



THE MONOLITH

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Colorado National Monument Visitor Center Complex Listed In The National Register Of Historic Places

The Colorado Historical Society recently announced that the Colorado National Monument Visitor Center complex, near Fruita, Colorado, had been listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

The complex, which includes the Visitor Center, Canyon Rim Trail, and Bookcliff Shelter, was constructed from 1963 to 1965 as part of the National Park Service's historic Mission 66 program. The Visitor Center and Bookcliff Shelter were designed to take advantage of the spectacular surrounding scenery by placing the visitor in the middle of it. The Canyon Rim Trail leads up to the fan-like Bookcliff Shelter perched atop Wedding Canyon, providing visitors with an outdoor experience and an excellent view of the spectacular vistas and monoliths that make up Colorado National Monument. The Visitor Center is also an excellent representation of the style of modern architecture that was becoming more popular in the National Parks at the time, a style that used low, horizontal profiles to better blend the buildings into the landscape.

The National Register is the official federal list of the nation's cultural resources considered worthy of preservation. The National Register is administered by the National Park Service and, at the state level, by the Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (OAHP) at the Colorado Historical Society. OAHP assists property owners in listing Colorado's most historically and architecturally significant buildings, structures, and sites in the National Register of Historic Places and the Colorado State Register of Historic Properties.

The CNMA is proud to work in this historic building, surrounded by the beauty of Colorado National Monument.

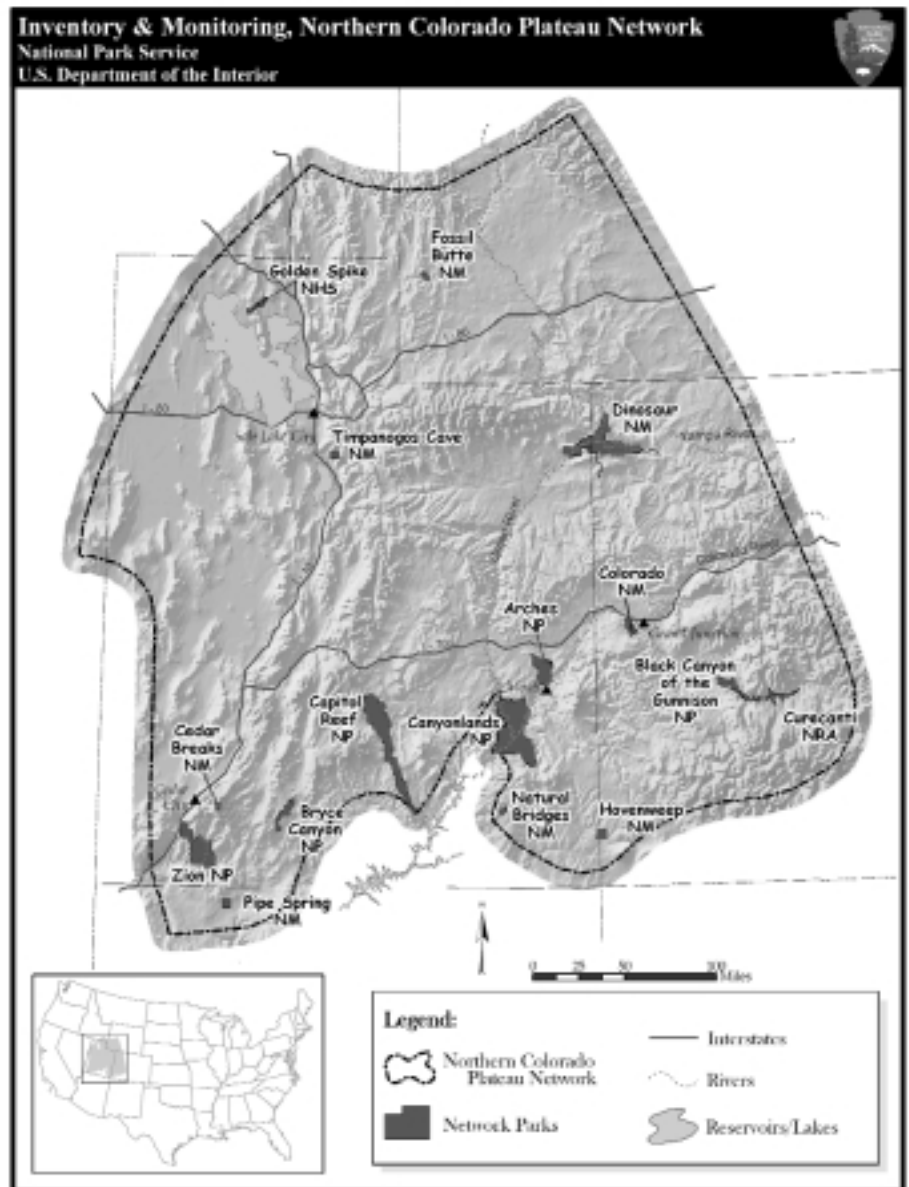


The low, horizontal profiles of the CNM Visitor Center complement the red rock landscape of the park.

