



# Bureau of Land Management

## Managing America's Public Lands



**The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is the Nation's premiere land-management agency.**

- The BLM's roots date back 200 years to the General Land Office. Its Organic Act, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), was passed in 1976. FLPMA defines our mission as one of multiple-use and sustained yield.
- The BLM has a significant impact on local and regional economies and to Americans' quality of life.



U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management

## These are Your Lands, America!

**The BLM is the largest land management agency in the nation and manages 10 percent of the land in the United States and 30 percent of the country's minerals—from the shores of the Arctic Ocean all the way to Key West, Florida. These lands are owned by all Americans and managed with pride by the Bureau of Land Management.**



### **The BLM is woven into the fabric of American history.**

- Since its origins in 1812, the BLM has played a central role in the nation's growth and development, just as it does today.
- The public lands are owned by all Americans, managed with pride by dedicated BLM employees.

## Public Lands in America



The BLM manages 245 million acres of land and 700 million acres of subsurface mineral estate. That's more than any other federal land management agency.

**The public lands managed by the BLM stretch across the nation, from the Arctic Ocean to the Mexican border, and from Key West, Florida to the San Juan Islands of Washington.**

- In the west, 64 million people live within 25 miles of BLM public lands.
- Below is a breakdown of Federal surface land area:

Bureau of Land Management:	245 million surface acres
U.S. Forest Service:	192 million surface acres
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:	85 million surface acres
National Park Service:	81 million surface acres

## Public Lands in America

- The BLM carries out its complex mission with a workforce of over 10,000 people in 12 states and 175 field offices.
- The 2016 BLM budget was \$1.2 billion.
- The BLM's management of public lands contributed more than \$88 billion to the nation's economy in FY 2015 and supported more than 374,000 American jobs.
- The BLM management cost per acre is \$3.31, compared to \$7.61 for the U.S. Forest Service, \$11.23 for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and \$24.38 for the National Park Service.





U.S. Department of the Interior  
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## Public Lands Sustain the Nation



The BLM's responsibilities are vast. The agency manages public lands that support the nation's need for energy, minerals, timber, and grazing lands. The BLM has one of the country's largest and most elite firefighting operations and offers world-class opportunities for Americans to hunt, fish, hike, paddle, and ski on their public lands.

**As the nation has changed, so has the BLM's mission.**

- The BLM's predecessor agencies, the General Land Office and the Grazing Service, were responsible for surveying and selling most of the land east of the Rocky Mountains.
- Now the BLM is responsible for the long-term stewardship of a diversity of landscapes across the nation, used and loved by millions.
- The Federal Land Policy and Management Act defines the BLM's mission as one of multiple use and sustained yield. This means thoughtful development to drive economic opportunities for local communities. It also means protecting natural, cultural, and historical resources that are simply too special to develop. And above all, it means working in areas with state and local governments, partners, stakeholders, tribes and the public to make decisions that are balanced and forward looking.

## Powering the Nation



- The BLM works hard to take a **smart, balanced approach to development**, consistent with FLPMA's mandate to manage public lands for generations to come.
- We play a leading role in contributing to the nation's renewable energy portfolio, and Federal onshore oil, gas and coal operations that make significant contributions to the domestic energy supply as the Nation transitions to a clean energy future.

## Conventional Energy

### Onshore Oil and Gas Management

Domestic production from over 100,000 Federal and tribal onshore oil and gas wells:

- 7 percent of the Nation's oil supply & 1.1 percent of its natural gas
- ~\$20 billion production value
- \$2.24 billion in Federal royalties and other revenues; ~\$600 million from tribes



### Modernizing Regulations

- New rules to measure and account for extracted oil and gas
- Regulations on hydraulic fracturing, waste prevention rule, and online oil and gas lease sales
- Online application for Permit to Drill (APD) permitting reduces processing time



**The BLM's onshore oil and gas program is a major contributor to our nation's oil and gas production.**

**In an effort to modernize its oil and gas program, the BLM has completed rules that will support the responsible development and management of the nation's oil and gas resources and ensure that both the American public and tribes receive a fair return for these resources.**

- **Final Rule: Onshore Order #3 (Site Security)** – ensures accurate measurement, accountability, and royalty payments for oil and gas production from Federal and Indian leases.
- **Final Rule: Onshore Order #4 (Oil Measurement)** – replaces Onshore Oil and Gas Order Number 4 (Order 4), which sets minimum standards for the measurement of oil. In addition to responding to GAO recommendations, the update also addresses concerns from the Department of the Interior's Office of Inspector General.
- **Final Rule: Onshore Order #5 (Gas Measurement)** – sets minimum standards for the measurement of gas: incorporates proven industry standards developed by gas measurement experts from industry and the BLM, and increases the BLM's ability to account

for the gas produced by ensuring that higher volume facilities have more frequent equipment inspections and heating value determinations.

