



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

# BLM Idaho Geothermal Program Overview

2025



Blue Mountain Geothermal Power Plant Flow Test, Nevada.  
*Photo used with permission. 2010-2012.*



# Idaho Geothermal Leases Supports the Administration's Priorities

- [Executive Order 14154](#) - Unleashing American Energy
- [Executive Order 14156](#) - Declaring a National Energy Emergency
- [Secretarial Order 3417](#) - Addressing the National Energy Emergency
- [Secretarial Order 3418](#) - Unleashing American Energy
- [Secretarial Order 3419](#) - Delivering Emergency Price Relief for American Families and Defeating the Cost-of-Living Crisis

## BLM Idaho geothermal lease sales:

- Support domestic energy production
- Benefit Idaho taxpayers
- Financially boost local Idaho economies





# What is Geothermal Energy?

## Conventional Geothermal

- Requires heat, fluid, and permeability (fluid can move through the ground)
- Hot water brought to the surface and converted to steam
- Steam turns turbines generating power
- Water is returned underground and reheated
- Sustainable



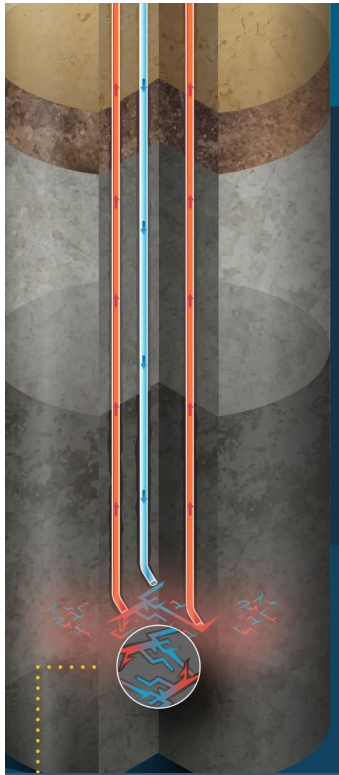
*Source: Department of Energy*



# What is Geothermal Energy?

## Unconventional

- Requires heat, but may not have: fluid and/or permeability (fluid can move through ground)
- Fluid (water) is brought into the system and/or
- Permeability is introduced artificially.



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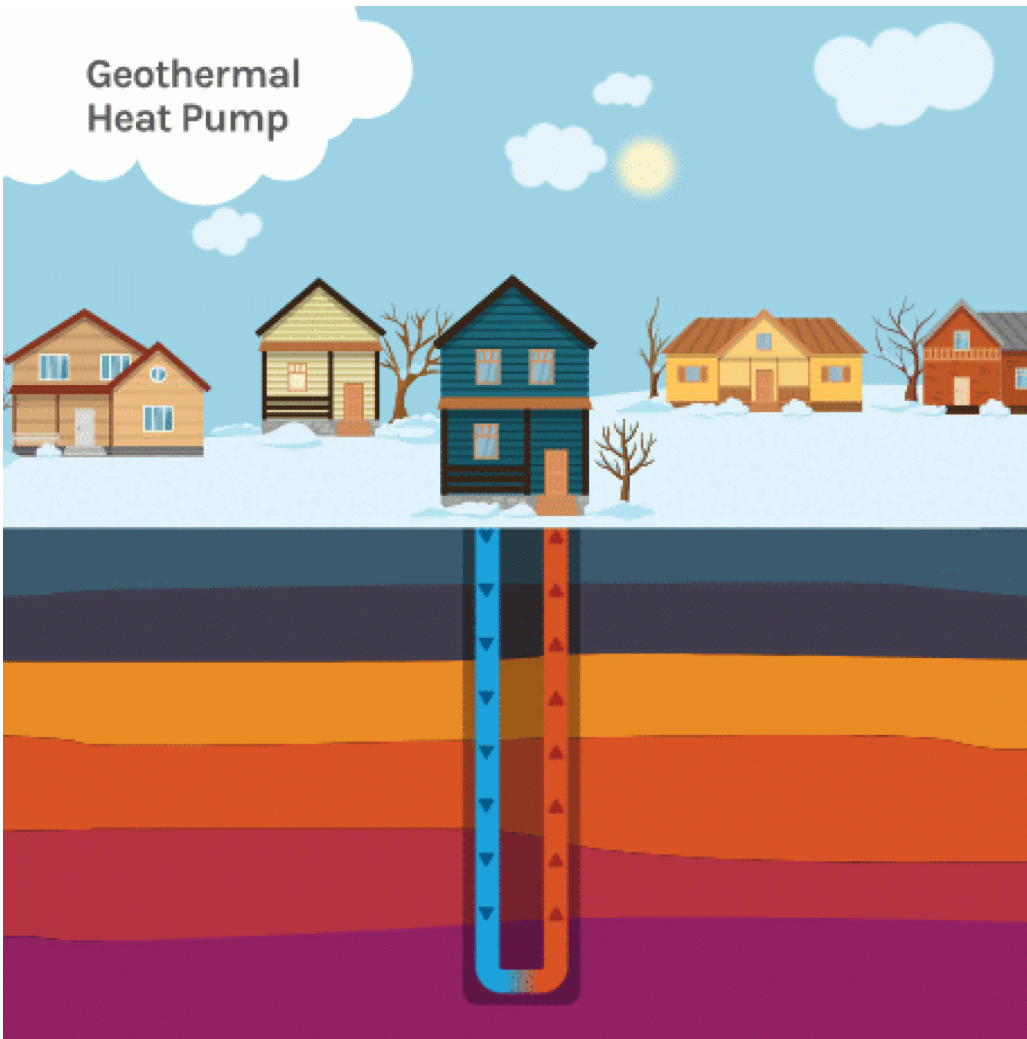


