

2014 Annual Report

Bureau of Land Management

Wyoming



—Mary Jo Rugwell, Acting State Director

BLM Wyoming had another busy and rewarding year in 2014. Our State Director, Don Simpson retired at the end of the year. His insight and years of experience will be greatly missed. Mr. Simpson left a legacy of building great partnerships, which are at the heart of our successes, and BLM Wyoming is committed to continuing this great western tradition of neighbors working together. Programs like the Wyoming Landscape Conservation Initiative are a great example of agencies, both state and federal, and local land owners coming together to find ways to pursue regional mitigation and conserve the ecosystem at a landscape level that supports the heritage and economy of the state.

We appreciate the high level of participation and involvement in our resource management plans and project level analyses from various interest groups, federal, state and local government and users of public lands. The best decisions are made through collaborative efforts of the people directly affected by those land use plans and projects. The diligent work put in over this past year has put us in a position to finalize our major land use plans in 2015.

Wyoming is home to the largest concentration of Greater Sage-Grouse, with most of the best habitat on public land. It is our responsibility to ensure we're doing all we can to conserve and promote healthy habitat, especially in the midst of challenges such as drought and fire. We have and will remain vigilant in our management efforts for Greater Sage-Grouse habitat.

Once again, BLM Wyoming was a major contributor to the State of Wyoming economy, with most of those funds coming from energy extraction. When combined, oil, gas and coal production provided over \$2.1 billion in royalty revenue to the state and federal government. We work diligently to make certain that development is conducted in responsible, environmentally sound ways, while pioneering and innovating on-the-ground solutions to difficult challenges. At the same time, we want to make sure Wyoming public lands offer the wide-open recreational opportunities and outstanding wildlife habitat that we value, like the nation's longest wildlife migration corridor in Western Wyoming.

The BLM is committed to America's clean energy future and will continue to make expanding domestic energy production a priority according to President Obama's Climate Action Plan. Renewable energy and transmission lines will play a large role in the BLM's domestic energy portfolio in the future.

The Resource Advisory Council continues to be an important collaborative partner. The members have been tackling a variety of issues including public participation, land use planning and reclamation and mitigation. Their deliberations, questions and advice are proving extremely valuable. I would certainly encourage anyone interested to attend and participate in these quarterly meetings.

The following report reflects the partnerships and successes we've had over the last year.

Stay Connected

<http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en.html>



Direct Financial Transfers to the State of Wyoming

Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT)	\$27,143,411
Royalties, Rents and Bonuses.....	\$1,007,269,376

Federal Collections from BLM-Managed Lands and Minerals

Recreation fees.....	\$205,028
Grazing fees.....	\$1,839,363
Lands and realty management.....	\$6,269,462
Timber management	\$94,270
Mining claim location/maintenance.....	\$6,839,150
Mineral materials.....	\$1,350,321
Mineral royalties/revenues	\$2,124,748,219

Mineral royalties/revenues

Oil and gas royalties	\$998,645,827
Coal royalties	\$555,780,500
Trona ore royalties	\$35,152,693
Fees, bonus bids, other mineral revenue and royalties	\$569,818,409
Total	\$2,124,748,219

Energy and Mineral Production

Barrels of oil produced.....	30,423,790
Oil and gas leases	15,812
Acres of oil and gas development	10.6 million
Trillion cubic feet of natural gas produced	1.2
Tons of coal produced.....	339,773,956

Minerals and Lands Fast Facts

Coal:

- Wyoming, the nation's leading coal producer since 1986, provides about 40 percent of America's coal through the top 10 producing mines located in the Powder River Basin.

Uranium:

- Wyoming is America's leader in uranium production with over two million pounds produced in 2014. More than 13 percent of the world's electricity is generated from uranium which fuels nuclear reactors.
- 12 authorized and five pending Plans of Operations for in situ recovery/in situ leaching.

Trona:

- Wyoming has the world's largest deposit of trona, supplying about 90 percent of the nation's soda ash. Trona is Wyoming's top international export, and Wyoming's reserves will last over 2,000 years.

Bentonite:

- Wyoming is the nation's leader in bentonite production with nearly 4 million tons produced each year. Over 70 percent of the world's known supply is located in Wyoming.

Oil and Gas:

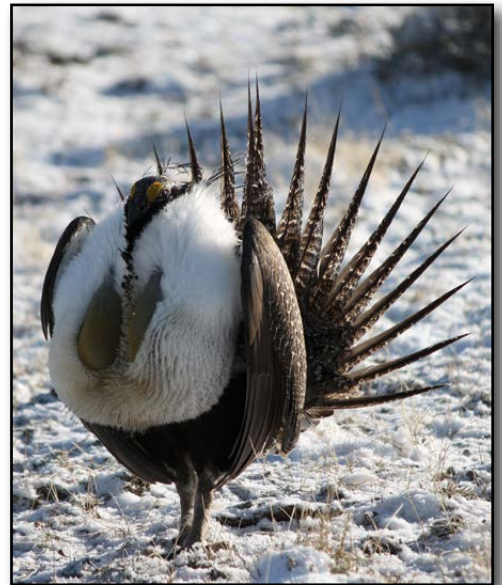
- BLM Wyoming is number one in federal gas production and number two in federal oil production.

