

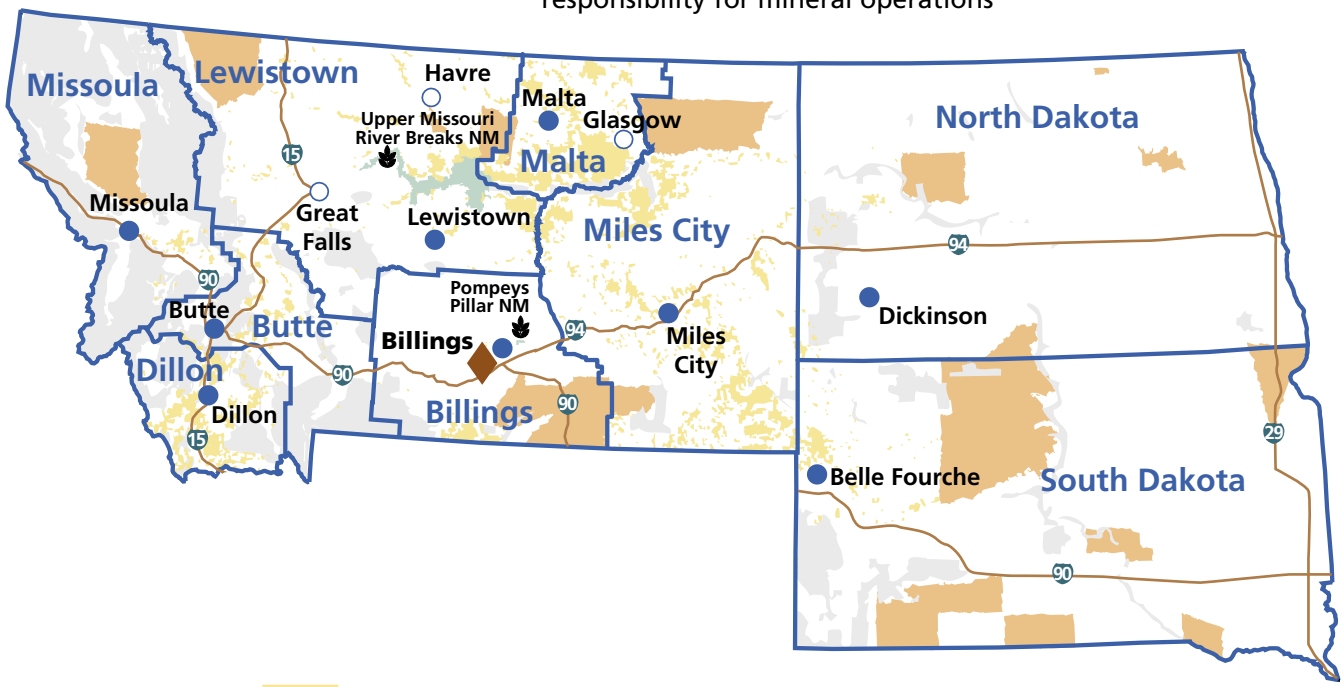
Montana State Office

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MONTANA
 8.0 million acres of surface land
 37.8 million acres of subsurface mineral estate (including surface acreage mentioned above)
 5.5 million acres of tribal lands where the BLM has trust responsibility for mineral operations

NORTH DAKOTA
 58,837 acres of surface land
 5.6 million acres of subsurface mineral estate (including surface acreage mentioned above)
 0.9 million acres of tribal lands where the BLM has trust responsibility for mineral operations

SOUTH DAKOTA
 274,450 acres of surface land
 3.7 million acres of subsurface mineral estate (including surface acreage mentioned above)
 5.0 million acres of tribal lands where the BLM has trust responsibility for mineral operations



- BLM-managed lands
- BLM-administered minerals underlying federal surface (excluding National Park Service and Fish and Wildlife Service units)
- 🌿 BLM National Monument
- Tribal lands where the BLM has trust responsibility for mineral operations
- BLM State Office
- BLM Field Offices
- BLM Field Stations
- BLM Field Office boundaries
- Major highways



Montana's public lands provide many opportunities for fishing and other forms of recreation.

MONTANA, NORTH DAKOTA, AND SOUTH DAKOTA

Montana, North Dakota, and South Dakota are large states with relatively small populations. This circumstance has fostered a tradition of neighbor helping neighbor and people pulling together to meet common opportunities and challenges. In a very real sense, the BLM in Montana and the Dakotas reflects the characteristics of these states—the agency administers resources over vast areas with a small staff, relying on cooperation and partnerships to get the job done. A growing force of volunteers also helps supplement the BLM's staff by working as campground hosts, student interns who exchange their service for college credit, and in other capacities, contributing several million dollars worth of service annually.

