



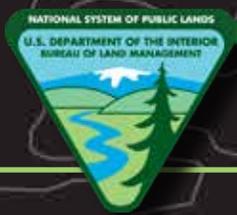
# 2019 Annual Report

U.S. Department of the Interior

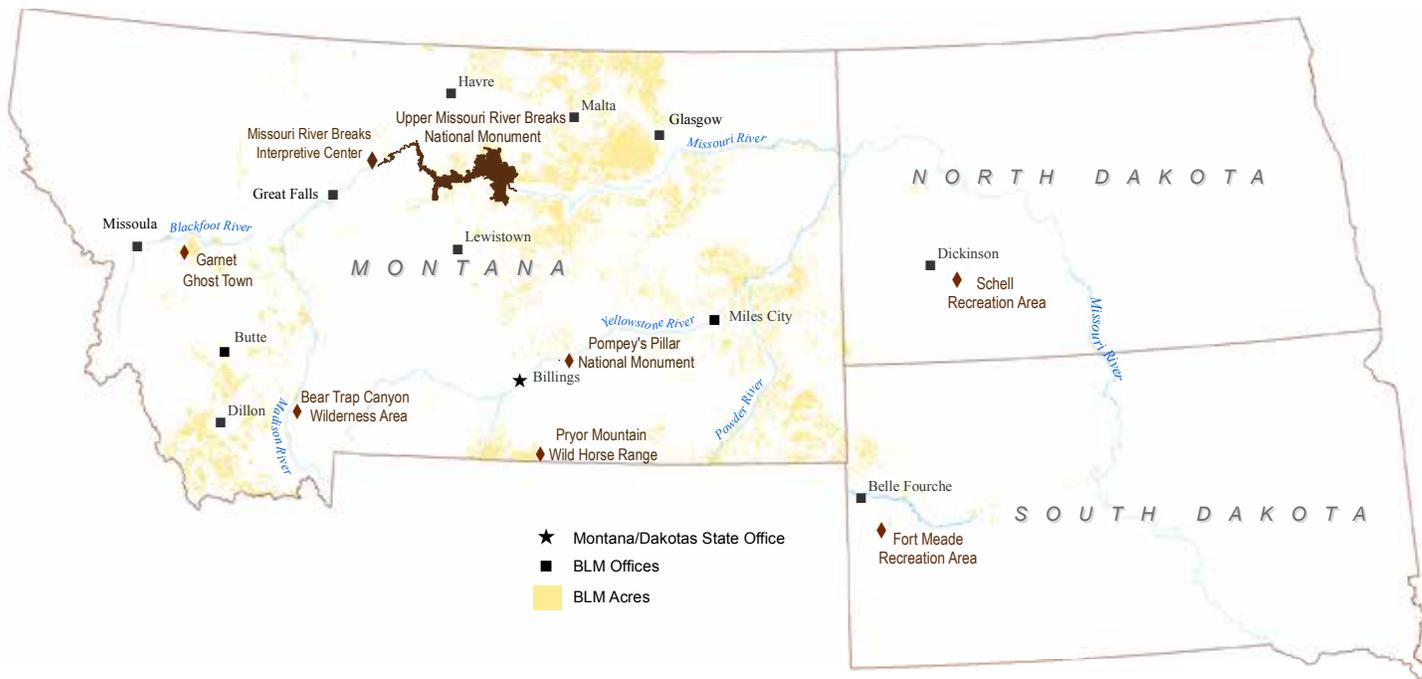
Bureau of Land Management - Interior Regions 5 and 9

**MONTANA/DAKOTAS**





# BLM-MANAGED LANDS AND RESOURCES



Montana/Dakotas manages 8.3 million acres of federal lands and 47.1 million acres of federal mineral estate in the states of Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota. These public lands provide habitat for wildlife, forage for domestic livestock, forest products ranging from Christmas trees to commercial timber, and a wide range of recreational opportunities. The federal mineral estate, which includes oil, natural gas, and coal, is a critical source of energy as our nation works to develop domestic resources while creating jobs.

This report summarizes those contributions in Fiscal Year 2019.

