

A Brief Overview . . .

The Mission

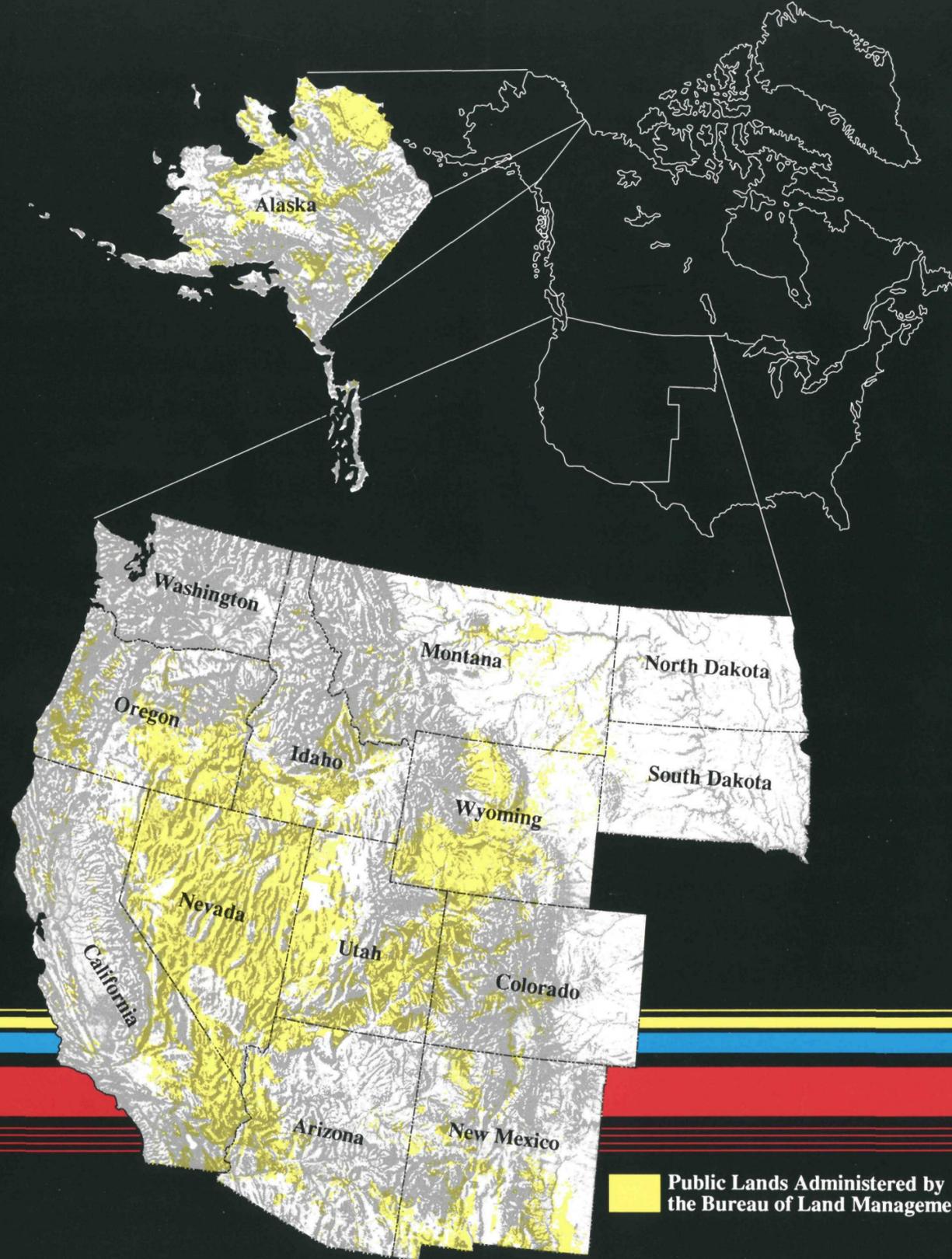
The Bureau of Land Management, an agency within the Department of the Interior, is responsible for managing the nation's public lands and resources in a combination of ways that best serves the needs of the American people. Management is based on the principles of multiple use and sustained yield — a combination of uses that balances the needs of future generations for renewable and nonrenewable resources. These resources include recreation, range, timber, minerals, watershed, fish and wildlife, wilderness, and natural scenic, scientific and cultural values.

The History

In 1812, Congress established the General Land Office to administer the public domain. The passage of the Taylor Grazing Act in 1934 established the U.S. Grazing Service to provide active range management on public domain lands. In 1946, the Presidential Reorganization Plan No. 2 merged the Grazing Service with the General Land Office to create the Bureau of Land Management within the Department of the Interior.

