Welcome From the BLM Oklahoma Field Office

Wild Horse & Burro Advisory Board Meeting
Oklahoma City, OK

March 4, 2013

Steve Tryon, Field Manager

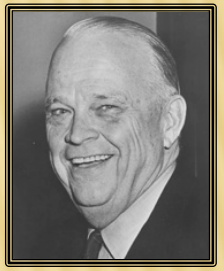
Welcome to Oklahoma!

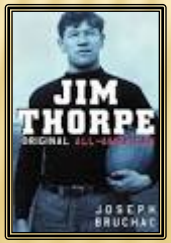
Okla + Humma = Choctaw Indian word meaning "red people"

Oklahoma Economy

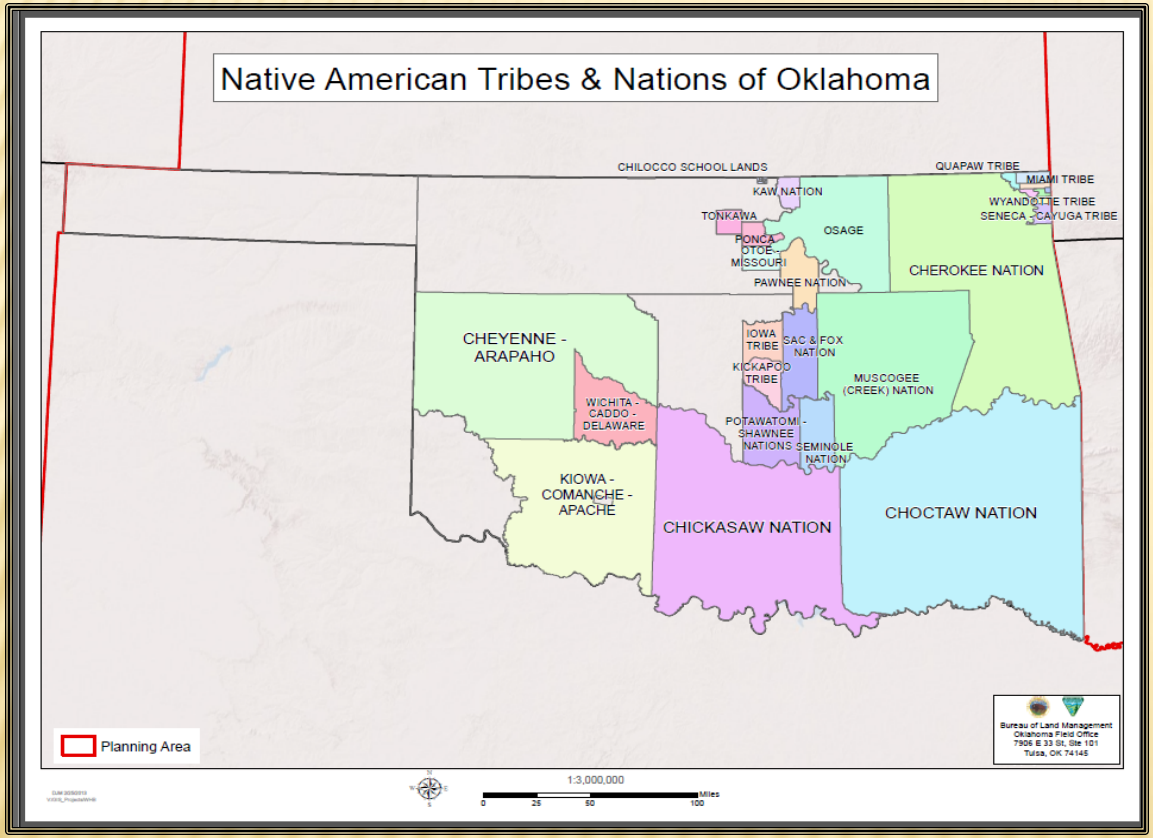
- Energy (oil and gas, wind, coal), Aerospace, and Agriculture are all economic drivers.
- State-wide population of 3.7 million.
  Approx. 2 million in greater OKC, Tulsa areas
- Median household income = $44,287
  (National average is $52,762)
- Unemployment rate is 4.6 (December 2012, bls.gov)
  (National unemployment rate is 7.8 (bls.gov))

