Manager's Annual Report

2014

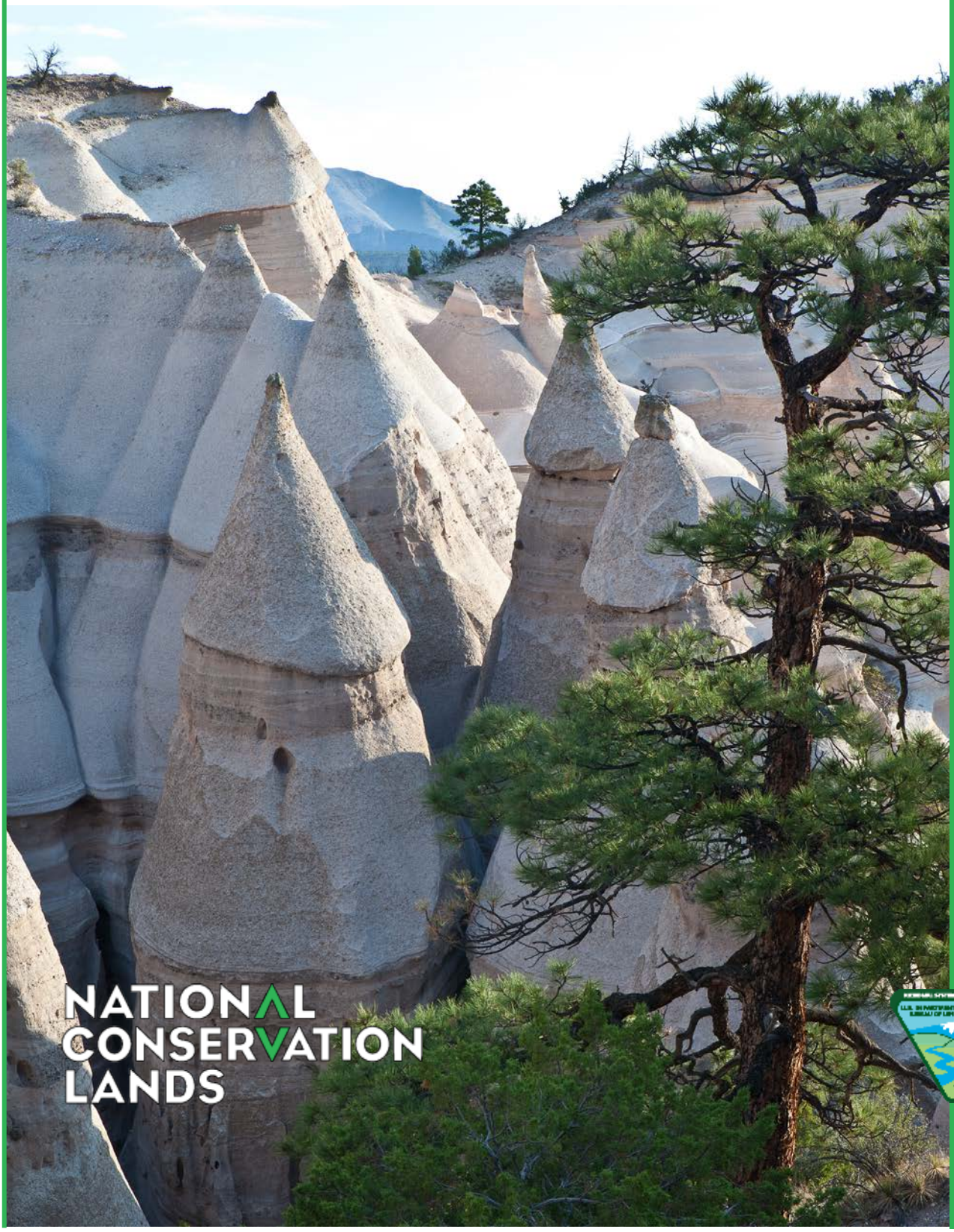
Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks

National Monument

Manager's Annual Report
FY 2014

BLM

New Mexico



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1 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

