

Bureau of Land Management

Report to the Public

2011

Montana/Dakotas

MONTANA/DAKOTAS BLM ACREAGE

Surface Acres		Subsurface Acres	
Montana	7,813,106	Montana	37,777,178
North Dakota	58,841	North Dakota	5,614,146
South Dakota	274,437	South Dakota	3,774,846
TOTAL	8,146,384	TOTAL	47,166,170

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
- More than 400,000 acres of grassland bird habitat of international importance

Threatened and Endangered Species

- 3 threatened and endangered mammals
- 3 threatened and endangered birds
- 2 threatened and endangered fish
- 1 candidate mammal
- 3 candidate birds
- 1 candidate 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 consists of 39,651 acres of BLM, Forest Service, National Park Service and private lands in Montana and Wyoming.
- 150 adult horses and 17 foals are on the range; 90 to 120 adult horses is the appropriate management level (AML).
- 2 water developments installed on the range.
- 2 riparian restoration projects completed.
- 53 mares treated with fertility control.
- 21 animals adopted: 20 non-Pryor wild horses or burros and one nuisance Pryor wild horse.
- 40 compliance checks completed for Montana (32), North Dakota (2), and South Dakota (6).

LANDSCAPE

Rangeland Management

- 4,097 cattle/buffalo operators; 958,085 animal unit months (AUMs) authorized
- 173 horse/burro operators; 5,083 AUMs authorized
- 188 sheep/goat operators; 31,351 AUMs authorized

Forestry

- 400,000 acres of commercial forest land
- 138,000 acres of non-commercial forest land
- 9,405,000 board feet of timber offered by timber sale contracts
- 298,000 board feet of timber offered by stewardship contracts
- 2,381 cords of fuel wood sold
- 1,255 posts/poles sold
- 697 Christmas trees sold
- 3,520 pounds of boughs sold
- 567 transplants/ornamentals sold

Forest Development

- 195 acres of reforestation
- 150 acres of site preparation
- 609 acres of site protection
- 80 acres of stand release
- 1,244 acres of pre-commercial thinning
- 816 acres of commercial thinning
- 100 acres of forest stand conversions

Noxious Weed Management

FY2011:

- 82,573 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)
- 256,514 acres inventoried and mapped for noxious weeds
- 95,022 acres monitored for Integrated Weed Management evaluation
- More than 600,000 biological control agents distributed to approximately 200 sites
- About two million biological control agents collected for redistribution to public and private lands

To date:

- Biological weed control agents established on more than 250,000 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 results in hundreds of public and agency contacts for weed education opportunities
- 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

- 1.4 million acres inventoried to date
- 10,733 cultural properties recorded to date
- 3,900 paleontological localities recorded to date

MINERALS

Solid Minerals

Montana

- 11 producing federal and Indian coal leases on 40,822 acres
- 28,595,944 tons of coal produced, generating \$48,138,098 in royalties

North Dakota

- 5 producing federal and Indian coal leases on 7,454 acres
- 2,141,081 tons of coal produced, generating \$828,240 in royalties

Locatable Minerals

- 2,014 new claims recorded
- 1,106 claims closed
- \$281,960 new claim maintenance fees received
- \$1,966,130 in fees received for annual maintenance fees and annual assessment fees
- 1,860 claims covered by 453 small miner waivers
- 17,008 unpatented mining claims
- 373 claims relinquished
- 0 claims patented
- 221,610 active and closed unpatented mining claims on record

Fluid Minerals

Federal Oil and Gas Leases Issued in FY 2011

	Competitive		Noncompetitive		Total	
	Number	Acres	Number	Acres	Number	Acres
Montana	76	46,718	20	20,734	96	67,452
North Dakota	207	78,941	0	0	207	78,941
South Dakota	25	12,863	0	0	25	12,863
TOTAL	308	138,522	20	20,734	328	159,256

Federal Oil and Gas Leases in Effect as of 9/30/11

	Producing		Non-producing		Total	
	Number	Acres	Number	Acres	Number	Acres
Montana	1,419	759,468	2,077	2,319,470	3,496	3,078,938
North Dakota	864	447,592	1,105	577,413	1,969	1,025,005
South Dakota	78	42,591	92	78,420	170	121,011
TOTAL	2,361	1,249,651	3,274	2,975,303	5,635	4,224,954



Oil and Gas Lease Sales

- 4 competitive oil and gas lease sales held
- 207,969.464 acres in 384 parcels offered
- 140,000.374 acres in 312 parcels received bids
- \$109,908,701.50 bonus bids received

Federal Total Reported Royalty Revenues

	Oil		Royalties
	Sales Volume (barrels)	Sales Value	
Montana	3,345,611.08	\$279,641,078.50	\$32,212,195.92
North Dakota	17,214,868.54	\$1,417,468,509.44	\$201,246,689.27
South Dakota	*(87,439.23)	\$987,205.47	\$1,687,288.80
TOTAL	20,473,040.39	\$1,698,096,793.41	\$235,146,173.99

