To: Haskett, Nikki[nhaskett@blm.gov]
From: Butts, Sally
Sent: 2017-12-13T16:33:27-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Inquiry from DOI/OCL on monument visitation stats
Received: 2017-12-13T16:33:58-05:00
BRIEFING MEMO RMIS and Visitation 9-13.docx
NM-NCA-Use-Numbers-2000-2016.xlsx

FYI in case this didn't reach you with your old email address.
Sally

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **Wootton, Rachel** <rwootton@blm.gov>
Date: Wed, Dec 13, 2017 at 4:18 PM
Subject: Re: Inquiry from DOI/OCL on monument visitation stats
To: "Pool, Jamie" <jpool@blm.gov>
Cc: Sally Butts <sbutts@blm.gov>, "Fisher, Timothy" <tjfisher@blm.gov>, Kimberly Finch <kfinch@blm.gov>, Patrick Wilkinson <p2wilkin@blm.gov>, "Ridenhour, Larry E" <lridenhour@blm.gov>, Christopher McAlear <cmcalear@blm.gov>, Nikki Moore <nmoore@blm.gov>

Hi Jamie,
Thanks for your email. Tim Fisher worked with Larry Ridenhour in Recreation to collect this information. They briefed Megan Crandall and Karen Kelleher on October 16, 2017. The related briefing paper and visitation data are attached. The visitation data for the last few fiscal years was also provided to DOI for the National Monument Review.

Please let us know if you have any questions or need anything else!

Best,

Rachel

--
Rachel Wootton
Planning and Environmental Specialist
National Conservation Lands (WO-410)
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On Wed, Dec 13, 2017 at 3:19 PM, Pool, Jamie <jpool@blm.gov> wrote:

Sally, Tim, Rachel,

We just received an urgent request from the Department's Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs (OCL) for visitation information at BLM-managed national monuments. Does 410 happen to compile visitation statistics?

After some quick research, it looks like the draft GSENM Manager's Report includes a section on visitor center contacts and recreational contacts on page 21-22 (attached). Do all of our national monument reports include the same data, and, if so, are they publicly available? Also, how do we typically report national monument visitors as a group/single statistic? Ideally, it would be helpful to present in something like the following format (with a link to the source info if available): "In FY 2016 there were x.x million visitors to GSENM."

Thanks and please let me know if you have any questions!
Jamie

--
Jamie Pool
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Legislative Affairs Division (WO 620)
(202) 912-7138
jpool@blm.gov

--
Sally R. Butts, J.D., Acting Division Chief
National Conservation Lands
Bureau of Land Management
20 M St. SE, Washington, DC 20003
Office 202-912-7170; Cell 202-695-5889; Fax 202-245-0050; sbutts@blm.gov

INFORMATION/BRIEFING MEMORANDUM
for the ASSISTANT DIRECTORS 200/400 – BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

DATE: September 8, 2017

FROM: Sally Butts, Acting Division Chief, National Conservation Lands, WO410
               Andy Tenney, Division Chief, Recreation, WO250

SUBJECT: Visitor Use Validation for National Conservation Lands

The purpose of this memorandum is to validate visitation numbers for National Monuments, National Conservation Areas, and Other Similar Designations from 2000 to 2016 and the use of RMIS into the future.

KEY FACTS

The Recreation Management Information System (RMIS), implemented in 1984, is the agency's official system of record for recreation information relating to recreation visitation, permits, and partnerships.

This briefing paper is specific to National Monuments, National Conservation Lands and Other Similar Designations and RMIS as a data collection standard.

BACKGROUND

The RMIS database records visits as a basic unit of measure. Recreation visits are defined as the entry of any person onto lands or waters administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for the pursuit of recreational experiences regardless of duration. Federal, state and local agencies use this metric as a standard when reporting visitor use. The terms recreation use and visitor use are synonymous, and are used interchangeably.

Public land visits not recreational in nature are not currently reported in RMIS. Similarly, recreational visits occurring off public lands, not administered by the BLM, are not recorded in RMIS.

In 2003, the BLM issued Instruction Memorandum 2003-245, providing bureau-wide guidance on gathering and reporting recreation visitation to improve the accuracy and consistency of the BLM's visitor use data. It emphasized the importance of using a consistent methodology to allow one to establish trend data for planning and reporting purposes. It also emphasized the importance to document the rationale and process with enough detail to enable others to reproduce the methodology. The documentation should include sampling locations and frequency.