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

Acreage

Total Acres in Unit	BLM Acres	Other Federal Acres	State Acres	Other Acres
5,404	4,647	0	0	757

Contact Information

Unit Manager	Phone	E-mail	Mailing Address
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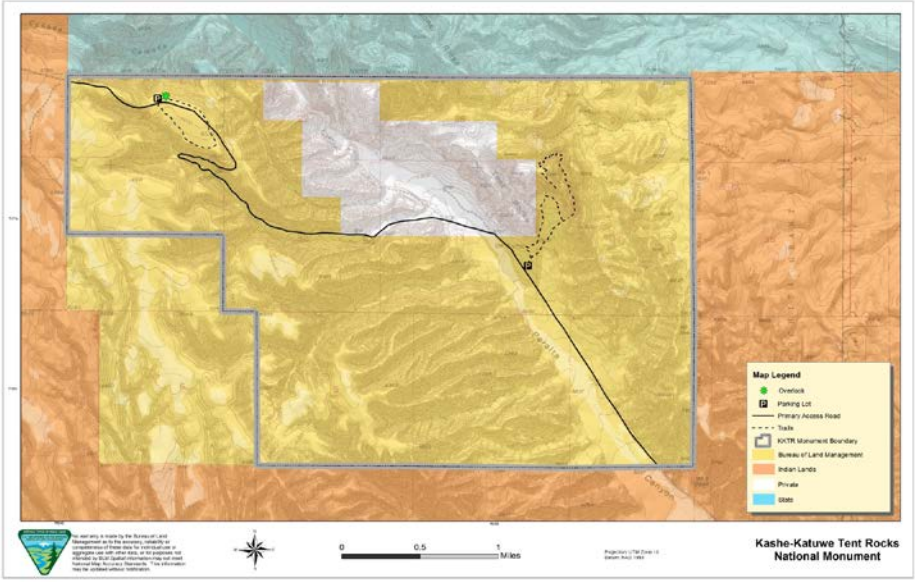
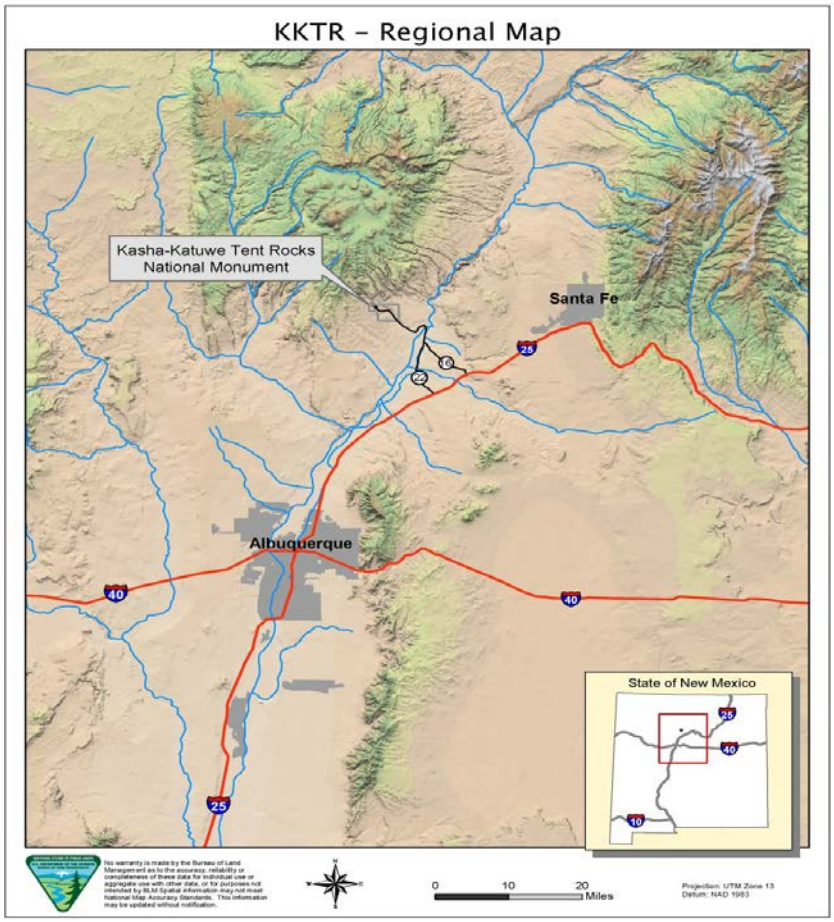
Field Office	District Office	State Office
Rio Puerco	Albuquerque	New Mexico

