

To: Sally Butts[sbutts@blm.gov]
Cc: Nikki Moore[nmoore@blm.gov]
From: Isaac, Mary
Sent: 2017-03-06T08:38:40-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Re: ACTION: 2018 Budget Prep; DD 3/10/17
Received: 2017-03-06T08:39:10-05:00
[FY2018 Current Services Request.docx](#)
[FY2018 Justifications for WSR and NSHT Programs RealignmentVersion 05-26-16.docx](#)
[1210 Wilderness Management.docx](#)
[1711 National Monument and National Conservation Areas.docx](#)

Sally:

Yes, I have the impact statements but the instructions ask us to update the attached document. Also, I do believe that the cross cutting initials should be included since many of the contributing sub-activities will be affected by the reduction and there will be no realignment with 1711 for FY18.

Please advise.

Thank you.

Mary H. Isaac
BLM/WO-400
(202) 912 7767

On Mon, Mar 6, 2017 at 8:19 AM, Sally Butts <sbutts@blm.gov> wrote:

Thanks Mary. Do you have the last impact statement we did for 1711? That would be a good starting point for Tim.

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 6, 2017, at 5:07 AM, Isaac, Mary <misaac@blm.gov> wrote:

Sally:

Good morning, Ilana Cohen is on annual leave this week - so I will work diligently with Tim and cc' Ilana on all information.

Thanks.

Mary H. Isaac
BLM/WO-400
(202) 912 7767

On Sun, Mar 5, 2017 at 5:36 PM, Sally Butts <sbutts@blm.gov> wrote:

Mary,

Please work with Tim and Ilana on the 1711 impact statement and Peter and I on the 1210 impact statement. Please make sure they understand the budget information is not to be shared beyond them.

Thanks, Sally

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 3, 2017, at 7:00 PM, Isaac, Mary <misaac@blm.gov> wrote:

Sally:

Should I start working with Peter and Ilana to provide updated narratives on the following:

- **Wilderness Management** **-\$3,000 [-22 FTE]**
This reduction to the Wilderness Program would result in a shift in focus away from broad monitoring of Wilderness Study Areas to monitoring only congressionally mandated wilderness areas.
- **National Conservation Lands** **-\$8,000 [-54 FTE]**
The reduction funds National Monuments & National Conservation Areas below the FY2015 level. The program will focus on areas with the highest visitation and will only be able to meet the most basic needs for visitors. Public safety will be affected due to the inability to address critical facilities and equipment maintenance needs as well as a lack of capability to provide visitor services and resource protection in challenging high use areas and near international borders. The reduction would decrease the quality and access to the BLM's best fishing, hunting, and recreational sites for sportsmen. Many of BLM's National Monument and National Conservation Area visitor centers would not likely remain open.

Please let me know how you would like for me to proceed ahead with the data call.

Thanks.

Mary H. Isaac
BLM/WO-400
(202) 912 7767

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From: **Moore, Nikki** <nmoore@blm.gov>

Date: Fri, Mar 3, 2017 at 4:37 PM

Subject: Fwd: ACTION: 2018 Budget Prep; DD 3/10/17

To: Sally Butts <sbutts@blm.gov>, Janet Ady <jady@blm.gov>, Bibi Booth

<wobooth@blm.gov>, Peter Mali <pmali@blm.gov>, Mary Isaac
<misaac@blm.gov>
Cc: "McAlear, Christopher" <cmcalear@blm.gov>

Mary, Sally, Janet,

It looks like we do need to write "impact statements". Please coordinate and prepare program specific impact statements for affected programs by the due date. I have ELT next week (at M st), so we will need to figure out when I can review before they are submitted. Also notice this version doesn't include the energy language from my original. OMB didn't feel that was appropriate since there was an increase, so focus on the other impacts and priorities that came out (recreation, fishing, hunting, visitor services, visitor safety, border safety, access - boat ramps, etc. economics).

Mary, can you please also follow up with Linda or someone in budget and find out if we need to prepare them for cross-cutting programs not listed like Rivers and Trails?

Nikki Moore
Acting Deputy Assistant Director, National Conservation Lands and Community Partnerships
Bureau of Land Management, Washington D.C.
202.219-3180 (office)
202.288.9114 (cell)

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From: **McAlear, Christopher** <cmcalear@blm.gov>
Date: Fri, Mar 3, 2017 at 4:25 PM
Subject: Fwd: ACTION: 2018 Budget Prep; DD 3/10/17
To: Nikki Moore <nmoore@blm.gov>

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From: **Smith, Linda** <lhsmith@blm.gov>
Date: Fri, Mar 3, 2017 at 1:58 PM
Subject: ACTION: 2018 Budget Prep; DD 3/10/17
To: BLM WO ADs and DADs <blm_wo_ads_and_dads@blm.gov>
Cc: Janine Velasco <jvelasco@blm.gov>, Ann DeBlasi <amdeblas@blm.gov>, BLM WO Resource Advisors <BLM_WO_Resource_advisors@blm.gov>

G

ood afternoon, all.

