

Idaho FY 2013 Highlights

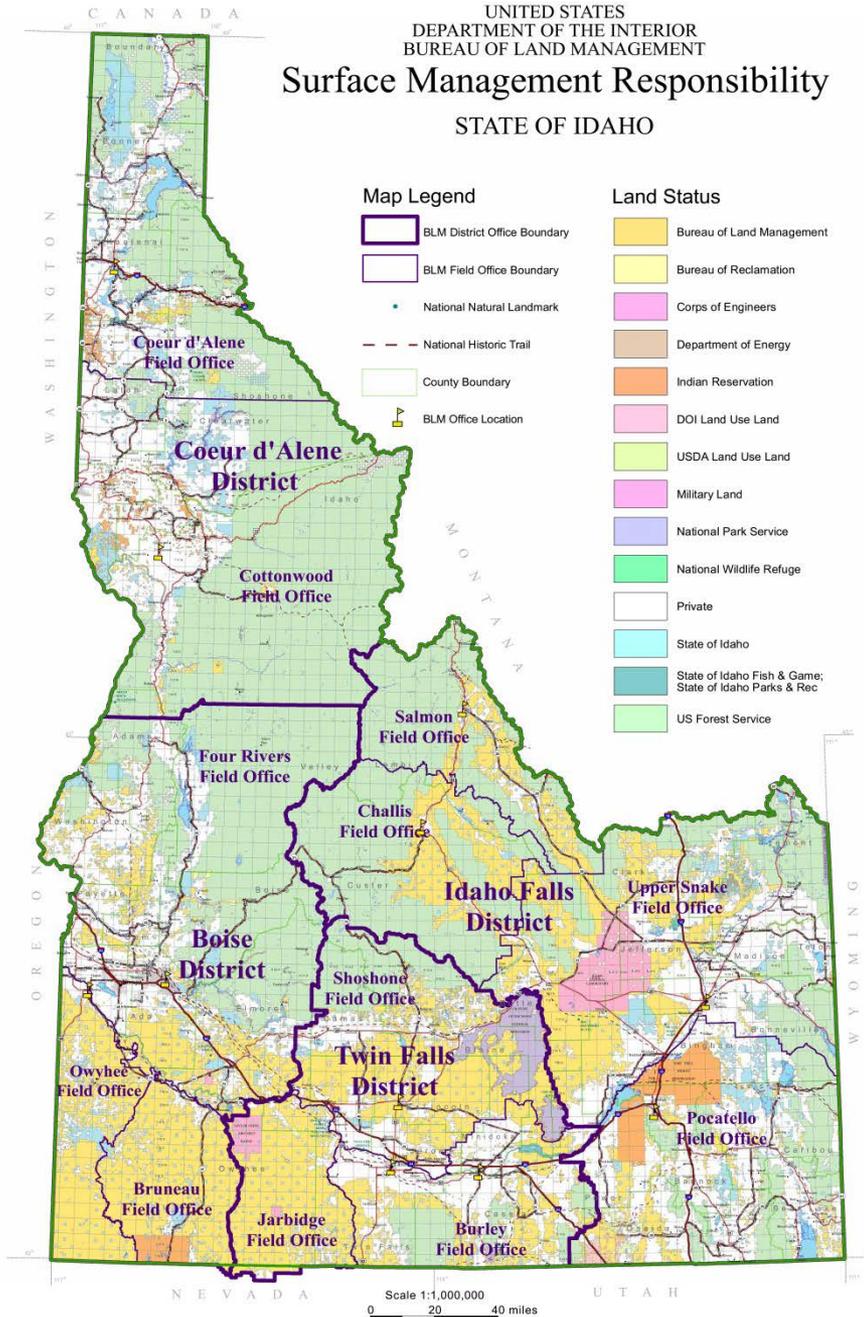
Bureau of Land Management



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Surface Management Responsibility

