

8th WORLD  
WILDERNESS CONGRESS  
30 SEPTEMBER - 6 OCTOBER 2005 ANCHORAGE, ALASKA



**RESOLUTION #:** 7

**TITLE:** The National Landscape Conservation System has a Critical Role in Protecting the Deserts of North America

**WHEREAS:** The deserts of North America have been identified by Conservation International as one of five global high-biodiversity wilderness areas deserving management designed to protect their relatively undisturbed condition;

The Department of Interior (DOI), Bureau of Land Management (BLM) administers the National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS), which is a system of conservation areas composed of Wilderness, Wilderness Study Areas, Wild and Scenic Rivers, National Monuments, National Conservation Areas and other special designations;

There are NLCS units within the deserts of North America composed of 113 separate protected units totaling 8.8 million acres including Wilderness, Wild and Scenic Rivers, National Monuments and National Conservation Areas as well as 282 Wilderness Study Areas totaling 7.8 million acres which are under consideration for potential wilderness designation;

The NLCA provides an existing and viable management mechanism for long-term protection of wilderness and other protected areas on public land within a national system.

**THEREFORE:** The World Wilderness Congress commends the DOI for establishing the NLCS, which has resulted in a positive impact on protection of the deserts of North America.

**RESOLVED:** BLM is encouraged to:

- Increase support for management of the NLCS.
- Emphasize long-term protection of existing NLCS units to maintain their biodiversity and other values.
- Emphasize training of personnel who manage units of the NLCS.
- Attempt to increase public awareness of NLCS units and the ecological and economical benefits provided by the NLCS.
- Seek opportunities to expand the NLCS in the deserts of North America by adding additional units representing high biodiversity wilderness.

**PROPOSER:** Marilyn Riley – [2mriley@earthlink.net](mailto:2mriley@earthlink.net)  
Wilderness Transitions, Inc.

**SECONDER:** George Nickas – [gnickas@wildernesswatch.org](mailto:gnickas@wildernesswatch.org)

Wilderness Watch

Peter Landres – [plandres@fs.fed.us](mailto:plandres@fs.fed.us)  
ALWRI

Dave Foreman  
The Rewilding Institute

Doug Scott  
Campaign for America's Wilderness

Steve Ulvi  
US NPS

*Resolution 7*