On Monday, February 27, 2017, the Department received a high-level passback from OMB on the 2018 President's budget. This passback provided a funding target of \$1.1 billion for the BLM's three discretionary accounts, a reduction of roughly \$117 million from the 2017 annualized CR level. Per the Department's guidance, the BLM developed a broad description of how it would operate under the targets provided.

The attached document was forwarded to the Department on Tuesday, February 28th.

The next steps in the 2018 budget process include discussions of BLM's proposal with the Department and OMB. To prepare, we ask that you update the attached document with details on the impact of selected reductions. Issues to consider and highlight would include:

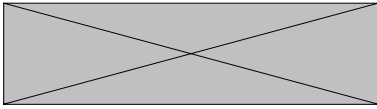
- (1) what activities could be accomplished vs. which activities would be eliminated (i.e., would focus on processing 5,000 new grazing permits vs. would see the backlog of grazing permits grow by approximately 700)
- (2) impacts to local communities (i.e., employment, economic contributions)
- (3) impacts to BLM mission (i.e., ability to meet statutory requirements, potential risk of litigation)

Please forward these impacts to me, Tonya Jackson and Lark Adams in the Budget Division by Friday, March 10, 2017. We may also be contacted if you have any additional questions.

Thanks in advance for your assistance.

Linda H. Smith
BLM Budget Officer
Office: 202-912-7060
Cell/Alternative Telework Number: 202-760-0379
lhsmith@blm.gov

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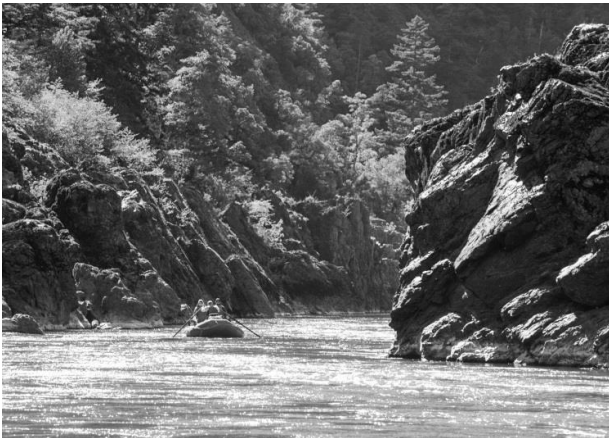
Christopher McAlear
Assistant Director
National Conservation Lands
and Community Partnerships
(W) 202-208-4731
(C) 775-722-9539

<Attachment 2 - Appeals Statement BLM to POB 2.28.17
(1).docx>

DRAFT FY2018 JUSTIFICATIONS FOR WO-410 RIVERS (WSR) AND TRAILS (NSHT) – 05-26-16**NATIONAL WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS PROGRAM****Program Overview**

The National Wild and Scenic Rivers System (NWSRS) was created by Congress on October 2, 1968 to preserve rivers with outstanding natural, cultural, and recreational values in a free-flowing condition for the enjoyment of present and future generations. Currently, more than 200 rivers in 35 states and Puerto Rico are protected in the NWSRS. The BLM's Wild and Scenic Rivers are part of the nation's newest conservation system known as National Conservation Lands. 2018 marks the 50th anniversary of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and National WSR System. The BLM plans to commemorate the 50th anniversary through special public events and activities as well as develop and implement an interagency training program. The WSR 50th initiative will be spearheaded by the Interagency Wild and Scenic Rivers Coordinating Council (IWSRCC) in partnership with American Rivers, American Whitewater, River Management Society, and River Network. The IWSRCC and the four national river organizations are collaborating to guide and support the initiative through development and implementation of strategic plans to further the purposes of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

The WSR Act is notable for safeguarding the special character of these rivers, while also recognizing the potential for their appropriate use and development. It encourages river management that crosses political boundaries and promotes public participation in developing goals for river protection. River initiatives have emphasized the value of rivers and waterways to our Nation's history, economy, and way of life. Rivers connect people and communities to America's outdoors and are vital migration corridors for fish and wildlife. In the 21st century, healthy rivers will enhance the resilience of human and natural communities. Millions of people visit our Wild and Scenic Rivers (WSRs) annually either on their own or through hundreds of permitted commercial outfitters. This use provides significant economic value to local communities and helps them to sustain the natural heritage of their wild and scenic rivers.



The BLM has the responsibility to protect and enhance river values (free flowing condition, water quality, and outstandingly remarkable values) on 69 designated rivers in seven States covering over 2,400 miles and 1,001,353 acres and on hundreds of eligible and suitable rivers across the country. The WSR program works to implement collaborative landscape and watershed protection and restoration work, improved recreation access and opportunities, and community partnerships that enhance quality of life outcomes for residents and visitors. The BLM program goals include protecting

and restoring rivers for people and wildlife; enhancing river recreation which supports jobs in tourism and outdoor recreation; working with communities to take action to secure economic, social and ecological benefits of having a healthy river; and working collaboratively with local, State, tribal and other Federal agencies on river protection, restoration, and recreation access.

