

## PART 1

### LAND RESOURCES AND INFORMATION

The total area of the 50 United States is 2.3 billion acres. The first public domain was created in 1781 when New York agreed to surrender to the Federal government its claim to unsettled territory that extended westward to the Mississippi River. Other colonies followed New York's example and, by 1802, all of the land west of the colonies between the Appalachian Mountains and the Mississippi River belonged to the Federal government. In the course of national expansion from 1781 to 1867, the public domain rapidly grew beyond the bounds of the Appalachian West, with the Federal government acquiring over 1.8 billion acres of public domain lands.

Accurate surveys were needed before the new public lands could be identified for sale or other disposition. In 1785, the Continental Congress adopted an ordinance setting up a survey system for the public domain lands. The General Land Office (predecessor to the present-day Bureau of Land Management) was established to oversee the surveying and disposal of the public lands. Various public land laws were enacted by Congress to accomplish these disposals. The land disposals built the country's economic foundation, opened the West to settlement, and united the vast expanses of land into one Nation. To raise money to repay Revolutionary War debts and encourage settlement of new territories, the Federal government sold or granted vast tracts of public lands to settlers, homesteaders, veterans, towns, new States entering the Union, railroads, Agricultural and Mechanical colleges and universities, and private companies. To date, almost 1.3 billion acres of public lands have been transferred out of Federal government ownership.

Congress recognized the need to protect the Nation's natural, historical, and cultural resources while providing opportunities for recreation. Special acts withdrew millions of acres of public lands from settlement for National Parks, National Forests, National Monuments, National Wildlife Refuges, National Trails, and National Wild and Scenic Rivers. Some of the best-known Congressional withdrawals include Yellowstone National Park, Grand Canyon National Park, and Death Valley National Monument.

The Nation's expanding population and mobile society created a demand for a variety of public land uses. Changes in public attitudes and a concern for environmental values and open space began to compete with the need for development and increased production. Congress, recognizing the value of the remaining public domain lands, enacted the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA). This Act declares that, with the exception for individual tracts that may be disposed of in the national interest, it is the policy of the United States to retain its public lands in Federal ownership. The Act mandates that the Bureau of Land Management administer the public lands under the concept of multiple uses, while protecting the long-term health of the land. Today, the Bureau of Land Management administers about 258.2 million surface acres of public land and approximately 700 million acres of Federal subsurface mineral estate in the United States. The Bureau of Land Management is responsible for managing these lands and their various resources so that they are utilized in a manner that will best meet the present and future needs of the Nation.

Table 1-1, Acquisition of the Public Domain, contains summary data on territories acquired by the Federal government during the course of national expansion. Thirty states commonly called the “public land States” were created as a result of these acquisitions (Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, Wisconsin, and Wyoming).

Table 1-2, Disposition of the Public Domain, includes summary data and cumulative acreage totals for public lands disposed of by the Federal government. Among the earliest disposal actions were grants of land to veterans of the Revolutionary War. Later, grants were made to new States entering the union, as well as for the creation of Agricultural and Mechanical colleges and universities. The Homestead Act permitted settlers to obtain land for agricultural purposes. Grants were also made for the construction of railroads. With the exception of the Desert Land Act of 1877 (which was amended), all of the land grant and disposal acts have been repealed or superseded by other acts. Therefore, the data contained in Table 1-2, except for the State of Alaska, is subject to little or no change.

Table 1-3, Mineral and Surface Acres Administered by the Bureau of Land Management, contains summary data of mineral estate administration by the Bureau of Land Management and the Bureau of Indian Affairs. This table replaced the U.S. General Services Administration table entitled “Comparison of Federally Owned Land with Total Acreage by State” in 2001.

Table 1-4, Public Lands Under Exclusive Jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management, contains summary data of public lands in each State that are currently under the administrative jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management. By law the States of Maryland, Texas, and Virginia are not public land States. By virtue of the Articles of Confederation and later the Constitution, the States of Maryland and the Commonwealth of Virginia retained control of their public lands when they entered the Union. When the State of Texas entered the Union by a joint resolution of Congress, it was allowed to retain control of its public lands. The BLM acquired the 548 acres of lands in Maryland and 805 acres of land in Virginia in separate acquisitions under Sec. 205 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, 43 U.S.C. 1715, as amended. The BLM also acquired 11,833 acres of land in the State of Texas by Secretarial Order 3198 dated March 12, 1996.

