



# National Monuments and National Conservation Areas

## What are National Monuments and National Conservation Areas?

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) manages National Monuments (NM) and National Conservation Areas (NCA) to conserve, protect, restore, and enhance America’s natural and cultural heritage. BLM administers 30 NMs and 25 NCAs (including six similar designations) offering the American people opportunities for hunting, wildlife viewing, fishing, history exploration, scientific research, and motorized and non motorized recreation. The program spans the breadth of BLM-managed public lands, from Florida’s scenic and historical Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse Outstanding Natural Area, to Steese NCA, containing one of Alaska’s most important caribou herds for subsistence, to Colorado’s Canyons of the Ancients NM, which has the greatest known density of archaeological sites in the US. NMs and NCAs may allow for multiple uses such as livestock grazing and mineral development while protecting the resources, objects, and values for which they were designated.

### BY THE NUMBERS

#### BLM National Monuments, National Conservation Areas, and Similar Designations

| State        | # of Units | Acreage           |
|--------------|------------|-------------------|
| Alaska       | 1          | 1,208,624         |
| Arizona      | 9          | 2,427,695         |
| California   | 11         | 2,231,326         |
| Colorado     | 5          | 582,603           |
| Florida      | 1          | 86                |
| Idaho        | 2          | 758,776           |
| Montana      | 2          | 377,397           |
| Nevada       | 8          | 2,651,792         |
| New Mexico   | 6          | 1,001,142         |
| Oregon       | 3          | 541,463           |
| Utah         | 6          | 3,083,963         |
| Washington   | 1          | 970               |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>55</b>  | <b>14,865,837</b> |

### KEY FACTS

National Monuments and National Conservation Areas account for about 6% of the total acreage of public land

These units are areas where BLM emphasizes education and research. BLM works with community partners and researchers to get youth outside to learn about public land resources and the BLM.



Red Rock Canyon NCA, Nevada





*Vermilion Cliffs National Monument, Arizona*

NMs are generally designated by Presidential Proclamation under the Antiquities Act of 1906, while NCAs and similar designations are designated via Congressional legislation. NMs and NCAs are managed as a part of the BLM's National Conservation Lands, which is comprised of approximately 37 million acres of protected lands, located primarily in the west, that also include wilderness areas, wilderness study areas, national scenic and historic trails, and wild and scenic rivers. National Conservation Lands are recognized for their spectacular ecological, cultural, historic, recreational, and scientific values.

## Opportunities

- Recreation on public lands has increased dramatically in recent years, and visitors' familiarity with and appreciation for the BLM's NMs and NCAs is also expanding.
- Increased visibility of the Bureau's National Conservation Lands has expanded opportunities to partner with external groups to support protection and enhancement of these special areas.
- The BLM continues to develop resource management plans for the newer NMs and NCAs and invites public engagement and participation in the process.

## Challenges

- More NMs and NCAs and more visitation to these special areas without proportional resources limits the Bureau's ability to provide an optimal level of service and necessary resource protections.



*Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, Oregon*

