



**NATIONAL
CONSERVATION
LANDS**

Sloan Canyon

National Conservation Area

Nevada

Annual Manager's Report—Fiscal Year 2020



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

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Sloan Canyon

National Conservation Area

Designating Authority

Designating Authority: The Clark County Conservation of Public Land and Natural Resources Act of 2002, Public Law 107-282, Title VI and Title II respectively, established the Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area and designated the North McCullough Wilderness.

Date of Designation: November 6, 2002

Additional Designations

The 14,763 acre North McCullough Wilderness lies entirely within the Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area (NCA) and contains unique and spectacular natural resources including thousands of acres of pristine land that remain in a natural state. The North McCullough Wilderness is volcanic in origin and examples of lava flows, ash falls, and glassy zones are clearly displayed in the Wilderness.

Site Description

In November 2002, Congress designated the Sloan Canyon NCA to preserve and protect a portion of southern Nevada's Mojave Desert for future generations. The 48,438 acre national conservation area forms the southern mountainous skyline of Las Vegas and the City of Henderson. The Sloan Canyon Petroglyph Site is one of the most significant, scenic, and important cultural resources in southern Nevada having more than 300 rock art panels and nearly 1,700 designs representing native cultures dating from Archaic to historic era.

National Conservation Area Offerings

Multiple Trailheads: Petroglyph, Hidden Valley, Qoa Vadis, Dutchman Pass, McCullough Hills, Shadow Canyon and Anthem East

Recreational Opportunities: Astronomy, Birding, Cycling, e-Biking, Equestrian Trail Riding, Hiking, Hunting, Mountain Biking, Nature Photography, Night Sky Viewing, Trail Running, Wildlife Photography, and Wildlife Viewing.

Visitor Services: Multiple parking lots, portable restroom facilities and interpretive opportunities.

Resource Sensitive Areas: Petroglyph Management Area and North McCullough Wilderness

Year Accomplishments

Sloan has worked together with multiple resource specialists within the Southern Nevada District and coordinated many elements of contracting for the Visitor Contact

Station. The contact station is being designed with a 3,000 sq. ft. facility, outdoor amphitheater, and a half-mile interpretative trail. In FY20, we reached the 65% milestone which provided the BLM with comprehensive designs and an overall layout of the project. Currently the design contract is set to end in July of 2021.

The Sloan Canyon NCA recreation program supported a national effort by participating in beta testing and becoming a pilot office of the Recreation and Permitting Tracking Online Reporting System (RAPTOR) program. RAPTOR is a new online system for members of the public to apply for special recreation permits, paleontological resource use permits, or scientific research authorizations on public lands managed by the BLM.

The Sloan Canyon NCA recreation program worked with the Friends of Sloan Canyon, the Great Basin Institute, and Nevada Conservation Corps/Veterans Conservation Corps to improve trail conditions within the Petroglyph Management Area. Primary tasks included maintenance of several different trails, including the Petroglyph Trail, Sloan Trail 101, and the Cowboy Trail. Tread widening, brushing, stabilization, and construction of trail features including check steps and retaining walls were completed. A total of 360 hours of physical labor helped improve the trail conditions and the quality of recreation experiences in the Petroglyph Management Area.

Staff was able to work with our local Friends group and was awarded a \$25,000 grant to hire a veteran's hand crew for work within the NCA. This grant helped Sloan reach various project milestones including, Re-routing the Sloan Trail 101, improving the existing Petroglyph Trail, maintenance on Cowboy Trail, maintenance on Hidden Valley Trail, and reclaimed the motorcycle incursion into the North McCullough Wilderness Area.

The Sloan Canyon NCA recreation program developed surveys in Survey123 to obtain social trail information, recreation use monitoring, and record assets within the resource area. The data currently being collected in the field may be used to establish levels of acceptable change and evaluate the effectiveness of the recreation management objectives in the Sloan Canyon Resource Management Plan and the Sloan Canyon Master Trails Plan.

