



U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management

# BLM Eastern States

## 2017 Annual Report

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# A Message from the Eastern States Acting Director

BLM Eastern States is proud to manage a variety of valuable public land resources across a wide range of programs including energy and minerals, geospatial services, wild horses and burros, wildland fire, and more. As Acting State Director, I am proud to present this report highlighting some of our employees' outstanding achievements in 2017.

A number of Eastern States programs are closely aligned with the national priorities (see [www.blm.gov/about/our-mission](http://www.blm.gov/about/our-mission)) established by new leadership in the Department of the Interior. Below is a snapshot of just some of our successes as they relate to these priorities.

## **Making America Safe through Energy Independence.**

Eastern States oil and gas lease sales brought in bonuses of over \$6 million in 2017, shared between the federal treasury and states where the resources were developed. We also worked closely with federal agency partners to grant a right-of-way for the Mountain Valley Pipeline, facilitating the future delivery of natural gas to markets along the East Coast (see p. 4).

**Getting America Back to Work.** In addition to supporting the creation of approximately 8,300 jobs through Mountain Valley Pipeline construction, our authorizations support a variety of mining industry jobs in states such as Florida, Minnesota, and Missouri, expanding opportunities for extraction of minerals such as phosphate, copper, lead, and zinc (see p. 4).

**Making America Great through Shared Conservation Stewardship.** At the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse Outstanding Natural Area in Florida we worked with our partners to facilitate more than 100,000 visitors to this historic and unique National Conservation Lands site. We also conducted habitat improvements, added new visitor services infrastructure, and expanded outreach and education programs through local school districts (see p. 6).

**Serving the American Family.** Our Geospatial Services Division hosted 8 million page views and published 279,025 more land title records on the General Land Office Records web site (see p. 5). Our Wild Horse and Burro Program held numerous on-site and online adoption events resulting in 1,147 animals being placed into private care (see p. 7). And our Jackson Interagency Hotshots Crew, in addition to helping fight six wildfires in four states, participated in relief and recovery efforts in Puerto Rico following Hurricane Maria (see p. 7).

It is truly an honor to work with such a dedicated team on such important work. I hope you enjoy learning more about BLM Eastern States in the pages that follow, and invite you to contact us or visit us online at [www.blm.gov/eastern-states](http://www.blm.gov/eastern-states) for more information.

***Mitch Leverette***  
***Acting State Director***



## About Eastern States

As "Guardians of the Past and Stewards for the Future," BLM Eastern States is committed to sustaining the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands spanning the 31 states east of and bordering the Mississippi River for present and future generations. We manage approximately 10,000 surface acres of diverse public lands and 40 million acres of subsurface mineral estate under a mandate of multiple use and sustained yield. Activities authorized on Eastern States managed lands and mineral estate generated \$1.2 billion in economic output and supported 5,000 jobs in FY 2016. (*The BLM: A Sound Investment for America 2017*)

# Bureau of Land Management, Eastern States



03 April, 2018



## Legend

### BLM Eastern States

- States Boundary
- Northeastern District
- Southeastern District

- State Office
- District Office
- Field Office
- Wild Horse and Burro Holding Facility
- Parcel

### U.S.A.

- State Boundary
- National Capital
- State Capital
- City Population > 1,000,000

### Land Management Agency

- Bureau of Land Management
- National Park Service
- US Forest Service
- Indian Reservation

- US Fish and Wildlife
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Department of Defense
- State
- Local Government

- Lake
- River

This map is for display purposes only. No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management for use as to the accuracy, reliability or completeness of these data for individual or aggregate use with other data or for purposes not intended by the BLM. Source: BLM, USGS, NGA, NASA, OGIAR, N Robinson, NCEAS, NLS, OS, NMA Geodatastore and the GIS User Community, US Census Bureau, ESRI, Rand McNally and Company, Bartholomew and Times Books.



BLM Employee at Doe Run Lead Mine, Missouri. Photo by Tim Howell, BLM.

## Energy and Minerals

BLM Eastern States supports the America First Energy Plan by generating millions of dollars annually for the Federal Treasury. The Eastern States Energy and Minerals program accounts for 14% of the oil and gas produced in the eastern United States.

The largest source of Eastern States revenue comes from oil and gas, which totaled over \$22 million in 2017, with the largest contributions coming from Federal land in Arkansas (gas), Mississippi (oil), and Louisiana (oil and gas).