Program priorities will focus on three key areas that tie directly to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers 50th anniversary initiative and to long term WSR Program goals:

- Outreach - Increase the understanding, motivation and inspiration that has led to and supports the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.
- Protect and Enhance – Protect and enhance the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System (current and future rivers).
- Interagency Training Initiative – Establish a sustainable framework that promotes an integrated and collaborative approach to training, educating, and providing learning opportunities to those who work to support and improve the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

Outreach will include WSR corridor signing (primary and secondary portal access signs), and celebrations, environmental education, and interpretive activities and programs especially those coordinated with partners, stakeholders, landowners, and communities.

Protect and enhance will include river stewardship of river values for which the rivers were designated, inventory and monitoring, preparing or updating Comprehensive River Management Plans, collecting, finalizing and processing final WSR corridor boundaries.



Interagency Training Initiative will include supporting the Interagency Wild and Scenic Rivers Coordinating Council's efforts to develop a sustainable interagency training program, and develop and deliver quality formal training to federal river-administering agency staff and managers, river partners, and others who work to protect and enhance WSRs.

Program Funding

The WSR program is funded by multiple subactivities at \$6.9 million within the MLR and O&C appropriations. This funding level remains the same as FY17. To increase program efficiencies and transparency in FY18, four of the major program areas covering 10 subactivities of MLR



funding would be consolidated into the National Conservation Lands program area and subactivity L1711 (see table below). Fees collected at specific recreation sites and for Special Recreation Permits are returned to those locations to support management of WSRs. The BLM also leverages base funding by matching volunteer labor and contributions; cooperating with the National Park Service (NPS), the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and State agencies where river areas are co-managed. Donations of labor and contributed funds from river and other

partnership organizations increase BLM's capability and improve outcomes. The BLM plans to continue to align funding and performance to increase program efficiencies and transparency.

FY2018 National Wild and Scenic Rivers Program Base Funding

Wild and Scenic Rivers	FY16 Actual	FY 17 PTA	FY 18 Request		Change from 2017			
National Conservation Lands	0	0	1711	5,230				
Soil, Water & Air 1010	181	181			1010	0	1711	181
Rangeland Management 1020	457	457			1020	0	1711	457
Public Domain Forest Mngt 1030	118	118			1030	0	1711	118
Riparian Management 1040	419	419			1040	0	1711	419
Cultural Resources Management 1050	320	320			1050	0	1711	320
Wild Horse & Burro Mngt 1060	9	9			1060	0	1711	9
Wildlife Mngt 1110	214	214			1110	0	1711	214
Fisheries Mngt 1120	352	352			1120	0	1711	352
Threatened and Endangered Species 1150	213	213			1150	0	1711	213
Recreation Resources Mngt 1220	2,947	2,947			1220	0	1711	2,947
Oil & Gas Mngt 1310	31	31	1310	31	1310	31		
Alaska Conveyance 1410	113	113	1410	113	1410	113		
Cadastral, Lands & Realty 1440	50	50	1440	50	1440	50		
Hazardous Materials Management 1640	121	121	1640	121	1640	121		
Annual Maintenance & Operations 1660	1,220	1,220	1660	1,220	1660	1,220		
Administrative Support 1820	59	59	1820	59	1820	59		
Other Forest Resource Management 6330	124	124	6330	124	6330	124		
	6,948	6,948	6,948		1,718			5,230

NATIONAL SCENIC AND HISTORIC TRAILS PROGRAM**Program Overview**

The National Trails System Act was signed into law on October 2, 1968 to promote the preservation of, public access to, travel within, and enjoyment and appreciation of the open-air, outdoor areas and historic resources of the nation, and designated the Appalachian and Pacific Crest National Scenic Trails. Today, the National Trails System involves designated trails in all 50 States, and is larger in size than the Interstate Highway System. The System includes 30 congressionally designated National Scenic and Historic Trails; hundreds of secretarially designated trails including National Recreation, Connecting, and Side Trails; and many miles of rail trails. Within the BLM, National Scenic and Historic Trails are National Conservation Lands, part of the nation's newest conservation System.



In 2018, through special public events and activities, the BLM will join with trail partners and other agencies to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Act, recognize hallmark System achievements, and envision new pathways to the future. The Federal Interagency Council on the National Trails System (NTS Council) will collaborate and partner with the American Hiking Society, American Trails, the Rails to Trails Conservancy, and the Partnership for the National Trails System to develop and

implement strategic plans supporting the 50th anniversary.

