



**NATIONAL
CONSERVATION
LANDS**

Colorado

Canyons of the Ancients

National Monument

Annual Manager's Report—Fiscal Year 2014

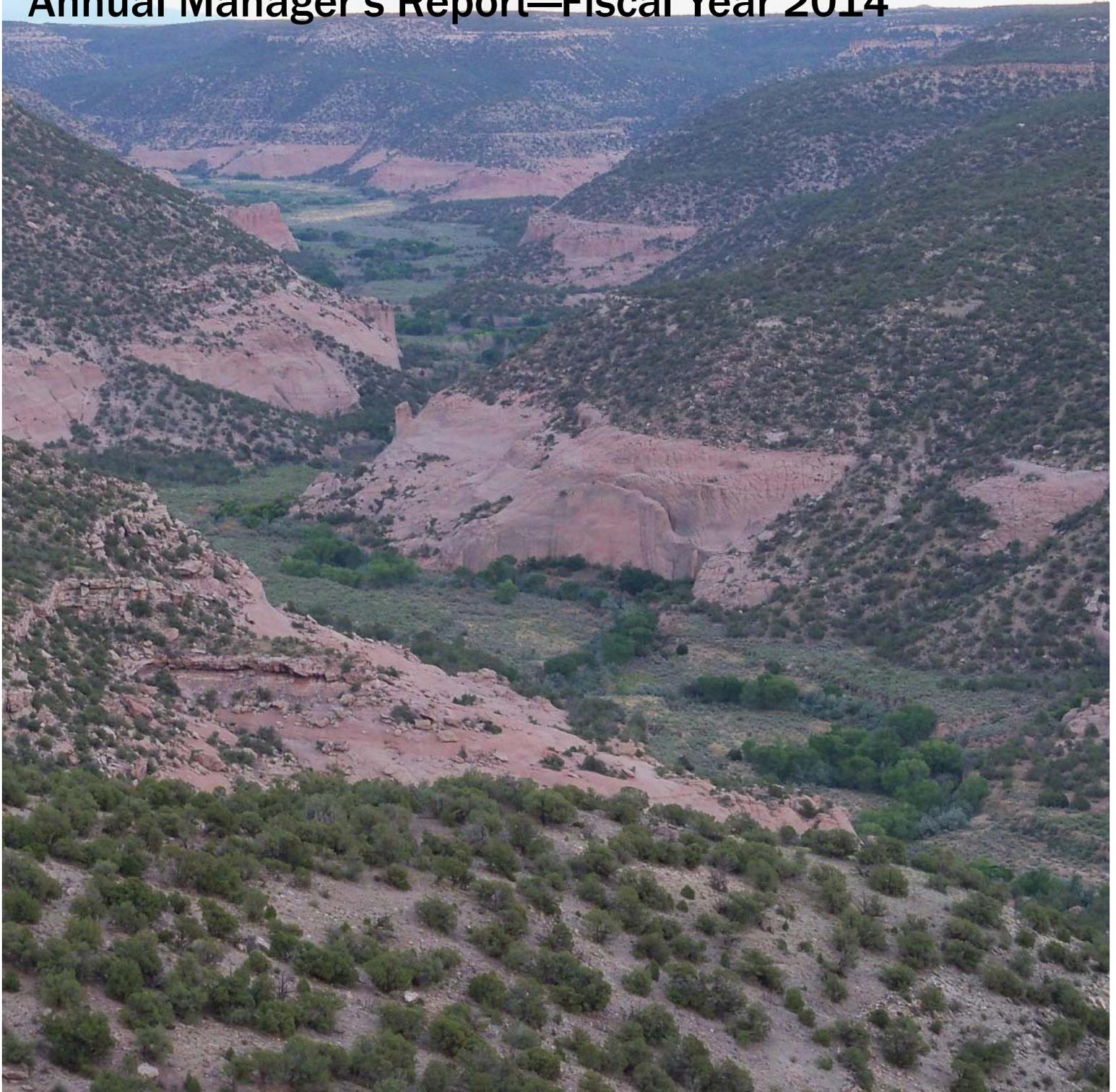


Table of Contents

Canyons of the Ancients Profile	1
Planning and NEPA	6
Year's Projects and Accomplishments	9
Science.....	21
Resources, Objects, Values, and Stressors	23
Summary of Performance Measure	27
Manager's Letter	28

1 Canyons of the Ancients Profile

Designating Authority

Designating Authority: Presidential Proclamation 7317

Date of Designation: June 9, 2000

Acreage

Total Acres in Unit 187,870

BLM Acres 178,000

Other Federal Acres 370

State and Private Acres* 9,500

*State and Private acres are not part of the total of the unit acres

Contact Information

Unit Manager	Marietta Eaton
Phone	970-882-5616
E-mail	meaton@blm.gov
Mailing Address	Anasazi Heritage Center 27501 Hwy 184 Dolores, CO 81323
Field Office Name	Tres Rios
District Office Name	Southwest
State Office Name	Colorado

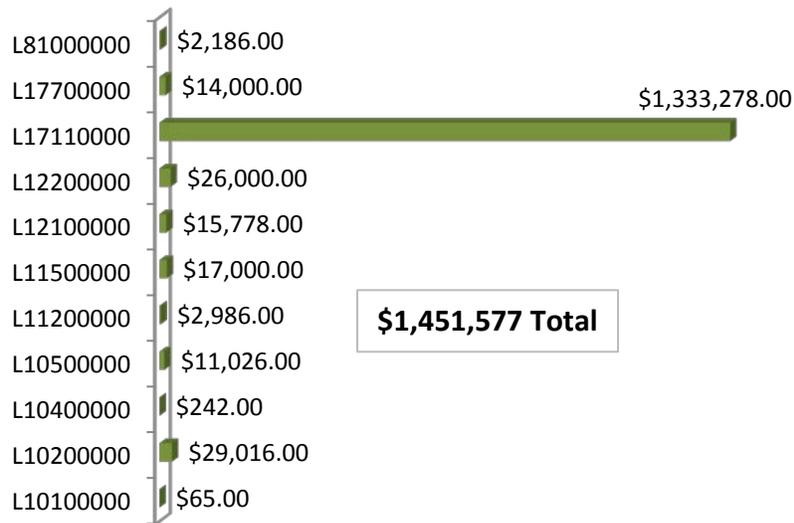


Left: The Anasazi Heritage Center Right: View to the southwest from the Anasazi Center.

