PART 2

HEALTHY AND PRODUCTIVE LANDS

Public lands are healthy and productive when the natural processes that keep them functioning are intact and self-sustaining. Healthy, productive public lands are a product of careful management in the form of resource conservation, restoration, and use.

In support of the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM's) mission of sustaining health, diversity, and productivity of public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations, a variety of interrelated programs carry out projects in a coordinated manner to support healthy, productive lands and the processes that maintain them over time.

Keeping landscapes and habitats healthy and productive requires coordination across programs within the BLM, as well as with partner agencies, nongovernmental organizations, and members of the public. The activities and conditions reported below contribute to the BLM's goal for healthy, productive lands.

Table 2-1, Percentage of Rangeland Acreage by Ecological Status by State, provides a summary of the ecological site inventories conducted by the BLM over the years. This table is updated annually to reflect new inventory work and changes in the ecological status. Ecological site inventories provide land managers with useful information for determining site capability and for assessing the implementation of land use plans and achievement of resource management objectives.

Table 2-2, Condition of Riparian-Wetland Areas, was first reported in *Public Land Statistics 1995*. While riparian-wetland areas constitute a small percentage of the public lands administered by the BLM, their benefits far exceed their relatively small acreage. To manage these areas on a watershed basis, the BLM, along with the USDA Forest Service and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), has initiated the Accelerating Cooperative Riparian Restoration and Management strategy to restore and maintain these areas in proper functioning condition. A riparian-wetland area is considered to be functioning properly when adequate vegetation, landform, or large woody debris is present to dissipate energies associated with high-flow events.

Table 2-3, Resource Conservation and Improvement Accomplishments, is a summary of the many conservation, rehabilitation, and development projects completed on BLM public lands during the past year. These projects stabilize soils, maintain or improve water quality, reduce siltation and salinity, reduce surface runoff, and control flooding. They also assist in improving ecologic site condition, promoting healthy riparian areas and wetlands, and enhancing overall rangeland health.

Table 2-4, Forest Development Accomplishments in Acres, describes the numerous reforestation and improvement projects completed during Fiscal Year 2010 for restoring forest health conditions on the BLM public lands.

Table 2-5, Types of Wildlife Habitat on Public Lands in the Conterminous 48 States, describes the various types of wildlife habitats that exist on BLM-administered lands in the conterminous 48 states. These lands offer important feeding, roosting, breeding, nesting, and refuge areas for a wide variety of wildlife across the western United States. For purposes of this table, the term habitat represents selected major land cover types (plant communities) of the 2006 National Land Cover Database for the United States.

Table 2-6, Types of Wildlife Habitat on Public Lands in Alaska, describes the various types of wildlife habitat on BLM-administered lands in Alaska. These lands offer important feeding, roosting, breeding, nesting, and refuge areas for a wide variety of wildlife across Alaska. For purposes of this table, the term habitat represents selected major land cover types (plant communities) of the 2006 National Land Cover Database for the United States.

Table 2-7, Fish, Wildlife, and Plant Conservation Activities Completed, portrays a wide variety of activities and projects undertaken to conserve fish, wildlife, and plants on public lands. Most of the conservation efforts are accomplished in cooperation with State fish and wildlife agencies, Federal agencies, conservation groups, and a variety of public and private partners.

Table 2-8, Emergency Fire Stabilization and Rehabilitation Projects, displays the BLM's fire rehabilitation projects to stabilize soils and restore watersheds following wildfires. Fire rehabilitation actions are necessary to prevent unacceptable resource degradation, minimize threats to public health and safety, prevent unacceptable off-site damage, and minimize the potential for the recurrence of wildfire. The number and acreage of fire rehabilitation projects vary yearly, depending on the severity of the wildfire season occurring on BLM-managed public lands.