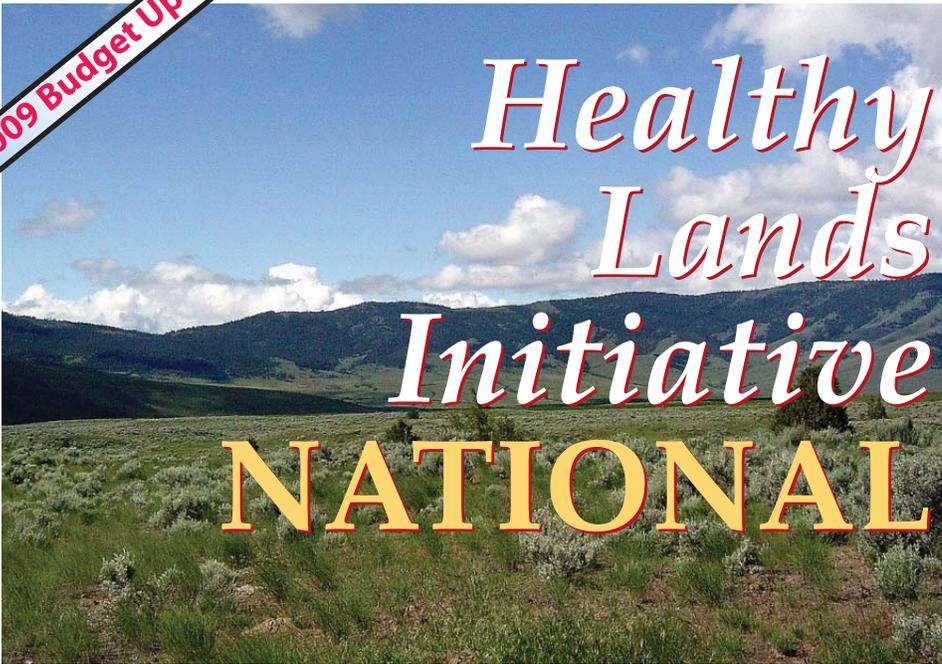


2009 Budget Update



# Healthy Lands Initiative NATIONAL

By the Numbers	
BUDGET REQUEST	
<b>Wyoming</b>	
Green River Basin .....	\$2.0 million
<b>New Mexico</b>	
Landscape Restoration.....	\$3.5 million
<b>Utah Watershed</b>	
Restoration Initiative.....	\$2.0 million
<b>Oregon-Idaho-Nevada</b>	
Shrub Steppe Restoration..	\$2.5 million
<b>Southern Idaho</b>	
Snake River Plain .....	\$1.5 million
<b>Colorado</b>	
Landscape Conservation ...	\$2.0 million
<b>California</b>	
Healthy Lands Areas .....	\$1.4 million
<b>BLM Total</b> .....	<b>\$14.9 million</b>
<b>USGS</b> .....	<b>\$5.0 million</b>
<b>U.S. Fish &amp; Wildlife Service</b>	<b>\$2.0 million</b>
<b>TOTAL</b> .....	<b>\$21.9 million</b>

**T**he **Healthy Lands Initiative (HLI)** is a central feature of the President's proposed Interior Department budget for Fiscal Year 2009. The overall aim of the Initiative is to improve the health and productivity of the public lands in today's fast-growing West.

The Initiative is characterized by the broad scale of the acreage it seeks to restore and conserve, and the accelerated pace at which results are expected.

The Initiative will enable and encourage local BLM managers to set priorities and manage across landscapes and mitigate impacts to an array of resources in ways not previously available to them. The President's budget for Fiscal Year 2009 includes a request for \$14.9 million for HLI, an increase of \$10 million above the level enacted in Fiscal Year 2008.

### **Demands on Public Lands**

Demand for a variety of public land uses and products in the U.S. is at an all-time high because of the country's changing demographics and needs.

Land health is being affected by pressures such as community expansion, wildfires, unmatched demand for energy resources, ever-expanding recreation uses, and invasive weeds. These pressures often interact to affect large landscapes and ecosystems, particularly those in the growing wildlife-energy interface.

A different management approach is urgently needed to meet these challenges, and help avoid restrictions on uses of public lands that would directly affect the nation's energy security and quality of life.

### **Landscape Approaches**

The landscape-level approach is the first step, and will be focused so as to realize results in one to three years.

The key is keeping resources healthy. Healthy lands support rural and urban economies across the West. The Initiative recognizes that conserving wildlife and habitat is also beneficial to local communities, particularly those whose economies are tied to fish, wildlife, and healthy watersheds.

The Initiative gives managers flexibility to identify lands where a particular resource might be emphasized in order to encourage sustained health and balance across a broader landscape or ecosystem.

### **Role of Partnerships**

Partnerships are an integral part of the Initiative. Public-private cooperation, incentives for landowners and private industry, and other non-traditional approaches will engage stakeholders while generating additional funds and resources.

*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

Two of the BLM's sister Federal agencies, the U.S. Geological Survey and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, are also partners. The Healthy Lands Initiative, which Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne launched in FY 2007, is leveraging public and private funding from BLM partners at unprecedented levels. During FY 2007-2008, the BLM focused its landscape-level restoration efforts on southwest Wyoming; the northwest and southeast portions of New Mexico; south-central Idaho; southwest Colorado; Utah; and the three-corner area of Idaho, Oregon, and Nevada. In FY 2009, two other areas would be added: northwest Colorado and parts of California.



## A Variety of Approaches

Each of the Initiative projects will address unique problems and issues. Here are some examples of the projects and the partners involved.

---

### California

#### Healthy Lands Initiative

Restore 2,000 acres of critical habitat; reclaim 300 abandoned oil well pads; restore degraded habitat of Desert Wildlife Management areas and other special areas; treat 10,000 acres of juniper encroachment.

##### Partners

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
Modoc National Forest  
California Department of Fish & Game  
California Energy Commission  
California Department of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources  
Kern County  
Modoc County  
California Department of Fish & Game  
California State Office of Historic Preservation  
Pit River Tribe  
Klamath Tribes  
Alturas Rancheria

---

### Colorado

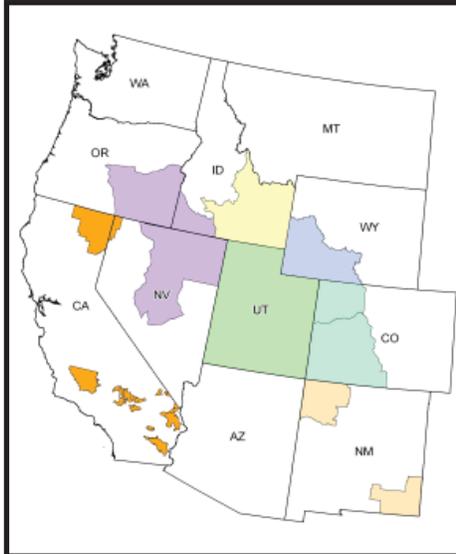
#### Landscape Conservation

Shift focus in 2009 to Northwest Colorado to collaboratively mitigate and/or restore habitats adversely impacted by energy development. Primary emphasis will be on Greater sage grouse and big game habitat. Proposed projects include vegetation treatments, weed eradication, and monitoring, and will be guided by a variety of conservation strategies. Work will also continue in Southwest Colorado to restore, enhance and protect habitats of special status species (including the Gunnison sage grouse) across jurisdictions.

