



**NATIONAL  
CONSERVATION  
LANDS**

# Summary Manager's Report Fiscal Year 2014

## National Monuments, National Conservation Areas, and Similar Designations



*San Juan Islands National Monument, Washington*

The Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) National Landscape Conservation System (National Conservation Lands) manages more than 876 units, including 42 National Monuments, National Conservation Areas (NCAs), and similar designations. The National Conservation Lands are uniquely diverse. They encompass red-rock deserts and rugged ocean coastlines, deep river canyons and broad Alaskan tundra. Many areas are remote and wild but others are surprisingly accessible. The National Conservation Lands also protect our cultural legacy. They safeguard American Indian cliff dwellings and cultural sites and preserve the remaining traces of our nation's historic trails. These units are the most well-known and well visited of the National Conservation Lands. The management of these special units support the BLM's mission of sustaining health, diversity, and productivity of public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. This report summarizes the successes and challenges from each unit as reported through the annual "Manager's Report" for fiscal year 2014.



## Highlights of Fiscal Year 2014

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# Highlights of Fiscal Year 2014

Funding	FY2014 All Sources	FY2014 1711 Congressional Allocation + other BLM Program Funds	FY2014 Partner Funding	FY2014 Volunteer Value
<b>Funding Total:</b>	<b>\$54,864,419</b>	<b>\$40,931,141</b>	<b>\$7,734,942</b>	<b>\$6,198,336</b>
<b>Total Monument/NCA BLM Acreage:</b>	<b>9,709,615</b>	<b>9,709,615</b>	<b>9,709,615</b>	<b>9,709,615</b>
<b>Funding per BLM Acre*:</b>	<b>\$5.65</b>	<b>\$4.22</b>	<b>\$0.80</b>	<b>\$0.64</b>
<b>Funding Source Breakdown:</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>75%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>11%</b>

\*Excludes Browns Canyon and Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks units

The National Monuments and National Conservation Areas program's Congressional funding levels in Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 remained static. When budgets do not increase it is considered a budget reduction due to inflation. National Monument and NCA Congressional funding for FY2014 was set at \$31,819,000. The NMs and NCAs are primarily funded in the 1711 sub-activity. The 1711 sub-activity is the BLM's only "place-based" sub-activity, and was initially funded with seed money from over twenty different BLM programs in FY2009. Broadly speaking, the 1711 sub-activity primarily funds permanent labor, facilities, equipment, and some recurring work. Contributed funds from other sub-activities help to fund discreet projects and activities that may change from year to year. These funds benefit both the NM/NCA program as well as the other programs contributing the funds.

## NMs and NCAs Unit Types

National Monuments	20
National Conservation Areas	16
Outstanding Natural Areas	3
Forest Reserve	1
Cooperative Management and Protection Area	1
<b>Total Number of Units</b>	<b>41</b>



*Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area, Colorado*

## NMs and NCAs By State

Alaska	1
Arizona	8
California	7
Colorado	4
Florida	1
Idaho	2
Montana	2
Nevada	3
New Mexico	6
Oregon	3
Utah	3
Washington	1

Visitors	FY2014
<b>Number of Visitors*:</b>	<b>6,687,078</b>
<b>Funding per Visitor</b>	<b>\$8.20</b>

\*Excluding Browns Canyon and Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks units



*Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area, Idaho*

Over 6.6 million visitors were recorded at the BLM's National Monuments and National Conservation areas in FY2014. It is difficult to record the exact number of visitors that visit BLM lands due to the high number of access points and the general "freedom to explore" sentiment that BLM lands hold for many users. Higher rates of visitation are recorded by the impacts identified through inventories, monitoring, and studying.



# Highlights of Fiscal Year 2014



Red Cliffs National Conservation Area, Utah

## Partnerships

Our partners are critical in assisting us in protecting the nationally significant resources, objects, and values contained within the boundaries of our National Monuments and National Conservation Areas. Our partners include other BLM programs, Friend’s groups, universities and local schools, national conservation groups, recreation and tourism associations, local governments, tribal communities, and veterans’ organizations. Partnerships help to carry out the BLM’s mission by funding projects, contributing volunteer hours, and sharing enthusiasm for conservation lands. In FY2014, partnering allowed the BLM to increase available funding by an additional \$1.44 per acre; for a total of \$5.65 per acre of management effectiveness.



