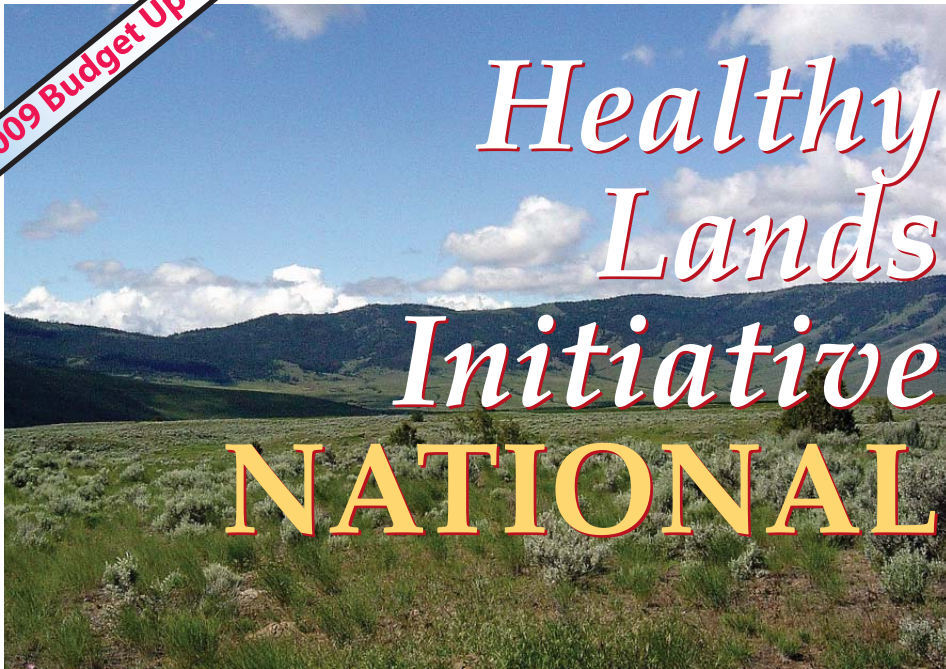


2009 Budget Update



# 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
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BLM Total .....	\$14.9 million
USGS .....	\$5.0 million
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service	\$2.0 million
<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.

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### 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

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### 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



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### 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

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### 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

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### 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

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### 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)

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### 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

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For more information, please contact:

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