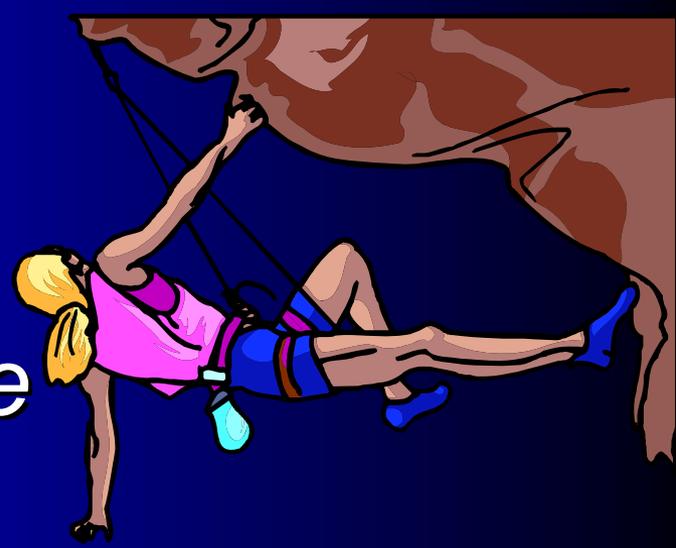




Meeting the Challenge: Recreation on Public Lands

Agency goal: *Provide Opportunities for Environmentally Responsible Outdoor Recreation*



Public Land's recreation purpose: Provide Americans with “diverse” outdoor recreation opportunities and settings



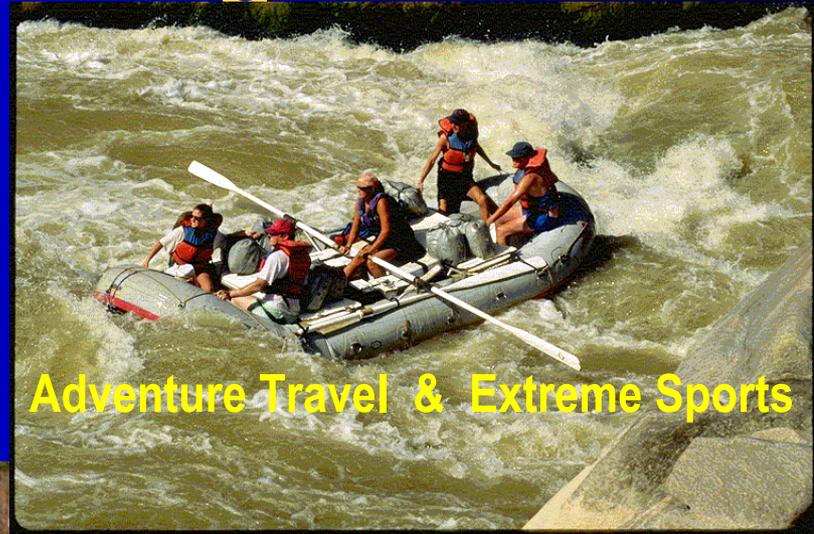
What is the role of institutional or non-profit organizations in providing public service and access to outdoor recreation?

Public Lands offer opportunities for all the fastest growing activities

Cultural & Heritage Tourism



Adventure Travel & Extreme Sports



Challenge,
Motorized Activities
& High Tech
Equipment Use



Solitude, Remoteness &
Big Open Spaces



TRADITIONAL



ADVENTURE



CHALLENGE



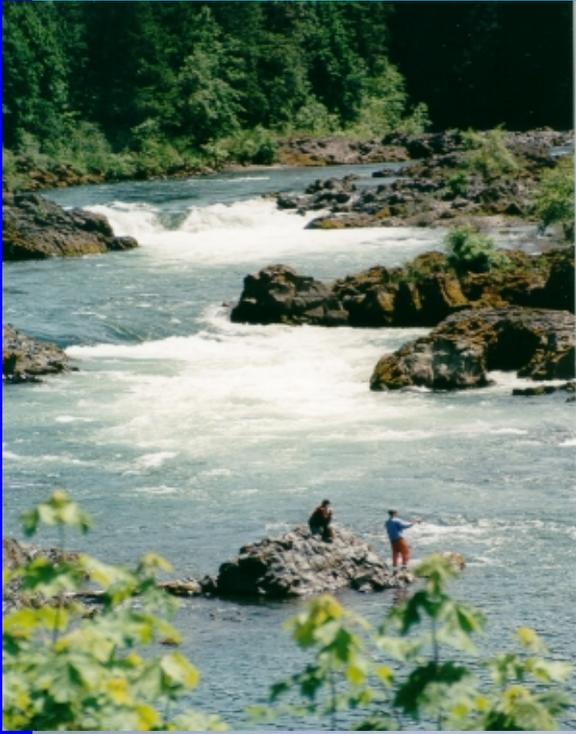
DISCOVERY



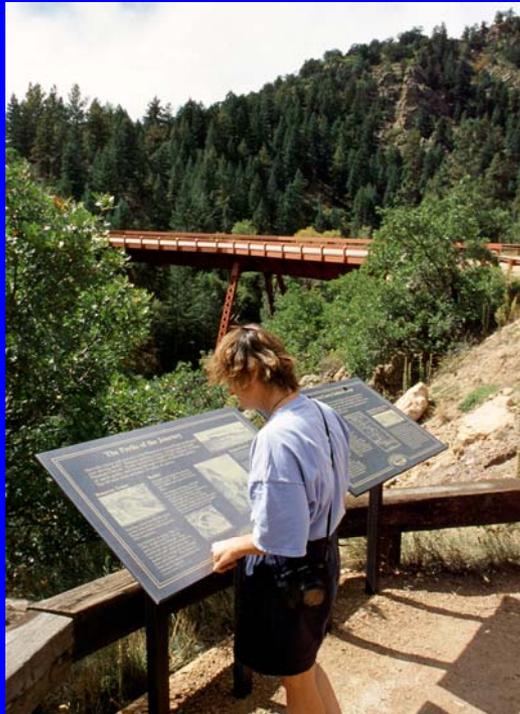
MOTORIZED



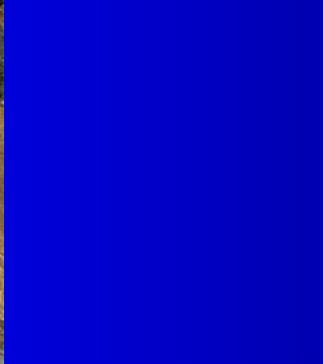
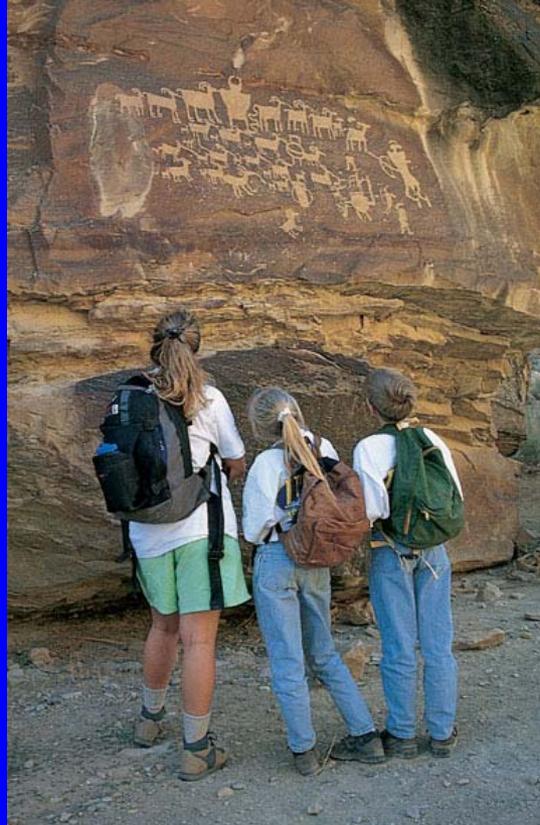
SOLITUDE



Wildlife Viewing/Nature Study



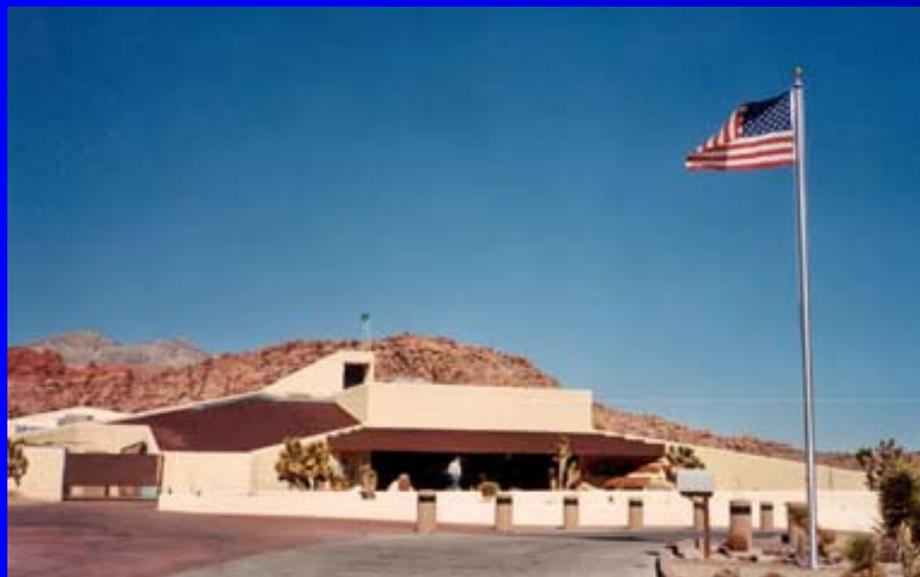
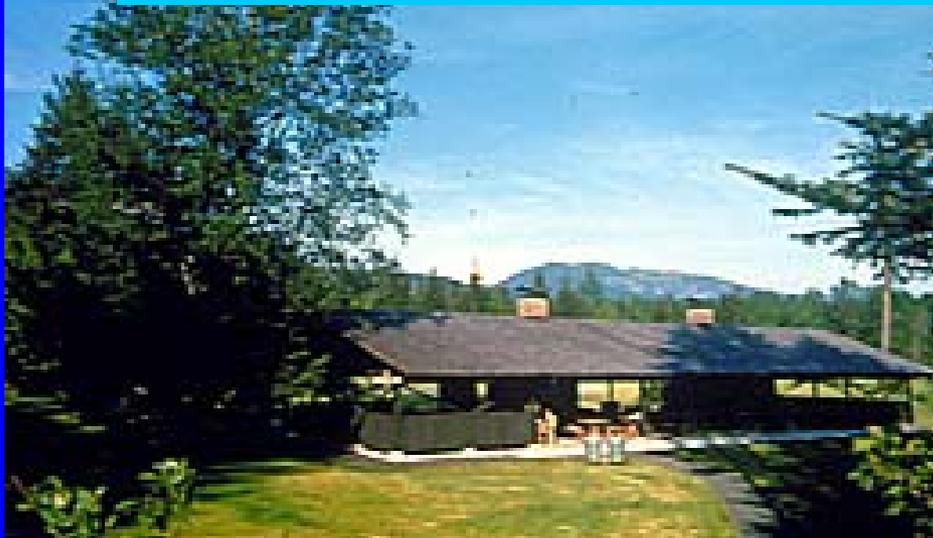
AUTHENTICITY



Special Events & Unique Activities



Developed Recreation Too!



How have things changed?

