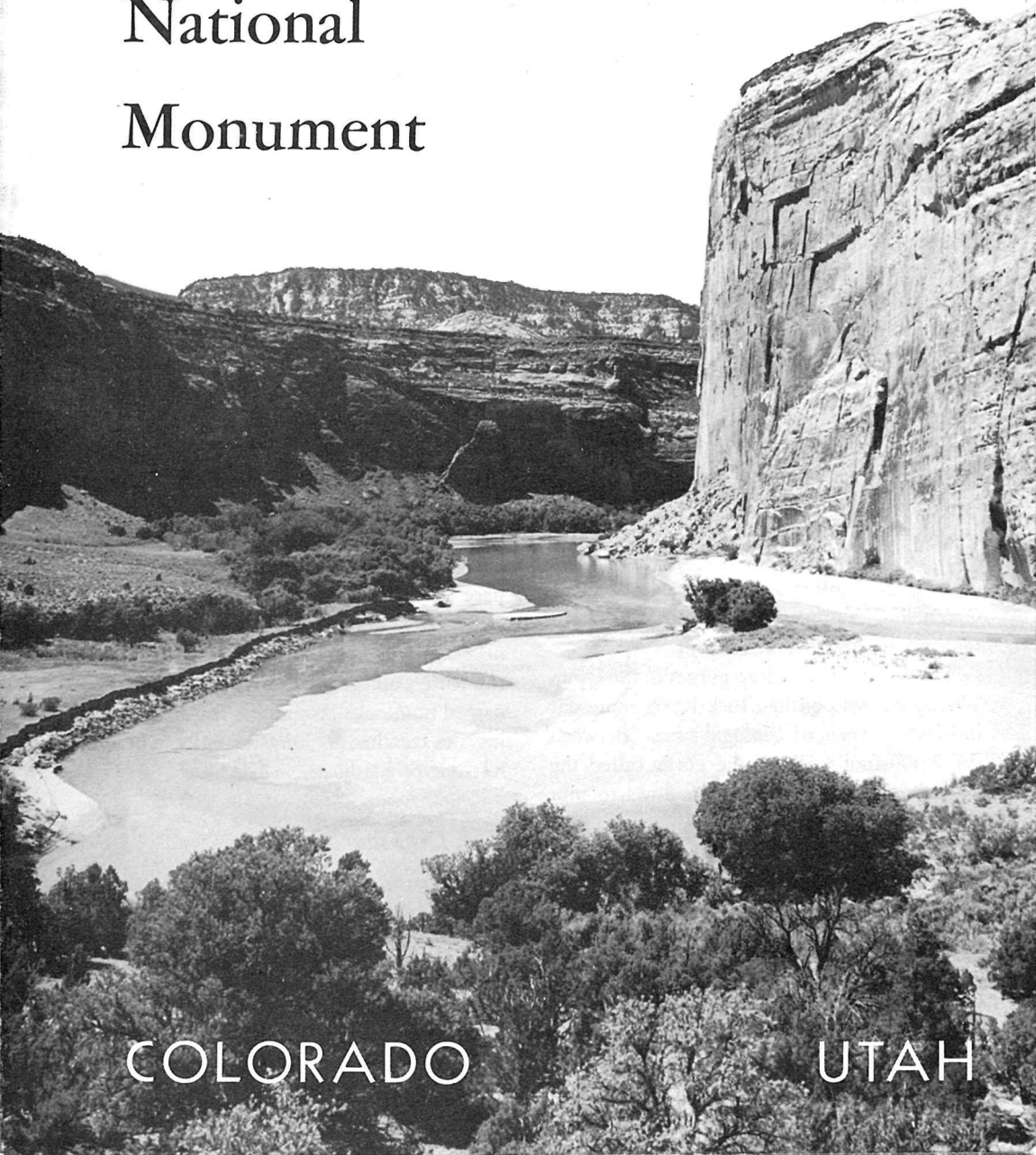


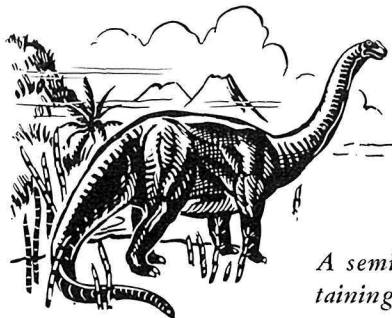
DINOSAUR

National Monument



COLORADO

UTAH



DINOSAUR

National Monument

A semiarid wilderness plateau, cut by deep canyons and containing rich deposits of skeletal remains of prehistoric reptiles.

IN DINOSAUR NATIONAL MONUMENT you will find a vast wilderness little changed by man. Its principal scenic features are the deep and narrow canyons formed by the Green and Yampa Rivers. Also within its boundaries is the Nation's richest deposit of dinosaur fossils. Here is the rare opportunity to see these remains in place. The monument contains nearly 330 square miles.

The name "dinosaur" means "terrible lizard," an apt term to describe these prehistoric reptiles which have vanished from the earth. There were many kinds, some being of tremendous size.

The Canyon Country

Through centuries of erosive action the Green and Yampa Rivers have been fashioning their spectacular canyons.

The Green has cut deep gorges in the Uinta Mountains whose tilted rock layers represent millions of years of geologic time. Between the 2,000-foot walls of the gorge called the Canyon of Lodore, the Green flows to join the Yampa. They meet at a majestic mass of rock resembling the prow of a ship.

The Yampa has also been active in canyon carving. This river, rising in the Rabbit

Ears Range of northwestern Colorado, first cut into relatively soft rock. Through a long period of erosion its course was established in a series of bends or meanders. Gradually, the soft rocks were worn away and with uplift of the region the river entrenched its meanders into the underlying, more resistant strata. The resulting gorge, in a high plateau lying southeast of the Uinta Range, is not as deep as the canyons of the Green but is equally impressive.

Below the confluence with the Yampa, the Green River flows through Echo Park (Pats Hole), a lonely valley where a hermit, Pat Lynch, lived for years. It swirls and plunges past Harpers Corner, through Whirlpool Canyon, Island Park, and Split Mountain Gorge, and then slows to a more leisurely pace as it leaves the monument.