##### Partners

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

## Healthy Lands Initiative Emphasis Areas



---

### New Mexico

#### Landscape Restoration

Reclaim orphaned and abandoned well pads and roads; control invasive brush species using chemical treatments, prescribed burns, and mechanical treatments; and improve riparian habitat, primarily by removing salt cedar and planting native vegetation. The primary focus of this effort will be to enhance wildlife habitat.

##### Partners

U.S. Geological Survey  
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service  
New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts  
Energy and Utility Industry Landowners / Ranchers  
New Mexico State Land Office  
New Mexico Dept. of Game & Fish  
Quail Unlimited

---

### Oregon-Idaho-Nevada Shrub Steppe Restoration

Accelerate implementation of habitat restoration projects identified in state and local sage-grouse conservation plans; select and implement land treatments to maintain and restore the upland and riparian components of these shrub lands.

##### Partners

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
U.S. Geological Survey

---

### Southern Idaho Snake River Plain

Identify and carry out high-priority projects to sustain the health of the sagebrush steppe; seed native plants to increase the abundance of desirable shrubs, forbs, and grasses; control noxious and invasive species to reduce the threat and frequency of wildfire; and modify fences and other rangeland facilities to help improve riparian areas used by sage-grouse and other wildlife species.

##### Partners

U.S. Geological Survey  
Idaho Fish & Game  
Local sage-grouse working groups

---

### Utah Watershed Restoration Initiative

Increase the number of land treatments that can be completed in each geographic area; facilitate best-management practices for all land uses; conduct efficient science-based monitoring; maintain and update habitat management plans based on new information and technologies.

##### Partners

U.S. Geological Survey  
Utah Partners for Conservation & Development (Federal and state agencies, private landowners, University Extension Service, Trout Unlimited, and private organizations)

---

### Wyoming – Green River Basin

Complete stream and wetland improvement projects; conduct invasive species, hazardous fuels, and vegetation treatments; and implement special status species recovery actions on BLM, other agency, private, and state lands.

##### Partners

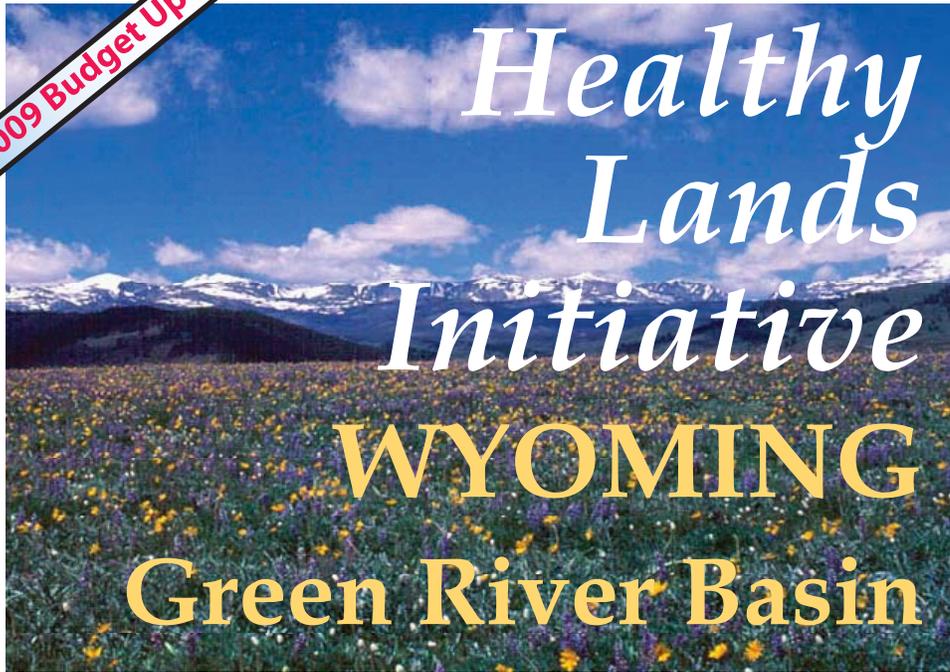
U. S. Geological Survey  
U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
USDA Forest Service  
National Park Service  
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation  
Wyoming Department of Agriculture  
Wyoming Game and Fish Department  
Non-governmental Organizations  
Wyoming Game & Fish Department Landowners  
Energy Industry

---

For more information, please contact:

**Bureau of Land Management**  
Public Affairs Office  
1849 C Street N.W. 406-LS  
Washington, DC 20240

2009 Budget Update



### By the Numbers

#### Green River Basin, Southwest Wyoming

- Number of acres in the basin: **15 million**  
(The size of Connecticut, Delaware, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire combined)
- Number of homes that could be heated annually by natural gas production: **4 million**
- Estimated volume of recoverable natural gas in cubic feet: **83 trillion:**
- World-class wildlife:  
Estimated **100,000 deer** and **100,000 pronghorn antelope**; **40,000 elk**; **8,000 moose**; **1,400 bighorn sheep**; and **151 non-game species** of greatest conservation need

**W**yoming encompasses some of the highest-quality wildlife habitat in the Intermountain West. Sagebrush, mountain shrub, aspen, and riparian communities offer crucial habitat for deer, elk, pronghorn antelope, greater sage-grouse, and a variety of non-game species. Lands and waters in Southwest Wyoming also offer some of the country's most sought-after recreational opportunities, providing an important asset that attracts anglers, hunters, and other visitors. For many small rural communities, money spent by anglers and hunters is essential for long-term economic stability.

Geological Survey, USDA Forest Service, National Park Service, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, the Wyoming Department of Agriculture, the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, local conservation districts, and local counties.

### Landscape Approach

The greatest wildlife conservation value is achieved when wildlife enhancement is conducted at a landscape scale. Landscapes are land areas composed of diverse habitat types that include winter range and migration corridors.

*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

### An Active Source of Natural Gas

Encompassing 15 million acres—roughly the size of Connecticut, Delaware, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire combined—the Green River Basin of Southwest Wyoming produces enough natural gas annually to heat 4 million homes. With approximately 23 trillion cubic feet of natural gas used annually in the U.S., the estimated 83 trillion cubic feet of recoverable natural gas in Southwest Wyoming will continue to account for one of the largest sources of natural gas in the U.S.

### 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 ensure Southwest Wyoming's wildlife and habitat remain viable in areas facing development pressure, BLM, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S.



Access to a variety of habitat types and seasonal ranges within a landscape is essential for wildlife to find food and shelter and raise their young.

### What We Know

The high demand for energy resources has caused an unprecedented surge in the intensity of natural gas development.

The combination of energy development and industrial and residential expansion, along with associated road building, drilling, pipelines, utility lines, and other human-generated activities, is occurring in wildlife habitat areas.

Although impact mitigation is required in energy development areas, a landscape-scale conservation action will better address natural resource issues in this vast area.

### Role of Initiative Partners

- Conduct efficient, science-based species monitoring and habitat enhancement.
- Facilitate best reclamation and mitigation practices for areas affected by current natural gas development.
- Integrate existing data with new knowledge and technologies to forecast development of energy resources and assist in habitat conservation planning.
- Conduct habitat enhancement in all habitat types with a special focus on sagebrush, mountain shrub, aspen, and riparian communities.

