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**Cc:** Sally Butts[sbutts@blm.gov]  
**From:** Isaac, Mary  
**Sent:** 2017-10-23T11:02:09-04:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** Fwd: 2019 Greenbook Kick-Off DUE: Friday, Nov. 3rd  
**Received:** 2017-10-23T11:02:57-04:00  
[Standard Template for FY19 Justifications.docx](#)  
[FY2017 PTA L1711 National Monument and NCAs FINAL for FY19 Revision.docx](#)  
[FY2017 PTA L220 Recreation Resources Management for FY19 Revision.docx](#)  
[FY2017 PTA L1210 Wilderness Management for FY19 Revision.docx](#)  
[FY2017 PTA L1120 Fisheries Management for FY19 Revision.docx](#)  
[FY2017 PTA L1050 Cultural Resources Management for FY19 Revision.docx](#)  
[FY2018 PTA L1050 Cultural Resources Management for FY19 Revision.docx](#)  
[FY2018 PTA L1711 National Monument and NCAs for FY19 Revision.docx](#)  
[FY2018 PTA L1220 Recreation Resources Management for FY19 Revision.docx](#)  
[FY2018 PTA L1210 Wilderness Management for FY19 Revision.docx](#)  
[FY2018 PTA L1120 Fisheries Management for FY19 Revision.docx](#)  
[FY19 PTA NCL Crosscutting Programs.docx](#)

Good morning:

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below are

both 2018 & 2017 PTA Justifications

- if you haven't had the opportunity to review the templates

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*The templates have been uploaded to the WO 880 sharepoint*

*site: <https://blmspace.blm.doi.net/wo/Budget/programlead/2019/SitePages/Home.aspx>*

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final

write-ups that refer to our program

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for both years

(FY18 & FY17) please

review, revisit and reorganized

- FY 2018 & 2017 program write-ups for - L1050, L1120, L1210, L1220 and L1711
- Standard FY19 Templates
- NCL Crosscutting initiative but we should inquiry

Please reach out to the Leads to ensure that we provide our FY19 reorganize

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input based on the new BLM Strategies.

Finally, I've saved all the prior year information and the required templates on the shared drive for your review

( S:\\_WO400\BUDGET\2019\PTA).

Let me know how I can further assist you.

Mary H. Isaac  
Management & Program Analyst  
National Conservation Lands and Community  
Partnerships  
w (202) 912-7767  
c (703) 994-7450

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Jackson, Tonya** <[tmjackson@blm.gov](mailto:tmjackson@blm.gov)>  
Date: Mon, Oct 16, 2017 at 11:52 AM  
Subject: 2019 Greenbook Kick-Off DUE: Friday, Nov. 3rd  
To: Shelley McGinnis <[smcginnis@blm.gov](mailto:smcginnis@blm.gov)>, Gregory Muehl <[gmuehl@blm.gov](mailto:gmuehl@blm.gov)>, Mary Isaac <[misaac@blm.gov](mailto:misaac@blm.gov)>, Nikki Moore <[nmoore@blm.gov](mailto:nmoore@blm.gov)>, John Kalish <[jkalish@blm.gov](mailto:jkalish@blm.gov)>, Karen Kelleher <[kkelleh@blm.gov](mailto:kkelleh@blm.gov)>, Steve Tryon <[stryon@blm.gov](mailto:stryon@blm.gov)>, Cassie Sandberg <[csandber@blm.gov](mailto:csandber@blm.gov)>, Felecia Winstead <[fwinstea@blm.gov](mailto:fwinstea@blm.gov)>, Kimberly Hackett <[khackett@blm.gov](mailto:khackett@blm.gov)>  
Cc: "Thompson, Stephen" <[srthompson@blm.gov](mailto:srthompson@blm.gov)>, Ann M DeBlasi <[amdeblas@blm.gov](mailto:amdeblas@blm.gov)>, "Linda H. Smith" <[lhsmith@blm.gov](mailto:lhsmith@blm.gov)>, "Bail, Kristin" <[kbail@blm.gov](mailto:kbail@blm.gov)>, Timothy Spisak <[tspisak@blm.gov](mailto:tspisak@blm.gov)>, Christopher McAlear <[cmcalear@blm.gov](mailto:cmcalear@blm.gov)>

Good morning.

As we've done in previous years, WO-880 is kicking off the President's Budget process by asking the directorates to begin updating the Program Overview and Performance sections of the BLM greenbook. This year, we're looking to standardize the presentation of our Greenbook. We've developed a standard template which includes new section titles and the description of the content that should be found in these sections. Most of this content is currently captured in some way in each subactivity, but the organization of them is not uniform.

The templates have been uploaded to the WO-880 sharepoint site: <https://blmspace.blm.doi.net/wo/Budget/programlead/2019/SitePages/Home.aspx>

There are four sub-folders in the 2019 folder:

- 2017 Program write-ups - Provided for reference
- 2018 Program write-ups - Provided for reference
- 2019 Program templates
- AD-Approved Program write-ups

Program leads should take this opportunity to time to revisit, rebuild and/or reorganize the content in the Subactivity program write-ups. Resource Advisers should take this time to review, update or edit the Activity write-ups. If they have stand alone activities and want to provide more content, they should refer to the standardized template for guidance. Updated documents with AD approval are **due**

**back to WO-88o no later than Nov. 3rd.**

Once we receive the updated documents, WO-88o analysts will review them for consistency across the bureau and work with programs to fill in any perceived gaps. Once we have final policy and funding decisions for 2019, we will work with the directorates to develop justification narrative and to develop 2019 program performance narratives.

We are available to assist you with any concerns. Program leads and Resource Advisers should reach out to their assigned analyst for any questions or concerns about the templates or how to reorganize their content.

Respectfully,  
Tonya M. Jackson  
Bureau of Land Management  
Division of Budget (WO-88o)  
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## CROSSCUTTING PROGRAMS

### National Conservation Lands

The BLM is unique in its mission of managing the public lands for multiple use and sustained yield of resources, including conservation. The National Conservation Lands program as a whole comprises 36 million acres and is recognized for outstanding conservation values and designated for special management by Acts of Congress or Presidential Proclamations.

The BLM manages these special areas to maintain and enhance their conservation values with the goal to conserve, protect, and restore these important landscapes and their outstanding cultural, ecological, and scientific values. These areas range from broad Alaskan tundra to red-rock deserts and from deep river canyons to rugged ocean coastlines and include some of America's finest natural and cultural treasures. The National Wild and Scenic Rivers and National Scenic and Historic Trails Systems are two components within the National Conservation Lands and funded through multiple sources.

## National Wild and Scenic Rivers System



### Program Overview

The *Wild and Scenic Rivers Act* (WSR) was signed 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, and to protect the water quality of such rivers. The WSR Act established the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System which currently includes more than 200 rivers in 40 States and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. These free-flowing rivers make up over 12,700 miles of America's waterways.

The 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. Rivers and waterways are incredibly important to our Nation's history, economy, and way of life. Rivers connect people and communities to America's great outdoors and are vital migration corridors for fish and wildlife. In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, healthy rivers will enhance the resilience of human and natural communities. Millions of people visit wild and scenic rivers annually either on their own or through hundreds of permitted commercial outfitters and the associated use provides significant economic impact to local communities and helps them to sustain the natural heritage of their wild and scenic rivers.



Rogue River, Oregon Wild and Scenic River

One of America's best kept secrets is its wild and scenic rivers and the outstandingly remarkable values and resources they provide for all Americans, which is the reason Congress designated them. This national system of rivers gives communities the benefits of clean water, thriving economies, jobs, and recreational access and fishing opportunities. Yet it is a challenge to sufficiently protect currently designated rivers and meet the demand from communities seeking new designations. In 2018, the BLM will join river partners and other agencies to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Act and National System through special public events and activities.

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 (about 20 percent of the WSR) and on hundreds of eligible and suitable rivers across the western States.

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 the BLM's capability and improve outcomes.

### Emphasis Areas

The WSR program works to implement Secretarial priorities through improved recreational access and opportunities and community partnerships that enhance quality of life outcomes (e.g., economic, benefits to small businesses) for residents and visitors. The BLM will focus on 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; protecting and restoring rivers for people and fish and wildlife; and, working collaboratively with local, State, Tribal, and other Federal agencies on river protection, restoration, and recreation access.

The BLM's strategy for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the *Wild and Scenic Rivers Act* (October 2, 2018) will focus on four key areas:

- Build awareness – educate and communicate the benefits and opportunities of wild and scenic rivers
- Increase experience on rivers – provide opportunities for new and diverse audiences to experience and celebrate rivers
- Inspire action and stewardship – provide opportunities and encourage everyone to make connections to rivers and inspire action and stewardship for present and future generations
- Grow capacity – continuing a legacy of protecting and enhancing a national river system that is the global model for river conservation



Birch Creek Wild and Scenic River, Alaska



Crooked River Wild and Scenic River, Oregon

The WSR Program, part of the BLM's National Conservation Lands, engages local communities to help them foster a sense of shared stewardship and pride in their local WSRs. The BLM's revised Wild and Scenic Rivers Manual provides policy and program direction for identification, evaluation, planning, and management of designated rivers, congressionally authorized study rivers, and BLM-identified eligible and suitable rivers. The BLM will continue to implement this updated policy and program guidance by providing training courses that enable staff and managers to work collaboratively with partners and communities to protect river values and manage for

recreation and other river uses. The BLM will coordinate with other programs, agencies and organizations to strengthen and improve inventory and monitoring strategies and best management practices; using partnerships, science and outreach to help inventory, monitor and manage river values.

National Wild & Scenic River Program				
	2016 Actual	2017 CR	2018 Request	Change from 2017
Soil, Water & Air Management	181	181	169	-12
Rangeland Management	457	457	398	-59
Public Domain Forest Management	118	118	118	+0
Riparian Management	419	419	398	-21
Cultural Resources Management	320	320	320	+0
Wild Horse & Burro Management	9	9	8	-1
Wildlife Management	214	214	207	-7
Fisheries Management	352	352	327	-25
Threatened & Endangered Species	213	213	198	-15
Recreation Resources Management	2,947	2,947	2,741	-206
Oil & Gas Management	31	31	31	+0
Alaska Conveyance	113	113	75	-38
Cadastral, Lands & Realty Management	50	50	45	-5
Land & Realty Management	0	0	0	+0
Hazardous Materials Management	121	121	84	-37
Annual Maintenance & Operations	1,220	1,220	1,135	-85
Administrative Support	59	59	58	-1
O&C Other Forest Resource Management	124	124	94	-30
<b>National Wild &amp; Scenic Rivers</b>	<b>6,948</b>	<b>6,948</b>	<b>6,406</b>	<b>-542</b>
†The 2018 request is an estimate based on the proposed reductions across the bureau's budget. The final allocations per subactivity will be negotiated upon receipt of the 2018 appropriation.				

