

NLCS 15-year Strategy Questions and Answers – Part 1

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Strategy sounds like a really powerful document to guide BLM and the NLCS into the future. Speaking of the strategy, here's an easy way to find a copy of it.

Go to the BLM homepage at www.blm.gov and you'll see an NLCS Strategy link in the middle of the page.

Click on that, and it takes you to the news release which has the link to the entire PDF version of the strategy.

Now it's time to answer any questions you may have for our panel on M Street. This is from Jason in Denver.

Have discussions occurred about developing an NLCS-wide effectiveness and/or ecological integrity monitoring program in order to determine if the values for which the NLCS units were established are being maintained? If so, can you share some of those details with us?

>> I'll take that one. Thanks for the question, Jason. We haven't developed that specifically. I think what you're getting at probably would go along the lines of what the assessment inventory and monitoring initiative is developing currently, but, no, we haven't gotten into that specifically yet with the NLCS, but it's a great idea. Do you have anything to add?

>> N. Moore: I just wanted to add, I think the NLCS science strategy will also help move us forward in that regard so that each of the objects and values -- we have a framework that helps us determine how we are going to monitor those to

ensure we are maintaining those values. So I think that's coming. It's part of the science strategy. And we're hoping to get that out fairly quickly.

>> Absolutely. Thanks for that, Nikki.

>> M. Draper: Thank you. Thank you, Jason for sending that in. Doug, could you please describe the concept of the NLCS as an outdoor laboratory?

>> D. Herrema: Yeah, I would be happy to. I think that's actually one of the more exciting concepts that we're working with, one of the things we're more excited to see how it goes. I think it's a great example of something that we're going to -- we're going to work it out as we go and work internally and externally to try to experiment and do some things.

We have a few examples right now and before I get into our vision for that, one of the overarching things here is a lot of things have been happening in NLCS units for in some cases decades. Our oldest areas was designated in 1970.

What we have not done until now is manage these things systematically. Some examples of the outdoor laboratory include managing invasive species and threatened and endangered species by employing innovative grazing practices.

There's very interesting science things going on and Grand Staircase Escalante in southern Utah, innovative restoration. Salmon introduction happening at headwaters forest. The list goes on that.

You have things happening at San Pedro riparian, down in Arizona, tribal coordination in New Mexico. The list goes on and on, and I think point of what we're thinking in terms of strategic embracement, if that's a word, of the outdoor laboratory concept is to be able to both encourage those kinds of activities in the individual units

themselves through the budget process and through policy and coordination, but then also be able to sort of share up the chain and across the entire network of the system some things that might be a model to use in different places.

So the tamarisk beetle is another example of that, if that works to the satisfaction of the ecosystem. Being able to take those lessons learned and go across the system.

There's another kind of final aspect of that, and that's being able to use the NLCS uniquely for that.

Our budget structure, policy structure, organizational structure which are such that we can be able to kind of effectively do things early on in a landscape approach across programs and see if they're going to work for the Bureau as a whole. This is all about the whole BLM, the whole West, and all the lands we manage in a very [inaudible] -- so hopefully that answers your question.

>> M. Draper: That does. Thank you. Now I have a question for Matt. Does the NLCS Strategy designate any new lands that?

>> M. Preston: No, it doesn't, Marlo. Thanks for bringing up this question, because it's a common confusion, primarily with the public. We don't designate new lands.

Congress or the president can designate new lands. I was talking early why you are about acquisition, and we were speaking about private lands there. But just to be absolutely clear, the Congress or president are the only ones who have the authority to designate new lands as part of the NLCS.

>> M. Draper: Thank you for that. Trevor, we have a question for you. Are there specific categories of partners you have in mind that will support the NLCS?

>> T. Needham: Sure. That's a good question.

I've noticed that's come up in BLM quite a bit in terms of we have such a huge spectrum of partners, from those that provide national support to those very community, local, to increasingly more regional organizations and, of course, all the federal and state agencies that provide far-reaching support to us.

I think, as I mentioned earlier, NLCS has a strong record of success in partnerships.

We want to -- first and foremost -- ensure we have the capacity and the resources to maintain our existing successful partnerships and really build on those. You know, the word landscape is embedded in the system.

There is great efforts made in terms of looking at not just place-based part in other words that support our units at the local level, but how some of these partners can work beyond the boundaries, across the landscape to build networks of partners to best support our mutual objectives here.

One -- I will say one kind of stand-out group where we have seen significant payoff is within the community-based friends organizations.

These groups, they have a vested interest.

These are, you know, not surprisingly, where people play and live. It is where their passions lie. So that clearly defines what these groups are all about.

They care tremendously about these resources and the outcomes and the decisions that are made so they are greatly invested in helping NLCS carry out its conservation mission and carry out other BLM program objectives to recreation, cultural resource work, et cetera.

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If you have a question or comment for us, please give us a call or send us a fax, text message or e-mail using the numbers and address on your screen.

You can call us toll-free at 1-877-862-5346.

Fax at 602-906-5701.

Or you can send a text message and your e-mail questions to the following address:

BLM TC telecast@blm.gov well, we did get some questions in earlier, so I would like to go to the first one we received.

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