Volunteers	FY2014	FY2013
Volunteer hours:	284,850	165,000
Volunteer hour value (\$21.76/hour):	\$6,198,336	\$3,590,400

*Established to “conserve, protect, and restore nationally significant landscapes that have outstanding cultural, ecological, and scientific values for the benefit of current and future generations”.*

Volunteers are integral to the success of the National Conservation Lands. In FY14, over 284,000 hours of time was donated to assist in the conservation, protection, and restoration of the nationally significant ROVs at National Monuments and National Conservation Areas. The thousands of hours of time represents over \$6.1 million dollars in in-kind funding from our partners, adding \$0.64 per acre of management effectiveness. These thousands of hours are represented in miles of barbed-wire fence removed, trash carried out of special places, invasive plant treatment, historic and cultural sites protected, campgrounds cleaned up and improved, and miles upon miles of trails maintained.



Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area, Colorado

## Highlights of Fiscal Year 2014

### Resources, Objects, and Values

There are over 340 resources, objects, and values (ROVs) identified at the BLM's 41 monuments and conservation areas (excluding newer units, Browns Canyon and Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks). The ROVs are listed in the designations for each of the units, and most importantly, why these special lands were set aside and managed differently from the rest of the BLM managed lands. In fiscal year 2013, the BLM initiated a new agency-wide goal to complete the inventory of the ROVs and is approximately 43% complete.

The stressors to the ROVs found in the NMs and NCAs include climate change, drought, unauthorized off-road motor-vehicle use, increased visitor use and user conflicts, wildfire, invasive plants, and other BLM authorized land uses. Stressors unique to specific NMs and NCAs also include—international border issues, vandalism, mineral development, electrical transmission and other rights-of-way.



*Riddle Ranch, Steens Mountain National Conservation Area, Oregon*

### Science

The National Conservation Lands program was established by Congress in the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 to “conserve, protect, and restore nationally significant landscapes that have **cultural, ecological, and scientific values** for the benefit of current and future generations’.

In FY2014, scientists, researchers, students, and citizens conducted hundreds of scientific studies in BLM's NMs, NCAs, and similarly designated areas. Benefitting from these research activities include fish, caribou, bats,



*Tyrannosaurid teeth, Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument, Montana*

white mountain sheep, Kern primrose sphinx moth juniper, water quality & quantity, landscape ecology, ecosystems, fire history, habitat studies, for many species, paleontology, archeology, visitors and recreationists, public health, earthquake and faulting research, to name a few. The scientific values and opportunities for research are endless in the NMs and NCAs and offer great value to society.





# National Monument Highlights

National Monuments	Office Location	FY2014 Budget (\$) <sup>2</sup>	BLM Acres	About
Agua Fria	Phoenix, AZ	682,634	70,900	One of the most significant systems of prehistoric sites in American Southwest, and contains important biological communities.
Browns Canyon	Cañon City, CO	N/A	9,783	Designated February 19, 2015.
California Coastal	Hollister, CA	214,000	1,000	Over 2,000 rocks and islands covering 850 miles of California Coast.
Canyons of the Ancients	Dolores, CO	1,451,577	174,240	Highest concentration of Native American archaeological resources in the U.S.
Carrizo Plain	Bakersfield, CA	768,600	206,000	Last remnant of functioning native California grassland ecosystem.
Cascade-Siskiyou	Medford, OR	2,780,106	62,363	Highest concentration of biodiversity in the U.S.
Craters of the Moon	Twin Falls, ID	1,135,632	274,693	So austere, Apollo 14 astronauts trained for their trip to the Moon here.
Fort Ord	Monterrey, CA	2,527,111	7,205	Hundreds of thousands of American soldiers trained here.
Grand Canyon-Parashant	St. George, UT	1,225,417	810,661	Over 1 million remote, undisturbed acres managed with the Park Service.
Grand Staircase-Escalante	Kanab, UT	6,225,900	1,866,134	First and largest BLM national monument; where world-class science is the normal course of business.
Ironwood Forest	Tucson, AZ	625,564	128,398	Largest remaining stand of ironwoods in the greenest desert in the U.S.
Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks	Albuquerque, NM	943,956	4,124	Spectacular volcanic ash formations eroded to look like tents.
Organ Mountains—Desert Peaks	Las Cruces, NM	N/A	496,330	Designated on March 21, 2014.
Pompeys Pillar	Billings, MT	400,000	51	Only physical evidence of the Lewis and Clark expedition.
Prehistoric Trackways	Las Cruces, NM	265,306	5,280	One of the most scientifically significant Early Permian track sites in the world.
Rio Grande del Norte	Taos, NM	2,055,000	242,554	An incredible confluence of natural, cultural, recreational, and scenic values.
San Juan Islands	Lopez, WA	513,000	970	An archipelago of over 450 islands near the Northwest corner of the continental U.S. contain, among other things, some of BLM's most significant wetlands.
Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains	Palm Springs, CA	810,000	97,000	Managed with the Forest Service, in the backyard of 20 million Californians. One of the steepest escarpments in North America.
Sonoran Desert	Phoenix, AZ	1,078,231	486,400	Extensive saguaro forest in the most biologically diverse desert in the U.S.
Upper Missouri River Breaks	Lewiston, MT	2,202,405	377,346	Home of the spectacular White Cliffs on the Upper Missouri Wild and Scenic River, in a landscape that looks much as it did centuries ago.
Vermilion Cliffs	St. George, UT	789,359	279,566	Home of "The Wave" and most California Condor habitat.

