



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

BLM Idaho Geothermal Program Overview

2026



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



Idaho Geothermal Leasing 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

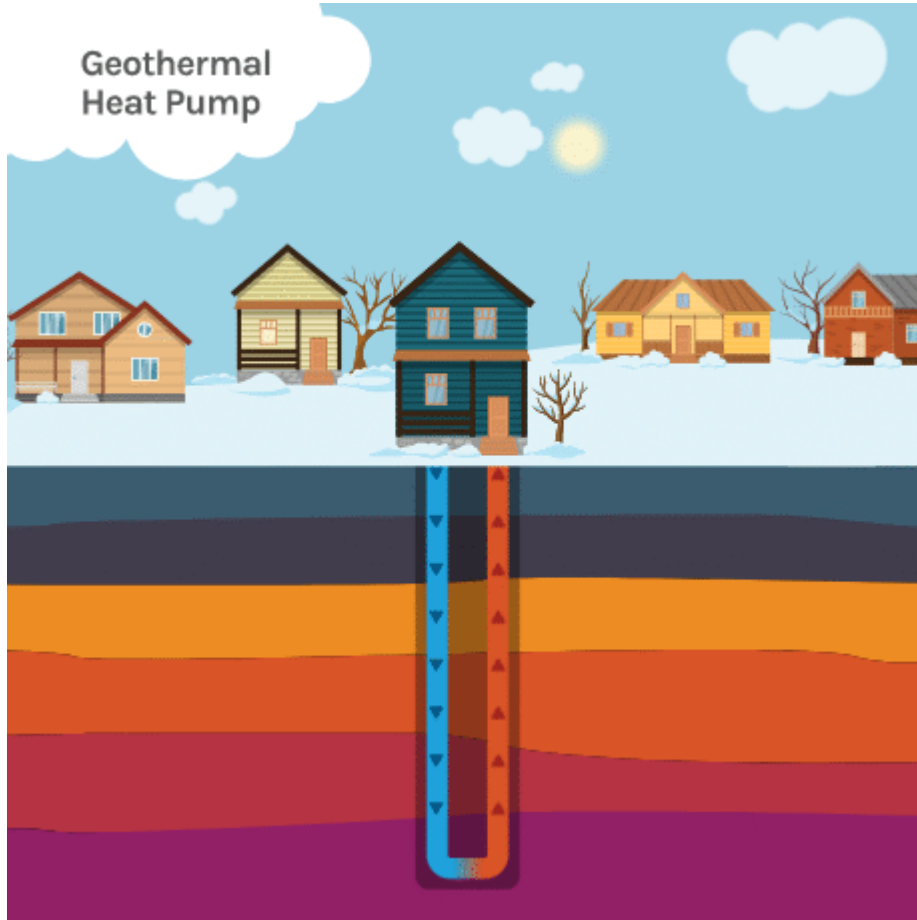
BLM Idaho geothermal lease sales:

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





Types of Geothermal Energy: Direct Use



Source: Department of Energy



Where heat, fluid, and permeability all exist, but near surface



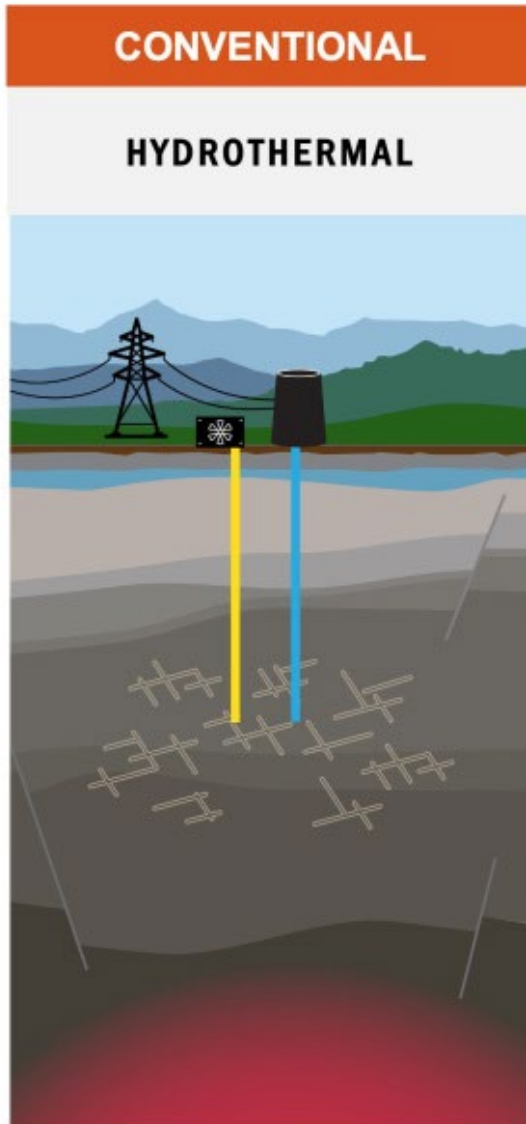
Hot water brought to the surface and converted to steam