Public lands in Montana and the Dakotas offer a variety of terrains, from rolling prairies in the east to rugged mountains in the west. The BLM manages nearly 8 million acres scattered throughout Montana and about 333,000 acres primarily in western North Dakota and northwestern South Dakota. These lands provide important habitat for wildlife, riparian areas that help improve water quality in Montana's rivers and streams, and forest products. BLM lands also provide a source of forage for domestic livestock, helping to maintain rural economies and a lifestyle that, for many, epitomizes the region's character.

Energy

In addition to the 8.3 million acres of land, BLM Montana manages about 47.1 million subsurface acres in parts of all three states. Prudent management and environmentally responsible development of energy minerals such as coal, oil, and gas are important elements of BLM Montana's conservation mandate. Traditional oil and gas activities are scattered across the three states; there are significant fields in the Williston Basin area in western North Dakota and eastern Montana and in the Great Falls vicinity in west-central Montana.

Some of the nation's largest coal deposits lie beneath the prairies of eastern Montana and western North Dakota. While the coal itself is a key energy source, significant quantities of natural gas are also trapped in the coal seams—especially in Montana's Powder River Basin. The BLM partnered with the State of Montana to complete an environmental impact statement (EIS) to guide development of the state's coalbed natural gas. The Bureau of Indian Affairs, U.S. Department of Energy, Crow Tribe, and Environmental Protection Agency also cooperated in preparing the EIS. This approach resulted in a comprehensive study that considered virtually the entire Montana portion of the basin. BLM Montana worked concurrently with BLM Wyoming and its partners to develop their plan, which analyzed the Wyoming portion of the basin. By working together, the two states produced studies that dovetail while allowing for differences dictated by state-specific requirements.

Recreation

Montana has many recreational opportunities. Visitor use on public lands across Montana and the Dakotas increased by more than 15 percent from 2002

to 2004. Camping, picnicking, fishing, and hunting are some of the most popular activities in Montana.

Public lands near growing urban areas offer critical recreational opportunities in relatively natural settings. For example, the BLM manages about 12 miles of the storied Blackfoot River corridor near Missoula and maintains recreation sites along Hauser and Holter Lakes in Lewis and Clark County. In Yellowstone County, the Four Dances Natural Area and the Sundance Lodge Recreation Area—two pockets of public land virtually in their native state—are within minutes of the cities of Billings and Laurel. Finally, the BLM’s historic Fort Meade Recreation Area is near the heart of South Dakota’s famous Black Hills and just a short drive from Rapid City.

Wild Horses and Burros

The Pryor Mountains National Wild Horse Range in the rugged mountains of south-central Montana is a pristine setting for these living legends of the old West, and maintaining a healthy herd is high on BLM Montana’s priority list. An important aspect of this work is balancing the wild horse population with the forage available on the arid range. Over the past decade, the Pryor herd has averaged about 160 head. BLM Montana occasionally gathers excess horses from the range to maintain this strategic balance. These horses are available to the public through the BLM’s Adopt-a-Horse or Burro Program. BLM Montana is working with Zoo Montana to administer fertility control to selected mares to slow population growth and maintain a healthy, genetically viable Pryor Mountain herd. This gives younger mares more time to mature physically before conceiving. BLM Montana and Zoo Montana have treated 44 mares using this nonintrusive procedure.

Planning and Cooperative Conservation

Land use plans provide the basis for the myriad management decisions that BLM Montana makes in caring for the public lands. While the BLM’s planning



A new member of the herd relaxes at the Pryor Mountain National Wild Horse Range.



Kayakers float the Upper Missouri River toward the boat launch at Coal Banks Landing.



Ponderosa pines are commonly found on the public lands in Montana.

efforts have long involved members of the public with a broad range of interests, BLM Montana recently began inviting local and tribal governments and other agencies to become active members of its land use planning teams. Early efforts have proven successful. For example, southwestern Montana's Madison and Beaverhead Counties were cooperating agencies in developing the Dillon resource management plan (RMP), which addresses uses for the 900,000 acres of BLM surface acreage and 1.3 million acres of subsurface minerals in those two counties. Likewise, Blaine, Fergus, Phillips, and Chouteau Counties have signed on as cooperating agencies for the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument RMP.