STATE OF IDAHO



Public Lands in Idaho

- 12 Million Acres
- 4 District Offices
- 12 Field Offices

Stewardship of Rangeland



Completed the Owyhee 68 permit renewals in Owyhee County



Monitoring rangeland health



Ensuring healthy riparian area

Enhancing and Conserving Wildlife Habitat



BLM is partnering to improve Sage-grouse habitat on public land



Planting native grasses on public land in southern Idaho



The Pygmy rabbit is also a species that requires sagebrush habitat

Managing BLM's Newest Wilderness



518,000 acres of Owyhee Wilderness and 325 miles of Wild & Scenic Rivers



Draft Wilderness Plan completed in Feb. 2013



Cherrystem signs and new wilderness kiosks



Providing New Venues for Recreation



Discovery Hill visitors hike and play Frisbee golf



Podcasts include unique facts and history



Celebrating Volunteers!



Swan Falls restoration work



Trail work in scenic wilderness area



Partners Improve Sage-Grouse Habitat



Masticators treating juniper encroachment



Before treatment



Sage-grouse found days after treatment



BLM and Communities Provide Outdoor Learning



Teachers conduct classes in an urban setting





Keeping our Fisheries Healthy

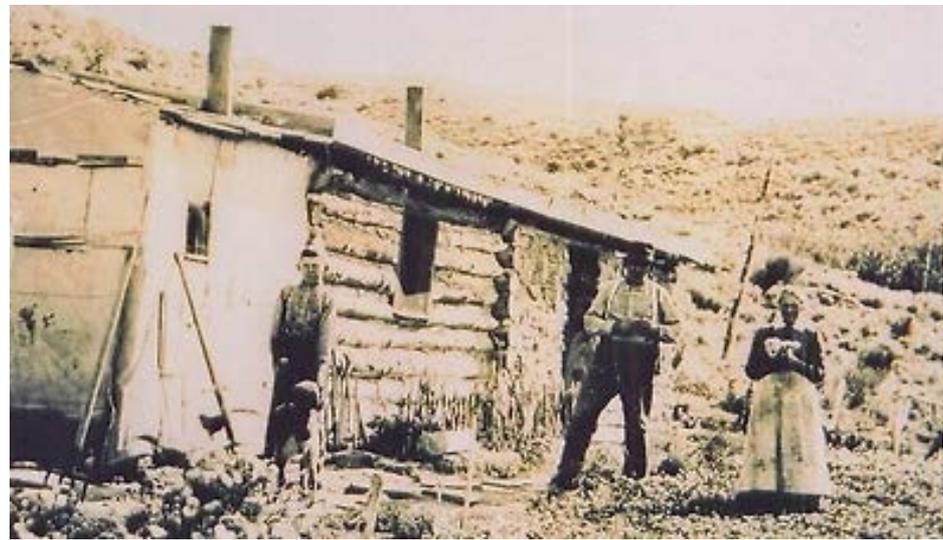
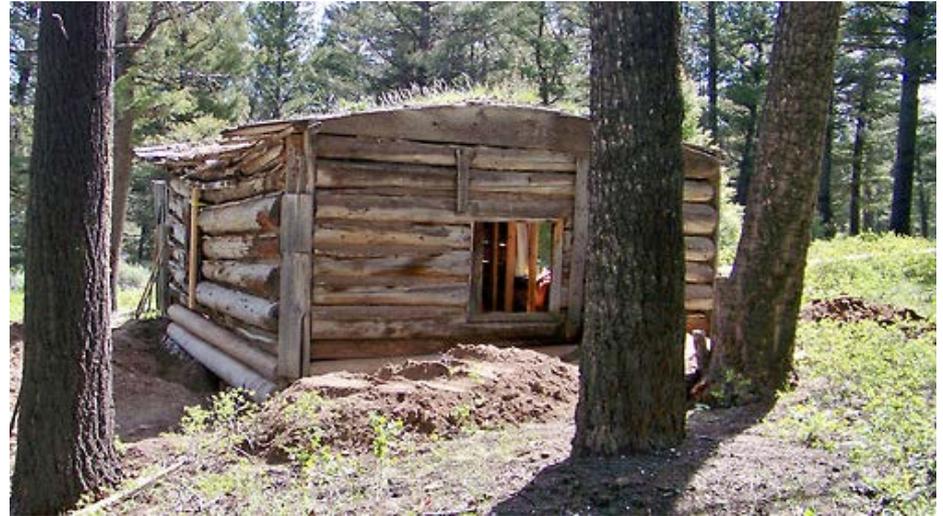


