

**NATIONAL
CONSERVATION
LANDS**

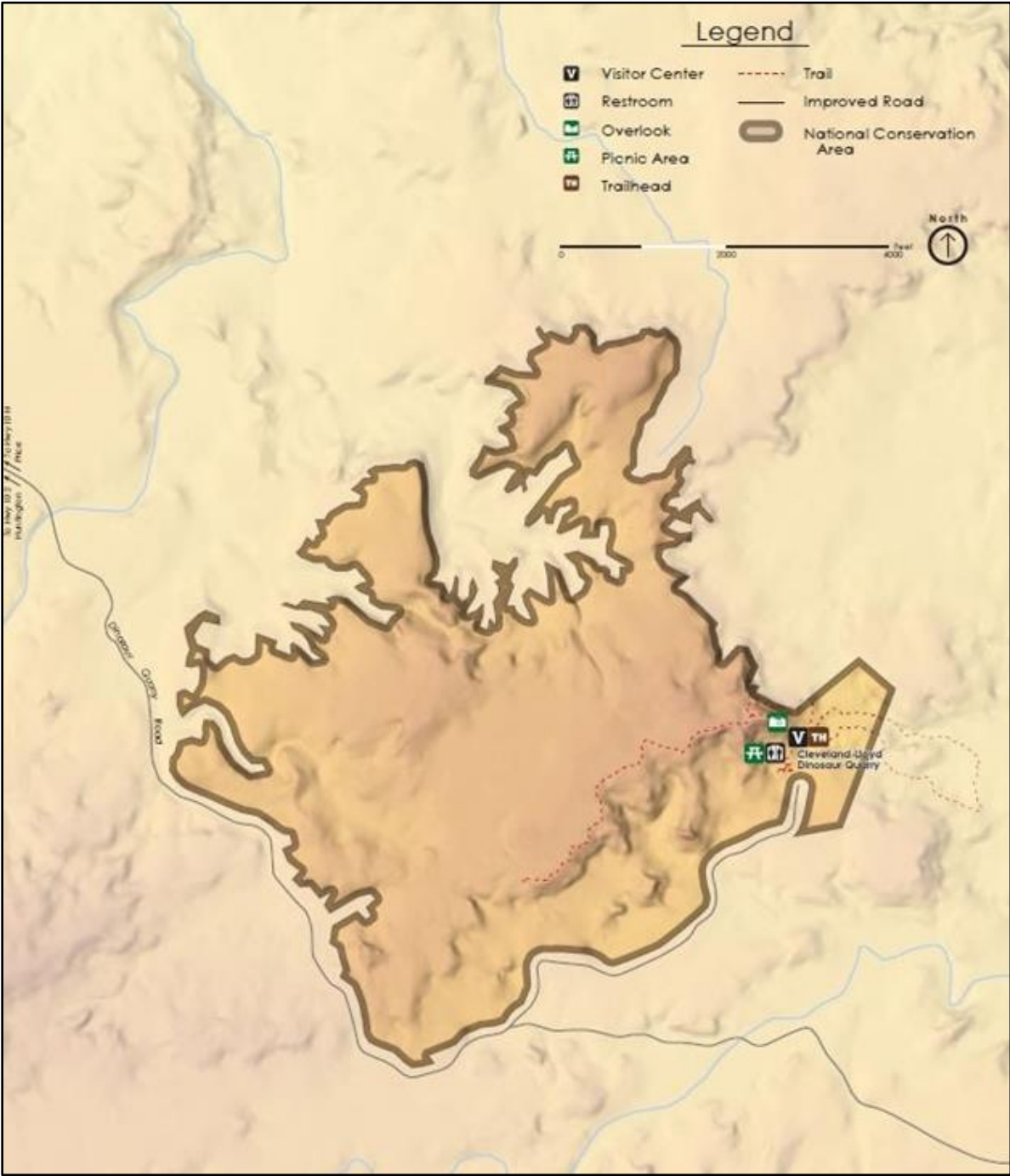
Utah
2023: Annual Manager's Report

Jurassic National Monument

National Conservation Area



Map



Accomplishments

2023 was another busy year of improvements to visitor amenities at Jurassic National Monument. With the assistance of the operations crew, monument staff installed three 60% scale dinosaur sculptures representing Camptosaurus, Stegosaurus, and Allosaurus to enhance visitor experiences and interpretation opportunities. We contracted much needed maintenance along our main hiking trail, which was also refreshed with a new name, Jurassic Journey. Monument staff installed a new welcome sign and three new interpretive signs detailing biological facts regarding *Allosaurus fragilis*, trace fossils, and the stratigraphy surrounding the monument. Monument staff also spent several months coordinating with Utah Division of Transportation to develop new highway directional signs for the monument.