Idaho State Capitol: the only state capitol heated by geothermal energy



Types of Geothermal Energy: Conventional



Requires heat, fluid, and permeability (deeper)



Hot water brought to the surface and converted to steam



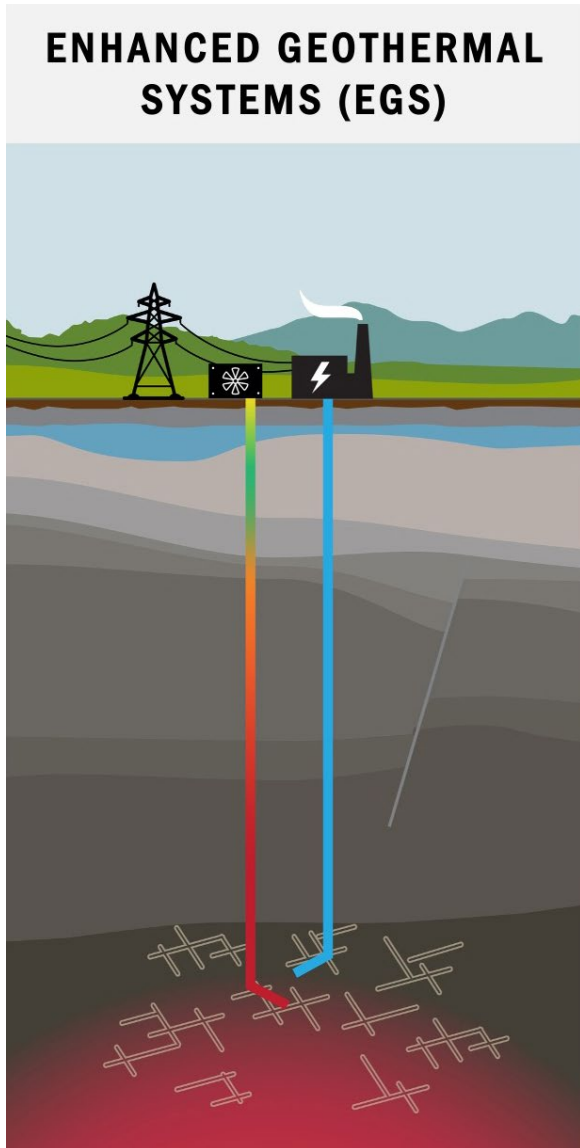
Steam turns turbines, generating power



Water is returned underground and reheated

Source: Department of Energy

Types of Geothermal Energy: Enhanced Geothermal Systems (EGS) - Unconventional



Source: Department of Energy



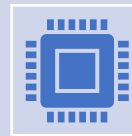
Requires heat, but may not have: fluid and/or permeability



Fluid (water) is brought into the system and/or



Permeability is introduced artificially.



Newer technology



What can geothermal look like on the ground?

*MW = Megawatt (a measure of energy)



Source: Ormat photo of the Steamboat Powerplant

Puna Geothermal Plant, Puna, HI
(38 MW*)

*Originally built 1993 and could
power about 44,200 homes.*

San Emidio Power Plant, Washoe
Co., NV (11.8 MW)

*Originally build 1987 and could
power about 13,700 homes*

McGinness Hills Geothermal
Complex, Lander Co., NV
(48 MW)