Monitoring for early detection of invasive zebra/quagga mussels

Preserving and Interpreting Special Places



“Ragtown” historic mining site occupied from ca. 1910 to the late 1930s



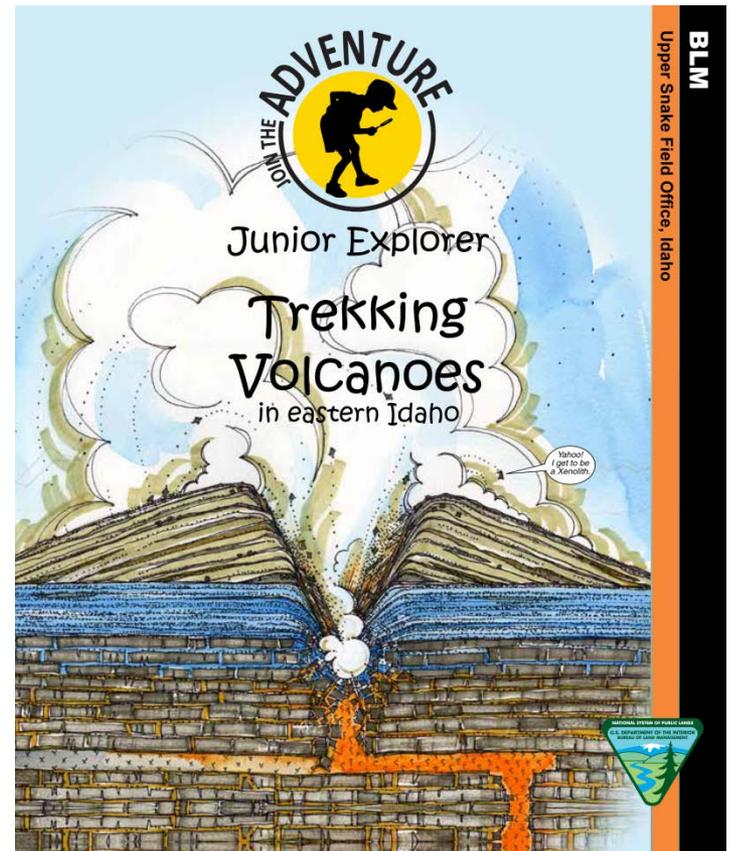
Completed archaeological site record of Compton Homestead

Engaging Our Military and Youth in the Outdoors



Over 200 military and their families participate in free eagle cruises

[Link to Junior Explorer Books Online](#)



Junior Explorer books are filled with fun activities

Caring for Idaho's Wild Horses and Burros



Challis wild horses popular with adopters



Proud adopters at Challis facility



Horse trainer shares gentling techniques

Stewardship of Forested Lands



BLM sold over 27,000 Mbf (thousand board feet) in timber sales



Harvested timber from a stewardship project was used for this cabin



"Mini me" harvests diseased and overgrown timber

Partnering with Rural Fire Protection Associations



Mountain Home association's wildland fire engine



Ranchers participating in wildland fire suppression training

After-Fire Rehab!



