

To: Wendy Fink[wendy_r_fink@ios.doi.gov]
Cc: Kathleen Benedetto[kathleen_benedetto@ios.doi.gov]; Michael Nedd[mnedd@blm.gov]; John Ruhs[jruhs@blm.gov]
From: Mali, Peter
Sent: 2017-07-07T17:06:39-04:00
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[House Nat Resources & Approps Committees Handout 2017.June.28.pptx](#)
[Bears Ears National Monument Briefing Paper 7 7 17 Final \(1\).docx](#)
[Attachment to Bears Ears BP Checklist for New Monuments.docx](#)

Hi, Wendy:

Hope all is well with you -- it's been while since I last saw you at MIB.

Kathy Benedetto mentioned that you are looking for background info on BLM's Wild Horse and Burro Program and Bears Ears National Monument. Attached please find a PowerPoint on the Wild Horse and Burro Program and a briefing paper on Bears Ears (I've also attached a checklist that's an attachment to the Bears Ears BP).

Have a great weekend, and let me know if you or Aurelia Skipwith need anything else.

Peter Mali
Acting Chief of Staff
Bureau of Land Management
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----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Fink, Wendy** <wendy_r_fink@ios.doi.gov>
Date: Fri, Jul 7, 2017 at 2:11 PM
Subject: Bears Ears and Wild Horses
To: Kathleen Benedetto <kathleen_benedetto@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Jennifer Wyse <jennifer_wyse@nps.gov>

I apologize for the last minute inquiry but by any chance does BLM have stock briefing papers on Wild Horses and Bears Ears? Aurelia is going on travel tomorrow to the West and will be heading to Arches National Park. Two items to be discussed during her time there are both Wild Horses and Bears Ears. We have a general paper from the Park but nothing on those two topics. I thought perhaps BLM may have something that you would hopefully not mind sharing.

Wendy

--

Wendy R. Fink

Counselor to the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks
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Kathleen Benedetto
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WELCOME TO THE BLM'S NATIONAL CONSERVATION LANDS!

www.blm.gov/programs/national-conservation-lands

NEW NATIONAL MONUMENTS & NCAs CHECKLIST – What to do right after designation

Primary Actions to be done immediately after designation (Work closely with the Washington Office to complete these tasks):

- Identify an interim manager/point of contact for the new National Conservation Lands unit (e.g. Asst. Field Manager, Outdoor Rec Planner, etc.).
- Acquire acreage data for the new unit (total acres, BLM managed acres, other federal and state managed acres, inholdings, private).
- Find and collect high-quality photos of the areas/landscapes within the new unit boundaries and make them available to the WO.
- Prepare an itemized list of funding needs for the new unit (include labor, operations, facilities, and other start-up costs) to be made available for Budget Office requests and other information sharing.
- Develop a new webpage for the new unit; use designating language for content and use photos.
- Start serialized case file for the new unit.

Next steps:

1. Know your authorities

- Get to know the proclamation that created the new unit.
- Identify and record the resources, objects, and values for which the unit was designated
- Identify management prescriptions and other relevant provisions in the designating language.
- Familiarize the team with Title II, Subtitle A: National Landscape Conservation System (Public Law 111-11 (Omnibus Public Land Management Act), FLPMA, and other relevant statutes.
- Read Secretarial Order 3308.

2. Know your policies

- Read relevant BLM Manuals and consider how they relate to the new unit designation:
 - Manual Section 6100 (2012) – NLCS
 - Manual Section 6220 (2012) – National Monuments, NCAs, and Similar Designations
 - Other
- Read other program Manual Sections that may apply to your unit, including Recreation, Visual Resource Management, Realty, Solid Minerals, Range, etc.
- Review potentially relevant Instruction Memoranda (Refer to attached list of related National Conservation Lands IMs and IBs).

- Review relevant Resource Management Plans, activity plans, and other land use plans that apply and review for consistency with the designating authority.

