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# 2016 Annual Report

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT Montana/Dakotas

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# BLM-MANAGED LANDS AND RESOURCES



**The Bureau of Land Management 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 2016.

Front cover: Four Dances Natural Area/ACEC



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# BLM Montana/Dakotas

## 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

## NATIONAL MONUMENTS

- Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument (374,976 acres); [www.blm.gov/mt/st/en/fo/umrbnm.html](http://www.blm.gov/mt/st/en/fo/umrbnm.html)
- Pompeys Pillar National Monument (51 acres); [www.blm.gov/mt/st/en/fo/billings\\_field\\_office/pompeyspillar.html](http://www.blm.gov/mt/st/en/fo/billings_field_office/pompeyspillar.html)



Pompeys Pillar National Monument

## NATIONAL TRAILS

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

## NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS

- Pompeys Pillar
- Wolf Mountain, which includes the Battle Mountain ACEC (2,850 acres, of which 120 acres are BLM)

## 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)
- 39 Wilderness Study Areas totaling more than 450,000 acres

## BLM ACREAGE

### Surface Acres

Montana	7,989,604
North Dakota	58,970
South Dakota	274,165
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8,322,739</b>

### Subsurface Acres

Montana	37,760,593
North Dakota	5,593,410
South Dakota	3,768,272
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>47,122,275</b>

## ...AND MORE!

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

Weathered sandstone in Garfield County, Montana.



# A SOUND INVESTMENT

The public lands entrusted to the BLM offer significant benefits to the nation. The BLM manages these lands to provide energy and mineral resources, recreation opportunities, and grazing and timber resources.

In fiscal year 2015 (the most recent data available), BLM's management of the public lands in Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota supported more than 29,000 jobs and provided more than \$45 billion in economic output while also contributing to the U.S. Treasury.

## BLM WORKFORCE

### Employment

- 436 permanent full-time; 100 temporary; 75 career-seasonal/part-time; 4 interns; 615 total.

### Volunteers

- 802 volunteers contributed 49,270 hours valued at \$1,160,801; the cost to BLM Montana/Dakotas was \$79,929.

## BLM SALARIES BY COMMUNITY

October 1, 2015 - September 30, 2016

Belle Fourche, S.D.	\$1,701,000
Billings, Montana (includes Pompeys Pillar)	\$17,250,000
Butte, Montana	\$4,484,000
Dickinson, North Dakota	\$4,229,000
Dillon, Montana	\$3,251,000
Glasgow, Montana	\$766,000
Great Falls, Montana	\$1,185,000
Havre, Montana	\$1,149,000
Lewistown, Montana (includes Fort Benton, Mont.)	\$5,910,000
Malta, Montana	\$898,000
Miles City, Montana	\$9,371,000
Missoula, Montana	\$2,661,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$52,854,000</b>
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>\$81,882,016</b>

## ECONOMIC IMPACTS

	Montana		North Dakota		South Dakota	
	Economic Output	Jobs	Economic Output	Jobs	Economic Output	Jobs
Oil & Gas	\$319,342,606	1,548	\$5,832,361,349	18,540	\$13,461,114	82
Coal	\$574,786,172	1,705	\$138,187,169	325	0	0
Nonenergy Minerals	\$123,191	1	\$1,697,007	13	0	0
Recreation	\$374,100,042	3,914	\$48,077	0	\$2,594,064	27
Grazing	\$287,656,314	3,195	\$2,159,187	24	\$21,214,842	273
Timber	\$4,360,767	17	0	0	\$382,200	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,560,369,093</b>	<b>10,380</b>	<b>\$5,974,452,789</b>	<b>18,902</b>	<b>\$37,652,220</b>	<b>384</b>

Source: BLM National Operations Center (2015 data)

## TIMBER

### FORESTRY

- 1,330,000 acres of forest land base
- 883,000 acres of available forest land from forest land base
- 3,191,200 board feet of timber offered by timber sale contracts for \$330,021
- 1,689 cords of fuel wood sold for \$8,430
- 33,900 board feet of posts/poles sold for \$330
- 546 Christmas trees sold for \$2,025

- 4 Free Use Christmas trees issued to 4th Graders under the Every Kid in a Park Initiative
- 10,000 pounds of boughs sold for \$200
- 592 transplants/ornamentals sold for \$438
- 13,563 tons of biomass offered through timber sales and special forest product sales

### FOREST DEVELOPMENT

- 696 acres of seeding
- 139 acres of reforestation
- 560 acres of site preparation
- 1,355 acres of site protection
- 721 acres of pre-commercial thinning
- 1,132 acres of commercial thinning
- 8,095 acres of stand conversions (mainly removing existing conifers in sage grouse habitat)

## RECREATION

In 2016, Montana/Dakotas BLM hosted nearly five million public visits and collected more than \$533,029 in recreation fees. These fee funds are used to improve facilities and visitor services at developed recreation sites.

