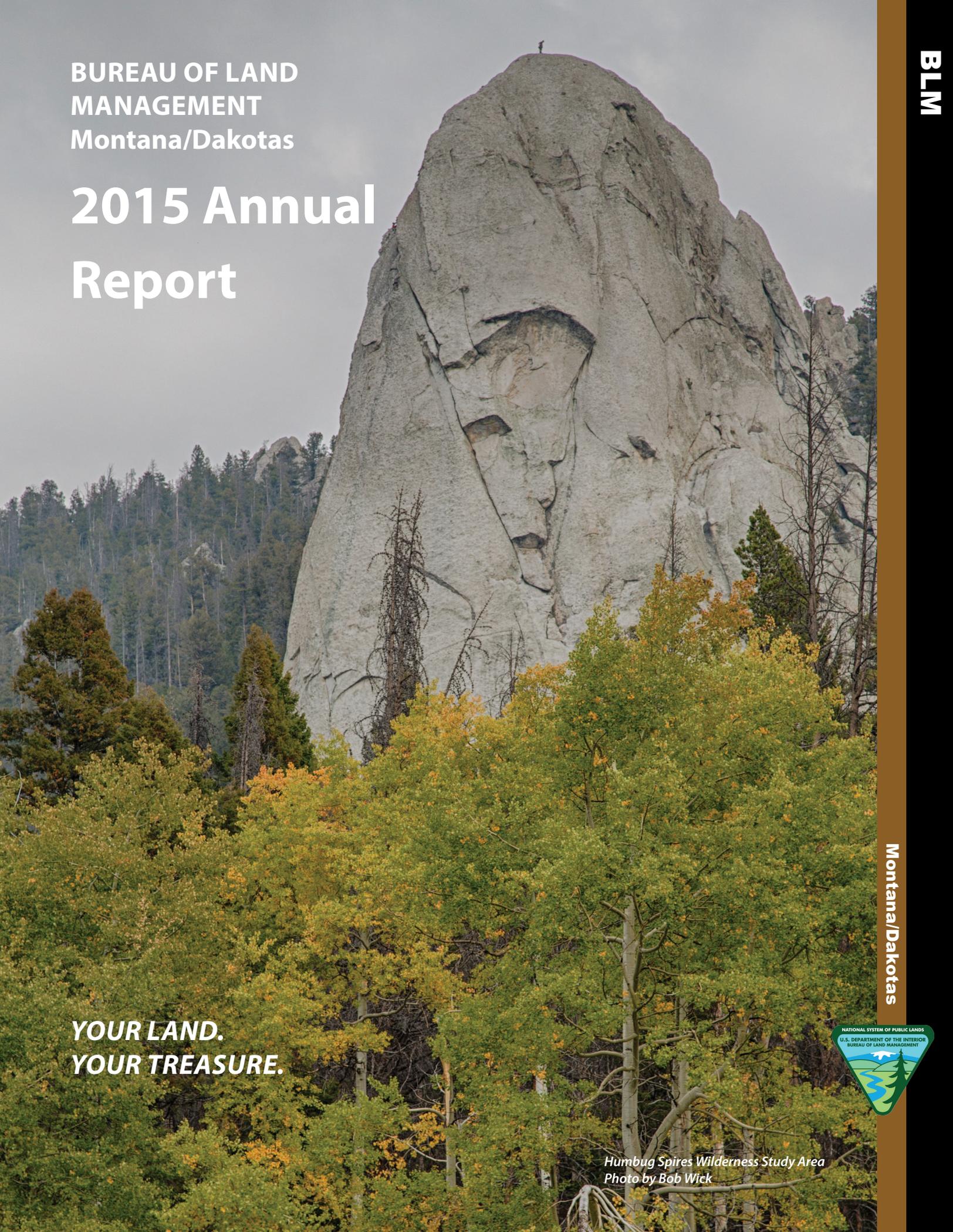


**BUREAU OF LAND
MANAGEMENT**
Montana/Dakotas

2015 Annual Report

BLM



**YOUR LAND.
YOUR TREASURE.**

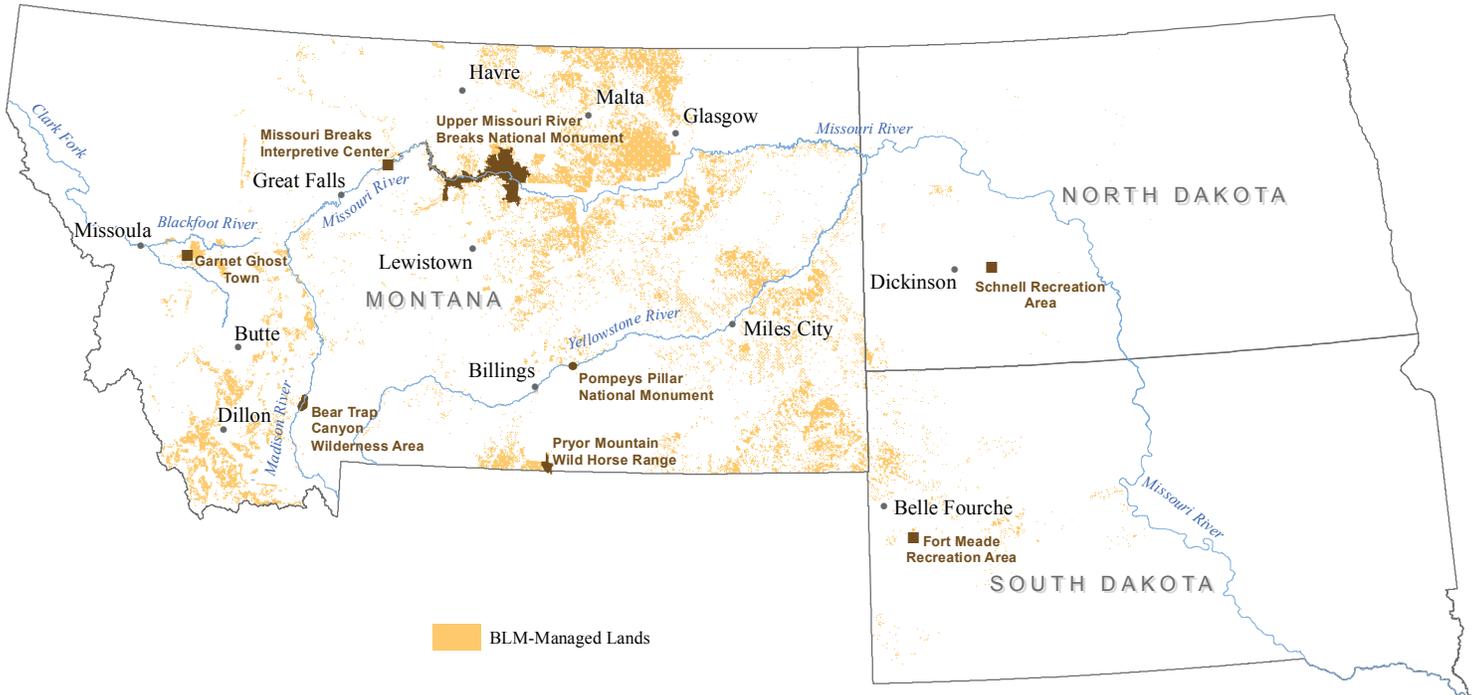
Montana/Dakotas



*Humbug Spires Wilderness Study Area
Photo by Bob Wick*



BLM-Managed Lands and Resources



The Bureau of Land Management Montana/Dakotas manages 8.3 million acres of federal lands and 47.1 million acres of federal mineral estate in the states of Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota. These public lands provide habitat for wildlife, forage for domestic livestock, forest products ranging from Christmas trees to commercial timber, and a wide range of recreational opportunities. The federal mineral estate, which includes oil, natural gas, and coal, is a critical source of energy as our nation works to develop domestic resources while creating jobs.