Future Priorities and Opportunities

- Sloan Canyon Visitor Contact Station: Complete NEPA and design in July FY21.
- Awaiting Partnership Group SNPLMA Capital Improvement nomination request results.
- Update the Sloan Canyon Implementation Strategy to include updated financials, future trailhead development planning, and future staffing planning.
- Continue monitoring the NCA with new tablet programs such as Survey123 which updates monitoring records in real-time.
- Use the Experienced Services Program (ESP) to hire a Park Ranger to develop an Interpretation Plan for the Petroglyph Trailhead.
- Develop a Social Trail Database for future planning and potential adoption into Sloan's Trail Master Trail plan.

Sloan Canyon

National Conservation Area

Southern Nevada District Office
Red Rock/Sloan Field Office
4701 N. Torrey Pines Drive
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Unit Manager: Joseph Varner
Site Web Address:

<https://www.blm.gov/programs/national-conservation-lands/nevada/sloan-canyon-nca>

Map of Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area



1 Sloan Canyon Overview

Acreage

Total Acres in Unit	48,438.
BLM Acres	48,438
Other Federal Acres	0
State Acres*	0
Private Acres*	0

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

Budget

Budget Title	Code	FY20 Funding
SNPLMA Construction and Operations for Sloan Canyon	L5862	892,831
SNPLMA Construction and Repair of Trails & Roads for Sloan	L5863	134,537
SNPLMA Interpretation Activity	L5864	219,537
SNPLMA Research	L5865	78,758
Total Budget		\$1,325,663

Current Areas of Focus

In FY20, our biggest issue is the development of many social trails. With multiple neighborhoods abutting Sloan, it is a challenge to manage. The plan to address this issue in the next FY and future is to continue with presence and monitoring. These two objectives can be met by hiring more field-related staff and improving our monitoring techniques. Sloan has purchased a total of 5 tablets with monitoring programs installed to improve our data collection. These programs provide for collection data sub-sets, photographs, GPS points, and other important data needed in real time.

In March when the COVID-19 Pandemic started, Sloan's temporary Visitor Contact Station was vandalized. Due to the damage, it was removed due to the potential of constant vandalism.

In FY21, we will continue to collect social trail data and further our social trail awareness with multiple neighborhoods. Due to COVID-19, these plans may change as BLM works through virtual techniques to improve public awareness. To date we have collected over 300 separate data points.

Sloan is also working to complete the Congressional mapping requirements which will hopefully help Sloan receive funding through various means for post and cable fencing of the NCA.

Planning and NEPA

Visitor Contact Station: NEPA Document, Environmental Assessment, Public Meeting April 2021, completion July 2021.

Visitor Contact Station: Design Contract -- 65% milestone reached, completion July 2021.

Visitor Contact Station: Construction, FY22 (Sloan Funding) or FY23 (SNPLMA Nomination Funding)

Implementation Strategy: Plans to be updated in FY21, currently in phase two (Visitor Contact Station development) of three.

Status of the Resource Management Plan

The enacting legislation required the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to develop a Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the appropriate use and management of the conservation area and Wilderness within three years of enactment.

The BLM fulfilled this requirement with the completion of the Sloan Canyon NCA Resource Management Plan and the North McCullough Wilderness Management Plan in 2006. Both plans provide the Red Rock-Sloan Field Office with a comprehensive framework for managing the conservation area and Wilderness. The RMP was first evaluated in 2011 and again in 2016. The next evaluation will be completed in 2021.

The approved Sloan Canyon RMP contains the following decision elements and guiding documents; Monitoring plan, cultural resource management plan, visual resource management plan, interpretive and environmental education strategy, litter cleanup strategy, public lands awareness campaign, vegetation restoration strategy, and biological management strategy.

Status of Activity Plans

The two primary objectives in the recreation monitoring plan are to provide for an array of outdoor recreation experiences and manage use so that associated disturbance is minimal.