Front cover: Sundance Lodge Recreation Area. Photo by Bob Wick

Back cover: BLM photos



[www.blm.gov/montana-dakotas](http://www.blm.gov/montana-dakotas)



[www.youtube.com/BLMMontanaDakotas](http://www.youtube.com/BLMMontanaDakotas)



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## LANDSCAPE

- 8.3 million acres of varied landscapes and opportunities
- 2,500 miles of streams
- 60,000 acres of lakes and reservoirs
- 32 boating access sites
- 19 Watchable Wildlife sites
- 5 Outstanding Natural Areas
- 5 Backcountry Byways (185 miles)
- 100+ miles of groomed snowmobile/cross country ski trails
- 400+ family camping units
- 15 day-use sites and 24 developed recreation sites
- 400+ undeveloped recreation sites
- 27 miles of mountain bike trails in the Blackfoot River corridor; 28 miles at Acton Recreation Area; and 20 miles at Fort Meade Recreation Area

## NATIONAL MONUMENTS

- Upper Missouri River Breaks (377,000 acres)
- Pompeys Pillar (51 acres)

## NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS

- Pompeys Pillar
- Wolf Mountain, which includes the Battle Mountain Area of Critical Environmental Concern (2,850 acres, of which 120 acres are BLM)

## NATIONAL TRAILS

- 310 miles of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail
- 13 miles of the Nez Perce National Historic Trail
- 15 miles of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail
- 30 miles of the Garnet Winter Trail
- 9 miles of the Bear Trap Canyon National Recreation Trail
- 12 miles of the Centennial National Recreation Trail

## WILDERNESS & WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS

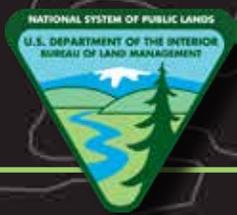
- Bear Trap Canyon Unit of the Lee Metcalf Wilderness, Montana's first and only designated BLM wilderness area (6,347 acres)
- 37 Wilderness Study Areas totaling nearly 450,000 acres

## ...AND MORE!

- Upper Missouri National Wild and Scenic River (149 miles)
- Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Range (38,000 acres)
- Interpretive centers for the Upper Missouri River Breaks and Pompeys Pillar national monuments.
- Garnet Ghost Town and Visitor Center
- Cabin rentals at Axolotl Lakes, Henneberry House, and Garnet Ghost Town
- Numerous interpretive wayside exhibits
- 61 Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

Surface Acres		Subsurface Acres	
Montana	7,997,423	Montana	37,759,374
North Dakota	58,821	North Dakota	5,593,440
South Dakota	274,078	South Dakota	3,768,270
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8,330,322</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>47,121,084</b>

Centennial Wilderness Study Area. Photo by Bob Wick



# A SOUND INVESTMENT



*The BLM manages public lands to provide energy and mineral resources, recreation opportunities, and grazing and timber resources.*

*In 2019, the BLM's management of the public lands in Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota supported more than 31,000 jobs and provided more than \$9.1 billion in economic output while also contributing to the U.S. Treasury.*

## ECONOMIC IMPACTS

	Montana		North Dakota		South Dakota	
	Economic Output	Jobs	Economic Output	Jobs	Economic Output	Jobs
Oil & Gas	\$419,979,277	2,408	\$7,442,437,809	20,406	\$9,846,080	86
Coal	\$489,434,990	1,419	\$104,406,522	277	0	0
Nonenergy Minerals	\$641	0	\$1,647,573	14	0	0
Recreation	\$276,280,376	2,820	\$59,501	1	\$4,112,664	44
Grazing	\$264,258,805	3,250	\$1,751,593	18	\$16,515,303	178
Timber	\$79,396,913	197	0	0	\$0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,528,951,001</b>	<b>10,094</b>	<b>\$7,549,942,997</b>	<b>20,716`</b>	<b>\$30,474,046</b>	<b>308</b>

Source: BLM National Operations Center (2019 data)



## BLM WORKFORCE

### Employment

- 505 permanent full-time; 146 temporary; 651 total.