- **Final Rule: Methane Waste Prevention**— updates the BLM’s 30-year-old venting and flaring rules to require common sense and cost-effective measures to reduce the waste of gas, recognizing recent technological advances in oil and gas production. The rule aims to reduce the waste of gas and release of methane from flaring, venting, and leaking during oil and gas production on public and Indian lands, while increasing our nation’s natural gas supplies, reducing environmental damage from venting and flaring, and ensuring a fair return for Federal taxpayers, Tribes, and states.
  - **Final Rule: Hydraulic Fracturing on Federal and Indian Lands** – requires oil and gas operators to publicly disclose all chemicals used during the stimulations of a well by fracturing; includes an expanded set of evaluation tools; better guidance on how trade secret claims are handled; and revised records retention requirements. Implementation is on hold pending litigation.
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- The BLM completed three major automation achievements to improve efficiencies in the BLM oil and gas program this year.
    - **Proposed Rule: Onshore Order #1 (E-filing of Drilling Permit Applications)**— increases efficiencies in the management of oil and gas operations, including drill permit approvals. The BLM’s improved online permitting system reduces processing times for most permits by 50%. The current average number for permit processing time to drill on BLM public lands is 220 days, but online permitting drops that to 115 days.
    - **National Fluid Lease Sale System (NFLSS)**— automates the way members of the public and industry nominate lands for possible oil and gas development. With the new online service, expressions of interest (EOIs) may be entered electronically for BLM review and processing. EOIs reflect the desire on behalf of the public or industry to see specific lands made available for competitive oil and gas leasing. In September, the BLM held its first online oil and gas lease sale under new authority from Congress.
    - **Online Oil and Gas Lease Sale**— as part of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for FY2015, Congress amended the Mineral Leasing Act to allow the BLM to conduct online lease sales. The BLM estimates that internet-based auctions could increase aggregate lease sale revenues by about \$2 million a year. The BLM believes that online sales have the potential to generate greater competition by making participation easier, which has the potential to increase bonus bids. BLM’s Eastern States



Office held the first online auction in September, and offered nearly 4,400 acres. All parcels offered were sold.

- **O/G Workforce:** To meet the management and oversight requirements of the Oil and Gas program, the BLM has needed well-trained and experienced workforce. In recent years, the BLM, in cooperation with DOI has pursued higher pay rates, as well as completing BLM-wide corporate hiring and training efforts to ensure we have skilled Petroleum Engineer and Petroleum Engineering Technician workforce in place to meet the demands on the ground.
- **Coal Reform and PEIS:** In January 2015, the Department announced a comprehensive review to examine a broad array of concerns about the federal coal program following critical reports issued by the GAO and OIG; as well as Congress and the public. Six public scoping meetings were held across the country in May and June. Approximately 2,000 people attended the meetings, which were held in Casper, Wyo.; Salt Lake City, Utah; Knoxville, Tenn.; Grand Junction, Colo.; Seattle, Wash; and Pittsburgh, Pa. The BLM is using the input from the meetings and the comments from the American public to help identify and evaluate potential reforms to the Federal coal leasing program to ensure it provides a fair return to taxpayers and accounts for environmental impacts, while continuing to help meet the nation's energy needs.

## Renewable Energy

Since 2009, 60 Renewable Projects Approved

- 36 solar
  - 11 wind
  - 13 geothermal
- Together, the BLM authorized wind, solar and geothermal projects could support more than 26,000 construction and operations jobs and generate over 15,000 megawatts (MW) of power to communities across the West, or enough to power more than 5 million homes.



**The BLM is a leader in making solar, wind, and geothermal energy possible on public lands and aims to permit 20,000 megawatts (MW) of power derived from renewable energy projects on public lands by 2020.**

- **Solar and Wind Rule:** The BLM's final competitive leasing rule for wind and solar projects puts the BLM's "Smart From the Start" planning approach into regulation, with the goal of reducing resource conflicts, speeding up approval times for projects in designated leasing areas, and getting a fair return for taxpayers.
  - The rule strengthens existing policies and creates a new leasing program that will support renewable energy development through competitive leasing processes and incentives to encourage development in suitable areas.
  - The rule complements the Department's landscape-scale planning efforts, including the Western Solar Plan, California's Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan, and Arizona's Restoration Design Energy Project, which were designed to streamline development in areas with high generation potential, while protecting important environmental, cultural and recreational resources.

