

# **Bureau of Land Management, Utah**

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Wild Horse & Burro Advisory Board Meeting

October 9-11, 2018

Salt Lake City, Utah

Presented by Ed Roberson, State Director, BLM Utah







## At a Glance

BLM-Utah manages nearly **23 million acres** of public lands representing about 42 percent of the state and **32 million subsurface acres**.

These lands provide minerals, energy and livestock forage; but also natural, historical, cultural resources and incomparable opportunities for outdoor recreation.







## Visitors to public lands

In fiscal year 2017, there were **7.9 million** visitors to BLM-managed lands in Utah. These visitors supported **5,203 jobs** and contributed **\$577.7 million** in economic activity to the state of Utah.





# BLM Priorities

**Energy Independence:** encouraging environmentally- responsible development of energy and minerals on public lands;

**Shared Conservation Stewardship:** by working with our partners to promote multiple-use on public lands;

**Safe Borders:** through effective management of the borderlands and cooperation with the Department of Defense on public land issues;

**Job Creation:** by supporting working landscapes; and

**Serving America:** by being good neighbors, supporting traditional land uses such as grazing, and providing access to hunting, fishing, and other recreational opportunities.

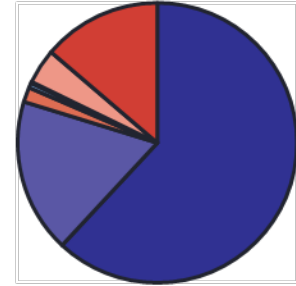




Update with Utah Stats

## BLM Utah

FY2017 Total economic output



- Oil and gas- \$2.6 billion
- Coal- \$747.9 million
- Non-energy minerals- \$72 million
- Geothermal, wind and solar- \$23.6 million
- Timber- \$6.5 million
- Grazing- \$169.9 million
- Recreation- \$577.7 million

Total Jobs: 25,000





# Oil and Gas Leasing Reform

IM-2018-034, Updating Oil and Gas Leasing Reform – Land Use Planning and Lease Parcel Reviews became effective on January 31, 2018:

- EOI (nomination) cutoff date will be six months prior to lease sale month
- No sale rotation between District Offices
- Early scoping process will be used to engage/alert public (15 day)
- 10-day public protest period will begin when Sale Notice is posted at least 45 days prior to the start of the lease sale
- All proposed deferrals need to be approved by the Washington Office





## December Oil & Gas Lease Sale

The BLM is holding a statewide internet-based oil and gas lease sale the week of December 10-14, 2018.

As part of the NEPA process, the BLM held a 15-day scoping period from July 16 to 31 to evaluate an offer of approximately 329,826 acres of federal minerals in Utah for oil and gas leasing.

There are a total 225 parcels being considered for lease.

Tentative posting of Notice of Competitive Lease Sale/10-Day protest period begins October 25, 2018 and ends November 5, 2018.







# Greater Sage-Grouse Planning

The BLM in collaboration with the Utah Governor, state wildlife managers and other stakeholders have developed some proposed changes to 14 resource management plans in Utah in an effort to better align the federal and state plans.

The proposed preferred Management Alignment alternative for BLM plans in Utah would:

- Modify habitat designations to better align with State's approach
- Clarify that habitat objectives only apply to priority habitat management areas
- Remove sagebrush focal areas (SFAs) designated in the sage-grouse conservation plans adopted in 2015
- Match the State's plan when considering local conditions in determining disturbance caps.







# Monument Management Plans

On Aug. 17, 2018, BLM-UT published NOAs in the *Federal Register* for the Bears Ears Draft Monument Management Plans and the Grand Staircase-Escalante Draft Resource Management Plans:

Publication of the NOA initiated a 90-day public review and comment period for the draft monument management plans and DEIS. The BLM is accepting formal written and online input from individuals, tribes, agencies, and organizations during this period.

The BLM is holding three public meetings for the BENM MMPs and two public meetings for the GSENM MMPs. These open-house meetings provide opportunities for the public to speak with resource specialists, ask questions, and submit written comments in person.





# Supporting National Defense

The 2017 National Defense Authorization Act was signed into law in December 2016. Sections 3001-3004 impose requirements for BLM Utah to support the Utah Test and Training Range (UTTR) to enhance mission safety.

The law requires the BLM and the UTTR to form a community advisory group and develop a Memorandum of Agreement to support periodic and temporary closures of 703,621 acres of BLM land.

The law also requires the BLM and Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA) to complete a large land exchange, including a mineral withdrawal. The BLM has partnered with the UTTR and SITLA to implement these actions.







# Utah's Watershed Restoration Initiative

The Utah Watershed Restoration Initiative, established in 2006, is a partner-driven effort to conserve, restore and manage ecosystems.

To date, 1,902 Watershed Restoration Initiative projects have been completed, on 1,560,073 acres for an investment of \$207,054,212 in funding along with in-kind contributions of \$23,888,744 throughout Utah.

In FY17, the BLM completed treatments on approximately 43,159 acres that benefited greater sage-grouse, including mechanical vegetation treatments and seeding, and contributed \$10.5 million in funding.







## **Washington County Northern Transportation Route/Red Cliffs National Conservation Area**

The 2009 Omnibus Public Land Management Act established the Red Cliffs National Conservation Area (NCA) and required the BLM to consider a northern transportation route in the Red Cliffs NCA Resource Management Plan.

Color Country District and the St. George Field Office are working closely with Washington County to develop a road map for a path forward to address the Northern Corridor transportation route.

The BLM, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and Washington County representatives have been working together on the Desert Tortoise Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) and the proposed "Northern Corridor" right-of-way application.





A photograph of two wild horses running towards the camera on a dusty dirt path. The horse in the foreground is dark with a white blaze on its face and white markings on its legs. The horse behind it is dark and slightly out of focus. The background shows a dry, hilly landscape with sparse vegetation and distant mountains under a blue sky with light clouds. A white rectangular box is superimposed over the horses' heads.

**Questions?**