Table 1-5, Area of Oregon and California (O&C) Revested Lands, depicts data on revested (Oregon & California Railroad) lands and reconveyed (Coos Bay Wagon Road Company) lands. These lands are administered under the Oregon and California Revested Lands Sustained Yield Management Act of August 28, 1937 (50 Stat. 874), as amended by the Act of June 24, 1954 (68 Stat. 271).

Table 1-6, Withdrawals, Revocations, Modifications, and Extensions, presents a compilation of withdrawals, revocations, modifications, and extensions administratively made by the Secretary of the Interior. These withdrawals are for a specific duration that can vary from less than 1 year to as many as 50 years, with a provision for extension if the withdrawal is still needed.

Table 1-7, Cadastral Survey Actions Completed, contains a summary of cadastral surveys completed on public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management during the past year. In order to effectively manage the public lands, areas must be identified both by graphic representation and by monumentation on the ground. This is accomplished by cadastral surveys, an exclusive and significant responsibility of the Bureau of Land Management. Cadastral surveys create and establish on-the-ground boundaries of

public land subdivisions in units suitable for management and for identification in official field notes and plats. This table also summarizes cadastral surveys the Bureau of Land Management has completed on lands managed by other Federal agencies.

Table 1-8, Obligations of Appropriations Received, contains a summary of obligations of appropriations made to the Bureau of Land Management during Fiscal Year 2006, as well as a summary of obligations of appropriations transferred from other bureaus and agencies to the Bureau. This table summarizes all funds that were obligated to manage the Bureau's lands and assist other agencies.

**Table 1-1. ACQUISITION OF THE PUBLIC DOMAIN, 1781-1867**

	Area			Percent of Total U.S. Land /a/	Cost /b/
	Land	Water	Total		
State Cessions (1781-1802)	233,415,680	3,409,920	236,825,600	10.40	\$6,200,000 /c/
Louisiana Purchase (1803) /d/	523,446,400	6,465,280	529,911,680	23.30	23,213,568
Red River Basin (1782-1817)	29,066,880	535,040	29,601,920	1.30	0
Cession from Spain (1819)	43,342,720	2,801,920	46,144,640	2.00	6,674,057
Oregon Compromise (1846)	180,644,480	2,741,760	183,386,240	8.10	0
Mexican Cession (1848)	334,479,360	4,201,600	338,680,960	14.90	16,295,149
Purchase from Texas (1850)	78,842,880	83,840	78,926,720	3.50	15,496,448
Gadsden Purchase (1853)	18,961,920	26,880	18,988,800	0.80	10,000,000
Alaska Purchase (1867)	365,333,120	12,909,440	378,242,560	16.70	7,200,000
<b>Total Public Domain</b>	<b>1,807,533,440</b>	<b>33,175,680</b>	<b>1,840,709,120</b>	<b>81.00</b>	<b>\$85,079,222</b>

Note: Alaska has been adjusted for the re-computation of the areas of the United States that was made for the 1980 decennial census.

/a/ Represents percent of total U.S. land acreage, which is 2,271,343,360 acres. This figure excludes U.S. Territories and Possessions; the 1998 and earlier editions of *Public Land Statistics* included Territories and Possessions in calculating the percentage.

