



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

# California Public Lands

National System of Public Lands

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# About BLM California

California is one of the most diverse states in the nation with public lands extending across rangelands, forests, high mountains, deserts and coast.

The abundance of natural resources on public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) throughout California supports the BLM's multiple-use mission, while providing important economic benefits to Californians and the nation.

BLM California has a strong history of meeting the nation's growing energy needs, including oil and gas, renewable

energy production and mining, and often sets the standard for sustainable development, while ensuring our natural, recreational, historical and cultural resources will be available for future generations.

In California, the BLM oversees:

- 15 million acres of public land (about 15% of the Golden State's total land mass)
- 47 million acres of subsurface mineral estate
- 1.6 million acres of public land in northwestern Nevada

For more information about BLM public lands, subscribe to *News.Bytes*, BLM California's weekly email newsletter and follow us on social media.

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[blm.gov/california](http://blm.gov/california)

Cover photo: Sunrise on the Desert Lily Preserve.  
Photo below: Energy development on public lands near Bakersfield. Photos by Bob Wick, BLM.



# 2017 California Public Lands Facts

**12 MILLION** 

Barrels of oil and 9 billion cubic feet of natural gas produced on public lands

**\$77 MILLION** 

Rent & royalties reinvested from energy production on public lands

**6,053** 

Megawatts of electricity permitted from solar, wind & geothermal sites on public lands

**6.1 MILLION** 

Acres of permitted livestock grazing on public lands

**1,735** 

Miles of nationally designated trails

**356** 

Miles of recreation rivers

**28,000** 

Miles of off-highway vehicle routes on public lands

**30,299** 

Acres affected by wildfire on public lands

**103,831** 

Volunteer hours contributed to BLM California—  
equivalent to 50 full-time workers

**9.76 MILLION** 

Acres of National Conservation Lands

Photo: Cattle graze on the Carrizo Plain  
National Monument. Photo by Bob Wick, BLM.

BLM/CA/GI-2017/006+8600

The BLM is a multiple-use and sustained yield agency with management responsibilities for a variety of resources, including energy development, recreation management, wildlife and habitat conservation and grazing and wildfire management. BLM has a unique opportunity to benefit the public by balancing resource management.

BLM California partners with a variety of organizations to accomplish its mission and to help provide a more comprehensive approach to land management. We believe partnerships and inclusion are vital to managing sustainable, working public lands.

## Energy for America

The BLM manages vast stretches of public lands that make significant contributions to the nation's energy portfolio. In addition to oil and gas leasing, BLM California manages an extensive renewable energy program and plays a significant role as a facilitator in the production of solar, wind and geothermal energy contributing to America's clean energy future.



## Renewable Energy

- 20 authorized solar, wind and geothermal facilities
- 388,000 acres set aside for renewable energy in the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan
- \$22 million annual rent and royalties from renewable energy development on public lands
- 600 megawatts of electricity permitted from geothermal sites on public lands



## Wildfire Management and Tree Mortality

The BLM, a leader in the nation's management of wildland fire, carries out a broad range of actions to protect the public, recreation areas, wildlife habitat and other values and resources.

In California, years of severe drought and a dramatic rise in bark beetle infestation are leading to historic levels of tree die-off, which contributes to increased fire risk.

- 16.3 million acres directly protected by the BLM
- 147,000 acres affected by tree mortality
- 350 employees in the BLM California fire program
- 110 wildfires fought in California



## Oil and Gas

- 500 producing leases covering approximately 200,000 acres of public lands
- 8,000 active producing oil and gas wells
- 9 billion cubic feet of gas



## Recreation Access

BLM manages public lands in California offer a wide variety of recreational opportunities; hunting, fishing, hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, boating and backcountry exploring are among the primary activities on large expanses of public lands.

- 826,000 acres open for off-highway vehicle use
- 14 million acres available for hunting
- 350 miles of river available for fishing



## Conservation Stewardship

The BLM's National Conservation Lands recognizes and protects some of the West's most spectacular natural areas.

In northern California, 3.2 million acres of public lands stretch from the high deserts in far western Nevada's Great Basin to groves of 1,500 year-old redwoods on California's north coast. In northeastern California and northwest Nevada, the BLM manages approximately 2.4 million acres of sage-grouse habitat.

In central California, the BLM manages 2.1 million acres of public lands that range from the California Coastal National Monument ocean rocks and islands to sage-grouse habitat along the California-Nevada border. Highlights include Sierra Nevada watersheds, giant sequoias at Case Mountain and redwoods at Cotoni-Coast Dairies. The BLM uses livestock grazing throughout central California to prevent fire, slow shrub encroachment and decrease invasive plants.



In the California desert, BLM manages 11 million acres of unique and diverse desert landscapes, rich with cultural, recreational, historical, archaeological and environmental resources. The Mojave and Sonoran Deserts are natural habitats for many desert-dwelling animals, including reptiles like the desert tortoise.

Overall, BLM California manages:

- 8 Wild and Scenic Rivers
- 3 National Historic Trails, 1 National Scenic Trail
- 7 National Monuments, 1 National Conservation Area
- 1 Outstanding Natural Area, 1 Forest Reserve
- 86 Wilderness Areas, 69 Wilderness Study Areas





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blm.gov/california



**Trinidad Head  
California Coastal NM**

**Waluph-Lighthouse Ranch  
California Coastal NM**

**Lost Coast Headlands  
California Coastal NM**

**King  
Range  
NCA**

**Berryessa  
Snow Mountain  
NM**

**Point Arena-Stornetta  
Unit of the California  
Coastal NM**

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**Cotoni-Coast Dairies  
California Coastal NM**

**Fort Ord NM**

**Piedras Blancas  
Light Station ONA  
California Coastal NM**

**Carrizo  
Plain NM**

**Ridgecrest**

**Barstow**

**California  
Desert  
District**

**Santa Rosa & San  
Jacinto Mts NM**

**Orange County  
Rocks and Islands  
California Coastal NM**

**San  
Diego**

**Mojave  
Trails NM**

**Sand to  
Snow NM**

**California  
Desert  
District**

**Santa Rosa & San  
Jacinto Mts NM**

**Orange County  
Rocks and Islands  
California Coastal NM**

**San  
Diego**

**El Centro**

**Palm Springs-South Coast Field Office**

**Ridgecrest Field Office**

- ▼ Bureau of Land Management Office
- Field Office Boundary
- Land Management Agency**
- Bureau of Land Management
- US Forest Service
- National Park Service
- Military
- Indian Trust Lands
- State
- Units of BLM's National Conservation Lands**
- Wilderness
- NM—National Monument
- NCA—National Conservation Area
- ONA—Outstanding Natural Area
- California Coastal NM
- California Desert Conservation Area
- Wild & Scenic River

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