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# 2018 Annual Report

U.S. Department of the Interior

Bureau of Land Management - Interior Regions 5 and 9

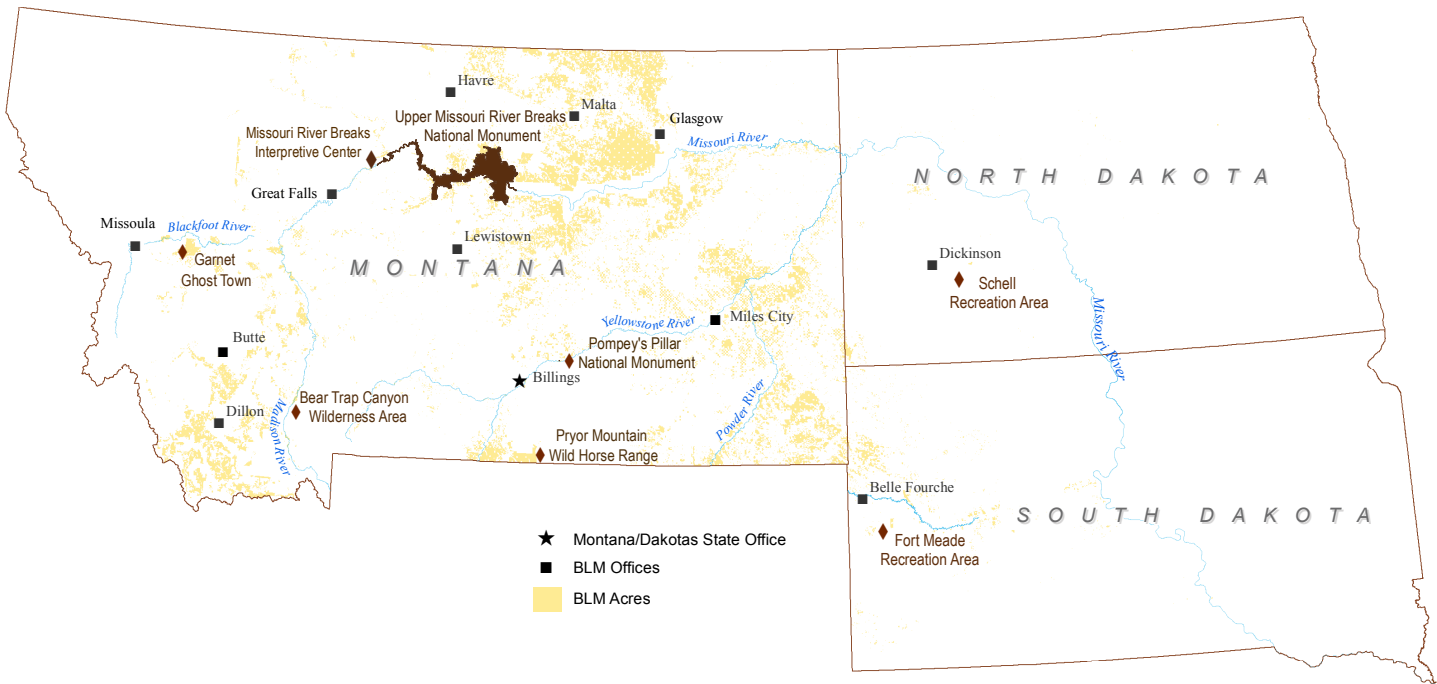
## MONTANA/DAKOTAS

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# BLM-MANAGED LANDS AND RESOURCES



**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 2018.

Front cover: Centennial Mountain Wilderness Study Area. Photo by Bob Wick

Back cover: BLM photos



[www.blm.gov/montana-dakotas](http://www.blm.gov/montana-dakotas)



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# BLM Montana/Dakotas

## LANDSCAPE

- 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; 28 miles at Acton Recreation Area; and 20 miles at Fort Meade Recreation Area

## NATIONAL MONUMENTS

- Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument (374,976 acres)
- Pompeys Pillar National Monument (51 acres)

## 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 National Recreation Trail
- 12 miles of the Centennial National Recreation Trail



Beartrap Wilderness Area. Photo by Bob Wick

## NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS

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

## WILDERNESS & WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS

- Bear Trap Canyon Unit of the Lee Metcalf Wilderness, Montana's first and only designated BLM wilderness area (6,347 acres)
- 37 Wilderness Study Areas totaling 437,615 acres

