



# 2015 Annual Report

# Wyoming

In 2015, I once again had the pleasure of serving as Acting State Director for BLM Wyoming. I love the diversity of what BLM Wyoming has to offer.

We manage a variety of resource programs, including livestock grazing, wild horses, recreation, wildlife habitat, cultural resources, paleontological resources and historic trails. At the same time, we have world class energy resources and their development places renewed focus on our natural and cultural resources. Finding the right balance between the two is critical.

This was a very big year for the protection of the Greater Sage-Grouse. In September 2015, we signed the Record of Decision, amending six RMPs across the state (Newcastle, Casper, Rawlins, Rock Springs, Kemmerer and Pinedale), and three U.S. Forest Service plans (Medicine Bow, Bridger-Teton and Thunder Basin National Grassland). Also included are the Bighorn and Buffalo RMPs. These plans incorporate new management and conservation measures on priority sage-grouse habitat. The scope of this undertaking was huge. The planning area contains approximately 16 million acres of public surface land administered by the BLM and USFS and 16 million acres of federal oil and gas mineral (subsurface) estate.



—Mary Jo Rugwell, Acting State Director

Because of the hard work from BLM staff and our many partners, we were able to take measures to protect the Greater Sage-Grouse and prevent the bird from being listed by the Fish and Wildlife Service as endangered.

BLM lands in Wyoming contain world-class energy and mineral resources that are crucial to the national interest. BLM is dedicated to providing energy as part of its multiple-use and sustained-yield mandate and to maintain the quality of life that citizens of Wyoming and the rest of the United States enjoy. When combined, oil, gas and coal production provided over \$1.7 billion in royalty revenue to the state and federal government.

We are also continuing our work with renewable energy and transmission lines. The Chokecherry Sierra-Madre and TransWest Express are closer to fruition. We remain committed to expanding BLM's energy portfolio.

BLM Wyoming's public lands continue to be valued for our wide open spaces and the recreation opportunities they provide. Although the state's population is around a half a million, there were still more than 3 million visitors to BLM public land.

Another exciting development is the ongoing research at Natural Trap Cave. An international team of scientists wrapped up its second field season of cave study and excavation this summer. Natural Trap Cave is known internationally for its world-class deposits of Ice Age mammals, most of which fell into the cave during Pleistocene and Holocene time and typically died on impact with the cave floor. Researchers are using a broad range of skills and state-of-the-art methods of analysis to excavate, record, sample, catalogue and analyze these Ice Age fossils. Through their research, they hope to construct and refine a picture of how Ice Age animal populations adapted and responded to their environment and climate change, while analyzing major extinction events in the Pleistocene.

We can't do this job alone. Thanks to your interest, involvement and passion, we're coming up with innovative ways to look at the multitude of issues facing BLM Wyoming. We want to continue to work together to benefit the public lands.



**Stay Connected**

<http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en.html>

**Direct Financial Transfers to the State of Wyoming**

Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) .....\$27,143,411  
 Royalties, Rents and Bonuses.....\$885,980,925

**Federal Collections from BLM-Managed Lands and Minerals**

Recreation fees.....\$228,518  
 Grazing fees.....\$2,162,710  
 Lands and realty management.....\$9,119,512  
 Timber management ..... \$93,822  
 Mining claim location/maintenance.....\$5,957,425  
 Mineral materials.....\$5,162,533  
 Mineral royalties/revenues.....\$1,787,143,028

**Mineral royalties/revenues**

Oil and gas royalties .....\$754,596,132  
 Coal royalties .....\$539,904,453  
 Trona ore royalties .....\$35,025,825  
 Fees, bonus bids, other mineral  
 revenue and royalties .....\$457,616,618  
 Total .....\$1,787,143,028

**Energy and Mineral Production**

Barrels of oil produced..... 44,640,433  
 Oil and gas leases ..... 14,747  
 Acres of oil and gas development ..... 9.9 million  
 Trillion cubic feet of natural gas produced ..... 1.22  
 Tons of coal produced..... 323,635,582

**Minerals and Lands Fast Facts**

**Coal:**

- Wyoming, the nation’s leading coal producer since 1986, provides about 40 percent of America’s coal through the top 10 producing mines located in the Powder River Basin.

**Uranium:**

- Wyoming continues to be America’s leader in uranium production with over 2.5 million pounds produced annually.
- 14 authorized and five pending Plans of Operations for in situ recovery/in situ leaching.

**Trona:**

- Wyoming has the world’s largest deposit of trona, supplying about 90 percent of the nation’s soda ash. Trona is Wyoming’s top international export, and Wyoming’s reserves will last over 2,000 years.

**Bentonite:**

- Wyoming continues to be America’s leader in bentonite production with almost 5 million tons produced annually, accounting for nearly 50% of the world’s total production.
- 53 authorized Plans of Operations for bentonite mining, 12 pending.