## National Scenic and Historic Trails



### 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.



California National Historic Trail, BLM Wyoming

The BLM is entrusted with managing more miles of National Historic Trails than any other agency and significant portions of National Scenic Trails. Program responsibilities include managing 18 National Trails (five scenic and 13 historic), 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 interagency and partner collaboration to connect every mile across urban, suburban, rural and remote areas.

America's prized National Trails System enables energy independence through the identification of compatible locations (inventory and monitoring); exemplifies shared stewardship and conservation through numerous trail partnerships; offers back to work employment opportunities along trails (e.g., trail maintenance and visitor services); serves American families by providing outstanding recreational opportunities to enhance quality of life; and, involves public safety where long-distance trails and trailheads are located at the U.S. border.

### Emphasis Areas



## BLM Strategy for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the National Trails System Act

The National Trails System program priorities will center on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the *National Trails System Act*. In 2018, the BLM will join with trail partners and other agencies to commemorate the anniversary; recognize hallmark System achievements; and, envision future trail stewardship.

The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary goals are to:

- Raise Awareness about the National Trails System, national trails, and all public trails;
- Engage new and diverse communities of people; and,
- Work together to complete and sustain national trails for future generations.

## National Trail Inventory and Monitoring

The BLM safeguards the nature and purposes of National Scenic and Historic Trails and maintains the values of trails under study or recommended for potential designation. By law, national trail locations must be identified and are mapped to protect irreplaceable natural and cultural resources. Sufficient land use planning and compatible energy development depend on completed National Trail inventory and monitoring, including proposed projects for resource development, such as for coal, oil and gas, pipelines, and energy transmission.

## Signing, Mapping, and Public Access

The BLM provides public access to or along trails for hiking, hunting, fishing, camping, biking, photography, birdwatching, trail retracement, trail reenactments and a wide variety of other recreational uses. The BLM seeks to provide adequate public access to and along trails, and provides portal and trail signing and marking for public trail wayfinding. To support access and signing programs, data collection, database management, signing, and mapping are critical functions to meeting National Trails System objectives.

## Shared Conservation and Stewardship through Trail Partnerships

National Trail organizations estimate more than \$35.0 million in annual program value through volunteer hours and fiscal contributions. The *National Trails System Act* recognizes the invaluable contributions of citizen volunteers and private, nonprofit trail groups in the planning, development, acquisition, maintenance, operation, and management of trail resources.

National Trail partners, volunteers, seasonal staff, and trail crews are essential to help inventory, monitor, and manage these ribbons of recreation, conservation, and culture. Volunteers assist with not only the management of trails, but support operations for trail visitor centers, campgrounds, boat launches, access roads, picnic areas, auto tours and byways, wayside exhibits, interpretive sites, trailheads, and parking areas.



Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail Volunteers, BLM Oregon

## Recreation and Conservation Opportunities

National Scenic Trails provide outdoor recreation opportunities and public enjoyment. They are planned, constructed, and maintained by the BLM and volunteers to provide visitors with long-distance hiking, backpacking, day hiking, and horseback riding opportunities, and to support related recreational activities such as camping, fishing, hunting, wildlife observation, nature study, and photography. National Scenic Trails provide public access to some of the Nation's most spectacular vistas, guiding visitors through canyons, along arid deserts, across windswept alpine, and to the summit of snowcapped peaks.

National Historic Trails tell the iconic stories of America, including exploration, western expansion and settlement, economic development, cultural divides, and the pursuit of religious freedom. These pathways of history and the associated settings are identified, protected, and interpreted by the BLM and volunteers for future generations. Physical remnant and artifact discoveries include wagon ruts, swales, wagon train encampments, structures, signature rocks, pioneer grave sites, and skirmish sites, and artifacts such as period coins, weapons, household items, and tools. Public land visitors can experience National Historic Trails and the stories of the trails at the BLM visitor centers, wayside exhibits, historic sites, recreational trails, auto tour routes, and along intact trail segments.



Iditarod near Anchorage, AK, BLM Alaska

Major trailheads for the Pacific Crest and Continental Divide National Scenic Trails are located on BLM public lands at or along the U.S. Border. Several other long-distance trails, such as the Arizona and Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trails and the Juan Bautista de Anza, El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro, and Old Spanish National Historic Trails run parallel or intersect with U.S. Border areas. The BLM will effectively manage these important trail areas for public use.

<b><u>National Scenic &amp; Historic Trail Program</u></b>				
	<b>2016 Actual</b>	<b>2017 CR</b>	<b>2018 Request</b>	<b>Change from 2017</b>
Soil, Water & Air Management	112	112	105	-7
Rangeland Management	68	68	59	-9
Riparian Management	20	20	19	-1
Cultural Resources Management	557	557	557	0
Wildlife Management	93	93	90	-3
Threatened & Endangered Species	99	99	92	-7
Recreation Resources Management	4,397	4,397	4,089	-308
Annual Maintenance & Operations	1,012	1,012	941	-71
<b>National Scenic &amp; Historic Trails</b>	<b>6,358</b>	<b>6,358</b>	<b>5,952</b>	<b>-406</b>
<i>†The 2018 request is an estimate based on the proposed reductions across the bureau's budget. The final allocations per subactivity will be negotiated upon receipt of the 2018 appropriation.</i>				

## Activity: National Conservation Lands

### Subactivity: National Monuments & National Conservation Areas

		2016 Actual	2017 CR	2018 President's Budget				Change from 2017 CR
				Fixed Costs	Transfers	Program Change	2018 Request	
NMs & NCAs	\$000	36,819	36,749	+446	+0	-9,500	27,695	-9,054
	FTE	254	245			-72	173	-72

Summary of 2018 Program Changes for NMs & NCAs:							(\$000)	FTE
Reduce activities including visitor services							-9,500	-72
<b>Total</b>							<b>-9,500</b>	<b>-72</b>

### Justification of 2018 Program Changes

The 2018 budget request for the National Monuments and National Conservation Areas Program is \$27,695,000 and 173 FTE, a program change of -\$9,500,000 and an estimated -72 FTE from the 2017 CR baseline.

**Reduce Activities including Visitor Services (-\$9,500,000 / -72 FTE)** – The request will support the continued protection and management of National Monuments and National Conservation Areas and similar designations at reduced levels. At the reduced funding level, priority will be placed on public safety, law enforcement, and sportsmen's access. The BLM and volunteer staff will provide key visitor services to the highest priority visitor centers, and offer interpretive and educational programs while addressing basic maintenance needs. In addition, the program will work to process requests for permits for commercial filming, grazing, outfitters and guides, and special uses on National Monuments and National Conservation Areas. Additionally, the basic day to day maintenance at the high visitation areas will continue to be addressed.

Efforts will continue to support some youth initiatives and agreements with youth organizations. Funding will support staffing at some visitor centers, contact stations, and interpretive centers, with reduced hours and seasonal length of operation. The BLM will provide hands-on educational experiences to an estimated 145,000 youth at National Monuments and National Conservation Areas. This budget request will help provide nearly 2 million visitors with opportunities to learn about and connect to their public lands.

### National Conservation Lands

The BLM is unique in its mission within the Department of managing the public lands for multiple use and sustained yield of resources, including conservation. The National Conservation Lands program as a whole comprises 36 million acres and is recognized for outstanding conservation values and designated for special management by Acts of Congress or Presidential Proclamations.

The BLM manages these special areas to maintain and enhance their conservation values with the goal to conserve, protect, and restore these important landscapes and their outstanding cultural, ecological, and

scientific values. These areas range from broad Alaskan tundra to red-rock deserts and from deep river canyons to rugged ocean coastlines and include some of America's finest natural and cultural treasures.

## Program Overview

Today this program encompasses 27 National Monuments, 16 National Conservation Areas, three Outstanding Natural Areas, one Cooperative Management and Protection Area, one Forest Reserve and the California Desert National Conservation Lands. These units of the National Conservation Lands are managed to conserve, protect, restore, and enhance America's national and cultural heritage, while providing outstanding recreational opportunities and public access for fishing, hunting, horseback riding, and other uses. The National Conservation Lands Program represents only 15 percent of all the BLM-managed public lands, but attracts over 25 percent of the BLM's visitors.



Barryessa Snow Mountain, BLM California

These special places span the breadth of the BLM-managed public lands and include such diverse lands as the 1.2 million-acre Steese National Conservation Area, protecting two of Alaska's most important caribou herds; King Range National Conservation Area, America's first National Conservation Area, 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 National Monument, protecting the greatest known density of First American archeological sites in the United States, including cliff dwellings, villages, kivas, shrines, agricultural fields, and rock art. Traditional activities such as fishing, hiking, horseback riding, hunting, rock hounding, managed off-highway vehicle use, livestock grazing and Native American cultural and religious uses continue throughout many of these places.

For more information on the National Conservation Lands program and the 15 year strategy, visit the BLM website at <https://www.blm.gov/node/3221>.

## Wildlife, Hunting and Fishing Access

The National Monuments and National Conservation Areas are home to a host of wildlife and fish species, including prized game species. These places provide exceptional habitat with clean water, good forage and appropriate cover, all in a natural setting for many species such as elk, pronghorn, west slope cutthroat and steelhead. National Monuments and National Conservation Areas also provide access for sportsmen and sportswomen to high quality hunting and fishing. For example, Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument, in Montana is world famous for its big game, including trophy bighorn sheep, elk, and mule and whitetail deer.



Big Horn Sheep, Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument,  
BLM Montana

National Monuments and National Conservation Areas are of great importance to species listed as threatened or endangered under the *Endangered Species Act* and



other BLM-managed sensitive species. These places provide crucial habitats for threatened or endangered species and often provide connectivity between high quality habitats with other jurisdictions necessary to maintain the continued existence of the species. The identification and management of threatened or endangered within National Monuments and National Conservation Areas help to ensure the protection, recovery, and ultimately the delisting, of these species.

### **Advancing Scientific Knowledge**

The National Monuments and National Conservation Areas serve as long-term reserves for cultural and paleontological resources, as well as 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 stressors such as changing fire regimes, the spread of invasive and exotic species, and human population growth.

In 2016, Colorado Mesa University conducted an investigation of the cultural landscapes and associated cultural resources within McInnis Canyons National Conservation Area. This innovative project integrated standard archaeological survey data with aspects of Native American worldviews, and utilized this data to better inform management decisions involving the land and its resources.

