SUPERINTENDENT'S COMPENDIUM

Chaco Culture National Historical Park

January 12, 2015

Of Designations, Closures, Permit Requirements
and Other Restrictions Imposed
Under Discretionary Authority.

January 12, 2015
Date

Larry Turk
Superintendent

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In accordance with regulations and the delegated authority provided in Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations ("36 CFR"), Chapter 1, Parts 1-7, authorized by Title 16 United States Code, Section 3, the following provisions are established for the proper management, protection, government and public use of those portions of Chaco Culture National Historical Park under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service. Unless otherwise stated, these regulatory provisions apply in addition to the requirements contained in 36 CFR, Chapter 1, Parts 1-7.

Written determinations, which explain the reasoning behind the Superintendent's use of discretionary authority, as required by Section 1.5(c), appear in this document identified by italicized print.

I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section 1.5 Closures and Public Use Limits

Closures

The following are closed to all persons not authorized by the Superintendent:

1. Fajada Butte and the area surrounding it; bounded on the north by Chaco Wash, on the west by Fajada Wash, on the south by the park boundary, and on the east by a line from the intersection of said boundary with the west face of Chacra Mesa north to Chaco Wash.

2. Atlatl Cave and any and all areas within 100 yards of it.

3. Casa Rinconada – the floor and interior chamber of the great kiva.

4. Two Chacoan Stairways, one on the Pueblo Alto Complex trail and the other just east of the Casa Rinconada Community (see park brochure)

5. Kin Ya'a – is closed to all visitors. Area enclosed by a wire fence at the site location.

6. Kin Bineola - is closed to all visitors. Area enclosed by wire fence at the site location.

Determinations: These areas contain sensitive archaeological sites that cannot sustain unauthorized access. Resource damage could result in any unauthorized access.

Unmanned Aircraft Closure:

Definition:

The term "unmanned aircraft" means a device that is used or intended to be used for flight in the air without the possibility of direct human intervention from within or on the device, and the associated operational elements and components that are required for the pilot or system operator in command to operate or control the device (such as cameras, sensors, communication links). This term includes all types of devices that meet this definition (e.g., model airplanes, quadcopters drones) that are used for any purpose, including for recreation or commerce.

Closure:

Launching, landing, or operating an unmanned aircraft from or on lands and waters administered by the National Park Service within the boundaries of Chaco Culture National Historical Park is prohibited except as approved in writing by the Superintendent.

Determination:

The public drives and hikes on designated roads and trails within the park. Any recreational use of a UAV in these areas will pose a hazard issue for the public if a UAV would have a mechanical failure or weather related event that brought this UAV down unexpectedly. The UAV could fall upon an archaeological site, private vehicle(s), or park structure located along the designated roads and trails. The backcountry areas of Chaco Culture National Historical Park have only designated trails where the public can visit, and the rest of the area in the backcountry is prohibited for visitor use, only park administrative duties are permitted in these other areas.

Restrictions

Roads and Parking Areas

The following roads are open to the public:

1. Access road from the east entrance to the Visitor Center (County Road 7950).
2. Access road from the south entrance to the Visitor Center (State Route 57).
3. The Gallo Campground access road and roads in the campground.
4. The park loop road during visiting hours (7:00 a.m. to sunset)

The following roads are closed to the public but are open for park administrative use:

1. The service road to Wijiji and the east boundary beyond.
2. The service road to Casa Chiquita.
3. The service road to South Gap.
4. The service road to Pueblo Alto.
5. The service road to the water tank.
6. The West Chaco River Road (road from Padilla Well to Peñasco Blanco).

Designated parking areas (pullouts) are those along park roads at Wijiji Trailhead, Fajada Butte View, the Visitor Center; Hungo Pavi, Pueblo Bonito/Chetro Ketl, Pueblo del Arroyo and Casa Rinconada; the North and South entrances, the Chaco Stairway pullout east of Casa Rinconada, the Chaco Wash View gravel pullout, and the pullout 0.1 mile east of Chaco Wash on the south access road.