- These regulations will reduce costs for solar developers and provide more certainty for wind and solar developers.
- **Solar Energy:** Solar energy potential in the Southwest is some of the highest in the world. The BLM manages more than 19 million acres of public lands with excellent solar energy potential in 6 states: California, Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado and Utah; and since 2009 the BLM has authorized 36 solar projects
- **Wind Energy:** The BLM manages 20.6 million acres of public lands with wind potential. The BLM has authorized over 11 wind projects and 100 wind energy testing sites.
- **Geothermal Energy:** The BLM has also approved 13 geothermal projects.
- **Biomass and Bioenergy:** BLM manages approximately 69 million acres of forests and woodlands. About 16 million acres need restoration. The BLM is increasing the use of small-diameter material from forestry, fuels and rangeland treatments. The demand for biomass is expected to increase as bioenergy facilities come on-line to produce heat, fuel, or electricity.

## Transmission Corridors



### Rapid Response Team for Transmission (RRTT)

- 500 kilovolt (kV) Boardman to Hemingway line in Oregon and Idaho
- 500kV Gateway West project in southern Idaho
- 600kV TransWest Express project in Wyoming, Colorado, Utah and Nevada.



**The BLM is committed to processing applications for electric transmission facilities that expand and modernize the transmission grid in an environmentally responsible manner. The Interagency Rapid Response Team for Transmission (RRTT) aims to improve the overall quality and timeliness of electric transmission infrastructure permitting, review, and consultation by the Federal government on both Federal and non-Federal lands.**

- Three projects in progress involving BLM-managed public lands include:
  - **Boardman to Hemingway Line:** This 500-kilovolt (kV) transmission line proposed by Idaho Power would create an approximately 300-mile long, single-circuit electric transmission line from a proposed substation near Boardman, Oregon to the Hemingway Substation near Melba, Idaho. The developer estimates that at peak construction the project will create about 500 jobs in Idaho and Oregon.
  - **Gateway West:** Jointly proposed by Idaho Power and Rocky Mountain Power, this project would add about 1,150 miles of new high-voltage transmission lines between the Windstar Substation near Glenrock, Wyoming and the Hemingway Substation near Melba, Idaho. The developer estimates that at peak construction the

project will create between 1,100 and 1,200 jobs.

- **TransWest Express:** TransWest Express LLC plans to construct and operate an approximately 700-mile-long, 600-kV transmission line which will facilitate the development of new wind projects in Wyoming. The developer estimates that at peak construction the project will create between 1,035 and 1,550 jobs.

## Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP)



- In September, the BLM completed collaboration on largest landscape planning renewable energy and conservation planning effort in California, covering approximately 22.5 million acres of Federal and non-Federal land in the Mojave and Colorado (Sonoran) deserts.
- The lands identified for renewable energy development have the potential to generate up to 27,000 MW.

**The Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP) is an innovative landscape-level plan that streamlines renewable energy development while conserving unique and valuable desert ecosystems and provides outdoor recreation opportunities.**

- In September, the BLM completed collaboration on the largest landscape planning renewable energy and conservation planning effort in California, covering approximately 22.5 million acres of Federal and non-Federal land in the Mojave and Colorado (Sonoran) deserts of southern California.
- Lands specifically identified in the DRECP for renewable energy development have the potential to generate up to 27,000 megawatts of renewable energy.
- The finalization of the DRECP is the result of extensive public participation, which included collaboration among the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, California Energy Commission, California Department of Fish and Wildlife and countless other stakeholders.

## Providing World-Class Recreation



- The BLM offers more opportunities to enjoy the outdoors than any other Federal agency.
- Each year BLM-managed lands:
  - Receive more than **62 million** recreation visits
  - Generate **~\$6 billion** in economic output
  - Support **~44,000** recreation-related jobs (FY2015)
- **New interactive maps** allow visitors to use the latest technology on computers and mobile devices to find things to see and do on public lands.

### **The BLM manages myriad recreational opportunities over a diverse landscape.**

- BLM lands provide everything from hunting, fishing, and camping to hang gliding, mountain biking, off-highway vehicle use, wildlife viewing, horseback riding, and many other activities.
- This year, the BLM rolled out new interactive recreational maps that allow visitors to use the latest technology on computers and mobile devices to find things to see and do on public lands.
- These maps help you tailor your visit based on your location and recreational interests, such as mountain biking, rock climbing, hunting and hiking.
- These maps provide an easy way to find places to visit among the millions of acres of public lands.