### Role of the WLCI

- Exchange information, data, and research findings among partners, industry, and stakeholders to improve habitat conditions and long-term viability of species at a landscape scale.
- Complement existing habitat reclamation and mitigation efforts.
- Broaden the understanding of the valuable Green River Basin ecosystem.

### Funding Plans

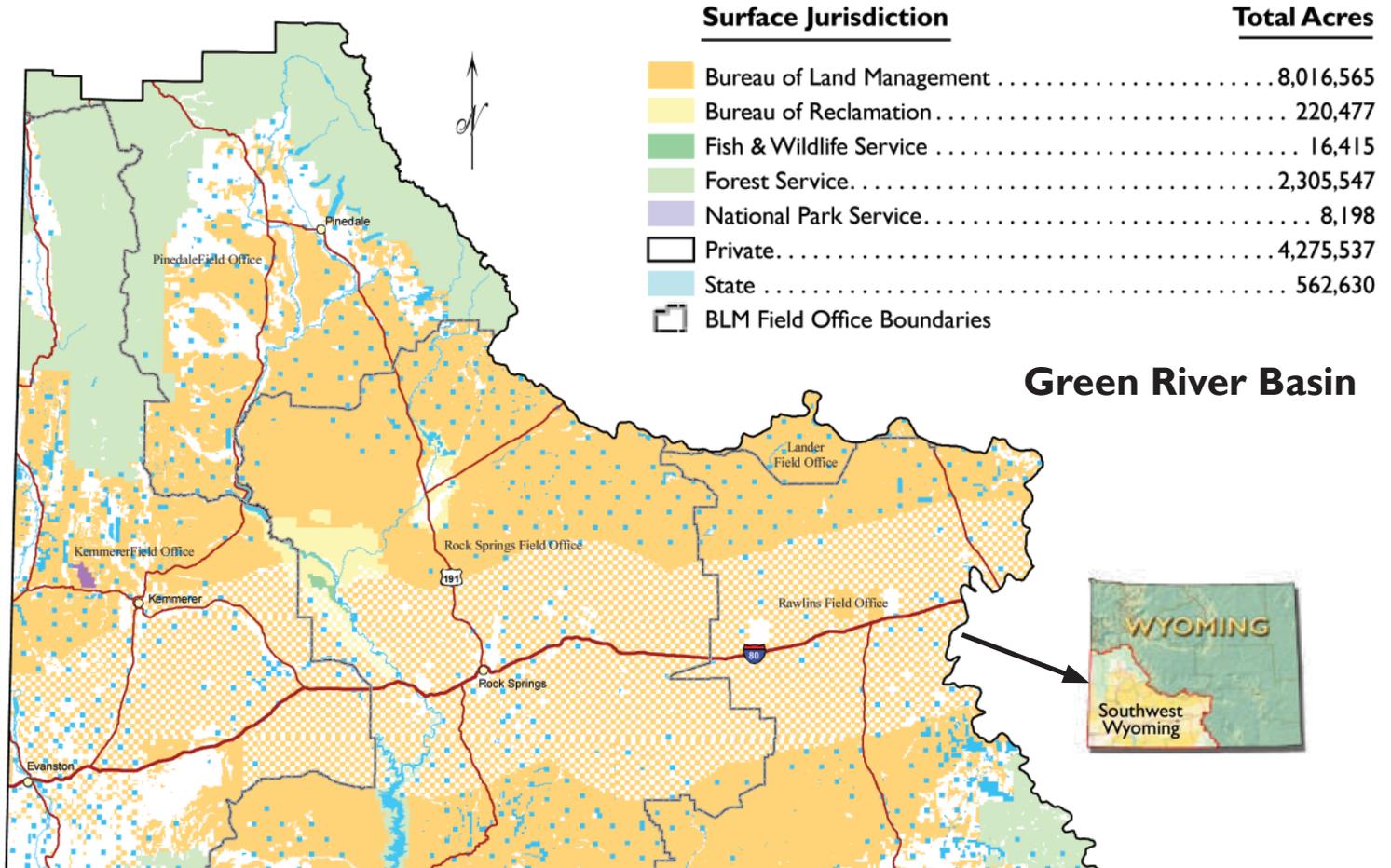
In Wyoming, funding will be used for projects including vegetation treatments (sagebrush, aspen trees); water projects such as building or restoring water sources for wildlife; and improving riparian areas. Long-term funding may include state and Federal appropriations, special mitigation accounts, trust funds, non-governmental organization and industry contributions, other independent donations, and an endowment.

For additional information contact:

Bureau of Land Management  
Wyoming State Office  
Cindy Wertz, 307-775-6014  
Cindy\_Wertz@blm.gov

Wyoming Landscape Conservation Initiative

Renee Dana, Rock Springs Field Office  
307-352-0227  
Renee\_Dana@blm.gov



2009 Budget Update



# Healthy Lands Initiative

## IDAHO Snake River Plain

**T**he Southern Idaho-Snake River Plain Healthy Lands Initiative is a coordinated, landscape-level effort to maintain, improve, and restore the sagebrush-steppe rangelands of southern Idaho.

This Initiative will accelerate implementation of the Idaho State Sage-grouse Conservation Plan and will expand ongoing partnerships among Idaho citizens; private landowners; and local, state, and Federal governments.

Southern Idaho contains millions of acres of sagebrush-steppe rangelands that are vital habitat for sage-grouse and other wildlife and plant species. These species include pygmy rabbit, mule deer, pronghorn antelope, black-tailed jackrabbit, and numerous sagebrush-dependent non-game species. Their future is directly connected to the long-term integrity and health of Idaho's sagebrush-steppe.

This spacious landscape is also greatly valued by Idaho citizens. The lands of the sagebrush steppe are highly sought after for hunting, camping, fishing, and other recreational opportunities that constitute a key aspect of Idaho's quality of life.

This area is also important to the livelihood of local communities and the economic future of Idaho. Livestock grazing and minerals production are important uses of these lands, while energy transmission lines form a critical

link in the Nation's energy supply system. Idaho also possesses abundant renewable energy resources—especially wind—that are essential to building a sustainable energy future.

The Southern Idaho Healthy Lands Initiative is focused on ensuring that the wildlife, recreational, and traditional values provided by the sagebrush steppe can be restored and sustained in the face of increasing demand for energy and economic development. The health of the environment and our long-term quality of life depend on meeting this challenge.

**By the Numbers**

**The Southern Idaho-Snake River Plain Emphasis Area**

- Percentage of population growth between 2000 and 2005: **10.6**
- Number of acres of vital sagebrush habitat in the Emphasis Area: **5.8 million**
- Number of acres burned by wildfire since 2001: **525,000**
- Estimated potential for increased wind energy production in southern Idaho by 2015: **125-635 megawatts**
- Estimated potential for increased geothermal energy production in southern Idaho by 2015: **860 megawatts**

*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

**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.



## Landscape Approach

With so much at stake, the BLM is proposing to implement a new model for land management in important wildlife areas. Instead of continuing a management approach that results in fragmented protection of species and habitat, the BLM will focus on habitat conservation on a landscape scale and emphasize cooperative conservation to maximize benefits to large areas of Federal, state, and private lands.

## What We Know

- Southern Idaho is experiencing large wildfires, due in part to flammable invasive species such as cheatgrass. Increasing wildfire is resulting in the loss of large areas of sagebrush and native grasses.
- Large wildfires will continue to occur without appropriate fuels management practices, control of invasive species, and habitat restoration efforts.
- Population increases and growing energy development will further strain the ecological health of native plant communities and wildlife.
- It is more effective and cost efficient to be proactive—to maintain healthy landscapes—than to restore depleted areas.

