

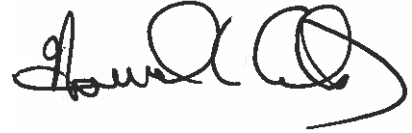
INFORMATION/BRIEFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 19, 2019

TO: Mitchell Leverette, Acting Assistant Director for Energy, Minerals, and Realty Management, Bureau of Land Management

FROM: Howard Cantor, Director, National Operations Center

SUBJECT: 2017 Public Land Statistics – Corrections to Table 1-3



BACKGROUND

The Public Land Statistics (PLS) publication provides an annual snapshot of the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM's) land management data. The PLS is widely used (e.g., by congressional staff, land management professionals, attorneys, academia, and other interested stakeholders). The PLS publication also helps promote transparency and accountability by providing the public with data documenting the BLM's work and accomplishments. The PLS consists of approximately 80 tables of data organized into 6 parts.

Prior to the 2017 PLS publication, the data required to populate Table 1-3 was difficult to research and calculate. The last time the acreage had been calculated for columns b and c of Table 1-3 was for the 2001 PLS. In the 2001 PLS, the acreage published was the result of 2 years of researching, collecting, analyzing, and verifying data from numerous sources and then coordinating and consulting with BLM state staff and other agencies. Because it was not practical to go through this process every year, the BLM had reported that it managed 700.4 million acres of Federal minerals each year from 2001 to 2016.

In 2017, the acreage was calculated using current geographic information system (GIS) data and resulted in a substantial increase in the total acreages reported in columns b and c of Table 1-3. After publication of the 2017 PLS, it was discovered that 67.6 million acres of Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Mineral Estate acreage was erroneously included in each of the totals for columns b and c (Federal minerals and Federal surface lands).

Due to this error, BLM leadership determined it was necessary to update the 2017 PLS to remove the BIA Mineral Estate acreage from columns b and c. Attached to this document are the updated Table 1-3 and the errata, which describe the actual 2017 reported acreages for columns b and c. A summary of the updates is listed in the table below along with the numbers that were consistently reported in the 2001 – 2016 PLS.

Excerpt from Table 1-3, columns b and c

Publication	Federal Minerals /b/ Million Acres	Federal Surface Lands /c/ Million Acres
2001 - 2016 Public Land Statistics	700.4	643.2
2017 Public Land Statistics	801.3	744.1
2017 Corrected Public Land Statistics	733.7	676.5
Difference between 2017 Published and 2017 Corrected Public Land Statistics	67.6	67.6

The 67.6 million acres of BIA Mineral Estate that was mistakenly added to columns b and c (Federal minerals and Federal surface lands) was derived from GIS data, specifically the BLM Surface Management Agency (SMA) and U.S. Geological Survey Protected Areas Database of the United States (PADUS). The 60.4 million acres of BIA Mineral Estate correctly reported in column f of Table 1-3 was submitted by the BIA to the BLM and was extracted from the Trust Asset and Accounting Management System.

DISCUSSION

A new process for calculating columns b and c of Table 1-3, “Mineral and Surface Acres Administered by the Bureau of Land Management, Fiscal Year 2017” was implemented for the 2017 PLS. Columns b and c, Federal minerals and Federal surface lands, of Table 1-3 had not been updated since the 2001 PLS due to the difficulty of calculating the acreage by hand.

The new process for updating Table 1-3 of the PLS uses GIS data to identify surface lands and accompanying Federal minerals and, in future years, will not include the BIA Mineral Estate for columns b and c. The BLM expects that the initial year using this new process (2017) represents the greatest fluctuation in acreage reported, as it is the result of using a new data source to update these two columns for the first time in 16 years. In subsequent reporting years, the changes to columns b and c for Table 1-3 are anticipated to be in smaller increments.

In order to identify errors in the future, prior to publication, the National Operations Center has implemented a new process for quality control in the annual data call for fiscal year (FY) 2018 PLS (IM OC-2019-008). The new process requires the Division Chief for Lands, Realty, and Cadastral Survey to approve all relevant data prior to publication of PLS. This includes thoroughly reviewing and comparing data for the new reporting year with the previous year, as well as engaging the appropriate leader(s) when there are discrepancies and/or significant variations.

NEXT STEPS

- As soon as practical, publish the 2017 PLS Table 1-3 and the accompanying footnotes online with the corrected information (Attachment 1) and the errata (Attachment 2).
- Distribute copies of updated information to all parties who received the original publication.
 - The footnote will include a statement that the data from the BLM GIS database could fluctuate over the next several years due to continual refinement and state data updates.
- Follow the more stringent review and approval process for FY 2018 and future publications, and notify upper management of any significant changes in data.

Table 1-3.

