

To: Timothy Fisher[tjfisher@blm.gov]
Cc: Sally Butts[sbutts@blm.gov]
From: Isaac, Mary
Sent: 2017-03-07T13:57:17-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: ACTION: 2018 Budget Prep; DD 3/10/17
Received: 2017-03-07T13:57:49-05:00
[1711 National Monument and National Conservation Areas revised 2.docx](#)
[6000 Oregon And Grant Lands.docx](#)
[1210 Wilderness Management 5.25.16.docx](#)
[2018 Current Services Request Talking Points.docx](#)

Tim:

WO-400 started working on the PTA for FY18 back in May 2016 and attached are our justifications. Wanted to share with you the past submissions/justifications for FY18.

Thanks.

On Mar 6, 2017, at 5:32 AM, Isaac, Mary <misaac@blm.gov> wrote:

Do not share the attached information

Please review the attached documents and provide a draft "impact statement" by cob ***Tuesday***. Nikki has requested the drafts be submitted to her by close of business Wednesday; therefore please send to me by cob Tuesday.

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

Based upon the attachment from the Budget Office the following is projected for FY2018:

Wilderness Management **-\$3,000 [-22 FTE]** This reduction to the Wilderness Program would result in a shift in focus away from broad monitoring of Wilderness Study Areas to monitoring only congressionally mandated wilderness areas.

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

Please list the following on the impact statements: Activities that could be accomplished vs which activities would be eliminated, impacts to local communities and impact to BLM mission.

If there are any questions, please call me.

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

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

From: **Smith, Linda** <lhsmith@blm.gov>

Date: Fri, Mar 3, 2017 at 1:58 PM

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

To: BLM WO ADs and DADs <blm_wo_ads_and_dads@blm.gov>

Cc: Janine Velasco <jvelasco@blm.gov>, Ann DeBlasi <amdeblas@blm.gov>, BLM WO Resource Advisors <BLM_WO_Resource_advisors@blm.gov>

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ood afternoon, all.

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

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

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

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

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

Thanks in advance for your assistance.

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

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

Activity: Western Oregon Acquisition

Activity Description

The Western Oregon Acquisition Program uses appropriated funds to acquire and protect access to public lands in western Oregon, providing access to BLM timber sales and other activities associated with managing Oregon and California (O&C) lands. The BLM estimates that nearly 5,000 separate tracts of O&C lands require some form of access for proper management. The BLM obtains access by purchase of perpetual easements, acquisition, or condemnation. Acquisition funding is also used to manage the historical reciprocal rights of way agreements, and acquire additional lands or interests in lands needed for infrastructure development including recreation sites, administrative sites, and transportation facilities.

The BLM has many long standing (since the 1950s) reciprocal right of way agreements with surrounding and adjacent private landowners allowing reciprocal use of each owner's roads. Access to western Oregon O&C lands is dependent upon the continual upkeep of these long standing reciprocal rights of way agreements. As adjacent private lands change ownership, existing agreements need to be continuously negotiated and updated. The BLM prioritizes reciprocal right of way agreements based upon both private requests and land management needs. Generally, right of way agreements necessary to meet timber management performance measures for the BLM and adjacent private harvesting plans receive the highest priority, while access to recreational and key administrative facilities also receive high priority.

An overarching goal for the Western Oregon Acquisition will be to comply with the new western Oregon Resource Management Plans that are expected to be signed during the summer of 2016 and meet the Management Action and Directions.

Other Funding Sources Timber haul roads, or "fee roads" negotiated under reciprocal right of way agreements are maintained using both appropriated funds and road maintenance fees collected from commercial users and deposited into a permanent account for road maintenance.

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Activity: Western Oregon Transportation and Facilities Maintenance

Activity Description

In 2014, under the Interior, Environment, and Related Appropriations (P.L. 113 76), the O&C Deferred Maintenance function was transferred to the Management of Lands and Resources, Deferred Maintenance and Capital Improvements Subactivity, leaving only the Annual Maintenance and Operations Program in the Transportation and Facilities Maintenance Activity.

