

# BLM Report to the Secretary: Bureau Implementation of the America's Great Outdoors Initiative (April-2011)

## Section 1: Introduction

As the Department of the Interior's multiple-use conservation agency, the BLM is exceptionally positioned to significantly contribute to the success of the America's Great Outdoors initiative. The BLM's widespread and diverse natural and cultural resources can help re-ignite the public's passion for our Nation's outdoor legacy. BLM land and resources provide a complete and comprehensive picture of how America's Great Outdoors is integrated into the lives of everyday Americans. The BLM can directly facilitate and create partnerships to meet the challenges of conservation, improve real opportunity and access for all to enjoy the great outdoors, help achieve conservation goals on a landscape scale, and support diverse recreation and the economies of local communities. In addition, the BLM holds management capabilities and administrative authorities that will complement and build upon those of other agencies, providing vital opportunities and tools to achieve America's conservation goals. The agency is an integral component of the Nation's conservation and recreation system.

### BLM's Contribution to America's Great Outdoors

|  |  |   |  |
|--|--|---|--|
| <p><b><u>America's Backyard</u></b></p> <p>BLM public lands are recognized as the backyard and playground of the fast-growing American West—with more than 58 million people living within an hour's drive of BLM's 245 million acres.</p> | <p><b><u>Valuable Community Partner</u></b></p> <p>BLM is a leader in partnering with communities to enhance shared goals to improve quality of life, the environment, and economies through Federal efforts and planning.</p> | <p><b><u>Landscape Conservation Leader</u></b></p> <p>BLM has demonstrated leadership in forging collaborative partnerships across private, state, and Federal lands for conservation on a watershed and landscape scale, and in support of BLM's multiple-use mission.</p> | <p><b><u>America's Land Steward</u></b></p> <p>BLM is entrusted with certain authorities to convey and acquire Federal lands for public purposes, and these capabilities and management flexibilities can support local, state and regional planning and conservation goals.</p> |
|--|--|---|--|

BLM's AGO implementation plan emphasizes:

- **Supporting Great Urban and Community Parks.** BLM is encouraging community-based recreation by developing regional partnerships with local communities, recreation interests, and others to provide places to be outside—both urban and rural. In the rapidly urbanizing West, BLM public lands offer “close to home” open space and special places for more than 40 million Americans living in about 4,000 nearby cities and communities. BLM's partnerships have supported visitor services and safety, and created many new and popular recreation areas, trails, and facilities near where people live.

- **Conserving and Restoring Rural Landscapes and Working Lands.** BLM’s multiple-use mission offers a model for landscape-level conservation that complements other Federal, state and private land conservation and resource management systems. BLM facilitates partnerships that coordinate restoration and conservation across boundaries and jurisdictions. The BLM can provide a distinctly 21<sup>st</sup> century approach to conservation by collaborating with resource users, private land owners, local and state agencies and other partners on a landscape scale. The National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS) includes more than 27 million acres of conservation lands and rivers. It builds on, expands, and complements America’s other conservation systems. The NLCS model protects and conserves resources and ecosystems while allowing continued, sustainable land and recreational uses that support economically diverse and viable neighboring communities.
- **Enhancing Recreation, Improving Access and Reconnecting People to the Outdoors:** BLM public lands offer the widest range of recreation opportunities of any public land agency. This spectrum of traditional and new outdoor recreation activities contributes to the health and well being of millions of Americans. More than 100 million acres of BLM-managed public lands are within a day’s drive of 16 major urban areas and are accessible by many modes of travel. BLM offers lands and venues for recreational activities and events not available on other Federal and state lands. These include salt flats for land speed trials, expansive playas and dune areas for activities such as land sailing to rocket launching; tens of thousands of miles of trails and routes for mountain bikes, hikes, equestrian use and motorized activities; thousands of miles of rivers and millions of acres of remote natural lands and wilderness for traditional hunting, fishing, camping, and enjoying solitude; and adventure and challenge activities from dog sledding and rock climbing to canyoneering and whitewater sports.
- **Providing Critical Tools for Conserving, Protecting and Enhancing the Great Outdoors:** As “Facilitator of Growth and Conservation,” the BLM can purchase, sell, lease and exchange lands to consolidate public lands, assist local communities, address regional planning and growth, and partner with states and other agencies to achieve shared conservation or recreation goals. BLM offers specialized realty capabilities, land tenure authorities, leasing and acquisition tools, land health information and ecosystem assessments, other technical assistance to better partner with states, communities, and others to protect landscapes, restore ecosystem functions, conserve natural resources, enhance local economies, and address regional planning and growth issues. The BLM can also convey lands to local and state governments for recreation and conservation purposes under the Recreation and Public Purposes (R&PP) Act. These tools provide flexibility and are invaluable for supporting cross-jurisdictional and interagency collaborative conservation efforts. BLM’s experience with checkerboard ownership and large-scale Land and Water Conservation Fund projects has strengthened its ability to facilitate partnerships and work with private land owners, recreationists, communities, and resource users to improve recreational access and achieve local and regional restoration and conservation goals.
- **Educating, Employing and Engaging the Next Generation:** BLM will continue to demonstrate its investment in America’s youth and its commitment to providing opportunities for public service. BLM has thousands of successful partnerships with other governmental entities, educational institutions, and service organizations that engage youth and educate all Americans through outreach, education, volunteer opportunities and public

service employment. The BLM will expand its current successful programs to engage youth and people of all ages through interpretive, responsible use, stewardship, environmental education programs. BLM's "Take It Outside" and "Hands on the Land" programs are two examples of hands-on experiential education, science, and field-based programs that have been successful introducing thousands of kids and families to healthy outdoor activities and the wonders of nature. BLM will also expand support for career recruitment, seasonal employment, youth corps, intern, and volunteer programs that promote public service and benefit conservation. BLM will pilot programs that use art, literature, the web and social networking to engage citizens in their natural and cultural heritage. BLM will work with communities to support their sense of place and promote sustainable economies through geotourism. Targeting the underserved and under-represented, the BLM will pursue on-the-ground partnerships that serve diverse and urban youth, Native Americans, persons with disabilities, veterans and their families, and others to create outdoor learning opportunities and recreation experiences for all.

## SECTION 2: BLM's Implementation Plan for America's Great Outdoors Initiative Action Items

*“Provide Quality Jobs, Career Pathways, and Service Opportunities”*

*--America's Great Outdoors Report (Section 1)*

**Action Item 1.1b:** *Form an advisory committee to advise the 21CSC interagency working group and facilitate alignment with and investment in the program. The advisory committee will be composed of diverse representatives from the private sector as well as state, local, and tribal government. The committee would comply with the Federal Advisory Committee Act. It will provide its report within one year of creation. (DOI as host, but in partnership with USDA, DOC, DOD, USACE, EPA, DOL, CNCS, ACHP, and OPM)*

1. Lead Department/Agency: DOI is lead department; Office of Youth is DOI lead
2. Senior Official:
  - a. Carl Rountree, Assistant Director, NLCS and Community Partnerships, BLM
  - b. Mary Tisdale, Division Chief, Education, Interpretation and Partnerships, BLM
  - c. Carole Carter-Pfisterer, Assistant Director, Human Capital Management, BLM
  - d. Anznette Randall, Branch Chief, Recruitment and Retention Programs, BLM
3. Project Description: **Implement BLM Youth Employment Actions** and provide support, advice and recommendations to the DOI Office of Youth regarding innovative opportunities to explore careers in public service through Americorps, Veterans Green Corps, and other partnerships and programs. BLM has served as a model of innovation for government-wide efforts to engage and encourage youth to pursue careers in public service through its promotion of the Youth corps and SCEP/STEP programs. BLM has a unique role and opportunity to engage youth in natural resource and other careers due to its multiple-use mission and the need to recruit from one of the widest array of professional and technical disciplines of any Federal land management agency. BLM actions include:
  - Create internship, career, and job informational packets and websites to promote the BLM's multiple-use mission and conservation efforts and opportunities for careers, employment and federal internship programs.
  - Work with Youth corps groups, the Student Conservation Association, Americorps, and other youth-serving partners to facilitate youth working on BLM projects and lands.
  - Improve diversity through student, intern, and other job mentoring program and target development of outreach and training for youth.
  - Recruit qualified potential participants through partnerships and outreach to universities and schools, veterans groups, Youth corps, Tribes, communities, friends groups, business/industry or recreation activity/interest organizations, and others.
  - a. Timing: FY 2011-12
  - b. Outcomes: The initiative will create more employment and educational opportunities for youth, provide more consistency and new partnership

opportunities for BLM programs, and create more effective strategies for monitoring programs and employment opportunities.

