

Video Transcript: Recreation on Public Lands

Hello. My name's Bob Ratcliffe. I'm Chief of the Bureau's National Recreation and Visitor Services Program.

I thought today I'd like to share with you some thoughts on the challenges the Bureau faces in managing recreation on the public lands in the next century and beyond.

Today I'm going to provide an overview of the trends affecting BLM across the West in its management of recreation. I'm also going to share with you and discuss some ideas and some ways that we have met that challenge and addressed those issues on the public lands.

First, let's start with the recreation program in the Bureau and its overall goals and objectives. The Bureau's goal is for providing environmentally responsible outdoor recreation. It's a pretty broad goal, pretty big challenge, but how we do that is becoming increasingly complex.

The BLM's recreation programs purpose is to provide Americans with dispersed and diverse outdoor recreation opportunities. The Bureau is known for its wide-open spaces and its large western landscapes, but what is our specialized market or niche? What's our role in the recreation program and in providing recreation opportunities for the public lands? And, you know, the Bureau is especially challenged in that its lands provide a backdrop for almost all types of activities, and BLM's multiple use mission also sets it apart from many other Department of Interior agencies in that we have to consider and evaluate all types of uses on the public lands. We don't have to allow them all but we do have to at least evaluate them to see whether they are appropriate to occur on the BLM public lands.

For an example, the Bureau offers a whole host of the traditional recreational opportunities on the public lands... hunting, fishing, horseback riding, camping, hiking all occur. In addition, the BLM is becoming known for its adventure activities... mountain biking, sled dog racing and river running and whitewater rafting and a whole bunch of other exploration activities can that occur on the vast lands of the southwest and northwest United States.

We also offer opportunities for challenging recreation opportunities, rock climbing, hang gliding, motorized activities, skiing, you name it. And also unique opportunities for exploration and discovery.

Motorized activities are a particular challenge for the BLM and one that is increasingly popular. When we say motorized activities, that's virtually everything from motorcycles to dune buggys to snowmobiles to the traditional Jeeps and four-wheel-drive vehicles. And BLM is also renowned for its incredible wild places with opportunities for solitude and hiking and mountain climbing and river running and vast wilderness areas in Alaska to Arizona.

The BLM also has extensive opportunity for wildlife viewing and nature study, and this is also one of the most fastest growing recreation activities in the United States.

And one thing the Bureau can offer that many other agencies cannot is the authenticity, the opportunity to see things as they were, to visit landscapes as they were seen by the first explorers or the first people to traverse the west on the Oregon Trail and on the Mormon Trail and on all the national historic trails we manage.

We also manage ghost towns and paleontological sites and thousands and thousands of ancient Indian ruins and cultural sites across the west.

The BLM is also home to many special events and unique activities that can't occur on many other public lands such as national parks or Fish & Wildlife refuges, things like Burning Man that occurs in the deserts of Nevada where 50,000 people gather for the unique cultural art

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event. And activities such as the Iditarod sled dog race and historic living history recreations such as the Oregon Trail or the Pony Express rides. These things can't occur on any other public lands.

And, of course, the BLM has developed recreation, too. We've had to develop an infrastructure that's very extensive and has grown considerably in the last decade. Developed picnic sites and accessible trails and campgrounds, the usual recreation -- outdoor recreation opportunities.

There are four key trends that you affecting recreation demand on the public lands, and then affecting BLM and its management response to those trends. Now, some of these macrotrends, these big picture trends, we can't control. We can't control the outcome. We can't control where things are headed, but by understanding these trends, we can at least manage for them and anticipate how these things will affect recreation uses on the public lands.

The first is population, and that in itself is a key driver for a lot of challenges on the public lands, and many BLM managers and other public recreation -- public lands recreation managers have also expressed concern that we're reaching a tipping point, that we have a critical mass, that we can't meet our most basic resource management needs when it comes to recreation, that we have a convergence of issues and conflict. Motorized activities and mechanized activities on the public lands have grown astronomically in the last 15 or 20 years.