This report summarizes those contributions in Fiscal Year 2015.



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MONTANA/DAKOTAS BLM ACREAGE

Surface Acres

Montana	7,989,915
North Dakota	58,970
South Dakota	274,242
TOTAL	8,323,127

Subsurface Acres

Montana	37,747,058
North Dakota	5,593,410
South Dakota	3,771,657
TOTAL	47,112,125

for breakdown by county, and other links contained in this report, go to <http://www.blm.gov/mt/st/en/info/newsroom.html>

WORKFORCE

Employment

- 429 permanent full-time; 83 temporary; 72 career-seasonal/part-time; 2 interns; 586 total.

Volunteers

- 851 volunteers contributed 50,017 hours valued at \$1,153,893; the cost to Montana/Dakotas BLM was \$66,516.

SALARIES BY COMMUNITY

October 1, 2014 - September 30, 2015

Belle Fourche, S.D.	\$1,584,000
Billings, Montana (includes Pompeys Pillar)	\$16,763,000
Butte, Montana	\$4,349,000
Dickinson, North Dakota	\$3,833,000
Dillon, Montana	\$3,267,000
Glasgow, Montana	\$940,000
Great Falls, Montana	\$1,425,000
Havre, Montana	\$1,097,000
Lewistown, Montana (includes Fort Benton, Mont.)	\$6,767,000
Malta, Montana	\$910,000
Miles City, Montana	\$8,867,000
Missoula, Montana	\$2,335,000
Total	\$52,137,000

TOTAL BUDGET \$77,490,178

LANDSCAPE

Montana/Dakotas BLM lands provide a diversity of settings:

- 8.3 million acres of varied landscapes and opportunities
- 2,500 miles of streams
- 60,000 acres of lakes and reservoirs
- 32 boating access sites
- 19 Watchable Wildlife sites
- 5 Outstanding Natural Areas
- 5 Backcountry Byways (185 miles)
- 100+ miles of groomed snowmobile/cross country ski trails
- 400+ family camping units
- 15 day-use sites and 24 developed recreation sites
- 400+ undeveloped recreation sites
- 27 miles of mountain bike trails in the Blackfoot River corridor

National Monuments

- Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument (374,976 acres); www.blm.gov/mt/st/en/fo/umrbnm.html
- Pompeys Pillar National Monument (51 acres); www.blm.gov/mt/st/en/fo/billings_field_office/pompeyspillar.html

National Trails

- 310 miles of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail
- 13 miles of the Nez Perce National Historic Trail
- 10 miles of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail
- 30 miles of the Garnet Winter Trail
- 9 miles of the Bear Trap Canyon Recreation Trail
- 12 miles of the Centennial Trail

National Historic Landmarks

- Pompeys Pillar
- Wolf Mountain, which includes the Battle Mountain ACEC (2,850 acres, of which 120 acres are BLM)

Of special interest, our public lands offer:

- Upper Missouri National Wild and Scenic River (149 miles)
- Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Range (about 38,000 acres)
- State-of-the-art interpretive centers at Upper Missouri River Breaks and Pompeys Pillar national monuments
- Cabin rentals at Axolotl Lakes, Henneberry House, and Garnet Ghost Town
- Garnet Ghost Town and Visitor Center
- Numerous interpretive wayside exhibits
- 54 Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

Wilderness and Wilderness Study Areas

- Bear Trap Canyon Unit of the Lee Metcalf Wilderness, Montana's first and only designated BLM wilderness area (6,347 acres)
- 39 Wilderness Study Areas totaling more than 450,000 acres

Centennial Wilderness Study Area. BLM photo by Bob Wick



SOLID MINERALS

Montana

- 15 producing federal and Indian coal leases on 42,379 acres
- 28,199,312 tons of coal produced, generating \$49,737,309 in royalties

North Dakota

- 6 producing federal and Indian coal leases on 16,401 acres
- 5,317,809 tons of coal produced, generating \$3,451,913 in royalties