## Hunting and Fishing



### Hunting:

- Out of the 245 million surface acres available for recreation, more than 99% is open to hunting and recreational shooting.

### Fishing:

- BLM-managed public lands include some of the Nation's most ecologically diverse aquatic habitat, covering 3 million acres of lakes and reservoirs, and over 132,000 miles of fish-bearing streams.
- Sport fishing resources including nationally significant recreational and blue ribbon fisheries such as Gunnison Gorge in Colorado, Lake Havasu in Arizona/California, the Rogue River in Oregon and Henry's Fork in Idaho.



## Protecting Special Places



- **22%** of the lands managed by the BLM are National Conservation Lands.
- **11 units** of the National Conservation Lands are within **80 miles** of major urban centers.
- The 16 year old National Conservation Lands system currently includes over **870 units** covering about **35 million acres**.
- **25 National Monuments, 16 National Conservation Areas, 3 Outstanding Natural Areas, 1 Cooperative Management and Protection Area, 1 Forest Reserve, 223 Wilderness Areas, 517 Wilderness Study Areas, 69 Wild and Scenic Rivers, 18 National Scenic and Historic Trails, and the Conservation Lands of the California Desert.**

**The BLM protects some of our nation's most spectacular landscapes, known as National Conservation Lands. These lands follow the BLM's multiple-use and sustained-yield mission, and are for current and future generations to enjoy.**

### **Yours to Explore: America's Newest System of Protected Lands:**

- These National Conservation Lands encompass landscapes of tremendous beauty and diversity—ranging from the rugged California coastline to the red-rock canyons of Utah to the badlands of eastern Montana.
- The BLM conserves, protects, and restores these nationally significant landscapes that are recognized for their outstanding cultural, ecological, and scientific values.
- Americans are now recognizing just how special many places under the BLM's long-term stewardship are, and they are calling for their permanent protection as part of the National Conservation Lands.

### **Explore without the Crowds:**

- National Conservation Lands are some of our country's wildest and vastest protected landscapes and offer uncrowded places for recreation adventures.

- Some National Conservation lands are so remote they were among the last places in the U. S. to be mapped. They are ruggedly beautiful, untouched places for you to discover and explore.

**Places Worth Protecting:**

- National Conservation Lands tell America's story, providing a tour of the history and cultures of the West.
- Experience one of the darkest night skies left in America in the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, which is also the site of the discovery of nearly 20 new dinosaur species.
- Visitors to National Conservation Lands generate about \$400 million per year, helping to drive the economy.
- Visitors to National Monuments and NCAs support nearly \$750 million in states' economic output, \$250 million in labor income, and 6,900 jobs.

## Sustaining Healthy Forests

- The BLM manages 58 million acres of forest and woodlands.
- The BLM emphasizes balancing the ecological, economic, and social aspects of forests and managing them to consider the needs of future generations.
- **Western Oregon Plan Implementation:** The BLM completed Resource Management Plan (RMP) revisions providing goals, objectives, and direction for the management of approximately 2.5 million acres of BLM-administered lands in western Oregon.



**The BLM manages forests and woodlands in accordance with the multiple-use, sustained yield mandate of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 which means everything that forests provide today will also be provided in the future.**

- Some of the most productive forests in the world are managed by the BLM. These forests provide valuable fish and wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities, forest products, and clean water.
- Many BLM managed forests are adjacent to and intermixed with state, private, and USFS lands. Thus, we seek active, collaborative management across ownerships which is essential to improving resilience against disturbances such as drought, disease, invasive species, wildfire, and a changing climate.
- The BLM completed the Western Oregon Plan Implementation-- Resource Management Plan (RMP) revisions providing goals, objectives, and direction for the management of approximately 2.5 million acres of BLM-administered lands in western Oregon. The planning area consists of the Coos Bay, Eugene, Medford, Roseburg, and Salem Districts, as well as the Klamath Falls Resource Area of the Lake view District.

- The BLM estimates that full implementation of the RMPs will be able to provide 278 million board feet (mmbf) per year in total timber harvest. The BLM will create harvest timber opportunities using the principles of ecological forestry.
- In response to public input, the plan will also increase recreation and tourism opportunities in Western Oregon by designating 20 percent of the planning areas as Recreation Management Areas (RMAs)
- The BLM estimates the RMPs will increase annual harvest value from \$23 million to \$51 million, the value of recreation will increase from \$223 million to \$271 million, and the contributions to jobs will increase from 7,900 to 8,500.

