



INTERAGENCY
VISITOR USE MANAGEMENT
 COUNCIL

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 Executive Council**

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FEDERAL LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCIES ESTABLISH INTERAGENCY VISITOR USE MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Six federal agencies—Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Forest Service (USFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), National Park Service (NPS), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)—collaborate on the Interagency Visitor Use Management Council (council). The council's mission is to provide guidance on long-term visitor use management policies and to develop legally defensible and effective interagency implementation tools for visitor use management.

Visitor use management is defined as the dynamic process of planning for and managing both the characteristics of visitor use and the setting in which that use takes place. This is accomplished through a diverse range of strategies and tools used to sustain desired resource conditions and visitor experiences.

Interagency collaboration through the council is designed to increase awareness of and commitment to proactive, professional, and scientific visitor use management on public lands and waters. Providing a consistent approach to visitor use management will better serve the public by creating seamless connections between federal lands. The council's work will build institutional knowledge of management techniques and best practices, and efficiently share management tools and training. The America's Great Outdoors Progress Report, published in October 2011, identified the work of this council as one of three top priorities for managing recreational access and opportunities in fiscal year 2012.

Each agency has three representatives who serve on the council—one from the Washington, D.C. office and two from field offices. The council is reaching out to staff within each of the six agencies, as well as to other federal land management agencies, to involve them in various initiatives, trainings, and collaborative work groups. The council will also work closely with liaisons in the research community, the Federal Interagency Council on Outdoor Recreation, and other related interagency councils.