



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**

Broad 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. and 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



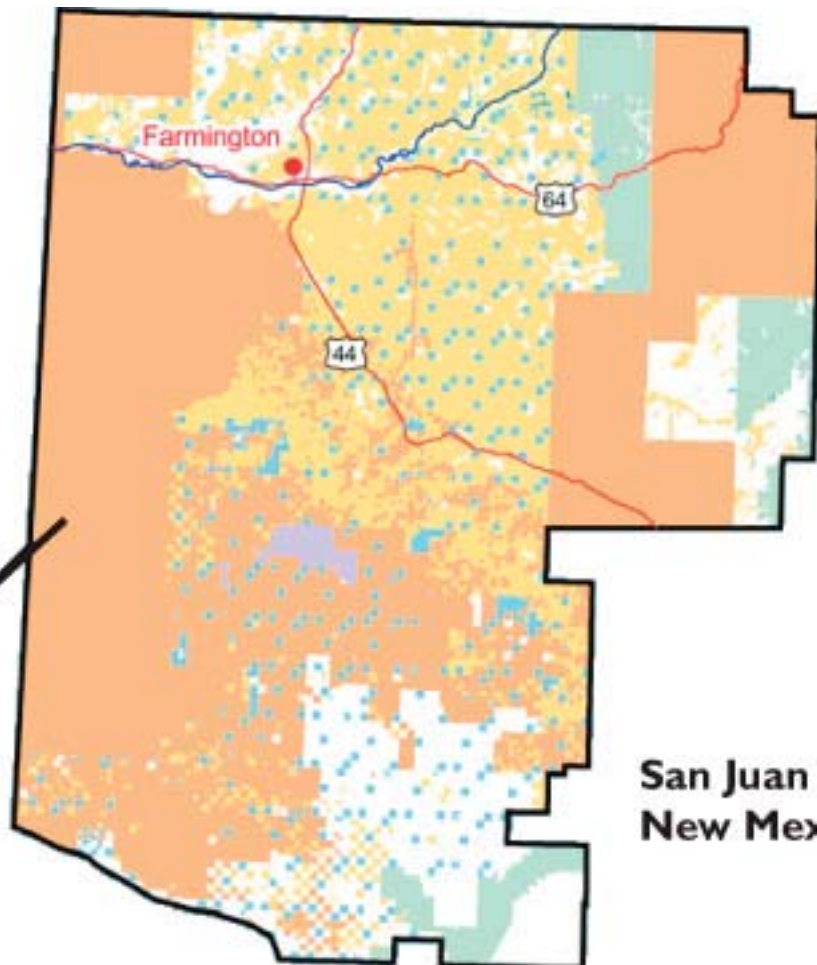
to a healthy and productive condition. Landowners and other agency employees can contact the BLM's Farmington District Office or its partners for further information. Conservation groups are working with the BLM on specific habitat improvement projects. Contact the BLM or your group to see how you can 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:
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505-438-7510

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**San Juan Basin
New Mexico**