified and managed as development subzones. The major development concentration near the west entrance consists of the Saddlehorn area, which includes the visitor center, residential area, administrative offices, campground and picnic area. The east entrance consists of a ranger station, residences, a small shop, and picnic area.

The monument includes two historic zones. The maintenance shops were constructed by CCC-era crews and the entire maintenance area is managed as a historic zone. The Serpent's Trail is a historic zone. Numerous cultural sites scattered throughout the monument are managed so as to preserve their integrity.

Natural Zone	4,909 acres	24%
Wilderness Subzone	15,136 acres	74%
Development Zone	409 acres	2%
Historic Zone	0 acres	0%
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TOTAL	20,454 acres	100%





## Existing Management Zoning

### Colorado National Monument

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

#### IV. MAJOR ISSUES

1. Citizen action in recent months has revived the question of expanding the monument to include public lands west of the current boundary, and redesignating it as a "national park". Primary focus is on lands included within the Black Ridge Wilderness Study Areas.
2. The town of Fruita operates a 50-year-old water pipeline that runs from Pinon Mesa to the southwest and crosses Colorado National Monument for 6 miles. The monument portion of the pipeline was owned and operated by the NPS until 1977 to provide water to the monument. The NPS notified Fruita in 1981 that the existing pipeline was of no further use to the Service and that it belonged to the town as a revocable permitted use. The notice stated that Fruita could continue to use the pipeline, and repair or reconstruction could be carried out as long as it was done in an environmentally acceptable manner.

Although the town now obtains water from other sources, they continue to explore ways to utilize their water rights on Pinon Mesa. Most alternatives would involve the waterline route through the monument.

3. The 1986 U.S. Court decision regarding the east end of the Rim Rock Drive left maintenance an NPS responsibility and reaffirmed the authority of the Service to regulate traffic along this road segment. There is still minor opposition on the parts of some through-travelers about having to stop at the entrance station stop sign. They consider the requirement to be an infringement on their rights. Any action by the Service to further regulate traffic by imposing weight or length limitations for safety and maintenance reasons would result in significant local controversy.
4. The Gary Refining Company near Fruita has emitted pollutants that affected the air quality in the Grand Valley (a non-attainment area for total suspended particulates) and the monument airshed (designated Federal Class II/State Category I with regard to air quality protection). The Colorado State Air Quality Control Commission indicated they believed the refinery was exceeding the standards for SO<sub>2</sub> over Colorado National Monument. The plant is shut down at this time due to a general decline

in the petroleum industry; therefore, the topic of SO<sub>2</sub> emissions from the plant is presently a dead issue, and will be until the unit is started up again.

5. Energy development proposals around the monument have the potential for air quality impacts. Developments closer to the monument, such as the coal-fired power plant proposed near Mack, would also result in visual intrusions into the monument's viewshed. These proposals are all dormant at present but will likely become active again when the price of energy increases.
6. A stage of the Coors International Bicycle Classic has been hosted by Grand Junction for six years. The race has included two laps through Colorado National Monument, necessitating the closure of the park road for up to 3 hours. In 1985, a controversy erupted over the organizers' decision to expand the race to three laps, resulting in an extended road closure. Subsequent negotiations reduced the length once again to two laps and the race was held without incident in 1986 and 1987, though informal discussion of a longer race has continued. The Service has continued to hold the position that a longer race would have an unacceptable impact upon non-race monument visitors.
7. A variety of adjacent land uses impact or have the potential to impact the monument. Powerline and communications towers along the monument's west boundary are visual intrusions. Approximately 40% of the monument boundary is bordered by private lands. During the last 15 years, much of that land has undergone residential and commercial development. Much of the remaining open land will likely be developed in the future. Development has cut off traditional hiker accesses, created a visual intrusion in the monument's viewshed, resulted in non-natural noise and free-roaming and feral pets.

#### V. MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

Better protect monument resources by working with others to integrate management of natural resources and human needs in the area surrounding the monument and to provide leadership in the communication and promotion of NPS, monument and conservation values.

1. Cooperate with individuals, groups and agencies in preservation and management of surrounding lands:
  - a. Black Ridge WSA and other BLM lands to the west of the monument and possible studies of those lands for inclusion in Colorado National Monument.
  - b. Close cooperation with Mesa County and property owners along the Redlands area to minimize impacts of urban and suburban development on Colorado National Monument.
2. Continue close participation with Colorado Division of Wildlife and BLM on peregrine falcon and bighorn sheep programs.
3. Be an active participant in BLM, Mesa County and other planning processes in the region that have the potential of affecting Colorado National Monument.

Identify and develop mutually beneficial relationships with others who affect or are affected by the monument and to strengthen the monument's role as a positive force that contributes to the well-being of the region, the State, the nation and the world.

1. Encourage the cooperative arrangement with the Colorado National Monument Association to continue providing the public with interpretive publications and the NPS with assistance in educational, interpretive, research, and other programs.
2. Cooperate with the Museum of Western Colorado and other public agencies and constituent organizations to promote preservation and understanding of monument resources and a conservation ethic in the community.
3. Increase public awareness and understanding of monument and NPS programs and policies through an expanded outreach program with programs and participation in community and agency functions surrounding Colorado National Monument. Broaden the scope of outreach activities to include a full range of interest groups.
4. Develop proactive relationships with the media.
5. Actively participate with regional tourism groups to provide an understanding of the opportunities

available at Colorado National Monument and in the NPS. Work cooperatively in the development of a progressive regional tourism program. Increase public and industry awareness of Colorado National Monument as a part of a larger, regional recreation base.

