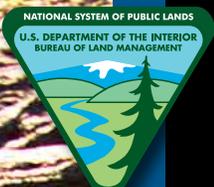


Bureau of Land Management Idaho 2012 Annual Report



BLM Idaho 2012 Annual Report

BLM Idaho State Director

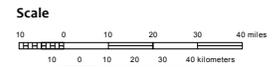
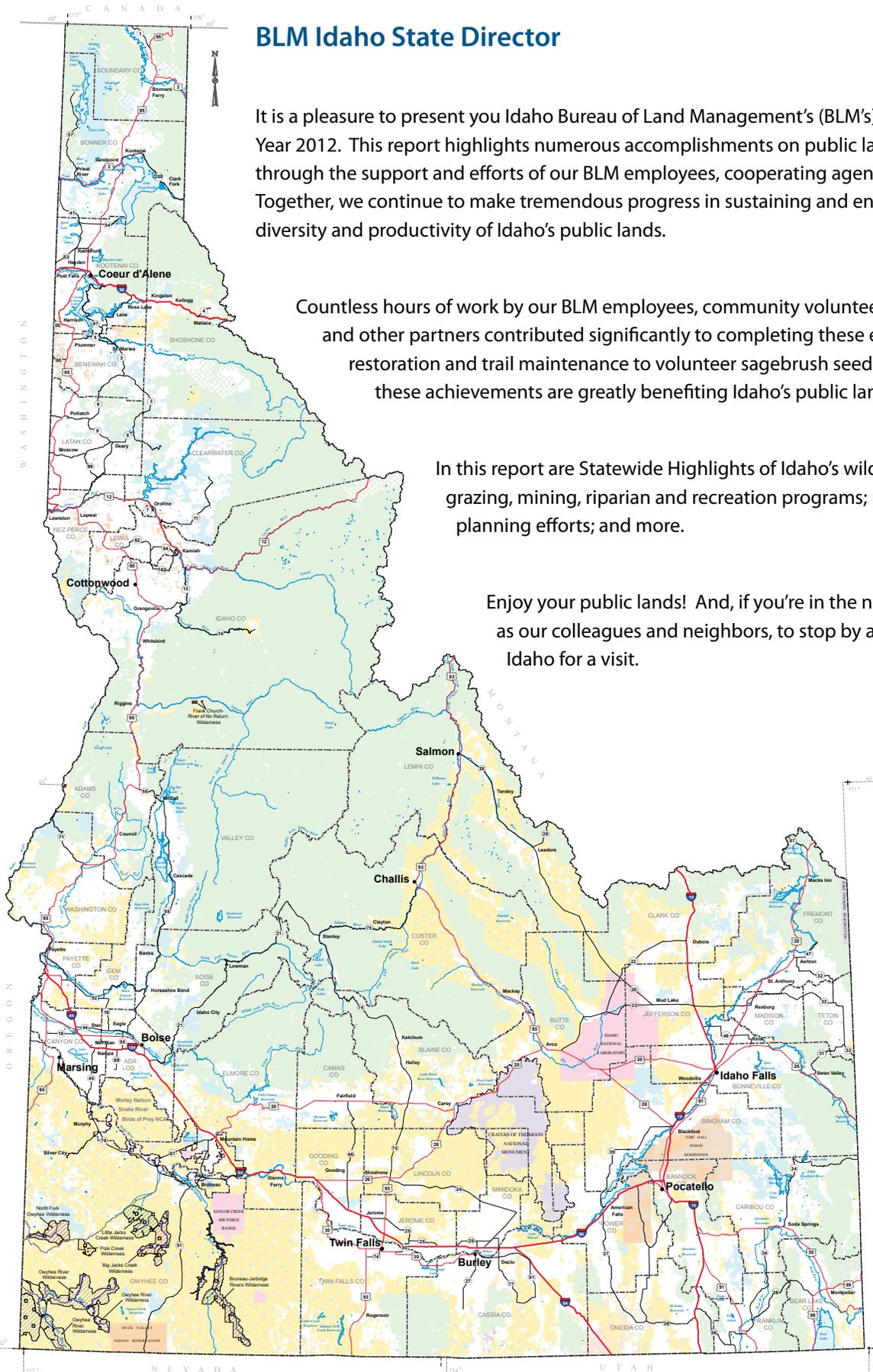
It is a pleasure to present you Idaho Bureau of Land Management's (BLM's) Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2012. This report highlights numerous accomplishments on public lands in Idaho, made possible through the support and efforts of our BLM employees, cooperating agencies and the public. Together, we continue to make tremendous progress in sustaining and enhancing the health, diversity and productivity of Idaho's public lands.