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# What is Geothermal Energy?



## Direct Use

- Where heat, fluid, and permeability all exist, but near surface
- Just like conventional geothermal energy, the hot water is used to heat or provide energy
- One example is the Idaho State Capital: the only state capital that is heated by geothermal energy

*Photo courtesy: Department of Energy*



# What does Geothermal Look Like?



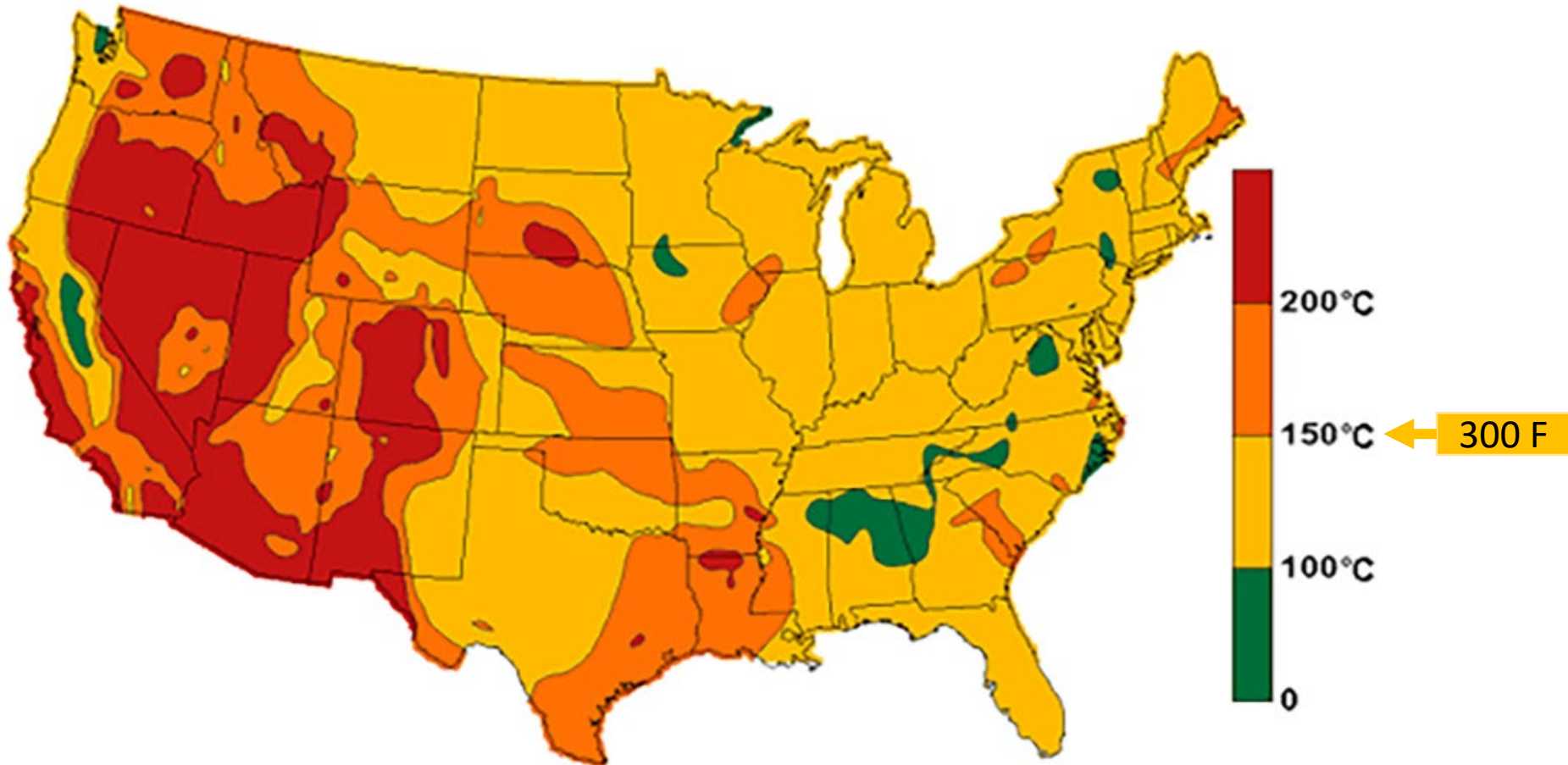
*Photo courtesy: ORMAT.  
Steamboat Power Plant*

1. Puna Geothermal Plant, Puna, HI
2. San Emidio Power Plant, Washoe Co., NV
3. McGinness Hills Geothermal Complex, Lander Co., NV
4. Salton Sea Geothermal Well, CA



# Where is Geothermal Possible?

## Geothermal resources of the United States



Source: U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy (public domain)



# How Does a Land Use Plan Affect Geothermal Leasing?

- Resource Management Plans (RMPs) or Management Framework Plans (MFPs) guide all land use decisions, including geothermal leasing.
- RMPs identify lands as
  - Open
  - Open with lease stipulations, or
  - Closed to leasing.
- Stipulation examples: No Surface Occupancy (NSO), No surface disturbing activities within x miles of raptor nests.



