



**NATIONAL  
CONSERVATION  
LANDS**

**Oregon/Washington**  
2022: Annual Manager's Report

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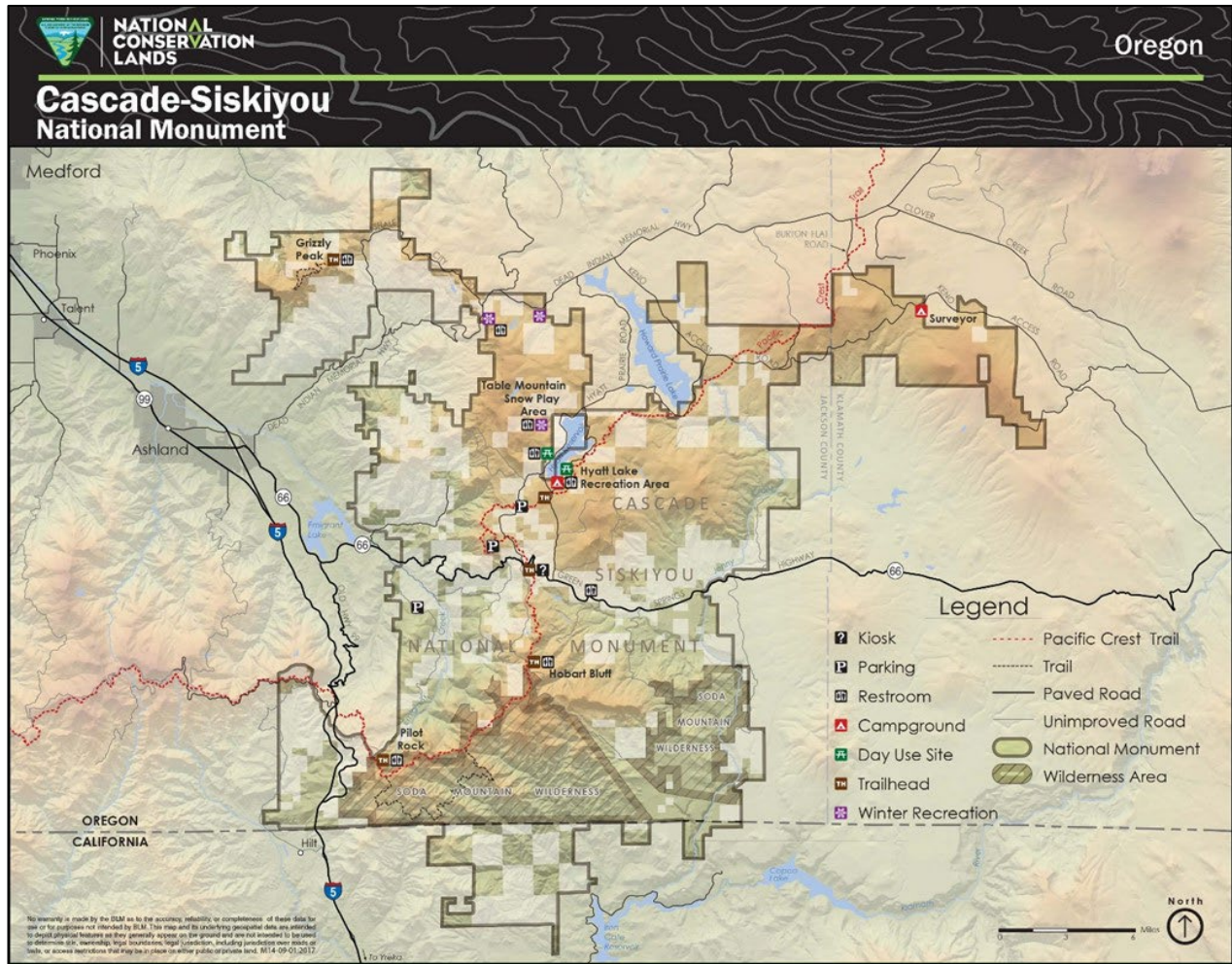
# Cascade-Siskiyou

## National Monument

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# Map



# Accomplishments

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Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument (CSNM) was established in recognition of its remarkable ecology and to protect a diverse range of biological, geological, and historic objects. The richness of the plant community is due to CSNM's location at the intersection of the Cascade, Klamath, and Eastern Cascade Slopes ecoregions. Evolution, long-term climatic change, and geological processes all contributed to the high ecological richness of the lands now within CSNM.