The National Trails System is legacy of the Act, which instituted National Recreation, Scenic, and Historic Trails; moreover, the law recognized the invaluable contributions of citizen volunteers and private, nonprofit trail groups in the planning, development, acquisition, maintenance, operations, and management of trail resources. Partners are essential to

safeguarding these ribbons of recreation, conservation, and culture to preserve scenic, historic, natural, and cultural values within selected trail corridors; in securing recreational access; and in promoting ongoing public enjoyment, appreciation, and involvement. National Trail organizations estimate that volunteer organizations contribute more than \$35.0 million in annual program value through volunteer hours and fiscal contributions.

The BLM is entrusted with managing more miles of National Historic Trails on the ground than any other agency and significant portions of National Scenic Trails, protected as National Conservation Lands. Program responsibilities include managing eighteen National Trails (five scenic and 13 historic) on the ground, crossing nearly 6,000 miles of BLM public lands in 15 States. The BLM serves as interagency Trail Administrator, or trail-wide lead, for the Iditarod, Old Spanish, and El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro National Historic Trails. The BLM also supports five National Trail-related visitor centers which tell the stories of the trails. Managing each trail across the landscape involves a mosaic of Federal, State, tribal, local government, and private lands, and requires extraordinary collaboration to connect every mile across urban, suburban, rural and remote areas.



Program priorities will center on the 50th anniversary of the National Trails System Act, an continue efforts to implement goals from the 2008 “Decade for the National Trails Strategy”:

- Increase Public Awareness of the National Trails System
- Build Capacity to Support the National Trails System
- Complete, Protect, and Enhance National Trails for the Public Enjoyment

To increase public awareness, the BLM will inventory, prepare, and install primary and secondary portal signs to the new sign standards, as well as conduct trail marking efforts using the official logo for each trail. The BLM will prepare paper or electronic brochures, guides, and maps and enhance electronic media including websites and social media to raise public awareness. The agency will also encourage and assist trail partners, including interagency efforts to deliver and support 50th anniversary activities and programs such as volunteer vacations; National Trails and Public Lands Day events; Hands on the Land; site host opportunities; conference, workshop, and special events; and special presentations. BLM State will develop and deliver interpretative and educational programs, video shorts, or other media for target audiences.

To help increase agency and partner capacity leading up to and beyond the 50th anniversary of the NTSA, the BLM will increase efforts on existing National Trail stewardship cooperative agreements, MOUs, and operations plans. The agency will plan capacity-building programs for volunteers; youth internships or apprenticeships; adopt-a-trail programs; training development and delivery; and gateway community host or trail town programs. The BLM would develop and deliver robust field-based training and educational programs to ensure that staff, volunteers, and communities receive the training necessary to safely and appropriately implement National Trails System projects, events, and activities in accordance with BLM policy. Other efforts would focus on performance-based work such as inventory and monitoring and site host training.



In support of the completion, protection, and enhancement of National Scenic and Historic Trails, Field Offices would be encouraged to establish trail corridors through land use planning to safeguard the nature and purposes of National Trails. Field Offices would collect critical baseline information in time for planning, and National Trail monitoring would occur regularly. Monitor National Trail inventory (LA) regularly. In addition, Comprehensive Plans for National Trails where the BLM serves as Trail Administrator, including the Iditarod and Old Spanish NHT would be completed or updated. The BLM would

prepare core projects for Land and Water Conservation Funding, to eliminate National Scenic Trail access gaps, as well as projects that will protect high potential sites and segments along National Historic Trails.

Program Funding

The BLM National Trails Program is funded by several program areas in multiple subactivities at 6.4 million within the MLR appropriation. This funding level remains the same as FY17. To increase program efficiencies and transparency in FY18, four of the major program areas covering 7 subactivities of MLR funding would be consolidated into the National Conservation Lands program area and subactivity L1711 (see table below). Fees collected at National Trail Visitor Centers and specific recreation sites are returned to those locations. The BLM also leverages base funding by matching volunteer labor and contributions; applying for grants or other Federal or State funding; and through cooperative agreements at the local, State, and national level. The BLM plans to continue to align funding and performance to increase program efficiencies and transparency.

FY2018 National Scenic and Historic Trails Program Base Funding

		FY16 Actual	FY 17 PTA	FY 18 Request		Change from 2017		
National Scenic and Historic Trails								
National Conservation Lands		0	0	1711	5,346			
Soil, Water & Air	1010	112	112			1010	0	1711 112
Rangeland Management	1020	68	68			1020	0	1711 68
Riparian Management	1040	20	20			1040	0	1711 20
Cultural Resources Management	1050	557	557			1050	0	1711 557
Wildlife Mngt	1110	93	93			1110	0	1711 93
Threatened and Endangered Species	1150	99	99			1150	0	1711 99
Recreation Resources Mngt	1220	4397	4,397			1220	0	1711 4,397
Annual Maintenance & Operations	1660	1012	1,012	1660	1,012	1660	1,012	
		6,358	6,358		6,358		1,012	5,346