The Organization

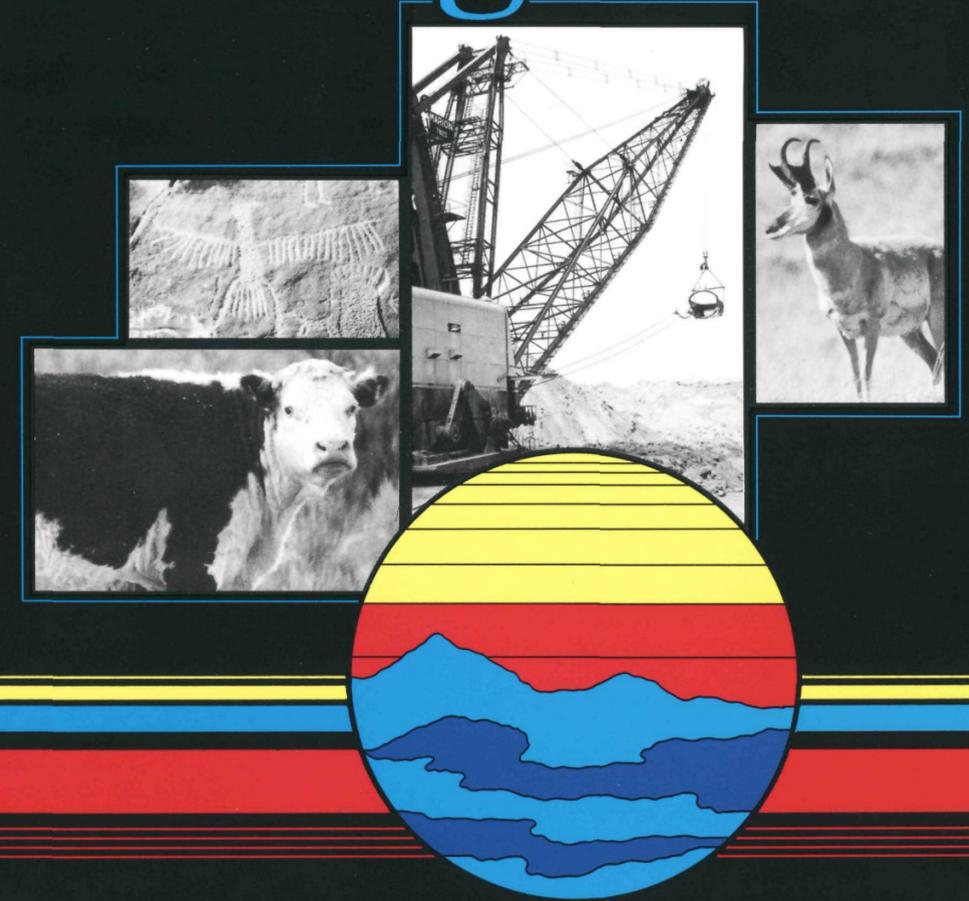
The BLM's national office is in Washington, D.C. In addition, there are 12 state offices, 58 district offices, and 140 resource area offices. The BLM has about 9,650 employees, most of whom work in field offices in the West. Multiple-use management requires many skills and talents. Foresters, range conservationists, wildlife biologists, archaeologists, cadastral surveyors, engineers, recreation specialists, and many other professionals are needed to care for and manage the public lands.



Public Lands Administered by the Bureau of Land Management

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

the Bureau of Land Management



The Bureau of Land Management . . .

The Bureau of Land Management today administers what remains of the nation's once vast land holdings — the public domain. The public domain once stretched from the Appalachian Mountains to the Pacific Ocean. Of the 1.8 billion acres of public land originally acquired by the United States, two-thirds went to individuals, industries and the states. Of that remaining, much was set aside for national forests, wildlife refuges, national parks and monuments, and other public purposes, leaving BLM to manage about 272 million acres — about one-eighth of the nation. The BLM also manages the mineral estate underlying 572 million acres, 300 million acres of which are administered or owned by other agencies or private interests. Most of the lands managed by BLM are located in 11 Western states, including Alaska, although small parcels are scattered across the eastern United States. With BLM's unique mandate of multiple-use management, its responsibilities are varied and complex. The agency's mission is carried out through four administrative functions.



Lands and Renewable Resources Programs . . .

Recreation — Manages a full range of recreation activities, accommodating about 58 million recreation visits to public lands each year. This includes National Conservation Areas, a National Recreation Area, about 2,000 miles of the Wild and Scenic River System, and about 1,700 miles of National Trails. In addition, BLM manages 85,000 miles of streams containing trout, salmon, and other sport fish, enough to circle the Earth three and one-half times; more than 4 million acres of lakes and reservoirs; more than 470 developed recreation sites; and thousands of areas open to a wide variety of recreational uses.

Forestry — Administers 90 million acres of forested lands. Most of these lands are in Alaska; however, some 26 million acres lie within the lower 48 states, including 21 million acres of woodlands and 5 million acres of commercial forest lands.

Wilderness — Manages 25 wilderness areas in eight states, covering more than 450,000 acres. In addition, there are currently 855 wilderness study areas covering 25 million acres.