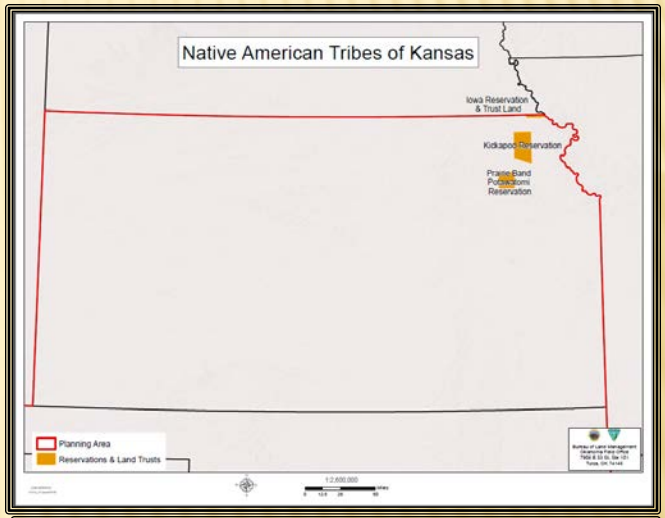
OKLAHOMA ICONS

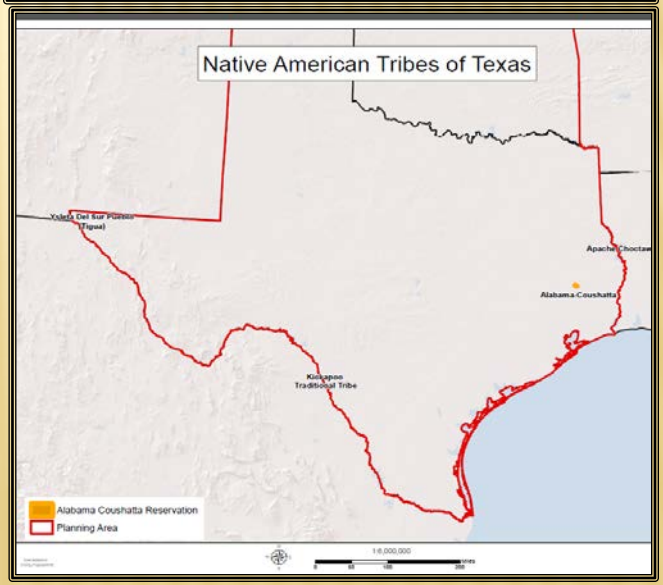




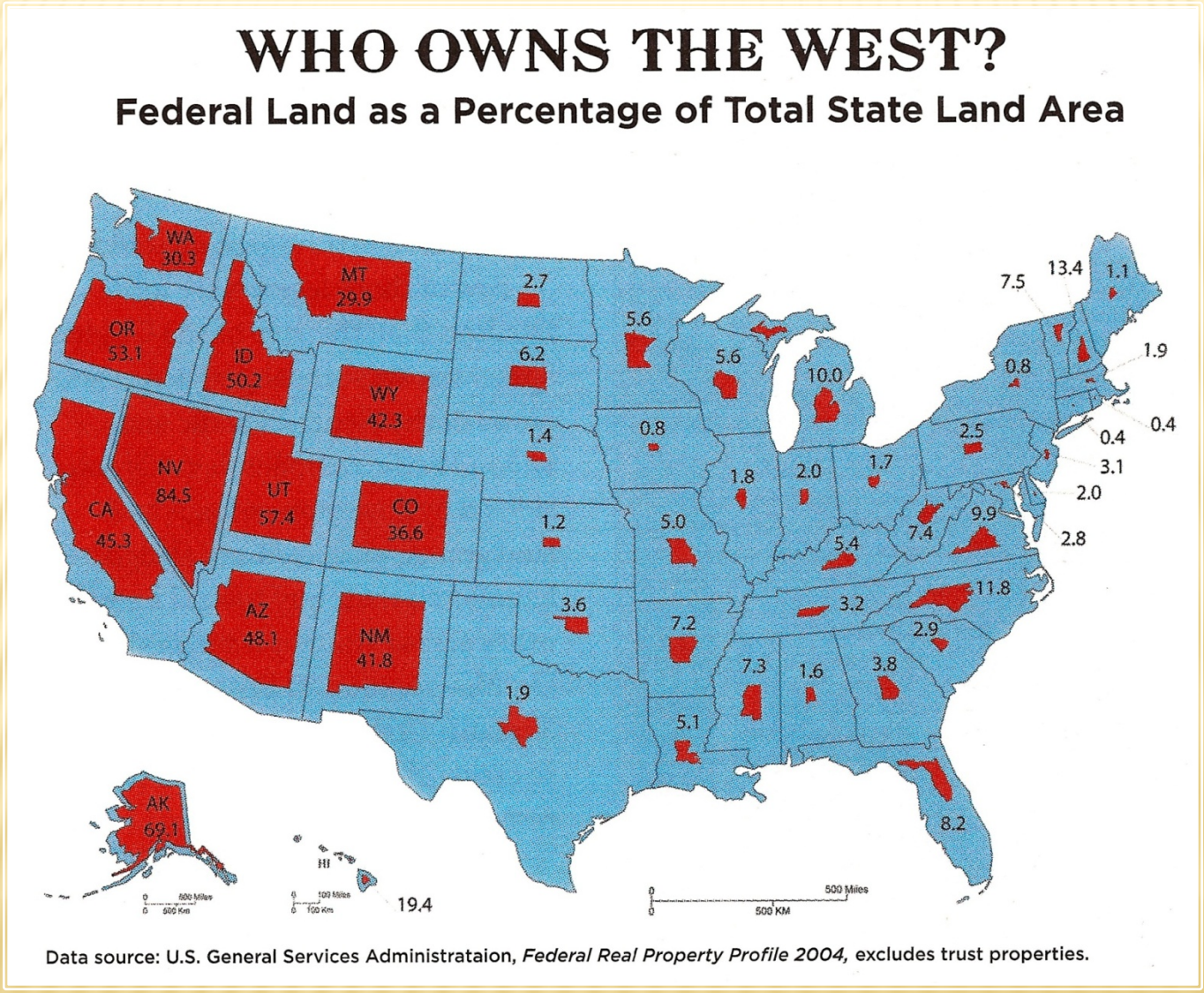
Indian Country, Oklahoma, Kansas, and Texas



