

# Bureau of Land Management

## MONTANA/DAKOTAS BLM ACREAGE

### Surface Acres

Montana	7,973,234
North Dakota	58,841
South Dakota	274,437
TOTAL	8,306,512

### Subsurface Acres

Montana	37,787,912
North Dakota	5,614,146
South Dakota	3,774,846
TOTAL	47,176,904

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.
- 140 adult horses and 24 foals are on the range, 5 outside the range; 90 to 120 adult horses is the appropriate management level (AML).
- 8 horses (all non-Pryor horses) adopted
- 50 compliance checks completed
- 10 water developments installed on the Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Range
- 1 riparian restoration started

## LANDSCAPE

### Rangeland Management

- 4,100 cattle/buffalo operators; 1,007,835 animal unit months (AUMs) authorized
- 176 horse/burro operators; 5,376 AUMs authorized
- 198 sheep/goat operators; 33,226 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
- 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)
- The Elkhorn Section 202 Wilderness Study Area totaling 3,575 acres was studied during the land use planning process and was provisionally released (but currently retained) as a WSA, pending future Forest Service planning actions on adjacent lands. (If the Forest Service determines that its adjacent lands will no longer be considered for potential wilderness, the BLM will drop this WSA from further consideration as well.) The Beaver Meadow and North Fork Sun River Section 202 WSAs are scheduled to be studied under the Lewistown RMP process.

### Forestry

- 400,000 acres of commercial forest land
- 138,000 acres of non-commercial forest land
- 21,295,531 board feet of timber offered by timber sale contracts
- 1,698,000 board feet of timber offered by stewardship contracts
- 2,747 cords of fuel wood sold
- 231 Christmas tree permits sold

### Forest Development

- 1,060 acres of site preparation
- 23 acres of stand release
- 589 acres of pre-commercial thinning
- 78 acres of commercial thinning
- 20 acres of forest stand conversions

### Noxious Weed Management

#### FY2010:

- 91,018 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)
- 225,459 acres inventoried and mapped for noxious weeds
- 71,782 acres monitored for Integrated Weed Management evaluation
- Over 681,000 biological control agents distributed to 227 sites
- Approximately 3.5 million biological control agents collected for redistribution to public and private lands

#### To date:

- Biological weed control agents established on an excess of 270,000 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 and funding to Montana Education and Awareness Committee resulting in hundreds of public and agency contacts for weed education opportunities

# Report to the Public

- 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

## Cultural and Paleontological Resources

To date:

- 1.4 million acres inventoried
- 10,623 cultural properties recorded
- 3,485 paleontological localities recorded

## MINERALS

### Solid Minerals

Montana

- 13 producing federal and Indian coal leases on 41,998 acres
- 30,213,035 tons of coal produced, generating \$46,316,934 in royalties

North Dakota

- 3 producing federal and Indian coal leases on 1,960 acres
- 238,336 tons of coal produced, generating \$77,638 in royalties

### Locatable Minerals

- 1,229 new claims recorded
- 2,286 claims closed
- \$172,060 new claim maintenance fees received
- \$1,812,470 received for annual maintenance and assessment fees
- 2,066 claims covered by 407 small miner waivers
- 16,474 unpatented mining claims
- 21 claims relinquished
- 0 claims patented
- 223,373 active and closed unpatented mining claims on record

### Fluid Minerals

#### Federal Oil and Gas Leases Issued in FY 2010

	Competitive		Noncompetitive		Total	
	Number	Acres	Number	Acres	Number	Acres
Montana	71	44,577	0	0	71	44,577
North Dakota	31	17,511	0	0	31	17,511
South Dakota	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	102	62,088	0	0	102	62,088

#### Federal Oil and Gas Leases in Effect as of 9/30/2010

	Producing		Non-producing		Total	
	Number	Acres	Number	Acres	Number	Acres
Montana	1,433	769,324	2,021	2,319,096	3,454	3,088,420
North Dakota	801	414,653	929	519,812	1,730	934,465
South Dakota	78	42,591	71	71,723	149	114,314
TOTAL	2,312	1,226,568	3,021	2,910,631	5,333	4,137,199

### Oil and Gas Lease Sales

- 2 competitive oil and gas lease sales held
- 56,956.15 acres in 93 parcels offered
- 56,956.15 acres in 93 parcels received bids
- \$30,218,840.75 bonus bids received

