

PART 6

PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY, AND RESOURCE PROTECTION

The BLM's stewardship role, which includes preserving and protecting natural and cultural resources, also extends to protecting public health, safety, and property. The Bureau is responsible for reducing health and safety risks to employees and the public; maintaining facilities and infrastructure; and protecting public lands from illegal dumping of wastes, theft and destruction Federal property, misuse of resources, and wildland fires.

Table 6-1 summarizes the number of wildland fires and acres burned during the Fiscal Year 2006 fire season on lands protected by the Bureau of Land Management or lands protected under a cooperative agreement with local fire agencies. Nationally, all agencies experienced a long and arduous fire season in 2006 and the BLM was no exception. Across the West, 3,848 fires burned 2.4 million acres on BLM land, representing nearly 1,000 fires and one million acres above the 10-year average. Although Alaska had accounted for much of the BLM fire activity in recent years, that state had a below-average season in 2006, while Nevada experienced far more BLM fires and acres burned than usual. Fire activity was heavy across most of the western BLM states, but Nevada's 848 fires and 1 million acres burned were both nearly double that of any other state. Among all land management agencies, the BLM's 2.4 million acres burned was eclipsed only by the acres burned on state, county, and private jurisdictions, with most of the latter occurring in Texas and Oklahoma during the 2005-2006 winter months. In spite of the active fire year, BLM firefighters successfully contained nearly 95 percent of all fire starts during initial attack before those fires became large incidents.

Table 6-2 identifies the major types of capital improvements that support the management, use, and enjoyment of the public lands for commercial, recreational, and other purposes. The trend has been for the BLM's inventory of fixed capital assets (buildings, roads, recreation sites, etc.) to increase over time. However, as the BLM implements its new Asset Management Plan (AMP), which was developed in 2006, it will begin compiling a list of real property assets that are candidates for disposition. Any asset that is no longer critical to the mission, or that is in such poor condition that it is no longer cost effective to maintain, will be identified for possible disposal. The AMP provides the framework for the BLM to streamline its portfolio of assets and optimize the maintenance of those assets that contribute most significantly to its mission and strategic goals.

Table 6-3 summarizes releases of hazardous substances and other pollutants and contaminants discovered on public lands. Historically, approximately 60 percent of all hazardous waste sites on public lands result from commercial uses. Landfills, mines and mill sites, airstrips, and oil and gas sites account for almost half of these commercial activities. The other 40 percent have been caused by illegal activities such as midnight dumping of agricultural and industrial wastes, wire burning, and illicit drug production.

In recent years, about 90 percent of the hazardous substance releases found on public lands resulted from illegal dumping incidents involving debris or drums of biomedical, chemical, and petroleum wastes; pesticides; paints; batteries; asbestos; and illicit drug lab wastes. The remaining 10 percent of the hazardous substances releases came from fuel spills, mining wastes, and military accidents. The number of drug labs has essentially leveled off and even decreased due to enforcement actions taken by both state and Federal law enforcement agencies. However, highly toxic and explosive drug lab wastes continue to be found far afield of the more expected urban locations and in regions not previously plagued by this problem until the last few years.

Table 6-1. FIRES ON OR THREATENING BLM LANDS, FISCAL YEAR 2006

Number of Fires and Acreage per State by Protection Type

Force Account Protection

State	Fires Suppressed		Causes		Commercial Forest /a/		Noncommercial Forest /b/		Nonforest Watershed /c/		Total Area	
	BLM Fires	Non-BLM Fires	Lightning Fires	Human Fires	BLM Acres	Non-BLM Acres	BLM Acres	Non-BLM Acres	BLM Acres	Non-BLM Acres	BLM Acres	Non-BLM Acres
Alaska	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Arizona	431	42	328	145	2,706	35	777	944	42,276	8,012	45,759	8,991
California	130	44	64	110	1	2	1,812	7,048	7,549	3,452	9,362	10,502
Colorado	538	29	513	54	1,979	2,240	3,495	3,554	2,231	428	7,705	6,222
Eastern States	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Idaho	259	69	135	193	85	298	1,423	2,584	454,254	104,178	455,762	107,060
Mississippi	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Montana	47	26	65	8	4	47	49,487	173,435	5,094	4,464	54,585	177,947
Nevada	662	50	543	169	35	0	129,085	6,542	759,704	192,726	888,824	199,268
New Mexico	88	20	68	40	0	0	5,596	12,037	591	1,475	6,187	13,512
North Dakota	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Oregon	251	36	254	33	4,714	11,596	31,124	23,874	271,092	57,120	306,930	92,590
South Dakota	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Utah	598	50	543	105	47	6	137,635	54,794	42,265	14,713	179,947	69,513
Washington	7	3	3	7	15	0	1,578	762	887	6,416	2,480	7,178
Wyoming	113	59	105	67	777	14,462	16,248	98,628	6,369	15,372	23,394	128,462
Total	3,124	428	2,621	931	10,363	28,686	378,260	384,202	1,592,312	408,356	1,980,935	821,245