Consistent with the direction in the RMP as well as the recreation monitoring plan, 44 miles of hiking, biking, and equestrian trails have been constructed within the conservation area. These trails range in complexity from easy to difficult and can be experienced near the urban interface or in the backcountry of the North McCullough Wilderness. The entire trail system is connected to provide for maximum opportunity with minimal new disturbance.

As development continues to expand closer to our boundaries and visitation continues to increase, a segment of the visiting public has suggested that additional trails be considered for areas closed to cross-country hiking. The areas in question are immediately adjacent to the community and readily accessible by walking or biking a short distance from home. Efforts are underway to monitor and document changes in current conditions to determine if additional trails should be considered in these areas.

Status of the RMP Implementation Strategy

The Implementation Management Strategy for Sloan Canyon NCA was released to the public in May 2015. The purpose of the strategy was to examine potential development scenarios for facilities within Sloan Canyon NCA to meet the intent of the RMP while balancing the needs and expectations of visitors along with managing for the longevity of funding sources.

As a result of the development of the strategy, public input was utilized to initiate the first phase of developments in Sloan Canyon NCA - the Nawghaw Poa Road in FY16.

Phase two of the plan continues into FY20-FY21 with design/NEPA completion set for July 2021. The current plan is at the 65% level with NEPA public meetings planned for April 2021.

Another project for FY21 will be to update the Sloan Canyon NCA Implementation Management Strategy. The updated plan will also include an updated staffing plan, trailhead development initiation process and updated financial plan.

Fire Management Plans

- BLM Southern Nevada District Spatial FMP and Story Map (2019) which includes Sloan Canyon NCA is available online at <https://arcg.is/aHb48>. The Plan is

reviewed annually.

- The Southern Nevada Wildland Fire Prevention Plan (2020) includes Sloan Canyon NCA and is updated annually.
- The Southern Nevada Interagency National Fire Danger Operating Plan (2020) includes Sloan Canyon NCA and is updated annually.

Staffing

Sloan Canyon NCA is one of two national conservation areas in the Southern Nevada District that make up the Red Rock-Sloan Field Office. Sloan's staff comprises of one Monument/Area Manager (0340), one Visitor Use Assistant (1001), one Outdoor Recreation Planner (0023) and two Interpretative Park Rangers (0025). Within FY21, Sloan hopes to adjust its Table of Organization to add the opportunity for Recreation Technicians.

Also, in FY20, due to the length and prioritization of hiring, Sloan successfully experimented with a Seasonal Park Ranger for the field and still came in under budget for the year. This position was highly valuable to the field and showed a great presence within the NCA.

Funding from the special account for other positions is a yearly and normal item with little change year to year. Also funded from Sloan's Special Legislation account include district resource staff (e.g. archeologist, wildlife biologist, wilderness specialist, law enforcement, botanist) which all provide oversight and management recommendations for protecting or enhancing the natural resources of Sloan Canyon NCA. This support is generally project specific or typically in response to reported areas of concerns.

With the addition of the paved access road and temporary visitor contact station, support is also needed for general operational needs. The Sloan Canyon NCA staff also supports the operation and management of Walking Box Ranch, a site listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

