

Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument



Bear Trap Canyon Wilderness

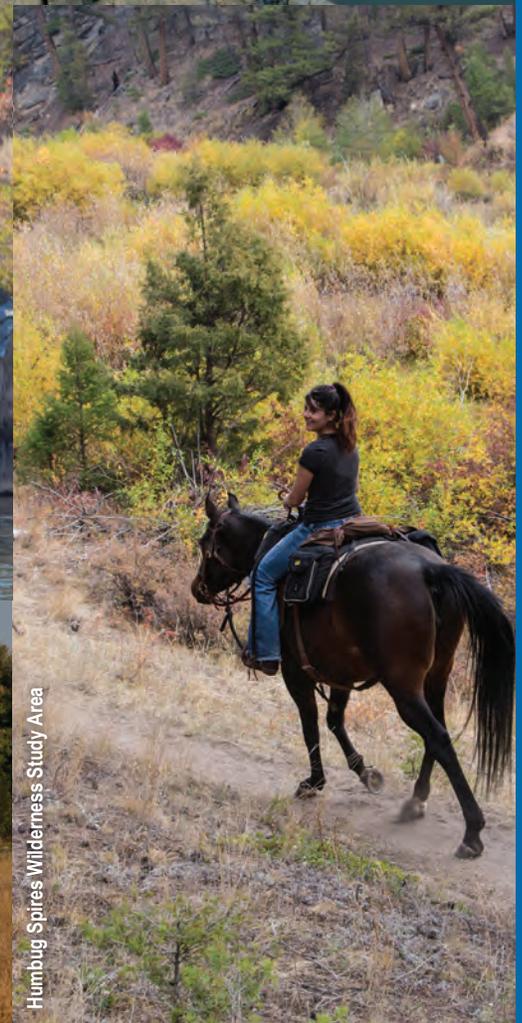


Pompeys Pillar National Monument



BLM Montana/Dakotas Your Land. Your Treasure.

Humbug Spires Wilderness Study Area



The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) manages more than 245 million acres of public land—the most of any federal agency. This land is primarily located in 12 western states, including Alaska. The BLM also administers 700 million acres of subsurface mineral estate throughout the nation. Each year, recreational and other activities on BLM-managed land contribute more than \$100 billion to the U.S. economy and support hundreds of thousands of American jobs. The BLM's multiple-use mission is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. We accomplish this by managing such activities as outdoor recreation, livestock grazing, mineral development, and energy production and by conserving natural, historical, cultural, and other resources on public lands.





Welcome to the National System of Public Lands of Montana, North Dakota, and South Dakota, where BLM Montana/Dakotas administers more than 8 million acres of public land and 47 million acres of subsurface mineral estate. Our management of activities on public lands supports an estimated 16,000 jobs and contributes nearly \$2.6 billion each year to the economy through energy production, timber harvesting, and livestock grazing. In addition, recreational activities on BLM lands in the three states have an indirect economic impact of more than \$3.7 million annually. Each year, more than \$800,000 is collected at recreation fee sites and for specially permitted activities such as outfitting—revenue that is spent on improving those same facilities, natural resources, and activity-based recreation.

Something for Everyone

These lands are held in trust for the use and enjoyment of all Americans, and we encourage you to visit them often. You'll discover a diversity of remarkable landscapes, a multitude of recreational opportunities, significant historical and cultural resources, and an abundant array of plants and wildlife. BLM Montana/Dakotas manages fish and wildlife habitat, wilderness areas, national scenic and historic trails, recreation, rangelands, timber, watersheds, minerals, wild horses, national monuments, and a wild and scenic river.

Respect All Land Uses

The BLM's complex mission allows for several uses on the same landscape. For example, grazing, recreation, and energy development may all occur within relatively close proximity. Please be respectful of all land uses. Motorized, wheeled cross-country travel is prohibited; drive only on designated open roads and trails.

Most public lands administered by the BLM are open year round for public use, unless the lands have been officially closed due to fire danger or another emergency hazard. Access, amenities, fees, and parking vary for each area. Please call a local office for more specific information, or visit www.mt.blm.gov.

Specially Designated Areas

BLM Montana/Dakotas manages two national monuments within the BLM's National Landscape Conservation System—**Pompeys Pillar** and the **Upper Missouri River Breaks**. In 1806, Captain William Clark left his signature on the sandstone bluff that came to be called Pompeys Pillar, named after Sacagawea's son. The signature is the only in-place physical remnant of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. The **Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail** and the **Upper Missouri National Wild and Scenic River** pass through the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument, a landscape that looks much the same now as it did when the famous explorers saw it.



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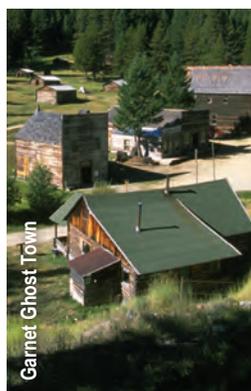
The first BLM-managed wilderness area, **Bear Trap Canyon**, is in Montana. It has more than 6,000 acres of beautiful wilderness scenery plus opportunities for whitewater rafting with 1,500-foot cliffs bordering the canyon. BLM Montana/Dakotas also manages 39 wilderness study areas, from alpine settings to rugged badlands.