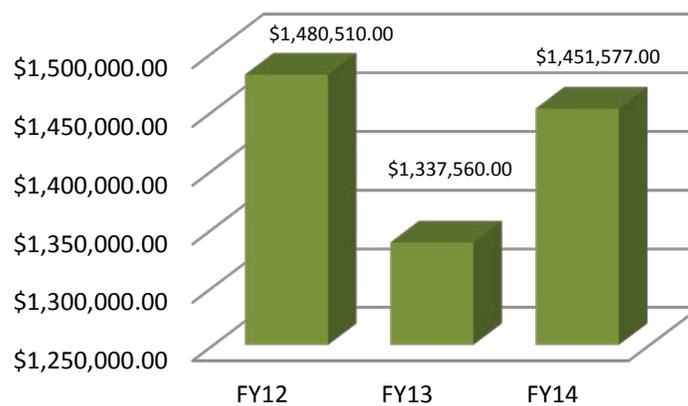
Budget

Total Fiscal Year 2014 Budget	\$1,451,577
Subactivity 1711	\$1,333,278
Other Subactivities' Contributions	\$118,299
Other Funding	\$0

**CANM - 2014
Budget by Subactivity**



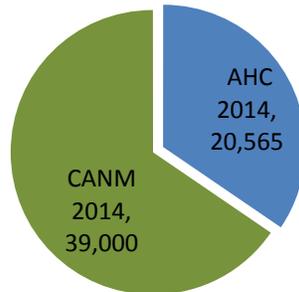
CANM Budget Trends 2012-2014



Over the last three years the budget at Canyons of the Ancients National Monument (CANM) has fluctuated \$143,000 over the last three years. 2012 was the highest budget year followed by 2014.

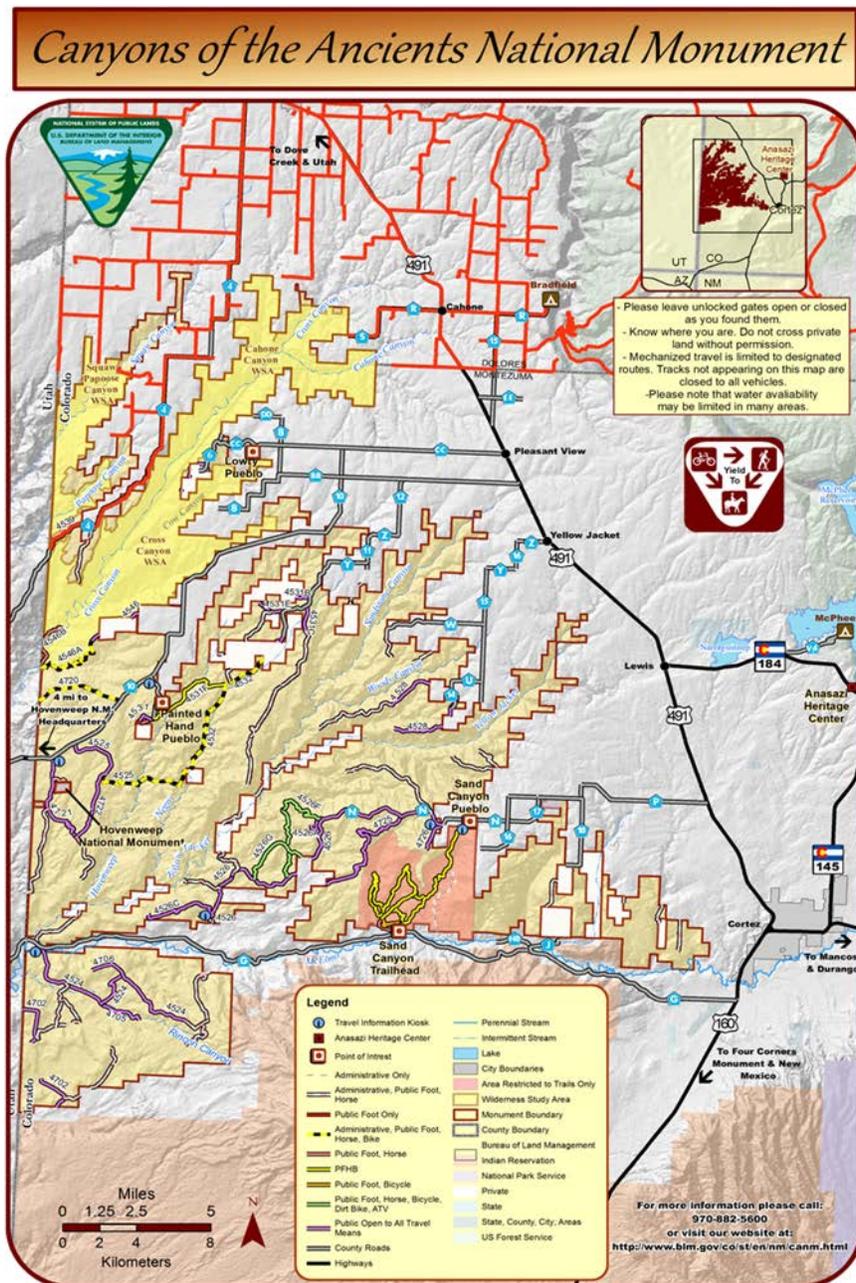
The CANM's \$1,451,577 Management of Land and Resources budget translates generally to \$8.15/per acre or \$24.36/per on-site visitor.

CANM & AHC Visitation 2014



In 2014 visitation at the Anasazi Heritage Center (AHC) was, 20,565, while 41,000 visitors are estimated to have visited the Monument. A total of 59,565 that indicates Monument and AHC visitation is down (ca. 9 %). The development of a new business plan in 2015 will focus on attracting new and returning visitors to the AHC.

Map of [name of unit]



The CANM is situated in the southwestern corner of Colorado on its border with Utah, and the Navajo Reservation to the west, and the Ute Mountain Ute Reservation to the south. This area was historically known as the Great Sage Plain and spread north and west to Monticello, Utah. The elevation, deep desert soils and adequate moisture made this location ideal for prehistoric, historic and contemporary agriculture.

To learn more about the prehistory of this region go to:

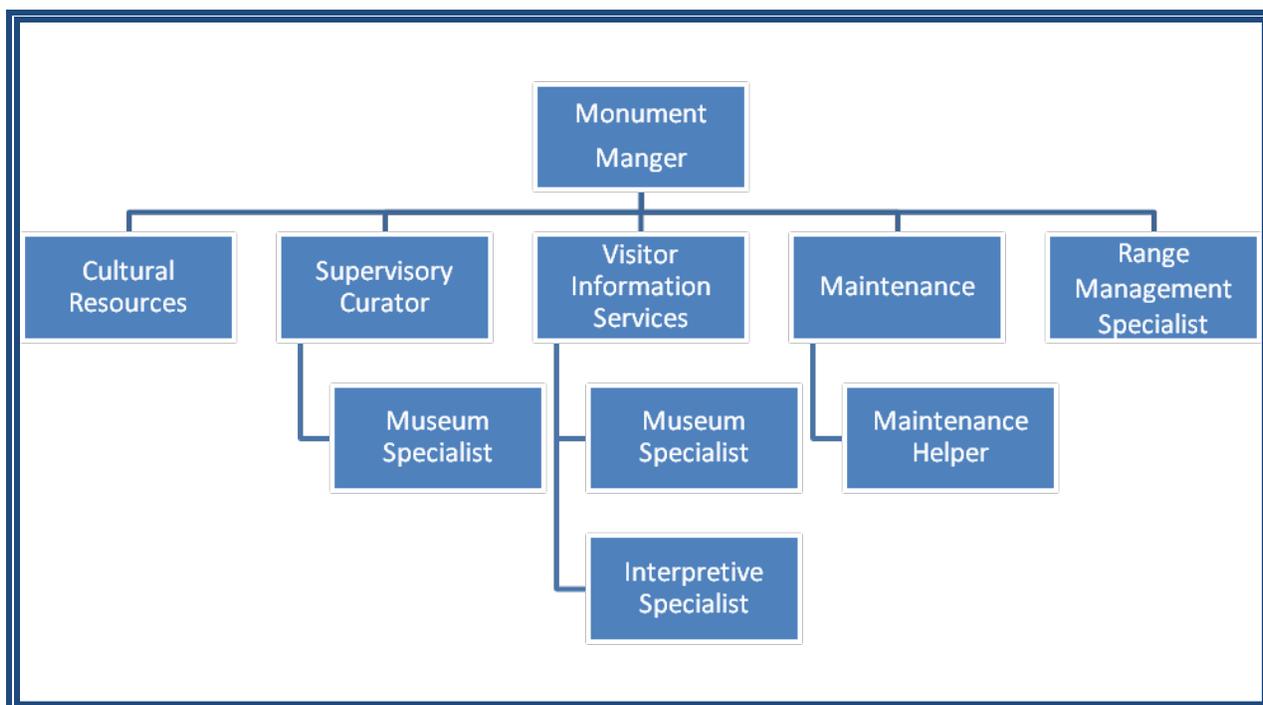
<http://www.archaeologychannel.org/news-from-tac> .