3. *Take actions to implement law and policy*

- Identify and pursue relevant and needed training for employees (new and existing) For example volunteer coordination, partnerships, lands and realty, budget, etc.).
- Consider potential changes in land use policy and discretionary decisions to accomplish the purposes described in the unit's designating language.
- Review existing permits and authorized uses for compatibility with the designating authority.
- Initiate projects to educate the public about the new National Conservation Lands unit.
- Request to have a new organizational code assigned in FBMS for the new unit.
- Identify historical funding for management of the public lands that are now the unit.
 - Include overhead costs (25-30%). Include FTEs, facilities, projects within the boundaries, etc.
- Initiate the process to re-program other subactivity funds into subactivity 1711, as applicable.
- Communicate the budget situation, including immediate needs, to your State and Washington Offices (via briefing paper).
- Read and get to know the 15-Year NLCS Strategy and the state's Step-down Strategy.
- Integrate the new unit into BLM's systems: RMIS, FBMS, FAMS, LR2000, MIS, PMDS, etc. RMIS should be a top priority so that visitation numbers can be tracked.
- Submit budget requests for resource management plan development or amendments.
- Gather and prepare the spatial data for your unit, including its boundary and recreation facility data, in order to submit it to the NOC's NM/NCA and recreation datasets. This ensures your unit will appear on BLM maps, be included in the recreation mapping project, etc.

4. *Know your players*

- Reach out to the cooperating agencies and entities identified in the designating language.
- Create a contact list of all relevant BLM, other federal, tribal, state, local, and interest group contacts.
- Participate in monthly National Monuments and NCAs Conference Calls on the third Thursday of each month.
- Engage partners – go to other organizations' meetings.
- Brief the State Office and Washington Office about the progress, events, related to the new unit.
- Develop an outreach strategy / communications plan in coordination with Public Affairs and National Conservation Lands Leads.

List of IMs and IBs for National Monuments and National Conservation Areas and Similar Designations (July 2015)

Type	Fiscal Year	Release Date	Number	Subject Code(s)	Title	Link
IM	2016	9/27/2016	2016 153	6100	Use of Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Logo, BLM Visual Design Standards, and National Conservation Lands Wordmark by BLM Partner Organizations	2016 153
IM	2015	4/13/2015	2015 086	6100	Recreation Mapping Project; Due Date: 04/24/2015	2015 086
IM	2015	5/20/2015	2015 069	6100	Interim Recreation Sites Data Standard Schema; DD: 05/15/ 2015	2015 069
IM	2015	12/19/2014	2015 031	3100	Bureau of Land Management National Conservation Lands Visual System Guidelines	2015 031
IB	2015	2/6/2015	2015 027	6100	Nominations for the National Conservation Lands Management Advisory Team; DD: February 20, 2015	2015 027
IB	2015	12/12/2014	2015 026	1784	2015 Resource Advisory Council Call for Nominations	2015 026
IM	2015	12/2/2014	2015 024	6100	National Monument and National Conservation Area FY2014 Manager's Report; DD: 02/13/2015	2015 024
IM	2015	10/30/2014	2015 012	6100	National Landscape Conservation System Research Support Program; DDs: 02/02/2015; 03/02/2015; 03/30/2015	2015 012
IM	2014	6/4/2014	2014 098	6100	2014 Visitor Contact Area Questionnaire	2014 098
IM	2014	4/24/2014	2014 083	6100	National Monument and National Conservation Area FY 2013 Manager's Reports; DD: 90 days from release	2014 083
IM	2014	12/11/2013	2014 018	6100	National Landscape Conservation System Research Support Program; DD: 02/10/2014; 03/03/2014; 03/24/2014	2014 018
IM	2013	6/14/2013	2013 143	6100	National Monument and National Conservation Area FY 2012 Reports; DD: 08/23/2013	2013 143
IM	2013	2/19/2013	2013 076	6100	National Landscape Conservation System Short Name and Wordmark	2013 076
IM	2013	1/23/2013	2013 053	1784	Processing Charter and Nomination Packages pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act	2013 053
IB	2013	1/23/2013	2013 036	1784	2013 Resource Advisory Council Call for Nominations	2013 036

