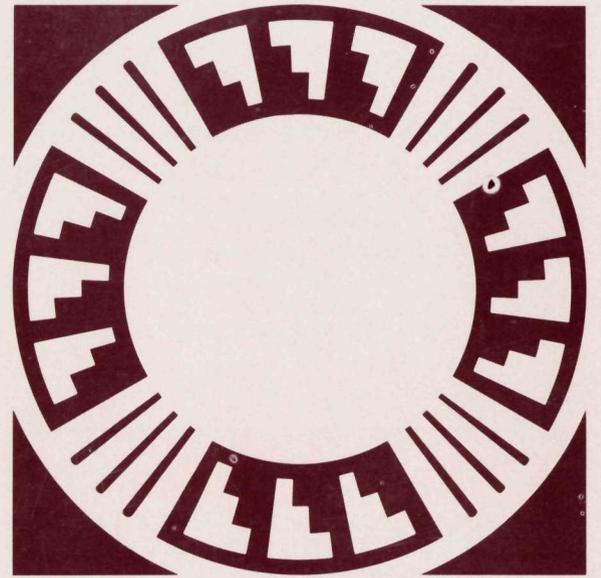


ANASAZI



HERITAGE
CENTER

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Bureau of Reclamation



OUR ANASAZI HERITAGE

The Native Americans of yesterday whom we refer to as "Anasazi" began to develop their distinctive culture in the Four Corners region some time around AD 1. These early inhabitants hunted game and gathered wild plant foods and grew corn and squash to supplement their diet. As time passed, agriculture became the mainstay of the Anasazi economy. The Anasazi developed architectural skills and produced fine baskets, pottery, ornaments, woven goods, and tools. Goods were exchanged with other communities.

The population grew and expanded throughout the region, clustering in hamlets and small villages.

Relationships with neighboring groups, as well as climatic changes, caused occasional shifts in settlement. As the Anasazi culture spread, it developed distinct regional variations. The Northern San Juan Anasazi occupied southwestern Colorado, including Mesa Verde and the lower Dolores River valley, and portions of Arizona, New Mexico and Utah. Between AD 1000-1300, the Anasazi population of the present Montezuma County area was at least twice that of the present population.

DISCOVERING THE ANASAZI STORY

The Anasazi Heritage Center (AHC) is a museum for the study and interpretation of prehistoric cultures in the Four Corners region. Built by the Bureau of Reclamation and operated by the Bureau of Land Management, the AHC stores almost two million artifacts, samples and documents which resulted primarily from the Dolores Archaeological Program (DAP). Facilities include research laboratories, collection storage areas, a library, a theater, conference rooms, a museum shop and exhibits. A replica Anasazi dwelling and displays on the Anasazi, archaeology and public lands resources are on view in the permanent exhibit hall. Interactive exhibits are featured in the Discovery Area. Visitors are encouraged to weave on a loom, grind corn using a mano and metate,

identify seeds in microscopes, and play computer games to learn how the Anasazi lived long ago. Guided tours and special demonstrations for schools and other groups are part of the regular AHC operations.

A short trail from the AHC leads to the Escalante and Dominguez Ruins. These two sites have been excavated, preserved and interpreted as significant examples of late Anasazi communities.



DAP archaeologist excavating Anasazi mealing bin
BOR photograph

BRINGING THE PAST TO LIFE

Archaeology is the study of the material remains of past human life. The artifacts, buildings, trash deposits, and environmental setting of a site are records that archaeologists use to reconstruct the past.

The Four Corners region is one of the richest archaeological areas in the U.S. Before the Bureau of Reclamation constructed the McPhee Dam on the Dolores River, more than 1600 sites were located. Of these, 125 were excavated or sampled. The Dolores

Archaeological Program (DAP), the largest archaeological contract awarded in the U.S., brought in archaeologists from the University of Colorado, Washington State University and other institutions. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) supplied the staff needed to manage the artifacts. The enormous amount of materials and data retrieved by the DAP was transferred to the AHC for safekeeping and interpretation. Exploring the mystery of the Anasazi did not end when the DAP archaeologists turned the hundreds of documents and thousands of artifacts over to the Center. Researchers and scientists continue to use these resources to explore the unanswered questions about the Anasazi, about the changing climate, and about our own use of the same Four Corners environment.

