

Fiscal Year 2013 Accomplishment Summary

Bureau of Land Management Missoula Field Office

Here at the Missoula Field Office of the BLM, we continue to provide cutting-edge natural resource management and local public service for the ongoing use and enjoyment of your public lands. Though we faced many challenges in 2013, from sequestration and cut backs to the loss of a beloved staff member, the professionals at Missoula BLM persevered to accomplish many great things, a few of which are highlighted in this presentation. We are your “boots on the ground” and honored to serve you as stewards of your public lands. We are committed to community-based collaboration, public involvement, and partnerships in this journey! For more information, contact us at 406-329-3914, or visit our website at

http://www.blm.gov/mt/st/en/fo/missoula_field_office.html

Rich Torquemada, Field Manager 2010-2014

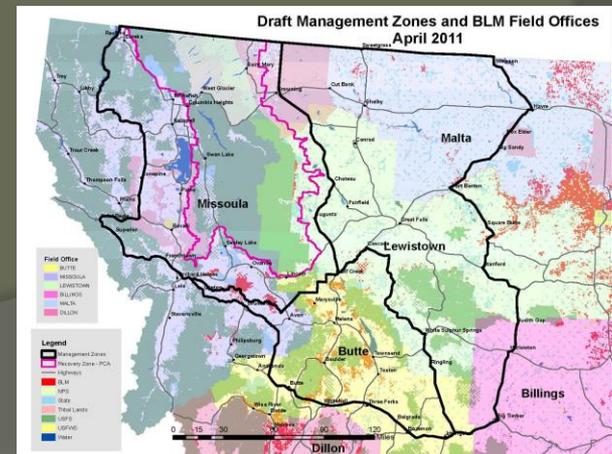
Landscape Level Issues & Partnerships



America's Great Outdoors continues to evolve, offering collaboration among the federal agencies. A National Memorandum of Understanding and local strategic plan created a framework to address three tasks in the Crown of the Continent landscape:

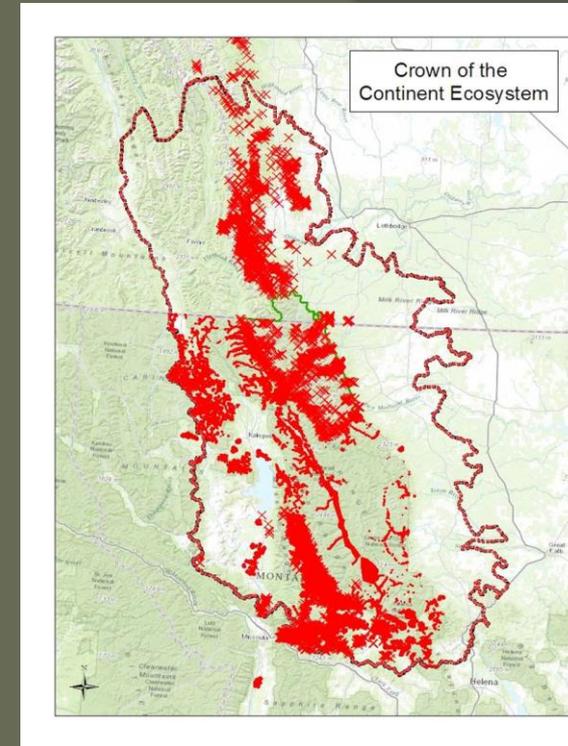
1. Connect our lands (Land and Water Conservation Fund),
2. Prevent the spread and reduce invasive species, and
3. Continue to refine ways to collaborate.

Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem Conservation Strategy draft is in the final stages of completion – U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service is the lead. BLM was a key participant.



2013 Collaboration and Partnerships

- Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks; U.S. Forest Service; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation; Blackfoot Challenge; Garnet Preservation Association; Montana Conservation Corps; Salish Kootenai College; University of Montana; Tangle Free; Blackfoot Home and Community Club; Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation; Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes; National Park Service; Missoula, Powell, and Granite County... and others!



Forestry Management



Thinned 585 acres
Planted 91 acres
Protected 60 acres
Finished 200 acres of Stewardship
Harvested 736 acres @ 9.5 mmbf

Fire/Fuels Management

Prescribed burn 44 acres
Masticated 223 acres
Fuel augmented 302 acres
36 person days of wildfire assignments

Rangeland Management

Term grazing lease renewals

- Henderson Cliffs
- Microwave Hill
- Nevada Creek



Rangeland Health Assessments

- Braziel Creek
- Cottonwood Creek
- Deer Park
- Devil Mountain
- Warm Springs
- White Rock Mountain

Compliance Inspections and Range Improvements

- 25 allotment checked for compliance
- Inspect and GPS all range improvements in 29 allotments
- Inspect wildlife ramps (22 inspected and 3 maintained)
- Roughly 174 miles of fence walked in two seasons
- Arrastra Creek exclosure consisting of 1,000 feet of jackleg fence.