Photo courtesy: Jim Shane<sup>8</sup>, BLM

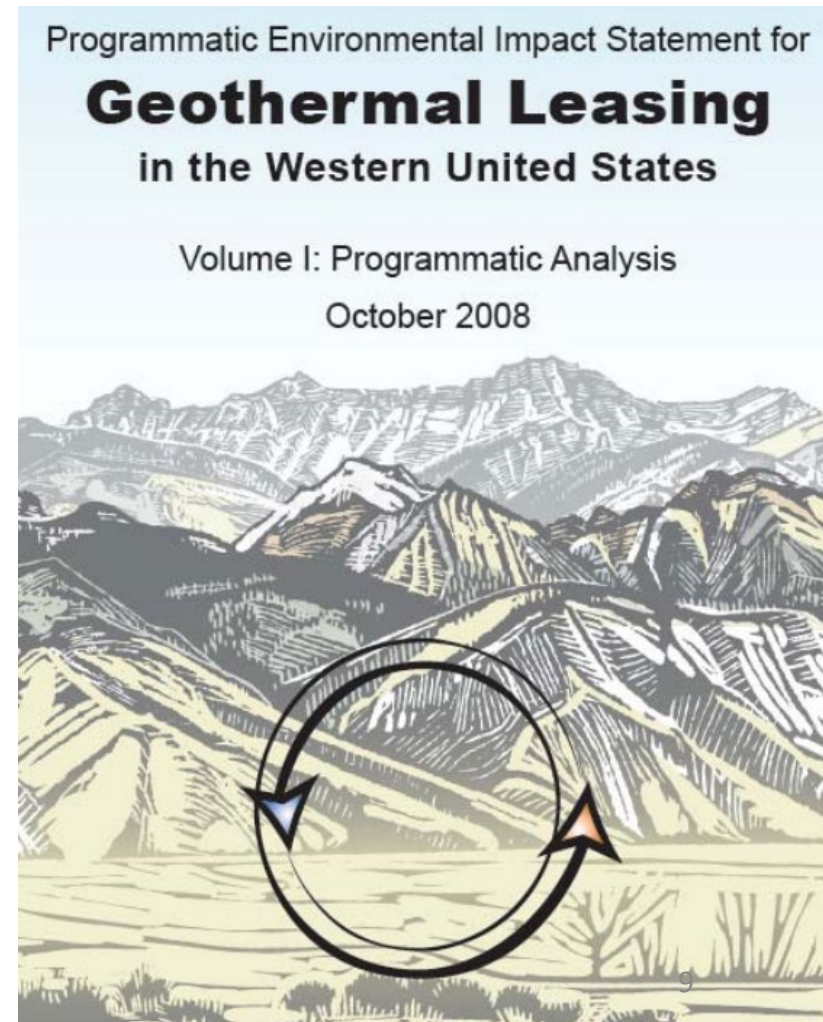




# How Does a Land Use Plan Affect Geothermal Leasing?

