

## NLCS 15-year Strategy Broadcast Opening Remarks

>> Announcer: The Bureau of Land Management presents Live From the National Training Center in Phoenix Arizona and From Washington DC... M Street Live! A broadcast series focusing on BLM issues of interest. Today's topic... the national Landscape conservation system 15-year strategy. Now, the host of your program, Marlo Draper.

>> M. Draper: Welcome to our M Street Live program on the NLCS 15-year strategy. Today we'll hear from top BLM Specialists and managers at our M Street office in Washington D.C. and from the Main Interior Building. This program will provide an Overview of the new NLCS Strategy and outline the Strategy's four main themes, Which are: conservation, protection and restoration of NLCS values, managing the NLCS as part of a larger landscape, Raising awareness of the NLCS, and building upon BLM's Commitment to conservation. After we hear from our panelists, you will have plenty Of time to ask questions or comment on the information they've presented. To start things off for us is BLM Deputy Director Mike Poole who is joining us from the Main Interior Building. Hello, Mike.

>> M. Poole: Hi, there.  
How is it going out in Phoenix Land?

>> M. Draper: We're getting cooler.

>> M. Poole: Okay. I'd like -- yeah, I'd like to welcome everybody to this broadcast. We thought we may have had a few technical difficulties, but hopefully they're all ironed out, and so everybody's been able to cue in on today's presentation. I did want to take a couple minutes and pay tribute to Jeff Jarvis. As many of you know out there throughout the Bureau, you know, Jeff was a tremendous influence on our conservation program at BLM. I worked -- started working with Jeff Jarvis when I was back in

New Mexico, and as a young professional back then I saw his vision for the Bureau in terms of our multiple use mission and the fact that we did, indeed, have important lands that should be conserved and protected in perpetuity. In his role back in Washington, he helped craft many policies. He was steadfast, never wavered on the importance of the wilderness preservation program and our involvement in that program. So we honor his memory. We honor the inspiration that he provided to all of us. And his legacy will carry forward for many, many years to come. So we wish his family the very best.

So, the National Landscape Conservation System, as many of you have been with BLM for years, a lot has transpired in a short period of time. Our first organic act was passed in 1976. If you look back on our almost 200th year anniversary that is our history, and we're going to celebrate our 200th anniversary in the year 2012, we have accomplished a lot in a very short period of time.

It amazes me as we continue to advance renewable development on public lands, and just within the last two years we've authorized some utility scale solar platforms... California, Nevada. We continue to advance wind development. We're in the process of working on some major transmission lines to get the -- both conventional and renewable energy to the load centers. So our agency, as all of you well know, is very active in lots of provinces.

But with the continued passage of time, these public lands, what I called refined allocations through our RMP's, and whether it be transmission, expansion of conventional energy, and then this new advent of renewable energy, these lands continue to be allocated and utilized.

It's so important that all of you out there -- and I do give credit to our predecessors that I worked with early on in my career that were out in the field, and they would take the time to conduct inventories or perhaps take photographs of unique

landscapes. A lot of that information started to be incorporated into our early land use plans, the MFP's. There was a notation in those documents as to the importance of special lands, and the staff specialists and BLM recommending that we need to think about conservation, protection of these important resources. So I give credit. I know Congress passes laws, legislation to establish wilderness areas. The president has authority under the Antiquities Act to establish monuments, and we've been very grateful for what Congress and the president through his authority has established for BLM. But I will always give credit to the hard working BLM employee, our field specialists, our operatives that detected the significance of these lands many years ago. It all became one big celebration with the passage of the Omnibus Act.

Whoever thought, given our history and our multiple use mission that we, BLM, would receive a National Landscape Conservation System comparable to a National Forest system, national refuge system, a national park system. I just think it's an amazing, significant part of our history.

And then last year about this time, we had that great summit in Las Vegas, and many of you viewers out there, you were there, and we brought in many segments of our public. We had roundtable discussions. We had break-out groups. Where do we want to lead with this new system? How do we want to approach some of the management principles and objectives in terms of this great stewardship responsibility that we in BLM have? So it was a significant turning point by bringing that cadre of folks into Las Vegas for that summit.

We took to heart the information received, and then Carl and his staff and many of you in the field helped us develop this new 15-year strategy, and it's an important blueprint for all of us. We received, the last two weeks, we received a lot of comments from people on the outside that really

complimented BLM for the quality of the strategy. It's visionary, it's pragmatic, it's meaningful, it just sets a really good course for us for many years to come to demonstrate to ourselves first and then to our stakeholders that we are up to the task of managing these important systems.