Program Monitors CNM's Natural Resources

You'd think that after nearly ten decades of existence, Colorado National Monument and other NPS areas would have a good understanding of what resources we have so that we can make good decisions about how to manage them. Unfortunately, we don't have a good inventory of our natural and cultural resources. The good news is we're doing something about it.

As part of its strategy for implementing the Natural Resource Challenge, the National Park Service has created thirty-two networks of parks linked by geography and shared natural resource characteristics to facilitate collaboration, information sharing, and economics of scale in natural resource management. Colorado National Monument is one of sixteen parks included in the Northern Colorado Plateau Network (NCPN). As part



The Monolith is published by the Colorado National Monument Association for its members. The CNMA is a not-for-profit educational organization working in cooperation with the National Park Service at Colorado National Monument.

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of this network, CNM has devoted a great deal of time and money to plant and vertebrate inventories over the past few years.

Now that we have completed most of the inventories needed, we move into the monitoring phase of the plan. Knowing the condition of natural resources is fundamental to protecting and managing National Park Service lands. Scientifically credible data is necessary to make decisions and support management actions. The purpose of the

Inventory and Monitoring Program is to develop broadly based, scientifically sound information on the current status and long-term trends in the composition, structure, and function of park ecosystems.

Over the next few years we will be seeing more scientists out and about in the monument. We will try to keep you all informed of their identities and what they are discovering. Please feel free to contact Dave or Lisa at Resource Management to learn more.

Thoughts from the Superintendent: 2003 Wrap-up

A Summer of Successes

By Palma Wilson

Can you believe another summer has come and gone! It seems like yesterday I was putting down my thoughts about the upcoming events for the summer. And it was a successful summer, a little hot and dry, but fires were few and comments from visitors were good. So, here is a quick run of the past several months.

Road Builders Day was on May 31, 2003. The event commemorated the 70th Anniversary of the Federal Unemployment Relief Act, 1933, which provided relief for many families suffering through the Great Depression and advanced park development by many years. Invitees included the men of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), the Local Experienced Men (LEM), the Works Project Administration (WPA), and all of the organizations and people who contributed to the construction of Rim Rock Drive and other structures within the monument. Over one hundred people attend the ceremony at the Saddlehorn Picnic area, including ten of the original Road Builders, as well as members of the Western Colorado Conservation Corps. Our thanks go out to CNMA for helping to fund this celebration.

The Trails & Rails Program, a joint program between the National Park Service and Amtrak that places volunteer interpreters (and in some cases paid staff) on the train to talk about the natural and cultural history of the area, did not quite make it "on board" this season. Snowstorms held up training for the Denver-

based volunteers, and Amtrak was still working on logistical items in July. However, the program should be a GO for next summer starting the Memorial Day weekend.

CNMA funded the development of the script for the program.

Work continues on the General Management Plan. The planning team met in early September to finalize the draft plan. Once completed, the plan will go to the NPS's Washington Office for a thirty-day



Superintendent Palma Wilson

review, and then on to the printer. Look for the plan to be available for public review in early January 2004. Once again we'll have public workshops to see what folks think.

We continue to work closely with the BLM as they proceed through the planning process for the Colorado Canyons National Conservation Area. Our schedules for completion of the plans are still consistent (although their draft plan may come out a month or so earlier than ours), and we are looking for ways to work together after the

plans are completed — and in some cases before the plans are completed. For more information on the Colorado Canyons NCA and their planning process, visit: www.co.blm.gov/colocanyons.

As new information becomes available, it will be posted on the monument's planning web page at <http://planning.nps.gov/plans.cfm>. Want to be on the GMP mailing list or have other thoughts? If so, send to: Superintendent, Colorado National Monument, Fruita, CO 81521, or call 970-858-3617.

E-mail:

COLM_Superintendent@nps.gov

On another note, the monument is going through some staffing changes, so you might have noticed a few missing and a few new faces in recent months. Park Ranger Bill Row transferred to Badlands National Park in June. Park Ranger Joel Barnett, from White Sands National Monument, arrived in late September to fill the vacant position. Office Automation Clerk Todd Overbye (who has been a seasonal interpreter for the monument for over ten years) has accepted a permanent Interpretive Park Ranger position at Hovenweep National Monument. His old position is now filled by Leslie Spomer, who will also continue to serve as the full-time volunteer coordinator for the monument, as Todd did. And last, but certainly not least, Greg Crawford, who has worked as a term Maintenance Worker at the monument for the last two years, has accepted the permanent Maintenance Worker position.

