

**FY 2025 BLM LWCF Land Acquisition Requested Project List***(Dollars)*

<b>Priority</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>State(s)</b>	<b>Funding</b>	<b>Acres</b>
1	South San Juan Project Area	CO	\$9,000,000	7,500
2	Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail	CA	\$8,000,000	16,565
3	Blackfoot River Watershed	MT	\$7,000,000	5,648
4	La Cienega Area of Critical Environmental Concern	NM	\$4,500,000	298
5	Red Cliffs National Conservation Area	UT	\$5,700,000	67
6	Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument	OR	\$2,500,000	1,425
7	Craters of the Moon National Monument	ID	\$2,400,000	2,143
8	Grand Staircase - Escalante National Monument	UT	\$600,000	59
9	Boise Foothills	ID	\$200,000	30
	<b>FY 2025 Requested Project List</b>		<b>\$39,900,000</b>	<b>33,764</b>

**Agency:** Bureau of Land Management

**Fiscal Year:** 2025

**Project / Unit:** South San Juan Project Area

**Priority:** 1

**State(s):** CO

**Congressional District(s):** CO-3

**Location:**

The project area is in south-central Colorado in the majestic San Luis Valley in Conejos County, about 20 miles west of La Jara, Colorado. It is bordered to the south by the Colorado/New Mexico State line, to the north by the Conejos/Rio Grande County line, and to the west by the Forest Service boundary line.

**Project Estimates**

Land/Cost	Acres	Cost
<b>Estimate for FY 2025</b>	<b>7,500</b>	<b>\$9,000,000</b>
Acquired to Date	0	\$0
Remaining to be Acquired	16,675	\$20,145,600

**Project Description:**

From soaring 14,000-ft. peaks to spectacular river gorges, the San Luis Valley (SLV) captivates, with sweeping, unspoiled vistas and Hispanic and Native American heritage. This area is rich in biodiversity due to its remoteness, ruggedness, and connectivity to other protected lands. It provides crucial wildlife corridors connecting habitats for elk, mule deer, pronghorn antelope, black bear, mountain lion, turkeys, and bighorn sheep. Large aquatic habitats lie within the project area, including 135 miles of perennial streams and two reservoirs, providing key habitats for the native Rio Grande cutthroat trout, Rio Grande chub, and Rio Grande sucker and important recreational fisheries for brook, brown, rainbow, and tiger trout. La Jara Creek provides occupied habitat for the federally endangered Southwestern Willow Flycatcher. The South San Juan Project Area is at the Colorado/New Mexico border and extends to the Conejos/Rio Grande County line in the southwest portion of the SLV. The project area encompasses La Jara Reservoir State Wildlife Area (SWA), Hot Creek SWA, La Jara SWA, Ra Jadero Canyon Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), and Los Mogotes ACEC and borders Rio Grande National Forest (RGNF) lands, including the South San Juan Wilderness. Its unique topography, geography, and cultural landscape provide an ideal opportunity to address the critical needs of adjacent underserved communities by developing recreational resources; providing livestock grazing resources; restoring riparian and upland wildlife habitat; providing vitally important traditional uses, including hunting and fishing, firewood collection, and piñon nut gathering; and preserving significant cultural sites across a cultural landscape near sacred sites and the Old Spanish Trail and the Sangre de Cristo Natural Heritage Area. La Jara Reservoir Archaeological District (listed on the National Register of Historic Places) is also within the project boundary.

The SLV is considered sacred and ancestral lands to 25 Native Tribes and Pueblos, who visit and use the area frequently. Widespread, unique cultural sites exist within the project area, indicating more than 8,000 years of Native American occupation and use, including La Botica, or “the pharmacy,” a unique, ecologically distinct microhabitat sacred to many Tribes and a culturally significant location for Hispanic Americans to collect medicinal and ceremonial plants. Public lands, or “Nuestras Tierras Publicas,” are a key part of the Latino heritage in southern Colorado. The diverse neighboring communities of La Jara, Antonito, and Capulin (Conejos County) have complex histories that intermingle with public lands.

**Purpose / Need:**

The proposed acquisition is 7,500 acres with the larger La Jara Creek Parcel Acquisition, a collaborative multiagency acquisition consisting of 45,650 acres from a willing landowner, who wants to keep the land available for public use. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) would acquire 22,575 acres bordered or surrounded by BLM-managed land, Forest Service would acquire 21,245 acres bordered by the RGNF, and Colorado Parks and Wildlife would acquire 1,830 acres in the La Jara Reservoir SWA, which they manage under a lease. The proposed acquisition supports the Biden Administration’s 30x30 and Justice40 initiatives to invest Federal resources in disadvantaged areas and goals for connecting with communities and conserving landscapes for wildlife migration corridors and movement (reducing fragmentation). It also supports environmental justice communities in the region, allowing for access and traditional uses, and reduces future impacts from climate change. The proposed acquisition will also help to reduce or eliminate adverse environmental, biological, and cultural impacts to the landscape if it were to be sold to a private entity. The enhanced public access resulting from this acquisition would increase different types of outdoor activities and experiences for visitors in a resource-rich area. The wildlife migration corridors and habitat connectivity, rich cultural resources, recreation opportunities, and regional and local traditional uses will remain intact and be enhanced through public lands management and cooperation among agencies.