National Scenic and Historic Trails		FY16 Actual	FY 17 PTA	FY 18 Request		<i>Change from 2017</i>			
National Conservation Lands		0	0	1711	5,346				
Soil, Water & Air	1010	112	112			1010	0	1711	112
Rangeland Management	1020	68	68			1020	0	1711	68
Riparian Management	1040	20	20			1040	0	1711	20
Cultural Resources Management	1050	557	557			1050	0	1711	557
Wildlife Mngt	1110	93	93			1110	0	1711	93
Threatened and Endangered Species	1150	99	99			1150	0	1711	99
Recreation Resources Mngt	1220	4397	4,397			1220	0	1711	4,397
Annual Maintenance & Operations	1660	1012	1,012	1660	1,012	1660	1,012		
		6,358	6,358		6,358		1,012		5,346

		FY16 Actual	FY 17 PTA	FY 18 Request		Change from 2017		
Wild and Scenic Rivers								
National Conservation Lands		0	0	1711	5,230			
Soil, Water & Air	1010	181	181			1010	0	1711 181
Rangeland Management	1020	457	457			1020	0	1711 457
Public Domain Forest Mngt	1030	118	118			1030	0	1711 118
Riparian Management	1040	419	419			1040	0	1711 419
Cultural Resources Management	1050	320	320			1050	0	1711 320
Wild Horse & Burro Mngt	1060	9	9			1060	0	1711 9
Wildlife Mngt	1110	214	214			1110	0	1711 214
Fisheries Mngt	1120	352	352			1120	0	1711 352
Threatened and Endangered Species	1150	213	213			1150	0	1711 213
Recreation Resources Mngt	1220	2,947	2,947			1220	0	1711 2,947
Oil & Gas Mngt	1310	31	31	1310	31	1310	31	
Alaska Conveyance	1410	113	113	1410	113	1410	113	
Cadastral, Lands & Realty	1440	50	50	1440	50	1440	50	
Hazardous Materials Management	1640	121	121	1640	121	1640	121	
Annual Maintenance & Operations	1660	1,220	1,220	1660	1,220	1660	1,220	
Administrative Support	1820	59	59	1820	59	1820	59	
Other Forest Resource Management	6330	124	124	6330	124	6330	124	
		6,948	6,948		6,948		1,718	5,230

Activity: Recreation Management

Subactivity: Wilderness Management

Program Overview

The Wilderness Management Program is a part of the BLM National Conservation Lands. The BLM's 15-year National Conservation Lands strategy supports the Bureau's multiple-use and sustained yield mission by ensuring that management efforts are focused on conservation, while allowing for compatible uses, consistent with the designating legislation for wilderness areas. In addition to conservation, the strategy emphasizes continued collaboration, public involvement, and youth engagement. Engaging local communities to help them foster a sense of shared stewardship and pride in their local wilderness is a key part of the Wilderness Management Program. The program also contributes to the Department of the Interior's Engaging the Next Generation initiative by providing abundant opportunities for recreation, education, volunteerism, and work experience.

For more information on the National Conservation Lands Strategy, visit the BLM website at: http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/info/newsroom/2011/september/NR_09_30_2011.html

Wilderness Areas are undeveloped Federal lands designated by law to be managed to protect their wilderness character as defined by the Wilderness Act of 1964. These designated areas are generally large, natural, and undeveloped landscapes that offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation. The BLM is required to meet legal requirements for administering the Wilderness Management Program while also conserving, protecting, and restoring National Conservation Lands values in the 223 Wilderness Areas with over 8.7 million acres in 10 Western States (3 percent of BLM's total acreage in the coterminous United States).

The BLM also continues to conserve, protect, and restore as about 517 Wilderness Study Areas (12.6 million acres) under BLM management as defined below:

- Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) are roadless areas that contain wilderness characteristics and are protected to maintain those characteristics until Congress designates them as Wilderness Areas or releases them for other uses.

The Wilderness Management Program focuses on the protection and conservation of wilderness and National Conservation Lands values with the following activities:

- Inventorying, monitoring, and preserving wilderness character;
- Managing use and encouraging appropriate wilderness uses;
- Inventorying, monitoring, and managing for noxious weed infestations, trespass activities, and recreation; and
- Restoring impacted areas such as trampled vegetation and eroded soil caused by unauthorized off-highway vehicles (OHV) travelling cross-country.

The National Wilderness Preservation System includes all Wilderness Areas managed by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), the BLM, the National Park Service (NPS) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). It does not include BLM's WSAs. The BLM is unique in that the vast majority of its Wilderness Areas and WSAs are located in delicate desert environments; this

Bureau of Land Management**2018 Current Services Request**

adds an important ecosystem component to the National Wilderness Preservation System. Millions of people visit these areas annually either on their own or through the hundreds of permitted commercial outfitters that assist the public in enjoying these unique lands. This use provides significant economic impact to local communities and helps to sustain the natural heritage of their wilderness landscapes.