- c. Other Dept./Bureau Support Required: NPS, USFS, FWS, Office of Youth

**Action Item 1.2a:** *Review hiring authorities for participants of existing public lands corps, youth conservation corps, and similar programs, and develop interagency guidance to clarify and expand hiring authority, including number of hours and type of work required for applicants to qualify for a different status. Participants must meet job prerequisites and complete their term of service. (DOI and OPM)*

1. Lead Department/Agency: DOI is lead department; Office of Youth is DOI lead
2. Senior Official:
  - a. Carole Carter-Pfisterer, Assistant Director, Human Capital Management, BLM
  - b. Anznette Randall, Branch Chief, Recruitment and Retention Programs, BLM
3. Project Description: **Encourage Understanding and Expand Youth Hiring Authorities** and assist with new guidance and policy for all youth employment and career programs within the BLM. In addition:
  - Expand training and information resources for managers and supervisors, youth coordinators and staff, and student employment coordinators about the flexible hiring authorities available for eligible youth hires, including promoting authorities for veterans and persons with disabilities.
  - Create a hiring toolkit and electronic fact sheet on the BLM's intranet site, online and Webex training.
  - a. Timeline: FY 2011-12
  - b. Outcomes: Streamlined hiring process and increased youth work opportunities
  - c. Other Dept./Bureau Support Required: NTC

**Action Item 1.2b:** *Create an easy-to-use job locator web portal that connects qualified applicants to natural and cultural resource job opportunities across the federal government. (DOI and OPM)*

1. Lead Department/Agency: DOI is lead department; Office of Youth is DOI lead office
2. Senior Official:
  - a. Carole Carter-Pfisterer, Assistant Director, Human Capital Management, BLM
  - b. Anznette Randall, Branch Chief, Recruitment and Retention Programs, BLM
3. Project Description: **BLM will link to the recently unveiled Youth Portal** (YouthGo.gov), as further enhancements to this excellent platform will be critical to accomplish of this AGO Action Item.
  - a. Timeline: FY 2011-12
  - b. Outcomes: Increased numbers of youth are engaged and employed through the Department's bureaus.
  - c. Other Dept/Bureau Support Required: NPS, FWS, OSM, BOR, BIA

**Action Item 1.3a:** *Improve access to federal resources through an easy-to-use web portal that matches volunteers with opportunities, allows volunteers to create their own projects, and offers resources for training and technical assistance. (DOI)*

1. Lead Department/Agency: DOI is lead department; Office of Youth is DOI lead office

2. Senior Official:
  - a. Carl Rountree, Assistant Director, NLCS and Community Partnerships, BLM
  - b. Mary Tisdale, Division Chief, Education, Interpretation and Partnerships, BLM
3. Project Description: **Federal Interagency Task Force on Volunteerism.** BLM will build on work currently underway through the task force to improve access to Federal resources through an easy-to-use web portal that matches volunteers with opportunities.
  - a. Timeline: FY 2011
  - b. Outcomes: More volunteers working with the Department's bureaus.
  - c. Other Dept/Bureau Support Required: USDA, DOD, EPA, DOL, CNCS

***Action Item 1.3b:** Expand capacity to build on and promote partnerships and programs on public lands that connect people to the outdoors through meaningful volunteer service opportunities relating to restoration and education. (DOI, USDA, DOD-US Army COE, DOL, and CNCS)*

1. Lead Department/Agency: DOI is lead department; Office of Youth is DOI lead
2. Senior Official:
  - a. Carl Rountree, Assistant Director, NLCS and Community Partnerships, BLM
  - b. Mary Tisdale, Division Chief, Education, Interpretation and Partnerships, BLM
3. Project Description - 1: **Connect Youth and Families with the Great Outdoors through Public Service and Education and Expand BLM's Volunteer Program.** BLM's diverse landscapes, special areas, cultural resources, and multiple-use mission provide unique opportunities to attract and engage youth and families through public service and education on a broad scope of interests, recreation activities, and careers related to America's Great Outdoors.
  - a. Timing: Ongoing
  - b. Outcomes:
    - Host or co-sponsor a wide variety of education, interpretation, volunteer, and recreation events or programs at BLM offices, recreation sites, visitor centers, and special areas.
    - Engage visitors as well as neighboring communities and support goals for each field office to host at least two youth or family engagement events per year.
    - Expand partnerships with youth groups to include conservation activities and projects outdoors on public lands.
    - Work with national and local-level BLM partners, including recreation and other industry partners, to engage, educate, and employ youth.
    - Engage youth in volunteer stewardship activities, such as site stewardship of cultural resources and trail stewardship opportunities.
    - Expand and enhance programs to engage youth in scientific research through outdoor classroom activities, such as water quality monitoring and other citizen science projects.
    - Plan events for National Public Lands Day (Sat., Sept. 24) and American Hiking Society's Volunteer Vacations.
4. Project Description - 2: **"Get with It" - Engage Youth in Public Lands Conservation through the Web and Social Networking.** BLM has initiated efforts to integrate the use of social network and media to engage youth in conservation and restoration

opportunities. Develop materials and programs that effectively reach youth, their peers and younger children through a wide variety of communication tools, including Youth Program websites, DOI's YouthGo.gov, Facebook, Twitter, and other forms of social media.

- a. Timing: Ongoing
- b. Outcomes: Use the Web and social networking to provide a wide variety of opportunity for youth from all backgrounds to be engaged in the multiple-use mission of the BLM.
- c. Other Dept./Bureau Support Required: Extensive Outreach (DOI/Office of Youth)

*“Enhance Recreational Access and Opportunities”*

*--America's Great Outdoors Report (Section 2)*

*Action Item 2.1a: Improve coordination, effectiveness, and efficiency among federal agencies through the Federal Interagency Council on Outdoor Recreation (FICOR). (NPS, FWS, USDA-FS and US Army-COE)*

1. Lead Department/Agency: DOI is lead department; BLM is DOI lead agency
2. Senior Official:
  - a. Edwin Roberson, Assistant Director, Renewable Resources and Planning, BLM
  - b. Andy Tenney, Division Chief, Recreation and Visitor Services, BLM
3. Project Description: **Establish the Federal Interagency Council on Outdoor Recreation.** BLM is uniquely positioned to help lead the FICOR and work with agencies to improve coordination, provide for more seamless visitor services, and become better partners in expanding outdoor recreation opportunities for all Americans.
  - a. Timing: FY 2011-12
  - b. Outcomes:
    - Establish FICOR, draft and sign charter, and convene first meeting.
    - Enhance communication and consistency between agencies and improve business practices and coordinate policies.
    - Streamline the delivery of visitor information to the public and coordinate with recreation-related national FACA-chartered advisory groups.
    - Improve partnerships with state, local, industry and non-profit recreation providers and foster collaboration to improve outdoor recreation opportunities for Americans.
  - c. Other Dept./Bureau Support Required: FWS, NPS, BOR, and USDA-FS, US Army-COE

*Action Item 2.2a: Expand technical assistance and align programs that support local, state, and tribal efforts to enhance public recreation and conservation, including, but not limited to, the NPS Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program (RTCA) and the National Trails System; DOT enhancement and trails and scenic byways programs; state programs such as California's Green Sticker Program; CNCS community-based efforts to increase access to outdoor recreation; and USDA Voluntary Public Access Program (Open Fields). (DOI, USDA,*

1. Lead Department/Agency: DOI is lead department
2. Senior Official:
  - a. Edwin Roberson, Assistant Director, Renewable Resources and Planning, BLM
  - b. Mike Nedd, Assistant Director, Minerals and Realty Management, BLM
  - c. Andy Tenney, Division Chief, Recreation and Visitor Services, BLM
  - d. Kim Berns, Division Chief, Lands, Realty, and Cadastral Survey, BLM
3. Project Description - 2: **Create and Expand Urban and Community Parks and Green Spaces through the Recreation and Public Purposes Act.** BLM's unique authority under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act (R&PP sales and leases) allows it to convey appropriate public lands to state and local entities for recreation, conservation or other public purposes.
  - a. Timing: Ongoing
  - b. Outcomes:
    - Expand BLM's outreach to communities, states, and the non-profit sector to identify opportunities to create green spaces, more efficiently and cooperatively or jointly manage recreation sites and facilities, and development and recreation infrastructure management for the benefit of nearby residents and visitors.
    - Provide information and training to BLM realty specialists on identifying opportunities to support communities using R&PP authorities.
  - c. Other Dept./Bureau Support Required: NPS, BIA, FWS, and other Bureaus involved in financial assistance programs to local, state and tribal recreation interests
4. Project Description - 3: **Improve Access for Motorized and Non-Motorized Recreational Opportunities.** BLM's vast lands, remote canyons and extensive trail systems provide a unique opportunity and responsibility to manage and engage in cooperative efforts to expand recreational access to public lands and promote responsible use and stewardship. Project includes following actions:
  - Collaborate with partners and stakeholders to develop travel and transportation plans and responsible use education efforts through a public process that helps provide appropriate access for both the motorized and non-motorized recreating public, and protect natural and cultural resources.
  - Develop cooperative responsible use education stewardship programs to engage youth and promote recreation opportunities and access with other public, non-profit, and business or recreation interest organizations.
  - Expand use of law enforcement agreements with state and local agencies to enforce regulations and other cooperative management or maintenance agreements.
  - Promote public/private partnerships in the development of trail systems, riding areas for mountain bikes, play areas for off-highway vehicles, rock climbing areas, equestrian riding trails and other recreation sites and facilities to improve access and opportunities such as International Mountain Biking Association Ride Centers, United Desert Gateway /American Sand Association Imperial Dunes Partnership, Slickrock Biking Trail and Paiute

OHV Trail in Utah, Access Fund Climbing Joint Management Areas, and other, Recreation Partnerships.

