

National Landscape Conservation System Strategies

January 25, 2012

The Secretary of the Interior created the National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS) in 2000 as a single system of specially designated areas managed on a landscape level under the BLM's multiple-use mandate. The Omnibus Public Lands Management Act of 2009 provided a statutory basis for the NLCS and added several new areas to the system, including Colorado's Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area (NCA). New areas can be added to the NLCS through Congressional designation or by Presidential Proclamation, through the American Antiquities Act of 1906.

In 2007, BLM Colorado released *The National Landscape Conservation System: A Strategic Plan for Colorado* addressing the NLCS mission to conserve, protect and restore nationally significant landscapes with outstanding cultural, ecological and scientific values for the benefit of current and future generations.

The BLM recently released *The National Landscape Conservation System: 15-Year Strategy 2010-2025* to guide the NLCS toward becoming a world leader in conservation by protecting landscapes, applying evolving knowledge and bringing people together to share stewardship of the land.

Themes and goals of these two plans are very similar: one guiding a national program and the other focused on regional considerations. The BLM is currently working on a national NLCS Implementation Plan based on the 15-year strategy and BLM Colorado is working on an implementation plan for the 2007 strategy. Both implementation plans are due for release in 2012.

BLM Colorado's NLCS areas encompass more than one million acres, 1/8 of all BLM land in Colorado.

- Canyons of the Ancients National Monument and Anasazi Heritage Center (more than 166,000 acres)
- Dominguez-Escalante NCA (more than 209,000 acres)
- Gunnison Gorge NCA (nearly 63,000 acres)
- McInnis Canyons NCA (more than 123,000 acres)
- Dominguez Canyon Wilderness Area (66,280 acres) located within the Dominguez-Escalante NCA
- Gunnison Gorge Wilderness Area (17,784 acres) located within the Gunnison Gorge NCA
- Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness Area (75,500 acres) located within the McInnis Canyons NCA
- Powderhorn Wilderness Area (48,115 acres)
- Uncompahgre Wilderness Area (3,390 acres)
- 54 Wilderness Study Areas (548,023 acres across 10 field offices)
- Tabeguache Congressionally Designated Management Area (8,075 acres)
- Old Spanish National Historic Trail (85 miles)
- Continental Divide National Scenic Trail (1 mile)

