



**NATIONAL
CONSERVATION
LANDS**

Pompeys Pillar

National Monument

Montana / Dakotas

Annual Manager's Report—Fiscal Year 2019



Main Entrance to PPNM

Photo Credit BLM

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U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Pompeys Pillar

National Monument

Designating Authority

Designating Authority: Presidential Proclamation #7396

Date of Designation: January 17, 2001

Additional Designations

Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail, National Historic Landmark, Pompeys Pillar Area of Critical Environmental Concern, Hands on the Lands.

Site Description

Pompeys Pillar National Monument (PPNM), located about 25 miles east of Billings, Montana, encompasses 51 acres with a sandstone butte or mesa that covers about two acres at its base and about 150 feet high, and overlooks the Yellowstone River. Because it is the only sandstone outcrop on the south side of the Yellowstone River for several miles in either direction, it has been a landmark for centuries.

Pompeys Pillar is at a natural ford in the Yellowstone River. As a result, the area has been a crossroads throughout history for hunters and their prey such as the once-prominent buffalo herds. In addition to Clark's signature, the sandstone is marked with literally hundreds of other etchings and drawings. Native Americans left pictographs and petroglyphs. The names of regional landmarks live on in legend. Fur trappers of the early 1800s, military expeditions, railroad workers, and early settlers used the sandstone as a registry of their passing. In a very real sense, Pompeys Pillar's sandstone facets hold a vivid history of the unfolding West.

The area supports a variety of wildlife including mule and whitetail deer, raccoon, fox, bobcat, coyote, numerous small mammals, amphibians and reptiles. While not very common, there have been mountain lion and black bear sightings in the area. The Yellowstone River near Pompeys Pillar supports many neo-tropical migratory bird species and the riparian corridor allows for nesting and/or safe resting cover during migration. The Yellowstone River near Pompeys Pillar is a transition zone between a cold and warm water fishery.

Monument Offerings

The Pompeys Pillar Interpretive Center opened in 2006. Exhibits in the 5,700 ft² Center relate the journey of Captain William Clark and his detachment, including Sacagawea and her son Pomp, down the Yellowstone River Valley in 1806. The center also addresses native culture, flora and fauna, the Lewis and Clark Expedition, and the historical legacy of Pompeys Pillar through the changes of the 1800s. There is also a 600 ft² Gift Store operated by the Friends of Pompeys Pillar.

Other improvements to the site include a stairway to Clark's signature and to the top of the Pillar, an entrance station, a paved one-half mile entrance road and parking lot for 113 vehicles, over one-quarter mile of walkways, and an amphitheater. Additionally, there are trails that allow visitors to explore the riparian area between the Interpretive Center and the Yellowstone River.

Year Accomplishments

Several improvements were made this year to improve the visitor experience. Key accomplishments include:

- Pilot site for development of the *Agents of Discovery* Application, as another way to engage visitors using their mobile devices.
- Enhancement of an interpretive Tipi exhibit with new graphics that also features the eight Montana Indian tribal flags.
- Completion of a trail plan and construction of new hiking/biking trails within and adjacent to the monument.

Future Priorities and Opportunities

Future Priorities include:

- Rock stabilization study to mitigate safety concerns.
- Replacing the aging boardwalk which provides access to the Pillar.
- Trail system expansion. Trail construction began in 2019.
- Amphitheater shade structure construction. Funding is in place and we expect to advertise the project in early 2020.

