

NLCS 10th Anniversary Public Outreach Plan

Current Date: September 3, 2009

Project: 10th Anniversary of the National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS)

Background: Managed by the Bureau of Land Management as part of its National System of Public Lands, the NLCS is composed of National Monuments, National Conservation Areas and similarly designated lands, Wilderness and Wilderness Study Areas, Wild and Scenic Rivers, National Scenic and Historic Trails, and the Conservation Lands of the California Desert. These treasured landscapes, valued by millions of Americans, are located coast-to-coast and include 886 federally recognized areas, approximately 27 million acres, and 8,425 miles of rivers and national trails. Learn more about these areas at <http://www.blm.gov/nlcs>.

Created in 2000 by the Secretary of the Interior, the NLCS brought into a single system specially designated areas managed on a landscape level under the BLM's multiple-use mandate. Passage of the Omnibus Public Lands Management Act (P.L. 111-11) provided a statutory basis for the NLCS and added nearly 928,000 acres of Wilderness, one National Monument, four National Conservation Areas, 367 miles of Wild and Scenic Rivers, and 40 miles of National Scenic and Historic Trails. Many of the treasured landscapes within the NLCS are popular tourism destinations being managed for their exceptional scientific, cultural, ecological, historical, and recreational resources.

The long-term vision guiding the NLCS is to conserve, protect, and restore the System's lands, cultural and historic resources, and waters for future generations – enhancing the BLM's mission to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. Many of these lands are some of America's best kept secrets, yet are just minutes from major metropolitan areas. Others are rugged and remote, offering solitude in a primitive backcountry setting. The NLCS comprises the uniquely diverse resources of the American landscape, including red-rock deserts, rugged ocean coastlines, deep river canyons, and broad Alaskan tundra. Many areas serve as outdoor scientific laboratories where important discoveries are common place, ranging from the Nation's highest concentration of Native American artifacts to the Nation's premier paleontological sites. The 10th Anniversary of the NLCS will be marked with national and local events planned across the country to celebrate the milestone and reinforce the value of these landscapes to their local, regional, and national communities.

10th Anniversary Goals, Objectives, and Related Messages:

- 1) **Enhance** awareness and understanding of the NLCS and all it has to offer;
- 2) **Inspire** Americans to embrace stewardship of these special public lands;
- 3) **Expand** relationships within the science community;
- 4) **Expand** relationships within other communities;
- 5) **Celebrate** a decade of discovery; and
- 6) **Set** goals to achieve even more in the next ten years.

External interest groups and community partners key messages

- The NLCS encompasses many of the Nation's most notable landscapes, providing important recreation opportunities and economic benefits for local, regional, and national communities.
- The BLM is celebrating the 10th birthday of the NLCS, which was given statutory permanence through passage of the Omnibus Public Lands Management Act (P.L. 111-11) on March 25, 2009. The legislation was signed by the President on March 30.
- The BLM invites you to participate in events scheduled across the country marking the 10th Anniversary. Engaging the public in events gives them opportunities to meet land managers and decision makers and to celebrate these treasured landscapes.
- NLCS units, a vital part of the BLM's National System of Public Lands, are managed on a landscape level to conserve, protect, and restore their exceptional scientific, cultural, ecological, historical, and recreational resources.
- The year 2010 marks ten years of building strong community partnerships in completing and implementing land management plans for these treasured landscapes.
- The next ten years provide opportunities for increased community stewardship, more scientific studies, and restoring natural and cultural resources on a landscape level.

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- The next ten years provide opportunities for increased community stewardship, more scientific studies, and restoring natural and cultural resources on a landscape level.
- The past ten years have proven NLCS public lands to be important to your constituents and economy. More than 58 million people live within 25 miles of BLM-managed lands, providing them with open space and outdoor adventure.
- In fiscal year 2008, volunteers contributed more than 340,000 hours to the NLCS — labor valued at more than \$6.5 million — building trails, mending fences, eradicating invasive weeds, and providing visitor services.
- The BLM will be responsive to any needs or concerns you or your constituents may have about the management of NLCS lands.

