

Benefits of Public Lands

The public lands not only provide economic contributions in terms of jobs and output supported by various activities, but they also provide other benefits that families and communities across the United States derive from having access to our nation's natural, scenic, recreational, and cultural resources.

Economic Stability

Employment and output supported by the public lands can provide economic opportunity and stability in diverse ways.

Reindeer grazing permits on Seward Peninsula, AK



15 jobs
\$200,000 in economic output

Visitors to Fort Ord National Monument, CA



86 miles of trails
412 jobs
\$40 million in economic output

Economic Contributions of National Conservation Lands



8.6 million visits

\$460 million trip-related purchases



7,100 nonfederal jobs



\$630 million to local and state economies

This economic activity supports the Department of the Interior's priorities to promote conservation through shared stewardship with local communities, to support job creation, and to serve the American family by offering world-class destinations and recreation opportunities.

Royalties and Tax Revenue

Royalties, taxes, and other fees associated with extractive resources and visitor spending can generate significant revenues for state and local governments, which in turn can provide benefits related to public safety, education, and health.

Coal leasing in Wyoming



Nonmarket Benefits

Benefits related to recreation opportunities, cultural resources, visual beauty, strategically significant resources, environmental health, and supporting local communities are often more challenging to quantify in economic terms.

Fee free recreation use on 99% of BLM-managed lands

5.0 million visitor days hunting



2.3 million visitor days fishing



27,000 volunteers
1 million hours of work



Local partners help sponsor youth programs



Mustang Challenge



Earth Connection Camp

Project Archaeology

Alaska

During the summer, the BLM and two other federal agencies operate the Arctic Interagency Visitor Center in Coldfoot, and BLM volunteers staff the Yukon Crossing Contact Station, two of the stops along the 415-mile-long Dalton Highway, which crosses BLM-managed public lands on its way to the top of the continent.



Arizona

The Phoenix District manages one of the BLM's largest saleable minerals programs, permitting more than 1 million tons of sand, gravel, and crushed stone worth between \$10 million and \$20 million to the Arizona economy annually.



California

Though it flows mostly underground, the Amargosa River has supported human populations for 8,000 years. The aboveground portion in the Amargosa Canyon is the only significant water source in the area, and the BLM manages 26 miles of it as a wild and scenic river.



Colorado

The BLM-managed Browns Canyon National Monument, designated in 2015, protects one of the nation's most popular destinations for whitewater rafting.



Eastern States

Located along south Florida's Atlantic coast, the 120-acre Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse Outstanding Natural Area managed by the BLM includes evidence of human occupation dating back to 3000 B.C.



Idaho

The BLM's fire and aviation program at the National Interagency Fire Center in Boise works with seven other federal agencies to manage wildland fire on 245 million acres of BLM-administered public land, primarily in the western United States.



BLM-administered land

BLM administrative boundaries



Montana/Dakotas

The Powder River Basin in Montana's coal country reaches to the southeast corner of the state. The basin is home to one of the largest coal deposits in the world and produces more than 85 percent of all federal coal.



Nevada

The BLM issues its largest and most complex special recreation permit for Burning Man, an annual arts and lifestyle festival that encompasses 14,153 acres of the Black Rock Desert playa, involves about 70,000 participants, and contributes more than \$45 million to the Nevada economy each year.



New Mexico

The BLM-managed Prehistoric Trackways National Monument contains one of the most scientifically significant Early Permian track sites in the world.



Oregon/Washington

Salmon and steelheads leap the 6-foot waterfall on Cavitt Creek from September through April; the creek is open to trout fishing outside of these months.



Utah

The BLM-managed Bonneville Salt Flats are a remnant of an ancient lake that covered more than one-third of Utah during the last Ice Age. The flats are ideal for land speed racing trials, and when you look across the landscape, it appears that you can see the curvature of the earth.



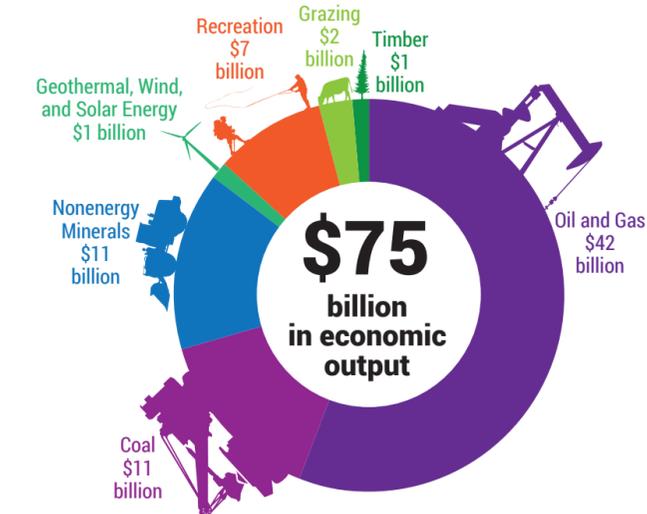
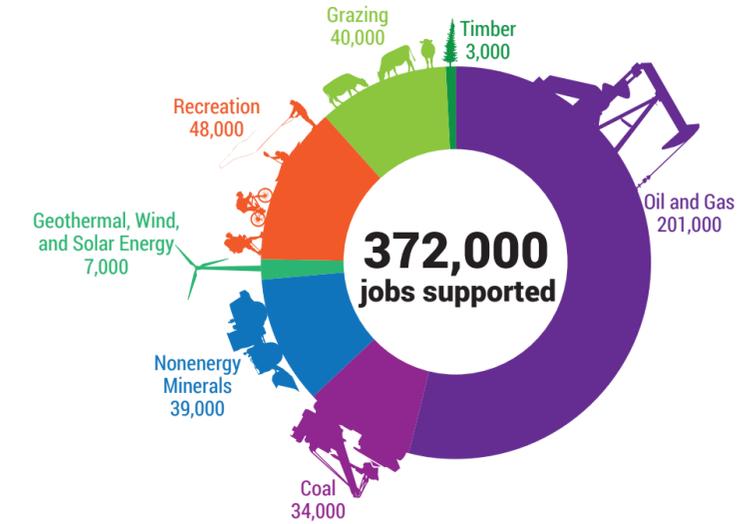
Wyoming

