



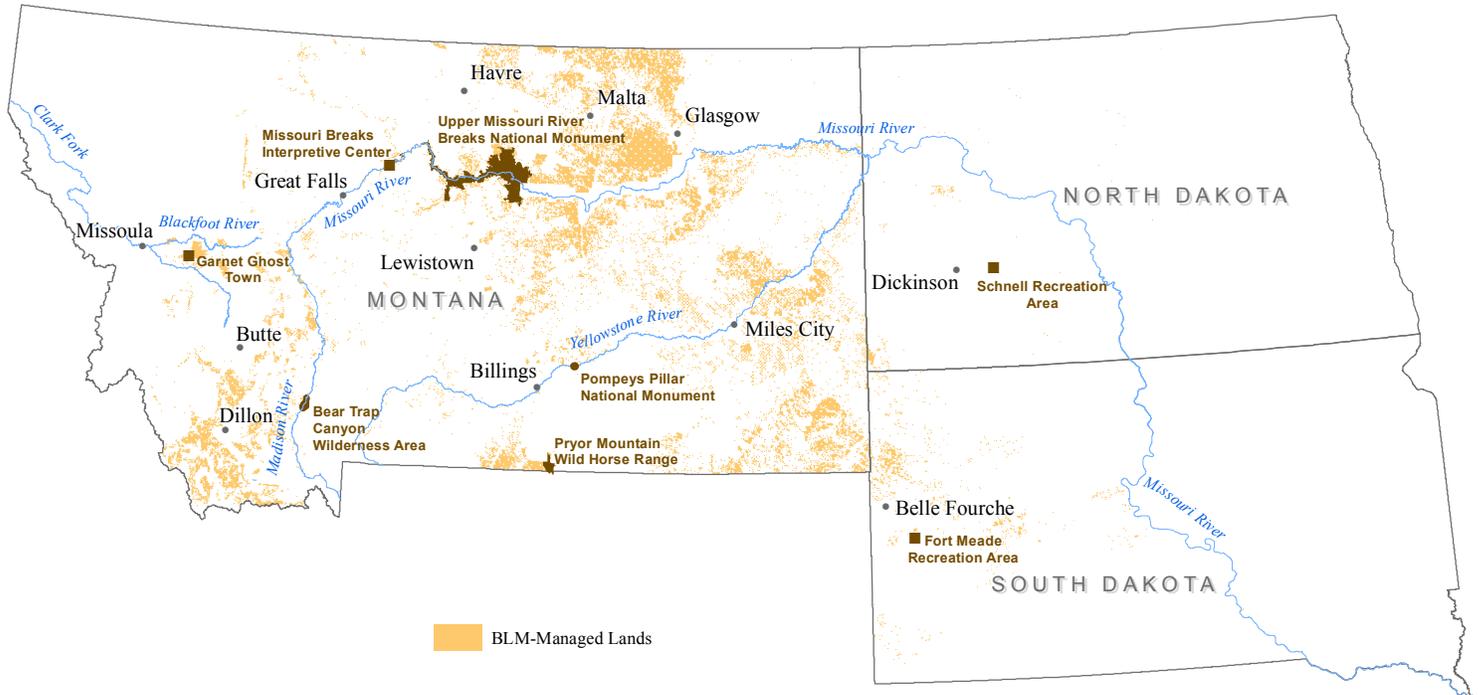
2017 Annual Report

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT Montana/Dakotas





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 2017.

Front cover: Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument. Photo by Bob Wick



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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; 18 miles at Acton Recreation Area; and 20 miles at Fort Meade Recreation Area

NATIONAL MONUMENTS

- Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument (374,976 acres); 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

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)
- 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 (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,

BLM ACREAGE

Surface Acres

Montana	7,998,014
North Dakota	58,970
South Dakota	274,165
TOTAL	8,331,149

Subsurface Acres

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

- Henneberry House, and Garnet Ghost Town
- Garnet Ghost Town and Visitor Center
- Numerous interpretive wayside exhibits
- 54 Areas of Critical Environmental Concern



Garnet Winter Trail. Photo by Maria Craig

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 fiscal year 2016 (the most recent data available), BLM's management of the public lands in Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota supported more than 22,000 jobs and provided more than \$4.9 billion in economic output while also contributing to the U.S. Treasury.

BLM WORKFORCE

Employment

- 442 permanent full-time; 32 temporary; 70 career-seasonal/part-time; 8 interns; 552 total.

