

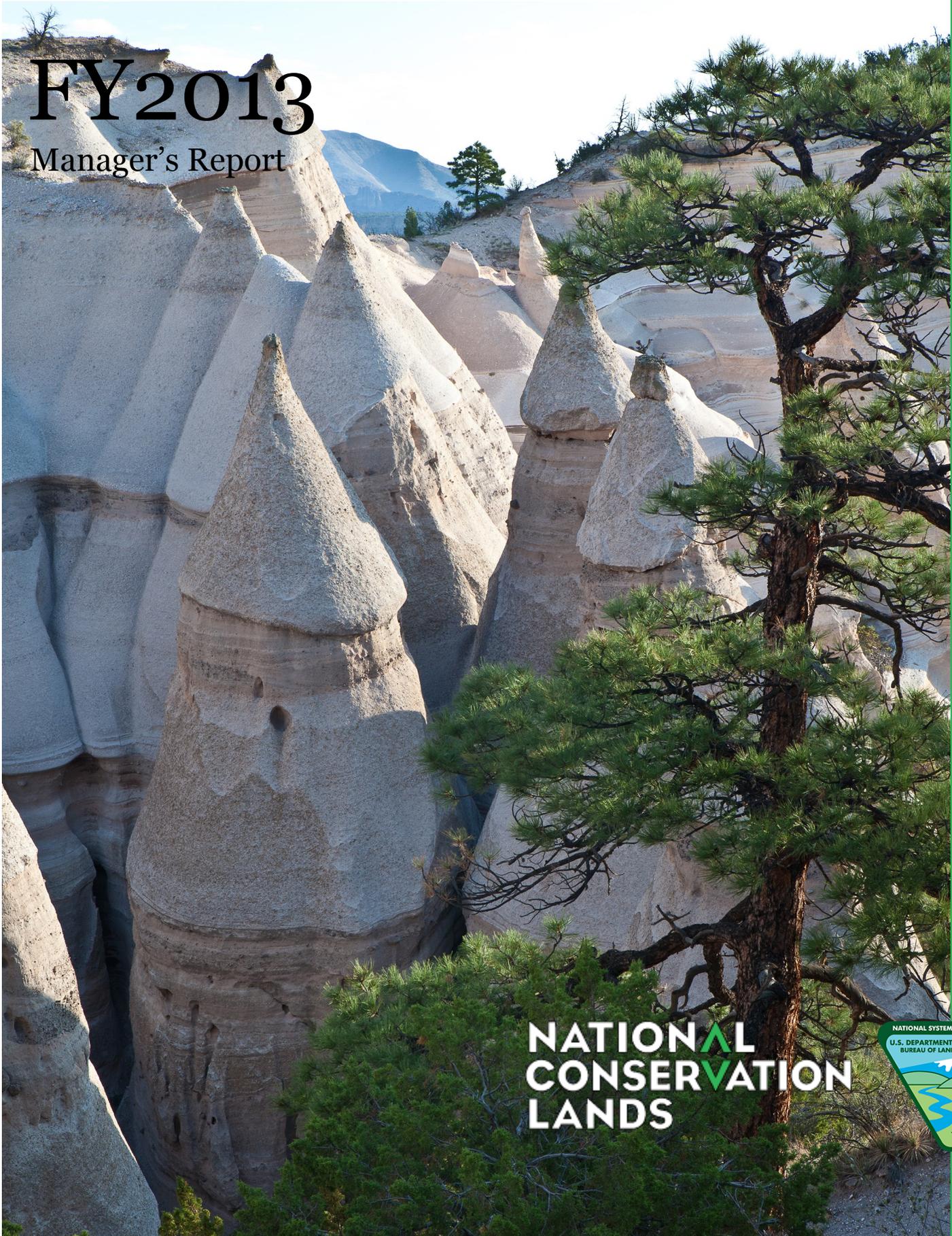
Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks

National Monument

BLM

FY2013

Manager's Report



New Mexico

NATIONAL
CONSERVATION
LANDS

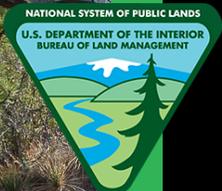


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Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks Profile

Designating Authority

Designating Authority: Section 2 of the Antiquities Act
(34 Stat. 225, 16 U.S.C. 431)

Date of Designation: January 17, 2001

Location and Acreage

Total acreage: 5,404 BLM acreage: 4,647 Non-BLM acreage: 757

The Monument is located 35 miles south of Santa Fe, and 52 miles north of Albuquerque, and is accessible through the Pueblo de Cochiti.