Budget

Total FY14 Budget	Sub-Activity 1711	Other Sub-Activities' Contributions	Other Funding
$943,957	$333,453	Subactivity 1220: $65,000 - vehicles and labor; $10,000 - Youth Hires Subactivity 1232 (collected fees) - $51,385 to Monument, $51,385 to Pueblo for Monument activities ; Interagency Passes - $7,990; Donations - $1,765 Misc. Subactivities - $67,000	Hands on the Land - $5,000; Emergency Stabilization and Restoration - $203,000; and Federal Highways Act - $147,978

Map of Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks National Monument





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 Division Staff of the BLM Rio Puerco Field Office. Rio Puerco Field Office staff dedicated to the Monument includes: a supervisory park ranger, two full time park rangers (duties include, but not limited to: monitoring, trail maintenance, directing school groups, and overseeing special recreation permits), and four full-time amenity fee station staff.

The park ranger and amenity fee station positions are filled through an Intergovernmental Personnel Act (IPA) agreement, which allows the BLM to hire members of a Tribal Government. The Rio Puerco Field Office staff assigned to the Monument includes: the field manager, archaeologist, forester, wildlife biologist, and hydrologist. Each spends approximately 10 percent of their time focused on the Monument.

The Monument also employs two full-time seasonal junior ranger positions filled through an IPA during high-visitation seasons to assist in Monument maintenance and operations. These individuals are also enrolled in the Monument's Community Enrichment Project (CEP) under the Youth Mentorship Program.

The BLM employs two students from the Sandoval County Youth Employment Program and each are donated to the Monument yearly for 6-weeks during their summer break. These students are also enrolled in the Monument's CEP under the Student Hire Program.

A number of volunteers are also utilized to provide the public with amenities such as: interpretative guided tours; trail patrols; trail maintenance; customer service; and project development and implementation. All volunteers are enrolled in the CEP under the Volunteer Program.

Through the Monument's CEP, certain individuals are enrolled in the Troubled Youth Mentorship Program and the Community Service Program. These participants are donated by the Pueblo. Individuals are required to complete their community service hours at the Monument, and are appointed a mentor to provide guidance during their service which aims to

enrich their lives and reestablish their standing in the community.

Emergency hires are also utilized during peak visitation season, and during times of unanticipated need. These individuals help facilitate road closures, lane restrictions, staffing shortages, and various miscellaneous functions. Individuals who are currently enrolled in the CEP are given priority consideration when applying for these positions.

2 Planning and NEPA

Status of RMP

A Resource Management Plant (RMP) and record of decision were both approved for the Monument in June 2007.

Status of Activity Plans

The BLM recognized the need to develop medical, science, education, and communication plans. Budget permitting, these plans are scheduled to be fully implemented by the end of FY 2015. In addition, the Monument's business plan is currently in draft form.

Status of RMP (Resource Management Plan) Implementation Strategy

An 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 is well above this level. Though the planning process has begun to increase trails and other infrastructure in the Monument to disperse recreation, monitoring of recreational demand has indicated that this infrastructure is warranted. Improved visitor use monitoring has been proposed and a vehicle and foot traffic monitoring system will be installed and start collecting data in FY 2015.

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. A decision document has been approved for well development and the BLM has begun initial planning.

The RMP established a goal of moving toward Fire Regime Classes I and II to restore upland watersheds and improve watershed conditions in Peralta Creek. To date, the BLM has completed about 85 percent of the woodland fuels projects. 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. Field surveillance has proven that cottonwoods and willows currently exist. Pueblo elders have also reported that the creek previously supported cottonwoods. The BLM is designing its restoration work with the intent of re-establishing riparian vegetation if the resource conditions become capable of supporting riparian vegetation. The BLM will submit a grant proposal in FY 2015 for funds to plan, identify, plant,

and monitor riparian area vegetation in Peralta Canyon. A decision document supporting this work has been approved.

