



**NATIONAL
CONSERVATION
LANDS**

Utah

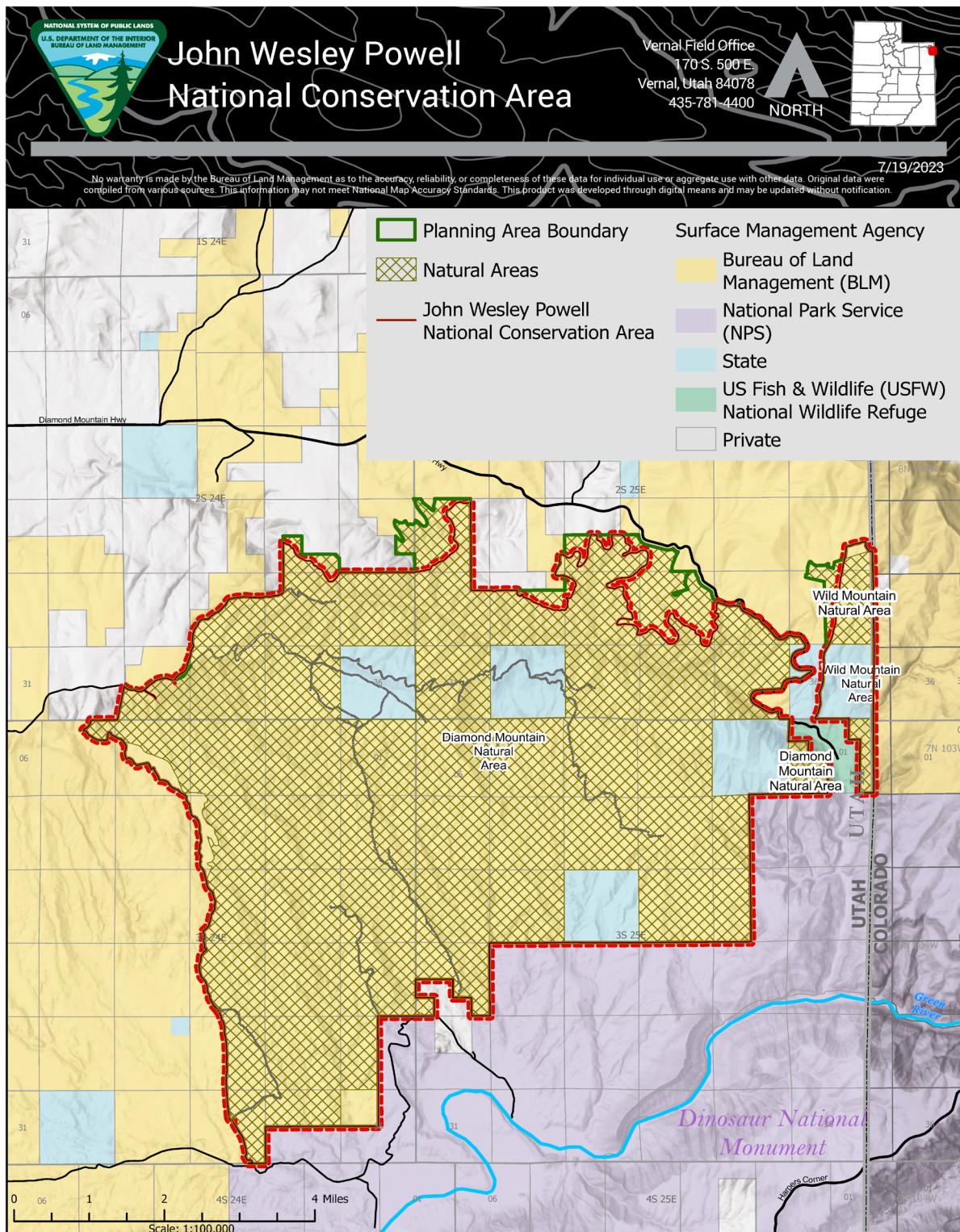
2024: Annual Manager's Report

John Wesley Powell

National Conservation Area



Map



Accomplishments

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2024, the John Wesley Powell (JWP) National Conservation Area (NCA) saw accomplishments primarily related to the ongoing Resource Management Plan (RMP) amendment required to develop a management plan for the NCA. The NCA is currently undergoing a third-party Recreation Management Area evaluation, which is on track to be completed in FY 2025. Additional accomplishments include ongoing site visits, resource monitoring and surveys, and planning for visitor information and wayfinding sites to provide improved visitor services within the NCA.



Challenges

Ongoing challenges include the absence of on-the-ground data related to recreation visitation as well as the lack of a finalized management plan, which will identify important values as well as management objectives. Once the planning phase is complete, the management of the JWP NCA will be better supported by decisions, projects, and other initiatives to conserve and showcase the outstanding resources found within the NCA.



Visitors

Visitation to the NCA remains historically consistent and relatively low compared to other areas in the Vernal Field Office. The NCA is relatively remote and the most popular uses of the area are seasonal access for hunting and motorized recreation on existing routes. The interior of the NCA is rugged with mostly non-motorized access, which may deter higher visitation. Traffic counters have been deployed along main access routes to capture visitor trend data both annually and during the various seasons. More accurate visitor data will help inform planning and management decisions for appropriate delivery of visitor services and protection of NCA resources.



Partnerships

Partnerships, friends groups, and volunteers will play an important role in the future of the NCA. Partners and other interested publics will have the opportunity to provide input to help guide the management of the NCA and help shape the recreational opportunities.

With the existing scientific information, such as the data from wildlife and plant surveys, there will be an opportunity for citizen science groups to help monitor various populations in order to provide ongoing data that would help inform future decisions within the NCA.



Science

In FY24, ongoing science-based management support efforts were continued including noxious weed inventories, monitoring of raptor nesting sites, surveys of white-tailed prairie dog populations, monarch butterfly and bumble bee surveys in milkweed habitat, and hundreds of camera trap days on multiple key ecologically significant locations.





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National Conservation Area

Green River District Office
Bureau of Land Management
Vernal Field Office
170 South 500 East
Vernal Utah, 84078
Phone: 435-781-4400

Report compiled by: Gerald Kenczka, Vernal Field Office Manager

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