

Benefits of Public Lands

BLM-managed public lands and programs directly and indirectly benefit the health, wealth, and well-being of communities across the United States. In FY 2023, the total value of public lands included benefits related to:

Economic Vitality.

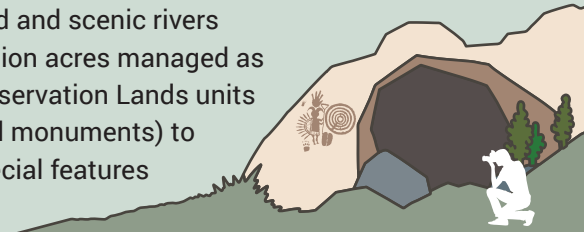
As represented throughout this brochure, economic activity generated from BLM-managed lands and programs supports the economic resilience and stability of communities, many of which are in rural areas.



Visitor and Viewer Enjoyment.

BLM landscapes provide enjoyment for visitors to public lands and neighboring locations.

- 8,718 miles managed as national scenic and historic trails and wild and scenic rivers
- About 37 million acres managed as National Conservation Lands units (e.g., national monuments) to conserve special features



Access to Products.

Plants, minerals, and other products from public lands are important for personal and commercial use.

- 10,379 transplants and 279,000 pounds of native seed permitted to support native landscaping
- 25,900 pounds of edible and medicinal plants (e.g., pine nuts, berries) and 230,155 pounds of mushrooms harvested under BLM permits



Way of Life and Culture.

Public lands support traditional activities and uses, which help people maintain heritage and connection to place.

- In Oregon, representatives of the Modoc Nation shared a fresh understanding of a petroglyph panel and its link to the 1880s–1890s Ghost Dance movement.
- The immersive Yevingkarere Camp at Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument enabled Paiute Tribal youth to learn about their Native homelands.



Education and Knowledge.

Public lands support learning and research related to cultural, historical, and natural resources.

- 356 paleontology permits issued/managed
- 5,641 archaeology, paleontology, and other objects added to museum collections
- > 560,000 acres inventoried for cultural resources



Social Cohesion.

Public lands provide a place for people to gather and build community bonds and strengthen social connections.

- Events hosted on public lands ranged from popular national events like the Burning Man festival and Bonneville Speed Week, to more local events celebrating World Migratory Bird Day, Earth Day, and National Public Lands Day.



Public Health and Safety.

In addition to providing access to nature, which supports mental and physical health, public lands are managed to protect public health, safety, and property.

- > 1.2 million acres of fuels (e.g., dry grasses, brush) treated to reduce wildfire risk and protect communities
- 3,667 events sponsored for residents to learn about wildland fire ecology, protection, and prevention



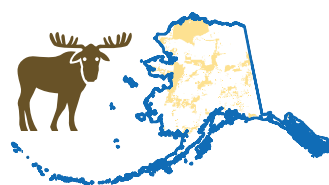
Passive Use of Ecosystems.

People value the continued existence of nature.

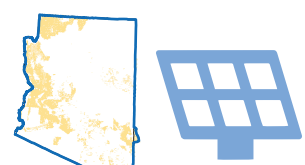
- > 10 million acres of wilderness managed across 10 western states
- Habitat managed for > 330 threatened and endangered species



Examples of State Contributions



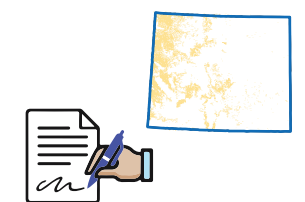
ALASKA: The BLM issued more than 1,020 federal subsistence moose permits. Animals harvested under these permits account for nearly half of the 295 pounds of wild food harvested on average by each rural resident every year.



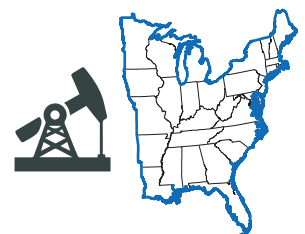
ARIZONA: The BLM approved construction of the HV Sunrise 500-kilovolt gen-tie line, about 60 miles west of Phoenix. A gen-tie line connects the facility where energy is generated into the larger transmission system. This project will support delivery of solar energy from the 150-megawatt Harquahala Sun solar generation facility to the grid.