**MINERAL AND SURFACE ACRES ADMINISTERED BY THE
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT, FISCAL YEAR 2017**

State	Land Total /a/	Federal Minerals /b/	Federal Surface Lands /c/	Split Estate Federal Minerals /d/	BLM Public Lands /e/	BIA Mineral Estate /f/
	<i>Million Acres</i>	<i>Million Acres</i>	<i>Million Acres</i>	<i>Million Acres</i>	<i>Million Acres</i>	<i>Million Acres</i>
Alaska	425.8	229.9	229.9	0	70.2	1.3
Arizona	73.0	33.6	30.6	3.0	12.1	20.2
California	104.8	51.5	49.0	2.5	15.2	0.6
Colorado	66.6	29.4	24.2	5.2	8.4	1.1
Eastern States	/g/	69.4	69.1	0.3	> 0	3.3
Hawaii	7.0	1.4	1.4	0	0	0
Idaho	53.5	37.1	33.7	3.4	11.7	1.2
Kansas	52.7	0.8	0.7	0.1	> 0	> 0
Montana	94.1	40.5	28.8	11.7	9.9	6.2
Nebraska	49.5	0.9	0.9	0	> 0	0.1
Nevada	70.8	60.6	60.3	0.3	47.5	1.2
New Mexico	77.8	35.9	26.4	9.5	13.6	7.8
North Dakota	45.2	7.3	2.8	4.5	0.1	1.4
Oklahoma	44.7	1.7	1.2	0.5	0	2.5
Oregon	63.0	34.3	32.8	1.5	15.9	0.8
South Dakota	49.4	5.3	3.7	1.6	0.3	5.5
Texas	171.9	3.9	3.9	0	> 0	> 0
Utah	54.3	36.2	35.0	1.2	22.8	2.4
Washington	45.6	12.9	12.6	0.3	0.4	2.8
Wyoming	62.6	41.1	29.5	11.6	17.5	2.0
Total /h/	1,612.3	733.7	676.5	57.2	245.6	60.4

Table 1-3. MINERAL AND SURFACE ACRES ADMINISTERED BY THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT, FISCAL YEAR 2017–concluded

Note: This table was updated using various databases, including U.S. Census Bureau TIGER (Topologically Integrated Geographic Encoding and Referencing), U.S. Geological Survey PADUS (Protected Areas Database of the United States), BLM SMA (Surface Management Agency), Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Trust Asset and Accounting Management System, and BLM Administered Lands GIS dataset. Data from the BLM SMA could fluctuate over the next several years due to continual refinement and state data updates.

/a/ Derived from TIGER state boundaries, which were last updated January 1, 2010.

/b/ The term federal minerals refers to onshore federal minerals that are part of the BLM’s responsibilities. The onshore federal mineral acres are the sum of “Federal Surface Lands” acres and “Split Estate Federal Minerals” acres shown in the next two columns.

/c/ Federal surface lands include both the public domain and acquired lands of all federal agencies. PADUS was used to calculate acres for Alaska, Hawaii, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, and Texas. The SMA database was used to calculate acres for Arizona, California, Colorado, Eastern States, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming. The data were intersected with TIGER state boundaries to determine acres for the geographical state. BIA mineral estate /f/ are not included in these totals.

/d/ The term split estate federal minerals refers to federal mineral rights under private surface lands. These are patented lands with minerals reserved to the United States and may be for single, multiple, or all minerals. The revision of this column is currently underway.

/e/ This column includes BLM-managed surface lands. The BLM Administered Lands GIS dataset was used to calculate acres for Alaska. PADUS was used to calculate acres for Hawaii, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, and Texas. The SMA database was used to calculate acres for Arizona, California, Colorado, Eastern States, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming. The data were intersected with TIGER state boundaries to determine acres for the geographical state, rather than the BLM administrative state. Data for the Eastern States (Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Illinois, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Virginia, and Wisconsin) are from the Eastern States Parcel Identification List.

/f/ As part of its trust management responsibility, the BLM provides technical supervision of mineral development on BIA mineral estate. Acreage information was obtained from the BIA Trust Asset and Accounting Management System.

/g/ The BLM Eastern States Office is responsible for federal minerals in the 31 states east of, or bordering, the Mississippi River.

/h/ Totals may be slightly off due to rounding.

Errata for *Public Land Statistics 2017*

Table 1-3, “Mineral and Surface Acres Administered by the Bureau of Land Management, Fiscal Year 2017,” originally included Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) mineral estate acreage in the Federal surface lands and Federal minerals acreages. Although the Bureau of Land Management provides technical supervision of mineral development on Indian trust lands, those minerals are separate and distinct from Federal minerals. The updated table separates the acreages and clarifies the distinction between Federal minerals and BIA mineral estate. It replaces Table 1-3, which appears on pages 7-8 of *Public Land Statistics 2017*.