**Cooperator(s):**

Western Rivers Conservancy, Rio Grande National Forest, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Colorado State Land Board, Trout Unlimited

**Operations & Maintenance**

<b>Savings/Cost</b>	<b>Start-up</b>	<b>Annual</b>
<b>Estimated O&amp;M Savings:</b>	\$0	\$20,000
<b>Estimated O&amp;M Costs:</b>	\$50,000	\$0

**Describe O&M:**

O&M savings and costs are based on the BLM’s 22,575-acre acquisition. Startup savings are related to costs associated with expense and management of isolated lands. Blocking up lands into a larger parcel creates management efficiencies. Startup and annual expenses would: maintain facilities (signs, roads, trails, boat ramps, buildings, etc.); maintain, monitor, or restore resources; monitor for compliance, trespass, overuse, hazards, etc.; update/print maps and brochures; treat noxious and invasive plants. Annual expenses are subsidized through partnerships for future management and include challenge cost share, grants, donations, stewardship/monitoring, and volunteer services from grazing permittees, San Luis Valley Great Outdoors (Partner), and the Southwest Conservation Corps.

Agency: Bureau of Land Management

Fiscal Year: 2025

**Project / Unit: Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail**

**Priority: 2**

**State(s): CA**

**Congressional District(s): CA-21**

**Location:**

The project is in eastern Kern County, CA within the Tehachapi Linkage Wildlife Allocation, Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA), Jawbone SRMA, and the Jawbone-Butterbrecht Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) areas.

**Project Estimates**

Land/Cost	Acres	Cost
<b>Estimate for FY 2025</b>	<b>16,565</b>	<b>\$8,000,000</b>
<b>Acquired to Date</b>	780	\$1,600,000
<b>Remaining to be Acquired</b>	100,000	\$80,000,000

**Project Description:**

Designated for its scenic significance, Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail (PCT) spans California desert valleys to Northwestern rain forests, offering hikers and equestrians a wide variety of climate and terrain. The PCT SRMA covers approximately 155 miles of the 2,650 total miles of the PCT. The PCT is managed for primitive camping, equestrian use, hiking, photography, scenic viewing, wildlife watching, and hunting. The Tehachapi portion is a popular stop for hikers to resupply and pick up mail since there are two major PCT trailheads in the areas.

The landscape encompasses habitats from four intersecting ecoregions containing a vast range of biodiversity that is unique to this region. The intersecting ecoregions include a low mountain pass used by thousands of migrating birds and bats and is just two miles south of a nationally recognized bird migratory stopover. The Tehachapi Linkage Wildlife Allocation Area runs through the western portion of the project area, identified for its high habitat, corridor linkages, and watershed integrity, and preserves important opportunities for plant and animal populations to migrate along an elevation gradient in response to climate change. It is the southern limit of many Sierra Nevada plants and animals and contains special status animal species such as the federally listed California condor and habitat that is essential for maintaining species diversity and genetic linkages.

**Purpose / Need:**

Tehachapi Linkage is arguably the most important wildlife movement corridor in the state because it is situated at the juncture of several ecoregions and is considered a "biogeographic crossroads" where the Sierra Nevada, South Coast, Central Valley, and the Mojave Desert meet. This blending of environments with immense biodiversity is unique to this region. A remarkable 41 different special status species have been observed in the project area, including 26 special status bird species. The overarching species conservation goal of BLM's land use plan is to protect, manage, and contribute to recovery of viable populations of BLM special status species,

including conserving sufficient habitat and resources to assist these species in adapting to environmental fluctuations and provide habitat connectivity that facilitates population movement and genetic exchange among populations. The proposed acquisition will reduce checkerboard ownership and improve the ability to manage and accommodate changes to species ranges in response to climate change in a wildlife movement corridor of statewide significance. The proposal would transfer approximately six miles of PCT from private ownership and allow for increased trail signing, brushing, water control structures, and other facilities to improve the condition, sustainability, and utility of the PCT. The properties overlap with the Jawbone Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA) which is popular for both motorized and non-motorized activities. SRMAs are vital properties in promoting conservation and biological connectivity, while maintaining recreational access to public lands. Designated off-highway vehicle (OHV) routes run throughout the project area, and the acquisition would provide for trail connectivity, along with providing additional access to areas for low-impact activities such as camping, hiking, wildlife viewing, photography, and many other opportunities.

The cultural resource values within the proposal include prehistoric villages, habitation locales, lithic reduction sites, and extensive pictograph and petroglyph rock art sites. Historic resources include stagecoach stops, railroad sidings, mining, Civilian Conservation Corp camps and projects, and historically significant routes of travel such as Bird Springs Pass used by the Fremont Expedition, and Walker Pass, a National Historic Landmark identified as one of the first overland routes into California. The project area is located within the traditional range of the Niwī (Kawaiisu) people, who identified several traditional resource gathering sites, ceremonial locations, and religious areas.

**Cooperator(s):**

Trust for Public Land, Mojave Desert Land Trust, Friends of the Desert Mountains, Pacific Crest Trail Association, Tubatulabals of Kern Valley, Defenders of Wildlife, Science & Collaboration for Connected Wildlands, Sierra Club, Friends of Jawbone.