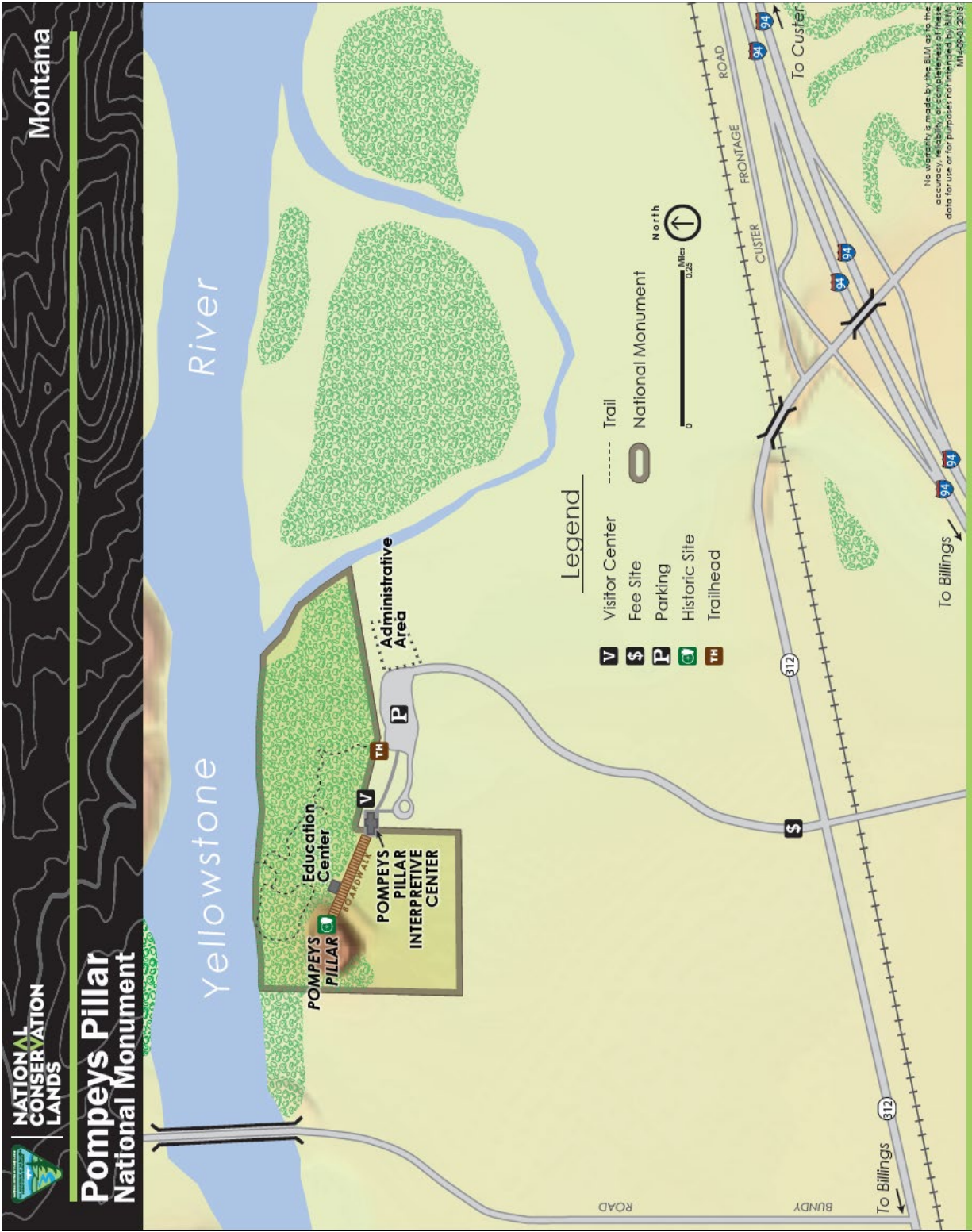
Pompeys Pillar National Monument

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Map of Pompeys Pillar National Monument



1 Pompeys Pillar Overview

Acreage

Total Acres in Unit	51
BLM Acres	51
Other Federal Acres	474 Adjacent BLM Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)
State Acres*	0
Private Acres*	0

*State and Private Acres are not part of the total unit acres

Budget

Budget Title	Code	Funding
Monuments & Conservation Areas	1711	180,000
Recreation & Visitor Services – Includes additional 20K from MT/DAK SO Recreation and 30K in additional funding.	1220	180,000
Executive Order Program Funding – Workforce Diversity	1120	5,000
Total Budget (does not include FTE and CS salaries)		365,000

Current Areas of Focus

We continue to manage the Monument and the adjacent Area of Critical Environmental Concern to protect the historical, cultural and biological values, including its outstanding view sheds and unique resources, while providing opportunities for interpretation, education and enjoyment of the area for present and future generations. We continue to provide our visitors, whether part of a school group or just passing through, with the best experience possible while providing them with excellent interpretive and educational programs.

In the coming year, we will continue working with our engineers to address safety concerns resulting from continual weathering of the sandstone formation and the deteriorating boardwalk at the Pillar. Once the designs are complete, an Environmental Assessment will be prepared. The goal is to stabilize, and mitigate potential safety concerns, for the visiting public. In addition, we are working on designs to replace and possibly relocate the wooden boardwalk that accesses the Pillar. These projects are interconnected, so it is necessary to do them simultaneously

to avoid problem areas (safety concerns) and still maintain access to the Pillar. As public safety is our top priority, there is a possibility that access to the Pillar may be closed until the stabilization is complete and the boardwalk replaced. We continue to strive toward making the visitor experience the best it can be.

Seasonal hiring was a big challenge this year for a variety of reasons. Despite these challenges, we were able to make the best of our season. Without our seasonal staff, we could not operate this site at the level that the public expects. We started off the season with three seasonal park rangers. We usually we have five to start with and three career seasonal park rangers. Within two weeks we had lost one career seasonal park ranger. We had two more seasonal park rangers join the team in July but had to go the entire season without the career seasonal park ranger – interpretation lead. The career seasonal maintenance worker earned a promotion in June leaving us with another key position being vacant. We could not have overcome these challenges without our interns, volunteers and the seasonal staff that stepped up to take on more responsibility to cover the gaps from the vacant positions. Challenges with seasonal staff are expected to continue due to the lack of affordable rental housing. We are looking at ways to add seasonal government quarters at the site to accommodate some of our seasonal staff and be more competitive with other sites.

Planning and NEPA

The Billings Field Office (BIFO) and Pompeys Pillar National Monument (PPNM) completed a Resource Management Plan (RMP) revision in 2015. The Monument portion of the plan was prepared concurrently with BIFO's RMP. One Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was used for both RMP analyses. The RMP addressed the three management zones at the monument by including considerations for recreation, visual resource, fish and wildlife habitat, vegetation, fire, water, air, soil, wetlands/riparian and cultural resource management.