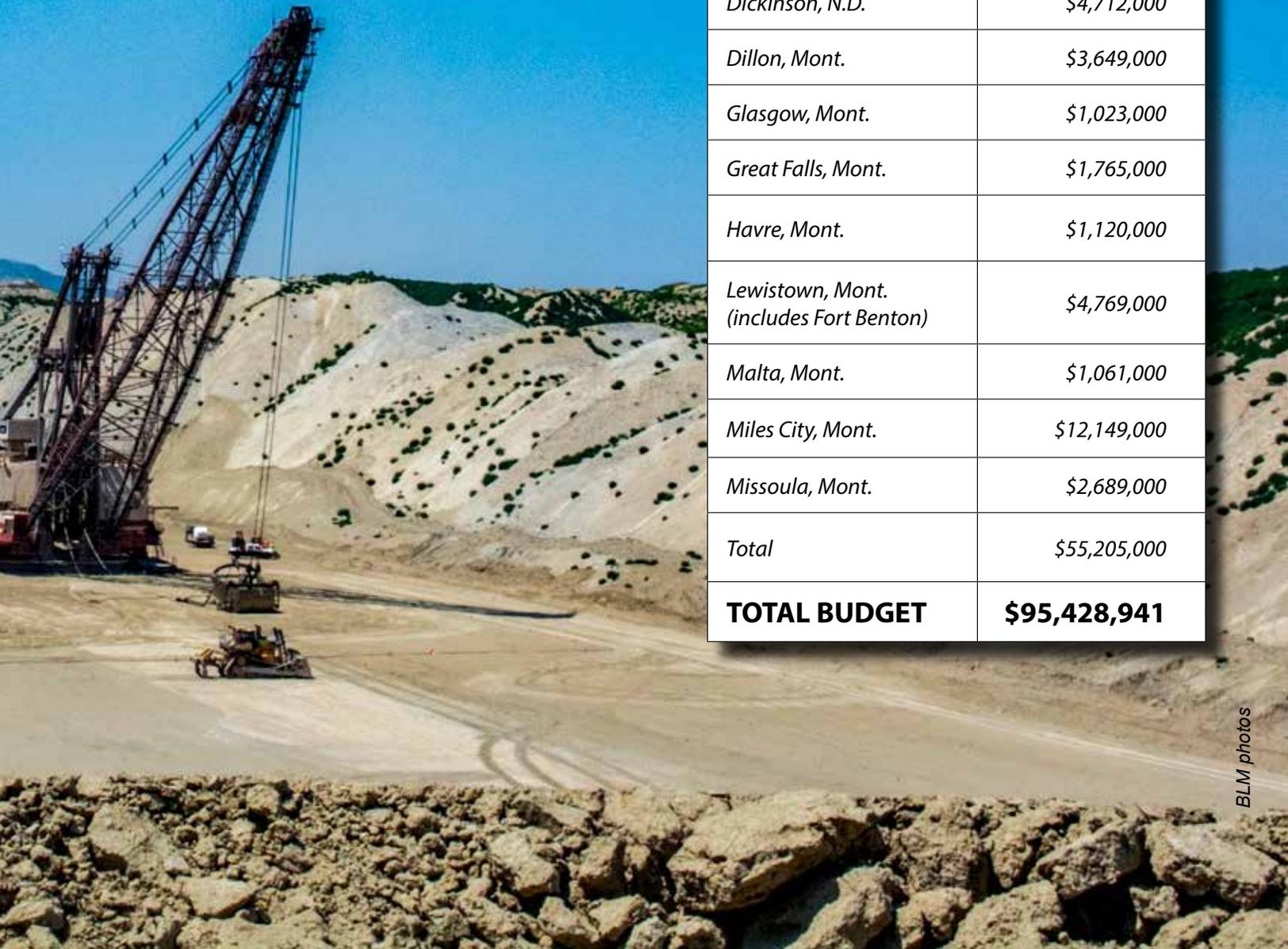
### Volunteers

- 263 volunteers contributed 28,255 hours valued at \$718,525; the cost to BLM Montana/Dakotas was \$35,873.

## BLM SALARIES BY COMMUNITY

October 1, 2018 - September 30, 2019

Belle Fourche, S.D.	\$1,834,000
Billings, Mont. (includes Pompeys Pillar)	\$15,802,000
Butte, Mont.	\$4,632,700
Dickinson, N.D.	\$4,712,000
Dillon, Mont.	\$3,649,000
Glasgow, Mont.	\$1,023,000
Great Falls, Mont.	\$1,765,000
Havre, Mont.	\$1,120,000
Lewistown, Mont. (includes Fort Benton)	\$4,769,000
Malta, Mont.	\$1,061,000
Miles City, Mont.	\$12,149,000
Missoula, Mont.	\$2,689,000
Total	\$55,205,000
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>\$95,428,941</b>



BLM photos



The BLM has a strong history of meeting our nation's growing energy needs while leading the way in sustainable development.