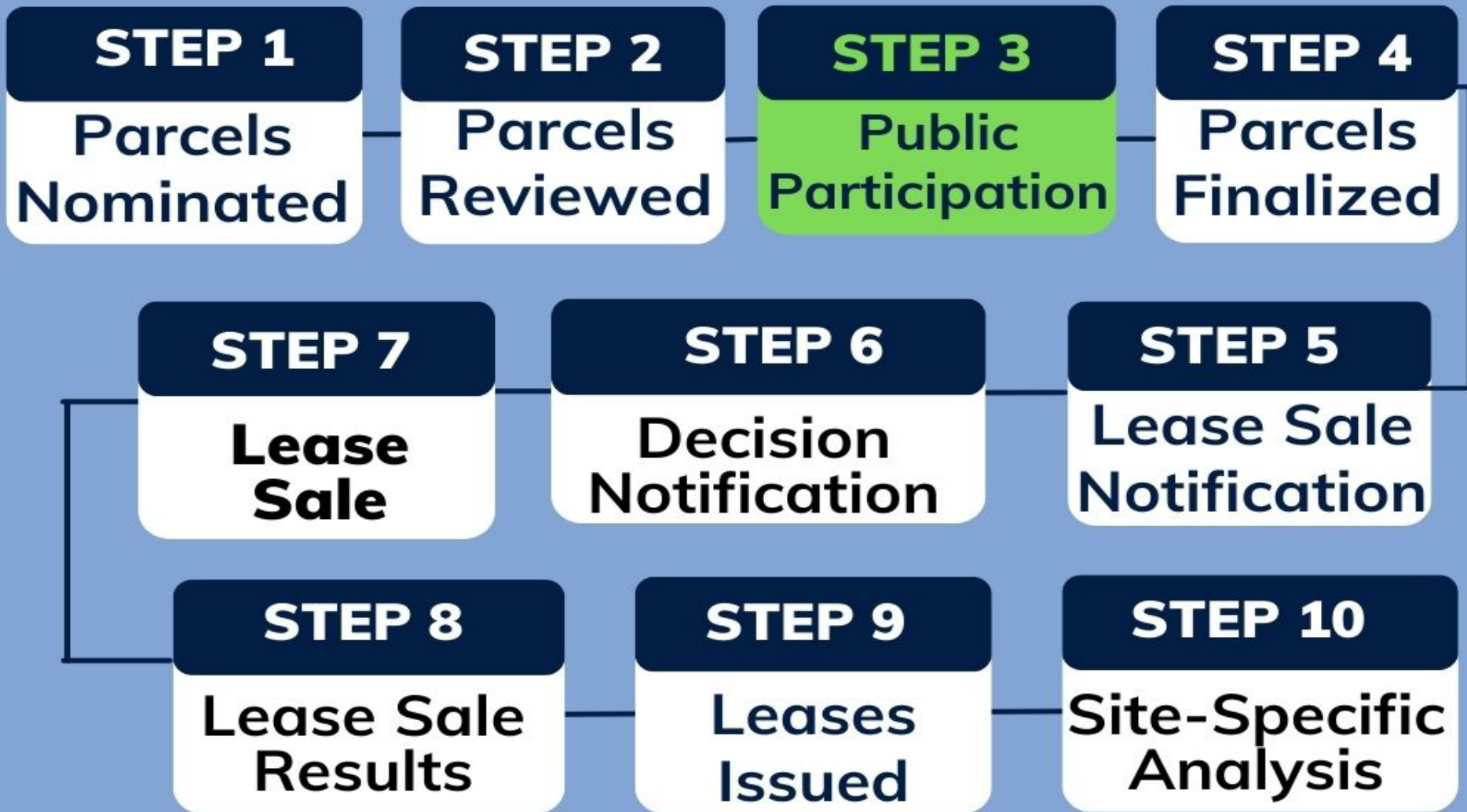
## 2008 Geothermal Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) and Plan Amendment