## Collaborative Effort

Wildfire, invasive species, drought, and other threats to the land operate on a vast scale and ignore land ownership boundaries. No single owner, jurisdiction, or agency can tackle these threats individually. The BLM and its partners in southern Idaho recognize this and have formed seven local working groups that are taking a broad-scale, collaborative approach to improving and restoring the land.

This Initiative will expand these partnerships to:

- Increase the amount of land treatments that can be completed in each geographic area.
- Facilitate best-management practices for all land uses.
- Conduct efficient science-based monitoring.
- Maintain and update habitat management plans based on new information and technologies.

## Current Successes

- **East Start Lake Bitterbrush Plantings:** Sage-grouse and big game habitat were improved on 2,000 acres by hand-planting of 7,000 containerized

bitterbrush seedlings. This project augmented a recent 14,000-acre hazardous fuels reduction project.

- **Crystal Sage-grouse Restoration Project:**

A combination of domestic sheep grazing and glyphosate was used to reduce cheatgrass dominance on 9,200 acres. The treatment prepared the site for subsequent restoration seeding.

- **Stage Road Sagebrush Planting:**

This project involved interseeding 50,000 sagebrush plugs onto 3,000 acres, by hand and with the aid of a water wheel planter, to re-establish a seed source. The plugs were grown from locally collected seed.

- **Antelope Valley Prescribed Burn:**

Using prescribed fire to create a mosaic, this project will enhance habitat quality and break up fuel continuity on 2,000 acres of sagebrush steppe.

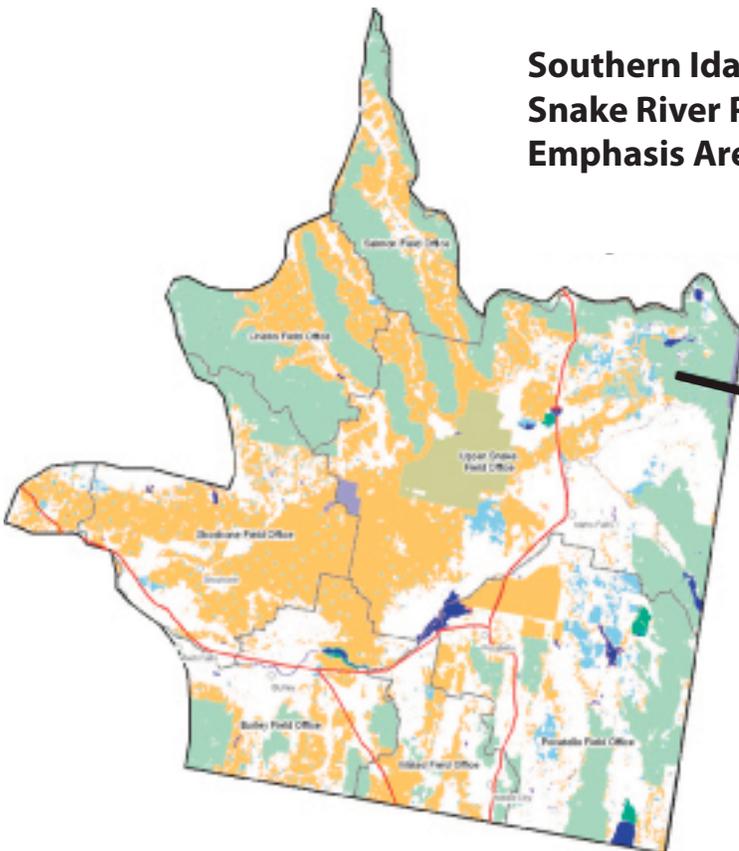
- **Rush Skeletonweed Eradication:**

This project involved treating 60 acres of sage-grouse habitat and critical big game winter range to eradicate rush skeletonweed. The project augmented a larger 16,000-acre integrated weed and fuels management project.

For additional information contact:

Bureau of Land Management  
Idaho State Office  
Cheryle Zwang  
208-373-4016  
Cheryle\_Zwang@blm.gov

## Southern Idaho Snake River Plain Emphasis Area





**By the Numbers**  
**Utah Partners for Conservation and Development**

- Funds committed by UPCD partners for projects since 2003: \$30 million
- Number of acres treated to date: 500,000 acres
- BLM funds have been matched and leveraged with non-Federal monies as high as 7:1
- Acres to be treated in 2009: 100,000 acres

In Utah, a consortium of agencies form the Utah Partners for Conservation and Development. Seven Federal agencies, seven state agencies, private landowners, a university extension service, and non-profit organizations such as Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife are planning to restore sagebrush habitat in focus areas selected for their wildlife value, particularly focusing on sage-grouse. The partners have committed more than \$30 million to restore 120,000 acres of public and private land. The State of Utah has given an annual and on-going commitment of \$4.5 million to this effort.

habitat assessments, project coordination, and NEPA analysis were accomplished with BLM funding. On-the-ground project construction and follow-up monitoring assessments have been accomplished with a variety of partners including the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Utah State University Extension, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife, and numerous private landowners and livestock grazing permittees. Vegetation restoration methods have included the removal of encroaching juniper through manual

*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

### Goals of the Initiative

- Increased water quality and quantity
- Quality habitats and maximum biodiversity
- Sustainable working farms and ranches
- Social-economic uses and opportunities

### Current Efforts

BLM funding is paving the way to conduct on-the-ground restoration efforts on an unprecedented scale. Since 2003, Utah BLM, in cooperation with the Utah Partners for Conservation and Development, has conducted treatment projects on approximately 500,000 acres of watersheds across the state. The aim is to improve the health and functionality of Utah's watersheds. The majority of those improved acres required vegetation manipulation and reseeding using seed mixtures developed for each site. Initial

### 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.



cutting or mechanical treatments such as bull hog or brush saws, Dixie harrow treatments, green stripping to reduce fire hazard, and various other methods depending on the physical and biological characteristics of each individual site and the recommendations of local restoration experts. Total investments by all partners involved in this statewide initiative total approximately \$25 million. The improved habitat exceeds 500,000 acres of state, Federal, and private lands.

## Results of the Treatments

Monitoring efforts are being conducted to determine the results on: increased water quality and quantity; decreased silt deposition in streams and reservoirs; a return to healthy rangeland conditions with a mix of desired species, protection of at-risk natural sites, improved habitat to support mule deer, sage grouse, wild horses, and other wildlife populations; and the reduction of forage competition between livestock and wildlife are just some of the anticipated benefits of these treatments. Such benefits also reduce the

risk to sagebrush-obligate species—such as Gunnison’s and greater sage-grouse, pygmy rabbit, and a host of endemic plants that occupy the sage steppe ecosystem—from becoming listed under the Endangered Species Act.

