



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Mesa Verde National Park
Colorado 81330

N1-95-05-2

September 24, 2012

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

The National Park Service (NPS) will be preparing a new fire management plan and environmental assessment (EA) for Mesa Verde National Park and Yucca House National Monument, Colorado. The proposed fire management plan is intended to be both strategic and operational, guiding the full range of wildland fire program activities that support land and resource management objectives.

The purpose of the proposed fire management plan for Mesa Verde National Park and Yucca House National Monument is to comply with new national and NPS policies and to incorporate new scientific information into fire management planning within parks. In addition, the new fire management plan intends to provide management direction that improves the ability to achieve the following goals:

- Protect human life and safety;
- Protect critical infrastructure and facilities;
- Enhance fire management coordination with other agencies, non-governmental entities, and park neighbors;
- Enhance communication with the public and adjacent landowners and improve educational strategies; and
- Protect cultural and natural resources as well as visitor use and experience.

An EA will be prepared in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to provide the decision-making framework that 1) analyzes a reasonable range of alternatives to meet project objectives, 2) evaluates issues and impacts to monument resources and values, and 3) identifies mitigation measures to lessen the degree or extent of these impacts.

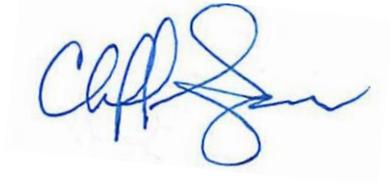
The NPS encourages public participation throughout the planning process. There will be two opportunities to comment formally on the project—once during initial project scoping and again following release of the EA. The NPS is currently in the scoping phase of the proposed project and invites the public to submit written suggestions, comments, and concerns regarding the project online at the NPS Planning, Environment, and Public Comment (PEPC) website at: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/meve>. Comments may also be sent to the address below no later than October 26, 2012.

If you have questions about the project, or would like more information, please contact Allan Loy, Project Manager, at (970) 529-5067 or allan_loy@nps.gov.

Written comments can be sent to:

Mesa Verde National Park
ATTN: Fire Management Plan EA Comments
P.O. Box 8
Mesa Verde National Park, CO 81330

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Cliff Spencer", is centered below the text. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Cliff" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Spencer".

Cliff Spencer
Superintendent