The Southwest Acquisition is an area administered by the BLM, and is located adjacent to the Monument. A feral horse and cattle problem has persisted since grazing allotments were retired, as stated in the Presidential Proclamation. The BLM has developed an impound plan, and has posted public notices. Impoundment will proceed in FY 2015, and all unnecessary allotment fences will be removed and unit boundary fences maintained to prevent such reoccurrence.

Key NEPA Actions and Project Authorizations

In the past, the BLM issued a temporary closure of the Monument to dogs. This closure has expired. The closure was enacted after dog owners were injured when their unleashed dogs began to fight. The BLM has completed a NEPA document for long-term management. The BLM will issue a *Federal Register* notice in early FY 2015 which will be the final step necessary for a permanent closure after the BLM completes 60-days of scoping.

The BLM has begun the planning phase for an amphitheater, and a NEPA document is projected to be completed in FY 2015. The purpose of the amphitheater is to facilitate the Monument's "Hit the Trails Learning" education initiative.

The BLM also approved a decision document to honor the Nation's veterans by installing a flagpole in the center of the Veterans' Memorial Scenic Overlook (flags to be flown include those of the United States, prisoners of war, and missing in action).

In FY 2014, the BLM approved a decision document authorizing the construction of Americans' with Disabilities Act-compliant concrete paths between the parking area and the Veteran's Memorial Overlook.

The BLM approved a decision document for the installation of the Monument's portal sign at the boundary where the main access road enters the Monument.

A number of projects are anticipated to undergo NEPA review in FY 2015, including: upgrades of facilities; improvement projects; equestrian trails; fee booth upgrades; National Recreation Trail maintenance; fence repair; fuels reduction projects; sign plan implementation; radio site identification; and venomous snake handling and relocation procedures.

3 Year's Projects and Accomplishments

General Accomplishments

- The BLM received emergency stabilization and rehabilitation funds to repair and stabilize the Monument's predominant stream channel and flood plain. This provided for stream stability during the summer monsoon rains, reduced the threat of flooding to the Pueblo downstream from the Monument, and stabilized a low water crossing which is a key access point to these areas.

- The BLM signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with private landowners to secure unimpeded access through private property for Monument staff, emergency vehicles, and the public. This ensures access for 5 years to the Southwest Acquisition, the Veterans' Memorial Scenic Overlook, and picnic facilities.

- The BLM uses the Administratively Determined Firefighting Program to quickly 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 is necessary to ensure a timely response to BLM-administered lands, the Pueblo, and surrounding communities.

Current Areas of Focus

The BLM has created the Veterans' Memorial Initiative (VMI) and Buy-a-Brick Program. Through the Monument's partner, the Public Lands Interpretative Association (PLIA), Visitors will be able to purchase engraved bricks that will be utilized at the Veterans' Memorial Scenic Overlook Loop Trail and amphitheater. This will provide improved access to recreational facilities for those with disabilities, while, at the same time, honoring our Nation's Veterans. An existing New Mexico State Office MOU with PLIA was used to develop an operating plan to facilitate the Monument's veteran's initiative.

The BLM submitted a request for funding to purchase private inholdings through the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) for inclusion into the Monument. If approved, these lands would provide additional geologic, biologic, and cultural resources to the Monument. This area would also be evaluated for additional trails, scenic overlooks, and educational opportunities. This inclusion would ensure permanent easement through private inholdings for 1.05 miles on BLM Road 1011 to the Veterans' Memorial Scenic Overlook and Southwest Acquisition.

The BLM developed a business plan to manage visitor use fees collected for the Monument. The plan will also address the need to adjust the amount of amenity fees collected to support operational costs of the Monument and further expand amenities for visitors within the

Monument in accordance with the Recreation Enhancement Act.

