- Last April, 129 sixth graders attended the first annual Sharing Trails event in Lewistown, Mont. It was a cooperative effort among the BLM Lewistown Field Office and multiple stakeholders including the Judith Basin Back Country Horsemen, Lewistown Honda, Little Belts Snowmobile Club, Montana Wilderness Association, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, Fergus County Weed District, and Central Montana Search & Rescue. The event's main purpose was to educate about trail etiquette and safety.
- The Malta Field Office installed traffic counters at the Camp Creek and Montana Gulch campgrounds and Cottonwood Riparian Area. All the campsites at the Horse Corral camping area were leveled and repaired. One site was moved and expanded to accommodate longer trailers. In addition, the route inventory was completed for the Little Rockies travel planning area and a National Public Lands Day cleanup project was held in Camp Creek and the town of Zortman.
- The Miles City Field Office hosted five Montana Conservation Crews (MCC). The first crew arrived at Pumpkin Creek Ranch in March to plant willow cuttings along the creek to decrease erosion and restore stream side vegetation, benefiting wildlife and riparian functionality. Another crew received chainsaw training and certification by cutting down select Russian olive trees at Matthews Recreation Area as part of a joint BLM and Pheasants Forever habitat improvement project. This crew also completed work at Pumpkin Creek Ranch and cut burned ponderosa pine for a fence maintenance project near Ekalaka, Mont. An MCC crew camped at the Moorhead Campground about two weeks while it sprayed invasive species on more than 200 acres, inventoried 3,000 acres in the Buffalo Creek Wilderness Study Area, and completed site maintenance at the campground. In July and August, two additional MCC crews assisted with trail and site maintenance at Howrey Island Recreation Area. One of these crews moved and re-built the main kiosk at Glendive Short Pine OHV Area and completed other site maintenance.
- On September 18, the Missoula Field Office teamed up with the Blackfoot Challenge to host a Youth Field Day at Garnet Ghost Town. About 250 students (primarily 4th-5th graders) from nine area schools participated in six different stations including a tour of Garnet, a tour of the Sierra Mine, a creative writing station, a water station, a scavenger hunt, and gold panning.
- The Schnell Recreation Area, managed by the North Dakota Field Office, provides 2,000 acres of non-motorized rangeland and continues to be a favorite setting for local horseback riding trail groups. The diverse vegetation is an excellent learning environment for teaching local students how to identify native forbs and grasses and rangeland health.
- Pompeys Pillar National Monument conducted visitor satisfaction surveys this year and attained a 100 percent satisfaction rating. Among the site's numerous other success stories were a Boy Scout Camporee and several scout work days, which included more than 100 scouts working on several site improvement projects.
- The South Dakota Field Office hosted about 20 volunteers on National Public Lands Day in September. Volunteers from the Backcountry Horsemen, Black Hills Bicyclists, and the local community installed three new walk-through gates and bike rollovers.
- The Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument capitalized on its partnership with the Friends of the Monument during four National Public Lands Day events. Projects included the cleanup of two major recreation sites, the annual river cleanup, and a cottonwood restoration project. The Monument also honored local Montana rancher and BLM volunteer Illa Willmore with the Lifetime Achievement Award for 21 years of outstanding service and support
- The Missouri Breaks Interpretive Center developed two EarthCaches to help students and the public learn more about geologic features. One trail is on the Upper Missouri River; the other is on the Marias River and will be available in 2014.