## Federal Total Reported Royalty Revenues

	Oil		
	Sales Volume (barrels)	Sales Value	Royalties
Montana	3,781,234.46	\$253,534,030.78	\$28,453,842.72
North Dakota	10,256,963.69	\$680,308,444.82	\$86,951,547.53
South Dakota	108,594.68	\$7,732,756.08	\$1,272,377.95
Total	14,146,792.83	\$941,575,231.68	\$116,677,768.20

	Conventional "Wet" Natural Gas		
	Sales Volume (thousand cubic feet)	Sales Value	Royalties
Montana	*(16,191,935.32)	\$83,139,259.33	\$9,586,846.46
North Dakota	6,853,381.43	\$32,289,078.31	\$3,562,405.45
South Dakota	328,099.75	\$1,197,397.48	\$146,180.66
Total	(9,010,454.14)	\$116,625,735.12	\$13,295,432.57

	Coal Bed Natural Gas		
	Sales Volume (thousand cubic feet)	Sales Value	Royalties
Montana	4,528,850.03	\$15,549,888.24	\$1,948,614.58
North Dakota	0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
South Dakota	0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total	4,528,850.03	\$15,549,888.24	\$1,948,614.58

\*ONRR has identified a reporting error for Montana statistics. An operator must submit corrected reports before ONRR can correct the statistics. As of 01/03/2011, the correction had not been made.

All figures from the ONRR website at: <http://www.onrr.gov/ONRRWebStats/>

## SUPPORT FUNCTIONS

### FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

#### Construction/Maintenance/Engineering

#### Condition assessments performed on:

- 12 administrative sites
- 62 recreation sites
- 45 hazard class dams
- 27 bridges
- 100 miles of trails

#### Annual maintenance performed on:

- 33 administrative site buildings
- 223 recreation site buildings
- 1,167 lane miles of road
- 249 recreation site projects
- 26 administrative site projects
- 4 bridges
- 242 miles of trail

#### Deferred maintenance and/or construction performed on:

- 112 recreation site projects
- 10 administrative site projects
- 14 miles of trail
- 1 hazard class dam
- 5 bridges
- 20 road projects

# 2010

## **Other work completed:**

- 237 facilities surveyed, designed or constructed
- 6 architectural and engineering task orders issued
- 27 ARRA projects completed

## **Geographic Information Systems/Mapping Science**

- Provided technology support for 5 Resource Management Plans
- Conducted 2 system architecture studies
- Provided project management and technical support to the deployment of the National Invasive Species Information Management System (NISIMS)
- Established replication process for the maintenance of national datasets
- Established a statewide surface and subsurface management dataset and a maintenance program
- Worked with data stewards to identify data sets and establish data standards
- Developed a Geographic Information System Workforce Plan
- Provided GIS applications programming to support resource business processes
- Contributed to the development and completion of Geospatial Science Strategic Plan (GSSP) action plans
- Produced detailed maps for various management planning efforts and projects
- Provided maps and digital data to other government and private entities
- Provided visuals and analyses for public meetings and briefings
- Edited and revised multiple 1:100,000 maps for automation

## **Cadastral Survey**

- 294 miles resurveyed
- 552 miles approved
- 533 survey monuments set
- 969 survey monuments approved
- 76 plats approved

## **Geographic Coordinated Data Base**

- 301 townships collected
- 196 townships maintained

## **Geographic Information Systems/Mapping Sciences**

- 16 1:100,000 maps edited and revised for automation

## **Volunteers**

- 542 volunteers contributed 26,755 hours valued at \$557,842; the cost to Montana/Dakotas BLM was \$35,709.

## **Fire Management**

- During the 2010 fire season, 45 wildfires on BLM lands in the Montana/Dakotas burned approximately 8,746 acres. Of these, 11 were human-caused (876 acres) and 34 were lightning-caused (7,870 acres).
- BLM responded to 118 wildfires which burned a total of 21,681 acres. Of these, 65 were on BLM lands or threatened BLM lands (19,718 acres); 35 were on other lands protected by the BLM through an agreement (1,662 acres); 12 were false alarms; and 6 were on lands where BLM may assist through requests (301 acres). ("Responded" means that either initial attack resources responded or dispatch was involved.)

- Of the fires to which BLM responded, 34 were human-caused (6,130 acres) and 84 were lightning-caused (15,551 acres).
- A total of 85 fuels treatments were accomplished on 12,393 acres: 51 prescribed burns on 7,011 acres, and 34 mechanical treatments on 5,328 acres.