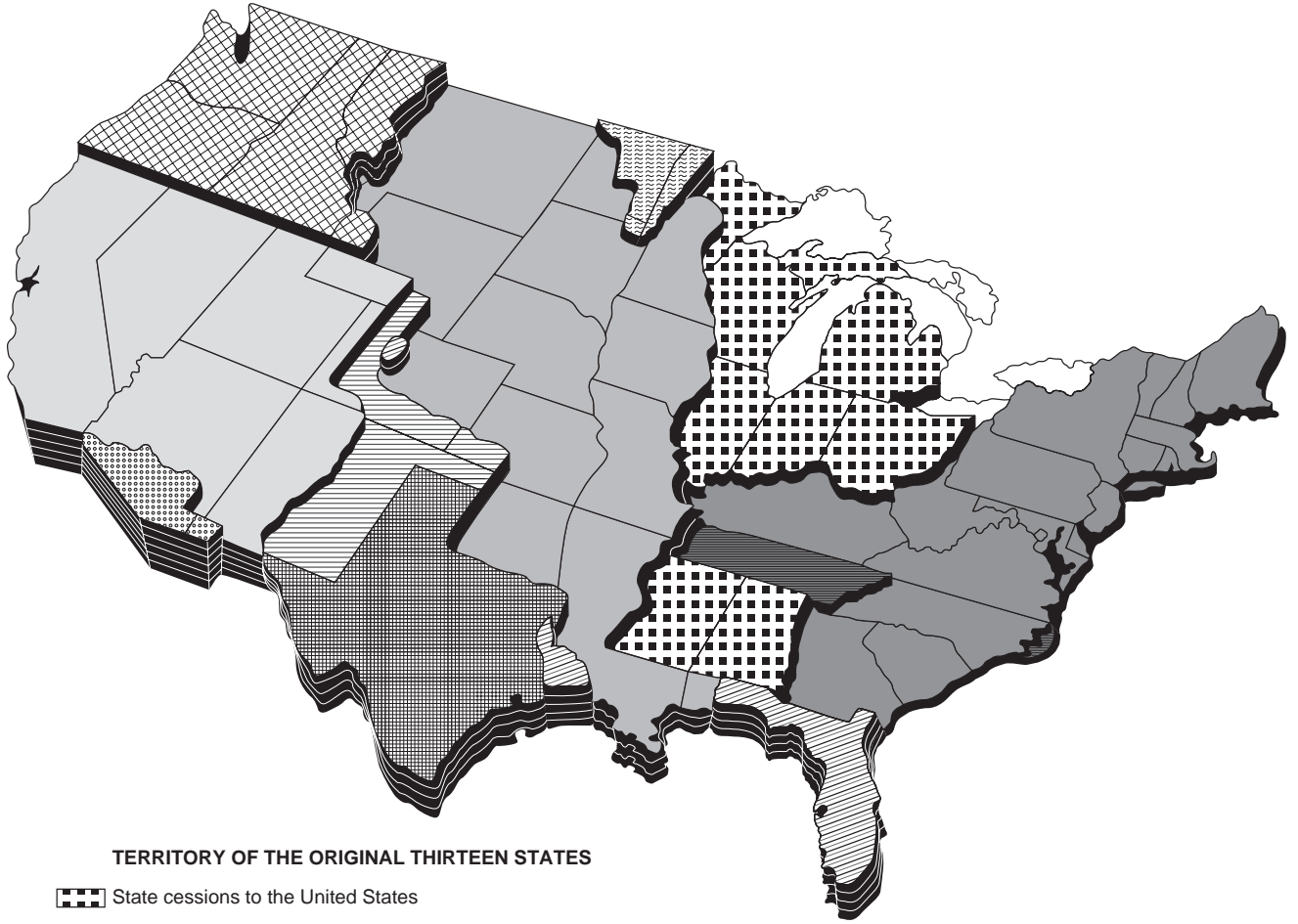
/b/ Cost data for all except "State Cessions" obtained from U.S. Geological Survey, *Boundaries, Area, Geographic Centers* (Washington, D.C., U.S. Government Printing Office, 1939), pp. 249-251.

/c/ Georgia Cession, 1802 (56,689,920 acres). See Donaldson, Thomas, *The Public Domain, Its History, with Statistics* (Washington, D.C., U.S. Government Printing Office, 1884), p. 11.




/d/ Excludes areas eliminated by treaty of 1819 with Spain.

Source: U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of the Secretary, *Areas of Acquisition to the Territory of the United States . . .* (Washington, D.C., U.S. Government Printing Office, 1992). Acreages therein are based on findings adopted February 2, 1912, by the Secretary of the Interior.



# ACQUISITIONS









## TERRITORY OF THE ORIGINAL THIRTEEN STATES

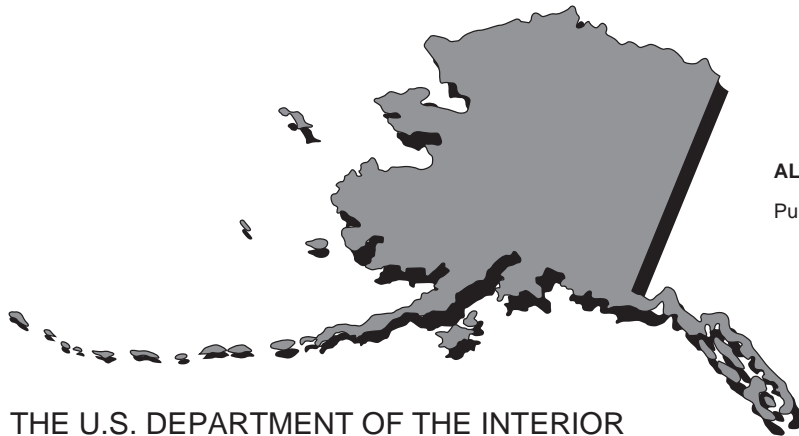
-  State cessions to the United States
-  North Carolina cession to the United States, 1790  
United States cession to Tennessee, 1806 and 1846
-  The Original Thirteen States (present area) plus the District of Columbia