Managing Partners

The Canyons of the Ancients National Monument (CANM) does not currently have established partnerships to assist with the management of the unit.

Staffing

Canyons of the Ancients National Monument's target organization stands at 11 permanent full time staff. Staff includes a Monument Manager, Supervisory Curator and Museum Specialist, an Archaeologist, a Visitor Information Services Lead, a Museum Specialist (VIS) and an Interpretive Specialist (VIS), a Rangeland Specialist, a Maintenance Mechanic, and a Maintenance Mechanic's Helper. In addition one LEO is stationed at CANM and works for the Field Office Manager at Tres Rios Field Office (TRFO). A substantial amount of subject matter expertise is provided by TRFO.



2 Planning and NEPA

Status of the Resource Management Plan

The Canyons of the Ancients Resource Management Plan (RMP) Record of Decision was signed in 2010.

Status of Activity Plans

- Travel Management Plan is in implementation;
- Interpretive plan in revision;
- Business plan in development to address future direction and assessment of the current fee structure;
- Curation long-term plan initiated;
- Collections plan for Tribal Representatives.

Status of the RMP Implementation Strategy

The RMP decisions are now being implemented, guided by the 2012 implementation schedule.

Evaluation of the status and success of the implementation is the next step and has been tentatively scheduled for 2015.

Summary of the Implementation Strategy

- Cultural resource and landscape level protection;
- Strengthen tribal relationships;
- Continuing development of Geographic Area Development Plans (GADPs);
- Natural resource and landscape protection;
- Species inventories for raptors and Colorado pikeminnow;
- Protection and active management of resources, objects and values of the proclamation (ROVs);
- Review of ROVs for each undertaking, and implement plan decision regarding same;
- Multiple use, just not every use on every acre;
- Grazing. permittee meetings, billing resolutions, trespass actions, release advertising in 2015 for vacant allotments;
- Process energy development requests;
- Recreation, Improved signage at public use sites;
- Education focused SRPs;
- Education: Hands on the Land recipient 2014 for the *Outdoor Museum on the Ground*;
- Continued focus on education and interpretation. Four Corners Lecture Series;

- Maintain existing and develop new partnerships; develop a “friends group”; and;
- Two LWCF acquisitions the 800 acre Alexander Yellowjacket Parcel (cover photo) and the 443 acre Zwicker Parcel.

Key National Environmental Policy Act Actions and/or Project Authorizations

ACTION NUMBER & TYPE	PROJECT TITLE & DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	STATUS
S010 2012-0002 DNA	Range: Yellowjacket Canyon grazing permit renewal; action to be analyzed through an environmental assessment in conjunction with actions 12-03, 12-04, 12-05, and 12-48	T36N/R19W	Initiated 10/4/2011; Action to be combined and analyzed in EA with 12-02, 12-03, 12-04, 12-05, 12-48
S010 2012-0003 DNA	Range: Alkali Grazing Permit Renewal; action to be analyzed through an environmental assessment in conjunction with actions 12-02, 12-04, 12-05, and 12-48	T39N/R18W	Initiated 10/5/2011; Action to be combined and analyzed in EA with 12-02, 12-03, 12-04, 12-05, 12-48
S010 2012-0004 DNA	Range: Lower Aztec Canyon Grazing Permit Renewal; action to be analyzed through an environmental assessment in conjunction with actions 12-02, 12-03, 12-05, and 12-48	T36N/R17W	Initiated 10/5/2011; Action to be combined and analyzed in EA with 12-02, 12-03, 12-04, 12-05, 12-48
S010 2012-0005 DNA	Range: Lower McElmo Grazing Permit Renewal; action to be analyzed through an environmental assessment in conjunction with actions 12-02, 12-03, 12-04, and 12-48	T36N/R20W	Initiated 10/5/2011; Action to be combined and analyzed in EA with 12-02, 12-03, 12-04, 12-05, 12-48
S010 2012-0048 DNA	Range: McLean Grazing Permit Renewal	Montezuma County, Colorado, T37N/R19W/Sec 6 & 7; T37N/R20W/Sec 1	Initiated 5/9/2012; Action to be combined and analyzed in EA with 12-02, 12-03, 12-04, 12-05, 12-48
S010 2013-0014 CX	Lands: Administrative Right-of-Way Renewals	Various	Initiated 10/23/2012
S010 2013-0034 EA	Minerals: Application for Permit to Drill Lateral from existing YG2 CO2 Well; Final Environmental Assessment; Finding of No Significant Impact and Decision Record	T37N/R18W/Sec 14	Initiated 5/23/2013; Scoping Notice ; Public Scoping Period Closed 6/11/2014; Preliminary EA Comment Notice ; Public Comment Period Closed 10/9/2014; DECISION DATE 11/17/2014
S010 2014-0005 EA	Fuels: Summit Reservoir Fuels Management Project; Decision Record; Final	T36N/R14W/Sec 3, 29, 31; T35N/R15W/Sec	Initiated 11/13/2013 Scoping Notice ; Public Scoping Closed 8/21/2014; Decision

**Environmental
Assessment; Finding of
No Significant Impact**

6;
T35N/R15W/Sec
10, 11, 15

**Notice; DECISION DATE
12/3/2014**

3 Year's Projects and Accomplishments

General Accomplishments

Tribal Consultation

Annual tribal consultation for CANM and Tres Rios Field Office conducted over two days in September 2014 included 13 of the 23 tribes that we consult with. A major component of consultation in 2014 included the first ever Tribal collections review of both the artifacts on display and selected items in the archival collections, finally accomplishing an important NAGPRA mandate for federal repositories. A respectful discussion ensued with several action items to be implemented over the next few years, including the formal initiating an MOU to address Native American Grave Goods and Repatriation (NAGPRA) with the tribes to define a specific protocol for inadvertent discoveries.