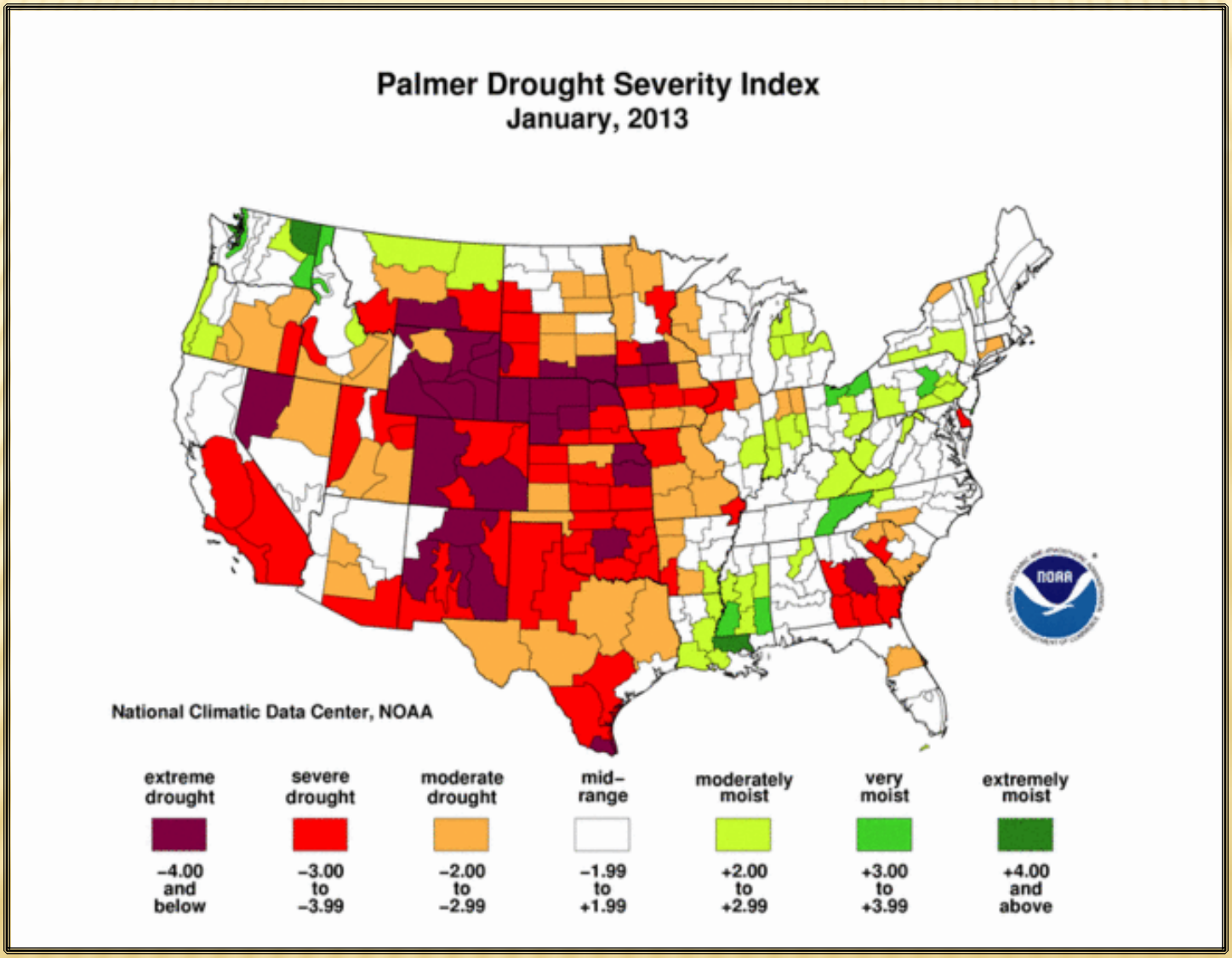




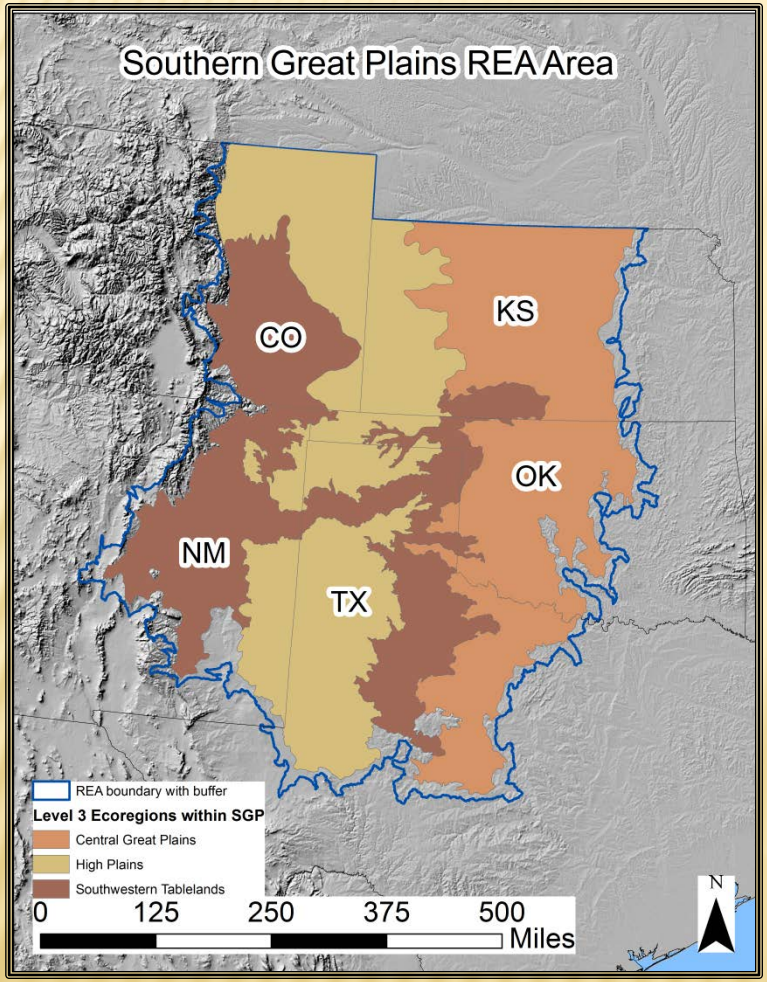
PUBLIC LAND OWNERSHIP, EAST V WEST

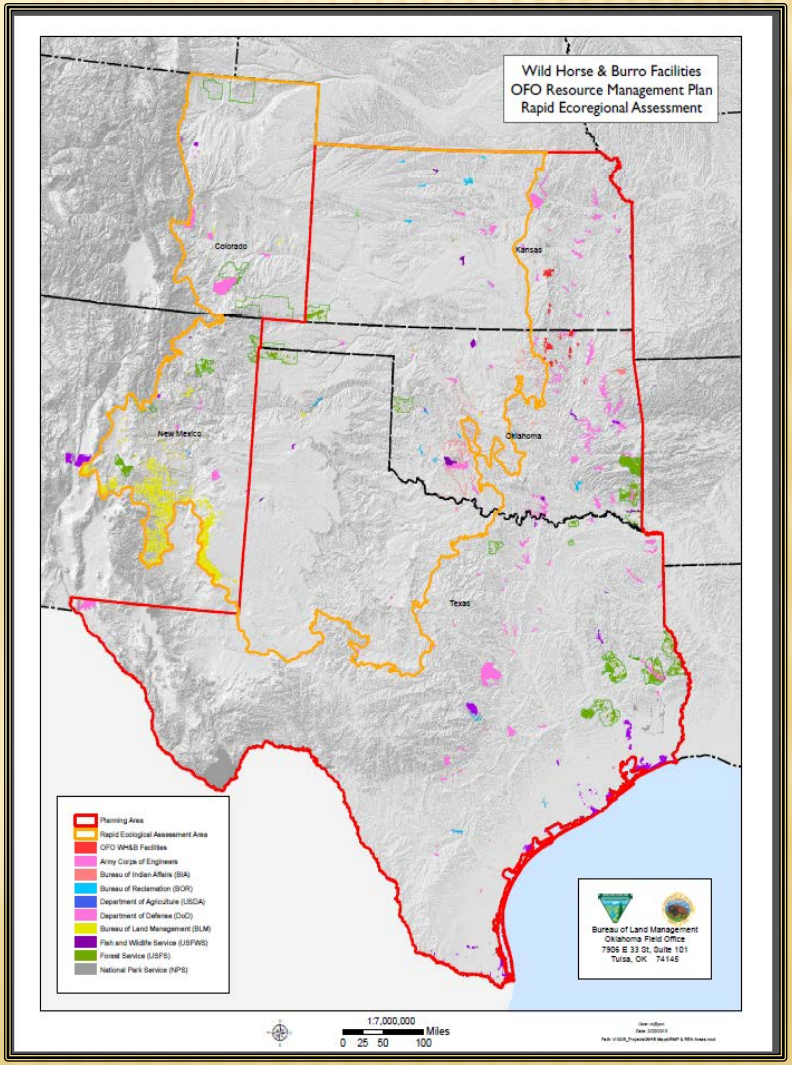


DROUGHT WORST SINCE 1930S, 1950S



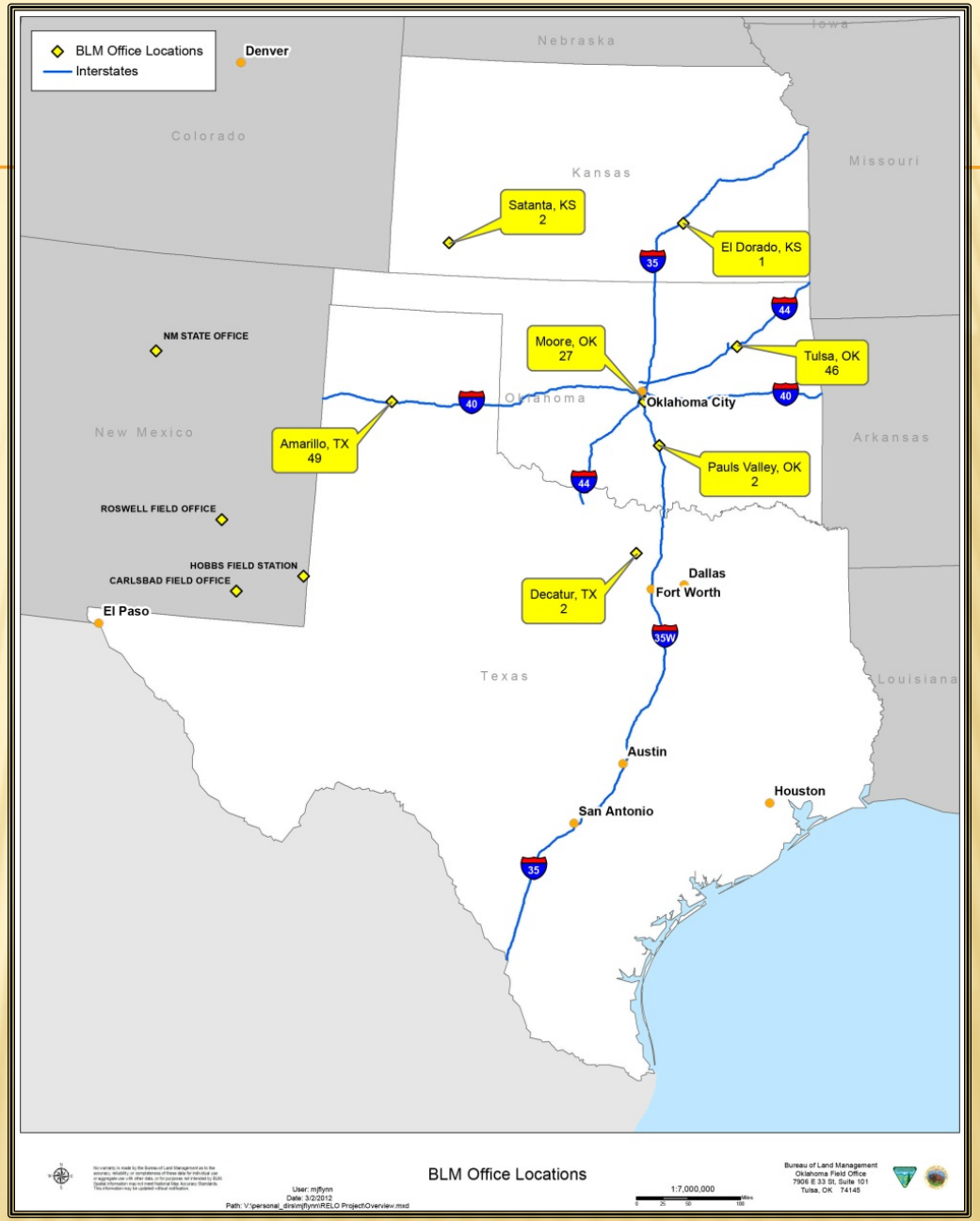
