



The BLM: A Sound Investment for America 2021

As steward for much of America's public lands, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) manages some of the nation's most historic and scenic landscapes, as well as vast natural resources, for the benefit of all Americans. These public lands include rangelands, forests, mountains, arctic tundra, and deserts and encompass 10 percent of the nation's surface and approximately one-third of its subsurface mineral resources. Through balanced management, the BLM authorizes resource use while conserving the natural and cultural legacy of iconic landscapes and sustaining healthy ecosystems that provide clean air and water and support biodiversity.

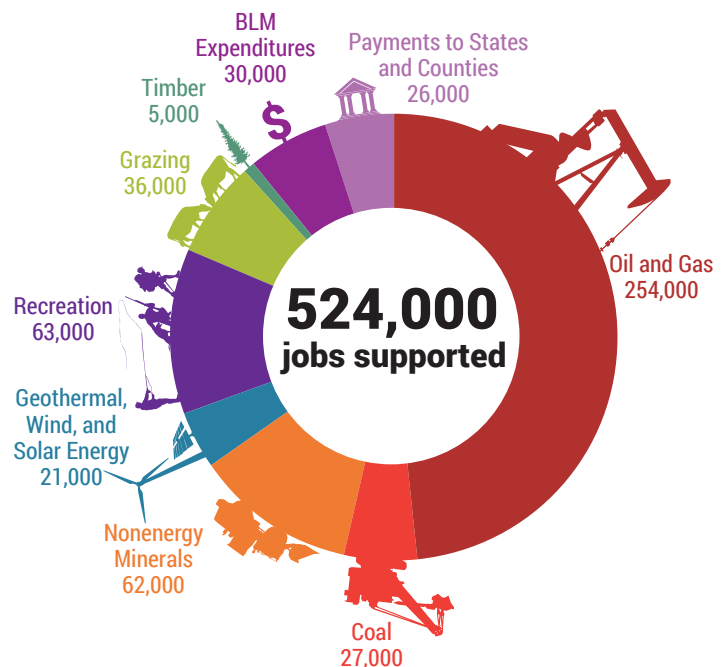
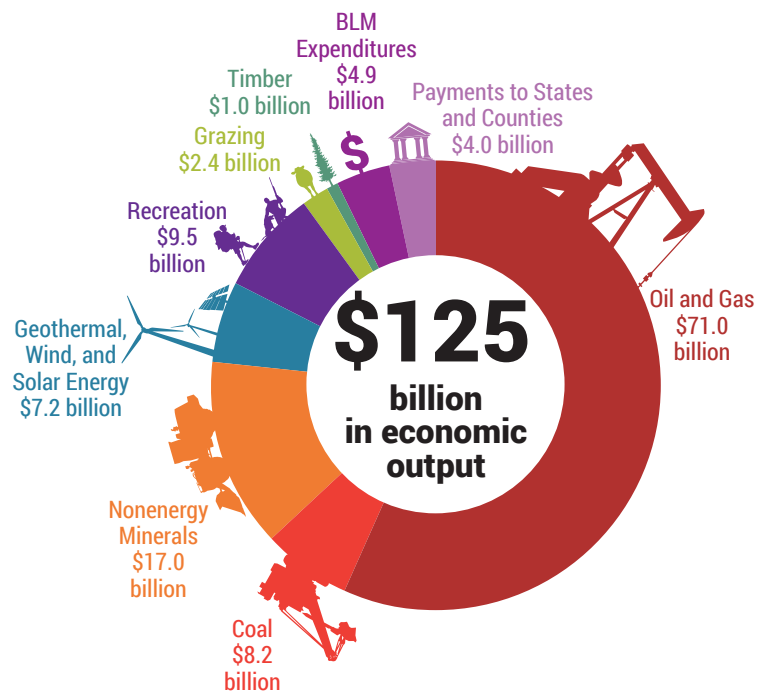
This report provides a snapshot, by sector, of how the diverse activities the BLM authorized on public lands during fiscal year (FY) 2020 generated \$125 billion in economic output across the country. This economic activity supported nearly 524,000 jobs and contributed substantial revenue to the U.S. Treasury and state governments. This year, we included the contributions to the economy from the BLM's expenditures to carry out its mission as well as payments it transfers to states and counties.

The COVID-19 pandemic made 2020 a challenging year in many ways, but the BLM continued to provide opportunities for the public to safely enjoy outdoor recreation and supported activities that generated jobs and public revenues when the nation's economy was struggling. As we celebrate our 75th year, the BLM continues to meet the needs of the nation and provide opportunities for conservation, recreation, and commercial uses of the public lands.