**Operations & Maintenance**

<b>Savings/Cost</b>	<b>Start-up</b>	<b>Annual</b>
<b>Estimated O&amp;M Savings:</b>	\$0	\$0
<b>Estimated O&amp;M Costs:</b>	\$45,000	\$60,000

**Describe O&M:**

Start-up: Conduct natural and cultural resource inventories, document baseline conservation easement information, construct or remove fencing, hold a dedication event, install gates at trail heads or block roads, install wayfinding interpretive or regulatory signage, prepare a management plan (including NEPA and asset acquisition business plan associated clearance documents), survey boundaries and reserved sites (including all survey and site design), prepare maps and brochures; remove buildings, known hazards and/or garbage; and train staff to manage particular aspects of the acquisition.

Annual: Maintain and replace equipment, maintain facilities (signs, roads, trails, boat ramps and/or buildings, etc.), maintain, monitor or restore resources, monitor for compliance (trespass overuse hazards etc.), print/update maps and brochures, and treat non-native invasive plants, provide conservation easement stewardship. Costs are offset by anticipated annual assistance through conservation easement stewardship.

Agency: Bureau of Land Management

Fiscal Year: 2025

**Project / Unit: Blackfoot River Watershed**

**Priority: 3**

**State(s): MT**

**Congressional District(s): MT-1**

**Location:**

The project area is located approximately 30 miles east of Missoula, Montana, in Missoula County.

**Project Estimates**

Land/Cost	Acres	Cost
<b>Estimate for FY 2025</b>	<b>5,648</b>	<b>\$7,000,000</b>
<b>Acquired to Date</b>	45,651	\$41,962,600
<b>Remaining to be Acquired</b>	22,390	\$25,500,000

**Project Description:**

This proposed acquisition is a continuation of the Blackfoot River Watershed Project which started in 1992. The project has acquired lands by direct LWCF purchase (36,636 ac.), land exchange (10,733 ac.) and donation (197 ac.). BLM is actively working multiple acquisitions in the area using prior year funds. Recreation use is increasing in this area due to proximity to Missoula, Montana. In 2000, the Blackfoot Challenge, a local watershed collaborative including The Nature Conservancy (TNC), began having discussions concerning the future ownership and management of industrial forestland in the area. The real estate market has dramatically changed in recent years and now land often commands its highest value when subdivided into smaller parcels and sold for residential or recreational development. BLM has participated in TNC's community-driven process, together with the U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, local county governments and local private landowners, in developing a long-term plan for the disposition and management of the lands.

**Purpose / Need:**

The proposed acquisition of 5,648 acres, adjacent to existing BLM managed lands, maintains access to public lands for recreational opportunities, including but not limited to snowmobile use, cross country skiing, hiking, biking, horseback riding, and fishing. Under past and present landowner "open lands" policies, recreationists have come to view the former industrial timberlands as if they are publicly owned. The proposed acquisition maintains access for public use and enjoyment as well as protecting critically important resources. The proposed acquisition would ensure active management for multiple benefits including climate change mitigation, restoring habitat for threatened and endangered species (Canada Lynx and grizzly bear), and ensuring proper watershed function for aquatic species. It would also provide working lands with active forestry and fuels programs; continued grazing; and provide greater access to sacred areas, plant gathering areas, and other important areas for Tribal groups.

**Cooperator(s):**

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Montana Department of Natural Resources, Blackfoot Challenge, The Nature Conservancy, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation.

**Operations & Maintenance**

<b>Savings/Cost</b>	<b>Start-up</b>	<b>Annual</b>
<b>Estimated O&amp;M Savings:</b>	\$0	\$0
<b>Estimated O&amp;M Costs:</b>	\$10,000	\$15,000

**Describe O&M:**

Maintain facilities (signs, roads, trails, boat ramps and/or buildings, etc.); maintain, monitor, or restore resources; treat noxious and/or invasive plants.

**Agency:** Bureau of Land Management

**Fiscal Year:** 2025

**Project / Unit: La Cienega Area of Critical Environmental Concern**

**Priority:** 4

**State(s):** NM

**Congressional District(s):** NM-3

**Location:**

The project area located in La Cienega in Santa Fe County, New Mexico, approximately 18 miles southwest of Santa Fe, New Mexico and along the Santa Fe River.

**Project Estimates**

Land/Cost	Acres	Cost
<b>Estimate for FY 2025</b>	<b>298</b>	<b>\$4,500,000</b>
<b>Acquired to Date</b>	212	\$1,700,000
<b>Remaining to be Acquired</b>	1,000	\$15,000,000

**Project Description**

The La Cienega ACEC, is approximately 13,390 acres containing relevant and important cultural, riparian, scenic, and vegetation values as well as wildlife/special status species habitat.

The Santa Fe River flows through the ACEC supporting a rich riparian resource and a variety of activities including, hiking, wildlife viewing, camping and general sightseeing. The river and associated riparian habitat provide a corridor for a variety of migratory birds which move through the area and likely nest near the river. Other habitat types within the ACEC are dispersed over the landscape in a patchwork pattern that provides large amount of edge habitat, where one habitat type blends into another.