Trail Development – This year an Environmental Assessment was completed which resulted in approval to develop five additional miles of non-mechanized trails at the Monument. These trails provide additional recreational opportunities which give visitors an avenue to explore the public lands adjacent to the Monument. The Decision Record and Finding of No Significant Impact was signed in May 2019. This year, nearly 1 mile of trail was constructed on the Monument.

Boardwalk Replacement – The current wooden boardwalk has undergone engineering evaluation in past years, resulting in several forms of structural reinforcement to extend the structure's service life. The structure was built in 1992; however, it has now deteriorated to the point the entire structure needs to be replaced. Additional funding this year enabled us to work with BLM engineers and an A&E firm to examine different

alignments of the boardwalk to reduce potential injury to the public from movement of boulders and other rock materials. The new boardwalk design will create opportunities to improve visitor experience. There will be additional benches and platforms that will accommodate larger groups of visitors and the new boardwalk will provide additional access to other historical rock art and carvings. An Environmental Assessment was initiated this year.

Rock Stabilization – As mentioned in the previous paragraph, the BLM has identified locations on the rock outcropping that has suffered severe weathering and appear to present a risk to public safety. At these locations, large boulders and rock have become unstable due to physical weathering which has caused the development of regularly spaced fractures and cracks in the rock formation. As time progresses the formation has high potential to become even more unstable due to the ongoing erosion and weathering of the soil and rock. We worked with engineering and a contractor to develop a proposal for how the rock formations in three key locations could be stabilized to prevent injury to the public and facilities from the movement of boulders and other rocky materials. This year, BLM initiated an Environmental Assessment to analyze the effects of the stabilization proposal.



Missouri River Basin Interagency Roundtable Visit

Photo Credit BLM

Staffing

Pompeys Pillar is managed with a seasonal workforce and one Full Time Employee (FTE), the Monument Manager. The Interpretive Center was open from April 27, 2019 through October 31, 2019.

- Monument Manager (GS12) Permanent FTE – 100% Monument
- Maintenance Worker (WG7) Career Seasonal – 50% Monument, 50% Field Office
- Park Ranger (Visitor Use) (GS7) Career Seasonal – 100% Monument
- Park Ranger (Interpretation) (GS7) Career Seasonal (only March-May 2019)– 100% Monument
- 5 – Park Rangers (GS5) Seasonal (May-October)– 100% Monument
- 4 – Student Interns –Montana Conservation Corps (3) and American Conservation Experience (DHA-RAI) (1) – Seasonal – 100% Monument
- 69 – Volunteers (2019)– Seasonal – 100% Monument - 3500+ hours



New Sign at PPNM (Left to Right) District Manager Diane Friez, Monument Manager John Reffit, Acting Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Land and Minerals Management Casey Hammond, Field Manager Dave Lefevre and State Director John Mehlhoff

Photo Credit BLM

2 Programs and Accomplishments

General Accomplishments

Visitation to Pompeys Pillar National Monument remained steady at just under 30,000 visitors in FY 2019 (October 1 to September 30). The signs along the interstate for the Monument were replaced in May of 2018. Many of our visitors commented on seeing the signs as the reason they stopped. Revenue also remained steady at just over \$46,000.00 which compared to last year's \$48,000.00 is fairly even. This revenue stays at the site and goes toward maintenance and improvements.

In addition to normal operations of the site, three special events were held this year.

- National Trails Day (June 1) BLM staff led visitors on the new proposed trail routes.
- Signature Day (July 25) Celebrating the 213th Anniversary of William Clark and the Corps of Discovery visit to Pompeys Pillar – A living history presentation on the Virtues of Sacagawea. Over 80 people attended.
- Fall Festival (September 29) where the Friends of Pompeys Pillar and the BLM hosted a community event offering an array of activities for children and adults to enjoy the site and all the fall festivities. We had 316 people attend (low attendance due to rain).

General Accomplishments Table

	Number of Visitors	Education Participants	Interpretative Participants	Visitor Center/Contact Station Visits	Hours of Volunteers	Interpretive Programs		
TOTALS	29,518	2,379	N/A	28,604	3,595	7,070		

Elements of the Montana/Dakotas National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS) Strategy that were achieved this year are as follows:

- *Goal 1F(5) - Manage facilities in a manner that conserves, protects, and restores NLCS values. This year we developed a trail plan and began building trails that will*

enhance visitor experiences and protect the area's natural and cultural resources values.