In 1869, Maj. J. W. Powell, famous pioneer explorer, made a river trip between the towering walls of the Canyon of Lodore. He named numerous geographic features, including the treacherous Disaster Falls, where he lost one of his boats.

The Dinosaur Quarry

The name of the monument is somewhat misleading, for fossil dinosaur bones occur

in rocks which outcrop only in the southwest corner of the monument. The original 80 acres of this area were set aside in 1915 to preserve these fossil bones. The boundaries were extended in 1938 to include the scenic canyon country.

The Dinosaur Quarry is located 6 miles north of Jensen, Utah. In the quarry, rock layers have been removed to expose the fossil-bearing Morrison formation of Jurassic period, deposited approximately 140 million years ago. In 1953, the National Park Service began a project to outline in high relief some of the huge dinosaur bones found in the quarry wall. Already several partial skeletons and many isolated bones of dinosaurs have been exposed, although much work remains to be done.

The National Park Service has recently completed a large Visitor Center at the Dinosaur Quarry which protects the in-place exhibit of fossil bones from weather. The Visitor Center contains exhibits to help you understand the quarry's history and the world in which the dinosaurs lived. Relieving operations will continue for several years and you are invited to watch this interesting work.

Dinosaur bones were first discovered here in 1909 by Earl Douglass of the Carnegie Museum. Fossils were removed by the museum from 1909 to 1922. Quarrying was renewed in 1923-24 by the National Museum, Washington, D. C., and the University of Utah. Twenty-six nearly complete skeletons and a great number of partial ones were recovered. Ten dinosaur species were represented. The longest skeleton—*Diplodocus*—was 84 feet, the shortest—*Laosaurus*—6 feet. Many of the bones have been assembled as complete skeletons which you may see in museums in Pittsburgh; Washington, D. C.; New York City; Lincoln, Nebr.; Denver; Salt Lake City; and Toronto, Canada.

