



**NATIONAL
CONSERVATION
LANDS**

Summary Manager's Report

Fiscal Year 2015

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



Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, Utah

Highlights of Fiscal Year 2015

The Bureau of Land Management's (BLM's) National Landscape Conservation System (National Conservation Lands) manages 873 units, including 46 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 supports the BLM's mission of sustaining the 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 Reports" for fiscal year 2015.

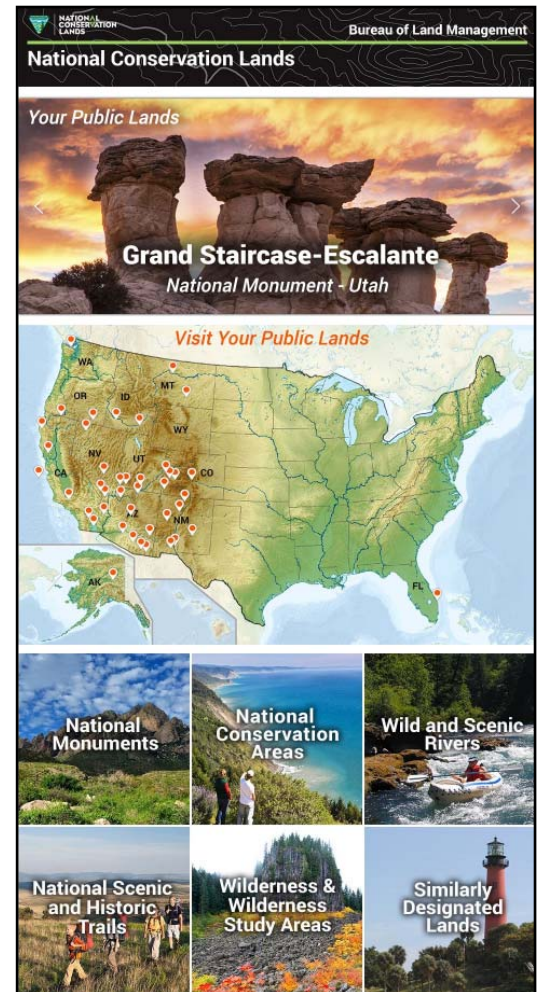


McInnis Canyons National Conservation Area, Colorado

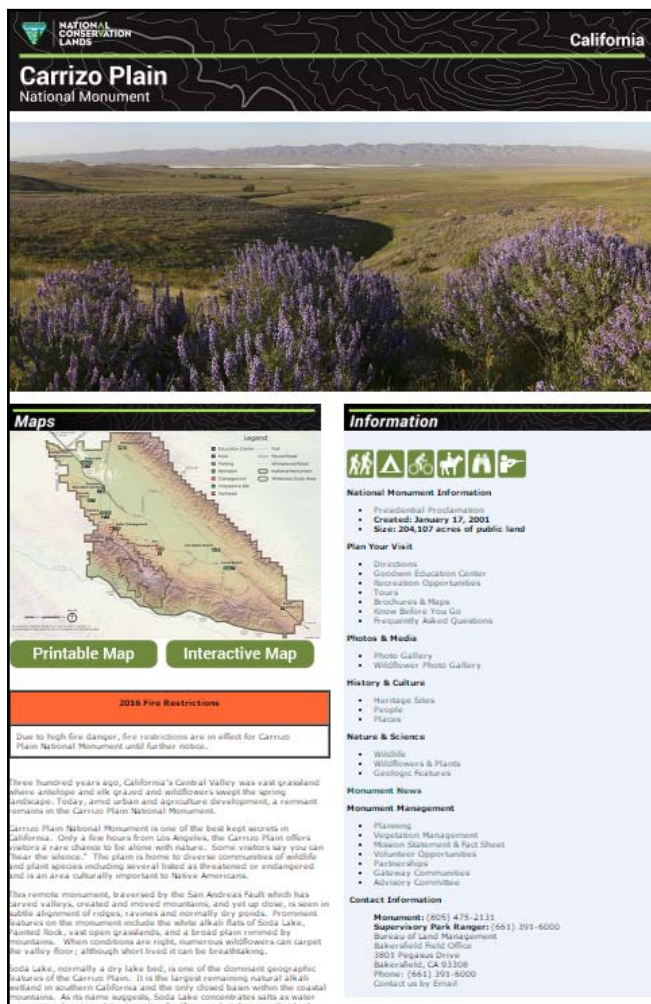
Highlights of Fiscal Year 2015

Recreation Mapping

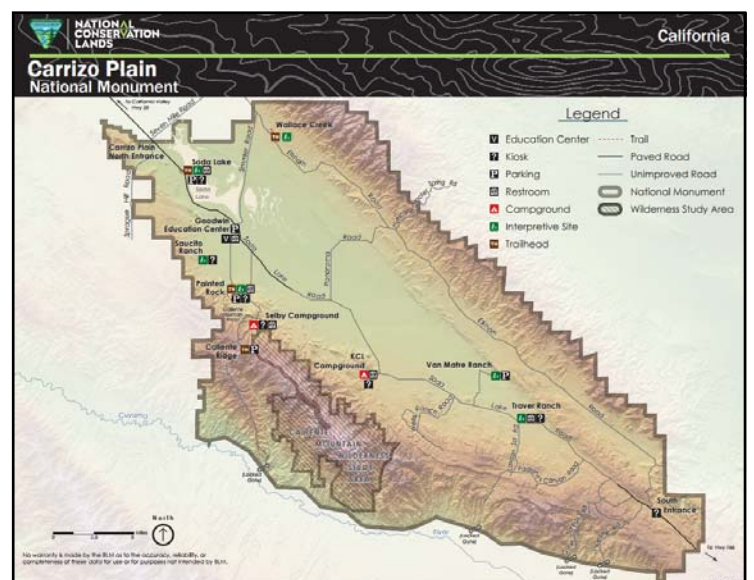
In 2015, the National Conservation Lands office achieved its goal of developing standardized recreation maps for every National Monument and National Conservation Area and posting those maps on recreation-focused web pages. Each unit has both a "static," or PDF, recreation map, as well as an interactive, or web-based, recreation map. Users access these recreation maps through a new portal, which has attracted more than 300,000 hits from the public in the past year.



National recreation mapping web portal



Sample unit recreation web page



Sample unit static recreation map

Highlights of Fiscal Year 2015

Funding*	FY2015 All Sources	FY2015 1711 Funding	FY2015 Other Sources
Funding Total	\$39,678,596	\$21,530,113	\$18,148,483
Total Monument/NCA BLM Acreage	10,721,983	10,721,983	10,721,983
Funding per BLM Acre	\$3.70	\$2.01	\$1.69
Funding Source Percentage	100%	54%	46%

*Table excludes Mojave Trails and Sand to Snow National Monuments, designated in 2016.

The National Monuments and National Conservation Areas program's Congressional funding levels in Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 remained static. When budgets do not increase, it is considered a budget reduction due to inflation. National Monument and NCA Congressional funding for FY2015 was set at \$31,819,000. The NMs and NCAs are primarily funded in the 1711 subactivity. The 1711 subactivity is the BLM's only "place-based" subactivity, and it was initially funded with seed money from over twenty different BLM programs in FY2009. This subactivity primarily funds permanent labor, facilities, equipment, and some recurring work. Contributed funds from other subactivities help to fund discrete 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.



Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse Outstanding Natural Area, Florida

NMs and NCAs

National Monuments	25
