

## Benefits of Public Lands

Lands managed by the BLM provide a wide range of benefits to families and communities across the United States. Economic opportunity and stability from the jobs and economic output associated with activities on public lands as well as many other benefits come from having access to our nation's natural, recreational, and cultural resources.

### Wildlife Habitat

BLM-managed lands provide vital habitat for thousands of wildlife species. The BLM works closely with state fish and wildlife agencies, tribal organizations, conservation groups, and private landowners to identify habitat priorities and monitor progress toward meeting management objectives. The BLM:

Implemented **1,716** recovery actions for listed species in FY 2019 and have contributed to the delisting, downlisting, or preclusion from listing of **26** species since 2010

**Increased** the availability of native seeds for habitat restoration to support healthy and robust populations of bees, butterflies, birds, and other native pollinators essential to food crops and healthy wildlands

Supported **1,160** projects to protect or enhance more than **1.8** million acres of game habitat through a **36-year** partnership with the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation

Completed **162** big game winter range and migration corridor restoration and enhancement projects in FY 2019

Treated or improved **201,772** acres of grasslands and shrublands and rehabilitated or restored **58** miles of roads or trails to improve habitat for all wildlife in FY 2019

### Recreation Access

Public lands support recreation activity for both local residents and visitors, who may derive social, health, and other benefits as they participate in new and traditional activities.

The John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act, passed in March 2019, impacted public lands nationally by designating new conservation and recreation areas and improving public land access. Some of the new designations include:

**200** miles of wild and scenic rivers in western **Oregon**

Santa Cruz Valley National Heritage Area in **Arizona**, a natural and cultural landscape shaped by generations of people from diverse cultural origins

Jurassic National Monument in **Utah**, with over 12,000 excavated dinosaur bones and the densest concentration of Jurassic-aged *Allosaurus fragilis* bones in the world

### Other Nonmarket Benefits

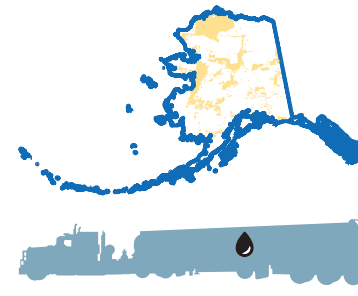
Some benefits provided by public lands can be challenging to quantify in economic terms. Recreational opportunities, cultural resources, visual beauty, environmental health, and educational efforts go far beyond what economic markets valuations reveal.

**39** million acres of National Conservation Lands, including almost **10** million acres of designated wilderness

**710,449** acres inventoried for cultural resources, with nearly **27** million acres inventoried to date

**Increased** domestic production of minerals critical to economic and national security such as lithium, uranium, and dolomite, including authorization of the **5,751**-acre expansion of the Lost Creek uranium mine in Wyoming

BLM-administered land BLM administrative boundaries



**Alaska**  
The BLM-managed National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska (NPR-A) generated more than \$56 million in oil and gas lease revenue in 2019. The NPR-A includes nearly 23 million of the BLM's 25 million acres of federal mineral estate and is an important resource for securing American energy independence.



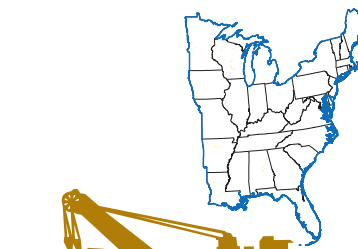
**Arizona**  
In FY 2019, the BLM approved the Sonoran Valley Parkway in Maricopa County. This infrastructure project will improve emergency response times, support economic development and job growth, and increase access to recreational opportunities in the fastest growing county in the nation.



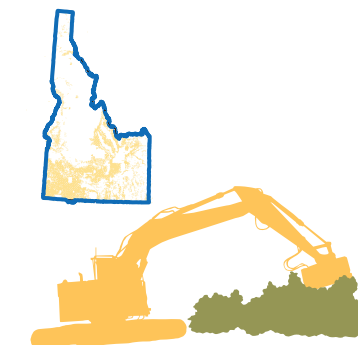
**California**  
In March 2019, Congress designated the Alabama Hills as a National Scenic Area as part of the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act. The area has spectacular natural arches, rolling hills, and vibrant wildflowers. More than 400 movies and countless commercials have been filmed there.