Planning also presents an excellent example of how the BLM Montana is putting President Bush's cooperative conservation mandate into practice. The cooperative conservation approach calls on federal agencies to work with other levels of government and local communities and complements the inclusive land use planning process that BLM Montana has been following for years. The BLM recognizes that its decisions concerning public lands often have a ripple effect on other lands and local jurisdictions and has adopted a common-sense approach, cooperating with other agencies and local entities as each new land use plan gets underway. BLM Montana has begun two new RMPs for the Butte and Miles City areas and will start a new West HiLine RMP, covering BLM lands in north-central Montana, this year.

Up-to-date land use plans help the BLM make good resource decisions, but the public's involvement in managing public land does not stop when these large plans are complete. BLM Montana continues to solicit and respond to citizen input while implementing plans and carrying out its daily responsibilities.

The cooperative conservation approach is also evident in Montana's four citizen-based resource councils. These councils act as sounding boards and provide advice on all aspects of public land management in Montana. Each resource advisory council (RAC) consists of 15 citizens representing a broad range of interests. A few years ago, Montana's RACs encouraged the BLM to undertake an unprecedented three-state study of off-highway vehicle use, and the agency is now implementing decisions made in the resulting interagency EIS.

Because BLM Montana has four councils, each can also focus on localized issues. For example, a subcommittee of the Eastern Montana Resource Advisory Council developed a travel management plan for 40,000 acres in eastern Montana. Council members used a grassroots approach to develop the plan for a checkerboard of federal, state, and private lands known as the Knowlton area. The area's mixed ownership and variety of uses posed a number of management challenges, and the group looked for solutions that all parties could support. Over the course of a year, subcommittee members conducted 26 meetings with participation from landowners, recreationists, and commercial outfitters, and the process the subcommittee developed will serve as a model for other travel management planning efforts. Overall, the RACs have become an important tool in helping BLM Montana better involve the public.

A project in Deadwood, South Dakota, provides another model of cooperative conservation. Located in the Black Hills, Deadwood was threatened by a wildfire in 2001 that swept through Grizzly Gulch, an area on the edge of town. Heavy rains after the fire caused extensive flooding and mudflows. The BLM worked with the community and other federal and state firefighting

agencies to develop a plan to better protect the town from fire and its secondary impacts. As a result, Deadwood is now one of the most firewise communities in the West.

In western Montana, the BLM is a founding member of the Blackfoot Challenge, a grassroots group that organized to coordinate management of the Blackfoot River, its tributaries, and adjacent lands. The group consists of private landowners, federal and state agency representatives, local government officials, and corporate landowners. Its members work to enhance, conserve, and protect the natural resources and rural lifestyle of the Blackfoot River Valley. The group supports environmentally responsible resource stewardship through the cooperation of public and private interests.

Lewis and Clark

Cooperation is vital as the BLM prepares to commemorate the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial through 2006. The bicentennial presents a major challenge for the BLM in Montana and the Dakotas; the explorers spent more time in Montana than in any other state, and many of their most stirring journal entries describe scenery that, in many places, has changed little over the past 200 years. In Montana alone, the BLM administers more than 300 miles along the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail—far more than any other federal agency. The BLM is charged with protecting the cultural and natural resources along this fabled route and is doing its best to provide the infrastructure and education necessary to meet trail visitors' expectations.



The Decision Point overlook provides a scenic view of the confluence of the Missouri and Marias Rivers.

Caring for public resources in Montana and the Dakotas becomes more intricate each year. However, BLM Montana remains committed to continue working with its neighbors to do the best job possible.

Montana Figures | Fiscal Year 2004

(including North Dakota and South Dakota)

