

Management Actions for Newly Designated National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS) Units

1. Implement Protective Management

Deadline: January 30, 2010

Action: Review policies and plans for consistency with enabling legislation and the BLM Land Use Planning Handbook (appendix 3, page 27). Subject to valid existing rights, activities damaging to recognized values should be suspended pending completion of resource management or activity plans. Effective on-the-ground management of recognized values requires monitoring and surveillance. Management may also include compliance checks, reclamation, and facility construction or maintenance.

Program-specific guidance:

- **National Monuments and National Conservation Areas**
 - Action: Withdraw federal lands and interests in lands within national monuments and national conservation areas, subject to valid existing rights, from all forms of entry, location, selection, sale, leasing, or other disposition under public land laws including, among others, the mineral leasing and mining laws.
 - Action: Identify a stand-alone manager for each new area.
 - Action: Consider land or easement acquisitions and land exchanges that will enhance the values for which the area was designated.
- **Wilderness**
 - Action: Review existing authorizations and plans; do not implement actions which are inconsistent with the designating legislation or BLM's wilderness regulations (43 CFR 6300). The moratorium on implementing such actions will stay in effect until (1) the authorization or plan can be amended; (2) a program-specific interim plan can be written; (3) completion of a wilderness management plan; or 4) the activity can be brought into compliance via analysis in a NEPA document.
 - Deadline: March 30, 2010
Action: Develop a monitoring and surveillance plan.
- **Wild and Scenic Rivers**
 - Action: Evaluate proposed projects on federal lands to ensure they protect and, to the extent possible, enhance river values (free-flow, water quality, and outstandingly remarkable values).

2. Document Baseline Conditions

Action: Undertake inventory of values for which each new NLCS unit was designated.

Program-specific guidance:

- **Wilderness**
 - Deadline: March 30, 2010
Action: Complete identification and documentation of wilderness characteristics as they existed at the date of designation. Include impacts from structures and other physical disturbances affecting the undeveloped nature of wilderness, natural conditions, or other conditions affecting wilderness character.
- **Wild and Scenic Rivers**

- Deadline: January 30, 2010
Action: Describe the existing conditions of the values for which each river was designated:
 - Free-flowing Condition -- Describe in-channel condition to guide future analyses of proposed water resources projects under Section 7(a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act; i.e., describe structures existing at the date of designation and general hydrologic function.
 - Water Quality -- Describe water quality based on existing information (e.g., state water quality standards for the designated river or reach).
 - Outstandingly Remarkable Values -- Describe each outstandingly remarkable value in detail based on pre-designation study and/or other existing information.
- **National Scenic and Historic Trails**
 - Deadline: September 30, 2010
Action: Complete a visual resource management inventory and trail condition assessment. Collect Global Positioning System data for the trail during the course of this work.

3. Develop Management Plan

Deadline: September 30, 2010 for preplans.

Action: Identify where plans are needed, conduct baseline inventories, and develop pre-plans. All new units must submit a pre-plan to the Washington Office. See the BLM Planning Handbook for information on preplanning.

Program-specific guidance:

- **National Monuments and National Conservation Areas**
 - Deadline: March 30, 2011 for Fort Stanton-Snowy River Cave National Conservation Area; March 30, 2012 for Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area, Red Cliffs National Conservation Area, Beaver Dam Wash National Conservation Area, and Prehistoric Trackways National Monument.
 - Action: Complete a management plan.
- **Wilderness**
 - Action: Develop a wilderness management plan as soon as practical after designation.
- **Wild and Scenic Rivers**
 - Deadline: March 30, 2012
Actions: Wild and scenic river management plans should include a carrying capacity analysis. The plan should provide direction for evaluating proposed projects, including goals and desired conditions, and guidance for developments and activities on federal lands and related waters.
- **National Scenic and Historic Trails**
 - Deadline: March 30, 2011
Actions: Coordinate with the U.S. Forest Service to develop a comprehensive management plan for each trail.