Type	Fiscal Year	Release Date	Number	Subject Code(s)	Title	Link
IM	2013	11/1/2012	2013 012	6100	NLCS Research Support Program; DD: 02/01/2013	2013_012
IB	2013	9/3/2013	2013 012	1786, 6300	The National Conservation Lands "Look and Feel" Project	2013_012
IM	2012	5/6/2012	2012 119	6100	3 Year State National Landscape Conservation System Strategy Template (FY13-15)	2012_119
IM	2012	4/24/2012	2012 111	6100	National Monument and National Conservation Area FY 2011 Reports	2012_111
IB	2012	7/16/2012	2012 093	6100	National Landscape Conservation System Policy Development	2012_093
IM	2012	3/5/2012	2012 077	6230, 6240	Request Field Review of Draft National Monuments and National Conservation Areas Manual	2012_077
IB	2012	5/4/2012	2012 071	6100	National Landscape Conservation System Workshop	2012_071
IB	2012	1/24/2012	2012 032	6100	National Landscape Conservation System Policy Development	2012_032
IB	2012	1/23/2012	2012 030	1784	2012 Resource Advisory Council Call for Nominations	2012_030
IM	2013	11/1/2012	2012 012	6100	NLCS Research Support Program; DD: 02/01/2013	2012_012
IM	2011	9/21/2011	2011 191	6100	Adoption of the Most Recent Edition of the International Building Code (IBC) as the Minimum Bureau Building Code Standard and Adoption of the 2004 CSI MasterFormat Edition of MASTERSPEC® as the BLM Building and Construction Master Guide Specifications	2011_191
IM	2011	8/10/2011	2011 163	6100	National Landscape Conservation System Request for Research Proposals; DD: 11/10/2011	2011_163
IM	2011	4/25/2011	2011 103	6100	National Monument and National Conservation Area FY 2010 Reports	2011_103
IM	2011	4/25/2011	2011 103	6100	National Monument and National Conservation Area FY 2010 Reports	2011_103
IB	2011	8/2/2011	2011 082	6100	Government Land Office 200th Anniversary and Homestead Act 150th Anniversary 2012 Commemoration; DD: August 15, 2011	2011_082
IB	2011	6/27/2011	2011 071	6100	A new DVD Hope on the Range A Frontier Legacy Finds its place in the New West	2011_071

Type	Fiscal Year	Release Date	Number	Subject Code(s)	Title	Link
IM	2011	1/31/2011	2011 057	6100	National Landscape Conservation System Data Standard; DD: 2/28/2011	2011_057
IB	2011	5/23/2011	2011 036	1784	2011 Resource Advisory Council Call for Nominations	2011_036
IM	2010	9/17/2010	2010 201	6230, 6240	National Monument and National Conservation Area Evaluation; DD: 10/15/2010	2010_201
IM	2010	8/20/2010	2010 186	6100	Inventory of NLCS Congressionally Required Maps and Legal Boundary Descriptions; DD: 10/29/2010	2010_186
IB	2010	9/9/2010	2010 112	6100	Bureau of Land Management NLCS Summit, November 15 18, 2010 and Request for Names of BLM Attendees; DD: 9/17/2010	2010_112
IB	2010	9/1/2010	2010 109	6100	National Landscape Conservation System Fourth Quarter Performance and Accountability Report and Public Lands Statistics Data; DD: 9/24/2010	2010_109
IB	2010	7/29/2010	2010 093	6100	Request for a list of Stakeholders for Invitation to the National Landscape Conservation System Summit, November 15 18, 2010; DD: 8/20/2010	2010_093
IB	2010	7/7/2010	2010 090	6100	National Landscape Conservation System	2010_090
IB	2010	5/30/2010	2010 057	1784	2010 Resource Advisory Council Call for Nominations; DD: 06/18/2010	2010_057
IB	2010	5/4/2010	2010 043	6100	Tenth Anniversary Celebration of the National Landscape Conservation System	2010_043
IM	2010	12/17/2009	2010 036	1680	Data Call for National Monuments and National Conservation Areas Funding; DD: 1/5/2010	2010_036
IM	2010	11/23/2009	2010 020	6100	National Monument and National Conservation Area FY 2009 Reports; DD: 01/29/2010	2010_020
IB	2009	8/12/2009	2009 102	1115	Request for Designation of Staff to Collaborate on Web Features: BLM Tourist Destinations for Youth and Families within the National Landscape Conservation System; DD: 09/09/2009	2009_102
IB	2009	5/15/2009	2009 075	6300	Review of Draft Manual for Congressionally Required Maps and Legal Boundary Descriptions for National Landscape Conservation System Designations; DD: 6/12/2009	2009_075
IB	2009	4/15/2009	2009 068	6100	National Landscape Conservation System 10th Anniversary Celebration	2009_068
IM	2009	10/15/2008	2009 006	6100	National Monument and National Conservation Area Annual Reports; DD: 11/25/2008	2009_006