The Wilderness Management Program frequently addresses challenges associated with unauthorized use such as illegal OHV use, which result in the degradation of wilderness character. Managing the wilderness resource requires collaboratively managing these assets as part of the larger landscape. After a Wilderness Area is designated by Congress, the BLM typically spends the first three years marking and mapping the legal boundary, and providing visitor services such as maps and other public information. Subsequent management includes acquiring in-holdings from willing sellers, restoring wilderness character where needed, engaging in land use planning and monitoring, implementation of wilderness management plans, and providing visitor services. Additionally, BLM staff engages in land use planning to prepare management plans for Wilderness Areas to guide long-term management and protection of wilderness character. These plans raise the public awareness and understanding of the National Conservation Lands, promote stewardship of BLM-managed land, and provide for the use and enjoyment of these lands by present and future generations.

Program Emphasis Areas**Preserving Wilderness Character**

Preserving wilderness character is at the heart of the BLM's responsibility to protect its Wilderness Areas for future generations. An interagency strategy for monitoring trends in wilderness character across the National Wilderness Preservation System outlines a unified approach for collecting data and will allow the identification of trends in wilderness character quality across all wilderness-managing agencies. The protocol developed to monitor and describe trends in the quality of wilderness character will eventually enable the BLM to establish a meaningful measure with verified baseline data, which will ensure that the BLM preserves wilderness character as required by the Wilderness Act.

During 2017, the BLM expects to continue gathering baseline data for each of its 223 Wilderness Areas. The BLM will then use this information to make meaningful, efficient management decisions to maintain or improve wilderness character.

Enhancing Scientific Knowledge

BLM Wilderness Areas play a critical role in increasing scientific knowledge about a wide array of management challenges. The needs for scientific research and information continues to grow as new issues are identified, including the effects of drought, climate change, and other landscape stressors on species habitat and migration corridors. In addition, improved, higher-resolution satellite imagery and aerial photography aid wilderness managers with the monitoring of Wilderness Areas and WSAs. The BLM is also strengthening the role of science partnerships in wilderness management and collaborating with partners to help manage its Wilderness Areas and WSAs as a part of larger landscapes.

Developing Partnerships and Engaging People and Communities

Development and management of partnerships in wilderness stewardship is an important aspect of managing Wilderness Areas and WSAs and allows the BLM to leverage limited resources to achieve management goals. The Wilderness Management Program benefits

greatly from a large volunteer workforce that provides thousands of hours of resource monitoring in addition to materials and transportation to manage wilderness projects. The BLM has established nearly 100 formal and informal partnerships to facilitate wilderness stewardship activities. Typical examples of work performed by partners in Wilderness Areas and WSAs include building and maintaining trails, eradicating and monitoring of invasive species, wilderness character monitoring, and reclamation and restoration of degraded areas to create more-natural environments. The BLM has developed a Memorandum of Understanding with the National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance, a national organization that is coordinating the establishment of partners and friends groups to support wilderness stewardship in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Many of these wilderness organizations have strong ties to local communities and can help foster a sense of shared stewardship and pride in wilderness stewardship.

Connecting Landscapes by Working Collaboratively

The Wilderness Management Program benefits greatly by working collaboratively with several crosscutting BLM programs and in partnership with other federal land management agencies to achieve larger landscape-scale goals. Programs that manage wildlife, fire, weeds, and rangeland resources routinely benefit wilderness resources and assist the BLM in meeting its legal requirements to protect wilderness character. By establishing connections across boundaries with other Federal, State, local agencies; and private conservation lands, the BLM complements and supplements the management of Wilderness Areas and WSAs as a part of a larger landscapes by strengthening the resilience of all areas.

Activity: National Conservation Lands

Subactivity: National Monuments & National Conservation Areas

Program Overview

This program encompasses the BLM's 25 NMs, 16 NCAs, three Outstanding Natural Areas, one Cooperative Management and Protection Area, and one Forest Reserve. These units of the National Conservation Lands are managed to conserve, protect, restore, and enhance America's natural and cultural heritage, while providing outstanding recreational opportunities and public access for hunting, fishing, and other uses. National Conservation Lands represent about 12.5% of the BLM managed public lands, but they attract over 25% of our visitors.

These special places span the breadth of BLM managed public lands and include such diverse lands as the 1.2 million acre Steese NCA, which protects two of Alaska's most important caribou herds; King Range National Conservation Area, America's first NCA, designated in 1970 along California's Lost Coast; Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse Outstanding Natural Area on the Atlantic coast of Florida; and Colorado's Canyons of the Ancients NM, which protects the greatest known density of First American archeological sites in the United States, including cliff dwellings, villages, kivas, shrines, agricultural fields, and rock art drawings, some of which are over 10,000 years old. Traditional activities such as hunting, rock hounding, managed off highway vehicle use, livestock grazing, and Native American cultural and religious uses continue throughout many of these landscapes.