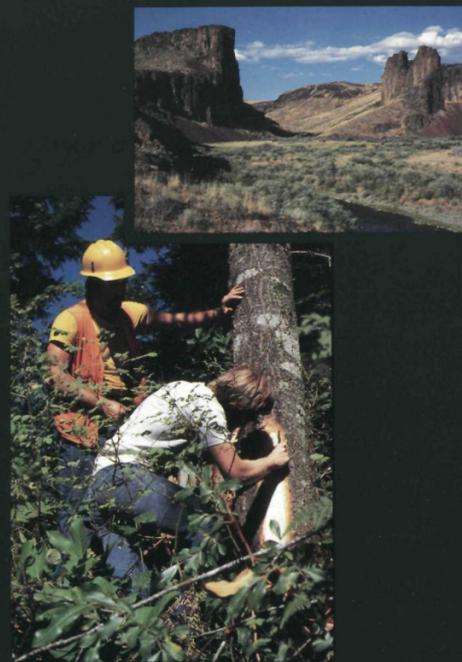
Range — Manages livestock grazing on 165 million acres of public lands. About 18,800 ranchers and farmers graze livestock on BLM-administered lands. About 90 percent of these permittees have small (less than 100 head) or medium (100 to 500 head) livestock operations.

Cultural Resources — Evaluates and protects the government's largest, most varied body of cultural resources. Of the 150,000 cultural properties identified, 350 archaeological and historic properties are entered in the National Register of Historic Places, and an additional 1,200 are considered to have nationally significant values. These range from campsites of the hemisphere's earliest human inhabitants to physical reminders of the historic setting of the West.

Wildlife — Manages wildlife habitat for more than 3,000 species, including 140 threatened or endangered plant and animal species, and manages and protects key riparian areas along 85,000 miles of streams. BLM manages habitat for one out of every five big game animals in the United States, including caribou, brown and grizzly bears, desert bighorn sheep, moose, mule deer and antelope.

Wild Horses and Burros — Manages more than 43,000 wild horses and burros on public lands.

Lands — Issues leases, rights-of-way, and use permits for a wide variety of uses of public land including parks; power transmission and distribution lines; petroleum products collection and transmission systems; advertising and motion picture filming; and recreational events.



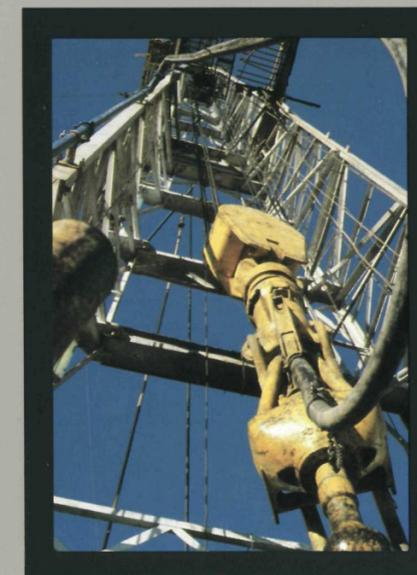
Minerals Programs . . .

Fluid Minerals Leasing — Manages onshore oil and gas and geothermal resources; conducts lease sales, issues leases, and administers operations on about 80,000 onshore oil and gas leases on 70 million acres.

Coal Leasing — Conducts lease sales, issues leases, and administers operations on approximately 550 coal leases on 800,000 acres. Public lands provide nearly 20 percent of the nation's coal production.

Mineral Materials — For many communities in the West, public lands continue to be the only source for sand, gravel and other common stone, which are sold by BLM for such uses as construction of transportation systems and expansion of communities.

Other Mineral Activity — Manages nonenergy minerals through leasing and mining claims programs. Lease sales and operations for nonenergy leasable minerals are administered under this program. About 50 percent of the nation's potash, 45 percent of its sodium compounds, and 70 percent of its lead are produced from public lands. BLM also administers about 2.4 million mining claims. Public lands in the West, particularly Nevada, are supporting a major new gold rush. Fourteen of the top 25 U.S. gold mines are on public lands.



Support Services Programs . . .

Law Enforcement — Protects against unauthorized uses of public lands and enforces public land laws through the use of special agents and rangers.

Land Information Systems — Operates Land Information Systems to manage data and information about public lands including survey records, ownership status and resources for both BLM and other users.

Hazardous Materials — Identifies and arranges cleanup of hazardous materials sites on public lands.

Cadastral Survey — Conducts federal surveys and provides maintenance of all official Public Land Survey System records covering 30 states.

Fire — Manages prescribed fires and aggressively suppress fire on an average year's 2,350 wildfires.

Management Services Programs . . .

Collects and disburses revenues and receipts. BLM is a primary generator of revenues for the federal government. The development and use of BLM lands and resources generate more than \$800 million annually from a variety of sources, including timber sales, sale of public lands, grazing leases, right-of-way leases, permits and mineral receipts. In the last 10 years, state and local governments received nearly \$4 billion as their share of revenues collected from the lease or sale of public land resources and as payments for federal tax-exempt lands. In addition, management services provides a variety of services such as personnel, employee development, management research, program evaluations and procurement and budget development.

For more information, contact the U.S. Department of the Interior, BLM office nearest you.