In 1968, the **Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Range** south of Billings, Montana, became the first designated wild horse range in the nation. The isolated herd numbers from 100 to 150 animals and retains many characteristics of its Spanish mustang ancestors, such as primitive striping on their backs, withers, and legs.



Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Range

Historical Interests



Garnet Ghost Town

Visit **Garnet Ghost Town**, a once-thriving mining town, near Missoula, Montana, or **Fort Meade**, South Dakota, to experience some of the early European history of the three states. At Fort Meade, on the eastern foothills of the Black Hills and adjacent to Sturgis, visitors can see stone cavalry jumps and other remnants of early cavalry life dating as far back as the 1870s. Visitors can also take the **Missouri Breaks Historical Homesteads Auto Tour** for a glimpse into the lives of the hardy souls who homesteaded central Montana.

Recreational Opportunities

Recreation is one of the most popular uses of BLM public lands. You can hike, bike, hunt, camp, fish, float, or boat. Birdwatchers, sightseers, horseback riders, off-highway vehicle riders, and history buffs can all find a place to do their thing. Drive one of our scenic back country byways, and discover the beauty of our states' varied landscapes. You can pass beneath high rock cliffs, see ruggedly spectacular badlands, climb the Garnet Mountains, or coast along the rolling prairie.



BLM Montana/Dakotas Programs at Work

Forest Management

Of the 8.3 million surface acres the BLM administers in Montana and the Dakotas, about 1.3 million acres are covered with trees. These trees range from cottonwoods and willows along the streams and draws, to ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir in the mid-elevations, to lodgepole, spruce, and fir in the high elevations. These forests are being stressed by drought, insects, disease, wildfire, climate change, and urban expansion. The forest management program is dedicated to maintaining and restoring health and resiliency to these forested lands through implementation of thinning, timber sale, prescribed fire, planting, and other forest restoration-related projects.

Fire Management

For land managed by the BLM Montana/Dakotas, wildfire is a natural part of the ecosystem. The landscape has been shaped by fire for centuries. Our fire management program works to suppress damaging wildfire and reduce fire's impact by restoring health to our treasured landscape.

Rangeland Management

Our rangeland management staff works to sustain healthy, productive rangelands and riparian areas. The BLM Montana/Dakotas administers 1.4 million animal unit months of livestock grazing and works with private, state, federal, and county partners to control invasive species and improve wetlands.

Wildlife Habitat

BLM lands provide habitat across Montana and portions of North Dakota and South Dakota for a wide variety of wildlife species—from big game such as pronghorn, elk, and mule deer to less known species like the Cassin's finch, spotted bat, and flathead chub. BLM Montana/Dakotas also manages habitats for rare species including the greater sage-grouse, Sprague's pipit, lynx, and westslope cutthroat trout. The BLM works with a wide variety of partners to cooperatively conduct wildlife research and recovery planning as well as habitat management projects on wildlife habitat ranging from prairie streams to coniferous forests.

Minerals and Energy Production

Our minerals program focuses on energy development, specifically from coal, natural gas, and oil. This development significantly contributes to jobs and the economy. For example, billions of dollars are contributed to North Dakota's economy through BLM-administered oil and gas production, and thousands of jobs in North Dakota are supported by energy development on public lands. Other minerals produced on public lands in Montana and the Dakotas include silver, gold, copper, zinc, and phosphate. The BLM's multiple-use mandate is to manage these mineral resources in a manner that recognizes the nation's need for domestic supplies while protecting the environment.

Public Safety and Resource Protection

The BLM is responsible for protecting public safety and resources on public lands, which it does in partnership with state and local law enforcement agencies. Each year, BLM Montana/Dakotas rangers and agents initiate hundreds of reportable enforcement actions, which may include the theft of government property, timber, or archaeological and paleontological resources; commercial outfitter trespass; and interfering with public land users. Our rangers also help educate the public about land use ethics.

Surveys, Land Status, and Access

In addition to these major programs, BLM cadastral surveyors make the official boundary surveys of the United States' public lands. Cadastral survey is one of the federal government's oldest and most fundamental functions. BLM cadastral surveyors may conduct resurveys in Montana and the Dakotas to restore obliterated or lost survey corners and to enhance the management of all federal and tribal lands.

Visit the public rooms at our BLM offices or go to www.blm.gov/qpkd to buy land status maps or to obtain land and mineral ownership information or homestead history.

As one of the State Director's priorities, BLM Montana/Dakotas works to maintain and expand public land access through easements and land exchanges. The BLM also issues rights-of-way for communication sites, roads, pipelines, and utilities.

Volunteers and Partners

BLM Montana/Dakotas engages volunteers and partners to help achieve our mission. Annually, volunteers contribute hundreds of thousands of dollars' worth of labor. In addition, numerous formal partnerships are established with state agencies, conservation and industry groups, Indian tribes, and many other organizations and individuals. Some of these partnerships recruit and train students for possible future employment. One internship program with the Salish Kootenai College allows students to gain valuable work experience and earn college credit while helping the BLM accomplish necessary field work.

For more specific information about the BLM and its programs, contact one of our offices or visit our website at www.mt.blm.gov.

BLM Montana/Dakotas State Office

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Billings Field Office/ Pompeys Pillar National Monument

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Pompeys Pillar National Monument Interpretive Center - (406) 875-2400

Butte Field Office
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Dillon Field Office
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Missoula Field Office
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Lewistown Field Office/Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument

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BLM Montana/Dakotas Lands and Resources

