

# BLM in Oregon and Washington Celebrates the 10-Year Anniversary of NLCS!

**What is the National Landscape Conservation System?** The NLCS is a system of special areas and sites under the BLM's care that are known and preserved for their exceptional values. They include wilderness areas, interpretive sites, wild and scenic rivers, national scenic and historic trails, and more.

All have been established either by an Act of Congress or, for many National Monuments, by Presidential Proclamation. The BLM in Oregon and Washington manages 129 NLCS units totaling 3.4 million acres (out of over 886 units totaling 27 million acres nationally). The recently enacted Omnibus Public Lands Bill added four new wilderness areas on BLM land in Oregon, including Soda Mountain in the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, the Badlands east of Bend, Spring Basin on the John Day River, and BLM portions of the Lower White River Wilderness on Mt. Hood.

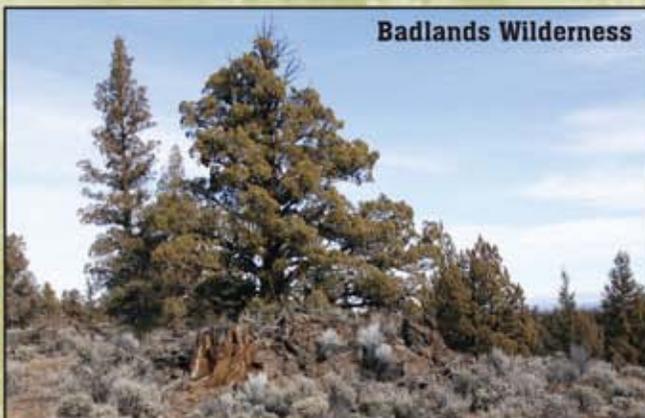


Spring Basin Wilderness

**National Monuments and National Conservation Areas (NCA):** The BLM manages one National Monument in Oregon, the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument (53,000 acres), established through Presidential Proclamation. The BLM also manages two areas that fall under the "NCA and Similar Designations" umbrella: the Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Area (428,000 acres) and the Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area (100 acres).

**Wilderness Areas:** The BLM manages eight Wilderness Areas in Oregon (nearly 247,000 acres) and one Wilderness Area in Washington (over 7,000 acres). Wilderness Areas are designated by Congress. The Wilderness Act of 1964 defines wilderness as "*an area ... which (1) generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature ...; (2) has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation; (3) has at least five thousand acres of land...; and (4) may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.*"

**Wilderness Study Areas (WSA):** The BLM manages 87 WSAs in Oregon (over 2.6 million acres) and one WSA in Washington (5,700 acres). Congress, through the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, extended wilderness inventory, study, and management authority to the BLM and mandated that the BLM conduct wilderness inventories of its lands. Those lands found to possess wilderness values are to be managed to protect those values until such time as Congress either designates them as wilderness or releases them from further wilderness consideration. The BLM is currently conducting wilderness inventory updates across 8.5 million acres to determine if changes have occurred on lands outside of existing WSAs that would cause an area to now qualify as having wilderness character.



Badlands Wilderness

**Wild & Scenic Rivers:** The BLM manages 25 Wild & Scenic River segments (over 800 miles) in Oregon. Segments are designated as Wild, Scenic, or Recreational, with "Wild" being the most primitive and "Recreational" being the least restrictive. Wild & Scenic River corridors generally average one-half mile in width and are managed to protect and enhance their identified "outstandingly remarkable values."



**National Historic & Scenic Trails:** In Oregon, the BLM manages portions of two National Historic Trails (The Oregon Trail – 22 miles, and the California Trail – 2 miles) and one National Scenic Trail (Pacific Crest Trail – 42 miles). In Washington, the BLM manages 9 miles of the newly established Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail.

These special areas are yours, so please be a good steward of this legacy. And keep an eye out for opportunities to get involved in supporting and participating in expanding the NLCS to include the areas you cherish most!

# NLCS Units in Oregon and Washington



- BLM Administered Land
- National Park Service
- Other Federal
- U.S. Forest Service
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Non Federal