OFO MANAGEMENT AREA & RAPID ECOREGIONAL ASSESSMENT BOUNDARY





EMPLOYEE LOCATIONS:

KANSAS, OKLAHOMA, AND TEXAS



WILD HORSE AND BURRO PROGRAM (OK, KS, NM, TX)

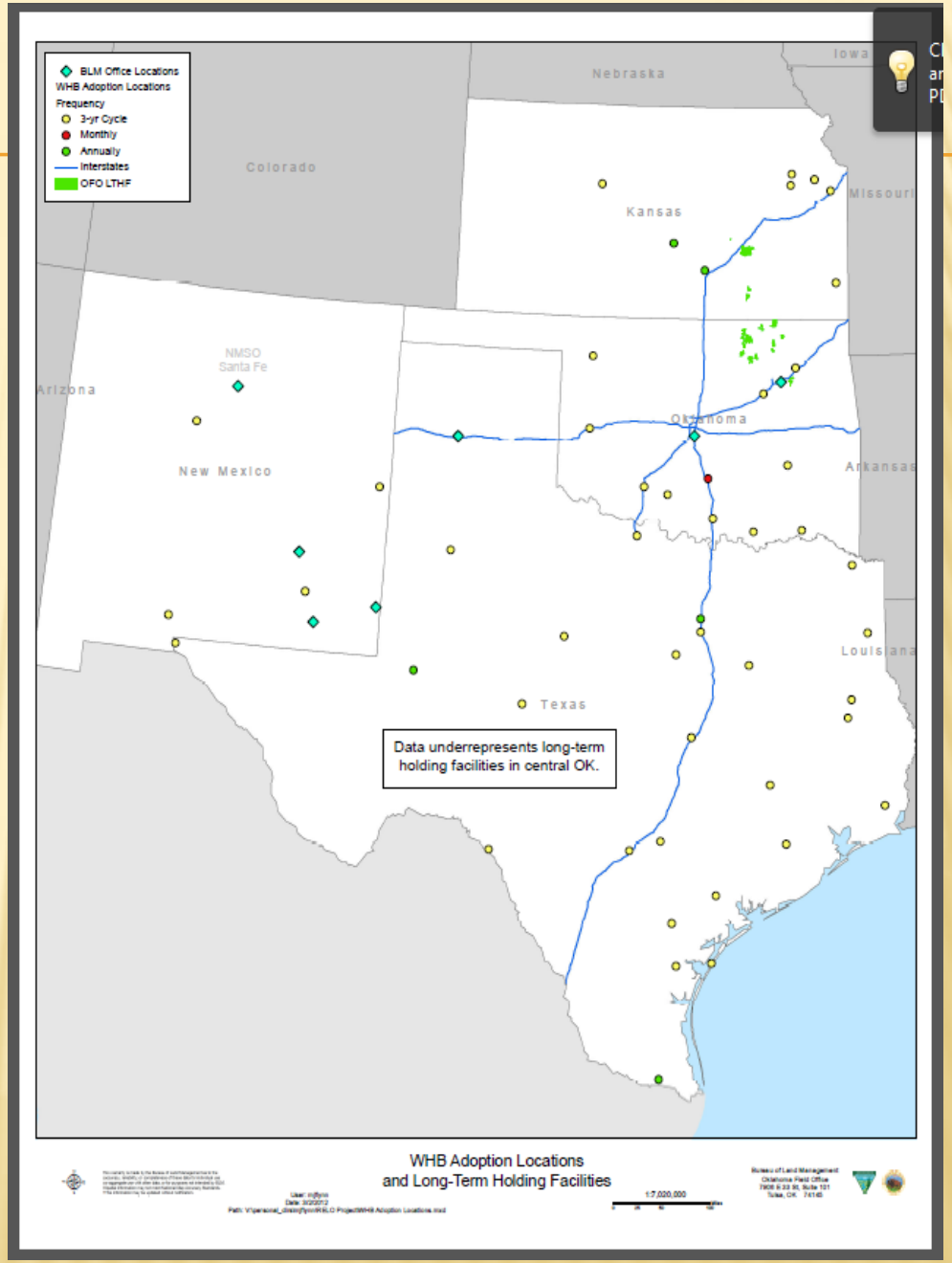
- Adoptions
- Adoption Compliance
- Short-Term Holding at Paul's Valley and Hutchinson Correctional Facility
- Long-Term Pastures
- Support for/from the Mustang Heritage Foundation
- Outreach
- Youth Events
- Volunteer Groups
- NM Herd Management Areas