Volunteers

- 811 volunteers contributed 40,792 hours valued at \$961,060; the cost to BLM Montana/Dakotas was \$74,242.

BLM SALARIES BY COMMUNITY

October 1, 2016 - September 30, 2017

Belle Fourche, S.D.	\$1,791,000
Billings, Montana (includes Pompeys Pillar)	\$19,210,300
Butte, Montana	\$4,543,700
Dickinson, North Dakota	\$4,226,400
Dillon, Montana	\$3,336,900
Glasgow, Montana	\$798,800
Great Falls, Montana	\$1,213,900
Havre, Montana	\$1,217,100
Lewistown, Montana (includes Fort Benton, Mont.)	\$5,906,400
Malta, Montana	\$1,181,200
Miles City, Montana	\$10,179,100
Missoula, Montana	\$2,661,000
Total	\$56,265,800
TOTAL BUDGET	\$74,726,795

ECONOMIC IMPACTS

	Montana		North Dakota		South Dakota	
	Economic Output	Jobs	Economic Output	Jobs	Economic Output	Jobs
Oil & Gas	\$248,125,095	1,503	\$4,628,841,422	17,869	\$32,665,455	296
Coal	\$516,915,221	1,531	\$112,045,602	285	0	0
Nonenergy Minerals	\$111,495	1	\$1,331,122	9	0	0
Recreation	\$290,120,396	2,869	\$48,474	0	\$2,837,573	26
Grazing	\$295,688,504	3,177	\$2,141,337	23	\$21,206,020	261
Timber	\$27,967,065	122	0	0	\$0	0
TOTAL	\$1,378,927,777	9,203	\$4,744,407,957	18,186	\$56,709,048	584

Source: BLM National Operations Center (2017 data)



RECREATION

In 2017, Montana/Dakotas BLM hosted nearly 4.5 million public visits and collected more than \$701,900 in recreation fees. With depleting budgets, these fees are critical; site managers utilize these monies to maintain and improve the facilities and provide visitor services at the developed recreation sites.

Our top six recreational activities in 2017, listed from highest to lowest in participation, are:

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



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

Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument. Photo by Bob Wick

TIMBER

FORESTRY

- 1,330,000 acres of forest land base
- 883,000 acres of available forest land from forest land base
- 6,905,700 board feet of timber offered by timber sale contracts for \$516,979
- 1,249 cords of fuel wood sold for \$6,095
- 6,200 board feet of posts/poles sold for \$708
- 427 Christmas trees sold for \$2,135
- 4,000 pounds of boughs sold for \$80
- 265 transplants/ornamentals sold for \$50
- 10,800 tons of biomass offered through timber sales, stewardship contracts and special forest product sales

FOREST DEVELOPMENT

- 145 acres of seeding
- 205 acres of reforestation
- 3,565 acres of site preparation
- 2,540 acres of site protection
- 3,500 acres of pre-commercial thinning
- 853 acres of commercial thinning
- 7,782 acres of stand conversions (mainly removing existing conifers in sage grouse habitat)



BLM photo



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



Photo by Mark Jacobsen

FLUID MINERALS

Oil and Gas Lease Sales

- 3 competitive oil and gas lease sales held
- 65,211.125 acres in 259 parcels offered
- 27,228.63 acres in 97 parcels sold
- \$1,056,278 bonus bids received
- 554 Applications for Permit to Drill (APDs) processed

SOLID MINERALS

Montana

- 13 producing federal and Indian coal leases on 43,064 acres
- 16,788,481 tons of federal coal produced, generating \$33,322,654 in royalties

North Dakota

- 5 producing Federal coal leases on 7,693.03 acres
- 4,961,523 tons of Federal coal produced, generating \$2,166,322 in royalties

LOCATABLE MINERALS

- 2,041 new claims recorded
- 262 claims closed
- 1,603 claims covered by 442 small miner waivers
- 18,074 unpatented mining claims
- 8 claims relinquished
- 0 claims patented
- 232,712 active and closed unpatented mining claims on record



BLM Montana/Dakotas

FEDERAL OIL & GAS LEASES ISSUED IN FY2017						
	Competitive		Noncompetitive		Total	
	Number	Acres	Number	Acres	Number	Acres
Montana	82	22,790	16	13,146	98	35,936
North Dakota	1	3	1	520	2	523
South Dakota	14	4,435	0	0	14	4,435
TOTAL	97	27,228	17	13,666	114	40,894

