

The Bureau of Land Management's Landscape Approach



What is a landscape?

"...a 'landscape' is defined as a large area encompassing an interacting mosaic of ecosystems and human systems that is characterized by a set of common management concerns. The landscape is not defined by the size of the area, but rather by the interacting elements that are meaningful to the management objectives."

– "A Strategy for Improving the Mitigation Policies and Practices of The Department of the Interior"

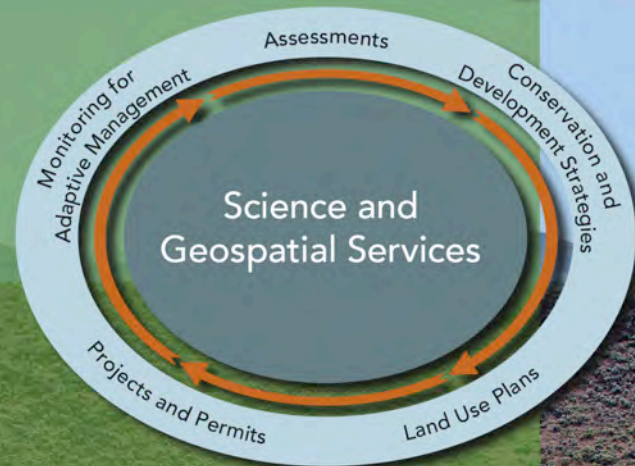


Figure. The landscape approach consists of five interconnected and iterative components in which the BLM works with partners, transcends traditional boundaries and programs, and promotes meeting objectives by making decisions in the context of larger geographic areas and broader time scales. Science and geospatial services are the foundation for the landscape approach's major components.

What is the BLM's landscape approach?

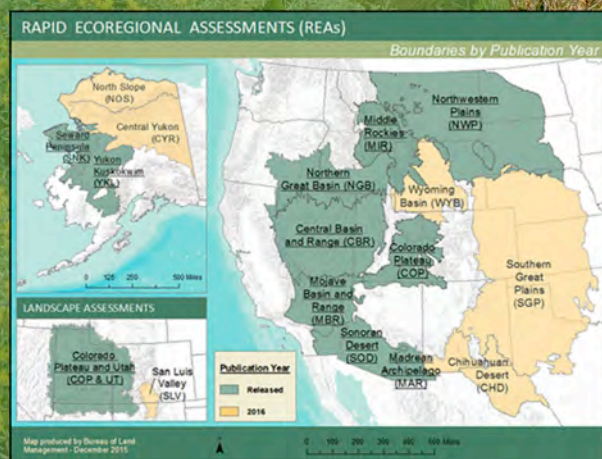
The BLM's landscape approach integrates multiscale information to understand the effects of natural and human influences on resource conditions and trends. Thus, the landscape approach enables effective decisionmaking to meet the BLM's multiple use and sustained yield mission.

How is the BLM implementing a landscape approach?

- Initiated 15 ecoregional assessments covering more than 800 million acres to evaluate landscape patterns for communities and species.
- Developing regional strategies to more effectively integrate conservation and development decisionmaking.
- Initiated major revisions to the BLM's land use planning procedures and mitigation policies and practices.
- Expanding the collection of native seeds for on-the-ground project work.
- Implementing landscape-scale frameworks for monitoring and for conducting ethnographic assessments.



The Assessment, Inventory, and Monitoring Strategy provides a process for the BLM to collect high-quality information about ecosystem conditions and trends for decisionmaking. By collecting this data in a structured manner, the BLM can use the same data to meet local management needs or to address broader, landscape-scale needs.



Rapid ecoregional assessments provide information to examine landscape-scale resource conditions and trends and provide a geospatial aspect to issues that previously could only be generalized over a broad area.

Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan

Planning Area

The Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan spans 22.5 million acres in California's desert regions, including land within seven counties—Imperial, Inyo, Kern, Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino, and San Diego.

Outcomes

- Help meet renewable energy and greenhouse gas emission reduction goals.
- Identify areas for renewable energy development, and coordinate state and federal permitting processes.
- Identify conservation areas for sensitive resources, and provide an adaptive management framework incorporating climate change.

Status

- Final plan for Phase 1 released November 2015.



Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation

Planning Area

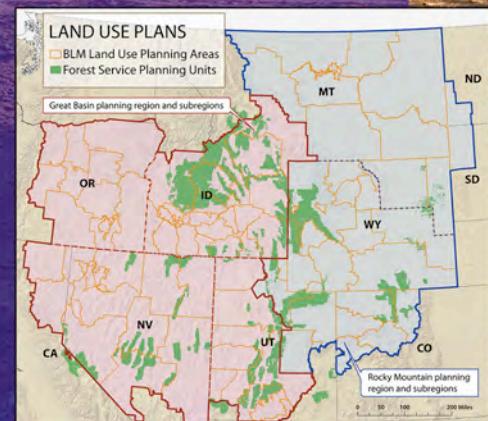
The BLM and U.S. Forest Service have amended/revise 98 land use plans in 10 states.

Outcomes

- Identify priority sage-grouse habitat.
- Implement rangewide measures to reduce risks.
- Establish rangewide requirements to monitor changes in extent and degradation of habitat.

Status

- Records of decision signed September 2015.



In an effort to encourage region-specific partnerships, cooperation, and restoration measures, the planning process will be coordinated under two regions.