Media messages

- The BLM is celebrating the 10th birthday of the NLCS, which was given statutory permanence through passage of the Omnibus Public Lands Management Act (P.L. 111-11) on March 25, 2009. The legislation was signed by the President on March 30.
- NLCS units, a vital part of the BLM's National System of Public Lands, are managed on a landscape level to conserve, protect, and restore their exceptional scientific, cultural, ecological, historical, and recreational resources.
- Located coast-to-coast, 886 federally recognized areas, approximately 27 million acres, and 8,425 miles of rivers and national trails are managed for multiple use with an emphasis on conservation. Learn more about these areas at <http://www.blm.gov/nlcs>.
- The NLCS is composed of National Monuments, National Conservation Areas and similarly designated lands, Wilderness and Wilderness Study Areas, Wild and Scenic Rivers, National Scenic and Historic Trails, and the Conservation Lands of the California Desert.
- No other Federal agency manages such nationally significant areas, designated by either Congress or the President, on a landscape level with such limited resources. Treasured landscapes are truly unique to the BLM's National System of Public Lands, which includes the NLCS.
- The BLM management costs per acre are the lowest among Federal land-managing agencies. They average \$5.86 compared to \$17.68 for the U.S. Forest Service, \$12.13 for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and \$31.34 for the National Park Service.
- From outstanding recreational opportunities to working landscapes where grazing and other traditional uses of the land take place, the NLCS captures the spirit of America's rich heritage.
- Through educational opportunities and on-the-ground projects, America's youth play an integral role in the conservation and restoration of public lands within the NLCS.

Key Contacts: Carl Rountree, NLCS Director

National Landscape Conservation System 10th Anniversary Talking Points

- The 10th Anniversary of the National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS) celebrates the collaboration and community stewardship among gateway communities; non-governmental organizations; tribal, state, and local governments; other Federal agencies; and the BLM.
- The year 2010 marks ten years of building strong community partnerships, completing and implementing land management plans, and restoring landscapes. The next ten years provide opportunities for setting goals that increase stewardship, promote sound scientific studies, and encourage continued community involvement.
- Cultural and paleontological resources abound within the NLCS. While important scientific discoveries were made on these treasured landscapes long before the NLCS

was created, the past ten years have produced new discoveries important to understanding and managing complex landscapes. The NLCS holds immense opportunities for tomorrow's great scientific discoveries.

- The NLCS brought into a single system specially designated areas and irreplaceable resources managed on a landscape level under the BLM's multiple-use mandate. These public lands are managed to conserve, protect, and restore the exceptional scientific, natural, cultural, ecological, historical, and recreational values for which they were designated.
- The NLCS is composed of National Monuments, National Conservation Areas and similarly designated lands, Conservation Lands of the California Desert, Wilderness and Wilderness Study Areas, Wild and Scenic Rivers, and National Scenic and Historic Trails.
- Located coast-to-coast and spanning from Alaska to Florida, these 886 federally recognized areas, approximately 27 million acres, and 8,425 miles of rivers and national trails await discovery. Learn more about these areas at <http://www.blm.gov/nlcs>.
- Through educational opportunities and on-the-ground projects, America's youth play an integral role in the conservation and restoration of public lands within the NLCS.
- NLCS projects cannot be achieved without the help of hundreds of volunteers, working thousands of hours—340,000 in 2008 alone. These volunteers sacrifice their free time to work closely with BLM staff on improving the public lands they love.
- BLM Resource Advisory Councils, NLCS Advisory Committees, Friends Groups, and other partners are critical to the BLM in carrying out its conservation vision and priority programs for the NLCS. In celebrating the 10th Anniversary, the BLM salutes these important volunteers.
- NLCS units can be laboratories for finding solutions to emerging national and global issues such as climate change, sustainable energy development, habitat loss and fragmentation, demographic shifts, and increasing urban-wildland interface.
- On March 25, 2009, the Omnibus Public Lands Management Act (P.L. 111-11) was passed by Congress. The legislation, signed by the President on March 30, 2009, provided a statutory basis for the NLCS.
- Passage of P.L. 111-11 also added to the NLCS nearly 928,000 acres of Wilderness, one National Monument, four National Conservation Areas, 367 miles of Wild and Scenic Rivers, and 40 miles of National Scenic and Historic Trails.
- NLCS management is grounded in science and community collaboration, while ensuring the conservation, protection, and restoration of these special landscapes.