The path of totality of the 2017 solar eclipse encompasses 2 million acres of public lands in central Wyoming, spanning more than 365 miles.



www.blm.gov/about/data
BLM/WO/GI-17/009+9500
August 2017

Economic Contributions from BLM-Managed Lands



Fiscal Year 2016

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) manages 1 in every 10 acres of land in the United States, working with partners to promote multiple uses of those lands through shared conservation stewardship. The BLM also manages a large portion of the nation's minerals, facilitating opportunities for energy development that create jobs, help support local communities, and increase America's energy independence. Every state has public land and minerals covering a variety of landscapes, including forests, mountains, rangelands, arctic tundra, and deserts. The BLM is committed to keeping public landscapes healthy and productive and to effectively managing border landscapes to keep America safe.

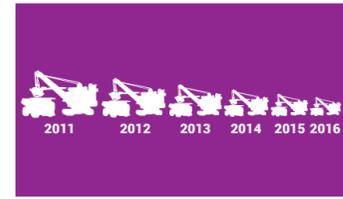
The public lands managed by the BLM generate significant and quantifiable benefits for the nation and serve American families by providing energy and mineral resources, grazing and timber resources, and access to recreational opportunities, including hunting and fishing. They provide valuable goods and materials that we rely on every day to heat our homes, build our roads, and feed our families. Through balanced management, the BLM develops these resources while maintaining healthy ecosystems and preserving cultural resources and iconic landscapes.

In fiscal year 2016, the diverse activities authorized on BLM-managed lands generated \$75 billion in economic output throughout the country—more than any other agency within the Department of the Interior. This economic activity supported 372,000 jobs and also contributed substantial revenue to the U.S. Treasury and state governments, mostly through royalties on minerals.

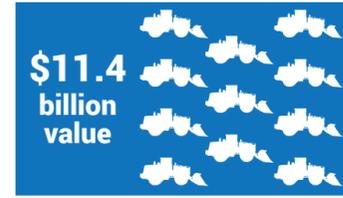
Economic Sectors



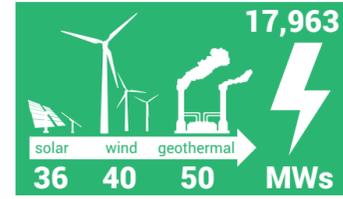
Oil and gas: The BLM leases more than 27.2 million acres of land, from the eastern United States to the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska, for onshore oil and gas production. Sales of federal onshore oil production decreased to 168.5 million barrels during 2016, compared to 182.5 million barrels in 2015, due at least in part to continued low prices for oil.



Coal: The BLM administers coal leases encompassing approximately 467,000 acres in 12 states. Coal continues to be a large source of energy in the United States, but the continuing low cost of natural gas has spurred a shift away from coal for energy production. A decrease in U.S. coal production from 1,095.64 million short tons in 2011 to 728.24 million short tons in 2016 reflects this shift.



Nonenergy minerals: The BLM issues leases for minerals that are not used for energy production, such as potash, phosphate, sodium, and gilsonite, which are used in fertilizers, glass, and paper. Federal lands also contain saleable mineral materials, including sand, gravel, dirt, and rock, and locatable hard rock minerals, such as copper and gold. In 2016, nonenergy minerals produced from federal lands were valued at \$11.4 billion.



Geothermal, solar, wind: The BLM has approved 126 renewable energy projects, including 36 solar projects, 40 wind projects, and 50 geothermal projects. Combined, they represent a total of 17,963 megawatts of capacity that could provide power to about 7 million homes.



Recreation: The public lands managed by the BLM offer more recreational opportunities than lands managed by any other federal agency, with more than 99 percent available for recreation with no fee. Lands used for recreational activities also contribute significantly to local economies. In 2016, BLM lands received more than 64.6 million recreation-related visits, an increase over the previous year.



Grazing: In 2016, the BLM permitted 12 million animal unit months (AUMs) for ranchers who graze their livestock, mostly cattle and sheep, on public lands. An AUM is the amount of forage needed to feed a cow and calf or the equivalent for 1 month. In 2016, the grazing fee was \$2.11 per AUM. While the number of AUMs sold each year remains relatively steady, annual variations in use occur due to factors such as drought, wildfire, market conditions, and restoration projects.



Timber: One-fourth of the 245 million acres of lands managed by the BLM are forest ecosystems, spread across 13 western states, including Alaska. Through responsible management of these lands, the BLM ensures the health and resilience of the nation's public forest lands as well as the availability of traditional forest products, such as timber. In 2016, the BLM offered 233.2 million board feet of timber for sale. This number has remained relatively steady over the past decade.

Total Economic Output and Jobs for Fiscal Year 2016

National Totals*

Oil and Gas:



Coal:



Nonenergy Minerals:



Geothermal, Wind, and Solar:



Recreation:



Grazing:



Timber:



Jobs:



* National totals may differ from the sum of individual state numbers because they take into account activity across state borders and average industry productivity across states.