



# **Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument**

**Ukiah Field Office Bureau of Land Management**

**Mendocino National Forest**

**Public Participation Strategy**

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## Purpose

The Mendocino National Forest (MNF) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Ukiah Field Office (UFO) jointly manage the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument (Monument). This public participation strategy is intended to provide a framework for communication, contribution, and participation among all parties involved, or desiring involvement regarding the stewardship of the Monument. Engaging internal and external audiences is imperative. This document is expected to evolve throughout the planning process based on input and feedback from all parties.

## Goals

- Establish and maintain open communication channels, internally and externally
- Increase awareness, allow for shared learning, and promote a common understanding of the Monument objects of interest
- Keep all interested parties informed throughout the planning process
- Provide opportunities to exchange data and information
- Build and maintain effective working relationships

## Background

On July 10, 2015, President Barack Obama used his authority under the Antiquities Act to issue a Presidential Proclamation that established the 330,780-acre Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument. The Forest Service (FS) administers 197,214 acres of the Monument and the BLM administers 133,566 acres. Under a joint Monument Management Plan, (Plan) the FS shall continue to manage that portion of the Monument within the boundaries of the National Forest System (NFS), and BLM shall continue to manage the remainder of the Monument.

The Monument includes portions of seven counties including: Solano, Napa, Yolo, Lake, Colusa, Glenn, and Mendocino. The Monument extends from near sea level to 7,000 feet in elevation. The proclamation lists numerous objects that warrant protection including tribal, cultural, and historic resources, diverse wildlife and plant species, unique geologic formations, and serpentine soils. The proclamation requires the FS and the BLM to jointly develop a Plan.

### **Policies**

Because FS and BLM are within separate governmental departments, they have different directives, policies and priorities. The agencies have worked together to create a strategy for managing the Monument that allows each agency to adhere to its particular planning requirements, enables both agencies to support the other throughout the process, provides for ongoing use and management of the monument, and strengthens public enjoyment

## Guiding Principles for Participation and Engagement

Public participation is an integral part of Monument stewardship. The MNF and BLM are committed to working together with interested parties and using public input that will result in management guidance that is supported broadly. The plan will incorporate relevant local knowledge and experience that conforms to current laws, regulations and policies. Guidelines for public participation and engagement:

- Be respectful, objective, constructive, and on topic
- Identify and focus on common ground
- Share knowledge, data, and information
- Be willing to learn from one another
- Value each other's time
- Encourage participation by traditionally underrepresented groups, such as racial, gender, and age-related minorities
- Value and incorporate local knowledge; recognize the importance of local resources to adjacent communities

- Be inclusive and incorporate diverse perspectives
  - Communicate consistently, frequently, in a timely manner, and in plain language
  - Convey when there are opportunities to be engaged during the process
  - Be transparent; provide explanation regarding proposed management approaches
  - Use the best available scientific and technical information and communicate clearly about its origins, advantages, limitations, and applications in all phases of the process
- Clearly identify how stakeholders' input will be used
  - Agency personnel will demonstrate expertise, professionalism, and accountability during meetings and in documents
  - Utilize various outreach opportunities including face-to-face local meetings, online formats, and local publications

## Who is Involved?

The Monument Management Baseline was developed by the Forest Service planning team. An Interdisciplinary Planning Team developed the resources, objects and values within the Monument which is an appendix to the Management Baseline. A Guide to the Monument will be jointly developed by the FS and the BLM.

## Key Communities

Communities and recreation residences in Solano, Napa, Yolo, Lake, Colusa, Glenn and Mendocino counties. Additionally, larger more urban communities that are within a reasonable travel distance for moderate to frequent usage of the Monument include Redding, Sacramento, and San Francisco.

## Known Potential Interest Groups (listed alphabetically)

Adjacent Private  
 Landowners/Neighbors Air Quality  
 Control Boards  
 American Forestry Resources  
 Council Backcountry Horsemen  
 Blue Ribbon Coalition  
 Board of Supervisors for the following counties: Lake, Colusa, Glenn, Napa, Solano, Yolo and  
 Mendocino CAL Fire