Economic Contributions from BLM-Managed Lands

Fiscal Year 2020

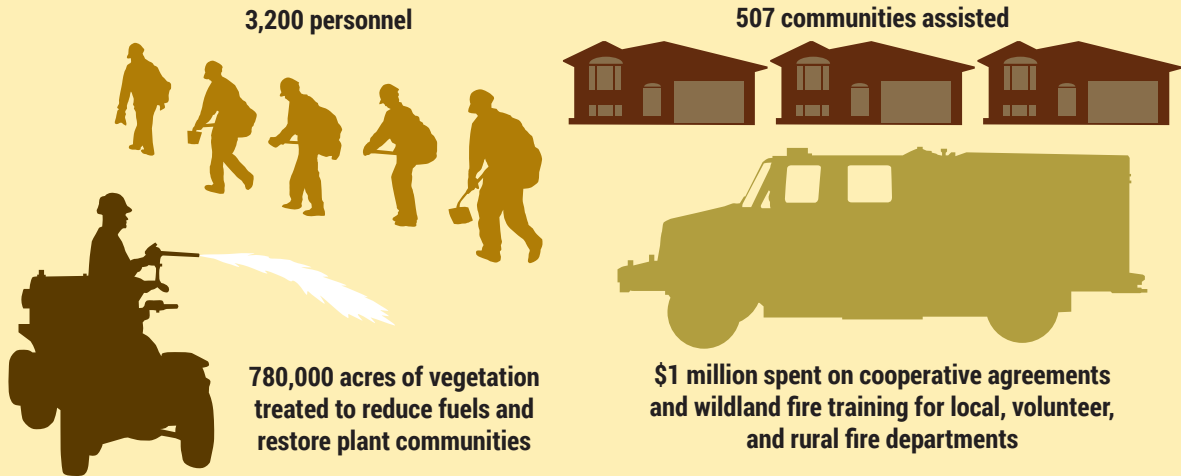


Benefits of Public Lands

In addition to supporting economic vitality, BLM programs and managed lands benefit families and communities across the United States in ways that aren't always reflected in economic activity.

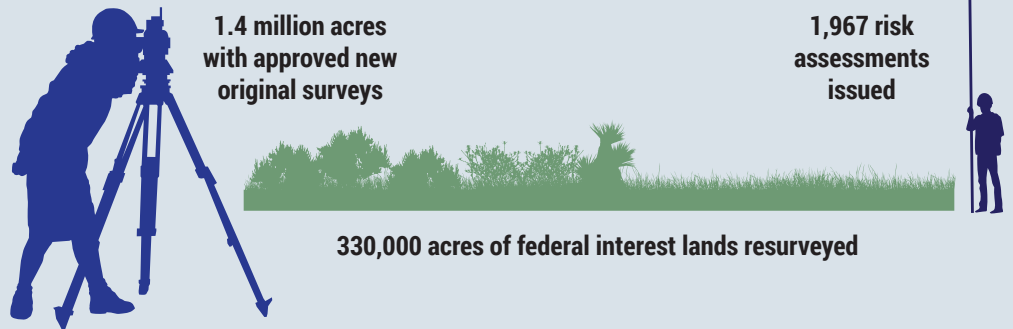
Fire and Aviation

The BLM's fire and aviation program protects communities, wildlife habitat, natural landscapes, and recreational areas from wildfire through suppression, preparedness, prediction, vegetative fuels management, prescribed fire, community assistance and protection, and fire prevention education activities.



Cadastral Survey

The BLM's cadastral survey program defines, marks, and evaluates risks to the legal boundaries of public and tribal lands. The delineation of land boundaries determines ownership rights and facilitates the stewardship of these lands.



Equity and Environmental Justice

The BLM offers low- or no-cost access to public lands and resources for recreation, scenic and aesthetic enjoyment, educational programs, and subsistence and traditional uses.

Fuelwood harvested in the Taos Field Office area heated as many as 4,400 homes in New Mexico, providing a significant cost savings for some families.



The BLM works with tribes, community groups, and others to connect youth to their cultures and traditions and teach them about the outdoors and careers associated with public lands.



As many as 3,000 semidomesticated reindeer owned by Alaska Native herders graze on traditional grazing ranges surrounding the Nome Field Station, providing meat, antlers, and hides vital for bartering within Alaska's rural subsistence economy.

Other Benefits

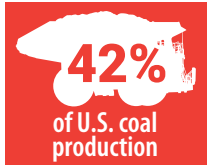
Public lands provide vital habitat for wildlife and support diverse opportunities to connect with nature, which provide personal fulfillment and support family traditions.



Economic Sectors



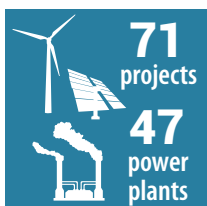
Oil and gas: The BLM currently leases more than 26.6 million acres of land, from the eastern United States to the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska, for onshore oil and gas production. In FY 2020, the BLM offered 1,465 parcels and more than 5.3 million acres for leasing. Federal onshore oil production increased to 315 million barrels of oil during FY 2020, compared to 290 million barrels in FY 2019.