LOCATABLE MINERALS

- 1,155 new claims recorded
- 1,977 claims closed
- 1,492 claims covered by 401 small miner waivers
- 2,847 unpatented mining claims
- 11 claims relinquished
- 18,193 unpatented mining claims
- 228,061 active and closed unpatented mining claims on record

FLUID MINERALS

Oil and Gas Lease Sales

- 4 competitive oil and gas lease sales held
- 18,325.27 acres in 45 parcels offered
- 9,367.25 acres in 28 parcels sold
- \$5,007,291.00 bonus bids received

FEDERAL OIL & GAS LEASES ISSUED IN FY2015

	Competitive		Noncompetitive		Total	
	Number	Acres	Number	Acres	Number	Acres
Montana	10	1,199	4	440	14	1,639
North Dakota	18	8,168	0	0	18	8,168
South Dakota	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	28	9,367	4	440	32	9,807

FEDERAL OIL & GAS LEASES IN EFFECT AS OF 9/30/15

	Producing		Non-producing		Total	
	Number	Acres	Number	Acres	Number	Acres
Montana	1,446	759,012	1,568	1,545,427	3,014	2,304,439
North Dakota	1,293	592,647	734	381,506	2,027	974,153
South Dakota	82	48,482	338	138,153	420	186,635
TOTAL	2,821	1,400,141	2,640	2,065,086	5,461	3,465,227

FEDERAL TOTAL REPORTED ROYALTY REVENUES

Oil			
	Sales Volume (barrels)	Sales Value	Revenues
Montana	3,111,582.45	\$187,675,770.32	\$21,680,313.94
North Dakota	23,497,591.04	\$1,320,974,569.60	\$165,030,768.77
South Dakota	240,001.50	\$15,231,536.55	\$1,877,729.57
TOTAL	26,849,174.99	\$1,523,881,876.47	\$188,588,812.28
Conventional "Wet" Natural Gas			
	Sales Volume (thousand cubic feet)	Sales Value	Revenues
Montana	13,181,685.55	\$32,543,345.07	\$3,875,964.03
North Dakota	13,037,377.07	\$56,089,736.68	\$6,871,633.51
South Dakota	117,255.23	\$289,312.91	\$32,368.60
TOTAL	26,336,317.85	\$88,922,394.66	\$10,779,966.14
Coal Bed Natural Gas			
	Sales Volume (thousand cubic feet)	Sales Value	Revenues
Montana	31,268.63	\$90,174.69	\$9,455.05
North Dakota	0	0	0
South Dakota	0	0	0
TOTAL	31,268.63	\$90,174.69	\$9,455.05

All FY 2015 FEDERAL TOTAL REPORTED ROYALTY REVENUES figures from the ONRR website at: <http://statistics.onrr.gov/>

RECREATION & VISITOR SERVICES

In 2015, BLM Montana/Dakotas hosted more than 5 million public visits and collected more than \$572,570 in recreation fees. These fee funds are used to improve facilities and visitor services at developed recreation sites.

Our top six recreational activities in 2015, listed from highest to lowest in participation, are:

- Interpretation/environmental education/nature study
- Non-motorized travel (hiking, walking, skiing, etc.)
- Camping/picnicking
- Hunting – all types
- Driving for pleasure
- Fishing

Recreation Highlights

- Axolotl Cabin, a popular rental cabin in the Dillon Field Office area, underwent significant changes in 2015. To address issues of public health and safety as well as fire and building code concerns, the BLM replaced propane lights and utilities with solar-powered, repaired structural deficiencies, and installed fire egress. In addition, the kitchen was remodeled and sleeping quarters improved. In FY2015, 240 visitors rented this cabin. The cabin is available through Recreation.gov reservations.