Forage Production Study

- 3 Allotments: Wyman, Marcum, and Arrastra
- 11 cages total
- Vegetation is clipped, bagged, and weighed
- Weights are extrapolated to lbs/ac.



Weeds Management Program

Herbicide Application

- Treated from the air – 367 acres
- Treated on the ground – 860 acres
- Roadside treatments – 157 miles

Inventory

- Inventoried for Non-Indigenous Species – 3,100 acres
- Invasive species points collected – 692
- 228 pace transects equaling 5,700 samples
- 104 miles roadside inventory
- Acres Monitored for Non-Indigenous Species– 500
 - Quigg Wilderness Study Area
 - Windy Rock Wilderness Study Area/Cottonwood Meadows
 - Wales Creek Wilderness Study Area
 - West Fork Buttes
 - King Mountain/Rattler Gulch





Fisheries Accomplishments

- ✓ Westslope Cutthroat Trout Spawning Surveys - Arrastra, Belmont, Cramer, East Fork Cottonwood creeks, and Miner's Gulch
- ✓ Bull Trout Spawning Surveys - Belmont, Upper Willow, Boulder, Rock creeks, and Miner's Gulch
- ✓ Rangeland Health Assessments - surveyed riparian/instream conditions in Warm Springs, Cottonwood, Braziel Creek, White Rock Mountain, Devil Mountain, and Deer Park allotments. (~ 13 miles of stream surveyed and 4 new monitoring reaches established)



Fisheries Accomplishments - Continued



- ✓ Chamberlain – Documentation of fish distribution. Evaluation of instream and riparian conditions in and adjacent to 5 miles of stream.
- ✓ Chamberlain – Amphibian surveys on ~ 2,000 acres. Columbia spotted frogs and long-toed salamanders were main species found.
- ✓ Annual surveys of Designated Monitoring Areas (Multiple Indicator Monitoring) 9 streams (Arrastra, Cottonwood, Indian, East Fork Indian, West Fork Indian, Murray Smart, Upper Smart, and Warm Springs (surveyed 2-3 times).
- ✓ Instream Restoration – Grasshopper Meadow, Cottonwood Meadow and Miner’s Gulch



Miners Gulch bank stabilization to protect the stream and mining ditch.



2013 WILDLIFE PROJECTS

TERRESTRIAL HABITAT MONITORING: Wildlife–20,000 acres; Threatened and Endangered Species–50,000 acres

TERRESTRIAL POPULATION MONITORING: Wildlife–150 Populations; Threatened/Endangered Species–37 Populations

WILDLIFE HEALTHY LANDS INITIATIVE: Shrub and Forest Treatments: 440 acres



GRIZZLY BEAR AND CANADA LYNX ACTIONS AND MEETINGS – 28

JIM SPARKS, Missoula FO Wildlife Biologist is honored by Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation for sustained dedication to elk habitat conservation and management



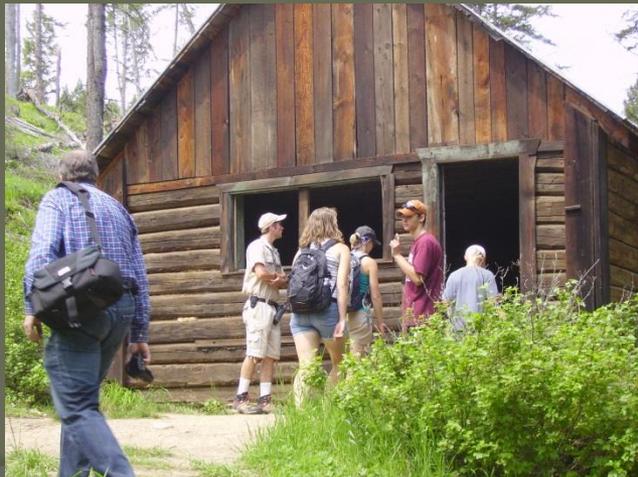
Garnet Ghost Town - New Additions

- New Vault Toilet
- New Solar System Up and Running
- New Water System
- New Volunteers
- New Stoves and Fridges in Cabins
- New RV Pad for Volunteers
- Two New Youth Field Days



Garnet Ghost Town Information

- 16,769 visitors to Garnet May – September
- 3 returning volunteers
- 28 scheduled tours – 772 kids, 370 adults
- 218 people stayed in Dahl and McDonald Cabins during the winter
- Garnet Day