- *Goal 2C(3) - Work with Congress, tribes, other federal and state agencies and national and local communities to identify and protect lands that are critical to the long-term ecological sustainability of the landscape. We were able to contact an adjacent landowner and hope to develop a good rapport and relationship to open the door to potential collaborative access efforts.*
- *Goal 2D(4) - Adopt a community-based approach to recreation and visitor services delivery, consistent with the conservation purpose of the NLCS and the socio-economic goals of the local community. We worked along with the Friends of Pompeys Pillar and received a grant from the Partnership for the National Trails System, National Trails System Intern Grant that allows for young adults to become involved, or further their involvement, with national trails.*
- *Goal 3A(1,3) - Launch a long-term public awareness initiative about the BLM's NLCS lands, including national and local outreach, communication and media plans. We established a new sign east of the Pillar, which is a great photo spot that includes the BLM logo and the Lewis and Clark NHT logo. We also hosted a visit by members of the Missouri River Basin Interagency Roundtable.*
- *Goal 3B(4) - Advance and strengthen partnerships to facilitate shared stewardship and to advance the relevance of the NLCS to communities of interest and place. We have fostered relationships between partners and PPNM.*
- *Goal 3C(1) - Expand use of volunteers within the NLCS by providing outreach on volunteer opportunities through Volunteer.gov and our partner, Friends of Pompeys Pillar.*
- *Goal 3E(1,5) - Recruit, train and mentor young people so that they may engage professionally in recreation, education, and stewardship on NLCS lands. We partnered with Montana Conservation Corps (MCC), utilized the BLM – Direct Hire Authority (American Conservation Experience), and provided several internship opportunities at PPNM.*

Education, Outreach, and Interpretation

We delivered over 7,000 interpretive or educational programs/talks to the visiting public, whether they were part of a school field trip, just stopping through during their summer vacation, or visited Pompeys Pillar National Monument as their destination. These programs were offered at the Pillar (Clark's Signature or at the Top), Educational Center (Log Cabin), Interpretive Center, and throughout the grounds (Roving). This total includes swearing in over 800 new Junior Rangers. We had 2,379 participants (students and adult chaperones) participate in 236 education school programs. This would not have been possible without the assistance from Volunteers, BLM Rangers, Friends of Pompeys Pillar Staff, Montana Conservation Corps (MCC) Interns, American Conservation Experience Interns, and Partners including the Montana Audubon Center.

Along with the robust interpretive and educational opportunities offered to the public we also conducted outreach to the local community and provided off-site programs to the Billings Public Library. Pompeys Pillar Staff also participated in community outreach events including the Strawberry Festival, Homesteader Days, Cabela's Fall Hunting Classic and the Fall Festival. We also worked with Our Montana and the Friends of Pompeys Pillar and BLM staff to conduct off-site programming at the 14th Annual Back to the Future with Lewis and Clark, Technology Then and Now. This week-long program is designed specifically for a Middle-School audience (7th Grade). This program gives participants hands on demonstrations of the technologies that members of the Lewis and Clark Expedition used to meet the challenges of their endeavor, as well as, current technologies we use today to accomplish the same tasks. Over the course of four days, 799 students participated in the program. Another outreach was the hosting of several tours for attendees with the Travel Bloggers Exchange (TBEX) North America 2019 and participated in outreach event and worked closely with Visit Billings and Visit Southeast Montana to promote Pompeys Pillar National Monument during the 2019 conference held in Billings, Montana (Sept. 9-13).



Arrowhead Elementary Students with Volunteer Interpreter Mike Lamphier

Photo Credit BLM

A new feature at the Monument is the *Agents of Discovery Application* (AOD). Pompeys Pillar was selected out of several sites across the BLM to develop content for the application. Two staff interns worked on this project which entailed developing the content, testing, advertising, and promoting this new experience for our visitors. The AOD at Pompeys Pillar includes 3 unique missions with 36 different challenges to engage participants of all ages. This is a great opportunity and just another way to engage our visitors at a self-paced adventure which typically extends the duration of their visit at the Monument.



Agents of Discovery advertising poster at PPNM

Credit *Agents of Discovery*

Partnerships

The Monument has established multiple partnerships through the years and continue to foster relationships with the surrounding communities, volunteers and various organizations. Below are highlights of these partnerships and accomplishments this past year.

Friends of Pompeys Pillar – The Friends of Pompeys Pillar (Friends) are the strongest partner organization. The Friends celebrated another great season helping to promote and support Monument operations. The BLM supports the Friends through an assistance agreement that is updated annually. In 2019, we completed a modification

to the existing agreement. The agreement helps both parties define individual roles and responsibilities in supporting the Pillar.

A primary role of the Friends includes management of the volunteer program. This year the Friends had 39 volunteers providing nearly 3,500 hours of volunteer service. Volunteers help BLM staff whenever and wherever needed. They provide interpretation, assist with maintenance, help with education programs, greet visitors, staff the gift shop, and assist. This fiscal year, sales at the gift store were over \$100,000.00 worth of merchandise. Proceeds from the gift store are instrumental in supporting the Monument through transportation grants to regional schools, on-site and in-class environmental education programs, and a myriad of special projects and events.