FEDERAL OIL & GAS LEASES IN EFFECT AS OF 9/30/17						
	Producing		Non-producing		Total	
	Number	Acres	Number	Acres	Number	Acres
Montana	1,446	723,961	1,115	1,259,389	2,561	1,983,350
North Dakota	1,343	603,402	416	235,430	1,759	838,832
South Dakota	82	48,482	290	114,488	372	162,970
TOTAL	2,871	1,375,845	1,821	1,609,307	4,692	2,985,152

FEDERAL TOTAL REPORTED ROYALTY REVENUES			
Oil			
	Sales Volume (barrels)	Sales Value	Revenues
Montana	2,417,667.19	\$111,298,748.37	\$12,406,584.60
North Dakota	25,306,896.87	\$1,140,069,638.64	\$135,989,631.80
South Dakota	128,003.58	\$5,993,371.40	\$683,389.73
TOTAL	27,852,567.64	\$1,257,361,758.41	\$149,079,606.13
Conventional "Wet" Natural Gas			
	Sales Volume (thousand cubic feet)	Sales Value	Revenues
Montana	7,677,136.63	\$16,051,241.79	\$1,920,156.30
North Dakota	18,575,353.21	\$69,397,390.22	\$7,743,909.47
South Dakota	72,806.27	\$146,388.11	\$16,246.75
TOTAL	26,325,296.11	\$85,595,020.12	\$9,680,312.52
Coal Bed Natural Gas			
	Sales Volume (thousand cubic feet)	Sales Value	Revenues
Montana	13,456.11	\$29,047.41	\$3,043.57
North Dakota	0	0	0
South Dakota	0	0	0
TOTAL	13,456.11	\$29,047.41	\$3,043.57

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



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 allotment in South Dakota.
Photo by Merv Coleman

GRAZING

- 4,130 cattle/domestic bison operators; 1,217,868 animal unit months (AUMs) authorized
- 161 horse/burro operators; 5,392 AUMs authorized
- 180 sheep/goat operators; 29,629 AUMs authorized

Source: FY16 Public Land Statistics

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.

Source: 2016 Montana Integrated Pest Management Report

WEED MANAGEMENT

- 16,282 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)
- 306,114 acres inventoried and mapped for noxious weeds
- 19,123 acres monitored for Integrated Weed Management evaluation
- More than 283,369 biological control agents acres established and expanded by 6,340 acres

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 2014)

- 4 amphibians
- 31 birds (including 2 ESA delisted species)
- 9 fish
- 2 invertebrates
- 11 mammals (including 1 ESA Proposed Species)
- 17 plants (including 1 Candidate Species)
- 5 reptiles



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.
- 160 horses on PMWHR. Appropriate management level is 90 to 120 adult horses.
- 61 mares treated with fertility control by BLM and National Park Service.
- 1 ground population inventory
- 9 range improvement projects maintained
- 2 miles of fence removed from interior of PMWHR

Off-Range Pastures

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

Statewide Activity

- 6 Herd Areas closed ot active wild horse management
- 14 compliance inspections conducted on previously adopted wild horse and burros in Montana and South Dakota
- 5 Training Incentive Program (TIP) trainers
- 1 response to Department of Livestock regarding freeze marked animals being sold

CULTURAL AND PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES

To date:

- 2 million acres inventoried
- 12,253 cultural properties recorded
- 4,325 paleontological localities recorded

*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.***



Pryor Mountain Wild Horses. Photo by Bob Wick



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

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:

- 43 hazard class dams
- 1 bridge

Annual maintenance performed on:

- 215 administrative site and recreation site buildings
- 734 lane miles of road
- 150 recreation and administrative site projects
- 14 bridges
- 207 miles of trail

Deferred maintenance and/or construction performed on:

- 12 recreation and administrative site projects
- 6 miles of trail
- 5 dam projects
- 1 bridle project
- 2 miles of road

Other work completed:

- 431 facilities surveyed, designed or constructed
- 8 architectural and engineering task orders issued
- 61 radio sites –equipment maintained

REALTY, LANDS AND RENEWABLE ENERGY

The Montana/Dakotas Realty, Lands and Renewable Energy Program directs a wide range of public land transactions to ensure that public lands are managed for the use and enjoyment of current and future generations.

Current priorities include advancing the State of Montana In Lieu Selection, improving access to public lands, and enabling energy development through ROW authorizations.

