



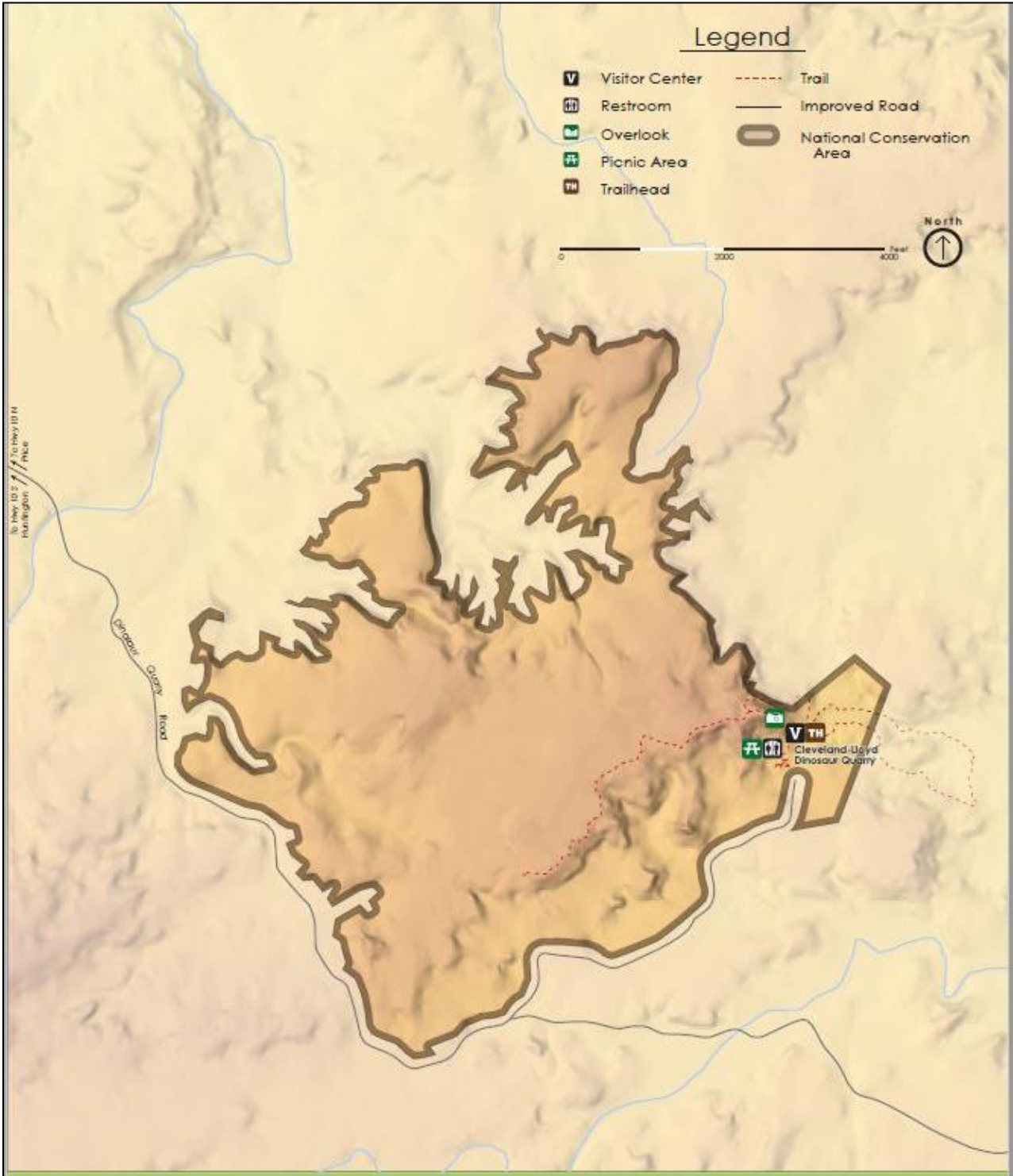
**NATIONAL
CONSERVATION
LANDS**

Utah
2021: Annual Manager's Report

Jurassic National Monument



Map of Jurassic National Monument



Accomplishments

The Jurassic National Monument (JNM) had many accomplishments this year. In the fall of 2020, employees worked on several new contracts and the results were implemented in 2021. Contracts included the installation of a new shade structure in the picnic area, the construction of a scientifically accurate and realistic ground form for the main allosaur exhibit in the visitor center, and the development of an interpretive plan along with 10 new interpretive panels. In the spring of 2021, staff completed the installation of four large outdoor pieces of tactile learning equipment for young visitors and the operations crew resurfaced a mile of the monument access road with additional gravel. During the summer of 2021, we hosted four American Conservation Experience interns that helped us staff the visitor center, complete trail maintenance, and create four interpretive videos associated with the monument. In the fall of 2021, we installed a new shade structure, completed the allosaur exhibit base, constructed a new connector trail on our interpretive hike, uploaded four new interpretive videos to the monument landing page (See: [Jurassic National Monument Interpretive Videos](#)), and established a new contract for three lifelike dinosaur sculptures to be placed along our main interpretive hike in 2022. Several students and professors from the University of Wisconsin at Oshkosh and Indiana University of Pennsylvania returned to continue excavations and study the bone bed.



Figure 1 - New shade structure



Figure 2 - New exhibit base

Challenges

The Jurassic National Monument has several challenges related to existing trails, interpretation, and staffing. Many of the trail systems at the monument do not meet modern design standards to ensure they are safe and resilient. There are many issues that make the current trail alignments unsustainable into the future. The condition of trails require extensive reroutes, modifications, and potential resurfacing to combat erosion and discourage off route travel. The interpretive plan that was developed in 2021 is a great start to upgrade the current interpretive information, which is current lacking outside of the visitor center. Additionally, balancing the staffing levels and the existing visitation levels continues to be a challenge to ensure good visitor experience and appropriate use of funding.



Figure 3 - Stable portion of the Rock Walk Trail

Visitors