- ✓ **What are the trends effecting recreation and implications for management and institutional use of public lands?**
- ✓ **How has the relationships between agencies and institutional/non-profit organizations changed?**
- ✓ **Why are there higher expectations and standards for service, safety and practices for both organizations and government?**
- ✓ **Why is there greater accountability for public land users, and more regulation and oversight of permitted use?**
- ✓ **What can we do to work better together?**

Key Trends Effecting Recreation on Public Lands

- **Population:** growth and urbanization near public land
- **Economics:** growing importance of recreation in the economy and influence of recreation industry
- **Technology:** continued advances in outdoor recreation technology present challenges for management
- **Values:** Change in public values concerning public land uses, and the growing expectations of the public regarding the standards of facilities and services

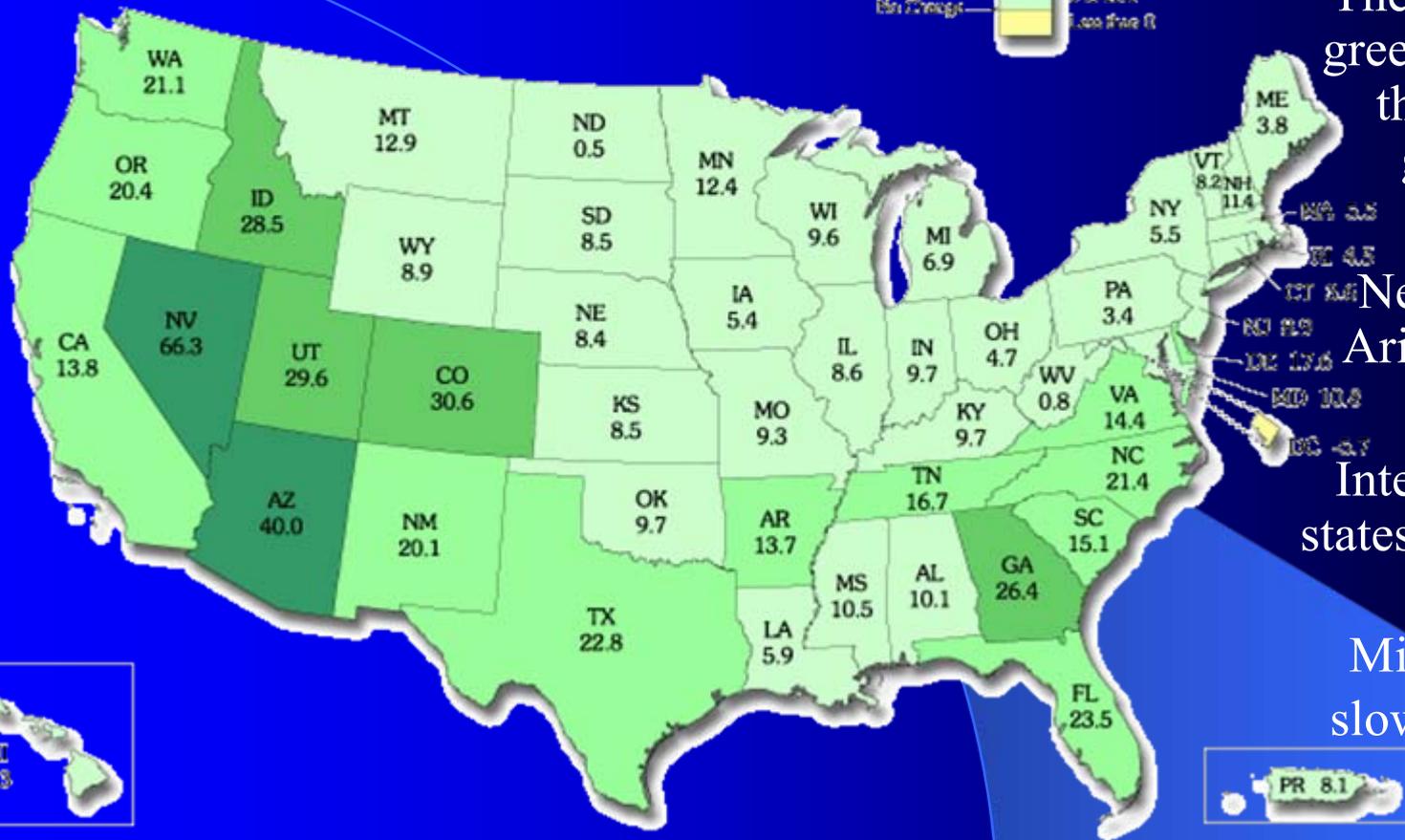
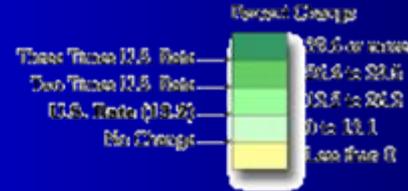
Trends: Population Growth

Challenges for Federal Lands

- Lands in proximity to urban centers
- Recreation demand and use grows at a faster rate than population
- Growth in demand for special uses and new activities
- Greater competition for allocated use, organized group events and permits

Population Growth 1990-2000

Figure 1. Percent Change in Resident Population for the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico: 1990 to 2000

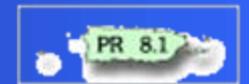


The darker the green the faster the rate of growth.

Nevada and Arizona lead.

Intermountain states about 30%.

Midwest/NE slow-growing.





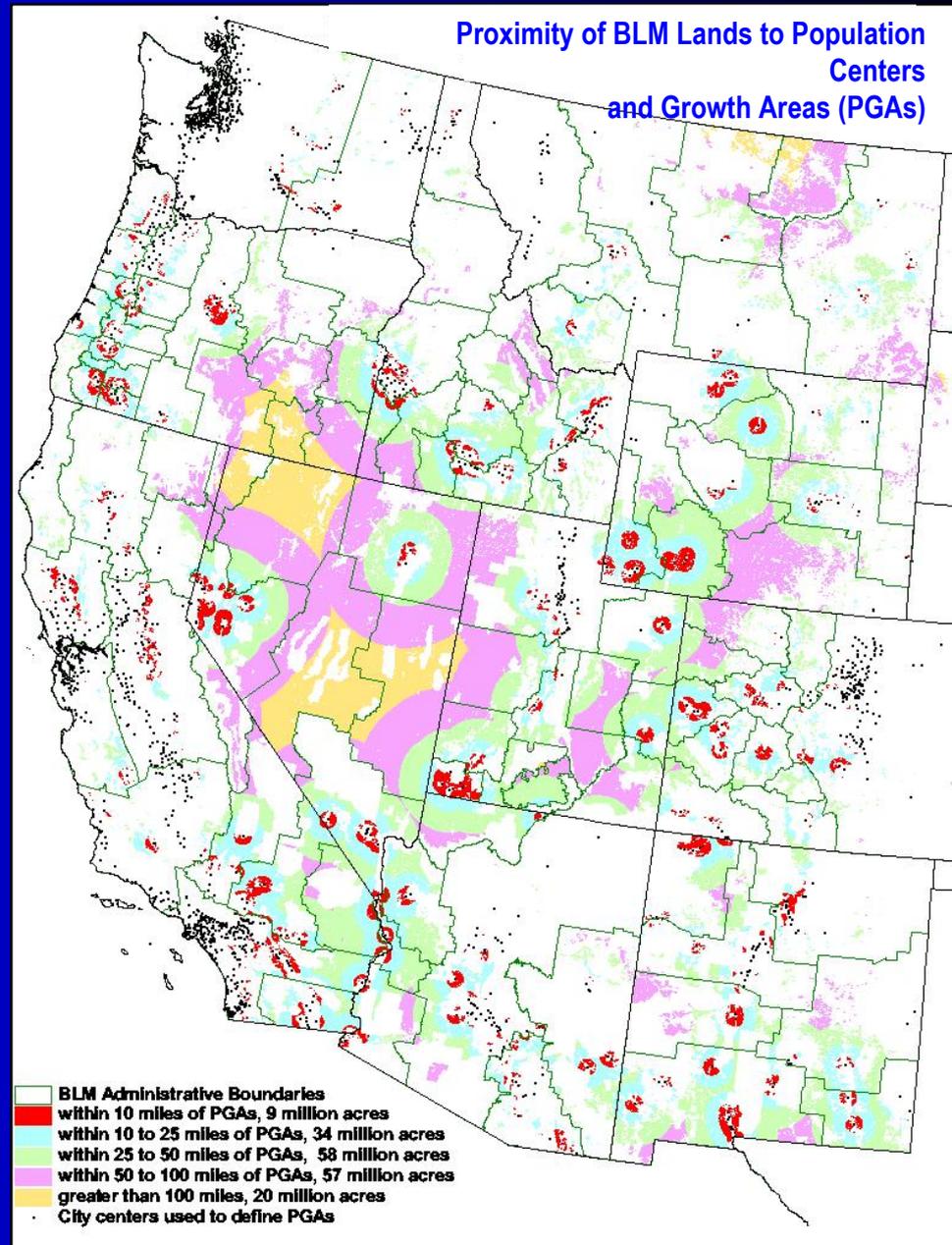
The Real Challenge: Too many people!

- More people generate more demand;
- More demand creates more visitor use & conflicts;
- More use creates more impacts on resources;
- More impacts creates need for more regulation & use allocation;
- More regulation creates higher expectation of oversight, accountability and enforcement

Proximity of BLM lands to population centers

- Within 10 miles of growth areas
- Within 10-25 miles of growth areas
- Within 25-50 miles of growth areas
- Within 50-100 miles of growth areas
- More than 100 miles from growth areas

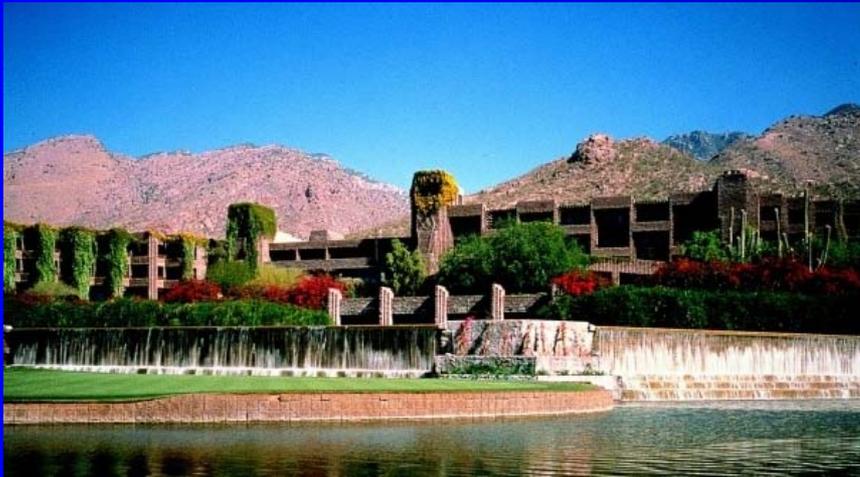
More than 23 million people live within 25 miles of BLM lands. Public lands are quickly becoming “America’s Backyard”