National Conservation Areas	16
Outstanding Natural Areas	3
Forest Reserve	1
Cooperative Management and Protection Area	1
Total Number of Units	46

NMs and NCAs By State

Alaska	1
Arizona	8
California	10
Colorado	5
Florida	1
Idaho	2
Montana	2
Nevada	4
New Mexico	6
Oregon	3
Utah	3
Washington	1

Visitors*	FY2015
Number of Visitors	6,805,730
Funding per Visitor	\$5.83

*Table excludes Mojave Trails and Sand to Snow National Monuments, designated in 2016.



Carrizo Plain National Monument, California

Over 6.8 million visitors were recorded at the BLM's National Monuments and National Conservation areas in FY2015. It is difficult to record the exact number of people that visit BLM lands due to the large 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 inventorying, monitoring, and studying.

Highlights of Fiscal Year 2015



Canyons of the Ancients National Monument, Colorado

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, Friends' 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. Partnerships were more critical to the BLM's management of National Monuments and National Conservation Areas in 2015 than ever, as the system continued to grow under stagnant budgets. For example, Tent Rocks National Monument in New Mexico has partnered with the Pueblo de Chochiti Native American Tribe, which shares a boundary with the Monument, to conserve Monument objects of value and maintain efficient operations and sound business practices. Some Pueblo members even work at the Monument under a special agreement because of this partnership.



Volunteers	FY2015	FY2014
Volunteer hours	248,582	284,850
Volunteer hour value	\$5,409,144	\$6,198,336

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 FY15, over 248,000 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. This time represents over \$5.4 million in in-kind funding from our partners, adding \$0.50 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 treatments, historic and cultural sites protected, campgrounds cleaned up and improved, and miles upon miles of trails maintained.



San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area, Arizona

Highlights of Fiscal Year 2015

Resources, Objects, and Values

There are over 240 resources, objects, and values (ROVs) identified at the BLM's 46 monuments and conservation areas. These ROVs are listed in the designations for each of the units and are the motivations for why these special lands were set aside and managed differently from the rest of the BLM's lands. In fiscal year 2013, the BLM initiated a new agency-wide goal to complete an inventory of these ROVs. This goal is approximately 51% complete as of the end of FY2015.