Conventional "Wet" Natural Gas

	Sales Volume (thousand cubic feet)	Sales Value	Royalties
	Montana	19,460,144.80	\$62,052,950.54
North Dakota	7,032,907.46	\$35,452,870.56	\$3,725,104.42
South Dakota	240,368.13	\$811,786.29	\$98,817.57
TOTAL	26,733,420.39	\$98,317,607.39	\$10,995,124.52

Coal Bed Natural Gas

	Sales Volume (thousand cubic feet)	Sales Value	Royalties
	Montana	2,981,264.99	\$9,624,077.45
North Dakota	0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
South Dakota	0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
TOTAL	2,981,264.99	\$9,624,077.45	\$1,320,418.04

* The ONRR has identified a reporting error for South Dakota statistics. An operator must submit corrected reports before the ONRR can correct the statistics. All royalty revenues figures from the ONRR website at: <http://www.onrr.gov/ONRRWebStats>

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 60 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 remediation at the Maiden Rock Phosphate mine area.
- Completed several dump cleanups.

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 resource management plans

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

- 54 Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

Lands Casework

- 62 rights-of-way and amendments issued; 24 renewed
- 10 permits/leases (includes film) issued; 7 renewed
- 661 patents issued for Bureau of Indian Affairs
- 104 patents issued for special legislation sales (Fort Peck cabin sites)
- 1 Recordable Disclaimer of Interest issued for 148 acres
- 1 easement acquisition for 1 acre
- 2 acquisitions funded by Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) for 559 acres
- 1 acquisition funded through Federal Land Transaction & Facilitation Act and LWCF for 66 acres
- 1 donation for 6 acres
- 4 Forest Service exchange patents and 1 quitclaim deed issued for 10,530 acres

SUPPORT FUNCTIONS

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

Construction/Maintenance/Engineering

Condition assessments performed on:

- 21 administrative sites
- 80 recreation sites
- 41 hazard class dams
- 11 bridges
- 394 miles of roads

Annual maintenance performed on:

- 36 administrative site buildings
- 214 recreation site buildings
- 749 lane miles of road
- 198 recreation site projects
- 26 administrative site projects
- 3 bridges
- 264 miles of trail

Deferred maintenance and/or construction performed on:

- 65 recreation site projects
- 5 administrative site projects
- 7 miles of trail
- 5 road projects

Other work completed:

- 534 facilities surveyed, designed or constructed
- 7 architectural and engineering task orders issued
- 8 ARRA projects completed

CADAstral SURVEY

- 327 miles resurveyed
- 317 miles approved
- 549 survey monuments set
- 802 survey monuments approved

GEOGRAPHIC COORDINATED DATA BASE

- 414 townships collected
- 303 townships maintained

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS/MAPPING SCIENCE

- Provided project management and technical support for the deployment of the National Invasive Species Information Management System.
- Produced detailed maps for various management planning efforts and projects.
- Provided maps and digital data to other government partnerships and private entities.
- Provided visuals and analyses for public meetings and briefings.
- 16 1:100,000 maps edited and revised for automation
- Provided GIS data, analytic, mapping and presentation support for the South Dakota, HiLine, Billings and Miles City resource management plans (RMPs).
- Provided GIS support as needed.
- Provided GIS data layers for lease stipulations and conditions of approval for analytical work on Applications for Permit to Drill (APDs). More than 300 APDs were approved in fiscal year 2011. The division of minerals staff utilizes the GIS oil and gas data to complete many aspects of their work
- Generated maps for use in the Montana State Office public room.

VOLUNTEERS

- 476 volunteers contributed 32,657 hours valued at \$697,554; the cost to Montana/Dakotas BLM was \$50,561.



FIRE MANAGEMENT

- During the 2011 fire season, 52 wildfires burned about 16,731 acres on BLM lands in the Montana/Dakotas (15 wildfires on BLM lands were suppressed by another agency that had suppression responsibility under a co-op agreement/contract). Of these, 22 were human-caused (26 acres) and 30 were lightning-caused (16,705 acres).
- The BLM responded to a total of 116 wildfires which burned a total 62,516 acres. Of these, 68 were on BLM lands or threatened BLM lands and burned a total of 50,477 acres; 37 were on other lands protected by the BLM through an agreement and burned 9,413 acres; 7 were on lands where

BLM may assist through requests and burned 2,626 acres; and 4 responses were to false alarms. "Responded" means that either initial attack resources responded or dispatch was involved.

- Of the 116 fires to which the BLM responded, 29 were human-caused (278 acres); 83 were lightning-caused (62,238 acres); and 4 were not classified (false alarms).
- A total of 69 fuels treatments were accomplished on 12,877 acres: 53 treatments on 9,997 acres in the wildland-urban interface and 16 treatments on 2,880 acres of ecosystem restoration. About 5,346 acres of these treatments used prescribed fire and 7,531 acres used mechanical treatments.

