

DISCOVER THE Desert

The Bureau of Land Management in California manages 11 million acres of unique and diverse desert landscapes rich with cultural, historical, archaeological, environmental, and recreational resources. The Discover the Desert initiative focuses on connecting people with these spectacular resources of the California desert by working with gateway communities and partners to identify opportunities for education and interpretation through the arts, sciences, tourism, and recreation.

blm.gov/ca/DiscoverTheDesert

Santa Rosa & San Jacinto Mountains
National Monument

DISCOVER THE COAST

The California coast is a way of life for millions of Californians and a destination for visitors from around the world. Visitors come to the coast for health, play, work, discovery, and enjoyment. Along its length, the interplay of land and sea is an experience that creates lasting connections between people and nature.

Communities along the coast understand this connection and value their special places; they are leaders in conservation and sustainable tourism. The BLM treasures its partnerships with coastal communities, gateway partners, and other agencies that support opportunities for people of all ages to “Discover the Coast.”

blm.gov/ca/DiscoverTheCoast

California Coastal National Monument
at Trinidad Lighthouse



Bureau of
Land Management

California Public Lands

National System of Public Lands

From managing recreational activities to conserving natural and cultural resources to facilitating energy development, the responsibilities of the Bureau of Land Management in California are diverse and challenging.

The BLM manages public lands for multiple uses and sustained yield—meeting today's needs while planning for the future.

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About BLM-California

In California, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) oversees:

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

The abundance of natural resources on public lands managed by the BLM throughout California continues to support generations of families and local communities, while providing important economic benefits to Californians and the nation.

For more information about BLM public lands, subscribe to News.bytes, BLM California’s weekly electronic newsletter.

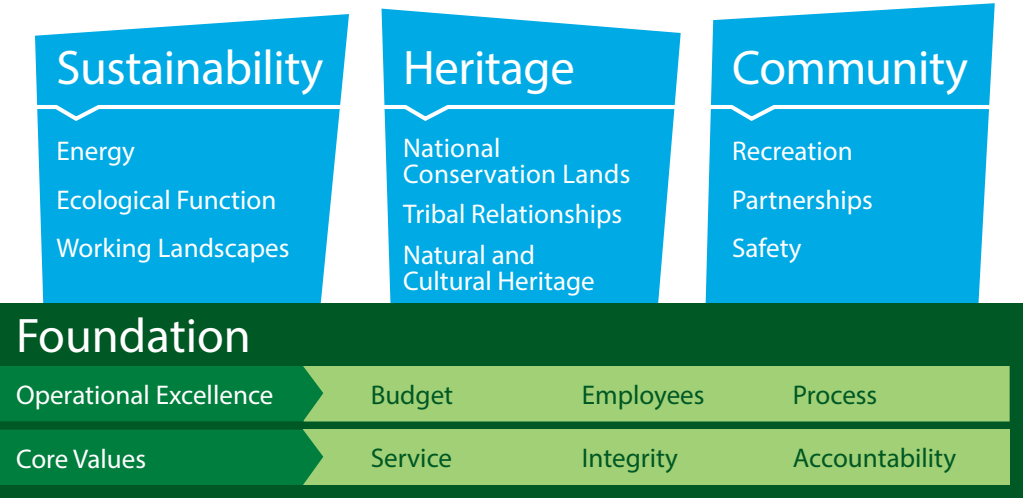
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These public lands extend across rangelands, forests, high mountains, and deserts, making California one of the most diverse states in the nation.

Strategic Framework

BLM California strives to achieve its mission by managing public lands in a sustainable manner while protecting rich heritage values and working with local communities. It is built on a foundation of operational excellence and core values of service, integrity, and accountability.



Cover photo: Hiking near the North Fork of the American River
Photos below (left to right): Solar panels, geothermal facility, wind turbines, oil pump jacks



2015 California Public Lands Facts



Priorities

The BLM is a multiple-use agency with management responsibilities for a variety of resources such as energy development, recreation management, wildlife and habitat conservation, grazing, and wildfire management. Prioritizing often-competing interests presents unique challenges.

The BLM partners with a variety of organizations to accomplish its mission and help provide a more comprehensive approach to land-use management.

Energy Planning

The BLM manages vast stretches of public lands that have the potential to make significant contributions to the Nation’s energy portfolio. In addition to traditional oil & gas leasing, BLM California plays a significant role as a facilitator in the production of solar, wind, and geothermal energy, contributing to a clean energy future and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Oil & Gas:

- 343 producing leases covering 85,800 acres
- 15 million barrels of oil produced
- 6,800 producing oil and gas wells
- 7 billion cubic feet of gas
- \$176.4 million in oil and gas royalties

Solar, wind & geothermal:

- 5,568 megawatts of energy permitted on public lands in CA bringing power to over 5.5 million homes

Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan

The BLM is working with state and federal partners to complete the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP), a major component of California’s renewable energy planning efforts to address climate change. The plan, covering over 22 million acres of the California desert, will help provide effective protection and conservation of desert ecosystems while allowing for the appropriate development of renewable energy projects. The draft plan was released in September 2014 and the BLM land use plan component of the DRECP is expected in late 2015/ early 2016.

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Sage-grouse

BLM California is participating in the development of a national strategy to preserve, conserve, and restore sagebrush habitat, the ecological home of the Greater sage-grouse. The BLM will issue national policy and direction, based on local needs and information, to guide the agency’s actions for sagebrush conservation planning efforts. At the local level, the BLM will update resource management plans to incorporate conservation measures.

Fire & Fuels Management

The BLM works with other agencies and local communities in California to protect people, property, and natural resources from wildfires through suppression, prevention, and fuels reduction activities. Coordination is key to meeting this challenge in a state with 38 million people, increasing development in the wildland urban interface and extreme fire conditions. For BLM nationally, the highest priority for protection of natural resources is sage grouse and sage steppe ecosystems.

Last year, BLM-California:

- Fought 114 fires on BLM lands covering 19,086 acres
- Spent \$11.6 million supporting fire suppression in-state and nationally
- Funded \$4.8 million for 38 fuels-related projects on 15,764 acres

National Conservation Lands

These areas offer exceptional opportunities for recreation, solitude, wildlife viewing, exploring history, and scientific research. 2015 marks the 15th Anniversary of the National Conservation Lands. National Conservation Lands in California include:

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

Youth in the Great Outdoors

The BLM is committed to developing the next generation of public lands stewards. BLM and partner organizations hosted the 3rd annual Youth Summit to educate young people about opportunities to play, learn, serve, and work in America’s Great Outdoors.