The project area also includes the West Santa Fe-Cieneguilla SRMA which provides opportunities to learn about the historic and cultural resources in this front country setting and explore trail links between BLM and county lands.

The El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro National Historic Trail (El Camino Trail) established in 2000 as part of National Trail System, runs through the La Cienega ACEC. The El Camino was the earliest European American trade route in the United States. The 1,600-mile route spans two centuries (1598-1882) and two countries (between Spain's colonial capital at Mexico City to Ohkay Owingeh (San Juan Pueblo), New Mexico). It was blazed atop a network of indigenous footpaths that connected Mexico's ancient cultures with those of America's southwest. The trail is administered jointly by the BLM and the NPS. These agencies work in close partnership with El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro Trail Association (CARTA), the Tribal governments whose ancestors first encountered the Spanish colonists, and a large network of State, county, and municipal governmental agencies, private landowners, nonprofit heritage conservation groups, and many others. Trail sections are in private, municipal, Tribal, Federal, or State ownership.

The La Cienega ACEC includes four of the 24 sites identified by the Galisteo Basin Archeological Sites Preservation Act of 2004. The BLM actively manages the project area to sustain the health, diversity, and



productivity of public lands for the use and enjoyment of the public while preserving and respecting multi-cultural heritage.

**Purpose / Need**

The acquisition of the La Cieneguilla Petroglyphs provides BLM the opportunity to develop a recreational site very close to the city of Santa Fe. It provides viewing opportunity for hundreds of petroglyphs along the Santa Fe River. The site is also of interest to those tracing the route of El Camino Trail. The purpose of the acquisition is to improve recreational access and opportunities to explore La Cienega ACEC, protect critical ecological habitat centered around rare riparian resources, and to preserve rich multi-cultural resources in New Mexico. Permanent conservation of this property has been a twenty-year goal of the BLM and its partner, the Trust for Public Land. This acquisition would contribute to on-going efforts with the county and city to develop a contiguous river trail to link communities with natural resources and the area’s rich cultural history.

The proposed acquisition includes 0.5 mile along the Santa Fe River and encompasses riparian habitat that provides critical cover and water for wildlife. It is also an important migratory corridor and stopover site for many migratory birds. The New Mexico Department of Game and Fish allocates 345 hunting licenses for mule deer and 840 licenses for elk in this game unit. These species are known to frequent the Santa Fe River as they move throughout the unit and from winter range to summer range.

Sections of the riparian habitat along the Santa Fe River need critical management to return the area to its full functioning condition, restore native plant species, and reduce or control the density of non-native, invasive vegetation. According to the Santa Fe Riparian Vegetation Monitoring report (2010) conducted on BLM land adjacent to the subject property, 121 plant species were identified during the four years of vegetation cover surveys. Most woody cover and over half of all herbaceous cover was from non-native species. Without active management, the entire floodplain is at risk of being dominated almost exclusively by non-native species.

The property contains a Galisteo Basin Archaeological Sites Preservation Act site as well as the El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro National Historic Trail and other cultural resources of significant importance. The La Cienega Pithouse Village is a multi-structure Galisteo Basin archeological site located on BLM and subject property. The site is from the Late Development period (A.D.1075-1175) and the multi-structure site contains surface room blocks and pit structures atop a small mesa on the left bank of the Santa Fe River.

**Cooperator(s):**

Cooperators include Santa Fe County, City of Santa Fe, The Trust for Public Land, New Mexico Archaeological Council, Archaeology Southwest, New Mexico Museum Office of Archaeological Studies, and New Mexico SiteWatch.

**Operations & Maintenance:**

<b>Savings/Cost</b>	<b>Start-up</b>	<b>Annual</b>
<b>Estimated O&amp;M Savings:</b>	\$0	\$0
<b>Estimated O&amp;M Costs:</b>	\$70,000	\$30,000

**Describe O&M:**

Maintain and replace equipment, maintain facilities (signs, roads, trails, boat ramps and/or buildings, etc.), maintain, monitor or restore resources, and monitor for compliance, trespass, overuse, hazards, etc.

**Agency:** Bureau of Land Management

**Fiscal Year:** 2025

**Project / Unit: Red Cliffs National Conservation Area****Priority: 5****State(s): UT****Congressional District(s): UT-2****Location:**

Red Cliffs National Conservation Area, north of St George, Utah

**Project Estimates**

<b>Land/Cost</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Cost</b>
<b>Estimate for FY 2025</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>\$5,700,000</b>
<b>Acquired to Date</b>	7,230	\$65,597,200
<b>Remaining to be Acquired</b>	123	\$13,100,000

