



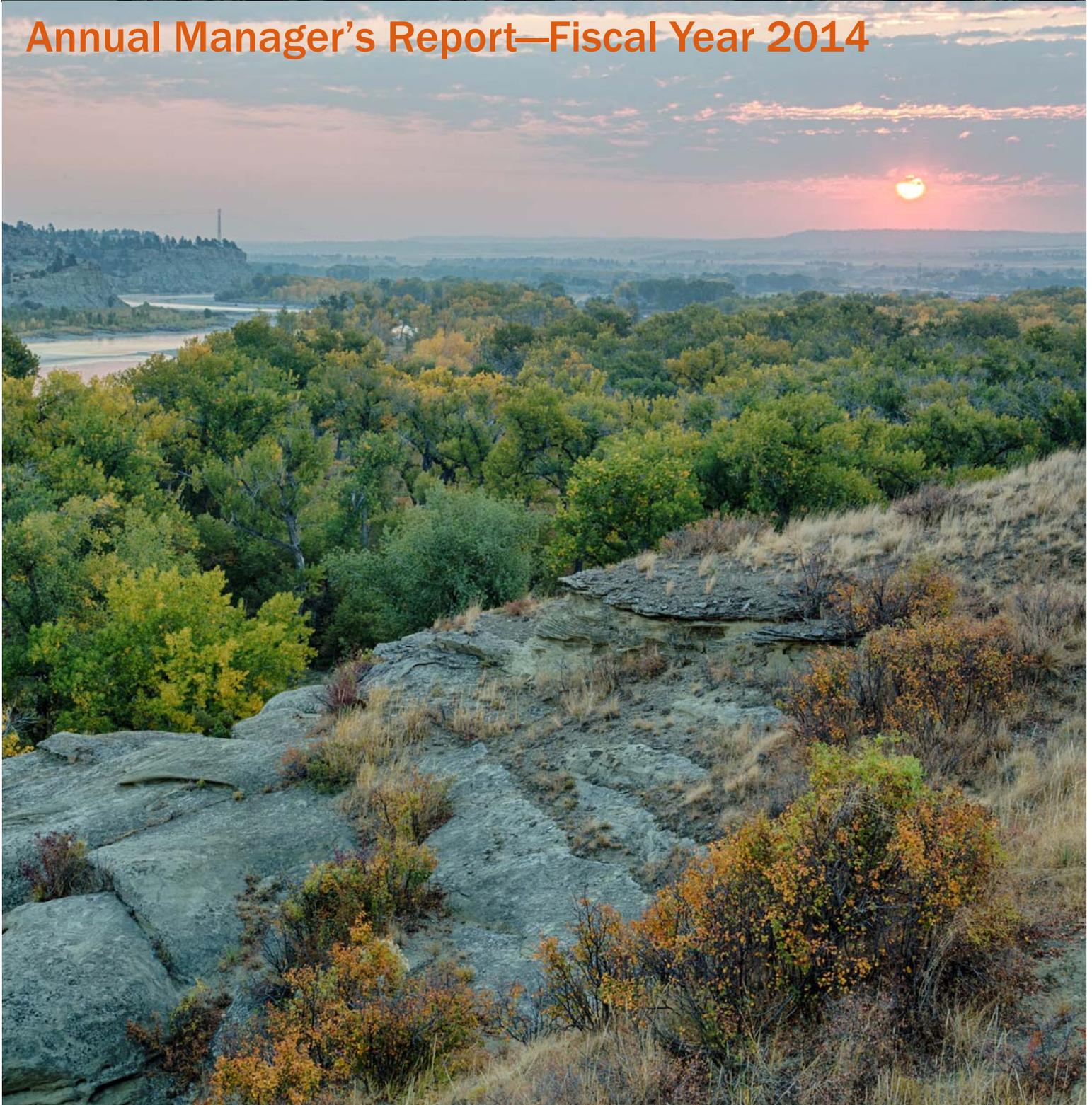
**NATIONAL  
CONSERVATION  
LANDS**

Montanas/Dakotas

# Pompeys Pillar

National Monument

**Annual Manager's Report—Fiscal Year 2014**



# Table of Contents

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Pompeys Pillar Profile .....	1
Planning and NEPA .....	4
Year's Projects and Accomplishments .....	6
Science.....	18
Resources, Objects, Values, and Stressors .....	21
Summary of Performance Measure .....	23
Manager's Letter .....	24

# 1 Pompeys Pillar Profile

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## Designating Authority

**Designating Authority:** Presidential Proclamation 7396

**Date of Designation:** January 17, 2001

On January 17, 2001, Pompeys Pillar was designated a national monument under the authority of Section 2 of the Antiquities Act. Fifty-one acres of federally owned land were set apart and reserved as PPNM for the purpose of protecting the ethnographic, historic and archaeological values associated with the massive sandstone outcrop known as Pompeys Pillar. PPNM is located along the southern bank of the Yellowstone River approximately 30 miles east of Billings, Montana. Nearby communities include the towns of Pompeys Pillar, Huntley, Shepherd and the city of Billings. PPNM lies in a tourism corridor, which provides easy access to Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area, Crow Indian Reservation, Little Bighorn National Battlefield, the Beartooth Mountains and Yellowstone National Park. Prior to being designated a national monument, Pompeys Pillar was officially designated a National Historic Landmark (NHL) in 1965. In 1991, the BLM acquired the NHL and adjacent land, totaling 366 acres. The total area currently being managed as PPNM plus adjacent public lands is 474 acres; the additional 107 acres are an adjacent island in the Yellowstone River that is also under BLM administration.

## Acreage

<b>Total Acres in Unit</b>	<b>51</b>
<b>BLM Acres</b>	<b>51</b>
<b>Other Federal Acres</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>State and Private Acres*</b>	<b>0</b>

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

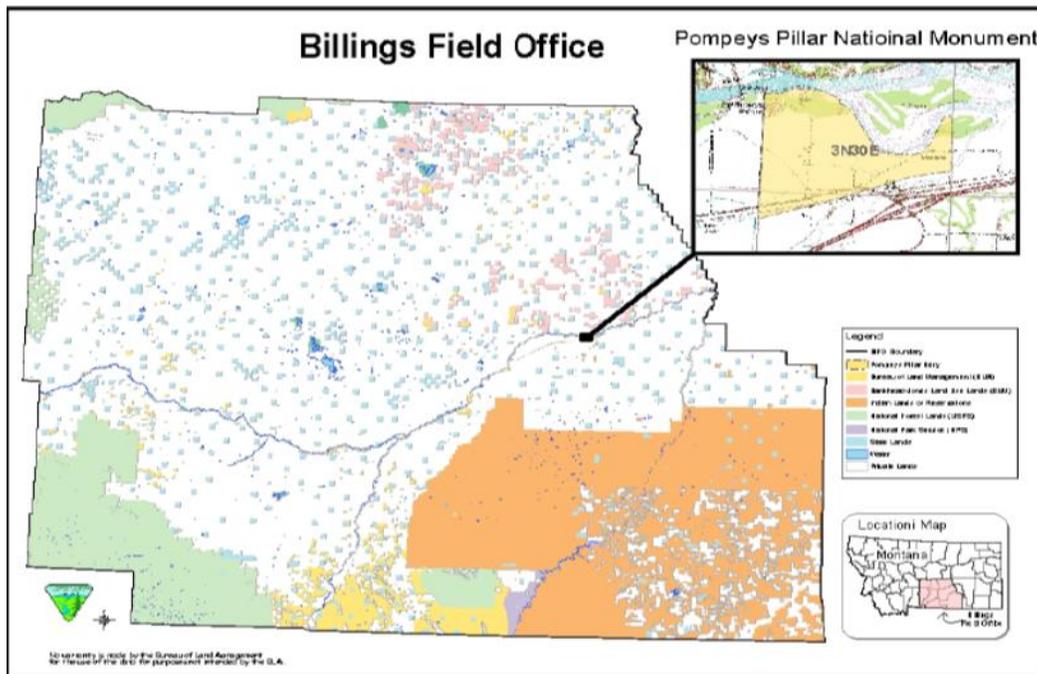
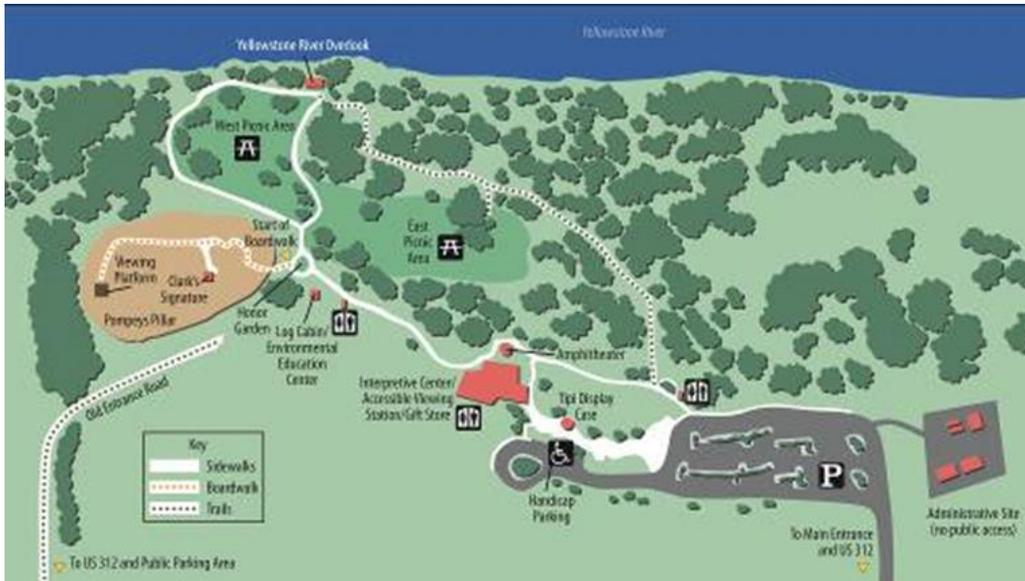
## Contact Information

<b>Unit Manager</b>	(formerly Jeff Kitchens)
<b>Phone</b>	
<b>E-mail</b>	
<b>Mailing Address</b>	
<b>Field Office Name</b>	Billings
<b>District Office Name</b>	N/A
<b>State Office Name</b>	Montana/Dakotas

## Budget

<b>Total Fiscal Year 2014 Budget</b>	<b>\$400,000</b>
<b>Subactivity 1711</b>	<b>\$400,000</b>
<b>Other Subactivities' Contributions</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Other Funding</b>	<b>\$0</b>

## Map of Pompeys Pillar National Monument



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## Managing Partners

The Pompeys Pillar National Monument (PPNM) works with the Friends of Pompeys Pillar (FOPP). Other partnerships include: New partnerships were initiated and existing ones strengthened. PPNM partnered with the Friends of Pompeys Pillar, Girl Scouts of America, Montana Department of Fish Wildlife and Parks, Lewis & Clark Historic Trail Foundation (Rochejone Chapter), Montana State University-Billings, Rocky Mountain College, several local Boy and Cub Scout troops, Audubon Conservation Education Center, Yellowstone County Museum, Yellowstone County Extension Office, Montana Conservation Corps, Huntley Project Museum, Project Archeology, Billings School District, Young Marines of Billings, Daughters of the American Revolution, Get Outside Montana Partnership, Montana State Parks, Southeast Montana Tourism, and many others.

## Staffing

Jeff Kitchens, (Monument Manager)  
Sonni Hope (SCEP – Visitor Services Lead Park Ranger)  
Robert Hall (TERM – Lead Interpretive Ranger)  
Jerad Werning (Maintenance Worker)

Pompeys Pillar also hired four seasonals, a Student Conservation Intern, and Pathways hire in 2013.

## 2 Planning and NEPA

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### Status of the Resource Management Plan

The Billings Field Office and PPNM are currently undergoing a Resource Management Plan (RMP) revision. The Draft RMP was completed in 2013, with the final scheduled to be complete by 2014. The PPNM portion of the plan is being prepared in conjunction with BIFO's RMP per previous approval with the Montana/Dakotas State Director and the Washington Office. One Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be used for both RMP analyses. This RMP will remain general, with the development of site-specific implementation actions and plans for PPNM planned for the future. The RMP will address the three management zones at the monument by including (but not limited to) considerations for recreation, visual resource, fish and wildlife habitat, vegetation, fire, water, air, soil, wetlands/riparian and cultural resource management.

There are three zones within the monument (zones A, B, and C). Zone A (formerly the historic zone) is used primarily to provide visitor access to William Clark's signature in a historic setting. Modifications of the landscape should be the minimum necessary for visitor safety and protection of the signature and other rock art from further deterioration. The second zone, Zone B, (formerly Historic Zone-Developed), is where most facilities have been placed, including the interpretive center and day-use area. Other facilities (i.e., non-motorized boat launch, interpretive trails, etc.) may be provided at some point in the future. Farming will be phased out to allow the currently tilled ground to be restored to a setting characteristic of 1806. The third zone, Zone C, (formerly the general management zone) would be managed to enhance recreation opportunities, improve and/or maintain wildlife habitat conditions, and utilize agriculture to facilitate general management.

The proclamation designating PPNM identified an array of historic and archeological objects to be protected. There are various ways of achieving this goal and legal mandate, including maintaining acceptable existing conditions, educating visitors, restricting access, setting research priorities, and restoring degraded environmental conditions.

In addition to monument resources, there are valuable natural and cultural resources within the Billings FO in need of protection. Options for protecting both monument and Billings FO resources will be identified and assessed in the new RMP

### Status of Activity Plans

There are no activity plans for the PPNM.

### Status of the RMP Implementation Strategy

An implementation strategy will be developed after the RMP revision is complete.

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## **Key National Environmental Policy Act Actions and/or Project Authorizations**

No new NEPA was completed or needed in 2014. Implementation of two projects completed in 2013 occurred. The first was a categorical exclusion for the replacement and repair of the boardwalk leading to Clark's signature and the top of the Pillar. The second was an Environmental Assessment that included the removal, repair, and replacement of various sections of fence, several site improvements, and the extension of the nature trail running through the monument's riparian area. Both were completed and signed off. Fence work and trail construction was completed in 2013. Boardwalk replacement has been put on hold until funding is available. Repairs are on-going.

In 2015 the Pillar will be working on an EA for special recreation permits tied to special events and similar activities.

# 3 Year's Projects and Accomplishments

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## General Accomplishments

### Heritage Resources

#### Summary of Notable Resources

Pompeys Pillar National Monument (PPNM) is home to over 1,000 prehistoric and historic artwork that covers all sides (from top to bottom) of the sandstone pillar known as Pompeys Pillar. Of these, the most famous is that of William Clark, carved on the rock on July 25, 1806, during his return trip to St. Louis, Missouri, via the Yellowstone River. Along with the artwork, multiple archeological resources have been discovered during soil disturbing activities throughout the monument and adjacent area of critical environmental concern. All together, the pillar and surrounding landscape act as a 200-year time capsule that not only tell the story of the United States' westward expansion, but also that of Montana and Yellowstone County. There are few, if any sites, throughout the rest of the U.S. with such a complete and complex history.



William Clark's signature from 1806

#### Summary of Annual Accomplishments



Cultural Heritage Presentation on Native American History

and involved law enforcement.

Several steps were taken to protect archeological and historical resources at PPNM. Any activity within the monument that resulted in disturbed ground had an archeologist present to make sure no resources were unintentionally damaged. Surveys of the pillar were conducted often to ensure that previous weathering prevention methods were still working. New and more extensive signage was used throughout the area, with a focus on the boardwalk, to educate people not to harm or disturb the site, especially around the boardwalk. All graffiti incidents were dealt with immediately

#### Restoration and Rehabilitation Efforts

Following several small rock fall incidents and one incident of graffiti, discussions and initial plans were conducted with engineers and law enforcement as to how to better protect Pompeys Pillar from both weather and people. Work has continued in regard to restoring the farmstead along the main access road.

## **Natural Resources**

### **Summary of Notable Resources**

PPNM (as well as significant portion of the ACEC) lies next to the Yellowstone River and consists mostly of a series of riparian areas, drainages, and fallow farm fields (now actively being restored through weed treatment and native seeding). These areas are home to nesting bald eagles, numerous migratory birds, various small mammals (including raccoon, marmot, skunk, and fox), and have an abundance of native plants including a spectacular maturing cottonwood gallery.



Yellow warbler in riparian area

### **Summary of Annual Accomplishments (Including Restoration Efforts)**



Pompeys Pillar from the southeast

Noxious and invasive species eradication efforts are ongoing within the monument and the surrounding ACEC. During fiscal year 2010, a Russian olive eradication program was implemented. This work continued in FY14. Weed management activities including chemical and manual treatments applied throughout the monument. Several weed removal projects were implemented in association with National Public Lands Day. In association with the Russian olive program discussed above, a native riparian shrub restoration planting project is being implemented; as Russian olive trees are removed, native riparian shrubs are planted in their wake to make the site more resilient to future infestations. Additionally, the former access road (along the western boundary of the property) and the associated graveled parking area have been removed, topsoil applied, and reseeded with a native prairie grass mix as part of an American Recovery and

Reinvestment Act (ARRA) project.

### **Farm Plan and Restoration**

Immediately adjacent to the Pillar, farmland restoration efforts are ongoing. As part of a partnership program with Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks and Pheasants Forever, former alfalfa fields and row crop areas are being transformed into a native grassland mix with

interspersed food plots to support upland game. The ultimate goal is to transform the foreground of the view shed, and support the historic values for which the monument was established

## **Providing Recreation and Visitor Services**

### **Overview**



**Volunteer John LeVar presents to the public at Clark Days**

General visitation at the PPNM for FY 2014 was about 32,000 visitors. This was an increase from FY13 counts. Over 100 educational programs were conducted with ~2,000 students attending over the spring, summer, and fall seasons at the center. Daily interpretive programs were offered and more than 28,000 individuals viewed William Clark's historic signature and heard interpretive talks presented by staff and volunteers.