Completed 14,000 acres of drill seeding



Results of seed drilling contrasted to adjacent unseeded area



Mining and Minerals Stewardship



Community gravel pit



Community quartzite decorative rock pit



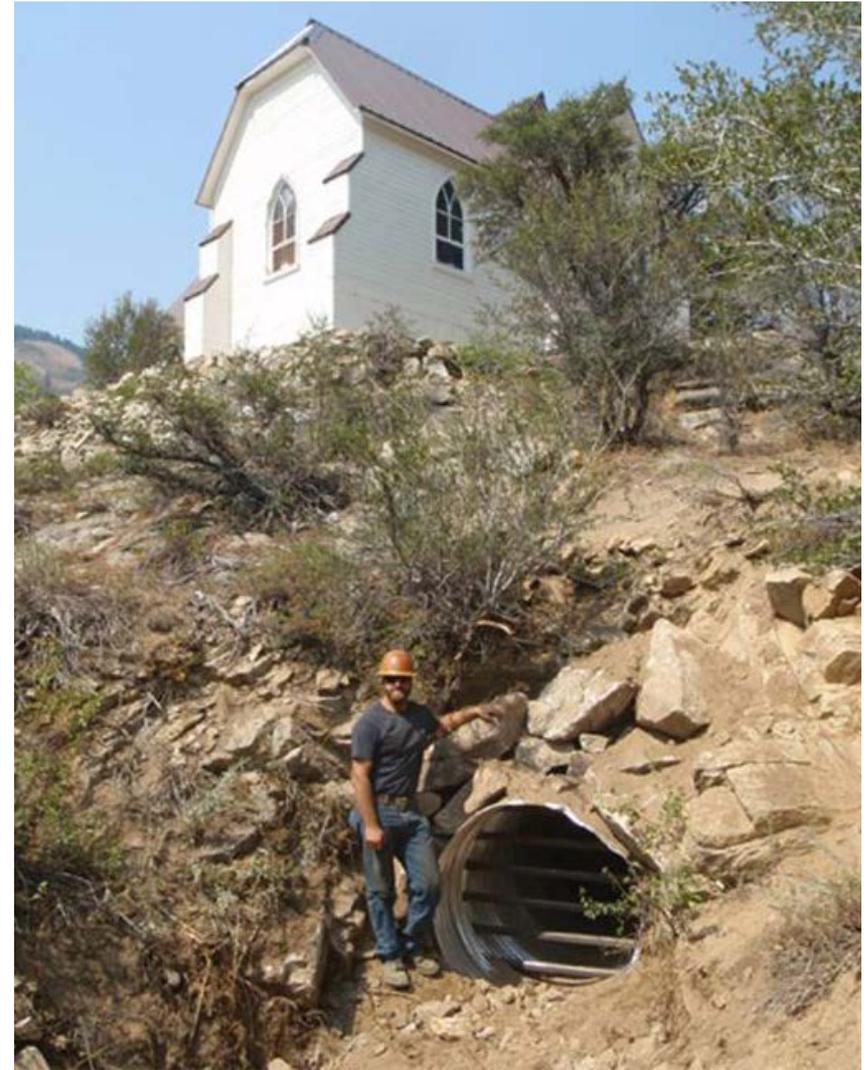
Phosphate mining in southeastern Idaho



Ensuring Public Safety from Hazards



Dangerous mine shaft before bat grate installation



Historic Silver City project after bat grate installation

Protecting Plants while Providing for Recreation



Packard's milkvetch is considered one of the rarest plants in Idaho



Designated routes are open to off-highway vehicle use.