DISCUSSION

RMIS records visits at one of the following: a specific site, an identified area or corridor, or in association with a special recreation permit. While it is not reasonable, nor feasible, to exactly count the millions of public land visits, BLM staff (outdoor recreation planners, park rangers, etc.) have a common set of principles to follow, and use various tools and methods to accurately estimate the number of visits to each of these.

Recreation use occurring outside of developed recreation sites or specifically identified corridors or areas, is accounted for in a "dispersed site" and represents the remaining acres of a National Monument/National Conservation Area not already identified as a recreation site. Use in dispersed sites is an estimate for the entire area based on an identified methodology. If these dispersed sites are divided, as part of a new designation, past use for the entire dispersed site cannot accurately be used to represent the divided portion now in a designated area. New baseline modeling and use estimates would need to be developed for these areas.

The RMIS database records use at sites and areas at the Field Office level and is able to continue to record use at these specific locations regardless of administrative boundary changes or new special area designations such as National Monuments or National Conservation Areas. National Monuments or National Conservation Areas with budget office codes are treated the same as a field office in regards to the RMIS structure and reporting.

New designations bring additional public attention and recognition of an area, providing opportunities for increased visits. In RMIS, sites or areas within a newly defined monument or conservation area boundary are reassigned from the Field Office location to the new designation area. This allows the use of previous years' visitor numbers for newly designated areas, letting managers see if the designation may have an effect on visitation, or if past trends continue.

NEXT STEPS

- Based on the available data in RMIS, there is a high level of confidence with the visitation numbers for National Monuments, National Conservation Areas, and Other Similar Designations from 2000 to 2016 (see attachment).

- Recommend the release of these agreed upon visitor use numbers for National Monuments, National Conservation Areas, and Other Similar Designations within the BLM and externally to the public when requested, with the appropriate caveats (e.g. based on available data).

- All National Monument and National Conservation Areas will develop and maintain a Visitor Use Reporting Plan clearly defining the methodology for determining visitor use.

- Update and release an Instruction Memorandum reinforcing the use of the **Guidelines for Reporting Recreation Visitation**; a document providing guidance for determining reasonable and consistent recreational visits estimates in the Recreation Management Information System (RMIS).

- The National Conservation Lands program will continue to refine methodologies, to provide appropriate resources to develop a robust use of RMIS, and utilize RMIS for recording and reporting visitor use within the National Monuments or National Conservation Areas.

- Provide support and opportunities for RMIS training for National Monument and National Conservation Area Managers and site associated RMIS Field staff. Training will assure confidence in visitor use reporting by the managers and planners and with data forwarded to state and national leadership. In addition, training will allow opportunities to develop or refine Visitor Use Reporting Plans to more accurately estimate visitor use numbers and to assure utilization of the RMIS program to its full potential.

ATTACHMENTS

NM-NCA Visits 2000 - 2016 (Spreadsheet)

Guidelines for Reporting Rec Use-2003

Draft Visitor Use Reporting Plan

Recreation Management Information System (RMIS)
Visitation Statistics for National Monuments, National Conservation Areas, and Other Similar Designations
FY2000 - FY2016

Total Number Of Visits (based on best available data)