Contact Information

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Field Office	District Office	State Office
Rio Puerco	Albuquerque	New Mexico

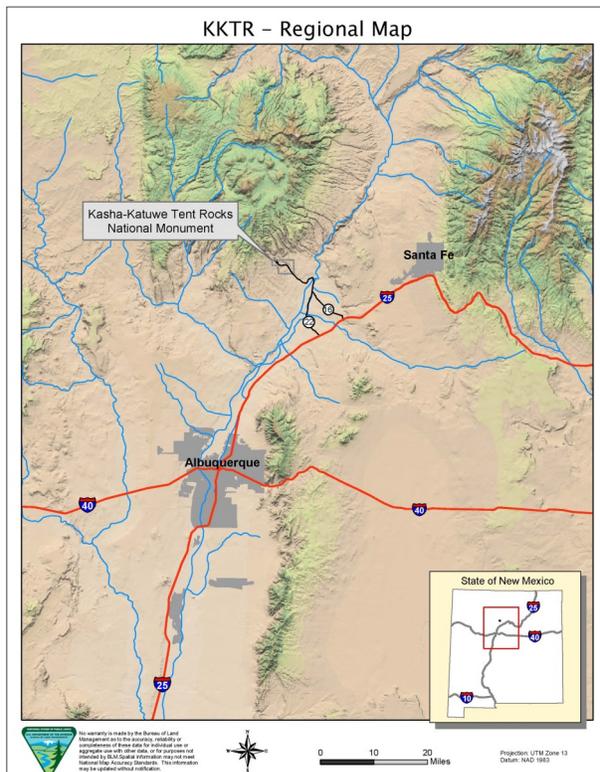
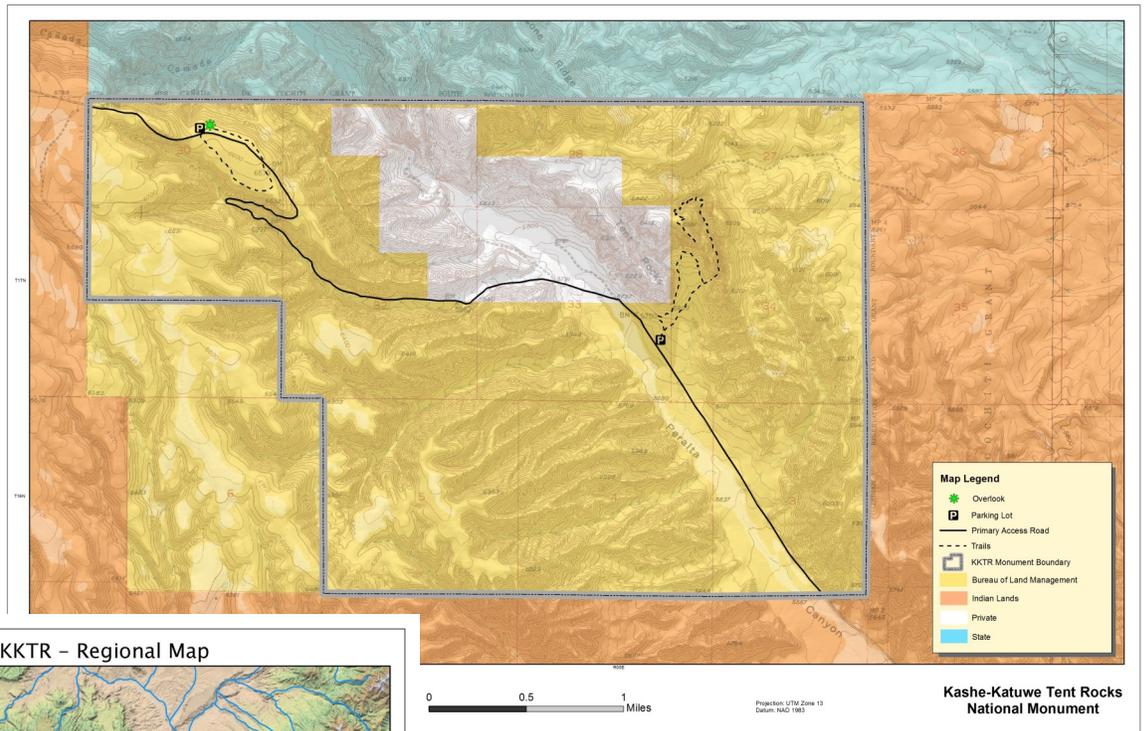
Managing Partners

