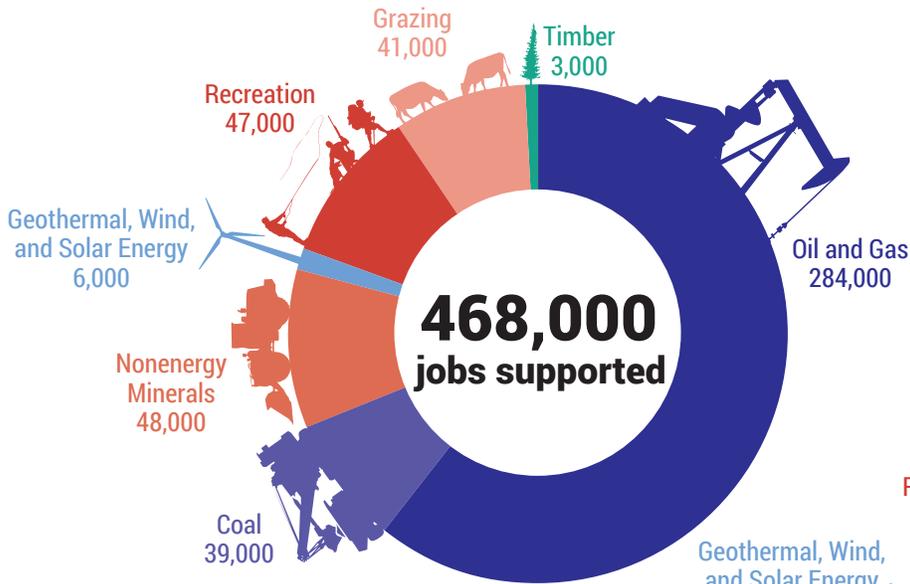


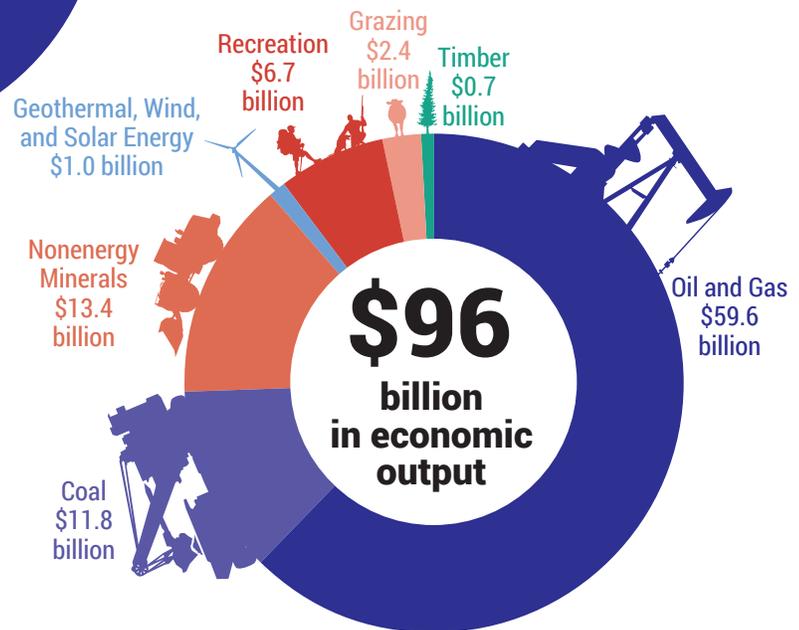


# The BLM: A Sound Investment for America 2018



## Economic Contributions from BLM-Managed Lands

Fiscal Year 2017



The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) manages 1 in every 10 acres of land in the United States, working with partners to promote multiple uses of those lands through shared conservation stewardship. The BLM also manages a large portion of the nation's energy and minerals, facilitating opportunities for responsible development that create jobs, help support local communities, and increase America's energy independence. BLM-managed public lands and minerals occur in a variety of landscapes, including forests, mountains, rangelands, arctic tundra, and deserts. The BLM is committed to keeping these public landscapes healthy and productive and to effectively manage border landscapes to keep America safe.