**Oil and Gas:**

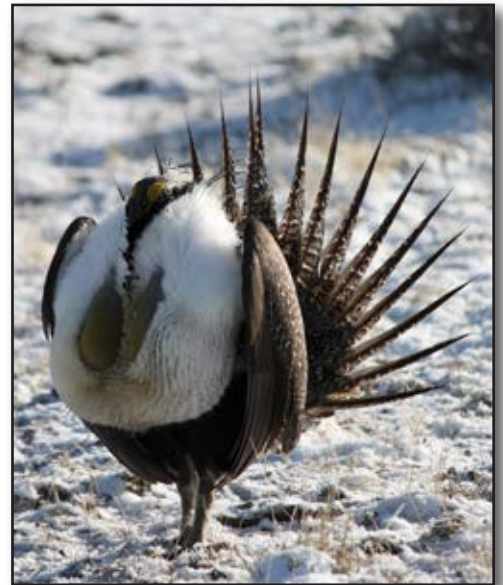
- BLM Wyoming is number one in federal onshore gas production and number two in federal onshore oil production.

**Transmission:**

- Two major transmission line projects are proposed and EISs are being prepared.
- More than 1,200 miles of combined transmission lines; 4,500 Megawatt (MW) total capacity; targeted in-service dates by 2020.

**Renewable Energy:**

- 9 authorized projects are collecting wind data.
- 34 turbines operating on BLM-administered land at the Foote Creek Rim Wind Farm generate between 17 and 34 MW of electricity.



## Recreation Program

### Volunteers

- 666 volunteers expended 18,602 hours on Wyoming's public lands saving the government \$419,475
- 25 of these volunteers volunteered at the National Historic Trails Interpretive Center expending 6,321 hours saving the government \$146,394
- Volunteers from the Great Divide Backcountry Horsemen assisted the Rawlins Field Office with installing 30 new trail markers along the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail
- Seven National Public Lands Day projects took place across the state in Casper, Rawlins, Kemmerer, Cody, and Pinedale engaging hundreds of volunteers

### Milestones

- 3.1 million visitors on public lands in Wyoming; top 5 activities are fishing, driving for pleasure, camping, big game hunting, and rowing/floating/rafting
- 21,025 visitors at the National Historic Trails Interpretive Center
- 316 Special Recreation Permits administered
- \$19,000 revenue was generated from pass sales
- One developed mountain bike trail
- 1,400 miles of National Scenic and Historic Trails
- 42 Wilderness Study Areas
- 42 Special Recreation Management Areas (SRMAs) and Recreation Management Areas (RMAs)
- 1 National Recreation Trail
- 4 National Natural Landmarks
- 4 Backcountry Byways and Backways
- 2 Wild Horse Viewing Areas
- 3 Environmental Education Areas
- 1 developed climbing area
- 1 developed hang gliding area

## Wild Horse and Burro Program

- BLM Wyoming manages 16 herd management areas, three holding facilities, one preparation facility in Rock Springs, the Mantle Adoption and Training Facility in Wheatland, and the Wyoming Honor Farm in Riverton with a total wild horse holding capacity of 1,200.
- FY 2015 Estimated population of wild horses is 3,760 and 181 horses and burros were adopted.



## Resource Management Plan Revisions

### Bighorn Basin Resource Management Plan

The Approved RMP and ROD, signed Sept. 21, 2015, replaces the Washakie and Grass Creek RMPs in Worland and the Cody Field Office's Cody RMP. Upon signature, the Bighorn Basin RMP was split into separate RMPs for the Worland and Cody field offices. The planning area includes lands in all of Big Horn, Park and Washakie counties, and most of Hot Springs County in north-central Wyoming. The decision area consists of BLM-administered surface, totaling 3.2 million acres, and the federal mineral estate, totaling 4.2 million acres.

### Lander Resource Management Plan

The 2014 ROD and Approved RMP, published on June 26, 2014, replace the 1987 Lander RMP. The RMP covers approximately 2.4 million acres of BLM-administered surface land and 2.8 million acres of federal mineral estate in Fremont, Natrona, Sweetwater, Carbon, and Hot Springs counties in west-central Wyoming.

### Buffalo Resource Management Plan

The Approved RMP and ROD, signed Sept. 21, 2015, replaces the 1985 Buffalo RMP. The planning area includes lands within the BLM Buffalo Field Office administrative boundary in Campbell, Johnson, and Sheridan counties in northeastern Wyoming. The decision area consists of BLM-administered surface, totaling 780,000 acres, and the federal mineral estate totaling 4.8 million acres.

### Rock Springs Resource Management Plan Revision

The BLM will revise its RMP to analyze the impacts of various resource uses and include alternatives for managing approximately 3.5 million surface acres and 3.6 million acres of federal mineral estate in Lincoln, Sweetwater, Uinta, Sublette and Fremont counties. The Rock Springs RMP will replace the 1997 Green River RMP.