The BLM manages the Monument, and maintains a partnership with the Pueblo de Cochiti (Pueblo). Together, the BLM and the Pueblo coordinate to protect the Monument's resources and sustain the cultural diversity of the Pueblo and surrounding communities.

Through a Cooperative Management Agreement (CMA), amenity fees collected are shared between the BLM and the Pueblo. These fees are used to support a portion of the Monument's operations, staffing, planning, and administrative costs. The CMA allows the Pueblo to provide office, storage, and shop space for the Monument's tools, equipment, and staff, as well as an area of contact for visitors.

Staffing

The work of the Monument is accomplished through a dedicated staff assigned to the Monument and the Resources Staff of the BLM Rio Puerco Field Office. Staff dedicated to the Monument include a monument manager (vacant), a supervisory park ranger, two full time park rangers (duties include monitoring, trail maintenance, directing school groups, and overseeing Special Recreation Permits), and four fee collectors. The park ranger and fee collector positions are filled through an Intergovernmental Personnel Act (IPA) agreement which allows the Monument to hire members of the Pueblo. The Rio Puerco Field Office staff assigned to the Monument include the Field Manager, archaeologist, forester, wildlife biologist, and hydrologist each with approximately 10 percent of their time focused on the Monument.



Planning and NEPA

Status of Resource Management Plan

A resource management plan (RMP) and record of decision were both approved for the Monument in June 2007.

Status of Activity Plans

No activity plans have been developed for the Monument.

Status of RMP Implementation Strategy

A RMP implementation Strategy has been completed and an RMP evaluation report was completed in July 2013. Key points from the strategy include actions on recreation, vegetation, watershed/riparian, and fire management.

RMP goals are to stabilize visitation at approximately 50,000 visitors per year to maintain visitor experiences and minimize resource degradation. Visitation remains at about this level. Though there have been proposals to increase trails and other infrastructure in the Monument, monitoring of recreational demand has not indicated that this infrastructure is warranted. Improved visitor use monitoring has been proposed. The RMP identifies the goal of making drinking water available for visitors in or near the Monument, but resources have not yet become available to accomplish this.

The RMP establishes a goal of moving toward Fire Regime Classes I and II to restore upland watersheds and improve watershed conditions in Peralta Creek. To date, about 85 percent of the woodland fuels projects have been completed. A major watershed restoration program has been in action since the Las Conchas fire that burned about half of the 50 square-mile watershed above the Monument in 2011. This fire caused damaging floods which necessitated extensive emergency stabilization and rehabilitation work along the Peralta Creek drainage within the Monument. The RMP established a goal to assess the potential of Peralta Creek to support riparian habitat. Pueblo elders have reported that the creek previously supported Cottonwoods. The BLM is designing its restoration work with the intent of reestablishing riparian vegetation if the resource conditions become capable of supporting riparian vegetation.

Key NEPA Actions and/or Authorizations

A temporary closure of the Monument to dogs (which was put in place after dog owners were injured when their unleashed dogs fought) has expired and NEPA for long term management needs to be completed.

A number of NEPA actions are anticipated for the following year including upgrades of facilities, improvement projects, and post fire stabilization projects.