**Project Description:**

The Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (Public Law 111–11) designated the Red Cliffs National Conservation Area (NCA) (1) “to conserve, protect, and enhance the ecological, scenic, wildlife, recreational, cultural, historical, natural, educational, and scientific resources” of the public lands; and (2) to protect each species listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act. Most of the 45,560-acre NCA is designated critical habitat for the threatened Mojave Desert tortoise and supports one of the highest population densities of tortoise across its range. The NCA is bounded by the towering Pine Valley Mountains and the Dixie National Forest to the north, Snow Canyon State Park to the west, and an arc of rapidly growing communities to the south, including the five largest cities in Washington County, Utah. It affords local residents and visitors opportunities to enjoy open space, hiking, mountain biking, and equestrian trail riding on 130 miles of nonmotorized trails and to experience solitude and natural quiet in the Red Mountain and Cottonwood Canyon Wilderness areas, all within a few minutes’ drive from the urban areas. The NCA also constitutes 75 percent of the land base of a multijurisdictional mitigation reserve, locally known as the Red Cliffs Desert Reserve, which includes public lands managed by BLM, lands managed by the State of Utah, municipal lands, and private lands. BLM and other parties signed a final Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) implementation agreement in 2021 and that agreement commits BLM to continue to acquire non-Federal lands through direct purchase, donation, and the exchange of public lands that are outside the Beaver Dam Wash and Red Cliffs NCAs and designated wilderness areas.

**Purpose / Need:**

The acquisition of 33 acres of critical tortoise habitat into Federal ownership within a National Conservation Area would ensure that the habitat and populations of the threatened desert tortoise would be conserved and protected by (1) implementing management goals, objectives, and decisions from the approved record of decision for the Red Cliffs National Conservation Area resource management plan (2016, amended 2021); and (2) fulfilling agency commitments in the final implementation agreement for the Washington County HCP (2021). Other resource values that may be present on the acquired lands, such as cultural or paleontological resources, would also benefit from the protections afforded by National Conservation Area status. Acquisition of the additional private inholdings would benefit Washington County and local municipalities by fulfilling the

terms of the county’s HCP, the mission of BLM, and the commitments that BLM made in signing the two implementation agreements.

**Cooperator(s):**

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington County, Washington County Water Conservancy District, City of St. George, Washington City, State of Utah, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, Desert Tortoise Council, Zion National Park, U.S. Forest Service, University of Utah Archeological Center, Southern Utah University, The Nature Conservancy, Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, Dixie Mountain Bike Trails Association, American Conservation Experience, Southern Utah National Conservation Lands Friends, Utah Division of State Lands and Forestry, Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration

**Operations & Maintenance**

<b>Savings/Cost</b>	<b>Start-up</b>	<b>Annual</b>
<b>Estimated O&amp;M Savings:</b>	\$0	\$0
<b>Estimated O&amp;M Costs:</b>	\$5,000	\$3,000

**Describe O&M:**

Monitor for compliance, trespass, overuse, hazards, etc.; update and print maps and brochures.

Agency: Bureau of Land Management

Fiscal Year: 2025

**Project / Unit: Cascades-Siskiyou National Monument**

**Priority: 6**

**State(s): OR**

**Congressional District(s): OR-2**

**Location:**

Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument is in Jackson County, Oregon and a small section of northern California. Ashland, OR (closest metropolitan area) is to the west of the monument.

**Project Estimates**

Land/Cost	Acres	Cost
<b>Estimate for FY 2025</b>	<b>1,425</b>	<b>\$2,500,000</b>
<b>Acquired to Date</b>	12,968	\$16,284,990
<b>Remaining to be Acquired</b>	15,000	\$25,000,000

**Project Description:**

Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument (CSNM) was the first national monument set aside solely for the preservation of biodiversity, recognizing this important ecoregion as the confluence of multiple mountain ranges and converging habitats. The CSNM is a biodiversity “hot spot” which would benefit significantly from the consolidation of land ownership within the monument. Plant communities within the CSNM represent a rare convergence of vegetation types found at the confluence of the Great Basin, Cascade, and Klamath Mountains, including the most biodiverse conifer forests in the United States. The project area encompasses alpine meadows supporting wildflowers, including the rare Greene’s Mariposa Lily. The acquisition parcels are bordered by BLM-identified Old Growth Emphasis and Diversity Emphasis Areas including the Soda Mountain Wilderness, and they provide important connectivity within the monument’s ecosystem. The CSNM provides habitat for three endemic bureau sensitive fish species: Jenny Creek suckers, the speckled dace, and a long-isolated stock of redband trout. The lands support populations of white-headed woodpecker, the threatened Oregon spotted frog, and beaver.

**Purpose / Need:**

The purpose of the acquisition is to acquire and safeguard biological resources within the expanded boundary of the CSNM. The expanded boundary now incorporates lower-elevation habitat types, such as foothill oak woodland habitats, that support incredible biodiversity. A key purpose of the expansion was also to deepen the buffer around the original monument and improve habitat connectivity along the elevation gradient. Acquisition of Emigrant Creek Ranch into the monument’s portfolio will increase habitat and connectivity for game species moving between the mountain systems and the lower elevation oak woodlands. The acquisition of this property, totaling 1,425 acres, will also help facilitate the adaptation of ecosystems to the effects of climate change, create buffers around core habitat areas, and protect climate "refugia", i.e., areas where targeted species and habitat types are less susceptible to the impacts of climate change. The risk of future development is high, as

the property is comprised of 16 legal lots many of which have the potential to be sited for dwellings. Development of the property poses a risk not only to the exceptional oak woodland and grassland habitat on the property itself, which supports many species of conservation significance, but also to the intact ecosystems and recreational opportunities within the original national monument boundary, including an adjacent old-growth emphasis area. Public ownership of these parcels would provide new recreational opportunities for the public to enjoy the national monument, and greatly enhance recreational opportunities on adjacent public land. These parcels provide important summer habitat for deer and elk and hunting opportunities for species such as, black bear, deer, elk, cougar, bobcat, coyote, gray fox, grouse, quail, and numerous others. Recreational opportunities include birdwatching, wildlife viewing, hiking, equestrian use, and dispersed camping.