6. Enhance our relationship with local, county, and State officials, and the Congressional delegation.

**Identify, interpret and protect the monument's significant cultural and natural resources. Manage the resources to restore and protect the naturally functioning ecosystem, while recognizing man and man's cultural remains as a part of this system.**

1. Complete Natural Resource Management Plan and use it and the Cultural Resource Management Plan as primary guides in managing the monument's resources.
2. Complete inventory and assessments of eligibility for all historic features. Develop long-range plan for completion of a comprehensive survey of archeological resources within the monument.
3. Develop additional interpretive materials relating to the monument's human history.
4. Bring the museum collections into conformance with NPS standards for cataloging, storage, and care. Upgrade the standard of management and maintenance of the monument's library.
5. Allow natural processes to progress unless threatened or endangered species must receive special management for survival.
6. Make resource management, which is related to every monument activity, a total monument effort by every monument employee. Provide encouragement, guidance, and recognition for these efforts.
7. Develop and implement a system for baseline development and monitoring, incorporating and continuing those efforts already in place. A geographic information system and resource information tracking system will be utilized where appropriate.
8. As feasible, reintroduce or augment populations of species extirpated or diminished because of man's

actions.

9. Contain, control, or eliminate non-native plants and animals as feasible utilizing Integrated Pest Management concepts.
10. Evaluate and act on rehabilitation needs in heavy visitor use areas, such as trailsides, pullouts, vista points, campgrounds, and picnic areas.
11. Perpetuate the integrity of natural and cultural resources.
12. Develop a wildlife observation reporting and tracking system.
13. Analyze and monitor the status and trends of monument air quality, and participate proactively in regional and community planning to protect air quality values. Continue to seek an upgrade in air quality classification for the monument from Class II to Class I.
14. Expand cooperative research activities through agreements with universities and others.

**Provide the facilities and services needed for visitors to experience monument resources and to understand the natural process involved in the formation and functioning of Colorado National Monument.**

1. Encourage contemplative and non-consumptive use while providing the visitor with a unique experience that is characterized by a high degree of personal involvement and freedom in selecting activities. Recognize that Colorado National Monument is a unique landscape in and of itself, and by virtue of its location at the edge of the Colorado Plateau, is uniquely situated to introduce visitors traveling west to the many parks of the Colorado Plateau.
2. Provide facilities and programs that recognize the special needs and capabilities of all visitors. Complete accessibility surveys and implement corrective actions to integrate the disabled and elderly into primary visitor activity areas. Insure that new construction and significant remodeling comply with Federal accessibility standards.
3. Develop and maintain a well-designed and managed

trail system as an integral part of the monument access and circulation system. Recognize that the road system is fully developed, and maintain it for year-round visitor use.

4. Recognize that risk is inherent in the use of the monument. Give the monument visitor information concerning the risk associated with the various activities in the monument.
5. Interpretation will have geologic features and their formation as the primary theme, with flora, fauna, cultural history and prehistory, regional natural history as coequal secondary themes. All programming will emphasize the function of natural systems with man as an integral part of the system. Interpretive programming will aim to instill understanding and appreciation of the monument's resources and develop public support for preservation.
6. Implement a program of emergency preparedness that includes development and maintenance of in-house capabilities and close cooperation of neighboring law enforcement and emergency response agencies.
7. Crime prevention and physical security will have a high priority among all monument operations. Prevention will be emphasized to employees and visitors.
8. Maintain maximum reasonable service at entrance stations and visitor center through adjusting schedules to cover visitor use patterns.
9. Provide a level of facility operation and maintenance that preserves the capital investment and offers a standard of maintenance that is acceptable to the majority of visitors.
10. Develop information and training programs that ensure that monument employees understand visitor service and resource management issues involved in the operation of the monument as well as the technical aspects of their jobs.
11. Maintain an atmosphere where monument employees are open to and approachable by visitors and encourage personal interaction between visitors and staff.
12. Operate and maintain monument utility systems to provide efficient service to both visitor and

administrative needs.

13. Operate, maintain and improve the monument buildings and other visitor and administrative use structures to provide the visitor with a high quality experience.

**Build internal efficiency and effectiveness into monument operations, bring employee performance to full potential, and provide support for the accomplishment of strategic goals.**

1. Develop a staff that functions as a unified and cohesive team which fosters creativity, employee initiative, efficiency, and effectiveness in the management and administration of Colorado National Monument. Identify and resolve internal control deficiencies. Use the full potential of staff resources by reducing organizational constraints and conveying a feeling of openness to employee input, and recognizing and promoting the professionalism of individual employees.
2. Have a clear awareness of the monument's mission and management direction. Communicate mission and management direction to employees and the public.
3. Provide a training program which will enable all employees to develop job skills, assist career development, and encourage achievement. Components include: a cost-effective training program, identification of employee development needs, an equitable incentive awards program, and improved performance standards and evaluations.
4. Maintain government furnished homes to provide comfortable and safe housing as needed.
5. Identify and strengthen internal controls to prevent waste, fraud, or abuse and to ensure the security of public property.
6. Develop an ADP policy so that data is properly managed and hardware and software acquisition fit into a properly managed, integrated system. Expand the ADP system to reach all appropriate monument offices.
7. Implement a maintenance management system that meets the requirement of the NPS and the monument by efficiently providing accurate information for



monument maintenance management decisions.

8. Better articulate funding needs by establishing clear goals and support funding requests with planning, consistent priorities, and well developed justifications.
9. Implement programs to encourage qualified persons and organizations to participate in volunteer efforts that will benefit the monument.
10. Emphasize programs and work practices that result in increased safety in the workplace.