1. Parking is allowed in these areas only.
2. All types of buses, RV's cannot idle in parking areas.
3. Leaving vehicles unattended is prohibited in the parking area at each entrance, the Chaco Stairway pullout, the Chaco Wash View gravel pullout, and the pullout 0.1 mile east of Chaco Wash.
4. No parking is allowed on park roads.

Frontcountry – is that portion of the park within Chaco Wash where paved roads, designated parking areas and other developments or improvements exist for the purpose of visitor use.

Frontcountry use is restricted to:

1. Designated trails in and through Una Vida, Hungo Pavi, Chetro Ketl, Pueblo Bonito, Pueblo del Arroyo and Casa Rinconada.
2. Gallo Campground, the Canyon Overlook Trail, and the Campground Day-use Area. See map.
3. The Visitor Center.
4. Designated roads and parking areas.
5. The Petroglyph Trail between Pueblo Bonito and Chetro Ketl; and the designated trail to Wetherill Cemetery from Pueblo Bonito and the Pueblo del Arroyo parking area.
6. The Wijiji Trail extension from the campground to the Wijiji Trail.

Presence off or away from designated roads, trails, parking areas or the campground without prior approval and/or a special use permit from the Superintendent is prohibited.

Backcountry – is that part of the park outside and/or away from developed areas; i.e., those areas of the park where paved roads, parking areas and developments do not exist.

Note: Backcountry permits can be obtained at the Visitor Center, or at each of the trailhead self-register stations at every trailhead starting point.

Backcountry use requires a permit, and is restricted to the following designated trails:

1. The Pueblo Alto Trail, including designated trails to Pueblo Alto, New Alto and to Pueblo Bonito Overlook. Jackson Stairway is closed to climbing.
2. The Peñasco Blanco Trail, including designated trails to Kin Kletso, Casa Chiquita, and Peñasco Blanco,and the Supernova site.
3. The South Mesa Trail, including the designated trail to Tsin Kletsin. Part of this designated trail uses the South Gap service road and is identified on the park brochure map.
4. The trail to Wijiji.

Presence in all other backcountry areas without prior approval and/or a special use permit from the Superintendent is prohibited.

Park Outlier Sites (Units)

Park outliers are Kin Bineola (currently closed to visitor access), Kin Ya'a (currently closed to visitor access), Pueblo Pintado and Kin Klizhin (see map for location). They are Congressionally designated units of Chaco Culture National Historical Park which lie away from the main part of the park, but are integral to the park and its purpose. Kin Bineola (currently closed to visitor access), Kin Ya'a (currently closed to visitor access), and Pueblo Pintado are separate and discrete units; Kin Klizhin is within the exterior boundaries of the park, but is considered an outlier for the purpose of regulation and administration. Access to Pueblo Pintado and Kin Klizhin outlier's is via the designated approach roads (see map). Travel off or away from these roads is not allowed. Visitors must stay on trails within the outlier great houses of Pueblo Pintado and Kin Klizhin and their immediate vicinity. Travel beyond and presence more than 50 yards away from any of the great houses is prohibited without prior approval and/or a permit from the Superintendent.

Other

1. Access to the park housing area is restricted to residents, their guests and other persons authorized by the Superintendent.
2. The climbing, scaling or descending of any rock face or boulder in the park, with or without the use of mechanical or rope aid, is prohibited.
3. The campground is closed after sunset to any person(s) not registered in or registering for a campsite.
4. The RV dump station is closed to the washing of vehicles.
5. Park dumpsters are closed to the removing or sorting of refuse already in them.
6. The use of any vessel (boat) in the park is prohibited.
7. The filling of stock tanks from park water sources is prohibited.
8. Buses cannot idle in parking areas.

Hours of Operation

The Visitor Center and One-way loop road are closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's day. Visitors can still camp in Gallo campground and local traffic can still travel through the park on these dates.