## Funding Plans

With BLM’s proposed contribution to this effort, partners in Utah will be able to implement 90 projects to restore over 100,000 acres on a landscape scale across the State in 2009. These projects will benefit wildlife and water quality, and reduce the chances of large-scale wildfires. The following are additional examples of how this funding will be making a difference in Utah:

**Seed warehouse:** The seed warehouse that services the entire state has exceeded its capacity. Expanding the size of this warehouse would not only increase storage capacity, but would help native seed producers expand their native plant production capacity. Because these seeds are used in on-the-ground restoration

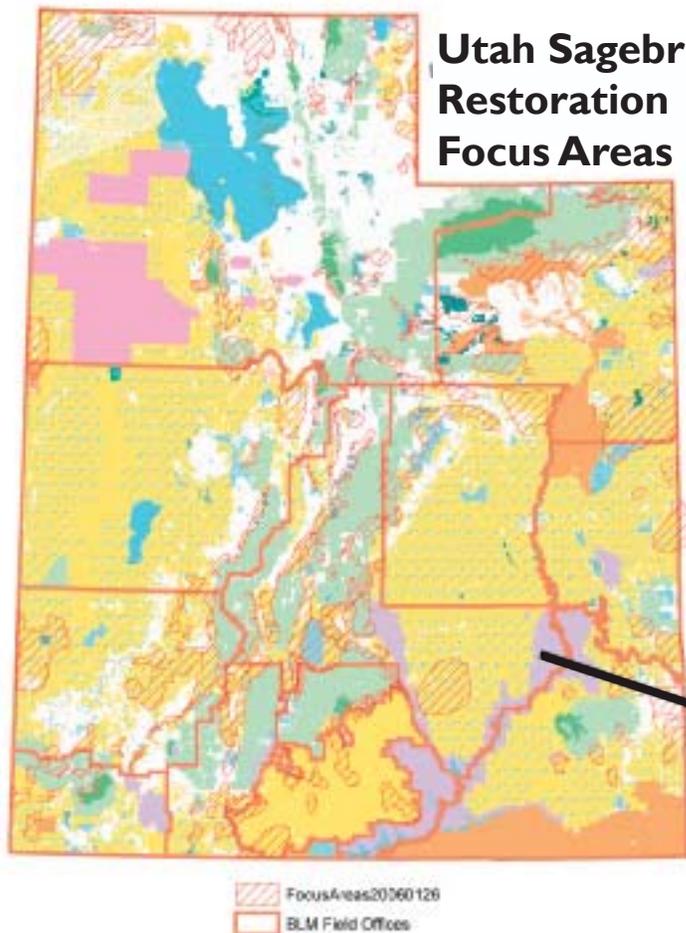
projects, this is a critical component in the process. This increased storage capacity would provide for greater quantity and quality in implementing restoration projects.

**Equipment:** Increased funding would allow partner agencies to acquire equipment and techniques necessary to carry out projects for habitat restoration and enhancement.

**Monitoring:** Project monitoring is essential to ensuring that restoration is providing the intended benefits. The implementation of pre- and post-treatment monitoring will continue to be a high priority.

**Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation (ESR):** The process has been employed to conduct (ESR) activities across large multiple ownership areas burned over by wildfire. It represents a major change from how ESR has been implemented in the past.

For additional information contact:  
Bureau of Land Management  
Utah State Office  
Mary Wilson  
801-539-4020  
Mary\_L\_Wilson@blm.gov



Source: Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR)

2009 Budget Update



### By the Numbers

#### Oregon-Idaho-Nevada Cooperative Shrub-Steppe Restoration Partnership

- Planned Treatments
- Number of acres of vegetation to be treated on public land: **23,000**
  - Number of acres of vegetation to be treated on non-BLM land: **3,900**
  - Number of miles of stream to be improved: **65**
  - Number of riparian improvement projects: **75**

**T**he Oregon-Idaho-Nevada Cooperative Shrub-Steppe Restoration Partnership is a coordinated, landscape-level program involving multiple partners working together to maintain shrub-steppe health where it currently exists and to strategically restore areas critical to wildlife. The Partnership will accelerate implementation of the three states' sage-grouse conservation plans. Sagebrush shrub-steppe habitat is vital to ensure viable populations of sage-grouse and thus preclude the need to list this and other sagebrush obligate species.

due to increased fire fuels buildup from invasive species such as cheatgrass and vast shrub areas that provide a continuous fuel source.

Cheatgrass is locally abundant and supports a vicious cycle of wildfires that prevents the recovery of the shrub-steppe habitat. This hinders efforts to restore sagebrush habitat and sets the stage for the spread of more aggressive invasive species that further threaten the native landscapes.

*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

The Shrub-Steppe Restoration Partnership Area provides a stronghold for sagebrush-dependent wildlife species. This three-state area encompasses 53.5 million acres, roughly 50 percent of the remaining sagebrush-steppe habitat in the Great Basin. The diversity and integrity of the plant communities in this area support crucial habitat for large populations of sage-grouse, mule deer, antelope and numerous sagebrush-dependent birds. At the same time, this area is important to the livelihood of local communities. These lands provide significant economic benefits to local communities from livestock grazing to hunting, mineral extraction, and recreational uses.

## 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.

## Increasing Threats to the Shrub-Steppe Landscape

The Partnership area is experiencing a tremendous increase in large wildfires



In the higher elevations, sagebrush steppe habitat is being degraded by the increasing expansion of pinyon pine and juniper woodlands. A rapidly growing regional population is increasing human impacts.

## Restoration at the Landscape Level

The highest priority is to maintain sagebrush steppe habitat followed by strategically restoring fragmented habitat. This action will conserve habitat for at-risk wildlife species, such as sage-grouse, that are dependent on large sagebrush communities.

## What We Know

- Large wildfires will continue to occur in this area, but the frequency and extent can be reduced with appropriate fuel-management treatments.
- Invasive species will continue to spread and reduce the health of shrub-steppe communities.
- Increasing use by growing populations in the region will further strain the ecological integrity of native plant communities.
- Maintaining healthy sagebrush-steppe contributes to the economic and ecological needs of communities.

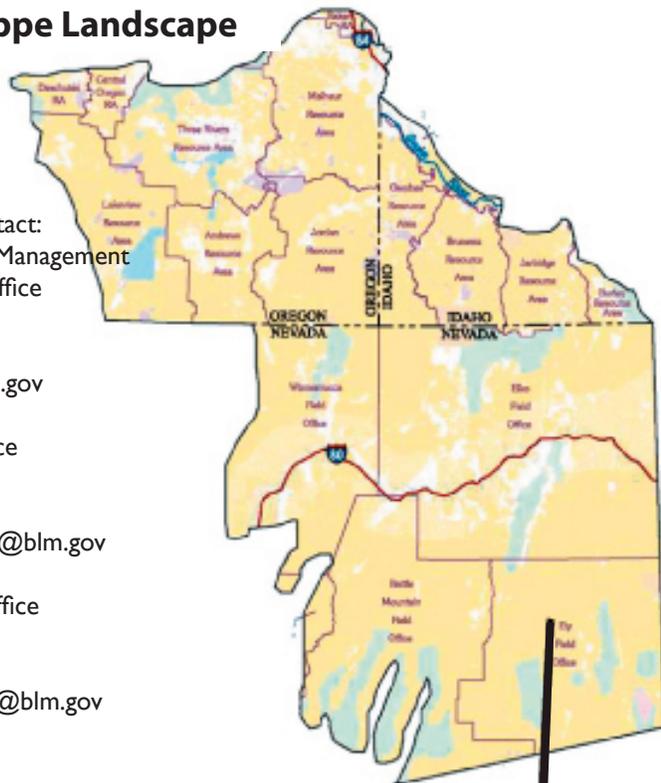
## Partnership Goals

- Join local sage-grouse working groups, Federal agencies, and the scientific community in efforts to accelerate implementation of habitat restoration projects identified in state and local sage-grouse conservation plans.
- Engage tribes, conservation organizations, and other state and Federal agencies to strategically select and implement land treatments to maintain and restore the upland and riparian components of these shrub lands.
- Build upon existing programs and initiatives, such as the BLM's Great Basin Restoration Initiative, to implement a landscape-restoration strategy.
- Leverage funds to build on current successes to maximize the positive benefits of restoration at the largest scale.