## Managing Rangelands with Local Communities

- Today, the BLM authorizes cattle, sheep, and other grazing activities on 155 million acres of public land.
- The BLM administers nearly 18,000 grazing permits and leases held by ranchers who graze their livestock, mostly cattle and sheep, at least part of the year on more than 21,000 allotments under BLM management throughout the West.



**The BLM manages livestock grazing in a manner aimed at achieving and maintaining the health of public land.**

- The BLM does this by working with local communities and ranchers who share the same desired conditions for healthy livestock on healthy rangelands.
- Livestock grazing now competes with more uses than it did in the past, as other industries and the general public look to the public lands as sources of both conventional and renewable energy and as places for outdoor recreational opportunities, including off-highway vehicle use.
- To achieve desired conditions, the agency uses rangeland health standards and guidelines, which the BLM developed in the 1990s with input from citizen-based Resource Advisory Councils across the West.

## Protecting Fish and Wildlife

- The BLM manages more wildlife habitat than any other federal or state agency.
- BLM-managed lands are vital to more than 3,000 species of animals, including game, non-game, Bureau-sensitive, and threatened and endangered fish and wildlife.
- The BLM manages habitat for 245 wildlife and plant species listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and another 31 species identified as candidates for listing.
- The BLM manages the Nation's most ecologically diverse range of aquatic habitat, totaling more than 132,000 miles of fish bearing streams and rivers, over three million acres of lake and reservoir habitat, and countless wetlands.



### **The greatest diversity of fish and wildlife habitat is found on BLM public lands.**

- Because of the isolation in some places, these lands include many of America's rarest habitats, which support many plant and animal communities. To fulfill its obligation to current and future generations, the BLM supports aggressive habitat conservation and restoration activities. Many of these activities are conducted in conjunction with public and private partners.
- BLM waters support fisheries that sustain hundreds of game and native fish species (e.g. Bonneville Cutthroat Trout, Zuni Bluehead sucker, Flannelmouth sucker, Gila chub, Colorado Pikeminnow, Pacific Lamprey, Coho Salmon, Desert Pupfish), and countless recreational fisheries such as Gunnison Gorge in western CO, Lake Havasu in western AZ, the Green in southeast WY and Rogue River in northeast UT.
- Our National Conservation Lands support native fisheries and recreational fishing. Wild trout, grayling and salmon are found throughout Alaska's Wild and Scenic Rivers including Beaver and Birch Creek, Delta, Fortymile, Gulkana and Unalakleet Rivers. Pacific salmon and marine fishes

surround the newly designated San Juan Islands National Monument in Washington State. The Deschutes River canyon in Oregon boasts a world-famous steelhead and redband trout fishery.

- The BLM's 59 permanent fisheries biologists work with partners to **1) Protect** –The protection of existing high quality habitats is the core of any conservation program. **2) Reconnect** – Reconnecting fragmented and isolated fish and wildlife populations is essential to long term species survival. **3) Restore** – The restoration of degraded habitats helps bring back healthy fish populations and **4) Sustain** - Conservation is an ongoing process that we must sustain. Engaging the communities that live in and around our watersheds is a critical approach.
- Although the states manage the animals, the BLM manages wildlife habitat primarily in western shrublands, grasslands, woodlands, forests and riparian areas as well as glaciers and Arctic tundra in Alaska.

## Preserving Native Plant Communities

- The BLM manages more than 57 million acres of sagebrush habitat in the Western United States, which support more than 300 species of birds and other wildlife.
- The BLM manages more than 700 rare plant species, 400 of which are found exclusively on BLM lands.
- Seeds of Success (SOS) is the national native seed collection program, led by the BLM in partnership with a variety of Federal agencies and non-Federal organizations.
- The "National Seed Strategy for Rehabilitation and Restoration 2015-2020" released last year was part of a comprehensive, science-based strategy to address the threat of wildfires that are damaging landscapes across the West.