Have a great winter! See you at the Spring Walks and Talks.

CNMA Bookstore Bests

By Renee Creeden
& Denise Hight



President Roosevelt's Federal Unemployment Relief Act 1933 created work for thousands of young men during the Great Depression. Some of these men were sent to Colorado National Monument, where they built the spectacular Rim Rock Drive. To commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Act, the Colorado National Monument and the CNMA compiled a 16-page booklet, ***From the Past into the Future: Building Rim Rock Drive***. This booklet celebrates the accomplishments of the men who built the Rim Rock Drive, and it contains a brief history of the building of the road, a map with points of historical interest, and lots of photos. This unique history is available for only \$1.50.



We have added a couple of new CDs to our inventory, ***The Living Desert*** and ***Native Lands*** (Orange Tree Productions, \$14.95). Relax to the beautiful music and natural

symphony of the American Southwest. Native American flute, Spanish guitar, piano, violin, and cello will accompany you on this sojourn

through nature inspired by the extraordinary desert landscape. These CDs are available for preview on our listening station in the CNMA bookstore.



The **2004 Colorado National Monument Calendars** are now available. They make great Christmas gifts, and are stunning works of art for the wall. Only \$8.95 plus tax, this beautiful calendar contains photographs by R.A. Kurtzman, Bonnie Lange, Joe Lange, Frank Nored, Steve Traudt, and Tom Wulf. The cost is \$12 per calendar for members who would like calendars mailed to them (includes discount and shipping costs).



Also available is the ***Peaks, Plateaus & Canyons of the Grand Circle 2004 Calendar***. This lovely calendar is \$8.95, and it is filled with beautiful photos of the national parks of the Colorado Plateau, including Colorado National Monument.



The Trails & Rails program is an educational partnership between Amtrak and the National Park Service. Participating National Park interpreters present informative on-board presentations to train travelers. But, according to

Alfred Runte, author of ***Trains of Discovery: Western Railroads and the National Parks***, the partnership between the railroads and national parks is nothing new. This lavishly illustrated book demonstrates the significant role the railroads played in the establishment of our national parks. This book (Roberts Rinehart Publishers, \$19.95) also provides contact information for visitors wishing to travel to national parks by train today. Whether an armchair traveler or planning a trip, this beautiful book has plenty to offer.

The CNMA bookstore had a busy summer. We are grateful for the assistance provided by our seasonal cashiers, Brenda Kroft, Kean Lewis, and Dolores Schroeder. We hope they will all join us again next year.

The Visitor Center is open from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily for your Christmas shopping. We are closed Christmas Day. Thank you for supporting the Colorado National Monument Association.

Help Wanted

The CNMA is establishing a publications committee to be responsible for new items published by the CNMA and sold in the CNMA bookstore. The committee will initiate product ideas and manage product development from initial concept through writing, design, editing, and production. All products must fill interpretive needs at Colorado National Monument and must be approved by NPS product review committee. If interested in serving on this committee, please contact Don Baars at 242-7385 or canonpubs@msn.com.

A Message from the Incoming CNMA President

By Beverly Kingsley



Beverly Kingsley

Autumn brought a few changes to the CNMA. Sam Gingerich, our board leader for the past two

years, has completed his term as president. Sam is a strong, capable leader who provided experience and guidance for our group. As the interim president of Mesa State College, Sam has had a very busy schedule, yet he has always had the time and energy to lead the CNMA board. We thank Sam for his two years of leadership, and we are pleased that Sam will continue to serve as a member of the CNMA board of directors.

I am taking over the leadership of the CNMA Board of Directors and am honored to have this opportunity to serve. Pat Kennedy is the new vice-president and Don Baars is the secretary/treasurer. We would all like to thank the members for their continuing support of the CNMA.

As winter is almost upon us, Colorado National Monument undergoes some striking but beautiful changes! Winter is a wonderful time to visit Colorado National Monument. Bright, sunny days combined with cooler weather make this time of year perfect for a picnic or a hike with family and friends. Hope to see you up here soon.

2003 Walks & Talks Programs



Ten of the original builders of Rim Rock Drive attended the Road Builders' celebration: Leroy Lewis, Lloyd Files, Delbert O'Neal, Clint Shoffner, Adam Reeves, Curtis Rhyne, Lewis Price, Patrick Young, John Russell, and Charles Griffith. The younger people in the photo are members of the Western Colorado Conservation Corps.

There were sixteen programs in the Spring Walks & Talks with 478 participants. This includes Road Builders' Day with 105 people attending the official ceremony.

There were eight programs in

the Fall Walks & Talks with 146 participants. Fifty-two CNMA members attended our annual meeting in April.

Programs resume next spring with our 2004 Walks & Talks.