The BLM has been working to secure a cooperative management agreement and fee share agreement with the Pueblo throughout the year. The agreement is expected to be signed in early FY 2015, and will provide additional opportunities for Monument visitors, staff, and the Pueblo.

The BLM is also in the process of maintaining its permanent easement on Tribal Road (TR) 92 from County Road 22 to BLM Road 1011. The BLM currently provides fire prevention and mitigation through a joint powers agreement and its AD Firefighting Program on TR 92. The Rio Puerco Field Office and Monument staff provides fuels management. An appraisal has been requested to compensate the Pueblo for the easement, and is expected to be complete in FY 2015, fulfilling easement requirements.

The BLM started the planning phase of adding 8.5 miles of equestrian and primitive hiking trails to the current trail system. These trails will be utilizing current open trails and will help alleviate congestion on existing trails and help disperse visitation. This is important to help ensure the protection of the resource, objects, and value for which the Monument was designated.

The Southwest Acquisition is an area administered by the BLM and is located adjacent to the Monument. A feral horse and cattle problem has persisted since before grazing allotments were retired consistent with the Proclamation. The livestock is believed to be from adjacent pueblos. The BLM developed an impound plan and posted public notices.

Impoundment will proceed in FY 2015, and the BLM will remove all previous non-necessary allotment fences and unit boundary fences maintained to prevent such reoccurrence. The BLM is developing partnerships to help in fence patrolling and maintenance.

The Monument is planning to develop an amphitheater to help promote its education initiative and youth programs. These resources will be invaluable in accomplishing not only the goals of the Monument, but fulfilling BLM's national education initiatives.

The BLM is developing a sign plan for the monument to modernize and improve the available signing of the monument.

Education, Outreach, and Interpretation

The Monument staff has created a CEP, which is aimed at enriching the lives of individuals and improving the livability of the Pueblo and surrounding communities. Seven programs exist including: a Troubled Youth Program; Youth Mentorship Program; Volunteer Program; Community Service Program; Emergency Hire Program; AD Firefighter Program; and Student Hire Program. Tribal youth and community members are encouraged to participate in the CEP, which aims to improve the occupational skill, productivity, 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 on 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. Participants also help in maintaining trails and facilities.

In order to emphasize the importance of environmental education, Monument staff has formed an education initiative called "Hit the Trails Learning." The educational initiative is aimed at increasing environmental literacy through outdoor education.

The goal of the initiative is to provide schools and accredited learning institutions with formal education on public lands at little to no cost. This will provide teachers and students opportunities to learn about natural resources in a unique outdoor classroom. Participants are offered the following:

- Free Lesson plans for all grades, which adhere to New Mexico Common Core Standards, and emphasize the Monument's resources, objectives, and values (ROV);
- Free citizen science kits corresponding with lesson plans provided;
- Free school bus fare to and from the Monument;
- Educational permits waving all Monument amenity fees;
- Free educational literature specific to the Monument's ROVs; and
- Free interpretative guided tours tailored specifically to the lesson plan chosen.

Additionally, through the newly-created friends group called Amigos of Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks National Monument, participants will have the option to submit their data collected online to help the Monument populate data needed for monitoring the ROVs. This will correlate to the Monument's Science Plan and help facilitate the Monument's monitoring strategy. Data collected may also be used to provide valuable information to graduate students who choose to undertake science projects at the Monument.

In partnership with the University of New Mexico Earth and Planetary Science Department, an initiative establishes opportunities for students to complete their senior honors thesis on topics related to the Monument. The program assigns each student interested in completing a thesis with an advisor conducting research in an area of interest. Already, the University of New Mexico's geology faculty, in particular, is addressing issues of geologic formation throughout the Monument, utilizing multiple field trips. This collaboration has been extended to the University of Nevada's Desert Research Center in order to perform studies on the Juniper die-off.

By including New Mexico students, from pre-school to the university level, we are promoting stewardship of Federal lands through increased environmental literacy. Our role is to foster student curiosity and facilitate access to the Monument. This will make it easy for our teachers to follow New Mexico curriculum standards while getting their students out in the field doing hands-on learning and familiarizing them with the State. Protecting our public lands and Monument is multi- generational. The aim of this initiative is to create a legacy of personal ownership for the Monument and the cultural, geological, and biologic treasures it holds.