Photo by Mark Robillard

### **FLUID MINERALS**

#### *Oil and Gas Lease Sales*

- 4 competitive oil and gas lease sales held
- 375 parcels offered
- 89,537 acres in 167 parcels sold
- \$4,548,396 bonus bids received
- 673 Applications for Permit to Drill processed

### **SOLID MINERALS**

#### *Montana*

- 12 producing federal and Indian coal leases on 37,511.64 acres
- 21,643,783 tons of federal coal produced, generating \$41,313,570 in federal royalties and \$110,376 in rents

#### *North Dakota*

- 7 producing federal coal leases on 8,213.47 acres
- 4,379,327 tons of federal coal produced, generating \$1,665,911 in federal royalties and \$32,988 in rents

### **LOCATABLE MINERALS**

- 1,608 new mining claims recorded
- 181 mining claims closed
- 3,966 mining claims covered by 1,747 small miner waivers
- 20,455 active unpatented mining claims
- 4 mining claims relinquished
- 238,593 active and closed unpatented mining claims on record



FEDERAL OIL & GAS LEASES ISSUED IN FY2019						
	Competitive		Noncompetitive		Total	
	Number	Acres	Number	Acres	Number	Acres
Montana	132	80,297	13	9,617	145	89,914
North Dakota	40	13,070	0	0	40	13,070
South Dakota	6	2,240	0	0	6	2,240
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>95,607</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>9,617</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>105,224</b>

FEDERAL OIL & GAS LEASES IN EFFECT AS OF 9/30/2019						
	Producing		Non-producing		Total	
	Number	Acres	Number	Acres	Number	Acres
Montana	1,173	604,474	1,330	1,199,106	2,503	1,803,580
North Dakota	1,343	591,742	363	214,086	1,706	805,828
South Dakota	79	44,216	280	107,936	359	152,152
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,595</b>	<b>1,240,432</b>	<b>1,973</b>	<b>1,521,128</b>	<b>4,568</b>	<b>2,761,560</b>

FEDERAL TOTAL REPORTED ROYALTY REVENUES			
Oil			
	Sales Volume (barrels)	Sales Value	Revenue
Montana	3,455,027	\$142,489,968	\$17,811,246
North Dakota	47,820,483	\$2,370,502,096	\$296,312,762
South Dakota	104,933	\$6,056,888	\$757,111
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>51,380,443</b>	<b>\$2,519,048,952</b>	<b>\$314,881,119</b>
Conventional "Wet" Natural Gas			
	Sales Volume (thousand cubic feet)	Sales Value	Revenue
Montana	11,173,176	\$27,480,480	\$3,435,060
North Dakota	92,082,277	\$180,936,304	\$22,617,038
South Dakota	876,540	\$112,288	\$14,036
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>186,375,819</b>	<b>\$208,529,072</b>	<b>\$26,066,134</b>

All FY 2019 FEDERAL TOTAL REPORTED ROYALTY REVENUES figures from the ONRR website at: <http://statistics.onrr.gov/>



Photo by Bob Wick.

## **FISH, WILDLIFE, AND THREATENED & ENDANGERED SPECIES**

### **Habitat**

- 600 species of fish and wildlife
- 3,500 acres of fish-bearing lakes and reservoirs
- 2,500 miles of streams
- 400,000+ acres of grassland bird habitat of international importance
- 69 Seeds of Success collections, focused on sage-grouse forbs
- 45,000 native plant seedlings grown for habitat improvement projects

### **Special Status Species**

*Listed as Threatened and Endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA)*

- 4 T&E mammals
- 5 T&E birds
- 2 T&E fish
- 1 T&E invertebrate

### **BLM Sensitive Species**

*lists updated in 2020*

- 3 amphibians
- 36 birds (including 2 ESA delisted species)
- 9 fish
- 4 invertebrates
- 13 mammals (including 1 ESA Proposed Species)
- 61 plants (including 1 Candidate Species)
- 6 reptiles

## **GRAZING**

### **Cattle/domestic bison**

- 4,111 operators; 1,185,842 animal unit months (AUMs) authorized

### **Horse/burro**

- 151 operators; 4,951 AUMs authorized

### **Sheep/goats**

- 169 operators; 29,035 AUMs authorized

Source: FY18 Public Land Statistics



## NOXIOUS WEED MANAGEMENT

- 21,142 acres of noxious weeds treated with integrated weed control methods including herbicide, physical, mechanical, and biological weed control agents, and domestic animals (sheep or goats)
- 168,814 acres inventoried and mapped for noxious weeds
- 13,494 acres monitored for Integrated Weed Management evaluation
- Biological control agents established on more than 293,634 acres