ECONOMIC IMPACTS

SALARIES BY COMMUNITY (October 1, 2012, through September 30, 2013)

Total Budget	\$67,381,000
Total	\$52,341,000
Missoula, Montana	\$2,617,000
Miles City, Montana	\$8,684,000
Malta, Montana	\$1,669,000
(includes Fort Benton, Montana)	
Lewistown, Montana	\$6,509,000
Havre, Montana	\$973,000
Great Falls, Montana	\$930,000
Glasgow, Montana	\$686,000
Dillon, Montana	\$3,248,000
Dickinson, North Dakota	\$2,750,000
Butte, Montana	\$4,458,000
(includes Pompeys Pillar National Mo	nument)
Billings, Montana	\$18,383,000
Belle Fourche, South Dakota	\$1,434,000

Bureau of Land Management





Caring for Our Natural Resources and **Managing Lands for Public Needs**





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Bureau of Land Management



Montana/Dakotas **A Report to the Public**

Bureau of Land Management

MONTANA/DAKOTAS BLM ACREAGE

Surface Acres		Subsurface Acre	Subsurface Acres	
Montana	7,985,093	Montana	37,748,688	
North Dakota	58,929	North Dakota	5,593,410	
South Dakota	274,517	South Dakota	3,771,657	
TOTAL	8,318,539	TOTAL	47,113,755	

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

WILDLIFE

Fish and Wildlife Habitat

- 600 species of fish and wildlife
- 3,500 acres of lakes and reservoirs
- 2,500 miles of streams
- More than 400,000 acres of grassland bird habitat of international importance
- 3 Seeds of Success collections focused on sage-grouse forbs
- 41,400 native plant seedlings grown for habitat improvement projects

Threatened and Endangered Species

- 3 threatened and endangered mammals
- 3 threatened and endangered birds
- 2 threatened and endangered fish
- 1 candidate mammal
- 3 candidate birds
- 1 candidate fish
- 1 candidate plant

Special Status Species

- 16 Mammals List updated in 2009
- 38 Birds List updated in 2009
- 8 Fish List updated in 2009
- 105 Plants List updated in 2009

Wild Horses

- 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. The appropriate management level is 90 to 120 adult horses.
- 6 Herd Areas closed to active wild horse management.
- 3 long term holding facilities (2 in South Dakota, 1 in Montana)
- 1 population inventory flight.
- 60 mares treated with fertility control by BLM, volunteers and NPS.
- 9 range improvement projects maintained on the PMWHR.
- 1 Herd Management Area (PMWHR) monitored for rangeland and wild horse health.
- 32 compliance inspections completed for previously adopted wild horses and burros (24 in Montana; 5 in South Dakota; and 3 in North Dakota).
- 1 wild horse adopted.
- 2 law enforcement patrols.
- 450 volunteer hours.
- 1 Service First Agreement between the BLM and NPS.

LANDSCAPE

Rangeland Management

- 4,063 cattle/buffalo operators; 1,193,107 animal unit months (AUMs) authorized
- 159 horse/burro operators; 5,294 AUMs authorized
- 190 sheep/goat operators; 33,078 AUMs authorized

Source: FY12 Public Land Statistics

Forestry

- 400,000 acres of commercial forest land
- 138,000 acres of non-commercial forest land
- 8,562,000 board feet of timber offered by timber sale contracts
- 1,190,000 board feet of timber offered by stewardship contracts
- 1,024 cords of fuel wood sold
- 1,250 posts/poles sold
- 553 Christmas trees sold
- 5,700 pounds of boughs sold
- 106 transplants/ornamentals sold
- 1,831 tons of biomass sold

Forest Development

- 91 acres of reforestation
- 90 acres of site preparation
- 1,090 acres of site protection
- 5 acres of Genetic Improvement Trees planted (whitebark pine rust-resistant)
- 400 acres of stand release
- 1,134 acres of pre-commercial thinning
- 807 acres of commercial thinning
- 96 acres of forest stand conversions

Noxious Weed Management

FY2013:

- 36,363 acres of noxious weeds treated using integrated weed control methods (chemical, physical, mechanical, and biological weed control agents, and sheep/goats).
- 174,569 acres inventoried and mapped for noxious weeds.
- 10,820 acres monitored for Integrated Weed Management evaluation.
- More than 200,000 biological control agents distributed to 39 sites.
- About 600,000 biological control agents collected for redistribution to public and private lands.