*Our top six recreational activities in 2016, listed from highest to lowest in participation, are:*

- Interpretation/ environmental education/ nature study
- Non-motorized travel (hiking, walking, skiing, etc.)
- Camping/picnicking
- Fishing
- Driving for pleasure
- Hunting – all types



Acton Recreation Area

### Recreation Highlights

- The Acton Recreation Area near Billings, Montana, has evolved into a network of nearly 20 miles of mountain bike trails used by riders of all ages and abilities. Pedal United, the local chapter of the International Mountain Biking Association, partnered with the BLM to plan the routes and provide volunteer labor.

Blackfoot River



ENERGY PRODUCTION

FEDERAL OIL & GAS LEASES ISSUED IN FY2016						
	Competitive		Noncompetitive		Total	
	Number	Acres	Number	Acres	Number	Acres
Montana	6	1,029	0	0	6	1,029
North Dakota	1	19	0	0	1	19
South Dakota	3	720	0	0	3	720
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1,768</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1,768</b>

FEDERAL OIL & GAS LEASES IN EFFECT AS OF 9/30/16						
	Producing		Non-producing		Total	
	Number	Acres	Number	Acres	Number	Acres
Montana	1,424	711,217	1,255	1,391,709	2,679	2,102,926
North Dakota	1,322	595,173	515	288,210	1,837	883,383
South Dakota	81	46,484	301	121,022	382	167,506
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,827</b>	<b>1,352,874</b>	<b>2,071</b>	<b>1,800,941</b>	<b>4,898</b>	<b>3,153,815</b>

FEDERAL TOTAL REPORTED ROYALTY REVENUES			
Oil			
	Sales Volume (barrels)	Sales Value	Revenues
Montana	2,697,693.51	\$97,414,465.62	\$10,622,344.15
North Dakota	23,646,646.44	\$824,443,425.63	\$97,552,549.43
South Dakota	149,942.01	\$6,119,414.09	\$710,464.94
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>26,494,281.96</b>	<b>\$927,977,305.34</b>	<b>\$108,885,358.52</b>
Conventional "Wet" Natural Gas			
	Sales Volume (thousand cubic feet)	Sales Value	Revenues
Montana	5,935,743.80	\$11,230,330.90	\$1,475,521.57
North Dakota	21,344,281.48	\$53,130,379.31	\$6,145,177.19
South Dakota	83,513.01	\$127,830.22	\$13,313.99
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>27,363,538.29</b>	<b>\$91,852,078.72</b>	<b>\$7,634,012.75</b>
Coal Bed Natural Gas			
	Sales Volume (thousand cubic feet)	Sales Value	Revenues
Montana	6,665.38	\$11,640.02	\$1,235.55
North Dakota	0	0	0
South Dakota	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6,665.38</b>	<b>\$11,640.02</b>	<b>\$1,235.55</b>

All FY 2016 FEDERAL TOTAL REPORTED ROYALTY REVENUES figures from the ONRR website at: <http://statistics.onrr.gov/>

## SOLID MINERALS

### Montana

- 15 producing federal and Indian coal leases on 43,064 acres
- 17,789,895 tons of coal produced, generating \$33,311,431 in royalties

### North Dakota

- 5 producing federal and Indian coal leases on 7,693.07 acres
- 4,681,202 tons of coal produced, generating \$3,166,934 in royalties

## LOCATABLE MINERALS

- 943 new claims recorded
- 1,610 claims closed
- 1,640 claims covered by 442 small miner waivers
- 16,142 unpatented mining claims
- 23 claims relinquished
- 0 claims patented
- 228,434 active and closed unpatented mining claims on record



## FLUID MINERALS

### Oil and Gas Lease Sales

- 2 competitive oil and gas lease sales held
- 1,768.04 acres in 10 parcels offered
- 1,768.04 acres in 10 parcels sold
- \$116,152 bonus bids received



Coal mine



# RANGELAND MANAGEMENT

The overall goal of the BLM's rangeland management program is to ensure the health and productivity of public rangelands for the use and enjoyment of current and future generations.