Source: 2019 Montana Integrated Pest Management Report

## WILD HORSE & BURRO PROGRAM

### Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Range

- 39,651 acres of BLM, Forest Service, National Park Service and private lands in Montana and Wyoming.
- 165 horses on PMWHR. Appropriate management level (AML) is 90 to 120 adult horses.
- 54 mares treated with fertility control by BLM and National Park Service

### Off-Range Pastures

- About 2,300 horses are on two off-range pastures in South Dakota and one in Montana.

### Statewide Activity

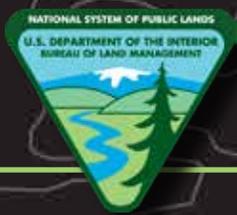
- 58 compliance inspections conducted on previously adopted wild horse and burros in Montana and South Dakota
- 2 Storefront events helped place over 200 wild horses and burros
- 573 wild horses and burros adopted
- 103 wild horses and burro sold
- 6 wild horses in training with Montana Department of Corrections
- 9 Facility Placement Events
- 17 Satellite Placement Events
- 5 Training Clinics offered to the public to help with placement of wild horses and burros

Besides providing economic benefits, the BLM also maintains healthy ecosystems that provide clean air, clean water, and habitat for plants and wildlife.



Havre Field Office staff assess land health. Photo by Floyd Thompson

Pryor Mountain wild horses. Photo by Bob Wick



Recreation resources and visitor services support **strong local economies and public land conservation.**

## RECREATION

In 2019, BLM Montana/Dakotas hosted a record-breaking 4.9 million public visits and collected more than \$701,900 in recreation fees. These fees are crucial for maintaining and improving facilities and providing visitor services at the developed recreation sites.

Our top six recreational activities in 2019, listed from highest to lowest in participation, were:

- Non-motorized travel (hiking, walking, snow shoeing, skiing, etc.)
- Interpretation/Environmental Education/Nature Study
- Camping/picnicking
- Off-highway vehicle travel
- Driving for pleasure
- Hunting – all types

## 2019 RECREATION HIGHLIGHTS

- A record number of Special Recreation Permits were issued, up nearly 14 percent from 2018.
- Recent improvements at biking areas have made BLM Montana/Dakotas a major player in mountain biking communities.
  - Copper City mountain bike area near Three Forks expanded its trail system and experienced a 3,000 visitor increase.
  - The Billings Field Office's Acton mountain bike trail system continued constructing new trails and saw a 3,500 visitor increase.
  - The Fort Meade trail system in South Dakota had an increase of 7,000 visitors.

Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument. Photo by Bob Wick



## FORESTRY

- 1,330,000 acres of forest and woodland base.
- 883,000 acres of available forest and woodland from base acres.  
Available lands are those not restricted to forest management activities such as WSAs, some ACECs and developed recreational sites.

### TIMBER SALES & STEWARDSHIP CONTRACTS

- Awarded 11 timber sale contracts and 1 stewardship forest product sales contract.
- Offered 7,613,000 board feet of timber from timber sale and stewardship forest product contracts
- Generated \$647,728 through timber sale and stewardship forest product sales
- Commercial harvest treatments on 1,299 acres reduced fuels and improved forest health
- Offered 17,927 tons of biomass through timber sales, stewardship contracts and special forest product sales.

### FOREST DEVELOPMENT

- Completed 1,769 acres of pre-commercial thinning, improving forest health on younger forests.
- Completed 1,067 acres of site preparation that should lead to future natural regeneration.
- Provided 565 acres of site protection, mainly through pheromone treatments that deter bark beetles away from recently treated areas because fresh green slash and post treatment prescribed burning can attract beetles.
- Continued with whitebark pine (WBP) conservation efforts

### PARTNERSHIPS AND AGREEMENTS

- Entered into Good Neighbor Agreement with Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation with plans to offer the first sale by September 2020. Four more projects are proposed for 2021.