Hours of operation are general closures and do not take into account special use permits signed by the superintendent, or park-sponsored events. For the purposes of enforcement, daily sunset time is posted at the front desk of the Visitor Center.

1. The main park loop road (and associated great houses and parking areas), backcountry trails and outlier sites are open for visitation from 7:00 a.m. to sunset.
2. From sunset to 7:00 a.m. public access is restricted to Gallo Campground (registered campers only), the Visitor Center and its adjacent parking areas, and the park access roads.

Determinations: The hours of operation are set to provide maximum visitor satisfaction during hours when staff is on-duty. All areas in the park are closed after sunset to deter vandalism and theft of natural, cultural and archaeological resources.

II. ACTIVITIES THAT REQUIRE A PERMIT

Section 1.6 Permits

Note: Violations under this section should be cited under §1.6(g)(1) or (2)

The following activities related to Public Use Limits:

1. 1.5(d) Backcountry Trail Use
2. 2.4 Carry or possess a weapon, trap or net
3. 2.5(b) Research specimens
4. 2.10(a) Camping in designated campground
5. 2.12(a)(4) Creating Audio Disturbances
6. 2.17 Aircraft and air delivery
7. 2.50 Special Events
8. 2.51 Demostrations
9. 2.52. Sale/Distribution of Printed Matter
10. 5.3 Business Operations
11. 5.5 Commercial Photography

III. GENERAL REGULATIONS

Section 2.1 Preservation of Natural, Cultural and Archeological Resources

(a)(4) Collection of any wood is prohibited.

(a)(5) The following conditions are in effect for walking, climbing, entering, ascending, or traversing the listed archaeological or cultural resource, monuments, or statues:

- Entering archaeological sites within the backcountry is prohibited except as noted below.

- Archaeological sites accessible directly from the designated trail system that may be entered, for day use visits only, include areas of Pueblo Alto Complex, Casa Chiquita, Penasco Blanco, Tsin Kletsin. At Kin Kletso a visitor can only walk around the site (rope barricade guides visitor access around the archaeological site).

- The Park also has outlying units that may be entered for day use only. They include Pueblo Pintado, Kin Klizhin.

- Kin Bineola is closed to public access. Vehicle access is interrupted by a public safety issue that is due to heavy rainfall that was received in this area last fall. At this time there is no public road or designated trail to reach the boundary of this unit.

(c)(1) Collecting of any plant material or vegetative products including berries is prohibited.

Section 2.2 Wildlife Protection

(a)(1) Tracking wounded wildlife into the Park, which was lawfully wounded outside of Park boundaries, is prohibited unless accompanied by a commissioned park ranger. The ranger on site may terminate the search if the animal is not located within a reasonable amount of time, as determined by the ranger.

(a)(2) The calling of wildlife, including artificial calls or recording devices is prohibited within the Park.

(e) Viewing wildlife by artificial light (spotlighting, including redirection of headlights) is prohibited Park-wide.

Note: Night vision devices are not artificial lights, however, infrared lighting/beams are.

Determination: These regulations help to protect against the unlawful taking of wildlife within the Park.

The entire park and all outliers are closed to the viewing of wildlife with artificial light.

Section 2.4 Weapons, Traps and Nets

(d) The carriage of firearms within the boundaries of Chaco Culture National Historical Park is allowed pursuant to New Mexico State Law.

Firearms are prohibited in all federal facilities.

In the State of New Mexico you must be 19 years of age to carry a firearm "open carry" and must be 21 years of age to obtain a Concealed Weapons permit to "carry concealed."

All other weapons, traps and nets remain prohibited to possess or use in the Park.

Determination: As of February 22, 2010, the federal law was changed to allow the carriage of firearms in the national parks and monuments pursuant to state law. While that section of the CFR has changed, it remains prohibited to use that firearm within NPS boundaries.

Firearm means a loaded or unloaded pistol, rifle, shotgun or other weapon which is designed to, or may be readily converted to, expel a projectile by the ignition of a propellant.