Activity: Western Oregon Transportation and Facilities Maintenance

Subactivity: Annual Maintenance & Operations

Program Overview

The Operations and Annual Maintenance Program maintains the BLM's investment in the transportation network, preserves public safety, and minimizes environmental impacts, especially related to water quality and soil erosion, and provides for functional utilities and other services at visitor and administrative sites supporting O&C grant land functions. BLM managed roads serve commercial, administrative, and local government functions. They also serve public land users by providing for timber haul, school bus and emergency routes, and access to private, local, State, and Federal lands. The types of facilities maintained by the BLM in western Oregon include:

- Sixty five administrative sites with 162 buildings served by 230 separate mechanical, plumbing and electrical systems;
- One hundred and seventy recreation sites with 350 buildings, served by trash collection, sanitation facilities, and safe drinking water;
- Three dams; and
- A system of 14,200 miles of roads, including 131 miles designated as Back Country Byways, 324 miles of trails, along with related structures including 410 bridges, 586 major culverts, and multiple retaining walls and subsurface drainage systems.

Program Process Improvements

Periodic maintenance reviews are performed within each district to assure the maintenance work meets or exceeds district expectations and is within established budgets. Districts are also required to complete annual Maintenance Operation Plans (MOP's) to show their planned work. Costs can then be monitored against the planned targets by WO, state, and district program leads to determine the effectiveness of the maintenance program.

Critical Factors

The following factors can impact program performance:

- Natural disturbances (heavy winter rains, windstorms, wildfires) which alter maintenance priorities, requiring changes to planned work; and
- State of Oregon Parks and Recreation surveys indicate that public use of BLM's recreational facilities and the roads accessing them is increasing.
- An overarching goal for the Western Oregon Transportation and Facilities Maintenance will be to comply with the new western Oregon Resource Management Plans that are expected to be signed during the summer of 2016 and meet the Management Action and Directions.

Maintenance priorities are established at the district and field office level annually using a MOP. This prioritization is based on roads and facilities that are essential to the districts and have the highest impact on the health and safety of employees, contractors, and the general public.

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Emergency repair work that is identified as high priority is completed as soon as funding is available.

Other Funding Sources

Most O&C roads and trails used by the public are maintained using appropriated funds. Timber haul roads, or "fee roads," are maintained using both appropriated funds and road maintenance fees that are collected from commercial users and deposited into a permanent operating fund for road maintenance.

Recreation facility maintenance activities are partially funded by the O&C Recreation Management Program, use fees, and the O&C National Monuments and National Conservation Areas subactivity. Eighteen of 170 O&C recreation sites participate in the Recreation Site Fee program.

Activity: Western Oregon Resources Management

Activity Description

The Western Oregon Resources Management activity provides for the management of 2.4 million acres of Oregon and California (O&C) and Coos Bay Wagon Road grant lands, and intermingled Public Domain lands. This program's objectives are to:

- Comply with the new western Oregon Resource Management Plans that are expected to be signed during the summer of 2016 and meet the Management Action and Directions.
- Restore and maintain the ecological health of forested watersheds;
- Provide well distributed blocks of late successional and old growth forest habitat to benefit threatened, endangered and other sensitive species;
- Provide recreational opportunities to a growing number of users; and
- Provide a sustainable supply of timber and other forest products.

The BLM designs landscape level solutions to address resource management challenges which includes applying active forest management to maintain and restore forest landscapes and terrestrial and aquatic habitat to increase resiliency to disturbance factors such as wildfire, insects and climate change. The BLM works collaboratively with Federal, State, local, and tribal partners, as well as public stakeholders and individuals during the planning and implementation of active forest management treatments to address timber production, fuels reduction, species habitat considerations and restoration opportunities.

Activity: Western Oregon Resources Management

Subactivity: Forest Management

Program Overview

The Western Oregon Forest Management Program includes costs associated with management, maintenance and enhancement of forests on the public lands, including the O&C Grant lands, the Coos Bay Wagon Road lands, and Public Domain land within western Oregon, except for activities directly related to reforestation and forest development.

Critical Factors

Comply with the new western Oregon Resource Management Plans that are expected to be signed during the summer of 2016 and the Management Actions and Directions as well as potential court orders.