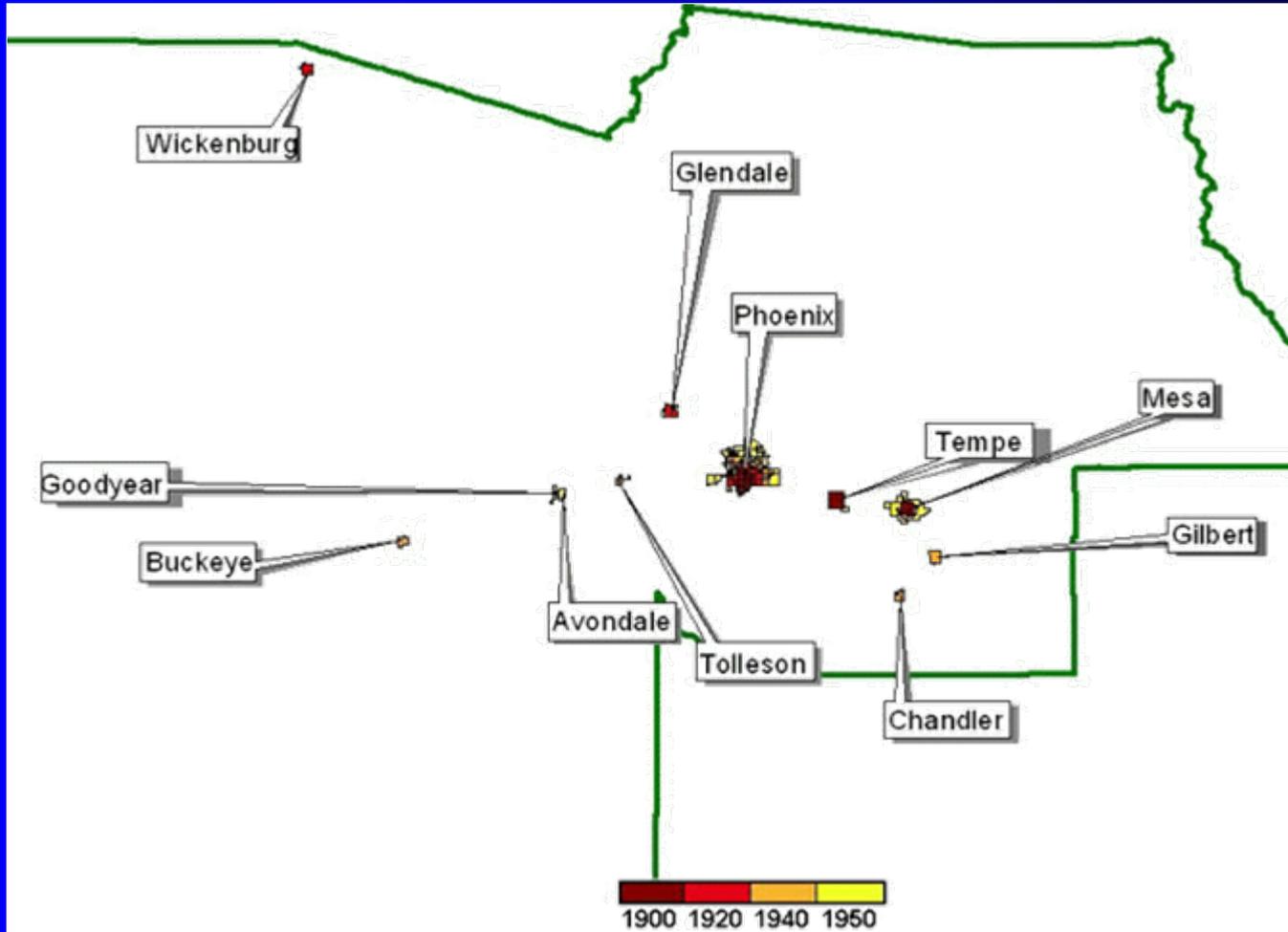
Urban Growth: Phoenix Example



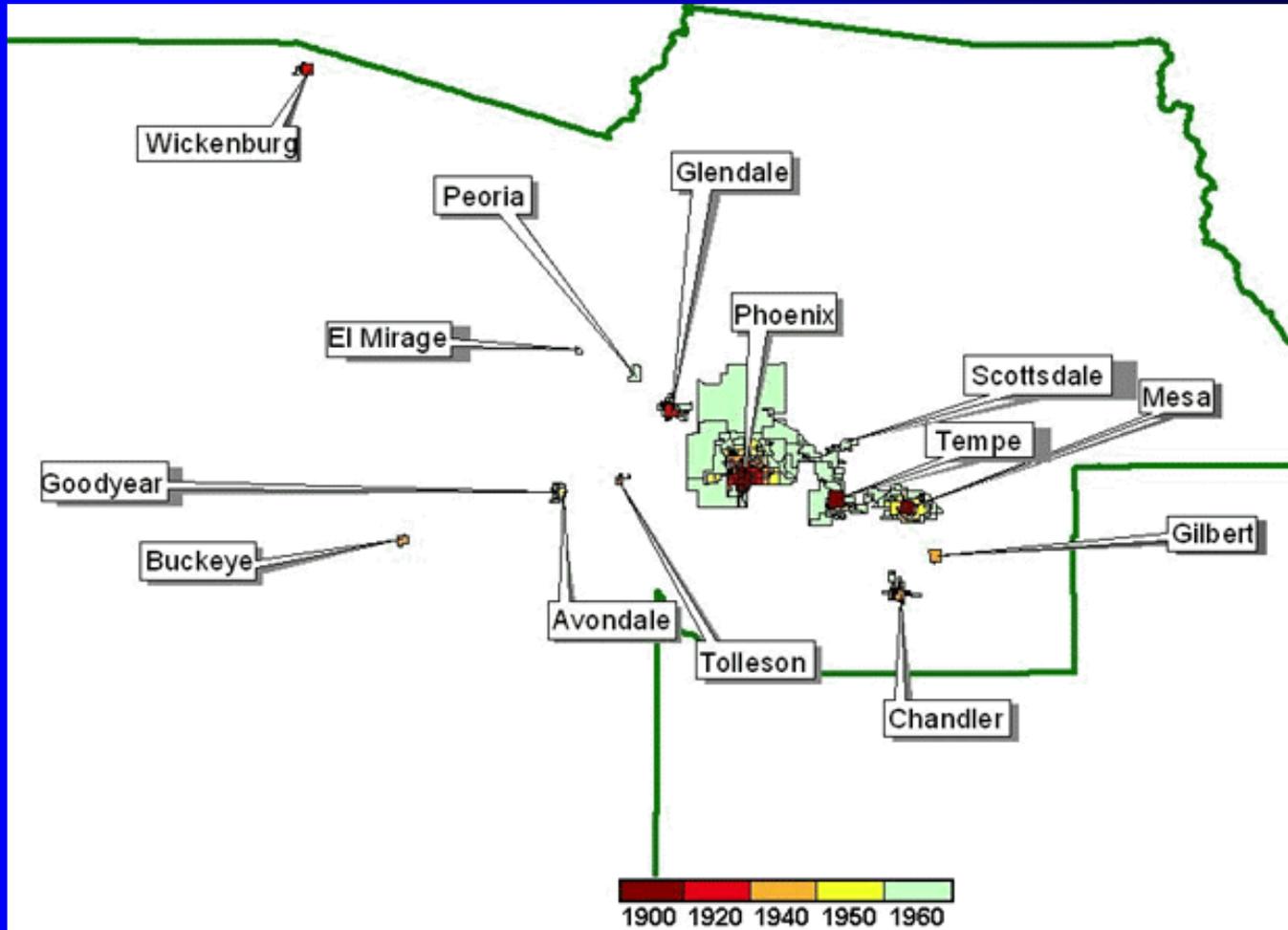
Watch it grow.....