### **Facilities, Construction, and Maintenance**

Great strides were made in regards to facilities, construction, and maintenance. Multiple deferred maintenance projects as well as work to address safety issues were completed in FY14. In 2014 there was an increased emphasis on facility improvement and development. Projects included:

- Prioritizing maintenance of water treatment facility. This included monitoring water quality.
- Repairing boardwalk in several spots and initiating plan to replace a few sections.
- Raising tipis on site to add to the experience of visitors.
- Completing several landscaping projects.
- Regularly cleaning and repairing vault toilets.
- Addressing several safety concerns.
- Replacing a multitude of signs.
- Fixing multiple interpretive displays in the visitor center.
- Promptly addressing issues with water, sewer, and heating.
- Cleaning up and improving all public access/parking areas along highway US 312 to offer a more pleasing/user-friendly experience. This included the installation of kiosks, picnic tables, and replacement/repair of fencing.



**Young visitors looking at Clark's Signature**

Along with these special accomplished projects, regular maintenance and landscaping continued throughout FY14. This involved regularly mowing groomed areas, weeding sites, installing new signs, cleaning facilities daily, and fixing the boardwalk. Many of these improvements and developments were supported with fees collected.

## **Engaging Youth**

### **Youth Program Summary**

In 2014 PPNM offered interpretation and environmental educations programs to more than 6,000 youth. Of these, 3,000 participated in formal environmental education programs offered both on and off-site. A number of volunteer service projects were also initiated with the Boy Scouts of America, youth programs associated with Montana State University Billings, and similar groups. Many of the site's 200+ volunteers were youth who came out as part of service projects. More than 100 youth volunteers put in over 1,200 hours of service at PPNM in FY14.

Along with our interpretation and education programs, efforts to better engage youth at PPNM were continued in 2014. A formal internship program with Montana State University-Billings flourished, leading to one or two college students interning at the Pillar each semester. Use of the internet and Facebook were increased with the hopes of reaching a broader audience. Finally our Junior Explorer Program was reviewed and will be updated and revamped in 2014. The Junior Explorer program reached hundreds of young people in 2014 with plans to expand the program in 2014. A booklet will be developed specific for school groups and the updated activity guide for all visitors.

### **Types of Activities that Involved or Supported Youth**

- Outdoor recreation (camps, fishing, etc.)
- Outdoor classroom (environmental/heritage education)
- Visitor Center program or other facilitated interpretive program
- Service learning (volunteer projects with education component)
- Field institute/research project (in-depth projects involving high school/college students)
- Special children activities at Clark Days Celebration.

### **Youth Employment**

Youth between the ages of 15-25 were hired as a part of the Youth Engagement project and were paid through a partner organization. The table below provides more detailed Youth employment information for PPNM.

Number of youth hired	5
Total number of adult participants (teachers, chaperones, etc.)	200
Number of partner groups involved	10
\$ Value of partner contribution (cash/in-kind)	\$5,000
Total amount of BLM funding	\$10,000
Total project cost	\$20,000
* This does not include labor of staff or mileage reimbursed to volunteers.	

As part of our youth hiring in 2014, PPNM continued the use of a Student Conservation Association position as well as established volunteer ranger positions. These resulted in several college students and recent graduates filling open positions at Pompeys Pillar. Restoration and Rehabilitation Efforts

### **Fee Collections and Program Summary**



**Park Ranger Allan Kitterman in front of fee station.**

Pompeys Pillar fee site is comprised of two distinctly different areas. One area is intensively used by visitors, and the other receives dispersed use and provides opportunities for hunting, bird watching, and other self-directed recreation uses. Fees are required only for use of the developed intensive use area. Fee receipts supplement operation and maintenance funding of Pompeys Pillar National Monument. Operation and

maintenance costs include staffing and operational funding for interpretive programming and visitor assistance, as well as protection and maintenance

of grounds, buildings and equipment.

Additional funding provided through increased fee receipts would be used to augment increased costs for a number of new improvements. Operation of the site with new visitor amenities such as an interpretive center and exhibits, paved parking areas and entrance road, extensive walkway system and outdoor amphitheater, without a corresponding increase in funding, would erode the ability of current funding levels to care for customers and facilities and would lower existing high customer satisfaction levels. Increased funding levels may also allow the BLM to consider lengthening the season of visitation. The newly constructed improvements are a direct response to needs identified by the public over a number of years. Likewise, local towns, volunteers and the public have asked for a longer season of operation, especially since the completion of the interpretive center.

When the monument is open (see below for season and hours), a \$7 entrance fee is charged for each vehicle. There is no separate fee for the interpretive center. All fees are returned to the site and used to maintain and improve the facility. All valid federal recreation passes are honored. Additional fees for commercial and organized group rates are based on vehicle capacity.

- Vehicles capable of seating 6 passengers and fewer—\$25
- Vehicles capable of seating 7-25 passengers—\$40
- Vehicles capable of seating 26+ passengers—\$100

Even when the visitor center and gates are closed, visitors may still walk into the site during daylight hours. There is no fee for walk-in visitors at any time of the year. The Business Plan for the site was updated in 2013.

## **Education, Outreach, and Interpretation**

### **Overview**

Every year PPNM offers a myriad of environmental education and interpretation programs to the general public and school groups. Each year hundreds of students and thousands of tourists learn about Clark's journey down the Yellowstone River, the natural and cultural history of Yellowstone County, and the BLM and NLCS.

### **Visitor and Interpretive Centers**

PPNM provided full services from late April through early October this past season. Hours of operation were 9 a.m.–6 p.m. daily between May 3 and September 27. Visitation was ~32,000 in FY14. Visitor satisfaction, as determined through the latest GPRA survey, was 100 percent.

### **Environmental Education Program**

Environmental education programs were extended to more than 3,000 K-12 and college students this past season either at the monument or off-site. These were formal programs offered to registered school groups and were in addition to a myriad of other youth outreach programs offered at the site. The environmental education program involved scheduling both schools and presenters for formal sessions. Program presenters include BLM staff and a large number of volunteers. Participating schools came from all over Montana and neighboring states. Programs offered to youth included native plants; Native American culture and history; local biology and wildlife identification; history of both Yellowstone County and the Lewis and Clark Expedition; local and regional geology; surveying and mapping methods; use of historical weapons; arts and crafts associated with either history or nature; and various other programs.

### **Interpretation**

Messages were consistent with the interpretive prospectus. This included interpretive and educational programs related to Clark on the Yellowstone; the cultural and natural settings in 1806; the Lewis and Clark Expedition in larger context; and the changes to the Yellowstone Valley following Clark's visit. Programs related to the natural and agricultural history were also provided.