**The BLM manages a variety of ecosystems, from grasslands to high desert and from coastal areas to alpine forests.**

- Native plants form the ecosystems that support our quality of life and our economic prosperity. They recycle and clean fresh water, provide soil stability, and provide the oxygen that animals and humans need to survive.
- An immense diversity of native plant communities, many rare or endangered, define the character of these lands. These plant communities support a diversity of fish and wildlife and vital ecological functions.
- Seeds of Success's mission is to collect wildland native seed for research, development, seed conservation, and ecosystem restoration.
- The "National Seed Strategy for Rehabilitation and Restoration 2015-2020" released last year was part of a comprehensive, science-based strategy to address the threat of wildfires that are damaging landscapes across the West, and aims to provide a more coordinated approach for stabilization, rehabilitation, and restoration treatments. It provides a framework for actively working with the private sector in order to build a "seed industry"



**for rehabilitation and restoration.**


 Bureau of  
Land  
Management

## Healthy Wild Horses on Healthy Rangelands



- BLM spends two-thirds of its WH&B Program budget (**\$49 of \$77 million** in FY 2015) to care for animals removed from the range.
- Public rangelands are home to nearly **70,000 wild horses and burros**.
- The BLM is caring for nearly **50,000 animals** in off-range corrals and pastures.
- It costs **American taxpayers up to \$50,000** per animal living in off-range corrals and pastures.

**The BLM manages free-roaming wild horses and burros on public lands as part of its multiple-use mission, with the goal of supporting healthy wild horses and burros on healthy public rangelands.**

- Since receiving Federal protection in 1971, WHB populations on public lands have soared, far exceeding what public lands can support. Over 235,000 animals have been adopted since 1971, but in the last several years WHB population growth on public lands has out-paced adoptions. The BLM spends two thirds of its WHB budget to care for animals removed from the range. The BLM continues to research how best to control population growth.
- The BLM is responsible for determining and maintaining appropriate management levels (AML) for each herd and works to achieve that population target through a variety of management processes, including limiting reproduction in some herds through the use of birth control and gathers that remove excess animals from the range.

### **Current Situation and Outlook**


- The West-wide appropriate on-range management level for wild horses and

burros is approximately 26,715 animals. As of March 1, 2016, public rangelands were home to nearly 70,000 wild horses and burros; the BLM is currently caring for nearly 50,000 animals in off-range corrals and pastures. Animals living in off-range corrals and pastures cost American taxpayers up to \$50,000 over the course of each animal's life.

- As part of the BLM's focus on healthy horses and burros and healthy public rangelands, the BLM is dedicated to finding solutions that can slow population growth on the range. The BLM is investing \$11 million over the next four to five years to develop new tools for managing wild horses and burros, including longer-lasting birth control.
- By continuing existing partnerships and forging new ones, the BLM can redouble its efforts to train more wild horses and burros and place more animals in good homes. For example, the BLM's partnership with the Mustang Heritage Foundation has helped place 7,300 animals in suitable homes over the last ten years.


#### **BLM Media Statement**

*The National Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board is an independent panel comprised of members of the public that make recommendations to the Bureau of Land Management regarding its management of wild horses and burros. The BLM is committed to having healthy horses on healthy rangelands. We will continue to care for and seek good homes for animals that have been removed from the range. The BLM does not and will not euthanize healthy animals. The agency continues to seek new and better tools for managing the nation's quickly expanding population of wild horses. There are nearly 70,000 horses on public lands in the West -- three times the recommended level -- and nearly 50,000 additional horses that have been removed from the range and are available for adoption. The cost of caring for each animal that goes unadopted can be nearly \$50,000.*

 Bureau of Land Management

## Planning for Healthy Landscapes

**Planning 2.0:** The BLM recently issued an updated rule that will make its land use planning more accessible to the public, more responsive to the changing conditions on the public lands, and more efficient.



**The BLM uses a collaborative planning process to carefully manage America's public lands.**

- Local, state, and tribal governments, the public, user groups, and industry all work together with the BLM to identify appropriate uses of public lands. Plans are periodically revised as changing conditions and resource demands are required, so that present and future generations can benefit from their public lands.
- The BLM has finalized its updated planning rule, Planning 2.0, in order to make the land use planning process more accessible to the public, more responsive to the changing conditions on the public lands, and more efficient. The final rule supports the BLM's focus on science-based, landscape-scale approaches to resource management and increases opportunities for early engagement by state and local government, Tribes, partner agencies, stakeholders, and the public.

Key points include:

- The final rule establishes several new opportunities for early public involvement during the planning process.
- The final rule recognizes the vital partnerships that exist between the BLM and tribal, state, and local governments by providing special opportunities for cooperation and collaboration.
- The rule enhances the consistency between the BLM's land use plans and the plans of other governments.
- The final rule supports the BLM's continued use of high quality data, reaffirming the importance of using the best available science and technology as a foundation for land use planning and management.
- The final rule provides the BLM flexibility to plan across traditional administrative boundaries in order to address complex land management issues.