Enjoy and Appreciate Our Public Lands in Idaho

Bureau of Land Management



Bureau of Land Management, Idaho
Fiscal Year 2013

Statewide Highlights

Planning

- Completed the Idaho and Southwest Montana Sub-Regional Sage-Grouse Draft Environmental Impact State (EIS).
- Amendmended the Cascade Resource Management Plan (RMP) to protect an endemic plant species and preclude Endangered Species Act listing.
- Completed the Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve Management Plan Amendment Scoping Report and are preparing the Draft RMP and EIS.
- Preparing Four Rivers Draft RMP and EIS; Jarbidge Proposed RMP and Final EIS; Upper Snake Draft RMP and EIS; and Draft Cottonwood RMP Amendment for Domestic Sheep Grazing and Supplemental EIS.
- Increased partnerships with plant nurseries and federal and state partners for plant production, seed collection and seed increase for keystone sagebrush steppe species.
- Completed seed germination protocols and production of target sagebrush steppe species for restoration projects in partnership with the Idaho Botanical Gardens.
- Continued cross-agency cooperation in development of Threatened and Endangered (T&E) Plant Conservation Agreements.
- Continued surveying and monitoring of Special Status Plant Species.
- Completed over 50 outreach events with participants from diverse demographics. Key event topics include pollination, native plant teaching gardens, sagebrush restoration and fire-wise landscapes.

Botany Program

- Idaho State Office hosted the BLM National Training Center's Seed Collection for Conservation and Restoration Course.

Healthy Landscapes Program

- Continued important sage-grouse habitat restoration and protection activities, including juniper control, shrubsteppe restoration and promotion of native plant materials availability.
- Projects included juniper reduction in sagebrush habitat and shrub planting for restoration of areas burned by the 2007 Murphy Complex fire.

Wildlife Program

- Completed work on the Idaho/Southwestern Montana Greater Sage-grouse Land Use Plan Amendment Draft EIS, including the drafting of an adaptive management strategy.
- Coordinated with the Fire program in the development and implementation of a Resource Advisor's Sage-grouse Toolkit that provides spatial information to fire staff.
- Coordinated with Idaho Department of Fish and Game in data management and data sharing for sage-grouse and other special status species.
- Coordinated with Boise State University and the University of Idaho on pygmy rabbit and sage-grouse habitat research projects.
- Implemented sagebrush steppe restoration projects, including sagebrush planting and juniper control.

- Continued monitoring of listed and BLM sensitive plant and animal species, including sage-grouse, bats, raptors and others.
- Continued collecting native plant seed for sage-grouse and other restoration efforts.

Fisheries Program

- Partnered with the State of Idaho to sample 26 water bodies for early detection of invasive zebra/quagga mussels.
- Continued monitoring fish habitat condition on more than 140 miles of stream throughout Idaho.
- Completed spawning surveys on numerous streams for bull trout, Snake River Basin steelhead and Snake River spring/summer Chinook salmon.
- Monitored the status of 36 populations of native fish across the State of Idaho.

Riparian Program

- Completed lake, wetland, stream and riparian projects, assessments and monitoring throughout Idaho to improve or maintain healthy functioning landscapes. The work completed in FY13 follows:
 - Assessed close to 60 acres of wetlands for proper functioning condition.

- Assessed over 100 miles of riparian areas for proper functioning condition.
- Completed 17 riparian/wetland restoration projects.
- Monitored nearly 100 acres of wetlands for trends in condition.
- Monitored 350 miles of riparian areas for trends in condition.

Forestry Program

- Sold 27,000 Mbf (thousand board feet) in timber sale volume, over 90 Mbf in other saw timber volume and no Stewardship Timber Sale volume for a FY 2013 total timber sale volume of nearly 28,000 Mbf.
- Provided almost 6,000 green tons of special forest products fuel wood, no green tons of stewardship biomass and no green tons of non-stewardship biomass for a FY 2013 total generated biomass of 6,000 green tons of fuel wood and 910 Christmas Trees.
- 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.

Cultural Resource Program

- Conducted government-to-government consultations with federally recognized Tribes.
- Conducted consultations with the Idaho State Historic Preservation Officer regarding Section 106 and Section 110 obligations under the National Historic Preservation Act and prepared the final draft of a revised State Protocol Agreement, pursuant to the national Programmatic Agreement.
- Implemented a statewide cultural resources geodatabase and GPS data dictionary to create consistency of cultural resources spatial data, enhancing data management and workflow efficiencies.