Curation

By Presidential Proclamation, Canyons of the Ancients National Monument was formed to protect the objects and cultural landscape of this special place. Artifacts housed at the BLM Anasazi Heritage Center – the largest repository in BLM - represent the material culture of the people who inhabited this landscape, and we take great pride in preserving those objects. In 2014, the ACH curation department continued cataloging, inventorying and rehousing artifacts recovered from the Dolores Archaeological Program (DAP) under a grant funded by the Colorado State Historical Fund through McElmo Canyon Research Institute. DAP staff, volunteers and contractors inventoried and upgraded approximately 24,279 data records representing 110,776 objects which were inventoried and upgraded in 2014.

The Curation Department continued to work on accessioning incoming collections of even some Federal projects in the region. Work also continued cataloging existing and back-logged collections, seeking partnership opportunities, transitioning to a new database platform to meet DOI standards, and supporting other departments within the unit in achieving overall goals. Over 61 curation agreements, including five Interagency Agreements for curatorial services, were active in FY2014.

As part of our annual tribal consultation in September, the Curation Department supported a collections review for visiting delegates of artifacts in the AHC. This review provided representatives an opportunity to see objects first hand and share information about collections. The collections review supported legal requirements to disclose collections information to tribes under the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA).

Geographic Area Development Plans (GADPs)

GADPs are in preparation for Kinder Morgan Oil & Gas development projects with the goal of four or five slated over the next few years. The goal is to identify “hotspots” with potential resource conflicts and focus development on “coldspots” with little or no conflicts.

Ultimately, these GADPs will combine into a Master Development Plan outlining the development on Monument Lands for the extraction of CO₂ over the next decade. One benefit is the completed baseline surveys for cultural resources and raptors. Currently large scale surveys are underway for two GADPs and the results will be available in 2015.

Livestock Grazing

In 2014 drought conditions continued to concern local livestock permittees, many of whom made voluntary changes to their management to address the issue. Further complicating the range program on CANM, two allotments have not been grazed in several years and will be advertised in 2015 for reissuance of those permits. A great deal of interest focuses on the future of these areas with many permittees expressing extreme interest. The original NEPA documentation is currently under reviewed.

Artists-in-Residence (AIR)

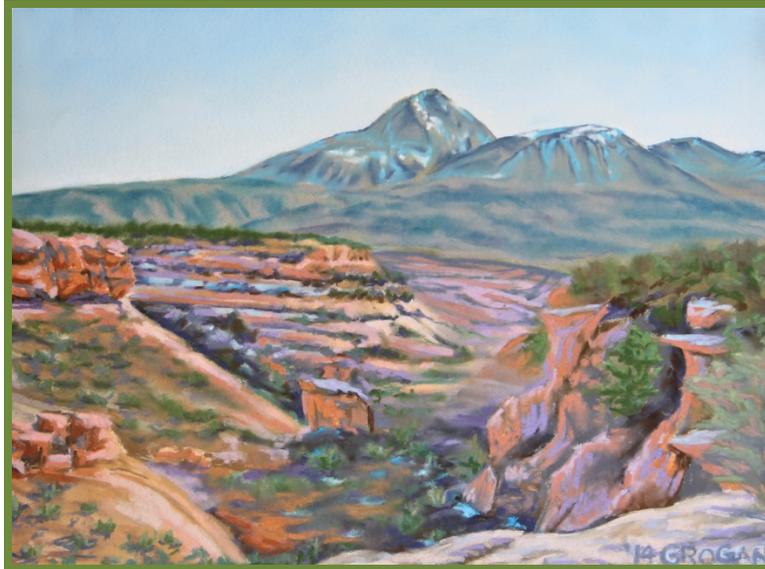
As the first BLM unit to host Artists in Residence (2012), CANM hosted three in 2014 in our third year. Through this collaboration BLM and the artist co-own the copyrighted digital materials, allowing BLM to use images for information and promotional products. William Pfaff, a professor of music at SUNY Plattsburgh, NY composed music to accompany his series of photographs. William Keene, a photographer and local explored the dynamics of color versus black & white images. Examples from two of this year's artists are illustrated below. We hope to continue this important program that highlights the inspiration that our public lands provide to an ever widening audience.

For more information on this program go to:

http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/res/Education_in_BLM/Learning_Landscapes/For_Students_of_all_Ages/artist-in-residence/AiR_Posters.html



Moonrise, Wayne Keene photograph



Canyon's Edge, Amy Grogan painting

Colorado Preserve America Youth Summit - 2014

For five summer days, the 2014 Preserve America Youth Summit, the only one of its kind, created opportunities for over 65 Colorado high school students and teachers to interact; exchange information; tour historic places; meet with preservationists, elected officials, scholars, and community leaders; and develop site specific products that will engage youth in heritage education, archaeology, heritage tourism and preservation.

The 2014 Colorado Preserve America Youth Summit was sponsored by Colorado Preservation Inc., Colorado Historical Society, State Historical Fund, Colorado Humanities, the Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, and the United States Forest Service.



2014 Youth Summit members meeting senior Roads Scholars and BLM staff

Summit participants were chosen through a competitive statewide application process based on geographic and cultural demographics, involvement in preservation activities, and ability to follow-up in their community.

By visiting some of the nation's premiere archaeological treasures (Canyons of the Ancients National Monument and the Anasazi Heritage Center, Ute Mountain Ute Tribal Park, Mesa Verde National Park, and sites in San Juan National Forest) and participating in educational activities where they:

- Learned about the multi-faceted field of archaeology through visits to sites, laboratories, curation facilities, and meetings with archaeologists;
- Understood more about the ancestral Native American people who occupied the region and their contemporary descendants;
- Gained an understanding of the role heritage tourism plays in balancing cultural sensitivity with potential impacts to cultural resources and its contributions to economic vitality; and
- Developed recommendations and products to raise preservation awareness for the region.

Current Areas of Focus

Route closures

Travel management implementation continues to be a debated topic in 2014 four miles of routes were closed.

Since the implementation of the RMP a total of 54 miles of routes have been closed in a sensitive fashion by using basic landscaping techniques to limit access at the beginning of user-created routes. This technique limits the need, in most cases, of reclaiming the entire distance of the user disturbance.

This number of miles of closed routes may seem somewhat confusing because it includes recent vehicle trespass into previous closures and closing recent user-generated routes.

Curation

An emerging issue affecting curation is the diminishing space available to house collections. The AHC is the repository for the BLM southwestern field offices, contract archaeology firms with valid permits from the BLM, Bureau of Reclamation (BOR); USFS, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, Bureau of Indian Affairs, private non-profits, Colorado Department of Transportation, Hovenweep National Monument (NPS), and the State of Colorado. To address the "curation crisis", we have prepared a plan to install space-saving storage furniture and have submitted that request as a priority for deferred maintenance funding.

