



Your Dollars at Work in 2014

Mesa Verde National Park staff strive to be effective stewards of the park's natural, cultural, and historical resources. We also work hard to ensure that all visitors have an enjoyable and educational experience.

Part of this responsibility is making you aware how your money is being spent and how these activities benefit you, the park, and future generations.

These news briefs are examples of a few of these projects. Some are behind the scenes, while others are activities you may experience during a visit to the park. It might be as simple as the sound of an electric drill, the sight of park biologists in the field, or a view of researchers painstakingly mapping an archeological site.

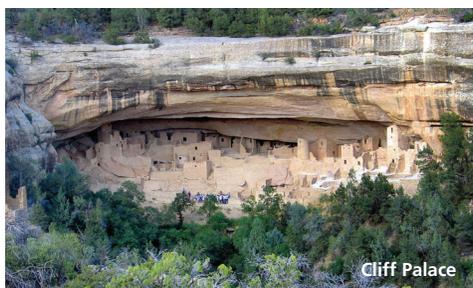
These projects are important to the continued preservation of your national parks.



Visitor and Research Center

Moving the Museum Collection

The move of the park's three million object museum and archival collection from the old Research Lab to the Mesa Verde Visitor and Research Center continues in 2014. Although the move to the new facility should be completed this summer, the unpacking and re-housing of objects in their new home will take a number of years to complete. Much of this work will be done through student interns and volunteers. You can view a section of the new collection facility during a visit to the Visitor and Research Center.



Cliff Palace

Architectural Preservation

Work continues to identify the reasons behind the downhill movement that is occurring in the south end of Cliff Palace. The development of a comprehensive engineering assessment with preservation alternatives is being paid for in part by a grant from the National Park Foundation, Gates Family Foundation, Anschutz Foundation, and the Mesa Verde Foundation.

The stabilization treatments and documentation started in 2011 at Square Tower House is expected to be completed this year.



"Greening" the Fleet

The Clean Cities National Parks Initiative is a partnership between the Department of the Interior and Department of Energy. It supports transportation related projects that use renewable and alternative fuels, electric drive and advanced vehicles (EV), and fuel saving measures in the parks. In partnership with ARAMARK Corporation, Southern Colorado Clean Cities Coalition and the Greater Philadelphia Clean Cities, the park will acquire three additional propane pickup trucks, construct a fleet fueling station, and conduct another education and outreach event before the end of 2015.



Nonnative Musk Thistle

Invasive Plant Management

Currently, Mesa Verde National Park and Yucca House National Monument have populations of dozens of non-native plants, many of which are highly aggressive competitors with native species. An Invasive Plant Management Plan is being developed to enhance current management strategies. The plan will set priorities for controlling new and existing populations of invasive weeds and look into additional ways of detecting and preventing their establishment and spread.



Trail to an archeological site along the Mesa Top Loop

Trail Repairs

Repair work will continue on trails along the 6-mile Mesa Top Loop Road. Work includes tread replacement and repair of retaining walls.

Maintenance is also planned for the Square Tower House and Spring House trails. This work will allow continued access for special back-country hikes in the future.

Other 2014 Projects

- Water and Waste Water System Repairs
- Resurface the Headquarters Loop Road
- Rehabilitate disturbed lands and control invasive plants
- Fire Management Planning
- Replace wayside exhibits at Chapin Mesa and Mesa Top Loop
- Replace fire suppression and security alarm systems
- Replace temporary portable rest-rooms with vault toilets
- Paint 13 historic park buildings
- Update the Integrated Solid Waste Alternatives Program plan
- Survey park boundary on Wetherill Mesa
- Repair fences along the park boundary