But on the other hand, the Bureau as a multiple use agency has had recreation grow to be one of its core and fundamental aspects of its mission. For a long time the Bureau was known for its grazing and mining and energy development and timber production. But now recreation has become a central aspect of what we do on a day-to-day basis on the public lands, and as was quoted by Rebecca Watson, former Assistant Secretary of Interior, said that "recreation is the future of the BLM." What she meant by that is that the challenge of recreation management and the demand for amenity values on the public lands is only going to increase into the next century.

Population growth is an extreme challenge, and, of course, BLM has lands in the Western United States. BLM lands are also very close in proximity to urban centers, fast-growing areas across the West. And recreation demand and use grows, we've learned, at a faster rate than population and that we've also had a growth in demand for special uses in recreation permits.

As you can see by this map, the Western states, and this is 2000 census data, you can see Arizona, Nevada, the darker colored states, are some of the fastest growing states in the nation, as are many of the other Western states. While this has slowed somewhat, these trends are going to continue into the next decade and beyond.

The real challenge is this skyrocketing population growth, and a huge percent growth rate compared to a national growth rate, and that challenge has been represented by the fact that recreation demand has correspondingly grown and accelerated on many BLM lands that were once remote and not utilized by the recreating public, are now being discovered and used heavily by the people moving to the west.

This figure in itself says more than you'll need to know about population growth. If we think we have issues now at 278 million people in the United States, imagine what it will be like in less than 100 years with nearly twice as many people utilizing the same number of resources or the amount of resources we have.

This photo also shows you what fishing is like on the Kenai Peninsula on a busy day. They

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call that "combat fishing," and you can see why.

The other demographic that's interesting for us to consider is the change in senior adult demographics, as these people have -- like myself and many of us watching this video, are growing older, and we are looking at being active retirees, that we want to go do and visit things that we didn't get to do while we were working, and so those are the things that we're going to have to anticipate, this growing population of over-65 people is mostly going to occur in the Western United States as you can see by this slide, and that's something for the BLM that will affect the BLM disproportionately than some of the other land management agencies.

We also have a growing diversity of population, and right now the west, three-fourths of it, is white, and we have designed a recreation program and recreation activities and recreation amenities that serve that population. Well, in less than 100 years you can see a dramatic shift in the diversity of the people we'll be serving with recreation opportunities. This is something we must consider in the design of facilities and the engagement of the next generation of people who will find relevance in the public lands through recreation. What value will the public lands have for this up and coming population of Americans?

This map shows the proximity of BLM public lands within a very short distance of urban centers throughout the West. If you live near a red spot in the West on this map, you know what I'm talking about. This is urban growth and development. And now what was once remote and isolated public lands are now the backyards to many of these communities. Over 25 million people live within 20 minutes of the public lands, and this is growing. Our recreation use, too, is growing correspondingly.

This is an example of Phoenix and its growth in just the last 20 years on the public lands. As you can see by this map, the growth is astronomical from 1970 until today, and now it goes beyond this slide in 1999.

From studies we did in Grand Junction, Colorado, we learned where we had good sound recreation use data, we looked at that data in relationship to the growth of the population of the nearby urban area of Grand Junction, and interestingly enough what we found is that recreation use grew at a faster rate than the population increase in the nearby town, and what that tells us is that people who move to certain areas in the West move there for outdoor amenities often and a quality of life, and then when they visit the public lands, one person will move to the community, but they may visit the public lands numerous times since they live nearby. So recreation use growth, if you know what the population trend is, you can expect that recreation use about the recreation and public land areas will grow at an even quicker rate than population growth in the nearby urban areas.

BLM is experiencing an increase before 3 to 4% annually in recreation use on the public lands, and while this might flatten out for cost of gas and other energy uses, we expect it to continue. Now, there have been recent studies that show fewer people are participating in outdoor recreation activities, however, people in the West generally participate in outdoor recreation at a higher participation rate than do other parts of the country. So we're seeing this sort of consistent and slow and steady growth in recreation use on the public lands.

