Mesa Verde Timeline

- **500s AD** – First pit houses and signs of permanent habitation appear.
- **Mid-700s** – People began grouping houses to form compact villages.
- **1100 – 1300** – The Classic Pueblo Period saw the construction of extensive complexes of pueblos. Cliff dwellings number over 600 within the park boundaries.
- **1300** – Ancestral Puebloan people had migrated from Mesa Verde. There are many possible reasons for the migration.
- **1859** – Great Colorado Goldrush. Professor J.S. Newberry makes the first known mention of Mesa Verde.
- **1870s - 80s** – Several cliff dwellings discovered.
- **1876 - 80s** – Several cliff dwellings discovered.
- **1880** – Chief Ouray and delegation negotiate treaty in Washington D.C. that includes establishment of reservation lands.
- **1888** – The Weatherill brothers discover Cliff Palace while tracking livestock.
- **1889** – Activist Virginia McClurg begins a decade-long fight to designate the National Park.
- **1906** – The Ute Mountain Utes exchange Mesa Verde lands for other lands in Southwest Colorado.
- **June 29, 1906** – President Theodore Roosevelt signs legislation creating Mesa Verde National Park.
- **1908** – Building stabilization and archaeological preservation activities are undertaken to protect sites. These activities continue to date and will continue into the future.
- **1910s onward** – Tourists and archaeologists begin visiting in increasing numbers.
- **1910**
- **1920**
- **1930**
- **1940**
- **1950**
- **1960**
- **1970**
- **1980**
- **1990**
- **2000**
- **2006**
- **1976** – Lands are added to the National Park with new wilderness designations.
- **1978** – Mesa Verde National Park is declared one of eight original World Heritage Sites by the United Nations.
- **2003/4** – Forest fires brought on by drought burn thousands of National Park acres, but leave dwellings undamaged. The process of regrowth is well underway.
- **2006** – After 100 years, Mesa Verde National Park celebrates the continued preservation and protection of these irreplaceable cultural resources for generations to come.

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