

Bureau of Land Management



Montana/Dakotas

*Caring for Our Natural Resources
and
Managing Lands for Public Needs*

Bureau of Land Management

MONTANA/DAKOTAS BLM ACREAGE

Surface Acres

Montana	7,967,416
North Dakota	58,841
South Dakota	274,437
TOTAL	8,300,694

Subsurface Acres

Montana	37,786,213
North Dakota	5,614,146
South Dakota	3,775,726
TOTAL	47,176,085

for breakdown by county, and other links contained in this report, go to <http://www.blm.gov/mt/st/en/info/newsroom.html>

WILDLIFE

Fish and Wildlife Habitat

- 600 species of fish and wildlife
- 3,500 acres of lakes and reservoirs
- 2,500 miles of streams
- 200,000 acres of waterfowl habitat having international importance

Threatened and Endangered Species

- 4 threatened and endangered mammals
- 3 threatened and endangered birds
- 2 threatened and endangered fish

Special Status Species

- Mammals - List updated in 2009
- Birds - List updated in 2009
- Fish - List updated in 2009
- Plants - List updated in 2009

Wild Horses

- Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Range covers 39,651 acres of BLM, Forest Service, National Park Service and private lands.
- 125 adult horses and 20 foals are on the range; 90 to 120 adult horses is the appropriate management level (AML).
- 54 adult horses and 3 foals removed from the Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Range in 2009.
- 55 horses (2 non-Pryor horses) adopted
- 4 horses sold
- 50 compliance checks completed
- 42 animals titled

LANDSCAPE

Rangeland Management

- 4,111 cattle/buffalo operators; 940,566 animal unit months (AUMs) authorized
- 166 horse/burro operators; 4,952 AUMs authorized
- 197 sheep/goat operators; 31,741 AUMs authorized

Wilderness

- 36 Wilderness Study Areas totaling 447,327 acres
 - 173,499 acres in 15 areas recommended for wilderness designation (about .02% of the total BLM-managed land base in Montana/Dakotas)
 - 273,828 acres in 30 study areas not recommended for wilderness designation
- Three Section 202 Wilderness Study Areas totaling 4,376 acres to be studied during the land use planning process
- One 6,347-acre designated wilderness: the Bear Trap Canyon Unit of the Lee Metcalf Wilderness (Montana's first and only designated BLM wilderness area)

Forestry

- 400,000 acres of commercial forest land
- 138,000 acres of non-commercial forest land
- 6,059,400 board feet of timber offered by timber sale contracts
- 1,330,000 board feet of timber offered by stewardship contracts
- 3,001 cords of fuel wood sold
- 504 Christmas trees sold

Forest Development

- 171 acres of site preparation
- 572 acres of site protection
- 877 acres of pre-commercial thinning
- 1,095 acres of commercial thinning
- 108 acres of reforestation
- 777 acres of forest stand conversions

Noxious Weed Management

FY2009:

- 117,403 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).
- 264,407 acres inventoried and mapped for noxious weeds.
- 115,898 acres monitored for Integrated Weed Management evaluation.
- Over 3 million biological control agents distributed to 612 sites.
- Over 6 million biological control agents collected for redistribution to public and private lands.

To date:

- Biological weed control agents established on an excess of 235,000 acres.
- 69 weed management areas in our three state area.
- Interagency agreements in place with Agricultural Research Service and Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service for biological control.
- Cooperative agreements in place with four Montana State University and University of Idaho researchers for biological control.
- Cooperative agreements in place with 44 county weed districts.
- Cooperation with and funding to Montana Education and Awareness Committee results in hundreds of public and agency contacts for weed education.
- Work closely with Montana Department of Agriculture, Montana Weed Control Association, Bureau of Reclamation, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Forest Service.

Report to the Public

Cultural and Paleontological Resources

- 1.4 million acres inventoried to date
- 10,475 cultural properties recorded to date
- 3,525 paleontological localities recorded to date

MINERALS

Solid Minerals

Montana

- 14 producing federal and Indian coal leases on 42,150 acres
- 30,749,208 tons of coal produced, generating \$41,578,118 in royalties

North Dakota

- 4 producing federal and Indian coal leases on 1,301 acres
- 1,052,082 tons of coal produced, generating \$336,393 in royalties

Locatable Minerals

- 1,095 new claims recorded
- 702 claims closed
- \$153,300 new claim maintenance fees received
- \$1,922,700 received for annual maintenance fees and annual assessment fees
- 1,857 claims covered by 407 small miner waivers
- 18,048 unpatented mining claims
- 13 claims relinquished
- 0 claims patented
- 222,144 active and closed unpatented mining claims on record

