Berryessa Snow Mountain
National Monument

Annual Manager’s Report—Fiscal Year 2017
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Beautiful vistas are abundant within the Cache Creek, Snow Mountain, and Cedar Roughs Wilderness Areas of Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument.
Berryessa Snow Mountain Profile

Designating Authority

Designating Authority: Presidential Proclamation – Establishment of the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument (BSM)

Date of Designation: July 10, 2015

Other legislation and documents guiding management include Northern California Coastal Wild Heritage Wilderness Act (Public Law 109-362 – October 17, 2006) and acquisition/donation agreements.

Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument is cooperatively managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the United States Forest Service (USFS).

Acreage

Total Acres in Unit 330,780 (BLM & USFS)
BLM Acres 133,566 (BLM)
Other Federal Acres 197,214 (USFS)
State Acres* 0
Private Acres* 0
*State and Private acres are not part of the total unit acres

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BLM Budget

Total Fiscal Year 2017 Budget $568,000
Subactivity 1711 $ 59,000
Other Subactivities’ Contributions $475,000 (planning & travel management)
Other Funding $ 34,000
Map of Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument
Managing Partners

The BLM and USFS cooperatively manage federal lands within this national monument. The state of California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) owns lands within the national monument boundaries. CDFW cooperatively manages lands within the Cache Creek Natural Area.

Staffing

Monument staffing is shared by the BLM and USFS through a Service First Agreement. The monument employs one staff member, a Monument Manager (GS-040). Supervision and support for this position is provided by both agencies. The Monument Manager devotes 100% of her time to enhancing interagency communications and supporting the work of partners, educational institutions, federal staff, and volunteers within the monument.

BLM staff continue to provide work within the new monument boundaries on BLM lands, and USFS staff continue to provide work on USFS lands. Each agency tracks work and accomplishments in accordance with their agency policies. The following information is available for BLM staff working within the monument boundary.

Approximately half of the lands managed by the BLM Ukiah Field Office are also within the monument boundary. Thus, the following information approximates the percentage of work that BLM Ukiah Field Office positions that existed prior to monument designation, continued to work on BLM lands that are now also located within the national monument boundary during 2017.

Field Manager (GS-0340) 20%
Recreation Planner (GS-0023) 40%
Archeologist (GS-0193) 70%
Wildlife Biologist (GS-0486) 50%
Environmental Protection Specialist (GS-0028) 50%
Planning and Environmental Coordinator (GS-0301) 40%
Public Contact Representative (GS-0962) 30%
Park Ranger (GS-0025) 30%
Equipment Operators (WG-5716) 20%
Realty Specialist (GS-1170) 50%
Law Enforcement Ranger (GS-1801) 10%
Geographic Information Specialist (GS-0301) 5%
Planning and NEPA

Status of the Resource Management Plan

The Presidential Proclamation that established Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument states that a management plan shall be jointly prepared and that it will “maximize opportunities, pursuant to applicable legal authorities, for shared resources, operational efficiency, and cooperation.” An Interagency Monument Management Team, Service First Agreement, and Interdisciplinary Review Teams were created for this purpose.

BLM-managed lands are within the Ukiah Field Office jurisdiction and continue to be managed under the Ukiah Resource Management Plan (RMP) (2006) while the monument management plan is being developed. More than 80% of monument funding in 2017 supported contracts, staff, and agreements to collect resource data (travel management, cultural context, botanical information, etc). The BLM intends to amend the 2006 RMP to incorporate management of the objects and values established in the Presidential Proclamation.

USFS-managed lands are within the Mendocino National Forest jurisdiction and continue to be managed under the Mendocino National Forest Land and Resources Management Plan.

The BLM and USFS began the planning process by hosting pre-scoping Community Conversations in 2016 to discuss public values associated with the National Monument. A summary report from these public meetings and an interagency Public Participation Strategy can be found on the Mendocino National Forest website.

At the request of Native American tribal leadership, presentations about the national monument management planning process were made to the Elam Indian Community and Yoche Dehe Wintun Nation in 2017.

Status of Activity Plans

No new activity plans were developed for the monument in 2017. Mendocino National Forest already has a travel management plan that includes USFS managed lands within the monument. The public identified travel management for BLM lands as a monument planning need during the 2016 “Community Conversations” meetings. BLM has begun the contracting process for inventorying existing travel routes within the monument. In addition to contracted inventory work, non-profit partners provided information, and AmeriCorps crews recorded a baseline of existing routes within the Cedar Roughs and Cache Creek Wilderness Areas.