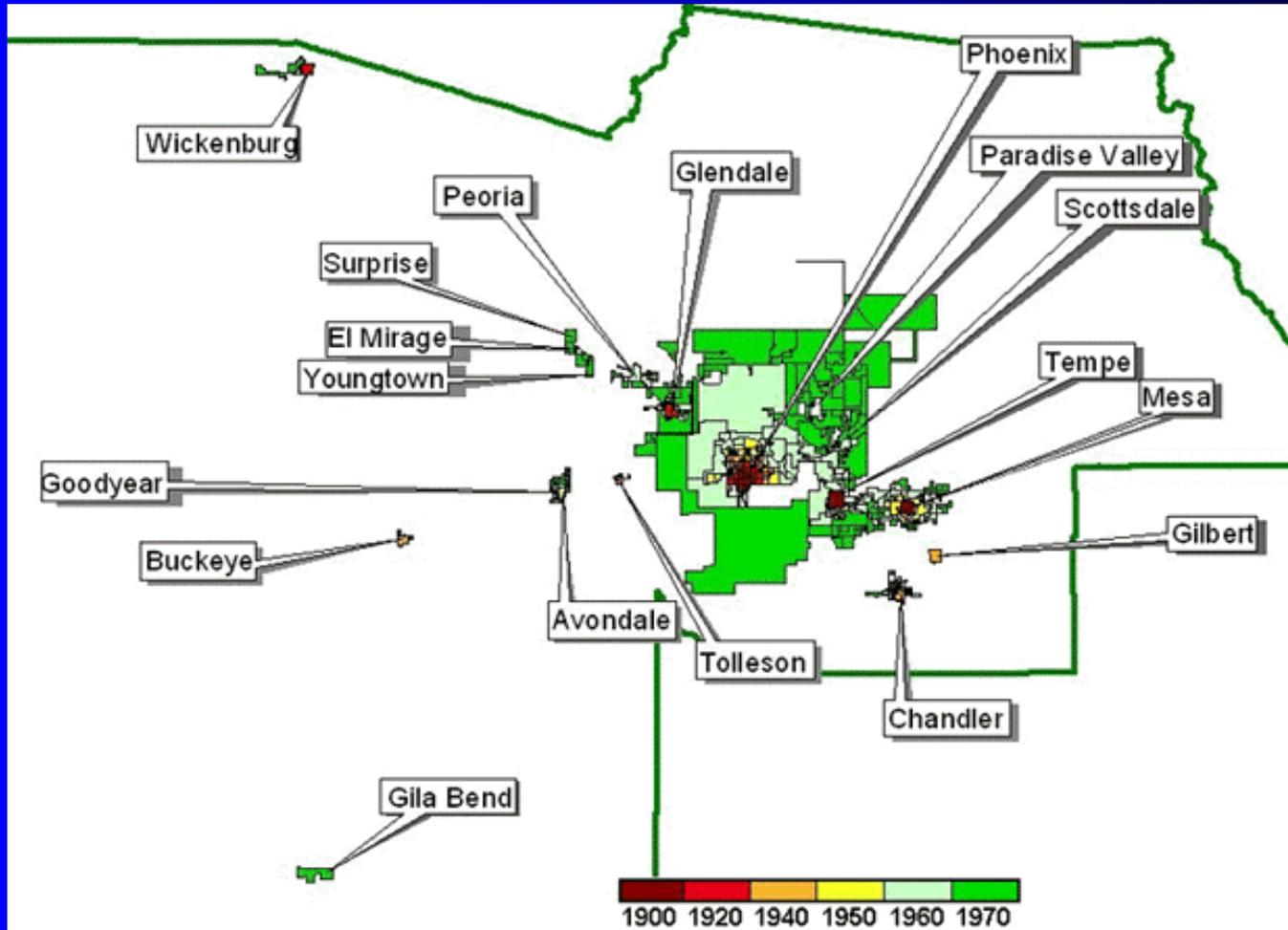
Phoenix Metro 1950



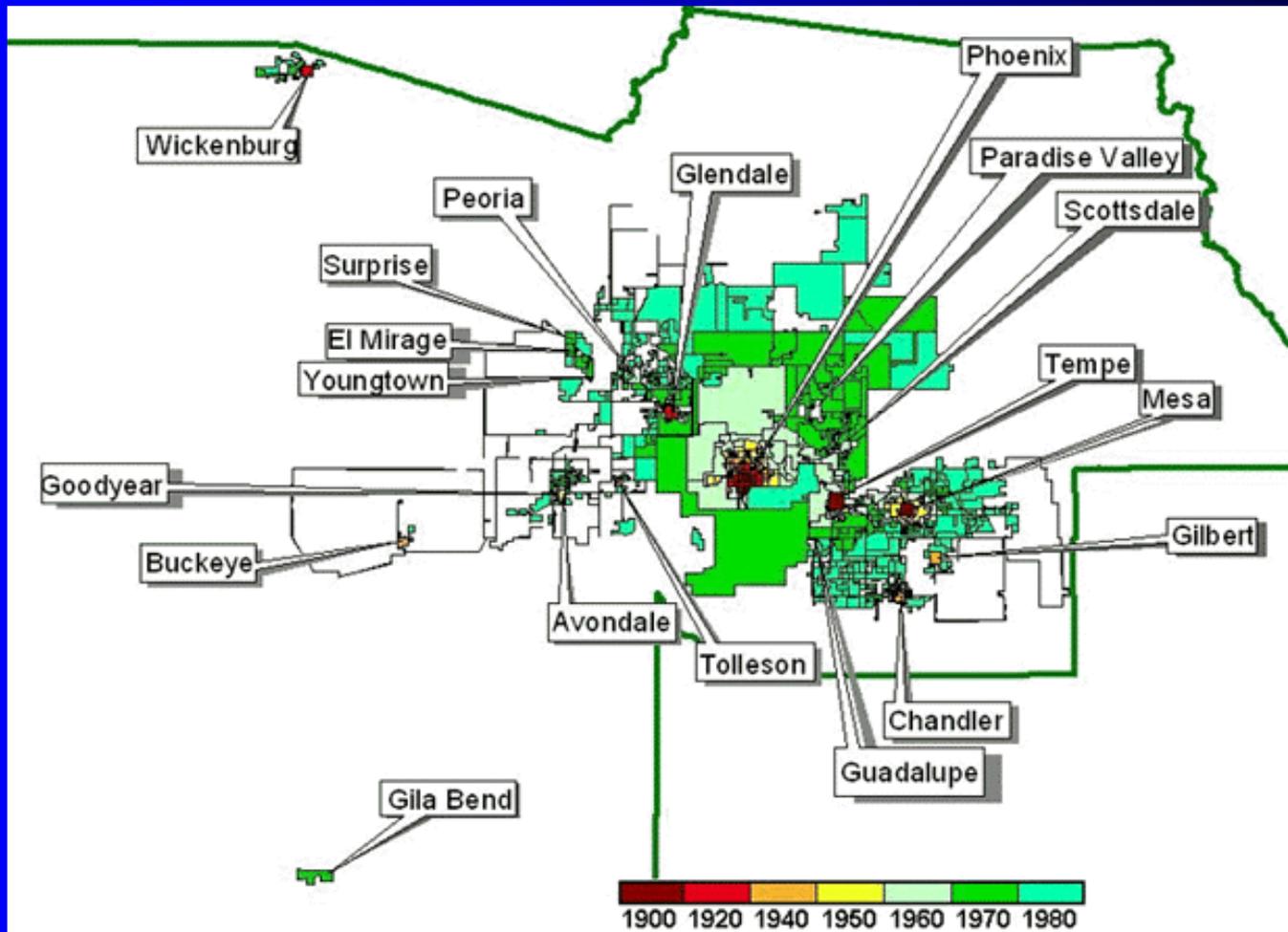
Phoenix Metro 1960



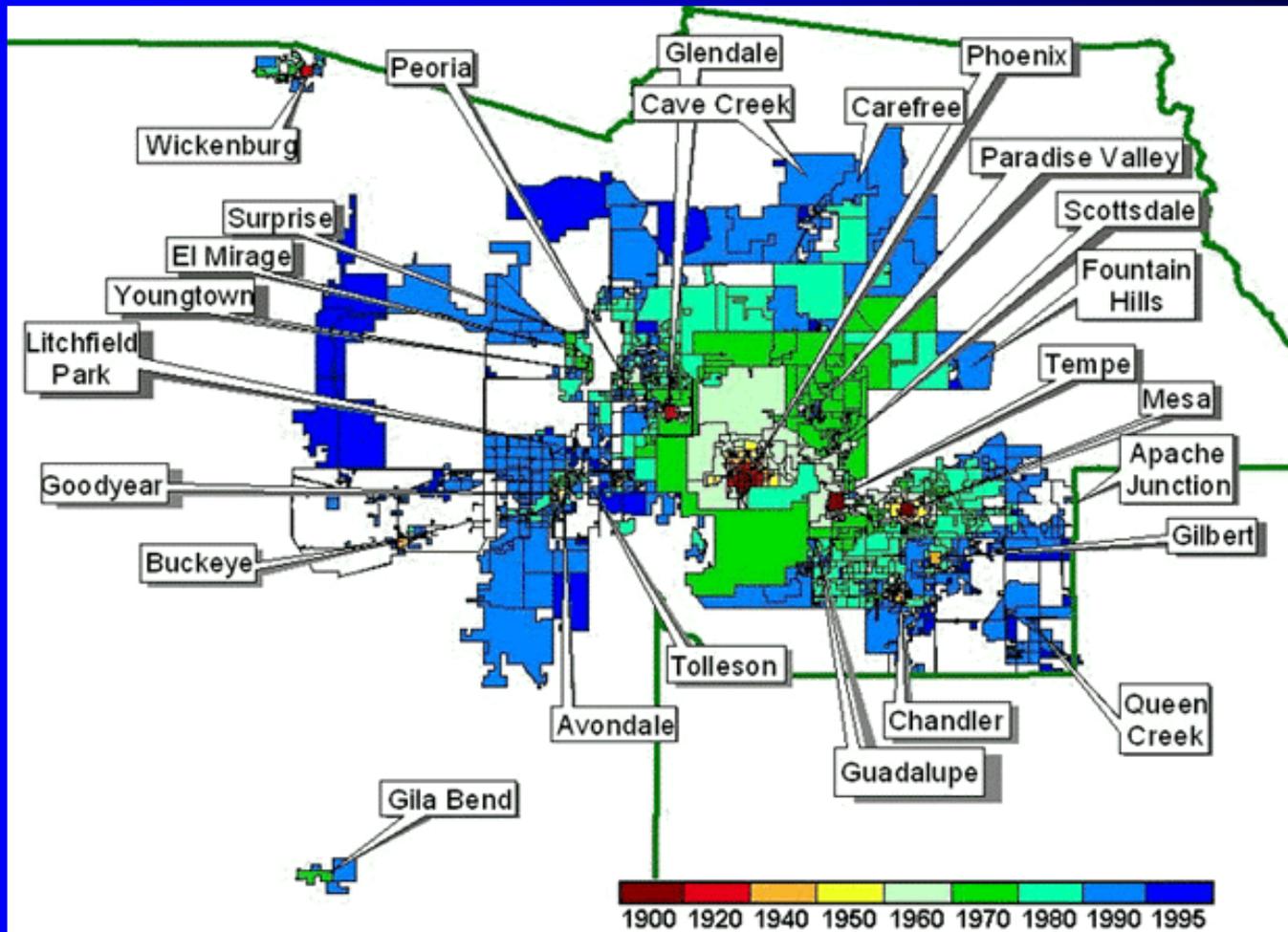
Phoenix Metro 1970



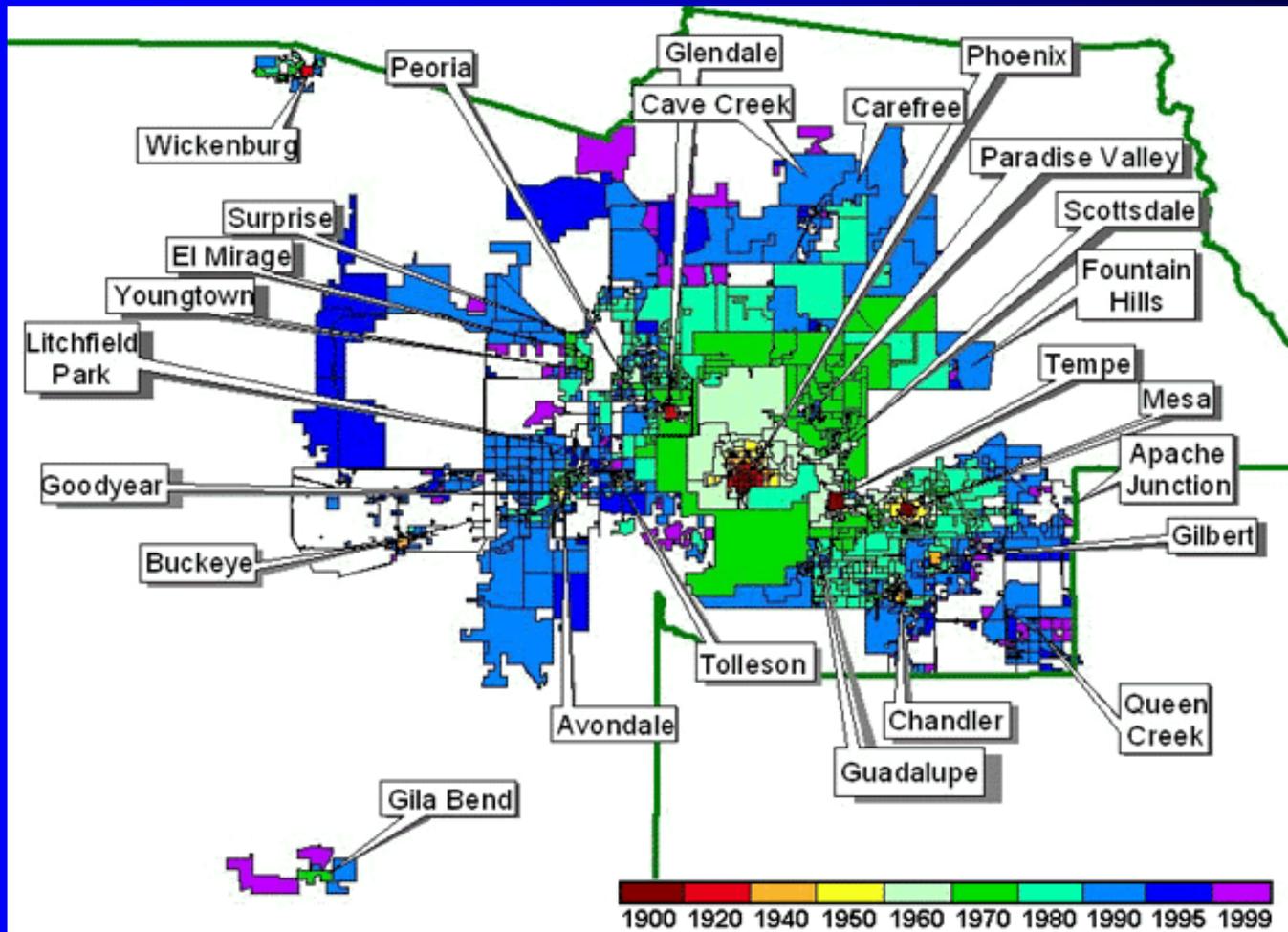
Phoenix Metro 1980



Phoenix Metro 1995



Phoenix Metro 1999



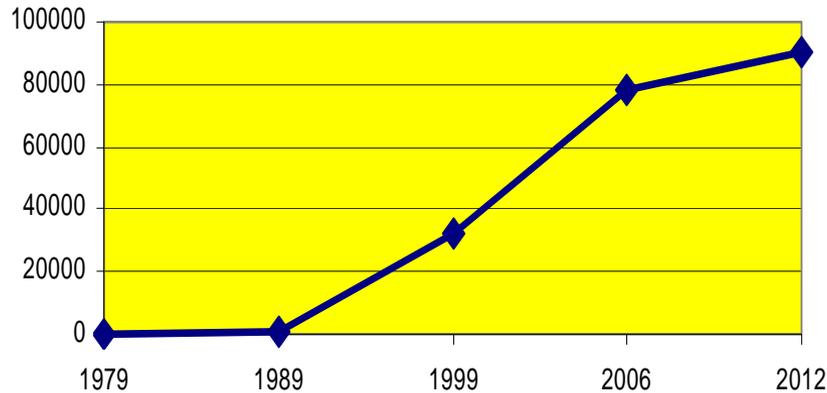
Increased Recreation Use

- Some popular BLM areas near urban areas have had 200-300 % increases in last decade
- Recreation use grows at faster rate than population

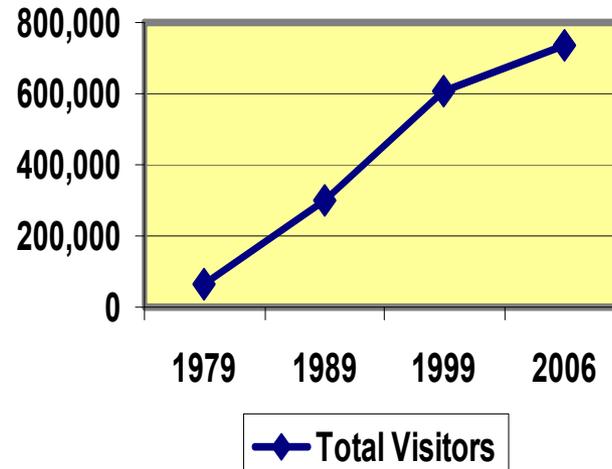
Example: Grand Junction, CO



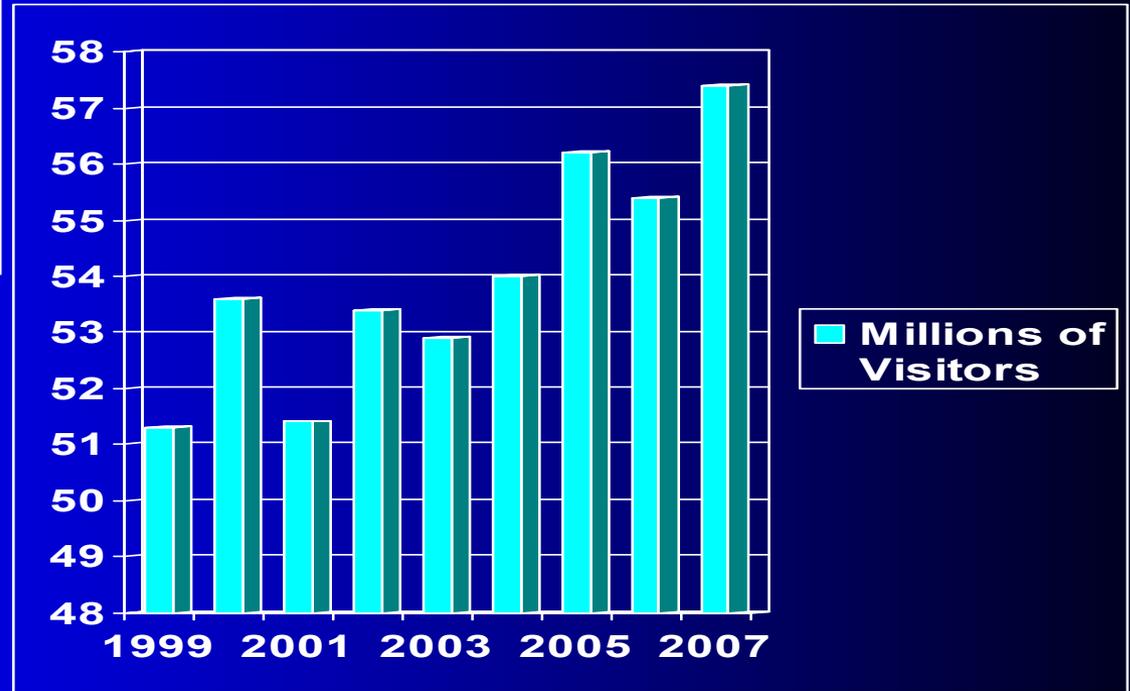
Kokopelli & Bookcliffs Mountain Bike Trails



Grand Junction, CO Visitation



Visitation Growing on BLM Public Lands at a rate of 3 to 4% annually



Hotspots

Hotspots can occur where human activity and undeveloped land collide.