Nonmarket Economic Values

Canyons of the Ancients National Monument was selected as one of the pilot locations to address nonmarket economic values through a partnership with the USGS and the National Operations Center of BLM. Nonmarket environmental values (nonmarket values) reveal the benefits individuals attribute to experiences of the environment, use of natural resources, or the existence of particular ecological conditions that do not involve traditional market values and therefore lack prices (BLM 2013)*

National Program Support

In 2014 CANM staff supported two national efforts by providing team members for the BLM focused ARGUS to ICMS database conversion.

Furthermore support for the Monuments and NCAs 6220 manual training is provided by CANM/AHC staff.

2015 Preview

The CANM supplementary rules will be published.

The acquisition of two final Poe parcels is slated for 2015

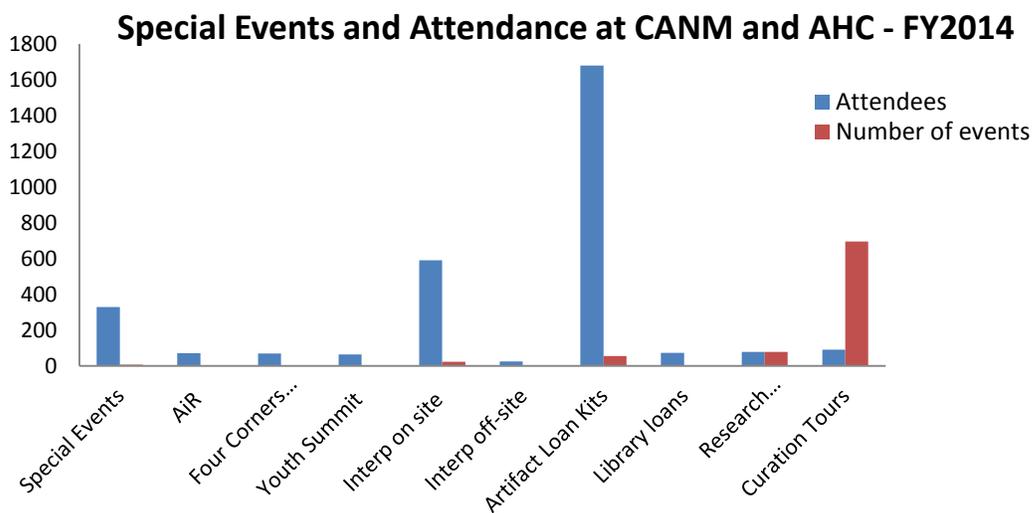
An emerging issue affecting curation is the diminishing space available to house collections. The AHC is the repository for the BLM southwestern field offices, contract archaeology firms with valid permits from the BLM, Bureau of Reclamation (BOR); USFS, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, Bureau of Indian Affairs, private non-profits, Colorado Department of Transportation, Hovenweep National Monument (NPS), and the State of Colorado. To address the “curation crisis”, we have prepared a plan to install space-saving storage furniture and have submitted that request as a priority for deferred maintenance funding.

Significant disturbances in 2014

Significant disturbances in 2014 continued with the drought conditions unabated. This trend prolongs impact to vegetation resources and the management of livestock grazing.

Education, Outreach, and Interpretation

Education, outreach and interpretation are at the heart of the objectives of all the programs at Canyons of the Ancients National Monument. The importance of letting the public know about the resources that make this location special is critical to our future success and having the facilities at the Anasazi Heritage Center allows us to host the public and share BLM’s message.



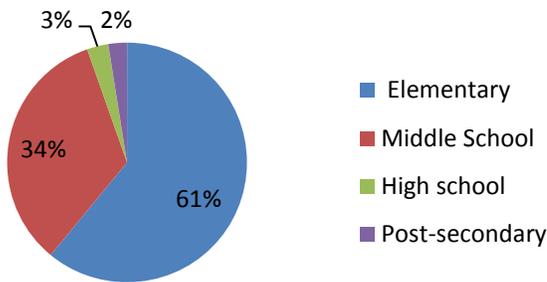
Despite two retirements within a week of each other in 2014 this single program's operations have been successful based on the passion of the staff at CANM/AHC and our exceptional volunteers, contractors, and hosted/donated workers (see below).

CANM and the AHC continued to host student visits.

Number of School & Student Visits



Student Visitors by Age



Outdoor Museum on the Ground

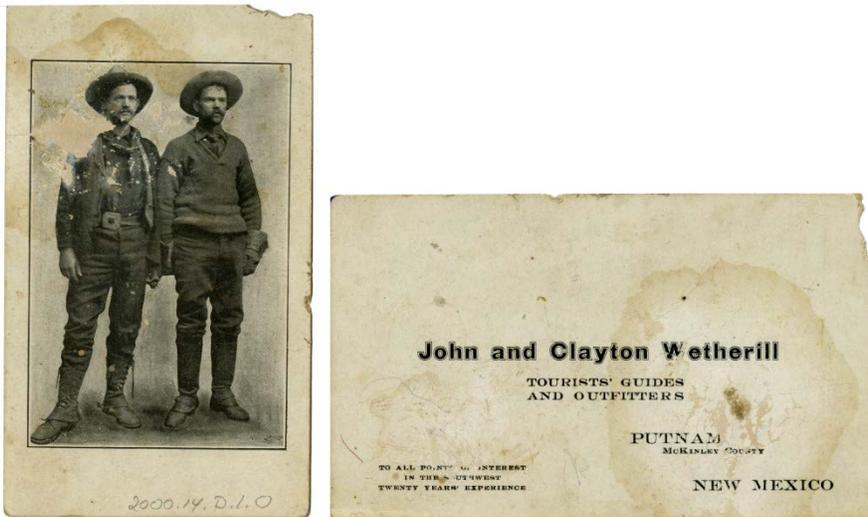
Outdoor Museum on the Ground.

The Outdoor Museum on the Ground at Lowry Pueblo is a collaborative field day offered by the Crow Canyon Archaeological Center and the Bureau of Land Management's Anasazi

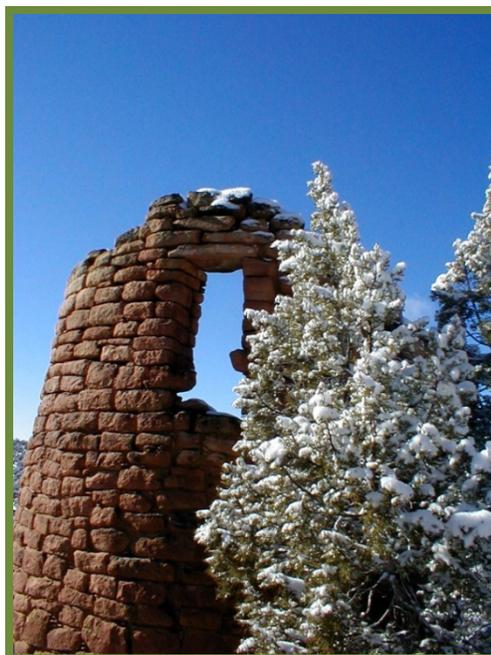
Heritage Center and Canyons of the Ancients National Monument. In its first year, the program has reached over 200 participants. Students learn about ancestral Puebloan culture, landscape archaeology, the local environment, as well as the concepts of stewardship and archaeological preservation at this on-site experience at Lowry Pueblo. Outdoor Museum on the Ground culminated with an exhibit at the Anasazi Heritage Center featuring students' interpretive posters about their experiences.

