

ORDER NO.

Subject: Management of the National Landscape Conservation System

Sec. 1 Purpose. This Secretary's Order (Order) seeks to further the purposes of the *Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009* (Act), which established the National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS) under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in order to conserve, protect, and restore nationally significant landscapes that have outstanding cultural, ecological, and scientific values for the benefit of current and future generations, and the President's initiative on America's Great Outdoors.

Sec. 2 Background. The BLM is the steward of many great American landscapes. As the population in the West continues to grow, there is an ever increasing need to conserve the open spaces that are a unique and priceless part of America's heritage. America's evolving land use needs resulted in the bipartisan passage of the Act. The Act permanently established the NLCS as an integral part of the BLM. The NLCS contains many of our Nation's most treasured landscapes, including scientific, historic and cultural resources, wilderness and wilderness study areas, wild and scenic rivers, national monuments, national conservation areas, and scenic and historic trails, among others.

The BLM has the challenging mission of balancing the myriad competing land and resource uses, and remains committed to making the public lands and resources available for a wide variety of uses. This Order recognizes that conservation of this Nation's rich natural and cultural heritage is an equally important land management objective, and an integral part of the BLM's multiple-use mission. Conservation is a long-term investment that provides quality of life and economic benefits for current and future generations.

Sec. 3 Authority. This Order is issued in accordance with the authorities contained in: Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1950, as amended, 5 U.S.C. § 301, 43 U.S.C. §§ 1451, 1453; Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, 43 U.S.C. § 1701 *et seq.*; and the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009.

Sec. 4 Policy.

a. The BLM shall ensure that the components of the NLCS are managed to protect the values for which they were designated, including, where appropriate, prohibiting uses that are in conflict with those values. If consistent with such protection, appropriate multiple uses may be allowed, consistent with the applicable law and the relevant designations under which the components were established.

b. The NLCS components shall be managed as an integral part of the larger landscape, in collaboration with the neighboring land owners and surrounding communities, to maintain biodiversity, and promote ecological connectivity and resilience in the face of climate change.

c. Components of the NLCS shall be managed to offer visitors the adventure of experiencing natural, cultural and historic landscapes through self-directed discovery.

d. Science shall be integrated into management decisions concerning NLCS components in order to enhance land and resource stewardship and promote greater understanding of lands and resources through research and education.

e. The NLCS shall serve as a place to build and sustain diverse communities of partners and volunteers dedicated to conserving, protecting, restoring, and interpreting our natural and cultural heritage.

f. The NLCS shall recognize the importance of a diversity of viewpoints when considering management options. Accordingly, the NLCS shall be managed from an interdisciplinary perspective. In so doing, the NLCS shall draw upon the expertise of specialists throughout the BLM, in coordination with the tribes, other Federal, state, and local government agencies, interested local landowners, adjacent communities, and other public and private interests. When seeking these viewpoints, the NLCS must consider the requirements of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, and any other applicable laws and regulations.

g. The NLCS shall endeavor to inspire the next generation of natural resource and public land stewards by engaging youth through education, interpretation, partnerships, and job opportunities.

Sec. 5 Organizational Changes. The BLM shall establish a new directorate, called the National Landscape Conservation System and Community Partnerships, to replace the Office of the National Landscape Conservation System and Community Partnerships. The BLM shall initiate the process to establish this directorate within 120 days of the date of this Order.

Sec. 6 Implementation. The Director of the BLM is responsible for ensuring implementation of this Order.

Sec. 7 Expiration Date. This Order is effective immediately and will remain in effect until its provisions are converted to the Departmental Manual or until it is amended, superseded, or revoked, whichever occurs first.

Secretary of the Interior

Date: