

**To:** Mara Alexander[[malexander@blm.gov](mailto:malexander@blm.gov)]  
**Cc:** Abbie Jossie[[ajossie@blm.gov](mailto:ajossie@blm.gov)]; Sally Butts[[sbutts@blm.gov](mailto:sbutts@blm.gov)]; Allison Ginn[[aginn@blm.gov](mailto:aginn@blm.gov)]  
**From:** Curtis, Aaron  
**Sent:** 2017-04-12T14:07:07-04:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** Fwd: National Conservation Lands Scientific Studies Support Program  
**Received:** 2017-04-12T14:07:12-04:00  
[National Conservation Lands Scientific Studies Support Program Funding Report FY17.pdf](#)  
[FY17 NLCS Grants State Ranking \(1\).xlsx](#)

Hi, Mara,

My name is Aaron Curtis, and I'm the Branch Chief at the Utah State Office that covers our National Conservation Lands program. I am very concerned about how much these WO-selected projects deviate from our State Director-approved priorities. Can we please schedule a call at your earliest convenience to discuss the rationale behind these decisions?

--

*Aaron Curtis  
Branch Chief for Outdoor and Heritage Resources  
Bureau of Land Management, Utah State Office  
Salt Lake City, Utah  
801.539.4225*

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

From: **Ginn, Allison** <[aginn@blm.gov](mailto:aginn@blm.gov)>  
Date: Wed, Apr 12, 2017 at 11:51 AM  
Subject: Fwd: National Conservation Lands Scientific Studies Support Program  
To: Aaron Curtis <[acurtis@blm.gov](mailto:acurtis@blm.gov)>

FYI

Regards,

Allison Ginn  
National Conservation Lands Program Lead  
BLM Utah State Office  
801-539-4053

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

From: **Alexander, Mara** <[malexander@blm.gov](mailto:malexander@blm.gov)>  
Date: Wed, Apr 12, 2017 at 11:41 AM  
Subject: National Conservation Lands Scientific Studies Support Program  
To: Frank Harlan <[fharlan@blm.gov](mailto:fharlan@blm.gov)>, Leona Parker <[lparker@blm.gov](mailto:lparker@blm.gov)>, Ruth Raisanen <[rraisane@blm.gov](mailto:rraisane@blm.gov)>, Eleni Sarris <[esarris@blm.gov](mailto:esarris@blm.gov)>, Christine Shaver <[cshaver@blm.gov](mailto:cshaver@blm.gov)>, Karina Del Toro <[kdeltoro@blm.gov](mailto:kdeltoro@blm.gov)>, Brittney Linford <[blinford@blm.gov](mailto:blinford@blm.gov)>, Betty Conlon <[bconlon@blm.gov](mailto:bconlon@blm.gov)>, Susan Kaller <[skaller@blm.gov](mailto:skaller@blm.gov)>, Gretchen Eykelbosh <[geykelbosh@blm.gov](mailto:geykelbosh@blm.gov)>, Amy Marshall <[amarshall@blm.gov](mailto:amarshall@blm.gov)>, "Elizabeth (Liza) Love"