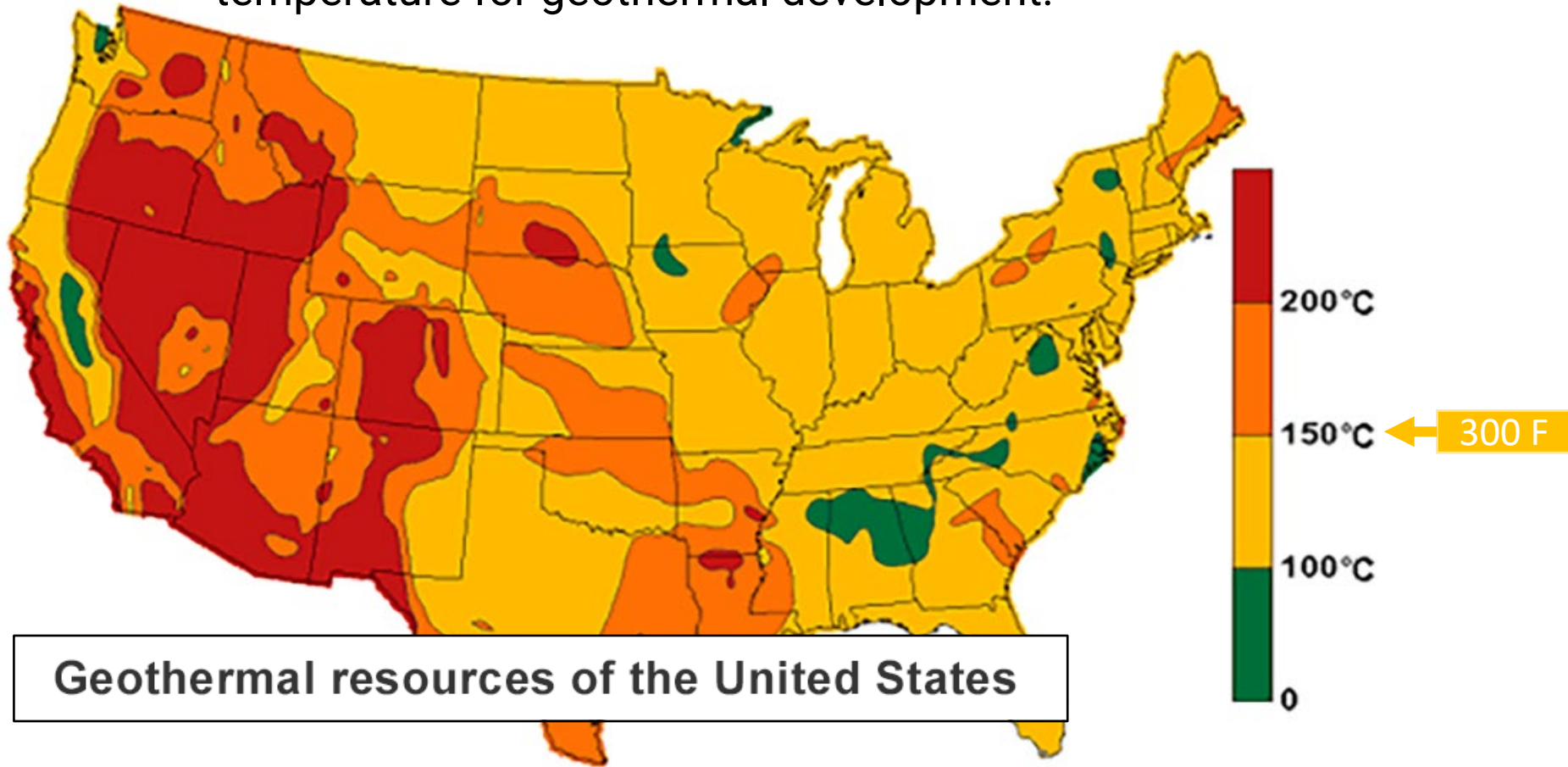
*Originally built in 2012 and could
power about 55,800 homes.*



Where is Geothermal Possible?

Generally, a 300 Degree Fahrenheit temperature is required for conventional geothermal development

In the map shown here orange and red areas have sufficient temperature for geothermal development.





What does the Geothermal Leasing Process look like?

Parcels are nominated for leasing by operators.

Parcels are reviewed using the NEPA process. Leasing stipulations are determined.

A lease sale is announced (aka Sale Notice) at least 45 days prior to the sale.

Parcels are bid on competitively on lease sale day by operators. Winning bidders issued a lease within 60 days.



How Does a Land Use Plan Affect Geothermal Leasing?

