

National Park System Advisory Board
RECOMMENDING NATIONAL NATURAL LANDMARKS

May 21, 2014

The National Natural Landmarks (NNL) Program encourages the preservation of the best remaining examples of the major biotic communities and geologic features composing the nation's natural landscapes. It is the only natural areas program of national scope that identifies and recognizes the best examples of biological and geological features in both public and private ownership.

Status of Activities

In April, the Board's recommendation to designate Albany Pine Bush a National Natural Landmark was forwarded to the Secretary's office and a decision is expected soon.

Eight sites are currently being evaluated to determine if they meet the criteria for NNL designation. These evaluations will be peer reviewed and, if the sites appear to meet national significance criteria, the public will be invited to comment on the proposed designations prior to review by the National Park System Advisory Board (NPSAB) in the fall of 2014, and consideration by the Secretary following the Board's recommendation.

Evaluations to determine boundary revisions at existing landmarks are also underway, including Cosumnes River Riparian Woodland, CA; Glacial Lake Missoula, MT; and Kaibab Squirrel Area, AZ. Boundary adjustments will also be offered for public review and review by the NPSAB prior to being submitted for the Secretary's consideration.

The NNL Program staff continues to maintain ongoing relationships with the owners and managers of designated landmarks through periodic site visits. These visits allow program staff to determine whether the sites have retained the values that initially qualified them for landmark designation (as required in the program regulations) and provide opportunities to collect information on the NNL resources and on any projects or threats to these resources.

Next Steps

The NNL Program initiated a project in 2013 to scan all program records in the Washington Office. Work on this project continues to move forward and soon will allow NNL Program staff access to searchable, electronic versions of 52 years of paper records, and allow for permanent archiving of those records. Progress is also being made on the program's database.

The Committee will be working with NPS staff to expand the capability of the Program to evaluate potential sites, and to monitor and support conservation of existing landmarks. Strategies to promote increased Program visibility include profiling NNLs and the Program in the media and Centennial activities.