Status:

A Draft RMP/Draft EIS is anticipated to be published in 2017, with a Proposed RMP/FEIS expected in late 2018.

### Greater Sage-Grouse Management Plan Amendments

The Approved RMP Amendment and ROD, signed Sept. 21, 2015, amends six RMPs across the state (Newcastle, Casper, Rawlins, Rock Springs, Kemmerer and Pinedale), and three U.S. Forest Service (USFS) plans (Medicine Bow, Bridger-Teton and Thunder Basin National Grassland) to incorporate new management and conservation measures on priority sage grouse habitat. The planning area contains approximately 16 million acres of public surface land administered by the BLM and USFS and 16 million acres of federal oil and gas mineral (subsurface) estate.

## Range and Weeds

- \$1,546,139 range improvements fund with carryover
- Approximately 3,500 grazing allotments administered
- Approximately 2,900 grazing permits/leases administered
- 17.4 million acres of public land administered inside of grazing allotments
- 14,126 acres of weed treatments applied
- 73,734 acres of invasive weed inventory
- 5,980 acres of evaluated weed treatments
- 244 grazing permits/leases fully processed and issued
- 133 grazing preference transfers
- 1,995 inspections on livestock grazing allotments for permit/lease compliance
- 117 land health evaluation reports completed
- 205,272 acres of watersheds assessed

## Forestry

- 1.3 million acres of forest
- Approximately \$98,791 in vegetation/timber harvest sales collections
- 4.18 million board feet of timber sold
- 1,053 cords of firewood sold
- 1,750 green tons of biomass sold
- 560 Christmas trees sold
- 600 pounds of native seed sold
- 57 woody vegetation transplants sold
- 806 forest acres treated for forest health
- 209 Special Forest Products permits issued to the public
- 213 forested acres inventoried
- Monitoring plots established on approximately 5,000 acres of whitebark pine

BLM Wyoming's Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 2015	
Management of Land and Resources	\$74,148,845
Permit Processing	\$2,547,000
Rangeland Improvements	\$1,147,000
Wildland Fire Management	\$11,559,860
Motorized Fleet	\$3,873,059
Reimbursable Projects	\$3,219,894
Other (special construction projects, forest services, etc.)	\$4,973,214
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$101,468,872</b>

Salary and Operational Funding by Community		
Office	Labor	Operations
Buffalo	\$6,603,756	\$1,263,834
Casper	\$7,940,439	\$3,375,372
Cheyenne	\$14,914,551	\$16,091,116
Cody	\$1,810,839	\$679,954
Kemmerer	\$2,436,769	\$761,106
Lander	\$3,171,449	\$1,481,886
Newcastle	\$1,281,341	\$295,024
Pinedale	\$4,391,701	\$1,410,933
Rawlins	\$6,694,881	\$1,694,980
Rock Springs	\$9,653,875	\$5,212,038
Worland	\$7,000,207	\$3,302,820
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$65,899,809</b>	<b>\$35,569,063</b>

## Cultural and Paleontological Resources

- Over 102,647 acres surveyed at the Class III level (intensive inventory) – 64,445 acres on BLM-administered lands and 38,202 acres on non-BLM surface
- Over 2,150 actions reviewed
- 942 sites recorded – 534 on BLM-administered lands and 408 on non-BLM surface
- 232 properties determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places – 177 on BLM-administered lands and 55 on non-BLM surface
- 1,079 properties avoided potential adverse effects
- 303 monitored cultural properties in stable condition
- 13 anti-looting/anti-vandalism signs installed to protect cultural resources
- 76 permits for archaeological investigations in effect
- 32 consultation meetings with representatives and governments of federally-recognized Indian tribes
- 6,625 total number of paleo locations
- 450 paleo localities in good condition
- 6,170 paleo localities in unknown condition
- 68 paleo permits in effect

Payment In Lieu of Taxes (PILT)		
County	Payment	Total Acres
Albany	\$1,439,626	673,875
Big Horn	\$1,090,591	1,544,734
Campbell	\$678,226	366,035
Carbon	\$1,300,708	2,720,767
Converse	\$676,538	403,981
Crook	\$707,617	334,066
Fremont	\$2,539,375	3,186,850
Goshen	\$69,588	27,313
Hot Springs	\$806,429	569,671
Johnson	\$970,421	830,715
Laramie	\$24,225	9,508
Lincoln	\$1,234,884	1,947,987
Natrona	\$3,434,134	1,483,984
Niobrara	\$317,720	125,890
Park	\$1,793,875	3,591,871
Platte	\$270,560	106,455
Sheridan	\$949,529	438,550
Sublette	\$887,705	2,410,890
Sweetwater	\$3,271,253	4,602,830
Teton	\$1,818,108	2,623,202
Uinta	\$1,424,380	568,167
Washakie	\$1,102,130	959,449
Weston	\$363,938	310,514
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$27,171,270</b>	<b>29,837,304</b>