- This document is foundational for determining land management decisions for geothermal leasing
- These guiding documents determine where and how we authorize land use (open or closed to geothermal for example, or open with stipulations)



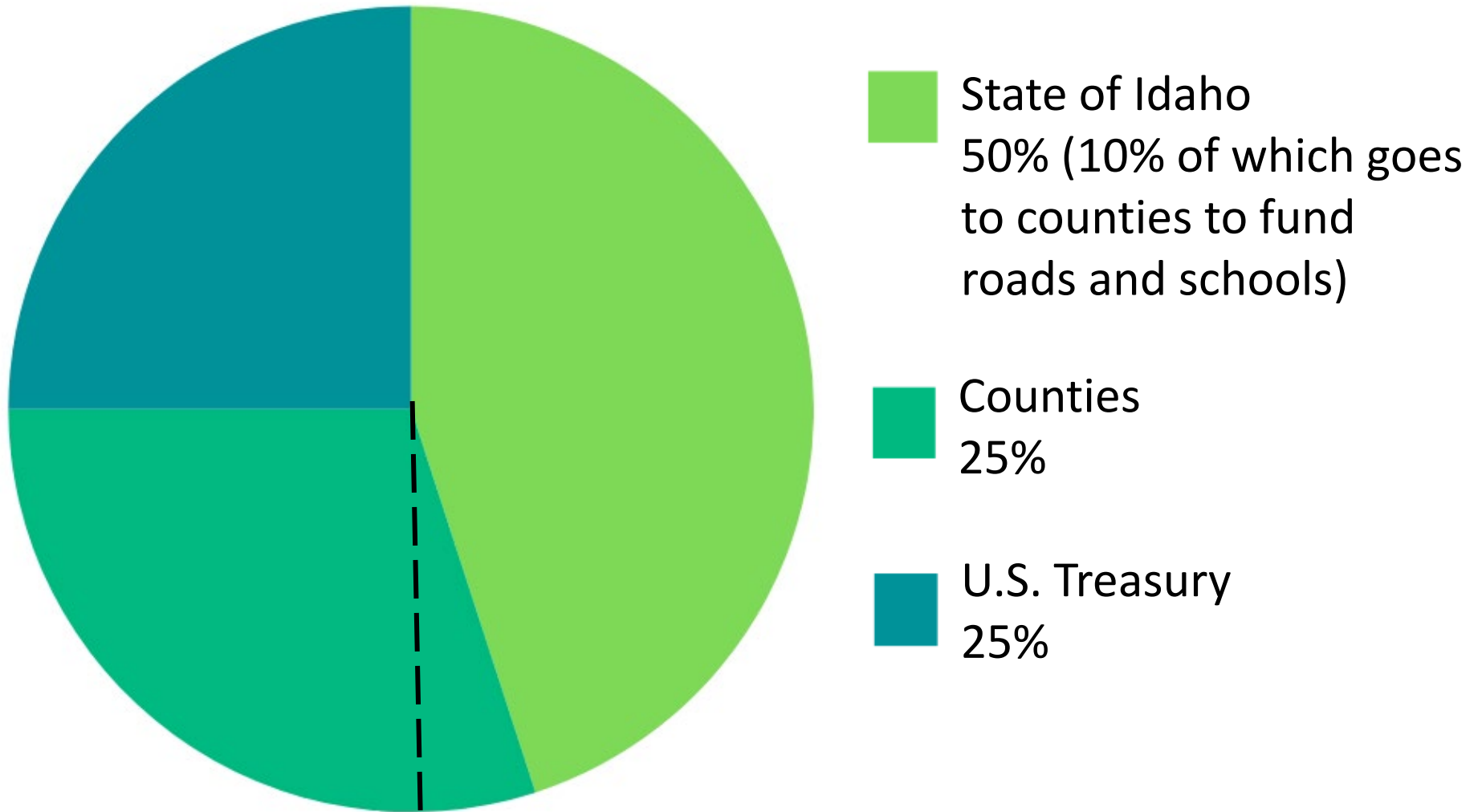


# Geothermal Leasing Process





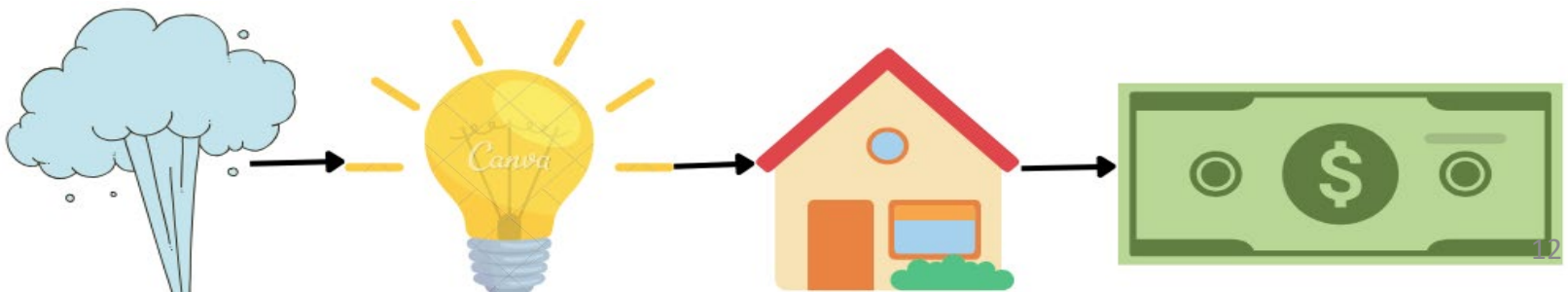
# Where Does the Money Go?





# Geothermal Leasing Taxpayer Benefits

- Geothermal is a sustainable energy source
- In 2023, generated 10.2 million megawatt hours (MW/h)
  - 1 MW/h powers 500-1,000 homes for 1 hour
  - DOI-managed lands power 930,000 homes per year
- FY 2024: > \$20.6 million in revenue
- FY 2021: 7,400 jobs; \$1.5 billion in economic boost





# What Happens After Lease is Issued?

- Lessee Rights & Responsibilities:
  - Primary Lease term: 10 years (extensions possible with diligent exploration)
  - Production Lease Extension up to 35 years if producing geothermal energy (extensions possible)
  - Pay fees, comply with terms of lease or other applicable law
  - Responsible for reclamation
- Next Steps for Development:
  - Site-specific permitting & NEPA review before drilling
  - BLM oversees compliance throughout the lease term