Countless hours of work by our BLM employees, community volunteers, governmental agencies and other partners contributed significantly to completing these efforts. From rangeland restoration and trail maintenance to volunteer sagebrush seedings and river cleanups, these achievements are greatly benefiting Idaho's public lands and resources.

In this report are Statewide Highlights of Idaho's wildlife, fisheries, forestry, grazing, mining, riparian and recreation programs; major energy projects; planning efforts; and more.

Enjoy your public lands! And, if you're in the neighborhood, I invite you, as our colleagues and neighbors, to stop by any of our BLM offices in Idaho for a visit.

Steve Ellis
Idaho BLM State Director



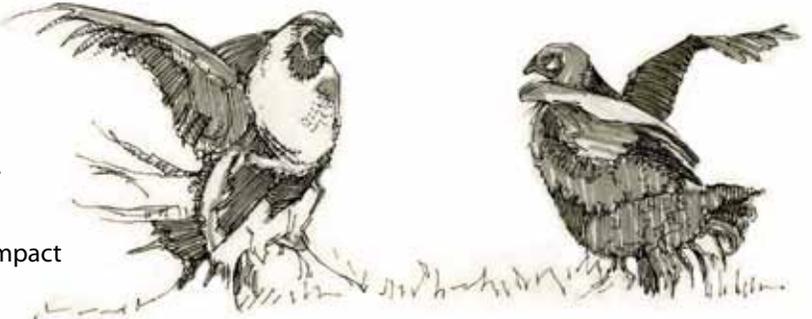
- Map Symbols**
- Designated Wilderness Area on BLM
 - National Wild and Scenic River on BLM
 - Special BLM Management Area
 - County Boundary
 - Interstate Highway
 - US Highway
 - State Highway
- Land Status**
- Bureau of Land Management
 - Private
 - US Forest Service
 - State of Idaho
 - State of Idaho-Fish & Game and Parks & Rec
 - Bureau of Reclamation
 - Corps of Engineers
 - Military Reservations and Corps of Engineers
 - Indian Reservation
 - Military Land
 - National Park Service
 - National Wildlife Refuge
 - Bankhead-Jones LU Lands (Admin by Acquiring Agency)
 - National Grasslands (Admin by USFS)

*No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data is not guaranteed. The surface management status, or land ownership, should be used as a general guide only. Official land records located at the BLM and other offices, should be checked for up-to-date information concerning any specific tract of land.

The map cannot be made "Section 508 Compliant". For help with its data or information, please contact the BLM Idaho State Office Webmaster at 208-378-4600.

Map produced by BLM, Idaho State Office, Office of Communications/Geographic Sciences, July 2012.

Program Highlights



Planning

- Released the Pocatello RMP and Record of Decision.
- Preparing the Jarbidge Proposed Resource Management Plan (RMP) and Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).
- Preparing Upper Snake Draft RMP and Environmental Impact Statement.
- Preparing Four Rivers Draft RMP and Environmental Impact Statement.
- Preparing the Idaho and Southwest Montana Sub-Regional Sage-Grouse EIS.

Wildlife Program

- Completed the second version of the Sage-grouse Preliminary Priority and General Habitat Modeling.
- Cooperated with Idaho Fish and Game to model sage-grouse seasonal habitats.
- Continued monitoring of listed and sensitive plant species.
- Continued collecting native plant seed for sage-grouse and other restoration efforts.