Key National Environmental Policy Act Actions and/or Project Authorizations

The Monument’s proximity to Sacramento, San Francisco, and Santa Rosa make it an important recreational setting for millions of California residents. For information about
actions and project authorizations on USFS managed lands, please refer to the US Forest Service Schedule of Proposed Actions website. For information about actions and project authorizations on BLM managed lands, please refer to the BLM E-Planning website.

USFS Mendocino National Forest issued the following permits and authorizations in 2017:
- Goat Mountain Radio Vault
- 2017 Cowbell Enduro OHV event

BLM Ukiah Field Office issued the following use permits and authorizations in 2017:
- Cache Creek Ridge Ride Endurance Event
- 2017 Oakland Motorcycle Club Sheet Iron 300 Dual Sport Ride
- White Water Adventure and Cache Canyon River Trips 2017
- 2017 North American Trail Ride Conference Cowboy Camp Ride
- KIKA Hunting Guides Special Recreation Permit
- Indian Valley Recreation Area Wet Meadow Restoration
- California Department of Transportation right-of-way amendment for repairs along State Highway 20 and 29
- Assignment of existing Berryessa Peak Communication Site right-of-way to a new owner

Recreational opportunities in the National Monument.
Year’s Projects and Accomplishments

General Accomplishments

The Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument Service First Master Agreement was developed and implemented in fiscal year 2017. This master agreement sets forth a mechanism for cooperative management of monument lands by both BLM and USFS. Three interagency agreements, under the service first master agreement, will support monument staffing, provide signage, and support public engagement opportunities. The BLM and USFS worked together in 2017 to set the stage for cooperative partnerships with local communities, recreational user group, and interested organizations.

Berryessa Snow Mountain found numerous ways of Serving the American Family in 2017 by maintaining family friendly recreation sites, engaging young people in public lands management, and helping to develop fire resilient communities.

Annual visitation for the monument is estimated to exceed 100,000 users annually. In 2017, data counters were installed at several BLM-managed recreation areas to determine the actual number of monument users per year. Mendocino National Forest collects new visitor use data every five years and will embark on this survey in 2018.

Privately sponsored equestrian and motorized events continue to draw visitors to the area. The SheetIron 300 Dual Sport Motorcycle Ride occurred on May 20-21, 2017. This event began at the Stoneyford Rodeo Grounds, and traveled along dirt roads in the monument to arrive in Fort Bragg, and back again the next day. The North Bay Sawmill Enduro April 2, 2017 hosted a picnic at Cowboy Camp, and the Cowbell Enduro was hosted on USFS lands.

Equestrian riders enjoying a sunny day at the 2017 Annual Cache Creek Ridge Run.

This year, the Cache Creek Ridge Ride hosted 148 equestrian riders on May 6-7, 2017. Participants spent the night at Cowboy Camp and rode as many as 50 miles of trail during
this two-day event. The event was a great success and the sponsoring group did an excellent job of maintaining trails in the Cache Creek Natural Area both before and after this event. The 2017 Cowboy Camp Region 1 North American Trail Ride Conference hosted a competitive event on designated trails in the Cache Creek Natural Area. Horses and riders were judged while traversing natural obstacles. This event occurred May 20-21, 2017. Participants and livestock spent the night at Cowboy Camp. Recreational events such as these draw people whose purchases support the local economy.

Monument, USFS, and BLM staff participated in a FireScape Mendocino Workshop hosted in Upper Lake, CA on March 14-15, 2017. FireScape Mendocino is a collaborative group of volunteers from the local community that includes residents, non-profit organizations, agency and industry staff “who work together to shape the future of our fire-prone landscape”. Mendocino National Forest hosted a field trip for 58 people to discuss wildland fire fuels reduction projects that are located between monument lands and the Wildland Urban Interface for the lakefront communities of Nice, Lucerne, and Clearlake Oaks.

Workshops, activities, and presentations of collaborative projects by USFS, Lake County Fire Safe Council, CAL FIRE and the North Shore Fire Protection District fostered conversations about land management and highlighted collaboration opportunities to establish fire resistant communities.
Berryessa Snow Mountain has also contributed to Getting America Back to Work by hiring local contractors, providing recreation opportunities, and working with local partners.