2013 Projects and Accomplishments

General Accomplishments

The Monument received Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation funds to repair and stabilize the Monuments predominate stream channel and flood plain. This provided for stream stability during the summer monsoon rains and reduced the threat of flooding to the Pueblo downstream from the Monument.

The Monument staff also created an Administratively Determined (AD) firefighting program. These resources can be mobilized quickly to respond to wildfires and emerging incidents, which is essential to the protection of life, property, natural resources, and cultural values. Having properly trained personnel is of great importance and necessary to ensure a timely response to BLM-administered lands, the Pueblo, and surrounding communities.

Current Areas of Focus

A result of the Las Conchas Fire of 2011 annual flooding events occurs. The low water crossing located on private inholdings becomes inundated with water which poses a threat to Monument staff and visitors. Acquisition of inholdings would allow the BLM to invest in flood mitigation structures to address safety and secure passage through BLM land. There is a need for a permanent easement for passage through about a mile of private inholding on BLM Road 1011. Under the authority of the Wyden Amendment, which allows Federal funds to be expended on private property to protect the BLM's natural resources and to ensure public safety, the BLM will design and build a flood control structure to stop head cutting from eroding BLM lands and assure the safety of the Road. An MOU planned for FY15 will grant 5-year unimpeded access through private inholdings until an acquisition of the inholding or an easement through it can be completed.

A business plan is being developed to manage visitor use fees collected for the Monument. The business plan will also address the need to adjust the amount of the fee to support operational costs of the Monument.

To support the temporary closure of the Monument to dogs, the Pueblo began developing plans to construct dog kennels on tribal lands which they will make available for rent to Monument visitors. The installation of kennels is expected to be complete in 2015.

Education, Outreach, and Interpretation

The Monument staff has created a Community Enrichment Project (CEP) which is aimed at enriching the lives of individuals and livability of the Pueblo and surrounding communities. Enrollees in the CEP are non-violent offenders that are given community service and are selected by the Pueblo and the BLM to serve their community service hours at the Monument. Seven programs exist including a Troubled Youth Program, Youth Mentorship Program, Volunteer Program, Community Service Program, Emergency Hire Program, AD Firefighter Program, and the Student Hire Program. Tribal youth and community members are encouraged to participate in the CEP which aims to improve the occupational skill attainment, productiveness, and quality of life of participants as well as



decrease welfare dependency. These programs have served many youth and adults in the local community. Many of the Monument's current employees were enrolled

in the CEP and when vacancies become available at the Monument, CEP enrollees are encouraged to apply.

CEP participants are encouraged to develop interpretation programs around their native culture and expertise. This includes educating Monument visitors of native culture. One program includes performing traditional dance and music for visitors. Another program involves instructing visitors of the many traditional uses of local flora. CEP participants also provide environmental education to elementary school children on subjects including Monument geology. CEP participants also help in maintaining trails and facilities.

The Monument will apply to be a designated Hands on the Land Site, which might require more infrastructure to facilitate on-site, educational programs.

Partnerships

The principle partnership at the Monument is with the Pueblo, a Native American Tribe which shares a boundary with the Monument. This relationship was set in place by Presidential Proclamation 7394, which states the BLM will manage the Monument “in close cooperation with the Pueblo de Cochiti.” The BLM and the Pueblo have developed a Working Group Charter which is made up of Pueblo Officials and BLM employees. This group meets regularly to identify and discuss issues of concern to the Monument and the Pueblo, and strives to conserve, protect, and restore Monument resources, objects, and values, and maintain efficient operations and sound business practices. This collaboration ensures that objectives in the Monument Plan are met and that the BLM and the Pueblo’s concerns are sought out, recognized, and addressed. The BLM employees Pueblo members to work in the Monument under an the IPA.

The Monument staff is actively exploring the development of a Friends Group to aid in the facilitation of the Monument’s management.



Volunteers

Volunteers are utilized from the Monument’s Volunteer Program in many capacities. Volunteers provided free interpretative guided tours to school groups, maintain trails and facilities, conduct fuels reduction pre-prescribed fire preparations, and aid in other Monument activities.