We could take some of that information we do know, as far as where these population growth areas are, where these hot spots are, and when you overlay them with public lands, especially BLM and Forest Service lands, you can identify areas in red here that will experience demand that may exceed or challenge the recreation management of the federal lands in those

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areas, Arizona, California, Nevada, of course, Western Colorado, Utah, New Mexico. You can see that many of the counties in the west are facing this urban growth and corresponding recreation demand. When you overlay that with the public lands, the Forest Service and the BLM, you can see we're right on top of those hot spot areas.

BLM use, of course, varies by state. Much of our use occurs in California and Oregon and Idaho and Utah and Arizona. We've had over 57 million visitors in 2007 and we expect 59 or 60 million in 2008. The important thing to note is that there's been a 65% increase in the recreation use of BLM lands in the last 20 or 25 years.

The second major factor affecting recreation is economics, and recreation is now big business, and recreation is a significant part of the economy in virtually all Western states in many communities that depend on recreation uses in the public lands.

We've also seen demand grow by fast-growing industries such as adventure challenge and recreation and heritage tours in particular. Recreation use is also now on par with traditional land uses such as grazing or timber production.

Recreation is big business, and there are many statistics about this. Billions and billions of dollars are spent on outdoor recreation either in retail, in outfitting and guiding, in tourism. Hunting and fishing alone accounts for over \$100 billion in spending, and that's as of 2001. It is the top -- one of the top industries in all Western states and outdoor recreation, especially the kind of nature tourism, adventure tourism and heritage travel that BLM offers are some of the fastest-growing components of that industry.

The recreation economy is huge, supporting many jobs, billions in sales in tax revenue, generating billions in retail sales across the United States, and those numbers -- with large numbers comes additional scrutiny and additional oversight and additional needs for accountability. And so the Bureau's recreation program, as are the recreation programs of the other federal agencies, are now more regularly audited, more regularly managed in a way that's accountable and defensible.

As I mentioned before, BLM offers opportunities for fast-growing niches in the outdoor recreation market, culture heritage tourism, adventure travel. Motorized sports is a particular challenge that I'll talk about in a little bit on BLM public lands. And increasingly growing and deep interest in opportunities for solitude to get away from the rat race and the urban development, people seeking remoteness and big open spaces.

BLM also, demand can be measured by the number of unique events we have to manage and are requested to permit over the years. We have over 3,000 active Special Recreation Use Permits which is a four-time increase in the last decade. And we also have 800,000, now approaching a million, individual use permits for camping and entrance fees and everything, which is a reflection of about an eight-fold increase in 10 years.

We also permit unique events like I mentioned, Burning Man and other activities. We even offer permits to aliens, those would be extraterrestrial aliens, who like to gather in the New Mexico desert from time to time.

Another indicator will be -- for us is the collection of revenue from recreation activities. As you can see by this chart, in around 2004-2005, we reached a watershed of sorts where recreation fees we collected surpassed fees we collected for grazing, and I think it doesn't mean that we're replacing grazing or that grazing is becoming any less significant of a resource to manage on the BLM public lands. It just means that recreation revenue is increasing because of

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the increased use and the amenities that we charge for that we provide on the public lands.

The third area is technology development. Technology disproportionately affects BLM, and Forest Service to some extent, much more so than other federal land agencies like the Park Service or Fish & Wildlife Service. The increasing demand for motorized or mechanized activities like mountain biking and the advances that have been made in technological equipment over the years have really changed the face of outdoor recreation in a way that only seems to accelerate and diversify as years go by.

An example here is -- you know, here I am as a child in a wagon in the West in 1902 -- I wish I was that old -- and what activities are occurring now on the public lands. The change has been phenomenal in the last century, and the types of activities are extraordinary. Only limited to the imagination of humans. For instance, now there are off-road Segways and stair climbing Segways. These are the -- the advent of hovercraft and flying craft and other motorized recreational activities has just been phenomenal.