## Managing Wildland Fires




**Wildland Fire:** Highly trained and skilled BLM employees carry out fire safety, fire suppression, preparedness, fuels management, prevention and education, community assistance and protection activities across public lands.

**Team Rubicon Partnership:** In the summer of 2015, nearly 200 veterans joined Team Rubicon to receive training, and more than 100 helped fight wildland fires during one of the most devastating wildfire seasons in recent history.

**The BLM is a leader in our nation's wildland fire management efforts.**


- The BLM undertakes a broad range of activities to safely protect the public, the natural landscape, wildlife habitat, and recreational areas for our country's citizens.
- Highly trained and skilled BLM employees carry out wildland fire safety, fire suppression, preparedness, fuels management, prevention and education, community assistance and protection.
- The BLM meets these challenges by providing highly trained and skilled professional firefighters and managers. The BLM aims to reduce the risk and consequence of wildland fires and to provide suppression operations.
- Team Rubicon is an international nonprofit disaster response group, which combines the skills and experiences of military vets with first responders. This partnership intends to train 400 veterans to be wildland firefighters for the current fire season.

- **Team Rubicon's mission is a perfect fit for the BLM Fire Program, providing an opportunity for veterans to acquire jobs, gain skills, and develop interests in careers with the BLM or other Federal agencies in fire and other land management areas.**



## Conserving Sage Grouse and Sagebrush Steppe

- Greater Sage-Grouse habitat across 11 states in the West covers 165 million acres, a loss of 56% from the species' historic range.
- In September 2015, the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture finalized the Greater Sage-Grouse plans, which included amendments and revisions to 98 BLM and U.S. Forest Service land use plans across the West.
- The plans, which were developed in cooperation among local, state and federal agencies and private landowners, were cited by the FWS as a key reason it found that the Greater Sage-Grouse did not warrant protection under the ESA.



**The BLM manages more than 57 million acres of sagebrush habitat in the Western United States, which support more than 300 species of birds and other wildlife.**

- At one time, the Greater Sage-Grouse population likely numbered in the millions, but is estimated to have dwindled to 200,000 to 500,000 individuals range-wide.
- The BLM, in cooperation with the Forest Service and its partners, has finalized and approved a series of land use plans for the areas they manage. These plans all anticipate ongoing relationships with our cooperators and partners in designing and implementing Greater Sage-Grouse conservation actions. The plans contain three common approaches:
  - **Minimizing new or additional surface disturbance** – The plans seek to reduce habitat fragmentation and protect intact habitat by implementing surface disturbance caps on development, minimizing surface occupancy from energy development, and identifying buffer distances around leks - areas critical to the sage-grouse life-cycle.
  - **Improving habitat condition** – While restoring lost sagebrush habitat can be difficult in the short term, it is often possible to



enhance habitat quality through purposeful management. Where there are unavoidable impacts to habitat from development, the plans will require mitigation efforts to enhance and improve sage-grouse habitat.

- **Reduce threat of rangeland fire** – Rangeland fire can lead to the conversion of previously healthy sagebrush habitat into non-native, cheatgrass-dominated landscapes. Experts have identified fire as one of the greatest threats to sagebrush habitat, particularly in the Great Basin region of Idaho, Utah, Nevada, Oregon and California. The plans seek to fight the spread of cheatgrass and other invasive species, position wildland fire management resources for more effective rangeland fire response, and accelerate the restoration of fire-impacted landscapes to native grasses and sagebrush.
- Going forward, the BLM and USFS will continue to engage states and counties through mechanisms such as formal implementation agreements and collaboration with the Sage Grouse Task Force.
- The BLM and USFS will also continue to engage local partners on site- and project-specific issues.

## Preserving the Past



- There are **10.6 million** documented artifacts and specimens, that were found on BLM-managed lands, in **166** museums and universities nationwide.
- BLM-managed lands in the West and in Alaska hold some of the world's best outdoor laboratories for studying the fossilized remains of plant and animal life, which span from 10,000 years old to hundreds of millions of years old.

**The vast public lands entrusted to the BLM hold some of the most significant evidence of dinosaurs, human prehistory, and history in the West and Alaska.**

- Many types of fossils can be found on the BLM-managed public lands than under any other Federal or State agency's control, and all Americans share in this unique natural legacy.
- There are 10.6 million documented artifacts and specimens, that were found on BLM-managed lands, in 166 museums and universities nationwide.
- Long-abandoned archaeological sites and historic landscapes give us important insights into the ways human activities and the environment have linked together through time, how seemingly minor cultural practices can contribute to substantial environmental change.
- Discovering, studying, and understanding the evidence of past human influences on the land can give BLM and the public critically important background as we plan how we should be using the same land today and in

the future.