Federal Collections from BLM-Managed Lands and Minerals

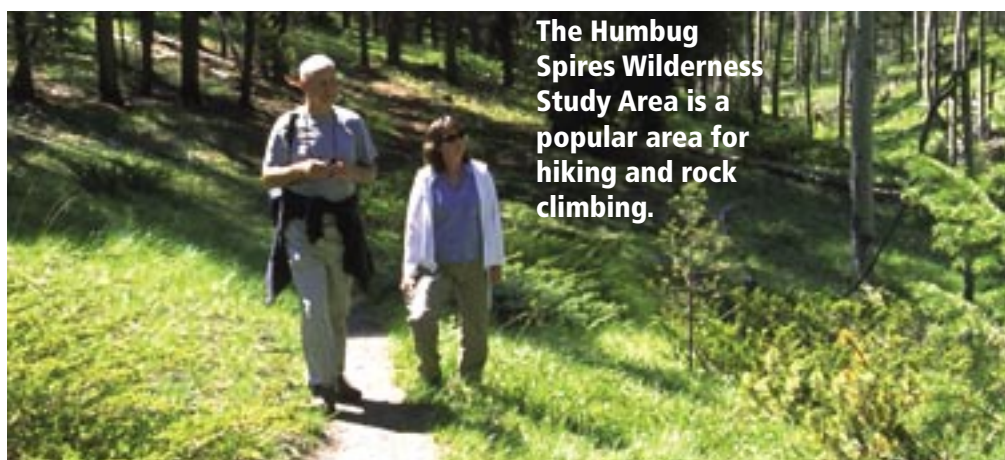
Grazing Fees	\$1,878,864
Recreation and Use Fees	\$291,673
FLPMA Rights-of-Way Rent	\$111,257
Miscellaneous Receipts	\$371,712
Sale of Land and Materials	\$79,153
Timber Receipts	
Public Domain	\$496,960
Mining Claim Holding Fees and Service Charges	\$870,280
Mineral Royalties, Rents, and Bonuses	\$77,963,542
TOTAL	\$82,063,441

Direct BLM Financial Transfers to Montana (including ND and SD)

Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT)	\$20,193,547
Grazing Fees	\$298,433
Proceeds of Sales	\$3,348
Timber Receipts	
Public Domain	\$2,920
National Grasslands	\$666,406
Mineral Royalties, Rents, and Bonuses	\$36,402,861
TOTAL	\$57,567,515

BLM Investment in Montana (including ND and SD)

Management of Land and Resources	\$49,154,000
Land Acquisition	\$5,556,000
Range Improvements	\$2,579,000
Construction and Access	\$226,000
Wildland Fire Preparedness	\$6,481,000
Wildland Fire Operations	\$6,692,000
TOTAL	\$70,688,000



The Humbug Spires Wilderness Study Area is a popular area for hiking and rock climbing.

Commercial Use Activity in Montana (including ND and SD) on BLM-Managed Land, Fiscal Year 2004

Grazing Permits and Leases	4,281 permits and leases, 1,365,889 animal unit months
Timber Volume Sold	18,028 hundred cubic feet
Oil and Gas Leasing	146 new holes started, 1,072,780 acres in producing status, 2,967 wells capable of production
Coal Production	20 producing leases, 28,189,654 tons produced
Mineral Materials (Salables)	22 permits issued, 7,231 cubic yards produced
Nonenergy Leasables	1 lease, 1,409 acres under lease
Exploration and Mining Activity (Locatables)	6 notices reviewed, 7 plans of operation reviewed
Rights-of-Way	103 granted

Wild Horse and Burro Program in Montana (including ND and SD), Fiscal Year 2004

Animal	Estimated Current Population	Animals Taken Off Range	Number of Animals Adopted*
Wild Horses	161	0	35
Wild Burros	0	0	10

* Some animals are not adopted the same year that BLM removes them from the range

Horses graze along a road leading into Limekiln Canyon.



Coal mining operations help support the economies of rural towns such as Roundup.





The Kipp Recreation Site offers camping and picnicking facilities.

Estimated Recreation Use in Montana (including ND and SD) on BLM-Managed Land, Fiscal Year 2004

Visitor Days

Boating—motorized	63,816
Boating—row, float, or paddle	155,925
Camping and picnicking	1,101,968
Driving for pleasure	82,811
Fishing	227,696
Hunting	510,157
Interpretation and education	227,087
Nonmotorized travel	211,000
Off-highway travel	146,942
Snowmobile and other winter motorized travel	25,594
Specialized sports (motorized and nonmotorized), events, and activities	53,580
Swimming and other water activities	23,798
Winter/nonmotorized activities	23,225
TOTAL	2,853,599

Recreation Fee Demonstration Program, Fiscal Year 2004

13 projects, \$293,606 collected

1. Billings Field Office
2. Butte Field Office (2)
3. Dillon Field Office (2)
4. Garnet Ghost Town
5. Havre Field Station
6. Holter/Hauser Lake Recreation Area (6)
7. Lewistown Field Office
8. Malta Field Office
9. Miles City Field Office
10. North Dakota Field Office
11. Pompeys Pillar National Monument
12. South Dakota Field Office
13. Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument/Kipp Recreation Area