For example, just in the sales of OHVs alone as a measure of that demand, you can see that in Utah the number of registered OHVs group grew in 1989 from about 22,000 in to in 2006 over 160,000 vehicles out there, and the sales of off-highway vehicles has increased as well. Now, those sales and that growth trend has flattened out somewhat with the recent rise in gasoline prices, but we can expect that motorized activities will continue to grow at a significant rate.

The Bureau has also seen the advent of many extreme sports, things like rock crawling and sledging and base jumping and cave diving, all made possible by technological advances. There's such things as night vision goggles now. The Bureau offers a permit for nighttime rafting, for instance. We also have processed a permit and allow for an activity that occurs in Southern California where DARPA, the Defense Applied Research folks, have a race that utilizes the BLM lands for unmanned artificial intelligence vehicles. These are vehicles that aren't remotely controlled. These are vehicles that are -- that find their own way across the desert, making it possible for you to enjoy the ride while you sit in the backseat across the desert.

We also have things like rocket launching and rough-terrain vehicles. These are all things that are challenging our ability to manage recreation on the public lands.

For instance, maybe some new sports you haven't heard of yet... aerotrekking, where ultralight aircraft flight at very low elevation across the public lands landing in different areas. This is a group activity. People like to do it. They camp out. They move from one spot to the other. But they cover hundreds of miles in a day. We also see activities such as river sledging, throwing yourself headfirst down a class 5 whitewater river on a boogie board. Hovercraft have redefined how vehicles move across the landscape. Activities such as Zorbing, which was, you know, like bungee jumping and jet boating, a gift from our friends in New Zealand on that small island where they are very inventive with their recreational activities, Zorbing where you climb into a giant beach ball and your friends roll you down a hill.

We also have activities such as rocket launching where we have to get clearance from the FAA and NORAD for -- you know, what do folks who build rockets for a living want to do for recreational activity is probably build rockets for themselves. These aren't your little Estes rockets. These are major multiple-stage rockets that go beyond the troposphere.

So these kinds of activities... tomorrow who knows what we'll see. But the technological advances disproportionately affect BLM lands. As you can see, this is a chart of some of the

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fastest growing recreational activities. There's the usual day hiking, backpacking and so forth, but also snowmobiling, off-road vehicle driving and so forth are increasingly popular.

Some of the biggest and fastest growing recreational activities are the cheapest and easiest to do close to home... walking, family gatherings, visiting nature centers, developed camping, beaches, of course, historic sites are all very popular because many people can participate and they're easy to do and they're accessible. They're near to where people live.

Some up and coming recreational activities such as bicycling and mountain biking and wildlife viewing are moderately popular. Again, low investment level, but allows for people to participate with minimal gear and at just a basic skill level.

Specialized activities also have become increasingly popular and diverse. Snowboarding, personal watercraft. These are smaller numbers in participation but they're very fast growing and they usually have a large level of investment and commitment by the activity participant. These activities require a higher level of skill and training and also require a higher level of personal commitment.

BLM has developed a huge number of recreation sites over the last 25 years, and the Bureau is known as sort of a duct tape and bailing wire kind of outfit. We've made do. We've had volunteers develop campgrounds. We've utilized funding from state and other resources and partners to develop trails and accessible areas and visitor centers. We have had a huge growth in the amount of infrastructure related to recreation, and this has translated into a large inventory of assets that -- facility assets that we have to continue to manage in the future. So we're seeing an increasing amount of our -- increasing percentage of our budget moving towards maintenance of aging facilities and recreation areas.

The last major trend I would like to talk to is a trend in values. As you know, things have changed dramatically in the West. Often issues are more polarized in the West where recreation is considered a core value, a core reason why people live in some of these areas, have chosen to live in some of these areas in the West.