Under the new RMPs, BLM will continue to collaborate with Federal, State, and local governmental agencies as well as Tribes and other stakeholders in project level National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) development and consultation to support efforts to meet performance targets for timber offered. Additionally, the BLM is expected to continue to engage in the resolution of pending protests, appeals and litigation of timber sale contracts that permit the actual offering and harvesting of timber. Within existing regulations, the BLM is looking for efficiencies in streamlining the administrative review process with the strategy and objective of resolving project level issues early in the planning process.

Means and Strategies

Within the framework of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the Clean Water Act, and the O&C Act, the program provides a sustainable source of timber, protects watersheds, and contributes to conservation, restoration, species recovery, and economic stability. The BLM develops forest management projects using landscape and watershed approaches to determine the suite of treatment activities. Work continues in coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to implement active forest management prescriptions. The components of the Forest Management program include:

- Forest landscape planning and project level NEPA development;
- Forest inventory and monitoring;
- Trespass prevention and investigation;
- Maintenance of existing right of way agreements;
- Maintenance and restoration of late successional and old growth forest structure;
- Resolving protests, appeals, and litigation;
- Sales of timber and other forest and vegetative products; and
- Maintenance and development of the national Forest Resource Information System databases to assure data integrity including the interfacing of the Timber Sale Information System and Collection and Billing System.

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Deleted: the six 1995 western Oregon Resource Management Plans, the 1995 Northwest Forest Plan (NWFP), the 2011 Northern Spotted Owl Recovery Plan, the 2012 Northern Spotted Owl Critical Habitat Plan, Survey and Manage guidance, and court orders remain critical factors to the success of the program.

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The Forest Management Program cooperates with the USFS in the Integrated Vegetation Management Group to support projects that overlap USFS and BLM lands.

Other Funding Sources

In addition to the O&C Grant Lands appropriation, two Permanent Operating Funds are available for use on O&C lands. These are the Timber Sale Pipeline Restoration Fund and the Forest Ecosystem Health and Recovery Fund (FEHRF) as described in the Permanent Operating Funds chapter of the Budget Justification. Public Law 113 235 reauthorized the FEHRF through 2020.

Activity: Western Oregon Resources Management

Subactivity: Reforestation and Forest Development

Program Overview

The Reforestation & Forest Development Program includes costs associated with reforestation, intermediate stand management and forest health treatments in young growth forest stands on the Public Lands in western Oregon. This program provides for forest restoration and sustainable and permanent forest production through active management to achieve healthy and productive watersheds.

Program Components

The focus areas for the Western Oregon Reforestation and Forest Development Program include:

- Forest regeneration and restoration activities of commercial and non commercial forest lands that establish young stands and restore habitat in riparian and other reserve areas;
- Intermediate stand management activities in young growth forests that promote forest growth, health, value enhancement, fuel hazard reduction and structure development to provide for future timber harvest, biomass utilization, habitat requirements, and fire recovery;
- Treatments to control the spread of forest pathogens and destructive insects;
- Forest monitoring and adaptive management assessments that inform active forest management to achieve stand objectives and provide for the sustainable harvest of timber;
- Non native and noxious weed management;
- Forest inventory, data acquisition, and consolidation of data storage and retrieval capabilities to facilitate coordination with other programs; and
- Cooperative research on developing technologies and management activities with other Federal and State resource management agencies and universities.

Critical Factors

The Reforestation and Forest Development Program is implementing the Cooperative Landscape Conservation Adaptation Initiative that incorporates climate change management planning and carbon sequestration. The BLM participates with the Adapting Forests To Climate Change Task Force that is a cooperative project to addresses how forest managers will modify seed zones in response to future climate conditions.

The BLM continually assures that landscape level planning and project level NEPA compliance work is integrated into and analyzes the full suite of reforestation and forest development treatments and restoration needs in the analysis areas. As part of the overall process, the BLM works with external and internal stakeholders to ensure that program goals are achieved.