FY2017 Key Accomplishments:

- 51 new rights-of-way granted for roads, power transmission lines, communication sites, telephone lines, and water facilities
- 30,360 feet of Oil and Gas Pipeline rights-of-way renewed
- 73 rights-of-way actions that served to amend, assign or renew existing rights-of-way
- 7 new film permits issued
- 11 Leases and Permits renewed including the Zortman Firehall
- 2 Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) acquisitions (5,767 acres) in the Missoula Field Office provide increased access to recreational opportunities
- 2 Land Acquisition donations to consolidate land ownership patterns
- Substantial progress toward fulfilling \$4.1 million in lieu selection entitlement owed to the State of Montana. - 2,126.11 acres (valued at \$1.8 million) were determined suitable for transfer to the State of Montana to partially satisfy the in lieu selection entitlement. Additional lands to satisfy the remaining \$2.3 million obligation are under review.



BLM photo

FIRE MANAGEMENT

- 65 wildfires burned 139,000 acres of BLM lands. Seven were human-caused (800 acres) and 58 were started by lightning or other natural events (138,200 acres).
- The BLM also had protection responsibilities for 53 other wildfires, which burned 44,000 acres. Of these, seven were human caused (160 acres). BLM responded to 31 coal seam fires and provided mutual aid response to 400 other fires of various causes in support of our cooperating agencies.
- The BLM also supported large fire activity across the country with hand crews, engines, helicopters, air tankers, and staff. Two BLM employees serve as incident commanders for Type 2 Northern Rockies teams.
- The Billings Fire Cache supported more than 120 Type III or smaller incidents and directly supported seven Type II or larger incidents within the Northern Rockies Region. The Billings cache also mobilized personnel to incidents and caches around the nation for a total of 84 days. Overall, the Billings cache shipped and returned logistical support items in excess of \$10.2 million.
- Field office staff implemented 25 prescribed fires totaling 11,834 acres and 43 mechanical treatments accounting for 8,367 acres. Approximately 80 percent of treatments are in the wildland urban interface. Monitoring efforts to document fuels treatment effectiveness and to determine the need for future treatments encompassed 19,279 acres involving 24 treatments.
- The BLM Montana/Dakotas provided 40 training courses/exercises to more than 800 students through the Cooperator Assistance for Wildfire Program. Seventy Rural Fire Districts were represented at these training courses/exercises.
- The BLM Montana/Dakotas Community Assistance program supported nearly 800 fire education events and helped more than 150 communities across three states with some type of assistance. Twenty-six assistance agreements are in place to provide funding for community assistance activities such as education, planning, and fuel treatments on non-federal land. In 2017, those agreements (totaling more than \$900,000) helped protect more than 450 homes through the treatment of more than 1,900 acres of hazardous fuels reduction.

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.



BLM photo



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

- Twelve resource management plans (RMPs) currently cover Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota: Garnet, Dillon, Butte, Headwaters, Judith, Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument, HiLine, Billings, Pompeys Pillar National Monument, Miles City, North Dakota, and South Dakota.
- Two planning efforts are currently underway and both are in the Draft EIS development phase: Lewistown RMP (which will replace the Judith and Headwaters RMPs) and Missoula RMP (which will replace the Garnet RMP).
- Implementation plans were completed for the 2015 RMPs and Amendments: HiLine, Billings, Miles City, and South Dakota RMP revisions and Lewistown, Dillon, and North Dakota Greater Sage-Grouse RMP Amendments.

TRIBAL RELATIONS and CONSULTATION

- Renewed a formal Internship Assistance Agreement with Salish and Kootenai College for students pursuing degrees in forestry, biology, and cultural resource management.
- Finishing our work with the Northern Cheyenne Tribe through Chief Dull Knife College on the Ecoregional Ethnographic Assessment (EEA). The assessment documented 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 are also culturally important to tribes.
- Initiated an EEA Project with the Crow Tribal Historic Preservation Office. This project will be similar to the Northern Cheyenne EEA project, but modified to fit each unique tribe.
- Hosted a Tribal Consultation Training in April 2017
- Our Northern Cheyenne EEA project was selected as one of the examples of how to work with tribes and will be featured in a video clip by the NTC for training purposes for the 1780 manual and handbook.
- Hosted a presentation by Tim Ryan of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes for more than 200 seventh graders. The topic was Indigenous life ways and their interrelationship with the landscape.



Tim Ryan at Pompeys Pillar National Monument.
Photo by Ann Boucher