The black-footed ferret, a Federally endangered mammal, depends on Gunnison's prairie dogs, its primary prey. A 2016 research study at the Rio Grande del Norte National Monument in New Mexico used remote sensing to determine locations of Gunnison's prairie dog disturbance, the estimated sizes and distribution of Gunnison's prairie dog colonies, and if the colonies meet the criteria for black-footed ferret re-introduction. This information aids in black-footed ferret reintroduction and recovery management decisions.

### **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 attract regional, national, and international visitors. More people recreate on National Monuments and National Conservation Areas, four times the rate of other BLM recreation areas. 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 BLM is engaging the next generation of public land stewards by working in partnership with local communities and non-profit organizations to serve American families and to instill conservation stewardship values. The BLM's partnerships with schools, youth corps, and other non-profit organizations provide opportunities for young people and Veterans to gain job skills needed and help with gaining valuable experiences to enter the work force. The National Monuments and National Conservation Areas program also works collaboratively with other BLM programs to engage youth to learn and gain valuable training.



Alaska Silver Lake Aquatic Camp, BLM Alaska

For example, at the Headwaters Forest Reserve in Northern California, students from local schools learn about forest ecosystems as well as the area's logging history. Hosting a Eureka's Winshop Middle School teacher, the BLM developed curriculum units on watershed health, salmon restoration, and salamander monitoring. This partnership provides six different classes with a hands-on experience in the natural sciences. The BLM engages in over 50 similar partnerships working to provide educational opportunities within National Monuments and National Conservation Areas.

### Creating Economic Opportunities

With 8.6 million visitors to National Monuments and National Conservation Areas, the communities surrounding the units of the National Conservation Lands derive significant economic benefits through tourism, the service industry, and long term job and population growth. The economic activity in 2016 created \$460 million dollars in direct spending. This translates into \$630 million in economic output, \$230 million dollars in labor income and getting America back to work with 7,100 jobs for these gateway communities. In 2016, the cost per acre of National Monuments and National Conservation Areas was \$2.73 supporting \$52 million in regional economic activity. This equates to \$17 dollars in regional economic contribution for every \$1 of Federal funding.

National Monuments & National Conservation Areas: Funding By BLM State Office			
BLM State Office	2016 Enacted	2017 CR	2018 Request
Alaska	633	633	473
Arizona	7,063	7,063	5,422
California	5,366	5,366	4,115
Colorado	3,627	3,627	2,778
Eastern States	225	225	152
Idaho	2,623	2,623	2,005
Montana/Dakotas	1,655	1,655	1,260
Nevada	1,644	1,644	1,250
New Mexico	2,484	2,484	1,900
Oregon/Washington	1,782	1,782	1,360
Utah	6,460	6,460	4,960
<i>Subtotal, State Allocations</i>	33,562	33,562	25,675
National Level Program Support†	3,257	3,187	2,020
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 36,819</b>	<b>\$36,749</b>	<b>\$27,695</b>
†Includes funds supporting Washington Office, National Operations Center, National Training Center, and Bureau-Wide Administrative Support			
The 2018 State Office Request is an estimate shown for illustrative purposes. Actual State Office requests are subject to change based on national program priorities and the State Office priority project submissions and in addition to emergency needs for on the ground work will require adjustment during Planning Target Allocations.			

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## Activity: Land Resources

### Subactivity: Cultural Resources Management

		2016 Actual	2017 CR	2018 President's Budget				Change from 2017 CR
				Fixed Costs	Transfers	Program Change	2018 Request	
<b>Cultural Resources Management</b>	<i>\$00</i>	16,131	16,100	+265	+0	+0	16,365	+265
	<i>0</i>							
	<i>FTE</i>	104	109			-5	104	-5

### Justification of 2018 Program Changes

The 2018 budget request for the Cultural Resources Management Program is \$16,365,000 and 104 FTE, a change of -5 FTE from the 2017 CR baseline.

### Program Overview

The cultural resources managed by the BLM represent all major periods, events, and communities in the broad sweep of human activity in the West over the last 12,000 years. The paleontological resources represent the development of life on Earth and paleoenvironments over the last 1.5 billion years. The BLM manages these resources to benefit the public, ensuring the cultural, educational, aesthetic, inspirational, and scientific values are preserved, and the recreational and economic benefits are realized for today's communities as well as future generations in compliance with Federal laws and regulations.



Escalante Pueblo, Canyons of the Ancients National Monument,  
BLM Colorado

The BLM is responsible for the largest, most diverse and scientifically important aggregation of cultural, historical, and paleontological resources on the public lands, as well as the museum collections and data associated with these heritage resources.

The program provides expertise and capabilities to facilitate compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), which requires the BLM to take into account the effects of its actions on historic properties, and avoid, minimize or mitigate adverse effects. Annually, the BLM reviews an estimated 8,600 land use proposals for energy development, mining, recreation, vegetation restoration, grazing and other activities for potential effects on properties listed on, or eligible for listing on, the National Register of Historic Places.

The BLM's national Programmatic Agreement with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers is a critical mechanism for achieving efficiencies in the Section 106 review process. In addition, the tools and processes developed by the



Cultural Resources Management Program streamline the compliance process, providing flexibility and cost-savings for the bureau and land-users.

Only 10 percent of the public lands have been surveyed for heritage resources, to Class III standards (pedestrian survey); leaving 90 percent of the land base with limited data on resource types and densities. Additionally, the BLM has inventoried more than 2,000 sets of remains, of which almost 900 ancestors have not yet been repatriated to Indian tribes.

### **The Cultural Resource Management Program:**

- Manages and protects archaeological sites and historic properties as directed by the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) and NHPA, including inventorying the public lands for cultural resources, as well as stabilizing and monitoring priority sites;
- Manages and protects paleontological localities and implements the Paleontological Resources Preservation Act of 2009 (PRPA), including inventorying the public lands for fossils and facilitating scientific research into the history of past life and environments;
- Curates more than 10 million documented artifacts, specimens, and associated records in three BLM museum facilities and four other Federal facilities, and in coordination with the 158 State, Tribal, and non-profit partner museums and universities, mainly located in western cities and rural communities;
- Facilitates government-to-government consultation with Indian Tribes and Alaska Native Governments concerning traditional tribal activities and places of special meaning on the public lands, such as sacred sites and places of religious and cultural significance;
- Complies with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) to inventory and repatriate Native American human remains and cultural items held in collections and respond to new discoveries on the public lands;
- Facilitates opportunities for the public to connect with their heritage sites by developing areas for public access, while managing visitor impacts;
- Develops and implements educational and interpretative programs to increase public opportunities to engage with and learn about heritage resources, including curricula for teachers through Project Archaeology;
- Facilitates academic and scientific research to enhance scientific understanding, support decision making, and provide student and adult learning opportunities; and,
- Supports law enforcement efforts to protect the public's cultural and paleontological resources, curbing criminal acts that result in theft, damage, vandalism, loss, and destruction.

#### **The BLM's cultural and paleontological resources include:**

- 386,050 recorded cultural properties
- 141 historic properties listed on the National Register, 2,187 contributing properties, and 57,291 properties eligible for listing
- 425 maintained historic structures
- 30,413 recorded paleontological localities
- 10 million documented artifacts and specimens in 165 museums and universities

### **Inventory Strategies to Streamline Compliance for Decision-making**

The Cultural Resources Management Program streamlines the NHPA Section 106 compliance requirements by applying alternative strategies that allow for a more efficient review process for other BLM programs and land-use proponents. While the benefitting program or the proponent funds project compliance costs, the innovative tools and alternative processes developed by the program support the compliance process, providing significant cost-savings and efficiencies. Support includes the negotiation and implementation of the national programmatic agreement, agreements with State Historic Preservation Offices, and training

personnel on alternative compliance tools.

In order to identify areas with higher potential for conflicts between large-scale energy and infrastructure projects and cultural resources, the program is incorporating broad-scale analysis of inventory data, applying predictive models, and producing sensitivity maps to plan at appropriate scales. Regional overviews and geospatial tools support more strategic and efficient approaches to inventory and assessment, and can inform mitigation options, providing proponents with more predictability in the process.

## Activity: Recreation Management

### Subactivity: Wilderness Management

		2015 Actual	2016 Enacted	2017 President's Budget				Change from 2016
				Fixed Costs	Transfers	Program Change	Requested Amount	
Wilderness Management	\$000	18,264	18,264	+128	+0	+0	18,392	+128
	FTE	134	134		+0	+0	134	+0

#### Justification of 2017 Program Changes

The 2017 budget request for the Wilderness Management Program is \$18,392,000 and 134 FTE.

#### 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](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 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 pay a critical role in increasing scientific knowledge about a wide array of management challenges. The needs for scientific research and information continue 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 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 material assistance 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 and management agencies to achieve larger landscape-scale goals. Programs that manage wild fire, weeds, and range and 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 landscape by strengthening the resilience of areas.

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2017 Program Performance

In 2017, the BLM plans to monitor 223 Wilderness Areas and 517 WSAs to ensure that the BLM is protecting wilderness character. Due to competing priorities the BLM did not complete baseline wilderness character data for a few Wilderness Areas in FY 2015. Baseline inventories of Wilderness Areas are essential to implement the interagency strategy for monitoring trends in wilderness character. In 2016, the BLM will develop an interim performance measure that will assess the percentage of BLM Wilderness Areas that have completed baseline data. A completed baseline will allow the BLM to begin to identify trends in wilderness character using a methodology utilized by federal and management agencies responsible for wilderness stewardship on public lands.

In addition, a priority workload in 2017 will be to continue to update wilderness characteristics inventories. As the BLM begins to finalize many Resource Management Plans (RMP) or other

land use plans in 2017 and beyond, it will be necessary to have up-to-date and completed inventories of lands with wilderness characteristics to ensure these plans are completed in a timely manner. Training for BLM staff and contractors responsible for conducting inventories of lands with wilderness characteristics will be planned in FY 2017 and incorporated into the land use planning process. The trainings will be directed by the WO staff and conform to BLM Manual 6310 Conducting Wilderness Characteristics Inventory on BLM Lands, and BLM Manual 6320 Considering Lands with Wilderness Characteristics in the BLM Land Use Planning Process.

## Activity: Land Resources

### Subactivity: Cultural Resources Management

		2015 Actual	2016 Enacted	2017 President's Budget			Requested Amount	Change from 2016
				Fixed Costs	Transfer s	Program Change		
Cultural Resources Management	\$000	15,131	16,131	+122	+0	+1,075	17,328	+1,197
	FTE	104	104		+0	+0	104	+0

Summary of 2017 Program Changes/Internal Transfers for Cultural Resources Management:	(\$000)	FTE
Safeguarding Our Irreplaceable Heritage	+1,075	+0
<b>Total</b>	<b>+1,075</b>	<b>+0</b>

### Justification of 2017 Program Changes

The 2017 budget request for the Cultural Resources Management Program is \$17,328,000 and 104 FTE, a program change of +\$1,075,000 and a 0 FTE increase from the 2016 enacted level.

