

## NLCS 15-year Strategy Questions and Answers – Part 2

>> M. Draper: Well, we've got Bob calling in from California. Bob, what's your question for the panel today?

>> Caller: I did want to pass around one good pat on the back for priority 4 to our field offices here in California, and I think it's true in some other states, where both out of necessity and out of embracing the NLCS the Field Offices are just doing a great job integrating it into their overall programs.

We have so many employees with collateral duties that bridge NLCS and the rest of the lands in the field offices that I just think -- in a lot of cases there's some great models out there that we can look to.

My question was, though: now that we're into fiscal year '12, and here in California we're ready to roll out our PTA, obviously there's a lot of unknowns about the budget year, but what are the initial out of the chute priorities that you guys see the state and Field Offices working on in the upcoming fiscal year?

>> I can take that one. Hey, Bob, how are you doing?

>> Caller: Good.

>> D. Herrema: If you look at the full document, there are little red boxes next to the action items that are the highest priority right out of the chute. But we haven't gone in and done implementation plans of this yet.

So we're going to do that over the next couple weeks, trying to figure out collectively, collaboratively more of a time line what we're thinking in terms of budgeting, whatnot. We'll let you know when we go down that road.

>> M. Draper: Bob, did that answer your question?

>> Caller: Yeah, just let us know as soon as you can so we can help roll this thing out. It's a great strategy.

>> M. Draper: We appreciate you calling in. Thank you, Bob. Nikki, tell us, does the NLCS Strategy involve the allocation of any additional funds for NLCS?

>> N. Moore: Well, in terms of additional funds, I don't know if you guys can speak to that, because of the continuing resolution, for '12, it's not likely.

We understand the goals and actions of the strategy are contingent on available funding and resources, and I think that's really where the -- identifying the short-term high priority actions are going to help because then we can line it up with the budget.

Then I also wanted to mention, if you do look at the PTA, some of the coordination we're already done, you can really see where some of the programs do overlap and where you can build on that.

One example is volunteer [inaudible] and the T&E program, wildlife fisheries with national historic trails, things like that.

So there's some short-term actions we can take within the current budget without new funds being allocated.

But I think, you know, once we see what kind of funds we have for '12, then we can take a look at those priorities.

Did you have anything else to add to the program specifically?

>> D. Herrema: The only thing I would add is that

we, of course, have no control over what Congress is going to allocate and nor do we lobby Congress for anything.

But we want to ensure the most effective management of these unique and special places. So I think the strategy really does a good job of highlighting the necessity and the -- really the beneficial outcomes of engaging with external partners to get some volunteer work, to get perhaps some kind of in-kind or just really be able to leverage the passion people have for these places in a way that's above and beyond the -- [inaudible] but internally the strategy highlights the work that with a he want to do across programs to be able to really ensure that we're doing why the best job managing these places. So it's kind of three-fold if you will.

>> M. Draper: Great. Doug, thank you for following up to Nikki's comments. Appreciate that. Doug, we got a fax in from Steven in Alaska that's kind of a two-part question, but it's with regards to multiple use.

So if I have the gist of his question correct, he would like to know about alignment with NLCS work and the permitting side of BLM. So primarily lands actions. Any information that you could share that the strategy covers with regards to those kinds of alignments in BLM programs?

>> D. Herrema: Well, if I'm understanding the question correctly, sounds like maybe specific to certain permitting. The strategy doesn't go into that in a great deal. It's more of a high level document.

What I can tell you is we're currently developing several manuals that will be tiered to the strategies as well as the various authorities, legal and policy, that we have that will be -- it will be kind of a conglomeration of exist young policies as well as new ones, and we speak to permitting and lands a little bit.

So we'll be able to go into more detail about that later but right now it's really in the strategy. I think the overarching point is that these areas were created for specific reasons and so kind of what -- when we're doing anything, with a he need to step back and ask ourselves is this consistent with why this place exists? If it is, great. If it isn't, there's things to think about. With those manacles and policies we'll have criteria to help you answer questions about permitting.

>> M. Draper: Doug, thank you for that. How does the landscape approach outlined in the NLCS Strategy relate to local communities? So, Trevor or Matt?

>> T. Needham: I touched on it a little bit in my first part of the presentation I was going through the theme.

We really want to engage with local communities. We like to work with some partners especially to help start measuring and understanding the social and economic structure of these local communities and what role the NLCS units played in that. We hope it's a positive role. If it's not we want to work to make that a positive role.

The example used before by the visitors, one of the most direct ways in the -- we're hoping talking to these communities, with people in the field, at the unit have the best ideas. The Field Managers in the BLM and the field staff in the local communities.

And so we're interested in engaging with them and having them tell us what the best way to work with local communities is. What is the best thing we can do to help improve their local neighborhoods and their economy.

>> M. Preston: I think I would chime in and add one thing. We've seen this work successfully time and time again on one of the benefits of that

community level collaboration is quite frankly we know this is BLM employees. Our mission can be complicated.

There is intrinsic differences of opinion about how our lands ought to be used, how they ought to be recreated on, and a lot of times these local partners, when they gain a firmer awareness and understanding of what BLM's mission and what we're working to accomplish, and they get onboard with that, they become some of our best champions and ambassadors within their community.

Sometimes they can tell the story better than, quite frankly, we can with our BLM logos on. So we look to that as kind of a leveraging opportunity for helping to get our message and help bridge some of those more when they do arise confrontational situations, and we address that through successful collaboration.

>> M. Draper: Thank you, guys, so much for that. It's time to wrap things up for today. Thank you, panel. Before we -- we would like to go back and have a few final thoughts from Carl.

>> C. Rountree: Thanks, Marlo. And thanks again to the National Training Center for a fine broadcast. We certainly appreciate all you've done to help us and other programs get our message across.

Also, thanks to all of you that have been involved in some way in management of the National Landscape Conservation System since its beginning and before.

We've done this, and we've shown that we are great conservation managers, and I think that's the fact that we have so many monuments and NCA's that have been designated as testimony to that.

Thank you all who have had a hand in helping us manage these areas over the years, the things that you've done, the innovative techniques that you've used have helped us in forging this strategy that

we want to help propel us into the next 15 years. Also, a thanks to the National Landscape Conservation System and community partnership staff.

They've worked long and hard not only on this broadcast but in putting together the strategy. And in closing, there was one thing that Bob Abbey had said at the summit in Las Vegas last year, and that is that we will drift no more.

Certainly this strategy is a way of setting a course, charting a way, for the Bureau to become the premier land conservation manager in the United States.

A lot of people are looking at what we've done, are looking at the strategy, and taking note of the fine job that the Bureau is doing in managing these lands as well as other conservation areas outside the National Landscape Conservation System.

Finally, thanks again to you, Marlo, great job. We certainly appreciated the opportunity to work with you all and appreciate your -- efforts to help with that some of the technological glitches we've had in getting this broadcast complete. Thanks so much.

>> M. Draper: We appreciate you being with us today, Carl. Thank you again.