Means and Strategies

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The BLM uses the following strategies in western Oregon reforestation and forest development:

- Employing emerging technologies such as Light and Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) to provide better, more cost effective information for decision makers;
- Supporting the Secretarial forestry ecological pilot projects by developing site specific prescriptions, modeling, and monitoring;
- Supporting the Cooperative Landscape Conservation strategy through work with the USFS to study the potential for assisted migration of Douglas fir in response to future climate conditions;
- Balancing workforce and operational capacity to prepare and administer service contracts, stewardship contracts, and agreements to reforest and implement high priority forest development treatments;
- Implementing intermediate stand management activities using a variety of authorities including stewardship contracts, service contracts, and timber sale contracts to offer biomass, reduce hazardous fuels, improve forest health, and enhance growth in young growth stands, achieving multiple resource objectives;
- Working with the USFS, the Oregon Department of Forestry, the Oregon Department of Agriculture, and Oregon State University to treat and monitor sudden oak death in Curry County, Oregon in accordance with a federally mandated quarantine zone;
- Engaging in several collaborative efforts to maintain and enhance ecosystem function, such as the Medford Small Log Collaborative, Tillamook Watershed restoration projects, and Klamath Falls small diameter log and juniper utilization; and
- Improving efficiencies, and where appropriate, taking advantage of The Good Neighbor and Stewardship Contracting authorities.

Activity: Western Oregon Resources Management

Subactivity: Other Forest Resources Management

Program Overview

The O&C Grant Lands Other Forest Resources Management Program includes funding for four programs critical to effective multiple use management across BLM lands in western Oregon: Rangeland Management; Recreation Management; Soil, Water and Air Management; and Wildlife and Fish Habitat Management.

In western Oregon, the BLM addresses public demand for recreation, clean water and productive soil, while managing for the sustained yield timber production as required by the Oregon and California Act of 1937. Additionally, this program provides the necessary funding to support fish and wildlife environmental clearances related to this management of BLM forestlands in western Oregon. This program supports species and habitat management and associated data collection, aquatic restoration for clean water and fish habitat, as well as the timber sale program in the form of surveys, clearances, interdisciplinary team participation, and environmental assessment preparation. In turn, the Forest Management Program supports active forest habitat management within the reserve land use allocations designed to benefit fish and wildlife species in the long term.

Critical Factors

- **Rangeland Management** Coordination with permittees, private landowners, county, State and Federal agencies to integrate best management practices and mitigation measures to reduce the spread of noxious weeds. Utilize approved herbicides and mechanical means to improve habitat.
- **Recreation Management** Recreational interest and use is increasing on BLM lands. Look for opportunities to accommodate increasing demand. Until new RMPs are completed, use available public input and information and available transportation management plans to guide, prioritize and address public recreational needs; (e.g. construction and maintenance of recreational facilities and sites, access needs via roads and trails, promoting the America Great Outdoor initiative as well as youth activities, managing various special use permits).
- **Soil, Water, and Air Management** Coordination with County, State, and Federal agencies to assure compliance with the regulatory framework. Address climate change concerns at the appropriate scale.
- **Fish and Wildlife Management** Coordination with regulatory agencies to complete necessary surveys to assess biological impacts in support of proposed forest management activities. Coordinate implementation at the appropriate scale to meet Endangered Species Act, Clean Water Act, and other regulatory requirements.

Means and Strategies

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The Other Forest Resources Management Program uses collaborative cooperative conservation principles, engaging commodity users, private groups, local communities, government agencies, and other stakeholders when planning and implementing management activities.

BLM biologists in western Oregon consult closely with their FWS and NMFS counterparts to implement an array of forest management and other resource restoration projects. The BLM, in collaboration with the FWS and the NMFS, has been monitoring various fish and wildlife populations as part of on going regional studies to assist in making informed decisions. The BLM works with the USFS to implement an interagency Special Status Species Program and Clean Water Act compliance activities that extend across administrative boundaries. Applying the concept of Service First and sharing skills accommodates an interagency approach toward resource conservation. Partnering improves administrative efficiencies, and decreases the cost of program administration. In the Soil, Water and Air Management Program, key partnerships with the USFS, the EPA, and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality have contributed toward administrative streamlining, restoration prioritization, and water quality standard updates all of which contribute to the BLM's role as a Designated Management Agency under the Clean Water Act.