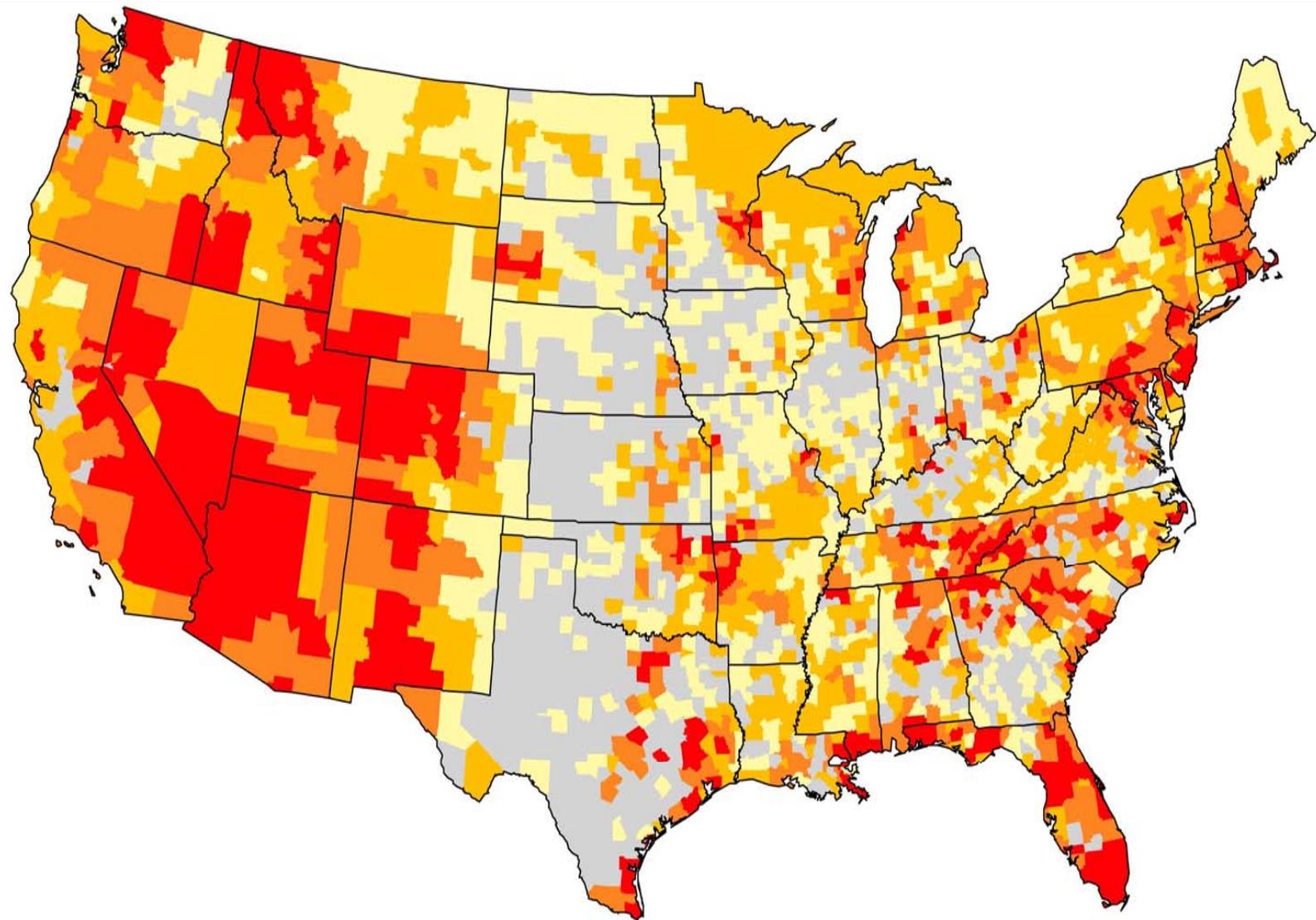
Projections of 2020 “hotspots” were made for all counties in the lower 48 states.

Social Pressure, on currently undeveloped land, comes from:

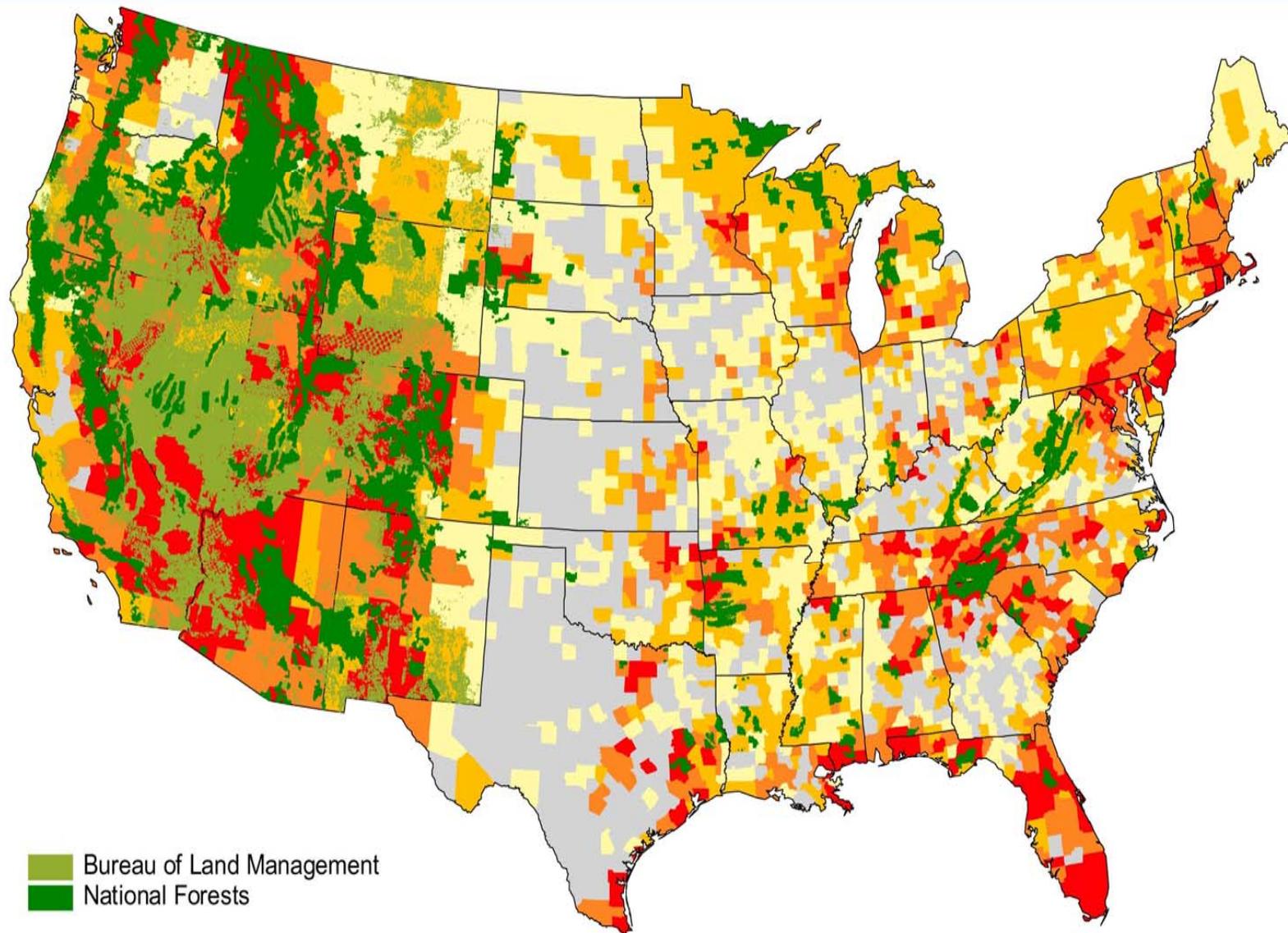
- **Population Density**
- **Economic Activity**
- **Outdoor Recreation Demand**

Population Pressures
on Forests (Local, 2020)





PROJECTED 2020 RECREATION HOTSPOTS



■ Bureau of Land Management
■ National Forests

■ Negligible
■ Light
■ Moderate
■ Moderately heavy
■ Heavy

PROJECTED 2020 RECREATION HOTSPOTS AND PUBLIC LANDS PROXIMITY

Many Unique Events and Attractions: Increasing Number and Type of Permitted Recreation Activities



- **3,658 Active SRPs (commercial outfitters, competitive/special events)**
- **4 X increase in 10 years !**
- **Over 800,000 recreation use permits annually (individual & group camping, entrance, permits)**
- **8 X increase in 10 years !**



Change in U.S. Population in 200 years!



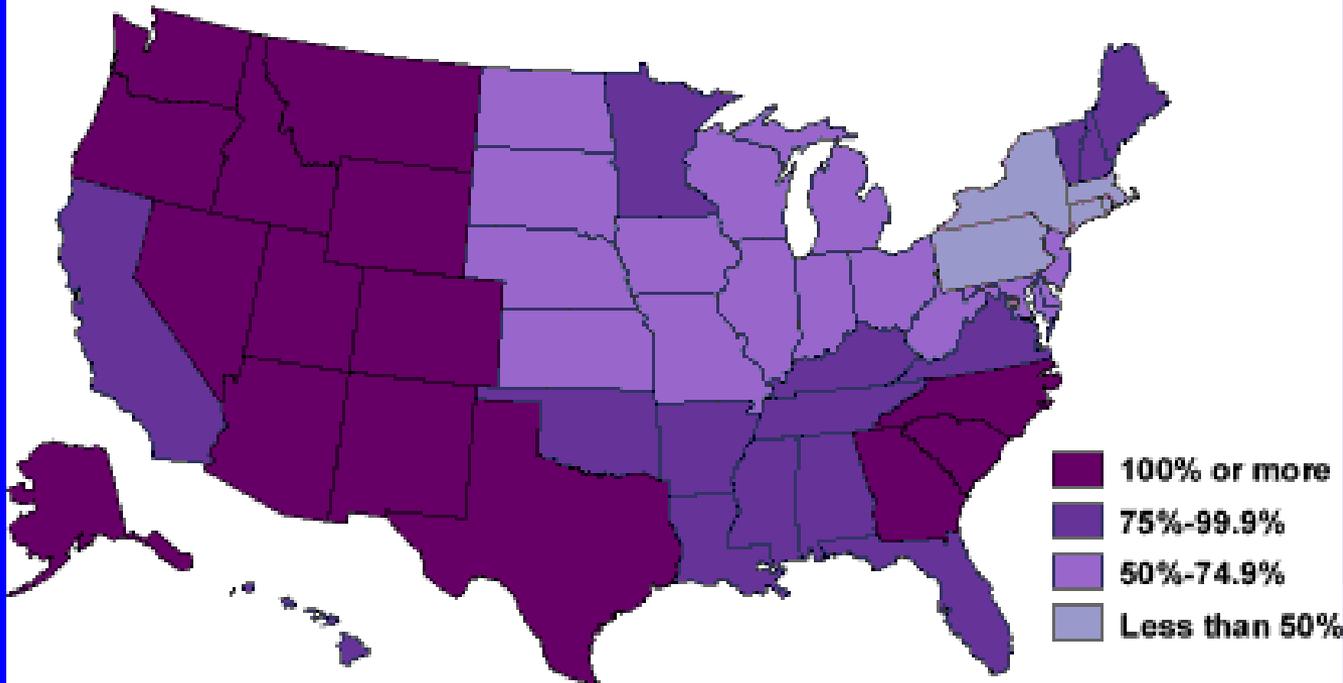
1900
76m

2000
278m

2100
571m

Senior Adult Demographics

Percent Change in the Population Age 65 and Older, by State, 2000 to 2020



Darker = higher percentage of 65+ in 2020.

Sunbelt and Rocky Mountain are getting lots of retirees

Active Seniors and more on-the-go Boomers



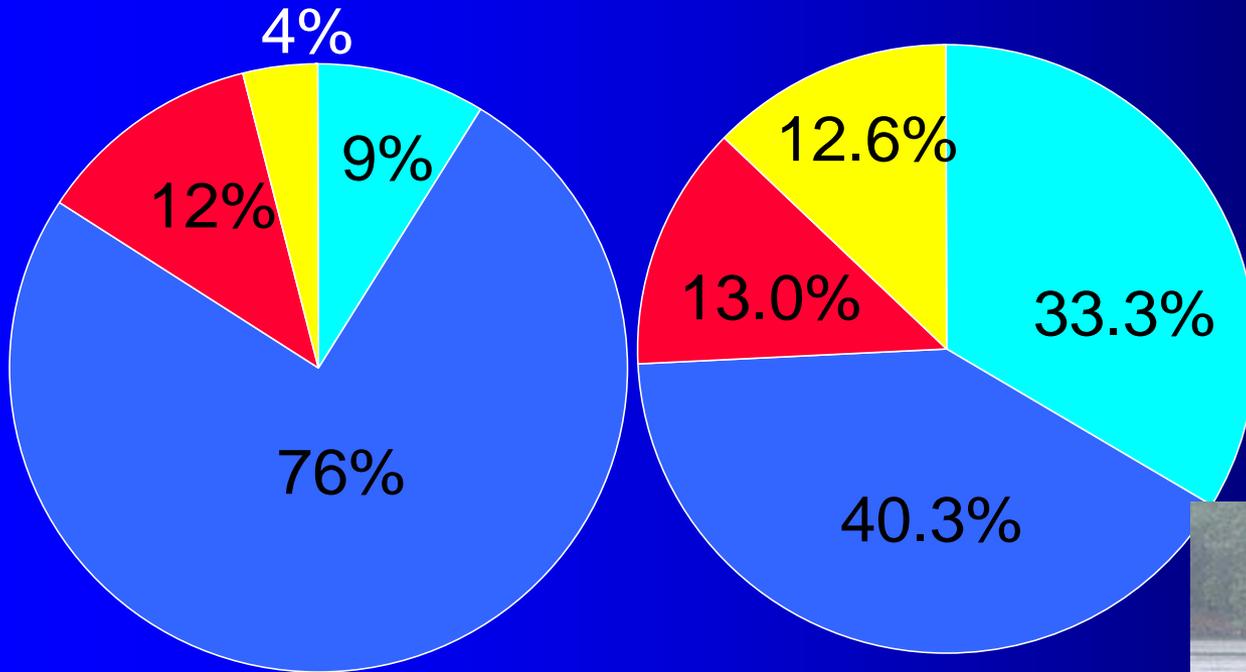
Life expectancy projected to double between 1900 and 2100 (mid 40s to mid 80s)