**Cooperator(s):**

Soda Mountain Wilderness Council, Friends of Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument

**Operations & Maintenance**

<b>Savings/Cost</b>	<b>Start-up</b>	<b>Annual</b>
<b>Estimated O&amp;M Savings:</b>	\$0	\$0
<b>Estimated O&amp;M Costs:</b>	\$5,000	\$5,000

**Describe O&M:**

Maintain, monitor, or restore resources; monitor for compliance (trespass, overuse, hazards, etc.), and treat non-native invasive plants.

Agency: Bureau of Land Management

Fiscal Year: 2025

**Project / Unit: Craters of the Moon National Monument**

**Priority: 7**

**State(s): ID**

**Congressional District(s): ID-2**

**Location:**

Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve is a 750,000-acre geologic wonderland located in Blaine, Butte, Lincoln, Minidoka, and Power counties.

**Project Estimates**

Land/Cost	Acres	Cost
<b>Estimate for FY 2025</b>	<b>2,143</b>	<b>\$2,400,000</b>
<b>Acquired to Date</b>	0	\$0
<b>Remaining to be Acquired</b>	12,657	\$12,000,000

**Project Description:**

The project area, Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve (Monument), is in south central Idaho within a two-hour drive of Twin Falls. The Monument contains the youngest and most geologically diverse section of basaltic lava terrain found on the Eastern Snake River Plain, an extensive area of volcanic formations that reaches across southern Idaho east to Yellowstone National Park. It includes three distinct lava fields: Craters of the Moon, Kings Bowl, and Wapi. The Craters of the Moon Lava Field is the largest basaltic lava field of predominantly Holocene age (less than 10,000 years old) in the conterminous United States.

The Monument offers countless opportunities for hiking, camping, cross-country skiing, wildlife viewing, night sky viewing, and backcountry travel. For casual travelers, the 7-mile Loop Road and trails in the NPS Monument provide easy access to a range of volcanic features. A network of primitive roads, in the BLM backcountry, offer driving and exploration opportunities for motorists with high-clearance, 4-wheel-drive vehicles. Hunting is allowed on the BLM lands and within the NPS Preserve.

All or portions of 19 livestock grazing allotments lie within the Monument and are wholly managed by the BLM. There are approximately 38,000 sheep and cattle Animal Unit Months allocated on the BLM lands within the Monument boundary.

A cadastral survey of the Monument boundary was completed in 2001; the total area encompassed by the Monument boundary is 753,333 acres including 738,680 acres of Federal land, 8,157 acres of State land, and 6,642 acres of private land.

Most of the private land holdings in the Monument were obtained through the Desert Land, Carey, Reclamation Homestead, and the Stockraising Homestead acts. Private and state land inholdings are used primarily for grazing and contain related developments such as fences, wells, corrals, camp trailers, and livestock forage seedings.

**Purpose / Need:**

The first target property is in the northeastern area of the Monument in Butte County and comprises the Huddles Hole kipuka. There is an 80-acre BLM parcel in the center of the kipuka that is entirely surrounded by private land. Access to the property is by a primitive road off the Arco-Minidoka Road. No easements exist across the BLM that access the private property. Cultural resource inventories have not been completed on the property; however, there is a likelihood of evidence of pre-contact use of the kipuka and along the lava edges consistent to similar areas in the Monument. The private land has been grazed heavily in the past. Sagebrush, crested wheatgrass, and some perennial native vegetation occur along the lava edges. There is a report that an old cabin and a well with two troughs exists on the private land.

The second target property is located in north Laidlaw kipuka in Blaine County. It has been fenced by the private landowner in the past and has been cultivated/dryland farmed. The property is adjacent to Snowdrift Crater and the Great Rift Wilderness Study Area (WSA). Snowdrift Crater is a popular destination in the Monument for hunting and other recreational activities. The BLM estimates that 5,000 visitors per year make use of the undeveloped portions of the Monument, including visits to Snowdrift Crater and the Great Rift WSA. The parcel is located within designated Priority Sage Grouse Habitat. Snowdrift Crater is the top of a low angle shield volcano that formed nearly 500,000 years ago. Snowdrift rises about 800 feet above the sagebrush plains and is nearly three-quarters of a mile long and over 180 feet deep. The bowl-shaped crater holds snow during the winter and retains moisture year-round. It supports a large stand of quaking aspens and wildlife species including deer, elk, pronghorn, and many bird species.

Kipukas, sagebrush steppe, the Great Rift, and WSAs/Wilderness are the resources, objects, and values (ROV) that Craters of the Moon NM was expanded in 2000 to protect. The acquisitions have the potential to improve and enhance these values while increasing public access to these features and enhancing the National Conservation Lands system. The acquisitions also have the potential to help BLM to: manage recreational impacts at points of interest, rehabilitate sage grouse habitat, secure sage grouse habitat from fragmentation and development, provide integrated resource management, and provide conservation of lands in the Monument identified by scientists as having climate resilience, flow, and recognized biodiversity.