Type	Fiscal Year	Release Date	Number	Subject Code(s)	Title	Link
IM	2008	8/20/2008	2008 181	6100	End of year Budget Reports	2008 181
IM	2008	4/11/2008	2008 109	1784	Process for Compiling Charter and Nomination Packages for NLCS Advisory Committees	2008 109
IM	2008	2/27/2008	2008 084	6100	Transition Memorandum	2008 084
IB	2008	5/1/2008	2008 074	6100	Social Network Analysis Survey; DD: 5/16/08	2008 074
IB	2008	2/19/2008	2008 048	6100	Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) with The Corps Network	2008 048
IB	2008	2/15/2008	2008 046	1784	Resource Advisory Council 2008 Call for Nominations; DD: 06/06/2008	2008 046
IM	2007	9/21/2007	2007 195	6100	Preparation and Submission of FY 2007 Annual Manager's Report DD: 11/09/2007	2007 195
IM	2007	5/1/2007	2007 116	6100	Implementation of the National Landscape Conservation System Science Strategy	2007 116
IM	2007	5/29/2007	2007 091	6100	Policy Change Concerning the Removal of Assets from the Facility Asset Maintenance System (FAMS)	2007 091
IB	2007	3/9/2007	2007 053	6100	NLCS Managers' Meeting DD: 03/23/2007	2007 053
IB	2007	2/21/2007	2007 052	1784	Resource Advisory Council 2007 Call for Nominations DD: 05/30/2007	2007 052
IM	2007	1/22/2007	2007 047	6100	Fiscal Year (FY) 2009 2013 Deferred Maintenance and Capital Improvement Plan DD: 05/18/2007; 06/01/2007	2007 047
IB	2007	12/11/2006	2007 017	6100	Bureau of Land Management 2007 Collaboration Desk Guide	2007 017
IM	2006	7/29/2006	2006 220	6100	Status of NLCS Congressionally Required Maps and Legal Descriptions Data Call; DD: 10/31/2006	2006 220
IM	2006	8/9/2006	2006 210	6100	Best Management Practices to be Implemented in FY 2006	2006 210
IM	2006	5/13/2006	2006 123	6100	FY 2008 2012 Deferred Maintenance and Capital Improvement Plan; DD: 04/03/2006; 05/05/06; 06/01/2006	2006 123
IM	2006	11/17/2005	2006 040	6100	Adoption of the International Building Code (IBC) as the Minimum Bureau Building Code Standard	2006 040