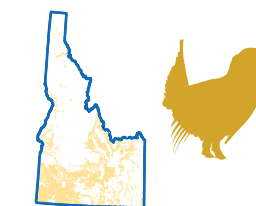
CALIFORNIA: BLM-managed lands in California received 14.7 million visitors at 630 different recreation sites and along 1,759 miles of trails. This brought recreation spending to communities and generated approximately \$4.7 million from visitor use and special recreation permit fees to help maintain, improve, and provide visitor services at BLM recreation sites.



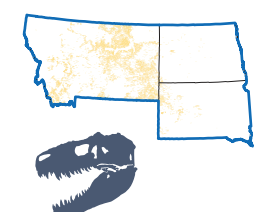
COLORADO: After a proposed withdrawal in FY 2023, the Department of the Interior finalized protections for the Thompson Divide area, one of Colorado's most cherished landscapes, withdrawing more than 221,000 acres of USDA Forest Service and BLM land from disposition under the public land laws and operation of the U.S. mining, mineral, and geothermal leasing laws for a 20-year period, subject to valid existing rights.



EASTERN STATES: The BLM, in partnership with other federal agencies, used uncrewed aircraft systems equipped with magnetometers to survey 63,670 acres of federal land to identify potential orphaned oil and gas wells.



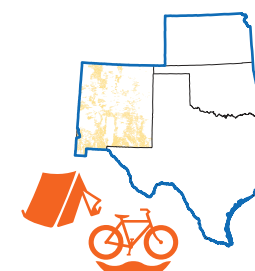
IDAHO: Funded through the Land and Water Conservation Fund, the BLM and partners acquired nearly 25,000 acres in the Pine Creek Bench near Swan Valley to preserve popular public access and protect important big game wildlife migration corridors and brood-rearing habitat for Columbian sharp-tailed grouse.



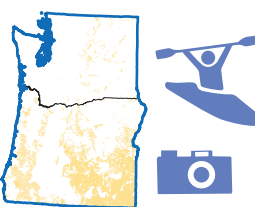
MONTANA/DAKOTAS: Two dinosaur discoveries in the BLM Eastern Montana/Dakotas District caught the world's attention, with the Denver Museum of Nature and Science and the University of Kansas announcing the excavation of what are thought to be specimens of juvenile *Tyrannosaurus rex*.



NEVADA: BLM geothermal revenues in Nevada were \$14.26 million. Half of these revenues are distributed to the state, 25 percent to the county in which the geothermal facility is located, and 25 percent to the U.S. Treasury. Reported production for geothermal power with federal interest in Nevada was 2,778,161 megawatt-hours.



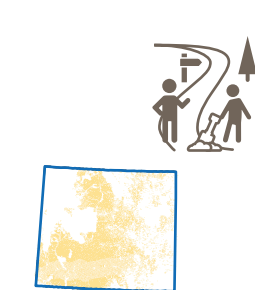
NEW MEXICO: BLM-managed public lands in New Mexico drew more than 4 million visitors. New Mexico recreation sites are used for various activities such as hiking, cycling, hunting, fishing, camping, and boating, allowing the BLM to send more than \$200 million back into the state economy.



OREGON/WASHINGTON: The BLM's Spokane District offers many unique features including the Channeled Scablands landscape formations, San Juan Islands National Monument, and Yakima River Canyon. Despite its proximity to densely populated coastal areas, the Spokane District offers an excellent opportunity for people to explore the 400,000 acres of diverse landscapes.



UTAH: In Utah, the BLM worked to improve landscapes through Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act projects totaling more than \$22 million, which improved access, recreation, rehabilitation, and restoration. Hell's Revenge, a popular trail, was designated as a national recreation trail.



WYOMING: The Cody Field Office hosted the Conservation Outdoor Recreation Education (CORE) youth group for a week of public land stewardship projects in the northern Bighorn Basin. For 25 years, the BLM has maintained a partnership with the nonprofit Self Help Center of Casper, which runs CORE. The program connects disadvantaged, at-risk, and special-needs youths to the outdoors through volunteerism and teamwork.

All state facts are for FY 2023.