The BLM also partners with The Nature Conservancy, NatureServe, and local watershed councils to share data and planning strategies that extend across private, State, and Federal jurisdictions. Additionally, the management of invasive species benefits from coordination with other landowners and land management agencies to control the spread of noxious weeds in high priority habitats. Eradication efforts focus on rapid detection and an early response and prevention, including seeking approval for the use of additional and more effective herbicides.

The Soil, Water and Air Management Program in western Oregon is focused on designing projects and implementing BLM Water Quality Restoration Plan objectives. These objectives emphasize the protection of drinking water sources, improvement of aquatic species habitat, restoring of water quality, and improving aquatic and riparian conditions while incorporating stakeholder input and involvement in development of program priorities. The program involves long term coordination and collaboration with the fisheries and riparian management programs of multiple agencies and landowners. The program is tasked with managing for soil stabilization, health and productivity; impacts from invasive species to riparian and upland habitat; upland forest and rangeland health; habitat for sensitive species; and the Bureau's wild and scenic rivers.

Much of the work involves assessment, monitoring, and restoring of watersheds to comply with the Clean Water Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act. This is accomplished through development and implementation of restoration projects and activities defined within the context of water quality restoration plans, which support the State of Oregon's Total Maximum Daily Loads program.

Additionally, the program funds studies necessary to establish in stream flows that are required to support wild and scenic river outstandingly remarkable values; work to obtain or maintain Federal reserve water rights, and inter agency agreements with the U.S. Geological Survey and Oregon State University to develop flow and water quality monitoring data necessary for developing NEPA planning documents.

**Activity: Western Oregon Resources
Management
Subactivity: Resource Management Planning****Program Overview**

The Western Oregon Resource Management Planning Program emphasizes the development, implementation, and maintenance of Resource Management Plans for BLM managed land in western Oregon communities. The program supports implementation of NEPA by providing a network of planning experts who provide oversight and extensive advice and review of the various NEPA documents to assure compliance with the existing Resource Management Plans.

The BLM has been managing western Oregon lands for 20 years under the existing 1995 RMPs. Continuation of complex environmental, economic and social issues have challenged the 1995 RMPs ability to meet the balance of human and environmental outcomes originally envisioned at that time. In February of 2012, Secretary Salazar announced the beginning of a new resource management planning process and on March 9, 2012, a Notice of Intent was published in the Federal Register to formalize the initiation of the new plans.

Program Components

The new RMPs for Western Oregon will determine how the BLM administered lands in western Oregon will be managed in the future to further the recovery of threatened and endangered species, provide for clean water, restore fire adapted ecosystems, produce a sustained yield of timber products, provide for recreation opportunities, and meet tribal concerns. The new RMPs will:

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- Assure compliance with applicable laws, regulations, and policies, including, but not limited to, the O&C Act, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, the Endangered Species Act, and the Clean Water Act;
- Facilitate completing the subsequent environmental assessments, categorical exclusions, and determinations of NEPA adequacy as appropriate for project implementation; and
- Provide critical analysis to respond to protests, appeals, or litigation.

Critical Factors

Within its regulatory guidance, the BLM is actively engaging all stakeholders to ensure dialogue, collaboration, transparency, and overall support for the new plans.

Means and Strategies

The Means and Strategies the BLM is engaging to gain support for the final Record of Decision include:

Consultation On June 18, 2013, the BLM, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), and National Marine Fisheries Service signed an ESA Consultation Agreement that outlined a vision on how the consultation would work for the new RMP revision process. Consultation meetings among the agencies are continuing throughout the RMP revision process so the Biological Assessments and Biological Opinions can be completed soon after the release of the Proposed RMP/Final EIS. The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and the Environmental Protection Agency are also participating in the meetings to provide insight, and to integrate the consultation work with those aspects of the RMPs that involve those particularly agencies.