## ...AND MORE!

- Upper Missouri National Wild and Scenic River (149 miles)
- Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Range (about 38,000 acres)
- Interpretive centers for the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument (located in Fort Benton); and Pompeys Pillar National Monument.
- Garnet Ghost Town and Visitor Center
- Cabin rentals at Axolotl Lakes, Henneberry House, and Garnet Ghost Town
- Numerous interpretive wayside exhibits
- 54 Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

## BLM ACREAGE

### Surface Acres

Montana	7,995,984
North Dakota	58,942
South Dakota	274,078
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8,329,004</b>

### Subsurface Acres

Montana	37,758,332
North Dakota	5,593,440
South Dakota	3,768,272
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>47,120,044</b>

Continental Divide National Scenic Trail. Photo by Bob Wick



# A SOUND INVESTMENT

The BLM manages public lands to provide energy and mineral resources, recreation opportunities, and grazing and timber resources.

In fiscal year 2018, BLM's management of the public lands in Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota supported more than 27,000 jobs and provided more than \$7.4 billion in economic output while also contributing to the U.S. Treasury.

Photo by Mark Robillard

## ECONOMIC IMPACTS

	Montana		North Dakota		South Dakota	
	Economic Output	Jobs	Economic Output	Jobs	Economic Output	Jobs
Oil & Gas	\$449,735,973	2,548	\$5,725,710,736	16,554	\$23,554,181	207
Coal	\$453,347,295	1,315	\$87,706,669	233	0	0
Nonenergy Minerals	\$151,502	1	\$876,093	7	0	0
Recreation	\$274,455,887	2,635	\$57,938	1	\$3,358,029	32
Grazing	\$300,234,148	3,158	\$2,694,627	28	\$21,217,872	258
Timber	\$18,368,260	76	0	0	\$0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,496,293,065</b>	<b>9,734</b>	<b>\$5,817,046,063</b>	<b>16,823</b>	<b>\$48,130,082</b>	<b>497</b>

Source: BLM National Operations Center (2018 data)

## BLM SALARIES BY COMMUNITY

October 1, 2017 - September 30, 2018

Belle Fourche, S.D.	\$1,863,000
Billings, Mont. (includes Pompeys Pillar)	\$18,863,000
Butte, Mont.	\$4,723,700
Dickinson, N.D.	\$4,565,000
Dillon, Mont.	\$3,391,000
Glasgow, Mont.	\$925,000
Great Falls, Mont.	\$1,160,000
Havre, Mont.	\$899,000
Lewistown, Mont. (includes Fort Benton)	\$5,762,000
Malta, Mont.	\$1,004,000
Miles City, Mont.	\$9,733,000
Missoula, Mont.	\$2,816,000
Total	\$55,704,000
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>\$83,456,275</b>



Volunteers at Coal Banks Landing. BLM photo



Looking for a survey corner as part of a forestry project in the Big Hole Valley. Photo by Emily Guiberson

## BLM WORKFORCE

### Employment

- 530 permanent full-time; 9 temporary; 63 career-seasonal/part-time; 3 interns; 605 total.

### Volunteers

- 891 volunteers contributed 39,812 hours valued at \$977,823; the cost to BLM Montana/Dakotas was \$55,357.



Recreation resources and visitor services support **strong local economies and public land conservation.**



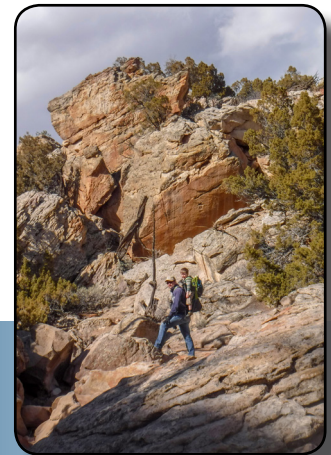
Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument Photo by Bob Wick

## RECREATION

In 2018, Montana/Dakotas BLM hosted nearly 4.5 million public visits and collected \$605,234 in recreation fees. These fees are used to maintain and improve the facilities and provide visitor services at the developed recreation sites.