BLM-administered land BLM administrative boundaries



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

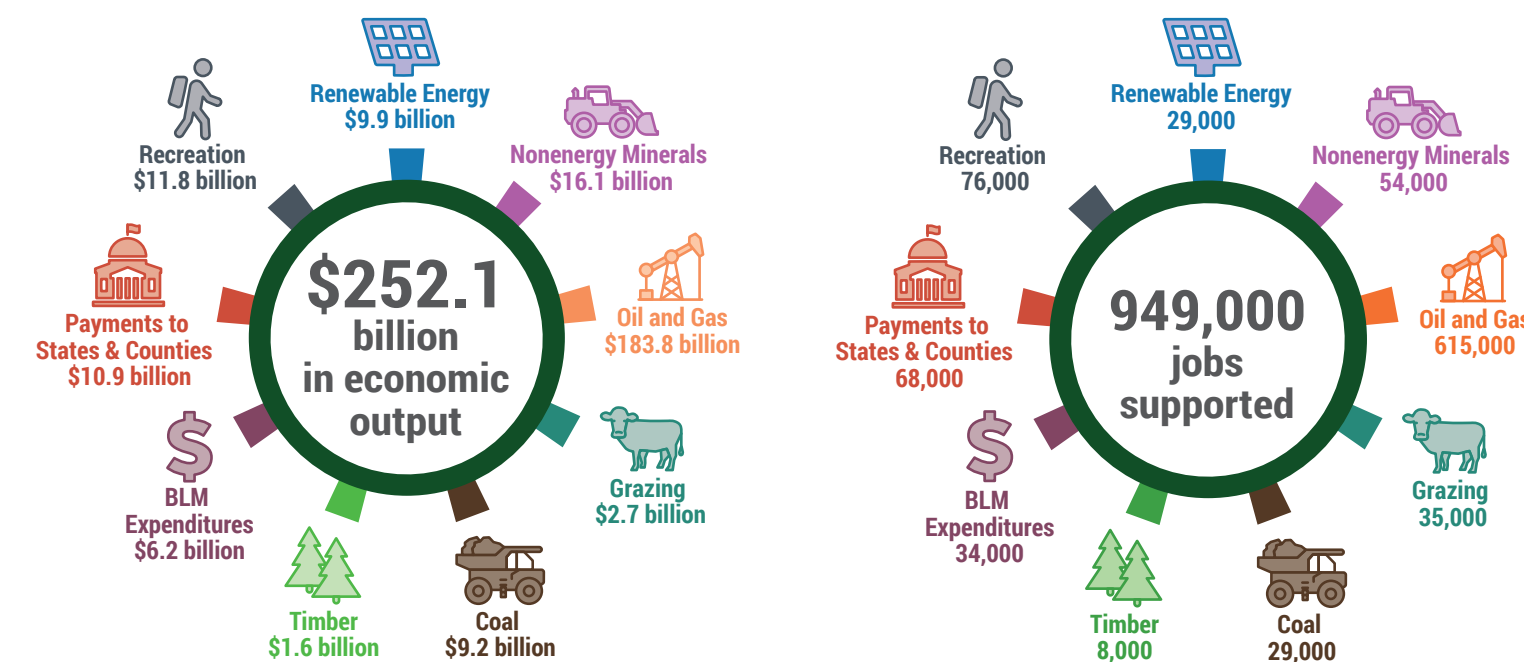
The BLM: Valuing America's Public Lands 2024

As steward for approximately 245 million acres of America's public lands, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) manages some of the nation's most historic and scenic landscapes, as well as vast natural resources, for the benefit of all Americans. These public lands include rangelands, forests, mountains, arctic tundra, and deserts and encompass one-tenth of the nation's surface and approximately one-third of its subsurface mineral resources. The BLM authorizes responsible resource use on these lands while conserving the natural and cultural legacy of iconic landscapes and sustaining healthy ecosystems that provide clean air and water and support biodiversity.

Activities related to BLM land management support hundreds of thousands of jobs and generate billions of dollars in revenue for communities across the country. This brochure provides a snapshot of how the diverse activities the BLM authorized on public lands during fiscal year (FY) 2023 generated \$252.1 billion in total economic output. This economic activity supported 949,000 total jobs and contributed substantial revenue to the U.S. Treasury and state governments. This includes contributions to the economy from the BLM's expenditures while carrying out its mission, as well as payments the agency transfers to states and counties.