**Safeguarding Our Irreplaceable Heritage (+\$1,075,000/0 FTE)** – The 2017 budget request includes a program increase of \$1.075 million that will be focused on inventory strategies to collect baseline heritage resource data and enhance geospatial modeling efforts to support planning and resource management at a landscape scale. Ten percent of the public lands have been surveyed for heritage resources, largely conducted for land-use compliance, resulting in databases containing considerable information on high-development areas, and less information on other areas. To better understand the nature and extent of resources and inform predictive modeling, BLM will conduct baseline inventory in priority areas vulnerable to climate change, fire, looting, and vandalism. To further engage heritage resources in the landscape approach, BLM will synthesize and analyze available information at a broad scale to produce high-level, comprehensive, regional overviews and sensitivity maps critical for evaluating resources and planning at different scales.

### Program Overview

The BLM is responsible for the largest, most diverse and scientifically important aggregation of cultural, historical, and paleontological resources on the public lands, as well as the museum collections and data associated with these heritage resources. These cultural resources represent all major periods, events, and communities in the broad sweep of human habitation in the West over a 10,000 year period.

These heritage resources are managed to ensure the cultural, educational, aesthetic, inspirational, and scientific values are preserved, and the recreational and economic benefits are realized for today's communities as well as future generations in compliance with Federal laws and regulations.

**The BLM's heritage resources include:**

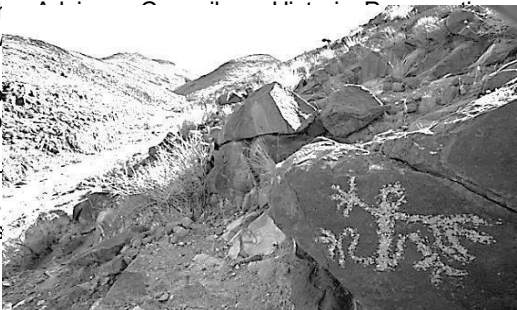
- 374,434 recorded cultural properties
- 4,851 cultural properties protected
- 133 historic properties listed on the National Register, 2,187 contributing properties, and 54,629 properties eligible for listing
- 5,569 monitored archaeological sites
- 429 maintained historic structures
- 27,629 recorded paleontological localities
- 10 million documented artifacts and specimens in 158 museums and universities.

The program also provides expertise and capabilities to facilitate compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) required for other BLM programs and land-use proponents to implement proposed actions on the public lands that will effect historic properties, such as energy development, recreation, grazing, and other planned activities. Up to 9,500 land-use proposals are reviewed annually for potential effects to historic properties. Compliance costs are to be funded by the benefitting subactivity program or the proponent. The tools and processes developed by the Cultural Resources Management Program streamline the compliance process, providing significant cost-savings and efficiencies.

**The Cultural Resource Management Program:**

- Manages and protects archaeological sites and historic properties as directed by the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) and NHPA, including inventorying the public lands for cultural resources, stabilizing and monitoring sites.



- NHPA Section 106 Casework**
- Section 106 of the NHPA requires the BLM to take into account the effects of its actions on historic properties and provides that (ACHP) will be consulted. Annually, the BLM is required to submit a report for their performance for listing of historic properties. BLM's national and National Historic Preservation Officers are working to improve efficiencies in the Section 106 process.
- 
- Regional Cultural Resource Overviews**
- The landscape approach and the large-scale projects planned on the public lands necessitates that the BLM maintains high-level, comprehensive, regional overviews that synthesize available information and analysis at a broad scale. The BLM has the tools and processes for meeting this need and will complete or update overviews in key areas. These inventory overviews help identify cultural resources on the ground, inform sampling strategies and predictive modeling, identify areas where cultural resource conflict may occur, and provide a framework for National Register evaluations. They are meant to significantly reduce the cost of subsequent projects or planning efforts.

- Increased development of energy resources and transmission facilities, and opportunities for regional mitigation challenge the BLM to compile and synthesize data at a broad scale and provide efficient and effective NHPA Section 106 compliance.
- Theft, destruction, and vandalism of heritage resources as a result of increased accessibility of once-remote public lands, and urban and suburban encroachment.
- Enhanced protection of paleontological resources under the new statutory mandates for the management, preservation, and protection of *Sloan Canyon Petroglyph Site, BLM Nevada* fossils under PRPA.
- Inventorying Native American cultural items held in museum collections and consulting with Indian Tribes to determine disposition leading toward repatriation as highlighted by a 2010 audit of NAGPRA compliance by the Government Accountability Office.

- Identifying and curating artifacts and specimens recovered from the public lands, upgrading preservation and documentation for accountability, ensuring access and use for research and public benefit, and enhancing partnerships with repositories that curate BLM collections.

### Means and Strategies

The program prioritizes proactive management and achieves efficiencies for NHPA Section 106 compliance by:

- Creating efficiencies in NHPA Section 106 compliance requirements by streamlining the review process for other BLM programs and land-use proponents.
- Enhancing tribal participation in decision-making processes through Government-to-Government consultation with Indian Tribes and Native Alaska villages and corporations, and drafting a new tribal consultation and coordination manual and handbook that addresses government-to-government tribal consultation across all BLM programs.
- Incorporating the BLM's landscape approach to public land management to address landscape-scale concerns associated with the inventory, assessment, mitigation and monitoring of heritage resources.
- Maintaining active working relationships with State Historic Preservation Offices as part of the BLM's Cultural Resources Data Sharing Partnership in order to share costs to automate and digitize site records, and to analyze this information for use in planning and expediting review of land use undertakings as part of NHPA Section 106 compliance at a significant cost savings for the bureau and proponents.
- Supporting Law Enforcement efforts to curb criminal acts prohibited by ARPA, NAGPRA, PRPA and other Federal statutes protecting cultural and paleontological resources.
- Partnering with universities, museums, and other scientific organizations to leverage public/private investments.
- Creating volunteer and youth experiences for community-based conservation and educational activities, and entry-to-journeyman-level opportunities, as seasonal hires, utilizing students and recent graduates.

### 2017 Program Performance

In 2017, the primary performance program goals for the condition of Archaeological Sites, Historic Structures, and Museum Collections will be to inventory, monitor, and stabilize heritage resources to improve their condition, focusing on the highest priority and most vulnerable resources. Efforts will focus on inventory strategies to conduct baseline inventory, synthesize available data to produce regional overviews, modeling, and sensitivity mapping tools for cultural and paleontological resources. Bureau-wide heritage resource monitoring techniques will be evaluated to develop tools for consistency in data collection and to inform prioritization of treatments and management decisions, ensuring stabilization and protection projects are focused on those resources at the greatest risk to improve resource conditions.

## Activity: Recreation Management

### Subactivity: Wilderness Management

		2016 Actual	2017 CR	2018 President's Budget				
				Fixed Costs	Transfers	Program Change	2018 Request	Change from 2017 CR
<b>Wilderness Management</b>	<i>\$000</i>	18,264	18,229	+286	+0	-3,000	15,515	-2,714
	<i>FTE</i>	128	117			-24	93	-24

<b>Summary of 2018 Program Changes for Wilderness Management:</b>			<b>(\$000)</b>	<b>FTE</b>
Reduce Efforts including Monitoring for Wilderness Values			-3,000	-24
<b>Total</b>			<b>-3,000</b>	<b>-24</b>

### Justification of 2018 Program Changes

The 2018 budget request for the Wilderness Management Program is \$15,515,000 and 93 FTE, a program change of -\$3,000,000 and an estimated -24 FTE from the 2017 CR baseline.

**Reduce efforts including monitoring for wilderness values (-\$3,000,000 / -24 FTE)** – This request provides funding for the BLM to manage Congressionally-designated Wilderness Areas and meet the legal requirements of the *Wilderness Act of 1964*. The BLM would reduce monitoring of some of the 12.6 million acres of WSAs that the bureau manages with the focus shifting to priority areas. This impacts the BLM's ability to preserve some of the wilderness character of designated wilderness as well as the BLM's management and monitoring of Wilderness Study Areas. Decreased monitoring could also curtail land restoration efforts from unauthorized off-highway vehicle intrusions, as well as treatment of invasive weeds. Additionally, the program would not be able to resolve grazing issues or process grazing permits as quickly in these designated areas.

### Program Overview

Lands under the purview of the Wilderness Management Program are a part of the BLM's National Conservation Lands, which are recognized for their high-quality recreational, ecological, cultural, historic, and scientific value. Comprising about 36 million acres of National Monuments, National Conservation Areas, Wilderness Areas, Wilderness Study Areas, Wild and Scenic Rivers, National Scenic and Historic Trails, and California Desert Conservation Lands, these areas represent an important part of the BLM's multiple-use and sustained-yield mission.

For example, the BLM's 15-year National Conservation Lands Strategy supports the agency's mission by ensuring that management efforts are focused on conservation while allowing for compatible uses that are consistent with the legislation designating Wilderness Areas and WSAs. In addition, 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 commitment to the American public by providing abundant opportunities for recreation, education, volunteerism, and work experience. In support of this priority, the BLM works in partnership with local communities and non-profit organizations to assist American families by instilling conservation stewardship values and providing places to hunt, fish, ride horses, and hike, among other uses.

For more information on the National Conservation Lands and the 15-year strategy, visit the BLM website at: <https://www.blm.gov/node/3221>.

Wilderness Areas are Federal lands designated by law to be managed to protect their wilderness character, as defined by the Wilderness Act. These areas are generally large, natural, and undeveloped landscapes that offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive, unconfined types of recreation (e.g., horse packing, canoeing, and hiking). In administering the Wilderness Management Program, the BLM is required to meet the Wilderness Act's legal requirements while conserving, protecting, and restoring the Bureau's 224 Wilderness Areas (over 8.7 million acres in 10 western States, or 3.5 percent of the surface acreage that the BLM administers).



Slinkard Wilderness Study Area, BLM California

The BLM also continues to conserve, protect, and restore 517 WSAs (12.6 million acres in 11 western States and Alaska, or five percent of BLM's total surface acreage). The WSAs are roadless areas that contain wilderness characteristics: they are generally 5,000 acres or larger, contain a high degree of naturalness, and offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation. Under Section 603 of the FLPMA, the BLM is mandated to manage these areas so as not to impair these characteristics until Congress determines whether or not to designate them as Wilderness.

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

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

The National Wilderness Preservation System includes all Wilderness Areas managed by the BLM, the National Park Service (NPS), the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS). It does not include the BLM's WSAs. The BLM occupies a specific niche in the National Wilderness Preservation System in that the vast majority of the agency's Wilderness Areas are located in unique and often sensitive desert environments; this 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 benefits to local communities. For example, the BLM estimated that recreation in the BLM Wilderness Areas supported approximately \$11 million in economic output in 2015.