Riparian Program

Completed lake, wetland, stream and riparian projects throughout Idaho to improve or maintain healthy functioning landscapes. This included:

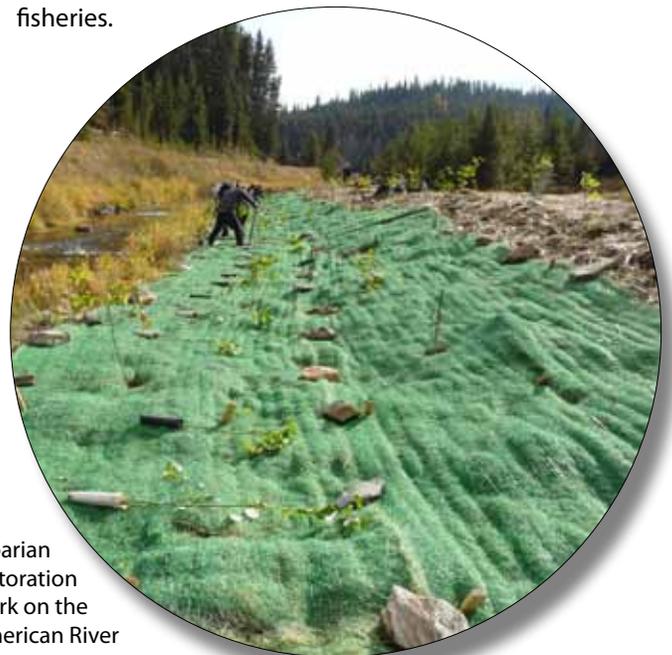
- Treating 35 acres of lakes and wetlands and 8 miles of streams and riparian areas
- Constructing 22 lake/wetland/stream/riparian area projects

Fisheries Program

- Conducted restoration work on the American River and Telephone Creek. Work included planting, seeding and bank stabilization with large wood and rock.
- Continued monitoring fish habitat condition on more than 50 streams throughout Idaho using the Multiple Indicator Monitoring protocol.
- Completed spawning surveys on numerous streams for bull trout, Snake River Basin steelhead and Snake River spring/summer Chinook salmon.

Forestry Program

- Sold 9,452 Mbf (thousand board feet) in timber sale volume, 42 Mbf in other saw timber volume and 1,500 Mbf in Stewardship timber volume for a FY 2012 total timber sale volume of 10,993 Mbf.
- Provided 5,853 green tons of special forest products fuel wood, 9,451 green tons of stewardship biomass and 2,893 green tons of non-stewardship biomass for a FY 2012 total generated biomass of 18,186 green tons.
- Worked closely with communities, BLM Wildland Fire Management and other partners to coordinate hazard fuels reduction treatments through timber sales and stewardship contracts to reduce the intensity of wildland fire in the Wildland Urban Interface.
- Continued White bark pine surveys and research to support white bark pine ecosystem restoration.
- Continued forest health improvement projects to reduce tree mortality from insect and disease attack, enhance watersheds and improve bull trout and anadromous fisheries.



Riparian restoration work on the American River re-contouring streambanks and planting desired riparian vegetation.

Program Highlights

Rangeland Management

- Authorized 910,000 animal unit months (AUMs) of livestock forage.
- Conducted ongoing assessments of grazing allotments to determine whether standards are being met and whether changes need to be initiated to improve rangeland health.
- Fully processed about 116 grazing permit renewals.
- Completed 11 Crossing Permit EA's, issued approximately 90 Livestock Crossing Decisions and issued approximately 107 Crossing Permits to conform to Washington Office guidance in Instruction Memorandum 2012-096.
- Successfully implemented Idaho's NEPA Permit Renewal Team to assist the Owyhee Field Office in completing 49 Court Ordered grazing permit renewals by December 2013.
- Initiated work to complete an environmental impact statement (EIS) associated with renewing 15 grazing permits associated with approximately 120,000 acres of public lands in northwestern Owyhee County, Idaho.
- Initiated work on the next group of scheduled grazing permit renewals which includes addressing 8 grazing permits associated with 135,406 acres of public lands in north-central Owyhee County, Idaho.