## GRAZING

- 4,072 cattle/buffalo operators; 1,219,610 animal unit months (AUMs) authorized
- 160 horse/burro operators; 5,423 AUMs authorized
- 180 sheep/goat operators; 30,088 AUMs authorized

Source: FY16 Public Land Statistics



Collecting soil samples

## WEED MANAGEMENT

- 12,195 acres of noxious weeds treated with integrated weed control methods including chemical, physical, mechanical, and biological weed control agents, and domestic animals (sheep or goats)
- 203,198 acres inventoried and mapped for noxious weeds
- 17,007 acres monitored for Integrated Weed Management evaluation
- More than 100,000 biological control agents distributed to 81 sites

Source: 2016 Montana Integrated Pest Management Report

## NATIVE PLANT PROGRAM

- With the help of partners, the BLM Montana/Dakotas has 15 forb species currently in grow-out to help meet sage-grouse habitat requirements.
- About 3,000 acres of crested wheatgrass have been replaced with native grasses, forbs, and sagebrush to increase habitat for sage-grouse.



Planting sagebrush

Grazing allotment in South Dakota



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

## WILDLIFE/HABITAT

### Fish and Wildlife 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

### Threatened and Endangered Species

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

### Special Status Species (lists updated in 2014)

- 4 amphibians
- 33 birds
- 9 fish
- 3 invertebrates
- 12 mammals
- 17 plants
- 5 reptiles



Henneberry House

## CULTURAL AND PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES

### To date:

- 1.5 million acres inventoried
- 12,029 cultural properties recorded
- 3,848 paleontological localities recorded

## WILD HORSE & BURRO PROGRAM

### Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Range

- PMWHR consists of 39,651 acres of BLM, Forest Service, National Park Service and private lands in Montana and Wyoming.
- Monitored for rangeland and wild horse health.
- Other than a small, constrained trailing permit, no livestock grazing is authorized on the PMWHR.
- 160 horses on PMWHR. Appropriate management level is 90 to 120 adult horses.

- 60 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

- 24 compliance inspections conducted on previously adopted wild horse and burros in Montana and South Dakota
- 1 burro re-assigned to new adopters



# FIRE MANAGEMENT

*The BLM is responsible for fire management on more than 9.9 million acres of public lands across Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota. This includes wildland fire protection/suppression and fuels management.*

- Approximately 68 wildfires occurred on BLM lands in Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota, burning a total of 5,580 acres. Of these, 16 were human-caused (177 acres) and 52 were started by lightning or other natural events (5,403 acres).
- The BLM also had responsibilities for 100 other wildfires which burned 5,707 acres of Forest Service or State lands under agreement for protection. 11 of these fires were human caused for a total of 146 acres. BLM also responded to 11 coal seam fires which burned 949 acres. Cooperating agencies, under agreement, responded to 17 fires that started on or involved BLM land. These fires burned 904 acres of BLM lands.
- Supported large fire activity across the country including a late fall mobilization to the Southeast. Support provided included handcrews, engines, helicopters, air tankers, and employees serving as incident command team members or other support functions. Two BLM employees serve as incident commanders for Type 2 Northern Rockies teams.
- Montana Dakotas BLM coordinated and assisted with more than 50 training sessions for more than 775 students through the Cooperator Assistance Program.
- Twenty-four community assistance agreements with over \$1,100,000 available continue to help fund projects in the urban interface including funding for the South Dakota Veterans' crews in Meade County and Rapid City to do treatments in the wildland urban interface.
- A total of 61 fuels treatments were accomplished on 26,013 acres: 24 prescribed burns on 7,631 acres, and 37 mechanical treatments on 12,510 acres. Fire for resource benefit accounted for 5,872 acres.
- The Billings Fire Cache supported 120 incidents in Region 1 of the Forest Service, and provided national support to Region 6, Northern California, Rocky Mountain and the Great Basin. The Billings cache mobilized personnel to incidents around the nation for a total of 75 days. Overall the Billings cache shipped and returned logistical support items in excess of \$1.1 million.
- In its initial year, 13 members of the Billings Veterans Crew were trained for wildland fire and leadership skills needed to perform the job of a wildland firefighter. During the 2016 season, the crew responded to wildland fire incidents and worked on fuels projects. The mission of the BLM Montana/Dakotas veterans program is to engage, transition and connect veterans with meaningful training and employment experiences.