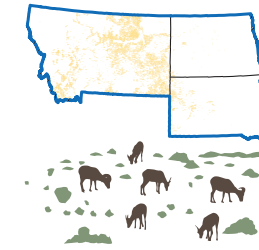
**Colorado**  
In FY 2019, the Tres Rios Field Office celebrated the grand opening of two new trailheads and 8 miles of new trails at Phil's World, one of the BLM's top 20 mountain biking trail systems. Partners and volunteers will help complete an additional 12 miles of this trail system, located in the Cortez Special Recreation Management Area.



**Eastern States**  
BLM Eastern States managed seven coal leases in Alabama, Kentucky, Illinois, and West Virginia, totaling more than 12,000 acres of subsurface mineral rights, and held three competitive coal lease sales, bringing in more than \$400,000 in bonus bids, during FY 2019. Revenue from these coal leases totals more than \$2.1 million per year and contributes significantly to state and U.S. Treasury revenues.



**Idaho**  
In FY 2019, the BLM began the Bruneau-Owyhee Sage-Grouse Habitat Project in collaboration with other state and federal agencies. The project will treat encroaching juniper on 617,000 acres of BLM-managed lands in southwest Idaho, restoring sagebrush habitat for sage-grouse and many other wildlife species while reducing wildfire risks.



**Montana/Dakotas**  
In FY 2019, BLM Montana/Dakotas completed four transactions, acquiring 1,519 acres, which improved access to 7,897 acres of BLM, U.S. Forest Service, and state lands. These acquisitions provided wildlife habitat and increased hunting and recreational opportunities.



**Nevada**  
BLM Nevada held the largest geothermal lease sale in the history of the Department of the Interior in September 2019, offering 142 parcels consisting of 384,369 acres and generating over \$637,000 in revenue. BLM Nevada administers the most active geothermal program in the nation, with 272 active leases totaling more than a half million acres.



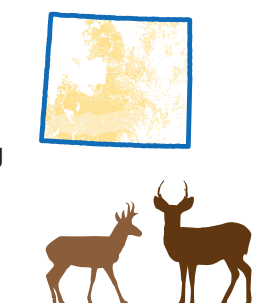
**New Mexico**  
In FY 2019, the BLM approved construction and operation of the Copper Flat copper mine in Sierra County, which will create over \$1.1 billion in total economic activity; support over 3,300 direct, indirect, and induced jobs over 16 years; and provide over \$262 million in labor income to local communities and more than \$18 million in tax revenues.



**Oregon/Washington**  
In 2019, the BLM offered 272 million board feet of timber for sale in western Oregon, the most offered in over two decades. Timber-related activities on BLM lands in Oregon and Washington supported more than 2,200 jobs and contributed more than \$625 million to local economies.



**Utah**  
During 2019, BLM Utah made significant progress toward completing land conveyances and engaging stakeholders through public meetings to implement key provisions of the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act. The act, which was passed in March 2019, designated a number of recreation and conservation areas, including 17 new wilderness areas, on public lands in Utah.



**Wyoming**  
In FY 2019, the BLM provided over \$1.1 million to support conservation of wildlife corridors. In the past decade, the BLM's support for the Wyoming Landscape Conservation Initiative has leveraged more than \$12.5 million in agency funds with an additional \$52 million in partner contributions to implement over 100 on-the-ground projects benefiting mule deer, pronghorn, and hundreds of other species.

