

The scope and complexity of the Bureau of Land Management's responsibilities for America's natural resources demand new ways of doing business—ways that meet the public's expectations of both sound management and fiscal accountability.

## Resourceful Management of Our Natural Resources

The Bureau of Land Management's proposed budget reflects its commitment to multiple use management and fiscal responsibility by carefully focusing on key land management priorities and ensuring that the Nation receives a good return on its investments.

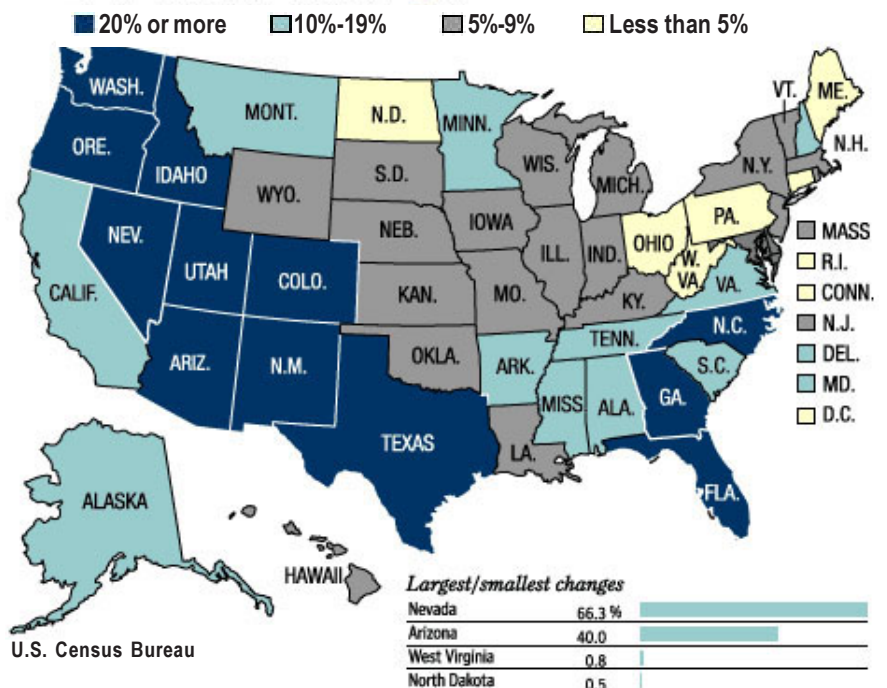
The BLM, an agency of the Department of the Interior, manages 264 million acres of mostly Western land and 700 million acres of federal subsurface mineral estate nationwide. These lands encompass almost one-eighth of the Nation's overall acreage, and about one of every five acres from the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific. The Federal Land Management and Policy Act of 1976 (FLPMA) requires that the public lands under BLM's jurisdiction be managed for a variety of uses, such as energy and mineral development, grazing, recreation, and timber harvesting, while ensuring that important environmental, historic, cultural and scenic values are protected. In the rapidly growing West, FLPMA's multiple use mandate has emerged as the BLM's great strength since it provides the flexibility for the agency to meet the region's changing needs.

The public lands, once considered remote and of little value, are now one of the last remaining guarantees of open space. In 1945, one year before the BLM became an agency, the West's population stood at about 17 million. Today, more than 63 million people live in the West, and the growth is expected to continue. When FLPMA was passed 25 years ago, few anticipated this dramatic growth and

the increasing demands it would place on the public lands. However, FLPMA has proven the ideal management tool for the BLM to address the region's emerging needs. It has also enabled the BLM to dispel the notion that a variety of uses and resources—such as energy development, recreation, wildlife habitat, open space, and livestock grazing—cannot co-exist.

Critical to the success of multiple use is creative and cooperative management. With over 22 million people living within 25 miles of the public lands, the BLM can only be effective by working closely with local and state governments

Growing West: Percent Change in Population Growth, 1990 to 2000



U.S. Census Bureau



Robert Jensen

will increase the BLM's ability to process requests for rights-of-way, oil and gas pipelines, and power lines.

These priorities can be met without diminishing the BLM's ability to manage other important programs by carefully targeting its resources. Additional priorities include:

- supporting communities near public land resources;
- managing and protecting the agency's special areas containing unique natural, historical, or cultural resources values; and

and the private sector. Through close collaboration and partnerships, the BLM determines how best to manage these lands so as to meet the needs of both Western communities and the Nation as a whole.

