BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Montana/Dakotas

2014 Annual Report

YOUR LAND.
YOUR TREASURE.

East Fork Blacktail Wilderness Study Area

BLM

Montana/Dakotas

BLM-Managed Lands and Resources

The Bureau of Land Management Montana/Dakotas *manages about 8.3 million acres of federal lands and about 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 2014.

www.blm.gov/mt

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BLM Montana/Dakotas

MONTANA/DAKOTAS BLM ACREAGE

Surface Acres	
Montana	7,985,093
North Dakota	58,788
South Dakota	267,033
TOTAL	*8,310,914*

Subsurface Acres	
Montana	37,755,972
North Dakota	5,593,410
South Dakota	3,771,657
TOTAL	*47,121,039*

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 fish-bearing lakes and reservoirs
- 2,500 miles of streams
- More than 400,000 acres of grassland bird habitat of international importance
- 68 Seeds of Success collections – focused on sage-grouse forbs
- 65,000 native plant seedlings grown for habitat improvement projects

Threatened and Endangered (T&E) Species

- 3 T&E mammals; 1 proposed
- 3 T&E birds; 2 proposed
- 2 T&E fish
- 2 candidate birds
- 1 candidate plant
- 1 candidate invertebrate

Special Status Species

- 4 amphibians
- 33 birds
- 9 fish
- 3 invertebrates
- 12 mammals
- 17 plants
- 5 reptiles

WILD HORSES

- 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. The appropriate management level (AML) is 90 to 120 adult horses.
- 6 Herd Areas closed to active wild horse management.
- 3 long term holding facilities: 2 in South Dakota administered by the BLM Washington Office and BLM New Mexico; and one in Montana administered by the BLM Washington Office and the BLM Dillon Field Office.
- 1 environmental assessment developed for proposed eco-sanctuary deemed infeasible; no decision record issued.
- 1 population inventory
- 63 mares treated with fertility control by BLM, volunteers and National Park Service.
- 5 range improvement projects maintained on the PMWHR
- 1 Herd Management Area (PRWHR) monitored for rangeland and wild horse health.
- 16 compliance inspections conducted on previously adopted wild horse and burros: 12 in Montana, 3 in South Dakota, and 1 in North Dakota
- 2 law enforcement patrols
- 40 volunteer hours

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). For the fourth consecutive year, all 10 of the BLM Montana/Dakotas' organizational units rated in good condition.
- BLM Montana continues as the lead agency for the Department of the Interior's team for the Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) in the Silvertip Oil Spill on the Yellowstone River. Settlement discussions in conjunction with the Montana State NRDA team and the company began in 2013 and continued in 2014. Settlement is anticipated in early 2015.
- Disposed of unused hazardous products and waste from the field offices and state office.
- Completed environmental site assessments for several land acquisitions/disposals.
- Provided necessary hazmat training for staff statewide.
- Continued to fund water treatment to clean acid rock drainage at the Zortman/Landusky Abandoned Mine Sites in accordance with the Action Memo. The mine sites are designated CERCLA (Superfund) sites managed by the Montana Department of Environmental Quality and the BLM, with the BLM as the lead agency.
- Cleaned up several trespass landfills in the Butte Field Office.

LANDSCAPE

Rangeland Management

- 4,126 cattle/buffalo operators; 1,189,429 animal unit months (AUMs) authorized
- 159 horse/burro operators; 5,294 AUMs authorized
- 191 sheep/goat operators; 33,078 AUMs authorized

Source: FY14 Public Land Statistics

Forestry

- 1,330,000 acres of forest land base
- 883,000 acres of available forest land from forest land base
- 5,809,000 board feet of timber offered by timber sale contracts for $1,803,000
- 46,000 board feet of timber offered by stewardship contracts
- 2,173 cords of fuel wood sold for $11,000
- 316,535 board feet of posts/poles sold for $3,000
- 411 Christmas trees sold for $1,700
- 5,500 pounds of boughs sold
- 8 transplants/ornamentals sold
- 9,550 tons of biomass offered

Forest Development

- 163 acres of reforestation
- 135 acres of site preparation
- 1,365 acres of site protection
- 20 acres of Genetic Improvement Trees planted (whitebark pine rust-resistant)
- 20 acres of stand release
- 1,917 acres of pre-commercial thinning
- 1,012 acres of commercial thinning