- a. Timing: Ongoing
  - b. Outcomes:
    - Expand outreach to communities, states, and the non-profit sector to identify opportunities to plan, create or manage trails
    - Initiate responsible use programs
    - Create greenways
    - Increase efficiency and cooperative or joint management of recreation sites and facilities, and
    - Development and recreation infrastructure management for improved recreation use and access.
  - c. Other Dept./Bureau Support Required: USDA, FWS and other bureaus involved in motorized and non-motorized trail access
5. Project Description - 4: **Launch a New Recreation Outreach Campaign, “Wild, Weird, and Wonderful” Public Lands, through the Use of Technology.** BLM is exploring the use of technology to better connect with the public and to improve the accessibility of recreational information on our nation’s public lands. This “App” will promote some of the BLM’s special resources using technology sought by our nation’s youth. Pilot use of electronic application for the “Wild, Weird, and Wonderful” campaign while developing other ideas for using technology to engage the visiting public. BLM will also continue to improve the National Recreation Reservation Service (NRRS).
- a. Timing: Ongoing
  - b. Outcomes: Greater engagement of youth and diverse populations through popular technological applications and media, and improved awareness of outdoor recreation opportunities and places to visit on the public lands.
  - c. Other Dept./Bureau Support Required: NPS, BIA, FWS, and other bureaus involved in financial assistance programs to local, state and Tribal recreation interests

*“Raise Awareness of the Value and Benefits of America’s Great Outdoors”*  
--America’s Great Outdoors Report (Section 3)

**Action Item 3.2a:** *Report to the AGO Council on specific ways to integrate and support the outdoors, nature, cultural sites, and the environment into place-based, experiential, expanded-time programs; after-school and summer school programs; and service learning programs. (DOI and the Department of Education)*

1. Lead Department/Agency: DOI and DOE are lead departments; FWS is DOI lead
2. Senior Official:
  - a. Carl Rountree, Assistant Director, NLCS and Community Partnerships, BLM
  - b. Mary Tisdale, Division Chief, Education, Interpretation and Partnerships, BLM
  - c. Edwin Roberson, Assistant Director, Renewable Resources and Planning, BLM
  - d. Andy Tenney, Division Chief, Recreation and Visitor Services, BLM

3. Project Description - 1: **Promote Healthy Outdoor Activities through BLM’s “Take It Outside” Initiative and Youth Program.** The BLM has developed numerous partnerships with organizations that focus on engaging the public, and in particular youth, in a range of place-based, experiential citizen science and service learning programs. BLM’s “Take It Outside” program engages over 30,000 youth each year, and the BLM is continually working to expand and enhance the program.
  - a. Timeline: Ongoing
  - b. Outcomes:
    - Incorporate the four pillars of the First Lady’s Let’s Move Outside (LMO) – health, family, fun, and stewardship into all components of the “Take It Outside” and other youth programs.
    - Support and work with partners to directly engage kids in outdoor activities as they learn about the health benefits of healthy lifestyles.
    - Host 50 LMO sites in 2011, co-brand and TIO programs/events as LMO, and promote LMO through other BLM youth programs.
  - c. Other Dept./Bureau Support Required: DOI, NASA, National Ecological Observatory Network, NPS
  
4. Project Description - 2: **Promote Public Service and Volunteerism for America’s Great Outdoors.** BLM provides a unique opportunity to engage rural, suburban, and urban populations in promoting volunteerism on neighboring and shared landscapes. BLM volunteers contribute more than one million hours of their time each year (the equivalent of 700 full-time employees).
  - a. Timeline: FY 2011
  - b. Outcomes:
    - Promote interagency and partnered collaborative training and enhance efforts to recruit and engage volunteers for natural and cultural resource projects.
    - Support, improve, and expand interagency efforts to house, develop, and deliver quality training in natural and cultural resource stewardship– similar to the National Trails Training partnership among agencies, partners, communities, and volunteers.
    - Increase the number of volunteers through the expanded use of the web portal, [www.volunteer.gov/gov](http://www.volunteer.gov/gov), to enable volunteers of all ages to easily find opportunities to contribute to public land and water restoration projects.
  - c. Other Dept/Bureau Support Required: USDA, DOD, EPA, DOL, CNCS

**Action Item 3.2b:** *In partnership with local school districts, the private sector, and non-governmental organizations, expand connections to public schools and youth organizations through existing web-based programs, service learning, teacher training, field trips, and residential and other programs. These could include, but are not limited to, the NPS Teacher-Ranger-Teacher, Electronic Classroom, and Citizen Science programs; USFS Pollinator Live program; National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Bay-Watershed Education and Training Program (B-WET) program; and USDA Know Your Farmer Know Your Food program. Special emphasis will be placed on engaging underserved communities. (DOI, USDA, DOC)*

1. Lead Department/Agency: DOI is lead department; NPS is DOI lead
2. Senior Official:
  - a. Carl Rountree, Assistant Director, NLCS and Community Partnerships, BLM
  - b. Mary Tisdale, Division Chief, Education, Interpretation and Partnerships, BLM
3. Project Description - 1: **BLM Environmental Education, Interpretive and Stewardship Programs.** The BLM connects annually with millions of students and youth from many organizations in quality wildlife observation, environmental education, interpretative and photography programs. Our wide variety of recreational programs available to public schools and youth organizations, are designed in coordination with hundreds of local school districts, youth group representatives and other national and community partners to provide quality outdoor recreational experiences. In addition to our external partners, the BLM, particularly through the NLCS, works closely with Friends organizations, Natural History Organizations, stewardship programs such as Tread Lightly and Leave No Trace, and thousands of volunteers to strengthen our connection to public schools and community groups.
  - a. Timeline: Ongoing
  - b. Outcomes: BLM will continue to provide more targeted, useful information about formal and informal education and stewardship program opportunities for new and diverse audiences.
  - c. Other Dept./Bureau Support Required: DOI/Office of Youth
4. Project Description - 2: **Access for All: Serving Veterans and Persons with Disabilities.** BLM's Wounded Warrior program and Disabled Sports USA Partnership are innovative and active efforts to engage and attract people of all abilities to BLM public lands for recreation and enjoyment, especially veterans.
  - a. Timeline: Ongoing
  - b. Outcomes:
    - Engage youth, families, Tribes, veterans, and other underserved populations by providing better information about recreational and volunteer opportunities.
    - Develop and expand partnerships on a national, regional, or local scale that facilitate access and serve youth, using the Wounded Warrior Initiative as a model.
    - Reach out to programs that engage persons representing underserved populations and develop strategies and partnerships on BLM lands in an effort to introduce them to the outdoors.
    - Encourage partnerships with adaptive sports organizations, outfitters/guides, and through statewide agreements with non-profit organizations.
  - c. Other Dept./Bureau Support Required: Office of Youth, BIA, BIE

*Action Item 3.3a: Support and expand existing federal programs that emphasize place-based, experiential learning, including: The NPS Parks as Classrooms and Junior Ranger programs; CNCS Learn and Serve America's expanding network of environmental and cultural resources service grantees; NOAA B-WET; USFS Children's Forests, NatureWatch, and More Kids in the Woods; and BLM Take It Outside and Hands on the Land. (DOI, USDA, DOC)*

1. Lead Department/Agency: DOI is lead department; NPS is DOI lead
2. Senior Official:

- a. Carl Rountree, Assistant Director, NLCS and Community Partnerships, BLM
  - b. Mary Tisdale, Division Chief, Education, Interpretation and Partnerships, BLM
3. Project Description - 1: **Expand Take It Outside and Hands on the Land Programs.** BLM's highly recognized programs engage tens of thousands of youth in active, experiential and science-based education programs. BLM's checkerboard ownership pattern interlinks with many thousands of communities and its complex multiple-use mandate provides unique hands-on educational opportunities that are close to home and that can engage young people to be scientists for a day and stewards for life. Additionally, through the "Let's Move Outside" initiative, land managers can help promote active lifestyles and outdoor recreation opportunities among students, teachers and families through education programs.
- a. Timeline: Ongoing
  - b. Outcomes:
    - Reach out to more students by expanding successful "Take It Outside (TIO) and Hands on the Land" (HOL) Outdoor that develops curricula and directly engages students in science-based education programs on the public lands through educational partnerships.
    - Improve quality of HOL programming at existing sites by better assessing site needs, developing orientation materials for new field classrooms, encouraging interactivity among sites through distance learning programs and special events, identifying tools and best practices for training, professional development, and mentoring, identify measures of success.
    - Encourage innovation by providing recognition awards.
    - Leverage resources through volunteers, partners, and grant opportunities.
  - c. Other Dept./Bureau Support Required: Office of Youth, BIA, BIE