Incorporation of New Information The RMP revisions will incorporate new information, science, and regulatory requirements into the analysis that was not available or has been modified since the 1995 RMPs were signed. Not exclusive of other new information, two key issues that are incorporated into the RMP revisions are the 2011 Northern Spotted Owl Recovery Plan and 2012 final Critical Habitat rule.

In 2011, the FWS finalized the Recovery Plan for the Northern Spotted Owl. Subsequently in 2012, the Critical Habitat rule for the Northern Spotted Owl was finalized. The Resource Management Plans identified in the Purpose and Need the necessity to provide for the conservation and recovery of threatened and endangered species. The RMPs are using this new information in formulating alternatives to avoid actions that jeopardize the continued existence of listed species.

Scoping / Listening Sessions A number of public outreach meetings have been held to encourage dialogue with community partners, cooperating agencies, Federal and State agencies, and the public. To date, the following formal public outreach efforts have been made throughout western Oregon:

- Eight initial public scoping meetings from May 16th June 5th 2012.
- Four recreation outreach workshops from January 29th February 5th 2013.
- Four community listening sessions from December 3rd December 18th 2013.
- Eight Planning Criteria and Preliminary Alternatives Meeting from March 3rd March 17th 2014.

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Cooperating Agencies Advisory Group - The BLM is fully utilizing the Cooperating Agency process in the RMP revision process. Presently, the BLM has 27 different Cooperating Agencies from State, local, tribal, and the Federal government working closely with them to assure communication and understanding, identify common goals and objectives, and enhance the quality of BLM's management of public lands. The Cooperating Agencies have formed four specific work groups to assist the BLM in the planning process, focused on: terrestrial, aquatic, social economic, and tribal issues. The Cooperating Agencies are actively engaged in assisting the BLM with alternative development, effect analysis, and outreach.

Staffing, Neutral Facilitation, External Contracting Analysis Internally, western Oregon has a core staff of eight employees working exclusively on preparing the draft and final EIS. In addition to a core staff, an interdisciplinary team of 22 Oregon State Office and District staff throughout western Oregon is providing key input and analysis to support the plan revisions. Externally, the BLM has contracted out different operational aspects of the plan including: neutral party facilitation; socioeconomic analysis; vegetation modeling; northern spotted owl habitat and demographic response modeling; and recreation demand analysis.

Activity: Western Oregon Information and Data Systems
Subactivity: Western Oregon Information Systems Operation and Maintenance**Program Overview**

This program deploys hardware and software necessary to implement Resource Management Plans, develop and maintain data sets supporting decision making, and provides technology to facilitate management decisions utilizing programs such as mobile geographic information system (GIS) and internet mapping services. This program manages infrastructure, including workstations, networks, Web services and software applications, and ensures system security, integrity and reliability.

Means and Strategies

The BLM instituted corporate spatial data standards to ensure GIS data integrity, facilitate integration with partners, and implement Web based collaboration and mapping tools to enhance access and communication. In 2016, the BLM will continue to centralize management of IT support services. Efforts will continue under Service First to align the GIS functions and leverage BLM and U.S. Forest Service (USFS) data resources to reduce costs to both agencies, facilitate knowledge transfer, and standardize data and procedures.

Other Funding Sources

Public Domain Forest Management funding in the Management of Lands and Resources Appropriation also supports the maintenance and development of the suite of Forest Management databases within the Forest Information Database Systems.

Activity: Western Oregon National Landscape Conservation System

Subactivity: National Monuments & National Conservation Areas

Program Overview

The Cascade Siskiyou National Monument (CSNM) in southwestern Oregon and the Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area (YHONA) located in the central coast near Newport, Oregon, are the two units that comprise the Western Oregon National Monuments and National Conservation Areas program. These are both units of the BLM National Conservation Lands.