## **Law Enforcement and Resource Protection**

- In January 2010 an amateur paleontologist pled no contest and was fined \$525 for removing paleontological resources from public lands in Garfield County.
- Investigated an Archeological Resource Protection Act violation in Fort Benton, Mont. Costs related to the unauthorized excavation are nearing \$40,000.
- Investigated a potential Archeological Resource Protection Act violation near Sturgis, S.D.
- Investigated the theft of a government credit card and IDs. Two suspects were identified; arrest warrants have been issued.
- Investigated the theft of timber resources. The suspect was indicted for felony theft of government property and false statements.
- Recovered a BLM ATV which was stolen from Pompeys Pillar National Monument in 2009. A suspect has been identified but so far has been uncooperative with the investigation.
- Served a federal arrest warrant related to a defendant that failed to appear for creating a hazard on public lands.
- Investigated a commercial filming violation that occurred within the Missouri River Breaks National Monument. The case was presented for prosecution.
- Investigated an incident involving the potential harassment of wild horses at/near the Pryor Mountain Horse Range.
- Investigated the theft of government property at the Sundance Recreation Area.
- Continued investigation into a potential Archeological Protection Act violation that occurred near Dillon, Mont.
- Investigated a claim that the BLM improperly seized Indian artifacts related to a case that was investigated in 1978. The investigation revealed that the artifacts were seized pursuant to a federal search warrant.
- Arrested 21 and issued 104 citations during the 2010 Sturgis Motorcycle Rally.
- Assisted in a manhunt of an individual who murdered a Montana State Highway Patrolman. The suspect was later found dead on public lands.
- Assisted in the arrest of an individual for criminal endangerment with a firearm after the suspect shot at a group of people who were recreating on BLM-administered lands.
- Assisted the local sheriff's department after an individual was beaten, stabbed and left for dead on BLM-administered lands.
- Assisted the local police department with the felony arrest of two individuals who had been involved in a shooting earlier that day.
- Participated in Operation Alliance; two rangers were assigned to the Rocky Boy Indian Reservation for increased law enforcement presence.
- Assisted the local sheriff's department in an investigation of an individual for felony assault and brandishing a firearm on BLM-administered lands.
- Assisted with security at a town meeting held by BLM Director Bob Abbey in Malta, Mont.

# Montana/Dakotas

## 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 Dakota, South Dakota, and Billings/Pompeys Pillar RMPs

### Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

- 54 Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

### Lands Casework

- 156 rights-of-way and amendments issued; 35 renewed
- 5 permits/leases (includes film) issued; 13 renewed
- 320 patents issued for Bureau of Indian Affairs
- 3 easement acquisitions for 21 acres
- 2 acquisitions funded by Land & Water Conservation Fund for 4,977 acres
- 1 acquisition funded through Federal Land Transaction & Facilitation Act for 38 acres
- 1 donation for 616 acres
- 3 Forest Service exchange patents issued for 1,039 acres

## 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 16 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 three land acquisitions.
- Provided necessary hazmat training for staff statewide.
- Completed contract to remediate the Maiden Rock Phosphate mine area. Remediation will be completed in 2011.
- Completed one dump cleanup.

## RECREATION AND VISITOR SERVICES

In 2010, Montana/Dakotas BLM hosted more than 4.5 million public visits and collected more than \$371,997 in recreation fees. These fee funds are used to improve facilities and visitor services at developed recreation sites.

Our top six recreational activities in 2010, listed from highest to lowest in participation, were:

- Viewing nature, scenery and wildlife
- Non-motorized travel (hiking, walking, snow shoeing, skiing, etc.)
- Camping and picnicking
- Hunting
- Fishing and power boating
- Driving for pleasure

### 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
- 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 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 2010

- In spring 2010, the Billings Field Office and partner Yellowstone River Parks Association placed a volunteer at the newly constructed host site at Four Dances Natural Area.
- The Butte Field Office completed the upgrade for new boat ramps and 48 dock slips at Log Gulch on Holter Lake. Both major campgrounds on Holter Lake are now completed with new ramps, boat slips and courtesy docks. More than 658,300 visitors used these boating and campground areas in 2010.
- The Butte Field Office was recently chosen to coordinate and partner with the National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council and the Motorcycle Industry Council. These partnerships could prove to pay huge dividends in terms of positive publicity, the promotion of responsible motorized recreation, and possible financial assistance for evaluation and maintenance of each area.
- The Dillon Field Office upgraded a number of its most popular developed recreation sites along the Madison River, including paving the boat launch/river access points at the Palisades, Windy Point, and Warm Springs day use sites (all ARRA funding projects). Palisades Campground was reconstructed to better

accommodate modern trailer camping and make all campsites and facilities accessible for people with disabilities. A new boat dock was installed at Kobayashi Beach Day Use area on Ennis Lake, and the ramp was extended for improved access. The Tipton-Winslow Trail in the Centennial Mountains was re-routed and reconstructed to improve hiking and horseback access to the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail and the Centennial Mountains. Travel management signage on designated motorized routes and a sign inventory was completed throughout the area.

