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Hovenweep National Monument

Colorado National Parks

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**US Dept of Interior (NPS) Hovenweep National Monument Square  
Tower Group: Hovenweep Memorandum**

National Park Service of the United States

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Mesa Verde National Park  
COLORADO

February 27, 1953

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Region Three  
From: Coordinated Superintendent  
Subject: Excessive or Incompatible Use of Park Areas.

Forwarded herewith, in duplicate, is Superintendent Mahan's report on Excessive or Incompatible Use of Colorado National Monument.

While I agree with Mr. Mahan's appraisal of the situation at Colorado I would like to point out that the heavy local use in that area should actually be considered as normal in view of the proximity of the monument to nearby communities.

There is no problem of this nature yet at Black Canyon, Hovenweep or Yucca House, and no report will be made for them.

It is doubtful that the Director's memorandum is applicable to Mesa Verde, since those who visit the park from within a radius of 100 miles are less than 5% of our total traffic. Though local visitors do come to the park, picnic, visit the ruins and make use of the area and its facilities, they have not resulted in a problem such as can be found in some other areas. The Forest Service, State and other agencies have developed recreational facilities in the nearby areas for fisherman, hunters, skiers and others. Any additional facilities we might encourage them to build would have little bearing, we believe, on the number of visitors we must accommodate.

The use that we now have which is "excessive" comes not from the number of visitors, but rather from lack of adequate facilities and accommodations.

O. W. Carlson  
Superintendent

Copy to: Colorado National Monument

C.N.M.

Jordan,

In reply refer to:  
L3431 WASO-T

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
Region Three  
Santa Fe, New Mexico

December 12, 1952

Memorandum No. 52-98

To: Region Three Superintendents  
From: Acting Regional Director  
Subject: Excessive or Incompatible Use of Park Areas - Report Due March 1, 1953

The field officials attending the "Area Operations" Conference in Glacier National Park in September made the following recommendation:

"That the Service should encourage recreation developments by other local or State governments where surveys indicate there is need to relieve Service areas from incompatible or excessive use."

Director Wirth in his FO-166-52 memorandum of November 20 has asked that the regional offices make a study of Service areas with a view to determining to which areas this recommendation may be applicable and to what extent State and county recreation developments may help to reduce the demand on areas of this Service.

To assist in this study I am asking that you review your local situation and prepare a reply to this office as outlined in the questions below:

1. Is your area receiving excessive or incompatible use?
2. Define and describe such excessive or incompatible uses.
3. Is the excessive use which you wish to reduce due to visitors from the local region (radius of 100 miles) ?

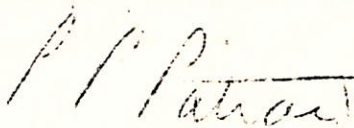
4. To what extent would the development of recreational facilities by local or State governments relieve the excessive or incompatible use of your area?

5. Give names and locations of areas which might be developed so as to relieve any excessive use of your area.

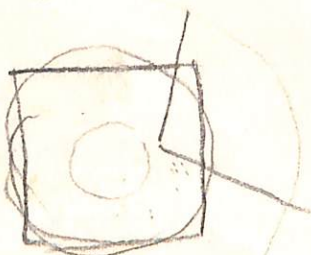
6. What features would you suggest for the development of areas by State or local governments to reduce the use of your area?

Please submit any additional information on this subject which you believe to be pertinent to the problem. This problem is of such deep interest to the National Park System that it warrants thorough consideration as presently or potentially affecting the areas under your administration and detailed discussion, rather than perfunctory answers to the above questions.

It is requested that your reply reach us by March 1, 1953.



P. P. Patraw  
Acting Regional Director



✓	Superintendent	
✓	Asst. Sup. In. Charge	
✓	Chief Clerk	
✓	Chief Ranger	
✓	Park Archaeologist	
✓	Foreman	
	Files	

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
COLORADO NATIONAL MONUMENT  
GRAND JUNCTION, COLORADO  
Fruita, Colorado

January 27, 1953

**Memorandum**

**To:** Regional Director  
**From:** Superintendent, Colorado  
**Subject:** Excessive or Incompatible Use, Colorado National Monument

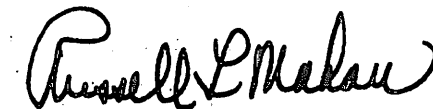
Reference is made to Mr. Patraw's memorandum No. 52-98 of December 12, 1952 requesting information on excessive or incompatible use of Service areas.

The following is the requested information for Colorado National Monument in accordance with specific questions contained in the above mentioned memorandum.

1. This monument is receiving considerable use which is incompatible with the original concept of the use of areas considered worthy of national recognition and administration by the National Park Service.
2. Due to the close proximity of this area to Grand Junction and other towns in the Grand Valley there has always been a great amount of picnic use for approximately eight months out of the year, it being only a one half hour drive from Grand Junction.
3. The use we should try to reduce is by visitors within a radius of 30 miles.
4. Development of recreational facilities by local and State governments in the way of furnishing picnic facilities in the Grand Valley, at lower elevations, would tend to relieve the pressure in the spring and fall. Further development of this type of facility by the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management, on lands under their jurisdiction, at higher elevations would help to relieve the congestion during the warmer summer months.

5. Areas in the vicinity which could be developed to relieve the pressure are:
- (a) Development of more picnic facilities in the city parks of Grand Junction.
  - (b) Development of picnic areas and sites along the Colorado River throughout the Grand Valley.
  - (c) Development of additional picnic areas on Pinon Mesa, approximately 25 miles west of Grand Junction and development of the same type of sites along the lower elevations of Grand Mesa, east and south of Grand Junction, such as Mannah Creek, etc. These lands are controlled by the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management.
6. Our only excessive or incompatible use at the present time is picnic use and furnishing of sites containing tables, fireplaces, and water and sanitation facilities for picnic use in the immediate vicinity would tend to reduce our present heavy use. The development of sites along the Colorado River should also include campground use to relieve contemplated future pressure on campgrounds within the monument.

in duplicate



Russell L. Mahan  
Superintendent