THE USES OF THE LAND

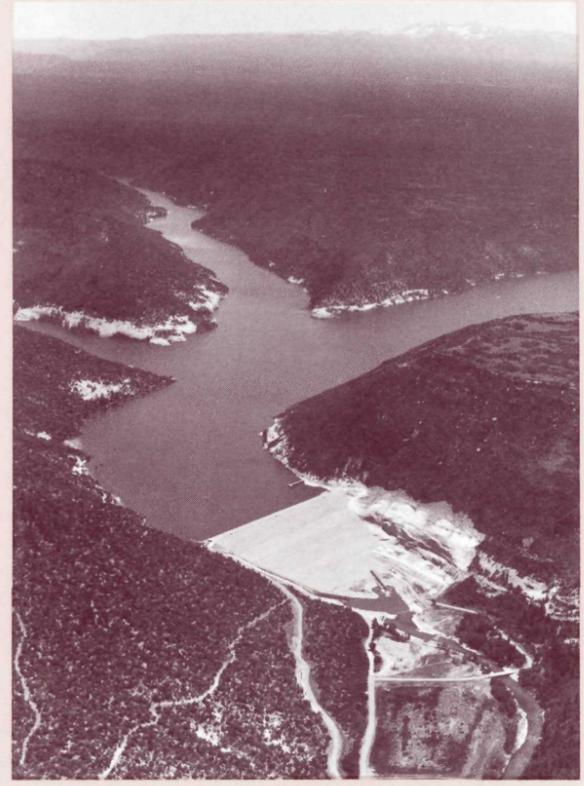
The mountains and mesas, canyons and valleys, forests and rivers of southwestern Colorado are rich in resources: land for farming and grazing, water, timber, minerals, wildlife, recreation, and historic and archaeological sites. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has the task of managing our nation's public lands so that all resources are "utilized in the combination that will best meet the present and future needs of the American people." Choices must be made between conflicting uses of the land, such as recreation and logging or mining and grazing. The BLM mission for managing public lands is to balance public needs with resource needs and to provide for preservation and protection as well as for use and development.

When the McPhee Dam and Reservoir Project was developed by the Bureau of Reclamation, it was not feasible to leave historic and archaeological sites in place. The Dolores Archaeological Program is a good example of the Federal policy of mitigating destruction of sites through investigation and interpretation for the public benefit. It is also a good example of cooperation between Federal agencies, state and private institutions, and local communities.

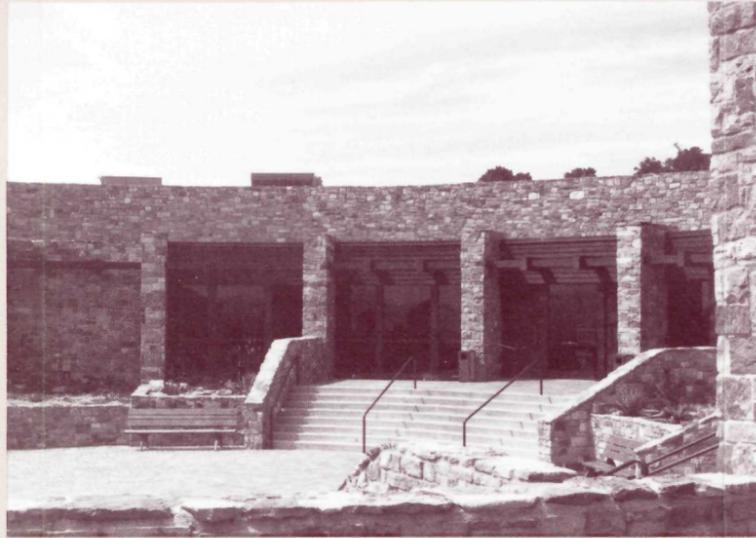


Dominguez shell and turquoise frog on exhibit at the AHC
BOR photograph

Cover photograph: Anasazi pottery design
BOR photograph



Aerial view of McPhee Dam and Reservoir
BOR photograph



AHC entrance and plaza
BLM photograph

OPERATING SCHEDULE

Business Hours:

Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Except legal holidays

Ruins and Exhibits:

April 15 - October 31:
Daily, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Remainder of Year:

Open weekends, closed 2 days per week
Call for days and hours of operation

Closed New Year's Day, Thanksgiving Day
and Christmas Day

Group Tours:

Arrange at least 2 weeks in advance
Depends on staff availability

ADDRESS:

Bureau of Land Management
Anasazi Heritage Center
27501 Highway 184
Dolores, Colorado 81323
(303) 882-4811

MILEAGES FROM THE ANASAZI HERITAGE CENTER

COLORADO

Cortez	10
Denver	377
Dolores	3
Durango	45
Hovenweep	51
Lowry Ruins	23
Mesa Verde (Park Entrance)	18
Mesa Verde (Headquarters)	46
Montrose	136
Telluride	69