The BLM currently offers brochures, which educate the public. A bird, plant, trail, and student trail guide are also offered. School groups can request Junior Explorer guides when applying for an educational fee waiver or download a copy from the Monument's website. The website has an interactive site tour which enables individuals to experience the Monument for those who cannot visit in person.

A Student Trail Guide (an educational guide to biology and geology) and Junior Explorer guides were developed for visitors and school groups. The Student Trail Guide was developed to provide a lesson plan and 6-12 grade teachers. The guide can be downloaded from the BLM website, and is available at the Monument. These guides teach children about the unique geology and rich culture of the Monument and surrounding communities. They also contain fun information and activities which encourage children to stay engaged in the outdoors. Bird guides and plant guides are available for the public at the Monument, and offer a wide array of scientific information about the flora and fauna located in the Monument.

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 established 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, which is composed of Pueblo officials and BLM employees. This group meets regularly to identify and discuss issues of concern to the Monument. The Pueblo strives to conserve, protect, and restore Monument ROVs 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 recognized and addressed. The BLM employs Pueblo members who work at the Monument under an Intergovernmental Personnel Agreement.

The Monument promotes Cochiti culture by hiring Pueblo members to staff the Monument and interact with visitors. Members provide visitor services to the recreating public and offer unique insight to the area's rich cultural resources and traditions. Throughout the year, the Pueblo hosts feasts and ceremonies, which are open to the public, who are welcomed into Pueblo member's homes to witness the traditions and partake in the festivities. The BLM has agreed to close the Monument for one day around the Easter holiday in order to maintain privacy for Pueblo ceremonies. The Monument and the Pueblo are then open to the public who are invited into the Pueblo for the Easter Feast.

Women of Cochiti are known for reviving the historic figurative tradition now referred to as Storytellers, adult clay figurines surrounded by children. The efforts of these women have bloomed into a vibrant cottage industry, and have greatly enhanced the economic welfare of the Pueblo. Storytellers are now widely collected as art, appearing in major museums and private collections around the world.

The Monument has a partnership through an MOU with the PLIA. An Operating Plan has been developed under the MOU to facilitate a Monument's Veterans' Memorial Initiative which will allow for the recognition of veterans at the Veterans Memorial Overlook.

The BLM has an MOU with the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) Great Southwest Council. This partnership will offer the opportunity for BSA members to have educational opportunities at the Monument, and will provide additional visitor services to the public.

The BLM is developing an MOU with the New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science. This partnership will create opportunities to create, maintain, and promote a vibrant outdoor gathering place to inspire a greater appreciation, understanding, and stewardship of the Monument's ROVs and science through education, and will promote events offered to the public.

The BLM is developing an MOU with the Center for Contemporary Arts (CCA) in Santa Fe to promote the BLM's Artist in Residence Program (AIR), and offer artistic opportunities for CCA members and the public.

Sandoval County has long been an affiliate of the Monument, but no formal agreement has existed. An MOU is now being developed to provide options for both parties to participate in events, projects, education, and veterans' initiatives. In return, the County will continue to provide public outreach, road maintenance, and student employees to the Monument.

In early FY 2015, Amigos of Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks National Monument is in the process of writing their bylaws and will become an official 501(C)(3). This friends group will become a partner with the Monument, and will facilitate a donations and education program. The goal is for all partners of the Monument to participate on the Amigos Board of Directors. Together, these partners will cooperate with the Monument to provide services and opportunities to the public, increase Monument amenities, and help create and facilitate educational programs in conjunction with the Monument's educational initiatives.

IN FY2014, the BLM began a partnership with the University of New Mexico Earth and Planetary Science Department, and is slated to be enacted in early FY 2015. This is called "Hit the Trails Learning," and provides opportunities for students to complete senior honors thesis projects on topics related to the Monument. The Program assigns each student interested in completing a thesis with an advisor conducting research in an area of interest. The University of New Mexico's geology faculty is studying the geology of the Monument. The University of Nevada's

Desert Research Center is performing studies on Juniper mortality.