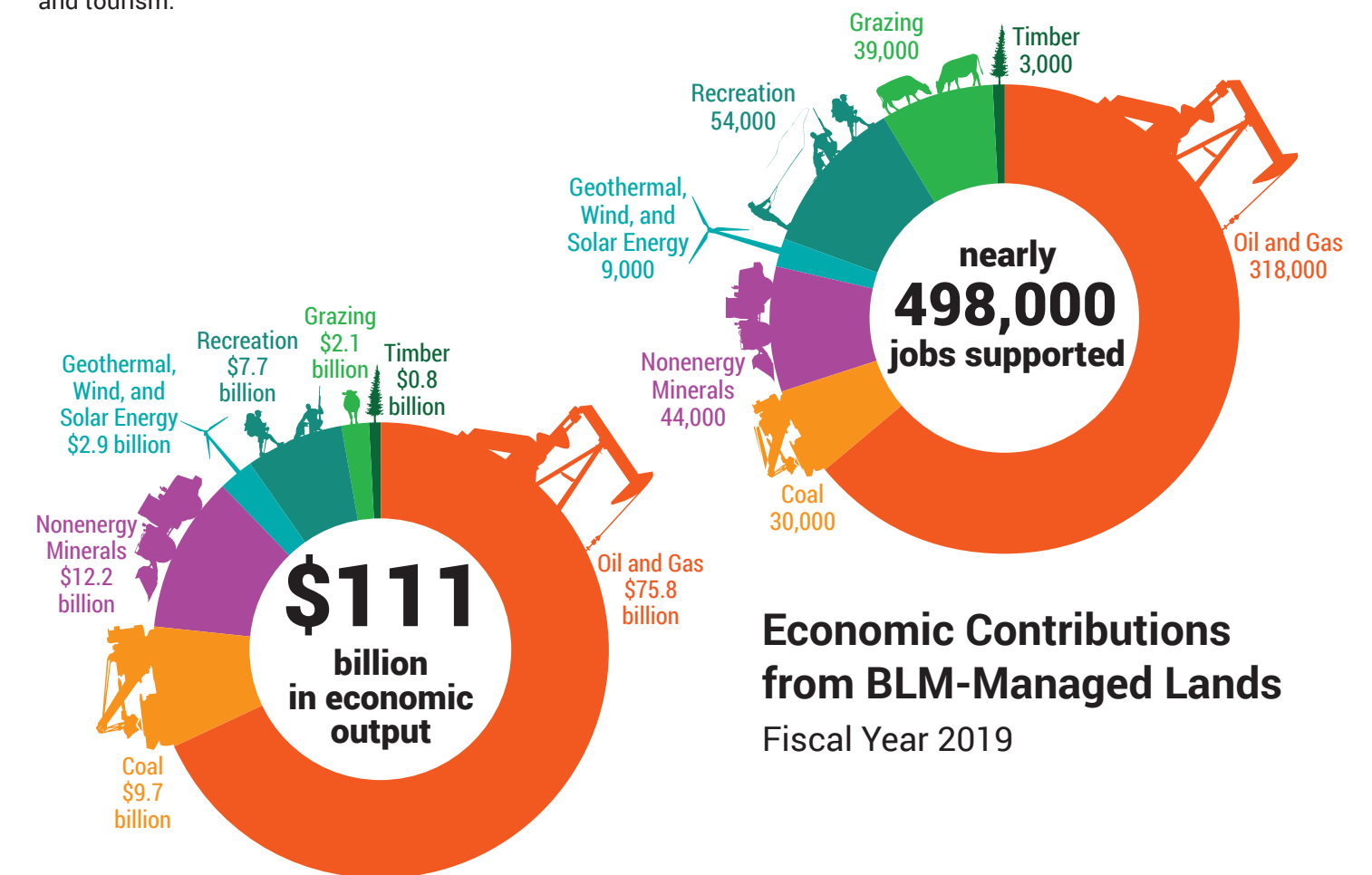


# The BLM: A Sound Investment for America 2020

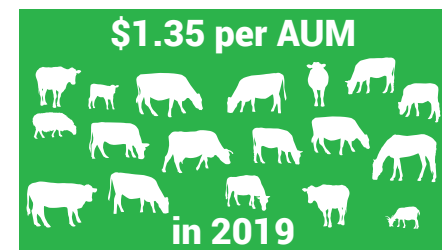
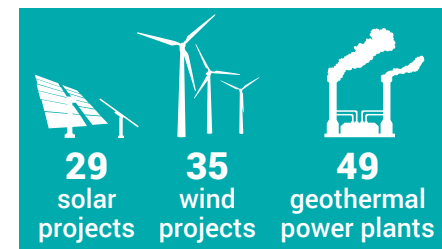
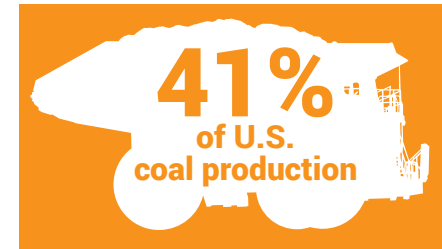
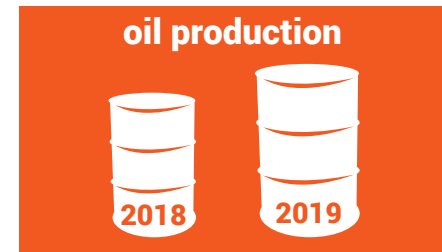
As steward for much of America's public lands, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) manages some of the nation's most historic and scenic landscapes, as well as vast natural resources. These lands encompass 10 percent of the nation's surface and approximately one-third of its subsurface mineral resources. The BLM's Congressionally mandated multiple-use mission directs that public lands be managed sustainably for a variety of uses ranging from conventional and renewable energy, livestock grazing, mining, wildlife conservation, and watershed protection to hunting, fishing, and other outdoor recreation. The BLM advances Administration priorities by enhancing energy security, increasing recreational access to public lands, contributing to border security, and supporting people and communities across the West through economic development, recreation, and tourism.