The Park Ranger staff and several volunteers provided roving interpretive programs during the primary season.

- Visitors enjoyed and positively commented about the interpretive center, roving interpretive programs, the annual Clark Days weekend, and interpretive programs throughout the summer.
- A wide range of topics were utilized in the interpretive programs including cultural resources, geology, wildlife, flora and fauna, music, language, art, navigation, etc.

## Events

In January, PPNM participated in Lewis & Clark–Back to the Future. This event provided history and instruction regarding Lewis & Clark’s journey to more than 900 seventh graders from the Billings area. Jeff Kitchens, monument manager, did a program on Pompeys Pillar. The event was covered in various articles.

In August, about 1,500 people participated in the annual Clark Days event which highlighted not only the site’s history, but also the agricultural heritage of the site.

PPNM also partnered with the Friends of Pompeys Pillar to host booths at several major events in the Billings region throughout the year including Summerfair, the Strawberry Festival, and the local Threshing Bee and Antique Tractor Show. The Strawberry Festival and activities conducted there were also a celebratory event for National Get Outside (GO) day.



Pompeys Pillar volunteer Mike Lamphier does a program on the weapons of Lewis and Clark

## Communications, Public Affairs, and Outreach

In 2014 an increased emphasis was given to outreach, marketing, and communications. Several articles regarding Pompeys Pillar were published on the BLM Daily, BLM MT/DKs web, in local newspapers, and a variety of marketing publications for the region. Other accomplishments included:

- Increased press for Clark Days, including television advertisements, magazine ads, etc., all funded by PPHA.
- Initiating plans for updating brochures and other Pillar publications.

- Continued publication of The Pillar Page, a monthly publication started in 2012 which provides regular updates on the happenings at the monument. In 2013 it was turned over to the Friends of Pompeys Pillar who updated the entire look and feel of the document and now use it as their monthly newsletter.
- Continued work on updating the monument's website and social media throughout the year. Increased use of social media including working with the MT/DK's public affairs office to make several posts on Facebook.
- Several presentations to local community groups including the Rotary, local historical associations and groups, Optimists, and others.

All of this work served to not only increase awareness of PPNM, but also did great service to the BLM in general.

## Partnerships

The Friends of Pompeys Pillar (FOPP) celebrated another great season helping to promote and support the BLM and Pompeys Pillar National Monument. The Friends and the BLM continued to support and put funding into the recently approved Assistance Agreement. The agreement helps both parties define individual roles and responsibilities in supporting the Pillar.



**Pompeys Pillar National Monument Volunteers**

The Friends are responsible for publicity and public relations for the monument. We ensure that information about the Pillar is available in all forms of media. Through ads in local publications, tourist information pieces, brochures, a web site, Facebook, and displays throughout the state, local residents and tourists are kept aware of events and hours at the Pillar and encouraged to visit their national monument. In 2014 the Friends spent approximately \$2,000 in advertising and marketing.

Clark Days is an annual festival celebrating Clark's arrival at the Pillar where he carved his signature, which is the only remaining physical evidence of the entire Expedition. The joint activity of BLM and FOPP was held August 2-3. The festival featured reenactments and activities tied to the area's agricultural heritage. Presentations focused on ranching, cattle drives, rangeland management, and similar topics. The event was successful with about 2,000 in attendance. A continued emphasis on families brought many young people and more than 20 camped at the Pillar on Saturday night. The Friends contributed over \$5,000 for promotion, honoraria, and other expenses. The event was supported by at least 50 volunteers who donated 900 hours.



**Visitors at Clark Days 2013**

In 2014 the Friends of Pompeys Pillar continued to maintain responsibility for most of the volunteer program at the Pillar. Volunteers provide interpretation, assist with maintenance, help with staff education programs, greet visitors, staff the gift shop and assist paid BLM staff whenever and wherever needed. Job descriptions, application forms and liability releases were developed and implemented. Other issues of policy, insurance, and screening were also addressed.

New partnerships were initiated and existing ones strengthened. PPNM partnered with the Friends of Pompeys Pillar, Girl Scouts of America, Montana Department of Fish Wildlife and Parks, Lewis & Clark Historic Trail Foundation (Rochejone Chapter), Montana State University-Billings, Rocky Mountain College, several local Boy and Cub Scout troops, Audubon Conservation Education Center, Yellowstone County Museum, Yellowstone County Extension Office, Montana Conservation Corps, Huntley Project Museum, Project Archeology, Billings School District, Young Marines of Billings, Daughters of the American Revolution, Get Outside Montana Partnership, Montana State Parks, Southeast Montana Tourism, and many others.

## Volunteers

Every year the visiting public compliments the condition of the PPNM grounds and tells the staff how much they enjoyed their visit. Teachers who come with school groups cannot say enough about how much they appreciate the quality of programming that is offered. What many do not realize is that the folks who worked on the grounds, gave them their interpretive program, or sold them their souvenir were volunteers. The Pillar's volunteers are a very dedicated and enthusiastic group, and each year their assistance ensures that the BLM is able to keep the monument running smoothly and offer a variety of exciting and informative programs.



**Helen Bryson Receives Presidential Award**



**Young volunteer working at National Public Lands Day**

The volunteers at PPNM did an amazing amount of work in FY14. Over 6,300 hours of service were recorded by over 230 volunteers (see table 1 for a breakdown of hours, etc.). This included folks like Mary Ferenbaugh who put in over 350 hours of service working in the Billings Curation Center organizing and scanning historic photographs and other records for Pompeys Pillar. It also included members of local organizations like the Boy Scouts and Montana Conservation Corps (MCC). The Boy Scouts supported National Public Lands Day as well as a number of other small service projects (e.g. weed removal). Pompeys Pillar also hosted an Eagle Scout project including the completion of parking area that will not only interpret the site's agricultural history, but also provide for a

safe pull-off for photographing the Pillar. Montana Conservation Corps members volunteered at PPNM to assist with preparing for opening day, constructing fencing, and planting trees and native plants. The Friends of Pompeys Pillar also hosted a Vista Volunteer in FY14, Isaac Gilbertz, who put in over 400 hours of service.