Research findings and lessons for managing partnerships have been applied to other public lands managed by the BLM.

- In the decade since its establishment, the NLCS has utilized a new framework for conservation in the 21st Century. Uses can vary, but many units support traditional activities such as Native American cultural and religious uses, hunting, and livestock grazing. Oil and gas development may also be allowed where there are valid existing rights.
- Throughout the past decade, NLCS priorities have grown and evolved. These priorities, for which management is guided by community-based Resource Management Plans, include conservation, protection, and restoration; communities and partnerships; science; outdoor recreation, education, and visitor services; outreach to diverse publics; and youth involvement.
- Even if they never visit public lands within the NLCS, Americans can gain a sense of connection to wild and often remote landscapes that are intrinsic parts of their heritage. These landscapes encompass millions of acres valued and celebrated for their exceptional scientific, cultural, ecological, historical, and recreational values.
- The National System of Public Lands, including those lands within the NLCS, contributes to the economic vitality of our Nation. More than 58 million people live within 25 miles of BLM-managed lands, providing them with open space and outdoor adventure.
- In fiscal year 2008, volunteers contributed more than 340,000 hours to the NLCS — labor valued at more than \$6.5 million — building trails, mending fences, eradicating invasive weeds, and providing visitor services.
- As the BLM moves forward in managing the NLCS, five attributes are needed — creativity, ingenuity, perseverance, the ability to learn and adapt; and above all, the willingness to work together in cooperation and partnership to achieve management goals.

National Landscape Conservation System 10th Anniversary Fact Sheet

What: In 2010, the Bureau of Land Management celebrates the 10th Anniversary of the National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS). The NLCS, managed by the Bureau of Land Management as part of its National System of Public Lands, is composed of National Monuments, National Conservation Areas and similarly designated lands, Wilderness and Wilderness Study Areas, Wild and Scenic Rivers, National Scenic and Historic Trails, and the Conservation Lands of the California Desert. While the system was created in 2000 by the Secretary of the Interior, new units within the system can only be designated by Congress or the President. The Omnibus Public Lands Management Act of 2009 (P.L. 111-11) was signed by the President on March 30, 2009, providing a statutory basis for the NLCS. With this Act, nearly 928,000 acres of Wilderness, one National Monument, four National Conservation Areas, 362 miles of Wild and Scenic Rivers, and 40 miles of National Scenic and Historic Trails were added to the NLCS. The system now contains 886 units, approximately 27 million acres, and 8,425 miles of rivers and national trails located in 11 Western States, Alaska, Maryland, and Florida. Learn more about these areas at <http://www.blm.gov/nlcs>.

<i>National Landscape Conservation System at a Glance</i>				
Category*	Areas	Number	BLM Acres	BLM Miles
National Monuments and National Conservation Areas	National Monuments	16	4,815,760	
	National Conservation Areas	16	4,112,798	
	Similar Designations	5	435,829	
Wilderness	Wilderness Areas	222	8,662,214	
	Wilderness Study Areas	545	12,790,291	
Wild and Scenic Rivers		67	1,164,014	2,419
Trails	National Historic Trails	10		5,342
	National Scenic Trails	5		664
Totals		886	Approximately 27,000,000**	8,425

*In 2009-2010, the BLM will evaluate how to incorporate the California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) into the NLCS in terms of management. The BLM-administered portion of the CDCA (including Wilderness Areas) totals 10,671,080 acres and includes some multiple-use areas not traditionally incorporated into the NLCS.