# Bonding & Reclamation Requirements

Every operator must hold:

- A reclamation bond
  - The operator must either reclaim the land back to its original use, or
  - Forfeit the bond
- A performance bond
  - The operator must either meet the requirements of their lease, or
  - Forfeit their bond



*Photo courtesy: USDA Forest Service*



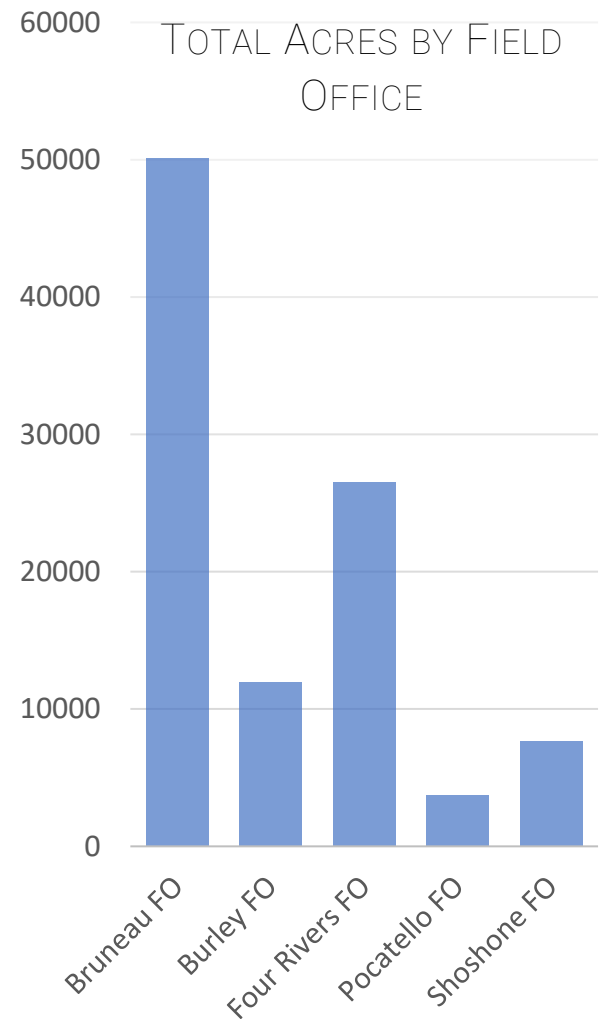
# Idaho Geothermal Nominations

Geothermal leasing nominations received within boundaries of field offices:

- Four Rivers
- Bruneau
- Burley
- Shoshone
- Pocatello

2025 Lease sales: Fall and Winter

Follow <https://ow.ly/T8fL50VB8kU> for geothermal leasing updates

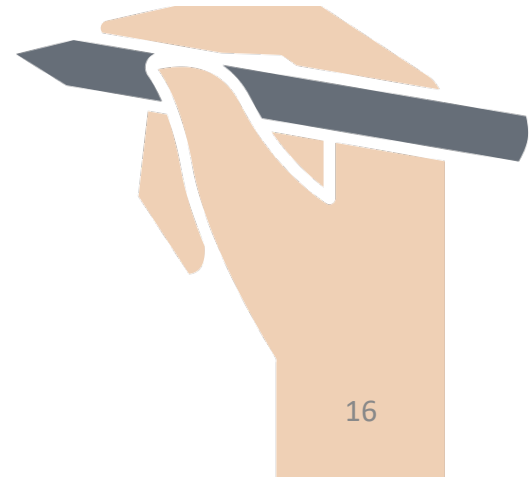




# How Can I Participate?

- Field Office completes NEPA review - includes public participation period
- Public participation period for parcels within the boundaries of Four Rivers and Pocatello field offices starts tomorrow (April 18)
- To provide feedback please visit our website for more information:  
<https://ow.ly/T8fL50VB8kU>.

***Public Comment***







# Questions?

Jersey Valley Power Plant, Nevada.  
BLM photo.



Visit Idaho Geothermal Energy website for information:

<https://ow.ly/T8fL50VB8kU>