Working with the Monument Manager, the Friends take the lead on publicity and advertising for the Monument. Through ads in local publications, tourist information pieces, brochures, a web site, Facebook, and displays throughout the state, residents and tourists are kept aware of events and hours at the Pillar and encouraged to visit their Monument. The Friends also attend local community events and festivals promoting the Monument and volunteer opportunities. This year marked the Friends second annual Fall Festival, which replaced Clark Days. The Friends also facilitated transportation grants for local and regional schools to defray the cost of bringing classes to the Monument. While schools are not charged a standard amenity fee, the cost of getting busses to the site is often prohibitive to area schools. In 2019, the Friends distributed 5 grants to participating schools, totaling \$1,250.00.

All of these efforts help implement the Montana / Dakotas National Landscape Conservation System (MT/DAK NLCS) Strategy Goal 3B of *“Advance and strengthen partnerships to facilitate shared stewardship and to advance the relevance of the NLCS to communities of interest and place,”* and specifically addresses the action item to, *“Support place-based partnerships such as Pompeys Pillar Historical Association.”*

Partnership for the National Trails System (PNTS) - This year, joint efforts between the Friends and the Monument staff resulted in applying for and receiving a National Trails System Intern Grant. This grant opportunity provides an avenue for young adults to become involved, or further their involvement, with nationally designated trails. The Friends organization hired an intern whose key role was to coordinate volunteers and promote the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail.

Lewis & Clark Trail Heritage Foundation - The Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation national organization and the local Rochejhone Chapter, are key to promoting and supporting the Monument. This group assisted with the grant opportunity with PNTS.

Montana Conservation Corps (MCC) and the Conservation Intern Program through AmeriCorps provides young adults – typically college students or recent graduates – with professional experience in the conservation field, while helping our site meet our goals. This year we completed a modification on the agreement resulting in three conservation interns to assist with operations at the Monument. They were a great part of the team at the Monument and assisted with our interpretation and education programs, school groups, maintenance, and fee collection. Each intern had projects they selected and completed as follows:

- Assisted with the development of content of the *Agents of Discovery* application
- Plant identification book revised
- Created (with pressed plants) a customized plant identification book for the Monument that visitors can use
- Bird identification (digital version with calls) created
- Established an organic food waste composting process
- Established a native edible plant garden

Overall, we were very impressed by the work MCC participants completed for us. We value the relationship and look forward to future projects with MCC.



MCC Intern Madelene Anderson with pressed plant identification book

Photo Credit BLM

Many of our partnerships support Secretarial Order 3356 by supporting and expanding hunting and fishing, enhancing conservation stewardship, improving wildlife management, and increasing outdoor recreation opportunities for all Americans. In particular, the projects within the MCC agreement support the DOI infrastructure needs, create jobs in the American economy and improve access to outdoor recreation opportunities. It also supports Secretarial Order 3347 by enhancing conservation stewardship and increasing outdoor recreation opportunities and improves the management of game species and their habitat. This and other partnerships support this effort to develop life skills in young Americans, while providing them exposure to public lands. Blending these key goals benefits American youth, the DOI, BLM, and public lands by efficiently achieving important natural and recreational objectives, while providing invaluable lifetime character building experiences.

The Audubon Conservation Education Center - The Audubon Conservation Education Center is also a key partner in implementing educational programs. The Audubon Center sponsors *Get Outside Montana* and started the Audubon Naturalists in the Schools program (ANTS), which facilitates both classroom and field-based, hands-on learning. Through an agreement with ANTS, we were able to host four ANTS programs with schools in Shepherd and Huntley. This new agreement was approved for three years.

Salish Kootenai College – The Salish Kootenai College also offers an Internship program with the BLM; however, this year we were unsuccessful in placing an intern at the Monument.

National Park Service (NPS) – Lewis & Clark NHT - We continued working closely with the NPS to promote the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail. In doing so, we helped promote the *Go on A Trail GO* (GLOBE Observer) for the Trail. The NPS also provided us a brand-new cancellation stamp used by many of our visitors for the *Passport to Your National Parks*. At the end of the fiscal year, we provided the NPS with a detailed report regarding the Monument's volunteer program and accomplishments that supports the Lewis and Clark NHT at the Monument. A highlight for the overall Lewis & Clark Trail resulted from the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act which extended the Trail an additional 1,200 miles along the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania to Wood River, Illinois.

Billings Chamber of Commerce - The Billings Chamber of Commerce is a strong supporter and continue to help promote the Monument throughout the year particularly during tourist season. Working together, we hosted tours for travel and

tourism companies. Another collaborative effort resulted from working with the Billings Chamber of Commerce to host participants of the TBEX (Travel Blog Exchange North American). TBEX is the largest conference and networking event for travel bloggers, travel writers and journalists, social media marketers, and content creators. TBEX drew over 650 high level travel bloggers, social media influencers, and content creators to the region (Billings, MT) in September 9-13, 2019. Our involvement entailed hosting tours and representing BLM through our participation in the closing night festivities at the Billings Depot.

Boy Scouts of America - The Boy Scouts have provided volunteer labor for several projects throughout the years at Pompeys Pillar. This year, Cub Scout Pack 80 from Billings visited the Monument and conducted a nature hike. Monument staff worked with an Eagle Scout who will be working on a project to establish bat boxes which will improve bat habitat.