To date:

- Biological weed control agents established on more than 274,000 acres.
- 79 weed management areas in our three states.
- Interagency agreements in place with Agricultural Research Service and Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service for biological control.
- Cooperative agreements in place with 3 researchers from Montana State University and one from the University of Idaho for biological control.
- Cooperative agreements in place with 34 county weed districts.
- Cooperation and funding to Montana Education and Awareness Committee results in hundreds of public and agency contacts for weed education opportunities.
- Cooperation and funding to the Montana Bio-control Working Group to facilitate information exchange, coordinate collections and releases, and increase awareness about bio-control efforts in Montana.

Report to the Public

- Continued cooperation with the Center for Invasive Species Management for regional invasive species management and research as well as dissemination of current research methods and information
- Work closely with Montana Department of Agriculture, Montana Weed Control Association, Bureau of Reclamation, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Forest Service

Cultural and Paleontological Resources

- 1.4 million acres inventoried to date
- 11,447 cultural properties recorded to date
- 3,500 paleontological localities recorded to date

MINERALS

Solid Minerals

- Montana
- 16 producing federal and Indian coal leases on 43,094 acres
- 24,073,030 tons of coal produced, generating \$43,766,587 in royalties

North Dakota

• 5 producing federal and Indian coal leases on 7,453 acres

• 230,726 active and closed unpatented mining claims on record

Federal Oil and Gas Leases Issued in FY 2013

Number

Federal Oil and Gas Leases in Effect as of 9/30/13

TOTAL 2,655 1,367,557 3,174 2,527,989 5,829 3,895,546

0

0

Non-producing

Noncompetitive

Total

Total

8,928

Acres Number Acres

0 57 17,038

125 68,287 238 95,024

125 68,287 361 120,990

Number Acres Number Acres

2,023 1,944,626 3,463 2,709.938

929 468,487 2,065 1,026,143

222 114,876 301 159,465

0 66

• 4,491,780 tons of coal produced, generating \$1,887,515 in royalties

Locatable Minerals

0 claims patented

Fluid Minerals

Montana

TOTAL

Montana

North Dakota 66

South Dakota 57

- 2,628 new claims recorded
- 1869 claims closed
- 1,761 claims covered by 460 small miner waivers

Competitive

Number Acres

236

North Dakota 1,136 557,656

South Dakota 79

Oil and Gas Lease Sales

113 26,737

Producing

Number Acres

1,440 765,312

• 4 competitive oil and gas lease sales held

52,542.59 acres in 235 parcels received bids
\$64,402,370.75 bonus bids received

• 214,948.59 acres in 561 parcels offered

8,928

17,038

52,703

44,589

- 16,293 unpatented mining claims
- 57 claims relinquished

Federal Total Reported Royalty Revenues

		Oil	
	Sales Volume (barrels)	Sales Value	Revenues
Montana	2,337,260.51	\$210,733,309.67	\$25,158,260.56
North Dakota	14,212,130.31	\$1,281,134,765.97	\$173,575,608.23
South Dakota	191,733.56	\$16,798,616.51	\$2,121,861.43
Total	16,741,124.38	\$1,508,666,692.15	\$200,855,730.22
	Conventional	"Wet" Natural Gas	
	Sales Volume	Sales Value	Revenues
	(thousand cubic feet)		
Montana	10,608,166.17	\$30,538,582.22	\$3,961,152.61
North Dakota	9,779,988.76	\$52,012,868.70	\$6,228,670.73
South Dakota	143,622.88	\$399,845.48	\$46,490.95
TOTAL	20,531,777.81	\$82,951,296.40	\$10,236,314.29
	Coal Bed	Natural Gas	
	Sales Volume	Sales Value	Revenues
	(thousand cubic feet)		
Montana	1,046,733.96	\$2,660,826.32	\$330,847.22

(thousand cubic feet)				
Montana	1,046,733.96	\$2,660,826.32	\$330,847.22	
North Dakota	0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
South Dakota	0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
TOTAL	1,046,733.96	\$2,660,826.32	\$330,847.22	