Glacier National Park Cabin Stabilization Crew Worked on the Dahl Cabin at Garnet Ghost Town

Replaced rotten sill logs

Added concrete pillar foundation supports under floor joists

Replaced sub-floor

Replaced floor

Replaced front door/repaired door jamb

Reinforced the back porch



Blackfoot River Clean Up

The Bureau of Land Management continues to support the Blackfoot Home and Community Club and Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks and many volunteers to clean up the Blackfoot River annually. In 2013:

- 75 Participants
- 10 Rafts
- 3 Divers
- 692 Aluminum cans
- 17 Glass bottles
- 54 Plastic bottles
- 16 Shoes
- 3 Inner tubes
- 5 Hats
- 10 Sunglasses
- 2 Articles of clothing
- 1 Tire
- Aluminum can numbers were up, the rest were down
- 1,160 lbs. of garbage



Cultural Inventory

BLM conducts on the ground intensive inventories to locate archaeological resources prior to surface disturbing projects.

Gold Creek had 2,000 acres inventoried

Hoodoos Area had 640 acres inventoried

Chamberlain had 500 acres inventoried

Two mining rock waste piles inventoried



This wooden contraption called a pressure box or hightower held water fed from a nearby gravity-fed ditch. The water was then piped out hundreds of feet downhill through consecutively smaller cast-iron, riveted pipe, gaining pressure until it sprung forth through a small nozzle. Miners then sprayed a hillside to wash earth and rock away to expose the precious metals.



The BLM Missoula Field Office working with the Montana Conservations Corps (MCC).

Construct fences in:

Warm Springs

Smart Creek

Ward Creek

Arrastra Creek

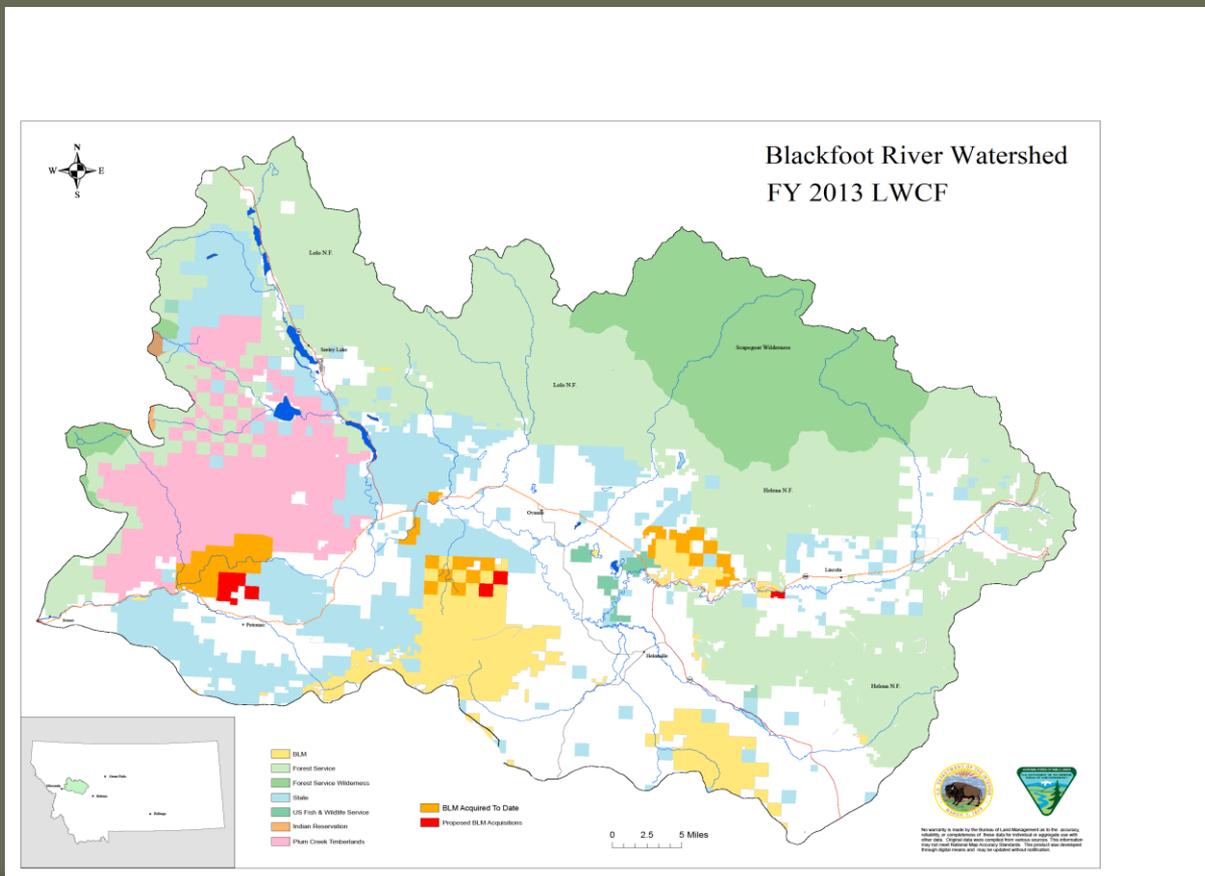
Stream Restoration in
Cottonwood Creek

Thinning project for wildlife



Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)