*"Engage Young People in Conservation and the Great Outdoors"*  
 --America's Great Outdoors Report (Section 4)

**Action Item 4.1a:** Disseminate and implement the "Youth and America's Great Outdoors" report. (DOI working with the AGO Council)

1. Lead Department/Agency: DOI is lead department; Office of Youth is DOI lead
2. Senior Official:
  - a. Carl Rountree, Assistant Director, NLCS and Community Partnerships, BLM
  - b. Mary Tisdale, Division Chief, Education, Interpretation and Partnerships, BLM
3. Project Description - 1: **NLCS Outreach Action Plan.** BLM is completing an action plan that will raise public awareness and promote America's Great Outdoors through the NLCS Outreach Action Plan and other Place-based Stewardship Programs.
  - a. Timing: Ongoing
  - b. Outcomes:

- Incorporate AGO messages and information into the NLCS outreach plan.
  - Install consistent signage at NLCS sites, optimize use of social media and improve websites, and use photographs, narratives, public events and the work of artists to tell and share stories.
  - Enlist partners to help with outreach and seek opportunities with local media.
  - Grow place-based education programs for children and families and underserved youth.
  - Expand use of Junior Explorer, Junior Ranger, and other programs that engage children and families in fun learning activities designed to introduce them to special places and stewardship concepts.
  - Continue to support publication of Junior Explorer/Ranger booklets, expansion of these programs at additional locations, and development of a national Junior Explorer website.
- c. Other Dept./Bureau Support Required: DOI/Office of Youth

**Action Item 4.1b:** *Create an America's Great Outdoors youth outreach strategy. (AGO Council)*

1. Lead Department/Agency: DOI is lead department; Office of Youth is DOI lead
2. Senior Official:
  - a. Carl Rountree, Assistant Director, NLCS and Community Partnerships, BLM
  - b. Mary Tisdale, Division Chief, Education, Interpretation and Partnerships, BLM
3. Project Description-1: **Support Development of DOI Youth Outreach Strategy.** Through active participation and collaboration with the Departments' Youth Office and other Department led youth initiatives such as Let's Move Outside and Take Pride in America, the BLM is fully supporting these outreach strategies through uploading BLM information on the YouthGo portal, implementing event co-branding, and direct AGO outreach to communities through on the ground educational activities by BLM staff, volunteers and friends groups.
  - a. Timing: Ongoing
  - b. Outcomes:
    - Increased awareness of AGO initiative and youth-oriented activities on BLM-managed lands.
    - Incorporate the four pillars of the First Lady's Let's Move Outside (LMO) – health, family, fun, and stewardship into all components of the “Take It Outside” and other Youth programs.
    - Support and work with partners to directly engage kids in outdoor activities as they learn about the health benefits of healthy lifestyles.
    - Host 50 LMO sites in 2011, co-brand and TIO programs/events as LMO, and promote LMO through other BLM Youth programs.
  - c. Other Dept./Bureau Support Required: DOI Office of Youth, other DOI agencies
4. Project Description - 2: **BLM's Youth Team and Program.** The BLM has implemented a national Youth Team and is implementing youth outreach strategies in many of its states. BLM is developing an internal communications and outreach strategy for the Youth Initiative which will serve as an important tool for sharing the experience with other Bureau's and the Department for the development of an integrated outreach strategy.

- a. Timeline: Ongoing
  - b. Outcomes: More young people will be engaged in the America's Great Outdoors Initiative.
  - c. Other Dept./Bureau Support Required: DOI/Office of Youth
5. Project Description - 3: **Launch “Arts and the Great Outdoors” to Encourage Use of Art to Promote the Values and Legacy of BLM Public Lands.** BLM plans to launch a pilot initiative, “Arts and the Great Outdoors”, to encourage the use of art, literature, photography, poetry, film, and other activities to promote the values and legacy of public lands, conservation, and recreation and raise awareness of AGO. Use social media to launch the Arts and the Great Outdoors Initiative and engage in outreach efforts to encourage broad participation by diverse populations. Partner with communities to host an Arts and the Great Outdoors Initiative that captures that community’s special relationships with BLM lands. Establish an “Artist in Residence” and other partnership programs in NLCS and BLM field units.
- a. Timeline: FY 2012-13
  - b. Outcomes: More people will be engaged in the America's Great Outdoors Initiative. Program will build awareness and appreciation of the American outdoor legacy and natural and cultural heritage. Partnerships with communities and variety of interests to promote and celebrate public lands will be expanded.
  - c. Other Dept./Bureau Support Required: DOI/Youth and others

*“Strengthen the Land and Water Conservation Fund”*  
 --America’s Great Outdoors Report (Section 5)

**Action Item 5.2a:** *Implement an interagency process to invest part of the federal LWCF funds in high-yield conservation projects that address shared ecological goals. Use commonly accepted criteria to select opportunities where federal investment would yield the most significant ecological outcomes and community benefits. Ensure that the process is transparent, incorporates input from appropriate government and external stakeholders, and is based on sound science and good information. (CEQ, OMB, USDA and DOI)*

- 1. Lead Department/Agency: CEQ and OMB are lead departments; FWS is DOI lead (pending)
- 2. Senior Official:
  - a. Mike Nedd, Assistant Director, Minerals and Realty Management, BLM
  - b. Kim Berns, Division Chief, Lands, Realty and Cadastral Survey, BLM
- 3. Project Description: **LWCF Strategic Acquisition.** Since December 2010, the BLM has been working with other DOI land management bureaus and the US Forest Service to device a process for further collaboration during the land acquisition budget cycle.
  - a. Timeline: FY 2013
  - b. Outcomes: These efforts are designed to share resources and bring a greater funding impact to conservation where there are multiple shared ecological goals.
  - c. Other Dept./Bureau Support Required: Extensive coordination expected with USDA and DOI-bureaus

*Action Item 5.2b: Invest a portion of LWCF funds to increase recreation access to federal lands. (DOI and USDA)*

1. Lead Department/Agency: USDA is lead department; BLM is DOI lead agency
2. Senior Official:
  - d. Mike Nedd, Assistant Director, Minerals and Realty Management, BLM
  - a. Kim Berns, Division Chief, Lands, Realty and Cadastral Survey, BLM
3. Project Description: **BLM LWCF Program.** The annual agency LWCF request incorporates consideration of the potential for recreational access as part of the evaluation process for potential LWCF project areas. BLM can share the evaluation criteria and weighting process with other agencies to improve opportunities for recreational access. Potential access may include; hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, hiking, biking and other recreational activities.
  - a. Timeline: Ongoing
  - b. Outcomes: Continue to provide public access to recreation areas.
  - c. Other Department/Bureau Coordination: USDA, FWS, NPS (+states)

*“Establish Great Urban Parks and Community Green Spaces”*  
*--America’s Great Outdoors Report (Section 6)*

*Action Item 6.4b: Work with state, local and tribal governments, including parks and recreation departments, to connect federal parks and other units in urban areas with the public transportation system and pedestrian or bike paths. (DOI, USDA, and DOT)*

1. Lead Department/Agency: DOI is lead department; NPS is DOI lead
2. Senior Official:
  - a. Edwin Roberson, Assistant Director, Renewable Resources and Planning, BLM
  - b. Carl Rountree, Assistant Director, NLCS and Community Partnerships, BLM
  - c. Andy Tenney, Division Chief, Recreation and Visitor Services, BLM
  - d. Jeff Jarvis, Division Chief, National Landscape Conservation System, BLM
3. Project Description - 1: **Expand BLM’s “Bold Idea” of the Community-Based Recreation Initiative.** BLM’s Community-Based Recreation Initiative creates close-to-home green spaces in partnership with local communities through shared spaces in “America’s Backyard”. The Initiative creates access and trail networks to connect where people live to where people go to enjoy the great outdoors, including trails for hiking and biking and special and unique natural places in NLCS units. The Initiative will 1) facilitate and encourage the establishment of Recreation Services Coalitions at the local, community, or regional levels which ensures alignment with local conservation and recreation land management planning objectives, and 2) offer technical assistance, support regional planning, community assistance, GIS mapping, and other services allowing government and tribal entities to work more seamlessly with a range of service providers to improve visitor service quality and capacity on a regional scale. BLM has had great success working with local communities to accomplish shared goals and leverage resources through place-based partnerships.
  - a. Timing: Ongoing
  - b. Outcomes:

