

## **Geothermal Energy Fact Sheet**

The BLM has the delegated authority for leasing public lands — including U.S. Forest Service lands — with geothermal potential in 11 western states and Alaska. The BLM presently manages over 800 geothermal leases on public lands. Of these, over 60 are in producing status, with approximately 1,500 megawatts of geothermal energy. This amounts to [about 40 percent](#) of nameplate U.S. geothermal energy capacity. In addition to electrical power, the BLM's geothermal leases provide an alternative heating source for direct-use commercial endeavors.

In May 2007, the Department of the Interior published regulations on geothermal energy development on public lands. These regulations required more competitive leasing, simplified royalty calculations, and provided guidelines for administering geothermal leases. A Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) relating to the authorization of geothermal leasing was completed in October 2008, and the Record of Decision was signed in December 2008. The Record of Decision amended 114 BLM resource management plans (RMPs) and designated about 111 million acres of Bureau-managed public lands as open for leasing. An additional 79 million acres of Forest Service lands are also available for leasing.

Geothermal leases provide over \$10 million in Federal royalties each year, mainly from sold power generation. Half of these royalties are shared with the states and one-quarter are shared with the counties in which this generation takes place. From fiscal year 2008 to fiscal year 2017, competitive geothermal lease sales on public lands netted almost \$70 million in bonus bid revenues, from parcels in Colorado, Idaho, Oregon, Utah, New Mexico, Nevada, and California. A competitive auction of public lands in Nevada held in August 2008 was the largest geothermal sale ever in terms of dollars bid, bringing in a record \$28.2 million for a total of 105,211 acres. The development and production of geothermal resources on these lands will help meet nationwide targets for energy production from renewable resources.

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