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### Historic Preservation Official Conditions for Mesa Vere Filming Must be Stringent

Aspen Daily News

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## Historic Preservation Official Says Conditions For Mesa Verde Filming Must Be Stringent

DENVER (AP) — The historic preservation officer for Colorado has proposed that "stringent conditions" be imposed before any filming of a new Indiana Jones adventure movie can be done at Mesa Verde National Park.

The letter by Barbara Sudler will automatically trigger a review of the proposed film-making by the Denver office of the President's Council on Historic Preservation.

Lucasfilm Ltd., wants to shoot some chase sequences among Indian ruins at Mesa Verde on Sept. 12 and Sept. 13, a proposal that has prompted an outcry from conservationists who fear the fragile ruins would be endangered.

**SUDLER'S LETTER** calling for 10 conditions if the filming is done was hand-carried to National Park Service regional director Lorraine Mintzmyer on Thursday.

"It may be possible to avoid possible adverse effects on this property if these conditions are carried out," Sudler said.

Mesa Verde's chief archeologist, Jack Smith, had written a five-page report concluding that the filming could damage the 700-year-old mud and sandstone cliff dwellings, once inhabited by Anasazi Indians, but that finding was overturned earlier this week by Mintzmyer, who said the filming would be carefully supervised and would have no effect on the ruins.

Sudler's letter went beyond supervision, urging that specific conditions be imposed on the filming.

Those conditions include making a complete photographic record of the Long House ruin before Lucasfilm shoots a chase sequence in it and installing devices to monitor vibration and temperature changes in the ruin.

**SUDLER ALSO** would prohibit wheeled vehicles, equipment mountains and metal anchors in the sandstone and fires and storing of equipment in the ruin.

Neither Sudler nor the president's council is empowered to halt the filming.

Under published National Park Service guidelines, moviemaking is specifically permitted at national parks unless it would have an adverse impact on park property.

"This type of activity is markedly different from public tours of the ruins," said Alan Reed, president of the Colorado Council of Professional Archeologists. "The impacts of a large filming crew might be greater than with tourists who go to see this national treasure."

The movie, which hasn't been named, involves "pot hunters" who raid ruins in search of artifacts and treasure.