**Some NLCS units overlap. Because of these overlaps, it is not possible to arrive at an acreage total for all NLCS units simply by adding the acreage total for each category listed above (e.g., National Monuments and National Conservation Areas, Wilderness, etc.).

Why: The NLCS provides a science- and conservation-based framework for managing the BLM's specially designated areas encompassing vast treasured landscapes as part of the BLM's multiple-use mission.

How: Under the BLM's multiple-use mandate, these specially designated public lands are managed to conserve, protect, and restore their exceptional scientific, natural, cultural, ecological, historical, and recreational values. Most events will be scheduled at the local Field Office level; some will be combined with such national events as National Public Lands Day and National Trails Day.

The NLCS vision and anniversary events focus on six priorities:

- 1) Conservation, protection, and restoration;
- 2) Science;
- 3) Communities and partnerships, including economic and social concerns;
- 4) Recreation, education, and visitor services;
- 5) Outreach to diverse publics; and
- 6) Youth involvement.

Challenges: In managing the NLCS, the BLM is presented with many challenges, including balancing sometimes conflicting interests while managing these treasured landscapes to conserve, protect, and restore the extraordinary values for which they were designated. Other challenges are caused by significant ecological changes occurring across America. Some of the critical factors facing the unique treasured landscapes found within the NLCS are:

- Impacts from prolonged drought, wildland fires, invasive species, and noxious weeds.
- Meeting the variety of visitor interests, needs, and expectations.
- Availability of commercial services for visitors to NLCS units.

The biggest and most important challenge for the 10th Anniversary celebration is engaging gateway communities and the public in the celebrations, while promoting long-term stewardship for these treasured public lands. Toward that end, there will be several national events beginning in the spring of 2010.

Partnerships and Volunteers: The NLCS continues to expand its capacity to create innovative solutions, build sustainable partnerships, and accomplish on-the-ground projects by involving communities, volunteers, and partners to assist in managing landscapes. In 2008, BLM staff partnered with more than 450 entities, including tribes, non-governmental organizations, state and local governments, and other Federal agencies across the country. In fiscal year 2008, volunteers contributed more than 340,000 hours to the NLCS — labor valued at more than \$6.5 million — building trails, mending fences, eradicating invasive weeds, and providing visitor services. The BLM leverages volunteer services and partnerships at an estimated 20:1 ratio to benefit NLCS resources.