Fall Walks and Talks Wrap-up

We thank participants in the Fall Walks and Talks. Your involvement and support makes it all possible. Special thanks to the presenters who volunteered their invaluable time and knowledge: Richard and Barbara Meysenburg; Jim Skinner and Cheryl Borchardt of the Palisade Astronomy Connection; historian Dave Fishell; artist George Callison; and ranger/geologist Don Regan.

Come join us for the Spring 2004 Walks and Talks Series. Dates and times will be made available this spring on our web site at www.coloradonna.org. These exciting programs will offer information on history, natural history,

art, geology, and astronomy.

All events are sponsored by the Colorado National Monument Association, a 501(C)(3) nonprofit educational organization which helps support educational, scientific, historical and research projects at Colorado National Monument. The CNMA is a membership organization. All programs are open to the public and are free of charge. There is an entrance fee of \$5 per vehicle to Colorado National Monument. Dates and times are subject to change. Please call 858-3617 ext. 308/307 or check our web site at www.coloradonna.org for further information.

Resource Management Offers Volunteer Opportunities

Adopt-a-Trail, Adopt-a-Road Section

Project Description: This is a modified version of "Adopt-A-Highway" projects that are common in most states. In addition to litter pick-up, the project will include exotic plant control and pruning of vegetation and trees along roadside corridors. We are looking for volunteers, preferably 2-person teams, to adopt at least 1-mile sections of Rim Rock Drive and roads in developed areas (Saddlehorn, housing area, East Entrance, "bone yard," etc.) or specific trails within the park. Training and equipment will be provided.

Prepare Natural History / Cultural History Displays for Visitor Center

Project Description: Looking for creative people to research and prepare various seasonal interpretative displays related to the park's natural and cultural resources (i.e. "What's Blooming Now," "Common Animals Seen," "Bison History," etc.) Project will involve researching park's slide collection, records, and library resources to prepare material to be displayed on green wall panel in visitor center exhibit room. (Knowledge of digital camera and word processing equipment to produce captions for photographic material is recommended but not required). Training and equipment will be provided.

Oral History Interviews

Project Description: Oral histories are an invaluable, irreplaceable



Volunteer Ned Barker works on the landscaping project.

source of historic information, and Colorado National Monument has a wealth of untapped resources available. Volunteers are needed to conduct one-on-one interviews with various people related to the history of the park. Interviewers will be responsible for contacting "history makers" to set up meeting times and places. All interviews are recorded and will be professionally transcribed. Interviewer will need to review transcripts to confirm accuracy. Periodic meetings and training will be held in order to maintain a formal plan for systematically collecting oral histories and improving this program. Training and equipment will be provided.

Landscaping / Maintenance of Native Garden

Project Description: Re-vegetate disturbed areas around visitor center, Saddlehorn housing and office areas by establishing and maintaining native plant gardens. This project will be fairly labor intensive at times and will include: preparing selected areas for landscaping, moving rock and other

material as needed, salvaging plants from one or more maintenance and / or construction projects, establishing a propagation / transport garden, collecting seeds during summer / fall seasons, sowing seeds into propagation / transplant garden, ensuring adequate water, preparing re-vegetation sites, and transplanting established plants from propagation garden. Training and equipment will be provided.

Inventory Fire Cache

Project Description: Looking for one to two people to help organize and inventory park's fire cache. Will involve some word processing knowledge to prepare inventory. Project is not on-going and should take one to two weeks to complete.

Data Entry - Wildlife Identifications:

Project Description: Looking for volunteers to help input wildlife identification cards into database. Work is sedentary and will involve extensive typing.

*For more information,
please contact Lisa Claussen at
858-3617 ext. 318*



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The following financial summary for 2002 provides an overview of the activity of the CNMA. As a note, this summary has not been audited but an official statement of the financial activities of the CNMA was prepared by a local accounting firm.

Summary of 2002 CNMA Donations to Colorado National Monument/National Park Service

\$10,828.89	Interpretive Services
1,588.84	Volunteer Program
527.29	Memberships
3,224.90	Resource Management/Museum Activities
381.20	Library
1,041.48	Publications (free brochures)
14,167.48	Information Assistance/Association Personnel
539.50	Prepublication Costs Administrative Aid/ Superintendent
142.57	Miscellaneous
62.40	Law Enforcement
\$33,073.82	Total

CNMA 2002 Budget Summary

Income:	\$188,846	Bookstore
	11,438	Memberships
	2,488	Other
	\$202,772	Total
Expenses:	\$ 90,580	Inventory Expense
	54,422	Personnel
	5,247	CNMA Membership/Board
	28,841	Other (office, insurance, etc.)
	\$179,090	Total



Colorado National Monument Association

Colorado National Monument

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