There's so much to be gained from adopting this strategy and making it work, all of you out there that have monuments or other units of NLCS. It gives us a good guide. We can lead forward. I think the most important aspect of all, having been associated with many of these units in had the many states in all my travels throughout BLM, and I think it makes us unique, and that's our ability to reach out and connect with people.

Our success in managing these units in the future is our ability to connect with communities, to work with county governments, to work with conservation groups, to work with friends groups, to develop gateway communities where those opportunities are there, and such that the public feels part of managing these units. It's their investment.

We are just lucky -- and we're honored to be stewards of these lands. So I think that's an important element in terms of continuing to advance this system. We all know we're managing roughly 26, 27 million acres, whether it be monuments or NCA's, wilderness areas, historic trails, Wild and Scenic Rivers, that this system is going to continue to grow.

Just this past week, as I testified on a hearing before the House natural resources subcommittee, we had congressional delegates that are introducing their wilderness bills. And so we're starting to see some resurgence here on the importance of conservation that many of the stakeholders would like to see in terms of additional public lands being placed into the system.

So, we're at a great starting point in our history with this new strategy, and I just ask that all of you embrace this strategy, use it in managing forward in cooperation with others, make them part of this great investment, and solicit and utilize their in-kind contributions in terms of actually helping us to manage these important resources. If we can accomplish that, we will always be associated with this new system. There's no doubt in my mind.

I've been associated with some units where BLM was very active, reaching out to communities, reaching out to stakeholders, and making them part of that management system, and in some cases, there was some initiatives that maybe this would be better served with Park Service or somebody else. What's interesting about that is that the stakeholders stood up and said, no, we like BLM, we like their attitude, we like their collaborative approach, their hands on, they make us feel part of this system, and we prefer that our partner be BLM.

So we need to take advantage of these great opportunities before us, and I have total confidence in everybody throughout the Bureau that has many of these units that were up to the task and that we will lead forward. So continue to make us proud.

We're back here to assist in however we can. We continue to work on budgetary increases. We continue to be strong advocates of this system. We continue to improve our web site information. We continue to make good use of social media. But the most important relationship of all is the relationships you build out on the ground in associating with these units.

So I want to thank all of you... past, present and our successors that's going to lead us into the future for really taking the reins and advancing this new system forward and taking advantage of this new strategy document. Thank you, everybody.

Carl .

>> Carl: Thanks, Mike.

>> Carl: Marlo, good seeing you again. I'll keep my comments short, simply based on some of the difficulties we've had in getting the broadcast up and running. Let me just say two things, though.

For those of you that are hearing this broadcast who really don't know too much about the strategy, I wanted you to understand that the basis of the strategy is founded on several different sources of information. As many of you are aware, we held a summit that Mike talked about last year with partners, with employees, such as yourselves, across the Bureau of Land Management, partner organizations and stakeholders, with the intent of trying to develop a strategy for guiding the future of the National Landscape Conservation System over the course of the next 15 years. A part of the information we examined in pulling together the strategy were the wonderful suggestions coming out of the summit, as well as the direction that Congress had given us with the passage of the 2009 Omnibus Act, and Secretary Salazar's NLCS Secretarial Order 3308, which set the stage for improving our enhancement of the National Landscape Conservation System.

One other thing I want to leave you with is what I consider to be really one of the principles and primary aspects of the strategy. That is, it seeks to assure that conservation is the primary management aim of the National Landscape Conservation System. Still allowing for the more traditional and discretionary uses on these lands that are consistent with the legislation and the presidential proclamations creating the units.

To do this, the strategy is developed around four major themes. The first theme is the primacy of conservation. The second theme is collaborative management.

The third, enhancing public awareness.  
And the fourth, building upon BLM's commitment to conservation.

With that, Marlo, I'm going to turn it back over to you and let you introduce the fine staff with the National Landscape Conservation System and community partnerships for a more detailed explanation of each of these things.

>> M. Draper: Carl, I want to take a moment to thank you and Mike. Thank you for recognizing Jeff and those touching comments, providing the evolution of NLCS, an overview of that, especially recognizing BLM's workforce that has been involved in the past and currently and also your leadership.  
Thank you.