- Expand and support on-the-ground collaborative partnerships through training, technical assistance and formulation.
  - Identify and address gaps in training for key management skills and core partnership/collaboration competencies associated with developing and sustaining partnerships.
  - Grow place-based partnerships with friends’ organizations, primarily throughout BLM’s NLCS.
4. Project Description - 2: **Enhance Place-based Partnerships with Communities.** BLM has had great success working with local communities to accomplish shared goals and leverage resources through place-based partnerships. Successes include expansion of on-the-ground collaborative partnerships through training, technical assistance and formulation, and support of local partnerships, and the identification and resolution of gaps in training related to key management skills and core partnership/collaboration competencies essential to developing and sustaining partnerships.
- a. Timing: Ongoing
  - b. Outcomes: Grow place-based partnerships with friends’ organizations, primarily throughout BLM’s NLCS. Leverage and replicate model partnership, business models and collaborative programs across the NLCS to advance shared stewardship and community engagement goals and opportunities.
  - c. Other Dept./Bureau Support Required: states and communities and other DOI/USDA agencies

*“Conserve Rural Working Farms, Ranches, and Forests through Partnerships and Incentives”*  
 --America’s Great Outdoors Report (Section 7)

*Action Item 7.1a: Create the AGO Collaborative Landscape Conservation Initiative through coordinated competitive processes using increases in LWCF and other federal grant programs. (USDA, DOC, DOD, and DOI)*

1. Lead Department/Agency: USDA is lead department; FWS is DOI lead
2. Senior Official:
  - a. Edwin Roberson, Assistant Director; Renewable Resources and Planning, BLM
  - b. Kit Muller, Landscape Initiatives Coordinator, Renewable Resources and Planning, BLM
  - c. Mike Nedd, Assistant Director, Minerals and Realty Management, BLM
  - d. Kim Berns, Division Chief, Lands, Realty and Cadastral Survey, BLM
3. Project Description - 1: **Facilitate Landscape Conservation through Cooperative Strategies.** BLM’s checkerboard land ownership has resulted in a long history of working closely with local communities to conserve shared landscapes. BLM will continue to act in coordination with USDA in developing the AGO Collaborative Landscape Conservation Initiative.
  - a. Timeline: FY 2011-12
  - b. Outcomes: Formation of AGO LCC Initiative and better engage agencies, partner organizations, and communities to develop strategic approaches that will

conserve, protect, and restore landscapes and corridors for recreation, cultural, scenic, and conservation purposes at the regional and local levels

- c. Other Dept./Bureau Support Required: USGS, NPS, USFS, USBR, US Army COE and BLM
4. Project Description - 2: **LWCF Interagency Coordination and Strategic Acquisition.** Since December 2010, the BLM has been working with the other Interior land management bureaus and the US Forest Service to devise a process for further collaboration during the land acquisition budget cycle. These efforts are designed to share resources and bring a greater funding impact to conservation where there are multiple shared ecological goals.
    - a. Timeline: FY 2013
    - b. Outcomes: Following appropriate practices, generate LWCF priorities to best insure funding of highest benefit, most cost effective projects within the BLM and other agencies.
    - c. Other Dept./Bureau Support Required: USFS, NPS and BLM

*Action Item 7.2a: Coordinate and align, as appropriate, federal programs that provide technical or financial assistance to public and private organizations that support and implement collaborative landscape-scale conservation initiatives. (USDA, DOC, DOD, and DOI)*

1. Lead Department/Agency: USDA is lead department; NPS is DOI lead
2. Senior Official:
  - a. Edwin Roberson, Assistant Director; Renewable Resources and Planning, BLM
  - b. Dwight Fielder, Division Chief, Fish, Wildlife, and Plant Conservation, BLM
3. Project Description - 1: **Promote Public/Private Partnerships for Species Conservation.** BLM has a long history of working closely with states, landowners, local communities, and other interests on a watershed and landscape scale to protect wildlife and conserve species found on both public and private lands. Project includes:
  - Promote species conservation and recovery with regional strategies and conservation agreements.
  - Expand partnerships with interested private land owners and other Federal, state, and local governments to implement recovery plan actions that will lead to recovery within 3 years.
  - Develop a “Discover and Recover” partnership component to focus on recovery projects that provide an opportunity for youth and the community to learn (“discover”) about local species and habitat (particularly T&E species) and then participate in project implementation and monitoring (“recover”). This partnership will integrate and enhance existing initiatives such as Seeds of Success, “Take It Outside” and Youth Corps programs to increase opportunities to engage youth in species conservation and recovery.
  - Expand use of Candidate Conservation Agreements with Assurances (CCAA) and Candidate Conservation Agreements (CCA) among FWS, NOAA, non-federal landowners and other stakeholders for candidate species which are critical to maintaining our nation’s biodiversity. BLM has cooperated with NRCS and ranchers to enhance the conservation of habitat on private and public lands for candidate species (sage-grouse and others) using Environmental Quality Incentives Program funds.

- a. Timeline: FY 2011-12
  - b. Outcomes: Formation of AGO LCC Initiative and better engage agencies, partner organizations, and communities to develop strategic approaches that will conserve, protect, and restore landscapes and corridors for recreation, cultural, scenic, and conservation purposes at the regional and local levels.
  - c. Other Dept./Bureau Support Required: USGS, NPS, USFS, USBR, US Army COE and BLM
4. Project Description - 2: **Conserve and Protect Wild Horses and Burros and the Landscapes Where They Live.** BLM is responsible for conserving and protecting wild horses and burros as well as the landscapes where they live. Facilitate partnerships with private landowners and other appropriate entities to provide long-term care for wild horses and burros that are removed from the public lands.
- a. Timeline: FY 2013
  - b. Outcomes: Expand partnerships to promote the long-term care and adoptions of wild horses and burros.
  - c. Other Dept./Bureau Support Required: none

*Action Item 7.5a: Expand partnerships with private landowners that facilitate access to or across private lands for recreation through programs such as the USDA Voluntary Public Access Program (Open Fields). (USDA and DOI)*

- 1. Lead Department/Agency: USDA is lead department; BLM is DOI lead agency
- 2. Senior Official:
  - a. Mike Nedd, Assistant Director, Minerals and Realty Management, BLM
  - b. Kim Berns, Division Chief, Lands, Realty and Cadastral Survey, BLM
- 3. Project Description: **Connect Regional Landscapes for Parks and Green Spaces through Federal Land Acquisition and Partnerships.** The BLM is entrusted with certain authorities to convey and acquire Federal lands, BLM has a unique role in prioritizing strategic land acquisition and consolidation through the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), the Federal Land Transaction and Facilitation Act (FLTFA), and other existing programs. Work with communities and stakeholders to identify and prioritize land parcels that are available for sale from willing owners or partners and that will enhance conservation, expand the recreation land base, and access or connect public land resources with urban communities (e.g., greenways and blueways).
  - a. Timeline: Ongoing
  - b. Outcomes: Maintaining working landscapes while providing increased recreational access for the public, compensation and liability relief for landowners, stimulus for the local economy, reduction of recreational impacts on resources, migration corridors for fish and wildlife, and environmental education and awareness opportunities for the public.
  - c. Other Dept./Bureau Support Required: USDA, FWS, states, Tribes, NGOs

*“Conserve and Restore Our National Parks, Wildlife Refuges, Forests, and Other Federal Lands”*

*--America’s Great Outdoors Report (Section 8)*

*Action Item 8.1a: Integrate large, landscape-scale conservation into federal land management plans and actions. (USDA, DOD, USACE)*

1. Lead Department/Agency: USDA is lead department; FWS is DOI lead
2. Senior Official:
  - a. Edwin Roberson, Assistant Director; Renewable Resources and Planning, BLM
  - b. Kit Muller, Landscape Initiatives Coordinator, Renewable Resources and Planning, BLM
3. Project Description: **BLM Landscape-Level Planning and Management Cooperation.** The BLM manages more than 250 million acres of lands following the management prescriptions described in resource management plans. Resource management plans are developed taking a landscape-scale approach as described in BLM's planning policy. This includes consideration of landscape level or scale management strategies and collaboration needed to meet ecosystem-level goals and objectives in development of resource management actions, prescriptions and other use or conservation activities.
  - a. Timeline: Ongoing
  - b. Outcomes: BLM plans identify larger landscape conservation efforts. Public and cooperative planning processes increase partnerships, coordination and collaboration between conservation agencies and organizations across the landscape.
  - c. Other Dept./Bureau Support Required: USDA (USFS, NRCS), Dept. of Commerce (NOAA, NMFS), DOD (military installations, US Army COE), DOI (NPS, BIA, FWS)

*Action Item 8.1c: Expand federal land management agency authorities, such as stewardship contracting, USFS integrated resource restoration, and the partnership authority between FWS, NPS, BLM and USFS Service First, to complement their ability to achieve large landscape conservation and restoration goals. (USDA, DOD, DOI)*

1. Lead Department/Agency: USDA and US Army COE are lead departments; FWS is DOI lead
2. Senior Official:
  - a. Edwin Roberson, Assistant Director; Renewable Resources and Planning, BLM
  - b. Kit Muller, Landscape Initiatives Coordinator, Renewable Resources and Planning, BLM
3. Project Description: **Encourage Landscape Scale and National partnerships for Fish, Wildlife and Recreation.** BLM's checkerboard land ownership has resulted in a long history of working closely with local communities to conserve shared landscapes. The BLM has Memorandums of Understanding in place on a wide array of wildlife and to enhance existing relationships to build partnerships on a landscape scale. BLM participates in dozens of national partnerships, initiatives, and strategies to increase public awareness of aquatic and wildlife species and habitat, increase wildlife viewing opportunities, implement on-the-ground collaborate landscape-scale habitat conservation projects to increase the distribution, diversity, and abundance of wildlife and critical habitat, and monitor habitat conditions across both public and private lands. The BLM actively seeks collaborative opportunities with other state and federal agencies as well as industry, and the non-profit sector to maximize efficiencies and conservation or restoration efforts. This collaborative approach has positive implications for leveraging resources and saving long term costs.