Four Corners Lecture Series

"The Wetherill Legacy" at the Anasazi Heritage Center by a descendant of the Wetherill's a pioneering family in the Four Corners.



Left: John and Clayton Wetherill Right: John and Clayton's business card from the AHC archives



Painted Hand Pueblo, Lanny Wagner© photo

Curation & Collections

Curation staff supported interpretive exhibits. In 2014, curation staff inventoried objects and assessed conditions of included in the “Mountain Lion” exhibit.

The AHC Curation Department continues the new tradition established in 2012 of public curation tours. These “behind the scenes” tours have become increasingly popular and often filled to capacity (15 visitors per tour). Visitors learn about the, unseen artifacts housed at the AHC and more importantly the important stories these items have to tell.



Volunteer Marty Costos with Representative Scott Tipton on a tour of the AHC repository

Recreation Management

Sand Canyon East Rock Creek is the most popular recreational destination on the Monument. CANM staff continue to finesse the sign locations in the maze of multiple trails. A Sarbanes Transportations Scholar was stationed a CANM in 2014. *One analysis revealed that alternative travel between popular destinations throughout the region were beyond the mileage range (ca. 28 miles) to render such an undertaking possible. A recreation area management plan for Sand Canyon and East Fork Rock Creek SRMA has been initiated.

Livestock Grazing

In 2014 drought conditions continue to alter local livestock permittees practice, many making voluntary changes to their management as they continue to address the multi-year issue. Two allotments - Yellowjacket and Flodine - which have not been grazed in several years will be advertised in 2015.

Partnerships

Partnerships continue as the cornerstone of CANM/AHC (*see assistance agreement list) The first year of the “Outdoor Museum on the Ground” in conjunction with Crow Canyon Archaeological Center.

Canyonlands Natural History Association

Canyonlands Natural History Association operates the museum shop, provides volunteer coordination, supports exhibits at the AHC, and conducts special projects on CANM.

Crow Canyon Archaeological Center

Crow Canyon Archaeological Center is the premier public archaeological educational center of its kind in the US and provides CANM and the AHC with support for educational and outreach programs and archaeological research on Public Lands. This year was the premier of the “Outdoor Museum on the Ground”. This program, staged at Lowry Pueblo, a National Register Historic Site and Landmark.

San Juan Mountains Association

San Juan Mountains Association supports the BLM by managing the Wilderness Stewardship Program, Trail Information Specialists, and National Public Lands Day. In 2014 the Alternative Spring Break closed a number of short user-created damaged areas and cleaned up an extensive trash dump on the Monument.

McElmo Canyon Research Institute

McElmo Canyon Research Institute (MCRI) provides support for volunteer coordination, and special CANM projects. The AHC continued its State Historic Fund grant partnership with the MCRI to rehouse and inventory artifacts recovered as part of the Dolores Archaeological Program, the largest archaeological mitigation project in the United States. MCRI hosted a week-long visit from Road Scholar volunteers, seniors that donate their time for public benefit. In addition, MCRI hosted donated workers in the recreation program to be on the ground in the Monument.



Road Scholars from McElmo Canyon Research Institute

The **Anasazi Historical Society** remains a steadfast partner in the management and curation of the Chappell Collection.

The **Southwest Colorado Canyons Alliance** has received their 501(c) 3* status and we are in the process of developing a MOU to outline our expectations and common goals. In 2014 they sponsored the return of collections from the University of Minnesota from Cannonball Pueblo. They also organized a successful volunteer effort, in early spring, for a route closure and restoration of an area of off-route vehicle damage. In addition SCCA provided support for the opening of the Mountain Lion exhibit at the AHC.

As part of a research grant from the National Landscape Conservation System, the **University of Colorado at Denver, School of Architecture and Planning, Center of Preservation Research (CoPR)**, CANM, and the National Operations Center have partnered for three years on a pilot project to collect data necessary to compare the utility and efficiency of multiple digital documentation methods for an Ancestral Puebloan (ca. AD 1250) site with prehistoric standing masonry architecture. The ultimate is to create a protocol for future digital documentation within CANM, which may be transferable to BLM units with similar resource management concerns. Additionally, the 3D models and drawings will be used for preservation management decision-making, for archival documentation, education and interpretation products, and tribal consultation. Other products may include still shots of 3D model, panoramic photography, 2D measured drawings, and animated fly-through videos.



An example of a draft image from the CoPR partnership

Further funding for this project was received to complete a draft for the digital documentation protocol associated with the 2012 field project.

The partnership codified by this assistance agreement continues to support education, interpretation, recreation, and tribal consultation programs at both CANM and the AHC. Finally, the partnership is critical for CoPR's student interns enrolled in the University of Colorado's Master of Science in Historic Preservation (MSHP) curriculum. Through this effort, these students are learning the requisite skills of the historical preservation profession and benefit from the rigors and realities of applied research in partnership with federal agencies.

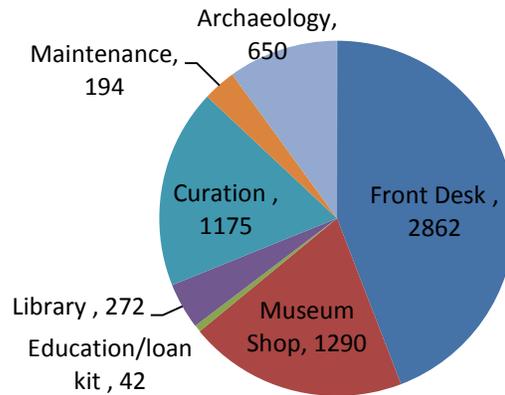
Volunteers

Volunteers

Our cadre of volunteers fluctuates between 150 to 200 individuals that support:

- staffing the front desk where they greet and orient visitors to the Monument and the Heritage Center;
- supporting the Museum Shop;
- working in curation;
- running the research library;
- coordinating the scheduling and shipping of education loan kits;
- providing maintenance support, including landscaping;
- serving as Site Stewards;

Volunteer Hours by Program



Archaeology

The 2014 **Monument Cultural Site Stewardship Program (MCSSP)** included 73 prehistoric cultural sites (Ancestral Puebloan) and 2 historic sites (one homestead and one unknown Anglo or Navajo structure), monitored by 46 Site Stewards. These trained volunteers contributed approximately 650 hours of time (valued at approximately \$14,391) and drove 7,600 miles (Federal reimbursement value of \$.565/mile or \$4,294) to monitor their sites. This nets a value of \$249.13 per site of volunteer time and mileage. In addition to participating in the Monument's annual MCSSP Spring training workshop, these volunteers also participated in over 3,000 total hours of related training and lectures to help them better understand the sites and the landscape they help manage.