4. Prepare Congressionally Required Maps and Legal Descriptions of Boundaries and Update BLM Records

Deadline: September 30, 2010

Action: Prepare official maps and legal descriptions accurately portraying the boundaries of each NLCS unit.

Action: Review BLM records to determine need for modification. Master Title Plats and the Historical Index should be given first priority for revision. Maps of all boundaries and descriptions should be available for public inspection in both the Washington Office and in locations convenient to the designated units. Staff should create serialized case files, including congressionally required maps, for each designation. Case files should be maintained at the State Office.

Program-specific guidance:

- **Wild and Scenic Rivers**

- Deadline: March 30, 2010

Actions: Establish river corridor boundaries not exceeding an average of 320 acres per river mile. Boundaries are to be delineated based on natural or man-made features (canyon rims, roads, and ridge tops, etc.) and on legally identifiable survey or property lines. Boundaries may be finalized through a land management planning process. Pending the establishment of detailed river boundaries, the interim boundary is one quarter mile on each side of the river as measured from the ordinary high water mark. Notice of the availability of the boundaries and classification, and of any subsequent boundary amendments, shall be published in the Federal Register within one year, and shall become effective ninety days after they have been forwarded to Congress from the Department.

- **National Scenic and Historic Trails**

- Actions: Cooperate with the U.S. Forest Service in preparing the official map and legal description. Pending the establishment of a detailed right of way, retain public lands in federal ownership. No significant relocations of the trail are permitted. For interim purposes, significant relocations shall be defined as reroutes beyond approximately one quarter mile of the Congressional Route.

5. Install Signs

Deadline: January 30, 2010

Action: Sign new areas at key access points.

Program-specific guidance:

- **National Scenic and Historic Trails**

- Action: Replace existing trail signs with those exhibiting the official logo.

6. Designated Official Contacts for Unit

Deadline: January 30, 2010

Action: Designate a field office contact for each new NLCS unit. All designated contacts should be reported to WO program leads.

Program-specific guidance:

- **National Scenic and Historic Trails**

- Action: Appoint Oregon and Arizona trail liaisons to serve as the designated BLM contacts for the U.S. Forest Service and the primary trail organizations.

7. Brief and Train Employees

Deadline: January 30, 2010

Action: Provide responsible field staff with a one-day training on legal requirements of new designations.

Program-specific guidance:

- **Wilderness**

- Deadline: March 30, 2011

Actions: Ensure that all managers and staff with wilderness responsibilities complete “Unit Wilderness Stewardship” and the following web-based classes: “Wilderness Act,” “Minimum Requirements Decisions,” “Wilderness Stewardship Planning Framework,” and “Wilderness Visitor Use Management.” Senior level managers should also complete “National Wilderness Stewardship,” while field managers, program leads, and key staff should also complete “Regional Wilderness Stewardship.”

8. Provide Washington Office with Photos of New Units

Deadline: January 30, 2010

Action: Provide digital images of newly designated units to Bonnie Winslow in the NLCS Washington Office. Images will be used in a variety of outreach products including exhibits, brochures, and the NLCS website. Images should reflect landscapes, multiple use activities, volunteer activities, and partnerships or community activities. Images should be jpegs, 5x7, and 300 dpi or higher. Include a caption with a description and general location.

9. Provide the National Operations Center and Washington Office with GIS shape files

Deadline: January 30, 2010

Action: Provide Debra Dinville, Chief, Resource Technology Section, with GIS boundary layers for new designations. Where shape files do not originate with the BLM, please indicate the source (e.g. Forest Service).

10. Recreation Management Information System

Deadline: January 30, 2010

Action: Enter new designations into the Recreation Management Information System (RMIS). Work with Tina McDonald, RMIS Program Manager, on establishing new designations in the system. Visitation to these areas must be entered into RMIS annually.