State	Unit Name	Yr. Designated	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
AZ	Aqua Fria NM	1/11/2000	15,500	20,300	27,343	60,340	77,113	83,390	88,473	34,830	61,207	63,435	58,639	88,005	86,324	78,431	79,500	162,431	78,775
NV	Basin and Range NM (+)	7/10/2015	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	65	79	331	340	*	120
UT	Bears Ears NM	12/28/2016	131,195	76,309	110,343	134,475	162,233	150,356	278,147	146,308	136,891	155,329	196,197	176,914	200,555	218,917	227,560	242,083	395,487
UT	Beaver Dam Wash NCA	3/30/2009	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	12,135	10,544	12,009	10,145	9,723	9,715
CA	Berryessa Snow Mountain NM	7/10/2015	8,706	64,885	21,564	59,289	45,076	67,110	26,670	47,660	47,498	43,783	56,261	86,228	58,573	46,204	117,104	203,964	155,884
NV	Black Rock/High Rock Emigrant Trail NCA	12/21/2000	152,676	60,193	93,618	125,713	174,145	214,114	258,435	234,464	259,394	99,334	107,311	110,772	154,977	116,857	128,723	131,300	170,825
CO	Browns Canyon NM	2/19/2015	97,100	77,800	80,500	70,500	90,000	81,500	71,500	81,400	78,400	69,500	78,100	88,422	81,402	85,538	85,946	86,156	115,059
CA	California Coastal NM	1/11/2000	2,000	2,500	3,000	3,000	3,001	3,050	3,050	3,355	3,700	33,700	33,700	36,500	37,100	36,500	15,000	15,000	43,420
CO	Canyons of the Ancients NM	6/9/2000	192,992	196,069	205,237	150,650	95,517	99,932	79,020	*	69,555	61,807	61,328	65,114	67,000	76,252	68,497	72,193	89,579
CA	Carrizo Plain NM	1/17/2001	18,660	24,620	27,160	31,170	53,492	72,974	85,381	87,040	73,128	62,616	85,563	62,185	22,596	61,148	54,253	45,627	53,630
WA	Cascade-Siskiyou NM	6/9/2000, 1/12/2017	135,492	134,987	131,225	132,883	140,376	148,532	307,903	321,348	329,173	389,166	241,815	225,908	162,354	130,332	121,058	126,948	198,213
ID	Craters of the Moon NM	11/9/2000	400	600	400	15,500	*	3,446	135,432	132,306	3,326	3,326	3,326	3,366	3,276	3,715	3,654	3,662	3,654
CO	Dominguez-Escalante NCA	3/30/2009	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	72,411	92,318	100,054	92,480
NM	El Malpais NCA	12/31/1987	77,844	122,172	133,223	121,050	170,366	142,028	145,582	150,075	187,978	196,321	198,569	*	139,601	196,746	196,725	197,560	210,810
CA	Fort Ord NM	4/20/2012	65,123	76,258	80,048	87,732	73,321	76,605	67,804	76,691	75,368	74,226	81,713	87,361	167,091	189,735	499,112	144,187	467,848
NM	Fort Stanton-Snowy River Cave NCA	3/30/2009	110,845	103,395	11,768	41,389	24,967	30,061	49,423	41,922	21,725	35,361	30,104	32,639	32,647	5,082	25,784	25,777	36,661
AZ	Gila Box Riparian NCA	11/28/1990	13,727	6,375	7,700	21,243	40,483	35,293	23,334	27,134	36,105	38,529	52,052	33,911	39,220	39,979	35,523	33,255	25,080
NV	Gold Butte NM	12/28/2016	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	86,325	82,640	91,761	82,585	97,267	*
AZ	Grand Canyon-Parashant NM	1/11/2000	12,074	12,949	14,280	25,305	44,233	44,048	48,772	41,863	46,545	51,440	61,403	72,655	86,746	90,632	31,215	11,972	30,350
UT	Grand Staircase-Escalante NM	9/19/1996	572,195	683,602	670,069	696,891	651,470	613,785	716,790	726,482	727,645	748,994	742,772	751,792	789,027	797,283	917,320	912,055	951,236
CO	Gunnison Gorge NCA	10/21/1999	39,704	44,652	44,121	43,350	55,570	72,830	222,315	118,289	135,696	166,336	182,647	193,968	198,202	172,688	182,575	202,301	206,036
CA	Headwaters Forest Reserve	3/1/1999	7000	5021	5531	6920	7331	7800	8800	9000	10300	12985	13450	33420	35400	33245	33810	36953	38565
AZ	Ironwood Forest NM	6/9/2000	--	15,900	11,974	21,025	27,550	22,500	16,200	17,100	17,900	19,300	23,026	26,000	30,373	43,640	47,435	58,020	23,600
FL	Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse ONA	5/8/2008	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	57300	57300	76300	77300	70020	67931	88603	107463
NM	Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks NM	1/17/2001	14,674	25,000	45,000	49,500	50,300	71,497	70,690	121,916	43,695	43,690	67,470	128,749	222,946	*	366,400	400,001	527,746