Critical Factors

In support of the NCL goals, in 2018, the BLM will focus on these critical factors:

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- **Law Enforcement Presence and Visibility** Law enforcement is a key factor in ensuring visitor safety and protecting fragile or rare geologic, archeological, paleontological, and biological resources. Threats include vandalism of natural features, archeological sites, facilities, and theft of irreplaceable archeological and paleontological resources.
- **Critical Inventories and Monitoring Programs** Inventories define the critical resource values representative of each unit's uniqueness, and the information provided is essential to the development and implementation of management plans.
- **Restoration** Both CSNM and YHONA are home to a variety of ecosystems. These areas contribute to protection and restoration of native plant and animal communities, including riparian habitats, corridors, and migration routes, to sustain and conserve public land resources affected by climate change, altered fire regimes, and invasive species.
- **Comprehensive Travel and Transportation Management** Unmanaged recreation use continues to impact resources in the monuments through increased erosion, vegetative damage, spread of weeds and invasive plants, and impacts to wildlife habitat.
- **Visitor and Community Education** Interpretation and environmental education improve visitor experiences, providing information about the cultural, ecological, and scientific values of units and the BLM's balanced resource mission.
- **Maintenance and Operations of Recreation Facilities** The program supports a number of education and visitor centers along with other facilities to enhance the visitor experience in the natural setting.
- **Supporting Soda Mountain Wilderness Stewardship Plan Implementation** The BLM will continue to implement the new plan, including activities such as decommissioning former roads, conducting roads to trails projects, removing unneeded grazing management facilities and other human infrastructure, and other "re wilding" projects.

Means and Strategies

Both the CSNM and the YHONA work with volunteers, partners, and communities. The BLM works closely with the public to ensure that recreation in these units meets the needs of user groups while remaining compatible with the values for which each unit was designated.

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2018 Current Services Request

Activity: National Conservation Lands

Subactivity: National Monuments & National Conservation Areas

		2016 Enacted	2017 Request	2018 Current Services			
				Fixed Costs	Transfers	Scenario 1 Request	Scenario 2 Request
National Conservation Lands	\$000 FTE	36,819	50,645	+175	+0	50,645	

Program Overview

The National Conservation Lands program encompasses the BLM's 25 NMs, 16 NCAs, three Outstanding Natural Areas, one Cooperative Management and Protection Area, and one Forest Reserve. These units of the National Conservation Lands are managed to conserve, protect, restore, and enhance America's 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



Grand Gulch Wilderness Study Area, Utah

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.

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.

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

2018 Program Performance

In 2018, 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

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the accomplishments of BLM programs in conservation, cultural preservation, and recreation. Key accomplishments planned in 2017 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.

Activity: Recreation Management

Subactivity: Wilderness Management

Program Overview

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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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 2018, the BLM expects to continue gathering baseline data for each of its 223 Wilderness Areas. The BLM will then use this information to make meaningful, efficient management decisions to maintain or improve wilderness character.

Enhancing Scientific Knowledge

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

Developing Partnerships and Engaging People and Communities

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

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

Connecting Landscapes by Working Collaboratively

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

National Conservation Lands

1. 1711 New National Monuments and NCA's (+4.1 million)

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

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

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

Specifically, the funds would be used for:

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

2. 1711 Existing National Monuments Critical Needs (+22.735 million)

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

3. Wild and Scenic Rivers/National Scenic and Historic Trails (+1.2 million)

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

- Comprehensive River Management Plans (CMP's) (+600,000)
Develop and complete interagency CMPs and Comprehensive (Trails) Management Plans (CMPs) to identify management corridors, and allowable actions within, to ensure that these congressional designations are protected and managed in accord with each unit's designating legislation and other authorities.
- Develop and Deploy Interagency Training (+200,000)
Develop WSR and NSHT training to ensure consistent management and interpretation of laws, regulations, and policies. Combined interagency funding would be used to (1) hire interagency training coordinators; (2) develop curricula; (3) set up an internet domain, database service and training website; (4) recruit and train instructors; and (5) host training workshops and courses.
- Critical On-the-Ground Restoration of 303(d) Listed Streams (+350,000)
Conduct critical restoration actions to ensure that the WSRs and NSHTs are being managed according to the designating legislation and other authorities. Specifically, funding would be used to address Clean Water Act 303d water impairment problems on WSRs and restore habitat and treat invasive species in corridors in WSRs and NSHTs.

- Develop and deploy education and outreach materials to engage the public to support managing WSRs and NSHTs. (+50,000)