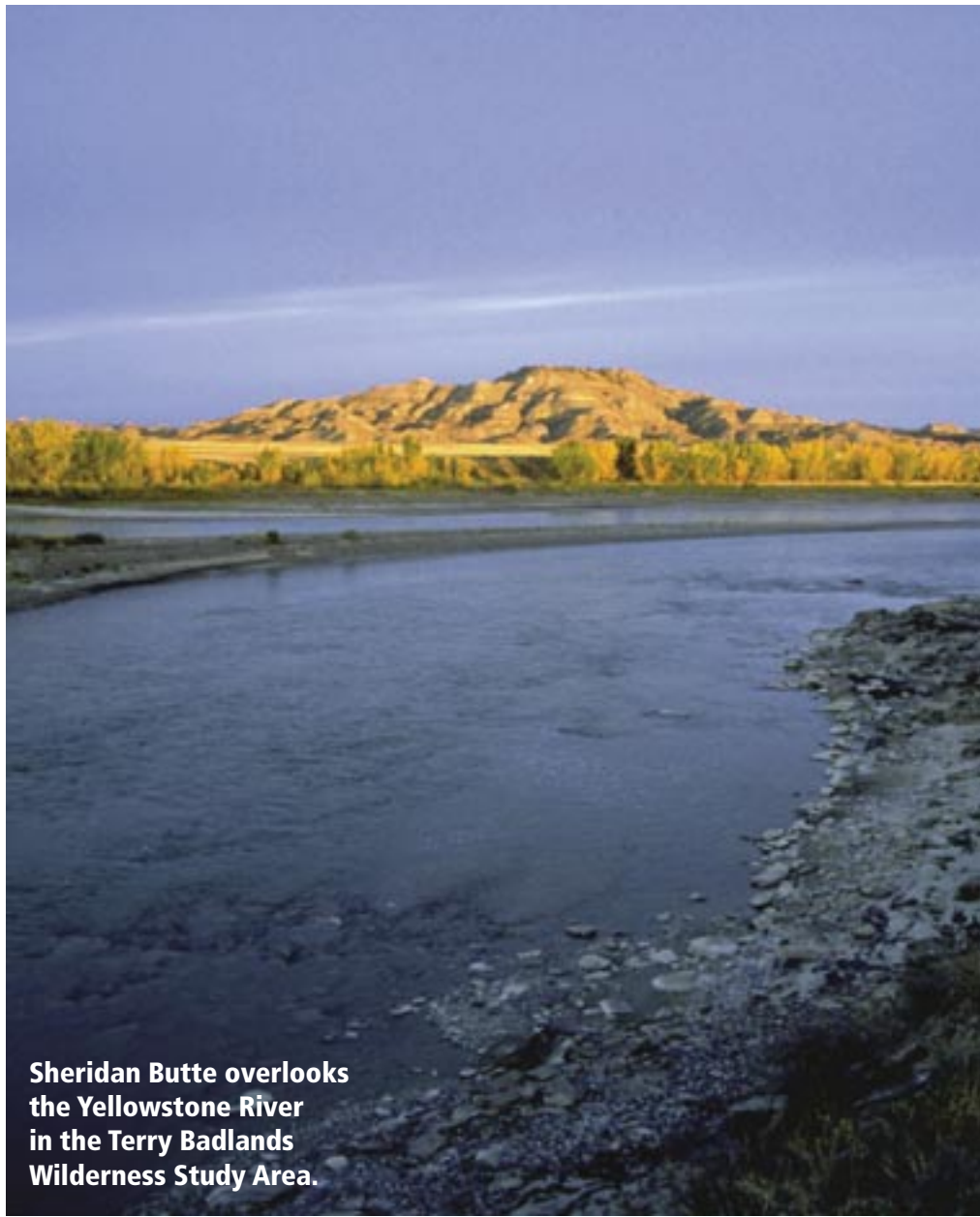
Numbers in parentheses at the end of the projects named above equal the number of individual sites within the pilot project. Thus, (2) means there are two separate sites included in that pilot project.



Holter Lake near Helena is a popular camping area.

Public Land Treasures in Montana (including ND and SD) under BLM Stewardship as of September 30, 2004

National Monuments	2 national monuments (375,027 acres)
Cultural Resources	29,703 acres inventoried (145 properties recorded)
Wild and Scenic Rivers	1 river, 149 miles (89,300 acres)
Wilderness Areas	1 area (6,000 acres)
Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs)	40 WSAs (450,823 acres)
Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs)	43 ACECs (248,576 acres)
National Historic Trails	2 trails (313 miles)
National Scenic Trails	1 trail (30 miles)
National Recreation Trails	3 trails (51 miles)



Sheridan Butte overlooks the Yellowstone River in the Terry Badlands Wilderness Study Area.



Dinosaur bones were discovered on public lands near Malta.