Wildland Fire Management

- BLM fire resources have responded to 367 fire incidents within designated protection areas. Of these 367 fires, 242 were human caused and 125 were lightning caused. These fires burned a total of 682,573 acres. BLM-specific incidents in 2012 total 206 while burning 621,712 acres. The average total number of fires from 2002 to 2011 is 355 burning 357,691 acres. BLM-specific incidents average 167 burning 307,412 acres.
- BLM fire resources responded to a higher number of total fires that burned nearly twice the ten-year average.
- BLM Idaho accomplished 108,592 acres of fuels work, 102 percent of the FY 2012 target. Of this, 105,834 acres were within the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) and 2,758 outside of WUI.
- Critical planning completed for out-year projects in community watersheds, notably in the areas of Downey and Pocatello.
- Existing fuels treatments were effective in changing fire behavior to aid suppression efforts in a variety of locations, both WUI and non-WUI projects in various locations.



Wild Horse & Burro

- Held 150 wild horses for approximately 7.5 months in the BLM Boise Corrals and adopted 45 wild horses statewide.
- Completed two environmental assessments for upcoming wild horse gathers in FY 2013.



Program Highlights

National Landscape Conservation System

- Over 60 volunteers built 300 feet of buck and pole fence and installed a new information kiosk at the entrance to the Pole Creek Wilderness Area on the Owyhee Uplands Backcountry Byway.
- Managed 470 miles of National Scenic and Historic Trails and 450 miles of emigrant trails.
- Hosted over 500 children for Desert Discovery Days at the Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area (NCA).
- Volunteers helped plant over 450 seedlings in areas that burned this year in the Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey NCA.

Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation

Prepared 32 emergency stabilization and rehabilitation plans. This will result in the following planned acres of seedings and other associated treatments to areas burned in wildfires:

- 66,000 acres of drill seeding
- 325,000 acres of aerial seeding
- 14,850 acres chaining and seeding
- 69 miles of temporary fence
- 590 miles of fence repaired
- 240 erosion structures
- 461,000 seedlings planted
- 573,000 acres of weed treatment and inventory

Juniper chaining in burned area,
Burley Field Office

Healthy Landscapes

- Continued important sage-grouse habitat restoration and protection activities, including juniper control, shrub-steppe restoration and fuel breaks.
- Completed or initiated a number of noxious weed control and riparian projects as well as shrubland and forest health projects in Idaho.



Seeds of Success

- Idaho Seeds of Success (SOS) has contracted with Idaho Botanical Gardens to help develop germination protocols of native plant species for use in large-scale crop development for native seed demands.
- SOS partners with organizations around the country to collect and preserve native plant diversity.
- Idaho BLM SOS Coordinator participated in international travel to Kuwait, a trip that was paid for by Kuwait. Idaho BLM is assisting and giving advice on native seed collection, restoration of degraded Kuwaiti rangelands and native seed germination protocol development.



Program Highlights

Phosphate Mining

- Continued to supply about 15 percent of the nation's phosphate and 4 percent of the world's phosphate from federal phosphate leases in southeastern Idaho. There are four active mines within the BLM Pocatello Field Office area. In FY 2011, the United States collected approximately \$9.4 million in phosphate production royalties and rent.
- Local phosphate mining and processing produce \$2 billion in value-added products to the United States economy and directly employ over 1,200 people in rural southeastern Idaho.
- Currently, the BLM is processing mine plans for 3 new mines.
- Continued to work with multi-agency stakeholder groups on cleanup of 4 active and 11 inactive Phosphate Mine Sites in southeastern Idaho.

Abandoned Mine Lands

- Inventoried or assessed 55 high safety risk abandoned mine land (AML) sites; conducted monitoring and/or maintenance on 146 hazardous mine opening sites; and closed 25 hazardous mine openings.
- Conducted reclamation on 25 acres within priority watersheds impacted by historic mining.
- Conducted monitoring on 47 AML sites that impact water quality in priority watersheds.
- Assisted in a grant-funded multi-agency cleanup and reclamation project at the Idora Mine and Mill Site. Reclamation included tailings removals, back filling of floodplain areas with clean topsoil, hydro-mulching and in-stream placement of woody debris.