Growing Diversity of Population



2000

2100



- Hispanic
- White, NH
- Black, NH
- Asian, NH



15 FASTEST GROWING ACTIVITIES 1982 TO 2004

activity	% participating '82-'83	millions participating '82-'83	% participating '00-'04	millions participating '00-'04	% change '82-'83 to '00-'04
View/photograph birds	12	22	31.8	73.0	231.8
Day hiking	14	26	32.6	74.8	187.7
Backpacking	5	9	10.9	25.0	177.8
Snowmobiling	3	6	5.9	13.6	126.7
Off-road driving	11	20	19.4	44.4	122.0
Primitive camping	10	18	16.7	38.2	112.2
Sledding	10	18	16.1	36.8	104.4
Attend outdoor concerts	25	48	41.9	96.0	100.0
Camping	24	46	38.7	88.8	93.0
Walking for pleasure	53	100	82.7	189.5	89.5
Developed camping	17	33	27.1	62.1	88.2
Canoeing/kayaking	8	15	12.2	28.0	86.7
Downhill skiing	6	12	8.9	20.5	70.8
Natural area swimming	32	59	43.3	99.2	68.1
Running/jogging	26	49	35.5	81.3	65.9

Activities with 100+ million people and more than 50% participation



Activity	Participating	Millions
View/Photo Scenery	71%	151.2
Visit Nature Centers	64%	135.9
Driving for Pleasure	61%	130.9
View/Photo Wildlife	58%	124.6
View/Photo Flora	57%	122.0
Visit Beach	57%	121.8
Swim Lake, Stream	54%	116.1
Visit Historic Sites	53%	113.6
Picnicking	52%	112.1

Big & Bigger

- **Most popular**
- **Will grow with population**
- **Minimal equipment**
- **Social component**
- **Family friendly**
- **Easily accessible & close to home**
- **Wide skill range**

- Walking
- Family Gatherings
- Visiting Nature Centers
- Picnicking
- Developed Camping
- Visiting Beaches
- Sightseeing
- Visiting Historic Sites
- Swimming



Up & Coming

- Day Hiking
- Bicycling
- Mountain Biking
- Running
- Wildlife Viewing

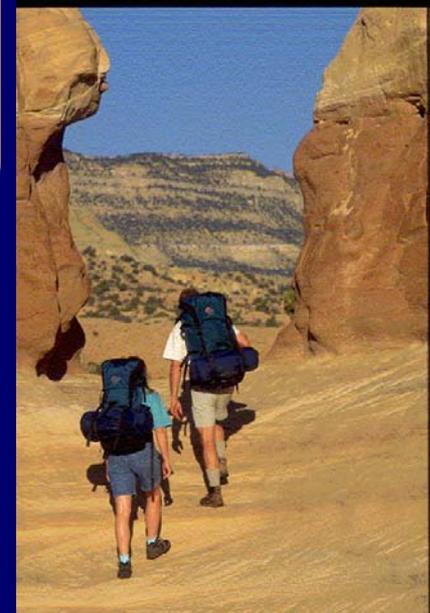
- Moderately popular
- Fast-growing
(38% - 59%)
- Requires minimal,
long-wearing gear
- Often available close
to home
- Allows for a
wide range of
ability



Specialized

- **Smaller numbers but high level of commitment**
- **Fast-growing (50 - 136% growth between '94 - '01)**
- **Requires specialized equipment & facilities**
- **Large investment & industry support**

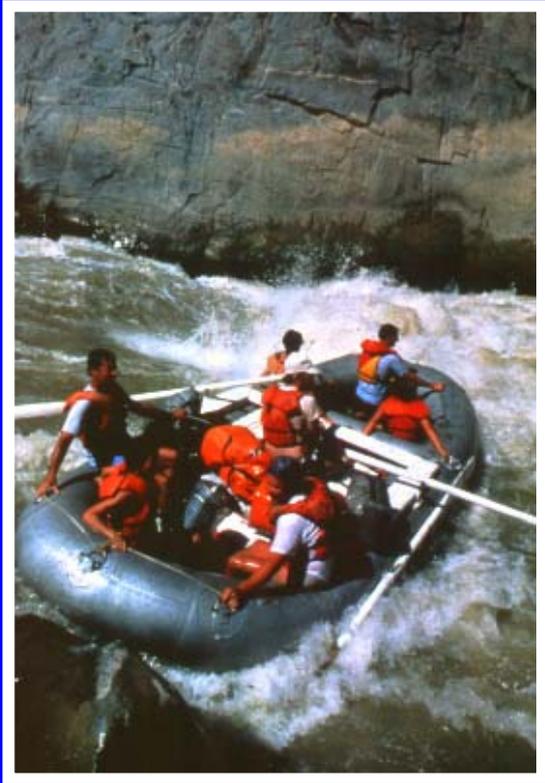
- Snowboarding
- Personal Watercraft
- Kayaking & Canoeing
- OHV/ATV
- Snowmobiling
- Horseback Riding
- Salt Water Fishing
- Backpacking



Changing populations: Implications for AORE organizations

- **Expect competition for limited resources.**
- **Expect more allocation, limits on use and use permits to protect resources and experiences**
- **Expect more crowding, diversity and specialization.**
- **Expect increasing public conflict over “appropriate” forms of recreation on the public lands.**

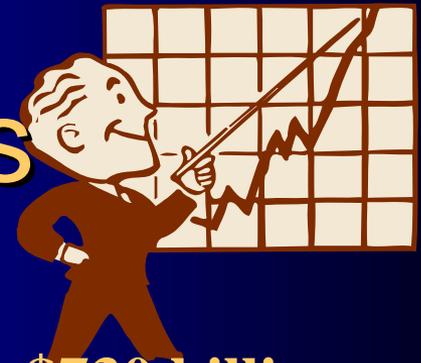
Trends: Economics



Growing importance and influence

- Recreation is now big business and requires more accountability
- Recreation significantly contributes to regional economic diversity and stability
- Increased demands generated by fast growing industries such as adventure/challenge recreation and tourism
- Recreation now “on par” with traditional land uses requiring more management oversight
- More competition for permits

Recreation is Big Business



- **“Active outdoor recreation” contributes over \$730 billion annually to the U.S. economy (2006)**
- **“Motorized outdoor recreation” contributes an additional \$18 billion in total economic impact (1998).**
- **Spending for “Hunting, fishing, and wildlife-associated recreation” topped \$108 billion in 2001**
- **Recreation & tourism industry is one of the TOP THREE industries in all Western States.**

Outdoor recreation, nature, adventure, and heritage travel are the fastest growing segments of the travel and tourism industry.

More money, more power, more influence - and more scrutiny

THE RECREATION ECONOMY:

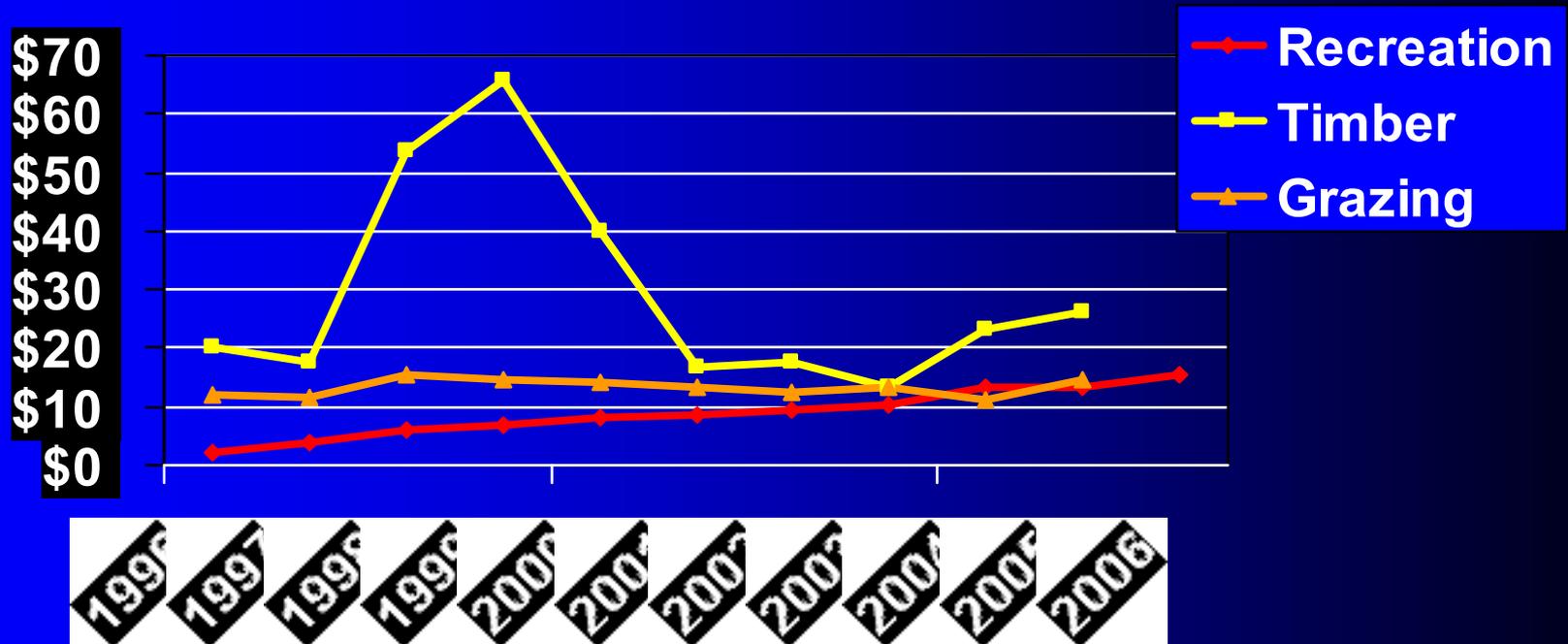
- Supports 6.5 million jobs across the U.S.
- Generates \$88 billion in annual state/national tax revenue
- Provides sustainable growth in rural communities
- Generates additional \$289 billion annually in retail sales and services across the U.S.
- Touches over 8 percent of America's personal consumption expenditures—more than 1 in every 12 dollars circulating in the economy

Source:
The Active Outdoor Recreation Economy
by
Outdoor Industry Foundation, 2006



Fee Revenue Comparison

Totals In Millions



Revenue from recreation fees in BLM has grown to be on par with other “traditional” resource programs. Also has triggered audits and generated need for greater accountability and oversight!

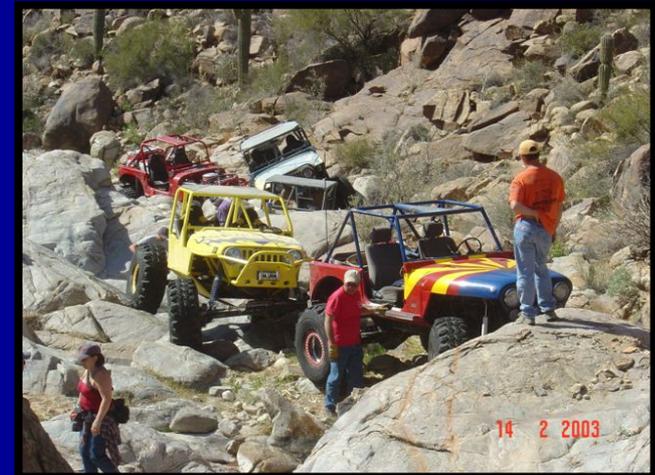
Changing Economics: Implications for AORE organizations

- **Expect agencies to require organizations to have better business practices.**
- **Expect increasing oversight, accountability, auditing and allocation of limited resources.**
- **Expect private resort, outfitting and guiding organizations to protect their business interests.**
- **Expect increasing public demand for those who use facilities and services to pay for them.**