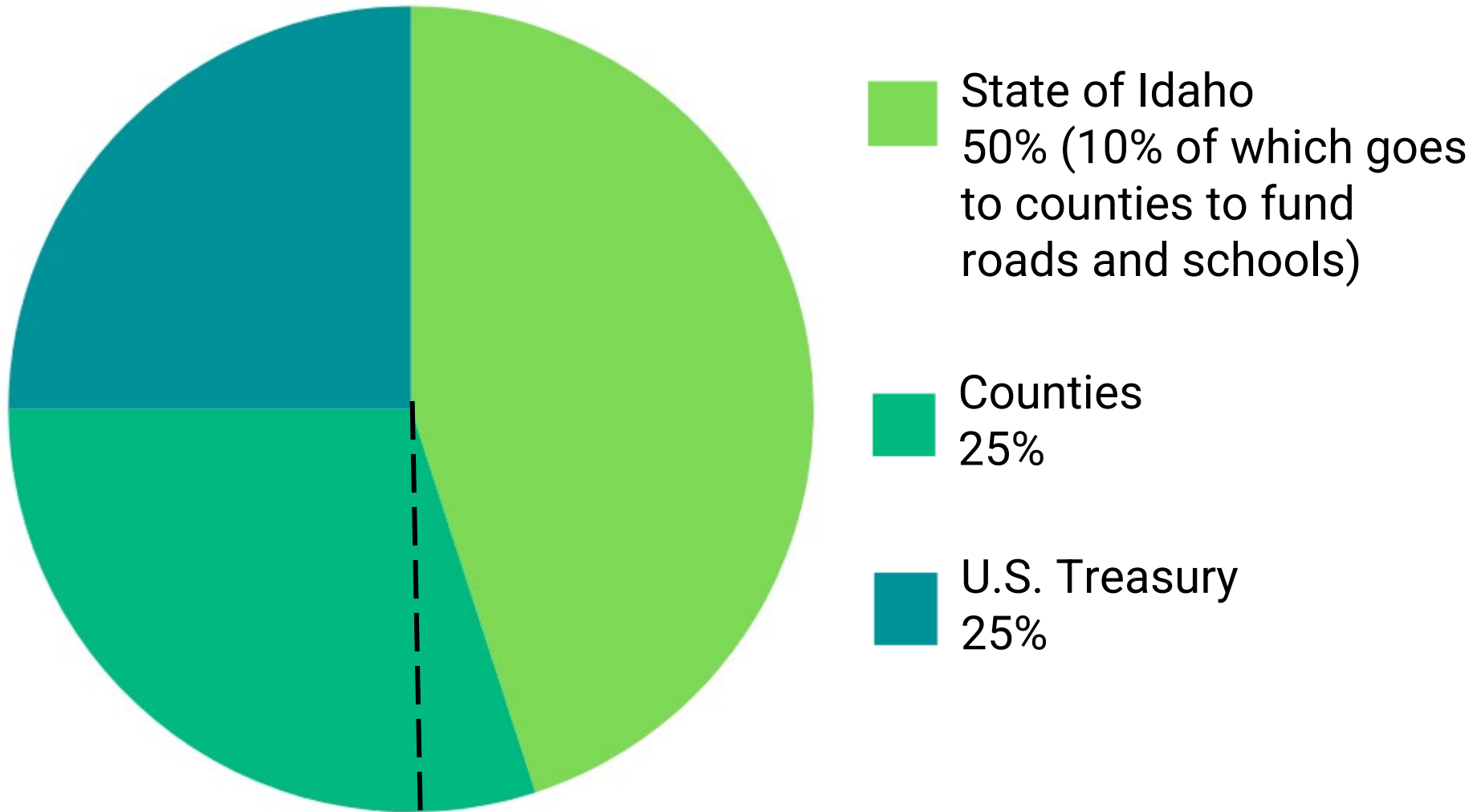
- Resource Management Plans (RMPs) or Management Framework Plans (MFPs) guide all land use decisions, including geothermal leasing.
- RMPs identify lands as
 - Open
 - Open with lease stipulations, or
 - Closed to leasing.
- Stipulation examples: No Surface Occupancy (NSO), no surface-disturbing activities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



Photo courtesy: Jim Shane, BLM



Where do bids, rents, and royalties go?





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 and all applicable laws
 - 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



How Can I Participate?

- Should the NEPA process include a public participation portion, it will be posted on <https://www.blm.gov/public-input-actions>
- Please visit our website for additional information related to geothermal lease sales <https://ow.ly/T8fL50VB8kU>.