Reclamation of Smoky Canyon Phosphate Mine



Natural Resource

Damage Assessment & Restoration

- Continued working with multi-agency stakeholder groups on the cleanup of Coeur d'Alene Basin Superfund sites in northern Idaho. An interagency restoration team, including representatives from the Coeur d'Alene Tribe, is preparing an EIS to address the Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration Program settlement fund restoration work.
- Finalized the Consent Decree for the Hecla Mining Company settlement. The BLM is working with the Coeur d'Alene Tribe, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the State of Idaho to initiate the restoration process for BLM lands impacted by Hecla mines in the Coeur d'Alene Basin.

Hazard Management & Resource Restoration

- Responded to, and cleaned up numerous illegal dumps and several old dump sites on public lands throughout Idaho. Several old well holes that threatened public health and safety were closed, and emergency stabilization was conducted at the Liberal King Mill site to prevent zinc and lead concentrated mine tailings from entering Pine Creek as a result of post-fire rains and winter snows.
- Inventoried or assessed 169 potential hazardous materials sites. Of these, 112 contained hazardous materials. Forty-four of these sites were buildings that were inventoried for the presence of asbestos containing materials (ACM). Mitigated or remediated 13 hazardous materials sites and 14 other sites that did not contain hazardous materials.
- Conducted monitoring and maintenance activities at 66 hazardous materials sites. Site-specific monitoring for asbestos was conducted at 10 facilities that contained ACM to ensure employees and the public are not exposed to asbestos.

Program Highlights

Mining Law Administration

- Recorded over 33,500 mining claims, a 15 percent increase over the previous year.
- Processed 6 Plans of Operation.
- Conducted 146 inspections of exploration and mining sites.
- Supported reclamation and restoration of the Sink Creek mining site in the Challis Field Office.
- Provided assistance to USFS on preparation of Mineral Report for mining claims in Idaho County.

Energy Projects

- Two major transmission line applications (Gateway West and Boardman to Hemingway) are currently being processed.
- Supported Idaho Geological Survey's geothermal research program by approving the drilling of 5 temperature gradient wells in southeastern Idaho.

Cultural Resources

- Conducted government-to-government consultations with federally recognized Tribes.
- Conducted consultations with the State Historic Preservation Office regarding Section 106 and Section 110 obligations under the National Historic Preservation Act.
- Identified 592 cultural sites from cultural resource inventories of which 172 were evaluated as historic properties eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.
- Completed close to 42 cultural heritage outreach events and products involving over 7,300 participants. Programs include field tours, elementary school presentations, participation in Idaho Archaeology and Historic Preservation month, and construction of interpretive signs and trails.

Travel Management

- Completed the Bear Lake and Soda Hills Travel Management Plans on the Pocatello Field Office.
- Published the Murphy Subregion, Craters of the Moon, and Challis Field Office Travel Management Maps.