The Jurassic National Monument is a popular destination for individuals of all ages visiting palaeontologic sites along the Dinosaur Diamond National Scenic Byway or those who have a general interest in paleontology or geology. Visitation increased over 1,100 individuals compared to the previous year for a total of 4,543 individuals in 2021. We anticipate visitation will continue to increase as we build the monument's presence on social media, and as visitors post images of recent visits.



Figure 4 - New tactile learning equipment

Partnerships

We are currently partnering with the Utah State University Eastern Prehistoric Museum and working closely with both Carbon and Emery Counties concerning the management of the monument. We are also working with Emery County and Federal Highway Administration to upgrade the first 5 miles of the access road to improve visitor access.

Science

Dr. Joe Peterson from the University of Wisconsin/Oshkosh and Dr. Jonathan Warnock from Indiana University of Pennsylvania have continued research within the bone bed to discover clues to the mystery of the dense concentration of bones belonging primarily to dinosaur predator species. Researchers have been utilizing 3D photogrammetry, taphonomy, and geochemistry to reconstruct the origin of the largest accumulation of predatory dinosaur bones in the world and its relationship to other sites in the late Jurassic Morrison Formation.



Figure 5 - University researchers at work

Climate Impacts

Persistent severe drought conditions continue to impact most areas of Utah and the Jurassic National Monument.

Climate Resiliency

Management decisions regarding actions within the NCA and future implementation level actions will take climate resiliency into account as part of the National Environmental Policy Act and land use planning process.

Social and Environmental Justice

Social and environmental justice considerations for under-represented groups and tribal consultation continues to occur as part of the land use planning process.

Events

Jurassic National Monument staff participated in a local Stewardship, Preservation, and Exploration Festival on September 12, 2021. The festival is marketed as an opportunity to learn more about the land, history, and prehistory in southeastern Utah. For the event, monument staff and subject matter experts provided guided tours and educated visitors regarding the unique paleontology resources found at the Cleveland Lloyd Dinosaur Quarry.



Figure 6 - Guided tour at JNM



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Jurassic National Monument National Conservation Area

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