Recovery efforts from the Wragg, Jerusalem, Rocky, and Clayton fires continued in 2017. More than 50,000 acres of BLM lands within the burn perimeters are within the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument. These fires also impacted recreational facilities on California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) lands that have been cooperatively maintained by the BLM and CDFW for many years. This longstanding partnership with CDFW enabled BLM to engage Northern California Indian Development Council (NCIDC) help with fire recovery efforts in the Cache Creek Natural Area of this monument. As a non-profit, NCIDC obtained an economic development grant to employ local tribal members and residents and provide on-the-job training for public projects within these fire affected areas. Crews worked with BLM staff to maintain family friendly recreation sites and public access to federal lands by restoring water bars along trails, reducing soil erosion, and repairing culverts. To enhance wildlife habitat, BLM staff inspected seven wildlife watering guzzlers and NCIDC crews assisted with repairs to the five that were fire damaged. They removed nonfunctional fencing to improve habitat connectivity for deer and elk populations. NCIDC crews removed burned structures and hazard trees within recreation areas and along trails that posed a public safety issue. They repainted signs and bathrooms at the trailheads, conducted trash cleanups, conducted emergency road repairs, and treated invasive weeds. These NCIDC crews were crucial in providing post-fire rehabilitation work and maintaining facilities within burned areas of the National Monument. This collaboration with state and tribal organizations provided local jobs while also supporting shared conservation stewardship to enhance wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities.

BLM worked with its partners in 2017 to practice Shared Conservation Stewardship and gather information about natural resources, cultural resources, and recreational opportunities. This included wilderness character monitoring and route inventory reports produced by an AmeriCorps crew. AmeriCorps conducted these surveys in the Cache Creek Wilderness and the Cedar Roughs Wilderness. Crews collected information from non-profit stakeholders like Tuleyome and the Backcountry Horsemen’s Association, and then field checked this information to document all known trails within these two wilderness areas. They also worked with BLM staff and the Backcountry Horsemen’s Association to maintain and upgrade facilities at Cowboy Camp, which is a primary access point to trails within the Cache Creek Natural Area.
To facilitate trail maintenance, volunteers helped conduct archeological surveys in the Snow Mountain Wilderness. Backcountry Horsemen Association provided pack support for these surveys. USFS staff also provided on the job survey training for volunteers through the Passport in Time (PIT) program. Thirteen PIT participants, worked alongside USFS staff, representatives from the Habematole Tribe of Upper Lake Rancheria, Round Valley Indian Tribes, and BLM staff. More than 400 acres were surveyed, new sites were recorded, and known site records were updated.

The Indian Valley Wet Meadow Restoration Project rehabilitated a meadow that was affected by wildland fire, OHV activity, and altered site drainage. Wet meadows on serpentine soil are of special conservation concern in California because, unlike meadows in more nutrient rich soils, they have a higher resistance to invasion by non-native plant species. Serpentine wet meadows also provide habitat for special-status plants. BLM staff worked with volunteers to replant exposed soils in this area with native vegetation.

**Current Areas of Focus**

Illegal marijuana grow sites on public lands provide a challenge for law enforcement. Illegal grow sites often divert water and misuse pesticides in natural areas. This impacts wildlife habitat and visitor safety. Hazardous materials removal requires special expertise and can require additional funding.

Law enforcement operations on marijuana grow sites were conducted by County and BLM officers in September 2016 and in 2017. Site reclamation occurred during fiscal year 2017 with assistance from two hazmat contractors, three BLM law enforcement rangers, two National Guardsmen, BLM staff, and a helicopter. The crew removed refuse from all areas...
of these sites and conducted landscape rehabilitation. BLM and USFS staff continue to work with law enforcement staff to address issues posing a risk to the natural resources, human health, and public safety within the monument.

**Education, Outreach, and Interpretation**

The Cache Creek Natural Area is home to one of the largest wintering populations of bald eagles in California. Each year, the BLM hosts Bald Eagle Hikes up the Redbud Trail on Saturday mornings. These tours are hosted by BLM in cooperation with CDFW. Staff and volunteers lead hikes to the ridgeline in hopes of seeing the eagles from January 16-February 20. Tours are limited to 25 participants per hike to reduce noise and potential impacts to the birds.

A total of seven additional hikes were provided by BLM staff, often in collaboration with our non-profit partner Tuleyome. Each hike had a different theme and was hosted by resource experts. Topics included fire ecology, archeology, paleontology, backcountry horsemanship, wildlife, leave no trace ethics, and water conservation.

The Arthur Carhardt Wilderness Training Center hosted a wilderness management training class in Ukiah, CA. BLM and USFS staff provided case studies, presentations, and field trips to the Snow Mountain Wilderness and Cache Creek Wilderness. These are two of the three wilderness areas within Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument.