In 2014 we had 43 volunteers who had regular hours and supported programs weekly.

Work accomplished by our volunteers included supporting and running the gift shop, acting as greeters, offering interpretive programs (both formal and informal), and supporting general monument operations including maintenance, weed removal, and resource inventories. Volunteers also assisted in presenting interpretation and environmental education programs to over 6,000 youth. Pompeys Pillar also had an amazing youth volunteer program. It is estimated that youth volunteer time at Pompeys Pillar in FY14 exceeded 1,200 hours.



**Group Photo of 2014 Staff & Volunteers**



**Volunteers work at the Pillar's booth at the Billings Strawberry Festival**

Volunteers began the season in April with training and orientation. By the end of April, school groups were visiting the site, seeing programs supported by volunteers. In May and June most regular volunteers were coming out. In July, in addition to our regulars, we saw more than 50 additional folks come out to help with a variety of tasks related to Clark Days, including hospitality and greeting, staffing interpretive booths, and overall event support. This year we had a very successful event that saw almost 1,500 visitors in a 24-hour period. Finally, National Public Lands Day (NPLD) ended the season. This was the second year PPNM hosted a major

NPLD event. Unlike previous years we held NPLD events at four different times so as to provide opportunities for MCC, the Boy Scouts, local residents, and interested church groups to participate. Over 110 individuals supported NPLD events at Pompeys Pillar in 2014.

The Friends of Pompeys Pillar were again the most amazing partners a federal agency could wish for. From running the gift store to assisting the monument in managing the volunteers, to coordinating several events, they were a great partner to work with. Executive Director Jonathan Peart did an amazing job and I look forward to working with him in the coming year. We worked in tandem on so many projects and Pompeys Pillar would not have run as smoothly as it did if not for their support. As we enter our season of cold winds and closed interpretive center doors there is still much work to be done. This winter the BLM and



**Montana Conservation Corps crew members plant trees at Pompeys Pillar National Monument**

Friends will be working on projects such as updating the site’s brochure, updating the site’s volunteer operating plan, working on volunteer recruitment, designing new interpretive signage, and planning a partnership strategy for the future.

2014 was a momentous year for awards. In April, Helen Bryson received the President’s Award for volunteer service for having put in over 4,000 hours of service since 2001. In May, the Friends of Pompeys Pillar received the BLM’s “Making a Difference” Lifetime Achievement award for its support of Pompeys Pillar and the National Conservation Lands. In September, volunteers Hank Deming and Gen Becker were acknowledged as the PPNM Volunteers of the Year for exceptional service and going above and beyond the call of duty. Both helped throughout the year and assisted in multiple capacities. To them and everyone else who volunteered, thank you.

**Table: Summary of Volunteer Hours Completed in 2014**

Category	Total # of Volunteers	Total Hours	# of Youth Volunteers	Youth
Regular Volunteers (43)	43	4600	4	683
Friends of Pompeys Pillar Board (3 - Rest Counted with Regular Volunteers)		108		
Book/Gift Store Committee (Counted with Regular Volunteers)		20		
Honor Garden Committee (Counted with Regular Volunteers)		60		
Clark Days Volunteers (50)	50	900	5	200
National Public Lands Day (30)	30	200	6	10
Montana Conservation Corps (25)	25	120	25	120
Boy Scouts of America & Family (Including NPLD) (80)	80	300	65	270
<b>Total</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>6,308</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>1,283</b>

What an amazing season 2014 was. Without volunteers, PPNM could not offer half the programming and opportunities it does. It is the volunteers, working with the great BLM staff, who make PPNM wonderful. As I walked around the site today, yellow leaves falling on a warm windy day, admiring all our accomplishments and thinking over the season, I cannot say enough about how proud I am of everyone who supported the site. Our volunteers this year were amazing. Thousands of hours put in by so many people. The dedication and passion of the people who volunteer at Pompeys Pillar National Monument truly make it a national treasure.

**Table: Previous 5-year volunteer accomplishments**

Year	Total Number of Volunteer	Youth Volunteers	Volunteer Hours	Total Expenses
2009*	306	250	3,190	\$9,110
2010	63	3	3,918	\$6,593
2011	57	6	3,867	\$7,356
2012	200	110	6,500	\$6,310
2013	250	150	6,000	\$8,388
2014	231	120	6,308	\$7,789

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## **Land (or Interests in Land) Acquisitions**

There were no land acquisitions or interests in lands activities for PPNM completed in fiscal year 2014.

# 4 Science

## Science

In 2013 a visitor satisfaction survey was completed that showed statistical analysis of visitor experience on site. Results were made available in FY14. The following is a summary of the data collected and the associated findings.

### Visitor Satisfaction Survey Summary

#### **Overview of Methods (University of Idaho)**

In order for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to comply with the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA), and better meet the needs of the public, a visitor satisfaction survey was conducted at 24 BLM recreation sites in 13 states during fiscal year 2013 (FY13). The survey was developed to measure each site's performance related to BLM GPRA Goal 3.1 - Provide for a quality recreation experience, including access, and enjoyment of natural and cultural resources on DOI

managed and partnered lands and waters; and Goal 3.2 - Provide for and receive fair value in recreation.

The information collected during the survey will also help the BLM better serve the public. The survey collected visitor satisfaction data regarding visitor information (i.e., use of maps, signs, brochures), developed facilities, managing recreation use, resource management, BLM staff and customer service, and educational and interpretive materials. The results of the visitor satisfaction survey conducted at Pompeys Pillar National Monument are summarized below.