- The HiLine District/Malta Field Office completed rehabilitation projects for the Montana Gulch and Camp Creek recreation areas in the Little Rockies mountain range. Visitor safety and resource protection projects were implemented, as picnic tables and signs were replaced and repaired, walking trails within the Camp Creek Campground were marked as closed to OHVs, and fences were maintained. Phase II of this project is planned for 2011 and will include replacement and repairs to boundary fences and the addition of informational signs.
- The Lewistown Field Office continued improvement work on the Ulhorn Trailhead in the Big Snowy Mountains in cooperation with the Lewis & Clark National Forest and the Judith Basin Backcountry Horsemen. Primary work included expansion, grading and base-coat graveling of the parking area. The Ulhorn Trailhead is a primary entrance point for hikers, horseman and hunters to access the Big Snowy Mountains and associated trail system. The BLM plans to complete work on the trailhead in FY11.
- The Miles City Field Office ensured public safety and enhanced recreational experiences at numerous recreation sites by utilizing Montana Conservation Corp (MCC) youth crews. These MCC crews, with assistance from two recreational youth seasonals, removed hazard trees, completed general site cleaning, and sprayed noxious weeds at the popular Howery Island and Matthews recreation areas. The MCC crew, in partnership with Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, also completed facility improvements at Makoshika State Park. BLM staff exposed the MCC crew to the types of careers available within the BLM.
- In keeping with the existing cooperative management of the Blackfoot River, the Missoula Field Office and the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks continued the joint funding of a seasonal river ranger. This position is critical to the effective management of this river with its complex ownership patterns. This ranger makes visitor contacts, collects visitor data, contacts outfitters and guides, completes routine site maintenance and supports emergency services.
- The September 2010 National Public Lands Day event was held at the Fort Meade Reservoir near Sturgis and included planting large trees to provide future shade. Local families and volunteer city employees worked side by side to dig out predrilled holes, fertilize, set the trees, pound posts and attach protective netting. After the trees were successfully planted, all participants were treated to bratwurst and chips, provided by a grant from the Public Lands Foundation.
- The Central Montana District Office signed a memorandum of understanding with the Retired Senior Volunteer Program to provide for coordination in the recruitment, training and participation of volunteers for the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument Interpretive Center. This partnership will provide opportunities for senior volunteers that match their skills and interests, meeting mission goals of each organization.
- The North Dakota Field Office's Fishing Derby was a great community event. Everything went smoothly, and the weather cooperated. The BLM had 320 children registered, 270 adults participating and 40 volunteers assisting with the program for a total of 630 people. Each child received a folding camping chair donated by partners.

## ECONOMIC IMPACTS

- 680 total employees: 545 permanent full-time; 50 temporary; 77 career seasonal/part-time; and 8 SCEP (Student Career Educational Program)

### SALARIES BY COMMUNITY

Belle Fourche, South Dakota	\$1,510,000
Billings, Montana	\$18,370,000
<i>(includes Pompeys Pillar National Monument)</i>	
Butte, Montana	\$4,174,000
Dickinson, North Dakota	\$2,326,000
Dillon, Montana	\$3,464,000
Glasgow, Montana	\$1,023,000
Great Falls, Montana	\$1,156,000
Havre, Montana	\$935,000
Lewistown, Montana	\$6,833,000
<i>(includes Fort Benton, Montana)</i>	
Malta, Montana	\$1,018,000
Miles City, Montana	\$8,878,000
Missoula, Montana	\$2,612,000
Total	\$52,299,000
<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>\$73,241,000</b>

# Bureau of Land Management



# Montana/Dakotas

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



# AN ANNUAL REPORT



**PUBLISHED BY THE OFFICE OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

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**Bureau of Land Management**  
**Montana State Office**  
5001 Southgate Drive  
Billings, Montana 59101  
(406) 896-5011  
[www.blm.gov/mt/st/en.html](http://www.blm.gov/mt/st/en.html)

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# 2010 Montana/Dakotas A Report to the Public

Montana State Office