## Current Successes

- **Izzenhood Fire:** Seeded 2,034 acres to provide winter habitat and reduce the potential for large wildfires on intact sage-grouse habitat.
- **Northwest Sheep Fuels Project:** Treated 709 acres to provide seasonal habitat and reduce the potential for large wildfires on intact sage-grouse habitats.
- **Boone Peak Juniper Cut:** The Boise District's Owyhee Field Office completed 2,200 acres of juniper control adjoining key sage-grouse habitat. The project will improve local sage-grouse habitat by eliminating potential perches for avian predators and by maintaining sagebrush-steppe characteristics on the landscape.
- **Battle Creek Allotment:** Improved about 30,000 acres by hand cutting western juniper trees that were encroaching into key sage-grouse habitat.
- **South End Wildfire Complex:** 10,811 acres were seeded to encourage the recovery of native plant communities important to the sage-grouse and redband trout. Also, noxious weed treatments are being implemented on 7,715 acres in areas occupied by sage-grouse and other obligate species.

## Oregon-Idaho-Nevada Shrub-Steppe Landscape



For additional information contact:  
Bureau of Land Management  
Oregon State Office  
Jody Weil  
503-808-6027  
Jody\_Weil@blm.gov

Idaho State Office  
Cheryle Zwang  
208-373-4016  
Cheryle\_Zwang@blm.gov

Nevada State Office  
Doran Sanchez  
775-861-6586  
Doran\_Sanchez@blm.gov

Surface Jurisdiction	Total Acres
Bureau of Land Management	37,170,276
Bureau of Reclamation	39,026
Department of Defense	77,567
Other Federal Agencies	90,273
US Forest Service	4,350,396
Fish and Wildlife Service	467,822
Indian Reservation	421,784
National Grasslands	14,064
National Park Service	77,040
Private	9,910,505
State	927,034
<b>Total</b>	<b>53,545,786</b>





**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

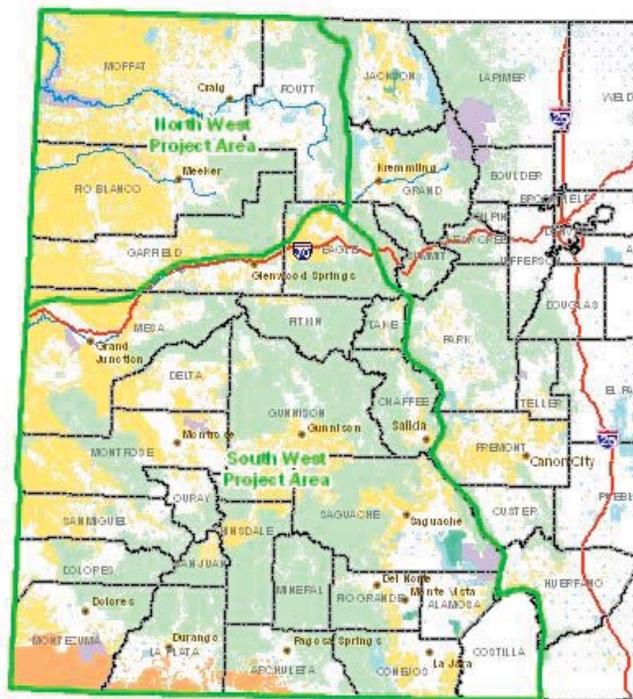
The BLM is working with the following partners on this project:

- 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

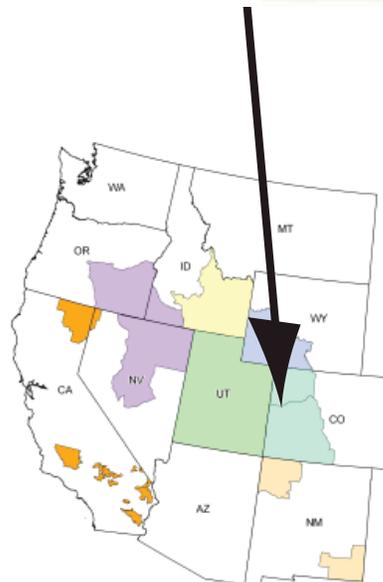
For additional information, contact  
Bureau of Land Management  
Colorado State Office  
Steven Hall  
303-239-3672  
Steven\_Hall@blm.gov

### 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





### By the Numbers

#### Permian Basin, Southeastern New Mexico

- Number of acres in the Basin: **10 million** (about the size of Maryland)
- Number of acres of public lands: **3 million**
- Number of barrels of oil produced in the basin annually: **62 million**
- Number of drivers that oil could fuel annually: **3.1 million**
- Number of cubic feet of natural gas produced in the Basin annually: **570 million**
- Number of homes that could be heated with natural gas production: **13 million**

**S**outheast New Mexico's sweeping mid-grass prairies host special wildlife populations, including species not seen anywhere else in the West. Each spring, lesser prairie chickens strut on booming grounds to attract mates. Nearby, rolling sand dunes hold vast stands of shinnery oak that provide habitat for the sand dune lizard. Public lands in the Basin also provide essential habitat for mule deer, pronghorn antelope, quail, and a host of other wildlife. Hunters come each fall to enjoy the area's abundant game. Statewide, more than 130,000 hunters spend over \$150 million each year on their sport.

The BLM is monitoring the reclamation and restoration of 1,700 abandoned wells. More than 2,000 inactive or abandoned wells must also be reclaimed.

More than 6,000 miles of road were constructed for these wells, resulting in an expansion of invasive plant species (e.g., African rue and Russian knapweed); a decline in habitat for wildlife; degraded water quality; and extensive habitat fragmentation.

The goal of protecting the Basin's rich natural heritage is being accomplished

*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

The Permian Basin also hosts a unique geology—and a significant petroleum industry. Oil and gas are produced from 18 different formations in New Mexico alone, and major development has been ongoing since the 1920s. Producers range from small independents to major oil companies.

Since the 1920s, roughly 55,000 oil and gas wells have been drilled in southeast New Mexico. Today there are about 29,000 active oil and gas wells, of which about 15,000 are Federal. About 450 new wells are drilled and 150 wells plugged each year.

The BLM's Pecos District works with over 170 different oil companies, while typical BLM offices deal with 10 to 15 companies.

### 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.



through BLM partnerships with the energy industry, ranchers, conservationists, recreational users, and local governments. Land is being restored and reclaimed on a landscape basis, which is helping maintain hunting opportunities and energy access to public lands. These efforts should also prevent Federal listing of sensitive species under the Endangered Species Act, such as the lesser prairie chicken and sand dune lizard, and enhance other wildlife populations.