The Department of the Interior (DOI) and the BLM are committed to sustainably developing our nation's energy and natural resources. In fiscal year 2017, the BLM continued to promote opportunities for oil and gas exploration and development on nearly 26 million acres of land. Additionally, the DOI officially lifted the moratorium on coal leasing, allowing the BLM to once again offer federal lands for this purpose.

Through balanced management, the BLM develops resources while maintaining healthy ecosystems, ensuring access for recreational opportunities, and preserving cultural resources and iconic landscapes.

In fiscal year 2017, the diverse activities authorized on BLM-managed lands generated \$96 billion in economic output across the country. This economic activity supported 468,000 jobs and contributed substantial revenue to the U.S. Treasury and state governments, mostly through royalties on minerals.

# Benefits of Public Lands

In addition to providing economic contributions such as jobs and various natural resource and commodity products, the BLM-managed public lands provide other benefits that families and communities across the United States derive from having access to our nation's natural, scenic, recreational, and cultural resources.

## Economic Stability and Historical Significance

Many activities on public lands contribute to the diversity and stability of local and regional economies and have historical significance for both local residents and visitors.

### Hunting and Fishing

Expenditures from these activities on BLM-managed lands:



### Special Forest Products

The public lands serve communities in a variety of ways, including providing recreational activities, cultural or historical activities, and subsistence resources. For example, the BLM issues permits for a variety of plant materials known as "Special Forest Products":



## Payments to States and Counties

State and county governments receive substantial revenues through various federal sources associated with BLM-managed lands, including:



Payments in lieu of taxes



These revenues contribute to state and local budgets and support various community services such as law enforcement, education, and infrastructure.



**Total Payments FY 2017 = \$1.65 Billion**



**States Receiving the Highest Payments**



**Revenues from Energy Minerals Paid to States**



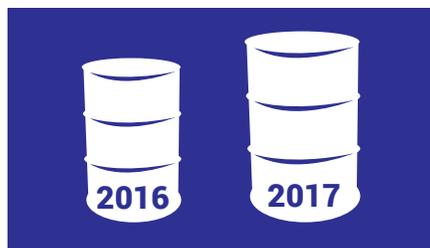
## Nonmarket Benefits

Benefits related to some recreational opportunities, cultural resources, visual beauty, environmental health, and educational efforts can be challenging to quantify in economic terms.

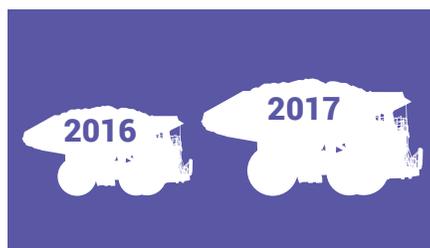
- conserving **430** threatened or endangered species
- 1.1 million** visits for interpretive and educational activities
- 21.7 million** visits for camping or picnicking
- 775** cultural and **392** paleontological resource use permits
- 28,000** volunteers and **900,000** hours of work



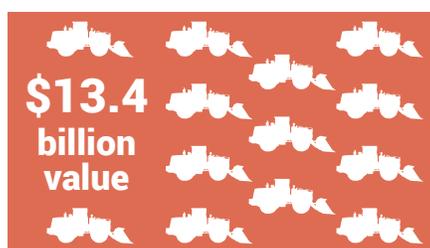
# Economic Sectors



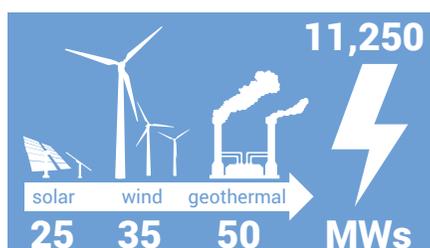
**Oil and gas:** From the eastern United States to the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska, the BLM leases nearly 26 million acres of land for onshore oil and gas production. In fiscal year 2017, the BLM offered 2.4 million acres for leasing. Production of federal onshore oil increased to 174 million barrels during fiscal year 2017, compared to 168.5 million barrels in fiscal year 2016.