Type	Fiscal Year	Release Date	Number	Subject Code(s)	Title	Link
IB	2006	10/20/2005	2006 021	6100	Two New BLM Partnership Capacity Building Tools: BLM Partnership Website and Upcoming Technical Assistance/Coaching Program	2006 021
IM	2005	8/17/2005	2005 225	6100	Annual Report of Operations and Aid to Federal Land Management Agency(ies), A Unified Reporting Form for Interpretive (Cooperating) Associations DD: 09/30/2005	2005 225
IB	2005	8/3/2005	2005 152	6100	National Landscape Conservation System Science Strategy DD: 09/02/2005	2005 152
IM	2005	3/11/2005	2005 102	6100	Five Year Schedule for Comprehensive Condition Assessments of Recreation and Administrative Sites; DD: 04/1/05	2005 102
IM	2005	12/24/2004	2005 051	6100	FY 2007 2011 Deferred Maintenance and Capital Improvement Plan; DD: 04/01/2005; 05/02/05; 06/03/2005	2005 051
IB	2005	1/7/2005	2005 042	6100	Association of Partners for Public Lands (APPL) Convention	2005 042
IM	2004	7/16/2004	2004 214	6230	Working with Conservation Districts; DD: 07/30/2004	2004 214
IB	2004	5/11/2004	2004 102	6100	National Landscape Conservation System Units and Fire Management Planning	2004 102
IB	2004	5/6/2004	2004 096	6100	Bureau of Land Management Legends Honoree for Great Outdoors Week, June 7 11, 2004	2004 096
IB	2003	7/31/2003	2003 122	6100	Point of Contact for Recreation.Gov and Washington Office NLCS Web	2003 122
IB	2003	12/17/2002	2003 039	6100	Bureau of Land Management Support for the National Park Service's "Corps of Discovery II: 200 Years to the Future" Traveling Museum During the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commemoration, 2003 2006; DD: 01/10/2003	2003 039
IM	2003	9/27/2002	2003 003	2071	Policy for Bureau of Land Management Visitor Center and Administrative Office Locations Related to National Monuments	2003 003
IM	2002	4/9/2002	2002 140	6230, 6240	Conducting a Self Assessment for National Conservation Areas (NCAs) and National Monuments (NMs); DD: 05/03/2002	2002 140
IB	2002	5/16/2002	2002 099	6240	Follow Through on Efforts Regarding the National Monuments; DD: 06/14/2002	2002 099
IB	2002	3/19/2002	2002 066	6100	An Invitation to Participate in a Workshop on Non Profit Partnerships, Friends Groups, Associations, and Foundations in Las Vegas, Nevada, May 21 23, 2002; DD: 04/03/2002	2002 066

Type	Fiscal Year	Release Date	Number	Subject Code(s)	Title	Link
IM	2002	10/4/2001	2002 008	2071	Interim Management Policy for Bureau of Land Management National Monuments and National Conservation Areas	2002 008
IM	2001	5/2/2001	2001 134	6240	Procedures for Acknowledging Responses to Secretary Norton's March 28, 2001, Letter Regarding Newly Designated National Monuments	2001 134
IM	2001	3/2/2011	2001 107	6230, 6240	Establishing Advisory Councils/Committees for National Conservation Areas (NCAs) and National Monuments	2001 107
IB	2001	5/8/2001	2001 103	6100	Bureau of Land Management National Landscape Conservation System: Draft Agenda and List of Conference Nominees	2001 103
IB	2001	3/2/2001	2001 076	6100	Bureau of Land Management National Landscape Conservation System Conference, Request for Nominees and Agenda Topics, DD: Agenda Topics: 03/14/2001, DD: Nominations: 03/23/2001	2001 076
IB	2001	1/30/2001	2001 067	6100	Information on the National Landscape Conservation System	2001 067
IB	2001	11/24/2000	2001 027	8500	Request for Review of Draft National Landscape Conservation System Manual DD: 12/08/2000	2001 027
IM	2001	10/31/2000	2001 022	6240	Planning Guidance for National Monuments and National Conservation Areas	2001 022
IB	2001	11/21/2000	2001 022	8500	Model Position Descriptions for National Monument and National Conservation Area Managers	2001 022
IB	2001	10/31/2000	2001 011	8500	National Landscape Conservation System Final Workshop Report and Action Items Matrix	2001 011
IB	2001	10/11/2000	2001 005	8500	National Landscape Conservation System Digest and Fact Sheets	2001 005
IB	2000	3/23/2000	2000 091	8010	National Landscape Conservation System Workshop DD: 04/14/2000	2000 091
IM	2000	1/11/2000	2000 062	2071	Interim Management Policy for Newly Created National Monuments	2000 062



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Wild Horse and Burro Program Status

House Appropriations & Natural Resources Committee - June 27, 2017





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Presentation Overview

- Take Away Messages
- Wild Horse and Burro Act (1971 as amended)
- Program Status
- Existing Management
- Management Challenges
- Management Options





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Presentation Overview

Take Away Messages

- Wild Horse and Burro Program Is Not Sustainable in Present State
- On-range overpopulation has grown uncontrolled to unprecedented levels
- No fertility control methods available that are affordable, easily applied and highly effective.
- WHB overpopulations are causing damage to rangeland health/productivity and wildlife habitat that affects livestock grazers & recreationists.
- Off-range holding too expensive
 - 50,000 animals in holding at cost of nearly \$50,000 million