Weapon means a firearm, compressed gas or spring-powered pistol or rifle, bow and arrow, crossbow, blowgun, speargun, hand-thrown spear, slingshot, irritant gas device, explosive device, or any other implement designed to discharge missiles, and includes a weapon in the possession of which is prohibited under the laws of the State in which the park area or portion thereof is located.

Section 2.10 Camping and Food Storage

a) Designate sites or areas and establish conditions:

1. Camping is permitted only in Gallo Campground in designated campsites; a campsite is denoted by a numbered post, picnic table and park-provided fire ring.
2. Camping is permitted by using the recreation.gov website to reserve a campsite for the majority of the campsites in Gallo campground. 8 sites are first come first use campsites that are also available.
3. Campsite limits are 2 vehicles (or 4 motorcycles), 2 tents and 6 people per site.
4. **The day after Veteran's day November 12th, to March 1st the public restrooms in Gallo campground will be winterized. The Park will place an adequate number of portable toilets (including a handicap accessible unit) to accommodate overnight stays in Gallo Campground.**
5. Sites 35-49 are reserved for tent camping only. No RVs or generators.
6. Generators may be operated 1 hour at a time between 8:00 A.M. and 8:00 P.M.
7. Check-out time is 11:00 A.M.
8. Campground stay limit is 30 nights per person per year, with no more than 14 consecutive nights at any one time.
9. Group camping is available in two sites for organized groups of 10 people or more. Reservations are made through recreation.gov website. Group site limits are 30 people and 5 vehicles per site. Group stay limit is 30 nights per group per year, and no more than 7 consecutive nights at a time.

d) Food Storage:

To prevent wildlife from becoming habituated to non-native food or attracted to campgrounds and public areas; food and garbage must be stored in vehicles or a camping unit or otherwise disposed of properly. This restriction does not apply to food that is being transported, consumed, or prepared for consumption.

(d)(1) Hummingbird feeders and other types of feeders, are attractants for animals. They are not allowed in NPS permanent and seasonal housing areas or in established campsite, campground host sites in Gallo Campground.

Determination: Food storage regulations help maintain public health and safety, and to avoid conflict between visitor use activities and natural resources.

Section 2.11 Picnicking

Picnicking is allowed throughout the park in normal public use areas, except within archaeological sites and in the visitor center.

Section 2.13 Fires

(a)(1) The lighting or maintaining of fires is generally prohibited, except as provided for in the following designated areas and/or receptacles, and under conditions noted:

Designated Areas

Campfires are prohibited in all areas except in the grills provided for such purposes in Gallo Campground, and the campfire circle for interpretative programs held in the campground.

Established Conditions for Fires:

Campfires must be attended in person by the user at all times and may not be abandoned.

(b) Fires must be extinguished according to the following conditions:
All campfires must be completely extinguished and out "cold." Fires must be "drowned;" soil containment/cover is generally not adequate to fully extinguish a fire.

Determination: While the Park seeks to provide opportunities for having campfires in the Park, another goal is to prevent wildland fires to reduce the potential for other resource damage.

Section 2.14 Sanitation and Refuse

(a)(2) The use of government refuse receptacles or facilities for dumping household, commercial, or industrial refuse, brought as such from private or municipal property:

- Is prohibited by the Superintendent.
- Only waste generated while visiting Chaco Culture National Historical Park may be placed in government receptacles. General household, commercial or industrial waste generated outside the park is not allowed.

Determination: Refuse containers are places throughout the park to service the visitor. Bringing household waste from outside the park tax the capacity of trash receptacles and add to the cost of waste removal.

Section 2.15 Pets

Service Animals – are defined in 28 CFR 36.104 as, "any guide dog, signal dog or other animal individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including, but not limited to, guiding individuals with impaired vision, alerting individuals with impaired hearing to intruders or sounds, providing minimal protection or rescue work, pulling a wheelchair or fetching dropped items."