In 2022, CSNM continued to provide high quality recreation opportunities, including hunting, snowmobiling, mountain biking, riding horses, nordic skiing, snowshoeing, birdwatching, and wildlife viewing. Hiking opportunities include 41 miles of the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail, the Grizzly Peak Trail, and the Lone Pilot Trail. The Hyatt Lake Recreation Area provides camping, hiking, fishing, and boating opportunities.

For the sixth year, CSNM participated in the BLM's Artist in Residence Program. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2022, printmaker Anna Marie Pavlik traveled to the monument from Frankfort, Kentucky. She spent her residency camping, observing, sketching, and reading about the landscape to create intricate prints showcasing the monument's extensive biodiversity. The artist hosted a workshop for members of the public to discuss her methods and also produced a completed linoleum cut print based on her residency.

In 2021, the BLM used deferred maintenance funding to replace all the failing culverts on Soda Mountain Road, one of the most-travelled roads in CSNM. Additional work to finish grading and re-rocking the road was completed in FY 2022. This road is heavily used by residents, hunters, and hikers accessing the Pacific Crest Trail.



**Anna Marie Pavlik hosting a workshop;  
her work inspired by the monument (Vrikshasana, Grizzly Peak Wildflowers) is on the left**

# Challenges

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Since its 2017 expansion, CSNM now spans two states, three districts, and three field offices. There are currently three line officers who make decisions for their respective portions of CSNM and an Assistant Monument Manager who supervises Monument staff and manages the Monument budget. These administrative divisions create challenges for cohesive management.

In April 2022, the BLM conducted an evaluation of the 2008 CSNM Resource Management Plan (RMP); the evaluation focused on several designations created since 2008, including the Soda Mountain Wilderness, the CSNM expansion, and two wild and scenic rivers. The BLM evaluated the changed circumstances and concluded that the CSNM RMP needs to be revised to address all lands in the Monument under one plan in order to provide cohesive, long-range management direction and objectives. In FY 2022, the BLM initiated preliminary planning steps to revise the CSNM RMP and address these issues.

The water and wastewater systems at the Hyatt Lake Campground date to 1969. While the water system was mostly operational in 2022, leaks were a regular occurrence, and the BLM intends to replace the waterlines in FY 2023. Hyatt Lake Campground will be closed in FY 2023 to allow for these long-overdue infrastructure repairs.

The Medford District encompasses over 870,000 acres of BLM-administered land; three BLM law enforcement rangers, two full-time contract deputies, and a seasonal deputy are responsible for patrolling the entire District, including CSNM. CSNM continues to receive numerous reports of poaching, trash dumping, vandalism, and motorized incursions into the wilderness.

Approximately 50 feral horses now seasonally occupy CSNM's Agate Flats area near the California border. These horses are creating trails and causing ecological impacts. Staff are seeking ways to fund construction of fencing at the California border to help address these issues.

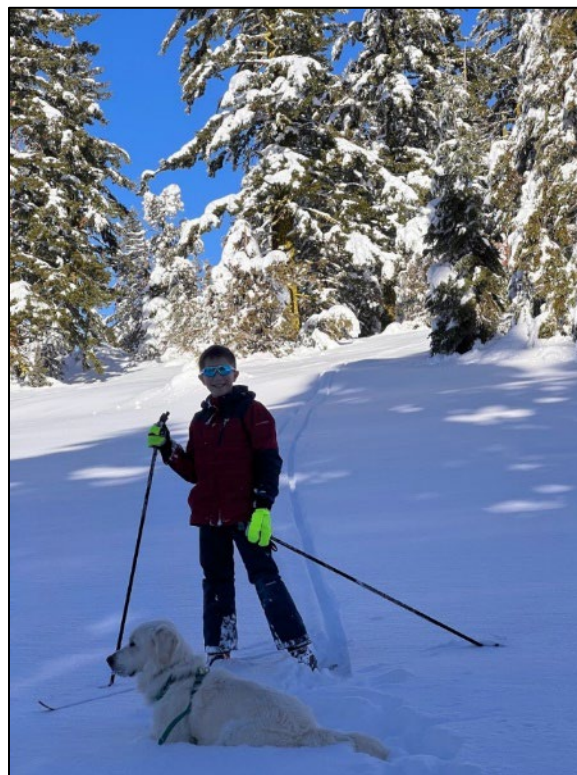
# Visitors

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With an estimated 226,617 recreation visits in FY 2022, CSNM continues to see increased visitation; estimated visitation in FY 2021 was 170,454. Many of these visitors enjoy CSNM while driving and stopping at waysides. Visits for hiking and winter recreation activities, such as sledding, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and snowmobiling, have also seen significant increases.