CA	King Range NCA	10/21/1970	166,996	152,195	159,046	159,390	184,616	182,551	184,783	164,481	191,259	196,766	190,267	101,603	101,961	95,286	104,889	124,819	119,207
AZ	Las Cienegas NCA	12/6/2000	17,420	25,221	13,121	10,815	16,382	17,766	20,394	16,111	21,035	25,991	25,601	25,986	23,117	28,540	26,019	27,425	29,082
CA	Mojave Trails NM	2/12/2016	29,864	24,391	19,519	36,838	21,752	21,302	19,030	20,346	86,837	52,545	64,602	58,433	67,749	74,950	182,717	172,623	170,127
ID	Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey NCA	8/4/1993	230,719	193,160	180,734	139,500	141,638	146,332	138,843	129,588	116,304	125,700	123,406	195,714	195,247	196,270	197,235	218,136	151,665
CO	McInnis Canyons NCA	10/24/2000	123,194	115,748	133,400	113,450	264,789	261,637	303,191	306,387	284,136	288,219	290,287	5,507	261,133	295,491	283,063	286,905	244,298
NM	Organ Mountains - Desert Peaks NM	5/21/2014	140,532	126,972	127,432	129,474	133,359	129,163	145,271	150,947	203,621	170,112	187,329	164,527	183,982	208,615	177,429	199,719	356,551
CA	Piedras Blancas ONA	5/8/2008	--	--	--	2,000	3,574	1,788	1,440	1,500	3,021	5,877	4,769	5,681	7,616	6,711	6,106	6,426	6,610
NM	Prehistoric Trackways NM	3/30/2009	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1,728	780	25,000
MT	Pompeys Pillar NM	1/17/2001	39,300	64,650	50,000	53,500	55,001	52,250	113,000	65,000	79,080	78,289	43,500	40,170	138,930	44,000	32,000	74,279	28,672
UT	Red Cliffs NCA	3/30/2009	26,000	23,500	17,200	19,300	19,700	20,876	29,300	29,300	133,391	131,899	146,929	129,262	139,391	130,276	130,031	125,728	150,982
NV	Red Rock Canyon	1/16/1990, 11/6/2002	1,127,514	153,470	764,010	1,135,763	1,240,604	880,164	845,053	866,159	837,166	873,398	901,108	1,115,303	1,022,207	2,705,706	1,753,250	2,420,712	2,221,086
NM	Rio Grande del Norte NM	3/25/2013	--	--	73,416	85,541	78,892	107,974	106,274	96,587	118,255	131,974	179,107	145,763	111,068	166,113	122,431	207,783	180,041
WA	San Juan Islands NM	3/25/2013	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	67,820	108,020	105,372
AZ	San Pedro Riparian NCA	11/18/1988	93,664	61,811	85,847	86,152	116,194	58,813	95,333	113,324	127,848	116,504	107,097	95,450	137,859	140,001	144,741	128,365	50,093
CA	Sand to Snow NM	2/12/2016	20,150	35,000	72,421	81,826	93,200	44,035	42,691	42,360	38,124	45,457	41,855	51,890	68,979	25,247	2,310	2,500	5,450
CA	Santa Rosa & San Jacinto Mountains NM	0/24/2000, 3/30/2009	212,351	270,036	199,687	219,234	262,154	198,791	236,105	201,778	214,564	212,500	268,743	295,615	337,331	236,898	230,173	232,713	136,090
NV	Sloan Canyon NCA	11/6/2002	--	--	--	--	--	19,668	44,115	45,556	33,239	29,535	25,571	26,335	55,684	85,362	136,125	76,156	69,232
AZ	Sonoran Desert NM	1/17/2001	16,334	21,003	17,911	21,738	18,157	30,058	36,852	31,328	34,349	14,304	17,287	26,069	26,835	26,560	29,894	40,310	51,278
OR	Steens Mountain CMPA	10/30/2000	--	--	74,870	57,334	64,612	68,808	103,256	109,829	112,821	232,855	207,534	241,367	192,283	238,012	248,207	280,588	231,326
AK	Steese NCA	12/2/1980	29,296	27,553	13,149	11,551	6,148	7,619	11,768	10,303	8,301	8,967	8,533	127,815	27,766	9,204	7,115	18,693	20,403
MT	Upper Missouri River Breaks NM	1/17/2001	138,911	155,555	155,028	66,762	217,256	271,225	256,334	190,808	198,075	167,929	30,055	24,658	17,746	56,106	24,699	25,025	46,342
AZ	Vermilion Cliffs NM	11/9/2000	39,702	41,884	39,934	45,329	39,093	48,016	29,568	79,003	48,038	60,428	39,886	77,853	119,555	168,917	160,568	188,881	275,845
OR	Yaquina Head ONA	3/5/1980	295,251	317,877	326,580	328,965	328,918	342,687	278,868	330,971	322,527	306,265	326,031	310,835	327,901	308,709	313,000	386,277	423,643

(*) **No visits were reported in RMIS**
(--) **No data available**

    Year Designated - Any prior data is from a previous defined special management area and falls within the boundaries of the National Conservation Land status

(+) **Basin and Range NM is developing a methodlogy for RMIS Reporting in 2017**