**Total FY2014 Monument/NCA Budget:** \$40,931,141  
**Total Monument/NCA BLM Acreage:** 9,709,615  
**Average Dollars per BLM Acre:** \$4.22

2. Used budget figures as self-reported by unit managers. Reflect spending from 1711 and other subactivities.

## NCA and Similar Designations Highlights

National Conservation Areas and Similar Designations <sup>3</sup>	Office Location	FY2014 Budget (\$) <sup>2</sup>	BLM Acres	About
Beaver Dam Wash	St. George, UT	393,000	63,478	Functioning Mohave Desert ecosystem and Desert tortoise habitat.
Black Rock Desert-High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails	Winnemucca, NV	445,157	799,165	Home of "Burning Man", the largest Leave No Trace event in the world.
Dominguez-Escalante	Grand Junction, CO	605,000	210,012	Breathtaking scenery and recreational in spectacular canyon country.
El Malpais	Albuquerque, NM	545,500	227,100	Home of La Ventana Natural Arch; close connections with several tribal groups.
Fort Stanton-Snowy River Cave	Roswell, NM	515,000	24,977	Longest cave system in the U.S., home to endemic organisms new to science.
Gila Box Riparian	Safford, AZ	771,292	21,767	With four perennial waterways, truly an oasis in the desert.
Gunnison Gorge	Montrose, CO	815,248	62,844	Incredible river and upland recreation and natural resources protection.
Headwaters FR	Arcata, CA	826,000	7,472	Old-growth redwoods that provide habitat coho salmon.
Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse ONA	Jupiter, FL	478,065	86	Protects historic lighthouse, BLM's only mangrove estuary, and other resources.
King Range	Arcata, CA	1,445,980	56,167	California's Lost Coast; First National Conservation Area in the U.S. (1970).
Las Cienegas	Tucson, AZ	709,730	41,972	Partnerships with livestock grazing community; native grasslands; riparian.
McInnis Canyons	Grand Junction, CO	680,000	123,430	Second-largest concentration of natural arches in North America.
Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey	Boise, ID	1,594,000	482,100	Highest concentration of nesting raptors in North America.
Piedras Blancas Historic Light Station ONA	San Simeon, CA	741,000	20	Protects resources from a historic light house to elephant seal habitat.
Red Cliffs	St. George, UT	5,832,000	44,878	Desert tortoise habitat in the backyard fast-growing St. George, Utah.
Red Rock Canyon	Las Vegas, NV	2,087,000	198,065	Most visited area of National Conservation Lands—Over 1 million per year.
San Pedro Riparian	Tucson, AZ	1,222,944	55,495	Protects a rare remnant of once-abundant Southwestern waterways.
Sloan Canyon	Las Vegas, NV	1,644,700	48,438	Rugged, remote, canyon landscape filled with archaeological resources.
Steens Mountain CMPA	Burns, OR	702,000	428,440	The only Cooperative Management and Protection Area in the U.S.
Steesse	Fairbanks, AK	675,800	1,208,624	Protects Caribou herds and Birch Creek in Interior Alaska.
Yaquina Head ONA	Medford, OR	1,291,429	95	Protects a historic light house and surrounding resources on Oregon's coast.

3. Unless otherwise specified, these units are National Conservation Areas (NCAs).

ONA = Outstanding Natural Area. FR = Forest Reserve.

CMPA = Cooperative Management and Protection Area.