2 Programs and Accomplishments

General Accomplishments

- Reached the 65% goal for the design of the Sloan Canyon Visitor Contact Station.
- Completed the draft NEPA for the Sloan Canyon NCA supplemental rules and sent to the NV State Office for review.
- Repaired pipe fencing perimeter at the Dutchman Pass entry into Sloan Canyon NCA.
- Repaired pipe fence at Sandy Drive entry into Sloan Canyon NCA. Replaced portal sign.
- Maintained approximately .5 miles of approved Sloan Trail 101 (reroute).
- Maintained barricades at the following locations to reduce impacts to NCA resources from off-trail hiking, OHV incursions, and target shooting: Dutchman Pass – barricades (OHV), Old Petroglyph Trail – barricades (off-trail hiking), Sloan NCA boundary near Sloan Contact Station (Off-trail and OHV), Sloan NCA West – barricades (shooting debris)
- Replaced Carsonite posts with tri-view markers at Hidden Valley.
- Friends of Nevada Wilderness: Constructed steps on the Petroglyph Trail.
- GBI/Veterans Conservation Corp: Maintenance on Petroglyph Trail. 0.52 miles, maintenance on Sloan Trail 101, maintenance on Cowboy Trail.
- Five gabion baskets installed to reduce OHV incursions into the Petroglyph Canyon and the North McCullough Wilderness.
- Installed temporary signs at the following locations: Dutchman Pass, Nawghaw Poa Road.
- Installed new look and feel decals at Hidden Valley tri-view markers and Sloan Canyon Visitor Contact Station
- In coordination with the State Historic Preservation Office, site stewards monitored one cultural site in Sloan Canyon NCA. Four stewards visited the area four times during the year.
- For the second consecutive year we have successfully partnered with the Conservation Lands Foundation to fund an All-Veterans Crew to complete restoration activities in Sloan Canyon NCA.

General Accomplishments Table

	Number of Visitors	Education Participants	Interpretative Participants	Visitor Center/Contact Station Visits	Hours of Volunteers
TOTALS	119,644	N/A	150	17923	1926

Education, Outreach, and Interpretation

Sloan was off to a great start by updating the interpretive programs and developing new ones for the school year. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, we have put class programs on hold and have completed various outdoor interpretive meet-and-greets with the public.

Partnerships

Building and maintaining partnerships that support Sloan Canyon NCA will remain a priority for the conservation area. In FY20, we celebrated three years of having the Friends of Sloan Canyon as our official Friends group. During this pandemic the group has been conducting “Pop-Up” tent meet-and-greets at various trailheads to help show a presence.



As always, having this relationship in place has been instrumental in successfully providing information to visitors about Sloan Canyon NCA. Having a reliable source of volunteers to assist with outreach efforts and operating and monitoring the contact station has allowed the BLM to successfully manage the increase in use due to continued

growth and the development of the surrounding community.

The City of Henderson Parks and Recreation Department has continued to be a great supporter of Sloan Canyon NCA. The City has continued to show how valuable of a resource the NCA is to the community and has helped us move forward with our permanent contact station planning efforts.



Volunteers

Due to the pandemic, volunteer opportunities have diminished significantly. Due to the BLM and local governmental restrictions, events and educational programs have been halted. Volunteers at Sloan Canyon NCA assisted with

monitoring trails, site restoration activities, and staffing pop-up tabletops. Even with the restrictions in place, the volunteer program was able to produce 1,923 hours of help.

Other Program Topics

None at this time.

3 Science

Science

Project Name	Managing Federal Lands and Human Health: Preventing Human Exposure to Carcinogenic Minerals in Southern Nevada
Project Description	The Study Addresses: 1. Where on BLM managed lands in Southern Nevada do these minerals occur? 2. What geologic variables coincide with their occurrence? (i.e., how do they form so that we can predict occurrence elsewhere in this region?)
Project's Key Words	Carcinogenic Minerals
Principal Investigator	University of Nevada, Las Vegas; Lisa Christianson, BLM Project Point of Contact
Project's Status	Data gathering was completed at end of FY18. Research report is pending upon completion of the synthesized data.
BLM Contributed Funds (FY18)	\$180,000 provided through funding outside of the Special Legislation Account.
Project Completed	This project was Completed in FY20 and is attached to this report for review.

4 Resources, Objects, Values and Stressors

Wilderness

The North McCullough Wilderness covers the northern portion of the north-south trending McCullough Mountain Range. Unlike surrounding areas, the northern portion of this range is comprised of ancient volcanic rock. Although only a short distance from the lights and sounds of Las Vegas, silence is common on the peaks and in most canyons. Low visitation levels in the southern portion of this wilderness provide opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. Diverse non-developed recreational opportunities include hiking, backpacking, rock scrambling, nature study, photography, horseback riding, hunting, and general exploration.