The West also has an increasing social sensitivity to landscape changes and uses, things like energy, development and grazing that occurred previously where people did not visit or did not recreate, there was little controversy, but now that controversy is increasing and the challenges for management as well have become ever more complex.

The BLM also has an expanding mission, one that has been created by the national landscape conservation system. This program has allowed the Bureau to showcase some of its very unique landscape and heritage areas that have basically formed the character of this nation, these wide-open places now, many of them are protected as national conservation areas, national monuments, wilderness, wilderness study areas, wild and scenic rivers and national trails. So recreation is now sort of above the radar and has come into its own from a perspective of legal challenges and conflicts that it's general rated. You know, the kind of covers of all the magazines now, there isn't a day that doesn't go by that I don't find an argue about challenges involving recreation on the western lands.

The NLCS system, which I mentioned, is growing with a number of new areas every year and it has elevated the Bureau's profile in land management, and that is now being recognized as also a conservation agency, and these areas are very popular with recreation use and visitation. So how do we balance the conservation of these unique resources with their use and enjoyment? And how do we interpret and educate the visiting public as to the value of those

areas?

As you can see, many of these areas have grown. These statistics are old, but they do, I think, reflect sort of this growing challenge in expanding the BLM mission and focus over the last 10 years.

Another issue that needs to be considered is that in the West very high percentage of people who live in the West say they regularly participate in outdoor recreation. This is different than it is in the rest of the country, and oftentimes people who live in the West consider recreation a right, that it's almost a religion. I learned this firsthand when I was a recreation planner doing a wild and scenic river plan in Oregon where I offhandedly talked about fishing as a recreation activity, as only a recreation activity, and I was reminded by some of the participants in that meeting that they spent their Sundays fishing, and to them it was a core value and almost a religion and their passion for fishing. So it is -- recreation in the West is often a passion, not just a pastime, and that's something to consider as we manage conflicts between users and between recreation resource use and other resource uses.

As I mentioned before, these challenges present a broader recreation challenge for the Forest Service and BLM. People tend to visit the national parks, enjoy them, a lot of rules, many regulations, all very important, but on BLM lands people kind of play and stay on the public lands. They bring their toys, their families, their dogs, their activities to the public lands specifically to participate in things that give them enjoyment and satisfaction, and so that really sort of changes how we manage our challenges in managing recreation on the public lands.

We also have the challenge of providing opportunities to visit and see firsthand some of the most incredible archaeological and cultural heritage resources in the world, really, and how do we provide interpretation, still allow access for people to experience these places, but yet still protect these sites for future generations? This is an incredible challenge, especially in remote areas where people like to see these places and enjoy them and yet still we want to protect them in perpetuity.

How do we respond? So given all these trends, what are we doing about it? And I can tell you that the BLM has been very proactive in trying to develop policy, in budget, in guidance and use of partnerships to provide visitor services and so forth to leverage what resources we do have. Many of our recreation planners, and we only have a few in the Bureau, about 280 recreation planners, and about another 250 park rangers, so there's 500 people to cover over 258 million acres in the public lands. To do that our recreation staff have to wear many hats, and the recreation program covers everything from A to Z, I like to say, to accessibility for persons with disabilities to visual resource management. We have OHV, caves, wilderness management, interpretation, education. We also have to provide search and rescue, monitor resources and maintain websites, provide information, create maps. So you can see there's this huge workload associated with the management of the recreation program that falls on just a few individuals.

We've responded by working strategically and have developed a number of strategic plans which help focus and define the Bureau's recreation mission and recreation objectives and goals. One of the things that we've developed is our Purple Book to kind of present priorities for -- since we can't do everything, what are the things we're going to select to do in the future? And I encourage you all to take a look at the Bureau's Purple Book as it tries to summarize these challenges for recreation management and what we need to do to address them.