**Cooperator(s):**

The Nature Conservancy and The Wood River Land Trust.

**Operations & Maintenance**

Savings/Cost	Start-up	Annual
<b>Estimated O&amp;M Savings:</b>	\$0	\$0
<b>Estimated O&amp;M Costs:</b>	\$10,000	\$5,000

**Describe O&M:**

Maintain facilities (signs, roads, trails, boat ramps and/or buildings, etc.), maintain monitor or restore resources, and treat noxious and/or invasive plants.

**Agency:** Bureau of Land Management

**Fiscal Year:** 2025

**Project / Unit:** Grand Staircase - Escalante National Monument

**Priority:** 8

**State(s):** UT

**Congressional District(s):** UT-2

**Location:**

The Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument (GSENM) project area is in Garfield and Kane counties, Utah approximately 300 miles south of Salt Lake City and just north of the Arizona border. Nearby gateway communities are Kanab, Big Water, Escalante, Boulder, Tropic, Henrieville, and Cannonville, Utah.

**Project Estimates**

Land/Cost	Acres	Cost
<b>Estimate for FY 2025</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>\$600,000</b>
<b>Acquired to Date</b>	434	\$1,184,000
<b>Remaining to be Acquired</b>	14,000	\$140,000,000

**Project Description:**

The Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument (GSENM) was originally designated under Proclamation 6920 on September 18, 1996, as the first Bureau of Land Management (BLM)-administered National Monument. The Monument was designated for its vast and austere landscape that embraces a spectacular array of scientific and historic resources. This high, rugged, and remote region, where bold plateaus and multi-hued cliffs run for distances that defy human perspective, was the last place in the continental United States to be mapped. Even today, this unspoiled natural area remains a frontier, a quality that greatly enhances the monument's value for scientific study.

The Monument currently encompasses approximately 1.87 million acres of public lands. The current Resource Management Plan (RMP) contemplates the acquisition of lands that result in a net gain of important and manageable resource values on public lands, such as crucial wildlife habitat, cultural sites, high-value recreation areas, and wilderness character. The GSENM is a highly visited area for many recreational activities such as hunting, hiking, and camping. The area also includes critical wildlife habitats and corridors for several species such as Mexican spotted owl, Southwestern willow flycatcher, desert bighorn sheep, mule deer, and others. However, one of the most important qualities of the area is its remote nature and wilderness character. The area contains almost 900,000 acres of Wilderness Study Area. It is also an important area for Native American traditional uses and history.

The acquisition of private parcels in GSENM from willing sellers would further the administration's priorities by providing for habitat connectivity, protecting habitat for sensitive wildlife species, and supporting the America the Beautiful Initiative goal of conserving at least 30 percent of U.S. lands and waters by 2030. Acquisition of inholdings would also improve manageability of surrounding BLM lands, preserve the remote



character, provide for future recreation management needs, and protect other important resources, objects, and values.

**Purpose / Need:**

The GSENM LWCF project area is approximately 1.87 million acres in size and contains approximately 14,000 acres within the project boundary for potential future acquisition. Acquisition of inholdings improves the manageability of surrounding BLM lands and protects the important resources, objects, and values on Monument lands. The BLM currently has two willing sellers in Kane County, Utah.

The first parcel is a 38.24-acre private inholding located in the southwestern corner of GSENM surrounded by BLM-administered lands. The parcel has been owned by the same family for many years who had plans to develop the parcel for a remote recreational retreat, but who have now indicated they are willing to sell the property instead. Acquisition of the parcel would preclude future development of this isolated property within GSENM and provide for the protection of resources on the parcel. The parcel contains an important migratory path for mule deer and other mammals and birds as well as a petroglyph panel. There was a historic road through the canyon that crossed the parcel, but the road no longer exists and has not been inventoried. Acquisition of the parcel would also provide improved public recreational access along the entire stretch of Skutumpah Canyon.

The second parcel is a 20-acre private inholding located on the southern end of the monument. The parcel is surrounded by BLM-administered lands within GSENM and is owned by one landowner who recently purchased the property. The landowner has indicated he is a willing seller, and that BLM would be the most appropriate owner of the property. The parcel previously was part of a larger private land block on the western edge of the Paria River. However, in the early 2000s, the BLM acquired 180 acres directly to the north of the parcel leaving this 20-acre parcel isolated and with no vehicle access. Acquisition of the parcel would complete the acquisition of this important block of lands on the banks of the Paria River that was started over 20 years ago. The area is within the viewshed of the road leading to White House campground and trailhead which is a popular starting point for people hiking south into the Paria Canyon-Vermillion Cliffs Wilderness. The parcel looks down on the Paria River and any development is likely to have a negative effect on water quality. The parcel owner has considered development of the gravel resource on the property.

The BLM would like to acquire these two parcels to preserve the remote character and natural resources, protect archaeological sites, and continue to provide for outstanding recreation opportunities in the area.