Budget

Base budget for the Monument in 1711 was \$161,000. In addition to the 1711 funding source, approximately \$60,000 was provided through the BLM’s recreation Program. Amenity Fee collections provided \$50,013.63 in funding with 50 percent being shared with the Pueblo. An additional \$4,200 was received through sales of Interagency Access Passes.

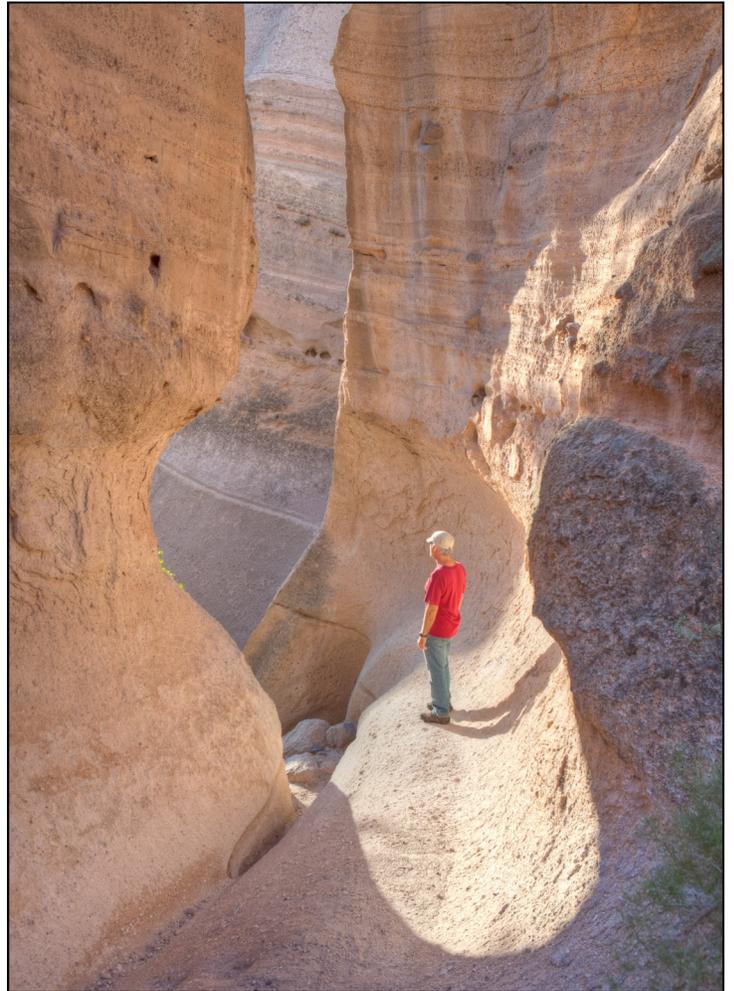
Post fire stabilization funding for design, materials, installation, and labor of flood control structures, safety features, and communications equipment amounted to \$206,979.

Land or Easement Acquisitions

757 acres of the Monument are private inholdings. Negotiations with the landowners and the Trust for Public Land, and a third party partner are ongoing for future BLM acquisition of the land. Land and Water Conservation Funds for FY16 have been requested and the landowner at this time is a willing seller. BLM Road 1103 crosses this private property for approximately one mile, and an easement is sought for the Road should the BLM be unable to purchase the property.

The Monument Plan identifies 9,268 acres of land owned by the State of New Mexico and north of and adjacent to the Monument as a priority acquisition in order to maintain and enhance the values for which the Monument was designated. If acquired, the Monument Plan recommends that this land be added to the Monument. However, Congressional action would be required to authorize the BLM to acquire the land for addition to the Monument.

The BLM holds an easement for right-of-way on Tribal Road 92 crossing Pueblo de Cochiti lands and which provides the sole access to the Monument. The easement was granted under the provision that real property of equal value to the easement be conveyed to the Pueblo, or other mutually agreed upon consideration. Such payment has not yet been settled upon by the two parties.