*Our top six recreational activities in 2018, listed from highest to lowest in participation:*

- Interpretation/Environmental Education/Nature Study
- Non-motorized travel (hiking, walking, snow shoeing, skiing, etc.)
- Camping/picnicking
- Fishing
- Driving for pleasure
- Hunting – all types



Hiking in the Pryor Mountains. Photo by Jenny Alexander

*In 2018, two special events marked the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversaries of the Wild & Scenic Rivers Act and the National Trails System Act, legislation that led to the designation of the Upper Missouri National Wild & Scenic River and the Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail.*

*The Missouri Breaks Triathlon drew more than 250 competitors who paddled, pedaled and ran a 43-mile course, beginning and ending in Fort Benton, located on the Upper Missouri National Wild & Scenic River.*



*A Native American powwow at Devil's Elbow Recreation Site on Hauser Lake featured a powwow with a drum group, exhibition dancers, and traditional games. Devil's Elbow is on the Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail.*



BLM photos

## TIMBER

### FORESTRY

- 1,330,000 acres of forest land base.
- 883,000 acres of available forest land from forest land base.
- 12,061,000 board feet of timber offered by timber sale and stewardship contracts, generating \$1,005,288.41 in revenue.
- 17,084 tons of biomass offered through timber sales, stewardship contracts and special forest product sales.

### FOREST DEVELOPMENT

- 15 acres of reforestation
- 506 acres of site preparation
- 435 acres of site protection
- 2,074 acres of pre-commercial thinning
- 929 acres of commercial thinning, salvage and regeneration harvests
- Continued with whitebark pine conservation efforts including collection of seed, intensive inventory, and the development of state-wide GIS layers.

*The BLM Montana/Dakotas produced 46 percent of the national volume offered by the entire forestry program from BLM Public Domain managed lands.*

*Montana/Dakotas = 12,061 MBF  
All Public Domain States Total = 26,179 MBF*

*The BLM manages forests to meet the present and future needs of communities, wildlife and all those who benefit from the services forests provide.*



Lemhi Pass Timber Sale. BLM photo

*The Lemhi Pass Timber Sale (Dillon Field Office, 2018) covers 910 acres of commercial treatments with about half salvage of dead and dying trees killed during the recent mountain pine beetle outbreak. Removed trees are being used for dimensional lumber, fuelwood, and post and pole products. Treatments should provide firefighters with a place to make a stand against wildfires. Photo by Ken Reed.*





*The BLM has a strong history of meeting our nation's growing energy needs while leading the way in sustainable development.*

Photo by Mark Jacobsen

## **FLUID MINERALS**

### *Oil and Gas Lease Sales*

- 4 competitive oil and gas lease sales held
- 312 parcels offered
- 64,026 acres in 115 parcels sold
- \$352,462 bonus bids received
- 776 Applications for Permit to Drill processed

## **SOLID MINERALS**

### *Montana*

- 12 producing federal and Indian coal leases on 37,511.64 acres
- 16,988,403 tons of federal coal produced, generating \$30,938,734 in federal royalties and \$110,376 in rents

### *North Dakota*

- 7 producing federal coal leases on 8,213.47 acres
- 3,409,596 tons of federal coal produced, generating \$1,901,735 in federal royalties and \$32,988 in rents

## **LOCATABLE MINERALS**

- 2,415 new mining claims recorded
- 700 mining claims closed
- 618 mining claims covered by 1,993 small miner waivers
- 19,297 unpatented mining claims
- 21 mining claims relinquished
- 237,858 active and closed unpatented mining claims on record





FEDERAL OIL & GAS LEASES ISSUED IN FY2018						
	Competitive		Noncompetitive		Total	
	Number	Acres	Number	Acres	Number	Acres
Montana	145	75,600	250	130,593	395	206,193
North Dakota	62	27,689	0	0	62	27,689
South Dakota	52	25,521	0	0	52	25,521
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>128,810</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>130,593</b>	<b>509</b>	<b>259,403</b>

FEDERAL OIL & GAS LEASES IN EFFECT AS OF 9/30/2018						
	Producing		Non-producing		Total	
	Number	Acres	Number	Acres	Number	Acres
Montana	1,396	684,194	1,424	1,412,941	2,820	2,097,135
North Dakota	1,359	603,939	395	233,894	1,754	837,833
South Dakota	80	46,444	276	105,268	356	151,712
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,845</b>	<b>1,339,551</b>	<b>2,085</b>	<b>1,752,103</b>	<b>4,930</b>	<b>3,086,680</b>

FEDERAL TOTAL REPORTED ROYALTY REVENUES			
Oil			
	Sales Volume (barrels) (2017)	Sales Value (FY2018)	Revenue (FY2018)
Montana	2,417,667	\$140,040,988.00	\$16,804,919
North Dakota	25,306,897	\$1,620,250,101	\$194,430,012
South Dakota	128,004	\$6,518,896	\$782,268
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>27,852,568</b>	<b>\$1,766,809,985</b>	<b>\$212,017,198</b>
Conventional "Wet" Natural Gas			
	Sales Volume (thousand cubic feet) (FY2017)	Sales Value (FY2018)	Revenue (FY2018)
Montana	11,288,694	\$23,295,907	\$2,795,509
North Dakota	59,671,692	\$214,538,217	\$25,744,586
South Dakota	1,223,176	\$92,242	\$11,609
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>72,183,562</b>	<b>\$237,926,366</b>	<b>\$28,551,164</b>