Fluid Minerals

Federal Oil and Gas Leases Issued in FY 2009

	Competitive		Noncompetitive		Total	
	Number	Acres	Number	Acres	Number	Acres
Montana	158	113,739	31	36,424	189	150,163
North Dakota	239	154,319	4	1,098	243	155,417
South Dakota	19	19,530	1	2,226	20	21,756
TOTAL	416	287,588	36	39,748	452	327,336

Federal Oil and Gas Leases in Effect as of 9/30/09

	Producing		Non-producing		Total	
	Number	Acres	Number	Acres	Number	Acres
Montana	1,441	774,893	2,707	3,261,517	4,148	4,036,410
North Dakota	731	379,113	1,047	588,875	1,778	967,988
South Dakota	79	43,581	101	106,508	180	150,089
TOTAL	2,251	1,197,587	3,855	3,956,900	6,106	5,154,487

Oil and Gas Lease Sales

- 5 competitive oil and gas lease sales held
- 250,987.602 acres in 321 parcels offered
- 212,880.632 acres in 290 parcels leased
- \$75,517,629.50 bonus bids received

Federal Total Reported Royalty Revenues

	Oil		
	Sales Volume (barrels)	Sales Value	Royalties
Montana	3,975,214.26	\$205,983,505.73	\$23,762,744.41
North Dakota	8,096,437.73	\$439,819,155.78	\$49,980,959.70
South Dakota	210,720.02	\$10,797,223.76	\$1,298,412.51
Total	12,282,372.01	\$656,599,885.20	\$75,042,116.62

	Conventional "Wet" Natural Gas		
	Sales Volume (thousand cubic feet)	Sales Value	Royalties
Montana	66,637,160.46	\$106,905,727.01	\$11,976,743.79
North Dakota	6,979,172.46	\$32,810,068.14	\$3,293,365.85
South Dakota	437,513.85	\$1,775,263.80	\$218,376.90
Total	74,053,846.77	\$141,491,058.90	\$12,195,120.69

	Coal Bed Natural Gas		
	Sales Volume (thousand cubic feet)	Sales Value	Royalties
Montana	5,180,609.46	\$19,160,984.60	\$2,055,744.97
North Dakota	0	\$0	\$0
South Dakota	0	\$0	\$0
Total	5,180,609.46	\$19,160,984.60	\$2,055,744.97

All figures from the MMS website at:
<http://www.mrm.mms.gov/MRMWebStats/default.aspx>

SUPPORT FUNCTIONS

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

Construction/Maintenance/Engineering

Condition assessments performed on:

- 11 administrative sites
- 86 recreation sites
- 71 hazard class dams

Annual maintenance performed on:

- 50 administrative site buildings
- 436 recreation site buildings
- 1,701 lane miles of road
- 241 recreation site projects
- 31 administrative site projects
- 4 bridges
- 205 miles of trail

Deferred maintenance performed on:

- 26 recreation site projects
- 4 administrative site projects
- 6 miles of trail
- 1 hazard class dam
- 2 bridges

Other work completed:

- 243 facilities surveyed, designed, or constructed
- 8 architectural and engineering task orders issued

2009

SUPPORT FUNCTIONS

Geographic Information Systems/Mapping Science

- Maintained digital data of various resources and land ownership for resource analysis.
- Completed data preparation and resource analysis for 5 resource management plans.
- Produced detailed maps for various management planning efforts and projects.
- Provided visuals and analyses for public meetings and briefings.
- Provided mapping support for various programs and projects including watershed assessments, fire (LANDFIRE refresh), coal lease applications, etc.
- Multiple 1:100,000 maps edited and revised for automation.
- Provided support for the development of the national invasive species database.
- Provided completed oil and gas field maps and lease sale parcels on website.

Cadastral Survey

- 352 miles resurveyed
- 140 miles approved
- 364 survey monuments set
- 368 survey monuments approved
- 26 plats approved

Geographic Coordinated Data Base

- 568 townships collected
- 346 townships maintained

Volunteers

- 710 volunteers contributed 26,895 hours valued at \$544,624; the cost to Montana/Dakotas BLM was \$31,206.

Fire Management

- 91 wildfires on BLM lands in Montana/Dakotas burned about 1,460 acres. Of these, 32 were human-caused (1,030 acres) and 58 were lightning-caused (430 acres).
- BLM responded to 175 wildfires which burned a total 18,488 acres. Of these, 92 were on BLM lands or threatened BLM lands (17,099 acres); 73 were on other lands protected by the BLM through an agreement (572 acres); and 10 were on lands where BLM may assist through requests (817 acres). ("Responded" means that either initial attack resources responded or dispatch was heavily involved.)
- Of the fires to which BLM responded, 46 were human-caused (16,987 acres) and 129 were lightning-caused (1,501 acres).
- A total of 105 fuels treatments were accomplished on 14,112 acres: 7,818 acres of prescribed burning; 5,184 mechanical acres; and 1,110 acres of chemical treatments.

