

# The Big Squeeze

The BLM manages more than 200 million acres, which sounds like a lot . . . and it is. But the open spaces of our public lands are no longer quite so empty. That's because even more people are moving to and visiting the western states. You won't find houses and shopping malls being built on BLM lands, but people are visiting them more than ever before.

More people are discovering the many recreational opportunities the public lands provide. You know how a soccer field can look after a long, hard season? Some well-used areas of BLM lands can begin to look a little worn out, too, especially if people don't treat the lands with respect.

See page 36 to learn how you can treat our public lands and waters with respect.