Table 6-1. FIRES ON OR THREATENING BLM LANDS, FISCAL YEAR 2006 – continued

Number of Fires and Acreage per State by Protection Type

Contract Protection

State	Fires Suppressed		Causes		Commercial Forest /a/		Noncommercial Forest /b/		Nonforest Watershed /c/		Total Area	
	BLM <i>Fires</i>	Non- BLM <i>Fires</i>	Lightning <i>Fires</i>	Human <i>Fires</i>	BLM <i>Acres</i>	Non- BLM <i>Acres</i>	BLM <i>Acres</i>	Non- BLM <i>Acres</i>	BLM <i>Acres</i>	Non- BLM <i>Acres</i>	BLM <i>Acres</i>	Non- BLM <i>Acres</i>
	Alaska	14	61	31	44	0	305	14,389	79,740	3,097	6,195	17,486
Arizona	1	5	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	9	0	9
California	94	34	46	82	1	283	6,078	7,812	38,138	152,642	44,217	160,737
Colorado	17	42	52	7	741	1,488	78	715	0	23	819	2,226
Eastern States	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Idaho	3	32	8	27	0	2	0	9	187	4,105	187	4,116
Mississippi	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Montana	17	63	73	7	7,023	96,079	176	139,321	1,524	36,163	8,723	271,563
Nevada	37	83	91	29	0	15	99	40,477	68,393	77,671	68,492	118,163
New Mexico	40	68	35	73	0	0	7	1	2,249	6,508	2,256	6,509
North Dakota	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Oregon	126	44	96	74	421	15,509	4	13	0	3,209	425	18,731
South Dakota	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Utah	54	135	151	38	0	109	42	10,400	539	4,286	581	14,795
Washington	5	0	4	1	1	0	0	0	1,017	1,419	1,018	1,419
Wyoming	3	7	7	3	2,139	9,876	0	0	136	461	2,275	10,337
Total	411	574	596	389	10,326	123,666	20,873	278,488	115,280	292,691	146,479	694,845
Grand Total	3,535	1,002	3,217	1,320	20,689	152,352	399,133	662,690	1,707,592	701,047	2,127,414	1,516,090

Table 6-1. FIRES ON OR THREATENING BLM LANDS, FISCAL YEAR 2006 – concluded

Note: Non-BLM includes other Federal lands, as well as State, privately owned, and other non-Federal lands.

/a/ Land producing, or capable of producing, wood products such as sawtimber, posts, poles, etc., and not withdrawn from timber use.

/b/ Land not capable of yielding wood products, or commercial forestland withdrawn from timber use.

/c/ Land that has never supported forests or that has been developed for nonforest use.

Source: The BLM Wildland Fire Management Information System.

Table 6-2.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS ON PUBLIC LANDS, FISCAL YEAR 2006

Administrative State or Office	Number of Buildings /a/	Number of Administrative Sites /a/	Number of Recreation Sites /a/	Miles of Roads /b/	Miles of Trails	Number of Bridges
Alaska	521	54	125	34 /c/	2,444	16
Arizona	287 /d/	86 /e/	249	1,787	755	2 /f/
California	653 /d/	128	361	4,952	4,517	239
Colorado	317	57	351	4,090	1,204	27
Eastern States	18	1 /g/	2 /g/	0	8 /h/	0
Idaho	381	46	279	8,377	3,946	59
Montana	316	50	258	3,256	289	25
National Interagency Fire Center	19	1	0	0	0	0
Nevada	275 /d/	60	114	10,288	431	11
New Mexico	156 /d/	10 /e/	64	5,819	134	0
Eastern Oregon	475	67	219	9,825	757	34
Western Oregon	514	64	135	14,156	445	395
Utah	536	54	325	9,517	3,424	14
Wyoming	148	33	76	3,987	66	34
Total	4,616	711	2,558	76,088	18,420	856