Service animals are exempt from the regulations described below.

a) Pets are prohibited in all front-country archaeological sites, the Visitor Center, and all public restrooms.
b) Pets may be taken on designated backcountry trails. Pueblo Alto Complex, Penasco Blanco, Tsin Kletsin, Wijiji trails.
c) Pets must be leashed at all times while in the Park. The leash cannot exceed six feet in length.
d) Pets may be left unattended in parking lots and the campground, provided that they are physically restrained and do not interfere with any person or vehicle.
e) Pet excrement must be picked up and disposed of in an appropriate receptacle by the person(s) responsible for the pet.
f) Pets may be kept by park residents in accordance with the Superintendent's Policies.

Section 2.16 Horses and Pack Animals

(g) Pack animals are those defined in 36 CFR Section 1.4, plus llamas; they are allowed only on park access roads in trailers or transport vehicles, and only on a through-park basis. Camping with pack animals is not allowed.

Section 2.17 Aircraft and Air Delivery

(c)(1) The removal of a downed aircraft, components, or parts thereof is subject to procedures established by the Superintendent through written authorization.

Section 2.19 Winter Activities

(a) Skiing and snowshoeing are not permitted in archaeological sites.

Section 2.20 Skating, Skateboards, and Similar Devices

Using roller skates, skateboards, roller ski's, coasting vehicles, or similar devices is prohibited, except in designated areas.

To provide for public safety, no areas are designated for this activity.

Determination: The above activities generally take place on paved roads and parking areas. All of the Park roads are narrow with no shoulder making these activities extremely dangerous on the road. The main parking areas in the park are generally congested with vehicles and pedestrians, making this area unsuitable for the above activities.

Section 2.21, Smoking

(a) The following areas, structures or facilities are closed to smoking:

Smoking is prohibited in all Park facilities and vehicles.
Smoking is prohibited within 30 feet of the entrances to all buildings
Smoking may be prohibited in all areas of the Park, except in designated areas when, in the opinion of the Superintendent such prohibition is necessary during periods of high fire danger. Notice of such prohibition will be posted at trailheads and at the Visitor Center.

Determination: Smoking is prohibited to protect Park resources, reduce the risk of fire, or prevent conflicts among visitor use activities.

Section 2.22 Property

(a)(2) Property may be left unattended for periods longer than 24 hour under the following conditions:

- With permission of the Superintendent upon approval of a permit or special use authorization.
- Request permits through the chief ranger's office
- No unattended property will be left in any public facility by any visitor. Charging units for electronic equipment, the owner must remain with the electronic unit.

Determination: The purpose of this restriction is to protect the natural, cultural, and archaeological resources from damage from geocaching and similar activities and to preserve the landscape in a clear visual condition as possible. Federal building and facilities must remain safe.

Section 2.23, Recreation Fees

a) The park entrance fee is $8.00 per single, non-commercial vehicle (valid for 7 days).
b) The campground fee is $15.00 per site per night.
c) Group campsite fees are a flat fee of $60.00 per night.
d) Entrance fees for commercial vehicles is according to a schedule established by the National Park Service which is available for inspection at the Visitor Center.

Section 2.35, Alcoholic Beverages

The consumption of alcoholic beverages is allowed in Gallo Campground, the park housing area and picnic areas.

(a)(3)(i) Consumption of alcoholic beverages in archaeological sites or on public trails is prohibited.

Section 2.51 Demonstrations

- Demonstrations involving 25 persons or fewer may be held without a permit.
- A permit is required for public demonstrations involving 26 persons or more.
- A map showing areas within Chaco Culture National Historical Park that are designated as **not available** for demonstrations is in the Office of the Superintendent.

- All other areas of the park are potentially available for public assemblies, meeting, gatherings, parades and other public demonstrations of views.
- The Superintendent will consider request for permits on a case-by-case basis, using the criteria listed in 36 C.F.R. 2.51(c).

Section 2.52, Sale or Distribution of Printed Matter

Open for the sale/distribution of printed matter for which a permit has been issued is the ground area adjacent to the southwest section of the Visitor Center parking lot as marked. See map.