Vermilion Cliffs National Monument, Arizona

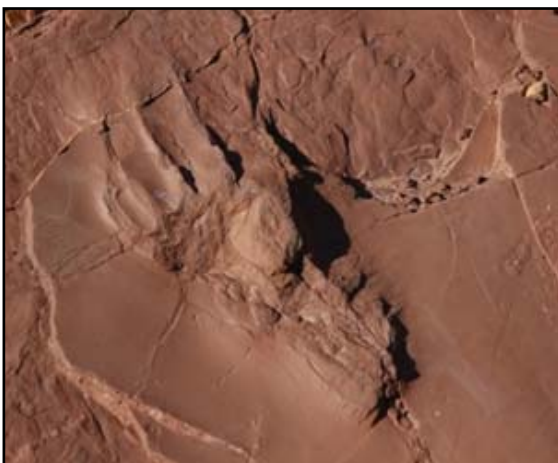
The stressors to the ROVs found in a number of the NMs and NCAs include climate change, drought, unauthorized off-road motor-vehicle use, increased visitor use and user conflicts, wildfire, invasive plants, and other land uses. Stressors unique to specific NMs and NCAs also include international border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

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.”



Fort Ord National Monument, California



Rear foot of Dimetrodon, Prehistoric Trackways National Monument, New Mexico

In FY2015, scientists, researchers, students, and citizens conducted hundreds of scientific studies in BLM's NMs, NCAs, and similarly designated areas. The subjects of these research activities are numerous and include fish, caribou, bats, white mountain sheep, endangered Armargosa voles, water quality and quantity, landscape ecology, ecosystems, fire history, habitat studies, paleontology, archeology, visitors and recreationists, public health, and earthquake and faulting research. 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 ¹	BLM Acres	About
Agua Fria	Phoenix, AZ	\$594,137	70,980	One of the most significant systems of prehistoric sites in American Southwest, and contains important biological communities.
Basin and Range	Ely, NV	\$0	703,585	Designated July 10, 2015.
Beryessa Snow Mountain	Ukiah, CA	\$0	330,780	Designated July 10, 2015.
Browns Canyon	Cañon City, CO	\$9,850	9,793	Outstanding geology and incredible elevation ranges support a huge diversity of life.
California Coastal	Hollister, CA	\$230,000	2,628	Over 2,000 rocks and islands covering 850 miles of California Coast.
Canyons of the Ancients	Dolores, CO	\$1,470,516	176,000	Highest concentration of Native American archaeological resources in the U.S.
Carrizo Plain	Bakersfield, CA	\$1,116,000	244,045	Last remnant of functioning native California grassland ecosystem.
Cascade-Siskiyou	Medford, OR	\$684,875	65,341	Highest concentration of biodiversity in the U.S.
Craters of the Moon	Twin Falls, ID	\$943,705	275,076	So austere, Apollo 14 astronauts trained for their trip to the Moon here.
Fort Ord	Monterrey, CA	\$1,335,518	7,212	Hundreds of thousands of American soldiers trained here.
Grand Canyon-Parashant	St. George, UT	\$1,093,906	812,581	Over 1 million remote, undisturbed acres managed with the Park Service.
Grand Staircase-Escalante	Kanab, UT	\$6,258,579	1,866,331	First and largest BLM national monument; where world-class science is the normal course of business.
Ironwood Forest	Tucson, AZ	\$500,566	128,756	Largest remaining stand of ironwoods in the greenest desert in the U.S.
Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks	Albuquerque, NM	\$674,488	4,647	Spectacular volcanic ash formations eroded to look like tents.
Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks	Las Cruces, NM	\$210,500	419,532	Steep mountain ranges, narrow canyons, woodland ranges, volcanic landscapes, and incredible opportunities for recreation.
Pompeys Pillar	Billings, MT	\$434,942	51	Only physical evidence of the Lewis and Clark expedition.
Prehistoric Trackways	Las Cruces, NM	\$143,000	5,280	One of the most scientifically significant Early Permian track sites in the world.
Rio Grande del Norte	Taos, NM	\$2,720,000	242,710	An incredible confluence of natural, cultural, recreational, and scenic values.
San Juan Islands	Lopez, WA	\$764,000	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	\$824,000	98,981	Managed with the Forest Service, in the backyard of 20 million Californians. One of the steepest escarpments in North America.
Sonoran Desert	Phoenix, AZ	\$894,887	486,400	Extensive saguaro forest in the most biologically diverse desert in the U.S.
Upper Missouri River Breaks	Lewiston, MT	\$811,000	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	\$725,463	279,566	Home of "The Wave" and most California Condor habitat.