Grand Gulch Wilderness Study Area, Utah

Connecting People to the Land

More than 64 million people live within 100 miles of BLM managed lands in the West. The elevated profile of National Monuments and National Conservation Areas attracts regional, national, and international visitors. More people recreate on public lands than ever, and this growing level of visitation presents the BLM with the challenge of providing more responsive recreation management, higher levels of visitor services, and additional law enforcement to ensure visitor safety.

Engaging the Next Generation

The Department of the Interior is engaging the next generation of public land stewards through the Secretary's Youth Initiative, encouraging young people to Play, Learn, Serve, and Work on their public lands.

For example, at the Grand Staircase Escalante NM in southern Utah, a native plant restoration project is an innovative and highly regarded partnership that effectively connects youth to the

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Bureau of Land Management**2017 Budget Justifications**

great outdoors through habitat restoration. The BLM worked with the monument's friends group to engage over 100 students from the nearby Kanab High School in seed collection and propagation, invasive plant species removal, and planting the drought tolerant native plant seedlings they had grown to restore wildlife habitat. This partnership offers hands on experiences in the natural sciences to students. The BLM engages in over 50 similar partnerships that work to support its NMs and NCAs.

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Advancing Scientific Knowledge

The NMs and NCAs serve as long term reserves within an ecological landscape for vulnerable native plant and animal populations. Scientific data on the conditions, trends, and relationships of these resources are critical for managers when determining how to successfully adapt management to address land health stressors such as climate change, changing fire regimes, the spread of invasive and exotic species, and human population growth.

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Creating Economic Opportunities

Communities surrounding the units of the National Conservation Lands derive significant economic benefits through tourism. The BLM, in cooperation with local communities, traditionally supports the creation of recreation and visitor facilities in nearby gateway communities rather than building extensive facilities within the National Conservation Lands.

For example, two independent studies conducted by BBC Research & Consulting in 2012 found that the designation of national monuments in New Mexico would be expected to benefit the economy in the following ways:

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Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks NM, New Mexico

- Increasing regional economic activity from \$10.2 million to as high as \$17.6 million in and around Las Cruces, due to designation of Organ Mountains Desert Peaks National Monument.

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- Creating about 279 jobs per year in Rio Arriba and Taos Counties, due to designation of Rio Grande del Norte National Monument.

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2017 Budget Justifications

National Monuments & National Conservation Areas Funding By BLM State Office			
BLM State Office	2015 Actual	2016 Enacted	2017 Request
Alaska	443	633	1,213
Arizona	6,328	7,063	9,463
California	4,656	4,656	6,516
Colorado	3,157	3,627	4,428
Eastern States	150	225	725
Idaho	2,346	2,623	3,443
Montana/Dakotas	1,528	1,655	2,055
Nevada	1,184	1,644	3,594
New Mexico	1,039	2,484	4,284
Oregon/Washington	1,377	1,782	2,732
Utah	5,725	6,460	8,760
<i>Subtotal, State Allocations</i>	27,933	33,562	47,213
National Level Program Support†	1,529	3,257	3,257
Fixed Cost Changes (to be allocated)			175
Total	31,819	36,819	50,645
†Includes funds supporting Washington Office, National Operations Center, National Training Center, and Bureau-Wide Administrative Support			
NOTE: The 2017 State Office Request is an estimate shown for illustrative purposes. Actual State Office requests are subject to change based on State Office priority project submissions and conditions on the ground requiring adjustment during Planning Target Allocations.			

2017 Program Performance

In 2017, the program will expand on its successes and focus on managing NMs and NCAs as an integral part of the BLM's multiple use and sustained yield mission, including by showcasing the accomplishments of BLM programs in conservation, cultural preservation, and recreation. Key accomplishments planned in 2016 include:

- Addressing critical facilities and equipment maintenance needs to ensure public safety and enjoyment, and the protection of resources.
- Providing resource protection and public safety, especially in challenging, high use areas and near international borders.

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Bureau of Land Management**2017 Budget Justifications**

- Engaging communities to provide sustainable recreational experiences to local residents and visitors, which benefits families and local economies.
- Fostering and supporting partnerships, including with Friends groups, to conserve, protect, restore, and provide for responsible access and use of these special places.
- Expanding volunteer opportunities, especially to veterans and youth, so that more volunteers can have enriching experiences and make important contributions.
- Providing highly regarded education and interpretation to the public.
- Developing recreation maps for each new NM and NCA to provide the public with rich online resources for exploring these areas and planning their family's visits to them.
- Incorporating the newest additions to the NMs and NCAs program into the National Conservation Lands system by hiring critical managers and staff and assigning organizational codes to each unit for more transparent, efficient, productive use of funding.
- Implementing completed land use plans developed in cooperation with States, Tribes, local governments, partners, and the public and developing step down plans to provide detailed standards for managing specific uses through cooperative and public processes.
- Assessing, inventorying, and monitoring the unique resources, objects, and values for which NMs and NCAs were designated, including rare, world class, irreplaceable cultural and heritage resources, to ensure appropriate stewardship and protection.
- Developing science plans for NMs and NCAs to provide a solid foundation for decision making and address major landscape level challenges, from the effects of climate change to science based mitigation.
- Eradicating and controlling invasive plants, conducting vegetation treatments, reclaiming surface disturbance, restoring healthy ecosystem function, and promoting habitat connectivity and landscape scale ecological sustainability.
- Engaging and employing youth in all aspects of Play, Learn, Serve, and Work.