Wilderness Status and Trend Table

Status of Resource, Object, or Value	Trend
Fair	Slowly Declining

Wilderness Inventory, Assessment, Monitoring Table

Acres in Unit	Acres Inventoried	Acres Possessing Object	Acres Monitored in FY
14,765	N/A	14,765	14,000

Stressors Affecting Wilderness

Various stressors affecting the wilderness character of the North McCullough Wilderness are identified below. Wilderness characters which are identified in the Wilderness Act include: untrammeled, natural, undeveloped, has opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined recreation, and unique/supplemental value.

These qualities of wilderness character are best defined in “Keeping It Wild 2, An Updated Interagency Strategy to Monitor Trends in Wilderness Character Across the National Wilderness Preservation System.”

Impacts to wilderness character of the North McCullough Wilderness are identified below:

Untrammeled:

-Existing trammels within the wilderness include; wildlife water development (guzzler), a rock and mortar dam and a dug well.

-There are no known administrative or unauthorized trammeling actions that occurred in FY 2020.

Natural:

- Current known impacts to the natural character include; intrusion vehicle routes, nonnative invasive plants, and trail braiding.
- Trail braiding and visitor use trails continue to impact wilderness character in FY 2020
- Intrusion routes continued in FY 2020.

Undeveloped:

- Current known developments within the wilderness include; guzzler, rock and mortar dam, dug well, designated trails, and trail signs.
- There were no administrative or unauthorized developments recorded in FY 2020.

Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation:

- Current known impacts to this quality of wilderness character include; high visitor use in the petroglyph canyon area, low overflight, and city light visibility.
- Nevada Department of Wildlife utilized helicopters to check the “guzzler.”
- Visitor use remained high, especially within close proximity to the petroglyph trail.

Unique/Supplemental Value:

- There were no known impacts to cultural resources within the wilderness in FY 2020. However, due to an increase in visitation to the Sloan Canyon NCA and associated wilderness, the potential for future impacts exists.
- Bighorn sheep populations remain stable in the wilderness, but threats continue to put these species at risk.

Cultural/Archaeological

Sloan Canyon contains 94 known archaeological and historic sites, the most significant of which is the National Register of Historic Places Listed District known as Petroglyph Canyon.

Cultural/Archaeological Status and Trend Table

Status of Resource, Object, or Value	Trend
Good	Stable

Cultural/Archaeological Inventory, Assessment, Monitoring Table

Acres in Unit	Acres Inventoried	Acres Possessing Object	Acres Monitored in FY
48,438	10	0	2 Sites Monitored

Stressors Affecting Cultural/Archaeological

Direct impacts to cultural heritage resources are attributed to increased visitation to Sloan Canyon. The increase in visitation is not only seen at the Petroglyph Canyon, but also along all authorized trails. Within the Petroglyph Canyon, impacts occur primarily from visitors climbing canyon walls. However, an increase in graffiti in FY20

occurred directly along the Petroglyph Trail and within the Petroglyph gallery as well. Three instances of scratched graffiti within the gallery were identified and subsequently removed by BLM staff within two weeks of identification. Spray painted graffiti was also found along the Petroglyph Trail canyon walls within the Petroglyph Management Area, but outside of the site and District. All instances of graffiti were identified during the height of the COVID-19 shutdown. Social trails were also noted along the first mile of the Petroglyph Trail and were rehabilitated quickly.

Recreation

Recreational use of the NCA historically has been at low to moderate levels, and future actions by both BLM and the surrounding communities would contribute to the recreational opportunities available in the NCA. To be flexible and responsive to increased user demands, recreation would be managed for experiences and beneficial outcomes based on Management Emphasis Areas which provide the framework for identifying BLM’s management intent for a particular geographic area and for evaluating future actions and proposals. The character of the management zones ranges from Primitive to Developed in terms of their physical, social, and administrative attributes, and these attributes define the character of the respective recreation opportunities.