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Science

Science

The Physical Geology Outdoor Laboratory routinely visits the Monument to conduct lectures and field trips. This organization includes the University of Colorado, the University of Utah, the University of New Mexico, the University of Minnesota, the University of Michigan, and the University of Oklahoma. These Universities use the Monument as a model for unique geology and volcanic studies.

The Monument also hosts the Natural and Planetary Science Outdoor Laboratory. The New Mexico Museum of Natural History and the Boy and Girl Scouts of America also host lectures and field trips.

A Student Trail Guide (an educational guide to biology and geology) was developed for visitors and school groups. The Student Trail Guide was developed to provide a lesson plan and teachers aid for grades 6-12. It can be downloaded from the BLM web site and is available at the Monument in addition to Junior Explorer Guides. These guides teach children about the unique geology and rich culture of the Monument and surrounding communities. The guide also contains fun information and activities which encourage children to stay engaged.

Bird guides and plant guides are available for the public at the Monument and offer a wide array of scientific information of the flora and fauna located at the Monument.

The Monument hosted 58 educational institutions which all provided lesson plan criteria. Each institution submitted their areas of focus/study they were using during the education process. The vast majority of lesson plans submitted focused on volcanology and geology. Others were based around the local flora and fauna, as well as hydrology and flooding. The latter of which effect Peralta Canyon, which runs through the Monument.

The Monument recognizes the need for a Science Plan which will be completed in FY15.

Monitoring sites have been identified, but need revisiting. Monitoring has declined due to staffing shortages and will resume once the expertise and funding becomes available. Assistance Agreements need to be reinitiated with local universities to assist in monitoring of riparian areas. Additional funding to support such monitoring was not available or necessary during FY13. Additional funding will be requested for such monitoring when available.

Resources, Objects, Values, and Stressors

Geologic

The namesake of the national monument is the unique geological features known as the tent rocks. The monument landscape has been shaped by volcanic deposition (pyroclastic ash flow), faulting, transport of materials, and erosion; the latter processes continuing at the present time. Ash from volcanic activity of the Valles Caldera solidified into many rock layers. Over time, water draining from the Pajarito Plateau to the Rio Grande carved the landscape of the monument into elongated mesas, canyons, and cone-like shaped features known as the tents.

Two different types of tent rocks are found at the Monument. One type is found in light-colored tuff and the second is found in ancient stream deposits. The hoodoos found in the more resistant parts of the tuff have been sculpted by erosion into cone-like shapes and the hoodoos found in the stream deposits were formed by natural armoring from meteoric precipitation. Though both types of hoodoos were formed by erosion, the hoodoos found in the more resistant tuff were lightly cemented by precipitated microscopic minerals during volcanic events and simply welded together. The hoodoos found in the sand and gravel layers were formed when a cobble or boulder protected the sand and gravel material from rain and snow melt, armoring the feature from erosion driven by precipitation.

Geologic faulting has helped to further shape the area. The Pajarito fault (in the eastern monument area) is one of the longest active faults in New Mexico. Smaller faults that branch off the Pajarito provide dramatic canyons. Hot water moving along these faults has provided mineral cement that helped form some layers of the erosional landscape.

The namesake tent rock formations vary in height from a few feet to 90 feet, and the volcanic material forms a layering of interspersed bands of grey and beige-colored rock. The geologic formations provide important educational opportunities as well as a spectacular geologic scenery sought out by visitors.

Resources, Objects, Values, and Stressors

Geologic Status Trend Table	
Status of Resource, Object, or Value	Trend
Good	Declining

Geology Inventory, Assessment, Monitoring Table			
Acres in Unit	Acres Inventoried	Acres Possessing Object	Acres Monitored
4,647	4,647	160	0

Stressors Affecting Geology

Some tent rocks receive more elevated weathering by visitors climbing on the formations (which is not allowed). As people climb on or slide down the formations, they disturb the poorly consolidated grains which become dislodged or more susceptible to.

Although natural weathering results in the eventual loss of some tent rocks, new tent rocks are also created through this process.



National Recreation Trail known as the Slot Canyon Trail. The steep canyon walls exhibit faulting, volcanic activity, and infilling by sediment and groundwater.

