

## A System Grounded in Conservation and Science

The National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS) is one of America's best-kept secrets. These treasured landscapes, managed by the Bureau of Land Management, are located from coast-to-coast and include 885 federally recognized areas covering over 27 million acres.

Many of these lands are rugged and remote, offering solitude in a backcountry setting. Others are just minutes from major metropolitan areas or burgeoning communities. The NLCS comprises spectacular, inspiring, and unique landscapes that serve as a backdrop for rare and endangered animals and plants, historical journeys, paleontological remains, and sacred Native American sites. And the NLCS is so much more ...

- 643 bee species were discovered at Utah's Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument during a 2000–2005 survey. This is the highest density of bee species found in the intermountain region.
- Canyon of the Ancients National Monument in Colorado has one of the highest densities of archeological sites in the country, with nearly 100 sites per square mile in places.
- Located in the heart of the Lost Coast region of California, King Range National Conservation Area protects 25 miles of coastal wilderness.
- Paddlefish, with ancestors dating back to the Eocene epoch (48 million years ago), thrive in the protected backwaters of the Upper Missouri Wild and Scenic River.

## Why You Should Care



The NLCS, which serves as open, undeveloped escapes for Americans near and far, is a showcase for the BLM's conservation side of its multiple-use mandate. From establishing interpretive visitor centers to helping plan and implement important resource management plans, community stewardship benefits gateway economies as well as the NLCS and its myriad resources.

Opportunities abound for primitive camping, hiking, fishing, and rafting, along with riding off-highway vehicles, mountain bikes, and horses on backcountry roads and trails. Traditional uses such as hunting and grazing occur on most NLCS lands. Many areas offer a glimpse into our past through an abundance of heritage and cultural resources.

Scientific research is fundamental in accomplishing the NLCS mission of conserving, protecting, and restoring treasured landscapes. Lands within the NLCS serve as outdoor laboratories and classrooms offering scientists and students opportunities for research, data collection, and unique, exciting discoveries.

Restoration is a key mission on these special public lands. Accomplished with the assistance of others, partnerships are essential. Research and monitoring of restored areas add to the BLM's knowledge base and support better decisionmaking.

## Discover NLCS Treasured Landscapes

- The only physical evidence of the Lewis and Clark expedition in situ—William Clark's 1806 signature in sandstone—is located within Pompeys Pillar National Monument, Montana.  
[www.blm.gov/mt/st/en/fo/billings\\_field\\_office/Pompeys\\_Pillar.html](http://www.blm.gov/mt/st/en/fo/billings_field_office/Pompeys_Pillar.html)
- One of the NLCS's newest units, Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area, Colorado, offers scenic panoramas, rafting on the Gunnison River, and cryptic clues to the area's ancient past.  
[www.blm.gov/col/st/en/fo/denca.html](http://www.blm.gov/col/st/en/fo/denca.html)
- Crossroads to three ecoregions—Klamath, Cascade, and Siskiyou—Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, Oregon, has the highest density of butterflies in the United States.  
[www.blm.gov/or/resources/recreation/csnm/index.php](http://www.blm.gov/or/resources/recreation/csnm/index.php)
- In Wyoming, the BLM is steward to more than 60 percent of the Oregon, California, Mormon Pioneer, and Pony Express Trails. The National Historic Trails Center in Casper highlights our country's Western expansion.  
[www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/NHTIC.html](http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/NHTIC.html)
- BLM-Utah's Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument is so remote that it was the last place in the lower 48 States to be formally mapped. Study of the formations within the monument has yielded more information about land-based ecosystem change at the end of the dinosaur era than almost any other place in the world. Scientists have discovered significant dinosaur fossils including two new genera of horned dinosaurs.  
[www.blm.gov/ut/st/en/fo/grand\\_staircase-escalante.html](http://www.blm.gov/ut/st/en/fo/grand_staircase-escalante.html)
- Volunteers contribute hundreds of thousands of hours annually to help conserve, protect, and restore these treasured landscapes through volunteer vacations, community partnerships, and youth organizations.  
[www.blm.gov/wol/st/en/prog/blm\\_special\\_areas/NLCS/learning\\_landscapes/for\\_volunteers.html](http://www.blm.gov/wol/st/en/prog/blm_special_areas/NLCS/learning_landscapes/for_volunteers.html)





# National Landscape Conservation System

Conserve, Protect, and Restore

## National Landscape Conservation System

- 16 National Monuments
- 21 National Conservation Areas and similar designations
- 8.7 million acres of Wilderness
- 12.8 million acres of Wilderness Study Areas
- 2,415 miles of Wild and Scenic Rivers
- 6,006 miles of National Scenic and Historic Trails
- Conservation Lands of the California Desert



Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks National Monument, New Mexico



King Range, California

The BLM manages more land – 256 million acres – than any other Federal agency. This land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located in 12 Western States, including Alaska. The Bureau, with a budget of about \$1 billion, also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The BLM’s multiple-use mission is to sustain the health and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. The Bureau accomplishes this by managing such activities as outdoor recreation, livestock grazing, mineral development, and energy production, and by conserving natural, historical, cultural, and other resources on public lands.

[www.blm.gov/nlcs](http://www.blm.gov/nlcs)



**A system of treasured landscapes set aside for their nationally significant cultural, ecological, and scientific values**

