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Cultural Sites

Indicator: Number of cultural resources sites recorded by subbasin. This indicator shows where the greatest concentrations of cultural resources are currently known to be located. With the exception of part of Wyoming, the data were aggregated up from 1:24,000 scale site location maps that were either digitized or coordinates interpolated for the points. For those areas of Wyoming where site locations have not been digitized, the number of sites per section was aggregated together and then the sections were linked to the subbasins. Montana's data are displayed at a coarser level than the subbasin (Hydrologic Unit Code 6 rather than 8). This coarser level does not appear to be particularly useful for presenting cultural resources data. The data for all of Arizona and a small part of Nevada exist, but were not submitted as of the deadline.

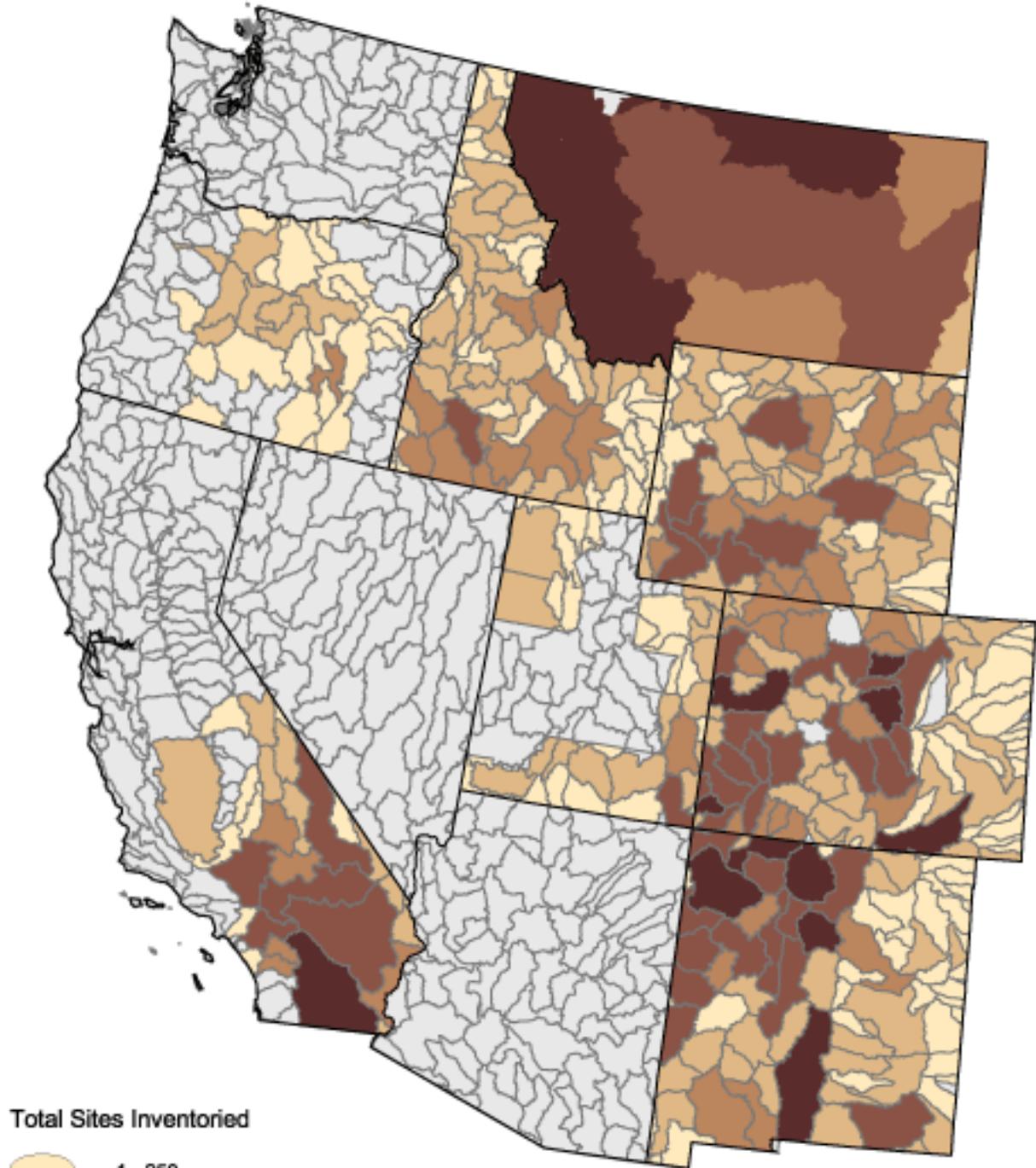
Key Findings: There are extremely large numbers of cultural resources sites recorded in the western states, especially in areas where the public lands are concentrated. The subbasins with the greatest numbers of sites appear to be in areas of greatest mineral development and in the California Desert, which may be an indication of the extensive surveys done in these areas. The maps also seem to show that fewer sites are recorded along state boundaries, which may indicate that fewer surveys are done there.

Limitations: The quality of the data are very good. The number of recorded sites is not necessarily an indicator of how many total sites are in any given subbasin. The data were primarily collected as a result of site-specific inventories performed in response to proposed on-the-ground actions. The data have not been normalized.

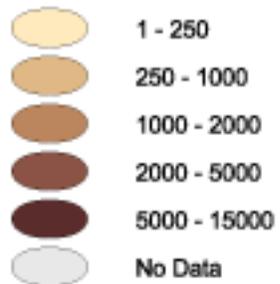
Source: In response to a March 2000 written request, the following institutions provided the BLM with the aggregated data (i.e., number of sites per subbasin) for their respective states: University of Redlands California Cultural Resources Information System Project Office; the State Historic Preservation Offices in Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Utah, Colorado and New Mexico; and the BLM/Forest Service Central Oregon Heritage Group (COHG) Database Project. Except for COHG, these institutions maintain their state's cultural resources inventories and update them on a daily basis. The BLM currently is helping the western states automate those inventories.

Comments: The lack of data for Nevada and Arizona and portions of other states makes it difficult to identify any large-scale correlations with other national indicators. Further analysis is needed to determine if data represent primarily where on-the-ground actions have occurred rather than an actual or estimated total number of sites per subbasin. Some of the western states have the data to make this determination already in an automated database format.

Cultural Sites



Total Sites Inventoried



Scale : 1:12,000,000

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