After Congress designates an area, the BLM typically begins by marking the boundary and providing visitor services (e.g., maps and other public information). Later, the BLM prepares a management plan for the Wilderness to guide long-term management and protection of its wilderness character. These plans raise public awareness of the Wilderness and National Conservation Lands in general, promote stewardship of BLM-managed land, and provide for the use and enjoyment of these lands for present and future generations. The BLM also monitors its Wilderness Areas and WSAs, which often involves addressing impacts to wilderness character (e.g., illegal off-highway vehicle intrusions).

## **Program Emphasis Areas**

### **Wildlife, Hunting, and Fishing Access**

The BLM's Wilderness Areas and WSAs contain some of the highest-quality habitat for many game and fish species. These areas are places where wildlife can breed, rear their young, and fulfill other critical needs away from developed areas subject to disturbance and other uses. The habitat in Wilderness and WSAs provides outstanding opportunities for hunting, fishing, and other types of primitive recreation. Colorado's Black Ridge Canyon Wilderness, for example, typically hosts four of the State's 11 trophy desert bighorn ram tags each year. These are highly coveted "lifetime" hunts, meaning a hunter can only draw one of the tags once in his or her life.

### **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 (BLM, NPS, FWS, and USFS) for monitoring trends in wilderness character across the National Wilderness Preservation System outlines a unified approach for collecting data, and will allow wilderness-managing agencies to identify trends in wilderness character quality consistently across the System. This monitoring protocol 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 2018, the BLM will continue to gather baseline data for its Wilderness Areas, the next step in developing a measure that will help the BLM make efficient decisions to maintain or improve wilderness character.

### **Enhancing Scientific Knowledge**

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

### **Developing Partnerships and Engaging People and Communities**

The Wilderness Program contributes to another of the Secretary's priorities, on Shared Conservation, by developing and managing partnerships in wilderness stewardship. This important aspect of Wilderness and WSA management allows the BLM to leverage limited resources to achieve its management goals. The Program benefits greatly from a volunteer workforce that donates materials, provides thousands of hours of resource monitoring, and contributes other services in carrying out wilderness projects. Typical examples of work performed by partners in Wilderness Areas and WSAs include building and maintaining

trails, eradicating invasive species, monitoring wilderness character, and reclaiming and restoring degraded areas to reestablish natural environments. The BLM has established nearly 100 formal and informal partnerships to facilitate wilderness stewardship activities.

For example, in 2015 and 2016, the Rocky Mountain Youth Corps provided intensive support to the BLM Colorado River Valley Field Office by updating the agency's inventory of wilderness characteristics. It took crews four weeks to inventory about 20,000 acres of rugged public land at the base of the Roan Plateau and at King Mountain. In addition, the BLM's Junior Ranger program encourages families to explore public lands and participate in volunteer and stewardship activities. These and other partnerships with schools, youth corps, and other non-profit organizations support the Interior Secretary's priority on jobs by providing opportunities for young people and Veterans to gain job skills needed to enter the workforce.

### **Connecting Landscapes by Working Collaboratively**

The Wilderness Management Program benefits greatly by working collaboratively with several other BLM programs and in partnership with other Federal land management agencies to achieve broader 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. Establishing connections across boundaries with other Federal, State, local agencies, and private conservation lands supplements the BLM's management of its Wilderness Areas and WSAs and increases the resilience of those units as well as the surrounding area.

An example of collaboration is the development of a vision for how to improve future stewardship of the National Wilderness Preservation System. Signed in 2014 by the leaders of the four wilderness-managing agencies—the BLM, NPS, FWS, and USFS—as well as the U.S. Geological Survey, *2020 Vision: Interagency Stewardship Priorities for America's National Wilderness Preservation System* presents a unified vision to guide collaborative stewardship of the National Wilderness Preservation System. The document's products and services intend to meet the mandate of the Wilderness Act that wilderness areas be “administered for the use and enjoyment of the American people...and so as to provide for the protection of these areas, [and] the preservation of their wilderness character.”

**Justification of 2019 Program Changes****Program Overview****Program Components**

- **Program Responsibilities** What is the overall function and aims of your program and the work it is responsible for performing and the goals it seeks to achieve/issues it seeks to handle?
- **Program Purpose**
  - **History** What is your program's history? When did it begin, has it always been responsible for this workload, or was its workload acquired or expanded from other agencies or programs which previously used to handle it? Why was your program begun, and what significant events and changes have shaped it over time?
  - **Statutory Authority** From where does your program draw its statutory authority/authorization to operate? What piece(s) of legislation, executive orders, or other acts, laws, and regulations guide your operations?
- **Components** What are the major functions and activities of your program? This should be more of a narrative than a list of bullets.
- **Other Funding Sources** What other funding sources, if any, than the activities/subactivities of this section are available to or utilized by your program in its work? This may, depending on your program, include things such as other BLM appropriated funding, donations, or funding acquired through agreements with other agencies and partners. Also, does your program and the funding in this particular activity/subactivity support programs or work in other areas of the BLM or its partners? If so, how?

**Program Challenges and Considerations**

- **Challenges and Opportunities Creating Program Impacts** What are or are expected to be the current factors, conditions, issues, environment and trends impacting your program and its work, now and in the next few fiscal years, either positively or negatively? For example, these could be things such as increasing visitation, newly federally listed species, changing socioeconomic conditions and influences, extensive collaboration with partners and other agencies, legislative changes, or new or increasing program responsibilities.
- **Strategy to Overcome Current Program Challenges** How is or will your program deal with the issues or take advantage of the opportunities outlined in the previous section? What strategies and resources (including but not limited to staff, technology, policy changes, collaboration with partners, etc.) will the program use to do so?
- **Tables, Charts and Maps** Tables, charts, maps, etc. relating to or showcasing your program accomplishments, challenges, funding, plans, or overall operations.

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**Program Performance**

- Prior Year (1 2 years max) accomplishments What are some significant accomplishments or work of note that your program has completed or achieved over the last fiscal year or two? What was involved in this work, and what has been or will be improved or occur as a result of it?
- Ongoing work What significant or priority work and projects is your program currently engaged in? What is this work meant to achieve, what is being done, and what is the expected end date and result/benefits?
- Future Performance 2019 Projected performance What will your program accomplish or perform in the fiscal year if resources align with those proposed in this budget request?



## Activity: Recreation Management

### Subactivity: Recreation Resources Management

		2016 Actual	2017 CR	2018 President's Budget				Change from 2017 CR
				Fixed Costs	Transfers	Program Change	2018 Request	
<b>Recreation Management</b>	<i>\$000</i>	51,197	51,100	+634	+0	-4,500	47,234	-3,866
	<i>FTE</i>	349	347			-55	292	-55

<b>Summary of 2018 Program Changes for Recreation Mgmt.:</b>	<b>(\$000)</b>	<b>FTE</b>
Reduce Activities such as Visitor Services in Lower Priority Areas	-4,500	-55
<b>Total</b>	<b>-4,500</b>	<b>-55</b>

Other Resources Supporting Recreation Resources Management:					
		2016 Actual	2017 Estimate	2018 Estimate	Change from 2017
<b>Recreation Fees</b>	<i>\$000</i>	22,178	21,000	21,600	+600
	<i>FTE</i>	101	101	101	+0
<b>California Off-Highway Vehicle</b>	<i>\$000</i>	3,298	4,586	3,969	-617
	<i>FTE</i>	27	27	15	-12
<b>Recreation Cost Recovery</b>	<i>\$000</i>	2,623	3,881	3,080	-801
	<i>FTE</i>	5	5	3	-2

**Notes:**

- Recreation Fees amounts are shown as new budget authority derived from recreation fee revenues (nearly all recreation fees are kept at the site where they are collected); the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (Title VIII of Public Law 108-477) appropriates these funds on a permanent basis. More information on Recreation Fees is found in the Permanent Operating Funds chapter.

- California Off-Highway Vehicle amounts are shown as new budget authority derived from a written commitment by a State government to provide an identified amount of money in support of a project on a reimbursable basis; the Department of Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act appropriates these funds on a current basis. More information on California Off-Highway Vehicle is found in the Miscellaneous Trust Funds chapter

- Recreation Cost Recovery amounts are shown as new budget authority derived from revenue from Special Recreation Permits to authorize group activities or recreation events; the annual Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriation Act appropriates these funds on a current basis

- Actual and estimated obligations, by year for Recreation Cost Recovery are found in President's Budget Appendix under the BLM

## Justification of 2018 Program Change

The 2018 budget request for the Recreation Resources Management Activity is \$47,234,000 and an estimated 292 FTE, a program change of -\$4,500,000 and an estimated -55 FTE from the 2017 CR baseline.

**Reduce Activities such as Visitor Services in Lower Priority Areas (-\$4,500,000 / -55 FTE)** – The Recreation Program will focus on maintaining the BLM's 384 fee-generating sites and areas. The BLM's 3,200 non-fee recreation sites and areas will be evaluated for opportunities to increase operational efficiencies. These efficiencies will include the hours of operation, seasons of use, amenities provided, staffing levels, and evaluating sites and facilities for decommissioning where feasible.

The BLM will continue its collaboration with local communities and stakeholders to enhance access to outdoor recreation opportunities, including implementing Secretarial Order 3347 on Conservation Stewardship and Outdoor Recreation.

## Program Overview

Public lands managed by the BLM provide some of the most diverse outdoor recreation opportunities on Federal lands in the western United States. The BLM's Recreation and Visitor Services Program oversees a broad and complex set of recreation related and social management activities and programs.

The Recreation Management program is responsible for the following components:

- **Recreation Planning** – Assessing and monitoring a wide range of individual, social, economic and environmental outcomes of recreational use of public lands through the land use planning (LUP) process is ongoing within the BLM. Recreation Area Management Plans are prepared to implement LUP decisions in designated recreation management areas.
- **Travel and Transportation Management** – Determining public and resource use access needs on public lands is addressed in the LUP process. The BLM travel and transportation management planning process establishes designations and restrictions for all modes of transportation including motorized and non-motorized uses.
- **Visitor Safety** – Providing opportunities for safe recreational activities for the public as well as educating and encouraging safe behavior is a high priority.
- **Facility Management and Accessibility** – Providing daily operation and routine maintenance of over 3,650 recreation sites and 380 Special Recreation Management Areas, including campgrounds, picnic and day use areas, visitor centers, waysides and kiosks, watchable wildlife sites, historic buildings and lighthouses, trailhead access points, and thousands of miles of rivers and trails. As communities near public lands grow in the West, visitation and demands for new trails and visitor service facilities increase each year. In addition to operating facilities, the BLM is responsible for ensuring facilities and programs meet accessibility standards for persons with disabilities.
- **River Management** – Managing over 500 segments and about 9,000 miles of floatable/boatable rivers and lakes along with associated issues related to water quality, permitting, education and interpretation, visitor safety, enforcement patrols, and resource management. Of these floatable/boatable rivers and lakes, 320 segments and 6,600 miles have significant recreational value. A portion of the funds for river management also serves the needs of Wild and Scenic Rivers (WSR), managed by the National Conservation Lands. (For more specific WSR information, reference the National Conservation Lands Crosscut chapter).
- **National Scenic & Historic Trails** – Monitoring over 4,500 miles of 10 National Historic Trails and managing over 600 miles of three National Scenic Trails. (For more information, reference the National



South Steens Campground, BLM Oregon

Conservation Lands Crosscut chapter).