Table 6-2. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS ON PUBLIC LANDS, FISCAL YEAR 2006 – concluded

- /a/ Baseline comprehensive condition assessment surveys of all administrative sites and recreation sites, including on-site buildings and structures, were completed in 2005. Verification of inventory was part of the survey. Inventory and condition assessment data are tracked in the BLM's Facility Asset Management System (FAMS).
- /b/ Baseline comprehensive condition assessment surveys of BLM-maintained roads are underway and are expected to be completed in 2007. Verification of miles of road and maintenance levels is part of the survey. Inventory and condition assessment data are tracked in the BLM's FAMS.
- /c/ The BLM revised its data definition and business rules for roads. Roads on administrative sites and recreation sites are now defined as other structures within the asset categories of Administrative Sites and Recreation Sites. They are no longer counted separately within the Roads asset category. Alaska is reporting 16 fewer miles of roads than in 2005. The roads still exist, but they are now part of BLM administrative sites and recreation sites.
- /d/ The BLM revised its data definition and business rules for buildings. Certain types of buildings such as vault toilet buildings and equipment buildings on radio communication sites had not previously been entered into FAMS as buildings. Increases in the number of buildings in Arizona, California, Nevada, and New Mexico are mainly the result of modifying the inventory to conform with the revised data definition and business rules for buildings.
- /e/ Arizona and New Mexico "created" new administrative sites to conform to business rules and FAMS data templates and to accurately account for assets in FAMS. For example, Arizona "created" the Weaver Mountain Fire and Aviation Administrative Site in FAMS to attach water and septic systems and other assets to a major asset category (Administrative Site).
- /f/ Arizona has not replaced two bridges that washed away during heavy rains and flooding.
- /g/ Eastern States reduced the number of administrative sites to one to conform to the revised data definition and business rules for administrative sites. Douglas Point, formerly designated as an administrative site, is now the Douglas Point Special Recreation Management Area.
- /h/ Eastern States cleared four more miles of trail at the Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area.

Table 6-3.

**RELEASES OF HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES ON PUBLIC LANDS,
FISCAL YEAR 2006**

Geographic State	Total as of September 30, 2006 /a/		Activities this Fiscal Year /b/		
	Hazardous Substances and Other Pollutants Reported /c/	No Further Action Planned /d/	Studies and Searches /e/	Removal Actions /f/	Remedial Actions /g/
	<i>Number of Sites</i>	<i>Number of Sites</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>
Alaska /h/	50	47	1	6	2
Arizona	591	589	5	7	0
California /h/ /i/	1,234	883	13	32	0
Colorado	131	81	24	22	0
Idaho	509	466	88	43	2
Montana	95	62	47	20	0
Nevada	494	442	93	125	0
New Mexico	115	112	13	9	2
Oregon	377	377	1	20	1
Utah	118	90	31	73	0
Washington	23	21	1	0	0
Wyoming	9	4	0	5	0
Total	3,746	3,174	317	362	7

**Table 6-3. RELEASES OF HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES ON PUBLIC LANDS,
FISCAL YEAR 2006 – concluded**

- /a/ Includes sites reported and sites archived both in previous years and during Fiscal Year 2006.
- /b/ Includes work done by the BLM, other Federal and State agencies, and responsible parties during this fiscal year only.
- /c/ Cases opened and potentially actionable under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA), commonly known as Superfund.
- /d/ The No Further Action Planned designation is commonly given to cases closed and administratively archived.
- /e/ Includes CERCLA multiphase investigations, monitoring, and searches for responsible parties.
- /f/ Removal actions are relatively short-term, rapid responses to a release or threat of release.
- /g/ Remedial actions are longer-term responses consistent with a permanent remedy.
- /h/ Does not include 2006 data.
- /i/ Petroleum products are CERCLA hazardous substances under California State Law; data for California includes oil spills.