Resources, Objects, Values, and Stressors

Cultural

Kasha Katuwe National Monument contains abundant cultural resources including archaeological sites spanning over 4,000 years of human occupation. The approximately 100 recorded archaeological sites range from prehistoric artifact scatters, Ancestral Puebloan habitation sites, and 19th and 20th century ranching and farming sites. Many sites hold special meaning to the Pueblo de Cochiti (and other nearby pueblos) whose descendants still inhabit the surrounding area, which is recognized in the Presidential proclamation creating the Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks National Monument by specifying that the Monument be managed by the BLM “in close cooperation with the Pueblo de Cochiti.”

Stressors Affecting Cultural

Stressors affecting cultural objects are few. Though visitation to the monument is high, there is little public visitation outside developed areas, so few impacts to cultural resources occur.

Cultural resources are subject to degradation by natural processes of weathering.

Due to cultural sensitivities of the Pueblo de Cochiti, no monitoring of cultural resources takes place outside of developed areas, and we are thus unable to fully identify or document the condition of cultural resources.

Cultural Status and Trend Table	
Status of Resource, Object, or Value	Trend
Good	Stable

Cultural Inventory, Assessment, Monitoring Table			
Acres in Unit	Acres Inventoried	Acres Possessing Object	Acres Monitored
4,647	921	4,647	10

Resources, Objects, Values, and Stressors

Biological

The Monument resources, objects, and values include a diverse assemblage of species, most of which utilize the monument for only a part of their life cycle, and several of which are of conservation and scientific interest. Within the Monument exists a vegetative community primarily of grassland and mixed shrubland at upper elevations. The small monument is situated within a larger landscape of broad mesas of the Parajito plateau interspersed with deep canyons and dry washes sloping down to the Rio Grande. The strong vertical arrangement of the area has led to a variety of special habitats. These include canyon-effect ponderosa pine stringers, and cliff areas around the tent rock formations which provide an abundance of raptor and cliff dwelling species habitat. Point-leaf manzanita, a shrubby species known primarily from the Sierra Madre of Mexico, exists here as one of the northernmost populations in the United States, and represents a unique plant adaptation to the cooler and moister weather of northern New Mexico. A wide variety of wildlife resides in the Monument, from common animals to more rare and sensitive species. Thirteen sensitive species either occur within the monument or have suitable habitat within the monument. These include ferruginous hawk, American peregrine falcon, gray vireo, loggerhead shrike, western small-footed myotis, Yuma myotis, little brown myotis, little brown bat, long-legged myotis, long-eared myotis, spotted bat, Townsend's big-eared bat, and big free-tailed bat. Neotropical migratory birds of conservation concern include: Bendire's thrasher, black swift, black-throated gray warbler, burrowing owl, Crissal thrasher, ferruginous hawk, flammulated owl, golden eagle, Grace's warbler, gray vireo, Lewis' woodpecker, Northern harrier, pinyon jay, prairie falcon, Swainson's hawk, Virginia's warbler, and Williamson's sapsucker. The Monument provides wintering habitat for elk and deer, very limited amphibian populations exist relying on ephemeral rainwater collection.



Biological Status and Trend Table	
Status of Resource, Object, or Value	Trend
Good	Stable

Biological Inventory, Assessment, Monitoring Table			
Acres in Unit	Acres Inventoried	Acres Possessing Object	Acres Monitored
5,610	5,089	5,610	5,610

Stressors Affecting Biological Values

Biological objects are being strained by drought related mortality. A significant mortality in ponderosa pine stringers in the drainages has occurred, with only minimal regeneration. The Las Conchas Fire has burned much of the vegetation upstream of the Monument.

Vegetative health has been inventoried and areas identified as FRCC III and FRCC II which is outside their historic range of variability. In their present condition, they are at risk catastrophic wildfire, and a general decline of vegetative health.



View of private inholdings within the Monument.

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Summary of Performance Measures

Summary Table*		
Resource, Object, or Value	Status	Trend
Geologic	Good	Declining
Cultural	Good	Stable
Biologic	Good	Stable



NATIONAL CONSERVATION LANDS

Bureau of Land Management

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