CULTURAL AND PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES

- 1.4 million acres inventoried to date
- 11,590 cultural properties recorded to date
- 3,500 paleontological localities recorded to date

HiLine District Office area

PLANNING & ACTIONS

Land Use Planning and Environmental Coordination

- 11 resource management plans (RMPs) currently cover Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota
- 4 planning efforts are in the later stages of revision: Miles City, HiLine, South Dakota and Billings/Pompeys Pillar RMPs
- 1 planning effort is in the early stages of revision: Lewistown RMP

LANDS CASEWORK

- 117 rights-of-way processed
- 10 permits/leases processed (includes film permits)
- 177 patents issued for Bureau of Indian Affairs
- 131 patents issued for special legislation sales (Fort Peck cabin sites)
- 2 Forest Service sale patents issued for 4 acres
- 13 withdrawal applications pending, for 62,957 acres

CONSTRUCTION/MAINTENANCE/ENGINEERING

Condition assessments performed on:

- 46 hazard class dams
- 23 bridges

Annual maintenance performed on:

- 275 administrative site and recreation site buildings
- 657 lane miles of road
- 260 recreation and administrative site projects
- 15 bridges
- 194 miles of trail

Deferred maintenance and/or construction performed on:

- 33 recreation and administrative site projects
- 11 miles of trail
- 3 dam projects

Other work completed:

- 316 facilities surveyed, designed or constructed
- 10 architectural and engineering task orders issued
- 61 radio sites –equipment maintained
- 15 radio sites-radio infrastructure CASHE audits performed

CADASTRAL SURVEY

- 139 miles resurveyed
- 258 miles approved
- 162 survey monuments set
- 137 survey monuments approved
- 53 plats approved

BLM Montana/Dakotas

FIRE MANAGEMENT

- The BLM was involved with 115 fires that burned a total of 6,658 acres in Montana and the Dakotas.
- Of these fires, 96 burned a total of 4,628 acres of BLM lands: 65 were started by lightning and burned 2,212 acres; 31 were human-caused and burned 2,416 acres.
- The BLM sent tactical firefighting resources to 94 fires. The BLM responded to 17 fires that burned 2,031 acres of other lands that the BLM protects under agreement. Cooperating agencies, under agreement, responded to 19 fires that started on or involved BLM land. These fires burned 242 acres of BLM lands.
- A total of 74 fuels treatments were accomplished on 16,411 acres: 30 prescribed burns on 9,705 acres and 44 mechanical treatments on 6,706 acres.
- The Community Assistance program had a very busy year updating Assistance Agreements with our cooperators. Program activities resulted in more than 600 prevention and education events, reaching nearly 25,000 people with the fire message. Efforts to reduce the threat of wildfire to communities resulted in 1,420 non-federal acres of fuel reduction, reducing the wildfire threat to more than 360 buildings. The BLM-funded veterans program continues to be well received and attract national attention.

BLM firefighter

ECONOMIC IMPACTS

Employment

- 480 permanent full-time; 18 temporary; 106 career-seasonal/ part-time; 14 intern/indefinite; 618 total.

Volunteers

- 824 volunteers contributed 46,469 hours valued at $1,047,875; the cost to Montana/Dakotas BLM was $67,734.

Field trip with a BLM paleontologist

SALARIES BY COMMUNITY *October 1, 2013 - September 30, 2014*	
Belle Fourche, South Dakota	$1,568,000
Billings, Montana *(includes Pompeys Pillar)*	$17,128,000
Butte, Montana	$4,215,000
Dickinson, North Dakota	$3,310,000
Dillon, Montana	$3,228,000
Glasgow, Montana	$978,000
Great Falls, Montana	$962,000
Havre, Montana	$889,000
Lewistown, Montana *(includes Fort Benton, Mont.)*	$6,465,000
Malta, Montana	$1,568,000
Miles City, Montana	$7,978,000
Missoula, Montana	$2,425,000
Total	$50,714,000

TOTAL BUDGET $78,042,000

SOLID MINERALS

Montana

- 16 producing federal and Indian coal leases on 42,430 acres
- 26,461,301 tons of coal produced, generating $46,834,974 in royalties

North Dakota

- 5 producing federal and Indian coal leases on 7,774 acres
- 4,900,622 tons of coal produced, generating $2,230,650 in royalties