Curation

Under a grant partnership, the curation department employs three contractors, who will work on the Dolores Archaeological Project (DAP) collections through June, 2015. Beginning in January 2015 there will be a curation intern that will work through May, 2015, and in the summer of 2015, the curation department will host an intern for 8 weeks. Both internships are funded through the National Center for Preservation Education.

We maintain a partnership with McElmo Canyon Research Institute (MCRI) through the Colorado State Historical Fund to hire contractors to catalog collections. In turn, we dedicate staff time, space and materials to MCRI to host their "Road Scholars" program, where seniors volunteer to process collections and learn more about the cultural resources a history of CANM.



Jim Colloran of MCRI assists Road Scholars in identifying ceramics.

AHC Curator, Bridget Ambler, continued her role as BLM liaison to the Southwest Colorado Canyons Alliance, an emerging non-profit (recognized August, 2014) dedicated to assisting Canyons of the Ancients National Monument.

Curation volunteers dedicated 1174 hours of work during FY 2014. In efforts to meet our growing curation needs under our current budgetary constraints, the AHC Curation department has actively recruited and trained volunteers, while a volunteer core group galvanized to mentor new volunteers.

The tours are especially popular with our local community. In 2014, we hosted 91 public tours of curation with 696 people. We simply could not operate without our group of fabulous volunteers!



Curation Volunteer Larry Keller researches historic artifact diary

Land (or Interests in Land) Acquisitions

Two LWCF acquisitions comprised of three parcels, the 800 acre Alexander Yellowjacket Parcel (cover photo) and the 443 acre Zwicker Parcel were completed in 2014. These purchases resulted in BLM acquiring some very high value cultural and natural resources and riparian environments.

4 Science

Science

Jagiellonian University (Uniwersytet Jagielloński). The fourth season of Sand Canyon—Castle Rock Community Archaeological Project field school was conducted on CANM between April and June 2014. The project focuses on analysis and reconstruction of the settlement structure and sociocultural changes that took place in Ancestral Pueblo culture during the 13th Century AD. The work was conducted by Dr. Radoslaw Palonka and twelve students from Department of New World Archaeology at Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland. Additional partners and co-sponsors of this BLM project are the US Consulate in Krakow, and Crow Canyon Archaeological Center.



CANM Field school students from the Jagiellonian University

Nine small 13th Century Ancestral Puebloan archaeological sites located in the Sand Canyon and East Rock Canyon Special Recreation Management Area were fully investigated using non-invasive techniques such as close-range photogrammetry, Light Detection and Ranging scanning, Ground Penetrating Radar, and electrical resistivity. Additionally, scaled engineering drawings were made of all standing prehistoric architecture within these fragile sites.



Non-Invasive documentation at Sand Canyon

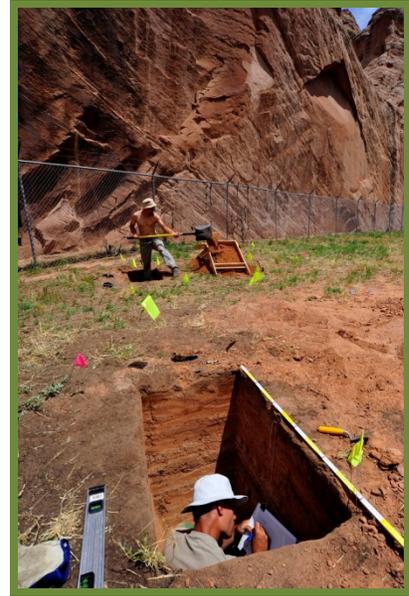
Additionally, the team conducted subsurface testing and non-invasive geophysical exploration at the “Strawman Panel” rock art site. The most prominent feature of this site is a vertical rock cliff almost 126 meters long with hundreds of historic and prehistoric engravings and paintings. Results from electrical resistivity analysis indicate the likelihood of previously-undocumented, buried cultural material preserved in the soil deposits at the base of the rock art panel. We will have the results of this component of the project in 2015.

<http://www.national-geographic.pl/traveler/artykuly/pokaz/sand-canyon-castle-rock/>

Curation

A central function of the AHC curation department is making collections available for scientific research. In FY 2014, we responded to 68 collections

research requests, most of which focused on CANM collections. Our collections were used to conduct research as part of grant projects granted to other organizations by National Science Foundation (NSF), the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and other funding sources. One research request assisted graduate students from the Jagiellonian University in Poland as part of their field school at CANM.



Sub-surface testing at "Strawman Panel"



Researcher Dr. John Wood studying projectile points

5 Resources, Objects, Values, and Stressors

Archaeology

“Containing the highest known density of archaeological sites in the Nation, the Canyons of the Ancients National Monument holds evidence of cultures and traditions spanning thousands of years. This area, with its intertwined natural and cultural resources, is a rugged landscape, a quality that greatly contributes to the protection of its scientific and historic objects. The monument offers an unparalleled opportunity to observe, study, and experience how cultures lived and adapted over time in the American Southwest.”
 Monument Proclamation, June 9, 2000.

Archaeology Status and Trend Table

Status of Resource, Object, or Value	Trend
Fair to poor	Downward

Archaeology Inventory, Assessment, Monitoring Table

Acres in Unit	Acres Inventoried	Acres Possessing Object	Acres Monitored in FY14
178,000	32,040	5,400	240

Stressors Affecting Archaeology

Vehicle traffic may impact sites that have not yet been inventoried. Fire is largely a threat to sites with wooden features and standing walls and rock art. In the event of a fire all ground disturbing activities would be preceded by cultural resource surveys.

Recreation may have impacts with visitors inadvertently camping in archaeological sites, or collecting artifacts. In the Sand Canyon East Rock Creek SRMA off trail use contributes to erosion that can expose cultural deposits and destabilize sites. OHV use outside of designated routes is a continuing concern.

Vandalism and looting has decreased recently yet it remains an ever present concern. Grazing has the potential to damage sites with standing architecture and rock art, and in some cases unstable slopes in sites. Sites with these concerns are monitored for impact.

Geology

“The natural resources and spectacular land forms of the monument help explain why past and present cultures have chosen to live in the area. The geology of the monument evokes the very essence of the American Southwest. Structurally part of the Paradox Basin, from a distance the landscape looks deceptively benign. From the McElmo Dome in the southern part of the monument the land slopes gently to the north, giving no indication of true character. Once inside the area, however, the geology becomes more rugged and dissected. Rising sharply to the north of McElmo Creek, the McElmo Dome itself is buttressed by sheer sandstone cliffs; with mesa tops rimmed by caprock and deeply incised canyons.” Monument Proclamation, June 9, 2000.



Aerial View looking north up Sand Canyon

its

Geology Status and Trend Table

Status of Resource, Object, or Value	Trend
Fair to good	Stable. Geological processes are facilitated by erosion, albeit at a slow rate. Exposed formations are prone to wind, rain and human caused erosion

Geology Inventory, Assessment, Monitoring Table

Acres in Unit	Acres Inventoried	Acres Possessing Object	Acres Monitored in FY14
178,000	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown

Stressors Affecting Geology

Geological processes are facilitated by erosion, albeit at a slow rate. Exposed formations are prone to wind, rain and human caused erosion

Reptiles and Raptors

“The monument is home to a wide variety of wildlife species, including unique herpetological resources. Crucial habitat for the Mesa Verde nightsnake, long-nosed

leopard lizard, and twin-spotted spiny lizard can be found within the monument in the area north of Yellow Jacket Canyon. Peregrine falcons have been observed in the area, as have golden eagles, American kestrels, red-tailed hawks, and northern harriers.” Monument Proclamation, June 9, 2010.