Coal: The BLM administers coal leases encompassing 435,535 acres in 11 states. In FY 2020, coal production from federal lands decreased 18.5 percent to a total of 246.3 million tons, compared to the 2019 total of 302.4 million tons. This figure represents about 42 percent of the total 586.4 million tons produced in the United States from federal, Indian, and state lands during FY 2020.



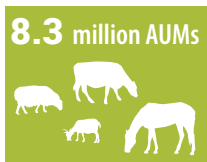
Nonenergy minerals: Federal lands contain minerals such as potash, phosphate, sodium, and gilsonite, components used in fertilizers, glass, and paper. They also contain saleable mineral materials, including sand, gravel, dirt, and rock, and locatable hard rock minerals such as copper and gold. In FY 2020, nonenergy minerals produced from federal lands resulted in royalties and other payments of \$89.5 million.



Geothermal, solar, wind: Through FY 2020, the BLM has approved 35 solar energy projects with a generation capacity of more than 6,000 megawatts and 36 wind energy projects with a generation capacity of more than 3,000 megawatts. In addition, there are 47 currently operating geothermal power plants with federal interest that have an installed capacity of approximately 2,500 megawatts and an average capacity factor (the ratio of actual output to maximum possible output) of 73 percent.



Recreation: More than 99 percent of BLM lands are available for recreation at no fee to visitors. Lands used for recreational activities attract visitor spending and contribute significantly to local economies. In FY 2020, BLM lands received more than 73 million recreation-related visits, an increase of about 3 percent over the previous year.



Grazing: BLM rangelands supported the use of 8.3 million animal unit months (AUMs) of forage by ranchers permitted to graze livestock, mostly cattle and sheep, on BLM lands in fee year 2020. An AUM is the amount of forage needed to feed a cow and calf, or the equivalent, for 1 month. The grazing fee in 2020 was \$1.35 per AUM.



Timber: Twenty percent of the 245 million acres of lands managed by the BLM are forest ecosystems, spread across 13 western states, including Alaska. 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 2020, the BLM offered 282 million board feet of timber under new sale and stewardship contracts, down from 303 million board feet in 2019. The BLM continues to use stewardship contracts for collaborative projects with local communities and interested organizations to improve, maintain, and restore forest and rangeland health, water quality, and fish and wildlife habitat and to reduce wildfire risk.



BLM expenditures: This sector was not included prior to FY 2020 analysis. The BLM employed more than 11,000 permanent, term, and seasonal workers in FY 2020 who spent their wages on goods and services in surrounding communities and generated economic activity in 39 states. The BLM's purchases of supplies and services, construction costs, and program spending to complete on-the-ground work through contracts and cooperative agreements also generated economic activity in communities. Some nonlabor spending categories, such as fire suppression and all hazard emergency response, were excluded due to differences in the location/year in which accounting and spending occur.


































































Payments to states and counties: This sector was not included prior to FY 2020 analysis. Under certain laws, the BLM makes payments to states and counties that are used to help fund schools, road improvements, infrastructure, and public services within their jurisdictions. In FY 2020, the BLM distributed nearly \$179 million under the Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program, \$26 million under the Secure Rural Schools program, \$990 million in minerals revenue, and other payments.

Total Economic Output and Jobs for Fiscal Year 2020

National Totals*
Jobs: 524,000

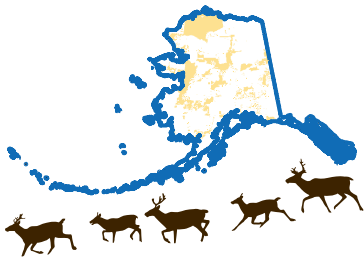


* National totals may differ from the sum of individual state numbers because they take into account activity across state borders and average industry productivity across states.

Idaho	Montana (North Dakota and South Dakota)	Nevada	New Mexico (Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas)	Oregon (Washington)	Utah	Wyoming (Nebraska)
						