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Wild Horse & Burro Act (1971 as amended)

- Protect, Manage and Control
- Maintain a thriving natural ecological balance in combination with other multiple uses
- Maintain a current inventory (1978 PRIA)





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Wild Horse & Burro Act (1971 as amended)

- Immediately remove excess animals and determine if AMLs are to be achieved by removal or destruction of excess animals or other means such as sterilization or natural controls (**The Public Rangelands Improvement Act (PRIA) of 1978**)
- Remove from private land when requested





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Wild Horse & Burro Act (1971 as amended)

- Excess animals made available for adoption (1978 PRIA)
- Destroy those for which no adoption demand exists (1978 PRIA)
- Sale w/o limitation (Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2005)
 - Offered unsuccessfully for adoption 3 times
 - Animals older than 10 years

- Since 2010, annual legislation has prohibited sale without limitation and destruction of healthy animals

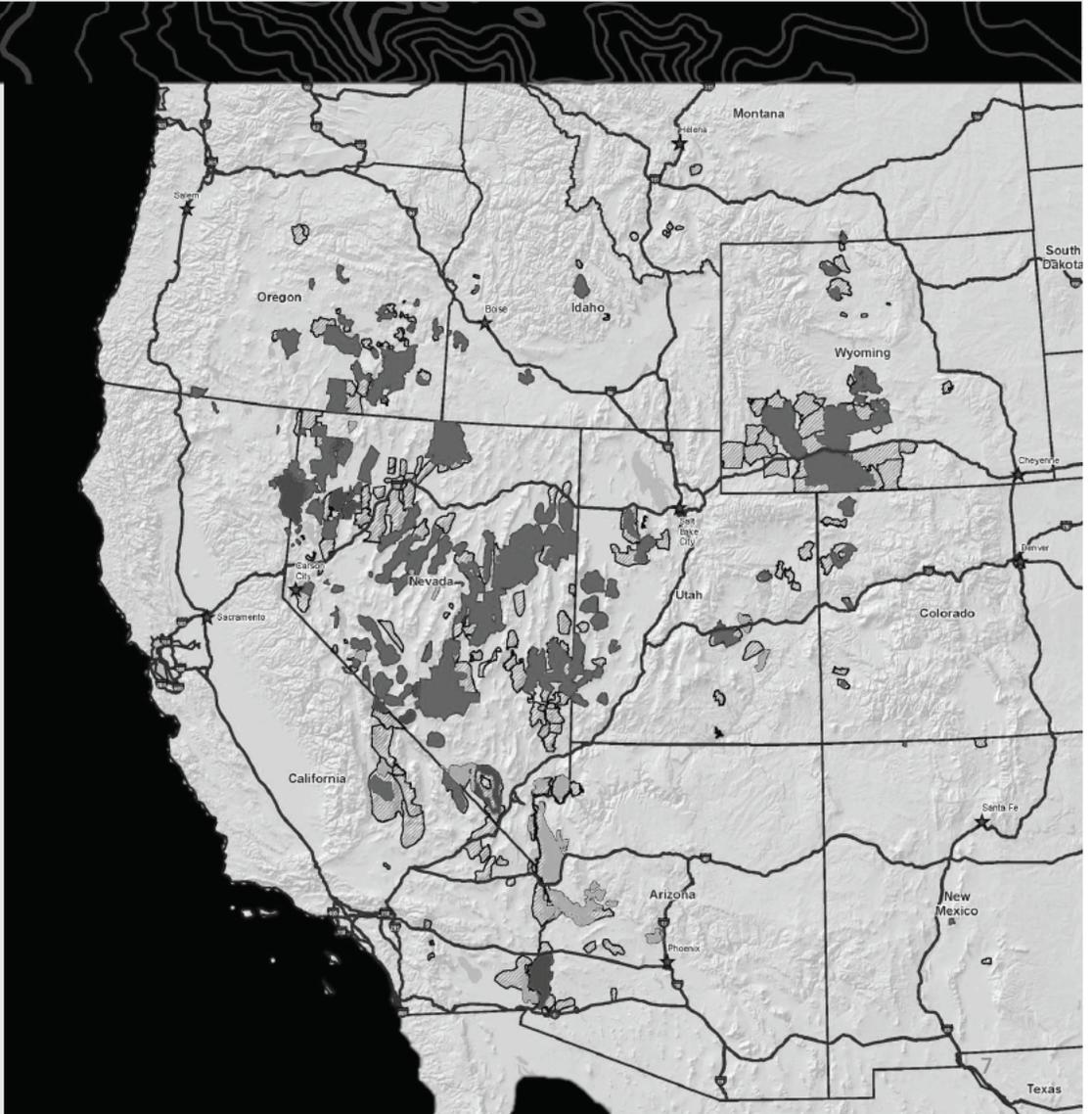




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BLM's Herd Areas (HAs) & Herd Management Areas (HMAs)

- ★ State Capitals
- Road Classification
 - Freeway or Other Major Road
- Herd Management Areas
 - Both
 - Burro
 - Horse
 - Herd Areas





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Wild Horses and Burros (WH&B) by the Numbers

- **10** western states have WHBs
- **177** Herd Management Areas (HMA's)
- **26.9** million acres of public rangelands
- **26,715** animals is the Appropriate Management Level (AML)
- **72,674** animals on the range (as of March 2016)
 - 82% of HMAs are over populations 2 to 15 times AML
 - ½ in Nevada
- **45,223** animals in holding (May 2017)
 - 12,466 in 26 corrals (\$4.99 per day; \$28.4 million total in FY16)
 - 32,757 in 28 pastures (\$1.82 per day; \$21 million total in FY16)
- **3,116** adopted/sold in 2016 (\$2,367/animal adopted)
 - Adoptions have declined from 7,800 in 2002
- **3,038** removed from the range in 2016 (\$1,007/animal removed)





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Current Management

- Removals currently being restricted to 3,500 to 4,500 per year depending on how many animals leave the system via adoption, sales and mortality attrition.
 - Removing more animals than leave the system would render the program financially insolvent.
 - e.g. Caring for 1,000 unadopted animals in corrals = \$1.8 million/yr.
 - e.g. Caring for 10,000 unadopted animals in corrals = \$18 million/yr.