Transmission:

- 2 major transmission line projects (Energy Gateway South and TransWest Express) are proposed and EISs are being prepared
- More than 1,200 miles of combined transmission lines, with a combined 4,500 Megawatt (MW) total capacity
- Targeted in-service dates for the two projects by 2020

Renewable Energy:

- 1 wind farm project (Chokecherry/Sierra Madre) is proposed and site specific EAs are being prepared for up to 1,000 turbines to generate 3,000 MW of electricity
- 34 turbines operating on BLM-administered land at the Foote Creek Rim Wind Farm generate between 17 and 34 MW of electricity



Recreation Program

Statewide Outreach and Youth Engagement

- 144 youth (18-25) were employed
- 54 partnerships were established and/or maintained
- Over 600 volunteers showed up for the 8th annual National Public Lands Day Platte River Revival co-sponsored by the BLM Casper Field Office
- Increased Hands on the Land programs from two to four
- Increased Take It Outside programs/activities from 24 to 29 reaching over 14,000 youth and their families

Milestones

- 2.9 million visitors on public lands in Wyoming
- 18,013 visitors at the National Historic Trails Interpretive Center
- 345 Special Recreation Permits
- 25 developed trails; foot, mountain bike, equestrian, and snowmobile
- 1,400 miles of National Scenic and Historic Trails
- 42 Wilderness Study Areas
- 42 Special Recreation Management Areas (SRMAs) and Recreation Management Areas (RMAs)
- 8,645 Recreation Use Permits (RUP) from 11 fee campgrounds
- Casper added two new fee campgrounds increasing the number of RUPs in FY 2013 of 748 to 5,408 in FY 2014.
- 1 National Recreation Trail
- 4 National Natural Landmarks
- 4 Backcountry Byways and Backways
- 2 Wild Horse Viewing Areas
- 3 Environmental Education Areas
- 1 developed climbing area
- 1 developed hang gliding area

Wild Horse and Burro Program

- BLM Wyoming manages 16 herd management areas and three holding facilities; one preparation facility in Rock Springs, the Mantle Adoption and Training Facility in Wheatland, and the Wyoming Honor Farm in Riverton with a total wild horse holding capacity of 1,200.
- Estimated current population of wild horses is 3,771. In FY 2014, 609 horses were taken off the range and 97 were adopted.

Resource Management Plan Revisions

Bighorn Basin Resource Management Plan

The planning area for the project includes lands within the BLM Worland and Cody Field Offices' administrative boundaries, in all of Big Horn, Park, and Washakie counties, and most of Hot Springs County in north-central Wyoming. Lands within the planning area under BLM jurisdiction consist of BLM-administered surface, totaling 3.2 million acres, and mineral estate, totaling 4.2 million acres.

Status: The Draft RMP/Draft EIS was available for public comment in early 2011. A supplemental Draft RMP/ Draft EIS was available for public comment in mid-2013 to address the national Greater Sage-Grouse planning effort. A Proposed RMP/Final EIS is expected in the late spring/early summer of 2015.

Lander Resource Management Plan

The planning area is located in Fremont, Natrona, Sweetwater, Carbon, and Hot Springs counties. This planning activity encompasses approximately 2.5 million surface acres of BLM-administered public lands and 2.7 million acres of subsurface mineral estate.

Status: A Draft RMP/ Draft EIS was published for public comment in September 2011. The BLM published a Proposed RMP/ Final EIS in February 2013. The ROD was issued in June 2014.

Buffalo Resource Management Plan

The planning area is located in Campbell, Johnson, and Sheridan counties and encompasses approximately 800,000 acres of public surface land and 4.7 million acres of federal mineral estate.

Status: The Draft RMP/Draft EIS was available for public comment in early 2011. A supplemental Draft RMP/ Draft EIS was available for public comment in mid-2013 to address the national Greater Sage-Grouse planning effort. A Proposed RMP/Final EIS is expected in the late spring/ early summer of 2015.

Rock Springs Resource Management Plan Revision

The BLM will revise its RMP to analyze the impacts of various resource uses and include alternatives for managing approximately 3.6 million surface land acres and 3.5 million acres of mineral estate administered by the BLM in portions of Lincoln, Sweetwater, Uinta, Sublette and Fremont counties in southwestern Wyo. The Rock Springs RMP will replace the 1997 Green River RMP as necessitated by emerging resource issues and legislative changes.