NEW MEXICO

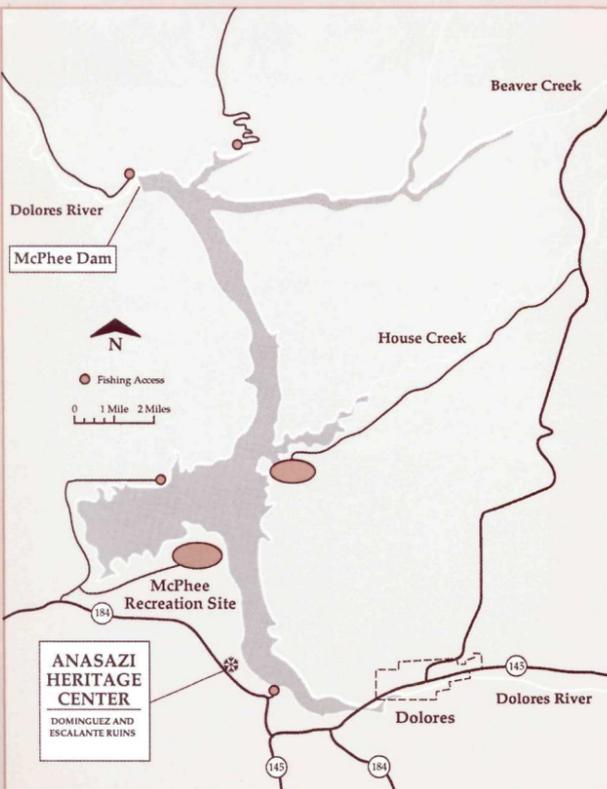
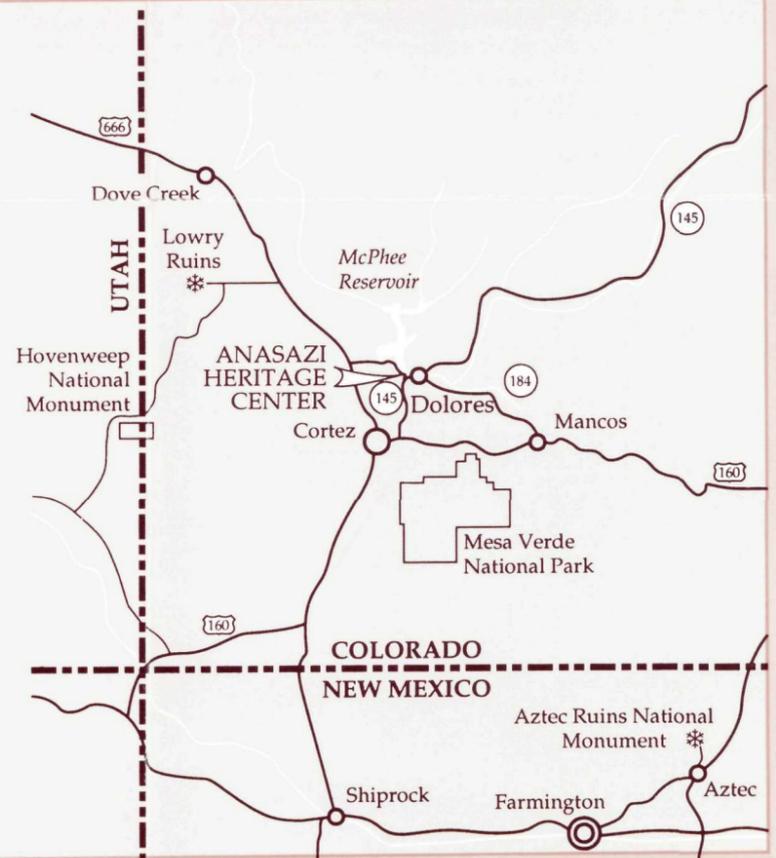
Albuquerque	246
Aztec	115
Farmington	84
Gallup	123
Santa Fe (via Pagosa Springs)	237

UTAH

Canyonlands	97
Moab	111
Monticello	56
Salt Lake City	344

ARIZONA

Grand Canyon (South Rim)	277
Kayenta	132
Monument Valley	152
Phoenix	408
Teec Nos Pos	65
Tucson	529



MCPHEE DAM AND RESERVOIR

Water is a very precious resource in the Southwest. Periods of drought may have contributed to the collapse of the Anasazi society in the Four Corners region. When historic settlement began in the Montezuma Valley in the late 1800s, irrigation companies immediately began to construct tunnels, flumes and canals to divert the Dolores River waters. As the economic importance of farming increased, so did the concern for water conservation and irrigation. The Dolores Project, which includes the McPhee Dam and Reservoir, was authorized in 1968. Construction began in 1977, and the dam was completed in 1984. Project work will continue into the 1990s. This Bureau of Reclamation project, with its dam, reservoir and major canals, serves the

Montezuma Valley, Dove Creek and the Ute Mountain Ute Indian Reservation. Management of the McPhee Reservoir and surrounding lands is the responsibility of several agencies. The Dolores Water Conservancy District manages the level of the reservoir by controlling its outflow. The Forest Service administers and operates the majority of recreational sites, including access points for boating and fishing sites, campgrounds, picnic areas, and hiking trails. Fish and wildlife are managed by the Colorado Division of Wildlife. The Bureau of Land Management manages the Anasazi Heritage Center and the cultural resources located on the museum grounds.

