



Grand Canyon-Parashant MONUMENT

☆☆ NEWSLETTER ☆☆

July 2000

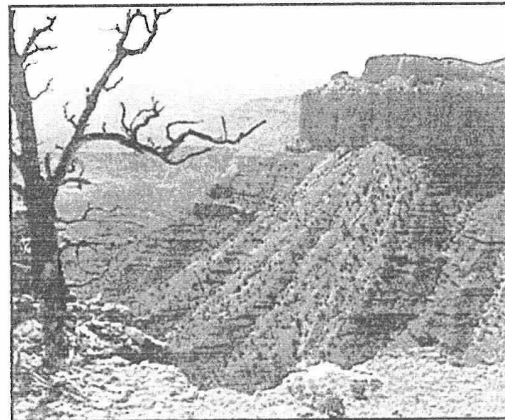


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From the Top...

Since our last newsletter, many new developments have taken place concerning the Monument. Most exciting, is that in his March 24, 2000 broadcast to BLM employees, Secretary Babbitt indicated that the BLM would have a system of areas that parallels the park and refuge system, which is called the BLM's "National Landscape Conservation System" (NLCS). He asked BLM Director Tom Fry to set up a new office to provide guidance to the new system. Although the BLM has different types of Congressionally and Presidentially designated units, they have not, until now, been identified as a "system." There is more concerning the details of this new system, below.



We are in the process of bringing a monument manager on board and will hopefully have news on this effort by the next newsletter. The next step after the manager is hired will be to start the formal planning process. As we progress towards the development of a management strategy we will keep you informed thru newsletters such as this one. We invite comments and input at anytime. If you are interested in becoming involved in the development of the management strategy please contact either office at, BLM 435-688-3303 or NPS 702-293-8947

Bottom Line...

More on the new National Landscape Conservation System.

The system consists of two types of BLM units:

National Conservation Areas and National Monuments
Portions of the following units under BLM management

- Wilderness Areas and Wilderness Study Areas
- National Wild and Scenic Rivers
- National Scenic Trails and National Historic Trails

The NLCS does not include other types of designations such as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC).

The purpose of the system is to increase the public's awareness of and appreciation for these public land treasures. In particular, BLM's National Conservation Areas, most of which have existed for years, will receive greater management attention, as will the newly-designated National Monuments.

Although each has site-specific authorities, they do have common elements that the BLM expects to emphasize in managing them, which differ somewhat from areas such as National Parks. First, management will focus on conservation. While there will be opportunities for visitation, there will be no major facilities located within these areas. Visitors contact and information facilities will be located in adjacent communities or at the periphery of the units. This not only helps preserve the character of the areas, but also provides opportunities for economic development for local communities. Second, in addition to their specific authorities, the BLM will manage these areas pursuant to the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), BLM's "Organic Act." This means that multiple use activities, such as grazing and hunting will continue, provided they are consistent with the overall purpose for which the unit was established.

Something Old...

In total, the BLM already manages 2,249,915 acres in eight National Conservation Areas which are now included in the National Landscape Conservation System.

- Steese NCA in Alaska (1,200,000 acres)
- San Pedro Riparian NCA in Arizona (56,400 acres)
- Gila Box Riparian Area in Arizona (20,767 acres)
- King range NCA in California (561,025)
- Gunnison Gorge NCA in Colorado (57,725 acres)

- Birds of Prey NCA in Idaho (484,873 acres)
- Red Rock Canyon NCA in Nevada (112,125)
- El Malpais NCA in New Mexico (262,000 acres)

And also included are 23,545,085 acres within the following:

- 9.5 million acre California Desert Conservation Area
- 7,400 acre Headwaters Forest Reserve in California
- 1,001,668 acres in 35 Wild and Scenic Rivers covering 2,048 miles
- 5,279,212 acres in 138 Wilderness Areas
- 17,256,805 acres in 618 Wilderness Study Areas
- Eight Historic Trails covering 3,590 miles
- Two National Scenic Trails covering 568 miles

Something New...

The newly designated BLM Monuments totaling 3,322,750 acres make up the rest of the system and include:

- Agua Fria National Monument in Arizona (71,000 acres)
- Grand Canyon Parashant National Monument in Arizona (1,054,000 acres)
- California Coastal National Monument (7,000 acres along 840 miles of coast)
- Grand Staircase-Escalante national Monument in Utah (1,880,000 acres)
- Ironwood Forest (134,750 acres) in Arizona
- Canyons of the Ancients (164,000 acres) in Colorado
- Cascade-Siskiyou (52,000 acres) in Oregon

Something to Consider...

The goal of the Arizona Strip Field Office during the interium until the new Monument Manager and staff are in place, is to help match reality with expectation. This is not your typical National Monument.

If you come, you will not find a visitor center, granite statues or even be able to buy gas, food, water or use a cell phone or a bathroom. It is suggested that you will need:

- a high clearance, four wheel drive vehicle
- 2 spare tires

- extra food
- water
- plenty of gas
- a good Arizona Strip map
- leave word as to where you are going and when you will return.

Preparation up front will make your trip into the remote, rugged, revealing, rangeland of the GC Parashant National Monument something to remember.

We recommend that all visitors to the Arizona Strip or the GC Parashant National Monument stop by the Interagency Information Center at 345 E Riverside Drive, St George, Utah, to receive travel information, maps, history of the area and weather updates. Let our customer service personnel help you have an enjoyable trip.