Definitive Source for Natural Resources and Planning Guidance

Through the principles of multiple use and sustained yield, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) fulfills its mission, which is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. The BLM Resources and Planning Directorate (HQ-200) develops and maintains programs integral to attaining the BLM’s mission on about 245 million acres of public lands, mostly in 12 western states, which includes Alaska.

The directorate is responsible for the following program areas: land use planning, natural resource management, landscape restoration, wild horse and burro management, environmental compliance, and science integration and initiatives. The directorate establishes policy, provides oversight, and develops guidelines with a focus on rangelands, forests, aquatic habitats, wildlife, and other natural resources. The directorate seeks to integrate the best available science into all decisions and hosts the BLM National Science Advisor, who is the bureau science integrity officer and co-chair of the BLM National Science Committee. Most importantly, HQ-200 recognizes that the success of its efforts depends on effective collaboration within the BLM and among its many external partners. HQ-200 accomplishes its role through the following divisions.

Division of Decision Support, Planning, and NEPA (HQ-210)

To help BLM leaders achieve effective decisions in accordance with statutory requirements, HQ-210 develops and maintains processes that integrate the best available science, technology, and management practices into BLM decisionmaking. Seven programs within the division provide oversight and guidance directly related to the BLM’s cornerstone legislative act—the Federal Land Policy and Management Act—and other laws, such as the National Environmental Policy Act.

Division of Forest, Range, and Vegetation Resources (HQ-220)

HQ-220 leads BLM efforts to maintain healthy and productive rangelands, forests, and woodlands. Healthy public lands provide for public land grazing, timber and other forest products, and native plant materials; habitat for wildlife, threatened and endangered species, and wild horses and burros; and intrinsic values, such as quiet pristine places to connect with nature. The division develops partnerships to manage threats from noxious weeds, invasive species, disease, and catastrophic wildfire; ensure effective rehabilitation and restoration following wildfire; and adapt and respond to climate change.

Division of Wildlife Conservation, Aquatics, and Environmental Protection (HQ-230)

HQ-230 leads BLM efforts to conserve wildlife, manage aquatic resources, protect air quality, and remediate environmental hazards. The division guides implementation of initiatives related to habitat conservation, wildlife migration, listed species recovery, watershed health, and air and water quality. The division also works to improve public safety by supporting BLM efforts to physically close access to legacy abandoned mine lands and to address a diverse array of environmental hazards.
Division of Wild Horses and Burros (HQ-260)

HQ-260 provides guidance, policies, rules, regulations, and procedures to manage and protect wild horses and burros on public lands as directed by the 1971 Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act and other congressional legislation. Priorities include reducing overpopulation on public lands to achieve appropriate management levels where such overpopulation contributes to range degradation and reducing the number of animals in corrals and pastures through adoptions and sales. The division supports management actions across state, district, and field offices, including developing a national gather schedule, procuring off-range corrals and pastures, coordinating animal transportation, developing and administering national agreements, and providing national outreach/marketing support.

BLM Science Integration and Initiatives

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act establishes the foundation for the BLM to systematically integrate physical, biological, economic, and other sciences into decisionmaking and day-to-day work. The BLM National Science Advisor provides the BLM leadership and coordination to ensure that science needs are identified, fulfilled, communicated, and applied. The National Science Advisor serves as the BLM Scientific Integrity Officer, co-chairs the BLM National Science Committee, leads both the Core Science Team and the Integration Team, and supports multiscale, landscape-level initiatives.

HQ-200 Business Team

The HQ-200 Business Team manages the directorate’s business operations, including budget, information resource management, procurement, grants and agreements, information technology equipment, and human resources, and serves as liaison to the BLM Human Capital Management and National Operations Center. The Business Team provides day-to-day customer service to HQ-200 staff and external customers with the goal of equipping employees with the best technologies, resources, and tools to be effective in their jobs and support the mission.