Huntley Project Museum - Located approximately 15 miles to the West of the Monument, the Museum promotes the Pillar to their clientele. Exhibits in the Museum complement those at the Monument. The Museum provides robust educational exhibits and programs that tell the remarkable story of settlement and development in the region.

Montana Wilderness Association - This year we assisted with the annual hike on March 16, 2019 held at Pompeys Pillar Area of Critical Environmental Concern in which 14 members participated.

Our Montana - This organization is a local non-profit organization whose mission is to promote stewardship and enjoyment of Montana's natural, historic, and recreational resources. For the past 14 years, we have supported this organization through the Back to the Future with Lewis and Clark, Technology Then and Now program. Also this year, Pompeys Pillar National Monument and the Friends of Pompeys Pillar were interviewed on Community 7 Television (Billings) to promote PPNM.

Rocky Mountain College - This year, Rocky Mountain College in Billings, brought out a class of freshman and sophomore GIS students for a service project on Pompeys Pillar ACEC. The students marked and took GPS coordinates of invasive Russian olive trees on the island east of the Monument. Their efforts resulted in solid data collection of over 300 trees which will be used for future treatment.

Recreation and Visitor Services

We are always looking for ways to work toward the multiple use mission for BLM public lands. We are very pleased to have completed the Environmental Assessment

that will allow for additional trail development at the Monument that will provide more access to BLM public lands along the Yellowstone River.

This year we looked at ways to improve the visitor experience. Below is a list of improvements made to the site this year:

- Nearly 1 mile ($\frac{3}{4}$ mile) of new trail built to access more public land at PPNM and closer views of the Yellowstone River
- *Agents of Discovery Application* at PPNM (36 challenges within 3 missions)
- Several new and original programs were developed including one that covers the history of the Northern Pacific Railroad at Pompeys Pillar.
- Plant identification book (pressed flowers, grasses, leaves) created
- Enhancements to the Tipi exhibit included adding graphics to the glass panels on the tipi, the addition of 8 Indian Flags representing Indian Tribes of Montana, and additional interpretive signs (see picture below)
- Chip sealed the entrance road and parking lot (August 2019)
- New concrete walkway to accessible parking area
- Removed approximately 100' of concrete walkway due to recent flood and tree damage
- Painted the interior of pit toilets near Education Center
- Remodeled workspace in the Interpretive Center
- Added network printer to office space
- Added one RV hookup to administrative area
- Installed temporary roll-out boardwalk along river to replace the sidewalk that was removed due to flooding/riverbank loss for the interim
- Printed additional copies of the Junior Ranger activity book
- Installed new safe for fee collection monies
- Installed new entry mats at the Interpretive Center
- Installed a photo-spot sign with Pompeys Pillar in the background



Tipi Exhibit Enhancements

Photo Credit BLM

Volunteers

Our volunteer program at the Monument is very active. Volunteers are recruited from local communities through the Friends of Pompeys Pillar, volunteer.gov, other community organizations, and from word of mouth.

However, many of the volunteers come from our Friends partner group. The volunteers assist with staffing the full-service gift shop at the interpretive center and provide interpretative tours to visitors for both the Pillar and at the log cabin. Other roles that the Friends organization plays includes recruiting and coordinating volunteers, raising funding for projects and providing educational and promotional support for the Monument.

This year we had 69 volunteers who donated a total of 3,595 hours to assist in a variety of capacities at the Monument. The Friends of Pompeys Pillar and BLM PPNM held a volunteer and employee appreciation lunch on June 7, 2019. We also held two team building events for volunteers and staff. As a token of our appreciation, we awarded 10 volunteers *The America the Beautiful – National Parks and Federal Recreation Lands Pass – Volunteer Pass* (250 hours) for their volunteer service. We also awarded 41 Certificates of Appreciation.

Highlights from our Volunteer Program:

- 155 Volunteer Hours supporting Signature Day (July 25), and Fall Festival (September 29)
- 8 Campground Hosts volunteered assisting with maintenance, interpretation, fee collection, and staffing the gift shop
- Rock Mountain College – Montana Rivers Class. Their efforts resulted in solid data collection of over 300 trees marked and mapped for treatment.
- Fall Festival/National Public Lands Day – 28 volunteers/155 hours
- National Public Lands Day - Friends volunteers coordinated and conducted the second annual Fall Festival.

Public Access

Like last year, we extended our operating season and kept the main gate and Interpretive Center open through the end of October. This resulted in being open to the public for six months, 10 hours a day. We close the gate during the winter months to protect the resource; however, the Monument is open to walk in visitors year-round. We typically do not get as many visitors between November and March.

While we are open to the possibility of acquiring additional acreage adjacent to Monument and ACEC, we are not actively pursuing any parcels of land currently. Please refer to the Partnership section for further details.

We continue working with Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks and Pheasants Forever to provide access and hunting opportunities for the public within the ACEC at PPNM. We have partnered with Pheasants Forever for the past 11 years converting existing farmland to native grasses and food plots and to increase the habitat for Pheasants.



Where our visitors are from.