Hard rock royalty revenue was also significant, totaling \$8 million. The majority was from copper, lead, and zinc production on Federal lands in Missouri.

### Oil and Gas

(2017 ONRR data)

#### 1,131 producing leases

- 2,238 active wells
- 848,710\* BBL produced (\*2016 data)
- 453 private acquired leases
- \$22,849,241 in payments

### Solid Minerals

#### 6 coal leases

- \$1,450,248 in payments
- 289,377 tons of coal produced

#### 5 phosphate leases

- \$1,155,947 in payments
- 50 hard rock leases
- \$8,801,396 in payments



## Pipeline Brings Thousands of Jobs to East Coast



George Washington and Jefferson National Forests. Photo courtesy of the USFS.

BLM Eastern States played a central role in the Department of the Interior's granting a right-of-way for construction of the Mountain Valley Pipeline (MVP). When complete, the 305-mile long, 42-inch diameter underground pipeline will transport about 2 billion cubic feet of natural gas per day from production areas in Pennsylvania and West Virginia to southern Virginia for distribution along the East Coast. The \$3.5 billion project is anticipated to employ up to 8,300 workers during peak construction.

While there are no BLM-managed lands within the project area, about 3.6 miles of the proposed route crosses lands administered by the U.S. Forest Service and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Under the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended, the BLM is responsible for issuing rights-of-way over lands managed by two or more federal agencies.

BLM Eastern States worked closely with cooperating agencies to ensure that issues falling under laws such as the Endangered Species Act and National Historic Preservation Act were properly addressed, and that pipeline construction remains in compliance with the right-of-way's terms, conditions, and stipulations. The right of way was granted on December 28, 2017.

## Online Oil and Gas Lease Sales

Oil and gas lease sales managed by BLM Eastern States support domestic energy production and contribute to America's energy dominance. In FY 2017, all parcels offered were sold in quarterly lease sales, netting over \$6 million combined.

For most Federal oil and gas leases, 49 percent of the revenues collected are returned to the states where the oil and gas activity occurs, with 51 percent of the revenues going to the Federal Treasury. In FY 2017, parcels were sold in the states of Ohio, Arkansas, Mississippi, and Louisiana.



Casing from gas well plugging, Michigan. Photo by Trey Mitchell, BLM.

# Geospatial Services

BLM Eastern States functions as the Nation's official surveyors, identifying, surveying, and mainlining legal boundaries on Federal lands in the eastern United States. We house the largest collection of land title records in the world, including more than 9 million historic land title records dating back to 1787.

In 2017, Geospatial Services played an integral part in a bureau-wide "data sprint" to increase quality and completeness of data used for mapping and analysis. Matt Kime, data sprint contractor for BLM ES, collaborated with existing staff to stand up five new BLM ES level datasets, develop and update metadata, and identify corrections to the quality assurance/quality control processes. These efforts have improved the overall completeness of national datasets.

The General Land Office (GLO) Records Automation Team represented BLM at two national genealogy trade shows where they demonstrated the GLO Records site in-person to thousands of attendees, and on social media with a weekly GLO Daily historical record every #ThrowbackThursday (@BLM\_ES, @BLMEasternStates).

# Red Lake Band Restoration

In support of meeting the nation's obligations to the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians in Minnesota, in January 2017 the BLM and the Bureau of Indian Affairs held a signing ceremony at the Department of the Interior to commemorate the completion of land surveys and legal identification of nearly 60,000 acres that were restored to the Red Lake Band by a Secretarial Order signed in 1945. The lands identified are scattered across five counties in northern Minnesota.



The GLO Records Automation Team. Photo by BLM.

# Eastern States Recreation Resources

## Wisconsin & Minnesota

- 500 islands
- Canoeing and kayaking
- Fishing and camping



## Fort Morgan, AL

- 58 acres of white sandy beaches
- Critical habitat for Alabama beach mouse & Loggerhead sea turtles



## Douglas Point Recreation Area, MD

- 5 miles of hiking trails
- 548 acres of hardwood forests and marshes
- 3 miles of Potomac National Scenic Trail



## Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area, VA

- 800 acres of forests & meadows
- 13.4 miles of hiking trails
- 7 miles of horse trails
- 6.6 miles of mountain biking trails
- 1.6 miles of Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route National Historic Trail



## Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse Outstanding Natural Area

- 120 acres on Florida Coast
- 105-foot-tall historic lighthouse
- 450 species of plants & animals



Jupiter Outstanding Natural Area, Florida. Photo by Bob Wick.