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INFORMATION/ BRIEFING MEMORANDUM FOR LINDA SMITH, CBO

DATE: May 27, 2016
 FROM: Nikki Moore, Division Chief WO-410
 SUBJECT: 2018 Current Services Request for National Conservation Lands Programs

BACKGROUND

This briefing paper details increases requested for FY18 related to estimated costs for the National Monument and National Conservation Areas Program, Wild and Scenic Rivers, and National Scenic and Historic Trails. The request for National Monuments and National Conservation Areas represents an increase of \$4.1 million for new monuments, \$22.735 million for existing National Monument and National Conservation Area critical needs, and \$1.2 million for Wild and Scenic Rivers and National Scenic and Historic Trails.

DISCUSSION AND DETAILS**NATIONAL MONUMENT STARTUP COSTS, SUBACTIVITY 1711 (+\$4.1 million)**

Since 2009, the number of NMs and NCAs has increased significantly from 33 to 46 and to over 12 million acres, yet the BLM has not undergone a systematic effort to incorporate newer units into its funding structure. Additionally, under a current services budget, critical positions, such as NM&NCA managers and law enforcement, and critical work, such as completing resource management plans and providing for resource and public safety and security, would go unfunded.

The requested (+4.1 million) would be used for:

- Basin and Range National Monument (+1.2 million)
- Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument (+300,000)
- Browns Canyon National Monument (+600,000)
- Sand to Snow National Monument (+800,000)
- Mojave Trails National Monument (+1.2 million)

Specifically, the funds would be used for:

- Dedicated Monument Managers: will allow BLM to hire dedicated monument managers to provide strategic leadership for new monuments, enrich on-the-ground partnerships and volunteer opportunities, leverage federal funding, and provide a consistent contact for law enforcement.
- Signage: will allow for the development and installation of new signs to provide for critical public safety needs, public recognition, system-wide consistency, and easier navigation.
- Law enforcement: provide dedicated law enforcement officers to ensure that increased visitation is matched by increased attention to public safety and resource protection.
- Planning: develop required monument management plans.
- Education and Interpretation: provide public outreach, maps, and interpretive materials.

- Inventory and Monitoring: conduct critical inventory of the Resources, Objects, and Values in order to protect, conserve, and restore the values for which the monuments were designated.

**EXISTING NATIONAL MONUMENTS CRITICAL NEEDS, SUBACTIVITY 1711
(+\$22.735 million)**

This table includes the amount of funding requested by states for unfunded critical needs:

State Critical Needs	Millions of Dollars
Alaska	0.470
Arizona	4.175
California	3.125
Colorado	2.615
Eastern States	1.445
Idaho	1.175
Montana	1.120
Nevada	1.4
New Mexico	2.14
OR/WA	2.315
Utah	2.755
Total	22.735

**WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS AND NATIONAL SCENIC AND HISTORIC TRAILS,
MULTIPLE SUBACTIVITIES (+\$1.2 million)**

The requested (+1.2 million) would be used to develop interagency plans, training, and outreach for Wild and Scenic Rivers and National Scenic and Historic Trails, and to address critical management and restoration needs in anticipation of the attention these systems will get in 2018 with the 50th anniversaries of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and the National Trails System. Specifically, the funding would be used for:

- Comprehensive River Management Plans (CMPs) (+600,000):
Develop and complete interagency CMPs and Comprehensive Trails Management Plans to identify management corridors and allowable actions within them, to ensure that these congressional designations are protected and managed in accordance with each unit's designating legislation and other authorities.
- Develop and Deploy Interagency Training (+200,000):
Develop WSR and NSHT training to ensure consistent management and interpretation of laws, regulations, and policies. Combined interagency funding would be used to (1) hire interagency training coordinators; (2) develop curricula; (3) set up an Internet domain, database service, and training website; (4) recruit and train instructors; and (5) host training workshops and courses.

- Critical On-the-Ground Restoration of 303(d) Listed Streams (+350,000):
Conduct critical restoration actions to ensure that the WSRs and NSHTs are being managed according to the designating legislation and other authorities. Specifically, funding would be used to address Clean Water Act 303d water impairment problems on WSRs and restore habitat and treat invasive species in corridors in WSRs and NSHTs.
- Develop and deploy education and outreach materials to engage the public to support managing WSRs and NSHTs (+50,000).

NEXT STEPS

Continue working on FY18 budget.