- Identified over 880 cultural sites, from 290 cultural resource inventories evaluating over 89,000 acres of public lands, of which over 240 were evaluated as historic properties eligible and 180 as potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.
- Completed over 40 cultural heritage outreach events and products involving thousands of participants. Programs include field tours; elementary school presentations; participation in Idaho Archaeology and Historic Preservation month; and construction of web-based, multimedia interpretive presentations.

Travel Management

- Obligated funding for travel route inventory in Sage-grouse habitat on the Upper Snake and Jarbidge field offices.
- Similarly, planning funds were obligated under contract for the Boise District (Owyhee Public Lands Management Act Travel Plan), Cottonwood and Coeur d'Alene field offices.
- Two training courses for the "Planning for Travel and Transportation Management" module were delivered to staff on the Boise and Coeur d'Alene districts.

Youth in America's Great Outdoors

- Directly reached an estimated 15,000 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, Desert Discovery Days, Bird by Bird, field trips to the World Center for Birds of Prey and Celebration Park, Cave explorations, youth camps, Envirothon, environmental fairs, fishing derbys and more.
- Provided environmental and cultural education materials and information to nearly 5,000 Idaho teachers through the partnership-supported Earth Tracks newsletter.
- As of the beginning of FY13, a total of 187 youth (BLM Career Interns, BLM Intern Not-To-Exceeds, Partner Hires, etc.) were employed with BLM-Idaho.

Wildland Fire Management

- BLM fire resources responded to over 360 fire incidents within designated protection areas that burned a total of 680,000 acres. BLM-specific incidents totaled over 200 that burned 620,000 acres.
- BLM fire resources responded to a higher number of total fires that burned nearly twice the 10-year average.
- Accomplished 43,000 acres of fuels work, 120 percent of the FY 2013 target. Of this, 42,000 acres were within the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) and 1,300 outside of WUI. The majority of these projects occurred in sage grouse habitat areas and resulted in increased acres available for sage grouse use.
- Critical planning was completed for out-year projects in community watersheds, notably in the areas of Downey and Pocatello. Spatial Fire Management Plans are being designed and considered statewide.
- Existing fuels treatments were effective in changing fire behavior to aid suppression efforts in a variety of locations, both WUI and non-WUI locations.

- Utilization of cost sharing, both private and governmental, enabled implementation of projects despite the significant decrease in fuels project funding from BLM.

Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation Program

- Prepared 24 emergency stabilization and rehabilitation plans. These plans resulted in the following completed drill and chaining seedings treatments, and anticipated aerial sagebrush seedings and additional treatments to the burned areas:
 - 14,000 acres of drill seeding
 - 35,000 acres of aerial seeding
 - 3,000 acres chaining and seeding
 - Over 80 miles of temporary fence
 - Nearly 90 miles of fence repaired
 - 570 acres of aerial mulching and slash cutting erosion control
 - 1,000,000 bitterbrush seedlings planted over the next 3 years for Pony, Stout and Mabey fires
 - 140,000 acres of weed treatment and inventory

Abandoned Mine Lands

- Assessed over 40 high safety risk abandoned mine land (AML) sites, and reclaimed over 20 acres within priority watersheds impacted by historic mining.
- Conducted monitoring and/or maintenance on 220 hazardous mine opening sites, and closed 40 hazardous mine openings.
- Conducted monitoring on 37 AML sites that impact water quality in priority watersheds.
- Decommissioned and reclaimed sites of inactive water treatment facility on BLM, including removal of physical hazards.

Rangeland Management

- Completed permit renewals in accordance with the Court ordered settlement agreement.
- Authorized (billed) over 950,000 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 approximately 97 grazing permit renewals.
- Completed Crossing Permit EAs and issued Livestock Crossing Decisions in conformance with guidance.