LAND USE PLANNING

- 12 resource management plans (RMPs) currently cover Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota
- 5 planning revisions completed in 2015: Miles City, HiLine, South Dakota, Billings, and Pompeys Pillar RMPs
- 3 plan amendments completed to incorporate sage-grouse conservation measures: Dillon, Lewistown, and North Dakota RMPAs
- 1 planning effort is in the early stages of revision: Lewistown RMP

WEED MANAGEMENT

- 32,704 acres of noxious weeds treated with integrated weed control methods including chemical, physical, mechanical, and biological weed control agents, and domestic animals (sheep or goats)
- 90,696 acres inventoried and mapped for noxious weeds
- 23,283 acres monitored for Integrated Weed Management evaluation
- More than 100,000 biological control agents distributed to 19 sites

Source: 2015 Montana Integrated Pest Management Report



Axolotl Cabin. Photo by Alyse Backus

RANGELAND MANAGEMENT

- 4,141 cattle/buffalo operators; 1,193,659 animal unit months (AUMs) authorized
- 159 horse/burro operators; 5,068 AUMs authorized
- 184 sheep/goat operators; 32,339 AUMs authorized

Source: FY14 Public Land Statistics

FORESTRY

- 1,330,000 acres of forest land base
- 883,000 acres of available forest land from forest land base
- 4,979,500 board feet of timber offered by timber sale contracts for \$877,335
- 3,569,000 board feet of timber offered by stewardship contracts
- 2,325 cords of fuel wood sold for \$11,635
- 53,570 board feet of posts/poles sold for \$335
- 546 Christmas trees sold for \$2,025
- 2,000 pounds of boughs sold
- 300 transplants/ornamentals sold
- 106 tons of hay sold

FOREST DEVELOPMENT

- 30 acres of seeding
- 100 acres of reforestation
- 143 acres of site preparation
- 654 acres of site protection
- 690 acres of pre-commercial thinning
- 185 acres of commercial thinning
- 220 acres of stand conversions



WILD HORSE and BURRO

Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Range (PMWHR)

- PMWHR consists of 39,651 acres of BLM, Forest Service, National Park Service and private lands in Montana and Wyoming.
- Monitored for rangeland and wild horse health
- 150 horses on PMWHR. Appropriate management level (AML) is 90 to 120 adult horses.
- 77 mares treated with fertility control by BLM and National Park Service.
- 30 wild horses captured; 18 removed (adopted)
- 1 ground population inventory conducted
- 5 range improvement projects maintained

Off Range Pastures

- 3 Off Range Pastures: Mission Ridge and Whitehorse in South Dakota administered by the BLM Washington Office and South Dakota Field Office; and Spanish Q in Montana administered by the BLM Washington Office and the BLM Dillon Field Office.
- 2,360 horses in Off Range Pastures
- 4 Determinations of NEPA Adequacy (DNA) for renewal of Off Range Pasture contracts
- Rangeland monitored and animals counted

Statewide Activity

- 6 Herd Areas closed to active wild horse management
- 12 compliance inspections conducted on previously adopted wild horse and burros in Montana and South Dakota
- 2 burro re-assignments to new adopters
- 3 Training Incentive Program (TIP) trainers
- 5 responses to Department of Livestock regarding freeze marked animals being sold

Pryor Mountain wild horse. Photo by Brad Purdy

CULTURAL AND PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES

- 1.4 million acres inventoried to date
- 11,830 cultural properties recorded to date
- 3,604 paleontological localities recorded to date



Nelson homestead, Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument. BLM photo

WILDLIFE/HABITAT

Fish and Wildlife Habitat

- 600 species of fish and wildlife
- 3,500 acres of fish-bearing lakes and reservoirs
- 2,500 miles of streams
- 400,000+ acres of grassland bird habitat of international importance
- 68 Seeds of Success collections – focused on sage-grouse forbs
- 65,000 native plant seedlings grown for habitat improvement projects

Threatened and Endangered (T&E) Species

- 4 T&E mammals
- 5 T&E birds
- 2 T&E fish
- 1 T&E invertebrate
- 1 candidate bird
- 1 candidate plant