<[elove@blm.gov](mailto:elove@blm.gov)>, Sheryl Dowley <[sdowley@blm.gov](mailto:sdowley@blm.gov)>, Melanie Beckstead  
<[mbeckstead@blm.gov](mailto:mbeckstead@blm.gov)>, Edward Beckham <[ebeckham@blm.gov](mailto:ebeckham@blm.gov)>, Thomas Bickaaskas  
<[tbickaas@blm.gov](mailto:tbickaas@blm.gov)>, Kenneth Mahoney <[kmahoney@blm.gov](mailto:kmahoney@blm.gov)>, Mark Conley  
<[mconley@blm.gov](mailto:mconley@blm.gov)>, Chad Schneckenburger <[cschneckenburger@blm.gov](mailto:cschneckenburger@blm.gov)>, Peter DeWitt  
<[pdewitt@blm.gov](mailto:pdewitt@blm.gov)>, Robin Fehlau <[rfehlau@blm.gov](mailto:rfehlau@blm.gov)>, Jaime Tompkins  
<[jtompkins@blm.gov](mailto:jtompkins@blm.gov)>, Barbara Keleher <[bkeleher@blm.gov](mailto:bkeleher@blm.gov)>, McKinney Briske  
<[mbriske@blm.gov](mailto:mbriske@blm.gov)>, "Gerald (Jerry) Magee" <[gmagee@blm.gov](mailto:gmagee@blm.gov)>, "Ginn, Allison"  
<[aginn@blm.gov](mailto:aginn@blm.gov)>, Noelle Glines Bovio <[nglinesbovio@blm.gov](mailto:nglinesbovio@blm.gov)>  
Cc: Brandon Riley <[briley@blm.gov](mailto:briley@blm.gov)>, Maria Gochis <[mgochis@blm.gov](mailto:mgochis@blm.gov)>, "Wootton, Rachel"  
<[rwootton@blm.gov](mailto:rwootton@blm.gov)>

Hi everyone

Thank you very much for all of your help and hard work with the scientific studies support program review process.  
Attached is a report with the FY17 funding decisions.

As I'm sure you know, we received more quality proposals than we could fund. If end of the year funds become available, we may be able to support additional projects. If any of the unfunded projects in your state receive funding from other sources, please let Brandon Riley (cc ed) and me know so we can make note of it prior to making end of the year funding decisions.

Thank you to those of you who have shared with me ideas on how to make next year's review process better. Later this summer, as I put together the IM and funding announcement for FY18, I will reach out to all of you to make sure we address all/most concerns and ideas.

Thank you again for all of your time and effort with this process. You all have been a great team to work with!

Best  
Mara

Mara Alexander, Ph.D.  
Science Program Lead  
National Conservation Lands  
Bureau of Land Management  
20 M Street SE Washington, DC 20003  
[malexander@blm.gov](mailto:malexander@blm.gov)  
desk: 202-912-7096  
cell: 202-738-2522

<https://www.blm.gov/programs/national-conservation-lands/about/science-on-the-lands>

[illegible]

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	-----

[illegible]

[illegible]



**NATIONAL  
CONSERVATION  
LANDS**

## **Scientific Studies Support Program FY2017 Report**



**Washington, D.C.**

**April 2017**

Aravaipa Canyon Wilderness Area

---

## Introduction

The National Conservation Lands Scientific Studies Support Program aims to increase the effectiveness of resource management by financially supporting partner-conducted, scientific research that informs effective decision-making.

This report presents the details of the FY2017 National Conservation Lands Scientific Studies Support Program, including information about the review process and a summary of research prioritized for funding.

More information on the original call for proposals is available in Instruction Memorandum 2017-013. Please direct questions to Dr. Mara Alexander, National Conservation Lands Science Lead ([malexander@blm.gov](mailto:malexander@blm.gov)).

### Table of Contents:

Pg. 2: Introduction

Pg. 3: Program's Process

Pg. 4: Summary and Highlights

Pg. 5: Table of Funded Research



*Sand to Snow National Monument*



## Program's Process

The National Conservation Lands Washington Office issues an instruction memorandum to call for proposals (IM 2017-013).

Field Offices and established local partners collaborate to identify research projects.

Partners submit research proposals via Grants.gov.

State Offices review and rank proposals, and then submit their reviews to the Washington Office.

The National Conservation Lands (WO-410) leads a **Washington Office/NOC review** of submitted proposals and allocates funding.

Research is conducted by local partners

Partners submit research reports.



*McInnis Canyon National Conservation Area, Colorado*

### **STATE OFFICE REVIEW CRITERIA**

- ♦ Project aligns with National Conservation Lands unit and BLM state office information needs
- ♦ BLM staff has the capacity to support the project
- ♦ Applicant past performance

### **WASHINGTON OFFICE/NOC REVIEW CRITERIA**

- ♦ State ranking
- ♦ Clear study objective
- ♦ Research theme and technical approach
- ♦ Public benefit
- ♦ Researcher qualifications

## Funding Summary and Highlights

Of the 57 proposals submitted, **17 projects (totaling \$419,971)** were selected for funding.