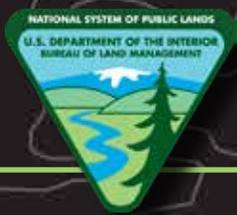
*IN 2019, The BLM Montana/Dakotas produced 7,613 million board feet (MBF) of timber. That's enough to build 471 new homes!*

*The BLM manages forests to meet the present and future needs of communities, wildlife and all those who benefit from the services forests provide.*

*Forester Ashley Durham prepares to plant whitebark pine. Photo by Emily Guiberson*



*Lemhi Pass Timber Sale. BLM photo*



*The BLM is responsible for fire management on more than 8.3 million acres of public lands across Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota. This includes wildland fire protection/suppression and fuels management.*



*Photo by Colby Neal*

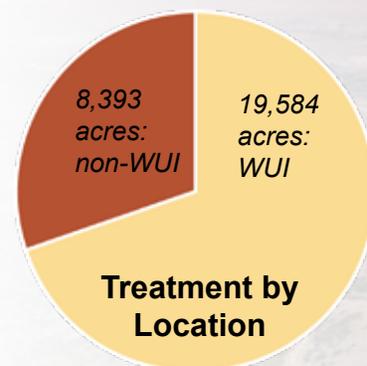
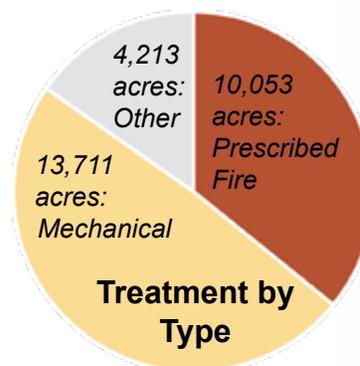
## **FIRE & AVIATION MANAGEMENT**

### **WORKFORCE**

- 20 wildland fire engines
- 2 tactical water tenders
- 1 Type 2 Initial Attack (IA) Veteran hand crew
- 175 firefighters, with an additional 215 support personnel ready to respond to wildfires or other emergencies.

### **HAZARDOUS FUELS TREATMENTS**

- 27,977 acres of hazardous fuels treated
- An additional 36,354 acres monitored for past fuel treatment effectiveness



WUI= Wildland/Urban Interface

### **SUPPORT**

- BLM Montana/Dakotas supports large fire activity nationally and internationally with hand crews, engines, aircraft, and staff.
- 630 hours of flight time and 407 flight days recorded from aircraft supporting fire activity
- 100,000 gallons of retardant used across the large air tanker and single engine air tanker (SEAT) bases.
- \$3.2+ million worth of supplies issued, returned, and transferred by the Billings Interagency Incident Support Cache to other caches and 43 separate incidents in the region and around the country.
- \$2.6M+ paid to state/local governments in fire suppression assistance.

### **COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE/EDUCATION**

- 60 training courses/exercises provided to 1,200+ students representing 70+ Rural Fire Districts through the Local Cooperator Assistance for Wildfire Program.
- The BLM Montana/Dakotas Community Assistance program supported more than 125 fire education events and helped 85 communities across three states with some type of assistance.
- 19 assistance agreements totaling nearly \$1.6M provided funding for activities such as education, planning, and fuel treatments on non-federal land. These agreements helped protect 150 homes through hazardous fuels reduction on more than 850 acres.
- 2 BLM fire engines donated to local fire departments in Eastern Montana utilizing our Rural Fire Readiness authority. One engine went to Malta Volunteer Fire Department (Phillips County), and the other went to Ismay Rural Fire District (Custer County).



## REALTY, LANDS AND RENEWABLE ENERGY

*Improving/Enhancing Access for Hunting and Recreation Opportunities*

- 3 Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) acquisitions, totaling over 1,500 acres, improving access to an additional 4,500 acres of public lands
- 1 road easement acquisition, improving access to 3,400 acres of public lands

*Actions to Improve Energy Infrastructure & Sustainable Use of Public Lands*

- 70 right-of-way (ROW) actions processed and 102 ROW grants issues
- Substantial effort leading up to authorizing the Keystone XL Pipeline ROW grant, culminating in the completion of the International Border Crossing Segment in May 2020.
- 28 new permit/lease actions

## CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE, AND ENGINEERING

*Condition assessments performed on:*

- 58 hazard class dams

*Annual maintenance performed on:*

- 218 administrative site and recreation site buildings
- 774 lane miles of road
- 179 recreation and administrative site projects
- 6 bridges
- 265 miles of trail
- 40 dam projects