Total FY2015 Monument/NCA Budget: \$39,678,596

Total Monument/NCA BLM Acreage: 10,721,983

Average Dollars per BLM Acre: \$3.70

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

NCA and Similar Designations Highlights

National Conservation Areas and Similar	Office Location	FY2014 Budget ²	BLM Acres	About
Beaver Dam Wash	St. George, UT	\$280,000	63,478	Functioning Mohave Desert ecosystem and Desert tortoise habitat.
Black Rock Desert-High Rock Canyon	Winnemucca, NV	\$425,598	799,485	Home of "Burning Man", the largest Leave No Trace event in the world.
Dominguez-Escalante	Grand Junction, CO	\$502,000	210,149	Breathtaking scenery and recreational in spectacular canyon country.
El Malpais	Albuquerque, NM	\$480,137	227,100	Home of La Ventana Natural Arch; close connections with several tribal groups.
Fort Stanton-Snowy River Cave	Roswell, NM	\$610,000	24,876	Longest cave system in the U.S., home to endemic organisms new to science.
Gila Box Riparian	Safford, AZ	\$520,335	21,767	With four perennial waterways, truly an oasis in the desert.
Gunnison Gorge	Montrose, CO	\$606,659	63,201	Incredible river and upland recreation and natural resources protection.
Headwaters FR	Arcata, CA	\$903,501	7,472	Old-growth redwoods that provide habitat coho salmon.
Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse ONA	Jupiter, FL	\$267,515	86	Protects historic lighthouse, BLM's only mangrove estuary, and other resources.
King Range	Arcata, CA	\$1,009,118	62,862	California's Lost Coast; First National Conservation Area in the U.S. (1970).
Las Cienegas	Tucson, AZ	\$978,203	41,972	Partnerships with livestock grazing community, native grasslands; riparian.
McInnis Canyons	Grand Junction, CO	\$680,000	123,460	Second-largest concentration of natural arches in North America.
Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey	Boise, ID	\$674,488	4,647	Highest concentration of nesting raptors in North America.
Piedras Blancas Historic Light Station	San Simeon, CA	\$664,000	20	Protects resources from a historic light house to elephant seal habitat.
Red Cliffs	St. George, UT	\$385,000	44,859	Desert tortoise habitat in the backyard fast-growing St. George, Utah.
Red Rock Canyon	Las Vegas, NV	\$2,079,386	196,877	Most visited area of National Conservation Lands—Over 1 million per year.
San Pedro Riparian	Tucson, AZ	\$1,134,084	56,431	Protects a rare remnant of once-abundant Southwestern waterways.
Sloan Canyon	Las Vegas, NV	\$1,874,619	48,438	Rugged, remote, canyon landscape filled with archaeological resources.
Steens Mountain CMPA	Burns, OR	\$706,000	428,440	The only Cooperative Management and Protection Area in the U.S.
Steese	Fairbanks, AK	\$634,100	1,208,624	Protects Caribou herds and Birch Creek in Interior Alaska.
Yaquina Head ONA	Medford, OR	\$1,275,409	95	Protects a historic light house and surrounding resources on Oregon's coast.

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

ONA = Outstanding Natural Area. FR = Forest Reserve.

CMPA = Cooperative Management and Protection Area.

New in 2016—Sand to Snow National Monument



Sand to Snow National Monument, California

On February 12, 2016, President Obama signed a proclamation declaring Sand to Snow National Monument in southern California. The 154,000-acre monument includes 83,000 acres of BLM land and 71,000 acres of U.S. Forest Service Land. Sand to Snow National Monument is an ecological and cultural treasure and an incredibly biodiverse area, supporting more than 240 species of birds and 12 threatened and endangered wildlife species.

Home to the region's tallest alpine mountain that rises from the floor of the Sonoran desert, the monument also protects sacred, archaeological, and cultural sites, including an estimated 1,700 Native American petroglyphs.

Featuring thirty miles of the world-famous Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail, the area is a favorite for camping, hiking, hunting, horseback riding, photography, wildlife viewing, and even skiing.

New in 2016—Mojave Trails National Monument



Mojave Trails National Monument, California

On February 12, 2016, President Obama designated Mojave Trails National Monument in southern California.

The Monument spans 1.6 million acres of BLM land and comprises a stunning mosaic of rugged mountain ranges, ancient lava flows, and spectacular sand dunes.

Mojave Trails protects irreplaceable historic resources including ancient Native American trading routes, World War II-era training camps, and the longest remaining undeveloped stretch of Route 66. Additionally, the area has been a focus of study and research for decades, including geological research and ecological studies on the effects of climate change and land management practices on ecological communities and wildlife.

Learn more
about the
National
Conservation
Lands at
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 873 federally recognized areas and approximately 32 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, exploration of 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.



Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse Outstanding Natural Area, Florida



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