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



## LANDS & REALTY

The Lands and Realty program responds to public land uses/demands, while protecting sensitive resources and improving public land management and access. The lands and realty program processes requests for rights-of-ways, permits, leases, withdrawals and land tenure adjustments to facilitate management goals.

The Realty, Lands and Renewable Energy staff across the three-state area continues to work on several high priority actions and casework to meet State Director and Bureau priorities, including the State Indemnity Selection, LWCF projects, and withdrawals.

- 129 rights-of-way actions processed
- 13 permit/lease actions processed (includes film permits)
- South Hills Exchange completed
- 163 patents issued for Bureau of Indian Affairs
- 1 Mineral Only patent issued for Forest Service
- 1 Withdrawal action completed
  - Mill Ranger Station Revocation – Forest Service

## CADASTRAL SURVEY

- 231 miles resurveyed
- 122 miles approved
- 273 survey monuments set
- 171 survey monuments approved
- 12 plats approved

## CONSTRUCTION/ MAINTENANCE/ ENGINEERING

*Condition assessments performed on:*

- 29 hazard class dams
- 4 bridges

*Annual maintenance performed on:*

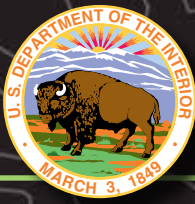
- 223 administrative site and recreation site buildings
- 921 lane miles of road
- 305 recreation and administrative site projects
- 14 bridges
- 187 miles of trail

*Deferred maintenance and/or construction performed on:*

- 34 recreation and administrative site projects
- 4 miles of trail
- 2 dam projects
- 1 bridle project
- 1 mile of road

*Other work completed:*

- 431 facilities surveyed, designed or constructed
- 9 architectural and engineering task orders issued
- 61 radio sites –equipment maintained
- 2 radio sites-radio infrastructure CASHE audits



*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

- 12 resource management plans (RMPs) currently cover Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota
- 2 RMP implementation schedules completed in 2016: Malta and Pompeys Pillar RMPs
- 1 5-year evaluation completed in 2016: Dillon RMP
- 1 planning effort Draft RMP is waiting WO Director's Briefing: Lewistown RMP
- 1 planning effort is in the early stages of Planning 2.0: Missoula RMP

## RESOURCE ADVISORY COUNCILS

- Four RACs serve Western Montana, Central Montana, Eastern Montana, and the Dakotas.
- Each citizen-based council consists of 15 members representing three broad interest categories.
- The Secretary of the Interior appoints selected nominees to three-year terms.
- Members discuss and vote on recommendations related to public land management and provide those recommendations to the BLM.

## TRIBAL RELATIONS and CONSULTATION

- Conducted 94 meetings, phone calls and emails with tribes in Montana, North/ South Dakota, and Wyoming.
- Developed a formal Internship Assistance Agreement with Salish and Kootenai College for students pursuing degrees in forestry, biology, and cultural resource management. The BLM will initiate the same type of agreement with Pine Ridge in 2017. BLM initiated and completed an assistance agreement with the Crow Tribe to facilitate BLM-sponsored regional intertribal workshops.
- Continued work with the Northern Cheyenne Tribe through Chief Dull Knife College to develop an Eco Regional Ethnographic Assessment. The assessment will document in a geo-spatial framework, places important to the tribe for religious and cultural purposes as well as the status and location of other resources (e.g. fauna and flora), some of which will also be culturally important to tribes.
- Tribal Coordinator traveled to each reservation in Montana, North/South Dakota and Wyoming to meet with the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer and staff of each tribe.
- Draft 1780 BLM Manual and Handbook sent to tribes for comment in October 2015. The manual and handbook have since been finalized and will provide BLM with the necessary tools to conduct meaningful consultation with tribe.