Section 2.62, Memorialization
The scattering of human ashes in Chaco Culture National Historical Park is prohibited.

Determination: The Park was created for preservation and interpretation; and to facilitate research activities associated with these resources. By introducing outside cremated remains, it contaminates park resources, which impacts the ability to conduct research. Past experiences show that cremated remains are scattered within a archaeological site or deposited within the structure of a archaeological site. Because the park landscape is filled with numerous archaeological sites, there are designated trails and roads identified to protect preservation activities and to provide for the interpretation of its natural, cultural, and historical resources.

Vehicles and Traffic Safety

Section 4.10 Travel on Park Roads and Designated Routes

Park road means the main-traveled surface of a roadway open to motor vehicles, owned, controlled or otherwise administered by the National Park Service.

(a) Operating a motor vehicle is prohibited except on park roads, in parking areas and on routes, and areas designated for off-road motor vehicle use.

- The Superintendent has designated roads, and parking areas for public use.
- The Superintendent has designated roads that are for administrative use only and are closed to the public.
- The Superintendent has not designated any area within the park for off-road motor vehicle use.

Roads and Parking Areas
The following roads are open to the public:

1. Access road from the east entrance to the Visitor Center (County Road 7950).
2. Access road from the south entrance to the Visitor Center (State Route 57).
3. The Gallo Campground access road and roads in the campground.
4. The park loop road during visiting hours (7:00 a.m. to sunset).

The following roads are closed to the public but are open for park administrative use:

1. The road to Wijiji and the east boundary beyond.
2. The road to Casa Chiquita.
3. The road to South Gap.
4. The road to Pueblo Alto.
5. The road to the water tank.
6. The West Chaco River Road (road from Padilla Well to Peñasco Blanco).

Designated parking areas (pullouts) are those along park roads at Wijiji Trailhead, Fajada Butte View, the Visitor Center; Hungo Pavi, Pueblo Bonito/Chetro Ketl, Pueblo del Arroyo and Casa Rinconada; the North and South entrances, the Chaco Stairway pullout east of Casa Rinconada, the Chaco Wash View gravel pullout, and the pullout 0.1 mile east of Chaco Wash on the south access road.

1. Parking is allowed in these areas only.
2. Leaving vehicles unattended is prohibited in the parking area at each entrance, the Chaco Stairway pullout, the Chaco Wash View gravel pullout, and the pullout 0.1 mile east of Chaco Wash.
3. Leaving an unattended vehicle on any park road and not parking in any one of the designated parking areas is prohibited.

Section 4.11 Load, Weight and Size Limits

Vehicles operating on park roads may not exceed 40 feet in length (exclusive of towed units), 102 inches in width, or 60,000 lbs. of gross weight without special permission of the Superintendent.

Section 4.21 Speed Limits

- Speed limits for park roads are established and posted.

Section 4.30 Bicycles

Note: New Mexico State law requires bicycles to stay to the right side of the roadway as practicable. Bicyclist must follow traffic laws that are applicable to a driver of a motor vehicle.

NM statutes for Bicycles, "NM 66-3-702 Traffic laws apply to persons riding bicycles," and "NM 66-3-705 Riding on roadways and bicycle paths."

Bicycles are allowed on:

1. Designated roads and parking areas where motor vehicles are allowed.

Bicycles are permitted on certain designated sections of two backcountry trails:

1. The Wijiji Trail up to the bike rack at Wijiji.
2. The Peñasco Blanco Trail up to the bike rack at Casa Chiquita.

Bicycles are prohibited from:

1. Entering all trails that lead to each frontcountry archaeological site is prohibited.

2. Entering any frontcountry archaeological site is prohibited.
3. Bicycles must stay on designated park roads, parking areas and other designated routes.

Bicycles must have reflective material and lights. The purpose is to provide for visibility in low light conditions at sunset, bad weather conditions, and attending night programs in the park.

Section 4.31 Hitchhiking

- Hitchhiking can occur at the Visitor Center.