**Coal:** Coal continues to be an important source of energy in the United States, and the BLM administers coal leases on approximately 459,000 acres in 12 states. Fiscal year 2017 saw 779.5 million tons of coal produced on both federal and nonfederal lands nationwide, a 7 percent increase from the 728.2 million tons produced in fiscal year 2016.



**Nonenergy minerals:** The BLM issues leases for minerals like potash, phosphate, sodium, and gilsonite for purposes other than energy production. Some of these nonenergy minerals are essential to national security and the American economy. Federal lands also contain saleable mineral materials, such as sand, gravel, dirt, and rock, and locatable hard rock minerals, including copper and gold. In fiscal year 2017, nonenergy minerals produced from federal lands generated \$13.4 billion in total economic output, up from \$11.4 billion in fiscal year 2016.



**Geothermal, solar, and wind:** The BLM has approved 110 renewable energy projects, including 25 solar projects since 2010, 35 wind projects since 1982, and 50 geothermal projects since 1978. Combined, these projects represent 11,250 megawatts of energy capacity.



**Recreation:** BLM-managed public lands offer a wide variety of free recreational opportunities. Lands used for recreational activities also contribute significantly to local economies. In 2017, BLM lands received more than 67.4 million recreation-related visits—an increase of more than 4 percent over the previous year.



**Grazing:** In 2017, the BLM permitted 12 million animal unit months (AUMs) for ranchers who graze their livestock—mostly cattle and sheep—on public lands. An AUM is the amount of forage needed to feed a cow and calf or the equivalent for 1 month. In 2017, the grazing fee was \$1.87 per AUM. While the number of AUMs sold each year remains relatively steady, annual variations in use occur due to factors such as drought, wildfire, market conditions, and restoration projects.



**Timber:** One-fourth of the 245 million acres of lands managed by the BLM are forest ecosystems, spread across 13 western states, including Alaska. Through responsible management of these lands, 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 2017, the BLM offered 224.9 million board feet of timber for sale. This number has remained relatively steady over the past decade.

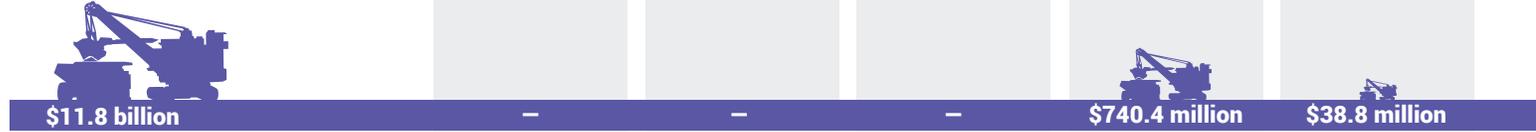
# Total Economic Output and Jobs for Fiscal Year 2017

## National Totals\*

### Oil and Gas:



### Coal:



### Nonenergy Minerals:



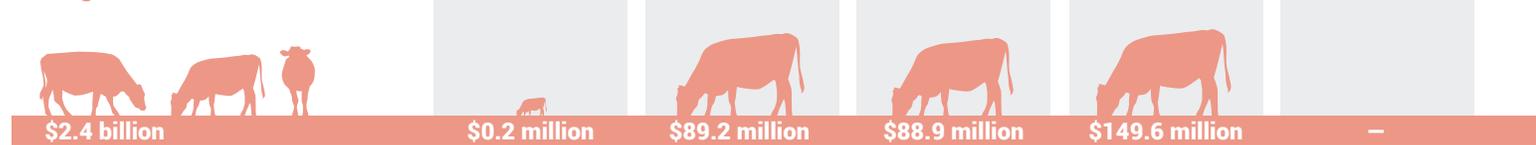
### Geothermal, Wind, and Solar:



### Recreation:



### Grazing:



### Timber:



### Jobs:

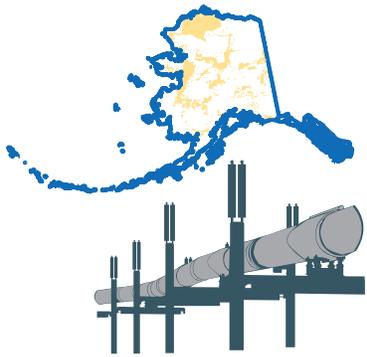


\* National totals may differ from the sum of individual state numbers because they take into account activity across state borders and average industry productivity across states.