- Increasing adoptions by offering more trained animals through partnerships with prisons and NGOs
 - Currently about 3,100/year placed in private care good homes
- Reducing holding costs by acquiring more pastures (\$1.82 per animal per day) to decrease animal numbers in expensive corrals (\$4.99 per animal per day).
- Research initiated (\$11 million) to develop more effective fertility control methods and management tools.



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Management Challenges

- Overpopulations: 82% of HMAs (March 2016) have populations that exceed target management numbers (AML)
- Current tools to control populations are removals and 1 year effective contraceptive vaccines that have to be reapplied annually to maintain infertility
- Effects of over populations
 - Deteriorated rangeland health and loss habitat for wildlife
 - Livestock grazers and recreationists affected
 - Animal health affected
 - Animals moving out of HMAs
 - Onto private lands
 - Along highways into communities.





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What happens when there are too many horses and burros on the range?



Horse impacts on Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge – no livestock grazing.



Horse impacts on Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge – no livestock grazing.



Overgrazing due to wild horses near Las Vegas – no livestock grazing (2007)



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Management Challenges

- Increasing concerns from stakeholders
- Low adoptions and sales
 - Decreased from 7,800 (2002) to 3,100 (2016)
- High cost to maintain 46,000 unadopted animals.
 - About \$49 million/year; over 60% of budget
- Emergency conditions in some areas
 - Severe drought
 - Wildfire
 - Winter Mortality
- Litigation – multiple lawsuits challenge every aspect of management.





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Way Forward

- Existing Situation is not sustainable
- All tools in the WHB Act are needed.
- The President's FY18 budget proposal includes a request to remove the rider prohibiting unrestricted sale and euthanasia of excess animals.
- The BLM will continue to look for creative and novel ways to:
 - Find new homes for excess animals, including forging effective partnerships for training animals
 - Development and application of fertility control methods
- Collaborate with Congress & stakeholders



Notes Summary:

Slide 7: '26.9 M acres of BLM lands in 10 Western States
179 Herd Management Areas (HMA's)'

Slide 11: 'What happens when there are too many horses?