Four classes from the Konocti Unified School District participated in a field trip to the Cache Creek Natural Area. Tuleyome staff and volunteers led students through four learning stations manned by Bureau of Land Management subject experts. The stations were set up in forest and grassland areas and covered interesting topics such as fire recovery, fire ecology, elk, bald eagles, native plants, seed dispersal, native cultures in the area, archeology, and Leave No Trace philosophy. Students hiked on trails, dirt roads, and a dry river bed to go between learning stations. On the way, they saw animal tracks, rocks, waterways, and trees still black from the Rocky Fire of 2015 carpeted with new plant growth from the recent rains. BLM staff provided 4th grade students with free “Every Kid in a Park” program access passes.
Two presentations were made at the Mary Stephens Library in Davis, CA. The first was provided by BLM and USFS staff at the request of the Yolo County Historical Society. This presentation described the monument management planning process and described the type of heritage resource information that historical society volunteers might be able provide. The second was a presentation made by Tuleyome as part of their “Conservation and You” lecture series. This presentation highlighted some of the trail maintenance work that Tuleyome has done within the monument. Additional public outreach efforts include a boyscout camping trip in the Cache Creek Natural Area, USFS and BLM booths at the Lake County Fair, and fellowship recruitment efforts at the 2017 California Youth Summit.

Partnerships

Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument is built on productive partnerships. Many of the monument’s most active partners are mentioned elsewhere in this report. Cooperative management by the BLM and USFS, plus coordination with tribal governments, state, county, and local agencies all contribute to productive stewardship of public lands within the monument. Private and non-profit sector partners who took an active interest in supporting the monument in 2017 include Tuleyome, Northern California Indian Development Council, Mendocino 4x4 Club, Back Country Horsemen of America, AmeriCorps, University of California at Davis, Sonoma State University, Pepperwood Preserve, EcoAdapt, The Wilderness Society, Mendocino County Blacktail Association, Blue Ridge-Berryessa Partnership, FireScape Mendocino, Elem Indian Colony, Blue Ribbon Coalition, the Arthur Carhardt Wilderness Training Center, Hispanic Access Foundation, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Wilderness Land Trust, Mendo-Lake Houndsmen, California Cattlemen’s Association, and the National Conservation Lands Foundation.
2017 Partnership Successes:

- Cooperative maintenance of California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) lands within the Cache Creek Natural Area.
- Mendocino 4x4 Club installed two informational kiosks on USFS/monument lands.
- Backcountry Horsemen assisted with invasive weed treatments, trail maintenance, educational events, and packing supplies for the PIT Projects.
- A BLM partnership with the Elem Indian Colony provides on-the-job training for tribal monitors and heritage site monitoring within the monument. This year, monitoring focused on sites that were impacted recent wildfires.
- Challenge Cost Share Agreements with the USFS established formal partnership agreements with the Habematole Tribe of Upper Lake Rancheria and Round Valley Indian Tribes for archeological survey work in 2017.
- Mendocino FireScape, USFS, BLM, and CalFire worked together to identify fuels treatment projects and approached within the monument.
- The Blue Ridge Berryessa Partnership hosted working group meetings for wildlife habitat connectivity within the Berryessa Snow Mountain Region.
- Educational programming was provided by the BLM, USFS, Tuleyome, and the Arthur Carhardt Wilderness Training Center.
- NCIDC provided on the job training and fire rehabilitation in recreation areas.
Volunteers

PIT archeological survey projects alone logged 632 volunteer hours but many other volunteer contributions also supported the monument in 2017. Tuleyome coordinated hikes, and offered educational programming. Mendocino 4X4 Club volunteers installed two kiosks to provide information to recreational users in the monument. Hiking, equestrian, and OHV groups all contributed time bushing trails and helping federal agencies offer safe and enjoyable recreational experiences in Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument.

Volunteers gathered at West Crocket Campground to coordinate work for PIT Session 1.

Land (or Interests in Land) Acquisitions

Two parcels were acquired within the monument boundary during 2017. In February of 2017, BLM acquired 240 acres of private property, located within the Cache Creek Natural Area, with support from the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. These lands were identified by the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation for purchase due to their high value as wildlife habitat. In August of 2017, BLM acquired 144 acres of private property, located within the Cedar Roughs Wilderness Area, with support from the Wilderness Land Trust.
Berryessa Snow Monument is in the process of developing a science plan. Ongoing resource monitoring directed by law and policy has continued, and additional data needs were identified for monument planning efforts. Examples include the Proper Function and Condition Assessments for waterways within the monument, Yellow Legged Frog surveys, and wildlife habitat monitoring for tule elk and bald eagle populations.