Special Status Species (lists updated in 2014)

- 4 amphibians
- 33 birds
- 9 fish
- 3 invertebrates
- 12 mammals
- 17 plants
- 5 reptiles

CADASTRAL SURVEY

- 186 miles resurveyed
- 66 miles approved
- 171 survey monuments set
- 79 survey monuments approved
- 4 plats approved



CONSTRUCTION/MAINTENANCE/ENGINEERING

Condition assessments performed on:

- 29 hazard class dams
- 4 bridges

Annual maintenance performed on:

- 223 administrative site and recreation site buildings
- 921 lane miles of road
- 305 recreation and administrative site projects
- 14 bridges
- 187 miles of trail

Deferred maintenance and/or construction performed on:

- 34 recreation and administrative site projects
- 4 miles of trail
- 2 dam projects
- 1 bridle project
- 1 mile of road

Other work completed:

- 431 facilities surveyed, designed or constructed
- 9 architectural and engineering task orders issued
- 61 radio sites –equipment maintained
- 2 radio sites-radio infrastructure CASHE audits performed

LANDS CASEWORK

- 119 rights-of-way actions processed
- 37 permit/lease actions processed (includes film permits)
- 2 LWCF acquisitions completed:
 - Sauerkraut Creek, 275 acres, Missoula Field Office
 - Morrison Mountain-Chamberlain, 4,312 acres, Missoula Field Office
- 130 patents issued for Bureau of Indian Affairs
- 10 patents issued for Forest Service
- 3 patents issued for special legislation sales (Fort Peck cabin sites)
- 2 coal patents issued to implement Northern Cheyenne Lands Act portion of the 2015 National Defense Authorization Act, PL 113-291
- 5 withdrawal actions completed
 - Fort Missoula cemetery partial revocation via PLO 5444 (Army Corps of Engineers)
 - Jewel Cave (Forest Service)
 - Pactola Visitor Center and Marinas extension (Forest Service)
 - Wind Cave transfer of jurisdiction (National Park Service)
 - Zortman-Landusky extension (BLM)

FIRE MANAGEMENT

- Approximately 90 wildfires occurred on BLM lands in Montana and South Dakota, burning a total of 13,836 acres. Of these, 17 were human-caused (5,691 acres) and 73 were started by lightning or other natural events (8,145 acres).
- The BLM also had protection responsibilities for 32 other wildfires which burned 2,325 acres of Forest Service or State lands under agreement for protection. Cooperating agencies, under agreement, responded to four fires that started on or involved BLM land. These fires burned 101 acres of BLM lands.
- The BLM assisted or supported over 30 wildfires ignited by existing coal seam fires burning in southeast Montana. These fires burned over 30,000 acres of lands owned by multiple private, state, and federal owners.
- The BLM also supported large fire activity in western Montana and northern Idaho with engines, helicopters, air tankers, and employees serving as incident command team members or other support functions. Two BLM employees serve as incident commanders for Type 2 Northern Rockies teams.
- The Community Assistance Program mitigated the fire threat on 1,072 acres of non-federal land, including more than 400 acres treated by the South Dakota Veterans in the Woods program.
- Our Mitigation and Education Specialists brought the fire ecology message to schools all across Montana.
- A total of 57 fuels treatments were accomplished on 16,941 acres: prescribed fire was used to treat 11,937 acres; mechanical treatments were conducted on 4,201 acres, and chemical treatments accounted for 260 acres. Eighty percent of accomplishments were within the wildland urban interface and eight treatments (11,913 acres) met the goals of restoring, protecting, or maintaining Sage Grouse habitat.
- The Billings Fire Cache supported 63 incidents in Region 1 of the Forest Service and provided national support to Region 6, Northern California and the Great Basin. The Billings cache mobilized five personnel to incidents around the nation for a total of 105 days. Overall the Billings cache shipped and returned 1,394 line items with a value of more than \$1.3 million.

Moonshine Fire, South Dakota. Photo by Jonathan Moor



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