The goals and strategies identified in the BLM "Partners against Weeds" (PAWS) action plan is implemented as needed for noxious weed management for the Monument. Portions of the PAWS action plan implemented are as follows: prevention and detection; education and awareness; inventory; planning; integrated weed management; coordination and monitoring; evaluation; research; and technology transfer.

Volunteers

The Monument's CEP hosts volunteers under its volunteer program. Volunteers provided free interpretative guided tours to school groups, maintain trails and facilities, conduct fuels reduction and pre–prescribed fire preparations, and aid in various Monument activities.

In FY 2014, the Monument hosted 38 volunteers totaling 1,871 worker hours. The value of work based on the 2009 value of $21.76 per hour as calculated by Independent Sector was $40,758.20. There were 15 youth volunteers under the age of 25.

Land (or Interests in Land) Acquisitions

Approximately 760 acres of the Monument are private inholdings. The Trust for Public Land (TPL) have initiated negotiations with the landowners for purchase of those inholdings. If successful, TPL would then seek federal purchase through the Land and Water Conservation Fund for addition to the Monument. BLM Road 1103, which provides access to the Veteran's Memorial Overlook, crosses the private properties for approximately one mile. To establish permanent public access, the BLM must either acquire the property or an easement to the road. In the interim, the landowners have provided BLM with temporary permission for public use of the road through a five year Memorandum of Understanding.

The Monument Plan identifies 9,268 acres of land north of the Monument and owned by the State of New Mexico for potential acquisition. This land contains similar resource values as those for which the Monument was designated. The BLM holds a road easement to Tribal Road 92 crossing Pueblo de Cochiti lands, and this provides 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. If acquired, a portion of the State of New Mexico lands could satisfy this obligation, and the remainder could, as recommended in the Monument Plan, be available for inclusion in the Monument (the latter would require Congressional legislation).

4 Science

Science

The Physical Geology Outdoor Laboratory routinely visits the Monument to conduct lectures and field trips. This organization includes the University of Colorado, University of Utah, University of New Mexico, University of Minnesota, 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. Lectures and field trips are also hosted by the New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science, the BSA, and Girl Scouts of America.

The BLM hosted 65 educational institutions, which all provided lesson plans of their areas of study to obtain a free educational permit. 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 focuses on Peralta Canyon, which runs through the Monument.

The BLM recognizes the need for a Science Plan. Monitoring sites have been identified. Monitoring was declined due to staff and funding shortages, and will resume when available. Assistance agreements may be re-initiated with local universities to assist in monitoring of riparian areas. Funding to support such monitoring was not available during FY 2014, and additional funding will be requested when available.

5 Resources, Objects, Values, and Stressors

Geologic Resources

The namesake of the 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 (with the latter processes continuing at present). Ash from volcanic activity of the Valles Caldera solidified into many rock layers. Over time, water draining from the Pajarito Plateau to the Río 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 layer of interspersed bands of grey and beige-colored rock. The geologic formations provide important educational opportunities as well as spectacular geologic scenery sought out by visitors.

View from the Slot Canyon National Recreation Trail

Geologic Resources

Status and Trend Table

Status of Resource, Object, or Value	Trend
Good	Declining

Inventory, Assessment, Monitoring Table

Acres in Unit	Acres Inventoried	Acres Possessing Object	Acres Monitored in FY14
4,647	4,647	160	0

Stressors Affecting Geologic Resources

Though disturbing the formations is not allowed, some people climb up or slide down some of the more readily accessible features. As the violators disturb the fragile features, some of the grains that make up the matrix become dislodged from the structure and exacerbate the rate of erosion of the "tent."

Although natural (wind and water) erosion results in the loss of some hoodoos, new features are created through this process as well; however, the creation of these features is measured on a geologic time scale.

Cultural Resources

The 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 (and other nearby pueblos) whose descendants still inhabit the surrounding area. This is recognized in the Presidential Proclamation by specifying that the Monument be managed by the BLM in close cooperation with the Pueblo.

