



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**

Southeast New Mexico's sweeping mid-grass prairies encompass some of the nation's unique prairie vistas. Public lands in the Permian Basin provide essential habitat for mule deer, pronghorn antelope, quail, and a host of other wildlife. Hunters come each fall for unparalleled opportunities to enjoy the abundant wildlife. Statewide, more than 130,000 hunters spend over \$150 million each year on their sport.

The Permian Basin 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. 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); declines in habitat for wildlife; degraded water quality; and extensive habitat fragmentation.

Restoring this land will help maintain hunting opportunities and energy access to public lands, and prevent Federal listing of sensitive species under the Endangered Species Act. Two candidates for listing include the lesser prairie chicken and the sand dune lizard.

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
 February 5, 2007

What is the Healthy Lands Initiative?

The Healthy Lands Initiative represents a new concept for meeting emerging challenges in managing natural resources for continued multiple use with flexible, landscape-level approaches.

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 2008 budget requests a substantial increase of \$15 million in funding for the BLM to begin implementing the Initiative in six specific geographic areas to demonstrate the new approach. Projects will be located in Wyoming (\$4.5 million), New Mexico (\$3.5 million), Utah (\$2.0 million), Oregon/Idaho/Nevada (\$1.9 million), southern Idaho (\$1.8 million) and Colorado (\$1.3 million).



Ranchers, recreational users, conservation groups, the oil and gas industry, hunters and other public land users know the significance of doing large-scale collaborative efforts. The BLM recognizes the importance of reclaiming disturbed areas, which will both reduce the likelihood of listing sensitive wildlife species 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 catastrophic wildfire

Continuing the Momentum

In 2006, the BLM and its partners restored and reclaimed 68,300 acres of public land in southeastern New Mexico. During each of the next 2 years we plan to restore and reclaim up to 100,000 acres of public land.

Getting Involved

There are many ways to get involved in Restore New Mexico. 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
Private landowners, including BLM grazing permittees

For additional information contact:
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Permian Basin New Mexico