The monument hosted two American Conservation Experience interns for 16 weeks. Pictured below are the interns preparing a large sauropod femur for display within the visitor center.



Challenges

Interpretation continues to be lacking outside the visitor center and developing interpretation has been challenging due to limited staff time and knowledge. When possible, staff continue to make progress on the development of several new interpretive panels, but we need more. Staffing continues to be a challenge as many large groups visit before the interns are onboarded and the monument is fully staffed. Finding local contractors willing to perform specialized building maintenance has also been challenging due to the remoteness of the site.

Contracted trail maintenance and construction were delayed several weeks due to heavy snowfall and a cool spring, creating unfavorable soil conditions. Delays and project conflicts caused much of the scheduled FY 2023 trail maintenance to be pushed to FY 2024.



Visitors

Annual visitation continues to hold steady at 4,189 visits. We anticipate future visitation may increase as we continue to build our relationship with the local Utah State University Eastern Prehistoric Museum, and as we improve our visitor amenities and recreation opportunities.

Jurassic National Monument park ranger, Casey Doms, was featured in a National Public Radio interview and a YouTube documentary series. Publications from various media outlets help promote the monument and its significant contributions to the scientific community. Casey and the monument have also been featured in other documentaries such as the BBC series *Fantastic Beasts*. Staff have plans to continue promotion of the monument to inform the public of its unique resources and the mystery of its origins.



Partnerships

Jurassic National Monument is currently partnering with the Utah State University Eastern Prehistoric Museum and the Intermountain Natural History Association. Staff are working closely with both Carbon and Emery Counties concerning the management of the monument and the opportunities it provides. Staff continue to work with Utah Division of Transportation to develop directional signage to the monument from State Highways 10 and 191.

Intermountain Natural History Association provides the content for the Jurassic National Monument gift shop. Pictured below is Intermountain Natural History Association representative Ron Litton.



Science

Dr. Joe Peterson and Dr. Jonathan Warnock continued their research within the bone bed to discover clues regarding the mystery of the dense concentration of bones belonging primarily to predators. Dr. Peterson and Dr. Warnock bring a group of college students out each summer to learn field skills including locating new sites and fossil excavation. Researchers continue to utilize 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 period Morrison Formation.

Research carried out at the Cleveland-Lloyd Dinosaur Quarry in 2023 has led to additional information regarding vertebrate trace fossils, also known as ichnofossils, from the Jurassic National Monument, Upper Morrison Formation, which have been largely overlooked in the past. The researchers collected data as part of an ongoing study in the vicinity of the Cleveland Lloyd Dinosaur Quarry. Although preliminary and based on a small data set, the research has led to further questions regarding population dynamics approaching the end of the Jurassic period.



Climate Impacts

Persistent severe drought conditions continue to impact most areas of Utah including the Jurassic National Monument. Extreme and sporadic precipitation events through 2023 have increased erosion, damage to trails, access roads, and other infrastructure.



Climate Resiliency

Management decisions regarding actions within the Monument 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

In March, Monument staff participated in the annual Green River Rocks event through staffing a booth and hosting tours of the monument. In May, Jurassic National Monument staff provided tours to local 4th grade classes from multiple schools. To teach about the different aspects of the monument, several stations were set up in the visitor center, quarry buildings, and along the trail system. Staff also coordinated a field visit with the University of Utah and provided site tours to students and professors. In October, staff partnered with the Utah State University Eastern Prehistoric Museum for a National Fossil Day celebration involving crafts for kids, guided tours, and multiple lectures.





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[Jurassic National Monument | Bureau of Land Management \(blm.gov\)](#)

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