The Hyatt Lake Recreation Area, which offers developed camping and day-use recreation opportunities in CSNM, had an estimated 8,349 visitor days in 2022. Day use visitation at the recreation area was down in 2022, primarily due to the very low water levels in Hyatt Lake. In the past, most visitors to Hyatt Lake were from local communities in the Rogue Valley; recently, however, visitation from travelers along Interstate 5 has increased. The Hyatt Lake Recreation Area is only 20 miles from Interstate 5, and travelers find it to be a pleasant respite from the summer heat of the valley and a beautiful place to camp on their trip heading either north or south.

CSNM is also well-regarded for black-tailed deer hunting, which has made the fall hunting season a popular time of year. In the fall, hunters occupy many of the dispersed camping areas and the roads are busy with hunters looking to fill their tags.



**Nordic skier in CSNM**

# Partnerships

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CSNM maintains an active partnership with the Friends of Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument (Friends). Several CSNM staff members are advisors to this group and attend monthly board meetings. In 2022, the Friends group partnered with the BLM to offer interpretive programs, guided hikes, and talks in CSNM. This year, the BLM and the Friends partnered for the first time with The Crest at Willow-Witt to host a summer K-12 educational program in CSNM. Between June and August, the full-day programs served over 200 students from all over the Rogue Valley. Lessons included butterflies and insects, biodiversity, and trail building/maintenance.

The Pacific Crest Trail Association (PCTA) is an active partner and helps to maintain the Pacific Crest Trail in CSNM. In 2022, in partnership with the BLM and U.S. Forest Service, the PCTA hosted a Trails Skills College at CSNM. Participants gained skills in trail maintenance, basic saw use, and drainage feature construction. The BLM also partners with the Siskiyou Mountain Club—whose mission is to maintain wilderness trails in southwestern Oregon—to maintain the CSNM portion of the Pacific Crest Trail as well as the 17-mile Lone Pilot Trail inside the Soda Mountain Wilderness.

CSNM partners with the Southern Oregon Nordic Club (SONC) to maintain the Buck Prairie Winter Trail System, which has over 32 miles of trails for skiers, snowmobilers, and snowshoers. The SONC donates hundreds of hours maintaining trails and provides outings and workshops to skiers of all ages and abilities.

In 2021, CSNM renewed a partnership with the Klamath Basin Snowdrifters, a nonprofit club that grooms winter recreation trails in Jackson and Klamath counties. With approval to groom across a key section of private land, the Snowdrifters now groom a 40-mile network of winter trails from Lake of the Woods to Hyatt Lake.



**Students in the summer environmental education program**

# Science

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In 2022, CSNM saw the continuation of numerous projects with a diverse array of researchers. There were studies in geologic mapping (University of Oregon), mollusk surveys (Xerces Society), native bee and butterfly surveys (Oregon State University), Oregon spotted frog ecology (Southern Oregon University), fungi inventory and use in restoration (Southern Oregon University), Brewer's oak responses to wildfire (University of Nevada, Las Vegas), riparian restoration (The Beaver Coalition), vesper sparrow ecology (Klamath Bird Observatory), grassland treatment experiments (The Understory Initiative), and rare plant monitoring protocol development (The Understory Initiative).

Of particular interest to CSNM staff is a study on the effectiveness of methods to transition non-native dominated grasslands back to ecologically healthy native grasslands. Native grasslands are becoming very rare in southwest Oregon due to a history of overgrazing and agricultural development. CSNM staff are working with a regional consortium of botanists and The Understory Initiative on this project. In 2020, project participants set up 20 permanent study plots throughout CSNM grasslands. In 2021-22, participants applied treatments to study plots and developed protocols for measuring post-treatment species cover and richness. Treatments included burning with a propane hand torch (as in the photo below), covering with a tarp, and mechanical removal using a line trimmer. After treatments, participants planted all plots with a native plant seed mix. Project participants will continue to monitor these plots and make adjustments as new data are collected and analyzed.