Law Enforcement and Resource Protection

- MT/DKs special agents, FBI agents and local law enforcement conducted a federal search warrant near Crow Agency, Mont., relating to violations of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. The case was presented to the U.S. Attorney's Office and a civil settlement is in negotiation.

- The South Dakota Field Office and the Bureau of Reclamation (Dakotas Area Office) entered into a cooperative agreement to share one BLM ranger for law enforcement coverage on BLM and BOR lands. This is the first collaborative project in the Montana/Dakotas law enforcement program.
- Investigation completed of a subject who is suspected of committing identity theft and fraud to avoid prosecution in a drug-related case. This resulted in another subject being wrongfully charged. That case was presented to the U.S. Attorney.
- Investigation completed of allegations of theft and trespass to BLM paleontological resources. That case was presented to the U.S. Attorney for Affirmative Civil Enforcement.
- A MT/DKs ranger was involved in the fatal shooting of a suspect engaged in an "active shooting" incident where one victim was killed and two others injured. The ranger was cleared as a result of a Coroner's Board of Inquest.
- MT/DKs special agents, rangers and local law enforcement officers conducted a federal search warrant near Ennis, Mont., relating to timber theft. The investigation was presented for prosecution.
- BLM special agents executed federal search warrants issued under the authority of the Paleontological Resources Protection Act, in Kansas City, Kansas. The case originated with the removal of paleontological resources from BLM-administered lands in the summer of 2008.
- A high profile amateur paleontologist was convicted and sentenced on state and federal charges relating to the theft and transport of paleontological resources from private and BLM-administered lands.
- MT/DKs special agent and the Lewis and Clark County Sheriff's Department continue to investigate the 130-acre human-caused Noble Wildfire north of Helena, Mont.
- MT/DKs special agent and ranger are investigating a potential Archeological Resource Protection Act violation in Dillon, Mont. Costs of the theft and restoration are nearing \$45,000.
- About 70 citations were issued during the annual Sturgis Motorcycle Run.
- Felony arrest made in case initiated on state charges for three counts of Aggravated Cruelty to Animals (felony); one count Unlawful Killing of Wild Horses, and three counts of Property Destruction and Defacement.
- Law enforcement present at gather of Pryor Mountain wild horses. There were no incidents.

PLANNING & ACTIONS

Land Use Planning and Environmental Coordination

- 10 resource management plans (RMPs) cover Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota
- 5 planning efforts in progress: Miles City, HiLine, North & South Dakota, and Billings/Pompeys Pillar resource management plans

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

- 54 Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

Montana/Dakotas

Lands Casework

- 133 rights-of-way and amendments issued; 36 renewed
- 5 permits/leases issued; 2 renewed
- 172 patents issued for Bureau of Indian Affairs
- 1 easement acquisition for 4 acres
- 2 reclamation homestead patents issued for 320 acres
- 1 Forest Service partial revocation of a withdrawal processed for 40 acres
- 1 Forest Service exchange patent issued for 450 acres
- 1 homestead patent issued for 80 acres
- 2 correction patents issued for Forest Service lieu exchanges

- 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
- Cabin rentals in Axolotl Lakes and the Garnet Ghost Town areas

National Monuments

- Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument (374,976 acres)
- Pompeys Pillar National Monument (51 acres)

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 (South Dakota)

National Historic Landmarks

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

Of special interest, our public lands offer:

- Upper Missouri National Wild and Scenic River (149 miles)
- Bear Trap Canyon Wilderness (6,347 acres)
- Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Range (about 38,000 acres)
- Two interpretive/educational centers and many interpretive wayside exhibits

Recreational Achievements and Events in 2009

- Through a partnership with the Yellowstone River Parks Association, the Billings Field Office constructed a volunteer host site at the Four Dances Natural Area. The volunteer host will assist with monitoring the site from April through September. This year's host also built and installed seven benches along the trail on the rims overlooking the Yellowstone River.
- The Interior Board of Land Appeals upheld the Butte Field Office's five travel management decisions from the completed 2009 Butte Resource Management Plan that were under appeal. In addition, Holter Lake Campground now has a new dock, new accessible asphalt walkways, 44 new overnight dock slips, and four courtesy dock slips.
- The Lewistown Field Office installed an interpretive panel featuring the Metis Tribe (mixed blood French/Scottish and Indian people) near Ear Mountain. The dedication ceremony was held in conjunction with National Public Lands Day.
- The Glasgow Field Office installed a vault toilet and three campsites at the new Troika fishing reservoir in south Valley County. The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks has stocked the reservoir with fish, and the campground and reservoir are completely fenced off from livestock.
- Major facility improvements at Pompeys Pillar National Monument include two new vault toilets, interpretive walkways, and an irrigation well. The Pompeys Pillar Historical Association hired its first employee to manage the bookstore.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