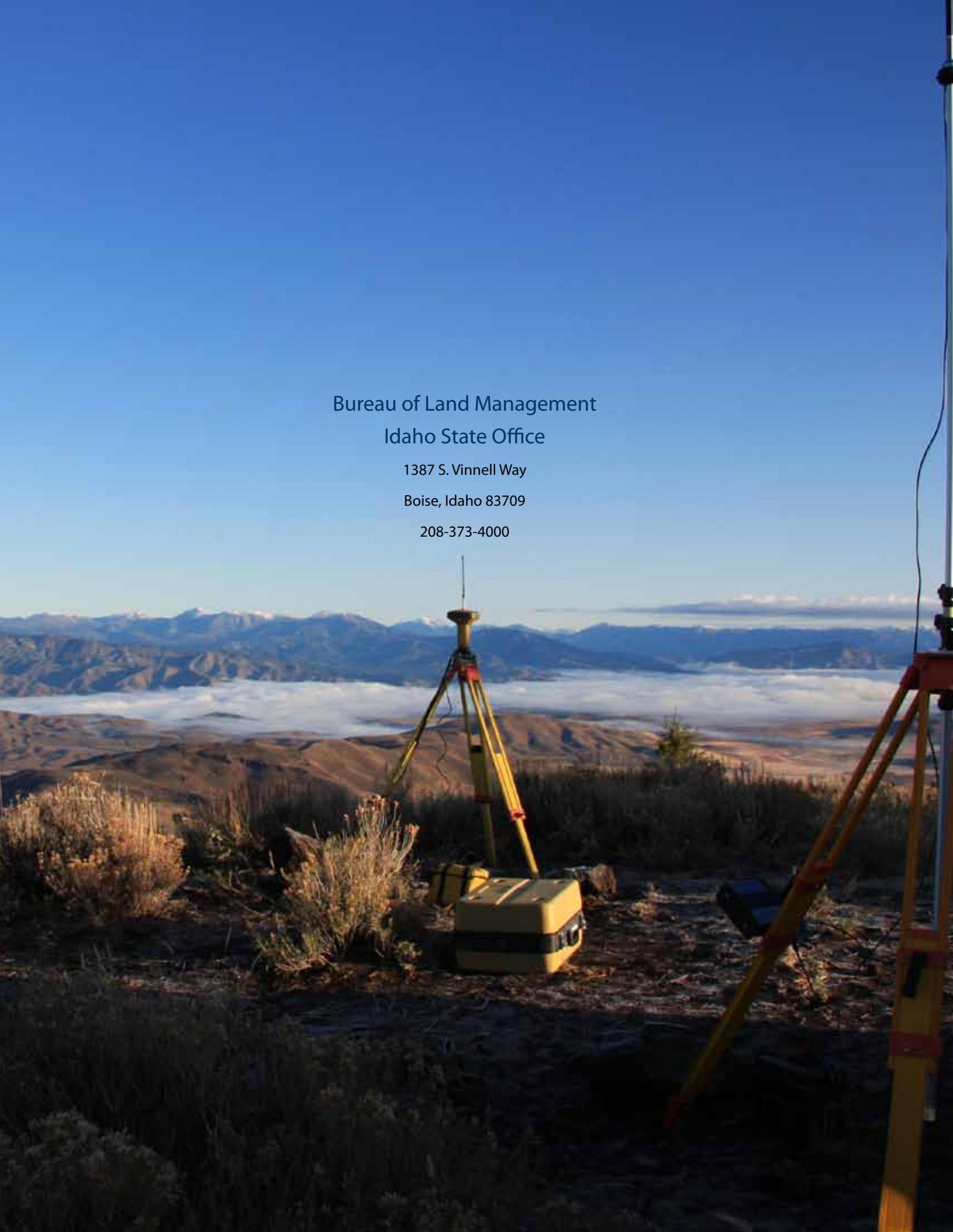
Question-and-answer time with students and parents in Coeur d'Alene

Recreation

- Completed renovation of the Deadman Hole Recreation Site.
- Over 100 volunteers assisted BLM in collecting trash at Blacks Creek Reservoir.
- Launched the Public Land Adventurer Geocaching Program, which combines the use of the global positioning system with interpretation and discovery of public lands.
- Installed a new concrete boat ramp, ADA accessible docks and floating restrooms at Killarney Lake Recreation Site.

Youth in America's Great Outdoors

- Employed 444 youth (Students Career Experience Program, Student Temporary Employment Program, Partner Hires, etc.) during FY 2012.
- Directly reached an estimated 6,500 students through the Environmental Education program. The program included a variety of natural resource and hands-on experiences, including classroom presentations, Eagle Watch, Osprey Cruises, Owl Hoot, Hands on the Land outdoor classrooms, Take It Outside, FIRE Up for Summer and more.
- Provided environmental and cultural education materials and information to over 4,500 Idaho teachers through the partnership-supported EarthTracks newsletter.

A photograph of a mountain landscape with surveying equipment. In the foreground, a yellow surveying instrument is mounted on a tripod. To its right, another tripod is partially visible. A yellow equipment case sits on the ground near the first tripod. The background shows a vast mountain range under a clear blue sky, with a layer of white clouds or fog filling the valley below. The lighting suggests it's either early morning or late afternoon.

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Idaho State Office

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