Economic Contributions from BLM-Managed Lands

Fiscal Year 2023



All reported economic outputs and jobs are rounded. The two totals reflect the sum of unrounded values.

Economic Sectors

> 82 million visits

RECREATION: Recreational activities on BLM-managed lands and waters contribute significantly to local economies through visitor spending and support hundreds of small recreation-focused businesses including guiding, rafting, climbing, and others. In FY 2023, recreation-related visits totaled more than 82 million. Only about 10 percent of BLM-managed recreation sites, such as developed campsites, charge fees, which help cover the cost of providing services.

50 solar projects
36 wind energy projects

RENEWABLE ENERGY: Through FY 2023, the BLM approved 50 solar energy projects with a generation capacity of more than 10,600 megawatts and 36 wind energy projects with a generation capacity of more than 3,000 megawatts. In addition, 48 geothermal power plants on public lands operate with an installed capacity of nearly 2,500 megawatts. The BLM is on track to meet or exceed the national goal of 25 gigawatts of electricity from renewable energy by 2025.

\$193.3 million in revenue

NONENERGY MINERALS: In FY 2023, nonenergy leasable minerals, such as potash, phosphate, and sodium, produced from federal lands generated \$71.6 million in receipts from rents, royalties, and bonus payments. Nonenergy saleable mineral materials, such as sand, gravel, and soil, generated \$20.6 million in receipts. Fees associated with the exploration and development of locatable minerals (e.g., copper, gold) generated \$101.1 million in federal receipts. In total, federal nonenergy minerals generated more than \$193 million in federal revenues.

514 million barrels 2023

OIL AND GAS: From the Eastern U.S. to the North Slope of Alaska, more than 23.2 million acres of BLM-managed lands are under lease for oil and gas development and production. In FY 2023, the BLM offered 297 parcels and more than 293,000 acres for leasing. Federal onshore oil production was 514 million barrels of oil during FY 2023.

12.3 million AUMs

GRAZING: In 2023, the BLM permitted 12.3 million animal unit months (AUMs) and billed 8.2 million AUMs for ranchers who graze their livestock, mostly cattle and sheep, on public lands. An AUM is the amount of forage needed to feed a cow and calf, or the equivalent, for a month. The grazing fee in 2023 was \$1.35 per AUM. While the number of AUMs billed each year remains relatively steady, annual variations in use occur due to factors such as drought, wildfire, market conditions, and restoration projects.

42% of U.S. coal production

COAL: The BLM administers 279 coal leases encompassing 421,903 acres in 11 states. In FY 2023, coal production from federal lands was 243.2 million tons (about 42 percent of the 577.2 million tons produced in the U.S.). Federal coal generated approximately \$523.6 million in royalties, \$1.58 million in rentals, and \$3.1 million in bonus payments in FY 2023.

282 million board feet

TIMBER: More than 20 percent of BLM-managed lands are forest and woodland ecosystems. The BLM ensures the health and resilience of these public forest lands as well as the availability of traditional forest products, such as timber. In 2023, the BLM offered 282 million board feet of timber under new sales, good neighbor agreements, and stewardship contracts. The BLM continues to use stewardship contracts to improve, maintain, and restore forest health, water quality, and fish and wildlife habitat and to reduce wildfire risk.

> 11,000 permanent, term, and seasonal workers

BLM EXPENDITURES: The BLM employed more than 11,000 permanent, term, and seasonal workers in FY 2023. These workers were stationed across 48 states and generated economic activity in surrounding communities as they spent wages on goods and services. The BLM's purchases of supplies and services, construction costs, and other program spending to complete on-the-ground work also generated economic activity. (Note: Some nonlabor spending categories, such as fire suppression and all hazard emergency response, were excluded due to differences in the location/year in which accounting and spending occur.)