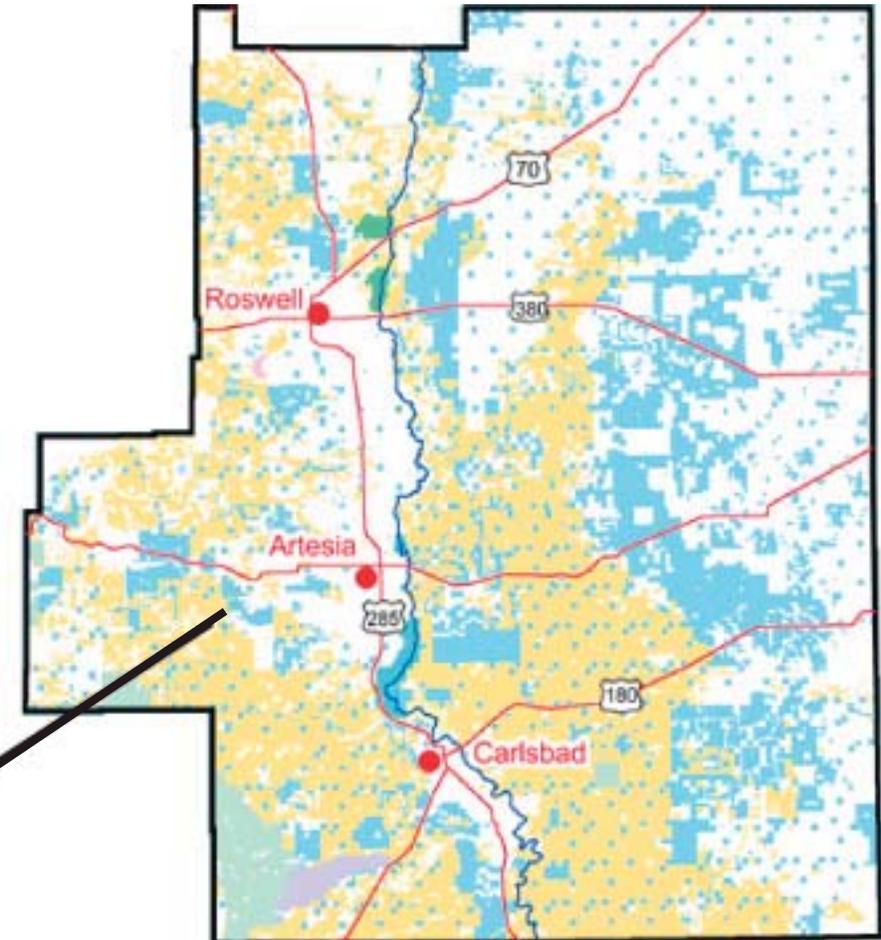
## Goals

- Remove exotic plant species and reverse the expansion of invasive shrubs.
- Restore native habitat for fish, wildlife, and special-status species.
- Improve water quality and watershed health.
- Reduce habitat fragmentation from historic oil and gas development and ensure responsible energy development
- Reduce impacts from large-scale wildfire.

## Continuing the Momentum

In 2007, the BLM and its partners restored and reclaimed almost 120,000 acres of land in southeastern New Mexico. During each of the next two years, we plan to restore and reclaim up to 135,000 acres of public land.

## Permian Basin New Mexico



## Getting Involved

There are many ways to get involved through **Restore New Mexico**, a statewide partnership to restore woodlands, grasslands, and riparian areas of New Mexico to a healthy and productive condition. Landowners and other agency employees can contact the BLM's Pecos District Office or its partners for further information. Conservation groups are working with BLM on specific habitat improvement projects; contact the BLM or your group to see how you can participate or otherwise support their work.



## Partners

- U.S. Geological Survey
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts
- Oil and gas companies
- New Mexico State Land Office
- New Mexico Department of Game and Fish
- Electric utility cooperatives
- Conservation groups, including Quail Unlimited
- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- Private landowners, including those holding BLM grazing permits

For additional information contact:  
Bureau of Land Management  
New Mexico State Office  
Hanson Stuart  
Hanson\_Stuart@nm.blm.gov  
505-438-7510

Pecos District Office  
2909 W. Second Street  
Roswell, NM 88201  
575-627-0272



### By the Numbers

#### San Juan Basin, Northwestern New Mexico

- Number of acres in the Basin: **8 million** (about the size of Massachusetts)
- Number of producing oil and gas wells: **20,000** (mostly natural gas)
- Number of new wells to be added in the next 20 years: **10,000**
- Number of cubic feet of natural gas produced in the Basin annually: **1.1 trillion**
- Percentage of natural gas consumed by homes in the U.S. that comes from the Basin: **20 percent**

**B**road mesas interspersed with deep canyons are characteristic of New Mexico's San Juan Basin, as are entrenched narrow valleys, dry washes, and floodplains.

Mule deer and elk share the landscape with more than 22,000 oil and gas wells and two major coal mines. Hunters flock to northwestern New Mexico each fall for opportunities to enjoy the abundant wildlife. Statewide, more than 130,000 hunters spend over \$150 million each year on their sport.

BLM lands also provide important habitat for upland game birds such as Gambel's quail, which inhabit densely vegetated areas in canyon bottoms and near waterways, and scaled quail, which occur in sage/grassland areas. Flowing through the Basin are the Animas and San Juan Rivers. A world-class trout fishery on the San Juan below Navajo Dam attracts fly fishermen from around the world.

The San Juan Basin hosts America's second-most productive natural gas field; it supplies six percent of the nation's total production and is California's largest supplier of natural gas.

There are currently over 6,400 miles of roads on the public lands managed by the BLM, most of which were created for the oil and gas industry. The BLM is working with the industry to ensure that pipelines

follow existing roads wherever possible and to encourage "twinned" well locations when practical for new wells.

Impacts of these roads include fragmentation of wildlife habitat; expansion of invasive plant species, such as Russian knapweed and musk thistle; and water quality degraded by erosion. Restoring landscapes in the San Juan Basin will help ensure that hunting and fishing opportunities are maintained and enhanced, protecting a major contributor

*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

## 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 the economic health of northwestern New Mexico. Our work will also focus on protecting wildlife species affected by past land uses, including legacy oil and gas wells.

Ranchers, recreational users, conservation groups, the oil and gas industry, hunters, and other public land users recognize the advantages of large-scale collaboration. The BLM understands the importance of reclaiming disturbed areas so as to reduce the likelihood of listing sensitive wildlife species while enhancing other wildlife populations.

## Goals

- Remove exotic plant species and reverse the expansion of invasive shrubs.
- Restore native habitat for fish, wildlife, and special-status species.
- Improve water quality and watershed health.
- Reduce habitat fragmentation from historic oil and gas development.
- Ensure responsible energy development.
- Reduce impacts from catastrophic wildfire.

## Continuing the Momentum

In 2007, the BLM and its partners restored and reclaimed 42,480 acres of public land in northwestern New Mexico, up from 18,000 acres in 2006. During the next two years, we plan to restore and reclaim up to 70,000 additional acres of public land.

