

DATA UPDATE

19 September 2023

For the project entitled:

Quantifying the recreation value of unprotected BLM lands in response to a proposed plan for balanced public land management

Submitted to:

The Center for American Progress

1. Overview

A report developed by CSP in June 2023, titled “Quantifying the recreation value of unprotected BLM lands in response to a proposed plan for balanced public land management”, was based on an analysis of unprotected BLM lands prior to the designation of the new Baaj Nwaavjo I'tah Kukveni – Ancestral Footprints of the Grand Canyon National Monument in August 2023, which slightly reduced the overall amount of unprotected BLM land. To ensure the most up-to-date acreage estimates from this analysis are provided, the following tables were updated by removing all BLM lands that have been afforded protections under this new national monument. Each table is numbered to match its placement in the technical report.

In addition, the original analysis defined “unprotected BLM lands” as areas with GAP 3 or 4 status according to the Protected Areas Database of the U.S. (PADUS). At the time of this analysis, PADUS did not reflect the most recent increase in protections of lands within the current extent of Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, which was expanded in 2022 by the Biden Administration from reduced boundaries established under the Trump Administration. This update provides new acreage information when removing all BLM lands with protections within Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument following this 2022 expansion.

Total (updated) unprotected BLM land area: 210,484,100 acres

Table 1. Summary of key findings: The total amount of unprotected BLM land area within each buffer range of all national parks, all state parks, all parks combined, and all SVDep census tracts. The percentage of all unprotected BLM lands is provided in parentheses following each value.

Unit Type	Total BLM land area (acres) within each buffer:		
	10 miles	25 miles	50 miles
National Parks (NP)	4,433,900 (2.1%)	13,400,400 (6.4%)	34,212,700 (16.3%)
State Parks (SP)	9,970,300 (4.7%)	40,981,400 (19.5%)	92,521,400 (44.0%)
All Parks (NP + SP)	13,974,800 (6.6%)	48,902,500 (23.2%)	98,189,100 (46.6%)
All SVDep census tracts	20,023,500 (9.5%)	29,734,600 (14.1%)	46,660,600 (22.2%)

Table 3. The total area of unprotected BLM lands within each buffer length of the top 10 most visited western national parks, listed in order of their 2022 total visitation count. The total area of unprotected BLM lands within each subsequent buffer distance is also provided.

National Park (NP)	State	2022 Visitation Count	Total BLM land area (acres) within each buffer:		
			10 miles	25 miles	50 miles
Grand Canyon NP	AZ	4,732,101	122,800	736,400	2,494,500
Zion NP	UT	4,692,417	211,200	771,000	2,715,300
Rocky Mountain NP	CO	4,300,424	12,900	127,400	425,400
Yosemite NP	CA	3,667,550	27,900	240,300	857,800
Yellowstone NP	MT, ID, WY	3,290,242	2,200	35,000	709,800

			Total BLM land area (acres) within each buffer:		
National Park (NP)	State	2022 Visitation Count	10 miles	25 miles	50 miles
Joshua Tree NP	CA	3,058,294	409,400	923,100	2,190,200
Glacier NP	MT	2,908,458	0	600	15,000
Grand Teton NP	WY	2,806,223	7,900	15,300	170,800
Olympic NP	WA	2,432,972	800	800	1,000
Bryce Canyon NP	UT	2,354,660	32,400	258,000	1,116,500

Table 9. The ten census tracts with the greatest amount of BLM land within a ten mile radius of all nationally identified socially vulnerable and nature-deprived census tracts, as well as the total area of unprotected BLM lands within each subsequent buffer distance.

			Total BLM land area (acres) within each buffer:		
Census Tract	County	State	10 miles	25 miles	50 miles
Census Tract 9501	Esmeralda County	NV	2,999,900	4,381,900	6,722,200
Census Tract 9708	Mineral County	NV	2,805,000	4,614,700	7,498,200
Census Tract 9602	Nye County	NV	2,408,600	4,220,600	8,399,300
Census Tract 9402.01	Uintah County	UT	1,696,800	3,036,700	6,673,800
Census Tract 9548.02	Mohave County	AZ	1,688,800	2,619,900	4,981,200
Census Tract 9.04	Otero County	NM	1,654,500	2,238,900	3,547,900
Census Tract 201.01	La Paz County	AZ	1,233,900	2,570,000	4,731,500
Census Tract 9432.01	San Juan County	NM	863,700	1,339,500	1,777,600
Census Tract 5	Luna County	NM	852,200	1,579,800	3,013,300
Census Tract 205.01	La Paz County	AZ	755,100	1,580,200	4,057,800