

47 Four Oaks Road
Bedminster, NJ 07921
July 31, 2009

Mr. Jack O'Brian
Intermountain Regional FOIA Officer
Intermountain Regional Office---NPS
PO Box 25287
Denver, Colorado 80225

Dear Mr. O'Brian:

With this letter I am making a formal Freedom of Information Act request.

I am not seeking expedited processing, and I am not filling a request for another person or party. I am an individual seeking information for personal use and not for commercial use; and I am willing to pay a reasonable fee for the processing of my FOIA request and I am not requesting a statutory fee waiver.

I am seeking the following information about Mesa Verde National Park:

1. I would like to have either hard copy versions or have access to the electronic, digital versions of the **Mesa Verde National Park FY 2007**, the **Mesa Verde National Park FY 2008**, and the **Mesa Verde National Park FY 2009 Year-to-Date** financial statements pertaining to and detailing the final and exact expenditures of each and every local account of the ONPS budgets, and the "Project, Fire Pro, Donations, Reimbursable, and Fee Demonstration" accounts.

These financial records are easily accessible and they are on several computers in the Headquarters of Mesa Verde National Park. Linda Lanier (the Budget Analyst of Mesa Verde National Park), Larry Wiese (the Superintendent), and Bill Nelligan (the Deputy Superintendent) would all know on which computers the information is available, how to access it, and how to reproduce it. To reproduce this information in hard copy would probably take approximately ten minutes if the report generation was done by anyone familiar with the park's programs for financial bookkeeping.

2. I would like to have a specific breakdown and some explanation of how money has been spent on "travel expenses." Specifically this would be a breakdown of what has been included as line "21 -- Travel" in the park's authorized budget during the fiscal years of 2007 and 2008, and 2009 YTD.

In the 2009 budget, for instance, there was \$421,256 allocated for "21—Travel" ---a total of 6.5% of the total park budget. What kind of travel does that include, who is using the money, where are they going, and why?

In addition, I am particularly interested in the travel expenses of Larry Wiese (the superintendent) and Tessy Shirakawa (the Chief of Interpretation) and in how many travel authorizations and travel vouchers were prepared and used by them, for how many days, to what kind of locations, and for what purpose during fiscal years 2007 and fiscal 2008, and fiscal year 2009 YTD.

In the 2008 Superintendent's Report, for instance, there were 21 travel authorizations and travel vouchers prepared for individuals in the Administrative Division, and 28 travel authorizations and vouchers for other divisions. Which of those were for Larry Wiese and Tessy Shirakawa, and for what kind of activities were these vouchers, to what kind of locations, and for what purpose?

I am asking for this information since both Larry Wiese and Tessy Shirakawa are so often not in their offices or in the park. In particular, the superintendent often seems to be out of the park more than he is in the park. And no one can ever tell you or will tell you where he is, when he is coming back, and why he is gone.

These financial records are easily accessible on several computers in the Headquarters of Mesa Verde National Park. Details about the expenditures would be contained in the files and/or "budget books" in the Headquarters and probably in Linda Lanier's office. Linda Lanier, the Budget Analyst of Mesa Verde National Park, Larry Wiese, the Superintendent, and Bill Nelligan, the Deputy Superintendent would all know where information is available, how to access it, and how to reproduce it.

3. I am interested in how much money, if any, has been paid to or received from CyArk, the non-profit entity involved in laser scanning operating from Orinda, California during the 2007 and 2008 fiscal years and the 2009 fiscal YTD.

This information would be easily accessible in the park's financial AR and AP reports, and it could easily be generated from the park's financial accounting programs.

4. Larry Wiese, the superintendent of Mesa Verde National Park, has been very involved in programs, seminars, and projects involving CyArk and/or sponsored by CyArk.

For instance,

- there was an inaugural CyArk developmental workshop sponsored by CyArk in a hotel in Oaxaca City, Mexico during CyArk's laser project at Monte Alban in October 2008. "Representatives from the National Park Service head by Larry Wiese, Superintendent of Mesa Verde, actively participated in the workshop discussions." (from the CyArk website)
- there was the Conference on Capturing and Managing Existing Conditions Data for Design, Construction and Operations (SPAR 2008) held March 3-5, 2008 in Houston, Texas during which Larry Wiese was a featured "presenter."
- there was the SPAR 2009 Annual Conference in Denver, Colorado on March 30-April 1, 2009 during which Larry Wiese was the moderator for one of the seminars.
- there was the Digital Documentation Conference 2009 on April 22 and 23, 2009 in Glasgow, Scotland during which Larry Wiese was a featured speaker.

Has Larry Wiese's active involvement with CyArk been authorized by the National Park Service? Are there minutes of any meeting during which his time and any expenses incurred during his involvement with CyArk and/or programs and seminars involving CyArk were officially authorized?

The records of this authorization might be in Larry Wiese's files, or in the files of some appropriate division of the National Park Service, or possibly in the files of the NPS Intermountain Regional office.

Has his expenses to and from these events been paid for from the regular budget of Mesa Verde National Park, or by some other national or regional National Park Service funds? Has Mesa Verde National Park received any his honorariums or any kind of payments to reimburse the park for his time and expenses?

I suspect questions about how these expenses were reimbursed and/or paid can be obtained easily by asking Larry Wiese and then assessing the appropriate financial records.

5. I am interested in knowing when the National Park Service became an active partner of the CyArk project. Through which part of the National Park Service was this decision made, when, and how much money was allocated to the project?

I suspect these questions can be answered by asking Larry Wiese and then assessing the appropriate financial or National Park Service records.

6. How many “sister parks” or “partner park relationships” does Mesa Verde National Park currently have? Who represents Mesa Verde National Park in these relationships, how often are trips made to them, and for what reasons?

Although this should be a fairly straightforward and simple question, there’s only one park mentioned on the park’s website, there are no park’s mentioned in the annual Superintendent’s report, and there are rumors of three or more official sister park relationships with associated trips to them.

I suspect these questions also can be answered by asking Larry Wiese.

7. How often have employees of Mesa Verde National Park visited parks, historical sites, or attended conventions or seminars in Hawaii, Alaska, or outside the borders of the continental United States? How many travel authorizations have been granted for travel outside the continental United States? To whom have these authorizations been given, for what purposes, and for how many days?

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8. I am trying to find out why so many staff positions have been left vacant, in spite of regular increases in the park’s funding. What has happened to the funding for the Museum Curator, the Historic Architect, the Head of Stabilization, and the Biology Technician? And how was last year’s special centennial funding for additional rangers used? (It was supposed to have been used for extra seasonal rangers, but extra rangers were never hired.)

Essentially I am trying to find out what happens to funding for staff positions and for anticipated and authorized moving expenses for new staff members when those positions are never filled--- year after year. Is there a record of how these unused funds are used and to which accounts they were transferred during fiscal years 2008 and 2009, and fiscal year 2009 YTD?

These financial records are easily accessible on several computers in the Headquarters of Mesa Verde National Park. Details about the expenditures would be contained in the files and/or “budget books” in the Headquarters and probably in Linda Lanier’s office. Linda Lanier, the Budget Analyst of Mesa Verde National Park, Larry Wiese, the Superintendent, and Bill Nelligan,

the Deputy Superintendent would all know where information is available, how to access it, and how to reproduce it. They also would know how the excess or unused funds were used, to which accounts they were transferred, and why the positions were never filled.

Needless to say, I look forward to hearing from you.

Respectfully and regrettably submitted,

Bruce E. Schundler

bruce@schundler.net

908-581-1021 (home/cell phone)

970-529-4024 (my home phone at Mesa Verde where I can be reached only until Labor Day, 2009.)