All FY 2018 FEDERAL TOTAL REPORTED ROYALTY REVENUES figures from the ONRR website at: <http://statistics.onrr.gov/>



*The overall goal of the BLM's rangeland management program is to ensure the health and productivity of public rangelands for the use and enjoyment of current and future generations.*



*Spraying weeds. Photo by Mark Jacobsen*

### **NOXIOUS WEED MANAGEMENT**

- 22,638 acres of noxious weeds treated with integrated weed control methods including herbicide, physical, mechanical, and biological weed control agents, and domestic animals (sheep or goats)
- 192,985 acres inventoried and mapped for noxious weeds
- 27,112 acres monitored for Integrated Weed Management evaluation
- Biological control agents established on more than 283,369 acres

*Source: 2018 Montana Integrated Pest Management Report*

### **WILD HORSE & BURRO PROGRAM**

#### *Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Range*

- 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.
- 162 horses on PMWHR. Appropriate management level is 90 to 120 adult horses.
- 51 mares treated with fertility control by BLM and National Park Service.
- 1 ground population inventory
- 6 range improvement projects maintained

#### *Off-Range Pastures*

- About 2,300 horses are on two off-range pastures in South Dakota and one in Montana.

#### *Statewide Activity*

- 6 Herd Areas closed to active wild horse management
- 55 compliance inspections conducted on previously adopted wild horse and burros in Montana and South Dakota
- 12 Training Incentive Program (TIP) trainers
- 1 Storefront that helped place over 60 wild horses and burros
- 91 wild horses and burros adopted
- 61 wild horses and burro sold
- 11 wild horses in training with Montana Department of Corrections
- 6 Placement Events
- 1 Training Clinic offered to the public to help with placement of wild horses and burros



## GRAZING

### Cattle/domestic bison

- 4,119 operators; 1,210,193 animal unit months (AUMs) authorized

### Horse/burro

- 163 operators; 5,231 AUMs authorized

### Sheep/goats

- 178 operators; 29,234 AUMs authorized

Source: FY17 Public Land Statistics



Two Meter Man  
Carbon County, Mont.

## CULTURAL AND PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES

To date:

- 2,100,945 acres of public land surveyed for cultural resources
- 14,170 sites recorded
- 26 sites and/or districts listed on National Register of Historic Places
- 749,968 artifacts from 4,689 sites curated at Billings Curation Center, located at the Montana/Dakotas State Office.
- 109,240 paleontological specimens from 5,203 BLM Montana/Dakotas localities curated in 49 partner museums

## FISH, WILDLIFE, AND THREATENED & ENDANGERED SPECIES

### 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

### Special Status Species

Listed as Threatened and Endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA)

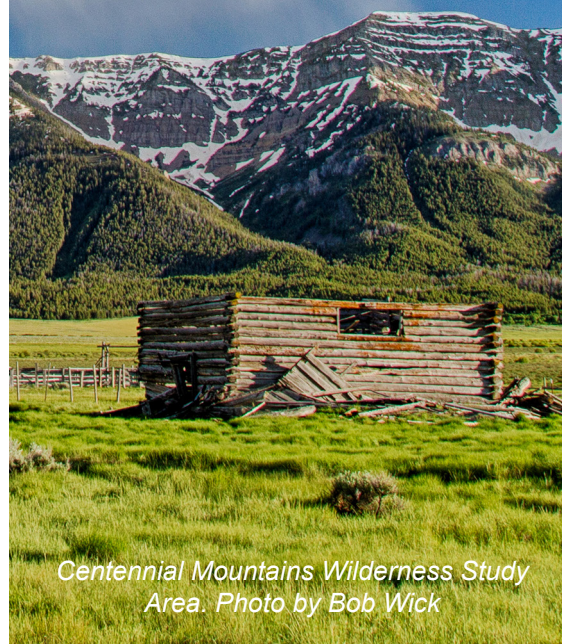
- 4 T&E mammals
- 5 T&E birds
- 2 T&E fish
- 1 T&E invertebrate

### BLM Sensitive Species

lists updated in 2014

- 4 amphibians
- 31 birds (including 2 ESA delisted species)
- 9 fish
- 2 invertebrates
- 11 mammals (including 1 ESA Proposed Species)
- 17 plants (including 1 Candidate Species)
- 5 reptiles

Besides providing economic benefits, the BLM also preserves cultural resources and maintains healthy ecosystems that provide clean air, clean water, and habitat for plants and wildlife.