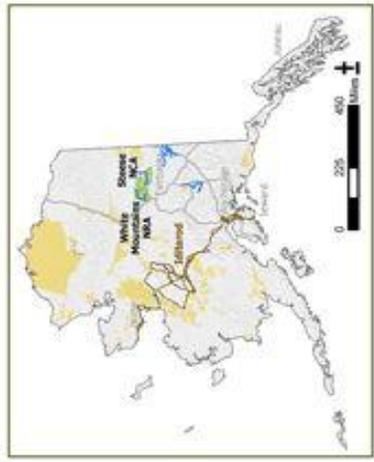
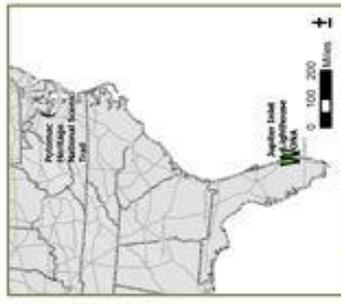
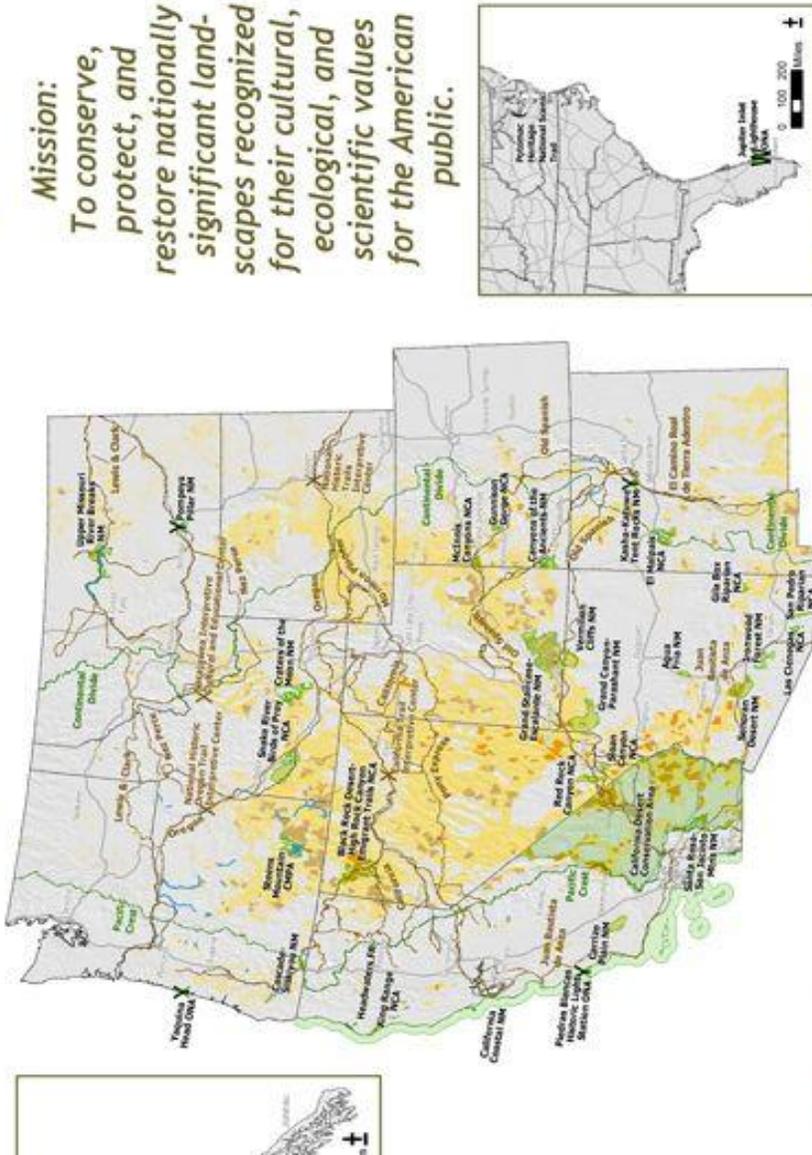
Goals Going Forward: The BLM works hard, with the assistance of partners, to preserve the NLCS's natural landscapes, as well as those across jurisdictions. Anniversary events will create an excellent opportunity to promote goals going forward, as guided by the appropriate land-use plans. Those goals include:

- Developing needed policy and guidance;
- Expanding partnerships throughout the system;
- Initiating a system-wide review of existing management of the NLCS, including supporting regional assessments related to climate change; and
- Increasing emphasis on scientific research.

For more information, go to <http://www.blm.gov/nlcs>.

National Landscape Conservation System

Mission:
 To conserve, protect, and restore nationally significant landscapes recognized for their cultural, ecological, and scientific values for the American public.



Legend:

- National Monuments, National Conservation Areas, and similar designations
- National Historic Trail
- National Scenic River
- Wild and Scenic River
- BLM Administered Land
- BLM Wilderness
- BLM Wilderness Study Area
- National Trail Visitor Center
- Interstate Highway

Scale: 0 50 100 200 300 400 Miles

* Parks and Eastern States are not to scale as are all special areas and designations. Visit www.blm.gov for additional information.

Landscapes of the American Spirit

NLCS staff updating map, contingent upon receipt of new data from the field.