Rangelands become overgrazed

lack of forage for wild horse and other animals

On-the-range mortality rates increase dramatically

Severely damages upland vegetation and riparian areas which are critical
to wild horse and burro health

Significantly diminishes water quality and watershed stability

Increases likelihood of exotic invasive weed species becoming established'

**INFORMATION/BRIEFING MEMORANDUM
FOR THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY – LAND AND MINERALS MANAGEMENT**

DATE: July 7, 2017

FROM: Mike Nedd, Acting Director – Bureau of Land Management

SUBJECT: Key information on the Bears Ears National Monument, Utah

The purpose of this memo is to provide an overview of the Bears Ears National Monument.

KEY FACTS

- On December 28, 2016, the 1,351,849 acre Bears Ears National Monument in San Juan County, Utah, was designated by presidential proclamation and is jointly managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS).
- The new monument includes 1.063 million acres managed by the BLM and 290,000 acres managed by the USFS within the boundaries of the Manti-La Sal National Forest.
- Over 380,000 acres of the federal lands within the boundaries are currently managed by the BLM as 11 Wilderness Study Areas. The BLM-managed part of the monument also contains nine Special Recreation Management Areas, which are managed for their recreation opportunities. The USFS administers the 46,000-acre Dark Canyon Wilderness just north of the Bears Ears formation, as well as the Cliff Dwellers Pasture Research Natural Area.
- These areas provide great economic benefits to their surrounding communities. For every \$1 the National Monuments and National Conservation Areas program receives in funding, it generates approximately \$17 for local economies.ⁱ
- Overall, visitors to the BLM's National Monuments and National Conservation Areas Lands contributed an estimated \$630 million in economic activity in 2016.

BACKGROUND

The idea of a national monument in this area is not new: calls for protection of the Bears Ears began over 80 years ago. The land that is now the Bears Ears National Monument was part of a larger area proposed for designation as early as 1936 by then-Interior Secretary Harold L. Ickes. Other areas within the initial proposal were subsequently designated as Capitol Reef National Park and Canyonlands National Park, managed by the National Park Service.

The monument protects some of the most significant cultural, desert landscapes in the U.S., including abundant rock art, ancient cliff dwellings, ceremonial sites, and other places important to Native American tribes. Recognizing the importance of the area, tribes with ties to the region began working on a specific proposal six years ago to protect this area under the Antiquities Act. To reflect tribal expertise, the Bears Ears Commission has been created to enable tribes to share insight with federal land managers.

The proclamation for the Bears Ears National Monument also establishes a local advisory committee made up of interested stakeholders including state and local governments, tribes, recreational users, local business owners, and private landowners.

The monument preserves current uses of the land, including tribal access and traditional collection of plants and firewood, off-highway vehicle recreation, hunting and fishing, grazing, military training operations, utility corridors, and other valid and existing rights.

The BLM and the U.S. Forest Service will undertake a monument planning process for Bear Ears National Monument, including the opportunity for public input, according to the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and agency regulations and policy.

Bears Ears National Monument will add to the economic effects in Utah from the BLM's National Conservation Lands which contributed over \$105 million in economic output and supported nearly 1,200 non-federal jobs in Utah in 2016.

DISCUSSION

The BLM will manage the monument according to the Bureau's relevant manual (BLM Manual 6220–National Monuments, National Conservation Areas, and Similar Designations, 7/13/2012). More specifically, the BLM will follow a checklist (see attached) that sets out steps that monument staff should take immediately (e.g., “Identify an interim manager/point of contact for the new National Conservation Lands unit”) as well as longer-term actions (e.g., “Reach out to the cooperating agencies and entities identified in the designating language”).

As mentioned above, the BLM and Forest Service will undertake a monument planning process that allows for generous public input and complies with NEPA as well as agency regulations and policy.

ⁱ See “An Analysis of the Economic Effects of the National Conservation Lands,” Fiscal Year 2016 (pending release).