Recreation Status and Trend Table

Status of Resource, Object, or Value	Trend
Good	Increasing

Recreation Inventory, Assessment, Monitoring Table

Acres in Unit	Acres Inventoried	Acres Possessing Object	Acres Monitored in FY
48,438	N/A	48,438	13,000

Stressors Affecting Recreation

The demographics of the people that the BLM serves are changing. The ways in which people recreate on their public lands, the activities in which they participate, and the benefits they derive are changing because of evolving values and interests and advances in technology.

Visitors to the NCA are relying heavily upon social media and applications such as Trailforks, Strava, All Trails, and geocaching to explore areas within the NCA. Often these actions create social trails and resource impacts. New home construction continues to expand along the edge of the NCA boundary resulting in a significant uptick in social trails, OHV and mountain bike incursions into the NCA and the North McCullough Wilderness. Target shooting debris, household trash, and abandoned property continues to be present within the NCA.

Scenic/Visual Resources

A visual resource inventory was conducted in 2003 as part of the resource planning process. Three management classes are present and mapped in Sloan Canyon NCA. Class I is to preserve the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the landscape should be very low and must not attract attention. Class II is to retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the landscape should be low. Class III is to partially retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be moderate.

Scenic/Visual Resources Status and Trend Table

Status of Resource, Object, or Value	Trend
Good	Declining

Scenic/Visual Resources Inventory, Assessment, Monitoring Table

Acres in Unit	Acres Inventoried	Acres Possessing Object	Acres Monitored in FY
48,438	48,438	Class I—14,765 Class II—27,077 Class III—6,596	Class I—7,500 Class II—6,000 Class III—2,500

Stressors Affecting Scenic/Visual Resources

Visual resources are primarily impacted by illegal OHV use and user creation of routes and trails. We have improved the Petroglyph Trailhead by adding split rail fencing, improving the 101 Trail and adding 5 new interpretive kiosks.

Hydrologic Conditions

The Sloan Canyon NCA contains portions of two hydrographic regions or basins: the Central Region and the Colorado River Basin. These two regions are further divided into three hydrographic areas (listed below) which are partially contained within the planning area.

Hydrographic Area	Region/Basin	Number
Hidden Valley	Central Region	166
Eldorado Valley	Central Region	167
Las Vegas Valley	Colorado River Basin	212

The Central Region is a topographically closed drainage system primarily located in Nevada. The two hydrographic areas within this region are internally drained. The hydrographic area within the Colorado River Basin is a tributary to the Colorado River.

Approximately 28,600 acres (60%) of Sloan Canyon NCA drains into the Las Vegas Valley Hydrographic Basin and eventually to the Colorado River. The remaining 20,000

acres (40%) of the NCA drain into the other two hydrographic areas; approximately 2,158 acres (4.5%) into Hidden Valley and 17,354 acres (36%) into Eldorado Valley.

Surface Water

Surface water occurrence is far less abundant than groundwater and is limited to ephemeral streams. Numerous ephemeral washes transect the NCA, conveying flows only in response to storm events. These drainages are subject to short duration, high intensity thunderstorms that produce rapid runoff and at times "flash" flooding of downslope areas. However, there are no washes or areas that have been classified as Flood Hazard Areas by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

High intensity thunderstorms often produce rapid runoff and "flash" flooding which can result in floodwater and sediment damage within the region. Flash flooding, which has been on the increase, usually occurs from tropical depressions out of the south or southwest. It is believed that the increase in this flooding can be attributed to both increased recording of flood events and population growth expanding into previously undeveloped areas.