Status and Trend Table

Status of Resource, Object, or Value	Trend
Good	Stable

Inventory, Assessment, Monitoring Table

Acres in Unit	Acres Inventoried	Acres Possessing Object	Acres Monitored in FY14
4,647	921	4,647	10

Stressors Affecting Cultural Resources

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, no monitoring of cultural resources takes place outside of developed areas, and the BLM is unable to fully identify or document the condition of cultural resources.

Pueblo de Cochiti youth dressed in traditional attire dancing for the public on the Monument's Slot Canyon National Recreation Trail.

Biological Resources

The Monument ROVs include a diverse assemblage of species, most of which utilize the Monument for only part of their life cycle, and several of which are of conservation and scientific interest. Within the Monument there exists a vegetative community primarily composed of grassland and mixed shrub land at upper elevations. The Monument is situated within a larger landscape of broad mesas of the Pajarito Plateau interspersed with deep canyons and dry washes sloping down to the Río 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 more moist 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; piñon jay; prairie falcon; Swainson's hawk; Virginia's warbler; and Williamson's sapsucker. The Monument provides wintering habitat for elk and deer. A limited amphibian population exists which relies on ephemeral rainwater collection.

Status and Trend Table

Status of Resource, Object, or Value	Trend
Good	Stable

Inventory, Assessment, Monitoring Table

Acres in Unit	Acres Inventoried	Acres Possessing Object	Acres Monitored in FY14
4,647	4,126	4,647	4,647

Stressors Affecting Biological Resources

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 burned much of the vegetation upstream of the Monument.

The BLM inventoried vegetative health, and identified area as Fire Regime Condition Class (FRCC) II and FRCC III, which is outside their historic range of variability. In their present condition, they are at risk of catastrophic wildfire, and are experiencing a general decline in vegetative health.

Cheat grass (Bromus tectorum) is an exotic, invasive weed species which occurs extensively within the Monument. A few isolated individual salt cedar plants grow in the bottom of Peralta Canyon. A small population of exotic thistles exists on BLM lands adjacent to the southwest corner of the Monument. These invasive species threaten the biological and physiological processes within the Monument.

Point-leaf manzanita seedlings before planting. This variety represents a unique plant adaptation to the cooler and more moist weather of northern New Mexico.

6 Summary of Performance Measure

The overall status of the ROVs is good, and they are in stable condition. There is some decline in the geological ROV caused by visitors climbing formations and damaging hoodoos in the process. As most visitors stay within developed areas, the cultural ROV does not have a high potential for decline. The biological ROVs are under stress from drought and invasive species. If these conditions persist, there is a strong likelihood of this ROV to decline.

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

7 Manager's Letter

The Monument will be applying for a grant to fund the restoration and monitoring of the Peralta Canyon riparian area. This will include a description of the riparian area vegetation to be planted. As part of this, the BLM will develop a monitoring strategy. The BLM will recruit volunteers to plant seedlings, and will request an additional VISTA member to assist the Monument with various projects for an entire year.

In early FY 2015, the BLM will be applying to host a Teacher on Public lands (TPL). This position will be crucial to assist the Monument in developing lesson plan curriculum for its "Hit the Trails Learning" education initiative.

The BLM will utilize prescribed fire in the Southwest Acquisition in the upcoming year. The Monument staff will pursue funding from New Mexico Game and Fish through the Habitat Stamp Program to reduce the amount of decadent fuel loadings and help open up the canopy to conditions better suited to sustain game animal populations. The potential for catastrophic wildfire will also be reduced as the natural fire return interval will be reintroduced.

Fencing along the western boundary of the Southwest Acquisition is in need of repair and slated to be replaced in early FY 2015. Partners such as the BSA and the Backcountry Horsemen of New Mexico have committed to assisting with maintenance of these fences, where they will remove old and unnecessary fences within the Monument.

The American Hiking Society has named the Monument as a host of its 2015 Volunteer Vacation. Volunteers from across the country will come to the Monument to assist in trail maintenance and miscellaneous projects.

NATIONAL CONSERVATION LANDS

Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks

National Monument

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