Early Indians

Many remains of prehistoric Indian inhabitants are found in this area. Evidence of the earliest Indians was discovered at Hell's Midden, in Castle Park where scientists excavated a 17-foot refuse deposit. The lowest layers of this deposit showed that the earliest Indians did not practice agriculture, but lived solely by hunting and gathering wild food plants, about 1500 to 500 B. C.

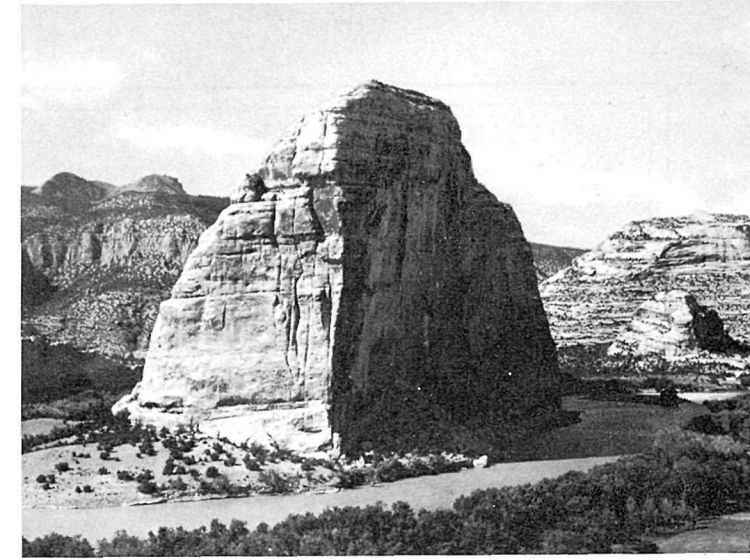
Relieving operations at the Dinosaur Quarry



Head of Lodore Canyon.



Boating on the Yampa.



Steamboat Rock at Junction of Green and Yampa Rivers.

Sometime during the first few hundred years after Christ, agriculture was introduced in the area, because the remains of corncocks, beans, and pumpkins have been found in these excavations. Somewhat later, pottery was used. These early Indians lived in cave shelters and did not build permanent house structures. Much of their life was spent out-of-doors, tending their crops, hunting, and fishing. Sometime between A. D. 900 and 1000 the inhabitants of this region moved away; for what reasons we do not know.

Escalante

In 1776, a Spanish party of 10 men, led by the Franciscan priest Escalante, camped for 3 days on the banks of the Green River within view of Split Mountain and the southwestern section of the monument.

Not only did Escalante describe this region in his journal, but Miera, his captain, prepared a map on which a portion of what is now Dinosaur National Monument is shown. On this map, published in Spain in 1778, the Green River appears as the *Rio S. Buena-ventura*, and Split Mountain as *Sierra Mineral*.

Flora and Fauna

The plateaus adjacent to the canyons are typical examples of semidesert country, with greasewood, pinyon, juniper, and sagebrush growing in profusion. Stands of aspen, Douglas-fir, ponderosa pine, and mountain-mahogany grow on protected slopes of the higher mountainsides. The commoner varieties of wildflowers here are sunflowers, goldenrod, segolily, evening-primrose, and bee flower.

As in other areas of the National Park System, the monument is a refuge for all wildlife. Deer are common throughout the monument, and bighorn (mountain sheep) are increasing in numbers. Beaver, foxes, and bobcats are common but the wary mountain lion is seldom seen.

If you drive over Blue Mountain Plateau from Harpers Corner or Pats Hole late in the evening, you may observe deer, badger, porcupine, jack rabbit, cottontail, and the sage hen. Prairie dogs may be seen along the road to Split Mountain Gorge. Golden-mantled ground squirrels and whiptail lizards are numerous near headquarters.