California Department of Fish and Wildlife  
California Native Plant Society  
California State University,  
Chico Conservation Lands  
Foundation  
County Roads/Public Works Departments  
EPIC – Environmental Protection Information Center  
FireSafe Councils  
FireScape Mendocino  
Grazing Permittees  
Homeowners  
Associations  
Lake County Historical Society  
Mendocino County Blacktail  
Association Mendocino 4X4 Club  
Mendocino Houndsmen  
Association OHV Recreation  
Users/Clubs Rocky Mountain Elk  
Foundation Rural Conservation  
Districts Special Use Permittees  
Tribal  
Organizations  
Tuleyome  
United States Fish and Wildlife  
Service University of California,  
Davis Volunteer Fire Departments  
Water Quality Control  
Boards Wilderness  
Coalition Wilderness  
Society  
Yolo County Historical Society

## Methods

Information needs and public involvement levels may change and evolve throughout the planning process. The agencies will ask interested individuals and groups how they would like to be informed. Public input, feedback, and outreach/education are some of the effective ways members of the public can participate. The following techniques will be utilized to inform and engage the public:

1. The MNF website is an online location for updates, notices, and links to other references regarding the planning process. FS Public Affairs Officer, (PAO) maintains the planning webpage for the Monument.  
<http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/mendocino/home/?cid=FSEPRD540851>.
2. An email distribution list of interested parties will be maintained and information will be sent out on updates, notices, and other opportunities for public participation. The host email address is bsmnm15@gmail.com
3. All requests for public comments, information and suggestions will list this email address for receiving responses: blm\_ca\_bsm\_nm@blm.gov.
4. Legal notices will be published in the newspapers of record.
5. Social media will be used to post notices, updates, invitations, photos, flyers, etc. FS PAO posts notices on the following:  
<https://www.facebook.com/MendocinoNF> and <https://www.twitter.com/mendocinonf>
6. Public meetings (such as, Community Conversations, open houses, and workshops) will be hosted in surrounding communities throughout the planning process (see Public Meeting section below).
7. Videos may be used to explain the planning process.
8. PAOs will arrange media escorts to visit the Monument and facilitate subject matter expert interviews. PAOs and/or subject matter experts will also arrange guided Monument visits for other interested stakeholders.
9. Flyers and educational brochures will be reviewed and approved according to agency requirements and will be distributed online and in communities.
10. Following the MOU with the Shooting Sports Roundtable Group regarding notification guidelines for planning efforts, notification of the monument planning process for both agencies will be made by sending information to the Shooting Roundtable BLM State Office Recreation Program Lead coordinates with Senior Outdoor Recreation Planner at the BLM Washington Office
11. PAOs for each agency will prepare news releases and obtain approval according to their agency requirements and distribute news releases to media and wider distribution list.

## Public Meetings

Public meetings will be held in easily accessed public venues in towns in proximity to the Monument. MNF and BLM will provide multiple means to record public comments and information. Comment cards will be provided. Staff from different disciplines will be on hand to answer questions, host conversations and assist with comment card submission. MNF and BLM will present displays and provide information pertinent to Monument management to spur conversation and comments.

## Planning Team

### a. Interdisciplinary Team (IDT)

- \* *Lead Planners*: Manage, organize and serve as the primary points of contact for the planning process
- \* *Core Team*: MNF and BLM employees dedicated to the effort and providing planning, social, economic, recreation, geology, wildlife, vegetation soil and water resource support.

### b. Interagency Monument Management Team (IMMT)

- \* *FS Supervisor*: Responsible official (decision-maker) for MNF
- \* *Field Manager*: Responsible official (decision-maker) for the BLM Ukiah Field Office
- \* *FS District Rangers*: Liaisons to forest communities and constituents on Monument planning and implementation All: Set Monument priorities: provide guidance and support for management of respective FS and BLM units within the Monument (Grindstone and Upper Lake Ranger Districts, and BLM Ukiah Field Office)

c. **Public Affairs Officers (PAO)**: For each agency, the PAO prepares communication materials in cooperation with the IDT, IMMT, and Monument Manager; ensures proper review and approval is obtained in a timely manner; distributes communication materials via multiple means including posts on websites. Develops the Public Participation Strategy, talking points, and key messages for interviews and public meetings. Serves as the main point of contact for the media. Serves as the webmaster (FS webpage). Assists with planning and implementation of public meetings.

d. **Monument Manager**. Represents FS and BLM on behalf of the Monument; provides management direction consistent with priorities set by the IMMT; implements Monument objectives and conservation values as set forth by IMMT; ensures protection, conservation and restoration of Monument objects of interest; serves as representative on all “Friends of the Monument” and other partner groups; develops partnerships with academic institutions and other interested groups; develops grants and funding opportunities in support of Monument activities and develops projects with IMMT guidance.

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