- a. Timeline: Ongoing
- b. Outcomes: These efforts result in the sharing of manpower, facilities, and equipment and increased management efficiencies as well as increased conservation or restoration project accomplishments. Partnerships and regional strategies increase the sharing of expertise between agencies and reduce redundant programs.
- c. Other Dept/Bureau Support Required: USDA, DOD, DOI (NPS)

*Action Item 8.Id: Cultivate and support engaging local, state, and tribal governments, nonprofit organizations, and landowners in regions where federal agencies are conserving and restoring large landscapes through grants, planning, and capacity building. (USDA, DOD, USACE, and DOI)*

1. Lead Department/Agency: DOI, USDA and US Army COE are lead departments; FWS is DOI lead
2. Senior Official:
  - a. Edwin Roberson, Assistant Director; Renewable Resources and Planning, BLM
  - b. Kit Muller, Landscape Initiatives Coordinator, Renewable Resources and Planning, BLM
  - c. Rob Roudabush, Division Chief, Rangeland Resources, BLM
  - d. Dwight Fielder, Division Chief, Fish, Wildlife, and Plant Conservation, BLM
3. Project Description - 1: **Establish Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs).** BLM will continue to support DOI efforts to establish a national network of 21 LCCs. Each LCC will be a regional public-private partnership working collaboratively across jurisdictions and political boundaries to leverage resources and to share science capacity.
  1. Timeline: FY 2012
  2. Outcomes: Establish all 21 LCCs as fully functional organizations.
  3. Other Dept./Bureau Support Required: FWS, USDA, USGS, BOR, BIA, NPS
4. Project Description - 2: **Promote “Seeds of Success” Partnerships for Native Plants and Restoration.** BLM is the federal entity responsible for maintaining our nation’s native seed program which is critical to restoring healthy landscapes and ensuring biodiversity. BLM’s Seeds of Success partnership is a national native seed collection network of 39 organizations that has created more than 9,000 collections, representing more than 3,000 species of native seeds.
  1. Timeline: Ongoing
  2. Outcomes:
    - Expand partnerships to collect and conserve native plant materials for stabilizing, rehabilitating, and restoring public and private lands.
    - Support research efforts, particularly for threatened and endangered plant species.
    - Enhance federal capability to restore landscapes by encouraging agreements with private growers to produce needed native seeds for purchase
  3. Other Dept/Bureau Support Required: none
5. Project Description - 3: **Sage Grouse Initiative.** Implement a new interagency agreement with FWS, NRCS, and USFS for the Greater and Gunnison’s sage grouse that are dependent on habitat found on both private and Federal lands. Federal partners will cooperate with state fish and wildlife agencies and other stakeholders to ensure

sustainable management of grazing and other agricultural practices and to enhance sage-grouse habitat.

1. Timeline: Launched in FY 2010
2. Outcomes: The BLM has been working closely with FWS and others to develop and review conservation practices used in initiative areas.
3. Other Dept. / Bureau Support Required: FWS, USDA (NRCS)

*Action Item 8.2a: Develop science to support decisions related to climate change adaptation and resilience. Improve science available to public land managers through consortia that use information from NOAA Climate Service, DOI Climate Science Centers, and USFS, NRCS, and other agency work. (USDA, DOC, and DOI)*

1. Lead Dept./Agency: CEQ, USDA, US Army COE and DOI are lead departments; FWS and USGS are co-DOI leads
2. Senior Official:
  - a. Edwin Roberson, Assistant Director; Renewable Resources and Planning, BLM
  - b. Kit Muller, Landscape Initiatives Coordinator, Renewable Resources and Planning, BLM
  - c. Dwight Fielder, Division Chief, Fish, Wildlife, and Plant Conservation, BLM
3. Project Description: **Integrate Science through Rapid Eco-regional Assessments of Resources across Landscapes.** BLM is undertaking a historic and comprehensive scientific initiative in cooperation with state, Federal, and non-governmental organizations to conduct 7 Rapid Eco-regional Assessments (REA) nationwide. The REAs will assess condition and risk over 400 million acres of public and non-public land. This information will help inform decisions for the DOI supported coalition of partners to develop a nationwide network of Climate Science Centers (CSC) and Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCC).
  - a. Timeline: Ongoing
  - b. Outcomes:
    - Prioritize landscape-level conservation actions using data resulting from the REAs.
    - Expand inter-agency collaborative conservation strategies to support development of collaborative regional plans and conservation efforts.
    - Integrate REAs with LCC science to identify areas where land acquisition or collaborative conservation measures would have the greatest benefit for wildlife conservation, recreation, scenic, and cultural resources.
    - Pool resources across ownerships and jurisdictions to fund on-the-ground conservation and restoration projects, including proposed land tenure adjustments.
    - Create a national network of private/state/federal partnerships that will develop and apply cutting-edge climate and adaptation science products.
  - c. Other Dept./Bureau Support Required: USDA, DOI/FWS, USGS

*Action Item 8.2b: Build climate change adaptation and mitigation into federal land management plans and practices. (CEQ, USDA, DOC, DOD-USACE, and DOI)*

1. Lead Department/Agency: CEQ, USDA and US Army COE are lead departments; FWS is DOI lead agency

2. Senior Official:
  - a. Edwin Roberson, Assistant Director; Renewable Resources and Planning, BLM
  - b. Kit Muller, Landscape Initiatives Coordinator, Renewable Resources and Planning, BLM
  - c. Rob Roudabush, Division Chief, Rangeland Resources, BLM
  - d. Dwight Fielder, Division Chief, Fish, Wildlife, and Plant Conservation, BLM
3. Project Description - 1: The BLM will work with NRCS, USFS and others to create **Climate Change Adaptation Strategies for Working Landscapes** (Regional Strategies). These strategies will provide a collaborative framework to help land users and resource dependent communities adapt to drought, altered fire regimes, invasive plants and animals, and changes in vegetation composition as a result of climate change and other landscape-scale stressors. These strategies will enable regional and national conservation communities to harness collective expertise, authorities, and abilities to define and prioritize a shared set of conservation goals and objectives, as well as prescribe a plan of concerted action.
  - a. Timeline: FY 2012
  - b. Outcomes: Development of Regional Strategy documents.
  - c. Other Dept./Bureau Support Required: BOR, USGS, USDA
4. Project Description - 2: The BLM will work with FWS and others to create a **National Fish, Wildlife and Plants Climate Adaptation Strategy** (Strategy) to engage with state and Tribal agencies and private non-profit and other organizations. The Strategy will provide a collaborative framework that defines principles and methods to maintain key terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems and functions needed to sustain fish, wildlife and plant resources in the face of accelerating climate change. The strategy will enable the national and international conservation communities to harness collective expertise, authorities, and abilities to define and prioritize a shared set of conservation goals and objectives, as well as prescribe a plan of concerted action. (OSA)
  - a. Timeline: FY 2012
  - b. Outcomes: Development of National Strategy document.
  - c. Other Dept./Bureau Support Required: FWS, DOC, USDA, DOD-US Army COE
5. Project Description - 3: **Complete a Strategy Outlining the BLM's Response to Climate Change.** In addition to supporting DOI in Development of Climate Strategies, BLM will prepare a strategy outlining the BLM's response to climate change including the following major components: (a) actions to reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions from the BLM's operations and from authorized uses of the public lands; (b) actions to enhance the terrestrial and geologic sequestration of carbon; (c) actions to expedite the authorization of renewable energy projects on the public lands including the development of renewable energy zones; (d) actions to facilitate fish, wildlife and plant adaptation to climate change; (e) actions to help public land users and adjacent communities adapt to climate change; and (f) guidance on addressing climate change in land use plans and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents.
  - a. Timeline: FY 2011- 12
  - b. Outcomes: National Strategy Document.
  - c. Other Dept./Bureau Support Required: FWS, DOC, USDA, DOD-US Army COE

*Action Item 8.3a: Work with states and other partners to use and disseminate scientific data and other information concerning the locations of and threats to critical wildlife corridors to ensure effective investment in restoring and conserving of those corridors. (DOI and USDA)*