\$1.2 billion 10,000 jobs	\$7.4 billion 27,000 jobs	\$9.2 billion 36,000 jobs	\$22.5 billion 72,000 jobs	\$1.8 billion 14,000 jobs	\$4.1 billion 25,000 jobs	\$13.4 billion 43,000 jobs
—	 \$6.0 billion	 \$23.0 million	 \$20.4 billion	—	 \$1.5 billion	 \$8.1 billion
—	 \$609.2 million	—	 \$187.5 million	—	 \$694.8 million	 \$3.1 billion
 \$278.9 million	 \$0.8 million	 \$7.7 billion	 \$328.6 million	 \$15.8 million	 \$77.9 million	 \$1.1 billion
—	—	 \$563.4 million	 \$6.0 million	 \$0.6 million	 \$34.6 million	 \$102.6 million
 \$328.2 million	 \$272.6 million	 \$426.4 million	 \$256.1 million	 \$516.8 million	 \$1.2 billion	 \$194.1 million
 \$231.5 million	 \$180.9 million	 \$151.0 million	 \$194.5 million	 \$150.6 million	 \$105.2 million	 \$176.5 million
 \$30.0 million	 \$30.7 million	 \$1.0 million	 \$2.1 million	 \$600.9 million	 \$3.4 million	 \$1.6 million
 \$327.5 million	 \$148.8 million	 \$248.2 million	 \$198.5 million	 \$419.5 million	 \$239.6 million	 \$139.5 million
 \$27.1 million	 \$127.8 million	 \$82.2 million	 \$942.9 million	 \$63.2 million	 \$121.2 million	 \$543.0 million

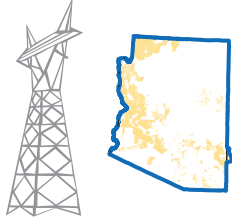
BLM-administered land

BLM administrative boundaries



Alaska

The BLM issued more than 4,500 federal subsistence hunting permits in FY 2020. Animals harvested under these permits account for almost half of the 295 pounds of wild food harvested on average by each rural resident every year.



Arizona

In FY 2020, the BLM approved the 500-kilovolt Ten West Link transmission line, which will modernize energy infrastructure, strengthen grid reliability, and improve efficiency for millions of customers in Arizona and California.



California

The Palm Springs-South Coast Field Office approved the Desert Quartzite Solar Project in eastern Riverside County. This 450 MW solar facility is expected to support 870 jobs during peak construction and will generate enough clean energy to power about 117,000 southern California homes once operational.



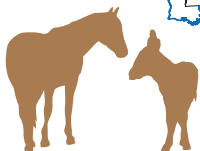
Colorado

In FY 2020, the Gunnison Field Office approved 30 miles of new trails for hiking, biking, and class 1 electric bicycles near Silverton, which will improve recreation opportunities, enhance public access, and attract new visitors and recreation spending to the area.



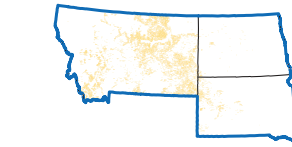
Eastern States

Despite the pandemic in 2020, BLM Eastern States successfully placed 1,170 wild horses and burros into private care, which is more than 30 percent of animals adopted bureauwide, supported nearly 230,000 user visits to the Online Corral website, and completed more than 700 virtual animal compliance inspections.



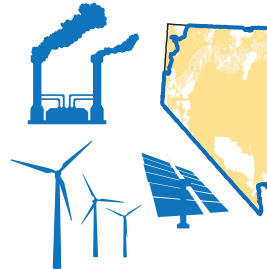
Idaho

The BLM approved two new phosphate mines in Idaho. Phosphate is a strategic mineral that is used to manufacture fertilizers critical for food production and can be processed into phosphorus compounds used to produce steel, LED lights, herbicides, detergents, and fire retardants.



Montana/Dakotas

In FY 2020, the BLM managed eight active timber sales totaling 13.4 million board feet in Montana and the Dakotas, which supported local employment by logging contractors and mills and improved overall forest health and species diversity while making forests more resilient to wildfires.



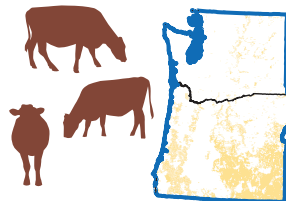
Nevada

The BLM in Nevada has responded to demands for renewable energy since 2009. The BLM has 21 geothermal plants, multiple solar facilities, and one wind facility that produce a combined 4 gigawatts of renewable energy in Nevada.



New Mexico

In FY 2020, BLM lands in New Mexico supported more than 3.3 million recreation-related visits, attracting recreation spending to communities and generating \$453,150 from visitor use and special recreation permit fees to help maintain, improve, and provide visitor services at BLM recreation sites.



Oregon/Washington

In FY 2020, the BLM in eastern Oregon permitted 802,000 animal unit months, which generated more than \$988,000 in grazing fees that helped finance range improvements, water catchments and pipelines, and fish and wildlife habitat enhancements.



Utah

During the COVID-19 pandemic in FY 2020, the BLM increased visitor information and trash and waste removal services in response to unprecedented demand for dispersed recreation opportunities, which in turn generated increased local tax revenues from lodging, gas, food, and supplies.



Wyoming

In FY 2020, the Buffalo Field Office worked with partners to plug 517 nonproducing oil and gas wells, including 76 orphaned wells, fully reclaim more than 450 acres of well sites and infrastructure, and plant several thousand sagebrush seedlings.