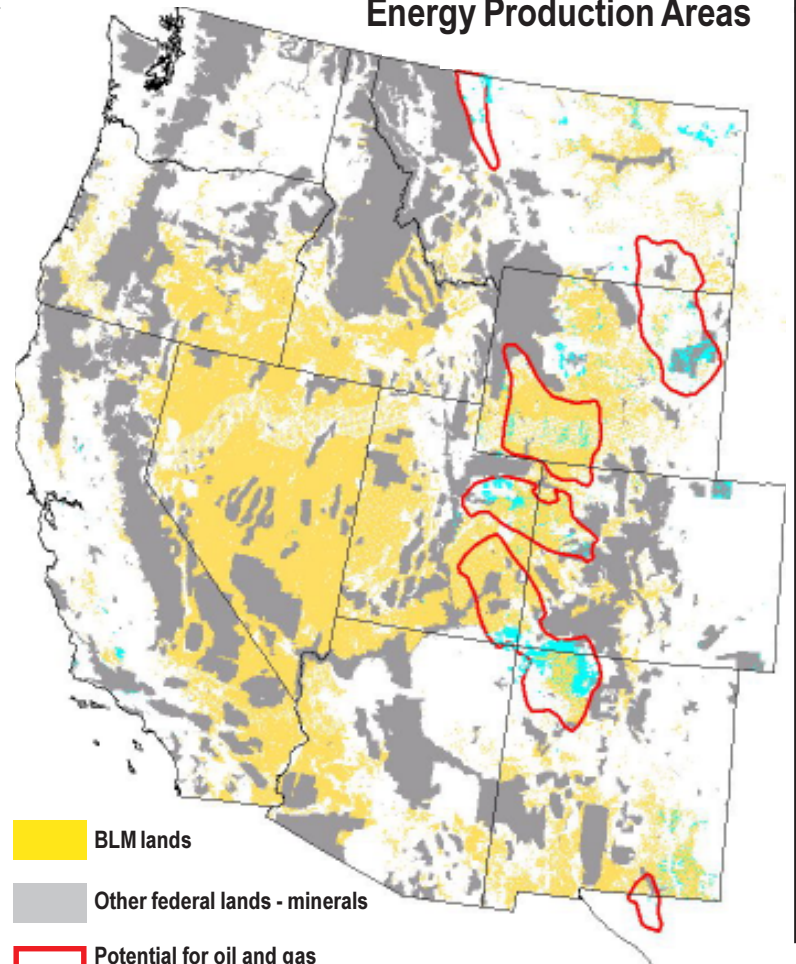
As part of its work to support local communities, the BLM must significantly strengthen and update its land-use plans—the backbone of the process needed to make sound resource decisions. These plans, which are prepared with extensive public involvement, are intended to identify the current condition of the land, appropriate uses of its resources, and the public's needs and desires. Most of the BLM's land-use plans were completed at least a decade ago. Because of the rapid pace of change in the West and the recent expansion of communities into rural areas, these plans need to be updated, as they no longer reflect current on-the-ground conditions or do not adequately address the public's emerging needs.

One of the Nation's most pressing concerns is to reduce our reliance on foreign energy. The vast energy and mineral resources under BLM's jurisdiction gives the agency a natural and key role in ensuring that our country has an adequate supply of energy necessary for the safety and security of our families, our communities and our Nation. The President's proposed budget strengthens the BLM's energy and mineral programs to promote the dependable, affordable, and environmentally sound production of energy.

Of course, supplying sufficient energy to our country depends on our ability to distribute it as well as produce it—a significant challenge to the BLM right now. The agency's backlog in processing rights-of-way applications has risen by nearly 600 in the past three years—from more than 1,100 in 1997 to more than 1,700 in 2000. To accommodate increased delivery demands for energy, the President's budget

- maintaining the health of the land for a wide range of public values such as watershed protection, exotic weed control, and abandoned mine land restoration.

### Potential BLM, Other Federal and Indian Trust Energy Production Areas



- BLM lands
- Other federal lands - minerals
- Potential for oil and gas development based on industry expressed interest
- Producing oil & gas wells

**Description:**  
Shows existing oil and gas wells on BLM surface, federal subsurface and Indian Trust Lands within Reservations. Identifies areas for potential oil and gas development as expressed by the oil and gas industry.

The BLM is committed to meeting today's complex land-management challenges by increasing agency efficiency, effectiveness, and creativity. Developing additional partnerships with State and local governments and with the private sector, for example, will stretch taxpayer dollars while continuing to contribute to the quality of life in the West and for all Americans.

