

**CHRONOLOGY AND HISTORY OF THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
RELATING TO THE WILDERNESS ACT OF 1964, et seq**

1. 1964 - Wilderness Act approved by Congress on September 3, 1964. [Pub. L. 88-577] Pertained only to the Forest Service, National Park Service, and U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) was excluded.
2. 1976 - FEDERAL LAND POLICY AND MANAGEMENT ACT of 1976 (FLPMA) [Pub. L. 94-579] approved by Congress October 21, 1976. Section 603 authorized BLM participation in the Wilderness Act.
3. 1977 - BLM began initial wilderness inventory (review) of public lands.
4. 1980 - BLM identified Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) covering approx 22 million acres, all to be managed under Interim Management Policy (IMP) until decision(s) by Congress.
5. 1980-1991 - All BLM states with potential wilderness, except Alaska, studied WSAs through the land-use planning process, conducting/preparing Environmental Impact Statements as required. USGS & Bureau of Mines conducted mineral studies on WSAs.
6. 1984 - ARIZONA WILDERNESS ACT OF 1984 [Pub. L. 98-406] created nine new wilderness areas, to be managed by the BLM. Two, Paria Canyon-Vermilion Cliffs Wilderness and the Beaver Dam Mountains Wilderness, were mostly in Arizona but did (do) extend into southern Utah.
7. 1989 - NEVADA WILDERNESS PROTECTION ACT [Pub. L. 101-195] (Designated Mt. Moriah Wilderness in eastern Nevada; most FS)
8. 1990 - ARIZONA DESERT WILDERNESS ACT OF 1990 [Pub. L. 101-628] created 38 new BLM wilderness areas and added acreage to the Aravaipa Canyon Wilderness.
9. OCTOBER 1991 - At the end of the 15-year period mandated in the FLPMA, the Secretary of the Interior transmitted to the President his recommendations for which studied public lands should be designated wilderness and which were recommended as not suitable for such designation.
10. January 1993 - The President submitted his recommendations to the Congress.
11. 1993 - COLORADO WILDERNESS ACT OF 1993 [Pub. L. 103-77] This act created the Powderhorn and Uncompahgre Wilderness areas to be managed by the BLM, and (in Section 9) directed that the BLM "Tabeguache Area" (among others) be managed "so as to maintain the areas' presently existing wilderness character and potential for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System."

12. 1994 - CALIFORNIA DESERT PROTECTION ACT OF 1994, AN ACT to designate certain lands in the California Desert as wilderness, to establish the Death Valley and Joshua Tree National Parks, to establish the Mojave National Preserve, and for other purposes. [Pub. L. 103-433]
13. 1999 - OTAY MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS ACT OF 1999 (Pub. L. 106-145) designated an 18,500 acre portion of the Otay Mountain region of California as wilderness.
14. 1999 - BLACK CANYON OF THE GUNNISON NATIONAL PARK and GUNNISON GORGE NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA ACT of 1999. On October 21, 1999, the 23rd anniversary of FLPMA, President Clinton signed Public Law 106-76, redesignating the (NPS) Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Monument as a National Park (and increasing its size with land transferred from BLM); and creating the (BLM) Gunnison Gorge NCA, including the Gunnison Gorge Wilderness Area (17,700 acres).
15. 1/2000 -COLORADO CANYONS NCA AND BLACK RIDGE CANYONS WILDERNESS ACT OF 2000 [Pub. L. 106-353] created The Colorado Canyons NCA and the Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness, the latter with 70,319 acres in CO and 5,120 acres in UT.
16. 10/2000 - STEENS MOUNTAIN COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT and PROTECTION ACT of 2000 [Pub. L. 106-399] designated the Steens Mountain Wilderness Area and the Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Area in Harney County, Oregon.
17. 12/2000 - BLACK ROCK DESERT-HIGH ROCK CANYON EMIGRANT TRAILS NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA (including 10 associated wilderness areas) created by Congress by including the text of S. 2273 in final Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2000 [Pub. L. 106-554]. Wilderness areas encompass 757,065 acres of public land. NOTE: all of the NCA and wilderness areas are in Nevada but part of the NCA and all or most of 3 wilderness areas are located in the jurisdiction of the BLM Surprise (CA) Field Office.