River Boating

Boating has become a popular and adventurous way of enjoying the canyon wonders. Trips of 1 to 6 days' duration are offered by competent guides at reasonable rates.

The rivers are swift and turbulent in places. Skill in boating and knowledge of the streams are needed to traverse them safely. Boating is not encouraged without a competent guide.

Ordinary rowboats, outboard motorboats, foldboats, and canoes are not considered safe for running the rapids of the Green and Yampa Rivers. Specially designed wooden and metal boats are used successfully by some guides, but the most popular and perhaps the safest boats are the large U. S. Navy rubber landing craft.

The boating season is normally from May 1 to August 1. For additional information about boating or for an application for a boating permit, please contact the superintendent's office at Vernal, Utah.

How To Get There

The Visitor Center and the Dinosaur Quarry are reached by U. S. 40. This area

is open all year, but the roads to the scenic canyon country generally are closed by snow from October 15 to May 15.

The monument cannot be reached by railway. Bus and airplane services are available to Vernal, Utah, but there is no regularly scheduled transportation from there to the monument.

Accommodations

Lodging is not available in the monument. The nearest overnight accommodations are in Vernal, Utah.

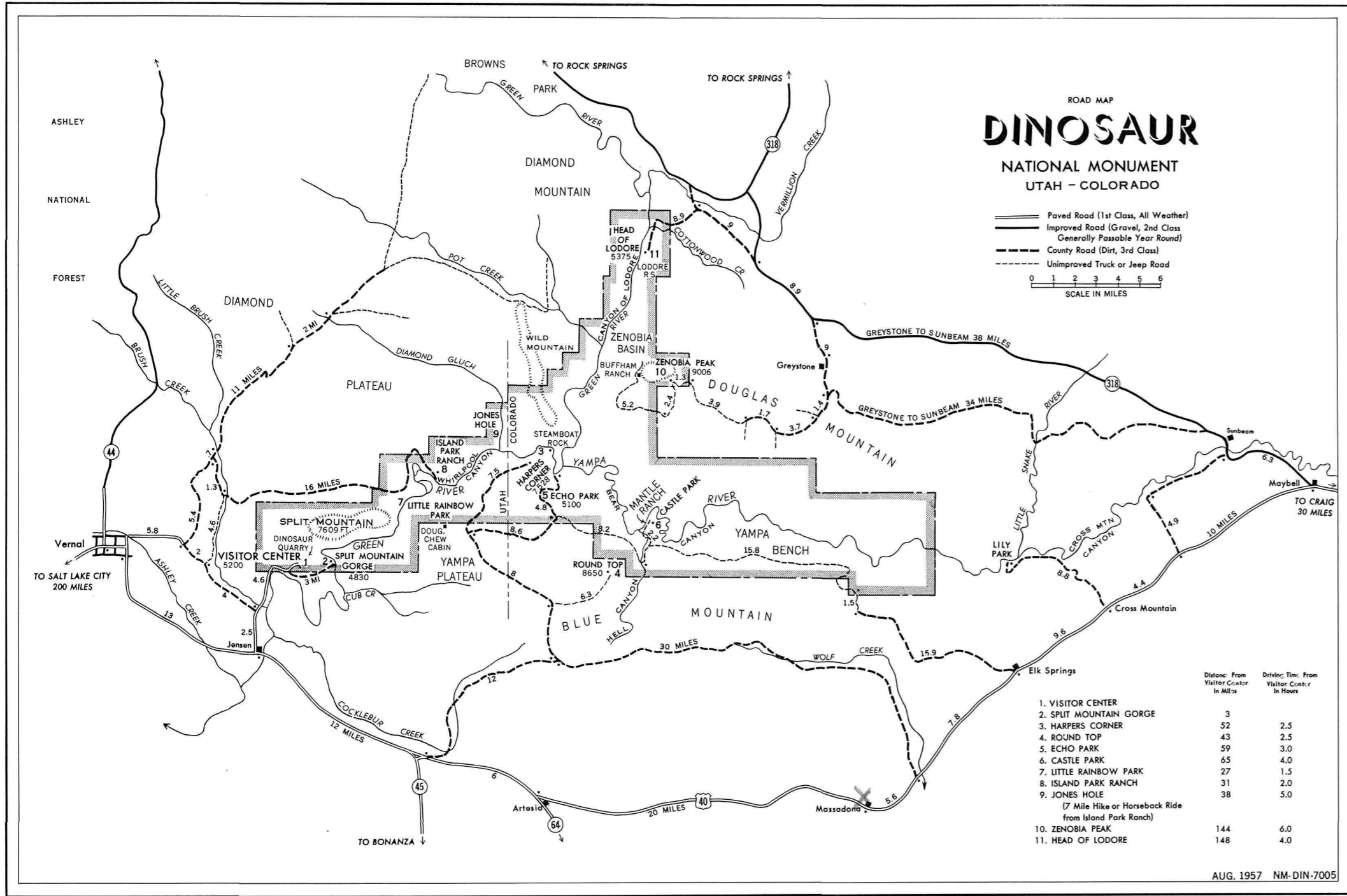
Back-country Travel

The back country is reached by dirt roads branching northward from U. S. 40. Those who wish to go there should first make inquiry at headquarters. Cars should be equipped with spare tire, jack, chains, shovel, ax, extra water for the radiator, and a full tank of gasoline.

Roads and Trails

All areas numbered on the map can be reached by jeep or truck, except Jones Hole

The National Park System, of which this area is a unit, is dedicated to conserving the scenic, scientific, and historic heritage of the United States for the benefit and enjoyment of its people.



(9) which can be reached by a 7-mile foot or horse trail from Island Park Ranch (8), or by boat from Echo Park (5). Areas (1), (2), (3), (5), (7), (8), and (11) can be reached by passenger car (no trailers). The only constructed trails are to Harpers Corner and Jones Hole.