Trends: Technology

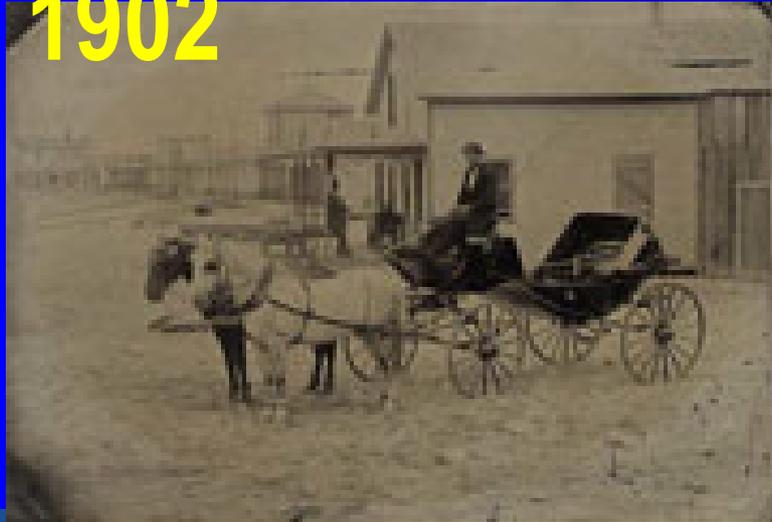
Challenges

- BLM and FS are **disproportionately affected** by recreation technology (motorized) than other federal lands (NPS, FWS)
- Increasing **demand for more opportunities** to use sport equipment and technology needs support of services and facilities, real time information, and increased demand for access
- Growing **popularity of new generation and extreme sports** and activities



Technological advances in outdoor recreation activities has greater effect on “multiple use” agencies

1902



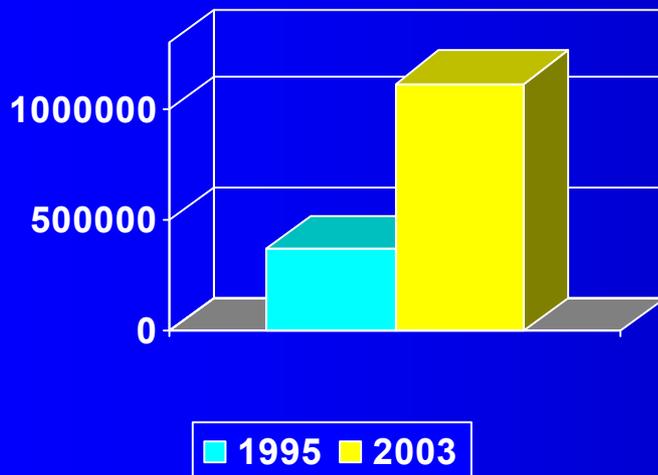
2002



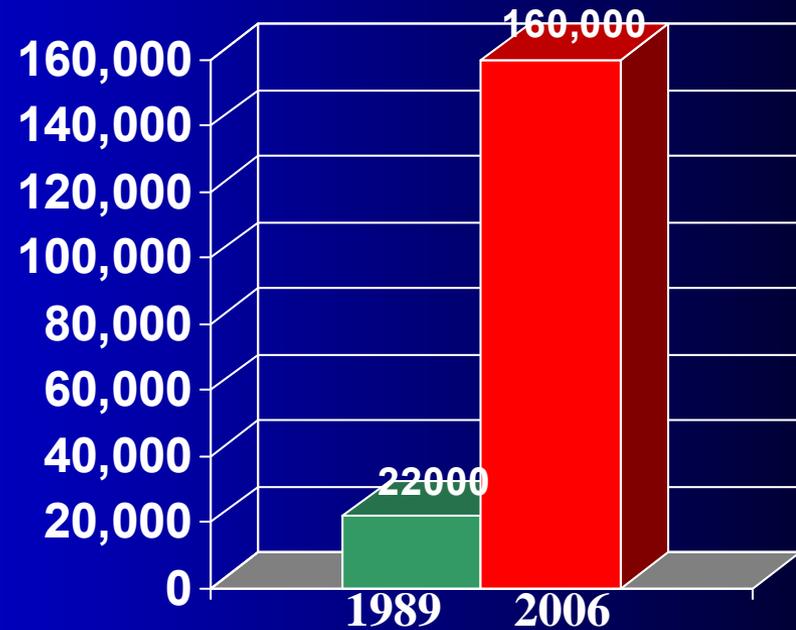
Growing popularity of OHVs



Annual OHV Unit Sales



Annual sales of OHVs has tripled in 8 years 368,000 to over a million but sales in the West are twice the national average!



Number of registered OHVs in Utah has grown more than seven-fold in 18 years

New Generation Sports and Activities

- **Extreme sports** – everything from sledging to zorbing, from base jumping to cave diving
- **Technology driven activities** such as geocaching, night vision goggles, paintball, rock crawling, artificial intelligence vehicles (DARPA) rocket launching, rough terrain vehicles (RTVs)



What recreation technology challenges will we face in the future?

Aerotrekking



Hovercraft



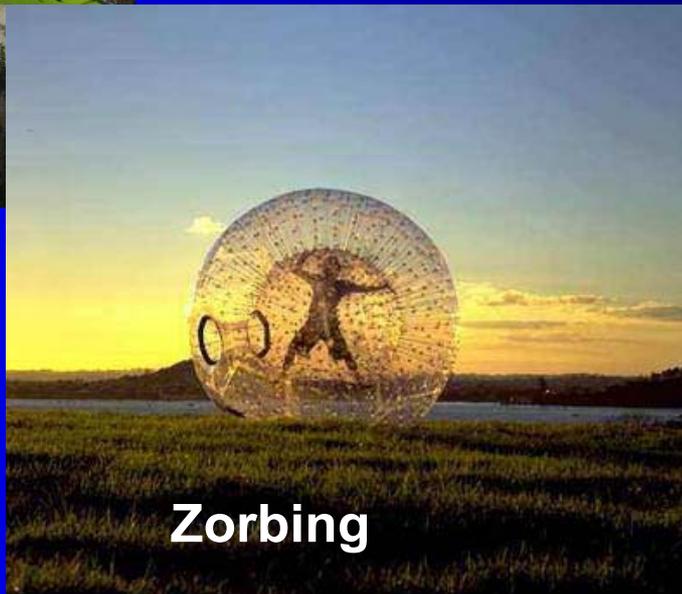
Rocket Launching



River Sledging



Zorbing



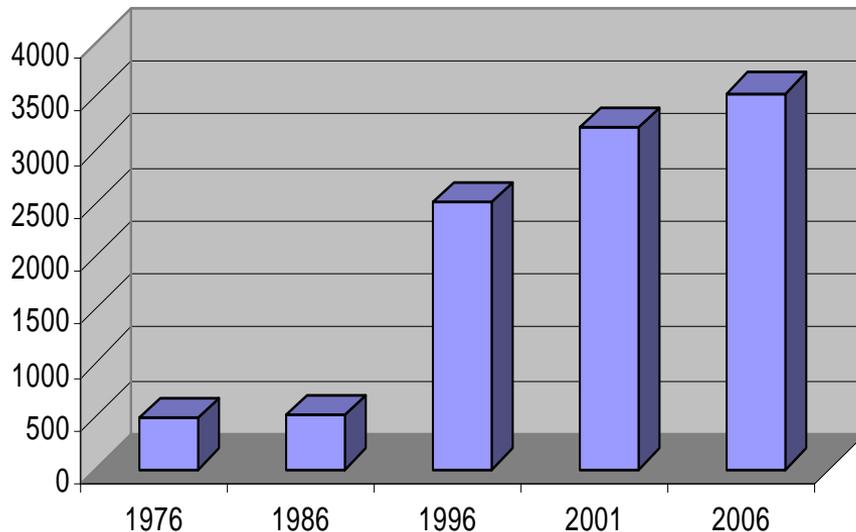
**Guess what?
They're out there already!**

Developed Recreation Sites

Basic infrastructure developed to meet visitor demand, improve accessibility and protect resources – now growing demand for communication technology!



Number of Recreation Sites



BLM manages seven times as many sites as it did 25 years ago – to meet demand but greatly increasing costs for operations and maintenance.



20 new visitor centers in last 20 years!

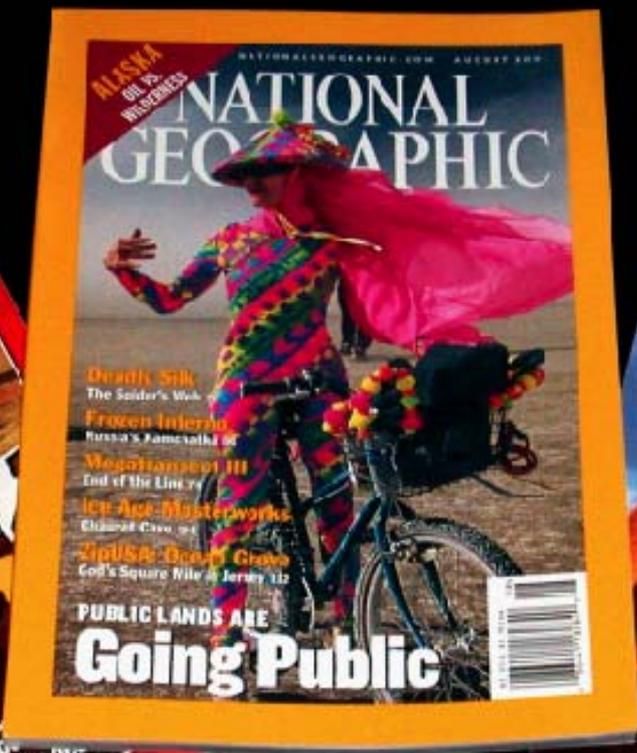
Changing Technology: Implications for AORE organizations

- **Expect growing demand from non-traditional, motorized and high-tech activities – and expect more conflicts with other recreational uses.**
- **Expect client demand for shorter, more high tech and varied experiences.**
- **Expect people to want state of the art facilities, services and equipment.**
- **Expect increasing public demand for instant communication and information.**

Trends: Values

Challenges

- Recreation issues are more polarized
- Recreation is considered a core value and viewed as a right, not a privilege
- Increasing social sensitivity to landscape changes and environmental concern over recreation uses
- Expanding agency missions and heightened public expectation for services and safety
- Recreation now “above the radar” with increasing conflicts and legal challenges