- **Hunting, Fishing, and Shooting Sports** – Implementing important provisions of Secretarial Order 3347 on Conservation Stewardship and Outdoor Recreation, and Executive Order 13443 on Facilitation of Hunting Heritage and Wildlife Conservation, which directs agencies to facilitate the expansion and enhancement of hunting opportunities and the management of game species and their habitat.
- **Youth** – The BLM works in partnership with local communities and non-profit organizations to serve American families and instill conservation stewardship values in America's youth. The BLM's Junior Ranger program encourages families to explore and learn about public lands and participate in volunteer and stewardship activities. In addition, the BLM's partnerships with schools, youth corps, and other non-profit organizations provide opportunities for young people and Veterans to gain job skills needed to enter the work force.
- **Visual Resources** – Inventorying, analyzing, managing, and ensuring protection of visual resources to maintain valued landscape aesthetic character.
- **Recreation Permits, Fees, and Commercial Leases** – Reviewing, implementing, and monitoring over 3,800 special commercial and competitive recreation permits and over 800,000 individual use authorizations for special areas each year. The BLM also provides oversight and accountability for the recreation permit and fee program.
- **Public Outreach, Stewardship and Partnerships** – Promoting and supporting partnerships, volunteerism and stewardship to enhance recreational and educational experiences for visitors and public land users. The BLM is working with community leaders and networks of service providers to manage recreation opportunities that the public wants and that will bring economic benefits to local communities.
- **Visitor Information** – Providing visitor information and services including maps, websites, interpretation and environmental education. Enhancing the quality and consistency of baseline visitor and resource data by conducting inventories and implementing visitor use monitoring systems to improve understanding of the full range of social, economic and community resource values and enhance decision making capabilities.
- **Travel and Tourism** – Through participation in the Recreation.gov online trip planning and reservation system, the BLM is helping to connect increasing numbers of domestic and international travelers with recreation opportunities on America's public lands.
- **Cave Management** – Overseeing cave and karst (an irregular limestone region with sinkholes, underground streams, and caverns) resource management policies and program.
- **Customer/Visitor Service Satisfaction Surveys** – Measuring success in providing quality visitor services through an annual survey. The BLM continues to maintain scores of above the 90 percent range in customer satisfaction in providing recreation program visitor services and facilities to its customers.

## Activity: Recreation Management

### Subactivity: Recreation Resources Management

		2015 Actual	2016 Enacted	2017 President's Budget			Change from 2016
				Fixed Costs	Transfers	Program Change Requested Amount	
Recreation Management	\$000	48,697	51,197	+229	+0	+2,039	+2,268
	FTE	349	349		+0	352	+3

Summary of 2017 Program Changes/Internal Transfers for Recreation Management:	(\$000)	FTE
Improve Accessibility & Conditions	+2,039	+3
<b>Total</b>	<b>+2,039</b>	<b>+3</b>

Other Resources Supporting Recreation Resources Management:					
		2015 Actual	2016 Estimate	2017 Estimate	Change from 2016
Recreation Fees	\$000	21,842	18,683	19,000	+317
	FTE	107	121	121	+0
California Off-Highway Vehicle	\$000	3,999	4,173	4,173	+0
	FTE	22	29	29	+0
Recreation Cost Recovery	\$000	3,353	3,690	3,690	+0
	FTE	7	7	7	+0

Recreation Fees amounts are shown as new budget authority derived from recreation fee revenues (nearly all recreation fees are kept at the site where they are collected); the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (Title VIII of Public Law 108 477) appropriates these funds on a permanent basis. More information on Recreation Fees is found in the Permanent Operating Funds chapter.

California Off Highway Vehicle amounts are shown as new budget authority derived from a written commitment by a State government to provide an identified amount of money in support of a project on a reimbursable basis; the Department of Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act appropriates these funds on a current basis. More information on California Off Highway Vehicle is found in the Miscellaneous Trust Funds chapter

Recreation Cost Recovery amounts are shown as new budget authority derived from revenue from Special Recreation Permits to authorize group activities or recreation events; the annual Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriation Act appropriates these funds on a current basis

Amount in 2015 for Recreation Fees and California Off Highway Vehicle shown net of sequestration

Actual and estimated obligations, by year for Recreation Cost Recovery are found in President's Budget Appendix under the BLM

### Justification of 2017 Program Changes

The 2017 budget request for the Recreation Resources Management Program is \$53,465,000 and 352 FTE, a program change of +\$2,039,000 and +3 FTE from the 2016 enacted level.

**Improve Accessibility (+\$2,039,000/+3 FTE)** – The 2017 request includes an increase of \$2.039 million to implement the National Recreation Strategy and the widely shared goals of improving recreation access – including access to information, engaging youth, promoting healthy lifestyles, increasing tourism, improving the economies of our rural communities, and providing for better planning across landscapes and jurisdictions. The BLM recreation program will expand a multi-year, integrated effort to considerably expand its geospatial data collection, validation, and sharing capabilities – both internally and externally. Expansion of the Bureau's partnership capacity, to leverage staffing so that we can move into the future of data collection, validation and management, and increase the ability to share information, is critical.

The proposed funding increase would expedite implementation of ongoing efforts to showcase recreational opportunities on BLM, gathered in coordination with partners, and utilizing crowd-sourced data. Increased engagement with Bureau partners and community networks of service providers – the locally-based agencies, businesses, and non-profit organizations that rely on the character of public lands – is central to these efforts.

### Program Overview

Public lands managed by the BLM provide some of the most diverse outdoor recreation opportunities on Federal lands in the western U.S. The Bureau's Recreation and Visitor Services Program oversees a broad and complex set of recreation related and social management activities and programs.

The Recreation Management program is responsible for the following components:

- **Recreation Planning** – Evaluating and assessing a wide range of social, economic, and recreational uses of public lands through the land use planning (LUP) process. Recreation Area Management Plans are prepared to implement LUP decisions in designated recreation management areas.
- **Travel and Transportation Management** – Determining public and resource use access needs through the LUP process. The BLM travel and transportation management planning process establishes designations and restrictions for all modes of transportation including motorized and non-motorized uses.
- **Visitor Safety** – Providing opportunities for safe recreational activities for the public, as well as, to educate and encourage safe behavior.
- **Facility Management and Accessibility** – Providing daily operation and routine maintenance of over 3,650 recreation sites and 380 Special Recreation Management Areas, including campgrounds, picnic and day use areas, visitor centers, waysides and kiosks, watchable wildlife sites, historic buildings and lighthouses, trailhead access points, and thousands of miles of rivers and trails. As communities near public lands grow in the West, visitation and demands for new trails and visitor service facilities increase each year. In addition to operating facilities, the BLM is responsible for ensuring facilities and programs meet accessibility standards for persons with disabilities.

- **River Management** – Managing over 500 segments and about 9,000 miles of floatable/boatable rivers and lakes along with associated issues related to water quality, permitting, education and interpretation, visitor safety, enforcement patrols, and resource management. Of these floatable/boatable rivers and lakes, 320 segments and 6,600 miles have significant recreational value. A portion of the funds for river management also serves the needs of Wild and Scenic Rivers, managed by the National Conservation Lands (for more specific WSR information please refer to NCL Crosscut Justification, Chapter IV).
- **National Scenic & Historic Trails** – Monitoring over 4,500 miles of 10 National Historic Trails and is responsible for over 600 miles of three National Scenic Trails. (For more information, reference the National Conservation Lands activity).
- **Hunting, Fishing, and Shooting Sports** – Implementing important provisions of Executive Order 13443, Facilitation of Hunting Heritage and Wildlife Conservation, which directs agencies to facilitate the expansion and enhancement of hunting opportunities and the management of game species and their habitat.
- **Youth** – Overseeing components of the *St. Anthony Sand Dunes, BLM Idaho* Bureau's Engaging the Next Generation initiative, a significant component of the President's America's Great Outdoors initiative. The Recreation program also oversees the BLM's Take It Outside program to promote outdoor activities for kids. The BLM will continue to promote healthy and active lifestyles and better engage the next generation as public land stewards for natural resource conservation.
- **Visual Resources** – Analyzing, managing, and ensuring protection of visual resources to maintain valued landscape aesthetic character.
- **Recreation Permits, Fees, and Commercial Leases** – Reviewing, implementing, and monitoring over 3,200 special commercial and competitive recreation permits and over 800,000 individual use authorizations for special areas each year. The BLM also provides oversight and accountability for the recreation permit, fee, and commercial lease program.
- **Public Outreach, Stewardship and Partnerships** – Promoting and supporting partnerships, volunteerism and stewardship to enhance recreational and educational experiences for visitors and public land users. The BLM is working with community leaders and networks of service providers to manage recreation opportunities that the public wants and that will bring economic benefits to local communities. The Bureau is also partnering with veterans and disabled sportsmen's groups to ensure access to recreational opportunities.
- **Visitor Information** – Providing visitor information and services including maps, websites, interpretation and environmental education. Enhancing the quality and consistency of baseline visitor and resource data by conducting inventories and implementing visitor use monitoring systems to improve understanding of the full range of social, economic and community resource values and enhance decision making capabilities.
- **Cave Management** – Overseeing cave and karst (an irregular limestone region with sinkholes, underground streams, and caverns) resource management policies and program.
- **Customer/Visitor Service Satisfaction Surveys** – Measuring success in providing quality visitor services through an annual survey. The BLM continues to maintain scores of above the 90 percent range in customer satisfaction in providing recreation program visitor services and facilities to its customers.