1. Lead Department/Agency: DOI and USDA are lead departments
2. Senior Official:
  - a. Edwin Roberson, Assistant Director; Renewable Resources and Planning, BLM
  - b. Dwight Fielder, Division Chief, Fish, Wildlife, and Plant Conservation, BLM
3. Project Description - 1: **Integrate Science through Rapid Eco-regional Assessments to Protect Fish and Wildlife.** BLM will provide information from the eco-regional assessments and LCC science to identify core habitat conservation areas and corridors, and areas where land acquisition would have the greatest benefit to increase and protect wildlife corridors and landscape connectivity for fish and wildlife species.
  - a. Timeline: Ongoing
  - b. Outcomes: Improved decision making and more effective strategic landscape-level conservation.
  - c. Other Dept./Bureau Support Required: FWS, USGS, USFS and others

*Action Item 8.3b: Incorporate wildlife corridor conservation and restoration into federal agency plans, programs, and actions. (USDA, DOD, USACE, and DOI)*

1. Lead Department/Agency: USDA is lead department; FWS is DOI lead
2. Senior Official:
  - a. Edwin Roberson, Assistant Director; Renewable Resources and Planning, BLM
  - b. Dwight Fielder, Division Chief, Fish, Wildlife, and Plant Conservation, BLM
3. Project Description: **Promoting Collaborative Efforts to Establish Wildlife Corridors Across the Landscape.** As the nation's largest federal land manager, the BLM plays a significant role in promoting the establishment of wildlife corridors across jurisdictions. BLM will identify strategic land acquisitions under existing land acquisition authorities under LWCF, FLTFA, SNPLMA, and other land donation and exchange authorities to allow for consideration of wildlife corridors. Where possible, these areas will be based on existing protected areas including Fish and Wildlife Refuges, National Park System units and the units of the BLM's NLCS. The BLM takes an ecosystem approach when conducting long-range land management or acquisition planning projects. Such planning processes contribute to the development of wildlife corridors in that they consider lands both within and beyond public land boundaries and assess those lands contribution to achieving national and regional -level wildlife conservation goals identified by federal and state agencies and nonprofit partners. Existing public lands, protected areas and NLCS units can act as "core" conservation areas within a matrix of public and private lands that serve a variety of needs. Land use planning identifies areas of significant importance to wildlife as either new "core" conservation areas or "wildlife movement corridors," and it identifies a variety of land protection tools (e.g., conservation easements or agreements) used to conserve areas.
  - a. Timeline: Ongoing
  - b. Outcomes: Improved land use planning, wider and more effective application of protection tools and strategies as well as broader cooperative engagement of partners.
  - c. Other Dept./Bureau Support Required: NPS, FWS, USFS and others

*Action Item 8.3c: Coordinate and leverage investment of federal funds to conserve and restore wildlife corridors with other public and private wildlife conservation entities. (DOI, USDA, DOD, and USACE)*

1. Lead Department/Agency: DOI and US Army COE are lead departments; FWS is DOI lead
2. Senior Official:
  - a. Edwin Roberson, Assistant Director; Renewable Resources and Planning, BLM
  - b. Dwight Fielder, Division Chief, Fish, Wildlife, and Plant Conservation, BLM
3. Project Description: **Implement Collaborative Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Projects to Address Multiple Stressors Including Climate Change.** BLM will continue to work with partners and stakeholders such as the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and many others to implement projects that restore and maintain wildlife habitat and BLM-managed forests, woodlands, grasslands, and riparian areas to improve health and resilience and enable these areas to better withstand disturbances from wildland fire, insects, disease, and climate change.
  - a. Timeline: Ongoing
  - b. Outcomes: Expanded partnerships with external organizations to optimize investments in conservation and improve habitat conditions.
  - c. Other Dept./Bureau Support Required: USDA (USFS, NRCS)

*Action Item 8.4a: Implement a transparent approach to new monument designation tailored to engaging local, state and national interests. (DOI)*

1. Lead Department/Agency: DOI is lead department; NPS is DOI lead
2. Senior Official:
  - a. Carl Rountree, Assistant Director, NLCS and Community Partnerships, BLM
  - b. Jeff Jarvis, Division Chief, National Landscape Conservation System, BLM
3. Project Description - 1: **Community engagement and support for conservation.** Some of the Nation's most unique and special places are designated units in the BLM's NLCS. BLM will respond to information requests from states and local communities and work with Congress on possible legislative designations of new NLCS units.
  - a. Timelines: Ongoing
  - b. Outcomes: Better engagement and communication with communities, elected officials, Tribes, and the public regarding potential new NLCS designations.
  - c. Other Dept./Bureau Support Required: NPS, FWS, USFS and others

*Action Item 8.6c: Establish, through legislation, clearly defined standards and processes to support a system of regional and community-based national heritage areas that promote locally supported preservation work, promote heritage tourism, and create jobs. (DOI)*

1. Lead Department/Agency: DOI is lead department; NPS is DOI lead
2. Senior Official:
  - a. Carl Rountree, Assistant Director, NLCS and Community Partnerships, BLM
  - b. Jeff Jarvis, Division Chief, National Landscape Conservation System, BLM and
  - c. Edwin Roberson, Assistant Director, Renewable Resources and Planning, BLM
  - d. Richard Hanes, Division Chief, Cultural, Paleontological Resources and Tribal Consultation, BLM

4. Project Description - 1: **Promote Geo-tourism/ Eco-tourism to Enhance Visitor Experiences and Encourage Mutually Beneficial Partnerships with Local Communities.** BLM's checkerboard ownership pattern and multiple-use mandate links our lands to surrounding communities ecologically and economically. BLM's efforts to promote Geo-Tourism not only enhance the visitor experience, but build important relationships and promote shared goals with local communities. BLM's partnership with National Geographic and other regional geo-tourism projects are examples of direct collaboration with communities to achieve more diverse and sustainable economies that preserve community identity and sense of place and achieved shared goals for the region. A number of BLM states and regions already actively cooperate and support community based efforts to promote historic preservation work and geo/heritage tourism. The will continue to support lead NPS bureau with information on the location of significant cultural resources available for public programs and help promote sustainable tourism via our Friends organizations and community and industry partners.
  - a. Timelines: Ongoing
  - b. Outcomes:
    - Expand efforts to cooperatively develop sustainable resource-based businesses and recreation and visitor information (e.g., Geo-tourism).
    - Promote uses and visitation that sustains or enhances the geographical character of a place—its environment, culture, aesthetics, heritage, and the well-being of its residents.
    - Expand methods for promoting visitor and cultural resource programs to non-traditional audiences and providing information on the benefits of sustainable, geo/heritage-based, tourism in local communities.
  - c. Other Dept./Bureau Support Required: NPS, FWS, USFS and others

*Action Item 8.7a: Elevate the importance of cultural resources planning, protection, and interpretation in the federal land management agencies. (DOI, ACHP, USDA, DOD/US Army COE)*

1. Lead Department/Agency: DOI is lead department; NPS is DOI lead
2. Senior Official:
  - a. Edwin Roberson, Assistant Director, Renewable Resources and Planning, BLM
  - b. Richard Hanes, Division Chief, Cultural, Paleontological Resources and Tribal Consultation, BLM
3. Project Description - 1: **Create Opportunities for the Discovery and Exploration of our Cultural Heritage.** BLM lands include a large number of sites that preserve archeological and cultural history – pueblos, rock art, paleontological finds, and other important pieces of our past. BLM also hosts programs that provide opportunities for the public to learn about our historical and cultural heritage such as Project Archeology (29 states/regions), Hands on the Land (HOL) public education programs, and other educational and interpretive programs and partnerships. The BLM will work with other Departmental bureaus to ensure consistent standards and policies related to cultural resource planning, protection and interpretation. BLM will also use existing partnerships at the national and local levels to recommend possible collaborative opportunities for promoting cultural resource programs as part of sustainable tourism initiatives.
  - a. Timelines: FY 2011-12
  - b. Outcomes:

- Expand opportunities for public engagement in science through a variety of experiential or hands-on programs, such as assisting scientists as volunteer researchers, service learning, and learning vacations.
  - Expand programs offered to local schools and youth groups to raise their awareness of cultural and natural resources.
  - Incorporate scientific discoveries made on public lands into education programs such as Hands on the Land, service learning, and youth group informal educational opportunities, and resource specific educational products.
  - Expand Project Archaeology education programs in all states.
  - Identify possible gaps in policy, protection, and sustainable tourism practices that would contribute to the long-term management of BLM Cultural resources.
- c. Other Dept./Bureau Support Required: NPS, FWS, USFS
4. Project Description - 2: **Protect Cultural Heritage Resources through Enforcement, Engagement, and Education.** BLM will continue to protect cultural heritage resources on public lands through enforcement, engagement, and education. In an unprecedented coordinated effort with other federal, state, and local law enforcement, BLM is recovering a large volume of artifacts stolen from public lands in the Four Corners region. This highly publicized enforcement effort is coupled with BLM’s continued efforts to promote public stewardship, research, and enjoyment of America’s cultural and paleontological resources through outreach programs, facilitating volunteer and youth opportunities, and sponsoring of scientific research.
- a. Timelines: FY2011-12
- b. Outcomes:
- Encourage and engage partners and volunteers in historic site stabilization, patrol and monitoring, exhibit development, curation, and interpretation.
  - Enhance and continue law enforcement efforts to address criminal acts prohibited by ARPA, NAGPRA, and PRPA.
  - Utilize collections resulting from research permitted on the public lands since 1906 to provide opportunities for personal and academic discovery, inspiration and enjoyment, and public education and interpretation..
- c. Other Dept./Bureau Support Required: NPS, FWS, USFS and states