## TERRITORY OF THE REPUBLIC OF TEXAS (Annexation of Texas, 1845)

-  United States purchase from Texas, 1850
-  State of Texas (present area)

## OTHER ACQUISITIONS OF THE UNITED STATES

-  Louisiana Purchase from France, 1803
-  Treaties with Great Britain, 1783 and 1817
-  Treaty with Spain (cession of Florida and adjustment of claims), 1819
-  Oregon Compromise with Great Britain, 1846
-  Cession from Mexico, 1848
-  Gadsden Purchase from Mexico, 1853



## ALASKA

Purchased from Russia, March 30, 1867

THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

**Table 1-2. DISPOSITION OF THE PUBLIC DOMAIN, 1781-2006**

Type	Acres
Disposition by methods not elsewhere classified /a/	303,500,000
Granted or sold to homesteaders /b/	287,500,000
<b>Total Unclassified and Homestead Dispositions</b>	<b>591,000,000</b>
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Granted to States for:	
Support of common schools	77,630,000
Reclamation of swampland	64,920,000
Construction of railroads	37,130,000
Support of miscellaneous institutions /c/	21,700,000
Purposes not elsewhere classified /d/	117,600,000
Canals and rivers	6,100,000
Construction of wagon roads	3,400,000
<b>Total Granted to States</b>	<b>328,480,000</b>
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Granted to railroad corporations	94,400,000
Granted to veterans as military bounties	61,000,000
Confirmed as private land claims /e/	34,000,000
Sold under timber and stone law /f/	13,900,000
Granted or sold under timber culture law /g/	10,900,000
Sold under desert land law /h/	10,700,000
<b>Total Miscellaneous Dispositions</b>	<b>224,900,000</b>
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Granted to State of Alaska and ANCSA:	
State Conveyances /i/	93,100,000
Native Conveyances /j/	37,700,000
<b>Total Granted to State of Alaska</b>	<b>130,800,000</b>
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<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1,275,180,000</b>

**Table 1-2. DISPOSITION OF THE PUBLIC DOMAIN, 1781-2006  
– concluded**

Note: Data are estimated from available records. The acreage data consist of cumulative totals from the year 1781 to the current fiscal year.

Public land states consist of the States of Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

- /a/ Chiefly public, private, and preemption sales, but includes mineral entries, scrip locations, and sales of townsites and townlots.
- /b/ The homestead laws generally provided for the granting of lands to homesteaders who settled upon and improved vacant agricultural public lands. Payment for the lands was sometimes permitted, or required, under certain conditions. The homestead laws were repealed by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of October 21, 1976, as amended (Public Law 94-579; 90 Stat. 2743; 43 U.S.C. 1701).
- /c/ Universities, hospitals, asylums, etc.
- /d/ For construction of various public improvements (individual items not specified in the granting acts), reclamation of desert lands, construction of water reservoirs, etc.
- /e/ The government has confirmed title to lands claimed under valid grants made by foreign governments prior to the acquisition of the public domain by the United States.
- /f/ The timber and stone laws provided for the sale of lands valuable for timber or stone and unfit for cultivation.
- /g/ The timber culture laws provided for the granting of public lands to settlers if they planted and cultivated trees on the lands granted. Payments for the lands were permitted under certain conditions.
- /h/ The desert land laws provided for the sale of arid agricultural public lands to settlers who irrigated them and brought them under cultivation. Some desert land patents are still being issued (refer to Table 3-1, Patents Issued).
- /i/ Alaska Statehood Act of July 7, 1958 (72 Stat. 338), as amended. Acreage figures fluctuate annually based on survey of previously conveyed acres, new conveyance, corrective documents, title recovery, and regular audits of automated data. The figures were compiled in 2006 using annual reports from Fiscal Year 1993 through Fiscal Year 2006.
- /j/ Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) of December 18, 1971 (43 U.S.C. 1601). Acreage figures fluctuate annually based on survey of previously conveyed acres, new conveyance, corrective documents, title recovery, and regular audits of automated data. The figures were compiled in 2006 using annual reports from Fiscal Year 1993 through Fiscal Year 2006.

Table 1-3.