ADOPTIONS

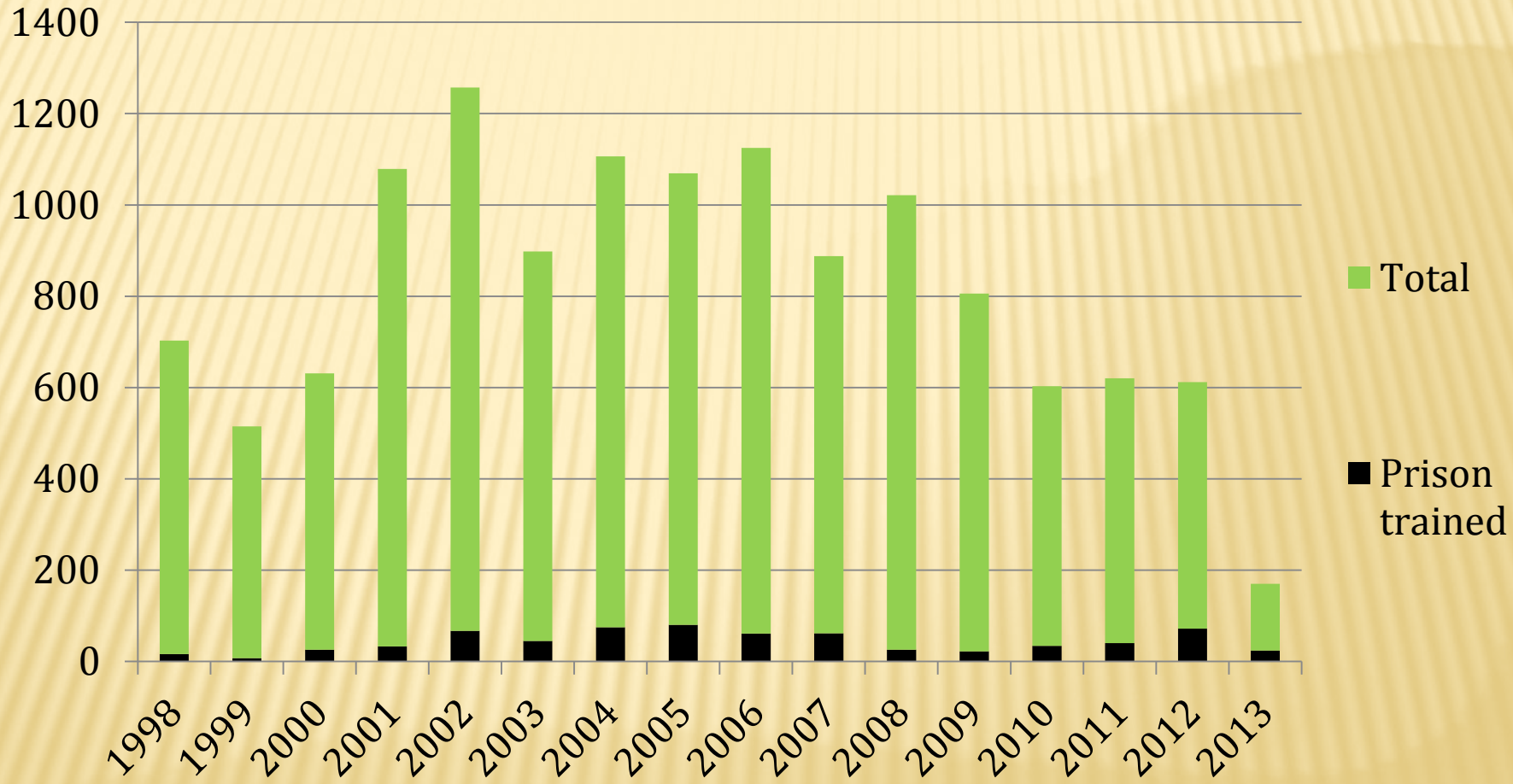
- We conduct adoptions in a four-state area: Kansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas.
  - Staff of 10 WHB specialists/compliance inspectors, plus 1 public affairs specialist
  - Conduct 10-12 satellite adoptions per year
  - Partner with MHF for regional events and TIP
  - Sponsor Internet adoptions
  - Coordinate adoptions through Hutchinson Correctional Facility

