By the Numbers
BUDGET REQUEST

Wyoming
Green River Basin ..... $4.5 million

New Mexico
Landscape Restoration..... $3.5 million

Utah Watershed
Restoration Initiative..... $2.0 million

Oregon-Idaho-Nevada
Shrub Steppe Restoration.. $1.9 million

Southern Idaho
Snake River Plain ..... $1.8 million

Colorado
Landscape Conservation ... $1.3 million

BLM Total ..... $15 million
USGS .....$5 million
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service ...$2 million
TOTAL..... $22 million

Meeting both our energy and land health goals requires integrated, landscape-scale habitat protections and resource management. Our initiative combines investments in habitat protection with policy improvements that will protect 800 species, including the sage-grouse.

Secretary Dirk Kempthorne
February 5, 2007

The **Healthy Lands Initiative** represents a new concept for meeting emerging challenges in managing natural resources with flexible, landscape-level approaches for continued multiple use.

The Initiative is characterized by the broad scale of the acreage it will seek to restore and conserve, and the accelerated pace at which results are expected.

The Initiative will enable and encourage local BLM managers to set priorities and manage across landscapes and mitigate impacts to an array of resources in ways not previously available to them.

Demands on Public Lands

Demand for a variety of public land uses and products in the U.S. is at an all-time high because of the country's changing demographics and needs.

Last year, BLM-managed lands recorded 56.3 million recreation visits. During the same period, the BLM processed a record 8,800 applications for oil and gas drilling permits.

Land health is being affected by pressures such as community expansion, increasingly catastrophic wildfires, unmatched demand for energy resources, ever-expanding recreation uses, and weed invasion. These pressures often interact among themselves to affect large landscapes and ecosystems, particularly those in the growing wildlife-energy interface.

A different management approach is urgently needed to meet these challenges. Taking aggressive steps now will help avoid imposed restrictions on uses of public land that would directly affect the nation's security and quality of life.

Landscape Approaches

The landscape-level approach is the first step, and will be focused so as to realize results in one to three years.

The key is keeping resources healthy. Healthy lands yield healthy economies at every level, from local to national. The Initiative recognizes that conserving wildlife and habitat is also good for local communities, particularly those whose economies are tied to fish, wildlife and healthy watersheds.

The Initiative gives managers flexibility to identify lands where a particular resource might be emphasized in order to encourage sustained health and balance across a broader landscape or ecosystem.

Role of Partnerships

Partnerships are an integral part of the Initiative. Public-private cooperation, incentives for landowners and private industry, and other non-traditional approaches will engage stakeholders while leveraging additional funds and resources.

Two of the BLM's sister Federal agencies, the U.S. Geological Survey and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, are also partners in the Initiative.

The President's 2008 budget requests a substantial increase of $15 million in funding for the BLM to begin implementing the Initiative in six specific geographic areas to demonstrate the new approach. Projects will be located in Wyoming ($4.5 million), New Mexico ($3.5 million), Utah ($2.0 million), Oregon/Idaho/Nevada ($1.9 million), southern Idaho ($1.8 million) and Colorado ($1.3 million).

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR MARCH 3, 1849

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

U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE

USGS
science for a changing world

A Variety of Approaches

Each of the Initiative projects will address unique problems and issues. Here are some examples of the projects and the partners involved.

Wyoming – Green River Basin

Vegetation treatments (sagebrush, aspen) and water projects, e.g. building or restoring water sources for wildlife, and improving riparian areas; facilitate best reclamation and mitigation practices for areas affected by current natural gas development; integrate existing data with new knowledge and technologies to forecast future development of energy resources and assist in habitat conservation planning; conduct habitat enhancement in all habitat types with a special focus on sagebrush, mountain shrub, aspen, and riparian communities.

Partners

U. S. Geological Survey
U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service
U. S. Forest Service
Non-Governmental Organizations
Wyoming Game & Fish Department
Landowners
Energy Industry

New Mexico Landscape Restoration

Reclaim orphaned and abandoned well pads and roads; control invasive brush species using chemical treatments, prescribed burns and mechanical treatments; and improve riparian habitat, primarily by removing salt cedar and planting native vegetation. The primary focus of this effort will be to enhance wildlife habitat.

Partners

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts
Energy and Utility Industry
Landowners / Ranchers
New Mexico State Land Office
New Mexico Dept of Game & Fish
Quail Unlimited

Utah Watershed Restoration Initiative

Increase the number of land treatments that can be completed in each geographic area; facilitate best-management practices for all land uses; conduct efficient science-based monitoring; maintain and update habitat management plans based on new information and technologies.

Partners

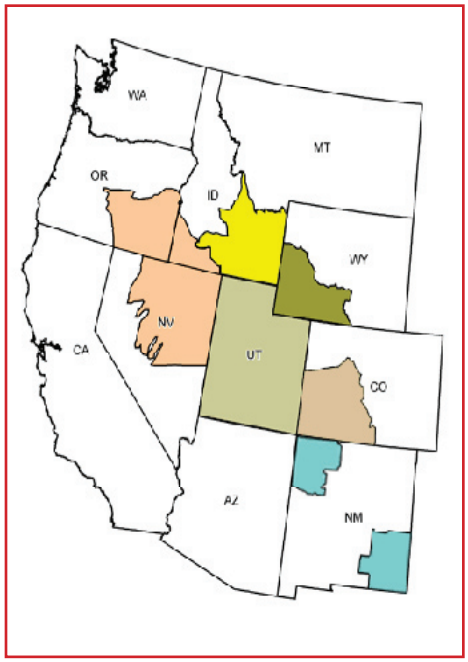
Utah Partners for Conservation & Development (Federal and State agencies, private land owners, University Extension Service, Trout Unlimited, and private organizations)

Oregon-Idaho-Nevada Shrub Steppe Restoration

Accelerate implementation of habitat restoration projects identified in State and local sage-grouse conservation plans; select and implement land treatments to maintain and restore the upland and riparian components of these shrub lands.

Partners

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
U..S. Geological Survey



Healthy Lands Initiative projects will encompass lands in seven Western States.

Southern Idaho Snake River Plain

Identify and carry out high-priority projects to sustain the health of the sagebrush steppe; seeding native plants to increase the abundance of desirable shrubs, forbs and grasses; controlling noxious and invasive species to reduce the threat and frequency of wildfire; and modifying fences and other rangeland facilities to help improve riparian areas depended upon by sage-grouse and other wildlife species.

Partners

Idaho Fish & Game
Local Sage-grouse working groups

Colorado Landscape Conservation

Implement effective weed management efforts across the area; expand the native-seed program through the Uncompahgre Plateau Project to facilitate the development and use of native seed in reclamation efforts across the landscape; pool resources to investigate and/or pursue conservation easements or opportunities to protect key habitat across the landscape.

Partners

Colorado Division of Wildlife
USDA Forest Service,
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
National Park Service
U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service Habitat Partnership Program

For more information, please contact:
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For detailed fact sheets on each of the projects, please visit www.blm.gov