



**By the Numbers**

**Colorado Landscape Conservation Initiative**

- Number of acres of Federal land within the project area: **18.3 million** (7.5 million BLM)
- Number of acres of State, private, and local government land within the project area: **10.5 million**
- Number of wildlife species in Colorado: more than **960**
- Number of recreation visitors annually: **5 million** in Colorado, many of whom visit National Monuments, the Anasazi Heritage Center in Southwest Colorado, and National Conservation Areas within the project area

**S**outhwestern Colorado provides quality habitat for diverse wildlife populations, including seven of the eight remaining populations of Gunnison sage-grouse, as well as desert big horn sheep, lynx, Rio Grande cutthroat trout, Kachina daisy, and numerous special-status species. The Bureau of Land Management, Colorado Division of Wildlife, and other Federal, State, and private partners are working together to restore, enhance, and protect habitats through conservation planning efforts and partnerships.

effective, sustainable, and compatible with other governmental and public conservation goals. Restoring these areas will bring the immediate and long-lasting benefits of improved land health.

**Program Objectives**

- Maintain, enhance, and expand existing habitat and populations of Gunnison sage-grouse, lynx, desert big horn sheep, and other special-status species in Colorado, while continuing to provide multiple-use opportunities.
- Promote native vegetation, habitat restoration, and functioning ecosystems

*Meeting both our energy and land health goals requires integrated, landscape-scale habitat protections and resource management. Our initiative combines investments in habitat protection with policy improvements that will protect 800 species, including the sage-grouse.*

Secretary Dirk Kempthorne

**N**orthwestern Colorado also provides quality habitat for diverse wildlife species and maintains the largest populations of greater sage-grouse and big game in the State. Several areas within this landscape overlap high-quality oil and gas resources, as well as significant oil shale reserves. Proposed development across large areas of the landscape threatens to displace and/or otherwise impact existing wildlife and their habitats. Management within this landscape will focus on maintaining wildlife resources within the energy interface, and enhancing areas that could serve as refuges for animals that are displaced.

**Landscape Approach**

The greatest value of wildlife conservation is achieved when wildlife enhancement is conducted at a landscape scale. A cooperative approach to conservation can lead to actions that are more cost

**What is the Healthy Lands Initiative?**

Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne launched the Healthy Lands Initiative (HLI) in 2007 to accelerate land restoration, increase productivity, and improve the health of public lands in the Western United States. The goal of the Initiative is to preserve the diversity and productivity of public and private lands across the landscape. The Initiative will enable and encourage local BLM managers to set priorities across a broader scale and mitigate impacts to an array of resources in ways not previously available to them.

The President's 2009 budget includes an increase of \$10 million for HLI over the level enacted in Fiscal Year 2008. The effort has focused on landscape-level restoration effort on southwest Wyoming; northwest and southeast portions of New Mexico; south-central Idaho; southwest Colorado; Utah; and a three-corner area of Idaho, Oregon, and Nevada. In FY 2009, areas in northwest Colorado and parts of California would be added.



to maintain flourishing plant, animal, and aquatic resources throughout the area.

### Multiple-Use Context

Increases in land uses related to recreation, energy, and population growth place more demands on natural resources and accelerate the need to invest additional dollars to sustain and improve habitat conditions. The Colorado Healthy Lands Initiative is an opportunity for the BLM to address land stewardship and conservation priorities on two important landscapes, consistent with the Bureau's multiple-use mission. This effort will complement habitat restoration and mitigation efforts required of energy companies when developing Federal minerals. The BLM is confident it can protect both the habitat and the species that rely on this land, while maintaining current and future energy production for the Nation.

### Partnerships in the Landscape Initiative

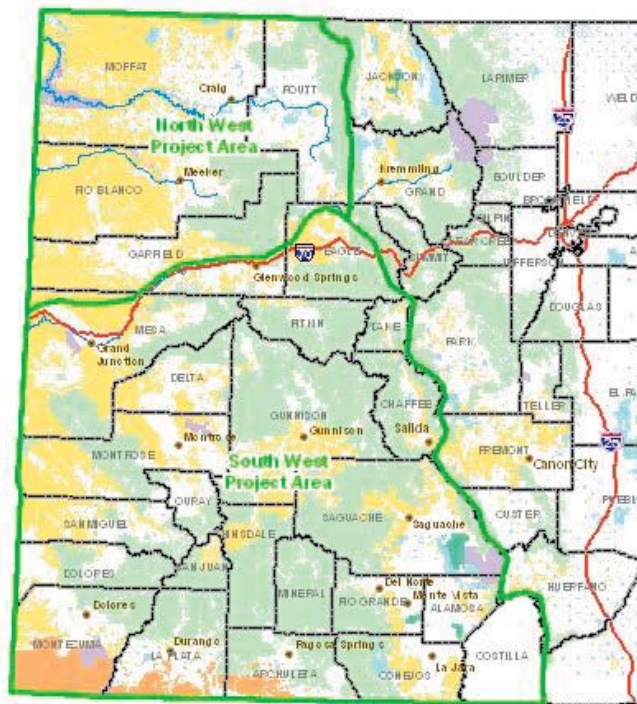
The BLM is working with the following partners on this project:

- Colorado Division of Wildlife
- Habitat Partnership Program
- USDA Forest Service
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- National Park Service
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- U.S. Geological Survey

For additional information, contact  
Bureau of Land Management  
Colorado State Office  
Steven Hall  
303-239-3672  
Steven\_Hall@blm.gov

### Colorado's Planned Activities and Opportunities For 2008 and Beyond

- Prioritize and implement appropriate habitat treatment projects to enhance existing resources or restore former habitat conditions.
- Implement effective weed management.
- Expand the native-seed program through the Uncompahgre Plateau Project to use native seed in reclamation efforts.
- Pool resources to investigate and/or pursue conservation easements or opportunities to protect key habitats.
- Work with partners to ensure that project implementation and habitat management are planned and occur across ownership boundaries to maximize effectiveness.
- Expand knowledge of resource conditions on the landscape and identify habitat objectives for the future.
- Monitor the effectiveness of treatments and adapt management.



### North West and South West Colorado Project Areas