- Fossils are the remains and traces of once-living organisms, preserved in rocks of the Earth's crust. They convey the story of the beginning and end of extraordinary varieties of ocean-dwelling, fresh-water, and terrestrial creatures in the Earth's history.
- BLM-managed lands in the West and in Alaska hold some of the world's best outdoor laboratories for studying the fossilized remains of plant and animal life, which span from 10,000 years old to hundreds of millions of years old.

**Interesting facts:**

- Many of the fossils that you see in museums all over the country came from your public lands.
- The BLM's Cleveland-Lloyd Dinosaur Quarry in Utah is home to the largest concentration of large meat-eating dinosaurs ever found.
- Hundreds of new dinosaurs and other fossil species have been discovered in BLM's Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in Utah since it was designated in 1996.
- Fossils in the fossil record are important evidence of changing climates in the past.

## Protecting Visitors to Public Lands

- The BLM employs approximately 265 law enforcement officers
  - Roughly one law enforcement officer for every 1 million acres.
- Current public lands enforcement priorities include
  - Addressing the pressures caused by growing urban populations;
  - Combating environmental impacts linked to large-scale marijuana cultivation;
  - Deterring resource damage caused by smuggling activities along the Southwest Border; and
  - Responding to employee safety concerns



**BLM Rangers and Special Agents have a passion for conservation and protection of resources and a love for the outdoors.**

- They are committed to public safety, serving our communities by tackling some of the toughest and most unique challenges of Federal law enforcement.
- BLM officers are uniquely trained to enforce the various Federal laws and regulations designed to protect public land resources in support of the BLM multiple-use and sustained yield mission.

## Engaging Present & Future Generations



- Partner-sponsored youth programs employed more than **6,400 young people**.
- Outdoor education programs and hands-on learning reached more than **240,000 people of all ages**.
- More than **25,000 volunteers** contributed over **1 million hours of service**, worth an estimated **\$23.9 million**.

**The BLM engages youth and adults with opportunities to have fun in the outdoors, learn about science and careers, and volunteer or work as stewards of our treasured landscapes and resources of public land.**

- The BLM's goal is to work with local communities and partners to pass on abundant natural resources and a healthy environment to our kids and their children.
- An estimated 4.9 million visitors enjoyed activities, tours, exhibits, and interpretive programs on BLM lands.
- The BLM participates in the Department of the Interior's Every Kid in a Park program, which invites fourth graders nationwide to obtain a one-year pass for free entrance to more than 2,000 Federally-managed lands and waters nationwide.
- We are expanding our programs to meet increasing public interest and demand. BLM field classrooms within the Hands on the Land network are located in 81 locations and National Public Lands Day is celebrated in

nearly 200 locations agency-wide. We also have vibrant programs for Artists-in-Residence and Teachers on the Public Lands.

## Partnering with Local Communities



**Tribal Consultation:** In most day-to-day consultations with tribes, the BLM field office manager serves as the official representative of the United States.

**Cooperation & Partnerships:** Working closely with State, local, tribal, and Federal government partners:

- We strive to improve communication;
- Identify common goals and objectives; and
- Enhance the quality of our management of the public lands.

**The BLM can not do the work of managing public lands without the involvement of the public.**

- The BLM works carefully with local communities, including hundreds of sovereign tribal nations and with state and local governments across the country.
- The BLM strives to be leaders in the Federal government in cooperation, collaboration, coordination, and partnership.
- Federally recognized Indian tribes are sovereign nations exercising government-to-government relations with the United States. Where the public lands are concerned, these relations usually take the form of legally required consultation.
- The BLM's cooperation, coordination, and partnership processes reflect the agency's commitment to and recognition of the vital role played by Federal, State, local, and tribal partners.



U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management

## Proud to Serve

**BLM employees are proud to serve our fellow Americans and work hard to engage the public and community leaders to find common ground in the management of public lands. The BLM works closely with hundreds of sovereign tribal nations, with state and local governments, and with citizens across the country. BLM employees are good neighbors. In addition to being public servants, they are parents, coaches, leaders, and volunteers in the communities they serve.**



### **BLM employees are proud to serve our fellow Americans.**

- BLM employees take pride in engaging the public and working with community leaders to find common ground.
- BLM employees are good neighbors. In addition to being public servants, they are parents, coaches, leaders, and volunteers in the communities they serve.