**Burning small plot with propane torch in grasslands study**

# Climate Impacts

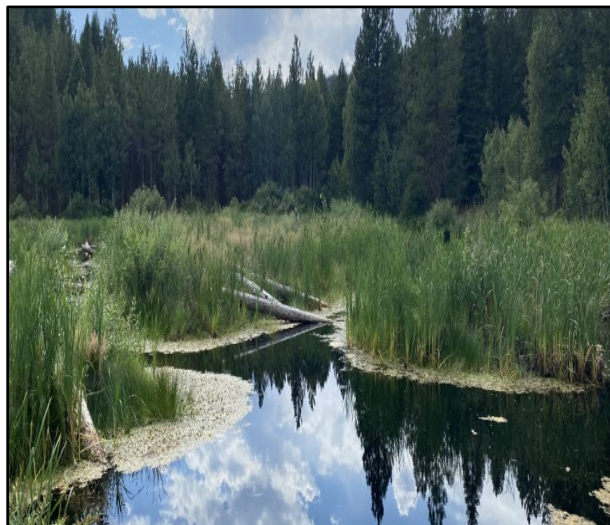
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CSNM staff and partners have recently established long-term monitoring programs to assess trends and impacts of climate change. A partnership with the Klamath Bird Observatory has two years of annual bird surveys at over 20 permanent transects within CSNM. CSNM staff are also working with the National Park Service to establish 30 vegetation plots that will be monitored every 3 years.

Through a partnership with the Xerces Society and the Invertebrate Lab at Oregon State University, the BLM is developing and implementing monitoring protocols for native bees in CSNM. Participants have completed several bee surveys and are developing monitoring protocols. They also recently completed a 2019-2021 CSNM butterfly monitoring report.

Since 2019, CSNM staff have been implementing a long-term water quantity monitoring program covering over 50 sites within CSNM. Staff and volunteers collect monthly water flow and water quality data at these sites to assess natural seasonal variation and long-term trends.

These monitoring programs encourage engagement by CSNM neighbors and volunteer community scientists. Numerous volunteers participate in water quantity and butterfly monitoring. CSNM staff have helped adjacent landowners establish butterfly, bird, and water quality and quantity monitoring sites on their properties. CSNM staff are working with private conservation lands adjacent to CSNM, including the Vesper Meadow and Sampson Creek preserves, on monitoring projects to better assess climate impacts on a landscape scale.



**Western pond turtle habitat improvement project in CSNM**



# Climate Resiliency

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In 2022, CSNM staff collaborated with the Beaver Coalition, a local non-profit group of riparian experts, on a project to build climate resiliency in the CNSM. The goal of the project was to document and assess the condition of all riparian areas within CSNM and to prioritize areas for restoration work. The prioritization was based on the likely effectiveness of projects to bring a floodplain to a hydrologically functioning level that increases stored water and enhances the surrounding area's ability to mitigate wildfire threats through increased wetness and wetland vegetation.

Beavers are already experts at this work but were extirpated from many areas within CSNM due to hunting and trapping activities over the past 150 years. CSNM and collaborating scientists have constructed structures within stream channels to increase water and food sources for beaver to entice them to resettle in CSNM. Once beavers have re-established at additional locations within CSNM, they are likely to continue enhancing the ecological health of these areas. This important project work will continue in FY 2023.



**Juniper on Table Mountain in CSNM**

# Social and Environmental Justice

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Each fall, CSNM staff provide curriculum-based education programming for area students. This 8-week program is called “Fall in the Field.” The Fall in the Field program is a collaboration with the Southern Oregon University’s Environmental Education Graduate Program and is the capstone project for the program’s master’s degree candidates. In FY 2022, approximately 320 students from 3rd through 8th grade classrooms participated in the program. Lessons focused on habitat types, forest health, at-risk species, and the importance of public lands. All 11 schools participating in the “Fall in the Field” program are Title I schools serving low-income students.



**Students in CSNM near Hobart Bluff**

# Events

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The CSNM resource management plan allows the BLM to authorize commercial recreational uses through special recreation permits (SRP) that are consistent with the plan's objectives. The BLM established specific SRP evaluation criteria for CSNM in 2014. These criteria include potential permit availability, thresholds, and adherence to the resource management plan.

In 2022, the BLM issued two SRPs in CSNM. The first SRP was for the Siskiyou Field Institute to conduct a 1-day field course to observe butterflies and moths in CSNM titled "Introduction to Siskiyou & Cascade Butterflies and Diurnal Moths." The second SRP was for the Pacific Crest Endurance Ride, a 35-, 55-, and 75-mile endurance horse riding event held over the course of 2 days.



**Hiker overlooking Jenny Creek, Soda Mountain Wilderness/CSNM**

# Words from the staff

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The staff of CSNM are keenly aware of the essential role of the many motivated and creative partners, volunteers, and supporters of CSNM. We recognize that, moving forward, we will need to continue to work together to accomplish our shared goals within CSNM. We cannot thank these volunteers and supporters enough for their tireless service to CSNM's unique and varied resources and values.



**Siskiyou Mountain Club volunteers maintaining the Pacific Crest Trail near Pilot Rock in Soda Mountain Wilderness**



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## National Monument

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