THE NATIONAL LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION SYSTEM (NLCS) AND RECREATIONAL VISITOR SERVICES

In 2011, Montana/Dakotas BLM hosted more than 4.3 million public visits. We collected more than \$388,000 in recreation fees and spent \$267,000 of this fee money enhancing developed recreation sites and permitted recreation areas. Additional fee funds will be spent in fiscal year 2012 to improve facilities and visitor services at developed recreation sites and resource improvement at dispersed recreation areas.

Our top six recreational activities in 2011, listed from highest to lowest in participation, were:

- Viewing nature, scenery, wildlife and interpretive exhibits
- Camping and picnicking
- Non-motorized travel (hiking, walking, snow shoeing, skiing, etc.)
- 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
- 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
- Two state-of-the-art interpretive centers at Upper Missouri River Breaks and Pompeys Pillar National Monuments
- Garnet Ghost Town and Visitor Center (Missoula Field Office)

National Monuments

- Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument (374,976 acres) <http://www.blm.gov/mt/st/en/fo/umrblnm.html>
- Pompeys Pillar National Monument (51 acres) http://www.blm.gov/mt/st/en/fo/billings_field_office/pompeyspillar.html

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

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, 120 of which 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)



Recreational and NLCS Achievements in 2011

- Two students completed 12-week internships in the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument through the Student Conservation Association. Another program gave college-bound students from the Blackfoot and Chippewa-Cree nations the opportunity to travel, learn, work and interact in a setting unique to anything they had previously encountered.
- The BLM Butte Field Office was one of only two field offices nationwide selected to participate in a pilot project for off-highway riding areas sponsored by advocates of the sport. This partnership will continue to improve recreation opportunities and experiences at the popular Pipestone OHV area. The BLM is currently working with the National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council to create a "Friends of Pipestone" group to help with general maintenance tasks in the area.
- Much time and effort was spent monitoring and stabilizing Reservoir 12, a Watchable Wildlife area north of Zurich which washed out during the spring floods.



- The Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument completed the new Coal Banks Landing Visitor Contact Station and campground. The upgrade was initiated as an American Recovery and Reinvestment Act project in the fall of 2010 and completed in May 2011.
- The Billings Field Office began construction of a mountain bike trail system at the Acton Recreation Area and new non-motorized trails at the Sundance Recreation Area, Meetetse Spire Area, and the Willow Lake Access Trail. These projects were all designed with the active support of advocate groups and volunteers, and two were National Public Lands Day events.
- About 110 riders competed in the Fort Meade Remount Endurance Ride at the Fort Meade Recreation Area in South Dakota.
- Two youth seasonal workers assisted with site maintenance and visitor protection at recreational areas damaged by heavy flooding in the Miles City Field Office area. Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks partnered with BLM to open the boat ramp at Howrey Island where visitor use was still high.
- Several wooden picnic tables and wooden structures at the Camp Creek and Montana Gulch campgrounds were repaired and repainted.
- Volunteers provided kids of all ages with fun and educational activities at Garnet Ghost Town. Most of the town's 16,000 annual visitors come in the summer, but some ski or snowmobile to the town in the winter and stay in one of the two rental cabins.
- A vault toilet and entering/leaving public lands signs were installed at the Glasgow OHV recreation area. A picnic area will be the next upgrade at this popular site.
- The Miles City, North Dakota, and South Dakota field offices completed their Visual Resource Inventory under a contract to identify factors such as scenic quality, sensitivity analysis, and distance zones on approximately three million BLM-administered surface acres. Key features within the inventory included the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail along the Missouri and Yellowstone rivers, wilderness study areas, and the Big Sky Back Country Byway.
- The Lewistown Field Office conducted several outdoor education programs to connect youth to our nation's lands and waters. More than 350 youth in grades 1-8 participated.
- The Dillon Field Office reconstructed about eight miles of trail in the Bear Trap Wilderness and surrounding BLM lands through a partnership with the U.S. Forest Service and with assistance of Montana Conservation Corps crews.
- Improvements in the Chain of Lakes Special Recreation Management Area included an overflow parking lot at Holter Lake which created 50 additional parking spots, and chip seal projects at both the Log Gulch and Departure Point sites. Portions of the funding came from fee monies collected at these sites.
- The North Dakota Field Office held three Kids' Fishing Days events. This popular program has multiple community and agency partners and was expanded from one to three days based on community support.



ECONOMIC IMPACTS

SALARIES BY COMMUNITY (October 1, 2010, through September 30, 2011)

Belle Fourche, South Dakota	\$1,509,000
Billings, Montana	\$19,179,000
<i>(includes Pompeys Pillar National Monument)</i>	
Butte, Montana	\$4,421,000
Dickinson, North Dakota	\$2,119,000
Dillon, Montana	\$3,582,000
Glasgow, Montana	\$776,000
Great Falls, Montana	\$1,085,000
Havre, Montana	\$1,174,000
Lewistown, Montana	\$6,592,000
<i>(includes Fort Benton, Montana)</i>	
Malta, Montana	\$1,342,000
Miles City, Montana	\$8,985,000
Missoula, Montana	\$2,530,000
Total	\$53,294,000
Total Budget	\$80,118,251

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Montana/Dakotas

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



AN ANNUAL REPORT



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