In 2017, the BLM established an agreement with Sonoma State University's Anthropological Studies Center (ASC) to identify prehistoric sites within the footprint of the Rocky Fire. ASC developed a predictive model for a portion of the Cache Creek Natural Area and are ground-truthing it with the help of graduate students. Additional work was contracted in 2017 to provide a comprehensive Class I heritage resource overview and predictive model for the rest of the monument. These tools will provide information that guide monument planning and decision making.
The national monument has been an important focus for scientific studies on post-fire succession and opportunities to further this research continued in 2017 with the University of California at Davis and Pepperwood Preserve. Compilation and GIS analysis of vegetation data and application of climatic adaptation models will help guide future management decisions within the monument. This tool will help the BLM and USFS make land management decisions that foster the development of fire-resilient communities. A BLM science grant for $25,000 was awarded in 2017 to conduct this work.

The USFS also conducted a survey of caves within the monument in 2017. The monument has unique crevice and talus caves, which likely developed from mass wasting processes within Franciscan Assemblage bedrock. Other caves may have formed by seismic shaking along the Bartlett Springs Fault Zones and other Northern California Faults. The USFS Washington Office’s Minerals and Geology Management provided special project funding for a reconnaissance level cave inventory. Eighty-nine outcrops were mapped remotely using LiDAR and high resolution satellite imagery. Thirty-six outcrops were visited over a span of two and half weeks, and seven new caves were discovered. One of these caves was especially impressive. The Flat Top Cave may be as big as 60 yards long, 30 feet deep, and up to 8 feet wide. The cave is set next to an incised stream and landslide. There are still more caves to discover, and other valuable resources that have yet to be found.

One of the caves that was surveyed in 2017.
Resources, Objects, Values, and Stressors

Resources specified in the Presidential Proclamation include human history of the area, geology, plants and wildlife, migratory connectivity, native fisheries, and scientific research.

This area has been inhabited by Native Americans for more than 11,000 years. Today the area continues to be important for modern Native communities. The area's cultural importance includes major archeological villages, mineral source sites, seasonal camps, trade routes, and historic heritage resources such as the Nye homestead. The Cache Creek Archeological District is another prime example of resources that are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

The Bartlett Springs Fault Zone fosters mineral laden waters and hot springs, geologic outliers with marine invertebrate fossils dating to the Cretaceous Period and Cenozoic Era. There are two significant tension-crack caves under the Federal Cave Resources Protection Act, providing habitat for the Townsend’s big-eared bat.

The monument is home to numerous botanical species, unique landscapes, and abundant wildlife. Diverse species of reptiles, amphibians, insects, and fish are evident in the Monument. It serves as an important migratory corridor for ungulates, birds and a home to many bat and insect species. Several of these animals are sensitive species, at-risk populations, or designated as threatened at the state or federal level.

In 2017, an interdisciplinary team was formed to identify areas where more information is needed regarding the resources, objects, values and stressors. Resource data is being compiled for use by both agencies.
Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument is still in the midst of Resource Management Planning efforts. Therefore, this section is not applicable at this time.

Snow Mountain was an excellent location to view the solar eclipse on August 21, 2017.
Manager’s Letter

This National Monument spans a diversity of habitats, from the northern peaks of Snow Mountain Wilderness to the Berryessa Region at its southern end. The monument’s central location to Sacramento, San Francisco, Santa Rosa, the Mendocino Coast, California Wine Country, and the Redwood Forests, make it a stopover for travelers from all directions. The lakes, mountains and wilderness areas within this monument make it an attraction for many types of recreation. They also make it a beautiful place to live and work.

Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument offers an amazing opportunity to achieve more by working together. The best success stories in this report come from partnership efforts. Stories about federal agencies working together, federal agencies working with state agencies, with conservation organizations, with recreational groups, with tribes, with schools, and with members of the scientific community. By working together in 2017, we were able to leverage resources to accomplish things that would not be possible on an individual basis. I look forward to doing more of that in 2018.

Engaging young people in land management, and offering on-the-job training, is one of the most rewarding things that we can offer for the next generation. This year’s work with AmeriCorps and NCIDC produced on-the-ground results. Recreational areas were maintained, job skills were enhanced, and baseline data was collected to guide future land management decisions. We have already applied for and been awarded the opportunity to host a Hispanic Access Foundation Resource Assistant Fellowship in 2018. This fellowship opportunity will provide on-the-job training while also supporting public engagement efforts for the monument.

Building on the momentum from Community Conversations in 2016, FireScape and other partner-sponsored meetings in 2017, plus the strong show of support we received this year, the monument is coordinating several focused workshops for 2018. These workshops will gather input and identify opportunities for further collaboration. Our partners have done an excellent job of communicating what Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument has to offer and why this place is so special. I look forward to working with them in 2018 to get this information out to a wider audience.

I am excited to work with the people who study, protect, recreate, learn, and enjoy these lands next year. I thank you for all of your support for Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument.

Sincerely,

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