LOCATABLE MINERALS

- 1,155 new claims recorded
- 1,977 claims closed
- 1,492 claims covered by 401 small miner waivers
- 2,847 unpatented mining claims
- 11 claims relinquished
- 0 claims patented
- 18,193 unpatented mining claims
- 228,061 active and closed unpatented mining claims on record

FLUID MINERALS

Oil and Gas Lease Sales

- 4 competitive oil and gas lease sales held
- 53,995.25 acres in 220 parcels offered
- 53,035.25 acres in 217 parcels sold
- $23,969,671.00 bonus bids received

FEDERAL OIL & GAS LEASES ISSUED IN FY2014

	Competitive		Noncompetitive		Total	
	Number	Acres	Number	Acres	Number	Acres
Montana	17	3,399	10	11,236	27	14,635
North Dakota	68	10,866	0	0	68	10,934
South Dakota	130	38,251	2	476	132	38,727
TOTAL	215	52,516	12	11,712	227	64,296

FEDERAL OIL & GAS LEASES IN EFFECT AS OF 9/30/14

	Producing		Non-producing		Total	
	Number	Acres	Number	Acres	Number	Acres
Montana	1,446	766,544	1,923	1,829,585	3,369	2,596,129
North Dakota	1,189	570,060	928	459,783	2,117	1,029,843
South Dakota	79	44,589	349	148,409	428	192,998
TOTAL	2,714	1,381,193	3,200	2,437,777	5,914	3,818,970

FEDERAL TOTAL REPORTED ROYALTY REVENUES

Oil			
	Sales Volume (barrels)	Sales Value	Revenues
Montana	2,655,077.58	$232,437,063.61	$26,605,884.77
North Dakota	17,758,781.88	$1,578,994,897.73	$194,965,534.58
South Dakota	154,994.69	$13,749,719.69	$1,734,082.10
TOTAL	20,568,854.15	$1,825,181,681.03	$223,305,501.45
Conventional "Wet" Natural Gas			
	Sales Volume (thousand cubic feet)	Sales Value	Revenues
Montana	12,427,621.88	$52,405,336.26	$7,441,163.47
North Dakota	9,661,187.59	$62,507,953.55	$7,604,050.09
South Dakota	114,273.53	$396,093.72	$46,064.45
TOTAL	22,203,083.00	$115,309,383.53	$15,091,278.01
Coal Bed Natural Gas			
	Sales Volume (thousand cubic feet)	Sales Value	Revenues
Montana	35,589.84	$123,603.04	($106,551.35)
North Dakota	0	0	0
South Dakota	0	0	0
TOTAL	35,589.84	$123,603.04	($106,551.35)

All FY 2014 FEDERAL TOTAL REPORTED ROYALTY REVENUES figures from the ONRR website at: http://statistics.onrr.gov/

RECREATION & VISITOR SERVICES *and* NATIONAL CONSERVATION LANDS

In 2014, BLM Montana/Dakotas hosted more than 5 million public visits and collected more than $494,910 in recreation fees. These fee funds are used to improve facilities and visitor services at developed recreation sites.

Our top six recreational activities in 2014, listed from highest to lowest in participation, are:

- Interpretation/environmental education/nature study
- Non-motorized travel (hiking, walking, snow shoeing, skiing, etc.)
- Camping/picnicking
- Hunting – all types
- Driving for pleasure
- Fishing

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
- 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 at Axolotl Lakes, Henneberry House, and Garnet Ghost Town
- Garnet Ghost Town and Visitor Center (Missoula Field Office)

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 (South Dakota)

National Historic Landmarks

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

Of special interest, our public lands offer:

- 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
- Numerous interpretive wayside exhibits

Wilderness and Wilderness Study Areas

- 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)
- 39 Wilderness Study Areas totaling over 450,000 acres

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

- *54 ACECs*

Recreation Highlights from 2014

- The BLM recently joined the Public Lands Foundation in awarding the Montana Conservation Corps the Landscape Stewardship Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of its outstanding contributions to public lands. The BLM/MCC partnership enables the BLM to focus on several key goals involving youth, leadership, and public land stewardship. In the last three years, nearly 500 youth have served more than 15,000 hours on projects such as planting trees and shrubs; treating noxious weeds; restoring sagebrush, grassland and riparian environments; constructing and maintaining trails; removing old fences and building new ones; installing signs; and inventorying and stabilizing cultural resources.

Montana Conservation Corps constructs a trail at Log Gulch

Hands on the Land Field Trip, Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument

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Bureau of Land Management
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