Received FY 13 funding for Collaborative LWCF acquisitions:
Chamberlain Creek/Morrison Mountain/Sauerkraut Creek
Total 4,620 acres - \$5.6 million



Mineral/Mining Management and Abandoned Mine Closure

Placer Claims	500
Lode Claims	3,894
Mill Sites	884
Tunnel Sites	13

The highest number of mining claims in a BLM Field Office in the Montana/Dakotas!

Permitted six new or amended locatable mineral mining Notices and Plans of Operation.

Completed 40 locatable mineral inspections on active placer and lode claims.



Physical Hazard Mine Closures

Five abandoned mines that were physical safety hazards/features were closed using woven cable net or polyurethane foam (PUF).



Working on the Camp Creek/Mountain View Lode cable-net closure.



Completed Nirling Hill Adit PUF closure; soil and native stone covering the last lift.

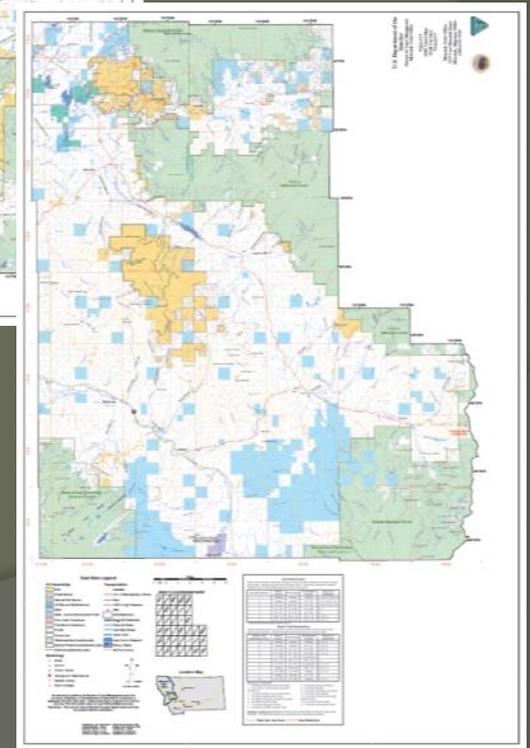
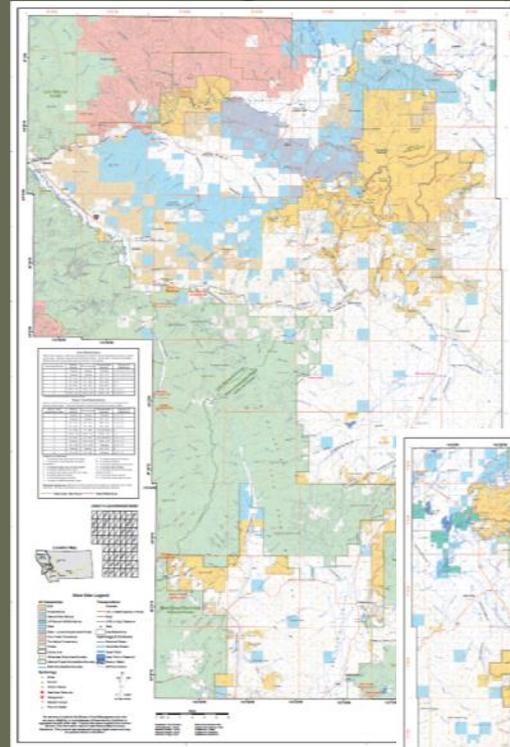


PUF application at Nirling Hill adit.

Support Services for Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Global Position Systems (GPS) and Cartography.

Updated travel map for the Missoula Field Office.

Created and maintained the database for vegetation/habitat typing for Clark Fork Face.



The Missoula BLM's Field Season workforce

- Missoula Office had 24 volunteers, 20 seasonal staff, and 2 student interns in 2013.
- 3,506 Volunteer hours contributed to resource management, at an estimated value of \$74,888.16.
- Without the support and dedication of this seasonal workforce, the Missoula Field Office would not be able to achieve the quantity and quality of work reported.

Thanks from all of us, here's to another great year!