Learn more  
about the  
National  
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Lands at  
[blm.gov/nlcs](http://blm.gov/nlcs)

The Bureau of Land Management's National Landscape Conservation System, also known as the National Conservation Lands, contains some of the West's most spectacular landscapes. The System includes 876 federally recognized areas and approximately 30 million acres of National Monuments, National Conservation Areas, Wilderness Areas, Wilderness Study Areas, Wild and Scenic Rivers, National Scenic and Historic Trails, and Conservation Lands of the California Desert. The mission of the National Conservation Lands is to conserve, protect, and restore these nationally significant landscapes that are recognized for their outstanding cultural, ecological, and scientific values.

The National Conservation Lands are uniquely diverse. They encompass red-rock deserts and rugged ocean coastlines, deep river canyons and broad Alaskan tundra. Many areas are remote and wild but others are surprisingly accessible. The National Conservation Lands also protect our cultural legacy. They safeguard American Indian cliff dwellings and cultural sites and preserve the remaining traces of our nation's historic trails.

National Conservation Lands are part of an active, vibrant landscape where people live, work and recreate. They offer exceptional opportunities for recreation, solitude, wildlife viewing, exploring history, scientific research, and a wide range of traditional uses.

These are places that spark the imagination. Their spacious beauty has drawn people to the West for generations. The National Conservation Lands sustain for the future these remarkable landscapes of the American spirit.

## New in 2015—



*Browns Canyon National Monument, Colorado*

On February 19, 2015, President Obama designated Browns Canyon, in west-central Colorado, a National Monument, in Presidential proclamation 9232.

The Monument boundary contains 21,588 acres of "Colorado's vibrant upper Arkansas River valley, the rugged granite cliffs, colorful rock outcroppings, and stunning mountain vistas". The BLM manages about 9,783 acres and the United States Forest Service will manage over 11,800 acres.

In addition to the scenic values, the proclamation identifies other resources, objects, and values such as archeology, paleontology, vegetation, threatened and endangered species, reptiles, amphibians, and Colorado's most emblematic species.



## New in 2015—Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument



*Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument,  
California*

On July 10, 2015, President Obama signed a proclamation declaring the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument in Northern California. The 330,780-acre monument extends from nearly sea level on Bureau of Land Management lands around Lake Berryessa in the south, up to 7,000 feet through the northern Snow Mountain Wilderness and the eastern boundary of the Yuki Wilderness in the Mendocino National Forest.

The Berryessa Snow Mountain region of northern California is one of the most biologically diverse, yet least known regions of the state. Located less than one hundred miles from the Sacramento and Bay Area metropolitan regions, the area is a dazzling outdoor wonderland rich in unique natural features and loaded with recreational opportunities. Visitors can find California's second-largest population of wintering bald eagles, float the thrilling rapids of wild and scenic Cache Creek, witness herds of wild Tule elk, and catch a glimpse of black bears. Opportunities for hiking, camping, botany, birding, hunting, and horseback riding abound. The area stretches over 100

## New in 2015—Basin and Range National Monument

On July 10, 2015, President Obama signed a proclamation declaring Basin and Range National Monument. The Basin and Range area of southeastern Nevada is an iconic American landscape. The area is one of the most undisturbed corners of the broader Great Basin region, which extends from the Sierra Nevada Mountains in the west to the Colorado Plateau in the east. The vast, rugged landscape redefines our notions of distance and space and brings into sharp focus the will and resolve of the people who have lived here.

The Basin and Range National Monument comprises 704,000 acres of public lands managed by the BLM in Lincoln and Nye counties in Nevada, about two hours north of Las Vegas. The monument includes Garden Valley and Coal Valley; the Worthington Mountains, Golden Gate Range, Seaman Mountains, and Mount Irish Range; the Hiko Narrows and White River Narrows; and the Shooting Gallery rock art site. It is the first national monument managed by the BLM in Nevada.

The Monument preserves the legacies of 13,000 years of culture. The White River Narrows Archaeological District represents one of the largest concentrations of prehistoric rock art in eastern Nevada and includes panels dating back 4,000 years and contains the northernmost known examples of the Pahranaagat style of rock art.



*Basin and Range National Monument, Nevada*



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*National Conservation Lands  
Bureau of Land Management  
1849 C Street NW, Room 2134LM  
Washington, DC 20240  
[www.blm.gov/nlcs](http://www.blm.gov/nlcs)*