ADOPTION LOCATIONS

3-YEAR CYCLE COVERS MARKETS IN 4 STATES



ADOPTION TRENDS, OKLAHOMA FIELD OFFICE



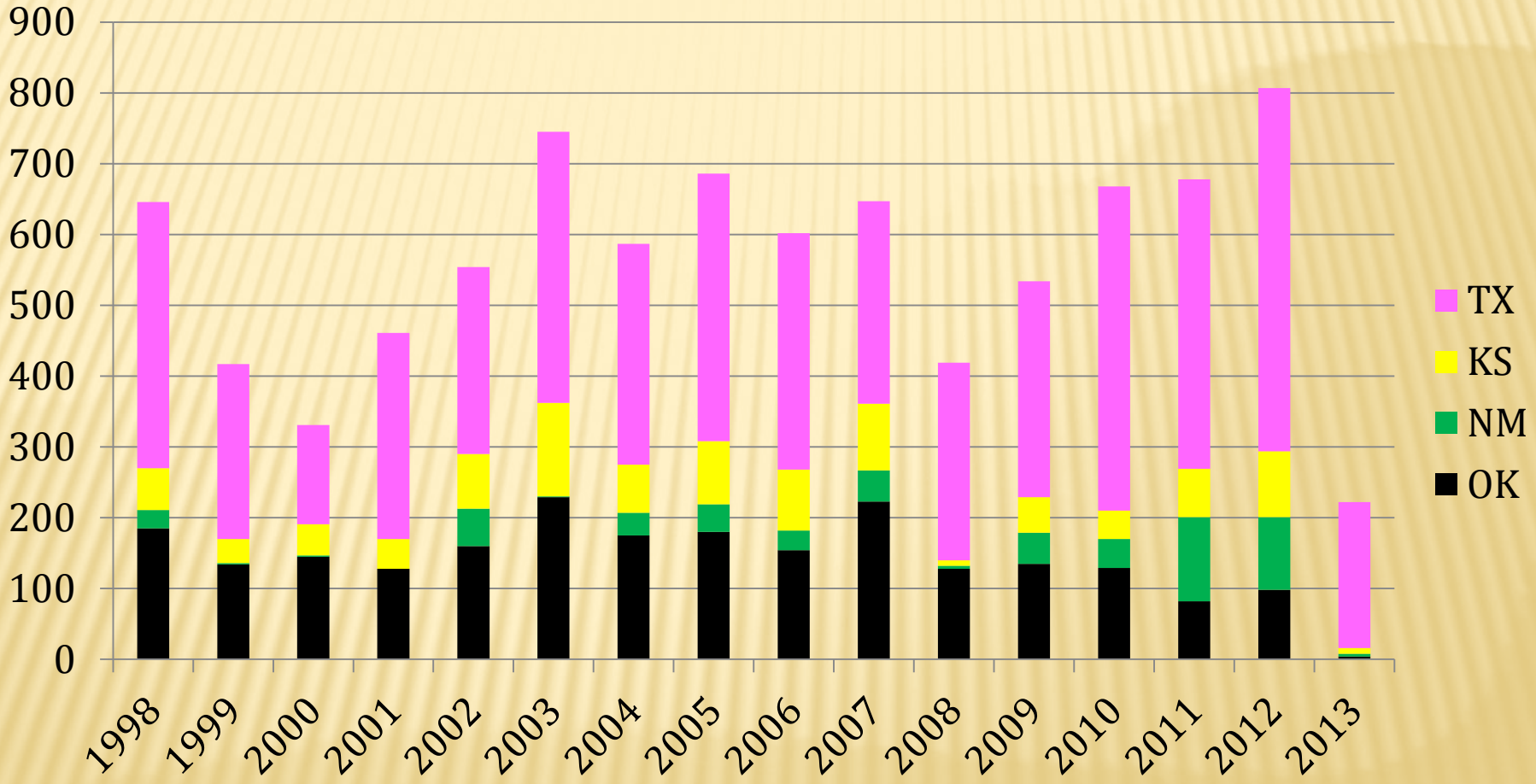
CONSTRAINTS ON BLM ADOPTIONS

- Drought – Rising Hay/Grain Prices
- Sluggish Economy
- High Fuel Prices
- Inexpensive Horses on Private Market
- Significant Numbers of Horses Already Adopted
- Aging Generation of Horse Owners
- Long-term Decline in Horse Ownership Due to Increased Urbanization of Society

ADOPTION COMPLIANCE, OKLAHOMA'S RECORD OF SUCCESS

- 98% on all adopted animals
- Mandatory compliance on all complaints
- 100% compliance on reduced-fee and incentive animals
- Compliance Officers:
  - 2 duty stationed in Texas
  - 1 assigned to New Mexico
  - 1 assigned to Oklahoma
  - 1 assigned to Kansas