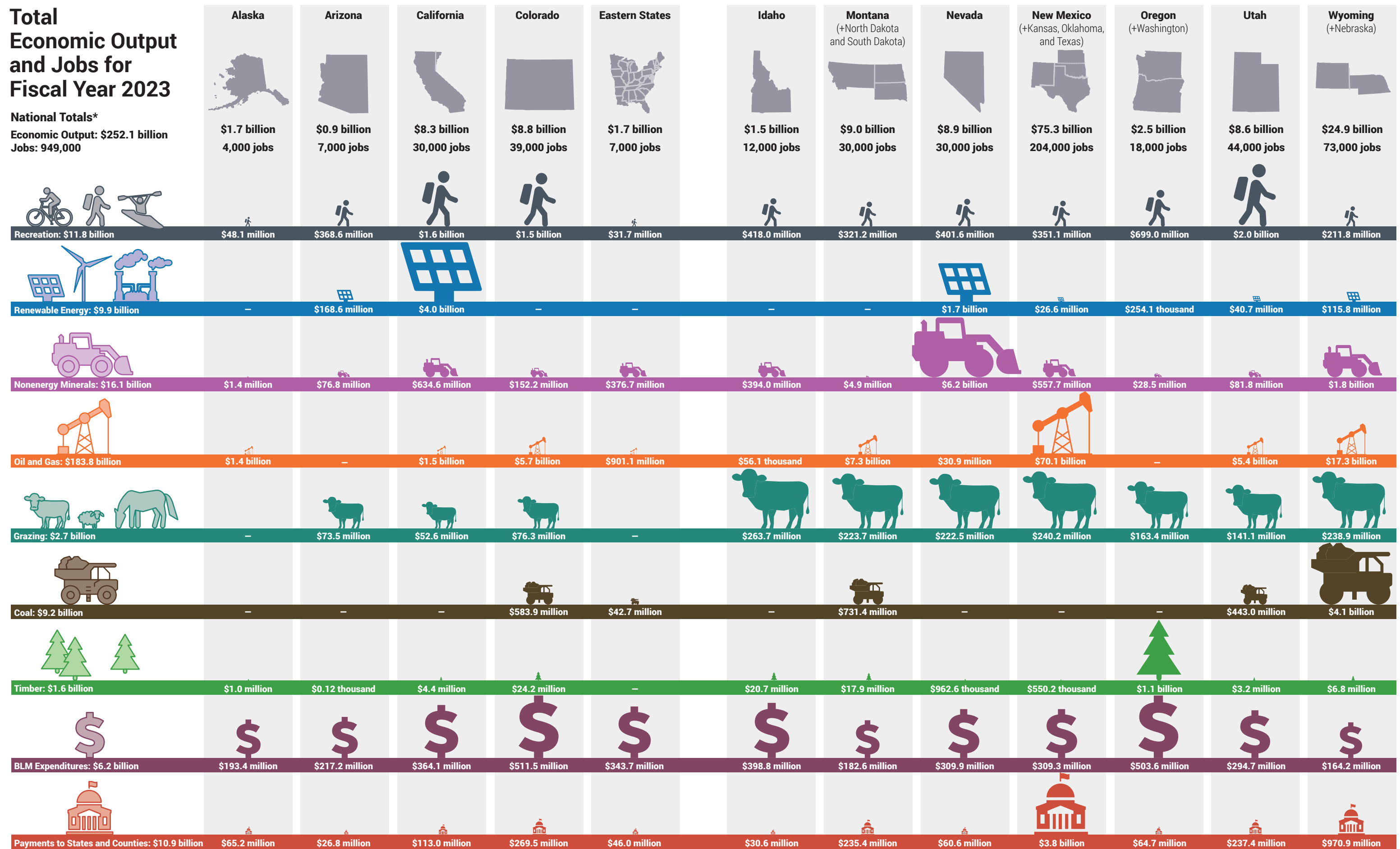
\$4.5 billion to states and counties

PAYMENTS TO STATES AND COUNTIES: Under certain laws, states and counties receive payments associated with lands and minerals administered by the BLM to help fund schools, road improvements, infrastructure, and public services. In FY 2023, the Department of the Interior distributed nearly \$202 million to counties in tax offsets for public lands within their jurisdiction under the Payments in Lieu of Taxes program. The BLM directly distributed \$24.6 million under the Secure Rural Schools program and \$15.7 million under other revenue sharing provisions. Revenues generated from leasing and development of onshore leasable minerals and geothermal resources resulted in disbursement of \$4.3 billion to states and counties from the Office of Natural Resources Revenue.

Total Economic Output and Jobs for Fiscal Year 2023

National Totals*

Economic Output: \$252.1 billion
Jobs: 949,000



* The national totals differ from the sum of individual state numbers because they account for activity across state borders and average industry productivity across states.