In fiscal year 2019, the BLM continued to promote opportunities for coal, oil, and gas exploration and development on more than 26 million acres of land; to modernize our infrastructure; and to reduce burdensome regulations. Through balanced and environmentally sound management, the BLM develops these resources while maintaining healthy ecosystems, ensuring access for enhanced recreational opportunities, and preserving cultural resources and iconic landscapes.

In fiscal year 2019, the diverse activities authorized on BLM-managed lands generated \$111 billion in economic output across the country. This economic activity supported nearly 498,000 jobs and contributed substantial revenue to the U.S. Treasury and state governments, mostly through royalties on minerals.



## Economic Sectors



**Oil and gas:** The BLM currently has more than 26.4 million acres of land, from the eastern United States to the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska, leased for onshore oil and gas production. In fiscal year 2019, the BLM offered 2,726 parcels and more than 5.6 million acres for leasing. Federal onshore oil production increased to 290 million barrels of oil during fiscal year 2019, compared to 239 million barrels in fiscal year 2018, due to the BLM's implementation of energy priorities.

**Coal:** The BLM administers coal leases encompassing 253,837 acres in seven states. Coal continues to be a critical source of energy in the United States. In fiscal year 2019, coal production from federal lands decreased 2 percent to a total of 302.4 million tons, compared to the 2018 total of 308.9 million tons. This figure represents about 41 percent of the total 732.9 million tons produced in the United States from federal, Indian, and state lands during fiscal year 2019.

**Nonenergy minerals:** The BLM issues leases for minerals used for purposes other than energy production. Federal lands contain minerals such as potash, phosphate, sodium, and gilsonite, components used in fertilizers, glass, and paper. They also contain saleable mineral materials, including sand, gravel, dirt, and rock, and locatable hard rock minerals, such as copper and gold. In fiscal year 2019, nonenergy minerals produced from federal lands resulted in royalty and other payments of \$112.1 million.

**Geothermal, solar, wind:** The BLM has approved 29 solar projects (2 in fiscal year 2019) and 35 wind projects. Combined, approved wind energy and solar energy projects represent a total of 6,417 potential megawatts of capacity. In addition, there are 49 currently operating geothermal power plants with federal interest that have an installed capacity of 2,471 MW and a 2018 capacity factor (the ratio of actual output to maximum possible output for the same time period) of 73%.

**Recreation:** The public lands managed by the BLM offer more recreational opportunities than lands managed by any other federal agency, with over 99 percent of BLM recreation acres available for recreation with no fee. Lands used for recreational activities also contribute significantly to local economies. In fiscal year 2019, BLM lands received nearly 71 million recreation-related visits, an increase of about 4 percent over the previous year.

**Grazing:** In 2019, the BLM permitted 12.3 million animal unit months (AUMs) for ranchers who graze their livestock, mostly cattle and sheep, on public lands. An AUM is the amount of forage needed to feed a cow and calf, or the equivalent, for 1 month. The grazing fee in 2019 was \$1.35 per AUM. While the number of AUMs sold each year remains relatively steady, annual variations in use occur due to factors such as drought, wildfire, market conditions, and restoration projects.

**Timber:** Twenty percent of the 245 million acres of lands managed by the BLM are forest ecosystems, spread across 13 western states, including Alaska. Through responsible management of these lands, the BLM ensures the health and resilience of the nation's public forest lands as well as the availability of traditional forest products, such as timber. In 2019, the BLM offered 303 million board feet of timber for sale, up from 246 million board feet in 2018.

## Total Economic Output and Jobs for Fiscal Year 2019

### National Totals\*

#### Oil and Gas:



#### Coal:



#### Nonenergy Minerals:



#### Geothermal, Wind, and Solar:



#### Recreation:



#### Grazing:



#### Timber:



#### Jobs:



\* National totals may differ from the sum of individual state numbers because they take into account activity across state borders and average industry productivity across states.