Centennial Mountains Wilderness Study Area. Photo by Bob Wick



**Surveying, maintaining, and processing land actions are among the BLM's responsibilities.**



Sign at survey corner identifying a dinosaur dig site on public lands in eastern Montana. Photo by Blaise Lodermeier.

## **CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE, AND ENGINEERING**

*Condition assessments performed on:*

- 40 hazard class dams
- 22 bridges

*Annual maintenance performed on:*

- 252 administrative site and recreation site buildings
- 924 lane miles of road
- 214 recreation and administrative site projects
- 21 bridges
- 225 miles of trail
- 24 dam projects

*Deferred maintenance and/or construction performed on:*

- 13 recreation and administrative site projects
- 13 miles of trail
- 1 bridge project
- 1 mile of road

*Other work completed:*

- 5 architectural and engineering task orders issued
- 61 radio sites –equipment maintained

## **CADASTRAL SURVEY**

- 86 miles surveyed
- 77 survey monuments set
- 14 survey plats accepted

## **REALTY, LANDS AND RENEWABLE ENERGY**

The BLM directs a wide range of public land transactions that supports its multiple-use mission and ensures public lands are managed for the use and enjoyment of current and future generations.

Priorities in 2018 included the final phase of the State of Montana In Lieu Selection, improving recreational access to public lands, and facilitating energy development through Right-of-Way (ROW) authorizations.

*FY2018 Key Accomplishments:*

- 93 ROWs processed
- 75 ROWs grants issued
- 20 new permit/lease actions processed (includes film permits)
- Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) acquisition completed totaling 93 acres and providing for improved access to more than 25,000 acres of federal and state lands.
- State of Montana In Lieu Selection (Phase I) conveyed 2,126 acres (valued at \$1.8 million). This action represents substantial progress toward fulfilling the \$4.1 million in lieu selection entitlement owed to the State of Montana.

*The BLM's Cadastral Survey Program originated with the Land Ordinance of 1785, providing boundary surveys for land in federal ownership.*

*Today's surveys still provide essential information needed to correctly determine ownership rights in order to facilitate good land management decisions.*

## **FIRE & AVIATION MANAGEMENT**

- 61 wildfires burned 968 BLM acres
- 11 human-caused (12 acres); 50 lightning-caused (956 acres)
- Montana/Dakotas supports large fire activity across the country with hand crews, engines, aircraft, and staff. Numerous staff continue to support incident management teams in both direct and indirect ways, including two BLM employees that serve as incident commanders on Northern Rockies incident management teams.
- 8 employees training to become certified Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) pilots; 5 are qualified to operate UAS on fireline.
- 10 UAS platforms available to support both fire and non-fire missions
- Billings Fire Cache issued, returned, and transferred \$2.3 million worth of supplies in support of other fire caches and on 48 separate incidents around the country.
- 28,122 acres were treated in 2018: 13 prescribed fires totaling 12,618 acres; 31 mechanical treatments totaling 7,282 acres; wildfires met treatment objectives on 6,900 acres; 8 chemical treatments on 1,322 acres.
- 87 percent of treatments conducted in the wildland urban interface. Monitoring efforts to document fuels treatment effectiveness and to determine the need for future treatments spanned 28,826 acres.
- 42 training courses/exercises provided to nearly 1,000 students through the Local Cooperator Assistance for Wildfire Program. More than 70 Rural Fire Districts were represented at these training courses/exercises.
- The BLM Montana/Dakotas Community Assistance program supported nearly 500 fire education events and helped more than 125 communities across three states with some type of assistance.
- 25 assistance agreements totaling nearly \$700,000 in place to provide funding for community assistance activities such as education, planning, and fuel treatments on non-federal land. In 2018, those agreements helped protect about 250 homes through the treatment of more than 1,100 acres of hazardous fuels reduction.

*The BLM is responsible for **fire management on more than 8.3 million acres of public lands across Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota. This includes **wildland fire protection/suppression and fuels management.*****



Photo by Cody Phillips

**Collaboration** with local, state and tribal governments, the public, and stakeholder groups is a key ingredient in land use planning and resource management.