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Above all, the Purple Book is a corporate statement of commitment and program priorities, and it's also a service delivery plan for providing benefits to both visitors and communities or residents that live in those communities. This represents a distinct shift from a traditional activity approach, one that incorporates benefits-based management framework and principles. It manages not for individual activities but for a host of shared and specific individual social and economic benefits.

This strategy is very important to maintaining that continued flow of benefits from the public lands for recreation and other quality of life amenities, and I think it also considers the appropriateness of certain lands and other proposals to protect settings, recreation settings and recreation experiences, over the long term. It also considers what the long-term costs are and implications for management and engages other providers to help us provide recreation visitor services, amenities and facilities so we don't have to be all things to all people and that the BLM can focus on providing what is most appropriate while allowing the private sector -- for the agency and allowing the private sector and other partners to provide an assortment of services or recreational activities that occur on other lands.

BLM has also developed a series of strategic plans with a number of interests organizations and groups, specifically for off-highway vehicles and for mountain biking. These plans are also ways to engage partners and to get ownership in ideas of actions and activities that the BLM can take to manage these resources in the future. One of the key aspects of what we're trying to do is comprehensive travel and transportation management. That's managing public access to the public -- to the BLM public lands in a way that's both appropriate and allows for adequate access to do recreational activities, to do administrative purposes, permitted activities, but also protects resources in the long run. We've initiated a process to map the West, to basically finish what Lewis and Clark started, and to get to a point where we can have a map of designated routes, roads and trails across the West so people can access the things they like to do yet protect the wild range of resources on the public lands.

It is as an interdisciplinary approach one that involves transportation, natural resource, cultural resource interests, energy needs and so forth. It's about establishing a transportation network or system on the public lands.

The recreation budget has increased and there have been -- over the years, and you can see that we've had some continued investment and recognition by Congress that we do need resource to meet these challenges. The Bureau has also been very, and the recreation program in particular, has been very good at utilizing volunteer work, and we support most of the partnerships that occur within the BLM. Over two-thirds of the partnerships are recreation generated partnerships.

We also account for about 80% of the public contact for the agency. So the recreation is the public face of BLM, and we consider that to be very important. It's how the public views and values the BLM public lands.

We also generate about half of all BLM volunteer hours. We've actually created the equivalent of a workforce of over 250 full-time employees through our volunteer program, and it is an amazing, I think, consideration in that we're getting the job done, we're doing it efficiently, and we're utilizing people in a whole host of activities to help us manage the public lands. These are dedicated volunteers that have often provided us -- made the difference in providing a presence on the public lands and for maintaining recreation sites and for doing

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restoration work.

We have one of the highest returns on program funding. This is our challenge cost share program. Oftentimes we leverage five or six or seven to one. For every dollar we put in our recreation challenge cost share, we can raise the equivalent resources from external sources. So we're very good at -- in investing money so it will return six, seven-fold.

We've also been very successful in getting external grants and alternative funding and in-kind support. This has augmented our budget by almost 20% over the years, everything from OHV state grant funds to funding for educational activities.

Of course, BLM recreation programs are responsible for hundreds of special events annually, reaching millions of people, and especially children with our "Take It Outside" program. We're co-sponsoring all kinds of activities and events from National Public Lands Day to National Trails Day to Get Outdoors Day. These are all events that engage the public in the public lands and the outdoors.

We've also created a national advisory team to help field personnel to help advise the Washington Office on development of policy and budget issues, and this is about empowering staff in the field to help drive what is needed from a policy and budget management perspective. RVSAT is our Recreation Visitor Services Advisory Team and TTMT is our Travel and Transportation Management Team. These are the state leads who represent the programs in our 12 states, and they also advise us on what the priorities are and the order of their implementation.

We've created a new website and partnered on recreation websites like rec.gov. Our website goals are to provide the best information and also on what there is to see and do on the public lands as well as what the policy guidance is. So I encourage you to visit blm.gov and click on recreation to see what kinds of information will be available on our recreation website.