Under the President's proposed budget, the BLM will focus its funding on the following areas:

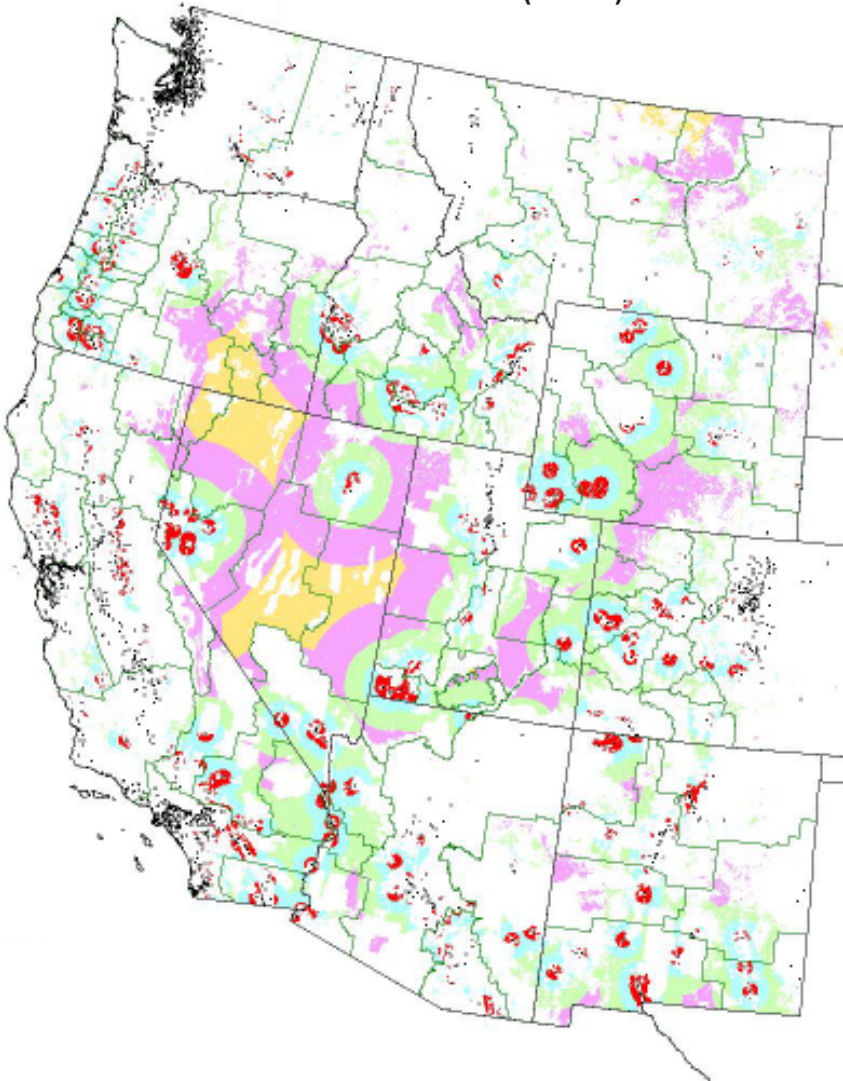
**Energy and Mineral Development:** BLM lands contain world-class energy and mineral resources, vital to the National interest. The proposed FY 2002 budget would add \$15 million to the agency's energy, mineral, and realty programs to promote the dependable and affordable production of energy and mineral resources in an environmentally sound manner.

**Land-Use Planning:** To keep pace with the public's demands for a variety of uses on the public lands, up-to-date land-use plans are essential to addressing new management challenges and providing good customer service to public land users. Land-use plans provide the basis for sound and legally defensible resource decisions. The proposed FY 2002 budget would provide a \$7 million increase to update BLM's planning base.

**Resource Management in High Priority Areas:** In FY 2001, the BLM received funding increases in key areas including \$9 million for managing wild horses and burros, \$2 million to address threatened and endangered species, and \$25 million from the Land and Water Conservation Fund to address the agency's maintenance backlog. The proposed FY 2002 budget includes continued funding in such areas, including the critical maintenance needs of existing facilities on the public lands

using monies from the Land and Water Conservation Fund. By carefully identifying land management priorities, the BLM can effectively manage critical resources without further increases in the budget for managing and protecting the agency's precious natural, historical, or cultural values, and maintaining the health of the land for a variety of public values such as watershed protection, exotic weed control, and abandoned mine restoration.

### Proximity of BLM Lands to Population Centers and Growth Areas (PGAs)



- BLM administrative boundaries
- BLM managed public lands:**
- within 10 miles of PGAs, 9 million acres
- within 10 to 25 miles of PGAs, 35 million acres
- within 25 to 50 miles of PGAs, 58 million acres
- within 50 to 100 miles of PGAs, 57 million acres
- further than 100 miles of PGAs, 20 million acres
- City centers used to define PGAs

**Wildland Fire Management:** The 2001 appropriation act provided nearly \$1 billion for the Department's fire-related agencies. The BLM's proposed FY 2002 budget includes \$658 million for the Department's wildland fire management. Though this is a decrease of \$374 million from the 2001 level, the majority of this reduction includes the elimination of nearly \$200 million of one-time increases in emergency contingency funds. Further, the President is proposing a \$5.6 billion National Emergency Reserve available to cover a variety of emergency needs, including unusually high wildland fire costs. The BLM also eliminated one-time costs for equipment purchased in 2001, some research projects, and some emergency rehabilitation funds provided in 2001.