**MINERAL AND SURFACE ACRES ADMINISTERED BY THE  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT, FISCAL YEAR 2006**

<b>State</b>	<b>Land Total</b>	<b>Federal Minerals /a/</b>	<b>Federal Surface Lands /b/</b>	<b>Split-Estate Federal Minerals /c/</b>	<b>BLM Public Lands /d/</b>	<b>Indian Trust Minerals /e/</b>
	<i>Million Acres</i>	<i>Million Acres</i>	<i>Million Acres</i>	<i>Million Acres</i>	<i>Million Acres</i>	<i>Million Acres</i>
Alaska	365.48	237.0	237.0	0.0	83.5	1.2
Arizona	72.69	35.8	33.0	3.0	12.2	20.7 /f/
California	100.21	47.5	45.0	2.5	15.2	0.6
Colorado	66.49	29.0	24.1	5.2	8.3	0.8 /g/
Eastern States	/h/	40.0	40.0	0.3	0.1	2.3
Hawaii	4.11	0.6	0.6	0	0.0	0.0
Idaho	52.93	36.5	33.1	3.4	11.6	0.6
Kansas	52.51	0.8	0.7	0.1	0.0	0.0
Montana	93.27	37.8	26.1	11.7	8.0	5.5
Nebraska	49.03	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.1	0.1
Nevada	70.26	58.7	58.4	0.3	47.8	1.2
New Mexico	77.77	36.0	26.5	9.5	13.3	8.4 /g/
North Dakota	44.45	5.6	1.1	4.5	0.1	0.9
Oklahoma	44.09	2.3	1.7	0.5	0.1	1.1
Oregon	61.60	33.9	32.4	1.5	16.1	0.8
South Dakota	48.88	3.7	2.1	1.6	0.2	5.0
Texas	168.22	4.5	4.5	0.0	0.1	0.0
Utah	52.70	35.2	34.0	1.2	22.8	2.3 /f/
Washington	42.69	12.5	12.2	0.3	0.4	2.6
Wyoming	62.34	41.6	30.0	11.6	18.3	1.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,529.72</b>	<b>699.7</b>	<b>643.2</b>	<b>57.2</b>	<b>258.2</b>	<b>56.0</b>

**Table 1-3. MINERAL AND SURFACE ACRES ADMINISTERED BY  
THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT, FISCAL YEAR 2006 – concluded**

Note: This table and the accompanying maps represent 2 years of effort involved in researching, collecting, analyzing, and verifying data from numerous sources, and then coordinating and consulting with BLM State staff and other agencies. It presents a “snapshot” of data as of 1999. Because of the scope and complexity involved in creating and updating this table, and the fact that it is intended to present an approximation of the surface and mineral acreages managed by the BLM, yearly updates are not planned.

Estimated acreages were based on various sources of published and unpublished data. The rationale used to develop these data is presented in “Public Lands, On-Shore Federal and Indian Minerals in Lands of the U.S.,” prepared by Sie Ling Chiang of BLM’s Washington Office in 2000. The first column, Land Total, is taken from Table 1-3, *Public Land Statistics*, 1999, while the fifth column, BLM Public Lands, comes from Table 1-4, *Public Land Statistics*, 2006.

- /a/ The term Federal Minerals refers to on-shore Federal minerals that are part of the BLM’s responsibilities. The on-shore Federal mineral acreage approximates the sum of Federal Surface Lands acres and Split-Estate Federal Minerals acres shown in the next two columns. As of 1999, the total was *approximately* 700 million acres.
- /b/ Federal Surface Lands include both the public domain and acquired lands of all Federal agencies. With the exception of an estimated 4 million acres of the acquired lands, Federal mineral rights exist in all Federal lands.
- /c/ The term Split-Estate Federal Minerals refers to Federal mineral rights under private surface lands. These are patented lands with minerals reserved to the U.S. Reservations may be for single, multiple, or all minerals. The 58 million acres is the mid-point of estimates ranging from 55 to 60 million acres (provided by the BLM’s Colorado State Office). This results in a significantly lower acreage than that shown in Table 3-2; any future updates will hopefully address this inconsistency.
- /d/ On these public lands, the BLM manages both surface resources and subsurface minerals. The surface acreage is part of the Federal Surface Lands shown in the third column. The subsurface mineral acreage is part of the Federal Mineral estate included in the second column. As of 2006, the BLM’s public lands comprise 258 million surface acres; refer to Table 1-4 of *Public Land Statistics*.
- /e/ As part of its trust management responsibility, the BLM provides technical supervision of mineral development on 56 million acres of American Indian trust lands except for Osage lands. All minerals in Indian trust lands are “leasable.” Acreage information was obtained in 1999 from the Real Estate Services staff of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.
- /f/ Navajo and Hopi oil and gas in Arizona and Utah are managed by New Mexico BLM.
- /g/ Ute Mountain Ute oil and gas in New Mexico are managed by Colorado BLM.
- /h/ The BLM’s Eastern States Office is responsible for Federal minerals in the 31 states east of, or bordering on, the Mississippi River.