Wild Horse & Burro Program

- Successfully completed the Challis Wild Horse Gather of 267 horses, of which 150 were moved to the Boise District Corrals and 117 were released. Of those released, 47 mares were treated with PZP (a contraceptive).
- All sale-eligible Challis wild horses were sold, and all 140 adoptable Challis wild horses were adopted, for a 100 percent adoption rate.
- Completed an environmental assessment for a bait trap gather that will be held at a later date.

Hazard Management and Resource Restoration

- Responded to and cleaned up numerous illegal dumps and several old dump sites.
- Decommissioned and reclaimed an inactive water treatment facility site, including removal of physical hazards.
- Inventoried or assessed nearly 40 potential hazardous materials sites. Of these, over 20 contained hazardous materials.
- Mitigated or remediated nearly 30 hazardous materials sites and 20 non-hazardous materials sites.
- Conducted monitoring and maintenance activities at over 50 hazardous materials sites.

- Involved in CERCLA cleanup at 7 mine sites. EPA and BLM signed an Action Memorandum for the removal action at the Conda Woodall Mountain Mine Site; this is the first of many removal actions that will begin now that Area Wide Investigations have completed on 15 sites.

Phosphate Mining

- During FY 2013, 17 percent of the nation's phosphate ore and 2.5 percent of the world's phosphate was mined from federal phosphate leases in southeastern Idaho. Currently, there are three active mines within the BLM Pocatello Field Office area.
- In FY 2013, the United States collected over \$10 million in phosphate production royalties, rent and bonus bids. Fifty percent of these revenues are dispersed to the State of Idaho.
- Local phosphate mining and processing contributed approximately \$500 million in value-added products to the United States economy and directly employed over 1,800 people in rural southeastern Idaho.
- Currently, the BLM is processing mine plans for three new mines.

- Continued to work with multi-agency stakeholder groups on remediation of four active and eleven inactive phosphate mine sites in southeastern Idaho.

Mineral Materials

- Approximately 130,000 cubic yards of sand and gravel and other road construction materials were removed from 211 free use permit areas by local highway and road districts. The public purchased 40,000 cubic yards of sand and gravel and approximately 40,000 tons of stone from community pits throughout southern Idaho.

Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration Program

- The BLM is working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to represent the DOI as one of the Natural Resource Trustees in the Coeur d'Alene Basin. The "Restoration Partnership" is working with NRDA settlement funds under a joint MOA
- The Restoration Partnership is writing a comprehensive programmatic Restoration Plan for the Basin to guide future restoration. The draft Restoration Plan/EIS is anticipated to be available for public comment this summer, with the final complete at the end of 2014.

- The Restoration Partnership is also working with the EPA in the Basin to integrate restorative measures into current and near-term CERCLA clean-up projects where appropriate.
- In FY2013, BLM used NRDA settlement funds to continue ongoing bank stabilization and riparian planting efforts under a previously approved interim restoration plan for Pine Creek.
- The BLM Idaho State Office continues to coordinate CERCLA and restoration efforts on SE Idaho Phosphate Mine Sites by addressing large-scale contamination issues at four active and eleven inactive sites through the 2000 inter-agency and Tribal initiative.

Mining Law Administration Program

- Completed 35,180 mining claim adjudication actions.
- Recorded 1,678 new mining claims.
- Processed 2 Plans of Operation and 14 mining Notices.
- Conducted 148 inspections of exploration and mining sites.
- Issued contest complaints on 2 “grandfathered” patent applications.

Energy Projects

- Boardman to Hemingway, a major transmission line application, is currently being processed.
- Gateway West, a right-of-way grant, was issued for 8 of 10 of the proposed segments of this major transmission line. Two segments, wholly within Idaho, continue to be processed.
- Completed the EIS and ROD for segments 1-7 and 10 of Gateway West.