Photo Credit BLM

3 Science

Science

While there is no current science plan for the Monument, we conducted a geotechnical assessment in 2016. The following is a summary of the efforts over the last three years.

The Monument has historic rock art panels that we are tasked with protecting. The following is a summary of our progress on protecting and ensuring these resources. In FY16, a contract was awarded which resulted in a geotechnical assessment of the Pillar's rock stability. Attention was focused on the rocks with historic and prehistoric inscriptions. A report of their findings was completed with recommendations on how best to manage and stabilize areas of the Pillar.

In FY18, PPNM and BLM MT/DAK Engineers looked at addressing safety issues related to the sandstone formation and the location of the boardwalk and walkways on or near the pillar.

In FY19, BLM MT/DAK Engineers contracted with a reputable Geo-Technical firm to design stabilization treatments for specific areas of the sandstone formation to mitigate safety concerns. That plan was completed, and construction was postponed. However, through the NEPA process, we learned about resources available within the Department of the Interior to assist in this effort. Since then, we have received additional funding and are in the process of reviewing the contractor's recommendations for implementation at the site to ensure the historic rock art is protected.

One of the goals for FY20 is to work with our BLM MT/DAK engineers and the NPS Vanishing Treasures Program to determine the best possible approach to mitigate safety concerns. We also intend to work with our partners to conduct a LIDAR scan of the historic rock art panels.

4

Resources, Objects, Values and Stressors

Pompeys Pillar National Monument Cultural Resources – Rock Art

The Monument is home to over 1,000 prehistoric and historic inscriptions that can be seen on all sides (from top to bottom) of the sandstone pillar commonly referred to as Pompeys Pillar. Of these, the most famous is that of *William Clark*, carved on the rock on July 25, 1806, during his return trip to St. Louis, Missouri, via the Yellowstone River. Along with the artwork, multiple archeological resources have been discovered during soil disturbing activities throughout the monument and adjacent ACEC. Altogether, the Pillar and surrounding landscape serve as a 200-year time capsule that tells the story of the United States' westward expansion, and settlement of Montana and Yellowstone County. There are few sites throughout the rest of the U.S. with such a complete and complex history.

PPNM Cultural Resources – Rock art Status and Trend Table

Status of Resource, Object, or Value	Trend
Fair	Declining. Rock art is stable but naturally weathering and has been subjected to vandalism in the past. As the formation weathers, cracks in sandstone form which leads to movement of the formation.

Rock Art Inventory, Assessment, Monitoring Table

Acres in Unit	Acres Inventoried	Acres Possessing Object	Acres Monitored in FY
51 Total number of acres in unit	51 Number of acres inventoried for object or value	51 Number of acres found to possess object or value	51 Number of acres monitored (of those possessing object or value)

Stressors Affecting Pompeys Pillar National Monument – Rock Art

The rock art at Pompeys Pillar is weathering. Natural environmental conditions have

cause significant deterioration of etchings and pictographs. In some cases, mass wasting of the unstable rock has buried rock art. Some of the areas have been subject to vandalism.

Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail

The Lewis and Clark NHT is approximately 4,900 miles in length extending from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania to the mouth of the Columbia River, near present day Astoria, Oregon, and follows the historic outbound and inbound routes of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. The purpose of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail is to commemorate the 1804 to 1806 expedition through the identification; protection; interpretation; public use and enjoyment; and preservation of historic, cultural, and natural resources associated with the expedition and its place in U.S. and tribal history. The Monument is one of many significant sites along that trail.