## Critical Factors

The primary critical factors impacting the Recreation Program are:

- **Urban Growth:** As communities near public lands grow in the West, visitation and demands for new trails and visitor service facilities have increased each year. There are over 132 million acres of BLM-managed land in the western U.S. within 50 miles of an urban area with a population of 50,000 or greater.
- **Public Demand:** Visitation to public lands has increased from 51 million visitors in 2001 to nearly 62 million in 2015.
- **Public Access Conflict:** Off-highway vehicle (OHV) use on public lands continues to increase. The BLM addresses travel and transportation planning as well as OHV management and restoration needs through Travel Management Plans and the Resource Management Planning process. In response to the increased OHV use, the BLM is implementing a comprehensive and interdisciplinary approach in developing travel management plans and implementing actions to address the demand for public services, ensure public health and safety, protect natural and cultural resources, and reduce use conflicts.
- **Public Safety and Resource Protection:** Increasing urbanization and motorized activities have resulted in law enforcement personnel spending significant resources on OHV, urban interface and border-related enforcement activities.

## Means and Strategies

The primary means and strategies utilized in the Recreation Program are:

- **Visitor Data:** Improving baseline visitor and resource data by conducting inventories and implementing visitor use monitoring systems.
- **Travel and Public Access Management:** Balancing off-highway vehicle access and use with resource protection and public access needs by updating and implementing comprehensive travel management plans;
- **Visitor Information and Education:** Expanding visitor information delivery and quality by improving signing and websites, and developing travel maps.
- **Visitor health, safety and accessibility:** Ensuring and enhancing visitor health and safety and improving access for the disabled by conducting recreation facility condition assessments and fixing problems or hazards.
- **Permits and Use Authorizations:** Regulating uses by issuing and monitoring recreation use permits and allocating use for commercial, competitive, organized, and individual uses within specially designated areas.
- **Accountability and transparency:** Improving accountability and effectiveness by issuing recreation special permits, conducting fee program and fee site business practices assessments, and conducting audits and program evaluations.
- **Visitor Use Monitoring:** Protecting resources, improving services, and enhancing the quality of recreational experiences by monitoring visitor use and satisfaction, as well as monitoring vehicular use and their impacts on resources.
- **Partnerships and Public Service:** Reducing operational costs by emphasizing the use of volunteers and providing extensive public service opportunities. The recreation program has been particularly successful in engaging volunteers, accounting for almost half of the

entire Bureau's volunteer hours and nearly doubling the seasonal recreation workforce to serve visitors, maintain facilities and restore resources.

### 2017 Program Performance

The public lands attract millions of visitors each year that are economic engines for local communities across the West. In 2014, over 62 million recreational visits to Federal public lands and waters generated over \$5.5 billion in economic outputs, and supported over 42,000 jobs. In 2016 and 2017, the BLM will invest in the programs that support recreational visits, build strong partnerships, and create the maximum potential for recreation benefits to local communities.

Additional funding requested in 2017 would allow the BLM to implement the National Recreation Strategy with the following priority areas:

- ***Backyard to Backcountry:*** More than 120 urban centers in the western United States and thousands of rural towns are located within 25 miles of BLM lands, according to data from the 2010 census. Although many in the past have viewed this intermingling of public lands with State, county, and private lands as a weakness, this ready accessibility to public lands creates a unique recreation-tourism product, a distinctive niche in the Federal recreation marketplace that offers a competitive advantage.

Typically, the BLM has engaged with recreation partners when opportunities have presented themselves for specific activities. The National Recreation Strategy would move the Bureau away from a reactive approach to these partnerships and would devote the necessary resources to making sustained efforts to identify and develop outcome-focused partnerships with community networks of service providers as a matter of good business. Partnership in community networks will also help the BLM focus on its recreation brand and develop systematic plans that maximize the most significant shared benefits, without trying to be "all things to all people."



## Activity: National Conservation Lands

### Subactivity: National Monuments & National Conservation Areas

		2015 Actual	2016 Enacted	2017 President's Budget				Change from 2016
				Fixed Costs	Transfers	Program Change	Requested Amount	
NMs & NCAs	\$000	31,819	36,819	+175	+0	+13,651	50,645	+13,826
	FTE	240	250		+0	+30	280	+30

#### Summary of 2017 Program Changes/Internal Transfers for NMs & NCAs:

	(\$000)	FTE
New Designations and Enhanced Operations	+13,651	+30
<b>Total</b>	<b>+13,651</b>	<b>+30</b>

### Justification of 2017 Program Changes

The 2017 budget request for the National Monuments & National Conservation Areas Program is \$50,645,000 and 280 FTE, a program change of +\$13,651,000 and +30 FTE from the 2016 enacted level.

#### New Designations and Enhanced Operations: (+\$13,651,000/+30 FTE) –

The National Conservation Lands comprise 30 million acres of the most ecologically rich and culturally significant lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management. Our Nation's newest conservation systems, the National Conservation Lands, are a cherished part of the BLM's multiple use and sustained yield mission. They are the mountains, valleys, islands, and forests where Americans hunt and fish, hike, paddle, and ski. American history is preserved



*Grand Staircase Escalante NM, Utah*

within the National Conservation Lands through their unique cultural, ecological and scientific values. These special places are engines for economic growth, attracting visitors and new residents to some of the fastest growing corners of the West. The proposed increase represents an investment in the communities that benefit from these areas and an opportunity to grow the outdoor economy of the West.

The 2017 budget request includes an increase of \$13.7 million to support critical resource protection and maintenance work on the National Conservation Lands. This investment addresses some of the system's most basic infrastructure and maintenance needs, including signs and kiosks, campground benches, larger trash dumpsters, bathroom facilities, and new access-point facilities needed to ensure the public health and safety of visitor centers. Funding for the visitor centers will accommodate public demand for increased hours of operation, program offerings and greater accessibility to National Conservation Lands. Additional priority efforts

include eradicating invasive plants that jeopardize native species and contribute to unnatural and increasingly difficult-to-manage fire regimes; protecting equipment investments from weather; conducting inventories of the world-class and often endemic resources, objects, and values for which each unit was designated; and implementing the provisions of the resource, science and travel management plans that the agency develops in cooperation with States, Tribes, local governments, partners and the public.

The increase also supports critical staff positions, including dedicated unit managers, essential resources specialists, outdoor recreation planners, partnership/volunteer/youth coordinators, law enforcement, and seasonal park and river rangers needed to staff visitor centers and manage the multiple uses and unique conservation values of the units. Funds will allow the program to support the Secretary's youth initiative and implement priority restoration work.

### Program Overview

This program encompasses the BLM's 23 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 national 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 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, 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 attract 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 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 the NMs and NCAs.

## 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.

## 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 local economic impacts associated with designation of national monuments in New Mexico would be expected to increase:



*Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks NM, New Mexico*

- from \$10.2 million to as high as \$17.6 million, which represents an increase of approximately \$7.4 million in regional economic activity in and around Las Cruces, New Mexico due to designation of Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument.
- by about 279 jobs, from about 312 jobs per year in Rio Arriba and Taos Counties, New Mexico, to about 591, due to designation of Rio Grande del Norte National Monument.

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
<b>Total</b>	<b>31,819</b>	<b>36,819</b>	<b>50,645</b>
†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.

- 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.
- 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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## Activity: Wildlife and Fisheries Management

### Subactivity: Fisheries Management

		2016 Actual	2017 CR	2018 President's Budget				Change from 2017 CR
				Fixed Costs	Transfers	Program Change	Requested Amount	
Fisheries	\$000	12,530	12,506	+181	+0	-875	11,812	-694
Management	FTE	77	71			-10	61	-10

Summary of 2018 Program Changes for Fisheries Management:							(\$000)	FTE
Reduce activities including habitat restoration projects							-875	-10
<b>Total</b>							<b>-875</b>	<b>-10</b>

### Justification of 2018 Program Changes

The 2018 budget request for the Fisheries Management Program is \$11,812,000 and 61 FTE, a program change of -\$875,000 and an estimated -10 FTE from the 2017 CR baseline.

**Reduce Activities Including Habitat Restoration Projects (-\$875,000 / -10 FTE)** – The BLM will focus on higher priority habitat projects, including those which lessen immediate threats to sensitive species as necessary to avoid listing under the *Endangered Species Act*. As funding allows, the BLM will also provide opportunities to access sport and subsistence species. The BLM will absorb this reduction by not performing some of the lower priority fisheries habitat projects.

The Fisheries Program also will focus efforts on assessment, inventory, and monitoring to proactively support permit renewals and authorizations, especially in rangelands and areas with concentrated mineral resources, such as Alaska's North Slope. To address the immediate threats from invasive species, especially quagga and zebra mussels, the BLM will focus efforts on the lower Colorado River. While these efforts will assist in containing quagga and zebra mussels, prevention and management of these and other species across the West will decline.

The BLM will use remaining funds as efficiently as possible through close coordination and shared priorities with other programs, such as the Riparian, and Soil, Water and Air programs, as well as State and Federal partners, to conserve and restore western waters and support working landscapes. The BLM Fisheries Program will work closely with the BLM Recreation Program, State fish and wildlife agencies, and external partners, such as the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation, to identify and jointly fund priority recreational fisheries projects in support of Secretarial Order 3347, *Conservation Stewardship and Outdoor Recreation*, focusing on those which will increase access and improve recreational infrastructure. Current priority projects include repairs of infrastructure at popular fishing areas such as Lake Havasu and Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse Outstanding Natural Area.

### Program Overview

The BLM manages the Nation's most ecologically diverse range of aquatic habitat, totaling more than 132,000 miles of fish bearing streams and rivers, over three million acres of lake and reservoir habitat, and nearly 13 million acres of wetlands. From isolated springs and popular reservoirs in the desert to trout



streams and Alaska's North Slope tributaries, the BLM aquatic resources support public recreation and subsistence fisheries and are critical for sustaining the Nation's aquatic biodiversity and fishing heritage.

The Fisheries Program, in close partnership with other Federal, State, and non-governmental organizations, is responsible for protecting and restoring BLM-managed aquatic habitat for aquatic organisms, including native and game fish. The primary work of the program is the design and implementation of lake, stream, and riparian treatments to restore and reconnect native and game aquatic species habitat on public lands. The BLM partners with organizations such as Trout Unlimited and the National Fish Habitat Partnership and State and Federal agencies to achieve efficiencies and pool resources for improving instream habitat. The BLM coordinates with local land users and managers to promote functional aquatic habitats on working lands; for example, the BLM and Trout Unlimited have been working with local ranchers to improve both the rangelands and trout streams. The BLM's efforts help support watershed health to promote drought resiliency, flood resistance, and clean drinking water, as well as thriving populations of fish and other aquatic organisms.

These healthy, connected habitats support a variety of sport fish and public recreational opportunities. The BLM works closely with States and Federal agencies and organizations, such as the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation, to increase public access and angling opportunities on public lands. The BLM Fisheries Program provides targeted opportunities to youth, veterans, and families through no fee fishing days, Project Healing Waters, and other events.

The BLM also helps to preserve recreational and native fisheries by coordinating with States and partners on the prevention and management of aquatic invasive species, including quagga and zebra mussels, which pose serious economic and ecological threats in the western States.