# Hurricane Irma Impacts South Florida

Hurricane Irma hit Palm Beach County on September 10, 2017. Even though the ONA was spared a direct hit, there were still impacts to the area and the site, including power outages, downed and damaged vegetation, and uprooted trees. Trails were blocked by downed trees and there was considerable damage to the shoreline.

## Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse Outstanding Natural Area

The Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse Outstanding Natural Area (ONA) in Jupiter, Florida provides habitat for 26 special status species of plants and animals, contains cultural resources documenting 8,000 years of continuous human occupation, and features the iconic Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse, built in 1860 and listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

FY 2017 accomplishments, primarily achieved through ONA partners, included provision of services and outdoor experiences to approximately 102,000 visitors; improvements to rare and sensitive habitats through control of invasive weeds; management and monitoring of special status species populations; and protection, preservation and enhancement of significant cultural resources including the Lighthouse.

Other highlights included the addition of new visitor services infrastructure and a new mile-long trail and trailhead increasing site access. The ONA also continued to expand its outreach and education programs through local school districts, and a variety of public activities including weekly "Active Walks", the Wild and Scenic Film Festival, Sea Fest for Kids, and the third annual Veterans Family Fishing Day. Service opportunities included a National Public Lands Day event and other scheduled ONA clean-ups and mangrove plantings.



Peter DeWitt wrapping the lighthouse lens with foam in preparation for hurricane Irma. Photo by BLM.

Just a few short weeks later, the ONA hosted one of its largest ever National Public Lands Day events. Nearly 150 volunteers enhanced the ONA by cleaning the shoreline, maintaining the boardwalk and picking up trash. Over 2,000 pounds of garbage and recyclables were cleared from the site, including more than 5,000 pieces of micro-trash that the storm surge dumped on the shoreline.



NPLD volunteers worked over 515 hours. Photo by BLM.



Jackson Hotshots in Puerto Rico. Photo by BLM.

## Jackson Hotshots

The Jackson Interagency Hotshot Crew is the only BLM Fire Crew based east of the Mississippi River. Since being formed in 1997, the Jackson Hotshots have fought wildland fires from Alaska to Florida and have been called to respond to numerous national emergencies, from Ground Zero after 9/11 to search and recovery operations from the Space Shuttle Columbia.

This fire season the Crew was assigned to six wildfires across four states (Georgia, Idaho, Montana, and Utah). In addition, as the fire season was ending 14 crew members were sent to Puerto Rico in the wake of Hurricane Maria to assist with relief efforts (see below).

The Jackson Hotshot Crew is supported by Historically Black Colleges and Universities as well as the International Association of Black Professional Firefighters Foundation (IABPFF). The IABPFF entered into an agreement with the BLM in 1996 to expand opportunities in the wildland firefighting community for African-Americans.

## Hurricane Maria Clean-Up

Hurricane Maria left 1 million people in Puerto Rico without power and basic necessities. Several BLM ES employees supported clean-up efforts, including Rodney Lawyer, State Office; Kyle Schumacher, Northeastern States District; and the Jackson Hotshots. The Hotshots were deployed to the island, where saw teams worked with other out-of-town crews and local residents to remove downed trees and debris, re-opening roads and waterways so that water, food and supplies could be more readily transported to areas of the island with greatest needs. All reported that the work was hard and the days were long, but the rewards were great.

