



**NATIONAL
CONSERVATION
LANDS**

GSENM Science Plan

Understanding the Foundations of a Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Science Plan





U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Welcome!

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Welcome!

Purpose and status of the
GSENM Science Plan





Overview of this Presentation

- GSENM as science laboratory
- Need for a science plan
- Essentials of a BLM science plan
- Specifics of the GSENM science plan
- How the science plan will be developed



GSENM as Science Laboratory

Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument is

- The first BLM monument ever established
- The only BLM monument with the primary purpose of providing for science (basic and applied)
- The BLM flagship unit for science

Presidential proclamations establish GSENM and its purposes

- [Presidential Proclamation 6920](#) was issued by President Clinton on September 18, 1996
- [Presidential Proclamation 10286](#) was issued by President Biden on October 8, 2021



The National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS)

- Codified in 2009 Omnibus Public Lands Act
- BLM mandated to conserve, protect, and restore outstanding cultural, ecological, and scientific values of NLCS units
- Science is strategically conducted



Purpose of a Science Plan

Provide direction for administration of the GSENM science program

- Administrative tasks
- Prioritization of research
- Application of science to management



Other Types of Plans

- Resource Management Plan (RMP)
- EIS associated with an RMP
- RMP Monitoring Plan
- RMP Implementation Plan
- Project level planning documents
- Annual Monitoring Reports
- Tribal Co-Stewardship Plan



BLM Science Plan Content

- The scientific mission of the unit
 - The scientific background of the unit
 - Identification and prioritization of management questions and science needs
 - A plan to meet the unit's science needs
 - Science program protocols, including authorizing/tracking research
 - A system to organize scientific reports to facilitate use, communication, and archive of scientific findings
 - A strategy for integrating science into management
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- [*BLM Manual 6100 – National Landscape Conservation System*](#)
 - [*BLM Manual 6220 – National Monuments, National Conservation Areas, and Similar Designations*](#)



GSENM Science Plan Content

- Basic/pure and applied science: their value and centrality to GSENM
- How GSENM will raise awareness of opportunities for science
- Administration of the science program, including general identification of staff roles, a permitting system, etc.
- Inventory and monitoring 1) of GSENM resources and objects, 2) of science activities' on-the-ground effects, 3) applied to identification of management needs and prioritized scientific activities
- How GSENM science is tracked, inventoried, and archived
- Strategy for identification/prioritization of basic science on GSENM



Development of the Science Plan

*Current work is preliminary and sets a foundation.
Specifics may change during the development
process.*

- Review of BLM policy and other relevant information
- Initial work with the contractor
- Informed by stakeholder input via MAC meetings



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Your Questions?

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