These projects will be funded via assistance agreements with local partners of the BLM, some via utilization of the Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (CESU) networks.

Projects included botanical surveys, seed bank analyses, wildlife diet and disease studies, and paleontological and archaeological research.

A few examples are presented here:



### Arizona

Rangeland Resource Management; Springs Inventory and Research

### Idaho

Analysis and Modeling of Golden Eagle Diets in the Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area



### Montana

Citizen Science Inventory of BLM Wilderness Study Areas



### New Mexico

Holistic Inventory of fuels and vegetation change at Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks National Monument



### California

Floristic Inventory, Vegetation Assessment, and Coordination of a Bioblitz in the Sand to Snow National Monument

### Colorado

Salt Desert Restoration



### Utah

Critical Dinosaur



Fossil Resources Protection, Inventory, and Salvage: Late Cretaceous

## FY2017 Funded Projects

State	Unit(s)	Unit Type	Proposal Title	Partner	Funding Requested
AZ	Several	WA	Rangeland Resource Management; Springs Inventory and Research	Eastern Arizona College	\$25,000.00
CA	Sand to Snow	NM	Floristic Inventory, Vegetation Assessment, and Coordination of a Bioblitz in the Sand to Snow National Monument	Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden	\$24,949.00
CA	Amargosa Wild and Scenic River	WSR	Spillover of Mites as a Disease Stressor of Endangered Amargosa Voles	University of California Davis	\$25,000.00
CA	Berryessa Snow Mountain	NM	Digitizing a legacy dataset	University of California Davis	\$25,000.00
CA	California Coastal	NM	Assessment of Black Oystercatcher reproductive success and effectiveness of management actions	California Oceans Unmanned	\$24,981.00
CO	Several	NCA, NM	Salt Desert Restoration	Colorado State University	\$24,957.00
ID	Birds of Prey	NCA	Analysis and Modeling of Golden Eagle Diets in the Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area	Boise State University	\$25,000.00
MT	Several	WSA	Citizen Science Inventory of BLM Wilderness Study Areas in Montana	University of Montana	\$24,975.00
NM	Kasha Katuwe Tent Rocks	NM	Holistic inventory of fuels and vegetation change at Kasha Katuwe Tent Rocks National Monument	Board of Regents, Nevada System of Higher Education	\$24,921.00
NM	El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro	NS&HT	Additional Inventory and Evaluation of Sites on El Camino Real	New Mexico State University	\$24,681.00
NV	Gold Butte	NM	Assess the Diverse Plants in Gold Butte National Monument	Board of Regents, University of Nevada Las Vegas	\$24,768.00
NV	Gold Butte	NM	Gypsum/Endemic Habitat Research at Gold Butte National Monument	Northern Arizona University	\$25,000.00
OR/ WA	San Juan Islands	NM	Vascular Plant Survey San Juan Islands National Monument	Pacific Rim Institute for Environmental Stewardship	\$25,000.00
OR/ WA	Yaquina Head	ONA	Seabirds at BLM's Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area: Distinguishing Contributions of Bottom Up vs Top Down Control	Oregon State University	\$25,000.00
UT	Grand Staircase Escalante	NM	Critical Dinosaur Fossil Resource Protection, Inventory, and Salvage: Late Cretaceous	Utah Natural History Museum	\$20,739.00
UT	Grand Staircase Escalante	NM	Inventory and Monitoring Research for Ecological and Social Conditions in the BLM's Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument Wilderness Study Areas	Penn State University	\$25,000.00
WY	Oregon Buttes and Whitehorse Creek	WSA	Biodiversity Inventory of Oregon Buttes and Whitehorse Creek Wilderness Study Areas	University of Wyoming	\$24,999.95