The proposed FY 2002 wildland fire management budget includes:

- \$281 million for preparedness—combined with funds expected to be available from 2001, this will maintain the BLM's appropriate level of fire readiness in 2002;
- \$368 million for fire operations—includes an increase of \$8.3 million considering the ten-year average costs of fire suppression;
- \$186 million for fuels reduction, the same as in 2001, including \$111 million for fuels reduction near communities in the wildland/urban interface;
- \$20 million for the average annual cost of burned area rehabilitation; and
- \$10 million for continued assistance to rural fire departments.

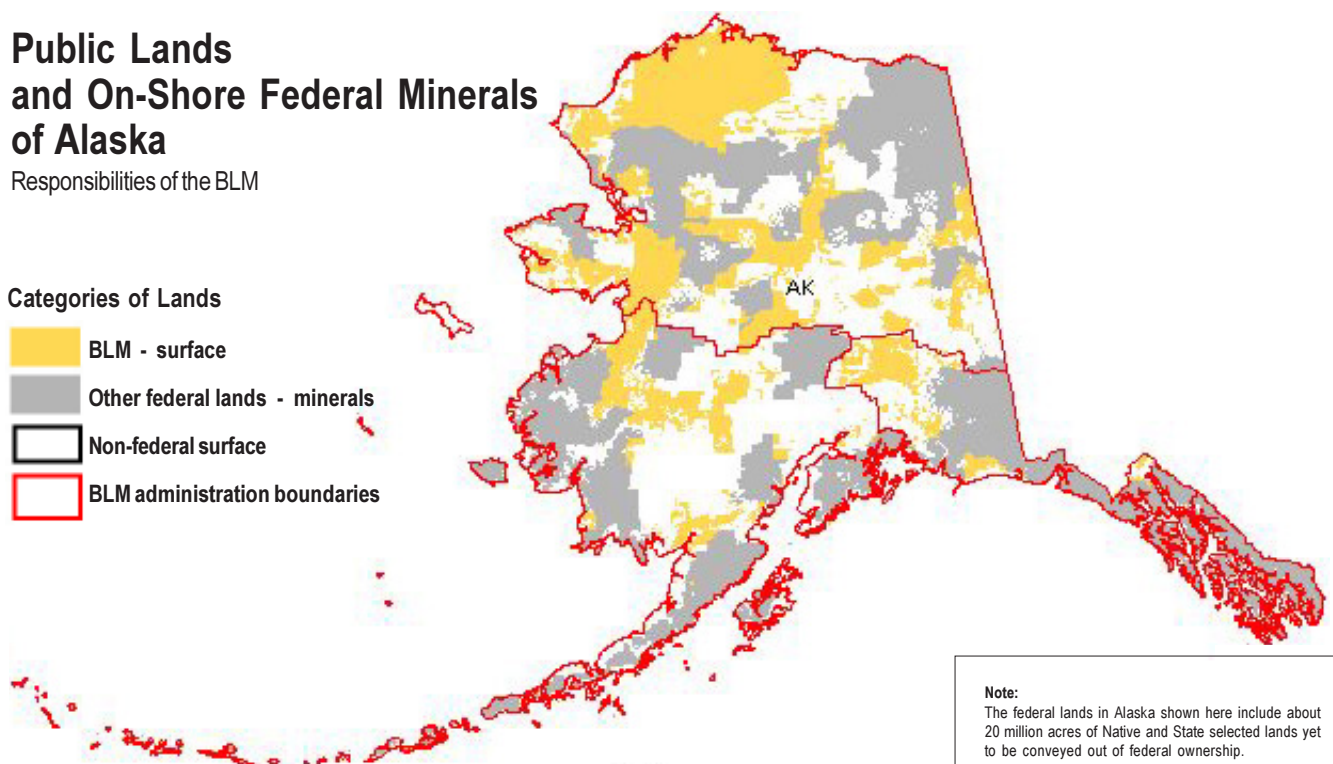


## Public Lands and On-Shore Federal Minerals of Alaska

Responsibilities of the BLM

### Categories of Lands

- BLM - surface
- Other federal lands - minerals
- Non-federal surface
- BLM administration boundaries



**Note:**  
The federal lands in Alaska shown here include about 20 million acres of Native and State selected lands yet to be conveyed out of federal ownership.