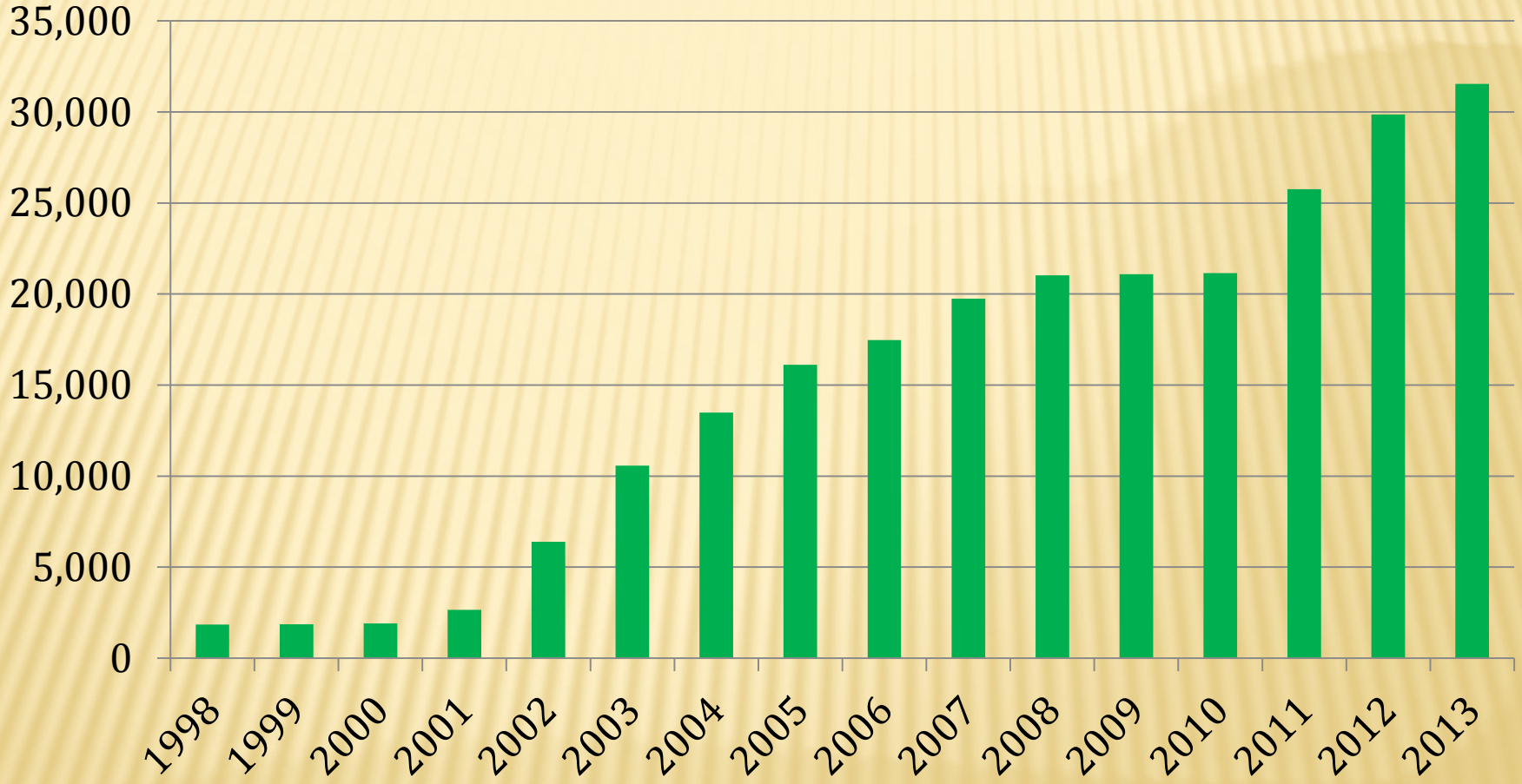
COMPLIANCE TRENDS, OKLAHOMA FIELD OFFICE



LONG TERM PASTURES, OKLAHOMA AND KANSAS

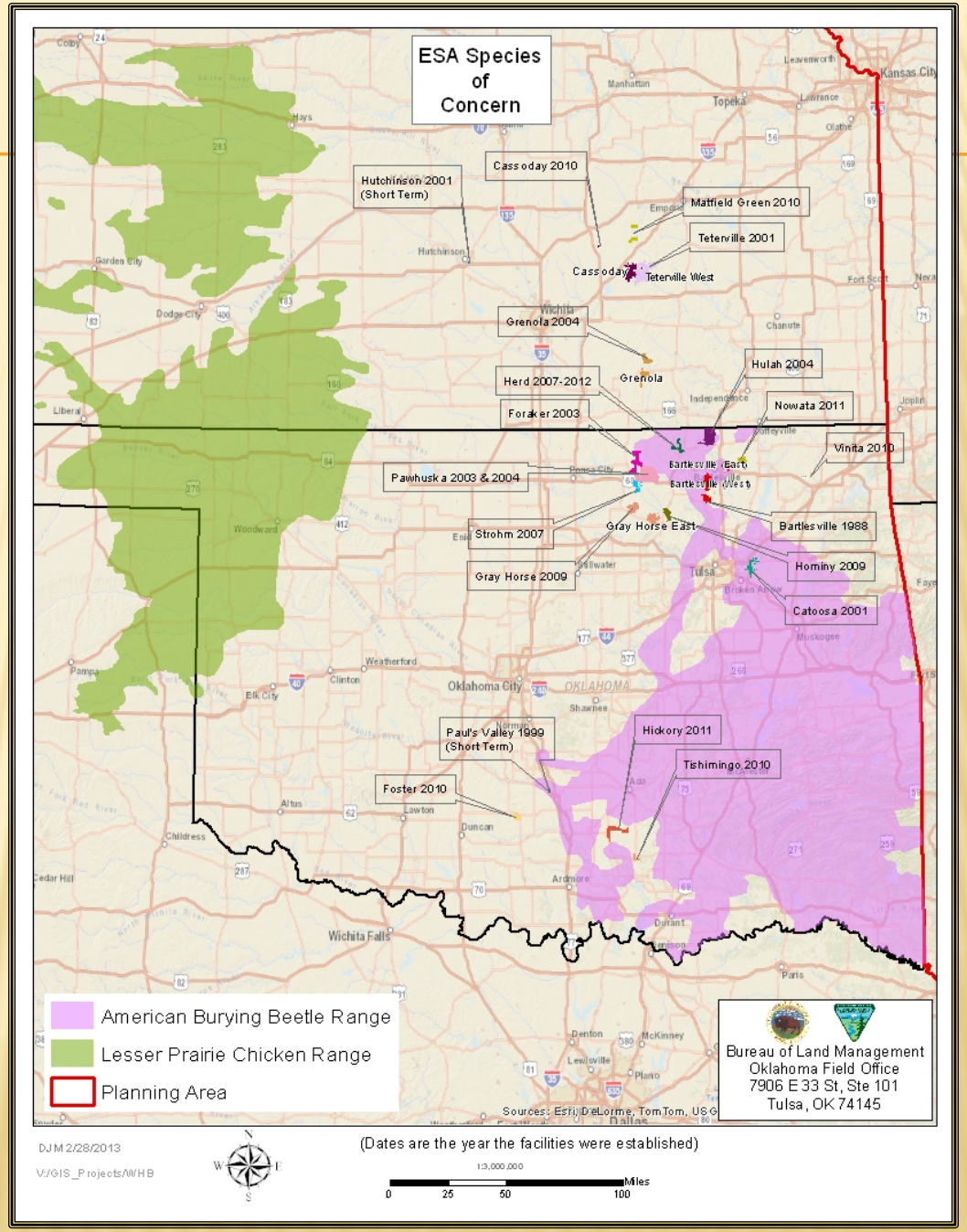
- Number of LTP acres in OK & KS: 228,695
- Number of horses in LTP in OK & KS: 30,019

NUMBER OF HORSES IN LONG TERM PASTURES, OKLAHOMA AND KANSAS



ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT CONSIDERATIONS

- American Burying Beetle and Lesser Prairie Chicken May/ Will Require Section 7 Consultation.



MANAGEMENT CHALLENGES GOING FORWARD

- Existing Constraints on Staff Travel, Overtime, and Awards.
- Sequestration Uncertainty
  - Affects hiring, inc. seasonal labor
  - May limit contracting
  - Current CR expires March 31
- Endangered Species Act Considerations
- Prolonged Drought in the Mid-Continent

ANY QUESTIONS?