Changing Public View and Values About Natural Resources

➤ **Frontier**

Subdue Nature/Manifest Destiny

➤ **Commodity**

Harvest Nature/Gifford Pinchot

➤ **Amenity**

Enjoy Nature/John Muir

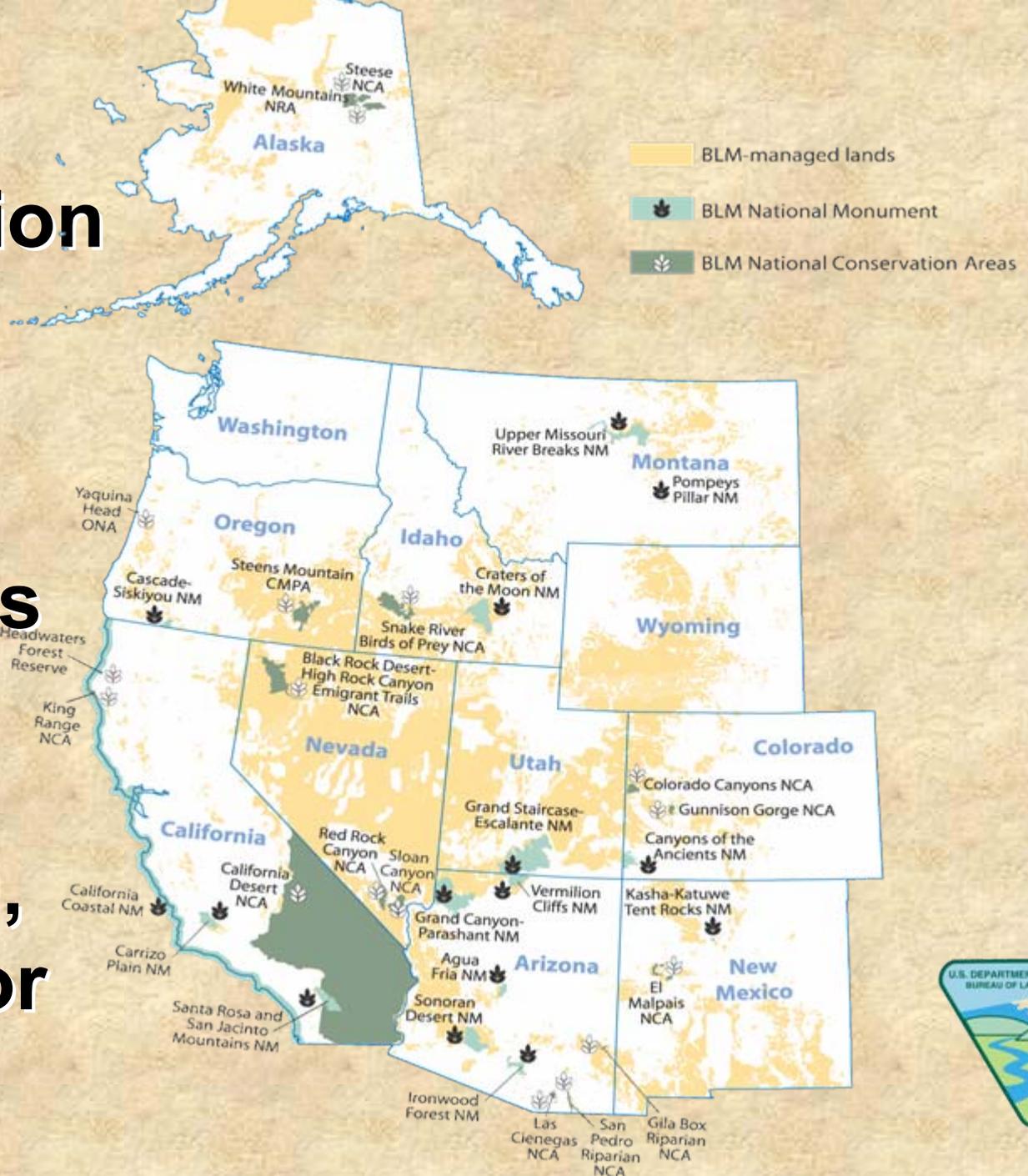
➤ **Ecological**

*Depend on Nature/Rachael
Carson*



National Conservation Areas and National Monuments

Expanding, new role for BLM

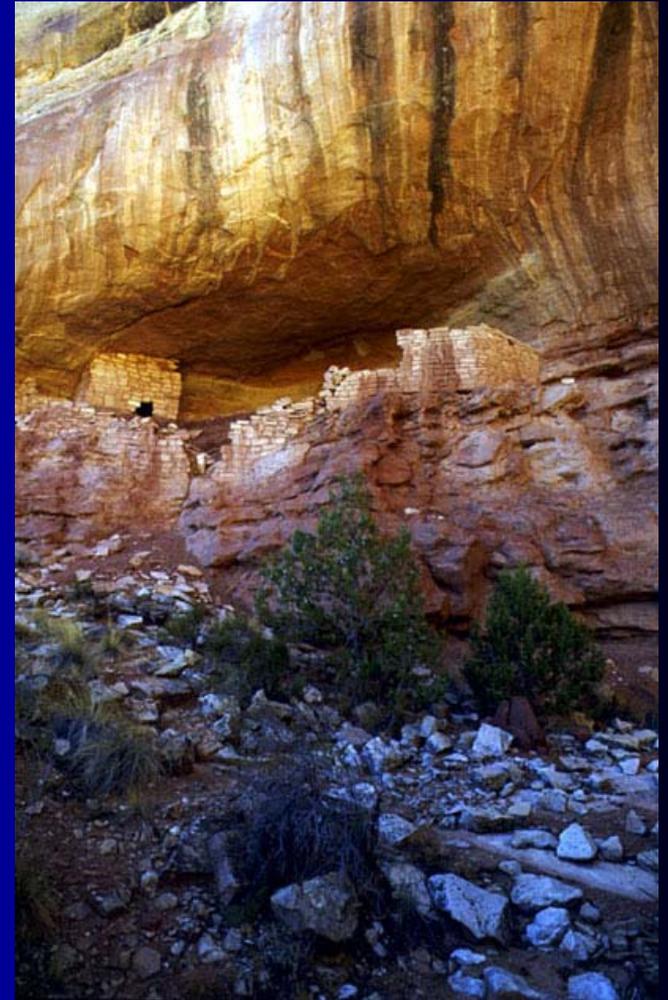




Broader recreation challenge for FS and BLM and their multiple use mandate:
People tend to “visit” the National Parks - but generally recreate or “play & stay” on Public Lands



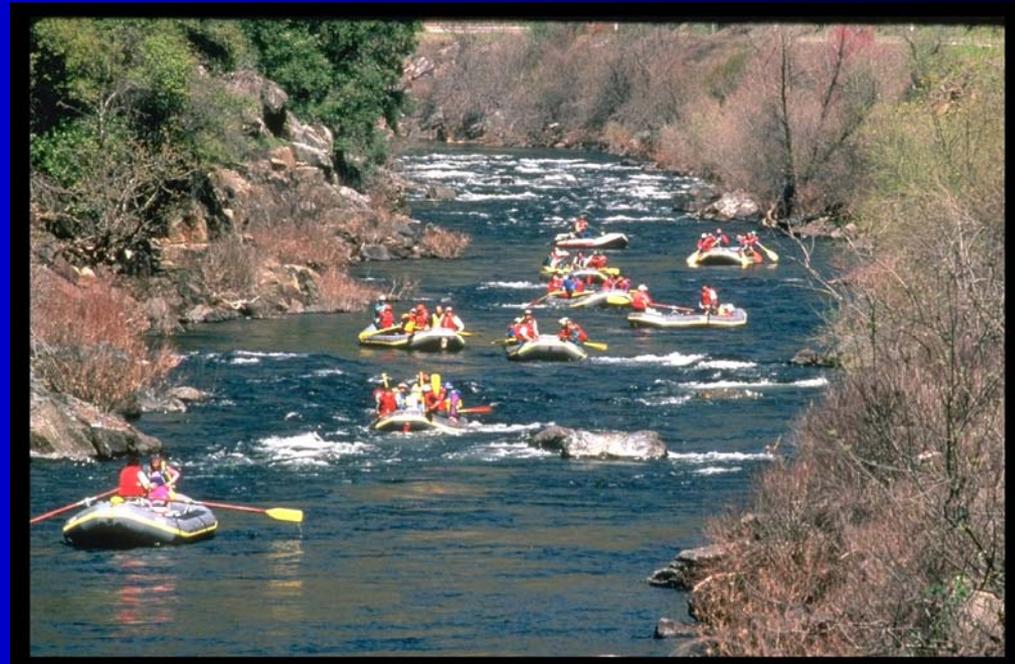
**Challenge of providing opportunities to visit
and offering interpretation, & stewardship education –
yet protecting heritage & cultural sites –
once they are gone, they are gone forever**



Changing Values: Implications for AORE organizations

- **Expect public to demand “risk-free” experiences, have heightened liability concerns and greater government (or industry) oversight.**
- **Expect greater conflict and controversy over group and organizational use of public resources and lands.**
- **Expect greater permit mitigation requirements or restrictions to protect cultural and natural resources.**
- **Expect more rigorous application of NEPA on proposed recreation activities or events– and expect to pay for it.**

So what does all this mean for agencies and organizations like AORE?



Meeting the Challenge: A new role for land agencies as collaborators and partners

- What we have heard from external groups is the government agencies cannot and should not do this alone
- The answers lie in partnering, collaborating and leveraging agency resources with communities of place and interest – like AORE





A critical question for land agencies:
*How do we secure and sustain a
citizen base for the future?*

AORE can help!

AORE organizations can and do play a critical role in helping an urban and technological society come to understand and value...

- *Nature, natural systems and the public lands*
- *The importance of landscape scale conservation*
- *Our shared natural & cultural heritage resources*
- *The need for intact habitat & open space*
- *The importance of nature to the human spirit*

Outdoor education and recreation programs offer a bridge



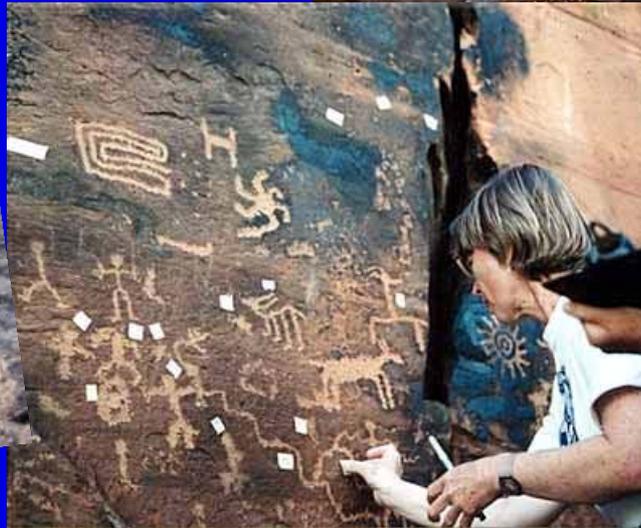
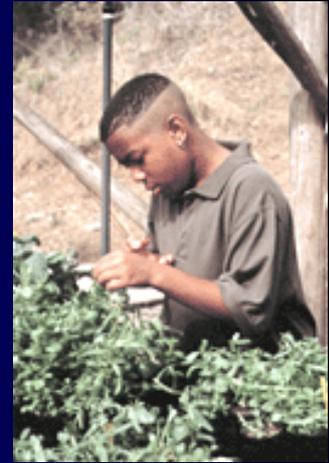
between urban people and nature-based experiences on their public lands

AORE organizations can help the agencies connect people with the land through:

- ❖ **Hearts:** Promoting stewardship
- ❖ **Heads:** Fostering interest in conservation, science and research
- ❖ **Health:** Facilitating active and healthy lifestyles
- ❖ **Hands:** Engaging people in public service & volunteering
- ❖ **Hope:** Building a better future by getting more kids and families outdoors!

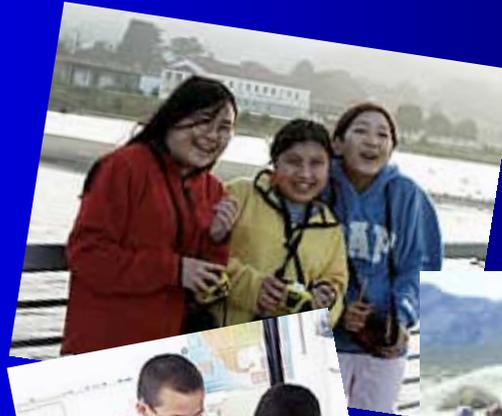
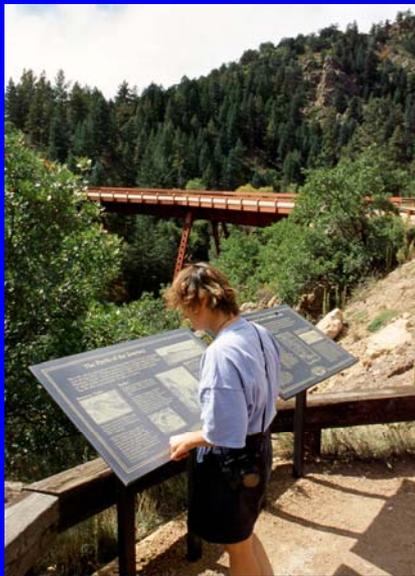
Hearts: Promoting Stewardship

- Promoting use ethics and responsible recreation
- Conducting needed monitoring and research
- Creating stewardship publications or websites



Heads: Sharing knowledge and fostering interest

- Education
- Interpretation
- Information



Understanding → appreciation → action

Health: Connecting people with the great outdoors

- Introducing people to fun outdoors
- Promoting fitness & active lifestyles
- Providing access to lands & nature
- Teaching skills & safety



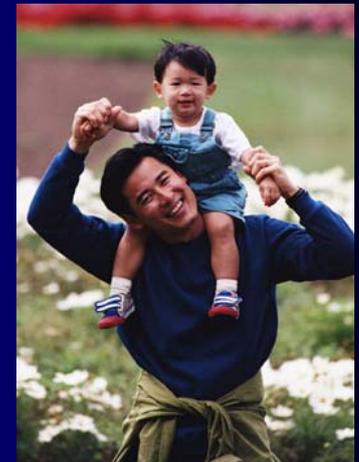
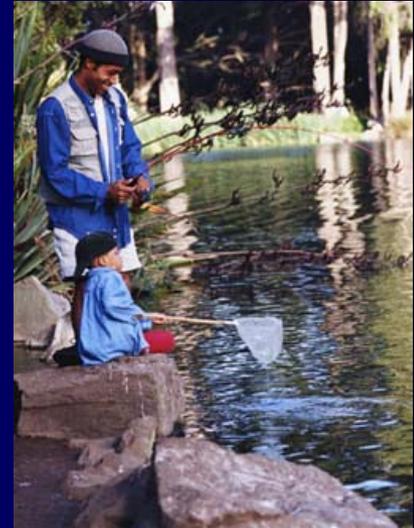
Hands: Engaging people in public service, volunteerism

- Providing visitor services & assistance
- Offering monitoring & patrol help
- Conducting restoration activities



Hope: Creating the next generation of citizen stewards

- Engaging children in nature through outdoor recreation/education experiences
- Providing safe and affordable access for families and youth groups
- Building broader constituencies who appreciate values of conservation and the legacy of public lands



Emerging issues of concern regarding institutional permits and use

- **Legitimacy, business oriented, financially responsible organizations:** even though you are non-profit institution or organization – it does not mean you are not a business
- **Liability, duty of care, & oversight:** Safety of visitors and qualifications of staff



Ways for your organization to build a productive relationship with the agencies

- **Gain influence:** Get involved with policy development & planning and learn the issues.
- **Build relationships:** Get to know your land managers.
- **Create networks:** Join professional organizations that provide opportunity to network with other organizations and managers.
- **Generate good will:** Offer to partner or provide services for management solutions.



How can we work better together?

Share your ideas and recommendations:

Bob Ratcliffe, Chief

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- Learn more: www.blm.gov and click on recreation program





Thank You



Happy Trails