BLM-administered land

BLM administrative boundaries



### Alaska

In addition to managing the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska and the federal portion of the 800-mile Trans Alaska Pipeline System right-of-way, the BLM manages the largest land conveyance program in the nation, which patented 1,069,227 acres to Alaska Native entities and 1,174,500 acres to the state in 2017.



### Arizona

The BLM administers 16 leases for the operation of commercial recreation resorts along the Lower Colorado River in Arizona and California, generating \$20 million annually and providing jobs in local communities.



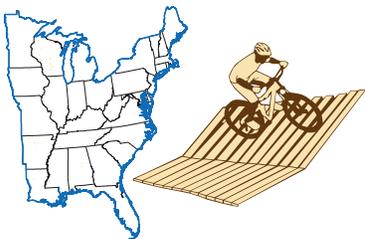
### California

The BLM partners with local community organizations to manage the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area, which contains the largest mass of sand dunes in California, reaching heights of 300 feet above the desert floor, and attracts nearly 1 million off-highway vehicle enthusiasts from across the nation annually.



### Colorado

In Colorado, the BLM returns \$180 in economic output for every \$1 invested in its recreation program, the highest return of any BLM state, and is collaborating with state partners to develop the Palisade Plunge Trail, a 30-mile biking and hiking trail that is expected to infuse an additional \$5 million into the economy annually.



### Eastern States

Mountain biking trails at the Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area, a short drive from the nation's capital, contain wooden features unique to the Mid-Atlantic States. Trails are open year-round from sunrise to sunset, many built in partnership with the local community.



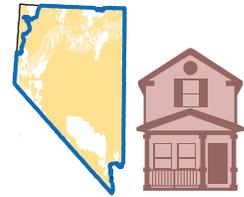
### Idaho

The Twin Falls District successfully employed a fuel break in June 2017 that helped the BLM and partners contain the Centennial Fire to 18,660 acres, when fire models showed it could have grown to roughly 142,000 acres in 2 days.



### Montana

The BLM provided 80,000 pounds of wood-based mulch to stabilize a steep slope that burned in July 2017 as part of an \$800,000 emergency stabilization and restoration project designed to reduce the threat of flooding and erosion to the town of Landusky.



### Nevada

Nevada generates more geothermal power from BLM-managed leases on public lands than any other state, producing 540 megawatts from 189 leases on only 341,000 acres—enough to power about 400,000 American homes—and with leases on private land, produces 770 megawatts, which is second only to California in total geothermal energy production.



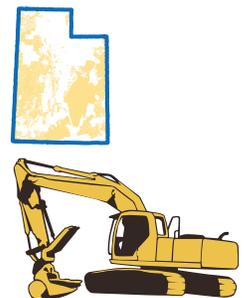
### New Mexico

Started in 2005, Restore New Mexico is a landscape-scale, collaborative restoration effort to restore New Mexico's grasslands, woodlands, and riparian areas to a healthy and productive condition. The BLM and its partners have spent more than \$45 million, resulting in the restoration of over 3 million acres, regardless of ownership.



### Oregon/Washington

The BLM's Sandy Ridge Trail System in the foothills of Oregon's Cascade Range has become a premier international mountain biking destination since its creation in 2009, with approximately 100,000 bikers hitting the 15 miles of trails each year.



### Utah

Since 2003, through the Utah Watershed Restoration Initiative, the BLM and 13 other federal, state, and educational partners have supported diverse conservation and watershed restoration projects across Utah, including treating more than 1.4 million acres and returning more than 400 miles of stream to healthy conditions.



### Wyoming

In Wyoming, the BLM initiated the Abandoned Mine Lands Native Plants Project to improve wildlife habitat by reestablishing sagebrush and native plant communities at reclaimed mine sites. In 2017, staff members and local partners, including other federal agencies and community members, planted 900 sagebrush seedlings at the Andria Hunter Mine in central Wyoming.