Springs are not an important water source in the NCA. There is only one true spring – Dripping Spring, and that has been converted to an Nevada Department of Wildlife wildlife drinker. In addition, there is one artificial water catchment in Sloan Canyon NCA. Both have varied potential benefit to wildlife, particularly Bighorn sheep.

Ground Water

The importance of ground water is obvious in this region of few surface water sources. Except for communities that obtain water from major surface water sources such as the Colorado River, developments are restricted by the availability of suitable ground water supplies. However, in Sloan Canyon NCA groundwater levels are so far below the surface that it does not play a role in the NCA.

Water Quality

In southern Nevada, one critical water resource problem is the poor quality of the surface and ground water. Several factors contribute to the high quantities of chemicals and solids in the regional water. High evaporation rates leave concentrations of salts at or near the soil surface after rainfall. The composition of rocks and soils, often containing calcium, magnesium, carbonates, silicates, metallic and nonmetallic minerals, also affects water quality. As water moves slowly into and through the soil profile, it dissolves and acquires these constituents. In addition, dust containing salts is blown from playas onto standing surface water and onto soil where it enters both surface and groundwater. However, since so little water is available in the NCA, water quality is usually not a consideration.

Hydrologic Conditions Status and Trend Table

Status of Resource, Object, or Value	Trend
Fair	Stable

Hydrologic Conditions Inventory, Assessment, Monitoring Table

Acres in Unit	Acres Inventoried	Acres Possessing Object	Acres Monitored in FY
< 1	< 1	< 1	0

Stressors Affecting Hydrologic Conditions

Impacts to surface water resources result from both natural and anthropogenic forces. Natural impacts include erosion from wind and water, wildland fire, disturbance from wildlife, and high precipitation events resulting in high flow. Anthropogenic impacts include driving off-road vehicles; grading for rights-of-ways, roads, trails and associated drainage, dumping and invasive weeds.

5 Summary of Performance Measure

Resources, Objects, and Values Status Summary Table		
Resource, Object, or Value	Status	Trend
Wilderness	Fair	Slowly Declining
Cultural/Archeological	Good	Stable
Recreation	Good	Increasing
Visual	Good	Declining
Hydrologic Conditions	Fair	Stable

6 Manager's Letter

Sloan Canyon NCA has revamped many aspects of managing public lands for the better. Even with a national pandemic, Sloan was able to continue moving forward with dedication from our partners, volunteers, and BLM staff. This year we have been able to complete an entire inventory and update our education/interpretation programs, update information and processes for volunteer trainings, and created a new, real-time monitoring recordation system that allows for accurate data collection.

With a new Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act round approved, Sloan was also able to seek funding for the construction of the 3,000 sq. ft. Visitor Contact Station. The request in the Capital Improvements category would extend Sloan's special legislation account 3-5 years. Even though the nomination is not completely confirmed, we have developed a great project and are hopeful for this specific category's nominations.

Similar to the previous year, our pattern of continuous improvement will yet again be a main focus. As visitation numbers increase and outdoor activity interests expand, Sloan will need to always be proactive instead of reactive. With a great FY20, we will continue the momentum and complete our projects on time and under budget. We have various planning tools in line to complete the design for our permanent Visitor Contact Station (July 2021), collect data for our Social Trails Database, and submit our Supplemental Rules to be published in the Federal Register (2021).

We are also working to improve our efforts in outreach within the City of Henderson and focus on connecting with the various community HOA's to touch on the much-wanted access into the NCA. With the help of our modernized recreation program, we are now able to pin-point the recreation needs and provide direct resolutions to the many incursions within Sloan Canyon NCA.

As always, the shared vision of our partners, volunteers, and staff will enable us to manage this significant scenic and cultural resource as expected and outlined in PUBLIC LAW 107- 282-NOV. 6, 2002, "to conserve, protect, and enhance for the benefit of present of future generations."

Joseph Varner
Sloan Canyon NCA Manager
Red Rock-Sloan Field Office



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