*“Protect and Renew Rivers and Other Waters”*  
 --America’s Great Outdoors Report (Section 9)

*Action Item 9.1a: Develop a transparent process to designate rivers and waterways as AGO National Recreation Trails Blueways, through existing authorities in the National Trails System Act, as amended. (USDA and DOI, working with DOD, USACE, EPA, and other agencies)*

1. Lead Department/Agency: USDA, US Army COE, EPA & DOI are lead dept’s; NPS is lead DOI
2. Senior Official:

- a. Carl Rountree, Assistant Director, NLCS and Community Partnerships, BLM
  - b. Jeff Jarvis, Division Chief, National Landscape Conservation System, BLM and
  - c. Edwin Roberson, Assistant Director, Renewable Resources and Planning, BLM
  - d. Andy Tenney, Division Chief, Recreation and Visitor Services, BLM
3. Project Description: **Support Blueways.** National Recreation Trails, both land-based and water trails (or blueways) may be designated by the Secretary of Interior (and Secretary of Agriculture) to recognize exemplary trails of local and regional significance in response to a nomination and application from the trail’s managing agency or organization. The Federal Interagency Council on Trails (Council) comprised of members representing the BLM, FWS, NPS, Forest Service, US Army COE, and FHA is charged with developing policy and guidance to provide uniform implementation of the Act across all jurisdictions. BLM will work through the Council to review and revise the existing Department of Interior National Recreation Trail application process to ensure that the designation process and criteria for rivers and waterways are clearly defined. In accordance with the Refuge Planning Policy (602 FW 3.4), the BLM will also address the potential for National Recreation Trails Blueway designations in resource management plans.
- a. Timeline: Ongoing
  - b. Outcomes: Nomination and designation of qualifying rivers and waterways as AGO National Recreation Trails Blueways.
  - c. Other Dept/Bureau Support Required: NPS is DOI lead and Federal Interagency Council on Trails includes the Service, BLM, NPS, USFS, US Army COE, and FHA)

*Action Item 9.1b: Provide technical assistance and leverage investments that help public agencies and nonprofit organizations plan for designating and implementing an AGO National Recreation Blueway Trail within existing programs and designations. (DOI, EPA, USDA, DOC, DOD/USACE)*

- 1. Lead Department/Agency: USDA, US Army COE, EPA and DOI are lead departments; NPS is lead DOI
- 2. Senior Official:
  - a. Carl Rountree, Assistant Director, NLCS and Community Partnerships, BLM
  - b. Jeff Jarvis, Division Chief, National Landscape Conservation System, BLM and
  - c. Edwin Roberson, Assistant Director, Renewable Resources and Planning, BLM
  - d. Andy Tenney, Division Chief, Recreation and Visitor Services, BLM
- 3. Project Description: **Promote Blueways River Trails and Recreational Access.** BLM has conserved thousands of miles of America’s most scenic rivers and has provided families with outstanding recreational opportunities. To achieve conservation and recreation goals, BLM has worked with many partners and communities. Project will include 1) partnering with other Federal, state and local agencies to establish transparent, locally-driven processes to designate and promote conservation of rivers and waterways as National Blueways through the development of a National Trails Protection Strategy that includes national water trails and 2) enhancing and promoting recreation by facilitating public access to rivers and the nation’s waterways through web-based information such as BLM’s partnership with River Management Society that highlights rivers for boating.
  - a. Timeline: Ongoing

- b. Outcomes: Increased awareness and cooperation to identify, create, and manage rivers and waterways as AGO National Recreation Trails, Blueways.
- c. Other Dept/Bureau Support Required: NPS is DOI lead and Federal Interagency Council on Trails includes FWS, BLM, NPS, USFS, US Army COE, and FHA)

*Action Item 9.3b: Align federal programs that provide planning and technical assistance to communities and local governments or support increased community stewardship of urban waters. (EPA, USDA, DOC, DOD, and DOI)*

1. Lead Department/Agency: EPA lead department; BOR is DOI lead
2. Senior Official:
  - a. Carl Rountree, Assistant Director, NLCS and Community Partnerships, BLM
  - b. Mary Tisdale, Division Chief, Education, Interpretation and Partnerships, BLM
  - d. Edwin Roberson, Assistant Director, Renewable Resources and Planning, BLM
  - e. Rob Roudabush, Division Chief, Rangeland Resources, BLM
  - f. Mike Nedd, Assistant Director, Minerals and Realty Management, BLM
  - c. Kim Berns, Division Chief, Lands, Realty, and Cadastral Survey, BLM
3. Project Description - 1: **Create Conservation Partnerships for Rivers and Watersheds.** BLM’s extensive experience with rivers and watersheds that include lands with multiple land ownership and jurisdictions has resulted in a long history of working collaboratively with a wide array of public, private, and non-profit landowners in jointly conserving river corridors and watersheds. BLM will continue to identify and prioritize opportunities to conserve, protect, and restore landscapes and corridors for recreation, cultural, and conservation purposes at the regional and local level. For example, the BLM has successful watershed/landscape scale partnerships in Oregon (Sandy River) and Idaho (Upper Snake River) and many others. BLM is planning to work with American Rivers and other non-profit partners to create a river stewardship alliance and network of volunteer-based organizations to provide stewardship, monitoring, and restoration efforts.
  - a. Timeline: Ongoing
  - b. Outcomes: Expand, develop and nurture partnerships with state, local, tribal governments, and local friends’ groups to collaboratively manage and restore a shared interest in river ecosystems, including cooperative work with private landowners to enhance and restore river resources and values.
  - c. Other Dept/Bureau Support Required: US Army COE, BIA, Tribal Nations (states)
4. Project Description - 2: **Conserve Rivers and Watersheds through the National Riparian Service Team and the “Creeks and Communities” Program.** BLM’s National Riparian Service Team’s “Creeks and Communities” program provides assistance in collaborative community-based riparian stewardship on both public and private lands to restore and conserve riparian areas, rivers, and watersheds. BLM will continue to develop national and regional partnerships to promote community-based watershed and river stewardship, restoration and monitoring activities with a wide array of public, private, and non-profit landowners in jointly conserving river corridors and watersheds.
  - a. Timeline: Ongoing
  - b. Outcomes: Expanded cooperation with the USFS and other partners to promote collaborative community-based riparian stewardship, restoration, and monitoring.

Provide assistance to communities to address restoration and management issues associated with river and watershed management programs and resources.

- c. Other Dept. / Bureau Support Required: USDA (USFS, NRCS)

*Action Item 9.4a: Reduce fish passage barriers in America's streams and rivers on federal lands by targeting work to restore water quality and critically endangered aquatic species and to expand recreational fishing. (DOI and US Army COE)*

1. Lead Department/Agency: DOI and US Army COE are lead departments; FWS is DOI lead
2. Senior Official:
  - a. Edwin Roberson, Assistant Director; Renewable Resources and Planning, BLM
  - b. Dwight Fielder, Division Chief, Fish, Wildlife, and Plant Conservation, BLM
3. Project Description: **National Fish Partnerships and Habitat Restoration Programs.** BLM has many local and regional partnerships to improve fish passage and habitat. BLM will continue to support these efforts.
  - a. Timeline: Ongoing
  - b. Outcomes: Success in working with hundreds of partners on both large- and small-scale projects to remove barriers to fish passage, increasing recreational fishing opportunities, and improving local economies.
  - c. Other Dept/Bureau Support Required: US Army COE, FWS, BIA, Tribes, states

## SECTION 3: CONCLUSION

The BLM is the steward of many of America’s spectacular landscapes and much of its rich cultural and natural heritage. The public lands managed by the BLM are close to population centers and can have a tremendous effect on people’s everyday lives. And finally, the BLM has specialized capabilities and authorities, putting it in a unique position to play an instrumental role in advancing the President’s initiative to conserve landscapes and reconnect Americans and our youth to the outdoors. As a result, the AGO goals for community parks, conservation, rural landscapes and working lands are strongly supported by the BLM’s multiple-use mission. The BLM also provides diverse and economically important recreation opportunities that are important to the health of many communities and the well being and enjoyment of millions of Americans. The public lands offer amazingly varied ecosystems, unique and special places, awe-inspiring cultural resources, important working lands, and vast and spectacular landscapes that are vital to the social, environmental and economic health of the Nation and are part of the American spirit.

---

APPENDIX: Supporting Materials (e.g., AGO Matrix, BLM Fact Sheets)

---