Lewis and Clark (NHT) – Status and Trend Table

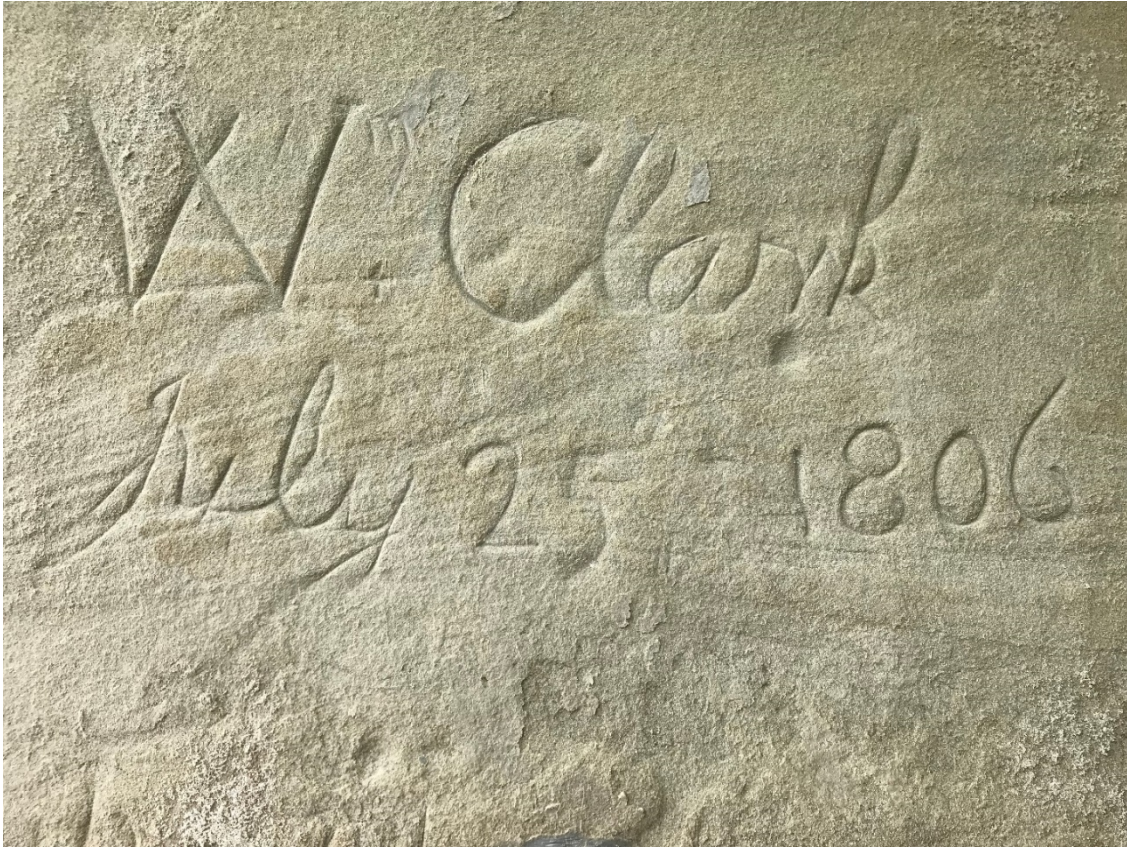
Status of Resource, Object, or Value	Trend
Good	Stable. Working closely with the NPS to administer the trail. This continues to be one of the premier locations to find the only physical evidence of the Lewis and Clark expedition.

Lewis and Clark NHT Inventory, Assessment, Monitoring Table

Acres in Unit	Acres Inventoried	Acres Possessing Object	Acres Monitored in FY
51 Total number of acres in unit	51 Number of acres inventoried for object or value	51 Number of acres found to possess object or value	51 Number of acres monitored (of those possessing object or value)

Stressors Affecting Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail

The designated route of the Lewis and Clark NHT at PPNM is the Yellowstone River. The actual route used by the Expedition and William Clark at the Pillar is unknown. A potential stressor could result from expanding the trail system into the riparian area within the Monument and ACEC. While there may be additional stressors resulting from competing recreational uses (hiking, hunting) on public lands once these trails are established.



William Clark's Signature on sandstone

Photo Credit John Reffit

5 Summary of Performance Measure

Resources, Objects, and Values Status Summary Table		
Resource, Object, or Value	Status	Trend
Cultural Resources – Rock art	Fair	Rock art is stable but declining and is naturally weathering and has been subjected to vandalism in the past.
Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail	Good	Improving. More emphasis has been placed on introducing visitors and showing the link between the Monument and the Trail.

6 Manager's Letter

Pompeys Pillar National Monument (PPNM) is part of the BLM's National Conservation Lands which epitomize the remarkable values that public lands have to offer. It is a place that reflects the important mission of the BLM.

We see visitors from across this country and around the world as they come to discover one of the most moving chapters in American history. It is an amazing story and we are very fortunate to be able to help tell that story to our visitors. The acquisition and designation as a National Monument would not have been possible if it were not for the strong community support that advocated for public ownership of the area. The people who advocated for the acquisition and long-term protection are some of the same people who volunteer and help provide programs and stewardship of the grounds and facilities.

We are truly grateful for the support from the public, the dedication of volunteers, the Friends of Pompeys Pillar organization and devoted BLM staff.

Next year has the potential to be one of the best years for volunteerism, programming, and opportunities for visitors to PPNM. We have built great relationships with our volunteers and they realize the huge role they have at the site. We hope to continue to find unique ways to show our appreciation and build on the success we have made so far. We will continue to lead in building the educational program with local area schools together with our volunteers and partners in this community.

We look forward to welcoming new visitors to the site and at the same time, we will strive to provide them a high-quality experience and quite possibly introduce them to another facet of what BLM public lands have to offer. We especially look forward to our continued work in constructing new trails that not only builds on our multiple use mission but increases recreational opportunities for the public. We also look forward to building the amphitheater cover which will really go a long way in enhancing our site for educational and interpretive programming.

We continue to look for ways to raise awareness both locally and nationally through our tourism networks which will help meet national goals of raising external awareness and appreciation for the BLM's National Conservation Lands. We expect to see an increase in visitation as a result of the Travel and Bloggers Exchange conference that occurred in Billings, Montana in September 2019.

Pompeys Pillar National Monument is a great place to visit and to work. I am very grateful for the opportunity that I have to help people connect to the many stories here.

John A. Reffit



Sunset over Pompeys Pillar

Photo Credit Dave Lefevre Sr.



**NATIONAL
CONSERVATION
LANDS**

Pompeys Pillar

National Monument

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December 4, 2019

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