The BLM Fisheries Program collects and analyzes data on the status of aquatic habitat and species to support BLM management decisions and effectiveness of management actions. The use of the BLM's Aquatic Assessment, Inventory and Monitoring Protocol is leading to more efficient and effective decisions based on local and regional data.

The BLM Fisheries Program:

- Designs and implements lake, wetland, stream, and riparian treatments to restore and reconnect native and game aquatic species habitat on public lands;
- Enhances the quality and quantity of angling opportunities on BLM managed lands by increasing public access, the quality of the recreation experience and fish productivity;
- Contributes to efforts to prevent and limit the spread of aquatic invasive species, including supporting state efforts and developing materials for education and outreach;
- Maintains and restores unobstructed movement and passage for native aquatic organisms through infrastructure (roads, bridges and culverts) repairs and upgrades;
- Assists in conservation of imperiled special status aquatic species and habitat improvement to prevent the need for listing under the *Endangered Species Act*;
- Provides recreational, educational, and employment opportunities for the American public, including events tailored for youth and veterans and their families;
- Works with partners including state agencies and non-governmental organizations such as Trout Unlimited, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Wildlife Forever and National Fish Habitat Partnership; and,
- Conducts aquatic resource research, inventory, and monitoring to support BLM management decisions and effectiveness of management actions.

## Activity: Wildlife and Fisheries Management

### Subactivity: Fisheries Management

		2015 Actual	2016 Enacted	2017 President's Budget				Change from 2016
				Fixed Costs	Transfers	Program Change	Requested Amount	
Fisheries Management	\$000	12,530	12,530	+98	+0	+0	12,628	+98
	FTE	77	77		+0	+0	77	+0

### Justification of 2017 Program Changes

The 2017 budget request for the Fisheries Management Program is \$12,628,000 and 77 FTE.

### Program Overview

#### Program Components

The BLM manages the Nation's most ecologically diverse range of aquatic habitat, totaling more than 132,000 miles of fish bearing streams and rivers, over three million acres of lake and reservoir habitat, over 150,000 miles of riparian areas and nearly 13 million acres of wetlands. From isolated desert springs to Alaska's North Slope tributaries, BLM aquatic resources support public recreation and subsistence fisheries that sustain Native American cultural heritages and are critical for sustaining the Nation's native aquatic biodiversity and sport fishing heritages.

The fisheries program, in close partnership with other federal, state, and non-governmental organizations, is responsible for protecting and restoring BLM managed aquatic habitat for aquatic vertebrate and invertebrate organisms.

The BLM Fisheries Program:

- Designs and implements lake, wetland, stream, and riparian treatments to restore and reconnect native, resident game, and nongame aquatic species habitat on public and private lands;
- Assists in special status aquatic species and habitat improvement to prevent the need for federal threatened or endangered listing;
- Assists and contributes to other BLM program areas to ensure fish, other aquatic species, and their habitats receive full consideration;
- Conducts aquatic resource research, inventory, and monitoring to support BLM management decisions and assess effectiveness of management actions;
- Leads and participates in efforts to prevent and limit the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species, including developing materials for education and outreach;

- Enhances anadromous fisheries by increasing habitat integrity and productivity in coastal drainages of the states of Alaska, California, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington.
- Maintains and restores unobstructed routes of movement and passage for all species of native vertebrate and invertebrate aquatic organisms;
- Enhances the quality and quantity of recreational fishing opportunities on BLM managed lands by increasing public access, quality of experience and productivity.
- Works with partners including state agencies, universities, non-governmental organizations such as Trout Unlimited, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Wildlife Forever and National Fish Habitat Partnerships;
- Leads and provides support for youth employment opportunities activities and promotes and enhances BLM aquatic recreation, education and rehabilitation experiences for veterans and their families; and
- Creates and establishes Bureau-wide policy, guidance and directives for BLM's aquatic resources.

### Critical Factors

Challenges affecting aquatic resources on BLM lands:

- **Climate Change and Other Stressors:** Aquatic and wetland ecosystems are among the most imperiled on earth. Landscape alterations due to climate change pose serious risks, management challenges, and changes for BLM managed inland freshwater ecosystems (lakes, streams, rivers, wetlands) and coastal wetlands as predicted changes to temperature regimes, precipitation, and flow patterns occur across the United States. The success of fish and other aquatic species will depend largely on the ability to move across landscapes and the availability of connecting dispersal corridors. In addition, new combinations of native and non-native species will interact in new ways which may compromise the reliability with which ecosystem goods and services are provided by BLM managed aquatic and wetland ecosystems. A greater focus on proactive conservation of these habitats will be essential for their long term persistence. The Fisheries program has defined and established management priorities for implementing actions for climate change resiliency for aquatic species and habitats on BLM administered lands. These are to: 1) provide aquatic organism passage and stream network connectivity; 2) ensure adequate water quality and quantity at appropriate times; 3) reduce nutrient loads; and 4) limit the introduction and spread of invasive/exotic aquatic species.
- **Renewable Energy Development:** The priority for developing renewable energy (hydropower, wind, solar, and geothermal) as part of the Powering Our Future initiative places increasing demands on fisheries and aquatics personnel. The program is working to ensure sites of high potential for energy development, and the transmission corridors linking these sites to the energy grid, are developed in a responsible manner consistent with the short and long-term conservation needs of aquatic resources.
- **FERC Relicensing:** The licensing and relicensing of hydropower projects creates a significant opportunity to direct the development of license conditions to conserve fisheries

resources so that Federal trust responsibilities are met for the next 30-50 years. It is imperative that the bureau is engaged during these licensing processes.

- **Aquatic Organism Passage (AOP):** The program continues to focus on fish-passable culvert and bridge replacements. Culvert upgrades or removals reconnect high quality habitat for numerous aquatic species. AOP projects have the ability to immediately restore natural stream process and return fish to mature, functioning riparian and in-stream habitats.
- **Legacy Roads:** Road treatments are addressed to stabilize and reduce catastrophic sediment input from historic, poorly planned or failing roads made of soft fill material, which cannot adequately pass downstream water or deposit sediment laden runoff directly into fish bearing streams. Ponding and failure occurs as the standing water upstream overtops or erodes the road, resulting in severe erosion that inundates and smothers downstream fish habitat with sediment.
- **Aquatic Invasive Species:** The Fisheries program is responsible for working with State and other Federal agency partners to develop strategies and programs to combat the ecological and economic threats caused by aquatic nuisance species nationwide. The Fisheries program role is to minimize the threats from aquatic invasive species, such as the quagga and zebra mussel, New Zealand mudsnail, and multiple other non-native plants, vertebrates, and invertebrates. Aquatic invasive species pose a serious threat to our Nation's economy as well as the viability of native fish communities.



## Means and Strategies

BLM Fisheries is meeting these challenges by:

- Managing for the natural chemical, physical, and biological integrity and function of aquatic ecosystems to which species, populations, and communities are adapted;
- Restoring and reconnecting the natural diversity of aquatic biota and watershed features (flow amount and timing, substrate recruitment and transport, and bank and channel configuration);
- Managing habitat for native resident and migratory species and game species that are of high ecosystem, social, economic, or scientific value;
- Expanding and balancing recreational and native fish conservation by strengthening partnerships, developing fishing opportunities and responding to attitudes, values, and desires of the public;
- Implementing activities to promote awareness of and prevent the spread of invasive aquatic species;

- Completing aquatic habitat research, inventory and monitoring for planning, prioritization of conservation activities, and evaluation of restoration projects;
- Educating youth about the importance and complexity of fisheries and fisheries habitat; and
- Working with partners including state agencies, universities, and non-governmental organizations.

### 2017 Program Performance

The BLM Fisheries program will continue to support the bureau's mission-critical goals of maintaining and restoring aquatic ecosystems and related species and their habitats and play a significant role in the identification and implementation of these actions. This includes a special emphasis on salmon and steelhead fisheries resources, Colorado River desert fishes, cutthroat trout conservation, prairie fishes, Alaska stream resources, and riparian areas.

The Fisheries program will continue to work closely with the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force, including its Western Regional Panel, the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Trout Unlimited, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the American Fisheries Society.

Numerous active fish habitat restoration activities will benefit native fish, including placer mining reclamation demonstration projects in Alaska; the Escalante, San Rafael River watershed restorations in Utah; Overflow Wetland Pecos pupfish and least chub conservation agreement restoration, San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program; and road decommissioning and instream habitat restoration in Oregon and California. Additional fisheries inventory and monitoring work will take place and inform management decisions via the Gulkana River subsistence monitoring project in Alaska, and Coho salmon monitoring in the Mattole River, California.

Aquatic invasive species work will continue such as through the Lake Havasu Fisheries Habitat improvement program's zebra/quagga mussel outreach program in Arizona, *Didemnum vexillum* tunicate eradication in Alaska, Paynes Creek Wetlands in California and bullfrog eradication in Montana and Arizona. Nationally, the BLM plans to continue its Aquatic Invasive Species outreach work with Wildlife Forever. The program's invasive species prevention messages reach four million people annually through a successful advertising campaign in Western fishing and hunting regulation books.

The program continues to work with irrigators and farmers in Utah, Wyoming, and Idaho on one of the most successful fish passage programs in the country. It is one of the largest scale Trout Unlimited-BLM projects (600 mile river crossing three states). Over the last nine years, the BLM has reconnected 151 miles of critical migration corridors, linking tributary and main stem habitats by removing fish passage barriers, installed over 35 fish passage structures to restore upstream access to critical spawning and rearing habitats in headwater tributaries, and reintroduced cutthroat trout throughout their range.

During 2017, in addition to fish and amphibian eDNA applications in Alaska and Nevada, the program will continue riparian and wetland restoration efforts, such as the ongoing 22-year old

Maggie Creek Watershed Restoration effort near Elko, Nevada. Chosen as national model for watershed restoration efforts everywhere under the National Fish Habitat Initiative, the project so far has restored 82 miles of stream, 2,000 acres of riparian habitat, and 40,000 acres of upland watershed in the Maggie Creek basin. The most important fishery result has been the return of Lahontan cutthroat trout to 23 miles of stream where they were formerly extirpated.

Community service and outreach activities will be accomplished through partners including FishingCommunity.Org and Project Healing Waters Veterans activities in Arizona, Alaska, Florida, Virginia, Maryland, Oregon, West Virginia, and Washington DC; family fishing day events throughout BLM field offices; and Cosumnes River Preserve and Redding Environmental education and outreach efforts in California. Finally, program efforts in 2017 will expand and build upon the successful 24-year cooperative conservation partnership with Trout Unlimited to reconnect, restore and sustain critical fisheries habitat and populations throughout the West.