Reptiles and Raptors Status and Trend Table

Status of Resource, Object, or Value	Trend
<p>Reptiles – Good Raptors - Fair</p>	<p>Improving, stable, declining, etc. Trend is based solely upon the acres found to possess the object or value.</p>

Reptiles and Raptors Inventory, Assessment, Monitoring Table

Acres in Unit	Acres Inventoried	Acres Possessing Object	Acres Monitored in FY14
<p>178,000</p>	<p>Reptiles – Unknown Raptors – 20,000</p>	<p>Reptiles - 8,536 Raptors – 9,000</p>	<p>Reptiles – 500 Raptors - Unknown</p>

Stressors Affecting Reptiles and Raptors

The Long-nosed leopard lizard and the Twin-spotted spiny desert lizard are found on CANM within the McElmo Research Natural Area (RNA) herpetological research area (427 acres). An additional expansion of 8,536 acres identified in the RMP includes a land acquisition identified to be managed as an RNA with stipulations to protect both species of lizards.

An unusually high number of raptors nest in CANM, influences within 1/2 mile of canyon rims are particularly sensitive and their nesting seasons are protected. Two years of raptor surveys have been for the northeaster section of the Monument areas and results are pending.

Potential stressors to reptiles and raptors are vehicle traffic, grazing, and climate change. Access to the RNA is limited and the area is monitored to assess grazing impacts. None have been reported.

Curation

While not strictly an ROV in the proclamation, by extrapolation, the artifacts from the Monument are a critical element to understanding the Ancestral Puebloan culture that thrived in the region.

Stressors Affecting Curation

Stressors affecting collections include:

Insufficient permanent full time staff to process collections at the rate we have previously accomplished. We have a full-time curator and a museum specialist on staff. The two person staff responds to research requests in a timely fashion, manages grant partnerships, develops collections care procedures, collects data for reports and, of course, catalogs and processes collections. The workload necessitated from incoming collections is beyond the capacity of existing BLM staff.

The AHC currently has limited space to currently continue to house new/incoming collections. We currently care for approximately 3,882,063 objects – a number that continues to grow every year. At the current rate of growth, we anticipate that archives will be filled in 3 years and storage in 6 years. Nearly a third of collections storage space includes outdated metal shelving. Installation of space-saving compact storage will nearly triple the amount of space needed for artifact curation. Installation of space-saver storage is a priority for deferred maintenance at the AHC.

6 Summary of Performance Measure

Please provide a brief qualitative summary of the status of ROVs listed in the previous section. This summary and the below table are intended to provide a simple overview of the prior section—no additional information is being requested here.

This text is only a placeholder. Select this text and start typing the information for the NLCS unit.

Resources, Objects, and Values Status Summary Table		
Resource, Object, or Value	Status	Trend
Archaeology	Fair to Poor	Archaeology deals with deteriorating resources
Geology	Fair to Good	Geology is constantly changing at a slow pace
Reptiles	Good	The McElmo Research Natural Area has the largest home range populations of Long-nose leopard lizards, and the Desert Spiny Lizard which are monitored
Raptors	Fair (need additional	



View east from the Monument toward the La Plata Mountains

7

Manager's Letter

Dear Reader;

2014 was a busy year at Canyons of the Ancients National Monument as we learned new ways to adapt to changes we face as a Bureau. Facing new opportunities and challenges allowed us to create new ways to navigate a big transformation for the 21st century.

Continued support for our partners, volunteers, interns, hosted workers, and contractors remain, as always, a priority. The increasing number of education programs that make us a favorite among visitors are also priorities.

I recognize and honor the incredible commitment of our dedicated BLM staff, both onsite and the additional support provided by the Tres Rios Field Office and the Southwest District Office. We are deeply indebted to our volunteers, and donated and hosted workers who provide critical support, not to mention, substantial cost savings for this unit. This posse of dedicated and creative individuals has coalesced into a cadre of passionate supporters who continually help us meet the mission of the BLM.

We have created new capacity with our partners through Assistance Agreements. We collaborated with partners on the Outdoor Museum on the Ground (as part of Hands on the Land), Colorado Preservation Youth Summit, Roads Scholars, National Public Lands Day, Alternative Spring Break, and important research on non-invasive documentation methods for archaeological sites.

Two Visitor Information staff specialists retired leaving an aperture of possibilities. We were, therefore, able to reassess that program and identify more options for the public to enjoy their cherished public lands. At CANM and the AHC we stand poised to more actively engage the public in youth, education, and recreation initiatives.

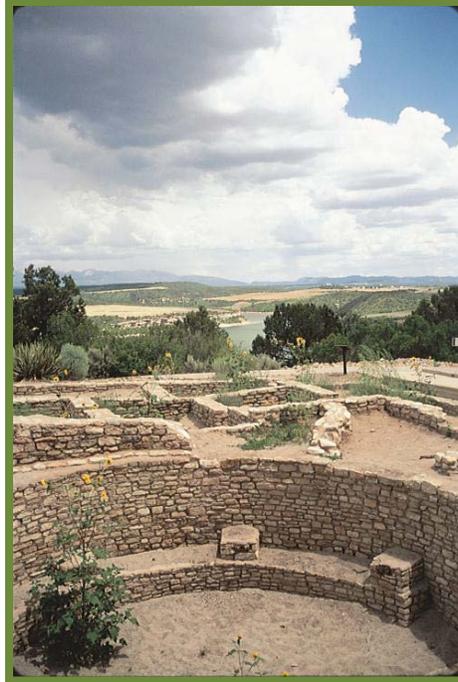
Grazing permits for two allotments that have been in non-use for eight years will be advertised in 2015.

The Geographic Development Plans for Kinder Morgan CO2 development will continue. This large scale undertaking, when completed in a few years, will provide a better sense of what development will occur where in the future.

In the Sand Canyon East Rock Creek Special (SRMA) we will intensify our efforts to maintain a quality experience for visitors in the coming year and further engage stakeholders in the discussion about considerations for the future of management of this magnificent area.

Please take the opportunity to visit us at the Anasazi Heritage Center so we can help you plan a visit to the Monument and enjoy your public lands.

Sincerely,
Marietta Eaton, Monument Manager



Escalante Pueblo



**NATIONAL
CONSERVATION
LANDS**

Canyons of the Ancients

National Monument

Anasazi Heritage Center
2750 Hwy 184
Dolores, CO 81323
Phone: 970-882-5600

Bureau of Land Management
Tres Rios Field Office
29211 Hwy 184
Dolores, CO 81323

February 2, 2015

The mention of company names, trade names, or commercial products does not constitute endorsement or recommendation for use by the federal government.