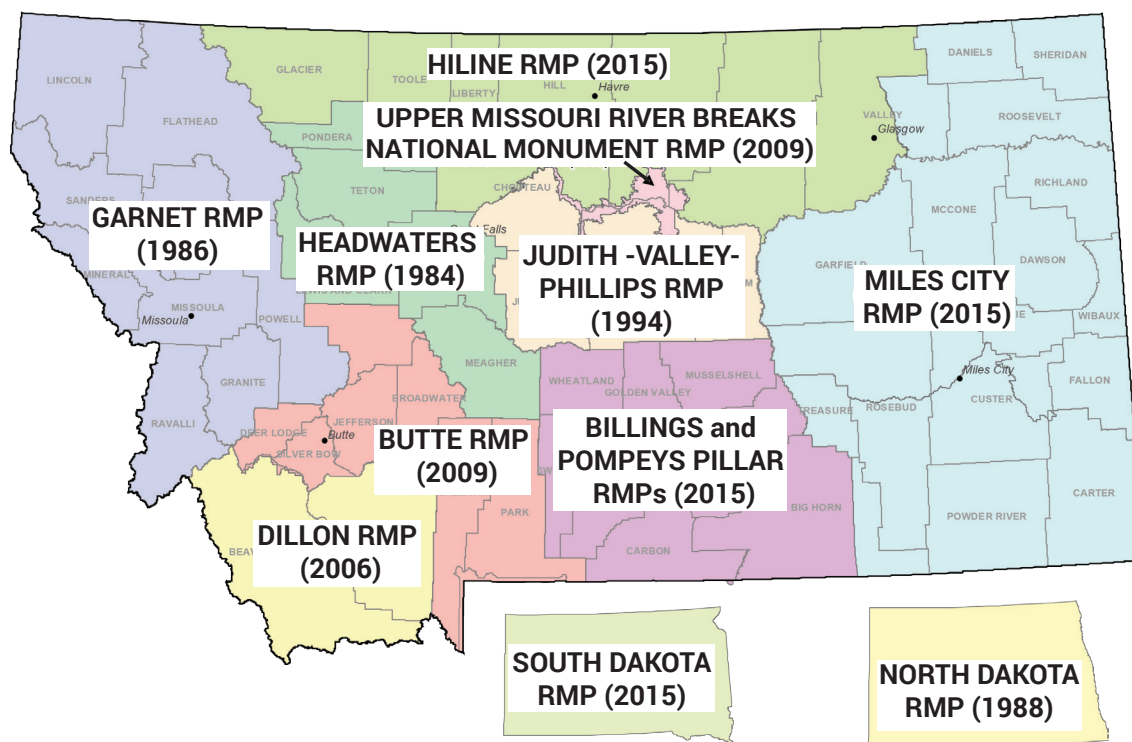
BLM photo

## TRIBAL RELATIONS and CONSULTATION

- Tribal Consultation meeting held with the Standing Rock Sioux, Northern Cheyenne, Crow Nation, Spirit Lake Sioux, Mandan, Hadatsa, Arikara Nation, Cheyenne River Sioux, Rosebud Sioux Tribe, Lower Brule Sioux Tribe, and Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa.
- 102 contacts made with tribes through telephone calls, emails and face-to-face meetings.
- Work continues on the Northern Cheyenne Ecological Ethnographic (EEA) project, which documents and preserves information about animals, plants and cultural sites that are important to the tribe. The BLM National Training Center completed a video about the project (<https://vimeo.com/284777840>) that will be used for training.
- Crow Elders reviewed the Tipi Interpretation Project being developed at Pompeys Pillar National Monument. The display will focus on the various tipis of Montana tribes, which are all constructed in a unique way.



Pompeys Pillar National Monument.  
Photo by Ann Boucher.

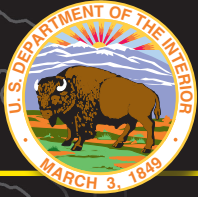


## LAND USE PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATION

- Twelve resource management plans (RMPs) currently cover Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota.
- Two planning efforts are underway and in the Draft EIS development phase: Lewistown RMP (which will replace the Judith and Headwaters RMPs) and Missoula RMP (which will replace the Garnet RMP).
- In FY18, Montana/Dakotas BLM emphasized streamlining the NEPA process by concentrating on issues-based NEPA training, implementing Secretarial Order 3355 (on Streamlining the NEPA process), and the development of an internal NEPA Guide to work toward greater consistency in the field offices with NEPA and ePlanning.



Photo by Ken Reed



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