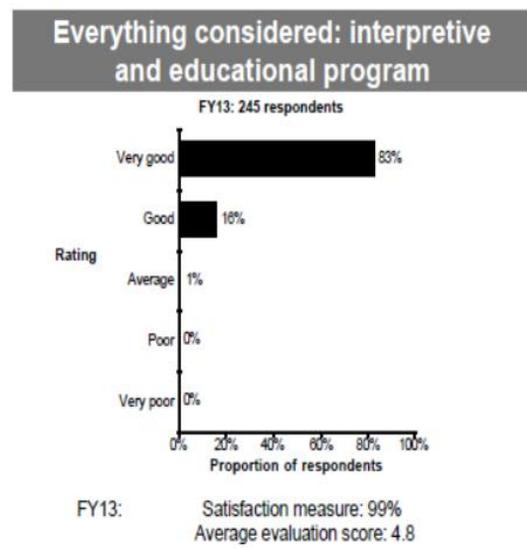
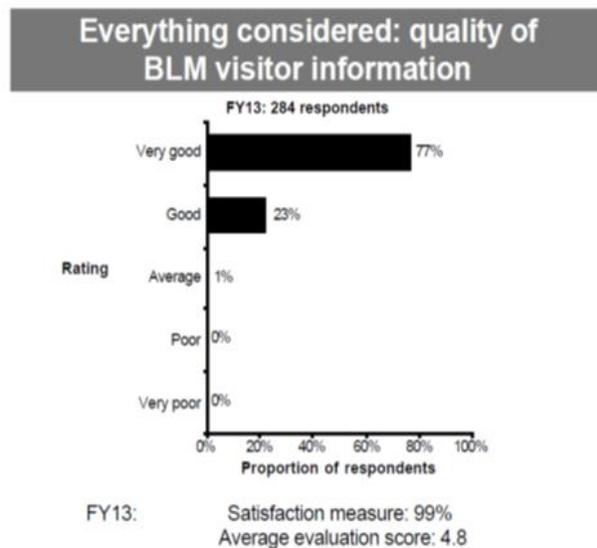
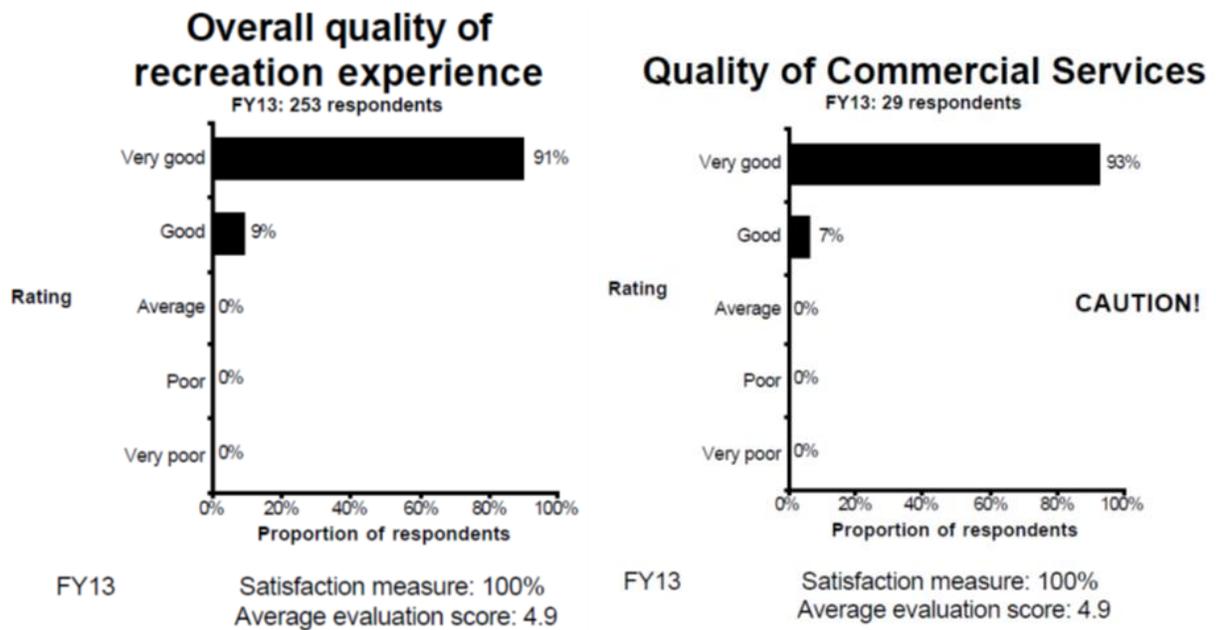
Surveys were distributed to a random sample of visitors at this site during a selected period in FY13, The survey response rate is described on the first page of this report, meaning that 100 percent of those randomly sampled responded to the survey. The data reflect visitor opinions about this site's facilities, management, services, educational opportunities, and fees during the survey period. Visitor activities and selected demographics were also captured. A representative sample of the general visitor population was surveyed at selected locations. The results do not necessarily apply to visitors during other times of the year, or visitors who did not visit the survey locations on site. Returned surveys were electronically scanned and the data analyzed. Frequency distributions were calculated for each indicator and category. The response rate for this site survey was 100 percent.

The following graphics summarize the results of the surveys. Each graph includes the following information:

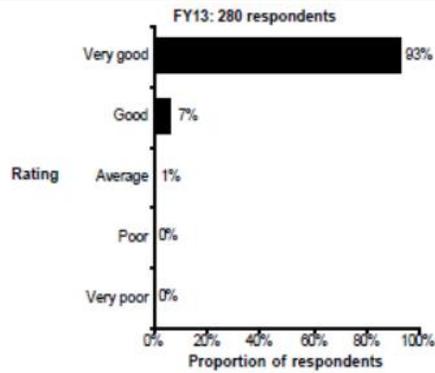


Young Visitors enjoy the Interpretive Center

- The number of visitor responses for the indicator;
- The percentage of responses which were "very good," "good," "average," "poor," and "very poor;"
- A "satisfaction measure" that combines the percentage of total responses which were "very good" or "good;" and
- An average evaluation score (mean score) based on the following values: very poor= 1, poor= 2, average= 3, good= 4, very good= 5.
- The higher the average evaluation score, the more positive the visitor response.
- Graph percentages may not equal 100% due to rounding.