**Cooperator(s):**

The Grand Canyon Trust, The Wilderness Land Trust

**Operations & Maintenance**

Savings/Cost	Start-up	Annual
Estimated O&M Savings:	\$0	\$0
Estimated O&M Costs:	\$500	\$500

**Describe O&M:**

Maintain, monitor, or restore resources.

Agency: Bureau of Land Management

Fiscal Year: 2025

**Project / Unit: Boise Foothills**

**Priority: 9**

**State(s): ID**

**Congressional District(s): ID-2**

**Location:**

The project area is the Boise Foothills Front adjacent to the city of Boise within Ada County.

**Project Estimates**

Land/Cost	Acres	Cost
<b>Estimate for FY 2025</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>\$200,000</b>
<b>Acquired to Date</b>	835	\$2,060,000
<b>Remaining to be Acquired</b>	500	\$1,800,000

**Project Description:**

The Boise Front Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA) is managed by the City of Boise, Ada County, Boise County, Idaho Department of Lands, Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and the U.S. Forest Service. Co-management of the Boise Front SRMA is successful due to the willingness of seven public land management agencies to step outside traditional practices, transcend jurisdictional boundaries, and collaborate to administer public resources in the Foothills. As Boise continues to grow, conservation of its Foothills open spaces will depend on the coordination and cooperation between public land management agencies, the public, and private landowners. The public benefits from the SRMA by having a healthy open space system, integrated conservation of wildlife, recreational uses, scenic vistas, natural areas, public uses, and cultural resources protections across public lands. Some of the resources within the SRMA include the following:

**Cultural-** While only a fraction of the Boise Front SRMA have been surveyed, over 130 archeological sites were found consisting of Historic sites associated with military use, European-American homesteads or early settlements, and Native American sites.

**Wildlife-** The Foothills are a crucial winter range for 6,000 to 8,000 mule deer. Approximately 214 species of birds use the Foothills at various times of the year. The variety of vegetation found in the Foothills provides the habitat to support these birds during various stages of their life cycle by providing food and cover. A number of rare or otherwise special status species are found in the Foothills including bald eagles, migrating ferruginous hawks, flammulated owls, long-billed curlew, and big eared bats.

**Aquatics-** The Foothills are an important part of the Lower Boise River watershed and provide for water recharge of the shallow and deep aquifers as well as the Boise River. The Foothills watershed is comprised primarily of ephemeral and intermittent streams with a few larger perennial streams such as Dry Creek and Cottonwood Creek, which support minor irrigation diversions and healthy riparian zones. Isolated springs recharge some stream channels, providing an important source of surface water for wildlife.

Plants- The plant communities in the Boise Foothills can be divided into six major types: grasslands, upland shrubs, mountain shrubs, forests, riparian areas, and planted woodland groves. Grassland and upland shrub communities are found on the lower and mid-elevation slopes, mountain shrub and forested vegetation on the higher elevation slopes, riparian communities on the floodplains and in gulches, and planted woodland groves near the city. A few of the rare and special plant species within the Boise Foothills are Mulford’s milkvetch, slick-spot peppergrass, and compact earth lichen.

**Purpose / Need:**

The purpose of this action is to acquire approximately 30 acres of undeveloped private land within the Boise Front SRMA adjacent to the Boise River WMA and other BLM-managed public land. The acquisition would help implement the 1988 Cascade RMP which states that the BLM should obtain acquisitions of lands that contribute to the management of important natural resources and to support direction from Secretarial Order 3362 to improve habitat quality in big game winter range and migratory corridors.

Parcel acquisition would help protect crucial big game (elk and mule deer) winter range within the IDFG’s Boise River Population management unit from urban development. The most recent IDFG survey data reported 28,599 deer, and 7,199 elk in the unit. The parcel would provide connectivity to adjacent big game winter range habitat for the WMA. The parcel would also conserve breeding habitat for a suite of migratory bird species common to the Boise foothills: lazuli bunting, western meadow lark, vesper sparrow, Bullock’s oriole, and warbler species. Riparian habitat would also benefit wildlife species including a BLM Idaho Type 2 Sensitive Species, the Western Toad.

A 0.3-mile-long reach of Picket Pin Creek flows through the project area parcel of interest. One acre of riparian area borders this reach. This stream has an intermittent flow regime but supports a vigorous community of arroyo willows and other more drought-tolerant woody riparian vegetation such as black hawthorn and syringa, Idaho’s State flower.

With increasing loss of riparian areas to development, downstream communities may experience more frequent and intense floods, reduced water quality, reduced wildlife and fish populations, as well as reduced stream flow duration and bank storage capacity. Benefits from healthy riparian areas include flood control, erosion control, water filtration, wildlife habitat, and recreation.

**Cooperator(s):**

City of Boise, Idaho Department of Fish and Game

**Operations & Maintenance**

<b>Savings/Cost</b>	<b>Start-up</b>	<b>Annual</b>
<b>Estimated O&amp;M Savings:</b>	\$0	\$0
<b>Estimated O&amp;M Costs:</b>	\$0	\$0

**Describe O&M:**

Due to the cooperative agreement for management of the SRMA, there would be no additional O&M savings or costs. The group would cooperatively update maps and brochures.