*Deferred maintenance and/or construction performed on:*

- 26 recreation and administrative site projects
- 13 miles of trail
- 1 bridge project
- 5 miles of road

*Other work completed:*

- 13 architectural and engineering task orders issued
- 61 radio sites –equipment maintained

*Surveying, maintaining, and processing land actions are also among the BLM's responsibilities.*

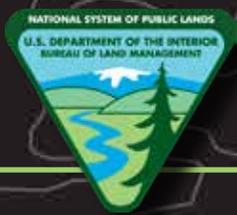
## CADASTRAL SURVEY

- 46 miles surveyed
- 65 survey monuments set
- 34 survey plats accepted

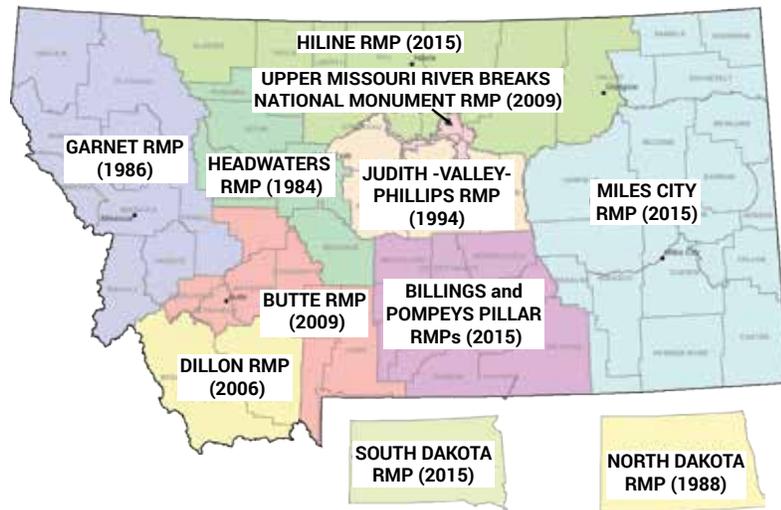


*Photo by Sarah Holm*

*Photo by Ann Boucher*



**Collaboration**  
with local, state and tribal governments, the public, and stakeholder groups is a key ingredient in land use planning and resource management.



## LAND USE PLANNING and ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATION

- Progress continued on the Lewistown Resource Management Plan (RMP) (which will replace the Judith and Headwaters RMPs) and Missoula RMP (which will replace the Garnet RMP). Efforts on both plans included the release of Draft Environmental Impact Statements (EISs), several public meetings and 90-day comment periods, and work on the Final EISs.
- The Miles City Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was completed, updating land use plan-level coal decisions and analysis related to air quality in the 2015 Miles City RMP.
- Continued emphasis on streamlining the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process by focusing on issues-based NEPA. About 400 NEPA documents were completed in FY19 covering programs and activities such as fuels treatments, grazing permit renewals, recreation special use permits, habitat improvement projects, oil and gas development, and realty projects.



BLM photo

*The Pedal United Chapter of the Intermountain Mountain Biking Association was recognized with the BLM's Making a Difference National Volunteer Award for its ongoing collaboration with the Billings Field Office in developing and constructing a trailhead facility and about 28 miles of mountain biking trails suitable for all ages and abilities near Billings, Montana.*



Photo by Jason Hudson, Pedal United



*“Jane,” the juvenile T. rex excavated from BLM lands in Montana. Photo courtesy of Burpee Museum of Natural History*

*Public lands are rich in paleontological and cultural resources and serve as outdoor laboratories for study.*



*Photo courtesy of Macalester College Geology Department*

## **CULTURAL and PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES**

To date:

- 2,167,476 acres of public land surveyed for cultural resources
- 14,240 sites have been recorded as a result of those surveys
- 29 sites and/or districts listed on the National Register of Historic Places
- 778,781 artifacts from 4,745 sites curated at the Billings Curation Center, located at the Montana/Dakotas State Office
- Paleontological investigations on public land have resulted in 5,421 localities recorded on BLM-managed lands, representing some of the most significant fossil resources in the country.

## **TRIBAL RELATIONS and CONSULTATION**

- Two interns through the Salish-Kootenai College Internship agreement worked at the Missoula Field Office and State Office.
- Work continued on the Northern Cheyenne Ecological Ethnographic Project, which documents and preserves information about animals, plants, and cultural sites that are important to the tribe.
- 84 contacts with tribes.



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BLM Montana/Dakotas State Office