Weather

In May, early June, September, and October, the weather is usually cool and pleasant. High temperatures prevail from late June through August. The mean annual precipitation is 8.09 inches, most of which falls in winter. However, heavy showers resulting in flash floods are not uncommon in summer.

Camping

Campgrounds with fireplaces and tables are at Split Mountain Gorge, Echo Park (Pats Hole), head of Lodore Canyon, and Harpers Corner. There are no places within the monument where purchases may be made; hence, campers should come equipped with food and other necessities, including extra gasoline.

Fishing

You may fish in all streams. Catfish and coarse fishes abound in the Green and Yampa Rivers. Trout are found only in Jones Hole Creek (Utah). The monument is located in both Colorado and Utah; hence, a license is required from the State in which you wish to fish.

Let's Keep Dinosaur Unspoiled

This is your monument, set aside for you to enjoy, yet to be kept unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations. You can help by observing the following regulations:

Since the monument is a wildlife sanctuary, hunting is not permitted.

Please do not pick the wildflowers or damage the trees or plants. Leave them for others to see and enjoy.

Dogs and cats must be kept under physical restrictive control at all times.

Prospecting, mining, and the use of explosives or firearms are illegal.

The destruction, injury, removal, or disturbance of public property or natural or archeological features or materials is prohibited.

Please help us keep the area clean.

Use utmost care to prevent fires. Extinguish any fires you discover. But if this is not possible, please report the fire immediately to a park ranger.

Administration

Dinosaur National Monument is administered by the National Park Service of the U. S. Department of the Interior. A superintendent, whose address is Box 621, Vernal, Utah, is in immediate charge. All comments concerning the monument should be directed to him.