Status: The Rock Springs RMP was put on hold in February 2014 until the Sage Grouse Plan Amendment was further along. The Rock Springs Field Office has continued working with cooperating agencies on travel management planning during the plan hold. The Rock Springs RMP has been reinitiated, with alternative development being the primary focus at this time.

Sage-Grouse Management Plan Amendments

Six BLM RMPs and three US Forest Service (FS) land resource management plans (LRMPs) are being amended to address Greater Sage-Grouse habitat management. The BLM RMPs being amended are for Casper, Kemmerer, Newcastle, Pinedale, Rawlins, and Rock Springs field offices. The three FS LRMPs being amended are for the Bridger-Teton and Medicine Bow National Forests and the Thunder Basin National Grassland.

Status: During the past two years, BLM has integrated the national Greater Sage-Grouse planning effort's policy and direction. The BLM, FS and cooperating agencies have developed action alternatives. A Draft RMP/Draft EIS was released for public comment in late 2013. After responding to public comments, the BLM and FS will issue a Final EIS in late spring/early summer 2015.

Range and Weeds

- \$1,546,139 range improvements fund with carryover
- Approximately 3,500 grazing allotments administered
- Approximately 2,900 grazing permits/leases administered
- 17.4 million acres of public land administered inside of grazing allotments
- 8,734 acres of weed treatments applied
- 103,962 acres of invasive weed inventory
- 12,313 acres of evaluated weed treatments

Forestry

- 1.3 million acres of forest
- Approximately \$94,270 in vegetation/timber harvest sales collections
- 1.28 million board feet of timber sold
- 1,133 cords of firewood sold
- 1,925 green tons of biomass sold
- 480 Christmas trees sold
- 9,259 pounds of native seed sold
- 31 woody vegetation transplants sold
- 802 forest acres treated for forest health
- 621 Special Forest Products permits issued to the public
- 1,537 forested acres inventoried
- Monitoring plots established on approximately 1,000 acres of whitebark pine

BLM Wyoming's Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 2014	
Management of Land and Resources	\$75,795,535
Permit Processing	\$3,397,000
Rangeland Improvements	\$1,236,083
Wildland Fire Management	\$13,273,366
Motorized Fleet	\$4,119,478
Reimbursable Projects	\$4,805,438
Other (special construction projects, forest services, etc.)	\$2,615,227
Total	\$105,242,127

Salary and Operational Funding by Community		
Office	Labor	Operations
Buffalo	\$6,766,382	\$1,079,499
Casper	\$7,379,108	\$3,420,647
Cheyenne	\$17,001,990	\$16,319,639
Cody	\$2,005,307	\$458,712
Kemmerer	\$2,342,439	\$808,871
Lander	\$3,255,597	\$959,086
Newcastle	\$1,276,566	\$561,238
Pinedale	\$4,422,775	\$1,826,538
Rawlins	\$6,776,502	\$1,381,331
Rock Springs	\$10,804,912	\$5,443,486
Worland	\$6,983,603	\$2,990,745
Total	\$69,015,181	\$35,249,792

Cultural and Paleontology Resources

- Over 115,000 acres surveyed at the Class III level (intensive inventory) – 64,154 acres on BLM-administered lands and 50,906 acres on non-BLM surface
- Over 2,300 actions reviewed
- 1,497 sites recorded – 846 on BLM-administered lands and 651 on non-BLM surface
- 373 properties determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places
- 1,266 properties avoided potential adverse effects
- 127 monitored cultural properties in stable condition
- 16 anti-looting/anti-vandalism signs installed to protect cultural resources
- 83 permits for archaeological investigations in effect
- 55 consultation meetings with representatives and governments of federally-recognized Indian tribes

Payment In Lieu of Taxes (PILT)		
County	Payment	Total Acres
Albany	\$1,441,594	673,875
Big Horn	\$1,076,874	1,544,734
Campbell	\$638,158	366,039
Carbon	\$1,269,934	2,720,767
Converse	\$631,029	403,981
Crook	\$680,911	334,066
Fremont	\$2,575,800	3,186,846
Goshen	\$70,405	27,313
Hot Springs	\$812,226	569,671
Johnson	\$981,531	830,713
Laramie	\$24,509	9,508
Lincoln	\$1,214,569	1,947,971
Natrona	\$3,474,159	1,483,984
Niobrara	\$322,669	125,890
Park	\$1,754,661	3,592,196
Platte	\$273,735	106,455
Sheridan	\$965,581	438,758
Sublette	\$928,503	2,410,856
Sweetwater	\$3,303,461	4,602,839
Teton	\$1,843,526	2,623,212
Uinta	\$1,440,060	568,168
Washakie	\$1,115,731	959,449
Weston	\$303,785	310,514
Total	\$27,143,411	29,837,805