## Wild Horse and Burro

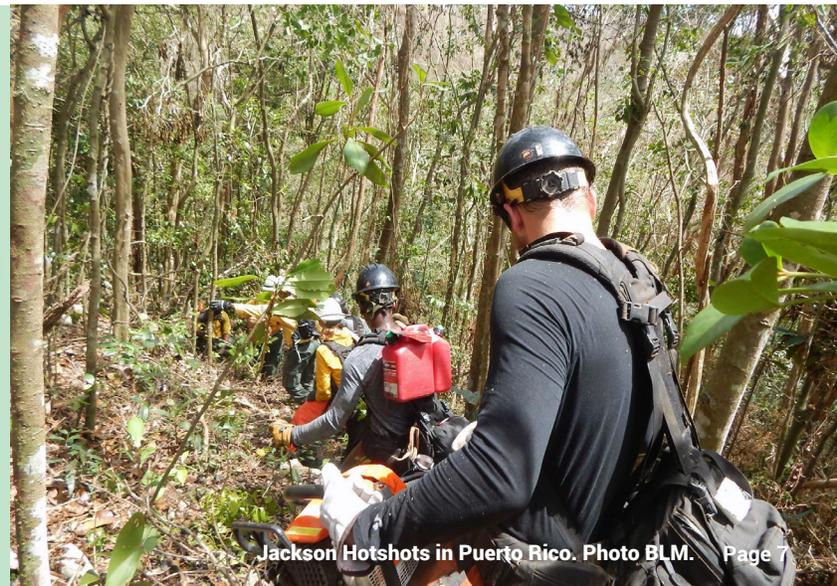
The Eastern States Wild Horse and Burro (WH&B) program aims to place animals into private care through adoptions and sales. In FY 2017 Eastern States held 20 satellite adoption events in 14 states (six of which included coordination with the Mustang Heritage Foundation for Extreme Mustang Makeover events); 7 internet adoptions; and 9 on-site adoptions which resulted in the adoption and placement of 1,147 animals. This includes international sales.



Wild Burro at Ewing Holding Facility. Photo by Chad Douglas, BLM.

On August 5-6, 2017, American Mustang Germany held the first Mustang Makeover Event at the Deutsche-Bank Stadion and Albert-Vahle-Halle in Aachen, Germany. The event placed 21 horses into good homes.

The WH&B program also developed a new "Online Corral" web site. The Online Corral, due to launch in early 2018, will provide prospective adopters or purchasers greater access to America's wild horses and burros and improved customer service.



Jackson Hotshots in Puerto Rico. Photo BLM. Page 7

# 2017 Eastern States Public Lands Facts

**848,710\*** BBL 

Barrels of oil produced on public lands

**153,067** 

Visits to public lands

**\$24 MILLION** 

Rent, royalties, and bonuses from energy production

**29,914** 

Volunteer hours contributed to public lands

**9 MILLION** 

Historic Land Title Records dating back to 1820

**81,000** 

Wild horses and burros adopted since 1976

(\*2016 data)

Dune Walkover, Alabama Shores.  
Photo by BLM.

## BLM Eastern States Offices

### State Office

20 M Street SE Ste. 950 Washington, D.C. 20003

**Phone:** 202-912-7700

**Fax:** 202-912-7186

**State Director:** Mitchell Leverette, Acting

**Associate State Director:** Barbara L. Eggers

**Deputy State Director for Natural Resources:** Elena Fink

**Deputy State Director for Geospatial:** Dominica VanKoten

**Deputy State Director for External Affairs:**

Greg Fuhs, Acting

**Deputy State Director for Support Services:**

Monique McDonald-Harris

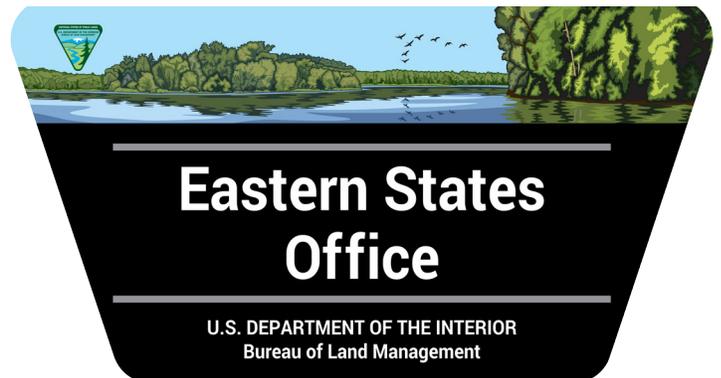
### Southeastern States District

273 Market Street Flowood, MS 39232

**Phone:** 601-919-4650

**Fax:** 601-919-4650

**District Manager:** Elizabeth Ivy, Acting



### Northeastern States District

626 E. Wisconsin Ave. Ste. 200 Milwaukee, WI 53202

**Phone:** 414-297-4400

**Fax:** 414-297-4409

**District Manager:** Dean Gettinger



@BLMEasternStates

[www.blm.gov/eastern-states](http://www.blm.gov/eastern-states)