We've improved training programs, like this one, and many others from accessibility to visual resource management. And we are also very interested in utilizing a flexible workforce to expand the capabilities, use of field subject matter experts, contractors and others to provide technical assistance to the field and to get the job done.

What we heard from our partners over and over again as we developed our strategy and as we've developed our workforce planning is that we can't do everything and we can't do it alone, and so more and more the answers lie in collaborating and leveraging with BLM communities of both place and interest. Those are the towns and villages where we have offices and where we have adjacent public lands, and also the communities of interest, the people who are interested in particular activity or a particular resource, also are very important in being -- having the BLM be successful in managing the public lands for future generations.

So this is the collaboration aspect, and this is not going to go away, and our benefits-based framework really helps encourage the use of not only in planning but in implementation the use of external private, nonprofit and profit-making entities, corporate entities, in helping us manage the public lands.

Our benefits-based management is a fundamental shift, like I mentioned before. It provides a framework to define what BLM's niche is and role, what things we should be providing. It encourages sort of a regional landscape level recreation planning perspective, what is BLM's role in this region, what kind of partners do we need, what aspects of recreation -- outdoor recreation opportunities do we want to provide? And it also prioritizes the order in

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which strategic steps should be implemented. It targets limited resources and helps us determine when the BLM can say "no" to some activities. As I said before, we can't be all things to all people, and there's simply just certain activities that shouldn't occur because of public health and safety reasons, because the activity is inappropriate for the setting we want to provide or that there's unacceptable resource impacts.

The BLM, like many agencies, has long managed in sort of a crisis management approach and the BBM framework helps us to manage with a long-term view and perspective. It keeps us away from the first person to walk in the door with a proposal in one hand and money in the other. We can at least evaluate that against whether or not that's an appropriate activity or whether we should partner to create that recreation opportunity on the public lands.

BBM also, as I said, fosters partnership with public and private providers for both visitor services, information and also for visitor services and facilities. It's a business-oriented approach to help with us asset management. As I talked of previously, we have a huge sort of backlog of maintenance needs now and a very significant amount of infrastructure that we have to take care of, and by implementing BBM, it helps us become more responsible in our management of these assets over the long term.

BBM evaluates the social and economic benefits through planning, and this is an important concept in that many of the recreational activities, while inherently in conflict, they share certain benefits, benefits of being with family, of personal health and fitness, of escape and enjoyment of solitude, and so it's those benefits, those kinds of benefits, is what we want to focus on, not the activities themselves. So this is a fundamental shift in how we do business.

It encourages a coordinated approach to providing interpretation and stewardship and education information. You know, we can work with partners to provide those -- that information. We share those kinds of needs with the state parks and with the Forest Service and nearby national parks. It's the same stewardship information, much often the same interpretive information, so the Bureau doesn't have to be the sole provider of that. We can do it in concert with others.

BBM also allows us as I mentioned before to engage partners at the community level and interest groups and businesses in not only the development and planning for an area but the actual management and implementation of recreation activities and amenities and visitor services and facilities.

And it helps us maintain the landscape character and experience settings over the long term. This is going to be incredibly important as we move into the next century and as we have increasing demands of use and population growth on or near the public lands.

And it provides a cost-efficient approach to managing facilities and public access through comprehensive travel and transportation management.

And, of course, BBM at its heart generates and leverages resources for management from external sources as well as appropriated dollars from within the agency.

We have a unified strategy which sort of lays out how those -- the importance and what should happen first and second, third, fourth, and fifth and so on in the development of these comprehensive plans for recreation and on the BLM public lands, and this is integrated into our Resource Management Planning process.

If you're interested, you know, and want to provide me and my staff some feedback on what more we can do, or what you would like to see us do, please share that with me at any

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time and we'll get back to you as soon as we can. And I appreciate your time today viewing this training module, and if you have any recommendations for the future, we'd appreciate hearing that, too. Thank you very much.