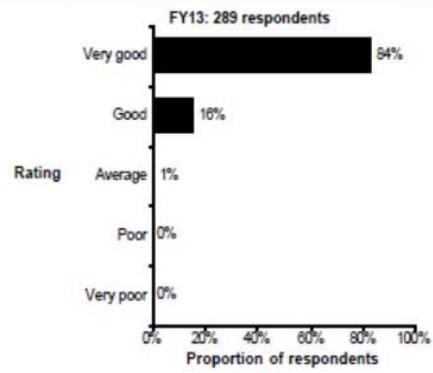


### Everything considered: performance of BLM staff



FY13: Satisfaction measure: 99%  
Average evaluation score: 4.9

### Everything considered: BLM protection of natural and cultural resources



FY13: Satisfaction measure: 99%  
Average evaluation score: 4.8

# 5 Resources, Objects, Values, and Stressors

## Heritage Resources – Pompeys Pillar and other Archeological Resources

PPNM is home to over 1,000 prehistoric and historic artwork that covers all sides (from top to bottom) of the sandstone pillar known as Pompeys Pillar. Of all these, the most famous is that of William Clark, carved on the rock on July 25, 1806, during his return trip to St Louis, Missouri via the Yellowstone River. Along with the artwork, multiple archeological resources have been discovered during soil disturbing activities throughout the monument and adjacent area of critical environmental concern. All together the pillar and surrounding landscape act as a 200-year time capsule that not only tell the story of the United States' westward expansion, but also that of Montana and Yellowstone County. There are few, if any sites, throughout the rest of the U.S. with such a complete and complex history.

### Heritage Resources Status and Trend Table

Status of Resource, Object, or Value	Trend
Good	Stable

### Heritage Resources Inventory, Assessment, Monitoring Table

Acres in Unit	Acres Inventoried	Acres Possessing Object	Acres Monitored in FY14
51	25	5-10	10

## Stressors Affecting Heritage Resources

Weather-related impacts continue to take a toll on prehistoric and historic artwork on the face of Pompeys Pillar. These impacts (rain, wind, atmospheric composition) are not always readily observable and can only be measured by more technical means. Otherwise, cultural resources continue to be protected by the on-site physical presence of pillar staff during the primary season of use, and year round by means of an electronic video surveillance system. The signature is encased in a bullet proof glass case, which is cleaned and checked for damage and weathering annually.

## Natural Resources

PPNM (as well as significant portion of the ACEC) lies directly along the Yellowstone River and is made up mostly of a series of riparian areas, drainages, and fallow farm fields (now actively being restored through weed treatment and native seeding). These areas are home to nesting bald eagles, numerous migratory birds, various small mammals (including raccoon, marmot, skunk, and fox), and have an abundance of native plants including a

spectacular maturing cottonwood gallery.

### Natural Resources Status and Trend Table

Status of Resource, Object, or Value	Trend
Good	Stable

### Natural Resources Inventory, Assessment, Monitoring Table

Acres in Unit	Acres Inventoried	Acres Possessing Object	Acres Monitored in FY14
51	25	25	51

### Stressors Affecting Natural Resources

The upland and riparian resources continue to remain in excellent health. However, the fluvial evolution of the Yellowstone River has been causing significant erosion concerns along the northwestern edge of the monument. To date, several hundred square feet of the monument's picnic area has eroded, and an interpretive sidewalk is threatened. Although the monument lies within the floodplain of the Yellowstone River and these occurrences are to be expected, it remains to be seen if this particular situation arises from anthropogenic sources. The root of the problem stemmed from lateral gravel bar development on the opposite bank of the river that created hydraulic properties which directed the flow of the river directly into the river bank that protects Pompeys Pillar. However, following the floods of 2011, the river substantially altered its course, which could reduce erosion rates.

Another trend of note is the decline of the cottonwood galleries that provide cover for most of the monument's riparian areas. Following the storms and floods of 2011, many trees were killed by lightning or from falling due to loose root collars in the soft soil. In 2012, due to severe drought, many new trees established following the floods of 2011 died. The "pruning" that was implanted bi-annually for the last decade to remove dead limbs has resulted in significant increases in heart rot. Planting is needed to provide establishment of a future canopy in all picnic areas. Within another 20 years most, if not all of the mature cottonwoods, may decline to point of needing to be removed for safety purposes.

# 6 Summary of Performance Measure

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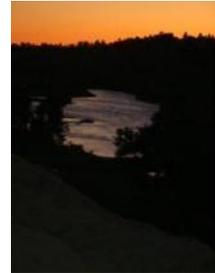
<b>Resources, Objects, and Values Status Summary Table</b>		
<b>Resource, Object, or Value</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Trend</b>
Heritage Resources	Good	Stable
Natural Resources	Good	Stable

# 7 Manager's Letter

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Dear Reader,

As the sun sets on another amazing year for the Pillar, I look back at the changes, challenges, and characters that defined FY2014. Over three years ago I arrived in June unsure of the challenges that awaited me. My first year was themed “calamitous” with the floods, rock falls, lightning strikes, and other natural disasters. As a new manager I was getting my bearings and learning the ropes. The last couple of years I started the season with both clarity of direction and determination. I was excited to take all I had learned the previous year and put it to good use. In 2014 I took my experiences from both to strive for excellence and reach new horizons at one of the most remarkable historic sites in our country.



Yellowstone River at sunset



PPNM Interpretive Center

The year 2014 was inspiring as the PPNM staff did so much. From cleaning up the grounds, to putting up a new maintenance building, so many projects were accomplished. Some volunteers who had been coming out for decades commented that they felt we gave the entire monument a face-lift. Visitors continually were impressed with what they saw. On top of this, PPNM continued formalized interpretive and education programs and started creating site plans. For five months we offered three interpretive programs a day, reaching thousands of visitors. Finally we pulled off a successful Clark Days Celebration and National Public Lands Day service projects. We built partnerships with local groups, watched our volunteer numbers more than double, and continued to work hand in hand with the Friends of Pompeys Pillar.

As I look back at my fourth season at the Pillar I am struck with a sense of accomplishment and wonder. That so many people, ranging in age from under 8 to over 80, from over twenty organizations, with so many different goals and objectives, came together to protect, preserve, and promote one national monument is inspiring. To see what we as a monument, field office, and agency did in one year is nothing short of remarkable. To have seen so much passion and dedication from so many, leaves me with a feeling of great pride and honor to know I get to help lead the future efforts of such a special place.

In closing, I wish to thank all our partners, especially the Friends, as well as our wonderful volunteers. We could not have done it without you.

Jeff Kitchens  
Monument Manager



**NATIONAL  
CONSERVATION  
LANDS**

## **Pompeys Pillar**

### **National Monument**

3001 Highway 312  
Bakersfield Field Office  
Worde, MT 59088  
Phone: 406-875-2400

March 31, 2015

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