All FY 2013 FEDERAL TOTAL REPORTED ROYALTY REVENUES figures from the ONRR website at: http://statistics.onrr.gov/

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

Hazardous Materials Management

- Completed follow-up CASHE audits (internal environmental audit program) as scheduled by the CASHE audit team (every office gets a follow-up on a 3-year cycle). For the third consecutive year, all 10 BLM Montana/ Dakotas organizational units were rated in good condition.
- BLM Montana/Dakotas continues as the lead agency on the Department of the Interior's team for the Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) of the Silvertip Oil Spill on the Yellowstone River. Settlement discussions in conjunction with the Montana State NRDA team and the company began in 2013 and will continue in 2014.
- Completed the Class V Underground Injection Control Wells, Septic Systems, and Pit Toilets inventory that was required by the Department of the Interior in response to an Office of Inspector General report.
- Disposed of hazardous unused and waste products from the field offices and state office.
- Completed environmental site assessments for several land acquisitions/ disposals.
- Provided necessary hazmat training for staff statewide.
- Completed several dump cleanups in partnership with adjacent local landowners in the Butte Field Office.

PLANNING & ACTIONS

Land Use Planning and Environmental Coordination

- 12 resource management plans (RMPs) cover Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota
- 4 planning efforts in progress: Miles City, HiLine, South Dakota, and Billings/Pompeys Pillar resource management plans

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

• 54 Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

Lands Casework

- 93 rights-of-way and amendments issued; 28 renewed
- 14 permits/leases (includes film) issued
- 596 patents issued for Bureau of Indian Affairs
- 161 patents issued for special legislation sales (Fort Peck cabin sites)
- 1 Forest Service exchange patents and 2 quit claim deed issued for 1,945
- acres
- 2 BLM FLPMA exchange patents issued for 244 acres
- 1 FLPMA exchange warranty deed to BLM for 100 acres
- 1 acquisition (transfer) from Bureau of Reclamation to BLM for 9.4 acres
- 3 withdrawal cases processed, 2 new withdrawals and 1 extension, for 891,497 acres

SUPPORT FUNCTIONS

Fire Management

- The BLM was involved in the management of 109 fires in Montana and the Dakotas during 2013. Out of the total of 2,760 acres burned, 808 acres were BLM land.
- The BLM dispatched tactical firefighting resources to 91 of the 109 fires. Thirty-six of these fires started on BLM land; 31 started on other land that is protected by the BLM under agreement; and 11 started on other land but were considered a threat to BLM land. BLM assistance was requested on the remaining 13 fires, though they did not involve BLM lands.
- Cooperating agencies, under agreement, responded to 18 fires that started on BLM land. These fires burned 718 acres, of which 654 were BLM.
- Human-caused fires accounted for 478 BLM acres burned, or about 59 percent of the total 808 BLM acres burned.
- A total of 38 fuels treatments were accomplished on 6,540 acres: 16 prescribed burns on 3,417 acres, and 22 mechanical treatments on 3,123 acres.
- The Community Assistance program maintained 32 agreements with nonprofit cooperators to help reduce the threat of wildfire to communities. BLM funding was used to hire 4 military veteran crews to complete fuels reduction work this year. Several veterans found permanent careers as a result of this program.

Volunteers

• 833 volunteers contributed 46,372 hours valued at \$1,026,676; the cost to Montana/Dakotas BLM was \$56,741.