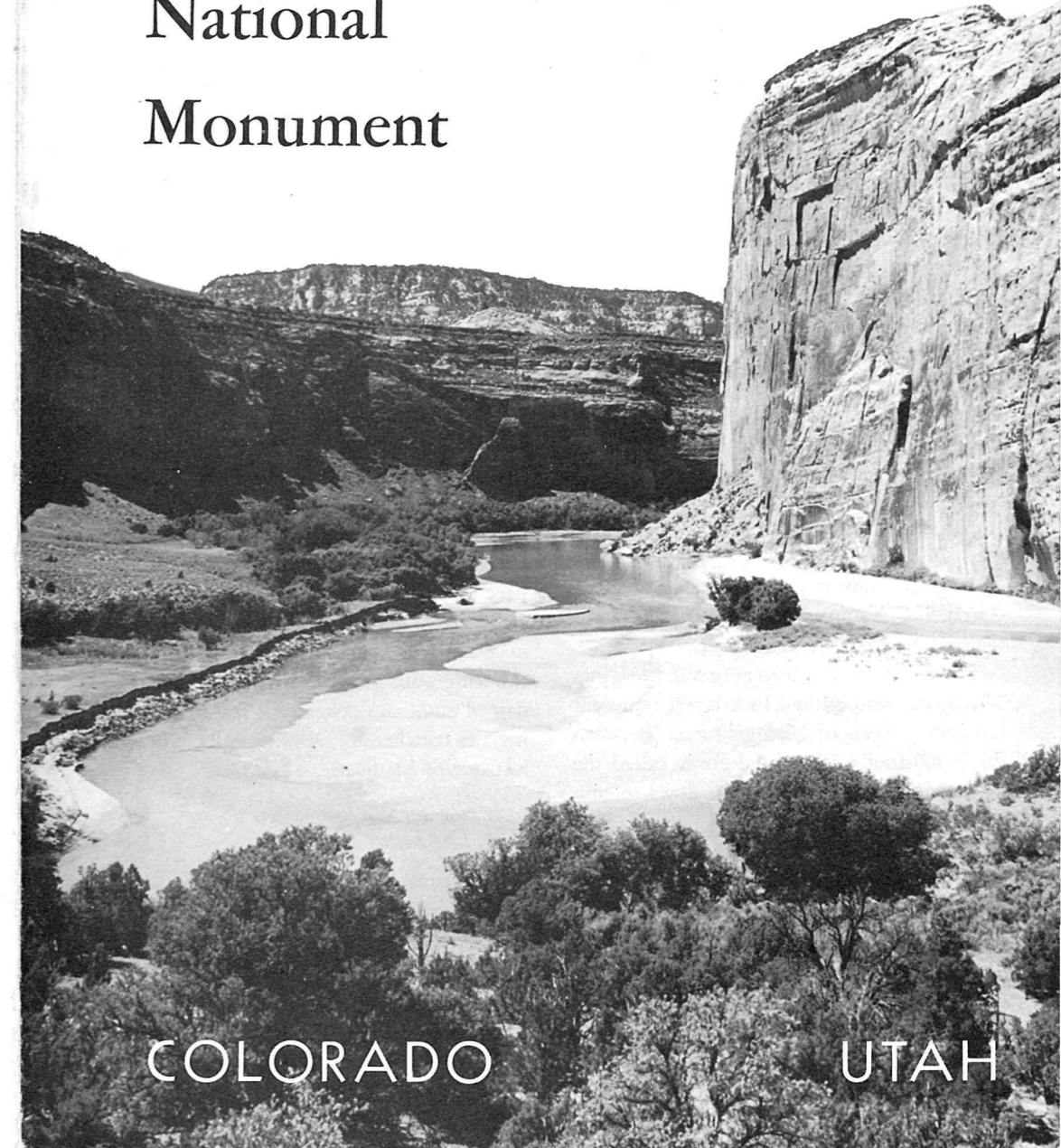
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Fred A. Seaton, *Secretary*
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, Conrad L. Wirth, *Director*



Cover: Junction of Green and Yampa Rivers at Pats Hole.

DINOSAUR

National Monument



COLORADO

UTAH