Hazardous Materials Management

- Completed follow-up CASHE audits (internal environmental audit program) as scheduled by the CASHE audit team. (Every office gets a follow-up on a 3-year cycle.)
- Completed cultural and bat surveys for physical safety hazard abatement (including adit and shaft closures) associated with abandoned mine lands. Closed 10 hazardous openings with backfill or bat gates as appropriate.
- Disposed of hazardous unused and waste products from the field offices and state office.
- Completed Environmental Site Assessments for Meeteetse Spires and Square Butte land donation and exchange and others.
- Completed inventory of the Maiden Rock Phosphate Mine area. Obtained Recovery Act funding to remediate the area.
- Completed Bundy Island dump cleanup.

RECREATION AND VISITOR SERVICES

In 2009, Montana/Dakotas BLM hosted more than 4.5 million visits and collected more than \$335,165 in recreation fees. These funds are used to improve facilities and visitor services at developed recreation sites.

Our top six recreational activities in 2009, listed from highest to lowest in participation, were:

- Camping and picnicking
- Non-motorized travel (hiking, walking, snow shoeing, skiing, etc.)
- Interpretation, education and nature study
- Fishing
- Hunting
- Off-highway vehicle travel

Montana/Dakotas BLM lands provide a diversity of settings:

- 8.3 million acres of varied landscapes and opportunities
- 2,500 miles of streams
- 60,000 acres of lakes and reservoirs
- 36 Wilderness Study Areas (WSA) and 3 Section 202 WSA sites
- 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

ECONOMIC IMPACTS

Personnel

- 648 total employees: 498 permanent full-time; 56 temporary; 83 career seasonal/part-time; and 11 SCEP (Student Career Educational Program)

SALARIES BY COMMUNITY

Belle Fourche, South Dakota	\$1,351,499
Billings, Montana	\$18,196,278
<i>(includes Pompeys Pillar National Monument)</i>	
Butte, Montana	\$4,129,159
Dickinson, North Dakota	\$2,081,929
Dillon, Montana	\$3,000,791
Glasgow, Montana	\$730,445
Havre, Montana	\$854,166
Lewistown, Montana	\$6,693,337
<i>(includes Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument)</i>	
Malta, Montana	\$1,308,878
Miles City, Montana	\$8,492,048
Missoula, Montana	\$2,550,053
Total	\$49,388,582
Total Budget	\$71,512,443

- The Miles City Field Office completed two American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) projects. A one-mile concrete nature trail was completed at the Howry Island recreation site, and an erosion problem on the nature trail at the Matthews recreation site was corrected. Other projects included installing an interpretive sign at the Calypso Trailhead in the Terry Badlands Wilderness Study Area and hiring a seasonal employee to patrol and monitor the Short Pines OHV area.
- The Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument established an educational outreach partnership with the Salish Kootenai College. The partnership will expose Native American students to possible BLM careers as they gain job experience and earn college credits. The students assisted BLM specialists on numerous river patrols on all 149 miles of the Upper Missouri National Wild and Scenic River.
- The North Dakota Field Office hosted National Public Lands Day at Schnell Recreation Area. About 45 volunteers built picnic tables, removed down wood, chipped limbs into mulch, and cleaned up the Bur Oak Nature Trail. The North Dakota FO also co-hosted the Dickinson Kids Fishing Derby along with the Forest Service and Southwest Anglers Fishing Association.
- Funding from the BLM's Take It Outside program allowed 5th and 7th graders to float the Upper Missouri National Wild and Scenic River and Marias River. These trips include lessons about geology, aquatic ecology, art, journaling, history, and Lewis and Clark.
- The Missoula Field Office hired a term employee to write the history of the Garnet Ghost Town. This historic interpretive area receives more than 33,000 visitors a year from all over the world. Missoula also participated in a site review as part of the national fee evaluation of Montana.
- The Dillon Field Office completed the Windy Point Boat Launch site and an access improvement project at the Storey Ditch Boat Launch site. The Red Mountain Campground and the Trapper Springs Group Picnic areas along the Madison River were also completed. These sites serve over 37,000 visitors annually and are part of a series of river-related recreation sites receiving over 477,000 visitors annually. The BLM partners with the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks to manage this river corridor.
- The South Dakota Field Office restored a portion of the Centennial Trail using ARRA funding. Severe erosion had made the trail impassable, but by year-end, equestrians, mountain bikers, and hikers were all once again enjoying the route. South Dakota also hosted "Primal Quest," a survival-type race. A special recreation permit managed the racers on foot and mountain bike across the Fort Meade Recreation Area.