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

Construction/Maintenance/Engineering

Condition assessments performed on:

- 46 administrative sites and recreation sites
- 44 hazard class dams
- 2 bridges
- 185 miles of roads

Annual maintenance performed on:

- 287 administrative site and recreation site buildings
- 870 lane miles of road
- 225 recreation and administrative site projects
- 4 bridges
- 308 miles of trail

Deferred maintenance and/or construction performed on:

- 91 recreation and administrative site projects
- 19 miles of trail
- 9 road projects
- 1 dam project

Other work completed:

- 767 facilities surveyed, designed or constructed
- 12 architectural and engineering task orders issued

CADASTRAL SURVEY

- 203 miles resurveyed
- 84 miles approved
- 262 survey monuments set
- 216 survey monuments approved
- 22 plats approved

GEOGRAPHIC COORDINATED DATA BASE

- 631 townships collected
- 255 townships maintained

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS/MAPPING SCIENCE

- Provided visuals and analyses for public meetings and briefings
 Provided GIS data, analytic, mapping and presentation support for the Billings, South Dakota, Lewistown, HiLine, and Miles City resource management plans
- Provided GIS data, analytic, mapping and presentation support for the North Dakota Sage-grouse EIS/Greater Sage-Grouse Initiative
- Provided GIS data, analytic, mapping and presentation support for 7 Environmental Assessments
- Provided statewide map production and updates



Montana/Dakotas

THE NATIONAL LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION SYSTEM (NLCS) AND RECREATIONAL VISITOR SERVICES

In 2013, Montana/Dakotas BLM hosted more than 5.2 million public visits and collected more than \$482,051 in recreation fees. These funds are used to improve facilities and visitor services at developed recreation sites.

Our top six recreational activities in 2013, listed from highest to lowest in participation, are:

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

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
- Cabin rentals in Axolotl Lakes, Henneberry House, and the Garnet Ghost Town area.
- Two state-of-the-art interpretive centers at Upper Missouri River Breaks and Pompeys Pillar National Monuments.
- Garnet Ghost Town and Visitor Center (Missoula Field Office)

National Monuments

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

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)
- Bear Trap Canyon Wilderness (6,347 acres)
- Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Range (about 38,000 acres)
- Two interpretive/educational centers and many interpretive wayside exhibits

Wilderness and Wilderness Study Areas

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

Recreational Achievements and Events in 2013

- The Billings Field Office Recreation program continued to expand the youth outdoor education program through partnerships with Billings Audubon Education Center, City of Billings, Laurel Schools and Get Outside Montana. The recreational staff also began to develop a comprehensive non-motorized trail system in several high use areas such as Sundance Lodge Recreation Area, Acton Recreation Area, the Pryor Mountains, Lilly Pad Lake, and Four Dances Natural Area/ACEC.
- The Butte Field Office implemented its Resource Advisory Councilapproved revised fee systems at eight sites, generating about \$265,000 in revenues or \$100,000 more than the previous year. These fee funds are leveraged with partnership contributions to complete numerous improvements at our sites on Holter and Hauser Lakes. Projects completed in 2013 include: two new information kiosks, a new administrative house, picnic shelters, two new chlorination water systems, a new potable water well, shoreline stabilization and chip sealing asphalt services. These increased revenues and ongoing partnership contributions will help meet backlog maintenance needs and reduce future dependency on appropriated funds.
- The Dillon Field Office completed restoration work on the Henneberry House and the process to identify it as a fee site now that it is now available for the public to rent. This historic homestead has provided another great recreational opportunity for the public to enjoy in southwest Montana. Several successful projects were completed with the Montana Conservation Corps ranging from weed spraying in the Bear Trap Wilderness to recreation project work on the Lower Madison River and back country trail work in the Snowcrest and Centennial mountains. It was the 30th anniversary of the dedication of BLM's first wilderness area -- the Bear Trap – which is managed exclusively by the BLM in Montana; that was also the last BLM land in Montana to be designated as wilderness.
- The Glasgow Field Office continued to replace boundary and primitive route markers in the Bitter Creek WSA with help from the Montana Conservation Corps. Traffic counters were installed at Glasgow OHV and Paulo Recreation Areas and a safety barrier constructed around the restroom and family picnic area at Glasgow OHV.
- The Havre Field Office replaced boundary markers, installed new directional and informational signs, constructed a new entrance gate, and put in a traffic counter at the Fresno OHV recreation area. It also developed and installed new visitor information signs at Moffat and Pugsley Recreation Sites along the Marias River.