## Getting Involved

There are many ways to get involved through **Restore New Mexico**, a statewide partnership to restore woodlands, grasslands, and riparian areas of New Mexico



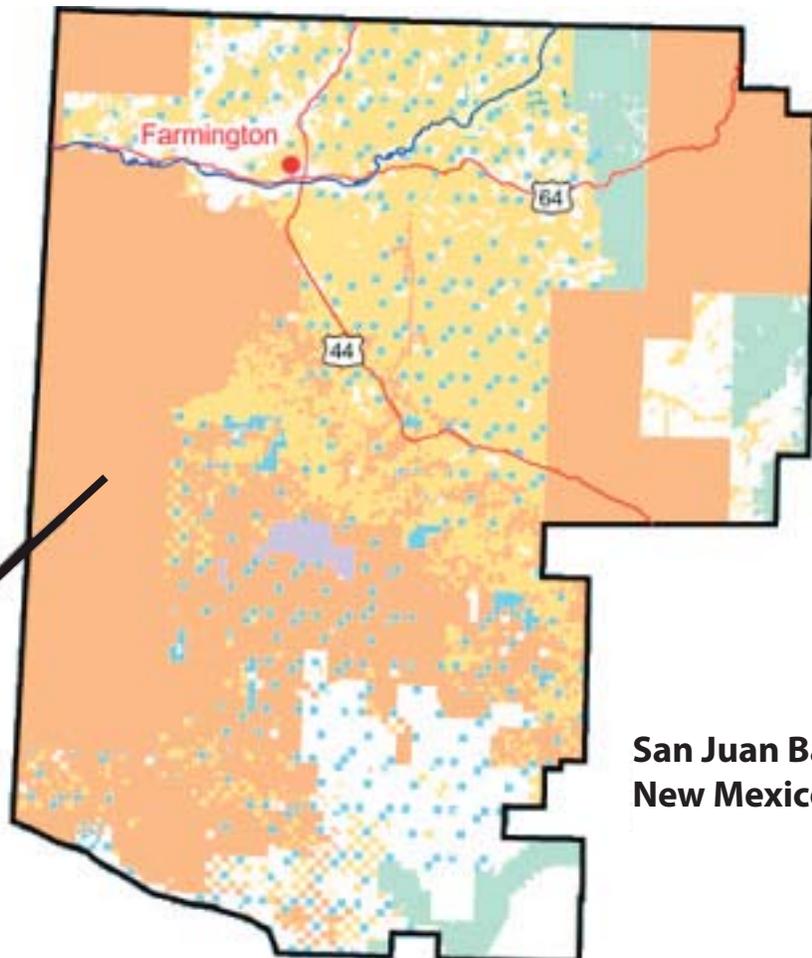
to a healthy and productive condition. Landowners and other agency employees can contact the BLM's Farmington District Office or its partners for further information. Conservation groups are working with the BLM on specific habitat improvement projects. Contact the BLM or your group to see how you can participate or otherwise support their work.

## New Mexico Partners

- U.S. Geological Survey
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts
- Oil and gas companies
- New Mexico State Land Office
- New Mexico Department of Game and Fish
- Electric utility cooperatives
- Conservation groups, including Quail Unlimited
- Private landowners, including those holding BLM grazing permits

For additional information contact:  
Bureau of Land Management  
New Mexico State Office  
Hanson Stuart  
Hanson\_Stuart@nm.blm.gov  
505-438-7510

Farmington District Office  
1235 La Plata Highway, Suite A  
Farmington, NM 87401-8731  
505-599-8900



**San Juan Basin  
New Mexico**

2009 Budget Update

# Healthy Lands Initiative

## CALIFORNIA

California is a new Healthy Lands emphasis area for Fiscal Year 2009. The California Healthy Lands Initiative comprises three smaller initiatives:

- San Joaquin Valley Landscape Initiative
- Desert Conservation Area Landscape Initiative
- Modoc Plateau Sagebrush Steppe Restoration Initiative

### San Joaquin Valley Landscape Initiative

The southern San Joaquin Valley in California has experienced extensive land conversion to farming, urban, industrial, and energy production land uses. Kern County, at the southern end of the valley, ranks as the sixth largest county in terms of oil production, fourth largest in agricultural production, and one of the top population growth counties in the United States. With nearly 90 percent of the lands of the Valley developed or converted to other uses, there are now many species of animals and plants listed as threatened or endangered under the Federal and California Endangered Species Acts. The California State Office of the BLM is working with other Federal, State, and local partners under a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to develop a comprehensive multi-agency, public-private program to protect and conserve species of concern.

The MOU partners agreed to develop a permitting program that standardizes

and integrates Federal, State, and local regulatory mechanisms for habitat conservation, habitat compensation, mitigation measures, and cumulative effects. The Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) contains "safety nets" that conserve 90 percent of preserve lands as habitat, maintain habitat connections that will be at least one mile wide, limit additional disturbance to 25 percent of Valley Sink Scrub habitat, and require specific compensation actions for each listed species until conservation goals are achieved.

### By the Numbers California Goals for FY 2009

#### San Joaquin Valley

- Restore 2,000 acres of critical habitat
- Reclaim 300 abandoned oil well pads

#### Desert Conservation Area

- Restore degraded habitat within 3.1 million acres of Desert Wildlife Management Areas and other special areas

#### Modoc Plateau Sagebrush

- Treat 10,000 acres of juniper encroachment per year to improve sage-steppe habitat

*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

### 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.



The HCP has developed an “Oil Strategy” that describes the regulatory mechanisms and conservation objectives to continue oil and gas activities within endangered species habitats. The foundation of this strategy is to acquire 3,000 acres of listed species habitats up front in the permitting process to offset 1,000 wells drilled by the industry in established oil fields and listed species habitats over the next several decades. The HCP and existing restoration programs are the most efficient means of implementing a landscape conservation program among Federal, State, and local agencies and the private sector. The plan provides a roadmap for conservation of remaining habitats that will contribute to recovery of the San Joaquin Valley listed species while streamlining Federal and State Endangered Species Act permitting for oil and gas activities.

### Desert Conservation Area Landscape Initiative

The California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) Landscape Initiative would focus on (1) mitigating and restoring wildlife habitats, and (2) mitigating and preserving cultural resource sites, traditional-use areas, and sacred areas in the CDCA that are affected by the siting and development of solar, geothermal, and wind energy facilities. The BLM manages about 10 million of the 25 million acres comprising this congressionally designated area. The CDCA contains habitat for 25 listed threatened and endangered species, including the desert tortoise, Peninsular Ranges bighorn sheep, desert pupfish, Amargosa vole, and Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard.

The BLM proposes to increase the rate of habitat restoration in the desert wildlife management areas by closing routes at intersections, removing traces of closed routes to the line of sight, and by directing acquisition in identified habitat linkages essential to the recovery of listed CDCA species. Because the U.S. Geological Survey and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are active partners in the Desert Managers Group, a landscape-level conservation approach coordinated through this group will facilitate the processing of rights-of-way for solar, geothermal, and wind energy facilities in the CDCA.

### Modoc Plateau Sagebrush Steppe Restoration Initiative

The most significant factor affecting land health in northeast California and northwest Nevada is the encroachment of western juniper into the sagebrush steppe ecosystem. As western juniper moves into the sagebrush steppe and the tree canopy begins to close, native grasses and shrubs are lost from the ecosystem. This loss of vegetative diversity directly impacts wildlife, resulting in dwindling numbers of key species such as sage-grouse, mule deer, and pronghorn.

For more information, contact:  
 California State Office  
 Bureau of Land Management  
 2800 Cottage Way, Suite W-1834  
 Sacramento, CA 95825  
 916-978-4400

### Partners

- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- Modoc National Forest
- California Department of Fish and Game
- California Energy Commission
- California Department of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources
- California State Office of Historic Preservation
- Kern County
- Modoc County
- Pit River Tribe
- Klamath Tribes
- Alturas Rancheria

